Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

Jason D. Shamblin
Director

Kelly N. Rice
President

February 10, 2023

NOTICE OF MEETING

Dear Commission Member:

The regular meeting of the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission is scheduled for **Wednesday, February 15, 2023,** at **3:00 pm** at the Ottawa County Fillmore Street Complex, 12220 Fillmore St., West Olive, MI in the Board Room.

Additional public access will be offered via Zoom by visiting https://miottawa.zoom.us/j/81671391172 or by phone at: (312) 626-6799, using Webinar ID 979 3192 5783. Public comment can be received in-person or via Zoom. *We require that those participating in public comment via Zoom register prior to speaking by visiting: https://bit.ly/ocpr-public-comment*

The agenda for the meeting is attached for your review.

Please contact the Parks and Recreation Commission Office at (616) 738-4810 if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Jason D. Shamblin
Parks and Recreation Director

JDS/jls

Enclosures

Kelly Rice, President · Jane Longstreet, Vice President · Linda McAffrey, Secretary · Amanda Price, Treasurer
Joe Bush · Kate Harmon · Lukas Hill · Allison Miedema · Jim Miedema · Paul Sachs · Kyle Terpstra

Nature Education Center 8115 West Olive Rd, West Olive, MI 49460 616-786-4847 miOttawa.org/parks
Administrative Office 12220 Fillmore St, West Olive, MI 49460 616-738-4810 ocparks@miottawa.org

Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission
February 15, 2023 3:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting Agenda
Public Access is provided via Zoom at:
https://miottawa.zoom.us/j/81671391172

Mission Statement:
The Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission enhances quality of life for residents and visitors, by preserving parks and open spaces and providing natural resource-based recreation and education opportunities.

1. Call to Order by President

2. Roll Call: Rice
   Longstreet
   McAffrey
   Bush
   Harmon
   Hill
   A. Miedema
   J. Miedema
   Terpstra
   Sachs

3. Absences (excused/unexcused)

4. Additions/Deletions to Agenda

5. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting
   a) Approve the minutes of the Commission's January 18, 2023 annual meeting.

6. Communications: none

7. Public Comment (Public comments limited to 3 minutes)

8. Staff Reports
   a) Director's Report
   b) Park Operations Report
   c) Planning and Development Report
   d) Community Engagement Report

9. Committee Reports
   a) Receive the report of the Planning Committee meeting of February 7, 2023.
   b) Receive the report of the Executive Committee meeting of February 6, 2023.
   c) Friends of Ottawa County Parks Update (*verbal report. Representative to be determined)*
   d) Ottawa County Parks Foundation Update (*verbal report by Commissioner Longstreet*)

10. Old Business
    a) Grose Park Master Plan Update
        Suggested Motion: *To amend the Grose Park Master Plan to remove the "Relocated Ball Field" from the plan drawing and delete references to this as a proposed use from any other related documents.*

    b) Parks Foundation's Feasibility Study Update Including Ottawa Sands
        Suggested Motion: *To authorize the Parks Foundation to move forward with the campaign Feasibility study including the Land Legacy Fund, Parks for All and Ottawa Sands Projects. Further, the Director is instructed to take such actions as are necessary to implement the intent of the Commission in these matters.*

11. New Business
    a) Ottawa County Parks Foundation Annual Report
        Suggested Motion: *To accept the annual report of the Ottawa County Parks Foundation.*

    b) 2023 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant Application for Rosy Mound Expansion Phase 2
        1) Presentation of Grant Proposal by staff and Commissioner review
        2) Public Comment
        Suggested Motion: *To recommend application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) program for funding assistance for the Rosy Mound Expansion Phase II acquisition project and forward to the County Board of Commissioners for final approval.*

    c) 2023 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant Application for Upper Macatawa Natural Area – Greenway Trailhead
        1) Presentation of Grant Proposal by staff and Commissioner review
        2) Public Comment
        Suggested Motion: *To recommend application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) program for funding assistance for upper Macatawa Natural Area – Greenway Trailhead project and forward to the County Board of Commissioners for final approval.*

    d) Macatawa River Intercounty Drain Easements
        Suggested Motion: *To approve Drainage Easements for the Macatawa River Intercounty Drain on Parcel #'s: 70-16-36-200-008; 70-16-36-200-019; 70-16-36-200-027 conditional on review and approval of Corporation Counsel and the Board of Commissioners. Further, the Director is instructed to take such actions as are necessary to implement the intent of the Commission in these matters.*

    e) Ottawa Sands Treehouse Bid and Contract
        Suggested Motion: *To accept the bid from _____for construction of the Ottawa Sands tree houses at a cost of $_____ and forward to the Board of Commissioners for final approval.*

f) Eastmanville Farm Background
Suggested Motion: Information only.

12. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

13. Public Comment (Public comments limited to 3 minutes)

14. Commissioners Prerogative

15. Closed Session to discuss property acquisition Pursuant to the OMA Section 8d (not enclosed).

16. Upcoming meeting date(s):
    March 22, 2023
    Time: 3:00 p.m.
    Fillmore Complex, Board Room

17. Adjournment

Annual Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission

Proposed Minutes

Date: January 18, 2023

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Place: Board Room, Fillmore Complex

Present: Kelly Rice, Jane Longstreet, Joe Bush, Kate Harmon, Lukas Hill, Linda McAffrey, Allison Miedema, Jim Miedema, Kyle Terpstra, Paul Sachs

Absent: None

Staff: Jason Shamblin, Director; Jason Boerger, Coordinator of Park Maintenance and Operations; Curt TerHaar, Coordinator of Park Planning and Development; Jessica VanGinhoven, Coordinator of Community Engagement; Kyle Roffey, Administrative Assistant; Nealy Molhoek, Stewardship Supervisor; Aaron Bodbyl-Mast, Park Planner.

Guests: Addison Webb

In the absence of officers beginning the new year, Director Shamblin called the meeting to order and asked for a report of the Nominating Committee, which consisted of Bush and McAffrey. On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Bush submitted the following nominations: President, Kelly Rice; Vice President, Jane Longstreet; Secretary, Linda McAffrey. Shamblin asked for any further nominations from the floor, and there were none.

Motions

Close Nominations for Officers of Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission 2023 and Elect Officers

PR 23-01 Motion: To close the nominations for 2023 officers of the Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission and to elect Kelly Rice to the office of President, Jane Longstreet to the office of Vice President, and Linda McAffrey to the office of Secretary of the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission for 2023.

Moved by: Bush Supported by: Hill Unanimous

Approval of Minutes

PR 23-02 Motion: To approve the minutes of the Commission's December 7, 2022 regular meeting.

Moved by: McAffrey Supported by: Harmon Unanimous

Idema Explorers Trail Jenison Mill Segment Trust Fund Grant Agreement Amendment

PR 23-03 Motion: Approve and authorize staff to execute the Amendment to Idema Explorers Trail Jenison Mill Segment Trust Fund Grant Agreement pending review and approval from Corporation Counsel and Board of Commissioners. Further, the Director is instructed to take such actions as are necessary to implement the intent of the Commission in these matters.

Moved by: Longstreet Supported by: McAffrey Unanimous

Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting Dates

PR 23-04 Motion: To establish the 2023 meeting dates.

Moved by: McAffrey Supported by: Hill Unanimous

Ottawa County Parks Foundation Grand Explorers' Trail Race Event and Fundraiser

PR 23-05 Motion: To approve staff to issue a special permit to the Ottawa County Parks Foundation to host a run on the Idema Explorers Trail in June of 2023 and annually thereafter for at least 3 years total.

Moved by: Longstreet Supported by: McAffrey Unanimous

Ottawa County Parks Commission Staffing Realignment

PR 23-06 Motion: Approve Parks Commission staffing realignment and appropriate funding, pending review and approval of the County Administrator, HR and the Board of Commissioners, and authorize staff to take such actions as are necessary to implement the intent of the Commission in these matters.

Moved by: McAffrey Supported by: Longstreet Unanimous

To go into Closed Session

PR 23-07 Motion: To go into Closed Session per Section 8d of the Open Meetings Act.

Moved by: McAffrey Supported by: J. Miedema Unanimous

To Rise from Closed Session and Adjourn

PR 23-08 Motion: To Rise from Closed Session and Adjourn.

Moved by: McAffrey Supported by: Hill Unanimous

Other Items Discussed

4. Additions/Deletions to Agenda:
   None

5. Approval of Minutes
   The proposed minutes of the Commission's December 7, 2022 regular meeting was approved.

6. Communications:
   The Commission reviewed communications received.

7. Public Heard:
   Addison Webb

8. Staff Reports
   a) Director
      The Commission accepted the Director's Report as written.
   b) Park Operations
      Rice pointed out that the percentages were off on the revenue table of the Operations Report.
   c) Planning and Development Report
      The Commission accepted the Planning and Development Report as written.
   d) Community Engagement Report
      The Commission accepted the Community Engagement Report as written.
   e) Grant Status Report
      The Commission accepted the Grant Status Report as written.

9. Committee Reports
   a) The Commission accepted the Planning Committee meeting report of December 15, 2022 as written.
   b) The Commission accepted the Public Relations Committee meeting of December 6, 2022 as written.
   c) McAffrey updated the Commissioners on the Friends of Ottawa County Parks. McAffrey stated the Christmas event at the Nature Center was a success.
   d) The Commission accepted the Executive Committee meeting report of January 10, 2023 as written.
   e) Longstreet updated the Commissioners on the Ottawa County Parks Foundation and the 2022 Metrics review. Longstreet stated the next event is the Puzzle event at the Eagles in Grand Haven on March 25.

10. Old Business:
    a) The Idema Explorers Trail Jenison Mill Segment Trust Fund Grant Agreement Amendment was approved.

11. New Business
    a) The Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission meeting dates was approved.
    b) The Ottawa County Parks Foundation Grand Explorers' Trail Race Event and Fundraiser was approved.
    c) The Ottawa County Parks Commission Staffing realignment was approved.

12. Public Heard:
    None

13. Commissioners Heard:
    The new Commission members expressed their gratitude for the park system and being a member of the Ottawa County Parks Commission.

14. Closed Session

15. Meeting adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

Next meeting: February 15, 2023, Time: 3:00 p.m.
Location: Fillmore Complex, Board Room

Director's Report
February 2023
Submitted by: Jason Shamblin

Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

Pigeon River Greenway

- The Director connected with a representative from Consumers Energy and discussed the Park Services Agreement with Port Sheldon Township and the progress of the decommissioning of the J.H. Campbell Power Plant.

Miscellaneous

- Coordinator of Fund Development and Major Gifts – the position is posted. A hiring plan has been formulated including a committee to review and recommend candidates for interviews. An interview committee to interview candidates and meet and greet gatherings will be scheduled in early March with the Foundation Board and the Parks staff.
- 2024 Budget – staff have been preparing and refining the 2024 CIP projects for review by the Finance and Policy Committee in March. Additionally, staff have been coordinating with the County's Fiscal Services department on the development and process for the 2024 operational budget.
- Budget Analyst – the County's Fiscal Services department has hired a new Budget Analyst (Brandi Mitchem) who will dedicate a portion of her time to supporting the Parks Commission. In the future Brandi will regularly attend Parks Commission committee and regular meetings. Various staff have been meeting with Brandi, orienting her to Ottawa County Parks and our operations.
- The Director met with the new County Administrator and Deputy Administrator for an initial meeting and overview of the Parks Commission and operations. A regular monthly meeting will be held with the Director and County Administrator reviewing current and future Parks Commission priorities.
- Staff have been coordinating with the Administration, Human Resources and Fiscal Services to implement the Parks staffing realignment. The realignment will go to the Board of Commissioners Finance Committee in March and then move on for full approval by the Board.
- Staff have coordinated with the County purchasing department and Corporation Counsel to facilitate a Request for Proposal for legal services supporting Parks Commission related real estate matters. Two firms have been selected by a review committee and contracts will go to the Finance and Policy Committee and then on to the full Board for approval in March.
- A Parks Commissioner inquired about Motor Vehicle Permits. See attached Memo providing background information on Motor Vehicle Permits.

Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission
12220 Fillmore St., West Olive, Michigan 49460
(616) 738-4810 www.miottawa.org/parks

MEMORANDUM

Date: February 9, 2023

To: Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

From: Jason Shamblin: Director, Ottawa County Parks

RE: The History of the Motor Vehicle Permit

The Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission was formed in 1987. The Parks Director (then called "Manager") was tasked with determining the feasibility of a park entrance fee as part of the overall funding structure that was still being established. In 1988 a study and several surveys were conducted before the Parks Commission established the Motor Vehicle Permit requirement in February of 1989. The original fee was $2 for a daily, $8 for a resident annual, $12 for a non-resident annual, and 50% off for seniors. The permit was initially required at Tunnel Park, Kirk Park, and North Beach Park and only during the summer months. The reasoning was that these heavily used lakeshore beach parks were more labor intensive to operate and attracted more out of County residents who did not pay taxes in Ottawa County. Over the years as more beach parks were established, the motor vehicle permit requirement was expanded to include those locations as well.

In 2019 while seeking clarification from the Board of Commissioners as to which park fees required their approval to adjust, it was concluded that only a change in the motor vehicle permit fee required BOC approval moving forward. All other fees charged by the Parks Commission could be set and adjusted with the approve of either park staff or the Parks Commission at the discretion of the Parks Commission.

Any person who qualifies for a Michigan Bridge Card can receive a Motor Vehicle Permit at no cost.

Park Operations Report
February 2023
Report Covers December 2022 & January 2023
Submitted by: Jason Boerger

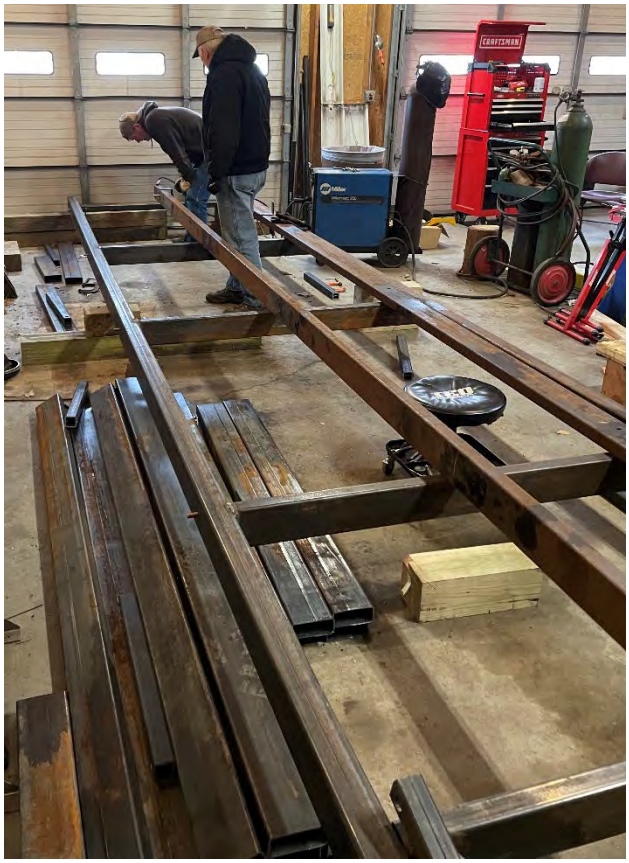
Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

Revenue collected through Period 4 (January) *-Fiscal Year 2023 (October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023)*

Description	2022 YTD Actual	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	% of Budget
Motor Vehicle Permits	$1,278	$0.00	$468,400	0.0%
Marina Revenues	$48,821	$29,691	$118,340	25.1%
Grand Ravines dog wash	$4,351	$1,341	$12,000	11.2%
Reservations	$23,833	$68,774	$335,856	20.5%
Pigeon Creek Lodge	$38,078.06	$21,190	$50,100	42.3%
Totals	**$116,361.06**	**$120,996.00**	**$984,696.00**	**12.3%**

Responsive Maintenance and Repairs

- 35 down or dead trees were removed from 12 park properties.
- 9 vehicles and 20 other pieces of equipment received routine maintenance or repairs.
- Snow removal was performed as needed at various locations during the month.
- Staff worked with Trane on several occasions about heat pump issues at the Nature Center.
- A new furnace and air conditioning unit were installed in the Woodland Cabin at Connor Bayou.



Scheduled Maintenance and Tasks

- Set-up and clean-up was performed for 81 facility reservations. In comparison, 104 reservations were held during this time last year.
- 127 park signs were printed and mounted.
- Began fabrication of a trailer to assist in the installation and removal of the kayak launches at Connor, Eastmanville Bayou, Ravines North, and Grand River.
- Prepared and installed the easement signs (similar to the property boundary posts) for Bur Oak and Stearns North (Helstrom Section).
- Operations staff are working on obtaining budget pricing for 2024 budget requests.
- Staff researched what is needed to add 6 seasonal/transient personal watercraft ports for the Ottawa Beach Marina.
- Staff worked with HR to get the open Seasonal Positions posted to begin the 2023 Seasonal Employee hiring process.

Beach Update

- December
  With the large snowstorms in December our beaches became locked in with ice pack. The ice pack acts as a natural defense against lakeshore erosion and can lock in surface sand, preventing it from drifting. Due to this, there has been very little erosion beyond the normal shifting of sand that we face every winter.
- January
  The ice pack moved out in January about as quickly as it moved in. Even with the melting ice, our beaches have not seen any significant changes in January as water levels are at their expected lows for the year.

Project Updates

Pigeon Creek Winter Operations

- Pigeon Creek Lodge winter operations began on December 18th. The Lodge was closed on December 23rd due to blizzard conditions and reopened on December 26th, but then operations were suspended again on December 30th due to warm temperatures and rain. The Lodge resumed winter operations on January 28th after a significant snowfall. Lodge Operations have been open for a total of 13 days so far this season.
- Daily trail grooming was performed at Pigeon Creek while X-Country ski operations were open.
- Park Staff spent 8 days removing trees and grinding stumps which were in the way of the winter trail grooming operations at Pigeon Creek. They also completed installation of signpost for the new trails on the north side and installed all the new trail maps and directional arrows at all trail intersections.
- Staff worked with an electrician to solve the trail light breaker tripping issue at Pigeon. It was found that a mouse had chewed up the wiring inside 1 light pole wiring conduit causing the wires to short and trip the breaker.
- Continued to split firewood for Pigeon Lodge and Kirk Lodge winter supply.

Spoonville Trail

Installed Park logos on the entry sign and kiosk for the 120th Ave Spoonville Trail parking area.

Eastmanville Farm FFA Partnership

The permit was issued to allow the Coopersville FFA to operate a community garden in an area near Leonard Rd at Eastmanville Farm. This group has been managing this garden for several years under the previous WMAEC contract.

Port Sheldon Lakeshore Parks Agreement

- The contract was fully approved and signed by the township and the Ottawa County BOC.
- Staff met with the Township Supervisor to go over the next steps.
- Staff filled out and submitted the DNR permit applications for adding swim areas at Windsnest and Kouw Parks.

Grose Park Rebuilding Project

- Moved and organized and set up equipment in the new garage at Grose Park from the shipping container. The container was then removed.
- Transferred equipment stored at Connor to Grose where it belongs.
- The project is now complete.

Memorial Benches

- Installed a memorial plaque on a bench at Olive Shores.
- Installed a memorial bench plaque on a bench board for installation at Hemlock Crossing/Pine Bend once the weather temperatures warm up in the spring to over 50 degrees so the concrete will set.
- Installed an Explorers Trail Donor Plaque on an existing bench at the M-231 trail parking area.

Keyless Lock Project

Staff made a request to add additional locks for Kouw and Windsnest Parks.

2023 Fee Machine and Parking software upgrades

- The contract with Passport Labs for the parking and enforcement software will be on the next BOC agenda for approval.
- Staff met with the Treasures office, Sheriff's Office, and Corporation Counsel to work out the municipal civil infraction portion of the parking enforcement plan.

Incident Reports

- North Area Mahindra tractor damage – front right wheel hub drive assembly bolts broke.
- Visitor's car broken into at Ravines North Lodge parking area – Police report filed.
- Small kitchen stove fire in the Pigeon Creek Lodge concessions.
- Truck #9 damage – broken passenger side mirror.
- Gate damage Riverside – Vehicle drove through the access gate by the boat launch.

Natural Resource Management Project Updates

Ottawa Sands Restoration & Wetland Creation

- A grant application for $150,000 was submitted to DNR Fisheries Habitat grant program for creating wetlands around the mining lake at Ottawa Sands to improve habitat for fish and other aquatic species. This will be matched by the existing Sustain Our Great Lakes grant through Great Lakes Audubon.
- Staff continued to work with schools to create a service-based learning project at Ottawa Sands as part of the wetland creation project.

Eastmanville Farm Restoration

The contract Farm Manager will continue to plant row crop for the 2023 season while alternate funding sources are sought to carry out the warm/cold season grass grazing plan.

Eastmanville Farm Restoration

This project was not selected to be funded by ARPA funds.

Hemlock Wooly Adelgid (HWA) Management

- HWA surveys continued at Kirk Park.
- HWA was discovered at Port Sheldon Natural Area.

Pigeon Creek and Hemlock Crossing Forest Management

Contractor is scheduled to harvest the pine plantations at Pigeon Creek Park spring of 2023.

North Ottawa Dunes pumping impact assessment

Staff contacted three arborists to access the damages to North Ottawa Dunes. No quotes were submitted. Staff will continue to find a resolution to the challenge of finding an estimate.

Natural Resource Management individual park plans

Stewardship Supervisor worked on Rosy Mound Natural Area and Kirk Park.

Partnerships

- Stewardship Crew and Park Stewards assisted with the Friends of Ottawa County Parks' Luminary event by providing trees.
- Staff hosted the first West Michigan Conservation Network program of the year on how to develop a Land Management Plan.

Invasive Species Management

- Invasive shrubs were removed from Port Sheldon Natural Area, Pigeon Creek Park, Stearns Creek North, Hiawatha Forest, Connor Bayou, North Beach, Rosy Mound Natural Area, and Kirk Park.
- Staff worked with Ottawa County GIS staff to enhance the invasive species mapping program to include mapping of treatment areas and create a new forest pest application.

Maintenance Projects

Staff confirmed that the contractor will be burning Robinson Forest Open Space this spring.

Volunteer Updates

- Park Stewards processed native seeds collected from park properties; installed live stakes at Riverside Park; removed nonnative pines from Port Sheldon Natural Area and Pigeon Creek Park; removed invasive shrubs from Paw Paw Park and Stearns Creek North.
- Volunteers from Grand Valley State University processed native seeds.

Planning and Development Report
February 2023
Submitted by: Curt TerHaar

Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

GRAND RIVER GREENWAY

GR Greenway – Stearns Connector Segment. Approvals for improvements to the railing on the south side of the Stearns Bayou bridge and other bridge improvements are complete but still awaiting final approval by the State. Bidding will likely be in May.

Project Budget Summary	
Funding	
Park Budget (TBD)	$ 150,000.00
TAP Grant (conditional commitment)	$ 2,337,757.00
Easement Budget	$ 32,458.00
MNRTF Grant	$ 300,000.00
County ARPA Funds	$ 2,000,000.00
Funding total	$ 4,820,215.00
Projected Expenditures	
Consultant fees	$ 386,756.50
Additional Environmental Work	$ 9,950.00
Mussel Relocation work	$ 35,000.00
Archaeology	$ 8,779.72
Tree Removal	$ 29,757.00
Trail Construction (est.)	$ 3,933,269.50
OCRC fees (est.)	$ 33079.00
Easements	$ 65,000.00
Expenditure's total	$ 4,501,591.72
Balance remaining	$ 318,623.28

GR Greenway – Jenison Mill Segment. The Secchia Arch has been installed and construction is complete. Some very minor clean-up and warranty items will be completed in the spring. A dedication will be scheduled for this spring or summer.

Completed arch looking west

Completed arch looking east

Project Budget Summary

Funding		
Park Budget		$ 200,000.00
Georgetown Township		$ 337,500.00
MNRTF Grant		$ 300,000.00
Greenway Campaign Funds		$ 395,636.00
County General Fund Transfer		$ 180,000.00
	Funding total	$ 1,413,136.00
Projected Expenditures		
Consultant fees (remaining)		$ 61,451.76
Additional Fees & Costs		$ 20,092.07
Trail Construction (original contract)		$ 1,283,936.50
Contract Revisions		$ 5,3298.58
	Expenditure's total	$ 1,370,869.91
	Balance remaining	$ 42,266.09

GR Greenway – Bass River Segment. We are nearing agreement on the final details of the operating agreement to allow the trail to cross State property. State funding through their Recreation Trails Program (RTP) has been secured and allows us to do a request for proposals for detailed design and engineering for the first segment with construction as soon as this agreement in in place. Construction is planned for 2024. Progress on needed easements and land acquisition on the east end of the project continues to be slow with alternatives being investigated for the Bakale easement.

GR Greenway – Eastmanville Connector Segment. No change since last report. Our consultant is completing final permitting and approvals so that this project can be ready for bid ("shovel-ready"). Scheduling of construction of this segment is being evaluated based on available funds, schedule of Bass River segments, and other projects in Allendale Township

GR Greenway – Allendale Segment. No change since last report. Park Staff met with Township officials to update each other on progress. Allendale will contact MDOT to see if the analysis of the 60th Ave./M-45 intersection has been completed. Parks will be updating the project schedule based on the latest information about related road and utility projects.

Project Budget Summary		
Funding		
MDOT TAP Grant (estimated)		$ 1,768,800.00
Allendale Township (proposed)		$ 670,000.00
Greenway Campaign Funds		$ 113,396.00
Other funds (TBD)		$ 762,004.00
	Funding total	$ 3,314,200.00

Projected Expenditures (estimated)	
Preliminary Consultant fees (current)	$ 5,000.00
Future Consultant fees (estimated)	$ 361,200.00
Trail Construction (estimated)	$ 2,948,000.00
Expenditure's total	$ 3,314,200.00

GR Greenway – Grand Ravines to Grand River Park Segment. The trail portion of this project is substantially complete. A small portion of top course paving and grading of the floodplain fill mitigation area will be completed in the spring. The Ravines wall stabilization portion of the project has gone through the public permit review process with the State of Michigan, however, comments from the EPA/Corps of Engineers have put the permit in jeopardy. Our consultant is preparing a response.

Project Budget Summary	
Funding	
Park Budget	$ 157,400.00
Georgetown Township	$ 112,500.00
Parks Foundation	$ 924,700.00
Parks Funding (includes CIP transfer)	$ 260,000.00
Funding total	$ 1,454,600.00

Projected Expenditures (estimated)	
Property Acquisition	$ 180,000.00
Consultant fees (M&B – est.)	$ 116,246.14
Consultant fees (SME)	$ 24,500.00
Archaeology	$ 8,400.00
Construction Contract	$ 967,262.50
Contract Revisions	$ 79,972.90
Wall stabilization (est.)	$ 76,274.00
Bike Repair Station	$ 1,985.70
Miscellaneous	$ 302.92
Expenditure's total	$ 1,378,670.16
Balance remaining	$ 75,929.84

Grand Ravines Treehouse. Materials have been ordered and some items delivered to the site including the roof trusses. Major construction will begin when the laminated posts for the treehouse and boardwalk are delivered in the next couple of weeks.

Project Budget Summary	
Funding	
Private Donation	$ 330,000.00
Proposed Budget Adjustments	$ 55,558.67
Funding total	$ 385,558.67

Expenditures	
Consultant fees	$ 53,053.75
Concrete Foundation PO – Denny's Excavating	$ 49,990.00
Contract - Denny's Excavating	$ 279,895.00
Expenditure's total	$ 382,938.75
Balance remaining (contingency)	$ 2,619.92

Ottawa Sands Development. Approvals from the City of Ferrysburg have allowed construction to begin. Clearing and work on the camp restroom foundation are in progress. The treehouses are out for bids with results to be presented at the February Parks Commission meeting.

Project Budget Summary	
Funding	
Private Donations	$ 3,480,000.00
County ARPA Funds	$ 3,400,000.00
Additional approved parks funding	$ 700,000.00
Funding total	$ 7,580,000.00
Projected Expenditures	
Consultant fees	$ 278,000.00
Phase 1a Contract	$ 3,539,000.00
Owner Provided Items	$ 35,990.00
Fire Safety Changes (est.)	$ 100,000.00
Contingency	$ 192,350.00
Expenditure's total	$ 4,145,340.00
Balance remaining	$ 3,434,660.00

Ottawa Sands Restoration Work. Our consultant is working on planning, design, and permitting for the shoreline and interdunal wetland restorations and enhancements. Coordination with the various interested parties and State regulators is in progress.

Kirk Park Improvements. Construction documents are complete and have been submitted to the state for review and approval. A Michigan State Spark Grant application (State ARPA funds) to provide the match for this grant and fund other improvements including paving renovations and reconstruction of the beach interpretive deck and stairs has been submitted, but results have not yet been announced. If successful, a new project schedule will be developed based on the grant requirements.

Project Budget Summary	
Funding	
Park Budget	$ 237,000.00
MNRTF Grant	$ 237,000.00
Additional approved parks funding	$ 50,000.00

	Funding total	$ 524,000.00
Expenditures (estimated)		
Consultant fees		$ 38,453.00
Permit Fees		$ 575.00
	Expenditure's total	$ 39,028.00
	Balance remaining (construction budget)	$ 484,972.00

Ottawa Beach Walkway Improvements. Work continues on the retaining wall replacement at Ottawa Beach along the upper boardwalk. This work is being done in coordination with other retaining wall work on adjacent private property.

Project Budget Summary

Funding		
Parks Budget		$ 25,000.00
Private Owner participation		$ 7,314.00
	Funding total	$ 32,314.00
Expenditures		
Existing Contract - Lintec		$ 19,451.50
Additional Wall Work		$ 10,018.50
	Expenditure's total	$ 29,470.00
	Balance remaining	$ 2,844.00

New modular block retaining wall along walkway

Coordinated work at private stairs

MACATAWA RIVER GREENWAY

Middle Macatawa Trail Connection. Park staff have met with project partners to discuss funding and time frame. The current plan is for Ottawa County Parks to assist Holland Charter Township in submitting a MNRTF grant application to assist with project funding in April 2023. If successful, construction could begin in the fall of 2024. Preliminary design work on the restroom at UMNA is also starting. Park staff are proposing

Project Budget Summary	
Funding	
County ARPA Funding	$ 906,000.00
MNRTF Grant (proposed)	$ 300,000.00
Partner Participation (Holland Township)	$ 550,000.00
Funding total	$ 1,756,00.00

PIGEON RIVER GREENWAY

Consumers Energy Trail/Sheldon Landing. No change since last report. This project is on hold pending further determination of the closure of the power plant.

OTHER PROJECTS

Park Entrance Drive and Parking Lot Repaving Projects. No change since last report. Work to reconstruct 28th Ave. including a new cul-de-sac as well as our trail work in Grand River Park have been completed. Park drives and parking areas will be evaluated to determine what repaving and/or repairs are needed. This work will likely occur next spring or summer.

Project Budget Summary	
Funding in current parks budgets	
Spring Grove Park	$ 20,000.00
Hager Park	$ 147,000.00
Grand River Park	$ 110,000.00
Riverside Park	$ 171,000.00
Paw Paw West	$ 40,000.00
Funding total	$ 488,000.00
Expenditures to date	
Paw Paw West total payment	$ 43,002.45
Riverside Park total payment	$ 116,410.20
Hager Park total payment	$ 157,249.27
Consultant Fees	$ 10,750.00
Expenditure's total	$ 327,411.92
Balance remaining	$ 160,588.08

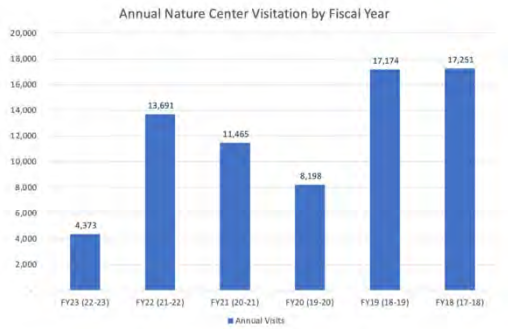
Community Engagement Report
February 2023
Submitted by: Jessica VanGinhoven
December 21, 2022-February 3, 2023

Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

PROGRAM/VISITOR NUMBERS

Private Programs	402 participants, 12 programs
Public Programs	389 participants, 21 programs
Nature Center Attendance	3,184 visitors
Monthly Average:	1,400
Trafx Car Count*	2,045 cars

**Reporting 12/6/22-1/5/23*



UPCOMING EVENTS

2/23/23 – FuturePREP'd student presentation, Virtual, 3:10 pm
3/25/23 – Piece Together Parks, Eagles GH, 12-3:30 pm (OCPF)
4/22/23 – Earth Day Garlic Mustard Pull at Eastmanville Bayou, 2-4 pm (FOOCP)
4/29/23 – LVAC Art Show at Hemlock Crossing, 5-8 pm (OCPF)
5/2/23 – Step it Up Kick Off Group Walk at Hemlock Crossing, 6-7:30pm
6/15/23 – Breakfast/Lunch at the Park, 7:30 am / 11:30 am (OCPF)
6/24/23 – Grand River Explorer's Trail Run (and Walk), 8 am (OCPF)
TBD – Jenison Mill Segment Dedication
TBD – Bill Idema Moraine Nature Segment Dedication
TBD – Ottawa County Board of Commission Parks Tour

GOALS/OBJECTIVES – CURRENT AREAS OF FOCUS

1. **Develop structure, programs, and processes to offer and implement the "Parks for All Program" –** In early February, staff met with administration from Allendale, Grand Haven, and Spring Lake; Coopersville scheduled for 2/13. School districts are on board for spring programming.
2. **Implement programs supported by the "Art in the Parks" grant –** The final Frost Center report is complete (attached). The committee has invited Encompass Socio-ecological Consulting to assist with program recommendations.
3. **Identify, purchase, install and facilitate implementation of equipment needed to produce and stream nature-based programs –** Implementation of hardware is incomplete. Staff was able to put together livestream programs, using other equipment.
4. **Increase visitation to the Nature Center to 17,000 in FY23 –**
5. **Develop Program Pricing Policy –** Staff is working toward implementation.
6. **Fully implement Program Proposal process –** Staff is working toward implementation.
7. **Implement Marketing and Communications Plan –** Part-time staff has assisted with portions of a plan, although more time will be spent on this when a Communications Specialist is on staff.

131 in-person participants for Coffee with the Birds!

A busy Fireside Storytime in January

GOALS/OBJECTIVES – CURRENT AREAS OF FOCUS, continued

8. **Identify areas and residents within Ottawa County not adequately served by county park lands and or program opportunities. Develop program offerings to promote an understanding and appreciation of natural and cultural history –** We have assessed our program offerings to identify underserved areas/populations; data will be used for annual program planning.
9. **Strategically develop, market, and implement programs geared towards engaging new or first-time participants** – Staff is compiling a list of community events where parks should have presence.

PRESS

Tree houses, yurts expected at park near Lake Michigan in 2024, mlive
Ottawa County accepts new grant for park restoration, grbj
MiSustainable Holland: Expanded greenway will connect the Holland community, Holland Sentinel

GOVDELIVERY BULLETINS / EMAIL MARKETING

	Date	Recipients	Open Rate	Click Rate
Summer Camp Sign-Up for Students	2/6/23	1,076	31%	3%
Secure your Summer Camp spot	2/3/23	2,912	39%	4%
February News, Events, & More	2/1/23	14,987	35%	5%
Birding Update Newswire!	1/28/23	2,121	375	10%
January News, Events, & More	1/3/23	15,206	34%	2%

MiSustainable Holland: Expanded greenway will connect the Holland community

Sydney Quillian
ODC Network
Published 6:03 a.m. ET Jan. 16, 2023

HOLLAND TWP. — Ottawa County is one of the fastest growing counties in our state, with Holland Township demonstrating the greatest growth of the county in recent years. With a greater population comes a greater need for a connected network of outdoor spaces, allowing all residents the opportunity to access those spaces.

To meet the needs of our growing population, Holland Charter Township, Ottawa County Parks, and ODC Network are partnering to install walking and biking paths between Hawthorn Pond Natural Area and the Upper Macatawa Natural Area. This connection will be an asset for avid joggers, bird and wildlife lovers, and families with an aspiring mountain biker or two.

Not only will new trail systems connect the two existing parks along the river, but improvements will be made, as well, including an expanded parking area and restroom facilities.

This project will utilize some existing infrastructure to create a pathway, such as an underpass under Adams Street and trail-beds created during prior restoration work. It will also require new connections, such as a bridge spanning the Macatawa River to connect two sides of park property.

Part of the project's funding is $900,000 awarded to Ottawa County Parks through the American Rescue Plan Act. This funding will match money budgeted by the township for improvements at the increasingly popular Hawthorn Pond.

To acquire the remaining funding, a grant proposal to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund is being drafted. The grant would fund specific connections to complete the pathway.

Collaborations like these are vital to making larger-scale projects possible, which have been key to seeing the Macatawa Greenway expand over the past two decades.

"As our area continues to grow, it's important that we work to provide more opportunities for all of our residents to get outside," said ODC Network Greenway Manager Dan Callam. "We want to provide spaces along the

Macatawa Greenway for people to enjoy and come back to again and again. Improvements like these will help to make that possible."

By creating these spaces for our community to get outside, we're promoting the well-being of the environment. When our community interacts with nature, the desire to protect and care for our environment increases.

Caring for our natural areas and enjoying them with one another also brings us all together.

We're fortunate here in West Michigan to be surrounded by so much nature. This project will allow a great variety of people to enjoy our local natural areas and feel like part of the community. As Holland continues to grow rapidly, providing everyone access to the outdoors is increasingly important.

— *Sydney Quillian is a watershed intern with the ODC Network*.

Tree houses, yurts expected at park near Lake Michigan in 2024

Updated: Dec. 21, 2022, 2:56 p.m.|Published: Dec. 21, 2022, 2:55 p.m.

FERRYSBURG, MI – Yurts, tree houses, a campground, kayak access, improved parking areas and restrooms and more are expected to be completed at Ottawa Sands park in 2024.

The host of improvements in the first phase is billed at about $9.1 million, with only about $4.7 million of those funds raised or pending.

That was, until the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners in late November allocated $3.4 million in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars to the project, bringing the total raised to about $8.1 million secured or pending.

The board in late November allocated about $36 million in ARPA funds across 23 projects.

Related: Ottawa County invests big in affordable housing and more child care sites with federal stimulus

Some of the funds are pending because the county is waiting to hear this month if they've been awarded further grant dollars for the project. The relatively new Ottawa Sands park, located at 18153 N. Shore Drive, spans 353 acres and is located near Lake Michigan.

"This phase of development addresses will provide much needed access while beginning the process of ecological enhancement and restoration," said Aaron Bodbyl-Mast, a parks planner at Ottawa County.

"Ottawa Sands will be a western centerpiece of the (Grand River) Greenway and the completed Idema Explorers Camp will provide Ottawa County Parks' first '24-7′ Greenway experience and be positioned to provide a one-of-kind stopping point for Greenway hikers, bikers and paddlers."

The Grand River Greenway is an effort to link Grand Rapids to Grand Haven with 36 miles of trail following the Grand River.

The improvements slated for phase 1 of the park's development are expected to be complete in 2024, Bodbyl-Mast said. Some of the amenities may be completed before 2024, he said, but it wouldn't be until late fall 2023.

The phase 1 improvements are:

- Access road, utilities and a portion of Idema Explorers Camp and camp amenities, such as yurts, tent pads, camp restroom and access
- Mining lake shoreline enhancements and wetlands restoration
- Idema Explorers Camp tree houses
- Day-use parking area and lake loop trail
- Day-use restroom
- Welcome center, kayak access and trail amenities, such as day-use bardwalk and “Sag” pathway connector

“The Sag” is a section of the Grand River channel bordered by the park.

The park property was an inactive sand mine and features 219 acres of state-designated critical dunes, 5,585 feet of Grand River frontage and an 80-acre man-made inland lake. The property was purchased in 2018 for about $11 million.

Park Planning Committee
February 7, 2022, Meeting Notes
Submitted by: Aaron Bodbyl-Mast & Curt TerHaar

Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

Present: Joe Bush
Paul Sachs
Lukas Hill
Kelly Rice

Staff: Jason Shamblin, Director
Curt TerHaar, Coordinator of Park Planning & Development
Jason Boerger, Coordinator of Park Maintenance & Operations
Aaron Bodbyl-Mast, Park Planner

Macatawa River Drainage Easements

Bush explained that the Water Resources Commission is seeking easements on three Ottawa County Parks parcels for drain cleaning access along the Macatawa River. This includes property owned by Ottawa County Parks in the area of the Hawthorn Pond park. Permanent easements are being sought along the drain course for the Macatawa River. While the easements would extend into some areas that are planned for development, Bush said that this planned development would not be restricted in any way. Commissioners supported moving the easement request to the Parks Commission.

CIP Project Requests

TerHaar provided an overview of the proposed Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) projects for the 2024 budget process. The next step will be for the Parks Commission's Finance and Policy Committee to review this list. Rice asked about the status of planning for renovation of the Eastmanville Farm barn to provide a publicly accessible facility as well as plans to convert previously cultivated areas into native grasslands and grazing areas. Staff provided updates on the management license and discussed funding needed for the structural engineering study needed to determine the scope and cost of the barn renovations. Staff will include an update on the status of these projects for the Parks Commission.

Ottawa Sands Update and Parks Foundation Feasibility Study Project

TerHaar reviewed the current Ottawa Sands projects. Additionally, staff provided updates on the Foundation's Feasibility Study, which includes Ottawa Sands improvements. As a result of feedback from the Foundation's prefeasibility interviews and guidance from the consultant, the Ottawa Sands Master Plan cost estimates for the entire master plan were updated in light of recent inflation and increases in construction costs. The updated cost estimate to implement the Master Plan is now $35 million, an increase from $23 million. The total Master Plan budget will be incorporated in the feasibility study as well as the currently funded projects.

As a result of recent success in securing grant and ARPA funding supporting the current projects at Ottawa Sands, a revised project for incorporation into the Foundation's Feasibility study was presented. Although the proposed project would not complete the Master Plan, it improves public access and functionality of much of the park which would allow for a long-term pause in additional improvements. Additionally, the proposed project would appeal to the philanthropic community. Staff reviewed a budget for incorporation into the Feasibility Study. Staff explained that if there is support for a possible Ottawa Sands capital campaign identified as part of the feasibility study, the Parks Commission will need to formally approve any project prior to a start of a campaign.

There was discussion about the details of the proposed project and requests to clarify and simplify documents for the Parks Commission meeting.

2023 Grant Strategy
TerHaar provided an update on the status of preparation for the 2023 state grant cycle. TerHaar explained that since the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board recommended half of the requested funding for the Rosy Mound Expansion project, a second grant application will be prepared in 2023 for the remaining amount needed to complete the acquisition. Also, TerHaar explained that a grant application is being prepared for a long-discussed modern restroom at the 84th Avenue day-use area for the Upper Macatawa Natural Area.

Grose Park Master Plan Update
Boerger explained that operations staff is preparing to implement previously approved changes in usage at Grose Park. This change includes converting an informal ball field into a native grassland and establishing new mowed trails through this area. While this change of use was previously approved by the Parks Commission, staff subsequently realized that the ball field was identified in the 1995 Grose Park Master Plan. As a result, staff is requesting the Parks Commission formally amend the master plan. The Commissioners concurred with advancing this request to the Commission.

North Ottawa Dunes Tree Damage
Boerger provided an update on efforts to quantify the value of trees that staff have identified as damaged from the emergency pumping into North Ottawa Dunes in 2020. This emergency pumping due to impacts from high groundwater levels threatening homes in the adjacent North Holiday Hills. A free software program has been recommended for use by staff to estimate value. This software has gained acceptance in the forestry industry. Natural Resources staff will be entering the already collected data into the program to determine a damage estimate.

Executive Committee
February 6, 2023, Meeting Notes
Submitted by: J. Shamblin

Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

Present: Kelly Rice
Jane Longstreet
Linda McAffrey

Staff: Jason Shamblin

Review Committees and Schedule

a. Friends of Ottawa County Parks Rep – TBD
b. New Commissioner Onboarding
    i. Bus Tour

February 2023 Meeting Agenda

2023 Ottawa County Parks Legal Counsel Update

Social Media/Public Statement Guidance

Parks Commission TEAMS Channel update

2023 Priority Initiatives Update

a. Staffing analysis
b. Strategic planning
c. Economic impact study

Roles

Parks Commission, Friends of Ottawa County Parks, Ottawa County Parks Foundation, Volunteers/Park Stewards, staff.

Trainings, Programs and or Retreats.

Parks Commission, Parks Foundation, and Staff mixer.

Action Request

Electronic Submission – Request # 231

Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

Committee: Parks Board

Meeting Date: 2/15/2023

Vendor/3rd Party: GROSE PARK MASTER PLAN

Requesting Department: PARKS AND RECREATION

Submitted By: CURT TERHAAR

Agenda Item: 10A GROSE PARK MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Suggested Motion:

To amend the Grose Park Master Plan to remove the "Relocated Ball Field" from the plan drawing and delete references to this as a proposed use from any other related documents.

Summary of Request:

A master plan for the Grose Park property was adopted in 1995. This plan proposed extensive improvements to the site including expanded parking, shelters, a restroom, picnic areas, a playground and other uses. Most of these improvements have been completed.

Included in the plan was the proposal to relocate an existing ball field to an area north of the new entrance drive and west of the proposed volleyball courts. As the plan was implemented, a backstop was installed, and a large area of turf prepared and managed to provide the needed clear space to allow this use. No additional fencing, infield surfacing, or bases were installed, so the area only served as a very informal ball field.

Since that time, use of this area for ball games and other field sports has declined significantly. Systematic staff observations over the summer of 2021 confirmed that very few park visitors ever use the area. Given the expense and time required to maintain this turf, park operations staff suggested that it be converted to an area of native grasses and wildflowers. The Parks Planning Committe has reviewed the plans and heard staff updates at 4 meetings since early 2022 and support this change as being more economical and in keeping with our natural resource mission.

Approval of this motion would amend the master plan to officially remove the ballfield use from the area and allow implementation of native landscape plantings.

Financial Information:

Total Cost: $0.00	Parks Fund Cost: $0.00	Included in Budget:

If not included in Budget, recommended funding source:

Action is Related to an Activity Which Is: Non-Mandated

Action is Related to Strategic Plan:

Goal 1: To Maintain and Improve the Strong Financial Position of the County. Goal 4: To Continually Improve the County's Organization and Services.

Objective:

Administration:

Recommended by Parks Director:

Committee/Governing/Advisory Board Approval Date:

GROSE PARK MASTER PLAN

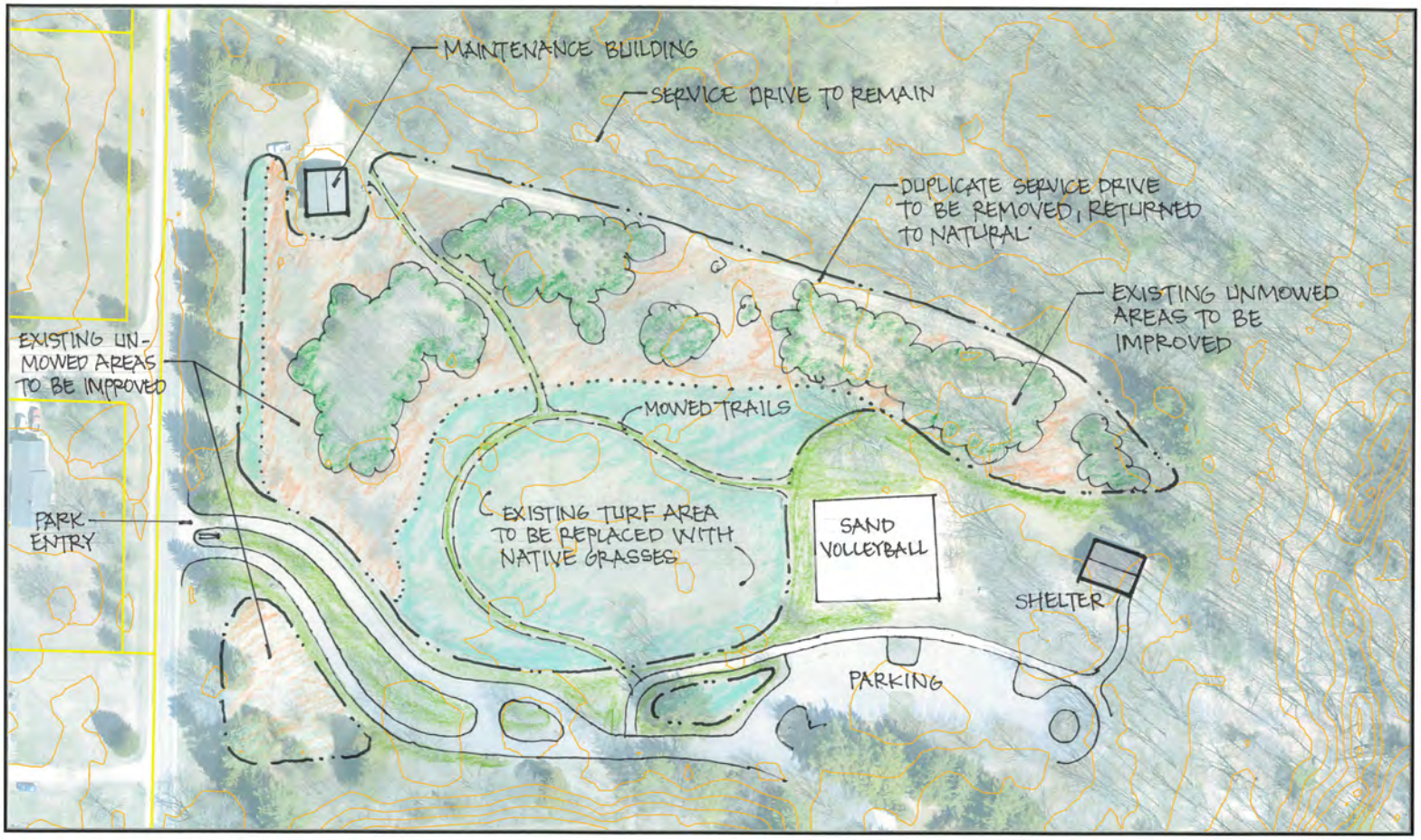
OTTAWA COUNTY, MICHIGAN

ADOPTED: APRIL 5, 1995

GROSE PARK MASTER PLAN

OTTAWA COUNTY, MICHIGAN

REVISED: FEBRUARY 15, 2023
ADOPTED: APRIL 5, 1995



Grose Park - North
Proposed Restoration/Management Area

N W E S

0 35 70 140 Feet

Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

MoneyWise, EcoWise

Ottawa County Parks and Recreation, like many parks departments across the county, is evaluating mowed areas for possible conversion to native landscapes. The benefits to our communities are both financially and ecologically sound. After years of careful observation and consideration, this under-utilized area is being restored to a native grassland.

Cost savings

Maintenance costs, like labor and fuel, are a growing part of OCPR budget. This ongoing costs comes 100% out of taxpayers pockets. Restoring lawn to native landscapes, when it fits the uses of the park, significantly reduces the long-term maintenance costs of a park.

"Free" labor

Native plants support insects that provide ecological services to our communities including pollination and pest control. Insects like this bumble bee pollinate food in our gardens, while other insects eat pests that affect our agricultural lands.

Monarchs and More!

Many species are in decline because of habitat loss. By reclaiming lawn with native ecosystems, OCPR is creating habitat for species that could benefit from human assistance. Hopefully, others will enjoy what they see and learn how to create habitat at their home or cottage

Recreational Value

As a natural resource-based parks department, OCPR works to create and maintain nature-based recreational opportunities such as hiking, bird-watching, photography and much more to meet the demand of these growing hobbies. Improving wildlife habitat within our parks, OCPR is increasing the chance of a wildlife encounter.

Action Request

Electronic Submission – Request # 237

Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

Committee: Parks Board

Meeting Date: 2/15/2023

Vendor/3rd Party: OTTAWA COUNTY PARKS COMMISSION

Requesting Department: PARKS AND RECREATION

Submitted By: SHAMBLIN

Agenda Item: 10B PARKS FOUNDATION'S FEASIBILITY STUDY UPDATE INCLUDING OTTAWA SANDS

Suggested Motion:

To authorize the Parks Foundation to move forward with the campaign Feasibility study including the Land Legacy Fund, Parks for All and Ottawa Sands Projects. Further, the Director is instructed to take such actions as are necessary to implement the intent of the Commission in these matters.

Summary of Request:

In late 2021 the Parks Commission established an ad-hoc committee tasked with for recommending Parks projects to the Parks Foundaiton in order to conduct a future campaign feasibility study. Following completion of the first phase of the feasibility study, the initial positive response and feedback to the projects from stakeholders has been incorporated and the projects and a case for support have been refined and are close to being finalized. The Foundation is ready to compile the feasibility packet in prepartion for interviews with stakeholders. See attached Feasibility update and standard campaign timeline documents.

Financial Information:

Total Cost: $0.00	Parks Fund Cost: $0.00	Included in Budget:

If not included in Budget, recommended funding source:

Action is Related to an Activity Which Is: Non-Mandated

Action is Related to Strategic Plan:

Goal 4: To Continually Improve the County's Organization and Services.

Objective:

Administration:

Recommended by Parks Director:

Committee/Governing/Advisory Board Approval Date:

PRE-FEASIBILITY AND FEASIBILITY STUDY SERVICES

KENNARI CONSULTING

PRE-FEASIBILITY PREPARATION

- Reviewing organization's strategic plan and alignment of the proposed project
- Developing high-level talking points about project
- Identifying donor prospects capable of providing significant support
- Creating a communication/ cultivation plan for donor prospects
- Assisting with defining the project with input from constituents and donors and determining appropriate campaign elements
- Developing the project development budget and the project budget
- Planning for and securing lead gifts

FEASIBILITY STUDY

- Developing a case for support that outlines project purpose and organizational/community need
- Creating a list of interviewees comprised of community leaders and current donors
- Compiling a feasibility packet consisting of cover letter, case for support, project budget, current and project budgets, organization brochure, and elevations
- Conducting confidential interviews with individuals, local foundations, and corporations to determine potential campaign support
- Assessing staffing requirements to meet campaign needs
- Assessing organizational readiness to mount a successful campaign
- Identifying and assessing appropriate fundraising methods and sources of potential funds to meet campaign goals
- Providing a summary report including campaign position, priorities for moving forward, and recommendations on fundraising amounts, timetable, and strategies

CAMPAIGN TIMELINE

KENNARI CONSULTING

DEVELOPMENT

Implementation of Feasibility Study recommendations

Select and on-board Project Manager

Define campaign components

Finalize campaign budget and scope

Develop funding equation for campaign

Establish funding priority for campaign components

Identify key stakeholders

Update case for support

Identify and recruit Honorary Co-Chairs

Develop list of lead and match gift candidates, $500,000+

Identify Top Prospects, $25,000+

Cultivate and secure lead gifts

Research foundation and government funding prospects

Develop talking points and tour

Identify and recruit Campaign Cabinet Chairs

Identify Campaign Cabinet Candidates

Develop list of Honorary Committee and Endorsement Council prospects

Execute donor strategies to cultivate early gifts

Complete grant proposals

Finalize projects for video and print messaging

Finalize strategy for campaign materials

Develop Campaign Brochures

Develop initial concepts for web, social media & copy

Develop initial concepts and strategies for other communication

IMPLEMENTATION

First Cabinet Meeting

Establish ask amounts for Board and Campaign Cabinet Members

Execute solicitation plans for Board and Cabinet

Engage Campaign Cabinet in updating and adding to the prospect list

Assign volunteers to prospects

Work with cabinet members individually to identify cultivation plans and ask totals for their prospects

Meet regularly with Campaign Leadership

Review Committed, Pending, Will Seek Totals

Identify opportunities to keep volunteers engaged

Ongoing activities to engage with committed donors as well as donor prospects

Public Phase to engage broad community support

Ottawa County Parks Commission

Parks Foundation Feasibility Study Update – February 2023

Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

Background

In August 2021, the $7.2 million Grand River Greenway Capital Campaign was completed. Following the success of that five-year effort, the Ottawa County Parks Foundation considered their next initiatives.

The potential expansion of Rosy Mound Natural Area is a high priority for the Parks Commission and provides a very positive fundraising opportunity. Additionally, there was a strong desire expressed by the Foundation Board to provide support for this effort.

In December 2021, the Parks Commission established an ad-hoc committee to review and recommend projects for a proposed fund-raising campaign feasibility study by the Ottawa County Parks Foundation. After the ad-hoc committee recommended projects to the Parks Foundation in February 2022, the Foundation hired a consultant to initiate the feasibility study process in spring 2022. Three projects were reviewed as part of a "pre-feasibility" phase with a small group of key Parks and Parks Foundation stakeholders providing input and feedback. These include the following projects 1) Parks for All, 2) the Land Legacy Fund, and 3) Ottawa Sands.

Following the initial positive response and feedback to these projects from stakeholders, the projects have been refined and finalized incorporating the feedback. This process has taken longer than initially anticipated as significant work was ongoing to develop each project or to finalize budgets once anticipated matching funds were secured. However, this work is nearly complete.

The next steps will be to finalize and distribute the feasibility study packet information which the Foundation's consultant, Kennari Consulting, will utilize to engage the philanthropic community stakeholders and request their participation in in-depth interviews.

Parks for All

Feasibility Study Target: $4,500,000

The goal of this initiative is to utilize Parks Community Engagement services to better connect people to parks. This initiative is to provide park experiences for every Ottawa County student, starting with providing nature education for all Ottawa County fourth-grade students at least once a year (approximately 4,000 public school students annually). This program would, when schools and school districts are unable to, cover the cost of transportation and/or programming to bring students to a curriculum-based nature education program in a park or one provided at a school (based on the district's preference).

In order to refine the programming (including administrative and other staff time) and logistics of such an initiative, Ottawa County Parks has embarked on a pilot for the Parks for All program in northern Ottawa County, funded in part by the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation. The fourth-grade Parks for All curriculum has been developed, Parks for All information packets have been sent to the four school districts (Allendale, Coopersville, Grand Haven, and Spring Lake) that expressed willingness to partner in the pilot, meetings are being held with school district staff, and programs are being scheduled for this spring.

Through this process, the Parks for All feasibility study budget has been refined and finalized. The $5 million budget would fund a Parks Foundation endowment to cover student program and transportation costs for all Ottawa County fourth graders in perpetuity while also directly funding a three-year ramp up process.

Land Legacy Fund & Rosy Mound Expansion

Feasibility Study Target: $4,000,000

Ottawa County has been and continues to be Michigan's fastest growing county. While that growth is welcomed at a time when our state is losing population, it also comes along with land development. Since 2004, an estimated 12,000 acres of large land tracts (20+ acres) were split into smaller parcels, making it more difficult to preserve and protect that land. This represents 3% of all land. By contrast, only 3.7% of all land in the County is recreational. Without additional financial resources to acquire priority acreage, more land in critical areas will be lost to development.

By design, parks millage funding available to complete land acquisitions has decreased over time. Since the Parks Commission was established, nearly $50 million in total has been expended for land acquisition. In that time, $21 million in millage funding was expended, leveraging $29 million in grants and private donations. With millage funding for acquisitions diminishing, Ottawa County has needed to be more creative when pursuing new sites. Over the last five years, Ottawa County has allocated $1.7 million in parks millage funding for land acquisitions and leveraged $13.3 million in grants and donations.

The Parks Commission has identified several priority properties to acquire as part of its land preservation of the highest quality natural resources and outdoor recreation strategy. This potentially includes properties across all quadrants of the County that would expand the footprints of greenway corridors and/or existing park locations. The Parks Commission is proposing to establish a $4 million fund to provide financial resources that can be leveraged to attract outside funding for priority acquisitions, taking advantage of MDNR Trust Fund and other grant sources.

The Rosy Mound Natural Area may be the most beloved of Ottawa County parks with stunning lake and dune views, forested trails, and a 3,460-foot natural beach. This project represents a rare opportunity to acquire 127 acres of dune land including 108 acres of critical dune. As a demonstration of the impact this fund can have on Ottawa County residents, $1,260,000 of the Land Legacy Funds to expand the Rosy Mound Natural Area have already been committed.

In December 2022, the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board recommended the Rosy Mound Expansion for a $1,650,000 grant to purchase half of the property with the expectation that a second grant application be submitted. With this grant nearly in place, staff was able to finalize the budget for the Land Legacy Fund project, with the proposed $4 million fund expected to leverage up to $6 million (this includes $3.2 million in grant funding for the Rosy Mound Expansion) in grants over the next 10 years.

Ottawa Sands

Feasibility Study Target: $5,000,000

In 2019, the Parks Commission completed the $11.2 million acquisition of the 345-acre Ottawa Sands County Park with $8 million in funding from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and a $3 million donation from the seller. This acquisition preserved a critical piece of land at the intersection of the Grand River and Lake Michigan that contains sensitive sand dunes, Grand River shoreline, land altered through mining operations, and critical wildlife habitats.

Ottawa Sands has become a beloved outdoor experience for many. The property provides an immersive, aesthetic outdoor experience that is atypical for this type of ecosystem in this area. Ottawa Sands features serene, wide-open views of the 80-acre lake and dune-ecosystem, north-south views of the lake that are over a half-mile in length, and access to flora and fauna unique to the West Michigan Coastal Corridor.

The Parks Commission completed a year-long master plan for Ottawa Sands focused on restoring or enhancing the site's ecology and enhancing public access and the user experience. A painstaking effort was undertaken to craft a balanced Master Plan that maintained the serene aesthetic features of the site while also enhancing ecological health and only 8% of Ottawa Sands is slated for recreation improvements. Additional site restoration efforts will improve habitats and biodiversity while protecting and preserving critical Lake Michigan and Grand River shoreline.

Unsolicited gifts from the Idema family and the Bill and Bea Idema Foundation allowed for an earlier than anticipated implementation of portions of the Master Plan (specifically for access improvements and the Idema Explorers Camp and related amenities). With this funding in hand, parks staff and stakeholders reviewed the appropriate project elements that would ensure sufficient access to the key areas of the site, would ensure a complete park experience, and would appeal to the philanthropic community.

Feedback gained during the prefeasibility phase resulted in significant progress towards the development of the project and finalization of the budget once anticipated matching funds were secured.

The current Ottawa Sands improvements underway include dunal wetland creation, shoreline stabilization and enhancement, access improvements, paving the lake loop trail, construction of a modern restroom facility at the day-use area and associated parking and access improvements, a universally accessible kayak launch to the Grand River, the Idema Explorers Camp including renovating the former mining office to a Welcome Center. Parks millage, private donations, and grants have been secured to fund these improvements totaling $7.9 million in design and construction.

The refined Ottawa Sands feasibility project aimed at improving public access and functionality of the overall park as well as appealing to the philanthropic community includes stabilization of the Grand River shoreline, access and parking improvements, constructing the sag boardwalk and wildlife viewing areas, the Greenway Plaza, and the fishing pier on the lake. Additionally, components from the Master Plan's Riverfront Promenade such as a terraced shoreline along the Grand River, renovating the 4 freighter docks to universal

design standards and adding courtesy docks are included. A preliminary budget for the Ottawa Sands feasibility project will leverage the $7.9 million of secured funding for a $5 million campaign of new private contributions that will complement an additional $2.1 million in future public grant funding for a total project of $7.1 million.

Action Request

Electronic Submission – Request # 227

Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

Committee: Parks Board

Meeting Date: 2/15/2023

Vendor/3rd Party: OTTAWA COUNTY PARKS FOUNDATION

Requesting Department: PARKS AND RECREATION

Submitted By: JASON SHAMBLIN

Agenda Item: 11A OTTAWA COUNTY PARKS FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT

Suggested Motion:

To accept the annual report of the Ottawa County Parks Foundation

Summary of Request:

As defined in the MOU between the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission and the Ottawa County Parks Foundation (Foundation) (attached), the Foundation has shared their 2022 Annual Report. Angela Miller-Niarhos, Foundation Manager, will be on hand to present. The Foundation was formed in 2016 and exists to raise funds to assist the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission in achieving its goals.

As the park system has grown over the past 20 years, so has the percentage of the Parks millage required to operate and maintain its properties. With that in mind the Foundation raises funds to assist the Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission in achieving goals for acquiring land, developing parks and providing parks and recreation services and nature education programs for residents and visitors of Ottawa County. Programs to achieve these goals include various fundraising initiatives including efforts to secure donations of estates, solicitation of general donations from individuals and foundations, mail and email solicitations, fundraisers including annual event. Learn more about how you can support Ottawa County Parks.

Financial Information:

Total Cost: $0.00	Parks Fund Cost: $0.00	Included in Budget:

If not included in Budget, recommended funding source:

Action is Related to an Activity Which Is: Mandated

Action is Related to Strategic Plan:

Goal 4: To Continually Improve the County's Organization and Services.

Objective:

Administration:

Recommended by Parks Director:

Committee/Governing/Advisory Board Approval Date:

2022 Annual Report

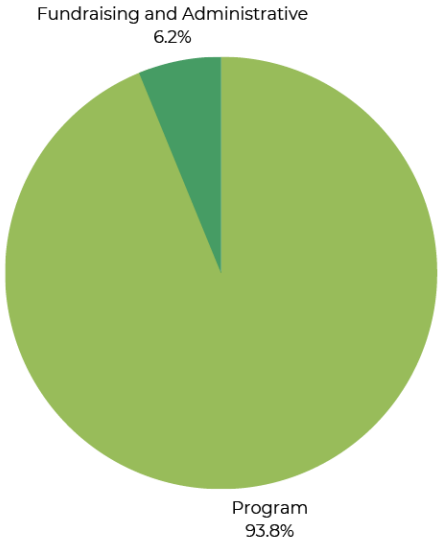
Ottawa County Parks Foundation

Bridging community to nature

ottawacountyparksfoundation.org

OUR PERFORMANCE

Total Income: $2,772,580
Total Expenses: $1,449,582



Program Expenses: $1,359,847

Grand River Greenway: $1,291,041
Grand Ravines Treehouse Design & Engineering: $43,724
Programming Support: $10,000
Grand River Greenway Economic Impact Study: $10,000
Grand Ravines Dog Park Improvements: $3,096
Bike Repair Station at Grand River Park: $1,986

DIVERSIFIED DONOR BASE

We are extremely grateful for our diverse donor base. We have donors at all giving levels who helped make 2022 our best year yet.

Park Sustainers Club
The Park Sustainers Club is a unique group of donors whose monthly investment allows us to complete special projects that can't be accomplished within the County Parks' budget, like building trail connections, adding land, and upgrading facilities. A recurring donation is a great way for donors to maximize their impact.

Parks for Life
Park supporters who include the Ottawa County Parks Foundation in their planned and estate giving are members of Parks for Life. Gifts can include wills and bequests, appreciated stock, bond and mutual funds, charitable trusts, retirement accounts and life insurance. Parks for Life members are ensuring that future generations will be able to enjoy our wonderful parks!

Tributes
Are you looking for a special way to commemorate a milestone?

- A tribute in memory of a loved one
- A distinctive recognition of an individual or family
- An honor for making an achievement or special event
- Anniversary, birthday, retirement or any special occasion

The Ottawa County Parks Foundation has two opportunities for recognition. The first is the bench program, which includes a commemorative plaque on the bench. The second is honorary and memorial gifts.

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Thanks to the support of our generous donors, the Ottawa County Parks Foundation enjoyed a successful year.

Your support made possible:

- The Grand Ravines dog park drainage improvement project.
- Funding for the multi-year Grand River Greenway Campaign, leading to trail construction of the Bill Idema Moraine Nature Segment between Grand River and Grand Ravines Park and the Jenison Mills segment.
- Funding for the Grand River Economic Impact study.
- Funding for nature education.
- Thanks to the Bill and Bea Idema Foundation, funds were provided to increase access to Ottawa Sands. Construction will begin in 2023.

Also, the OCPF Board of Directors voted to financially support the expansion of Rosy Mound. More details to come.

With your support, the Ottawa County Parks Foundation will be able to use private funds to leverage Ottawa County Parks millage dollars for public benefit.

2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bobbi Jones Sabine, President
Anita Yoder, Vice President
Pete Esser, Treasurer
Dr. Barbara W. Brown, Secretary

Alice Hoban
Cathy Feyt
Dr. Deb Sturtevant
Dr. Kate Remlinger
Jane Longstreet
Jessica Gregory*
Marjie Viveen
Tim Grunwald
Timothy Stoepker
Jason Shamblin, Parks Director

Angela Miller-Niarhos, Foundation Manager

*Joined the Parks Foundation Board of Directors in 2023

STEWARDSHIP CIRCLE

$5,000+

Tom & Barbara Jackoboice
Dr. Jim & Eleanor Mitton
Alice & Andy Hoban
Warren & Nancy Wildeman
Sherida & Philip Allor
Alma Statema
JR Community Cares
Joy Thon
Mary Appelt

$2,500+

Margaret Hudson
D. Baker & Son Lumber Co.
Nicki Arendshorst
Dr. Barbara Brown & Linda McAffrey
Marjie & William Viveen
Bill & Lori Notier
RVA, Inc.
Commercial Manufacturing & Assembly, Inc.

$1,000+

Jack & Lori VerMeulen
Pamela & Ronald Brown
Timothy & Jane Stoepker
Antonia VanDyken
John & Kathryn Nash
Steve & Lisa Maas
Catherine Ristola Bass & Andy Bass
Linda Siewert & Thomas Boven
Calvin B. Ainsworth
Tom & Mary Jo Galetto
Chad & Joyce Schmucker
Marsha Peterson
Ted & Shirley Poulton
Ann White
Carole & Kent DeYoung
Andrew & Leslee Lewis
Douglas & Patricia Klein
Martin & Nancy Hillila
Andrew & Jennifer Gemmen

$500+

Cathy & Warren Feyt
William & Shirley Martinus
Deborah & Dennis Sturtevant
Julie Sooy
Jennifer Hall-Jones
Alice & Paul Slajus
Bev Walcott
David Snoek
Jane Lang
Mary & Bruce Elenbaas
Monica & Anthony Verplank
Phillip & Lillian Koning
Steve & Janis Burkhardt
Colette Volkema DeNooyer & Robert DeNooyer
Malcolm & Elise Hamilton
Dr. Ira & Valerie Engeltjes
Don & Cindy Anderson
Kathryn Remlinger & Robert Bell
Kelly Waymire
Anne & Larry McLaughlin
Cal & Carolyn Pomarius
Greg & Pamela DeJong
Karen & John Meyers
Mary & Cal Garbrecht
Phil & Pam Kuyers
Roger & Karen Bergman
Sue & Steve Struck
Jane & Marc Longstreet
Bobbi Jones Sabine & Bob Sabine
Eric Jones
Jaclyn Brussee
Jason & Allison Shamblin
John & April Scholtz
Carol J Markiewicz
Howard & Linda Maidens
Maggie Dannemiller
Mike Cramer
Patricia & M. Thomas Groszko
Scott & Susan Schmidt
Dr. Thomas Kimball
Wally & Jane Ewing

$250+

Ron & Mary Jane Mass
Frank & Diane Kennedy
James & Margaret Coffey
Shelly Stephens & Peter Clark
Joan Doney
Paul & Ruth Smeenge
Steve & Kelly Rice
Amy Sheele
Pamela Gallina
Beth Server & Rich Schurr
David & Nancy Christiansen
Fairmount Scoring LLC
Gay & Richard Cole
Henk & Sharon Ottens
Judy Meyer
Katie & Ed Bolt
Michael & Suzanne Moynihan
Paul & Elaine Isely
Richard Bosch
Stancie & Mac McClellan
Sue Constantine
Theresa DeVries
William & Patricia Vanlopik
Karla & Myron Constantine
Curt & Cheryl TerHaar
Mike & Katie Cuncannan
Darcy Dye
Lundrstrom Family Foundation
Pete & Kathleen Esser
Kate Harmon
Don & Sandra Wiliams
Steve Negen
Darrel DeHaan
Deborah Ellis
Frank & Ann Hughes
George Brightrall
J. Kevin McCurren
Judy Tuttle
Leslie & Peter Wampler
Mr. & Mrs. P Haans Mulder
Paul Merewether & Amy Young
Ron & Nancy Purcell
Stephanie Stano & Raymond Harbin
Sue Vandenbosch
Tim & Laurene Grunwald
Kathy & Mark Oppenhuizen
Georgia Meyer
Steve & Susan Lowe
Dulane & Annette Coval
Nancy Rytina
Sandra Nieuwenhuis
Angela Miller-Niarhos & Peter Niarhos
Kimberly Bos
Adrienne Peterson
Dave & Candice Malivuk
Duane Leet
Gary & Donna Bogle
Gerald & Jeanette Klomparens
Jeanne O'Brien
Julien Fowler & Catherine Neis
Mary & Bruce Jackson
Patrick & Abby Reeg
Randy & Dawn Briegel
Sean Sweany
Steven & Anne Engvall
The Bultje Family
Travus Burton

EVENT SPONSORS

The Ottawa County Parks Foundation was grateful to receive event sponsorships from the following in 2022:

The Crane Family in Memory of Marilyn Crane
Baird Private Wealth Management
Dr. Barbara Brown & Linda McAffrey

Haworth Helps
The Signature Group - Re/MAX Lakeshore
VIRDIS Design Group
Scott Aerator Co LLC
Peterson Environmental
Grand Wealth Management
Macatawa Bank
Scholten Fant
Grand Valley State University
Prein & Newhof
Tim & Jane Stoepker
Dickinson Wright PLLC
D. Baker & Son Lumber Co.
Kennari Consulting

My Subaru of Muskegon
Friends of Ottawa County Parks
Farmhaus Cider Co.

PARK SUSTAINERS CLUB

Anita Yoder & Jeff Smucker
Dr. Barbara Brown & Linda McAffrey
Bobbi Jones Sabine & Bob Sabine
Frank & Diane Kennedy
Jack & Laurie VerMeulen
Jane & Marc Longstreet
Jason & Allison Shamblin
Jennifer Guernsey
Jessica Gregory
Lexie Kasper
Susan Pete
Hannah Kreun
Erica Layton
Malcolm & Elise Hamilton
Jean Madden
Adam Niemur
Gary Scharphorn
Angela Miller-Niarhos & Peter Niarhos
Shelly Stephens & Peter Clark
Troy & Dawn Mast
Kelly Waymire
Susannah Daly
Jacob Porter
Aaron & Amy Bodbyl-Mast

PARKS FOR LIFE

Alice & Andy Hoban
Bobbi Jones Sabine & Bob Sabine
Judy Tuttle
Kathryn Remlinger & Robert Bell
Marjie & William Viveen
Ryan McCabe

P.O. Box 314
West Olive, MI 49460
info@ottawacountyparksfoundation.org

Facebook

E-Newsletter

OTTAWA COUNTY PARKS FOUNDATION INC

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021 AND 2020

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Holland, Michigan
July 15, 2022

Board of Directors
Ottawa County Parks Foundation Inc

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Ottawa County Parks Foundation Inc. (a nonprofit organization), which comprise the statements of financial position as of December 31, 2021 and 2020, and the related statements of activities, functional expense, and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Ottawa County Parks Foundation Inc. as of December 31, 2021 and 2020, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of Ottawa County Parks Foundation Inc. and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Ottawa County Parks Foundation Inc.'s ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date that the financial statements are available to be issued.

Ph: 616.396.0500 | Fax: 616.396.4170
460 S Waverly | Holland MI 49423
CPAHolland.com

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgement made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, we:

- Exercise professional judgement and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Ottawa County Parks Foundation Inc.'s internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.

- Conclude whether, in our judgement, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Ottawa County Parks Foundation Inc.'s ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control related matters that we identified during the audit.

Report on Summarized Comparative Information

We have previously audited Ottawa County Parks Foundation Inc.'s 2020 financial statements, and we expressed an unmodified audit opinion on those audited financial statements in our report dated June 19, 2021. In our opinion, the summarized comparative information presented herein as of and for the year ended December 31, 2020, is consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial statements from which it has been derived.

DELONG & BROWER, P.C.

DeLong & Brower, PC

Certified Public Accountants

OTTAWA COUNTY PARKS FOUNDATION INC
STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION
DECEMBER 31, 2021 AND 2020

	2021	2020
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	$ 5,233,407	$ 4,642,461
Investments	1,634,978	-
Unconditional Promises to Give, current portion	400,372	1,503,111
Total Current Assets	7,268,757	6,145,572
OTHER ASSETS		
Investment in Community Foundation	7,873	7,013
Unconditional Promises to Give, net of current	638,162	575,000
Total Other Assets	646,035	582,013
TOTAL ASSETS	$ 7,914,792	$ 6,727,585
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	$ 2,004	$ 311
Accrued Liabilities	369	303
Total Current Liabilities	2,373	614
NET ASSETS		
Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions		
General	371,757	294,261
Investment Return	160,032	-
Net Assets With Donor Restrictions	7,380,630	6,432,710
Total Net Assets	7,912,419	6,726,971
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	$ 7,914,792	$ 6,727,585

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

OTTAWA COUNTY PARKS FOUNDATION INC
STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES
YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021 AND 2020

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	2021 Total	(MEMO) 2020 Total
SUPPORT AND REVENUE				
Support	$ 149,869	$ 1,270,339	$ 1,420,208	$ 1,500,304
Investment Return	160,032	-	160,032	10,591
Total Support and Revenue	309,901	1,270,339	1,580,240	1,510,895
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	322,419	(322,419)	-	-
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	632,320	947,920	1,580,240	1,510,895
EXPENSES				
Program Services	322,352	-	322,352	185,755
Supporting Services	33,289	-	33,289	29,086
Fundraising	39,151	-	39,151	30,427
TOTAL EXPENSES	394,792	-	394,792	245,268
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	237,528	947,920	1,185,448	1,265,627
NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	294,261	6,432,710	6,726,971	5,461,344
NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	$ 531,789	$ 7,380,630	$ 7,912,419	$ 6,726,971

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

OTTAWA COUNTY PARKS FOUNDATION INC
STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021 AND 2020

	2021	2020
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Change in Net Assets	$ 1,185,448	$ 1,265,627
Adjustments to Reconcile Change in Net Assets to Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities		
Unrealized (Gain) Loss on Investments	(106,441)	(503)
Realized (Gain) Loss on Investments	345	(330)
Decrease (Increase) in:		
Unconditional Promises to Give	1,039,577	1,110,830
Increase (Decrease) in:		
Accounts Payable	1,693	(5,064)
Accrued Liabilities	66	(98)
NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES	2,120,688	2,370,462
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Net Purchase of Investments	(1,529,742)	(54)
NET CASH USED FOR INVESTING ACTIVITIES	(1,529,742)	(54)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
None	-	-
NET INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	590,946	2,370,408
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	4,642,461	2,272,053
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF YEAR	$ 5,233,407	$ 4,642,461

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

OTTAWA COUNTY PARKS FOUNDATION INC
STATEMENTS OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES
YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021 AND 2020

	Program Services	Supporting Services	Fundraising	2021 Total	(MEMO) 2020 Total
Project Expenses	$ 322,352	$ -	$ -	$ 322,352	$ 185,755
Wages	-	20,448	8,764	29,212	23,478
Payroll Taxes	-	1,561	669	2,230	1,803
Contract Services	-	-	18,000	18,000	18,000
Professional Fees	-	4,850	-	4,850	5,110
Insurance	-	883	84	967	930
Office Supplies & Software	-	2,990	68	3,058	2,979
Printing & Postage	-	-	883	883	855
Marketing	-	-	4,122	4,122	3,570
Special Event Expense	-	-	6,561	6,561	339
Bank Service Fees	-	1,121	-	1,121	884
Payroll Service Fees	-	1,138	-	1,138	1,237
Bad Debt Expense	-	-	-	-	-
Dues & Subscriptions	-	270	-	270	270
Board Meeting Expense	-	28	-	28	32
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	26
TOTAL EXPENSES	$ 322,352	$ 33,289	$ 39,151	$ 394,792	$ 245,268

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The Ottawa County Parks Foundation Inc is a non-profit organization which seeks to raise funds to be used for the improvement, expansion, and promotion of parks and open spaces in Ottawa County. This includes assisting the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission and other organizations with similar goals.

Basis of Accounting

Assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses are recognized on the accrual basis of accounting.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

The Organization considers all highly liquid investments with an original maturity of three months or less to be cash or cash equivalents.

Investments

Investments in equity and debt securities are carried at fair value based upon quoted market prices. Investments are exposed to various risks such as interest rate, credit, and overall market volatility. Unrealized gains and losses are included in the change in net assets in the accompanying Statements of Activities.

Promises to Give

Unconditional promises to give are reported at fair value and, where appropriate, are reduced by the estimated portion that is expected to be uncollectible. Conditional promises to give are recognized only when the conditions on which they depend are substantially met. Intentions to give are not recognized as revenue unless they are legally enforceable.

Contributions

Contributions are reported as revenue when received or pledged and are recorded as net assets without donor restrictions or net assets with donor restrictions depending on the presence or absence of any donor-imposed restrictions.

Classification of Net Assets

Net assets of the Organization are classified based on the presence or absence of donor-imposed restrictions. Net assets are comprised of two groups as follows:

Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions – Amounts that are not subject to usage restrictions based on donor-imposed restrictions. This class also includes assets previously restricted where restrictions have expired or been met.

Net Assets With Donor Restrictions – Assets subject to usage limitations based on donor-imposed or grantor restrictions. These restrictions may be temporary or may be based on a particular use. Restrictions may be met by the passage of time or by spending in alignment with donor restrictions.

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Use of Estimates

The preparation of the financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Donated Goods and Services

No amounts have been reflected in the financial statements for donated services. Volunteers have donated significant amounts of their time in connection with the Organization's activities, however, these services do not meet the criteria for recognition as contributed services.

The Organization utilizes office space within the Ottawa County Parks Department at no cost to the Organization. The value of this benefit has not been determined and accordingly, no amounts have been reflected in the financial statements for the use of this office space.

Functional Allocation of Expenses

The costs of providing program and other activities have been summarized on a functional basis in the Statements of Functional Expenses. The statements report certain categories of expenses that are attributable to more than one program or supporting function. Accordingly, these expenses required allocation on a reasonable basis that is consistently applied. Wages and related expenses are allocated on the basis of time and effort. Expenses deemed indirect to program activities, such as professional services and bank fees, are considered to be all general and administrative expenses. Other expenses, such as office supplies, printing and publication are allocated based on estimates of time and effort and costs of specific usage.

Income Taxes

The Organization is exempt from federal income taxes under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3). Any unrelated business income generated by the Organization is subject to income tax.

Subsequent Events

The Organization has evaluated all subsequent events through July 15, 2022, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

NOTE 2: DEPOSITS

The Organization's deposits are insured at financial institutions through the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation which insures balances up to $250,000. At December 31, 2021 and 2020, the Organization's uninsured cash balances totaled $ 4,958,156 and $ 4,361,148, respectively.

NOTE 3: INVESTMENTS AND FAIR VALUE OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

During July 2017, the Organization established a founding fund with the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation with an initial investment of $ 5,000. The balance in this fund is reported at fair market value, as calculated and reported by the Community Foundation, based on quoted market prices. The investments are a portion of the total portfolio held by the Community Foundation. The fair market value of the fund, as calculated by the Community Foundation, at December 31, 2021 and 2020 was $7,873 and $7,013, respectively.

The Organization carries investments in marketable securities with readily determinable fair values in the Statements of Financial Position. Unrealized gains and losses are included in the change in net assets in the accompanying Statements of Activities.

The fair values of the Organization's financial instruments as of December 31, 2021 are as follows:

	Cost	Fair Value	Carrying Value
Community Foundation	$ 5,000	$ 7,873	$ 7,873
Equity and Bond Funds	1,036,910	1,101,840	1,101,840
Exchange Traded Products	520,248	517,977	517,977
Cash Equivalents	15,161	15,161	15,161
Total	$ 1,577,319	$ 1,642,851	$ 1,642,851

The fair values of the Organization's financial statements as of December 31, 2020 are as follows:

	Cost	Fair Value	Carrying Value
Community Foundation	$ 5,000	$ 7,013	$ 7,013

The following schedule summarizes the investment return in the Statements of Activities for the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020:

	2021	2020
Interest & Dividends	$ 73,242	$ 9,816
Realized Gains	345	330
Unrealized Gains (Losses)	106,441	503
Investment Fees	(19,996)	(58)
Total Investment Return	$ 160,032	$ 10,591

NOTE 3: INVESTMENTS AND FAIR VALUE OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (CONTINUED)

Accounting standards require certain assets and liabilities be reported at fair value in the financial statements and provide a framework for establishing that fair value. The framework for determining fair value is based on a hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs and valuation techniques used to measure fair value. The three levels of the fair value hierarchy are as follows:

Level 1 inputs are quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the Organization has the ability to access at the measurement date.

Level 2 inputs are inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly.

Level 3 inputs are significant unobservable inputs reflecting management's own assumptions about the inputs used in determining the fair value.

It is the Organization's policy to maximize the use of observable inputs (Level 1 & Level 2) and minimize the use of unobservable inputs (Level 3) when developing fair value measurements, in accordance with the fair value hierarchy.

The following table presents the fair value hierarchy for the financial assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis at December 31, 2021:

Fair Value	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
$ 1,642,851	$ 1,634,978	$ -	$ 7,873

The following table presents the fair value hierarchy for the financial assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis at December 31, 2020:

Fair Value	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
$ 7,013	$ -	$ -	$ 7,013

NOTE 4: NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS

Net assets with donor restrictions are available for the following purposes at December 31, 2021 and 2020:

	2021	2020
Grand River Greenway Campaign	$ 6,033,001	$ 5,661,975
Nature Education	35,271	-
Grand Ravines Treehouse	330,000	330,000
Ottawa Sands	982,358	440,735
Total	$ 7,380,630	$ 6,432,710

NOTE 5: BOARD DESIGNATED NET ASSETS

For the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020, the Organization's governing board has designated $36,637 and $36,637, respectively for the Grand River Greenway project.

NOTE 6: PROMISES TO GIVE

Unconditional promises to give are recognized as revenue in the year the promises are received. Unconditional promises to give at December 31, 2021 and 2020, net of the allowance for uncollectible contributions and discounted to present value, were as follows:

	2021	2020
Capital Campaign	$ 1,038,534	$ 2,078,111
Amounts Due in:		
Less than One Year	$ 400,372	$ 1,503,111
One Through Five Years	638,162	575,000
Over Five Years	-	-
Total	$ 1,038,534	$ 2,078,111

Management has evaluated the need for both an allowance for uncollectible contributions and a discount to present value. At December 31, 2021 and 2020 no allowance for uncollectible contributions was deemed necessary. At December 31, 2021 and 2020, a discount to present value was established at 1.90% and .99%, respectively, for a total of $12,125 and $ 5,637, respectively.

NOTE 7: LIQUIDITY AND AVAILABILITY OF FINANCIAL ASSETS

At December 31, 2021, the Organization had $ 7,268,757 in liquid current assets available consisting of cash of $ 5,233,407 and unconditional promises to give of $ 400,372. A significant portion of these financial assets are subject to donor restrictions. Accordingly, the Organization's policy is to utilize 4% of donor gifts $2,500 and above for general operating purposes, unless rejected by the donor.

At December 31, 2020, the Organization had $ 6,145,572 in liquid current assets available consisting of cash of $ 4,642,461 and unconditional promises to give of $ 1,503,111. A significant portion of these financial assets are subject to donor restrictions. Accordingly, the Organization's policy is to utilize 4% of donor gifts $2,500 and above for general operating purposes, unless rejected by the donor.

The Organization manages its liquidity by developing and adopting annual operating budgets that provide sufficient funds for general expenditures in meeting its liabilities and other obligations as they become due. Cash needs of the Organization are expected to be met on a monthly basis from contribution revenues.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This Memorandum of Understanding is made effective as of this 2nd day of October 2019, by and between OTTAWA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION, 12220 Fillmore Street, West Olive, MI 49460, ("Parks Commission"), a Michigan municipal entity and OTTAWA COUNTY PARKS FOUNDATION, 13631 Johnson Street, Grand Haven, MI 49417, (the "Foundation"), a Michigan nonprofit corporation. The Parks Commission and Foundation are sometimes hereinafter referred to as a "Party" or, collectively, as the "Parties."

RECITALS

A. The Parks Commission has an interest in purchasing and developing parcels of real property located in Ottawa County for the purposes of enhancing the quality of life in Ottawa County by providing outstanding open spaces, recreational areas, parks and trails; and

B. The Foundation is a Michigan non-profit corporation, which is also a federal 501(c)(3) organization for tax purposes and is organized for the public purpose of raising funds to be used for the improvement, expansion and promotion of open spaces, recreational areas, parks and trails owned by Ottawa County and operated by the Parks Commission (collectively, "Ottawa County Parks"); and

C. The Foundation will receive and administer funds for Ottawa, plus assist in cooperative projects with the Parks Commission and other governmental, community or private entities to promote the enjoyment and use of Ottawa County Parks; and

D. The Foundation has a need for certain record-keeping and clerical services; and

E. It is the Parties' intent to set forth each Party's individual and joint responsibilities, rights, obligations, and duties in this Memorandum of Understanding

In consideration of the mutual promises contained in this Memorandum of Understanding, the Parties agree as follows:

I. COOPERATION AND PLANNING

The Parties agree to work together to develop and promote Ottawa County Parks. The Pledge of Cooperation includes the following:

A. Throughout the duration of this Memorandum of Understanding, the Parks Commission shall select from its membership a person who shall serve as a Director on the Foundation's Board of Directors ("Commission Director").

B. The Parks Commission shall determine the term of the Commission's Director and shall have the authority to withdraw and/or replace the Commission's Director at any time by written notice to the Foundation.

C. The Parks Commission and the Foundation agree that the Parks Commission's Parks Director ("Parks Director") and such other staff member ("Staff") may attend the Foundation Board of Director's Meetings and/or Foundation Board of Director committee meetings. The Parks Director shall not be entitled to vote at any of the Foundation Board of Director's Meetings.

II. INDIVIDUAL ROLES

A. The Foundation and the Parks Commission are separate legal entities. Neither the Foundation nor the Parks Commission has the authority to bind, commit, or otherwise represent the other Party unless agreed to in writing or stated otherwise in this Memorandum of Understanding.

B. The Foundation shall have sole authority and control over its administration including, but not limited to investment and distribution policies and procedures.

C. The Parks Commission shall have the sole authority and control over the Ottawa County Parks system including: land acquisition, physical development, maintenance, operation, all departmental operating, special revenue and Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budgets, including any funds granted by the Foundation, and appropriated by the Board of Commissioners pursuant to a grant or agreement.

D. The Foundation shall conduct fundraising and promotional activities to encourage individual, corporate, and non-profit organization support for the Ottawa County Parks.

E. The Parks Commission shall assist the Foundation in its fundraising efforts when deemed appropriate by both Parties.

III. FUNDRAISING

A. The Parties shall comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations regarding fundraising.

B. The Parks Director and the President of the Board of Directors of the Foundation shall meet at least annually to review and coordinate their respective fundraising strategies, including potential target projects and highlighted donors, with updates as necessary throughout the year.

C. The Parks Director and the Foundation Board of Directors shall meet at least annually to review and agree upon a list of promotional, acquisitions and development projects to be presented to potential donors. Such projects shall be consistent with the Parks Commission's plan, as approved by the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners.

D. The Foundation may host fundraising events at County Parks, pending availability and with the approval of the Parks Director. The Parks Director may waive the any fees or charges for use of grounds, facilities or staff at such events.

E. The Foundation may accept funds without the approval of the Parks Commission and/or Parks Director when the funds are not restricted or subject to contingencies of use by the Parks Commission.

F. The establishment of any donor-directed fund or project, or any named fund or projects is subject to the approval of the Parks Director.

G. The Parks Commission and the Parks Director have or may develop relationships with individuals and organizations with an interest in supporting the County Parks and may also engage in fundraising for specific projects.

H. The Parks Director, or designee, will be informed of and/or involved in the planning of large-scale events or fund-raising activities.

I. If it is not possible for the Parks Commission to follow through in honoring the donor intent of any funds received by the Foundation, the Foundation will be responsible for returning the funds to the donor.

IV. FOUNDATION ADMINISTRATIVE AND GENERAL OPERATIONS FUNDING

A. Upon the receipt of restricted funds, the Foundation may retain for administrative purposes an amount equal to the fundraising costs incurred by the Foundation and general administrative/operation costs of the Foundation, under the following conditions:

1. The restricted funds are received as a result from fundraising efforts led by a non-Parks Commission designated Board Member; and
2. The donor(s) are advised and aware that the use of the restricted funds will be for designated purpose inclusive of development costs, construction costs and maintenance costs associated with the project; and
3. The donor(s) are advised and are aware of that the use of restricted funds in part will also be for fundraising costs and administrative/operation costs of the Foundation.

B. In the event the restricted funding received does not cover the amount set aside for fundraising and administrative/operation purposes in addition to the final development and construction costs of the project, the Foundation may retain for fundraising and administrative/operation purposes an amount not to exceed the amount of the restricted funding less final development and construction costs.

V. GRANT AWARD AND FUND DISBURSEMENT

A. The Foundation acknowledges that it administers different types of gifts for the benefit of Ottawa County Parks:

1. **Temporarily Restricted Gifts**, defined as gifts that are not perpetual in duration and are intended to be expended for a specific purpose over a specified period of time; and
2. **Endowment, or Permanently Restricted Gifts**, defined as gifts of which the principal funding may not be expended and only the income generated from the principal in the form of interest may be available for release.

B. In order to ensure and demonstrate compliance with donor intent, the Parties agree to the following funding procedure:

1. The Parks Commission shall submit a formal written grant request to the Foundation for Board approval. This request shall include the following:
   i. Amount requested; and
   ii. Purpose for funding; and
   iii. Requested schedule for disbursements.
2. As a part of its approval process, the Foundation will ensure and document that the request complies with any donor intentions or restrictions associated with the selected funding source.
3. Following grant request approval by the Foundation, the Parks Commission shall submit an invoice for request of payment according to the schedule approved by the Foundation.
4. The Foundation shall remit payment according to the Parks Commission's invoice within 30 days of the invoice date.
5. Following the completion of the acquisition, construction, installation, or other project, the Parks Commission shall submit a report to the Foundation detailing the work completed within 60 days to the Foundation.

VI. RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

A. The Foundation will account for and manage invoices and reminders to donors for the collection of pledges and processing tax deduction communications and paperwork.

B. The Foundation will develop internal procedures detailing methods for gift acceptance and funding disbursements, to the extent that they are not in conflict with this Memorandum of Understanding.

C. The Foundation will notify the Park Director immediately in the event of donation deferrals or cancellations of pledges.

D. The Foundation will provide a copy of its annual report and its annual audit to the Parks Commission within 30 days of receipt by the Foundation.

E. Prior to the approval of the Foundation's Annual Budget, the Foundation and the Parks Commission will reconcile and affirm pledges received and pledges receivable.

F. The Ottawa County Parks Department shall provide such record-keeping and clerical services to the Foundation as agreed to by the President of the Board of Directors of the Foundation and the Parks Director. Notwithstanding such assistance, all records of the Foundation in the custody and control of the Parks Commission or employees of the Ottawa County Parks Department shall remain records of the Foundation and shall be retained as "confidential" by the Parks Commission and the Ottawa County Parks employees and other Ottawa County employees who have access thereto.

VII. MARKETING

A. Parties agree that the Ottawa County Seal, the Ottawa County Parks logo and any affiliated logos may only be used for Foundation promotional activities or fundraising purposes and only at the discretion and approval of the Parks Director. The Foundation shall be entitled to use its logo with regard to the Foundation promotional activities and/or for fundraising and such other Foundation activities and purposes consistent with and authorized by its Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.

VIII. ANCILLARY AGREEMENTS

A. The Parties by written agreement may create ancillary agreements, on a case-by-case basis, to support projects and other activities as needed to accomplish the purposes as articulated in under the Recitals section of this document. The contents of such agreement may include but are not limited to the following:

1. Timing of payments
2. Project timing
3. Marketing
4. Indemnification
5. Cash flow

IX. SUPPORT

A. The County shall provide the Foundation with office space and office supplies and clerical assistance in amounts mutually agreed.

B. Out of unrestricted or gifts amounts earmarked for "administration," the Foundation may provide the County grants for purposes of reimbursing the County for the support

provided under Section "A," above as well as planning and other services of the Parks Department for the Ottawa County Parks.

X. MISCELLANEOUS

A. **Status as an Independent Contractor:** The parties agree that this MOU shall be deemed to give rise to an independent contractor relationship and under no circumstances shall it in any way be construed as giving rise to a joint venture, common enterprise or any employer/employee relationship among the Foundation, the Parks Commission and/or Ottawa County or any of their officers, employees, or subcontractors.

B. **Entire Agreement**: This MOU represents the entire understanding between the parties and supersedes all prior or contemporaneous negotiations, representations or agreements, whether written or oral. This MOU may be amended only by written instrument signed by the authorized representatives of the Foundation and the Parks Commission.

XI. DURATION

The duration of this MOU will be for (1) one year from the date of its execution and will automatically renew for successive (1) one-year terms unless either Party elects to modify or terminate the agreement. Either Party may propose modifications or terminate the agreement with or without cause by providing (90) ninety days written notice to the other Party.

OTTAWA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

By: _____
David VanGinhoven

Its: President

OTTAWA COUNTY PARKS FOUNDATION

By: Bobbi Jones Sabine
Bobbi Sabine

Its: President

September 13, 2019

Action Request

Electronic Submission – Request # 229

Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

Committee: Parks Board

Meeting Date: 2/15/2023

Vendor/3rd Party: MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND

Requesting Department: PARKS AND RECREATION

Submitted By: CURT TERHAAR

Agenda Item: 11B 2023 MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND GRANT APPLICATION FOR ROSY MOUND EXPANSION PHASE 2

Suggested Motion:

To recommend application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) program for funding assistance for the Rosy Mound Expansion Phase II acquisition project and forward to the County Board of Commissioners for final approval.

Summary of Request:

As explained in the attached Rosy Mound Expansion Project Sheet, the Parks Commission has intended to acquire the entire 291-acre dune and sand mining area known as Rosy Mound since the late 1980's. In 1994, the 164-acre site that became the Rosy Mound Natural Area was purchased, but even then the hope was to stay in contact with the sand mining operators to purchase the remaining 127-acres.

The sand mining operations have now been completed and reclamation is underway. As these operations were winding down, contact with the property representative was re-established and work begun to prepare for a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund acquisition grant application. An appraisal was completed to better establish a price, and the budget outlined on the Project Sheet is based on that appraisal with incidentals estimates based on costs of past similar projects.

In April 2022, a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund $3,291,800 grant application was submitted to help purchase the entire 127 property at a cost of over $4.7 million (with property value and incidentals). Given the exceptional natural value of the property (it includes 108 acres of critical dunes), staff recommended this application seeking 70% of funding from the Trust Fund in the expectation that it will rank highly according to Trust Fund grant review standards. The match was provided by the Parks Millage, a landowner donation of value (a commitment has been provided in writing), and funding from the Ottawa County Parks Foundation (staff is coordinating with the Parks Foundation to obtain a commitment letter).

As expected, the grant application ranked highly. However, due to the challenging investment climate, there was less funding available from the Trust Fund in 2022 and the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund requested that the project be spread over two grant cycles. As a result, a grant for $1,650,000 was recommended in December 2022 to purchase half of the 127-acre property with the expectation that a second grant application will be submitted in April 2023. Therefore, staff is requesting that the Parks Commission forward the required grant application resolution for approval by the Board of Commissioners for Phase 2 of this project.

In addition to background information, a concept plan for the site that will be submitted with the plan is attached. However, if the acquisition is successful, a public master plan update process will be undertaken. Additionally, the draft Board of Commissioners resolution is attached for informational purposes

Financial Information:

Total Cost: $2,346,000.00	Parks Fund Cost: $82,300.00	Included in Budget: Yes

If not included in Budget, recommended funding source:

Action is Related to an Activity Which Is: Non-Mandated

Action is Related to Strategic Plan:

Goal 1: To Maintain and Improve the Strong Financial Position of the County.

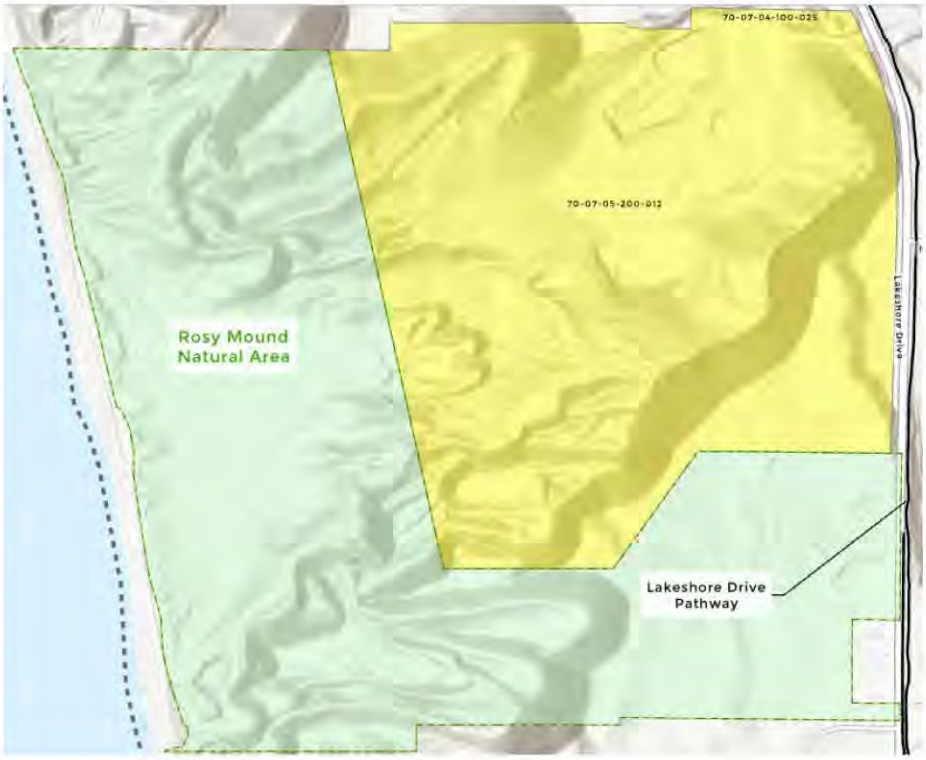
Objective:

Administration:
Recommended by Parks Director:

Committee/Governing/Advisory Board Approval Date: 3/7/2023

Project: Rosy Mound Expansion Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Phase 1 & 2 (E-4-1-4-9 & E-4-1-4-10)

- **Parks Initiative:** Lake Michigan Coastal Greenway – Rosy Mound
- **Parks Plan/Strategic Plan/Master Plan Reference (where applicable)**: Page 237 & Project A04 (Appendix L-1)
- **Land Acquisition Criteria**: Natural Features; Socio-Environmental Features; Economic Factors
- **Acquisition Target Date:** 2024/2025
- **Parcel #s:** 70-07-05-200-012 & 70-07-05-200-012
- **Acres:** 127
- **Location**: Grand Haven Township, Ottawa County (Senate District 31, State House District 88)
- **Budget:** $4,742,950 (Total Estimated)/MNRTF Eligible Budget: $4,708,700 (*Some costs are not reimbursable*)
  - Land Value: $4,585,000
  - Incidentals: $157,900/MNRTF Eligible Reimbursables: $138,900
- **Proposed/Committed Funding**
  - Parks Millage (FY2022): $250,000
  - Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant 1 (Recommended for FY2023): $1,650,000
  - Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant 2 (Proposed for FY2024): $1,642,000
  - Landowner Donation (Pending): $1,000,000
  - Ottawa County Parks Foundation (Proposed Funding for Grant Match): $166,700
- **Summary**: The former sand mine to the northeast of Rosy Mound has been a high priority target for the Parks Commission since the first parks plan in 1989 (**see attached: "Brief History of Rosy Mound Acquisition").** After the cessation of mining operations and the shift into reclamation, the property transferred from Standard Sand Corporation to Tacoma LLC in March 2021. Following the transfer, Tacoma representatives initiated more formal negotiations with Parks Staff. This property features 108 acres of designated critical dune and a large disturbed area (55 acres) that is attractive for restoration and recreational development. The 1991 Master Plan does not include any suggested uses for this area, but, as part of the Trust Fund grant process, staff is preparing a development concept plan (also attached). In December 2022, a grant was recommended to purchase half of the property with the expectation a second grant will be submitted in 2023.



- **Status**: A second grant application process is underway. The first grant is awaiting approval by the State Legislature.

Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission: Brief History of the Rosy Mound Acquisition

1989 to 2003

1989

In the 1989 Parks and Recreation Plan (the first plan completed by the Parks Commission), the approximately 300-acre Standard Sand mining site at Rosy Mound was identified as the top priority for acquisition (**Attachment A**). That same year, a $3 million Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant was awarded to assist in the acquisition of the 164-acre portion of the site. In November 1989, the County agreed to trade the "Park 12" properties to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) in exchange for Rosy Mound and the MDNR assumed the grant.

1991

During the negotiation process, the Commission undertook a master planning process for the area of the Standard Sand property that was targeted as a grant acquisition. The plan, completed by MC Smith Associates, was used as the basis for all the improvements completed to-date, with the first project commencing in 2003. The plan is included as **Attachment B**.

1994

Following several delays, the MDNR purchased the site for $3,862,034 in January 1994, with the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners contributing $400,000 in matching funding. The County Parks operated the property via a user agreement as Park 12 legal issues were pending.

2003

During the Park 12 court dispute, there was a ruling that the County was not allowed to grant possession to the MDNR, nullifying the possibility of the trade. Despite the loss of the potential trade, Rosy Mound was transferred to the County at no cost in February 2003 following approval by the State Legislature.

Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission
Brief History of Rosy Mound Acquisition
Attachment A

NEW PARK DEVELOPMENTS

Action #9: ROSY MOUND ACQUISITION

Located in the northeastern quarter of Section 4 of Grand Haven Township, Rosy Mound is a significant dunal formation on the Lake Michigan shoreline. Approximately 300 acres in size, Rosy Mound is characterized by two notably significant natural community occurrences according to the Michigan Natural Areas Inventory; mesic southern forest and open dunes. Also, the site is characterized by the presence of a state threatened and proposed nationally threatened plant species. The site includes approximately 3,200 feet of Lake Michigan shoreline. The site is currently owned by Standard Sand Corporation and a sand excavation facility is operated on site. Acquisition will be pursued with Standard Sand Corporation. Development of the facility would include Lake Michigan beach access, preservation and interpretive elements.

Action #10: PORT SHELDON NATURAL AREA

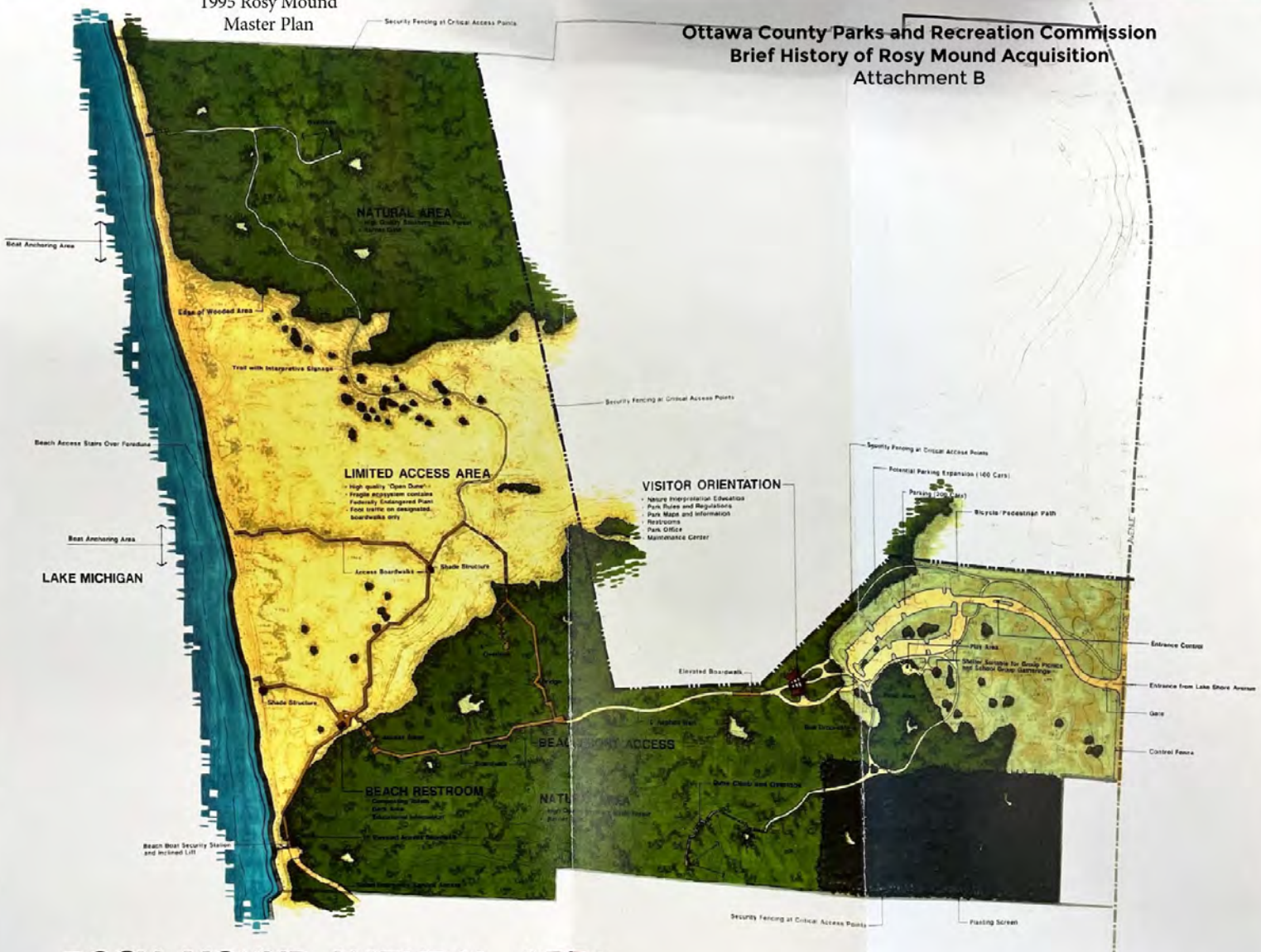
Few county owned sites possess the varied resource base that this site exhibits. Located within Sections 26, 27, 33 and 34 of Port Sheldon Township, this 440 acre site is characterized by deciduous woodlands, pine plantations, low wet areas, inland dunes and is crossed by Ten Hagen Creek. Soil conditions range from sands to muck and the terrain ranges from flat to rolling. These conditions provide excellent opportunities for interpretive studies. The Soil and Water Conservation District currently leasing the property, has already established nesting ponds on the site. While existing area nature centers focus on dunal formations or marshy environments, this site has the unique ability to provide interpretive insight into numerous other ecosystems. Tentative plans for this facility will include parking, a nature center, restrooms, interpretive trails, programs and related elements. Cross-country skiing will be available in the winter.

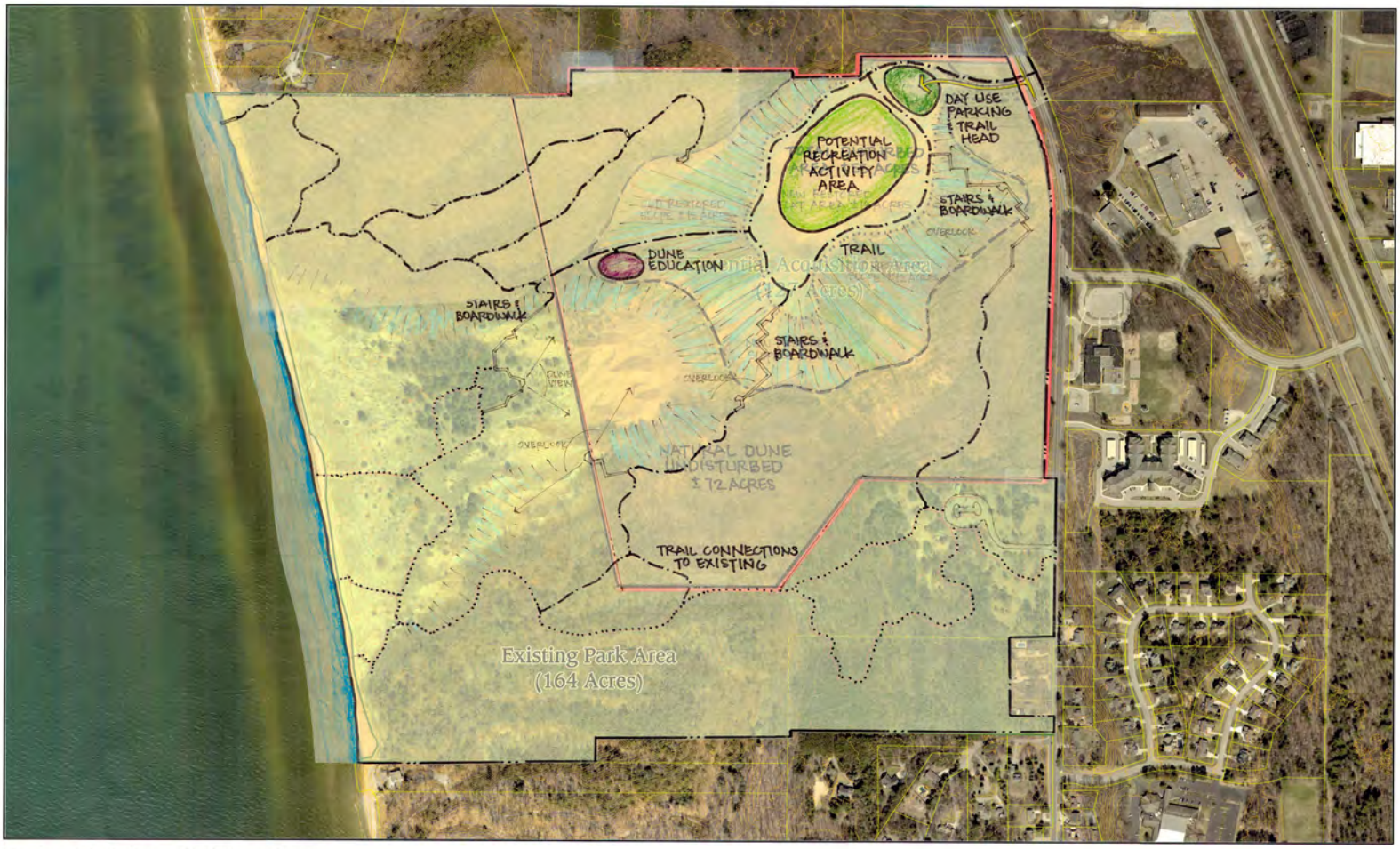
Action #11: GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY RECREATION AREA

Grand Valley State University, located in Allendale Township, owns over 370 acres of woodlands and open space along the Grand River and has expressed interest in a cooperative relationship with the Commission to further develop and manage recreational resources in these areas. Existing facilities include interpretive trails, ice skating, and downhill skiing. This facility, could become a primary all season recreation facility serving many of the recreation needs of the eastern county areas as well as drawing from beyond the county limits. Improvements by the Commission might include expanded hiking trails, fishing, boat

1995 Rosy Mound
Master Plan

Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission
Brief History of Rosy Mound Acquisition
Attachment B





Potential Acquisition Area
Rosy Mound Natural Area

N W E S

0 200 400 800 Feet

Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

COUNTY OF OTTAWA

STATE OF MICHIGAN

RESOLUTION INDICATING INTENTION TO UNDERTAKE THE ROSY MOUND EXPANSION PHASE II ACQUISITION PROJECT IF GRANT AWARDED.

At a regular meeting of the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners of the County of Ottawa, Michigan, held in the Ottawa County Fillmore Street Complex, West Olive, Michigan, in said County on the 14th day of March, 2023 at 9:00 o'clock a.m. local time.

PRESENT:

ABSENT:

It was moved by Commissioner _____ and supported by Commissioner _____ that the following Resolution be adopted:

WHEREAS, this proposed application is supported by the 2021 Ottawa County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan, which identifies the need for expansion and improvement of Ottawa County parks and recreation facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Commission has identified the Lake Michigan Coastal Greenway as a high priority initiative; and

WHEREAS, the Rosy Mound Expansion Phase II Acquisition Project is a key component of the Lake Michigan Coastal Greenway and has been identified as a high priority for the 2023 fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, the Rosy Mound Expansion Phase II will protect valuable critical dune areas and also protect the natural experience of Rosy Mound Natural Area by ensuring new residential development does not occur adjacent to the property and within dune viewsheds; and

WHEREAS, the Rosy Mound Expansion will provide important water-based and natural resource-based recreation opportunities accessible to residents throughout Ottawa County; and

WHEREAS, the County of Ottawa will be responsible for supplying a 30% local match ($704,000 of the $2,346,000 total project cost) for the proposed park expansion project; and

WHEREAS, the County of Ottawa accepts responsibility to guarantee the full local match amount including $121,700 from fundraising and the $500,000 landowner donation, with a projected balance of approximately $82,300 to come from the County Parks millage, and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners authorizes submittal of the grant application for the Rosy Mound Expansion Phase II Acquisition Project to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and fully intends to carry out the project if awarded.

Adopted/Issued this date by the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners

YEAS:

NAYS:

ABSTENTIONS:

RESOLUTION ADOPTED.

Joe Moss Chairperson, Ottawa County Board of Commissioners	Justin F. Roebuck Ottawa County Clerk/Register

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, duly qualified Clerk of the County of Ottawa, Michigan, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a Resolution adopted by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Ottawa, Michigan, at a meeting held on March 14, 2023 the original of which is on file in my office. Public Notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in compliance with Act No. 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, as amended.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereto affixed my official signature this 14th day of March, A.D., 2023.

Justin F. Roebuck, Ottawa County Clerk/Register

Action Request

Electronic Submission – Request # 230

Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

Committee: Parks Board

Meeting Date: 2/15/2023

Vendor/3rd Party: MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND

Requesting Department: PARKS AND RECREATION

Submitted By: CURT TERHAAR

Agenda Item: 11C 2023 MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND GRANT APPLICATION FOR UPPER MACATAWA NATURAL AREA – GREENWAY TRAILHEAD

Suggested Motion:

To recommend application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) program for funding assistance for Upper Macatawa Natural Area – Greenway Trailhead project and forward to the County Board of Commissioners for final approval.

Summary of Request:

In the 2021 Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Open Space Plan, a capital improvement project was proposed for development of a modern restroom at the 84th Avenue day-use area for the Upper Macatawa Natural Area park in Zeeland Township. This entry is one of the more popular sites in the Ottawa County Parks system, in part since it provides access to the mountain biking trails through the park. It is also a critical location along the developing Macatawa Greenway Trail and the trail network from Holland to Grand Rapids (which includes the Fred Meijer Kenowa Trail, which commences at the northern end of the Upper Macatawa Natural Area). With the planned development of and funding secured for the "Middle Macatawa" trail connection to Hawthorn Pond and Hawthorn Pond improvements to the west, it is important to provide these enhanced amenities on the eastern end of this portion of the Macatawa Greenway. The proposed modern restroom will provide amenities for Macatawa Greenway users and mountain bikers as well as sustainable and universal design features. This includes men's and women's restrooms, a family restroom with an adult changing table, two changing rooms with showers targeted for mountain bikers, a rainwater harvesting system, and paved connections to the parking area.

This project meets many of the criteria for a successful Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund development project. This funding allows for the inclusion of enhanced features for this project such as the rainwater harvesting system and the adult changing table. Therefore, staff is recommending preparation and submission of a $275,000 grant application to assist with funding this project.

A project sheet, site concept, example restroom designs, and draft resolution for the Board of Commissioners are attached.

Financial Information:

Total Cost: $565,975.00	Parks Fund Cost: $290,975.00	Included in Budget: Yes

If not included in Budget, recommended funding source:

Action is Related to an Activity Which Is: Non-Mandated

Action is Related to Strategic Plan:

Goal 2: To Contribute to the Long-Term Economic, Social and Environmental Health of the County.

Objective:

Administration:

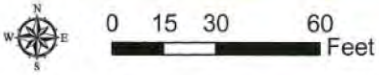
Recommended by Parks Director:

Committee/Governing/Advisory Board Approval Date: 3/7/2023

Project: Upper Macatawa Natural Area – Greenway Trailhead

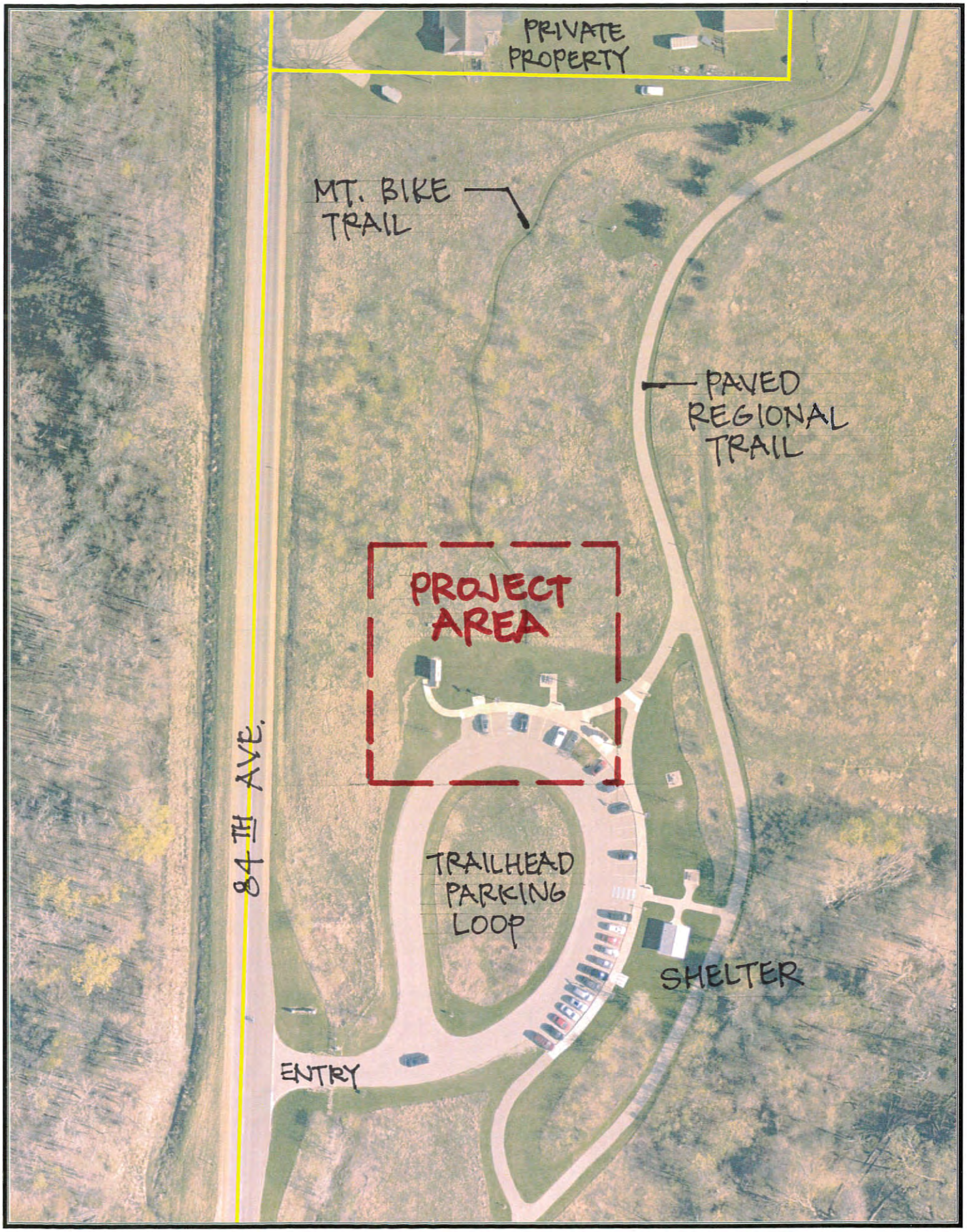
- **Parks Initiative:** Upper Macatawa Natural Area and Macatawa Greenway
- **Parks Plan/Strategic Plan/Master Plan Reference (where applicable):** Page 256 & Project D15 (Appendix L-3)
- **Location**: Zeeland Township (Senate District 31, State House District 85)
- **Estimated Cost:** $565,975
- **Proposed/Committed Funding**:
  - Parks Capital Funding: $290,975
  - Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (Proposed): $275,000
- **Summary**: The 84th Avenue entry for the Upper Macatawa Natural Area is one of the more popular sites in the Ottawa County Parks system, in part since it provides access to the mountain biking trails through the park. It is also a critical location along the developing Macatawa Greenway Trail and the trail network from Holland to Grand Rapids (which includes the Fred Meijer Kenowa Trail, which commences at the northern end of the Upper Macatawa Natural Area). Due to its popularity and its key Greenway role, this site has been reviewed for enhanced amenities, in particular a modern restroom. With the planned development of and funding secured for the "middle Macatawa" trail connection to Hawthorn Pond and Hawthorn Pond improvements to the west, it is important to provide these enhanced amenities on the eastern end of this portion of the Macatawa Greenway. The proposed modern restroom will provide amenities for Macatawa Greenway users and mountain bikers as well as sustainable and universal design features. This includes men's and women's restrooms, a unisex family restroom with an adult changing table, two changing rooms with showers targeted for mountain bikers, a rainwater harvesting system, and paved connections to the parking area.

Site Plan
UMNA Trailhead



Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

- **Status**: Grant application being prepared.

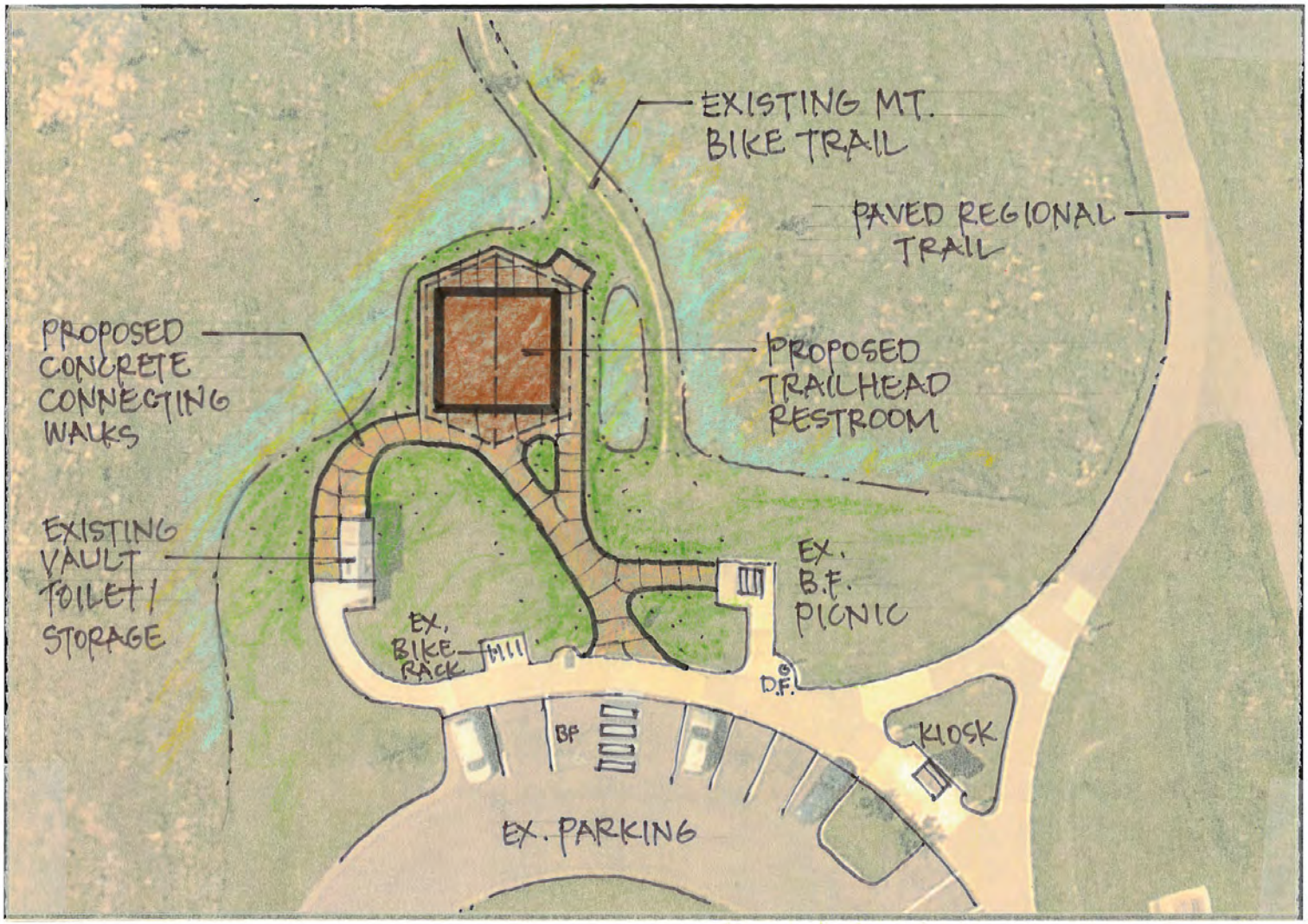


Poject Area
UMNA Trailhead

N W E S

0 40 80 160 Feet

Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

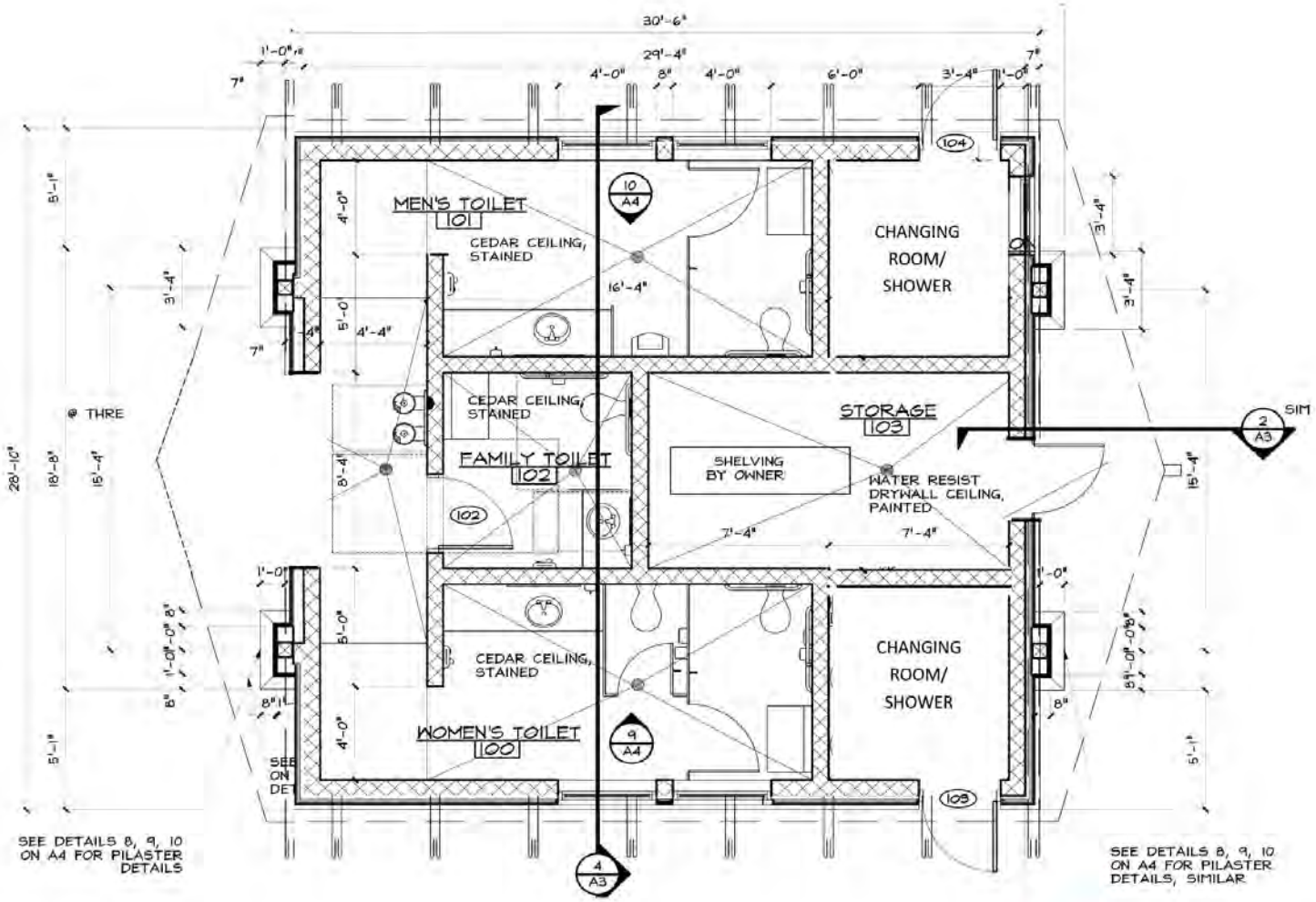


Site Plan
UMNA Trailhead

N W E S

0 15 30 60 Feet

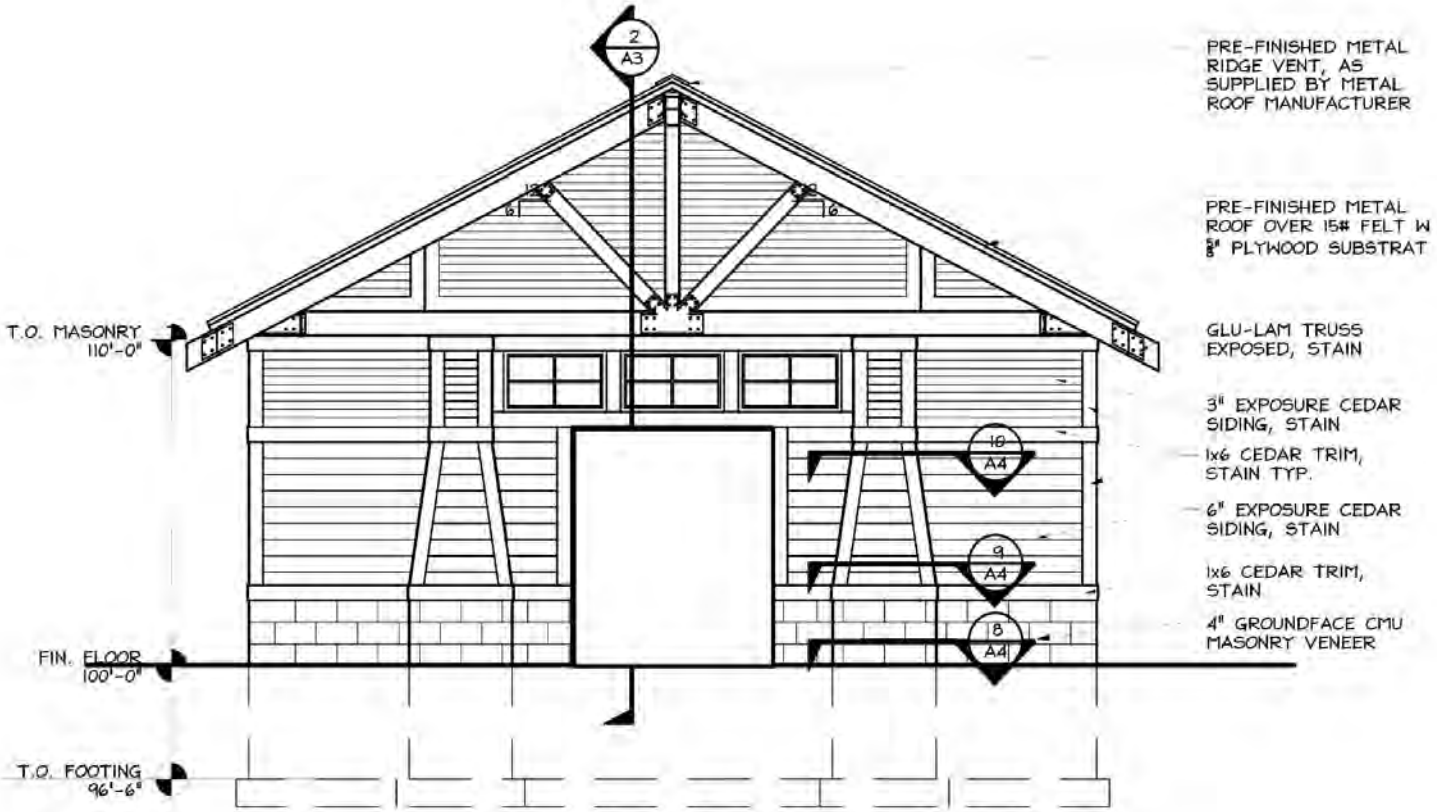
Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission



FLOOR PLAN
UPPER MACATAWA TRAILHEAD RESTROOM

NOT TO SCALE

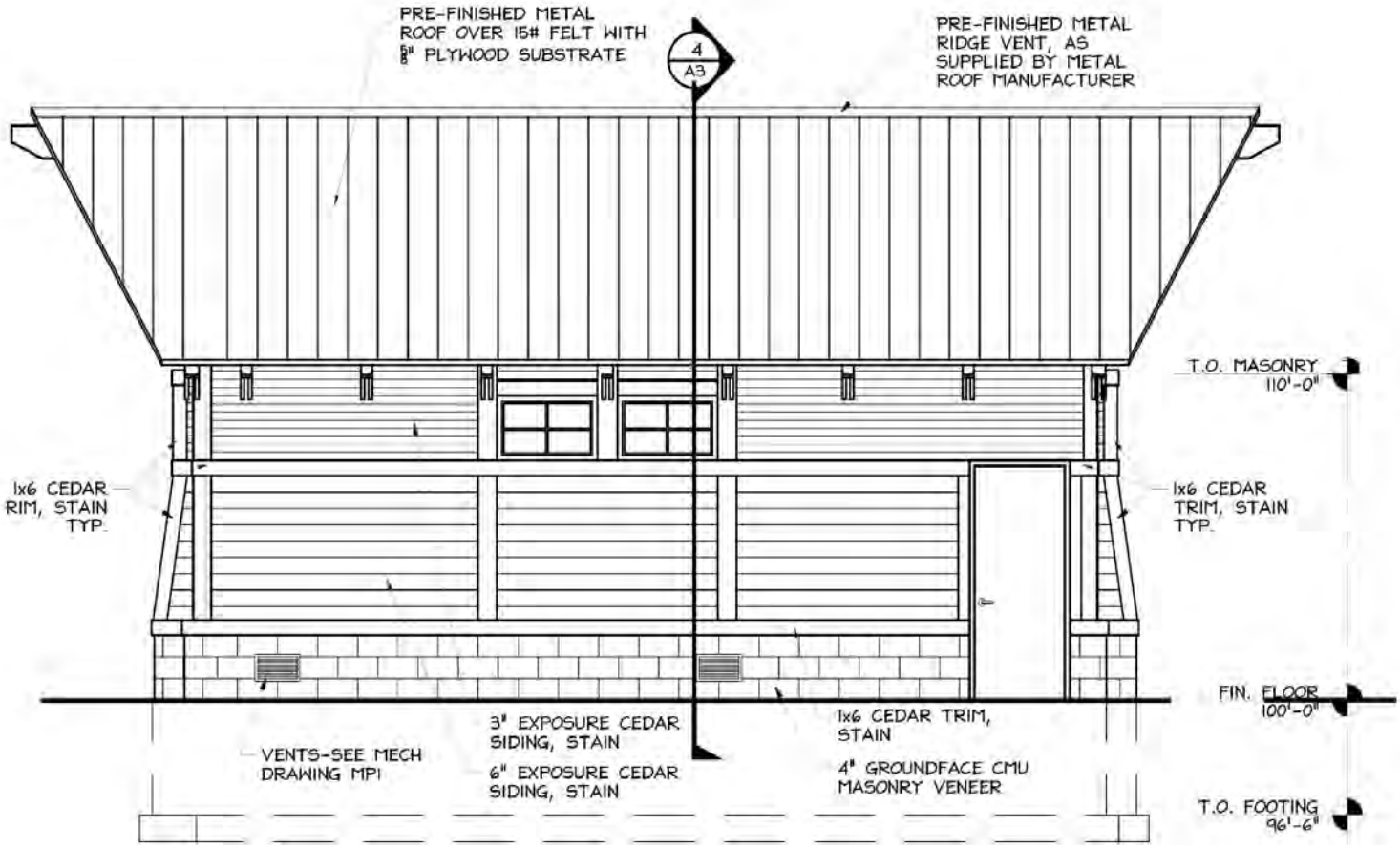
Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission



FRONT ELEVATION
UPPER MACATAWA TRAILHEAD RESTROOM

NOT TO SCALE

Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission



SIDE ELEVATION
UPPER MACATAWA TRAILHEAD RESTROOM

NOT TO SCALE

Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

COUNTY OF OTTAWA

STATE OF MICHIGAN

RESOLUTION INDICATING INTENTION TO UNDERTAKE THE UPPER MACATAWA NATURUAL AREA GREENWAY TRAILHEAD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IF GRANT AWARDED.

At a regular meeting of the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners of the County of Ottawa, Michigan, held in the Ottawa County Fillmore Street Complex, West Olive, Michigan, in said County on the 14th day of March, 2023 at 9:00 o'clock a.m. local time.

PRESENT:

ABSENT:

It was moved by Commissioner _____ and supported by Commissioner _____ that the following Resolution be adopted:

WHEREAS, this proposed application is supported by the 2021 Ottawa County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan, which identifies the need for expansion and improvement of Ottawa County parks and recreation facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Commission has identified this project as a priority 2021 Ottawa County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan due to the increasing usage of the park and to enhance the user experience; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Commission has identified the development of the Macatawa Greenway Trail and related amenities as a high priority initiative; and

WHEREAS, the Upper Macatawa Natural Area Greenway Trailhead Development Project is a key component of meeting the goals of the Macatawa Greenway and has been identified as a high priority for the 2023 fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, the Upper Macatawa Natural Area Greenway Trailhead Development Project will provide important natural resource-based recreation opportunities accessible to residents throughout Ottawa County, and

WHEREAS, the County of Ottawa will be responsible for supplying a 51% local match ($290,975 of the $565,975 total project cost) for the proposed improvement project; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners authorizes submittal of the grant application for the Upper Macatawa Natural Area Greenway Trailhead Development Project to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and fully intends to carry out the project if awarded.

Adopted/Issued this date by the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners

YEAS:

NAYS:

ABSTENTIONS:

RESOLUTION ADOPTED.

Joe Moss Chairperson, Ottawa County Board of Commissioners	Justin F. Roebuck Ottawa County Clerk/Register

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, duly qualified Clerk of the County of Ottawa, Michigan, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a Resolution adopted by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Ottawa, Michigan, at a meeting held on March 14, 2023 the original of which is on file in my office. Public Notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in compliance with Act No. 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, as amended.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereto affixed my official signature this 14th day of March, A.D., 2023.

Action Request

Electronic Submission – Request # 234

Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

Committee: Parks Board

Meeting Date: 2/15/2023

Vendor/3rd Party: OTTAWA COUNTY DRAIN COMMISSION

Requesting Department: PARKS AND RECREATION

Submitted By: SHAMBLIN

Agenda Item: **11d** MACATAWA RIVER INTERCOUNTY DRAIN EASEMENTS - HAWTHORN POND

Suggested Motion:

To approve Drainage Easements for the Macatawa River Intercounty Drain on Parcel #'s: 70-16-36-200-008; 70-16-36-200-019; 70-16-36-200-027 conditional on review and approval of Corporation Counsel and the Board of Commissioners. Further, the Director is instructed to take such actions as are necessary to implement the intent of the Commission in these matters.

Summary of Request:

In order to establish a County Drain, the Water Resources Commissioner must obtain all necessary easements to ensure access privilege for the Commissioner to the drain for current and future maintenance activities. The intent of any maintenance activities will be to preserve the operational effectiveness of the County Drain, in perpetuity. The Water Resources Commissioner has requested easements on Parks Commission properties making up portions of Hawthorn Pond and the Macatawa Greenway. See attached map.

Financial Information:

Total Cost: $0.00	Parks Fund Cost: $0.00	Included in Budget:

If not included in Budget, recommended funding source:

Action is Related to an Activity Which Is: Non-Mandated

Action is Related to Strategic Plan:

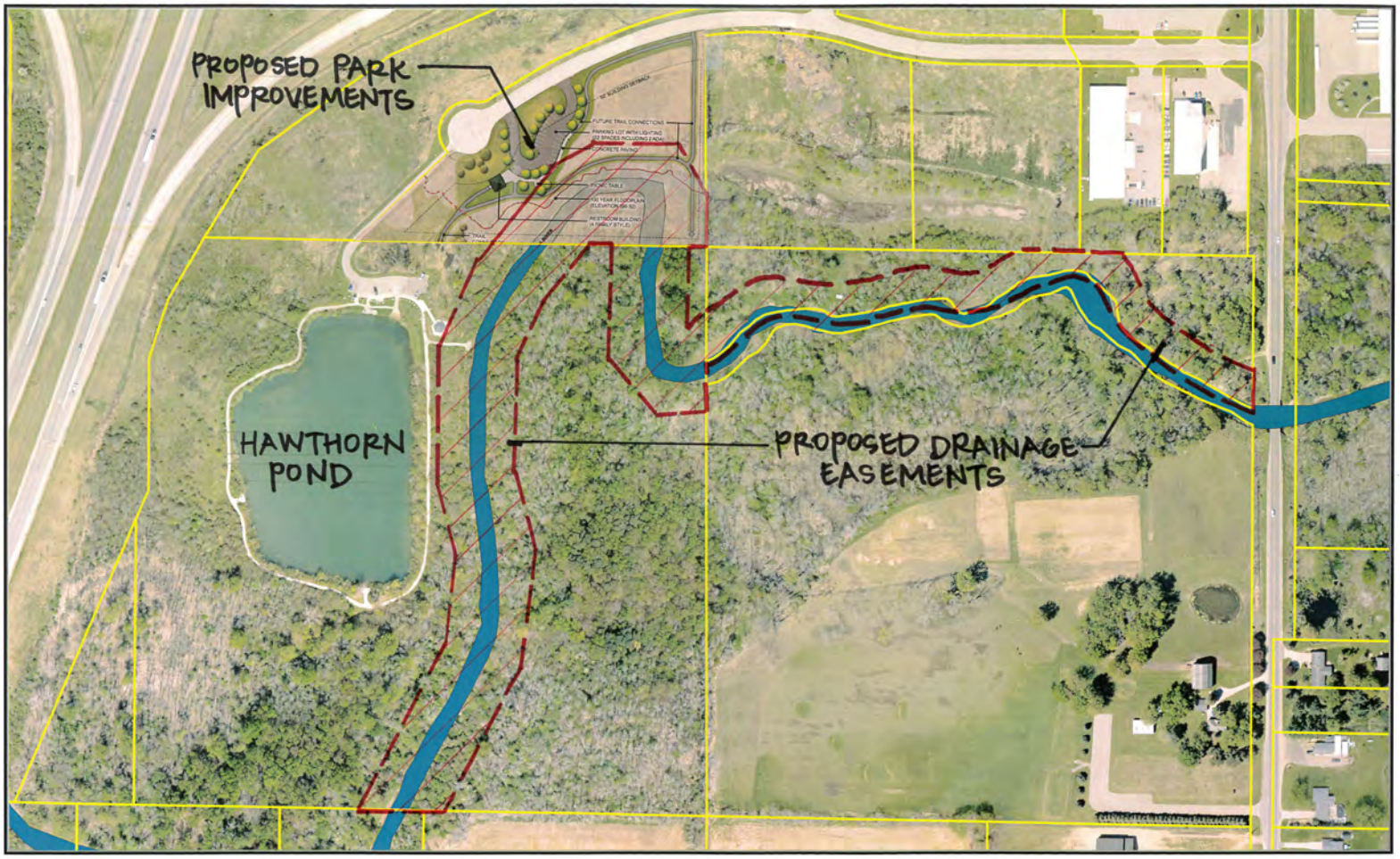
Goal 1: To Maintain and Improve the Strong Financial Position of the County.

Objective:

Administration:

Recommended by Parks Director:

Committee/Governing/Advisory Board Approval Date: 3/7/2023


PROPOSED PARK IMPROVEMENTS
HAWTHORN POND
PROPOSED DRAINAGE EASEMENTS
0 120 240 480 Feet
Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

Action Request

Electronic Submission – Request # 232

Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

Committee: Parks Board

Meeting Date: 2/15/2023

Vendor/3rd Party: OTTAWA SANDS TREEHOUSE BID

Requesting Department: PARKS AND RECREATION

Submitted By: CURT TERHAAR

Agenda Item: 11E OTTAWA SANDS TREEHOUSE BID AND CONTRACT

Suggested Motion:

To accept the bid from _____for construction of the Ottawa Sands tree houses at a cost of $_____ and forward to the Board of Commissioners for final approval.

Summary of Request:

As part of the donation agreement with the Idema Foundation to develop the Idema Explorers Camp at Ottawa Sands, Ottawa County Parks publicly bid construction of the Treehouse portion of the camp project on February 10. This followed the selection of a contractor last fall to construct other portions of the camp project including an access road, utilities, a welcome center, restroom, yurt tents, rustic tent sites, and a kayak launch, as well as securing extra funds to complete the camp. This project includes the construction of three raised cabins or treehouses along with their supporting infrastructure. The treehouses sleep from two to six guests and are intended to be rented year-round. Completion is expected in Spring 2024.

Financial Information:

Total Cost: $900,000.00	Parks Fund Cost: $900,000.00	Included in Budget: Yes

If not included in Budget, recommended funding source:

Action is Related to an Activity Which Is: Non-Mandated

Action is Related to Strategic Plan:

Goal 2: To Contribute to the Long-Term Economic, Social and Environmental Health of the County.

Objective:

Administration:

Recommended by Parks Director:

Committee/Governing/Advisory Board Approval Date: 3/7/2023

Ottawa County Parks &
Recreation Commission
12220 Fillmore
West Olive, Michigan 49460

Proposal Tabulation
Ottawa Sands - Tree Houses
February 10, 2023, 11:00 am

	COMPANY (BIDDER)	Bid Bond	Addendums Received	BASE BID	COMMENTS
1	Apex Contractors, Inc.	X	X	$1,667,000.00	Current budget is $1,276,611
2	Pushaw Builders, LLC	X	X	$1,747,738.49	
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
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9					
10					

Action Request

Electronic Submission – Request # 233

Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

Committee: Parks Board

Meeting Date: 2/15/2023

Vendor/3rd Party: EASTMANVILLE FARM BACKGROUND AND UPDATE

Requesting Department: PARKS AND RECREATION

Submitted By: J. SHAMBLIN

Agenda Item: 11F EASTMANVILLE FARM BACKGROUND AND UPDATE

Suggested Motion:

Information only

Summary of Request:

Eastmanville Farm was recently mentioned during a public meeting and then discussed at the Parks Commission's Planning Committee. As a result, staff have compiled the attached update.

Financial Information:

Total Cost: $0.00	Parks Fund Cost: $0.00	Included in Budget:

If not included in Budget, recommended funding source:

Action is Related to an Activity Which Is: Non-Mandated

Action is Related to Strategic Plan:

Goal 1: To Maintain and Improve the Strong Financial Position of the County. Goal 3: To Maintain and Enhance Communication with Citizens, Employees, and Other Stakeholders.

Objective:

Administration:

Recommended by Parks Director:

Committee/Governing/Advisory Board Approval Date:

Ottawa County Parks Commission
Background on Eastmanville Farm
February 2023

Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

History: 1866 to 2004

In 2004, the Board of Commissioners officially transferred the 229-acre Eastmanville Farm property to Ottawa County Parks. This transfer followed a long and storied history of 138 years of management by the County as the "Poor Farm," County Infirmary, and finally, Community Haven. The site was purchased by the County in 1866, with the goal of providing care and housing for the indigent. Over time, the number of people being cared for at the site increased and an infirmary was constructed in 1886. In 1978, the infirmary building was replaced with a modern "Community Haven" building. This building was closed in 2000 and demolished in 2003. Over the many years as a place for the indigent, the site operated as a farm, including use of the iconic barn built in the 1920's, with the residents being assigned farm work as part of their stay and regular care. Additionally, given the indigent status of many of the residents, it was difficult to locate adequate burial sites following their passing. As a result, a cemetery was established on the Farm, and it was used from 1866 to 1931. For years, the cemetery was forgotten until a relative of one the Farm's residents and a group of local historians uncovered the existence of the cemetery in local records. The cemetery has now been extensively documented and marked through the efforts of the group.

Transfer to County Parks

Following the closure of Community Haven in 2000, discussions begin about the possibility of transferring the property to Ottawa County Parks. The County Parks had long had intertest in the 30-acre portion south of Leonard Street because it includes 0.25-miles of Grand River frontage and was key to the Grand River Greenway vision. Once additional discussions commenced, Parks staff analyzed the 199-acre area north of Leonard Street for park usage. This preliminary analysis proposed uses such as equestrian trails, a demonstration farm area, and riverfront access. In April 2004, it was designated as a County Park with management, operations, and development responsibilities assigned to the Ottawa County Parks Commission.

Master Plan

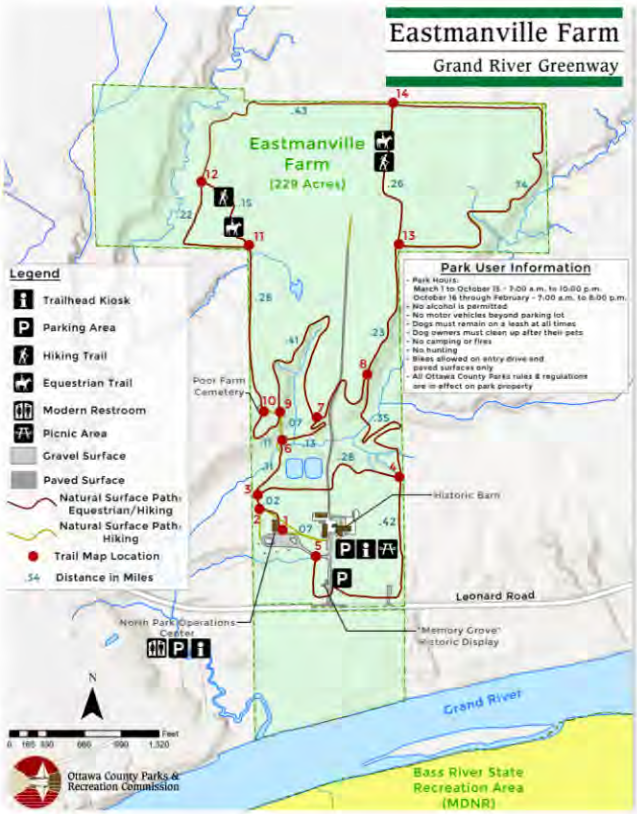
Shortly after the property was transferred to the County Parks, a formal master plan was initiated, including extensive consultation with the equestrian and agricultural communities. The Master Plan was adopted in 2007 and included equestrian trails, a riverfront day-use area, equestrian center, and farm education center. Equestrian trails and access improvements were completed in 2010.

The equestrian center and farm education center were dependent on cooperation and funding from the equestrian and agricultural communities. While Eastmanville Farm draws equestrians from all over the region, there has not

been significant interest in developing the equestrian center. However, Ottawa County Parks worked closely with many local farmers and stakeholders to make progress on the farm education center. In 2009, there were efforts to proceed with a fund-raising feasibility study, but that did not move forward. Eventually, a non-profit group, the West Michigan Agricultural Educational Center (WMAEC) was formed. WMAEC leased farm plots on Eastmanville Farm and used the proceeds for the development of a farm education center.

Recent Activity

Additional improvements continued at the site, including construction of the North Operations Center in 2019 and repairs to preserve the barn that have been recognized by the Michigan Barn Preservation Network.



In 2019, the WMAEC lease on the parcel south of Leonard Road expired and was not renewed which allowed for the restoration the property to natural area. Funded in part in 2019 by a grant from the Wildlife Conservation Society, in collaboration with the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy, restoration to the site was undertaken. In 2020 and 2021, the site was prepared, planted, and seeded using native plants and trees including grassland species and floodplain forest species in their respective appropriate locations.

In 2020, WMAEC notified parks staff they would not pursue another term of the lease on the remaining parcels. With that in mind, the Parks Commission worked in conjunction with U.S. Department of Agriculture to develop a management plan to transition much of the former row crops to grasslands over several years. This unique ecosystem of grasslands is designed to be managed by unconventional farming and grazing practices that benefit wildlife. These improvements will greatly enhance ecology and biodiversity while providing native habitat for grassland birds, native pollinators, and many wildlife species that depend on such grasslands. Grassland birds, as a group, have suffered the most severe population declines of any other North American birds due to the enormous loss and fragmentation of their required habitat. Additionally, this management approach would protect water quality and reduce nonpoint source pollution.

In order to implement the management strategy in the most cost-effective manner, a partnership was initiated with a local cattle farmer to assist in the conversion and management of these plots. The grazing cattle would be utilized to provide benefits as this would mirror the historic prairie ecosystem and be especially beneficial to grassland birds. A license with the farmer to manage the grassland and grazing areas was approved in early 2022 by the Parks Commission and the Board of Commissioners.

Additionally, in preparation for an update to the Master Plan, Parks Commissioners and staff reviewed options for upgrading the barn to provide public access and use. Possible uses included housing historical and agriculturally based interpretive displays, multi-purpose events and/or education opportunities. Similar sites offering historic barns renovated for public access were researched including a site visit to a similar facility in Oakland County. The next step in this process is to complete a structural engineering study which will allow for the development of plans and associated costs of upgrading the barn and constructing related amenities.

In late 2022 Ottawa County Parks partnered with the Coopersville FFA to utilize a 2-acre plot near the road for a community garden during the 2023 growing season with the following goals:

- To produce at least two tons of produce and donate to multiple non-profits including Food for American West Michigan, Coopersville Cares, and others.
- To provide students with an experiential learning experience that will count for both Work-Based Learning/Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) hours and community service hours.

This educational program involves 2 adult leaders, 6 student leaders, and approximately 30 student volunteers.