



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

NOTICE OF MEETING

Date: April 12, 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. March 15, 2022 Meeting (attached, pp. 1-5 /action item)
- 4. Public Comment**
- 5. Communications, Projects & Activities** (attached, pp. 6-33 /action item)
- 6. Financial & Recreation Reports – March 2022**
 - A. Financial Reports (attached, pp. 34-36 /action item)
 - B. Recreation Reports (attached, pp. 37-41 /action item)
- 7. Old Business**
 - A. B2B – Dexter-Chelsea (CD2) Change Order (attached, pp. 42-43 /action item)
 - B. NAPP – Scully et al Properties, Final Approval (attached, pp. 44-48 /action item)
 - C. NAPP – Botsford Property, Final Approval (attached, pp. 49-54 /action item)
 - D. Other Old Business
- 8. New Business**
 - A. NAPP – Maisel Buy-Protect-Sell Easement, Partnership (attached, pp. 55-61 /action item)
 - B. Skatepark Lighting Project (attached, pp. 62-63 /action item)
 - C. Park Lyndon DNR Trail Connection (informational at meeting)
 - D. Other New Business
- 9. Commissioners / Directors Comments**
- 10. Adjournment**

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



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: March 15, 2022

Time: 2:00 p.m.

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

Members Present: Patricia Scribner, WCPARC President, Janis Bobrin, WCPARC Vice President; Dan Ezekiel, Secretary; Robert Joerg; Sue Shink, Brenda McKinney, and Ricky Jefferson.

Members Absent: JoAnn McCollum, and Evan Pratt.

Members Attending Remotely: Robert Marans (non-voting member)

Staff Present: Coy Vaughn, Director; Meghan Bonfiglio, Deputy Director; Ginny Leikam, Superintendent of Park Planning and Natural Areas; Brian Machemer, Superintendent of Independence Lake, Jason Brooks, Manager of Finance and Administration (attending remotely); Ann Ziolkowski, Communications Manager; David Ries, Project Manager; Hannah Cooley, Management Analyst, Kira Macyda, Park Planner, Rosie Pahl Donaldson, Park Planner (attending remotely); Keith Russeau and Justin Fogle, The Collaborative Inc., Andrew DeLeeuw

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Scribner called the meeting to order at 2:07 p.m. with a moment of silence.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the February 8, 2022 regular meeting were included with the agenda material.

It was moved by Ms. Shink and seconded by Mr. Ezekiel to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2022, regular meeting. Roll call vote: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 3 Absent (Marans, McCollum, Pratt), the motion was approved.

The minutes of the March 3, 2022 public hearing were included with the agenda material.

It was moved by Ms. McKinney and seconded by Mr. Joerg to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2022, public hearing meeting. Roll call vote: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 3 Absent (Marans, McCollum, Pratt), the motion was approved.

3. Public Comment

Darlene Bouton from Ypsilanti addressed the commission regarding dog parks in the area. She recently found out that the reason there is no water at Swift Run Dog Park it is located on a landfill. She asked if the Commission could install a water tank? She also mentioned the property

at Michigan Avenue and Platt Rd. that is owned by Pittsfield Township as there is already bathrooms and water on site. She also suggested that corporations could sponsor amenities at the dog park such as fencing.

Toni Spears, Dexter Township Resident, asked if any public engagement meetings had been scheduled yet to discuss the B2B alignment near the Miller Smith Preserve.

Susan Miller addressed the commission regarding the proposal for a portion of the Border-to-Border Trail to be constructed at the Miller Smith Preserve. Her family used to own one of the properties that make up the preserve and the preserve is named after her father. She bought it because she knew it not viable for development. She discouraged the commission from putting the trail through the preserve as it would impact the visitor experience with more bikes and dogs that are not currently allowed on the property. The construction of the trail would also impact wildlife, the vernal pools, and high FQA of the woods. She hopes the commission will not support the plan to put the B2B on the preserve.

4. Communications, Projects & Activities

Mr. Vaughn reported on the February communications which were included in the packet and provided a presentation summarizing the projects, programs, and events for the month. Mr. Vaughn also introduced Mr. David Ries, the new Project Manager, the position that was vacated with Mr. Dehring's retirement last month.

Ms. Bonfiglio presented information and updates on the seasonal staff hiring efforts. PLGC has hired about 50% of the seasonal staff needed to operate. The other facilities are concerned about reaching the needed levels.

It was moved by Mr. Joerg and seconded by Ms. Shink to accept and file the Communications, Projects & Activities for the month of February 2022, as submitted. Roll call vote: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 3 Absent (Marans, McCollum, 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 \$712,967.84.

It was moved by Ms. Bobrin and seconded by Ms. McKinney to accept and file the Financial Reports for the month of January 2022 as submitted. Roll call vote: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 3 Absent (Marans, McCollum, Pratt), the motion was approved.

B. Recreation Reports

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

It was moved by Ms. Shink and seconded by Mr. Ezekiel to accept and file the Recreation Reports for the month of February 2022 as submitted. Roll call vote: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 3 Absent (Marans, McCollum, Pratt), the motion was approved.

6. Old Business

A. Staebler Farmhouse Renovations

Ms. Leikam introduced the consultant team from The Collaborative Inc. who has been working on schematic design of the Staebler Farmhouse renovation. The Collaborative presented the historical context of the farmhouse and the proposed renovations including a fly through visual of the proposed renovations.

It was moved by Bobrin, seconded by Shink to authorize staff to work the County Purchasing staff and The Collaborative team on the development of construction documents and release an RFP for construction of the renovations of the Staebler Farmhouse, based on the presentation at the meeting. Roll call vote: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 3 Absent (Marans, McCollum, Pratt), the motion was approved.

B. B2B – Miller Smith Preserve, public outreach plan

Mr. Sanderson provided background and an overview of the proposed 3-6 month community outreach plan for the Border-to-Border Trail and Miller Smith Preserve connection, as outlined below.

1. Continue conversations with legal counsel prior to a public meeting to explore and confirm feasibility
2. Continue to analyze physical constraints with engineering team including feasibility, costs, exploration of alternative options, and other related information prior to a public meeting
3. Host a public meeting to explain the proposal in detail and solicit public feedback for consideration by the Commission. Meeting will likely be in person with a web/call in option if the venue supports it. *Meeting date and location TBD.*
 - a) Communications and advertising the public meeting: post to Parks and B2B Trail website, mailing to immediate neighbors, press release to Mlive and Sun Times, post notice on Miller Smith Kiosk and on B2B Trail in Dexter and Chelsea.
4. Solicit feedback through an on-line survey. This will be the same written feedback that is collected at the public meeting.
 - a) Provide link to watch the public meeting presentation prior to taking survey. Paper copies will be available upon request.
5. Request that Dexter City Council amend the agreement to allow the Commission to make the final decision
6. Summarize & provide all information to the Commission. Present the results of the public meeting and on-line feedback to the Commission at a regular meeting or working session
7. Develop a final staff recommendation for consideration at a regular meeting of the Commission.

C. Project Update – Independence Lake Boardwalk

Mr. Vaughn introduced Mr. Machemer, Superintendent of Independence Lake, and gave a brief background of his tenure with WCPARC, as he is retiring the beginning of April. Mr. Machemer provided an update on boardwalk projects at Independence Lake. He also alerted to the commission to the possibility of a change order that may be needed to account for the depths needed for the helical piles to account for the load bearing needed.

D. Other Old Business

None.

7. New Business

A. Climate Action Plan Presentation

Mr. DeLeeuw provided an overview of the County's Climate Action plan.

Mr. Marans pointed out that HCMA was doing similar work and encouraged staff to reach out to them. Mr. Joerg stated that getting to net zero carbon emissions is a difficult goal to achieve. He asked if offsets of carbon would be considered in factoring this. Mr. DeLeeuw responded that offsets could possibly be considered, but they prefer to focus on actual reductions first. Commissioners Ezekiel, Joerg, Marans, and Bobrin all spoke in favor of the initiative and are eager to get started on some action steps to reduce the WCPARC carbon footprint.

B. NAPP – Grossman MNRTF Grant Application

Ms. Pahl Donaldson provided an overview of the Grossman property, nominated to NAPP in Round 19. The property was identified as a Tier 1 priority for acquisition at the time. To attempt to maximize NATAC's budget, staff recommends applying for a 2022 MNRTF grant to partially fund the acquisition. The property fronts the Saline River and connects to other trails and parks in the City of Saline. It also shares some river frontage with the Leslee Neithammer Preserve, which NAPP provided partial funding for the acquisition. This would be NAPP's first purchase in Saline Township.

It was moved by Mr. Ezekiel, seconded by Ms. McKinney to approve the application to the MNRTF for matching grant funds for the acquisition of the Grossman property in Saline Township, approve a resolution (attached) to submit a grant application and provide matching funds for the remainder acquisition funds. Roll call vote: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 3 Absent (Marans, McCollum, Pratt), the motion was approved.

C. Other New Business

None.

8. Commissioners/Directors Comments

Mr. Vaughn explained that the County had received a \$3 million earmark appropriation from Congresswomen Debbie Dingell for the Eastside YMCA project. He added that the site that was being considered in Ypsilanti Township may no longer be a viable option and that the search was on for other options.

Mr. Vaughn reminded the Commission of a presentation 2-years ago from the Ann Arbor Sports Commission regarding the possibility of developing a large indoor/outdoor field complex at Rolling Hills. He added that a Market Study had recently been completed and that this opportunity may be on a future agenda for further discussion. Ms. Bonfiglio added that the Sports Commission was also studying the possibility of a rowing course on Ford Lake and that WCPARC may be asked to participate in this project, as well.

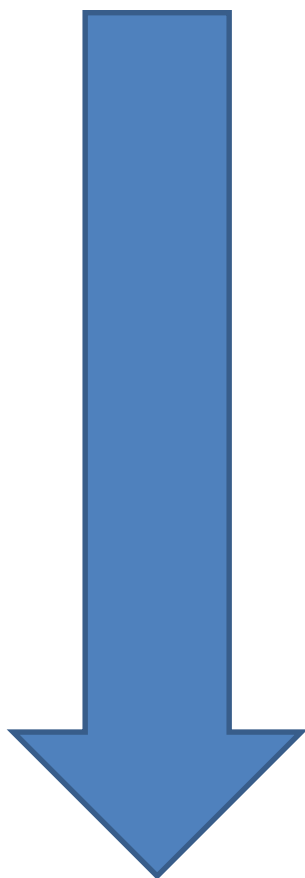
Mr. Jefferson stated that a Summer Jazz Concert Series was planned for Ford Lake Park in Ypsilanti and that this may be something that WCPARC could help sponsor. Ms. McKinney agreed.

9. Adjournment

It was moved by Ms. Bobrin and seconded Ms. McKinney to adjourn the meeting. All ayes.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:24 p.m.

Communications, Projects & Activities



Tim Eder
720 Island Lake
Chelsea, MI 48118
Timeder138@gmail.com

Via e-mail

March 17, 2022

Coy Vaughn, Director
Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation

Dear Coy:

Thanks for taking my call yesterday to discuss your agency's consideration of potential plans to open parts of Park Lyndon to mountain bikes. For the record, you know that I am a Trustee for Lyndon Township and a Board member of the Huron Waterloo Pathway Initiative where I have been an advocate for trails and bike paths for many years. These comments are on behalf of myself only and are not the views of any other entity.

I strongly oppose opening parts of Park Lyndon to bike traffic, mostly because this would have serious detrimental impacts on other uses of the park, especially hiking. I'm a frequent user of all of the trails in the area for hiking, biking, skiing and snowshoeing. We use Park Lyndon regularly for hiking. Unlike the Pottawatamie or the DTE trail system, hikers can now enjoy Park Lyndon without being constantly approached from the rear by fast moving bikers. Unlike the Border-to-Border trail, the trails in Park Lyndon are not built to safely accommodate both bikers and hikers. Also, unless the pathways are paved, bikes create dramatic changes in the terrain they use, by banking corners, and changing drainage and erosion patterns. This is evident on the Potto and the DTE system and is the reason the DTE trail is frequently closed when the trails are wet and soft.

In my frequent hikes through Park Lyndon, I almost always see other hikers, many with dogs on leashes and families with children. Bikes could create serious safety issues for those hikers and would almost certainly discourage their use.

I understand options include restricting to bikes to only certain parts of the Park and maybe even creating a new, separate path. This would not solve the problems. It would be very difficult to enforce keeping bikes off the other parts of the existing trail system. And if Park Lyndon were to provide access to trails on state lands that are currently off limits to bikes this would enable and encourage the same conflicts and trail damage on state land. The state has demonstrated that it has even fewer resources to manage its trails. Unlike Park Lyndon, on more than one occasion I have taken my chainsaw out to the trails on state land to remove fallen trees.

Mountain bikes have access to some of the best trails in Michigan and the sport is a tremendous asset to Chelsea and the surrounding area. I'm a strong supporter of mountain biking. Just not in Park Lyndon.

Thanks for considering my views.

Sincerely,

/S/

Tim Eder

Coy Vaughn

From: sean kiebler <seankiebler@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2022 6:51 PM
To: Coy Vaughn
Subject: Mtn. Bikes

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.

Sir,

I heard you have plans to open parts of Park Lyndon to mountain bikes. Although I am a serious mtn. biker I strongly oppose opening parts of Park Lyndon to bike traffic, this would have a horrible impact on other uses of the park, but mostly hiking. My family and I moved here because of all of the nature trails we can use for hiking and biking.

We are frequent users of all of the trails in the Lyndon area for hiking, biking, skiing and snowshoeing and even some sledding from time to time.

However we use Park Lyndon South and North all the time exclusively for hiking.

We mtn. bikers already have some of the coolest mtn. bike trails around with the Potawatomi and the DTE trail system.

We hike Lyndon N. & S. so we dont have to worry about being constantly rode up on by bikers. Unlike the Border-to-Border trail, the trails in Park Lyndon are not built to safely accommodate both bikers and hikers. Too many wild curves and hills. Someone is gonna hurt for sure.

In our frequent hikes through Park Lyndon, I almost always see other hikers and many families with children. Bikers will cause serious safety issues for us and I think it's a bad idea.

Also, I've seen what happens on the different dte trails from bikes chewing up the trail.

Mtn. biking has a serious impact on the terrain with all of the banked corners, and changing drainage and erosion patterns. I do not want to see that happen in my park.

I also heard there are options to maybe include restricting bikes to only certain parts of the Park and maybe even creating a new, separate path.

Nah! All set on that too.

This would still cause problems. You most definitely wont be able to keep bikers off the other parts of the existing trail system. And if Park Lyndon were to provide access to trails on state lands that are currently off limits to bikes this would enable and encourage the same conflicts and trail damage we've seen on the dte and Potawatomi...

My family and I love this area for mountain biking, and hiking and we are all proud to tell others how we have some of the dopest trails for both of those in the state.

So there is no need for additional bike trails. At least not in or around Park Lyndon North or South.

We are strong supporters of mountain biking and we recognize mountain biking is an economic boon to Chelsea and the surrounding area. However, we don't want it in our hiking paradise, Park Lyndon North or South.

Thanks a ton for your time and consideration.

Warmest regards,

Sean Kiebler
600 Island Lake Rd, Chelsea, MI 48118

Coy Vaughn

From: Abhay Vadhavkar <abevadhav@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2022 9:18 AM
To: Coy Vaughn
Subject: Park Lyndon - biking proposal

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.

Mr. Vaughn,

I live at 670 Island Lake Rd, Chelsea, MI 48118. I am strongly opposed to opening up Park Lyndon to bicycling for the following reasons:

- Park Lyndon is utilized by many, including myself for hiking or trail running in a safe and stress free environment. Opening up the trails to bicycles will completely destroy the sanctity of the trails and make the trails dangerous for children, adults especially aging adults with poor hearing, and pets.
- Bicycles tend to erode and damage trails if not continuously maintained. As a mountain biking enthusiast myself, I greatly value trails that are well maintained for bicycling and recognize the effort required to do so.
- There is already an abundance of excellent bicycling trails in this area which I personally enjoy. People drive for more than an hour just to enjoy the DTE and Potawatomi trails being some of the best in the Southeastern Michigan area.

Please join me and others in opposing this proposal and keep Park Lyndon safe, well maintained, and exclusive for hikers, trail runners along with our pets and children.

Thank you very much.

Abhay Vadhavkar



Ann Arbor

150-year-old Washtenaw County farmhouse being restored, given new purpose

Updated: Mar. 28, 2022, 8:32 a.m. | Published: Mar. 27, 2022, 10:30 a.m.

35

Staebler Farmhouse Rehabilitation Project

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

WASHTENAW COUNTY, MI – A rural farmhouse that has stood for a century and a half some 10 miles outside downtown Ann Arbor is set to turn a new page.

For more than 150 years, the unassuming two-story home served as the homestead for a family descended from German immigrants, and who exemplified Washtenaw County's agricultural roots.

Donald Staebler moved into the home on Plymouth Road in Superior Township just shy of his second birthday in 1912, before it had any running water, plumbing or electricity.

For much of the next century, he cared for the family plot before selling the farm to the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission in 2001 so it could become a public park.

Now, five years after Staebler's death at age 106, officials hope his homestead will remind generations to come of the way he and his family lived.

They're gearing up for an exacting rehabilitation of the farmhouse, restoring it to its 1920s state, for use in park programming and instruction in traditional arts, crafts and other skills by the Michigan Folk School.

"We all have wonderful memories of the farm," said David Staebler, the oldest of Donald's nephews. "To know that it's going to be preserved and from the outside look like it did before the '40s, it's heart-warming, it really is."

Past

The 98 acres that today make up Staebler Farm County Park, near the small settlement of Frains Lake along M-14, encompass a pair of natural lakes, farmland and woods hugging either side of Plymouth Road.

Officials believe the farmhouse was built around 1870, in the years after the Civil War, though an atlas dated 1856 shows a previous farmstead at the site.

In his memoir and family historical document, Donald noted the unusual dimensions of the stone footprint in the home's basement means there was almost certainly another home there before the one he and his five siblings occupied with parents Albert and Ella.



1941

Historical photos from the Staebler farm house at what is now Staebler Farm County Park in Washtenaw County. The farmhouse is slated for renovation. (Photo provided by the Staebler family) Photo provided by the Staebler family

“We grew up in the days when there were no fast food joints or hot dog stands, no supermarkets with delis or prepared food departments, no frozen foods or frozen dinners,” he wrote. “Many wonder how we managed to live.”

The answer comes from the land around the family, and the chickens, pigs and cows the family raised. Donald and his brother were each given heifers on their 10th birthdays and tasked with recording the milk they provided, according to the family history.

Donald, who became a teacher, demonstrated a mechanical aptitude that jumped from Erector Sets to bicycles to automobiles. “He proved to be a jack-of-all-trades and the master of all,” his mother Ella observed.

As World War II broke out, Donald and his wife Lena moved back to the family farm, and he took a job at Willow Run instructing recruits on the maintenance B-24 bombers, a task that took him to England as the war wound down.

While his siblings “scattered to the four winds,” as a family member told [The Ann Arbor News in a 2001 story](#), Donald stayed on the farm with Lena. “The land is his legacy,” the story’s headline proclaims.

Sue Shink, chair of the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners, befriended Donald at his 85th birthday after reading about his desire to preserve his land in a news article.

In a time before the county’s own preservation program or Ann Arbor’s greenbelt initiative, Shink helped research avenues to protect the land.

"I think like many farmers he was reticent to believe that the best could happen, but he still kept working to make it happen," she said.

"He did not want his property to raise a crop of houses, was what he said," remembers David Staebler, who added his uncle felt a duty to preserve the legacy of the farm for the rest of his family.

Enter Washtenaw County.

Present

Kira Macyda, a Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission park planner today, came onboard as an intern in 2006.

One of her first tasks was to document the history of what was then [a new county acquisition](#), the Staebler property. She recorded interviews with Donald, still living in the farmhouse into his 90s, and poured through the family's trove of photographs and lore, as well as local archives.

"Even at 103, he was still pretty strong," Macyda said. "He had a huge heart."

Today, it's clear Macyda knows the farmhouse as well as anyone.

Officials mothballed the building in 2018 to protect it, and today layers of wallpaper to match its years peek out from the walls. In a recent walkthrough, Macyda could recite exactly where stairwells and porches had been though the home's decades of alterations.

The land fills a niche for officials, which lacked recreation resources in the northeastern portion of the county, she said. They looked to preserve the barns and farm buildings, with an eye toward programming they could offer.

In doing so, the county has partnered with the Michigan Folk School, a nonprofit that now runs a blacksmithing studio, wood shop and leather-working center in a tractor shed it renovated on the property.

"It's like a perfect marriage of what they can offer, these traditional folks skills on a historic farmstead," Macyda said. "It's a way for us to be able to provide the community with a really interesting skill opportunity, highlighting what people who lived here 100 years ago might have done."

Future

The park has come a long way. It has a parking lot, walking trails and is open to the public on its southern side. And now even with the Folk School currently occupying parts of the park, officials are looking toward the future.

Working with Toledo and Ann Arbor-based architecture and design firm The Collaborative, the county has crafted plans for [a new multi-purpose building](#) with classroom space slated to break ground this spring, part of [a phased development plan for the park](#).

As for the farmhouse, Macyda said the commission intends to restore it to its appearance some 100 years ago, before some of the more modern alterations, using the [U.S. Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation](#), meant to preserve historically significant properties.



A rendering of what the Staebler farm house at Staebler Farm County Park in Washtenaw County will look like once renovations are complete. (Photo provided by The Collaborative) Photo provided by The Collaborative

Conceptual plans include a paved path from the parking lot, accessible ramp to the first floor of the building and two accessible bathrooms. One room will house large Cranbrook looms for the Folk School's fiber arts program, with others available as flexible programming space.

Upstairs, though definite plans aren't finalized, Macyda said officials intend to renovate the space as a residential unit, available for a caretaker or artist-in-residence.

Members of the Parks and Recreation Commission recently approved moving forward with the project, which would cost \$1.2 million inclusive of all the site elements they want to incorporate. Construction drawings are in development. The goal is for it to take place in 2023, Macyda said.

For Shink, who sits on the commission, participating in the process ranks among the highlights of her career in public service.

"This for my soul has just felt so incredible to be able to work on this so many years after Don and I had those first conversations about what he could do to keep his farm from growing a subdivision and instead keeping it in a way that the public would be able to enjoy it forever," she said.

David Staebler, who helped clear the property of his family's possessions after Donald's death in 2017 and now resides in Pennsylvania, agrees. The park is "the best of all possible outcomes," he said.

"It's been a landmark for over a century," he said.

More from The Ann Arbor News:

[Washtenaw County will raise transgender pride flag, create 'gender-affirming' policy](#)

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

**Local 4 News at 4**

The latest local, regional and national news events of the day along with weather conditions and traffic issues are provided by the Local 4 Evening News Team.

LIVE**HIDE****ALL ABOUT ANN ARBOR****Our favorite walks in the Ann Arbor area**

Meredith Bruckner, Community News Producer, All About Ann Arbor

Published: **April 6, 2022, 1:58 PM**

Tags: **Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, Parks, Ann Arbor Parks, Nature Area, Trails, Walking, Walking Trails, Running, Fitness, County Farm Park, Gallup Park, Border-To-Border Trail, Hiking, Peony Garden, Nichols Arboretum, University Of Michigan**



ANN ARBOR – National Walking Day is the first Wednesday in April, which inspired us to create a guide to our favorite walks in and around Ann Arbor.

Boasting 161 parks, Ann Arbor is a haven for those who love a good stroll. Its seemingly endless outdoor spaces have trails and paved walkways for hikers, runners, cyclists and walkers to enjoy.

As the weather warms up and flowers emerge from the ground after a long winter, it's the perfect time to head outside and take in some scenery.

Here's a roundup of our favorite places to stretch our legs:

Gallup Park

According to the city of Ann Arbor, Gallup Park is the city's most popular recreation area -- and it's easy to see why. The 69-acre park is packed with things to do and see, including a 1.35 mile loop around Gallup Pond, a canoe livery, several play structures including the popular universal access playground and areas to grill and enjoy an event with loved ones.



It's a great place to see wildlife, including numerous species of native birds, turtles, fish and more. With four parking lots, it's also easy to access by vehicle.

Ad

Read: [Universal Access Playground open for all to play in Ann Arbor](#)



What we love most about Gallup Park is the loop around the pond. It is largely paved, except for some small islands that are connected by bridges. These tree-shaded sections make you forget you're in a bustling college town, and depending on the time of year, **you may see some goats doing some landscaping** -- you read that right.

Gallup Park is located at 3000 Fuller Road.

For more information, visit the city's Gallup Park **website**.

Ad

County Farm Park

Not far from Gallup Park is the beautiful 127-acre County Farm Park. Owned and maintained by Washtenaw County, the park features a farm-themed playground, more than three miles of natural and paved trails, a colorful perennial garden and a community garden with plots to rent.



A flower seen at the entrance of County Farm Park in Ann Arbor. (Meredith Bruckner)

It also boasts a Fitness Trail with 18 stations to help you get your blood flowing.

Families love to frequent the park, as do dog walkers.

Nelson Meade County Farm Park, Washtenaw County, Ann Arbor, Mi...



Throughout the park's walking trails, signs are posted to help you navigate the routes.

County Farm Park is located at 2230 Platt Road.

For more information, visit the county's County Farm Park [website](#).

Nichols Arboretum

Nestled in the woods next to University of Michigan's medical campus is the Nichols Arboretum.

Known locally as "The Arb," you can find nearly 3.5 miles of walking trails that will make you forget you're anywhere near an urban area. With three entrances at Nichols Drive, Geddes Road, and Washington Heights, The Arb is easily accessible.

The Main Valley is a popular spot for University of Michigan students and locals alike to throw a frisbee, read a book or take a stroll with their dogs.



Visitors hike in the Nichols Arboretum on June 3, 2018. (Meredith Bruckner)

Due to the nature of the Arb's terrain, expect some hills and steep grades depending on which trail you're on.

Our favorite time of year to visit the Arb is in the late spring and early summer when its **famed Peony Garden** is in full bloom.



The peony garden at Nichols Arboretum on June 18, 2019. (Photo: Meredith Bruckner)

During peak bloom, visitors can revel in the garden's beautiful 10,000-flower display. The Peony Garden boasts 270 historic peony varieties and is the largest collection of herbaceous peonies dating pre-1950 in North America.



The peony garden at Nichols Arboretum on June 18, 2019. (Photo: Meredith Bruckner)

For more information, visit the Arb's [website](#).

Ad

Border-to-Border Trail

The B2B Trail connects towns and cities across Washtenaw County by 35 miles of trail.

Our personal favorite stretch is in the Dexter-Huron Metropark. A quick car or bike ride up the scenic Huron River Drive takes you to the entrance of the 122-acre park that features playgrounds, picnic areas and canoe launches.



Dame's Rocket seen along the Border-to-Border Trail in Dexter, Michigan. (Meredith Bruckner)

The trail, which crosses several bridges over the Huron River, is paved and has several access points. For a fun morning or afternoon, you can walk 20-30 minutes from the Metropark to downtown Dexter and experience all the charming small town has to offer.

You really can't go wrong on any section of this impressive trail, though.

For more information and to see all of its corridors, [click here](#).

Old West Side

With so many nature areas, it's easy to overlook a good urban walk in Ann Arbor. We love strolling the city's Old West Side, usually after grabbing a cup of coffee at Argus Farm Stop or Jefferson Market.

Its historic homes are a site to behold on their own, but the accompanying gardens make this area a true gem. We even found one house with its own architecturally matching little free library out front (pictured below).





A home on Ann Arbor's Old West Side. (Meredith Bruckner)

Now really, what is more Ann Arbor than that?

What's your favorite walk in Ann Arbor? Share it with us at allaboutannarbor@wdiv.com.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR:



Meredith Bruckner

Meredith has worked for WDIV since August 2017 and was voted one of Washtenaw County's best journalists in 2019 by eCurrent's readers. She covers the community of Ann Arbor and has a Master's degree in International Broadcast Journalism from City University London, UK.

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Digital Report - March 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 - March 2022

SOCIAL MEDIA

facebook

Blue Heron Bay

Monthly Impressions

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
1,554	879	

Total Post Engagement

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
6	18	

facebook

Independence Lake

Monthly Impressions

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
15,109	19,826	

Total Post Engagement

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
721	729	

facebook

Meri Lou Murray

Monthly Impressions

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
2,811	5,708	

Total Post Engagement

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
50	254	

facebook

Pierce Lake

Monthly Impressions

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
3,909	1,934	

Total Post Engagement

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
127	39	

facebook

Rolling Hills

Monthly Impressions

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
47,108	94,436	

Total Post Engagement

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
1,906	5,544	

facebook

WCPARC

Monthly Impressions

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
9,731	28,973	

Total Post Engagement

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
311	1,277	

Instagram

Rolling Hills

Total Followers

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
987	984	

Top Post - Hiring

How many people reacted to posts

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
31	23	

Instagram

WCPARC

Total Followers

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

Top Post - Blue birds

How many people reacted to posts

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
110	90	



Digital Report - March 2022

Facebook/Instagram - Top Posts

**Washtenaw Co...**
Wed 3/30/2022 6:34 am...

If there was ever a sound that can fill you with the warmth and happiness of spring, it's...



Total Engagements	110
Reactions	65
Comments	2
Shares	6
Post Link Clicks	—
Other Post Clicks	37

**Independence ...**
Tue 3/1/2022 12:50 pm ...

Welcome back! Terry & Tina, our resident Sandhill cranes are back for another summ...



Total Engagements	220
Reactions	130
Comments	13
Shares	6
Post Link Clicks	—
Other Post Clicks	71



Digital Report - March 2022

Website, Newsletter, News

Website Statistics

washtenaw.org/parks

February 2022

Total Page Visits	This Month	Last Month	Sept. Last Year
	18,885	22,915	

Top Pages Viewed	Views
Meri Lou Murray Rec Center	4,329
Rolling Hills County Park	1,246
Rolling Hills County Park - camp	985
Indy Lake County Park	919
WCPARC - Jobs	881

Monthly Newsletter

WCPARC 44.3 open rate

Newsletter via MailChimp

Sent to	Opened	Clicks
6,743	2,978	213

Newsletter non MailChimp

Sent to	Opened	Clicks
1,113	N/A	

In The News

Our favorite walks in the Ann Arbor area - ClickOnDetroit

ClickOnDetroit

Not far from Gallup Park is the beautiful 127-acre County Farm Park. Owned and maintained by Washtenaw County, the park features a farm-themed ...



Featuring County Farm Park and B2B Trail

150-year-old Washtenaw County farmhouse being restored, given new purpose - mlive.com

Ann Arbor News

For much of the next century, he cared for the family plot before selling the farm to the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission in 2001 ...

Staebler Farm

Photography



Ryan Henyard, Photo Ambassador,
taken at Trinkle-Marsh at Easton Farms Preserve



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MEMORANDUM

TO: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Coy P. Vaughn, Director
DATE: April 12, 2022
RE: Project and Activities Update – March 2022

Park Facility Events and Projects

Independence Lake

- “Fireside Story Time” was held on March 5. Families listened to stories about spring animals, walked to a muskrat den, and listened to birds.
- “Full Worm Moon Night Hike” was held on March 18. Patrons hiked to vernal pools and then were fortunate to observe reclusive salamanders.
- Operations staff have been actively recruiting and hiring seasonal summer staff members.
- Summer Day Camp registration opened on March 15 and is 90% full as of the first week in April.
- Maintenance staff have been preparing for the spring and summer seasons by cleaning up the disc golf course, nature trails, and disc golf pavilion area.
- Maintenance staff member, Thomas Pawley, who is also an EMT and fire fighter, led a trauma response workshop for maintenance staff.
- Construction of the Disc Golf Pavilion is substantially complete. Consultant and staff conducted a punch list to address any outstanding items. Project is expected to be fully complete in mid-April, weather permitting.
- Re-construction of three boardwalks has commenced. Parks staff are working closely with the contractor and consultant to ensure that design is implemented correctly. Project is expected to be fully complete sometime this summer.

Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center

- Registration for Summer Day Camp began on March 15, which is the first time offered since the pandemic began. Enrollment will be limited to 40 participants each week due to continued COVID protocols and staff shortages.
- Registration began for Camp Big Heart, which will take place the week of August 8 and be limited to 15 participants. Camp Big Heart provides a camp-like experience for teens and young adults with intellectual disabilities.
- Group swim lessons began again in March, with classes quickly filling as families prepare for the summer season.

Nelson Meade County Farm Park

- Staff and contractor met on site to discuss schedule of completing outstanding items. Sitework and paving of pathway along Washtenaw Ave. is expected to recommence this spring, weather permitting.

Rolling Hills Park

- Summer Day Camp registration opened at midnight on March 15; all eleven weeks of camp filled within fourteen hours.
- Two Lifeguard Certification courses and one Lifeguard Re-Certification course were held through March, with thirteen participants being certified. Since 2018, Rolling Hills Park's courses have certified 243 lifeguards.
- Operations staff have been focused on recruiting and hiring seasonal staff members.
- Maintenance staff have been preparing for spring by clearing the ring road and drainage areas and doing various other park improvement projects.
- Four pumps have been repaired in the Lazy River mechanical room due to flooding that occurred last fall. One pump in the main mechanical has been repaired as part of the preventative maintenance plan.
- Two disc golf tournaments were held on March 5 and 12, in partnership with MOB Disc Golf and WC Glow
- Interior renovations of the Water Park's concession building are nearly complete based upon the team effort by park staff and contractor. Indoor work is expected to be complete April 1 with the remaining exterior work completed by May 1, weather permitting.

Staebler Farm Park

- Architects from The Collaborative completed schematic design for farmhouse rehabilitation. Parks staff has completed their review of the Schematic Design drawings and provided the consultant with their comments for incorporation.
- Brown Drilling completed well testing and determined that the existing well at the farmhouse could provide the sufficient water amount needed for current and future development.
- Permits for the Multipurpose Building are being finalized and work is expected to commence in April.
- Staff is preparing a park development document that can be used for fundraising purposes.
- February MFS classes: fourteen classes, including Blacksmithing 101, Blacksmithing for Kids, Bladesmithing, Basketry, Sloyd carving, and Copper Bracelet making.

Special Initiatives

Border to Border Trail (B2B)

- Zeeb Road to Delhi Metropark (Segment DAA3) construction project is working 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 resuming; final restoration and project close out are anticipated this spring.
- Chelsea Connector segment (C1) construction is complete within Veterans Park, Weber Field, and Timbertown (south of Sibley Road). Work north of Sibley Road has resumed for the season and stone base is being installed. The project is expected to 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 Metropark to Stinchfield Woods and Silver Lake State Park

Natural Areas Preservation Program (NAPP)

Stewardship

- In lieu of a stewardship workday, Volunteer Jonathan Parker led a nature walk at County Farm Park for seven prospective volunteers to talk about the history of the park, ongoing stewardship efforts, and how to get involved.
- Gates and cables have been installed at Northfield Woods and Dominican Meadows preserves.
- A controlled burn was conducted at Rolling Hills Park in the Ring Road plantings.
- Controlled burns are being planned for Watkins Lake County Preserve, West Lake Preserve, Whitmore Lake Preserve, County Farm Park, and Burns-Stokes Preserve.
- Rustic, two-planked boardwalks have been installed at Freeman, Goodrich, and Weatherbee Woods preserves. These boardwalks help hikers pass through areas that are seasonally wet and require minimal investment to install.

Interpretive Programming

- About 187 patrons participated in nature program events in February, including sunrise hike at Sharon Mills, several programs on frog songs, and campfire cooking.



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

March 2022 - Claims Report

PARK / FACILITY / FUNCTION	UTILITIES	DIRECT PURCHASES	OTHER	TOTAL
Administration	\$ 809.99	\$ 8,725.68	\$ 7,389.29	\$ 16,924.96
Recreation Center	16,061.89	1,915.45	21,131.47	39,108.81
Park Maintenance	2,152.35	3,550.53	4,564.46	10,267.34
Pierce Lake Golf Course	70.78	4,772.95	25,670.23	30,513.96
Independence Lake	2,512.06	2,837.31	5,393.17	10,742.54
Rolling Hills	4,843.18	6,516.03	14,515.10	25,874.31
Parker Mill	168.20	-	492.00	660.20
Sharon Mills	87.59	-	3,260.64	3,348.23
Staebler Farm	353.08	-	501.00	854.08
Swift Run Dog Park	-	-	-	-
Capital Improvement	-	-	122,440.70	122,440.70
Committed Funding Partnerships	-	-	-	-
Commission	-	-	-	-
SUBTOTAL	\$ 27,059.12	\$ 28,317.95	\$ 205,358.06	\$ 260,735.13
 Road Millage Fund	 -	 -	 2,774.45	 2,774.45
SUBTOTAL	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,774.45	\$ 2,774.45
 Natural Areas Preservation Program				
Acquisition	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 421.20	\$ 421.20
Preserve Management	-	3,520.59	156,274.38	\$ 159,794.97
NATAC	-	-	-	\$ -
Acquisition	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Annual Monitoring	-	-	-	\$ -
ALPAC	-	-	-	-
SUBTOTAL	\$ -	\$ 3,520.59	\$ 156,695.58	\$ 160,216.17
 TOTAL	\$ 27,059.12	\$ 31,838.54	\$ 364,828.09	\$ 423,725.75

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

\$ 423,725.75

WASHTENAW COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
FUND BALANCE STATEMENT - MARCH 31, 2022

Beginning Fund Balance (1/1/22)	16,261,408 (unaudited)	25%	YTD % Budget	
Revenue (Budget)		Revenue (Actual)		Variance
Property Tax	8,681,375	7,235,530	83%	(1,445,845)
State Grant Funds	-	-		-
Fees & Services	3,635,000	487,246	13%	(3,147,754)
Interest Earnings	100,000	10,217	10%	(89,783)
Other Revenue & Reimb.	<u>30,000</u>	<u>3,000</u>	10%	<u>(27,000)</u>
Total Revenue	12,446,375	7,735,994	62%	(4,710,381)
Expense (Budget)		Expense (Actual)		Variance
Personnel Services	(6,909,556)	(957,532)	14%	5,952,024
Supplies & Other Services	(2,549,600)	(436,999)	17%	2,112,601
Internal Service Charges	(939,876)	(226,987)	24%	712,889
Capital				
Land Acquisition	-	-	-	-
CIP/Development	(3,100,000)	(112,560)	4%	2,987,440
Contingency	(400,000)	(77,393)	19%	322,608
Machinery & Equipment	<u>(181,100)</u>	<u>(13,423)</u>	7%	<u>167,677</u>
Capital Subtotal	(3,681,100)	(203,376)	6%	3,477,724
Total Expense	<u>(14,080,132)</u>	<u>(1,824,894)</u>	13%	12,255,238
Surplus/(Deficit)	(1,633,757)	5,911,100		
Operating Reserve	(8,681,375)	(8,681,375)		
Funding Commitments (Partnerships)	<u>(8,395,000)</u>	<u>-</u>		
	(17,076,375)	(8,681,375)		
Projected Fund Balance (12/31/22)	<u>(2,448,724)</u>	<u>13,491,133</u>		

WASHTENAW COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
NATURAL AREAS PRESERVATION PROGRAM
FUND BALANCE STATEMENT - MARCH 31, 2022

Beginning Fund Balance (1/1/22)	8,127,796	unaudited	25%	YTD % Budget	
Revenue (Budget)					Variance
Property Tax	4,622,888		3,850,828	83%	(772,060)
Federal Revenue	-		-		-
Interest Earnings	25,000		4,814	19%	(20,186)
Other Revenue & Reimb.	<u>5,000</u>		<u>28,863</u>	577%	<u>23,863</u>
Total Revenue		4,652,888	3,884,505	83%	(768,383)
Expense (Budget)					Variance
Personnel Services	(700,883)		(120,423)	17%	580,460
Supplies & Other Services	(336,200)		(170,914)	51%	165,286
Internal Service Charges	(20,612)		(3,013)	15%	17,599
Capital					
Land Acquisition	(2,550,000)		(1,013,295)	40%	1,536,705
Land Development	-		-		-
Machinery & Equipment	<u>(5,000)</u>		<u>-</u>	0%	<u>5,000</u>
Capital Subtotal	(2,555,000)		(1,013,295)	40%	1,541,705
Total Expense		<u>(3,612,695)</u>	<u>(1,307,645)</u>	36%	2,305,050
Surplus/(Deficit)		1,040,193	2,576,860		
Projected Fund Balance (12/31/22)		<u>9,167,989</u>	<u>10,704,656</u>		

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

	GATE					
	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
RESIDENT (ANNUAL)	341	1,218	988	\$ 10,230	\$ 36,540	\$ 29,640
NON-RESIDENT (ANNUAL)	28	102	73	1,260	4,590	3,285
RESIDENTS (DAILY)	281	1,697	1,253	1,686	10,182	7,518
NON-RESIDENTS (DAILY)	129	582	263	1,290	5,820	2,630
SENIOR (DAILY)	11	65	54	33	195	162
SENIOR NON-RES. (DAILY)	4	7	10	24	42	60
GLOW GOLF DROP-IN	-	-	-	-	-	-
BUSES (DAILY)	-	-	-	-	-	-
ANNUAL BUS	-	-	-	-	-	-
MINI BUS	1	1	-	15	15	-
ANNUAL MINI BUS	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>795</u>	<u>3,672</u>	<u>2,641</u>	<u>\$ 14,538</u>	<u>\$ 57,384</u>	<u>\$ 43,295</u>
PERCENT OF NON-RESIDENTS:						
ANNUAL	7.59%	7.73%	6.88%			
DAILY	31.29%	25.05%	17.28%			

WATER PARK POOL ATTENDANCE

	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
DAILY ENTRANCE	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>\$ 20</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
	2	-	-	\$ 20	\$ -	\$ -

PROGRAMMING & RETAIL OPERATIONS

	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
DAYCAMP	421	500	2,688	\$ 11,370	\$ 13,505	\$ 72,573
BIRTHDAY PACKAGES	-	-	-	-	-	-
AQUATICS PROGRAMMING	-	-	-	-	-	-
DISC GOLF	463	1,098	714	926	2,196	1,428
SPECIAL EVENTS	<u>356</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>167</u>	<u>4,025</u>	<u>2,898</u>	<u>4,620</u>
	1,240	1,798	3,569	\$ 16,321	\$ 18,599	\$ 78,621

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

PROGRAMMING & RETAIL OPERATIONS (cont'd)

	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
FACILITY RENTALS						
WEEKDAYS	4	2	3	\$ 660	\$ 400	\$ 575
WEEKENDS	23	24	29	4,400	4,375	5,385
SOCCER FIELDS	35	-	9	100	-	-
DISC GOLF COURSE	-	9	-	-	925	975
WATERPARK SHELTERS	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>62</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>\$ 5,160</u>	<u>\$ 5,700</u>	<u>\$ 6,935</u>
TOBOGGANS	-	760	535	\$ -	\$ 2,280	\$ 2,675
CROSS COUNTRY SKIS	-	936	512	-	2,808	2,560
MISC. RETAIL	-	-	2	-	-	10
	<u>-</u>	<u>1,696</u>	<u>1,049</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 5,088</u>	<u>\$ 5,245</u>
LOCKERS	-	-	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FOOD CONCESSIONS	-	-	-	-	-	-
MISCELLANEOUS	-	-	1	-	-	5,150
GIFT CERTIFICATE SALES	<u>3</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>428</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>347</u>
	<u>3</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>\$ 428</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 5,497</u>
	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
YTD TOTAL PARTICIPATION & REVENUE:	2,102	7,201	7,304	\$ 36,467	\$ 86,771	\$ 139,593

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

MEMBERSHIPS

	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
INDIVIDUAL RESIDENT	337	112	239	60,450	15,831	55,350
INDIVIDUAL NON-RESIDENT	5	1	6	2,060	355	2,110
S/Y/D RESIDENT	413	92	225	67,757	14,547	41,263
S/Y/D NON-RESIDENT	2	-	2	520	-	556
FAMILY RESIDENT	133	65	88	33,131	8,059	20,960
FAMILY NON-RESIDENT	1	-	-	735	-	-
FAMILY - ADDT'L MEMBER	13	4	-	483	150	-
SENIORS OVER 80	109	31	97	6,180	1,560	6,560
PERSONAL TRAINERS	4	-	-	1,500	-	-
MILITARY PASS	2	1	5	180	204	920
30-DAY PASS	257	216	177	10,532	9,315	9,370
SEASONAL PASS	-	-	-	-	-	-
REPLACEMENT PASS	33	3	1	33	3	1
SUB-TOTAL	1,309	525	840	\$ 183,561	\$ 50,024	\$ 137,090
PASS FACILITY USE	43,173	15,581	29,817			
PERCENT OF NON-RESIDENTS:	0.90%	0.37%	1.43%			

DAILY ENTRIES

	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
INDIVIDUAL RESIDENT	2,552	-	855	\$ 20,416	\$ -	\$ 8,548
INDIVIDUAL NON-RESIDENT	212	-	75	1,908	-	898
S/Y/D RESIDENT	2,122	-	735	12,732	-	5,227
S/Y/D NON-RESIDENT	105	-	584	735	-	3,781
INDIVIDUAL FITNESS RESIDENT	46	-	-	264	-	-
INDIVIDUAL FITNESS NON-RESIDENT	-	-	-	-	-	-
SENIOR FITNESS RESIDENT	129	-	-	756	-	-
SENIOR FITNESS NON-RESIDENT	3	-	-	14	-	-
DAILY PASS/GIFT CERTIFICATE SALES	-	-	-	-	-	-
SUB-TOTAL	5,169	-	2,248	\$ 36,825	\$ -	\$ 18,454
PERCENT OF NON-RESIDENTS:	6.19%	0.00%	29.29%			

OTHER REVENUE

	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
DAYCAMP	1,486	-	2,341	\$ 40,120	\$ -	\$ 63,220
RECREATION PROGRAMS	5,771	9,240	5,040	43,249	4,838	29,083
FACILITY RENTALS	93	-	-	2,225	-	-
POOL/STUDIO/ PARTY PAVILIC	-	-	-	-	-	-
MISC. RETAIL	81	12	6	2,220	333	28
LOCKERS	9,068	1,480	3,640	2,267	370	910
VENDING	-	-	-	826	-	-
SUB-TOTAL	16,499	10,732	11,027	\$ 90,908	\$ 5,541	\$ 93,241

	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
YTD TOTAL PARTICIPATION & REVENUE:	66,150	26,838	43,933	\$ 311,294	\$ 55,565	\$ 248,784

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

	GATE					
	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
RESIDENTS (ANNUAL)	176	388	256	\$ 5,280	\$ 11,640	\$ 7,680
NON-RESIDENTS (ANNUAL)	37	106	80	1,665	4,770	3,600
RESIDENTS (DAILY)	175	378	200	1,050	2,268	1,200
NON-RESIDENTS (DAILY)	165	483	221	1,650	4,830	2,210
SENIOR (DAILY)	20	43	26	60	129	78
SENIOR-NON RES. (DAILY)	4	13	10	24	78	60
BUSES (DAILY)	-	-	-	-	-	-
ANNUAL BUS	-	-	-	-	-	-
MINI BUS	-	-	-	-	-	-
ANNUAL MINI BUS	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>577</u>	<u>1,411</u>	<u>793</u>	<u>\$ 9,729</u>	<u>\$ 23,715</u>	<u>\$ 14,828</u>
PERCENT OF NON-RESIDENTS:						
ANNUAL	17.4%	21.5%	23.8%			
DAILY	46.4%	54.1%	50.5%			

BLUE HERON BAY ATTENDANCE

	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
BHB ANNUAL PASSES	-	-	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (100)
BHB DAILY ENTRANCE	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	-	-	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (100)

BLUE HERON BAY RETAIL OPERATION

	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
FACILITY RENTALS	-	-	4	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 280
BIRTHDAY PACKAGES	-	-	-	-	-	-
SPECIAL EVENTS	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	-	-	4	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 280
LOCKERS	-	-	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FOOD CONCESSIONS	-	-	-	-	-	-
ACCESSORIES/MISC.	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	-	-	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

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

PROGRAMMING & RETAIL OPERATIONS

	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
DAYCAMP	1,028	1,817	1,600	\$ 27,760	\$ 49,070	\$ 43,190
DISC GOLF	1,303	1,281	580	2,606	2,562	1,160
SPECIAL EVENTS	<u>34</u>	<u>308</u>	<u>186</u>	<u>1,425</u>	<u>3,895</u>	<u>3,470</u>
	2,365	3,406	2,366	\$ 31,791	\$ 55,527	\$ 47,820
FACILITY RENTALS						
WEEKDAYS	3	1	6	\$ 320	\$ 80	\$ 550
WEEKENDS	<u>20</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>2,300</u>	<u>2,600</u>	<u>2,350</u>
	23	21	30	\$ 2,620	\$ 2,680	\$ 2,900
ROW BOATS-HOURLY	-	-	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
ROW BOATS-DAILY	-	-	-	-	-	-
PADDLE BOATS-1/2 HOUR	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	-	-	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FOOD CONCESSIONS	-	-	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
ACCESSORIES/MISC.	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	-	-	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
YTD TOTAL PARTICIPATION & REVENUE:	2,965	4,838	3,193	\$ 44,140	\$ 81,922	\$ 65,728



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MEMORANDUM

To: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Coy P. Vaughn, Director
Date: April 12, 2022
Re: Contract Amendment: B2B Trail Segment CD2

Background

In May 2021, staff issued RFP 8109 to solicit bids to construct a 1.53-mile segment of the Border to Border Trail (B2B Trail) from Dancer Road to Wylie Road in Lima Township, known as CD2. At the June 8, 2021 regular meeting, the Commission awarded the contract to Erie Construction, based in Woodhaven, MI, for a total of \$995,722. The construction project is substantially complete, except for the punch list and tree planting, completion of which will occur this spring.

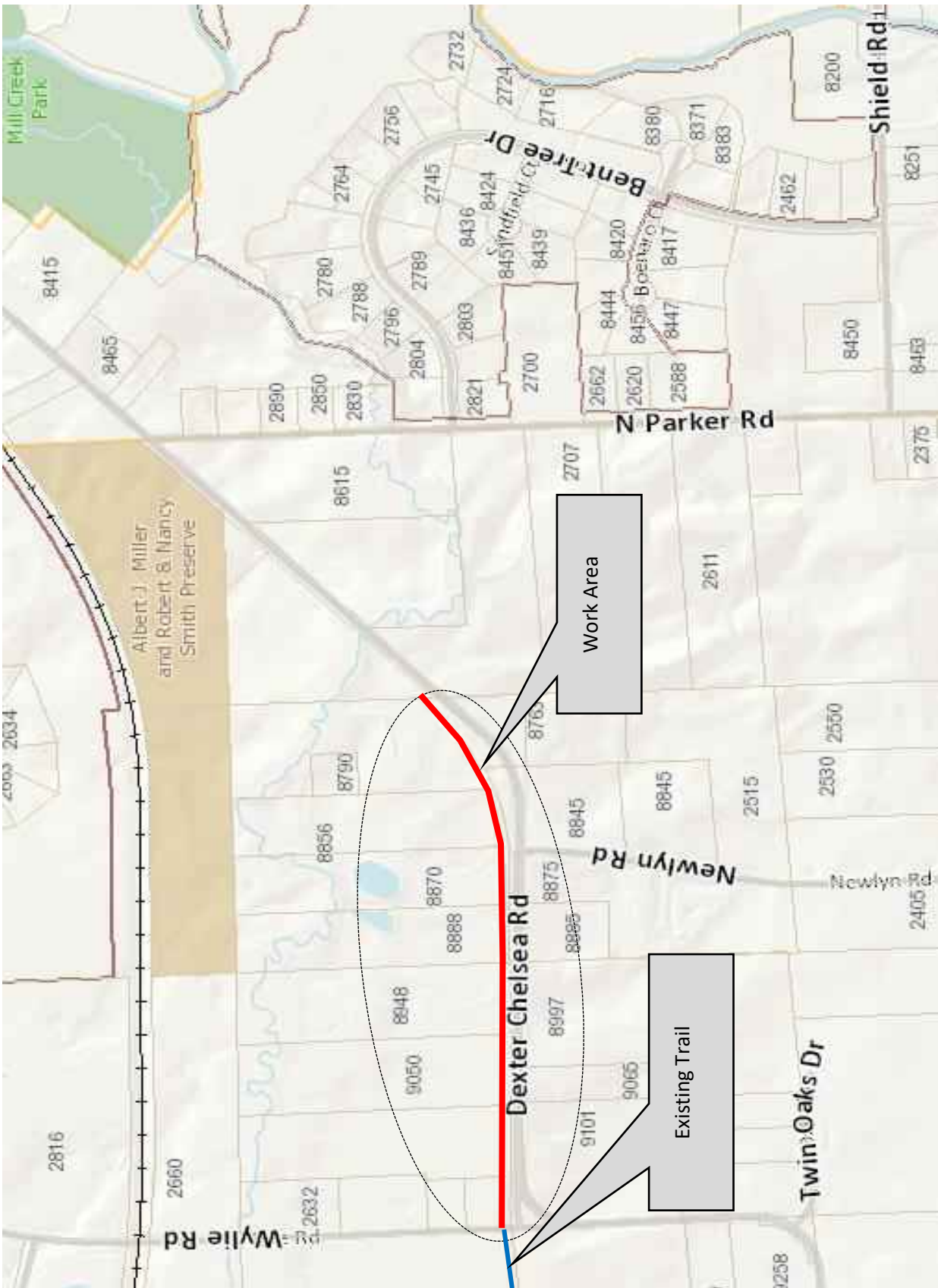
Discussion

The next phase of the B2B Trail in this corridor was originally proposed to extend the trail all the way to Parker Road. However, a portion of that project scope includes a routing option adjacent or through the Miller Smith Preserve. In February, the Commission directed staff to conduct public engagement regarding the confluence of the B2B Trail and the Miller Smith Preserve. Because staff is working through the public engagement process, construction of the full trail segment ending at Parker Road will be delayed. However, staff has identified a location approximately 3,000 feet east of Wylie Road that could be constructed this year. It terminates before the location where decisions surrounding the Miller Smith Preserve will be impacted.

The 3,000-foot extension of trail does not involve any complex construction or structures and is nearly identical in scope to the previous construction phase (Dancer to Wylie Road), which is still under contract. Commission staff have completed the required engineering, obtained the necessary permits and approvals, and removed a limited number of trees within the environmentally sensitive timeframe (prior to April 1). Erie Construction has indicated that they will honor their competitively bid unit prices from last year to extend the trail work that is still under contract and where restoration is occurring this spring. To extend the trail 3,000 feet with Erie Construction, a contract amendment of \$359,343 is required.

Recommendation

Based on staff review of the contract prices and current market conditions, it is my recommendation that the Commission authorize a contract amendment to Erie Construction for the B2B Trail Segment CD2 in the amount of \$359,343.





Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MEMORANDUM

TO: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Coy P. Vaughn, Director
DATE: April 12, 2022
RE: Final Approval: Scully, Lehr, Milkey, Gregerson Properties Fee Simple Purchase – Village of Manchester

Background

The adjacent Lehr, Scully, and Milkey properties were submitted to NAPP in Round 18 (2018) for fee simple purchase. NATAC gave Tier 1 priority to acquisition of the three properties together and after Parks Commission acceptance of NATAC's priorities in December 2018, staff began the acquisition process. After meeting with the Village of Manchester to discuss their community needs, the Village reached out to Gregerson to nominate his property, which is adjacent to the other three properties, to increase access to the potential nature preserve and connect to other community assets. The Commission approved preparation of sales contracts for all four properties on August 13, 2019.

Discussion

The properties host uncommon and exciting environmental features. The Scully property has a patch of what NATAC believes is remnant dry sand prairie, a vegetation community mostly lost to agriculture or development and is considered "imperiled" statewide. The prairie happens to be at the top of a hill with stunning views that will impress more after some invasive plant clearing. Wetland covers the Lehr property and shows some indicators of fen, another vulnerable community essential to two endangered butterfly species. This wetland spreads into the east half of the Milkey property, and the property also boasts its own spring-fed pond.

In August 2019, the Parks Commission approved sales contracts for the purchase of the properties. Per the terms of the sales contracts, due diligence has been completed including:

- Appraisals were completed for the properties.
- Phase I Environmental Site Assessments showed no recognized environmental conditions.
- Boundary surveys including legal descriptions have been prepared.

Each sales contract was contingent upon acquisition of the other three properties; all four properties are still being purchased. Staff also worked with the landowners, neighbors, and the Village of Manchester to correct title and access issues.

Property	Acres	Purchase Price (all WCPARC)
Gregerson	1.343	\$23,000
Lehr	7.674	\$60,000
Milkey	7.672	\$75,000
Scully	38.408	\$468,000
<i>Total</i>	<i>55.097</i>	<i>\$626,000</i>

Recommendation

Based on the Natural Areas Technical Advisory Committee and staff reviews of the property, it is my recommendation that the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission authorize the fee simple purchases of the Gregerson, Lehr, Milkey, and Scully properties in the amounts of \$23,000, \$60,000, \$75,000, and \$468,000 respectively, contingent upon attorney approval of final documents. I further recommend that \$30,000 be contributed to the stewardship special revenue fund for the future maintenance and management of the land.

Attachments

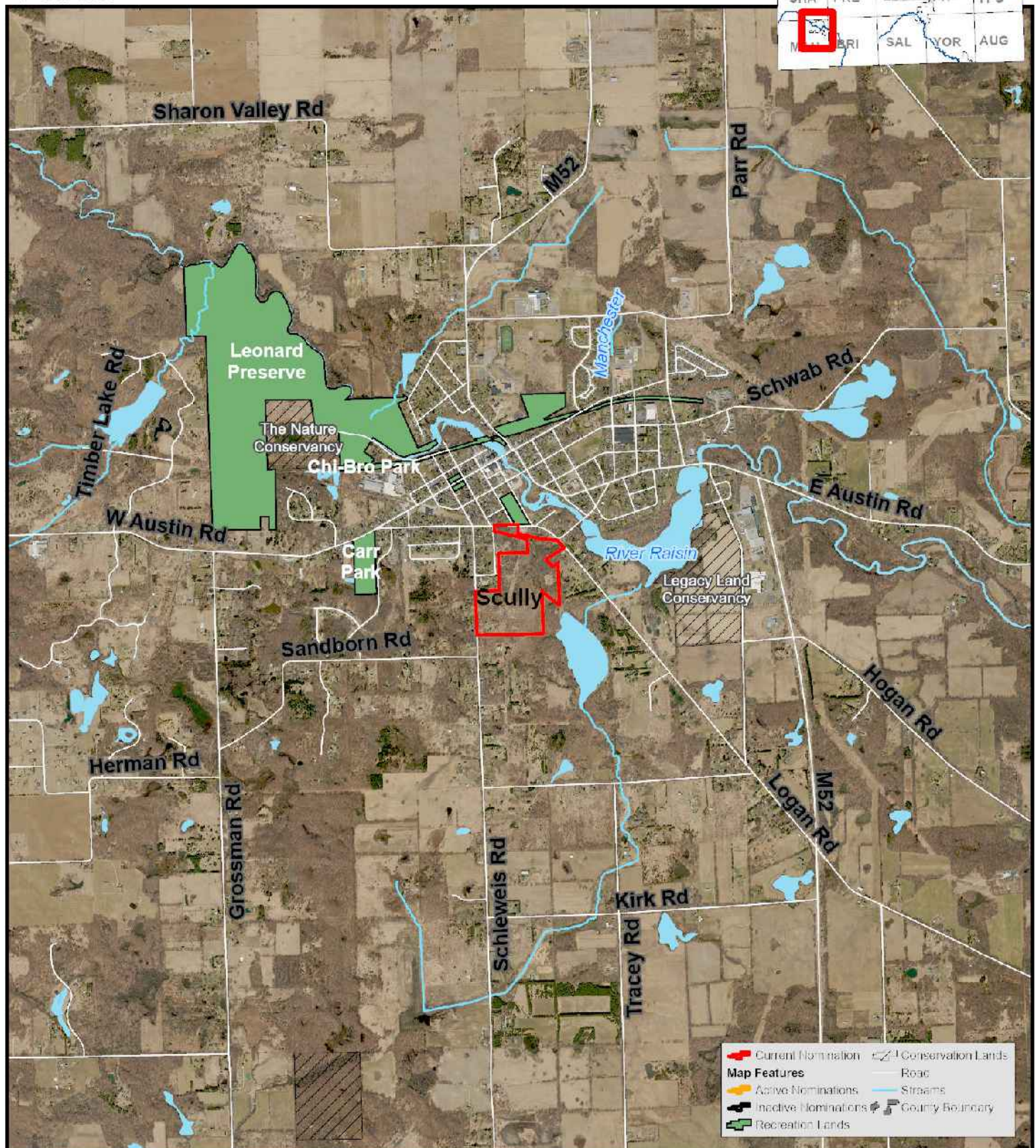
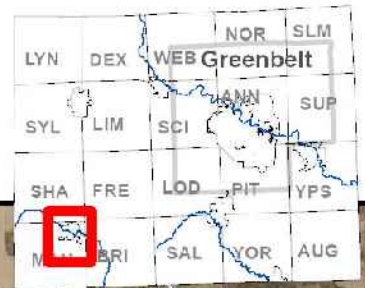
Scully Property: Aerial & Soils
 Natural Areas Preservation Program
 Nomination ID: 18.294
 Village of Manchester
 +/- 50 Acres

Washtenaw County
 Locator Map

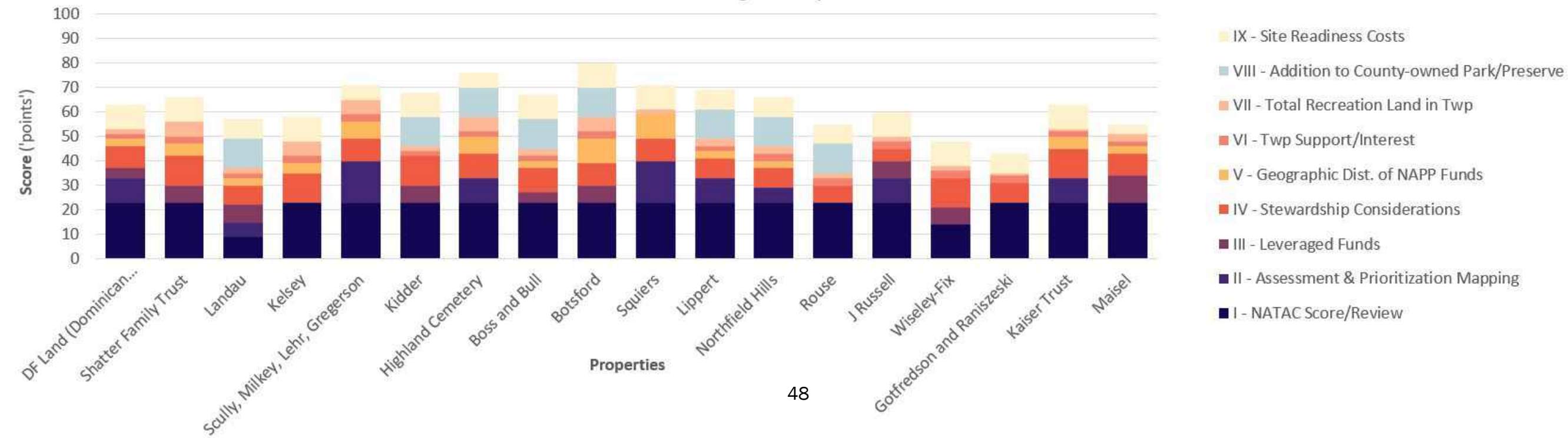


Scully Property: Local Area Aerial
 Natural Areas Preservation Program
 Nomination ID: 18.294
 Village of Manchester
 +/- 50 Acres

Washtenaw County
 Locator Map



Parks Commission Scoring - Fee Simple





Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MEMORANDUM

To: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Coy P. Vaughn, Director
Date: April 12, 2022
Re: Final Recommendation for Partnership – Botsford Property, Scio Township

Background

The 20-acre Botsford property was originally nominated to NAPP as part of Round 1 in 2000. In 2009, Scio Township purchased a conservation easement on 10 acres with the City of Ann Arbor as a Successor Grantee. The unencumbered 10 acres contains a building and several treehouses. At the time of the conservation easement purchase, the City of Ann Arbor also secured a Right of First Refusal for the fee purchase of the entire property. In 2017, WCPARC purchased the 19-acre Pringle property, adjacent to the west. The entire 20-acre Botsford Trust property was nominated again to NAPP in 2015 as a potential partnership with the City of Ann Arbor and Scio Township for fee purchase, but an agreement with the Trust was not made at the time. Then in 2020, a private landowner submitted an offer to the Botsford Trust for the purchase of the property, which triggered the City of Ann Arbor's Right of First Refusal. The City made a counteroffer to the Trust to exercise its Right of First Refusal.

Discussion

The private landowner that made the original offer to the Botsford Trust filed a lawsuit against the City and then appealed the court decision that stated the City's counteroffer to exercise its rights under the Right of First Refusal was valid. This has now been settled and the city is ready to move forward with the purchase.

In 2020, The City of Ann Arbor's Greenbelt Advisory Committee requested a 50% contribution from WCPARC and requested the County Parks own the land. WCPARC approved the contribution at the November 10, 2020, meeting contingent upon attorney review of final documents and final approval of the parks commission. WCPARC would be responsible for the ongoing management of the site including the removal of the existing structures and buildings on the site.

Oak-hickory forest covers most of the hilly terrain on the property. Wildflower flora is relatively diverse. The woods provide habitat for wood thrush and scarlet tanager, which both need large, forested areas for nesting. Two small perennial streams are present on the southeast portion of the site and small wetlands occur along the stream channels.

An appraisal was completed in 2015 which identified the value of the unencumbered portion to be \$295,000 and \$50,000 for the property encumbered by the conservation easement, for a total value of \$345,000. An updated appraisal was completed in 2020 with a combined value of \$420,000. The purchase price is \$350,000 to match the private offer made to the Botsford Trust in 2020.

In addition, in 2020, the Botsford Trust approved timber harvesting on the property, which was primarily conducted on the conservation easement portion, during which time 19 trees were taken out, an additional 36 trees were fatally damaged and an additional 48 trees were damaged to a lesser degree (see attached map.) This is a violation of the conservation easement. Scio Township has been working with consultants, an attorney, and the City of Ann Arbor to enforce the terms of the conservation easement and a claim was filed for damages done to the property. The claim stipulates that the Township will be reimbursed for their costs associate with assessing the damage, and staff, consultant and legal fees associated with enforcing the easement, which also includes contractor fees for addressing oak wilt found on the site after the logging. This lawsuit is still in the court system. The Township has committed to contributing at least \$25,000 to the County, at the time of purchase, to be used as restoration of the site.

Recommendation

Based upon the review by the Natural Areas Technical Advisory Committee, and staff, it is my recommendation that the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission partner with the Ann Arbor Greenbelt program for the fee purchase of the Botsford Trust property in Scio Township, as identified in the attached map and contribute \$175,000 toward the purchase, contingent upon attorney review of final closing documents and execution of participation agreement. I further recommend that an additional \$10,000 be contributed to the stewardship special revenue funds for the future maintenance and management of the property.

Attachments

Botsford Property: Aerial & Soils

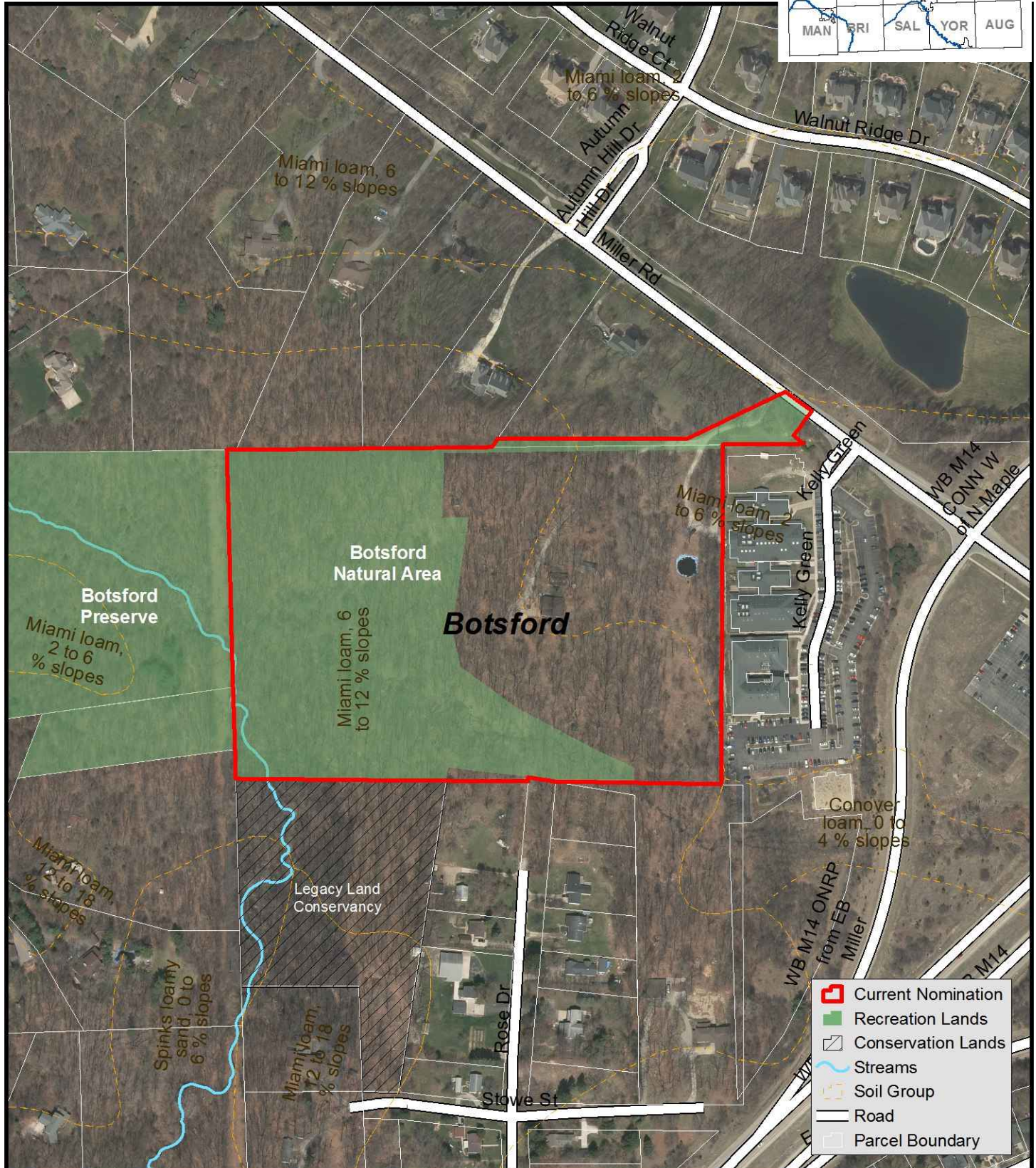
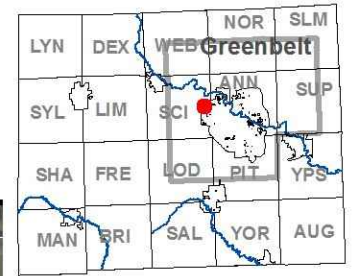
Natural Areas Preservation Program

Nomination ID: I.006

Scio Township

+/-20 Acres

Washtenaw County
Locator Map

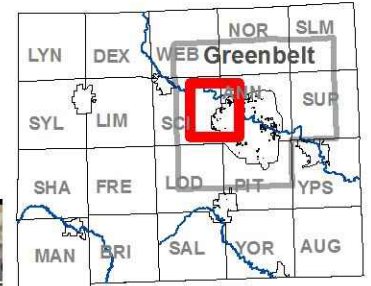


Botsford Property: Local Area Aerial

Natural Areas Preservation Program

Nomination ID: I.006
Scio Township
+/-20 Acres

Washtenaw County
Locator Map



Botsford Property: Assessment & Prioritization Mapping

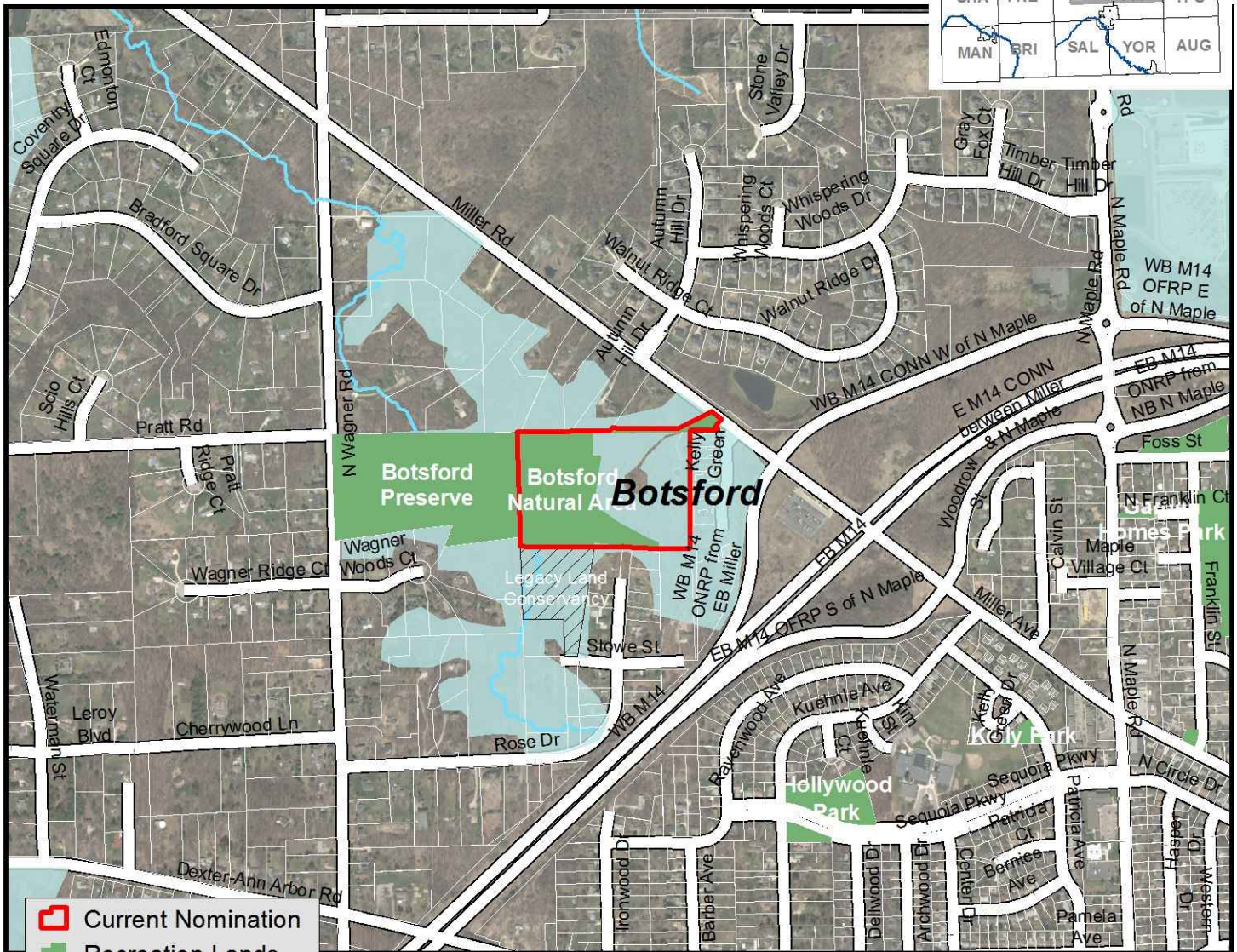
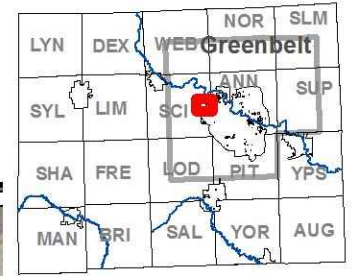
Natural Areas Preservation Program

Nomination ID: I.006

Scio Township

+/-20 Acres

Washtenaw County
Locator Map



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

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

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

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

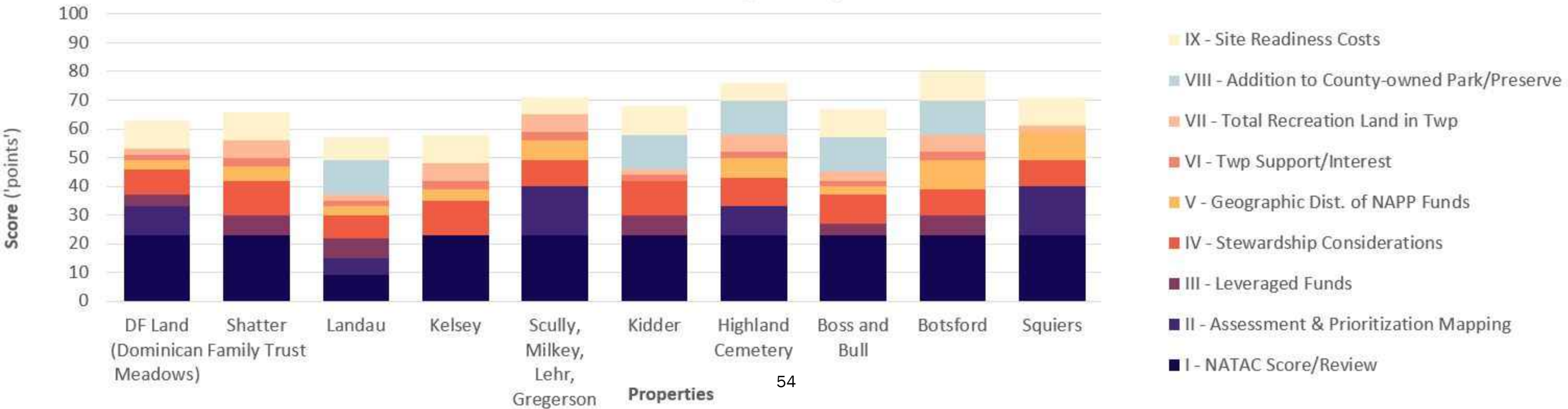
Stream Protection: Protection of this site preserves or is ecologically connected to a site that preserves creek frontage.

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

➔ Not prioritized



Parks Commission Scoring - Fee Simple





Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MEMORANDUM

TO: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Coy Vaughn, Director
DATE: April 12, 2022
RE: Recommendation for Partnership – Maisel Buy-Protect-Sell Easement, City of Ann Arbor Greenbelt

Background

To address farmland ownership, succession, and inequity challenges, conservation groups have been working to ensure that land stays in the hands of farmers through Buy-Protect-Sell (BPS) transactions that help directly facilitate affordable farmland access opportunities in their communities. Michigan State University Extension has surveyed southeast Michigan farmland-seekers and found that there is overwhelming demand for affordable farmland in Washtenaw County area, and that ownership is the preferred model over long-term lease agreements.

Washtenaw County conservation groups have been starting to implement their own BPS practices over the last two years. ALPAC was included in the review process of City of Ann Arbor Greenbelt's and Scio Township's BPS policies in November 2021. That same month, the Commission recommended participation in Scio's Renz project, which involved a form of BPS. The Greenbelt presented to the Commission at their February 2022 meeting about their budding BPS program and the general opportunities and advantages of BPS.

The City of Ann Arbor Greenbelt received a nomination in 2021 for fee simple purchase of farmland in Northfield Township that met their parameters for a desirable BPS project. In February 2022, the Agricultural Lands Technical Advisory Committee (ALPAC) reviewed a contribution request from the Greenbelt towards the conservation easement value of the property.

Discussion

The Maisel BPS property is adjacent to the 200-acre aggregate of land owned by Maisel in Northfield Township that WCPARC recommended for purchase (with a 75% contribution by the Greenbelt) in December 2021. This BPS parcel is located on Nollar Road in between Northfield Church Road and Territorial Road, just under seven miles from downtown Ann Arbor.

The Assessment & Prioritization Mapping evaluated the ag quality as medium-low and did not prioritize it. It received 55/88 points on ALPAC's scoring system, which is ALPAC's usual threshold for consideration. For its size of 54 acres, it has good road frontage (1680 feet). There are four other conservation easements within one mile of this property, and it will be adjacent to a 200-acre nature preserve. The Commission's scoring system for NAPP properties yields 50/100 points. This lower score is due to the lack of prioritization by the mapping system and NAPP's significant financial investment in Northfield Township.

The Greenbelt will purchase the parcel fee simple then facilitate an RFP process for purchasing the land with a conservation easement on it. The Greenbelt may decide, based on program goals and/or results

from the RFP, to either sell it as a single parcel or divide it into two farms to provide multiple purchasing opportunities.

The Greenbelt ordered a conservation easement appraisal that evaluated these two possible outcomes of the property. Outcome 1 (scenario 1 in the appraisal) appraises the value of the 54-acre parcel sold as a single parcel with a conservation easement that includes one 5-acre building envelope. Outcome 2 (scenarios 2 and 3 in the appraisal) appraises the value of a 30-acre parcel and a 24-acre parcel, each with their own 5-acre building envelope. The split location and sizes were developed in consultation with farmers.

	CE acres	Building envelope acres	Before FMV	Before per acre	After FMV	After per acre	Difference	Difference per acre	City share of CE	WCPARC share of CE
Scenario 1	54.30	5.00	\$624,000.00	\$ 11,491.71	\$326,000.00	\$ 6,003.68	\$298,000.00	\$ 5,488.03	\$ 149,000.00	\$ 149,000.00
Scenario 2	30.00	5.00	\$414,000.00	\$ 13,800.00	\$204,000.00	\$ 6,800.00	\$210,000.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 190,000.00	\$ 190,000.00
Scenario 3	24.30	5.00	\$292,000.00	\$ 12,016.46	\$122,000.00	\$ 5,020.58	\$170,000.00	\$ 6,995.88		

* "Difference" is the total easement value. Chart provided by Greenbelt.

ALPAC reviewed the project at their February 2022 meeting. They accepted either future outcome of the property and recommended to contribute 50% of the final conservation easement value, not to exceed \$190,000. The participation agreement, a recorded document included in all acquisition deals involving more than one local funding entities, will stipulate any and all conditions of WCPARC's contribution to the project, especially the fact that WCPARC's money will be towards the conservation easement interest in the property, not the fee simple interest.

The City of Ann Arbor will be responsible for closing, due diligence, and monitoring and enforcing the conservation easement.

Recommendation

Based upon the review by the Agricultural Lands Preservation Advisory Committee and staff, it is my recommendation that the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission partner with the City of Ann Arbor Greenbelt for the purchase of a conservation easement on the Maisel BPS property in Northfield Township, as identified in the attached maps, and contribute 50% of the final easement purchase price, not to exceed \$190,000, toward the purchase, contingent upon attorney review of documents and execution of participation agreement. I further recommend that \$7,500 to the stewardship special revenue fund to cover potential future costs associated with monitoring and enforcement of the conservation easement.

Attachments

Maisel 2



Maisel 2



400 200 0 400 Feet



Maisel Nollar BPS Property: Local Area Aerial

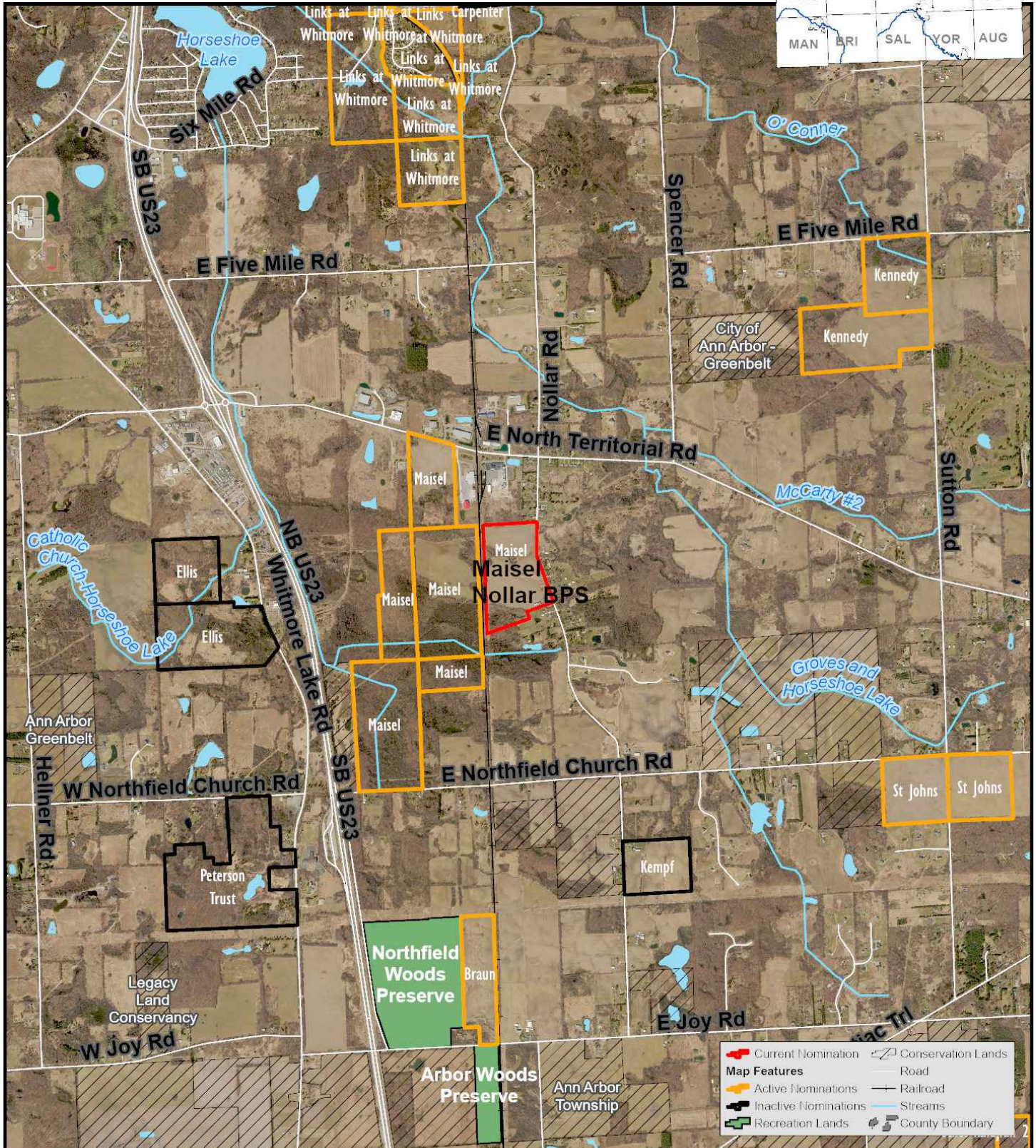
Natural Areas Preservation Program

Nomination ID:A22.149

Northfield Township

+/- 54 Acres

Washtenaw County
Locator Map



Maisel Nollar BPS Property: Assessment & Prioritization Mapping

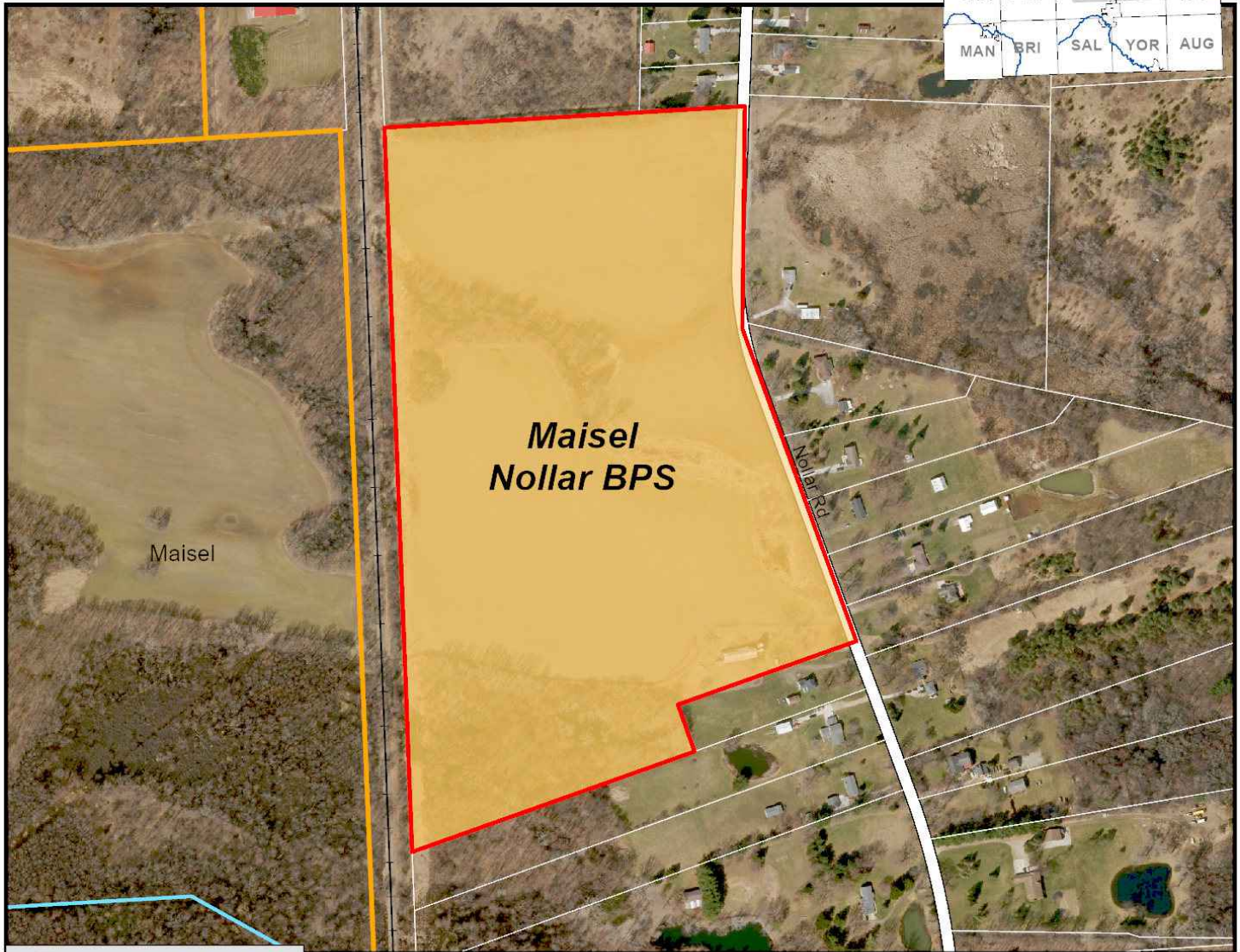
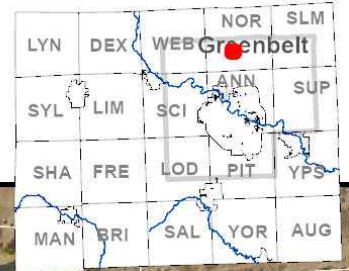
Natural Areas Preservation Program

Nomination ID: A22.149

Northfield Township

+/-54 Acres

Washtenaw County
Locator Map



 Current Nomination

Map Features

 Active Nominations

 Streams

 Railroad

 Road

 Parcel Boundary

Ag Quality Assessment

 Medium-Low 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.

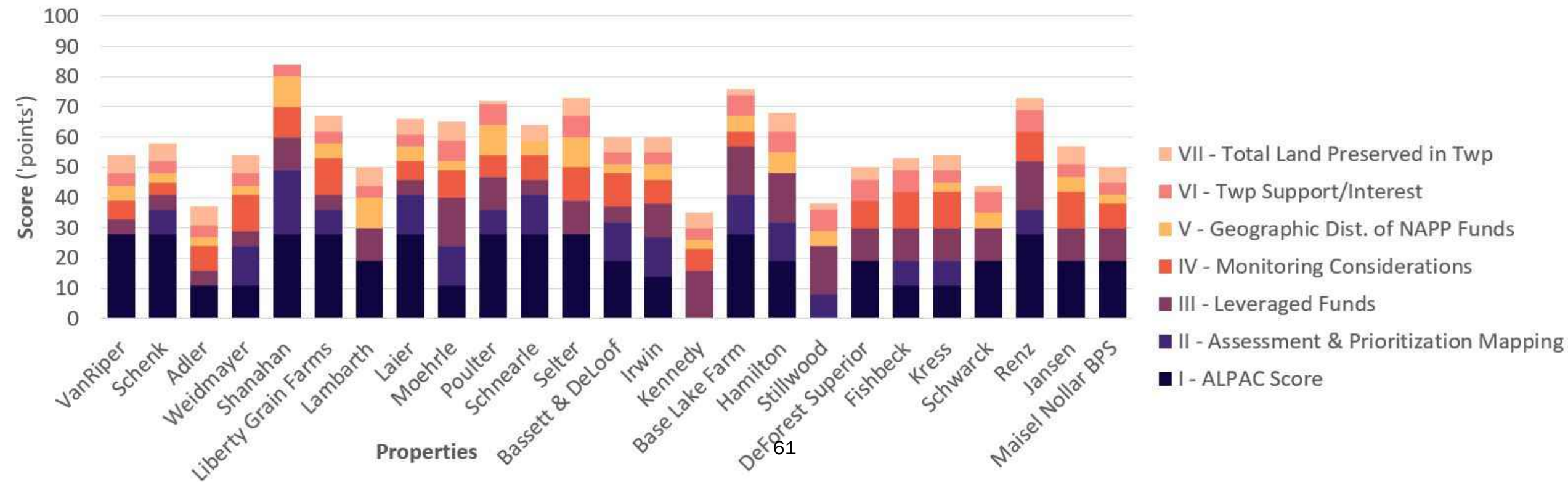
Stream Protection: Protection of this site preserves or is ecologically connected to a site that preserves creek frontage.

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: April 12, 2022
Re: Ann Arbor Skate Park – Lighting Proposal

Background

The Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission and the City of Ann Arbor have a long history of partnership, which includes the creation of the world-class Ann Arbor Skatepark. Located in Veterans Memorial Park, the Skatepark is a regional destination that attracts both community skaters and visitors to Ann Arbor. The Skatepark took years of planning and coordination between the organizations and since opening in 2014 it is one of the most popular park amenities in the County with high use year-round.

In 2007, a local grassroots group of individuals established the Ann Arbor Skatepark Action Committee (AASAC) to help address the high demand for a skatepark in the City. AASAC formed a Steering Committee to guide the organization's efforts and coordinate advocacy, public relations, fundraising, site selection, and design.

On January 5, 2009, AASAC entered into a Memorandum of Intent with the City of Ann Arbor that identified specific development conditions and commitment of land at Veterans Memorial Park for construction. The AASAC established an endowment fund with the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation (AAACF) to receive and administer gifts toward implementing the project. The fundraising of an estimated \$1 million construction budget was targeted.

At the January 2010 WCPARC meeting, AASAC presented their vision for developing a world –class, public concrete skate park in Ann Arbor and urged the Commission to make a financial commitment to the project. WCPARC established a matching grant program, not to exceed \$400,000 that allowed the AASAC to leverage the necessary additional funds for development of the public skatepark. Construction of the skatepark commenced in 2013 and the facility opened in June 2014.

Discussion

The Skatepark is open during regular park hours of 6:00am to 10:00pm but it does not currently have site lighting, unlike the adjacent ball fields which are lit, which limits the Skatepark's use, especially in the winter months when natural daylight ends early. The Skatepark Advisory Commission, which includes WCPARC staff representation, recommended that lighting be added to the Skatepark to extend its use into the evening to allow skateboarding to safely occur year-round during regular park hours. The Friends of the Ann Arbor Skatepark have fundraised to contribute to the installation of the lighting.

Skateparks can be challenging to light properly because skating is a fast, multi-directional sport and Skatepark features such as ramps, stairs, ledges, and bowls cast shadows. Therefore, a professional

lighting consultant was engaged to develop a design lighting system that would ensure adequate light levels to be able to quickly see contour changes of curved bowl features, reduce glare and shadows, and maximize visibility for safe use. The consultant also utilized sustainable lighting principles to minimize energy consumption and reduce light pollution to comply with the City's dark skies initiative. The result of the consultant's work was a set of contract documents used for bidding.

The contract documents for the project were bid through the City of Ann Arbor's Procurement Unit following standard procedures. Two options were bid to allow for purchasing flexibility, both of which provide adequate lighting but through different approaches. The base bid called for the skatepark to be lit with a full sports lighting system. The alternate bid called for the skatepark to be lit with an area lighting system, similar in style to what would be found lighting a parking lot or roadway. Both options provide adequate lighting for the users of the skatepark.

The Invitation to Bid No. 4707 was advertised on the City's website and on MITN. On January 26, 2022, the City received one (1) bid from Rauhorn Electric, Inc. in the amount of \$335,622.00 for the full sports lighting system and \$269,655.00 for the area lighting system. Due to the price difference between the two bid options, staff recommended that the area lighting alternate bid be accepted for a total contract value of \$269,655.00, and that Rauhorn Electric, Inc. be awarded the Contract for the Veterans Memorial Park Skatepark Lighting project. A 10% construction contingency (\$26,965.00) was requested to cover potential contract change orders.

The City of Ann Arbor Parks Advisory Commission recommended approval of this contract at their March 15, 2022 meeting. The contract is on the April 18th Ann Arbor City Council agenda where it is requested that a contract and contingency amount be approved. Including the design professional services agreement (\$42,804.30) and the construction contract (\$296,620), this brings the total project budget to \$339,424.30.

In early March a request was made to WCPARC to assist with funding for the project by making a contribution of \$35,000 (roughly 10% of the total project cost). Additionally, Friends of the Ann Arbor Skatepark have fundraised a \$20,000 contribution for the project.

Recommendation

Based on staff review of the lighting proposal and WCPARC's ongoing commitment to the Ann Arbor Skatepark, it is my recommendation that the Commission authorize a contribution of \$35,000 to the City of Ann Arbor for installation of lighting as proposed.