

# Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network



In April, after an effort spanning more than 20 years, WIN gathered with members of the Friends of the Shiawassee River and various other nonprofit, governmental, and members of the public to celebrate the final removal and restoration at the site of the Shiatown Dam along the Shiawassee River near Durand. The removal of the dam not only reconnects 88 miles of river, but also removed a hazardous structure that was responsible for at least 7 drownings over the past 30 years. The removal of Shiatown completed a series of dam removals—including the Chesaning Dam and Corunna Dam—that ultimately led to the designation of this stretch of the Shiawassee River as one of 33 National Water Trails in the United States by the National Park Service. WIN played a critical funding role for each of these projects, providing “first money in” local match that made larger state, federal and philanthropic gifts possible. At Shiatown, as noted in the photos, WIN also supported restoration at the former impoundment site that included native plantings in the areas that were formally submerged under the lake behind the dam. Soon, the former lake bottom on both sides of the river will become an expansion to an existing county park.

June 24, 2022  
Virtual Review





# Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network

## What is WIN?

The Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network (WIN) is a collaborative, community-driven quality of life initiative created by a variety of environmental, business and community interests in 1996. WIN was formed to create a more sustainable future for all who live, work and play within the Saginaw Bay watershed. One of the ways in which WIN accomplishes this objective is by providing financial support to projects that link the economic, environmental and social needs of the region.

## Our Vision

*As stewards of the Saginaw Bay Watershed, we value our shared, unique resources, and together we will balance economic, environmental, and social priorities to enhance the quality of life for this and future generations*

## Our Mission

*We will cooperatively develop a shared identity for the Saginaw Bay watershed as a sustainable community. We will create opportunities to enhance understanding of sustainability, connecting people, resources, organizations and programs through regional networks of local projects.*

## Guiding Principles

- Provide a pleasant and healthy environment
- Conserve historic, cultural and natural resources
- Integrate economic prosperity, ecology and aesthetics
- Use land and infrastructure effectively
- Continually evaluate and refine shared vision and goals

## Program Overview

WIN welcomes proposals that advance the search for sustainable solutions to current watershed and community challenges. WIN is responsive to new ideas, new research and new approaches, recognizing that such innovation is necessary to move the concept of sustainability forward in the Saginaw Bay watershed. The sustainability approach integrates economic goals with environmental and social goals and is based on the premise that meeting human needs for all people today should not impair the ability of future generations to meet their needs. A strong local economy is at the core of a sustainable community because development and the jobs it creates are the vehicles for meeting human needs.

WIN accepts proposals for projects that advance its work within five focus areas:

- Agriculture and Pollution Prevention
- Communication / Regional Marketing
- Land Use
- Water Resources
- Wildlife Stewardship

In addition to sustainability linkages, WIN evaluates projects by asking whether projects:

- Promote and encourage partnerships by leveraging resources
- Balance long-term focus with short-term results
- Promote excellence by fostering a sense of identification and pride in the watershed
- Serve as pilot or demonstration projects with broad application (can be replicated)
- Fit with WIN's vision, mission, and guiding principles

## Agriculture and Pollution Prevention Objectives:

- Marketing region's agricultural products and agri-tourism
- Water quality improvement and pollution prevention including soil erosion issues

- Production of value-added, diversified agricultural products
- Preserving farming as a viable industry for the next generation of farmers
- Protection and preservation of agricultural lands
- Bridging gap between urban and rural community interests
- Promotion of alternative and improved energy sources

**Communications and Regional Marketing Objectives:**

- Promoting the Saginaw Bay watershed as a tourist destination and recreation area
- Education about concept of sustainability

**Land Use Objectives:**

- Promotion of “green” / conservation-based development
- Encouraging regional cooperation on land use issues
- Education about land use issues
- Open space protection (because of limited funds, WIN does not support land acquisition costs)

**Water Resources Objectives:**

- Pollution prevention (nonpoint source & point source)
- Wetland restoration
- Fisheries (improve access to, health, promotion, Fisheries Scoping Study implementation)
- Access to water resources
- Improvement of water quality leading to the de-listing of the Saginaw Bay ecosystem as an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Area of Concern

**Wildlife Stewardship Objectives:**

- Habitat restoration lakeward/riverward of the 585 foot contour
- Promotion of habitat-related events
- Providing access to significant habitat and wildlife areas
- Protection of significant habitats
- Educational projects (habitat & wildlife related)

**Funding Availability and Eligibility**

Please contact Saginaw Bay WIN prior to submitting an application to discuss the project and its eligibility. WIN can be reached by email at [info@saginawbaywin.org](mailto:info@saginawbaywin.org) or by telephone at 989-892-9171. Grant proposals are reviewed on a continual basis with financial awards made twice a year. They are no grant deadlines.

Projects are evaluated by a unique network of task groups that are central to WIN’s community-based evaluation process. Through the work of the task groups, proposals are reviewed and refined in cooperation with the applicant. The task groups are formed around WIN’s five focus areas.

If a project receives a favorable nod from a task group, it will be forwarded to WIN’s Resource Group for further consideration. Those projects that are approved by the Resource Group are presented to WIN’s Funders Network for final consideration.

Eligible organizations include nonprofit 501c(3) groups, local governments, subdivisions of local governments and educational institutions.P

Projects must take place within the Saginaw Bay Watershed

**Organization Name** Hampton Charter Township

**Are you a registered Charity / 501c(3) ?**

**Do you have a Web Page ?**

**If yes, please submit website address:** hamptontownship.org

**Contact E-mail** tmclose@hamptonmi.net

**Contact Phone number** (989) 893-7541

**Contact Address** 801 W. Center Road  
Essexville, MI, 48732-9792  
United States

**Organization Executive Officer** Terri Close

**Project Contact Name** Terri Close

### **Please state the mission/goals of your organization**

The mission of Hampton Township (HT) is to protect, preserve and enhance the quality of life for our residents and property owners while providing reliable services that improve and encourage the economic and environmental character of our community.

#### **GOALS**

Public input in the HT portion of the 2019 Bay County Parks and Recreation Master Plan identified the desire of those surveyed about Finn Road Park and Campground to expand recreational activities, add kayak/canoe launch and create an open access to a playground (pg98). Since Finn Road Park has a small boat launch, this provides a wonderful recreation opportunity for the Bay County Saginaw Bay Blueways Trail. A HT goal is to provide a kayak/canoe launch that is accessible to all regardless of abilities. Having a kayak/canoe launch at this site aligns with the increase needs and desires of boaters, trail users (both land and water) and campers, of all ages and abilities, visiting the park and the region.

## **Grant Application**

**Name of the Project:** Finn Road Park Improvements

**Is this a New or Existing Project?**

New

**Project Start Date**

**Project End Date** Wednesday, May 1, 2024

**Total Funds required to complete project.** 403,000.00

**Amount Requested from Saginaw Bay WIN.** 20,000.00

### **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?**

Finn Road Park & Campground Township owned and is open to campers from May 1st until October 31st each year and has a total of 57 cement pads for travel trailers. Located outside the campground is a boat launch for easy access to the Saginaw Bay for fishing and water recreation. This park provides access to the Saginaw Bay Blueways Water Trail and the Bay County Trails – Hampton Nature Trail. An observation tower is located at this park on the trail for a beautiful view of the water, wildlife and bird watching. It is a location visited by many year round.

This project will include the following components:

- Universally accessible canoe/kayak launch with paved handicap accessible parking
- ADA accessible playground equipment with trash receptacles and benches
- Paved accessible walkway from parking and around playground area
- Paved handicap accessible parking (striped and signed) by playground
- Native plantings rain garden with interpretive sign for native plants and habitat
- Fence installation (opening up the playground area for public access and activities)

The existing aged playground will be relocated and replaced in an area for full public access and ADA accessibility. Access to the playground will be from renovated parking area into accessible spaces with 6' concrete trail, grades will be 2% or less in all directions from parking lot to playground. Benches will be incorporated around the playground equipment.

A trash receptacle and recycling receptacle will be placed adjacent to benches. The playground benches will be placed around the playground to provide a resting and viewing area.

New universally accessible canoe/kayak launch at the boat landing connected to a paved accessible route to the existing ADA parking spaces and existing trail. The launch will have a transfer point to allow transfer from an assistive device to the boat.

Rain garden- bioswale with native plants functions as a vegetated channeled depression to receive rainwater runoff and will be planted with native vegetation, organic matter to slow water infiltration and filter out pollutants. In addition

will function as a buffer between playground and traffic. Added (2) ADA spaces adjacent to playground.  
**UNIVERSAL ACCESS**

All elements will be designed for equitable use, whereby the design is useful and can accommodate people of all abilities. Canoe/kayak launch is universally accessible at the boat landing connected to a paved accessible route to the existing ADA parking spaces and 2% or less existing trail. The launch will have a transfer point to allow transfer from an assistive device to the boat.

Playground will include a surface of engineered wood fiber that is accessible. Playground equipment will in be universally accessible utilizing the surfaces for consistent and safe access. At grade access is provided to all components of the playground. The proposed project is designed to be flexible in use with different activities for all abilities. Walkways will be 6 feet wide, allowing for two-way traffic including ample space for wheelchair users to be accompanied on the side by walkers and bikers.

Longitudinal path gradients will not exceed 5% and slopes exceeding 2% will be minimized. Interpretive sign will be placed at an angle at a height to be read by someone sitting or standing. The sign will feature a QR code so that smart phone users can scan the code for an internet audio file that will read the sign contents. The bench will have a front edge 17 - 19 inches above the ground. One armrest will be provided. A clear space will be provided at the end of the bench for a wheelchair. Both water and land trail access to experience adjacent Quanicassee Wildlife/Game area.

### **WIN's key focus area is sustainability - that relationship between the economy, the environment and our communities. Please discuss the sustainability linkages in the project.**

#### Economic Sustainability:

Hampton Township (HT) has applied for the Michigan Dept of Natural Resource Trust Fund Grant for this project. The Finn Road Park and Campground is a very popular destination and the campground is open from May 1st until October 31st and is often filled to capacity. The boat launch, park and campground and trails, all at this location, are maintained by the HT DPW which consists of 5 full time employees. There is a park manager that lives on-site, year round.

#### Environment Sustainability:

Both water and land trail access to experience adjacent Quanicassee Wildlife/Game area. The Saginaw Bay shoreline is a unique coastal freshwater habitat for birds and wildlife. Bird watching opportunities abound. Saginaw Bay is at the intersection of the Atlantic and Mississippi Flyways. Seasonal migrations of the most interesting birds fly here and spend the summers.

This shoreline area is a designated environmental area by the MDEQ. The environmental area designation protects the habitat necessary for the preservation and maintenance of fish and wildlife. Many environmental areas contain coastal wetlands but other important habitats, such as upland ridges and islands are also included. In several instances, upland areas are involved in habitat protection for shore birds. The distinct change in seasons, diverse habitats, sprawling miles of shoreline, over 200 species of birds in Saginaw Bay, plus extensive natural areas with trails and public access both on land and water make this location a birder's paradise.

Hampton Township was part of a regional green infrastructure plan completed in early 2000 entitled A Vision of Green. Of special note in Bay County are the coastal wetland complexes and adjacent fish-

spawning reefs found along its nearly 30 miles of shoreline. The wetlands include protected areas east of the Saginaw River along the Hampton Township shoreline. The contribution of these considerable wetland resources to waterfowl maintenance and production and the contribution of the off-shore spawning areas to fish reproduction is recognized both locally and nationally.

The interpretive sign, trash receptacle and benches will be made from recycled materials. The trash receptacle will include a bin for recycling.

Bay County and the Saginaw Bay Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA) collaborates with Hampton Township to maintain the shoreline area at Finn Road Park. This includes phragmites removal which improves the nature viewing and birdwatching opportunities from both water and land.

#### Community Sustainability:

The park is staffed by a full-time caretaker who lives on the property year round. It is regularly patrolled by Hampton Township Police and the HT DPW maintains the park year round. The park is located in a quiet and rural area. The launch area and campground are well lit.

The county also maintains a County-wide recreation web site with an interactive park locator map that details recreation areas in the County, including Finn Road Park. Providing safe accessible non-motorized boat access to the shoreline will provide unique nature and habitat viewing and fishing opportunities while preserving the rest of the area to maintain its natural features.

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

Hampton Township has 9 miles of Saginaw Bay/Lake Huron shoreline but limited public access to the water. Finn Road Park is Hampton's main shoreline park and is a busy and popular facility with birdwatchers, fisherman, trail walkers and campground users. The Saginaw Bay WIN has been a champion for improving the quality of life by supporting projects that can positively influence a region's identity and sustainability now and into the future.

This project fits nicely with WIN's Vision, Mission and Guiding Principles by accomplishing the following:

Provide fun, relaxation and improve health by providing an accessible non-motorized safe kayak/canoe launch and improved playground to improve the local economy by providing an improved tourist feature.

Provide recreational opportunities to residents and visitors of all backgrounds, abilities, means, and geographic locations.

Environmentally friendly, universally accessible public kayak/canoe launch and new ADA access playground equipment open for the public, will provide a much needed improved recreation opportunities for the Saginaw Bay Blueways Water Trail and the Bay County Trails – Hampton Nature Trail.

Interpretive sign, trash and recycling receptacle and benches will be made from recycled materials.

Bay County collaborates with Hampton Township to maintain the shoreline area at Finn Road Park. This includes phragmites removal and management which improves the nature viewing and birdwatching opportunities from both water and land. Bay County also maintains a County-wide recreation web site with an interactive park locator map that details recreation areas in the County, including Finn Road Park.

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

The results of having a public kayak/canoe launch and playground equipment for a variety of ages will provide an opportunity for anyone to enjoy this recreational opportunity locally. The campers that stay at the Township campground will have a new activity to experience and make their visit better and

more enjoyable. With having a good experience they will likely return. Hampton township wants to create a fun and relaxing visit with things to do and see when they stay at the Finn Road Park and Campground.

Since Hampton Township has been significantly impacted by the closure of Consumers Energy's Weadock Coal Plant in 2016 and the upcoming closure of the Karn Coal Plant in 2023, we have been actively seeking ways to bring people into Hampton Township. Finn Road Park and Campground is an absolute treasure to those that visit and by providing additional recreational opportunities for individuals, families, and campers, we are providing an experience that will be positive.

The success of this project will be measured by increasing the visitors to this park that will undoubtedly happen with this park improvement project and the financial help and assistance of grants such as the Saginaw Bay WIN Grant program.

**How do you plan to communicate the project with the public or your intended audience?**

Hampton Township has an email newsletter and a paper newsletter that is mailed with the summer and winter property tax bills. Project updates will be provided on the Hampton Township web site, in our email newsletter and at our Township Board of Trustee meetings.

**Do you intend to cooperate with other agencies or non-profit organizations on this specific project? If not, why not?**

With the initial phase of this project, we are seeking a Michigan Department of Resource Trust Fund grant. If HT is awarded the grant, we will reach out to other potential partners as well as potential donors or grantors to help with funding. We look forward to including other agencies and non-profit organizations in this project. Another plan is to seek local school age children to weigh in on the type of playground equipment they would like to see at this park to target different age groups and abilities.

**What specific items would be covered by a grant from the Saginaw Bay WIN program?**

Since the preliminary estimated cost for the entire project is \$403,000. Hampton Township is requesting grant assistance towards the purchase of the kayak/canoe launch which is estimated to be \$80,500.

**How do you propose to recognize a grant from the Saginaw Bay WIN program?**

The project will be promoted and contributors/grantors will be recognized on the Hampton Township web site, the Finn Road Campground web site, mailed newsletter, email newsletter, social media sites and a publicity release will be sent to the local news media. Updates on the project will be given at Township board meetings.

**Project Success. What does success look like for your project? How will you determine whether the project has been successful?**

The success of this project will be having people, regardless of abilities, be able to access the Saginaw Bay in their kayak or canoe by using the new ADA launch. Determining the project success will be seeing the public using this launch, visiting our park and returning.

## **Saginaw Bay WIN Grant Project Budget**

**Personnel Expenses** 59,710.00

**Please Describe Personnel Expenses**

Engineering (Survey, Design, Bidding, Construction Admin, MI DNR Grant Admin)

**Materials / Supplies Expenses** 343290.

**Please Describe Materials / Supplies Expenses**

Steel Sheet Piling Wall w/Cap, Sidewalk Concrete, Chain Link Fence, Reinforced Concrete Edging, Playground Equipment, EZ Dock Launch, Non-reinforced Concrete Parking Pad, Pavement markings, HDPE Parking Curb, Be4nch, Trash Receptacle

**Equipment Expenses** 0

**Please Describe Equipment Expenses**

Equipment Expense in included in the material/supplies expenses

**Communication / Marketing Expenses** 0

**Please Describe Communication / Marketing Expenses**

Communication and marketing will be done in-house. Hampton Township personnel is able to develop email newsletters, paper newsletters sent with tax bills, post on Social Media and put on the Township website. A Publicity Release can be shared with the local media.

**Other Expenses** 0

**Total Project Expenditures (including proposed WIN grant)** 403,000.00

**Please Describe Amounts Already Raised for the Project and Sources**

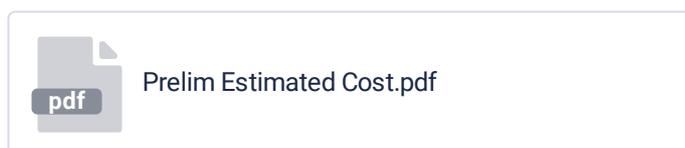
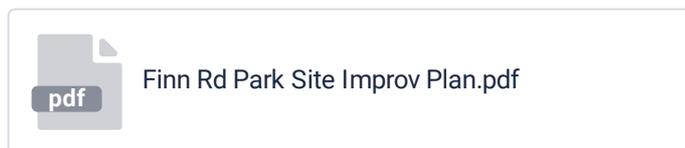
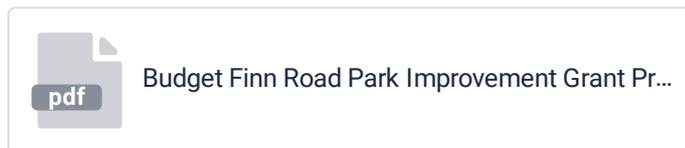
No money has been raised for the project. MI DNR Trust Fund grant application has been submitted. Hampton Township plans to seek other grant funding sources when available and allocate ARPA money received towards this project match.

**What is your time frame to obtain the total funding required if you do not have it already?** 1-2 years

## Grant Application Submit

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**Attachments. Please upload any materials that help describe your organization or project (ex. annual report, marketing materials, project budget etc)**



**Name** Terri Close

**Email**

tmclose@hamptonmi.net

**Address**

801 W. Center Road  
Essexville, MI, 48732-9792

**I agree that the information herein are true and correct**

Yes

**Date & Time of application.**

Wednesday, May 17, 2023 15:00

SITE IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR

# FINN ROAD PARK IMPROVEMENTS

HAMPTON CHARTER TOWNSHIP



ADDITIONAL PARKING  
(PROPOSED STRIPING  
FOR REFERENCE ONLY)

SIX (6) TPOE PARKING  
CURBS

INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE

VEGETATED SWALE  
WITH NATIVE PLANTS

ONE (1) ADA  
DECORATIVE BENCH

ONE (1) DECORATIVE  
BENCH

6' WIDE SIDEWALK,  
4 INCH

PRE-MANUFACTURED  
PLAYGROUND WITH 6"  
CONCRETE CURBED EDGING

ONE (1) PAVED ADA  
PARKING SPACE WITH  
8' PEDESTRIAN AISLE

PEDESTRIAN GATE

6' CHAIN LINK FENCE  
TO MATCH EXISTING

20' ACCESSIBLE  
CONCRETE RAMP WITH  
SHEET PILE HEADWALL

E-Z LAUNCH WITH  
GANGWAY APPROACH  
RAMP

PROPOSED STRIPING  
IMPROVEMENTS OF  
EXISTING ADA PARKING  
SPACES

JOSEPH M SOEHNEL NATURE TRAIL

N. FINN RD.

SAGINAW  
BAY



# Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network

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- Water quality improvement and pollution prevention including soil erosion issues

- Production of value-added, diversified agricultural products
- Preserving farming as a viable industry for the next generation of farmers
- Protection and preservation of agricultural lands
- Bridging gap between urban and rural community interests
- Promotion of alternative and improved energy sources

**Communications and Regional Marketing Objectives:**

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- Education about concept of sustainability

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Projects must take place within the Saginaw Bay Watershed

**Organization Name** City of Essexville

**Are you a registered Charity / 501c(3) ?**

**Do you have a Web Page ?**

**If yes, please submit website address:** www.essexville.org

**Contact E-mail** cmanager@essexville.org

**Contact Phone number** (989) 893-7192

**Contact Address** 1107 WOODSIDE AVE, City of Essexville  
Essexville, Michigan, 48732  
United States

**Organization Executive Officer** Daniel Hansford

**Project Contact Name** Daniel Hansford

### **Please state the mission/goals of your organization**

To make our small community a joy to visit and to make the most of our parks and our Saginaw River access.

## **Grant Application**

**Name of the Project:** Smith Park Fishing Access

**Is this a New or Existing Project?** Existing

**Project Start Date** Friday, July 1, 2022

**Project End Date** Monday, September 30, 2024

**Total Funds required to complete project.** 297,000

**Amount Requested from Saginaw Bay WIN.** 25,000

### **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?**

This project will expand Smith Park with more river side walkways, shoreline protection and sheet piling. Project includes a large ADA compliant floating fishing pier into the Saginaw River.

### **WIN's key focus area is sustainability - that relationship between the economy, the environment and our communities. Please discuss the sustainability linkages in the project.**

This project is designed to be a permanent addition to Smith Park. This project will endure for generations yet to come so all can enjoy the park setting and have a picnic along the river or an day of fishing or just a quiet time in a very relaxing place.

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

Smith Park appeals to nearly everyone by providing access to the river and bay for boating or fishing. The park is built to provide enjoyment for the entire family with a play area for the children and nearly 800 feet of river front for everyone to enjoy. Family gatherings, picnics and lots of trees, tables and grills. Spend an hour or spend the day relaxing by the water watching the pleasure boats and freighters go by. There's no long walks and all areas are open to everyone.

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

The enjoyment for this community and all our neighbors visiting Smith and having a greater access to the river frontage is the reason we are doing this.

**How do you plan to communicate the project with the public or your intended audience?**

We will use our web site www.essexville.org with pictures and an announcement of the project when completed.

**Do you intend to cooperate with other agencies or non-profit organizations on this specific project? If not, why not?**

Yes the Essexville Downtown Development Association has pledged to fund a portion of the match required by the grant.

**What specific items would be covered by a grant from the Saginaw Bay WIN program?**

The WIN grant funds if available would be used to help defray the cost of the floating fishing pier.

**How do you propose to recognize a grant from the Saginaw Bay WIN program?**

As we did in the phase one project we would proudly display the WIN Grant plaque in the Park for all visitors to see. Also the city web site would have a page dedicated to the ongoing generosity of the WIN program.

**Project Success. What does success look like for your project? How will you determine whether the project has been successful?**

Upon completion of this project we know the use of the park will increase dramatically and that would certainly gage our success.

**Saginaw Bay WIN Grant Project Budget**

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| <b>Personnel Expenses</b>  | 1500.00    |
| <b>Materials / Supplies Expenses</b>                             | 180,000.00 |
| <b>Equipment Expenses</b>  | 70,500.00  |
| <b>Communication / Marketing Expenses</b>                        | 400.00     |
| <b>Other Expenses</b>  | 44,300.00  |
| <b>Total Project Expenditures (including proposed WIN grant)</b> | 173,500.00 |

**Please Describe Amounts Already Raised for the Project and Sources**

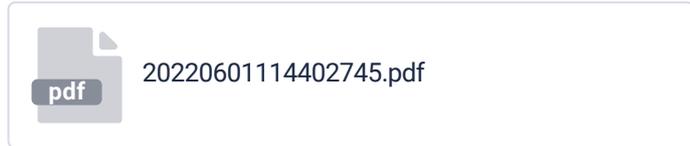
\$148,500.00 Essexville DDA. \$148,500.00 Land and Water Conservation Fund.

**What is your time frame to obtain the total funding required if you do not have it already?** August 30, 2022

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**Name**

Daniel Hansford

**Email**

cmanager@essexville.org

**Address**

1107 WOODSIDE AVE, City of Essexville  
Essexville, Michigan, 48732

**I agree that the information herein are true and correct**

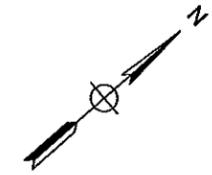
Yes

**Date & Time of application.**

Wednesday, June 1, 2022 11:50

**Type a question**

Thank you for this opportunity!



PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

- ① - NEW 125' WALKWAY WITH SEAWALL STABILIZATION
- ② - NEW 240' WALKWAY WITH SHORE STABILIZATION
- ③ - NEW UNIVERSALLY ACCESSIBLE FISHING PLATFORM
- ④ - NEW UNIVERSALLY ACCESSIBLE BENCH WITH TRASH RECEPTACLE
- ⑤ - WALK IMPROVEMENTS
- ⑥ - NEW UNIVERSALLY ACCESSIBLE BENCH

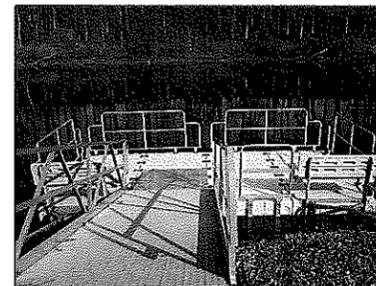
PLOTTING SCALE: 1" = 30'  
 RET. F.B. P.G. ACAA FILE:



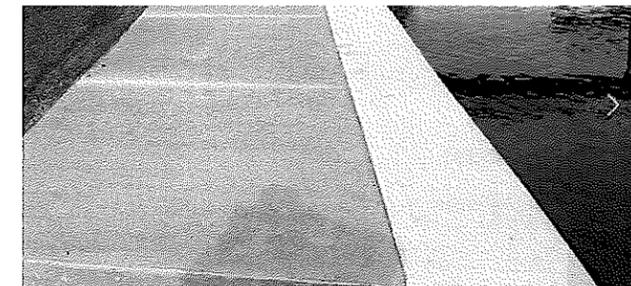
UNIVERSALLY ACCESSIBLE  
RECYCLED MATERIAL BENCH



RECYCLED MATERIAL TRASH RECEPTACLE



UNIVERSALLY ACCESSIBLE FISHING PLATFORM



SHORELINE WALKWAY

| BY  | MARK         | REVISIONS   | DATE     |
|---|--------------|---|----------|
| <small>THE WORK REPRESENTED BY THIS DRAWING WAS DEVELOPED BY THE ENGINEER FOR THE SPECIFIC APPLICATION AND SPECIFIC LOCATION DESCRIBED HEREON IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONDITIONS PREVALENT AT THE TIME THE DESIGN WAS DONE. THE ENGINEER DOES NOT GUARANTEE AND WILL NOT BE LIABLE FOR ANY OTHER LOCATION, CONDITION, DESIGN OR PURPOSE.</small> |              |   |          |
| <b>SMITH PARK IMPROVEMENTS</b><br><b>CITY OF ESSEXVILLE</b>   |              |   |          |
| <b>PRELIMINARY PARK</b><br><b>IMPROVEMENTS PLAN</b>   |              |   |          |
|   |              | <small>SAGINAW OFFICE<br/>         230 S. Washington Ave.<br/>         Saginaw, MI 48607<br/>         Tel. 989-754-4717<br/>         Fax. 989-754-4440<br/>         www.SpicerGroup.com</small> |          |
| DE. BY: DSB   | CH. BY: LEE  | PROJECT NO. 12993562021   |          |
| DR. BY: DSB   | APP. BY: LEE |   |          |
| STDS.   | SHEET 1 OF 1 |   | FILE NO. |
| DATE FEBRUARY 2021  |              |   |          |
| SCALE 1" = 30'  |              |   |          |



## What is WIN?

The Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network (WIN) is a collaborative, community-driven quality of life initiative created by a variety of environmental, business and community interests in 1996. WIN was formed to create a more sustainable future for all who live, work and play within the Saginaw Bay watershed. One of the ways in which WIN accomplishes this objective is by providing financial support to projects that link the economic, environmental and social needs of the region.

## Vision

As stewards of the Saginaw Bay watershed, we value our shared, unique resources, and together will balance economic, environmental and social priorities to enhance quality of life for this and future generations.

## Mission

We will cooperatively develop a shared identity for the Saginaw Bay watershed as a sustainable community. We will create opportunities to enhance understanding of sustainability, connecting people, resources, organizations and programs through regional networks of local projects.

## Guiding Principles

- ◆ Provide a pleasant and healthy environment
- ◆ Conserve historic, cultural and natural resources
- ◆ Integrate economic prosperity, ecology and aesthetics
- ◆ Use land and infrastructure effectively
- ◆ Continually evaluate and refine shared vision and goals

## Funding Priorities

WIN welcomes proposals that advance the search for sustainable solutions to current watershed and community challenges. WIN is responsive to new ideas, new research and new approaches, recognizing that such innovation is necessary to move the concept of sustainability forward in the Saginaw Bay watershed. The sustainability approach integrates economic goals with environmental and social goals and is based on the premise that meeting human needs for all people today should not impair the ability of future generations to meet their needs. A strong local economy is at the core of a sustainable community because development and the jobs it creates are the vehicles for meeting human needs.

WIN accepts proposals for projects that advance its work within five focus areas:

- ◆ Agriculture and Pollution Prevention
- ◆ Communication / Regional Marketing
- ◆ Land Use
- ◆ Water Resources
- ◆ Wildlife Stewardship

In addition to sustainability linkages, WIN evaluates projects by asking whether projects:

- ◆ Promote and encourage partnerships by leveraging resources
- ◆ Balance long-term focus with short-term results
- ◆ Promote excellence by fostering a sense of identification and pride in the watershed
- ◆ Serve as pilot or demonstration projects with broad application (can be replicated)
- ◆ Fit with WIN's vision, mission, and guiding principles

### Saginaw Bay Watershed

- ◆ State's largest watershed, encompasses 8,700 square miles in 22 counties
- ◆ Home to more than 138 endangered or threatened species, 90 fish species and 1.4 million people
- ◆ Contains about 7,000 miles of rivers and streams and 175 inland lakes
- ◆ Contains rich resources in agriculture, forestry, industry and recreation
- ◆ Fifteen percent of the state's waterways drain into the Saginaw Bay

### **Agriculture and Pollution Prevention Objectives:**

- ◆ Marketing region's agricultural products and agri-tourism
- ◆ Water quality improvement and pollution prevention including soil erosion issues
- ◆ Production of value-added, diversified agricultural products
- ◆ Preserving farming as a viable industry for the next generation of farmers
- ◆ Protection and preservation of agricultural lands
- ◆ Bridging gap between urban and rural community interests
- ◆ Promotion of alternative and improved energy sources

### **Communications and Regional Marketing Objectives:**

- ◆ Promoting the Saginaw Bay watershed as a tourist destination and recreation area
- ◆ Education about concept of sustainability

### **Land Use Objectives:**

- ◆ Promotion of “green” development
- ◆ Encouraging regional cooperation on land use issues
- ◆ Education about land use issues
- ◆ Open space protection (because of limited funds, WIN does not support land acquisition costs)

### **Water Resources Objectives:**

- ◆ Pollution prevention (nonpoint source & point source)
- ◆ Wetland restoration
- ◆ Fisheries (improve access to, health, promotion, Fisheries Scoping Study implementation)
- ◆ Access to water resources
- ◆ Improvement of water quality leading to the de-listing of the Saginaw Bay ecosystem as an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Area of Concern

### **Wildlife Stewardship Objectives:**

- ◆ Habitat restoration lakeward/riverward of the 585 foot contour
- ◆ Promotion of habitat-related events
- ◆ Providing access to significant habitat and wildlife areas
- ◆ Protection of significant habitats
- ◆ Educational projects (habitat & wildlife related)

## **Funding Process**

Grant proposals are reviewed on a continual basis with financial awards made twice a year. They are no grant deadlines.

Projects are evaluated by a unique network of task groups that are central to WIN's community-based evaluation process. Through the work of the task groups, proposals are reviewed and refined in cooperation with the applicant. The task groups are formed around WIN's five focus areas.

If a project receives a favorable nod from a task group, it will be forwarded to WIN's Resource Group for further consideration. Those projects that are approved by the Resource Group are presented to WIN's Funders Network for final consideration.

## Application Instructions

1. If you are interested in applying for a grant, please contact the WIN office at (989) 892-9171 to discuss your project.
2. Please type or print clearly so that the completed form will be legible. You may retype the form. Send your completed form electronically to [info@saginawbaywin.org](mailto:info@saginawbaywin.org) with a signed, hard copy mailed to:  
Saginaw Bay WIN  
P.O. Box 734  
Bay City, MI 48707
3. Please answer the questions in the space provided. You may include a one-page attachment. When completed, your application packet should not be more than four pages.
4. If you have questions about the form or the project review process, please contact Saginaw Bay WIN at (989) 892-9171 or [info@saginawbaywin.org](mailto:info@saginawbaywin.org).
5. The "Local Champion" is the not-for-profit organization, entity or government agency that will have primary responsibility for insuring that the project is completed. It will also be responsible for accounting for the funds granted and providing the required reports.
6. Many of the project ideas presented to WIN fit the visions and geographic restrictions of local community foundations. For this reason, we ask that local champions make an effort to present their project ideas to the community foundation serving the region that will benefit most from the project's goals.



# GRANT APPLICATION FORM

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

|  |
|--|
| <b>Office Use:</b>   |
| 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](mailto: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<br>Emerson Park Riverfront Renovation                                 |                                      |   |  |
| Sponsoring Organization / Local Champion<br>City of Midland - Parks and Recreation |                                      | Is the sponsor a 501(c)(3) organization?    Local Government<br><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |  |
| Name & Position of Contact Person<br>Karen Murphy, Director of Public Services     |                                      |   |  |
| Address<br>333 W. Ellsworth Street   |                                      |   |  |
| City<br>Midland  | State<br>MI                          | Zip<br>48640  | Phone<br>989-837-6909                                    |
| Fax  | Email<br>kmurphy@midland-mi.org      |   | Amount Requested<br>\$25,000                             |
| Project Start Date<br>April 1, 2023  | Project End Date<br>December 1, 2023 |   | Geographic Area Served<br>City of Midland/Midland County |

## 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 project focuses on expanding ADA accessible recreation opportunities for river, creek and Rail Trail access. In the early 1990s, the entrance/exit to Emerson park was redesigned, leaving an abandoned vehicle corridor along the riverfront on the park's west end. In 2019, several universally accessible improvements were made directly upstream on the Tittabawassee River, including a river overlook made from an old water pump house, accessible boardwalk and fishing dock along the river, and ADA accessible parking lot with a connecting paved path to the Pere Marquette Rail Trail.

In 2020, the old vehicle bridge across Sturgeon Creek at the confluence of the Tittabawassee River was removed along with the abandoned roadway to create green space for the pedestrian corridor. Removal of the bridge improved light into the creek channel for fish habitat, opening up new areas for fishing that did not exist at the entrance to the creek.

The old bridge abutments will be converted to river overlooks to allow fishing or river viewing at the creek mouth. Two ADA accessible paved paths will connect the project site to the adjacent Pere Marquette Rail Trail on either side of the creek for easy access off the trail to the riverfront. The adjacent pedestrian bridge on the Rail Trail will receive new decking and railing to open up universal viewing of the river. Aging, sinking sidewalk along the riverfront will be replaced with an ADA compliant concrete river walk, and the old vehicle barrier guard rail at the seawall will be replaced with ADA compliant, pedestrian-friendly hand rail. The walkway will connect to the improvements upstream and to existing sidewalk along the river downstream.

The project is part of a larger community effort to enhance the Tittabawassee River by strengthening the community's connection to the water, improving water quality and enhancing the river resource. Other riverfront projects that attest to this include renovation of an industrial site downstream at the Poseyville bridge to create a meadow/wetlands park with accessible walking paths (project to begin in 2021), and renovation of the parcel adjacent to this project site in Emerson Park in 2019 adding an ADA accessible river overlook, boardwalk, fishing dock and walking path with improved access to the Pere Marquette Rail Trail. This project will have two new connections to the 32+ mile long Rail Trail providing a space for trail users to rest and enjoy the river views.

### SECTION 3 – COLLABORATING ORGANIZATIONS

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

The City plans to work with the Chippewa Nature Center for the native planting components of the project. CNC partnered with the on the adjacent riverfront renovations completed in 2019 by designing the plantings and providing wildflower seeding services for the project. CNC may also assist the City with developing interpretive signage on the confluence of the creek with the river, and the importance of opening up the confluence for fish/wildlife habitat with the removal of the old vehicle bridge that once closed up this area of the water front.

### SECTION 4 – SUSTAINABILITY LINKAGES AND GOALS

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

Economic goals:

The project connection to the Rail Trail has economic impacts as this amenity adds to the recreational reasons users may choose to visit our community which drives tourism and the financial impact that has for our area. Use of the park will be drop in, achievement will be anecdotal as people are seen utilizing the space and hopefully visiting nearby downtown for lunch!

Community or social goals:

For the community, the project preserves an amazing natural habitat where the creek meets the river while providing universal access for users of all abilities to enjoy and appreciate the impact our river has on our community. Making the river more accessible and inviting for people to fish, enjoy wildlife, relax along the riverfront, or just take a break from the adjacent Rail Trail will have a very positive impact on the community and sustaining a healthy natural environment for all to enjoy. Visibility of more people along the riverfront will show us we've achieved these goals.

Environmental goals:

The proposed facilities have been located to have the least impact on the existing natural resources, and will in fact improve the natural environment as well as highlight an area of the river that has been neglected as a side effect of past changes to the Emerson Park layout. Proposed facilities such as the two overlooks that repurpose the old bridge abutments in a sustainable manner, the riverside walk and the accessible pathways are all located in current popular spots for riverfront usage, so the new facilities will further direct park users onto built walkways and surfaces, thereby reducing wear erosion on the banks and surrounding areas. Removal of invasive species and replanting with native species will improve the ecology of the river bank for both vegetative and animal species. These goals will be achieved once construction of the project is complete with ongoing monitoring/support for the growth of native species and ongoing removal of invasives.

### SECTION 5 – RELATIONSHIP TO WIN OBJECTIVES

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

Renovation of the riverfront and repurposing the old bridge abutments into river overlooks for viewing and fishing meet WIN's Vision, Mission and Guiding Principles in several ways:

1. Conserving natural resources and promoting sustainability by providing an example of a sustainable reuse of the bridge abutments.
2. Connecting people socially through the river, Rail Trail, fishing and recreation.
3. Providing stewardship through the removal of existing invasive plant species and replanting with native species.
4. Increasing river access and outdoor recreation for ADA accessibility and all persons regardless of ability

### SECTION 6 – RESULTS

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

We hope to achieve results related to increasing the public's awareness of the river and provide easier access to enjoy the beauty and natural habitat that it provides to our community. Repurposing the old river abutments to invite people of all abilities to enjoy the views at the confluence of the creek or try their hand at fishing is another result we look forward to realizing. As this will be a passive, drop-in use recreational opportunity, measurement will simply be by the anecdotal increase in persons viewing the river, fishing on the overlooks and enjoying the riverside walkway.

### SECTION 7 – COMMUNICATION

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

This wonderful new improvement to the riverfront will be published on the City's website, included in the City's recreation inventory that is included in the City's Parks and Recreation Master Plan, included in annual City of Midland publications, shown as a feature and public facility on all Emerson Park maps, highlighted with signage on the Rail Trail as a river and trail access point, included on any "blue trail" water trail maps as they are developed, and promoted via the City's social media channels.

**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)                   |              |           |
| Total Project Cost                                  | \$430,000    |           |
| <b>Funds Requested from WIN</b>                     |              | \$25,000  |

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

The City has received a grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for \$300,000. The City has a total of \$105,000 in funds budgeted in the City's Parks project accounts for a portion of the matching funds required by MNRTF.

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

\$300,000 from MNRTF grant

\$80,000 from City's Parks Capital Maintenance account for improvements to the pedestrian bridge on adjacent Rail Trail that will serve as a connection to the project from either side of the creek

\$25,000 from City's Riverfront Clearing project to remove invasive species from the riverbank and prepare for new native plantings

\$25,000 from WIN grant to finish up riverfront clearing and install native plant materials

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

The Midland Area Community Foundation has not been asked for funding for this project as MACF has funded other park-related projects in the past year. The City tries to respect the generosity of each of our funding partners and chose not to ask MACF for more funding in the same year. MACF was a partner on Phase I of the Emerson Riverfront improvements as was Saginaw Bay WIN, so I do know that MACF is very supportive of this project!

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

The funds being requested are for the initial capital development costs for the site. Once the site is built out, the City of Midland will assume all future routine and long-term maintenance costs as part of their annual Parks Operating Budget.

**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  
Karen Murphy, Director of Public Services

6-9-2022

Date

Print Name and Title