



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

NOTICE OF MEETING

Date: September 14, 2021

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Location: Virtual Meeting on Zoom available to the public at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81962736083>

AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order / Moment of Silence**
- 2. Roll Call and Announcement of Location**
- 3. Approval of the Minutes**
 - A. August 10, 2021 Meeting (attached, pp. 1-7 /action item)
- 4. Public Comment**
- 5. Communications, Projects & Activities** (attached, pp. 8-39 /action item)
- 6. Financial & Recreation Reports – August 2021**
 - A. Financial Reports (attached, pp. 40-42 /action item)
 - B. Recreation Reports (attached, pp. 43-48 /action item)
- 7. Old Business**
 - A. Special Revenue Fund Update (presentation at meeting)
 - B. Barton-Bandemer Trail & Tunnel Engineering (attached, pp. 49-56 /action item)
 - C. Deer Management Update (attached, pp. 57-59 /action item)
 - D. NAPP – Poulter Property, Final Approval (attached, pp. 60-65 /action item)
 - E. NAPP – Bassett & Deloof Property, Final Approval (attached, pp. 66-70 /action item)
 - F. Draper Houston Boardwalk Award (attached, p. 71 /action item)
 - G. Dominican Meadows Parking Lot Award (attached, p. 72 /action item)
 - H. Other Old Business
- 8. New Business**
 - A. Lyndon Township B2B Trailhead Dedication (attached, pp. 73-77 /action item)
 - B. Other New Business
- 9. Commissioners / Directors Comments**
- 10. Adjournment**

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Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: August 14, 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 Ann Arbor Township, MI), Jo Ann McCollum (attending from Ypsilanti Township, MI), Evan Pratt (attending from Scio Township, MI), Brenda McKinney (attending from Superior Township, MI) and Jason Morgan (attending from Detroit, MI)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Coy Vaughn, Director; Meghan Bonfiglio, Deputy Director; Ginny Leikam, Superintendent of Park Planning and Natural Areas; Jason Brooks, Manager of Finance and Administration; Ann Ziolkowski, Communication Manager; Jeff Dehring, Park Planner; Peter Sanderson, Park Planner; Allison Krueger, Stewardship Manager; and Rosie Pahl-Donaldson, Park Planner

Others Present: None

1. Call to Order/Moment of Silence

Ms. Scribner called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. with a moment of silence in appreciation of first responders. Ms. McKinney noted that she would be leaving the meeting early – most likely around 3:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call and Announcement of Location

3. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the July 13, 2021 special meeting were included with the agenda material.

It was moved by Ms. McCollum and seconded by Ms. Bobrin to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2021 special meeting. Roll call vote: 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 2 Absent (Morgan & McKinney), the motion was approved.

The minutes of the June 8, 2021 regular meeting were included with the agenda material.

It was moved by Mr. Pratt and seconded by Mr. Jefferson to approve the minutes of the June 8, 2021 regular meeting. Roll call vote: 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent (McKinney) the motion was approved.

4. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

5. Communications, Projects & Activities

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

It was moved by Mr. Marans and seconded by Mr. Ezekiel to accept and file the Communications, Projects & Activities for the month of June 2021, as submitted. 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent (McKinney) the motion was approved.

6. Financial & Recreation Reports – May 2021

A. Financial Reports

Mr. Brooks reported and stated that the total for the claims for the month of June was \$1,018,235.15 and the total for July was \$523,267.56.

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

B. Recreation Reports

Mr. Brooks reported on recreation reports for the months of June and July 2021 and highlighted the impact of the pandemic on the attendance of our Park Facilities.

Ms. Bobrin asked if the reduced capacity at Rolling Hills Water Park was due to COVID or shortage of seasonal staff. Mr. Brooks responded that it is a combination but primarily due to being understaffed.

It was moved by Mr. Pratt and seconded by Ms. Bobrin to accept and file the Recreation Reports for the months of June and July 2021 as submitted. Roll call vote: 10 Ayes, 0 Nays, the motion was approved.

7. Old Business

A. County Farm Park and Meri Lou Murray Rec Center Parking Lot Project

Mr. Dehring explained that at the February 2021 meeting, staff presented the Commission with a report on deteriorating conditions and capacity issues of the parking lots at Nelson Meade County Farm Park and the Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center. Reconstruction of the pathway along Washtenaw Avenue was also discussed in this presentation. The Commission instructed staff to prepare construction plans and bid documents for these three improvement projects.

In response to that directive, a request for proposal (RFP #8129) was prepared by park staff. Midwestern Consulting provided site surveying, civil engineering, and development of construction drawings and specifications for the projects. The RFP document was assembled using the County's standard procurement protocol and advertised by the Purchasing Department in late June. A

mandatory pre-bid meeting was held on July 13 with eight contractors attending. Four proposals were submitted on July 29, 2021 and a tabulation of these bids are provided below.

T & M Asphalt Paving, Inc. – Milford, MI	\$556,502.00
Best Asphalt, Inc. – Romulus, MI	\$629,093.50
Gibraltar Construction, Co. – Trenton, MI	\$661,166.50
Asphalt Specialist, Inc. – Pontiac, MI	\$649,562.50

Mr. Dehring noted that T & M Asphalt Paving and Best Asphalt submitted the 2 lowest bids. One major difference in staff's review and decision making was the timeline for completion in their proposals. T & M Asphalt Paving submitted the lowest cost bid; however their proposal timeline indicated a Spring 2022 start date for the Recreation Center parking lot expansion and pathway reconstruction work, with an anticipated completion date of June–July 2022. Best Asphalt's bid was roughly \$73,000 more than the T&M bid, however their proposal states that they can complete all three projects in Fall 2021, which would be less disruptive to patrons. Currently, the Recreation Center is still experiencing a reduction in patron visits and staff feels that it would be prudent to take advantage of this limited traffic volume since that parking expansion will impact traffic flow.

Mr. Ezekiel asked if there would be bike parking included. Mr. Dehring responded that there would be new covered bike parking installed and the Rec Center.

Ms. McCollum asked how many new parking spaces will be added at the Rec Center. Mr. Dehring answered that 18 new spaces will be constructed.

Mr. Pratt asked if it was consistent with policy to go with the second lowest bid when appropriate. Mr. Dehring responded that it was consistent with our policy and that it was mentioned in the RFP that the construction schedule would be considered.

It was moved by Ms. McCollum and seconded by Mr. Joerg that the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission award a Service Contract in the amount of \$629,093.50 to Best Asphalt, Inc. from Romulus, MI for the Parking Lot and Pathway Paving Projects at Nelson Meade County Farm Park and the Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center (RFP #8129) and include an additional 10% (\$62,900) contingency for potential contract change orders. 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent (McKinney), the motion was approved.

B. B2B – Barton/Bandemer Tunnel Project Agreement

Mr. Sanderson explained that in 2020, the Commission and the City of Ann Arbor completed an engineering feasibility study regarding a pedestrian underpass of the MDOT/Amtrak railroad between Barton Nature Area and Bandemer Park on Ann Arbor's northwest side. The study also included a 0.6-mile extension of the Border to Border Trail (B2B Trail) through Barton Nature Area as part of the larger Dexter-Ann Arbor connection project.

Public support for the project is strong as was demonstrated during several public engagement sessions and meetings of the City's Parks Advisory Commission (PAC) held through the planning process. Ultimately, PAC approved a resolution in December 2020 in support of the project and authorizing paving within Barton Nature Area for the B2B Trail conditional upon fully funding the tunnel project.

Mr. Sanderson noted that since obtaining PAC's approval of the project, and based on a 2018 Letter of Intent, City and Commission staff prepared a project agreement between the City and County to advance the

Barton-Bandemer Tunnel and Trail project into engineering and construction. The agreement is currently under final review by the City attorney's office, but the key roles and responsibilities are as follows:

1. Washtenaw County Parks will hire a firm and manage the engineering contract to secure all required permits, approvals, and detailed design. This work will be coordinated with City staff, who will ultimately approve the plans prior to construction.
2. Once plans are complete, the project will be bid through the City's bidding process. The construction process will be managed by the City and a third-party engineer. Commission staff will remain engaged during construction due to the proposed financial interest in the project.
3. The City will own and operate the project upon project completion.

Funding for the tunnel and trail is as follows (spread through FY 2021-2023) and this project was budgeted for and identified as a priority during the renewal of the Road and Trails Millage in 2020:

\$1,375,000 - City of Ann Arbor

\$3,375,000 - WCPARC *split evenly with the Huron Waterloo Pathways Initiative (HWPI).

\$4,750,000 Total (construction, permitting, and engineering)

Mr. Ezekiel thanked staff for bringing this important project forward for approval. He added that the current situation is very unsafe as dozens of pedestrians are using a very difficult illegal crossing of the RR tracks.

Mr. Marans asked if the trail on the west side of the tunnel would be part of the same construction phase as the tunnel. Mr. Sanderson replied that the trail could be contracted separately to allow more flexibility. He added that the trail is conditioned upon getting the funding lined up for the tunnel project.

It was moved by Mr. Ezekiel and seconded by Mr. Marans that the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission authorize staff to execute the project agreement with the City of Ann Arbor, conditional upon final acceptance by legal counsel, for the Barton to Bandemer Tunnel and Trail Project. 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent (McKinney), the motion was approved.

C. Karnatz Farm Final Approval

Ms. Pahl-Donaldson presented the Selter / Karnatz Farm property, located in Augusta Township, and explained that it was nominated to NAPP and reviewed by the Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Committee as part of the Round 18 nominations. At the time, the property was identified as a priority for the purchase of a conservation easement based on review of all the applications received in Round 18. It was also agreed that it was a prime candidate for receiving federal funding through the USDA Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) via the Greenbelt's Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) area. In February 2019, WCPARC submitted an ACEP application for the farm, the award for which the Commission accepted in August 2019. The Commission authorized a sales contract in December 2019.

Assessment & Prioritization mapping assessed the property at lower qualities and did not prioritize. The Commission's scoring system gives this project 73/100 points. This will be NAPP's first acquisition of any type in Augusta Township. It will also be Augusta Township's land preservation program's first easement to which they contributed.

Ms. Pahl-Donaldson explained that an appraisal of the property was completed in October 2019 and the conservation easement value was determined to be \$296,000, or roughly \$2,503 an acre for 118.26 acres. The final FMV and payments have been adjusted by the exact surveyed acres. ALPAC

recommended to pursue the purchase of the property at their November 2019 meeting. An ACEP-ALE grant was awarded for this property,

It was moved by Ms. McCollum and seconded by Mr. Joerg to authorize the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission purchase of a conservation easement on the Selter/Karnatz Farm property in Augusta Township in the amount of \$295,249, contingent upon attorney approval of final documents. I further recommend that \$15,000 be contributed to the stewardship special revenue fund for the future monitoring and enforcement of the conservation easement. 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent (McKinney), the motion was approved.

D. Kaiser Property Final Approval

Ms. Leikam presented the 33-acre Kaiser Trust property and explained that it 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. 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. The entire property will later be transferred to DNR who will own and manage the entire property as an addition to the Pinckney State Recreation Area.

Ms. Leikam explained that 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.

It was moved by Ms. Bobrin and seconded by Mr. Marans that the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission authorize the purchase of the Kaiser Trust property in the amount of \$336,000 in collaboration with The Conservation Fund and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent (McKinney), the motion was approved.

E. NAPP – Hamilton Conservation Easement Update

Ms. Pahl-Donaldson gave an update on the Hamilton property and explained that was presented to the Commission in December 2020 with 2 building envelopes each about 3 acres in size allowing agricultural buildings only. As the City of Ann Arbor Greenbelt advanced its discussions with the landowners, the landowners expressed need for an additional agricultural building envelope and a re-siting of a previously approved one based on the ultimate division of property ownership within the family. In total, there will be 3 agricultural building envelopes, each no larger than 2 acres.

The Agricultural Lands Preservation Advisory Committee (ALPAC) and the Natural Areas Technical Advisory Committee (NATAC) were both made aware of this change and expressed no concerns. Staff consider the changes appropriate with minimal impact on the overall conservation purpose of the project.

Mr. Ezekiel thanked staff for bringing this item back to the Commission to reconfirm the approval after a change had been made to the application. He said that modification to the application is reasonable and that he is still supportive of approving the conservation easement

It was moved by Mr. Ezekiel and seconded by Mr. Morgan that the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission continues to partner with the City of Ann Arbor Greenbelt for the purchase of a conservation easement on the Hamilton property in Salem Township. 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent (McKinney), the motion was approved.

F. Other Old Business

None.

8. New Business

A. Highland Preserve Boardwalk RFP

Ms. Krueger reported that the 53-acre Janice Anschuetz Highland Preserve, located along Clark Road in Superior Township, was purchased through NAPP in 2017. A five-car parking lot and public entrance to the preserve will be constructed as part of a utility project on land managed by Superior Township along Clark Road. The public entrance is expected to be completed by winter 2021 or spring 2022. NAPP is also currently working on the acquisition of a portion of the Highland Cemetery which will provide additional trail connectivity to the south. The first step in realizing that connection to the Superior Greenway will be developing a hiking trail from the public entrance on Clark Road. The trail will travel north from the parking area and will cross a county drain and a high-quality floodplain forest.

Staff worked with ROWE Engineering to develop construction drawings for the project. The design now includes a 1500' gravel pathway that connects to a 300' boardwalk. ROWE provided a cost opinion for construction that estimated at \$293,911. Staff is requesting the release of an RFP for the boardwalk construction. Once bids are received, the contract approval and final budget will be brought back to the Commission in the fall of this year.

It was moved by Mr. Marans and seconded by Ms. McCollum to authorize staff to finalize design plans with ROWE Engineering and release an RFP for the construction of this path and boardwalk for final approval by the Parks Commission for award of contract and final project budget. 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent (McKinney), the motion was approved.

B. Other New Business

None.

9. Commissioners/Directors Comments

Mr. Vaughn reported that WCPARC holds a first right of refusal on the property adjacent to the Spike preserve now owned by the Grass Lake Sanctuary. He added that the group has been a great neighbor and now they are intending to sell to another group with a very similar mission. Unless there is objection, we intend not to exercise our option to purchase the property. No objections were raised.

Ms. Scriber voiced her support for all the staff that presented their projects today. Mr. Pratt seconded the comment.

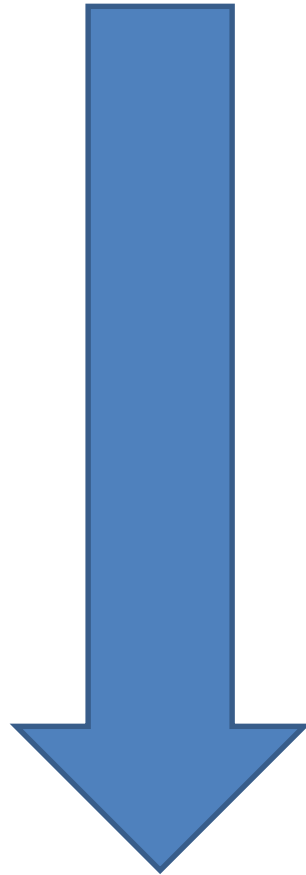
Mr. Pratt gave a big congratulations to Augusta Township for their first acquisition of a conservation easement under their land preservation program. Adding, that it is great to be partner with them.

10. Adjournment

It was moved by Mr. Marans and seconded by Mr. Morgan to adjourn the meeting. All ayes.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:22 p.m.

Communications, Projects & Activities



Meghan E. Bonfiglio

From: Julie Sigda
Sent: Friday, August 13, 2021 4:06 PM
To: Linsey Hula; Amy Larkin; Julie Shoner
Cc: Brian Machemer; Meghan E. Bonfiglio; Coy Vaughn
Subject: Comment from patron regarding BHB staff

Hi Amy & Linsey,

I wanted to pass along to you the conversation I had with a patron today regarding the staff at Blue Heron Bay. I was over by the pump house when a woman came over and asked if we were supervisors for the park when I indicated we were she proceeded to tell me how fantastic our staff was. The staff was engaging with the children, they were polite and friendly and actually watching what was going on. She mentioned that usually when they go to "places like this" the staff is not really paying attention but here our staff was doing a great job and she said "thanks!"

Just wanted to let you and the staff know that your great work and positive attitudes are noticed!!

Thanks for all the hard work!!

Sigda



Julie Sigda

Park & Facilities Manager- Independence Lake | **Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission**

t. (734)449-4437 x 203 | c. (734)881-7406 | f. (734)449-8507

e. sigdaj@washtenaw.org | w. washtenaw.org/parks

Independence Lake | 3200 Jennings Rd., Whitmore Lake, MI 48189



Meghan E. Bonfiglio

From: Edward Holley
Sent: Thursday, August 26, 2021 9:33 AM
To: Parks; Edward Wojtan; Kevin McCoy; Carl Maki; Juan Ortiz
Cc: Jason Brooks; Coy Vaughn; Meghan E. Bonfiglio
Subject: RE: County Farm Park...Wonderful!

Ed-

Can you make sure that your crew sees this email. I so enjoy getting these kind of emails from patrons. We generally don't see someone actually take the time to sit down and compose an email just to thank us for the great work that we do. Just realize that your hard work doesn't go unnoticed.

I am so happy to have had the opportunity to work with each and every one of you. Great job to everyone!



Edward E Holley

Maintenance Superintendent | **Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission**
t. (734)971-6337 x 316 | c. (734)216-7774
e. holleye@washtenaw.org w. washtenaw.org/parks
Field Operations | P.O. Box 8645, Ann Arbor, MI 48104

From: Parks <parks@washtenaw.org>
Sent: Thursday, August 26, 2021 7:40 AM
To: Edward Holley <holleye@washtenaw.org>
Cc: Jason Brooks <brooksj@washtenaw.org>
Subject: FW: County Farm Park...Wonderful!

Ed,

See Linda's email below complimenting your crew on the work they do at CFP. Keep up the good work!!

--Abbey

For the latest updates on COVID-19 in Washtenaw County, visit washtenaw.org/covid19.



Abbey Pennala

Accounting Specialist | **Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission**
t. (734)971-6337 x 327 | c. (734)417-6998
e. pennalaa@washtenaw.org | w. washtenaw.org/parks
Parks Administration | 2230 Platt Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48104



From: L.M.B. <l.m.bangert@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 25, 2021 6:04 PM

To: Parks <parks@washtenaw.org>

Subject: County Farm Park...Wonderful!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I walk my dog at CFP every morning. I want to thank you for making this such a wonderful experience, and a high point of my day. I appreciate all the grounds work you do, like mowing along the paths to keep the ticks and poison ivy at bay, and clearing downed trees after storms. The staff in vehicles are wonderful about slowing down when they pass by my dog and me on the paths. And, I love the gardens, the fabulous "railroad tie" garden, and the amazing bounty of the Project Grow gardens.

Thanks!

Linda Bangert

Meghan E. Bonfiglio

From: Julie Shoner
Sent: Sunday, August 29, 2021 4:37 PM
To: Brian Machemer; Julie Sigda; Coy Vaughn; Meghan E. Bonfiglio; zachary.matthews.2017@gmail.com; linsey.hula@gmail.com; larkina3@msu.edu
Subject: FW: Blue Heron Bay Birthday Party Thank you!

Hi All,

Please see emails below. Emily Herriman was very happy and pleased with her party she had yesterday at Blue Heron Bay Spray Park. Way to go Amy, Linsey and Zach for doing a great job with the party!!

Thank you,



Julie Shoner (Pahl)

Park & Facility Supervisor | **Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission**
t. (734)449-4437 x 201 | f. (734)449-8507
e. shonerj@washtenaw.org | w. washtenaw.org/parks
Independence Lake County Park | [3200 Jennings Road, Whitmore Lake, MI 48189](http://3200JenningsRoadWhitmoreLakeMI48189)



From: Julie Shoner
Sent: Sunday, August 29, 2021 4:31 PM
To: 'Emily Herriman' <klump.emily@gmail.com>
Subject: RE: Thank you!

Hi Emily,

Thank you so much for your kind words! We are so glad your party so a success and that everyone had a great time. We enjoyed having you all at Blue Heron Bay. Linsey and Amy were the other two managers helping you with your party. I will let them all know!

Thank you,



Julie Shoner (Pahl)

Park & Facility Supervisor | **Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission**
t. (734)449-4437 x 201 | f. (734)449-8507
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Independence Lake County Park | [3200 Jennings Road, Whitmore Lake, MI 48189](http://3200JenningsRoadWhitmoreLakeMI48189)



From: Emily Herriman <klump.emily@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 28, 2021 8:38 PM

To: Julie Shoner <Shonerj@washtenaw.org>

Subject: Thank you!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Julie- thank you so much for your help planning today's birthday party. It was honestly the best!

Your staff was attentive and right on with everything. Zach the manager and there were two other women who helped us, greeted us, confirmed food order and delivered all the food. I can't recall the names but above and beyond. Thanks so much!

Emily

STATE

Crowdfunding campaign launched for Border-to-Border Trail in Chelsea, Washtenaw County

Brad Heineman The Daily Telegram

Published 10:30 a.m. ET Aug. 16, 2021

LANSING — A new segment of the Border-to-Border (B2B) Trail in Washtenaw County will reach downtown Chelsea through a crowdfunding campaign, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and nonprofit, Huron Waterloo Pathways Initiative (HWPI) announced in a news release earlier in July.

The campaign, according to the news release, is being offered through the Michigan-based crowdfunding platform, Patronicity.

If the campaign reaches its crowdfunding goal of \$50,000 by Sept. 15, the project will win a matching grant with funds made possible by the MEDC's Public Spaces Community Places program.

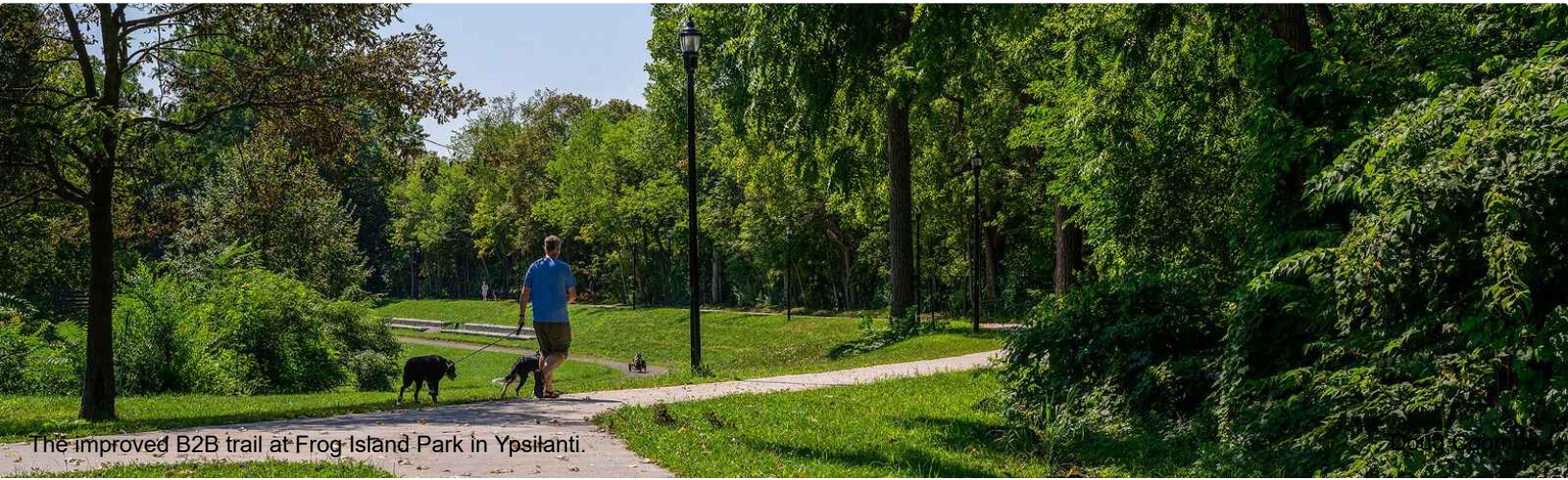
"Creating connectivity between our public trails brings our communities together and provides new recreational opportunities for our residents," MEDC Senior Vice President of Community Development, Michele Wildman said in the news release. "We are pleased to support and provide resources for this project through our Public Spaces Community Places program."

Huron Waterloo Pathway Initiative, in partnership with Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation and the city of Chelsea, is building an extension of the Border-to-Border Trail that will connect users directly into Downtown Chelsea.

The new section of trail will begin at Veterans Park, winding through Timbertown, and will continue one-mile north on a road-separated path on M-52. The trailhead at Timbertown features parking, restrooms, picnic pavilions and a play area. This section of the trail is part of a larger B2B Trail plan that will eventually connect Chelsea to Stockbridge.

The trail will not only connect to downtown Chelsea, but will traverse Michigan DNR's Pinckney and Waterloo Recreation area. The trail connection will add to the existing 4.8 miles of trail that were constructed in 2018-2020, the news release said.

“HWPI is pleased to partner with the MEDC on the Border-to-Border Trail Chelsea Connector. When complete, residents and visitors will be able to connect directly into downtown Chelsea from the trail to access restaurants, shopping, and the recreational facilities at Timber Town and Veterans Park,” said Jeff Hardcastle, HWPI board chair, in the release. “This project is part of a series of dynamic connections that will significantly enhance non-motorized trail access in Western Washtenaw County.” For additional project details and to donate, visit www.patronicity.com/b2btrail.

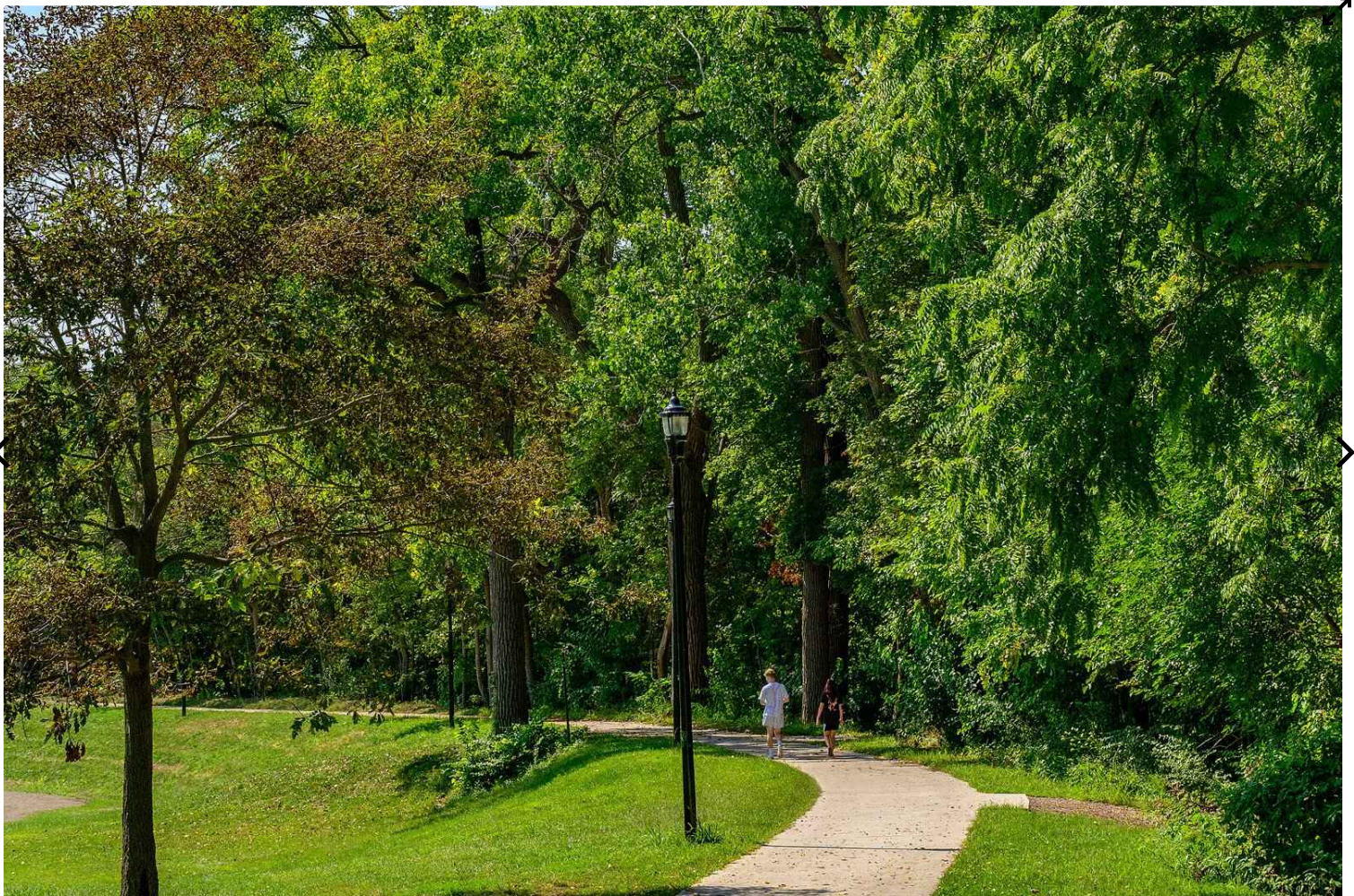


The improved B2B trail at Frog Island Park in Ypsilanti.

Safer trails, new signage, and other improvements on the way for Ypsi-area parks and trails

SARAH RIGG | WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2021

New signage and a new website for the Border-to-Border Trail, safer paths between Ypsilanti and Ypsilanti Township, and trail surface improvements are all completed or in the works.



Doug Coombe

The improved B2B trail at Frog Island Park in Ypsilanti.



Numerous improvements are on the way or already completed for Ypsilanti-area parks and trails, including new signage and a new website for Washtenaw County's Border-to-Border (B2B) Trail, safer paths between Ypsilanti and Ypsilanti Township, and trail surface improvements.

Susan Faulkner, executive director of the nonprofit Huron Waterloo Pathways Initiative (HWPI), which has been a funding partner on several of these projects, says the timing for the improvements is good since people are looking for safe things to do outside.

"They not only want to recreate, but the mental health benefits of trails have been clearly documented," Faulkner says. "We don't have exact trail counts here, but nationally, trail usage went up over 200% during the pandemic. What we've seen clearly demonstrated with the pandemic is how trails are an essential community asset."

New connections, signs, website for the Border-to-Border Trail

The B2B Trail is a 35-mile paved pathway comprising eight different trail corridors intended to allow Washtenaw County residents to walk or bike from the eastern border of the county to the western edge of the county through one continuous trail system.

However, Peter Sanderson, principal park planner for Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation (WCPR), notes that construction only reached the eastern border with Wayne County last year.

The B2B by Rawsonville Elementary School.

"We extended the trail from Rawsonville Elementary School to the Wayne County border, and we're very excited about that milestone," Sanderson says.

The B2B is also part of the Iron Belle Trail, the longest designated state trail in the U.S., which stretches between Belle Isle Park in Detroit and Ironwood in the Upper Peninsula.

"Trying to make those regional connections is some of the more challenging work, with different jurisdictions and different players," Sanderson says. He says HWPI has been "valuable and effective at working across jurisdictions."

"Our goal is to create healthy, connected communities," says Faulkner. "The primary way we do this is by fundraising and providing that critical private-sector funding to supplement both local and statewide funding. Almost all the time, public sector grants require a matching element, and we can help contribute to that."

Another Ypsilanti-area improvement to the B2B trail last year involved re-routing and widening the trail through Frog Island Park.

Bonnie Wessler, project manager for Ypsilanti's Department of Public Services, says the old routing of the trail through Frog Island required pedestrians or cyclists to come off the sidewalk and onto Rice Street onto a stretch of gravel. She says it wasn't safe for users or accessible to those with mobility issues.

The improved B2B trail at Frog Island Park in Ypsilanti.

"Users can stay on an accessible, level surface for the entirety of their experience on Frog Island," Wessler says.

Another welcome development for users of the B2B Trail is its new website, B2Btrail.org. Previously, trail maps were scattered across several websites and weren't always updated with current information.

Sanderson says the new site will gather all B2B information in one place. It includes interactive maps and will include updates about construction, detours, events, and destinations users can find along the trail. Wessler says a central map for the B2B has been one of the most-requested items from the public.

"Before, we'd generally have to point them at a PDF that could be three years out of date," Wessler says. "Now, you can check for fun events along the trail like the jazz series in the park, but also things like volunteer work days."

The new website also allows users to report issues, like a downed tree blocking the path.

"You don't have to worry if you should call the city or email the county or call Eastern Michigan University," Wessler says. "You report it on the website, and they figure out who it should go to."

WCPR plans to soon update wayfinding signs with mile markers and indicators of nearby attractions along the trail throughout the county. Sanderson says Ypsilanti will possibly benefit the most from new signage since it has some of the most confusing trail segments, especially around EMU's campus.

Connecting city and township

Two of the biggest projects to improve non-motorized routes in the Ypsilanti area have involved getting the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) on board with path improvements that cross I-94 at Huron Street and Grove Road.

Multiple entities came together and secured funding to improve pedestrian safety at Huron and I-94, and work is set to kick off in 2022.

Mike Hoffmeister, residential services director for Ypsilanti Township, says this section of the trail as well as the sections further to the south "will be a huge connection for people trying to get to places like Kroger and the post office."

In a project with a similar aim, WCPR, MDOT, and the city of Ypsilanti are currently working together to improve connectivity between city and township, where Grove Road passes over the freeway. Sanderson says the project removes the sidewalk on Grove and widens the trail.

Widening the trail on South Grove crossing I-94.

"That will complete the last major link that was still needed in the Ypsilanti area," Sanderson says. "Completing the Grove Road project also means it's accessible in terms of the ADA, and it's safe for bikes and pedestrians to traverse over the freeway."

"When the parks commission approached us about widening the trail there, we were

100% all in," Wessler says, adding that the work would have commenced sooner if not for delays in the permitting process.

Both Wessler and Sanderson say State Rep. Ronnie Peterson advocated for the project, including putting fencing on the side of the bridge for safety reasons.

"Especially with younger children and the traffic right there, it can be pretty darn intimidating," Wessler says. "It will help improve safety and people's perception of safety. We're really pleased with the results of this partnership with WCPR and MDOT."

Sanderson says the Grove Road section has been "a real team effort."

"Even though it's a short project in terms of overall length, it's high-impact," Sanderson says. "It links a lot of the community together. The communities north and south of the freeway used to be linked prior to the freeway going in, and it's been a lot of work to connect them again."

Other park and trail improvements

The city of Ypsilanti and Ypsilanti Township are also working on a variety of park and trail improvements in their own jurisdictions.

Wessler says the city is working with the county to rehabilitate some of the pavement in Riverside Park, and the city is also making plans to improve stormwater drainage for that area. She says residents took aerial shots from drone cameras that helped the city pinpoint low points where the water tends to flow.

"We're going to be sensitive to the ecology [of the Huron River], but we also want to provide park users with a safe, pleasant, and fish-free experience," Wessler says.

She says the city is also tackling some deferred maintenance, like repaving the basketball court at Parkridge Park and other small projects like leveling sidewalks in some areas.

Ypsilanti Township CommUNITY Skatepark.

In the township, the recently-built CommUNITY Skatepark is coming up on its one-year anniversary, and Hoffmeister says it's "very well-used." In less happy news, plans for an

off-leash dog park in the township were delayed since some projects that were higher priority got pushed back during the pandemic, Hoffmeister says.

And finally, Loonfeather Point Park has recently closed for renovations slated to kick off today. The project was funded by a Michigan Department of National Resources grant. Hoffmeister says the project will make the paths more ADA-compliant and will generally give the park a "facelift."

More information about all WCPR offerings can be found [here](#). Maps and other information about the B2B Trail System is available [here](#).

Sarah Rigg is a freelance writer and editor in Ypsilanti Township and the project manager of On the Ground Ypsilanti. She joined Concentrate as a news writer in early 2017 and is an occasional contributor to other Issue Media Group publications. You may reach her at sarahrigg1@gmail.com.

All photos by Doug Coombe.

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5 Common Money Mistakes To Avoid In 2021

Politics & Government

Washtenaw County Government: New! Border To Border Trail Website - B2btrail.Org

See the latest announcement from Washtenaw County Government.



Press Release Desk, News Partner

Posted Mon, Aug 30, 2021 at 2:55 pm ET

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Let's go!

This fantastic resource is available to help visitors get the most out of their next trail adventure! B2BTrail.org is a comprehensive tool which is designed to help users learn more about the trail. The website is especially useful for planning outings on the trail; offering details about access points, trail amenities, construction updates, events and much more!

You are invited to explore this new online resource from your living room or mobile device making it easier than ever to plan your next visit, join the trail community and support the B2B Trail.

Visit the website at B2BTrail.org.

Help preserve local news. Support The Sun Times News.

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Supporter: \$10/mo.

(Other plans available)

SUPPORT

[Chelsea MI](#)

9-02-2021 9:43am

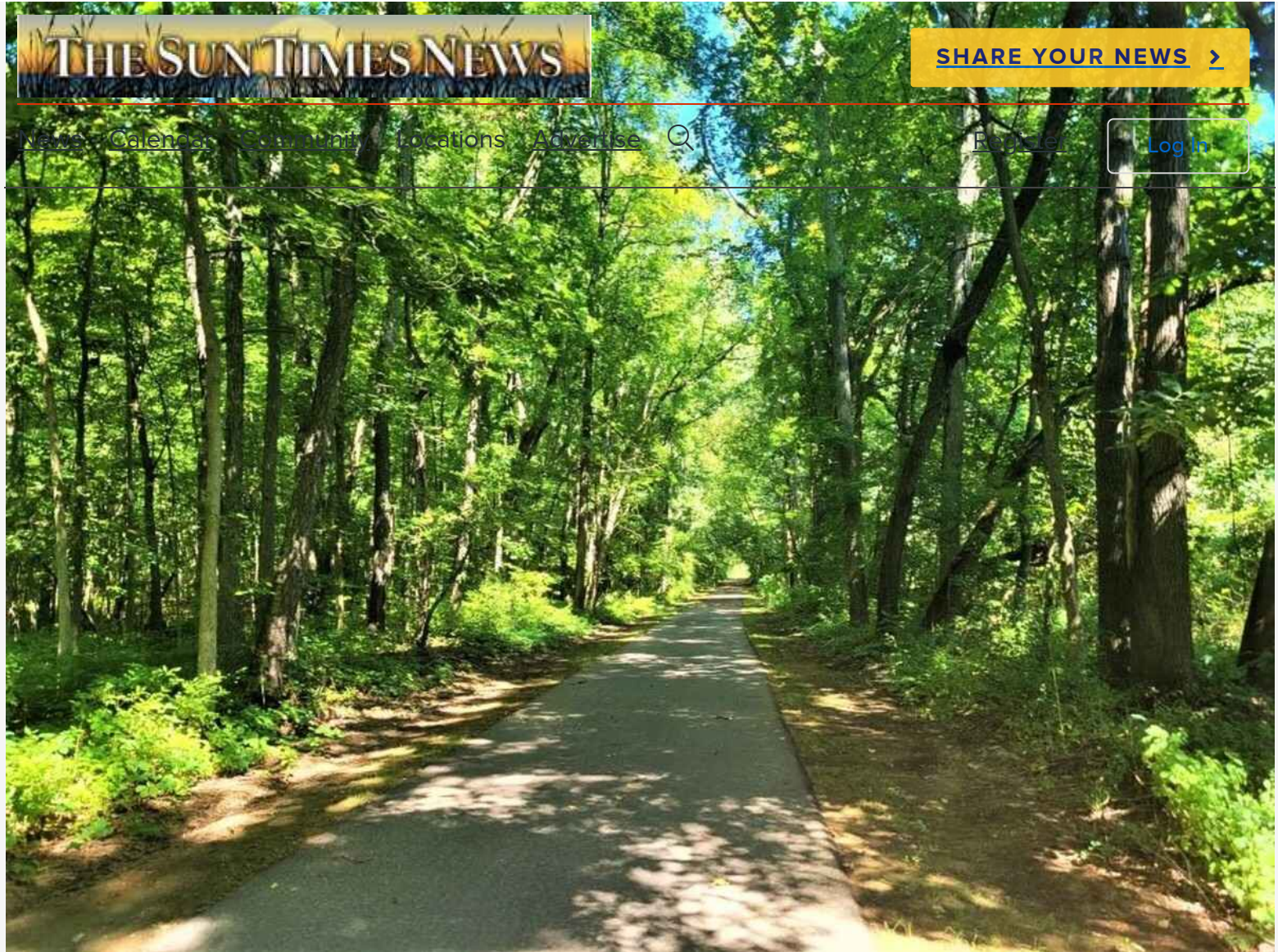
Chelsea's New B2B Section Could Break Ground This Fall



[Doug Marrin](#)
Editor ✓

Like





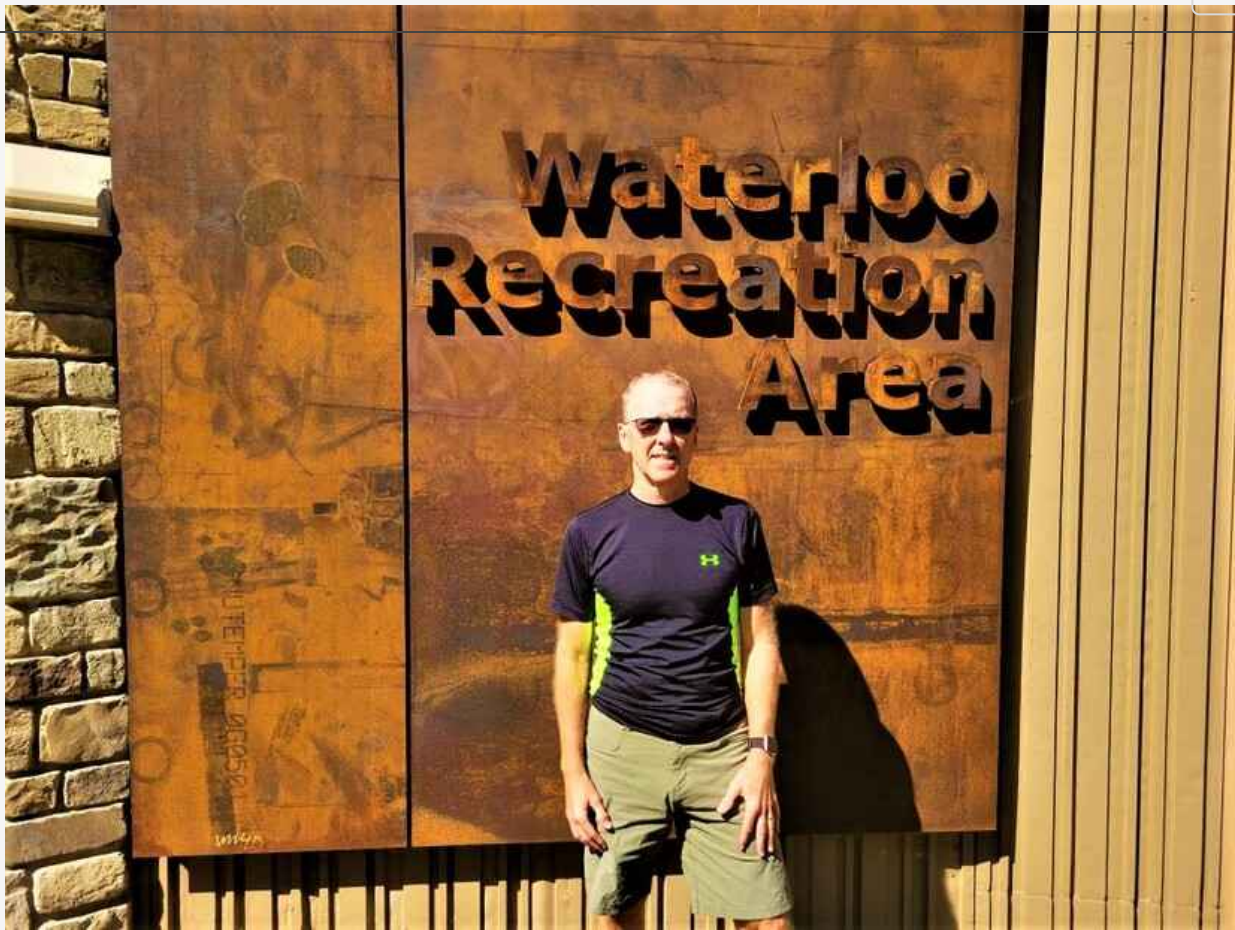
The tunnel of trees leading out of the new trailhead at Lyndon Township Hall is part of the trail that has been built on the old M-92 roadbed.

By Doug Marrin, STN Reporter

A growing number of outdoor enthusiasts are enjoying scenic recreation on Washtenaw County's Border-to-Border Trail (B2B). The newest section of the popular trail is planned to connect the City of Chelsea with 4.8 miles of existing trail. A fundraiser is underway to finance the effort.

"This connection into town will be big because there's parking at both Veterans Park and Timber Town," says Jeff Hardcastle, Board President of Huron Waterloo Pathways Initiative (HWPI). "Once completed, folks from within the city can get right onto the trail without ever leaving the city streets."

fundraising effort for the segment into Chelsea.



HWPI Board President, Jeff Hardcastle.

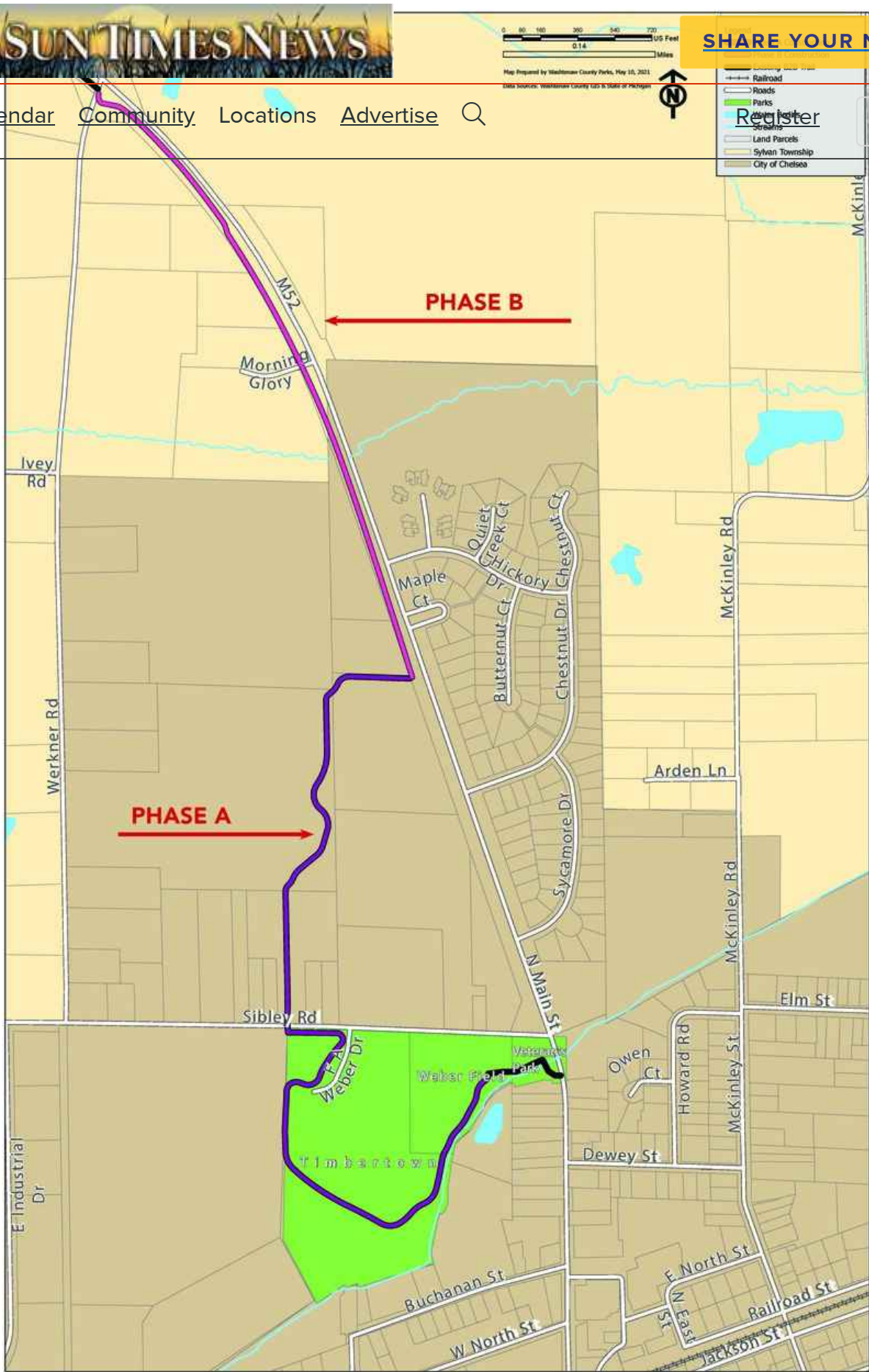
HWPI is a non-profit organization developing the area's network of non-motorized recreational pathways. HWPI's primary project is the development of the B2B. The B2B was conceived in the 1990s by Washtenaw County Parks & Rec as a trail extending from one end of the county to the other, connecting the communities along the way.

"For the first ten years, Parks and Rec focused on a route from Dexter to Ann Arbor," said Jeff. "The heart of the Border-to-Border Trail has always been the Huron River Greenway from Dexter to Ann Arbor."

The original plan was for the B2B to go north out of Dexter to Hudson Mills Metropark and then to the Mike Levine Lakelands Trail State Park in Pinckney. The stretch from Dexter to Hudson Mills was constructed in 2013. Engineering for the segment from Hudson Mills to Pinckney has presented a challenge.



Meanwhile, Jen had formed a group working to develop a connecting pathway between Chelsea and Dexter. They began raising money, applied for, and received a federal grant to start building their trail. Parks and Rec learned what the group was doing, talks ensued, and the two entities joined forces in 2017. HWPI was formed as a private enterprise to help the county accelerate the construction of its county-wide trail.



Map showing the route of the new section beginning at Veterans Park in Chelsea and ending at Werkner Rd. Image courtesy of HWPI.



at a private entity involved in fundraising,
arks and Rec has a lot of m

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But on their own, they can only do one segment every three years. Since we joined forces, we've been doing two or three segments every year now for three years, and we should be able to keep that up and get the whole thing finished."

Official plans for the B2B were changed to have it come through Chelsea and up M-52 to the county line, where Ingham County plans on taking it into Stockbridge and the Mike Levine Lakelands Trail. The change in route provided several advantages:

1. Another community, Chelsea, is now connected via a pathway.
2. A lot of DNR property is along the M-52 corridor. The DNR is amenable to the trail development.
3. The easements along M-52 are as wide as 120 feet in places.

Also, once construction began, crews found the old M-92 roadbed still in place, and it was used for stretches of the trail. M-92 was constructed in 1919 and replaced by M-52 in 1962.



The stirring and contemplative “Dedicated to the Women Leaders of Michigan” overlooks Green Lake from her place alongside the B2B north of Chelsea.



section of B2B, beginning at Veterans Park, continuing one mile north.

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section of trail will lead directly to downtown Chelsea. The trailhead at Timbertown features extensive parking, restrooms, picnic pavilions, and a play area.

“HWPI is responsible for funding over 40% of the new segment,” explained Jeff. “We got a 50/50 matching grant from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. One stipulation of the grant, however, is that it has to be a community effort. They won’t accept a donor writing one big check to cover it. There’s a limit to the size of individual contributions they’ll match.”

The goal is to raise \$50,000. As of this writing, \$32,175 has been raised from 126 supporters. The deadline for the grant is Sept. 15.

With successful funding, construction for the new segment is expected to start this fall.

To donate online, visit patronicity.com/b2btrail

Or, mail a check payable to HWPI to HWPI, 14800 E Old US 12, Chelsea, MI, 48118

All photos by Doug Marrin unless otherwise indicated.

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Digital Report - August 2021

This monthly report will highlight our social media outreach, website analytics, newsletters, items in the news, and recent snapshots around the parks.

Monthly comparisons will be used to track data and improve our outreach.

Useful definitions for this report

Impressions

A Facebook metric related to the visibility of our posts is referred to as impressions. Impressions measure the number of times our posts were seen. That includes if one post was seen multiple times by a single user.

Engagement

Engagement measures the number of times someone took action on our posts. That could mean clicking a link, sharing our post, making a reaction or leaving a comment.



Digital Report - August 2021

SOCIAL MEDIA

facebook

Blue Heron Bay

Monthly Impressions

August	Last Month	Last Year
38,480		

Total Post Engagement

August	Last Month	Last Year
2,694		

facebook

Independence Lake

Monthly Impressions

August	Last Month	Last Year
71,007		

Total Post Engagement

August	Last Month	Last Year
3,864		

facebook

Meri Lou Murray

Monthly Impressions

August	Last Month	Last Year
2,888		

Total Post Engagement

August	Last Month	Last Year
138		

facebook

Pierce Lake

Monthly Impressions

August	Last Month	Last Year
24,552		

Total Post Engagement

August	Last Month	Last Year
1,151		

facebook

Rolling Hills

Monthly Impressions

August	Last Month	Last Year
627,455		

Total Post Engagement

August	Last Month	Last Year
39,689		

facebook

WCPARC

Monthly Impressions

August	Last Month	Last Year
23,911		

Total Post Engagement

August	Last Month	Last Year
1,105		

Instagram

Rolling Hills

Total Followers

August	Last Month	Last Year
976		

Top Post - Lifeguards

How many people reacted to posts

August	Last Month	Last Year
96		

Instagram

WCPARC

Total Followers

August	Last Month	Last Year
2,299		

Top Post - Photo Ambassadors

How many people reacted to posts

August	Last Month	Last Year
108		



Digital Report - August 2021

Instagram - Top Posts

< **ROLLINGHILLSPARK**
Posts

 **rollinghillspark**
Rolling Hills County Park ...



A man in a blue cap and dark shorts stands on a concrete deck next to a large swimming pool. In the background, other people are swimming, and there are trees and a yellow umbrella.

♥️ 💬 📌 ... 📌

96 likes

rollinghillspark Let's talk about our staff for a minute. Under normal circumstances we have around 200 staff every summer. This year we have less than 90. Less. Than. 90. These guys...they show up every day, ready to work, and they make it happen. Without them, we (literally) wouldn't have been able to open this summer. We have a great crew and are thankful for the work they put in day in and day out. Obviously they aren't all pictured...but to our staff...We ❤️ You.

< **WASHTENAWCOUNTYPARKS**
Posts

 **washtenawcountyparks**
Rolling Hills County Park ...



Two turtles are swimming in a pond. One is a large, dark-colored turtle, and the other is a smaller, lighter-colored turtle.

♥️ 💬 📌 ... 📌

 Liked by **annarborparks** and **107 others**

washtenawcountyparks Where did your weekend adventures take you? Here are a couple photos from photo ambassador @_irina.stoi.lov_ from her weekend trip to @rollinghillspark. 🌿🌳🍃



Digital Report - August 2021

Website, Newsletter, News

Website Statistics - Coming Soon

Total Page Visits	September	Last Month	Sept. Last Year

Top Pages Viewed	Views

Top Search Words			
1		4	
2		5	
3		6	

In The News

- Safer Trails, new signage
- E. coli closes Independence Lake beach
- Construction of B2B tunnel
- Chelsea's B2B section breaks ground this Fall
- New B2B trail website

Monthly Newsletter

WCPARC

August Newsletter via MailChimp

Sent to	Opened	Clicks
6,779	3,872	229

August Newsletter non MailChimp

Sent to	Opened	
1,123	N/A	

Photography





Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MEMORANDUM

TO: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Coy P. Vaughn, Director
DATE: September 14, 2021
RE: Project and Activities Update – August 2021

Park Facility Events and Projects

Independence Lake

- Staff is finalizing the updated Site Master Plan. It is anticipated to be presented to the Parks Commission this fall.
- Blue Heron Bay Spray Park opened July 31 and operated Friday-Monday due to low staffing. For the season, there were fifteen parties and fourteen large group visits. Management received many positive comments about facility staff and general operations.
- Beach/swim area was closed August 4-5 and 23-27 due to high bacteria counts in the water.
- This was the most successful year for the facility's day camp program. There were 268 campers and reached maximum capacity every week but one.
- The Red Hawk Disc Golf Course hosted three tournaments in August sponsored by local leagues. Golf Nights continue to be popular with glow play the second Friday of the month.
- The facility received twenty-five books for the two "Little Free Libraries" for the non-profit's *Read in Color initiative* that promotes diversity, equity and inclusion.
- Eighteen families attended the Perseid meteor shower program with parks naturalist, Kelsey Dehring, and enjoyed a campfire and snacks.
- Nineteen participants attended the self-defense seminar, which received positive feedback.
- Disc Golf beginners class reached capacity with six participants.

Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center

- Four campers participated in Camp Big Heart August 2-5 and enjoyed swimming, arts and crafts, nature hikes and a special visit from the Fire Department.
- August private swim lessons were filled and will be offered again in the fall. Group swim lessons will run this fall for the first time in over a year.
- A two-week water aerobics mini session was held, which was the first time the activity was offered in over a year.
- MLMRC was closed the last week in August for annual maintenance. Staff worked diligently to keep the shutdown to one week because of the extended closure due to COVID in 2020.
- As a fun way to engage employees, MLMRC staff offered its first Staff Pickleball Tournament. Although it was determined that more practice was needed, staff enjoyed the activity!

Rolling Hills Park

- Family Campouts took place the first two weekends in August and were limited to 50% capacity due to staffing shortages. More than 200 participants enjoyed nature programming, s'mores, fishing, crafts, and a pancake breakfast.
- Day Camp was offered eleven weeks this summer; however, two were canceled due to COVID cases. Parents provided significant positive feedback about camp staff.
- The Water Park sold out twenty-eight days out of the twenty-nine days of operation.
- River Walking activity had amazing attendance and feedback. Classes averaged between 30-40 participants each day, with sixty-two people on the last day. Staff hopes to offer River Walking daily next season.
- To recognize the dedicated and hardworking seasonal employees, the Water Park opened for a staff party on August 25.
- Disc Golf Glow Nights event was held on August 27, and a disc golf tournament with MOB Disc Golf was held on August 29.

Sharon Mills Park

- On August 28, the Manchester Area Historical Society hosted, in partnership with Riverfolk Music & Arts Org. and WCPARC, a "Passport to Manchester" series event at the park. The program highlighted Ford's Village Industries initiative.

Staebler Farm Park

- Staff is preparing an RFP for the multipurpose building project; it is anticipated it to be released late September.
- Architects from The Collaborative have begun to assess the farmhouse for rehabilitation.
- August MFS classes: 26 classes including Blacksmithing 101, Bladesmithing, Spooncarving Gardening, Chairmaking, Parent/Child Blacksmithing, and Greenwood.

Special Initiatives

Border-to-Border Trail (B2B)

- Construction on the Dexter-Chelsea trail segment (CD2), Dancer Road to Wylie Road, has begun. The contractor has completed grading on 50% of the trail and plans to start on pouring the concrete in early September.
- Chelsea Connector segment (C1) construction has begun with mowing and installing silt fence. The Contractor will start on the grading work in early September.
- The Grove Road bridge widening over I-94 in the City of Ypsilanti (Y7) has begun. The Contractor has completed the sidewalk bridge deck widening from 6' to 14' wide. They plan to work on the sidewalk approaches to the bridge later in September.

Connecting Communities

- The deadline to submit 2021 Connecting Communities grants applications was August 31. Four communities applied for planning and/or construction funds: City of Dexter, City of Saline, Manchester Township, and Superior Township.
- Several previous round projects are outstanding due to COVID delays. Staff has been preparing project extensions to accommodate these communities.

Natural Areas Preservation Program (NAPP)

Acquisition

- Ann Arbor Township closed on the 41-acre Stiles-Kaldjian 2 conservation easement. WCPARC via NATAC contributed to the purchase, as well as the City of Ann Arbor Greenbelt. This property forms a contiguous block of about 580 preserved acres with four other easements.

- Webster Township closed on the long-anticipated 203-acre Base Lake Farm easement at the north edge of the county. WCPARC via ALPAC contributed to the purchase via the Huron River RCPP.
- WCPARC closed on the 14-acre Kidder expansion of Scio Woods Preserve.
- NATAC completed their first round of site visits for Round 21.

Stewardship

- Stiltgrass survey and control are underway at Botsford and Watkins Lake preserves. The efforts surrounding Botsford Preserve in Scio Township have involved over forty-five private landowners.
- A sign with the renamed “Kidder-McKeachie Scio Woods Preserve” has been installed at the preserve entrance. Phragmites were treated across the facility’s newest addition, which will help restore habitat for the diverse amphibian populations.
- Staff flew a drone over Trinkle Marsh to assess the needs for cattail control this year. Footage shows successful treatment from last year’s efforts and highlights areas still free of cattails.
- Control of spotted knapweed continues at Fox Science and Leonard preserves.
- Staff coordinated with Independence Lake Park staff on the purchase of kayaks for monitoring and managing wetland environments.
- An initial trail was designed and cut to connect Weatherbee Woods Preserve to SMLC’s Seacrest Preserve.

Interpretive Programming

- 246 patrons attended naturalist programs in August. Programs included junior naturalist on dragonflies, intro to archery, birding, cloudspotting, and Perseid meteor night hike, among others.



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

August 2021 - Claims Report

PARK / FACILITY / FUNCTION	UTILITIES	DIRECT PURCHASES	OTHER	TOTAL
Administration	\$ 1,494.13	\$ 3,880.75	\$ 8,176.57	\$ 13,551.45
Recreation Center	36,180.23	1,642.28	21,057.11	58,879.62
Park Maintenance	1,582.36	2,291.48	7,806.81	11,680.65
Pierce Lake Golf Course	1,392.77	7,710.43	41,743.69	50,846.89
Independence Lake	2,162.09	1,969.41	21,082.38	25,213.88
Rolling Hills	20,721.35	14,772.92	39,897.01	75,391.28
Parker Mill	229.23	79.07	33.00	341.30
Sharon Mills	105.15	-	35.00	140.15
Staebler Farm	127.43	162.33	76.00	365.76
Swift Run Dog Park	-	-	-	-
Capital Improvement	-	-	41,770.91	41,770.91
Committed Funding Partnerships	-	-	-	-
Commission	-	-	-	-
SUBTOTAL	\$ 63,994.74	\$ 32,508.67	\$ 181,678.48	\$ 278,181.89
 Road Millage Fund	 -	 -	 221,290.61	 221,290.61
SUBTOTAL	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 221,290.61	\$ 221,290.61
 Natural Areas Preservation Program				
Acquisition	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 405,498.51	\$ 405,498.51
Preserve Management	-	1,575.84	2,452.50	\$ 4,028.34
NATAC	-	-	-	\$ -
Acquisition	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,035.00	\$ 1,035.00
Annual Monitoring	-	-	-	\$ -
ALPAC	-	-	-	-
SUBTOTAL	\$ -	\$ 1,575.84	\$ 408,986.01	\$ 410,561.85
 TOTAL	\$ 63,994.74	\$ 34,084.51	\$ 811,955.10	\$ 910,034.35

It was moved by _____ and supported by _____
to approve payment of claims in the amount of.....

\$ 910,034.35

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

Beginning Fund Balance (1/1/21)	17,612,810		67%	YTD % Budget	
Revenue (Budget)		Revenue (Actual)			Variance
Property Tax	7,949,931	8,451,995		106%	502,064
State Grant Funds	-	-			-
Fees & Services	3,560,000	2,012,194		57%	(1,547,806)
Interest Earnings	150,000	46,488		31%	(103,512)
Other Revenue & Reimb.	<u>30,000</u>	<u>19,761</u>		66%	<u>(10,239)</u>
Total Revenue	11,689,931	10,530,437	90%		(1,159,494)
Expense (Budget)		Expense (Actual)			Variance
Personnel Services	(6,231,847)	(3,643,440)	58%		2,588,407
Supplies & Other Services	(2,390,854)	(1,306,129)	55%		1,084,725
Internal Service Charges	(940,957)	(635,623)	68%		305,334
Capital					
Land Acquisition	-	-	-		-
CIP/Development	(3,100,000)	(550,032)	18%		2,549,968
Contingency	(400,000)	(100,893)	25%		299,107
Machinery & Equipment	<u>(172,300)</u>	<u>(73,389)</u>	43%		<u>98,911</u>
Capital Subtotal	(3,672,300)	(724,314)	20%		2,947,986
Transfers Out	(808,000)	(808,000)	100%		-
Total Expense	<u>(14,043,958)</u>	<u>(7,117,505)</u>	51%		6,926,453
Surplus/(Deficit)	(2,354,027)	3,412,932			
Operating Reserve	(7,832,444)	(7,832,444)			
Funding Commitments (Partnerships)	<u>(2,589,546)</u>	<u>(808,000)</u>			
	(10,421,990)	(8,640,444)			
Projected Fund Balance (12/31/21)	<u>4,836,793</u>	<u>12,385,298</u>			

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

Beginning Fund Balance (1/1/21)	6,662,301	67%	YTD % Budget	
Revenue (Budget)		Revenue (Actual)		Variance
Property Tax	3,936,536	4,210,019	107%	273,483
Federal Revenue	-	-		-
Interest Earnings	50,000	19,481	39%	(30,519)
Other Revenue & Reimb.	<u>5,000</u>	<u>544</u>	11%	<u>(4,456)</u>
Total Revenue	3,991,536	4,230,044	106%	238,508
Expense (Budget)		Expense (Actual)		Variance
Personnel Services	(675,600)	(222,464)	33%	453,136
Supplies & Other Services	(332,600)	(230,035)	69%	102,565
Internal Service Charges	(22,840)	(12,734)	56%	10,106
Capital				
Land Acquisition	(2,550,000)	(1,446,557)	57%	1,103,443
Land Development	-	-		-
Machinery & Equipment	<u>(5,000)</u>	<u>-</u>	0%	<u>5,000</u>
Capital Subtotal	(2,555,000)	(1,446,557)	57%	1,108,443
Transfers Out	(7,500)	(33,950)	453%	
Total Expense	<u>(3,593,540)</u>	<u>(1,945,741)</u>	54%	1,674,249
Surplus/(Deficit)	397,996	2,284,304		
Projected Fund Balance (12/31/21)	<u>7,060,297</u>	<u>8,946,605</u>		

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

	GATE					
	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
RESIDENT (ANNUAL)	1,334	1,008	2,096	\$ 40,020	\$ 30,240	\$ 62,880
NON-RESIDENT (ANNUAL)	149	88	203	6,705	3,960	9,135
RESIDENTS (DAILY)	11,778	1,908	8,020	70,668	11,448	48,120
NON-RESIDENTS (DAILY)	18,345	1,012	7,907	183,450	10,120	79,070
SENIOR (DAILY)	818	91	465	2,454	273	1,395
SENIOR NON-RES. (DAILY)	592	20	228	3,552	120	1,368
GLOW GOLF DROP-IN	-	-	1	-	-	5
BUSES (DAILY)	123	-	4	3,690	-	120
ANNUAL BUS	-	-	-	-	-	-
MINI BUS	44	1	4	660	15	60
ANNUAL MINI BUS	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>33,183</u>	<u>4,128</u>	<u>18,928</u>	<u>\$ 311,199</u>	<u>\$ 56,176</u>	<u>\$ 202,153</u>
PERCENT OF NON-RESIDENTS:						
ANNUAL	10.05%	8.03%	8.83%			
DAILY	60.05%	34.05%	48.95%			

WATER PARK POOL ATTENDANCE

	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
DAILY ENTRANCE	<u>120,363</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>39,389</u>	<u>\$ 1,024,944</u>	<u>\$ 48</u>	<u>\$ 401,673</u>
	120,363	4	39,389	\$ 1,024,944	\$ 48	\$ 401,673

PROGRAMMING & RETAIL OPERATIONS

	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
DAYCAMP	1,941	-	1,759	\$ 52,405	\$ -	\$ 47,485
BIRTHDAY PACKAGES	34	-	-	8,162	-	-
AQUATICS PROGRAMMING	726	-	1,453	2,731	-	4,952
DISC GOLF	4,114	2,095	2,565	8,228	4,190	5,130
SPECIAL EVENTS	<u>2,074</u>	<u>379</u>	<u>716</u>	<u>26,583</u>	<u>2,932</u>	<u>13,801</u>
	8,889	2,474	6,493	\$ 98,109	\$ 7,122	\$ 71,368

ROLLING HILLS COUNTY PARK
YEAR-TO-DATE PARTICIPATION & REVENUE REPORT
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PROGRAMMING & RETAIL OPERATIONS (cont'd)

	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
FACILITY RENTALS						
WEEKDAYS	24	2	37	\$ 2,318	\$ 40	\$ 3,175
WEEKENDS	142	9	145	14,687	160	18,925
SOCCER FIELDS	2,450	70	131	9,965	200	375
DISC GOLF COURSE	-	-	10	-	-	950
WATERPARK SHELTERS	33	-	-	1,240	-	-
	<u>2,649</u>	<u>81</u>	<u>323</u>	<u>\$ 28,210</u>	<u>\$ 400</u>	<u>\$ 23,425</u>
TOBOGGANS	229	-	760	687	\$ -	\$ 2,280
CROSS COUNTRY SKIS	177	-	936	531	-	2,808
MISC. RETAIL	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>406</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,696</u>	<u>\$ 1,218</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 5,088</u>
LOCKERS	21,400	-	4,197	\$ 5,350	\$ -	\$ 1,049
FOOD CONCESSIONS	112,438	-	42,034	224,605	-	80,212
MISCELLANEOUS	593	-	285	3,187	-	1,685
GIFT CERTIFICATE SALES	39	3	-	411	428	-
	<u>134,470</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>46,516</u>	<u>\$ 233,553</u>	<u>\$ 428</u>	<u>\$ 82,947</u>
	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
YTD TOTAL PARTICIPATION & REVENUE:	299,960	6,690	113,344	\$ 1,697,233	\$ 64,174	\$ 786,654

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

	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
INDIVIDUAL RESIDENT	620	330	241	\$ 123,780	\$ 59,058	\$ 45,768
INDIVIDUAL NON-RESIDENT	14	5	4	4,275	2,060	1,074
S/Y/D RESIDENT	862	419	277	143,290	67,117	45,136
S/Y/D NON-RESIDENT	3	2	-	790	520	-
FAMILY RESIDENT	202	131	92	66,955	32,678	22,358
FAMILY NON-RESIDENT	2	1	1	1,480	735	767
FAMILY - ADDT'L MEMBER	11	13	4	701	483	150
SENIORS OVER 80	267	110	122	15,780	6,125	7,330
PERSONAL TRAINERS	13	1	3	4,230	303	800
MILITARY PASS	2	2	1	360	180	204
30-DAY PASS	563	256	593	25,040	10,532	26,300
SEASONAL PASS	136	-	-	10,720	-	-
REPLACEMENT PASS	-	33	7	-	33	7
SUB-TOTAL	2,695	1,303	1,345	\$ 397,400	\$ 179,824	\$ 149,894
PASS FACILITY USE	118,283	43,173	74,658			
PERCENT OF NON-RESIDENTS:	1.12%	0.90%	0.81%			

DAILY ENTRIES

	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
INDIVIDUAL RESIDENT	6,381	2,552	5	\$ 51,048	\$ 20,416	\$ 40
INDIVIDUAL NON-RESIDENT	674	212	11	6,066	1,908	99
S/Y/D RESIDENT	5,561	2,122	3	33,366	12,732	18
S/Y/D NON-RESIDENT	233	105	-	1,631	735	-
INDIVIDUAL FITNESS RESIDENT	155	46	-	960	264	-
INDIVIDUAL FITNESS NON-RESIDENT	-	-	-	-	-	-
SENIOR FITNESS RESIDENT	341	129	-	1,841	756	-
SENIOR FITNESS NON-RESIDENT	11	3	-	28	14	-
DAILY PASS/GIFT CERTIFICATE SALES	-	75	-	2,948	450	-
SUB-TOTAL	13,356	5,244	19	\$ 97,888	\$ 37,275	\$ 157
PERCENT OF NON-RESIDENTS:	6.87%	6.19%	57.89%			

OTHER REVENUE

	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
DAYCAMP	3,282	23	15	\$ 88,617	\$ 630	\$ 405
RECREATION PROGRAMS	26,344	8,604	21,825	113,616	25,927	33,020
FACILITY RENTALS	206	106	-	4,948	2,554	-
POOL/STUDIO/GYM	-	-	-	-	-	-
PARTY PAVILION	-	-	-	-	-	-
MISC. RETAIL	306	81	66	8,273	2,220	2,190
LOCKERS	22,708	9,068	3,120	5,677	2,267	780
VENDING	-	-	-	1,135	1,208	-
SUB-TOTAL	52,846	17,883	25,026	\$ 222,266	\$ 34,807	\$ 36,395

	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
YTD TOTAL PARTICIPATION & REVENUE:	187,180	67,603	101,048	\$ 717,555	\$ 251,906	\$ 186,446

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

	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
WEEKDAYS						
REGULAR - 9	821	585	691	\$ 6,218	\$ 5,969	\$ 7,762
SR/JR/STUDENT - 9	377	390	433	5,556	6,810	7,384
LEAGUES - 9	4,104	2,771	3,439	65,931	47,585	58,463
REGULAR - 18	1,673	3,369	2,965	50,787	102,931	102,197
SR/JR/STUDENT - 18	3,280	2,989	4,050	67,498	71,974	95,315
TWI-LIGHT	1,634	1,641	1,293	26,915	32,432	24,677
WEEKENDS						
REGULAR - 9	196	123	158	4,401	3,200	4,014
SR/JR/STUDENT - 9	32	31	9	512	589	171
REGULAR - 18	2,857	2,925	4,378	95,584	105,479	160,044
SR/JR/STUDENT - 18	243	209	442	6,318	6,041	12,960
TWI-LIGHT	1,038	1,099	682	23,638	27,731	17,243
EARLY BIRD - 9	52	34	33	832	646	627
MEMBERSHIPS						
ULTIMATE PACKAGE	237	320	534	9,500	15,775	24,898
WEEKDAY PACKAGE	616	906	1,233	9,400	10,257	14,921
WEEKEND PACKAGE	110	-	164	750	-	800
TWI-LIGHT PACKAGE	292	235	206	5,525	3,850	4,575
OUTINGS (WEEKDAYS & WEEKENDS)	741	-	560	22,111	-	22,198
	<u>18,303</u>	<u>17,627</u>	<u>21,270</u>	<u>\$ 401,477</u>	<u>\$ 441,269</u>	<u>\$ 558,249</u>

PROGRAMMING & RETAIL OPERATIONS

	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
CARTS	13,999	13,642	17,376	\$ 96,093	\$ 95,375	\$ 122,798
RENTALS	<u>58</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>580</u>	<u>180</u>	<u>310</u>
	14,057	13,660	17,407	\$ 96,673	\$ 95,555	\$ 123,108
FOOD & BEVERAGE	36,099	24,603	41,684	\$ 97,219	\$ 67,495	\$ 116,178
PRO SHOP	2,793	2,241	2,995	31,413	26,537	38,271
DISCOUNTS	-	-	-	(61,028)	(82,345)	(119,749)
VENDING	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>635</u>	<u>1,062</u>	<u>837</u>
	38,892	26,844	44,679	\$ 68,238	\$ 12,750	\$ 35,537
	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
YTD TOTAL PARTICIPATION & REVENUE:	71,252	58,131	83,356	\$ 566,388	\$ 549,573	\$ 716,895

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

GATE

	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
RESIDENTS (ANNUAL)	924	997	1,295	\$ 27,720	\$ 29,910	\$ 38,850
NON-RESIDENTS (ANNUAL)	159	181	336	7,155	8,145	15,120
RESIDENTS (DAILY)	5,220	4,391	6,002	31,320	26,346	36,012
NON-RESIDENTS (DAILY)	4,474	3,620	6,118	44,740	36,200	61,180
SENIOR (DAILY)	514	410	659	1,542	1,230	1,977
SENIOR-NON RES. (DAILY)	301	215	349	1,806	1,290	2,094
BUSES (DAILY)	19	-	8	570	-	240
ANNUAL BUS	1	-	-	150	-	-
MINI BUS	20	3	10	300	45	150
ANNUAL MINI BUS	<u>7</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>525</u>	<u>225</u>	<u>300</u>
	11,639	9,820	14,781	\$ 115,828	\$ 103,391	\$ 155,923

PERCENT OF NON-RESIDENTS:

ANNUAL	14.7%	15.4%	20.6%
DAILY	45.4%	44.4%	49.3%

BLUE HERON BAY ATTENDANCE

	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
BHB ANNUAL PASSES	132	-	-	\$ 2,388	\$ -	\$ -
BHB DAILY ENTRANCE	<u>12,153</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,183</u>	<u>47,212</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>25,142</u>
	12,285	-	6,183	\$ 49,600	\$ -	\$ 25,142

BLUE HERON BAY RETAIL OPERATION

	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
FACILITY RENTALS	4	-	24	\$ 80	\$ -	\$ 990
BIRTHDAY PACKAGES	15	-	-	1,541	-	-
SPECIAL EVENTS	<u>3</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>250</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>180</u>
	22	-	25	\$ 1,871	\$ -	\$ 1,170
LOCKERS	34	-	-	\$ 9	\$ -	\$ -
FOOD CONCESSIONS	10,229	118	7,096	21,434	125	15,213
ACCESSORIES/MISC.	<u>39</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>71</u>
	10,302	120	7,125	\$ 21,497	\$ 175	\$ 15,284

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

PROGRAMMING & RETAIL OPERATIONS

	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
DAYCAMP	1,490	6	1,960	\$ 40,217	\$ 150	\$ 52,910
DISC GOLF	213	3,546	4,575	426	7,092	9,150
SPECIAL EVENTS	<u>175</u>	<u>124</u>	<u>586</u>	<u>3,703</u>	<u>1,875</u>	<u>6,901</u>
	1,878	3,676	7,121	\$ 44,346	\$ 9,117	\$ 68,961
 FACILITY RENTALS						
WEEKDAYS	61	8	17	\$ 4,080	\$ 880	\$ 1,520
WEEKENDS	<u>71</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>82</u>	<u>8,375</u>	<u>2,600</u>	<u>9,730</u>
	132	30	99	\$ 12,455	\$ 3,480	\$ 11,250
 ROW BOATS-HOURLY	136	-	134	\$ 680	\$ -	\$ 670
ROW BOATS-DAILY	30	-	36	600	-	720
PADDLE BOATS-1/2 HOUR	<u>424</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>564</u>	<u>2,968</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,948</u>
	590	-	734	\$ 4,248	\$ -	\$ 5,338
 FOOD CONCESSIONS	6,778	5,235	5,989	\$ 11,523	\$ 10,659	\$ 13,720
ACCESSORIES/MISC.	<u>32</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>129</u>	<u>112</u>	<u>102</u>
	6,810	5,256	6,004	\$ 11,652	\$ 10,771	\$ 13,821
	 2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
YTD TOTAL PARTICIPATION & REVENUE:	43,658	18,902	42,072	\$ 261,497	\$ 126,934	\$ 296,889



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MEMORANDUM

To: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Coy P. Vaughn, Director
Date: September 14, 2021
Re: Contract Award: Barton-Bandemer Tunnel and Trail Engineering

Background

At the August 2021 regular meeting, the Commission authorized staff to execute a project agreement with the City of Ann Arbor to advance the Barton-Bandemer Tunnel and Trail project into the engineering and construction phases. Per the agreement, the Commission will hire and manage the consultant team to design and engineer the project.

The feasibility study, completed in December 2020 by Bergmann Associates and OHM Advisors (the Project Team), was originally awarded through county RFP #7541 in 2018. The Project Team was the low bid by a significant margin (25% below the next highest bidder), likely because they were currently engineering an analogous project for the City of Ann Arbor, called the *Allen Creek Berm Opening* – a pedestrian and stormwater tunnel underneath the same railroad approximately one mile south of the Barton-Bandemer Tunnel and Trail Project. The Allen Creek Berm Opening project was constructed and open to the public in 2020.

Discussion

Staff believes that it is advantageous to the county to continue working with the same Project Team through completion of the engineering work on the Barton-Bandemer Tunnel and Trail due to the following reasons:

1. The project team was the low bid on the original proposal by a significant margin
2. This specific project is a specialized skill set that has a steep learning curve
3. The project team has successfully designed and constructed a nearly identical project (awarded through the City RFP process), with the same project partners on the same railroad. Lessons learned on that project can be applied here.
4. The project team is already familiar with the preferred design for this project and the constraints and concerns presented by the site and project partners.

Staff solicited and reviewed a proposal from the Project Team to complete the project's engineering using the feasibility study's preferred option as the basis for design and believes the price to be competitive and fair. This proposal was discussed with the County's purchasing department, who recommended that a new contract be issued as opposed to a contract amendment.

Bergmann and OHM's proposal is for \$443,784. The project agreement (previous action item) states that the City will contribute 45% (approx. \$200,000) towards the engineering of the project. Additionally, the current feasibility study contract has a remaining balance of \$35,050.63, which would remain unused if a new contract is awarded.

Budget:

\$443,784 – Total Engineering Contract
- \$200,000 – *Less City of Ann Arbor's contribution*
\$243,787 – WCPARC total contribution
- \$ 35,050 – *Less remaining balance in feasibility study contract*
\$208,737 – Total new WCPARC expenditure

Recommendation

It is my recommendation that the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission award the engineering contract to Bergmann Associates in the amount of \$443,784.00 for the Barton to Bandemer Tunnel and Trail Project.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Bandemer-Barton Trail & Underpass Study

Bandemer Park and Barton Nature Area

Washtenaw County, MI



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November 13, 2020



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1.0 Executive Summary

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND (BY WASHTENAW COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION)

1.1.1 Project Intent

The Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission (WCPARC), in cooperation with the City of Ann Arbor, commissioned this study to evaluate two components of a proposed project to expand the Border-to-Border Trail (B2B) located on the northwest side in the City of Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, Michigan. The first component is to understand the feasibility of constructing a shared-use, non-motorized underpass of the Michigan Line railroad (owned by MDOT and operated and maintained by Amtrak) to facilitate the extension of the B2B between Bandemer Park and Barton Nature Area (Part 1 of this report). The second part of the project is to evaluate options and associated impacts for extending the B2B from the proposed underpass through Barton Nature Area, utilizing the existing non-motorized bridges over the Huron River and connecting with the existing parking area south of Barton Dam (Part 2 of this report).

1.1.2 Project Background

The B2B is the premier non-motorized trail system in Washtenaw County. Its goal is to connect people to destinations, such as parks, the Huron River, and downtown areas. The B2B is part of Michigan's Iron Belle Trail, which expands the local trail efforts to make regional connections to neighboring communities. As part of the Iron Belle Trail, Washtenaw County and the B2B will be part of more than 130 miles of interconnected regional trails spanning from the City of Jackson to Lake Erie. Within Washtenaw County, the B2B has 34 miles of completed trails with a total of 55 miles planned.

One of the largest remaining gaps in the B2B is the corridor between the City of Dexter and the City of Ann Arbor along the Huron River. In 2015, the WCPARC led an effort to develop a Master Plan (herein referred to as the 2016 Master Plan) to guide the development for the Dexter-Ann Arbor corridor of the B2B. The planning process engaged local governments, including the City of Ann Arbor, numerous stakeholders, and the public.

The plan was ultimately adopted in 2016 and since then, work has been steadily progressing to extend the popular trail segments near the City of Dexter, east to connect the Huron Clinton Metroparks. The City of Ann Arbor's sections of the B2B are among the oldest and most heavily utilized segments of trail and are integral to the non-motorized transportation network. The existing B2B near Ann Arbor extends from the northwest side of the City, in Bandemer Park, 20 miles east through the City of Ypsilanti and nearly to the county border. On its route, the trail links 14 parks along the Huron River, University of Michigan Hospital, University of Michigan's North and Central Campuses, Washtenaw Community College, St. Joseph's Hospital, Eastern Michigan University, and the downtown areas of Ypsilanti.

According to the 2016 Master Plan, Barton Nature Area and Bandemer Park is the proposed connection point for the B2B between the existing trail in Ann Arbor and the proposed trail coming from Dexter. The primary challenge associated with completing this connection is: how to extend the trail across the existing Michigan Line railroad, which carries Amtrak's Wolverine service. One side of the railroad contains Bandemer Park and the existing trail. On the opposite side of the railroad is Barton Nature Area, owned by the City of Ann Arbor, and Huron River Drive, arguably the most popular and scenic bicycling road in the county. Therefore, developing a safe connection between Bandemer Park and the Barton Nature Area is a critical link in the B2B and the regional efforts of the Iron Belle Trail.

WCPARC, in cooperation with the City of Ann Arbor, commissioned this study to evaluate two components of the proposed project. One being the feasibility of constructing a shared-use, non-motorized underpass of the Wolverine Line to facilitate the extension of the B2B between Bandemer Park and Barton Nature Area. The second part of the project is to evaluate options and associated impacts for extending the B2B from the proposed underpass through

Barton Nature Area, utilizing the existing non-motorized bridges and connecting with the existing parking area south of Barton Dam.

Part 1 of the report investigates alternatives for a proposed grade separation of the railroad between Bandemer Park and the Barton Nature Area (see **Exhibit 1-1** for project location map). An underpass is the recommended method for separating the railroad from non-motorized traffic for the following reasons:

1. It provides the safest, most direct, and legal crossing;
2. It minimizes environmental and aesthetic impacts;
3. At-Grade crossings (traditional gates, bells, and lights), are not permitted at this location by law.

Part 2 of the report investigates alternatives for a proposed accessible trail through the Barton nature Area.

1.1.3 Project Goals

The goal of this project is to assess the feasibility of constructing a grade separation for a pedestrian underpass under the Michigan Line Railroad near Bandemer Park as well as an accessible trail connecting the new underpass to, and through, the Barton Nature area. Criteria and tools used to evaluate the feasibility are outlined below:

1. Build upon a previous study completed in 2005 (Pedestrian Tunnel Feasibility Study, Ann Arbor, Michigan, July 22, 2005) and update it to meet modern engineering standards and permitting requirements
2. Incorporate findings from the B2B Trail Master Plan: Dexter to Ann Arbor developed in 2016.
3. Trail user safety: safety, protection from trains, trail user conflicts, and perceptions of using an enclosed space
4. Limit disturbance of the natural environment (including minimizing habitat fragmentation) to the minimum necessary to complete the project
5. Avoid Oak trees (just east of the natural prairie area) wherever possible
6. Create a positive trail user (runners, bicyclists, pedestrians, etc.) experience and a structure that is aesthetically pleasing and fits into its context.
7. Public opinion and input regarding all aspects of the proposal
8. Construction methodology and costs
9. Maintenance considerations, including legacy costs
10. Incorporate existing pedestrian bridges over the Huron River
11. Coordinate with heavily used canoe launch located just downstream of the Barton Dam
12. Match existing ground topography as much as possible, minimizing grading impacts

1.1.4 Methodology and Evaluation

The project team used their professional engineering knowledge and past experience to guide the development of this report. The methodology outlined below was followed:

1. Critically analyze and evaluate existing site conditions, including: the railroad, soils and geotechnical considerations, hydrology, topography, presence of utilities, existing vegetation, and other factors
2. Analyze impacts to the quality of ecological areas
3. Identify and evaluate site constraints that may affect each alternative. Options must also be evaluated for compliance with current design standards and criteria:
 - a. American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO)
 - b. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
 - c. Amtrak standards for structures under railroads
 - d. Permit requirements from the appropriate agencies
4. Solicit feedback from stakeholders and advisory bodies, (MDOT Office of Rail, City of Ann Arbor Parks Advisory Commission, etc.) and incorporate into plan
5. Solicit public feedback and incorporate into plan

6. Develop a preferred alternative
7. Alignment of the trail south of Bridge 1 to the pedestrian underpass will be included in the rail underpass project once an alignment (for the underpass) is finalized
8. For Part 1: Develop alternatives to provide a separated grade crossing between a new path and the railroad. Include options that were explored in the 2005 study, potential new ideas, and lessons learned from a similar project, Allen Creek Berm: Feasibility of Flood Reduction and Pedestrian Options (City of Ann Arbor) developed in 2013 and subsequent final design plans completed in 2019.
9. For Part 2: Critically analyze the conditions of the existing pathways through the Barton Nature Area
10. For Part 2: Utilize topographic information and tree survey data results to develop various path alignments and compare each alternative

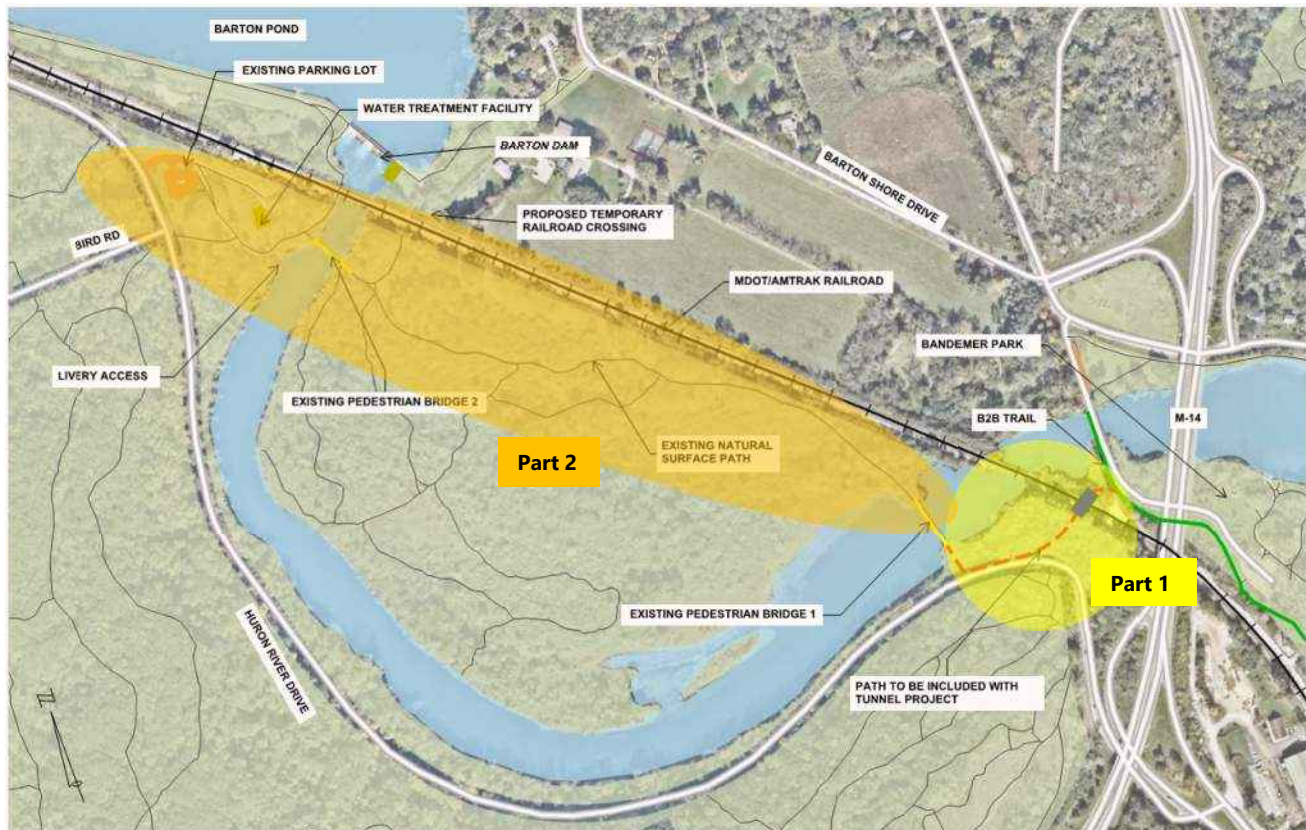


Exhibit 1-1: Area Map

1.1.5 Summary of Part 1 Findings – New Pedestrian Underpass

Eight alternatives were considered during the 2005 study and this report evaluated, refined, and developed those options into 3 alignment alternatives (PA-1, PA-2, and PA-3) utilizing one of 3 structure types (ST-1, ST-2, and ST-3). The general location of the proposed underpass presented in the 2005 study was confirmed and is located just south of the Bandemer Park entrance road (west of US-23 BR/M-14). This location currently sees the most pedestrian and bicycle trespassers as evidenced by a well-worn footpath through the woods. A public meeting was held to discuss the proposed grade separated trail crossing on February 26, 2019 where concepts from this study were presented. The feedback from the public, which was generally in support of the project, was reviewed and incorporated into this study.

The project team recommends advancing PA-3 and ST-1 into preliminary design. The recommended path alignment (PA-3) places the underpass furthest from the Huron River while providing the shortest underpass length. The recommended structure type (ST-1) is a box culvert structure constructed during a short-term track outage (less than 24-hours). The box culvert provides ample room, is the most cost effective to construct and maintain, and can be lengthened in the future relatively easy. The recommended opening is 16-feet wide by 10-feet high.

For complete details on alternatives and the recommended option, please refer to Part 1 of this report. The findings of this study are considered conceptual and not final. Advancing specific alternative recommendations will require additional input from the community and governmental agencies (City, County, State, etc.). Additional environmental study and appropriate environmental clearance may also be required.

1.1.6 Summary of Part 2 Findings – Pathway through Barton Nature Area

Three (3) alternatives were assessed for the pathway. Safety, impact to the environment, cost, as well as overall experience were considered. After various iterations and some preliminary design steps to refine the critical features discussed in the early field meetings and concept evaluations, **Alternative 2 is the recommended pathway alignment.** During the iterative preliminary design, the team developed costs considering impactful elements such as constructability. One outcome included building a cross section that will not only support typical pathway traffic but also construction traffic which is critical due to the unique location and restricted access. It will be difficult to mobilize in the future to perform standard rehabilitation measures therefore, a more robust cross-section was assumed which should require less major future maintenance projects. Alternative 2 provides pedestrians and bicyclists with a safe and aesthetic route through the Barton Nature Area. The Natural Area Preservation (NAP) unit of Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation was consulted regarding level of impact and are generally supportive of this approach. Furthermore, preliminary cost estimates were compared for the three alternatives and no significant cost savings was found among them.

Additional detail will be developed during the design process. It should be noted that additional items such as the impact to the canoe livery / launch area as well as some complicated slope areas identified in this study will need to be further explored. These areas are outlined in more detail in the Part 2 report.

The critical next step is to obtain Parks Advisory Commission (PAC) approval to pave within the nature area. This decision will rest solely on PAC. After that, it will be important to obtain soil borings to validate cross section and identify potential soils issues. Coordination with the canoe livery and additional design at the west end will need to be developed to provide river access for both the livery and the public while maintaining a safe path through the construction area. In addition, continued coordination with MDOT, Amtrak, and the Water Treatment Plant for the temporary railroad crossing will need to be finalized as this has the largest impact to construction cost, timing, and schedule.



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MEMORANDUM

To: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Coy P. Vaughn, Director
Date: September 14, 2021
Re: Leonard Preserve - Deer Research and Stewardship Update

Background

The Leonard Preserve was purchased in 2004 and includes 259 acres along the River Raisin. The preserve is close to downtown Manchester and is one of the more popular nature preserves in the parks system. The fields, forests, and river provide a scenic landscape to explore over 4 miles of trails available across the preserve.

After purchase and initial stewardship efforts, staff voiced concern with the many deer consistently observed on the preserve. To address these concerns, WCPARC began to study the deer population and effects on natural resources at Leonard Preserve. Deer exclosures were constructed in 2009, aerial deer surveys were conducted from 2010-2015, and in 2014-5 Dr. Jacqueline Courteau conducted the first deer browse research study. All data verified that deer browse is causing significant damage to the native plant community.

In 2016, staff presented the deer browse data to the Park Commission and included a plan to introduce limited hunting at Leonard Preserve to better manage the land. In the plan, hunting was to occur through a partnership with Michigan Operations Freedom Outdoors (MiOFO). MiOFO is a non-profit dedicated to providing equipment and outdoor experiences for disabled veterans and community members. The commission approved the initial hunting plan for five years and requested that Dr. Courteau's research be repeated to assess results of the hunting effort.

Over the past five years, MiOFO has conducted 15 hunting events on the site. Over 100 hunters, family members, and volunteers have been involved in the events. In total, 66 deer have been harvested from the site with the meat going to either the hunter's family or local food bank.

Discussion

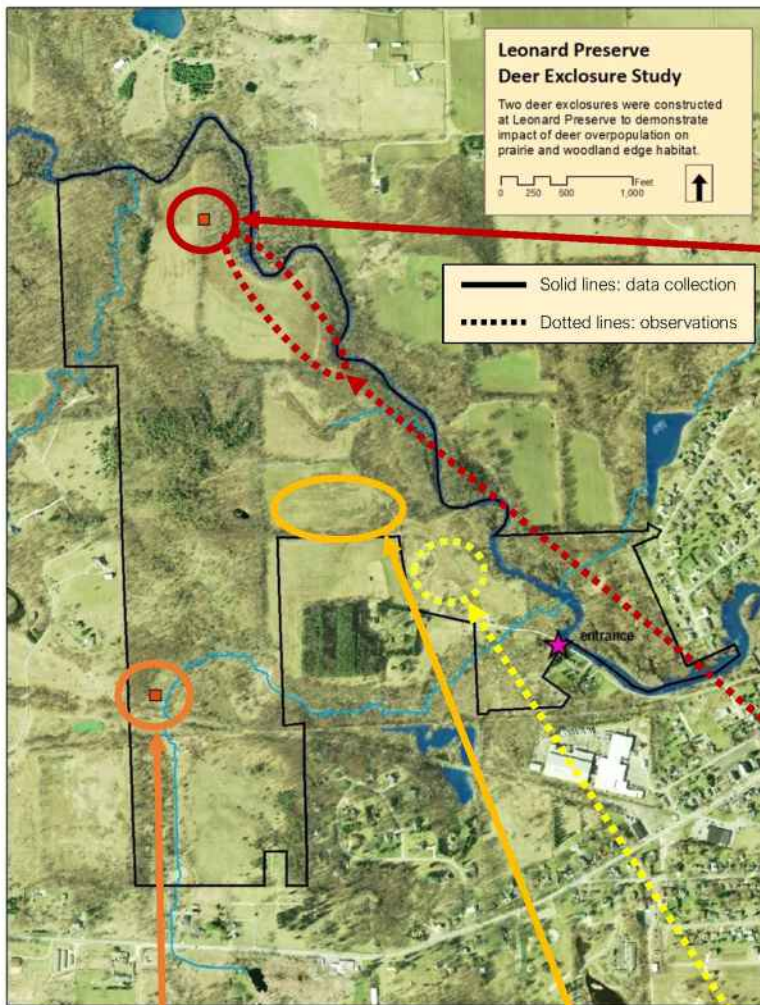
Dr. Courteau repeated her browse study in 2020-2021. Results show some improvements but also document browse levels still significant enough to continue to threaten native plant communities and the resources they provide for wildlife. A brief infographic describing overall trends in the research is attached to this memo. Dr. Courteau will present at the next commission meeting and provide further explanation to her research process, results, and management recommendations.

The partnership with MiOFO has been supportive, collaborative, and has resulted in very limited concerns, or conflicts, from staff, volunteers, or the public. MiOFO and their hunters have shown to be responsible stewards of the land and have often voiced pride in their ability to conduct safe hunting and providing care for the preserve. Many hunters invited to Leonard Preserve would not have had the opportunity to hunt again without the equipment and care of the MiOFO team and we are grateful to be a partner in their programming.

Before and throughout the hunting program we have conducted public meetings and yearly mailings to neighbors. The hunt has also been covered by the Manchester Mirror, an online Manchester focused newspaper. With all outreach efforts, we have received minimal concerns and complaints from the public. In fact, throughout the program some community members have reached out to thank us for deer control. The MiOFO team shared Leonard Preserve with the public during hunting events and often reported that visitors were thankful and appreciative of the program. Concerns with neighbors were minimal and addressed in the design of the hunt areas and events. Overall, public response has been supportive and positive. Given the success in this community and with this program, we are also exploring other options to further support deer management efforts in the Manchester community. We will report back at a future meeting to discuss those opportunities.

Recommendation

Based on the results of Dr. Courteau's research, the beneficial partnership with MiOFO, and the overall positive community support, I recommend continuing hunting at Leonard Preserve for another five years. The design of the hunt and events might change based on Dr. Courteau's management recommendations, but the public outreach and communication of the program will continue.



DEER IMPACTS HIGH AND ↗



Decreased flowering and size of spring ephemerals further reduced since 2014; trillium and bloodroot did not bloom outside fence; wild blue phlox increased only inside fence.



Low flowering of goldenrod, asters, sunflowers.

DEER IMPACTS HIGH AND ↗

Reduced flowering throughout northern area; trillium flowers only under the cover of fallen branches.



DEER IMPACTS MEDIUM-HIGH, MIXED RESPONSE

Low or no flowering of goldenrods (which continue to bloom ONLY where protected from deer) and asters (heavily browsed but with slightly more flowers in unfenced plots in 2014).



...but swamp thistle increased.

Low flowering of goldenrods and asters was partly compensated by increased abundance and flowering of swamp thistle in unfenced plots.



DEER IMPACTS LOW-MEDIUM

Yellow lady-slipper observed May 2021 but not previously. Orchids are very sensitive to deer browse. Their presence suggests decreased deer impacts in this area.



DEER IMPACTS MODERATING on bur oak saplings: surveys showed less deer damage (fewer twigs browsed), fewer with heavy browse; 20% of saplings grown tall enough to escape deer browse.





Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MEMORANDUM

TO: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Coy P. Vaughn, Director
DATE: September 14, 2021
RE: Final Approval: Poulter Farm Conservation Easement – Dexter Township

Background

In September 2019, ALPAC identified several properties as top priorities for preservation in the Round 19 nominations. The Poulter property was acknowledged as one of the highest-ranking properties and was determined suitable to apply for a Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development (MDARD) grant, which provides matching funds for the purchase of conservation easements on agricultural properties. In December 2019, the Commission authorized the submittal of the grant application for the Poulter property in Dexter Township. In March 2020, staff was notified of the grant award in the amount of \$480,000, which the Commission accepted at the April 2020 meeting. The Commission approved preparation of a sales contract on May 12, 2020.

Discussion

The Poulter farm property is in active agriculture and was designated a medium-high quality by the Assessment and Prioritization mapping for both agriculture and natural sites and identified as a priority for new patch establishment. The Commission's scoring system gives this project 72/100 points. This would be NAPP's first agricultural conservation easement in Dexter Township.

An appraisal of the property was completed in October 2019 and the conservation easement value was determined to be \$972,000, or roughly \$3,926 an acre, for 247 acres. The final FMV and payments have been adjusted by the exact surveyed acres. ALPAC recommended to pursue the purchase of the property at their April 2020 meeting.

In May 2020, the Parks Commission approved a sales contract for the purchase of the property. Per the terms of the sales contract, due diligence has been completed including:

- An appraisal was completed for the property.
- A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment noted an area that was once an orchard and identified it as a Recognized Environmental Condition. Counsel determined no Phase II ESA was needed for this particular condition.
- A boundary survey including legal description has been prepared. The survey was recently revised based on additional title findings that indicated some contestation over a sliver of the land; it was revised to exclude the contested piece from the easement.

Property	Township	Acres	CE Value	Per Acre	MDARD Award	WCPARC
Poulter	Dexter	241.533	\$948,222.33	\$3,925.85	\$480,000	\$468,222.33

Recommendation

Based upon the review by the Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Committee and staff, it is my recommendation that the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission authorize the purchase of a conservation easement on the Poulter Farm property in Dexter Township in the amount of \$948,222.33, contingent upon attorney approval of final documents. I further recommend that \$15,000 be contributed to the stewardship special revenue fund for the future monitoring and enforcement of the conservation easement.

Attachments

Poulter Property: Aerial & Soils

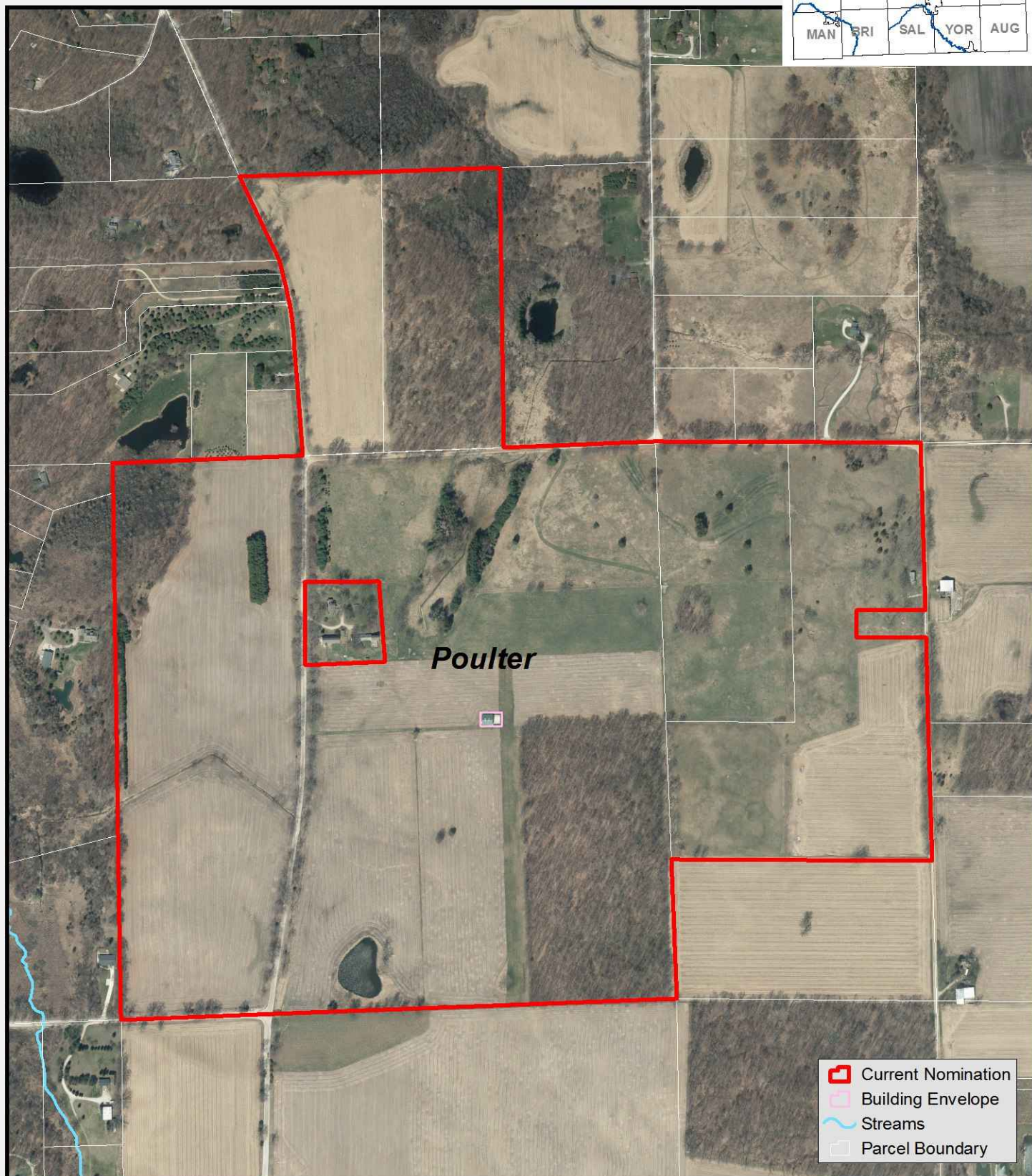
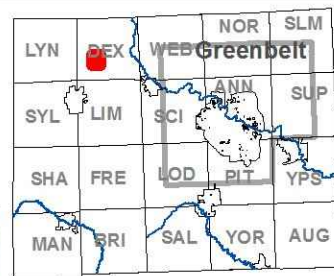
Natural Areas Preservation Program

Nomination ID: A18.116

Dexter Township

+/-242 Acres

Washtenaw County
Locator Map



NAPP Agriculture: Local Area Aerial

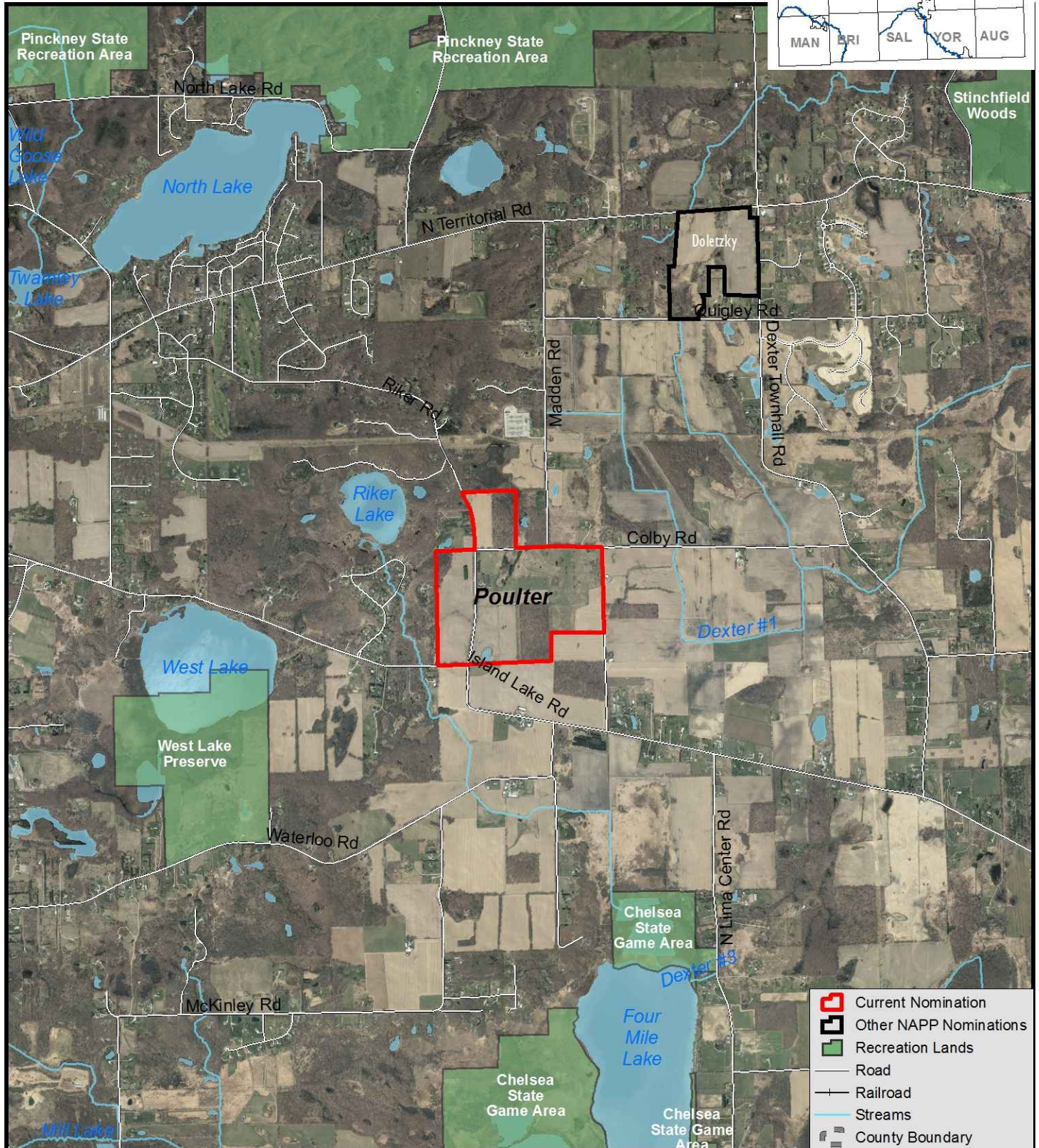
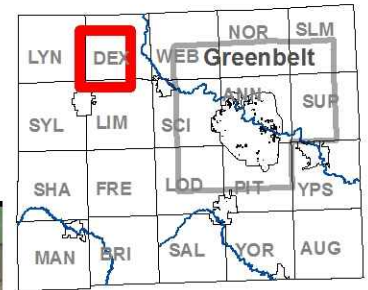
Poulter Property

Nomination ID: A18.117

Dexter Township

+/-247 Acres

Washtenaw County
Locator Map



Poulter Property: Assessment & Prioritization Mapping

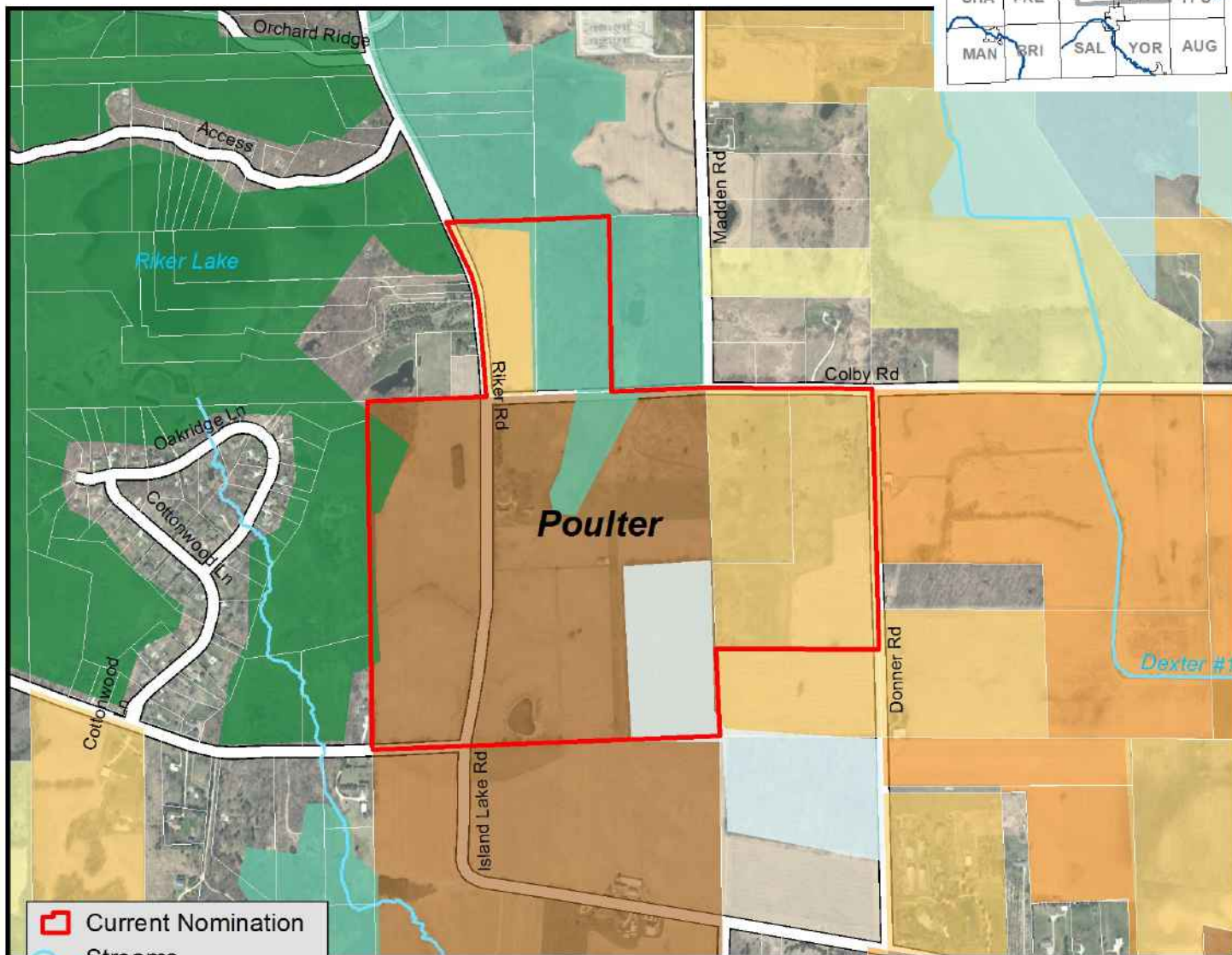
Natural Areas Preservation Program

Nomination ID:A18.116

Dexter Township

+/-247 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.

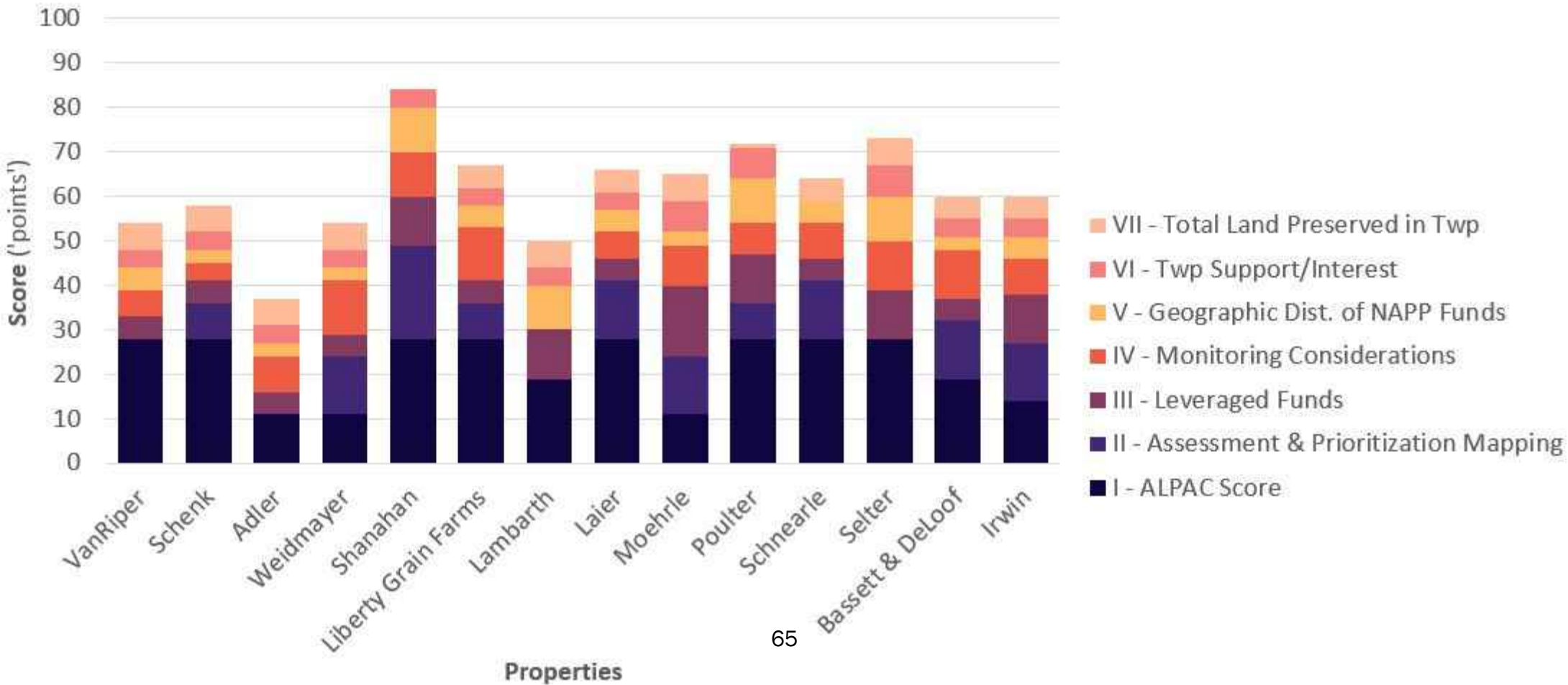
Stream Protection: Protection of this site preserves or is ecologically connected to a site that preserves creek frontage.

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



Parks Commission Scoring - Easements (ALPAC)





Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MEMORANDUM

TO: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Coy P. Vaughn, Director
DATE: September 14, 2021
RE: Final Approval: Bassett and DeLoof Property -- Freedom Township

Background

The Bassett and DeLoof property, located in Freedom Township, was nominated to NAPP and reviewed by the Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Committee as part of the Round 18 nominations. At the time, the property was identified as a priority for the purchase of a conservation easement, based on review of all the applications received in Round 18. It was also agreed that it was a prime candidate for receiving federal funding through the USDA Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP). In February 2019, WCPARC submitted an ACEP application for the farm, which was subsequently awarded.

Discussion

The property is located on the east and west side of Ernst Road, just south of Bethel Church Road. The property is in active agriculture with corn/soybean/wheat rotation. A portion of the farm is also enrolled in Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), administered by NRCS. Approximately 80% of the property consists of prime or locally important farmland soils. Based on the Agriculture Assessment & Prioritization mapping, part of the property was assessed as medium – high quality and prioritized based on patch expansion and stream protection. The Commission's scoring system gives this project 60/100 points.

In December 2019, the Parks Commission approved a sales contract for the purchase of the property. Per the terms of the sales contract, due diligence has been completed including:

- An appraisal was completed for the property.
- A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment was completed, and no Recognized Environmental Concerns (RECs) were identified.
- A boundary survey including legal description has been prepared.

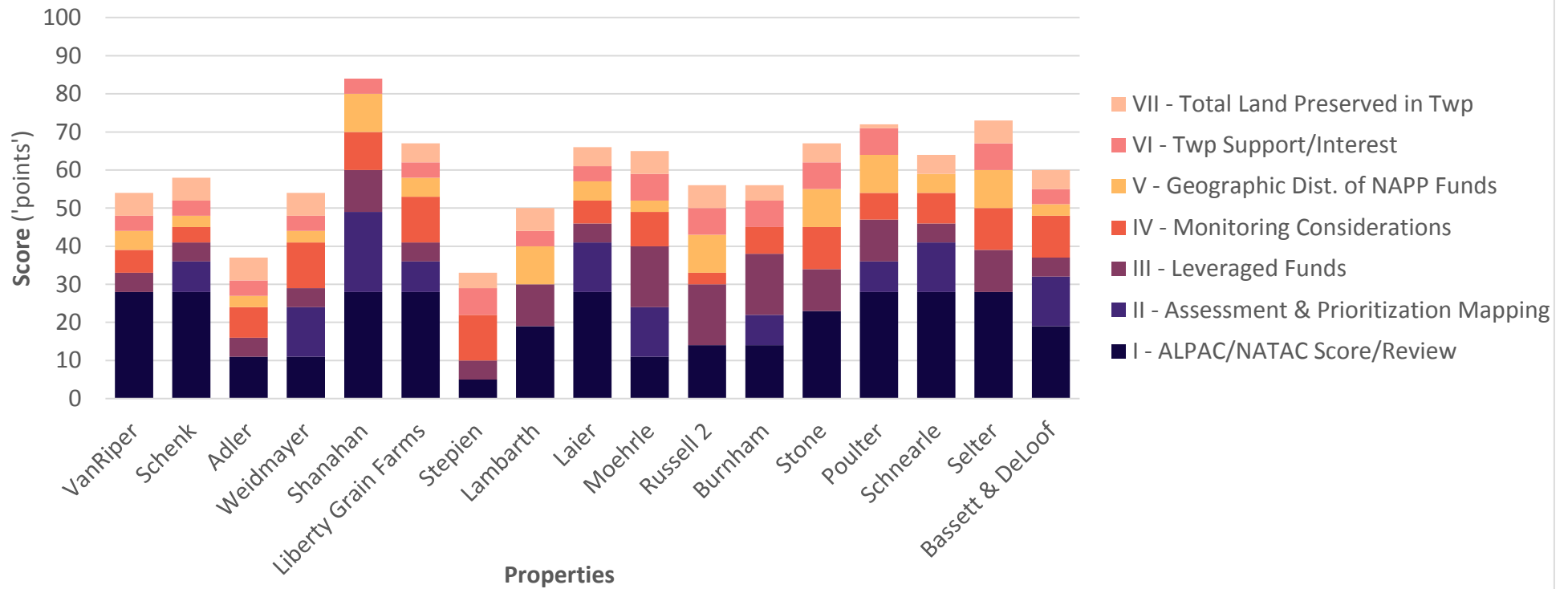
Property	Township	Acres	CE Value	ACEP Award	WCPARC
Bassett and DeLoof	Freedom	176.94	\$494,179	\$216,825	\$277,354

Recommendation

Based upon the review by the Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Committee and staff, it is my recommendation that the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission authorize the purchase of a conservation easement on the Bassett and DeLoof Farm property in Freedom Township in the amount of \$494,179, contingent upon attorney approval of final documents. I further recommend that \$15,000 be contributed to the stewardship special revenue fund for the future monitoring and enforcement of the conservation easement.

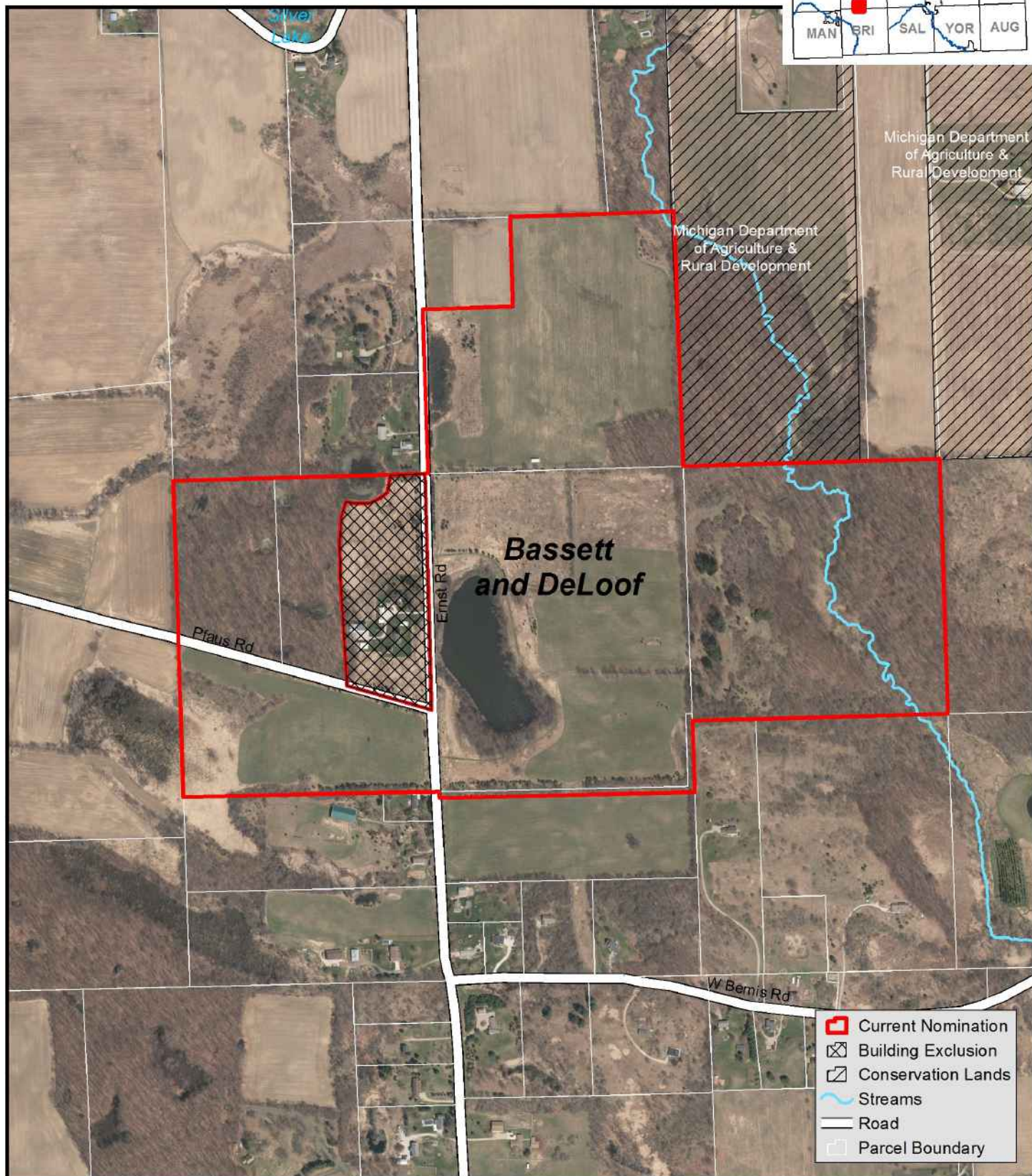
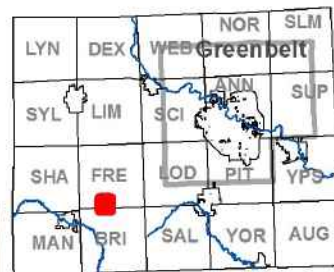
Attachments

Parks Commission Scoring - Easements



Bassett and DeLoof Property

Washtenaw County
Locator Map



Prepared by Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission
2015 Aerial Photo; USGS Topo (1:24,000)

0 250 500 1,000 1,500 Feet



Bassett and DeLoof Property: Local Area

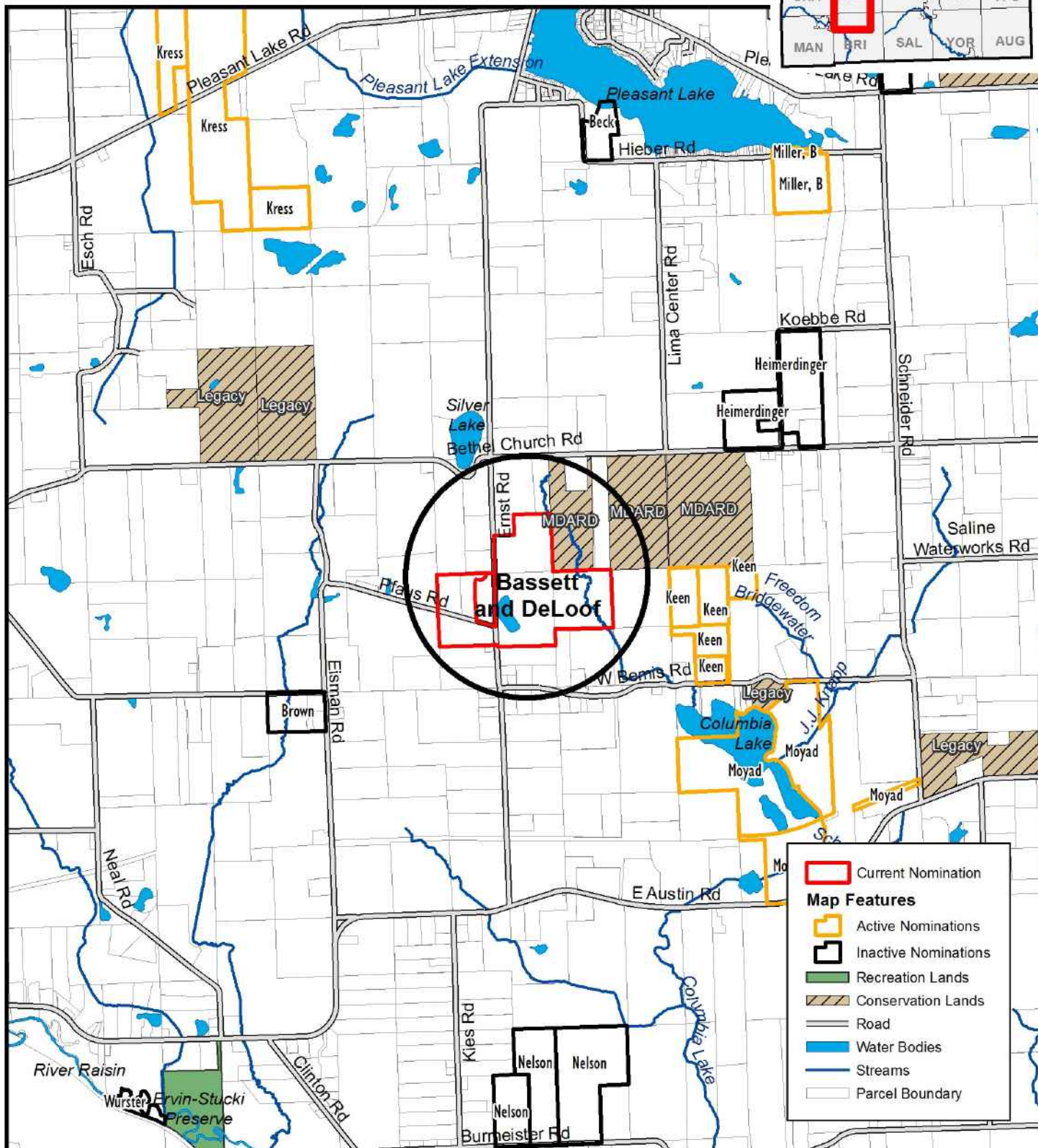
Natural Areas Preservation Program

Nomination ID:A12.034

Freedom Township

+/-177 Acres

Washtenaw County
Locator Map



0 0.5 1 1.5 2 Miles



Property: Assessment & Prioritization Mapping

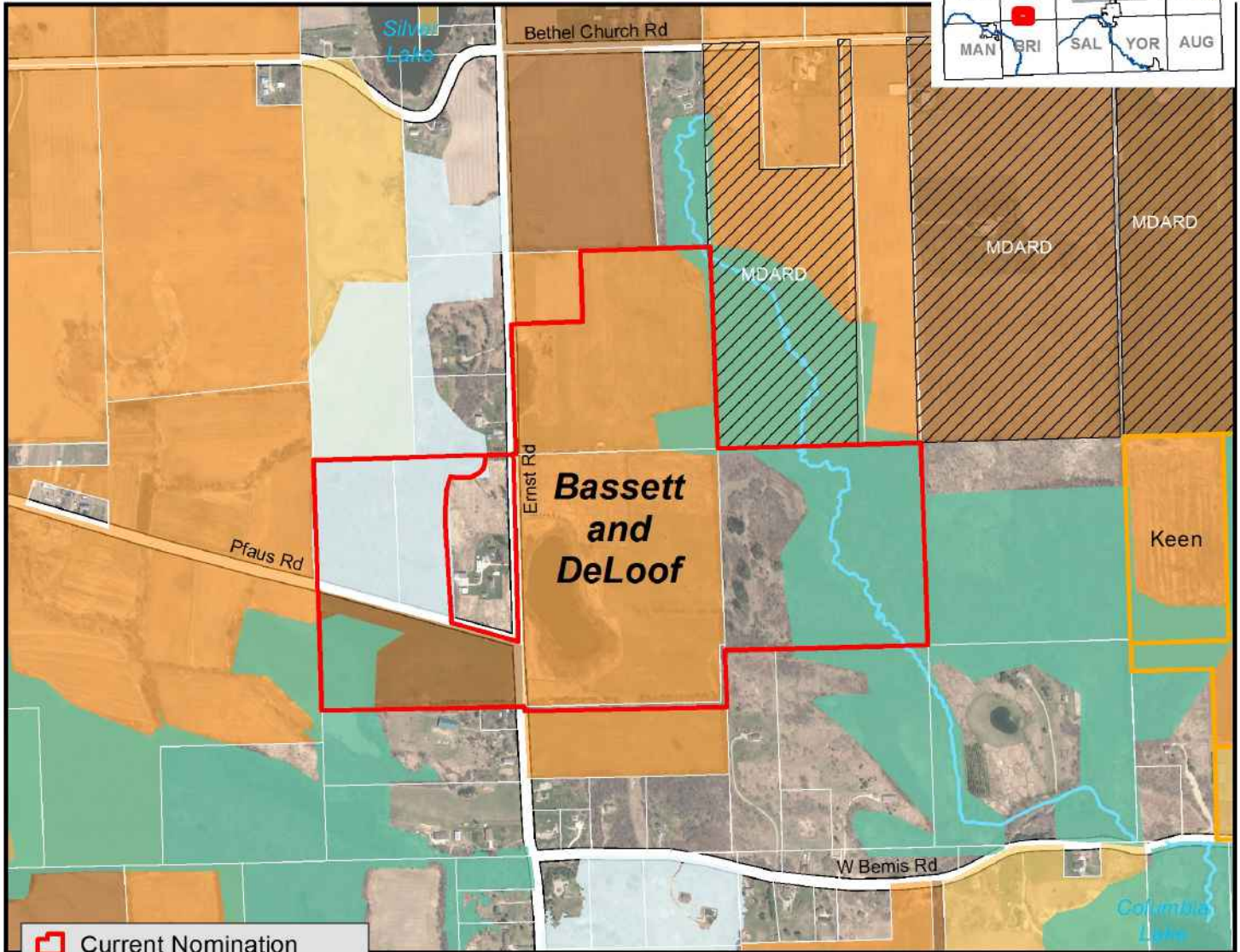
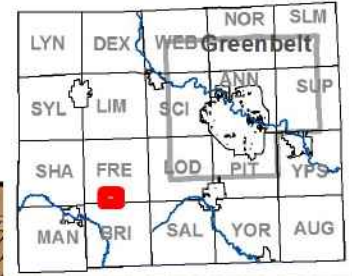
Natural Areas Preservation Program

Nomination ID:

Township

+/- Acres

Washtenaw County
Locator Map



- Current Nomination
- Map Features**
- Active Nominations
- Conservation Lands
- Streams
- Road
- Parcel Boundary
- Natural Quality Assessment**
- Low Quality
- Medium-High Quality
- Ag Quality Assessment**
- Medium-Low Quality
- Medium-High Quality
- 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





Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MEMORANDUM

To: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Coy P. Vaughn, Director
Date: September 14, 2021
Re: Draper-Houston Boardwalk Reconstruction - Contract Award

Background

The boardwalks at Draper-Houston Meadows Preserve provide important trail connections through the preserve. Two sections of the boardwalk were significantly damaged during flooding events in 2020. Though some improvements were made to allow for safe public use, the damage became worse in 2021 and the boardwalks are now closed for safety reasons.

Discussion

Staff have been working with ROWE engineers to redesign the two section of damaged boardwalks. The first boardwalk will be lifted above ground level to increase clearance for water and debris to flow during high water events. This section of boardwalk is 185' long and will remain in the floodplain to connect the pedestrian bridge over the Saline River to the remaining trail system. The second boardwalk will also be lifted from ground level and has been relocated in the new design. The relocation will reduce the overall constructed length from 115' to 40' and move the structure outside of the floodplain. Permits to EGLE and WCWR have been submitted and being reviewed with approval expected this fall.

The closure of the boardwalks is disruptive to the hiking trails, specifically from the primary entrance on Mooreville Road. Staff have been working to sign the closure and promote use of other areas of the preserve accessible from Platt Road. All work associated with the contract must be completed before August 1, 2022. With permit approval expected this fall, we hope to see reconstruction over the winter months.

Construction documents were produced, and RFP #8136 was released in August. Six contractors attended the mandatory pre-bid meeting on 8/19/2021. One bid was received from LJ Construction. The submitted bid was less than the cost estimate provided by ROWE in June 2021. We expect the reduction in cost is due to the availability and stability of costs of lumber and material currently.

Company	Location	Bid Total
LJ Construction	Brighton, MI	\$171.115.00

Since the damage was caused by flooding, insurance will support most of the reconstruction costs. Costs associated with the redesign of the boardwalks, or development of construction documents, is not eligible for insurance claim.

Recommendation

It is my recommendation that Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission award the contract to LJ Construction in the amount of \$171.115.00, and authorize a 10% contingency (\$17,111.50) for the reconstruction of boardwalks at Draper-Houston Meadows Preserve as detailed in memo.



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MEMORANDUM

To: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Coy P. Vaughn, Director
Date: September 14, 2021
Re: Parking Lot and Approach Construction at Dominican Meadows Preserve–Contract Award

Background

Acquired through fee simple purchase in 2015, Dominican Meadows contains 81 acres of grasslands and forests in Ann Arbor Township. WCPARC also owns a conservation easement protecting habitat along a major tributary of Fleming Creek on the western border of the preserve. The landscape at Dominican Meadows includes quality natural resources and varied topography that will create a compelling public trail system once the preserve is opened.

Construction of the Dominican Meadows parking lot was first approved by WCPARC and awarded to Carver Construction in September 2019. Though permits were in hand by June 2020, the contract was terminated on June 30th, 2021 with Carver Construction never beginning work at the site. Carver Construction has completed several parking projects with WCPARC but claimed a heavy workload and impacts from the pandemic for the inability to begin work at Dominican Meadows.

With the contract terminated, staff developed a second RFP #8133 for release in July 2021. Three bids were submitted with values shown below.

Company	Location	Bid Total
Fonson Company Inc	Brighton, MI	\$101,074
LJ Construction	Clifford, MI	\$102,780
Best Asphalt, Inc	Romulus, MI	\$109,570

Interestingly, all bids collected in this RFP process total less than the expected cost of the project from pricing approved during the 2019 RFP and contract process.

Discussion

Fonson Company, Inc., the lowest bidder, has completed many projects with similar or larger scopes for the Washtenaw County Road Commission and other local municipalities but have never worked directly for WCPARC. The project references provided by Fonson Company resulted an overall positive review of work and management of projects. Based on review of the bid and reference checks, staff are confident that Fonson Company is capable of constructing the parking area, deceleration lane connecting to Dixboro Rd, and associated site work.

Recommendation

It is my recommendation that WCPARC award a service contract in the amount of \$101,074 for construction activities as described in RFP #8133 and an additional 10% (\$10,107.40) 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: September 14, 2021
Re: Lyndon Township B2B Trailhead – Naming Proposal

Background

The new Lyndon Township B2B Trailhead was completed in the Spring of 2020 in partnership with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), Lyndon Township, and the Huron-Waterloo Pathways Initiative (HWPI). It is located on North Territorial Road next to the Lyndon Township Hall. The trailhead serves as a gateway to nearly 6-miles of new B2B trail north of Chelsea and consists of 50 parking spaces, restroom facilities, drinking fountain, a kiosk, and bike service station.

Robert L. Tetens served as Director of WCPARC for 17 years prior to his retirement in 2017. He was a leading force in the establishment of the B2B trail as one of the top initiatives of WCPARC and garnered the buy-in and support of the many community partners necessary to help make it a reality. More than any other single individual, Mr. Tetens is responsible for establishing and promoting the B2B vision which has grown into a world class trail system serving all the residents of Washtenaw County.

Recommendation

I recommend that the Commission approve the proposed renaming of the Lyndon Township B2B Trailhead to honor Robert L. Tetens based on his leadership in the establishment of the B2B and his 17 years of exemplary service to WCPARC and the residents of Washtenaw County.

Attachment



Policy for naming or renaming parks, preserves or facilities, including memorial/honorarium features

The Policy

Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission (WCPARC) parks and facilities are generally named for a geographic area or a natural/historic feature. Parks and facilities may also be named to reflect a person of historic or outstanding civic service and/or where appropriate, naming may also recognize significant historic, material, and/or financial contributions to WCPARC. Markers may be placed in parks and on recreational facilities honoring or memorializing individuals and organizations.

Procedure for Requesting Permission

Anyone wishing to name or rename a WCPARC park or facility, or erect a memorial/honorarium in a park or within a facility, must submit his or her request in writing to the Director of WCPARC with a sufficient explanation of the proposal to enable the director to make a determination that the naming or memorial is justified. The factors to be taken into consideration by the director will include, but not limited to the following:

1. The reason for the naming or renaming or erection of a memorial/honorarium;
2. The contribution or other factors for which the person is being memorialized/honored, or the park or facility named;
3. Whether and to what extent the facility or park has been financed by the person being honored or by the persons wishing to honor him/her;
4. Whether and to what extent the appropriate and/or impacted communities support the proposal;
5. Any other factors, which would support the request.

Naming/Renaming

1. The Director's considerations regarding the naming or renaming of parks, natural areas or facilities, shall be guided by the following considerations:
 - o Recognized geographic names;
 - o Natural historic features;
 - o Significant historic contributions;
 - o Significant material contributions;
 - o Significant financial contributions;
 - o Persons of historic service to WCPARC or Washtenaw County;
 - o Persons of outstanding civic service to the County;
 - o Documented community support.

2. If the naming request meets the required criteria, the Director will prepare a recommendation and schedule the proposal for a Commission meeting agenda. The requesting person(s) or organization(s) may present their request to the Commission at the meeting.
3. The Commission will review the request and the Director's recommendation and will take final action on the proposal.
4. The requestor will be notified via letter of the Commission's decision. The letter will outline, if applicable, those areas that did not meet the criteria.

Questions?

Petitioner Name: WCPARC

Please respond to the following questions:

1. What is proposed (naming, renaming or erection of a memorial/honorarium) and what is the purpose?

The Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission proposes to name the recently opened B2B trailhead in Lyndon Township in honor of Robert L. Tetens. This naming recognizes the outstanding legacy of a long time WCPARC Director. Specifically, the proposal is to name the facility as follows:

**Robert L. Tetens
B2B Trailhead**

2. What are significant contributions or other factors for which the person is being memorialized/honored or the park or facility named?

Robert “Bob” Tetens served as the Director of WCPARC from 2001 to 2017 – he was the fourth Director and the longest tenured in the history of County Parks. During his tenure many new parks and programs were established to benefit all residents of Washtenaw County. Of the many successful endeavors led by Mr. Tetens, perhaps the most significant two are the establishment of the Natural Areas Preservation Program and the Border-to-Border Trail.

More than any other single individual, Robert Tetens is responsible for establishment of the B2B Trail. Before his tenure with WCPARC, he worked in the county planning office and at the time of his hiring was head of UATS (Urban Area Transportation Study, now WATS, “Washtenaw” replacing “Urban” in the title). As a county planner, he led or participated in several studies that investigated the potential of developing a greenway system along the Huron River corridor, where the bulk of the county’s population lived. Mr. Tetens brought this exciting vision with him to WCPARC and it became the seed for what is now the B2B Trail.

Of the many accomplishments related to the B2B Trail that were achieved under Mr. Tetens leadership, a few of the most significant are:

- Development of the vision, name, and branding of the B2B Trail
- Constructed the first 10+ miles of new B2B Trail linking existing park systems in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti
- Achieved buy in from the many community partners, municipalities, and other parks agencies

- Established the Non-Motorized millage in partnership with the Washtenaw County Road Commission
 - Instrumental in the development of the Dexter area trails which are some of the most popular B2B segments.
 - Expanded the B2B planned route from a 35-mile trail along the Huron River to a 54-mile trail system by extending it west to Chelsea and on to Stockbridge
 - Established the Connecting Communities program to help fund other important non-motorized projects that are not part of the B2B Trail
3. To what extent has the facility or park been financed by the person being honored or by the persons wishing to honor him/her?

The B2B Trailhead was not personally financed by Mr. Tetens in anyway. It was, however, established with WCPARC funds that he helped to secure for B2B Trail improvements – such as the non-motorized millage funds. The B2B Trailhead was also made possible through strong partnerships with HWPI, MDNR, and Lyndon Township – relationships that Mr. Tetens helped to establish and grow during his tenure as Director of WCPARC.

4. To what extent is there support for this proposal from the appropriate and/or impacted communities?

The proposal is supported by the three primary partners on this project - MDNR, Lyndon Township, and HWPI.

5. Are there other factors to be considered that would support this request?

Mr. Tetens was quoted in a 2002 article regarding the B2B:

Tetens sees the Border to Border Trail as “much more than a destination for a couple of hours of recreation. Trails connect communities, they promote healthy life style, and they are an economic boon. For instance, people could travel from one town to another and end up staying for lunch or shopping.” Tetens predicts that the B2B when finished will garner national recognition and bring tourists to the area, putting our county on a par with cities like Denver, Madison, and Portland that have reputations for being very health-conscious.

Mr. Tetens lives only a few miles from the new B2B Trailhead and visits it often with his son Ben as they enjoy bike rides on this beautiful segment of trail.