



2022

Annual Report

Park District of Ottawa County

Board of Park Commissioners:

Gary Kohli

Mike Shadoan

Judy Indorf

Jack Madison

Elizabeth Slotnick

Executive Director-Secretary:

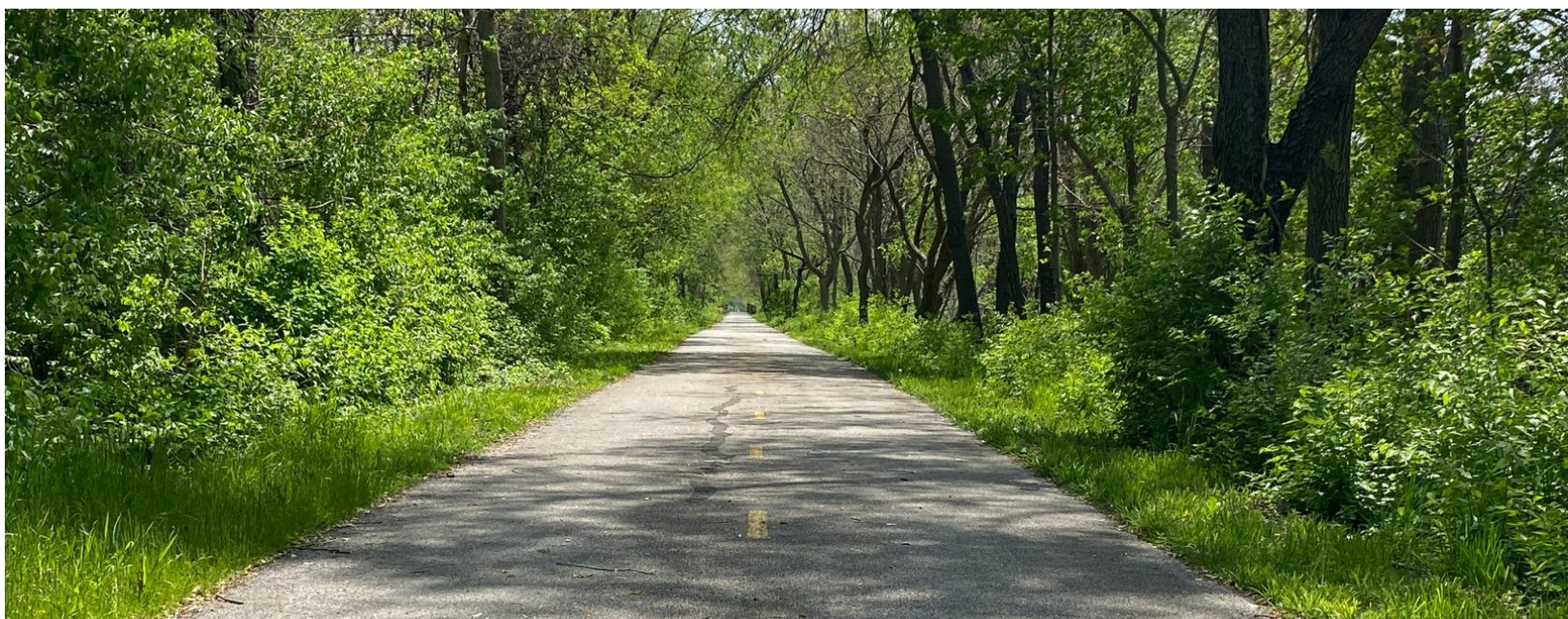
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Executive Summary.

2022 in Review:

It was a transformative year for the Park District of Ottawa County. While this year marked thirty years since the inception of the Park District, it was the first operational year with an Executive Director and second year with funding from its .6 mill levy. This year the Park District focused on developing operational components and establishing a physical presence within Ottawa County communities. The Board of Park Commissioners and Executive Director also moved forward with project planning, long range budget planning, and policy development.

Operations and Policies

The Park Board and Executive Director worked together to establish operational plans and policies including an Employee Policy Manual, Volunteer Code of Conduct, Public Records Policy, Donations Policy, and Inventory Policy. The Park District also signed a lease to rent an office space and now maintains a physical address, phone number, and e-mail.

As part of the District's marketing initiatives, the website was updated with project information, photos, contact information, public meeting calendar, and meeting minute archive. Social media was used as a communication tool with future goals to develop a social media plan and content schedule. A new professional logo was also approved by the board and will be used on all Park District signage and marketing pieces.

To keep projects and plans moving in the right direction, the Park Board approved an 18-month Strategic Plan (2022-2023) developed and presented by Executive Director Jannah Wilson. The Strategic Plan provides a general outline of objectives for the Park District. Plans are in place to develop a long range Strategic Plan in 2023.

Current Projects

Catawba Islander Trail and Greenway Master Plan Phase One:

The Park District contracted Poggemeyer Design Group to complete the Master Plan. It will be completed in 2023. The Plan will be utilized in order to determine a preferred trail route. The Plan has included public meetings and outreach initiatives, including a survey.

North Coast Inland Trail - Elmore to Genoa

The Park District worked with the County to provide assistance with the remaining costs. Plans are being developed regarding future maintenance and long-term trail improvements.

North Coast Inland Trail – Genoa to Millbury

The Park District is actively working on plans for the future extension of the NCIT in order to complete the Ottawa County portion.

Portage River Water Trail

The Water Trail was officially designated by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources on July 19th, 2022. The Park District has assumed the role of Facilitator in order to work with partner groups and plan for future maintenance and improvements.

As part of the Water Trail, the Park District also assisted with partial funding of the installment of a kayak launch on the Little Portage River. This was completed as an Eagle Scout project in coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Parks and Trails Improvement Grant Program

The Park District facilitated its first round of funding through the Parks and Trails Improvement Grant Program. \$200,000 was awarded to several Ottawa County political subdivisions for a wide variety of outdoor recreation projects. Funded projects listed below:

- **Cedar Meadow Preserve Trail Upgrades:** Catawba Island Township
 - **Ottawa County Fairgrounds Kayak Launch**
 - **Meadowbrook Marsh Upgrades:** Danbury Township
 - **Veterans Park Storywalk Trail:** Harris-Elmore Public Library
 - **Portage Park Playground Upgrades:** Port Clinton
 - **Veterans Park and NCIT Restroom:** Genoa
 - **Riverwalk Project:** Oak Harbor
 - **Massie Cliffside Preserve Driveway Upgrade:** Put-in-Bay Township
- Park District

Public Outreach

Informational Exhibits:

The Park District attended three community events in order to share information regarding the development of the Park District, projects, and future plans.

- CIC Boat Show Informational Exhibit
- Marblehead Perch Festival Informational Exhibit
- Oak Harbor Apple Festival Informational Exhibit

Special Programs:

The Park District hosted two special programs as a way to provide fun and educational experiences for Ottawa County youth and families. Programming proved to be successful and well attended.

- **Bike Safety Day** - This program was conducted as a partnership program between the Ottawa County Sheriff's Office, Ottawa County Health Department, Hopfinger-Zimmerman Memorial Park, Friends of Ottawa County Parks, and the Park District. The program aimed to teach basic cycling skills and safety. The 19 children who completed the program received a new bike and helmet!
- **Jack-o-Lantern Walk at Meadowbrook Marsh** - The Park District worked with Danbury Township and Girl Scout Troop 1125 to create a trail of candlelit jack-o-lanterns throughout the Meadowbrook Marsh. Donuts and apple cider were served after participants completed the trail. 186 people attended and plans are in place for next year's walk.

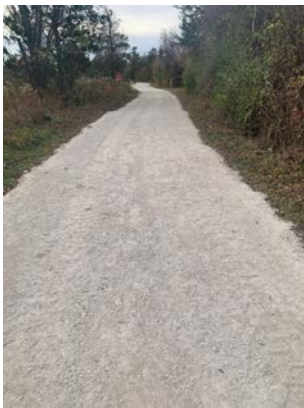
Photos



Board Member Elizabeth Slotnick sworn in by the Honorable Judge Hany



Bike Safety Day at Hopfinger Zimmerman Memorial Park



First Parks and Trails Improvement Grant completed - Cedar Meadow Trail Upgrade



Portage River Watertrail Ribbon Cutting



ODNR Director Mary Mertz



Park District Office



Jack-o-Lantern Walk at Meadowbrook Marsh



Catawba Islander Trail and Greenway Master Plan Open House