

PARK DISTRICT OF OTTAWA COUNTY



ANNUAL REPORT
FOR 2023



LEADERSHIP

Board of Park Commissioners:

Mike Shadoan, Chairperson

Judy Indorf, Vice Chairperson

Jack Madison, 2nd Vice Chairperson

Elizabeth (Betsy) Slotnick, Board Member

Trish McCartney, Board Member

Executive Director-Secretary:

Jannah Wilson

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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Park District of Ottawa County is to connect, enhance and protect the natural, scenic, environmental and cultural resources of Ottawa County for the enjoyment of residents and visitors.



Jannah Wilson, Executive Director

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS



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2023 PARK DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Parks and Trails Improvement Grant Program

2022 projects completed (deadline July 1st, 2023): Park District Funded Amount:

- Put-in-Bay Township Park District Massie Cliffside Driveway \$20,000.00
- Port Clinton Portage Park Playground \$15,000.00
- Danbury Township Meadowbrook Marsh Improvements \$15,000.00
- Catawba Township Cedar Meadow Trail Improvements \$20,000.00
- Ottawa County Fairgrounds Kayak Launch \$8,665.87

2023 projects completed (deadline December 1st, 2023):

- Genoa Veterans Park/NCIT Restroom (2022 and 2023 grant cycle) \$172,295.00
- Genoa Veterans Park Storywalk \$5,082.30
- Oak Harbor Library Storywalk at Fox Unit \$6,026.00
- Clay Center Playground Updates \$7,000.00
- Village of Marblehead Outdoor Musical Instruments \$6,604.00
- Put-in-Bay Township Park District Duff Homestead Acquisition \$50,000.00

2022/2023 projects slated for completion:

- Oak Harbor Riverwalk (slated for completion in 2024) \$141,000.00
- Ida Rupp Public Library Storywalk Trail (Port Clinton) \$15,000.00
- Danbury Township Meadowbrook Marsh Trail Extension \$16,975.00



Oak Harbor Library Storywalk at Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge Fox Unit



Put-in-Bay Township Park District Duff Homestead Acquisition



Port Clinton Portage Park Playground

The Park District sponsored 16 grants throughout the county through the Parks and Trails Improvement Grant Program.

2023 PARK DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Grant Awards to Park District

- Destination Development Grant Award for Marblehead Peninsula Trail Feasibility Study (\$6,459.00)
- American Academy of Pediatrics Bike Helmet Grant Award (72 helmets)
- OSS Solid Waste District Grant for NCIT/Veterans Park Restroom Sign (\$885.00) – will be reimbursed in 2024
- Clean Ohio Grant Award for Catawba Property - \$302,500.00, will close in March 2024

North Coast Inland Trail

- NCIT Witty Rd. to Martin Williston Rd property transferred to Park District from County Commissioners
- Contracted Kleinfelder to complete engineering for Martin Williston Rd separate multiuse path. Project to be completed in 2024.
- Village of Genoa Recreational Trails Grant nearly completed through Veterans Park to Washington Ave. – Park District paying cost share up to \$55,000.00
- LOI submitted for next phase from 6th St to 9th St – includes purchase of Genoa Bank property for the project. In December 2023 the Park District received approval to move forward with the full ODOT TAP application
- Continuing to work on right-of-way plans, title work and appraisals for remaining corridor to Millbury
- Village Agreements between the Park District and Genoa and the Park District and Elmore

Portage River Water Trail

- Little Portage River Kayak Launch – completed May 2023 (Eagle Scout Tyler Shadoan)
- First Water Trail Workshop with all partner agencies facilitated in March 2023
- Signage – ongoing project to have signage refabricated so it can be properly installed.
- Ribbon cutting was held for Ottawa County Fairgrounds Kayak Launch

The Park District received a Destination Development Grant Award for the Marblehead Peninsula Trail Feasibility Study in the amount of \$6,459.00.

2023 PARK DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Catawba Islander Trail and Greenway

- Phase One Master Plan completed and approved by Park Board
- Developing plans for trailhead and possible preferred route for Phase One
- Planning to open up RFP for Phase One engineering.



**Phase One Master Plan
Catawba Islander Trail and Greenway**

West Harbor Property

- On December 21st, 2023, the Black Swamp Conservancy donated a 12-acre parcel in Catawba Island Township to the Park District.
- The donation of land has provided the Park District with its first area of park land for future habitat restoration and development for passive recreational activities.



**West Harbor Property donated by the
Black Swamp Conservancy in
December 2023.**

Marblehead Peninsula Trail Feasibility Study

- Kicked off October 2023 with OHM Advisors. One-year project.

Port Clinton Recreational Amenities Plan

- Kicked off October 2023

Park District Operations

- Hired part-time Administrative Specialist Sara Hill
- Hired seasonal/intermittent Operations Assistant Chuck Mattimoe
- GeoAce mapping project – land use projections based on historical data. Land use mapping from 1990-2050
- Rules and Regulations development
- Policy development
- New Park Board Member – Trish McCartney (sworn in June, 2023)



The Park District received a Clean Ohio Grant Award for a Catawba property that will close in March 2024.

2023 PARK DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Programs and Events

- Bike Safety Day at Hopfinger Zimmerman Memorial Park (30 students over two separate program dates)
- Outdoor Hiking Challenge (130 participants)
- Pumpkin Walk (over 500 attendees)
- CIC Boat Show - Catawba
- Portage River Fest – Elmore
- Experience Ottawa County - Elmore
- Apple Festival – Oak Harbor
- (Marblehead Perch Festival – planned to attend but was canceled due to weather)



Park District Marketing Initiatives

- e-newsletters
- Facebook
- press releases
- website updates
- logo printed items for distribution at events



Friends of Ottawa County Parks

- Strategic Planning – developed vision, mission and goals
- Financial Policy
- Regular meetings
- Assisted with Park District events



The Friends of Ottawa County Parks meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the Park District office in Port Clinton.

2024 PARK DISTRICT GOALS

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- 1. Facilitate Parks and Trails Improvement Grant Program**
 - 2. Develop the Strategic Projects Program**
 - 3. Purchase property, gain funding, construct, and improve the North Coast Inland Trail through Ottawa County**
 - 4. Develop and improve the Portage River Water Trail with partnering agencies**
 - 5. Develop Catawba Islander Trail trailhead location**
 - 6. Develop Master Plan for the West Harbor Property**
 - 7. Complete Marblehead Peninsula Trail Feasibility Study**
 - 8. Develop Park District operational and maintenance plans and policies**
 - 9. Create long range Park District strategic plan**
 - 10. Conduct informational programs and events throughout Ottawa County**
 - 11. Facilitate Park District marketing initiatives**
 - 12. Develop volunteer program in conjunction with Friends of Ottawa County Parks**
 - 13. Develop plans for Park District headquarters**

To date, the Park District of Ottawa County has 1.5K followers on Facebook. Find us at Park District of Ottawa County.