



---

## Washington Post covers Benton Harbor development controversy

By [Eartha Jane Melzer](#) 5/5/08 4:08 AM

The Washington Post's Kari Lydersen reports on the growing controversy over the proposed privatization of Benton Harbor's lakefront park in "[Depressed City Divided over Golf Proposal](#)."

"Can three waterfront golf holes in a 'Jack Nicklaus Signature' course save Benton Harbor, a tumbledown town marked by factory closures, high unemployment, and years of simmering racial frustration and suspicion?" writes Lydersen.

She quotes former Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund board member Lana Pollack: "This is a very poor and desperate community, and it's a company town. ... [Developers] say they are teaching kids to read. But a community shouldn't have to make a choice between whether their kids have after-school tutoring or a public park."

Michigan Messenger has been following the proposed conversion of Benton Harbor's Jean Klock Park since October. See recent stories:

- [Rep. Upton, Whirlpool CEO would gain easy access to privatized park](#)
- [Benton Harbor extends comment deadline on lakefront lease plan](#)
- [Overflow crowd debates privatization of Benton Harbor waterfront park](#)
- [Whirlpool's Divisive Development](#)