



NOTICE OF MEETING

WASHTENAW COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Date: March 10, 2026

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Location: Independence Lake County Park, Beach Center, 3200 Jennings Rd., Whitmore Lake, MI 48189

AGENDA

1. Call to Order

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approval of the Minutes

- a. February 10, 2026 Meeting (attached, pp. 1-4/action item)

4. Public Comment

5. Communications, Activities and Recreation Reports

(attached, pp. 5-13/action item)

- a. Oak Wilt Update Presentation

6. Finance

- a. Claims Report (attached, p. 14/action item)
- b. Financial Reports (attached, pp. 15-21/action item)

7. Old Business

- a. Meri Lou Murray Fitness Equipment Bid (attached, pp. 22-24/action item)
- b. Other Old Business

8. New Business

- a. Director's Comments & Project Updates (attached, pp. 25-27/action item)
- b. Wetland Mitigation Credits Purchase – Dexter Connection (attached, pp. 28-29/action item)
- c. Stantec Contract Modification for B2B Segment DAA6 (attached, pp. 30-32/action item)
- d. Other New Business

9. Commissioners 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.



MINUTES OF MEETING

WASHTENAW COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Date: February 10, 2026

Time: 2:00 p.m.

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

Members Present

Patricia Tupacz Scribner, WCPARC President; Janis Bobrin, WCPARC Vice President; Dan Ezekiel, WCPARC Secretary; Robert Marans, JoAnn McCollum, Brenda McKinney and Yousef Rabhi.

Members Absent

Gretchen Driskell, Robert Joerg, and Katie Scott

Staff Present

Meghan Bonfiglio, Director; Greg Hohenberger, Chief Deputy Director; Rhonda Bouma, Deputy Director of Operations; Ginny Leikam, Superintendent of Park Planning and Natural Areas; Jason Brooks, Manager of Finance and Administration; Sarah Walls Stewart, MLM Superintendent; Karen Harris, Parks Administration Analyst, Ann Ziolkowski, Communications Manager; Kira Macyda, Park Planner; David Ries, Project Manager; Allison Krueger, Stewardship Planner; Kyle Jasper, Communications Specialist.

1. *Call to Order*

Ms. Tupacz Scribner called the meeting to order at 2:07 p.m.

2. *Pledge of Allegiance*

3. *Approval of the Minutes*

The January 13, 2026 regular meeting minutes were included in the packet materials.

It was moved by Ms. McCollum, seconded by Mr. Ezekiel, to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2026, regular meeting, as attached. All ayes, the motion was approved.

4. *Public Comment*

None

5. *Communications, Activities and Recreation Reports*

Ms. Bonfiglio welcomed everyone and invited Mr. Gold to provide updates on the Michigan Folk School. Mr. Gold shared the newly created "Find Your Flow" books have been created to give insight into the Folk School class experiences.

Mr. Ezekiel inquired about the heating system performance during extreme cold temperatures. Mr. Gold responded that adjustments are being made, noting this has been one of the coldest winters experienced by the building and system.

Ms. Bonfiglio reported that January was slower due to weather-related media limitations. She shared progress images from the MLMRC Natatorium project and summarized communications and events across facilities. She also highlighted the Sierra Huron Valley Club Award and recognized Kelsey Dehring for her presence and discussion on bird initiatives.

Ms. Ziolkowski presented her communications highlights and the 2025 Annual Highlight Reports.

It was moved by Mr. Ezekiel, seconded by Ms. McCollum, to receive and file the Communications, Projects & Activities for the months of January 2026, as submitted. All ayes, the motion was approved.

6. Finance

A. Claims Report

Mr. Brooks reported total claims \$501,192.95 for the month of January 2026.

It was moved by Ms. Bobrin, seconded by Mr. Ezekiel, to approve the claims for the month of January 2026 as submitted. Roll call vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays, 3 absent; the motion was approved.

B. Financial Reports

Mr. Brooks presented the financial reports for January 2026.

It was moved by Ms. McCollum, seconded by Ms. McKinney to receive and file the financial reports for the month of January 2026 as submitted. All ayes, the motion was approved.

7. Old Business

A. Concentrate Media Annual Update

Ms. Bonfiglio introduced Mr. Dunn, Editor and Publisher of Concentrate Media, who shared updates and highlighted partnership efforts including “On the Ground Ypsilanti.” Discussion followed regarding funding and stakeholder support.

B. MLM Natatorium Additional Design/Engineering Services

Mr. Reis provided renovation updates and requested additional funding not to exceed \$67,362.33 due to project challenges.

It was moved by Mr. Marans, seconded by Mr. Ezekiel that Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission authorize a contract amendment in the not to exceed amount of \$67,362.33 on a time and materials basis with JFR Architects to complete construction administration for renovations to the MLM Recreation Center Natatorium, for a total contract amount of \$263,650.33. Roll call vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays, 3 absent; the motion was approved.

C. Director's Comments & Project Updates

Ms. Bonfiglio shared the passing of Bob Gunzel, a prior Washtenaw County Administrator. She then provided upcoming project updates for the Spring/Summer of 2026. She also gave an update on the Watkins Lake gravel mine and community concerns. Ms. Bonfiglio noted there is a drafted letter regarding the gravel mine prepared that is now open for review amongst the commissioners.

Ms. Bouma gave an update on the scholarship program, which is now live and open to the public. Mr. Bertrand shared that we have joined the coalition to advance the responsible policy on invasive ornamental plants continuing.

Ms. Stewart gave an update on the Eastside Camp announcing there are three potential venues available and structuring them more to align with the WCPARC camp day to day operations.

Ms. Bonfiglio provided an update on the East Washtenaw Community and Recreation Center (EWCRC) project, noting that the traffic study has been completed. She added that the design team is meeting weekly and is close to finalizing the design. In addition, staff is currently interviewing candidates for the Project Manager as well as Owner Rep options.

It was moved by Ms. McCollum, seconded by Mr. Rabhi to receive and file the Commission Report as part of Director's Comments for January 2026, as submitted. All ayes, the motion was approved.

D. Other Old Business

None.

8. New Business

A. NAPP Preserve Amenity Design Services

Mr. Ries noted that staff is seeking approval for design and engineering work at both Lost Wagon Preserve and Saline Preserve. Based on review of quotes, staff recommends that Johnson Hill provide these services as well as develop entrance and boardwalk standards at preserves.

It was moved by Ms. Bobrin, seconded by Ms. McKinney to award the NAPP Preserve Amenity Design Services at Lost Wagon Preserve and Saline Preserve coupled with the development of boardwalk standards to Ann Arbor based, Johnson Hill Land Ethics Studio for \$113,285 including a 10% contingency (\$11,329) for a total amount of \$124,614.00. Roll call vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays, 3 absent; the motion was approved.

B. Signatory Authority Designation

Mr. Hohenberger noted that staff is requesting this action to update and clarify the existing authorization to align with Commission bylaws and support efficient execution of Commission business. He added that this change will designate the signatory by position rather than by name.

It was moved by Mr. Marans, seconded by Mr. Ezekiel to delegate authority to the Parks Director and Chief Deputy Director (in the Director's absence) to sign contracts and legal documents on behalf of the Commission. All ayes, the motion was approved.

C. Other New Business

None.

9. Commissioners Comments

None.

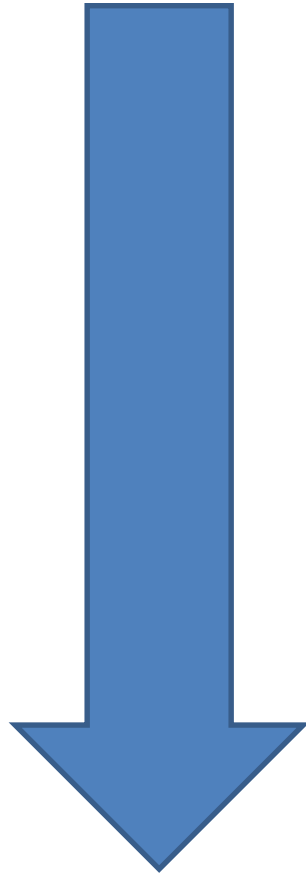
10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:42 p.m.

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

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.

Communications, Projects & Activities



MEDIA COVERAGE – February 2026

mLive – 79 acres along Mill Creek to be preserved under first bluebelt project OK'd by Ann Arbor, 2/20/2026 - <https://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/2026/02/79-acres-along-mill-creek-to-be-preserved-under-first-bluebelt-project-okd-by-ann-arbor.html>

info

Before spring gets underway, I see which volunteers plan to return and which are not. This year my mother-daughter team that has monitored DeVine Preserve for 7 years have retired. They were an incredible pair that truly loved and cared for the birds at the preserve. They would always send me very detailed summary reports at the end of each season. Caroline Sutton let me know her daughter used her experience of Nest Box Monitoring as the subject for her college essays. She shared the essay with me which is in the next slide. She also let me know Izzy's next college and career goals. I scanned a few photos from their reports to add to the slide as well. It's a lot of words but its beautiful testimonial of the program and what it can mean to the public who participate. When I shared this with Lauren she thought it might be nice for the commission to see.

A Seven Year Summer

by Izzy Sutton

In 2018, at the end of my fifth grade, I discovered a passion for ornithology. It was initiated by a variety of things that converged on me that school year, the most significant being the discovery of nesting great horned owls in our local school woods. A group from our Science Olympiad team befriended the local ornithologist and we managed to install a nesting platform with small camera. That winter and spring our entire elementary school got an up-close view of the owls as their eggs hatched and the owlets grew and fledged.

As the owlets spread their wings, so did I. I graduated elementary school and my mom and I decided to volunteer at a local preserve for the summer in a program initiated to monitor blue bird nesting boxes.

One summer turned into seven. The years brought many miles hiked through rain, snow, mud, ticks (many ticks), mosquitos, swamp, poison ivy, losses, finds, and the data recording of over 100 fledged blue birds. We saw and learned so many incredible things over the years.

We took our last walk down the familiar path lined thickly with milkweed, wild raspberry and prairie grass this past summer. This with some nostalgia and a bit of sadness, but mostly incredibly thankful for the experience this project through Washtenaw County had afforded us. What had begun as a desire to see birds up close and enjoy a hike each week while providing service for our beloved community and natural resources turned into something much more meaningful. Following the lifecycles of the preserve, not only the nesting patterns but the rhythm of the seasons, the weather patterns through spring, summer, into fall, and the lifecycle of other animals and reptiles as they came into our view was unbelievably beautiful! Over the years we knew the tiny crayfish that would dig paths along the site of nest box 8; the snakes that would sunbathe on the path to box 1; and the deer tracks leading us to their sleeping fawns. In fall the boxes would become resting spots for gray tree frogs. Meanwhile, this seasonal change equally mirrored our own personal growth as my mom and I grew together and shared so much on these walks. The years determined my love for nature, solidifying my desire to advocate for sustaining our planet's health. It also showed me firsthand how important land preservations can be to our communities. Above all else was the opportunity to share time with my mom, my best friend, developing into the person I am now, which is one who cares.



Izzy is attending Georgetown to minor in environmental policy and focus on government and policy. She intends to get a law degree and seek a career path where she will be able to advocate and have say in environmental reforms that benefit sustainability and conservation.



Thank you for your generous donation to the Whitmore Lake PTO Silent Auction. We are excited to share that we raised over \$10,000, which will help fund essential activities and needs for our students and staff.

This achievement would not have been possible without your support. We truly appreciate your contribution to our school community.

Thank You



Sincerely,
Whitmore Lake PTO

{drawings by 2nd graders at WLES}



Digital Report - February 2026

This monthly report will highlight our social media outreach, website analytics, newsletter statistics, items in the news, and recent snapshots around the parks.

Monthly comparisons and Year to Date (YTD) accumulations (social media) will be used to track data and improve our outreach.

USEFUL DEFINITIONS FOR THIS REPORT

Views

The number of times your content was played or displayed. Content includes videos, posts, stories and ads.

Followers

Accounts that have chosen to see your content on their newsfeed, without needing to visit your social media page.

Followers vs Non-Followers and Why It Matters

With followers being accounts that have chosen to keep up with our social media accounts, non-followers are simply accounts that have not yet chosen to do so. Breaking post views down by followers and non-followers is indicative on how wide of a reach a post has had. Some factors to reaching more accounts include: who has 'shared' the content and their following, type of hashtags that are used in the post, and content type.

Link Clicks (Facebook only)

The number of clicks on links within posts that led to destinations or experiences, on or off Facebook.

Interactions (Instagram only)

The number of post likes or reactions, saves, comments and shares minus the number of deleted or removed interactions.

Social Media Report

WCPARC FACEBOOK

WCPARC Followers
Growth

+83

Total Followers

7.9K

Views This Month

37.7K

Views Last
Month

66.2K

Views YTD

104K

Link Clicks This Month

23

Total

Link Clicks YTD

40

Post Highlight

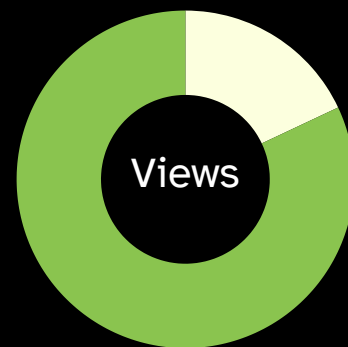
Ben is back for ICF



Post Highlight Views

12K

Post Highlight Views



From
Followers

18%

From Non-
followers

82%

Social Media Report

WCPARC INSTAGRAM

WCPARC Followers
Growth

+31

Total Followers

4.2K

Views This Month

4.2K

Views Last
Month

8.9K

Views YTD

13.1K

Content Interactions
This Month

+124

Content Interactions YTD

314

Post Highlight

Summer Hiring



Post Highlight Views

558

Post Highlight
Views

From
Followers

99

Non
Followers

1

Views

E-News

February Newsletter

Open Rate

39%

Open Rate Last Month

41%

Link Click Rate

1.9%

Link Click Rate
Last Month

2.7%

Top Links Clicked

1. Special Events
2. Job/Volunteers
3. MI Folk School
4. Registration
5. Home page

Website

Most popular pages

Title	URL		Page views % of total	Visits % of total
Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center Washtenaw County, MI - Official Website	https://www.washtenaw.org/497/Meri-Lou-Murray-Recreation-Center		4,702 13.9%	3,044 21.8%
Rolling Hills County Park Washtenaw County, MI - Official Website	https://www.washtenaw.org/607/Rolling-Hills-County-Park		1,723 5.1%	1,259 9.0%
Facility Hours & Schedules Washtenaw County, MI - Official Website	https://www.washtenaw.org/2553/Facility-Hours-Schedules		1,594 4.7%	1,280 9.2%
Parks & Recreation Washtenaw County, MI - Official Website	https://www.washtenaw.org/288/Parks-Recreation		1,493 4.4%	1,107 7.9%
Job & Volunteer Opportunities Washtenaw County, MI - Official Website	https://www.washtenaw.org/660/Job-Volunteer-Opportunities		1,431 4.2%	1,063 7.6%

[View more details](#)



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

February 2026 - Claims Report

PARK / FACILITY / FUNCTION	UTILITIES	DIRECT PURCHASES	OTHER	TOTAL
Administration	\$ 1,079.53	\$ 4,671.10	\$ 22,765.62	\$ 28,516.25
Recreation Center	12,425.63	7,418.46	21,315.99	41,160.08
Park Maintenance	2,107.04	5,626.52	9,418.68	17,152.24
Pierce Lake Golf Course	2,578.07	5,543.86	5,029.99	13,151.92
Independence Lake	3,176.66	2,548.35	11,026.69	16,751.70
Rolling Hills	5,798.61	4,536.46	2,079.46	12,414.53
Parker Mill	1,037.69	-	165.00	1,202.69
Sharon Mills	162.02	-	3,226.90	3,388.92
Staebler Farm	2,788.90	3,451.95	40,156.82	46,397.67
Capital Improvement	-	-	318,507.59	318,507.59
Committed Funding Partnerships	-	-	-	-
Commission	-	-	-	-
SUBTOTAL	\$ 31,154.15	\$ 33,796.70	\$ 433,692.74	\$ 498,643.59
Road Millage Fund	-	-	-	-
SUBTOTAL	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Natural Areas Preservation Program				
Acquisition	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 235,204.00	\$ 235,204.00
Preserve Management	-	5,981.80	353.10	\$ 6,334.90
NATAC	-	-	-	\$ -
Acquisition	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,189.00	\$ 5,189.00
Annual Monitoring	-	-	-	\$ -
ALPAC	-	-	-	-
SUBTOTAL	\$ -	\$ 5,981.80	\$ 240,746.10	\$ 246,727.90
TOTAL	\$ 31,154.15	\$ 39,778.50	\$ 674,438.84	\$ 745,371.49

It was moved by _____ and supported by _____
to approve payment of claims in the amount of..... \$ 745,371.49

WASHTENAW COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
FUND BALANCE STATEMENT - FEBRUARY 28, 2026

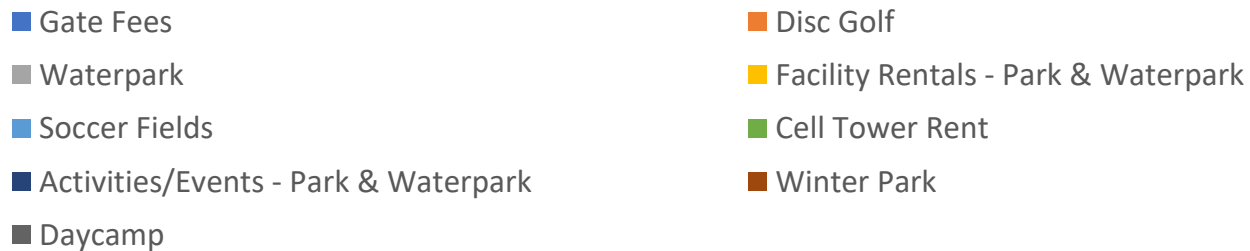
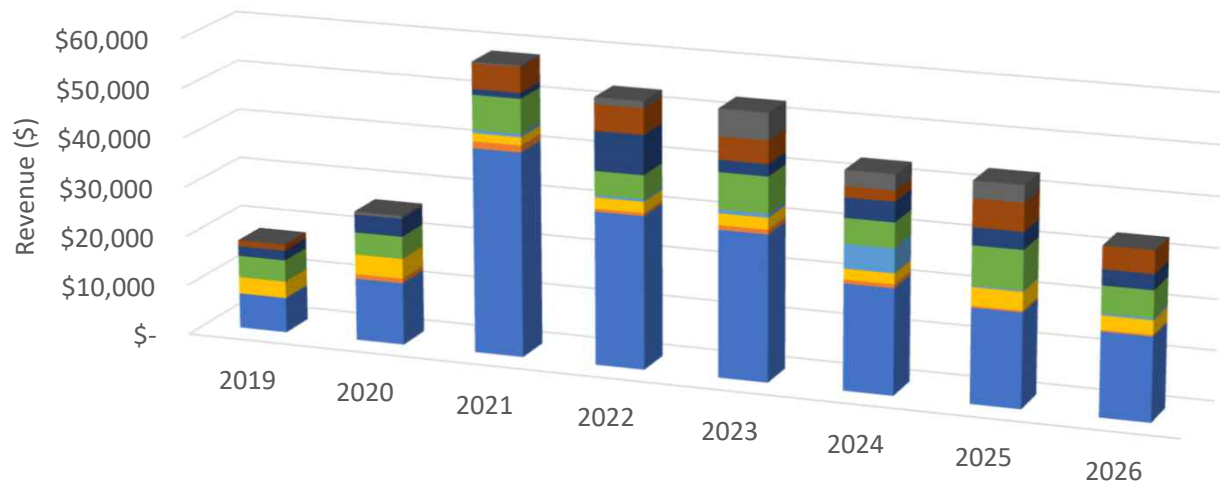
Beginning Fund Balance (1/1/26)	13,167,140	(unaudited)	17%	YTD % Budget		
Revenue (Budget)			Revenue (Actual)		Variance	
Property Tax	11,149,049		7,025,265	63%	(4,123,784)	
State Grant Funds	-		-		-	
Fees & Services	4,546,000		242,103	5%	(4,303,897)	
Interest Earnings	300,000		46,120	15%	(253,880)	
Other Revenue & Reimb.	<u>30,000</u>		<u>-</u>	0%	<u>(30,000)</u>	
Total Revenue		16,025,049		7,313,488	46%	(8,711,561)
Expense (Budget)			Expense (Actual)		Variance	
Personnel Services	(8,857,722)		(1,082,984)	12%	7,774,738	
Supplies & Other Services	(2,990,100)		(243,820)	8%	2,746,280	
Internal Service Charges	(1,165,971)		(197,361)	17%	968,610	
Capital						
Land Acquisition	-		-	-	-	
CIP/Development	(3,100,000)		(1,036,804)	33%	2,063,196	
Contingency	(400,000)		(3,128)	1%	396,872	
Machinery & Equipment	<u>(75,000)</u>		<u>(13,369)</u>	18%	<u>61,631</u>	
Capital Subtotal	(3,575,000)		(1,053,300)	29%	2,521,700	
Transfers Out	(1,600,000)		-			
Total Expense		<u>(18,188,793)</u>		<u>(2,577,465)</u>	14%	14,011,328
Surplus/(Deficit)		(2,163,744)		4,736,023		
Operating Reserve		(11,149,049)		(9,798,849)		
2026 Funding Commitments (Partnerships)		<u>(5,100,000)</u>		<u>-</u>		
		(16,249,049)		(9,798,849)		
Projected Fund Balance (12/31/26)		5,903,396		17,903,163		

WASHTENAW COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
NATURAL AREAS PRESERVATION PROGRAM
FUND BALANCE STATEMENT - FEBRUARY 28, 2026

Beginning Fund Balance (1/1/26)	14,474,619	unaudited	17%	YTD % Budget	
Revenue (Budget)					Variance
Property Tax	5,855,798			64%	(2,116,275)
Federal Revenue	-				-
Interest Earnings	100,000			50%	(50,391)
Other Revenue & Reimb.	<u>5,000</u>			0%	<u>(5,000)</u>
Total Revenue		5,960,798	3,789,133	64%	(2,171,665)
Expense (Budget)					Variance
Personnel Services	(950,304)			12%	831,521
Supplies & Other Services	(804,200)			3%	784,021
Internal Service Charges	(35,869)			9%	32,761
Capital					
Land Acquisition	(2,900,000)			8%	2,669,000
Land Development	-				-
Machinery & Equipment	<u>(30,000)</u>			0%	<u>30,000</u>
Capital Subtotal	(2,930,000)			8%	2,699,000
Total Expense		<u>(4,720,373)</u>	<u>(373,070)</u>	8%	4,347,303
Surplus/(Deficit)		1,240,425	3,416,063		
Projected Fund Balance (12/31/26)		<u>15,715,044</u>	<u>17,890,682</u>		

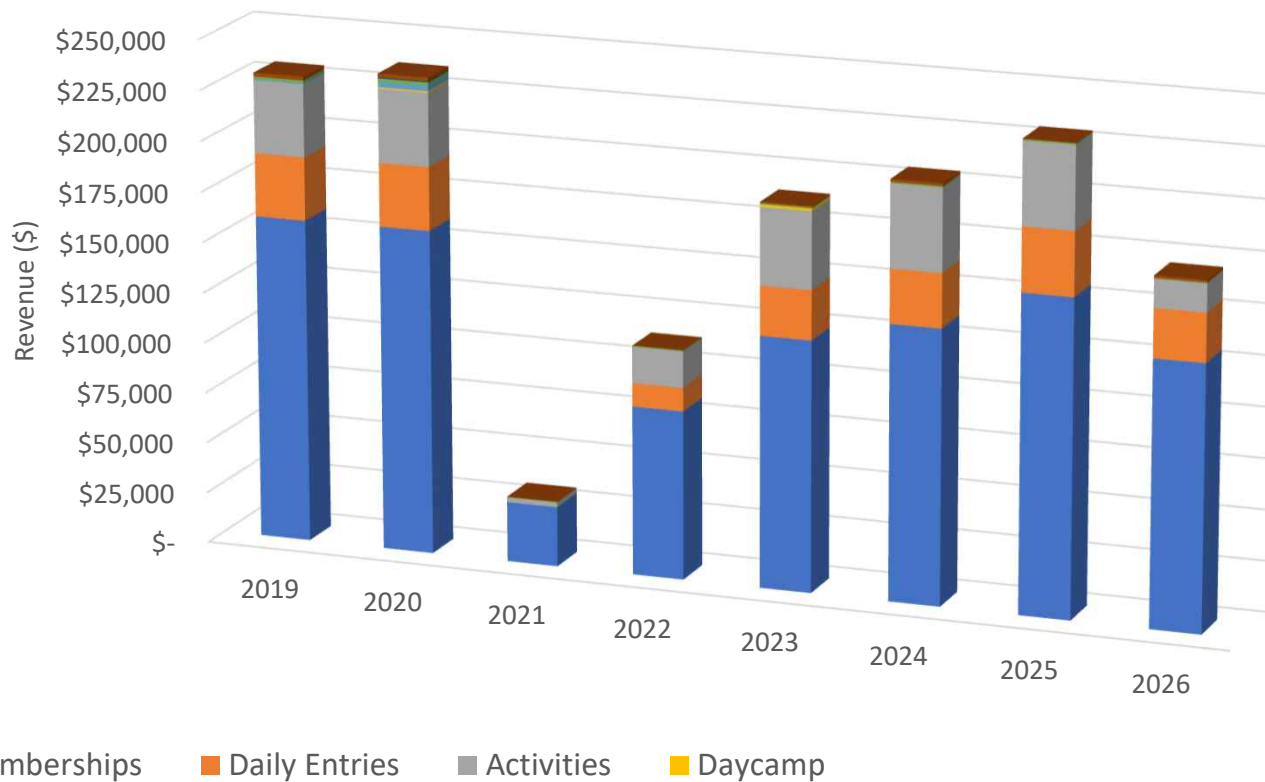
Rolling Hills County Park Revenue Report - February

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Gate Fees	\$ 7,042	\$ 12,484	\$ 41,089	\$ 30,690	\$ 29,413	\$ 21,207	\$ 18,939	\$ 16,768
Disc Golf	\$ -	\$ 916	\$ 1,380	\$ 596	\$ 904	\$ 779	\$ 316	\$ 288
Waterpark	\$ -	\$ 20	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Facility Rentals - Park & Waterp	\$ 3,350	\$ 4,010	\$ 1,650	\$ 2,250	\$ 2,360	\$ 2,150	\$ 3,705	\$ 2,865
Soccer Fields	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 625	\$ 475	\$ 750	\$ 4,880	\$ 250	\$ 400
Cell Tower Rent	\$ 4,365	\$ 4,496	\$ 6,981	\$ 4,770	\$ 7,333	\$ 5,060	\$ 7,857	\$ 5,369
Activities/Events - Park & Wate	\$ 1,989	\$ 3,623	\$ 1,158	\$ 7,932	\$ 2,444	\$ 4,023	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,120
Winter Park	\$ 1,218	\$ -	\$ 5,088	\$ 5,245	\$ 4,600	\$ 2,180	\$ 5,610	\$ 4,560
Daycamp	\$ -	\$ 600	\$ 325	\$ 1,390	\$ 5,429	\$ 3,158	\$ 3,420	\$ -
Totals:	\$ 17,964	\$ 26,149	\$ 58,296	\$ 53,348	\$ 53,233	\$ 43,437	\$ 43,597	\$ 33,370



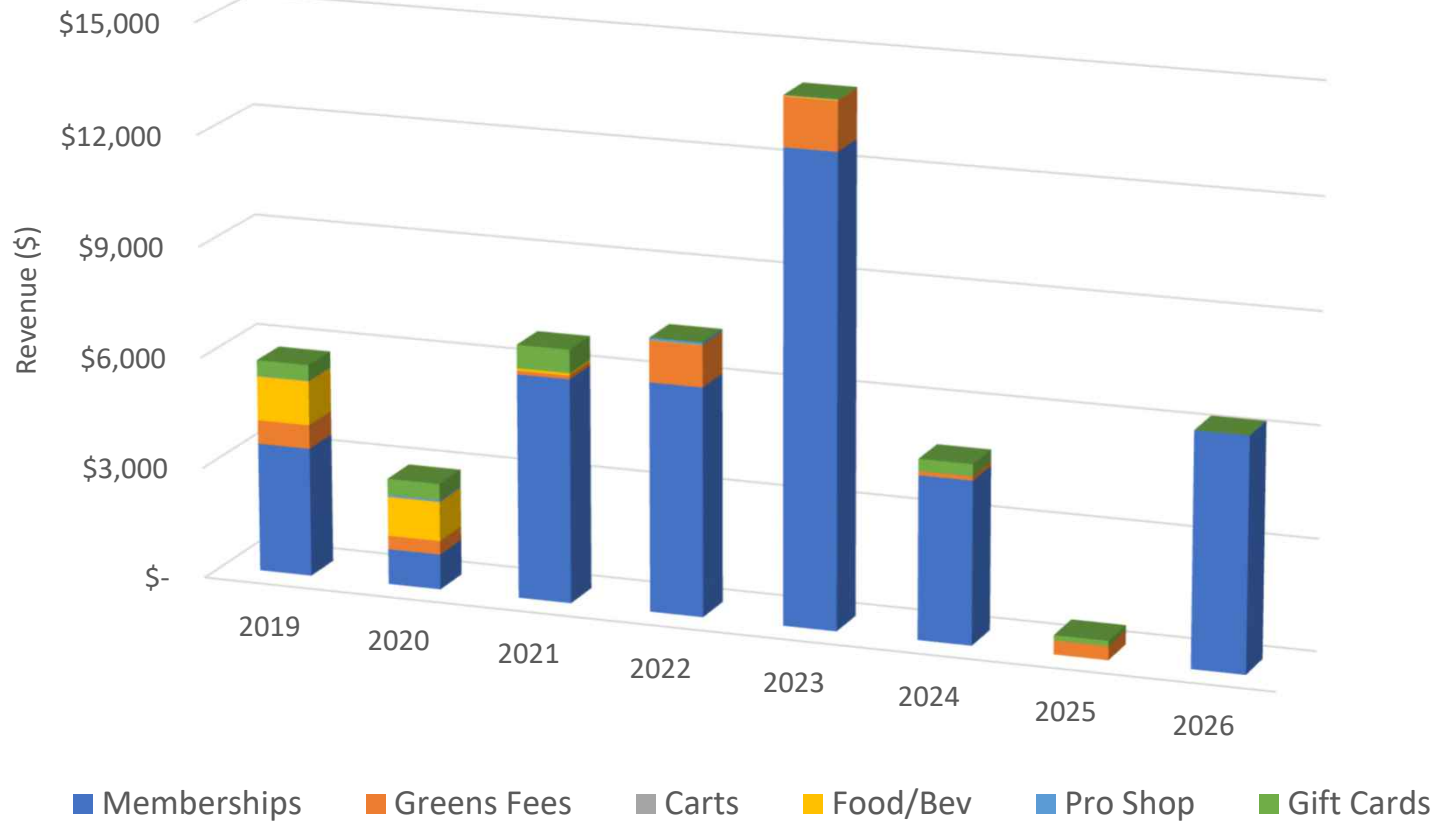
Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center Revenue Report - February

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Memberships	\$ 159,893	\$ 160,355	\$ 29,489	\$ 83,269	\$ 123,997	\$ 135,692	\$ 156,641	\$ 130,948
Daily Entries	\$ 31,311	\$ 31,485	\$ -	\$ 11,598	\$ 24,549	\$ 26,825	\$ 31,807	\$ 24,154
Activities	\$ 36,085	\$ 36,427	\$ 2,318	\$ 17,853	\$ 38,257	\$ 41,057	\$ 40,889	\$ 13,967
Daycamp	\$ -	\$ 660	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,040	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (120)
Rentals	\$ 518	\$ 2,494	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Lockers	\$ 1,237	\$ 1,847	\$ 310	\$ 530	\$ 703	\$ 680	\$ 698	\$ 375
Vending	\$ -	\$ 558	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Sale Items	\$ 1,917	\$ 1,774	\$ 150	\$ 13	\$ 605	\$ 1,379	\$ 350	\$ 1,243
Totals:	\$ 230,961	\$ 235,600	\$ 32,267	\$ 113,263	\$ 189,151	\$ 205,633	\$ 230,385	\$ 170,567



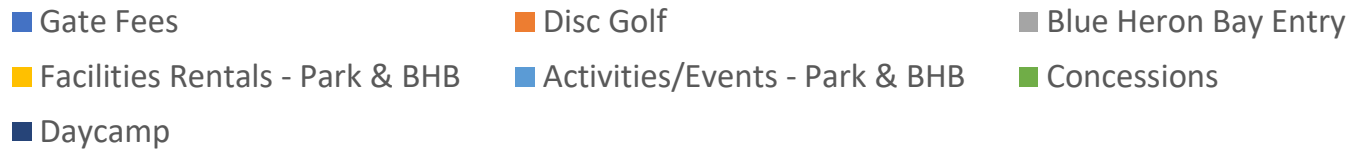
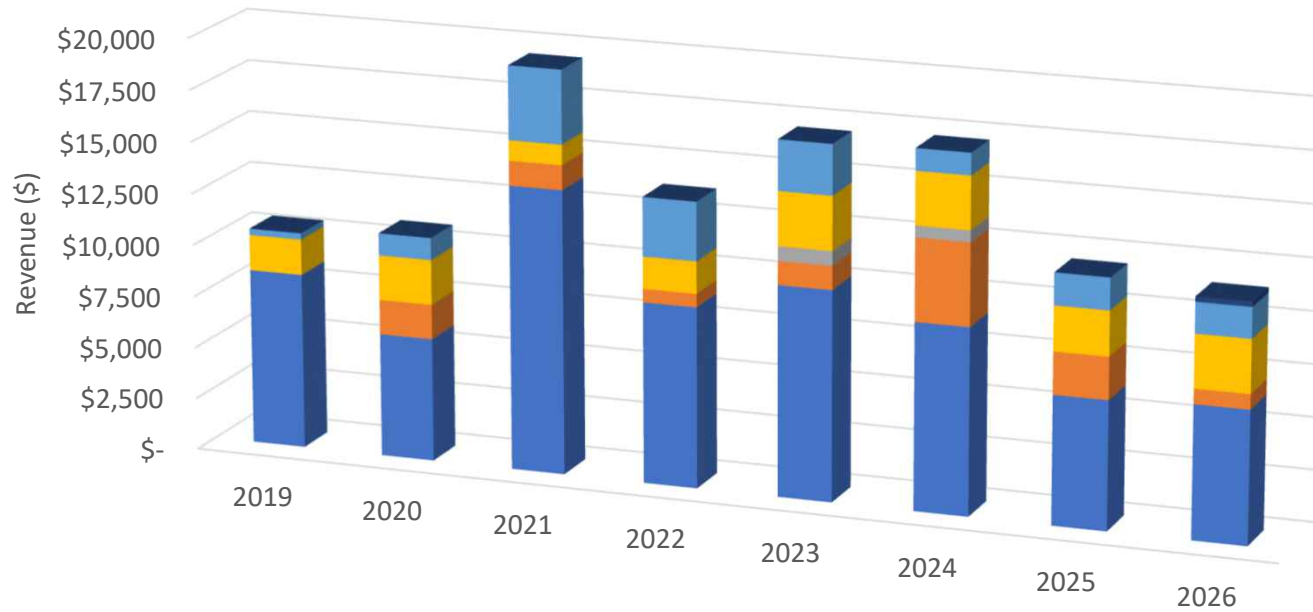
Pierce Lake Golf Course Revenue Report - February

	2019		2020		2021		2022		2023		2024		2025		2026	
Memberships	\$	3,475	\$	950	\$	6,050	\$	6,175	\$	12,725	\$	4,400	\$	-	\$	6,300
Greens Fees	\$	640	\$	368	\$	102	\$	1,120	\$	1,335	\$	114	\$	376	\$	-
Carts	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
Food/Bev	\$	1,200	\$	1,066	\$	61	\$	10	\$	24	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
Pro Shop	\$	15	\$	52	\$	-	\$	66	\$	14	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
Gift Cards	\$	423	\$	436	\$	632	\$	-	\$	-	\$	325	\$	140	\$	-
Totals:	\$	5,753	\$	2,872	\$	6,845	\$	7,371	\$	14,098	\$	4,839	\$	516	\$	6,300



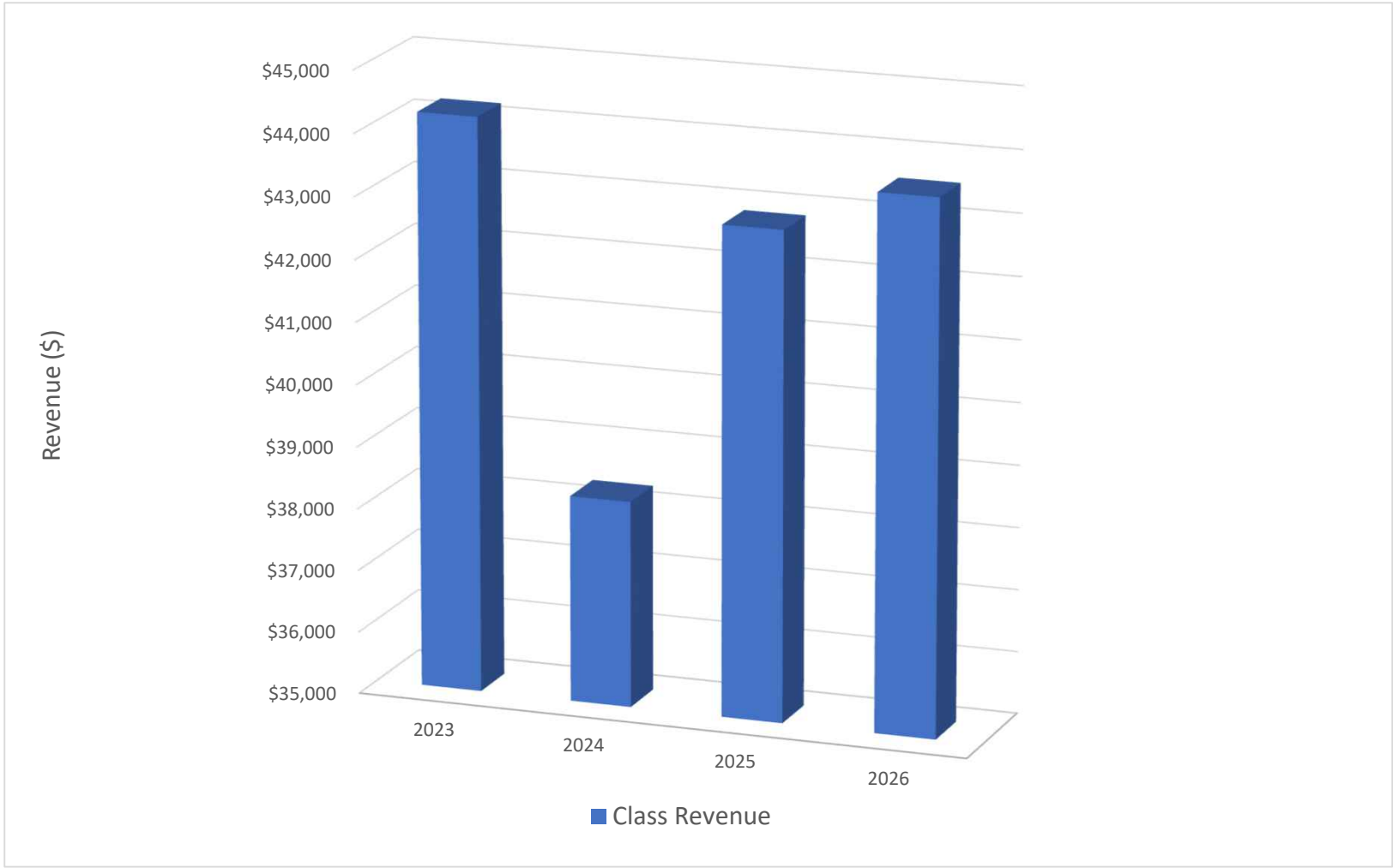
Independence Lake County Park Revenue Report - February

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Gate Fees	\$ 8,466	\$ 5,941	\$ 13,732	\$ 8,728	\$ 10,170	\$ 9,031	\$ 6,221	\$ 6,431
Disc Golf	\$ -	\$ 1,676	\$ 1,192	\$ 650	\$ 1,144	\$ 3,992	\$ 2,047	\$ 726
Blue Heron Bay Entry	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (100)	\$ 700	\$ 560	\$ -	\$ -
Facilities Rentals - Park & BHB	\$ 1,720	\$ 2,170	\$ 980	\$ 1,550	\$ 2,610	\$ 2,560	\$ 2,170	\$ 2,580
Activities/Events - Park & BHB	\$ 308	\$ 1,070	\$ 3,565	\$ 2,840	\$ 2,435	\$ 1,060	\$ 1,545	\$ 1,485
Concessions	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5	\$ -	\$ -
Daycamp	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 250
Totals:	\$ 10,494	\$ 10,857	\$ 19,469	\$ 13,668	\$ 17,059	\$ 17,208	\$ 11,983	\$ 11,472



Staebler Farm Revenue Report - February

	2023	2024	2025	2026
Class Revenue	\$ 44,235	\$ 38,320	\$ 42,867	\$ 43,585





MEMORANDUM

To: Washtenaw County Park and Recreation Commission

From: Meghan Bonfiglio, Director

Date: March 10, 2026

Subject: Meri Lou Murray Fitness Equipment Purchase Design & Build

BACKGROUND

The Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center opened in 1991 with a strength training area designed to meet the standards and expectations of that time. Although staff have extended the life of much of the original equipment through diligent maintenance, it has now reached the end of its practical and operational lifespan, with replacement parts increasingly unavailable and repairs becoming more costly and frequent. In addition, the current equipment and layout no longer align with industry standards, member feedback, or evolving fitness trends, which emphasize functional training, accessibility, and inclusive design. Modernizing the weight room is necessary to ensure the space remains safe, relevant, and responsive to the diverse needs of today's community.

DISCUSSION

The proposed weight room modernization, including equipment replacement, flooring upgrades, and strategic reconfiguration of the adjacent spaces, represents a planned reinvestment in a critical community asset. This initiative goes beyond replacing aging equipment, it positions the recreation center to meet current demand while preparing for future operational and programmatic needs.

Since 1991, the fitness industry has shifted toward flexible, multi-use environments that support functional training, small-group exercise, and inclusive participation. Community feedback, staff observation, and participation trends demonstrate growing demand for:

- Functional fitness and dedicated stretching and mobility space
- Equipment accessible to users of varying ages, abilities, and experience levels
- Welcoming strength environments that encourage participation from new exercisers
- Flexible spaces capable of adapting to future programming needs

Modernizing the space will improve accessibility, safety, and user experience while attracting new participants who may not currently feel comfortable utilizing the existing layout.

On February 9, the Washtenaw County Purchasing Division, on behalf of Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation, issued RFP #8875 for the design and rebuild of the strength room, and equipment and rubberized flooring replacement. Two bids were received:

Bidder	Location	Price
Design 2 Wellness	Lewis Center, OH	\$293,767.90 (including lounge area enhancement)
Direct Fitness Solutions	Mundelein, IL	\$187,405.00

The scope included:

- Weight room design and facility space optimization
- Procurement and installation of strength equipment

- Replacement of rubberized flooring
- Coordinated removal and installation during the scheduled facility maintenance closure

Two proposals were received and evaluated based on completeness, design quality, product suitability, lifecycle value, and alignment with operational needs. Both proposals were well done however, Design 2 Wellness offers the strongest overall solution for the long-term success of the facility.

A key distinction between proposals involved the strength equipment manufacturers. Direct Fitness Solutions proposed primarily Precor equipment, while Design 2 Wellness proposed a comprehensive Matrix Fitness solution. While both manufacturers are reputable, staff believe Matrix better supports the Recreation Center’s long-term operational vision.

Additionally, Design 2 Wellness reenvisioned the lounge area of the recreation center to create additional usable space. Recent building usage counts show that the space is underutilized and can be relocated to different areas of the facility. This additional space positions the recreation center to grow in membership and participation without the need for larger scale renovations. Design 2 Wellness also offered a superior flooring product. The specifications of the flooring offered a thicker surface designed specifically for application with selectorized strength and cardio equipment, functional training in high traffic recreation center. The 14.5mm thickness provides exceptional impact absorption, reducing joint strain and minimizing the risk of injury from falls.

Beyond equipment replacement, their design strategically improves underutilized areas, enhancing functionality and flexibility without requiring costly structural renovations. This approach maximizes existing square footage and supports long-term adaptability. Their approach is in line with how recreation centers are often designed today with equipment and offerings distributed throughout the facility to provide patrons greater choice and accessibility to spaces that best meet their needs

Staff conducted reference checks for the recommended bidder with two organizations that have recently completed projects with the company. Both references spoke very positively about their experience and expressed satisfaction. They noted that Design 2 Wellness was professional and provided high-quality equipment and met their established deadlines. Both organizations still work with the company and plan to work with them for future needs.

Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center has identified \$20,000 within its operational budget (Refunds line and Natural Gas line) which can contribute to this project. In addition, County Finance has confirmed that a line previously budgeted within the personnel category will no longer be utilized and that those funds may be reappropriated. As a result, the rest of the project will be funded by reducing the Position Modifications line, and by using fund balance, which was slightly higher than anticipated entering 2026 due to an unused centrally budgeted personnel modifications line, budgeted at just over \$160,000 in 2025.

RECOMMENDATION

It is my recommendation that the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission approve awarding the contract to Design 2 Wellness in the amount of \$293,767.90, which includes the lounge area enhancements, and to amend the budget in alignment with the table below.

Fund	Account	Type	Title	Amounts
Parks	20807500.679300	Revenue	Use of Fund Balance	107,684
Parks	20807500.724050	Expense	Position Modifications	(166,084)

Parks	20807510.801800	Expense	Refunds	(10,000)
Parks	20807510.931000	Expense	Natural Gas	(10,000)
Parks	20807510.962000	Expense	Machinery & Equipment	293,768



MEMORANDUM

To: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

From: Meghan Bonfiglio, Director

Date: March 10, 2026

Subject: Project and Activities Update – February 2026

Park Facility Events and Projects

Independence Lake Park

- Fifty-one patrons braved the winter weather to walk the lantern lit trail through the woods on 2/6. The program continues to grow in popularity.
- Forty-six participants attended the Ice Fishing Derby on 2/7.
- Maintenance crew became recertified in CPR and First Aid.
- Maintenance staff and Project Managers are working on procuring quotes for the Phase II portion of repaving the asphalt pathways and pavement maintenance repairs. Work is expected to be completed this year.
- Parks staff, along with the JFR consultant team, is in the process of finalizing the construction documents, including site plan, for a new maintenance building. Permit approvals are being sought with EGLE and other agencies.

Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center

- MLMRC hosted the “Glowball” event on 2/2. Around 120 people enjoyed music and dancing, refreshments, and family activities. The night ended with the popular balloon drop.
- The Ice Carving Festival took place on 2/27 at County Farm Park. The event showcased eight pre-carved ice sculptures and two live demonstrations. The wonderful weather helped draw a large crowd to the event.
- Construction on the Natatorium renovation continues. Scaffolding is scheduled to be taken down soon after the installation of the duct sox. Above ceiling inspection passed and tile has been completed within the new family changing rooms. The Pool Dehumidification Unit (PDU) was delivered and set in place. Kalwall panels and saunas are expected to be installed in March. The JFR team, along with WCPARC staff, are in the process of finalizing remaining shop submittals and responding to any contractor questions. Project is currently on time and within the approved budgeted amount.
- Staff has been coordinating with the natatorium artist to finalize the design and discuss the implementation process.

Rolling Hills Park

- Staff constructed a dividing wall in the winter park rental room/ranger break room to accommodate a small air conditioning unit.
- Lifeguard training classes took place at Lincoln with 12 participants earning certificates.
- Pumps and motors have been installed in the main mechanical room and will be tested once the weather breaks.
- Seasonal hiring has been steady, with 155 of 180 positions filled to date.



Staebler Farm Park

- Farmhouse rehabilitation plans have been approved by all applicable permitting agencies. Water filtration design and technical specifications have been finalized and submitted to EGLE for review. The RFP is expected to be released for bids once the budget has been approved.
- The RFP for restoration activities on the northside was released for bid on 3/1, with bids due on 3/30. Funded largely by a grant from Ducks Unlimited, the designed scope of work includes wetland creation and restoration, shoreline debris removal and stabilization, and a crossing over the breach between Peaceful Pond and Fleming Creek.

Special Initiatives

Border to Border Trail (B2B)

- Segment DAA7 (Barton-Bandemer Tunnel and Trail, in partnership with the City of Ann Arbor):
 - o Tunnel: Project substantially complete and is awaiting additional plantings and punch list items this spring.
 - o The Dexter Connection Trail, Parker Road to City of Dexter. Design work is complete, and all permits are in hand. Construction bids are ready to be released in March for 2026 project construction.
- Engineering and permitting are in various stages for the following trail segments:
 - o Segment DAA4 (Delhi Metropark to Wagner Rd): Amtrak permit review still in process.

Nelson Meade County Farm Park Master Plan

- Staff is finalizing Site Master Plan recommendations and will present finding to the Commission this spring.

Natural Areas Preservation Program (NAPP)

Stewardship

- NAPP crew conducted invasive removal in habitats at Burns-Stokes, Scio Woods, Draper-Houston Meadows, Brauer, Goodrich, Miller Smith, and Whitmore Lake preserves.
- Mechanical brush removal to maintain trails occurred at Whitmore Lake, Leonard, Highland and Northfield Woods preserves.
- Postcards announcing prescribed fire plans have been mailed to over 800 neighbors.
- NAPP staff attended the Prescribed Fire Council and The Stewardship Network conferences.
- Staff have partnered with the University of Michigan and Michigan Tech Research Institute to develop a protocol for drone flights to monitor or discover phragmites in the landscape. Work will inform the phragmites management needs of Mud Lake Bog and Independence Lake Park.
- The NAPP Preserve Amenity Design Services for both Lost Wagon and Saline Preserves along with developing boardwalk standards was approved last month and staff is in the process of scheduling meetings, garnering surveying information and touring the sites in-person.

Acquisitions

- Staff is preparing a grant application, due 3/13, for funding for a conservation easement through the MDARD Farmland Preservation Grant for the McCalla property in Lima Township that was previously prioritized by the Parks Commission.



Programming, Events, and Volunteers

Educational & Interpretive Programming

- 189 patrons attend nature programs, which include the Stewards Naturalist Alumni Group Potluck, Professional Stewards Hike, “Sweet for Birds” at Squires Preserve, “Valentine for Squirrels” at County Farm Park, “Winter Survival” at County Farm Park, and indoor archery at Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center.

Michigan Folk School

- 178 students attended 35 classes, which include blacksmithing, food craft, leather belts, leather dopp bags, croissants, copper bracelet, and weaving.

Volunteer Programs

- Volunteers logged more than 100 working hours.
- Volunteer activities included:
 - o One “Stewardship Workday” held at County Farm Park
 - o Four “Stewardship Workdays” held at Independence Lake County Park
 - o “Preserve Stewardship Rotation” at Goodrich Preserve
 - o Glowball Dance volunteers at Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center
 - o Ice Carving Festival volunteers at County Farm Park
 - o Photo Ambassadors Volunteers

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

From: Meghan Bonfiglio, Director

Date: March 10, 2026

Subject: Authorization to Purchase Wetland Mitigation Credits in the Krummrey Wetland Bank

Background

Segment CD3 of the Border to Border Trail (B2B) Trail is located in the City of Dexter and Scio Township. It connects from the Miller-Smith Preserve, parallel to Dexter-Chelsea Road, then crosses four private parcels, ultimately leading to a crossing of Mill Creek in the City of Dexter – a total distance of 0.7 miles. The proposed design restores and repurposes the historic Bell Road bridge for the creek crossing. The design team took steps to minimize disturbance to wetlands but to construct the project, some wetland impacts are required (0.15 acres) of wetlands. along the road edge, on the approaches to the bridge, and the bridge itself, over Mill Creek.

Discussion

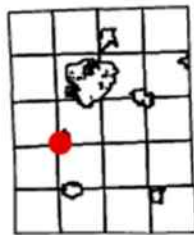
In February, the Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) issued a conditional permit for construction of the project. The condition of the permit is that wetland mitigation is required for this project and specified a replacement ratio of 1.5:1 (meaning 0.23 acres will be mitigated). EGLE and Parks staff recommend that the best way to comply with this requirement is to purchase 0.23 acres of credits in a wetland mitigation bank. The mitigation bank is a created/restored wetland with the purpose of selling credits to offset project impacts. They are legally protected and created in partnership with EGLE.

Staff requested quotes from the four approved wetland banks within the Huron River Watershed boundaries that also comply with the EPA Ecoregion requirements. Four quotes were received and fees ranged from \$25,300 to \$30,200. Since all proposed sites comply with EGLE's standards for mitigation, staff recommends using the lowest cost option, the 64-acre Krummrey Wetland Mitigation Bank site located in the southeast corner of Ingham County. Credits for this bank cost \$110,000 per acre and 0.23 acres of credits are needed, for a total purchase of \$25,300.

Recommendation

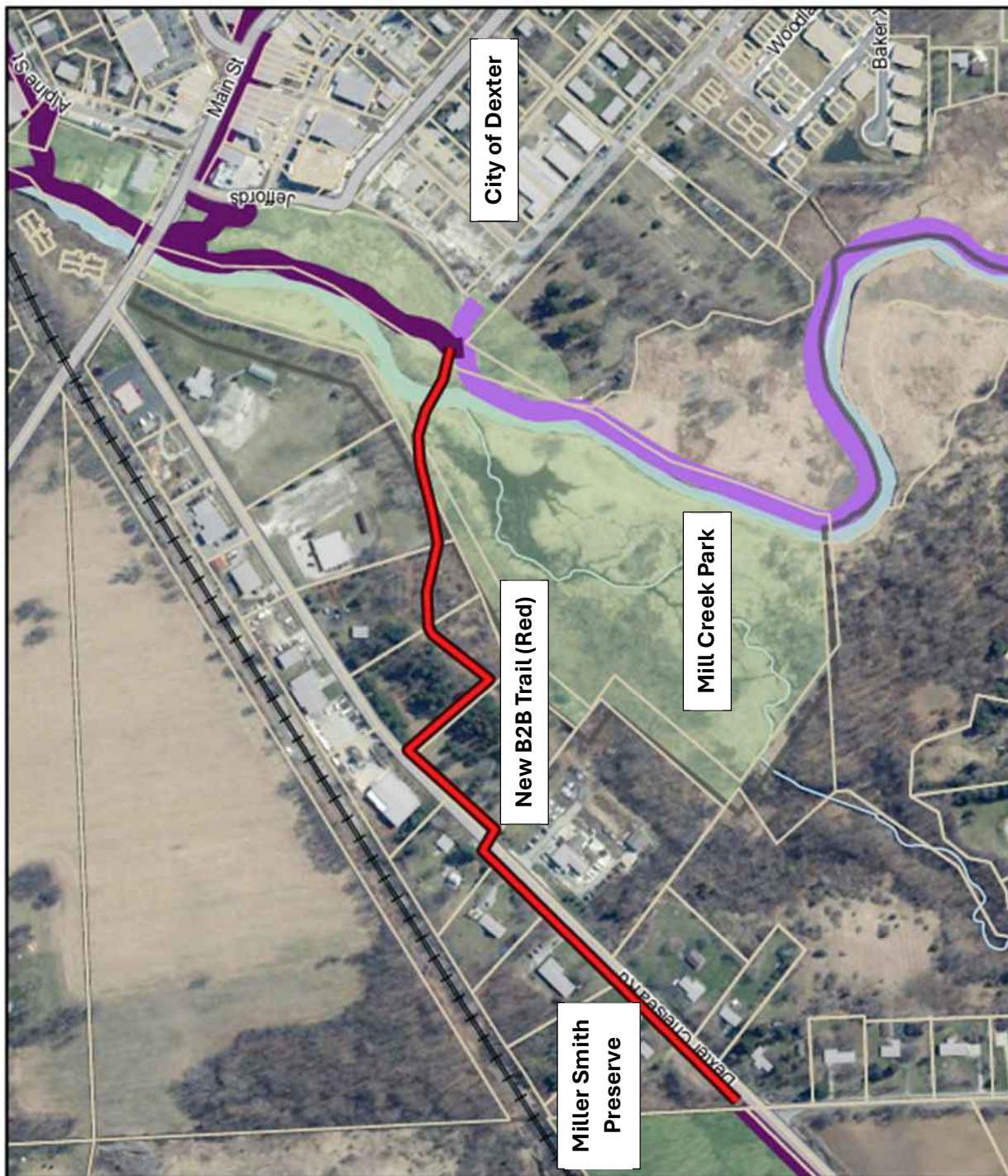
It is my recommendation that the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission authorize the purchase of wetland mitigation credits in the Krummrey Wetland Mitigation Bank in the amount of \$25,300 in accordance with the EGLE permit for the CD3 B2B Trail Project.

B2B Segment CD3



- Legend**
- Municipalities
 - Building Footprints
 - Railroad
 - Shared-Use Trails**
 - B2B Trail
 - B2B Trail: Under Construction
 - Other Trails
 - WCPARC Recreation Lands
 - Other Recreation Lands**
 - Farmland or Conservation Easement
 - All Other Recreation Lands
 - Lakes
 - Streams
 - Q2024_boundary

Notes



**MEMORANDUM**

To: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

From: Meghan Bonfiglio, Director

Date: March 10, 2026

Subject: B2B Contract Amendment: Segment DAA6 Barton Dam to Maple Road

BACKGROUND

Preliminary engineering work is underway for B2B Segment DAA6, which traverses from Barton Dam to Maple Road (1.5 miles) just west of the City of Ann Arbor. This will extend the recently completed work on the Barton-Bandemer Tunnel and Trail project to the west towards Dexter. The land is mostly owned by the City of Ann Arbor, but portions are controlled by the MDOT Office of Rail and the Washtenaw County Road Commission or regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC),

Several trail route options were explored for this area during the 2016 Dexter to Ann Arbor Master Planning process for the B2B and those have been revisited over the past two years considering new information and adjacent projects. Stantec was hired by the Commission to assist with the analysis of the new information, prepare exhibits, and provide information to present to the Commission and the City's Parks Advisory Commission (PAC).

Resulting from the presentations to those bodies, the preferred alignment for the trail utilizes the existing railroad underpass near Barton Dam, then traverses near the toe of the slope of the dam, crosses through a portion of the Huron River to provide safe and legal access to a city-owned nature area, then back to Maple Road near the Foster Bridge, where an at-grade railroad crossing is anticipated (see attached map).

DISCUSSION

The proposed trail route will require navigating a complex series of permitting requirements and require careful analysis of construction materials and methods. Staff has navigated many of these challenges before, but FERC is a new complexity to B2B Trail permitting requirements. Engaging with them early is highly advised since dams are complex structures with unique engineering and safety considerations. At the early preliminary engineering stage we are currently in, additional information is needed to advance the conversations with FERC and other agencies. These conversations are critical to understanding constraints and requirements that will guide the trail's development and ultimately streamline final engineering plans and approvals.

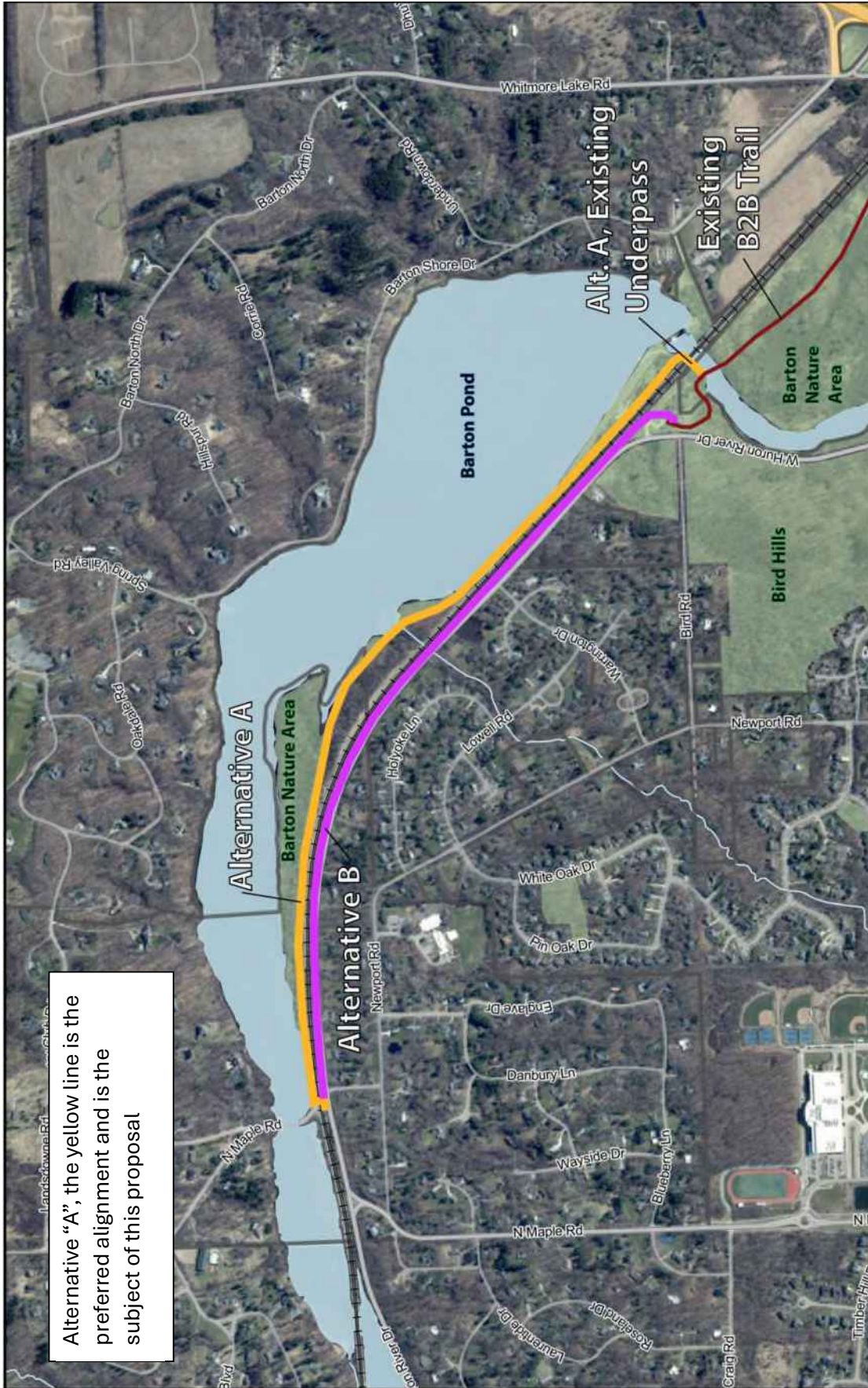
Commission staff have requested additional services from Stantec to help facilitate those necessary conversations. The resulting information will also support future grant applications to assist with construction. Stantec has provided a proposal to complete the additional work with some of the key services being:

- Revised and more detailed schematic plan based on the preferred alignment
- FERC coordination with the Engineer of Record to determine specific construction and safety considerations for the trail near Barton Dam's influence area.
- Threatened and endangered species review
- Boardwalk analysis for construction in the Huron River: explore options for materials, costs, and lifecycle considerations; constructability review; preliminary analysis of hydraulic permit requirements from EGLE.

Stantec has \$34,173 remaining in their current contract for this project and requests an additional \$27,952 required for the services outlined above. If approved, the additional services will bring the total contract value to \$152,472 for this project.

RECOMMENDATION

It is my recommendation that the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission authorize an amendment to Stantec's contract for \$27,952 to advance preliminary engineering work for B2B Trail Segment DAA6: Barton Dam to Maple Road.



Alternative "A", the yellow line is the preferred alignment and is the subject of this proposal