

PARK DISTRICT OF OTTAWA COUNTY



ANNUAL REPORT
FOR 2025



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LEADERSHIP

Board of Park Commissioners:

Michael Shadoan, Chairperson
Judy Indorf, Vice-Chairperson and Secretary Assistant
Trish McCartney, 2nd Vice-Chairperson
Jack Madison, Compliance Officer
Elizabeth (Betsy) Slotnick, Board Member

Executive Director-Secretary:

Jannah Wilson | jwilson@ottawacountyparksoh.org
Certified Parks and Recreation Professional (CPRP) through the National Recreation and Parks Association
Member of the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association
Ottawa County Historical Society, Board Member
Ottawa County Visitor's Bureau, Board Member
Ottawa County Improvement Corporation, Board Member
Rotary Club of Port Clinton, Member and Current President
Member of the Ottawa County Business Advisory Council
Co-chair for the Ottawa County Creating Healthy Communities Active Living Sub-committee

**Park District of Ottawa County | 707 SE Catawba Rd. |
Port Clinton, OH 43452
(419) 707-4051**

www.ottawacountyparksoh.org



“Connecting People, Places and Parks”



Jannah Wilson
Executive Director-Secretary

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS



Michael Shadoan,
Chairperson



Judy Indorf
Vice-Chairperson, Secretary Assistant



Trish McCartney,
2nd Vice-Chairperson



Jack Madison
Compliance Officer



Elizabeth (Betsy) Slotnick
Board Member



THE PARK DISTRICT... *DEFINED*

*New and Updated
in 2025!*

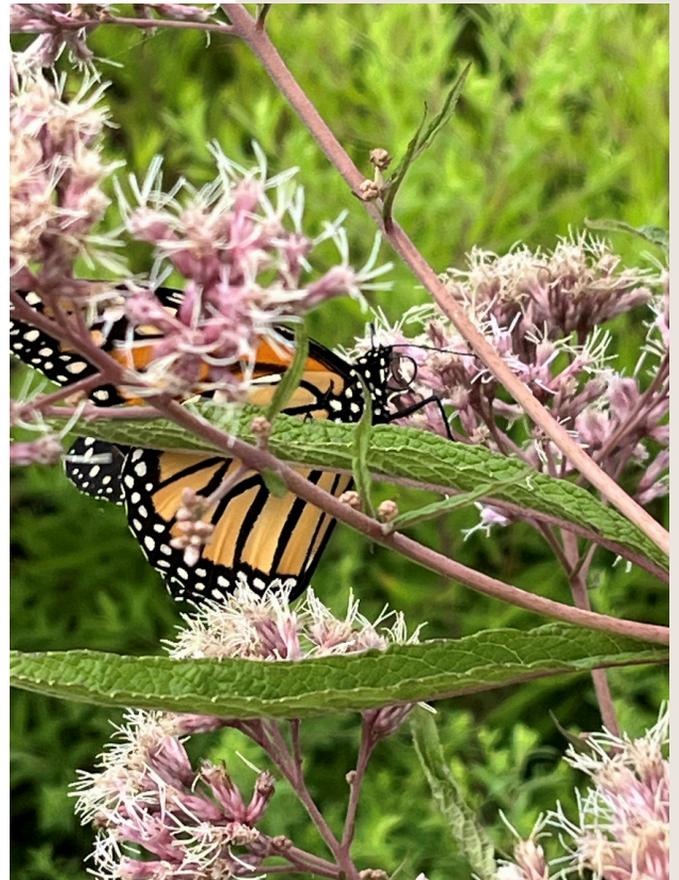
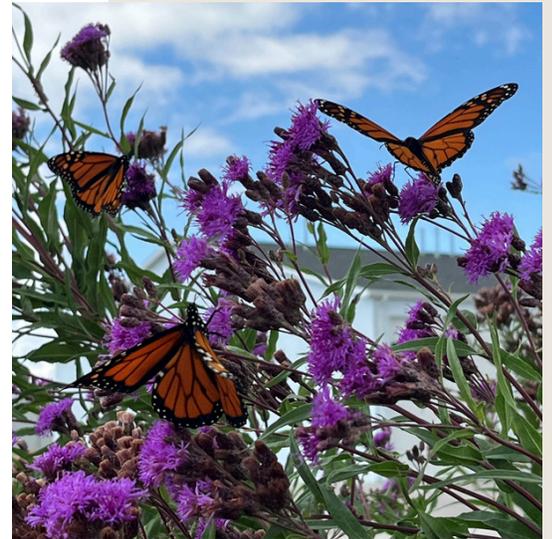


MISSION STATEMENT

The Park District of Ottawa County is dedicated to preserving, enhancing, and connecting Ottawa County's natural and recreational resources for the enjoyment and benefit of all.

VISION STATEMENT

Building a future where nature is accessible, shared and connected to Ottawa County's communities.



2025 PARKS AND TRAILS IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROGRAM

The goal of this grant program is to improve access to outdoor spaces, aid in the development of active transportation routes to parks and points of interest, and bolster public outdoor recreation opportunities within Ottawa County.



Since its inception four years ago, 28 projects throughout Ottawa County have been funded.



More than \$700,000 in funding has been distributed throughout Ottawa County.

2025 Parks and Trails Improvement Grant Recipients

- Strategic Plan for Parks and Recreational Equipment, Village of Elmore, \$32,717.00
- James Park Baseball Diamond, Village of Marblehead, \$20,683.00
- Captain Alfred Parker Park, Put-in-Bay Township, \$18,871.00
- Basketball Courts, Village of Genoa, \$44,890.00
- Waterworks Park Splash Pad, City of Port Clinton, \$45,000.00
- DeRivera Park, Village of Put-in-Bay, \$17,839.00
- Oak Harbor Parks and Recreation Plan, Village of Oak Harbor, \$38,000.00

Learn more about these 2025 projects



2022/2023/2024/2025 projects slated for completion:

- Oak Harbor Riverwalk (slated for completion in 2027) \$141,000.00
- Oak Harbor Friendship Park (slated for completion in 2026) \$50,000.00

DID YOU KNOW...



A Park District Grants Map was launched in 2025 highlighting each of the projects funded by the Parks and Trails Improvement Grant Program.

2025 PARKS AND TRAILS IMPROVEMENT GRANT RECIPIENTS



The Board of Park Commissioners recognize the importance of forming partnerships to provide maximum outdoor recreation access and safety to all Ottawa County residents.



Strategic Plan for Parks and Recreational Equipment, Village of Elmore

A strategic five-year plan addressing the needs of the public, a review of the recreation and resources inventory of the Village, discussions with the public to gather information on their needs, and a review for possible grants and other funds in support of the Village recreation program.



James Park Baseball Diamond, Village of Marblehead

Renovation of the infield by replacing the base and surface material.



Alfred Parker's Park, Put-in-Bay Township

Removal of invasive trees, planting magnolia trees and grass, installing engraved benches, picnic tables, a bike rack, fencing, trash area, signage and parking blocks for vehicles.

Basketball Courts, Village of Genoa

Reconstruction of public basketball courts to new paving and the installation of 72-inch acrylic backboards,



Projects continue on the next page!

DID YOU KNOW...



The Park District of Ottawa County created the Ottawa County-America 250 (OCA-250) logo celebrating America's 250th anniversary.

2025 PARKS AND TRAILS IMPROVEMENT GRANT RECIPIENTS

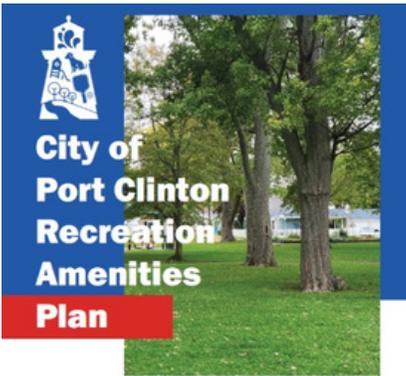
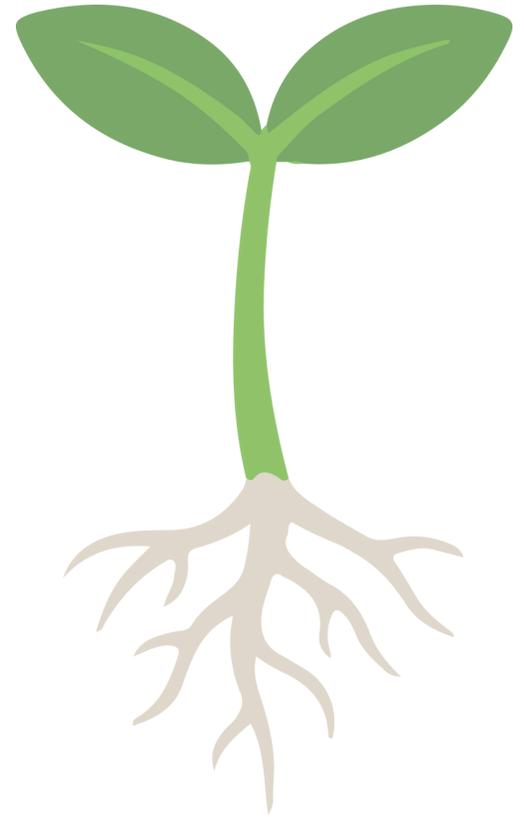
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DeRivera Park

Village of Put-in-Bay

Expanded the existing kiddie playground area to incorporate the middle kids' playground area. New kiddie swing set installed, with the inclusion of a handicapped swing. Nearby the playground, new water station installed.



2024



Waterworks Park Splash Pad **City of Port Clinton**

This will be the first splash pad in both Port Clinton and Ottawa County. The project was identified as the top priority in the Port Clinton Recreation Amenities Plan, developed through community engagement with residents in 2023 and 2024. The City received generous financial support from the Park District of Ottawa County which sponsored the Recreation Amenities Plan.

DID YOU KNOW...



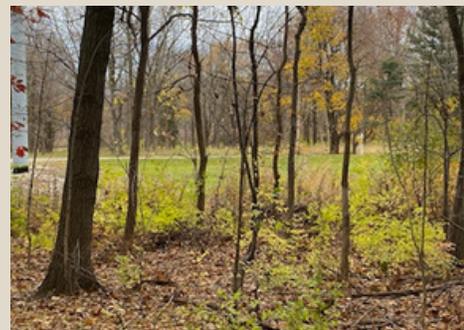
In Summer 2025, the Park District unveiled monthly nature craft kits. These complimentary kits feature a new theme every month exploring nature in Ottawa County.

GRANT AWARDS TO PARK DISTRICT AND OTHER AWARDS

- **Clean Ohio Funding for West Harbor Preserve Addition -** \$715,104.00 (funding will be received in 2026)
- **Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP) -** Working with the City of Port Clinton and Greater Sandusky Partnership to move forward with Federal Highway Administration ATIIP grant funds for a feasibility study of the Old Sandusky Bay Bridge (pedestrian bridge) and trail alignment study from Sandusky to Port Clinton – City of Port Clinton received a \$100,000.00 grant for the project.
- **Clean Ohio Funding, \$585,000.00, for acquisition of and improvements to Davenport Memorial Woodlands property, Catawba Island Township, 17 acres -** Received a \$25,000.00 donation from the Davenport family for long-term maintenance and support of the property. Developing foot paths with Park District Staff and Volunteers.
- **Ohio Department of Transportation Metroparks Fund -** Davenport Memorial Woodlands parking area on NW Catawba Rd. (to be completed in 2026/2027)
- **Destination Development Grant, Shores & Islands Ohio -** \$5,000.00 for the boardwalk trail loop, Islander Woods and Trailhead, Catawba Island Twp.
- **Anonymous donations to Friends of Ottawa County Parks -** \$25,000.00, Nature Play Area, Islander Woods and Trailhead, Catawba Island Twp. (received December 2024), \$50,000.00, Davenport Memorial Woodlands and Islander Woods and Trailhead (received donation December 2025)
- **Ohio Department of Natural Resources Coastal Management Grant -** \$32,000.00 for the installation of a wildlife observation platform, Islander Woods and Trailhead, Catawba Island Twp.
- **ODOT Transportation Alternatives Program Grant -** \$1,119,000.00 to be received for construction of the Genoa Phase One NCIT (tentatively 2027)



The Park District closed on the Davenport property in April 2025.



Islander Woods and Trailhead in Catawba Island Township is slated to open in August 2026.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

New Office Renovation and Move-In

June 2025, Shores & Islands Ohio Welcome Center West, Port Clinton

Park District Operations Infrastructure Development

Purchase of park vehicle and necessary equipment for trail development and park maintenance: *Signage on all Park District properties, Boundary surveys and boundary marking, Mapping*

Implemented Volunteer Program

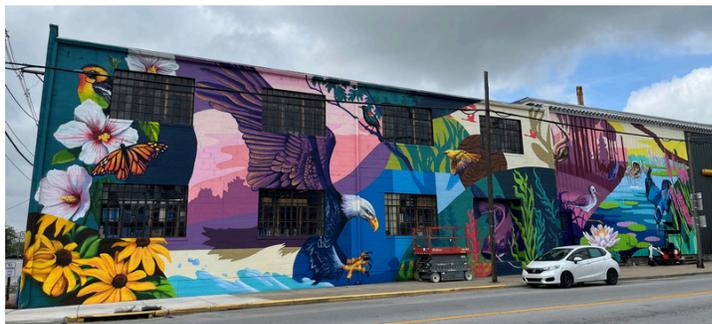
17 Park District Volunteers, Assist with Programming, Events, and Park Maintenance

Duff Homestead and Vineyard

Assisted Put-in-Bay Township Park District with the acquisition of the Duff Homestead and Vineyard further enhancing conservation efforts and preserving green space.

Oak Harbor Mural, Designed by Artist Derek Brennan and the Cleveland Mural Company

Assisted with funding, largest mural in Ottawa County, features wildlife of the Portage River



Oak Harbor Parks and Recreation Plan

Assisted with funding, active participant in steering committee meetings for the Plan.



Relocating to the Shores & Islands Welcome Center West enables the Park District to meet current needs while allowing for future growth and development, and the opportunity to collaborate more closely with Shores & Islands Ohio.



Kiosks provide information to users of the North Coast Inland Trail (NCIT).



Dedicated Volunteers assist at Park District events throughout the year.



PARK DISTRICT PROJECTS

North Coast Inland Trail (NCIT)

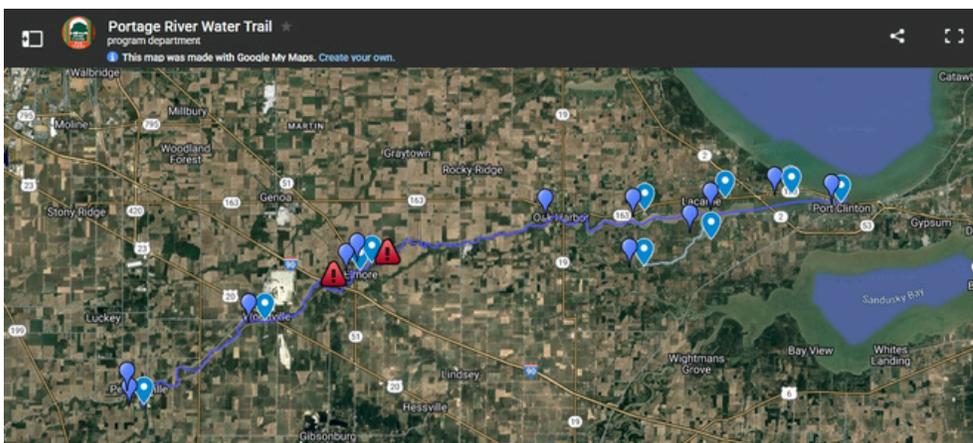
- Purchased the remaining former railroad property owned by Norfolk Southern to complete the North Coast Inland Trail through Ottawa County.
- Completed the Martin Williston Road NCIT connector trail between Genoa and Elmore. Held the ribbon cutting on September 24, 2025. Collaborative project with Clay Township and the Ottawa County Engineer's Office.
- Engineering underway for the Washington St. to 9th St. NCIT connection. Construction will be funded with a \$1.19 million ODOT Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant received by the Park District.
- Improvements made to existing NCIT trail, including trail kiosks and signage. New map for the NCIT completed and installed in trail kiosks. Working closely with Elmore and Genoa regarding daily maintenance and upkeep of the trail.

Portage River Water Trail

- All signage installed, Marinewood launch area completed, google mapping project completed.
- Park District assisted with the funding of a rescue vessel for the Portage River purchased by Harris Township Fire Department.



Construction commenced March 31, 2025, to create a separated, multi-use path on Martin Williston Road, completing a missing link in the North Coast Inland Trail between Elmore and Genoa. A Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony was held in September 2025 celebrating its completion.



An interactive map of the Portage River Water Trail can be found on the Park District website, along with detailed information on the various launch sites in Ottawa County.



DID YOU KNOW...



The North Coast Inland Trail traverses through four counties and features nearly 100 miles of scenic multi-use trail through Lorain, Huron, Sandusky, and Ottawa counties.

PARK DISTRICT PROJECTS

West Harbor Property

- Invasive species removal - Black Swamp Conservancy spearheading the project with use of grant funds received by the Conservancy.



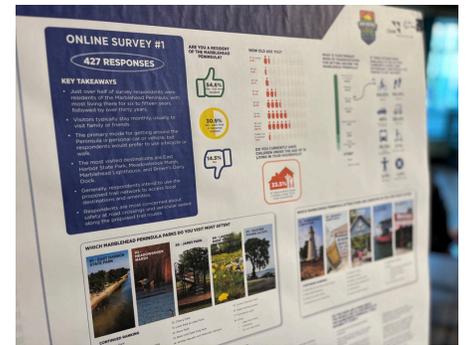
West Harbor Preserve
Catawba Island Township

Park District Strategic Plan

- Completed by Environmental Design Group, and included a public survey, public open house, stakeholder meeting, financial review and planning, establishment of goals, updating mission and vision, and marketing plan.
- 5- and 10-year goals with financial scoping and projections. Available to view on the Park District website.

Marblehead Peninsula Trail Feasibility Study

- The Feasibility Study kicked off in Fall of 2023 and was completed and approved in 2025.
- Park District selected a firm for the preliminary engineering and cost estimates for the Alexander Pike Multi-Purpose Trail
- Working with the City of Port Clinton and Greater Sandusky Partnership to move forward with FHWA Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIIP) grant funds for a feasibility study of the Old Sandusky Bay Bridge (pedestrian bridge) and trail alignment study from Sandusky to Port Clinton – *City of Port Clinton received a \$100,000.00 grant for the project*
- Sandusky Bay Pathway Committee – Greater Sandusky Partnership



Public survey results,
Marblehead Peninsula Trail Feasibility Study

Islander Woods and Trailhead, Catawba Island Twp.

- Bid advertisement and bid opening took place in October 2025. D2 Excavating has received notice of award and contract has been executed. **Expected opening date Early Fall 2026**



Catawba Islander Trail and Greenway

Considering options for the future of this project

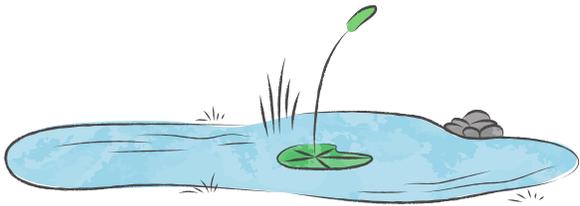
DID YOU KNOW...



The Friends of Ottawa County Parks 2025 holiday donation campaign benefitting Islander Woods & Trailhead has garnered more than \$4,500.00 thus far.



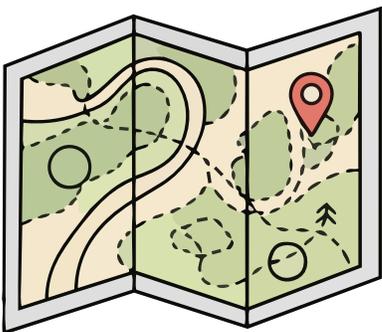
2025 PROGRAMS AND EVENTS



24 Public Programs With More Than 1,000 Total Participants



Educational Booths at six public events throughout Ottawa County



Outdoor Hiking Challenge, 130 Participants, three-month, county-wide, self-guided trail hiking program featuring Guided Walks and prize for completing 9 out of 12 hikes.

ATTENDANCE AT 2025 PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

- Hot Cocoa Walk, January 25 ... 75 patrons
- Volunteer Orientation, March 6 ... 30 patrons
- Birdseed Craft, Harris-Elmore Public Library ... 8 patrons
- Birdseed Craft, Genoa Library ... 24 patrons
- Earth Day Litter Clean-Up Walk, Elmore, North Coast Inland Trail ... 15 patrons
- Catawba Island Boat Show ... 300 booth interactions
- Ottawa County Community Day, County Fairgrounds ... 400 booth interactions
- Bike Safety Camp, Genoa ... 24 Registered Campers
- Portage River Festival, Elmore ... 50 booth interactions
- Office Ribbon-Cutting Celebration, Port Clinton ... 40 patrons
- Bike Safety Camp, Port Clinton ... 24 Registered Campers
- Distributed 300 Nature Activity Kits ... August - December
- Guided Walk, Put-in-Bay ... 20 Patrons
- Guided Walk, Catawba Island Township ... 15 Patrons
- Apple Festival, Oak Harbor ... 200 booth interactions
- Guided Walk, Danbury Township ... 17 Patrons
- Parks & Trails Improvement Grant Meeting, Port Clinton ... 7 Patrons
- Pumpkin Carving Service Project, Danbury Township ... 30 Patrons
- Sunset Pumpkin Walk, Danbury Township ... 171 Patrons
- Guided Walk, Elmore ... 3 Patrons
- Davenport Volunteer Work Day, Catawba Island Township ... 11 Patrons
- Guided Walk, Genoa ... 7 Patrons

DID YOU KNOW...



In March of 2026, the Park District will host a Volunteer Orientation & Recruiting Event at the Genoa Branch Library.

PARK DISTRICT MARKETING INITIATIVES

- E-Newsletters ... Delivered 4,846 emails with a 59% open rate
- Facebook ... Reached 2,000 Followers
- Press Releases ... Sent 31 press releases to local and regional news outlets
- Website Updates ... www.ottawacountyparksoh.org
- Marketing Strategy Completed with Strategic Plan
- Logo-Printed Items for Distribution at Events

Friends of Ottawa County Parks, a nonprofit organization (501(c)(3)) that supports the Park District through financial contributions and volunteer efforts.

- *Regular Meetings*
- *Assisted with Park District events*
- *Holiday Donation Letter Campaign*



PARTNERSHIPS, NETWORKING AND BOARDS

Executive Director Jannah Wilson is involved in several local and county-wide civic organizations.

- President 2025-26, Rotary Club of Port Clinton, oversees several community uplifting projects including the construction and installation of a Little Free Library at Portage Park
- Girl Scout Troop 1125, Leader
- Ottawa County Visitor's Bureau Board
- Ottawa County Historical Society Board
- Ottawa County Improvement Corporation Trustee
- Ottawa County Business Advisory Council
- Business Network International (BNI)

The Park District of Ottawa County staff and board members are members of the **Ohio Parks and Recreation Association (OPRA)**, a non-profit, public interest organization representing more than 2,600 professionals, citizen board members, and corporate supporters striving to provide quality park and recreational facilities and opportunities for all Ohioans while protecting and preserving Ohio's natural resources.

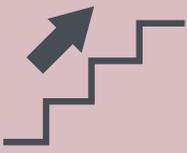
- Employees participate in many workshops and educational trainings offered throughout the year

The Park District of Ottawa County is active in the **Creating Healthy Communities Coalition and Active Living Subcommittee**; a program whose goal is to increase healthy and active living in efforts to reduce chronic disease. Through community engagement and close partnership with local community agencies, Creating Healthy Communities implement healthy living projects.

DID YOU KNOW...



Throughout 2026, members of the Creating Healthy Communities Coalition will host free monthly recreation programs at locations throughout Ottawa County.



2026 GOALS

Complete construction of Islander Woods and Trailhead - Open to the Public

Davenport Memorial Woodlands - Trail and Parking Area

Facilitate fifth round of the Parks and Trails Improvement Grant Program.

Continue to Develop Volunteer Program and Work with Friends of Ottawa County Parks

Programs and Events - America 250 and the Ottawa County History Mystery Trail

Old Sandusky Bay Bridge Project - ATIP Grant, Selecting Firm for the Feasibility Study

Complete engineering for North Coast Inland Trail Village of Genoa Phase One - Bid Advertisement, Construction Schedule

Alexander Pike Multi-Purpose Trail Preliminary Engineering and exploring grant opportunities



“What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.”

Jane Goodall



“In every walk with nature, one receives far more than he seeks.”

John Muir

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