

MEETING DATE: March 21, 2022

AGENDA ITEM #: 3



**FINANCE AND  
PHYSICAL  
RESOURCES  
COMMITTEE  
ACTION  
REQUEST**

DEPARTMENT:	Parks
PREPARED BY:	Mark Rambo, Deputy County Administrator
SUBJECT:	Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant Submission for Cannonsburg Recreation Area Land Acquisition

**ACTION REQUESTED:**

Recommend to the Board of Commissioners to approve submission of a grant application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) to purchase approximately 160 acres surrounding the Cannonsburg Recreation Area and to commit to acquiring the required local match, if awarded.

**PROPOSED TO GO TO THE BOARD ON MARCH 23, 2023**

**SUMMARY OF REQUEST:**

- The natural areas surrounding the Cannonsburg Recreation Area (see enclosed map) in Cannon Township is used by the community as a four seasons park as it is a recreational destination for mountain biking enthusiasts, hikers, runners, birders, and others.
- The property is strategically located in proximity to other County assets, including Townsend Park, Pickerel Lake Park, and the new James and Shirley Balk Family Park. The southern portion of the property also connects into the Michigan Department of Natural Resources State Game area.
- Acquiring the land is estimated to cost \$3,200,000. The final purchase price will be determined using the Department of Natural Resources' appraisal process, as required by the grant.
- The Parks Department seeks approval to submit a grant request to the MNRTF to fund \$2,240,000 (70%) of the land purchase price. The remaining \$960,000 (30%) is expected to come from the county, local agencies, community groups, and/or philanthropy.
- It is anticipated that the County will be notified in December 2023 if the application is successful. If the grant is approved, an action request to accept the grant, appropriate the grant and required matching funds, and authorize the purchase will be brought to the Committee and Board of Commissioners. If awarded, funds would need to be expended within two years.

**THIS ACTION RELATES TO AN ACTIVITY WHICH IS:**

MANDATED  NON-MANDATED  NEW ACTIVITY

**COST/FUNDING RECOMMENDATION:**

**ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION:**

RECOMMENDED  NOT RECOMMENDED  ALTERNATIVES:

GOVERNING/ADVISORY BOARD APPROVAL DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR: Alan G. Nussberg

DATE: March 14, 2023

03-23-23-XX

RESOLUTION BY COMMISSIONER (TBD)

WHEREAS, The natural areas surrounding the Cannonsburg Recreation Area (see enclosed map) in Cannon Township is used by the community as a four seasons park as it is a recreational destination for mountain biking enthusiasts, hikers, runners, birders, and others; and

WHEREAS, The property is strategically located in proximity to other County assets, including Townsend Park, Pickerel Lake Park, and the new James and Shirley Balk Family Park. The southern portion of the property also connects into the Michigan Department of Natural Resources State Game area; and

WHEREAS, Acquiring the land is estimated to cost \$3,200,000. The final purchase price will be determined using the Department of Natural Resources' appraisal process, as required by the grant; and

WHEREAS, The Parks Department seeks approval to submit a grant request to the MNRTF to fund \$2,240,000 (70%) of the land purchase price. The remaining \$960,000 (30%) is expected to come from the county, local agencies, community groups, and/or philanthropy; and

WHEREAS, It is anticipated that the County will be notified in December 2023 if the application is successful. If the grant is approved, an action request to accept the grant, appropriate the grant and required matching funds, and authorize the purchase will be brought to the Committee and Board of Commissioners. If awarded, funds would need to be expended within two years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners approve submission of a grant application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) to purchase approximately 160 acres surrounding the Cannonsburg Recreation Area and to commit to acquiring the required local match, if awarded.

Commissioner TBD moved adoption of the resolution.



