

Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network



This year, with support from a lead grant from the Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network (WIN), the Corunna Dam on the Shiawassee River was removed. This project adds to 135 new miles of open river on the Shiawassee provided by recent removals of the Chesaning Dam and the Shiaw-Town Dam. The WIN funding was joined by more than \$500,000 in other grants from the State of Michigan, as well as other private and public gifts to the project.

The restoration of the dam site included the removal of the concrete structure that has impeded both fish passage and recreation for more than 100 years. Fishing opportunities will be enhanced at the site with the creation of several fishing holes upstream from the dam. Additional projects at the site include improvements at the existing Heritage Park, a walkway along the river, and the creation an accessible kayak launch.

A special thanks to the Friends of the Shiawassee River (FOSR), the City of Corunna, and all of the partners who made this project a success. Pictures provided by FOSR.

December 18, 2020
Virtual Review





GRANT APPLICATION FORM

Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network
 P.O. Box 734
 Bay City, MI 48707

Office Use:

Application # _____
 Ag/P2 Water
 Communication Wildlife
 Land Use
 Other _____

Please answer the following questions in the space provided. You may include a one-page attachment. When completed, your application packet should not exceed four pages. Send your completed form electronically to info@saginawbaywin.org and mail a signed, hard copy to Saginaw Bay WIN, P.O. Box 734, Bay City, MI 48707. **Proposals may be submitted at any time.** If you have questions, please call (989) 892-9171.

SECTION 1 - GENERAL

Project Name CURWOOD CASTLE PARK PADDLECRAFT LANDING			
Sponsoring Organization / Local Champion FRIENDS OF THE SHIAWASSEE RIVER		Is the sponsor a 501(c)(3) organization? x Yes	
Name & Position of Contact Person PHIL HATHAWAY, MEMBER			
Address P.O. BOX 402			
City OWOSSO	State MI	Zip 48867	Phone (989) 277-7846 (Hathaway's Number)
Fax	Email info@shiawasseeiver.org	Amount Requested \$10,500	
Project Start Date JULY 1, 2021	Project End Date OCTOBER 31, 2021	Geographic Area Served 88-MILE SHIAWASSEE RIVER WATER TRAIL	

SECTION 2 – PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Please describe the project. How is it innovative? What need(s) does it address? Is there a relationship between this project and other programs/projects occurring in the watershed?

The Friends, in conjunction with the City of Owosso, intends to construct a paddlecraft landing in downtown Owosso, where none exists, to serve the largest water trail town on the recently designated National Water Trail. This would become the 28th access point on the water trail and fill a most significant gap in the system. The location is functionally dominant in its downtown location and will foster appreciation of the heart of Euro-American settlement history in the watershed—that is, Curwood Castle Historic Park. The park name *Curwood* recognizes James Oliver Curwood, one of Michigan’s most prominent conservationists and wildlife authors in Michigan history. The navigable 88-mile water trail offers low impact recreation and with the water trail designation a suitable response to the welcome growth of tourism. The landing will enable an enriching tourist experience with secure kayak lockers and the ability to explore the 26-block National Historic District that is downtown Owosso. The landing is at the location of the largest public art gallery in the watershed. In the spirit of recreational linkages, the landing is at the terminus of two land-based trails that converge here—the James Miner Corunna-to-Owosso bikeway/walkway and the Fred Meijer Ionia-to-Owosso bikeway. A triathlon in recognition of the combined resources is already scheduled for 2021. To cap off the significance of this location, the Friends Stream Team environmental studies conducts bi-annual stream bed macro-invertebrate scans to track environmental conditions over time—a bell-weather indicator of the health of the foundation of the aquatic animal life food chain.

SECTION 3 – COLLABORATING ORGANIZATIONS

What other organizations are participating in this project and what are their roles? The City of Owosso Parks and Recreation Commission, fresh off a voter sponsored bond issue will allocate funds and work hours to the project. The Owosso Downtown Development Authority will purchase materials for the kayak lockers. The Shiawassee Regional Chamber of Commerce, located adjacent to the landing site, will contribute funds for the informational, directional and wayfinding signs of the project. They also provide indoor restroom facilities to paddlers and visitor services.

SECTION 4 – SUSTAINABILITY LINKAGES AND GOALS

Describe the project's goals and how you will measure whether it has achieved those goals.

Economic goals: With a landing, Owosso will take one more step to achieving a comprehensive Water Trail Town service center. In immediate response to the October, 2020 designation of a National Water Trail, tourists will bring disposable income to the business center that offers a full range of tourist-related products and services.

Community or social goals: The unequaled growth of the paddlecraft leisure time activity compared to other leisure pursuits will have a ready response to the 30,000 person urbanized Mid-County area. The navigable qualities of the river offers low impact contact with the environment for nature viewing, fishing and exercise.

Environmental goals: This location is a key access site for the aforementioned Stream Team environmental studies that includes and trains lay adults and youth about the significance of the essential, yet nearly invisible partner in water quality health indicators—the macroinvertebrates. The inclusivity of the program will have lasting effects on a growing the base of informed, environmentally conscious advocates and practitioners for water quality.

SECTION 5 – RELATIONSHIP TO WIN OBJECTIVES

Describe how the project fits with WIN's Vision, Mission and Guiding Principles.

It is held that the project meets WIN's marketing objective to advance tourism and recreation. The landing offers access to an outstanding water resource in the Saginaw Basin. Related environmental programs at the site offer a support structure for the protection of significant aquatic habitat. The sustainability qualities of the investment stabilize downtown local businesses, help secure the stream bed biosphere, and meet the needs of human nature to reap the cathartic benefits of contact with the highest quality natural environment in the vicinity.

SECTION 6 – RESULTS

What tangible results do you expect from the project and how will you measure them?

The project offers a physical tangible result in the placement of the Friend's proven landing ramp system—the 9th such device to have been installed on the water trail since 2008. Measurement of the facility benefit may be determined by the visible paddlecraft trailers and vehicle mounts in the parking lot that serves the landing. This count may be compared to other launches on the water trail to understand the positive impact of access to the water resource. The other tangible result is in the head-count participation levels for the Friends environmental studies programming that take place at this location and other access points on the River. The stream health rating out of this survey program tracks progress in watershed influences on the river.

SECTION 7 – COMMUNICATION

How do you plan to communicate your project to the public and/or your intended audience?

The Friends publishes a river guide, the most recent being a December, 2020 release that is distributed at public events and gathering places such as public venues (city halls, farmer’s markets, events), the Friends website, the water trail website and distribution locales, e.g., the downtown hotel and Chamber of Commerce building. A comprehensive directional sign system and information kiosk is a project feature. The County Travelers and Visitors Bureau and Shiawassee River Water Trail Coalition will offer publicity on the water trail and its access points.

SECTION 8 – BUDGET

	Total Budget	WIN Funds
Personnel Expenses (briefly describe) Administrative and Engineering Support, Donated Labor, Equip. Operator	\$4,800	
Material and Supply Expenses (briefly describe) Concrete Ramp, Concrete Steps/walkway, base gravel, railings	\$16,600	\$9,150
Equipment Expenses (briefly describe) Heavy Machinery and Equipment Operator shown above in Personnel		
Communication/Marketing Expenses (briefly describe) Directional Signs and Informational/Educational Kiosk	\$1,500	
Other Expenses (briefly describe) Restoration plantings, permits, erosion control and grading	\$2,675	
Total Project Cost \$25,575 , plus a 15% contingency of \$3,836 establishes the total of \$29,411	\$29,411	\$10,500 (15% contingency rounded)
Funds Requested from WIN		\$10,500

What funds have already been obtained for this project? (describe sources) See the funding list immediately below—all secured.

How do you plan to finance the portion not funded by WIN? (With Contingency Figured In for a total of \$18,889 non-WIN)

Friends of the Shiawassee Admin & Engineering	\$1,150
City of Owosso Recreation Bond Funds	\$7,964
Shiawassee Regional Chamber of Commerce	\$2,875
Local Contractor Donated/Paid Equip & Labor	\$2,070
City of Owosso Donated Labor	\$2,300
Owosso Downtown Development Authority	\$2,530

Have you contacted the community foundation in the area most directly benefited by your project? If yes, with what result?

Cook Family Foundation that funds the Friends of the Shiawassee River
Consumer’s Energy Foundation funded the Chamber of Commerce donation

Is this an on-going project? If yes, how will funding be continued?

Site maintenance is a City of Owosso Parks and Recreation budget line item.

Ongoing water trail marketing is the effort of the Shiawassee River Water Trail Coalition and the Friends of the Shiawassee River

The Stream Team has a long track record of grants and donations to continue this program.

SECTION 9 – CERTIFICATION

Our governing board approves the submission of this grant request. I certify that the information contained herein is accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Authorized Signature

Date

Lorraine Austin, Executive Director

Print Name and Title



GRANT APPLICATION FORM
 Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network
 P.O. Box 734
 Bay City, MI 48707

Office Use:	
Application # _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ag/P2	<input type="checkbox"/> Water
<input type="checkbox"/> Communication	<input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife
<input type="checkbox"/> Land Use	
Other _____ Interpretive Signage (~2 signs + shipping), Contractor	

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SECTION 1 - GENERAL			
Project Name Chippewa River Erosion & Canoe Launch Project			
Sponsoring Organization / Local Champion Isabella County Parks and Recreation		Is the sponsor a 501(c)(3) organization? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Governmental	
Name & Position of Contact Person Sue Ann Kopmeyer, Director			
Address 200 N. Main St.			
City Mt. Pleasant	State MI	Zip 48858	Phone (989) 317-4083
Fax (989) 779-9916	Email sakopmeyer@isabellacounty.org		Amount Requested \$14,000
Project Start Date May 2021	Project End Date November 2021	Geographic Area Served Isabella County, mid-Michigan and visitors from around the state	

SECTION 2 – PROJECT DESCRIPTION
<p>Please describe the project. How is it innovative? What need(s) does it address? Is there a relationship between this project and other programs/projects occurring in the watershed?</p> <p>This project targets environmental and recreational issues facing the spans of river banks of the Chippewa River within the Isabella County Park system. It seeks to improve/rebuild two (2) current canoe launches, add one (1) new canoe launch, and take steps to repair a section of eroded riverbank, all in Deerfield Nature Park. Depending on funding, we would also like to improve launches at Majeske Landing and Meridian Park, and add some interpretive signage (2-3 signs) about the Chippewa River at Deerfield near the launches. Improving/rebuilding the launches and adding the new launch will: stabilize the river banks in the area of the launches; prevent further erosion caused by high foot traffic at the launches; and create a safer, more stable launch area for visitors. Providing new and improved launches and repairing erosion damage in the upriver area of the County Parks will help maintain water quality downriver, provide more accessibility to the river for visitors, and protect the riparian areas from further erosion and degradation from natural and human forces.</p> <p>Deerfield Nature Park is a 591-acre park in the Chippewa River watershed managed by Isabella County Parks, situated 7 miles west of Mount Pleasant in Isabella County, protecting more than 2 miles of the Chippewa River, as well as the surrounding riparian buffer and associated woodlands. It also serves to connect 4 other area parks to the main Deerfield property: the McNeel Preserve (Chippewa Watershed Conservancy), Deerfield Township Park, the Mount Pleasant Public Schools Memorial Forest, and Camp Weidman (Boy Scout property). Deerfield Nature Park is managed to provide a peaceful nature experience to those who venture into its interior. Activities that may be enjoyed include hiking, cross country skiing, picnicking, swimming, bird watching, fishing, photography, canoeing, kayaking, tubing and mountain biking. Also included on the north side of the park are two (2) disc golf courses (Deerfield and Wildwood), four (4) covered pavilions, fishing platform, beach area, sledding hill, two (2) sand volleyball courts, and two (2) horseshoe pits.</p> <p>The primary purpose of the park is to serve the recreational and educational interests of Isabella County residents and visitors, and to preserve over 12,000 feet (2.3 miles) of riverbank, wetlands and woodlands. It also serves to protect the riparian border of this portion of the Chippewa River, as well as providing refuge for birds and animals.</p> <p>There are several programs and projects currently under way within the Watershed that this project would complement. The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan (SCIT) has been working on water quality issues since 2004 with assistance from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). Planning, water quality and quantity monitoring, and partnering with local agency staff supported SCIT's efforts to grow water quality programs, including the addition of the Clean Water Act, Section 319 program, approved by US EPA in 2013. This program has provided the structure and support for SCIT to implement water quality improvement projects such as streambank restoration, planting of trees and shrubs in riparian areas that have been damaged by the impact of emerald ash borer, floodplain restoration projects on tributaries and flashing drains, supporting efforts by other agencies to implement programs to reduce the pathogens entering surface water such as the Time of Transfer Program with the Central Michigan District Health Department, and more. SCIT continues to expand environmental and conservation efforts in the Chippewa River Watershed including leading the effort to create a watershed management plan for implementation with local partners, inventory and treatment of invasive species such as phragmites and frog-bit, restoration of wild rice and other culturally significant species, and other programs as needs are identified. Isabella County Parks is also working on a Michigan DNR Water Trail Designation Plan for the Chippewa River with local and regional partners, including the City of Mt. Pleasant Parks department, SCIT, the Mt. Pleasant Area Convention & Visitors Bureau, and the Chippewa Nature Center (Midland). This project will support the strategic plan for this water trail designation.</p>

SECTION 3 – COLLABORATING ORGANIZATIONS

What other organizations are participating in this project and what are their roles?

The Chippewa River is truly an asset to our community. The role of the Mt. Pleasant Area Convention and Visitors Bureau (MPACVB) is to encourage people to visit Isabella County by showcasing all we have to offer, and outdoor recreation is a large part of their promotional efforts. To preserve these recreational opportunities, the MPACVB knows the importance of improving and maintaining the Chippewa River, and to that end, has provided financial support in the amount of \$12,000. The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe is also supporting this project financially in the amount of \$25,000.

SECTION 4 – SUSTAINABILITY LINKAGES AND GOALS

Describe the project's goals and how you will measure whether it has achieved those goals.

Economic goals:

This project is intended to increase/improve accessibility to the Chippewa River Water Trail. Increased accessibility translates into increased park pass sales, camping fees, and pavilion rentals. Added launches provide a broader range of possible group activities/annual events within the park system. Increased usage fees will help to maintain and improve park services. In addition, there are two canoe liveries on the Chippewa River who would also benefit economically from the improved accessibility through this project.

Community or social goals:

By improving/adding canoe launches, our goal is to enable visitors to enter and exit the water at multiple locations along a longer stretch of the river. Increased access points will allow greater numbers of paddlers to safely access the river and put less stress on the river banks. The new launch will be designed for easy access and will accommodate paddling groups of all sizes.

Environmental goals:

The environmental goals of this project are to prevent erosion in high traffic areas and sensitive edges of the river bank that park visitors are already using for river access. In the area by the north swinging bridge not equipped with a launch, adding a new launch will decrease the erosion and degradation caused by overuse (launching at will) and encourage visitors to use the designated launch areas. The new launch will also dissuade paddlers from entering/exiting farther down-river, where erosion repair efforts will take place.

SECTION 5 – RELATIONSHIP TO WIN OBJECTIVES

Describe how the project fits with WIN's Vision, Mission and Guiding Principals.

The Chippewa River is an important part of the Saginaw Bay Watershed and this project will protect this valuable water resource by stabilizing the river bank and preventing further erosion. This project will preserve natural resources, ensuring that park visitors can continue to enjoy this area of the park for many years to come. This project also promotes a healthy environment by preventing sediment from entering the river, which improves riparian habitats and creates a cleaner, more aesthetic water recreation corridor.

SECTION 6 – RESULTS

What tangible results do you expect from the project and how will you measure them?

We expect that, by stabilizing the river bank through the methods mentioned above, we can drastically slow the rate of its erosion. By setting a baseline for the condition of the river bank prior to initiating the project, we can use the same measures to track changes in the river bank, such as loss of soil and bank slope. We can also test for changes in suspended and deposited sediments at points upstream and downstream in the river to track any improvements in water quality directly influenced by our efforts.

SECTION 7 – COMMUNICATION

How do you plan to communicate your project to the public and/or your intended audience?

Information about the project will be posted on the Isabella County Parks and Recreation website and Facebook page.

SECTION 8 – BUDGET

	Total Budget	WIN Funds
Personnel Expenses (briefly describe) Engineering, Surveyor, Project Management	\$10,000	
Material and Supply Expenses (briefly describe) Launch Structure, Rip-rap, Stone, Sand, Pea Gravel, Revetment Anchors	\$19,000	\$7,000
Equipment Expenses (briefly describe) Loader		
Communication/Marketing Expenses (briefly describe) N/A		
Other Expenses (briefly describe) Interpretive Signage (~2 signs + shipping), Contractor (earthwork & installation)	\$22,000	\$7,000
Total Project Cost	\$51,000	
Funds Requested from WIN		\$14,000

What funds have already been obtained for this project? (describe sources)
 \$25,000 (Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe 2nd distribution); \$12,000 (Mt. Pleasant Area Convention and Visitors Bureau)

How do you plan to finance the portion not funded by WIN?
 \$25,000 received from the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe 2nd distribution will finance a portion of this project, as will \$12,000 received from the Mt. Pleasant Area Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Have you contacted the community foundation in the area most directly benefited by your project? If yes, with what result?
 Yes, a private donor through the Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation had initially shown interest in supporting this project, but has recently decided to put their donation toward another project in the park.

Is this an on-going project? If yes, how will funding be continued?
 If this project is successful, no further action will be needed. Any maintenance or repair work to be done at this project area will be funded internally.

SECTION 9 – CERTIFICATION

Our governing board approves the submission of this grant request. I certify that the information contained herein is accurate to the best of my knowledge.

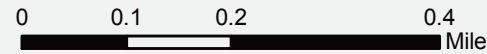
Authorized Signature
 George A. Green, Chairman, Isabella County Board of Commissioners
 Print Name and Title

Date

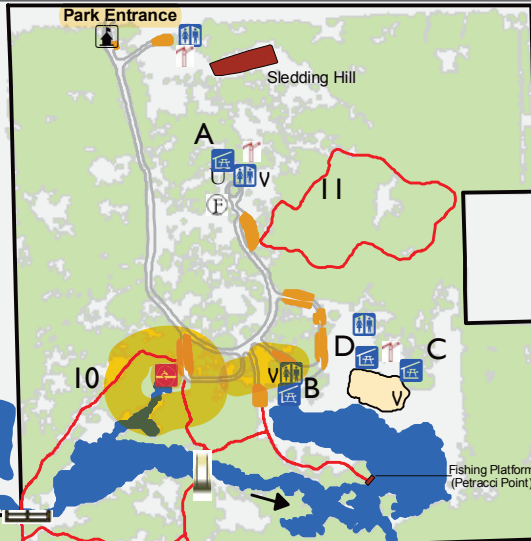
Deerfield Nature Park

Trail System

- 1 - Wildwood Pathway (2.54 mi.)
- 2 - River Loop (1.47 mi.)
- 3 - Nature's Way Loop (0.49 mi.)
- 4 - Raceway Path (0.50 mi.)
- 5 - Covered Bridge Trail (1.10 mi.)
- 6 - Two Oaks Crossover (0.17 mi.)
- 7 - Fire Break Crossover (0.28 mi.)
- 8 - Fox Run Crossover (0.21 mi.)
- 9 - Goshawk Loop (0.37 mi.)
- 10 - Lewis Pontiac Trail (0.21 mi.)
- 11 - Oak Ridge Interpretive Path (0.49 mi.)

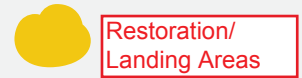


M-20



→ Mt. Pleasant 6 mi.

Vandecar Road



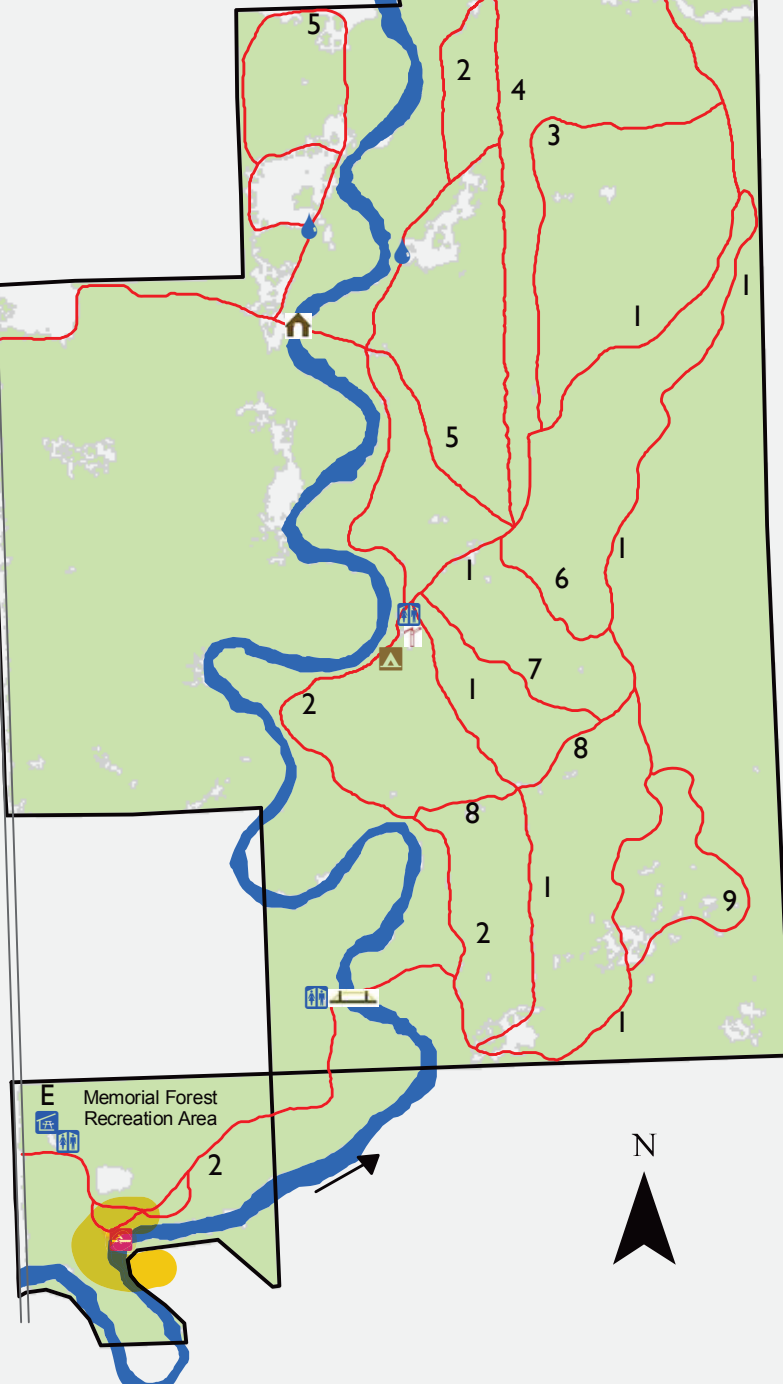
Picnic Shelters

- A - Fussman Pavilion
- B - Pond Overlook Pavilion
- C - East Beach Pavilion
- D - West Beach Pavilion
- E - School Forest Pavilion

Legend

- Paths
- River Flow
- Water Pump
- Fire Pit
- Suspension Bridge
- Covered Bridge
- Lewis Pontiac Bridge
- Campsites
- Horseshoe Pits
- Artesian Well
- Volleyball (sand)
- Restroom
- Pavilion
- Canoe Launch
- Gatehouse
- Beach
- Parking
- Park Boundary

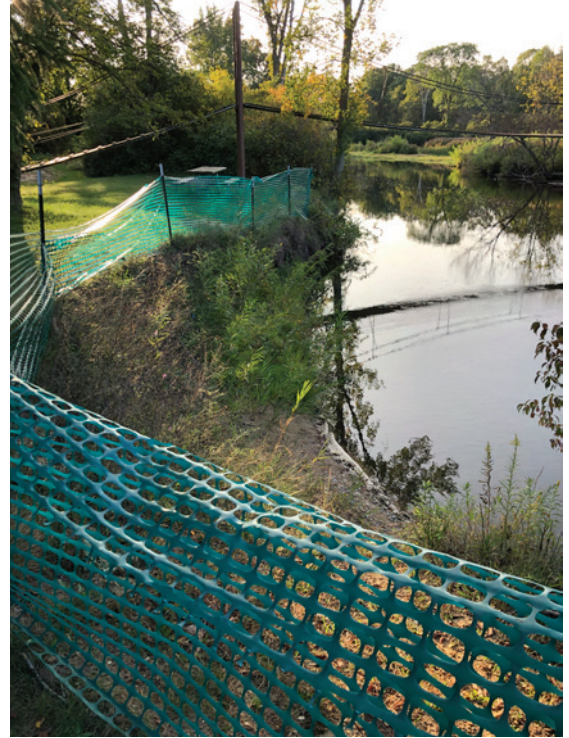
Winn Road



Deerfield Nature Park Erosion Area and Canoe Launches | 2020



Erosion Near Swinging Bridge in 2014



Erosion Near Swinging Bridge in 2020



Current Canoe Launch at Trailhead



**Erosion at Trailhead Launch
(Looking up from river)**



**Site of New Canoe Launch Near
Swinging Bridge**



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SECTION 1 - GENERAL			
Project Name Lake Huron Forever – Au Gres Community Pilot Program			
Sponsoring Organization / Local Champion Huron Pines Resource Conservation and Development, Inc.			Is the sponsor a 501(c)(3) organization? Yes
Name & Position of Contact Person Abigail Ertel, Community Program Lead			
Address 4241 Old US 27 South, Suite 2			
City Gaylord	State MI	Zip 49735	Phone (989) 448-2293, ext. 14
Fax N/A	Email abby@huronpines.org		Amount Requested \$36,500
Project Start Date January 1, 2021	Project End Date June 30, 2022		Geographic Area Served Au Gres

SECTION 2 – PROJECT DESCRIPTION
<p>Please describe the project. How is it innovative? What need(s) does it address? Is there a relationship between this project and other programs/projects occurring in the watershed?</p> <p>The Lake Huron Forever initiative was developed in 2019 by shoreline community foundations and conservation partners from the United States and Canada to advance water quality protection and healthy sustainable communities on both sides of the lake. The Lake Huron Forever initiative aims to support community conversation and collaboration in the design and implementation of on-the-ground work to strengthen the health and well-being of residents, as well as natural resources. Protecting water quality, ensuring the diversity of plant and animal life and supporting communities across the region means committing to the long-term protection of Lake Huron. In the coming years Huron Pines and our partners strive to engage communities and activate collaboration and partnerships to sustain a healthy Lake Huron through the <i>Lake Huron Forever</i> initiative.</p> <p>A program area of focus for the Lake Huron Forever initiative that serves to protect both unique ecological features and systems, as well as vibrant community quality of life, is engaging with local leaders and decision makers to understand the benefits and applications of green infrastructure. This knowledge is then put into action by identifying opportunities to implement nature-based solutions locally. These conversations, skill development programs and project design actions are particularly timely and needed given challenges at the local level from aging and failing infrastructure as well as flooding from intense storm events and high lake levels. Huron Pines and our Lake Huron Forever partners are working together to provide guidance, lead local-level planning and leadership development workshops and support local leaders in leveraging funds and partnerships to elevate natural resource protection in their resource allocation and decision making at a time when communities need it most.</p> <p>The scope of work proposed for this project will allow Huron Pines and our partners to work deeply with a Saginaw Bay coastal community - Au Gres, MI - to implement on-the-ground green infrastructure projects. Leading up to completion of these projects, Huron Pines will support local government officials in formalizing their commitment to continuing to protect local water resources and celebrate their unique connection to Lake Huron through storytelling, physical representation throughout the Au Gres built environment and strategic communications. This work in Au Gres compliments ongoing projects in communities all along Lake Huron and Saginaw Bay. Through the Lake Huron Forever initiative Cheboygan, Alpena, Rogers City and East Tawas city leaders are all engaged with Huron Pines to increase knowledge, community connection, decision making and project development to protect local water quality through nature-based solutions. Lake Huron Forever project work also extends into Saginaw Bay via Hampton Bay Township in Bay County as project partner Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy is auditing local ordinances and recommending water quality protection options to strengthen these policies. Additionally, SBLC is identifying local project sites in the township to implement green infrastructure practices. Lessons learned and successes achieved in the next phase of work with Au Gres will benefit and inform action all along Lake Huron and Saginaw Bay for regional benefit and positive impact.</p> <p>Situated in Arenac County, on the Au Gres River which feeds Saginaw Bay, the City of Au Gres has become an early champion for protecting local and regional water quality for community vitality and public health. Over the last five years Au Gres city leadership, particularly through the City Manager position, has leveraged technical expertise to fill data gaps, engaged a large percentage of the local population in vision and planning sessions and developed a strong relationship with the school district to empower local students in leading water quality and green</p>

infrastructure projects. Au Gres has completed a stormwater assessment, Sustainable Small Harbors Charrette and put those plans into action by prioritizing and funding local projects. Au Gres is ready to move beyond year-to-year project planning and formalize long-term commitment to this work. City stakeholders have articulated the desire to be a leader for other communities along Lake Huron. To achieve this goal, they have requested specific skill development, tools and program planning to take their message, story and decision making rationale public with both local stakeholders and regional community leaders. Au Gres truly is a “Lake Huron Forever” community and this scope of work will help them cement this value and identity through a series of processes and steps. At the end of this work, Au Gres’s desire to lead and pilot this process will inform a Lake Huron Forever Community “Activation Plan” to guide other Saginaw Bay and Lake Huron shoreline communities wanting to do the same.

To build momentum and interest in the community, this project will support engineering and implementation of six bioswales in priority locations. These bioswales will be located on a downtown street that was previously determined to contribute the majority of stormwater runoff within the city limits of Au Gres. By redirecting the runoff into the bioswales, an estimated 145,000 gallons of runoff will be infiltrated annually into the soil decreasing the amount of water entering the Au Gres River, improving water quality and reducing the strain on aging stormwater infrastructure. Additionally, the city has expressed the desire to plant these bioswales with native plants that improve filtration, add wildlife benefits and improve aesthetics. The bioswales are located in a high visibility area to raise community awareness of the issue of stormwater and what steps city leaders are taking to protect this precious resource.

In addition to the direct on-the-ground component, the City of Au Gres will formally adopt the “Lake Huron Forever” Pledge - language that outlines commitment to prioritizing local water, land and wildlife resources for the protection of Lake Huron. To complement the official language, the pledge will also outline a set of actionable steps, unique to Au Gres, that leadership can use to guide future years of work. For this effort to be sustainable and supported, it is important that the local officials making decisions and putting time and energy into this planning are able to connect their work and decisions to local stakeholders. Huron Pines will support the development of specific communications tools and messaging to be used by city leadership in order to clearly share the importance of this commitment and its connection to local quality of life. Finally, community members from all corners of Au Gres will be part of their “Lake Huron Forever” community and need an avenue to shape what that means individually and collectively. To support and inform the work of city leaders and embed local values and culture in Au Gres’s Lake Huron Forever work, as well as create visual cues and representations of what it means to be a Lake Huron Forever community, Huron Pines will work with local stakeholders (i.e. Au Gres-Sims School District, Au Gres Area Chamber of Commerce) to gather community input that will determine the best physical representation of the program for the community (i.e. signage, storm drain stamps, business decals) and create an online storymap to capture local feeling, connection and Au Gres community pride in local water resources.

The support and implementation of on-the-ground elements associated with this scope of work are needed to move strong planning and data collection efforts into action, maintain momentum and continue energizing community leaders and residents. With strong relationships established with city officials and the school, the overall goal of this work is to engage more completely with the community to increase connection and collective action for water resource protection. Immediate next steps will be to take the model to other communities along the Saginaw Bay and Lake Huron coast. In addition to strengthening and sustaining the Lake Huron Forever initiative, the outcomes achieved with support of WIN funding will provide the foundation to sustain this work in Au Gres in the future, no matter who the City Manager is or council representation. The value and emphasis on proactive water quality protection will be part of how Au Gres operates.

SECTION 3 – COLLABORATING ORGANIZATIONS

What other organizations are participating in this project and what are their roles?

This project involves Huron Pines coordinating with Bay Area Community Foundation who will help inform local messaging, leverage additional funds and convene local stakeholders. We will also work with technical partners (Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy, Michigan SeaGrant) to coordinate projects, leverage funding and avoid duplication. The City of Au Gres, Au Gres Area Chamber of Commerce and Au Gres-Sims School District will be local messengers, inform and help develop project design and lead development/implementation of celebration events and Lake Huron Forever physical representation tools. Part of the scope includes work with engineers to finalize designs for the six high priority bioswales, a working relationship that is critical to the success of this project and future green infrastructure solutions along Lake Huron and Saginaw Bay. A knowledge gap exists in smaller, coastal communities in having access to green infrastructure resources - engineering being one of those. Huron Pines will bridge this gap by bringing the ecological and resource protection technical information to engineering design discussions with the result being increased green infrastructure knowledge and conceptual examples for both future Au Gres projects and for those identified in other coastal communities. In addition to technical water resources and ecological green infrastructure guidance, Huron Pines will fill communications, marketing and coordination roles to support development of the Lake Huron Forever community concept and be able to connect results, lessons learned and opportunities with similar work in other communities and partner efforts.

SECTION 4 – SUSTAINABILITY LINKAGES AND GOALS

Describe the project's goals and how you will measure whether it has achieved those goals.

Economic goals: Prioritizing clean water and healthy natural resources supports economic investment from both residents and visitors in a community like Au Gres. The economic goal of this work is that the Lake Huron Forever initiative will further support the city to successfully balance development and water quality protection. By developing and formally adopting the Lake Huron Forever Pledge, city leadership will not only indicate their ongoing commitment to maintaining this balance and ensuring stewardship of the resources that draw investment from residents and visitors, they will be signing onto a localized road map for future projects and planning decisions that support current work as well as past projects like the Sustainable Small Harbors Charrette, stormwater assessment and student-led project design. Successfully guiding city officials through development and formal adoption of the Pledge will indicate achievement of longer-term, sustained prioritization of natural resource stewardship for community vitality.

Community or social goals: Au Gres will pilot the process and programs to support local leaders to talk with constituents about why elevating water quality and natural resource protection in local decision making is important. The community/social goal is to provide the tools and coaching for leaders that build support and connection with residents, visitors and businesses to be a "Lake Huron Forever" community. This goal will be achieved through direct work with community partners like Bay Area Community Foundation, city officials, Au Gres-Sims School District and Au Gres Area Chamber of Commerce to inform, design and implement a local celebration event and a local input process to determine the best physical representation of Lake Huron Forever in Au Gres. Results will be measured through development and delivery of pre and post evaluation with City leaders and key project stakeholders to evaluate effectiveness of the tools and strategies piloted through the project. Additionally, Au Gres will be the first Lake Huron community to formally adopt the Lake Huron Forever pledge which is anticipated to energize other communities to start a similar process.

Environmental goals: Au Gres has completed a stormwater assessment and implemented initial on the ground projects. The environmental goal for this scope of work is to support the engineering design and installation of six bioswales in priority areas of the city to increase local capacity to capture stormwater runoff. This goal will be measured by pre/post project data collection to understand how much capacity was added and then communicated to the general public and local leaders through reports and other local communications channels. The estimated capture and infiltration of the completed bioswales is 145,000 gallons annually.

SECTION 5 – RELATIONSHIP TO WIN OBJECTIVES

Describe how the project fits with WIN's Vision, Mission and Guiding Principles.

The Lake Huron Forever initiative has been designed as the vehicle for achieving more effective and direct protection for the waters of Lake Huron, of which Saginaw Bay is a vital part. The goal of the program is to engage and activate local communities in learning and leadership development opportunities to increase confidence in, and provide needed tools for, making decisions to protect and allocate resources to water protection at the local level. This work seeks to balance natural resource protection and community development, along with increasing the community voice and role in how projects, decisions and programs are developed, designed and implemented. In working alongside community leaders, specific needs and challenges to that community are identified and resources tailored to address each need or challenge. This partnership also means local culture, values and way of life influence opportunities and project selection. This scope of work is focused on Au Gres, a small community that has made huge commitments to understanding connections between community decisions and impacts on the surrounding environment. Through City Manager leadership and local educator commitment, data gaps have been closed, local projects have been identified and prioritized, youth and older residents are working and learning together and Great Lakes Basin funding has been leveraged to do more on the ground. Support of the Lake Huron Forever scope of work provided here means Au Gres will continue to elevate and refine a shared vision for their community, balance green and grey infrastructure decisions accordingly and continue to enhance sustainability by supporting local officials to talk publicly and gather support for protecting water quality at the local level through structural and managerial best management practices.

SECTION 6 – RESULTS

What tangible results do you expect from the project and how will you measure them?

We expect the development of 1 Lake Huron Forever community pledge, 1 formal adoption of the pledge by Au Gres City Council, development of 1 Lake Huron Forever community marketing support kit, 1 locally informed physical representation of Lake Huron Forever designed and installed in the community (eg. signs, storm drain stamps, local business window decals), 1 formal partnership with Au Gres-Sims School District to lead project elements, overall engineering design for 6 bioswales with completed installation of 2 bioswales at high priority sites during the project timeline and development/online sharing of 1 storymap. Local results will be measured by direct completion of project components with impact/relevance measured through pre and post evaluation methods. Regional impact will be advanced through at least 1 meeting with additional Lake Huron community leadership to share the Lake Huron Forever Community Activation Plan (synthesis of programs, lessons learned through the Au Gres pilot, tips for becoming a "Lake Huron Forever" community, etc.).

SECTION 7 – COMMUNICATION

How do you plan to communicate your project to the public and/or your intended audience?

Huron Pines and our Lake Huron Forever project partners have developed a messaging guidance and communications document that will maintain consistency and clarity for Lake Huron Forever in marketing and engagement efforts. The Huron Pines communications team will work closely with Au Gres partners to develop a communications/media kit that can be used by the community (city, school, chamber etc) to 1) champion the commitment the city is making to become a Lake Huron Forever community 2) educate the public about the how and why of protecting the health of the water in Lake Huron and Saginaw Bay and 3) celebrate the infrastructure projects being completed in Au Gres. The kit will include templates for press releases, social media posts, Lake Huron Forever messaging and logos and other graphics that can be used on and offline. The media kit assets and project updates will also be promoted by Huron Pines through our website, social media channels and bi-weekly email newsletter. We would also share regular communications with regional newspapers and partner organizations including our other Lake Huron Forever partners in Michigan and Canada.

A community based storymap will be created to understand community connection to, and vision for, being a Lake Huron Forever community. A storymap is an interactive tool created through mapping software and hosted online to mix technical project elements with personal community stories. It is highly visual, accessible and a unique way to engage community members in a safe and informative way. A third party developer will be engaged to create this map and Huron Pines will use it as a template with other communities along the coast. Huron Pines will work directly with Au Gres City officials through meetings and small focus groups to complete the Lake Huron Forever pledge and see the city adopt it formally. Both the pledge language and stories collected through the mapping process will provide opportunities for communication in a variety of forms, lengths and themes.

SECTION 8 – BUDGET

	Total Budget	WIN Funds
Personnel Expenses (briefly describe) Communications/Marketing support, coordination and facilitation, technical oversight, education program support	\$45,500	\$18,500
Material and Supply Expenses (briefly describe) engineering, green infrastructure project materials (bioswales), signage, meeting supplies	\$35,000	\$12,000
Equipment Expenses (briefly describe)		
Communication/Marketing Expenses (briefly describe) design/layout services, printing	\$6,000	\$3,000
Other Expenses (briefly describe) storymap development, travel, contractor services	\$20,000	\$3,000
Total Project Cost	\$106,500	
Funds Requested from WIN		\$36,500

What funds have already been obtained for this project? (describe sources)

Huron Pines has secured a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation - Sustain Our Great Lakes grant to fund on-the-ground project design and implementation in several coastal communities including \$70,000 to complete on-the-ground green infrastructure projects in Au Gres.

How do you plan to finance the portion not funded by WIN?

The Lake Huron Forever initiative has a pending request to the Great Lakes Protection Fund for \$35,000. If awarded a portion of this funding would support the proposed scope of work with the remaining dollars supporting work by Lake Huron Forever partners in additional Lake Huron Forever communities, adding value to this proposal to WIN.

Have you contacted the community foundation in the area most directly benefited by your project? If yes, with what result?

Yes. Bay Area Community Foundation has been directly involved in the Lake Huron Forever partnership since the beginning. They are supportive of this scope of work and how it connects to the overall, long-term goals of the work we're doing collectively. A funding request to build on this scope and expand impact has been invited to BACF's 2021 grant cycle.

Is this an on-going project? If yes, how will funding be continued?

Yes. Development of the Lake Huron Forever initiative started in 2020 and identified by regional partners as the vehicle for greater engagement of local communities in decision-making and planning to protect local water quality for drinking and recreation purposes. Partners will continue to work with additional communities, using the model developed in Au Gres, to become "Lake Huron Forever" communities, formalizing their own individual commitments to a series of local steps. As Community Foundations are key partners in this work, funding requests will be made to those partners as well as larger Great Lakes basin private and public funders. Work to directly connect the priorities and projects identified by Lake Huron Forever partners to the Lakewide Area Management Plan for Lake Huron, a bi-national management plan that helps direct EPA and Great Lakes Restoration Funding to Great Lakes projects.

SECTION 9 – CERTIFICATION

Our governing board approves the submission of this grant request. I certify that the information contained herein is accurate to the best of my knowledge.



12/1/2020

Authorized Signature

Date

Brad Jensen, Executive Director

Print Name and Title

Response and Additional Information Saginaw Bay WIN Reviewer Comments

Bioswale Information and Planning Background

Huron Pines, and our Lake Huron Forever partners, have made it a priority to lead and support all northern Lake Huron shoreline communities in completing and/or updating a comprehensive stormwater assessment. A stormwater assessment was completed for the City of Au Gres in 2018 and has been a foundational document for Huron Pines and Lake Huron Forever partners to tailor support and guidance to Au Gres. This community-centered process is vitally important - as the needs and readiness of each community differ greatly.

The stormwater assessment for Au Gres suggests the installation of 6 bioswales to capture 145,000 gallons of stormwater runoff and address water quality threats in the city's largest drainage zone. The 6 bioswales will be located along Michigan Avenue in Au Gres. Currently stormwater in this zone drains to a single outlet south of the Au Gres Harbor, into the Au Gres River. This drainage zone is responsible for the greatest volume of runoff as well as the highest pollutant loading (Total Suspended Solids, Phosphorus and Nitrogen). Support from Saginaw Bay WIN will ensure that all 6 these bioswales are effectively engineered and that the first 2 are placed and completed during the scope of this grant period.

Bioswales were selected for their ability to both capture and redirect stormwater. Vegetation within the swale adds additional filtering capacity, maintains soil health and provides aesthetic and wildlife benefits, such as attracting pollinators. The bioswales will be designed to handle a 25 year rain event and to redirect overflow into existing grey infrastructure. While some pooling of water can occur after a rain event, bioswales are engineered to allow adequate infiltration in order to avoid standing water. The City of Au Gres has agreed to design the bioswales with native plants to best support wildlife and biodiversity. Installations will be accessible, provide plant and wildlife viewing opportunities, with the City leading direct access design in subsequent years. The city has also committed to taking on 100% of the maintenance responsibilities after the projects are completed. As maintenance of green infrastructure can be a barrier to implementation, Huron Pines and the city will work together to achieve a balance between ornate/complex plant designs and less maintenance-intensive options.

Green infrastructure applications are necessary in Au Gres to ease strain on the existing system as a complete grey infrastructure overhaul is not possible. By addressing the highest volume of runoff, in a highly visible location, with community input and engagement, Huron Pines is helping to provide the city with needed engineering resources while also supporting sustainability. This scope of work will increase awareness for water quality issues, provide educational opportunities and generate interest in additional green infrastructure work.

Sustainability Potential and Connections to WIN Objectives

The Lake Huron Forever initiative, and this Au Gres Pilot project, will lead to sustainability of green infrastructure and water quality protection efforts along the Lake Huron coast and Saginaw Bay because the community-centric approach to this project balances community input, economic investment, natural resource protection and highly-

prioritized, scientifically-driven environmental project selection. These core principles align with WIN's sustainability approach. Currently, Huron Pines has received funding support from the National Fish and Wildlife - Sustain Our Great Lakes program to support implementation of the Au Gres bioswales as well as other direct green infrastructure applications in other coastal communities. This funding does not cover all costs and WIN's support not only provides a critical match to make these projects happen, it also provides support to ensure the social and economic information and goals of Au Gres are incorporated into project design and implementation. WIN's support ensures sustainability of the effort beyond 2-year national funding support. Lake Huron Forever is a long-term vision for coastal resource protection, we envision WIN being a key supporter and program planning partner in the effort in the coming years.

Tangible Products/Outcomes - With support of Saginaw Bay WIN, this project will produce the following outcomes;

- **Engineering designs and considerations for 6 bioswales**
 - Green Infrastructure engineering design concepts is a known gap for northern Lake Huron coastal communities - both access to engineers leading these projects and example designs to build treatments into their future infrastructure projects
- **Support for supplies and direct implementation of at least 2 bioswales**
 - For the timeline of this proposed scope of work, it is reasonable to plan for complete engineering, design and implementation of 2 applications
- **Design and completion of 1 online Community Storymap**
 - This outcome is both an important community engagement tool and visible representation of the community's understanding, support and unified vision for water quality protection in Au Gres. It will provide Huron Pines and Lake Huron Forever partners insight into local perspectives on water and green infrastructure which will tailor future project selection.
- **Design and completion of a Lake Huron Forever Community Guide**
 - A concise overview of the Au Gres Pilot, this guide will capture key strategies for other Lake Huron coastal communities to spark interest and engagement in the Lake Huron Forever initiative. It will include examples of the structural, managerial and educational best management practices that a community can consider and connect to existing plans, community capacity and readiness to move forward. The green infrastructure engineering designs created through this scope of work will be included as examples as well as other considerations a community needs to make when bringing water quality and natural resource protection projects into their planning and decision making.



GRANT APPLICATION FORM
 Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network
 P.O. Box 734
 Bay City, MI 48707

Office Use:	
Application # _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ag/P2	<input type="checkbox"/> Water
<input type="checkbox"/> Communication	<input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife
<input type="checkbox"/> Land Use	
Other _____	

Please answer the following questions in the space provided. You may include a one-page attachment. When completed, your application packet should not exceed four pages. Send your completed form electronically to info@saginawbaywin.org and mail a signed, hard copy to Saginaw Bay WIN, P.O. Box 734, Bay City, MI 48707. **Proposals may be submitted at any time.** If you have questions, please call (989) 892-9171.

SECTION 1 - GENERAL			
Project Name Shiawassee River National Water Trail Mile Marker Project			
Sponsoring Organization / Local Champion Headwaters Trails, Inc.			Is the sponsor a 501(c)(3) organization? X <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Name & Position of Contact Person Susan Julian, President			
Address P.O. Box 33			
City Holly	State MI	Zip 48442	Phone Wk 248-795-2808 Hm 248-634-3513
Fax n/a	Email sjulian@provide.net or land@nohlc.org		Amount Requested \$21,622
Project Start Date January 2021	Project End Date October 2022		Geographic Area Served Genessee, Shiawassee & Saginaw counties

SECTION 2 – PROJECT DESCRIPTION
<p>Please describe the project. How is it innovative? What need(s) does it address? Is there a relationship between this project and other programs/projects occurring in the watershed?</p> <p>In September, the Shiawassee River was designated a National Water Trail by the U.S. National Park Service. It is one of only 33 nationally-designated water trails in the country, and one of four in Michigan. The project was the culmination of work that began in 2017 by the Shiawassee River Water Trail Coalition, that used a grant from Saginaw Bay WIN to develop maps, coordinate communities, and ultimately file the application with the National Park Service.</p> <p>There is a need for mile markers along the Shiawassee River spanning the Holly to Chesaning 88 mile length of the newly established National Water Trail. The first seven miles starting in Holly were installed with the assistance of Saginaw Bay WIN grant funding and will serve as the model for the rest of the paddling trail as it crosses 23 municipalities/agencies in Genessee, Shiawassee and Saginaw counties. These communities have joined a collaboration, the Shiawassee River Paddling Coalition, and are committed to aspects of the Trail Management Plan as submitted to the U.S. National Parks Service as part of national recognition criteria.</p> <p>Mile Markers and Emergency Access Markers are part of that plan. Mile markers provide paddler orientation, location information relative to access points and information to first responders when they need to locate paddlers in emergency situations. The markers also brand the river through local and national logos and the familiar paddle symbol. Emergency Access Markers provide a location where first responders can reach a paddler in distress between municipal/private access points. Both kinds of markers are needed for paddling safety.</p> <p>This application proposes 70 Mile Markers as well as 20 Emergency Access Markers. The request to Saginaw Bay WIN is for 60% of the fabrication cost with the balance provided by local municipalities. Municipalities/agencies will also provide funding and people power for the actual installation of both kinds of posts.</p> <p>The request is also for \$3250 to provide the labor to contact, educate and get local landowners to sign permission forms for the permanent sign installations. It is anticipated that this direct contact will take four months (January through April, 2021) while the actual installation of 40 posts will take place after Spring flooding from May through the end of summer 2021. The balance of the posts will be installed the following year when full signed permissions are obtained.</p> <p>A further aspect of this project is to get the word out to local businesses who could benefit from increased recreational usage of the river. This application includes \$3000 for the printing of 5000 brochures to be placed with strategic businesses and in MDOT welcome centers for public distribution.</p>

SECTION 3 – COLLABORATING ORGANIZATIONS

What other organizations are participating in this project and what are their roles?

Shiawassee River Water Trail Coalition—a collaborative of 23 communities along the river with volunteer leadership roles. Members of three paddling organizations—Friends of the Shiawassee, Keepers of the Shiawassee and Headwaters Trails. Headwaters Trails, Inc., a non-profit trail promotion organization and previous recipient of Saginaw Bay WIN funding. North Oakland Headwaters Land Conservancy, whose mission includes land and water preservation.

SECTION 4 – SUSTAINABILITY LINKAGES AND GOALS

Describe the project's goals and how you will measure whether it has achieved those goals.

Economic goals:

- 1) Local awareness of paddle-based business opportunities, measured by
 - a) completion of presentations to Holly, Fenton/Linden, Owosso, Corunna and Chesaning Chambers of Commerce.
 - b) distribution of promotional brochure to 40 local businesses, MDOT Welcome Centers, libraries and municipalities with emphasis on route and access points
- 2) Website promotion of close to home recreation for SE Michigan to Mid-Michigan residents

Community or social goals:

- 1) Improved wayfinding by installation of 40 Mile Markers in Year One; preparations for up to 30 more Mile Markers in Year Two.
- 2) Communication by partners with first responders servicing the whole 88 mile trail; details of emergency access point completed in Year Two.

Environmental goals:

- 1) Alliance with North Oakland Headwaters Land Conservancy (and others?) to permanently protect additional river frontage.
- 2) Finalized MOU with local paddling groups to complete annual river clean-ups per the Management Plan submitted to NPS

SECTION 5 – RELATIONSHIP TO WIN OBJECTIVES

Describe how the project fits with WIN's Vision, Mission and Guiding Principals.

The Mile Marker Project shares the same vision and goals for the Shiawassee River as WIN has for the watershed as a whole. The project is scalable and can easily be adapted by other water trails. The Management Plan submitted to the Department of Interior, National Parks Service also has identified economic, environmental and social goals. Improved wayfinding goes hand in hand with increasing responsible use of the river and making recreation-based economic development possible. It is hoped that a sense of identification and pride in the watershed will be bolstered and that the Leave No Trace ethic will become the watchword for users as well as neighboring landowners.

SECTION 6 – RESULTS

What tangible results do you expect from the project and how will you measure them?

- 1) Fabrication of 70 Mile Marker posts and 20 Emergency Access posts**
- 2) Signed agreements with landowners to place markers on their properties.**
- 3) Installation by collaborating partners of 40 Mile Markers in Year One; 30 in Year Two along with Emergency Access posts.**
- 4) Commitment to 40% financing by partners**
- 5) Communication of economic development possibilities along the pathway.**

SECTION 7 – COMMUNICATION

How do you plan to communicate your project to the public and/or your intended audience?

Communication has already begun with a winter celebration of the national status sent to three local newspapers and with a date for a display at the Adventure Symposium in March. Collaboration will be fostered by in-person communication with landowners and municipalities. We will continue to use local media as well as our Facebook and other social media channels. We will create and distribute maps which will indicate the new mile marker locations as well as current and proposed access points. Our website www.shiawasseeiver.org as well as the Michigan and National Parks Service paddling trail websites will show where the new mile markers have been installed. We have proposed a summer 2021 celebration of a series of paddles from Holly to Chesaning which would also highlight the new signage.

SECTION 8 – BUDGET		
	Total Budget	WIN Funds
Personnel Expenses (briefly describe) Project Coordinator: 260 hours @ \$12.50/hr; In-person solicitation to landowners for permission to place markers. This also involves recording & office work from January through April 2021.	\$3250	\$3250
Material and Supply Expenses (briefly describe) Design and Fabrication plus \$500 shipping of 70 Mile Marker Posts @ \$350 ea and 20 Emergency Access Posts @ \$31 ea	\$25,620	\$15,372 (60%)
Equipment Expenses (briefly describe) Donated office expenses for 13 weeks; postage	\$425	0
Communication/Marketing Expenses (briefly describe) Printing of 5000 maps, double-sided, distributed by volunteers	\$3000	\$3000
Other Expenses (briefly describe) Mileage reimbursement; post installation; 50 hours donated administration	\$4800	0
Total Project Cost	\$37,095	
Funds Requested from WIN		\$21,622

What funds have already been obtained for this project? (describe sources)
 \$3000 for coordinator's pre-grant work and mileage has been obtained from Holly Township and a private individual. A commitment for donated office space and postage has been obtained from NOHLC (North Oakland Headwaters Land Conservancy).
 Postage administration is being donated by David Harrison and Susan Julian.


How do you plan to finance the portion not funded by WIN?
 Local municipalities will provide 40% of the funding for marker posts and all the installation costs. NOHLC will contribute office space and host the part-time project coordinator. Holly Township and a private individual have contributed to the coordinator's salary.

Have you contacted the community foundation in the area most directly benefited by your project? If yes, with what result?
 We anticipate contacting community foundations for the next tasks outlined in the Management Plan, not for the Mile Markers.

Is this an on-going project? If yes, how will funding be continued?
 The project will take two years but will not be on-going. However, maintenance of the paddling trail and upkeep of the access sites will continue indefinitely paid for through local municipal budgets.

SECTION 9 – CERTIFICATION

Our governing board approves the submission of this grant request. I certify that the information contained herein is accurate to the best of my knowledge.



 Authorized Signature
 Susan Julian, President of Headwaters Trails

 Print Name and Title

December 1, 2020

 Date



BERKLEY
FERNDALE
HAZEL PARK
HOLLY

Shiawassee River Earns "National Water Trail" Designation



Shiawassee River Earns "National Water Trail" Designation

(Crystal A. Proxmire, Oct. 26, 2020)

Holly, Fenton, MI- An effort of over five years has finally brought the Shiawassee River into the spotlight with a National Water Trail designation.

"We are excited to have been informed that our application, first submitted in April 2017, to the U.S. National Park Service for consideration as a "National Water Trail", has finally been approved by the agency," said David Lossing, Chair of the Shiawassee River Water Trail Coalition. "We applied for a grant from the NPS in August 2015 for technical support to begin pulling the needed data and information together for the application. We appreciate all of the support we've been given during that process, and since, to move our Water Trail forward."

The Shiawassee River Water Trail is eighty-eight miles in length stretching from Holly, MI to Chesaning, MI, crossing through four counties in mid-Michigan. It is popular among kayakers as well as the nature-lovers that enjoy visits.

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The Park Service's Water Trail Program was formed to "protect and restore America's rivers, shorelines, and waterways; conserve natural areas along waterways; and increase access to outdoor recreation on shorelines and waterways. The Trails are a distinctive and national network of exemplary water trails that are cooperatively supported and sustained."



The Shiawassee River Water Trail Coalition has numerous members that have been working together to make the designation happen as well as other improvements including a 360-degree photography project, the addition of several launch locations along the river, installing paddling mile markers along the river downstream of Fenton, and installing 30 sensors to give real-time reports of the depth and flow of the river.

Holly Township Supervisor George Kullis is excited about the designation. "It brings notoriety to the region; it puts us on the map. It will help bring more people to the region. It also opens it up for grant money to help take care of this waterway.

"Holly Township has Seven Lakes State Park. There is a nature conservancy. The DNR owns a lot of land. There's Holly Recreation, Groveland Oaks, the new Holly ORV Park. This is an area known for recreation, and we're always

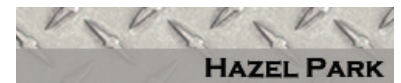
looking at what more we can do," Kullis said. He added that the Township has some property along the river where they're considering adding hiking trails.

Organizations that are part of the collaborative effort include Village of Holly, Holly Township, Headwaters Trails, Inc., North Oakland Headwaters Land Conservancy, City of Fenton, City of Linden, Argentine Township, Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission, Sierra Club – Nepsassing Chapter, Ponemah, Squaw and Tupper Lake Association, Keepers of the Shiawassee River, Byron Village Downtown Development Authority, Village of Vernon, City of Corunna, City of Owosso, Shiawassee County Parks and Recreation, Friends of the Shiawassee River, Village of Oakley, Village of Chesaning, Chesaning Township, and Saginaw County Parks and Recreation.

For more information about the Shiawassee River Water Trail Coalition: <https://www.shiawasseewatertrail.org>



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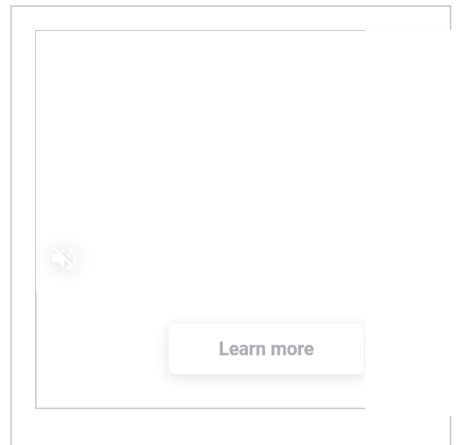
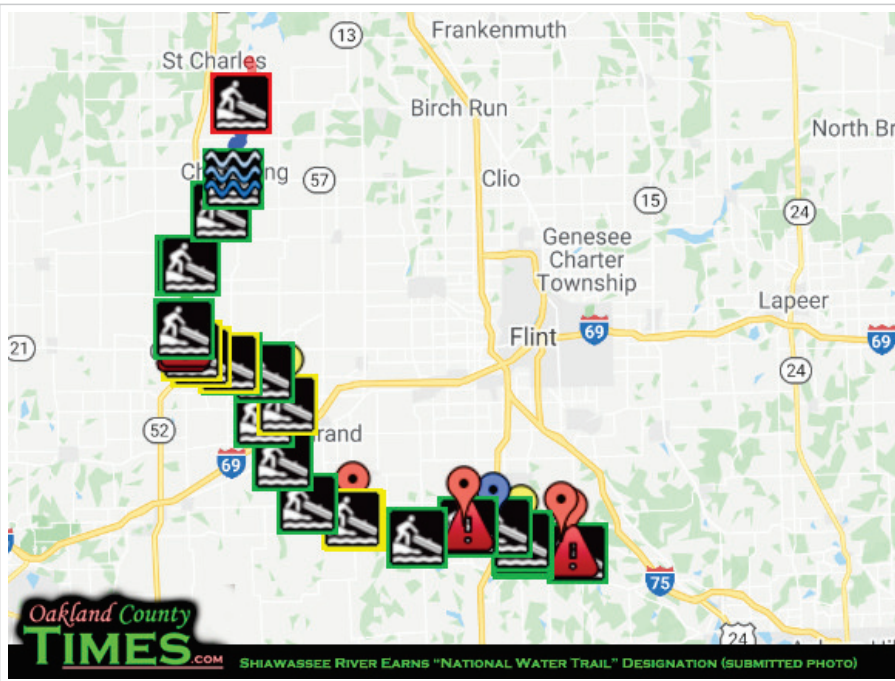
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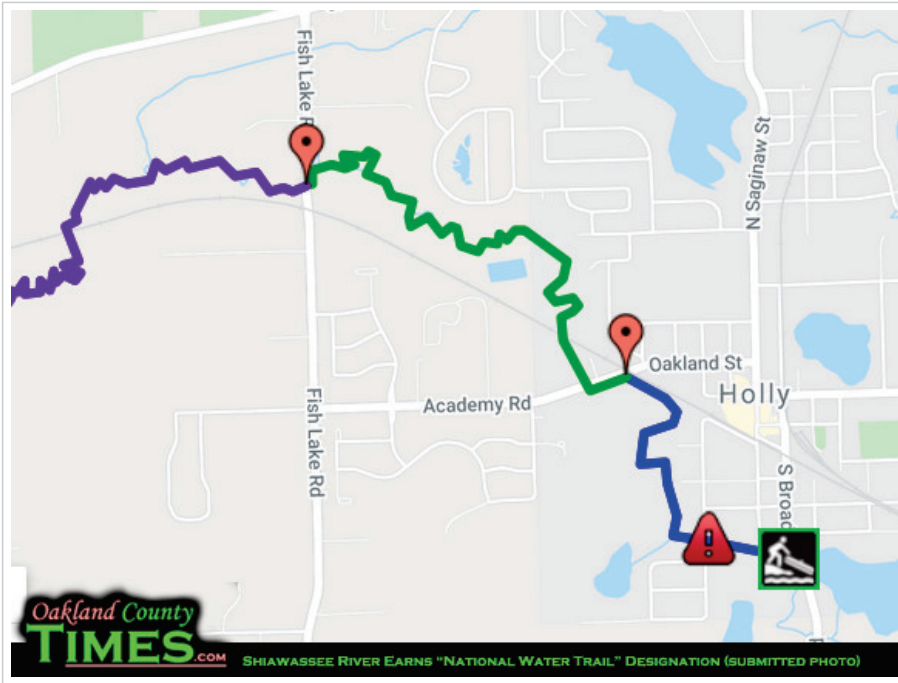


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Weather by NOAA

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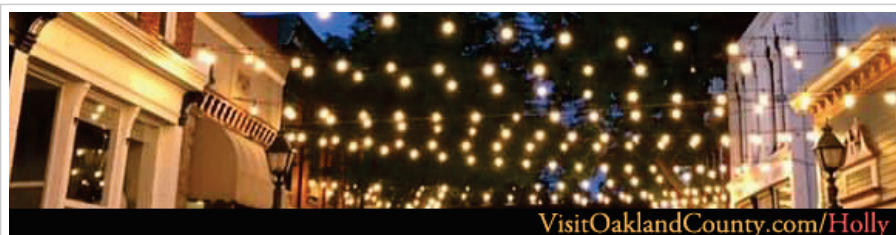
Wind: West at 17mph

Humidity: 39%

Windchill: 38°F

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About the author

Oakland County Times has written 12695 articles for Oakland County Times

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GRANT APPLICATION FORM
 Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network
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Application # _____	
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<input type="checkbox"/> Communication	<input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife
<input type="checkbox"/> Land Use	
Other _____	

Please answer the following questions in the space provided. You may include a one-page attachment. When completed, your application packet should not exceed four pages. Send your completed form electronically to info@saginawbaywin.org and mail a signed, hard copy to Saginaw Bay WIN, P.O. Box 734, Bay City, MI 48707. **Proposals may be submitted at any time.** If you have questions, please call (989) 892-9171.

SECTION 1 - GENERAL			
Project Name Smiths Crossing Bridge Preservation and Great Lakes Bay Regional Trail Connection - Fishing Access Component			
Sponsoring Organization / Local Champion Great Lakes Bay Regional Trail		Is the sponsor a 501(c)(3) organization? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Name & Position of Contact Person Rob Eggers, Chairman : Great Lakes Bay Regional Trail			
Address 8121 Moll Lane			
City Freeland	State MI	Zip 48623	Phone 989-754-4717
Fax	Email robe@spicergroup.com		Amount Requested \$40,000
Project Start Date 5/1/2022	Project End Date 12/29/2023	Geographic Area Served Bay/Midland/Saginaw Counties, beyond with Iron Belle Connection	

SECTION 2 – PROJECT DESCRIPTION
<p>Please describe the project. How is it innovative? What need(s) does it address? Is there a relationship between this project and other programs/projects occurring in the watershed?</p> <p>In 2005 the Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network (WIN) supported the region's first green infrastructure plan (Vision of Green), completed by the Saginaw Bay Greenways Collaborative. In 2009, a subsequent study was completed by the Great Lakes Bay Regional Trail (GLBRT) showing the proposed linkages to connect Midland, Bay and Saginaw Counties via non-motorized transportation and began the process of assigning routes and a budget to the connections. Both of these studies listed the Smiths Crossing Bridge as the key connection between the trails in Midland and Saginaw counties. The GLBRT is currently fundraising for the bridge, which is one of only six surviving examples of a "multi-span bridge in Michigan, and has included fishing access at this point as an important value-added component of the project. The project is also supported by the Midland County Recreation Plan, the Midland Area Transportation Study(MATS), the Midland Community Foundation, Ingersoll Township, Midland Township, the City of Midland, and Tittabawassee Township.</p> <p>The proposed project, part of the Iron Belle Trail (IBT), will restore the Smiths Crossing Historic Bridge as part of the Great Lakes Bay Regional Trail (GLBRT) network and provide fishing access to the Tittabawassee River. The work will include restoration of the historically significant Smiths Crossing Bridge as well as the connecting pavement for the trail. Trail users will use a paved shoulder w/ pavement markings led along Smiths Crossing Road (both sides of the bridge), a road with an extremely low average daily traffic. The Midland County Road Commission (MCRC) will repave the Smiths Crossing Road and cul-de-sacs on either side of the bridge as a non-participating cost of the project. The project will meet AASHTO standard with a 14-foot wide clear width on the bridge and a 10-foot wide paved trail. The Midland Community Foundation has been coordinating the early meetings of the bridge committee and the community residents, who are highly passionate about the project, have initiated a friends group with a Facebook page titled, Save the Smiths Crossing Bridge.</p> <p>The Tittabawassee River is known state-wide, and even across the Midwest, for its phenomenal fishery. From early ice-out in the Spring which provides access to one of the world's greatest walleye fisheries (during the open season) to the summer and fall when bass fishing, especially small-mouth bass, takes center stage - people from far and wide flock to this region for fishing opportunities. However, like most of the rivers in our region, sites for public access to this fishery are limited. As WIN has indicated with its priorities and past investments, when opportunities to provide public access to our rivers, especially for fishing access, those opportunities should not be overlooked. Especially in situations where there is broad public support, investment opportunity should be looked at closely and taken advantage of when possible.</p> <p>For this project, a viable and safe access point for fishing - as well as river viewing - will be established at the foot of the bridge within easy access to a proposed parking area/trailhead.</p> <p>The Midland County Road Commission will be responsible for the maintenance of the completed project. The MCRC will work with the Great Lakes Bay Regional Trail Committee to contract for and fund maintenance of the completed project. The GLBRT is working with the Midland Community Foundaion, not only to raise funds for development, but also to set funds aside in an endowment for maintenance of the proposed project. For past segments of the trail, the GLBRT has contracted with local governmental agencies to provide the staffing to complete regular maintenance.</p>

SECTION 3 – COLLABORATING ORGANIZATIONS

What other organizations are participating in this project and what are their roles?

Midland Community Foundation - Convening, community engagement, likely funding support
Great Lakes Bay Regional Trail - Coordination, planning, funding and fundraising
Midland County Road Commission - Project maintenance

SECTION 4 – SUSTAINABILITY LINKAGES AND GOALS

Describe the project's goals and how you will measure whether it has achieved those goals.

Economic goals:

Economic goals: American Trails, a national nonprofit advocate for all trail interests highlights the following economic benefits of trail systems:

- Annual direct spending attributed to trail users was \$40.8 million in 2008, up from \$7.26 million in 2002.
- Total annual wages attributed to trail user spending: \$7.5 million.
- Business owners attribute 25% of revenues to their proximity to the trail (in trail towns).

We believe that the connection of the regional trail system across 3 counties will continue to provide economic ben to communities along the route - people will use stores, restaurants and more

Community or social goals:

Improved health statistics for residents of the Great Lakes Bay Region – will be measured by trail usage information by the Great Lakes Bay Regional Trail. The measure of this goal will make the assumption that additional trail usage provides health benefits for trail patrons. We will continue to monitor and document trail usage numbers throughout the year. In addition, as noted this bridge is only of only six surviving "multi-span" bridges and will provide, in itself, a tourist attraction. As for the fishing site - fishing is a well known community and social activity and is, and continues to be, key to the culture of our region. Providing public access to this fishery is important, as there are few sites between Midland and Freeland that are accessible.

Environmental goals:

Trail users are historically great environmental and park stewards, continuing our mission to provide positive recreational and interpretive experiences while protecting vital corridors of our watershed. We will coordinate visitation and fishing site usage with the Michigan DNR to ensure long-term sustainability and access to river and trail. We believe, as does WIN, that providing access to our natural resources is critical to the ethic to conserve, protect and restore it.

SECTION 5 – RELATIONSHIP TO WIN OBJECTIVES

Describe how the project fits with WIN's Vision, Mission and Guiding Principals.

- Promoting the Saginaw Bay watershed as a tourist destination and recreation area (The Great Lakes Bay Regional Trail promotes over 100 miles of non-motorized pedestrian trails in Saginaw, Bay and Midland Counties, a wonderful destination for trail enthusiasts to visit and ride. Moreover, the Iron Belle trail route will be a popular route for long-range cyclists wishing to traverse the state on two wheels).
- Encouraging regional cooperation on land use issues (Saginaw, Bay and Midland municipal cooperation across counties, cities, townships, villages, etc). In this specific situation, the bridge actually connects Midland and Saginaw counties.
- Education about land use issues (Interpretive signage at the site is planned that will focus on the river, adjacent land use and the fishery)
- Access to water resources (A dedicated fishing site along the trail route provides fishing access along the Tittabawassee River).
- Providing access to significant habitat and wildlife areas (Additional access to Tittabawassee River, one of our region's premier rivers.
- Educational projects (Interpretive signage provides educational connections to the various fishery/wildlife features along the trail and adjacent to the the trail).

SECTION 6 – RESULTS

What tangible results do you expect from the project and how will you measure them?

The expected result is a new fishing access feature associated with the reconstruction and preservation of the iconic Smith Crossing bridge. Since the fishing access site is an implementation project, we will measure the result as a completed site and operable for access and fishing use.

SECTION 7 – COMMUNICATION

How do you plan to communicate your project to the public and/or your intended audience?

We have a variety of partners that will assist in communication. As far as reaching the fishing community we will identify the project's completion on our website and social media, but also provide outreach to fishing groups (i.e. Saginaw Bay Walleye Club) as well as the Michigan DNR.

SECTION 8 – BUDGET

	Total Budget	WIN Funds
Personnel Expenses (briefly describe) Engineering, administration, permitting	\$638,200	
Material and Supply Expenses (briefly describe) Construction	\$3,940,000	40,000
Equipment Expenses (briefly describe)		
Communication/Marketing Expenses (briefly describe)		
Other Expenses (briefly describe)		
Total Project Cost	\$4,578,200	
Funds Requested from WIN		\$40,000

What funds have already been obtained for this project? (describe sources)
 Michigan Department of Transportation - \$1,900,000
 Philanthropic partners - \$900,000

How do you plan to finance the portion not funded by WIN?
 We expect the bulk of the funding to be provided by state and federal grants. We have had contact with granting authorities and are cautiously optimistic about our ability to raise the required funding. We will also be approaching local foundations, including community foundations

Have you contacted the community foundation in the area most directly benefited by your project? If yes, with what result?
 Yes. The Midland Community Foundation has been key in the coordination of the project and will likely support some component of the funding.

Is this an on-going project? If yes, how will funding be continued?
 The construction is not ongoing, but the maintenance is. The Midland County Road Commission has committed to the maintenance of the structure, and the Great Lake Bay Regional Trail will also be providing maintenance funding. It is also likely that both Saginaw County and Midland County parks will play a role in the maintenance.

SECTION 9 – CERTIFICATION

Our governing board approves the submission of this grant request. I certify that the information contained herein is accurate to the best of my knowledge.

 Authorized Signature

 Date

 Print Name and Title



NO.	DATE	REVISION	SCALE
GREAT LAKES BAY REGIONAL TRAIL MIDLAND COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION			
SITE PLAN, ENLARGED SMITHS CROSSING			
DATE	BY	CHK BY	PROJECT NO.
			15814302018
			SHEET 2 OF 6
			C
			15814302018
			15814302018
			15814302018

ENLARGED SITE PLAN
SCALE 1" = 20'



GRANT APPLICATION FORM
 Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network
 P.O. Box 734
 Bay City, MI 48707

Office Use:	
Application # _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ag/P2	<input type="checkbox"/> Water
<input type="checkbox"/> Communication	<input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife
<input type="checkbox"/> Land Use	
Other _____ <small>Site preparation, Dam removal, Road Crossing Repts</small>	

Please answer the following questions in the space provided. You may include a one-page attachment. When completed, your application packet should not exceed four pages. Send your completed form electronically to info@saginawbaywin.org and mail a signed, hard copy to Saginaw Bay WIN, P.O. Box 734, Bay City, MI 48707. **Proposals may be submitted at any time.** If you have questions, please call (989) 892-9171.

SECTION 1 - GENERAL			
Project Name Davisburg Mill Pond Dam Removal and Restoration			
Sponsoring Organization / Local Champion Oakland County Parks and Recreation + Springfield Township			Is the sponsor a 501(c)(3) organization? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Name & Position of Contact Person Melissa Prowse, Supervisor, Planning + Resource Development, Oakland County Parks and Recreation			
Address 2800 Watkins Lake Road			
City Waterford	State MI	Zip 48328	Phone 248-249-2801
Fax	Email prowsem@oakgov.com		Amount Requested \$25,000
Project Start Date June, 2022	Project End Date June, 2027	Geographic Area Served Greater Springfield Township/Oakland County	

SECTION 2 – PROJECT DESCRIPTION
<p>Please describe the project. How is it innovative? What need(s) does it address? Is there a relationship between this project and other programs/projects occurring in the watershed?</p> <p>Our project, which is a joint effort of Oakland County Parks and Recreation and Springfield Township, is the removal of the Mill Pond Dam, and the restoration of the natural stream channel and adjacent wetlands. The Shiawassee River corridor has been a decades-long priority for Springfield Township, who owns and actively manages approximately 670 acres of preserves along the corridor. The 2000 Shiawassee and Huron Headwaters Resource Preservation Project identified several ecologically/recreationally important "application areas" within the headwaters, including the Shiawassee River corridor both upstream and downstream of the Mill Pond. The Mill Pond is an impounded area of the river behind a deteriorating dam that was traditionally used for recreation purposes. Stagnant water has resulted in an explosion of invasive Eurasian water milfoil that prevents further intensive recreation and threatens the ecological health of the pond and adjacent unique prairie fen habitat. This restoration of the Shiawassee River would return the river to a more natural state supporting native fish and wildlife and the adjacent high-quality natural communities.</p> <p>The project is innovative in that it aims to restore native habitat and create new ways for people to connect with the landscape, by providing new wildlife viewing opportunities and future trail access and connectivity. We are in regular conversation with the Michigan DNR who is actively working toward removal of the Trout Pond Dam just upstream from the Mill Pond Dam. Together both projects would open up approximately 2.5 miles of connected stream channel. Approximately .2 miles downstream, Springfield Township is working to address a failed culvert that spans the river on a recently purchased 55-acre property which has been incorporated into the Shiawassee Basin Preserve. Removing both dams and the failed culvert creates a unique opportunity to connect the river from the headwaters at Shiawassee Lake down to the Holly Mill Pond Dam.</p> <p>Oakland County Parks and Springfield Township are working together on this project because each have property along the dam and Mill Pond. The Dam is jointly managed and maintained by OCPR and Springfield Township via a MOU wherein OCPR pays 55% and Springfield Township 45% of all necessary repairs and maintenance. This removal and restoration project would be funded via that same MOU.</p>

SECTION 3 – COLLABORATING ORGANIZATIONS

What other organizations are participating in this project and what are their roles?

Springfield Township - Project Partner/Financial Partner; Road Commission for Oakland County - Project Supporter/working with us on restored road crossing; Michigan DNR - Project Supporter/Partner (have funded design/engineering); Additional Supporters: Oakland County Water Resource Commissioner, Friends of the Shiawassee River, Michigan Nature Association, Six Rivers Land Conservancy, Oakland County Economic Development & Community Affairs

SECTION 4 – SUSTAINABILITY LINKAGES AND GOALS

Describe the project's goals and how you will measure whether it has achieved those goals.

Economic goals:

See attached.

Community or social goals:

See attached.

Environmental goals:

See attached.

SECTION 5 – RELATIONSHIP TO WIN OBJECTIVES

Describe how the project fits with WIN's Vision, Mission and Guiding Principals.

Vision: The project aligns perfectly with WIN's Vision. Both OCPR and Springfield Township consider ourselves stewards of the Saginaw Bay watershed. Springfield Township manages 670 acres along the river corridor and the community has prioritized stewardship of those resources.

Mission: We are working cooperatively with the DNR, and have support from multiple important partners/supporters on this project. Removal of the dam will increase sustainability and resilience by no longer creating a hazard by overtopping during 100-year storm events. Our project mission is to open up and reconnect the Shiawassee, while bringing the community and partners together around this unique and important resource.

Principles: see attached.

SECTION 6 – RESULTS

What tangible results do you expect from the project and how will you measure them?

1. 0.6 miles of restored stream channel - to be monitored using Procedure 51 Survey Protocols for Wadeable Streams and Rivers to track the physical and biological condition of the restored stream channel.
2. 11 acres of restored wetland habitat - to be tracked using Coarse Level Metrics to assess the wetland restoration areas by measuring the cover of invasive species, native species, herbaceous and woody plants.

SECTION 7 – COMMUNICATION

How do you plan to communicate your project to the public and/or your intended audience?

We have communicated regularly with the public since the very beginning of the project. Two public information meetings were held on March 5, 2019 and May 22, 2019. At both meetings a presentation was given of the feasibility study purpose and progress and time was given for open public comment and questions. These meetings provided feedback from the community prior to the Township Board special meeting where board members assessed the alternatives presented. Planning is underway for additional community input related to the Design and Engineering phase of the project, with a focus on public use of the restored landscape. The Township maintains a list of those who requested to receive updates on the project. Currently about 125 individuals receive updates via email or postal mail. The last update was sent on October 2, 2020 and another will be sent in late November to provide notice of the January 19, 2021 Public Outreach Meeting with information on how to view materials and provide comment. Please visit the Web site for additional information: https://www.springfield-twp.us/our_community/mill_pond_dam/index.php

SECTION 8 – BUDGET

	Total Budget	WIN Funds
Personnel Expenses (briefly describe)		
Material and Supply Expenses (briefly describe)		
Equipment Expenses (briefly describe)		
Communication/Marketing Expenses (briefly describe)		
Other Expenses (briefly describe) Site preparation, Dam removal, Road Crossing Replacement, F ₊	\$1,647,600	\$25,000
Total Project Cost	\$1,647,600	
Funds Requested from WIN		\$25,000

What funds have already been obtained for this project? (describe sources)

OCPR has committed \$453,000 for the project within its 3-year budget. Springfield Township has committed \$93,362 as match for a NFWF grant application, but will contribute additional funding as needed. See attached for breakdown.

How do you plan to finance the portion not funded by WIN?

See above. Several grant applications as well as committed or budgeted funding from both Oakland County Parks and Recreation and Springfield Township.

Have you contacted the community foundation in the area most directly benefited by your project? If yes, with what result?

Township staff have spoken to the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan about their failed culvert project and were told that an application would be more competitive for their grant programs if it tied into a larger community trails/paths plan. The township is working on developing such a plan, which will include connectivity from Mill Pond Park and the restored natural areas and will likely apply to CFSEM for funding for that recreation development project once the dam/impoundment restoration is completed.

Is this an on-going project? If yes, how will funding be continued?

Yes and no. The removal and restoration construction will take approximately 1 year. We then intend to monitor the site intensively for a minimum of 5 years. After the 5 year period both OCPR and Springfield Township will continue to monitor/manage their respective properties as part of their normal operating budgets.

SECTION 9 – CERTIFICATION

Our governing board approves the submission of this grant request. I certify that the information contained herein is accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Melissa Prowse

Authorized Signature

Melissa Prowse, Supervisor - Planning + Resource Development

Print Name and Title

Digitally signed by Melissa Prowse
Date: 2020.12.01 15:36:25 -05'00'

December 1, 2020

Date

Sustainability Linkages and Goals

Economic goals: We hope to see increased visitors to the Davisburg area once this project is completed, both to see the restored landscape in the short-term, and to utilize trails that will connect to downtown Davisburg in the future. Canoers and kayakers could potentially bring additional tourism and recreational activity to the Davisburg area.

Community or social goals: With the removal of the dam, the installation of a new open-bottom culvert under Davisburg Road, and the newly restored wetlands areas, we anticipate a beautiful new community space that can be enjoyed by persons of all abilities. Mill Pond Park (Springfield Township) sits adjacent to the current Mill Pond and what will be the restored river and wetlands. The park will provide a perfect overlook into the newly restored landscape, in/around which the Township plans to develop trails in the future. Staff monitors use and visitors of Mill Pond Park and will continue to do so once this project is completed.

Environmental Goals: One of our main goals is to restore the river channel as it was originally found in the landscape before the construction of the dam in 1836. This restoration will provide critical habitat and connectivity in riparian wetlands for species including the eastern Massasauga rattlesnake and Blanding's turtle. We hope to re-establish "hanging" prairie fens within the impounded area, contributing to a larger complex of wetlands known as the Long Lake Natural Area, one of the largest examples of a prairie fen complex in the world. Both OCPR and Springfield Township currently survey and monitor the mill pond and our respective adjacent properties. This will continue for at least 5 years post-completion. OCPR and the Township will also continue to perform Coarse Level Metric Surveys to monitor the property, as well as implement Procedure 51 Survey Protocols for Wadeable Streams and Rivers to track the physical and biological condition of the restored stream channel.

Section 5: Guiding Principles

Pleasant and healthy environment: this project restores the environment to its natural state, creating a healthy environment for both native fish, wildlife and plant species, and people utilizing the river and adjacent areas for recreation.

Conserve historic, cultural and natural resources: While the Mill Pond and dam do not have any historical significance, they do carry cultural and sentimental value to some residents. Our goal is to restore the river to its historic/natural state, while recognizing and remembering the dam and mill pond with interpretive signage as part of future park development.

Integrate economic prosperity, ecology and aesthetics: The restored river and new open-bottom culvert will, we think, be a beautiful addition to the already charming downtown Davisburg area. It will simultaneously hopefully bring new people to discover this community via road or water.

Use land and infrastructure effectively: We are working with AECOM to design an efficient and effective removal and restoration project that still meets all environmental goals. We are working with the Road Commission for Oakland County to ensure that road removal and replacement is seamlessly integrated into the project.

Continually evaluate and refine shared vision and goals: We have worked with the community on this project from the very beginning, and have defined the project based around our goals, and the feedback we received from the community. We plan on continuing to engage with the community through completion of this project, and the Township will continue to do so for future park amenity development to ensure that we refine and adjust as necessary.

Dambust?

By *Phil Custodio* on June 13, 2019 *No Comment*



The Mill Pond in Davisburg would return to a river if the dam is removed. *Photo by Phil Custodio*

Davisburg Millpond looks to be restored to river

BY PHIL CUSTODIO

Clarkston News Editor

The Mill Pond in Springfield Township is on track to become a riverwalk after Springfield Township Board came out in favor of removing its dam, but many steps remain.

“This isn’t the final of any decision,” said township Supervisor Collin Walls. “In real estate terms, this is one of many sticks in the ultimate bundle.”

The outlet pipe within the dam, located between Mill Pond and Rotary Park under Davisburg Road, is deformed down to a 30 percent flow and needs replacement or removal, according to the Mill Pond Feasability Study, commissioned by the Township Board in 2017.

The study found the dam is also undersized and does not meet Michigan Department of Environmental Quality standards.

The Township Board formed the Mill Pond Park Committee on Sept. 11, 2017, to explore

options to revitalize Mill Pond Park with dam and pond improvements, or remove the dam and restore the river corridor.

Engineer Troy Naperala, project consultant, led the board in a spreadsheet scoring session to evaluate four options with the dam repaired or replaced, and three options including removal of the dam.

The option receiving the top score was to remove the dam and replace it with a pre-cast open-bottom culvert with natural river substrate instead of concrete, with a total cost of \$1,596,466.59-\$1,755,553.39 and a 100-year maintenance cost of \$125,072.12.

“If we want natural, we should go with a natural, open bottom,” Walls said. “Stones on the bottom are better than cement.”

Other dam-removal options included replacing it with a concrete box culvert, total cost of \$1.7 million-\$1.9 million, 100-year maintenance cost of \$125,072.12; or replace with a bridge, cost of \$2.09 million-\$2.159 million, 100-year maintenance cost of \$127,911.15. Plans that would preserve the dam and pond included replacing the existing spillway with new pipes or culvert, costing about \$1 million, or a new bridge, which would cost about \$2 million.

Plans calling for a bridge were rejected as too expensive and regulated, and also out of place.

“I don’t see a bridge in downtown Davisburg, with the rural atmosphere we have,” said Trustee Marc Cooper.

Davisburg’s sawmill and dam on the Shiawassee River were built by Cornelius Davis in 1836, according to information collected for the study presentation. The dam was repaired and a new grist mill built in 1854, but it fell into disuse by the 1940s and was demolished in 1948.

Springfield Township and Oakland County Parks and Recreation department signed an interlocal agreement in 2015 to manage the dam, with the county paying 55 percent of the costs and the township responsible for 45 percent.

The township owns and operates Mill Pond Park, and the county owns and operates Rotary Park, located across Davisburg Road from the park. The township and county work together to manage and maintain the Mill Pond.

The township hosted a public meeting on the dam issue in March. This was the Township Board’s first meeting on the issue.

The Township Board fell short of a full endorsement of one of the plans, instead voting unanimously to approve a motion by Walls to forward the results of the spreadsheet analysis to the county.

Some residents at the meeting opposed busting the dam, and called for a ballot initiative to decide the issue. The decision will not become a ballot issue, officials said.

“We have the blessing and a curse to have to do the best we can to represent 14,000 people,” Walls said.

The next step is to incorporate the results of the meeting into the final report. Oakland County Parks and Recreation will consider the options at its next meeting on July 10. If the township and county agree, the report could be finalized and adopted by both by late summer.

“There is currently no timeline in place for dam replacement or removal,” according to the report.