

Pullman Parks Initiative

A presentation to the Lee Township Board of Trustees
and the Lee Township Community
September 13, 2021



Beautify Pullman was founded in October 2020 with a mission to improve the community of Pullman Michigan through beautification, preservation and restoration. Two significant projects were undertaken in 2021.



The 4 Corners Beautification Project is complete.

- Two parcels of land at 109th and 56th street, and the Pullman Post Office were landscaped.
- Eight large planters were placed along 109th Avenue.
- Nineteen smaller planters were placed at local businesses.
- A paver patio, park bench and trash receptacle were placed at the Frontier building.

The community feedback on this project has been overwhelmingly positive.



The community was surveyed for feedback on the 4 Corners Beautification project. The survey was distributed via email and Facebook.

On a scale of 1 (I don't like it) to 5 (I love everything about it) the results are:

Mean score 4.7/5

Median score 5/5

74.2% of respondents rated the project 5/5

19.3 % of respondents rated the project 4/5

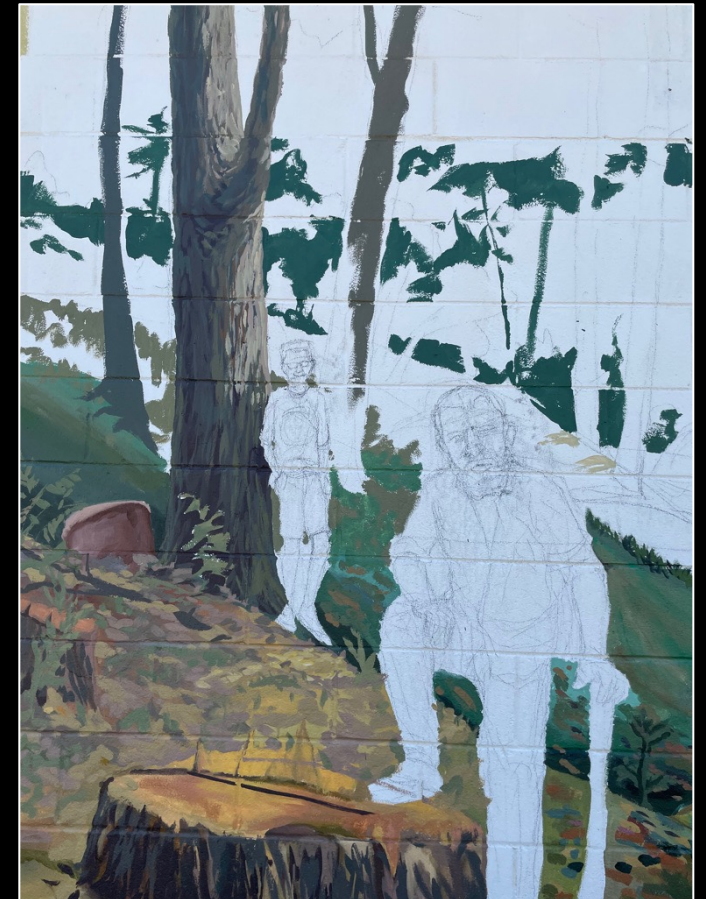
6.5% of respondents rated the project 3/5

0 respondents rated the project 1/5 or 2/5



Work has begun on the Pullman mural

- The muralist, Conrad Kaufman, is working with two local high school art students.
- The mural should be complete in October.



Fundraising began in November 2020. In 10 months, Beautify Pullman has raised \$37,000 and has reinvested most of these funds back into the Pullman Community.

Funding sources to date

- Corporate and foundation grants 25%
- Fundraising events 16%
- Individual donations 59%

Spring Plant Sale
Fundraiser for Beautify Pullman

Order plants for a beautiful summer garden today, and pick up your flats on Memorial Day weekend. Each order will include a flat of 18 plants, approximately 6-8 inches tall in 3.25 inch pots. The plants will be grown and cultivated by Hartscapes, LLC and will include a planting guide.

Butterfly Garden \$80
A selection of perennials to attract butterflies to the garden. Includes spring, summer, and fall blooming plants to ensure continuous food supply. Easy care plants that are low maintenance and long lived. Includes Milkweed which is a host plant for the Endangered Monarch Butterfly, Bee Balm, New-England Aster, Purple Coneflower, Savanna Blazing Star, and Showy Goldenrod.

Hummingbird Garden \$80
Attract Hummingbirds to your home garden. These seasonal visitors are a delight from April to October. They require nectar to maintain their speedy lifestyles. Plants include colorful perennials that are happy in all soils except very heavy clay. Hairy Beardtongue, Cardinal Flower, Great Blue Lobelia, Rose Mallow, Nodding Onion, and Smooth Blue Aster.

Rain Garden \$80
Rain gardens are areas that are moist to wet after rain, but drain quickly. They can be low depressions in the yard. Turn these areas into a beautiful landscape. These plants are suited to the wet/dry conditions. They will attract a wide array of pollinators including bees, butterflies, flies, and beetles. Clustered Mountainmint, Rattlesnake Master, Purple Giant Hyssop, Nodding Onion, Cardinal Flower, and Orange Coneflower.

Xeriscape Garden \$80
Xeriscape gardens are a low-maintenance garden that requires no added water. Xeri=ZERO input. Enjoy a colorful and interesting range of plants sure to bring joy to you and to wildlife. These plants will tolerate heat and drought with no complaints. Prairie Smoke, Horehound, Western Sunflower, Black-eyed Susan, Hairy Beardtongue, and Pussytoes.

Herb Garden \$30
A selection of annual and perennial herbs for you to enjoy all season. Grow in containers or in the garden. Cilantro, Parsley, Lavender, Thyme, Dill, and Basil.

Place Orders by Saturday, March 27, 2021
Order your summer garden plants at www.beautifypullman.org/shop and pick up your plants on Memorial Day Weekend
Questions? Contact us at info@beautifypullman.org

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser
Saturday, March 27th 4-7pm at the Linking Center

Carry-out dinners only
Spaghetti with meat sauce, salad, garlic bread
\$5 per meal, \$20 family size feeds 5
Stop by our bake sale too!

Proceeds will be used to landscape downtown Pullman
Thank you to MODERN WOODMEN FRATERNAL FINANCIAL for sponsoring our fundraiser with matching funds!

Potted Flowers Fundraiser
Small and Large Pots \$5 - \$25

Ivy
Fuschia
Bridal Veil
Purple Spiderwort
Hummingbird Feeders

MOTHER'S DAY

A Fundraiser for Beautify Pullman

Autumn Tree & Shrub Sale
\$20 per shrub. Pick up Saturday, October 2nd
All shrubs are 1.5 to 2 ft tall in 1-gallon containers.
Full descriptions and order forms at www.beautifypullman.org

Buttonbush	Fragrant Sumac	Hazelnut
Black Chokeberry	Pagoda Dogwood	Swamp Rose
Bayberry	Kentucky Coffee Tree	Steeplebush
Speckled Alder	Black Tupelo	Larch
Sycamore	Ninebark	Black Current

A Fundraiser for Beautify Pullman

Saturday, October 2, 2021
Under the tent in downtown Pullman

Pullman Oktoberfest

noon-3 pm
plant sale bake sale
kids arts & crafts face painting hair braiding
disc golf clinic for kids & adults (1-3pm)
snacks & apple cider

6-9 pm (ticket required)
brats & slides
wine, beer, cider
German desserts

Music by **Live Ball**

Raffles & 50/50

FENN VALLEY
VINEYARDS & WINE CELLAR

Rusty Rocket Brewing

A fundraiser for Beautify Pullman
Purchase tickets for evening festival at www.beautifypullman.org

What's Next?

In 2022, the Allegan County Roads Commission will improve the 4 corners with road & drain improvements and the addition of curbs, rain gutters and sidewalks extending 500 feet from the intersection of 109th and 56th

Beautify Pullman will focus its efforts on Lee Township's parks, enhancing these public spaces for gathering, recreation, and enjoying nature.

Consulted with

- Brandi Gildea, Allegan County Parks, Recreation & Tourism
- Jason Combs, Water Resources Division, Michigan EGLE
- Martin Rosas, Rosas Landscaping LLC



Goals

- Enhance these public spaces for use by all community members, creating spaces for family and friends to gather, picnic, fish, swim and enjoy nature.
- Address maintenance needs and add amenities for recreation and relaxation.
- Retain the purpose and rustic feel of these parks.



Ravenswood Park



Public Beach

Public Beach at Lower Scott Lake



Features – beautiful setting; water access; shade trees; parking lot; sandy, clear lake bottom with shallow entry

Issues – no amenities; steep dirt path from the road to the water; entry to the water is often muddy and collects weeds

Improvements to the Public Beach



Improve access to the park with landscaped steps and a handrail, and improve access to the water with a short section of dock. Permit not needed.



Improve amenities by adding a picnic table and trash can.



Add welcoming signage. Consider a standard sign style to use at all Lee Township locations – parks, library, community center, township hall.



Ravenswood Park



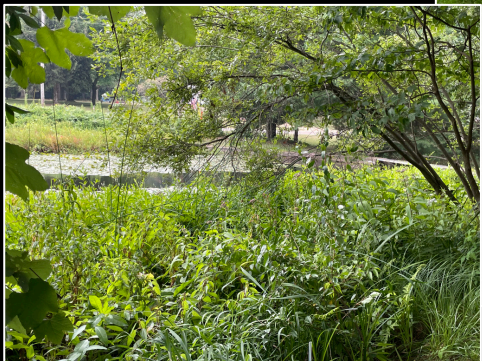
Features – beautiful setting; shade trees; walking distance from the center of Pullman; popular fishing spot; size can accommodate additional amenities

Issues – very few amenities; steep dirt path to the water; overgrown nuisance weeds at the channel; exposed tree roots and erosion; cars drive through the park; people walk across the dam

Ravenswood Park – Safety and Accessibility Improvements



exposed tree roots
and uneven ground



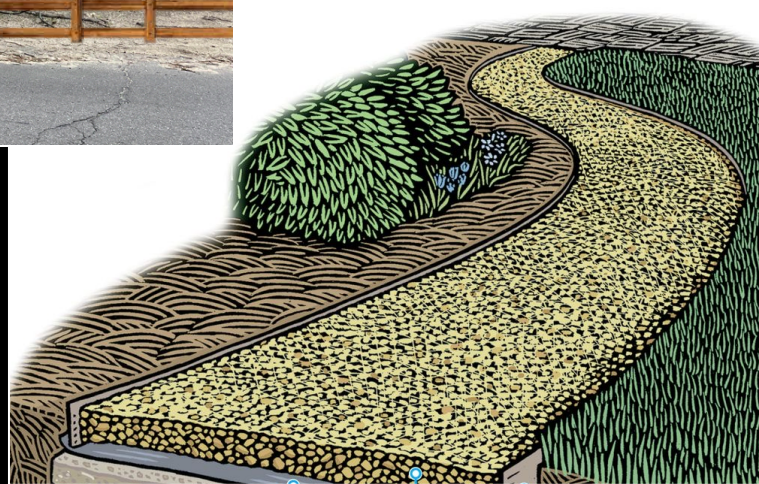
weed overgrowth at
channel



area where cars drive
through the park

- Remove dead and dying trees and trim branches
- Remove weeds at channel*
- Regrade and add fill, shade seed and erosion blankets to cover exposed roots and eliminate sharp drop-offs
- Fill in and seed the “drive through”

Ravenswood Park – Safety and Accessibility Improvements

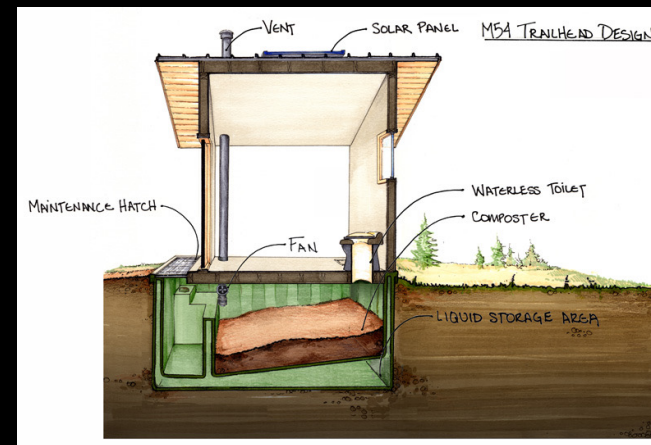


- Install a fence along Ravenswood Avenue to deter vehicle traffic through park
- Define the parking area, and add handicapped parking
- Create paths of crushed concrete

Ravenswood Park – Add Amenities



- Add seating under the shade trees
- Landscape the park entrance and seating area with low maintenance perennials and shrubs
- Build structure around the existing porta potty for aesthetics and protection from the weather.
- Consider a more permanent restroom solution such as a waterless trailhead restroom.



Ravenswood Park – Add Amenities



- Create a space for gathering and picnics
- Build a pavilion of 800-900 square feet on a concrete pad
- Add picnic tables, new grill and trash receptacle

Ravenswood Park – Add Amenities



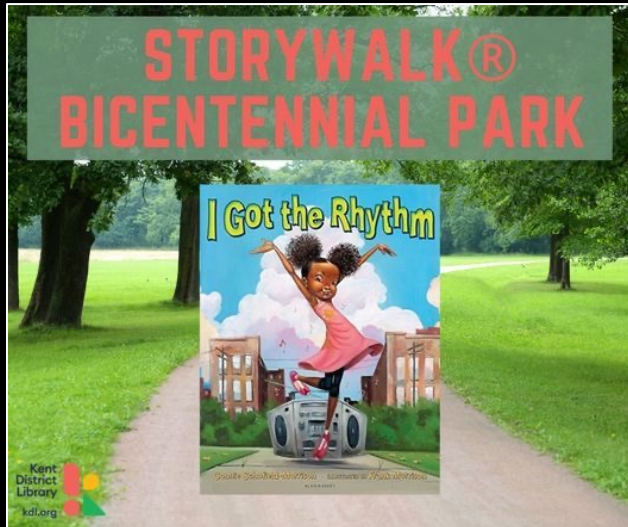
- Improve the fishing area with a fishing platform near the dam, or a boardwalk and floating dock at the center of the park
- Add a trail bridge near the dam to deter foot traffic on the dam



Ravenswood Park – Add a StoryWalk®



- StoryWalk® is a fun, educational activity that places pages of a children's books along a walking route in the community.
- The story boards allow books to be changed out regularly.
- StoryWalks® are now in all 50 states and many other countries, promoting reading and outdoor physical activity for kids and families.
- StoryWalks® are in many community parks in Michigan, and are supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services of the Library of Michigan.



Ravenswood Park – Additional Amenities



power pole and light

- Lighting
- Security camera
- Signage



Ravenswood Park

Environmental Concerns & Permitting



The Water Resources Division of EGLE inspected plants and soil samples, confirming wetland soil.

- In wetland soil, nuisance weeds can be removed manually, without mechanical or motorized means without a permit. Weed whackers and lake rakes are allowed. Trees can be cut but not dug out.
- The concern is to not upset the lake bottom.
- Some plantings should remain for aquatic habitat and filter water runoff

The amount of fill added at the park may be set by 100 year floodplain designation

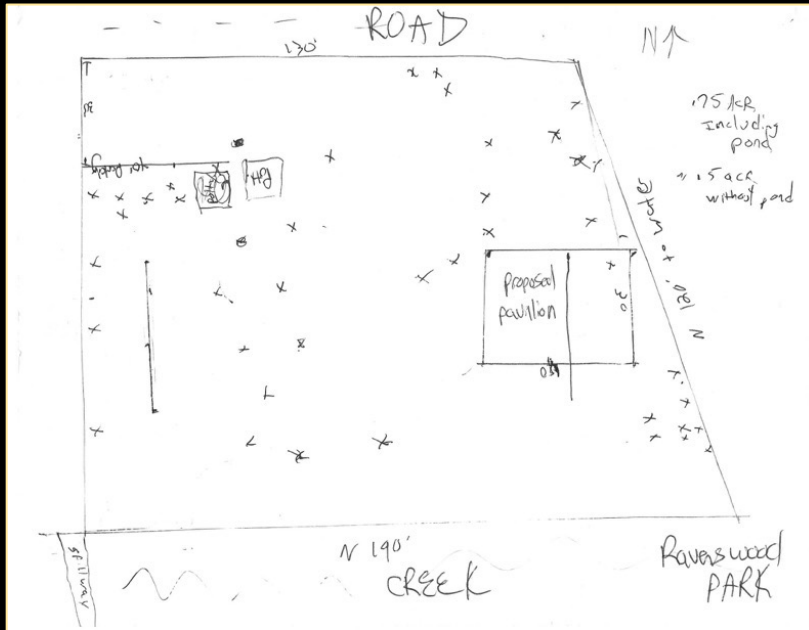
- The Ravenswood Park area has not been mapped by FEMA
- The DNR Floodplain Engineer had been contacted for further clarification

Permit requirements depend on what we build

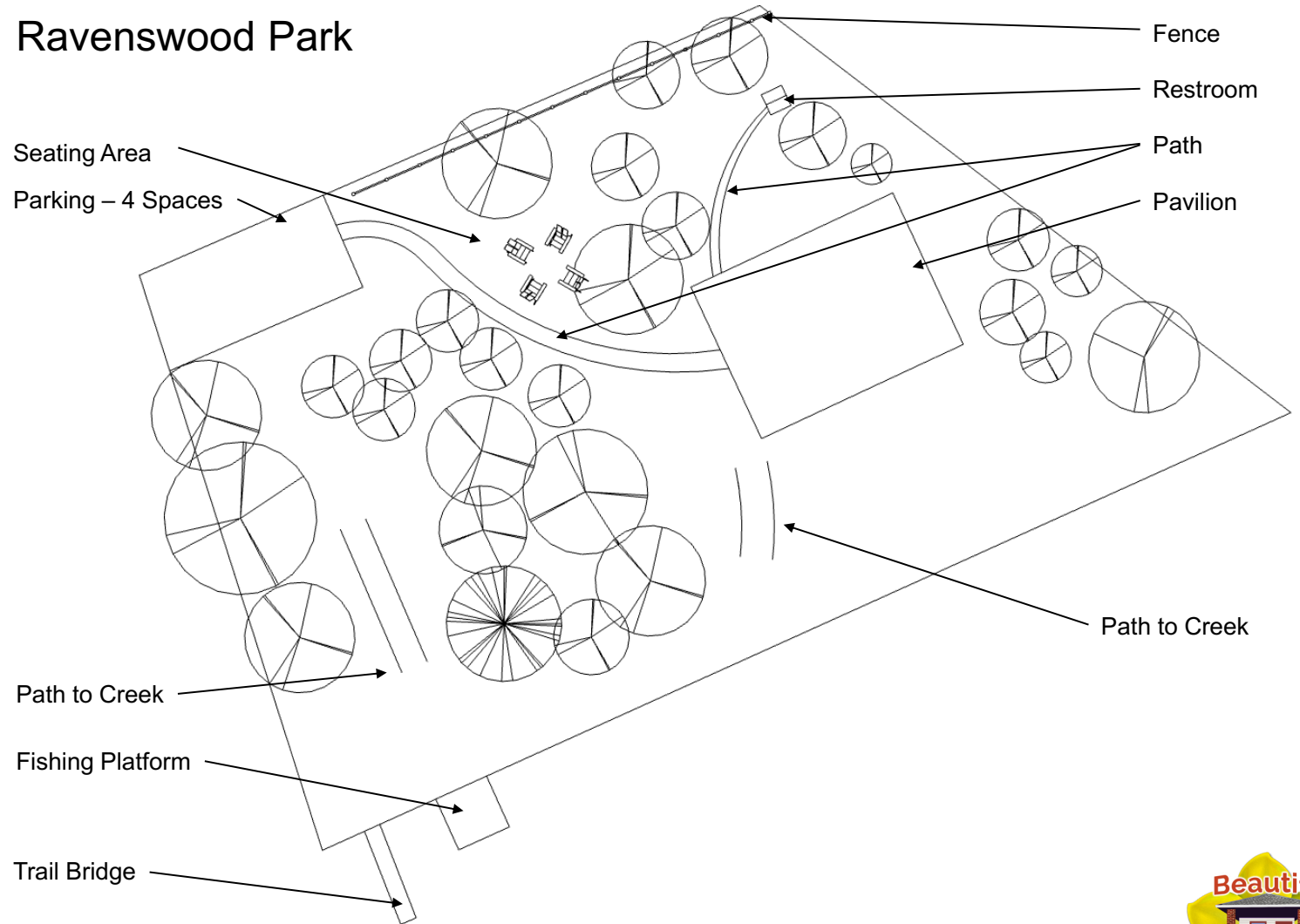
- A fishing platform on land or cantilevered does not need a permit.
- Elevated boardwalks and clear span bridges are considered low impact
- Boardwalk and trail bridge could be applied for on the same minor permit at a cost of \$50.



Ravenswood Park as planned



Ravenswood Park



Budget for Park Improvements

Public Beach

\$7,500

- landscape improvements, steps & handrail, picnic table, dock, trash, signage

Ravenswood Park

\$67,800 - \$101,300

- Landscaping: grading, sand, topsoil, seed, fertilizer, erosion blanket, crushed concrete paths, all materials, equipment and labor \$12,800
- Pavilion and picnic amenities (tables, grill, trash, restroom enclosure) \$39,500 – \$64,500
- Seating area, fence, StoryWalk®, signage \$ 7,500
- Fishing platform and trail bridge \$ 6,500 – \$15,000
- Professional services and permits \$ 1,500
- Lighting and security unknown

Total for all improvements \$75,300 - \$108,800



Fundraising Target for Park Improvements

\$100,000

Fundraising Strategy – continue with current methods

- Corporate and foundation grants
- Fundraising events
- Individual donations

The success of fundraising efforts and project completion for 4 Corners Beautification and the Pullman Mural puts Beautify Pullman in a good position to seek additional corporate and foundation grants.

Saturday, October 2, 2021
Under the tent in downtown Pullman

Pullman Oktoberfest

noon-3 pm
plant sale bake sale
kids arts & crafts face painting hair braiding
disc golf clinic for kids & adults (1-3pm)
snacks & apple cider

6-9 pm (ticket required)
brats & sides Music by **Live Bait**
wine, beer, cider
German desserts

Raffles & 50/50

A fundraiser for Beautify Pullman
Purchase tickets for evening festivities
at www.beautifypullman.org





Fundraising Strategy – Apply for State Grants



Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund - \$15,000 to \$300,000

MNRTF projects provide for natural resource protection and outdoor recreation. Applications are evaluated on established criteria such as natural resource access and conservation, proximity to population clusters, applicant's committed matching funds, applicant's financial need, and priority projects of the Trust Fund Board, such as trails, regional significance, public access to lakes and rivers, wildlife habitat, and hunting access.

DNR Recreation Passport Grants – \$7,500 to \$150,000 ; requires a 25% match

The objective for the program is to provide funding to local units for the development of public recreation facilities. This includes the development of new facilities and the renovation of old facilities

Timeline – a 20 month process to receive funds

February 1 - Local community recreation plans must be uploaded to DNR's MiGrants site

April 1 – Deadline for uploading grant applications

December - Grant recommendations made by the DNR and MNRTF Board of Trustees

April to October – Final grant awards are made



Fundraising Strategy – Apply Local American Recovery Funds

See \$24M plan to spend recovery funds in Muskegon, including new linear park downtown

Updated: May 12, 2021, 1:53 p.m. | Published: May 12, 2021, 1:53 p.m.



A \$24 million proposal to spend federal Rescue Plan money in Muskegon includes funding for youth recreation, affordable housing, a downtown snowmelt system, Western Market expansion, Muskegon Lake public access and many more projects. (MLive file photos)



394 shares

By Lynn Moore | lmoore@mlive.com

MUSKEGON, MI – A preliminary plan to spend \$24 million in pandemic relief funds gives a glimpse into future projects and priorities in the city of Muskegon including an ambitious park that would take up half of Shoreline Drive.

Source: MLive

OPEN Space The official blog & podcast of NRPA

HOME | BLOG | AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN: NEW GUIDANCE FOR PARK AND RECREATION PROFESSIONALS

Blog

American Rescue Plan: New Guidance for Park and Recreation Professionals

By Kyle Simpson | Posted on July 7, 2021

Tags: Urban Parks and Recreation, Trends and News, Social Equity, Funding, Advocacy

As you likely know, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan (ARP) into law on March 11th this year. NRPA provided initial guidance on ARP in a previous blog post, and as promised, we wanted to provide you an update on new guidance from the Department of the Treasury. The new guidance details allowable uses for the "Conservation State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds" – the \$350 billion in funding for cities, counties and states to help blunt the economic impact of the pandemic and assist those most impacted by the virus. Information on how much funding your communities will receive is available here. It's worth noting that cities of all sizes will be receiving funds. The fund provides \$45.6 billion for larger cities and \$79.5 billion for cities with under 50,000 residents. No matter the size of your community, you will receive ARP funding.

The Department of the Treasury recently published an interim final rule that provides some much-anticipated information on how ARP funds can be used. NRPA's public policy and advocacy team pushed to ensure that parks and outdoor spaces were recognized in the ARP, and we were pleased they were included in the interim final rule.

The Department of the Treasury also published an FAQ document that clarifies the rule. While it will lay out the provisions of the FAQ, please visit the document and are question 2.18 for more detailed information. The FAQ states that "Conservation State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds" can be used for the following purposes for outdoor spaces:

1. To improve spaces in areas that have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. This provision refers to projects in a "Qualified Census Tract" and can include improving park space that will benefit the health and wellness of these communities.
2. Maintenance and upkeep issues because of the increased use of parks during the pandemic. Addressing these issues are allowable expenses under the ARP.

at outlays will be allowed, you should be sure that your city manager, mayor, city council and other municipal leadership are in line from the Department of the Treasury. If you haven't already made city leadership aware of the issues facing your maintenance issues due to the increased usage and your plans for new projects in underserved communities – now is a great time to do so.

Leadership determines how this money is spent, so you should continue to make the case to these decision-makers. It's also a good idea to let members of your community so that various community voices are also advocating for these funds to be used to our local park and recreation facilities. You can learn more about how to do this by registering and viewing a recorded webinar July 8, 2021.

ARP funds can be used to improve parks and can be used by 501(c)(3) community organizations.

- On July 19th, the Department of Treasury issued guidance on use of Recovery Funds
<https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/SLFRPFAQ.pdf>

- According to NRPA, section 2.18 of the guidance includes: *“To improve spaces in areas that have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. This provision refers to projects in a “Qualified Census Tract” and can include improving park space that will benefit the health and wellness of these communities.”*

- According to MSA: “Local governments can also consider donating or transferring funds to private nonprofit groups, 501(c)(3) community organizations, “friends of” groups or special-purpose units of government such as water and sewer districts, park and recreation groups, tourism leagues, port authorities, or independent school districts. This is a great option for smaller counties or townships without a lot of qualifying infrastructure projects and a means to invest ARP funding in organizations that can utilize the money over a longer period of time, without necessarily needing to meet the same reporting requirements as direct municipal-led ARP projects. It can also be a great way to fund more expansive regional efforts such as trail networks, aquatic centers, athletic complexes, marinas and parks that have larger economic, tourism and trade impacts.”



Search

Services We Provide | Billing | Contacts | Events | Resources | COVID-19

How We Help | What We Serve | Our Experience | Insights | Who We Are | Contact Us

APRIL 9, 2021 | ART BAHR | JIM HOLZ, AICP | DAVE RASMUSSEN | BUILDINGS, COMMUNITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT, FUNDING, GIS & ASSET MANAGEMENT, LAND DEVELOPMENT, MUNICIPAL ENGINEERING, PARKS & RECREATION, TRANSPORTATION SERVICES, WATER SERVICES

American Rescue Plan Funding – Project Planning and Prioritization

American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding is close at hand. For many communities across the United States, this relief money is more than a gesture of aid; it's a lifeline.

Applying this funding toward the goal of long-term municipal recovery, however, means a prudent assessment of your community to balance short-term needs with strategic investments.

The Biden administration signed the American Rescue Plan Act into law on March 11, 2021, along with a general overview of plan amounts and deadlines. \$550 billion in federal aid dollars is forthcoming for all states, municipalities, counties, tribes and territories to help battle revenue deficits associated with COVID-19 and to stimulate economic rebound. Of that \$550 billion, \$65.1 billion will be paid directly to cities, towns and villages through a modified Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) formula. This portion is for the immediate benefit of America's 16,000 municipalities. It cannot be contingent in any fashion with other state or county funds, and there are strict safeguards and penalties in place to discourage state interference or the provision of additional state mandates on the use of these funds.

Most communities already have a good general sense of their portion of the allotment, and will receive the funds in two disbursements, as funneled through each state treasury. States will receive the first half of the funding approximately 60 days from signing the law – around May 11 – and will have 30 days to distribute to municipalities with populations under 50,000. The second half will arrive 12 months later. Communities with populations greater than 50,000 will receive the funding directly from the federal government.

Subscribe to see what we're thinking.

First Name*

Last Name*

Email*

Company*

Title*

Submit

Other insights you

Source: MSA – Parks and recreation planning and consulting

How can Lee Township help with park improvements?

- Pass the resolution recognizing Beautify Pullman as a nonprofit organization in the community in support of Beautify Pullman fundraising efforts.
- Perform regular maintenance at the parks, including inspecting and removing dead trees & branches, mowing, trimming, emptying trash receptacles
- Review and approve plans for specific park improvements as they are presented to the township, estimated to start in winter 2021-2022.
- Apply for permits as needed.
- Contribute 50%, or \$50,000 from ARP funds to improving Ravenswood Park and the public beach. Beautify Pullman will fundraise for the other 50%.



Thank you for the opportunity to present

Beautify Pullman

Debbie Laraway

Shirley Kay

Judy Neafsey

Patty Conway

Marlana Garcia

