

Updated Ottawa Sands Concept Plan

November 24, 2020

Page 1
Cover Page

Page 2
Summary Narrative

Page 3
Concept Enlargement (updated following public feedback)

Page 4
Overall concept plan (updated following public feedback)

Page 5
Pre- and Post- Development Comparison

Page 6
Plan changes since initial concepts were released (October 3)

Ottawa Sands Master Plan

Current Status Summary

November 24, 2020

The current preferred plan is the culmination of many months of site analysis, public discussion, and synthesis of these findings by the design team. Since the beginning, the design has revolved around several ideas relating to Ottawa County Parks well established overarching goal of providing appropriate public access and enjoyment of park sites while maintaining and enhancing their natural and aesthetic features. These ideas include the following:

1. **Providing access for people of all ages and physical abilities to enjoy a variety of outdoor recreation activities at the site.** The site provides excellent opportunities for both passive and more active activities in numerous locations. Therefore the plan supports the current passive trail uses around the lake and natural areas of the site as well as more active uses on a portion of the inland lake, Sag area, and Grand River Shoreline. It should be noted that the original site concept plan which was based on previously identified and generally desirable activities included 30 acres of camping including modern RV type facilities. These facilities were eliminated based on public input.
2. **Managing existing natural landscapes and restoring areas that have been destroyed or highly disturbed.** Over 90% of the site is proposed for intensive restoration or long-term management of natural resources.
3. **Utilizing existing disturbed areas as the site of proposed facilities.** Over one half of the overall Ottawa Sands site has been heavily and recently disturbed. The proposed facility improvements are sited almost exclusively on these areas so as not to disturb more mature or diverse areas of native vegetation. In fact, with good site planning and design, facility development can actually improve the diversity and quality of these degraded areas.

In addition, in response to input from the public, stakeholders, and staff the plan has been further refined to meet the following objectives:

1. **Reduce Facility Size.** People who use the site and have grown to love it are naturally sensitive to changes that might negatively impact their experience and have expressed the desire not to overdevelop the site. Although great effort has been put into the design to minimize negative impacts of future improvements, and some change is inevitable, recent revisions to the plan have included reduction in the size of parking areas and pavilions as well as specific efforts to buffer uses from each other.
2. **Consolidate uses.** In addition to reductions in size, several other uses have been grouped together to lessen the footprint on the site. In particular, the multiple areas of camping shown in the early concepts have been consolidated into one modest sized area located away from neighbors and in a particularly isolated area of the site. Overall, new facilities utilize only 8% of the total park area.
3. **Functional Improvements.** Several suggestions to improve the function of uses, ease of phasing, and to provide for maintenance of the facilities have been incorporated into the revised plan.



SITE MASTER PLAN

miOTTAWA SANDS PARK

DECEMBER 2, 2020





LEGEND

- | | |
|---|---|
| A CONSTRUCTED DUNAL WET PRAIRIE AND MARSH (+/- 18 AC.) | J NON-MOTORIZED WATERCRAFT DOCKING AND BF LAUNCH |
| B NON-PAVED NATURE TRAILS | K WELCOME / INFORMATION STATION |
| C PAVED SHARED-USE TRAIL | L RIVER PROMENADE WALK AND TERRACED EDGE |
| D BOARDWALKS AND VIEWING DECKS | M GRAND RIVER AND COASTAL GREENWAY PLAZA AND INTERPRETATION AREA |
| E GREENWAY CAMPGROUND (TENT PLATFORM, TREEHOUSE CABINS AND YURT VILLAGE) | N RIVER OVERLOOK PIERS AND COURTESY DOCKS |
| F RECREATION AREA BEACH | O PARK MAINTENANCE FACILITY |
| G MULTI-PURPOSE RECREATION PAVILION WITH RESTROOMS | P PENINSULA SHADE PAVILION |
| H NATURE PLAY / DISCOVERY AREA | Q EVENT PAVILION WITH RESTROOM AND GREEN ROOF TERRACE |
| I BOATING CENTER WITH CANOE AND KAYAK RENTAL | R OPEN LAWN AREA (+/- 2 AC.) |

miOTTAWA SANDS PARK
DECEMBER 2, 2020

0' 80' 160' 240'
MASTER PLAN ENLARGEMENT



Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

VIRIDIS
Design Group

EGLE
ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY



Ottawa Sands Plan
Pre- and Post- Development Comparison
November 24, 2020

Current Conditions

<u>Plan Area</u>	<u>Acreage (% of total)</u>
Lake	80 (23%)
Recently Disturbed	108 (31%)
Relatively Natural	<u>157 (46%)</u>
TOTAL	345 (100%)

There are currently approximately 4 miles of natural or gravel surface trails in the recently disturbed and relatively natural areas.

Proposed Conditions with Full Master Plan Development

<u>Plan Area</u>	<u>Acreage (% of total)</u>
Lake	80 (23%)
Master Plan “Hard” Facility Areas*	19 (6%)
Roads (3.2 acres)	
Paved Paths (4.6 acres)	
Day Use Area (1.4 acres)	
Lake Recreation Area (2.8 acres)	
Kayak Access Area (1.4 acres)	
Southern Loop (0.9 acres)	
Riverfront (4.4 acres)	
Master Plan “Soft” Facility Areas	8 (2%)
Greenway Camping (3 acres)	
Multi-use Greenspace (3 acres)	
Nature Play Area (2 acres)	
Intensive Restoration	26 (8%)
Lake Shoreline (8 acres)	
Dunal Wetland/Prairie (18 acres)	
Natural (managed with minor restorations)	<u>212 (61%)</u>
TOTAL	345 (100%)

*Includes paved and building areas, internal planted areas (restorations, rain gardens, green infrastructure), and buffer zones.

Proposed plan shows approximately 4.5 miles of paved, gravel, and natural surface trails.

Ottawa Sands Master Plan
Plan Changes (Responses to Comments) from time of
Public Presentation of Initial Concepts on October 3, 2020
November 24, 2020

Items in Current Preferred Plan

Reductions in Size of Facilities

- Reduced parking at all locations
- Removed south outfitted camping area
- Deleted some trail connections to south Grand Haven property in especially sensitive areas
- Reduced riverfront pavilion size

Consolidation of Uses

- Consolidated all camping in Greenway Camp Area. This also placed these uses further from neighbors

Functional Improvements

- Defined trail around lake to be paved for best accessibility and ease of maintenance
- Added maintenance facility and then relocated it to less visible location
- Added vegetative buffer between pavilion and lake
- Moved lake overlook further from eagle's nest location
- Put kayak lake access closer to parking
- Reconfigured riverfront parking to allow for better/easier phasing