



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

NOTICE OF MEETING

Date: April 13, 2021

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Location: Virtual Meeting on Zoom available to the public at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81235157815>

AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order / Moment of Silence**
- 2. Roll Call and Announcement of Location**
- 3. Approval of the Minutes**
 - A. March 9, 2021 Meeting (attached, pp. 1-7 /action item)
- 4. Public Comment**
- 5. Communications, Projects & Activities** (attached, pp. 8-38 /action item)
- 6. Consent Agenda**
- 7. Financial & Recreation Reports – March 2021**
 - A. Financial Reports (attached, pp. 39-41 /action item)
 - B. Recreation Reports (attached, pp. 42-47 /action item)
- 8. Old Business**
 - A. Summer Operations Update (presentation at meeting)
 - B. Other Old Business
- 9. New Business**
 - A. UM Presentation – Sharon Mills Livery (presentation at meeting)
 - B. Rolling Hills Concession Renovation Award (attached, pp. 48-49 /action item)
 - C. NAPP – Kaiser Trust Property (attached, pp. 50-60 /action item)
 - D. NAPP – Wiseley - Fix Property (attached, pp. 61-64 /action item)
 - E. NAPP – Gotfredson / Raniszski (attached, pp. 65-75 /action item)
 - F. Other New Business
- 10. Commissioners / Directors Comments**
- 11. Adjournment**

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Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: March 9, 2021

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Location: Zoom Digital Meeting

Members Present: Patricia Scribner, WCPARC President (attending from Pittsfield Township, MI); Janis Bobrin, WCPARC Vice President (attending from Ann Arbor, MI); Daniel Ezekiel, WCPARC Secretary/Treasurer (attending from Ann Arbor, MI), Ricky Jefferson (attending from Ypsilanti Township, MI), Robert Joerg (attending from Delta Township, MI), Robert Marans (attending from Bonita Springs, FL), Jo Ann McCollum (attending from Ypsilanti Township, MI), Brenda McKinney (attending from Superior Township, MI), and Jason Morgan (attending from Ann Arbor, MI)

Members Absent: Evan Pratt

Staff Present: Coy Vaughn, Director; Meghan Bonfiglio, Deputy Director; Ginny Trocchio, Superintendent of Park Planning and Natural Areas; Jason Brooks, Manager of Finance and Administration; Jeffrey Dehring, Park Planner; Kira Macyda, Park Planner; Peter Sanderson, Park Planner; Rosie Pahl-Donaldson, Park Planner; and Allison Krueger, Stewardship Manager

Others Present: Jeff Silagy, Michigan Wetland Board; Dianne Martin, ASTI Environmental

1. Call to Order/Moment of Silence

Ms. Scribner called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. with a moment of silence in appreciation of first responders.

2. Roll Call and Announcement of Location

3. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the February 9, 2021 regular meeting were included with the agenda material.

It was moved by Ms. McKinney and seconded by Mr. Marans to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2021 regular meeting, as amended. Roll call vote: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays, 4 Absent (Jefferson, Pratt, Morgan, McCollum), the motion was approved.

4. Public Comment

None

5. Communications, Projects & Activities

Mr. Vaughn reported on the February communications which were included in the packet.

It was moved by Ms. McKinney and seconded by Mr. Joerg to accept and file the Communications, Projects & Activities for the month of February 2021, as submitted. 8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 2 Absent (Pratt, Morgan), the motion was approved.

6. Consent Agenda

A. NAPP – Russell Property Sales Contract

It was moved by Ms. McCollum and seconded by Mr. Jefferson to authorize the preparation of a sales contract for the purchase of the J. Russell property in Scio Township contingent upon completion and satisfaction of all necessary due diligence and final approval by the Commission. Roll call vote: 8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 2 Absent (Pratt, Morgan), the motion was approved.

B. NAPP – Award of Appraisal Contracts

It was moved by Ms. McCollum and seconded by Mr. Jefferson to authorize the award of a multi-year contracts to Value Midwest, Gerald Alcock Company, and Affinity Valuation Group for real estate appraisal services, per RFP #8048. Roll call vote: 8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 2 Absent (Pratt, Morgan), the motion was approved.

7. Financial & Recreation Reports – February 2021

A. Financial Reports

Mr. Brooks reported and stated that the total for the claims for the month of February was \$605,428.93.

It was moved by Mr. Marans and seconded by Mr. Ezekiel to accept and file the Financial Reports for the months of February 2021 as submitted. Roll call vote: 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent (Pratt), the motion was approved.

B. Recreation Reports

Mr. Brooks reported on recreation reports for the month of February 2021.

It was moved by Ms. Bobrin and seconded by Mr. Joerg to accept and file the Recreation Reports for the month of February 2021 as submitted. Roll call vote: 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent (Pratt), the motion was approved.

8. Old Business

A. Kosch Headwaters Preserve Wetland Project

Mr. Sanderson explained that The Michigan Wetlands Board (MiWB) and the Washtenaw County Road Commission (WCRC) have identified a need to establish a wetland mitigation bank within Washtenaw County. They hired a consultant to conduct a search for suitable locations using computer analysis. WCPARC properties were included in the analysis and the top candidate for mitigation potential across the county is a portion of the 153-acre Kosch Headwaters Preserve (Kosch) in Superior Township.

Mr. Sanderson reported that Michigan Transportation Funds are used by MiWB to establish bank sites and limit the eligibility of purchasing mitigation credits to public transportation projects. WCPARC will

benefit from the creation of the wetland bank to help mitigate for wetland impacts that are often necessary during construction of the B2B trail. The planned route of the B2B Trail follows the Huron River, Mill Creek, and connects to nearly 50 parks – many of which are deliberately located near waterbodies, which have associated wetlands. Due to the linear nature of the B2B Trail and limited right-of-way, minor wetland impacts are often unavoidable. The creation of a wetland bank creates an opportunity for WCPARC to mitigate the trail's impacts within the county, save money, and ensure that the restored wetland is stewarded in perpetuity. It also aids the WCRC who has provided WCPARC land to build the B2B Trail, technical/engineering assistance, and access to nearly \$8M in TAP grants.

Mr. Marans commented that the Kosch Preserve seemed to be a reasonable site based on its location within two watersheds. He asked if other WCPARC parks were being considered. Mr. Sanderson replied that other locations were considered, however, Kosch was the preferred option.

Ms. Bobrin asked who would decide how credits are allocated for the wetland bank. Mr. Sanderson responded that there will be an agreement executed before the project is implemented that will allocate the credits between WCRC and WCPARC.

Mr. Ezekiel commented that the Whitney project was an excellent example of a successful wetland project and he would be pleased if a WCPARC project turned out similarly.

Mr. Sanderson outlined next steps and explained that this proposal will be placed on a future agenda for action by the Commission.

B. B2B – Gallup Park Reconstruction Participation Request

Mr. Sanderson explained that the B2B Trail through Gallup Park in the City of Ann Arbor is one of the most popular trail segments in the county. The trail through the park spans from Parker Mill County Park on the east, to Mitchell Field (UM) on the west, 2.86 miles. The entire trail length was originally built in the 1980's and is in need of total replacement due to its pavement condition and insufficient capacity. The current trail is only 8-foot wide and modern standards recommend 10-foot width with 2-foot shoulders.

The City of Ann Arbor solicited bids to reconstruct the 1.03 miles of B2B Trail and eight bids were received. The low bid is by ET Mackenzie and the project budget is approximately \$711,255 including contingency. Mr. Sanderson reminded the Commission that during the 2020 Road and Trails millage renewal process, WCPARC allocated up to \$350,000 in funding towards this project from the millage if it was renewed. The City has requested a contribution of \$165k from WCPARC towards this project. The Huron Waterloo Pathways Initiative has requested to participate in the project and those funds are proposed to flow through the Commission's contribution to the project.

Mr. Joerg questioned whether the contractor that was hired by the City was the best option for this project. He asked if the decision was final and offered to talk with his contacts at the City regarding this decision. Mr. Sanderson replied that he believed that the contract has been executed.

Ms. Bobrin explained that she had positive experiences with this contractor and asked that if a Commissioner approaches the City with comments about a specific contractor that it be done as an individual and not speaking on behalf of the Commission.

Mr. Ezekiel commented that this is a very popular segment of trail that is in need of improvement and he was happy that WCPARC could be a partner.

Ms. McCollum asked how wide the new trail would be. Mr. Sanderson responded that the pavement will be expanded from 8' to 10' feet wide and include a 2-foot shoulder on both sides.

It was moved by Ms. Bobrin and seconded by Ms. McKinney to authorize staff to execute a project agreement with the City of Ann Arbor to provide a total of \$165,000 (\$115,000 from the Road and Trails millage and \$50,000 from HWPI), towards the reconstruction of the Gallup Park segment of the B2B Trail. Roll call vote: 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent (Pratt), the motion was approved.

C. Sharon Mills Raceway Wall Leak Repair Award

Mr. Dehring explained that in 2018 some minor water seepage was discovered outside the fieldstone and mortar raceway walls adjacent to the powerhouse of the mill building of Sharon Mills County Park. In spring 2019, it appeared that freeze-thawing action had increased the size and quantity of these leaks. Mr. Dehring stated that a steady stream of water is now present in several locations and it is evident that conditions are getting worse.

Mr. Dehring reported that a consultant was hired to assist in evaluating the damage and recommend a course of action. The first step was to install a temporary cofferdam within the walls of the raceway to eliminate the majority of waterflow to the work area, the next step is to engage a contractor with expertise working in wet environments, with historic fieldstone and mortar construction, and various waterproofing methods. We were fortunate to learn that the County's Office of Infrastructure Management (OIM) had recently contracted with Pullman SST, Inc. of Trenton, MI who specializes in this type of work. Pullman SST staff visited Sharon Mills to investigate site conditions and submitted a thorough proposal identifying various steps on how they would execute the project. The proposed cost to execute the project is \$69,950 and will be completed by no later than July 2.

Ms. McCollum asked about the 15% contingency and asked if staff anticipated additional costs. Mr. Dehring responded that there is always the possibility for change orders and the is the purpose of the contingency. He added that the Commission would be made aware if the costs exceed the contingency amount.

It was moved by Ms. McKinney and seconded by Mr. Ezekiel to authorize the award of a contract in the amount of \$69,950 to Pullman SST, Inc. of Trenton, MI for all work necessary to repair the leaking raceway walls at Sharon Mills County Park and shall include an additional 15% (\$10,500) contingency expenditure for potential change orders. Roll call vote: 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent (Pratt), the motion was approved.

D. Other Old Business

None

9. New Business

A. Naming Recommendation for the Highland Preserve

Mr. Vaughn reported that the Highland Preserve currently consists of 53 acres in Superior Township, formerly known as the Clark Road Property, acquired in 2016. NAPP is in the process of purchasing an additional 20.5 acres that will be added to the preserve adjacent to the Highland Cemetery in the City of Ypsilanti, which should close by mid-2021. The 73.5-acre Highland Preserve is bisected by Clark Road and parking and trail development is currently under construction on the north side of the road. Both properties have been purchased with funds from the Natural Areas Preservation Program (NAPP) and include a small stream, core fen habitat, hillside prairie, an oak-hickory forest, and a known Native American trail once traversed the property.

Mr. Vaughn reminded the Commission that Janice Anschuetz, a long-time parks Commissioner, was a leading advocate for the protection of the Highland Preserve property and the establishment of the Superior Greenway. She is a resident of Ypsilanti and lives less than ¼-mile from the property – she is a frequent visitor of the preserve. Mr. Vaughn explained that, on behalf of the Commission, staff has

completed an application recommending that the Highland Preserve be renamed the Janice Anschuetz Highland Preserve.

Mr. Jefferson commented that naming the preserve in her honor is a great way to honor the legacy of Ms. Anschuetz.

Ms. McKinney voiced her strong support of the renaming proposal.

Mr. Marans also voiced his support and asked if there could be a ceremony scheduled this summer to officially celebrate the naming. Mr. Vaughn offered to coordinate something with Ms. Anschuetz.

It was moved by Ms. McKinney and seconded by Mr. Jefferson to authorize the proposed renaming of the Highland Preserve to honor Janice Anschuetz based on her leadership in the preservation of this property and her 47 years of exemplary service to WCPARC and the residents of Washtenaw. Roll call vote: 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent (Pratt), the motion was approved.

B. NAPP – DeForest Superior Partnership

Ms. Pahl-Donaldson reported that NAPP received a nomination in 2019 for the DeForest property in Superior Township for a conservation easement, and the property was subsequently scored and included in ALPAC's 2020 annual prioritization of properties. After some discussions with the City of Ann Arbor Greenbelt and the landowners, it was agreed that the Greenbelt would take the lead on this project, with WCPARC's pending participation.

Ms. Pahl-Donaldson explained that the Assessment & Prioritization Mapping labeled the easement parcel medium-low quality but did not prioritize it for preservation. Superior Township properties generally score a little lower because it is the township in which NAPP spent the most on acquisition. She added that this property is a priority for the Ann Arbor Greenbelt program. In addition, the family has nominated additional land that will be able to expand the block of protected land.

An appraisal was completed in February 2021 and identified the value of the 71.5-acre conservation easement as \$475,000 or \$7,583/acre. The Greenbelt is requesting 50% from WCPARC. The Greenbelt is also making a small request from Superior Township, that would replace Greenbelt funds. ALPAC recommended to partner with the Greenbelt and contribute \$237,500 at their February 2021 meeting. The Greenbelt will cover the remaining FMV value, as well as closing and due diligence. The Greenbelt will also be responsible for monitoring and enforcing the conservation easement.

It was moved by Ms. McKinney and seconded by Mr. Joerg to partner with the City of Ann Arbor Greenbelt for the purchase of a conservation easement on the DeForest Superior property in Superior Township and to contribute \$237,500 toward the purchase, contingent upon attorney review of documents and execution of participation agreement. An additional \$7,500 is authorized as a contribution to the stewardship special revenue fund. Roll call vote: 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent (Pratt), the motion was approved.

C. NAPP – Fishbeck Farm Partnership

Ms. Pahl-Donaldson explained that the City of Ann Arbor Greenbelt received an application in 2020 for the Fishbeck farm property for the purchase of a conservation easement. The Greenbelt subsequently forwarded the application to NAPP for review in anticipation of requesting a partnership contribution. The property was included in ALPAC's Round 20 (2020) review of properties.

The Fishbeck property is on the south side of Joy Road, where Tower Road ends, in Superior Township. The Agricultural Assessment and Prioritization Mapping identified the property's tax parcel as medium-high and prioritized it for its nearness to existing protected land (Patch Expansion). The Fishbeck property received 56/88 points on ALPAC's scoring system. The Commission's scoring system for NAPP properties

yields 53/100 points. Superior Township properties generally score a little lower because it is the township in which NAPP spent the most on acquisition.

Ms. Pahl Donaldson reported that an appraisal was completed in September 2020 and identified the value of the 63.331-acre conservation easement as \$480,000 or \$7,579/acre. The Greenbelt is requesting 50% from ALPAC. The Greenbelt is also making a small request from Superior Township, that would replace Greenbelt funds. ALPAC recommended to partner with the Greenbelt and contribute \$240,000 at their February 2021 meeting. The Greenbelt will cover the remaining FMV value, as well as closing and due diligence. The Greenbelt will also be responsible for monitoring and enforcing the conservation easement.

It was moved by Ms. McCollum and seconded by Ms. McKinney to partner with the City of Ann Arbor Greenbelt for the purchase of a conservation easement on the Fishbeck III property in Superior Township and to contribute \$240,000 toward the purchase, contingent upon attorney review of documents and execution of participation agreement. An additional \$7,500 is authorized as a contribution to the stewardship special revenue fund. Roll call vote: 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent (Pratt), the motion was approved.

D. NAPP – Kress Partnership

Ms. Pahl-Donaldson reported that the Legacy Land Conservancy has been working on placing a conservation easement on the 226-acre Kress property in Freedom Township. Legacy forwarded the property's information to NAPP in 2019 for review in anticipation of requesting a contribution. Both ALPAC and NATAC included the property in their 2019 annual review of nominations.

Straddling Pleasant Lake Road in Freedom Township, just up the road from WCPARC's Uphaus easement, is the centennial Kress farm. At 226 acres, it is one of the top ten largest farms that has come through ALPAC. ALPAC's scoring system produced a score of 56/88. The Agricultural Assessment & Prioritization Mapping did not prioritize the land. While NATAC was not asked by ALPAC to participate in the funding for this project, NATAC did visit and review the 60 acres of forest on the property, and they classified Kress as a Tier 1 priority for NATAC. The southern forest has particularly hilly topography, owing to its likely identity as a remnant glacial hill, and the dry forest system at the highest points is underrepresented in NAPP's property catalogue.

Ms. Pahl-Donaldson explained that the Legacy Land Conservancy is working with a confidently estimated fair market value of \$659,837, approximately \$2,920 per acre. Legacy applied for and received a USDA-ACEP-ALE grant for this property for \$323,879 (49%). They are requesting a \$265,000 (40%) contribution from WCPARC towards the purchase price. Legacy is funding the remaining \$70,958 and would be responsible for monitoring and enforcing the conservation easement. After review of the nomination, ALPAC recommended to partner with the Legacy Land Conservancy and contribute \$265,000 toward the easement purchase.

Mr. Ezekiel pointed out that the percentages do not quite add up correctly for the contribution amount shown in presentation. He also stated that he felt that this proposal was the strongest of the three because it is outside the Greenbelt, in a community with no preservation program, it's large parcel, with no building exceptions, and low per-acre cost.

It was moved by Mr. Ezekiel and seconded by Ms. McKinney to partner with the Legacy Land Conservancy for the purchase of a conservation easement on the Kress property in Freedom Township and contribute \$265,000 toward the purchase, and a contribution of \$7,500 to the stewardship special revenue fund to cover potential future costs associated with monitoring and enforcement of the conservation easement, contingent upon attorney review of documents and execution of participation agreement. Roll call vote: 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent (Pratt), the motion was approved.

10. Commissioners/Directors Comments

A. Working Session Overview

Mr. Vaughn provided an update regarding two upcoming Commission working sessions. He explained that the first would be held on March 23rd and would focus on the development of Staebler Farm and plans for the construction of new B2B trail segments. The second working session, scheduled for April 19th, will address plans for renovation at Meri Lou Murray Rec Center and the opportunity to participate in the planning and construction of an Eastside Community Center. Also, we plan present the Capital Improvement Plan for all parks/facilities and an overview of our development budget.

B. NAPP Update

Ms. Trocchio provided an update on the status for the subcommittee charged with addressing concerns related to building envelopes associated with NAPP conservation easement acquisitions. A second meeting is scheduled for March 23rd with representatives from NATAC and ALPAC and members of the subcommittee.

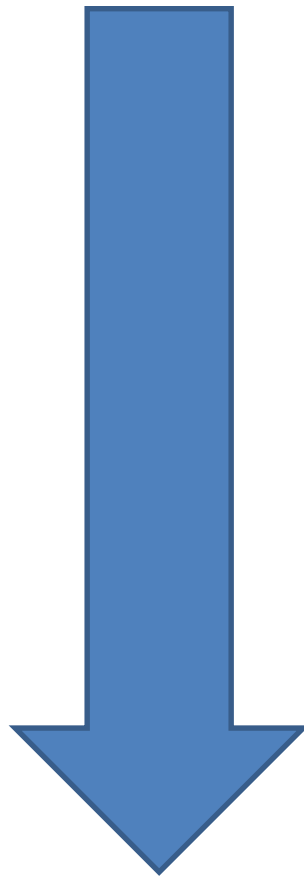
Ms. Trocchio also provide an update on that status of the Botsford and Buesser NAPP properties. The Botsford Property has not closed due to pending litigation between a private entity and the City of Ann Arbor. She also updated the commission that the Buesser property and the building envelope included in the conservation easement has been reduced from 4 acres to 2.5 acres based on the Commission's comments.

11. Adjournment

It was moved by Mr. Jefferson and seconded by Mr. Morgan to adjourn the meeting. 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent (Pratt), the motion was approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:57 p.m.

Communications, Projects & Activities





A new segment of the B2B Trail off Huron River Drive in Dexter.

Doug Coombe

"Everyone seems to agree on this": Southeast Michigan comes together to plan connected trails system

PATRICK DUNN | THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2021

Stakeholders have adopted a more regional approach, thinking in terms of projects that build trail connections not just within a single county but across Southeast Michigan.



Doug Coombe

The B2B Trail between Dexter and Hudson Mills Metropark.



This article is part of Inside Our Outdoors, a series about Southeast Michigan's connected parks, greenways, and trails and how they affect residents' quality of life. It is made possible with funding from the Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance.

In the '90s, staff at the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission (WCPRC) conceived an ambitious idea for a 35-mile trail that would stretch between the county's northern and eastern borders. But county staff quickly realized that they couldn't do it alone.

"It really just became evident early on that we needed to have a lot of partners at the table if connectivity was our goal," says Peter Sanderson, principal park planner and landscape architect for WCPRC. "Especially in a built-out environment, there's not one organization that controls the land. Having partnerships to cross the land is almost the most important thing to be able to construct a trail."

Over the past decade, that realization has caught on with park planners, government officials, nonprofits, and others across Southeast Michigan, who have increasingly collaborated to build trails and greenways that cross traditional jurisdictional boundaries. The mindset began with successful projects like Washtenaw County's Border-to-Border (B2B) trail, which has added 20 miles to its originally planned route and is now nearly two-thirds complete. But the collaborative approach has broadened as stakeholders have adopted a more regional approach, thinking in terms of projects that build trail connections not just within a single county but across Southeast Michigan.



The B2B Trail between Dexter and Hudson Mills Metropark.

"I think there's been this realization that we really all should work together because there's other areas of the country that do this well, and we're all doing this well individually, but we all could do it better if we work together," Sanderson says.

"A retroactive greenbelt"

The idea of building regional connections between public green spaces isn't new. Early planning documents for the Huron Clinton Metroparks, dating back to the '30s, envisioned a regional system of parks in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Washtenaw, and Livingston counties, connected by car-focused parkways. Some of those roads, like Metro Parkway in Harrison Township, were constructed and still exist, but the parkway plan largely fell by the wayside as freeways were constructed in Southeast Michigan.

Nina Kelly is chief of planning and development for the Huron Clinton Metroparks. She says that as public interest in trails and funding opportunities for them have grown in recent years, "it's almost like we are retroactively realizing that connected vision, but with non-motorized connections this time."



The Huron River in Oakwoods Metropark.

"Ideally, you'll be able to kind of see almost like a retroactive greenbelt or a greenway belt or a trail connection circling around Metro Detroit and connecting into Metro Detroit, so we have the full circle," she says.

The Metroparks have already realized large parts of that vision. A trail connecting Lower Huron and Willow Metroparks was completed in the late '90s; another connecting Oakwoods and Lake Erie Metroparks was completed in the early 2000s; and a series of trails connecting the three Metroparks in Dexter and the city of Dexter itself began construction in 2007 and will continue this year. The latter project is also part of the B2B trail and has involved close collaboration between the Metroparks and WCPRC.



A new segment of the B2B Trail off Huron River Drive in Dexter.

Interest in connectivity between Southeast Michigan parks and trails isn't limited to Metro Detroit or the Metroparks system. In St. Clair County, numerous community stakeholders have recently rallied around the goal of completing the Bridge to Bay Trail. About 25 miles of the proposed 54-mile trail, which would stretch along almost the entirety of the county's eastern and southern waterfront, have been completed since the concept was first proposed in the mid-'90s.



The Bridge to Bay Trail under the Blue Water Bridge in Port Huron.

In 2019 the St. Clair County Metropolitan Planning Commission released its first trails plan update since 2008, creating a master framework for completing the remaining half of the Bridge to Bay Trail. The county is also currently collaborating with Macomb County and several other partners to develop a coastal birding trail spanning both counties.

David Struck, planning director and deputy county administrator for St. Clair County, says county stakeholders visited Traverse City during their planning process and have looked to that area as a model for St. Clair County's future.

"It's a culture of trails and bicycling and walking that's kind of ingrained in the area up there," he says. "That's something we'd like to see in this area in the long term."

"Everyone seems to agree on this"

In recent years, leaders have increasingly collaborated to envision a big, regional picture for the future of Southeast Michigan's trails. Sanderson notes that "historically, there hasn't been a lot of partnership and regionalism" in the area, but "everyone seems to agree on this."

He says that's been helped along by the Metroparks' holistic approach to planning, as well as the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' 2015 announcement of the Iron Belle Trail, which aims to connect Detroit to the Upper Peninsula. The Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) has helped shape the regional vision through its 2014 Bicycle and Pedestrian Travel Plan, updated in 2020 as the Bicycle and Pedestrian Mobility Plan for Southeast Michigan.

In 2019, SEMCOG and the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation took regional planning efforts to the next level. The organizations convened a group of stakeholders who are involved in planning trails and parks in St. Clair, Macomb, Oakland, Wayne, Washtenaw, Livingston, and Monroe counties. The group meets quarterly, with committees meeting more regularly to discuss mapping and planning, funding, marketing and branding, and capacity building.

"There's always been these dividing lines, whether they're actually municipal or they're psychological. We have these lines and sometimes they're hard to cross," says Kelly, a member of the group. "But with trails, it seems as though folks are starting to come around to the idea that collaboration across those lines is possible, and it's something that they're starting to get excited about. So I think all of us in [the group] are trying to capitalize on that possibility for regionalism."

Sanderson says the collaborative approach creates "interagency relationships and, quite frankly, efficiencies," as stakeholders help each other identify new funding sources or opportunities to share resources. Struck says all seven counties are "in the same boat" and "looking at the big picture" together now.

"Ultimately, we're all striving to make this a better region," he says. "To have everybody on the same page and making that happen is only going to be beneficial in the long run."

Economic and social benefits

Local leaders see myriad potential benefits in their connected vision for Southeast Michigan's trails. In St. Clair County, leaders have largely coalesced around the approach as a way to spur economic development. Randy Maiers, president and CEO of the Community Foundation of St. Clair County, says that as recent downtown developments

like St. Clair's Riverview Plaza and the renovated St. Clair Inn have played out, many local stakeholders began to ask why the Bridge to Bay Trail skirted some of the county's downtowns instead of connecting to them.



The Blue Water River Walk in Port Huron is part of the Bridge to Bay Trail.

Maiers says he and other local leaders quickly realized there was opportunity in the fact that many of the county's downtowns are less than a 10-mile bike ride from each other.

"Few parts of Michigan have that potential to capitalize on that small-town feel," he says. "So for us it was a matter of how we help reward investors who are investing millions of dollars in new downtown assets. One way to help reward them is to bring people to their front door and let people visit our downtowns. So for us it was purely economic development and economic prosperity."

Maiers says St. Clair County leaders' visits to Traverse City have helped them to recontextualize the importance of trails, as they heard stories and saw data that showed the impact that trails in that area had on small businesses. Struck says leaders now see trail planning as something that goes "beyond just recreation, which may have been the viewpoint many years ago."

Sanderson also cites economic benefits, noting that a well-connected trail system can help to "set your community apart on the national stage" and attract "top-tier talent." But he also notes broader social benefits that come from connecting trails through numerous communities.



A new segment of the B2B Trail off Huron River Drive in Dexter.

"You see people that are moving outside of their normal communities," Sanderson says. "You get a mixing of people on the trail and you see that those people are your friends and neighbors, maybe people you don't know, but you're all out there for the same reasons. ... I think that it mixes our community in a really interesting way in a world that is set up for cars and automobiles."

Patrick Dunn is the project editor of *Inside Our Outdoors*. He is also the managing editor of Concentrate and an Ann Arbor-based freelance writer and editor.

All photos by Doug Coombe.



People biking along the Dequindre Cut in Detroit.

Doug Coombe

Mental health is a driving factor in a year of surging attendance at Southeast Michigan parks

PATRICK DUNN | FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 2021

Numerous factors have prompted huge increases in park usage during the COVID-19 pandemic, but most of them trace back to residents seeking mental stability.



Doug Coombe

People walking along the Dequindre Cut in Detroit.



This article is part of Inside Our Outdoors, a series about Southeast Michigan's connected parks, greenways, and trails and how they affect residents' quality of life. It is made possible with funding from the Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance.

When Mark Wallace, president and CEO of the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy, scans social media mentions of the Detroit Riverwalk in a typical year, he usually sees words like "fun" and "party." But for the past year, he says people's posts about the Riverwalk have been quite different.

"They're saying things like, 'The Riverwalk is keeping me sane this year,'" Wallace says. "And that's in some ways a figure of speech, but in some ways I think it speaks to a much deeper truth. ... We've seen a lot more language in that direction than I've ever seen before in the time that I've been here."



People walking and biking along the Dequindre Cut in Detroit.

Parks across Southeast Michigan have tracked major increases in usage since COVID-19 arrived in the region last March. Numerous factors prompted those increases, including lack of traditional entertainment options, gym closures, and people's desire to safely see loved ones outdoors. But Wallace isn't alone in tracing those myriad needs back to the key factor of people seeking mental stability during a moment of unprecedented chaos and uncertainty.

"I think that we're all paying closer attention to [mental health] now," says Tyler Klifman, planner in the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments' Economic and Community Vitality group. "A lot of people, when they think about getting outside, think about physical activity and the benefits that provides to your health. But there is a lot of growing research around the mental health benefits too."

"A huge surge in attendance"

Increased usage of public outdoor spaces during the pandemic has been noted nationwide. In some cases, major urban trails – like New York City's High Line Trail – temporarily closed due to overcrowding. Park systems across Southeast Michigan have seen dramatic increases of their own.

For example, in 2020 the Detroit Riverwalk saw a 20% increase in visitors over 2019, and Detroit's Dequindre Cut greenway saw a 40% increase over the same period. To the west, some Washtenaw County trails saw even greater increases. The Washtenaw Area Transportation Study (WATS), a multijurisdictional agency that maintains usage counters on three Washtenaw County trails, tracked a 50% year-over-year usage increase in 2020 – and the 2020 numbers aren't even a complete total, due to an equipment failure that led to some users not being counted in February through May.



The Border-to-Border Trail between the city of Dexter and Hudson Mills Metropark, where one of WATS' trail counters is located.

Some parks were forced to throttle entry for safety's sake, but still saw significant usage increases. St. Clair County parks and trails saw a 23% year-over-year increase in visitation in 2020 across five locations the county monitors. Only one location, the Fort Gratiot Light Station, saw a decrease compared to 2019, likely due to entry there being limited to maintain social distancing on the park's beach.

"In the spring of 2020, our parks and trails saw a huge surge in attendance," says Mark Brochu, director of St. Clair County Parks and Recreation. "The good news is that that attendance continued through the year."



In other places, increased usage was tracked in a less formal way. Meagan Elliott, chief parks planner for the city of Detroit, says garbage cans in city parks filled up with "so much trash" in 2020. That presented some challenges, as the city had to change its park maintenance schedule and added staff to handle the increased volume. But, Elliott says, "it's kind of a great thing to see how intensive the park usage was, because it was there for people when they needed it most."

"The stage for joy to do its best work"

Nina Kelly, chief of planning and development for the Huron-Clinton Metroparks, attributes increased park visitation in 2020 to people seeking "to release some of the anxiety and the fear and the boredom and the loneliness."

"There's something productive about being outside and moving," she says. "Even if so many things are out of your control outside of that, there's something productive about that and I think that does wonders for us."

Science backs that up. While physical activity has long been established as having a positive effect on people with depression, studies have found that effect increases significantly in an outdoor rather than indoor setting. Erika Bocknek is an associate professor of educational psychology at Wayne State University who specializes in child mental health and buffering the impact of stress and trauma on children. Bocknek says one commonly discussed component of mental health is the ability to regulate negative emotions, but it's important to "up-regulate" positive emotions like joy as well.

"It's become very clear to me that our outdoor spaces play an extremely vital role in how healthy relationships have a place to do their best work for children and their positive mental health outcomes," she says. "And I think that became especially clear to me during the pandemic, when being outdoors was essentially the only and best option for ensuring that human contact and relationships were thriving."

At the beginning of the pandemic, Elliott recruited Bocknek to join a task force connecting the city of Detroit to recreation and health providers. Bocknek says many of the conversations she's had with fellow task members have revolved around the importance of joy during the pandemic's challenges and "how to make our outdoor spaces the stage, so to speak, for joy to do its best work."



A person bikes along the Detroit Riverwalk.

In some cases, that involved spreading the word about the positive mental health effects of outdoor activity. While many people have sought outdoor recreation of their own volition over the past year, Elliott and Bocknek also had to do some work to promote the idea of getting outdoors – especially in the early days of the pandemic, when people were still unsure which behaviors and environments were and weren't safe.

For example, the city of Detroit launched a "#GetOutside" marketing campaign, including billboard ads and social media posts. Although all Detroit residents live within a 10-minute walk of a park, Elliott says the idea behind the campaign "was a lot more fundamental than that."

"It's a matter of stepping outside on the sidewalk for 10 minutes a day and what a big difference that can make during this time," she says. "... The outdoors can do you a world of good, even if it's for such a small moment in your day."

The pandemic's effect on how people use and perceive the outdoors may persist long after the pandemic itself passes. Wallace notes that "people talk about COVID as being unprecedented, but COVID is also a precedent-setting event and it has changed behaviors."

"I think the connection between community resilience and public space has come into sharp focus, and I think that connection will continue to be important for us even as we get past the current health crisis," he says.

As people have had fewer reasons to travel far from home, Klifman suspects the pandemic will cause people to develop greater knowledge and appreciation of the natural assets closer to home.

"I would like to think that there'd be increased use and support and focus for parks, and appreciation for what they have given people," he says.

People walking on the Detroit Riverwalk.

At an even deeper level, Bocknek suspects the pandemic may cause people to rethink their sense of personal identity. She says there are people who think of themselves as "outdoor people," and a likely larger group who don't. But after COVID-19 passes, she predicts many people will have made a "psychological leap" to rethink how they relate to the outdoors.

"Post-pandemic, I may not be an outdoor person, but I am a person who needs to move. I am a person who needs to feel good. I am a person who needs to see my loved ones from a safe distance," she says. "... What [physical spaces] offer in our minds is wider now, post-pandemic."

Patrick Dunn is the project editor of Inside Our Outdoors. He is also the managing editor of Concentrate and an Ann Arbor-based freelance writer and editor.

All photos by Doug Coombe.

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Border To Border Maintenance To Improve Funding

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[Drew Saunders](#) [The Sun Times News](#)





The popularity of the [Border to Border Trail](#) has proven a resounding success since its inception, growing in a rapid succession of starts and stops, even during the pandemic. Washtenaw County's Parks Commission took the decision last month and early this month to provide more regular maintenance funding as the popularity of the network grows.

"When I became treasurer ... I pooled the county's money so I had the ability to invest it at better rates of return, because I was working with larger sums of money," Washtenaw County Treasurer Catherine McClary said.

In doing this, McClary is able to generate more money than Washtenaw County would normally have through taxation, to generate the ability to pay for incidental expenses and free up public funds for more projects. The scheme that Washtenaw County approved to fund maintenance on their sections of the Border to Border trail earlier this month is just the latest ~~step~~ in this practice.

One thing that might not be obvious about the trail is that it really is a regional effort, which no one authority owns. When you are walking along it one portion might belong to Washtenaw County's Parks commission, another section might belong to Dexter, and then the next mile long stretch might be in a metro park. The result is a back and forth between different political entities with different types of authority, having to communicate over how to maintain and expand the wider network.

This funding will therefore only apply to certain sections of the non-motorized transportation network, but it will provide a template for how to fund general maintenance as the system steadily expands. The new investment will go to routine tasks like mowing the lawn, removing winter snow and resurfacing the trail in the somewhat recently acquired sections of the trail owned by Washtenaw County.

As part of the ongoing process, the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners [approved](#) an additional \$600,000 to the fund on March 3. One third of the money is from private donations from groups like the The [Huron Waterloop Pathway Initiative](#), a private group that partners with local government to maintain and expand the Border to Border trail, contributed the private funds. A third is from millage rates and a third from federal and state grants, according to McClary.



Image Credit: Bryan Mitchell, Washtenaw County Parks & recreation

Instead of taxing and spending, the county will keep the grass mowed and the trail's surface maintained on the 8 miles or so of pathway it itself owns by taking \$600,000 and putting it in the bond market, and several other financial mechanisms, to create a steady and reliable source of funding. This is in addition to the \$7.2 million that was already invested by the county in the markets, which started in 2019. The County has \$8,990,000 in the markets today, according to McClary. The new injection of \$600,000 will be invested by Mid-May, according to the county.

This money is being folded into Washtenaw County Park Commission's ledger. The money will be earmarked separately for the scheme from the rest of the Commission's budget, although it will be accounted for there. It is possible this perpetual maintenance funding scheme can be enlarged as Washtenaw County expands more of the portion of the Border to Border trail that it owns over the years.

McClary said that this money will be invested only in environmentally responsible financial instruments. This essentially creates a separate bubble of funding, that will allow for the payment of regular wear and

tear maintenance funding, eliminating the need to go to the voters

to ask for funding in millage after millage, every few years.

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Image Credit:

Huron Waterloop Pathways Initiative

The fact that maintenance funding of course means that how much money Washtenaw County has available for maintenance will fluctuate with the market. However, Washtenaw County Commissioner Jason Maciejewski said that the law provides enough guidance to provide as safe and predictable a turn as possible. The money is being invested in accordance to [Public Act 20](#), and [Public Act 314](#), of Michigan State Law, which specifies how and when public officials can generate money by investing public funds in the markets.

“The idea would be it functions similar to an endowment, but it’s not an endowment,” Washtenaw County Parks Commissioner Peter Sanderson said. “The idea would be that we can draw from the interest to fund the operations. So our parks dollars [will] be able to [spent] on other projects and other activities, so we’re not overly committing our resources right now, from an operations standpoint.”

Top Image Credit: Bryant Mitchel, Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation.



New Washtenaw County trail fund embraced by non-motorized coalition

DAVID SANDS | WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 2021



Washtenaw County

Bikers and runners take a trip on the B2B Trail.



A recent measure supporting the funding of Washtenaw County's trails is being received enthusiastically by the region's biking and walking community.

On March 3, the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners unanimously voted to create a new special revenue fund to support the long-term maintenance of non-

"This fund will help to keep the county's growing trail system in great condition and allow people to continue enjoying the region's scenic trails."

motorized trails in Washtenaw County. The measure was brought forward by the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission in cooperation with the Washtenaw County treasurer. The measure allows the county treasurer to invest in the maintenance of county parks, natural areas, conservation easements, and trails, similar to how retirement accounts for public servants are often handled.

The fund begins with an initial contribution of \$320,000, which will be invested in fossil-fuel-free stocks and green bonds. Return on that investment will be used to maintain the county's system of parks and trails.

That's good news to the Washtenaw County Bicycling and Walking Coalition, which has been advocating for safe and convenient non-motorized transportation options since 2001. In an email statement, the organization's chair, Valerie Shinaberger, praised the county's new financing measure.

"The Washtenaw Bicycling and Walking Coalition strongly supports the action that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners has taken to establish a trail maintenance fund," she says. "This fund will help to keep the county's growing trail system in great condition and allow people to continue enjoying the region's scenic trails."

Shinaberger also had good things to say about the county's collaboration with an organization called the Huron Waterloo Pathways Initiative on the Border-to-Border (B2B) Trail, a non-motorized network which seeks to connect cities and parks across Washtenaw.

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Ann Arbor

Washtenaw County seeking feedback to improve Border-to-Border trail

Updated Apr 02, 2021; Posted Apr 02, 2021



Continuing along the new path on the north side of the bridge leads up to a fork where you can either go right and walk across the Argo Dam walkway to Argo Park, Argo Cascades and the Argo canoe/kayak or stay left and continue on the Border-to-Border Trail through Bandemer Park along Argo Pond. Ryan Stanton | The Ann Arbor News

By Samuel J. Robinson | srobinson@mlive.com

WASHTENAW COUNTY, MI — Washtenaw County is looking for public feedback to better its Border-to-Border trail system.

The Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission wants to hear from residents about their experiences on the trail. Specifically, the parks and rec commission is interested in better understanding how people access the B2B, how non-motorized trails are used, as well as trail preferences.

The [survey](#) contains 19 questions and takes about five minutes to complete.

Respondents will be asked to answer questions such as their favorite segment of trail, how they travel to get to the trail, and what experiences or amenities would encourage them to explore beyond their typical route.

Participants can include their contact information to be entered to win a B2B trucker hat.

The parks and recreation commission says it is preparing for another season of trail expansion across the county. Tree clearing and subsequent clean-ups are in progress on the western side of the county and preparations are being made for trail improvements on trail segments in Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor, officials said.

Details will be shared as construction plans are finalized and timelines are projected, officials said.

Seasonal initiatives along the B2B Trail this spring include the recent removal of numerous invasive plants and shrubs to improve sight lines around the 90-degree turn of the Chelsea-Stockbridge Corridor by M-52 and along the trail near Green Lake.

The tree removal, which improved the view of a small pond north of a pedestrian tunnel, was completed by county staff in partnership with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, officials said.

READ MORE FROM THE ANN ARBOR NEWS:

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Around the web



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MEMORANDUM

TO: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Coy P. Vaughn, Director
DATE: April 13, 2021
RE: Project and Activities Update – March 2021

Park Facility Events and Projects

Independence Lake

- Staff is updating the park's Site Master Plan, which was last drafted in 2010.
- More than 50 people attended the park's last winter night hike on March 12. Participants hiked along a lantern lit trail and enjoyed a campfire, s'mores, and hot cocoa.
- Despite the dry spring season, salamanders were spotted at the "Salamander Slide" hike on March 26. Registration sections filled, so an additional one was added.
- The new disc golf course is open. Temporary signage has been installed; however, maintenance staff are still making small adjustments, so permanent signage is expected by summer.
- Maintenance staff is busy with spring clean-up activities and special projects, and the fishing pier has been put in the lake.
- Work continues to progress on reconstructing the sprayground at Blue Heron Bay. The contractor is on schedule to complete the project by mid-May.
- A Request for Proposals was issued by the Purchasing Department seeking a bid for the construction of an outdoor pavilion to serve disc golf patrons and special programming events. A pre-bid meeting was held on April 8 and bid will be due in late April.
- Staff continues to interview and hire for summer seasonal positions.

Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center

- MLMRC saw an influx of returning members in March, presumably due to warmer weather and increased access to vaccinations.
- Registration for the spring Virtual Session began in late March. The session will run April 5 – June 12 and offers 28 virtual classes per week for \$60.
- An informal survey of member households identified an interest in spring parent-tot swim classes and private swim instruction. Plans got underway to incorporate the COVID protocols within the class curriculum with a plan to offer the lessons later this spring.

Pierce Lake Golf Course and Park

- The back nine cart path work continues, addressing outstanding items from last fall. This area of the course has reopened to play. There will however be a couple of days where the back nine must close to allow the completion of paving operations.
- Golf course maintenance staff have been working to get the course ready for opening on April 1.

Rolling Hills Park

- The park hosted a disc golf tournaments with MOB Disc Golf on March 6 and WC Glow on March 13, which reached capacity with 72 players.
- Staff held Lifeguard Certification and Re-Certification courses throughout the month. Classes resulted in ten new certifications and five re-certifications.
- Day Camp registration opened on March 1 and all spaces were filled in one week; this benchmark is not typically reached until the end of May.
- Operations staff is continuing to interview and hiring water park staff, with anticipation of opening for the summer season.
- A Request for Proposals was issued by the Purchasing Department for Phase 1 renovation of the concessions building. A pre-bid meeting was conducted on March 16.

Sharon Mills Park

- Undergraduate students from the Ross School of Business at UM are developing a plan for a potential livery operation.
- Design consultants from SmithGroup are developing concepts for a livery/canoe launch in the Maly addition off Bethel Church Road.
- Staff is evaluating the existing trail network in the Heidt addition (west side of Sharon Hollow Road) for a potential reroute and expansion into the adjacent Crouch addition (north).

Staebler Farm Park

- Consultants completed a business plan and recommendations for long term partnership/potential Folk School acquisition and farmhouse and multipurpose building development.
- Consultants from The Collaborative are finalizing the Park Development Plan and cost opinions. The plan is expected to be recommended for adoption in May.
- March MFS classes: 74 in-person and 27 virtual students attended classes including Blacksmithing 101, Beekeeping, Spoon Carving, Wildcrafting, Soap-Making, and Papermaking.

Special Initiatives

Border-to-Border Trail (B2B)

- Removal of trees and brush is complete, clean up work is in process now for four projects that include: 1) Zeeb Road to Delhi Metropark (Scio Township); 2) Dancer Road to Wylie Road (Lima Township); 3) Werkner Road to Veterans Park (Sylvan Township/City of Chelsea); 4) Watkins Lake Preserve trail corridor from Austin Rd to Noggles Road (Manchester Township).
- Consultants from The Collaborative Inc. continue to develop designs and graphics for the B2B wayfinding project.

Natural Areas Preservation Program (NAPP)

Stewardship

- 20 volunteers helped remove invasive shrubs at Independence Lake Park for March's "Stewardship Saturday."
- NAPP crew completed controlled burns at Rolling Hills County Park and Whitmore Lake Preserve with help from staff at other facilities.

Interpretive Programming

- About 152 patrons attended naturalist programs in March.



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

March 2021 - Claims Report

PARK / FACILITY / FUNCTION	UTILITIES	DIRECT PURCHASES	OTHER	TOTAL
Administration	\$ 1,122.86	\$ 3,960.35	\$ 29,768.73	\$ 34,851.94
Recreation Center	18,849.36	1,144.78	35,075.44	55,069.58
Park Maintenance	2,489.60	4,252.74	27,012.47	33,754.81
Pierce Lake Golf Course	2,360.53	3,777.67	13,857.86	19,996.06
Independence Lake	3,666.29	4,913.28	7,395.63	15,975.20
Rolling Hills	6,948.67	1,898.15	2,531.80	11,378.62
Parker Mill	298.76	-	9,730.00	10,028.76
Sharon Mills	226.93	-	1,773.55	2,000.48
Staebler Farm	627.43	5.71	152.00	785.14
Swift Run Dog Park	-	-	-	-
Capital Improvement	-	-	55,793.01	55,793.01
Committed Funding Partnerships	-	-	-	-
Commission	-	-	-	-
SUBTOTAL	\$ 36,590.43	\$ 19,952.68	\$ 183,090.49	\$ 239,633.60
Road Millage Fund	-	-	-	-
SUBTOTAL	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Natural Areas Preservation Program				
Acquisition	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,804.00	\$ 8,804.00
Preserve Management	-	2,022.37	3,333.62	\$ 5,355.99
NATAC	-	-	-	\$ -
Acquisition	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 598.00	\$ 598.00
Annual Monitoring	-	-	-	\$ -
ALPAC	-	-	-	-
SUBTOTAL	\$ -	\$ 2,022.37	\$ 12,735.62	\$ 14,757.99
TOTAL	\$ 36,590.43	\$ 21,975.05	\$ 195,826.11	\$ 254,391.59

It was moved by _____ and supported by _____
to approve payment of claims in the amount of..... \$ 254,391.59

WASHTENAW COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
FUND BALANCE STATEMENT - MARCH 31, 2021

Beginning Fund Balance (1/1/21)	17,612,810 (unaudited)	25%	YTD % Budget	
Revenue (Budget)		Revenue (Actual)		Variance
Property Tax	7,949,931	6,603,173	83%	(1,346,758)
State Grant Funds	-	-		-
Fees & Services	3,560,000	269,031	8%	(3,290,969)
Interest Earnings	150,000	14,011	9%	(135,989)
Other Revenue & Reimb.	<u>30,000</u>	<u>5,309</u>	18%	<u>(24,691)</u>
Total Revenue	11,689,931	6,891,524	59%	(4,798,407)
Expense (Budget)		Expense (Actual)		Variance
Personnel Services	(6,231,847)	(960,977)	15%	5,270,870
Supplies & Other Services	(2,390,854)	(257,043)	11%	2,133,811
Internal Service Charges	(940,957)	(236,432)	25%	704,525
Capital				
John Deere Lease	(84,246)	-	0%	84,246
Land Acquisition	-	-	-	-
CIP/Development	(3,100,000)	(311,312)	10%	2,788,688
Contingency	(400,000)	(27,100)	7%	372,900
Machinery & Equipment	<u>(172,300)</u>	<u>(1,561)</u>	1%	<u>170,739</u>
Capital Subtotal	(3,756,546)	(339,973)	9%	3,416,573
Total Expense	<u>(13,320,204)</u>	<u>(1,794,425)</u>	13%	11,525,779
Surplus/(Deficit)	(1,630,273)	5,097,099		
Operating Reserve	(7,832,444)	(7,832,444)		
Funding Commitments (Partnerships)	<u>(3,397,546)</u>	<u>-</u>		
	(11,229,990)	(7,832,444)		
Projected Fund Balance (12/31/21)	<u>4,752,547</u>	<u>14,877,465</u>		

WASHTENAW COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
NATURAL AREAS PRESERVATION PROGRAM
FUND BALANCE STATEMENT - MARCH 31, 2021

Beginning Fund Balance (1/1/21)	6,662,301	unaudited	25%	YTD % Budget	
Revenue (Budget)					Variance
Property Tax	3,936,536		3,269,942	83%	(666,594)
Federal Revenue	-		-		-
Interest Earnings	50,000		5,453	11%	(44,547)
Other Revenue & Reimb.	<u>5,000</u>		<u>-</u>	0%	<u>(5,000)</u>
Total Revenue		3,991,536	3,275,395	82%	(716,141)
Expense (Budget)					Variance
Personnel Services	(675,600)		(101,390)	15%	574,210
Supplies & Other Services	(332,600)		(23,410)	7%	309,190
Internal Service Charges	(22,840)		(3,718)	16%	19,122
Capital					
Land Acquisition	(2,550,000)		(186,500)	7%	2,363,500
Land Development	-		-		-
Machinery & Equipment	<u>(5,000)</u>		<u>-</u>	0%	<u>5,000</u>
Capital Subtotal	(2,555,000)		(186,500)	7%	2,368,500
Transfers Out	(7,500)		(7,500)	100%	
Total Expense		<u>(3,593,540)</u>	<u>(322,517)</u>	9%	3,271,023
Surplus/(Deficit)		397,996	2,952,877		
Projected Fund Balance (12/31/21)		<u>7,060,297</u>	<u>9,615,178</u>		

ROLLING HILLS COUNTY PARK
YEAR-TO-DATE PARTICIPATION & REVENUE REPORT
MARCH

#7B

	GATE					
	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
RESIDENT (ANNUAL)	60	341	1,218	\$ 1,800	\$ 10,230	\$ 36,540
NON-RESIDENT (ANNUAL)	-	28	102	-	1,260	4,590
RESIDENTS (DAILY)	-	281	1,697	-	1,686	10,182
NON-RESIDENTS (DAILY)	-	129	582	-	1,290	5,820
SENIOR (DAILY)	-	11	65	-	33	195
SENIOR NON-RES. (DAILY)	-	4	7	-	24	42
GLOW GOLF DROP-IN	-	-	-	-	-	-
BUSES (DAILY)	-	-	-	-	-	-
ANNUAL BUS	-	-	-	-	-	-
MINI BUS	-	1	1	-	15	15
ANNUAL MINI BUS	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>60</u>	<u>795</u>	<u>3,672</u>	<u>\$ 1,800</u>	<u>\$ 14,538</u>	<u>\$ 57,384</u>
PERCENT OF NON-RESIDENTS:						
ANNUAL	0.00%	7.59%	7.73%			
DAILY	0.00%	31.29%	25.05%			

WATER PARK POOL ATTENDANCE

	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
DAILY ENTRANCE	<u>-</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 20</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
	-	2	-	\$ -	20	\$ -

PROGRAMMING & RETAIL OPERATIONS

	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
DAYCAMP	-	421	500	\$ -	\$ 11,370	\$ 13,505
BIRTHDAY PACKAGES	-	-	-	-	-	-
AQUATICS PROGRAMMING	-	-	-	-	-	-
DISC GOLF	-	463	1,098	-	926	2,196
SPECIAL EVENTS	-	356	200	-	4,025	2,898
	<u>-</u>	<u>1,240</u>	<u>1,798</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 16,321</u>	<u>\$ 18,599</u>

ROLLING HILLS COUNTY PARK
YEAR-TO-DATE PARTICIPATION & REVENUE REPORT
MARCH

PROGRAMMING & RETAIL OPERATIONS (cont'd)

	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
FACILITY RENTALS						
WEEKDAYS	-	4	2	\$ -	\$ 660	\$ 400
WEEKENDS	-	23	24	-	4,400	4,375
SOCCER FIELDS	-	35	-	-	100	-
DISC GOLF COURSE	-	-	9	-	-	925
WATERPARK SHELTERS	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 5,160</u>	<u>\$ 5,700</u>
TOBOGGANS	-	-	760	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,280
CROSS COUNTRY SKIS	-	-	936	-	-	2,808
MISC. RETAIL	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,696</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 5,088</u>
LOCKERS	-	-	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FOOD CONCESSIONS	-	-	-	-	-	-
MISCELLANEOUS	-	-	-	-	-	-
GIFT CERTIFICATE SALES	-	3	-	-	428	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 428</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
YTD TOTAL PARTICIPATION & REVENUE:	60	2,102	7,201	\$ 1,800	\$ 36,467	\$ 86,771

**RECREATION CENTER
YEAR-TO-DATE PARTICIPATION & REVENUE REPORT
MARCH**

MEMBERSHIPS

	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
INDIVIDUAL RESIDENT	346	337	112	73,832	60,450	15,831
INDIVIDUAL NON-RESIDENT	7	5	1	2,245	2,060	355
S/Y/D RESIDENT	481	413	92	81,465	67,757	14,547
S/Y/D NON-RESIDENT	2	2	-	530	520	-
FAMILY RESIDENT	79	133	65	39,260	33,131	8,059
FAMILY NON-RESIDENT	2	1	-	1,480	735	-
FAMILY - ADDT'L MEMBER	8	13	4	457	483	150
SENIORS OVER 80	125	109	31	7,500	6,180	1,560
PERSONAL TRAINERS	9	4	-	2,580	1,500	-
MILITARY PASS	2	2	1	360	180	204
30-DAY PASS	335	257	216	14,805	10,532	9,315
SEASONAL PASS	-	-	-	-	-	-
REPLACEMENT PASS	-	33	3	49	33	3
SUB-TOTAL	1,396	1,309	525	\$ 224,564	\$ 183,561	\$ 50,024
PASS FACILITY USE	51,326	43,173	15,581			
PERCENT OF NON-RESIDENTS:	1.20%	0.90%	0.37%			

DAILY ENTRIES

	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
INDIVIDUAL RESIDENT	3,293	2,552	-	\$ 26,344	\$ 20,416	\$ -
INDIVIDUAL NON-RESIDENT	333	212	-	2,997	1,908	-
S/Y/D RESIDENT	2,607	2,122	-	15,642	12,732	-
S/Y/D NON-RESIDENT	110	105	-	770	735	-
INDIVIDUAL FITNESS RESIDENT	42	46	-	336	264	-
INDIVIDUAL FITNESS NON-RESIDENT	-	-	-	-	-	-
SENIOR FITNESS RESIDENT	97	129	-	582	756	-
SENIOR FITNESS NON-RESIDENT	1	3	-	7	14	-
DAILY PASS/GIFT CERTIFICATE SALES	-	-	-	600	-	-
SUB-TOTAL	6,483	5,169	-	\$ 47,278	\$ 36,825	\$ -
PERCENT OF NON-RESIDENTS:	6.85%	6.19%	0.00%			

OTHER REVENUE

	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
DAYCAMP	1,733	1,486	-	\$ 46,783	\$ 40,120	\$ -
RECREATION PROGRAMS	11,165	8,724	12,600	68,678	43,249	4,838
FACILITY RENTALS	38	93	-	1,621	2,225	-
POOL/STUDIO/GYM	-	-	-	-	-	-
PARTY PAVILION	-	-	-	-	-	-
MISC. RETAIL	-	81	12	-	2,220	333
LOCKERS	11,320	9,068	1,480	2,830	2,267	370
VENDING	-	-	-	3,697	826	-
SUB-TOTAL	24,256	19,452	14,092	\$ 123,610	\$ 90,908	\$ 5,541

	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
YTD TOTAL PARTICIPATION & REVENUE:	83,461	69,103	30,198	\$ 395,451	\$ 311,294	\$ 55,565

PIERCE LAKE GOLF COURSE
YEAR-TO-DATE PARTICIPATION & REVENUE REPORT
MARCH

GREEN FEES

	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
WEEKDAYS						
REGULAR - 9	-	-	1	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8
SR/JR/STUDENT - 9	-	-	-	-	-	-
LEAGUES - 9	528	22	927	8,448	852	15,759
REGULAR - 18	2	2	-	50	57	-
SR/JR/STUDENT - 18	-	-	-	-	-	-
TWI-LIGHT	-	-	-	-	-	-
WEEKENDS						
REGULAR - 9	-	-	-	-	-	-
SR/JR/STUDENT - 9	-	-	-	-	-	-
REGULAR - 18	-	-	-	-	-	-
SR/JR/STUDENT - 18	-	-	-	-	-	-
TWI-LIGHT	-	-	-	-	-	-
EARLY BIRD - 9	-	-	-	-	-	-
MEMBERSHIPS						
ULTIMATE PACKAGE	1	3	13	900	2,200	8,625
WEEKDAY PACKAGE	7	2	8	4,800	1,550	6,000
WEEKEND PACKAGE	-	-	-	-	-	-
TWI-LIGHT PACKAGE	2	2	4	850	950	1,575
OUTINGS (WEEKDAYS & WEEKENDS)	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>540</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>953</u>	<u>\$ 15,048</u>	<u>\$ 5,609</u>	<u>\$ 31,967</u>

PROGRAMMING & RETAIL OPERATIONS

	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
CARTS	-	-	1	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12
RENTALS	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	-	-	1	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12
FOOD & BEVERAGE	-	-	121	\$ 1,207	\$ 1,066	\$ 3,946
PRO SHOP	-	-	30	15	52	178
DISCOUNTS	-	-	-	423	499	679
VENDING	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	-	-	151	\$ 1,645	\$ 1,616	\$ 4,804
	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
YTD TOTAL PARTICIPATION & REVENUE:	540	31	1,105	\$ 16,693	\$ 7,225	\$ 36,783

**INDEPENDENCE LAKE COUNTY PARK
YEAR-TO-DATE PARTICIPATION & REVENUE REPORT
MARCH**

	GATE					
	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
RESIDENTS (ANNUAL)	-	176	388	\$ -	\$ 5,280	\$ 11,640
NON-RESIDENTS (ANNUAL)	-	37	106	-	1,665	4,770
RESIDENTS (DAILY)	-	175	378	-	1,050	2,268
NON-RESIDENTS (DAILY)	-	165	483	-	1,650	4,830
SENIOR (DAILY)	-	20	43	-	60	129
SENIOR-NON RES. (DAILY)	-	4	13	-	24	78
BUSES (DAILY)	-	-	-	-	-	-
ANNUAL BUS	-	-	-	-	-	-
MINI BUS	-	-	-	-	-	-
ANNUAL MINI BUS	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>577</u>	<u>1,411</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 9,729</u>	<u>\$ 23,715</u>
PERCENT OF NON-RESIDENTS:						
ANNUAL	0.0%	17.4%	21.5%			
DAILY	0.0%	46.4%	54.1%			

BLUE HERON BAY ATTENDANCE

	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
BHB ANNUAL PASSES	-	-	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
BHB DAILY ENTRANCE	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	-	-	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

BLUE HERON BAY RETAIL OPERATION

	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
FACILITY RENTALS	-	-	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
BIRTHDAY PACKAGES	-	-	-	-	-	-
SPECIAL EVENTS	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	-	-	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
LOCKERS	-	-	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FOOD CONCESSIONS	-	-	-	-	-	-
ACCESSORIES/MISC.	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	-	-	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

**INDEPENDENCE LAKE COUNTY PARK
YEAR-TO-DATE PARTICIPATION & REVENUE REPORT
MARCH**

PROGRAMMING & RETAIL OPERATIONS

	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
DAYCAMP	-	1,028	1,817	\$ -	\$ 27,760	\$ 49,070
DISC GOLF	-	1,303	1,281	-	2,606	2,562
SPECIAL EVENTS	-	34	308	-	1,425	3,895
	<u>-</u>	<u>2,365</u>	<u>3,406</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 31,791</u>	<u>\$ 55,527</u>
FACILITY RENTALS						
WEEKDAYS	-	3	1	\$ -	\$ 320	\$ 80
WEEKENDS	-	20	20	-	2,300	2,600
	<u>-</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 2,620</u>	<u>\$ 2,680</u>
ROW BOATS-HOURLY	-	-	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
ROW BOATS-DAILY	-	-	-	-	-	-
PADDLE BOATS-1/2 HOUR	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
FOOD CONCESSIONS	-	-	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
ACCESSORIES/MISC.	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
YTD TOTAL PARTICIPATION & REVENUE:	-	2,965	4,838	\$ -	\$ 44,140	\$ 81,922



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MEMORANDUM

To: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Coy P. Vaughn, Director
Date: April 13, 2021
Re: Rolling Hills Waterpark – Concessions Building Improvements

Background

The original waterpark at Rolling Hills opened in 1991. It offered our community a large activities pool, a wave-action pool, two large waterslides, volleyball courts, and a bathhouse with associated staff offices. In 2002, the concessions building, the lazy river water feature, and adjacent spray structure amenities were added due to the overwhelming popularity of the original waterpark. The waterpark was again expanded in 2013 with the addition of three “plunge peak” waterslides, a new bathhouse, a new ticket sales and entry gate plaza, and the Park Headquarters building. The 2013 expansion increased waterpark patron capacity to 2,300 occupants. Over the next few years this increased capacity resulted in higher demands on the concessions stand operations.

Staff recognized that adjustments needed to be made to the concessions service delivery, operationally and physically in order to accommodate the increased capacity of the park. In 2019, an RFP was released, and CHM was contracted to complete an analysis and feasibility study of renovations to the Rolling Hills concessions. They conducted an analysis of the existing space configurations, review of competitors, pricing, demands of food preparation, delivery, and clean-up processes, and overall “flow” of the building interior. CHM also incorporated input from employees on the facility layout to aid in preparing design alternatives to enhance the concession operations. Once the recommendations were received, we engaged our architectural consultant, JFR Architects to provide construction drawings for the renovations needed. It was determined implementation of the chosen improvements would need to be executed in phases. Phase 1 includes reconfiguration of interior walls for better circulation, more food storage, and a new three compartment sink; new standalone walk-in cooler and freezer units, a new exterior service door, elimination of serving windows on the wall outside the waterpark, and installation of a forth serving window on the waterpark side of the building. Adjustments to fencing alignments and the addition of a gate are also included, along with more concrete surfacing around the building perimeter.

A request for proposal (RFP #8062) was prepared by staff and our architect for construction of the first phase renovations. This document was developed using the County’s standard procurement protocol and advertised by the Purchasing Department in March. A mandatory pre-bid meeting was held on March 16th with four contractors attending. Two proposals were submitted on April 6, 2021 and a tabulation is provided below.

Polymath Development, LLC – Detroit, MI	\$258,100
Allied Building Services Company of Detroit – Detroit, MI	\$268,000

Discussion

Although Polymath Development, LLC submitted the lowest bid, they do not meet the requirement requested in the RFP. Under the Bidder’s Qualification and Experience Statement section, we required that “Any organization contemplating bidding on this project shall have been an established business entity for a period

of at least ten (10) consecutive years prior to submission of the bid. They shall also provide a list of at least three (3) references from previous government or municipal customers purchasing similar services.” Polymath has only been in business for seven (7) years (per state of Michigan LARA records) and did not provide evidence of prior municipal work similar to the scope of the concession stand project. Therefore, the Polymath Development bid will not be considered.

Allied Building Services Company has been in business for 49 years and has previously worked for Parks and for the County Facilities Department on various projects. They have also worked for other municipal agencies, including Oakland County Parks on a recent project with our architect, JFR Architects, who indicated that Allied performed well on that project. Staff is confident that they have the capacity and expertise to execute our project.

Staff has allocated \$450,000 in the capital improvement plan for both phases of the necessary concession renovations. The initial architect’s estimate for the first phase of construction, prepared in December 2020, was \$150,000 based on prices seen in late 2019. Although the recommended bidder proposal came in considerably higher than anticipated, upon review by staff and our architect it is apparent that the higher estimate is indicative of the current construction climate and increased materials, equipment and labor pricing we are seeing across the board. Staff believes that moving forward with the renovations now will allow us to perform the necessary work throughout the summer while our waterpark is at reduced capacity.

Recommendation

Based upon the bids received, their experience and qualifications, and performance on other projects with the County, it is my recommendation that the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission award a Service Contract in the amount of \$268,000 to Allied Building Services Company of Detroit for the Waterpark Concessions Improvements (RFP #8062) and include an additional 10% (\$26,800) contingency for potential change orders.



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MEMORANDUM

TO: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Coy P. Vaughn, Director
DATE: April 13, 2021
RE: Recommendation for Sales Contract: Kaiser Trust Property, Silver Lake Dexter Township

Background

The 33-acre Kaiser Trust property was nominated to NAPP as part of Round 20. The property has frontage on Silver Lake and is adjacent to Pinckney State Recreation Area. The property in its entirety is 193 acres and straddles the Washtenaw County and Livingston County boundaries. NATAC evaluated the property as part of Round 20 and designated it as a Tier 1 priority for acquisition.

Discussion

The highlight of this property is lake frontage on Silver Lake and adjacency to the Pinckney State Recreation Area. The property has been identified by the Department of Natural Resources as a desirable addition to the Pinckney State Recreation Area. The property owner recently died and the heirs to the trust have listed the property for sale and are interested in selling the property in its entirety as one transaction.

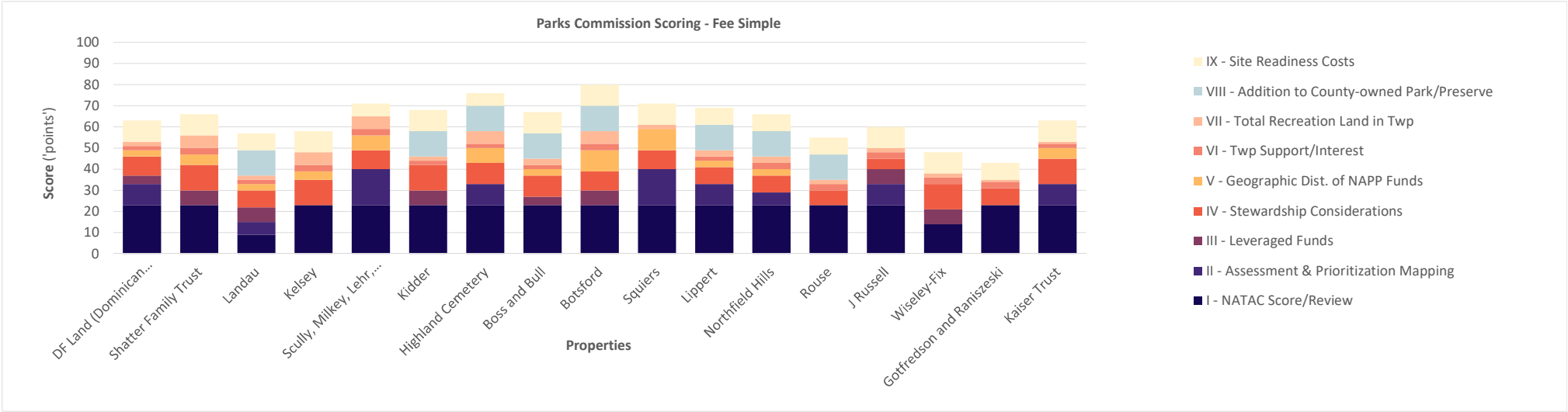
Since a portion of the property is located in Livingston county, The Conservation Fund will purchase the Livingston County portion simultaneously with the Washtenaw County portion. WCPARC will provide the funding for the Washtenaw County portion, which will be held by DNR. The Livingston County portion will later be transferred to DNR who will own and manage the entire property as an addition to the Pinckney State Recreation Area.

An appraisal for the property was completed by Affinity Valuation Group in March 2021, which determined the value of the Washtenaw County portion to be \$336,000 for the 33-acre parcel. NATAC recommended to move forward with the acquisition of this property at their April 5, 2021 meeting.

Recommendation

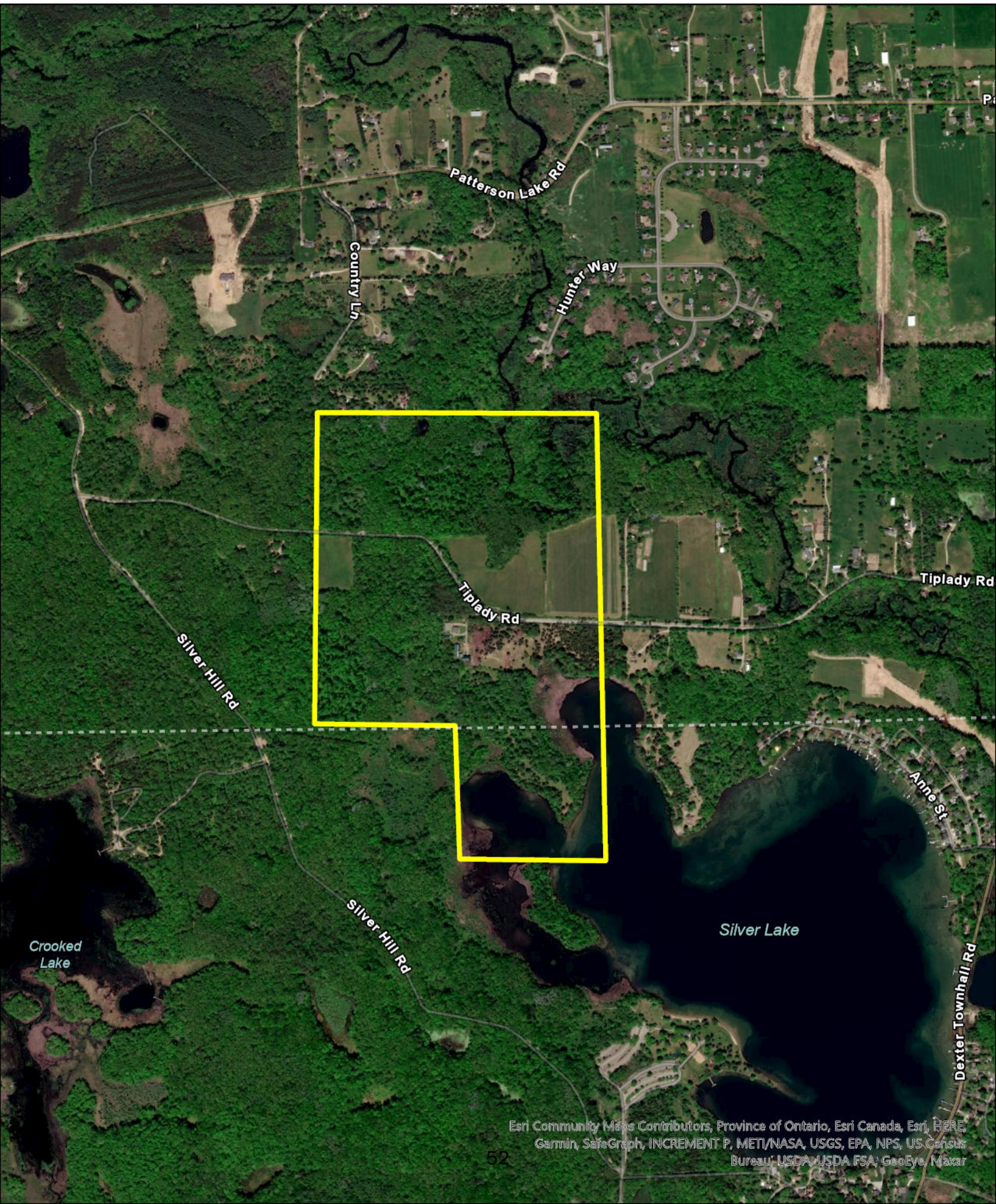
Based upon the review by the Natural Areas Technical Advisory Committee and staff, it is my recommendation that the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission authorize preparation of a sales contracts in the amounts outlined above for purchase of the Kaiser Trust property as identified in the maps contingent upon purchase of Livingston County portion by The Conservation Fund, completion of all necessary due diligence investigation and final approval by the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Attachments

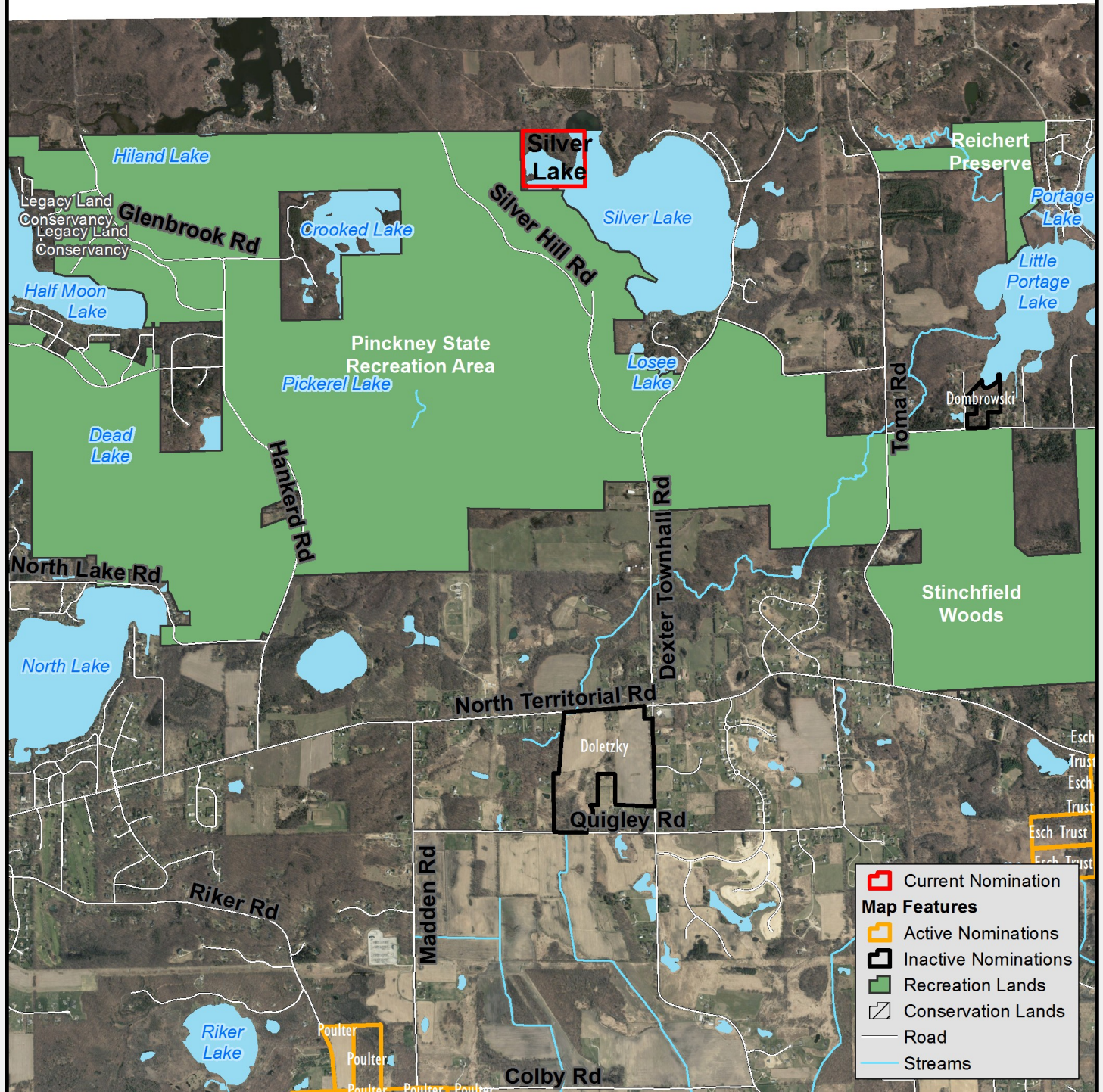


Silver Lake Property - Full Context

~193 acres



+/-33 Acres



Silver Lake Property: Aerial & Soils

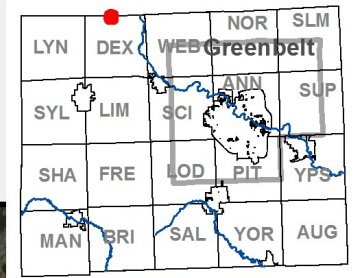
Natural Areas Preservation Program

Nomination ID: 20.327

Dexter Township

+/-33 Acres

Washtenaw County
Locator Map



Silver Lake Property: Assessment & Prioritization Mapping

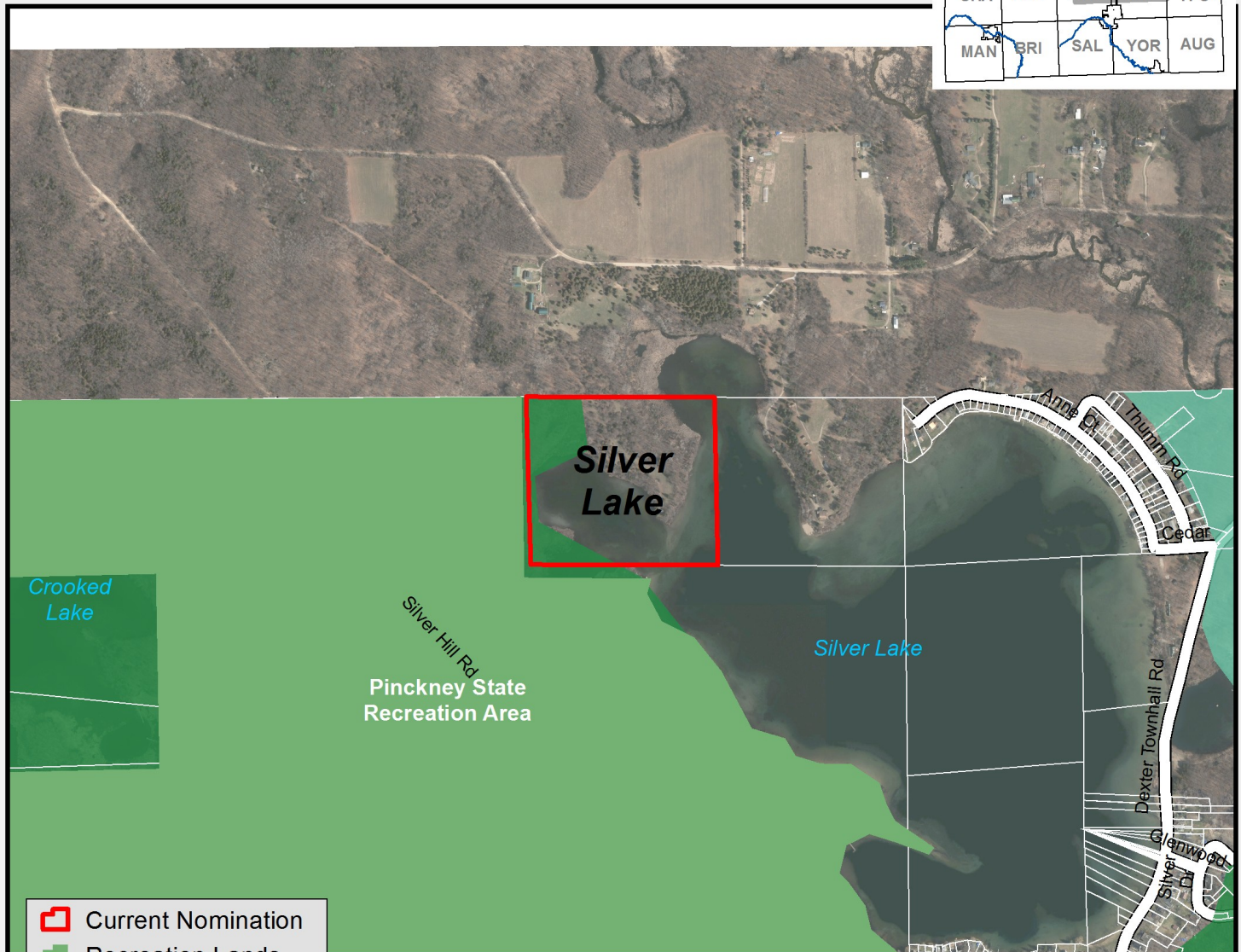
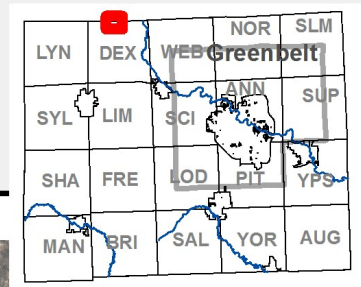
Natural Areas Preservation Program

Nomination ID: 20.327

Dexter Township

+/-33 Acres

Washtenaw County
Locator Map



At least one parcel or area on this property was prioritized based on:

- Patch Expansion: This site is located in a dense area of higher quality land and protection thereof enlarges the footprint of existing protected land.
- New Patch Establishment: This site is located in a dense area of higher quality land and protection thereof helps preserve land where none is currently preserved, in a manner that still offers "stepping stone" connectivity.
- Corridor: Protection of this site protects land within an identified path of linear habitat connectivity.
- Stream Protection: Protection of this site preserves or is ecologically connected to a site that preserves creek frontage.
- Lake Plain Ecoregion: Protection of this site preserves land in the lake plain ecoregion, much of which has been developed and is significantly underrepresented in NAPP's portfolio.

Not prioritized



NATAC NOMINATION - FIELD REVIEW WORKSHEET

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Project Name: Silver Lake	Fee Simple or Easement (circle one)
Location: Dexter Township	Size (acres): 33. 200+ with DNR
Current Use: Natural Area	Date of Visit:

NATURAL AREA MAPPED PRIORITY

☒ Yes - Patch Expansion	☐ Yes - New Patch Establishment	☐ Yes - Lake Plain Ecoregion
☒ Yes - Corridor	☐ Yes - Stream Protection	☐ No

NOTES:

PROXIMITY TO OTHER WCPARC LAND

☒ not proximal	☐ in general vicinity
☐ adjoins land that has the potential to be protected, and that property adjoins protected land	☐ would be expansion of existing preserve

NOTES:

PROXIMITY TO OTHER OWNED PRESERVED LAND

☐ Yes - Township	☐ Yes - Greenbelt	☒ Yes - Other
☐ Yes - Legacy Land Conservancy	☐ Yes - SMLC	☐ No

NOTES: Pinckney adjacent

PROPERTY COMPLICATIONS

☐ Access requires other private land; removing significant trees; paving wetlands; or other undesirable actions	☐ Trails require full boardwalk	☐ Building envelope or exclusion complications
☐ Site has debris too costly to remove		

NOTES:

FIELD ASSESSMENT

Names of Assessors: Sylvia + Catherine 7/17/20

ECOSYSTEMS

Please check all that apply:

Palustrine ☒ Submergent marsh ☒ Emergent marsh ☒ Wet meadow ☐ Wet/mesic prairie ☐ Lakeplain forest or prairie ☐ Fen ☐ Bog ☐ Inundated shrub swamp (buttonbush) ☒ Southern shrub-carr ☐ Floodplain forest ☐ Other forested wetland	Terrestrial ☐ Dry prairie ☐ Oak savanna ☐ Mesic southern forest (beech-maple) ☒ Dry southern forest (oak-hickory) ☒ Other upland forest Other ☒ River/Lake/Pond/Creek ☒ Old farm fields ☐ Active farm fields ☐ Evidence of restoration
--	---

How many veg communities are present?
Include all, not just ones listed to the left.
many successional communities

8

Do we already have a preserve with a similar set of ecosystems?

List rare, threatened, or endangered species; evidence thereof; or critical habitat present:

DEBRIS

Describe debris found on the site:

NATAC NOMINATION - FIELD REVIEW WORKSHEET

INVASIVE SPECIES

Distribution	Associated Species	NOTES
☒ pervasive		
☐ within interior		
☐ large monotypic stands		
☐ primarily along trails and edges		
☒ isolated pockets lake edge		

INVENTORY

List all wildlife species seen	List plant species seen, to the best of your ability
Bluegill RW Blackbird Magniflora Bonafly typical birds	lake edge w/2 waterlily, Bullrush, RD Dogwood, Marsh-fern, Red Bank Penny *Tamarack, Green Ash, Black-eyed Susan, Poison Sun willow, Iris, Shrub cabbage, white/red cedar, Am Basswood Shrub cane wetland / lake edge } Tick + reed Blue Cowan Dogwood, Cotton (Bittersweet) Boneset Joe Pye Weed Autumn Olive

FIELD NOTES

According to your area of expertise, what is important about this site?

part of Silver Lake, contiguous to Pinckney Rec Area
lake front

NATAC NOMINATION - FIELD REVIEW WORKSHEET

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Project Name: Silver Lake	Fee Simple or Easement (circle one)
Location: Dexter Township	Size (acres): 33. 200+ with DNR
Current Use: Natural Area	Date of Visit:

NATURAL AREA MAPPED PRIORITY

☒ Yes - Patch Expansion	☐ Yes - New Patch Establishment	☐ Yes - Lake Plain Ecoregion
☒ Yes - Corridor	☐ Yes - Stream Protection	☐ No

NOTES:

PROXIMITY TO OTHER WCPARC LAND

☒ not proximal	☐ in general vicinity
☐ adjoins land that has the potential to be protected, and that property adjoins protected land	☐ would be expansion of existing preserve

NOTES:

PROXIMITY TO OTHER OWNED PRESERVED LAND

☐ Yes - Township	☐ Yes - Greenbelt	☒ Yes - Other
☐ Yes - Legacy Land Conservancy	☐ Yes - SMLC	☐ No

NOTES: Pinckney adjacent

PROPERTY COMPLICATIONS

☐ Access requires other private land; removing significant trees; paving wetlands; or other undesirable actions	☐ Trails require full boardwalk	☐ Building envelope or exclusion complications
☐ Site has debris too costly to remove		

NOTES:

FIELD ASSESSMENT

Names of Assessors:

Bob Grese + Tony Reznicek

ECOSYSTEMS

Please check all that apply:

Palustrine ☒ Submergent marsh ☒ Emergent marsh ☒ Wet meadow <i>narrow band on lake shore</i> ☐ Wet/mesic prairie ☐ Lakeplain forest or prairie ☐ Fen ☐ Bog ☐ Inundated shrub swamp (buttonbush) ☒ Southern shrub-carr ☐ Floodplain forest ☐ Other forested wetland	Terrestrial ☐ Dry prairie ☐ Oak savanna ☐ Mesic southern forest (beech-maple) ☐ Dry southern forest (oak-hickory) ☒ Other upland forest <i>Early successional</i>
Other ☒ River/Lake/Pond/Creek ☒ Old farm fields ☐ Active farm fields ☐ Evidence of restoration	

How many veg communities are present? Include all, not just ones listed to the left.

7-8

Do we already have a preserve with a similar set of ecosystems?

not exactly,

List rare, threatened, or endangered species; evidence thereof; or critical habitat present:

none seen

DEBRIS

Describe debris found on the site:

NATAC NOMINATION - FIELD REVIEW WORKSHEET

INVASIVE SPECIES

Distribution	Associated Species	NOTES
☒ pervasive	In uplands; Dense Oriental bittersweet	
☐ within interior		
☐ large monotypic stands		
☐ primarily along trails and edges		
☐ isolated pockets		

INVENTORY

List all wildlife species seen	List plant species seen, to the best of your ability
	Uplands are open red cedar, black cherry successional woodland, with a few scattered black oaks and heavy invasive dominance - slightly more diverse bands of somewhat older trees just above shore - Lakeshore has very diverse open shrub canopy, wet meadow band a few meters wide - Very nice emergent marsh with <i>Scheuchzeria palustris</i>, grading to floating aquatic community of <i>Nymphaea odorata</i> and <i>Brasenia schreberi</i> - Some moved upland (old farm area)

FIELD NOTES

According to your area of expertise, what is important about this site?

The very good quality shoreline of Silver Lake with diverse vegetation of excellent quality; open shrublands with sedges: *Viburnum trilobum*, *V. dentatum*, *Cornus* sp., *Ilex verticillata*, Poison sumac

Date:

Site Name[Twp_ID#_Owner]:

Time spent at site:

Surveyors:

VIII. ADDITIONAL SPECIES OR OTHER NOTES, continued

Silver Lake

Use this sheet to list additional species observed that do not appear on checklists, or for other notes.

	Community	Species name: Latin (if known) or common
31		Bulrush
32		Butterbush
33		Lily pads
34		Am. elm
35		Blue fl. iris
36		red. os. dog
37		Chia. aspen
38		aut. olive
39		B. eyed. Susan
40		P. munt
41		P. sumac
42		Swamp. goldenrod
43		Indian hemp
44		ph. willow
45		sk. cabbage
46		Bonset
47		red. yucca
48		sassaparilla
49		C. mayflower
50		larch
51		oriental. bittersweet
52		cannon flower
53		ground. pin
54		tick. tree for J
55		pr. gorsebonnet
56		P. louses
57		sw. rose
58		marsh fern
59		Bl. cherry
60		comm. fern

sev. milkweed
 Joe P. w.
 skullcap



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MEMORANDUM

TO: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Coy P. Vaughn, Director
DATE: April 13, 2021
RE: Recommendation for Partnership – Wiseley - Fix

Background

The approximate 9.5-acre Wiseley – Fix property was nominated to Scio Township for the fee simple purchase in 2020. The nomination was subsequently forwarded to NAPP for evaluation for a partnership contribution. The property was evaluated by NATAC as part of Round 20 nominations and was determined to be a Tier 2 priority.

Discussion

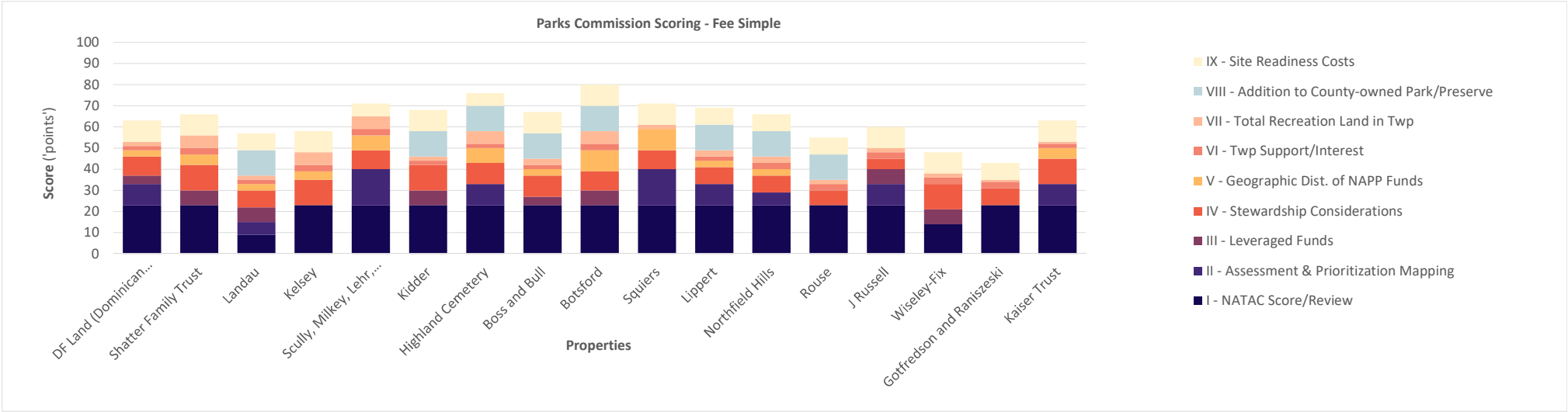
The highlight of this property is it will provide access to the VanCurler Preserve property, purchased in fee in 2014 by Scio Township with a contribution of \$257,333 from NAPP. The VanCuler property has not been open to the public yet, and the Wiseley – Fix property will provide the necessary access drive and parking lot for the property. This property is better suited for access, since it is open and will not require clearing for the access. Scio Township will own the property and construct the access.

An appraisal for the property was completed by Value Midwest in February 2020 and the value determined to be \$132,500. NATAC recommended to move forward with the acquisition of the property at their December 7, 2020 meeting contingent upon the area not used for access be maintain as a nature preserve.

Recommendation

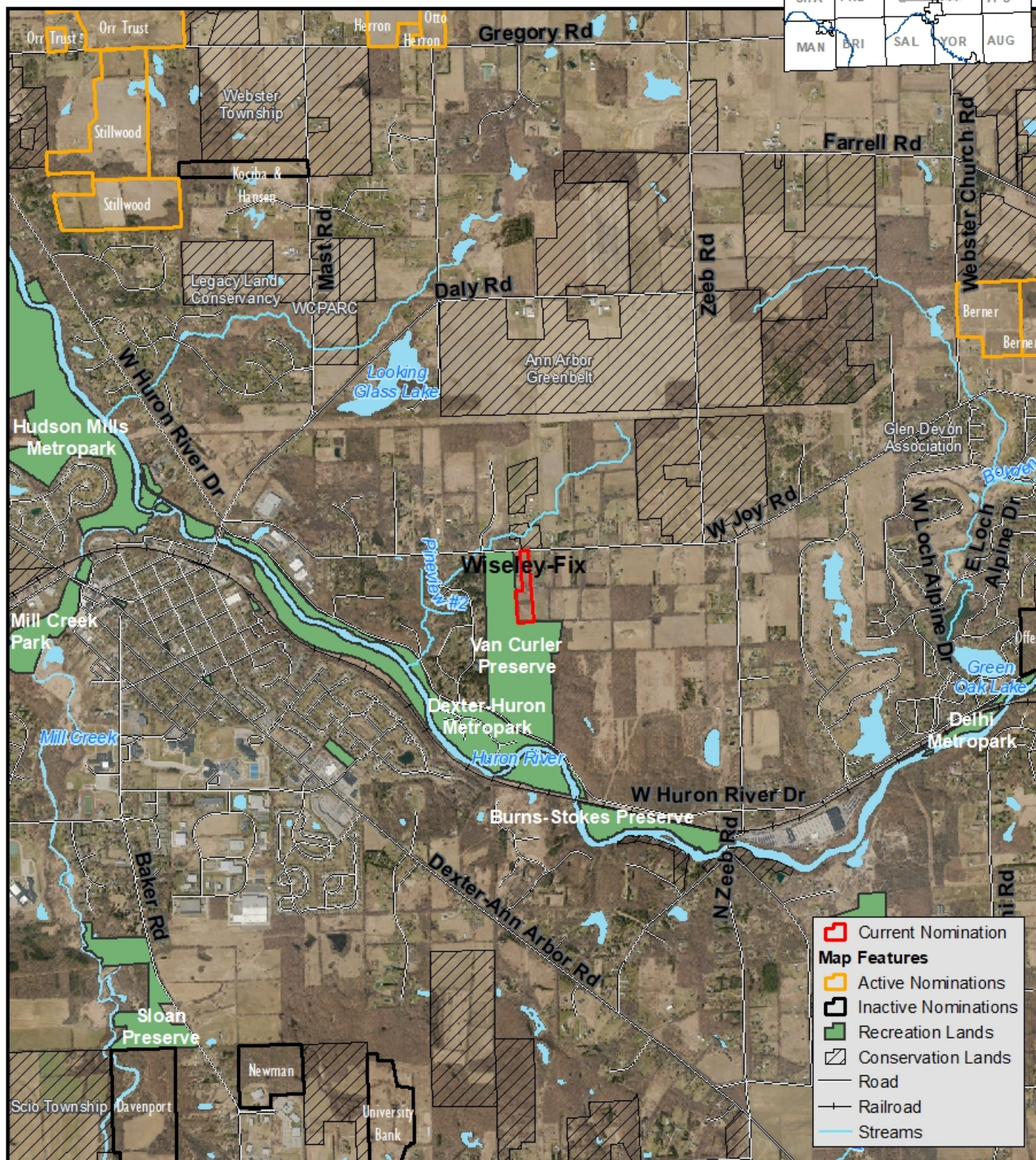
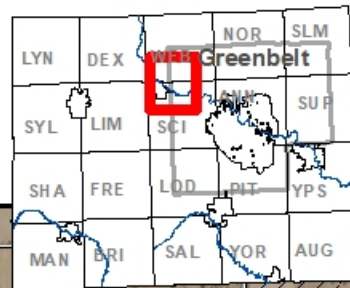
Based upon the review by the Natural Areas Technical Advisory Committee and staff, it is my recommendation that the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission partner with Scio Township on the purchase of the Wisely-Fix property as identified in the attached map, and contribute \$44,166 toward the purchase, contingent upon attorney review of documents and execution of participation agreement.

Attachments



Wiseley-Fix Property: Local Area Aerial
 Natural Areas Preservation Program
 Nomination ID: 20.331
 Scio Township
 +/-9 Acres

Washtenaw County
 Locator Map



Wiseley-Fix Property: Aerial & Soils

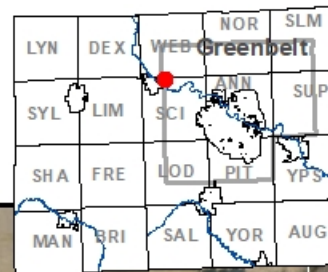
Natural Areas Preservation Program

Nomination ID: 20.33 I

Scio Township

+/-9 Acres

Washtenaw County
Locator Map





Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MEMORANDUM

TO: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Coy P. Vaughn, Director
DATE: April 13, 2021
RE: Recommendation for Sales Contract: Gotfredson and Raniszeski Properties – Superior Township

Background

The almost-adjacent Gotfredson and Raniszeski properties were submitted to NAPP in Round 20 (2020), for fee simple purchase. The properties, 101-acres combined, are separated by an ITC power line corridor owned by ITC. NATAC identified the properties as a Tier 1 priority for acquisition of the two properties and after Parks Commission acceptance of NATAC's priorities in November 2020, staff began the acquisition process. Appraisals were ordered for the two properties and the landowners have received and accepted them. Purchase of these properties would establish a new preserve in Superior Township.

Discussion

The highlight of these properties is the pond and associated wetland complex they share. The bird habitat provided by the pond is instantly evident: when NATAC visited last summer, they saw egrets, red-tailed hawks, kingbirds, and multiple species of herons. There were so many herons that NATAC suspected the site or a site nearby contained a rookery. Amateur birders know the site too, evident by [the active eBird hotspot](#) for the area that documents 132 species. In terms of NAPP's portfolio of vegetation communities, this type of large open pond is lacking in representation.

The two properties are separated by each other by a parcel owned by ITC, one of the main electricity transmission companies servicing Washtenaw County residents. Staff has contact with ITC regarding a separate potential transaction. ITC has been amenable for a trail connection across their property and stated they have many trail agreements with other municipalities.

While there is easy public and stewardship access onto both properties from Warren Road north of the pond, accessing the forests south of the pond will be a challenge to address in the future. However, the primary goal for public access to this preserve would be to provide visitors access to the pond for bird observation, which can be done from the north side.

The sales contracts will contain additional language noting that the sales are contingent upon each other, since the purchase of the entire complex is the priority of NATAC. This has been discussed with the realtor acting for the landowners.

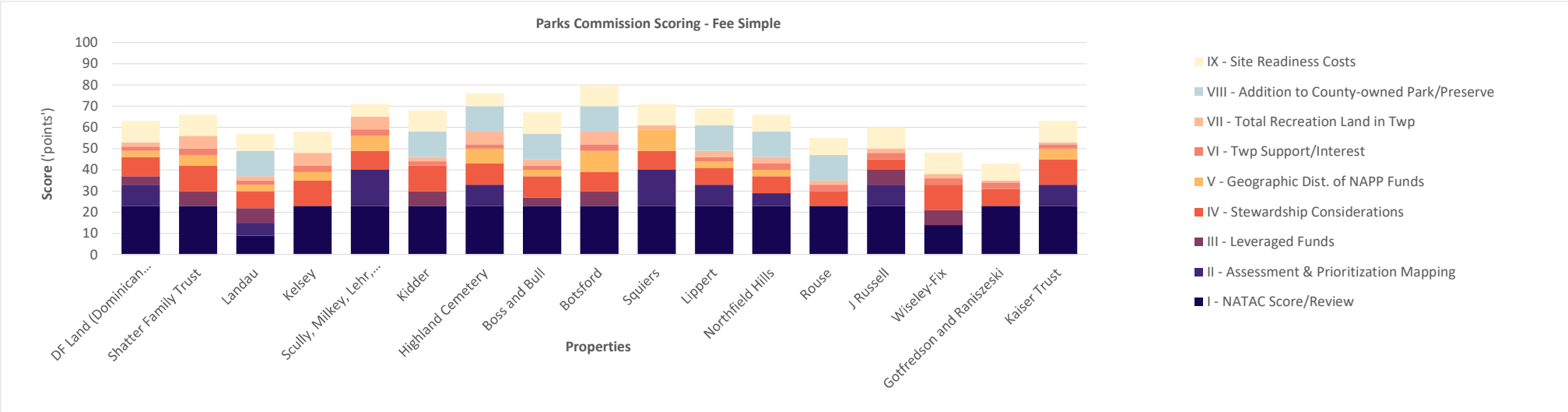
Appraisals for the two properties were conducted by Affinity Valuation Group in November 2020. The table below summarizes the appraisal values. Superior Township is a potential partner on the project with contribution amount to be determined. NATAC recommended to move forward with the acquisition of these properties at their April 5, 2021 meeting.

Property Name	FMV	Acres	\$/acre
Gotfredson	\$603,000	67 acres	\$9,000
Ranieszski	\$271,000	34 acres	\$7,970
TOTAL	\$874,000		-

Recommendation

Based upon the review by the Natural Areas Technical Advisory Committee and staff, it is my recommendation that the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission authorize preparation of two sales contracts in the amounts outlined in the table above for purchase of the Gotfredson and Ranieszski properties in Superior Township, contingent upon the purchase of both properties, completion of all necessary due diligence investigation and final approval by the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Attachments



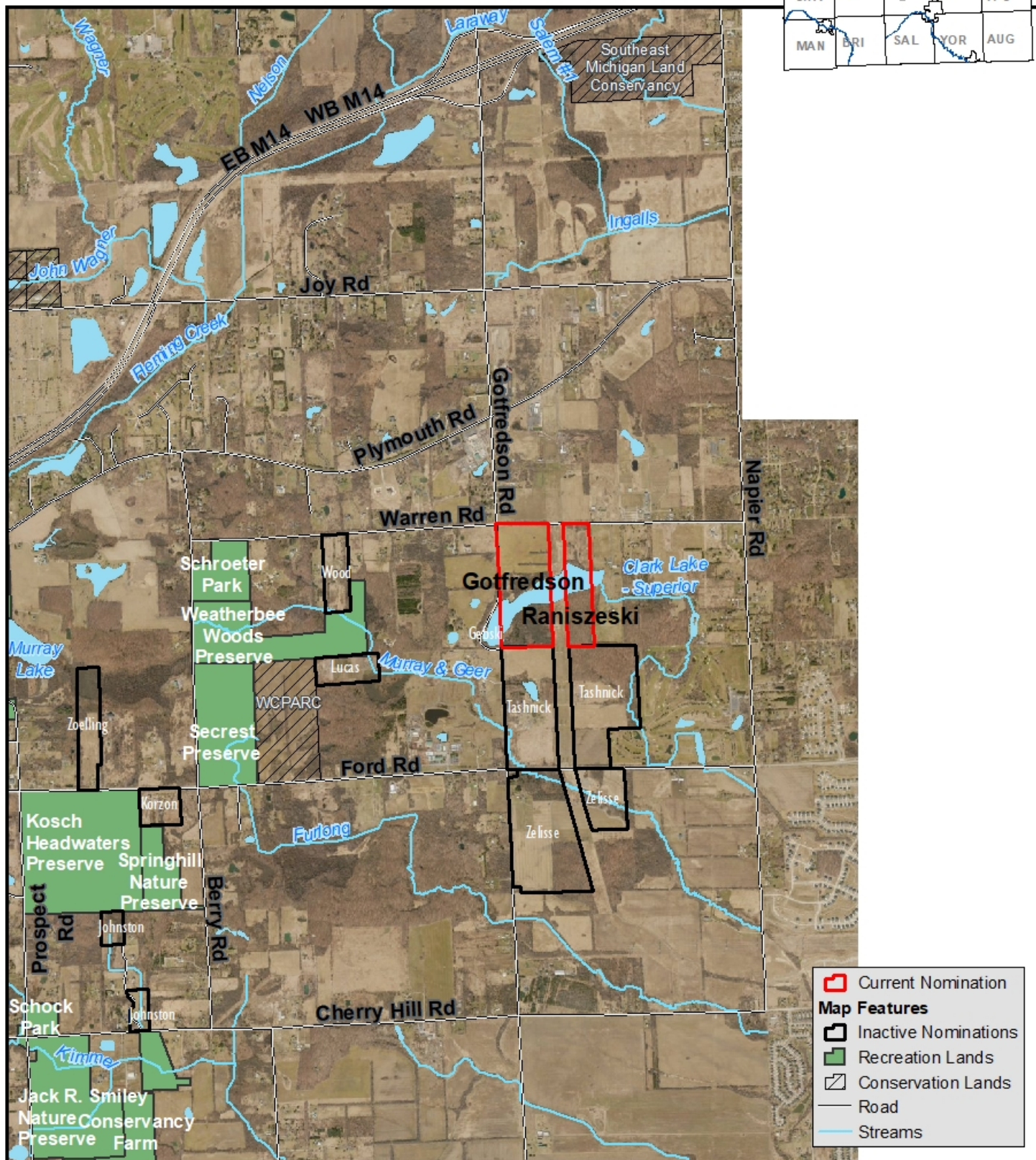
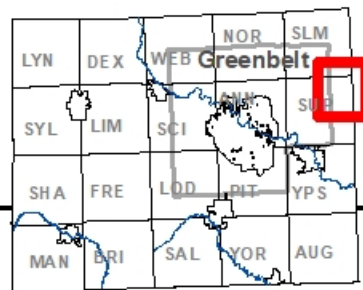
Gotfredson and Raniszeski Properties: Local Area Aerial

Natural Areas Preservation Program

Nomination ID: 20.316 and 20.317

100 Acres

Washtenaw County
Locator Map



Gotfredson Property: Aerial & Soils

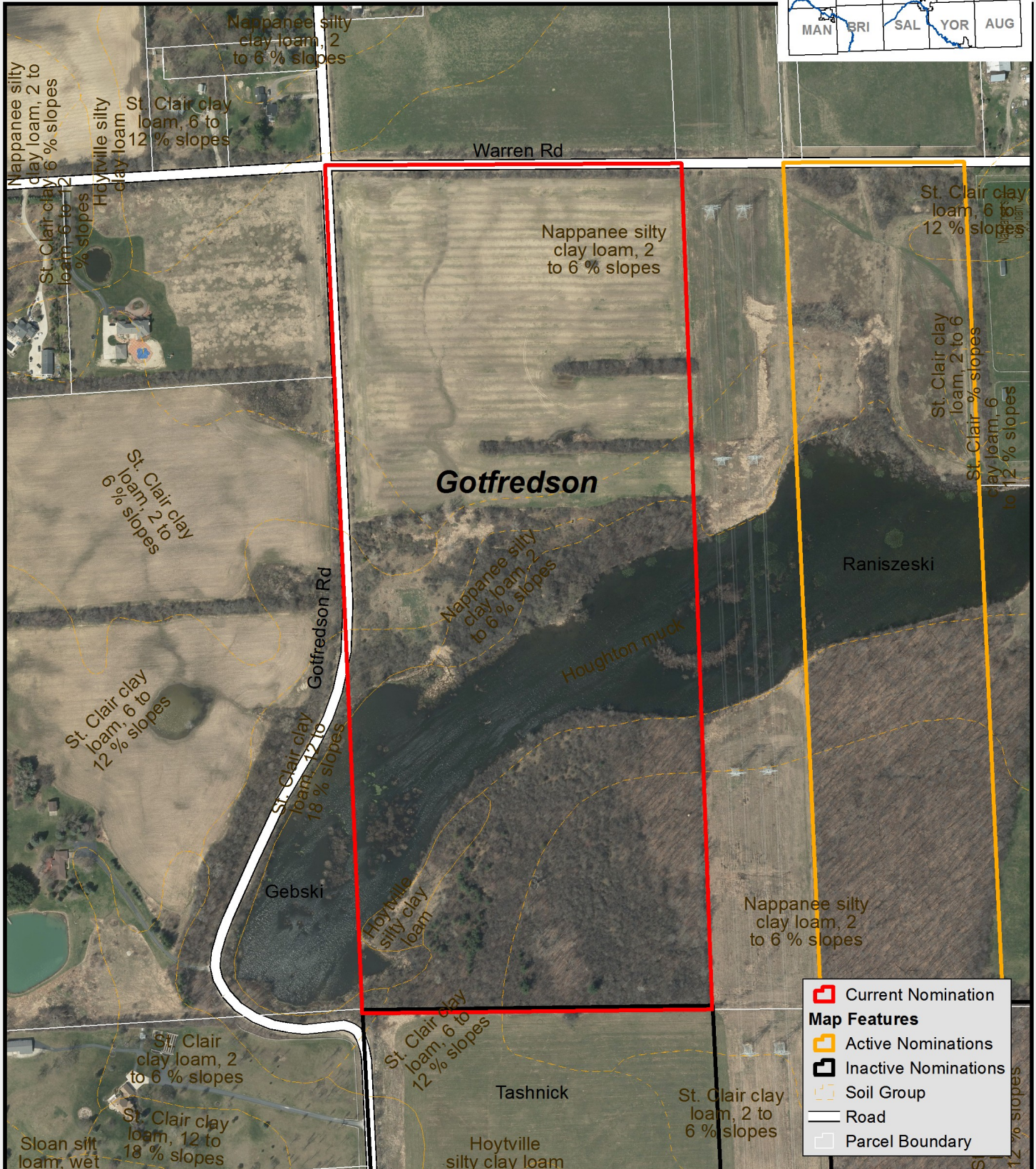
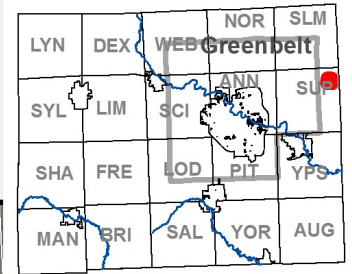
Natural Areas Preservation Program

Nomination ID: 20.317

Superior Township

+/-67.05 Acres

Washtenaw County
Locator Map



NATAC NOMINATION - FIELD REVIEW WORKSHEET

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Project Name: Gotfredson	Fee Simple or Easement (circle one)
Location: Superior Township	Size (acres): 67
Current Use: Natural Area/Farmland	Date of Visit:

NATURAL AREA MAPPED PRIORITY

☐ Yes - Patch Expansion	☐ Yes - New Patch Establishment	☐ Yes - Lake Plain Ecoregion
☐ Yes - Corridor	☐ Yes - Stream Protection	☒ No

NOTES:

PROXIMITY TO OTHER WCPARC LAND

☐ not proximal	☒ in general vicinity
☐ adjoins land that has the potential to be protected, and that property adjoins protected land	☐ would be expansion of existing preserve

NOTES: Weatherbee Woods

PROXIMITY TO OTHER OWNED PRESERVED LAND

☐ Yes - Township	☐ Yes - Greenbelt	☐ Yes - Other
☐ Yes - Legacy Land Conservancy	☐ Yes - SMLC	☒ No

NOTES:

PROPERTY COMPLICATIONS

☒ Access requires other private land; removing significant trees; paving wetlands; or other undesirable actions	☐ Trails require full boardwalk	☐ Building envelope or exclusion complications
☐ Site has debris too costly to remove		

NOTES: How does the crew access the south side of the lake?

FIELD ASSESSMENT

Names of Assessors:

ECOSYSTEMS

Please check all that apply:

Palustrine ☒ Submergent marsh ☒ Emergent marsh ☐ Wet meadow ☐ Wet/mesic prairie ☐ Lakeplain forest or prairie ☐ Fen ☐ Bog ☒ Inundated shrub swamp (buttonbush) ☐ Southern shrub-carr ☐ Floodplain forest ☐ Other forested wetland	Terrestrial ☐ Dry prairie ☐ Oak savanna ☒ Mesic southern forest (beech-maple) ☐ Dry southern forest (oak-hickory) ☐ Other upland forest Other ☐ River/Lake/Pond/Creek ☐ Old farm fields ☐ Active farm fields ☐ Evidence of restoration
---	--

How many veg communities are present?
Include all, not just ones listed to the left.

4

Do we already have a preserve with a similar set of ecosystems?

List rare, threatened, or endangered species; evidence thereof; or critical habitat present:

DEBRIS

Describe debris found on the site:

See Ransseyki for
plant lists for wetland + forest

Forest has same native spp as
Ransseyki forest but way
more invasive (+ native) shrubs
in understorey.

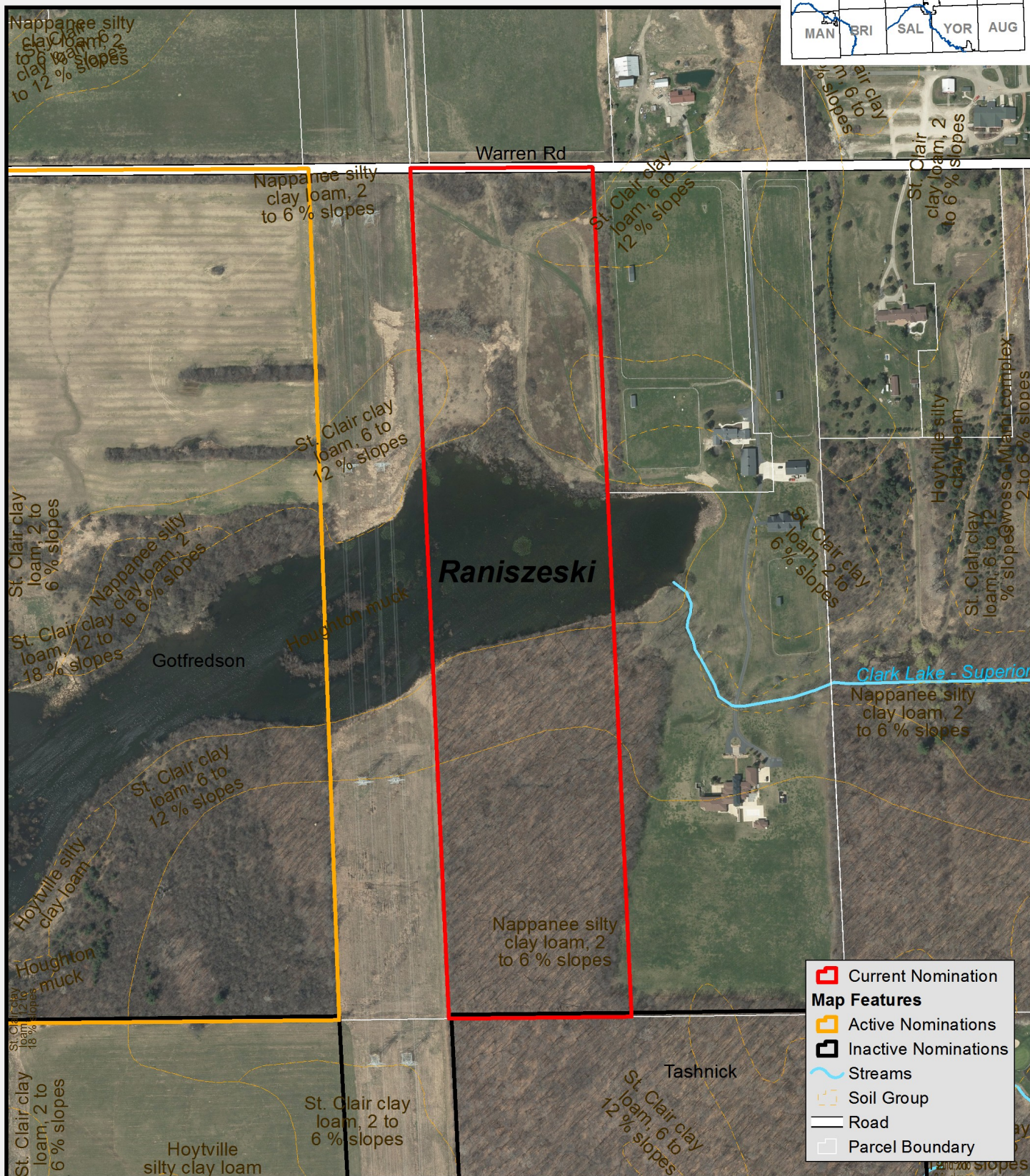
Spp of wildlife

Green Heron
Blue

Pudd frogs
Green

Possible rookery

+/-33.92 Acres



Ranieszki Property: Assessment & Prioritization Mapping

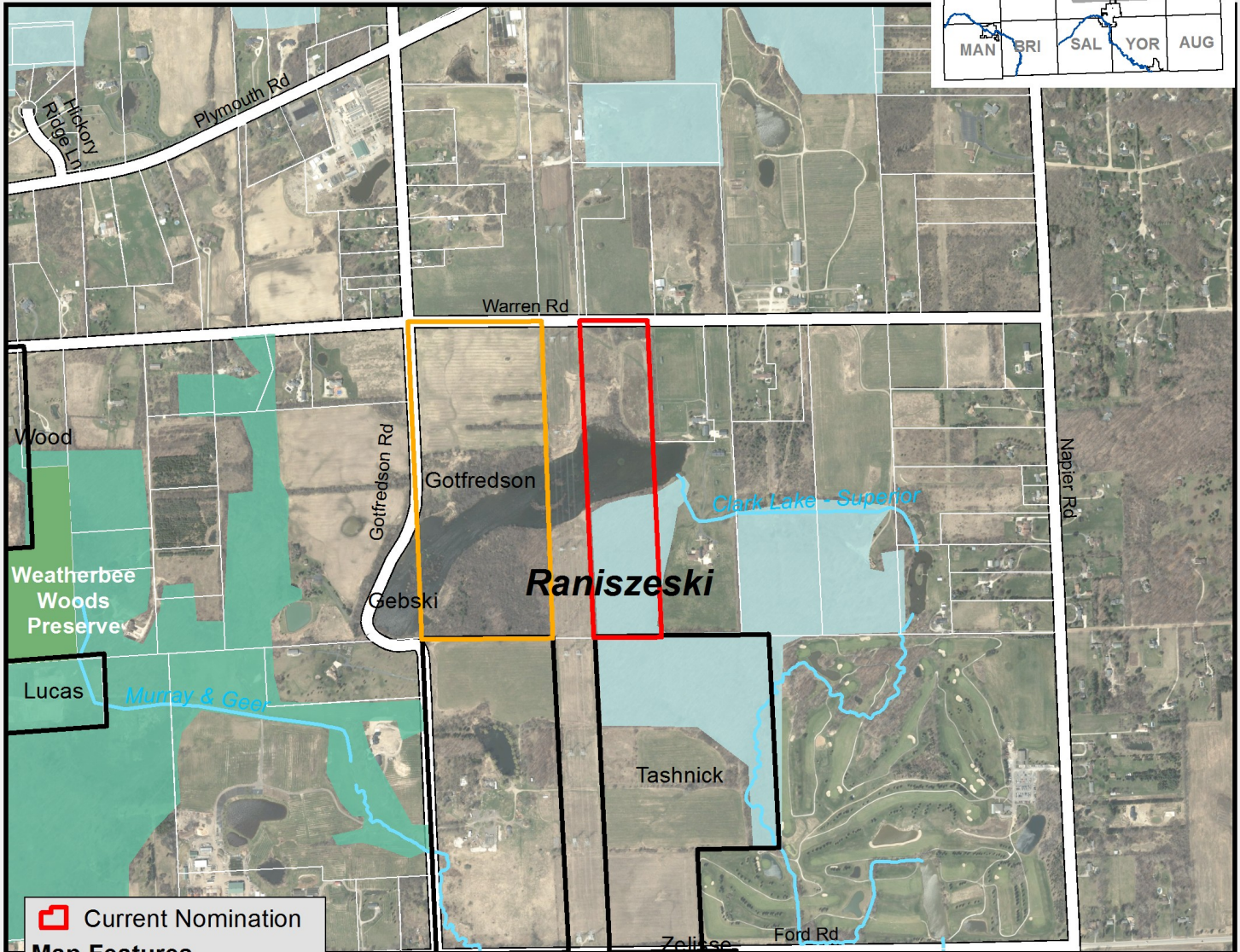
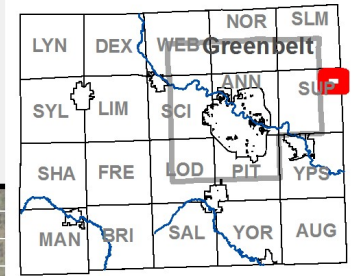
Natural Areas Preservation Program

Nomination ID: 20.316

Superior Township

+/-33.92 Acres

Washtenaw County
Locator Map



- Current Nomination
- Active Nominations
- Inactive Nominations
- Recreation Lands
- Streams
- Road
- Parcel Boundary
- Natural Area Quality**
 - Medium-Low Quality
 - Medium-High Quality

At least one parcel or area on this property was prioritized based on:

Patch Expansion: This site is located in a dense area of higher quality land and protection thereof enlarges the footprint of existing protected land.

New Patch Establishment: This site is located in a dense area of higher quality land and protection thereof helps preserve land where none is currently preserved, in a manner that still offers "stepping stone" connectivity.

Corridor: Protection of this site protects land within an identified path of linear habitat connectivity.

Stream Protection: Protection of this site preserves or is ecologically connected to a site that preserves creek frontage.

Lake Plain Ecoregion: Protection of this site preserves land in the lake plain ecoregion, much of which has been developed and is significantly underrepresented in NAPP's portfolio.

→ Not prioritized



NATAC NOMINATION - FIELD REVIEW WORKSHEET

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Project Name: Ranieszski	Fee Simple or Easement (circle one)
Location: Superior Township	Size (acres): 33.92
Current Use: Natural Area	Date of Visit:

NATURAL AREA MAPPED PRIORITY

☐ Yes - Patch Expansion	☐ Yes - New Patch Establishment	☐ Yes - Lake Plain Ecoregion
☐ Yes - Corridor	☐ Yes - Stream Protection	☒ No

NOTES:

PROXIMITY TO OTHER WCPARC LAND

☐ not proximal	☒ in general vicinity	
☐ adjoins land that has the potential to be protected, and that property adjoins protected land	☐ would be expansion of existing preserve	

NOTES: Weatherbee Woods

PROXIMITY TO OTHER OWNED PRESERVED LAND

☐ Yes - Township	☐ Yes - Greenbelt	☐ Yes - Other
☐ Yes - Legacy Land Conservancy	☐ Yes - SMLC	☒ No

NOTES:

PROPERTY COMPLICATIONS

☒ Access requires other private land; removing significant trees; paving wetlands; or other undesirable actions	☐ Trails require full boardwalk	☐ Building envelope or exclusion complications
☐ Site has debris too costly to remove		

NOTES: How to access south of lake?

FIELD ASSESSMENT

Names of Assessors:

ECOSYSTEMS

Please check all that apply:

Palustrine ☒ Submergent marsh ☒ Emergent marsh ☐ Wet meadow ☐ Wet/mesic prairie ☐ Lakeplain forest or prairie ☐ Fen ☐ Bog ☒ Inundated shrub swamp (buttonbush) ☐ Southern shrub-carr ☐ Floodplain forest ☐ Other forested wetland	Terrestrial ☐ Dry prairie ☐ Oak savanna ☒ Mesic southern forest (beech-maple) ☐ Dry southern forest (oak-hickory) ☐ Other upland forest Other ☒ River/Lake/Pond/Creek ☒ Old farm fields ☐ Active farm fields ☐ Evidence of restoration	How many veg communities are present? Include all, not just ones listed to the left. 4
		Do we already have a preserve with a similar set of ecosystems?
		List rare, threatened, or endangered species; evidence thereof; or critical habitat present:

DEBRIS

Describe debris found on the site:

NATAC NOMINATION - FIELD REVIEW WORKSHEET

INVASIVE SPECIES

Distribution

☐ pervasive

☐ within interior

☐ large monotypic stands

☐ primarily along trails and edges

☒ isolated pockets

Associated Species

NOTES

INVENTORY

List all wildlife species seen

Green Heron
4 G.B. Herons
Bullfrogs
Green frogs

List plant species seen, to the best of your ability

Spicebush
Filia americana
sedge
Moonwort
Smilax
Swamp maple
Va creeper
Ostrya virginiana
Amelanchier
black cherry
white raspberry
red oak
wood fern
honeysuckle
Carpinus
Euonymus
stagbark
chinkapin
oak?
blackbriar
w geranium
bitternut hick
beech
glossy
common buckthorn
prickly ash
elderberry
barberry
juncus
Holly
set
cottonwood
also in
Grassfield
woods

FIELD NOTES

According to your area of expertise, what is important about this site?

Wetland areas. Beautiful "old growth"
forest, very few invasives, large marsh
w possible Heron rookery