



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

NOTICE OF MEETING

Date: March 15, 2022

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Location: Washtenaw County Learning Resource Center, 4135 Washtenaw Ave., Ann Arbor, MI 48108

AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order / Moment of Silence**
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3. Approval of the Minutes**
 - A. February 8, 2022 Meeting (attached, pp. 1-6 /action item)
 - B. Public Hearing Approval of minutes (attached, p. 7 /action item)
- 4. Public Comment**
- 5. Communications, Projects & Activities** (attached, pp. 8-19 /action item)
- 6. Financial & Recreation Reports – February 2022**
 - A. Financial Reports (attached, pp. 20-22 /action item)
 - B. Recreation Reports (attached, p. 23 /action item)
- 7. Old Business**
 - A. Staebler Farmhouse Renovations (attached, pp. 24-25 /action item)
 - B. B2B - Miller-Smith Preserve, public outreach plan (informational)
 - C. Project Update – Independence Lake Boardwalk (informational)
 - D. Other Old Business
- 8. New Business**
 - A. Climate Action Plan Presentation (presentation at meeting)
 - B. NAPP – Grossman MNRTF Grant Application (attached, pp. 26-29 /action item)
 - C. 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: February 8, 2022

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Location: Washtenaw County Learning Resource Center, 4135 Washtenaw Ave., Ann Arbor, MI

Members Present: Janis Bobrin, WCPARC Vice President; Dan Ezekiel, Secretary; Robert Joerg; Robert Marans; Sue Shink, and Jo Ann McCollum

Members Absent: Patricia Scribner, Brenda McKinney, Ricky Jefferson, and Evan Pratt

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 (attending remotely); Ann Ziolkowski, Communications Manager; Jeff Dehring, Park Planner; Hannah Cooley, Management Analyst

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Bobrin called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the January 11, 2022 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 January 11, 2022, regular meeting. Roll call vote: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays, 4 Absent (Scribner, McKinney, Jefferson, Pratt), the motion was approved.

3. Public Comment

Toni Spears spoke regarding the possibility of routing a portion of the B2B Trail through the Miller-Smith Woods Preserve. She stated that she was an avid cyclist, a park volunteer, and a supporter of the B2B Trail. However, she is not in favor of the alternative trail alignment in the NAPP Preserve because it would be disruptive and would forever change the character of the preserve. She was also concerned with setting a precedent that would allow future hard surface trails and bicycles in our nature preserves.

Jeff Sweeney, resident of Superior Township, noted that he had spoken at the January Commission meeting regarding some concerns at the Swift Run Dog Park. He thanked Coy Vaughn, Jeff Dehring, and Thomas Power for meeting with him at the site to understand his concerns help plan a list of action steps to address the issues.

4. Communications, Projects & Activities

Mr. Vaughn reported on the January communications which were included in the packet and provided a presentation summarizing the projects, programs, and events for the month. Ms. Bonfiglio and Ms. Cooley presented various software upgrades that will help enhance our park operations.

Mr. Joerg asked if patrons at the golf course would still be able to call in and make tee times with the new software upgrades. Ms. Bonfiglio responded that phone and in-person tee times will still be available.

Ms. McCollum asked if we considered a software that would allow residents to call in and report maintenance issues. Ms. Bonfiglio responded that we researched various workflow management software systems and there are some that integrate public reporting, such as SeeClickFix that is used by the City of Ann Arbor. At this time, staff felt it was cost prohibitive but will continue to evaluate and look for ways to implement a public-facing reporting tool in the future.

It was moved by Mr. Ezekiel and seconded by Ms. Shink to accept and file the Communications, Projects & Activities for the month of January 2022, as submitted. Roll call vote: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays, 4 Absent (Scribner, McKinney, Jefferson, Pratt), the motion was approved.

5. Financial & Recreation Reports – January 2022

A. Financial Reports

Mr. Brooks reported on the financials and stated that the total for the claims for the month of January was \$1,244,217.99.

It was moved by Mr. Ezekiel and seconded by Ms. McCollum to accept and file the Financial Reports for the month of January 2022 as submitted. Roll call vote: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays, 4 Absent (Scribner, McKinney, Jefferson, Pratt), the motion was approved.

B. Recreation Reports

Mr. Brooks presented the recreation reports for the month of January 2022 for all park facilities.

It was moved by Mr. Marans and seconded by Ms. Shink to accept and file the Recreation Reports for the month of January 2022 as submitted. Roll call vote: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays, 4 Absent (Scribner, McKinney, Jefferson, Pratt), the motion was approved.

6. Old Business

A. 2022-25 B2B Budget

Mr. Vaughn reported on the collaboration between the Commission and the Huron Waterloo Pathways Initiative (HWPI) and how it was formalized with a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in 2017. At the time of the MOU the Commission allocated \$4 million of general parks funding to the B2B Trail through 2022—effectively matching the \$1 million of funds that come from the Road and Trails Millage each year.

Since 2017, the Commission, HWPI and other project partners have collaborated to build, rebuild, and initiate 16 construction projects totaling 14.1 miles at a cost of nearly \$20M. The Commission's portion was approximately 1/3 of the total (\$6.5M), another 1/3 has come from HWPI, and the remainder from grants and other public partners. In 2021, the Commission established the B2B Trail Special Revenue Fund and deposited \$820,000 to secure long-term maintenance funding based on previous and anticipated future commitments and obligations.

Mr. Vaughn explained that the Commission and its partners have made significant progress on the B2B Trail since 2017 but there is more work to be done to complete the initiative. Staff anticipates that there are another 30 projects required (including engineering, planning, and construction) to finish the remaining 18 miles of trail. Staff is working to chart a course towards completion of the B2B Trail initiative, while maintaining the Commission's allocation as 1/3 of the total cost. HWPI has a proven track record raising private funds for the project and anticipates continued success at providing approximately 1/3 of the cost of the trail.

Due to rising taxable value in the county, the Commission's portion of the Road and Trails Millage is anticipated to be approximately \$1.2M per year for the B2B Trail (\$4.8M over four years), less the \$600,000 from the Connecting Communities Grant Program. Based on anticipated future expenditures for the B2B Trail and due to continuously rising construction costs, staff requests that the Commission reauthorize its four-year parks general fund commitment to the B2B Trail and increase the amount to match the funds from the Road and Trails Millage (\$1.2M/year; \$4.8M through 2025).

Mr. Marans asked if the Commission could get a more detailed presentation of all the remaining segments of the B2B. Mr. Vaughn responded yes and explained that each segment would be presented in detail at the time that Commission action is taken to award a construction contract.

Mr. Joerg asked if it was anticipated that all remaining segments of the B2B would be complete by 2025. Mr. Vaughn responded that it was doubtful that all construction would be complete, however, he anticipates that engineering would be underway for any segment that was not complete by 2025 in preparation for bidding the construction soon after.

It was moved by Ms. McKinney and seconded by Ms. Bobrin that the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission authorize a commitment of \$4.8 million from the parks fund over four years (2022-2025) to augment the Road and Trails Millage and continue planning the development of the B2B Trail and authorize staff to amend the Parks Fund Budget as necessary to align with B2B project planning. Roll call vote: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays, 4 Absent (Scribner, McKinney, Jefferson, Pratt), the motion was approved.

B. Other Old Business

None.

7. New Business

A. City of Ann Arbor – Buy, Protect, Sell Program

Remy Long, City of Ann Arbor Greenbelt Program Manager, presented an overview of the Greenbelt's "Buy, Protect, Sell" (BPS) process as an additional method for the city to protect farmland and ensure it is transferred to farmer ownership. The end outcome is intended to help address inequities in land ownership and access; protect farmland for producers and facilitate affordable and secure

land tenure. MSU Extension conducted a survey in Washtenaw County to identify needs of new and beginning farmers looking for land. Based on survey results, there is an interest from farmers to purchase protected farmland and there is a gap in knowledge of available land. For the BPS process, the City of Ann Arbor would purchase property in fee; conduct a public RFP process to seek producers wishing to purchase the land; select a viable farm business and sell the property to the farmer, while withholding a conservation easement on the property.

Mr. Ezekiel spoke in favor of the program. He asked what would happen if the farmer that purchased the land were to fail. Mr. Long responded that if the farm operation was not successful, the program could reserve the first right of refusal on the land and sell it to another farmer. He added that there would also be controls over the type of agriculture that was allowed on the property.

Mr. Joerg asked about the value of a property after the conservation easement has been established. Mr. Long responded that the market value of a property is generally 50-70% less once the development rights are removed through a conservation easement.

Commissioners Shink, Ezekiel, Bobrin, Joerg, and Marans all spoke in favor of the Buy, Protect, Sell program.

B. B2B Trail – Miller-Smith Preserve Route

Mr. Vaughn presented an overview of the possibility of the Border-to-Border Trail (B2B Trail) running through the southern edge of the Miller-Smith Preserve. The Miller-Smith preserve was purchased by NAPP in 2006 and 2008. The Smith portion of the preserve was donated to the Village of Dexter and subsequently donated to NAPP by the Village of Dexter. There is a donation agreement and deed restriction as part of the Smith donation to NAPP that stipulate the property must be maintained in accordance with the NAPP Ordinance and maintained as a park and nature preserve and no improvements or structures are to be constructed.

The planned B2B Trail route connecting Chelsea and Dexter passes adjacent to the Miller-Smith Preserve using a combination of road right-of-way and potentially a portion of the old Boland inter-urban railroad property, which is 33' wide and adjacent to the road right-of-way and owned by the Washtenaw County Road Commission. If the B2B Trail follows its current, planned alignment in the Miller-Smith Preserve area, in the road right-of-way and former Boland property, there will be some impact to the edge of the preserve near the parking lot. The proposed trail alignment is also close to one home that is set near the road. To address the impact on the private residence, WCPARC is exploring alternative routes. If an alternative route is approved, it would require that a portion of the Miller-Smith Preserve, mostly along the southern edge, be occupied by the B2B Trail. The proposed trail route is anticipated to have a construction impact to approximately 0.43 acres of the 29-acre preserve in addition to the area along the road frontage (0.25 acres). For reference, the parking area at the preserve occupies approximately 0.16 acres.

It was moved by Ms. Shink and seconded by Mr. Joerg to direct staff to approach the City of Dexter to determine the legal implications of pursuing the alternative Border to Border trail alignment in Miller-Smith preserve in regards to the terms of the donation agreement for the property, and to bring back to the Commission for their review along with a public and partner input process strategy. Roll call vote: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays, 4 Absent (Scribner, McKinney, Jefferson, Pratt), the motion was approved.

C. B2B Maintenance Agreement

Mr. Vaughn outlined three projects within MDOT right-of-way where Commission authorization is required to execute maintenance agreements or permits, which will allow MDOT to advance to construction and eventual operation by WCPARC. The resolutions and agreements were reviewed by staff for consistency with similar, previously executed agreements between MDOT and WCPARC.

Project 1: Segment CS2 in Lyndon Township (Green Lake to N. Territorial) – due to MDOT staff transfers, this document was never completed although the trail segment is fully constructed. MDOT ROW occupancy along M-52.

Project 2: Segment C1 in the City of Chelsea and a portion of Sylvan Township (Werkner Road to Veterans Park) – this segment is under construction outside of the MDOT ROW and is anticipated to be complete this year. MDOT ROW occupancy along M-52.

Project 3: Segment DAA3 in Scio Township (Zeeb Road to Delhi Metropark) – this segment is fully engineered and waiting on Amtrak's final approval for construction, which is anticipated to begin this year. MDOT ROW occupancy railroad along Huron River Drive.

Each maintenance agreement required a separate approval:

It was moved by Mr. Ezekiel and seconded by Ms. Shink to execute the MDOT maintenance agreement for B2B Trail Segment CS2 in Lyndon Township. Roll call vote: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays, 4 Absent (Scribner, McKinney, Jefferson, Pratt), the motion was approved.

It was moved by Mr. Marans and seconded by Ms. Shink to approve the MDOT maintenance agreement for B2B Trail Segment C1 in the City of Chelsea and a portion of Sylvan Township. Roll call vote: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays, 4 Absent (Scribner, McKinney, Jefferson, Pratt), the motion was approved.

It was moved by Mr. Joerg and seconded by Ms. Shink to approve the MDOT maintenance agreement for B2B Trail Segment DAA3 in Scio Township. Roll call vote: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays, 4 Absent (Scribner, McKinney, Jefferson, Pratt), the motion was approved.

D. Other New Business

None.

8. Commissioners/Directors Comments

Mr. Vaughn updated the Commission on a new policy that requires masks to be worn at all times in the Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center locker rooms. This is the only area of the facility that it is impossible to keep 6-ft of separation between patrons and it is poorly ventilated space. He also shared that the woman who spoke at the January meeting stopped by our front desk to thank our staff for implementing the new policy and said that the locker room was her biggest concern since that's where her group gathers before and after swimming.

Mr. Vaughn shared that there was a meeting last month with the users of the Swift Run Dog Park to discuss the list of concerns and proposed park improvements. Additionally, Mr. Dehring provided some background on the establishment of the Swift Run Dog Park. Mr. Vaughn shared with the Commission that this was Jeff Dehring's last commission meeting and that he would be retiring from

the county at the end of February. Mr. Vaughn and the Commissioners thanked Jeff for his years of service.

Ms. Shink commented that she went cross country skiing at Independence Lake and had a great time. She also shared that the park and trails were in excellent condition.

9. Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 4:08 p.m.



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR GROSSMAN/SALINE RIVER PRESERVE PROPERTY ACQUISITION & MNRTF GRANT

Date: March 3, 2022

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Location: Parks Administration Building, 2230 Platt Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48107-8645
and via Zoom

Staff Present: Meghan Bonfiglio, Deputy Director; Ginny Trocchio, Superintendent of Park Planning and Natural Areas; and Rosie Pahl Donaldson, Park Planner

Others Present: None

1. Call to Order

The Public Hearing was called to order at 5:45 pm.

2. Staff Presentation

Despite no physical or virtual public attendees, staff completed and recorded a slide presentation about the Natural Areas Preservation Program (NAPP), the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant, and the property that will be submitted to the grant for acquisition. The presentation began with a brief history of NAPP and its goals of preserving natural areas and making them available to the public for use. This was followed by an overview of the MNRTF grant: WCPARC's intent to apply to the 2022 MNRTF grant for acquisition funds and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources's requirement that any grant-funded acquisition land remain in recreational use, which duplicates NAPP's program goals. Then maps, photos, and environmental descriptions of the subject property were shared.

The recorded presentation will be posted on WCPARC's website.

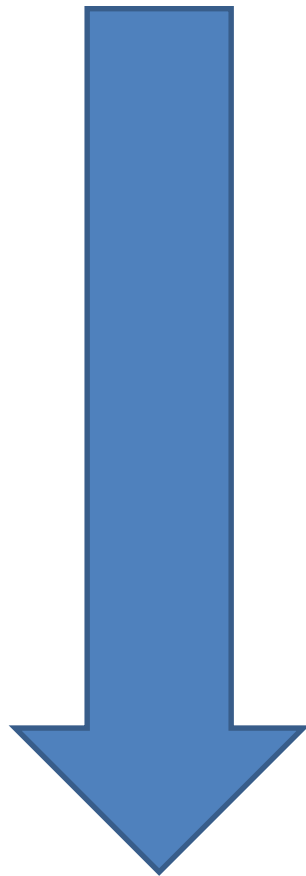
3. Public Comment

None.

4. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Communications, Projects & Activities



Coy Vaughn

From: Roy D. Townsend
Sent: Monday, February 7, 2022 7:29 AM
To: Peter Sanderson; Coy Vaughn; Meghan E. Bonfiglio; Ann Ziolkowski; Ginny L. Leikam
Subject: FW: B2B story from the weekend

This is why!!

Sent from my Galaxy

----- Original message -----

From: Anne Seyferth <anneseyferth@huron-waterloo-pathways.org>
Date: 2/6/22 9:01 PM (GMT-05:00)
To: Mackenzie Wisniewski <mackenzie@huron-waterloo-pathways.org>, jdh@hardwoodsolutions.com, Kristin Warzyniec <kristinwarzyniec@huron-waterloo-pathways.org>, Kiff Hamp <kiff.hamp@gmail.com>, "Roy D. Townsend" <townsendr@washtenaw.org>
Subject: B2B story from the weekend

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

Hi Team,

I got the opportunity to talk to another parent on my daughters basketball team this weekend who we had found out recently lives very close to us in Chelsea. They have two teenage sons in wheelchairs. She was raving to me about the B2B and how amazing it has been for her to have such a wide trail to use for her extra wide jogging stroller to fit her grown sons. The sidewalks in town mostly don't work and she struggles to push them around. She was very appreciative of the work to make it handicap accessible and uses the trails all over Chelsea. You could see on her face (and through her words) how important it was for her family and she said it was one of the main reasons they purchased their current home. She joked about the first time she drove to the new trailhead and took her boys for a walk in the handicap stroller, not realizing how hilly it was, that she almost didn't make it back to the parking lot.

I just wanted to share this with you all! Keep up the good work.

--

Anne Seyferth
HWPI Development Assistant
anneseyferth@huron-waterloo-pathways.org



Ann Arbor

‘Freedom in rural Michigan’: Washtenaw County hosts Underground Railroad historian

Updated: Feb. 21, 2022, 9:20 a.m. | Published: Feb. 21, 2022, 9:20 a.m.



This file photos shows a historic marker behind the old Ann Arbor News building on Huron Street and across from city hall that notes this was where the Michigan Antislavery Society was founded in 1836. Ryan Stanton | The Ann Arbor News



By **Lucas Smolcic Larson** | lsmolciclarsen@mlive.com

WASHTENAW COUNTY, MI - A scholar of the Underground Railroad in Michigan is bringing Washtenaw County residents the story of the connection between two historic properties and the fight against slavery close to 200 years ago.

Carol E. Mull is a lecturer who has authored a book on Michigan's place in the network of secret routes and safehouses used by enslaved African Americans to escape to free states or Canada.

Advertisement

Mull will lead a Black History Month presentation at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 24, via Zoom hosted by the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission.

The link to join the webinar is available [on the county's website](#).

The talk, titled “Freedom in Rural Michigan: Sharon Hollow and Watkins Farm,” will highlight two county-affiliated sites and the early Michigan pioneers that played a role aiding freedom-seeking people fleeing southern states.

[Sharon Mills County Park](#) in Sharon township, a State of Michigan Historic Site, is named for Sharon Mills, founded by active abolitionist Amasa Gillet, according to the event description for the talk.

[The Watkins Lake State Park and County Preserve](#), split between Jackson County and Manchester Township in Washtenaw County, also has ties to the the pre-Civil War era of resistance to slavery.

John Felix White, an enslaved man in Boone County, Kentucky, traveled the Underground Railroad to southeast Michigan and worked on the Royal and Sally Watkins farm at the present-day site of the park.

Mull will tell that story, as well as recount what happened when a posse attempted to abduct White back into slavery, according to the event description.

Read more: [Escaped slave's Ann Arbor grave and nearby farm recognized as part of Underground Railroad](#)

Mull, a founding member and past chair of the [Michigan Freedom Trail Commission](#), is the author of “[The Underground Railroad in Michigan](#),” an account of abolitionists and the freedom struggle in mid-nineteenth-century Michigan.

More from The Ann Arbor News:

[Its role in the Underground Railroad could earn Jackson train station national historic recognition](#)

[Ann Arbor author digs into Zingerman's history with new book](#)

['Stand on her shoulders': Ypsilanti's first Black woman on City Council inspires today's leaders](#)

[Ann Arbor author covers Michigan beer history from Prohibition to brewpubs in new book](#)



Digital Report - February 2022

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 - February 2022

SOCIAL MEDIA

facebook

Blue Heron Bay

Monthly Impressions

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
879	448	

Total Post Engagement

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
18	6	

facebook

Independence Lake

Monthly Impressions

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
19,826	17,731	

Total Post Engagement

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
729	734	

facebook

Meri Lou Murray

Monthly Impressions

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
5,708	3,534	

Total Post Engagement

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
254	118	

facebook

Pierce Lake

Monthly Impressions

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
1,934	1,185	

Total Post Engagement

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
39	75	

facebook

Rolling Hills

Monthly Impressions

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
94,436	66,968	

Total Post Engagement

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
5,544	1,752	

facebook

WCPARC

Monthly Impressions

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
28,973	16,264	

Total Post Engagement

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
1,277	839	

Instagram

Rolling Hills

Total Followers

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
984	979	

Top Post - Hunt for the Yeti

How many people reacted to posts

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
32	n/a	

Instagram

WCPARC

Total Followers

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
2,383	2,363	

Top Post - Ice Sculptures

How many people reacted to posts

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
90	62	



Digital Report - February 2022

Facebook/Instagram - Top Posts



washtenawcountyparks
Ann Arbor, Michigan



Liked by [rollinghillspark](#) and 53 others

washtenawcountyparks Volunteers have been hard at work this winter cutting invasive shrubs and vines from parks and preserves throughout the county. We have a couple opportunities left before a brief hiatus leading into spring. 🌸🌸

Join us this Saturday (2/19) at County Farm Park in Ann Arbor or next Saturday (2/26) at [@rollinghillspark](#) in Ypsilanti. To register for either, email carlislec@washtenaw.org.



WASHTENAWCOUNTYPARKS
Posts



90 likes

washtenawcountyparks It's a bit frosty this morning! Come visit Nelson Meade County Farm Park today and check out the ice and wood carving displays! Send us your best photos at parks@washtenaw.org, or tag us ([#washtenawcountyparks](#)) and you might win some great prizes!



ROLLINGHILLSPARK
Posts



32 likes

rollinghillspark Eddie the Yeti and family were feeling the love and Olympic spirit last Saturday. Thanks for everyone for participating in the Hunt for the Yeti 2022. Hope to see you again next year.



Digital Report - February 2022

Website, Newsletter, News

Website Statistics

washtenaw.org/parks

February 2022

Total Page Visits	This Month	Last Month	Sept. Last Year
	22,915	24,545	

Top Pages Viewed	Views
Rolling Hills County Park	5,538
Meri Lou Murray	4,964
Rolling Hills County Park - sledding	2,745
Rolling Hills County Park	2,000

Monthly Newsletter

WCPARC

Newsletter via MailChimp

Sent to	Opened	Clicks
6,750	2,959	216

Newsletter non MailChimp

Sent to	Opened	Clicks
1,113	N/A	

In The News

Ann Arbor

'Freedom in rural Michigan': Washtenaw County hosts Underground Railroad historian

Updated: Feb. 21, 2022, 9:20 a.m. | Published: Feb. 21, 2022, 9:20 a.m.



This free photo shows a historic marker behind the old Ann Arbor News building on Huron Street and across from city hall that notes this was where the Michigan Antislavery Society was founded in 1836.



By Lucas Smolicz-Larson | lmolokclan@mlive.com
WASHTENAW COUNTY, MI - A scholar of the Underground Railroad in Michigan is bringing Washtenaw County residents the story of the connection between two historic properties and the fight against slavery close to 200 years ago.

WCPARC hosted a virtual presentation by Carol Mull regarding the connection between two park properties and the Underground Railroad. MLive picked up our media release and ran it in The Ann Arbor News.

Photography



Photos taken at Rolling Hills County Park by WCPARC photo ambassador Irina Stoilov



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MEMORANDUM

TO: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Coy P. Vaughn, Director
DATE: March 15, 2022
RE: Project and Activities Update – February 2022

Park Facility Events and Projects

Independence Lake

- “Stargazing with your Sweetheart” program was held on February 11. Unfortunately, stars were not visible due to weather, but there was an unexpected marriage proposal!
- Eighty-four people participated in the Annual Ice Fishing Derby held on February 12.
- Nineteen families registered for the month’s “Night Hike” on February 25.
- Maintenance completed task of re-strapping lounge chairs for Blue Heron Bay Spray Park.
- Staff is actively recruiting for summer employees through various means including an employee video available on the website and social media and by offering a lifeguard certification course over the high school spring break.
- Construction of the Disc Golf Pavilion is expected to be completed in early April, weather permitting.

Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center

- Winter group exercise classes concluded at the end of February and was followed by a free mini session during which members could try-out any of 13 new classes before registering for Spring Session.
- Staff provided free pickleball instruction for beginners every Tuesday, and the facility has since seen an increase in regular players throughout the month.
- Seventeen families received “Family Date Night” take-home kits, which included various arts and crafts and supplies for making a cake.

Nelson Meade County Farm Park

- The Field Operations Building driveway security gates and a spilt rail fencing adjacent to the new entry drive are in the process of being installed.
- Parking lot reconstruction and site restoration is expected to recommence this spring, weather permitting.

Rolling Hills Park

- Winter Park operations were steady throughout the month with heavy use of the ski trails, sledding hills, and disc golf courses.
- 230 people attended “Hunt for the Yeti” on February 5. The Olympic-themed event featured Yeti hunting, trivia, hot cocoa, and cookies.
- Operations staff have been interviewing summer season staff applicants. Submissions have been slow, but staff continue to explore additional avenues of recruitment.

- Four participants attended and passed the lifeguard certification course.
- Sales of 2022 vehicle passes were strong throughout the month with 325 purchased.
- Maintenance staff worked diligently to clear snow and provide park access during several inclement weather days.
- Maintenance staff have been working on improvement projects throughout the park, including installing new and additional lighting in the Lodge restrooms and addressing trail runoff issues.
- Renovation of the Water Park's concession stand continues at a slow pace. The contractor has recently ramped up their efforts and an April 1 deadline has been issued for all indoor work to be completed so staff can begin to prepare the building for summer operations.

Staebler Farm Park

- Architects from The Collaborative completed schematic design for farmhouse rehabilitation.
- Staff is coordinating with Brown Drilling to establish a new well on the property to serve the Multipurpose Building; they are also investigating the possibility of utilizing the existing well to meet all anticipated park needs.
- February MFS classes: fourteen classes, including Blacksmithing 101, Blacksmithing for Kids, Bladesmithing, Basketry, Sloyd, and Copper Bracelet making.

Special Initiatives

Border to Border Trail (B2B)

- The Letter of No Exception from Amtrak was received for the Zeeb Road to Delhi Metropark (Segment DAA3), which was the final engineering approval needed to advance the project through MDOT's bidding process. Bids are anticipated in May or June and construction should begin this summer.
- Construction of the Dexter-Chelsea trail segment (CD2), Dancer Road to Wylie Road (1.6 miles), is complete except for final restoration and tree plantings, which will occur in the spring. The contractor installed two benches in February.
- Chelsea Connector segment (C1) construction is complete within Veterans Park, Weber Field, and Timbertown (south of Sibley Road). North of Sibley Road, the trail is graded and has stone base placed across the city-owned property. Work has been suspended until spring. The remainder of the project within the MDOT right-of-way to Werkner Road will be completed in 2022.
- Engineering and permitting are in various stages of progress for the following trail segments:
 - o Barton-Bandemer Tunnel and Trail (Segment DAA7 - Ann Arbor)
 - o Delhi Metropark to Wagner Road (Segment DAA4).
 - o Dexter-Chelsea (Segments CD2 & CD3) Wylie Road to Parker Road, and to Mill Creek Park, in Dexter.
 - o M-52 from North Territorial Road to Boyce Road (Segment CS3).
 - o Hudson Mills to Stinchfield Woods and Silver Lake State Park

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 this year.

Natural Areas Preservation Program (NAPP)

Stewardship

- Twenty volunteers helped to remove invasive shrubs and vines at Stewardship Saturdays and Neighborhood Nature Days at County Farm Park, Rolling Hills Park, Independence Lake Park, and Fox Science Preserve.

- Reconstruction of the Draper-Houston Meadows boardwalk was completed and the site is fully opened to the public.
- A public hike celebrating the opening of Dominican Meadows Preserve was held on February 25. More than thirty people attended, including neighbors and staff from Ann Arbor Township.
- Botanical inventories conducted in 2021 at Sharon Mills Park and Preserve have been finalized, and the data documents high-quality wet prairie and fen communities. Other botanic inventories include the forested wetland at Brauer Preserve, wetland communities at Independence Lake, and the forest at Sharon Short Hills Preserve.
- Invasive shrubs and trees have been removed at Rolling Hills Park, County Farm Park, and Park Lyndon, and West Lake, Brauer, Fox Science, Sharon Short Hills, and Baker Woods Preserves.

Acquisition

- The City of Ann Arbor Greenbelt closed on the John Russell farm property easement in Lodi Township to which WCPARC via NATAC contributed easement acquisition funds.

Interpretive Programming

- About 40 patrons participated in nature program events in February, including sunrise hike, Family Nature Adventure Winter Bouquet, and a scout program.



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

February 2022 - Claims Report

PARK / FACILITY / FUNCTION	UTILITIES	DIRECT PURCHASES	OTHER	TOTAL
Administration	\$ 1,029.27	\$ 3,142.40	\$ 44,482.36	\$ 48,654.03
Recreation Center	22,342.97	1,086.41	23,170.91	46,600.29
Park Maintenance	2,309.70	5,471.89	4,824.87	12,606.46
Pierce Lake Golf Course	3,511.62	945.13	3,847.10	8,303.85
Independence Lake	3,584.40	1,260.90	14,329.26	19,174.56
Rolling Hills	6,176.19	2,845.98	1,163.75	10,185.92
Parker Mill	91.11	-	685.00	776.11
Sharon Mills	115.83	-	25.00	140.83
Staebler Farm	531.67	163.83	247.90	943.40
Swift Run Dog Park	-	-	16,480.00	16,480.00
Capital Improvement	-	-	64,775.08	64,775.08
Committed Funding Partnerships	-	-	30,000.00	30,000.00
Commission	-	-	-	-
SUBTOTAL	\$ 39,692.76	\$ 14,916.54	\$ 204,031.23	\$ 258,640.53
Road Millage Fund	-	-	306,816.36	306,816.36
SUBTOTAL	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 306,816.36	\$ 306,816.36
Natural Areas Preservation Program				
Acquisition	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 142,825.00	\$ 142,825.00
Preserve Management	-	865.78	2,463.17	\$ 3,328.95
NATAC	-	-	-	\$ -
Acquisition	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,357.00	\$ 1,357.00
Annual Monitoring	-	-	-	\$ -
ALPAC	-	-	-	-
SUBTOTAL	\$ -	\$ 865.78	\$ 146,645.17	\$ 147,510.95
TOTAL	\$ 39,692.76	\$ 15,782.32	\$ 657,492.76	\$ 712,967.84

It was moved by _____ and supported by _____
to approve payment of claims in the amount of..... \$ 712,967.84

WASHTENAW COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
FUND BALANCE STATEMENT - FEBRUARY 28, 2022

Beginning Fund Balance (1/1/22)	16,261,408 (unaudited)	17%	YTD % Budget	
Revenue (Budget)		Revenue (Actual)		Variance
Property Tax	8,681,375	5,619,213	65%	(3,062,162)
State Grant Funds	-	-		-
Fees & Services	3,635,000	186,164	5%	(3,448,836)
Interest Earnings	100,000	-	0%	(100,000)
Other Revenue & Reimb.	<u>30,000</u>	<u>3,000</u>	10%	<u>(27,000)</u>
Total Revenue	12,446,375	5,808,377	47%	(6,637,998)
Expense (Budget)		Expense (Actual)		Variance
Personnel Services	(6,909,556)	(614,826)	9%	6,294,730
Supplies & Other Services	(2,549,600)	(165,564)	6%	2,384,036
Internal Service Charges	(939,876)	(156,279)	17%	783,597
Capital				
Land Acquisition	-	-	-	-
CIP/Development	(3,100,000)	(40,119)	1%	3,059,881
Contingency	(400,000)	(6,735)	2%	393,265
Machinery & Equipment	<u>(181,100)</u>	<u>(5,301)</u>	3%	<u>175,799</u>
Capital Subtotal	(3,681,100)	(52,155)	1%	3,628,945
Total Expense	<u>(14,080,132)</u>	<u>(988,825)</u>	7%	13,091,307
Surplus/(Deficit)	(1,633,757)	4,819,552		
Operating Reserve	(8,681,375)	(8,681,375)		
Funding Commitments (Partnerships)	<u>(2,589,546)</u>	<u>-</u>		
	(11,270,921)	(8,681,375)		
Projected Fund Balance (12/31/22)	<u>3,356,730</u>	<u>12,399,585</u>		

WASHTENAW COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
NATURAL AREAS PRESERVATION PROGRAM
FUND BALANCE STATEMENT - FEBRUARY 28, 2022

Beginning Fund Balance (1/1/22)	8,127,796	unaudited	17%	YTD % Budget	
Revenue (Budget)					Variance
Property Tax	4,622,888			65%	(1,636,571)
Federal Revenue	-				-
Interest Earnings	25,000			0%	(25,000)
Other Revenue & Reimb.	<u>5,000</u>			508%	<u>20,413</u>
Total Revenue		4,652,888	3,011,730	65%	(1,641,158)
Expense (Budget)					Variance
Personnel Services	(700,883)			10%	627,508
Supplies & Other Services	(336,200)			4%	323,335
Internal Service Charges	(20,612)			15%	17,599
Capital					
Land Acquisition	(2,550,000)			40%	1,536,705
Land Development	-				-
Machinery & Equipment	<u>(5,000)</u>			0%	<u>5,000</u>
Capital Subtotal	(2,555,000)			40%	1,541,705
Total Expense		<u>(3,612,695)</u>	<u>(1,102,548)</u>	31%	2,510,147
Surplus/(Deficit)		1,040,193	1,909,183		
Projected Fund Balance (12/31/22)		<u>9,167,989</u>	<u>10,036,979</u>		

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

MEMBERSHIPS

	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
INDIVIDUAL RESIDENT	306	129	186	\$ 54,085	\$ 10,354	\$ 34,612
INDIVIDUAL NON-RESIDENT	5	2	5	2,060	355	2,110
S/Y/D RESIDENT	341	48	138	56,860	7,129	24,622
S/Y/D NON-RESIDENT	2	-	2	520	-	556
FAMILY RESIDENT	128	106	68	29,764	4,489	12,073
FAMILY NON-RESIDENT	1	-	-	735	-	-
FAMILY - ADDT'L MEMBER	8	1	1	483	75	-
SENIORS OVER 80	98	11	43	5,460	715	2,665
PERSONAL TRAINERS	3	-	-	1,225	-	-
MILITARY ANNUAL	-	1	3	-	204	548
30-DAY PASS	220	138	117	9,137	6,165	6,082
SEASONAL PASS	-	-	-	-	-	-
REPLACEMENT PASS	26	3	1	26	3	1
SUB-TOTAL	1,138	439	564	\$ 160,355	\$ 29,489	\$ 83,269
PASS FACILITY USE	35,891	9,900	18,356			
PERCENT OF NON-RESIDENTS:	1.02%	0.70%	1.75%			

DAILY ENTRIES

	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
INDIVIDUAL RESIDENT	2,224	-	503	\$ 17,792	\$ -	\$ 4,918
INDIVIDUAL NON-RESIDENT	170	-	117	1,530	-	574
S/Y/D RESIDENT	1,794	-	441	10,764	-	3,133
S/Y/D NON-RESIDENT	81	-	168	567	-	2,973
INDIVIDUAL FITNESS RESIDENT	26	-	-	208	-	-
INDIVIDUAL FITNESS NON-RESIDENT	-	-	-	-	-	-
SENIOR FITNESS RESIDENT	103	-	-	618	-	-
SENIOR FITNESS NON-RESIDENT	2	-	-	14	-	-
DAILY PASS/GIFT CERTIFICATE SALES	-	-	-	-	-	-
SUB-TOTAL	4,400	-	1,229	\$ 31,493	\$ -	\$ 11,598
PERCENT OF NON-RESIDENTS:	5.75%	0.00%	23.19%			

OTHER REVENUE

	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
DAYCAMP	24	-	-	\$ 660	\$ -	\$ -
RECREATION PROGRAMS	4,070	480	3,133	36,427	2,318	17,853
FACILITY RENTALS	103.90	-	-	2,494	-	-
POOL/STUDIO/GYM PARTY PAVILION	-	-	-	-	-	-
MISC. RETAIL	64	-	3	1,774	150	13
LOCKERS	7,389	1,240	2,120	1,847	310	530
VENDING	-	-	-	558	-	-
SUB-TOTAL	11,651	1,720	5,256	\$ 43,759	\$ 2,778	\$ 18,396

	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
YTD TOTAL PARTICIPATION & REVENUE:	53,080	12,059	25,405	\$ 235,607	\$ 32,267	\$ 113,262



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MEMORANDUM

To: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Coy P. Vaughn, Director
Date: March 15, 2022
Re: Staebler Farmhouse Rehabilitation Construction Documents and RFP

Background

The Staebler farmhouse is located on the south side of Plymouth Road in the “historic campus” of the park, along with a tractor shed, chicken coop, and workshop. Built around 1870, the farmhouse exhibits a vernacular architectural design and is exceptional for its cultural context within the historic farmstead. Its rehabilitation will provide much needed assembly space and ensure its protection.

In 2018, the farmhouse was “mothballed” with the intent of stabilizing it for five-seven years to prevent further deterioration; the nearby chicken coop was also restored. In 2019, the workshop building was renovated by The Michigan Folk School (MFS) to provide classroom space.

Discussion

Based on the adopted 2017 Site Master Plan, 2017 Condition Assessment Report, and working sessions with Parks Commissioners, it was determined that the farmhouse would provide a shared use for WCPARC and MFS programming, and its rehabilitation should be prioritized. In July 2021, staff engaged professionals from The Collaborative to develop conceptual and schematic designs for farmhouse rehabilitation and the historic campus site design. The farmhouse schematic design (SD) includes three classrooms, two ADA accessible restrooms, and a small break area on the first floor. The second floor will be prepared for use as a residential unit, but its build-out will occur during a future phase of park development. The historic campus SD includes use of historically appropriate plantings and circulation pathways.

Where feasible, the farmhouse, mainly its exterior, will be restored to about 1920. Elements added after that time will be removed (i.e., mid-twentieth century fireplace) or reconstructed to the interpreted date (i.e., front porch, front windows). Select elements that were removed after 1920 will be rebuilt (i.e., former interior stairway and western porch). When possible, the interior will retain or reuse historic elements, such as windows and doors, while modern fixtures and elements will be compatible with the farmhouse’s character. Its SD is consistent with the overall vision for the park and keeps in guideline with the Secretary of Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation.

The next phase of the farmhouse rehabilitation project is to develop construction documents, followed by release of a Request for Proposals (RFP) to receive bids for the construction phase. The estimated cost for farmhouse renovation, based on the current schematic is \$574,000. A placeholder of \$500,000 has been included in the CIP for the farmhouse renovation. The total estimated project cost for this portion, which includes additional site elements, soft costs and contingency is \$1.2 million. Once bids are received,

proposals and budgets will be brought back to the Parks Commission for approval. Rehabilitation of the house is included in the CIP for 2022.

Recommendation

Based on staff review of the presented schematic design and its consistency with Staebler Farm Park Site Master Plan, I recommend that the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission authorize staff to work the County Purchasing staff and The Collaborative team on the development of construction documents and release an RFP for construction. Bid responses will be brought back to a future Park Commission meeting for final review and award.



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MEMORANDUM

To: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Coy P. Vaughn, Director
Date: March 15, 2022
Re: 2022 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant Application

Background

In 2019, the 48-acre Grossman property in Saline Township was nominated to the Natural Area Preservation Program (NAPP) for fee simple acquisition. The Natural Areas Technical Advisory Committee (NATAC) reviewed the property as part of its Round 19 applications and prioritized it as a Tier 1 property for acquisition. To attempt to maximize NATAC's budget, staff intends to apply for a 2022 MNRTF Grant to partially fund this acquisition.

Discussion

Of all active NAPP applications, this property acquisition makes the strongest application to MNRTF because of its location on a river and potential trail connection to City of Saline parks. The property fronts the Saline River for 3,700 feet (0.7 mile). It shares some of that frontage with the Leslee Neithammer Preserve, which is on the opposite bank and makes for an opportune trail connection. This would be NAPP's first spending in Saline Township.

Affinity Valuation Group completed an appraisal of the property in October 2021, which determined a fair market value of \$1,344,000 (\$30,000 per acre). WCPARC would apply for a Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund (MNRTF) grant for 40% (\$541,800) of the total project cost of \$1,354,600, which is the FMV plus \$10,600 in estimated due diligence costs. The property will be brought back to the Commission for approval of the sales contract and project budget once response is received from the grant.

A public hearing was held on March 3, 2022, as is required by MNRTF.

Recommendation

Based upon the review of the property by NATAC and staff and the requirements for a 2022 MNRTF grant, it is my recommendation that the Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission apply to the MNRTF for matching grant funds for the acquisition of the Grossman property in Saline Township, approve a resolution to submit a grant application and provide matching funds for the remainder acquisition funds.

Grossman Property: Aerial & Soils

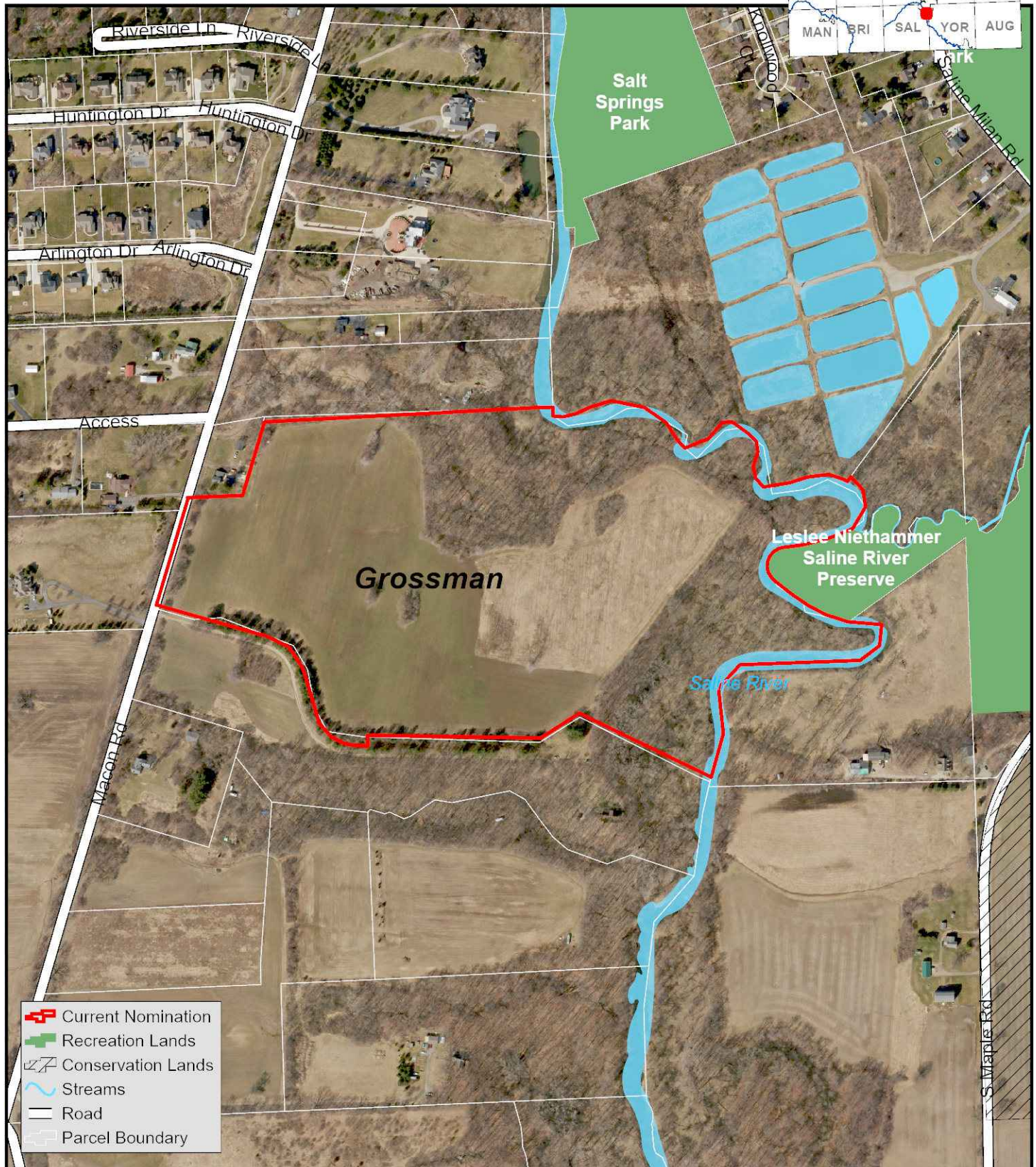
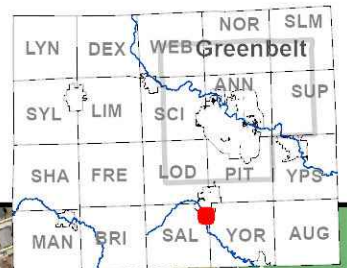
Natural Areas Preservation Program

Nomination ID: I9.308

Saline Township

+/- 44.8 Acres

Washtenaw County
Locator Map



Grossman Property: Local Area Aerial

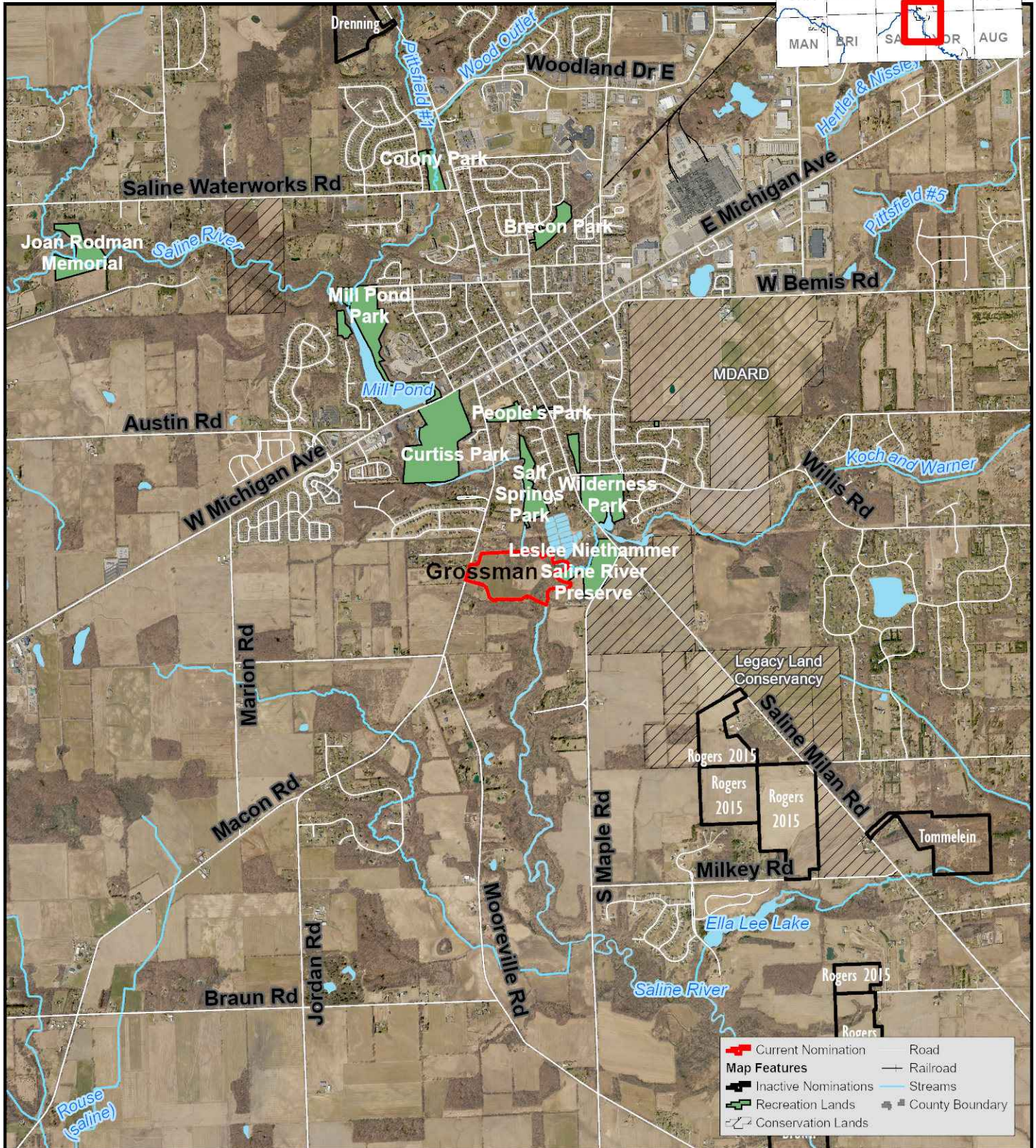
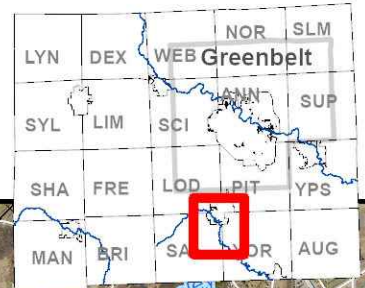
Natural Areas Preservation Program

Nomination ID: 19.308

Saline Township

+/-44.8 Acres

Washtenaw County
Locator Map





Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
TO PROVIDE MATCHING FUNDS FOR A
2022 MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND GRANT APPLICATION
TO THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

March 15, 2022

WHEREAS, the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission supports the submission of an application titled "Saline River Preserve" to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for the acquisition of 44.80 acres of land in Saline Township; and

WHEREAS, the current Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2020-2024 calls for continued preservation of good quality natural resources through the Natural Areas Preservation Program; and

WHEREAS, the acquisition of this land provide greater access to recreational opportunities for the residents of Washtenaw County; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Commission seeks to augment its voter approved millage funding with outside financial grant assistance; and

WHEREAS, the subject property has an estimated fair market value of \$1,344,000 and grant eligible due diligence costs of \$10,600, for a total project cost of \$1,354,600;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission hereby authorizes submission of a 2022 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant application for \$541,800 (five hundred forty-one thousand eight hundred dollars, ~40%), and agrees to furnish up to \$812,800 (eight hundred twelve thousand eight hundred dollars, 60%) as its share of the total \$1,354,600 cost of this project, if a Michigan Natural Trust Fund grant, administered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, is awarded to the Commission.

Patricia Scribner, President (DATE)
Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

Dan Ezekiel, Secretary/Treasurer (DATE)
Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission