



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

NOTICE OF MEETING

Date: October 12, 2021

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Location: Virtual Meeting on Zoom available to the public at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88180327554>

AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order / Moment of Silence**
- 2. Roll Call and Announcement of Location**
- 3. Approval of the Minutes**
 - A. September 14, 2021 Meeting (attached, pp. 1-7 /action item)
- 4. Public Comment**
- 5. Communications, Projects & Activities** (attached, pp. 8-29 /action item)
- 6. Financial & Recreation Reports – September 2021**
 - A. Financial Reports (attached, pp. 30-32 /action item)
 - B. Recreation Reports (attached, pp. 33-38 /action item)
- 7. Old Business**
 - A. Independence Lake Master Plan Adoption (attached, p. 39 /action item)
 - B. NAPP – Rouse Final Approval (attached, pp. 40-44 /action item)
 - C. Other Old Business
- 8. New Business**
 - A. Connecting Communities Overview (presentation at meeting)
 - B. NAPP – Round 21 NATAC Prioritization (attached, p. 45 /action item)
 - C. NAPP – Round 21 ALPAC Prioritization (attached, p. 46 /action item)
 - D. Other New Business
- 9. Commissioners / Directors Comments**
- 10. Adjournment**

Washtenaw County will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting upon 7-day notice to Washtenaw County. Individuals requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the County of Washtenaw by writing or calling the following: Human Resources, 734-994-2410, TTD# 734/994-1733.



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: September 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 Ann Arbor, MI), Robert Marans (attending from Ann Arbor Township, MI), Jo Ann McCollum (attending from Ypsilanti Township, MI), Evan Pratt (attending from Ann Arbor, MI), Brenda McKinney (attending from Superior Township, MI) and Jason Morgan (attending from Ann Arbor, 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; Peter Sanderson, Park Planner; Allison Krueger, Stewardship Manager; and Rosie Pahl-Donaldson, Park Planner

Others Present: Catherine McClary, Washtenaw County Treasurer

1. Call to Order/Moment of Silence

Ms. Scribner called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m. with a moment of silence in appreciation of first responders.

2. Roll Call and Announcement of Location

3. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the August 14, 2021 regular meeting were included with the agenda material.

It was moved by Ms. McCollum and seconded by Mr. Marans to approve the minutes of the August 14, 2021 regular meeting. Roll call vote: 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent (Jefferson), the motion was approved.

4. Public Comment

Toni Spears, resident of Webster Township, thanked the Commission for their efforts to help manage the deer population in parks and preserves. She added that MiOFO is a great partner to help organize hunts. She also appreciated the excellent work done by Jacqueline Courteau to help study the impact of deer on the landscape.

5. Communications, Projects & Activities

Mr. Vaughn reported on the August communications which were included in the packet. Mr. Marans said that it was a nice gesture to have a party to show appreciation for our seasonal staff at Rolling Hills. He added that it would be nice to invite Commissioners next year. Mr. Jefferson voiced his support for the pedestrian improvements on the Grove Road overpass. He asked if a new railing was going to be installed with the project. Mr. Sanderson responded that the railing would be installed by MDOT as a separate project.

It was moved by Mr. Marans and seconded by Ms. McKinney to accept and file the Communications, Projects & Activities for the month of August 2021, as submitted. Roll call vote: 10 Ayes, 0 Nays, the motion was approved.

6. Financial & Recreation Reports – August 2021

A. Financial Reports

Mr. Brooks reported and stated that the total for the claims for the month of August was \$910,034.85.

It was moved by Mr. Ezekiel and seconded by Ms. Bobrin to accept and file the Financial Reports for the month of August 2021 as submitted. Roll call vote: 10 Ayes, 0 Nays, the motion was approved.

B. Recreation Reports

Mr. Brooks reported on recreation reports for the month of August 2021 and highlighted the impact of the pandemic on the attendance of our Park Facilities.

Mr. Ezekiel asked what the anticipated shortfall was for this year due to COVID19 Impacts. Mr. Brooks explained that right now we are looking at approximately \$1.2 - 1.4M but we will see some reduction in expenses this fall that will make up some of the shortfall.

It was moved by Mr. Marans and seconded by Mr. Pratt to accept and file the Recreation Reports for the month of August 2021 as submitted. Roll call vote: 10 Ayes, 0 Nays, the motion was approved.

7. Old Business

A. Special Revenue Fund Update

Mr. Brooks introduced Catherine McClary, Washtenaw County Treasurer. Ms. McClary presented the performance of the fund and explained how it was invested. Mr. Marans thanked Ms. McClary for the informative presentation and asked how often we get professional guidance on the fund. Ms. McClary explained that the funds are actively managed, and that the financial advisor meets with us often. Mr. Ezekiel agreed that the report was great news and that he believes we are well on our way to having a sustainable NAPP/B2B fund.

B. B2B – Barton/Bandemer Trail and Tunnel Engineering

Mr. Sanderson reported that 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.

Mr. Sanderson explained that 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

Ms. Bobrin asked about the \$35,000 left in the current contract and wanted to know if we would get that money back if we went with another firm. Mr. Sanderson responded that she was correct and clarified that the money left over from the previous contract could be applied to any firm that was awarded the contract.

Mr. Marans asked what the plan was for the trail headed west from the Barton Nature Area. Mr. Sanderson explained that the current plan is to build it on the south side of the RR tracks.

It was moved by Ms. Bobrin and seconded by Mr. Morgan that the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission authorize staff to award the engineering contract to Bergmann Associates in the amount of \$443,784.00 for the Barton to Bandemer Tunnel and Trail Project. Roll call vote: 10 Ayes, 0 Nays, the motion was approved.

C. Deer Management Update

Ms. Krueger reported that the Leonard Preserve was purchased in 2004 and includes 259 acres along the River Raisin. 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.

Ms. Krueger explained that 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.

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.

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. 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. Ms. Krueger explained that staff intends to report back at a future meeting to discuss those opportunities.

Mr. Marans asked if the public knew that WCPARC was associated with the hunt or is MiOFO more the public facing entity. Ms. Krueger responded that the public understands that the Leonard Preserve is owned by WCPARC, the hunt is organized by us, and that MiOFO is our partner.

It was moved by Ms. McCollum and seconded by Mr. Ezekiel to authorize the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission to continue 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. Roll call vote: 10 Ayes, 0 Nays, the motion was approved.

D. NAPP – Poulter Property Final Approval

Ms. Pahl-Donaldson reported that 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.

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.

Ms. Pahl-Donaldson explained that 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.

It was moved by Mr. Marans and seconded by Mr. Joerg 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. Also, that \$15,000 be contributed to the stewardship special revenue fund for the future monitoring and enforcement of the conservation easement. Roll call vote: 10 ayes, 0 nays, the motion was approved.

E. NAPP – Basset & DeLoof Property Final Approval

Ms. Leikam presented the Basset and DeLoof property, located in Freedom 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). In February 2019, WCPARC submitted an ACEP application for the farm, which was subsequently awarded.

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.

Ms. Leikam explained that 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.

It was moved by Mr. Joerg and seconded by Ms. McCollum that the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission authorize the purchase of a conservation easement on the Basset and DeLoof Farm property in Freedom Township in the amount of \$494,179, contingent upon attorney approval of final documents. Further, that \$15,000 be contributed to the stewardship special revenue fund for the future monitoring and enforcement of the conservation easement. Roll call vote: 10 Ayes, 0 Nays, the motion was approved.

F. Draper Houston Boardwalk Award

Ms. Krueger reported on the boardwalks at Draper-Houston Meadows Preserve and explained that they 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.

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.

Ms. Krueger explained that 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 for \$171,115.00. 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.

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.

It was moved by Mr. Marans and seconded by Ms. Ezekiel that the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission authorize staff to award the construction 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. Roll call vote: 10 Ayes, 0 Nays, the motion was approved.

G. Dominican Meadows Parking Lot Award

Ms. Krueger reported that in 2015, Dominican Meadows was purchased fee simple. The preserve 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.

Ms. Krueger explained that with the contract terminated, staff developed a second RFP #8133 for release in July 2021. Three bids were submitted with Fonson Company, Inc. being the lowest at \$101,074. 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.

It was moved by Mr. Pratt and seconded by Ms. Bobrin that the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission authorize staff to award the construction contract to Fonson Company, Inc. in the amount of \$101,074.00, and authorize a 10% contingency (\$10,107.40) for the construction of a new parking lot at Dominican Meadows Preserve. Roll call vote: 10 Ayes, 0 Nays, the motion was approved.

H. Other Old Business

None.

8. New Business

A. Lyndon Township B2B Trailhead Dedication

Mr. Vaughn presented a proposal on behalf of the Commission to name the recently opened trailhead at Lyndon Township Hall in honor of former Director, Robert L. Tetens. The new trailhead facility 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.

It was moved by Mr. Marans and seconded by Ms. Bobrin to authorize 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. Roll call vote: 10 Ayes, 0 Nays, the motion was approved.

B. Other New Business

None.

9. Commissioners/Directors Comments

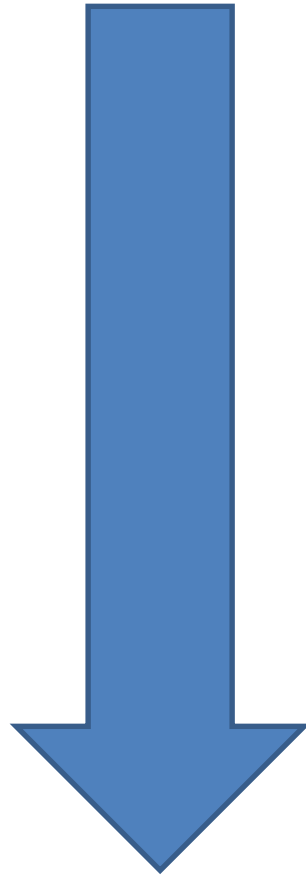
None.

10. Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Communications, Projects & Activities



wagginBARK RACE

September 29, 2021

Rhonda Bouma, Superintendent
Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission
PO Box 8645
Ann Arbor, MI 48107

Dear Rhonda:

I can't begin to thank you and the Parks Commission enough for the use of Rolling Hills County Park for this year's WagginBark Race (24 Hours of LeDan)! When searching for a safe location for my race, I was excited to have Rolling Hills be the venue. It's paved paths, plentiful parking, Lodge building amenities, and gorgeous scenery were everything one could ask for to make the race a success. Your personal efforts, and those of your staff, to make this event successful were greatly appreciated. Although we only raised a little over \$14,000, because of the assistance provided by our sponsors, the dog rescue charities that are the recipients of WagginBark Charity funding are able to continue in their missions of ending animal cruelty and finding "forever" homes for our four-legged companions.

Completing 24 5k races in 24 hours was challenging, but we had a lot of fun. And ALL of the participants LOVED the scenic venue of Rolling Hills. Your generosity made it all worthwhile!

Again, THANK YOU!

Warm regards,



Dan Egeler, President
WagginBark Charity, Inc.
WagginBarkRace Founder
dan@wagginbarkrace.com
www.wagginbarkrace.com

WagginBark Charity, Inc., 12023 Island Lake Road, Dexter, MI 48130, is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) charitable foundation. Due to the support of sponsors, all money raised by special events goes to the recipient dog rescue charities.



Signage at Kensington Metropark.

Doug Coombe

New wayfinding initiatives keep Southeast Michigan park users on the right path

JEANNE HODESH | WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2021

Throughout Southeast Michigan, dedicated park planners, facilities staff, and community activists are behind the scenes, hard at work, to make sure you don't get lost.





Doug Coombe

Signage at Kensington Metropark.



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

When you're on a scenic hike, enjoying the weather at its finest, it's easy to take for granted the sign that lets you know you're on the right path. And yet, throughout Southeast Michigan, dedicated park planners, facilities staff, and community activists are behind the scenes, hard at work, to make sure you don't get lost.

Given that many local trails overlap with each other and pass through different communities, and new trail sections are constantly being built, the task of coming up with unified signage for any given park agency is a major undertaking.

"Personally, I feel that wayfinding doesn't get enough recognition for the time that it takes, and all of the work and different players that feed into it," says Nina Kelly, chief of planning and development for Huron-Clinton Metroparks.

In 2016 Kelly's department took on the task of updating the Metroparks' signage across its 13 parks, which span five counties. Their redesign started by working with the Michigan Department of Transportation and county road commissions to improve signage on expressways. From there, they tackled road and trail signage within the actual parks. Every major facility — from nature centers to boat rentals — got a sign, too. The Metroparks used two CNC routers to make many of the signs in-house.



Signage at Kensington Metropark.

Beyond fabrication and installation, careful thought goes into the design and placement of each sign. Peter Sanderson, who is the principal park planner for the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission, manages planning, public engagement, and engineering for the Border to Border (B2B) Trail. He notes that the trail has been built in

various phases since 2001, and each section reflects a slightly different version of signage. The trail's last major sign redevelopment project was done in 2008, and Sanderson says those signs are "starting to show their age." There have since been updates to the B2B route, and the trail itself has been expanded.

"The definition of what the Border to Border Trail is [today] is different than what it was in 2008. We've added more than 20 miles to the planned trail," Sanderson says.

The B2B utilizes sidewalks, bike lanes, and city streets — cause for plenty of potential confusion from users wondering if they're still on the right path. Washtenaw County is in the process of designing and implementing consistent signage throughout the trail to make the user experience more intuitive. Wayfinding will involve text that is easily viewable as people bike or run by, as well as maps that provide more information — like directions to local attractions — for trail users who would like additional context. The wayfinding signs will also link to a new website which offers interactive maps and information on what to expect when using the B2B.

"The interesting thing about the Border to Border project is that it's owned by a lot of different jurisdictions," Sanderson says. "Even though the Parks Commission is the lead agency and we're driving a lot of the initiative, we can't do it without our partners."

Signage at Frog Island Park in Ypsilanti.

The B2B overlaps with sections of the statewide Iron Belle Trail, crosses the campuses of Saint Joseph Mercy Health System and Eastern Michigan University, and runs through numerous other urban and wooded areas across Washtenaw County. Design approval is sought from each local agency whose jurisdiction the B2B passes through. And because they're often the ones fielding feedback from trail users, the partners also help determine where signage should be placed.

Similar to the B2B, the 54-mile Bridge to Bay Trail in St. Clair County passes through 14 different communities. Recently, St. Clair County's trails board decided to develop an identification and safety improvement plan. Sheri Faust, president of Friends of the St. Clair River and chair of the regional trails board, says the Bridge to Bay Trail has been in the works for 20 years, but a comprehensive, collaborative wayfinding plan has never been done.

"We knew that the signage lacked," Faust says. "The Bridge to Bay trail is coming together so quickly, and in this push to complete it, it never occurred to us that we didn't have a brand for the trail!"

Over the course of eight months, the board developed a wayfinding plan including a brand and identity for the trail.

"It's simply not just a signage plan," Faust says. "It's led to this bigger picture of what we want the trail to be and how we want it to be recognized."

The board now has a spreadsheet that lays out all the signage needs of the 14 communities along the trail. The list is broken down into road signs and kiosks, which will be placed at trailheads and in parks.

"The juggling piece of all this is that the trail is in different stages of completion," Faust says. "We have some communities that are ready to purchase their signs, but their trail isn't ready yet, so we have to wait. And we have trail segments that will be developed and completed years down the road. The implementation will happen in phases as the trail is completed."

For now, teams of volunteers have been out paving the way with signs called "confidence markers," which can be made with a simple stencil and spray paint. Friends of the St. Clair River has been working with different community groups to spray these signs on the trail, providing users with an extra boost of confidence that they are on the right path.

Although unified signage is often a goal for trail managers, sometimes the job is just too big. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) manages 13,000 miles of recreational trails and 100 state parks across 3 million acres of public land, says Dakota Hewlett, the DNR's Iron Belle Trail Coordinator. It wouldn't be possible to do so without support from local partners.

With two different routes stretching from Detroit to Ironwood in the western side of the Upper Peninsula, the planned Iron Belle Trail comprises over 2,000 miles of trails. A number of regional trails are part of it, including the B2B and the Paint Creek Trail, which runs from downtown Rochester to downtown Lake Orion. In 2018 and 2019, communities along the Iron Belle Trail could apply to the DNR for Iron Belle Trail mini-grants to support promotion, planning, engineering and inspection, and feasibility studies for segments of the trail, as well as signage projects.

"It is a statewide initiative, but most of the trail users are not people who are biking from Detroit to Ironwood," Hewlett says. "They're local people who are going for a bike ride after work, or they're walking their dog."

The design is left up to the local grantee, depending on the needs of their community.

"The overarching goal [is] that by meeting local needs along the route, eventually we'll end up with a whole trail across the state," Hewlett says.

The Paint Creek Trail has received two Iron Belle Trail mini-grants for different phases of its wayfinding initiative. The 8.9-mile trail is a former railroad line that was converted into a rail-to-trail in the 1980s. It passes from urban areas to sections that trail manager Melissa Ford says look "like you're up North." With state grant funding, the Paint Creek Trail has been able to enlist a design firm to develop a consistent brand, and work with a local sign shop that is in the process of fabricating 12 new signs.

Collaboration on wayfinding projects isn't just limited to the DNR and local agencies. Others across our region have joined forces to make wayfinding more intuitive.

For example, Huron-Clinton Metroparks have worked collaboratively in recent years with the city of Detroit and Friends of Rouge Park to identify and support their needs. When storytelling to highlight Rouge Park's many facilities was called for, the group developed a pitch for the University of Michigan's (U-M) Public Design Corps. This past summer, a team of U-M students put forth a plan to map out Rouge Park's facilities in a way that would be more intuitive for visitors. Two of the students are staying on this fall as interns to complete the project.

Signage at Kensington Metropark.

"It behooves us to all work together and provide the amenities that people throughout Southeast Michigan need and want," Kelly says. "Parks people are pretty agreeable, and we're all pretty passionate about what we do. We care a lot, and we see the public benefit. We want to work together for the betterment of the folks in the region."

Jeanne Hodesh is a freelance writer based in Ann Arbor, where she covers small business, food, and culture. She holds an MFA from Hunter College. Her essays and articles have appeared in Lenny Letter, The Hairpin, and Time Out New York, among



Ad

ALL ABOUT ANN ARBOR

Ann Arbor announces opening of new Secrest Nature Preserve

80-acre preserve located in Superior Township

Meredith Bruckner, Community News Producer, All About Ann Arbor

Published: **September 27, 2021 11:25 am**

Tags: **Ann Arbor, Superior Township, Washtenaw County, Nature Preserve, Secrest Nature Preserve, Washtenaw County Parks And Recreation Commission, City Of Ann Arbor, Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy, Wildlife, Birds, Oak Trees, Forest, Farmland, Ann Arbor Greenbelt Program, Superior Greenway, Nature, Nature Preservation**



Oak tree. (Pixabay)



SUPERIOR TOWNSHIP, Mich. – A new nature preserve has opened to the public.

The city of Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission and the Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy announced the opening of the Secrest Nature Preserve on Friday.

Spanning 80 acres, the preserve is located in Superior Township. It is part of the Superior Greenway -- a more than 2,700-acre wildlife and recreation corridor -- and is owned by the Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy. Washtenaw County holds the property's conservation easement.

The county and Ann Arbor's Greenbelt Program provided "significant" support for the acquisition, according to a news release.

Due to planning complications caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, SMLC's work on a new public hiking trail was delayed. Construction of on-site public parking is expected to be complete in 2022.



executive director Jill Lewis said in a statement. "This makes it easily accessible for the local area as well as the Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti communities. SMLC is excited to open this preserve to the public especially given the importance of access to natural areas as demonstrated last year."



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SUBMIT

The preserve was named after the Secrest family, "who have been instrumental in supporting land protection efforts in Superior Township and across the region for many years," reads a news release.

Secrest Nature Preserve features a new loop trail that connects to Weatherbee Woods, scenic farmland vistas and old-growth oak woods. In 2019, more than 40 noteworthy bird species were documented in the area by Washtenaw Audubon.

SMLC hopes to restore wildlife habitat like grasslands in the future to increase bird migration in the area.

For directions to Secrest Nature Preserve, [click here](#). To find its trail map, [click here](#).

Ad

To learn more about Ann Arbor's Greenbelt Program, [click here](#).

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Ann Arbor

Year-long maintenance project set to begin at popular Ann Arbor dog park

Updated: Oct. 01, 2021, 4:42 p.m. | Published: Oct. 01, 2021, 4:42 p.m.

7

Swift Run Dog Park to partially close in October

×

ANN ARBOR, MI — Ann Arbor's Swift Run Dog Park is set to undergo a year-long improvement project.

Starting Monday, Oct. 4, half of the large-dog portion of the park at 4000 Platt Road will close for extensive maintenance.

"The year-long project will include new fencing, replacing turf and allowing the turf to establish over the winter and spring," the city stated in a news release. "Fence replacement will take place on the southwest corner of the park and includes 370 feet of new fencing. Intermittent closures of the large-dog area may occur while temporary fencing is installed in October."

Advertisement

Ad removed. [Details](#)

When the new turf is ready next spring, the project will shift to the other side of the large-dog area with a similar six-month timeline for new turf establishment, officials said.

The plan is to always keep one side of the large-dog area open during the project, and the small-dog area will not be impacted and will remain open, officials said.

The city and the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission are overseeing the project. Questions about it can be directed to parks@washtenaw.org.

Under a [new law approved by City Council](#), dogs in Ann Arbor can be labeled dangerous if

×

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Advertisement

Ann Arbor

Ann Arbor OKs design costs for new Border-to-Border Trail tunnel pathway

Updated: 1:58 p.m. | Published: 1:58 p.m.

120
shares

By [Ryan Stanton | ryanstanton@mlive.com](#)

ANN ARBOR, MI — Ann Arbor officials have OK'd a cost-sharing agreement for a [proposed Border-to-Border Trail tunnel pathway](#) linking Bandemer Park and Barton Nature Area.

City Council voted unanimously Monday night, Oct. 4, to approve an agreement between the city and the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission to collaborate on the upcoming \$443,784 design phase of the project.

The proposed tunnel for pedestrians and cyclists would extend beneath the Michigan Department of Transportation's railroad tracks, providing a highly desired connection that has been needed for decades, said Colin Smith, city parks manager.

Advertisement



Council members expressed enthusiasm and excitement about the project before approving the agreement.

"It's really great that this is finally happening," said Council Member Jeff Hayner, D-1st Ward.

"It's been a long time coming," said Council Member Erica Briggs, D-5th Ward. "We've been wanting this gap filled for decades. For anybody who bikes, runs, walks in this area, they know how much this is needed. The railroad has worked diligently to try to blockade this path and folks work just as hard to get around it. We desperately need a connection here."

Advertisement



It will address a critical gap on the B2B Trail, as well as the statewide Iron Belle Trail, connecting the city with parks along the Huron River, and improve non-motorized traffic around the North Main Street and M-14 corridor by providing a safe pedestrian and bicycle gateway to the city, Smith said.

It's also a key piece of completing the B2B Trail between Ann Arbor and Dexter in the coming years.

Currently there is no safe connection between the B2B Trail in Bandemer Park and the Barton Nature Area, and many pedestrians and cyclists illegally cross the railroad, Smith said.

The county solicited proposals and the parties have agreed on awarding a \$443,784 design contact to Bergmann, a company that worked on a feasibility study for the project last year.

The county is responsible for 55% of the design costs, while the city will cover the rest, which amounts to just under \$200,000.

Upon completion of engineering designs, the city intends to solicit bids for construction, with the proposed cost split being 29% city and 71% county.

Officials have estimated the project could cost \$4 million to \$5 million and construction could start as soon as 2023.

The nonprofit Huron Waterloo Pathways Initiative is working to privately raise funds to help cover costs.

Council Member Lisa Disch, D-1st Ward, thanked staff and residents who have worked on the project. It's going to be a gateway between the city's north side and west side that won't involve crossing four dangerous lanes of traffic or illegally bumping bicycles over railroad tracks, she said.

"So, this is fabulous," she said. "It will also ... involve a significant private fundraising effort, and it is just great to see so many hands coming together to support something that will be a really beautiful benefit to our community and the region."

Mayor Christopher Taylor gave special thanks to the Huron Waterloo Pathways Initiative and its donors.

"This is a nonprofit that has been organized for the purpose of improving the trail and it has been incredibly successful in other parts of the county ... and now we're going to be enjoying it here," he said, calling it a public-private partnership with a mission to rapidly expand non-motorized transportation.

"I couldn't be more excited," he said.



Digital Report - September 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 - September 2021

SOCIAL MEDIA

facebook

Blue Heron Bay

Monthly Impressions

September	Last Month	Last Year
7,582	38,480	

Total Post Engagement

September	Last Month	Last Year
368	2,694	

facebook

Independence Lake

Monthly Impressions

September	Last Month	Last Year
31,580	71,007	

Total Post Engagement

September	Last Month	Last Year
1,453	3,864	

facebook

Meri Lou Murray

Monthly Impressions

September	Last Month	Last Year
4,115	2,888	

Total Post Engagement

September	Last Month	Last Year
186	138	

facebook

Pierce Lake

Monthly Impressions

September	Last Month	Last Year
18,637	24,552	

Total Post Engagement

September	Last Month	Last Year
858	1,151	

facebook

Rolling Hills

Monthly Impressions

September	Last Month	Last Year
157,949	627,455	

Total Post Engagement

September	Last Month	Last Year
8,076	39,689	

facebook

WCPARC

Monthly Impressions

September	Last Month	Last Year
26,744	23,911	

Total Post Engagement

September	Last Month	Last Year
1,439	1,105	

Instagram

Rolling Hills

Total Followers

September	Last Month	Last Year
977	976	

Top Post - Woodpecker

How many people reacted to posts

September	Last Month	Last Year
68	96	

Instagram

WCPARC

Total Followers

September	Last Month	Last Year
2,320	2,299	

Top Post - Preserve Challenge

How many people reacted to posts

September	Last Month	Last Year
100	108	



Digital Report - September 2021

Instagram - Top Posts



washtenawcountyparks

...



68 likes

washtenawcountyparks Yup. . . that name makes sense. With an entirely bright red head the Red-headed Woodpecker's (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) name seems more than appropriate. The rest of its body is a bold pattern of black and white. It's a color blocking design that would be David and Moira Rose approved!



washtenawcountyparks

Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Comm...

...



100 views

washtenawcountyparks 🦋 Registration is now open for the 2021 Preserve Challenge! This virtual challenge starts on Saturday, September 11 and runs for four weeks. We are challenging you to visit a park or preserve once a week and then share your experience on social media using [#ExploreWashtenaw](#). By registering, you will receive a commemorative prize and weekly emails throughout the challenge to learn about parks and preserves throughout the challenge.



Digital Report - September 2021

Website, Newsletter, News

Website Statistics

washtenaw.org/parks

September 2021

Total Page Visits	September	Last Month	Sept. Last Year
	24,194		

Top Pages Viewed	Views
Rolling Hills	
Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center	
B2B Trail	
Doggy Dip	
Independence Lake	

Monthly Newsletter

WCPARC

September Newsletter via MailChimp

Sent to	Opened	Clicks
6,817	2,107	191

September Newsletter non MailChimp

Sent to	Opened	
1,102	N/A	

In The News

- Ann Arbor approves design cost for Bandemer tunnel – B2B Trail
- Seacrest Nature Preserve – new 80 acre preserve
- Swift Run Dog Park maintenance
- CFP and MLM parking lot improvements

Photography



Robert Tetens
Trailhead
dedication

Nelson Meade
County Farm Park
– parking lot
construction



Doggy Dip at
Rolling Hills

Record 603 dogs
enjoyed the day!





Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MEMORANDUM

TO: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Coy P. Vaughn, Director
DATE: October 12, 2021
RE: Project and Activities Update – September 2021

Park Facility Events and Projects

Independence Lake

- Staff prepared a Site Master Plan and posted it on the Parks website for public review.
- All six archery programs reached maximum capacity on September 10.
- “Disc Golf for Beginners” and “Disc Golf Glow Nights” were held September 10.
- Beach campfire and sing-along event was held September 10.
- “Fall Fireside Storytime” on September 17 reached capacity.
- In-person and virtual yoga programs have been having consistent weekly participation.
- A local club hosted a tournament at Red Hawk Disc Golf Course on September 26.
- Independence Lake Park hosted a staff BBQ on September 29. Staff was able to try the new kayaks and participate in a mini disc golf tournament.
- Raised flower beds near the spray park are still in full bloom after being restored at the beginning of summer. The beds act as a monarch waystation, which provide resources to produce successive generations and sustain migration.
- Seasonal employees completed the summer work Labor Day weekend and have transitioned to closing Blue Heron Bay Spray Park.
- Disc golf pavilion construction continues, with concrete and the roof installed this month.
- Maintenance staff continue to service several out-parks and preserves.
- Maintenance staff continue to close the spray park, boat rentals, and swim area.

Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center

- This year, the annual maintenance shutdown lasted only one week due to reduced patronage, thus less wear on the facility, during COVID. Staff cleaned extensively, re-grouted the locker room tile, and performed general repair jobs that cannot be done when the facility is open. Members were appreciative of the work and the one-week time frame.
- Fall 1 session began on September 12, with a hybrid group exercise program. The facility is currently offering sixteen virtual fitness classes, six outdoor classes, and seven low intensity in-building classes. Outdoor classes utilize the new outdoor flooring on the northeast patio and are available free to members.
- Group swimming and water aerobics classes have restarted and share space with private lessons and lap swimming.

Rolling Hills Park

- Water Park operations ended on September 6. Due to staffing shortages, it proved to be a challenging season; however, the facility was able to safely operate, whereas other local water parks remained closed.
- Doggy Dip was held on September 11 and had a tremendous turnout with 603 dogs (the previous record was 471). Human guests enjoyed free promotional items local vendors and complimentary coffee. Eighty event t-shirts were sold during the event.
- On September 18, the park hosted WagginBark Run, which featured former parks' employee Janet Egeler's husband, Dan, who ran twenty-four 5K races in twenty-four hours to raise funds for various dog rescues. In total, Dan was able to raise \$14,000 for his charities.
- Park hosted the Lincoln Schools "Cross Country Jamboree" on September 22, which included seven participating schools. The event had a great turnout, despite the terrible weather.
- Glow Disc Golf Night was held on the main course on September 24.
- Trek or Treat, scheduled for October 9, sold out four weeks before the event. Staff are busy preparing for over 600 participants.
- Renovation of the Water Park concession stand is scheduled to begin this month.

Staebler Farm Park

- The County released an RFP for the multipurpose building project; an onsite pre-bid meeting will be held on October 18.
- Staff met with architects from The Collaborative to begin conceptual design of the farmhouse.
- September MFS classes: 14 classes including Blacksmithing 101, Bladesmithing, Spooncarving Gardening, Parent/Child Blacksmithing, and Herbal remedies.

Special Initiatives

Border-to-Border Trail (B2B)

- Construction on the Dexter-Chelsea trail segment (CD2), Dancer Road to Wylie Road (1.6 miles) continues. The contractor has completed grading on 80% of the trail and has poured concrete in on nearly 50% of the graded area. The project is on track to be completed this year with final restoration occurring in the spring.
- Chelsea Connector segment (C1) construction has begun. The first phase of the work is anticipated to be complete this year with the remainder of the project being completed in 2022.
- The Grove Road bridge widening over I-94 in the City of Ypsilanti (Y7) is nearly complete. The Contractor widened the sidewalk bridge deck from 6' to 14' wide and completed the sidewalk approaches to the bridge with one area remaining. Remaining work includes road striping and final site restoration.
- Gallup Park reconstruction, a partnership led by the City of Ann Arbor, is approximately 40% complete with the trail anticipated to re-open this fall.

Watkins Lake Trail

- Construction on the first two phases of the Watkins Lake gravel rail-trail conversion has started and includes silt fence, grading, and culvert installation. The work spans from Noggles Rd, crosses Sharon Hollow Rd., and ends at Austin Rd. Work is anticipated to be complete this year.

Connecting Communities

- Staff are currently reviewing the four 2021 Connecting Communities grants applications that were received.

Natural Areas Preservation Program (NAPP)

Acquisition

- WCPARC closed on the 117-acre Karnatz Farm/Selter conservation easement in Augusta Township, in partnership with Augusta's land preservation program and RCPP. This is NAPP's first expenditure in Augusta Township.

Stewardship

- 26 volunteers helped remove invasive shrubs such as buckthorn and autumn olive over 2 separate workdays at County Farm Park and one Stewardship Saturday at Whitmore Lake Preserve. Private groups included Eastern Michigan University students and neighbors of County Farm Park.
- The Preserve Challenge launched on September 11. This four-week virtual challenge encourages participants to visit a park or preserve every week and share their experience on social media. This year, 55 participants registered for the Preserve Challenge.
- With the help of several partners and under the umbrella of Michigan State University Extension, the Conservation Stewards Program launched this fall with a new virtual format. This program runs through November 13.

Interpretive Programming

- 186 patrons attended naturalist programs in September. Programs included a homeschool fieldtrip to Parker Mill, various archery programs (Junior Naturalist, Girl Scouts, and introductory classes), and a mindfulness hike.
- Naturalist Elle Bogle led development of the successful, "Women's Nature Day Camp." A survey of participants provided only positive feedback and interest in the program occurring annually. In fact, naturalists have begun working on ideas for the next program.
- 211 people attended tours of Sharon Mills during two open houses.



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

September 2021 - Claims Report

PARK / FACILITY / FUNCTION	UTILITIES	DIRECT PURCHASES	OTHER	TOTAL
Administration	\$ 226.74	\$ 3,127.68	\$ 79,519.23	\$ 82,873.65
Recreation Center	12,578.70	2,800.74	5,119.14	20,498.58
Park Maintenance	1,063.11	638.58	3,593.99	5,295.68
Pierce Lake Golf Course	1,081.69	8,300.53	15,955.31	25,337.53
Independence Lake	3,568.12	2,059.13	7,375.09	13,002.34
Rolling Hills	11,165.38	7,732.74	11,629.59	30,527.71
Parker Mill	191.45	18.99	83.00	293.44
Sharon Mills	-	306.29	85.00	391.29
Staebler Farm	-	162.33	318.41	480.74
Swift Run Dog Park	-	-	720.00	720.00
Capital Improvement	-	-	13,134.50	13,134.50
Committed Funding Partnerships	-	-	-	-
Commission	-	-	-	-
SUBTOTAL	\$ 29,875.19	\$ 25,147.01	\$ 137,533.26	\$ 192,555.46
 Road Millage Fund	 -	 -	 176,805.41	 176,805.41
SUBTOTAL	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 176,805.41	\$ 176,805.41
 Natural Areas Preservation Program				
Acquisition	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,323.00	\$ 7,323.00
Preserve Management	-	1,070.47	28,090.59	\$ 29,161.06
NATAC	-	-	-	\$ -
Acquisition	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 246,704.40	\$ 246,704.40
Annual Monitoring	-	-	-	\$ -
ALPAC	-	-	-	-
SUBTOTAL	\$ -	\$ 1,070.47	\$ 282,117.99	\$ 283,188.46
 TOTAL	\$ 29,875.19	\$ 26,217.48	\$ 596,456.66	\$ 652,549.33

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

\$ 652,549.33

WASHTENAW COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
FUND BALANCE STATEMENT - SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

Beginning Fund Balance (1/1/21)	17,612,810		75%	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	2,178,223		61%	(1,381,777)	
Interest Earnings	150,000	51,625		34%	(98,375)	
Other Revenue & Reimb.	<u>30,000</u>	<u>21,762</u>		73%	<u>(8,238)</u>	
Total Revenue		11,689,931		10,703,605	92%	(986,326)
Expense (Budget)		Expense (Actual)			Variance	
Personnel Services	(6,231,847)	(4,165,733)		67%	2,066,114	
Supplies & Other Services	(2,390,854)	(1,538,752)		64%	852,102	
Internal Service Charges	(940,957)	(707,674)		75%	233,283	
Capital						
Land Acquisition	-	-		-	-	
CIP/Development	(3,100,000)	(566,811)		18%	2,533,189	
Contingency	(400,000)	(102,033)		26%	297,967	
Machinery & Equipment	<u>(172,300)</u>	<u>(73,925)</u>		43%	<u>98,375</u>	
Capital Subtotal	(3,672,300)	(742,770)		20%	2,929,530	
Transfers Out	(808,000)	(808,000)		100%	-	
Total Expense		<u>(14,043,958)</u>		<u>(7,962,928)</u>	57%	6,081,030
Surplus/(Deficit)		(2,354,027)		2,740,677		
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)		4,836,793		11,713,043		

WASHTENAW COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
NATURAL AREAS PRESERVATION PROGRAM
FUND BALANCE STATEMENT - SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

Beginning Fund Balance (1/1/21)	6,662,301	75%	YTD % Budget	
Revenue (Budget)		Revenue (Actual)		Variance
Property Tax	3,936,536	4,210,019	107%	273,483
Federal Revenue	-	-		-
Interest Earnings	50,000	21,761	44%	(28,239)
Other Revenue & Reimb.	<u>5,000</u>	<u>544</u>	11%	<u>(4,456)</u>
Total Revenue	3,991,536	4,232,324	106%	240,788
Expense (Budget)		Expense (Actual)		Variance
Personnel Services	(675,600)	(362,987)	54%	312,613
Supplies & Other Services	(332,600)	(170,145)	51%	162,455
Internal Service Charges	(22,840)	(12,734)	56%	10,106
Capital				
Land Acquisition	(2,550,000)	(1,692,161)	66%	857,839
Land Development	-	-		-
Machinery & Equipment	<u>(5,000)</u>	<u>-</u>	0%	<u>5,000</u>
Capital Subtotal	(2,555,000)	(1,692,161)	66%	862,839
Transfers Out	(7,500)	(33,950)	453%	
Total Expense	<u>(3,593,540)</u>	<u>(2,271,977)</u>	63%	1,348,013
Surplus/(Deficit)	397,996	1,960,347		
Projected Fund Balance (12/31/21)	<u>7,060,297</u>	<u>8,622,648</u>		

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

	GATE					
	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
RESIDENT (ANNUAL)	1,481	1,105	2,127	\$ 40,590	\$ 33,150	\$ 63,810
NON-RESIDENT (ANNUAL)	176	91	206	6,750	4,095	9,270
RESIDENTS (DAILY)	12,330	2,723	8,844	73,980	16,338	53,064
NON-RESIDENTS (DAILY)	18,724	1,262	8,390	187,240	12,620	83,900
SENIOR (DAILY)	869	142	497	2,607	426	1,491
SENIOR NON-RES. (DAILY)	610	24	254	3,660	144	1,524
GLOW GOLF DROP-IN	-	20	5	-	100	25
BUSES (DAILY)	130	-	4	3,900	-	120
ANNUAL BUS	-	-	-	-	-	-
MINI BUS	44	1	4	660	15	60
ANNUAL MINI BUS	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>34,364</u>	<u>5,368</u>	<u>20,331</u>	<u>\$ 319,387</u>	<u>\$ 66,888</u>	<u>\$ 213,264</u>
PERCENT OF NON-RESIDENTS:						
ANNUAL	10.62%	7.61%	8.83%			
DAILY	59.43%	30.98%	48.06%			

WATER PARK POOL ATTENDANCE

	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
DAILY ENTRANCE	<u>121,493</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>39,408</u>	<u>\$ 1,038,975</u>	<u>\$ 48</u>	<u>\$ 402,006</u>
	121,493	4	39,408	\$ 1,038,975	\$ 48	\$ 402,006

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	1,055	-	1,453	5,602	-	4,952
DISC GOLF	4,230	2,434	2,779	8,460	4,868	5,558
SPECIAL EVENTS	<u>2,061</u>	<u>745</u>	<u>1,157</u>	<u>27,608</u>	<u>7,359</u>	<u>19,356</u>
	9,321	3,179	7,148	\$ 102,237	\$ 12,227	\$ 77,351

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

	PROGRAMMING & RETAIL OPERATIONS (cont'd)					
	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
FACILITY RENTALS						
WEEKDAYS	24	2	41	\$ 2,318	\$ 40	\$ 3,880
WEEKENDS	146	14	149	15,337	1,085	19,525
SOCCER FIELDS	5,288	70	462	15,190	200	1,325
DISC GOLF COURSE	-	-	10	-	-	-
WATERPARK SHELTERS	33	-	-	1,240	-	-
	<u>5,491</u>	<u>86</u>	<u>662</u>	<u>\$ 34,085</u>	<u>\$ 1,325</u>	<u>\$ 24,730</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	23,002	-	5,420	\$ 5,751	\$ -	\$ 1,355
FOOD CONCESSIONS	113,264	-	42,038	226,386	-	80,216
MISCELLANEOUS	596	-	299	3,198	-	1,738
GIFT CERTIFICATE SALES	39	3	1	411	428	65
	<u>136,901</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>47,758</u>	<u>\$ 235,745</u>	<u>\$ 428</u>	<u>\$ 83,374</u>
	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
YTD TOTAL PARTICIPATION & REVENUE:	307,976	8,640	117,002	\$ 1,731,647	\$ 80,916	\$ 805,813

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

MEMBERSHIPS						
	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
INDIVIDUAL RESIDENT	761	337	367	\$ 157,967	\$ 60,572	\$ 60,166
INDIVIDUAL NON-RESIDENT	16	5	4	4,930	2,060	1,074
S/Y/D RESIDENT	1,016	442	355	167,617	71,191	58,785
S/Y/D NON-RESIDENT	3	2	-	790	788	-
FAMILY RESIDENT	228	131	97	81,685	32,044	24,671
FAMILY NON-RESIDENT	2	1	1	1,480	735	767
FAMILY - ADDT'L MEMBER	12	11	4	746	427	150
SENIORS OVER 80	315	118	143	18,990	6,710	8,630
PERSONAL TRAINERS	15	1	4	4,855	303	1,075
MILITARY PASS	3	2	2	360	180	390
30-DAY PASS	626	334	648	26,922	14,011	28,801
SEASONAL PASS	128	-	-	10,080	-	-
REPLACEMENT PASS	-	33	8	-	33	8
SUB-TOTAL	3,125	1,417	1,633	\$ 476,422	\$ 189,053	\$ 184,516
PASS FACILITY USE	130,112	44,563	81,458			
PERCENT OF NON-RESIDENTS:	1.04%	0.87%	0.61%			

DAILY ENTRIES						
	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
INDIVIDUAL RESIDENT	6,798	2,552	50	\$ 54,384	\$ 20,416	\$ 454
INDIVIDUAL NON-RESIDENT	734	212	17	6,606	1,908	169
S/Y/D RESIDENT	6,075	2,122	46	36,450	12,732	321
S/Y/D NON-RESIDENT	261	105	2	1,827	735	18
INDIVIDUAL FITNESS RESIDENT	169	46	-	1,064	264	-
INDIVIDUAL FITNESS NON-RESIDENT	-	-	-	-	-	-
SENIOR FITNESS RESIDENT	426	129	-	2,327	756	-
SENIOR FITNESS NON-RESIDENT	12	3	-	28	14	-
DAILY PASS/GIFT CERTIFICATE SALES	-	75	1	3,606	450	245
SUB-TOTAL	14,475	5,244	116	\$ 106,292	\$ 37,275	\$ 1,207
PERCENT OF NON-RESIDENTS:	6.96%	6.19%	16.59%			

OTHER REVENUE						
	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
DAYCAMP	3,282	23	15	\$ 88,617	\$ 630	\$ 405
RECREATION PROGRAMS	28,520	8,545	23,079	144,726	25,786	46,417
FACILITY RENTALS	210	106	13	5,048	2,554	300
POOL/STUDIO/GYM	-	-	-	-	-	-
PARTY PAVILION	-	-	-	-	-	-
MISC. RETAIL	333	84	76	9,037	2,318	2,490
LOCKERS	25,148	9,068	3,120	6,287	2,267	780
VENDING	-	-	-	1,425	1,208	-
SUB-TOTAL	57,493	17,827	26,303	\$ 255,141	\$ 34,764	\$ 50,392

	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
YTD TOTAL PARTICIPATION & REVENUE:	205,205	69,051	109,510	\$ 837,855	\$ 261,091	\$ 236,115

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

GREEN FEES

	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
WEEKDAYS						
REGULAR - 9	929	673	748	\$ 7,273	\$ 7,363	\$ 8,708
SR/JR/STUDENT - 9	465	552	574	6,812	9,622	9,789
LEAGUES - 9	4,104	2,771	3,439	65,931	47,585	58,463
REGULAR - 18	2,005	3,879	3,293	60,144	117,451	113,279
SR/JR/STUDENT - 18	3,951	3,398	4,557	81,552	81,781	107,477
TWI-LIGHT	1,848	2,041	1,419	30,793	40,744	27,315
WEEKENDS						
REGULAR - 9	229	201	205	5,061	5,273	5,239
SR/JR/STUDENT - 9	37	37	9	592	703	171
REGULAR - 18	3,264	3,461	5,041	109,077	124,165	183,780
SR/JR/STUDENT - 18	289	252	496	7,514	7,288	14,532
TWI-LIGHT	1,214	1,327	756	27,964	33,953	19,199
EARLY BIRD - 9	58	36	35	928	684	665
MEMBERSHIPS						
ULTIMATE PACKAGE	269	387	555	9,500	15,775	24,898
WEEKDAY PACKAGE	754	1,174	1,481	9,400	10,257	14,921
WEEKEND PACKAGE	130	-	183	750	-	800
TWI-LIGHT PACKAGE	335	269	238	5,525	3,850	4,575
OUTINGS (WEEKDAYS & WEEKENDS)	<u>1,148</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>696</u>	<u>35,071</u>	<u>2,668</u>	<u>26,142</u>
	21,029	20,550	23,725	\$ 463,887	\$ 509,162	\$ 619,953

PROGRAMMING & RETAIL OPERATIONS

	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
CARTS	16,234	16,231	19,486	\$ 111,905	\$ 113,059	\$ 138,961
RENTALS	<u>65</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>650</u>	<u>240</u>	<u>380</u>
	16,299	16,255	19,524	\$ 112,555	\$ 113,299	\$ 139,341
FOOD & BEVERAGE	42,341	29,421	46,907	\$ 114,256	\$ 81,605	\$ 130,794
PRO SHOP	3,149	2,601	3,437	35,764	31,136	44,210
DISCOUNTS	-	-	-	(70,458)	(90,063)	(129,829)
VENDING	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>780</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,016</u>
	45,490	32,022	50,344	\$ 80,342	\$ 22,677	\$ 46,191
	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
YTD TOTAL PARTICIPATION & REVENUE:	82,818	68,827	93,593	\$ 656,784	\$ 645,138	\$ 805,485

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

GATE

	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
RESIDENTS (ANNUAL)	962	1,013	1,308	\$ 27,900	\$ 30,390	\$ 39,240
NON-RESIDENTS (ANNUAL)	169	184	338	7,200	8,280	15,210
RESIDENTS (DAILY)	5,473	4,843	6,498	32,838	29,058	38,988
NON-RESIDENTS (DAILY)	4,742	4,058	6,598	47,420	40,580	65,980
SENIOR (DAILY)	558	458	743	1,674	1,374	2,229
SENIOR-NON RES. (DAILY)	312	232	385	1,872	1,392	2,310
BUSES (DAILY)	19	-	8	570	-	240
ANNUAL BUS	8	-	-	150	-	-
MINI BUS	20	3	10	300	45	150
ANNUAL MINI BUS	<u>15</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>525</u>	<u>225</u>	<u>300</u>
	12,278	10,794	15,892	\$ 120,449	\$ 111,344	\$ 164,647
PERCENT OF NON-RESIDENTS:						
ANNUAL	14.9%	15.4%	20.5%			
DAILY	45.6%	44.7%	49.1%			

BLUE HERON BAY ATTENDANCE

	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
BHB ANNUAL PASSES	132	-	-	\$ 2,388	\$ -	\$ -
BHB DAILY ENTRANCE	<u>12,725</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,723</u>	<u>47,212</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>27,372</u>
	12,857	-	6,723	\$ 49,600	\$ -	\$ 27,372

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	143	-	-	\$ 36	\$ -	\$ -
FOOD CONCESSIONS	10,229	118	7,361	21,434	125	15,755
ACCESSORIES/MISC.	<u>39</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>83</u>
	10,411	120	7,390	\$ 21,524	\$ 175	\$ 15,838

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

PROGRAMMING & RETAIL OPERATIONS

	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
DAYCAMP	1,490	6	1,960	\$ 40,217	\$ 150	\$ 52,910
DISC GOLF	238	4,003	4,924	476	8,006	9,848
SPECIAL EVENTS	<u>226</u>	<u>161</u>	<u>612</u>	<u>4,835</u>	<u>2,225</u>	<u>7,131</u>
	1,954	4,170	7,496	\$ 45,528	\$ 10,381	\$ 69,889
 FACILITY RENTALS						
WEEKDAYS	61	8	17	\$ 4,080	\$ 880	\$ 1,520
WEEKENDS	<u>71</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>94</u>	<u>8,375</u>	<u>2,900</u>	<u>10,030</u>
	132	33	111	\$ 12,455	\$ 3,780	\$ 11,550
 ROW BOATS-HOURLY	144	-	136	\$ 720	\$ -	\$ 680
ROW BOATS-DAILY	32	-	39	640	-	780
PADDLE BOATS-1/2 HOUR	<u>449</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>589</u>	<u>3,143</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,123</u>
	625	-	764	\$ 4,503	\$ -	\$ 5,583
 FOOD CONCESSIONS	6,972	5,287	6,536	\$ 11,876	\$ 10,739	\$ 14,910
ACCESSORIES/MISC.	<u>33</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>130</u>	<u>112</u>	<u>102</u>
	7,005	5,308	6,551	\$ 12,006	\$ 10,850	\$ 15,012
	 2019	 2020	 2021	 2019	 2020	 2021
YTD TOTAL PARTICIPATION & REVENUE:	45,284	20,425	44,952	\$ 267,936	\$ 136,531	\$ 311,060



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MEMORANDUM

TO: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Coy P. Vaughn, Director
DATE: October 12, 2021
RE: Independence Lake County Park Site Master Plan

Background

Prior to 2020, Independence Lake County Park had undergone facility planning twice since its acquisition in 1977. Both plans were developed by esteemed landscape architect, Peter Pollack. The last plan was drafted in 2010 but was never adopted due to Mr. Pollack's death during the latter stages of planning. The draft plan was used as a general guide, but never broadly implemented. Since that time, the facility has increased in size and amenities, including construction of Blue Heron Bay Spray Park. As part of developing the "5-Year Recreation Master Plan," WCPARC conducted a formal Community Needs Assessment to help determine the recreation desires and needs of county residents. Survey results also provided an opportunity for staff to consider planning for individual park facilities.

Discussion

In November 2020, staff began the process of updating Independence Lake Park's Site Master Plan with the goal of guiding development over the next ten years. In preparing the plan, staff evaluated maps, site inventories, historical documents, and the Community Needs Assessment. They also gathered input from staff, members of the public, and local officials.

In June, staff presented an initial draft plan to the public at a virtual meeting. A copy of the plan was also placed at the park's headquarters. The plan and a recording of the presentation were posted on the county's website for additional comment. After the public review period was complete, comments were integrated into the plan, where appropriate. The final draft was then placed on the County's website for final public feedback: <https://www.washtenaw.org/3411/Independence-Lake-Park-2021-Site-Maste>. A social media post announced its availability for review; no comments were received.

Recommendation

I have reviewed the Independence Lake County Park's 2021 Site Master Plan and believe the proposed park program is consistent with WCPARC adopted Parks and Recreation Master Plan and WCPARC's mission to provide new recreational and educational opportunities for patrons. It is my recommendation that the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission adopt the 2021 Independence Lake County Park Site Master Plan.



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MEMORANDUM

To: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Coy P. Vaughn, Director
Date: October 12, 2021
Re: Final Approval: Purchase of Rouse property, Scio Township

Background

In late 2020, NAPP received a nomination for a 4.54-acre parcel of land adjacent to the Kidder-McKeachie Scio Woods Preserve. Expanding existing nature preserves is a general priority of the Natural Areas Technical Advisory Committee (NATAC), and they recommended purchasing the property shortly after nomination. The Parks Commission approved a sales contract on February 9, 2021.

Discussion

The Scio Woods Preserve is one of the most popular nature preserves owned by Parks. Scio Woods offers a variety of habitats including oak and hickory forest in the drier soils with the wetter woods dominated by sugar maple and beech trees. A wetland system located in the eastern portion of the preserve continues onto the proposed addition and includes a buttonbush swamp and wetland plants such as pawpaw trees, spicebush, and bladdernut. Spring wildflowers are abundant in the preserve, and the wooded habitat is home to some uncommon birds including barred owls and pileated woodpeckers. The Rouse site's uplands were predominantly maple and witch-hazel, and a relatively undisturbed wetland sits at the north edge. NATAC identified this property as a priority due to its function of expanding protected core habitat in Scio Woods Preserve. Because a driveway runs along the east edge of the parcel (west edge of the preserve), trails would likely not be extended from Scio Woods to this small expansion. The Commission's scoring system yields 55/100 points.

An appraisal was received in December 2020 and the value was determined to be \$95,000.00 for approximately 4.34 acres. The surveyed acreage of 4.54 adjusts the purchase price to \$99,377.88. Since NATAC's and the Commission's approval of sales contract, the City of Ann Arbor and Scio Township have both agreed to contribute one-third of the original appraised value, equaling \$31,667.00 and \$31,666.00. The remaining \$36,044.88 will be contributed out of NATAC funds.

Ann Arbor Greenbelt:	\$31,667.00
Scio Township	\$31,666.00
WCPARC (NATAC):	<u>\$36,044.88 plus closing costs and adjustments</u>
FMV	\$99,377.88

On February 9, 2021, 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:

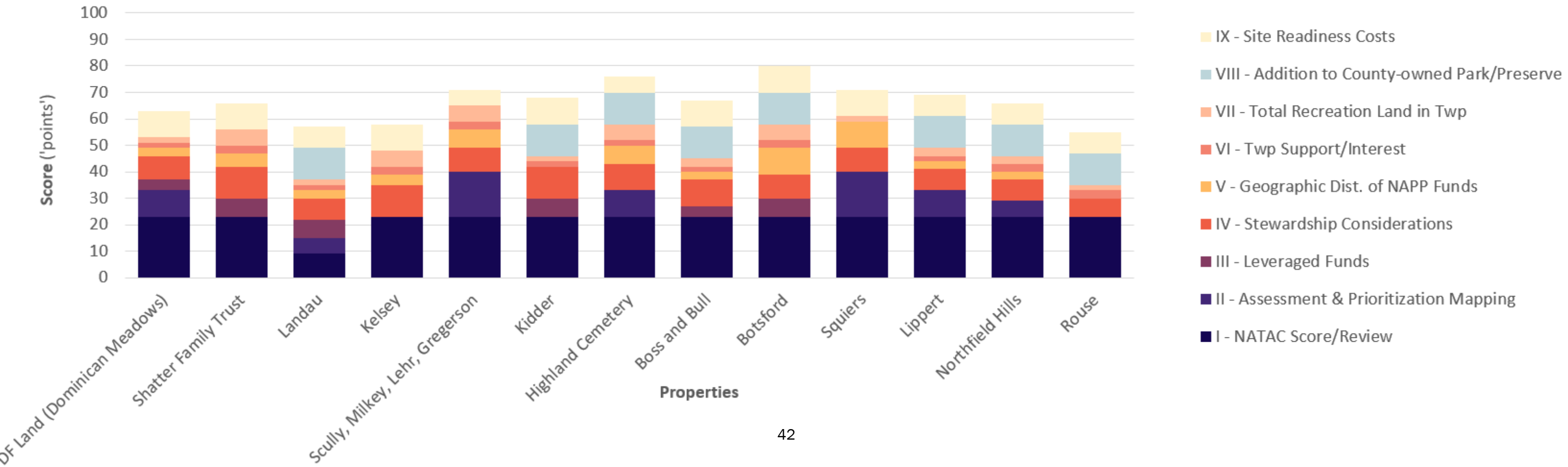
- An appraisal was completed for the property.
- A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment found no issues on the property.
- A boundary survey including legal description has been prepared.

Recommendation

Based on the Natural Area Technical Advisory Committee and staff review of the property, I recommend that the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission authorize the purchase of the Kidder property the amount of \$99,377.88 as outlined above contingent upon attorney approval of final documents. I further recommend that \$2,270 be contributed to the stewardship special revenue funds for the future maintenance and management of the property.

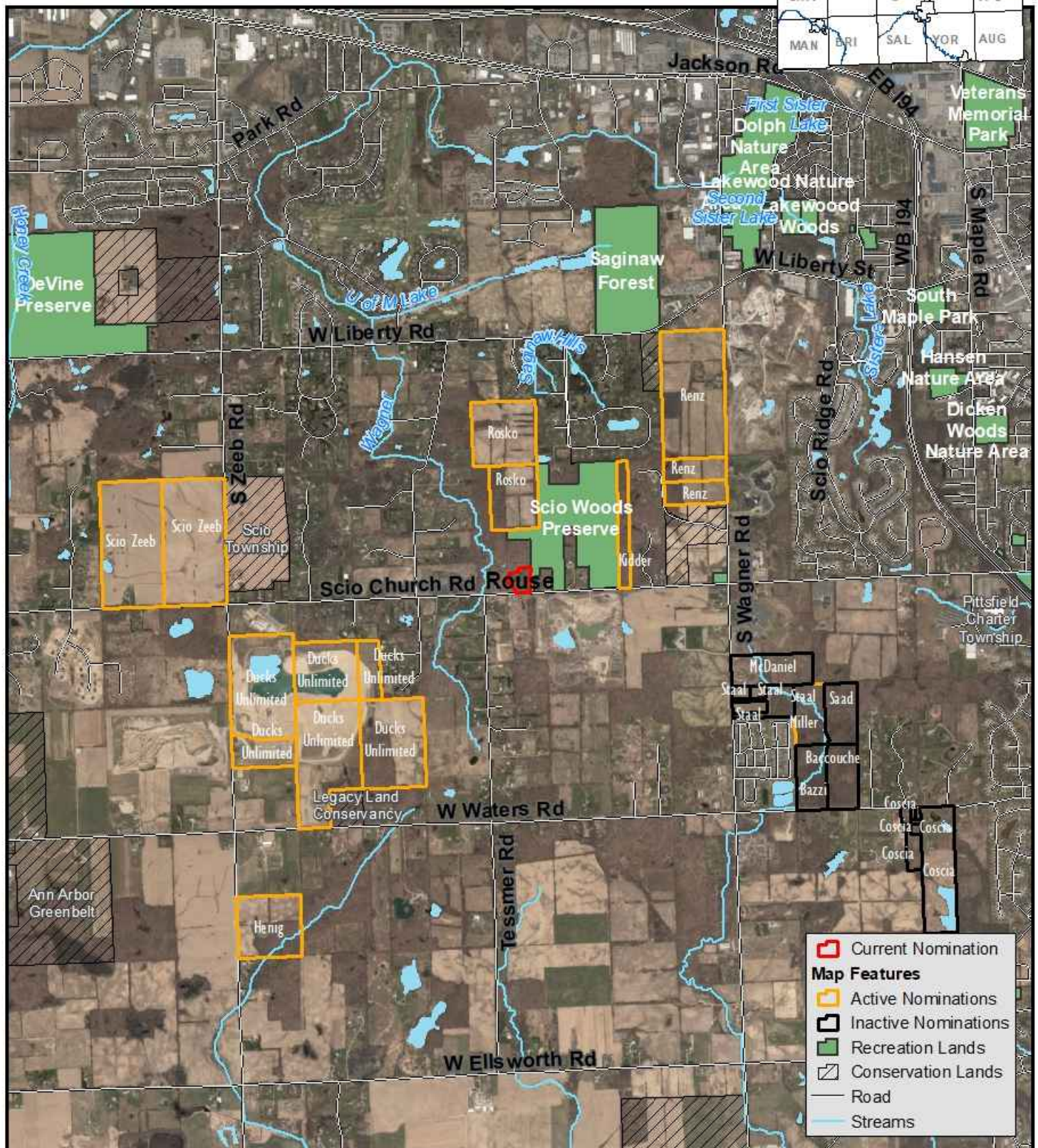
Attachments

Parks Commission Scoring - Fee Simple



Rouse Property: Local Area Aerial
 Natural Areas Preservation Program
 Nomination ID: 21.333
 Township
 +/-5 Acres

Washtenaw County
 Locator Map



Rouse Property: Aerial & Soils

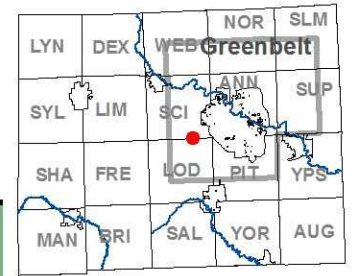
Natural Areas Preservation Program

Nomination ID: 21.333

Scio Township

+/-5 Acres

Washtenaw County
Locator Map





Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MEMORANDUM

To: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Coy P. Vaughn, Director
Date: October 12, 2021
Re: Recommendation for Round 21 NATAC Priorities

At their September 2021 meeting, the Natural Area Technical Advisory Committee (NATAC) evaluated all property nominations received in 2021 to determine which properties are the “highest priority” for protect. This evaluation includes site visits to each of the properties and completion of the field review worksheets.

Tier One Priority – move forward with appraisals or negotiations

ID	Property Name	Acres	Township	Acquisition Type	Lead Org.
21.333	Maisel	315/220	Northfield	Fee Simple	WCPARC
21.334	Kotus	20	Augusta	Conservation Easement	WCPARC
21.336	Rouse	4.54	Scio	Fee Simple	WCPARC
21.337	Loveland	20	Scio	Fee Simple	Scio Township
21.339	Phinney	119	Sylvan	Fee Simple	WCPARC
21.341	Shaw	95	Manchester	Fee Simple	WCPARC

Tier Two Priority – reconsider after Tier One is complete, dependent on available funding

ID	Property Name	Acres	Township	Acquisition Type	Lead Org.
21.334	Kotus	20	Augusta	Fee Simple	WCPARC
21.338	Cykiert	93	Scio	Fee Simple	Scio Township

Recommend to Parks for Acquisition

ID	Property Name	Acres	Township	Acquisition Type	Lead Org.
21.340	Ahrens	2.75	Bridgewater	Fee Simple Donation	WCPARC

The Natural Area Technical Advisory Committee presents the above recommendation for your consideration. The Committee is available to address any questions you may have concerning the recommendation and members can be available to attend a Commission meeting.



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MEMORANDUM

To: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Coy P. Vaughn, Director
Date: October 12, 2021
Re: Recommendation for Round 21 ALPAC Priorities

Background

At their September 2021 meeting, the Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Committee (ALPAC) evaluated all property nominations received in 2021 to determine which properties are the “highest priority” for protection. This evaluation uses an objective numeric scoring system that was adopted by the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners and is intended to produce similar scores to models used at the State and Federal Level.

Highest Priority for ALPAC: In order of score, proceed with negotiations as funds available for acquisition, and seek matching funding opportunities.

Property Name	Acres	Township	Grant	Score
DeForest Salem	134	Salem	RCPP	63
Bristle	109	Freedom	RCPP / EPA 319	53
Weidmayer, Keith 1	63.5	Freedom	RCPP	53

Highest Priority partnerships: Partners have requested ALPAC’s contribution on several nominations. Proceed with partnerships as funds are available.

Property Name	Acres	Township	Lead Org	Score
Renz	111	Scio	Scio Twp.	67
Orr Trust	148	Scio	Webster Twp.	66
St. Johns	80	Northfield	Greenbelt	59
Jensen	130	Bridgewater	Legacy Land Conservancy	57

The Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Committee presents the above recommendation for your consideration. The Committee is available to address any questions you may have concerning the recommendation and members can be available to attend a Commission meeting.