



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

NOTICE OF MEETING

Date: December 14, 2021

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Location: Virtual Meeting on Zoom available to the public at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83869561879>

AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order / Moment of Silence**
- 2. Roll Call and Announcement of Location**
- 3. Approval of the Minutes**
 - A. November 9, 2021 Meeting (attached, pp. 1-5 /action item)
- 4. Public Comment**
- 5. Communications, Projects & Activities** (attached, pp. 6-38 /action item)
- 6. Financial & Recreation Reports – November 2021**
 - A. Financial Reports (attached, pp. 39-41 /action item)
 - B. Recreation Reports (attached, pp. 42-47 /action item)
- 7. Old Business**
 - A. Staebler Farm Multi-Purpose Building Award (attached, pp. 48-50 /action item)
 - B. Other Old Business
- 8. New Business**
 - A. Adoption of 2022 Annual Calendar (attached, p. 51 /action item)
 - B. 2022 Facility Rate Modifications (attached, pp. 52-55 /action item)
 - C. ALPAC Budget Adjustment (attached, p. 56 /action item)
 - D. NAPP – Maisel Property (attached, pp. 57-65 /action item)
 - E. NAPP – Jansen Property Partnership (attached, pp. 66-71 /action item)
 - F. NAPP – Gotfredson & Raniszeski Property (attached, pp. 72-82 /action item)
 - G. Ducks Unlimited Property (presentation at meeting)
 - H. 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: November 9, 2021

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Location: Zoom Digital Meeting

Members Present: 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), Brenda McKinney (attending from Superior Twp, MI), Ricky Jefferson (attending from Ypsilanti, MI) Jo Ann McCollum (attending from Ypsilanti Township, MI), and Evan Pratt (attending from Scio Twp, MI)

Members Absent: Jason Morgan and Patricia Scribner

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; Kira Macyda, Park Planner; Brian Machemer, Park Superintendent, Hannah Cooley, Management Analyst, and Rosie Pahl-Donaldson, Park Planner

Others Present: Sue Shink, County Board of Commissioners

1. Call to Order/Moment of Silence

Ms. Bobrin 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 October 12, 2021 regular meeting were included with the agenda material.

It was moved by Mr. Joerg and seconded by Mr. Marans to approve the minutes of the October 12, 2021 regular meeting. Roll call vote: 8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 2 Absent (Scribner and Morgan), the motion was approved.

4. Public Comment

Barry Lonik, resident of Dexter Township, spoke in favor of the Renz property proposal. He explained that the parcel is prime for development and the owners have turned down several offers to sell the property for residential development. He added that the Renz property is a centennial farm and he asked that the Commission approve the proposal.

Communications, Projects & Activities

Ms. Bonfiglio reported on the October communications which were included in the packet. Mr. Marans commented favorably on the expanded parking at the Administrative Office and the Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center. He said that he appreciated the sensitivity of the design and construction to avoid impact to trees.

It was moved by Mr. Marans and seconded by Ms. McKinney to accept and file the Communications, Projects & Activities for the month of October 2021, as submitted. Roll call vote: 8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 2 Absent (Scribner and Morgan), the motion was approved.

5. Financial & Recreation Reports – October 2021

A. Financial Reports

Mr. Brooks reported and stated that the total for the claims for the month of October was \$915,984.58. He provided an update on the performance of the special revenue funds for NAPP and B2B.

It was moved by Mr. Pratt and seconded by Mr. Ezekiel to accept and file the Financial Reports for the month of October 2021 as submitted. Roll call vote: 8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 2 Absent (Scribner and Morgan), the motion was approved.

B. Recreation Reports

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

It was moved by Mr. Marans and seconded by Ms. McKinney to accept and file the Recreation Reports for the month of October 2021 as submitted. Roll call vote: 8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 2 Absent (Scribner and Morgan), the motion was approved.

6. Old Business

A. Connecting Communities

Ms. Macyda provided some background on the Connecting Communities program and explained that there was \$600,000 to be awarded this year for non-motorized construction or planning/design projects. She presented the four applications that 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.

Ms. Macyda explained that the 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. Ms. Macyda noted that staff recommends that the following Connecting Communities awards:

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

Mr. Marans asked why we received so few applications this year. Ms. Macyda responded that it was mostly due to the COVID19 pandemic. Mr. Ezekiel asked if the Superior Township proposal would eventually connect to local parks and preserves. Ms. McKinney responded that, yes, that was the plan.

It was moved by Mr. Marans and seconded by Ms. McCollum to award \$600,000 in Connecting Communities funding to the City of Saline, Manchester Township, and Superior Township based on the staff recommendation. Roll call vote: 8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 2 Absent (Scribner and Morgan), the motion was approved.

B. B2B Trail User Survey/Wayfinding Presentation

Ms. Cooley presented the results of a recent B2B survey that was conducted from March 31st to May 31st to understand the interests, thoughts and experiences of trail users. She explained that 1,102 responses were received for the 19-question survey that focused on demographics, usage data, trail segments, trail activity, and communication and information sharing preferences.

Mr. Marans stated that he was surprised that there was not more trail users coming from the City of Ann Arbor. He asked how the addresses were gathered for the trail users. Ms. Cooley responded that it was based on zip code. Ms. McCollum noted that in Ypsilanti Township many people don't get information from social media – they get it from word of mouth. She said it would be nice to communicate B2B news in the new Ypsilanti Community Guide.

Mr. Sanderson and Ms. Pahl-Donaldson presented the new B2B wayfinding proposal. Mr. Ezekiel commented that the wayfinding plan was well done and much needed. He asked why we don't use lane striping on the trail to help separate traffic. Mr. Sanderson responded that pavement stripes were used in some locations but mostly on segments on HCMA property. Mr. Marans recommended that we seek sponsorship opportunities on the wayfinding signs and orientation nodes to help pay for these amenities.

C. Independence Lake Boardwalk Project Award

Mr. Machemer presented a proposal to reconstruct the boardwalks at Independence Lake County Park. He explained that the boardwalks were built in the 1980s and need reconstruction to replace the aged construction, as well as remedying safety concerns. Staff have been working with ROWE Professional Services Company on the engineering to redesign all three boardwalks including widening and modernizing the supports with helical piles. The alignment and distance of all three boardwalks will remain the same. Boardwalk railings 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.

Mr. Machemer explained that 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. 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.

It was moved by Mr. Ezekiel and seconded by Ms. McKinney to authorize the award a construction 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 County Park. Roll call vote: 8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 2 Absent (Scribner and Morgan), the motion was approved.

D. Other Old Business

None.

7. New Business

A. NAPP – Renz Property Contribution

Ms. Leikam explained that 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. 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.

Ms. Leikam noted that 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.

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.

Ms. Liekam stated that Scio Township also asked that the Commission retract its commitment to the Rosko project, since it is no longer a viable project. The following funding breakdown is proposed:

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)

It was moved by Mr. Pratt and seconded by Ms. McKinney to partner with Scio Township for the purchase of a conservation easement on the Renz property in Scio Township 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. Further, it is authorized that a \$7,500 contribution be made to the stewardship special revenue fund to cover potential future costs associated with monitoring and enforcement of the conservation easement. Roll call vote: 8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 2 Absent (Scribner and Morgan), the motion was approved.

B. Other Old Business

None.

8. Commissioners/Directors Comments

Mr. Vaughn explained that the plan is to start meeting in person in January for all Commission meetings. He added that arrangements have been made to meet at the LRC building to allow larger meeting spaces more appropriate for social distancing. Ms. Bonfiglio added that the Commission can expect to see proposed facility fee increases in December. She said that the proposal would be sent out in advance of the packet to allow extra review time.

Mr. Ezekiel commented that he attended the recent ceremony at Base Lake Farm. He commented that it was a wonderful celebration and he was proud to represent the Commission.

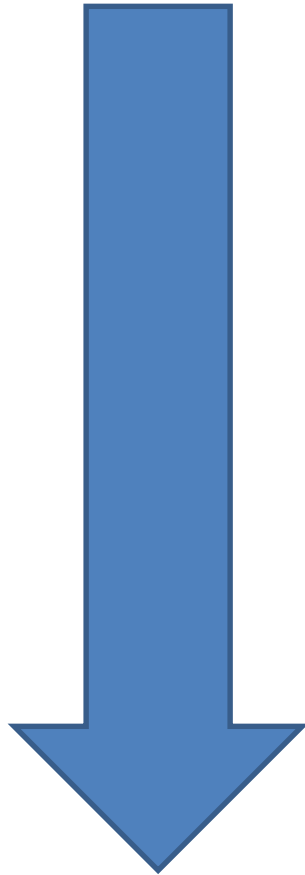
Ms. Shink stated that she is excited to return to the Commission in 2022 to replace Jason Morgan. She also voiced her support for the Renz property.

9. Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 3:49 p.m.

Communications, Projects & Activities



Help preserve local news. Support The Sun Times News.

Friend: \$5/mo.

Supporter: \$10/mo.

(Other plans available)

[SUPPORT](#)

[Chelsea MI](#)

11-15-2021 5:04am

Border to Border Trail Updates

 [Doug Marrin](#)
[Editor](#) 



CONSTRUCTION



By Kristin Warzyniec

Reprinted with permission from <https://b2btrail.org/about-b2b/news/border-to-border-trail-updates/>

[Chelsea-Stockbridge Connection](#)

Supported by the recent [MEDC Chelsea Connection Campaign](#), construction of a 1.1 mile segment is underway from Werkner Road to Timbertown and Veteran's Park. This segment will complete the connection into downtown Chelsea and is anticipated to be complete spring/summer of 2022.



[Dexter-Chelsea Connection](#)

Paving continues on a 1.6 mile trail section between Dancer Road and Wylie Road as we work toward completing the connection between Chelsea and Dexter. Completion on this segment of trail is scheduled for late 2021.



[Ann Arbor-Dexter Connection](#)

Construction was initiated this spring on a one mile segment from Zeeb Road to Delhi Metropark which will also include the fourth B2B bridge over the Huron River. All project elements within local control were completed last March and the required permit approvals came through in early May. A final

to have the contract in place this winter with the contractor working toward completing the job, including Bridge #4, next summer. We hope to celebrate the segment opening in Fall 2022.



[Ann Arbor](#)

The Gallup Park Trail reconstruction project began in August 2021. Repairs are being made on a one mile trail section from the Mitchell Field Bridge to the Gallup Park Bridge. Improvements to the trail will include replacing the existing asphalt surface with a new concrete surface, widening the path to 10 feet and updating site furnishings. This trail project is scheduled to be completed mid-November 2021.



[News](#) [Calendar](#) [Community](#) [Locations](#) [Advertise](#) [Register](#)

In Ypsilanti, the improvement project is nearing completion along Grove Road and on the I-94 overpass where the sidewalk has been widened. Completion of this work is anticipated to be this fall.

Log In



Images courtesy of Washtenaw Co Parks & Recreation

STAY CONNECTED! SUBSCRIBE TO FREE EMAIL UPDATES FROM THE SUN TIMES NEWS

SIGN UP!



♡ ☹ ☆ I'm interested 🚩

Replies

Help preserve local news. Support The Sun Times News.

Friend: \$5/mo.

Supporter: \$10/mo.

(Other plans available)

[SUPPORT](#)

[Dexter MI](#)

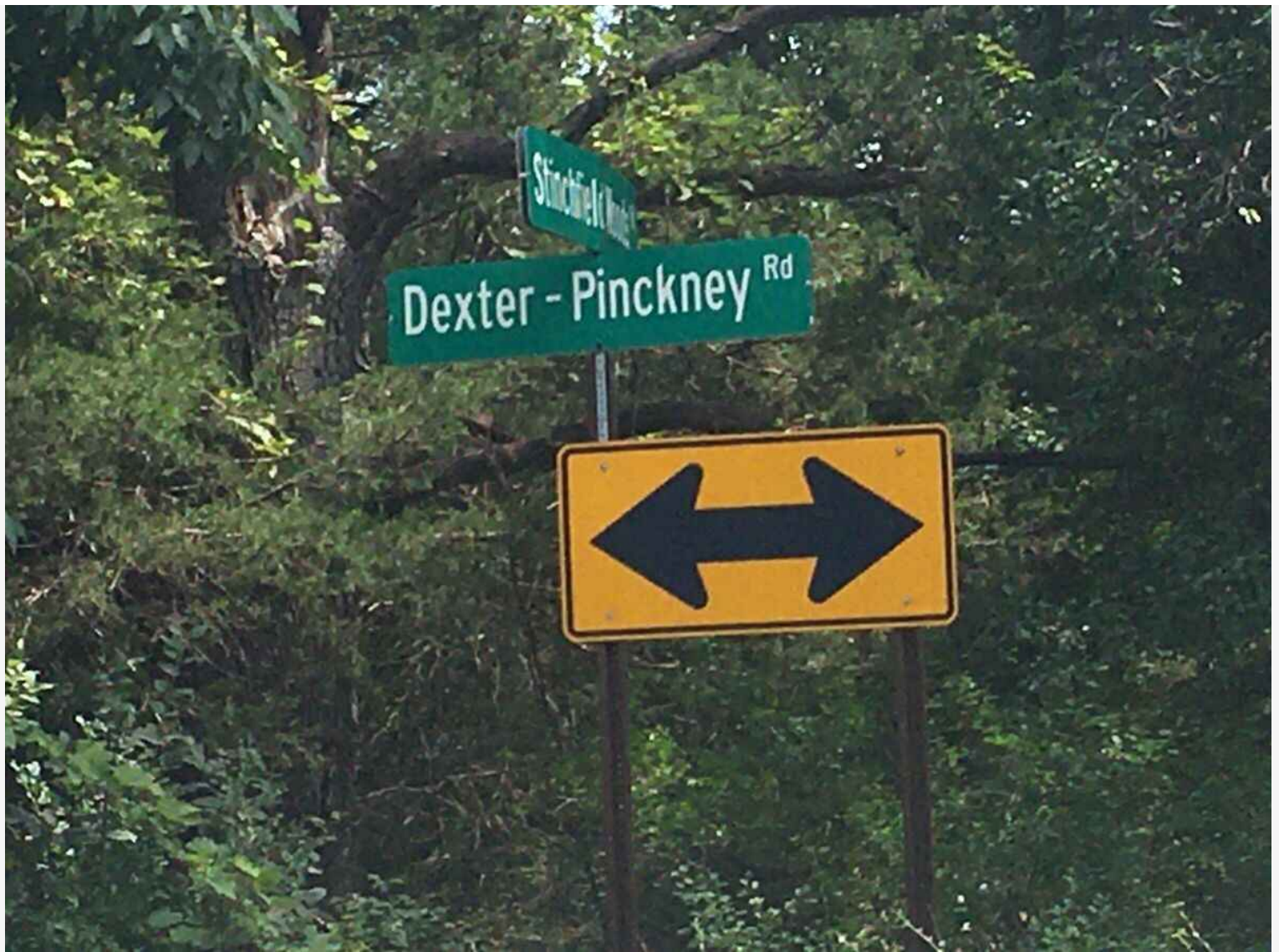
11-18-2021 6:18am

Finding the Northwest Passage Trail in Dexter Township



[Lonnie Huhman](#) [Reporter](#)  [The Sun Times News](#)





Dexter Township wants to help move forward the pathway plan proposed to connect Hudson Mills to Stinchfield Woods Road with the hope that it will eventually go through the Pinckney area and connect to Hell.

This would be an extension of the Border to Border Trail (B2B Trail).

However, before that can even begin to happen some details need to be determined, including the exact route.

To help with this, the Dexter Township Board unanimously voted at its Nov. 16 meeting, to devote some budgeted funds, not to exceed \$15,000, to engage a consultant to determine the Northwest Passage Project #1 Trail route connecting Hudson Mills/Dexter Township Town Hall to Stinchfield Woods Road.

In its approval resolution, the township states its committed to being inclusive in local projects that benefit their residents and offering recreational activities with rural character.

Township board trustee Karen Sikkenga is representing the township in this project and she spoke about it at the meeting on the 16th.

Sikkenga said in her report to the board that the Huron Waterloo Pathways Initiative (HWPI is a nonprofit dedicated to completing the B2B Trail) is partnering with Dexter Township, WCPARC (Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission), Pinckney State Recreation Area and others to spearhead the overall project. She said funds for the study would be disbursed to HWPI.

Her report said the NW Passage Trail will be a 10-mile length of trail connecting the B2B Trail at Hudson Mills to Hell, by way of Stinchfield Woods and Pinckney State Recreation Area. The two-mile section of trail connecting Hudson Mills to Stinchfield Woods Road requires a consultant to determine the specific route and prepare materials to be used as exhibits in grant requests.

The consultant would be engaged immediately and would likely complete the study by March 31, 2022.

Sikkenga said the plan is to pay for the study in thirds with the township, HWPI and WCPARC all contributing.

In looking ahead to how the proposed pathway's construction would be paid for, Sikkenga said fundraising, grants and other contributions would all play a big part, which could include some local match funding help from Dexter Township.

The consultant's study is an important first step in helping to fundraise for the project. The study would help provide exhibit materials for fundraising, according to Sikkenga.

The consultant would look into such things as the four different route options to get from Hudson Mills to the other side of North Territorial Road. They would also assess whether or not there needs to be a crossing at Dexter-Pinckney Road and if so, where, and also what materials to use for the trail, such as pavement or maybe gravel.

The consultant's contract will be brought to the township board for final approval.

STAY CONNECTED! SUBSCRIBE TO FREE EMAIL UPDATES FROM THE SUN TIMES NEWS

SIGN UP!



I'm interested



Replies

More from Dexter

[Chelsea](#)

Fri. Nov 19 2021

[Notification of Marijuana Product Recall](#)

[Included is a link to sales locations affected](#)

[Doug Marrin](#)  Editor

Cyber Sale! Lowest price of the year

SUBSCRIBER EXCLUSIVE 🔑

Save the farm, plan the park: Meet the head of Washtenaw County's homegrown conservation program

Updated: Nov. 25, 2021, 1:01 p.m. | Published: Nov. 25, 2021, 1:00 p.m.



Ginny Leikam, superintendent of park planning and the Natural Areas Preservation Program with the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission. Provided by Ginny Leikam

WASHTENAW COUNTY, MI - Look at [a map of protected farmland and nature preserves](#) in Washtenaw County two decades ago and you'd see a few splotches of green dotting Washtenaw County: state recreation areas, Ann Arbor parks and the occasional rural conservation tract. But large swaths land had none of that.

Fast forward to today and those natural areas blanket the map. And, for some 16 years, one woman has played a steady role in shaping those thousands of acres for generations to come.

That's Ginny Leikam, whose current title, Superintendent of Park Planning and the Natural Areas Preservation Program for the county's Parks and Recreation Commission, reflects the sweeping breadth of her responsibilities. Leikam has a hand in shaping not only the future of the county's more than 6,000 acres of parks and preserves, but also in protecting the area's agricultural heritage.

"It's nice to see properties across the county knowing that they are going to be preserved in perpetuity," Leikam says.

Those efforts have long been her calling card. For more than a decade, she helped manage [Ann Arbor's Greenbelt program](#), which aims to fight urban sprawl by protecting working farmland, natural habitat and scenic open space in a ring around the city. Now, Leikam oversees the [county's own preservation program](#), whose reach also encompasses rural parts of the county marked by dirt roads.

In her nearly six years in the job, the land protected by the program, powered in part by a dedicated county tax that's twice been renewed, has swelled to over 10,000 acres and counting. Some of that includes nature preserves crisscrossed by trails and open to the public.

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

Much of it is working farmland. Leikam absorbs farmers' stories of their homesteads and how they've put the land to use as, together, they work through the sometimes lengthy conservation process. "They want to see it maintained in the state that it has always been in their mind and their experience," she said.

That's particularly important in guaranteeing fields aren't paved over for subdivisions as farms get passed down to the next generation.

These two maps show, in green, the expansion in protected lands and natural areas in Washtenaw County between 2000 and 2021 thanks to local land preservation programs, including the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission's Natural Areas Preservation Program. Provided by Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

Leikam has long had a passion for conservation work.

After getting an undergraduate degree in ecology and environmental science, she spent a year as a Peace Corps volunteer in the Russian Far East teaching at a “young naturalist station” that ran afterschool programs. After work in several small nonprofits in the Washington D.C. area, Leikam landed at the University of Michigan’s School of Natural Resources and Environment for a master’s degree. She hasn’t left the area since.

Washtenaw County is unique in how many active land preservation programs it hosts, Leikam said, rattling off conservation efforts run by a handful of townships, the county and several active land conservancies.

“I think residents value the land and the outdoors and see the benefits of land preservation,” she said.

Read more: [A legacy of land preservation: A Washtenaw County man’s 3-decade journey](#)

That has been particularly true over the over past year and a half. As COVID-19 closed gyms and indoor public spaces, residents flocked to the county’s parks.

“Being outdoors is one place that people felt safe to socialize and recreate,” Leikam said.

Her job involves overseeing a team of four park planners, who chart the future of the natural areas. That includes everything from ongoing efforts to bridge communities with the [Border to Border Trail](#) to plans to [add camping options and kayak rentals at Independence Lake](#) in the coming years.

Up next for Leikam's team is the beginning of development of the county's newest park area, the [Staebler Farm County Park](#) in Superior Township. The park is named for Don Staebler, who moved there at age 2 and occupied the family farm for over a century before passing away in 2017.

Keeping his legacy alive is part of what's in the cards as construction starts on a multi-purpose building to be used by groups like the [Michigan Folk School](#). That will come as Leikam announces the opening of new preserves in the coming months, she said.

As her work takes her across the county and to properties landowners and farmers hope to protect for years to come, Leikam can see how important a connection to those spaces can be.

"Their appreciation for the land itself is really remarkable to me," she said.

More from The Ann Arbor News:

[‘A terrific addition’: Township buys 93 acres near Ann Arbor to expand preserve](#)

[Michigan regulators investigating Ypsilanti-area industrial plant over toxic air pollution](#)

[View the Huron River from a waterfall room inside this \\$1.35M home near Ann Arbor](#)

Note to readers: if you purchase something through one of our affiliate links we may earn a commission.

Sponsor Content

Holiday and winter season activities abundant in the Flint and Genesee County area

How the arts and parks of the Flint and Genesee County area offer the gift of experience in the holiday and winter...

Flint & Genesee Group





Cyber Sale! Lowest price of the year

Advertisement

SUBSCRIBER EXCLUSIVE 🔒

Public input sought for potential trail between Brooklyn and Watkins Lake State Park

Updated: Nov. 30, 2021, 2:19 p.m. | Published: Nov. 30, 2021, 2:18 p.m.



Watkins Lake State Park and County Preserve is Michigan's 103rd state park. (Courtesy of Michigan Department of Natural Resources)



By **Chloe Miller | cmiller@mlive.com**

BROOKLYN, MI – Public input is being sought for a potential trail between Brooklyn and Watkins Lake State Park and County Preserve.

The village of Brooklyn, Columbia and Norvell townships and the Irish Hills Community Legacy have initiated the feasibility study to evaluate potential routes from downtown Brooklyn to Watkins Lake State Park and County Preserve, 14801 Arnold Road.

The trail would be an extension of a route currently under development from the village of Manchester in Washtenaw County. If completed, it would create a roughly 13-mile link between Hibbard Street in Manchester and Swain Memorial Park in Brooklyn.

As a part of the feasibility study, a project web page and survey was created to gain community input on the preliminary proposed routes. The preferred route would utilize easements to connect south from the park to Lawrence Road. From there, a signed route would be developed using Lawrence Road south to Owen Road, and a combination of Owen, Ladd and Waterman roads to reach Swain Memorial Park.

Advertisement



Once the first input round is complete, the research group will refine the routes and present the findings to the community. A community meeting also will be set for later this year or early next year to allow residents to voice their opinions on the trail.



Breaking News Newsletter

We'll deliver breaking news directly to your inbox. As soon as we know, you'll know.

Ex: user@mail.com

Sign up now

The survey is available until Dec. 31. It can be accessed [here](#). Hard copies can be picked up at the at the township offices at Norvell and Columbia and the Brooklyn village offices.

The state purchased 717 acres in Norvell Township for \$2.9 million in 2016 to help create the Watkins Lake State Park and County Reserve.

Related: [Michigan gets new state park through \\$2.9 million land purchase](#)

Combined with 405 acres of contiguous land in Manchester Township owned by the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission, the new 1,122-acre park was the state's 103rd state park and the first state park in Michigan to be jointly managed by the DNR and a county.

More from the Jackson Citizen Patriot:

Advertisement

[Making Jackson a place of equity, inclusion is his legacy, out-going city mayor says](#)

[Community Christmas Dinner back at Queen's Parish](#)

[Pets of the week: Sammy is spunky, Toph is super affectionate](#)

[Here are 10 seniors to watch \(as well as five juniors\) in girls basketball in the Jackson area this season](#)

[Icy roads cause Grass Lake schools to cancel classes on Monday, Nov. 29](#)

Note to readers: if you purchase something through one of our affiliate links we may earn a commission.

Sponsor Content

Come make the most of winter in Lower Peninsula's snowiest city

The forecast says it's time to have some fun!

Visit Gaylord



Ann Arbor

From 18-year-old lifeguard to superintendent: Meet the head of Independence Lake County Park

Updated: Dec. 05, 2021, 9:30 a.m. | Published: Dec. 05, 2021, 9:30 a.m.



In this file photo from 2012, Independence Lake County Park Superintendent Brian Machemer stands near a lifeguard stand at the park in Webster Township. Melanie Maxwell | The Ann Arbor News



By Lucas Smolcic Larson | lsmolciclarsen@mlive.com

WASHTENAW COUNTY, MI - Brian Machemer describes himself, humbly, as “kind of an anomaly.”

Why?

Because since the day it opened to the public in 1980, he hasn't been able to stay away from Independence Lake County Park.

Machemer started there as an 18-year-old lifeguard, a summer job perfect for a high school swimmer like himself. And this coming spring, he intends to retire as the Washtenaw County park's superintendent, after two decades on the job.

Along the way, Machemer has been around for key moments in the development of the largest park managed by the county's Parks and Recreation Commission, [a 446-acre natural area](#) north of Ann Arbor that has long been a popular place for a refreshing summer dip, or a day of ice fishing during the frigid winter months.

After finding a summer job at Independence Lake as a teenager, Machemer estimates he's hired some 1,000 youngsters to staff the park's bustling summer season, attracting those who want to work outside as lifeguards or gate attendants.

He's observed park workers flourish in what is often a first or second job, scrambling to keep the park clean and safe for the summer hoards.

He looks for clear communicators. Still, "I had kids that that can barely say a word, but they'll stay with me for eight years and by the end of it they're just dynamite," he said. "It's wonderful watching them grow."

That responsibility has made him "their pet career counselor," Machemer said.

"I used to tell them, in my 40s at least, I would say I still haven't figured it out," he said.

Machemer took his first assignment at the park in Webster Township right after his family moved to Ann Arbor from Detroit when he was in high school.

At the same time Washtenaw County was scooping up much of the land that would become the public recreation area, which had been used as a company retreat by [Ann Arbor's Argus camera company](#) and then the [Edwards Brothers printing company](#).

From lifeguard, Machemer graduated to management positions and finally a permanent job in parks maintenance. But that didn't last long.

He got a teaching certificate, followed that path outside of Michigan and held other jobs. Then, Machemer returned to take the number two post at Rolling Hills County Park, and finally assumed the helm at Independence Lake.

"I just kept coming back to parks, so it just had an allure," Machemer, an avid backpacker and outdoorsman, said. All told, he's worked at least a part of five different decades for the public department.

Read more: [Yurts, kayak rentals and other improvements planned for Washtenaw County's Independence Lake](#)

Being superintendent is a "24/7" job, he explained. For much of his career, "I never took a vacation. I never took Memorial Day, Labor Day or July 4th off," he said. Those were some of the busiest for the swimming area with nature trails and a children's water park.

Those hectic days might involve overseeing the park's 80-person staff while juggling parking overflows, customers battling over a grill and rouge swimmers who leave the designated area. Machemer [made headlines in 2012](#) when he ran to perform CPR on the limp frame of a 10-year-old boy dragged toward shore by classmates.

The boy began breathing again and survived after being rushed to the hospital in an ambulance. Machemer modestly describes the rescue as a "group effort."

"It went from extremely scary to pretty damn happy," he remembers.

Machemer has also observed changes at the natural area. In its first season some 40 years ago, it was "like a ghost town," he said. Since, the parking lot's capacity has been doubled, and a top-ranked 36-hole disc golf course has drawn players from across the country, the park superintendent says.

In the early 2000s, the installation of a nearly two-mile paved path irritated the parks man, who considered Independence Lake the "natural park," he confessed. But huge amounts of people use those paths, and he's come around. They get people outdoors.

"Ultimately, that's what our job is," Machemer said.

More from The Ann Arbor News:

[Argus Farm Stop opening third Ann Arbor location](#)

[Save the farm, plan the park: Meet the head of Washtenaw County's homegrown conservation program](#)

[Man charged with shooting at police in 36-hour armed standoff pleads no contest](#)

Ann Arbor

4 Washtenaw County mountain biking, hiking and parks projects targeted for \$300K state grants

Updated: Dec. 07, 2021, 6:02 p.m. | Published: Dec. 07, 2021, 6:02 p.m.



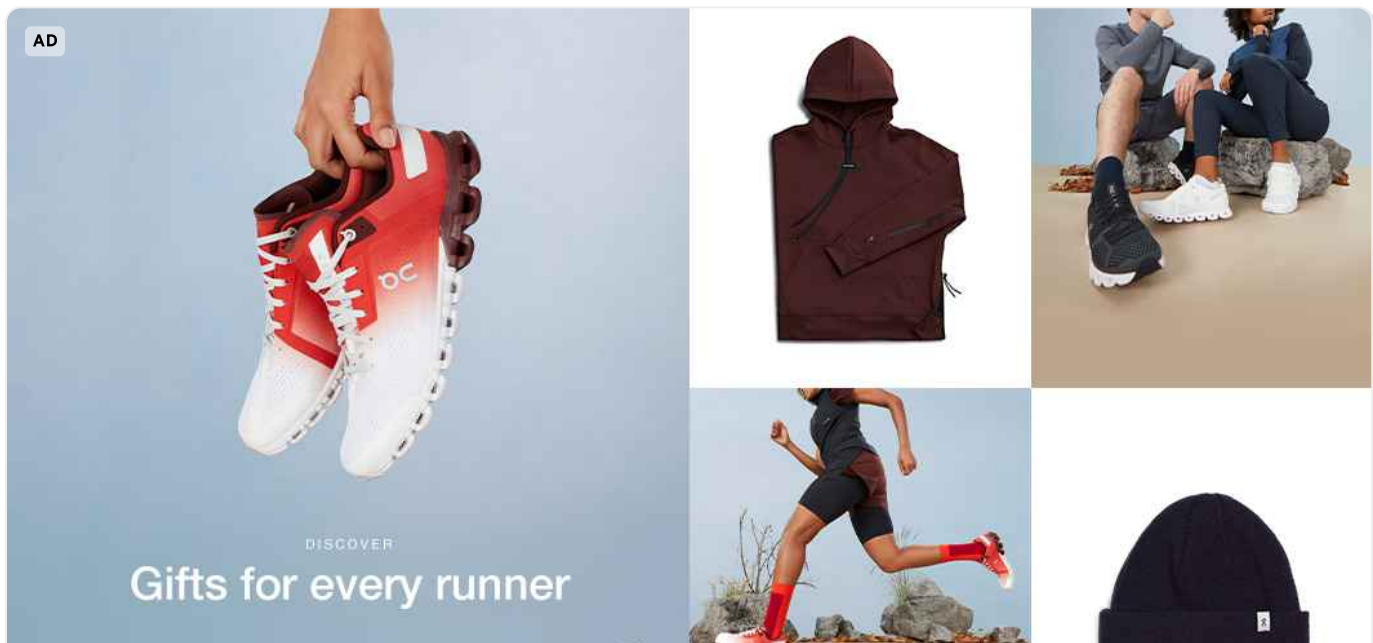
This 2016 file photo shows a sign marking Ypsilanti's Frog Island Park. ANN ARBOR NEWS



WASHTENAW COUNTY, MI - Four Washtenaw County outdoor recreation projects supporting activities like mountain biking, kayaking and hiking are on track to receive \$300,000 each from a state fund, thanks to a recommendation from its board and Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer.

The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund board picked projects in Ypsilanti, Northfield Township, Superior Township and the Pinckney State Recreation Area, [among 117 others](#), for financial support from the 45-year-old fund, originally built up through fossil fuel and mineral royalties.

Advertisement



In Ypsilanti, the state dollars are slated to power Frog Island Park improvements to make a canoe and kayak launch, parking lot and fishing area accessible to people with mobility disabilities.

Advertisement



Northfield Township intends to use the funds for pathways and parking at the in-development Northfield Community Park, and Superior Township wants to put the money toward the development of a multi-use pathway along Plymouth Road.

The final of the four \$300,000 grants headed Washtenaw County's way will facilitate renovations on the [Potawatomi Trail](#), a popular 17.5-mile hiking and mountain biking trail that brings single-track enthusiasts to the Pinckney State Recreation Area north of Dexter.

Those recommendations will now head to the desks of Michigan lawmakers, who review them before approving the grants, according to [a news release from the governor's office](#).

"As our state navigated a second year amid COVID-19 uncertainty, the importance of green spaces and public recreation facilities became a key focus," Michigan Department of Natural Resources Director Dan Eichinger said in a statement. "Time and again, Michigan residents and visitors turned to trails, parks, sports fields and other welcoming public places where they could get out of the house, soak up the sun and connect with family and friends."

Which projects are getting the outdoor recreation funding boost?

×

Ypsilanti officials are celebrating the second year in a row a local project has been nominated to receive support from the state outdoor recreation fund. Last year, the city received a similar grant for [a pathway over I-94 at Huron Street](#), which is planned for construction during the spring of 2022.

The latest grant may contribute to the accessibility project at Frog Island Park in Depot Town. That natural area is a key portal to the Border to Border Trail and Huron River, but much of the facilities there remain impossible to access for those with disabilities, according to the city.

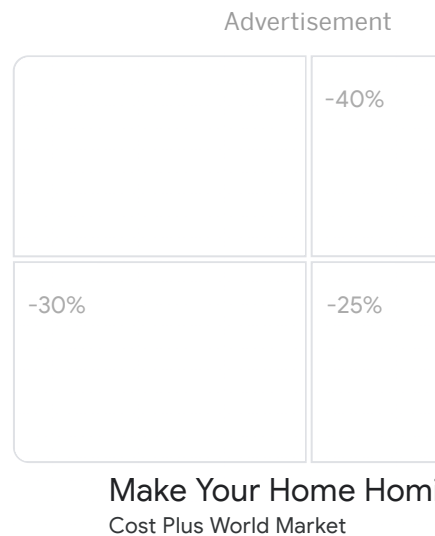
The canoe and kayak launch, for example, is reached by a set of concrete steps or woodchip path, the city said in [its December newsletter](#). Planned improvements will make that launch, the track and soccer field, fishing point and parking lot accessible, while adding bike parking and stormwater controls, according to the city.



North of Ypsilanti, some of the state natural resource fund dollars could also be headed toward a segment of a proposed pathway along the south side Plymouth Road, according to Superior Township Supervisor Ken Schwartz.

The path would run between the Dixboro House restaurant to the east and the intersection of Plymouth Road and Dixboro Road near the entrance to the Marshall Nature Area to the west, Schwartz said.

There's one hiccup to that plan: One landowner along the route is refusing to grant an easement for the path, and the township intends to start eminent domain proceedings if the state grant goes through, according to Schwartz.



The short section of pathway would tie into a path along Dixboro Road to the Matthaei Botanical Gardens, which in turn connects to a path down to Parker Mill County Park, Gallup Park and the Border to Border Trail, Schwartz said.

In the future, township leaders will explore extending the Plymouth Road pathway further east to tie into an existing path running to Plymouth, he added.

Pathways are also part of the plans for the development of Northfield Township's Community Park, along Whitmore Lake north of Ann Arbor.

There, the same day the grant recommendations were announced, township parks officials heard design presentations on from a firm selected earlier this year to guide

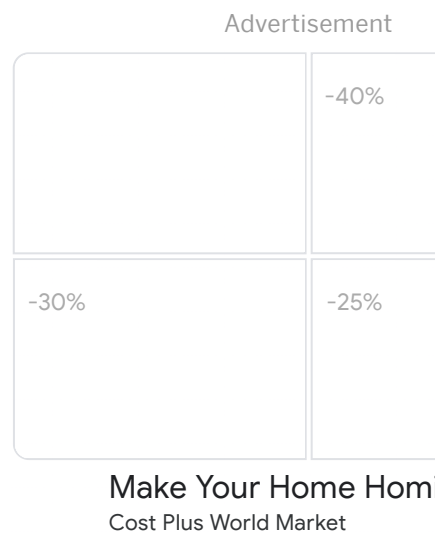
×

“It’s all very timely,” said Northfield Township Treasurer Jacqueline Otto at the [Dec. 2 township Park and Recreation Board meeting](#). “That’s only the beginning, folks.”

The last of the grants potentially headed to Washtenaw County will stay with DNR’s Parks and Recreation Division and fund improvements in the Pinckney Recreation Area, according to the agency.

If approved by the Legislature, the \$300,000 would go toward continuing renovation of the Potawatomi, or “Poto,” Trail, which has suffered heavy erosion in areas that continue to degrade, according to the [Potawatomi Mountain Biking Association](#).

That group has raised money to rehab sections of the nature trail, which weaves between a series of lakes and is used by cyclists, hikers and cross country skiers alike.



The \$1.2 million recommended for projects in Washtenaw County is just a small piece of the yearly pie represented by the Natural Resources Trust Fund.

In total, Michigan recreation projects and land acquisitions totaling \$45.6 million are slated to be funded in 2022 through the program, according to officials.

To view a complete list of projects, [click here](#).

More from The Ann Arbor News:

[Wage theft, scammers, dishonest contractors are target of new Washtenaw County prosecutor unit](#)

[New Ann Arbor IV facility will offer infusion therapy](#)



Digital Report - November 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 - November 2021

SOCIAL MEDIA

facebook

Blue Heron Bay

Monthly Impressions

November	Last Month	Last Year
589	1,430	

Total Post Engagement

November	Last Month	Last Year
0	14	

facebook

Independence Lake

Monthly Impressions

November	Last Month	Last Year
5,728	14,509	

Total Post Engagement

November	Last Month	Last Year
187	699	

facebook

Meri Lou Murray

Monthly Impressions

November	Last Month	Last Year
2,329	2,265	

Total Post Engagement

November	Last Month	Last Year
56	43	

facebook

Pierce Lake

Monthly Impressions

November	Last Month	Last Year
2,801	8,062	

Total Post Engagement

November	Last Month	Last Year
60	285	

facebook

Rolling Hills

Monthly Impressions

November	Last Month	Last Year
41,156	61,781	

Total Post Engagement

November	Last Month	Last Year
1,282	2,713	

facebook

WCPARC

Monthly Impressions

November	Last Month	Last Year
17,749	20,845	

Total Post Engagement

November	Last Month	Last Year
1,273	1,214	

Instagram

Rolling Hills

Total Followers

November	Last Month	Last Year
976	976	

Top Post - Passes

How many people reacted to posts

November	Last Month	Last Year
976	N/A	

Instagram

WCPARC

Total Followers

November	Last Month	Last Year
2,345	2,331	

Top Post - Sharon Mills/Sierra Club

How many people reacted to posts

November	Last Month	Last Year
98	96	



Digital Report - November 2021

Facebook/Instagram - Top Posts

 **washtenawcou...**
Fri 11/19/2021 7:44 am ...

Get out to Sharon Mills and follow the path along the River Raisin to see for yourself!



Total Engagements	98
Likes	94
Comments	2
Saves	2



 **washtenawcou...**
Wed 11/3/2021 5:59 am ...

Cricket-like, high-pitched whistles and trills erupt from a tree. But those sounds aren't!



Total Engagements	88
Likes	86
Comments	2
Saves	0





Digital Report - November 2021

Website, Newsletter, News

Website Statistics

washtenaw.org/parks

November 2021

Total Page Visits	November	Last Month	Sept. Last Year
	14,019	15,909	

Top Pages Viewed	Views
Meri Lou Murray Rec Center	4,559
MLM Rates	1,035
B2B Trail	892
Rolling Hills County Park	693
MLM Fitness	674

In The News

- Save the farm, plan the park. Ginny Leikam article
- From an 18-year old lifeguard to superintendent. Brian Machemer article
- Ypsi/Grove Road bridge - B2B Trail

Monthly Newsletter

WCPARC

November Newsletter via MailChimp

Sent to	Opened	Clicks
6,810	3,645	348

November Newsletter non MailChimp

Sent to	Opened	Clicks
1,102	N/A	

Photography



Grove Road bridge ribbon cutting

Ryan Henyard,
Photo
Ambassador,
taken at
Watkins Lake
State Park &
County
Preserve





Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MEMORANDUM

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

Park Facility Events and Projects

Independence Lake

- Patrons have enjoyed attending Friday Night Park Programs including “New Moon Night Adventures” for a hike through the park and “Full Moon (Beaver Moon),” which included a walk to look for evidence of beaver activity.
- Maintenance Crew is busy preparing for winter season.
- Staff began interviewing for summer 2022 seasonal positions.
- The disc golf pavilion construction is nearing completion. The contractor is still waiting for delivery of solar lighting systems and countertop materials. Some painting needs to be completed when weather allows.

Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center

- Facility returned to offering a “hybrid” group exercise program consisting of in person, virtual, and combination classes.
- Pickleball participation has increased, and staff was able to accommodate two more pickleball courts. The pickleball players committee has been working on a revision of the rules.
- Facility is currently collecting food for Food Gatherers through December and personal hygiene supplies for the Delonis Center until December 15.
- Parking lot expansion is complete with turf seeding and restoration to be finished next spring. This project has added 22 new parking spaces.

Nelson Meade County Farm Park

- The parking lot and driveway paving work has been completed. In addition to the expanded and reconstructed parking lots, a new entrance and driveway to serve the Field Operations building (FOB) was constructed and security gates at the FOB driveway entrance will be installed. Remaining work includes turf seeding and restoration, installation of split rail fencing, and clean-up of debris. Staff will install additional signage to identify the new FOB drive.

Pierce Lake Golf Course

- The contractor has completed paving the cart paths on the front nine holes and installed the base course of asphalt for the maintenance staff parking area. Topsoil installation for seeding and restoration was underway until the recent snows impacted progress; therefore, this work has been suspended for the winter and will resume next spring as soon as site conditions allow.

Rolling Hills Park

- Staff have been focused on recruiting for upcoming Lifeguard Training courses and planning for winter park operations.
- Maintenance staff have been busy finalizing fall clean-up and preparing for winter park use.
- MOB Disc Golf hosted a disc golf tournament on November 21 with 72 participants.
- Over 60 riders participated in Potawatomi Mountain Bike Association's "Black Friday" 15-mile ride through Rolling Hills and Hewen's Creek parks on November 26.
- The annual Cyclocross event also returned with over 150 participants on November 28, held by PlotGnar Promotions and the Ann Arbor Velo Club. A few inches of snow on the ground made the event extra challenging.
- Renovation of the Water Park's concession stand continues.

Staebler Farm Park

- Eight bidders submitted proposals in response to an RFP to construct the multipurpose building and site amenities. Staff and architects from The Collaborative, Inc. (TCI) reviewed proposals and have made a recommendation.
- Architects from TCI presented a final concept for rehabilitating the farmhouse.
- November MFS classes: 11 classes including Blacksmithing 101, Bladesmithing, Parent/Child Blacksmithing, Soap Making, and Homesteading.

Special Initiatives

Border-to-Border Trail (B2B)

- Construction of the Dexter-Chelsea trail segment (CD2), Dancer Road to Wylie Road (1.6 miles) is 90% complete and on track for completion this year with final restoration occurring in the spring.
- Chelsea Connector segment (C1) construction is approaching 75% completion for the first phase of work, which is anticipated to be complete this year. The remainder of the project will be completed in 2022.
- The Grove Road bridge widening over I-94 in the City of Ypsilanti (Y7) is complete and a ribbon cutting was held on November 19.
- Gallup Park reconstruction, a partnership project led by the City of Ann Arbor, is complete except for restoration work that will be finalized in the spring.

Watkins Lake Trail

- Construction on the first two phases of the Watkins Lake gravel rail-trail conversion is substantially complete from Noggles to Austin roads. It is anticipated that the trail will be extended to the parking lot in Jackson County next year.

Natural Areas Preservation Program (NAPP)

Acquisition

- WCPARC closed on the 164-acre Bassett & DeLoof conservation easement in Freedom Township, which was funded by ALPAC and an ACEP-ALE grant.

Stewardship

- More than 50 volunteers helped to remove invasive shrubs and vines at County Farm, Rolling Hills, Independence Lake, and Parker Mill parks. In addition to the Stewardship Saturday events, "Neighborhood Nature Days" began at County Farm Park and Independence Lake Park as monthly workdays. Private volunteer groups included Washtenaw Technical Middle College and Sierra Club Huron Valley Group.
- Boy Scout Johnathan Pinnow completed his Eagle Scout project by constructing and installing a bench and two bat boxes at Draper-Houston Preserve.

- During the Independence and Regular Firearm Hunting events, MiOFO removed 25 deer from Leonard Preserve.
- Invasive plant removal has occurred at Baker Woods, West Lake, Goodrich, Miller-Smith, and Draper-Houston Preserves. Field mowing to control shrubs occurred across 30 acres of West Lake Preserve.
- The Pre-Construction meeting was held at Draper-Houston Preserve to prepare for reconstruction of the boardwalk, a project expected to begin in late December or January.
- Due to a scheduling opportunity with the contractor, the parking lot at Dominican Meadows has been substantially completed. Staff are planning to cut trails and have the Preserve open before the holidays.
- Significant progress has been made at entrance to the Janice Anschuetz Highland Preserve. A parking lot has been constructed with project completion expected in early 2022.
- 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 255 patrons attended naturalist programs. The highlight was the Beaver Program at Sharon Mills Park, which patrons found recent signs of beaver.



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

November 2021 - Claims Report

PARK / FACILITY / FUNCTION	UTILITIES	DIRECT PURCHASES	OTHER	TOTAL
Administration	\$ 1,284.32	\$ 2,574.40	\$ 12,655.97	\$ 16,514.69
Recreation Center	19,815.08	540.70	24,719.86	45,075.64
Park Maintenance	1,590.15	3,638.48	2,972.08	8,200.71
Pierce Lake Golf Course	3,960.75	1,051.88	13,506.37	18,519.00
Independence Lake	2,434.85	956.02	8,257.76	11,648.63
Rolling Hills	2,448.92	14,140.33	7,374.74	23,963.99
Parker Mill	240.61	1,580.73	356.00	2,177.34
Sharon Mills	94.06	39.76	385.00	518.82
Staebler Farm	346.63	162.21	624.00	1,132.84
Swift Run Dog Park	-	-	2,174.40	2,174.40
Capital Improvement	-	-	1,164,347.51	1,164,347.51
Committed Funding Partnerships	-	-	15,000.00	15,000.00
Commission	-	-	500.00	500.00
SUBTOTAL	\$ 32,215.37	\$ 24,684.51	\$ 1,252,873.69	\$ 1,309,773.57
 Road Millage Fund	 -	 -	 683,795.39	 683,795.39
SUBTOTAL	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 683,795.39	\$ 683,795.39
 Natural Areas Preservation Program				
Acquisition	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14,940.00	\$ 14,940.00
Preserve Management	-	2,056.87	1,398.56	\$ 3,455.43
NATAC	-	-	-	\$ -
Acquisition	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 495,544.00	\$ 495,544.00
Annual Monitoring	-	-	-	\$ -
ALPAC	-	-	-	-
SUBTOTAL	\$ -	\$ 2,056.87	\$ 511,882.56	\$ 513,939.43
 TOTAL	 \$ 32,215.37	 \$ 26,741.38	 \$ 2,448,551.64	 \$ 2,507,508.39

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

\$ 2,507,508.39

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

Beginning Fund Balance (1/1/21)	17,612,810	92%	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	2,327,043	65%	(1,232,957)
Interest Earnings	150,000	61,187	41%	(88,813)
Other Revenue & Reimb.	<u>30,000</u>	<u>30,953</u>	103%	<u>953</u>
Total Revenue	11,689,931	10,871,177	93%	(818,754)
Expense (Budget)		Expense (Actual)		Variance
Personnel Services	(6,231,847)	(5,164,537)	83%	1,067,310
Supplies & Other Services	(2,390,854)	(1,913,204)	80%	477,650
Internal Service Charges	(940,957)	(878,497)	93%	62,460
Capital				
Land Acquisition	-	-	-	-
CIP/Development	(3,100,000)	(1,812,403)	58%	1,287,597
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)	(1,988,362)	54%	1,683,938
Transfers Out	(808,000)	(808,000)	100%	-
Total Expense	<u>(14,043,958)</u>	<u>(10,752,600)</u>	77%	3,291,358
Surplus/(Deficit)	(2,354,027)	118,578		
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>9,090,944</u>		

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

Beginning Fund Balance (1/1/21)	6,662,301	92%	YTD % Budget	
Revenue (Budget)		Revenue (Actual)		Variance
Property Tax	3,936,536	4,210,019	107%	273,483
Federal Revenue	-	-		-
Interest Earnings	50,000	25,970	52%	(24,030)
Other Revenue & Reimb.	<u>5,000</u>	<u>544</u>	11%	<u>(4,456)</u>
Total Revenue	3,991,536	4,236,533	106%	244,997
Expense (Budget)		Expense (Actual)		Variance
Personnel Services	(675,600)	(461,565)	68%	214,035
Supplies & Other Services	(332,600)	(196,689)	59%	135,911
Internal Service Charges	(22,840)	(17,272)	76%	5,568
Capital				
Land Acquisition	(2,550,000)	(2,196,605)	86%	353,395
Land Development	-	-		-
Machinery & Equipment	<u>(5,000)</u>	<u>-</u>	0%	<u>5,000</u>
Capital Subtotal	(2,555,000)	(2,196,605)	86%	358,395
Transfers Out	(7,500)	(33,950)	453%	
Total Expense	<u>(3,593,540)</u>	<u>(2,906,081)</u>	81%	713,909
Surplus/(Deficit)	397,996	1,330,452		
Projected Fund Balance (12/31/21)	<u>7,060,297</u>	<u>7,992,753</u>		

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

	GATE					
	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
RESIDENT (ANNUAL)	1,484	1,131	2,144	\$ 40,680	\$ 33,930	\$ 64,320
NON-RESIDENT (ANNUAL)	176	93	207	6,750	4,185	9,315
RESIDENTS (DAILY)	12,743	3,912	9,392	76,458	23,472	56,352
NON-RESIDENTS (DAILY)	18,903	1,561	8,731	189,030	15,610	87,310
SENIOR (DAILY)	900	222	538	2,700	666	1,614
SENIOR NON-RES. (DAILY)	624	30	265	3,744	180	1,590
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>35,006</u>	<u>6,970</u>	<u>21,290</u>	<u>\$ 323,982</u>	<u>\$ 78,158</u>	<u>\$ 220,706</u>

PERCENT OF NON-RESIDENTS:

ANNUAL	10.60%	7.60%	8.80%
DAILY	58.87%	27.79%	47.53%

WATER PARK POOL ATTENDANCE

	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
DAILY ENTRANCE	<u>123,418</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>38,778</u>	<u>\$ 1,040,014</u>	<u>\$ 48</u>	<u>\$ 402,006</u>
	123,418	4	38,778	\$ 1,040,014	\$ 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	4,432	2,832	2,960	8,864	5,664	5,920
SPECIAL EVENTS	<u>3,449</u>	<u>855</u>	<u>1,331</u>	<u>33,100</u>	<u>9,552</u>	<u>20,576</u>
	10,582	3,687	6,630	\$ 105,262	\$ 15,216	\$ 78,933

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

PROGRAMMING & RETAIL OPERATIONS (cont'd)

	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
FACILITY RENTALS						
WEEKDAYS	26	2	44	\$ 2,543	\$ 40	\$ 4,505
WEEKENDS	158	17	151	17,712	1,560	19,875
SOCCER FIELDS	5,289	192	192	15,200	550	550
DISC GOLF COURSE	-	-	10	-	-	950
WATERPARK SHELTERS	33	-	-	1,240	-	-
	<u>5,506</u>	<u>211</u>	<u>397</u>	<u>\$ 36,695</u>	<u>\$ 2,150</u>	<u>\$ 25,880</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	40	4	2	412	478	365
	<u>136,902</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>47,759</u>	<u>\$ 235,746</u>	<u>\$ 478</u>	<u>\$ 83,674</u>
	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
YTD TOTAL PARTICIPATION & REVENUE:	311,820	10,876	116,549	\$ 1,742,917	\$ 96,050	\$ 816,287

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

MEMBERSHIPS

	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
INDIVIDUAL RESIDENT	961	375	778	\$ 200,211	\$ 69,104	\$ 82,059
INDIVIDUAL NON-RESIDENT	19	5	10	5,875	2,060	1,784
S/Y/D RESIDENT	1,350	471	906	222,092	76,432	81,597
S/Y/D NON-RESIDENT	4	3	-	1,050	788	-
FAMILY RESIDENT	276	136	220	104,550	36,222	36,376
FAMILY NON-RESIDENT	2	1	2	1,480	735	767
FAMILY - ADDT'L MEMBER	16	9	8	1,021	307	192
SENIORS OVER 80	406	139	363	24,090	7,965	12,201
PERSONAL TRAINERS	18	1	8	5,960	303	1,075
MILITARY PASS	3	3	5	360	366	576
30-DAY PASS	754	447	1,481	32,600	19,218	34,852
SEASONAL PASS	126	-	-	9,920	-	-
REPLACEMENT PASS	-	36	8	-	36	8
SUB-TOTAL	3,935	1,626	3,789	\$ 609,210	\$ 213,536	\$ 251,488
PASS FACILITY USE	158,468	52,235				
PERCENT OF NON-RESIDENTS:	0.96%	0.91%	0.63%			

DAILY ENTRIES

	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
INDIVIDUAL RESIDENT	8,187	2,552	377	\$ 65,496	\$ 20,416	\$ 3,397
INDIVIDUAL NON-RESIDENT	900	212	94	8,100	1,908	939
S/Y/D RESIDENT	7,476	2,122	448	44,856	12,732	3,081
S/Y/D NON-RESIDENT	328	105	31	2,296	735	218
INDIVIDUAL FITNESS RESIDENT	205	46	1	1,256	264	8
INDIVIDUAL FITNESS NON-RESIDENT	-	-	-	-	-	-
SENIOR FITNESS RESIDENT	553	129	-	3,041	756	-
SENIOR FITNESS NON-RESIDENT	16	3	-	35	14	-
DAILY PASS/GIFT CERTIFICATE SALES	-	75	1	3,606	450	245
SUB-TOTAL	17,665	5,244	952	\$ 128,686	\$ 37,275	\$ 7,888
PERCENT OF NON-RESIDENTS:	7.04%	6.19%	13.14%			

OTHER REVENUE

	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
DAYCAMP	3,299	23	13	\$ 89,077	\$ 630	\$ 360
RECREATION PROGRAMS	35,770	12,489	26,932	185,508	30,155	64,951
FACILITY RENTALS	252	106	100	6,050	2,554	2,400
POOL/STUDIO/GYM	-	-	-	-	-	-
PARTY PAVILION	-	-	-	-	-	-
MISC. RETAIL	-	96	103	10,886	2,682	3,225
LOCKERS	29,267	9,068	4,520	7,317	2,267	1,130
VENDING	-	-	-	1,425	1,208	-
SUB-TOTAL	68,588	21,783	31,668	\$ 300,264	\$ 39,497	\$ 72,066

	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
YTD TOTAL PARTICIPATION & REVENUE:	248,656	80,888	36,410	\$ 1,038,160	\$ 290,307	\$ 331,441

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

GREEN FEES

	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
WEEKDAYS						
REGULAR - 9	943	708	780	\$ 7,483	\$ 8,028	\$ 9,316
SR/JR/STUDENT - 9	525	671	666	7,532	11,325	11,151
LEAGUES - 9	4,104	2,771	3,439	65,931	47,585	58,463
REGULAR - 18	2,151	3,995	3,434	64,394	120,135	117,386
SR/JR/STUDENT - 18	4,379	3,481	4,645	88,380	83,348	109,134
TWI-LIGHT	1,948	2,140	1,512	32,318	42,495	29,025
WEEKENDS						
REGULAR - 9	250	261	244	5,486	6,713	6,159
SR/JR/STUDENT - 9	39	38	12	624	722	228
REGULAR - 18	3,647	3,621	5,349	121,243	129,314	194,296
SR/JR/STUDENT - 18	289	252	496	7,514	7,288	14,532
TWI-LIGHT	1,295	1,390	819	29,665	35,440	20,666
EARLY BIRD - 9	58	36	35	928	684	665
MEMBERSHIPS						
ULTIMATE PACKAGE	426	523	679	9,500	14,776	24,898
WEEKDAY PACKAGE	765	1,218	1,518	9,400	10,257	14,921
WEEKEND PACKAGE	139	-	183	750	-	800
TWI-LIGHT PACKAGE	355	320	284	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>
	22,489	21,517	24,883	\$ 492,585	\$ 524,628	\$ 645,025

PROGRAMMING & RETAIL OPERATIONS

	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
CARTS	17,554	16,932	20,384	\$ 118,507	\$ 116,564	\$ 143,451
RENTALS	<u>66</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>660</u>	<u>280</u>	<u>390</u>
	17,620	16,960	20,423	\$ 119,167	\$ 116,844	\$ 143,841
FOOD & BEVERAGE	45,069	30,492	49,032	\$ 120,885	\$ 82,721	\$ 136,254
PRO SHOP	3,370	2,796	3,531	37,882	34,008	45,316
DISCOUNTS	-	-	-	(71,308)	(89,581)	(135,486)
VENDING	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>817</u>	<u>1,299</u>	<u>1,058</u>
	48,439	33,288	52,563	\$ 88,276	\$ 28,447	\$ 47,143
	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
YTD TOTAL PARTICIPATION & REVENUE:	88,548	71,765	97,869	\$ 700,028	\$ 669,918	\$ 836,009

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

GATE

	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
RESIDENTS (ANNUAL)	963	1,016	1,310	\$ 27,930	\$ 30,480	\$ 39,300
NON-RESIDENTS (ANNUAL)	173	184	339	7,245	8,280	15,255
RESIDENTS (DAILY)	5,619	5,234	6,724	33,714	31,404	40,344
NON-RESIDENTS (DAILY)	4,892	4,493	6,817	48,920	44,930	68,170
SENIOR (DAILY)	575	508	764	1,725	1,524	2,292
SENIOR-NON RES. (DAILY)	321	257	400	1,926	1,542	2,400
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>
	12,605	11,698	16,376	\$ 123,005	\$ 118,430	\$ 168,451

PERCENT OF NON-RESIDENTS:

ANNUAL	15.2%	15.3%	20.6%
DAILY	45.7%	45.3%	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	-	25	\$ 80	\$ -	\$ 925
BIRTHDAY PACKAGES	15	-	-	1,541	-	-
SPECIAL EVENTS	<u>3</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>250</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>180</u>
	22	-	26	\$ 1,871	\$ -	\$ 1,105
LOCKERS	143	-	-	\$ 36	\$ -	-
FOOD CONCESSIONS	10,229	118	7,361	21,434	125	15,755
ACCESSORIES/MISC.	<u>39</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>83</u>
	10,411	120	7,392	\$ 21,524	\$ 175	\$ 15,838



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MEMORANDUM

To: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

From: Coy P. Vaughn, Director

Date: December 14, 2021

Re: Staebler Farm Park – RFP #8167 Multipurpose Building & Site Construction, Contractor Award

Background

In 2019, staff engaged architects from The Collaborative Inc. (TCI) to provide programming and schematic design of a multipurpose building at Staebler Farm County Park to accommodate WCPARC needs and classes for partner, the Michigan Folk School. At the October 2019 Parks Commission meeting, architects from TCI presented the initial design of the building. Subsequently, TCI addressed Commissioners' concerns regarding design elements of the new building to ensure it complements the historical character of the park. After a year-long hiatus due to COVID-19, the Commission approved release of a Request for Proposal (RFP #8167) to solicit bids for Multipurpose Building construction and supporting site development in accordance with the County's standard procurement protocol and was advertised by the Purchasing Department.

TCI has provided detailed estimated costs, construction drawings, and material specifications for the multipurpose building. The cost estimated for the building is \$3.7 million. Additional site elements include installation of well and septic field for the building; pathways to allow for connectivity between parking lot, building, and existing workshop; paving and extending the existing parking lot; and construction of a left-hand turn lane required by the WCRC along Plymouth Road. There is currently \$4.4M planned in the CIP for the construction of the building and site elements.

Discussion

Representatives from 31 companies (including general contractors and specialists) attended a pre-bid meeting held on October 18, 2021; eight proposals were submitted on November 16. The bid documents incorporated elements as listed above requesting a base sum figure, an add Alternate #1 a recessed wood floor and a deduct Alternate #2 to replace exterior wood cladding with fiber cement board. The bidding contractors were also asked to provide unit prices for selective elements, which will be used for quantity deletions or additions during the project execution. The project base sum costs ranged from \$3,489,818 to \$4,593,000. The bid tabulation below includes the submitted bid sum totals, as well as a 2% reduction consideration for local vendors, per the Purchasing Department policy.

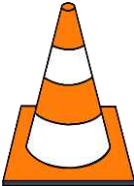
Company Name and Location	Base Bid Lump Sum	2% Local Vendor Pref.
DCR Services & Construction – Detroit, MI	\$3,489,818	N/A
Sorensen Gross Company – Flint, MI	\$3,728,000	N/A
Phoenix Contractors, Inc. – Dexter, MI	\$3,797,000	\$3,721,060
A.R. Brouwer Company – Dexter, MI	\$3,975,000	\$3,895,500
The Dailey Company – Lake Orion, MI	\$4,044,000	N/A
O'Neal Const. of Michigan – Ann Arbor, MI	\$4,308,000	\$4,221,840
North American Const. Enterprise, LLC – Ypsilanti, MI	\$4,430,000	\$4,341,400
A.Z. Schmina, Inc. – Brighton, MI	\$4,593,000	N/A

The RFP was structured to allow selection of the contractor who would be the most advantageous regarding price and quality of service, as well as consideration of qualifications and capabilities to successfully complete the project, among other factors. On November 30 and December 1, TCI architects conducted Scope Reviews with the four lowest bidders, all of whom provided bids below the architect's estimated project costs. In addition, the bidders were asked specific Parks Commissioner "Responsible Contracting" questions.

After the interviews, parks staff and TCI architects discussed their findings, and it was determined that the third lowest bidder, Phoenix Contractors, Inc. of Dexter, Michigan, would provide the best service based on project understanding, completion of projects with similar scope, successful experience completing past Parks Commission projects, and being lowest Washtenaw County bidder.

Recommendation

Based on the factors listed above, it is my recommendation that the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission award a Service Contract in the amount of \$3,797,000 to Phoenix Contractors, Inc. for this project (RFP #8167) and include an additional 20% (\$760,000) contingency for potential change orders.

	A.R BROUWER COMPANY	THE DAILEY COMPANY	O'NEAL CONSTRUCTION	A.Z SHMINA	NORTH AMERICA	PHOENIX	DCR	SOERSEN GROSS COMPANY
CONCRETE - 5"								
QTY	3500	3500	3500	3500	3500	3500	3500	3500
UNIT	SF	SF	SF	SF	SF	SF	SF	SF
UNIT PRICE	\$5.65	\$5.50	\$7.00	Bid as Proposed	\$7.50	Bid as Proposed	\$8.50	NOT PROVIDED
TOTAL PRICE	\$19,775.00	\$19,250.00	\$24,500.00	Bid as Proposed	\$26,250.00	Bid as Proposed	\$29,750.00	NOT PROVIDED
ASPHALT - 4"								
QTY	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45
UNIT	CY	CY	CY	CY	CY	CY	CY	CY
UNIT PRICE	\$275.00	\$300.00	\$250.00	Bid as Proposed	\$375.00	Bid as Proposed	\$130.00	NOT PROVIDED
TOTAL PRICE	\$12,375.00	\$13,500.00	\$11,250.00	Bid as Proposed	\$16,875.00	Bid as Proposed	\$5,850.00	NOT PROVIDED
STONE BASE 21AA CRUSHED LIMESTONE								
QTY	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90
UNIT	CY	CY	CY	CY	CY	CY	CY	CY
UNIT PRICE	\$45.00	\$70.00	\$65.00	Bid as Proposed	\$55.00	Bid as Proposed	\$96.00	NOT PROVIDED
TOTAL PRICE	\$4,050.00	\$6,300.00	\$5,850.00	Bid as Proposed	\$4,950.00	Bid as Proposed	\$8,640.00	NOT PROVIDED
SEEDING								
QTY	350	350	350	350	350	350	350	350
UNIT	SYD	SYD	SYD	SYD	SYD	SYD	SYD	SYD
UNIT PRICE	\$6.20	\$1.50	\$1.30	Bid as Proposed	\$2.50	Bid as Proposed	\$6.00	NOT PROVIDED
TOTAL PRICE	\$2,170.00	\$525.00	\$455.00	Bid as Proposed	\$875.00	Bid as Proposed	\$2,100.00	NOT PROVIDED
GRADING								
QTY	225	225	225	225	225	225	225	225
UNIT	CY	CY	CY	CY	CY	CY	CY	CY
UNIT PRICE	\$3.85	\$30.00	\$36.00	Bid as Proposed	\$25.00	Bid as Proposed	\$15.00	NOT PROVIDED
TOTAL PRICE	\$870.00	\$8,100.00	\$8,100.00	Bid as Proposed	\$5,625.00	Bid as Proposed	\$3,375.00	NOT PROVIDED
GRAVEL WALK/SIDEWALK REMOVAL								
QTY	480	480	480	480	480	480	480	480
UNIT	SYD	SYD	SYD	SYD	SYD	SYD	SYD	SYD
UNIT PRICE	\$12.40	\$9.00	\$12.00	Bid as Proposed	\$9,600.00	Bid as Proposed	\$115.00	NOT PROVIDED
TOTAL PRICE	\$5,950.00	\$4,320.00	\$5,760.00	Bid as Proposed	\$9,600.00	Bid as Proposed	\$55,200.00	NOT PROVIDED
LUMP SUM BID AMOUNT								
	\$3,975,000.00	\$4,044,000.00	\$4,308,000.00	\$4,593,000.00	\$4,430,000.00	\$3,797,000.00	\$3,489,818.00	\$3,728,000.00
ALTERNATE NO. 1	\$25,370.00	\$26,685.00	\$35,000.00	\$35,000.00	\$18,500.00	\$45,000.00	\$75,000.00	\$8,800.00
ALTERNATE NO. 2	(\$51,545.00)	(\$55,000.00)	TBD	(\$110,000.00)	0	(\$65,000.00)	(\$25,000.00)	(\$2,100.00)
BID BOND RECEIVED	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

As read at bid opening
Tuesday, November 16th, 2021
Prepared by Kaitlyn Sewell
Management Assistant





Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

PUBLIC NOTICE WASHTENAW COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING CALENDAR – 2022

The Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission monthly meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 2:00pm, excluding the month of July (no meeting). Unless otherwise noticed, all meetings are held at the County Learning Resource Center (LRC) Building – Michigan Room, located at 4135 Washtenaw Ave., Ann Arbor, MI.

This notice is posted in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, P.A. 267 of 1976.

January 11th
February 8th
March 8th
April 12th
May 10th
June 14th
July – No Meeting
August 9th
September 13th
October 11th
November 8th
December 13th

The County of Washtenaw will provide reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audiotapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon seven (7) days' notice to the County of Washtenaw. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the County of Washtenaw by writing or calling the following:

Washtenaw County Human Resources
 220 N. Main St
 P.O. Box 8645
 Ann Arbor, Michigan 48107-8645
 (734) 222-6800
 TDD# (734) 994-1733

cc: Washtenaw County Clerk
 Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MEMORANDUM

To: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Coy P. Vaughn, Director
Date: December 14, 2021
Re: 2022 Facility Fee Modifications & Policy Changes

Background

WCPARC takes great pride in our history of providing quality recreation opportunities to County residents at the most affordable rates possible. Periodically, the Commission adjusts fees at WCPARC facilities to stay in keeping with industry trends and changes in the local market. The last fee modifications were done in 2020. Staff has researched competitor fees and proposed the following revisions to the current fee schedule for the Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center, Pierce Lake Golf Course and Rolling Hills County Park.

Discussion

Meri Lou Murray (MLM) Recreation Center

Since opening the MLM Recreation Center in 1991, we have periodically adjusted annual and daily pass fees in response to our increased operating expenses. Because this periodic rate-hike approach has failed to keep pace with our increasing operating expenses and a review of membership rates at other recreation facilities in Southeast Michigan demonstrates that our current rates are significantly lower than the market standard, the staff is recommending a 15% increase in membership rates (see Table 1 below). Although not enough to meet current expenses due to inflation, minimum wage and operational expenditures, this increase allows for us to maintain our current operating hours. Staff used the Saline Recreation Center, Livonia Recreation Center, and the Ann Arbor YMCA for comparison purposes.

Membership categories have been limited to a monthly or annual fee based upon the membership category. With our capacity restrictions in place for the better part of 2021, we only recently resumed taking daily drop-ins via our daily entry fees, and therefore the monthly pass was heavily used by people who needed temporary access to a facility while COVID restrictions were preventing other facilities from opening. Traditionally, this option is also used by patrons who wish to try-out the facility before committing to a full year membership. In addition to our current membership fees, we recommend reinstating a 6-month option as this is also a frequent request of our members that leave the area for the winter. This option would be most cost effective than paying month-by-month but still incentivizes folks to strongly consider an annual membership.

It is also recommended that we transition away from our deeply subsidized “Seniors over 80” membership category. While appreciated by our most senior members, participation in this membership category has decreased from 356 members in 2019 to 169 members in 2021. We speculate that this decrease is largely due to COVID and anticipate that those numbers will increase when the health outlook of the global pandemic improves. Additionally, during our review of other SE Michigan recreation facilities there are no other recreation centers that provide membership categories beyond the reduced senior rate (around 65 years of age). Any of our existing patrons that are currently taking advantage of this subsidized “Seniors over 80” category will be grandfathered into the fee, while those less than 79 years of age on January 1, 2022 will maintain their senior rate.

Staff is recommending that the proposed membership fee changes would go into effect January 1st. Additional rate increases are likely needed and will continue to be reviewed annually. Staff will continue to evaluate costs, compare rates of other nearby facilities, and make further recommendations as additional modifications are warranted.

Table 1: Proposed 2022 Fees - Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center

	Resident		Non-Resident	
Daily Fee	Proposed 2022 Fees	Current Fees	Proposed 2022 Fees	Current Fees
Individual	\$10	\$9	\$12	\$10
Senior (65+) **	\$8	\$7	\$9	\$8
Teen (13-19)	\$6	\$6	\$7	\$6
Monthly Fee (30 day)				
Individual, Teen or Senior	\$52	\$45	\$52	\$45
Family	\$115	\$100	\$115	\$100
Six Month Pass				
Adult	\$178		\$237	
Senior (65+)**	\$140		\$186	
Teen (13-19)	\$121		\$161	
Annual Passes*				
Individual	\$273	\$237	\$408	\$355
Family	\$587	\$510	\$882	\$767
Over 80	Remove category	\$65	Remove category	\$65
Senior (65+) **	\$214	\$186	\$320	\$278
Teen (13-19)	\$186	\$186	\$278	\$278

*Rates reflect the cost of purchasing a membership paid in full; annual membership with month-by-month billing rates will reflect administrative costs including credit card processing fees.

** Military status for veterans, active, training or on-leave classifications.

Table 2: Comparable Fee Analysis - Southeast Michigan Recreation Centers

	Saline Recreation Center		Livonia Recreation Center		Ann Arbor YMCA Does not include the initial fee costs
Daily Fee	Resident	Non-Res	Resident	Non-res	
Individual	\$12		\$8.50	\$17	N/A
Senior	\$8		\$5 Ages 62+	\$10	N/A
Youth	\$5		\$7	\$14	N/A
	Month (res/non)	Year (res/non)	Month (res/non)	Year (res/non)	Month/Year
Individual Adult	\$33 / \$42	\$319/\$409	\$22/\$44	\$230 / \$460	\$52 / \$624
Family	\$64 / \$79	\$617/\$759	\$41/\$82	\$470 / \$940	\$85 / \$1020
Senior	\$25 / \$33	\$239/\$319	\$19.25/\$38.50	\$195 / \$390	\$39 / \$468
Teen (12-19)	\$26 / \$33	\$253/\$319	\$18/\$36	\$177 / \$354	\$15 / \$180

Rolling Hills County Park

Currently, the Rolling Hills Water Park is open from 11AM-7PM on weekdays and 11AM-8PM on weekends from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Moving to the same hours of operation, 11AM-7PM, seven days/week will allow for continuity and clarity for both guests, staffing and operations. Additionally, having the same hours of operation each day, creates a uniform pricing structure that also be modified to the same pricing each day (instead of weekend/weekday/holiday rates).

Rolling Hills Water Parks is in line with other water park facilities in offering a free rate for children under 36" (roughly the average height of a 3-year-old child). The youth admission rate (patrons 36"-42") was implemented in 2013 and currently makes up 4% of seasonal admission sales, on average. Although children in this height category are not able to ride the large water slides, they require more supervision regarding swimming strength, rule enforcement, and monitoring for lost children. Based on these factors, staff is recommending removal of the youth admission rate but continuing to offer a free entry for children under 36" in height.

With minimum wage increasing substantially each year from 2020-2030 for the 180+ water park employees, the seasonal wages budget line will see a considerable increase each year. To offset these overhead costs and be in more in line with what other water park facilities charge for admission, staff is proposing to increase General Admission to \$11 for Residents and \$13 for Non-Residents. The after 5PM admission rate would be offered daily, giving patrons a \$2 per ticket discount (\$9 Resident/\$11 Non-Resident), instead of offering that discount only on weekdays. See Table 3 below for proposed fee modifications and comparisons. Staff used Red Oaks (Oakland County Parks), Zehnder's Splash Village (Frankenmuth), Buhr Park Pool (Ann Arbor), and Turtle Cove Water Park (HCMA) for comparison purposes.

Table 3: 2022 Fee Proposal – Rolling Hills Water Park & Comparable Fee Analysis

	Rolling Hills Rates		Survey of Comparable Facilities			
	Proposed 2022 Fees (res/non-res)	Current Fees (res/non-res)	Red Oaks (res/non-res)	Zehnder's Splash Village	Buhr Pool Ann Arbor	Turtle Cove
General Weekday Admission	\$11 / \$13	\$9 / \$11	\$20		\$6 2 hours of swimming	\$11
General Weekend Admission	\$11 / \$13	\$11 / \$13	\$20	\$45 half day \$55 full day	\$6 2 hours of swimming	\$11
Youth Admission	Remove admission rate	\$7/ \$9 weekday \$9 / \$11 weekend			\$5 Under the age of 18	\$9 Under 48"
Free	Under 36"	Under 36"		Ages 3 & under		Under 30"
Groups (20+) 11AM-2PM	\$6	\$6				
Evening Rate (after 5:00PM)	(\$2) available everyday	(\$2) weekdays only				

** Military discount of (\$2) for veterans, active, training or on-leave classifications.

Pierce Lake Golf Course (PLGC)

Throughout the pandemic, golf was a sport that people were able to continue to play safely in an outdoor environment. Data gathered over the past two years has shown a dramatic increase in the number of new golfers. Since 2018, Pierce Lake Golf Course has undergone significant capital improvement projects (e.g., parking lot reconfiguration and paving/replacement of cart path and boardwalks) with additional projects anticipated to continue in 2020.

Recently staff completed a survey of fees at other local golf courses—Stonebridge Golf Club (Pittsfield Township), Eagle Crest (Ypsilanti Township), The Grande Golf Club (Jackson), Timber Trace Golf Club (Pinckney) and Hudson Mills (HCMA)—for comparison purposes (see Table 4). Staff is confident that a fee increase of \$4.00 across the board would be acceptable to our patrons. This proposed fee modification keeps PLGC at or below the rates of most of our local competition.

Table 4: 2022 Fee Proposal – Pierce Lake Golf Course & Comparable Fee Analysis

18 Holes Pricing							
	Pierce Lake Golf Course		Summary of Comparable Course Fees				
	Proposed 2022 Fees	Current Fees	Stonebridge	Eagle Crest	The Grande	Timber Trace	Hudson Mills
Weekday	\$46	\$42	\$59	\$59	\$59	\$52	\$35
Senior Weekday (60+)	\$36	\$32	\$45	\$36	\$48	\$44	\$22
Weekend	\$53	\$49	\$55	\$69	\$72	\$69	\$42
Weekday Twilight*	\$33	\$29	\$33 After 6PM	\$30 After 6PM	\$48 After 2PM	\$40 After 2PM	\$20 After 5:30PM
Weekend Twilight*	\$38	\$34	\$33 After 6PM	\$30 After 6PM	\$59 After 2PM	\$48 After 2PM	\$20 After 5:30PM

* Pricing levels exist for twilight rates. The price above shows the early twilight option which begins at 4PM. Next phase after 6PM.

** Military discount of (\$2) for veterans, active, training or on-leave classifications.

Unlimited Memberships *includes golf round with use of cart Sunday–Saturday							
	Pierce Lake Golf Course		Summary of Comparable Course Fees				
	Proposed 2022 Fees	Current Fees	Stonebridge	Green Oaks	Lake Forest	Leslie Park	Calderone
Individual Membership	\$1375	\$1250	\$1900	\$1050	\$1695	\$1495	\$1500
Senior Membership	\$1075	\$950	NA	\$750	\$995	\$1095	\$1300

Recommendation

It is my recommendation that the Commission authorize the abovementioned fee modifications and other associated policy changes for Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center, Pierce Lake Golf Course and Rolling Hills, effective January 1, 2022.



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MEMORANDUM

To: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Coy P. Vaughn, Director
Date: December 14, 2021
Re: ALPAC Budget Adjustment

Background

Within the last year, WCPARC has closed on two conservation easements which were eligible, in portion, for reimbursement through the United State Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS). In addition, and although unlikely, the conservation easement on the Poulter Farm property may close in December 2021, necessitating additional budgeted funds. Though the Director can authorize intra-fund budget adjustments, provided there are no implications on the operating reserve, large adjustments are brought to the Commission to ensure detailed financial oversight.

Discussion

Reimbursement in the amount of \$364,449 is anticipated for the Karnatz Farm/Selter and Bassett & DeLoof easements. Representative totals are \$147,624 for Karnatz Farm/Selter and \$216,825 for Bassett & DeLoof, respectively. Completion of this adjustment increases the Federal Revenue line and the Land Acquisition line within the ALPAC fund. The conservation easement on the Poulter property was approved by the Commission in September 2021 for a total of \$468,222 to be paid by WCPARC and \$480,000 by the Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development and WCPARC at closing. A summary of the request is included below.

Fund	Account	Type	Title	Increase/(Decrease)
ALPAC	20917500.500000	Revenue	Federal Revenue	364,449
ALPAC	20917500.679300	Revenue	Fund Bal Use	468,222
ALPAC	20917500.982000	Expense	Fund Bal Contribution	(139,334)
ALPAC	20917500.961000	Expense	Land Acquisition	972,005

Recommendation

It is my recommendation that the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission authorize a budget adjustment to increase the 2021 ALPAC budget by a net amount of \$832,671, in alignment with Federal Revenue received from the USDA-NRCS in 2021, reduction in the planned contribution to fund balance due to 2021 acquisitions, and the potential closing of the Poulter conservation easement.



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MEMORANDUM

TO: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Coy P. Vaughn, Director
DATE: December 14, 2021
RE: Recommendation for Sales Contract: Maisel – Northfield Township

Background

In late 2020, the Maisel property in Northfield Township was nominated to the Washtenaw County Natural Areas Preservation Program for consideration of fee simple acquisition. The Natural Areas Technical Advisory Committee (NATAC) designated as a Tier 1 priority for Round 21, as consideration for a new nature preserve.

Discussion

The roughly 220-acre Maisel property currently under consideration is in close proximity to WCPARC's existing Northfield Woods Preserve. There is possibility of future direct connection to Northfield Woods Preserve, but the Maisel property also has a suitable site for a parking lot and is large enough to host its own trails.

NATAC visited the site in late 2020 as part of their evaluation of Round 21 nominations. The land's primary value as a protected area is its massive size for just a single purchase. The large size offers core habitat for wildlife. The land is a variety of wet vegetations communities with interspersed upland knolls. The property was identified as a Tier 1 priority for Round 21 nominations. The Assessment and Prioritization Mapping identified the property as medium-low quality and did not prioritize it. The Commission's scoring yielded 55/100.

There were two additional tax parcels nominated that NATAC is not moving forward with. These are a 40-acre, industrial-zoned parcel fronting on Territorial Road that was appraised for \$2,000,000 and a 50-acre farm parcel that is being considered separately for a conservation easement. The "old barn" noted on the Field Review Worksheet is on one these parcels and thus not an issue in the final purchase.

The City of Ann Arbor Greenbelt has been an active partner in this project from its beginning. The Greenbelt ordered an appraisal that was completed in February 2021. The appraised value was determined to be \$1,429,000 based on 219.87 acres, or roughly \$6,499/acre. The landowner has reviewed the appraisal and is willing to move forward at that price. NATAC recommended at their October 4, 2021 meeting to move forward with a sales contract, contingent upon 75% contribution from outside funding. Ann Arbor City Council recommended at their December 6, 2021 meeting to contribute 75% of the purchase price. WCPARC will own and manage the property.

City of Ann Arbor	\$1,071,750.00 (75%)
WCPARC	\$357,250.00 (25%)
FMV	\$1,429,000.00

Recommendation

Based upon the Natural Areas Technical Advisory Committee and staff review of the property, I recommend that the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission authorize preparation of a sales contract in the amount of \$1,429,000, to be adjusted on a per-acre basis by the surveyed acreage, and contribute 25% of the purchase price as outlined above for the fee simple purchase of the Maisel property in Northfield Township, contingent upon completion of all necessary due diligence investigation and final approval by the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission.

Attachments

Maisel Property: Aerial & Soils

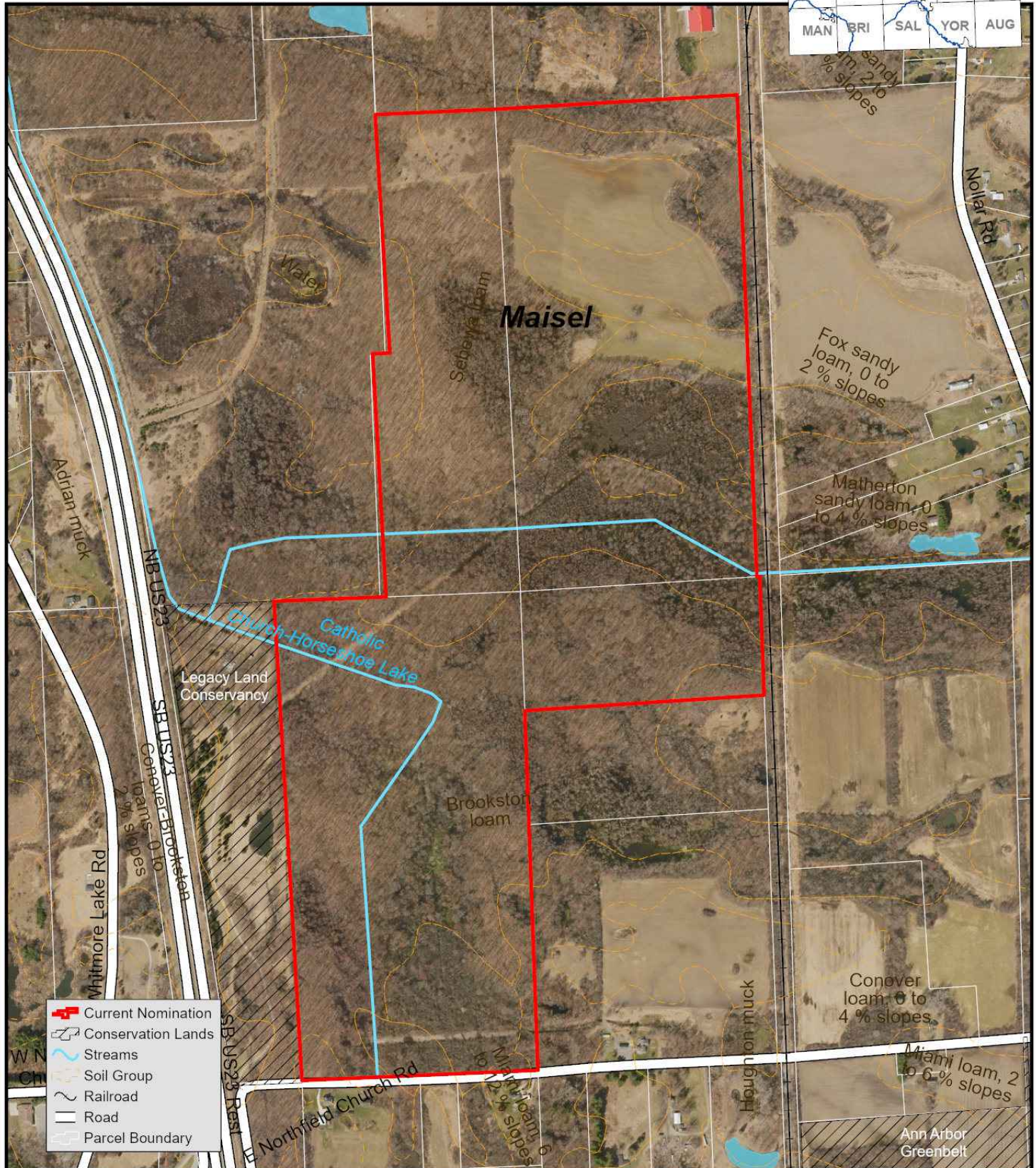
Natural Areas Preservation Program

Nomination ID:

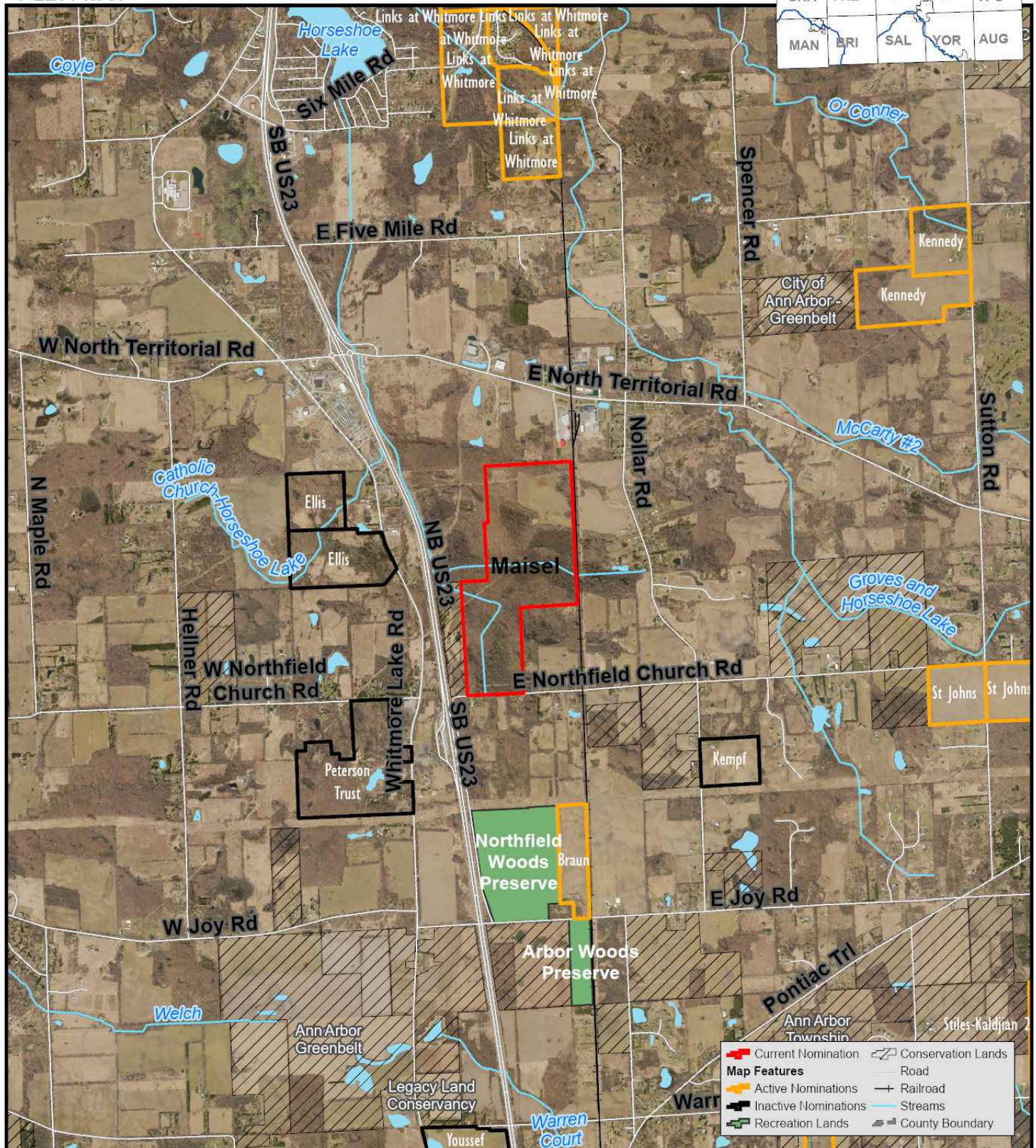
Northfield Township

+/-220 Acres

Washtenaw County
Locator Map



+/-220 Acres



Maisel Property: Assessment & Prioritization Mapping

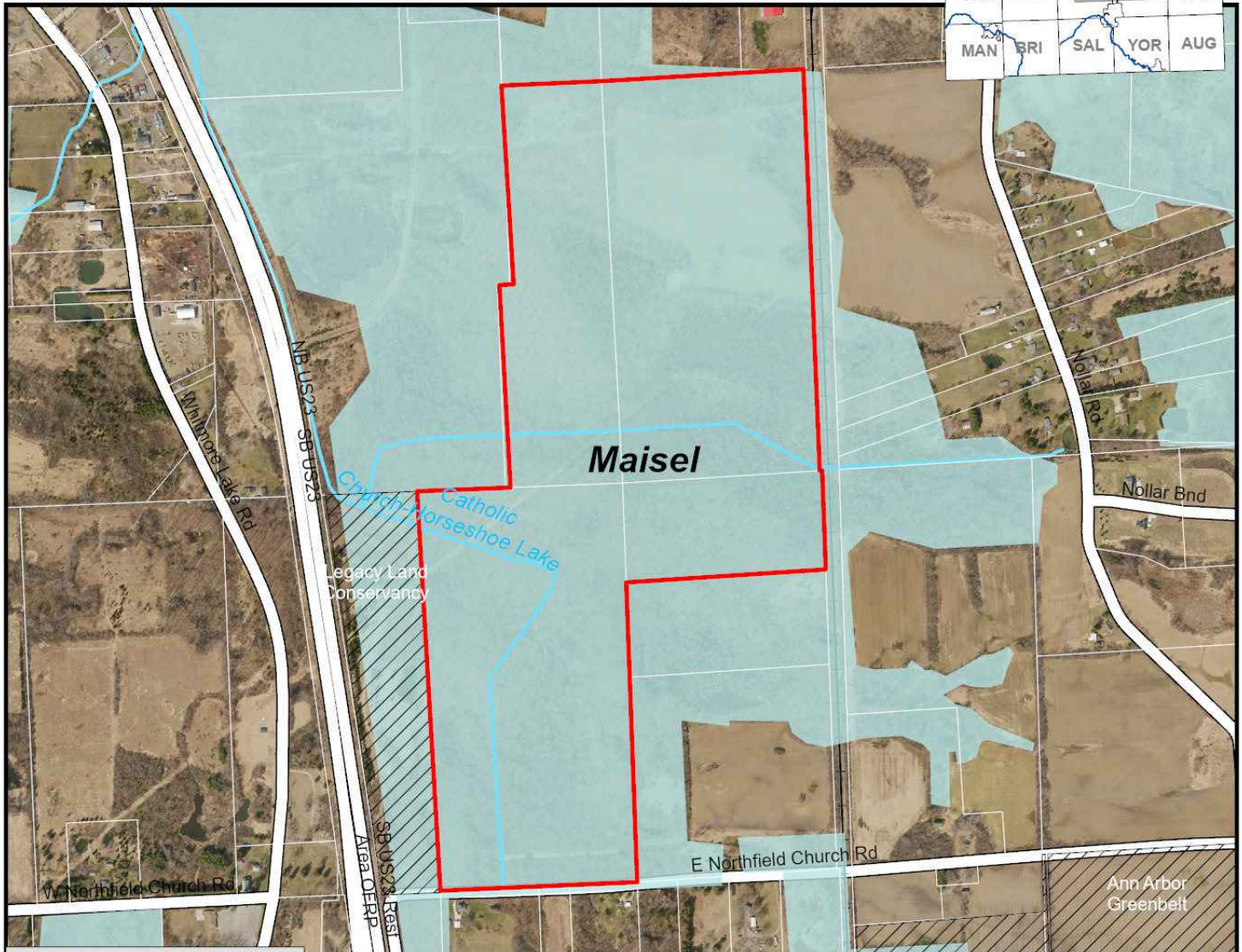
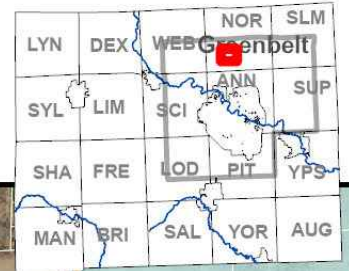
Natural Areas Preservation Program

Nomination ID:

Northfield Township

+/-220 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



Margaret (Rosie) Pahl Donaldson

From: Anton Reznicek <reznicek@umich.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, November 11, 2020 5:41 PM
To: Margaret (Rosie) Pahl Donaldson
Cc: Catherine Riseng (criseng@umich.edu); David Lutton (dlutton@reinhartrealtors.com); Kris Olsson (kolsson@HRWC.ORG); Robert Grese (bgrese@umich.edu); smtaylor@umich.edu; Susan Lackey (slackey1192@gmail.com); Ginny L. Trocchio
Subject: Re: NATAC: a site visit?!

Hi Rosie,

Sorry to take so long getting the notes from the visit Sylvia and I did back to you. This is a large property, with a diversity of forested and some non-forest habitats, plus a substantial chunk of ag land. It's quite interesting, as the size makes it special, particularly for wildlife. It was a bit late to see much in the way of herbaceous flora, but the expansive swamp forests were nice to walk through with dry feet. They would definitely be very wet much of the time.

It has lots of easements, plus drains, the railroad, and with the extent of the wetland areas, would be a challenge to develop. But there are also significant upland zones, besides the ag fields. The heron rookery was nice to see.

I've filled in the sheet as best I could, given the late season. But it is definitely a worthwhile property. Some pictures are attached as well.

Best,

Tony

On Tue, Nov 3, 2020 at 9:17 AM Margaret (Rosie) Pahl Donaldson <pahlm@washtenaw.org> wrote:

Good morning,

Here's the packet and review sheet for this property. Have fun this week!

My number if you need anything or run into issues: [REDACTED]

Rosie

From: Margaret (Rosie) Pahl Donaldson
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2020 3:36 PM
To: Catherine Riseng (criseng@umich.edu); David Lutton (dlutton@reinhartrealtors.com); Kris Olsson (kolsson@HRWC.ORG); Robert Grese (bgrese@umich.edu); smtaylor@umich.edu; Susan Lackey (slackey1192@gmail.com); Tony Reznicek (reznicek@umich.edu)
Cc: Ginny L. Trocchio
Subject: NATAC: a site visit?!

Hi NATAC,

I am hoping you all might like to squeeze in a site visit next week (weather looks nice!). This might be a partnership among us, the Greenbelt, and Legacy. Staff went to look at it in February, but no formal application was ever submitted to anyone so we all thought it wasn't happening; now it is suddenly moving quickly. So it would be helpful to the

NATAC NOMINATION - FIELD REVIEW WORKSHEET

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Project Name: Maisel Fee Simple or Easement (circle one)
 Location: Northfield Township Size (acres): 315
 Current Use: Ag, natural area Date of Visit: 11/12/2020

NATURAL AREA MAPPED PRIORITY

[] Yes - Patch Expansion [] Yes - New Patch Establishment [] Yes - Lake Plain Ecoregion
 [] Yes - Corridor [] Yes - Stream Protection [x] No

NOTES:

PROXIMITY TO OTHER WCPARC LAND

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

NOTES: One private parcel + ITC parcel away from Northfield Woods Preserves

PROXIMITY TO OTHER OWNED PRESERVED LAND

[] Yes - Township [x] Yes - Greenbelt [] Yes - Other
 [x] Yes - Legacy Land Conservancy [] Yes - SMLC [] No

NOTES: Adjacent to Legacy easement, near some Greenbelt easements.

PROPERTY COMPLICATIONS

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

NOTES: Got an old barn on it

FIELD ASSESSMENT

Names of Assessors:

Nov 4 2020 Sylvia Taylor Tony Jezniak

ECOSYSTEMS

Please check all that apply:

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

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

9-10

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

yes: smaller exoply only.

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

None seen, but survey was late season.

DEBRIS

Describe debris found on the site:

NATAC NOMINATION - FIELD REVIEW WORKSHEET

INVASIVE SPECIES

Distribution	Associated Species	NOTES
☐ pervasive		I invasives (common beech, horn, American honey suckle) mostly on margins and scattered in uplands
☐ within interior		
☐ large monotypic stands		
☒ primarily along trails and edges		
☐ isolated pockets		

INVENTORY

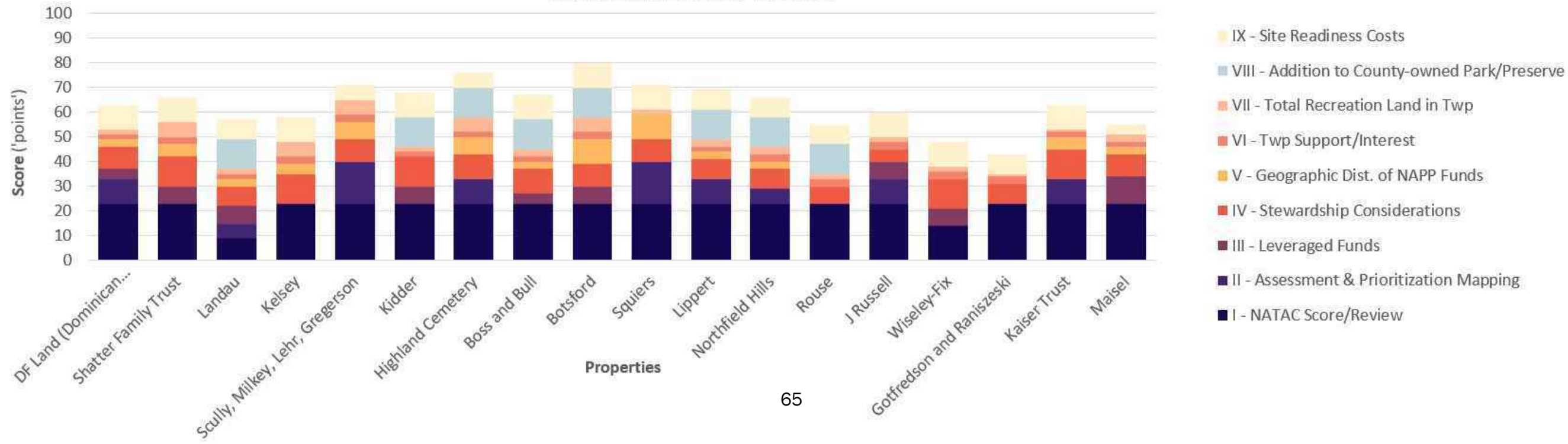
List all wildlife species seen	List plant species seen, to the best of your ability
Heron rookery large garter snake lots of deer sign	- Understory of swamp forest with abundant L. parviflora, Canadensis, Boerhaavia cylindrica, Cereus sp. - Extensive edge areas of red oak, shagbark Hickory and white oak - to late for understory det - a few drier "islands" with white oak, pignut hickory and black oak. - some cottonwood dominated swamps.

FIELD NOTES

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

This represents a very large block of
forest with lots of swamps, vernal pools,
buffalobush shrubs (caps, but also oak dominated
forests, both wet (Bur oak, swamp white) and dry
systems.
Many trees are young, but a few pockets
of old trees present.

Parks Commission Scoring - Fee Simple





Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MEMORANDUM

To: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Coy Vaughn, Director
Date: December 14, 2021
Re: Recommendation for Partnership – Jansen Legacy Land Conservancy

Background

In August 2021, Legacy Land Conservancy submitted the Jansen farm to the Natural Areas Preservation Program (NAPP) for consideration of partnership in a conservation easement purchase. The Bridgewater Township property was subsequently scored and included in ALPAC's 2021 annual prioritization of properties. With a score of 57, the property is eligible for ALPAC participation.

Discussion

The total farm size that will be in the conservation easement is 200 acres, but only 130 acres are within Washtenaw County. The 130 acres were evaluated with ALPAC's and the Commission's scoring systems. Highlights of this easement property from the scoring are that 98% of the Washtenaw County land is prime or important farmland soils and that it has extensive road frontage along US-12. The Assessment & Prioritization Mapping assessed the land as high quality agricultural land, but did not prioritize the parcels. The Commission Scoring System yielded 57/100.

The property was in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) for grasslands for about 10 years. Some of the land is currently being used as cow pasture but usually is a sheep farm. The cropland is leased out and was planted in soybeans this year.

A 5.5-acre building envelope will contain the existing building area. Based on the 2% maximum impervious surface clause in all NRCS-funded easement, the maximum impervious surface that would be allowed across the easement area is about 4 acres. No land divisions will be allowed.

Legacy is using a confident estimate of \$475,000 for the 130 acres. Legacy applied for and was awarded a USDA-NRCS ACEP-ALE grant that covers 50% of that purchase price. Legacy is requesting 40% of the final purchase price from WCPARC, not to exceed \$190,000. The final 10% is anticipated to be a donation by the landowner. The full contribution breakdown is below. Legacy will be responsible for due diligence and monitoring and enforcing the conservation easements. After review of the nomination, ALPAC recommended to partner with the Legacy Land Conservancy and contribute the requested \$190,000 toward the easement purchases.

ACEP-ALE	\$237,500 (50%)
Donation	\$47,500 (10%)
WCPARC	\$190,000 (40%)
Est. FMV	\$475,000

Recommendation

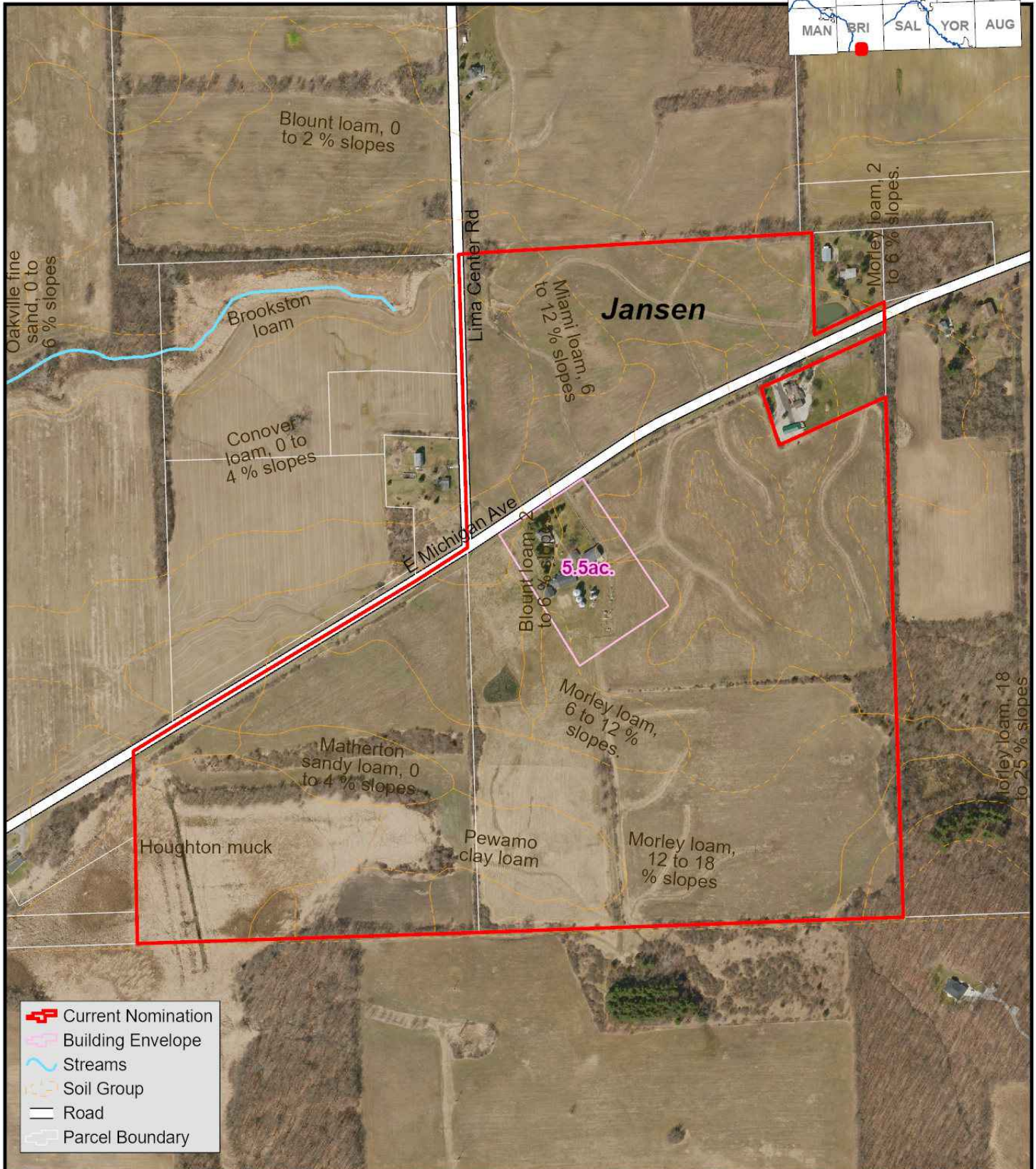
Based upon the review by the Agricultural Lands Preservation Advisory Committee and staff, it is my recommendation that the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission partner with the Legacy Land Conservancy for the purchase of a conservation easement on the Jansen property in Bridgewater Township, as identified in the attached map and contribute 40% of the total purchase price, not to exceed \$190,000, and contribute \$7,500 to the stewardship special revenue fund to cover potential future costs associated with monitoring and enforcement of the conservation easement, contingent upon an appraisal, attorney review of documents, and execution of participation agreement.

Attachments

Jansen Property: Aerial & Soils

Natural Areas Preservation Program
 Nomination ID: A21.146
 Bridgewater Township
 +/- 130 Acres

Washtenaw County
 Locator Map



Jansen Property: Local Area Aerial

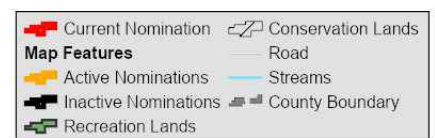
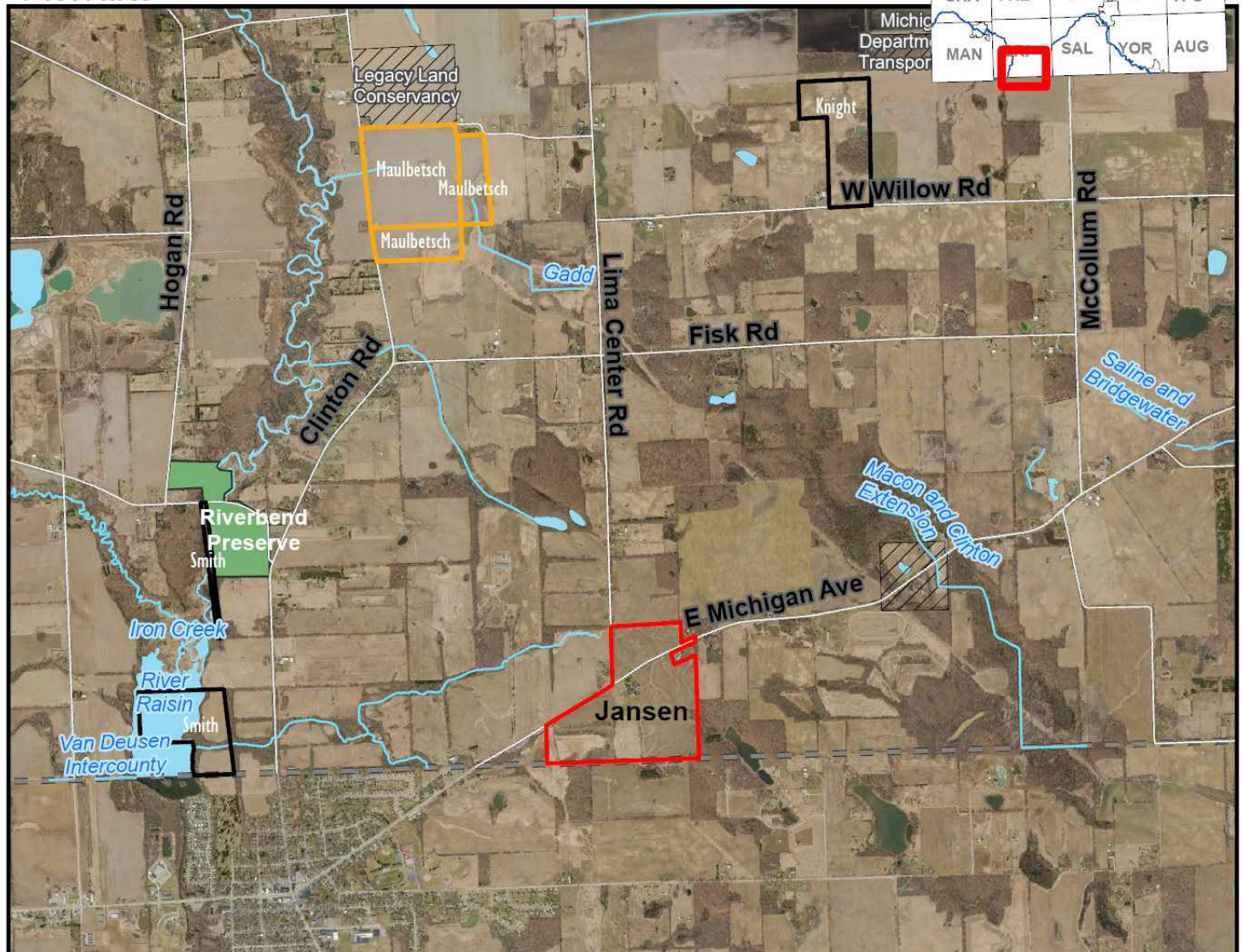
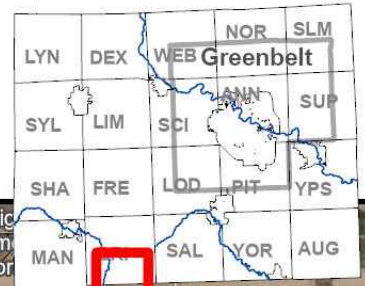
Natural Areas Preservation Program

Nomination ID:A21.146

Bridgewater Township

+/-130 Acres

Washtenaw County
Locator Map



Jansen Property: Assessment & Prioritization Mapping

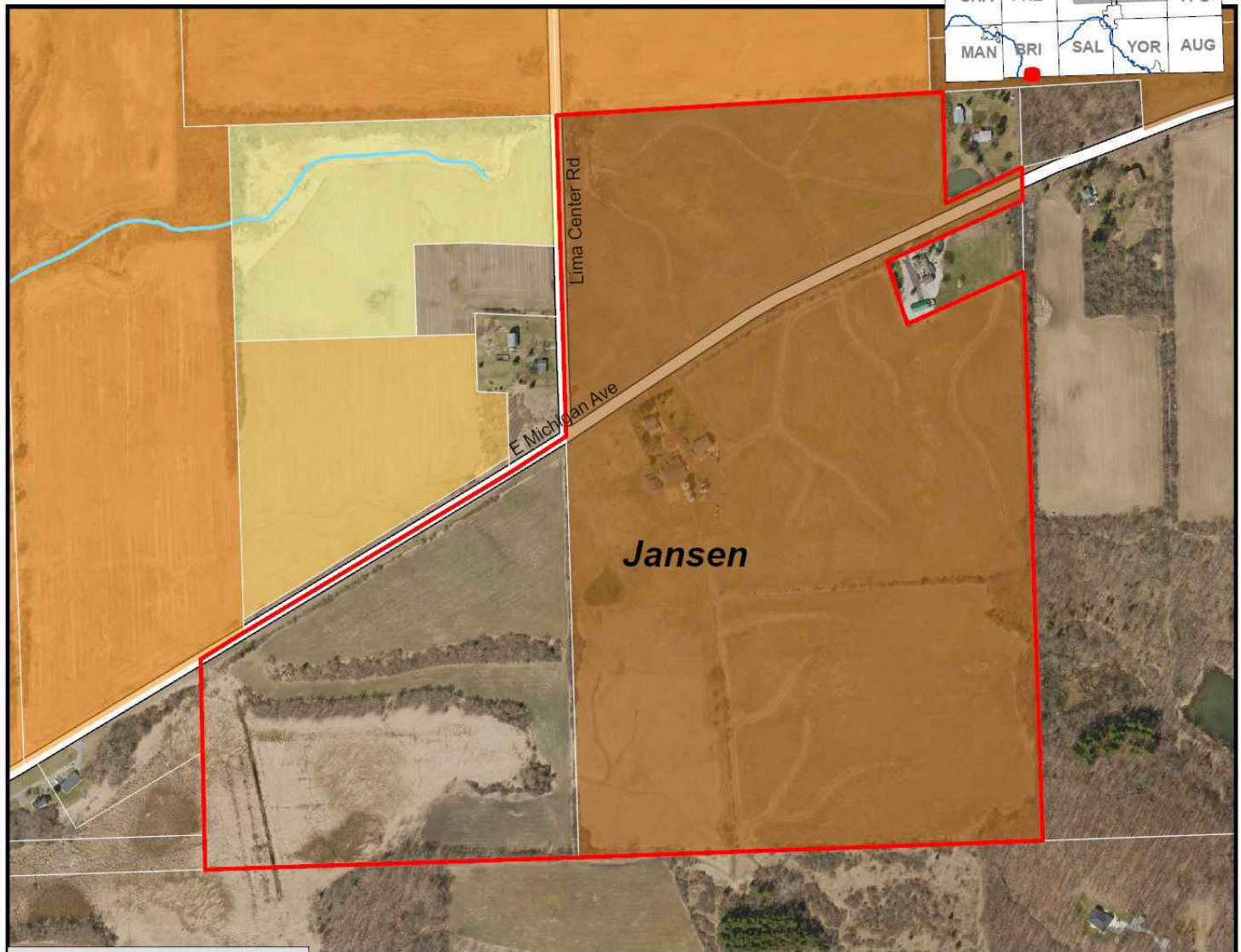
Natural Areas Preservation Program

Nomination ID: A21.146

Bridgewater Township

+/- 130 Acres

Washtenaw County
Locator Map



- Current Nomination
- Streams
- Road
- Parcel Boundary
- Ag Quality Assessment**
- Low Quality
- Medium-Low Quality
- Medium-High Quality
- High Quality

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

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

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

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

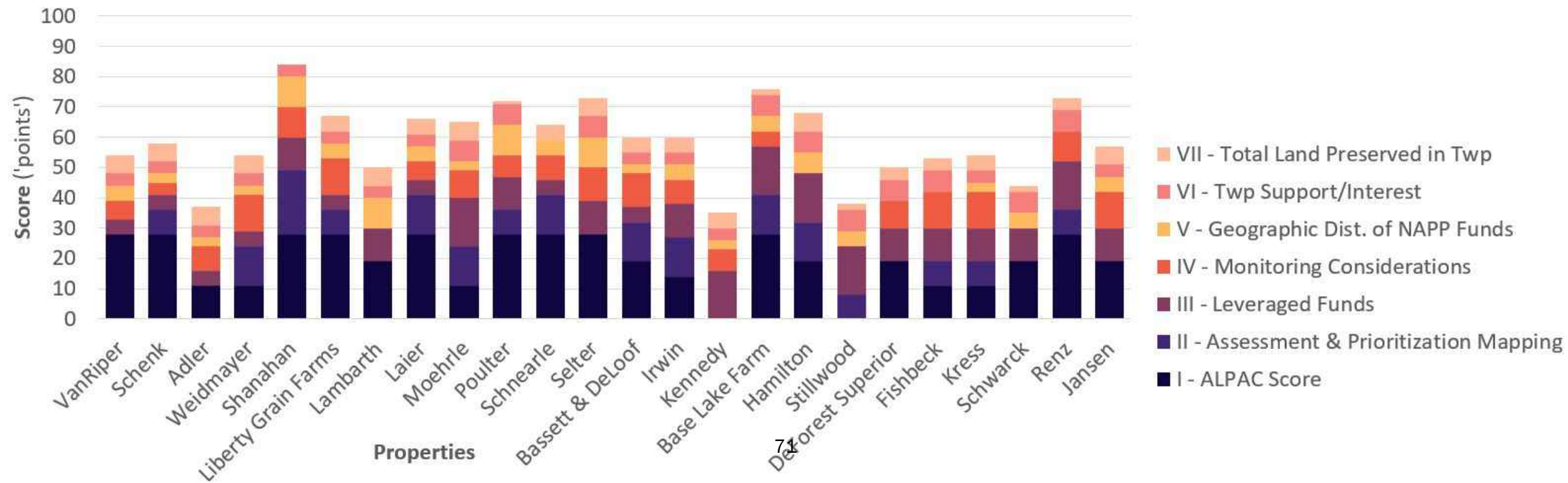
Stream Protection: Protection of this site preserves or is ecologically connected to a site that preserves creek frontage.

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

→ Not prioritized



Parks Commission Scoring - Easements (ALPAC)





Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MEMORANDUM

To: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Coy P. Vaughn, Director
Date: December 14, 2021
Re: Final Approval: Purchase of the Gotfredson and Ranieszski properties, Scio Township

Background

The almost-adjacent Gotfredson and Ranieszski properties were submitted to NAPP in Round 20 (2020), for fee simple purchase. The properties, 101-acres combined, are separated by an ITC-owned power line corridor. NATAC identified the properties together as a Tier 1 priority for acquisition and recommended to purchase the property. The Parks Commission approved a sales contract on April 13, 2021.

Discussion

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

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

The two properties are separated from each other by a parcel owned by ITC, one of the main electricity transmission companies servicing Washtenaw County residents. ITC has approved staff's request for a trail access license across the property for locations on both the north and south side of the pond, but attorneys still need to prepare and review the license.

Appraisals for the two properties were conducted by Affinity Valuation Group in November 2020. Superior Township will be making their commitment of \$250/acre to the project on December 20. Additional external funding was sought per the Commission's request, but none was available at this time.

Gotfredson

Superior Township	\$ 16,763
<u>WCPARC</u>	<u>\$586,263</u>
FMV	\$603,026

Ranieszski

Superior Township	\$ 8,650
<u>WCPARC</u>	<u>\$267,790</u>
FMV	\$276,440

On April 13, 2021, the Parks Commission approved a sales contract for the purchase of the property. Per the terms of the sales contract, due diligence for each property has been completed including:

- An appraisal was completed for each property.
- Phase I Environmental Site Assessments found no issues on either property.
- Two boundary surveys including legal description have been prepared.
- The two properties are being acquired simultaneously.
- Access across the ITC properties is anticipated to be secured.

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 Gotfredson and Ranieszski properties the amounts of \$603,026 and \$276,440 respectively as outlined above contingent upon attorney approval of final documents. I further recommend that \$30,000 be contributed to the stewardship special revenue funds for the future maintenance and management of the property.

Attachments

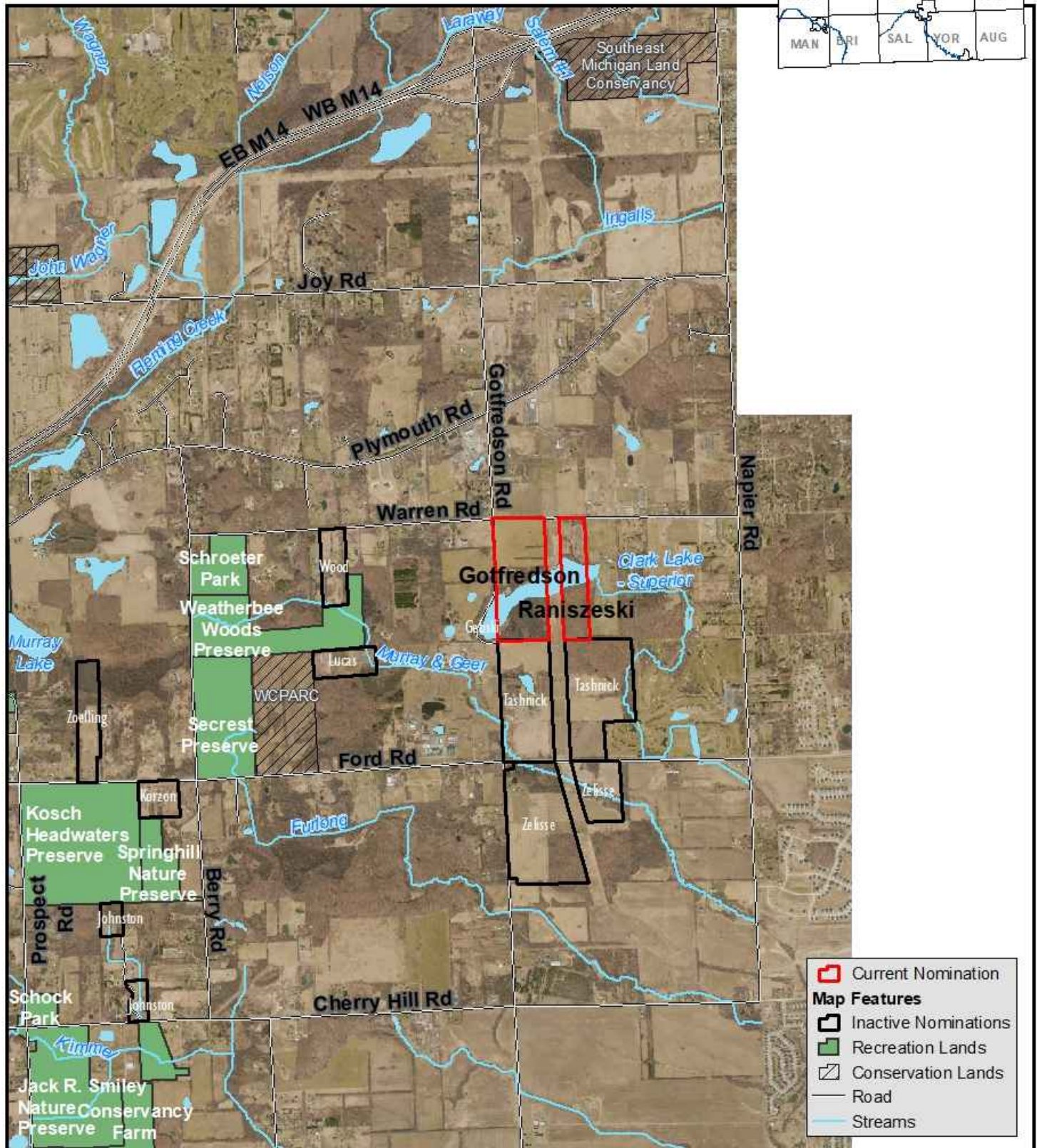
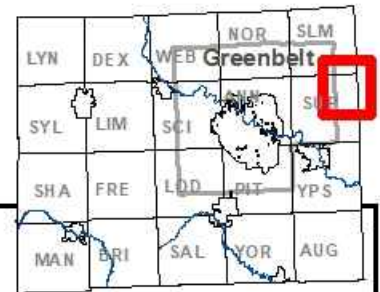
Gotfredson and Raniszeski Properties: Local Area Aerial

Natural Areas Preservation Program

Nomination ID: 20.316 and 20.317

100 Acres

Washtenaw County
Locator Map



Gotfredson Property: Aerial & Soils

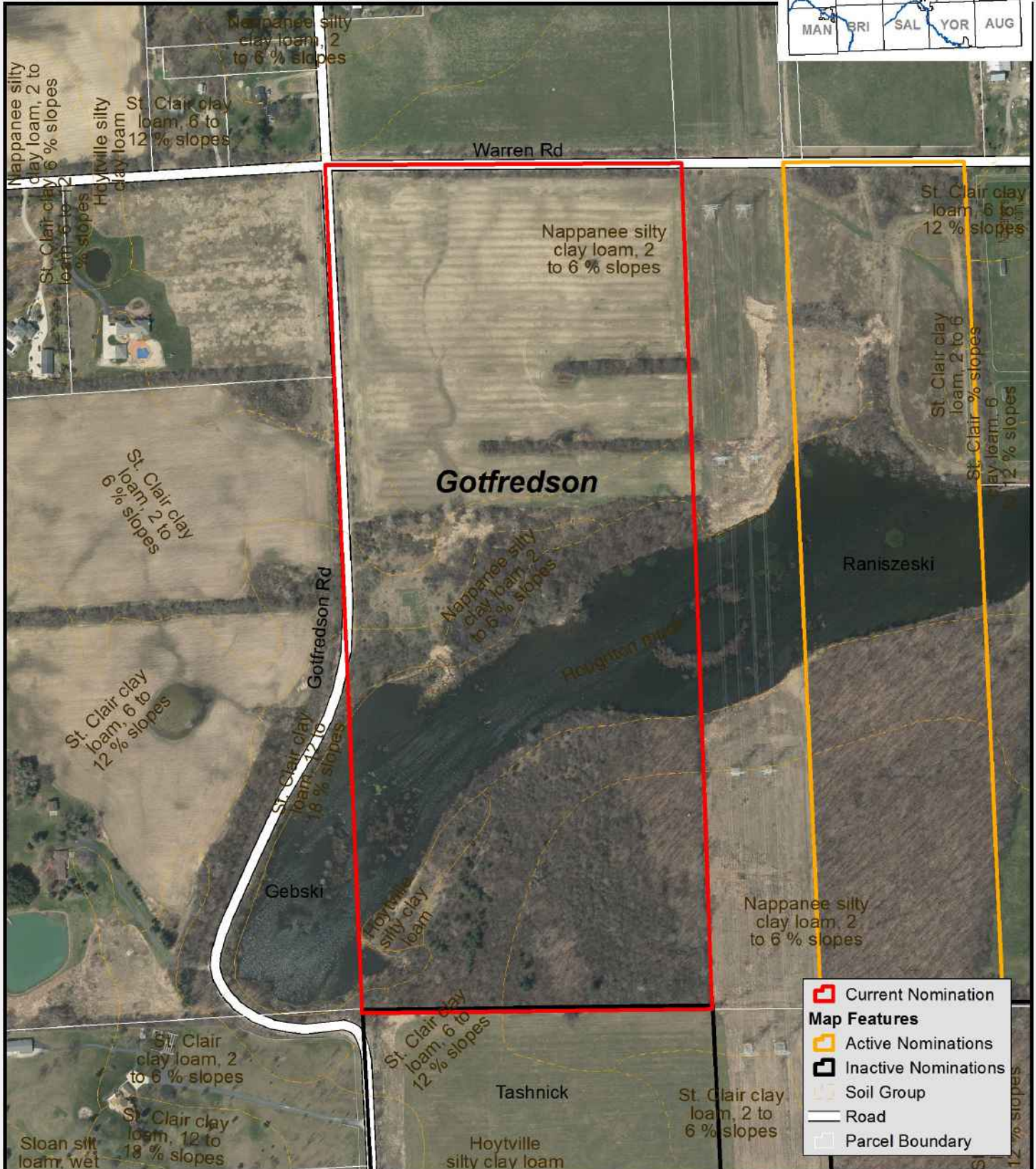
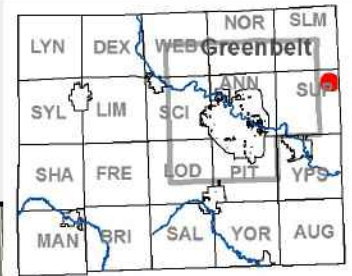
Natural Areas Preservation Program

Nomination ID: 20.317

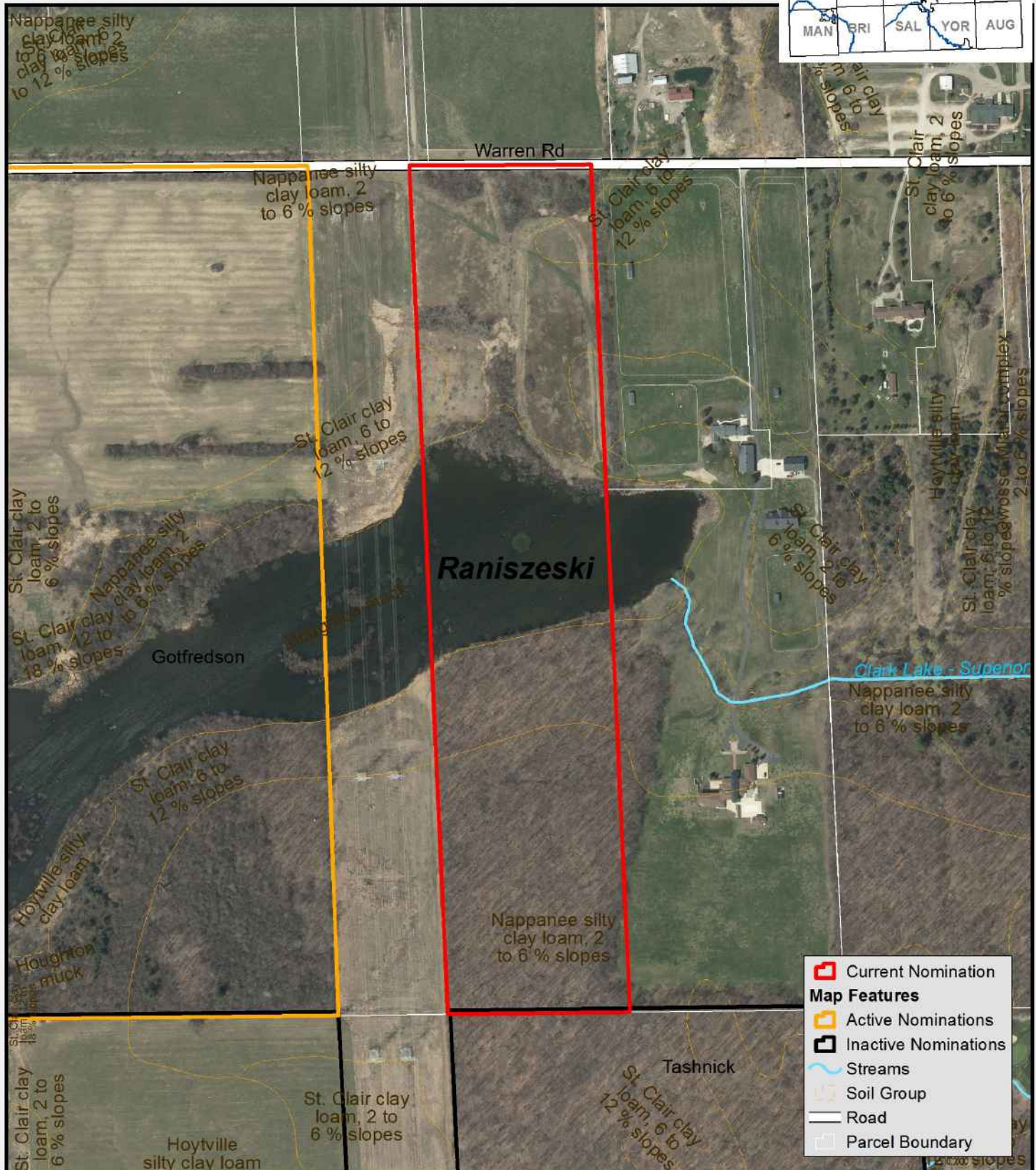
Superior Township

+/-67.05 Acres

Washtenaw County
Locator Map



+/-33.92 Acres



NATAC NOMINATION - FIELD REVIEW WORKSHEET

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

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

NATURAL AREA MAPPED PRIORITY

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

NOTES:

PROXIMITY TO OTHER WCPARC LAND

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

NOTES: Weatherbee Woods

PROXIMITY TO OTHER OWNED PRESERVED LAND

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

NOTES:

PROPERTY COMPLICATIONS

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

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

FIELD ASSESSMENT

Names of Assessors:

ECOSYSTEMS

Please check all that apply:

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

DEBRIS

Describe debris found on the site:

See Ransseyki for
plant lists for wetland + forest

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

Spp of wildlife

Green Heron
Blue

Pudd frogs
Green

Possible rookery

NATAC NOMINATION - FIELD REVIEW WORKSHEET

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

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

NATURAL AREA MAPPED PRIORITY

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

NOTES:

PROXIMITY TO OTHER WCPARC LAND

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

NOTES: Weatherbee Woods

PROXIMITY TO OTHER OWNED PRESERVED LAND

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

NOTES:

PROPERTY COMPLICATIONS

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

NOTES: How to access south of lake?

FIELD ASSESSMENT

Names of Assessors:

ECOSYSTEMS

Please check all that apply:

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

DEBRIS

Describe debris found on the site:

NATAC NOMINATION - FIELD REVIEW WORKSHEET

INVASIVE SPECIES

Distribution

☐ pervasive

☐ within interior

☐ large monotypic stands

☐ primarily along trails and edges

☒ isolated pockets

Associated Species

NOTES

INVENTORY

List all wildlife species seen

Green Heron
4 G.B. Herons
Bullfrogs
Green frogs

List plant species seen, to the best of your ability

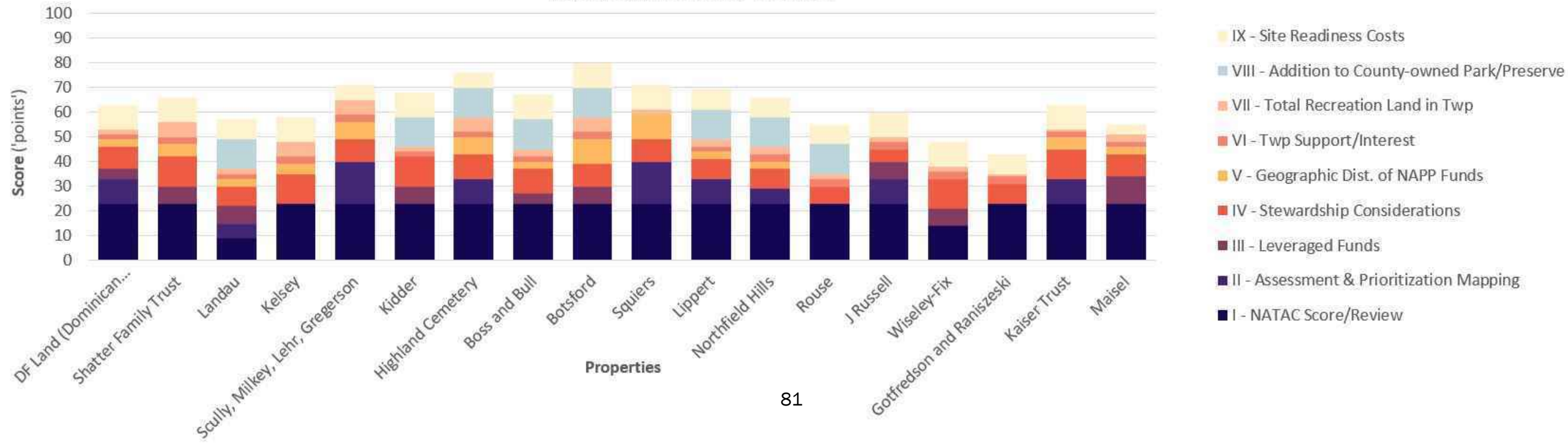
Spicebush
Filia americana
sedge
Moonwort
Smilax
Swamp
la creeper
Ostrya virginiana
Amelanchier
black cherry
white raspberry
red oak
wood fern
honeysuckle
Carpinus
Euonymus
stagbark
chinkapin
oak?
blackberry
w geranium
bitterroot
beech
glossy
common buckthorn
prickly ash
elderberry
barberry
juncus
Holly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

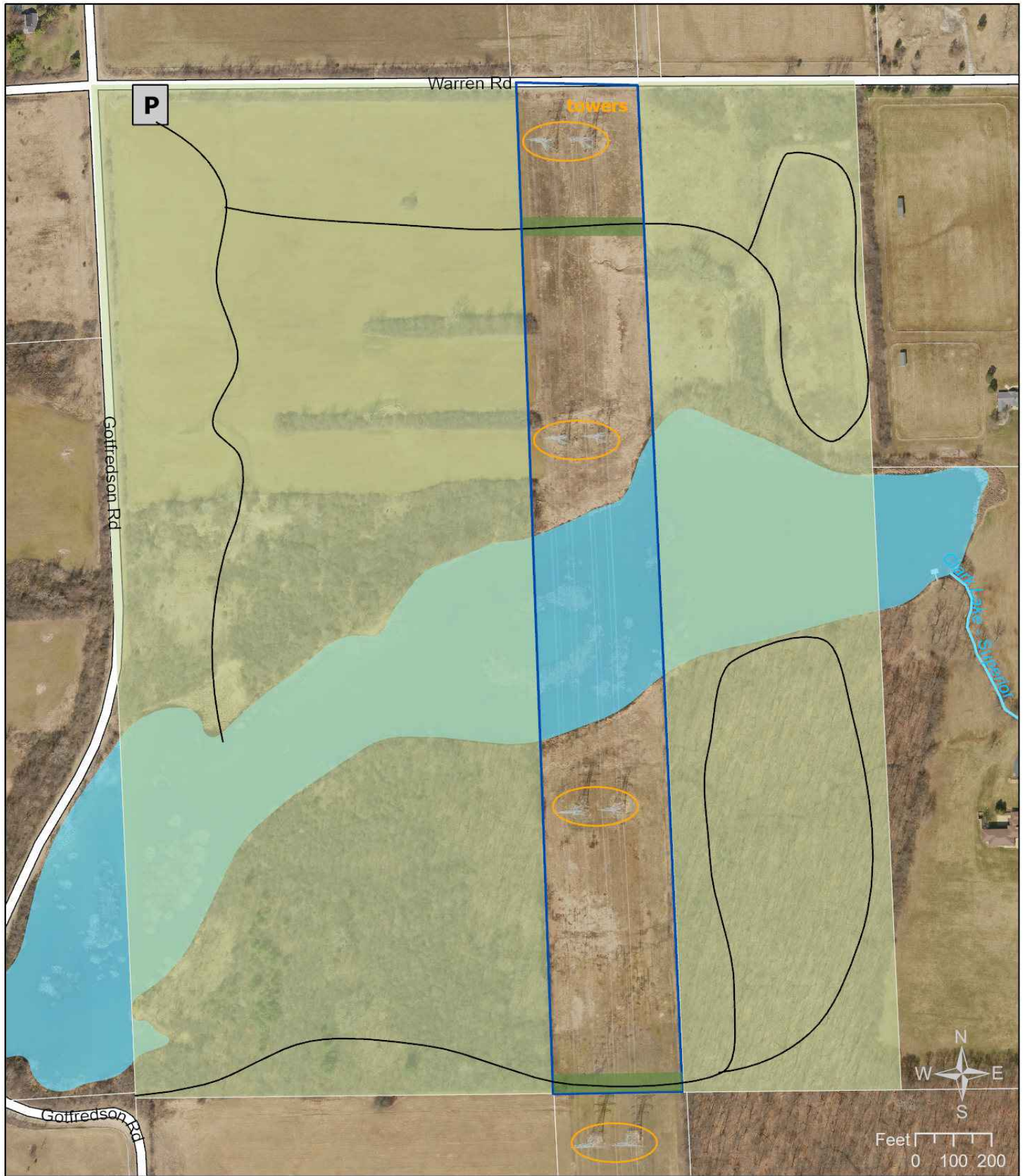
FIELD NOTES

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

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

Parks Commission Scoring - Fee Simple





Credits: ESRI, WC GIS

Trail license request across
ITC parcel
J -10-12-200-003



LEGEND

- ITC parcel
- Trail license request, 50' wide
- WCPARC parcels
- ~ Trails, 8' wide, dirt