NOTICE OF MEETING

Date: March 12, 2019
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Location: Parks Administration Building, 2230 Platt Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48107-8645

AGENDA

1. Call To Order / Pledge of Allegiance

2. Approval of the Minutes – February 12, 2019 Meeting (attached, pp. 1-5 /action item)

3. Public Comment

4. Communications, Projects & Activities (attached, pp. 6-29 /action item)

5. Financial & Recreation Reports – February 2019
   A. Financial Reports (attached, pp. 30-32 /action item)
   B. Recreation Reports (attached, p. 33 /action item)

6. Old Business
   A. 2018 Annual Report (informational presentation)
   B. Master Plan Overview and Mission Statement (informational presentation)

7. New Business
   A. Rolling Hills Concessions Feasibility Study (attached, p. 34 /action item)
   B. Rolling Hills Online Waterpark Pass Sales (informational presentation)
   C. Blue Heron Bay Annual Passes (informational presentation)
   D. NAPP – Mercereau – Scio Township (attached, pp. 35-39 /action item)
   E. NAPP – Haas – Scio Township (attached, pp. 40-43 /action item)
   F. NAPP – Kempf – Northfield Township (attached, pp. 44-47 /action item)
   G. NAPP – Windy Crest – City of Ann Arbor (attached, pp. 48-52 /action item)
   H. NAPP – Buesser – Northfield Township (attached, pp. 53-57 /action item)
   I. Other New Business

8. Commissioners / Directors Comments

9. 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

Date: February 13, 2019
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Location: Administration Building, 2230 Platt Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Members Present: Robert Marans, WCPARC President; Patricia Scribner, Vice President; Janis Bobrin, Daniel Ezekiel, Barbara Fuller, Ricky Jefferson, and Sue Shink

Members Absent: Janice Anschuetz, WCPARC Secretary-Treasurer, Brenda McKinney, and Evan Pratt

Staff Present: Coy Vaughn, Director; Meghan Bonfiglio, Deputy Director; Ginny Trocchio, Superintendent of Park Planning and Natural Areas; Jason Brooks, Manager of Finance and Administration; Diane Carr, MLM Recreation Center Superintendent; Brian Machemer, Independence Lake Superintendent; Katie King, MLM Rec Center Supervisor; Peter Sanderson, Park Planner; Rosie Pahl Donaldson, Park Planner

Others Present: None

1. Call To Order / Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Marans called the meeting to order at 2:05 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Marans stated he would like to amend the agenda by moving item #6c, the Non-Motorized Road Millage Expenditures Presentation down to item #7f and the Director’s Evaluation down to item #7g.

It was moved by Ms. Bobrin and seconded by Mr. Ezekiel to amend the agenda of February 13, 2019 as proposed. Ayes all as amended; the motion was approved.

The Minutes of the January 8, 2019 meeting were included with the agenda material.

It was moved by Ms. Fuller and seconded by Ms. Bobrin to approve the Minutes of the January 8, 2019 meeting. Ayes all as amended; the motion was approved.

3. Public Comment

None
4. Communications, Projects & Activities

Mr. Vaughn introduced Katie King, MLM Supervisor, as a new employee and provided a summary of her educational and professional credentials. Ms. Shink introduced herself as the newest member on the Commission representing the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Vaughn provided an overview of communications for the month of January, which included a profile on MLM Superintendent Diane Carr; an article on the Ice Carving Festival which occurred on February 9, 2019; a thank you from St. Joseph Parish for passes and a 2018 Family Favorite award from Ann Arbor Family Press for Rolling Hills. Mr. Vaughn provided a written report and a PowerPoint presentation of the projects and activities update for the month of January, 2019.

It was moved by Ms. Fuller and seconded by Ms. Scribner to accept and file the Communications, Projects and Activities Update for the month of January 2019 as submitted. Ayes all, the motion was approved.

5. Reports – January, 2019

A. Financial Reports

Mr. Vaughn presented the claims report for January, 2019 which included expenditures for parking lot construction at Staebler Farm, the final installment payment for the Estleman conservation easement, and B2B expenses to the non-motorized transit fund.

Mr. Brooks presented the fund balance reports through January, highlighting modifications due to current encumbrances on the Parks fund balance and the budgeted property tax receipts in 2019.

_It was moved by Ms. Bobrin and seconded by Ms. Fuller to accept and file the financial reports and to approve the recreation expenditures presented in the Claims Report for the month of January 2019, totaling $324,684. Ayes all, the motion was approved._

B. Recreation Reports

Mr. Vaughn then summarized the statistics for the Mari Lou Murray Recreation Center for the month of January, 2019, noting that the presentation of Ms. Carr would be following shortly.

_It was moved by Ms. Scribner and seconded by Mr. Ezekiel to receive and file the Recreation Reports for January 2019 as presented. Ayes all, the motion was approved._

6. Old Business

A. Folk School Presentation

The presentation was moved to a future meeting.

B. Gatehouse Replacement, Rolling Hills & Independence Lake

Mr. Dehring reported that this action is being brought forward to account for the construction on the gatehouses at Rolling Hills and Independence Lake. Mr. Ezekiel asked why the estimate was off by more than anticipated. Mr. Dehring reported that the volume of contracting work available and the cost of materials in the market is currently inflated. He added that the prices for the parking lot at Staebler were also higher than anticipated. Mr. Dehring stated that the bid for the irrigation system at Sharon Mills took three attempts and added that only one response was received. Mr. Marans asked if the same design will be used at Rolling Hills as at Independence Lake. Mr. Dehring stated that the same design would be used to tie the Parks agency together.

_It was moved by Ms. Scribner, seconded by Ms. Shink to award the contract as amended for construction of Gatehouses at Rolling Hills & Independence Lake. Ayes all, motion was approved._
C. Election of New Officers

It was moved by Ms. Bobrin, seconded by Mr. Ezekiel to retain the current slate of officers. Ayes all, motion was approved.

D. Other Old Business

None

7. New Business

A. MLM Recreation Center Presentation & Equipment Purchases

Ms. Carr provided an update on the MLM Recreation Center (Power Point presentation on file). Ms. Carr reported that she had been doing research on equipment desired by members of the community. She reported that adjustable height basketball goals, recumbent bikes, a stair climber, replacement of the old treadmills, and an adjustable seated row machine are priorities. Ms. Carr added that she had hoped to bring in equipment that would appeal to all ages. Ms. Bobrin asked about plans for replacing the weight machines. Ms. Carr responded that she would like to replace the entire circuit of strength equipment, and added that strength equipment once purchased can be placed on a longer replacement schedule. Ms. Fuller asked if implementation of eating disorder programs had been considered. Ms. Carr reported that it was under consideration. Ms. Fuller asked how the issue of gender being non-binary is being addressed with respect to locker rooms. Ms. Carr reported that there is a single universally-accessible restroom available, but it is on a separate level than the pool. This means anyone needing assistance has to travel through the facility to the pool and back, so added that there is a need in the pool area. Ms. Fuller stated that she would be interested in ideas for making the pool area more financially sustainable.

It was moved by Ms. Fuller, seconded by Ms. Scribner to authorize proposed replacement of select exercise equipment at the Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center in the amount of $47,613.60. Ayes all, motion was approved.

B. Lazy River RFP Responses and Award

Mr. Machemer reported that the lazy river is in need of some upgrades. He added that it is difficult to resurface only portion of the lazy river at a time, and should be looked at as a whole rather than in sections. Mr. Machemer stated that the work would be completed in two phases and provided pictures of the current site. Replacing the pump motors and valves would be phase one (spring), and phase two will be the re-surfacing of the lazy river, which includes three six inches of tile at the top of the lazy river surface (after Labor Day).

It was moved by Ms. Scribner, seconded by Ms. Fuller to award a service contract in the amount of $925,087.00 to Baruzzini Construction Company for the lazy river project outlined in RFP #7666 and to include an additional 10% ($92,508) contingency for potential change orders. Ayes all, motion was approved.

C. Set Working Session Meeting – NAPP

Ms. Trocchio reported that discussion about setting up a NAPP Working Session has been in the works for a while and proposed March 14th from 2-5 p.m. WCPARC staff will provide notice of the meeting in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.
D. NAPP – Base Lake, Webster Township, 30.5 acres

Ms. Pahl-Donaldson stated that this is a continuation of the Base Lake project. She reported that this easement is made up of 30.5 acres and has a total cost of $270,000 and added that it is a prioritized bio reserve. Webster Township is requesting $202,000 from WCPARC in the form of a contribution and will hold the easement. Ms. Pahl-Donaldson reported that this is a very high priority easement for ALPAC. Mr. Ezekiel stated that he doesn’t like contributing to these projects if the townships are the only ones holding the easement. Ms. Trocchio reported that language is in place allowing the County to step in if the township cannot manage the easement.

It was moved by Mr. Ezekiel and seconded Ms. Bobrin to partner with Webster Township on the purchase of a conservation easement on the Base Lake Farm in Webster Township, and to contribute $202,000 toward the purchase, contingent upon attorney review of documents and execution of the participation agreement. Roll Call Vote: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 3 absent (Anschuetz, McKinney, and Pratt), motion carried.

E. NAPP – Lepkowski, Northfield Township, 75 acres

Ms. Trocchio provided an overview of the property and proposed acquisition. This property came to us through the City of Ann Arbor’s Greenbelt Program. She added that this property has been in farming for some time. Ms. Trocchio stated that this property scored midway down ALPAC’s priority list and they declined to participate. She reported that the Greenbelt asked if NATAC would be a partner and that there are some wetlands of medium quality, grassland nesting birds in the hayfields, and stated that NATAC recommended contributing $10,000. Mr. Ezekiel asked how the number was determined. Ms. Trocchio responded that it’s approximately 2% of fair market value. Ms. Shink stated that due to transition on the City Council they initially voted no on the property, but one council member voted to bring the resolution back to Council in mid-February. She added that she heard that this $10k contribution would get the people that had protested to be supportive. The City has a federal grant to cover 50% of the purchase price.

It was moved by Ms. Fuller and seconded Ms. Scribner to partner with the City of Ann Arbor’s Greenbelt Program on the purchase of a conservation easement on the Lepkowski Farm in Northfield Township, and to contribution $10,000 toward the purchase, contingent upon attorney review of documents and execution of the participation agreement. Roll Call Vote: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 3 absent (Anschuetz, McKinney, and Pratt), motion carried.

F. Non-Motorized Road Millage Expenditures Presentation

Mr. Vaughn and Mr. Sanderson provided an update on Non-Motorized Road Millage Expenditures (Power Point Presentation on file).

Mr. Marans requested that a copy of the presentation be given to the Commission. Mr. Ezekiel asked for a copy of the response to a landowner with concerns near M 52. Ms. Shink stated that she is hearing concern that the trail may be consuming trees. Mr. Sanderson reported that they are doing what they can to save trees, like routing the trail through previously farmed areas near M 52. Mr. Vaughn stated that it would be beneficial for staff to send Ms. Shink a history summary on the Connecting Communities program.

G. 2018 Performance Evaluation – WCPARC Director

It was moved by Ms. Scribner and seconded Mr. Fuller to enter closed session for the purpose of discussing the WCPARC Director’s 2018 performance evaluation. Roll Call Vote: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 3 absent (Anschuetz, McKinney, and Pratt), motion carried.
The meeting adjourned to closed session at 4:10 p.m.

The meeting was called back to order at 4:40 p.m.

H. Other New Business

None

8. Commissioners / Directors Comments

None

9. Adjournment

It was moved by Ms. Fuller with support from Ms. Bobrin to adjourn the meeting at 4:52 p.m. Ayes all, meeting was adjourned.
Communications, Projects & Activities
Construction begins for new Border-to-Border trail segment in Scio Township

By Dana Afana | dafana@mlive.com

SCIO TOWNSHIP, MI - Construction kicked off on Saturday for another segment of a pedestrian-friendly pathway scheduled to open this fall.

Construction on a 1.2-mile extension of the Border-to-Boarder trail from the Dexter-Huron Metropark east to Zeeb Road officially began Feb. 9. The new segment will feature two bridges spanning the Huron River to offer access to the park.

“Completing the B2B will offer tremendous new recreational opportunities across the region, connecting our cities and towns, and linking many of the parks in Washtenaw County, through the B2B Trail System,” said Coy Vaughn, Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission director.

The 22-mile system will feature 10 pedestrian bridges spanning the Huron River between Ann Arbor and Dexter and 10-foot-wide paved pathways. The project is being developed through a partnership among Huron-Clinton Metroparks, Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission, Washtenaw County Road Commission and Huron Waterloo Pathways Initiative.

This year, construction will continue on 5.3 to 8.4 new miles of trail segments, according to a news release. This includes the Dexter-Huron to Zeeb project, a trail east and northwest of Chelsea, one tunnel under M-52 connecting the Waterloo and Pinckney Recreation Areas, and the B2B Trailhead adjacent to Lyndon Township Hall.
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ypsilanti Twp. Board Unanimously Approves Location For New Skatepark

YPSILANTI TOWNSHIP, MI - February 11, 2019 - On Monday, January 14, the Ypsilanti Township Board of Trustees voted unanimously to approve Community Center Park as the location of a new public skatepark for the area. Previously, in December, the Ypsilanti Township Parks Commission voted unanimously to send the location recommendation to the Board of Trustees.

Ypsilanti Township Supervisor Brenda Stumbo says, "Recreation is important, collaboration is as well. Without the skatepark advocates and leadership of the County and the Tony Hawk Foundation, the proposed skate park wouldn't be possible."

The Ypsilanti Skatepark effort has been underway since early 2018, and was sparked by the Built to Play Skatepark Grant initiative. Built to Play offers matching grants up to $250,000 for public skateparks in SE Michigan and Western New York. The grants are available through a partnership between the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation and the Tony Hawk Foundation. The Washtenaw County Parks Commission has committed to providing the funds needed for the Built to Play Skatepark Grant Match.

Meghan Bonfiglio, Deputy Director of the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission says, “The Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission is excited to partner with Ypsilanti Township, the Tony Hawk Foundation and the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation on this project. The skatepark will be a wonderful addition to Ypsilanti Township’s Community Center Park - providing a recreational amenity that is perfect for kids of all ages.”

Ricky Jefferson, Washtenaw County Commissioner and Parks Commissioner adds, “This is great news and great work for the residents of eastern Washtenaw County. I believe a state of the art skateboard park will draw out of town visitors. I celebrate the voices of the skateboard community in the area for their advocacy to have the Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission make this a priority.”

“The skatepark location serves local neighborhoods, is close to amenities, and is visible to passers-by. It’s the perfect location for a skatepark!”, says Cory Spivey, skateboarder, local resident, and Team Leader for the community group Ypsilanti Skatepark. The group has been working on the skatepark effort since early 2018.

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Contact:
Meghan Bonfiglio
Deputy Director, Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission
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734-971-6337
By Lynne Beauchamp, lbeauchamp@thesuntimesnews.com

Huron-Clinton Metroparks, Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission (WCPARC), Washtenaw County Road Commission (WCRC) and Huron Waterloo Pathways Initiative (HWPI) hosted a groundbreaking ceremony on February 9 in Dexter-Huron Metropark to celebrate the construction of the next phase of the Border To Border (B2B) Trail segment.

The Dexter to Ann Arbor/Huron River Corridor Segment is a 1.2-mile extension of the B2B starting at the Metropark and will head east to Zeeb Road. Approximate cost for this segment is just under $5 million. The trail will be a paved, 10-foot-wide non-motorized pathway and is intended for people of all ages and abilities.
Jeff Hardcastle, HWPI Chair, explained to those attending the ceremony, this segment is costly to build near the river and has been in the works for nearly five years. Hardcastle said this segment of the trail from the Metropark will feature two bridges spanning the Huron River before reaching Zeeb Road. He added two more construction phases of the B2B are in progress for 2019 – the next segments of the Chelsea-Stockbridge Connection and Dexter-Chelsea Connection.

“It's harder, sometimes, to build a trail along the river and it's taken a lot of partners to get here,” said Laura Rubin, Executive Director of Huron River Watershed Council. “But I am really proud to be part of a community that sees the river as such a beautiful natural resource that they build a trail along it...and have done it in a very thoughtful manner.”

The B2B Trail is part of a bigger project, The Iron Belle Project, but locally is a collaboration of Huron-Clinton Metroparks, WCPARC, WCRC and HWPI and includes the support of many local municipalities and organizations along with the Huron River Watershed Council the “steward of the Huron River”.

Funding for the trail has come from a variety of sources including a parks and recreation millage, grants, foundations and private donations.

Construction for the Dexter to Ann Arbor B2B Trail Segment has begun and is scheduled to be completed by September 2019.

Seth Kinker
Reporter/Digital Media for The Sun Times News

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Scio Township taking more steps toward North Zeeb Pathway

February 15, 2019  Lonnie Huhman  0 Comments  Border-to-Border, non-motorized pathway

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The Zeeb Road Pathway currently ends at Dexter-Ann Arbor Road, photo by Lonnie Huhman

By Lonnie Huhman, lhuhman@thesuntimesnews.com

With residents wanting it to happen and it fitting in with township and county goals, the Scio Township Board took another step on Feb. 12 toward making the North Zeeb Road Shared Use Pathway a reality.

In an effort to secure $300,000 in grant funding, the township board unanimously approved a Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission's Connecting Communities Project agreement for the pathway funding.

Scio Township Manager Bryce Kelley said this adds another $300,000 toward the end goal.

In its application, Scio Township detailed some of the benefits with one being that the pathway would be the backbone for future connections. It would also link the commercial area of Jackson Road to Huron River Drive while along the way connecting to two properties, at township hall and Marshall Road, slated to be developed as parks, the Border-to-Border Trail, Scio Township Fire Station, the Washtenaw County Road Commission and Water Resources Commission offices, and the Burns-Stokes Preserve.

The path's completion would be phase three of the project and just over a mile in length as it would cross the Huron River.

The estimated total cost of the project is $1.4 million of which $600,000 has been raised by the township through grants. The township stated one goal has been to be fiscally responsible and attempt to find additional funding sources to help pay for the big project.

"The project is budgeted at $1.4 million and spread over 2019 and 2020," Kelley said. "While the township has the funding committed, it will also be launching a fund drive this year to support the project."

In looking for examples of community support for the proposal, township officials cite the five-year recreation plan in which residents provided input that expressed a desire for the path.

The proposed Zeeb path would complete the route that ends at Dexter-Ann Arbor Road. It would be the township's first completed non-motorized trail project.

The connecting communities grant program provides supplemental funding for development of non-motorized pathways or similar projects. Projects are eligible for funding if they demonstrate the ability to support the goal of connecting communities and activity centers through offering a healthy alternative for recreation, transportation, fitness and energy conservation.

The township is currently communicating with property owners and working toward getting easements to allow the pathway to head north.

In related news, the township is hosting a community park input session from 6 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, March 5, at the Scio Township Hall, 827 N. Zeeb Road. The township is seeking public comment regarding a funding application to develop a trailhead and park on the Township Municipal Center Campus.
Manchester School Board Approves New Riverside Signage, Addresses Website

Bond Refinancing Saves Manchester Taxpayers More Than Expected

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Ann Arbor looks to build pedestrian tunnel under railroad tracks, seeks public input

Updated Feb 15; Posted Feb 16

By Dana Afana | dafana@mlive.com

ANN ARBOR, MI - City and county officials are looking to gather feedback on potential construction of a pedestrian tunnel beneath railroad tracks near the Huron River.

Ann Arbor’s Parks and Recreation Services, the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission and the Huron Waterloo Pathways Initiative are compiling a feasibility study on the tunnel that would connect Barton Nature Area and Bandemer Park.

The public will be able to see preliminary plans in a public meeting at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 26 in the Forsythe Middle School cafeteria, 1655 Newport Road.

“We’re working to improve safety on the (Michigan Department of Transportation) rail section there and in the North Main corridor in general ... because right now, there’s not a great connection and there’s a lot of trespassing going on across the railroad tracks,” said Peter Sanderson, park planner with the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission.

A project timeline has not been set, but Sanderson said the target will be between 2020 and 2022.

The tunnel could connect with the Border-to-Border Trail, depending on the feasibility study.

“This area came up multiple times at the public meetings. We’ve heard this comment from many folks about trying to improve the connection there,” Sanderson said.

Building a tunnel is a less expensive option than a bridge over the tracks, Sanderson said.

“The Federal Railroad Administration designated this corridor as high-speed rail,” he said. “You’d need 26 feet of clearance over the track,” which then requires compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of adding ramps that leaders worry residents and visitors will not use, Sanderson added.

View a map of the project area [here].
Ann Arbor encourages anyone with disabilities to participate in the Feb. 26 meeting and to request accommodations, including sign language interpreters, by contacting the clerk’s office at 734-794-6140, emailing cityclerk@a2gov.org or mailing a written request to 301 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor.

**ALL OF THE DARK SECRETS FROM THE SECRETLY TRAGIC SET OF 'THE BRADY BUNCH'**

By Ranker

The Brady family certainly may be timeless – we've all caught the reruns on TV Land – but it turns out, the real-life Bradys aren't so wholesome at all. In fact, they're straight up Jersey Shore wild,...

Learn More
Ann Arbor land conservation program receives $1 million grant from USDA

Tuesday, February 19, 2019 - 5:16pm

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is awarding “The Ann Arbor Greenbelt: Saving Michigan Farms Regional Conservation Partnership Program” $1 million dollars, according to a Feb. 4 press release (https://www.a2gov.org/news/pages/article.aspx?i=552). The project is led by the City of Ann Arbor Open Space and Parkland Preservation Program, also called the Greenbelt. It aims to protect surrounding Ann Arbor agricultural lands through conservation easements, the right to use someone else’s land for a specified purpose. Greenbelt and its local partners will match the grant, which means a total of $2 million will go toward preserving farmland in Washtenaw County.

Partners in the project include Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission, Scio Township, Ann Arbor Township, Augusta Township, Legacy Land Conservancy, Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy, The Conservation Fund and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

This 2018 fiscal year, the Saving Michigan Farms program is one of 91 projects selected for the Regional Conservation Partnership Program funding by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. The USDA list (https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/farmbill/rcpp/) of chosen projects describes ecological and local benefits of the Saving Michigan Farms program. These benefits include protecting food security and local economics, maintaining the agricultural heritage of residents and combating environmental concerns.

According to Jennifer Fike, the Greenbelt Advisory Commission (http://www.a2gov.org/greenbelt/Pages/AdvisoryCommitteeGreenbelt.aspx) chair, the USDA grant will amplify the Greenbelt’s land preservation efforts.
“(The grant money) is an awesome way for us to leverage federal dollars to match the amount of money that we put in to protect land in Washtenaw County in the Greenbelt area,” Fike said. “It allows our (tax) dollars to go further to protect more land.”

According to the USDA website, the RCPP funds projects through four types of programs (http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/farmbill/rcpp/?cid=nrcseprd1308280), including from the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program. Though the Greenbelt has received USDA funding directly from ACEP before, this is the first time Greenbelt has received such funding through the RCPP, Fike explained.

“It could potentially allow us to go after larger parcels of land,” Fike said. “I’m not sure, as (both types of funding) are very similar. It just allows us more funding — one million dollars — whereas ACEP funding is a lot less.”

The Saving Michigan Farms program will preserve agricultural lands by functioning as a Purchase of Development Rights program, a voluntary program for which landowners can apply. Owners of qualified agricultural property (https://www.a2gov.org/greenbelt/Documents/2010_screening_system.pdf) are compensated for accepting a permanent deed restriction through a conservation easement, which prohibits future development on that land. The land remains private property, and the landowner may receive income tax benefits for donating part or all of the value of development rights.

To LSA freshman Noah Clements, who is a student in the Program in the Environment, PDR programs are especially beneficial for their long-term effects.

“Conservation easements, like Greenbelt is doing, are really sustainable, and they keep that land undeveloped for decades to come,” Clements said. “It really is a future-minded project, which is what we need.”

According to the Greenbelt website (https://www.a2gov.org/greenbelt/Pages/PurchaseofDevelopmentRights.aspx), PDR programs benefit farmers in a variety of ways, such as rendering farmland more affordable, which helps younger farmers; gives older farmers a way other than selling their land to fund retirement; and assists in the transfer of farmland from generation to generation. Fike echoed these points, expressing that PDR programs can help landowners in their present-day business operations as well.

“Land prices in Washtenaw County can be pretty high,” Fike said. “(It can be) very difficult financially to make a living at (farming). By being able to place land in a conservation easement with us as a partner, that allows (farmers) the financial capability to put the money back into their business and grow food for local markets, such as Ann Arbor Farmers Market, selling to Ann Arbor restaurants, selling directly off their farm.”

The Greenbelt arose out of the 2003 Open Space and Parkland Preservation Millage (http://www.a2gov.org/greenbelt/Pages/ProgramHighlightsGreenbelt.aspx), a 30-year, 0.5 mil tax levy in response to the worries of suburban sprawl (http://www.secondwavemedia.com/concentrate/features/annarborgreenbelt0173.aspx) in Ann Arbor in the 1990s. More commonly known as the Greenbelt Millage, the measure passed with two-thirds of the vote.

Michael Garfield, director of environmental advocacy group known as the Ecology Center (https://www.ecocenter.org/), spearheaded the Greenbelt ballot measure in 2003. Garfield explained the context in which the measure arose, describing rapid development in the 1980s and 1990s.

“Back in the 1980s and '90s, there was unplanned, unrestrained suburban development in all of southeast Michigan … quite a distance from the urban center of Detroit,” Garfield said. “There were ginormous (sic) developments in Washtenaw County fairly
close to Ann Arbor that were being proposed that would utterly transform the landscape around here … We were concerned about the loss of natural resources, and loss of good farmland that could be used to build a sustainable food economy.”

Garfield also described unrestricted development laws, which made control of suburban sprawl difficult.

“Michigan law is among the worst in the country in addressing land use development in a sensible, environmentally-friendly way,” Garfield said. “It’s very hard to put restraints on groups, and Michigan townships have a lot of planning and zoning authority.”


After the Greenbelt was formed, Garfield served for eight years as the first chair of the Greenbelt Advisory Commission. According to Garfield, funding in his day targeted specific parcels of land, and he expressed his pleasure in seeing the new USDA grant address a more general purpose.

“This is a broader award — that’s wonderful, this is like an endowment,” Garfield said. “When I was actively involved … you had to have a specific purpose and some land in mind and all the paperwork before receiving federal money.”

Applications for a conservation easement are reviewed both by Greenbelt staff and the Greenbelt Advisory Commission, which is composed of one City Council representative, one farmer, one developer, two environmentalists, one biologist and three at-large community members. In its 13 years, the Greenbelt has leveraged over $25 million (http://www.secondwavemedia.com/concentrate/innovationnews/greenbelt0490.aspx) and preserved over 5,200 acres (http://www.secondwavemedia.com/concentrate/innovationnews/greenbelt0490.aspx) of farmland and open space surrounding Ann Arbor.

According to Fike, Ann Arbor is one of the few municipalities with a millage to protect land outside of city limits. Fike expressed that this benefits Ann Arbor in a myriad of ways.

“By preserving land throughout Washtenaw County, it protects the Huron River watershed, and that’s a source of drinking water for most Ann Arbor residents,” Fike said. “The more this land is developed, the more that there could be impacts such as runoff and increasing emissions.”

In the 2017 fiscal year, a group of School for Environment and Sustainability graduate students studied the Greenbelt in a project (https://deepblue.lib.umich.edu/handle/2027.42/143208) titled “Measuring Impact: Evaluating the Economic, Social, and Ecological Services of the City of Ann Arbor Greenbelt Program.” The study suggested the program benefits local water quality and food systems as well as maintains the rural character of the area.

In addition, the students surveyed 441 Ann Arbor residents, 81 percent of whom supported using tax dollars for the Greenbelt. Information from the survey also estimated residents were willing to pay a median of $127 per year per household for the program, which is more than residents actually pay.

Fike expressed appreciation for the overwhelming local support of the Greenbelt.
“I am grateful that Ann Arbor residents had the foresight to vote and approve a millage where much of the funds would protect land outside of the city limits,” Fike said. “It’s a unique program and has done its part to protect over 5,200 acres to date.”

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0 Comments

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February 22, 2019

Coy Vaughn, Director, and Kira Macyda
Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission
P.O. Box 8645
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48107-8645

Calendar Year 2018 Contribution

Dear Director Vaughn and Ms. Macyda:

The Michigan Historic Preservation Network thanks you for once again making the live and silent auctions at our 24th Annual Fall Benefit a great success.

On Saturday evening, September 29, over 125 members and friends of the MHPN gathered at Detroit’s stunning Masonic Temple, a massive, Gothic-inspired complex designed by George D. Mason and built between 1920 and 1926. Upon completion, the Detroit Masonic Temple was recognized as the largest building of its kind in the world. The evening included a 90-minute pre-event tour through the rich interior spaces of the Masonic, shorter tours upon the arrival of guests, great food, a hosted bar, both a silent and live auction, and the special addition of presenting Kristine Kidorf a Lifetime Achievement Award and John Gallagher a Citizen Award.

Because the Network is a Michigan 501(c)(3) organization, we provide for your 2018 tax purposes the following auction item description and the value you established:

ITEM(S): 4 passes to Rolling Hills Water Park and 1 vehicle entry pass
TOTAL VALUE: $38/county resident, up to $50 non-county resident

The MHPN works to draw attention to great architecture in Michigan. The evening is a chance to introduce new people to the MHPN while earning dollars needed to keep our programming vital. You helped make the evening a grand success!

Sincerely,

Janet L. Kreger
Fund Development
734-222-9310; kregerj1981@att.net

Michigan Historic Preservation Network – Nancy Finegood, Executive Director
313 César E. Chávez Avenue / Lansing, Michigan 48906 / 517-371-8080 / admin@mhpn.org / www.mhpn.org
Work Begins On Next Section Of Border To Border Trail
February 25, 2019

Construction is underway on another trail segment of the Border to Border extension project in the Dexter area.

The Border to Border Trail is a non-motorized 10-foot wide paved trail with boardwalks that runs through Ypsilanti, Ann Arbor and Dexter, touching on area Metroparks and city parks. In 2016, the trail was expanded to connect to the City of Chelsea, through MDNR lands in the Waterloo and Pinckney Recreation Areas and then up to Stockbridge where it makes a regional connection as part of the statewide Iron Belle Trail. It will also tie into the Lakeland Trail that runs through Livingston, Ingham, and Jackson Counties.

A groundbreaking ceremony was held in January for the latest section of non-motorized pedestrian pathway that will span 1.2 mile starting at Dexter-Huron Metropark and head east to Zeeb Road and Huron River Drive. The 10-foot wide asphalt trail will include six segments of boardwalk and two bridges spanning the Huron River. Building those bridges will actually expand the usable area of Dexter-Huron Metropark by opening up roughly 18 acres currently inaccessible to the public because it's cut off by the river and the railroad in Dexter. A groundbreaking ceremony was held in January and work should be done sometime in late summer or fall.

Park Planner Peter Sanderson with the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission they're starting now because of challenges with the river - they want to try and do as much as possible during the non-peak river use season to not obstruct paddlers or other fisherman from using the river. He says they will be doing all sorts of work throughout the winter, which will involve tree clearing, large scale earth moving and some bridge abutment work - although the challenge there will be dealing with the flood stage of the Huron River. Sanderson says there will be a fence in part of the area, in the M-DOT rail corridor, where they are doing a small section of rail with trail to preserve a large section of oak trees. He says those are the early steps but people will really start to see it take shape in the spring and summer, adding a number of boardwalks will also go in but those are more of a mid-stage operation.

Sanderson says the trail in Dexter is heavily used, noting they have some permanent counters installed in that area. Sanderson says they're getting a lot of use, with somewhere around 1,200 passes by the sensors every day – which is especially significant for a city that only has about 5,000 residents. The new segment connects into Dexter by the Cider Mill and Sanderson says they are working with the City on a signage plan or inter-city routing plan to connect over to the Hudson Mills section. Right now there are a couple of access options; go through residential streets by library and tie into the trail that way or also go right down main street and through the Central business district and tie in that way, also crossing the city park system with Mill Creek park right there.

Other trail connections projects are also continuing this year. Another trail section will be breaking ground later this year, while another segment is currently under construction on the east side of Chelsea. The Dexter-Chelsea connection totals 2.1 miles. It starts at Freer Road by the railroad and travels east, south of the railroad, which is part of a broader connection between the City of Chelsea and Dexter. Finally another project wrapped up on the northwest side of Chelsea and opened in early December. The Chelsea-Stockbridge connection totals 2.6 miles and begins at Werkner Road and basically parallels M-52 before ending at the MDNR Green Lake campground.
in Chelsea. Sanderson says they anticipate extending that by another 2 miles this year, all the way up to North Territorial Road at M-52. At that location by the Lyndon Township Hall, they will be constructing a trail head parking lot with standard amenities such as water, restrooms, parking, signage and maps. All in all, it will end up being about five miles in total length there. Sanderson added along the Huron River Corridor is where they are trying to connect Dexter and Ann Arbor together, which is where the Dexter-Huron to Zeeb section comes from. That is the first phase of what will total seven phases in another extension.

Sanderson noted they do a lot of environmental work with the trail projects. He says the different segments typically involve two years of planning, design work and environmental and archeological investigations as part of the different projects. Countywide he noted they are working to update the wayfinding and signage system, some with maps and arrows, to more easily navigate trails on the ground. Sanderson says the projects are very partnership based and they are fortunate to have a number of key players working together to build out the trail system. He says people want to experience trails and demand has been consistently trending since the early 2000’s so they’re working to integrate existing bike lanes and pathways to visit different trails, scenic areas and different parkland. The Border-to-Border Trail (B2B) extension project is a partnership with Huron-Clinton Metroparks, the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission, Washtenaw County Road Commission, MDOT, the Huron Waterloo Pathways Initiative and the MDNR. Facebook photos. (JM)

Web Link: [https://www.washtenaw.org/b2b](https://www.washtenaw.org/b2b)
City of Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County share first plans for new tunnel, trail

Tuesday, February 26, 2019 - 10:21pm

Ann Arbor residents gathered in Forsythe Middle School’s cafeteria to discuss plans for a tunnel connection between Bandemer Park and Huron River Drive as well as the non-motorized Border-to-Border Trail Tuesday night. The meeting was held by Peter Sanderson, senior park planner for the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission, and Hillary Hanzel, park planner and landscape architect for the city of Ann Arbor.

The purpose of the meeting was to raise community awareness and collect general feedback and input at early stages of project development. The meeting began with a PowerPoint presentation detailing the plans of the tunnel and the Border-to-Border Trail.

Sanderson shared the intention of the trail, emphasizing the importance of community connection.

“The real goal is connecting our communities, connecting people to parks and places together … we’re really connecting some of our large facilities together — we have almost 50 parks in the region,” Sanderson said. “The goal of our project is to create a safe and legal connection.”

The Border-to-Border Trail is part of a larger project, the Iron Belle Trail. The Iron Belle Trail spans over 2,000 miles and connects Detroit to Ironwood, in the upper peninsula. The specific section of the trail in Ann Arbor would pass through Ypsilanti and connect with Dexter.
Sanderson also mentioned the county has teamed up with and received funding from Huron Waterloo Pathways. He believes by getting the approval from the community now, the county can apply for grants sooner.

Hanzel went over the details of the tunnel. She told residents a feasibility study had been done and would be updated for a better estimate for grant funding. The city of Ann Arbor also worked closely with construction companies to create accurate dimensions.

“We were thinking for dimensions: approximately 14 feet wide, 10 feet tall for the interior space,” Hanzel said. “We’d like to have lights on the interior. We’ll hopefully have the budget to improve the exterior.”

Construction may not start until 2020 or 2021. Following the presentation, the room was open for discussion and community members voiced their concerns on the timeline. Ann Arbor resident Kim Hill, who attended the meeting, told The Daily the city should put the issue on their list of priorities.

“I would like them to prioritize it,” Hill said. “It’s something that’s been obvious for years. They studied it back in 2005. They couldn’t get funding, is what they said. So now, you have this feasibility study already, you’re going to update the numbers, just concentrate on getting the money. I’m not worried it won’t happen, just worried it will take a little bit of time — longer than it probably should.”

Many residents were excited about the tunnel and trail. Ypsilanti resident Ashley Fox was especially excited about the trail connecting Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti.

“I just wanted to strongly endorse this project,” Fox said. “I think it’s a really important one and … I think it’s really important not just that this crossing would be there, but that we would have the path getting there clearer, especially coming from Fuller Road.”

Ann Arbor resident Valerie Shinabarger enjoys biking near the Barton Dam and looks forward to the idea of a bridge — part of the Border-to-Border trail — to help create a safer way to get to the park.

“I like what Peter Sanderson said: ‘It would be the gateway to Ann Arbor,’ because really there’s no way to bike to Dexter right now,” Shinabarger said. “I see people there all the time and I’m really excited to be able to do it safely because with MDOT putting more of these barriers to make people safer, it’s more dangerous because people are still doing it anyway, but now they’re having to jump over things and slide down a hill.”

Sanderson said he was pleased with the meeting, but understood there is always a possibility of opposition.

“I think the crowd seemed generally supportive of the project, but we’ll see what kind of comments we get back,” Sanderson said.
MEMORANDUM

TO: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Coy Vaughn, Director
DATE: March 12, 2019
RE: Project and Activities Update – February 2019

A. Park Facility Events and Projects

Independence Lake
- 50 people attended the Winter Fireside Storytime program on February 2. Stories were read, craft were made and a hike was taken at the end.
- 47 kids attended the Kids Ice Fishing Clinic on February 2. Participants learned about ice/water safety and ice fishing techniques and went fishing.
- The Ice Fishing Derby scheduled February 9, was canceled due to warm temperatures causing unsafe ice conditions.
- 9 people attended an REI led walk & snap photo hike on February 10, which included camera instruction and a park hike.
- 22 people participated in the Wilderness First Aid classes that were held February 23 and 24, in cooperation with REI. Participants learned how to do first aid in the wilderness with minimal first aid items and using the land to assist as a first aid tool.
- Maintenance has been working on prairie restoration at the Gosline Preserve.
- Maintenance has been preparing for the summer season by ordering equipment, completing permits, and making repairs to Blue Heron Bay.
- Maintenance has been preparing for spring prescribed burn.

Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center
- A record-breaking 2,000 guests attended the Annual Ice Carving Festival on February 9 at County Farm Park.
- 400 tickets sold-out for the annual Daddy-Daughter Dance on February 16.
- 80 participants registered for the annual Spring Pickleball Tournament.
- Staff is preparing for purchase of upgraded fitness equipment; delivery is expected sometime this spring.

Rolling Hills Park
- Supervisor Jeff Miller accepted the award for “Innovative Recreation Programming” for Hunt for the Yeti at the mParks conference.
- MOB Disc Golf Fanatic Tournament was held February 3. 62 people participated in the event, despite significant snowfall on the course earlier in the week.
• More than 70 people participated in Hunt for the Yeti on February 10. Clues along trails helped participants locate yetis throughout the park. In addition, patrons enjoyed cookie decorating, crafts, and hot chocolate.
• Rachel Cortez joined the staff at Rolling Hills Park as the new Park & Facility Supervisor.
• Seasonal staff recruitment has begun. As of February 28, 35 lifeguards have been hired.

Staebler Farm Park
• The Michigan Folk School (MFS) is 99% done with renovations to the workshop.
• The Collaborative (architectural design firm) has begun developing concepts for a multipurpose building.

B. Special Initiatives
Border-to-Border Trail (B2B)
• Approximately 80 people attended a public meeting for the B2B for the Barton-Bandemer Connection project in partnership with the City of Ann Arbor. This project has two components: 1) a feasibility study for a proposed tunnel under the railroad tracks between Bandemer Park and Huron River Drive; 2) paving the main trail through Barton Nature Area (City of Ann Arbor), which is approximately 0.6 miles long. Public comment is currently available on-line and has generated more than 25 responses, since the public meeting where approximately 30 written comments were received.
• Davis Construction continues to work on the Dexter-Huron Metropark to Zeeb Road trail segment (1.2 miles). The project is anticipated to be complete by the fall.
• Salenbien Construction continues to work on the Chelsea-Dexter Connection Phase 1 project (2.1 miles) from Freer Road to N. Lima Center Road in Lima Township.
• The second phase of the M-52 trail project has been submitted to MDOT for bids, which are expected to be received in May. This would result in construction starting as soon as June 2019.
• Engineering and archeological work continue on the next phase of the Huron River Drive Trail segment: Zeeb Road to Delhi Metropark.

Eastern County Skatepark Project
• Staff is working with Ypsilanti Township to enter into an agreement about long-term roles and responsibilities of the skatepark. The agreement is under review by the Township Attorney.
• Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner’s Office has applied for a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant for green stormwater infrastructure at the future skatepark.
• Staff is drafting a Request for Proposal to choose a design-build skatepark contractor.

C. Natural Areas Preservation Program (NAPP)
Stewardship
• 13 volunteers removed invasive shrubs at Osborne Mill Preserve for the second “Stewardship Saturday” volunteer event.
• To reduce the movement of invasive seeds, NAPP crew installed boot brushes at preserves in Scio Township where stiltgrass is currently being managed.
• NAPP crew removed invasive species at West Lake, Leonard, and Brauer preserves, and County Farm Park. Stewardship volunteers removed buckthorn and other woody invasive plants at Parker Mill Park.
• Staff has received final agreements for partner and grant projects at Sharon Mills Park and Watkins Lake Preserve.
• Staff has communicated to neighbors about the 13 planned locations for prescribed fires for the 2019 spring and fall season.

D. Interpretive Programming
• 115 patrons attended history and nature programs for the month of February.

E. Other
• Staff continues developing the 2020-2024 Recreation Master Plan and has scheduled stakeholder meetings for plan input.
### February 2019 - Claims Report

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It was moved by ________________ and supported by ________________
to approve payment of claims in the amount of……………………………………. $ 200,622.50
### WASHTENAW COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
### FUND BALANCE STATEMENT - FEBRUARY 28, 2019

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31
WASHTENAW COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
NATURAL AREAS PRESERVATION PROGRAM  
FUND BALANCE STATEMENT - FEBRUARY 28, 2019

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<th>Variance</th>
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<td>Interest Earnings</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Revenue &amp; Reimb.</td>
<td>5,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td>3,876,045</td>
<td>1,924,605</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expense (Budget)</th>
<th>Expense (Actual)</th>
<th>Variance</th>
<th>YTD % Budget</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Personnel Services</strong></td>
<td>(557,758)</td>
<td>(73,127)</td>
<td>13%</td>
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<td>Supplies &amp; Other Services</td>
<td>(305,850)</td>
<td>(12,022)</td>
<td>4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Internal Service Charges</td>
<td>(22,982)</td>
<td>(3,184)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Capital</strong></td>
<td>(2,568,000)</td>
<td>(51,680)</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land Acquisition</td>
<td>(2,550,000)</td>
<td>(51,680)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Land Development</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Machinery &amp; Equipment</td>
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<td><strong>Capital Subtotal</strong></td>
<td>(2,568,000)</td>
<td>(51,680)</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expense</strong></td>
<td>(3,454,590)</td>
<td>(140,013)</td>
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<td>Surplus/(Deficit)</td>
<td>421,455</td>
<td>1,784,591</td>
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<td><strong>Projected Fund Balance (12/31/18)</strong></td>
<td>3,622,767</td>
<td>4,985,903</td>
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### Year-To-Date Participation & Revenue Report

**February**

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<tr>
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<td>324</td>
<td>284</td>
<td>243</td>
<td>$ 69,209</td>
<td>$ 61,558</td>
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<td>Individual Non-Resident</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>S/Y/D Resident</td>
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<td>350</td>
<td>61,985</td>
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<td>S/Y/D Non-Resident</td>
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<td>530</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family Resident</td>
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<td>46</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>20,623</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>743</td>
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<td>Family - Addtl Member</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>513</td>
<td>232</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seniors Over 80</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>4,560</td>
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<td>Personal Trainers</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1,650</td>
<td>1,850</td>
<td>825</td>
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<tr>
<td>Military Annual</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>30-Day Pass</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>244</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>9,155</td>
<td>10,980</td>
<td>10,215</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seasonal Pass</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>Replacement Pass</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>28</td>
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<td><strong>Sub-Total</strong></td>
<td>1,067</td>
<td>1,056</td>
<td>1,102</td>
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<td><strong>Annual Pass Facility Use</strong></td>
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<td>34,736</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Percent of Non-Residents:</strong></td>
<td>0.94%</td>
<td>0.58%</td>
<td>1.36%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Individual Resident</td>
<td>2,523</td>
<td>2,208</td>
<td>2,182</td>
<td>$ 20,184</td>
<td>$ 17,664</td>
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<td>233</td>
<td>1,008</td>
<td>2,196</td>
<td>2,097</td>
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<td>1,819</td>
<td>1,699</td>
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<td>68</td>
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<td>44</td>
<td>20</td>
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<td>Individual Fitness Non-Resident</td>
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<td>16</td>
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<td>Senior Fitness Resident</td>
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<td>88</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>444</td>
<td>528</td>
<td>336</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senior Fitness Non-Resident</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>Daily Pass/Gift Certificate Sales</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>312</td>
<td>435</td>
<td>600</td>
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<td><strong>Sub-Total</strong></td>
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<td>4,498</td>
<td>4,258</td>
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<td>$35,914</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Percent of Non-Residents:</strong></td>
<td>2.99%</td>
<td>7.54%</td>
<td>7.07%</td>
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<td><strong>Other Revenue</strong></td>
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<td>Recreation Programs</td>
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<td>7,659</td>
<td>$ 32,208</td>
<td>$ 31,072</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<td>1,137</td>
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<td>Party Pavilion</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>Lockers</td>
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<td>219</td>
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<td>2,108</td>
<td>1,917</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vending/Retail</td>
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<td>2,108</td>
<td>1,917</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sub-Total</strong></td>
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<td>6,969</td>
<td>7,684</td>
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<td>$37,213</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>YTD Total Participation &amp; Revenue:</strong></td>
<td>57,254</td>
<td>47,259</td>
<td>46,231</td>
<td>$ 242,809</td>
<td>$ 232,943</td>
<td>$ 230,968</td>
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</table>

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33
MEMORANDUM

To: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Coy P. Vaughn, Director
Date: March 12, 2019
Re: RFP #7687 - Rolling Hills Concessions Feasibility Study

Background
Rolling Hills County Park does not allow outside food to be brought into the waterpark, but provides refreshments for sale at the concession building. The concessions bring in approximately $180,000 to $200,000 in revenue per year, but depending on attendance and weather it has brought in as much as $240,000. During peak times, patrons may be waiting up to an hour for food at times. In the 2018 season, the park purchased a satellite food cart that offered hot dogs, chips and water, to reduce wait times at concession building.

Discussion
Per the County’s standard protocol, RFP #7687 was advertised by the Purchasing Department, seeking a consultant with experience in evaluating concessions at recreational facilities to conduct a feasibility study of the operations at the concessions at Rolling Hills. The scope will include recommendations on menu offerings, renovations to concessions operations and layout of the building to improve efficiency for staff, reduce wait time for patrons, as well as, increase revenue. Renovations to the concessions building are included in the Capital Improvement Plan.

WCPARC received three qualified bids from consultant teams as outlined below:

Concession Hospitality Management (CHM) Government Services, Peabody, MA: $23,019
Stone Planning LLC, Chicago, IL: $25,000
Fessel International, Monrovia, CA: $29,235

Recommendation
Based on review of the proposals, consultant’s relevant experience in similar projects, fee quotes and reference checks, it is my recommendation that the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission awards a contract to CHM Government Services for this project (RFP#7687) in the amount of $23,019 plus a 10% contingency for a total award of $25,320.
MEMORANDUM

TO: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Coy P. Vaughn, Director
DATE: March 12, 2019
RE: Recommendation for Partnership –Mersereau Property, Scio Township

Background
The 26-acre Mersereau property was nominated to Scio Township’s land preservation program in 2012 and forwarded to NAPP for consideration. NATAC placed the property in its second priority category that year, requiring partnership or collaboration. The deal is moving forward now as a fee simple purchase, with Scio Township acquiring ownership of the property.

Discussion
The property contains roughly 12.5 acres of upland woods and forested wetland that are the same system as the neighboring Levine-Kempter and Scherdt conservation easements. The remaining acres will be taken out of agricultural production. The Assessment and Prioritization Mapping assessed the natural area as medium-high quality and prioritized it for its protection of a stream.

The 26-acres to which NAPP will potentially be contributing is not the full parcel. The remaining 8 acres that have frontage on Marshall Road will most likely be purchased by Scio Township who will then place a conservation easement on it and sell it again to a buyer who has already expressed interest. That conservation easement’s building allowances will be limited to agricultural buildings to accommodate the buildings that currently exist and will be reused. To guarantee access to the back 26 acres, Scio would reserve a 20-foot wide public pedestrian access easement along the eastern boundary. WCPARC will not be asked to participate financially in these other acquisitions.

The plan for the property and surrounding lands is to build a trail about 1.5 miles long (see attachment for simple concept). The trail would access Marshall Road to the south via the aforementioned access easement, route through the Mersereau property; through the corner of the Levine-Kempter easement where the Township also reserved an access/trail easement; cross the land to the north owned by Dexter Land Holding LLC; and exit into the City of Dexter.

An appraisal was completed in May 2018 by Value Midwest that identified the value of the 26 acres at $261,000. Scio Township which will cover 50.2% of the purchase price ($131,000). After review of the nomination, NATAC recommended to partner with Scio Township and contribute $130,000 (49.8%) toward the purchase, contingent upon specifying trail access through the site (to Marshall Road).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scio Twp</td>
<td>$131,000</td>
<td>50.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCPARC</td>
<td>$130,000</td>
<td>49.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FMV</td>
<td>$261,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Recommendation
Based upon the review by the Natural Area Technical Advisory Committee and staff, it is my recommendation that the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission partner with Scio Township for the fee simple purchase of Mersereau property, as identified in the attachments, and contribute $130,000 toward the purchase, contingent upon guaranteeing public trail access to Marshall road, as well as attorney review of documents and execution of participation agreement.

Attachments
NAPP: Aerial & Soils

Mersereau Property
Nomination ID: 12.201
Scio Township
+/-26 Acres
Mersereau Property: Assessment & Prioritization Mapping
Natural Areas Preservation Program
Nomination ID: 12.201
Scio Township
+/-26 Acres

Prepared by Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission
2015 Aerial Photo; USGS Topo (1:24,000)
MEMORANDUM

TO: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Coy P. Vaughn, Director
DATE: March 12, 2019
RE: Recommendation for Partnership – Haas Property, Scio Township

Background
The 44 acre Haas property was nominated to Scio Township’s land preservation program and forwarded to NAPP in 2018. NATAC placed the property in its second tier priority category in 2018 review of nominations, defined as properties where acquisition will move forward after first tier properties are in progress. The deal is moving forward now as a conservation easement.

Discussion
The property is mostly upland woods and forested wetland that are the same system as the neighboring Scherdt conservation easement and another nearby Scio Township easement. The south end currently features mowed walking paths through younger shrubby growth. The Assessment and Prioritization Mapping assessed the natural area as medium-low quality and did not prioritize it.

The 44 acres that will be placed under the conservation easement excludes 3.5 acres around the building area of the original 47.5 acre parcel. The minimum lot size for zone A-1 in Scio Township is 2.5 acres. No buildings will be allowed on the 44 acres.

An appraisal was completed in September 2018 by Value Midwest that identified the value of the 44 acres at $293,000. Scio Township and the Ann Arbor Greenbelt have committed to one-third each of this purchase price, and the request to WCPARC is the remaining one-third. After review of the nomination, NATAC recommended to partner with Scio Township and contribute $97,667 (33.3%) toward the purchase. Scio Township would be responsible for monitoring and enforcing the easement.

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Scio Twp} &= \$97,667 \\
\text{Greenbelt} &= \$97,667 \\
\text{WCPARC} &= \$97,667 \\
\text{FMV} &= \$293,000
\end{align*}
\]

Recommendation
Based upon the review by the Natural Area Technical Advisory Committee and staff, it is my recommendation that the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission partner with Scio Township for the purchase of a conservation easement on the Haas property, as identified in the attachments, and contribute $97,667 toward the purchase, contingent upon attorney review of documents and execution of participation agreement.

Attachments
NAPP Round 18: Aerial & Soils
Haas Property
Nomination ID: 18.296
Scio Township
+/47.5 Acres
MEMORANDUM

TO: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Coy P. Vaughn, Director
DATE: March 12, 2019
RE: Recommendation for Partnership – Kempf Property, Northfield Township

Background
The 27.65 acre Kempf property in Northfield Township was nominated to the City of Ann Arbor Greenbelt’s program for the purchase of a conservation easement and subsequently forwarded to NAPP in 2018 for review. ALPAC included the property in its 2018 annual review of nominations.

Discussion
Located on Nollar Road between Joy Road and Northfield Church Road, the Kempf property is in a location that will encourage additional farmland and agricultural preservation activities. It is adjacent to an existing Greenbelt easement, and about a half mile from two additional Greenbelt easements. The Assessment & Prioritization Mapping categorized the Kempf parcel as medium-high quality agricultural land compared to the rest of the county, and the parcel was prioritized for preservation based on its proximity to high quality protected land.

The 27.65 acres that will be placed under the conservation easement excludes 5 acres around the building area of the original 32.65 acre parcel. The minimum lot size for zone AR in Scio Township is 5 acres. No buildings will be allowed on the 27.65 acres.

An appraisal was completed in January 2019 that valued the conservation easement at $116,000. The City of Ann Arbor received a USDA grant through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) that will cover 50% of the purchase price ($58,000). The County is also a partner on the RCPP grant, but has already allocated the portion of the funds to other properties, so the City of Ann Arbor is requesting $29,000 (25%) contribution from WCPARC towards this purchase price. The City would be responsible for monitoring and enforcing the conservation easement. After review of the nomination, ALPAC recommended to partner with the City of Ann Arbor and contribute $29,000 toward the purchase.

Recommendation
Based upon the review by the Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Committee and staff, it is my recommendation that the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission partner with the City of Ann Arbor’s Greenbelt Program for the purchase of a conservation easement on the Kempf farm in Northfield Township, as identified in the attached map and contribute $29,000 toward the purchase, contingent upon attorney review of documents and execution of participation agreement.

Attachments
Kempf Property: Local Area
Natural Areas Preservation Program
Nomination ID:A18.112
Northfield Township
+/-30 Acres

Map Features:
- Current Nomination
- Active Nominations
- Inactive Nominations
- Greenbelt
- Recreation Lands
- Conservation Lands
- Road
- Railroad
- Water Bodies
- Streams
- Parcel Boundary

Washtenaw County Locator Map

Northfield Woods Preserve
Ellis
Peterson Trust
Northfield Church Rd
W Northfield Church Rd
Ellis
Honesdale Lake
Groves and

Kempf

0 0.5 1 1.5 2 Miles
Kempf Property: Assessment & Prioritization Mapping
Natural Areas Preservation Program
Nomination ID: A18.112
Northfield Township
+/- 30 Acres

Map Features
- Current Nomination
- Active Nominations
- Inactive Nominations
- Recreation Lands
- Conservation Lands
- Parcel Boundary

Agricultural Quality Ranking
- Low Quality
- Medium-Low Quality
- Medium-High Quality
- High Quality
- ALPAC Priorities

Prepared by Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission
2015 Aerial Photo; USGS Topo (1:24,000)
MEMORANDUM

To: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Coy P. Vaughn, Director
Date: March 12, 2019
Re: Recommendation for Partnership–Windy Crest Property, City of Ann Arbor

Background
The Windy Crest property was nominated to the City of Ann Arbor for the fee simple purchase of 8.5 acres. The property is located in the City of Ann Arbor, along Geddes Road, immediately adjacent to Ruthven Nature Area, owned and managed by the City of Ann Arbor Natural Area Preservation (NAP) crew. The property was originally evaluated by NATAC as part of the Round 12 nominations. At the time, the property was determined as a second tier priority, based on the desire for partnership and other leveraged funds. The City of Ann Arbor is requesting a contribution from the NAPP in the amount of $54,000.

Discussion
The Assessment and Prioritization Mapping identified the property as a medium-high quality and prioritized it for patch expansion, corridor, and stream protection. The site will provide expansion of the existing Ruthven Nature Area. The site would be maintained as a natural area and managed by the Natural Area Preservation staff consistent with restoration efforts on the adjacent Ruthven Nature Area including prescribed ecological burns and removal of non-native species. The site contains a portion of Millers Creek and is predominantly in the floodplain.

An appraisal was completed in 2017, and the value of the property was determined to be $255,000. The landowners are offering a bargain sale, with a purchase price of $135,000.

Landowner donation = $ 120,000
City of Ann Arbor = $ 81,000
NAPP = $ 54,000
FMV = $235,000

After review of the nomination, NATAC recommended to partner with the City of Ann Arbor and contribute $54,000 toward the purchase of a conservation easement.
**Recommendation**
Based upon the review by the Natural Area Technical Advisory Committee and staff, it is my recommendation that the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission partner with the City of Ann Arbor for the purchase the Windy Crest property in the City of Ann Arbor, as identified in the attached map and contribute $54,000 toward the purchase, contingent upon attorney review of documents and execution of participation agreement.

*Attachments*
Windycrest Partnership Property: Local Area
Natural Areas Preservation Program
Nomination ID: 19.306
Ann Arbor Township
+/-8.48 Acres
MEMORANDUM

To: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

From: Coy P. Vaughn, Director

Date: March 12, 2019

Re: Recommendation for Partnership – Buesser Property, Northfield Township

Background
The Buesser property was nominated to the City of Ann Arbor’s Greenbelt Program for the purchase of a conservation easement on roughly 30 acres and subsequently forwarded to NAPP for review by NATAC. The property is located in Northfield Township, along Joy Road, just east of Arbor Woods and Northfield Woods Nature Preserves and in proximity of other Greenbelt held conservation easements. The property was evaluated by NATAC as part of the Round 16 nominations, where they placed the property in their second tier priority category, based on the desire for partnership and other leveraged funds. Legacy Land Conservancy has since contributed to the project as well, and the Greenbelt is requesting a contribution from NAPP in the amount of $45,000.

Discussion
The Assessment and Prioritization Mapping identified the property as a medium-high quality and prioritized it for stream protection. Wetlands and open water cover approximately 24 acres of the property, and although the tract is not currently in active agriculture, 20 acres have a farming history. The tract is located in the Horseshoe Creek drainage, which is a tributary to the Huron River. The protection of this property is a priority for the Greenbelt Program because of the wetlands and natural resources found on the tract, the possibility to leverage funds from, and its proximity to other protected properties.

An appraisal was completed in October 2017, and the value of the conservation easement was determined to be $135,000. Legacy Land Conservancy is also contributing $8,000 toward the purchase of the property.

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Legacy</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenbelt</td>
<td>82,000 (61%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAPP</td>
<td>45,000 (33%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FMV</td>
<td>$135,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

After review of the nomination, NATAC recommended to partner with the City of Ann Arbor’s Greenbelt Program, Legacy Land Conservancy and contribute $45,000 toward the purchase of a conservation easement.
Recommendation
Based upon the review by the Natural Area Technical Advisory Committee and staff, it is my recommendation that the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission partner with the City of Ann Arbor and Legacy Land Conservancy for the purchase of a conservation easement on the Buesser property in Northfield Township, as identified in the attached map and contribute $45,000 toward the purchase, contingent upon attorney review of documents and execution of participation agreement with partners.

Attachments
Buesser Property: Assessment & Prioritization Mapping
Natural Areas Preservation Program
Nomination ID: 16.275
Northfield Township
+/- 30 Acres