



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

NOTICE OF MEETING

Date: November 9, 2021

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Location: Virtual Meeting on Zoom available to the public at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85916642501>

AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order / Moment of Silence**
- 2. Roll Call and Announcement of Location**
- 3. Approval of the Minutes**
 - A. October 12, 2021 Meeting (attached, pp. 1-4 /action item)
- 4. Public Comment**
- 5. Communications, Projects & Activities** (attached, pp. 5-31 /action item)
- 6. Financial & Recreation Reports – October 2021**
 - A. Financial Reports (attached, pp. 32-34 /action item)
 - B. Recreation Reports (attached, pp. 35-40 /action item)
- 7. Old Business**
 - A. Connecting Communities Program (attached, pp. 41-42 /action item)
 - B. B2B Trail User Survey/Wayfinding Presentation (presentation at meeting)
 - C. Independence Lake Boardwalk Project Award (attached, p. 43 /action item)
 - D. Other Old Business
- 8. New Business**
 - A. NAPP – Renz Property Contribution (attached, pp. 44-50 /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: October 12, 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), Robert Joerg (attending from Delta Township, MI), Robert Marans (attending from Ann Arbor Township, MI), Jo Ann McCollum (attending from Ypsilanti Township, MI), and Evan Pratt (attending from Grand Traverse County, MI)

Members Absent: Brenda McKinney, Ricky Jefferson, and Jason Morgan

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; Kira Macyda, Park Planner; and Rosie Pahl-Donaldson, Park Planner

Others Present: None

1. Call to Order/Moment of Silence

Ms. Scribner called the meeting to order at 2:01 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 September 14, 2021 regular meeting were included with the agenda material.

It was moved by Mr. Joerg and seconded by Ms. McCollum to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2021 regular meeting. Roll call vote: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 3 Absent (Jefferson, McKinney, Morgan), the motion was approved.

4. Public Comment

Toni Spears, resident of Webster Township, complimented the Commission on a terrific update of the Independence Lake Master Plan. She noted her appreciation of the detailed history of the park all the supporting background materials. She commented that she would like to see the camping area located closer to some of the park amenities like the beach area so campers could have easier access.

5. Communications, Projects & Activities

Mr. Vaughn reported on the September communications which were included in the packet. Ms. Ziolkowski gave an overview of the digital report including social media, the website, and newsletter. Mr. Joerg asked if we are comparing any of our metrics to our peer organizations. Mr. Marans commented that HMCA was also tracking similar info and encouraged staff to reach out them. Ms. Ziolkowski responded that we would be looking into HCMA and other peers.

It was moved by Mr. Marans and seconded by Mr. Ezekiel to accept and file the Communications, Projects & Activities for the month of September 2021, as submitted. Roll call vote: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 3 Absent (Jefferson, McKinney, Morgan), the motion was approved.

6. Financial & Recreation Reports – September 2021

A. Financial Reports

Mr. Brooks reported and stated that the total for the claims for the month of September was \$652,549.33.

It was moved by Mr. Joerg and seconded by Ms. Bobrin to accept and file the Financial Reports for the month of September 2021 as submitted. Roll call vote: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 3 Absent (Jefferson, McKinney, Morgan), the motion was approved.

B. Recreation Reports

Mr. Brooks reported on recreation reports for the month of September 2021 and highlighted the impact of the pandemic on the attendance of our Park Facilities. Mr. Joerg asked when is it suspected that our numbers return to normal. Mr. Brooks responded that there are many variables to consider and that an aggressive marketing campaign may be warranted. Mr. Joerg asked if staff could provide a presentation regarding marketing efforts at a future meeting. Mr. Vaughn affirmed that a presentation would be provided in 2022.

It was moved by Mr. Marans and seconded by Ms. McCollum to accept and file the Recreation Reports for the month of September 2021 as submitted. Roll call vote: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 3 Absent (Jefferson, McKinney, Morgan), the motion was approved.

7. Old Business

A. Independence Lake Master Plan Adoption

Ms. Macyda presented the updated Independence Lake Master Plan. She explained that the last plan was drafted in 2010 by esteemed Landscape Architect, Peter Pollack, 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.

Ms. Macyda explained that staff began the process of updating the Master Plan in November 2020. 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.

Mr. Joerg asked if we were planning to expand the parking lots. Mr. Vaughn replied that the parking lots will not be expanded but we are proposing to widen the entry drive to accommodate additional queuing of automobiles at the entry gate. Mr. Joerg asked if we were considering solar covered parking. Mr. Vaughn replied that we are considering solar applications with all new construction projects.

Mr. Marans asked if we could consider an internal transportation system, including the possible use of golf carts, to help patrons move around the park. Ms. Macyda replied that we do provide some transportation for special occasions but that there are no plans to expand that right now. Mr. Ezekiel complemented staff for developing and outstanding master plan.

It was moved by Mr. Ezekiel and seconded by Mr. Joerg to adopt the 2021 Independence Lake Site Master Plan. Roll call vote: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 3 Absent (Jefferson, McKinney, Morgan), the motion was approved.

B. NAPP – Rouse Final Approval

Ms. Leikam presented the 4.54-acre Rouse parcel and explained that the property is adjacent to the Kidder-McKeachie Scio Woods Preserve and was nominated to NAPP in late 2020. 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.

Ms. Leikam explained that the Scio Woods Preserve is one of the most popular nature preserves owned by Parks. 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.

It was moved by Mr. Marans and seconded by Ms. Bobrin to authorize the purchase of the Rouse property for the amount of \$99,377.88, of which \$36,044.88 to be contributed from NATAC funds, contingent upon attorney approval of final documents. Further, it was authorized that \$2,270 be contributed to the stewardship special revenue funds for the future maintenance and management of the property. Roll call vote: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 3 Absent (Jefferson, McKinney, Morgan), the motion was approved.

C. Other Old Business

None.

8. New Business

A. Connecting Communities Overview

Ms. Macyda presented the applications that were received for the 2021 round of Connecting Communities funding. She added that there is typically \$600,000 allocated to the program each year; \$100,000 for planning and design and \$500,000 for construction. She explained that applications were received from four communities with a total ask of \$185,000 for planning and design and \$850,000 for construction projects. The applications will be placed on the November Commission agenda for final action and allocation of the funds.

B. NAPP – Round 21 NATAC Prioritization

Ms. Leikam presented the round 21 prioritization for the Natural Area Technical Advisory Committee (NATAC). She explained that at their September meeting, NATAC evaluated all property nominations received in 2021 to determine which properties are the “highest priority” to protect. This evaluation includes site visits to each of the properties and completion of the field review worksheets.

It was moved by Ms. Bobrin and seconded by Ms. McCollum to adopt the 2021 NATAC prioritization. Roll call vote: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 3 Absent (Jefferson, McKinney, Morgan), the motion was approved.

C. NAPP – Round 21 ALPAC Prioritization

Ms. Leikam presented the round 21 prioritization for the Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Committee (ALPAC). She explained that at their September meeting, ALPAC evaluated all property nominations received in 2021 to determine which properties are the “highest priority” to protect. 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.

It was moved by Mr. Ezekiel and seconded by Mr. Marans to adopt the 2021 ALPAC prioritization. Roll call vote: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 3 Absent (Jefferson, McKinney, Morgan), the motion was approved.

D. Other Old Business

None.

9. Commissioners/Directors Comments

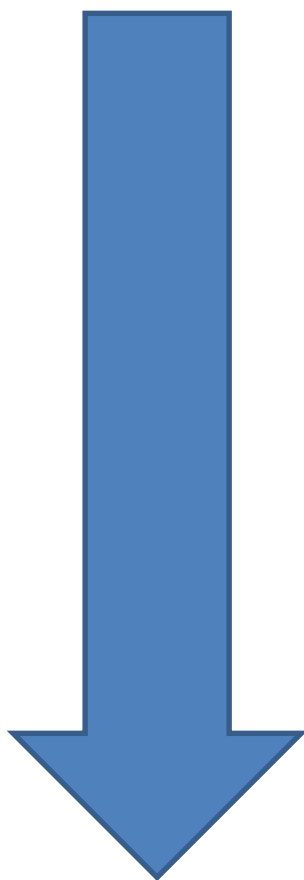
None.

10. Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 3:52 p.m.

Communications, Projects & Activities



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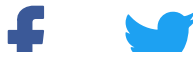
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Yurts, kayak rentals and other improvements planned for Washtenaw County's Independence Lake

Updated: Oct. 15, 2021, 11:58 a.m. | Published: Oct. 15, 2021, 11:58 a.m.



In this file photo, South Lyon resident Ella Garland, 3, walks in the water at Independence Lake on Saturday, July 6, 2013. Daniel Brenner | The Ann Arbor News



By [Lucas Smolcic Larson | lsmolciclaron@mlive.com](#)

WASHTENAW COUNTY, MI - The future of the largest park managed by Washtenaw County, the 446-acre Independence Lake natural area north of Ann Arbor, is coming into focus.

The popular freshwater swimming area, used for recreation for nearly 70 years, could see the addition of small-scale group camping, kayak and stand-up paddleboard rentals and an expansion of its main beach.

Those are all part of the “dream list” laid out in a [new 10-year master plan](#) for the nature area near Whitmore Lake in Webster Township, said Park Planner Kira Macyda, one of the lead planners on the project. The plan was approved by the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission on Tuesday, Oct. 12.

The 74-page roadmap for the park — home to oak-hickory woods, marshes and open water habitat for some 23 species of fish, as well as a handful of varieties of turtle — emerged from a months-long [planning process led by parks staff](#), with input from the public.

Priorities that made the cut include improving the park’s narrow access road to prevent back-ups, repairing an existing observation tower with accessibility in mind and adding an additional fishing pier to the 200-acre natural lake.

The popular summer swimming spot could also see an enlarged beach center with more space for exhibits and nature programming, as well as the construction of a boat livery that would allow staff to add kayaks and paddleboards to its existing fleet of rental paddleboats and rowboats.

Macyda hopes that will facilitate a “blueways trail” providing water access to the adjacent Gosline Preserve, a county natural area that is currently challenging to enter.

County parks planners also hope build a birding platform and expand Independence Lake’s trail systems, including the addition of an accessible trail from the park entrance to its headquarters and beach area.

Planners explored the possibility of a “ring trail” around the lake, but ultimately decided it wasn’t feasible because of disruptions to wetland habitat and the cost of placing boardwalks to facilitate the loop, the master plan says.

The planned camping area will be a first for parks under Washtenaw County's jurisdiction, Macyda said.

"Much of Independence Lake is already developed, so we can't do too much," she said, adding that the roughly seven-acre location being considered for several primitive cabins or yurts is the "Carpenter addition" to the park, acquired in 2014, abutting a smaller lake known as "Little Indy."

The camping area would be intended for groups and will have restricted access, as the park has no overnight staff.



The beach at Independence Lake County Park in Webster Township, Mich., pictured in a 2014 file photo. ANN ARBOR NEWS

Long history of recreation at Independence Lake

Independence Lake has long been a source of diversion for Washtenaw County residents, according to a short historical summary included in the master plan.

In the 1950s, the Argus camera company, founded in Ann Arbor, leased the land as a summer retreat for employees, a tradition that was carried on in the '60s by the Edwards Brothers printing company.

Washtenaw County bought much of the land in 1977, four years after the founding of the Parks and Recreation Commission, and it opened to the public in 1980. A master plan was drafted in 2010 by the landscape architect Peter Pollack, who had prepared the site's first planning document in 1978.

But Pollack died and the 2010 plan was never officially adopted, though it was used as a guide. Staff began last year to update the park roadmap for the upcoming decade.

This year was a banner year for the Independence Lake, if attendance figures are any indication. Through the end of September, 15,892 annual and daily entrance passes were sold, according to data provided by WCPARC. That beat out the full-year totals for 2020 (10,794) and 2019 (12,278).

About half of the daily passes sold this year were non-county residents — the lake is near the Livingston County border. Its swimming area was closed at several points this year because of high E. coli levels, something Macyda says has been observed for decades at the park.

Staff theorize the lake is prone to high levels of the bacteria because of runoff from the surrounding hilly area or potentially its presence in the sand. Levels are regularly monitored, Macyda said.

Visitors are drawn to Independence Lake for more than swimming or boating.

The 36-hole Red Hawk Disc Golf Course is rated as one of Michigan's best, county officials said, and the Blue Heron Bay Spray Park is another popular attraction.

In the winter, the park is used for ice fishing, cross-country skiing and snow-shoeing.



In this file photo, Ed Berch of Ypsilanti, Mich., holds up a Blue Gill he caught during the 10th Annual Ice Fishing Derby on Independence Lake near Whitmore Lake, on Saturday, Feb. 8, 2014. Patrick Record | The Ann Arbor News

When will park improvements outlined in the master plan OK'd this week arrive?

Some of the amenities are listed in the park's existing capital improvement plan. Staff purposely didn't include pricing estimates in the 10-year roadmap because "prices are so in flux that it is very hard to give even a range at this point," Macyda said, referencing sky-high cost estimates on other current projects.

The plan lays out several phases for the improvements over the next 10 years.

To read the full master plan, [click here.](#)

More from The Ann Arbor News:

[8,000 wines, 3,000 beers, 3,000 spirits: Total Wine & More opens in Ann Arbor](#)

[New Ann Arbor report says city could create its own renewable energy utility](#)

[Looking for a place to take in fall foliage? Check out this new nature preserve near Ann Arbor](#)

New Washtenaw County nature preserve is now open to the public

DAVID SANDS | WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2021



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.

The Secrest Nature Preserve, an 80-acre conservation area in Superior Township, is now officially open for public visitation.

Located near the intersections of Ford and Berry roads, the preserve is owned by the Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy (SMLC). It's also part of a larger network of protected lands that collectively make up a roughly 2,700-acre wildlife and public recreation corridor known as the Superior Greenway.

Jill Lewis, SMLC's executive director, believes the opening of the new conservation zone is a win for both wildlife and the public.

"From a conservation perspective, the more acres that you can protect that are contiguous or fairly close together, the more larger species have the space that they need [to thrive]," she says. "[And] from a public access standpoint, that location is key because it's easily accessible from Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti as well as [to] residents from [Superior] Township."

SMLC purchased the property for the conservation area in 2019 with financial support from the city of Ann Arbor's Greenbelt Program. The establishment of the nature preserve there was also enabled by Washtenaw County, which holds a conservation easement on the property.



Shagbark hickory at SNP

Although SMLC had intended to wrap up work on a public hiking trail at the site last year, construction for the project was stalled due to complications from the COVID-19 pandemic. Trail work was finally completed last summer and a private dedication ceremony was held on Sept. 12. While the preserve's new hiking trail loop is less than a mile in length, it's part of a larger two-mile Superior Greenway trail network that also includes walking paths at Washtenaw County's Weatherbee Woods Preserve and Superior Township's Schroeter Park.

Secrest Nature Preserve is named after a family that's been active in Superior Township land protection efforts for many years. The 80-acre area's habitat is a mix of woodlands, wetlands, and fallow farmland. SMLC eventually wants to engage in habitat restoration work on the preserve, especially the unused farmland portion of the property, which is prone to invasive plant growth. The organization is particularly interested in reestablishing grasslands, a declining habitat in the state, to the site and enhancing wetland areas there.

Looking forward, SMLC is also interested in adding trails to the preserve as it proceeds with

habitat restoration work. Right now, the organization is focused on building a parking lot on the site, which it hopes to have completed next year. In the meantime, visitors are asked to park along Berry Road.

Volunteers interested in helping out with trail-clearing or invasive species removal at Secrest Nature Preserve can find out more about those activities through the SMLC website.

Map of Secrest Nature Preserve and neighboring greenway areas

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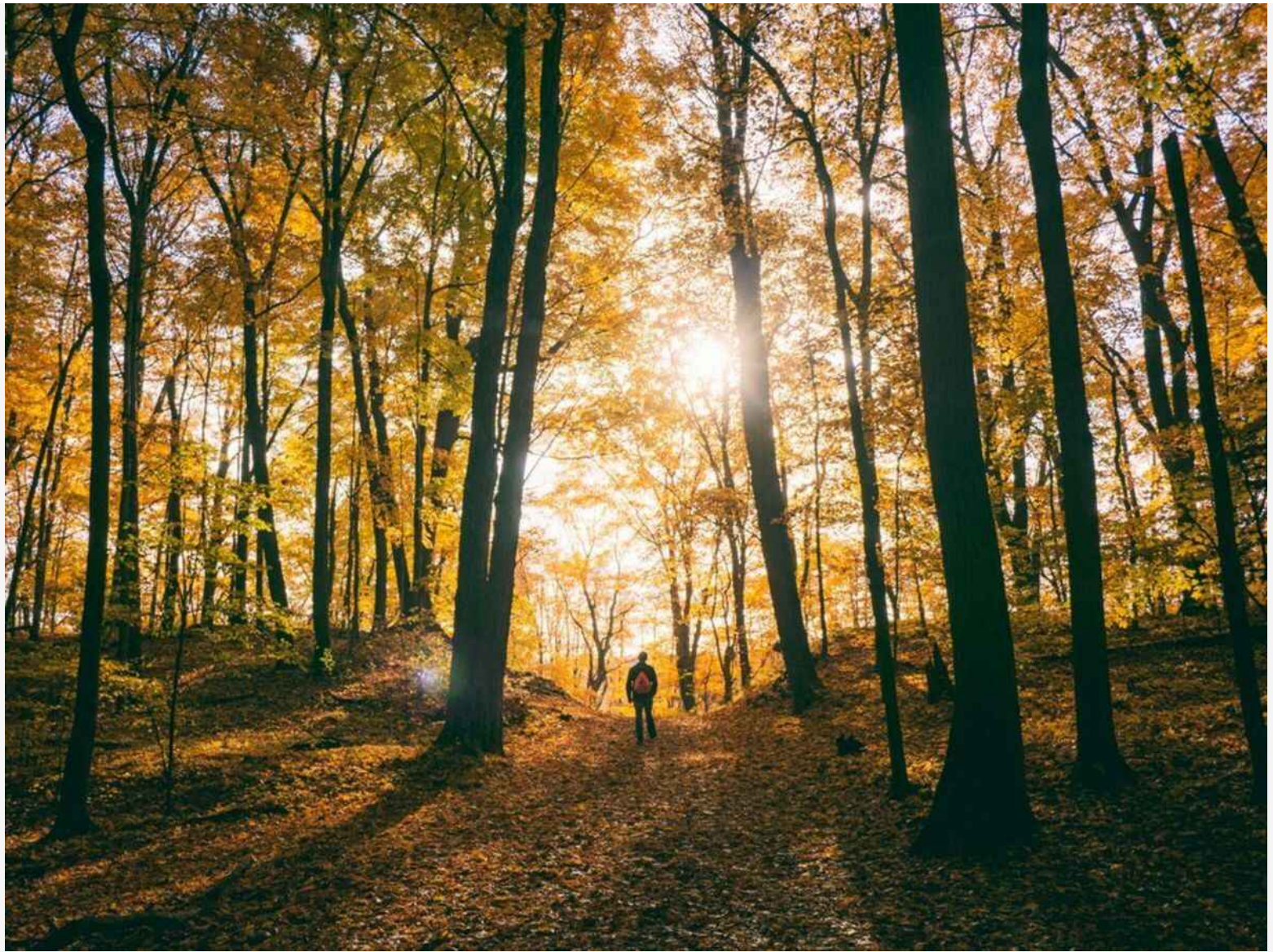
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Autumn's Hidden Gems: Washtenaw Nature Preserves



[Doug Marrin](#)
Editor ✓





Michigan Woods in Fall, Photo by Aaron Burden on Unsplash

By Doug Marrin, STN Reporter

A great way to easily saturate yourself with fall colors and get that outdoor autumn wilderness feel is to visit one of Washtenaw County's many nature preserves.

Since 2001, Washtenaw County's Natural Areas Preservation Program (NAPP) has purchased 3,438 acres of diverse habitats—hardwood forests, hardwood wetlands, rolling hills, glacial kames, lakes, marshes, meadows, and prairies—that many of our furry, feathered, and scaly friends call home.

The Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission manages the program, identifying and caring for lands with special ecological, recreational, and educational benefits. [The NAPP nature preserves](#) are open

to the public from dawn until dusk daily.

Below is the listing of the county's 28 preserves.

[Baker Woods Preserve](#) (11914 Trinkle Rd, Dexter) This 70-acre preserve is predominantly woods interspersed with meadow. Some of the oaks are estimated to be two-hundred years old.

[Brauer Preserve](#) (2300 S Parker Rd, Ann Arbor) This 226-acre tract has everything – forest, wetland, and open water. Great for leisurely walks and birdwatching.

[Burns-Stokes Preserve](#) (2905 N Zeeb Rd, Dexter) Twenty-nine acres between the Huron River and railroad. A popular path with great river views, stone picnic area, and mix of pine and hardwoods.



Scio Woods Preserve. Photo courtesy of WCPR

[Clark & Avis Spike Preserve](#) (18700 Grass Lake Rd, Manchester) This scenic 103-acres features picturesque Sharon Short Hills and a variety of ecosystems. An observation tower offers a chance for premium views.

[DeVine Preserve](#) (6110 W Liberty Rd, Ann Arbor) A 137-acre natural area comprised of hardwoods surrounding by wetlands. Good for bird watching and fall colors.

[Draper-Houston Meadows Preserve](#) (569 Mooreville Rd, Milan) 113-acre tract protects over one-half mile of the Saline River shoreline featuring high-quality floodplain forest habitat with oak, walnut, butternut, and sycamore trees.

[Ervin-Stucki Preserve](#) (10001 Clinton Rd, Manchester) 126 acres of preserved River Raisin watershed including 1.2 miles of the River Raisin shoreline on both sides of the river. An observation deck provides an elevated view of the preserve.

[Fox Science Preserve](#) (2228 Peters Rd, Ann Arbor) This 69 acres is a former gravel pit converted by Pittsfield Twp 40 years ago. The preserve is a step back in time to the landscape of retreating glaciers 12,000 years ago. While exploring the area, keep your eye out for fossils.

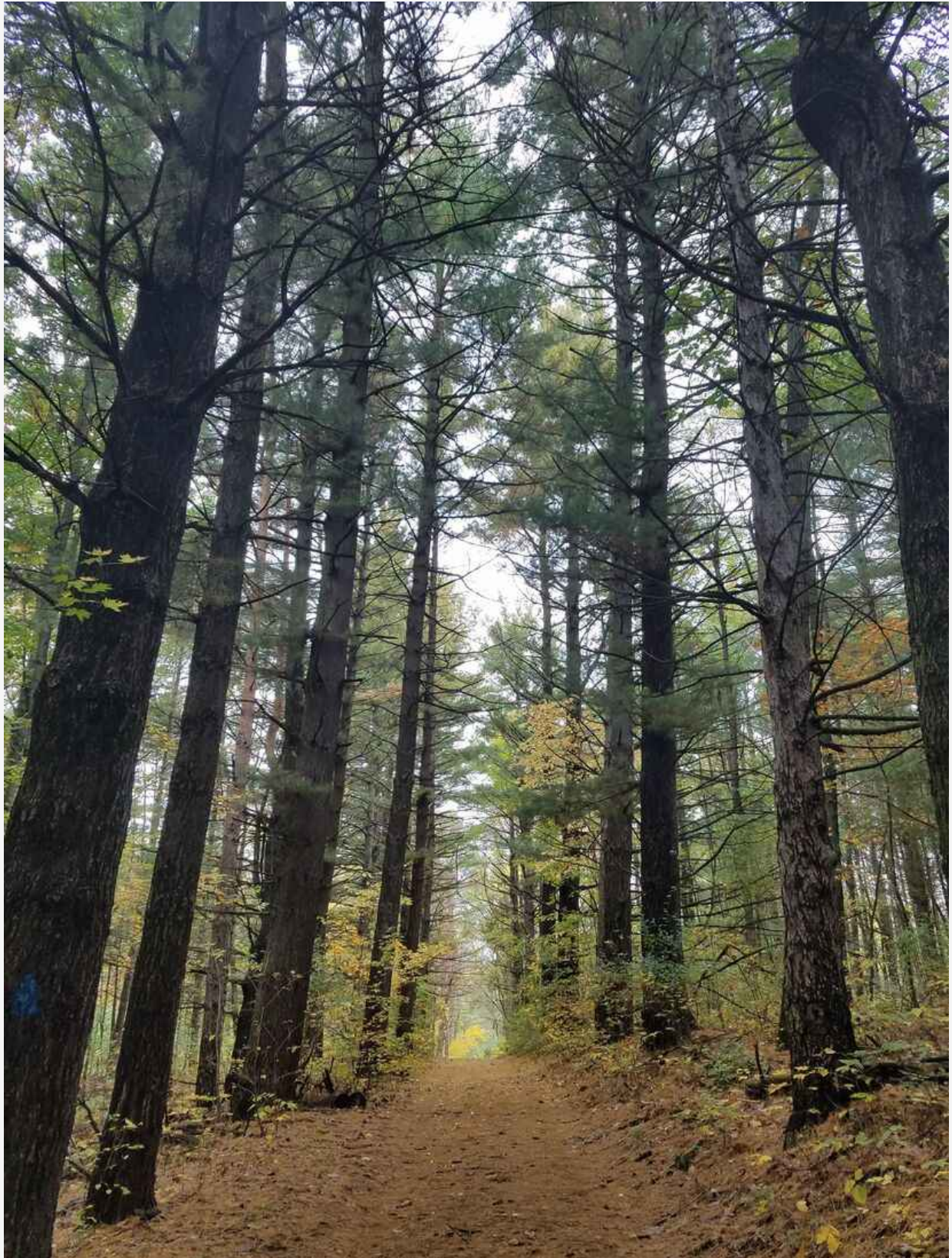
[Harwood Heritage Preserve](#) (2850 E Textile Rd, Ann Arbor) This 16-acre woodlot is adjacent to the Pittsfield Preserve. Great fall colors but walking trails are currently under development.

[Herman Koenn Preserve](#) (2200 Hayes Rd, Chelsea) A 90-acre property consists of a variety of habitats including oak hickory forest, meadows, marsh wetlands, and shrub wetlands which host wild blueberry and chokeberry. Scenic views in all seasons.

[Kidder-McKeachie Scio Woods Preserve](#) (4000 Scio Church Rd, Ann Arbor) 91 acres with a 2.3-mile walking trail through varying types of hardwoods. Wetlands feature pawpaw trees, spicebush, and bladdernut. The preserve is also home to barred owls and pileated woodpeckers.

[Kosch-Headwaters Preserve](#) (8170 Ford Rd, Ypsilanti) A 160-acre preserve is home to a maple and beech woodland with the rather uncommon blue ash found on the western side. Wetlands and seasonal streams help create the headwaters of Fowler Creek which feeds the Rouge River.

[Leonard Preserve](#) (375 N Union St, Manchester) This 259 acres preserves and protects almost one mile of River Raisin shoreline. The largest of the preserves, Leonard has it all – woodlands, wetlands, prairie, a diversity of wildlife and more than 4 miles of walking trails.



Park Lyndon. Photo courtesy of WCPR.

[Meyer Preserve](#) (2378N Prospect Rd, Ypsilanti) 315 acres of beech-maple woods, a large wetland complex, and active farmland. A great place to spot migrating birds, great horned owls, and mink.

[Miller-Smith Preserve](#) (8560 Dexter-Chelsea Rd, Dexter) This 29 acres features a .9 mile path that winds through a wide variety of habitats: oak-hickory forest, white oak swamps, small wetlands, and vernal wetlands.

[Northfield Woods & Arbor Woods Preserves](#) (150 East Northfield Church Rd, Whitmore Lake) 81 acres of wooded wetland featuring a shagbark hickory island and a number of vernal pond wetlands. Trail length is 1.7 miles.

[Osborne Mill Preserve](#) (3710 E Delhi Rd, Ann Arbor) 18 acres of preserved natural area with a .5 mile walking path. Visitors should note the short length of the property. Progress beyond the signs reading “End of Osborne Mills Park Property” is considered trespassing and subject to possible prosecution.

[Park Lyndon](#) (18801 N Territorial Rd, Chelsea) At 335 acres, the preserve can well be considered the crown jewel of the preserve system. The hilly park contains one of southern Michigan’s finest natural areas with over 500 species of plants found in a variety of habitats including fens, marshes, bogs, ponds, forest, and prairie. Two miles of nature trails wind through the glacially formed hillsides. The park is divided by North Territorial Rd.

[Raymond E. Goodrich Preserve](#) (3695 N Dixboro Rd, Ann Arbor) This 26-acre parcel features old growth forest of oak, hickory, and maple as well as several small wetlands. Trail length is .62 miles.

[Riverbend Preserve](#) (12639 Allen Rd, Clinton) 58 acres featuring the River Raisin. Three-quarters of the park is wetlands. A .9-mile walking path winds in and around the tamarack trees.



Miller-Smith Preserve. Photo: Doug Marrin

[**Sharon Short Hills Preserve**](#) (6700 Hashley Rd, Manchester) 84 acres with a one-mile walking trail through some of the highest elevation in Washtenaw County (1,060 feet). The quiet woods are good for spotting turkeys, woodpeckers, and other birds.

[**Squiers Preserve**](#) (1280 Sylvan Rd, Chelsea) This 59-acre preserve has a diversity of habitats including dry-mesic southern forest, buttonbush swamp, hardwood swamp, sedge meadow, and marsh. The main feature here are the artesian springs in several areas. Walking trail length is one mile.

[**Tom A. Freeman Preserve**](#) (4350 Old Ford Rd, Ann Arbor) The 2.5-mile trail (including Marshall Nature Area) winds through the 71 acres of mature hardwoods and considerable topographic variation.

[**Trinkle Marsh at Easton Farms Preserve**](#) (1152 N Dancer Rd, Dexter) This 150-acre preserve features a large wetland with two observation decks for this premier location in spotting waterfowl and migratory birds.

[Watkins Lake State Park & County Preserve](#) (14801 Arnold Rd, Brooklyn) A 5.8-mile trail goes through the 1,122 acres of various habitats among the rolling hills. The star of the preserve is Watkins Lake and the waterfowl it attracts. The park also has historic significance due its connection to the Underground Railroad.

[Weatherbee Woods Preserve](#) (8740 Warren Rd, Plymouth) This 84 acres with a 1.4 mile path (includes Shroeter Park trails) is mainly hardwoods including a hardwood swamp.

[West Lake Preserve](#) (14980 Waterloo Rd, Chelsea) 217 acres and a 2.2-mile trail through hardwoods and meadows with a rewarding view of West Lake on the back side of the preserve.

[Whitmore Lake Preserve](#) (1551 7 Mile Rd, Whitmore Lake) With over 3 miles of trail through 235-acres, visitors can explore diverse habitats and scenic views over small lakes and a large marsh.

Most people are familiar with the Metroparks in the area, [Hudson Mills](#), [Dexter-Huron](#), [Delhi](#), and [Kensington](#) as well as the state recreational areas of [Waterloo](#), [Pinckney](#), and [Island Lake](#).

Other county gems that are not a part of the NAPP, but every bit worth a visit include [Pittsfield Preserve](#), [Marshall Nature Area](#), and [five preserves](#) under the auspices of Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy.

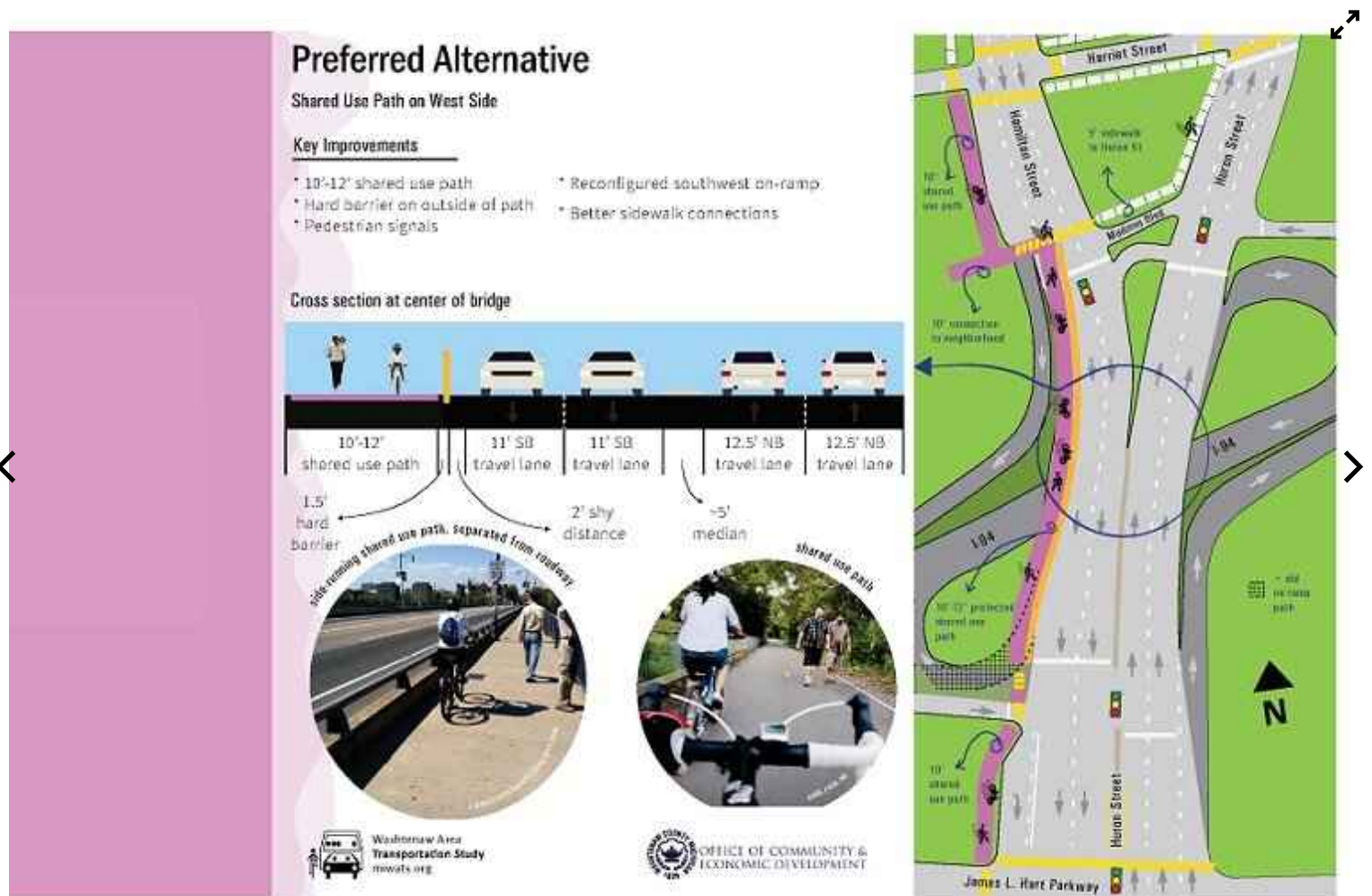
The University of Michigan also has property open to the public such as Saginaw Forest and Stinchfield Woods. Check their website at <https://seas.umich.edu/about/facilities-locations/field-properties> to learn more. U-M's Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum is a dense treasure trove of outdoor splendor. Learn more at <https://mbgna.umich.edu/>

If you are interested in learning about Washtenaw County Parks and/or the Border-to-Border Trail, you can find more information on the county's website at <https://www.washtenaw.org/288/Parks-Recreation>

So get out. Take the kids, the dog, your partner, or get some time alone enjoying the autumn colors, aromas, and sensations. So many places to visit, and such a great time of year to go there.

Ypsilanti expressway projects aim to make crossing safer for non-motorized travelers

DAVID SANDS | WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2021



City of Ypsilanti

A schematic showing planned changes for I-94 at Huron Street in Ypsilanti.



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.

Pedestrians and bicyclists in the Ypsilanti area will soon have a much easier time getting across I-94 thanks to a pair of trail-related projects that are now in the works. One of these endeavors involves modifying a freeway interchange at Grove Road, while the other aims at improving an existing crossing over the expressway at Huron Street.

Bonnie Wessler, a project manager with the city of Ypsilanti's Department of Public Services, believes both projects are important from a safety standpoint, as both areas already see frequent use by pedestrians and other non-motorized travelers.

"These are projects that are small in terms of distance, but they're really really impactful as far as their scope, because there's no way you can just casually walk over I-94," she says. "You have to take a bridge."

Long advocated by state Rep. Ronnie Peterson, the Grove Road project is a collaboration between the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation (WCPR), and the city of Ypsilanti. Construction on the improvement, which has already begun, is intended to ease travel for non-motorists on a section of Grove over I-94, a little south of Depot Town. The work there involves removing a sidewalk on an existing bridge and widening it to an eight- to 10-foot path. Ramps have also been added at the beginning and end of the bridge to make the journey more accessible for people who might be using wheelchairs or similar devices.

In addition to making the area more accessible for non-motorists, the Grove Road project will also serve as an important connection on the Border-to-Border Trail, a 35-mile trail that will ultimately span Washtenaw County to the borders of Wayne and Livingston counties. Construction on the Grove Road overpass is expected to wrap up very soon. Fencing will be added to the site next spring.

Work on the expressway at Huron Street has not yet started. That project is being spearheaded by the city of Ypsilanti with support from MDOT, WCPR, and Ypsilanti Township. It will involve reconfiguring an existing crossing at the border of the city and the township to make it more accessible. To that end, the outside southbound lane of the overpass there will be converted into a non-motorized path.

Construction there is expected to take place next year as part of a larger road diet that will be taking place on Hamilton Street and Washtenaw Avenue. Bicycle lanes will also be

established on all three roadways, which will link up with existing bike lanes on West Cross Street and offer access to the Border-to-Border trail via Riverside Park.

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Digital Report - October 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 - October 2021

SOCIAL MEDIA

facebook

Blue Heron Bay

Monthly Impressions

October	Last Month	Last Year
1,430	7,582	

Total Post Engagement

October	Last Month	Last Year
14	368	

facebook

Independence Lake

Monthly Impressions

October	Last Month	Last Year
14,509	31,580	

Total Post Engagement

October	Last Month	Last Year
699	1,453	

facebook

Meri Lou Murray

Monthly Impressions

October	Last Month	Last Year
2,265	4,115	

Total Post Engagement

October	Last Month	Last Year
43	186	

facebook

Pierce Lake

Monthly Impressions

October	Last Month	Last Year
8,062	18,637	

Total Post Engagement

October	Last Month	Last Year
285	858	

facebook

Rolling Hills

Monthly Impressions

October	Last Month	Last Year
61,781	157,949	

Total Post Engagement

October	Last Month	Last Year
2,713	8,076	

facebook

WCPARC

Monthly Impressions

October	Last Month	Last Year
20,845	26,744	

Total Post Engagement

October	Last Month	Last Year
1,214	1,439	

Instagram

Rolling Hills

Total Followers

October	Last Month	Last Year
976	977	

Top Post - N/A

How many people reacted to posts

October	Last Month	Last Year
N/A	68	

Instagram

WCPARC

Total Followers

October	Last Month	Last Year
2,331	2,320	

Top Post - Trinkle Marsh Creek

How many people reacted to posts

October	Last Month	Last Year
96	100	



Digital Report - October 2021

Facebook/Instagram - Top Posts

Rolling Hills Co...
Sun 10/10/2021 5:14 am...

Who came Trek or Treating yesterday? Drop your best pic in the comments!



Total Engagements	
Reactions	26
Comments	22
Shares	0
Post Link Clicks	—
Other Post Clicks	241

washtenawcountyparks



Liked by annarborparks and 96 others

washtenawcountyparks Halloween is upon us! 🎃

Check out these beautiful and haunting photos taken at Trinkle Marsh Preserve by one of our amazing Photo Ambassadors, Ryan Henyard, @kuroganeig!

October 22



Digital Report - October 2021

Website, Newsletter, News

Website Statistics

washtenaw.org/parks

October 2021

Total Page Visits	October	Last Month	Sept. Last Year
	15,909	24,194	

Top Pages Viewed	Views
Meri Lou Murray Rec Center	3,516
B2B Trail	1,372
Parker Mill	789
Rec Center rates	687
County Farm Park	660

In The News

- Ypsi/Grove Road - B2B Trail
- Autumns Hidden Gems:
Washtenaw Nature Preserves
- New Preserve open to public:
Seacrest Nature Preserve
- Ann Arbor OKs design costs for
new B2B Trail tunnel pathway
- NAPP program

Monthly Newsletter

WCPARC

October Newsletter via MailChimp

Sent to	Opened	Clicks
6,812	2,329	189

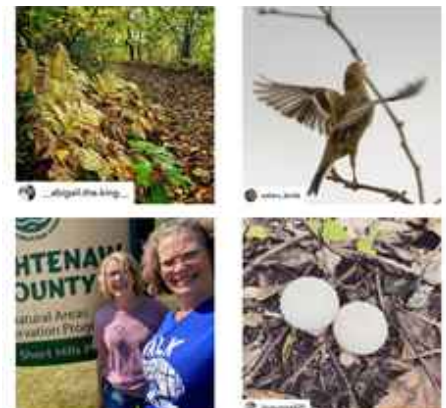
October Newsletter non MailChimp

Sent to	Opened	Clicks
	N/A	

Photography



Preserve Challenge
Highlights





Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MEMORANDUM

TO: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Coy P. Vaughn, Director

DATE: November 9, 2021

RE: **Project and Activities Update – October 2021**

Park Facility Events and Projects

Independence Lake

- 30 people participants in the 6th Annual Red Hawk Disc Golf Glow Tournament on October 8.
- “H-OWL-ween Night Hike” was held on October 8. Though no owls were spotted, several were heard, and participants witnessed a “light show” by glow worms along the trail.
- Fall yoga continues to be popular. The in-person and virtual classes have been combined.
- “Howl-o-ween Dog Walk Costume Contest” was held on October 22. Costumes included sharks, pumpkins, and professors. Dogs enjoyed a “treat for a trick” trail through Indy Woods and owners enjoyed cookies and cider around a campfire.
- Park staff and naturalists have begun working on developing programs for 2022.
- Maintenance staff continue to close seasonal operations and preparing for winter park. Frequent rain has risen lake levels causing challenges for staff.
- Staff has begun meeting with local disc golf clubs to plan tournaments for 2022, one of which is the Discraft Great Lakes Open (DGL0), the largest disc golf tournament in Michigan.
- Disc golf pavilion construction continues. The concrete floor has been installed, but recent material delays and labor issues have caused a slowdown in work.

Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center

- Outdoor group exercise classes concluded for the year. Patrons expressed support for the outdoor flooring and use of the large deck space on the northeast side of the building.
- Registration for Fall 2 classes began October 18.
- Work on the parking lot expansion began on October 22. The contractor has installed all the underground stormwater control features, base gravel materials, and concrete curbing. Unfavorable weather has caused some delays in work, but the contractor is confident the lot will be available for use by patrons in late November.
- Roughly half of the existing parking lot was seal coated during the one-day closure to accommodate excavation work associated parking lot expansion project. The remaining seal coating will be completed once the new asphalt has been installed.

Pierce Lake Golf Course

- The contractor has completed paving of nearly two-thirds of the cart path on the front nine holes. Rainfall events have created challenges to executing some of the work; however, the contractor continues to make good progress.

Rolling Hills Park

- 640 patrons attended in the “Trek or Treat” event on October 9. The event featured a 1.5-mile trail through the park with themed stations distributing treats. The Ypsilanti Township Fire Department and WC Sheriff’s Department participated. The event sold out in twelve days and received glowing reviews. Participants came as far as Ohio, Jackson, Howell, and Southfield.
- “Run Scream Run” was held at Wiard’s Orchard on October 9, with much of the 5K and 10K routes taking place at Rolling Hills Park; 750 runners participated.
- Several disc golf tournaments were held at the park in October including “Haunting at the Hills”, “Mystic Labyrinth”, and “MOB.”
- Construction on the concession stand project began in late October.

Staebler Farm Park

- A pre-bid meeting for constructing the multipurpose building project was held on October 18; more than 30 prospective bidders attended.
- Architects from The Collaborative presented initial concepts for rehabilitating the farmhouse.
- October MFS classes: 13 classes including Blacksmithing 101, Bladesmithing, Spooncarving Gardening, Parent/Child Blacksmithing, Shoe Making, Belt Making, and Installing Rain Gardens.

Special Initiatives

Border-to-Border Trail (B2B)

- Construction on the Dexter-Chelsea trail segment (CD2), Dancer Road to Wylie Road (1.6 miles) is on track to be completed this year with final restoration occurring in the spring.
- Chelsea Connector segment (C1) construction is approaching 40% completion. 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 substantially complete and road striping was recently completed. Only final site restoration remains.
- Gallup Park reconstruction, a partnership led by the City of Ann Arbor, is approximately 60% 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 continues. Gravel has been placed between Noggles Road, and crosses Sharon Hollow Road. Grading work has begun between Sharon Hollow and Austin roads. Work is anticipated to be complete this year.

Connecting Communities Grants

- Reviewed the four 2021 Connecting Communities grant applications and have prepared funding recommendations to the Parks Commission.
- Seven projects were completed as of November 2021, including: Ann Arbor Township – Matthaedi Botanical Gardens Trail Construction; Augusta Township – *School Connecting Feasibility Study*; City of Ann Arbor – *Treeline Urban Trail Alignment Study*; City of Saline – *Mill Pond Park River Walk Engineering*; Manchester Township – *Watkins Lake Trail Engineering Studies*; City of Chelsea – *Letts Creek Liner Park Engineering Studies*; and York Township – *Trails Feasibility Study*. It is anticipated that construction on Scio Township – *Zeeb Road Pathway* and Superior Township – *Prospect Road Pathway* will also be complete by the end of the year.

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

- 90 people volunteered at tree planting and invasive shrub removal workdays at County Farm, Parker Mill, Sharon Mills, Rolling Hills, and Parker Mill parks. Additional groups included volunteers from Alteryx, Nutshell, Sierra Club, DTE Foundation, Ann Arbor Township, ReLeaf, and County Farm Park neighbors.
- The Preserve Challenge concluded on October 10. This four-week virtual challenge encouraged participants to visit a park or preserve every week and share their experience on social media. This year, 55 participants registered for the event.
- MiOFO volunteers harvested four deer at Leonard Preserve during the Independence Hunt.
- Staff prepared for prescribed burns at Watkins Lake and West Lake preserves.
- 2,400 trees were planted across fifteen acres in reforestation efforts at Sharon Mills Park.
- Staff installed a rustic boardwalk at Scio Woods Preserve.
- Staff lead a hike with SMLC that highlighted the new trail connecting Weatherbee Woods Preserve to Secrest Nature Preserve; over 60 people were in attendance.

Interpretive Programming

- About 100 patrons attended naturalist programs, including archery, "Super Survival Day" Junior Naturalist Program, and field trips with Ann Arbor Public Schools and Summers-Knoll School.



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

October 2021 - Claims Report

PARK / FACILITY / FUNCTION	UTILITIES	DIRECT PURCHASES	OTHER	TOTAL
Administration	\$ 432.88	\$ 3,884.34	\$ 8,911.11	\$ 13,228.33
Recreation Center	12,111.72	861.88	18,696.31	31,669.91
Park Maintenance	771.91	2,683.97	6,276.11	9,731.99
Pierce Lake Golf Course	630.00	5,346.37	20,818.30	26,794.67
Independence Lake	2,038.28	1,526.38	2,494.42	6,059.08
Rolling Hills	5,125.25	12,317.65	8,429.25	25,872.15
Parker Mill	985.43	-	727.78	1,713.21
Sharon Mills	90.66	-	167.40	258.06
Staebler Farm	107.48	333.97	73.47	514.92
Swift Run Dog Park	-	-	-	-
Capital Improvement	-	-	-	-
Committed Funding Partnerships	-	-	90,498.73	90,498.73
Commission	-	-	81,689.73	81,689.73
SUBTOTAL	\$ 22,293.61	\$ 26,954.56	\$ 238,782.61	\$ 288,030.78
Road Millage Fund	-	-	584,606.69	584,606.69
SUBTOTAL	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 584,606.69	\$ 584,606.69
Natural Areas Preservation Program				
Acquisition	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 23,361.00	\$ 23,361.00
Preserve Management	-	2,772.19	10,201.92	\$ 12,974.11
NATAC	-	-	-	\$ -
Acquisition	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,012.00	\$ 7,012.00
Annual Monitoring	-	-	-	\$ -
ALPAC	-	-	-	-
SUBTOTAL	\$ -	\$ 2,772.19	\$ 40,574.92	\$ 43,347.11
TOTAL	\$ 22,293.61	\$ 29,726.75	\$ 863,964.22	\$ 915,984.58

It was moved by _____ and supported by _____
to approve payment of claims in the amount of..... \$ 915,984.58

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

Beginning Fund Balance (1/1/21)	17,612,810		83%	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	2,271,787		64%	(1,288,213)	
Interest Earnings	150,000	56,672		38%	(93,328)	
Other Revenue & Reimb.	<u>30,000</u>	<u>18,457</u>		62%	<u>(11,543)</u>	
Total Revenue		11,689,931		10,798,911	92%	(891,020)
Expense (Budget)		Expense (Actual)			Variance	
Personnel Services	(6,231,847)	(4,774,878)		77%	1,456,969	
Supplies & Other Services	(2,390,854)	(1,782,615)		75%	608,239	
Internal Service Charges	(940,957)	(790,237)		84%	150,720	
Capital						
Land Acquisition	-	-		-	-	
CIP/Development	(3,100,000)	(649,701)		21%	2,450,299	
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)	(825,660)		22%	2,846,640	
Transfers Out	(808,000)	(808,000)		100%	-	
Total Expense		<u>(14,043,958)</u>		<u>(8,981,390)</u>	64%	5,062,568
Surplus/(Deficit)		(2,354,027)		1,817,521		
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>10,789,887</u>		

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

Beginning Fund Balance (1/1/21)	6,662,301	83%	YTD % Budget	
Revenue (Budget)		Revenue (Actual)		Variance
Property Tax	3,936,536	4,210,019	107%	273,483
Federal Revenue	-	-		-
Interest Earnings	50,000	23,968	48%	(26,032)
Other Revenue & Reimb.	<u>5,000</u>	<u>544</u>	11%	<u>(4,456)</u>
Total Revenue	3,991,536	4,234,531	106%	242,995
Expense (Budget)		Expense (Actual)		Variance
Personnel Services	(675,600)	(421,434)	62%	254,166
Supplies & Other Services	(332,600)	(185,540)	56%	147,060
Internal Service Charges	(22,840)	(14,333)	63%	8,507
Capital				
Land Acquisition	(2,550,000)	(1,702,161)	67%	847,839
Land Development	-	-		-
Machinery & Equipment	<u>(5,000)</u>	<u>-</u>	0%	<u>5,000</u>
Capital Subtotal	(2,555,000)	(1,702,161)	67%	852,839
Transfers Out	(7,500)	(33,950)	453%	
Total Expense	<u>(3,593,540)</u>	<u>(2,357,419)</u>	66%	1,262,571
Surplus/(Deficit)	397,996	1,877,113		
Projected Fund Balance (12/31/21)	7,060,297	8,539,414		

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

	GATE					
	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
RESIDENT (ANNUAL)	1,483	1,129	2,138	\$ 40,650	\$ 33,870	\$ 64,140
NON-RESIDENT (ANNUAL)	176	93	207	6,750	4,185	9,315
RESIDENTS (DAILY)	12,618	3,476	9,163	75,708	20,856	54,978
NON-RESIDENTS (DAILY)	18,818	1,488	8,598	188,180	14,880	85,980
SENIOR (DAILY)	891	186	527	2,673	558	1,581
SENIOR NON-RES. (DAILY)	620	27	261	3,720	162	1,566
GLOW GOLF DROP-IN	-	20	5	-	100	25
BUSES (DAILY)	132	-	4	3,960	-	120
ANNUAL BUS	-	-	-	-	-	-
MINI BUS	44	1	4	660	15	60
ANNUAL MINI BUS	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>34,782</u>	<u>6,420</u>	<u>20,907</u>	<u>\$ 322,301</u>	<u>\$ 74,626</u>	<u>\$ 217,765</u>
PERCENT OF NON-RESIDENTS:						
ANNUAL	10.61%	7.61%	8.83%			
DAILY	59.00%	29.26%	47.76%			

WATER PARK POOL ATTENDANCE

	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
DAILY ENTRANCE	<u>123,297</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>38,778</u>	<u>\$ 1,039,714</u>	<u>\$ 48</u>	<u>\$ 402,006</u>
	123,297	4	38,778	\$ 1,039,714	\$ 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	726	-	580	2,731	-	4,952
DISC GOLF	2,262	2,682	2,901	8,818	5,364	5,802
SPECIAL EVENTS	<u>3,429</u>	<u>849</u>	<u>1,159</u>	<u>32,220</u>	<u>8,852</u>	<u>19,756</u>
	8,392	3,531	6,399	\$ 104,336	\$ 14,216	\$ 77,995

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

PROGRAMMING & RETAIL OPERATIONS (cont'd)

	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
FACILITY RENTALS						
WEEKDAYS	26	2	44	\$ 2,543	\$ 40	\$ 4,505
WEEKENDS	156	16	150	17,262	1,335	19,650
SOCCER FIELDS	5,289	192	192	15,200	550	550
DISC GOLF COURSE	-	-	10	-	-	950
WATERPARK SHELTERS	33	-	-	1,240	-	-
	<u>5,504</u>	<u>210</u>	<u>396</u>	<u>\$ 36,245</u>	<u>\$ 1,925</u>	<u>\$ 25,655</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:	309,282	10,168	115,933	\$ 1,739,559	\$ 91,243	\$ 811,883

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

MEMBERSHIPS						
	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
INDIVIDUAL RESIDENT	867	358	721	\$ 180,878	\$ 64,891	\$ 72,638
INDIVIDUAL NON-RESIDENT	19	5	4	5,875	2,060	1,074
S/Y/D RESIDENT	1,171	458	418	194,502	73,762	69,727
S/Y/D NON-RESIDENT	3	3	-	790	788	-
FAMILY RESIDENT	249	135	101	91,416	33,574	28,360
FAMILY NON-RESIDENT	2	1	1	1,480	735	767
FAMILY - ADDT'L MEMBER	14	11	4	858	427	171
SENIORS OVER 80	356	130	169	21,330	7,490	10,401
PERSONAL TRAINERS	15	1	4	4,860	303	1,075
MILITARY PASS	3	2	2	360	180	390
30-DAY PASS	679	401	709	29,262	17,206	31,836
SEASONAL PASS	126	-	-	9,920	-	-
REPLACEMENT PASS	-	35	8	-	35	8
SUB-TOTAL	3,504	1,540	2,141	\$ 541,530	\$ 201,450	\$ 216,446

PASS FACILITY USE	144,319	48,607	
PERCENT OF NON-RESIDENTS:	1.04%	0.94%	0.40%

DAILY ENTRIES						
	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
INDIVIDUAL RESIDENT	7,343	2,552	166	\$ 58,744	\$ 20,416	\$ 1,498
INDIVIDUAL NON-RESIDENT	804	212	37	7,236	1,908	369
S/Y/D RESIDENT	6,737	2,122	200	40,422	12,732	1,400
S/Y/D NON-RESIDENT	288	105	10	2,016	735	82
INDIVIDUAL FITNESS RESIDENT	195	46	1	1,208	264	8
INDIVIDUAL FITNESS NON-RESIDENT	-	-	-	-	-	-
SENIOR FITNESS RESIDENT	516	129	-	2,825	756	-
SENIOR FITNESS NON-RESIDENT	16	3	-	35	14	-
DAILY PASS/GIFT CERTIFICATE SALES	-	75	1	3,606	450	245
SUB-TOTAL	15,899	5,244	416	\$ 116,092	\$ 37,275	\$ 3,602
PERCENT OF NON-RESIDENTS:	6.97%	6.19%	11.37%			

OTHER REVENUE						
	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
DAYCAMP	3,299	23	13	\$ 89,077	\$ 630	\$ 360
RECREATION PROGRAMS	32,143	8,592	25,081	163,411	29,042	64,538
FACILITY RENTALS	226	106	100	5,432	2,554	2,400
POOL/STUDIO/GYM	-	-	-	-	-	-
PARTY PAVILION	-	-	-	-	-	-
MISC. RETAIL	368	90	91	9,973	2,526	2,915
LOCKERS	27,427	9,068	3,720	6,857	2,267	930
VENDING	-	-	-	1,425	1,208	-
SUB-TOTAL	63,464	17,880	29,005	\$ 276,176	\$ 38,228	\$ 71,143

	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
YTD TOTAL PARTICIPATION & REVENUE:	227,186	73,271	31,562	\$ 933,798	\$ 276,953	\$ 291,191

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

GREEN FEES

	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
WEEKDAYS						
REGULAR - 9	942	708	779	\$ 7,467	\$ 8,028	\$ 9,297
SR/JR/STUDENT - 9	524	671	662	7,520	11,325	11,091
LEAGUES - 9	4,104	2,771	3,439	65,931	47,585	58,463
REGULAR - 18	2,143	3,963	3,431	64,203	120,090	117,202
SR/JR/STUDENT - 18	4,361	3,481	4,641	88,092	83,348	109,058
TWI-LIGHT	1,944	2,140	1,512	32,259	42,495	29,025
WEEKENDS						
REGULAR - 9	245	261	244	5,381	6,713	6,159
SR/JR/STUDENT - 9	39	38	12	624	722	228
REGULAR - 18	3,635	3,621	5,349	120,681	129,314	194,296
SR/JR/STUDENT - 18	289	252	496	7,514	7,288	14,532
TWI-LIGHT	1,287	1,390	819	29,497	35,440	20,666
EARLY BIRD - 9	58	36	35	928	684	665
MEMBERSHIPS						
ULTIMATE PACKAGE	424	523	675	9,500	14,776	24,898
WEEKDAY PACKAGE	765	1,218	1,518	9,400	10,257	14,921
WEEKEND PACKAGE	139	-	184	750	-	800
TWI-LIGHT PACKAGE	351	320	283	5,525	3,850	4,575
OUTINGS (WEEKDAYS & WEEKENDS)	<u>1,176</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>788</u>	<u>35,911</u>	<u>2,668</u>	<u>28,810</u>
	22,426	21,485	24,867	\$ 491,183	\$ 524,583	\$ 644,686

PROGRAMMING & RETAIL OPERATIONS

	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
CARTS	17,493	16,932	20,361	\$ 118,202	\$ 116,564	\$ 143,336
RENTALS	<u>66</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>660</u>	<u>280</u>	<u>390</u>
	17,559	16,960	20,400	\$ 118,862	\$ 116,844	\$ 143,726
FOOD & BEVERAGE	44,638	30,294	46,907	\$ 120,488	\$ 82,622	\$ 136,034
PRO SHOP	3,360	2,789	3,530	37,738	33,907	45,294
DISCOUNTS	-	-	-	(74,206)	(89,982)	(138,985)
VENDING	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>780</u>	<u>1,299</u>	<u>1,016</u>
	47,998	33,083	50,437	\$ 84,801	\$ 27,846	\$ 43,359
	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
YTD TOTAL PARTICIPATION & REVENUE:	87,983	71,528	95,704	\$ 694,846	\$ 669,273	\$ 831,772

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

GATE

	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
RESIDENTS (ANNUAL)	953	1,016	1,310	\$ 27,930	\$ 30,480	\$ 39,300
NON-RESIDENTS (ANNUAL)	173	184	339	7,245	8,280	15,255
RESIDENTS (DAILY)	5,553	5,047	6,637	33,318	30,282	39,822
NON-RESIDENTS (DAILY)	4,797	4,277	6,745	47,970	42,770	67,450
SENIOR (DAILY)	572	486	758	1,716	1,458	2,274
SENIOR-NON RES. (DAILY)	315	244	394	1,890	1,464	2,364
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>
	12,425	11,260	16,205	\$ 121,614	\$ 115,004	\$ 167,155

PERCENT OF NON-RESIDENTS:

ANNUAL	15.4%	15.3%	20.6%
DAILY	45.5%	45.0%	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	8,743	21,434	125	15,755
ACCESSORIES/MISC.	<u>39</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>7,361</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>83</u>
	10,411	120	16,104	\$ 21,524	\$ 175	\$ 15,838

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

PROGRAMMING & RETAIL OPERATIONS

	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
DAYCAMP	1,490	6	1,960	\$ 40,217	\$ 150	\$ 52,910
DISC GOLF	271	4,296	5,122	542	8,592	10,244
SPECIAL EVENTS	355	274	750	6,137	3,579	9,122
	2,116	4,576	7,832	\$ 46,896	\$ 12,321	\$ 72,276
FACILITY RENTALS						
WEEKDAYS	61	8	20	\$ 4,080	\$ 880	\$ 1,920
WEEKENDS	80	32	96	9,525	3,850	10,330
	141	40	116	\$ 13,605	\$ 4,730	\$ 12,250
ROW BOATS-HOURLY	144	-	136	\$ 720	\$ -	\$ 680
ROW BOATS-DAILY	32	-	39	640	-	780
PADDLE BOATS-1/2 HOUR	449	-	589	3,143	-	4,123
	625	-	764	\$ 4,503	\$ -	\$ 5,583
FOOD CONCESSIONS	6,972	5,287	6,536	\$ 11,876	\$ 10,739	\$ 14,910
ACCESSORIES/MISC.	33	21	15	130	112	102
	7,005	5,308	6,551	\$ 12,006	\$ 10,850	\$ 15,012
	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
YTD TOTAL PARTICIPATION & REVENUE:	45,602	21,304	54,320	\$ 271,619	\$ 143,081	\$ 316,655



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MEMORANDUM

To: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Coy P. Vaughn, Director
Date: November 9, 2021
Re: 2021 Connecting Communities Project Awards

Background

Between 2010 and 2014 the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission ran a successful Connecting Communities (CC) grant program, providing communities with funds to improve non-motorized connectivity for locally significant projects. The CC program was discontinued in 2015 but was reinstated with the passage of a four-year road millage, which allocates 20% of the revenue to WCPARC for non-motorized trails. The millage, and the CC program, was renewed in August 2020 for another four years.

The 2021-2024 CC program generally allocates \$100,000 per year to be awarded for planning and design projects and up to \$500,000 per year for construction. In the past, staff has administratively accommodated a range of submissions by allowing some flexibility in allocating funds between these two sources.

Discussion

The 2021 Round of CC grants was announced in May and the deadline for submissions was August 31, 2021. Four applications were received from the following communities: City of Dexter, City of Saline, Manchester Township, and Superior Township. In 2021, planning/engineering funding requests totaled \$185,500 and construction funding requests totaled \$850,000.

Projects were reviewed and scored by staff (summary attached) and discussed with applicants to seek additional project information and clarifications. Although the application from the City of Dexter was the highest scoring proposal, it is directly on the planned B2B alignment. Therefore, staff recommends that funding be provided for this important planning/design work through our B2B budget.

Recommendation

Based on review of the grant applications by staff, I recommend that the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission authorize staff to prepare project agreements to award grants as follows:

Applicant	Request	Award Planning (P)	Award Construction (C)
City of Dexter	\$100K (P)	\$0	
City of Saline*	\$500,000 (C) *Submitted application that included park amenities not eligible for funding.		\$200K
Manchester Twp.	\$50K (P), \$350K (C)	\$50K	\$320K
Superior Twp.**	\$35.5K (P) ** Submitted application for re-engineering of portion of pathway already funded through previous CC grant.	\$30K	
Total	\$185,500 (P), \$850,000 (C)	\$80K	\$520K

(P) Planning; (C) Construction

Staff Scoring Summary – Total Points Available for Construction & Engineering: 663

City of Dexter: 591

City of Saline: 269

Manchester Township: 446

Superior Township: 362



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MEMORANDUM

To: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Coy P. Vaughn, Director
Date: November 9, 2021
Re: Independence Lake Boardwalk Reconstruction - Contract Award

Background

The boardwalks at Independence Lake County Park provide important trail connections throughout the park (see attachment). Boardwalks C and G were built in the 1980s and are in need of reconstruction to replace the aged construction, as well as remedying safety concerns on both boardwalks. Boardwalk E, built in 2001, has several failed supports that drove the decision to replace it.

Discussion

Staff have been working with ROWE Professional Services Company on the engineering to redesign all three boardwalks including widening C and G and modernizing the supports with helical piles. The alignment and distance of all three boardwalks will remain the same. Boardwalk C's railing will be replaced with a vinyl coated galvanized wire fencing as seen on our B2B boardwalks. Permits to EGLE and WCWR have been submitted and are being reviewed and/or already approved.

Construction documents were produced, and RFP #8191 was released in October using the County's standard procurement protocol and advertised by the Purchasing Department. Six contractors attended the mandatory pre-bid meeting on October 12, 2021. One bid was received from LJ Construction. The submitted bid was less than the cost estimate provided by ROWE in August 2021. We expect the reduction in cost is due to the availability and stability of costs of lumber and material currently. LJ Construction has worked for WCPARC in the past and has done an outstanding job. In addition, we have confirmed our intention to award with several reference checks.

Company	Location	Bid Total
LJ Construction	Brighton, MI	\$478,843.00

The closure of the boardwalks is disruptive to the hiking trails. Independence Lake's staff will plan and sign detours appropriately. All work associated with the contract must be completed before September 30, 2022. However, we hope to see reconstruction over the winter months.

Recommendation

It is my recommendation that Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission award the contract to LJ Construction in the amount of \$478,843.00, and authorize a 10% contingency (\$47,884.30) for the reconstruction of three boardwalks at Independence Lake Park as detailed in the memo.



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MEMORANDUM

TO: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Coy Vaughn, Director
DATE: November 9, 2021
RE: **Recommendation for Partnership – Renz Easement, Scio Township**

Background

Scio Township's Land Preservation Commission received a nomination for an easement on the Renz property and forwarded it to NAPP in 2021 in anticipation of a request for participation. The property was scored and included in ALPAC's 2021 annual prioritization of properties.

Discussion

The Renz property is a surviving tract of farmland in between subdivisions and extraction operations to the east and west, and connected to multiple other protected areas to its north and south. It is also a few hundred feet from to Scio Woods Preserve.

A 5-acre building envelope around the existing building area is proposed. Of the original tax parcels, 9.5 acres are being excluded from the easement specifically for purchase by Scio Township, through its general fund, for a new fire station.

The Assessment & Prioritization Mapping labeled two of the three easement parcels as medium-high quality and prioritized them based on its proximity to other protected areas (Patch Expansion). It received 67/88 points on ALPAC's scoring system, which was the highest scoring nomination for 2021. Notable high-scoring criteria included its prime farmland composition (99% prime or important); high percent of soils suitable for septic system development; and its adjacency to available sewer service. The Commission's scoring system for NAPP properties yields 73/100 points. It lost 1 of 12 possible points for the building exclusion.

Scio Township is working with the American Farmland Trust (AFT) to complete this deal. AFT is a national nonprofit formed in 1980 that protects farmland and promotes sound farming practices. They also run the National Agricultural Land Network, which is the professional group for agriculture conservationists. Scio Township will purchase the conservation easement on the property and AFT will subsequently purchase the fee title to the property, acting as a temporary landholder. AFT will be beholden to Scio's upcoming buy-protect-sell policy, currently in draft form, which is set to require RFPs for land purchase and certain

advertising efforts. At no point will Scio Township own the fee title to the property, only the conservation easement. The current landowners agreed to the easement only if they were also relieved of their fee simple interests in the easement property.

Project Name	Location	Acres	Tax parcels	Excluded Area Description	Building Envelope Description	Reserved Land Divisions	Comm. Score
Renz	Scio Twp	101.361	3	9.5 acres excluded for construction of new fire station	One 5-ac residential envelope around existing structures	N/A	73

Scio Township is using an estimated fair market value to request funds. An appraisal will be finished in the next couple weeks. The estimated value of the easement purchase is \$3,050,000 and Scio is requesting a 14.17% contribution, not to exceed \$432,334. The City of Ann Arbor has already committed their 14.17%. Scio Township applied for and was awarded both an USDA ACEP-ALE grant and an MDARD Farmland Preservation grant.

At their September 2021 meeting, ALPAC recommended to “contribute 14.17% of the purchase price based upon a pending appraisal, not to exceed \$432,334, contingent upon Scio Township’s withdrawal of the Rosko property and Scio Township’s approval of their Master Plan update to show the Renz property within the Agricultural Preservation Overlay.” The first contingency in the motion is to address ALPAC’s budget and relationship with Scio Township.

ALPAC’s budget for the next year did not initially allow for the requested contribution to the Renz project, so the Scio Township Land Preservation Committee consultant Barry Lonik suggested that ALPAC retract its commitment to Scio’s Rosko project, because negotiations with Rosko were going poorly. ALPAC agreed to this action, but wanted Scio Township to also formally withdraw their pursuit of the Rosko project. The contingency was met on October 26, when Scio Township’s Board of Trustees passed a motion to withdraw their financial commitment to the Rosko property. The second contingency in ALPAC’s motion was necessary to ensure the Renz property’s eligibility for ALPAC funds. Scio Township’s current draft Master Plan, with a date of September 13, 2021, shows the Renz property within the Agricultural Preservation Overlay. The Master Plan update has had at least one public hearing, but still needs to final approved.

Scio Township	\$432,334 (14.17%)
Greenbelt	\$432,334 (14.17%)
MDARD Grant	\$825,000 (27%)
ACEP-ALE	\$928,000 (30.42%)
WCPARC	\$432,334 (14.17%)
Est. Value	\$3,050,000 (\$27,727/ac)

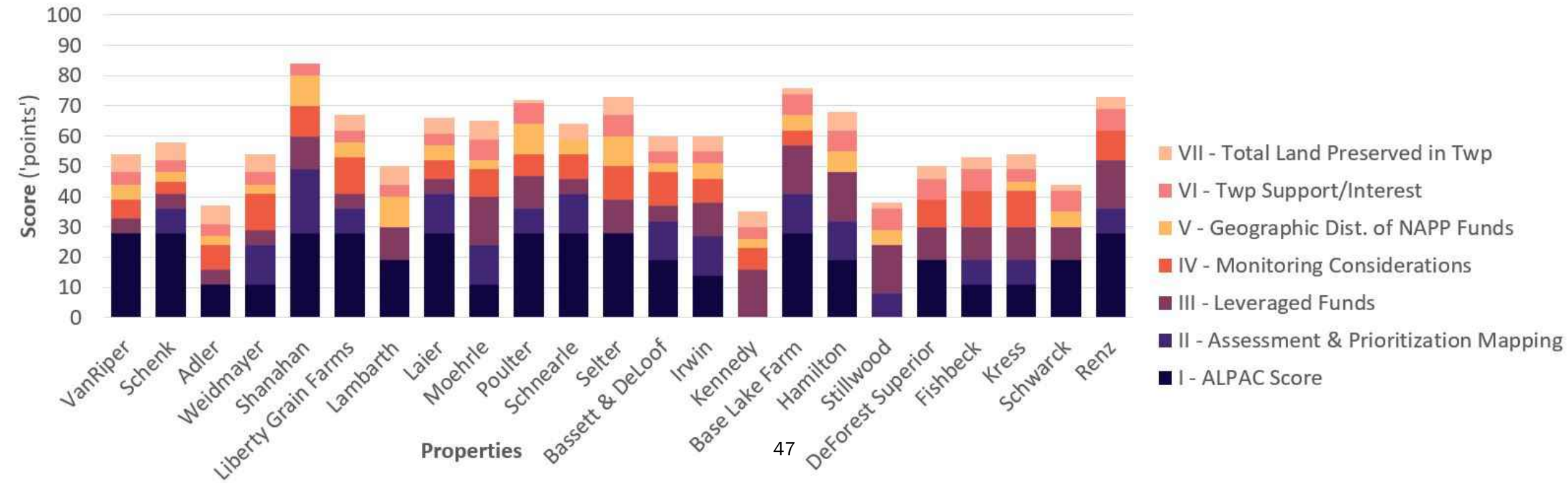
Scio Township will be responsible closing and due diligence for monitoring and enforcing the conservation easement.

Recommendation

Based upon the review by the Agricultural Lands Preservation Advisory Committee and staff, it is my recommendation that the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission partner with Scio Township for the purchase of a conservation easement on the Renz property in Scio Township, as identified in the attached map, and contribute 14.7% of the final purchase price, not to exceed \$432,334, toward the purchase, contingent upon attorney review of documents and execution of participation agreement. I further recommend that \$7,500 to the stewardship special revenue fund to cover potential future costs associated with monitoring and enforcement of the conservation easement, contingent upon attorney review of documents and execution of participation agreement. Approval of this recommendation will also withdraw the Commission's prior approval of the Rosko partnership and contribution of funds.

Attachments

Parks Commission Scoring - Easements (ALPAC)





Renz Property: Aerial & Soils

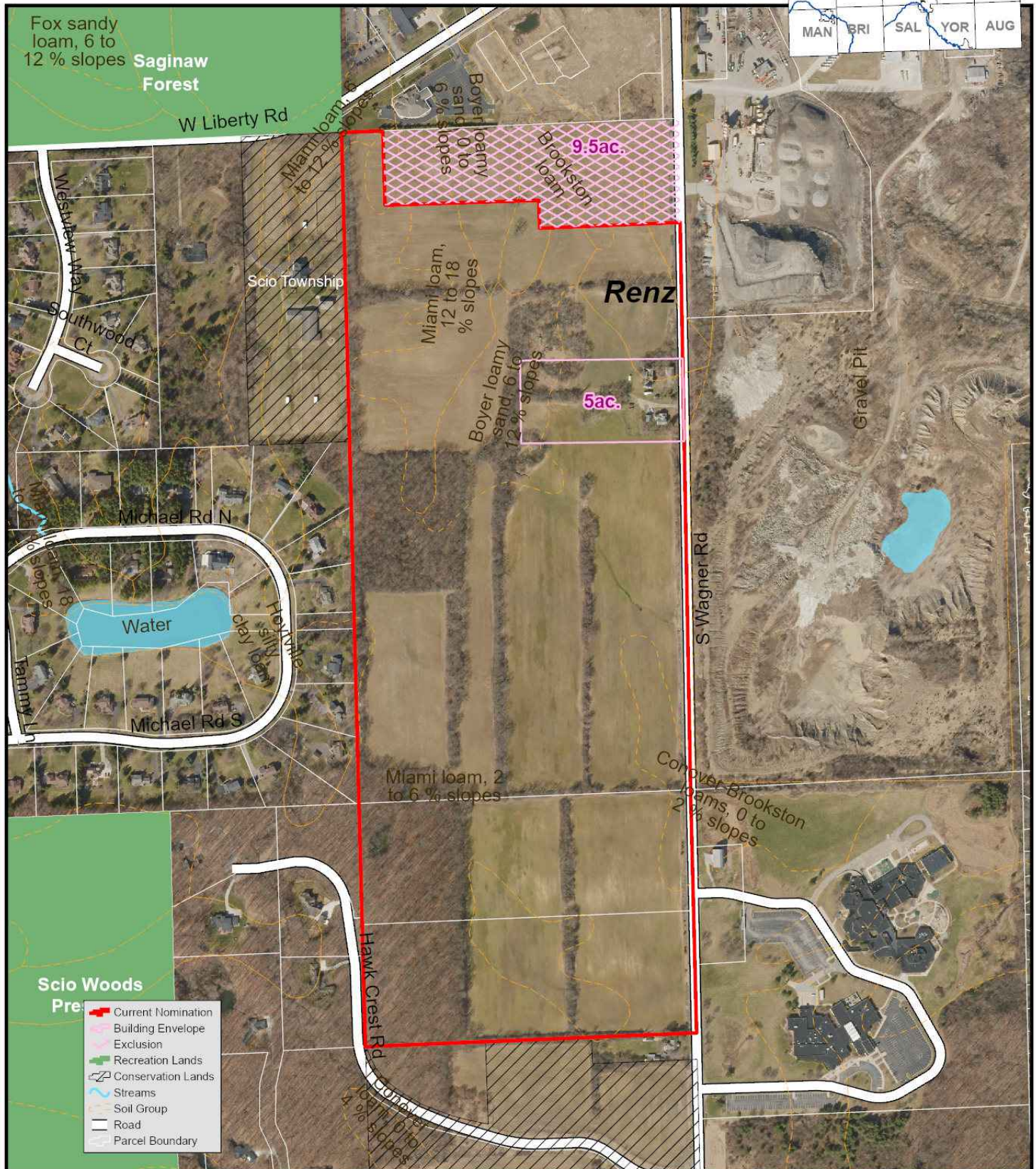
Natural Areas Preservation Program

Nomination ID: A21.143

Scio Township

+/-101 Acres

Washtenaw County
Locator Map



Renz Property: Assessment & Prioritization Mapping

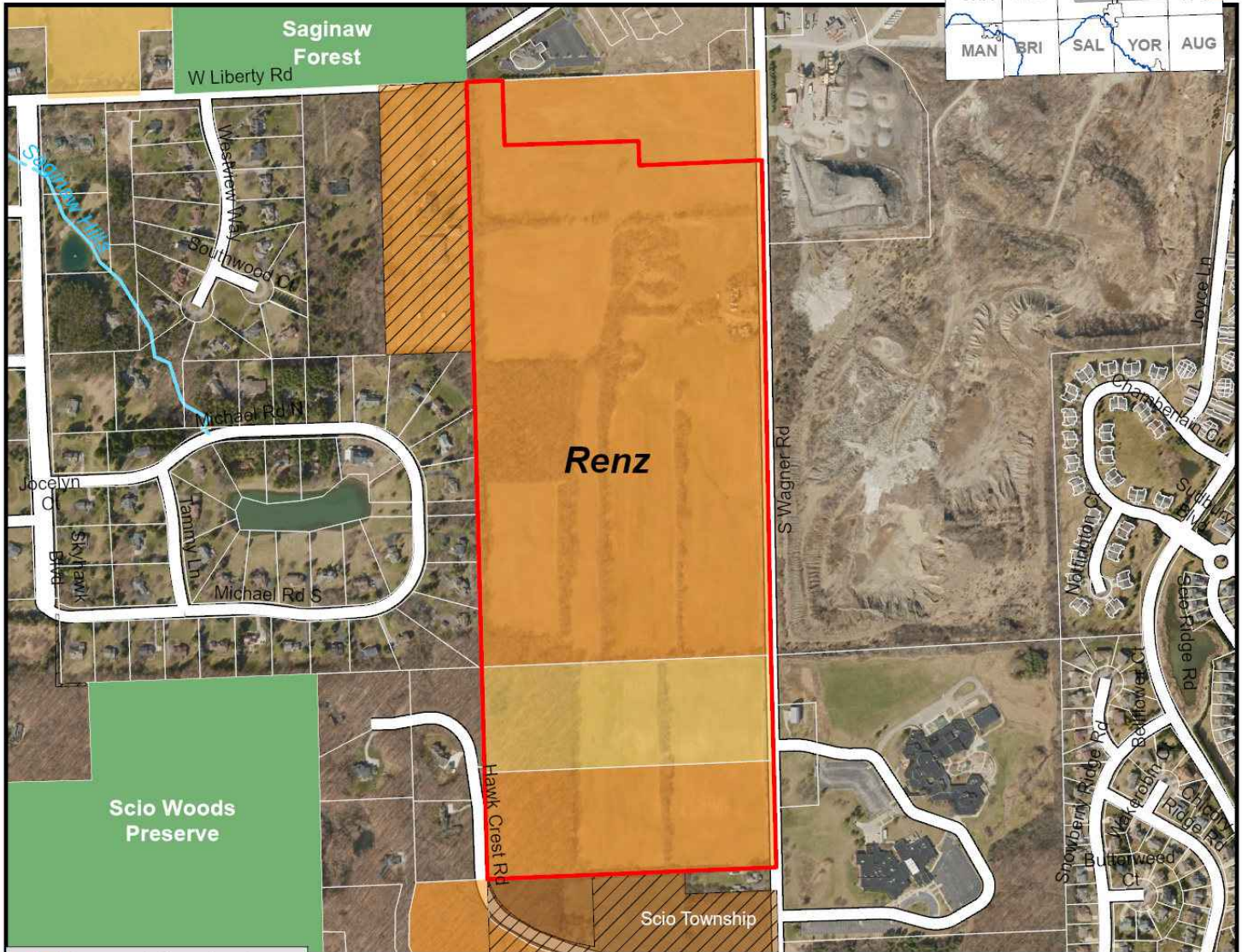
Natural Areas Preservation Program

Nomination ID: A2I.143

Scio Township

+/-101 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

