



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

NOTICE OF MEETING

Date: October 10, 2023

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Location: Rolling Hills County Park Lodge Building, 7660 Stony Creek Rd., Ypsilanti, MI 48197

AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order / Moment of Silence**
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3. Approval of the Minutes**
 - A. September 12, 2023 Meeting (attached, pp. 1-3/action item)
- 4. Public Comment**
- 5. Communications, Projects & Activities**
 - A. Resolution of Appreciation – Bob Grese (attached, p. 14/action item)
- 6. Financial & Recreation Reports – September 2023**
 - A. Claims Report (attached, p. 15/action item)
 - B. Fund Balance Reports (attached, pp. 16-17/action item)
 - C. Recreation Reports (attached, pp. 18-24/action item)
- 7. Old Business**
 - A. NAPP –Russell Property Final Approval (attached, pp. 25-48/action item)
 - B. Other Old Business
- 8. New Business**
 - A. NAPP – VanBuhler Property Easement Sales Contract (attached, pp. 49-54/action item)
 - B. Plunge Peak Repair – Rolling Hills County Park (attached, p. 55/action item)
 - C. Waterworks Replacement – Rolling Hills County Park (attached, pp. 56-57/action item)
 - D. Golf Cart Purchase - Pierce Lake Golf Course (attached, pp. 58-59/action item)
 - E. Connecting Communities – 2023 (presentation at meeting)
 - F. Update on Millages (attached, p. 60/action item)
 - G. Other New Business
- 9. Commissioners / Directors Comments**
- 10. Adjournment**

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



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: September 12, 2023

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Location: Staebler Farm County Park, Blackbird Lodge, 7734 Plymouth Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Members Present: Patricia Scribner, WCPARC President; Janis Bobrin, Vice President; Dan Ezekiel, WCPARC Secretary, Robert Marans, JoAnn McCollum, Brenda McKinney, Evan Pratt, Yousef Rabhi, and Katie Scott

Members Absent: Robert Joerg

Staff Present: Coy Vaughn, Director; Meghan Bonfiglio, Deputy Director; Ginny Leikam, Superintendent of Park Planning and Natural Areas; Jason Brooks, Manager of Finance and Administration; Ann Ziolkowski, Communications Manager; David Ries, Project Manager; Kira Macyda, Park Planner; Jason Gold, Park Manager; Wade Buck, Park Coordinator.

Others Present: David Staebler and Jack Smiley

1. Call to Order

Ms. Scribner called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the August 8, 2023 regular meeting were included with the agenda material.

It was moved by Ms. McKinney seconded by Mr. Pratt, to approve the minutes of the August 8, 2023; regular meeting as amended. All ayes, the motion was approved.

4. Public Comment

David Staebler commented on what an honor it was to be present and see this new building today. He thanked staff, particularly Kira Macyda for all of her outreach to the Staebler family over the years.

5. Communications, Projects & Activities

Mr. Vaughn reported on the communications, projects, and activities for the month of August 2023. Ms. Bonfiglio provided an update on day camps which took place over the summer.

It was moved by Ms. McCollum, seconded by Mr. Rabhi, to receive and file the Communications, Projects & Activities for the month of August 2023, as submitted. All ayes, the motion was approved.

6. Financial & Recreation Reports – August 2023

A. Claims Report

Mr. Brooks reported on the financials and stated that the total for the claims for the month of August 2023 was \$1,288,883.45.

It was moved by Ms. Bobrin, seconded by Mr. Rabhi, to approve the claims for the month of August 2023 as submitted. Roll call vote, 9 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent (Joerg). Motion carried.

B. Fund Balance Reports

Mr. Brooks provided an update on the Parks fund and Natural Areas Funds along with the fund balance status for each through August 31, 2023.

It was moved by Mr. Marans, seconded by Mr. Rabhi, to receive and file the financial reports for August 2023 as submitted. All ayes, the motion was approved.

C. Recreation Reports

Mr. Brooks presented the Recreation Reports for the month of August 2023.

It was moved by Mr. Rabhi, seconded by Ms. McCollum, to receive and file the Recreation Reports for the month of August 2023. All ayes, the motion was approved.

7. Old Business

A. Other Old Business

None.

8. New Business

A. Michigan Folk School 2024

Mr. Gold provided a presentation on the Michigan Folk School (MFS). He noted that folk schools are in place to focus not only on manual abilities, but on connection to community and appreciation for traditional know-how in a multi-cultural society. Mr. Gold added that learning occurs for the sake of learning and that classes are intentionally kept small so that people learn together. He included statistics which indicated growth in the number of classes taught at MFS from 201 classes in 2022 to 419 classes proposed in 2024. Mr. Gold listed the seven categories for proposed classes which include: blacksmithing, stained glass, leather craft, food craft, community classes, woodworking, and carry-over classes.

Mr. Marans asked if baking would be an offering at MFS. Mr. Gold responded that an instructor specializing in piemaking would be teaching a course.

Mr. Rabhi asked how MFS works financially and added that at some point it would be helpful to see a budget for the facility. Mr. Gold responded that it would be great to do a financial dive in with the Commission soon. Mr. Vaughn added that we were looking to give an update at the end of this year and then follow up in 2024 as we developed a feel for how quickly classes filled and that once we had more hard data regarding demand. Mr. Rabhi stated that he also felt it would be important that out of county activities were not being subsidized with Washtenaw County taxpayer dollars.

B. Other New Business

None.

9. Commissioners / Directors Comments

Mr. Vaughn reported that coming out of the August Commission meeting that he had a discussion with staff at Huron Waterloo Pathways Initiative (HWPI) to ensure that Washtenaw County taxpayers are prominently featured at the top of the Border-to-Border (B2B) trail website donor page.

Ms. Bobrin asked about a capital campaign she had heard possibly was being done by HWPI for trail development. Mr. Vaughn replied that we traditionally leverage tax dollars for development of the B2B Trail and added that this is the continuation of the campaign to generate private dollars. Mr. Vaughn stated that the river portion of the B2B trail will be the most expensive section to develop. He reported that private funding may represent over a third of the funding.

Ms. McCollum reported that she had a group meeting yesterday at Independence Lake County Park and complimented staff at the park on their fantastic customer service.

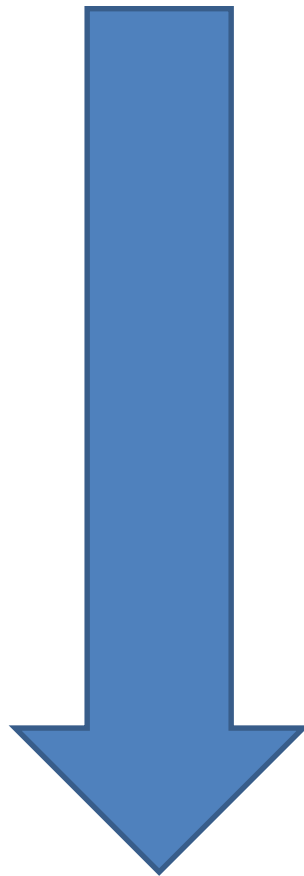
Mr. Marans asked if the fencing being proposed along the railroad tracks along the B2B was related to the B2B or whether that was a Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) or Amtrak safety measure. Mr. Vaughn responded that it was an MDOT safety feature but added that long term, we would prefer to see moved as close to the railroad track as they can possibly arrange.

10. Adjournment

It was moved by Ms. McKinney, seconded by Ms. Scott, to adjourn. All ayes, the motion was approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:18 PM.

Communications, Projects & Activities



Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office

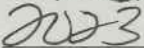
Certificate of Appreciation

is presented to

Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation

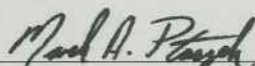
In recognition of your support for the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office Employee Family Day.
Your generosity is deeply appreciated.

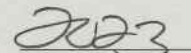

Jerry L. Clayton, Sheriff



Date




Mark A. Ptaszek, Under Sheriff



Date

SEPTEMBER 2023 NEWS COVERAGE

mLive - From farm to park to classroom: Michigan Folk School expands with new 'Blackbird Lodge', 9/14/23 - <https://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/2023/09/from-farm-to-park-to-classroom-michigan-folk-school-expands-with-new-blackbird-lodge.html>

mLive - Could 13 southeast Michigan metroparks be linked by pathways? Planners hope so, 9/29/23 - <https://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/2023/09/could-13-southeast-michigan-metroparks-be-linked-by-pathways-planners-hope-so.html>



Digital Report - September 2023

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 - September 2023

SOCIAL MEDIA

facebook

Blue Heron Bay

Monthly Impressions

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
5,563	13,059	1,554

Total Post Engagement

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
113	795	6

facebook

Independence Lake

Monthly Impressions

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
39,531	52,107	15,109

Total Post Engagement

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
2,087	3,209	721

facebook

Meri Lou Murray

Monthly Impressions

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
4,012	1,926	2,811

Total Post Engagement

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
141	36	50

facebook

Pierce Lake

Monthly Impressions

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
19,013	14,556	3,909

Total Post Engagement

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
1,238	951	127

facebook

Rolling Hills

Monthly Impressions

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
87,087	331,570	

Total Post Engagement

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
5,390	14,221	

facebook

WCPARC

Monthly Impressions

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
21,370	7,773	9,731

Total Post Engagement

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
848	137	311

Instagram

Rolling Hills

Total Followers

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
1,317	1,312	987

Top Post - Pawtober

How many people reacted to posts

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
44	27	31

Instagram

WCPARC

Total Followers

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
3,246	3,210	2,383

Top Post - Nature Camp

How many people reacted to posts

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
56	57	110



Digital Report - September 2023

Facebook/Instagram - Top Posts

WCPARC Post



56 likes

washtenawcountyparks Still swirling in the happy memories from our 3rd Annual Women's Nature Camp. This event was made even better this year with the generous Birch Sponsorship (\$250) from Acorn Naturalist. Along with multiple camping gear items lent to us from the Ann Arbor REI store for campers who needed it. We also received raffle prizes from our friends at Kula Cloth and pStyle.



We send a massive thank you to each of

Rolling Hills Post



Liked by washtenawcountyparks and 43 others

rollinghillspark Help Yogi pick a costume for Pawtober.

Your pup can join him October 7th... more

[View all 6 comments](#)



Digital Report - September 2023

Website, Newsletter, News

Website Statistics

washtenaw.org/parks

Total Page Visits		This Month	Last Month	. Last Year
		51,049	88,582	20,418
Title	URL	Page views % of total	Visits % of total	
Rolling Hills Water Park Washtenaw County, MI	https://www.washtenaw.org/638/Rolling-Hills-Water-Park	9,749 19.1%	7,491	31.3%
Online Tickets Washtenaw County, MI	https://www.washtenaw.org/2851/Online-Tickets	4,791 9.4%	4,047	16.9%
Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center Washtenaw County, MI	https://www.washtenaw.org/497/Meri-Lou-Murray-Recreation-Center	4,066 8.0%	3,260	13.6%
Park Rates Washtenaw County, MI	https://www.washtenaw.org/2254/Park-Rates	2,340 4.6%	1,953	8.2%
Parks & Recreation Washtenaw County, MI	https://www.washtenaw.org/288/Parks-Recreation	1,601 3.1%	1,291	5.4%

Monthly Newsletter

WCPARC 48% open rate

Newsletter via MailChimp

Sent to	Opened	Clicks
15,909,	7,574	1.007

Newsletter non MailChimp

Sent to	Opened	Clicks
1,091	N/A	

Photography

Photo Ambassador
Highlights

Lisa Pappas

Photo taken at
County Farm Park





Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MEMORANDUM

TO: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Coy P. Vaughn, Director
DATE: October 10, 2023
RE: Project and Activities Update – September 2023

Park Facility Events and Projects

Independence Lake

- End-of-season staffing was a challenge due to schools starting early. More than 1/3 of the staff left before the Labor Day weekend.
- The naturalist-led “Sunday Morning Paddle” helped patrons identify trees around the lake.
- Volunteer Stewardship program participants provided 27.5 hours of service.
- Yoga classes began the fall schedule meeting on Sunday mornings.
- Hosted the 3rd Annual Women’s Nature Camp on September 16-17 (see Interpretive and Volunteer Programming section for details)
- The first Independence Lake Craft Show was held on September 30. The show hosted about forty vendors and several hundred shoppers and guests.
- The Facility Condition and Assessment work of the Beach Center and Maintenance Building continues to make good progress and staff will be reviewing the draft report of the Consultant’s findings in the coming weeks. The next phase of developing schematic designs for the two buildings and sites will begin this fall.

Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center

- The Fall 1 Session for group exercise classes began September 10, consisting of 27 land-based programs (mix of in-person, virtual, and hybrid) and seven (7) water aerobics classes.
- Fall 1 swim lessons reached capacity on the first day of registration with 170 enrollments.
- MLMRC hosted the annual County Staff Health Fair on September 21, which had been on hiatus since 2019. More than 138 registrants and 30 vendors attended. This year, the facility added programming opportunities, including a tai chi class, fitness walk, and meditation walk.

Rolling Hills Park

- A very successful Water Park season concluded on September 4, with the facility meeting capacity through the Labor Day weekend.
- 636 dogs attended the Doggy Dip event on September 9.
- Operations Staff completed Water Park shutdown and maintenance staff have begun the winterization process.
- WC Glow hosted a Disc Golf Tournament on the OG Course on September 30.
- Staff met with Stantec consultants to explore options for electrical and pump changes due to mechanical room flooding damage.
- Staff reviewed competitive bids for “Waterworks Feature Replacement and Leak Repair” and “Plunge Peak Slide Re-surfacing”

- Staff are preparing for the Trek or Treat event on October 7.
- Project managers met on site to review the condition of the pavement for the non-motorized pathways. Staff will be conducting additional in-depth reviews in the coming weeks.
- Staff are investigating costs for the Phase III work at the Concessions area for adding shade canopies and rental pavilions.

Staebler Farm Park

- Staff held the ribbon cutting at the new Blackbird Lodge (multipurpose building) on September 12. Park Commissioners and invited guests were pleased with the work. Staff continues to work closely with the architect and contractor to ensure that facility requirements are met in a timely manner and within budget. Remaining punchlist items are being addressed and exterior site work will progress into the fall, which includes installing siding and metal flashing.
- Consultants from The Collaborative have submitted Design Development plans for the Farmhouse Renovation project. Staff have conducted their review of the plans from a QA/QC perspective along with investigating methods of reducing costs. Finish selections are in progress as well as developing plans for permitting agencies.

Special Initiatives

Border to Border Trail (B2B)

- Segment DAA3 (Zeeb Road to Delhi Metropark) – Development has resumed. The contractor is still awaiting final Amtrak approval for the bridge lifting and installation plan. It is anticipated that the contractor will pave the western portion of the trail, complete site restoration, and other related work this year. The project is anticipated to be completed early next year.
- Construction bids are being solicited for the Title IX Plaza, which will be installed in Dexter-Huron Metropark. The anticipated completion date is before Memorial Day 2024.
- Segment CS2 (Wylie Road to Parker Road, in Lima Twp) – Site grading and installation of the gravel base is underway. Concrete paving is anticipated to begin in October.
- Segment CS3 (N. Territorial to Boyce Rd in Lyndon Twp) – Construction has been initiated and work will be completed next year.
- Segment C1 (Werkner to Timbertown) – MDOT, in partnership with the Water Resources Commissioner's Office, has completed the reinstallation of a culvert under M52 north of Chelsea and the road is open again to traffic. The B2B Trail in that section is anticipated to be completed later this year, which will complete the connection into the City of Chelsea.
- Segment DAA7- Barton-Bandemer Tunnel and Trail:
 - o Engineering team has received review comments back from Amtrak and is addressing them. The project will be resubmitted to Amtrak for review in October.
 - o The City of Ann Arbor is soliciting construction proposals for the trail component that runs from Barton Dam, east, across the Barton Nature Area. The goal is to complete that portion of the trail ahead of a large construction project on Barton Dam, which would otherwise impact construction access for the B2B Trail.
- Engineering and permitting are in various stages for the following trail segments:
 - o Delhi Metropark to Wagner Road (Segment DAA4) – Permit review at Amtrak in process
 - o Dexter-Chelsea (Segment CD3) Mill Creek Park in Dexter

Natural Areas Preservation Program (NAPP)

Stewardship

- Invasive species control occurred at Rolling Hills Park, County Farm Park, Park Lyndon, and Scio Woods Preserve.
- Staff attended a meeting hosted by US Fish and Wildlife Service on stewardship for Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnakes.

- Site preparation for the restoration at Lost Wagon Lake Preserve is complete. Staff will use the Washtenaw County Conservation District's no-till drill to seed the project this fall.

Interpretive and Volunteer Programming

- 329 patrons attended programs, including public nature programs.
- 60 volunteers engaged in 158.5 hours of volunteer activity, focused primarily on gardening and stewardship at County Farm Park.
- Naturalists hosted the 3rd Annual Women's Nature Camp on September 16-17 at Independence Lake County Park. Twenty-six campers attended, two of whom qualified for a scholarship. REI donated camping gear to participants who wanted to stay overnight but did not have gear, and Acorn Naturalist provided a \$250 sponsorship. Kula Cloth ("pee cloth") and pStyle (personal urination device) donated four items each for the raffle. Activities included ethical foraging, archery, how to use an axe, mindfulness hike, hand salve making, and a panel discussion on being a woman in the woods.
- Parker Mill fall open house tours began.

Other

- Staff continues to promote the Parks Commission's 50th anniversary.
- Staff Master Planning team met with representatives from PROS Consulting, Inc. to kick-off planning. Discussion items included the project scope and establishing a regular meeting schedule. The Community Needs Assessment and Commissioner, Staff, and Public engagement/outreach is planned to begin this fall.

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING **ROBERT E, GRESE** FOR HIS DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE NATURAL AREA TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE, WASHTENAW COUNTY, AND THE CITIZENS OF WASHTENAW COUNTY



October 10, 2023

WHEREAS, the Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission recognizes Bob Grese for his twelve years of exemplary service as a member of the Natural Area Technical Advisory Committee (NATAC); and

WHEREAS, Bob Grese began his tenure on NATAC in 2011 to share his expertise in landscape architecture and planning; and

WHEREAS, Bob Grese also served as the Director of the Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum, and

WHEREAS, Bob Grese is a professor emeritus from the School of Environment and Sustainability at the University of Michigan, where his teaching and research included ecologically-based landscape design and management that respects the cultural and natural history of a region, ecological restoration and on-going management of urban wilds, and

WHEREAS, through Bob Grese's leadership and expertise, an additional 5,000 acres have been purchased as nature preserves or preserved through the purchase of conservation easements through Washtenaw County and its partners; and

WHEREAS, Bob Grese has volunteered countless hours attending meetings, advocating for land preservation in Washtenaw County, conducting site visits and providing his 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 Bob Grese for his dedication and devotion to preserving land and improving the lives of the citizens of Washtenaw County during his twelve years of service and wishes him continued success in all future endeavors.

Patricia Scribner, President



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

September 2023 - Claims Report

PARK / FACILITY / FUNCTION	UTILITIES	DIRECT PURCHASES	OTHER	TOTAL
Administration	\$ 1,104.71	\$ 7,213.08	\$ 115,630.54	\$ 123,948.33
Recreation Center	36,148.97	7,038.01	71,486.19	114,673.17
Park Maintenance	1,418.26	3,960.93	8,957.59	14,336.78
Pierce Lake Golf Course	2,683.83	3,501.22	53,272.18	59,457.23
Independence Lake	3,875.07	4,999.72	3,595.54	12,470.33
Rolling Hills	26,153.72	9,765.72	28,869.13	64,788.57
Parker Mill	198.01	-	-	198.01
Sharon Mills	111.04	-	35.00	146.04
Staebler Farm	147.02	6,316.63	7,844.00	14,307.65
Swift Run Dog Park	-	-	-	-
Capital Improvement	-	-	272,015.93	272,015.93
Committed Funding Partnerships	-	-	-	-
Commission	-	-	-	-
SUBTOTAL	\$ 71,840.63	\$ 42,795.31	\$ 561,706.10	\$ 676,342.04
 Road Millage Fund	 -	 -	 508,422.60	 508,422.60
SUBTOTAL	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 508,422.60	\$ 508,422.60
 Natural Areas Preservation Program				
Acquisition	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,600.00	\$ 5,600.00
Preserve Management	-	5,001.80	59,888.44	\$ 64,890.24
NATAC	-	-	-	\$ -
Acquisition	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Annual Monitoring	-	-	-	\$ -
ALPAC	-	-	-	-
SUBTOTAL	\$ -	\$ 5,001.80	\$ 65,488.44	\$ 70,490.24
 TOTAL	\$ 71,840.63	\$ 47,797.11	\$ 1,135,617.14	\$ 1,255,254.88

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

\$ 1,255,254.88

WASHTENAW COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
NATURAL AREAS PRESERVATION PROGRAM
FUND BALANCE STATEMENT - SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

Beginning Fund Balance (1/1/23)	6,865,636	75%	YTD % Budget	
Revenue (Budget)		Revenue (Actual)		Variance
Property Tax	4,861,064	5,121,356	105%	260,292
Federal Revenue	-	-		-
Interest Earnings	50,000	218,117	436%	168,117
Other Revenue & Reimb.	<u>5,000</u>	<u>4,350</u>	87%	<u>(650)</u>
Total Revenue	4,916,064	5,343,823	109%	427,759
Expense (Budget)		Expense (Actual)		Variance
Personnel Services	(661,045)	(518,881)	78%	142,164
Supplies & Other Services	(349,738)	(137,426)	39%	212,312
Internal Service Charges	(25,721)	(61,503)	239%	(35,782)
Capital				
Land Acquisition	(2,550,000)	(1,455,067)	57%	1,094,933
Land Development	-	-		-
Machinery & Equipment	<u>(5,000)</u>	<u>(18,475)</u>	370%	<u>(13,475)</u>
Capital Subtotal	(2,555,000)	(1,473,543)	58%	1,081,458
Total Expense	<u>(3,591,504)</u>	<u>(2,191,352)</u>	61%	1,400,152
Surplus/(Deficit)	1,324,560	3,152,471		
Projected Fund Balance (12/31/23)	<u>8,190,196</u>	<u>10,018,107</u>		

WASHTENAW COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
FUND BALANCE STATEMENT - SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

Beginning Fund Balance (1/1/23)	14,586,961	75%	YTD % Budget	
Revenue (Budget)		Revenue (Actual)		Variance
Property Tax	9,130,705	9,629,053	105%	498,348
State Grant Funds	-	-		-
Fees & Services	3,635,000	4,273,693	118%	638,693
Interest Earnings	150,000	425,117	283%	275,117
Other Revenue & Reimb.	<u>545,315</u>	<u>321,916</u>	59%	<u>(223,400)</u>
Total Revenue	13,461,020	14,649,778	109%	1,188,758
Expense (Budget)		Expense (Actual)		Variance
Personnel Services	(6,960,950)	(5,443,897)	78%	1,517,053
Supplies & Other Services	(3,138,415)	(2,130,067)	68%	1,008,348
Internal Service Charges	(1,068,148)	(836,801)	78%	231,347
Capital				
Land Acquisition	-	-	-	-
CIP/Development	(3,100,000)	(2,106,965)	68%	993,035
Contingency	(326,500)	(130,619)	40%	195,881
Machinery & Equipment	<u>(844,278)</u>	<u>(175,278)</u>	21%	<u>669,000</u>
Capital Subtotal	(4,270,778)	(2,412,861)	56%	1,857,917
Transfers Out	1,288,196	(364,113)		
Total Expense	<u>(14,150,095)</u>	<u>(10,823,627)</u>	76%	4,614,664
Surplus/(Deficit)	(689,075)	3,826,152		
Operating Reserve	(9,130,705)	(9,130,705)		
2023 Funding Commitments (Partnerships)	<u>(1,721,719)</u>	<u>(574,207)</u>		
	(10,852,424)	(9,704,912)		
Projected Fund Balance (12/31/23)	<u>12,176,167</u>	<u>18,413,113</u>		

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

	GATE									
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
RESIDENT (ANNUAL)	1,481	1,105	2,127	2,135	1,958	\$ 40,590	\$ 33,150	\$ 63,810	\$ 64,050	\$ 58,740
NON-RESIDENT (ANNUAL)	176	91	206	284	289	6,750	4,095	9,270	12,780	\$ 13,005
RESIDENTS (DAILY)	12,330	2,723	8,844	12,530	11,729	73,980	16,338	53,064	75,178	\$ 70,375
NON-RESIDENTS (DAILY)	18,724	1,262	8,390	20,878	20,654	187,240	12,620	83,900	208,776	\$ 206,543
SENIOR (DAILY)	869	142	497	683	687	2,607	426	1,491	2,049	\$ 2,061
SENIOR NON-RES. (DAILY)	610	24	254	515	559	3,660	144	1,524	3,090	\$ 3,354
BUSES (DAILY)	130	-	4	80	93	3,900	-	120	2,400	\$ 2,790
ANNUAL BUS	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	300	\$ 300
MINI BUS	44	1	4	29	62	660	15	60	435	\$ 930
ANNUAL MINI BUS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>34,364</u>	<u>5,348</u>	<u>20,326</u>	<u>37,135</u>	<u>36,033</u>	<u>\$ 319,387</u>	<u>\$ 66,788</u>	<u>\$ 213,239</u>	<u>\$ 369,058</u>	<u>\$ 358,098</u>

PERCENT OF NON-RESIDENTS:

ANNUAL	10.62%	7.61%	8.83%	11.74%	12.86%
DAILY	59.43%	30.98%	48.06%	61.82%	63.08%

WATER PARK POOL ATTENDANCE

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
DAILY ENTRANCE	<u>121,493</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>39,408</u>	<u>105,774</u>	<u>99,546</u>	<u>\$1,038,975</u>	<u>\$ 48</u>	<u>\$ 402,006</u>	<u>\$1,209,228</u>	<u>\$1,171,593</u>
	121,493	4	39,408	105,774	99,546	\$1,038,975	\$ 48	\$ 402,006	\$1,209,228	\$1,171,593

PROGRAMMING & RETAIL OPERATIONS

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
DAYCAMP	1,941	-	1,759	2,913	159	\$ 52,405	\$ -	\$ 47,485	\$ 78,648	\$ 98,497
AQUATICS PROGRAMMING	1,055	-	1,453	-	-	5,602	-	4,952	-	-
RIVERWALK	-	-	-	3,514	3,565	-	-	-	11,996	11,800
DISC GOLF	4,230	2,434	2,779	2,783	1,294	8,460	4,868	5,558	5,566	5,624
SPECIAL EVENTS	<u>2,061</u>	<u>745</u>	<u>1,756</u>	<u>2,124</u>	<u>1,846</u>	<u>27,608</u>	<u>7,359</u>	<u>19,356</u>	<u>17,752</u>	<u>19,436</u>
	9,287	3,179	7,747	11,334	6,864	\$ 94,075	\$ 12,227	\$ 77,351	\$ 113,961	\$ 135,357

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

PROGRAMMING & RETAIL OPERATIONS (cont'd)

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
FACILITY RENTALS										
WEEKDAYS	24	2	41	44	36	\$ 2,318	\$ 40	\$ 3,880	\$ 4,105	\$ 3,435
WEEKENDS	146	14	149	167	158	15,337	1,085	19,525	20,725	\$ 19,450
SOCCER FIELDS	5,288	70	131	592	3	15,190	200	375	1,700	\$ 7,340
DISC GOLF COURSE	-	-	10	-	15	-	-	950	1,475	\$ 1,550
	<u>5,458</u>	<u>86</u>	<u>331</u>	<u>803</u>	<u>212</u>	<u>\$ 32,845</u>	<u>\$ 1,325</u>	<u>\$ 24,730</u>	<u>\$ 28,005</u>	<u>\$ 31,775</u>
TOBOGGANS	229	-	760	535	202	\$ 687	\$ -	\$ 2,280	\$ 2,675	\$ 2,020
CROSS COUNTRY SKIS	177	-	936	512	258	531	-	2,808	2,560	2,580
MISC. RETAIL	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	10	-
	<u>406</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,696</u>	<u>1,049</u>	<u>460</u>	<u>\$ 1,218</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 5,088</u>	<u>\$ 5,245</u>	<u>\$ 4,600</u>
LOCKERS	23,002	-	5,420	24,894	21,664	\$ 5,751	\$ -	\$ 1,355	\$ 6,224	\$ 5,416
FOOD CONCESSIONS	113,264	-	42,038	100,383	96,577	226,386	-	80,216	244,395	286,211
MISCELLANEOUS	596	-	299	1,241	1,418	3,198	-	1,738	14,068	15,121
GIFT CERTIFICATE SALES	39	3	1	4	23	411	428	65	372	2,366
	<u>136,901</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>47,758</u>	<u>126,522</u>	<u>119,682</u>	<u>\$ 235,745</u>	<u>\$ 428</u>	<u>\$ 83,374</u>	<u>\$ 265,058</u>	<u>\$ 309,114</u>
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
YTD TOTAL PARTICIPATION & REVENUE:	307,909	8,620	117,265	282,617	262,797	\$1,722,245	\$ 80,816	\$ 805,788	\$1,990,556	\$ 2,010,537

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

MEMBERSHIPS

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
INDIVIDUAL RESIDENT	761	337	367	549	708	\$ 157,967	\$ 60,572	\$ 60,166	\$ 120,082	\$ 159,925
INDIVIDUAL NON-RESIDENT	16	5	4	12	7	4,930	2,060	1,074	4,415	2,438
S/Y/D RESIDENT	1,016	442	355	571	766	167,617	71,191	58,785	105,822	141,219
S/Y/D NON-RESIDENT	3	2	-	5	17	790	788	-	1,401	1,600
FAMILY RESIDENT	228	131	97	140	171	81,685	32,044	24,671	46,753	69,278
FAMILY NON-RESIDENT	2	1	1	-	1	1,480	735	767	-	882
FAMILY - ADDT'L MEMBER	12	11	4	1	6	746	427	150	75	450
SENIORS OVER 80	315	118	143	217	180	18,990	6,710	8,630	14,500	11,750
PERSONAL TRAINERS	15	1	4	3	4	4,855	303	1,075	1,325	1,925
MILITARY PASS	3	2	2	9	17	360	180	390	1,776	3,608
30-DAY PASS	626	334	648	392	463	26,922	14,011	28,801	21,941	27,131
SEASONAL PASS	128	-	-	-	-	10,080	-	-	-	-
REPLACEMENT PASS	-	33	8	1	4	-	33	8	1	4
SUB-TOTAL	3,125	1,417	1,633	1,900	2,344	\$ 476,422	\$ 189,053	\$ 184,516	\$ 318,091	\$ 420,209
PASS FACILITY USE	130,112	44,563	81,458	108,173	107,311					
PERCENT OF NON-RESIDENTS:	1.04%	0.87%	0.61%	1.33%	1.50%					

DAILY ENTRIES

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
INDIVIDUAL RESIDENT	6,798	2,552	50	2,043	3,718	\$ 54,384	\$ 20,416	\$ 454	\$ 20,428	\$ 37,180
INDIVIDUAL NON-RESIDENT	734	212	17	194	327	6,606	1,908	169	2,326	3,804
S/Y/D RESIDENT	6,075	2,122	46	2,000	3,858	36,450	12,732	321	14,345	30,061
S/Y/D NON-RESIDENT	261	105	2	897	142	1,827	735	18	6,442	1,196
INDIVIDUAL FITNESS RESIDENT	169	46	-	13	580	1,064	264	-	78	3,414
INDIVIDUAL FITNESS NON-RESIDENT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SENIOR FITNESS RESIDENT	426	129	-	35	870	2,327	756	-	175	4,260
SENIOR FITNESS NON-RESIDENT	12	3	-	-	-	28	14	-	-	-
DAILY PASS/GIFT CERTIFICATE SALES	-	75	1	1	100	3,606	450	245	10	600
SUB-TOTAL	14,475	5,244	116	5,183	9,595	\$ 106,292	\$ 37,275	\$ 1,207	\$ 43,804	\$ 80,515
PERCENT OF NON-RESIDENTS:	6.96%	6.19%	16.59%	21.05%	4.94%					

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

		OTHER REVENUE									
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
DAYCAMP		3,282	23	15	2,763	132	\$ 88,617	\$ 630	\$ 405	\$ 74,590	\$ 76,886
RECREATION PROGRAMS		28,520	8,545	23,079	16,593	21,209	144,726	25,786	46,417	119,824	148,457
FACILITY RENTALS	POOL/STUDIO/	210	106	13	-	-	5,048	2,554	300	-	-
	PARTY PAVILION	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MISC. RETAIL		333	84	76	11	97	9,037	2,318	2,490	58	2,931
LOCKERS		25,148	9,068	3,120	8,124	9,292	6,287	2,267	780	2,031	2,323
VENDING		-	-	-	-	-	1,425	1,208	-	-	-
	SUB-TOTAL	<u>57,493</u>	<u>17,827</u>	<u>26,303</u>	<u>27,491</u>	<u>30,730</u>	<u>\$ 255,141</u>	<u>\$ 34,764</u>	<u>\$ 50,392</u>	<u>\$ 196,503</u>	<u>\$ 230,597</u>
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
YTD TOTAL PARTICIPATION & REVENUE:		205,205	69,051	109,510	142,746	149,980	\$ 837,855	\$ 261,091	\$ 236,115	\$ 558,398	\$ 731,321

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

	GREEN FEES									
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
WEEKDAYS										
REGULAR - 9	929	673	748	367	357	\$ 7,273	\$ 7,363	\$ 8,708	\$ 9,256	\$ 9,069
SR/JR/STUDENT - 9	465	552	574	448	434	6,812	9,622	9,789	9,613	9,249
LEAGUES - 9	4,104	2,771	3,439	3,922	4,344	65,931	47,585	58,463	67,757	78,567
REGULAR - 18	2,005	3,879	3,293	8,490	9,732	60,144	117,451	113,279	179,672	198,840
SR/JR/STUDENT - 18	3,951	3,398	4,557	4,454	3,537	81,552	81,781	107,477	99,372	98,097
TWI-LIGHT	1,848	2,041	1,419	923	854	30,793	40,744	27,315	19,248	19,327
WEEKENDS										
REGULAR - 9	229	201	205	302	298	5,061	5,273	5,239	9,254	9,084
SR/JR/STUDENT - 9	37	37	9	43	22	592	703	171	875	526
REGULAR - 18	3,264	3,461	5,041	2,592	2,768	109,077	124,165	183,780	100,485	109,775
SR/JR/STUDENT - 18	289	252	496	466	581	7,514	7,288	14,532	15,301	21,375
TWI-LIGHT	1,214	1,327	756	25	427	27,964	33,953	19,199	11,260	12,486
EARLY BIRD - 9	58	36	35	13	13	928	684	665	299	299
MEMBERSHIPS										
ULTIMATE PACKAGE	269	387	555	1,328	1,806	9,500	15,775	24,898	46,355	47,083
WEEKDAY PACKAGE	754	1,174	1,481	204	501	9,400	10,257	14,921	13,225	18,725
WEEKEND PACKAGE	130	-	183	13	23	750	-	800	1,650	1,650
TWI-LIGHT PACKAGE	335	269	238	58	48	5,525	3,850	4,575	8,225	5,450
OUTINGS (WEEKDAYS & WEEKENDS)	<u>1,148</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>696</u>	<u>1,128</u>	<u>1,542</u>	<u>35,071</u>	<u>2,668</u>	<u>26,142</u>	<u>42,510</u>	<u>56,344</u>
	21,029	20,550	23,725	24,776	27,287	\$ 463,887	\$ 509,162	\$ 619,953	\$ 634,357	\$ 695,946
PROGRAMMING & RETAIL OPERATIONS										
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
CARTS	16,234	16,231	19,486	17,134	17,849	\$ 111,905	\$ 113,059	\$ 138,961	\$ 103,792	\$ 103,412
RENTALS	<u>65</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>650</u>	<u>240</u>	<u>380</u>	<u>130</u>	<u>280</u>
	16,299	16,255	19,524	17,147	17,877	\$ 112,555	\$ 113,299	\$ 139,341	\$ 103,922	\$ 103,692
FOOD & BEVERAGE	42,341	29,421	46,907	44,371	48,804	\$ 114,256	\$ 81,605	\$ 130,794	\$ 129,652	\$ 155,846
PRO SHOP	3,149	2,601	3,437	3,053	3,351	35,764	31,136	44,210	43,830	47,909
DISCOUNTS	-	-	-	-	3,827	(70,458)	(90,063)	(129,829)	-	(10,773)
VENDING	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>780</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,016</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	45,490	32,022	50,344	47,424	52,155	\$ 80,342	\$ 22,677	\$ 46,191	\$ 173,483	\$ 192,982
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
YTD TOTAL PARTICIPATION & REVENUE:	82,818	68,827	93,593	89,347	97,319	\$ 656,784	\$ 645,138	\$ 805,485	\$ 911,761	\$ 992,620

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

	GATE									
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
RESIDENTS (ANNUAL)	962	1,013	1,308	1,110	973	\$ 27,900	\$ 30,390	\$ 39,240	\$ 33,300	\$ 29,204
NON-RESIDENTS (ANNUAL)	169	184	338	359	322	7,200	8,280	15,210	16,155	\$ 14,490
RESIDENTS (DAILY)	5,473	4,843	6,498	5,478	6,021	32,838	29,058	38,988	32,868	\$ 36,126
NON-RESIDENTS (DAILY)	4,742	4,058	6,598	6,052	6,461	47,420	40,580	65,980	60,520	\$ 64,610
SENIOR (DAILY)	558	458	743	603	669	1,674	1,374	2,229	1,809	\$ 2,007
SENIOR-NON RES. (DAILY)	312	232	385	466	553	1,872	1,392	2,310	2,796	\$ 3,318
BUSES (DAILY)	19	-	8	18	35	570	-	240	540	\$ 1,050
ANNUAL BUS	8	-	-	1	1	150	-	-	150	\$ 150
MINI BUS	20	3	10	35	54	300	45	150	525	\$ 810
ANNUAL MINI BUS	<u>15</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>525</u>	<u>225</u>	<u>300</u>	<u>225</u>	<u>225</u>
	12,278	10,794	15,892	14,125	15,092	\$ 120,449	\$ 111,344	\$ 164,647	\$ 148,888	\$ 151,990

PERCENT OF NON-RESIDENTS:

ANNUAL	14.9%	15.4%	20.5%	24.4%	24.9%
DAILY	45.6%	44.7%	49.1%	51.7%	51.2%

BLUE HERON BAY ATTENDANCE

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
BHB ANNUAL PASSES	132	-	-	125	83	\$ 2,388	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,530	\$ 6,473
BHB DAILY ENTRANCE	<u>12,725</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,723</u>	<u>15,246</u>	<u>21,237</u>	<u>47,212</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>27,372</u>	<u>67,236</u>	<u>75,991</u>
	12,857	-	6,723	15,371	21,320	\$ 49,600	\$ -	\$ 27,372	\$ 72,766	\$ 82,464

BLUE HERON BAY RETAIL OPERATION

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
FACILITY RENTALS	4	-	24	48	75	\$ 80	\$ -	\$ 990	\$ 2,980	\$ 5,355
SPECIAL EVENTS	<u>3</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>250</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>180</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>270</u>
	7	-	25	48	77	\$ 330	\$ -	\$ 1,170	\$ 2,980	\$ 5,625
LOCKERS	143	-	-	172	41	\$ 36	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 43	\$ 10
FOOD CONCESSIONS	10,229	118	6,536	15,702	13,792	21,434	125	15,755	37,397	46,845
ACCESSORIES/MISC.	<u>39</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>83</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>28</u>
	10,411	120	6,565	15,908	13,847	\$ 21,524	\$ 175	\$ 15,838	\$ 37,495	\$ 46,883

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

PROGRAMMING & RETAIL OPERATIONS

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
DAYCAMP	1,490	6	1,960	2,149	94	\$ 40,217	\$ 150	\$ 52,910	\$ 58,036	\$ 60,906
DISC GOLF	238	4,003	4,924	2,655	1,703	476	8,006	9,848	5,310	6,216
SPECIAL EVENTS	<u>226</u>	<u>161</u>	<u>622</u>	<u>617</u>	<u>153</u>	<u>4,835</u>	<u>2,225</u>	<u>7,131</u>	<u>6,470</u>	<u>7,405</u>
	1,954	4,170	7,506	5,421	1,950	\$ 45,528	\$ 10,381	\$ 69,889	\$ 69,816	\$ 74,527
 FACILITY RENTALS										
WEEKDAYS	61	8	17	37	25	\$ 4,080	\$ 880	\$ 1,520	\$ 4,200	\$ 3,000
WEEKENDS	<u>71</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>94</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>101</u>	<u>8,375</u>	<u>2,900</u>	<u>10,030</u>	<u>9,910</u>	<u>\$ 11,685</u>
	132	33	111	129	126	\$ 12,455	\$ 3,780	\$ 11,550	\$ 14,110	\$ 14,685
 ROW BOATS-HOURLY	144	-	136	113	96	\$ 720	\$ -	\$ 680	\$ 565	\$ 480
ROW BOATS-DAILY	32	-	39	25	33	640	-	780	500	\$ 660
PADDLE BOATS-1 HOUR	-	-	-	-	31	-	-	-	-	\$ 434
PADDLE BOATS-1/2 HOUR	449	-	589	346	289	3,143	-	4,123	2,422	\$ 2,023
SINGLE KAYAK-2 HOURS	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	\$ 120
DOUBLE KAYAK-2 HOURS	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>360</u>
	625	-	764	484	467	\$ 4,503	\$ -	\$ 5,583	\$ 3,487	\$ 4,077
 FOOD CONCESSIONS	6,972	5,287	6,536	5,181	4,704	\$ 11,876	\$ 10,739	\$ 14,910	\$ 10,704	\$ 14,983
ACCESSORIES/MISC.	<u>33</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>130</u>	<u>112</u>	<u>102</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>25</u>
	7,005	5,308	6,551	5,199	4,721	\$ 12,006	\$ 10,850	\$ 15,012	\$ 10,731	\$ 15,008
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
YTD TOTAL PARTICIPATION & REVENUE:	45,269	20,425	44,137	56,685	57,600	\$ 266,395	\$ 136,531	\$ 311,060	\$ 360,273	\$ 395,259



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MEMORANDUM

To: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Coy P. Vaughn, Director
Date: October 10, 2023
Re: J. Russell Property – Final Approval

Background

In 2016, the Natural Areas Preservation Program (NAPP), received the nomination for the J. Russell property, which was prioritized as a Tier 1 priority. The 12.5-acre nomination is located in Scio Township and contains forests, prairies, and wetlands and has views of nearly a half-mile along the Huron River on Barton Pond. It also has the potential to be accessed by a future segment of the Border-to-Border Trail. At the close of Round 16, the Natural Areas Technical Advisory Committee recommended the J. Russell Property for further consideration by the Commission. The City of Ann Arbor has committed 50% purchase price towards the purchase.

Discussion

This property has long been under consideration for acquisition and preservation. The property is located along the Huron River and contains grassland, woodland and wetland habitats. An extensive bird list for the site has been compiled and birds, such as bald eagles and osprey have been seen on the site. The center of the parcel is an 8 acre tall grass prairie/savannah, with scattered black oaks and Jack Pine. Mr. Russell would regularly steward the prairie by utilizing prescribed fire with the cooperation of the Pioneer High School Ecology classes.

The attached schematic shows the conceptual location of the Border to Border Trail, running parallel to the railroad corridor. This section is in preliminary concept phase to explore possible alignments and environmental assessments are underway. This portion of the property will be purchased with Parks funds, as previously done with other acquisitions.

An appraisal was completed in February 2019 and determined the value of the land to be \$460,000 for 12.54 acres. The project has been delayed due to circumstances with the property owner, COVID-19, and complications with negotiating with the landowner on the boundaries of the property. The acquisition was further delayed by the passing of John Russell. His sisters have been awarded power by the court to handle his estate.

Purchase Price	= \$460,000
City of Ann Arbor	= \$230,000
Remaining	= \$230,000

In 2021 a survey and Phase I environmental site assessment report was completed, noting no Recognized Environmental Conditions (RECs).

Recommendation

Based upon the review by staff and the Natural Areas Technical Advisory Committee, along with the completion of the due diligence, it is my recommendation the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission authorize the fee simple purchase of the John Russell property as identified in attached maps in the amount of \$460,000, with \$40,480 (1.1 acres) from the Parks funds and \$189,520 from NAPP funds and partnership with the City of Ann Arbor Greenbelt, contingent upon attorney review of final closing documents. I further recommend that \$6,000 be contributed to the stewardship special revenue fund for the future maintenance and management of the land.

Attachments

J Russell Property: Local Area Aerial

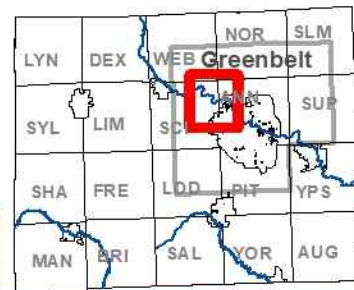
Natural Areas Preservation Program

Nomination ID: 16.268

Scio Township

+/-12.5 Acres

Washtenaw County
Locator Map



J Russell Property: Aerial & Soils

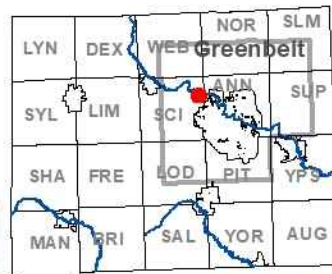
Natural Areas Preservation Program

Nomination ID: 16.268

Scio Township

+/- 12.5 Acres

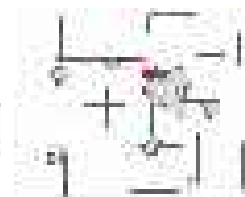
Washtenaw County
Locator Map





Concept Trail Layout Russell Property

0 25 50 Feet

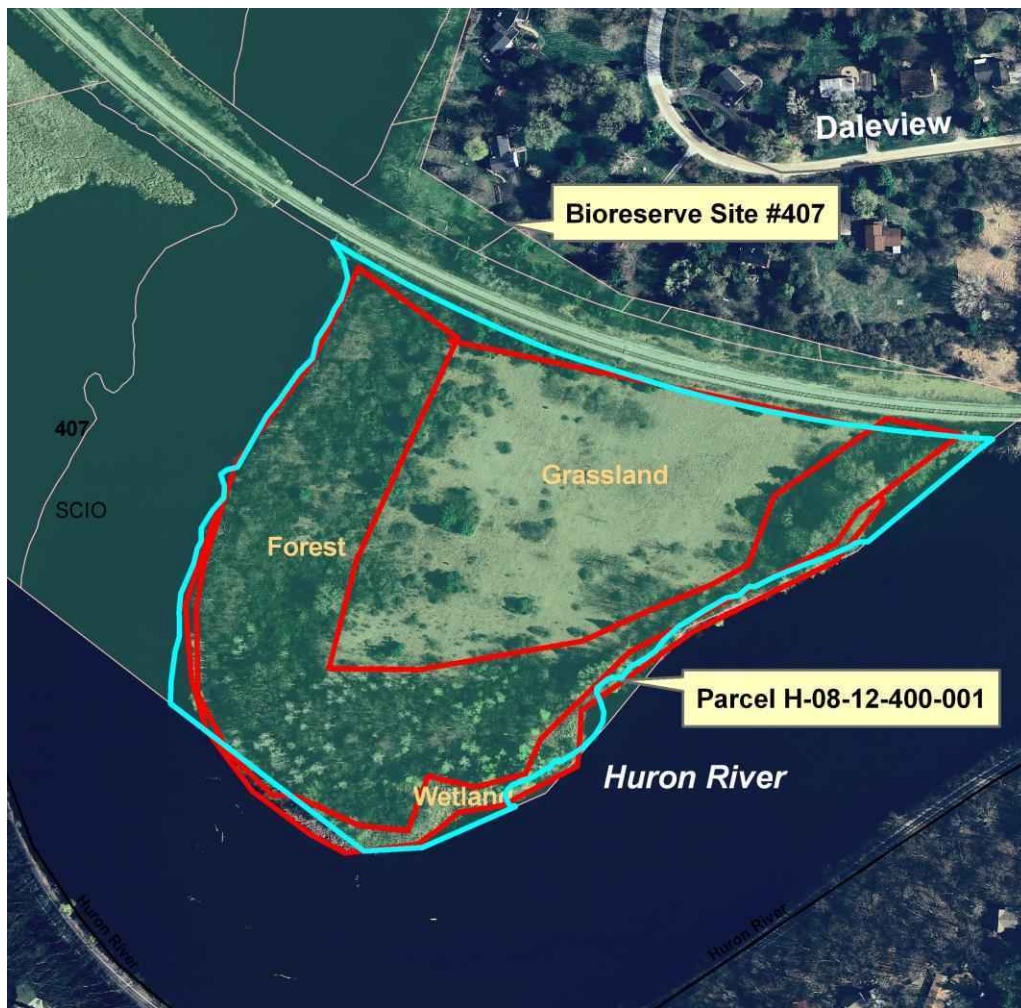


City of Ann Arbor
Department of Public Works
Office of Transportation
1000 Main Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48106
313.487.2000
www.a2gov.org

HRWC Bioreserve Site Assessment

Site: Parcel H-08-12-400-001, about 11.1 acres of the 20-acre Bioreserve Site #:
[Scio407Russell].

I. Site Location and Natural Areas Assessed:



II. Bioreserve Map and Field Assessment Score:

The site receives scores based on the GIS model underlying the Bioreserve Map and based on the field assessment.

The “Bioreserve Map” ranks natural areas based on the ecological services they provide. HRWC used aerial photographs taken over Oakland, Livingston, Wayne, Washtenaw, and Monroe counties to create the map. HRWC drew boundaries around areas on the photographs that appeared to be woodland, wetland, or open field, and then ranked those areas based on 15 ecological criteria such as size, vegetation types, etc.

The first column in the table on page three lists how the Bioreserve Map ranks the site for 15 ecological criteria. Rankings for each criterion range from 0 to 100.

The Bioreserve Map score is 525, which places it in the **mid-range** [lower range: 25-366; mid-range: 366-591; highest range: 591 – 1224] of all the Bioreserve Sites in the watershed ranging from 25 – 1244. For more details on how the sites were scored on the Bioreserve Map, see <http://www.hrwc.org/our-work/bioreserve/bioreserve-map/>.

The next two columns give Field Assessment scores for each type of natural area visited by the field assessment team. For each answer a team could enter on the worksheet, the site receives a certain number of points. For instance, for each plant a team checks off on the plant list, the site receives 5 points. If invasive species are listed as dominant, the site receives fewer points than if native species are checked as dominant. Each ecosystem within the natural area receives two scores, one for ecological integrity and one for level of disturbance.

Potential maximum points each type of natural area could receive:

Ecosystem Type	Ecological Integrity (higher score indicates higher quality site)	Level of Disturbance (higher score indicates higher level of disturbance on site)
Wetlands		
Bog or fen	255	100
Other wetlands	171	110
Forests	144	154
Grasslands	126	239
Waterways	51	n/a

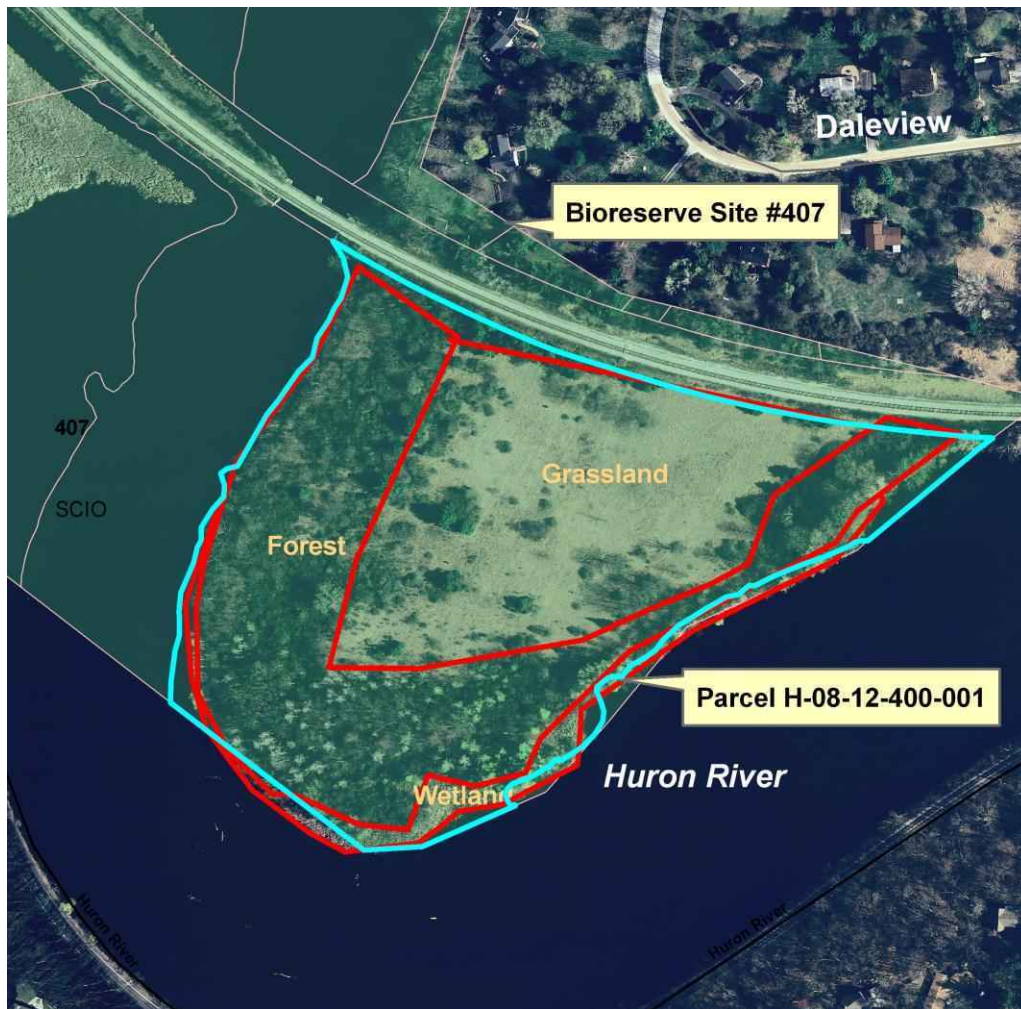
III. Scores for the Natural Area:

SITE NO. 407			
	Entire site's Bioreserve Map scores	This parcel's field scores	
Ranking Criteria	Site #407 Ranking	Ecological integrity	Level of disturbance
Rank for Size	0		
Rank for Core Size	0		
Rank for Water	100		
Rank for Wetlands	100		
Rank for Groundwater	75		
Rank for Remnant Ecosystems	25		
Rank for Glacial Diversity	0		
Rank for Topography	25		
Rank for Connectedness Count	0		
Rank for Connectedness%	50		
Rank for Potentially Unchanged %	50		
Rank for Potentially Unchanged Area	0		
Rank for Restorability	25		
Rank for MNFI Communities	0		
Rank for Biorarity	75		
Final Rank	525		
This parcel's natural area sites:			
	Wetland:	53.7	22
	Forest:	51	48
	Grassland:	82	61

IV. Site Landscape Context:

Landscape of the 1800s: 3. Oak savanna ecosystems have undergone drastic reductions as the area has been settled and are considered endangered ecosystems (see map below).

Glacial landscape: the site is an oxbow of the Huron River consisting entirely of outwash sand/gravel & postglacial alluvium (deposited by a river or other running water).



V. Field Assessment:

The volunteer team visited the site on 6/18/2008, and spent about two hours assessing the site.

For the purposes of the assessment, the team delineated three different ecosystems on aerial photos of the site: one wetland, one forest, and one grassland.

VI. Site Overview:

The landscape is flat and hilly. Signs of wildlife observed by the team included carcasses, deer, fish, ground birds, burrows, and wood cock, pileated woodpecker.

Overall disturbance is mild, and consists of railroads, abandoned agricultural field, and rock piles. Invasive species are present in isolated pockets within a single community and in large monotypic stands in one community.

Assessment highlights: The grassland on this site received a significantly higher than average score for the field assessment. The wetland, forest, and grassland lie in what was historically oak savanna, an ecosystem type that has undergone drastic reductions as the area has been settled and is considered endangered.

A. Wetland:

Ecological Integrity Score: 53.7 out of 171 possible

Disturbance Score: 22 out of 100 possible

The wetland is 1.1 acres in size and runs along the edge of the river. The wetland is at the margin of a waterway, is at the base of a hill or slope, appears to occasionally flood, and has groundwater seepage areas. Where soils were exposed by animal burrows and fallen trees, the team found dark brown soils. The wetland vegetation has distinct zones, and includes an open water area, an emergent marsh area, a wet meadow area, and a shrub area.

Emergent and floating-leaf plants, grasses, forbs, shrubs, trees, and invasives that together include pickerelweed, tussock sedge, various sedges, Joe-pye weed, skunk cabbage, dogwood (silky), willow, red maple, cat-tails, and reed canary-grass are common.

Invasives are distributed primarily within the wetland interior. Overall human disturbance is moderate.

Functional Values of Wetlands

Smaller wetlands isolated from lakes and streams can serve as many ecological functions as larger wetlands.

Water quality protection

Acting as living filters, wetlands filter pollutants from rain water and snow melt that flows off of developed areas and farm fields. Wetland plants remove phosphorus and nitrogen from the water. Wetlands also adsorb bacteria, toxic metals, pesticides, and grease.

Protection from shoreline/streambank erosion

Wetland plant roots stabilize soil and help prevent soil erosion. Vegetation dampens wave action along lakes and moderates the current of rivers.

Wildlife and plant habitat

Over half of Michigan's wildlife depends upon wetlands for food, shelter, or nesting habitat, including endangered and threatened species like the bald eagle, osprey, loon and sandhill crane.

Wetlands support some of the most diverse plant communities of all ecosystems. Nearly all fish species and amphibians require wetlands for food and shelter, and they are the preferred habitat of muskrat, otter, beaver, mink and raccoon.

Aesthetics and recreation

Wetlands provide recreation such as hiking, birdwatching, nature photography, canoeing, hunting, fishing, and trapping, and generate revenues to the local community through these activities. Wetlands greatly enhance the value of neighboring properties.

Flood and stormwater control

Wetlands hold rainwater and snow melt during wet times, decreasing flooding. They release the water gradually in dry times, thus helping streams maintain steady flows.

Groundwater recharge

Just as wetlands can hold water in wet times, they become sources of water during dry periods. They can serve as recharge areas to local aquifers, keeping our groundwater supply constant.

Source: Huron River Watershed Council, Ann Arbor, MI, 2002

Wet Meadow Overview:

Wet prairie is a native lowland grassland occurring on level, saturated and/or seasonally inundated stream and river floodplains, lake margins, and isolated depressions in southern Lower Michigan. It is typically found on outwash plains and channels near moraines. Soils are primarily loam or silt loam of neutral pH and have high organic content. Dominant species include bluejoint grass, cordgrass, and sedges.

Marsh Overview:

Marshes are the most prevalent and widely distributed wetlands in North America. They are mostly freshwater marshes, although some are brackish or alkaline. Marshes are defined as wetlands frequently or continually inundated with water, characterized by emergent soft-stemmed vegetation adapted to saturated soil conditions. They frequently occur along streams in poorly drained depressions, and in the shallow water along the boundaries of lakes, ponds, and rivers. Water levels in these wetlands generally vary from a few inches to two or three feet, and some marshes, like prairie potholes, may periodically dry out completely.

It is easy to recognize a marsh by its characteristic soils, vegetation, and wildlife. Highly organic, mineral rich soils of sand, silt, and clay underlie these wetlands, while lily pads, cattails, reeds, and bulrushes provide excellent habitat for waterfowl and other small mammals, such as Red-winged Blackbirds, Great Blue Herons, otters, and muskrats.

Functions & Values:

Due to their high levels of nutrients, freshwater marshes are one of the most productive ecosystems on earth. They can sustain a vast array of plant communities that in turn support a wide variety of wildlife within this vital wetland ecosystem. As a result, marshes sustain a diversity of life that is way out of proportion with its size. In addition to their considerable habitat value, marshes serve to mitigate flood damage and filter excess nutrients from surface runoff.

Marshes recharge groundwater supplies and moderate streamflow by providing water to streams. This is an especially important function during periods of drought. The presence of marshes in a watershed helps to reduce damage caused by floods by slowing and storing flood water. As water moves slowly through a marsh, sediment and other pollutants settle to the substrate, or floor of the marsh. Marsh vegetation and microorganisms also use excess nutrients for growth that can otherwise pollute surface water such as nitrogen and phosphorus from fertilizer. This wetland type is very important to preserving the quality of surface waters. In fact, marshes are so good at cleaning polluted waters that people are now building replicas of this wetland type to treat wastewater from farms, parking lots, and small sewage plants.

Status:

Unfortunately, like many other wetland ecosystems, freshwater marshes have suffered major acreage losses to human development. Some have been degraded by excessive deposits of nutrients and sediment from construction and farming. Severe flooding and nutrient deposition to downstream waters have often followed marsh destruction and degradation. Such environmental problems prove the vital roles these wetlands play. This realization has spurred enhanced protection and restoration of marsh ecosystems.

Source: U. S. Environmental Protection Agency

B. Forest:

Ecological Integrity Score: 51 out of 144 possible

Disturbance Score: 48 out of 154 possible

The forest is 8 acres in size and forms a horseshoe shape along the edge of the site. It has a mixture of tree sizes. Native trees and invasive species are co-dominant on the site.

Though no one single size of tree really dominates this forest, large trees (>10 inches diameter) and medium-sized trees (6-10 inches diameter) are most abundant. Small trees (2-6 inches diameter) are also present, along with a few very large trees (>18 inches diameter) and saplings. Where soils were exposed by animal burrows and fallen trees, the team found light tan or brown soils.

The largest tree species are basswood, black cherry, maple (sugar), and oak (black, white, red); moderately-sized trees include black cherry, maple (red), and oak (white, red, shingle); small trees are represented by ash, basswood, and oak (red, black, white, shingle); saplings include ash. Native trees and invasive species dominate the forest. The team reported native shrubs and vines such as poison ivy, and native herbaceous ground cover such as sedges.

The team found invasive species primarily within the forest interior pervasively throughout the site. Invasive species observed include autumn olive, common, glossy buckthorn, garlic mustard, and honeysuckle. Human disturbance is mild, as the team noted the presence of rock piles. The team found autumn olive, buckthorn (glossy and common), garlic mustard, and honeysuckle pervasive throughout the site. However, this “carpet” of honeysuckle and buckthorn in the shrub layer of the forest covered a number of native plants growing underneath. Removing these invasive shrubs could allow native groundcover to recover and become co-dominant with the largely native overstory. Human disturbance on the site was mild.

Forest Overview:

A healthy forest is a complex, interdependent community of plants, animals and soil. Each layer of the forest provides diverse habitats and helps to protect clean water. The canopy is the forest's top layer. It shades and protects animals and plants below, while also intercepting and slowing rainfall. Beneath the canopy is the understory, a second layer made up of smaller trees and shrubs. As older trees die and leave gaps in the canopy, younger trees grow to replace them. The next layer, the forest floor, is populated by vines, grasses, mosses, worms, insects, fungi, bacteria and other small plants and animals. They continually decompose leaves, wood and other organic material that falls to the forest floor so that it may be reused by larger plants. This layer is also a storehouse of nutrients. The litter on the forest floor protects the soil, the bottom layer of the forest. Healthy forests often contain more living biomass in the soil below ground than on the surface.

Values & Functions:

Forests protect clean water:

Similar to wetlands, forests act as giant sponges that absorb and slowly release pollutants like nutrients and sediment from stormwater runoff. Forests store, clean and slowly release about two-thirds of the water that maintains stream flow and replenishes groundwater. Riparian forests that buffer streams significantly reduce the amount of excess nitrogen and phosphorus that enters a water body, sometimes by as much as 30 to 90 percent. Forests protect and filter drinking water for people. Mature trees provide deep root systems that hold soil in place, helping to stabilize stream banks and reduce erosion.

Forests provide habitat for wildlife:

Healthy forests provide food, shelter, nesting sites and safe migration paths for critters in the water and on the land. Riparian forests shade the water beneath their canopies, maintaining cooler water temperatures in summer, an important factor for spawning fish. Decaying leaves and wood on the forest floor are also essential links in the food web.

Forests clean the air:

Forests absorb and trap nitrogen, particulates and other pollutants released into the atmosphere by cars, industries, agriculture and construction. Forests retain more than 85 percent of the nitrogen deposited on them from the air. Trees also produce the oxygen that we breathe.

Source: Chesapeake Bay Program

C. Grassland:

Ecological Integrity Score: 82 out of 126 possible

Disturbance Score: 61 out of 239 possible

The grassland is 2 acres in size and makes up the largest portion of the site. The trees that are present are spaced far apart. There are only occasional, scattered saplings and small trees. Where soils were exposed by animal burrows and fallen trees, the team found sandy soils.

The most abundant size categories of trees are saplings. Large trees (> 10 inches diameter) include oak (pin); medium-sized trees (6-10 inches diameter) include oak; saplings present include oak.

Native grasses are dominant, including big bluestem and little bluestem. Native forbs are also abundant, and include butterflyweed, short goldenrod, lespedezas (ticktrefoil), and milkweed (not common or whorled). Native shrubs and vines and native trees that together include dogwood (gray) and oaks (pin) are also common, along with a few non-native grasses, invasive forbs, and non-native shrubs and trees that together include autumn olive, buckthorn (gloss), and honeysuckle.

Overall, invasive species are distributed pervasively throughout the area, and are found along trails and edges, within the interior, in isolated pockets, and in large monotypic stands. Human disturbance is absent. The team observed evidence of plowing that included visible ridges and furrows.

Prairie Overview:

A prairie is a visually open community rich in plant species with vegetation dominated by tall grasses associated with subdominant broad-leaved herbs. Trees and shrubs are almost totally absent, but a few may grow as woodland patches in valleys and other depressions. Grasses are deeply rooted and form a continuous cover. They flower in spring and early summer, with forbs appearing in late summer. Tallgrass prairies are among the most productive vegetation types in the world.

Each species is adapted to the extreme temperatures, drought, wind, light intensity, fire and grazing that are part of the prairie plant's environment. Native prairie plants grow extensive root systems that help them maintain a favorable water balance and allow rapid regrowth after fire or grazing. In fact, two-thirds of the plants total biomass is composed of the root system. Disturbance and fire history influence plant composition. Some prairie species require soil disturbance, such as that provided by animal burrows, to get started, and some species do best when fires are frequent or occur at a particular season.

In Michigan prior to European settlement, the prairie community was restricted to the southern third of the Lower Peninsula, and was a tallgrass savanna and woodland – intermixed with prairie and forest. This community was dependent on frequent fire and developed over thousands of years. Today healthy prairie and savanna communities have almost disappeared. Settlement profoundly impacted prairies by the introduction of exotic species, including weeds, and invasive trees and shrubs that gained a foothold when the regular cycle of fires was interrupted, and essentially ceased. The disturbance of ground for agriculture and development also greatly reduced native seed sources.

Source: U. S. Forest Service; Virginia M. Kline, The Tallgrass Restoration Handbook (1997)

Savanna Overview:

In the Midwest, the term “savanna” describes a landscape consisting of a matrix of trees and grasses that historically was part of a larger complex bordered by prairies to the west and forests to the east. The community type was maintained by frequent fires and by large migrating mammals like bison and elk. Plant composition within savannas includes a tree layer, shrub layer

and ground layer. Tree species vary depending on geography but bur oak grows throughout the entire zone. Since savannas depend on fire for their continued existence, the trees present must tolerate frequent fire. Most oak species meet this requirement.

Oak barrens are found on droughty soils and occur typically on nearly level to slightly undulating sandy glacial outwash, and less often on sandy moraines or ice contact features. Presently oak savanna remnants occur on just 0.02% of their presettlement extent (Nuzzo 1986). This now rare community constitutes less than 0.0005% of the present vegetation of Michigan. Oak barrens have been cleared for sand mining, agriculture, and residential and urban development (Chapman et al. 1995). Alteration of historic fire regimes has shifted most barrens types into woodlands and forest (Curtis 1959, Faber-Langendoen 1993).

For more information about Oak barrens, read the community abstract from the Michigan natural features Inventory: http://web4.msue.msu.edu/mnfi/abstracts/ecology/Oak_barrens.pdf

Source: Virginia M. Kline, The Tallgrass Restoration Handbook (1997); Michigan Natural Features Inventory, MSU

Lakeplain Oak Openings/Prairie Overview

Lakeplain oak openings occur within glacial lakeplains on sand ridges, level sandplains, or adjacent depressions. This fire-dependent savanna type is dominated by oaks and has a graminoid-dominated ground layer of species associated with both lakeplain prairie and forest communities.

Develop this copy as needed by going to the MNFI abstract:
<http://web4.msue.msu.edu/mnfi/communities/community.cfm?id=10710>

VII. Species List:

Wetland

Grasses/Sedges

Sedge, Tussock
Sedges (Various)

Forbs

Spleenwort, Ebony
Cattail
Goldenrod
Joe-Pye Weed
Mayapple
Pickerelweed
Skunk Cabbage
Bluejacket
Turtlehead

Shrubs/Vines

Dogwood, Silky
Poison Sumac
Potentilla
Willow, Shrubby

Trees

Elm
Hawthorn

Invasives

Reed Canarygrass

Forest

Grasses/Sedges

Grasses (Various)

Sedges (Various)

Shrubs/Vines

Poison Ivy

Trees

Ash

Basswood

Cherry, Black

Maple, Red

Maple, Silver

Grassland

Grasses/Sedges

Big Bluestem

Grasses (Various)

Little Bluestem

Sedges (Various)

Switchgrass

Forbs

Butterfly Weed

Horsetail

Goldenrod

Hawkweed

Impatiens

Lespedeza

Milkweed

Polygonatum spp.

Primrose

Pussytoes

Arrowhead

Sorrel

Spiderwort

Yarrow

Oak, Black

Oak, Red

Oak, Swamp White

Invasives

Autumn Olive

Buckthorn, Common

Buckthorn, Glossy

Garlic Mustard

Honeysuckle

Shrubs/Vines

Blackberry

Chokeberry, Black

Poison Ivy

St. John's Wort

Strawberry

Sumac

Trees

Aspen

Pine, Jack

Pine, Scotch

Sassafras

Invasives

Autumn Olive

Buckthorn, Common

Buckthorn, Glossy

Garlic Mustard

Honeysuckle

A note about invasive species and their management:

Most properties in southeast Michigan have at least some invasive plant species growing on them. Invasive plants are plants which grow quickly and aggressively, spreading and displacing other plants. Invasives are usually introduced by people either accidentally or intentionally, into a region far from their native habitat. Whether your property is found to be minimally or pervasively covered with invasive species now is the time to understand which species grow there and what management options you have to control and, if possible, eradicate them. The following practical steps for managing invasive plants are from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

What Can I Do about Invasive Plants?

The best insurance against future problems is to avoid the use of known invasive plants and educate others about the problems of invasives. This web site lists many of the plants that are invasive in Pennsylvania. Plants on this list should be avoided because they can escape cultivation and aggressively move into surrounding ecosystems. One way to avoid invasives is to choose plants that are native to your area. Natives often are adapted to a specific environmental niche, and have natural controls that keep them in balance.

Minimize landscape disturbance. Invasive plants thrive on bare soil and disturbed ground where the native plant community has been displaced. The key to controlling invasives is to protect healthy native plant communities.

Use fertilizers wisely. Proper site preparation begins with a soil test before applying fertilizer. High nitrogen levels sometimes give an advantage to invasive species that are better adapted to using plentiful nutrients for explosive growth. For soil fertility, try using organic, slow-decomposing compost and mulches

Have a land management plan for maintenance over time. It makes sense when designing a property to plan for future maintenance. Lawns are maintained by weekly mowing, while gardens are often hand-weeded. Meadows in Pennsylvania may need to be mowed every year. Woodlands are probably the lowest-maintenance landscape, but they too will need to be monitored and invasive plants removed.

Scout your property annually for invasives or other problems. The best way to control invasives is prevention, and prevention can only happen through vigilance. Listed on this web site are resources to help property owners.

Remove invasives before they are a problem. Effective scouting or monitoring means that problems are found while they are still small and easily controllable. For instance, do not let invasive plants go to seed. Mechanical removal through digging or cutting is preferred. Large populations of invasives may need to be stopped chemically with spot applications of herbicide by trained individuals or by homeowners carefully following label instructions.

Replace invasive plants with native or noninvasive species. Invasives are good at exploiting bare soil and empty niches. When you remove an invasive plant, unless there is another plant substituted, the invasive will tend to come right back. What grows in the future depends largely on what is there now; so it is important to fill that niche with a desirable plant that will provide seed for the future.

Remove invasives first when their densities are low. This gives the most immediate success because invasive plant control works best where there is a functioning native plant community still in place which can move right into the empty niche.

- Avoid using known invasive plants
- Minimize landscape disturbance
- Protect healthy native plant communities
- Use fertilizers wisely
- Have a land management plan for maintenance over time
- Scout regularly
- Remove invasive plants when they are present in low numbers or when they are confined to a small area before they become a problem
- Dispose of removed invasive plants wisely
- Replace invasive plants with native or noninvasive species
- Clean equipment that has been used in an area having invasive plants

Disclaimer: The Rapid Ecological Assessment (Assessment) provides on-the-ground field assessment of a natural area. The Assessment provides detailed information about the ecological quality of a site for the purposes of the HRWC Bioreserve Project and is conducted by a team of trained volunteers. The Assessment is not a professional ecological inventory and should not be interpreted as a scientifically complete ecological inventory or plant list.

Birds of the Russell Property, Huron River Drive/Daleview Dr.
by Dr. Will Weber April 2016

*—Denotes confirmed or probable nesting species

- Canada Goose *
- Mute Swan *
- Trumpeter Swan
- Wood Duck *
- Gadwall
- American Wigeon
- American Black Duck
- Mallard *
- Blue-winged Teal
- Northern Shoveler
- Northern Pintail
- Green-winged Teal
- Canvasback
- Redhead
- Ring-necked Duck
- Greater Scaup
- Lesser Scaup
- Bufflehead
- Common Goldeneye
- Hooded Merganser *
- Common Merganser
- Red-breasted Merganser
- Ruddy Duck
-

• **Wild Turkey**

Loons and Grebes

- Common Loon
- Pied-billed Grebe
- Horned Grebe
-

Cormorants, Anhingas, and Pelicans

- Double-crested Cormorant

Hérons, Ibis, and Allies

- Great Blue Heron
- Great Egret
- Black-crowned Night-Heron
- Green Heron *

Vultures, Hawks, and Allies

- Turkey Vulture
- Osprey
- Sharp-shinned Hawk
- Cooper's Hawk *
- Bald Eagle
- Red-shouldered Hawk
- Red-tailed Hawk
- Broad-winged Hawk
-

Rails, Gallinules, and Allies

-
- American Coot

Cranes

*Sandhill Crane

Shorebirds

- Killdeer *
- Greater Yellowlegs
- Lesser Yellowlegs
- Spotted Sandpiper *
- Wilson's Snipe
- American Woodcock *

Goatsuckers

- Common Nighthawk
Whipoorwill

Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers

- Bonaparte's Gull
- Ring-billed Gull
- Herring Gull
- Caspian Tern
- Forster's Tern

Pigeons and Doves

- Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon)
- Mourning Dove *

Owls

- Eastern Screech-Owl

Kingfishers

- Belted Kingfisher

Woodpeckers

- Red-bellied Woodpecker
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
- Downy Woodpecker *
- Hairy Woodpecker *
- Northern Flicker *
- Pileated Woodpecker (workings)

Falcons and Caracaras

- American Kestrel

Tyrant Flycatchers: Pewees, Kingbirds, and Allies

- Eastern Phoebe *
- Great Crested Flycatcher *
- Alder Flycatcher
- Eastern Kingbird *

Shrikes

- Northern Shrike

Jays, Magpies, Crows, and Ravens

- Blue Jay *
- American Crow *

Martins and Swallows

- Tree Swallow *
- Barn Swallow *
- Bank Swallow
- Rough-winged Swallow*

- Purple Martin
- Chimney Swift

Tits, Chickadees, and Titmice

- Black-capped Chickadee*
- Tufted Titmouse *

Nuthatches

- White-breasted Nuthatch *

Treecreepers

- Brown Creeper

Wrens

- Carolina Wren
- House Wren *

Kinglets

- Golden-crowned Kinglet
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Thrushes

- Eastern Bluebird *
- Hermit Thrush
- American Robin *

Catbirds, Mockingbirds, and Thrashers

- Catbird *
- Brown Thrasher

Starlings and Mynas

- European Starling

Waxwings and Tanagers

- Cedar Waxwing *
- Scarlet Tanager *

Wood-Warblers and Vireos

- Pine Warbler
- Yellow-rumped Warbler
- Northern Yellowthroat *
- Yellow warbler *
- Black and White Warbler
- Black-throated Green Warbler
- Wilson's Warbler
- Tennessee Warbler
- Red-eyed Vireo *
- Warbling Vireo *
- Yellow-throated Vireo *

Sparrows and other Emberizids

- American Tree Sparrow
- Chipping Sparrow *
- Field Sparrow *
- Fox Sparrow
- Dark-eyed Junco
- White-crowned Sparrow
- White-throated Sparrow
- Song Sparrow *
- Swamp Sparrow
- Eastern Towhee *
-

Cardinals, Grosbeaks, and Allies

- Northern Cardinal *
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak *
- Indigo Bunting *

Blackbirds

- Red-winged Blackbird *
- Eastern Meadowlark
- Rusty Blackbird
- Common Grackle *
- Brown-headed Cowbird
- Baltimore Oriole

Finches, Euphonias, and Allies

- House Finch
- Purple Finch
- Pine Siskin
- American Goldfinch *

Old World Sparrows

- House Sparrow



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MEMORANDUM

TO: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Coy P. Vaughn, Director
DATE: October 10, 2023
RE: Recommendation for Conservation Easement Sales Contract: VanBuhler Property – Northfield Township

Background

In 2012, several contiguous properties located in Northfield Township were nominated to the Washtenaw County Natural Areas Preservation Program as part of Round 12 for consideration of acquisition. The site visits identified a diverse landscape including upland woods, open fields, a significant portion of Lawton Lake and extensive wetlands. These parcels were subsequently purchased in 2013 and became what is now known as the Whitmore Lake Preserve. Since that time, the preserve continues to grow. In 2022 and earlier in 2023, two additions to Whitmore Lake Preserve were purchased, making Whitmore Lake Preserve one of our largest preserves at over 300 acres with 2.7 miles of trails. NAPP staff maintain a restored prairie across in the preserve. Counters installed along the trail at the preserve in 2020 show that the preserve is a popular destination, receiving hundreds of visits each month. In 2022, the VanBuhler and Haynes properties were nominated adjacent to Whitmore Lake Preserve. The Haynes property is currently in the due diligence phase.

Discussion

The roughly 12-acre VanBuhler property currently under consideration is adjacent to the existing Whitmore Lake Preserve. The VanBuhler property includes additional marshes and open water habitat that extend the extensive wetland system currently protected in Whitmore Lake Preserve. The pond on the VanBuhler property includes a rich diversity of native wetland plant species, with NATAC members noting plants indicating of bog habitat. A conservation easement across this property will protect this pond from future development that would be detrimental to these communities.

An appraisal was completed in August 2023, and determined the value for the conservation easement is \$89,000. NATAC reviewed the appraisal at their October 2, 2023, meeting and recommended moving forward with the preservation of the property, due to its adjacency to existing preserve, and quality of the land mentioned above.

Recommendation

Based upon the review by the Natural Areas Technical Advisory Committee, along with other background information, it is my recommendation the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission authorize a sales contract for the purchase of a conservation easement on the VanBuhler property as identified in attached maps in the amount of \$89,000, contingent upon completion of all necessary due diligence investigation and final approval of the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission.

Attachments

Vanbuhler Property: Local Area

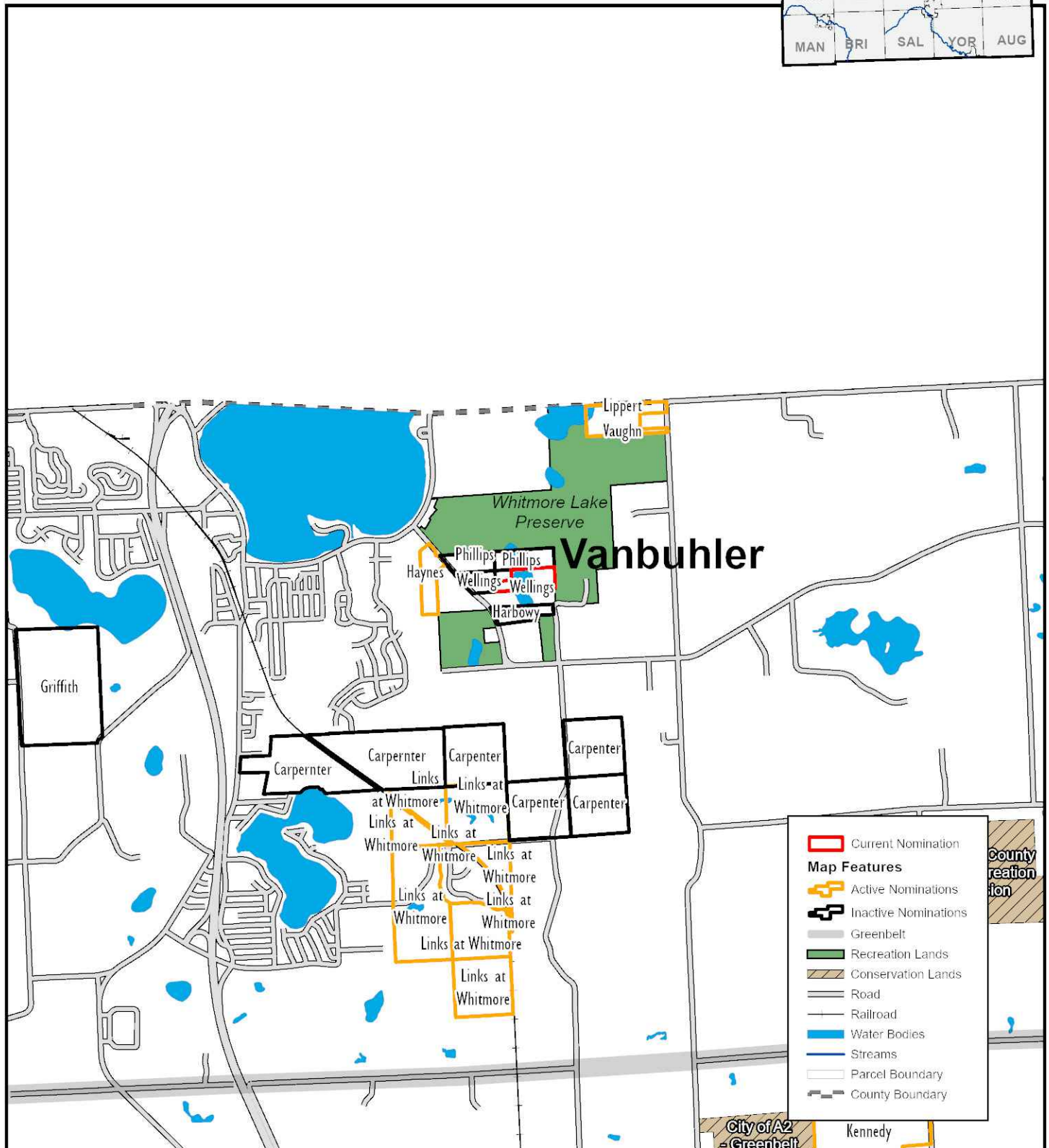
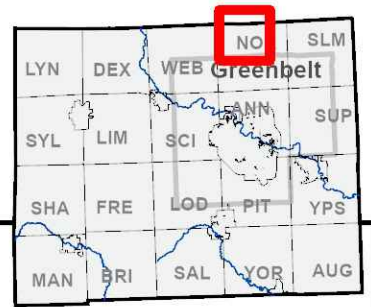
Natural Areas Preservation Program

Nomination ID: 22.343

Northfield Township

+/- 12 Acres

Washtenaw County
Locator Map



0 0.5 1 1.5 2 Miles

Vanbuhler Property: Aerial & Soils

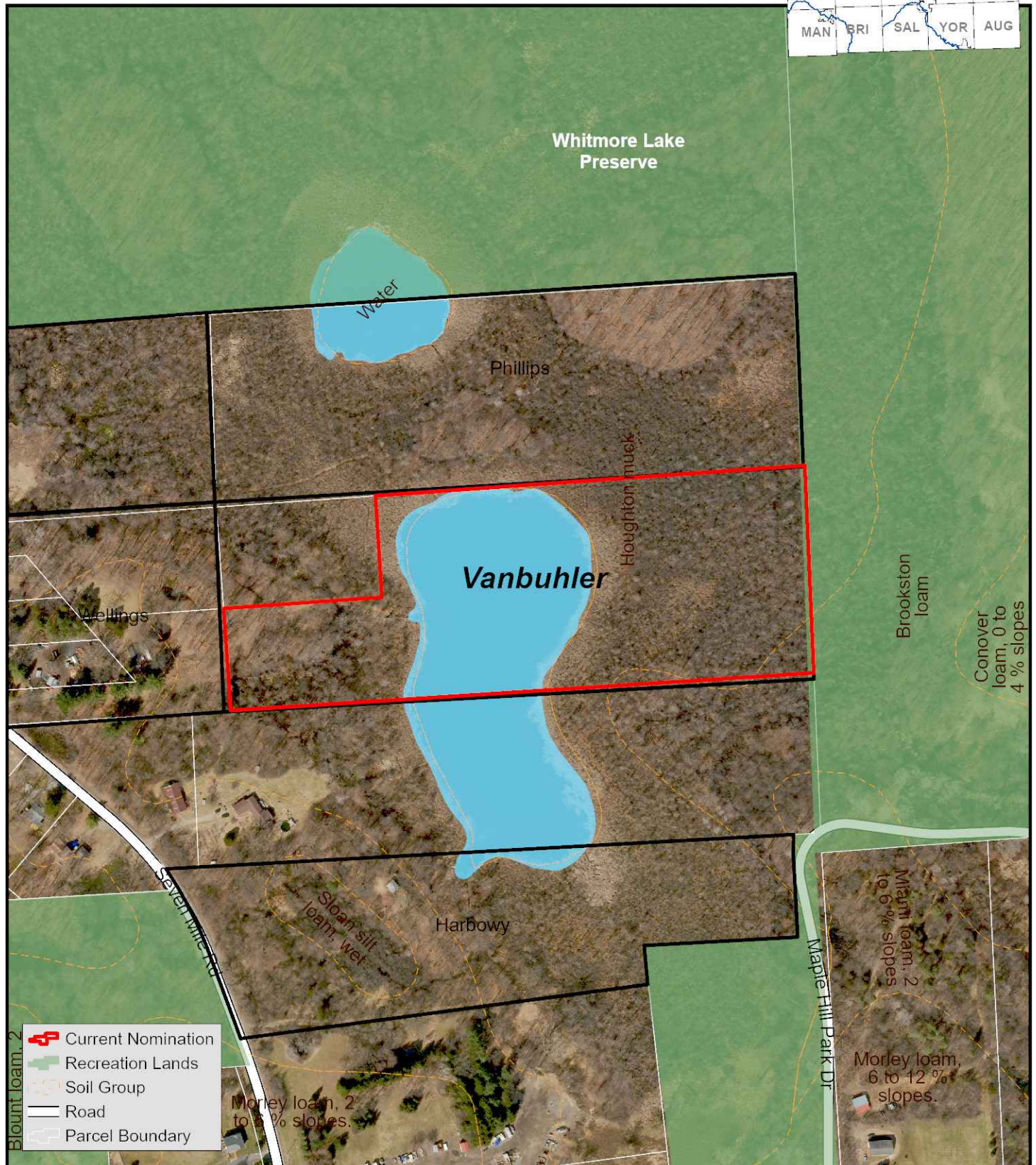
Natural Areas Preservation Program

Nomination ID: 22.343

Northfield Township

+/- 12 Acres

Washtenaw County
Locator Map



Vanbuhler Property: Assessment & Prioritization Mapping

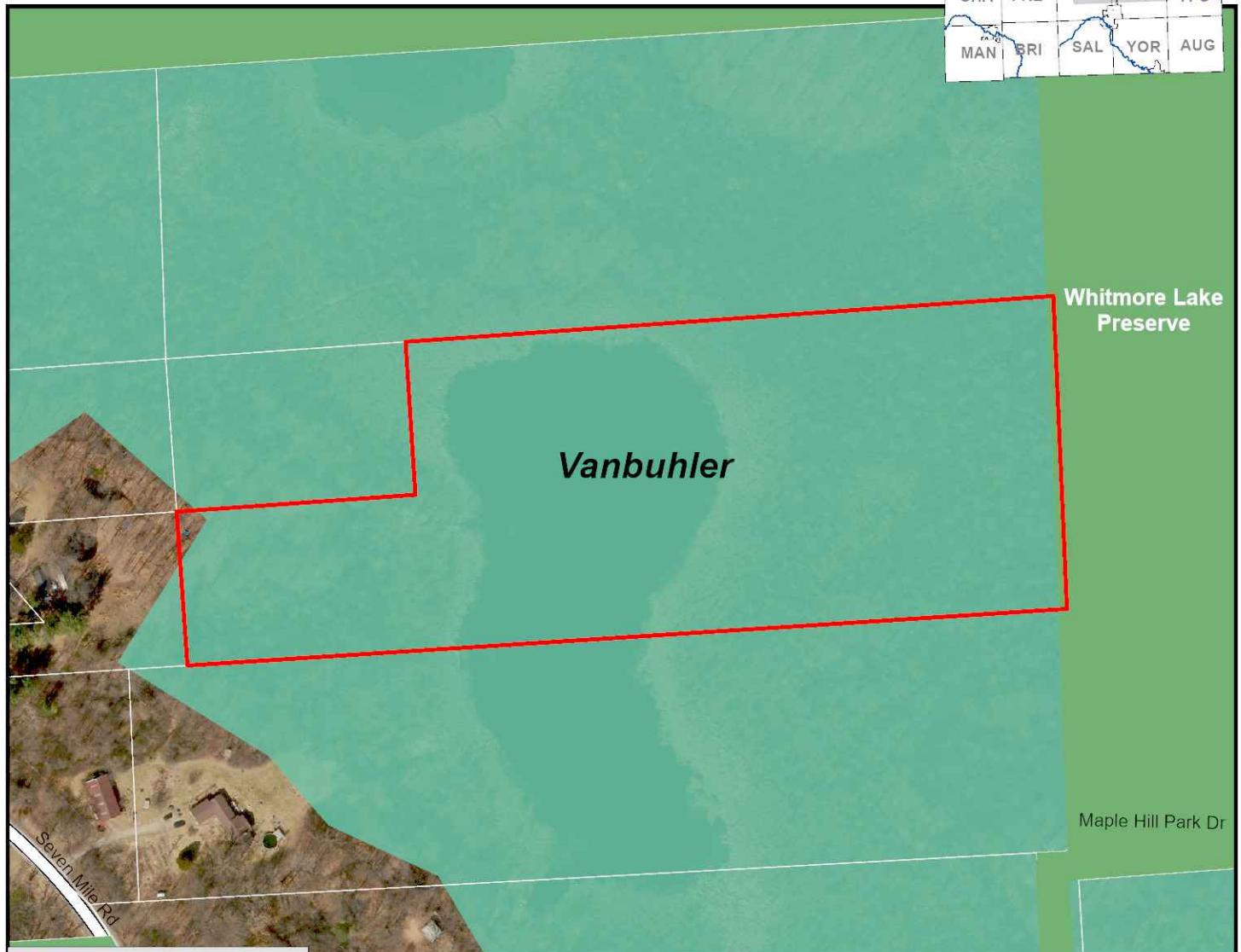
Natural Areas Preservation Program

Nomination ID: 22.343

Northfield Township

+/-12 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



Prefer easement

NATAC NOMINATION - FIELD REVIEW WORKSHEET		
GENERAL DESCRIPTION		
Project Name: <i>Van Buhler</i>	☒ Fee Simple or ☒ <i>Unsure</i> Easement <i>(circle one)</i>	
Location: <i>Northfield Twp</i>	Size (acres): <i>12, maybe 5</i>	
Current Use: <i>Nature, Boat Launch</i>	Date of Visit: <i>08/26/2022</i>	
NATURAL AREA MAPPED PRIORITY		
☒ Yes - Patch Expansion	☐ Yes - New Patch Establishment	☐ Yes - Lake Plain Ecoregion
☐ Yes - Corridor	☐ Yes - Stream Protection	☐ No
NOTES:		
PROXIMITY TO OTHER WCPARC LAND		
☐ not proximal ☐ in general vicinity ☐ adjoins land that has the potential to be protected, and that property adjoins protected land ☒ would be expansion of existing preserve		
NOTES:		
PROXIMITY TO OTHER OWNED PRESERVED LAND		
☐ Yes - Township	☐ Yes - Greenbelt	☐ Yes - Other
☐ Yes - Legacy Land Conservancy	☐ Yes - SMLC	☒ No
NOTES:		
PROPERTY COMPLICATIONS		
☒ Access requires other private land; removing significant trees; paving wetlands; or other undesirable actions ☒ Trails require full boardwalk ☐ Site has debris too costly to remove ☐ Building envelope or exclusion complications		
NOTES: <i>No real access</i>		
FIELD ASSESSMENT		
Names of Assessors: <i>Tony R., Bob G., Catherine R., Sylvia T., Rosie PD,</i>		
ECOSYSTEMS		
Please check all that apply:		How many veg communities are present? Include all, not just ones listed to the left.
Palustrine ☐ Submergent marsh ☒ Emergent marsh ☐ Wet meadow ☐ Wet/mesic prairie ☐ Lakeplain forest or prairie ☐ Fen ☒ Bog ☐ Inundated shrub swamp (buttonbush) ☐ Southern shrub-carr ☒ Floodplain forest ☐ Other forested wetland	Terrestrial ☐ Dry prairie ☐ Oak savanna ☐ Mesic southern forest (beech-maple) ☐ Dry southern forest (oak-hickory) ☐ Other upland forest Other ☒ River/Lake/ <u>Pond</u> /Creek ☐ Old farm fields ☐ Active farm fields ☐ Evidence of restoration	<i>5 [mowed trails]</i> Do we already have a preserve with a similar set of ecosystems? <i>Yes, as preserved land</i> List rare, threatened, or endangered species; evidence thereof; or critical habitat present:
DEBRIS		
Describe debris found on the site: <i>None</i>		

NATAC NOMINATION - FIELD REVIEW WORKSHEET

INVASIVE SPECIES

Distribution	Associated Species	NOTES
☐ pervasive		
☐ within interior		
☐ large monotypic stands		
☐ primarily along trails and edges		
☐ isolated pockets		

INVENTORY

List all wildlife species seen	List plant species seen, to the best of your ability
Snail Woodpecker Blue jay	Moss hammock + cattail wetland tamarack poison sumac bog birch tall royal fern leatherleaf water willow Blueberry Carex brunnescens Cattail extensive on boardwalk Red maple forest w/ buckthorn understory sw. oak

FIELD NOTES

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

Senescing bog mat, getting overgrown w/ cattail + shrubs
still w/ some typical bog veg

Links to adjacent Whitmore lake preserve



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MEMORANDUM

To: Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission
 From: Coy P. Vaughn, Director
 Date: October 10, 2023
 Re: Contract Award: Rolling Hills Water Park Plunge Peak Gel Coat Project – RFP #8495

Background

Rolling Hills Water Park completed Phase III of the water park expansion in 2013. This included the new addition of Plunge Peak water slides on the north side of the park. Plunge Peak is made up of three water slides; blue (open slide), yellow (partially enclosed) and the green speed slide. As one of our most used features, each slide gets over one hundred thousand rides per year.

Discussion

In total, the Plunge Peak slides have seen 10 years of use, with over 1 million riders. The industry standard for applying new gel coating is once every 10 years. The slides are inspected annually by the State of Michigan, who has recommended we repair several fiberglass defects. If the defects are not repaired by 2024 season the inspector may not allow us to use the slides. It has also been recommended that we recaulk all the seams with premium caulk to keep the seams from leaking and corroding. The gel coating, fiberglass repair and caulking of the seams is best done all at the same time and will ensure another 10 years of use for Plunge Peak.

On August 26, 2023, the Washtenaw County Purchasing Division, on behalf of Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation, issued RFP #8495 and received three bids for this project:

Bidder	Location	Price
Amusement Restoration Companies (ARC)	Burnet, TX	\$84,310
Slide Guys Restoration	Livonia, MI	\$88,032
Safe Slide Restoration	Farmington, MO	\$103,995

Staff reviewed the submitted bids and bidders. ARC, located in Texas, is a joint venture that started in 2023 from two companies, SlidePros and The Slide Experts. Both have a long history of restorations and refurbishing water slides and aquatic features. Safe Slide Restoration, located in Missouri, has worked for Rolling Hills in the past on Slide Mountain. They are a national company that has a great reputation in the slide restoration industry.

Slide Guys Restoration was started by employees who worked for Safe Slides Restoration and were the employees that completed the Slide Mountain gel coat project. Since then, they started their own company and have had great success nationally. They are a southeast Michigan family-owned company that stands behind their work. Based on their experience and proximity to the park, staff is recommending a bid award to Slide Guys Restoration.

Recommendation

It is my recommendation that WCPARC award the contract for RFP 8495 to Slide Guys Restoration in the amount of \$88,032 based on their performance on previous projects at Rolling Hills, positive references for similar work, and the fact that they are a southeast Michigan based contractor.



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MEMORANDUM

To: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Coy P. Vaughn, Director
Date: October 10, 2023
Re: Contract Award: Water Feature Replacement and Leak Repair (RFP 8494)

Background

The Water Works feature adjacent to the wave pool was originally installed in 1991. The 6" underground line that feeds this feature has a leak located somewhere in the wave pool peninsula. Due to the leak, this feature has not been in operation since 2020. It is scheduled to be replaced on in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) in 2023.

Discussion

The base of the Water Works feature is submerged in chlorinated water during operation, causing continuous flaking and rusting. Over the years, this feature has been refurbished numerous times and will ultimately become structurally compromised due to thinning of materials. The feature was not used in 2020 due to the Covid water park shutdown.

During start-up of 2021, a major leak was discovered in the feed line, rendering the feature unusable. American Leak Detection (ALD) was contracted to locate and diagnose the leak in Spring 2022. Due to 90-degree turn limitations with their camera equipment, ALD used sonic detection to narrow down the location of the leak. They were not able to pinpoint the exact location of the leak but concluded it is likely a bad glue joint or union along the peninsula.

Since the Water Works feature replacement was scheduled to be completed before the 2024 season, the decision was made to hold off on the leak repair and bid both projects together. The Water Works feature is proposed to be replaced with a large mushroom dome from Aquatix, which is the same manufacturer of the recently installed Sprayground features. Due to the uncertainty with this project (i.e., precise leak location, unforeseen underground conditions, and severity), staff is recommending a 10% contingency be added to the total project cost.

On August 26, 2023, the Washtenaw County Purchasing Division, on behalf of Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation, issued RFP #8494 and received two bids for this project:

Bidder	Location	Price
Decima	Detroit, MI	\$84,097
Building Fun (Michigan Recreation Construction)	Howell, MI	\$73,350

We have worked closely with Building Fun (MRC) during the construction and installation of the water park's dry playground and Sprayground, and have been thoroughly impressed with their workmanship, attention to detail, communication, and commitment to project timelines.



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

Recommendation

Based on staff review of the bid prices and qualifications, it is my recommendation that the Commission award the contract to Building Fun (MRC) for water feature replacement and leak repair (as defined in RFP 8494) in the amount of \$73,350. I also recommend authorizing a 10% contingency bringing the total contract amount to \$80,685.



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MEMORANDUM

To: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Coy P. Vaughn, Director
Date: October 10, 2023
Re: Golf Cart Purchase - Pierce Lake Golf Course

Background

Pierce Lake Golf Course & Park opened to the public in 1997. For those golfers who are so inclined, the golf course has offered gas and/or electric golf carts for use by participants. The current fleet of 65 electric E-Z-Go lithium elite carts were purchased in 2019. We purchased the lithium battery carts because they offered significant performance upgrade and have a lower environmental impact versus the traditional lead acid battery equipped carts.

Discussion

After four years of service, the current fleet of 65 carts have reached the end of their warranty period and should be replaced. We currently have 65 lithium elite carts and 7 lead acid battery carts (purchased in 2017) that comprise our cart fleet. Staff is recommending the purchase of 72 lithium elite carts to ensure that the whole fleet is powered by the lithium batteries. The current fleet also has the highest trade in value that E-Z-Go will provide (\$3,050 per cart). Each year we wait to replace the fleet we would get less trade in value per cart.

Staff investigated various golf cart makes and models that are currently available on the market. The E-Z-Go RXV model was determined to be the best value. This cart is powered by a lithium battery and requires very little maintenance. The RXV carts come with a 4-year warranty on the cart and 5-year warranty on the batteries.

The purchase of these carts will be through a Washtenaw County approved purchase program which has been competitively bid and is in alignment with Washtenaw County procurement procedures. Delivery of the carts will take place prior to March 31, 2024. The total cost for a fleet of 72 golf carts is \$379,550 which includes a \$21,600 rebate and a \$198,250 trade-in value of the current 65 cart fleet.

Recommendation

Based on the Washtenaw County Procurement Procedures, it is my recommendation that the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission authorize purchase of seventy-two (72) E-Z-GO RXV lithium golf carts at a price of \$379,550 and to amend the 2024 Parks Fund Budget to account for the purchase as listed below.

Fund	Account	Type	Title	Amounts
Parks & Rec	20807500.670400	Revenue	Use of Fund Bal	\$129,550
Parks & Rec	20807590.605000	Revenue	Fee Revenue	\$50,000
Parks & Rec	20807500.989000	Expenditure	Contingency	(\$200,000)
Parks & Rec	20807590.962000	Expenditure	Machinery/Equip	\$379,550



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE RENEWAL OF THE 2024 ROAD MILLAGE BALLOT QUESTION

October 10, 2023

WHEREAS, the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission supports the Ballot Question for the Road Millage the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners is considering placing on the local primary election to be held on June 11, 2024 or August 6, 2024 ; and

WHEREAS, the current 2021-2024 road and non-motorized millage is set to expire next year; therefore staff is recommending renewal of the current millage as well as restoration of the portion of the previous millage that was reduced by application of the Headlee Amendment; and

WHEREAS, the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission and citizens of Washtenaw County benefited from the previous millage that allocated 80% for Road improvement projects and 20% for Non-motorized projects. The proposed 2025 – 2028 renewal is also currently planned with the 80/20 split for road and trail projects; and

WHEREAS, the survey conducted as part of the Parks Commission's 2020-2024 Recreation Master Plan indicates that non-motorized trails are the top priority for recreational amenities for Washtenaw County residents; and

WHEREAS, the construction of numerous trail segments during the past 4 years has provided greater access to transportation and recreation opportunities for Washtenaw County residents; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Commission has leveraged these millage funds with outside financial grant assistance to more than triple the trail funding impact; and

WHEREAS, the 0.5 mil millage will generate approximately \$10.7M annually with the Parks and Recreation Commission portion for trails being approximately \$2.1M annually for four years; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission hereby requests the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners to approve the Ballot Question language to place the renewal and restoration of the Road Millage initiative on the state and local primary election ballot in 2024 for voter consideration.

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

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