



**Ottawa County Parks &
Recreation Commission**

*Jason D. Shamblin
Director*

*Kelly N. Rice
President*

April 12, 2024

NOTICE OF MEETING

Dear Commission Member:

The regular meeting of the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission is scheduled for **Wednesday, April 17, 2024**, at **3:00 pm** at the Ottawa County Fillmore Street Complex, 12220 Fillmore St., West Olive, MI in the Board Room.

Additional public viewing will be offered via YouTube by visiting <https://www.youtube.com/@OttawaCountyParks/streams>. Public comment will be received in-person only.

The agenda for the meeting is attached for your review.

Please contact the Parks and Recreation Commission Office at (616) 738-4810 if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. D. Shamblin".

Jason D. Shamblin
Parks and Recreation Director

JDS/jls

Enclosures

*Kelly Rice, President · Jane Longstreet, Vice President · Linda McAffrey, Secretary · Cheryl Clark, Treasurer
Roger Belknap · Joe Bush · Bruce Greenlee · Lukas Hill · Allison Miedema · Jim Miedema · Paul Sachs*

Nature Education Center 8115 West Olive Rd, West Olive, MI 49460
Administrative Office 12220 Fillmore St, West Olive, MI 49460

616-786-4847 miOttawa.org/parks
616-738-4810 ocparks@miottawa.org

Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission
April 17, 2024 3:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting Agenda
Public Access is provided via YouTube at:
<https://www.youtube.com/@OttawaCountyParks/streams>

Mission Statement:

The Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission enhances quality of life for residents and visitors, by preserving parks and open spaces and providing natural resource-based recreation and education opportunities.

1. Call to Order by President
2. Roll Call: Rice
Longstreet
McAffrey
Belknap
Bush
Greenlee
Hill
A. Miedema
J. Miedema
Sachs
3. Absences (excused/unexcused)
4. Additions/Deletions to Agenda
5. [Minutes](#)
 - a) Copy of the Commission's February 21, 2024 approved regular meeting minutes including the change to PR24-13 motion showing that the motion was moved by Belknap, not Greenlee.
 - b) Approve the minutes of the Commission's March 20, 2024 regular meeting.
6. [Communications](#)
 - a) Mountain Biking at NOD
 - b) Dune Trespass Letter
7. Public Comment (Public comments limited to 3 minutes)
8. [Staff Reports](#)
 - a) Director's Report
 - b) Park Operations Report
 - c) Planning and Development Report
 - d) Community Engagement Report
 - e) Natural Resources Management Report
 - f) Development Report
 - g) Strategic Plan Progress Report
9. [Committee Reports](#)
 - a) Executive Committee – April 8, 2024 Meeting Report (*verbal*)
 - b) Community Engagement Committee – April 9, 2024 Meeting Report
 - c) Ottawa County Parks Foundation Update (*verbal*)

10. Old Business – None

11. New Business

a) [Bend Area Expansion Phase III Grant Agreement Amendment](#)

Suggested Motion: *To approve and authorize staff to execute the amendment to the Bend Area Expansion Phase III Trust Fund Grant agreement pending review and approval from Corporation Counsel and the Board of Commissioners. Further, the Director is instructed to take such actions as are necessary to implement the intent of the Commission in these matters.*

b) [Presentation of Resident Scientific Survey Results – Adam Probolsky, President, Probolosky Research](#)

Suggested Motion: *Information only*

12. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

13. Public Comment (Public comments limited to 3 minutes)

14. Commissioners Prerogative

15. Closed Session to discuss property acquisition Pursuant to the OMA Section 8d (not enclosed).

16. Upcoming meeting date(s):

May 22, 2024

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Fillmore Complex, Board Room

17. Adjournment

Regular Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission

Approved Minutes

Date: February 21, 2024

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Place: Board Room, Fillmore Complex

Present: Kelly Rice, Jane Longstreet, Allison Miedema, Bruce Greenlee, Jim Miedema, Lukas Hill, Paul Sachs, Roger Belknap

Absent: Linda McAffrey and Joe Bush

Staff: Jason Shamblin, Director; Jason Boerger, Coordinator of Park Maintenance and Operations; Curt TerHaar, Coordinator of Park Planning and Development; Glenn Bosch, Coordinator of Fund Development & Major Gifts; Nealy Molhoek, Coordinator of Natural Resources Management; Kyle Roffey, Administrative Assistant; Rylie Dorman, Communications Specialist

Guests: Angela Miller-Niarhos, Steve Sapienza, Jerry Vander Meulen, David Morren, Cheryl Roede, Christine Scott, and Roberta Harmsen

Motions

Approval of Minutes

PR 24-11 Motion: To approve the minutes of the Commission's January 24, 2024 annual meeting.

Moved by: Longstreet Supported by: Hill Unanimous

2023 Michigan Edge Mountain Bike Association Memorandum of Understanding Annual Review

PR 24-12 Motion: To accept the Michigan Edge Mountain Bike Association (MEMBA) annual summary as presented by staff, including the 2024 MEMBA Annual Maintenance Plan and Goals.

Moved by: Hill Supported by: Longstreet Unanimous

Accept the Donation of a Storage Shed

PR 24-13 Motion: To accept the donation of a storage shed by Michigan Edge Mountain Bike Association.

Moved by: Belknap Supported by: A. Miedema Unanimous

2023 Shoreline Amateur Astronomical Association (SAAA)

Partnership Agreement Annual Review

- PR 24-14 Motion: To accept the 2023 Shoreline Amateur Astronomical Association (SAAA) Hemlock Crossing Park Observatory Partnership Agreement annual summary.
- Moved by: Longstreet Supported by: Hill Unanimous

Special Permit allowing the installation of additional concrete and a pedestal to support a solar telescope

- PR 24-15 Motion: Authorize staff to issue a special permit to Shoreline Amateur Astronomical Association allowing the installation of concrete at the Hemlock Crossing Observatory and a pedestal to support a solar telescope under the supervision of parks staff.
- Moved by: Belknap Supported by: A. Miedema Unanimous

2023 Ottawa County Parks Foundation Annual Report and Memorandum of Understanding Annual Review

- PR 24-16 Motion: To accept the 2023 Ottawa County Parks Foundation Annual Report as submitted.
- Moved by: Longstreet Supported by: Greenlee Unanimous

Bend Area Family Event Center Professional Services Agreement

- PR 24-17 Motion: To accept proposal from VIRIDIS Design Group in the amount of \$30,400 for professional services related to the Bend Area Family Event Center preliminary engineering and feasibility study.
- Moved by: Hill Supported by: Sachs Unanimous

Kirk Park Dog Beach Policy

- PR 24-18 Motion: To approve a change in policy that eliminates the dog beach hours at Kirk Park that were established in 2020 and replaces them with the policy allowing dogs off-leash on the south side of the beach only May 1st to September 30th, and on the whole beach the remainder of the year as was the practice prior to the loss of the south stairway in 2020.
- Moved by: Belknap Supported by: Longstreet Unanimous

2024 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant Application for Eastmanville Connector

- PR 24-19 Motion: To recommend an application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) program for funding assistance to construct the Eastmanville Connector Segment of the Grand River Greenway Idema Explorers Trail and forward to the County Board of Commissioners for final approval.
- Moved by: Hill Supported by: J. Miedema
- Yeas: Rice, Longstreet, A. Miedema, Greenlee, J. Miedema, Hill, Sachs
- Nays: Belknap Motion passed 7 to 1.

**2024 Land & Water Conservation Fun Grant Application
for Upper Macatawa Natural Area-Greenway**

PR 24-20 Motion: To recommend application to the Land and Water Conservation Fund program for funding assistance for Upper Macatawa Natural Area - Greenway Trailhead project and forward to the County Board of Commissioners for final approval.

Moved by: Longstreet Supported by: Belknap Unanimous

Special Permit to use the Hemlock Crossing Kayak launch for commercial purposes

PR 24-21 Motion: To authorize staff to issue a revocable special permit to Jonathan Fegel to allow him to provide private kayak shuttle services at Hemlock Crossing Park at no cost or liability to Ottawa County.

Moved by: A. Miedema Supported by: Greenlee Unanimous

To go into Closed Session

PR 24-22 Motion: To go into Closed Session per Section 8d of the Open Meetings Act.

Moved by: A. Miedema Supported by: Longstreet Unanimous

To Rise from Closed Session and Adjourn

PR 24-23 Motion: To Rise from Closed Session and Adjourn.

Moved by: J. Miedema Supported by: Belknap Unanimous

Other Items Discussed

4. **Additions/Deletions to Agenda:**

None

5. **Approval of Minutes**

The proposed minutes of the Commission's January 24, 2024 regular meeting was approved.

6. **Communications:**

None

7. **Public Heard:**

David Morren

8. **Staff Reports**

a) **Director**

The Commission accepted the Director's Report as written.

b) **Park Operations**

The Commission accepted the Parks Operations Report as written.

c) **Planning and Development Report**

The Commission accepted the Planning and Development Report as written.

d) **Community Engagement Report**

The Commission accepted the Community Engagement Report as written.

e) **Natural Resources Management Report**

The Commission accepted the Natural Resources Management Report as written.

f) Development Report

The Commission accepted the Development Report as written.

g) Strategic Plan Progress Report

The Commission accepted the Strategic Plan Progress Report as written.

9. Committee Reports

- a) The Commission accepted the Planning Committee meeting report of January 31, 2024 as written.
- b) The Commission accepted the Finance and Policy Committee meeting report of February 8, 2024 as written.
- c) The Commission accepted the Executive Committee February 12, 2024 verbal report.
- d) The Commission accepted the Community Engagement Committee meeting report of February 13, 2024 as written.
- e) Longstreet updated the Commissioners on the Ottawa County Parks Foundation.

10. Old Business:

- a) The Parks Commission approved the 2023 Michigan Edge Mountain Bike Association Memorandum of Understanding annual summary.
- b) The Parks Commission accepted the donation of a storage shed at Riley Trails.
- c) The Parks Commission approved the 2023 Shoreline Amateur Astronomical Association (SAAA) Partnership Agreement annual summary.
- d) The Parks Commission authorized a special permit allowing the installation of additional concrete and a pedestal to support a solar telescope at Hemlock Crossing.
- e) The Parks Commission accepted the 2023 Ottawa County Parks Foundation Annual Report.

11. New Business

- a) The Parks Commission accepted the proposal from VIRIDIS Design Group in the amount of \$30,400 for professional services related to the Bend Area Family Event Center preliminary engineering and feasibility study.
- b) The Parks Commission accepted the Kirk Park Dog Beach Policy change that eliminates the dog beach hours at Kirk Park and replaces them with the policy allowing dogs off-leash on the south side of the beach only May 1 to September 30 and the whole beach the remainder of the year.
- c) Rice opened the public meeting at 4:05 p.m. for the 2024 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant Application for Eastmanville Connector.

TerHaar provided background information and a description of the project elements for the Eastmanville Connector. Commissioners reviewed the information, and Rice called for comments from interested citizens. Two speakers shared concerns regarding the proposed project. These included possible trespassing on to private property, flooding of the trail route, and concerns the trail will not be utilized. Two speakers shared support for the project as a needed improvement on a busy street. One speaker relayed his questions about the location of the trail as it relates to his property. He conveyed that he did not oppose the trail if it was constructed in the road right of way, however he was unwilling to sell an easement for the trail. The motion carried to approve the grant application.

- d) Rice opened the public meeting for the 2024 Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant Application for Upper Macatawa Natural Area Greenway.

TerHaar provided background information and a description of the project elements for the Upper Macatawa Natural Area Greenway Trailhead project. Commissioners reviewed the information, and Rice called for comments from interested citizens. There were no public comments. The motion carried to approve the grant application.

- c) The Parks Commission approved the revokable special permit to Jonathan Fegel to use the Hemlock Crossing Kayak launch for commercial purposes.

12. Public Heard:

David Morren

13. Commissioners Heard:

14. Closed Session

15. Meeting adjourned at 5:27 p.m.

Next meeting: March 21, 2024, Time: 3:00 p.m.

Location: Fillmore Complex, Board Room

The minutes were reviewed and approved by the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission on March 20, 2024 and are hereby certified by the Secretary.



Linda McAffrey

Parks Commission Secretary

Regular Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission

Proposed Minutes

Date: March 20, 2024

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Place: Board Room, Fillmore Complex

Present: Kelly Rice, Jane Longstreet, Linda McAffrey, Bruce Greenlee, Joe Bush, Lukas Hill, Paul Sachs, Roger Belknap

Absent: Allison Miedema and Jim Miedema

Staff: Jason Shamblin, Director; Jason Boerger, Coordinator of Park Maintenance and Operations; Curt TerHaar, Coordinator of Park Planning and Development; Glenn Bosch, Coordinator of Fund Development & Major Gifts; Nealy Molhoek, Coordinator of Natural Resources Management; Kyle Roffey, Administrative Assistant; Rylie Dorman, Communications Specialist

Guests: Wendy Coon, Cindy Pravda, Mary Englund

Motions

Approval of Minutes

PR 24-24 Motion: To approve the minutes of the Commission's February 21, 2024 regular meeting.

Moved by: Longstreet Supported by: Hill Unanimous

Upper Macatawa Natural Area Restroom Design Contract

PR 24-25 Motion: To accept the proposal from MCSA Group for architectural and engineering services for the Upper Macatawa 84th Street Trailhead Restroom Building and forward to the Board of Commissioners for final approval. Further, the Director is instructed to take such actions as are necessary to implement the intent of the Commission in these matters.

Moved by: Belknap Supported by: Hill Unanimous

Ottawa Sands Ecological Enhancement – Change Order

PR 24-26 Motion: To approve the addition to the contract for GEI consultants in the amount of \$99,963 for work at Ottawa Sands lake shoreline enhancements and forward to the Board of Commissioners for final approval. Further, the Director is instructed to take such actions as are necessary to implement the intent of the Commission in these matters.

Moved by: Longstreet Supported by: Belknap

Yeas: Longstreet, McAffrey, Greenlee, Bush, Hill, Sachs, Belknap

Nays: None Abstained: Rice

Motion passed 7 to 0

Zeeland Township Easement

- PR 24-27 Motion: To approve the granting of an easement to Zeeland Township for construction of a portion of multi-use trail along the eastern edge of the Upper Macatawa Natural Area, pending concurrence by the Land Conservancy of West Michigan and Corporation Counsel, and forward to the Board of Commissioners for final approval. Further, the Director is instructed to take such actions as are necessary to implement the intent of the Commission in these matters.
- Moved by: Hill Supported by: Belknap Unanimous

Parks and Open Space Millage Levy Amount

- PR 24-28 Motion: To recommend that the Board of Commissioners levy the maximum amount allowed for the Ottawa County Parks and Open Space Millage.
- Moved by: McAffrey Supported by: Hill Unanimous

Ottawa County Municipal Civil Infraction Bureau Policy & Procedure Statement

- PR 24-29 Motion: To receive the Ottawa County Municipal Civil Infraction Bureau Policy & Procedure Statement and put on file.
- Moved by: McAffrey Supported by: Longstreet Unanimous

Annual Review of Historic Ottawa Beach Society Pump House Museum Agreement

- PR 24-30 Motion: To accept the Historic Ottawa Beach Society annual summary as presented by staff.
- Moved by: Longstreet Supported by: Greenlee Unanimous

Special Permit – Bend Area – Menno Lake Neighborhood Lake Access Improvement

- PR 24-31 Motion: To authorize staff to issue a revocable special permit to Brian Kintigh, a representative of the Menno Lake Homeowner's Association, authorizing access to and improvement of Parks property, providing access to the lake. Conditional upon meeting all county, local, state, and federal regulations and participating in the Adopt-a-Park program.
- Moved by: Hill Supported by: McAffrey Unanimous

To go into Closed Session

- PR 24-32 Motion: To go into Closed Session per Section 8d of the Open Meetings Act.
- Moved by: Bush Supported by: Hill Unanimous

To Rise from Closed Session and Adjourn

- PR 24-33 Motion: To Rise from Closed Session and Adjourn.
- Moved by: McAffrey Supported by: Longstreet Unanimous

Other Items Discussed

4. Additions/Deletions to Agenda:
None

5. Approval of Minutes

The proposed minutes of the Commission's February 21, 2024 regular meeting were approved with the revision of PR24-motion moved by Belknap not Greenlee.

6. Communications:

None

7. Public Heard:

Wendy Coon of Grand Haven
Cindy Pravda of Grand Haven
Mary Englund of West Olive

8. Staff Reports

a) Director

The Commission accepted the Director's Report as written.

b) Park Operations

The Commission accepted the Parks Operations Report as written.

c) Planning and Development Report

The Commission accepted the Planning and Development Report as written. Presented the Ottawa Sands drone footage of Idema Explorers Camp.

d) Community Engagement Report

The Commission accepted the Community Engagement Report as written.

e) Natural Resources Management Report

The Commission accepted the Natural Resources Management Report as written.

f) Development Report

The Commission accepted the Development Report as written.

g) Strategic Plan Progress Report

The Commission accepted the Strategic Plan Progress Report as written.

9. Committee Reports

a) The Commission accepted the Planning Committee meeting report of March 5, 2024 as written.

b) The Commission accepted the Executive Committee March 11, 2024 verbal report.

c) The Commission accepted the Finance and Policy Committee meeting report of March 12, 2024 as written.

d) Longstreet updated the Commissioners on the Ottawa County Parks Foundation.

10. Old Business:

a) The Parks Commission reviewed the updated Grant Status Report.

11. New Business

a) The Parks Commission accepted the proposal from MCSA Group for architectural and engineering services for the Upper Macatawa 84th Street Trailhead Restroom Building in the amount of \$78,683.00.

b) The Parks Commission approved the addition to the contract for GEI consultants in the amount of \$99,963 for Ottawa Sands Ecological Enhancements.

- c) The Parks Commission approved the granting of an easement to Zeeland Township for construction of a portion of multi-use trail along the eastern edge of the Upper Macatawa Natural Area, pending concurrence by the Land Conservancy of West Michigan and Corporation Counsel.
- d) The Parks Commission recommends that the Board of Commissioners levy the maximum amount allowed for the Ottawa County Parks and Open Space Millage.
- e) The Parks Commission received the Ottawa County Municipal Civil Infraction Bureau Policy & Procedure Statement and put on file.
- f) The Parks Commission received the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission Annual Report and video.
- g) The Parks Commission accepted the Historic Ottawa Beach Society annual summary as presented by staff.
- h) The Parks Commission approved authorizing staff to issue a revocable special permit to Brian Kintigh, a representative of the Menno Lake Homeowner's Association, authorizing access to and improvement of Parks property, providing access to the lake. Conditional upon meeting all county, local, state, and federal regulations and participating in the Adopt-a-Park program.

12. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

13. Public Heard

None

14. Commissioners Heard

15. Closed Session

16. Meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Next meeting: April 17, 2024, Time: 3:00 p.m.

Location: Fillmore Complex, Board Room

From: [Jason Shamblin](#)
To: [Robert Martin](#)
Cc: [Curt TerHaar](#)
Bcc: [Aaron Bodbyl-Mast](#); [Jason Boerger](#); [Jeremy Cook](#)
Subject: RE: Coast Guard Park
Date: Monday, March 18, 2024 12:55:00 PM
Attachments: [image004.png](#)

Robert,

Thank you for your email. I believe you are referring to North Ottawa Dunes (NOD). We utilize Coast Guard Park as a trail head for NOD.

The Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission acquired NOD in 2005 as one of the largest, highest-quality Great Lakes wooded-dune assemblages remaining in West Michigan. NOD is home to at least two state and federally threatened plants species. Additionally, the property is considered rare due to the significant value of the site's native biodiversity and natural quality.

As a result of the high quality of the natural features, the Parks Commission has limited the site access to pedestrians and cross-country skiing. Mountain biking at NOD has been discussed several times since I arrived in 2019, however, it has not received support.

Although I do not anticipate the Parks Commission will change the stance on mountain biking at NOD, I will share your request with the Parks Commission, Planning Committee. A staff person will follow up with you after April 16, 2024.

Thanks again for reaching out.

Sincerely,

Jason Shamblin

Director, Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

12220 Fillmore St, West Olive, MI 49460

Office: 616.738.4810

jshamblin@miottawa.org | www.miottawa.org/parks



The Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission enhances quality of life for residents and visitors, by preserving parks and open spaces and providing natural resource-based recreation and education opportunities.

From: Robert Martin <martinrj26@hotmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, March 17, 2024 9:47 PM

To: Jason Shamblin <jshamblin@miottawa.org>

Subject: Coast Guard Park

Caution! This email is from an external address and has a compressed file attached. These files can contain a virus. Use caution when opening this file, or do not open this file at all if you did not expect to receive it.

Caution! This email is from an external address and contains a link. Use caution when following links as they could open malicious web sites.

Hi Jason,

As you can see below, my name is Rob Martin. I wanted to reach out regarding coast guard park and mountain biking.

I know there has been attempts in the past to get a trail out on the coast guard property, but seems to always be shot down.

A little background on myself. I have been involved in the MTB community for 10 years now and race XC MTB at the Pro level. I have ridden and raced trails all over the country and have helped build new trails as well as re-route trails to keep trails more sustainable as we learn more. Currently I help build trail out at Owasippe which is near Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp. The new trail we are building is designed in a way that prevents sand pits and trails that deteriorate like they have in the past with rain and overuse. If you look at some of the hiking trails at coast guard currently, there are many spots that are not sustainable and could use re-routing to prevent further erosion and damage. A great example of building and maintaining MTB trails can be seen in Florida, hot sun, dry season, a lot of sand, yet they make it work even in sandy areas. It just takes planning, good ideas, and proper trail building.

Coast Guard offers a huge potential for the area of West Michigan to build an amazing MTB trail system, a trail that would be hand cut and not machine cut. Not only would this put a smile on a lot of people's faces in the area, it would bring revenue to the community with a state-of-the-art MTB trail. (similar trails with very similar terrain are Owasippe, Glacial Hills, Arcadia Dunes, to name a few) I have been all over Coast Guard park, I have been all over Hoffmaster, and there is very sustainable land to put an MTB only trail in. Riley Trails also has hiking trails and a MTB only trail. This keeps hikers and bikers separate and happy. No horses allowed as they do so much damage to trails, they basically turn any trail in Michigan and Florida to beach sand.

My proposition to you would be to build this trail with only people I can trust to build, or just by myself. We would first walk over the park, flag the trail in mind, get approval from you, and then start to build. Again, hand cut so we barely scratch the surface of the dirt. You will find over time that the biking trail holds up while the hiking trails see more deterioration. This is due to the way humans walk when going up and down hills, the force of the toe into the dirt going up breaks the surface and leads to erosion on steeper inclines. Heel strikes going down

do the same thing. Bikes constantly pack the surface in and create a firm, solid, erosion resistant surface when built properly. The trail also would not be wide like the hiking trails, but narrow like a singletrack should be.

I am not asking for money or to be paid, just for a green light to make something great for mountain bikers in our area, we have nothing around and Coast Guard would be a great start. We could start with a meeting if you would be open to that, and I could explain more about how to build a sustainable trail. The trail would not go out near the beach at all. If this does go through, I would not mind helping re-routing the hiking trails that are in dire need of a break.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

[Rob Martin, CSCS](#)

[Unpacking the Athlete Podcast](#)

[Bike Life with Rob <-- YouTube videos](#)

bikelifewithrob.com

[**Sign up for My Bike Life Weekly email**](#)

[Supplements I use](#)

FROM THE DESK OF

Barbara Hartger

March 7, 2024

Eric Snyder
North Shore Dunes Preserve Board
615 Winter Street
Spring Lake, MI. 49456

Dear Eric et al,

It has come to our attention that the land we inherited in the North Shore Dunes is included in the design of several new hiking paths. The land is private property and is not available to the public for general use. No one has been granted access to trespass as we are not willing to risk any liability. While the Hartger family appreciates the good work of the Dune Preserve Board and the City of Ferrysburg Parks and Recs management of the surrounding natural habitat, our land is not for public use.

Please stop any plan for development on our property. These hiking trail maps (attached) must be changed immediately.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Barbara F. Hartger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Barbara Hartger, Richard Hartger, Stuart Hartger

CC: Craig Bessinger: City Manager, Ferrysburg Parks and Recs and Ottawa County Parks and Recs, 17520 Ridge Rd, Ferrysburg MI 49409 (email: cbessinger@ferrysburg.org)

Kelly Rice, President of Ottawa County Parks Commission, 17520 Ridge Rd, Ferrysburg MI 49409 (email: info@ottawacountyparksfoundation.org)

Jason Shamblin, Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Director (email: jshamblin@miottawa.org; phone: 616-738-4810);

Kim Karn, West Michigan Land Conservancy Executive Director (email: Kim@naturenearby.org; phone: 616-451-9476);

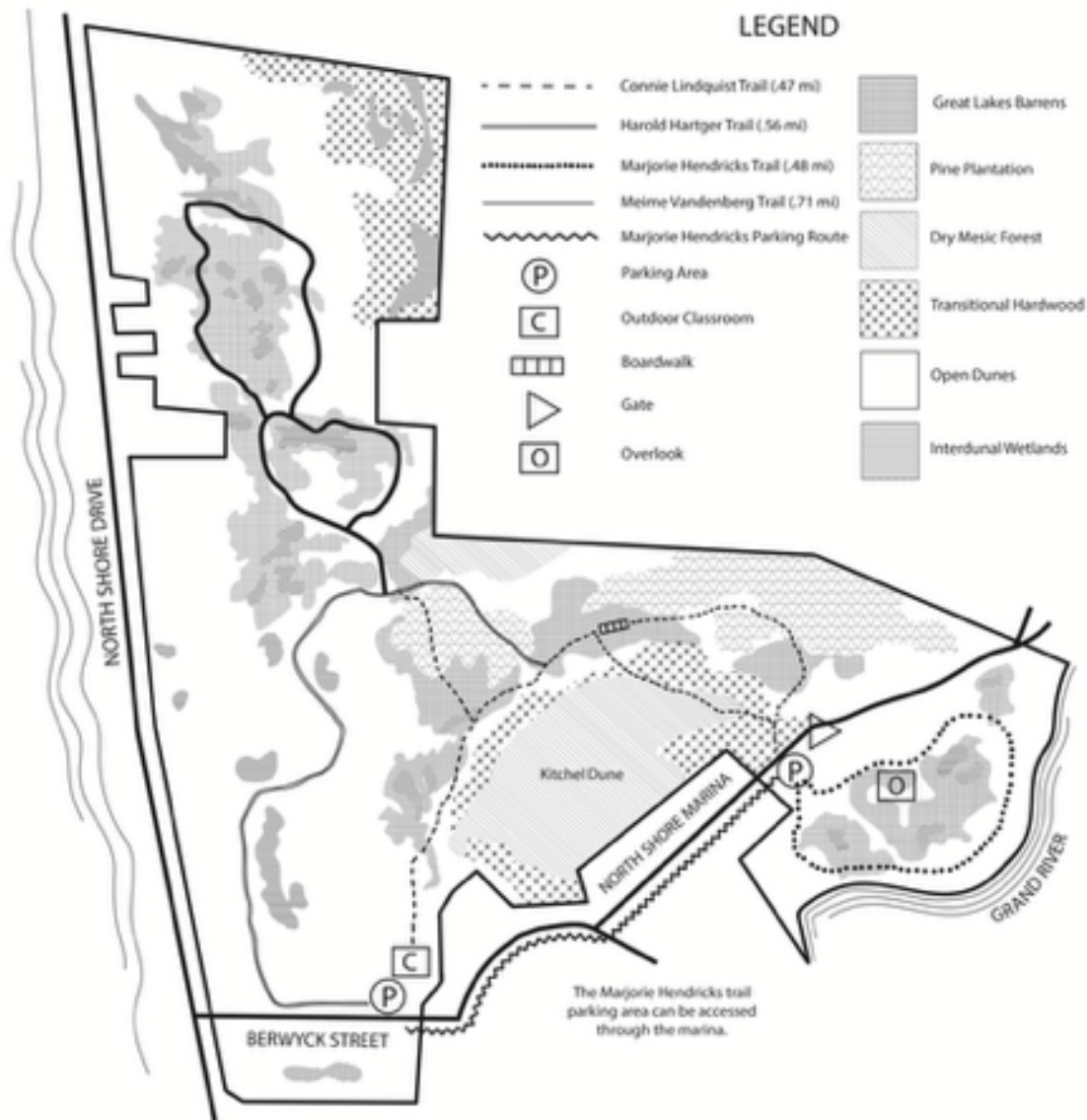
Helen Taylor, State Director of The Nature Conservancy (email: htaylor@tnc.org; phone: 517-316-2261).

Douglas J McNeil, Saunders Winter McNeil (email: mcneil@lakemichiganlaw.com)



AA

kldunespreserve.org





From: Jason Shamblin
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2024 12:24 PM
To: Barbara Hartger; info@ferrysburg.org
Cc: City Hall Ferrysburg; info@ottawacountyparksfoundation.org; Kim@naturenearby.org; htaylor@tnc.org; Douglas J. x 223 McNeil, Real Estate Lawyer; Richard Dick W. Hartger; Stuart Hartger; OC Parks; Jack Jordan; Lanae Monera
Subject: RE: Hiking Trail Trespass
Attachments: Dune Trespass Letter.pdf

Ms. Hartger,

I am in receipt of your letter. The Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission does NOT have designs/plans of hiking trails through your private property. The map for Ottawa Sands County Parks can be found here:
https://www.miottawa.org/Parks/pdf/Park_Maps/ottawa_sands.pdf

With the permission and involvement of the City of Grand Haven and the Kitchel Lindquist Hartger (KLH) Dunes Preserve, the Ottawa Sands Masterplan does show a natural surface trail connecting from Ottawa Sands County Park, through the Grand Haven Dunes property and connecting with the Kitchel Lindquist Hartger Dunes Preserve. The Ottawa Sands Masterplan can be reviewed here: https://www.miottawa.org/Parks/pdf/plan/OS-Master-Plan-Report_FINAL_LowRes.pdf The overall Site Plan can be seen on page 22 of the document. You can see that your property has been excluded from the plan by the lack of green background that indicates the publicly owned property.

It does appear that the map on the myhikes.com website is incorrect. However, this website is totally unaffiliated with either Ottawa County Parks or the KLH Dune preserve. You would need to contact them directly to address this issue.

Thank you for your email. Feel free to reach out with any questions.

Jason Shamblin
Director, Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission
12220 Fillmore St, West Olive, MI 49460
Office: 616.738.4810
jshamblin@miOttawa.org | www.miOttawa.org/parks

-----Original Message-----

From: Barbara Hartger <bhartger@me.com>
Sent: Friday, March 8, 2024 4:28 PM
To: info@ferrysburg.org
Cc: City Hall Ferrysburg <cbessinger@ferrysburg.org>; info@ottawacountyparksfoundation.org; Jason Shamblin <jshamblin@miottawa.org>; Kim@naturenearby.org; htaylor@tnc.org; Douglas J. x 223 McNeil, Real Estate Lawyer <mcneil@lakemichiganlaw.com>; Richard Dick W. Hartger <rhartger@cyclesafe.com>; Stuart Hartger <stuarthartger@yahoo.com>; OC Parks <ocparks@miottawa.org>
Subject: Hiking Trail Trespass

Caution! This email is from an external address and has a compressed file attached. These files can contain a virus. Use caution when opening this file, or do not open this file at all if you did not expect to receive it.

Park Operations Report

April 17, 2024

Report Covers March 2024

Submitted by: Jason Boerger



Ottawa County Parks &
Recreation Commission

Responsive Maintenance and Repairs

- 23 down or dead trees were removed from 9 park properties.
- 12 vehicles and 16 other pieces of equipment received routine maintenance or repairs.
- Minimal snow removal and plowing was performed as needed this month at various park locations.
- **Operations Staff assisted the Stewardship Crew and Tree contractor with the removal of Oak Wilt infected trees at Riley Trails.**
- Staff continued with repairs to the barn, old shop, and 3-sided building at Eastmanville Farm.
- Removed and replaced rotted stair stringers, removed, painted, and installed new stair treads and risers on the front entrance stairs of the Weaver House at Pine Bend.
- Replaced the door seal and sweep on the door to the Pump House at Historic Ottawa Beach.



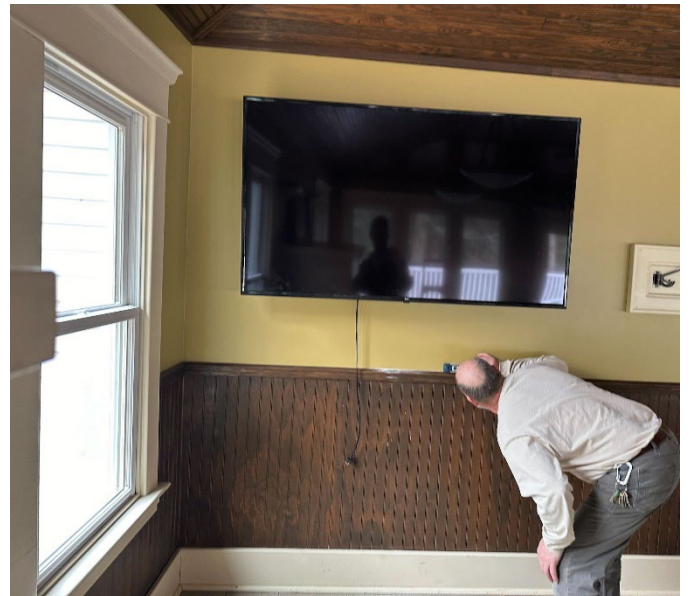
Scheduled Maintenance and Tasks

- Set-up and clean-up were performed for 38 facility reservations. In comparison, 44 reservations were held during this time last year.
- Printed, mounted, and installed zero park signs. The plotter is out of order and will be replaced soon.
- Gravel roads and parking areas were graded at three park locations.
- **Mounted the TV on the wall in the 3-season room in the Weaver House.**

Project Updates

Spring Park Prep

- On March 1st all park hours signs were changed from winter park hours to summer park hours along with the parking lot light timers and automatic gate timers to reflect the hours change.
- On March 1st. The gate to the lower parking lot and Lodge parking lot was removed for the winter at Ravines North and the Restrooms were opened in the Lodge for public use.



- On March 10th parking lot light timers and automatic gate timers were reset to reflect the daylight savings time change.
- Installed restroom plumbing in all modern restrooms to prepare for the upcoming season. Restrooms are scheduled to open for the season on April 15th.
- Installed the courtesy dock for the season at Grand River Park and Riverside Park.
- Chlorinated the type 2 well for the Age of Discover Restroom to prepare for preopening water samples required by the Health Department prior to opening the restrooms at Hager.
- Continued with spring cleanup at Grose to prepare the park to open on April 1st.
- Added sand and leveled it out in the sand volleyball courts at Grose.
- Installed sand volleyball court nets for the season at Grose.
- Installed playground cushion wood in the playground and swing set area at Spring Grove and Grand River Park.
- Put out tables, grills, and trash barrels in the parks for the season.
- Purchased and prepared (5) new swim area buoys for the West Area Parks to prepare for installation in May.



Pigeon Creek Winter Operations

- The Lodge operated for 0 days in March.
- The trails were reopened to equestrians on March 18th.

Port Sheldon Lakeshore Parks Partnership – Kouw & Windsnest Parks

Staff met with the Port Sheldon Township Supervisor to make plans for the 2024 summer season.

New Memorial Benches

No new benches this month, but some older wooden benches were refurbished.

Fee Machine and Parking Software

No update

Park Rules Committee

No progress to report this month.

Oil Release at Bend Area

Work to permanently plug the wells will resume in the Spring.

Keyless Lock Project

- The original locks are about 95% installed.
- Kouw and Windsnest locks will go in in April.

Ottawa Sands Idema Explorers Camp updates

- Assembled and put in place the picnic tables for the yurts and tent sites.
- Gathered stored “Park Closed for Construction” signs and created and ordered additional signage for the closing of Ottawa Sands on April 1st.
- Staff created documents of campground rules and Standard Operating Procedures for the Idema Explorers Camp at Ottawa Sands.

Seasonal Hiring Update

- Park Operations Staff hung a new “Now Hiring Seasonal and Part-Time” banner on the billboard sign at the Pigeon River Open Space.
- 25 current open positions
- 63 applicants
- 11 interviews
- 10 offers
- 7 hired

Incident Reports

- Employee involved equipment damage – 0 incidents.
- Vandalism/theft/damage – 2 incidents.
- Graffiti – 1 incident.
- Visitor health and safety - 0 incidents.
- Employee health and safety – 1 incident.
- Rules violation/law enforcement call for service – 0 incidents.





GRAND RIVER GREENWAY

GR Greenway – Stearns Connector Segment. Work has begun on the boardwalk at 128th Ave, although there have been delays due to utility coordination. Other work on the bridge and trail has also just started. Project completion date is set for September.

Project Budget Summary

Funding

Parks Budget	\$ 150,000.00
TAP Grant	\$ 3,428,238.00
Easement Budget	\$ 32,458.00
MNRTF Grant	\$ 300,000.00
Parks Foundation Greenway Funds (original allocation)	\$ 1,197,036.00
County ARPA Funds	<u>\$ 2,000,000.00</u>
Funding total	<u>\$ 7,107,732.00</u>

Projected Expenditures

Consultant fees	\$ 386,756.50
Additional Environmental Work	\$ 9,950.00
Mussel Relocation work	\$ 35,000.00
Archaeology	\$ 8,779.72
Tree Removal	\$ 29,757.00
Trail Construction (bid)	\$ 5,116,773.69
OCRC fees (est.)	\$ 33,079.00
Easements	<u>\$ 65,000.00</u>
Expenditure's total	<u>\$ 5,685,095.91</u>

Balance remaining \$ 1,422,636.09

GR Greenway – Bass River Segment. Design and Engineering work continues on the first phase of trail. Permits have been submitted for the required floodplain and wetland impacts, and adjustments are being made in response to regulator comments. Parks staff assisted the State in submitting a Land & Water Conservation Fund grant request to assist in funding this phase of the project. If successful, County funds budgeted for this phase would be moved to future phases.

Project Budget Summary

Funding

Michigan DNR Grants	\$ 840,000.00
County and Greenway Campaign Funds	<u>\$ 853,686.00</u>
Funding total	<u>\$ 1,693,686.00</u>

Projected Expenditures (estimated)

Engineering Fees	\$ 67,005.00
Trail Construction (estimated)	<u>\$ 1,565,091.00</u>
Expenditure's total	<u>\$ 1,632,096.00</u>
Balance remaining	<u>\$ 61,590.00</u>

GR Greenway – Eastmanville Connector Segment. Park planning staff have submitted a grant application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund to assist with this project. We believe we have a reasonable chance of success based on the project location within the updated urbanized area zone which improves our grant score. We will know if we are recommended for funding in December. The grant schedule also aligns well with the proposed construction schedule that is being coordinated with other Allendale Township public works projects in that area in 2025.

GR Greenway – Allendale Segment. A more detailed analysis of traffic movements at the 60th and M-45 intersection that was suggested by MDOT to determine if a traffic signal is appropriate at this intersection is in progress. Allendale Township approved moving ahead with this study, which is to be completed by their municipal engineer, Fleis & Vandenbrink (F & V). F & V is also being secured to begin preliminary engineering on this segment of the trail utilizing funds already provided by Allendale Township. Preliminary engineering will determine a preferred route and determine what easements may be needed or desirable.

Ottawa Sands Development. Major construction work is in progress by several contractors. This includes work on the treehouses, day-use restroom, lake loop, and ecological enhancements.

Project Budget Summary

Funding

Private Donations	\$ 3,480,000.00
County ARPA Funds	\$ 3,400,000.00
Additional approved parks funding	\$ 700,000.00
MNRTF Grant (Day Use Parking/Lake Loop)	\$ 300,000.00
LWCF Grant (Day Use Restroom)	<u>\$ 242,864.00</u>
Funding total	<u>\$ 8,122,864.00</u>

Projected Expenditures

Consultant fees	\$ 301,120.00
Phase 1 Contract	\$ 3,539,000.00
Phase 1 –Kayak Launch/Welcome Center	\$ 308,000.00
Fire Protection Additions	\$ 242,503.72
Other Contract Revisions	\$ 24,506.70
Contingency (remaining)	\$ 26,027.58
Treehouse Contract	\$ 1,667,000.00
Yurt and Treehouse Furnishings (est.)	\$ 103,690.00
Internet Service (estimate)	\$ 100,000.00
Day Use Parking/Lake Loop (contract)	\$ 788,314.25
Day Use Restroom (contract)	<u>\$ 510,000.00</u>
Expenditure's total	<u>\$ 7,559,474.25</u>
Balance remaining	<u>\$ 563,389.75</u>



Day Use Parking Area gravel base in place



Day Use restroom masonry walls in progress



Lake Loop grading near future beach area



Lake Loop grading in progress at north lake

Ottawa Sands and Harbor Island nature-based enhancements. The \$275,000 grant agreement with the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation has been approved. A Request for Proposal for this work has been issued. Results will be presented at the April Parks Commission meeting.

Kirk Park Improvements. Major construction on the restroom building. Roof trusses and exposed beams are almost complete. Mechanical and electrical work is also in progress. Playground equipment has been delivered and installed.

Project Budget Summary

Funding

Park Budget	\$ 237,000.00
MNRTF Grant	\$ 237,000.00
Additional approved parks funding (2022)	\$ 50,000.00
Additional approved parks funding (2023)	\$ 180,000.00
Additional approved parks funding (CPM004)	\$ 13,811.00
Additional approved parks funding (CPM006)	\$ 5,000.00
Funding total	<u>\$ 722,811.00</u>

Expenditures

Building Renovation Contract	\$ 454,422.00
Septic Field (contract)	\$ 83,877.09
Play Area (contract)	\$ 103,807.00
Contract Revisions (estimated)	\$ 25,078.98
Consultant fees	\$ 38,453.00
Permit and other Expenses	\$ 1,296.00
Expenditure's total	\$ 706,934.07

Balance remaining (contingency) \$ 15,876.93



New playground equipment



Restroom renovation in progress in background

Lake Michigan High Water Damage Replacement/Repairs. Work on the dog beach stairs at Kirk Park is complete. We are awaiting final approval by the Township building inspector.

Project Budget Summary

Funding

Ottawa County Insurance Authority Claim	\$ 170,000.00
Contingency (also through OCIA)	\$ 17,000.00
Funding total	\$ 187,000.00

Expenditures

Kirk Park Dog Beach Stairs Contract – Landtec	\$ 38,130.00
Rosy Mound Additional (est.)	\$ 90,000.00
Kirk Park Additional (est.)	\$ 44,000.00
Expenditure's total	\$ 172,130.00

Balance (contingency) remaining \$ 14,870.00

MACATAWA RIVER GREENWAY

Middle Macatawa Trail Connection. Design and engineering work on this project has begun with the intent of starting construction in the fall.

Park planning staff submitted a grant application to the Land & Water Conservation Fund (through the State of Michigan MDNR) to assist with funding the restroom building at the UMNA. Successful grant funding would delay the construction start of this building into 2025. Design work for this restroom building will begin in the next few weeks.

Project Budget Summary

Funding

County ARPA Funding	\$ 906,000.00
MNRTF Grant (recommended)	\$ 300,000.00
Partner Participation (Holland Township)	<u>\$ 550,000.00</u>
Funding total	<u>\$ 1,756,000.00</u>

Expenditures

Middle Mac trailhead and connector construction. (est.)	\$ 1,300,00.00
UMNA Restroom construction (est.)	<u>\$ 456,000.00</u>
Expenditure's total	<u>\$ 1,756,000.00</u>
Balance (contingency) remaining	<u>\$ 0.00</u>

PIGEON RIVER GREENWAY

Consumers Energy Trail/Sheldon Landing. Conversations continue with various interested parties.

OTHER PROJECTS

Park Entrance Drives and Parking Lot Repaving Projects. No change since the last report. An agreement with the Road Commission to "Chip Seal" resurface the existing parking lot at Grand River Park has been approved. This work will occur next summer along with restriping. Work will need to be coordinated with the schedule of rentals at this park since the parking area will be closed for several days.

Project Budget Summary

Funding in current parks budgets

Spring Grove Park	\$ 20,000.00
Hager Park	\$ 147,000.00
Grand River Park	\$ 110,000.00
Riverside Park	\$ 171,000.00
Paw Paw West	<u>\$ 40,000.00</u>
Funding total	<u>\$ 488,000.00</u>

Expenditures to date

Paw Paw West total payment	\$ 43,002.45
Riverside Park total payment	\$ 116,410.20
Hager Park total payment	\$ 157,249.27
Grand River Park total cost (est.)	\$ 53,692.00
Consultant Fees	<u>\$ 10,750.00</u>
Expenditure's total	<u>\$ 381,103.92</u>
Balance remaining	<u>\$ 106,896.08</u>

**PROGRAM/VISITOR NUMBERS**

Type	Participants	Programs	Notes
School Programs	180	5	
Private Programs	65	4	<i>Senior, scout, other private programs</i>
Public Programs	279	13	<i>Coffee with the Birds wrapped up</i>
Events	0	0	
Totals	524	22	

Type	Count	Notes
Nature Center Attendance	2,073	<i>Below average visits; average month = 2,473*</i>
Trafx Car Count (Feb)	2,700	<i>Below average visits; average month = 3,522*</i>
SAAA Public Observing	3	<i>2 events were cancelled (cloudy conditions)</i>

*Averages visits based on FY23; see table below

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **April 20, 2024, from 1-3 pm** – Awareness, Art, & Action: Vernal Pools (registration required)
- **April 21, 2024** – Earth Day Volunteering
- **April 22, 2024** – Earth Day Volunteering
- **April 27, 2024, from 5-8 pm** – Art for your Parks with OCPF (\$10 suggested entrance donation)
- **June 1, 2024, from 9 am-1 pm** – Native Plant Sale with Ottawa Conservation District
- **June 1, 2024, from 10 am-12 pm** – National Trails Day Cleanup with FOOCF at Connor Bayou
- **June 22, 2024** – Grand Explorers Trail Race hosted by OCPF (registration required)

GOALS/OBJECTIVES – CURRENT AREAS OF FOCUS**Increase participation in Outdoor Education programs**

- Coffee with the Birds concluded in March and featured a livestream option facilitated by Rick Veldman from Kestrel Imagery. The inclusion of this virtual platform saw an additional 114 participants engaging in the event. The 2024 season culminated with a total of 543 participants attending a Coffee with the Birds event.

Increase public program/event participation by 25%

- Two new regional scavenger hunts have been created for the Zeeland and Holland areas. At a recent Zeeland Early Childhood event, 400 scavenger hunts specific to the Zeeland area were disseminated alongside promotional flyers for the Summer Camps. These scavenger hunts will be showcased on various social media platforms and at the Nature Center during the month of April.
- The community engagement team is collaborating with Ottawa County Community Mental Health to craft an accessibility guide highlighting accessible features in Ottawa County Parks. This guide will be shared on our website and various social media platforms once completed.



Implement Marketing and Communications Plan

- Communications for the Strategic Plan persisted throughout March, involving emails, social media posts, and park signs. The survey will conclude on April 10, 2024, with over 4,700 responses received at the latest check-in.
- The results of the scientific survey have been distributed to Parks staff. A social media campaign will be developed to disseminate these findings.

PRESS

- [Ottawa County Population Saw Continued Growth in 2023 | WGHN](#)
- [Ottawa is Michigan's fastest-growing big county. Here's why people live there - mlive.com](#)

Astronomy

- [Solar telescope coming to West Michigan's first public stargazing observatory - mlive.com](#)
- [Witness the Celestial Spectacle: A Guide to the April Solar Eclipse - Travel And Tour World](#)

Programming & Recreation Software

- [Stretch out at fireside yoga overlooking 239 acres of woods along Pigeon River - mlive.com](#)
- [Birds, bugs and reptiles: Ottawa County spring break camps for outdoorsy kids - mlive.com](#)
- [Ottawa County Parks and Recreation launches new online registration system | WGVU NEWS](#)
- [Focus West Michigan for 3-11-24 | WGVU NEWS](#)
- [6 spring break camps and activities for West Michigan kids - mlive.com](#)

Parking Permits

- [How to get parking permits for these 8 Ottawa County parks - mlive.com](#)

Idema Explorers Trail

- [DNR grant to help fund next steps in Idema Explorers Trail | WOODTV.com](#)

Ottawa Sands

- [Ottawa Sands closed to the public for construction, restoration starting April 1 | Parks & Recreation | grandhaventribune.com](#)
- [Ottawa Sands County Park to temporarily close | WGVU NEWS](#)
- [Ottawa Sands to close to the public beginning in April \(hollandsentinel.com\)](#)
- [Park near Lake Michigan closing until summer to build treehouses, trail, restrooms - mlive.com](#)



GOVDELIVERY BULLETINS / EMAIL MARKETING

	Date	Recipients	Open Rate	Click Rate
Marketing				
Parks Update: March News	3/1/24	15,973	31%	5%
March Family Programs	3/7/24	256	35%	4%
We want to hear from you! (SP)	3/7/24	20,352	42%	3%
Share Your Voice! (SP)	3/12/24	20,547	39%	2%
Press Release: Bass River Segment of IEC	3/13/24	5,186	41%	0%
Parks Update: Observatory Closure	3/15/24	14,783	39%	1%
1Press Release: Ottawa Sands Closed	3/25/24	5,373	42%	1%
April Family Programs & Special Events	3/27/24	283	38%	2%
Parks Update: April News	3/27/24	16,006	31%	6%
Two weeks left to take strategic plan (SP)	3/28/24	15,311	37%	2%
Birding				
Birding Update: Newswire	3/2/24	2,530	47%	7%
Birding Update: QUICK LOOK!	3/15/24	2,543	38%	3%

Programs & Activities

Unless otherwise noted, registration closes 24 hours prior to the activity.



Ottawa County Parks
Foundation Community
Engagement Programs

Look for the monarch for
activities supported by the
Parks Foundation.



Into Nature

BIRD WALK **FREE**

Registration appreciated (ages 12+)

Immerse yourself in the sights and sounds of spring bird migration. *Geared towards beginners

4/3	8-10am	Hemlock Crossing	
4/10	8-10am	Upper Macatawa NA - West	
4/13*	10-11:30am	Hemlock Crossing	
4/17	8-10am	Grand River Park	
4/24	8-10am	Crockery Creek NA	
5/1	8-10am	Hemlock Crossing	
5/8	8-10am	Upper Macatawa NA - West	
5/15	8-10am	Grand River Park	
5/19*	2-3:30pm	Grand River Park	
5/22	8-10am	Crockery Creek NA	
5/25*	10-11:30am	Paw Paw Park - West	
5/29	8-10am	Hemlock Crossing	
6/16*	2-3:30pm	Hemlock Crossing	

WOODCOCK WALK

Registration required, Res-\$5 / Non-Res-\$6 (ages 12+)



Be introduced to the odd looking and behaving woodcock! After a short presentation, enjoy a short walk to watch the sun set to the twitter of displaying woodcocks.

4/5	7:30-9pm	Hemlock Crossing
4/6	7:30-9pm	Grand River Park 

TWILIGHT HIKE

Registration required, Res-\$5 / Non-Res-\$6 (ages 10+)


Come experience your favorite parks in a whole new way as you explore them by the light of fading day!

4/19	8:30-10pm	Crockery Creek NA 
5/17	8:30-10pm	Grand River Park 

LAKESHORE BIRDING **FREE**

Registration appreciated (ages 12+)

Join us to look for migratory waterfowl, gulls, and shorebirds.

4/20	8-9:30am	Grand Haven North Pier
4/20	10am-12pm	Ottawa Sands 

AWARENESS, ART, & ACTION: VERNAL POOLS

Registration required, Res-\$10 / Non-Res-\$15 (ages 12+)

Explore ephemeral wetlands and the creatures that depend on them. Learn about these unique pools and how they reflect habitat quality. Create a nature journal entry based on observations and participate in a survey of vernal pools in parks.

4/20	1-3pm	Hemlock Crossing
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WILDLIFE ENCOUNTER: WOODPECKERS **FREE**

Registration appreciated (ages 10+)

Find out the hows, whys, and whos of the area's seven woodpecker species. Then enjoy a walk to observe as many as we can find!

4/21	2-3:30pm	Hemlock Crossing
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SPRING WILDFLOWER PHOTOGRAPHY

Registration required, Res-\$5 / Non-Res-\$6 (ages 18+)



Grab your favorite camera and come along for a walk through a forest in search of spring wildflowers. Learn tips for photographing flowers with an emphasis on caring for nature.

4/27	10-11:30am	Hager Park
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BALD EAGLE WALKS

Registration required, Res-\$5 / Non-Res-\$6 (ages 10+)

Bald eagles frequent areas along the Grand River and have nested at Grand Ravines for many years. Join us on this hike to learn the story of the park's resident eagles and get a special private view into their nesting activities. *Four time slots

4/28	1-5:30pm*	Grand Ravines - North 
5/12	1-5:30pm*	Grand Ravines - North 

SPRING WILDFLOWER WALK **FREE**

Registration appreciated (ages 12+)

Woodland flowers, called spring ephemerals, bloom before the trees leaf out. Join to look for these spring beauties in our parks.

5/5	10-11am	Grose Park
5/18	1-2pm	Rosy Mound

BIG DAY BIRDING FIELD TRIP

Registration required, Res-\$20 / Non-Res-\$25 (ages 12+)

How many bird species can we find in Ottawa County in one day? Several county parks, as well as other locations, will be searched for waterbirds, raptors, songbirds, and more!

5/10	7am-4pm	Location details will be emailed
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EARTH ENCOUNTERS: LAKE MICHIGAN DUNES

Registration required, Res-\$5 / Non-Res-\$6 (ages 8+)

Does "Lake Michigan Dune Complex" sound complicated? Through a combination of presentation, activities, and a dune-topping hike, we'll simplify things a bit and help you understand how dune complexes are formed and where can they be found.

5/11	3-5pm	Hemlock Crossing
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GREENWAY BIRDING BLITZ **FREE**

Registration appreciated (ages 12+)

Celebrate migration by birding along the Pigeon River Greenway! Join us at one or more locations throughout the day.

5/18	7-9am	Windsnest Park
5/18	9:30-11am	Pine Bend Park
5/18	12-2pm	Hemlock Crossing
5/18	2:30-4pm	Pigeon Creek Park

GRASSLAND BIRDING AT JH CAMPBELL

Registration required, Res-\$20 / Non-Res-\$25 (ages 12+)

Join for special access to J.H. Campbell Generating Plant's vast grassland habitat in search of unique nesting birds!

6/8	6:30-10:30am	Hemlock Crossing
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WHISTLE OF THE WHIP-POOR-WILL

Registration required, Res-\$5 / Non-Res-\$6 (ages 12+)

Introduce yourselves to this summer whistler of the woods!

6/14	8-10pm	Hemlock Crossing
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Recreation & Health

NATURE JOURNALING

Registration required, Res-\$5 / Non-Res-\$6 (ages 18+)

Gather to learn new drawing and writing techniques specific to a theme while enjoying community connection. Journals are not provided. *Geared towards beginners

4/13*	2-3:30pm	Hemlock Crossing
4/20	10-11:30am	Hemlock Crossing
5/11	10-11:30am	Port Sheldon NA - North
6/22	10-11:30am	Stearns Creek

YOGA AT THE NATURE CENTER

Registration required, Res-\$10 / Non-Res-\$15 (ages 18+)

Come practice yoga at the Nature Center with a certified yoga instructor! Yoga mats not provided.

4/14	3-4pm	Hemlock Crossing
5/19	3-4pm	Hemlock Crossing
6/23	3-4pm	Hemlock Crossing

CONTAINER GARDENING FOR BUTTERFLIES

Registration required, Res-\$10 / Non-Res-\$15 (ages 18+)

Learn about common Michigan butterflies and the host plants necessary for caterpillars to grow and thrive in your own yard. After a short presentation, we will plant seeds in containers to start your butterfly garden, and learn about ways to attract butterflies to your yard.

5/7	7-8:30pm	Hemlock Crossing
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PADDLE THE PIGEON

Registration required, Res-\$25 / Non-Res-\$30 (ages 12+)

Join us on a leisurely guided kayak trip down the Pigeon River. Kayak is included in fee.

6/1	12:30-4:30pm	Hemlock Crossing
6/29	9:30am-1:30pm	Hemlock Crossing

Summer Fun

ON SELECT WEDNESDAYS

EARLY SPROUTS - AGES 4-5 (W/ CAREGIVER)

\$10/session • 9:30-11 am

Early Sprouts will engage caregiver and child with activities interacting in the outdoors. Caregivers will play an active role during the class.

NATURE BUDS - AGES 6-8

\$10/session • 9:30-11:30 am

Nature Buds will explore and engage with nature through activities that may include using dip nets in the wetland, catching insects, and searching for salamanders!

For dates, details, & to sign up, visit: miOttawa.org/ocpevents



Special Events

SOLAR ECLIPSE PUBLIC OBSERVATION **FREE**

Join the Shoreline Amateur Astronomers for an afternoon in the park viewing the solar eclipse event. The telescope will be equipped with a solar filter to allow for safe viewing of the sun.

4/8	2-4:30pm	Hemlock Crossing
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ASTRONOMY PROGRAMS **FREE**

Join the Shoreline Amateur Astronomical Association for an astronomy presentation at Hemlock Crossing followed by observatory and telescope viewing (weather permitting).

4/13	8-9pm	Spring and Summer Sky
5/11	8-9pm	Women in Astronomy
6/8	9-11pm	Public Observing

ART FOR THE PARKS

Support the Ottawa County Parks Foundation and local artists.

4/27	5-8pm	Hemlock Crossing
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GRAND EXPLORERS TRAIL RACE

Join the OCPF for a 5k, 10k, or 1-mile fun run/walk!

6/22	8am	Grand River Park
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Kids & Families

WILDLIFE ENCOUNTER KIDS! WOODPECKERS

Registration required, Res-\$5 / Non-Res-\$6 (ages 5-10)




Find out why and how woodpeckers pound their beaks on trees and then go search the woods to observe our local woodpeckers.

4/7	3-4:30pm	Hemlock Crossing
5/5	3-4:30pm	Grand Ravines - Lodge 

TRAILSIDE STORYTIME **FREE**

Registration appreciated (ages 3-9)

Come spend an hour reading and learning about nature with your child or grandchild and go on an outdoor walk.

4/14	2-3pm	Hemlock Crossing
5/26	2-3pm	Upper Macatawa NA 
6/9	2-3pm	Grand Ravines - North 
6/30	2-3pm	Connor Bayou 

TUNED INTO NATURE

Registration required, Res-\$5 / Non-Res-\$6 (ages 2-4)

Kids can bring their favorite grown up to sing songs, dance, and learn about nature together. Adult must remain with child.

4/17	9:30-10:30am	Hemlock Crossing
5/22	9:30-10:30am	Hemlock Crossing

STORYWALKS **FREE**

We are partnering with local libraries to continue offering StoryWalks this spring. Pages from a featured book will be posted along a path for your family to read together. StoryWalks are self-guided and available during park hours.

Find a full schedule at news.miottawa.org/storywalks

Ottawa Sands Restoration/Creation

- The environmental contractor received the final necessary permits for the Ottawa Sands restoration project including the Endangered Species Act (ESA) Compliance, National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) compliance, and Midwest Regional Historic Protection Office (RHPO), National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) clearance.
- The various contractors that will be concurrently working at Ottawa Sands met on site to collaborate and plan how their work will interact.
- The excavation subcontractor started earthmoving operations around the lake.
- Staff from GEI and OCPR started constructing and placing woody habitat structures around the lake.

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Management

- Staff continued to survey and tag hemlock trees at Port Sheldon Natural Area.

Stewardship Activities

- Staff planted native grass and wildflower seed throughout the monarch waystation areas of 12 different parks to increase nectar and host plant resources for pollinators.
- Staff completed site preparation and native seedings in recently impacted areas at Grand Ravines and Grand River Parks, a floodplain forest restoration area at Eastmanville Farm Park, and a forest opening restoration at Stearns Creek Park.
- Staff and volunteers installed live stakes to establish native shrubs around the lake at Grand River Park where invasive species have recently been removed.
- Staff continued to transplant beach grass to stabilize erosion-prone sections of dune at Kirk Park.
- Staff prepared burn breaks for potential spring prescribed fires at Hiawatha Forest and Stearns Creek Park.
- Staff assisted contractors with woody habitat structure installation around the lake at Ottawa Sands Park.



Partnerships

- Staff attended the West Michigan Conservation Network's Habitat and Restoration Subcommittee meeting.
- Staff worked with Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI) to schedule an in person Vernal Pool Patrol training at the Nature Center at Hemlock Crossing.
- Staff assisted staff members from Audubon Great Lakes in an interview with Michigan Public radio highlighting the importance and restoration needs of coastal wetlands.
- Staff worked with Yanfeng to develop a project plan to take advantage of funding provided by their organization's ICare grant.

Invasive Species Management

- Staff and volunteers removed non-native pines from 2 different parks using the cut-stump method.
- Staff and volunteers treated herbaceous invasive plants (e.g. garlic mustard, dame's rocket, etc.) from 3 different parks using backpack propane torches.
- Staff assisted with the containment of wood and debris from oak wilt infected trees following hazard tree removal at Riley Trails Park.

Volunteer Updates

- Park Steward volunteers did site prep and distributed native seeds in a restoration area at Paw Paw Park, torched garlic mustard at Pigeon Creek Park, and installed live stakes and native seeds at Grand River Park.
- 4/6 and 4/13: public park cleanups planned at Kirk Park and Olive Shores, Historic Ottawa Beach Parks and Tunnel Park.
- 4/17: Public garlic mustard identification and removal training session to be held.
- 4/21 and 4/22: Earth Day Volunteering events to be held at the Bend Area, Tunnel Park, Pigeon Creek Park, Hager Park, Olive Shores, and Grose Park.
- Adopt-a-Park update: once the agreement is signed for the Menno Lake Association at the Bend Area, we will have a total of 24 Adopt-a-Park groups (7 schools, 17 other organizations).
- Parks staff attended the FOCP board meeting on 3/13 to continue discussions regarding the renewal of the General Agreement and ways OCPRC can support their efforts. Approaches to increase membership and member participation were also considered.



Friends of Ottawa County Parks Updates

- 6/1: National Trails Day Cleanup at Connor Bayou from 10am-12pm
- Luminary Event 2024: A committee is being formed to provide planning assistance and input for this year's expanded event. Current committee members include Judy Tuttle, Barb Brown, Jessica VanGinhoven, Jason Boerger, Carly Garvelink and Don Williams.
- **2024 meeting dates:** All meetings will be held at 4:00 p.m. at the Fillmore Complex
 - April 17, 2024
 - May 15, 2024
 - June 19, 2024
 - July 17, 2024
 - August 21, 2024
 - September 18, 2024 - Annual Meeting, no Board meeting
 - October 16, 2024
 - November 20, 2024
 - December 13 (tentative date) Luminary Event, no Board meeting



Individual Gift Count:

○ 2022 – March	32	Year to date:	111
○ 2023 – March	55	Year to date:	136
○ 2024 – March	52	Year to date:	165

Percent Annual Revenue Goal

○ 2022 – March	1.7%	Year to date:	10.1%
○ 2023 – March	1.5%	Year to date:	2.3%
○ 2024 – March	4.3%	Year to date:	11.9%

Average Donation

○ 2022 – March	\$774	Year to date:	\$1,344
○ 2023 – March	\$210	Year to date:	\$130
○ 2024 – March	\$292	Year to date:	\$252

Notable Donor Development Activities:

- Secured \$9,000 in sponsorship support for Health & Wellness Programs consisting of the Step it Up! walking program and the Grand Explorers Trail Race. Sponsors included:
 - Priority Health
 - AAA Storage
 - Knight Watch
- Hosted first Planned Giving Luncheon to introduce 10 volunteers interested in bequests and other estate gift instruments. Followed up.
- Met with the Wege Foundation and Grand Haven Area Community Foundation (GHACF) to present progress report on Grand River Greenway and introduce Rosy Mound project. In both meetings, our report was well received, and we were invited to submit a draft Rosy Mound funding proposal for review and feedback.
- Met with Consumer's Energy Foundation to brief them on the Rosy Mound project. Follow up meeting is set for May 30.



Throughout the Parks Strategic Plan process, staff will provide the Parks Commission with updates on the project. The following provides an update for April 2024.

- Strategic Plan Process
 - Weekly project meetings are ongoing with staff and Crowe to prepare for the Strategic Plan.
 - All stakeholder engagement sessions have been held and a report is being prepared to outline the themes of the engagement. Overall, the sessions were all well attended and provided valuable feedback. The final four sessions focused on the following groups (all sessions are in-person at the Nature Center at Hemlock Crossing):
 - Partner Organizations and Other Stakeholders: Thursday, March 7 at 10 am
 - Local Units of Government: Thursday, March 7 at 4 pm
 - Support Organizations (Parks Foundation/Friends of Ottawa County Parks): Friday, March 8 at 10 am
 - Parks Commission/Board of Commissioners/Advisory Committee: Friday, March 8 at 1 pm
 - The two online surveys closed April 10. Preliminary results should be provided soon. The surveys include the following:
 - [Strategic Plan Public Survey](#): This is a brief survey designed to gather public input. Over 5,600 responses were received as of Monday, March 11. A comment section was added to the end of the survey to allow additional public feedback.
 - Stakeholders Survey: This survey includes additional questions and is directed to the Parks Commission's many stakeholders, including local elected officials. Emails were sent to these stakeholders to request their participation.
 - Parks staff are implementing a community engagement strategy for the plan process. This included a press release that was distributed in February that announced that the Parks & Recreation Commission was launching the strategic plan. It was picked-up by several local media outlets, and included links to the public survey and a web page that was developed for the plan. The survey is also being promoted with signage in parks, on social media, and in our quarterly newsletter. Reminder emails will be sent to stakeholders on a periodic basis.
 - All other milestone meetings have been scheduled and calendar holds have been sent for these meetings, which include the following:
 - "Strategy Lab" (an engagement model exclusive to Crowe): this has been scheduled and will include key staff, the Parks Commission, and the Advisory Committee. The Strategy Lab is scheduled for Thursday, April 18 at the Nature Center. The exact time is to be determined.
 - First Draft Work Session: This 90-minute joint session of the Parks Commission and Advisory Committee to review the first draft of the Strategic Plan will be held on Wednesday, May 15th at 4 pm at the Nature Center.
 - Public Presentation of Strategic Plan: A public presentation of the Strategic Plan will be held Thursday, June 13th at the Nature Center. While we would love as many to attend as possible, this is optional.
 - Presentation of Final Strategic Plan: The presentation of the final strategic plan to the OCPRC is planned for its regular meeting on Wednesday, August 21st in the Board Room of the Fillmore Street Complex at 3 pm. While we would love as many to attend as possible, this will be an optional meeting for the Advisory Committee.



- Affiliated Projects

- Probolsky Research is being retained for the Scientific Survey. The survey has been completed and a survey report has been provided. Probolsky will be presenting the results at the April 17 Parks Commission meeting.
- Crowe consulting is being retained to perform the Community Benefits Analysis and the project is underway. Crowe has provided a detailed data request and staff is working to meet this request. Preliminary results could be provided in April.
- Staff now have a subscription with mobility data vendor Placer.ai, which will provide access visitor data to our parks dating back to 2017. It will provide the number of visits to each park, unique visitors, and resident/non-resident visits. This information will be used, along with other visitor data, to inform the Strategic Plan, including the Community Benefits Survey. Preliminary data has been provided to Crowe and is being compiled by staff. More information will be provided to the Parks Commission at an upcoming meeting.

- Upcoming

- April 18, 2024, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Strategy Lab facilitated by Crowe inc. at the Nature Center at Hemlock Crossing County Park. Parks Commission, Advisory Committee and Staff participation.
- May 15, 2024, at 4 p.m. Work Session - Preliminary draft presentation to Parks Commission, Advisory Committee and Staff at the Nature Center at Hemlock Crossing County Park.
- June 13, 2024, at 6 p.m. Public Meeting - Draft Strategic Plan presentation to the Parks Commission at the Nature Center at Hemlock Crossing County Park.



Present: Jane Longstreet
Linda McAffrey (Teams)
Kelly Rice
Allison Miedema
Bruce Greenlee

Staff: **Jason Shamblin, Director**
Rylie Dorman, Communications Specialist
Glenn Bosch, Coordinator of Development

The following items were presented and discussed:

1. Final Annual Report Video
2. Scientific Survey Results
3. Parks Commission YouTube Livestream
4. Ottawa Sands Closure FAQ
5. Upcoming Events

Action Request



Ottawa County Parks &
Recreation Commission

Committee: Parks Board

Meeting Date: 04/17/2024

**Requesting
Department:**

Submitted By: Aaron Bodbyl-Mast

**Agenda
Item:** 11A Bend Area Expansion Phase III Grant Agreement Amendment

Suggested Motion:

To approve and authorize staff to execute the amendment to the Bend Area Expansion Phase III Trust Fund Grant agreement pending review and approval from Corporation Counsel and the Board of Commissioners. Further, the Director is instructed to take such actions as are necessary to implement the intent of the Commission in these matters.

Summary of Request:

In order to implement the Bend Area Master Plan, Ottawa County Parks has worked for the past 15 years to assemble former gravel mining properties into a large regional park. So far, 421 acres have been acquired. Staff is currently focusing on the acquisition of a key 194-acre property that would be the central activity area of the future park. This project is partially funded through a \$504,700 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant, which is governed by a grant agreement that expires on May 30, 2024. Although the project is making significant progress, it is unlikely that the acquisition will be completed before the grant agreement expires. Therefore, staff has initiated a third amendment request through the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund to extend the grant agreement. The only change is the expiration date for the grant agreement. As the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners has already approved the grant agreement and this is not a substantial change to the agreement, staff plans to submit the amendment through the "post-ratification" process. Additionally, it is requested that the Parks Commission authorize the Director to proceed with processing this agreement pending review and approval by the Corporation Counsel.

Financial Information:

Total Cost: \$1,030,000.00

Parks Fund
Cost: \$0.00

Included in
Budget:

☒ Yes

☐ No

☐ N/A

If not included in budget, recommended funding source:

Action is Related to an Activity Which Is: ☐ Mandated ☒ Non-Mandated ☐ New Activity

Action is Related to Parks Plan:

Goal:

Objective:

Administration:

☐ Recommended

☐ Not Recommended

☐ Without Recommendation

Director:

Committee/Governing/Advisory Board Approval Date:

**MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND
LAND ACQUISITION PROJECT AGREEMENT***This information is required by authority of Part 5 of Act 451, P.A. 1994 as amended, to receive funds.*

This Agreement is between **Ottawa County** in the county of Ottawa County hereinafter referred to as the "GRANTEE," and the MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, an agency of the State of Michigan, hereinafter referred to as the "DEPARTMENT." The DEPARTMENT has authority to issue grants to local units of government or public authorities for the acquisition of land for resource protection and public outdoor recreation under Part 19 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Act 451 of 1994, as amended, and under Article IX, Section 35 of the Michigan Constitution. The GRANTEE has been approved by the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) Board of Trustees (BOARD) to receive a grant. In Public Act 9 of 2021, the Legislature appropriated funds from the MNRTF to the DEPARTMENT for a grant-in-aid to the GRANTEE.

The purpose of this Agreement is to provide funding to acquire land or rights in land for the project named below. This Agreement is subject to the terms and conditions specified herein.

Project Title: Bend Area Expansion Phase III **Project #:** TF20-0175

Amount of grant: \$504,700.00 49% **PROJECT TOTAL:** \$1,030,000.00

Amount of match: \$525,300.00 51%

Start Date: _____ **Date of Execution by DEPARTMENT** **End Date:** 05/31/2023

As a precondition to the effectiveness of this Agreement, the GRANTEE is required to sign and return it to the DEPARTMENT with the necessary attachments by **07/06/2021**, or the Agreement may be cancelled by the DEPARTMENT. **This Agreement is not effective until the GRANTEE has signed it, returned it, and the DEPARTMENT has signed it.** The Agreement is considered executed when signed by the DEPARTMENT.

The individuals signing below certify by their signatures that they are authorized to sign this Agreement on behalf of their agencies, and that the parties will fulfill the terms of this Agreement, including any attached appendices, as set forth herein.

GRANTEE

SIGNED

By [Print Name]: Jason ShamblinTitle: DirectorOrganization: Ottawa County ParksDate: 08/10/2021085899011DUNS # CV0048100 24

SIGMA Vendor Number _____ SIGMA Address ID _____

Required - Please choose one**Acquisition Closing Option Desired:**

- ☐ This project will be completed utilizing a grant reimbursement process. Grantee will purchase land and seek reimbursement after closing.
- ☒ This project will be completed utilizing an escrow closing process.

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

SIGNED:

By DAN LORD

Grants Section Manager

Sept. 20th, 2021

Date of Execution by DEPARTMENT

1. This Agreement shall be administered on behalf of the DEPARTMENT by the Grants Management Section within the Finance and Operations Division. All notices, reports, documents, requests, actions or other communications required between the DEPARTMENT and the GRANTEE shall be submitted through the department's online grant management system, MiRecGrants, which is accessed through www.michigan.gov/dnr-grants, unless otherwise instructed by the DEPARTMENT. Primary points of contact pertaining to this agreement shall be:

GRANTEE CONTACT

Jason Shamblin, Director

Name/Title

Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Department

Organization

12220 Fillmore Street, Ste 267

Address

West Olive, MI 49460

Address

616-738-4808

Telephone Number

jshamblin@miottawa.org

E-mail Address

DEPARTMENT CONTACT

MNRTF Grant Program Manager

Name/Title

Grants Management/DNR Finance & Operations

Organization

525 W. Allegan Street, Lansing, MI 48933

Address

P.O. Box 30425, Lansing, MI 48909

Address

517-284-7268

Telephone Number

DNR-Grants@michigan.gov

E-mail Address

2. The legal description of the project area, boundary map of the project area, and the land acquisition grant application bearing the number **TF20-0175** uploaded to MiRecGrants are by this reference made part of this Agreement. The Agreement together with the referenced documents in MiRecGrants constitute the entire Agreement between the parties and may be modified only in writing and executed in the same manner as the Agreement is executed.
3. The time period allowed for project completion is from **05/07/2021** through **05/31/2023**, hereinafter referred to as the "project period." Requests by the GRANTEE to extend the project period shall be submitted in MiRecGrants before the expiration of the project period. Extensions to the project period are at the discretion of the DEPARTMENT and may only be extended by an amendment to this Agreement.
4. The grant herein provided is for the acquisition by the GRANTEE of **194.2** acres of land in **Fee Simple** title free of all liens and encumbrances, situated and being in the city/village/township of **Georgetown Township**, in the County of **Ottawa County, STATE OF MICHIGAN** as described in the uploaded legal description and shown on the uploaded boundary map. As used in this Agreement, the words "project area" shall mean the lands acquired under this Agreement as described in this Section.
5. The project area shall be used for **outdoor recreation, water access and habitat conservation**, as further described in the GRANTEE'S proposal to the DEPARTMENT and approved by the MNRTF Board. Significant changes in the use of the project area as described in this Section require the prior written authorization of the DEPARTMENT.
6. In order to preserve the financial resources of the State of Michigan and to prevent unjust enrichment of a third party interim owner, if the landowner listed in the project application grants any rights in the real property to an individual or agency other than the GRANTEE, the DEPARTMENT may inspect the terms of the conveyance as a condition to approving the GRANTEE to close.
7. The DEPARTMENT will:
 - a. grant to the GRANTEE a sum of money equal to **Forty-Nine percent (49%)** as reimbursement or as payment into

an escrow account for escrow closing, of the total eligible cost of acquisition of fee simple title free of all liens and encumbrances to the lands in the project area, not to exceed the sum of **Five Hundred and Four Thousand Seven Hundred dollars (\$504,700.00)**. Acquisition of easements or other rights in land less than fee simple will be considered on a case by case basis at the discretion of the DEPARTMENT.

- b. include the following in the total cost of acquisition eligible for grant funding (based on grant percentage) as provided for in Section 7(a):
 - i. Purchase price of the land, up to the market value, in the project area acquired by the GRANTEE during the project period as provided for in section 9(f) of this Agreement;
 - ii. Reasonable and appropriate costs incurred and paid by the GRANTEE during the project period for recording fees, title insurance, transfer tax, prorated property tax, closing fees and environmental assessments; and
 - iii. Costs incurred and paid by the GRANTEE for appraisal(s) as provided for in Section 9(f) and approved by the DEPARTMENT.
- c. grant funds to the GRANTEE for eligible costs and expenses incurred, as follows:
 - i. Payments will be made on a reimbursement basis or to an escrow account for escrow closing for **Forty-Nine percent (49%)** of the eligible expenses incurred by the GRANTEE up to 90% of the maximum amount allowable under the grant.
 - ii. Reimbursement (or payment to an escrow account for escrow closing) will be made only upon DEPARTMENT review and approval of a complete reimbursement (or escrow closing) request submitted by the GRANTEE on forms provided by the DEPARTMENT that meet all documentation requirements set forth by the DEPARTMENT. A complete reimbursement or escrow closing request must document the total cost of the acquisition and the GRANTEE's compliance with Section 8 of this Agreement and DEPARTMENT acquisition project procedures.
 - iii. The DEPARTMENT shall conduct an audit of the project's financial records upon approval of the final reimbursement request or completion of the escrow closing. The DEPARTMENT may issue an audit report with no deductions or may find some costs ineligible for final audit reimbursement.
 - iv. The final 10% of the grant amount will be released upon completion of a satisfactory audit by the DEPARTMENT and documentation that the GRANTEE has erected proper signage acknowledging MNRTF assistance in compliance with Section 9(q) of this Agreement.

8. Closing Options:

a. FOR REIMBURSEMENT PROJECTS:

The GRANTEE shall be eligible for reimbursement only upon GRANTEE'S completion of all of the following:

- i. Electing to use the grant reimbursement closing process at time of signing this project agreement (See grey box prior to signature section).
- ii. Acquisition by GRANTEE of fee simple title free of all liens and encumbrances of all land in the project area. Acquisition of easements or other rights in land less than fee simple will be considered on a case by case basis at the discretion of the DEPARTMENT.
- iii. Submission of proof of acquisition of marketable record title to the DEPARTMENT in the form of a policy of title insurance ensuring the GRANTEE possesses marketable record title in fee simple, free of all liens and encumbrances to the land in the project area. Said policy is to insure the GRANTEE against loss or damage at least equal to the purchase price of the subject land.
- iv. Proper conveyance to the State of Michigan of all mineral interest to which the State is entitled under this Agreement as outlined in Section 9(m).
- v. Submission of a complete request for reimbursement as set forth in this Agreement.

b. FOR ESCROW CLOSING PROJECTS:

The GRANTEE shall be eligible for grant funding through escrow closing process only upon GRANTEE'S completion of the following:

- i. Electing to use the escrow closing process at time of signing this project agreement (See grey box prior to signature section).
- ii. Securing the services of a reputable title company who will agree to serve as the escrow closing agent.
- iii. Execution of escrow closing agreement by GRANTEE, DEPARTMENT, LANDOWNER/SELLER and title

- company (agent).
- iv. Providing Department and title company an approximate desired timeframe for closing.
- v. Sending DEPARTMENT the draft closing packet (reference Land Acquisition Escrow Closing Package Checklist) at least 60 days prior to the desired closing date.
- vi. Coordinating with title company to schedule the exact closing date after DEPARTMENT'S approval of draft closing documents and submitting to DEPARTMENT an updated closing statement from the title company at least 10 days before the desired closing date.
- vii. Submitting local matching funds plus 10% of the eligible grant amount to title company for deposit into escrow account and providing proof of escrowed funds to the DEPARTMENT.

9. The GRANTEE will:

- a. immediately make available all funds needed to pay all necessary costs required to complete the project and to provide **Five Hundred and Twenty-Five Thousand Three Hundred dollars (\$525,300.00)** as local match to this project. This sum represents **Fifty-One percent (51%)** of the total eligible cost of acquisition including incidental costs. Any cost overruns incurred to complete the project called for by this Agreement shall be the sole responsibility of the GRANTEE.
- b. complete the acquisition in compliance with the acquisition project procedures set forth by the DEPARTMENT.
- c. make no written offer or commitment to purchase lands in the project area before execution of this Agreement and before written DEPARTMENT approval as provided for in Section 9. Failure to comply with this requirement shall, at the option of the DEPARTMENT, make the cost of the property an ineligible expense under this Agreement and subject this Agreement to termination by the DEPARTMENT.
- d. provide verification that the site is not a facility as defined in Part 201 of the Michigan Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Act 451 of the Public Acts of 1994, as amended, based on the results of due diligence and, if needed, an environmental assessment or, if the site has been determined to be a facility, to provide documentation of due care compliance. The results of the due diligence must be accounted for in the appraisal(s).
- e. complete a 40-year title review on the property. The results of the title review must be accounted for in the appraisal(s).
- f. obtain an appraisal of the real estate within the project area in accordance with standards established by the DEPARTMENT to determine the market value thereof; two appraisals meeting these standards being required for properties valued at \$750,000 or more. Failure to complete the appraisal(s) in this manner shall make the cost of said appraisal(s) an ineligible expense under this Agreement.
- g. submit the appraisal(s) to the DEPARTMENT for approval no later than 120 days after the date of execution of this Agreement. No written offer or commitment to purchase land in the project area shall be transmitted by the GRANTEE until after approval has been given in writing by the DEPARTMENT.
- h. perform, or to directly contract for the performance of, all appraisal(s), appraisal review(s), title review, closing and acquisition of all lands in the project area.
- i. eliminate all pre-existing non-recreation uses of the project area within 90 days of the date of acquisition, unless otherwise approved by the DEPARTMENT in writing.
- j. remove existing structures or make ready for an appropriate use in a reasonable time frame after completion of the acquisition.
- k. complete acquisition of the entire project area before **05/31/2023**. Failure to acquire the project area by **05/31/2023** shall constitute a breach of this Agreement and subject the GRANTEE to the remedies provided by law and set forth in Section 23 of this Agreement.
- l. provide the DEPARTMENT all documents and information as specified in Sections 8a or 8b of this Agreement. If utilizing reimbursement process, documents must be submitted within 60 days after the transaction is closed. If utilizing escrow closing process, documents must be submitted no later than 60 days prior to desired closing. Failure to submit the required documents and information for review shall constitute a material breach of this Agreement. Proof of payment to seller (such as cancelled check, wire confirmation, etc.), recorded warranty deed, recorded mineral royalty deed and recorded Declaration and Notice must be submitted to the DEPARTMENT within 60 days after closing. The final 10% of eligible grant amount will be released upon satisfactory audit review and approval by the DEPARTMENT.
- m. for parcels over 5 acres, execute, acknowledge and deliver to the DEPARTMENT a deed conveying to the State of Michigan a perpetual nonparticipating royalty equal to 1/6 of the gross proceeds of sale of all oil and/or gas and other minerals produced and saved in any combination from the mineral rights in, on or under the lands in the project area.
- n. retain all rights acquired by the GRANTEE in coal, oil, gas, sand, gravel or any other minerals in, on or under the lands in the project area in perpetuity.
- o. not develop any rights acquired by the GRANTEE in coal, oil, gas, sand, gravel or any other minerals in, on or under

- the lands in the project area in a manner that diminishes the usefulness of the project area for its intended purposes. In addition, GRANTEE agrees not to develop, or allow others to develop, any such minerals from sites adjacent to the project area in a manner that diminishes the usefulness of the project area for its intended purposes.
- p. maintain satisfactory financial accounts, records, and documents and to make them available to the DEPARTMENT for auditing upon request. Such accounts, records, and documents shall be retained by the GRANTEE for not less than three years following submittal of the final audit reimbursement request.
 - q. erect and maintain a sign or other acknowledgement as approved by the DEPARTMENT on the property which designates this project as one having been acquired with the assistance of the MNRTF. The size, color, and design of this sign shall be in accordance with DEPARTMENT specifications.
 - r. conduct a dedication/ribbon-cutting ceremony as soon as possible after the project is completed and the MNRTF sign is erected within the project area. At least 30 days prior to the dedication/ribbon-cutting ceremony, the DEPARTMENT must be notified in writing of the date, time, and location of the dedication/ribbon-cutting ceremony. GRANTEE shall provide notice of ceremony in the local media. Use of the grant program logo and a brief description of the program are strongly encouraged in public recreation brochures produced by the GRANTEE. At the discretion of the DEPARTMENT, the requirement to conduct a dedication/ribbon-cutting ceremony may be waived.
 - s. provide the DEPARTMENT for approval, a complete tariff schedule containing all charges to be assessed against the public utilizing the project area and/or any facilities constructed thereon, and to provide the DEPARTMENT for approval, all amendments thereto before the effective date of such amendments. Any tariff schedule proposed shall provide solely for sufficient revenues to cover the costs of operating, maintaining and/or developing the premises and/or any facilities provided thereon. Preferential membership or annual permit systems are prohibited at this site. Differences in admission and other fees may be instituted on the basis of residence. Nonresident fees shall not exceed twice that charged residents. If no resident fees are charged, nonresident fees may not exceed the rate charged residents at other comparable state and local public recreation facilities.
 - t. separately account for any revenues received from the project area which exceed the demonstrated operating costs and to reserve such surplus revenues for the future maintenance and/or expansion of the GRANTEE'S park and outdoor recreation program.
 - u. furnish the DEPARTMENT, upon request, detailed statements covering the annual operation of project area and/or facilities, including income and expenses and such other information the DEPARTMENT might reasonably require.
 - v. adopt such ordinances and/or resolutions as shall be required to effectuate the provisions of this Agreement; certified copies of all such ordinances and/or resolutions adopted for such purposes shall be forwarded to the DEPARTMENT before the effective date thereof.
 - w. maintain the premises in such condition as to comply with all federal, state, and local laws which may be applicable and to make any and all payments required to pay any and all taxes, fees, or assessments legally imposed against the project area.
 - x. make the project area and any facilities located thereon, as well as the land and water access ways to them, open to the public within 90 days of the date of acquisition and keep them open to the public at all times on equal and reasonable terms. No individual shall be denied ingress or egress thereto or the use thereof because of sex, race, color, religion, national origin, residence, age, height, weight, familial status, marital status or disability.
 - y. make the project area and any future facilities provided thereon available for public outdoor recreation in perpetuity and in accordance with uses described in this Agreement and APPENDIX C, to regulate the use thereof and to provide for the maintenance thereof to the satisfaction of the DEPARTMENT, and to appropriate such moneys and/or provide such services as shall be necessary to provide such adequate maintenance.
10. The GRANTEE shall acquire fee simple title, free of all liens, encumbrances, or restrictions on future use to the lands in the project area. The fee simple title acquired shall not be subject to (1) any possibility of reversion or right of entry for condition broken or any other executory limitation which may result in defeasance of title or (2) to any reservations or prior conveyance of coal, oil, gas, sand, gravel or any other mineral interests.
11. The GRANTEE shall not allow any encumbrance, lien, security interest, mortgage or any evidence of indebtedness to attach to or be perfected against the project area.
12. The project area and any facilities located thereon shall not be wholly or partially conveyed, either in fee, easement or otherwise, or leased for a term of years, or for any other period, nor shall there be any whole or partial transfer of title, ownership, or right of ownership or control without the written approval and consent of the DEPARTMENT.
13. The assistance provided to the GRANTEE as a result of this Agreement is intended to have a lasting effect on the supply of outdoor recreation, scenic beauty sites, and recreation facilities beyond the financial contribution alone and permanently commits the project area to Michigan's outdoor recreation estate, therefore:

- a. The GRANTEE agrees that lands in the project area are being acquired with MNRTF assistance and shall be maintained in public outdoor recreation use in perpetuity. No portion of the project area shall be converted to other than public outdoor recreation use without the approval of the DEPARTMENT. The DEPARTMENT shall approve such conversion only upon such conditions as it deems necessary to assure the substitution by GRANTEE of other outdoor recreation properties of equal or greater market value and of reasonably equivalent usefulness and location. Such substituted land shall become part of the project area and will be subject to all the provisions of this Agreement.
 - b. Approval of a conversion shall be at the sole discretion of the DEPARTMENT.
 - c. Before completion of the project, the GRANTEE and the DEPARTMENT may mutually agree to alter the project area through an amendment to this Agreement to provide the most satisfactory public outdoor recreation area.
14. Should title to the lands in the project area or any portion thereof be acquired from the GRANTEE by any other entity through exercise of the power of eminent domain, the GRANTEE agrees that the proceeds awarded to the GRANTEE shall be used to replace the lands affected with outdoor recreation properties of equal or greater market value, and of reasonably equivalent usefulness and location. The DEPARTMENT shall approve such replacement only upon such conditions as it deems necessary to assure the substitution with other outdoor recreation properties of equal or greater market value and of reasonably equivalent usefulness and location. Such replacement land shall be subject to all the provisions of this Agreement.
15. The GRANTEE acknowledges that:
 - a. The GRANTEE has examined the project area and has found the property safe for public use or actions will be taken by the GRANTEE to make the property safe for public use no later than 90 days after the date of acquisition; and
 - b. The GRANTEE is solely responsible for development, operation, and maintenance of the project area, and that responsibility for actions taken to develop, operate, or maintain the project area is solely that of the GRANTEE; and
 - c. The DEPARTMENT'S involvement in the premises is limited solely to the making of a grant to assist the GRANTEE in acquiring the premises.
 - d. The GRANTEE acknowledges that the DEPARTMENT is not responsible for any tax liability assessed on the property after closing by the GRANTEE. Further, the eligible amount of tax pro-rated at time of closing will be determined by the DEPARTMENT.
16. Before the DEPARTMENT will give approval to make a written offer to purchase the property included in this project, the GRANTEE must provide documentation to the DEPARTMENT that indicates either:
 - a. It is reasonable for the GRANTEE to conclude, based on the advice of an environmental consultant, as appropriate, that no portion of the project area is a facility as defined in Part 201 of the Michigan Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Act 451 of the Public Acts of 1994, as amended;or
 - b. If any portion of the project area is a facility, documentation that Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy-approved response actions have been or will be taken to make the site safe for its intended use within the project period, and that implementation and long-term maintenance of response actions will not hinder public outdoor recreation use and/or the resource protection values of the project area.
17. If the DEPARTMENT determines that, based on contamination, the project area will not be made safe for the planned recreation use within the project period, or another date established by the DEPARTMENT in writing, or if the DEPARTMENT determines that the presence of contamination will reduce the overall usefulness of the property for public recreation and resource protection, the grant may be cancelled by the DEPARTMENT with no reimbursement made to the GRANTEE.
18. The GRANTEE shall acquire and maintain, or cause to be acquired or maintained, insurance which will protect the GRANTEE from claims which may arise out of or result from the GRANTEE'S operations under this Agreement, whether performed by the GRANTEE, a subcontractor or anyone directly or indirectly employed by the GRANTEE, or anyone for whose acts may hold them liable. Such insurance shall be with companies authorized to do business in the State of Michigan in such amounts and against such risks as are ordinarily carried by similar entities, including but not limited to public liability insurance, worker's compensation insurance or a program of self-insurance complying with the requirements of Michigan law. The GRANTEE shall provide evidence of such insurance to the DEPARTMENT at its request.

19. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to impose any obligation upon the DEPARTMENT to operate , maintain or provide funding for the operation and/or maintenance of any recreational facilities in the project area.
20. The GRANTEE hereby represents that it will defend any suit brought against either party which involves title, ownership, or any other rights, whether specific or general, including any appurtenant riparian rights, to and in the project area and any lands connected with or affected by this project.
21. The GRANTEE is responsible for the use and occupancy of the premises, the project area and the facilities thereon. The GRANTEE is responsible for the safety of all individuals who are invitees or licensees of the premises. The GRANTEE will defend all claims resulting from the use and occupancy of the premises, the project area and the facilities thereon. The DEPARTMENT is not responsible for the use and occupancy of the premises , the project area and the facilities thereon.
22. Failure by the GRANTEE to comply with any of the provisions of this Agreement shall constitute a material breach of this Agreement.
23. Upon breach of the Agreement by the GRANTEE, the DEPARTMENT, in addition to any other remedy provided by law and this Agreement, may:
 - a. Terminate this Agreement; and/or
 - b. Withhold and/or cancel future payments to the GRANTEE on any or all current recreation grant projects until the violation is resolved to the satisfaction of the DEPARTMENT; and/or
 - c. Withhold action on all pending and future grant applications submitted by the GRANTEE under the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Recreation Passport Grant Program ; and/or
 - d. Require repayment of grant funds already paid to GRANTEE; and/or
 - e. Seek specific performance of the Agreement terms .
24. This Agreement may be canceled by the DEPARTMENT, upon 30 days written notice, due to Executive Order, budgetary reduction, other lack of funding, upon request by the GRANTEE, or upon mutual Agreement by the DEPARTMENT and GRANTEE. The DEPARTMENT may honor requests for just and equitable compensation to the GRANTEE for all satisfactory and eligible work completed under this Agreement up until 30 days after written notice, upon which time all outstanding reports and documents are due to the DEPARTMENT and the DEPARTMENT will no longer be liable to pay the GRANTEE for any further charges to the grant.
25. The GRANTEE agrees that the benefit to be derived by the State of Michigan from the full compliance by the GRANTEE with the terms of this Agreement is the preservation , protection and the net increase in the quality of public outdoor recreation facilities and resources which are available to the people of the State and of the United States and such benefit exceeds to an immeasurable and unascertainable extent the amount of money furnished by the State of Michigan by way of assistance under the terms of this Agreement. The GRANTEE agrees that after final audit reimbursement has been made to the GRANTEE, repayment by the GRANTEE of grant funds received would be inadequate compensation to the State for any breach of this Agreement. The GRANTEE further agrees therefore, that the appropriate remedy in the event of a breach by the GRANTEE of this Agreement after final audit reimbursement has been made shall be the specific performance of this Agreement.
26. The GRANTEE agrees not to discriminate against an employee or applicant for employment with respect to hire, tenure, terms, conditions, or privileges of employment, or a matter directly or indirectly related to employment, because of religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, height, weight, marital status, partisan considerations, or a disability or genetic information that is unrelated to the person's ability to perform the duties of a particular job or position. The GRANTEE further agrees that any subcontract shall contain non-discrimination provisions which are not less stringent than this provision and binding upon any and all subcontractors. A breach of this covenant shall be regarded as a material breach of this Agreement.
27. The GRANTEE may not assign or transfer any interest in this Agreement without prior written authorization of the DEPARTMENT.
28. The rights of the DEPARTMENT under this Agreement shall continue in perpetuity.

If this Agreement is approved by Resolution, a true copy must be attached to this Agreement. A sample Resolution is on the next page.

COUNTY OF OTTAWA

STATE OF MICHIGAN

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOR THE BEND AREA EXPANSION PHASE III ACQUISITION PROJECT.

At a regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the County of Ottawa, Michigan, held in the Ottawa County Fillmore Street Complex, West Olive, Michigan in said County on June 22, 2021.

PRESENT: Francisco Garcia, Joseph Baumann, Douglas Zylstra, Allen Dannenberg, Randall Meppelink, Kyle Terpstra, James Holtvluwer, Gregory DeJong, Philip Kuyers, Roger Bergman, Matthew Fenske. (11)

ABSENT: None

It was moved by Commissioner Gregory DeJong and supported by Commissioner Randall Meppelink that the following Resolution be adopted:

“RESOLVED, that the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners does hereby accept the terms of the Agreement as received from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), and that the Board of Commissioners does hereby specifically agree, but not by way of limitation, as follows:

1. To appropriate all funds necessary to complete the project during the project period and to provide the sum of Five Hundred and Twenty-Five Thousand Three Hundred (\$525,300) dollars to match the grant authorized by the MDNR.
2. To maintain satisfactory financial accounts, documents, and records and to make them available to the MDNR for auditing at reasonable times.
3. To regulate the use of the property acquired and reserved under this Agreement to assure the use thereof by the public on equal and reasonable terms.
4. To comply with any and all terms of said Agreement including all terms not specifically set forth in the foregoing portions of this Resolution.”

YEAS: Philip Kuyers, James Holtvluwer, Randall Meppelink, Kyle Terpstra, Francisco Garcia, Douglas Zylstra, Matthew Fenske, Allen Dannenberg, Gregory DeJong, Joseph Baumann, Roger Bergman. (11)

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
) ss
COUNTY OF OTTAWA)

I, JUSTIN F. ROEBUCK, Clerk/Register, of the County of Ottawa, Michigan, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the Resolution relative to the Agreement with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, which resolution was adopted by the County of Ottawa at a meeting held June 22, 2021.

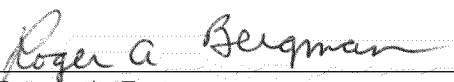


Signature


Ottawa County Clerk/Register
Title

June 22, 2021
Date

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.



Roger A. Bergman
Chairman, Ottawa County
Board of Commissioners



JUSTIN F. ROEBUCK
Ottawa County Clerk/Register

Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission
Legal Description for TF20-0175
Grand Rapids Gravel Property

Parcel # 70-14-02-100-004

The East 113 rods of the Northwest fractional 1/4 except the North 46.5 rods, also except the South 28.25 rods, Section 2, Town 6 North, Range 13 West

Parcel #70-14-02-100-007

The South 28.25 rods of the East 113 rods of the Northwest fractional 1/4, Section 2, Town 6 North, Range 13 West.

Parcel #70-14-02-100-008

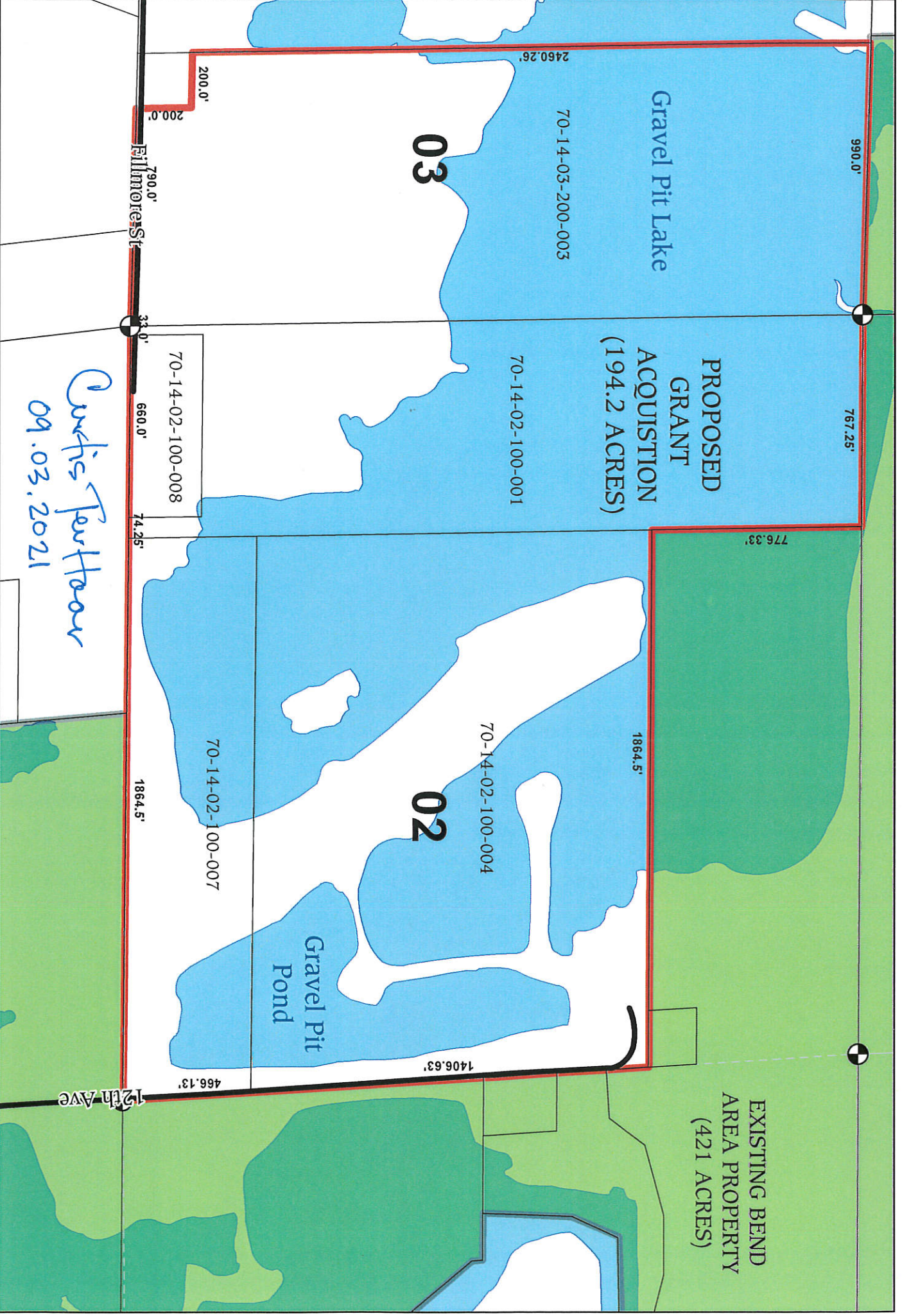
Part of Northwest fractional 1/4 commencing 33 feet East of Southwest corner, then North 264 feet, East 660 feet, South 264 feet, West 660 feet to beginning. Section 2, Town 6 North, Range 13 West

Parcel #70-14-02-100-001

West 46.5 rods of Northwest fractional 1/4 except parcel commencing 33 feet East of Southwest corner, then North 264 feet East 660 feet, South 264 feet, West 660 feet to beginning. Section 2, Town 6 North, Range 13 West

Parcel #70-14-03-200-003

East 60 rods of Northeast fractional 1/4 Section 3, Town 6 North, Range 13, except for area beginning at a point West 790.00 feet from Southeast corner of Section 3 then North 0 Degrees 53 Minutes 49 Seconds West 200 feet then North 88 Degrees 37 Minutes 1 Second West 200 feet then South 0 Degrees 53 Minutes 49 Seconds East 200 feet then South 88 Degrees 37 Minutes 1 Second East 200 feet to point of beginning.



BEND AREA EXPANSION (TF20-0175)
BOUNDARY MAP

1 inch = 450 feet

0 225 450 900 Feet

Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES-GRANTS MANAGEMENT

MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND AGREEMENT AMENDMENT

Organization:	Ottawa County
Project Title:	Bend Area Expansion Phase III
Project Location:	Ottawa
Project Number:	TF20-0175
Amendment Number:	1

This is an amendment to the Agreement entered into between the Michigan Department of Natural Resources ("DEPARTMENT") and the Ottawa County in the county of Ottawa County for the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant number TF20-0175.

The purpose of this amendment is to:

- extend the end date of the project period from 05/31/2023 to 11/30/2023 to allow for more time to complete the project.

A. The DEPARTMENT and the GRANTEE mutually agree to amend the Agreement as follows:

- The time period allowed for project completion is 05/07/2021 through 11/30/2023, hereinafter referred to as the "project period." Requests by the GRANTEE to extend the project period shall be made in writing before the expiration of the project period. Extensions to the project period are at the discretion of the DEPARTMENT. The project period may be extended only by an amendment to this Agreement.
- To complete acquisition of the entire project area before 11/30/2023. Failure to acquire the project area by 11/30/2023 shall constitute a breach of this Agreement and subject the GRANTEE to the remedies provided by law and set forth in Section 23 of this Agreement.

B. All other provisions of the Agreement shall be continued in full force and effect.

C. The amendment may be executed separately by the parties and is not effective until both the GRANTEE and the DEPARTMENT have signed it.



D. This amendment modifies an Agreement which was approved by resolution of the GRANTEE'S governing body as evidenced by the resolution attached to the Agreement. It is the sole responsibility of the GRANTEE to determine if its laws, policies, or procedures require approval by its governing body before execution of this amendment by the GRANTEE. By signature of this amendment, the GRANTEE certifies that:

1. Approval of the amendment by its governing body is not required, or
2. The amendment has been approved by resolution (true copy attached) of the

_____, _____ meeting of the _____
(date) (special or regular) (name of approving body)

GRANTEE

SIGNED

WITNESSED

By: Jan D. Shullin

By: Arv

Title: Ottawa County Parks Director

By: 06117123

Date: 6/14/23

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

SIGNED

WITNESSED

By: Cheryl Luma

By: _____

EFFECTIVE DATE: 6/26/2023

By: _____

Bend Area Phase III Expansion
Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Agreement Amendment

Ottawa County

By:  06/07/2023

Joe Moss, Chairperson
Board of Commissioners

Date

By:  05/31/2023

Justin F. Roebuck, Clerk/Register

Date



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES-GRANTS MANAGEMENT

MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND AGREEMENT AMENDMENT

Organization:	Ottawa County
Project Title:	Bend Area Expansion Phase III
Project Location:	Ottawa
Project Number:	TF20-0175
Amendment Number:	2

This is an amendment to the Agreement entered into between the Michigan Department of Natural Resources ("DEPARTMENT") and the Ottawa County in the county of Ottawa County for the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant number TF20-0175.

The purpose of this amendment is to:

- extend the end date of the project period from 11/30/2023 to 05/30/2024 to allow for more time to complete the project.

A. The DEPARTMENT and the GRANTEE mutually agree to amend the Agreement as follows:

- The time period allowed for project completion is 05/07/2021 through 05/30/2024, hereinafter referred to as the "project period." Requests by the GRANTEE to extend the project period shall be made in writing before the expiration of the project period. Extensions to the project period are at the discretion of the DEPARTMENT. The project period may be extended only by an amendment to this Agreement.
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1. Approval of the amendment by its governing body is not required, or
2. The amendment has been approved by resolution (true copy attached) of the

_____	_____	meeting of the	_____
(date)	(special or regular)		(name of approving body)

GRANTEE

SIGNED

WITNESSED

By: *J. D. Shille*

By: *Christen Haer*

Title: Director, Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

By: *Aaron Boddy L-must*

Date: October 26, 2023

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

SIGNED

WITNESSED

By: *Chyler Summa*

By: _____


EFFECTIVE DATE: 12/4/2023

By: _____

OTTAWA COUNTY

By: 
Joe Moss, Chairperson
Board of Commissioners

Date 11/05/2023

By: 
Justin F. Roebuck, Clerk/Register

Date 11/01/2023



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES-GRANTS MANAGEMENT

MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND AGREEMENT AMENDMENT

Organization:	Ottawa County
Project Title:	Bend Area Expansion Phase III
Project Location:	Ottawa
Project Number:	TF20-0175
Amendment Number:	3

This is an amendment to the Agreement entered into between the Michigan Department of Natural Resources ("DEPARTMENT") and the Ottawa County in the county of Ottawa County for the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant number TF20-0175.

The purpose of this amendment is to:

- extend the end date of the project period from 05/30/2024 to 11/30/2024 to allow for more time to complete the project.

A. The DEPARTMENT and the GRANTEE mutually agree to amend the Agreement as follows:

- The time period allowed for project completion is 05/07/2021 through 11/30/2024, hereinafter referred to as the "project period." Requests by the GRANTEE to extend the project period shall be made in writing before the expiration of the project period. Extensions to the project period are at the discretion of the DEPARTMENT. The project period may be extended only by an amendment to this Agreement.
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2. The amendment has been approved by resolution (true copy attached) of the

_____, _____ meeting of the _____
(date) (special or regular) (name of approving body)

GRANTEE

SIGNED

WITNESSED

By: _____

By: _____

Title: _____

By: _____

Date: _____

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

SIGNED

WITNESSED

By: _____

By: _____

EFFECTIVE DATE: _____

By: _____

Action Request

Electronic Submission – Request # 363



Ottawa County Parks &
Recreation Commission

Committee: Parks Board

Meeting Date: 4/17/2024

Vendor/3rd Party: PROBOLSKY RESEARCH

Requesting Department: PARKS AND RECREATION

Submitted By: SHAMBLIN

Agenda Item: 11B PRESENTATION OF RESIDENT SCIENTIFIC SURVEY RESULTS – ADAM PROBOLSKY, PRESIDENT, PROBOLOSKY RESEARCH

Suggested Motion:

Information only

Summary of Request:

Adam Probolsky, President of Probolsky Research, Inc. will present the results of the recently completed resident survey. A scientific survey was conducted by Probolsky Research, Inc. as part of the overall effort by the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission (OCPRC) to develop a comprehensive strategic plan.

This planning process involves many elements, including working with a consultant to drive the plan and various supporting data gathering components. This survey is one of the supporting data sets feeding the strategic plan.

Probolsky Research conducted a scientifically valid survey of Ottawa County residents utilizing questions developed to help analyze public sentiment about the performance of the OCPRC, support for possible new strategic initiatives, and support for the millage renewal. The OCPRC has worked with similar firms in the past (last in 2015) and the data gathered has been crucial in helping to guide the OCPRC in delivering recreational services and to understand overall public support for continued funding of the parks system.

Financial Information:

Total Cost: \$0.00

Parks Fund Cost: \$0.00

Included in Budget:

If not included in Budget, recommended funding source:

Action is Related to an Activity Which Is: Non-Mandated

Action is Related to Strategic Plan:

Objective:

Administration:

Recommended by Parks Director:

Committee/Governing/Advisory Board Approval Date: Public Relations: 04/09/2024 Planning and Development: 04/16/2024

Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission 2024 Scientific Survey Executive Results Presentation

April 2024



**Opinion Research on
Elections and Public Policy**



PROBOLSKY RESEARCH
1629 K Street NW Suite 300 Washington DC 20006

Washington DC
(202) 559-0270

San Francisco
(415) 870-8150

Newport Beach
(949) 855-6400

Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission – 2024 Scientific Survey

Survey Methodology*

	Survey Details
Mode	Phone (landline and mobile) Online (email and text-to-web)
Language	English and Spanish
Length	16 minutes
Target Respondents	Ottawa County voters and non-voters
Survey Fielding	March 6 – 11, 2024
Survey Participants	400
Margin of Error	+/-5%

Sample

The sample was secured through voter files originally compiled by the Elections Division of the Ottawa County Clerk/Register of Deeds Office and enhanced with consumer data. We called, emailed, and texted voters and non-voters. We matched the demographics of Ottawa County voters and non-voters.

Data Collection Explained

Interviews were conducted by phone (33%) and online (67%) modes. Phone interviews were conducted via landline (34%) or mobile (66%). Online participants were invited by email (50%) and text message (50%).

Respondents in all modes chose their preferred language, English (98%) and Spanish (2%).

The online survey was accessible by computer, tablet, and smart phone.

Security measures precluded individuals from completing the survey more than once.

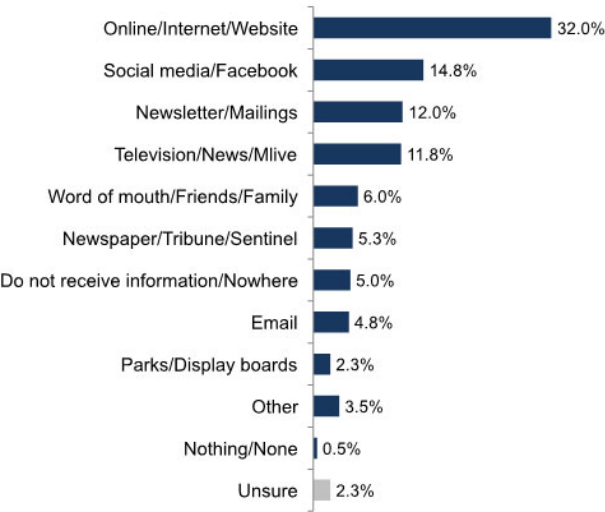


Probolsky Research is a Latina- and woman-owned market and opinion research firm with corporate, election, government, and non-profit clients.

**Due to rounding, totals shown on charts may not add up to 100%*

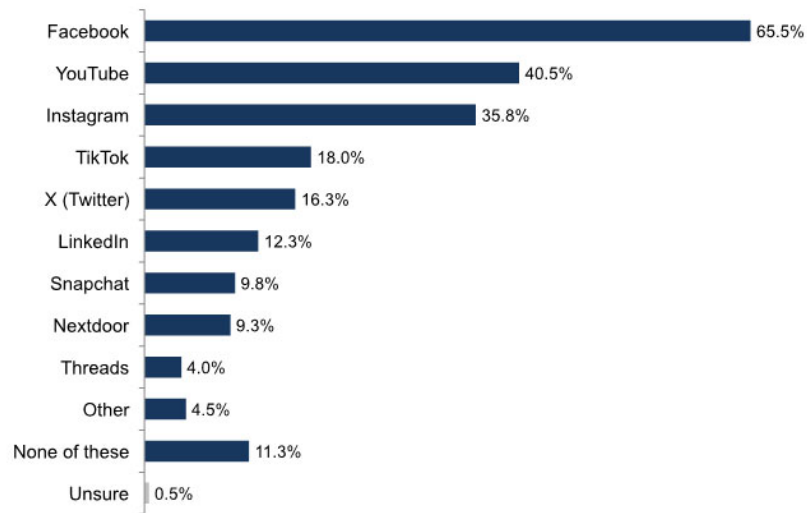
32% get most of their information about Ottawa County Parks online

Question 1: Where would you say you get most of your information about the activities of Ottawa County Parks?
[OPEN-ENDED RESPONSE]



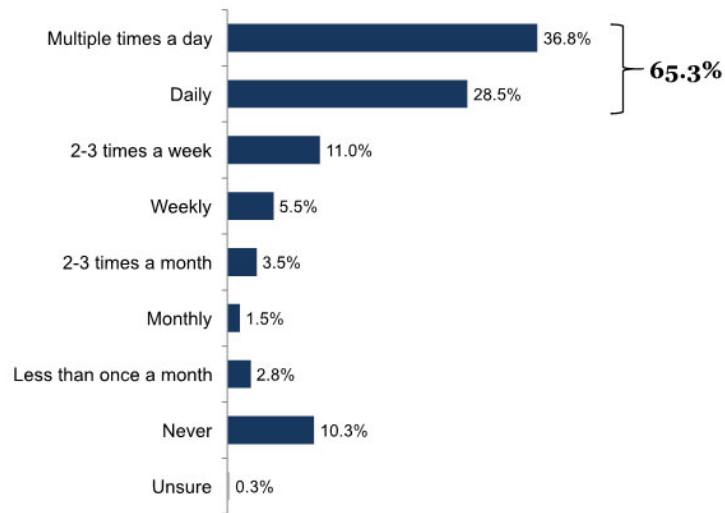
66% use Facebook regularly

Question 2: Please indicate which, if any, of these social apps and websites you use regularly. Select all that apply.



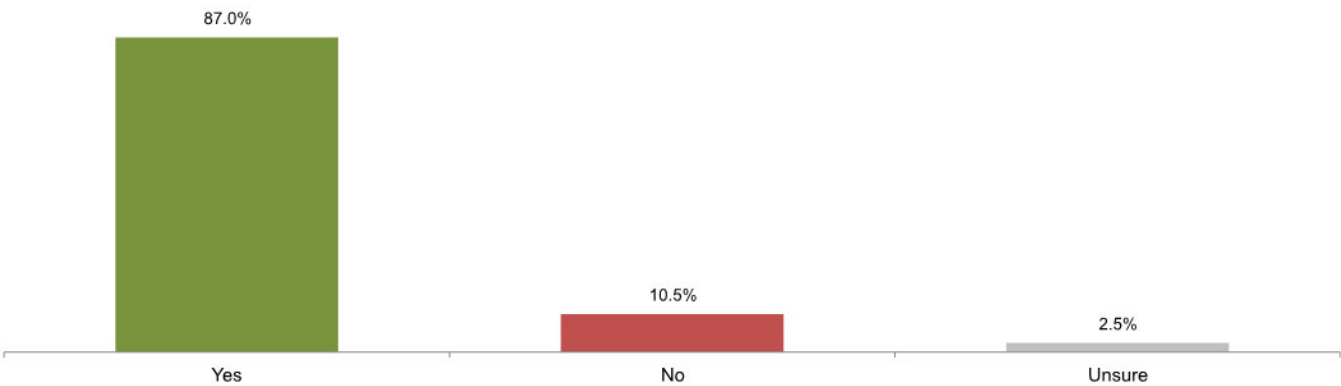
65% use social media apps or websites at least once a day

Question 3: How often do you use social media apps or websites such as Facebook, Instagram, or X (Twitter)?



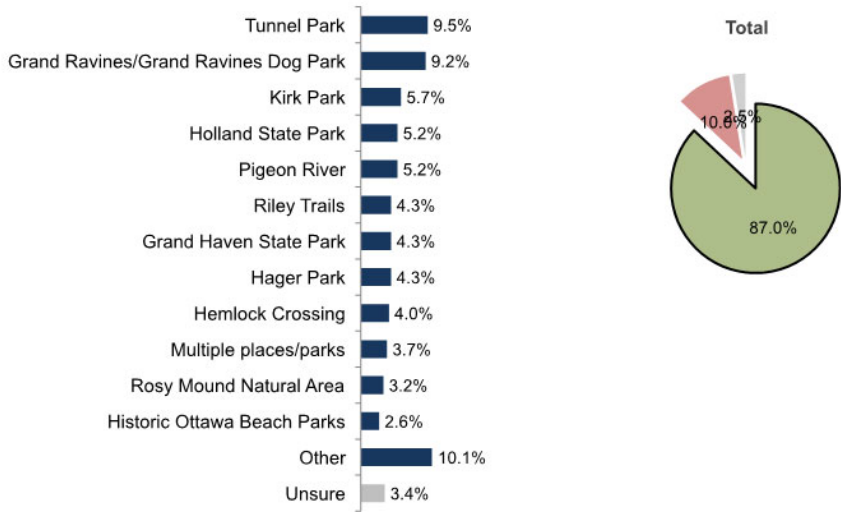
87% have visited Ottawa County parks or open spaces in the past year

Question 4: In the past year, have you or anyone else in your household visited any Ottawa County parks or open spaces?



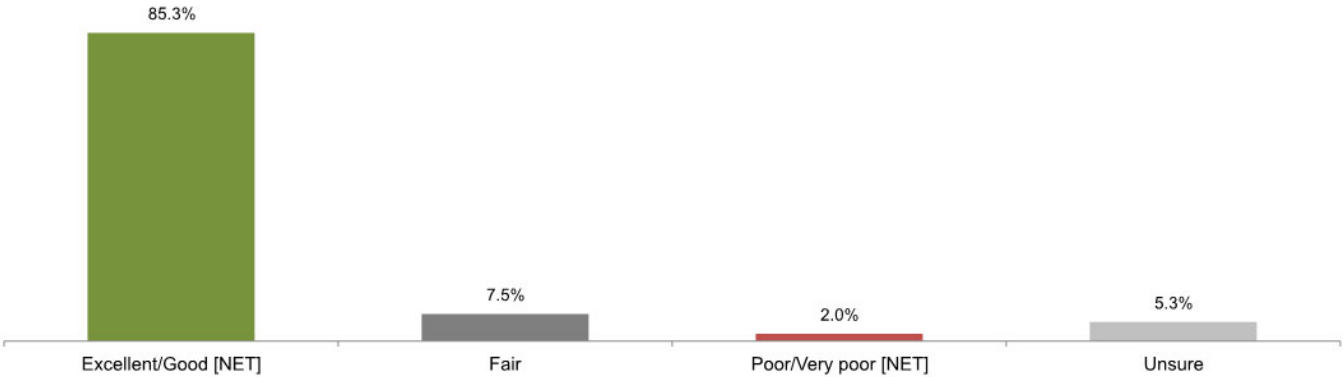
Among those who visited a park or open space in Ottawa County within the past year, 10% visited Tunnel Park

Question 5: What is the name of the park(s) or open space(s) you visited in Ottawa County?
[IF ANSWERED 'YES' TO Q4]
[OPEN-ENDED RESPONSE]



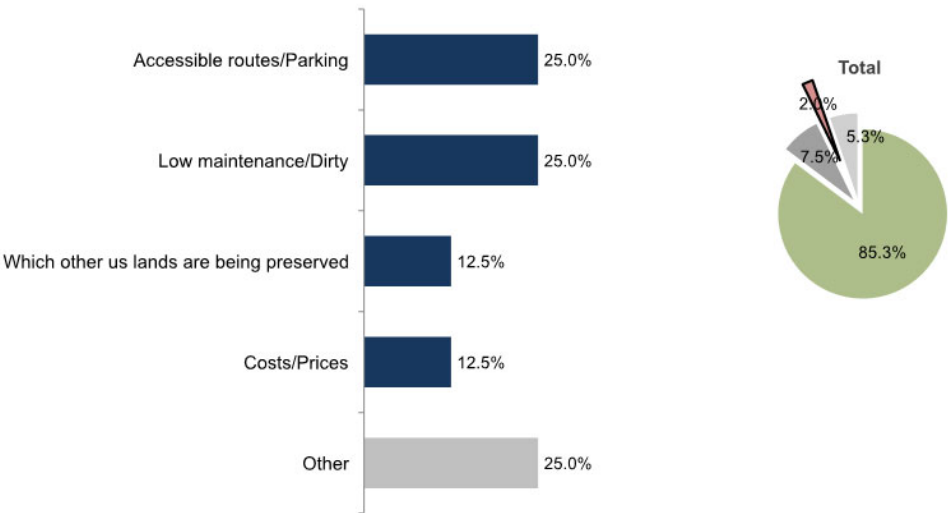
85% rate the job being done by the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission as excellent/good

Question 6: Keeping in mind what you may know or have heard or read about parks and other recreational opportunities provided in other nearby counties, how would you rate the job being done by the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission in conserving natural lands, providing recreational opportunities and programs to the citizens of Ottawa County -- would you give a positive rating of excellent or good, a fair rating, or a negative rating of poor or very poor?



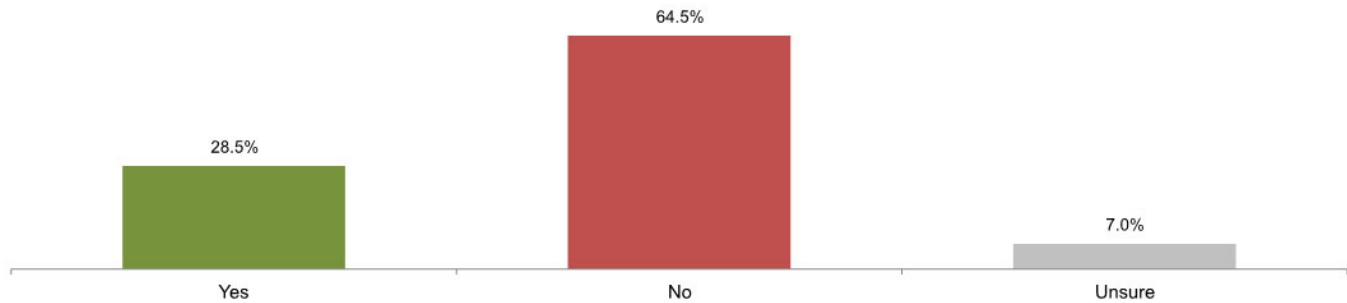
Among those rating the job being done by the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission as poor/very poor, half cite accessibility or maintenance issues

Question 7: What stands out for you as the main reason why you offered a rating of poor?
[IF ANSWERED 'POOR/VERY POOR' TO Q6]
[OPEN-ENDED RESPONSE]



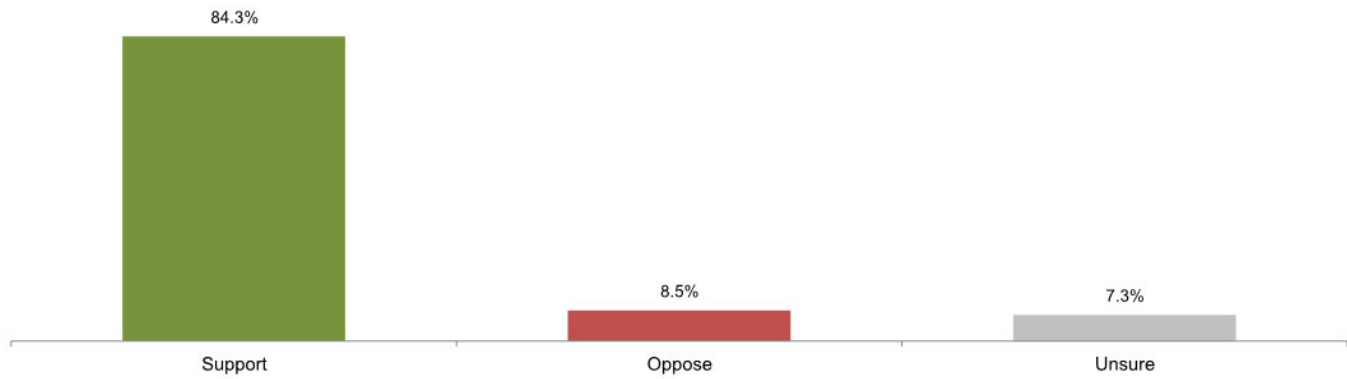
65% were not aware that there is currently a special millage dedicated specifically to help fund Ottawa County parks

Question 8: Were you aware that there is currently a special millage, renewed in 2016, in the amount of 1/3 of a mill, that is dedicated specifically to help fund Ottawa County parks?



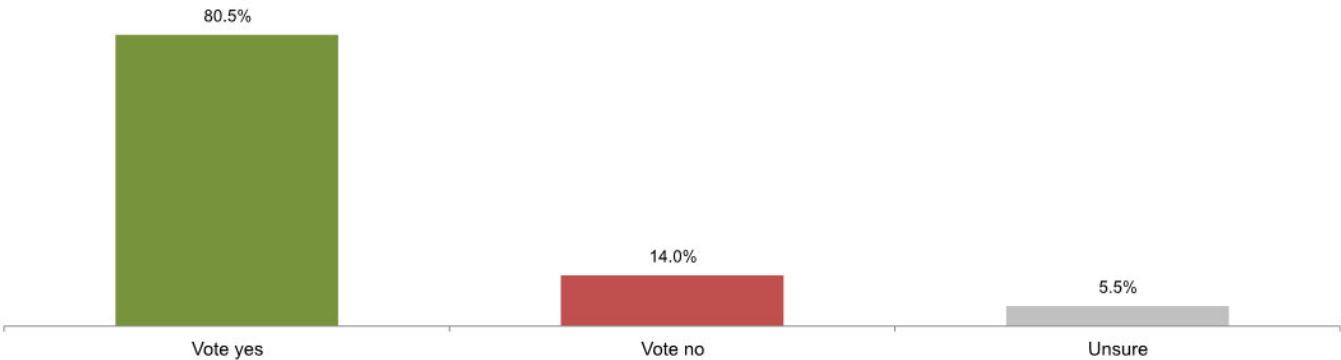
84% support the current parks millage

Question 9: The 1/3 of a mill amounts to \$25 per year for a house valued at \$150,000 with a taxable value of \$75,000. Generally speaking, do you support or oppose the current parks millage?



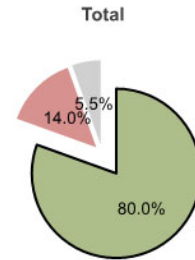
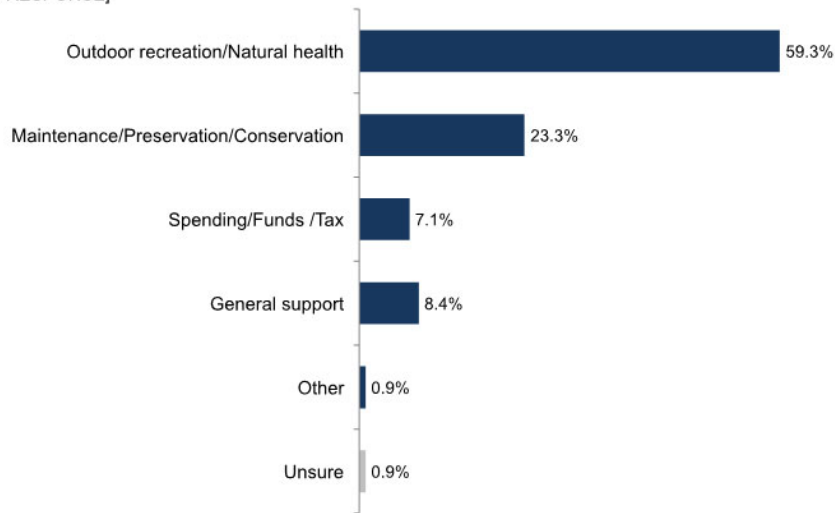
Initial vote: 81% vote yes to renew the dedicated Parks and Recreation millage

Question 10: If Ottawa County placed a renewal of the 1/3 of a mill on a future election ballot, which amounts to \$25 per year for a house valued at \$150,000 with a taxable value of \$75,000, and the election were being held today, would you vote yes to renew the dedicated Parks and Recreation millage, or would you vote no to oppose it?



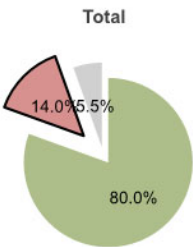
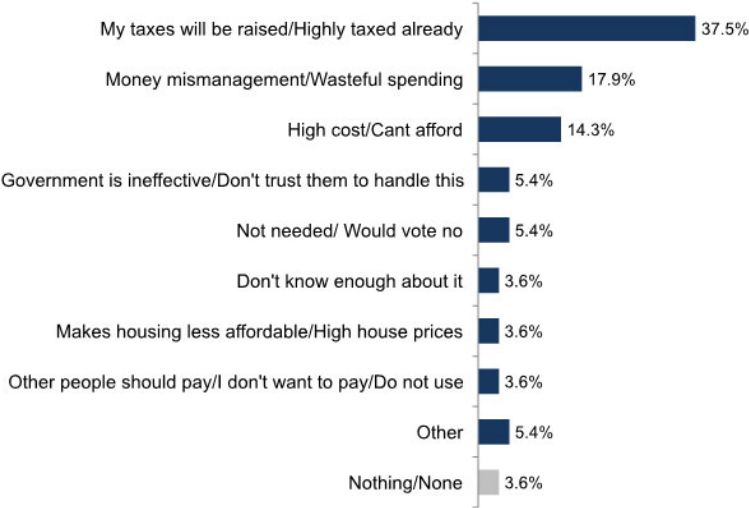
Among those who would vote yes to renew the dedicated Parks and Recreation millage, 59% cite the need for outdoor recreation

Question 11: Why would you vote yes to renew the dedicated Parks and Recreation millage?
[IF ANSWERED 'VOTE YES' TO Q10]
[OPEN-ENDED RESPONSE]



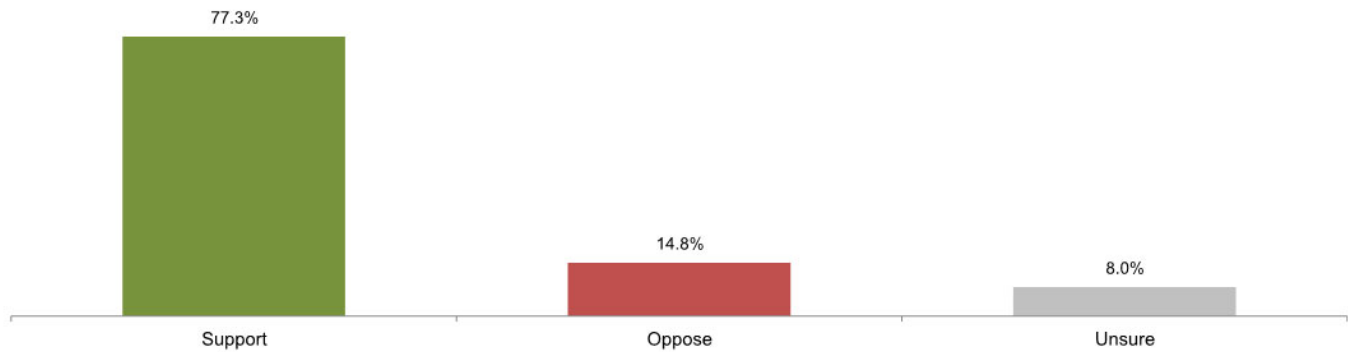
Among those who would vote no to renew the dedicated Parks and Recreation millage, 38% cite tax concerns

Question 12: Why would you vote no to renew the dedicated Parks and Recreation millage?
[IF ANSWERED 'VOTE NO' TO Q10]
[OPEN-ENDED RESPONSE]



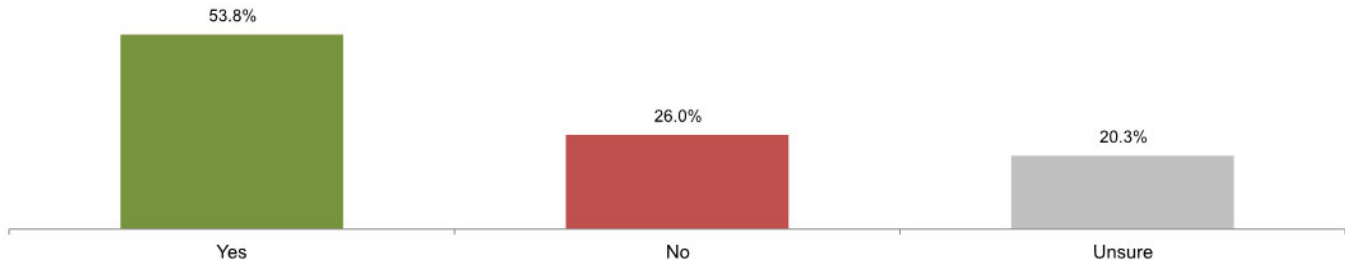
77% support an increased millage focused on the protection and management of the County's most sensitive natural resources

Question 13: Would you support or oppose an increased millage that would focus on the protection and management of the County's most sensitive natural resources, expanded outdoor education, and development of new natural resources-based recreation facilities and trails?



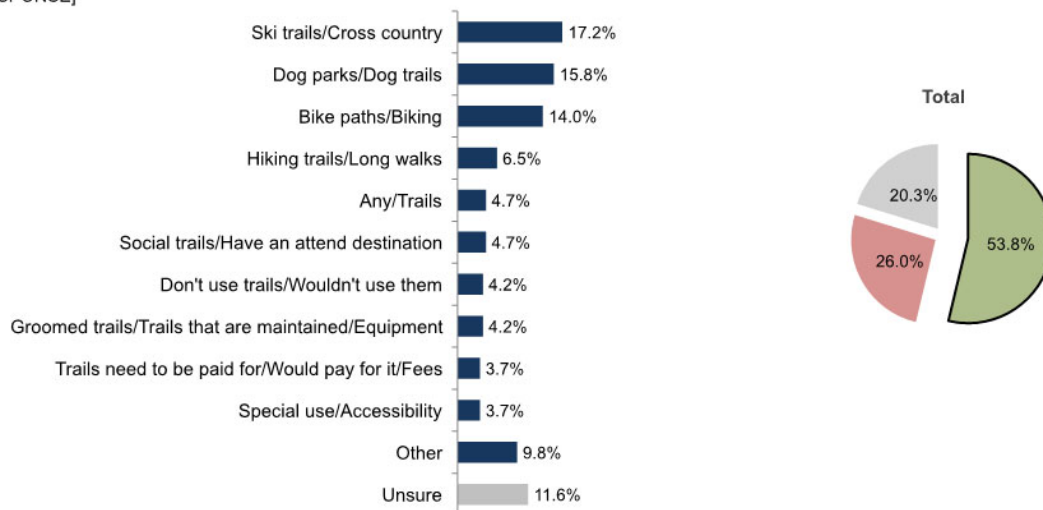
54% support a cost recovery initiative to fund the operations and maintenance of special facilities

Question 14: There are parks that cost more to operate due to special features offered at the park such as groomed cross-country ski trails, dog parks, or mountain biking trails. Would you support a cost recovery initiative such as a user fee to fund the operations and maintenance of these special facilities?



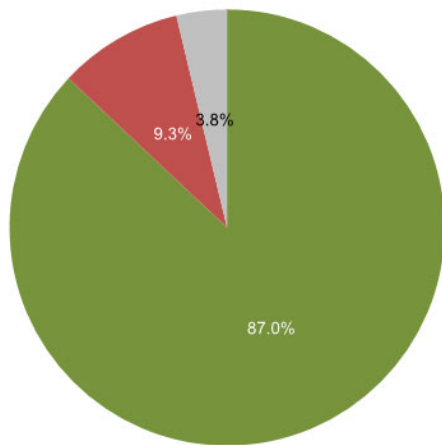
Among those who support a cost recovery initiative, 17% would consider paying a user fee to help fund ski maintenance/operations costs

Question 15: What type of trail/facility would you consider paying a user fee to help cover the operations and maintenance costs?
[[IF ANSWERED 'YES' TO Q14]
[OPEN-ENDED RESPONSE]



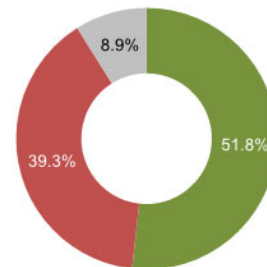
87% agree that the Parks Commission should protect additional land and natural spaces

Question 16: Here is a list of initiatives being considered by the Ottawa County Parks Commission. For each one, please indicate if you agree or disagree with that statement. The Parks Commission should protect additional land and natural spaces for conservation of key natural features, habitat, natural communities as well as future public access.



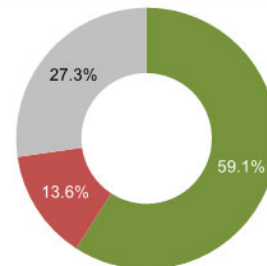
■ Agree
■ Disagree
■ Unsure

Among those who initially voted "no"



■ Agree
■ Disagree
■ Unsure

Among those who initially voted "unsure"

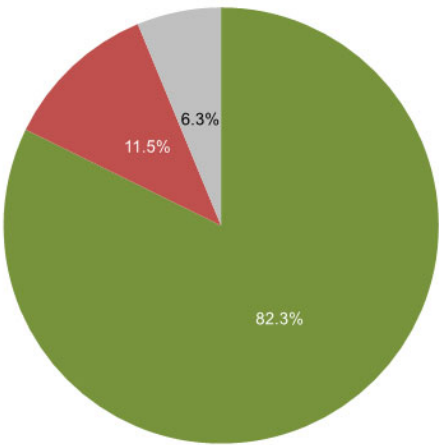


■ Agree
■ Disagree
■ Unsure



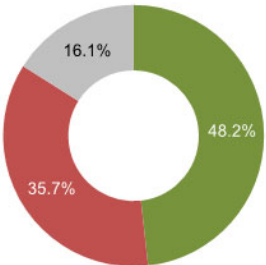
82% agree that the Parks Commission should provide leadership in completing a County-wide regional multi-use trail system

Question 17: Here is a list of initiatives being considered by the Ottawa County Parks Commission. For each one, please indicate if you agree or disagree with that statement. The Parks Commission should provide leadership in completing a County-wide regional multi-use trail system linking different communities.



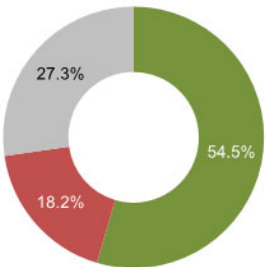
■ Agree
■ Disagree
■ Unsure

Among those who initially voted “no”



■ Agree
■ Disagree
■ Unsure

Among those who initially voted “unsure”

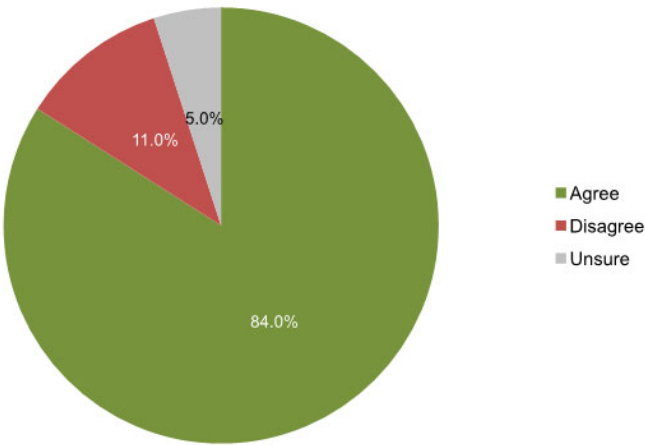


■ Agree
■ Disagree
■ Unsure

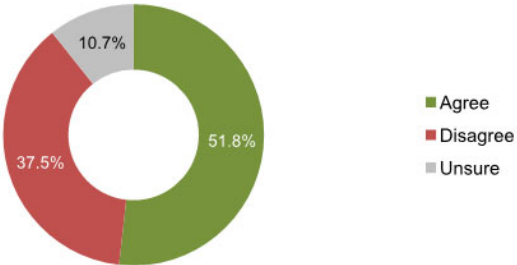


84% agree that the Parks Commission should provide leadership in dedicating resources for significant habitat restoration and green infrastructure projects

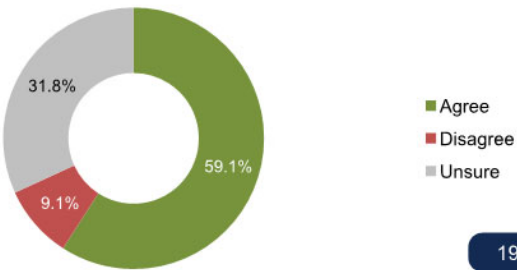
Question 18: Here is a list of initiatives being considered by the Ottawa County Parks Commission. For each one, please indicate if you agree or disagree with that statement. The Parks Commission should provide leadership in dedicating resources to undertake significant habitat restoration and green infrastructure projects to improve water quality, increase native species, and increase and protect native plant and animal biodiversity.



Among those who initially voted “no”

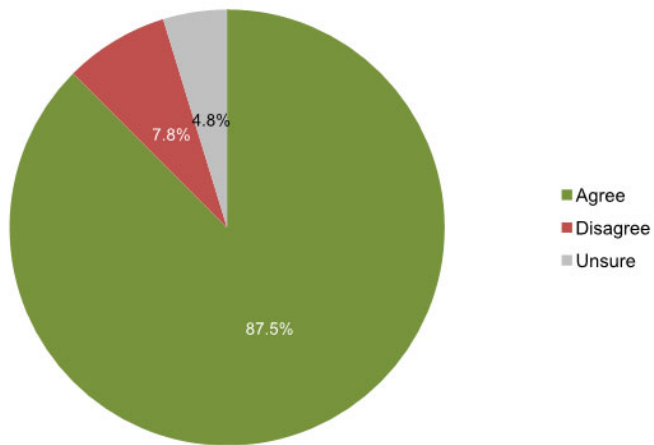


Among those who initially voted “unsure”

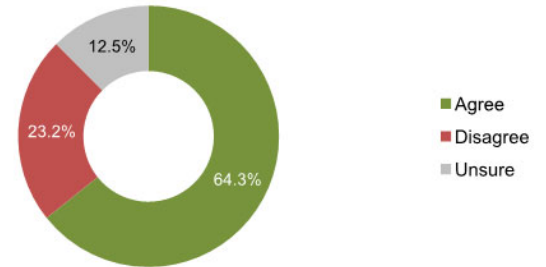


88% agree that the Parks Commission should provide leadership in management of natural lands in Ottawa County to control invasive species and/or overpopulated species

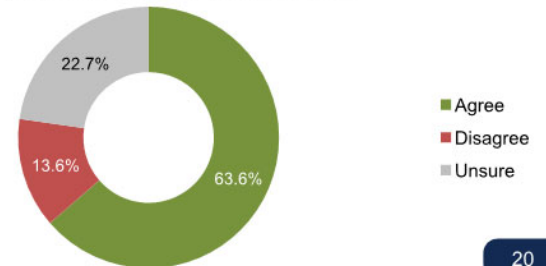
Question 19: Here is a list of initiatives being considered by the Ottawa County Parks Commission. For each one, please indicate if you agree or disagree with that statement. The Parks Commission should provide leadership in management of natural lands in Ottawa County to control invasive species and/or overpopulated species (such as deer) or to address other factors negatively affecting natural lands.



Among those who initially voted "no"

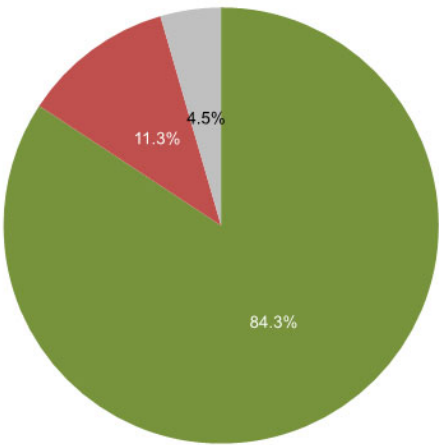


Among those who initially voted "unsure"



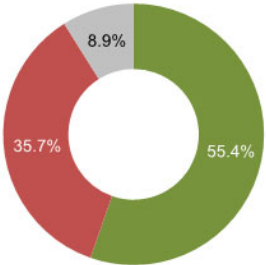
84% agree that the Parks Commission should provide community-wide leadership in engaging the public to experience nature

Question 20: Here is a list of initiatives being considered by the Ottawa County Parks Commission. For each one, please indicate if you agree or disagree with that statement. The Parks Commission should provide community-wide leadership in engaging the public to experience nature through outdoor education, recreational programs, and volunteer opportunities.



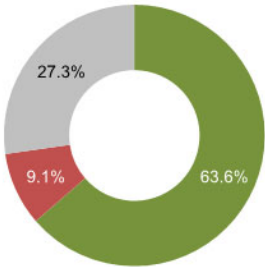
■ Agree
■ Disagree
■ Unsure

Among those who initially voted “no”



■ Agree
■ Disagree
■ Unsure

Among those who initially voted “unsure”

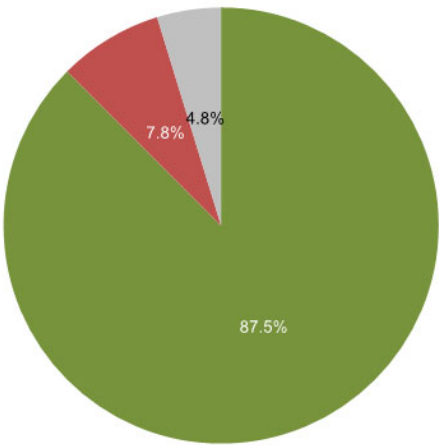


■ Agree
■ Disagree
■ Unsure



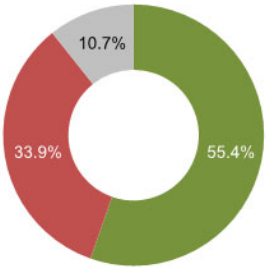
88% agree that the Parks Commission should provide community-wide leadership in ensuring that students get exposure to the outdoors

Question 21: Here is a list of initiatives being considered by the Ottawa County Parks Commission. For each one, please indicate if you agree or disagree with that statement. The Parks Commission should provide community-wide leadership in ensuring that students get exposure to the outdoors through curriculum-based field trips and service-based learning opportunities.



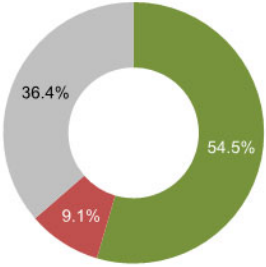
■ Agree
■ Disagree
■ Unsure

Among those who initially voted “no”



■ Agree
■ Disagree
■ Unsure

Among those who initially voted “unsure”

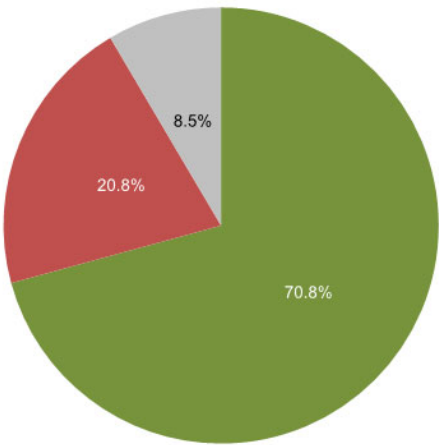


■ Agree
■ Disagree
■ Unsure



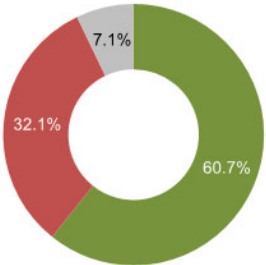
71% agree that the Parks Commission should help finance the parks systems by providing revenue-generating facilities

Question 22: Here is a list of initiatives being considered by the Ottawa County Parks Commission. For each one, please indicate if you agree or disagree with that statement. The Parks Commission should help finance the parks systems by providing revenue-generating facilities such as large event facilities, picnic shelters, campgrounds, and marinas.



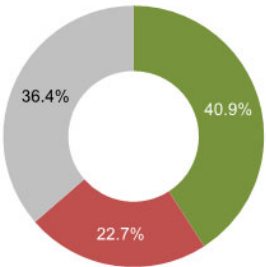
■ Agree
■ Disagree
■ Unsure

Among those who initially voted “no”



■ Agree
■ Disagree
■ Unsure

Among those who initially voted “unsure”

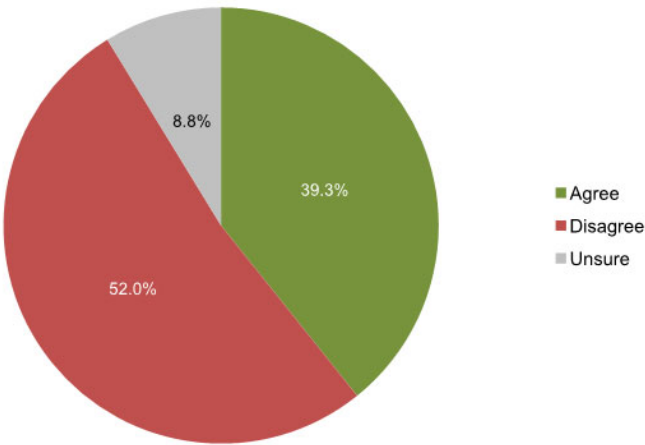


■ Agree
■ Disagree
■ Unsure

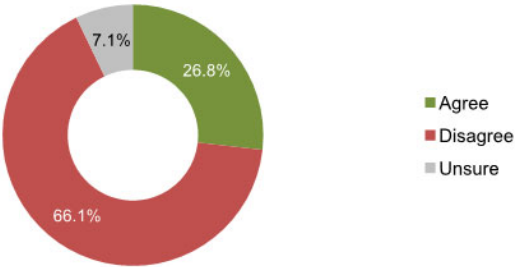


52% disagree that the Parks Commission should dedicate resources to provide high quality venues suitable for weddings or other formal events

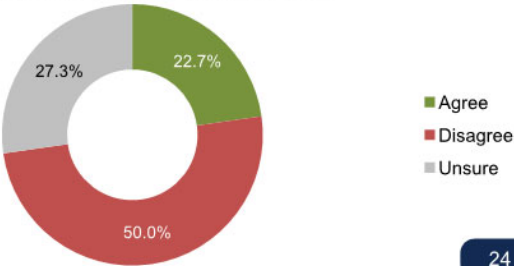
Question 23: Here is a list of initiatives being considered by the Ottawa County Parks Commission. For each one, please indicate if you agree or disagree with that statement. The Parks Commission should dedicate resources to provide high quality venues suitable for weddings or other formal events, even if these events and venues are more costly and labor-intensive.



Among those who initially voted “no”

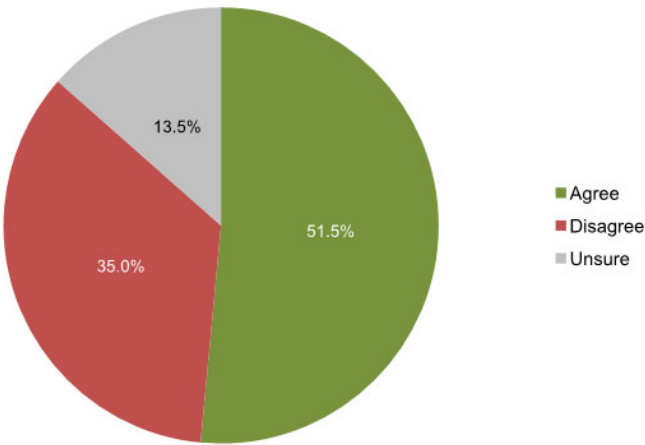


Among those who initially voted “unsure”

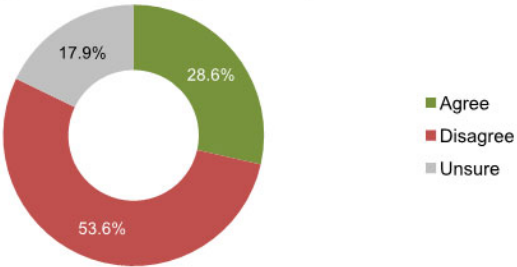


52% agree with the statement that Parks Commission should provide overnight camping facilities that can accommodate RV's

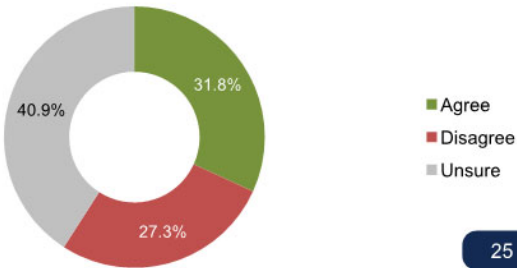
Question 24: Here is a list of initiatives being considered by the Ottawa County Parks Commission. For each one, please indicate if you agree or disagree with that statement. The Parks Commission should provide overnight camping facilities that can accommodate RV's.



Among those who initially voted "no"

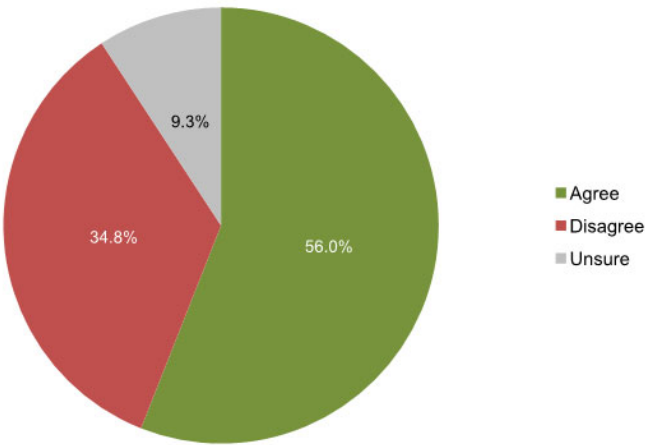


Among those who initially voted "unsure"

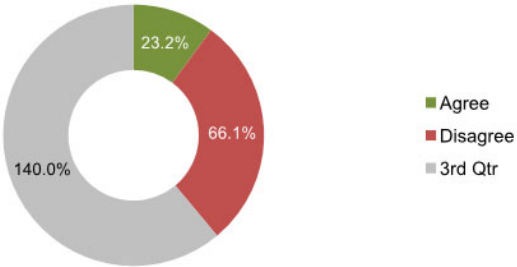


56% agree that Parks Commission should provide additional unique "experience-based" camping that include facilities such as yurts, treehouses, and walk-in tent sites that are being constructed at Ottawa Sands

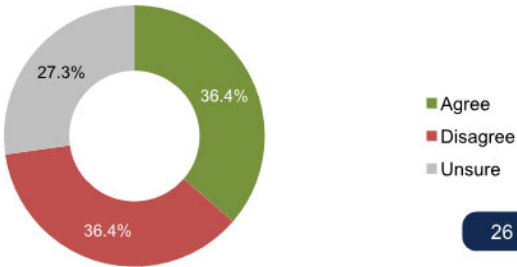
Question 25: Here is a list of initiatives being considered by the Ottawa County Parks Commission. For each one, please indicate if you agree or disagree with that statement. The Parks Commission should provide additional unique "experience-based" camping that include facilities such as yurts, treehouses, and walk-in tent sites that are being constructed at Ottawa Sands.



Among those who initially voted "no"

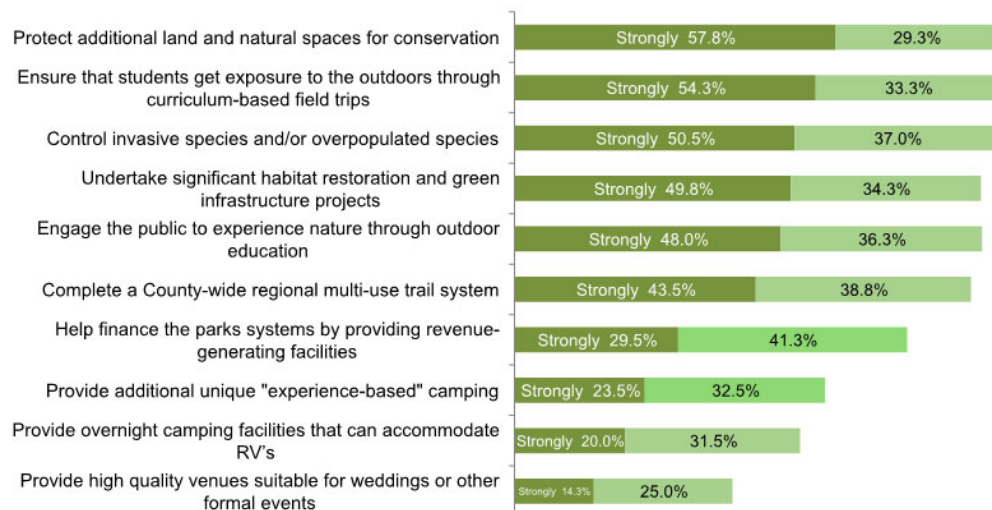


Among those who initially voted "unsure"



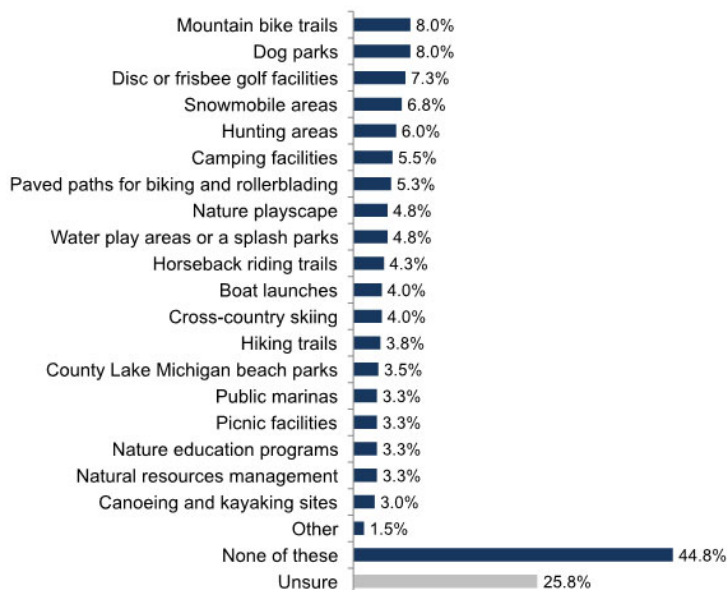
Protecting additional land and natural spaces for conservation is the initiative with the highest intensity

Question 16-25: Here is a list of initiatives being considered by the Ottawa County Parks Commission. For each one, please indicate if you agree or disagree with that statement.



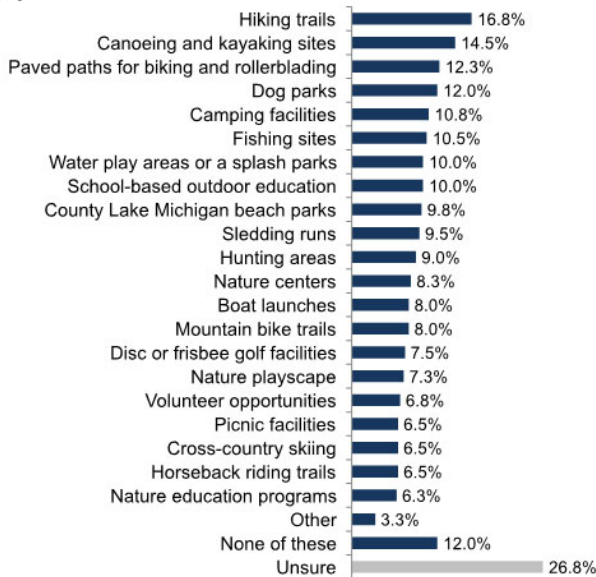
Mountain bike trails and dog parks are the top recreational programming opportunities that the Commission currently provides too many of

Question 26: Which of the following park facilities and recreational programming opportunities would you say the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission currently provides too many of? Select all that apply.



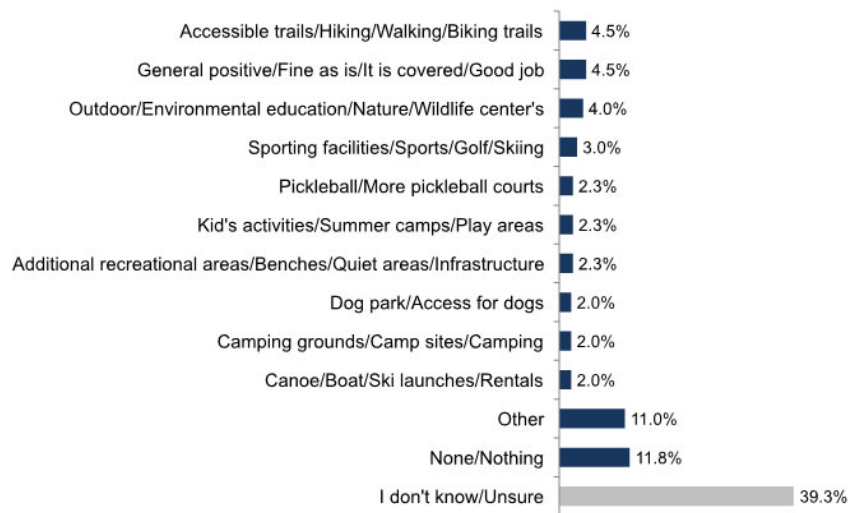
Hiking trails and canoeing/kayaking sites are the recreational programming opportunities that the Commission provides too few of

Question 27: Which of the following park facilities and recreational programming opportunities would you say the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission currently provides too few of? Select all that apply.
 [OPTIONS SELECTED IN Q26 ELIMINATED]



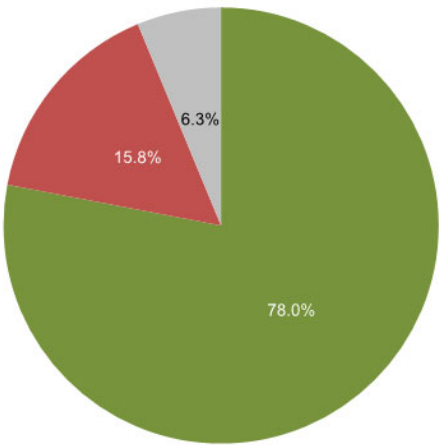
Accessible trails top the list of suggestions

Question 28: What other park facilities or recreational programming opportunities do you believe Ottawa County should offer?
[OPEN ENDED RESPONSE]



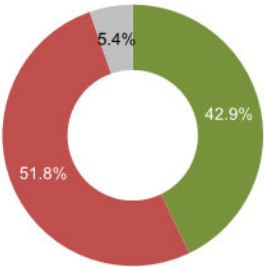
78% agree with the statement that the Parks Commission should acquire land or easements for trails and bike paths

Question 29: Here is a list of ways Ottawa County could expand its park system by acquiring land in the region. For each situation, please indicate if you would agree or disagree with Ottawa County acquiring that type of land. The Parks Commission should acquire land or easements for trails and bike paths



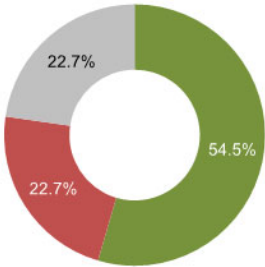
■ Agree
■ Disagree
■ Unsure

Among those who initially voted "no"



■ Agree
■ Disagree
■ Unsure

Among those who initially voted "unsure"

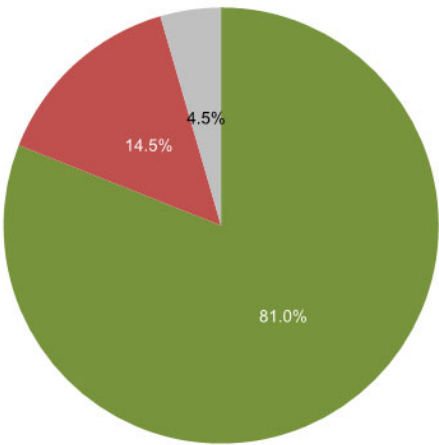


■ Agree
■ Disagree
■ Unsure



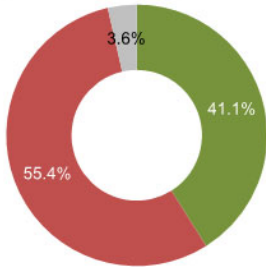
81% agree that the Parks Commission should acquire land or easements to protect unique environmental areas such as wetlands, sand dunes, mature woodlands, and wildlife areas

Question 30: Here is a list of ways Ottawa County could expand its park system by acquiring land in the region. For each situation, please indicate if you would agree or disagree with Ottawa County acquiring that type of land. The Parks Commission should acquire land or easements to protect unique environmental areas such as wetlands, sand dunes, mature woodlands, and wildlife areas



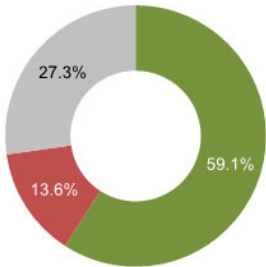
Agree
Disagree
Unsure

Among those who initially voted “no”



Agree
Disagree
Unsure

Among those who initially voted “unsure”

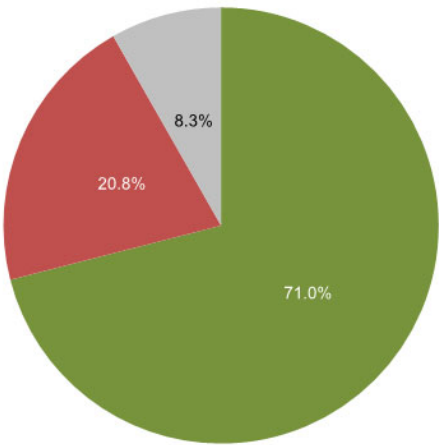


Agree
Disagree
Unsure



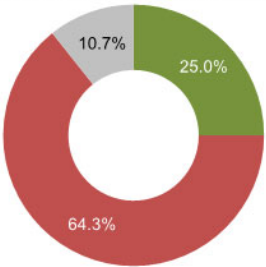
71% agree that the Parks Commission should acquire property for habitat restoration or green infrastructure

Question 31: Here is a list of ways Ottawa County could expand its park system by acquiring land in the region. For each situation, please indicate if you would agree or disagree with Ottawa County acquiring that type of land. The Parks Commission should acquire property for habitat restoration or green infrastructure



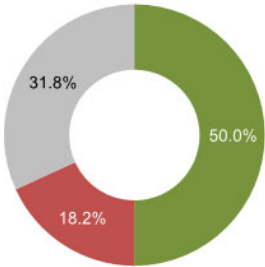
■ Agree
■ Disagree
■ Unsure

Among those who initially voted "no"



■ Agree
■ Disagree
■ Unsure

Among those who initially voted "unsure"

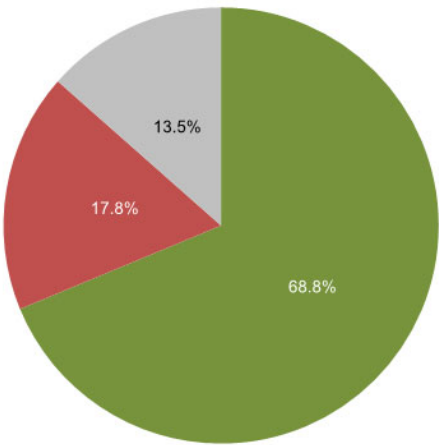


■ Agree
■ Disagree
■ Unsure



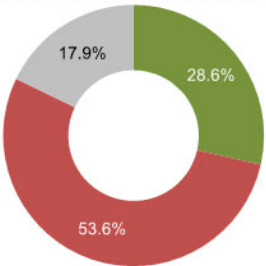
69% agree that the Parks Commission should acquire property in areas of the County with few natural resources-based parks or recreation facilities

Question 32: Here is a list of ways Ottawa County could expand its park system by acquiring land in the region. For each situation, please indicate if you would agree or disagree with Ottawa County acquiring that type of land. The Parks Commission should acquire property in areas of the County currently with few natural resources-based parks or recreation facilities



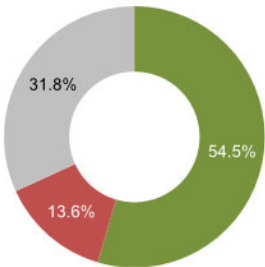
■ Agree
■ Disagree
■ Unsure

Among those who initially voted "no"



■ Agree
■ Disagree
■ Unsure

Among those who initially voted "unsure"

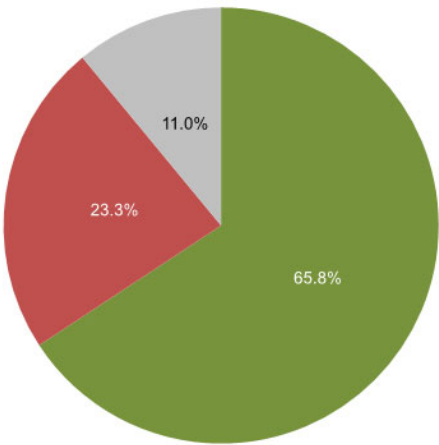


■ Agree
■ Disagree
■ Unsure



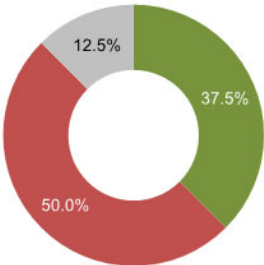
66% agree that the Parks Commission should acquire historic sites

Question 33: Here is a list of ways Ottawa County could expand its park system by acquiring land in the region. For each situation, please indicate if you would agree or disagree with Ottawa County acquiring that type of land. The Parks Commission should acquire historic sites



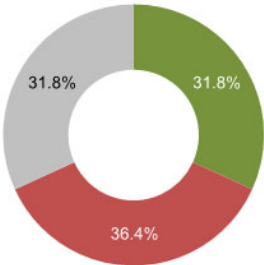
■ Agree
■ Disagree
■ Unsure

Among those who initially voted “no”



■ Agree
■ Disagree
■ Unsure

Among those who initially voted “unsure”

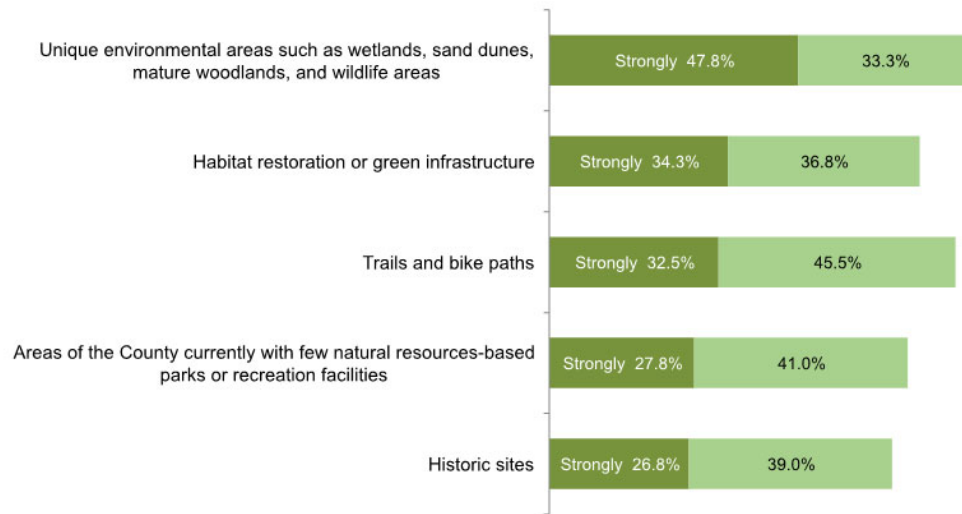


■ Agree
■ Disagree
■ Unsure



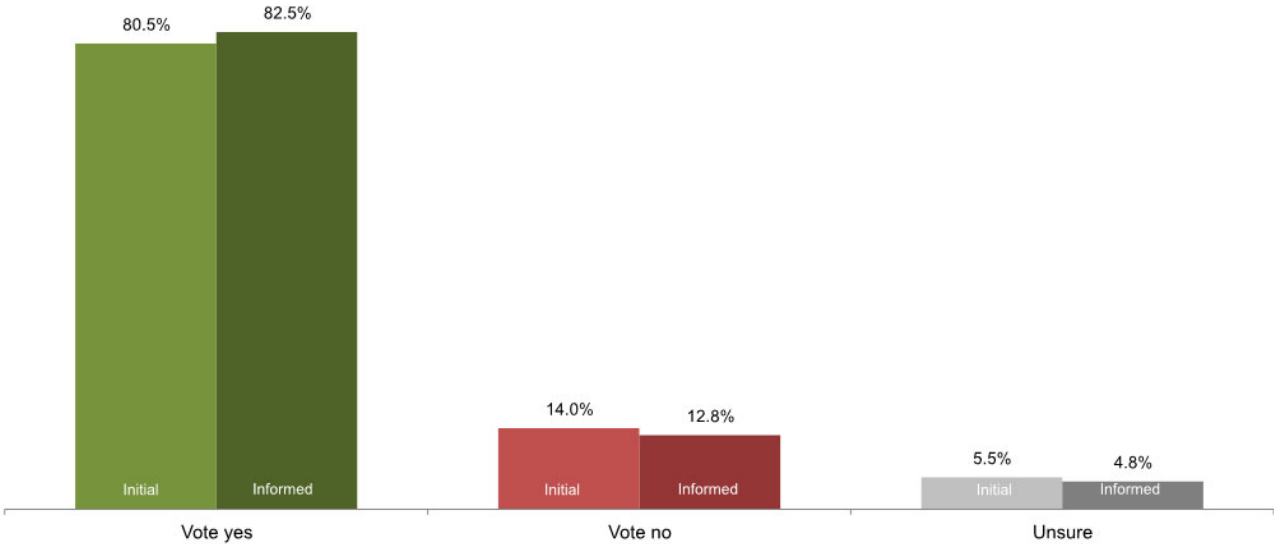
Unique environmental areas such as wetlands is the type of acquired land with the highest intensity

Question 29-33: Here is a list of ways Ottawa County could expand its park system by acquiring land in the region. For each situation, please indicate if you would agree or disagree with Ottawa County acquiring that type of land.



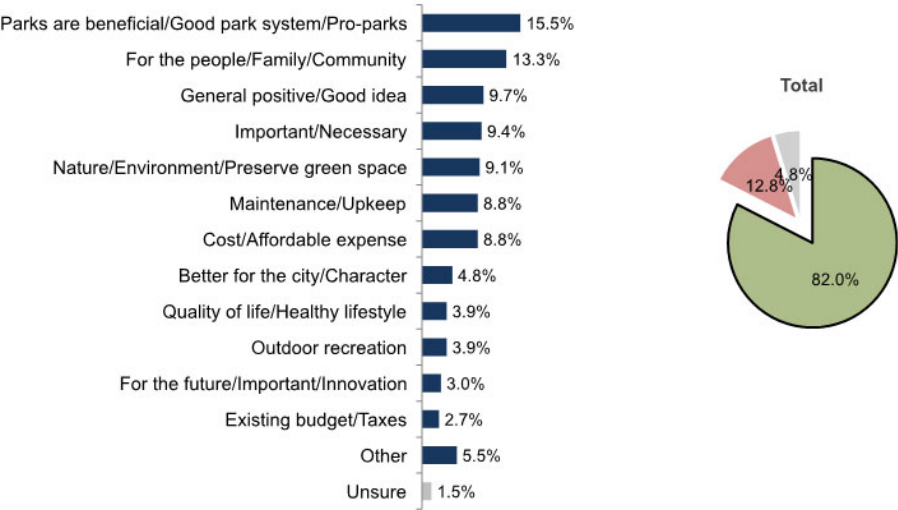
Informed vote: 83% vote yes to renew the dedicated Parks and Recreation millage

Question 34: Knowing what you know now, if Ottawa County placed a renewal of the 1/3 of a mill on a future election ballot, which amounts to \$25 per year for a house valued at \$150,000 with a taxable value of \$75,000, and the election were being held today, would you vote yes to renew the dedicated Parks and Recreation millage, or would you vote no to oppose it?



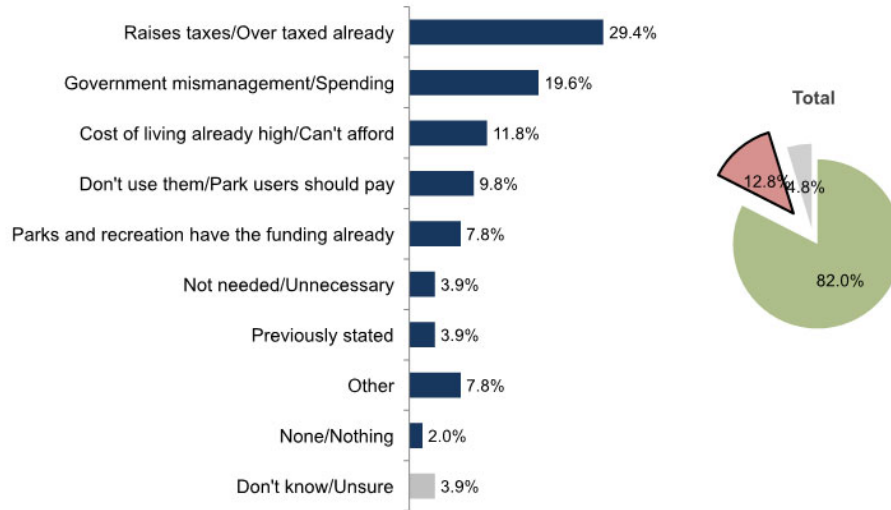
Parks are beneficial/Good park system/Pro-parks were the top reasons for voting yes on the millage renewal

Question 35: Why would you vote yes to renew the dedicated Parks and Recreation millage?
[OPEN-ENDED RESPONSE]
[IF ANSWERED 'VOTE YES' TO Q34]



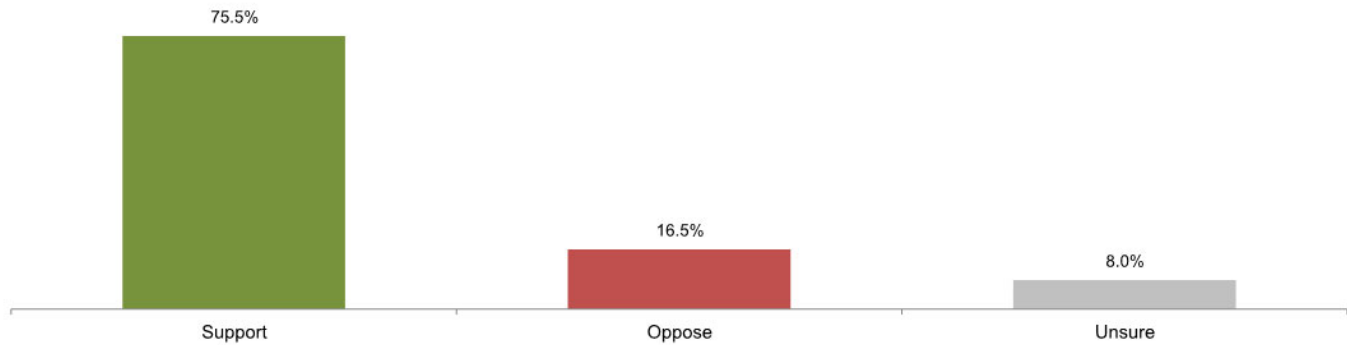
Raises taxes/over-taxed already were the top reasons for voting no on the millage renewal

Question 36: Why would you vote no to renew the dedicated Parks and Recreation millage?
[OPEN-ENDED RESPONSE]
[IF ANSWERED 'VOTE NO' TO Q34]



76% support an increased millage that would focus on the protection and management of the County's most sensitive natural resources

Question 37: Knowing what you know now, would you support or oppose an increased millage that would focus on the protection and management of the County's most sensitive natural resources, expanded outdoor education, and development of new natural resources-based recreation facilities and trails?

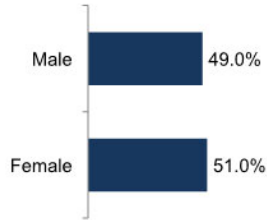


Demographics

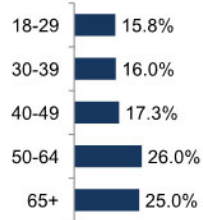


Respondent demographics by gender, age group, ethnicity, party preference, home type, children in home, household size, and years of residency

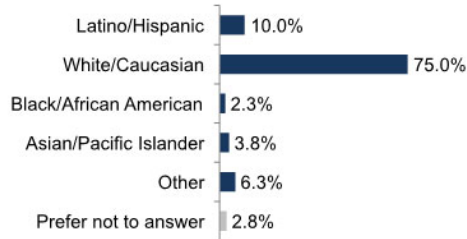
Gender



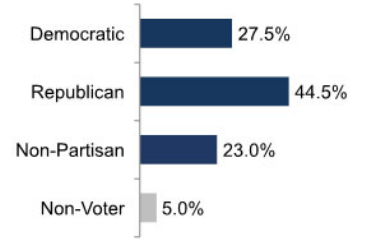
Age Group



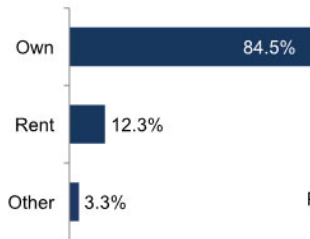
Ethnicity



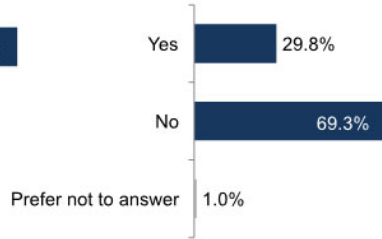
Party Preference



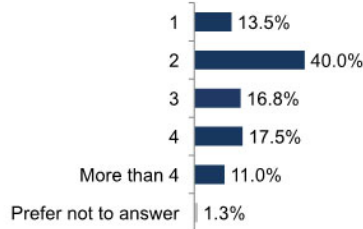
Home Type



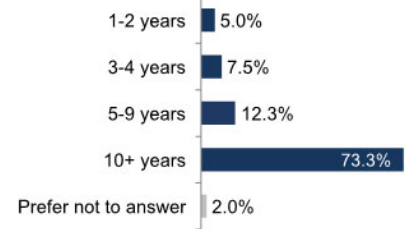
Children in Home



Household Size

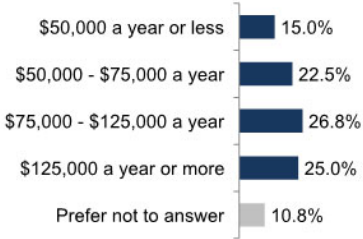


Years of Residency

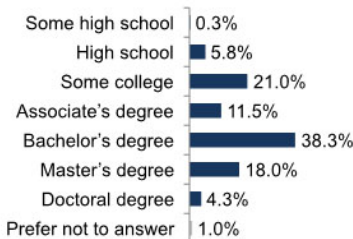


Respondent demographics by household income, education level, municipality, Michigan Hunting/Fishing license holder, and County Commissioner District

Household Income



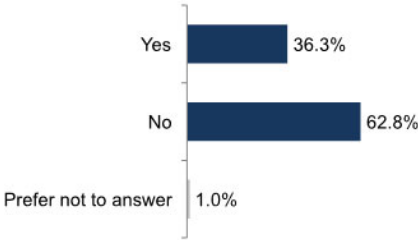
Education Level



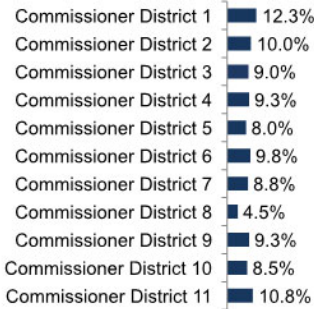
Municipality



Hunting/Fishing License Holder



County Commissioner District



Questions?

Adam Probolsky, President

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