



2018
ANNUAL REPORT

PROPERTY OVERVIEW



The Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission oversees acquisition, development, operation, and maintenance of 27 County Parks and 12 Open Space lands, totaling 6,731 acres. See page 20 for a listing of all lands administered by the Parks Commission.

In addition, the Parks Commission oversees management of the portion of the Musketawa Trail located in Ottawa County under an agreement with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, plus the Idema Explorers Trail and a portion of the Spoonville Trail.



6,731
ACRES

27
COUNTY PARKS

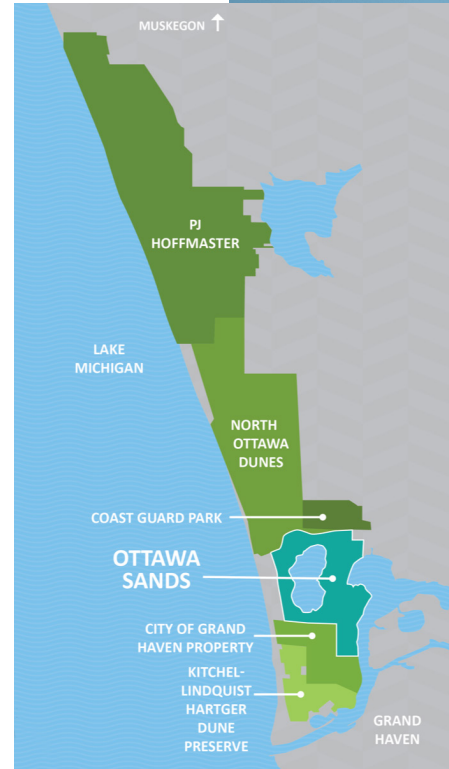
12
OPEN SPACES

136.5
MILES OF TRAIL

LAND ACQUISITION

OTTAWA SANDS

An unexpected and highly unusual series of events led to the purchase of 188 acres of prime recreational dune land in the cities of both Grand Haven and Ferrysburg in the northwest corner of the County. Combined with an additional 157 acres purchased by the Land Conservancy of West Michigan and leased by County Parks, the new park site includes natural dune land, an 80-acre high quality man-made lake, and over a mile of frontage on the Grand River. Pending grant approval and successful fundraising efforts, Ottawa County Parks will purchase the Land Conservancy property in 2019 to secure perpetual protection of this unique property.



Ottawa County Parks and Recreation
Published by Jessica VanGinoven (7) · October 22 at 9:32 AM

We are thrilled so many of you were able to enjoy a visit to Ottawa Sands in the last week. Thank you to those who shared photos with us! Please join us in also thanking our co-owner, the Land Conservancy of West Michigan. Without their nimble work, this property would not be open to the public. There would not be an Ottawa Sands park. It's exciting to be open, but the work is not done. We are working together to make sure this property STAYS park property and you can help... your support counts.
<https://naturenearby.org/ottawasands>

5,843 People Reached 1,822 Engagements Boost Post

174 11 Comments 23 Shares

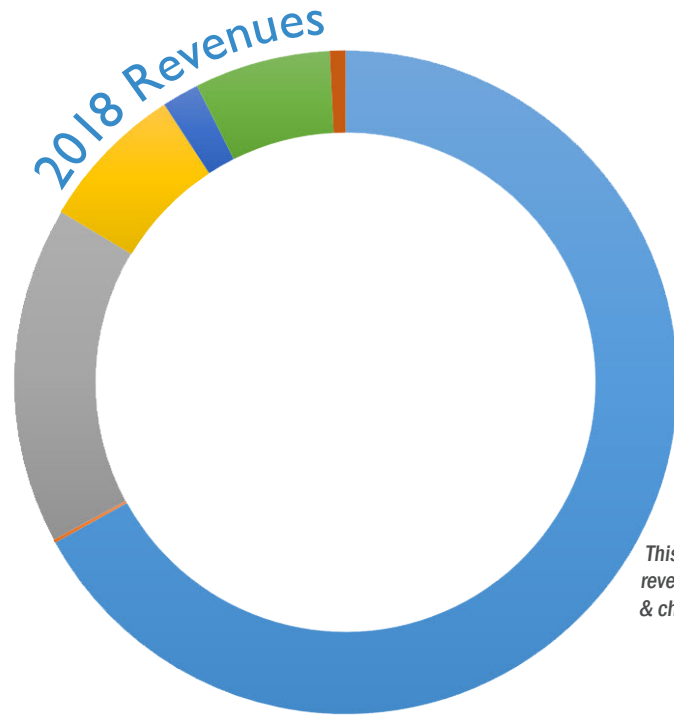
Joe Vander Hart · Ottawa Sands Park
November 5 at 7:17 PM
Caught this walleye today at Ottawa sands. It was released.

904 People Reached 649 Engagements Boost Unavailable

Rob Campbell, Catherine Yingling and 118 others 10 Comments 6 Shares



MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS



This chart reflects revenue from fees & charges only

- Vehicle Permits (\$468,419)
- Hunting Permits (\$1,060)
- Site Reservations (\$115,191)
- Pigeon Creek Ski & Snowshoe Rental & Concession (\$50,408)
- Grand Ravines Dog Wash (\$12,650)
- Public & Private Programs (\$46,358)
- Nature Center Gift Shop (\$5,359)



1,487
RESERVATIONS
PREPPED & CLEANED

380
DOWNED TREES
CLEARED

16,600
TRASH BAGS
CHANGED

140,000
DOGGIE POO
BAGS USED

9,600
ROLLS OF TOILET
PAPER USED

20,000
DISPOSABLE GLOVES
USED FOR CLEANING

10,000
POUNDS OF SALT &
SNOWMELT USED BY
STAFF (IN ADDITION TO
CONTRACTOR MATERIAL)

EXPECTING THE UNEXPECTED



SPOONVILLE TRAIL

The Spoonville Trail begins at the new M-231 trailhead and includes the path on the M-231 pedestrian bridge and extends to Leonard Rd. Work on the trail will continue into 2019. Though this project is not spearheaded by Parks, the Operations Team will maintain the completed segment for the time being.

DAM BEAVERS

What could be more unexpected than a beaver blocking a culvert and causing water levels to rise? Maybe that is not unexpected since building dams is what beavers do, but this beaver at Grand River Open Space was persistent and kept at it even after the blockage was cleared. Operations staff had to create a barrier in the water to prevent the beaver from accessing the culvert.

The Maintenance & Operations Team maintains a strict schedule of maintenance and improvements; however, the most interesting and most challenging job is to expect the unexpected. The team is constantly being challenged with new situations that require problem solving, innovation, and definitely manpower. These tasks pull staff away from their scheduled maintenance duties, but they are ready and always have and always will handle these challenges in stride.



SMALL DOGS

The Grand Ravines Dog Park has been extremely popular, but one consistent issue is that gaps in the fence allowed some small toy breed dogs to easily escape. A panel with much smaller gaps was added to the bottom of the existing fence and buried a few inches into the ground around the whole small dog area to keep the little dogs contained.

WELL, WELL, WELL...

Three of the wells used for restrooms and drinking water failed and had to be replaced. Operations staff posted signs, ordered portable toilets, and worked with the communications specialist to alert the public, while also coordinating repair and subsequently required water testing. All wells have been repaired.



OTTAWA SANDS

After its acquisition, the Operations Team had 90 days to have Ottawa Sands open and ready for the public. This included:

- Establishing rules
- Cutting and grading four miles of trail
- Printing, mounting, and installing over 80 signs
- Marking property boundaries
- Configuring the parking lot and new entrance
- Recruiting volunteers for the grand opening

On October 15 the gates opened to many very happy park visitors.

Photo by



[brassknucklelovebutter](#) • Follow
Ferrysburg, Michigan

brassknucklelovebutter Ottawa County Parks' game is STRONG! Easily the best county parks in the whole 🇺🇸 in state of Michigan. We hit the new Ottawa Sands a few weeks back and basked heavily in it's natural glory. Who else loves to answer when Mother Nature calls?? 🏡👉📞👈🌿
#nature #friends #hiking #strong
[@puremichigan](#) [@ottawacountyparks](#)

WHAT ELSE...?

The Operations Team has to be ready for just about anything from damage, theft, and vandalism to vehicle repair. Not to mention a surprise storm that can take down trees in unexpected places.

STEWARDSHIP

HIAWATHA DRAIN

After much planning, construction on the Hiawatha Drain began. The county's Water Resources Commission eagerly partnered with Parks staff to develop a solution that would not only solve flooding issues during large storm events, but also protect, improve, and expand a rare ecosystem, Coastal Plain Marsh, found in the park.

Project engineers took great lengths to design a "natural drain" that:

- Could expand the Coastal Plain Marsh
- Contains numerous wildlife habitat structures for game and non-game species
- Includes two semi-permanent ponds for wildlife
- Preserves native plants and local biodiversity
- Prevents the introduction of invasive species

POST-CONSTRUCTION

Seedling Planting

Lakeshore Middle School students planted around 500 tree seedlings of swamp oak, scarlet oak, black gum, and black oak around the vernal pond basin.

WMSECN Walking Tour

30 area professionals toured the Vernal Pond and Coastal Plain Marsh Basins as part of a West Michigan Soil Erosion Control Network Field Day.

GVSU Restoration Ecology Class

30 upper-level college students learned about the Hiawatha Project and planted 100 white pines (of 850 total) as a living fence to replace snow fence.

Other post-construction restoration projects will continue into next year.



RIVERSIDE RESTORATION

Ottawa County Parks was awarded both state and federal grant funds to improve wildlife habitat and recreation at Riverside Park. The Aquatic Habitat Grant program through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources approved funds for a two-phased project that will improve aquatic habitat quality and fish passage along the Grand River by restoring the connection between Kirby Bayou and the river.



In the first phase of the project, a perched culvert that currently impedes fish passage will be replaced with a larger culvert that will be sunk and lined with natural material. A similar culvert will be installed on the east side of the park to re-connect the bayou. Following this work, the two water bodies will always be connected regardless of water levels. This will improve wildlife habitat while also easing frustrations of park visitors (the road near this bayou is frequently closed due to flooding).



Stewardship Crew working with a research crew from the GVSU Annis Water Resource Institute to conduct pre-survey prior to restoration work

The second phase of the project will be covered by a National Fish & Wildlife Sustain our Great Lakes grant. Using natural shoreline techniques, 500' of riverbank will be stabilized. Stabilization of the river bank will reduce the sediment load into the river, and new erosion measures and vegetation will also create habit for fish, turtles, birds, and other wildlife.

STEWARDSHIP

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers help Ottawa County Parks provide a high level of land stewardship through invasive species control, implementation of land management and stewardship plans, restoration of degraded sites, and continued inventory of natural features throughout the park system.

Improving and expanding the Parks system's volunteer plan will allow for increased capacity without increasing operational costs.

1,832

TOTAL
VOLUNTEERS

20

PROPERTIES MANAGED
WITH VOLUNTEERS

367

ACRES MANAGED
WITH VOLUNTEERS

10,117

VOLUNTEER
HOURS

\$100,502

VALUE OF
VOLUNTEER TIME (THAT'S EQUAL TO 4
FULL-TIME POSITIONS)

SUSTAINABILITY

In 2017, Ottawa County Parks completed its first Sustainability Plan. The plan is divided into three equally important parts:



Environmental Sustainability
Protecting our natural land



Social Sustainability
Keeping our community engaged & healthy



Economic Sustainability
Ensuring that funds exist for the future

Each month Parks staff focused on a specific sustainability goal. These goals and focuses were shared with the general public in each quarterly newsletter. Parks also shared tips for leading a more sustainable lifestyle in Ottawa County including reducing the use of microplastics and managing riparian and lake shorelines.

The five-year plan can be found online: miOttawa.org/Parks/park-plan.htm



GRAND RIVER PARK SENSORY TRAIL



Theodore (Tas) Stoetzner of Boy Scout Troop 354 of Jenison completed his Eagle Scout project by constructing the park system's first sensory trail in May.

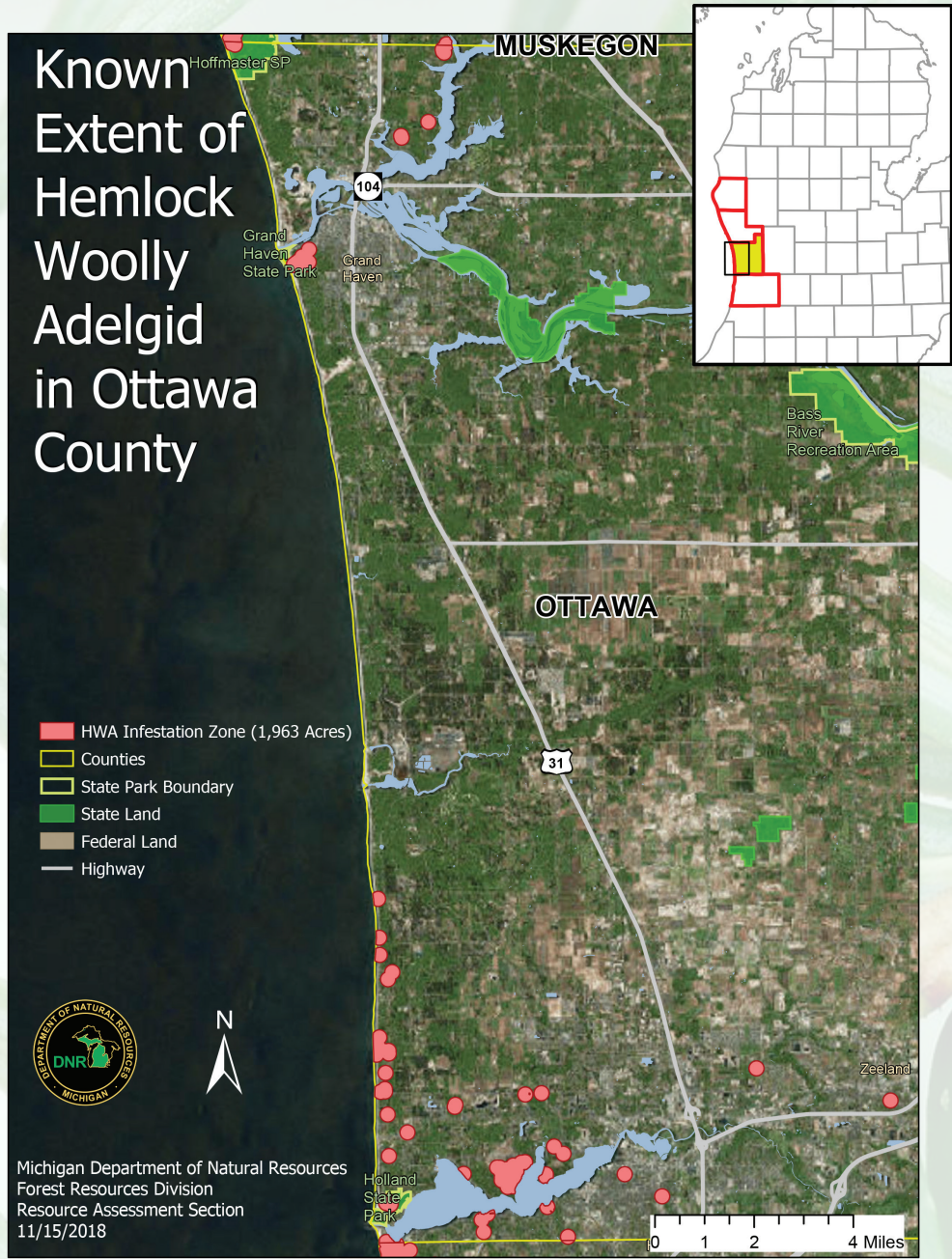
Since this trail will require regular maintenance, Tas connected with Autism Support of West Shore, and they agreed to sign on as Adopt-a-Park volunteers.

"I chose this project to help kids and families who live with autism enjoy the parks and be outside more. When I was learning about trails, I learned that autistic children sometimes have challenges with senses and decided that I should help them with four stations to help them hear, see, and feel different things in nature," said Tas.

In July, a group of students, their parents, and teachers from Grand Haven Public Schools took a class field trip to enjoy the trail together.



Known Extent of Hemlock Woolly Adelgid in Ottawa County



Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Forest Resources Division
Resource Assessment Section
11/15/2018

HWA TASK FORCE

Efforts continue in the fight against Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) in and beyond Ottawa County. Surveys and treatments continue to be managed on both public and private property. The four-county quarantine on eastern hemlocks is still in effect.



Identify



Report



Take Action



Learn More

saveMIhemlocks.org

CITIZEN SCIENCE MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

The most recent report in Ottawa County was discovered by a resident of Grand Haven while visiting Mulligan's Hollow. Because of her quick reporting, the area was able to be surveyed, and the affected trees are being treated.

PROJECT FUNDING

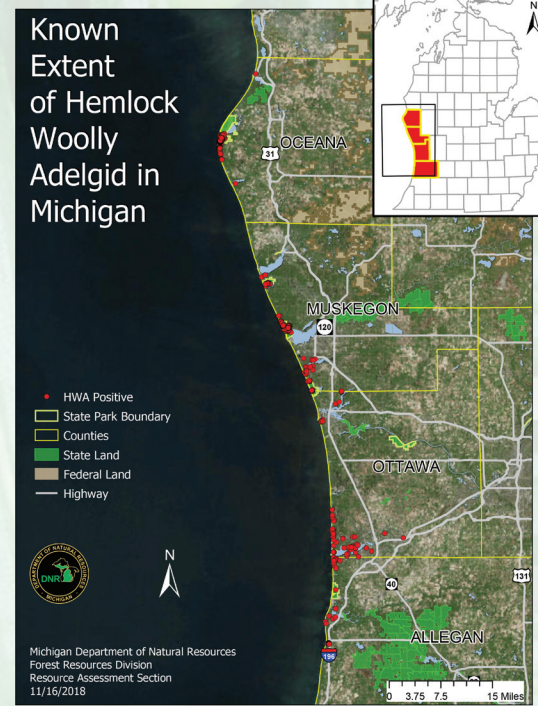
There is currently \$1.5 million in local initiatives and an additional \$1 million in state grants funding surveys and treatment. Funding sources include grants from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) and the Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program (MISGP).

STATE-WIDE

6,988
TOTAL TREES TREATED

303
ACRES TREATED

233
PROPERTIES TREATED



Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Forest Resources Division
Resource Assessment Section
11/16/2018

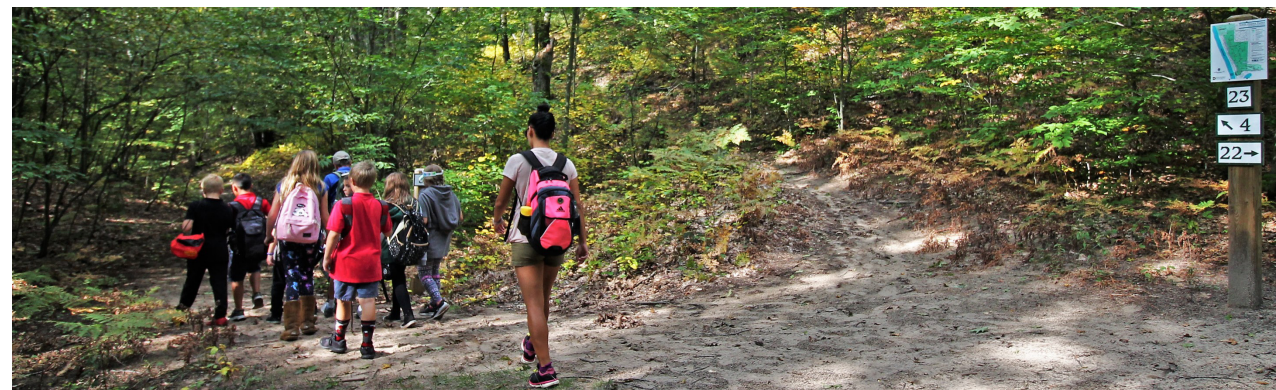
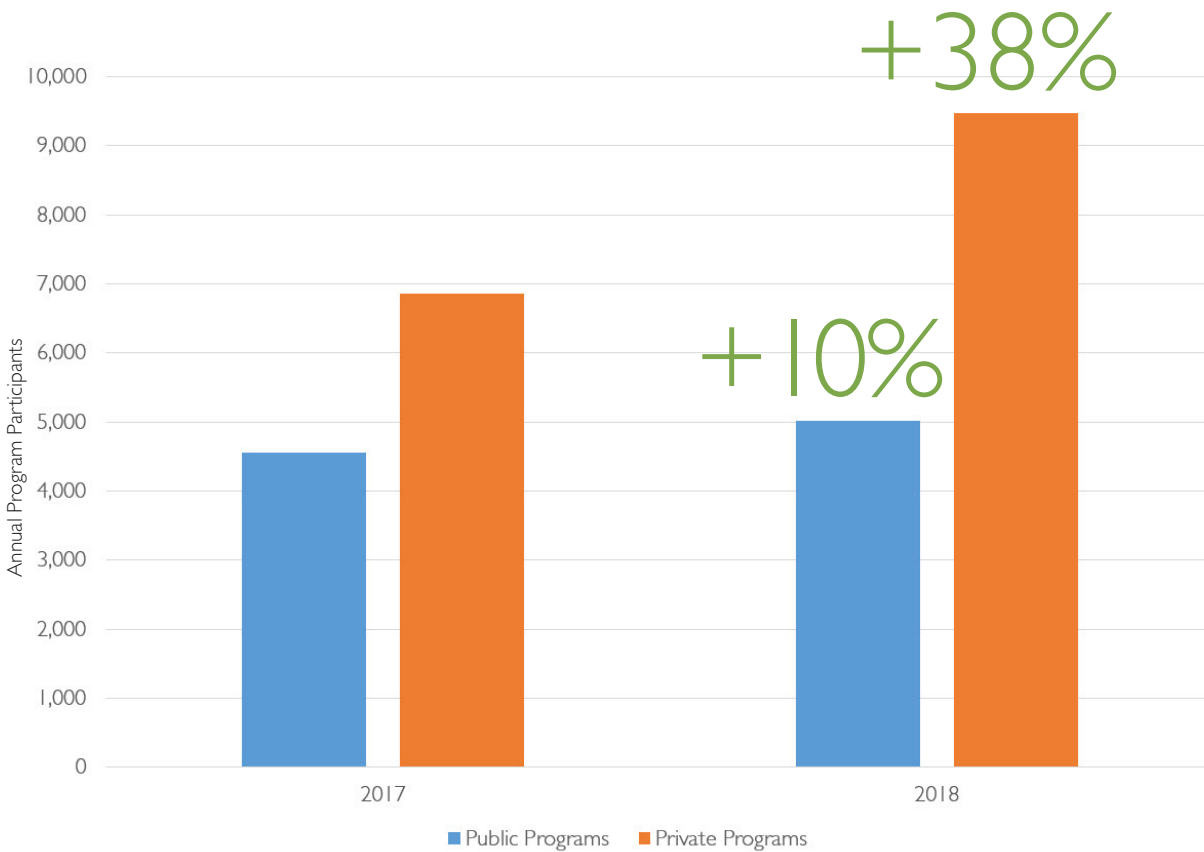
PROGRAMS & EDUCATION

220 PUBLIC PROGRAMS OFFERED

68% of participants in public programs visited Hemlock Crossing; 32% visited other parks

210 PRIVATE PROGRAMS OFFERED

54% of participants in private programs visited Hemlock Crossing; 46% visited other parks



NATURE CENTER

JENISON ECC PARTNERSHIP

In fall of 2017, Ottawa County parks collaborated with the Jenison Early Childhood program to provide pre-k students positive outdoor experiences that encourage exploration, foster an emotional connection with nature, and introduce stewardship of the Ottawa County Parks system.

Beginning in November, 100 students met naturalist guides at different county parks for a monthly 90-minute, curriculum-based program.

The early childhood programs continue into the 2018-2019 school year. This partnership inspired Ottawa County Parks to develop several “year-long” programs with different preschool groups, offering a continuous program schedule throughout the year.



STEP IT UP!

ADVENTURE SERIES

In an effort to expand recreational interests of returning participants and reach a new audience, the Step it Up! Adventure Series was developed using county innovation tools.

In addition to the weekly Group Walks, active Step it Up! participants could also sign up for free Group Adventures.

Adventures included a bike ride, trail run, kayaking, nature navigation, and disc golf. Space in each Group Adventure was limited to 20-40 participants because each activity was led by naturalist guides, and all necessary equipment was included.

Over 1,000 people were registered for the 2018 Step it Up! Adventure Series, a 235% increase from the 2017 spring challenge, and most of the Group Adventures were full, despite often difficult spring weather. Two thirds of 2018 Step it Up! participants reported an improvement in health, an increase in physical activity, visiting a new park, and exercising outdoors more.



COFFEE WITH THE BIRDS MUG CLUB

New this year was the Coffee with the Birds Mug Club. Membership was \$25 and included a mug featuring the winner of an accompanying photo contest. Local birder, Charlie DeWitt, won the competition with his photo of a Golden-crowned Kinglet.

Membership proceeds help pay for expenses related to this free program, other birding programs, and to offset the cost of bird food. Mugs had to be re-ordered due to the popularity of the mug club! A total of 65 memberships were sold.

Thank you to DeBoer's Bakery and Simpatico Coffee who help provide coffee and sweets to the program participants, as well as Tractor Supply for donating prizes for the mug club winners.



17,251
NATURE CENTER
VISITORS

49% involved with programs
51% stopped by for a visit
1% reservations/meetings

ANCA REVIEW



ANCA is an international non-profit organization that promotes and supports best leadership and management practices for the nature environmental learning center profession. In August, a five-person ANCA Peer Consult Team did a three day intensive examination to address some important questions posed by Ottawa County Parks. Over the course of two days, the team met with staff, commission members, teachers, and members of the public in focus group meetings. Each focus group discussed:

- The relationship, history, and role of the nature center at Hemlock Crossing
- The short-term and long-term vision for the nature center
- Opportunities and challenges
- Their role in achieving the vision and other thoughts about the nature center and the parks system

On the final day of the consult, the team offered verbal comments, suggestions and recommendations based on the interviews. In October, Parks staff received a full written report with accompanying resources. A 3-5 year strategic plan was one of the initial recommendations.

IDEMA EXPLORERS TRAIL



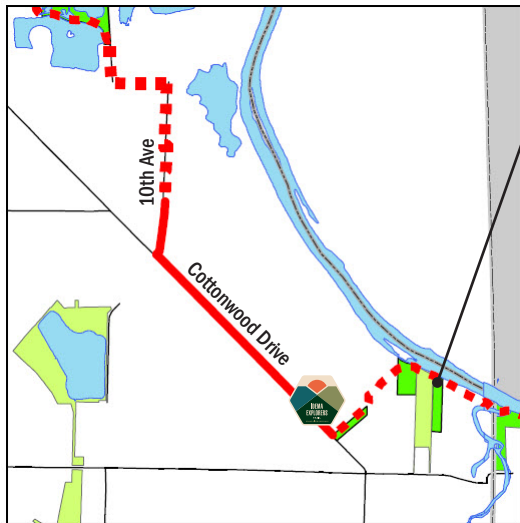
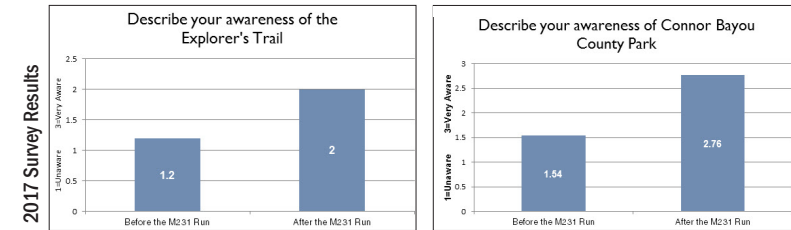
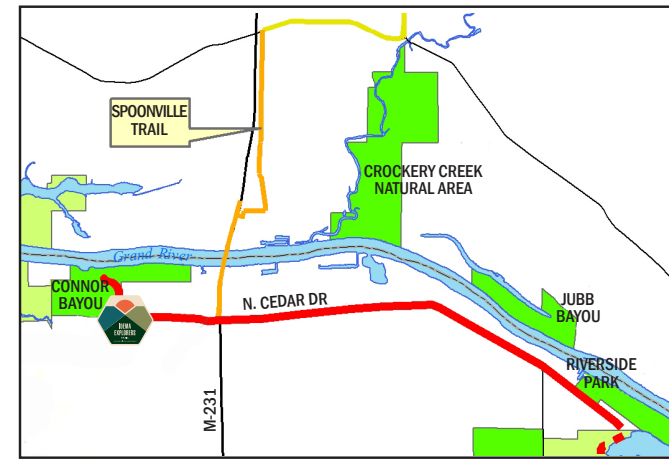
LANDMARK GIFT

In December 2017 the Ottawa Parks Foundation received a landmark \$2 million gift from the Bill and Bea Idema Foundation for the development of the Grand River Greenway. In recognition of this gift and support, the central feature of the Grand River Greenway – the Explorers Trail – was named in honor of Bill and Bea Idema.

ROBINSON SEGMENT

Final paving of the 3.9-mile segment in Robinson Township was completed in the spring. The trail head parking lot at the intersection of North Cedar Drive and M-231 offers easy access to the trail, as well as the pedestrian bridge crossing to the Spoonville Trail.

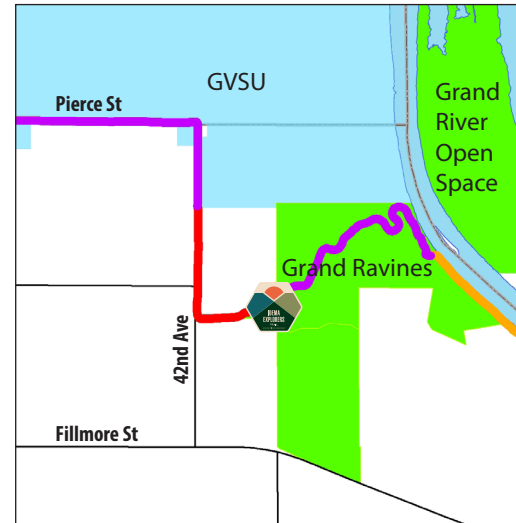
Runners participating in the 2017 (and 2018) River Run, hosted by Ottawa County, kicked off the race at Connor Bayou and ran along the trail route.



ACQUISITION: GEORGETOWN (EAST)

This five-acre property was purchased to secure needed trail route property along the Grand River in eastern Georgetown Township. It supplements previous and pending purchases to provide an attractive route through natural lands and avoiding the congested Cottonwood Drive and Baldwin Street intersection.

- Existing path
- Planned trail
- - - Future route



PLANNED TRAIL

Efforts continued to finalize the route including working with landowners, securing funding, and developing final design and engineering plans for segments along 42nd Avenue just south of the Grand Valley State University campus and along Cottonwood Drive in Georgetown Township.

Initial planning and preliminary engineering were also started for segments near Stearns Bayou in Robinson Township and Eastmanville Bayou in Allendale Township.

HISTORIC OTTAWA BEACH: PLANNING & IMPROVEMENTS

PUMPHOUSE ADDITION

An addition to the recently restored historic Pumphouse building was completed in time for the summer season. This addition includes public restrooms as well a covered shelter area. It not only provides highly needed public restroom facilities in this area, but also supports and complements the expanded activities of the Historic Ottawa Beach Society (HOBS).

HOBS now formally leases the structure and uses it as a museum and learning center. A professionally designed exhibit featuring Holland's "Big Red" lighthouse highlighted a season of events and regular public opening times. All of these efforts were rewarded with an award from the Historical Society of Michigan in the Preservation/Restoration category.



OTTAWA BEACH MARINA

Detailed design and engineering has continued on this project to improve public waterfront land at Ottawa Beach. Grants, permitting, and construction documents were finalized in preparation for construction starting in the fall of 2018. This project is scheduled to be completed in time for the 2019 boating season.

A public lottery was held for slips at the marina, many of which have been filled.



More than 600 people toured the Pump House Museum & Learning Center in its first month of operation!



WALKWAY IMPROVEMENTS

Continued improvements to the public walkways providing access to and through the private cottages were completed including replacement of deteriorated retaining walls and concrete paving.

DEMOLITION

A significant milestone was finally reached in efforts to eliminate private encroachments on public park parcels at Ottawa Beach. In accordance with an agreement with a neighboring landowner, a garage identified as being on park property in 2007 was removed and the area restored to park green space. This was the final large encroachment in the Ottawa Beach area to be resolved in accordance with the park master plan and court stipulation for this area.



PARK IMPROVEMENTS

NATURE CENTER WATER WELL

Longstanding problems with water quality at the Nature Center and public restroom at Hemlock Crossing, including high mineral and ammonia content, made it undrinkable. The water also stained the restroom fixtures, making them look dirty all the time. Over the years several solutions have been proposed, some implemented, and all failed; no filter or softener could do the job. After years of trucking in water for cleaning and drinking, a new solution was needed.

Knowing that several park neighbors on the north side of the Pigeon River have “good” wells, Parks staff worked with a contractor to drill a new well. More than a half-mile of new water pipe was laid through the park and crossed under the river back to the Nature Center. This was done without cutting down a single tree.



BEFORE

AFTER

Hemlock Crossing now has clean, odor-free, non-staining water. The drinking fountains have been re-installed, and fixtures with permanent stains or damage due to the bad water will be replaced in 2019.

PAW PAW PARK PLAYGROUND

As part of an overall improvement plan developed when this property was transferred for management from the City of Holland to Ottawa County Parks, a new playground structure was installed. The modern structure includes fully-accessible surfacing, a super-fast and fun slide (yes, we had to try it out), and an integrated online game platform was installed.

Seating was also added near the existing picnic shelter. Hopefully this new feature will increase and diversify use at this somewhat underutilized park.



HAGER PARK DEVRIES ROOM PATIO

To complement the popular DeVries Room rental space, a new outdoor concrete patio was constructed directly connected to the building. This amenity will allow greater capacity and flexibility with new outdoor seating and a grilling area.



PARK PLANNING

HAGER PARK VISITOR CENTER ROOF

Final design and construction documents were completed to address continuing leaks and other problems with the roof system at the Hager Visitor Center. This building houses the Vanderlaan Room and the DeVries Room, two popular rental facilities.

NORTH OPERATIONS CENTER

Detailed planning, design, and construction documents were prepared for a new operations building at Eastmanville Farm. This building would serve all of the park properties in the north management zone of the park system.

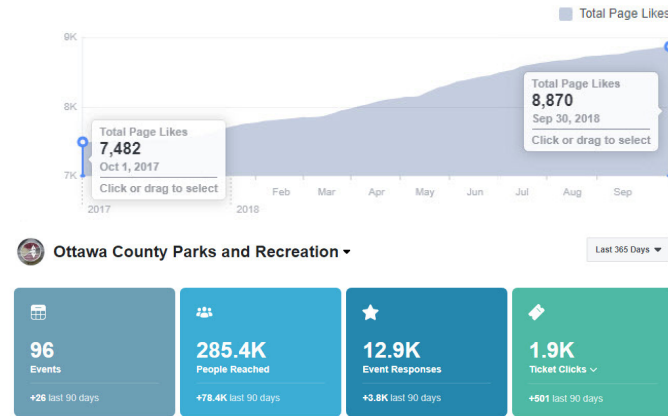
COMMUNICATIONS

Social Media

Social media continues to be an easy and efficient way to communicate with the community.

The Facebook event tool has proven to be an incredibly effective way to promote programs and summer camps.

Instagram posts and Instagram Stories are another effective way to reach out to very active Parks visitors.



GovDelivery

Ottawa County Parks holds three of the top 10 topics in GovDelivery. Over 240 bulletins were sent in FY 18. The most popular Parks topic, the quarterly newsletter, increased in subscribers by 58%.

Website

The website remains a crucial communication tool, with over 275,000 visits annually (an increase of 7%).

Quarterly Newsletter

Over 30,000 parks newsletters are distributed each year.

Blog

In an effort to both archive content on the website and also improve search engine optimization, Ottawa County developed a news (aka blog) section of the miOttawa domain. Since its roll out in April 2018, 34 Parks-related stories have been posted. The post describing the Grand River Park Sensory Trail is the most popular and that story alone has been visited over 3,300 times.

Volunteer Photographer

Parks staff was thrilled to be approached by a remarkably talented volunteer in January. Mike Lozon, a retired professional photographer and local journalist has taken, edited, and organized over 1,500 press quality photos for Parks to use free of charge. In his first year of volunteering, he contributed over 250 volunteer hours.

↑ 18%

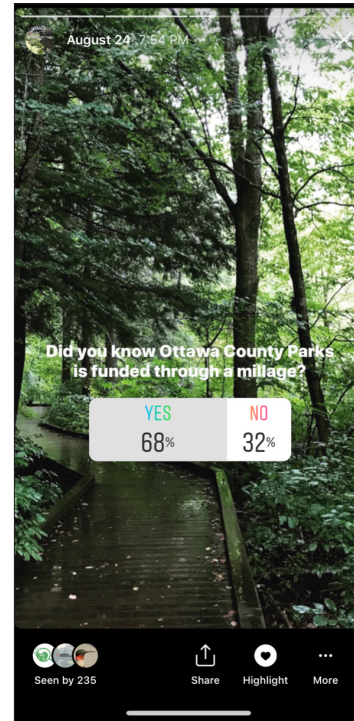
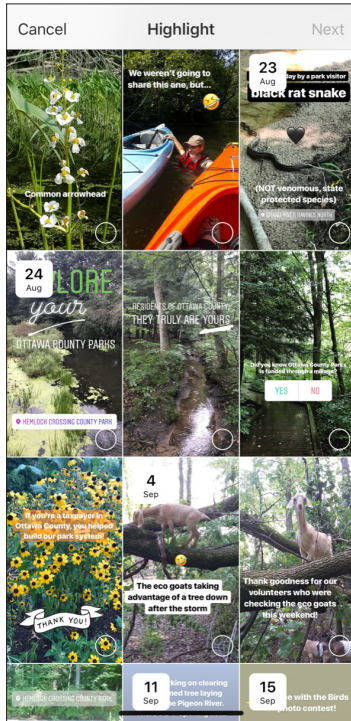
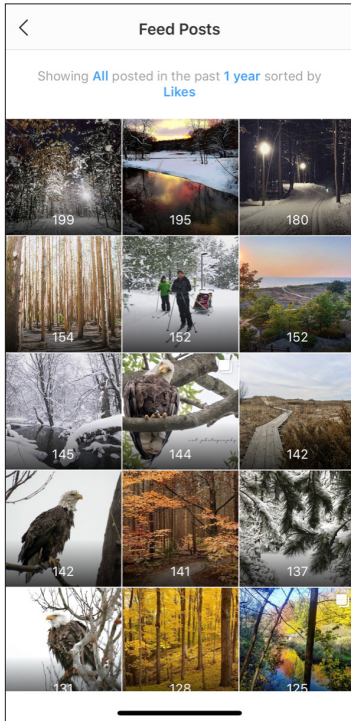
FACEBOOK LIKES

12,482

QUARTERLY E-NEWS
SUBSCRIBERS
(GOVDELIVERY)

278,956

ANNUAL WEB VISITS



SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS



BRIDGING COMMUNITY TO NATURE
LEARN MORE | DONATE | GET INVOLVED
ottawacountyparksfoundation.org

OTTAWA COUNTY PARKS FOUNDATION

The Parks Foundation marked its first full year of operation in 2018 after launching in the spring of 2017. The Foundation made great progress on many fronts and has steadily increased its donor base. The Foundation's biggest focus continued to be its highly successful fundraising effort to assist the Parks Commission with its Grand River Greenway and Idema Explorers Trail project. Working through the Grand River Greenway Campaign Committee, co-chaired by Peter Secchia, Monica Verplank and Samantha Verplank, over \$5.9 million has been committed toward its \$7.2 million goal. The Foundation also committed funds toward the campaign led by the Shoreline Amateur Astronomical Association to construct an observatory at Hemlock Crossing. The growth and maturity of the Parks Foundation is reflected in the hiring of a part-time Foundation Manager over the summer.



Angela Miller-Niarhos,
Foundation Manager
(right)



FRIENDS OF OTTAWA COUNTY PARKS

The Friends of Ottawa County Parks support the parks system in many ways, including volunteering at parks, promoting the parks at community events, leading hikes, and more!

Throughout FY18 Friends of Ottawa County Parks hosted Open Houses for the general public at both the Weaver House and the Grand Ravines Lodge, as well as an incredibly popular Santa event at the Nature Center; volunteered hundreds of hours within the Park system at workdays and tending to the eco-goats; and helped cover transportation expenses for many student field trips — all in addition to the community table events where they represent Ottawa County Parks. They also matched the fund commitment from the Parks Foundation toward the construction of the SAAA observatory.



Don Williams welcoming visitors to the Weaver House

PARKS COMMISSION

David VanGinhoven, President
Ray Statema, Vice President
Philip Kuyers, Secretary
Joe Bush
Tom Elhart
Matthew Fenske
James Holtvluwer
Roger E. Jonas
Kelly N. Rice
Tom Werkman

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Roger Bergman, Vice Chair
Joe Baumann
Allen Dannenberg
Matthew Fenske
Francisco C. Garcia
James Holtvluwer
Philip Kuyers
Kyle Terpstra*
Randy Meppelink*
Doug Zylstra*

* Commissioners as of January 1, 2019 (FY19)

PARKS STAFF

Director
John Scholtz

Park Planning & Development
Coordinator of Park Planning & Development
Curt TerHaar

Park Planner
Aaron Bodbyl-Mast

Administration
Administrative Assistant
Kyle Roffey

Communication Specialist
Jessica VanGinhoven

Senior Secretary
Tabitha Rowley

Parks Secretary
Mary Bohn

Interpretive Services
Coordinator of Interpretive Services
Kristen Hintz

Parks Naturalist
Curtis Dykstra

Secretary
Mindy Stanton

Park Maintenance & Operations
Coordinator of Park Maintenance & Operations
Jason Boerger

Park Operations Manager
Bob Reichel

Guest Services Supervisor
Elaine Eberling

Natural Resources Manager**
Melanie Manion

Stewardship Supervisor**
Nealy Molhoek

Parks Supervisors
Anne Engvall (North)
Eric Frifeldt (West)
Collin Zackrison (East)
Leif VanHorssen (Central)

Parks Equipment Specialist
Jeremy Hamstra

Parks Maintenance
Aaron Goodell
Bob Shannon
Tom Dorton

The Parks Commission also employs a part-time Volunteer Outreach Coordinator as well as over 100 seasonal and part-time staff, including Naturalist Guides, Park Attendants, Grounds Attendants, an intern, and Gatekeepers.

** Titles as of October 1, 2018 (FY19)

LONG-TERM FUNDING

Income from fee revenues provides an important source of operating revenues; grants for park improvements and land acquisition provide crucial help for expanding and improving the park system. However, it is the voter-supported parks millage that provides the core funding which supports all facets of the parks program. This 10-year millage was renewed in 2016 with over 72% of public support.

As the park system has grown over the past 20 years, so has the percentage of the millage required to operate and maintain its properties. While the bulk of the funds will be used for that purpose, there are still new projects on the horizon, including completion of the Grand River Greenway, expansion and development of the Bend Area and Ottawa Sands, continued progress on the Macatawa Greenway through land acquisition and trail extension, progress on the Pigeon River Greenway, and renovations and upgrades at all parks and open spaces.

The Ottawa County Parks Foundation exists to raise funds to assist the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission in achieving its goal and is expected to have an expanding role in the future.

