



**ADA TOWNSHIP PARKS, RECREATION AND LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 2019 MEETING, 8:30 AM
ROSELLE PARK, MEETING ROOM, 1010 GRAND RIVER DR. NE
ADA, MICHIGAN**

AGENDA

1. Call meeting to order/roll call
2. Approval of agenda
3. Election of Officers
4. Approval of minutes of the April 11, 2019 Meeting
5. Opportunity to Acquire Tax-Reverted Property from Kent County Treasurer, at 2952 Pettis Ave. NE
6. Request from Jeff Engler, owner of property at 8066 East Fulton St., to acquire a portion of preserved open space property at 7980 East Fulton St.
7. Committee Reports
 - a. Rules Committee
 - b. Park Facilities and Recreation Programs Committee
 - c. Trails Committee
8. Park Director's Report
9. Board Member Comment
10. Public Comment
11. Adjournment

DRAFT

ADA TOWNSHIP PARKS, RECREATION AND LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES OF THE THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2019 REGULAR MEETING 4:00 P.M., ROSELLE PARK, MEETING ROOM 1010 GRAND RIVER DR NE, ADA, MICHIGAN

1. Call meeting to order/roll call

Present: Crosby, Damstra (left at 5:30pm), Haga, Nowak, Roe, Steketee, Terwilliger (left at 5:00pm), VandenBerge

Absent: Jacobs, Levick, Schmottlach

Staff Present: Fitzpatrick, Winczewski

Public Present: None

2. Approval of agenda

Haga moved to approve the agenda. Terwilliger supported. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of minutes of the March 14, 2019 meeting

Terwilliger moved to approve the March 14, 2019 meeting minutes. Steketee supported. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Review and Approval of Annual Report to Township Board

Terwilliger moved to approve the FY 2018/19 Annual Report to the Township Board. Haga supported. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Review of Proposed Master Sign Design for Township Facilities

Fitzpatrick requested feedback on the proposed sign design options noting that option #1 is the preferred option from the committee spearheading this project. PRLP Board members reviewed the options which were provided in their board packets. Comments included:

- Terwilliger – Likes option #1.
- Roe – Would like to know cost.
- VandenBerge – Multiple bid costs are needed for multiple design options for comparison purposes.
- Crosby, Roe, and Steketee – Do not like option #1. It is busy and the design is not “clean”.
- Crosby – It is important to incorporate the Ada logo into the sign.

Haga expressed appreciation for these comments and stated he will bring these concerns back to the Board.

6. Request for Re-allocation of Local Matching Funds for Kent County Parks Land Acquisition Grants

Fitzpatrick provided a status update for the Kent County Parks Department’s land acquisitions for Chief Hazy Cloud Park.

After review of Kent County Parks Interim Parks Director Dan DeLooff’s letter dated April 3, 2019, board had additional questions. Mr. DeLooff answered questions via speaker phone and stated that as of right now, Kent County Parks needs the \$400K match from Ada Township to close on

Edie Pettis's property. Ms. Pettis's 54 acres and Mr. Iaria's 1.06 acres should close by this time next year. Both property owners have agreed to sell. Due diligence, title searches, multiple appraisals, and then a purchase agreement with the sellers needs to be completed before an invoice can be provided to Ada Township.

The \$300K contribution from 2016 has been allocated towards the 145 acres from East River Holdings. That sale will likely close anytime between now and June 2019.

A 2019 Trust Fund Grant was submitted last month to purchase two remaining parcels totaling 74 acres from Ada Holdings. No contributions are needed from Ada Township for that purchase.

After further board discussion, Terwilliger moved, Crosby supported, to postpone action on this item for 1 month. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Committee Reports

- a. **Rules Committee** – Fitzpatrick stated rental fees for park facilities have been updated. Fees and Rules still need to be decided for Settler's Park and the Historical Museum.
- b. **Stewardship Committee** – Roe summarized details from the most recent Stewardship Committee meeting. High priority lands for preservation were discussed. The Committee intends to hold an invite-only event to inform and educate the land owners about preserving their land. Crosby stated that April Scholtz from the Land Conservancy of West Michigan is willing to assist in working with property owners, and the Conservancy has funding available that could be used for acquisition of conservation easements.
- c. **Park Facilities and Recreation Programs Committee** – This committee has not yet met.
- d. **Trails Committee** – This committee is scheduled to meet on Thursday, April 18, 2019.

8. Election of Officers

Roe stated that today is her last meeting as Chairperson. Roe stated that Levick is interested in being the Vice Chairperson for one year and then Chairperson the following year. Board discussed possibly moving the meeting day/time to get better attendance. Fitzpatrick stated he will send out a survey to PRLP Advisory board members to see what works best for everyone.

Haga moved, Crosby supported, to postpone action on electing officers for 1 month. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Park Director's Report

Fitzpatrick noted several items from his Park Director's Report:

- An RFP will soon be submitted for a consultant to develop a Master Plan for Leonard Field Park.
- A Space Needs Assessment for the park office and maintenance building is planned for this year in coordination with one for the Township Hall.
- The DEQ permit for the Roselle Park improvement project in the north section of non-paved trails was submitted and is being reviewed.

- The MI DNR Non-Game Trust Grant application was submitted and accepted.
- Contractors are back to work at Settler's Park. The amphitheater should be going out to bid soon. A naming and donor recognition ceremony for the park is planned for May 23rd.
- The DEQ permit for the Grand River Natural Area was approved this winter. The contractor is expected to complete the trail repair project late spring or early summer, depending on river levels.
- The Kid's Garden program has been canceled due to lack of registrations.
- Spring middle school baseball games have started and summer adult softball games will start the first week of May.
- Interviews for the summer intern are taking place this week.
- A couple feet of riverbank at Roselle Park were lost over the winter due to erosion.
- This year is the first year money can be used from the River Trails Trust Fund.

10. PRLP Marketing Needs

Fitzpatrick stated we need volunteers to look at different kinds of marketing materials.

11. Board Member Comment

Roe stated that Lowell has erected a foot bridge across the river from Riverside Park to a small park on the other side. It is not completed but looks really nice so far.

12. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

13. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:43 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jacqueline Smith, Ada Township Clerk



MEMORANDUM

Date: 6/10/19

TO: Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Advisory Board
FROM: Stewardship Subcommittee – Members Crosby, Roe and Steketee
RE: Tax Foreclosure Property at 2952 Pettis Ave. NE

Ada Township has been notified by the Kent County Treasurer of the opportunity to purchase a .46 acre County-owned parcel at 2952 Pettis Ave. NE, for the amount of unpaid property taxes on the property, which is approximately \$4,450. The property is 100 feet x 200 feet in dimensions, and is on the east side of Pettis Ave., between 3 Mile Rd. and 4 Mile Rd.

The undeveloped property is “landlocked,” with no access to the public road. The property is gently sloped and wooded. It is not in proximity to any existing public or private preserved open space.

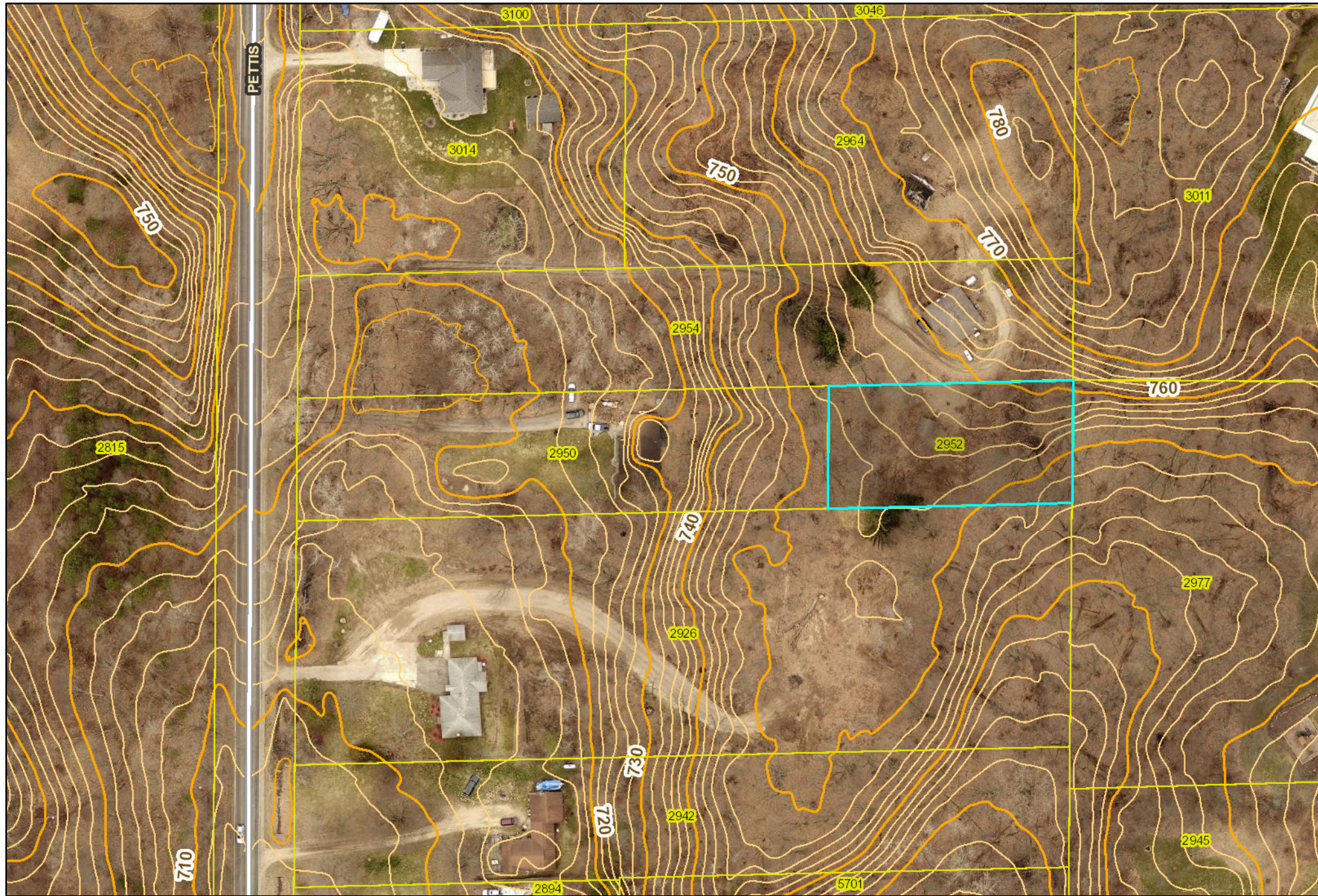
Given the size of the property and its lack of access, it would not appear to be a high priority candidate for acquisition as permanent open space.

The Stewardship Committee recommends that the property not be acquired for open space preservation purposes.

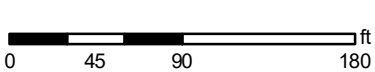


Viewer Map

May 24, 2019



Kent County, MI makes no warranty, expressed or implied, regarding the accuracy, completeness or usefulness of information presented. Users of this information assume all liability for its fitness for a particular use.



04/29/2019 11:35 AM

FORECLOSURE LIST FOR KENT COUNTY

Page: 1/1

BY: dmterpst

For 2019 Foreclosures of 2016 and prior taxes

DB: Real0510

ADA TOWNSHIP

Interest Computed As Of Foreclosure Date

PARCEL	TAX DUE	INTEREST/FEES DUE	TOTAL DUE	CURRENT SEV	TAX YEARS DELINQUENT
41-15-05-300-013	2,629.66	1,823.80	4,453.46	12,800	2018 2017 2016 2015

Property Address: 2952 PETTIS AVE NE ADA MI

Owner: FELKER ROBERT L & GERALDINE

PARCEL COUNT: 1	2,629.66	1,823.80	4,453.46	12,800	
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MEMORANDUM

Date: 6/10/19

TO: Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Advisory Board
FROM: Stewardship Subcommittee – Members Crosby, Roe and Steketee
RE: Proposal by Jeff Engler to Purchase a Portion of Preserved Open Space at 7980 East Fulton St.

Ada Township has received written communication dated April 26, 2019 from Jeff Engler, owner of the property at 8066 East Fulton St., expressing interest in acquiring adjacent Township-owned property at 7980 East Fulton St. The Township-owned property was acquired in 2007 with a combination of donated funds and \$150,000 in funding from the Parks and Land Preservation Fund.

The sale of any property that was acquired in whole or in part with funding from the voter-approved Parks and Land Preservation Fund is subject to provisions in the Township's "Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation" ordinance.

The Advisory Board's Stewardship Committee has considered Mr. Engler's inquiry, as well as the applicable ordinance provisions regarding sale of "Preserved Property," and has "approved in concept" the sale of a small portion (approximately ½ acre) of the 5.4 acre site. Following is more detailed information regarding the property, its original acquisition by the Township, and applicable ordinance provisions.

Property Description and Original Acquisition:

The property at 7980 East Fulton St. was acquired by the Township in November, 2007. The property is located on the south side of Fulton St., immediately east of the M-21 bridge over the Grand River. The primary motivation for the purchase was to prevent the installation of a large billboard sign on the property. However, the property does have some sensitive natural features worthy of preservation, including several hundred feet of frontage on the Grand River, significant wetlands and wooded floodplain, and high public visibility from the Fulton St. corridor. Based on the unanimous recommendation of the Open Space Preservation Advisory Board, \$150,000 in funding from the Land Preservation Fund was applied toward the \$329,000 purchase price for the property.

The attached survey prepared in December, 2007 and an aerial photo from 2009 show that a portion of the parking area on the 8066 East Fulton St. property encroaches onto the Township-owned property. This pavement was in existence at the time the property was acquired by the Township. Additional land located west of the parking area was used by a previous property owner for storage of landscaping materials and equipment. The attached 2009 aerial photo shows the extent of the disturbance of this activity. Also attached are photos taken on a June 7, 2019 site visit showing some remaining small stockpiles of landscaping stone and pallets on the property. Some of these materials are visible in the 2009 aerial photo.

The encroaching pavement and scattered material stockpiles occupy no more than a .5 acre portion of the 5.4 acre site. Although located in the Grand River floodplain, this portion of the property does not contain wetlands or other high quality native vegetation.

Applicable ordinance provisions:

Sec. 51-03, D. of the “Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation” ordinance adopted in 2016 contains provisions that govern sale of “Preserved Property,” which is defined as “a property interest acquired by the Township pursuant to the Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Program, or its predecessor.”

Two different provisions apply:

- a. Voter approval by a 75% margin in an election is required in order to sell Preserved Property “that no longer serves the purposes of the Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Program ...” With regard to sale of the entire 5.7 acre property, this provision certainly could not be used to sell the entire property. There is no doubt that the property as a whole contains sensitive natural features that existed when the property was acquired and that still exist on the property today. Our open space preservation program was established to preserve such property. Even if the property as a whole no longer had these feature, it would be very difficult to obtain a 75% vote in an election to approve a sale of the entire property.
- b. An additional provision of the ordinance states that “notwithstanding” the above provision, a portion of a Preserved Property which is “improved or otherwise inconsistent with the purposes of” the Program may be sold, by a 2/3 majority vote of the Township Board membership (5 out of 7 members), without an election approval requirement.

Given the parking area encroachment and material stockpiles and vegetation disturbance that existed on a small portion of the property at the time it was acquired by the Township, it is reasonable to conclude that the portion of the property that was previously disturbed by outdoor storage activities was “improved” and “inconsistent with the purposes of” the Land Preservation Program, and its sale by the Township would conform with the provision of the ordinance allowing the Township Board to sell such property, without requiring a vote in an election.

Attached is an aerial photo identifying a potential parcel of approximately .45 acres that encompasses the area that was used as a storage yard for landscaping materials, some of which is still located on the property.

Committee Recommendation:

The members of the Stewardship Committee unanimously recommended that a .5 acre portion of the 7590 East Fulton St. property, with approximate dimensions as shown on the attached aerial photo could, in concept, be sold pursuant to the provisions of Sec. 31.03, D.2.b., subject to the following details and conditions:

1. legal counsel input as to whether property may be sold to an adjoining property owner, without being offered for sale on the open market.

2. determining an appropriate sale price.
3. determining whether any deed restrictions should be put in place on the land to be sold, to ensure that any future use and development of the property does not adversely affect the natural features and character of the remainder of the Township-owned property, including a prohibition on a billboard being placed on the property to be sold.
4. proceeds from the sale of the property being credited to the Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Fund.



RECEIVED

APR 29 2019

ADA TOWNSHIP
TREASURER

April, 26, 2019

To: Jim Ferro
Ada Twp

Dear Jim,

I am asking that the township consider my proposal to buy the township property adjacent to 8066 Fulton Street.

In alignment with township plan and values, we would agree to keeping most of it natural. Our intended use would include taking a small section in the upland adjacent to our parking lot and increasing our parking which better fits our building to Ada building codes.

I do understand that it is the townships preference that the land remains as natural as possible (most of it is protected as a wetlands). Any bid that we would make for the property if approved would be in accordance with this.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JEFFREY ENGLER', is written over a horizontal line.

Jeffrey Engler

CEO
American International Foods, Inc.
8066 Fulton Ave. SE
Ada, MI 49301
Cell 616-915-0466

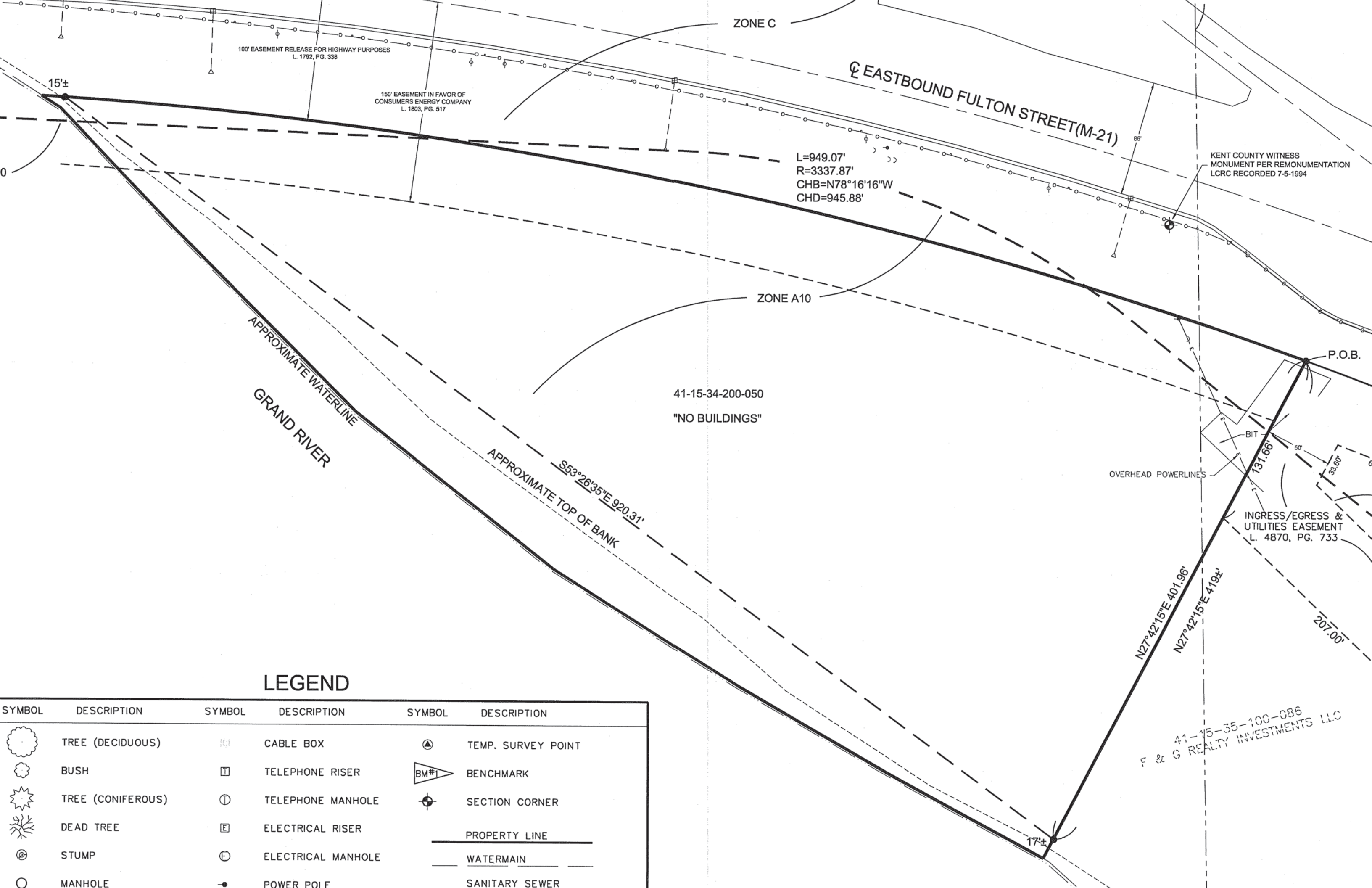
AmericanInternationalFoods.com



















8066 Fulton St. E Ada, MI 49301 Phone: 866.944.2434 Fax: 616.974.9618

Sec. 51-03. Authorization.

- A. The Township Board is authorized to expend Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Funds to achieve the purposes set forth in Sec. 51-01 of this chapter in accordance with the process described in Sec. 51-05 for land acquisition.
- B. Property Interests acquired under this chapter may include fee simple ownership to land or a lesser interest in land, including a conservation easement. An acquisition by the Township under this chapter may be accomplished by purchase, gift, grant, bequest, devise, covenant or contract, matching gifts or otherwise in accordance with applicable law.
- C. The Township is authorized to enter into agreements for cash purchase, installment purchase or tax-exempt installment purchase of property interests, recreational facilities and supplies as consistent with applicable law. When installment purchases are made, the Township is authorized to pay interest on the declining unpaid principal balance at a legal rate of interest consistent with prevailing market conditions at the time of execution of the installment contract, or such lesser amount as may be negotiated, and adjusted for the tax-exempt status of such interest.
- D. The Township, for the benefit of its citizens, shall hold Preserved Property in trust in perpetuity, provided, however, that the Township shall be authorized to relinquish Preserved Property only under the following conditions:
1. **Exchange of Preserved Property:** Upon the recommendation of the Advisory Board and a majority vote of the Township Board membership, Preserved Property may be exchanged for other Eligible Land within the Township as outlined in the Rules of Procedure adopted by the Advisory Board.

A Property Interest considered for acquisition by the Township pursuant to an exchange shall be approved in the same manner as acquisition of a Property Interest as provided for in this chapter.
 2. **Sale of Preserved Property:** Preserved Property may be sold in accordance with the following guidelines:
 - a. If the Preserved Property no longer serves the purposes of the Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Program as outlined in Sec. 51-01 of this chapter, a proposition to approve of the disposition of Preserved Property may be submitted to the voters of the Township, upon the recommendation of the Advisory Board and a 2/3 majority vote of the Township Board membership. Only upon a 75% vote of the duly registered electors voting in said election approving such disposition shall the Township be authorized to dispose of Preserved Property. Proceeds from the sale of Preserved Property shall be used for the acquisition of Eligible Land pursuant to this chapter.
 - b. Notwithstanding Sec. 51-03.D.2.a above, where the Township acquires Preserved Property, a portion of which is improved or otherwise inconsistent with the purposes of the Parks, Recreation, and Land Preservation Program, that portion of the Preserved Property which does not further the purposes of this chapter may be sold in accordance with state law. Any sale of a portion of Preserved Property under these conditions requires a 2/3 majority vote of the Township Board membership.
- E. Where the Township acquires a Preserved Property that is improved, this chapter authorizes removal or destruction of the improvement if consistent with the purpose of this chapter.

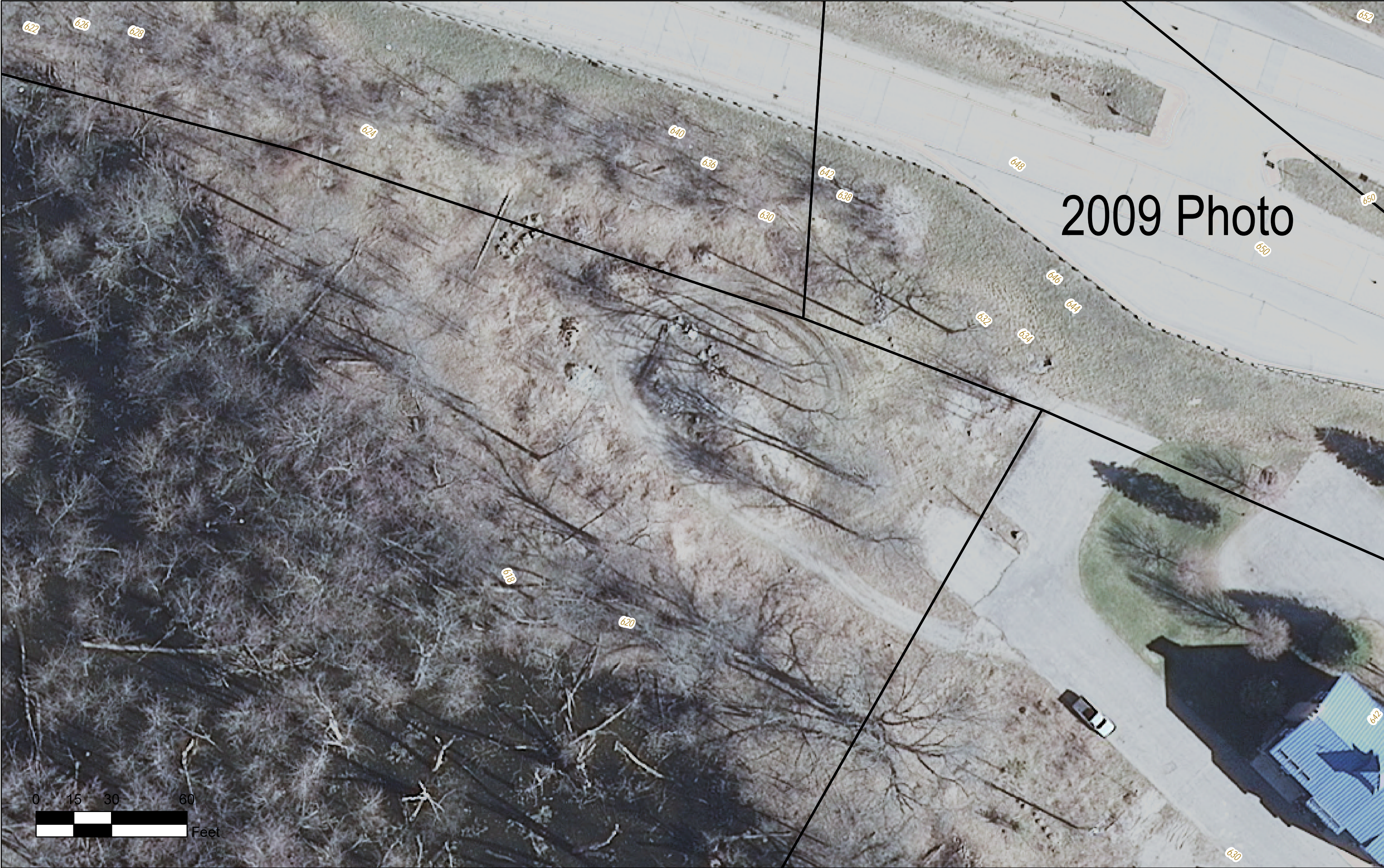


LEGEND					
SYMBOL	DESCRIPTION	SYMBOL	DESCRIPTION	SYMBOL	DESCRIPTION
	TREE (DECIDUOUS)		CABLE BOX		TEMP. SURVEY POINT
	BUSH		TELEPHONE RISER		BENCHMARK
	TREE (CONIFEROUS)		TELEPHONE MANHOLE		SECTION CORNER
	DEAD TREE		ELECTRICAL RISER		PROPERTY LINE
	STUMP		ELECTRICAL MANHOLE		WATERMAIN
	MANHOLE		POWER POLE		SANITARY SEWER



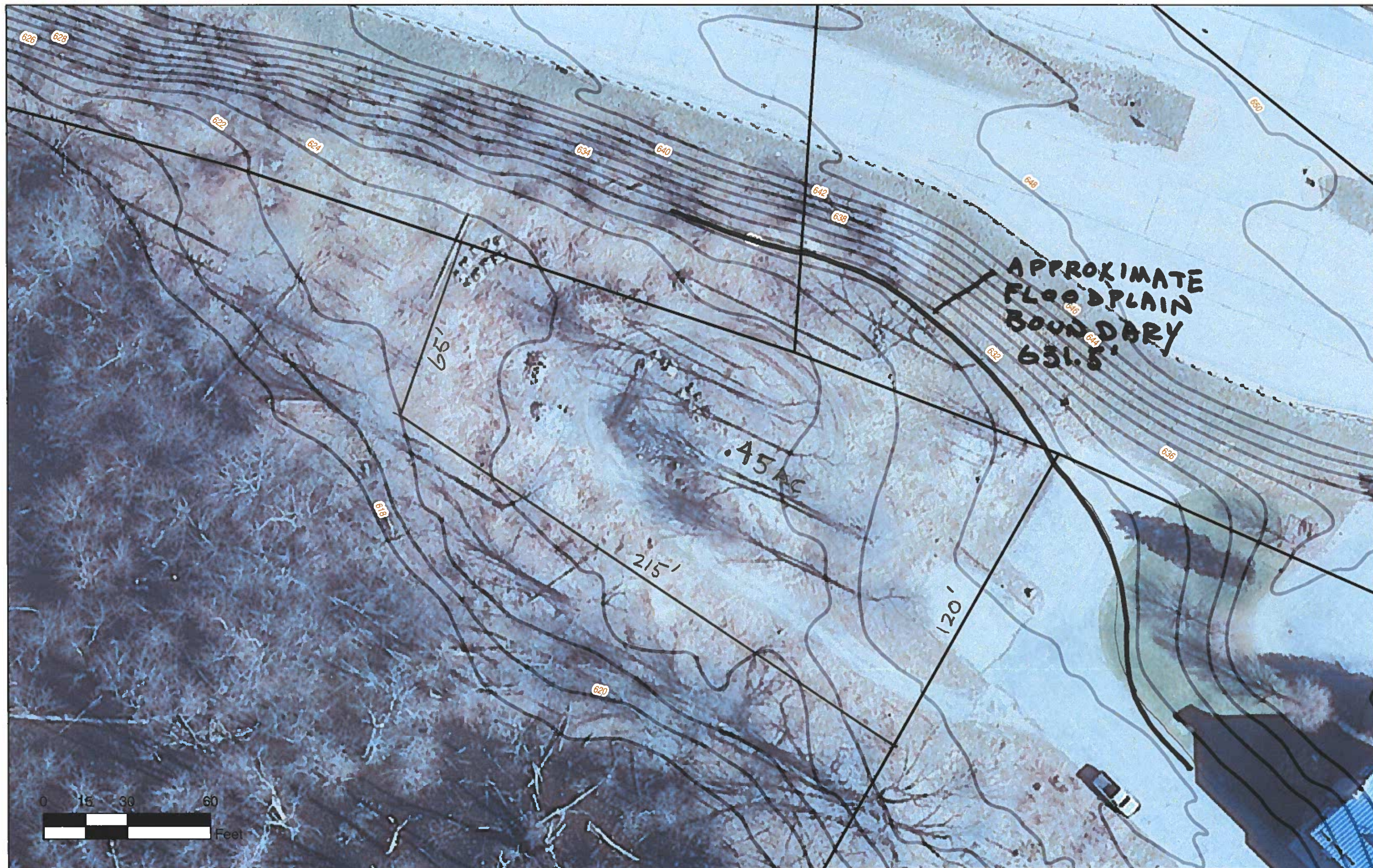
0 50 100 200 Feet





2009 Photo

0 15 30 60 Feet





Ada Township Parks & Recreation Department
Park Director's Report
For June 13, 2019
Submitted by Parks & Recreation Director Mark Fitzpatrick

Updates on Administrative Items

- Regarding staffing, we are at our full summer level now. Katie VerHulst was hired as our summer Intern and Mark Thomas was hired to help with tournaments and replace Mark Russell's position. We are reviewing the "Gate Keeper" position to accommodate better night safety and coordination of Roselle Room rentals. Fire Department staff are a part of the options under review.
- Coordination with the Kent County Parks expansion of Chief Hazy Cloud Park continues. Once the County closes on the properties, they will notify the Township regarding our PRLP fund contribution. That is expected by the end of 2019. Dan DeLooff was appointed the new Director of Kent County Parks. We are coordinating with him on the site master plan for Chief Hazy Cloud Park.
- We are processing the purchase of a new park truck. Our current full-size pickup is worn out with potential maintenance and repair costs exceeding its value. At the June 10 Township Board meeting a request to purchase a new truck through the Kent County purchasing Department was approved. Purchase of amenities of a front plow, amber light and decals were also approved. Total costs are not to exceed \$33,753.70. This action will require an amendment to our budget and CIP.
- The lawn mowing and edging contract with Thornapple Inc. is to be amended to accommodate the new Legacy Park for the rest of 2019. The mowing and edging services are to go out for bids again in the fall.
- The space assessment for the park office and maintenance buildings is to be coordinate with assessment of the Ada Township Hall. The next step in this process is to coordinate a "request for proposals" to hire a consultant to assist with this initiative.
- Review of recreation registration software is still underway.

Updates on Township Parks and Preserves

Ada Township Park

- The park has been very busy this spring. It is great to see so many people enjoying it.
- The Pickleball and Tennis courts are getting daily use. A recognition sign was posted on the Pickleball courts saying: "*Special Thanks to Jerry and Marcy Tubergen for their generous support of these Pickle Ball Courts*".
- Shelter and Gazebo reservations are filled in for most of the summer weekends.
- Volunteers assisted with three stewardship workdays this spring.
- The remainder of work from the 2019 trail improvement project by *Jordan Intercoastal* is close to completion. The punch list is expected to be completed by the end of June.
- One of the athletic fields off Grand River Drive became quite worn from youth soccer. We have stopped use of it temporarily while lawn recovery initiatives are underway.
- The two parking lots off Grand River Drive will be re-striped this summer in coordination with the DDA on other striping projects in the Village. A bid opening was held May 30th with *Shoreliners Striping* as the lowest bidder. Schedules will be set soon.
- As part of the trail maintenance project this summer, we are including a trail connector from softball field #2 over to the trail on Buttrick Drive and a revision to a couple parking spots near the entrance. These are being coordinated with Moore & Bruggink.
- Other upcoming projects include crack fill in the basketball court and repairs to the parking lot gates.

Updates on Township Parks and Preserves cont.

Leonard Field Park

- As part of the parking lot striping project coordinated with the DDA, the lot at Leonard Field will be restriped. This is a follow up to the patch work completed by Jordan Intercoastal in 2018.
- Setting up a request for proposals to secure an architect to facilitate a Master Plan process for Leonard Field Park will be worked on later this summer.

Roselle Park

- The spring rains led to high water levels most of the spring limiting access to the non-paved trails and occasional closing of the paved trails. Sections of the north trails are still holding water.
- Volunteers assisted with several stewardship workdays in the park helping with the garden beds, entryway landscaping and the playground.
- The number of rentals for the room in the Resource Building has increased substantially with our opening it up to private groups. As anticipated, this is primarily for use on weekends and evenings. Evening coverage is still a staffing challenge under review. Alcohol request has come up a number of times and will be under review by the Rules Committee.
- The project to improve the non-paved trails in the north section of the park with fill dirt and culverts has gone out to bid and due on June 19. Construction is to be completed by August 30, facilitated by OCBA.
- The paved trails in Roselle Park will be included in the trail maintenance project facilitated by Moore & Bruggink this year. That project will focus on sealing of the cracks. Bids are expected to go out in July.

Legacy Park – In Memory of Helen and Rich Devos

- A dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony for the park was held on May 23rd. Recognition was given to the donors as well as an unveiling of the memorial sculpture to go in later this year.
- Construction work in the main section by Katerberg VerHage is close to completion. The lawn is close to stabilizing and the vegetation along the bank is coming in fine.
- Construction for the new amphitheater and grounds around it will continue into the fall.
- Park staff are taking on more management and maintenance of the facility each week. This is requiring two services a day by park staff for general care and assistance by volunteers.
- Use by the public has increased significantly since the opening.
- Development of a park sign is incorporated in the Township-wide sign initiative.

Carl Creek Crossings Preserve

- Volunteers assisted with three stewardship workdays this spring.
- The site is getting daily use by visitors.
- We held a guided wildflower walk there this spring. The flora was impressive.

Carl Creek Wetlands Preserve

- Volunteers assisted with a stewardship workday this spring. They reset a loop trail through the section off Alta Dale and removed invasive plants.
- There are significant levels of the invasive plant Buckthorn on the site. We will be contacting the Kent Conservation District for an assessment on how to better manage it.

Grand River Natural Area

- The 2018 trail improvement project was completed this spring by Jordan Intercoastal. It was delayed due to the DEQ process. The work included setting alternative paved trail routes around the areas that were high erosion areas along the river bank. This work has removed a long-term safety and erosion issue. It will take some time for the vegetation restoration to be completed.
- A section of the paved trail was not repaired with this project and will need temporary patched until we can get it into another larger asphalt bid project.
- We will be re-assessing the site for invasive plants in the fall and future management needs.

Knapp Corners Preserve

- The sign correction is still underway as it is incorporated into the Township-wide sign initiative.
- Park staff and our mowing contractor have been maintaining the site.
- A stewardship workday is to be set up yet to review the back part of the property.

Updates on the Bike Paths / Non-Motorized Trails

- The remainder of work from the 2018 trail improvement project Jordan Intercoastal is close to completion. The punch list is expected to be done by the end of June.
- Moore & Bruggink is facilitating a new maintenance project on the trails for 2019 to include sealing of the cracks throughout the system. This is expected to go out to bid in July.
- The Trails Committee has been working on a schedule for the millage renewal. They are also putting together a framework for prioritizing future trail projects and projected costs. The plan is to be drafted soon so it may be promoted this summer.

Updates on Recreation Programs

- Upcoming summer Community Programs include the 4th of July parade, car show and fireworks; three Friday night *Beers at the Bridge* concerts; and the August in Ada Children's Fair.
- Softball and Baseball programs have been under way since March. Youth leagues and tournaments filled the spring, while the adult leagues and tournaments started in May and are continuing through the summer. The rains had an impact, but Rob and his crew kept the programs going well.
- AYSO soccer was held again April through June at Ada Park with activities six days a week. They have a couple day events and a week-long soccer camp scheduled for this summer.
- ZigZag Ultimate Frisbee was held again this spring one night a week in Ada Park. This program is growing regionally and targets middle school and high school students. It is scheduled for the summer months and requested for the fall season as well.
- The Grand Rapids Triathlon was held June 9. It was a little rainy which held back some spectators, but everything went well for the participants.
- A spring adult program was held at Roselle Park on managing your property for invasive plants and a wildflower walk was held at Carl Creek Crossings. A family-based program on local wildlife was also held at Roselle Park.
- Several spring school programs were held at Roselle Park and one was held at Ada Park. The Roselle Park schools were funded in part through the GVSU *Groundswell* program we are partners with.
- Summer youth day and day camps camp programs start this week with a fishing day in Ada Park and summer camp volunteer training. Next week they move into a 3-days a week program schedule alternating between ½ day programs and the 3-day camps. The programs will be held at both Ada Park and Roselle Park.
- We will again host the Forest Hills Girl Scout summer Day Camp program. That will be at Ada Park June 17-20. Over 100 girls participate in that program.
- Our fall program planning is underway with information for the next Adaview newsletter due July 19.
- Planning for the year 2020 is also underway to facilitate an expanded program offering, community partnerships, returning the 4th of July celebration in the Village and participation in the Grand River Expedition.

Other Items

- We facilitated the spring Ada-Cascade Clean-Up Day at the Forest Hill Central Middle School. Over 950 vehicles went through the line and a number had to be turned away. A request to use that site for the fall has been submitted. A meeting is being set to review logistics, costs and long terms site needs.
- The new Kent District Library in the Village of Ada has a ground breaking ceremony set for Tuesday, June 18 at 3:30 p.m. Construction will start early July with completion anticipated for late summer or early fall 2020.

What two acres can contain

In late 2018, Betty Jo Crosby added two acres to her Ada conservation agreement, further protecting valuable wildlife habitat and the Grand River watershed. The addition underscores Betty Jo's legacy as a land protector and stands to benefit those who live in the Ada area for generations to come.

Two acres may seem small, but acres are no measure of the conservation value land can contain. In fact, if you ask Betty Jo Crosby why it was important to her to add two acres to her existing conservation agreement, she would say it's silly to ask why it is important to protect something so biodiverse.

"It's a tiny spot that just harbors so much."

"It's a tiny spot that just harbors so much," Betty Jo said.

The two-acre parcel adjacent to Betty Jo's previously protected property was being eyed for development. Knowing it was loaded with seeps, springs and wildlife habitat, Betty Jo believed the land was not suited for development, and it was important to her to stop it.

"I said, 'Oh no, not over my dead body,'" Betty Jo said. "I can't let that happen."

So Betty Jo purchased the land and added it to her existing conservation agreement with the Land Conservancy. The two-acre amendment extends the bounds of a vibrant collection of natural habitats, and it protects a Grand River tributary on both sides. The idyllic property includes forests, wetlands and

creeks. Woodpeckers, owls and migrating warblers, thrushes and hawks are known to flutter among its trees. Wild ginger, Christmas fern and hepatica flourish on the forest floor. Members of the Ada community have long enjoyed views of Betty Jo's land from a nearby bike path.

"It is a treasure," Betty Jo said.

Betty Jo's commitment to conservation has deep roots.

"I've had a passion for the outdoors and nature since I was a small child," she said.

She has been a member of Ada Township's Open Space Preservation Advisory Board (now a part of the township's Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Advisory Board) since its inception, working to encourage landowners to preserve their natural land in Ada Township. Betty Jo has also chosen to donate the value of her conservation agreement to the Land Conservancy to support our work protecting land throughout West Michigan.

We are grateful to Betty Jo for being a fierce advocate for nature and for her generous support of the Land Conservancy. •



Betty Jo Crosby

A creek protected by Betty Jo's conservation agreement.

Betty Jo Crosby admires a white cedar next to the Grand River tributary her amendment protects.