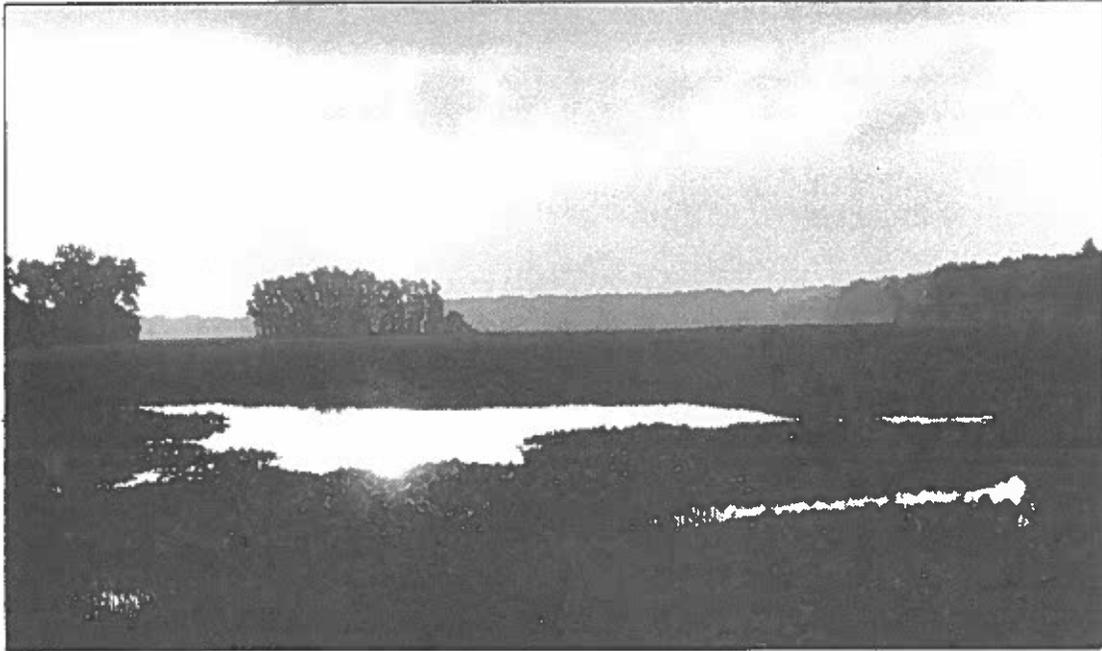


Chicago Tribune

Home Guide 20

Section 4

Chicago Tribune, Saturday, June 13, 1992 C



Part of this wildlife-rich acreage in New Buffalo, Michigan, will be developed into an environmentally protected residential development.

Preserve makes nature at home

By Julie Morse

Looking for the ultimate escape into nature? Go to New Buffalo. The popular Michigan resort community's newest draw is a 175-acre environmentally protected residential development and nature sanctuary called The Preserve.

Opened in May, it has garnered kudos from conservationists and keen interest from vacationers, retirees and others in the market for a private paradise.

The wildlife-rich acreage, on the Galien River, includes one of

Michigan's last untouched wetlands areas and eight historic Indian sites. Twenty single-family homes and 22 condominium units will be built on the 50-acre plateau overlooking the river. The rest of the land will remain protected.

The Preserve is the brainchild of Madeleine, Ralph and Jim Sima, whose family has held the land for three generations. They spent two years planning the project, hiring a team of naturalists, environmental planners, landscape designers and archaeologists.

The developers also invited 22

Midwest architects to create "nature-sensitive" designs for Preserve homes, with these plans on permanent exhibit in New Buffalo and available to buyers as an option.

One of the architects is Chicagoan Stephen Rankin, who designed a Wright-inspired home of all natural materials for one of the wooded hilltop sites overlooking the river.

Rankin said: "It's such a beautiful place, and the house is designed to bring the outdoors in from all sides, almost as if it's floating in a sea of trees."

Homesites start at \$175,000.



This is a side elevation view of one of the homes planned for The Preserve. Twenty single-family homes and 22 condominium units will be built on the 50-acre plateau overlooking the Galien River.