



PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

December 7, 2022

9:30 a.m.

Meeting Held In-person

**ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
304 East Grand River Avenue, Howell
Conference Room 1 (downstairs)**

- 1. Call to Order/Introduction of Guests**
- 2. Approval of Minutes dated October 5, 2022**
- 3. Approval of Agenda dated December 7, 2022**
- 4. Call to the Public**
- 5. Annual Meeting Calendar**
- 6. Park Funding: Michigan SPARK Grant and Motor City Mountain Biking Association Update** – Kathleen, Scott and Mike
- 7. Livingston County Parks and Open Space Plan (resolution of support) - Kathleen**
- 8. Fillmore County Park Update**
 - Facilities – Kevin
 - Bench in honor of Dennis Dolan
 - Geocaches - Kathleen
- 9. Lutz County Park Update**
 - Facilities – Kevin
 - New Trailhead Display Case
- 10. Other**
- 11. Items for Discussion on Next Agenda**
 - Motor City Mountain Biking Association – presentation from Board member
- 12. Adjournment**

Next Meeting: February 1, 2023

MEETING MINUTES

OCTOBER 5, 2022
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
304 E. Grand River Avenue, Howell, MI 48843

PARKS & OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

<input type="checkbox"/> TIM CHURCH	X MIKE ARENS	X KEVIN EGGLESTON	X DOUG HELZERMAN
<input type="checkbox"/> BRIAN JONCKHEERE	X JAN LOBUR	X GARY EDWARDS	<input type="checkbox"/> JAY BIBBY
X BILL CALL	<input type="checkbox"/> BILL RUBIN	<input type="checkbox"/> JAY GROSS	X MARTHA HAGLUND

OTHERS: SCOTT BARB
LIZ ROONEY

KELLIE PROKUDA
ROB STANFORD

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order by Commissioner Helzerman at 9:30 AM.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** MINUTES OF MEETING DATED SEPTEMBER 14, 2022

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES:
MOVED BY ARENS - SECONDED BY HAGLUND
ALL IN FAVOR - MOTION PASSED**

3. **Approval of Agenda:** AGENDA OF MEETING DATED OCTOBER 5, 2022:

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA
MOVED BY HAGLUND - SECONDED BY ARENS
ALL IN FAVOR - MOTION PASSED**

4. **Call to the Public** – None
5. **Membership** – Tabled to next meeting
6. **Park Funding: SPARK Grant and ARPA Update** – Scott
 - Create potential project list to use for future grant opportunities
7. **Fillmore County Park Update**
 - Facilities - Kevin
 - Geocaches - Kevin
8. **Lutz County Park Update**
 - Facilities – Kevin
 - Consumers easement and site electrical
 - Tour de Livingston – Tabled to next meeting
 - Trail Map – Scott

- Urban Night Sky Place (UNSP) Application Process - Scott
- 9. Livingston County Parks and Open Space Plan**
- Public Comment Period

10. Other

- Eagle Scout project for Lutz Park

11. Items for Discussion on Next Agenda

- Motor City Mountain Biking Association
- Tour de Livingston
- Membership
- Spark Grant

12. Adjournment

**MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 10:46 AM.
MOVED BY ARENS - SECONDED BY EGGLESTON
ALL IN FAVOR - MOTION PASSED**

LIVINGSTON COUNTY PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Schedule – 2023

The Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee will meet on the first Wednesday of every other month. All meetings will be held at the Livingston County Administration Building, 304 E. Grand River Avenue, Conference Room 1 (lower level) at _____ a.m.

Following are the established meeting dates in 2023:

February 1, 2023	April 5, 2023	June 7, 2023
August 2, 2023	October 4, 2023	December 6, 2023



Memorandum

To: Livingston County Board of Commissioners
**From: Planning Department/
Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee**
Date: 11/14/2022
**Re: Michigan Department of Natural Resources Michigan Spark
Grant Application for Recreational Development of Fillmore
County Park**

This resolution authorizes the preparation and submission of a grant application to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for the purpose of securing available Michigan Spark Grant funds for the development of water and electrical utilities, a parking lot, and trail biking course at Fillmore County Park.

The Michigan Spark Grant became available on October 24, 2022. It is a \$65 million grant program administered by the DNR. Michigan Spark Grants will support projects that provide safe, accessible, public recreation facilities and spaces to improve people's health, introduce new recreation experiences, build on existing park infrastructure, and make it easier for people to enjoy both indoor and outdoor recreation. This grant opportunity is possible because of the [Building Michigan Together Plan, signed in March 2022](#), which included a historic infusion of federal funding in our state and local parks.

The Michigan Spark Grant was not available in early 2022 when the Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee made an ARPA request of \$292,250 for the Fillmore County Park Improvements mentioned above. In lieu of requesting Livingston County ARPA funds, the Michigan Spark grant would enable Livingston County to receive a grant award of \$333,500, which includes a local match of \$23,000 from the general fund and a \$23,000 match of in-kind labor from the Motor City Mountain Bike Association.

Although a local match is not required for this grant application, the Livingston County Planning Department believes it would make the Livingston County grant application more competitive for these Michigan Spark Grant funds.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, please contact Kathleen Kline-Hudson or Scott Barb at the Livingston County Planning Department.

RESOLUTION

NO: 2022-11-174

LIVINGSTON COUNTY

DATE: November 28, 2022

Resolution Approving Preparation and Submission of a Michigan Department of Natural Resources Michigan SPARK Grant Application for Recreational Development of Fillmore County Park – Planning Department / Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee

- WHEREAS,** on October 24, 2022, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources initiated three rounds of Michigan Spark Grants which support projects that provide safe, accessible, public recreation facilities and spaces to improve people’s health, introduce new recreation experiences, build on existing park infrastructure, and make it easier for people to enjoy the outdoors; and
- WHEREAS,** applicants must be local units of government or public authorities legally established to provide public recreation; and
- WHEREAS,** the approved 5-year *2019-2023 Livingston County Parks & Open Space Plan* makes Livingston County eligible for the submission of a grant application to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for development of Fillmore County Park; and
- WHEREAS,** as an eligible applicant, Livingston County would be submitting a grant application of \$333,500 that includes a match of \$46,000; \$23,000 from General Fund and \$23,000 in-kind labor from the Motor City Mountain Biking Association, for the development of water and electrical utilities, a parking lot, and trail biking course at Fillmore County Park; and
- WHEREAS,** although a match is not required for this grant application, the match will make the Livingston County grant application more competitive for a Michigan Spark Grant award; and
- WHEREAS,** eligible applications must be submitted by December 19, 2022, to qualify for Round One 2022 Michigan Spark Grant funding; and
- WHEREAS,** the Livingston County Planning Department is qualified to submit the grant application with staff that has substantial grant writing and administration expertise necessary to complete documentation for any work and costs that may be eligible under the Michigan Spark Grant; and
- WHEREAS,** additional Livingston County staff is not being requested to carry out the duties of this grant; and
- WHEREAS,** the Livingston County Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee conveys its support for the preparation and submission of a 2022 Michigan Spark Grant application to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to advance recreational development of Fillmore County Park, subject to the approval of the Livingston County Board of Commissioners; and
- WHEREAS,** the Livingston County Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee is requesting the approval of the Livingston County Board of Commissioners to prepare and submit a Michigan Spark Grant application to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to advance recreational development of Fillmore County Park, and the approval of additional matching funds of \$23,000 from General Fund for the proposed Michigan Spark Grant.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Livingston County Board of Commissioners approves the submission of a Michigan Spark Grant application of \$333,500 that includes a match of \$46,000; \$23,000 from General Fund and \$23,000 in-kind labor from the Motor City Mountain Biking Association, for the development of water and electrical utilities, a parking lot, and trail biking course at Fillmore County Park.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chair of the Livingston County Board of Commissioners is authorized to sign all forms, assurances, contracts/agreements, renewals and future amendments for monetary and contract language adjustments related to the above upon review and/or preparation of Civil Counsel.

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MOVED:
SECONDED:
CARRIED:

LIVINGSTON COUNTY PARKS AND OPEN PLAN

Memorandum

To: Livingston County Board of Commissioners

From: Kathleen Kline-Hudson, Planning Director

Date: 12/22/2022

Re: Adoption of the 2023 - 2027 Livingston County Parks & Open Space Plan

The Livingston County Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee in partnership with the Livingston County Planning Department has completed an update of the 5-year *Livingston County Parks & Open Space Plan*.

The purpose of this plan is to guide the parks, open space, and recreation decision-making of Livingston County government over the next five years. A locally adopted, and State of Michigan DNR approved plan, keeps Livingston County eligible to apply for federal and state parks & recreation grants such as the Land & Water Conservation Fund grant that partially funded Phase I development of Fillmore County Park.

The Livingston County Parks and Open Space Committee has fulfilled the requirements of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for the content, public input, and procedures necessary to prepare the *Parks & Open Space Plan* for adoption. A public hearing regarding the plan was held on December 19, 2023, prior to the regular meeting of the Livingston County Courts, Public Safety & Infrastructure and Development Committee.

The attached resolution is for the adoption of the 2023 - 2027 *Livingston County Parks & Open Space Plan* on **January X, 2023** by the Board of Commissioners.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please feel free to contact me.

RESOLUTION

NO: [Title]

LIVINGSTON COUNTY

DATE: Click or tap to enter a date.

Resolution to Adopt the 2023 - 2027 Livingston County Parks & Open Space Plan – Planning Department/Livingston County Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee (POSAC)

WHEREAS, the Livingston County Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee, a Committee of the Livingston County Board of Commissioners is made up of twelve representatives from throughout the County who undertake activities especially related to the maintenance and development of park and open space land in Livingston County; and

WHEREAS, the Livingston County Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee has undertaken a planning process to determine the recreation and open space needs and desires of Livingston County residents during a five-year period covering the years 2023 through 2027; and

WHEREAS, this Plan has been prepared by the Livingston County Planning Department in accordance with the most recent guidelines developed by the Department of Natural Resources and made available to local communities; and

WHEREAS, residents of Livingston County were provided with a well-advertised opportunity during the development of the draft plan to express their views of Livingston County recreation through a public opinion survey, ask questions and discuss all aspects of the recreation and open space plan; and

WHEREAS, the public was given a well-advertised opportunity and reasonable accommodations to review the final draft plan for a period of at least 30 days; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on December 19, 2022, at the Livingston County Administration Building prior to the regular meeting of the Court, Public Safety, Infrastructure & Development (CPSID) Committee, to provide an opportunity for all residents of Livingston County to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the 2023 – 2027 Livingston County Parks & Open Space Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Livingston County Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee has developed the plan as a guideline for improving recreation and enhancing open space conservation in the County of Livingston and the committee conveys its support for the preparation and submission of the 2023 – 2027 Parks and Open Space Recreation Plan; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Livingston County Board of Commissioners hereby adopt the 2023 – 2027 Livingston County Parks & Open Space Plan.

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**MOVED:
SECONDED:
CARRIED:**

**2023-2027 LIVINGSTON COUNTY
PARKS & OPEN SPACE PLAN**

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT

LIVINGSTON COUNTY PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, this *2023-2027 Livingston County Parks & Open Space Plan* was updated by the Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee, with the assistance of the Livingston County Department of Planning, upon the authorization of the Livingston County Board of Commissioners, for the benefit of the entire County, and

WHEREAS, the Committee has sought public input on the *Parks & Open Space Plan* through a variety of methods and approaches and will continue to consider and incorporate public comments into the draft plan until the *Parks & Open Space Plan* is adopted by the Livingston County Board of Commissioners, and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee wishes to convey its support for the *2023-2027 Livingston County Parks & Open Space Plan* to the public and the Livingston County Board of Commissioners.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Livingston County Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee approves this Resolution of Support for the *2023-2027 Livingston County Parks & Open Space Plan*.

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Motion made by _____: “I make a motion to approve the 2023-2027 Livingston County Parks and Open Space Plan as amended after the December 19, 2022 public hearing on the plan”

Seconded: _____

Committee Vote:

Member Name	Vote	Member Name	Vote
Bill Call		Bill Rubin	
Mike Arens		Gary Edwards	
Kevin Eggleston		Doug Helzerman	
Brian Jonckheere		Jay Gross	
Martha Haglund		Tim Church	
Jan Lobur		Jay Bibby	

Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee
Resolution Passed December 7, 2022

2023 – 2027 Livingston County Parks and Open Space Plan

November 1 – November 30 Public Comments

- November 1** Page 46, don't mention that there is a hidden camera at Lutz County Park (Kellie Prokuda, Livingston County Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee)
- KProkuda@livgov.com
- November 4** Hello, Thank you for sending out the comprehensive planning PDF. I do have a question; how were the park survey's sent out that were mentioned in this document? Is this sent to a random group? As a resident of Livingston County for most of my life (41 years old), numbers not withstanding, there really does not appear to be enough park / trail space for the amount the county has grown. Especially in Hartland, Brighton, Green Oak township areas. In day to day life, it is almost a chore to try to determine what park you can go to without hundreds of kids at their various activities, and at what time and day. There really needs to be more trails and space to get out and enjoy the beauty this county can offer. Thank you in advance for any answers to my questions, and for your time.
- Chris, caldighieri.80@gmail.com
- November 8** Dear Ms. Kathleen Kline-Hudson,
- Thank you for the efforts of your department in developing the 2023-2027 Livingston County Parks and Open Space Plan. This document provided a useful inventory of the amenities available to area residents and visitors, and clarifies the opportunities and challenges present on Livingston County public recreation spaces. It also highlights the need to prepare for increasing land development pressure throughout Livingston County.
- As you know, the Huron River Watershed Council coordinates efforts along the Huron River Water Trail. The Huron River Water Trail is a 104-mile pathway that follows the Huron River from Proud Lake State Recreation Area in Oakland County all the way to Lake Erie. The Huron River corridor attracts more than 125,000 unique visitors annually, with the average visitor enjoying the corridor more than 20 times per year. The local economic value of Huron River corridor is comparable to the value of a Big Ten home football season (estimated in 2022 dollars at \$60-70 million per year).
- The stretch of the Huron River Water Trail that runs through Livingston County is incredibly popular, as it includes Island Lake State Recreation Area, Huron Meadows Metropark, and the Chain of Lakes. While not technically a part of the Huron River Water Trail, Portage Creek (locally known as Hell Creek) is also a popular paddling destination, running through Pinckney State Recreation Area and the Hi-Land Chain of

Lakes. These waterways are a unique asset in southeast Michigan, offering visitors the types of large tracts of undeveloped, natural landscapes and waterways typically found much farther north in Michigan.

The Huron River Watershed Council, with partners along the entire river and with the support of the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics, recently completed an assessment of stewardship, access, and safety needs along the water trail. Several priorities were identified within Livingston County. Notably, there is a significant public access gap to the river between Huron Meadows Metropark and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Boat Launch at Portage Lake. There is no public canoe or kayak access for the approximately 10 miles between those access points. For most paddlers, this access gap represents a 3- to 5-hour paddle without respite or public restrooms. Occasionally, waterfront residents have complained about paddlers using their property as privy in emergencies. On some occasions, paddlers have needed to call for help or use private property to exit the river early.

Dangerously, Pinckney State Recreation Area routinely closes the boat launch on Portage Lake for fishing tournaments or other events. These closures are not obvious to paddlers until they physically arrive at the boat launch, and paddlers are often visiting from outside the region, unaware that the sudden closure of public access is possible. In at least three separate cases, paddlers that had just completed 10 miles or more of paddling were prohibited from landing their canoes and kayaks at the DNR boat launch due to these poorly announced closures. This has effectively left paddlers stranded near the boat launch, forcing them to paddle another 2.3 miles downriver to the next available access point in Hudson Mills Metropark. HRWC and veteran paddlers have repeatedly reached out to the management at Pinckney State Recreation Area, requesting they allow paddlers landing access during fish tournaments as there is no way to reliably communicate to paddlers that the access point there may be closed. The Michigan DNR Pinckney State Recreation Unit has not been responsive to those requests and has not yet acknowledged the safety concern.

Under normal operating conditions, the Portage Lake DNR boat launch often fills up early in the morning, leaving many visitors searching for alternative launches. No other public access point exists along the Chain of Lakes.

A public access point is therefore desperately needed along the Chain of Lakes between Huron Meadows Metropark and the Portage Lake DNR launch. We hope the Livingston County Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee and the Livingston Planning Department will acknowledge this need in the 2023-2027 Livingston County Parks and Open Space Plan and will work with area partners to pursue options for procuring land to establish such access points. HRWC considers this a priority need for the entire water trail.

HRWC also encourages the Livingston County Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee to continue coordinating with the Michigan DNR and the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority to find public access options near the Huron River at US-23. Several options have been considered conceptually, but no suitable solution for public

access along the river in that vicinity has been identified. We are aware that Island Lake State Recreation Area has pursued land acquisition adjacent to the park boundary and the McCabe Road bridge. HRWC supports that effort as public land acquisitions there may resolve another length of river without sufficient access.

We are excited about the trail connectivity efforts moving forward throughout the county, and, as always, are eager help Livingston County find appropriate connections from land trails to the Huron River Water Trail.

Sincerely,

[Daniel A. Brown](#)

[Watershed Planner](#)

[Huron River Watershed Council](#) | [Huron River Water Trail](#)

734.519.0189 | *New Address: 117 N 1st St, Ste 100, Ann Arbor, MI 48104*

November The parks that comprise the county park system are a good start. What is needed in Livingston County is to have a dedicated parks budget sufficient to fund an independent parks department, staffing, land acquisition and development of facilities and trails. This would bring the county to a level of support for parks that presently exists in almost every other county in the state. There is plenty of beautiful land in this county that would serve the residents well were there more county parks available. When parks are available, people use them. (Livingston County Facebook comment)

Lee Burton, leejburton@charter.net

November 28 First, I'd like to thank you for opening Fillmore Park. We live about 1 1/2 miles from the park, and hike there several times per week. We love the quiet, serene environment, and enjoy watching birds there year 'round. We also cross country ski at the park. We met a fellow hiker there, and he told us that geocaching is also available, so we'll add that to the list.

Here is what we'd REALLY like to add to our list at Fillmore: a basic equestrian trail. We have 4 horses and we haul out to Brighton Rec and Kensington frequently, as trail riding is our primary sport. We ride all over Michigan, and have also ridden in Ohio, Illinois, Indiana and Pennsylvania. But it would be so wonderful to ride our horses to the Fillmore to ride the trails. There are numerous horse farms in our neighborhood, and we'd love to have a designated trail. Typically, the horse trails at all the state parks have clubs that help maintain the horse trails, including raising funds to help with erosion control, signage, etc. My husband and I plan to live here in Oceola Township for the rest of our lives, and being able to ride to nearby trails has been a dream since we moved here in 2004. I don't think we need a staging area for trailers, because most riders wouldn't haul in for a short trail ride. But the local riders would all be interested. We

ride our horses around the block (Golf Club, Kellog, Bergen, Argentine), but not all the drivers are careful and slow down for us, per the law. People drive so fast on our roads, I've almost been run off the road several times while walking.

When people see horses at a trail, their faces almost always light up with joy. Horses are beautiful animals, and there is a certain novelty to seeing them on the trail. Deerfield Hills Nature area has some designated horse trails, which I'm sure is wonderful for horse owners in the area. We hike there sometimes, but since the Fillmore opened, we are more likely to stay close to home. I've had a few dog owners chat with me at Fillmore, asking if I had a dog, and when I told them I have horses, they ask why I don't ride there. I always tell them, "I'd love to ride here, but I don't think it's allowed!"

Since the Fillmore is so flat, it seems like mountain biking wouldn't be as exciting as it would be on a more varied terrain. Settlers Park in Hartland has a really great mix of paved multi-use trails, and dirt trails for hikers and mountain bikers. The hikers go in one direction, the cyclists in another. They have more rolling hills than Fillmore, and they also have a variety of man-made bike obstacles at different levels, to make the park accessible for all ages and abilities. I was really impressed at the variety of options at Settlers park.

Sandra and Ken Wright, sandraowright@gmail.com

6639 Golf Club Rd.

Howell, MI 48843

November 28 Hello,

Just wanted to add my comments to the park plan.

I've walked at Fillmore park daily for the last several years. I love the trails there and its great for walking dogs or just walking.

However I would love to see some simple horse trails added. There is no where to ride in this area! I have lived on Golf Club rd for 24 years and used to be able to ride on the road, but now traffic is too fast and inconsiderate. I know several people with horses in the area who would love some trails here!

I saw the suggestion for mountain bike trails, but really, they would find that quite boring. There are no hills or challenging areas in that part of the park. It is flat land. Mountain bikers want hills! I see bikes on the trails occasionally, but rarely. Which means regular off road cyclists do not find it challenging either. Please don't put more bike trails in.

Even more walking trails would be better than limiting an area to bikes that would never get used. But please consider some horse trails!! They would get used!

Leah Kucharek

Red Hen Design

redhendesign@comcast.net

c. 810-599-0475

h. 517-548-9623

November 28 To whom it may concern,

I greatly appreciate the hard work and diligence used in creating the open space plan for Livingston County. I would like to add some input related to hunting opportunities in both Lutz and Fillmore county parks.

I am an avid user of similar "land conservancy" parks in the Traverse City area and they are all open to archery hunting. Why is this not the case in Livingston County? I believe archery hunters are a safe and conservation minded group of outdoor enthusiasts that would benefit greatly from access to these parks. Please consider opening these parks to archery hunting.

Sincerely,

Zachary Dubiel, zedubiel@mtu.edu

Michigan Tech University

Mechanical Engineering

517.304.8355

UPCOMING MEETING DATES:

Michigan Spark Grant

- ✓ POSAC review and approval of resolution of support for Michigan Spark Grant – by email poll of committee
- ✓ **November 21, 6:00 p.m.** - Resolution at Courts, Public Safety, Infrastructure & Development Meeting (CPSID)
- ✓ **December 12, 6:00 p.m.** – Resolution at full Board of Commissioners meeting
 - **December 19** – Grant submission to DNR by 5:00 p.m.

2023-2027 Parks and Open Space Plan

- ✓ **November 1 – November 30** - Thirty (30) day of public comment period
- ✓ **December 7, 9:30 a.m.** - Review and approval of plan at December 7 POSAC meeting
 - **December 19, 6:00 p.m.** - public hearing and resolution at Courts, Public Safety, Infrastructure & Development Meeting (CPSID)
 - **Plan Approval at last Board of Commissioners meeting in December 2022 or first Board of Commissioners meeting in January 2023**