**Project Description:** The Grand River Ravines County Park property is composed of the 68-acre former Fillmore at the Bend Open Space purchased in 1999 and two more recent purchases of 100 acres and 19 acres to create this 187-acre park site with over 2600' of Grand River frontage. The property is adjacent to Grand Valley State University’s southern border and includes deep wooded ravines similar to those that extend along GVSU’s riverfront. The ravine system in this area ranked among the County’s highest quality natural lands in a 1988 survey by the Michigan Natural Features Inventory. The site also features an existing home with outstanding views of an undeveloped portion of the Grand River valley.

With major land acquisitions completed, park staff have begun to develop a master plan to guide development of the site for appropriate public use. Ideas to be considered in the planning process include trails for hiking and cross-country skiing as well as paved pathway for biking, rollerblading and other non-motorized uses. The paved pathway will be part of a future Grand River Greenway trail which is proposed to link GVSU to Kent County and ultimately connect to Grand Haven. Hiking trails are proposed to connect with trails through GVSU ravines providing significant hiking opportunities. Fishing access and docks are proposed along the waterfront.
and nature interpretation will focus on the ravines. The existing home, with its open floor plan and fully accessible design will be used as a multi-purpose building for interpretive programs and group rentals including meetings and retreats.
Project Updates:

09.30.15 Lodge: Construction work is substantially complete. Punch list items are in progress. Final inspections of the electrical and mechanical systems await electric power service restoration.

Site Work: Major construction is complete including paving of the entrance drive and parking areas. Restoration and construction of the wood stairs for the ravine trail system are in progress. Dog park work is substantially complete and was ready for the open house event on September 26.

Barn: Major work is in progress including removals, reconstruction of the block addition roof structure, new foundations, straightening, and preparation for the new metal roof.

New paved driveway and parking at lodge

New septic field

42nd Ave. entrance and new sign

Storm water detention/rain garden area

Seat wall at overlook plaza space

Overlook deck
Dog park entrance area with pavers

Dog park paved path looking north

Barn under renovation

New concrete foundation

Repointing of existing block structure

New trusses and preparation for new metal roof

08.27.15 Lodge: Construction work is substantially complete. Final inspections await electric power service restoration.

Site Work: Major construction is progressing well. Dog park work is substantially complete and seeded. The new main road and parking lot are almost ready for paving. The overlook deck is also in progress.

Barn: The restoration contractor has been delayed again, but work will start soon.
07.30.15 Lodge: Construction work has gone past the established completion date, but work continues to correct several items of defective work. This delay does not affect other portions of the project.

Site Work: Major construction continues. Dog park fencing, paving, and concrete work are in progress. The new main road is substantially excavated and base materials are in place. The overlook deck is also in progress.
Barn: The restoration contractor has been delayed again in some of his other work and is now planning to begin work the week of August 3.

New entrance drive through field looking east

New entrance drive through field looking west

Dog Park entrance area paving

Dog park paved path looking north

Concrete pad for future shelter

Concrete pad for drinking fountain

06.26.15 Lodge: Ongoing work includes exterior siding, cabinetry, and interior finish details. Completion is anticipated in the next month

Site Work: Major construction started this month with excavation for the dog park area paved trail, dog park fencing, and tree removal at the ravine overlook. Excavation of the main entrance drive is to start in July

Barn: The restoration contractor has been delayed in some of his other work and is now planning to begin work in July.
05.30.15 Lodge: Progress continues with work on the riverfront deck, stone work on columns and chimney, and completion of the roof shingles.

Site Work: Construction is just beginning with an emphasis on completing the fencing and paving at the dog park area. The west side of the dog park has been seeded and is coming in nicely. Tree removals will begin this week with carpentry starting on the overlook in mid June.
Barn: The restoration contractor has been selected and plans to start in June.

04.30.15 Lodge: Progress has been steady with all the new windows and most of the interior lights installed. The deck overlooking the river is in progress as well as work on the exterior siding.

Site Work: The contract has been approved with construction scheduled to begin in early May. The first priority will be construction of the dog park facilities to allow the most time for grass to grow on disturbed areas.

Barn: The restoration contractor has been selected and plans to start in June.

03.26.15 Renovation work on the lodge continues with steady progress. Tile has been installed in the bathrooms and fixtures installed. Most of the new windows are in place and an extra window on the east side of the house overlooking the river has also been installed. Roofing and siding work continues as weather permits. The existing deck overlooking the river has been partially demolished and new deck posts installed. Formwork for the new front porch deck is in place with plans to pour concrete next week. Park operations staff have been removing walls and other unnecessary items in the basement to make it more suitable for storage and other uses.

Site work bids are due on March 30 and will be presented to the Parks Commission at the April meeting. Evaluation of proposals for barn improvements is in also process.
**02.26.15** Renovation work on the lodge continues with steady progress. Wall board has been completed in the restrooms and some finishes including tile and wood plank wall paneling are being installed. Detailed site design continues by our consultant for bidding in March. Bids will be presented at the April Parks Commission Meeting. We have received a second proposal for repairs to the barn which is being evaluated.

**01.29.15** Renovation work on the lodge continues with good progress. Demolition on the interior including removal of the loft space and elevator has been completed. Utility rough-ins have been completed in the new bathrooms, and wall board is being installed in those areas. The new support beams in the basement have also been completed.

Detailed site design continues by our consultant for bidding in late February.

Proposals for repairs to the barn on Fillmore Street have been solicited, although response has been extremely slow. We have one proposal and are waiting on two more.
11.24.14 Renovation work on the lodge is scheduled to begin in December.

Detailed site design continues by our consultant for bidding in early 2015.

Proposals for repairs to the barn on Fillmore Street have been solicited, although response has been extremely slow. We have one proposal and are waiting on two more.

10.30.14 Plans for the lodge renovation have been completed and the project is out for bids. Results and a recommendation will be presented at the next Parks Commission meeting with the intent of construction starting in December and completed by summer.

Detailed site analysis including topographic survey, soil borings, and wetland determinations are in progress as required for site design work by our landscape architectural consultant. Work is aimed at having this work out for bids in February for construction to be completed by late summer.

Proposals for repairs to the barn on Fillmore Street have been solicited.

09.27.14 Construction is complete on the South (Fillmore Street) parking area.
Additional discussion and a public meeting have helped to refine our concept for the dog park. Based on this concept, work to smooth the rough field areas and plant new turf grass seed is in progress.

Work on the detailed design and engineering of the lodge renovations continues and is on schedule for bidding in October and construction over the winter.

Our consultant for the site design and construction portion of the project will begin work in October.

08.27.14 Construction is substantially complete on the South (Fillmore Street) parking area and is open for public use. Some final cleanup items will be completed in the next couple of weeks.

Work on the detailed design and engineering of the lodge renovations continues and is on schedule for construction over the winter.

Results of our request for proposals for professional services for the main park site improvements will be presented at the next parks commission meeting.

07.31.14 Mass grading, installation of drainage structures, concrete curbs and walkways, and placement of gravel for the south parking area are complete. Amenities including the main sign and vault toilet are in progress. Work is also in progress on the by-pass lanes along Fillmore Street.
Work on the detailed design and engineering of the lodge renovations is in progress and on schedule for construction over the winter. An RFP for professional design services for the remaining major site work has been prepared. Proposals are due on August 31, and will be presented to the Parks Commission at its September meeting.

New concrete walk on east side of parking

Infiltration pond/wetland

Entrance area with start of park sign columns

Start of by-pass lane on south side of Fillmore

**06.25.14** Major earthwork is now completed for the main south parking lot area, and new base materials are being installed. Work along the road will begin soon. A previously unknown well was discovered during excavation which needed to be properly abandoned, and a large amount of buried debris was also discovered and removed.
Earthwork has begun for the South Entrance and parking area. Heavy clay soils and rain have caused delays, and the clay has required additional earthwork and importation of sand for the parking area. Weather permitting, construction should be complete by mid to late June.

04.25.14 The contractor will start construction on the Fillmore parking area after frost laws are removed from county roads. The contractor has indicated that they would like to complete work in less than a month. Our architectural consultant has begun work on detailed planning and design of the house/lodge renovation.

03.27.14 The contract for the Fillmore parking area has been approved, and construction is scheduled to begin in April. The application to the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) to fund the accessible pathways in the park will be submitted by April 1. Proposals for architectural services to renovate the existing house have been received. A recommendation will be made at the Parks Commission meeting.

02.26.14 Bids for construction of the Fillmore entrance parking area will be presented at the Parks Commission meeting. Additional planning is in progress to finalize other phase one project scope items, funding, and schedule. This includes a proposal to fund the majority of the paved trails in the park utilizing a Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant that will be presented at the next commission meeting. Also, a request for proposal for architectural services to renovate the existing house has also been advertised and will be received later in March.
09.25.13 Detailed design and construction drawings for the new parking area at the Fillmore Street (South Grand River Ravines) access are in progress with construction anticipated in the spring. Work to improve the small parking area at Grand River Ravines North and to install safety fencing along three sections of the path near the steepest part of the ravines have been completed. Special design considerations are needed because of utility and fiber optic facilities in this area. Additional planning is in progress to finalize other phase one project scope items, funding, and schedule.

08.28.13 Design work on the new parking area off from Fillmore continues by park staff with construction rescheduled for 2014. The outbuilding/garage has been demolished. Work to improve the small parking area at Grand River Ravines North and to install safety fencing along three sections of the path near the steepest part of the ravines will begin in September. Survey work for the easements for trails on adjacent properties has been completed.

07.29.13 Bids to demolish an existing outbuilding/garage have been received with work to begin at any time. Bids for additional gravel parking at the north access and safety fencing along the entrance drive near steep drop-offs are due on August 9. The locations of trail easements on adjacent University and private property have been flagged and reviewed by the respective owners. Survey work to define and map these easements began on July 29.

06.28.13 Design work on the new parking area off from Fillmore and improvements to the existing area at North Ravines is in progress by park staff with the goal of completing construction this year. Bids to demolish an existing outbuilding/garage have been received with work to begin in July. Survey work to define easements on adjacent properties will also be completed in July.

05.29.13 Design work on new parking areas is in progress by park staff. Work to demolish an existing outbuilding/garage is out for bid with the goal of completion in July. Survey work to define easements on adjacent properties is also out for bids.

04.25.13 Application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust fund to assist with first phase development was submitted on April 1. Until that grant is approved or denied, several smaller projects will proceed including improvements to parking, barn stabilization, and benches.

03.28.13 Application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust fund to assist with first phase development will be submitted on April 1

02.28.13 The master plan was approved at the last Parks Commission Meeting. Details about the proposed phase 1 improvements and grant application will be presented at the March Parks Commission Meeting.

01.18.13 The proposed final master plan and cost estimate will be presented at the next Parks Commission meeting for approval

12.27.12 Work continues to refine the master plan concept. Additional details will be presented at the January Parks Commission Meeting

11.28.12 A public meeting to discuss the project was held on November 28. Results of that meeting area available on the parks website.

10.31.12 Park planning staff have completed initial analysis including evaluation of existing trails and the existing barn. Work is in progress with Mark Oppenhuizen to evaluate the potential of the house for renovation, and a company specializing in adventure play including zip lines will be visiting later this week to do a site evaluation. A meeting to coordinate with GVSU in regard to both trails in the ravine area on their property and for the future Grand River Greenway paved trail through the campus is being scheduled. A public input meeting has been tentatively scheduled for November 27.