

Park District of Ottawa County

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PARKS AND TRAILS IMPROVEMENT GRANT AWARDS 2023

The Park District of Ottawa County Board of Park Commissioners is pleased to announce the awards for the 2023 Parks and Trails Improvement Grant. This grant opportunity was open to all political subdivisions, public libraries, and public schools in Ottawa County. It was the Park District's second year offering the grant program. In total the Park District awarded \$315,000.00 to eight public entities in Ottawa County. The selected projects will address community need, connectivity, and will enhance outdoor recreational experiences for residents and visitors of Ottawa County.

2023 Awarded Projects:

Oak Harbor Library: Book Trail at Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge Fox Unit

The Book Trail, "Wild Pages", will involve the permanent installation of sign frames along a fully accessible and maintained trail. Pages from children's books are placed within these frames so they can be read by families while enjoying a casual hike along the trail. Activities and programming will also be incorporated into "Wild Pages".

Put-in-Bay Township Park District: Duff Homestead and Bayfront Preserve

The Duff Homestead and Bayfront Preserve will protect 6.5 acres of waterfront property on South Bass Island. This property includes two acres of woods, 2 acres of grassland, and 150' of lakefront. This is a collaborative effort with several organizations including the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy, the Julene M. Market Fund, and Put-in-Bay Township Park District, other private donors, and grant dollars provided by the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund.

Danbury Township: Meadowbrook Marsh Paved Trail Extension

This project consists of a 990 foot-long, 8-foot-wide ADA accessible asphalt paved trail extension in the northeast sector of Meadowbrook Marsh. It will connect to existing ADA asphalt trails in two areas forming a new loop through a scenic wooded section. This will fulfill an important need, based upon resident requests, to expand paved trails in this park.

Village of Clay Center: Park Play Area Improvements

The Village Park will be enhanced with swinging benches and a swing set. The improvements will greatly benefit the singular recreational area within the Village of Clay Center.

Village of Genoa: Veterans Park and North Coast Inland Trail Restroom, Phase Two

The restroom project will provide a needed amenity for residents and visitors who frequently utilize the park for youth sporting events and other community activities. The restroom is also along the route of the 75-mile North Coast Inland Trail, also known as US Bike Route 30, and will provide a much needed restroom location for the trail. Additionally, the building will serve as a concessions stand.

Ida Rupp Public Library: Port Clinton StoryWalk and Park Area

The library will be installing a StoryWalk in two open lots owned by the Library. The space in the center of the StoryWalk will include a multi-use lawn and brick patio to serve as a stage. There will be native plantings and benches also included in the project.

Village of Marblehead: Outdoor Musical Instruments

The outdoor musical instruments designed to resemble plants and will be featured in a sensory garden. This musical park equipment is appealing to people of all ages and physical abilities. The sensory garden will be located adjacent to the inclusive playground being installed at James Park this spring.

Village of Oak Harbor: Oak Harbor Riverfront Trail

The Riverfront Trail is a long-standing community vision to create a public trail along the Portage River in downtown Oak Harbor. Over the past four years the project has gained substantial traction and funding through several grants and Ohio Capital Budget funding. It is projected for completion in 2024.

The Park District of Ottawa County is grateful to be part of the county-wide collaborative effort to improve outdoor recreation amenities and access. The 2024 grant program will open for applications this fall. Please contact Executive Director Jannah Wilson at (419) 707-4051 or jwilson@ottawacountyparksoh.org with any questions related to the grant program. We look forward to working together toward the continued betterment of our treasured outdoor spaces.
