



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

NOTICE OF MEETING

Date: December 13, 2022

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Location: Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Administration Bld., 2230 Platt Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48104

AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order / Moment of Silence**
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3. Approval of the Minutes**
 - A. November 8, 2022 Meeting (attached, pp. 1-4/action item)
- 4. Public Comment**
- 5. Resolution of Appreciation – Sylvia Taylor** (attached, p. 5/action item)
- 6. Communications, Projects & Activities** (attached, pp. 6-26/action item)
- 7. Financial & Recreation Reports – November 2022**
 - A. Financial Reports (attached, pp. 27-29/action item)
 - B. Recreation Reports (attached, pp. 30-36/action item)
- 8. Old Business**
 - A. Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center Marketing Plan (presentation at meeting)
 - B. Other Old Business
- 9. New Business**
 - A. NATAC/ALPAC Budget Adjustment (attached, p. 37/action item)
 - B. Adoption of 2023 Annual Calendar (attached, p. 38/action item)
 - C. NAPP – Monier Partnership (attached, pp. 39-43/action item)
 - D. SPARK Grant Application & Resolution (attached, pp. 44-47/action item)
 - E. Other New Business
- 10. Commissioners / Directors Comments**
- 11. Adjournment**

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Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: November 8, 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 Joerg, JoAnn McCollum, Brenda McKinney, and Evan Pratt

Members Absent: Ricky Jefferson, Robert Marans, and Sue Shink

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); Allison Krueger, Stewardship Manager; Kelsey Dehring, Naturalist; and Kira Macyda, Park Planner (attending remotely).

1. Call to Order

Ms. Scribner called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the October 11, 2022 regular meeting were included with the agenda material.

It was moved by Ms. McKinney and seconded by Ms. McCollum to approve the minutes of the October 11, 2022, regular meeting. All ayes, the motion was approved.

4. Public Comment

No public comment.

5. Communications, Projects & Activities

Mr. Vaughn reported on the October communications which were included in the packet and provided a presentation summarizing the projects, programs, and events for the month. Ms. Krueger provided an overview of the Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BOW) program in partnership with the MDNR that was held this fall at Watkins Lake State Park and Nature Preserve. Ms. Dehring presented a summary of the activities and participant feedback from the second annual Women's Nature Camp held at Independence Lake.

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

6. Financial & Recreation Reports – October 2022

A. Financial Reports

Mr. Brooks reported on the financials and stated that the total for the claims for the month of October was \$1,472,395.59, the bulk of which was due to NATAC and ALPAC closings. He also provided an update on the Parks fund and Natural Areas Funds along with the fund balance status for each.

It was moved by Mr. Pratt and seconded by Mr. Ezekiel to approve the claims for the month of October 2022 as submitted. All ayes, the motion was approved.

It was moved by Mr. Pratt and seconded by Ms. Bobrin to accept and file the Fund Balance Reports for the month of October 2022 as submitted. All ayes, the motion was approved.

B. Recreation Reports

Mr. Brooks presented the Recreation Reports for the month of October 2022. He pointed out that for the rest of the year, revenues are going to be stable for Pierce Lake Golf Course, Rolling Hills and Independence Lake.

He shared that total membership revenue for the Recreation Center is 73% better than at this point in 2021 but still down about a third when compared to 2019. Mr. Brooks also shared that Pierce Lake Golf Course had a record-breaking year and that golf course revenues now exceed where we were when the golf course was just getting off the ground in the late 90's.

It was moved by Ms. McCollum and seconded by Ms. McKinney to receive and file the Recreation Reports for the month of October 2022 as submitted. All ayes, the motion was approved.

7. Old Business

A. Connecting Communities Awards

Ms. Macyda presented a list of projects recommended for 2022 Connecting Communities awards.

Mr. Joerg inquired about the match for the Northfield Township and why the award was for both planning and construction. Ms. Macyda responded that Northfield has applied for a grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and that there is a developer working with the site design and construction, both of which will serve as a match. Additionally, she stated that the construction was relatively straightforward and could therefore be done within the year.

Mr. Ezekiel asked if the segment along Plymouth Road would be built as a bike lane or pathway. Ms. Macyda responded that it would be a combination of hard surfaces but would be more of a pathway.

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

Moved by Ms. Bobrin, seconded by Mr. Pratt to 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

All ayes, the motion was approved.

B. Other Old Business

None

8. New Business

A. NAPP – Orr Trust Partnership

Ms. Leikam presented on the proposed partnership with Webster Township on the Orr Trust property. 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 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.

Moved by Mr. Ezekiel, seconded by Ms. McKinney to partner with Webster Township for the purchase of a conservation easement on the Orr Trust property as identified in provided 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 and to contribute \$7,500 to the stewardship special revenue fund to cover potential future costs associated with monitoring and enforcement of the conservation easement. Roll call vote, 7 Yeas, 0 Nays, 3 absent (Jefferson, Marans and Shink), the motion was approved.

B. Other Old Business

None

9. Commissioners/Directors Comments

Mr. Vaughn provided an update on first phase of Spark Grant application is \$15M and is due in mid-December. He reported that an application would be coming back to the Commission and would likely focus on opening the North Side of Staebler Farm County Park, but other options were being considered.

Ms. McCollum reported that the Road Commission received a letter about Stinchfield Woods. She asked if we could work with U of M to develop an entrance. Mr. Vaughn stated that we have already been working on it. Ms. McCollum asked about recreational opportunities in southeast portion of the County. She reported that the group is attempting to work with the YMCA to bring opportunities to the area and asked that anyone else interested in helping to connect with the YMCA and requesting activities that they would sponsor in the area. Mr. Vaughn reported that he is now a member of the YMCA board and could raise the topic. He offered to set up a meeting with Toni Kayumi, the Director of the YMCA.

Mr. Joerg asked if there is any further development on an eastside recreation center. Mr. Vaughn stated that he would have a more detailed update on the latest developments at the December meeting.

10. Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 3:11 p.m.

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING **SYLVIA TAYLOR** FOR HER DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE
NATURAL AREA TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE, WASHTENAW COUNTY, AND THE
CITIZENS OF WASHTENAW COUNTY



December 13, 2022

WHEREAS, the Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission recognizes Sylvia Taylor for her twenty-one years of exemplary service as a member of the Natural Area Technical Advisory Committee (NATAC); and

WHEREAS, Sylvia Taylor began her tenure on the NATAC in 2001 to share her expertise in wildlife management, as a founding member of the committee; and

WHEREAS, Sylvia Taylor also served as a founding member of the Greenbelt Advisory Committee for the City of Ann Arbor, and

WHEREAS, Sylvia Taylor has served on the Augusta Township Land Preservation Committee and was instrumental in helping secure approval on the 2016 Farmland, Open Space and Land Preservation millage in Augusta Township, and

WHEREAS, through Sylvia Taylor's leadership and expertise, over 45 new nature preserves have been established in Washtenaw County through Washtenaw County and its partners; and

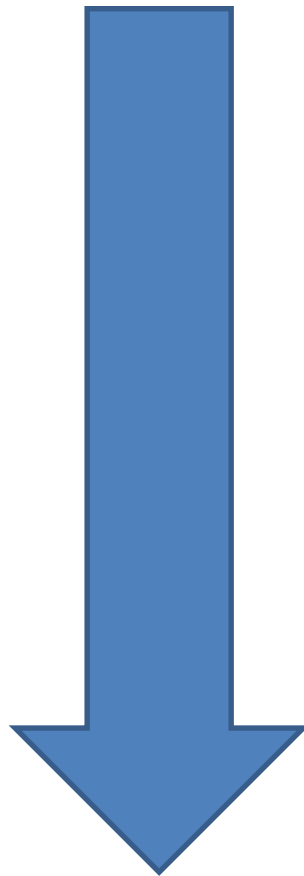
WHEREAS, Sylvia Taylor is a recognized leader in the natural area field having served as a certified wildlife biologist and land manager with the State of Michigan's Department of Natural Resources; held the position of adjunct assistant professor at the University of Michigan School of Natural Resources and Environment; and been an active member in the Natural Areas Association which presented her the George B. Fell award, their highest honor; and

WHEREAS, Sylvia Taylor has volunteered countless hours attending meetings, advocating for land preservation in Washtenaw County, and conducting site visits on over 350 properties and provided her botanical and ecological expertise to evaluate each property.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission hereby expresses its sincere appreciation to Sylvia Taylor for her dedication and devotion to preserving land and improving the lives of the citizens of Washtenaw County during her twenty-one years of service and wishes her continued success in all future endeavors.

Patricia Scribner, President

Communications, Projects & Activities





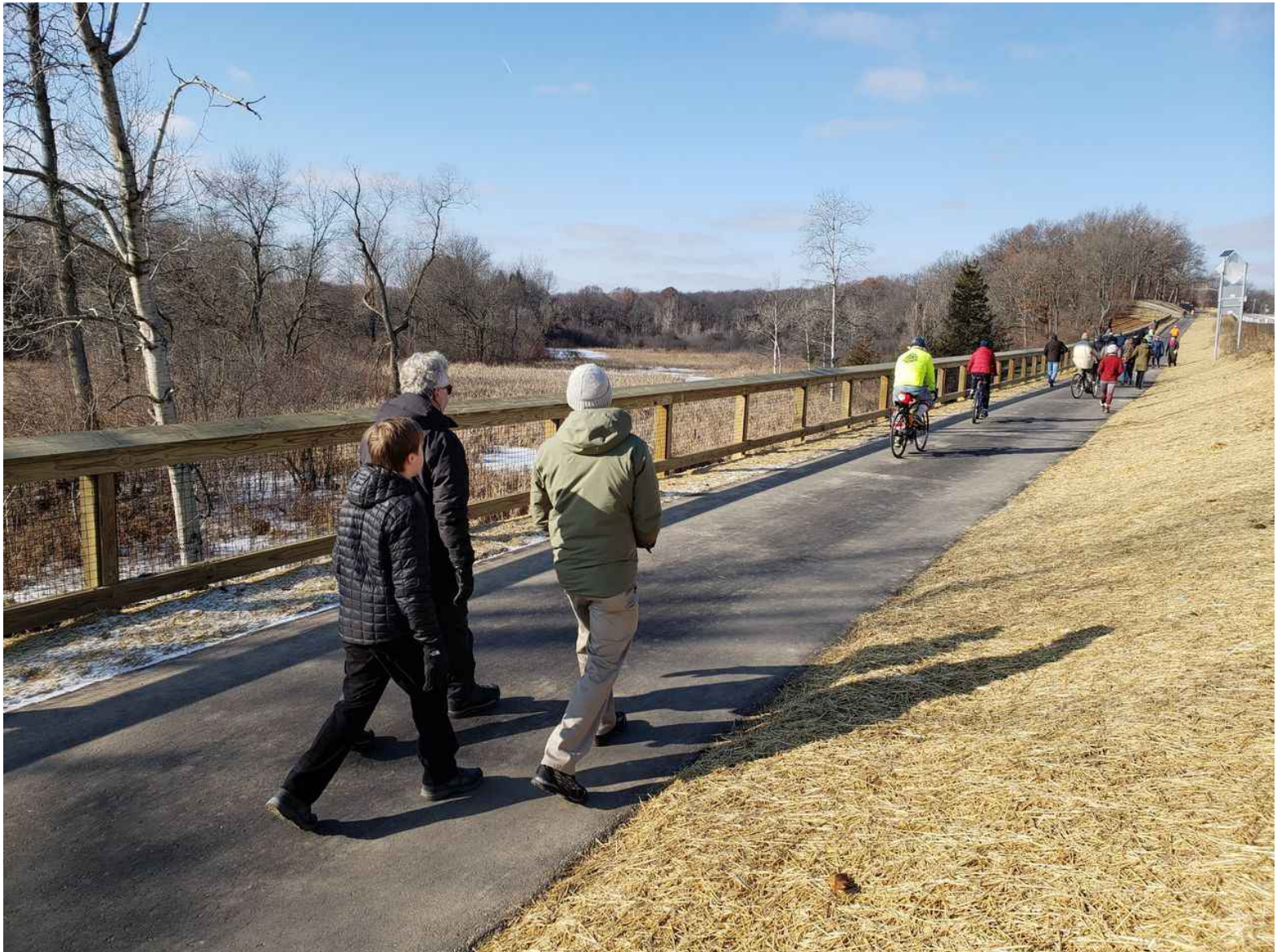
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Ann Arbor

See 7 cycling, walking pathway projects getting a boost from Washtenaw County parks

Published: Dec. 03, 2022, 10:00 a.m.



Signed-in readers now can

A section of the Washtenaw County Border-to-Border Trail and the Chelsea Stockbridge corridor on Dec. 8, 2018.

bookmark stories to read later

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

WASHTENAW COUNTY, MI - Building a paved pathway for pedestrians and cyclists isn't as easy as it sounds.

"You've got vast roads, you've got steep ditches and then they might need a boardwalk. You've got utilities you need to contend with. So there are challenges that come with building a trail, and it's kind of shocking how expensive it can be," said Kira Macyda, principal park planner with the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission.

That's partly why county parks officials are trying to make it easier, funneling some \$600,000 to seven pathway projects across the county.

The money comes through the [Connecting Communities program](#), which supports non-motorized connections helping residents traverse the county without a car or to find a place to exercise. Cities, townships and public entities apply for the funding every year, drawn from the county's [roads and trails millage](#).

The program, relatively unique across Michigan, has made projects like the [Platt Textile Greenway](#) in Pittsfield Township and [the Matthaei Botanical Gardens connector trail](#) in Ann Arbor Township possible, Macyda said. It's made some \$6 million in awards since 2010.

This year, the grants, approved in November, will power planning or construction on seven new pathway projects, ranging from Chelsea to the Saline area and chosen through a competitive process.

Here's what's planned, according to a county parks presentation on the awards.

Ann Arbor Township - Dixboro Road Pathway gap - \$40,000 for planning

This project will link two completed sections of pathway at the entrances to the University of Michigan's Matthaei Botanical Gardens along Dixboro Road.

Officials have previously linked the gardens to Parker Mill County Park and the Border-to-Border (B2B) Trail to the south, and [this summer built a pathway north to the Marshall Nature Area](#) and the intersection of Plymouth and Dixboro roads.

The final piece of the pathway would connect the two existing trails.



Washtenaw County
Locator Map

Amount requested:

\$50K engineering; \$250K construction

Length: 1,500 LF

Connections: Trail will link together two sections of completed trail at Matthaei Botanical Gardens entrances

Proposed award: \$40K planning



Ann Arbor Township – Dixboro Road Pathway Gap

Project 1/7

A slide from a presentation to the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission shows 2022 pathway planning and construction grant awards to seven projects through the Connecting Communities program. Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

Superior Township - Plymouth Road Pathway - \$250,000 for construction

Extending the reach of the Dixboro Road Pathway is another trail in the works nearby, running by the Dixboro Village Green in Superior Township.

This funding would help built 2,600 feet of the trail along the south side of Plymouth Road between the intersection with Dixboro Road and the Dixboro House restaurant to the east.

Township officials, who have also received a state grant for the project, previously said they hope in the future to extend the pathway further east to tie into an existing trail running to Plymouth.



Washtenaw County
Locator Map



Amount requested:
\$300K construction

Length: 2,600 LF

Connections: Dixboro hamlet to
Matthaei Botanical Gardens Trail

Proposed award: \$250K

Superior Township – Plymouth Road Pathway

Project 4/7

A slide from a presentation to the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission shows 2022 pathway planning and construction grant awards to seven projects through the Connecting Communities program. Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

City of Chelsea - Letts Creek Linear Park - \$20,000 for planning

Chelsea officials have worked for several years to extend a linear park along Letts Creek, linking together four city parks and two schools while connecting to trails outside the city.

The Connecting Communities grant would go to designing a roughly 0.6-mile segment of trail south of East Industrial Drive, linking planned pieces of the extensive Westchester Farms housing development with an area near Timbertown Park and the B2B Trail.



Washtenaw County
Locator Map



Amount requested:
\$225K construction

Length: 0.6 miles

Connections: Neighborhood to
area near the B2B

Proposed award: \$20K planning

City of Chelsea – Letts Creek Linear Park

Project 2/7

City of Dexter - Grand Street Connector - \$40,000 for construction

This short trail would connect Grand Street in Dexter with the trail running through Mill Creek Park, which in turn links up with the B2B Trail.

It would serve an area home to new and in-progress developments in Dexter, including a three-story condominium project and the Grandview Commons development. Both the city and developers are contributing to the project, with the Dexter officials responsible for a 250-foot boardwalk over wetlands and developers handling nearly 500 feet of paved pathway, according to city documents.



Washtenaw County
Locator Map

Amount requested:

\$75K construction

Length: 250 LF

Connections: Condo to Mill Creek
Park trail that connects to B2B

Proposed award: \$40K construction



City of Dexter – Grand Street Connector

Project 3/7

A slide from a presentation to the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission shows 2022 pathway planning and construction grant awards to seven projects through the Connecting Communities program. Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

Northfield Township - Community Park Connector Pathway - \$25,000 for planning, \$200,000 for construction

This new pathway would connect an existing trail running along Barker Road into Whitmore Lake to the Northfield Township Community Park, under development on a piece of land along Main Street.

The linkage would offer an alternative entrance to the park, running along the railroad, and give the Northfield Township Area Library and Whitmore Lake Elementary School connections to the park.



Washtenaw County
Locator Map

Amount requested:
\$300K engineering/construction
Length: 1,800 LF
Connections: Barker Road Trail (school, library) to NT Community Park (creating an alternative entrance)
Proposed award: \$25K plan., \$200K const.



Northfield Township – Northfield Twp Community Park Connector Pathway

Project 5/7

A slide from a presentation to the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission shows 2022 pathway planning and construction grant awards to seven projects through the Connecting Communities program. Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

York Township - non-motorized pathway connection - \$11,360 for planning

The award to York Township will help officials plan a 2,800-foot piece of pathway along Willis Road, connecting in to subdivisions at the southern Saline city limit.

The township is hoping to study the feasibility of a corridor along the road, part of a potential network linking Sandra Richardson Park, Mary McCann Park and Saline, according to its [latest parks and recreation plan](#).



Washtenaw County
Locator Map

Amount requested:
\$11,360K preliminary engineering
Length: 2,843 LF
Connections: Concentration of population to City of Saline
Proposed award: \$11,360 planning



York Township – YT Non-Motorized Pathways Connection

Project 6/7

A slide from a presentation to the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission shows 2022 pathway planning and construction grant awards to seven projects through the Connecting Communities program. Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

Washtenaw Intermediate School District - community pathway feasibility study - \$15,000 for planning

WISD officials propose to study the possibility of a trail connecting a county preserve, protected farmland and schools in Scio Township, west of Ann Arbor.

The pathway would run from Scio Ridge Road past the High Point School and the district's offices before heading south along Wagner Road and west along Scio Church Road to reach the entrance to the Scio Woods Preserve.



Washtenaw County
Locator Map

Amount requested:
\$15K feasibility study

Length: 3,200 LF

Connections: Neighborhoods,
schools, community farm,
Scio Woods Preserve

Proposed award: \$15K planning



Washtenaw ISD – Community Pathway Feasibility Study

Project 7/7

A slide from a presentation to the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission shows 2022 pathway planning and construction grant awards to seven projects through the Connecting Communities program. Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

More from The Ann Arbor News:

[\\$1.44M conservation purchase sets up one of largest nature preserves in Ann Arbor area](#)

[What's that in downtown Ann Arbor? Century-old building getting a fresh look](#)

[Argus Farm Stop owner honored as Washtenaw County Woman of the year](#)

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11-29-2022 12:43pm

Coming Plans for the B2B



[Doug Marrin](#) [Editor](#) ✓



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Walkers enjoying the newest segment of B2B at Chelsea's Timbertown Park. Courtesy WCPRC.

The Border-to-Border Trail (B2B) is getting closer to completion, and the excitement is growing.

In its 2022 Year-End Report, Huron Waterloo Pathways Initiative (HWPI) listed construction updates projected for the next couple of years, which are especially thrilling for Chelsea and Dexter outdoor enthusiasts.

HPWI's mission is to facilitate the development of non-motorized recreational trails and to link Michigan's existing network of shared pathways. HWPI primarily works with the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission (WCPRC) to construct the B2B. HPWI is a private fundraising organization for the trail. WCPRC plans, builds, and maintains the shared pathway.

The map shows us the active construction and development goals for the B2B, with most of it happening in the Chelsea Dexter area.



Map of B2B construction updates and goals. Courtesy HWPI.

2022/23 Active Construction (using the numbers on the map)

#1 Chelsea-Stockbridge Corridor. From the trail's terminus at Lyndon Township Hall, this segment will extend the course north to Boyce Rd, creating 6.3 miles of continuous pathway from Chelsea's Timbertown Park.

#2 Dexter-Chelsea Corridor. This .7-mile segment will extend the B2B to the Dexter city limits (Parker Rd).

completed. This segment extends the trail's end at Zeeb Rd 1.3 miles to Delhi Metropark. [SHARE YOUR NEWS](#)

2023/24 Development Goals

#4 Chelsea Stockbridge Corridor. This 1.6-mile segment from Boyce Rd to the Jackson Co line continues the B2B's northward climb to Stockbridge and the Mike Levine Lakelands Trail.

#5 Dexter Connection. From the city limits at Parker Rd, this .8-mile segment will bring the B2B's Dexter-Chelsea corridor into town, where it will intersect with the trail connecting the three Metroparks.



Conceptual rendering of Bell Road Bridge that may be used to bring the B2B into Dexter over Mill Creek. Courtesy WCPRC.

#6 Dexter-Ann Arbor Corridor. From Delhi Metropark, the trail will extend east one mile towards Ann Arbor.

#7 A .8-mile section will extend from the Ann Arbor city limits across Barton Nature Area towards Dexter. The Bandemer Tunnel will be constructed for the trail to pass under the railroad line.



installation will begin in 2023 on a kiosks, signs, maps, and trail



information across the B2B system

[SHARE YOUR NEWS](#)

The astounding part is that we are just two short sections of trail (circled in yellow) away from being able to ride from Chelsea through Dexter to Ann Arbor and beyond.

For more information on how to support the B2B initiative, visit <https://huron-waterloo-pathways.org/>

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Ann Arbor

Major upgrades could bring 6 pickleball courts, trailhead to Chelsea park

Updated: Nov. 29, 2022, 1:03 p.m. | Published: Nov. 29, 2022, 10:50 a.m.



Signed-in readers now can

In this file photo, Sam DeRosia plays at Timbertown Park in Chelsea, Mich. He is 4 years old. Jacob Hamilton | The Ann Arbor News

NEW!

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

CHELSEA, MI - Chelsea's largest city park is set to get a major facelift if an ambitious upgrade project proceeds as planned.

The plans in the works for Timbertown Park, off Sibley Road, include a new six-court pickleball facility, improvements to the existing wooden play structure and designation of the park as a trailhead for the [Washtenaw County Border-to-Border \(B2B\) Trail](#).

That's in addition to upgrades to bathrooms, lighting and parking, as well as restoration of a mosaic art piece there, according to a presentation Chelsea City Manager Roy Atkinson delivered to City Council on Monday, Nov. 28.

"It's a pretty substantial public-private partnership," Atkinson said, referencing participation from the city, Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission, Huron Waterloo Pathways Initiative and private funders.

The complex wooden play structure at Timbertown, [built in 1996](#), represented "a great coming together of the community," said Council Member Peter Feeney at the meeting.

"Right now the consideration for the trailhead (and) pickleball courts is a great coming together of a number of diverse projects that have achievable funding and achievable execution," he added. "This is something we can do."

The plans for the park improvements are likely to involve devotees of pickleball, one of [the country's fastest growing sports](#) and a game that combines elements of tennis, badminton and Ping-Pong.

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The [Chelsea Senior Center's pickleball club](#) has grown to over 200 members, doubling in size in the past year, said Bill Personke, part of the group, at the Council meeting.

The pickleball community has a few courts in a school gym and a couple outside, but could use room to expand, Personke said, motioning to the flock of people in the audience who showed up in support of the proposal.

Read more: [\\$7 million, 37K-square foot pickleball facility planned for Ann Arbor area](#)

Tournaments in similarly-sized cities regularly draw 200 players for a weekend, and such events in Chelsea would be a major economic driver for local businesses, he added.

The park improvements would also put Timbertown on the map for cyclists and other users of the B2B Trail, Atkinson said in his presentation.

The pathway [already runs through the park](#). "It's only natural that we have (a trailhead) here given our points of access to the trail," the city manager said.

The project would also involve restoration of the "Pathway to Renewal" mosaic art piece at the park, which needs some attention, Atkinson said.

City leaders took no action on the proposed plan on Monday, but Atkinson said the proposal would likely be back for some kind of preliminary vote at the City Council's Dec. 19 meeting.

The project is currently in conceptual development stages and would go through revisions this year before a formal plan and fundraising in the spring, according to [a timeline included in City Council documents](#). There are no price estimates yet for the project.

The individual pieces of the park upgrade plan could happen independently of the others, and the timeline may vary for each, it notes, while giving a target completion date of sometime next year.

The project has an ideal "quarterback" in Jeff Hardcastle, board chair for the Huron Waterloo Pathways Initiative, a nonprofit based in Chelsea developing the B2B Trail and area pathways, [according to Feeney](#).

"This is something we can do together," the council member said.

More from The Ann Arbor News:

[New Washtenaw County Border-to-Border Trail segment opens up 6+ miles from Chelsea](#)

[Chelsea residents sue for release of police misconduct records city has kept confidential](#)

[Celebrate the holidays in Washtenaw County with Santa visits, Christmas parades](#)

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Ann Arbor

\$1.44M conservation purchase sets up one of largest nature preserves in Ann Arbor area

Published: Dec. 02, 2022, 11:54 a.m.



The roughly 220-acre Maisel property in Northfield Township acquired by the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission on Thursday, Dec. 1, 2022 for \$1.44 million, is slated to become one of the largest public nature preserves in the Ann Arbor area. Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

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NEW!

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

WASHTENAW COUNTY, MI - Washtenaw County's extensive system of parks and nature preserves has grown by roughly 220 acres with a \$1.44-million conservation purchase, creating what will become one of the largest publicly accessible sites in the Ann Arbor area.

The county Parks and Recreation Commission closed on the purchase of the Maisel property, a mostly wooded plot of land north of Northfield Church Road and east of U.S. 23 in Northfield Township on Thursday, Dec. 1, according to [Ginny Leikam](#), superintendent of park planning and the natural areas preservation program.

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"It's definitely on the large side. We have a mix of sizes of preserves ranging from 29 acres up to Watkins Lake which is a couple hundred acres, so this is definitely on the larger end of that," she said.

The city of Ann Arbor's greenbelt program kicked in the majority of the purchase price, some \$1.07 million, with county parks officials covering the rest.

"The property's protection would conserve one of the largest intact woodlands in the Ann Arbor area," wrote Remy Long, the city's greenbelt program manager, in an memo to City Council [when they approved the acquisition last year](#).

The land, purchased from owner EN Maisel & Associates, won't immediately be open to the public.

"Typically once we purchase a new property that would be open as a preserve we spend a little bit of time getting to know the property. We have a multi-disciplinary approach with our staff to determine trail layout and then we would also need to provide parking and access," Leikam said.

County parks officials must install a parking area, plan trails and install amenities like kiosks and trail maps, she added.

The preserve caught officials' attention in part because of its proximity to another nature area, the Northfield Woods Preserve to the south, according to [a county parks memo on the purchase](#), which noted the possibility of a future link between the preserves.

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“The land’s primary value as a protected area is its massive size for just a single purchase. The large size offers core habitat for wildlife,” the memo states.

Another part of the Maisel property in Northfield Township, a 50-acre piece of farmland along Nollar Road could also be set for protection, though through a different means.

In May, Ann Arbor city leaders OK’d purchasing the property under a new “buy-protect-sell” conservation model, which involves the city outright buying farms in surrounding townships and flipping them to new farmers at affordable prices with conservation easements in place, rather than just buying development rights, as is common with land preservation programs.

Read more: [New model for Ann Arbor greenbelt could make land more affordable to new farmers](#)

The approach has been pioneered successfully by conservationists in Scio Township, who [saved a historic 160-acre farm targeted by a development](#) proposal calling for large estates, reselling it for use as a U-pick berry farm.

The Northfield Township property would be the Ann Arbor greenbelt program’s first-ever buy-protect-sell project, according to [a city memo on the purchase](#).

As for the neighboring nature preserve property, county parks officials normally take about a year and a half to inventory a new site and lay out trails, according to Leikam. The preserve has not yet been named.

Advertisement

More from The Ann Arbor News:

[Argus Farm Stop owner honored as Washtenaw County Woman of the year](#)

[Christmas wonderland helps C.S. Mott's young patients celebrate the season](#)



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MEMORANDUM

TO: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Coy P. Vaughn, Director
DATE: December 13, 2022
RE: Project and Activities Update – November 2022

Park Facility Events and Projects

Independence Lake

- Eighteen people attended the “Almost Full Moon Hike” on November 4.
- Nine people attended “Night Hike & Campfire: Nature at Night” on November 18.
- “Fall Yoga” program has been offered every Sunday.
- Maintenance staff have been performing general/fall clean-up and begun winter park projects.
- Operations staff has transitioned to a fully online timecard system and scheduling app.
- Management and project managers met with park staff to review upcoming capital improvement projects.

Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center

- During November, the facility collected twenty-seven extra-large bags of gently used winter apparel. Nineteen bags were donated to the Delonis Center, and eight bags went to Coats that Count, a non-profit serving Detroit families in need.
- Drop-in basketball attendance continues to climb. In November, the facility hired additional staff to monitor and referee games.
- Interest in ping pong has grown 200%. The facility now offers regular patron-led tournaments on Friday nights.

Rolling Hills Park

- Two new volunteer groups participated in clearing invasive plants and made improvements to “The Foz” disc golf course.
- Seven certifications were issued at the Lifeguard Certification Course held in November.
- The 18th consecutive “Turkey & Chains” disc golf tournament was held on November 20 with MOB Disc Golf.
- The Potawatomi Mountain Bike Association hosted its annual Black Friday Mountain Bike Ride on November 25.
- A contractor began painting the main pool and lazy river mechanical rooms.
- Phase II of the concessions building renovation to replace the grill structure and associated concrete flatwork continues to move forward. Weather, supply chain, inspections and labor issues have slowed progress. Project is still expected to be completed before the waterpark opens.

Staebler Farm Park

- Staff continues to work closely with the architect and contractor to ensure that the Multipurpose Building (MPB) requirements are met in a timely manner and within budget.
- MPB timber framing and SIPS panels have been installed. Underground electrical, plumbing, and cable work has been completed. Plymouth Road ROW paving and the first course of pavement for the expanded parking lot has been completed, and most of the concrete sidewalks installed. Contractor is working to enclose the building envelope before colder temperatures return.
- Staff is finalizing a space plan and the furniture selection for the MPB.
- Consultants from The Collaborative are developing plans for the Farmhouse Renovation project.

Special Initiatives

Border to Border Trail (B2B)

- Construction from Zeeb Road to Delhi Metropark (Segment DAA3) continues with LJ construction. Significant progress has been made on drainage, grading, and wall construction. The project is anticipated to be complete in 2023.
- 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

Natural Areas Preservation Program (NAPP)

Stewardship

- Ten large trees that were donated by DTE were planted along the trails at Meyer and Kosch Headwaters preserves with help from volunteers.
- Staff conducted a burn across fifteen acres of land at Watkins Lake Preserve, completing the goal of mowing or burning across all restored grassland habitat, initially planted in 2019 in partnership with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Ducks Unlimited.
- MiOFO hunters at Leonard Preserve took 16 deer during the Independence, Archery, and Firearm season hunts this year. Combat veteran Neil McKenna took the 100th deer from the site and won a Parks Commission “swag bag!”
- A section of rustic boardwalk was added to Kosch Preserve to better accommodate hikers during wet seasons.
- Stewardship work also included:
 - o Invasive shrubs and vines removal at Squiers, West Lake and Watkins Lake preserves.
 - o Mowing at Highland, Northfield Woods, and Dominican Meadows preserves.
 - o Evaluation of species present in the successional forest at West Lake Preserve.

Interpretive Programming

- More than 200 patrons attended interpretive programs during November.

Other

- Staff is preparing to submit a Spark Grant application to the MDNR for Parker Mill Park and B2B Trail accessibility enhancements.
- Staff is drafting the 2022 Annual Report, which should be complete in winter 2023.
- Staff is developing promotional and marketing materials celebrating the Parks Commission’s upcoming 50th anniversary.
- “Give the Gift of Experience” social media campaign began promoting online gift card sales.



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

November 2022 - Claims Report

PARK / FACILITY / FUNCTION	UTILITIES	DIRECT PURCHASES	OTHER	TOTAL
Administration	\$ 1,404.92	\$ 7,129.94	\$ 47,687.00	\$ 56,221.86
Recreation Center	28,620.20	2,320.44	17,363.27	48,303.91
Park Maintenance	1,673.43	3,010.70	5,360.42	10,044.55
Pierce Lake Golf Course	1,851.54	1,184.88	3,973.44	7,009.86
Independence Lake	2,118.04	4,546.30	8,530.66	15,195.00
Rolling Hills	2,960.70	14,352.88	13,696.07	31,009.65
Parker Mill	171.34	-	33.00	204.34
Sharon Mills	85.47	-	4,333.60	4,419.07
Staebler Farm	198.27	-	7,252.75	7,451.02
Swift Run Dog Park	-	-	1,350.00	1,350.00
Capital Improvement	-	-	728,626.11	728,626.11
Committed Funding Partnerships	-	-	-	-
Commission	-	-	-	-
SUBTOTAL	\$ 39,083.91	\$ 32,545.14	\$ 838,206.32	\$ 909,835.37
 Road Millage Fund	 -	 -	 378,769.70	 378,769.70
SUBTOTAL	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 378,769.70	\$ 378,769.70
 Natural Areas Preservation Program				
Acquisition	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 417,290.50	\$ 417,290.50
Preserve Management	-	884.38	444.99	\$ 1,329.37
NATAC	-	-	-	\$ -
Acquisition	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 359,701.00	\$ 359,701.00
Annual Monitoring	-	-	-	\$ -
ALPAC	-	-	-	-
SUBTOTAL	\$ -	\$ 884.38	\$ 777,436.49	\$ 778,320.87
 TOTAL	 \$ 39,083.91	 \$ 33,429.52	 \$ 1,994,412.51	 \$ 2,066,925.94

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

\$ 2,066,925.94

WASHTENAW COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
FUND BALANCE STATEMENT - NOVEMBER 30, 2022

Beginning Fund Balance (1/1/22)	16,261,408		92%	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	4,006,414		110%	371,414	
Interest Earnings	100,000	147,880		148%	47,880	
Other Revenue & Reimb.	<u>30,000</u>	<u>5,140</u>		17%	<u>(24,860)</u>	
Total Revenue		12,446,375		12,925,698	104%	479,323
Expense (Budget)		Expense (Actual)			Variance	
Personnel Services	(6,909,556)	(5,919,375)		86%	990,181	
Supplies & Other Services	(2,549,600)	(2,202,926)		86%	346,674	
Internal Service Charges	(939,876)	(873,062)		93%	66,814	
Capital						
Land Acquisition	-	-		-	-	
CIP/Development	(3,100,000)	(2,360,437)		76%	739,563	
Contingency	(400,000)	(154,094)		39%	245,906	
Machinery & Equipment	<u>(181,100)</u>	<u>(138,794)</u>		77%	<u>42,306</u>	
Capital Subtotal	(3,681,100)	(2,653,326)		72%	1,027,774	
Transfers Out	(547,249)	(266,270)		49%	280,979	
Total Expense		<u>(14,627,381)</u>		<u>(11,914,958)</u>	81%	2,712,423
Surplus/(Deficit)		(2,181,006)		1,010,740		
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>8,324,503</u>		

WASHTENAW COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
NATURAL AREAS PRESERVATION PROGRAM
FUND BALANCE STATEMENT - NOVEMBER 30, 2022

Beginning Fund Balance (1/1/22)	8,127,796	92%	YTD % Budget	
Revenue (Budget)		Revenue (Actual)		Variance
Property Tax	4,622,888	4,663,323	101%	40,435
Federal Revenue	-	-		-
Interest Earnings	25,000	72,643	291%	47,643
Other Revenue & Reimb.	<u>5,000</u>	<u>28,883</u>	578%	<u>23,883</u>
Total Revenue	4,652,888	4,764,849	102%	111,961
Expense (Budget)		Expense (Actual)		Variance
Personnel Services	(700,883)	(529,217)	76%	171,666
Supplies & Other Services	(336,200)	(338,266)	101%	(2,066)
Internal Service Charges	(20,612)	(20,838)	101%	(226)
Capital				
Land Acquisition	(2,550,000)	(4,339,037)	170%	(1,789,037)
Land Development	-	-		-
Machinery & Equipment	<u>(5,000)</u>	<u>(950)</u>	19%	<u>4,050</u>
Capital Subtotal	(2,555,000)	(4,339,987)	170%	(1,784,987)
Total Expense	<u>(3,612,695)</u>	<u>(5,228,308)</u>	145%	(1,615,613)
Surplus/(Deficit)	1,040,193	(463,459)		
Projected Fund Balance (12/31/22)	<u>9,167,989</u>	<u>7,664,337</u>		

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

	GATE							
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2019	2020	2021	2022
RESIDENT (ANNUAL)	1,484	1,131	2,144	2,150	\$ 40,680	\$ 33,930	\$ 64,320	\$ 64,500
NON-RESIDENT (ANNUAL)	176	93	207	285	6,750	4,185	9,315	12,825
RESIDENTS (DAILY)	12,743	3,912	9,392	13,235	76,458	23,472	56,352	79,408
NON-RESIDENTS (DAILY)	18,903	1,561	8,731	21,345	189,030	15,610	87,310	213,446
SENIOR (DAILY)	900	222	538	717	2,700	666	1,614	2,151
SENIOR NON-RES. (DAILY)	624	30	265	527	3,744	180	1,590	3,162
BUSES (DAILY)	132	-	4	80	3,960	-	120	2,400
ANNUAL BUS	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	300
MINI BUS	44	1	4	6	660	15	60	450
ANNUAL MINI BUS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>35,006</u>	<u>6,950</u>	<u>21,285</u>	<u>38,346</u>	<u>\$ 323,982</u>	<u>\$ 78,058</u>	<u>\$ 220,681</u>	<u>\$ 378,642</u>

PERCENT OF NON-RESIDENTS:

ANNUAL	10.60%	7.60%	8.80%	11.70%
DAILY	58.87%	27.79%	47.53%	61.05%

WATER PARK POOL ATTENDANCE

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2019	2020	2021	2022
DAILY ENTRANCE	<u>123,418</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>38,778</u>	<u>106,244</u>	<u>\$ 1,040,014</u>	<u>\$ 48</u>	<u>\$ 402,006</u>	<u>\$ 1,209,698</u>
	123,418	4	38,778	106,244	\$ 1,040,014	\$ 48	\$ 402,006	\$ 1,209,698

PROGRAMMING & RETAIL OPERATIONS

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2019	2020	2021	2022
DAYCAMP	1,941	-	1,759	398	\$ 52,405	\$ -	\$ 47,485	\$ 79,393
AQUATICS PROGRAMMING	726	-	1,453	-	2,731	-	4,952	-
RIVER WALKING				3,514				11,996
DISC GOLF	4,432	2,832	2,960	3,096	8,864	5,664	5,920	6,192
SPECIAL EVENTS	<u>3,449</u>	<u>855</u>	<u>2,439</u>	<u>2,147</u>	<u>33,100</u>	<u>9,552</u>	<u>20,576</u>	<u>19,484</u>
	10,548	3,687	8,611	9,155	\$ 97,100	\$ 15,216	\$ 78,933	\$ 117,064

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

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	158	17	151	183	17,712	1,560	19,875	24,075
SOCCER FIELDS	5,289	192	192	592	15,200	550	550	1,700
DISC GOLF COURSE	-	-	10	14	-	-	950	1,300
	5,473	211	397	836	\$ 35,455	\$ 2,150	\$ 25,880	\$ 31,880
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	14,069
GIFT CERTIFICATE SALES	<u>40</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>412</u>	<u>478</u>	<u>365</u>	<u>372</u>
	136,902	4	47,759	126,522	\$ 235,746	\$ 478	\$ 83,674	\$ 265,059
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2019	2020	2021	2022
YTD TOTAL PARTICIPATION & REVENUE:	311,753	10,856	118,525	282,153	\$ 1,733,515	\$ 95,950	\$ 816,262	\$ 2,007,589

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

MEMBERSHIPS

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2019	2020	2021	2022
INDIVIDUAL RESIDENT	961	375	399	741	\$ 200,211	\$ 69,104	\$ 82,059	\$ 166,684
INDIVIDUAL NON-RESIDENT	19	5	6	12	5,875	2,060	1,784	265
S/Y/D RESIDENT	1,350	471	488	765	222,092	76,432	81,597	142,227
S/Y/D NON-RESIDENT	4	3	-	6	1,050	788	-	1,606
FAMILY RESIDENT	276	136	66	186	104,550	36,222	36,376	69,700
FAMILY NON-RESIDENT	2	1	1	-	1,480	735	767	-
FAMILY - ADDT'L MEMBER	16	9	4	1	1,021	307	192	75
SENIORS OVER 80	406	139	194	266	24,090	7,965	12,201	17,685
PERSONAL TRAINERS	18	1	4	3	5,960	303	1,075	1,325
MILITARY PASS	3	3	3	14	360	366	576	2,836
30-DAY PASS	754	447	750	487	32,600	19,218	34,852	27,481
SEASONAL PASS	126	-	-	-	9,920	-	-	-
REPLACEMENT PASS	-	36	8	6	-	36	8	6
SUB-TOTAL	3,935	1,626	1,923	2,487	\$ 609,210	\$ 213,536	\$ 251,488	\$ 429,889
PASS FACILITY USE	158,468	52,235	96,521	127,257				
PERCENT OF NON-RESIDENTS:	0.96%	0.91%	0.73%	1.05%				

DAILY ENTRIES

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2019	2020	2021	2022
INDIVIDUAL RESIDENT	8,187	2,552	377	2,871	\$ 65,496	\$ 20,416	\$ 3,397	\$ 27,718
INDIVIDUAL NON-RESIDENT	900	212	94	279	8,100	1,908	939	3,202
S/Y/D RESIDENT	7,476	2,122	448	2,356	44,856	12,732	3,081	21,050
S/Y/D NON-RESIDENT	328	105	31	934	2,296	735	218	6,681
INDIVIDUAL FITNESS RESIDENT	205	46	1	61	1,256	264	8	366
INDIVIDUAL FITNESS NON-RESIDENT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SENIOR FITNESS RESIDENT	553	129	-	167	3,041	756	-	810
SENIOR FITNESS NON-RESIDENT	16	3	-	121	35	14	-	-
DAILY PASS/GIFT CERTIFICATE SALES	-	75	1	1	3,606	450	245	10
SUB-TOTAL	17,665	5,244	952	6,790	\$ 128,686	\$ 37,275	\$ 7,888	\$ 59,837
PERCENT OF NON-RESIDENTS:	7.04%	6.19%	13.14%	19.65%				

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

		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		35,770	12,489	26,932	-	185,508	30,155	64,951	149,671
FACILITY RENTALS	POOL/STUDIO/ PARTY PAVILION	252	106	100	-	6,050	2,554	2,400	-
MISC. RETAIL		-	96	103	-	10,886	2,682	3,225	-
LOCKERS		29,267	9,068	4,520	9,152	7,317	2,267	1,130	2,288
VENDING		-	-	-	15	1,425	1,208	-	85
	SUB-TOTAL	68,588	21,783	31,668	11,930	\$ 300,264	\$ 39,497	\$ 72,066	\$ 226,634
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2019	2020	2021	2022
YTD TOTAL PARTICIPATION & REVENUE:		248,656	80,888	36,410	148,448	\$ 1,038,160	\$ 290,307	\$ 331,441	\$ 716,360

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

	GREEN FEES							
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2019	2020	2021	2022
WEEKDAYS								
REGULAR - 9	943	708	780	425	\$ 7,483	\$ 8,028	\$ 9,316	\$ 10,845
SR/JR/STUDENT - 9	525	671	666	499	7,532	11,325	11,151	10,820
LEAGUES - 9	4,104	2,771	3,439	3,397	65,931	47,585	58,463	67,643
REGULAR - 18	2,151	3,995	3,434	10,163	64,394	120,135	117,386	195,600
SR/JR/STUDENT - 18	4,379	3,481	4,645	4,477	88,380	83,348	109,134	99,922
TWI-LIGHT	1,948	2,140	1,512	928	32,318	42,495	29,025	19,388
WEEKENDS								
REGULAR - 9	250	261	244	347	5,486	6,713	6,159	10,713
SR/JR/STUDENT - 9	39	38	12	43	624	722	228	875
REGULAR - 18	3,647	3,621	5,349	3,120	121,243	129,314	194,296	122,279
SR/JR/STUDENT - 18	289	252	496	953	7,514	7,288	14,532	28,375
TWI-LIGHT	1,295	1,390	819	25	29,665	35,440	20,666	11,260
EARLY BIRD - 9	58	36	35	13	928	684	665	299
MEMBERSHIPS								
ULTIMATE PACKAGE	426	523	679	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	-	183	11	750	-	800	1,650
TWI-LIGHT PACKAGE	355	320	284	70	5,525	3,850	4,575	8,225
OUTINGS (WEEKDAYS & WEEKEND)	<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>
	22,489	21,517	24,883	26,562	\$ 492,585	\$ 524,628	\$ 645,025	\$ 694,985

	PROGRAMMING & RETAIL OPERATIONS							
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2019	2020	2021	2022
CARTS	17,554	16,932	20,384	18,833	\$ 118,507	\$ 116,564	\$ 143,451	\$ 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>
	17,620	16,960	20,423	18,850	\$ 119,167	\$ 116,844	\$ 143,841	\$ 105,237
FOOD & BEVERAGE	45,069	30,492	49,032	48,716	\$ 120,885	\$ 82,721	\$ 136,254	\$ 142,603
PRO SHOP	3,370	2,796	3,531	3,355	37,882	34,008	45,316	47,906
DISCOUNTS	-	-	-	-	(71,308)	(89,581)	(135,486)	-
VENDING	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>817</u>	<u>1,299</u>	<u>1,058</u>	<u>-</u>
	48,439	33,288	52,563	52,071	\$ 88,276	\$ 28,447	\$ 47,143	\$ 190,509
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2019	2020	2021	2022
YTD TOTAL PARTICIPATION & REVENUE	88,548	71,765	97,869	97,483	\$ 700,028	\$ 669,918	\$ 836,009	\$ 990,731

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

	GATE							
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2019	2020	2021	2022
RESIDENTS (ANNUAL)	963	1,016	1,310	1,114	\$ 27,930	\$ 30,480	\$ 39,300	\$ 33,420
NON-RESIDENTS (ANNUAL)	173	184	339	359	7,245	8,280	15,255	16,155
RESIDENTS (DAILY)	5,619	5,234	6,724	5,671	33,714	31,404	40,344	34,026
NON-RESIDENTS (DAILY)	4,892	4,493	6,817	6,235	48,920	44,930	68,170	62,350
SENIOR (DAILY)	575	508	764	637	1,725	1,524	2,292	1,911
SENIOR-NON RES. (DAILY)	321	257	400	472	1,926	1,542	2,400	2,832
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>
	12,605	11,698	16,376	14,545	\$ 123,005	\$ 118,430	\$ 168,451	\$ 152,134
PERCENT OF NON-RESIDENTS:								
ANNUAL	15.2%	15.3%	20.6%	24.4%				
DAILY	45.7%	45.3%	49.1%	51.5%				

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	-	25	48	\$ 80	\$ -	\$ 925	\$ 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	-	26	48	\$ 1,871	\$ -	\$ 1,105	\$ 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
NOVEMBER**

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	273	4,615	5,269	3,010	546	9,230	10,538	6,020
SPECIAL EVENTS	<u>357</u>	<u>306</u>	<u>786</u>	<u>730</u>	<u>6,512</u>	<u>4,039</u>	<u>9,412</u>	<u>8,257</u>
	2,120	4,927	8,015	-	\$ 47,275	\$ 13,419	\$ 72,860	\$ 72,313
FACILITY RENTALS								
WEEKDAYS	73	8	21	39	\$ 4,725	\$ 880	\$ 2,020	\$ 4,500
WEEKENDS	<u>85</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>97</u>	<u>101</u>	<u>10,025</u>	<u>3,950</u>	<u>10,340</u>	<u>11,060</u>
	158	41	118	140	\$ 14,750	\$ 4,830	\$ 12,360	\$ 15,560
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:	45,803	22,094	45,965	51,695	\$ 274,534	\$ 147,705	\$ 318,580	\$ 367,466



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MEMORANDUM

To: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Coy P. Vaughn, Director
Date: December 13, 2022
Re: Budget Adjustment – NATAC/ALPAC Funds

Background

Budgets for natural areas funds are set when the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners adopts or reaffirms the County budget. The amount established for land acquisition in these funds is generally held flat as closing timeframes can be unpredictable. In recent years, NATAC and ALPAC fund balances have increased as steps of the acquisition process have taken longer than a year to close. Fortunately, many acquisitions in the pipeline completed the closing process in 2022. Increased closings in a single fiscal year require the use of some of the previously accumulated fund balances.

Discussion

Accounting for increased 2022 closings activity, as well as contributions to the special revenue fund, means budget adjustments are necessary to ensure that NATAC and ALPAC fund expenditures do not exceed budgeted amounts. The adjustment provided in this memo decreases the budgeted planned contribution to fund balances to zero in the NATAC and ALPAC Acquisition Funds and increases the planned use of fund balances. Taking these proposed adjustments and 2022 actual activity into account, the anticipated remaining fund balance for NATAC at year-end is \$2,723,400 and for ALPAC is \$1,534,737.

Recommendation

It is my recommendation that the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission authorize a budget adjustment to increase the 2022 NATAC and ALPAC fund budgets in alignment with the attachment below.

Fund	Account	Type	Title	Amounts
NATAC	20907500.679300	Revenue	Fund Bal Use	1,382,890
NATAC	20907500.961000	Expense	Land Acquisition	1,893,052
NATAC	20907500.982000	Expense	Fund Bal Contrib	(510,162)
ALPAC	20917500.679300	Revenue	Fund Bal Use	229,120
ALPAC	20917500.961000	Expense	Land Acquisition	532,092
ALPAC	20917500.982000	Expense	Fund Bal Contrib	(302,972)



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

PUBLIC NOTICE WASHTENAW COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING CALENDAR – 2023

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

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

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

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

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

cc: Washtenaw County Clerk
 Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MEMORANDUM

TO: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Coy Vaughn, Director
DATE: December 13, 2022
RE: Recommendation for Partnership – Monier Conservation Easement, Dexter Township

Background

The Monier property, located in Dexter Township, was nominated to NAPP as part of Round 20. It was evaluated by both ALPAC and NATAC for potential preservation. The property did not score high on the ALPAC scoring system, but NATAC ranked it as a Tier 2 priority as part of Round 20 nominations based on its adjacency to the West Lake Preserve.

Discussion

The approximate 70-acre Monier property is predominantly agricultural land that is in active production with a small woodlot along the southern boundary of the property. The property is 95% prime agriculture soils. The woods were identified as a medium-high quality based on the assessment mapping previously completed. The property is immediately adjacent to the West Lake Preserve.

Earlier in 2022, Dexter Township Board allocated \$300,000 toward land preservation for the Township to seed a land preservation program in the Township. As a result, the Township submitted grant applications to both USDA ACEP-ALE and to the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) for matching grant funds for the purchase of a conservation easement on the Monier property. The Township was subsequently awarded funds from both agencies totaling \$485,100. In November 2022, the Township residents passed a .5 millage for 10 years for farmland and open space preservation.

An appraisal for the conservation easement was completed in 2022 which valued the conservation easement at \$544,000. Dexter Township would hold the easement and be responsible for monitoring and enforcement of the easement. The Township is proposing the following breakdown:

MDARD Grant	\$ 245,000
USDA ACEP-ALE Grant	\$ 240,100
Dexter Township	\$ 29,450
WCPARC NAPP	\$ 29,450
Purchase price	\$ 544,000

NATAC recommended to the Parks Commission to partner with Dexter Township and contribute \$29,450 toward the purchase at their November 2022 meeting.

Recommendation

Based upon the review by the Natural Area Technical Advisory Committee and staff, it is my recommendation that the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission partner with Dexter Township for the purchase of a conservation easement on the Monier property in Dexter Township, as

identified in the attached maps, and contribute 5.4% of the final easement purchase price, not to exceed \$29,450, 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

Monier Property: Local Area Aerial

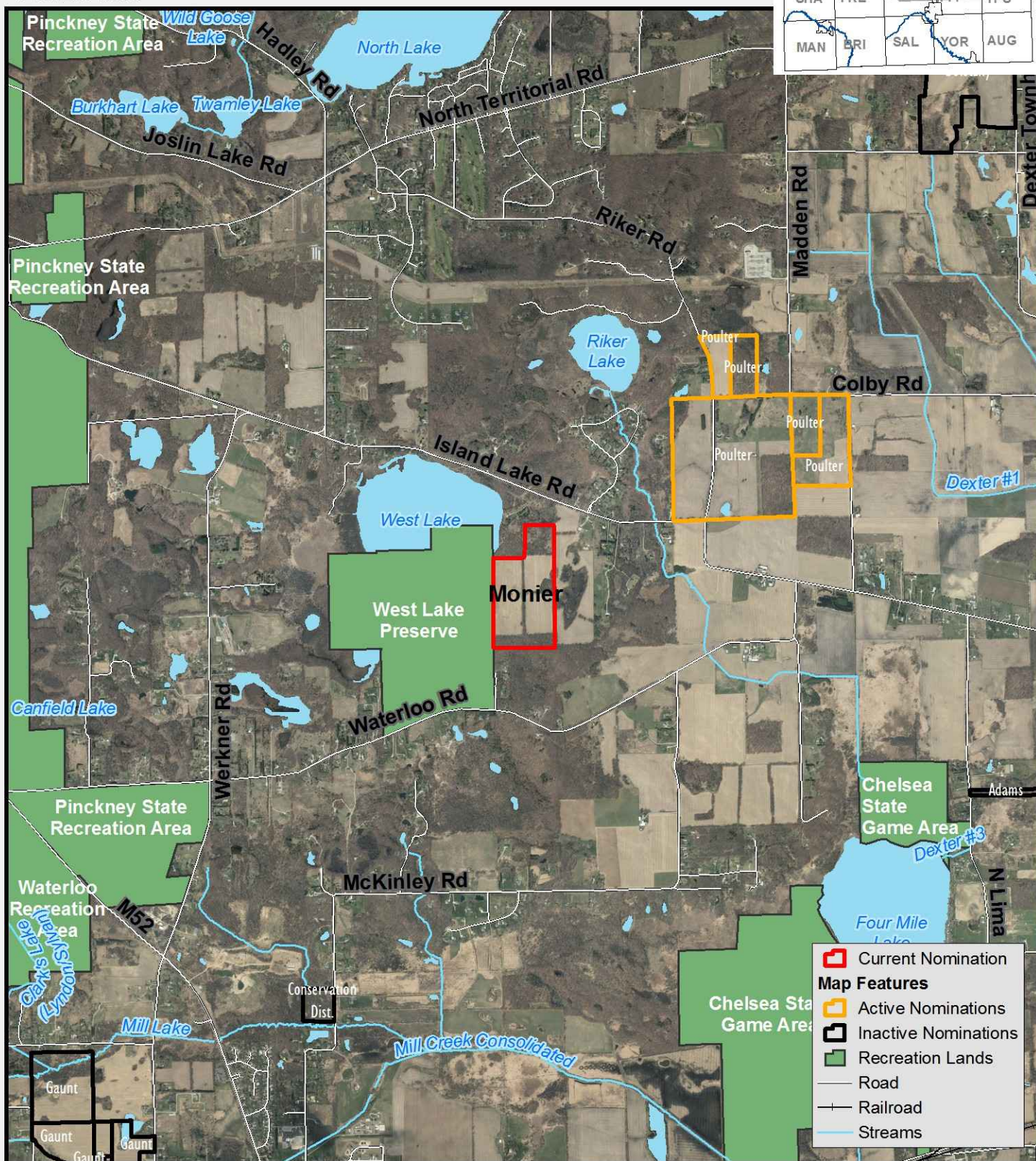
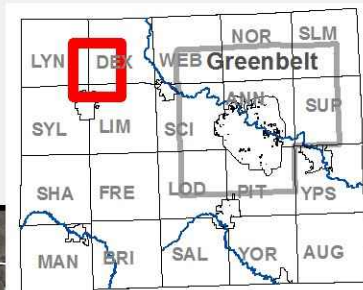
Natural Areas Preservation Program

Nomination ID: 20.330

Dexter Township

+/-70.24 Acres

Washtenaw County
Locator Map



Monier Property: Assessment & Prioritization Mapping

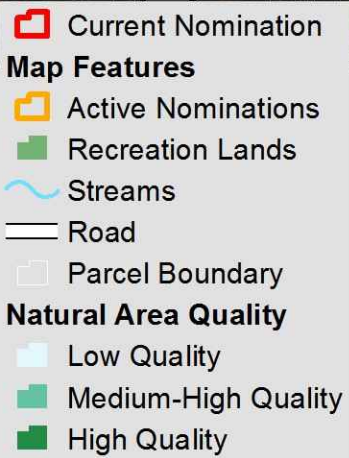
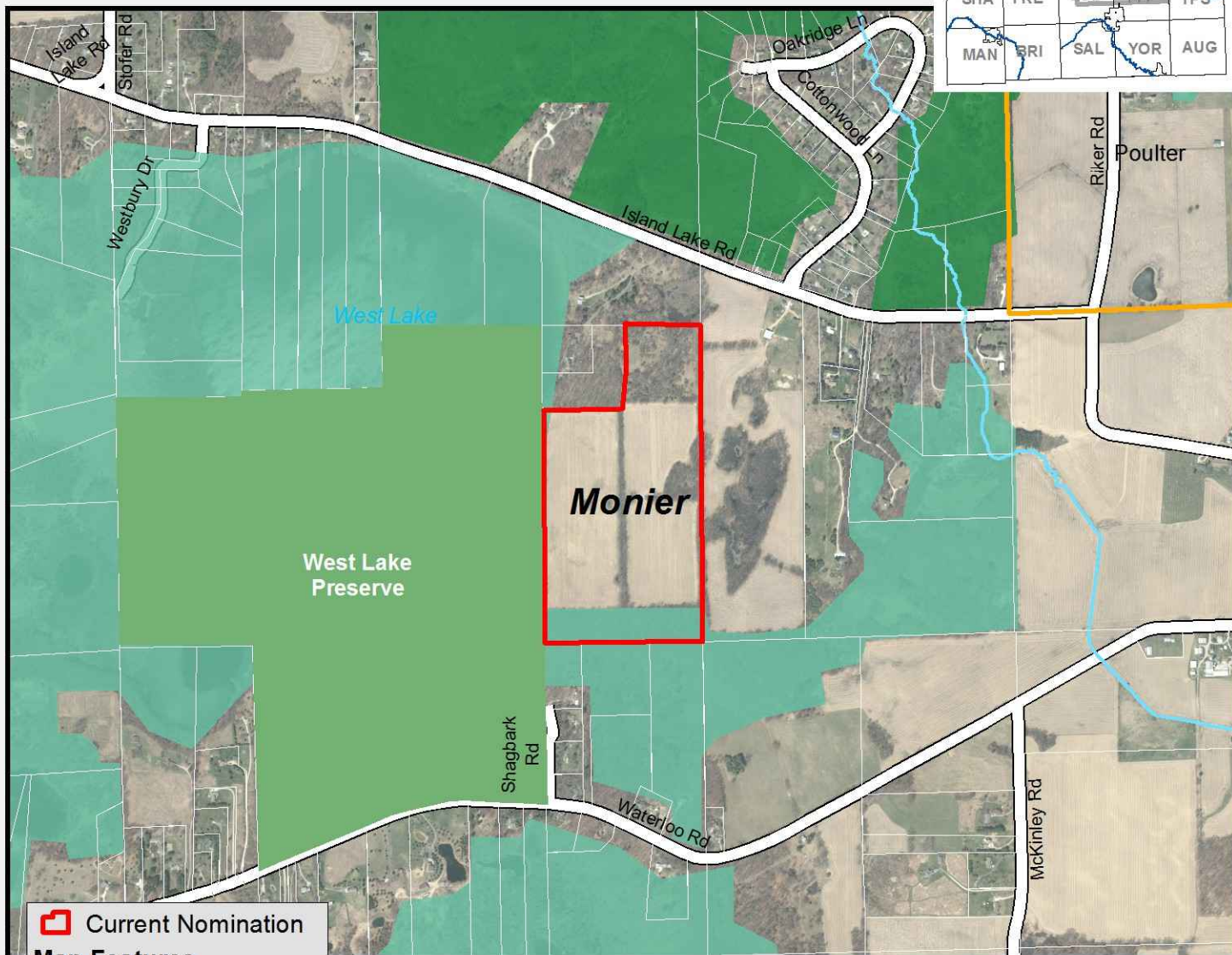
Natural Areas Preservation Program

Nomination ID: 20.330

Dexter Township

+/-70.24 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



+/-70.24 Acres



A horizontal number line with tick marks at 0, 250, and 500. The word "Feet" is written to the right of the 500 mark.





Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MEMORANDUM

To: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Coy P. Vaughn, Director
Date: December 13, 2022
Re: Parker Mill Park & B2B Trail Accessibility Enhancements Spark Grant

Background

The Spark Grant program, administered through Michigan Department of Natural Resources, will provide \$65 million in funding over next 18-24 months through three grant cycles to help local communities create, renovate, or redevelop public recreation opportunities, especially those whose economic opportunities and health were hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. The funding is a federal allocation that has been provided to the state as COVID relief funds. Grant requests can range from \$100,000 to \$1,000,000 with points awarded for matching funds, although not required. In considering the Parks Commission's priorities and existing CIP projects, staff determined that Parker Mill Park's asphalt pathway, entry improvements, and new playground would provide an opportunity that best meets the goals of the funding by increasing universal access to the park and B2B Trail and has been a priority for Parks.

Discussion

Parker Mill's asphalt pathway, which is part of the Border to Border Trail, has been in need of replacement for several years. In 2020, Phase I of the path's reconstruction was completed, in conjunction with the development of the neighboring property. However, the trail connecting the parking lot to the park's interior was not included at the time due to the need for further planning of that portion due to the complexity of the site. This portion of the trail is along a steep slope, contains several utilities, and is sandwiched between the historic grist mill and Geddes Road, thus making it complicated and costly to reconstruct. In 2021, staff engaged professionals from The Collaborative, Inc. to conduct a circulation study to address ADA accessibility and improve the park entrance; the final concept is attached.

The recent availability of Spark Grant funding provides an opportunity to potentially secure funding and improve universal access to the park's main features and regional Border to Border Trail network. The project will include converting the parking lot from gravel to paved as well as expanding the parking lot; enhancing stormwater mitigation; establishing an

accessible connection between the parking lot and the park's interior down a steep slope to provide an accessible route to the gristmill; reconstructing and expanding the width of an old boardwalk; installing an accessible, natural playground; and other related work. The total estimate for this project is \$1.4 million and will request \$740,000 (53%) in grant funds.

Recommendation

Based on project need, challenges to site development, and available funding, I recommend that the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission authorize staff to submit a Spark Grant application in the amount of \$740,000.

Legend

- A. Existing Grist Mill
- B. Existing Cider Mill
- C. Existing Historic Log Cabin
- D. Existing Shelter / Restroom Building
- E. New Multi-use Trail / ADA Access
- F. New Access Stair to Cider Mill
- G. Natural Play Structure (Site Option 1)
- H. Natural Play Structure (Site Option 2)
- I. Pave Existing Lot and Expand (18 spaces)



THE
COLLAB
ORATIVE



PEDESTRIAN ACCESS & PARK AMENITY IMPROVEMENTS

Parker Mill County Park & Forest Nature Area

4560 Geddes Road, Ann Arbor, MI

December 1, 2022



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

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

DECEMBER 13, 2022

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation supports the submission of an application titled, "Parker Mill Park & B2B Trail Accessibility Enhancements" to the Spark grant program for improving ADA trail accessibility at Parker Mill and the Border to Border trail, adding a playground and expanding and improving the parking lot at Parker Mill County Park; and,

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

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Parks and Recreation Commission hereby authorizes submission of a Spark Application for \$740,000 (66%) and further resolves to make available its financial obligation amount of \$660,000 (53%%) of the total estimate of \$1,400,000 project cost, during the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

Resolution moved by: _____, supported by: _____

Passed with _____ aye votes recorded and _____ nay votes recorded.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a Resolution duly made and passed by the Parks and Recreation Commission of Washtenaw County at their regular meeting held on December 13, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. in the Parks Administration Office at 2230 Platt Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48104 with a quorum present.

Dan Ezekiel, Secretary
Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

Date