



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

NOTICE OF MEETING

Date: November 8, 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. October 11, 2022 Meeting** (attached, pp. 1-4/action item)
- 4. *Public Comment***
- 5. *Communications, Projects & Activities*** (attached, pp. 5-36/action item)
- 6. *Financial & Recreation Reports – October 2022***
 - A. Financial Reports** (attached, pp. 37-39/action item)
 - B. Recreation Reports** (attached, pp. 40-46/action item)
- 7. *Old Business***
 - A. Connecting Communities Awards** (attached, pp. 47-48/action item)
 - B. Other Old Business**
- 8. *New Business***
 - A. NAPP – Orr Trust Partnership** (attached, pp. 49-53/action item)
 - B. Other New Business**
- 9. *Commissioners / Directors Comments***
- 10. *Adjournment***

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Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: October 11, 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, WCPARC Treasurer; Robert Marans, Ricky Jefferson, Sue Shink, Evan Pratt, and Brenda McKinney

Members Absent: Robert Joerg, and JoAnn McCollum

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); Kira Macyda, Park Planner; Peter Sanderson, Project Manager (attending remotely); and Jason Gold, Michigan Folk School.

1. Call to Order

Ms. Scribner called the meeting to order at 2:08p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the September 13, 2022 regular meeting were included with the agenda material.

It was moved by Mr. Marans and seconded by Ms. Bobrin to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2022, regular meeting. All ayes, the motion was approved.

4. Public Comment

No public comment.

5. Communications, Projects & Activities

Mr. Vaughn reported on the September communications which were included in the packet and provided a presentation summarizing the projects, programs, and events for the month.

It was moved by Ms. Bobrin and seconded by Ms. Shink to accept and file the Communications, Projects & Activities for the month of September 2022, as submitted. All ayes, the motion was approved.

6. Financial & Recreation Reports – September 2022

A. Financial Reports

Mr. Brooks reported on the financials and stated that the total for the claims for the month of September was \$548,050.06. There were no closings or substantial expenditures within the Natural Areas funds in September. He also provided an update on the Parks fund

It was moved by Mr. Marans and seconded by Ms. McKinney to accept and file the Financial Reports for the month of September 2022 as submitted. All ayes, the motion was approved.

B. Recreation Reports

Mr. Brooks presented the Recreation Reports for the month of September 2022 for all park facilities. He pointed out that after a busy summer season Rolling Hills, Independence Lake and Pierce Lake Golf Course are all ahead of projected revenue numbers for the year.

He shared that total revenue for Rolling Hills is now over \$2 million to date and ended the season up 19% over 2019 participation numbers. Mr. Brooks shared that the Recreation Center membership revenue has increased 72% over 2021 but is still down about 33% compared to 2019. At the golf course, revenue is up 39% compared to the last timeframe in September 2019. Lastly, he shared that the total revenue at Independence Lake is up 16% year over year.

It was moved by Ms. Shink and seconded by Mr. Jefferson to receive and file the Recreation Reports for the month of September 2022 as submitted. All ayes, the motion was approved.

7. Old Business

A. Folk School Acquisition

Ms. Bonfiglio provided a presentation of the proposed acquisition of the Michigan Folk School (MFS). The presentation included details regarding the park master plan, current MFS classes, financial projections, cost/benefit analysis, administrative structure, liabilities, and tangible and intangible property to be acquired by WCPARC. The presentation highlighted the proposed organizational charts for incorporating the MFS. Ms. Bonfiglio shared that a draft logo which would incorporate the existing MFS and WCPARC. Jason Gold, Director of MFS, provided additional information about upcoming 2023 classes and more detail into the 2022 revenue.

Commissioners asked how the transfer of monetary assets would take place at the time of acquisition. Staff clarified that the purchase of the MFS will not cost County Parks funds. MFS plans to release registration for some 2023 classes on November 1, 2022. The funds received for 2023 registrations will be transferred from MFS to Washtenaw County Parks at the time of acquisition.

Moved by Mr. Pratt, seconded by Ms. Shink to acquire the Michigan Folk School and authorize preparation of a purchase/donation agreement, contingent upon legal review and approval of final documents, and recommend a process to establish an advisory committee for the Michigan Folk School. Roll call vote, all ayes with 2 absent (McCollum & Joerg), the motion was approved.

B. Other Old Business

None

8. New Business

A. Connecting Communities Overview

Ms. Macyda presented the applications that were received for the 2022 round of Connecting Communities funding. She added that there is typically \$600,000 allocated to the program each year; \$100,000 for planning and engineering and \$500,000 for construction. She explained that applications were received from seven submittals, from 6 communities and the Washtenaw Intermediate School District, with a total ask of \$151,360 for planning and engineering and \$1,223,000 for construction projects. The applications will be placed on the November Commission agenda for final action and allocation of the funds.

Commissioners asked staff to look into how to publicize the trail accomplishments through the Connecting Communities program.

B. Border to Border Trail Updates

Mr. Sanderson provided updates on recent Border to Border Trail projects. He shared details around an upcoming construction request for proposal for the North Territorial to Boyce Rd segment in Lyndon Township. Construction is planned for 2023. He also shared updates on the Dexter connection segment between Miller-Smith Preserve and Mill Creek Park which includes a planned re-use of the Bell Road Bridge. Mr. Sanderson shared next steps and that he anticipates construction in 2024.

Ms. Bonfiglio provided an update on the Title IX Plaza situated adjacent to the Border-to-Border Trail in Dexter-Huron Metropark. She shared a schematic design of the plaza which is designed to inspire and educate visitors about the impacts of Title IX on women in sports through the storytelling of local women. These stories showcase how these women have helped break down barriers for women's participation in sports, igniting a much broader social movement for gender equity. Construction of the plaza is anticipated to begin in Spring 2023.

Commissioner Shink asked about how to have elements in the interpretation for the visually impaired. Commissioner Marans recommended to reach out to the UM School of Art of input on design.

C. NAPP – Round 22 NATAC & ALPAC Prioritization

Ms. Leikam presented the round 22 prioritization for the Natural Area Technical Advisory Committee (NATAC) and Agricultural Lands Preservation Advisory Committee (ALPAC). She explained that at their September meeting, both advisory committees evaluated all property nominations received in 2022 to determine which properties are the “highest priority” to protect. This evaluation includes site visits to each of the properties and completion of the field review worksheets. A few projects were highlighted in the presentation.

It was moved by Ms. McKinney and seconded by Ms. Shink to adopt the 2022 NATAC prioritization and the 2022 ALPAC prioritization. All ayes, the motion was approved.

D. Other Old Business

None.

9. Commissioners/Directors Comments

Mr. Vaughn provided an update on the free learn to swim program partnership with Huron Clinton Metroparks and the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy. He shared a summary of the 2022 season efforts in Washtenaw County with the Rutherford Pool swim program which expanded lesson capacity from 300 youth to 450 youth, including 51 adults. The program is part of a six-year commitment. Mr. Vaughn explained that we were planning to implement a similar free swim program at Meri Lou Murray Rec Center. He added that Diane Carr would be prepared to report on the details at the December Meeting.

Ms. Shink shared that she has reviewed a study from Iceland regarding teen alcoholism and free recreational lessons. When recreational lessons were offered and utilized there was a reduction of 40-50% in alcoholism. She offered to share the article with the commission.

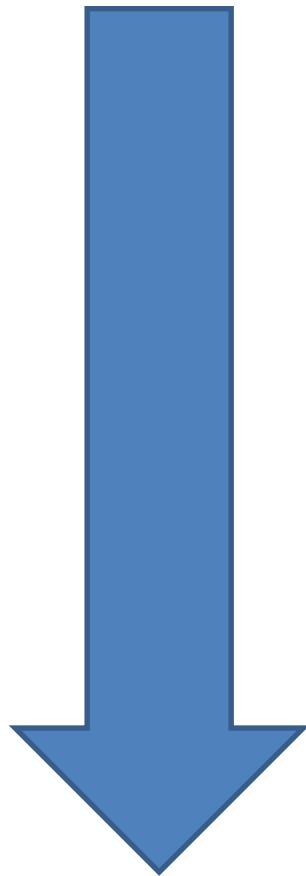
Mr. Ezekiel thanked staff for a very inspirational meeting. He shared his personal experience with Title IX as an educator around the empowerment of women in sports and participation in school.

10. Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 3:59 p.m.

Communications, Projects & Activities



Jason Brooks

To: Coy Vaughn
Subject: RE: Bell Road Bridge

From: Chet Hill <chill@jhle-studio.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 27, 2022 3:58 PM
To: Coy Vaughn <vaughnc@washtenaw.org>
Subject: Bell Road Bridge

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 Coy,

It was nice chatting with you today. It's been a long time. I wish that we would have been able to connect at the MAP conference a couple of weeks ago.

As I mentioned, I do not support the use of the Bell Road bridge as a B2B connector over Mill Creek in Dexter. While I support the idea of installing a bridge connection at this location, I am uncomfortable with the apparent decision to reinstall the Bell Road bridge here.

The following are my thoughts on the subject.

1. Placing a historic bridge in an arbitrary location on Mill Creek simply to satisfy an understandable desire to make use of a long dormant local treasure seems to be a bit capricious. It will undoubtedly be very visible and as such, very out of place. It will undoubtedly attract attention but visually, the bridge will interrupt what is now a very pleasant view of Mill Creek and surrounding wetlands. A new bridge with a much lower profile would seem to be a much more appropriate solution.
2. The costs presented for a new bridge vs reinstallation of the Bell Road bridge is somewhat skewed in favor of the Bell Road bridge. By my calculations, if a new bridge of approximately the same length as the Bell Road bridge were to be installed rather than installing one that is the length of the one depicted on the drawings, the costs would be very close to the same. If not even less expensive. In my opinion, there is no reason to install a bridge that spans the entire wetland area when a shorter one that simply spans Mill Creek, much as is being suggested for the Bell Road bridge, would do nicely.
3. I'm guessing that a new bridge will need much less maintenance over time than an old bridge, no matter how well it is prepared for reuse. And the type of maintenance needed would undoubtedly be much more expensive. After all, this is an old roadway bridge.

I would hope that an appropriate new location for the bridge can be found but I, for one, don't think that this is it. And keep in mind that I have been doing this for a long time. Anyway, thanks for hearing me out.

Chet

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Ann Arbor

131-year-old bridge could get new life as part of Washtenaw County Border-to-Border Trail

Published: Oct. 16, 2022, 8:00 a.m.

Signed-in readers now can
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NEW!

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

WASHTENAW COUNTY, MI - Can you teach an old bridge new tricks?

Planners behind the Washtenaw County Border-to-Border (B2B) Trail hope so.

They're eying a decommissioned, 131-year-old bridge that once served as the gateway to a now-defunct milling settlement on the Huron River as a potential missing puzzle piece in their quest to bring the non-motorized trail traversing the county to completion.

The former wrought-iron Bell Road Bridge — manufactured by the same Ohio company that made two one-lane bridges still standing downstream — could potentially be repurposed as a bike and pedestrian crossing of Mill Creek at the edge of downtown Dexter, as part of ongoing efforts to fill B2B gaps between the city and Chelsea to the west.

While the plan is far from a done deal, Dexter city leaders have signaled support and a preliminary examination shows the bridge's key structural elements are still in good shape.

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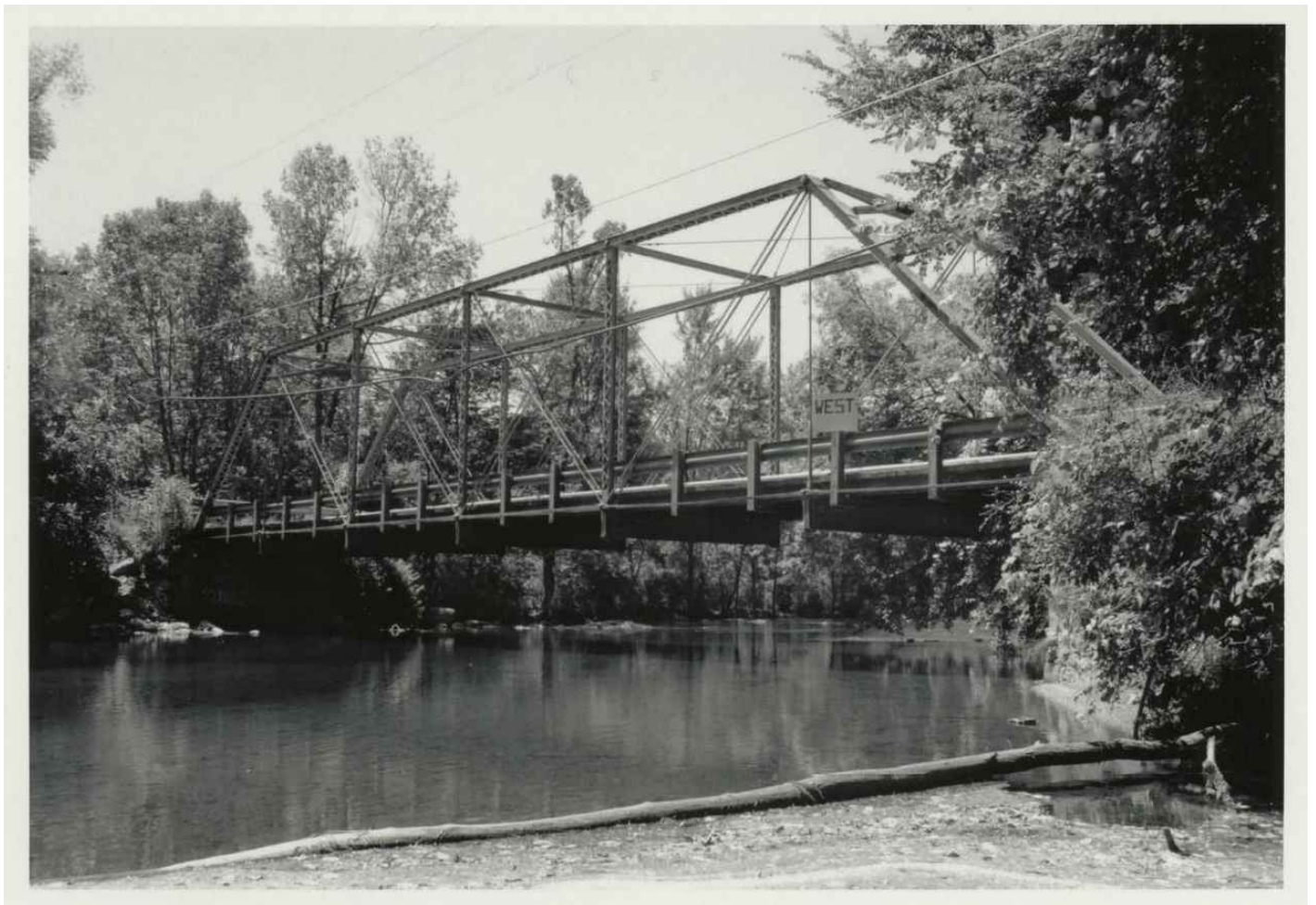
Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission officials are diving into further evaluations and working on the design of the B2B section, with the hopes it could be built in 2024, in time for Dexter's bicentennial.

It would be a brand-new life for all 103 feet, 6 inches of the metal bridge, listed in the late 1990s on the National Register of Historic Places.

It once marked the 19th century mill settlement of Dover, about five miles north of Dexter along the Huron River. The outpost began as a sawmill built in 1832 in part by [Judge Samuel Dexter](#), founder of the community that today bears his name, according to [the application submitted to the National Park Service](#) for the National Register designation.

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Over the following decades the mill changed hands and purposes, but by the late 1800s the settlement had a Episcopal Church, hotel, store and blacksmith shop, and in 1891 the Bell Road Bridge was fabricated by Canton, Ohio's Wrought Iron Bridge Co., one of the largest metal-truss bridge producers in the Midwest.



Photos attached to an 1996 application for designation on the National Register of Historic Places show the one-lane Bell Road Bridge, near the former milling settlement of Dover in Washtenaw County, north of Dexter. National Archives

The bridge would far outlive Dover, which by 1915 only had four buildings left, according to the National Register application.

At the time of the national historic designation in 1996 — and the placement of a Michigan Historical Marker at the bridge in Dexter Township soon after — the structure was one of only a handful of its kind left in Michigan, including the nearby East Delhi Road and Maple Road bridges closer to Ann Arbor.

The Washtenaw County Road Commission conducted several rehabilitation projects during its useful lifespan, but it had deteriorated far enough that the bridge was closed to traffic in the mid-90s, according to Road Commission spokesperson Emily Kizer, who dug through the agency's files on the structure.

In 1997, crews used a crane to take the bridge off its abutments and place it on the river bank, she said.



Photos from the Washtenaw County Road Commission show crews using a crane to remove the Bell Road Bridge from its abutments on the Huron River in 1997. Provided by Washtenaw County Road Commission

There the aging metal behemoth sat for more than 20 years, vegetation growing up through its beams.

But you won't find it on the river bank today.

In 2018, the Road Commission, which owns the bridge, and county parks officials inked a deal to have the structure disassembled and stored, with the thought that it could one day be repurposed for a park project, Kizer said.

It now sits in storage in Holt, south of Lansing, with a company specializing in metal fabrication and the restoration of historic bridges of its kind.

A preliminary assessment of costs for the planned B2B segment running from the Miller-Smith Preserve at Parker Road to Mill Creek Park in Dexter shows repurposing the bridge isn't just an historical tribute.

It also shaves around \$600,000 off the price of the segment, when compared to the alternative of installing a pre-fabricated pedestrian bridge, according to cost documents and Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation ¹Commission Project Manager Peter

Sanderson, the lead planner on the B2B project.

Beginning in the winter, an engineering team with experience evaluating historic bridges will develop a detailed plan for what is needed to restore and reinstall the Bell Road Bridge, including adding handrails for safety since the original doesn't have them, Sanderson said in an email. The blueprints will include details down to the individual rivets and paint color.



A conceptual rendering shows a potential reuse of the decommissioned Bell Road Bridge, an 131-year-old structure placed on the river bank near Dexter in the late 1990s, as part of the Washtenaw County Border-to-Border (B2B) Trail. Planners are exploring using the bridge as part of the B2B segment connecting Chelsea and Dexter. The rendering superimposed on a photo taken from Mill Creek Park shows the bridge across Mill Creek. Rendering by Stantec/Photo by Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

There are also still some big picture alignment questions for the roughly 3,500-foot B2B segment, and officials are in discussions with property owners over easements to allow the trail to connect to the preferred Mill Creek crossing location, which would also involve the installation of boardwalks on the flood plain, he added.

Officials are exploring grant funding possibilities and want to complete engineering and environmental clearance processes next year, with the hopes of building the segment in 2024.

"2024 is Dexter's bicentennial and from our understanding, Judge Dexter was an advocate for getting the Bell Road Bridge installed initially, so it would be fitting to finally find a home for and restore this bridge in the city," Sanderson said.

With those plans in motion, time will tell if the structure's 133rd year will see it back in action in Washtenaw County.



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Ann Arbor

Historic Washtenaw County farm set to become permanent home for folk school

Updated: Oct. 30, 2022, 11:01 a.m. | Published: Oct. 29, 2022, 10:00 a.m.

25

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Michigan Folk School teaches functional craft at Washtenaw County park
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WASHTENAW COUNTY, MI – Come never having swung a hammer and leave with three oval, steam-bent cherry wood boxes, hand-tacked in the iconic Shaker style dating back more than 200 years.

That's just a normal Saturday at the [Michigan Folk School](#).

Based in a historic farmstead a short drive outside Ann Arbor, the school is a mecca for what its director, Jason Gold, calls “the people’s knowledge” – functional crafts that were second nature to our grandparents but has slipped away over the generations.

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“Where can you go that you enter in the morning, you attend a class in millinery (hat-making), and then by lunchtime you’re hanging out with blacksmiths, leathersmiths, gardeners, farmers, animal husbandry experts, plastering experts?” Gold said. “It expands your worldview and your appreciation for hand-crafted art.”

The officials behind Washtenaw County’s Parks and Recreation Commission see value in that. So much so they want in on the game.

On Oct. 11, the Commission’s board voted unanimously ~~to acquire the nonprofit Michigan Folk School~~, taking ownership of everything from its logo down to the cloth used for its cheesemaking courses, with the group’s board also OK’ing the measure this month. The measure is not a sale and won’t cost the commission, officials said.

It’s an unusual step for the public entity accustomed to scooping up parkland but not a school teaching average of 250 classes a year, and no one involved could point to exact precedent for the acquisition.

But the move cements officials’ desire to preserve the legacy of the school’s current home in [Staebler Farm County Park](#) – the Superior Township homestead ~~sold to the county~~ parks commission by Donald Staebler, a farmer, educator, mechanic and jack-of-all-trades who lived on the property nearly all of his 106-year life.

Read more: [150-year-old Washtenaw County farmhouse being restored, given new purpose](#)

“We really wanted to honor that (history)” said Superintendent of Park Planning Ginny Leikam. “I think the crunch point was how do we open it up to the public? And that’s where the Folk School came into play.”

Gold, a native Michigander, traces the genesis of the school he founded with his wife Julia back to 19th-century northern Europe.

Questions like, “what happens when we give up weaving and just leave it to the machines?” motivated a desire to protect that knowledge in a way that was accessible and democratic, he said, birthing the idea of a folk school.

Gold stumbled upon one of dozens of folk schools across the U.S. when he and Julia were invited to a bluegrass night in Brasstown, N.C., which he described as “three buildings and a traffic light” near where his mother lived.

They took in the music at the [John Campbell Folk School](#), an array of historic buildings on 500 acres hosting a whirlwind of dressmaking, pottery and music that brought the couple back every summer for years, Gold said.

Settling in Ann Arbor, they sought the same camaraderie and community, before eventually landing on ethos of “if you can’t find it, create it,” he said.

The unofficial seed of the Michigan Folk School took root with a problem he and a group of families had — backyard city chickens that were growing old and needed to be processed.

While the idea of slaughter was horrific to Gold, bringing in an instructor for the group taught him methods to calm the animal down and accomplish the task, a family affair for the Golds and their children.

Before he reached his teens, Gold was woodworking with his grandfather and carried the knowledge into adulthood, including in a career as a toymaker.

But he and Julia’s skills — she now teaches classes in stained glass, soap and cheese making and medicinal herbs — were then limited, he admitted, and the desire to learn more was a good excuse to bolster the ranks of their fledgling school’s instructors.



Founders Jason and Julia Gold pose at the Michigan Folk School in Superior Township on October 22, 2022. The Michigan Folk School, based at Staebler Farm County Park, offers a variety of classes teaching traditional crafts like knife forging and wilderness survival, and is set to be acquired by the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission. Ryan Sun | rsun@mlive.com

The school doesn't necessarily look for master craftspeople.

"A lot of times when we do find a master of craft, they have the skills to be able to create something absolutely gorgeous and extremely functional but they may not have the personality to impart to a beginner what it's like to hold a mallet for the first time," Gold said, and that accessibility is a critical piece of what they've built.

Since, students have come in droves.

The school has spent less than \$1,000 on marketing since 2012, Gold said, with word of mouth bringing well over 6,000 eager learners to their classes, at first held in different locations across Michigan, from Marquette to Lambertville.

But to grow the school and teach more beginner classes, they needed a campus.

School 'exactly what we're looking for' at historic farmstead

Washtenaw County parks bought Staebler farm in 2001, but arranged for a life lease for the family patriarch, waiting for years to start kicking around ideas for the property in earnest.

"How do you make that farm work for the public and still respect its heritage as a farming property?" said Tom Freeman, a retired parks employee and now a Michigan Folk School board member who says he wrestled with the problem along with his colleagues.

Officials hoped to teach the kind of skills Staebler had cultivated through life of tending livestock, growing food and even teaching maintenance of B-24 bombers at Willow Run during World War II.

But how do you hire someone who is an expert woodworker, blacksmith and metalworker? "All those skills are so disparate, nobody has them anymore in one person," Freeman said.



Students learn how to make handmade sneakers at the Michigan Folk School in Superior Township on October 22, 2022. The Michigan Folk School, based at Staebler Farm County Park, offers a variety of classes teaching traditional crafts like knife forging and wilderness survival, and is set to be acquired by the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission. Ryan Sun | rsun@mlive.com

He was involved in the Dixboro Farmer's Market, and hired Jason Gold as market manager, around the time the Folk School was searching for a permanent home. Freeman made the key connection.

Leikam and Gold met at a picnic table on the Dixboro Village Green. She had a 100-acre farm to develop into a park that taught traditional skills, and he had the craft instructors searching for a home.

"She about jumped off the picnic table saying this is fantastic, this is exactly what we're looking for," Gold remembers.

County parks officials ended up issuing a formal request for proposals for a tenant at the Staebler Farm site, and the Folk School was selected to begin leasing space there in 2017.

The school helped fundraise to renovate a workshop next to the farmhouse on the property and began to offer its courses in shoemaking, weaving, archery, wilderness survival and a slew of other trades and skills.

Folk School eyes expansion as part of Washtenaw County parks

Moving to Staebler Farm allowed the Folk School to grow from 15 to 22 instructors, but the school still has waitlists 40 people deep for classes in some disciplines like blacksmithing, glass and leather, Gold said.

Financial self-sufficiency has always been a top priority, and for nine years he took no pay administering the school, working with Washtenaw Community College and volunteers to help with the responsibilities, Gold added, a reality that also limited its ability to offer reduced course fees for those who couldn't afford them.

Becoming part of Washtenaw County is a move that could remedy that situation, while allowing for growth.

Neither side rushed into the decision, working for more than two years to assess the pros and cons of the move and even bringing in outside consultants and lawyers to help.

County parks officials get programming they know the community wants through the deal, as well as an active, long-term tenant for Staebler Farm, while also being able to bolster the school's administrative capacity, Leikam said.

Finances were a big question, but officials determined the school would likely bring in revenue or break even within several years, especially when a multi-purpose building currently being built on the property brings more classroom space online next year.



An instructor teaches a wilderness survival class at the Michigan Folk School in Superior Township on October 22, 2022. The Michigan Folk School, based at Staebler Farm County Park, offers a variety of classes teaching traditional crafts like knife forging and wilderness survival, and is set to be acquired by the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission. Ryan Sun | rsun@mlive.com

For the Folk School, the county has been an excellent partner, giving the start-up nonprofit faith that it will be in good hands long-term, said Theo Eggermont, one of the group's board members, who has taught classes in bread baking.

It could also make the Michigan Folk School one of the only publicly-owned institutions of its kind in the nation. Gold said he knows of no other arrangement quite like it.

The goal is for the school to start business as part of the Parks and Recreation Commission on Jan. 1 of the coming year, with the county hiring two employees to oversee it and instructors brought on as contractors, according to Leikam.

Officials' goal is to be able to provide some free programming to the public, set aside money for scholarship opportunities and also integrate youth camps into the school.

The prospect has parks officials thrilled, according to the Commission's Director Coy Vaughn.

"By offering traditional folk art, skills and crafts, the Washtenaw County area will have an opportunity to take classes in a truly one-of-a-kind setting at the farm," he said in a statement.

As in any marriage or merger, open communication is key, but that's never been been a problem between the school and the commission, according to Gold.

"For us, the future is a very important piece, and if we're going to create something that is truly spectacular today we also want it to be spectacular tomorrow," he said.

Ann Arbor

New Washtenaw County Border-to-Border Trail segment opens up 6+ miles from Chelsea

Published: Oct. 31, 2022, 2:00 p.m.



A cyclist rides a newly-completed section of the Washtenaw County Border-to-Border (B2B) Trail between Timbertown and Veteran's parks in Chelsea and existing trail beginning at Werkner Road. Lesley Mason | Provided by Huron Waterway Pathways Initiative

NEW!

By Lucas Smolcic Larson | lsmolciclarsen@mlive.com

CHELSEA, MI - Many Chelsea residents are now even closer to the Washtenaw County Border-to-Border Trail, thanks to a new segment linking parks near downtown to existing trail to the north.

Local officials and trail advocates celebrated the official opening of the new roughly one-mile piece of [the B2B Trail](#) on Wednesday, Oct. 26.

The segment runs from Veteran's and Timbertown parks north to Werkner Road, opening up more than six uninterrupted miles of the B2B Trail to access from near downtown Chelsea all the way to a trailhead at the Lyndon Township Hall.

It improves non-motorized access to the [DTE Energy Foundation Trail system](#), a favorite for area mountain bikers that has a trailhead on M-52, as well as [an off-road connector](#) leading to the Potawatomi Loop in the Pinckney Recreation Area.

City residents came together to make the connection happen, according to Kiff Hamp, executive director of the Chelsea-based [Huron Waterloo Pathways Initiative](#), a nonprofit that has fundraised to fill B2B gaps and grow the area's pathway network.

"It was cool. It was very much a Chelsea community fundraising effort that supported that specific trail," he said, referring to crowdfunding campaigns that allowed HWPI to unlock matching funds from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation.



Officials with the City of Chelsea, Huron Waterloo Pathways Initiative, Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission and other partners and donors cut a ribbon at the official opening of a new Washtenaw County Border-to-Border (B2B) Trail segment from Timbertown Park to existing trail at Werkner Road, north of Chelsea, on Wednesday, Oct. 26, 2022. Lesley Mason | Provided by Huron Waterloo Pathways Initiative

The B2B segment is among several across the county that were under construction this year, part of efforts overseen by the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission, which works with HWPI and a slew of partners on the pathway now spanning roughly 35 non-continuous miles.

Next year, planners hope to extend the B2B Trail even farther north of North Territorial Road and the Lyndon Township trailhead, helping it live up to its name by reaching the county line, according to Hamp.

The vision is for the corridor to eventually stretch all the way to Stockbridge, hooking up with the Mike Levine Lakelands Trail, though the connections outside Washtenaw County necessary to make that happen could still be several years in the making, Hamp added.

Two property owners, Lynn Fox and Kurt Riegger and his family, granted easements for the new B2B segment, allowing it to run on private land where it crosses Sibley Road before emerging along M-52, he said.

There is a short section of the segment along M-52 that remains incomplete because county roads officials plan to replace a culvert there, likely next spring, Hamp said, adding there is a sign posted there explaining the construction, as well as a useable workaround.

Funds from the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation and hundreds of individual donors made the segment possible, he said. Parking for those driving to reach the segment is available at Timbertown Park, according to [a B2B access map](#).

Officials are still working on filling gaps in the B2B Trail between Chelsea and Dexter to the east. Among the proposals under consideration is the [use of a 131-year-old decommissioned bridge](#) to cross Mill Creek near downtown Dexter, officials previously said.

For updates on the project and other pieces of the trail, visit the [B2B website](#).

More from The Ann Arbor News:

[What's new for Washtenaw County's Border-to-Border Trail? See the latest plans](#)

[\\$3.5M grant will help complete Washtenaw County Border-to-Border Trail, Iron Belle Trail](#)

[Craft show, food drive coming to Chelsea Community Fairgrounds](#)

[Your guide to what's on the Nov. 8 general election ballot in Washtenaw County](#)

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years and was established in 1919.

Hop on the B2B and Ride Across Gordie Howe Bridge to Canada

By Doug Marrin, STN Reporter

The Border-to-Border Trail running through Chelsea and Dexter will soon connect via the Iron Belle Trail to the new Gordie Howe International Bridge, giving cyclists a gateway between the U.S. and Canada.



The Iron Belle Trail is a set of two trails that will span the state of Michigan. The two trails, one for hiking and one for biking, connects Ironwood in the Upper Peninsula and Belle Isle State Park in Detroit. When complete, the hiking trail will be 1,204 miles long, and the biking trail is 828 miles long. Image: Michigan.gov <https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/places/state-trails/iron-belle>

"There are many ways Michigan continues to earn its reputation as our nation's Trails State, and this partnership shines an international spotlight on enviable trail resources and outdoor adventure on both sides of the bridge," says Dan Eichinger, Director of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. "Recently, people have turned to state trails, parks and waterways like never before, seeking space, comfort and connection. The opportunities afforded by this partnership surely will provide even greater reward for getting outdoors."

Representatives from funding organizations gathered in Windsor on Sept. 9 to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to develop a binational Great Lakes tourism destination opportunity by 2024, coinciding with the opening of the Gordie Howe International Bridge. The new bridge will include designated space for pedestrians and cyclists to cross over the Detroit River between Detroit and Windsor.

The binational partnership will continue to develop non-motorized pathways, which began in Windsor in the 1960s and '70s, and in southeast Michigan in the '90s, in response to increasing public demand for recreational modes of transportation. The international bridge will connect the Iron Belle Trail, of which the B2B Trail is a part, to Canada's vast



The 1.5-mile-long Gordie Howe International Bridge (artist rendering) is scheduled to open in 2024. It will include a toll-free multi-use, two-way path for pedestrians and cyclists to walk or bike across the Windsor-Detroit border and connect to adjacent road and trail networks. Image Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority screenshot <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YuGSriKaXBQ>

network of non-motorized pathways.

From the Great Lakes Waterfront Trail (2,200+miles), a part of the Trans Canada Trail (3,200+ miles in Ontario) to the Iron Belle Trail in Michigan (2,000+ miles) and The Great Lakes Way (300+ miles), the MOU partners will amplify these existing trail networks and assets and leverage the non-motorized transportation (cycling and walking) infrastructure features of the new Gordie Howe International Bridge, for the enjoyment of residents



The Great Lakes Waterfront Trail is a signed route of interconnecting roads and off-road trails, joining over 150 communities and First Nations along the Canadian shores of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River. Image: Great Lakes Waterfront Trail <https://map.waterfronttrail.org/>

and visitors.

"Thirty years ago, the Trans Canada Trail began as a dream of a small group of Canadians who envisioned a national trail that would connect Canadians to nature and to one another, says Eleanor

McMahon, President & CEO of Trans Canada Trail. "In this anniversary year, we are elated to expand on this foundational theme by taking it cross-border, opening doors to enhanced tourism and recreation opportunities, to active transportation corridors, and to activating Canada's trail-based tourism economy."

Source: Trans Canada Trail <https://tctrail.ca/>



The Trans Canada Trail is the world's longest recreational trail network and the largest investor in trail infrastructure in Canada. Image: Trans Canada Trail <https://tctrail.ca/>

THE GREAT LAKES WAY



The Great Lakes Way will be an interconnected set of 156 miles of water trails and 160 miles of shared pathways stretching from southern Lake Huron through western Lake Erie. Image Community Foundation for SE Michigan <https://cfsem.org/initiative/greatlakesway/>

New Pathways

by Brooke Marshall

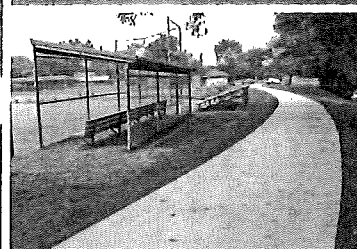
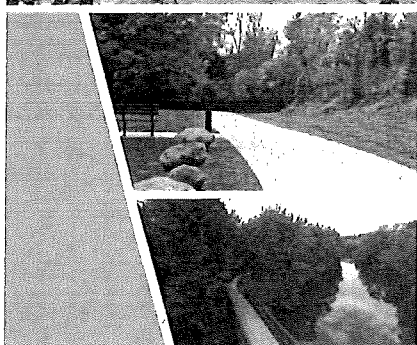
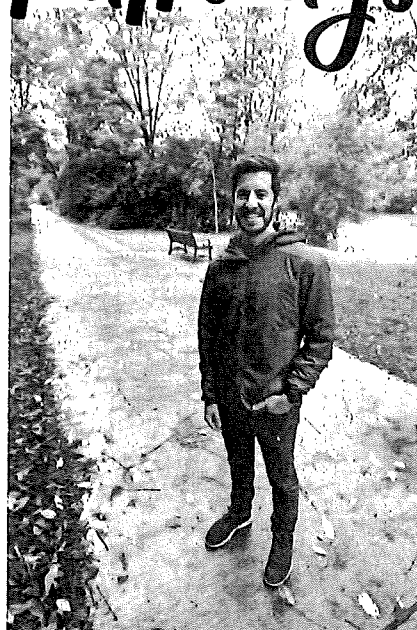
If you stand on the corner of Freer and Dexter-Chelsea roads, at the northwest edge of the Oak Grove East Cemetery, you'll find yourself at a 2.1-mile section of the Border-to-Border Trail. Nearer to Chelsea, there's an open-air art gallery of self-portraits painted on wooden planks by area middle school students. Follow the trail through farmland dotted with wildflowers, and near the eastern terminus

you'll pass the "Lost Pyramids of Dexter," a tongue-in-cheek name for the foundations of an old water tower that were found during trail construction. The trail ends as abruptly as it begins—ironically, just short of the entrance to Abrasive Finishing.

Just a random segment of a bike path, unlinked to any particular destination. But last year, that random segment was only 1.5 miles long. Next year, it will grow by another 0.6 miles to Parker Rd., and if all goes according to plan, in 2024 you'll be able to use that bike

Kiff Hamp heads the Huron Waterloo Pathways Initiative. The nonprofit raised \$14 million to speed work on the cross-county B2B Trail.

How the Border-to-Border Trail is connecting Washtenaw County communities



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New Pathways

path to travel from Chelsea to Dexter by two wheels or two feet.

The Border-to-Border Trail (B2B) is an ambitious project decades in the making. When it's complete, the paved, ADA-accessible, ten-foot-wide non-motorized path will go fifty-five continuous miles across Washtenaw County from its borders with Wayne and Livingston counties. It currently exists as six disconnected trail corridors, 37.75 miles in all, in and around Ypsilanti, Ann Arbor, Dexter, and Chelsea.

But the B2B is more than just a bike path. It's part of a larger series of initiatives to link southeast Michigan—and maybe one day, the entire state—via nonmotorized transportation infrastructure.

That 0.6-mile extension of the Dexter-Chelsea Rd. trail segment is just one of several B2B projects in the Chelsea and Dexter areas this year. The Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission (WCPARC) is embarking on a multiyear project to update trail signage—the first update since 2008. This project will include signage directing riders through Chelsea.

"In the cities, it's pretty challenging to build a trail, because the homes are really close to the road, and no one wants a ten-foot trail in their front yard," says WCPARC Project Manager Roy Townsend.

Signage gives riders the freedom to hop off the route and choose their own adventure—visit shops and restaurants, explore neighborhoods, and eventually link back up with the trail.

Farther east, construction is slated to begin in October on a 1.1-mile segment from Zeeb Rd. to Delhi Metropark along Huron River Dr. This much-

anticipated section, delayed for months because of difficulties securing a permit from Amtrak, will complete the connection between all three Metroparks within Washtenaw County. Construction should finish next summer.

"We're so close to starting to move dirt on that project," says WCPARC project manager Peter Sanderson. "That's a project that's been in the works for more than three years, from engineering through permitting and now into construction. So that's an exciting one."

Groundbreaking is also set to begin on the Title IX Plaza in Dexter-Huron Metropark. 2022 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the enactment of Title IX of the Education Amendments, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational and athletic programs that receive federal funding. The Title IX Plaza will honor female athletes of Washtenaw County and one in particular: Karen McKeachie, a world-class triathlete who was struck and killed by a truck while riding her bicycle on Dexter-Chelsea Rd. in 2017.

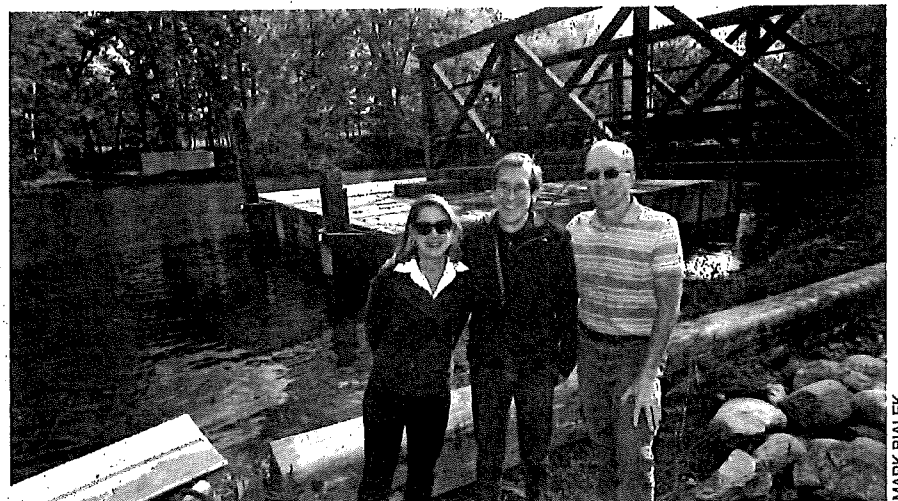
A mile here, 0.6 miles there, floating sections of trail—the approach may seem somewhat piecemeal.

But such is the nature of building a bike path; there's a lot more to it than just laying pavement.

"The physical trail construction is not overly complicated," Sanderson says. "But getting it to that stage and aligning all the parts and pieces is typically a multiyear process, and I don't think a lot of people know that."

Trail planning is a nuanced negotiation between aesthetics, environmental concerns, cost, land ownership, and public, private, and government entities. For that reason, trail projects tend to progress at a snail's pace. But momentum is what keeps people interested, which translates to more funding opportunities and can put pressure on slow-moving bureaucratic processes. So, if you have the opportunity to build a 0.6-mile section of trail, you take it. The philosophy, according to Huron Waterloo Pathways Initiative (HWPI) executive director Kiff Hamp, is this: "Build as much trail as you can as fast as you can."

As the official nonprofit partner of the B2B, HWPI's mission is to help create more nonmotorized pathways in Washtenaw County and beyond. This public-private partnership is what enables B2B construction to progress so quickly, even if it's in segments.



Jeff Hardcastle (at right in this 2019 photo with then-HWPI head Susan Faulkner and roads and trails millage advocate Lew Kidder) was part of a group of bicyclists who wanted to bring more bicycle infrastructure to Chelsea. They took on a much bigger role as HWPI.

In 1984, Washtenaw County officials hatched the idea of the Huron River Greenway, a nonmotorized pathway hugging the Huron River. In the 1990s, this evolved into the Border-to-Border Trail: a collaborative effort between universities, hospitals, WCPARC, and local governments to connect park systems and the cities of Ypsilanti, Ann Arbor, and eventually Dexter and Chelsea.

The vision was expansive, but progress was slow. With a budget of \$500,000 to \$1 million a year from the county's parks millage, it took several years to build up enough to fund a single project. At that rate, it could take decades and decades to complete—or never be completed at all.

HWPI changed all that. In 2014, a group of avid cyclists in Chelsea, led by local businessman Jeff Hardcastle, met to brainstorm ways to bring more bike infrastructure to their town. By 2015, they had already accrued more than \$50,000 in private donations. When they began researching state funding, they learned they'd get more support if they expanded regionally. This led them to WCPARC.

"We were pursuing our Border-to-Border Trail initiatives independently, and when we first met with Jeff Hardcastle and the HWPI team, it became clear very quickly that we should collaborate," Sanderson says.

In 2017, the county and the nonprofit signed a memorandum of understanding to collaborate on the B2B. HWPI handles private fundraising, as well as coordinating between different private, business, civic, and governmental entities. Since it was founded, HWPI has raised more than \$14 million. Two of the largest grants came from the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation (\$3.25 million in 2018 and \$3.5 million in 2022), but the rest came from more than 2,600 individual donors, with gifts ranging from a few dollars to \$1 million.

Before HWPI, "we averaged about one mile of construction per year," Sanderson says. "And now over the past four years we've built 13.7 miles of new trail, and we've reconstruct-

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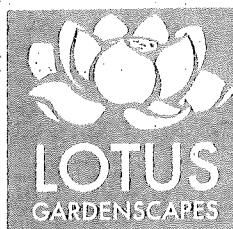
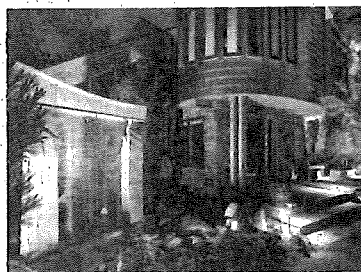


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New Pathways

ed about two-and-a-half miles of new trail, so that's 16.2 miles in four years ... We're doing something like three projects per year, maybe four, depending on the year."

Funding is split three ways between HWPI's private donations, state and federal grants, and a portion of the county's road and trails millage. McKeachie and her husband, Lew Kidder, were instrumental in the initial passage of the millage in 2016, and voters renewed it for four years in 2020.

One mile of trail costs roughly \$1 million, and bridges crossing the Huron River also come with a \$1 million price tag (although, like everything else these days, those numbers are rising). Estimates for the finished trail, including funds for long-term maintenance, run between \$35 and \$47 million.

The coming years promise more bicycle infrastructure projects for the communities of Dexter, Chelsea, and Saline—both on and off the B2B.

In 2024, Dexter will see the return of the Bell Road Bridge. The historic bridge over the Huron was removed in 1997 because the abutments were crumbling. It is currently in storage, but Townsend said the goal is to install it as part of the B2B crossing Bell Creek in Dexter.

Meanwhile, the city of Chelsea is just 1.1 miles away from being fully connected to the westernmost segment of the B2B. WCPARC was slated to begin construction between Werkner Rd. and Veterans Park this year, but a damaged 200-foot section of culvert has stalled the project. Once the Michigan Department of Transportation replaces the culvert, the B2B project can resume. The revised completion date is summer 2023.

2023 will also see groundbreaking on a 1.6-mile segment of trail along M-52 from North Territorial to Boyce Rd. along M-52 in Lyndon Township. When those two segments of trail are complete, Chelsea residents will have access to nearly ten continuous miles of the B2B.

Although the B2B doesn't run directly to Saline, residents can connect to it via other bicycle infrastructure. The Lohr-Textile Greenway connects to the Platt Road Trail, which eventually leads to the Huron Parkway Trail, and then up to the B2B in Ann Arbor's Gallup Park. The only portion that isn't linked by bicycle infrastructure is the section of Platt Rd. between Packard and Huron Parkway. However, Townsend says that when that section of Platt Rd. is resurfaced, there are plans to add bike lanes.

Before HWPI, "we averaged about one mile of construction per year," says county parks planner Peter Sanderson. "And now over the past four years we've built 13.7 miles of new trail."

The coming years—and decades—may see even wider connections. "We want to be a part of larger trail connectivity," Hamp says. "That's one of the huge goals that we have long-term."

He explains that HWPI is in talks with Jackson and Ingham counties about linking the B2B to the Mike Levine Lakelands Trail in Stockbridge. The thirty-four-mile trail connects Hamburg Township in Livingston County to Blackman Township in Jackson County and is part of the prospective Great Lake-to-Lake Trails Route #1, a 275-mile shared-use trail stretching from Lake Michigan to Lake Huron.

There are also plans to connect to the Lakelands Trail in Pinckney. HWPI and WCPARC are working with Dexter Township to try to extend the trail, sometimes called the Northwest Passage, up to Peach Mountain and Stinchfield Woods, to Silver Lake, through Hell, and up to the Pinckney Lakelands Trailhead.

Farther to the east, Van Buren Township and Wayne County are breaking ground on a one-mile section of trail connecting the B2B to the Van Buren Township Trail in Wayne County. It will ultimately run for seven miles and connect the B2B to Lower Huron Metropark.

"We're very excited about getting this Van Buren piece because that goes into Lower Huron, which you could connect down to Lake Erie," Hamp says.

As of 2015, the B2B is also part of the Iron Belle Trail. The highly ambitious plan is to connect Belle Isle in Detroit to Ironwood in the Upper Peninsula via two separate routes: a 1,273-mile unpaved hiking trail and a 791-mile paved bicycle route.

The strategy behind the Iron Belle is the same as the B2B: link existing paths to create an expansive, unified whole. The bicycle portion of the Iron Belle is already 71 percent complete; when the rest is built, it will be the longest state-designated bicycle trail in the United States. When that might be, however, is anyone's guess.

"Unfortunately, it is not feasible to give an estimate for when the entire route may be connected," emails Dakota Hewlett, the Iron Belle Trail Coordinator for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. "It will be many years yet before the entire route may be connected fully."

The B2B has run into countless snags building what will eventually be a fifty-five-mile bike path within a single county. Zoom that out to a project attempting to link forty-eight counties and 240 townships, and the complexity is dizzying. How do you build those remaining 229 miles? One mile at a time—or, in the case of the extension of the Dexter-Chelsea segment of the B2B, 0.6 miles at a time.

Because the B2B is a part of the Iron Belle Trail, construction on the B2B ultimately contributes to statewide non-motorized connectivity. And the completion date for the B2B is significantly easier to estimate than the Iron Belle.

"I think our goal would probably be in the next five years, but as things become complicated, that could get pushed out to six or seven years," Townsend says.

The years ahead may see more complications because, as Sanderson explains, "Frankly, the easiest sections to build have already been built."

Probably the single most challenging mile of B2B construction is between Maple Rd. and Wagner Rd. along Huron River Dr. There are no shoulders on either side of the road, the terrain is hilly, and any construction involving the Huron River involves a barrage of environmental regulations. HWPI and WCPARC are currently workshopping potential solutions; changing Huron River Dr. to a one-way road is one option, and another is constructing two massive suspension bridges. Hamp estimates that it could cost between \$10 and \$12 million and take up to three years just to build that one mile.

"There's so many things out of your hands," Hamp laughs. "I would say by '25, '26, ideally we would have everything done except [that] one mile."

The persistence with which HWPI and WCPARC address these challenges attests to the importance of nonmotorized transportation infrastructure. The B2B is more than just a bike path. It's a means of connecting its users with their county, with pieces of their history, and with one another.

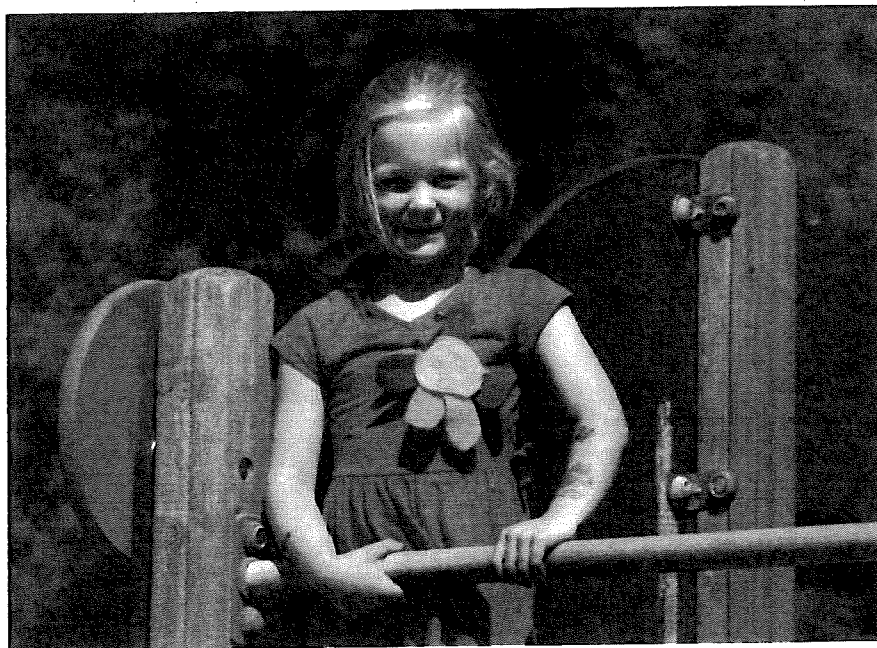
"If we connect where people live to destinations, it gives them reasons to use the trail and maybe not drive everywhere, which is good for the environment, it's good for their health, it's good for their mental health," Sanderson says. "It helps build community, because you see other people on the trail as members of your community. You see them as people, and not as a car."

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Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MEMORANDUM

TO: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Coy P. Vaughn, Director
DATE: November 8, 2022
RE: Project and Activities Update – October 2022

Park Facility Events and Projects

Independence Lake

- A disc golf tournament was held on October 7 with twenty-nine participants.
- “Owl Prowl Night Hike and Campfire” was held on October 7. Thirty-six people attended the event and experienced an owl answering their call.
- “Fireside Story Time” was held on October 14 with twenty participants.
- “Howl-o-Ween Dog Walk Costume Contest” was held on October 28. Twenty-two humans and fourteen dogs attended. The dog “Gabriel” was dressed as a fireman and won 1st place with forty-three Facebook “likes.”
- Maintenance staff has been winterizing the facility and performing general clean-up.
- Operations staff is piloting an online timecard system and scheduling app.

Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center

- Facility began hosting the annual warm clothing and “blessing bags” drives. Since mid-October, four barrels of apparel have been donated. The “blessing bags” filled with personal items and treats will be assembled as holiday gifts.
- Drop-in basketball usage has increased and for the first time since March 2020. The facility to reinstate regular rules to manage the gym overflow.
- Interest in Pickleball is bringing in new members. More than thirty participants have been attending the beginner’s class instruction each week.

Pierce Lake Golf Course

- Re-paving of the parking lot and entrance road is complete.

Rolling Hills Park

- More than 970 patrons participated in the 3rd annual “Trek or Treat” event on October 1, attracting people as far away as Flint, Detroit, and Ohio.
- Rolling Hills Park and Wiard’s Orchard hosted “Run Scream Run 5K/10K” on October 8, with over 700 participants.
- Disc golf tournaments were held on October 15 and 23, with MOB Disc Golf and WC Glow.
- Maintenance staff completed Water Park winterization and is preparing for winter park use.
- Phase II of the concessions building renovation to replace the grill structure and associated concrete flatwork began, as scheduled, on October 3. The Contactor and their subs are moving expeditiously, and all the demo and the underground utility work has been completed.

Staebler Farm Park

- Staff continues to work closely with the architect and contractor to ensure that the facility requirements are met in a timely manner and within budget.
- The timber framing and SIPS panels have been installed. Underground electrical and cable work has been completed, as well as adjustments to the northern section of the Plymouth Road ROW.
- Staff is finalizing a space plan and the furniture selection for Multipurpose Building.
- Staff met with consultants from The Collaborative to begin the next phase of the farmhouse renovation project to finalize the design and prepare construction drawings.

Special Initiatives

Border to Border Trail (B2B)

- Construction from Zeeb Road to Delhi Metropark (Segment DAA3) continues with LJ construction. Drainage, grading, and wall construction is underway. The project is anticipated to finish in 2023.
- 110 trees planted along the Chelsea Connector segment (C1) from Veterans Park to Werkner Road prior to the ribbon cutting at the end of October.
- Engineering and permitting are in various stages 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

Connecting Communities

- Staff has been reviewing seven applications for both planning and construction grants and will make a recommendation for funding to the Parks Commission at their November meeting.

Natural Areas Preservation Program (NAPP)

Stewardship

- The MDNR hosted “Becoming an Outdoor Woman” archery hunt at Watkins Lake County Preserve on October 1-3. There were six participants and eight volunteer mentors involved in training for the weekend hunt. Two does were harvested on site by the new hunters.
- MiOFO hosted hunters at Leonard Preserve for the Independence Hunt from Oct. 13-16. Two does were harvested to support wounded veterans.
- Invasive plant control included:
 - o Phragmites at Scio Woods and Fox Science preserves
 - o Invasive shrub/tree removal at Northfield Woods, Brauer, and Watkins Lake preserves.
 - o Invasive celastus removal in the forest at West Lake Preserve.
- Mowing was completed across more than thirty acres at West Lake Preserve as an intentional effort to restore habitat conditions for grassland nesting birds. Mowing to reduce cover and increase visibility also occurred at Trinkle Marsh Preserve and along the farming access lane at Brauer Preserve.
- Staff and the JLW CISMA submitted a Michigan Invasive Species Grant to request funds for continued treatment of stiltgrass at Watkins Lake Preserve and support removal of frog-bit at Koenn Preserve.
- Staff presented to the Michigan Botanic Club on their work to protect rare habitats in Washtenaw County.

Interpretive Programming

- More than 650 patrons attended nature and history programs in October. Programs included an “Owl Prowl” (in which the group called in a screech owl!), various field trips, mill tours, and the last archery program for the year.
- The Preserve Challenge included twenty-eight registered participants who posted photos throughout the month. Interactions on Instagram were up more than 7,000% during the event.

Other

- Staff has been preparing a Cultural Resource Management Plan to guide planning and preservation efforts for cultural assets.
- Staff has begun drafting the 2022 Annual Report.
- Staff developed a logo celebrating the Parks Commission’s 50th anniversary, which will be celebrated in 2023.



Digital Report - October 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 - October 2022

SOCIAL MEDIA

facebook

Blue Heron Bay

Monthly Impressions

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
1,017	4,099	

Total Post Engagement

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
22	234	

facebook

Independence Lake

Monthly Impressions

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
24,916	27,863	

Total Post Engagement

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
1,394	1,136	

facebook

Meri Lou Murray

Monthly Impressions

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
1,142	880	

Total Post Engagement

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
45	27	

facebook

Pierce Lake

Monthly Impressions

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
10,001	22,367	

Total Post Engagement

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
481	1,260	

facebook

Rolling Hills

Monthly Impressions

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
79,884	144,499	

Total Post Engagement

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
3,068	9,305	

facebook

WCPARC

Monthly Impressions

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
14,239	3,450	

Total Post Engagement

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
421	135	

Instagram

Rolling Hills

Total Followers

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
1,200	1,195	977

Top Post -

How many people reacted to posts

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
34	44	

Instagram

WCPARC

Total Followers

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
2,596	2,566	

Top Post - Foxes at PLGC

How many people reacted to posts

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
103	63	



Digital Report - October 2022

Facebook/Instagram - Top Posts

Foxes at PLGC

washtenawcou...
Tue 10/4/2022 12:56 pm...

🐾 Think this trio lost some golf balls at Pierce Lake Golf Course? Or, are they just...

Total Engagements	103
Likes	94
Comments	0
Shares	6
Saves	3

Mill Tour

Washtenaw Co...
Sat 10/22/2022 10:56 a...

Come visit us today for a Mill tour! Open until 4pm.

Total Engagements	81
Reactions	11
Comments	5
Shares	0
Post Link Clicks	—
Other Post Clicks	65

Seed Share

Washtenaw Co...
Tue 10/18/2022 10:11 a...

Join us this weekend for the 6th Annual Fall Seed Share where we share native seed...

Total Engagements	79
Reactions	21
Comments	3
Shares	1
Post Link Clicks	26
Other Post Clicks	28

ENews

Washtenaw Co...
Wed 10/5/2022 6:19 am...

Check out our new October News and latest publication. Into the Outdoors Program...

Washtenaw County, MI

Total Engagements	58
Reactions	11
Comments	0
Shares	4
Post Link Clicks	32
Other Post Clicks	11



Digital Report - October 2022

Website, Newsletter, News

Website Statistics

washtenaw.org/parks

September 2022

Total Page Visits	This Month	Last Month	. Last Year
	170,486	187,348	

Title	URL		Page views % of total	Visits % of total
Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center Washtenaw County, MI	https://www.washtenaw.org/497/Meri-Lou-Murray-Recreation-Center		4,063 19.0 %	2,734 26.6 %
Border to Border Trail Washtenaw County, MI	https://www.washtenaw.org/334/Border-to-Border-Trail		925 4.3 %	835 8.1 %
Recreation Center Rates Washtenaw County, MI	https://www.washtenaw.org/576/Recreation-Center-Rates		824 3.8 %	727 7.1 %
Staebler Farm County Park Washtenaw County, MI	https://www.washtenaw.org/701/Staebler-Farm-County-Park		777 3.6 %	691 6.7 %
Parker Mill County Park Washtenaw County, MI	https://www.washtenaw.org/602/Parker-Mill-County-Park		740 3.5 %	656 6.4 %

Monthly Newsletter

WCPARC 45.2% open rate

Newsletter via MailChimp

Sent to	Opened	Clicks
7,951	3,106	199

Newsletter non MailChimp

Sent to	Opened	Clicks
1,081	N/A	

Photography



Richard Bacolor,
Photo Ambassador,
taken at Squiers
Preserve & Herman L.
Koenn Preserve



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

October 2022 - Claims Report

PARK / FACILITY / FUNCTION	UTILITIES	DIRECT PURCHASES	OTHER	TOTAL
Administration	\$ 398.83	\$ 8,000.74	\$ 7,184.24	\$ 15,583.81
Recreation Center	13,948.28	1,686.67	16,197.00	31,831.95
Park Maintenance	1,001.13	1,894.71	5,389.48	8,285.32
Pierce Lake Golf Course	2,719.39	3,998.11	55,102.95	61,820.45
Independence Lake	2,845.48	5,157.72	8,666.52	16,669.72
Rolling Hills	5,296.28	22,713.62	35,556.80	63,566.70
Parker Mill	703.40	-	145.50	848.90
Sharon Mills	195.39	-	335.00	530.39
Staebler Farm	126.79	-	537.80	664.59
Swift Run Dog Park	-	-	-	-
Capital Improvement	-	-	38,023.00	38,023.00
Committed Funding Partnerships	-	-	-	-
Commission	-	-	-	-
SUBTOTAL	\$ 27,234.97	\$ 43,451.57	\$ 167,138.29	\$ 237,824.83
 Road Millage Fund	 -	 -	 182,321.86	 182,321.86
SUBTOTAL	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 182,321.86	\$ 182,321.86
 Natural Areas Preservation Program				
Acquisition	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 604,742.48	\$ 604,742.48
Preserve Management	-	3,839.81	5,166.61	\$ 9,006.42
NATAC	-	-	-	\$ -
Acquisition	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 438,500.00	\$ 438,500.00
Annual Monitoring	-	-	-	\$ -
ALPAC	-	-	-	-
SUBTOTAL	\$ -	\$ 3,839.81	\$ 1,048,409.09	\$ 1,052,248.90
 TOTAL	\$ 27,234.97	\$ 47,291.38	\$ 1,397,869.24	\$ 1,472,395.59

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

\$ 1,472,395.59

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

Beginning Fund Balance (1/1/22)	16,261,408		83%	YTD % Budget	
Revenue (Budget)		Revenue (Actual)			Variance
Property Tax	8,681,375	8,766,264		101%	84,889
State Grant Funds	-	-			-
Fees & Services	3,635,000	3,905,853		107%	270,853
Interest Earnings	100,000	117,936		118%	17,936
Other Revenue & Reimb.	<u>30,000</u>	<u>5,140</u>		17%	<u>(24,860)</u>
Total Revenue		12,446,375	12,795,192	103%	348,817
Expense (Budget)		Expense (Actual)			Variance
Personnel Services	(6,909,556)	(5,422,750)		78%	1,486,806
Supplies & Other Services	(2,549,600)	(2,049,181)		80%	500,419
Internal Service Charges	(939,876)	(787,102)		84%	152,774
Capital					
Land Acquisition	-	-		-	-
CIP/Development	(3,100,000)	(1,691,867)		55%	1,408,133
Contingency	(400,000)	(154,094)		39%	245,906
Machinery & Equipment	<u>(181,100)</u>	<u>(127,140)</u>		70%	<u>53,960</u>
Capital Subtotal	(3,681,100)	(1,973,101)		54%	1,707,999
Transfers Out	(547,249)	(266,270)		49%	280,979
Total Expense	<u>(14,627,381)</u>	<u>(10,498,405)</u>		72%	4,128,977
Surplus/(Deficit)		(2,181,006)	2,296,788		
Operating Reserve		(8,681,375)	(8,681,375)		
Funding Commitments (Partnerships)		<u>(8,128,730)</u>	<u>(266,270)</u>		
		(16,810,105)	(8,947,645)		
Projected Fund Balance (12/31/22)		<u>(2,729,703)</u>	<u>9,610,551</u>		

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

Beginning Fund Balance (1/1/22)	8,127,796	83%	YTD % Budget	
Revenue (Budget)		Revenue (Actual)		Variance
Property Tax	4,622,888	4,663,323	101%	40,435
Federal Revenue	-	-		-
Interest Earnings	25,000	57,616	230%	32,616
Other Revenue & Reimb.	<u>5,000</u>	<u>28,883</u>	578%	<u>23,883</u>
Total Revenue	4,652,888	4,749,822	102%	96,934
Expense (Budget)		Expense (Actual)		Variance
Personnel Services	(700,883)	(474,568)	68%	226,315
Supplies & Other Services	(336,200)	(304,514)	91%	31,686
Internal Service Charges	(20,612)	(17,896)	87%	2,716
Capital				
Land Acquisition	(2,550,000)	(3,589,337)	141%	(1,039,337)
Land Development	-	-		-
Machinery & Equipment	<u>(5,000)</u>	<u>(598)</u>	12%	<u>4,402</u>
Capital Subtotal	(2,555,000)	(3,589,935)	141%	(1,034,935)
Total Expense	<u>(3,612,695)</u>	<u>(4,386,912)</u>	121%	(774,217)
Surplus/(Deficit)	1,040,193	362,910		
Projected Fund Balance (12/31/22)	<u>9,167,989</u>	<u>8,490,707</u>		

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

GATE

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2019	2020	2021	2022
RESIDENT (ANNUAL)	1,483	1,129	2,138	2,148	\$ 40,650	\$ 33,870	\$ 64,140	\$ 64,440
NON-RESIDENT (ANNUAL)	176	93	207	284	6,750	4,185	9,315	12,780
RESIDENTS (DAILY)	12,618	3,476	9,163	12,984	75,708	20,856	54,978	77,902
NON-RESIDENTS (DAILY)	18,818	1,488	8,598	21,165	188,180	14,880	85,980	211,646
SENIOR (DAILY)	891	186	527	709	2,673	558	1,581	2,127
SENIOR NON-RES. (DAILY)	620	27	261	520	3,720	162	1,566	3,120
BUSES (DAILY)	132	-	4	80	3,960	-	120	2,400
ANNUAL BUS	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	300
MINI BUS	44	1	4	30	660	15	60	450
ANNUAL MINI BUS	-	-	-	\$ -	-	-	-	-
	<u>34,782</u>	<u>6,420</u>	<u>20,907</u>	<u>37,921</u>	<u>\$ 322,301</u>	<u>\$ 74,626</u>	<u>\$ 217,765</u>	<u>\$ 375,165</u>

PERCENT OF NON-RESIDENTS:

ANNUAL	10.61%	7.61%	8.83%	11.68%
DAILY	59.00%	29.26%	47.76%	61.30%

WATER PARK POOL ATTENDANCE

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2019	2020	2021	2022
DAILY ENTRANCE	<u>123,297</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>38,778</u>	<u>106,244</u>	<u>\$ 1,039,714</u>	<u>\$ 48</u>	<u>\$ 402,006</u>	<u>\$ 1,209,698</u>
	123,297	4	38,778	106,244	\$ 1,039,714	\$ 48	\$ 402,006	\$ 1,209,698

PROGRAMMING & RETAIL OPERATIONS

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2019	2020	2021	2022
DAYCAMP	1,941	-	1,759	2,913	\$ 52,405	\$ -	\$ 47,485	\$ 78,648
AQUATICS PROGRAMMING	726	-	1,453	-	2,731	-	4,952	-
RIVERWALK				3,514				11,996
DISC GOLF	2,262	2,682	2,901	3,016	8,818	5,364	5,802	6,032
SPECIAL EVENTS	<u>3,429</u>	<u>849</u>	<u>1,756</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>32,220</u>	<u>8,852</u>	<u>19,756</u>	<u>18,782</u>
	8,358	3,531	7,869	9,443	\$ 96,174	\$ 14,216	\$ 77,995	\$ 115,457

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

PROGRAMMING & RETAIL OPERATIONS (cont'd)

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2019	2020	2021	2022
FACILITY RENTALS								
WEEKDAYS	26	2	44	47	\$ 2,543	\$ 40	\$ 4,505	4,805
WEEKENDS	156	16	150	181	17,262	1,335	19,650	23,600
SOCCER FIELDS	5,289	192	192	592	15,200	550	550	1,700
DISC GOLF COURSE	-	-	10	14	-	-	950	1,300
	<u>5,504</u>	<u>210</u>	<u>396</u>	<u>834</u>	<u>\$ 36,245</u>	<u>\$ 1,925</u>	<u>\$ 25,655</u>	<u>\$ 31,405</u>
TOBOGGANS	229	-	760	535	\$ 687	\$ -	\$ 2,280	\$ 2,675
CROSS COUNTRY SKIS	177	-	936	512	531	-	2,808	2,560
MISC. RETAIL	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	10
	<u>406</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,696</u>	<u>1,049</u>	<u>\$ 1,218</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 5,088</u>	<u>\$ 5,245</u>
LOCKERS	23,002	-	5,420	24,894	\$ 5,751	\$ -	\$ 1,355	\$ 6,224
FOOD CONCESSIONS	113,264	-	42,038	100,383	226,386	-	80,216	244,395
MISCELLANEOUS	596	-	299	1,241	3,198	-	1,738	14,068
GIFT CERTIFICATE SALES	39	3	1	4	411	428	65	372
	<u>136,901</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>47,758</u>	<u>126,522</u>	<u>\$ 235,745</u>	<u>\$ 428</u>	<u>\$ 83,374</u>	<u>\$ 265,058</u>
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2019	2020	2021	2022
YTD TOTAL PARTICIPATION & REVENUE:	309,248	10,168	117,403	282,013	\$ 1,731,397	\$ 91,243	\$ 811,883	\$ 2,002,029

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

MEMBERSHIPS

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2019	2020	2021	2022
INDIVIDUAL RESIDENT	867	358	721	635	\$ 180,878	\$ 64,891	\$ 72,638	\$ 140,316
INDIVIDUAL NON-RESIDENT	19	5	4	12	5,875	2,060	1,074	4,415
S/Y/D RESIDENT	1,171	458	418	670	194,502	73,762	69,727	124,916
S/Y/D NON-RESIDENT	3	3	-	5	790	788	-	1,401
FAMILY RESIDENT	249	135	101	153	91,416	33,574	28,360	55,000
FAMILY NON-RESIDENT	2	1	1	-	1,480	735	767	-
FAMILY - ADDT'L MEMBER	14	11	4	1	858	427	171	75
SENIORS OVER 80	356	130	169	245	21,330	7,490	10,401	16,385
PERSONAL TRAINERS	15	1	4	3	4,860	303	1,075	1,325
MILITARY PASS	3	2	2	12	360	180	390	2,622
30-DAY PASS	679	401	709	446	29,262	17,206	31,836	24,875
SEASONAL PASS	126	-	-	-	9,920	-	-	-
REPLACEMENT PASS	-	35	8	1	-	35	8	3
SUB-TOTAL	3,504	1,540	2,141	2,183	\$ 541,530	\$ 201,450	\$ 216,446	\$ 371,333
PASS FACILITY USE	144,319	48,607		117,164				
PERCENT OF NON-RESIDENTS:	1.04%	0.94%	0.40%	1.15%				

DAILY ENTRIES

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2019	2020	2021	2022
INDIVIDUAL RESIDENT	7,343	2,552	166	2,417	\$ 58,744	\$ 20,416	\$ 1,498	\$ 23,368
INDIVIDUAL NON-RESIDENT	804	212	37	230	7,236	1,908	369	2,614
S/Y/D RESIDENT	6,737	2,122	200	1,960	40,422	12,732	1,400	16,055
S/Y/D NON-RESIDENT	288	105	10	566	2,016	735	82	6,584
INDIVIDUAL FITNESS RESIDENT	195	46	1	37	1,208	264	8	222
INDIVIDUAL FITNESS NON-RESIDENT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SENIOR FITNESS RESIDENT	516	129	-	83	2,825	756	-	415
SENIOR FITNESS NON-RESIDENT	16	3	-	-	35	14	-	-
DAILY PASS/GIFT CERTIFICATE SALES	-	75	1	1	3,606	450	245	10
SUB-TOTAL	15,899	5,244	416	5,294	\$ 116,092	\$ 37,275	\$ 3,602	\$ 49,268
PERCENT OF NON-RESIDENTS:	6.97%	6.19%	11.37%	15.04%				

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

		OTHER REVENUE							
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2019	2020	2021	2022
DAYCAMP		3,299	23	13	2,763	\$ 89,077	\$ 630	\$ 360	\$ 74,590
RECREATION PROGRAMS		32,143	8,592	25,081	2,558	163,411	29,042	64,538	144,478
FACILITY RENTALS	POOL/STUDIO/GYM	226	106	100	-	5,432	2,554	2,400	-
	PARTY PAVILION	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MISC. RETAIL		368	90	91	15	9,973	2,526	2,915	85
LOCKERS		27,427	9,068	3,720	8,632	6,857	2,267	930	2,158
VENDING		-	-	-	-	1,425	1,208	-	-
	SUB-TOTAL	63,464	17,880	29,005	13,968	\$ 276,176	\$ 38,228	\$ 71,143	\$ 221,311
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2019	2020	2021	2022
YTD TOTAL PARTICIPATION & REVENUE:		227,186	73,271	31,562	138,609	\$ 933,798	\$ 276,953	\$ 291,191	\$ 641,912

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

GREEN FEES

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2019	2020	2021	2022
WEEKDAYS								
REGULAR - 9	942	708	779	425	\$ 7,467	\$ 8,028	\$ 9,297	\$ 10,845
SR/JR/STUDENT - 9	524	671	662	499	7,520	11,325	11,091	10,820
LEAGUES - 9	4,104	2,771	3,439	3,397	65,931	47,585	58,463	67,643
REGULAR - 18	2,143	3,963	3,431	10,161	64,203	120,090	117,202	195,494
SR/JR/STUDENT - 18	4,361	3,481	4,641	4,477	88,092	83,348	109,058	99,922
TWI-LIGHT	1,944	2,140	1,512	928	32,259	42,495	29,025	19,388
WEEKENDS								
REGULAR - 9	245	261	244	347	5,381	6,713	6,159	10,713
SR/JR/STUDENT - 9	39	38	12	43	624	722	228	875
REGULAR - 18	3,635	3,621	5,349	3,120	120,681	129,314	194,296	122,279
SR/JR/STUDENT - 18	289	252	496	953	7,514	7,288	14,532	28,375
TWI-LIGHT	1,287	1,390	819	25	29,497	35,440	20,666	11,260
EARLY BIRD - 9	58	36	35	13	928	684	665	299
MEMBERSHIPS								
ULTIMATE PACKAGE	424	523	675	703	9,500	14,776	24,898	46,355
WEEKDAY PACKAGE	765	1,218	1,518	110	9,400	10,257	14,921	13,225
WEEKEND PACKAGE	139	-	184	11	750	-	800	1,650
TWI-LIGHT PACKAGE	351	320	283	70	5,525	3,850	4,575	8,225
OUTINGS (WEEKDAYS & WEEKENDS)	<u>1,176</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>788</u>	<u>1,278</u>	<u>35,911</u>	<u>2,668</u>	<u>28,810</u>	<u>47,512</u>
	22,426	21,485	24,867	26,560	\$ 491,183	\$ 524,583	\$ 644,686	\$ 694,879

PROGRAMMING & RETAIL OPERATIONS

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2019	2020	2021	2022
CARTS	17,493	16,932	20,361	18,833	\$ 118,202	\$ 116,564	\$ 143,336	\$ 105,067
RENTALS	<u>66</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>660</u>	<u>280</u>	<u>390</u>	<u>170</u>
	17,559	16,960	20,400	18,850	\$ 118,862	\$ 116,844	\$ 143,726	\$ 105,237
FOOD & BEVERAGE	44,638	30,294	46,907	48,575	\$ 120,488	\$ 82,622	\$ 136,034	\$ 141,957
PRO SHOP	3,360	2,789	3,530	3,354	37,738	33,907	45,294	47,888
DISCOUNTS	-	-	-	-	(74,206)	(89,982)	(138,985)	-
VENDING	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>780</u>	<u>1,299</u>	<u>1,016</u>	<u>-</u>
	47,998	33,083	50,437	51,929	\$ 84,801	\$ 27,846	\$ 43,359	\$ 189,845
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2019	2020	2021	2022
YTD TOTAL PARTICIPATION & REVENUE:	87,983	71,528	95,744	97,339	\$ 694,846	\$ 669,273	\$ 831,772	\$ 989,961

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

GATE

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2019	2020	2021	2022
RESIDENTS (ANNUAL)	953	1,016	1,310	1,110	\$ 27,930	\$ 30,480	\$ 39,300	\$ 33,300
NON-RESIDENTS (ANNUAL)	173	184	339	359	7,245	8,280	15,255	16,155
RESIDENTS (DAILY)	5,553	5,047	6,637	5,616	33,318	30,282	39,822	33,696
NON-RESIDENTS (DAILY)	4,797	4,277	6,745	6,192	47,970	42,770	67,450	61,920
SENIOR (DAILY)	572	486	758	633	1,716	1,458	2,274	1,899
SENIOR-NON RES. (DAILY)	315	244	394	470	1,890	1,464	2,364	2,820
BUSES (DAILY)	19	-	8	18	570	-	240	540
ANNUAL BUS	8	-	-	1	150	-	-	150
MINI BUS	20	3	10	35	300	45	150	525
ANNUAL MINI BUS	<u>15</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>525</u>	<u>225</u>	<u>300</u>	<u>225</u>
	12,425	11,260	16,205	14,437	\$ 121,614	\$ 115,004	\$ 167,155	\$ 151,230

PERCENT OF NON-RESIDENTS:

ANNUAL	15.4%	15.3%	20.6%	24.4%
DAILY	45.5%	45.0%	49.1%	51.6%

BLUE HERON BAY ATTENDANCE

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2019	2020	2021	2022
BHB ANNUAL PASSES	132	-	-	125	\$ 2,388	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,530
BHB DAILY ENTRANCE	<u>12,725</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,723</u>	<u>15,246</u>	<u>47,212</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>27,372</u>	<u>67,236</u>
	12,857	-	6,723	15,371	\$ 49,600	\$ -	\$ 27,372	\$ 72,766

BLUE HERON BAY RETAIL OPERATION

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2019	2020	2021	2022
FACILITY RENTALS	4	-	24	48	\$ 80	\$ -	\$ 990	\$ 2,980
BIRTHDAY PACKAGES	15	-	-	-	1,541	-	-	-
SPECIAL EVENTS	<u>3</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>250</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>180</u>	<u>-</u>
	22	-	25	48	\$ 1,871	\$ -	\$ 1,170	\$ 2,980
LOCKERS	143	-	-	172	\$ 36	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 43
FOOD CONCESSIONS	10,229	118	7,361	15,702	21,434	125	15,755	37,397
ACCESSORIES/MISC.	<u>39</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>83</u>	<u>56</u>
	10,411	120	7,392	15,908	\$ 21,524	\$ 175	\$ 15,838	\$ 37,495

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

PROGRAMMING & RETAIL OPERATIONS

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2019	2020	2021	2022
DAYCAMP	1,490	6	1,960	2,149	\$ 40,217	\$ 150	\$ 52,910	\$ 58,036
DISC GOLF	271	4,296	5,122	2,863	542	8,592	10,244	5,726
SPECIAL EVENTS	<u>355</u>	<u>274</u>	<u>750</u>	<u>702</u>	<u>6,137</u>	<u>3,579</u>	<u>9,122</u>	<u>7,632</u>
	2,116	4,576	7,832	5,714	\$ 46,896	\$ 12,321	\$ 72,276	\$ 71,394
FACILITY RENTALS								
WEEKDAYS	61	8	20	38	\$ 4,080	\$ 880	\$ 1,920	\$ 4,350
WEEKENDS	<u>80</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>96</u>	<u>99</u>	<u>9,525</u>	<u>3,850</u>	<u>10,330</u>	<u>10,760</u>
	141	40	116	137	\$ 13,605	\$ 4,730	\$ 12,250	\$ 15,110
ROW BOATS-HOURLY	144	-	136	113	\$ 720	\$ -	\$ 680	\$ 565
ROW BOATS-DAILY	32	-	39	25	640	-	780	500
PADDLE BOATS-1/2 HOUR	<u>449</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>589</u>	<u>346</u>	<u>3,143</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,123</u>	<u>2,422</u>
	625	-	764	484	\$ 4,503	\$ -	\$ 5,583	\$ 3,487
FOOD CONCESSIONS	6,972	5,287	6,536	5,181	\$ 11,876	\$ 10,739	\$ 14,910	\$ 10,704
ACCESSORIES/MISC.	<u>33</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>130</u>	<u>112</u>	<u>102</u>	<u>28</u>
	7,005	5,308	6,551	5,199	\$ 12,006	\$ 10,850	\$ 15,012	\$ 10,731
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2019	2020	2021	2022
YTD TOTAL PARTICIPATION & REVENUE:	45,602	21,304	45,608	57,298	\$ 271,619	\$ 143,081	\$ 316,655	\$ 365,193



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MEMORANDUM

To: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Coy P. Vaughn, Director
Date: November 8, 2022
Re: 2022 Connecting Communities Project Awards

Background

Between 2010 and 2014 the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission ran a successful Connecting Communities (CC) grant program, providing communities with funds to improve non-motorized connectivity for locally significant trail projects. The CC program was discontinued in 2015 but was reinstated with the passage of a four-year road millage in 2016, which allocates 20% of the revenue to WCPARC for non-motorized trails. The millage, and the CC program, was renewed in August 2020 for another four years.

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

Discussion

The 2022 Round of CC grants was announced in May to local jurisdictions and the deadline for submissions was August 31. Seven applications were received from the following communities: City of Dexter, City of Chelsea, Ann Arbor Township, Northfield Township, Superior Township, York Township, and Washtenaw ISD. In 2022, planning/engineering funding requests totaled \$151,360 and construction funding requests totaled \$1,075,000. Projects were reviewed and scored by staff (summary attached) and then discussed with applicants to seek additional information and clarifications to determine distribution of funds.

Recommendation

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

Applicant	Request	Scoring Summary	Recommendation	
			Award Planning (P)	Award Construction (C)
City of Dexter	\$75K (C)	387		\$40,000
City of Chelsea*	\$225,000 (C) *Grant request converted to engineering extension of trail, not construction.	231	\$20,000	
Ann Arbor Twp.**	\$50K (P), \$250K (C) **Township will not be ready for construction until 2024.	333	\$40,000	
Northfield Twp.	\$75K (P), \$225K (C)	293	\$25,000	\$200,000
Superior Twp.	\$300,000 (C)	442		\$250,000
York Twp.	\$11,360 (P)	227	\$11,360	
Washtenaw ISD	\$15,000 (P)	254	\$15,000	
Total	\$151,360 (P), \$1,075,000 (C)		\$111,360	\$490,000

(P) Planning; (C) Construction

Staff Scoring Summary

Planning/Preliminary Engineering (P) – Total Max. Points: 486

Engineering & Construction (C) – Total Max. Points: 663



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MEMORANDUM

To: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Coy P. Vaughn, Director
Date: November 8, 2022
Re: Orr Trust – Partnership

Background

In 2019, Webster Township officially submitted the Orr Trust project to NAPP for consideration, though the Township has been trying to place an easement on this farm for years prior. The property was subsequently scored and included in ALPAC's 2020 annual prioritization of properties. With a score of 66, the property is eligible for ALPAC participation. The score is unchanged if evaluated with the new scoring system as of May 2022.

Discussion

The total farm size that will be in the conservation easement is 144 acres. The property is 148 acres, but 4 acres that includes an already built area will be excluded. There will be no future land divisions allowed. Both tax parcels, as usual, will have to be sold together, despite not being contiguous. Highlights of this easement property from the scoring are that 100% of the land is prime or important farmland soils and there are soils suitable for septic systems. The Assessment & Prioritization Mapping assessed the land as high-quality agricultural land and prioritized the parcels.

Webster Township ordered an appraisal in November 2021, which valued the 148-acre easement at \$1,020,000. Adjusting the appraised value on a per-acre basis down to 144 acres yields an FMV of \$992,479. Webster Township applied for and was awarded both an NRCS ACEP-ALE grant and an MDARD Farmland Preservation grant. Webster Township is requesting ALPAC to split the remain remainder purchase price. Webster will be responsible for due diligence and monitoring. The full contribution breakdown is below.

ACEP-ALE	\$ 474,810 (48%)
MDARD	\$ 364,864 (37%)
Webster	\$ 76,403 (7.5%)
ALPAC	\$ 76,402 (7.5%)
FMV	\$ 992,479

ALPAC considered the contribution at their September 2022 meeting and recommended to the Commission to partner with Webster Township and contribute the amount requested.

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 Webster Township for the purchase of a conservation easement on the Orr Trust property, as identified in the attached maps, and contribute 50% of the remaining purchase price of the conservation easement purchase after grants applied, not to exceed \$76,402, contingent upon attorney review of documents and execution of participation agreement. I further recommend that an addition \$7,500 be contributed to the stewardship special revenue fund to cover potential future costs associated with monitoring and enforcement of the conservation easement.

Orr Trust Property: Aerial & Soils

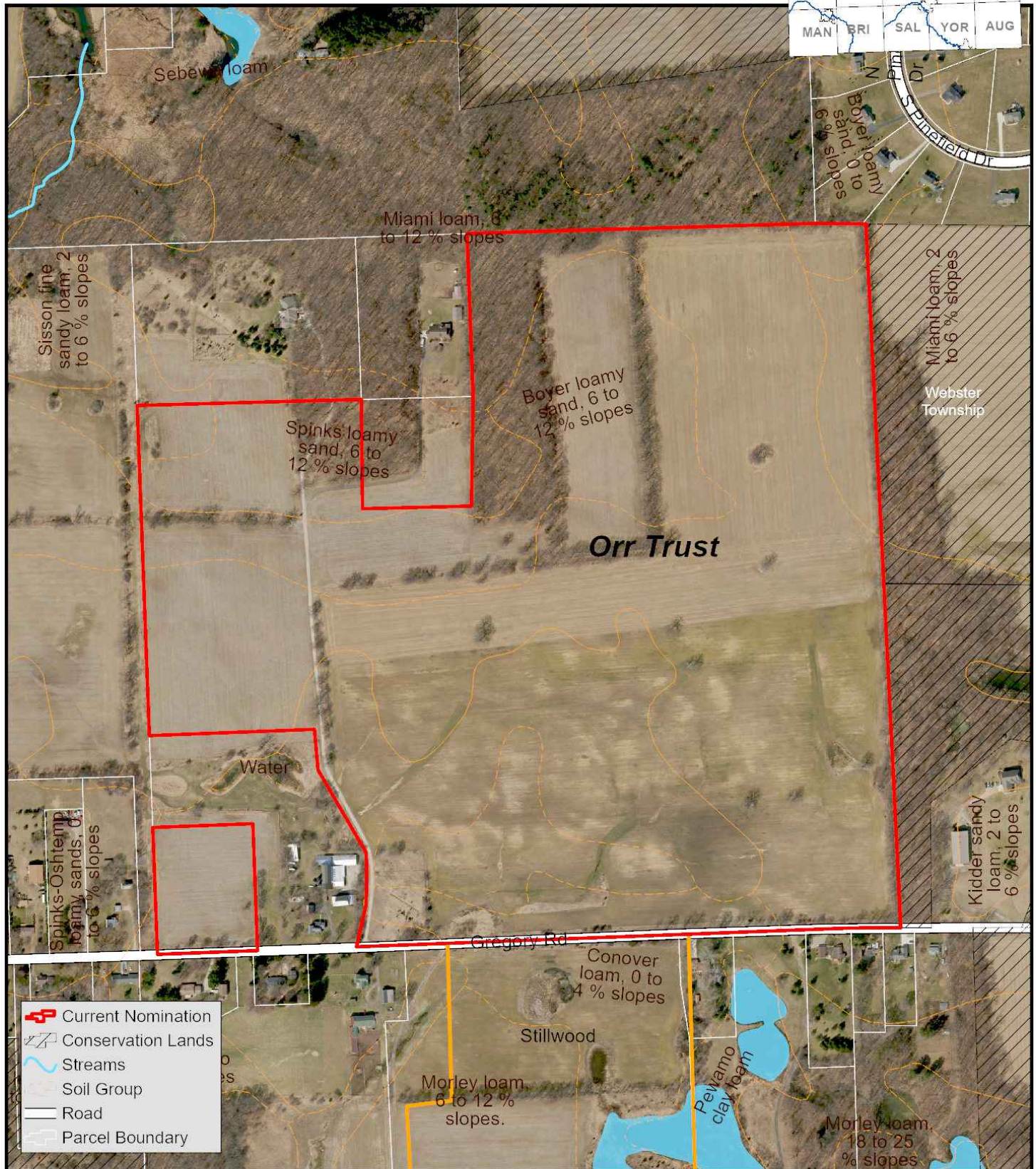
Natural Areas Preservation Program

Nomination ID: A20.128

Webster Township

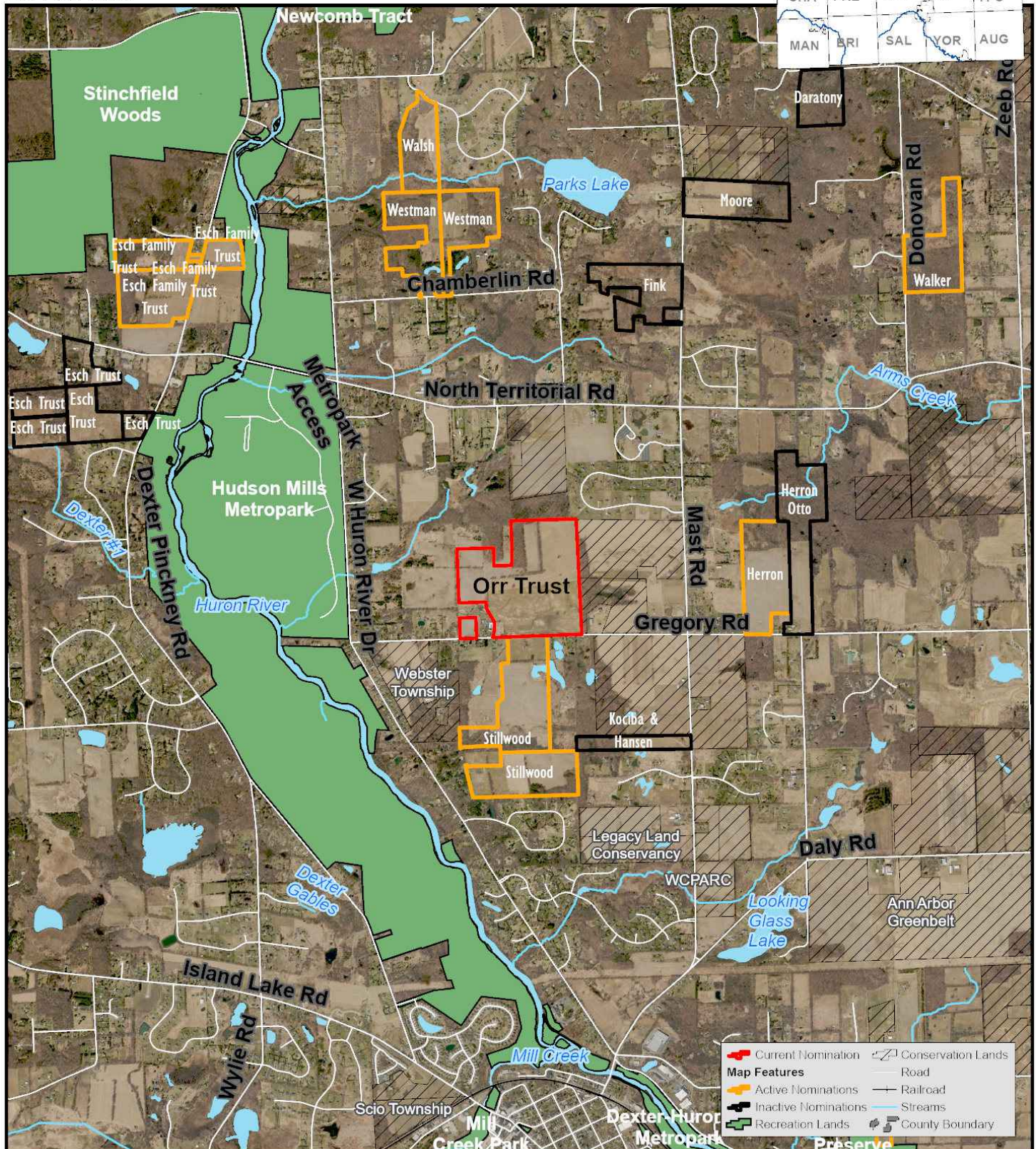
+/- 144 Acres

Washtenaw County
Locator Map



+/- 144 Acres

A map of the Dallas-Fort Worth area with a red box highlighting the 'WEB' area, which is part of the 'Greenbelt'.



Orr Trust Property: Assessment & Prioritization Mapping

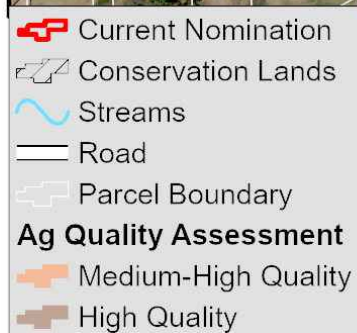
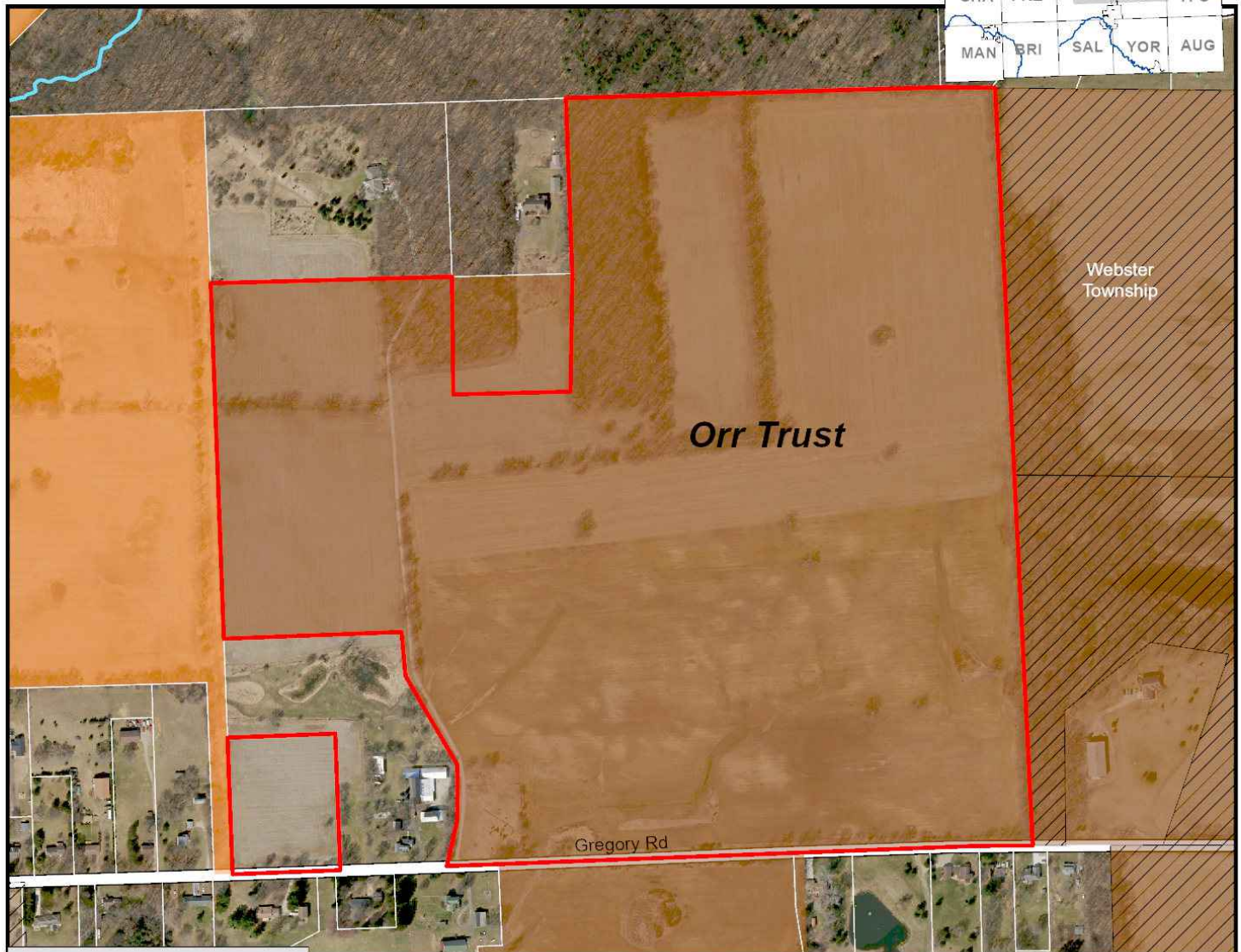
Natural Areas Preservation Program

Nomination ID: A20.128

Webster Township

+/- 144 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

