

My name is Silas Hess. I live at 21 Ricky Lane in Oakdale and 12 Curran Street in Norwich. I am a fifth grade student at St. Patrick's Cathedral School. Thank you for letting me speak during this early comment period in favor of the Avalonia Resolution.

I feel the environment needs to be spread out more in Norwich and not just where you would be trespassing. And preserves are important for animal life to be able to roam around free and not be stuck in the same places. These are places where people are welcome, too, because there will be hiking trails, little sitting spots, and wildlife to watch. Grass and trees will be there, as well as drinking water for animals. Paths will be made out of dirt, and wood for bridges. Also, maybe people could pull little wagons and push strollers on the trail, maybe use wheelchairs, too.

Many things are destructive to the environment – vehicles, plus big power tools that run on oils and gasoline. Avalonia would only use environmentally responsible tools and non-toxic paint on signs. This would be a place where people leave the plant life alone. Dogs will be welcome, but only on leashes. There will be no taking or disturbing of animals allowed. I hope people will keep small objects in a bag so you don't lose them. Rules will be at a welcome board at the start. I hope there will be no screaming or yelling because that would frighten the wildlife. I also hope that any videos and pictures will be taken without a flash so as not to scare the animals.

I like the idea of the land being preserved forever and no one being able to put stores, shops, or other buildings on it. Anything you bring in you will have to take out, including bottles, cans, food bags, and plastic bags. And if anything is left behind, contact info should be on it so it can be returned. There will be no release or abandonment of pet animals. The preserve will be open from sunrise to sunset. I hope people will report fallen trees and other conditions.

Preserves are good for children, even little kids who are 5 or 6. They learn about the environment and about doing good and being responsible. More people would want to come to Norwich if there were places with fewer buildings and more quiet.

Thank you.