



Parks and Recreation Board Agenda
Department of Public Services
851 South Eton-Conference Room
Tuesday, December 6, 2022
6:30 PM

- I. Call to order**
- II. Roll Call**
- III. Introduction:** Melissa Fairbairn, Assistant City Manager
- IV. Approval of the minutes of:** Tuesday, November 1, 2022 (*regular meeting*)
- V. Open To The Public for Items Not On the Agenda**
- VI. Agenda Items-**Written and submitted by 5pm Monday at the Birmingham Ice Sports Arena, one week prior to the meeting.
- VII. Communications/Discussion Items**
 - 1. Parks and Recreation Board Rules of Procedures
 - 2. Reminder: Nomination of 2023 Parks and Recreation Board Chairperson/Vice-Chairperson at the January 10, 2023 meeting
 - 3. Michigan Spark Grants
 - a. Memorandum from Carrie A. Laird, Parks and Recreation Manager
 - b. Memorandum from Leslie Pielack, Museum Director
 - 4. Funding Opportunities
 - a. Play Is Essential
 - b. State High Water Infrastructure Grant Program
 - 5. Trail Improvements Concept Plan-Survey Report
 - 6. Pickleball Is Expanding. Tennis Is Mad, *The New York Times Article, Oct. 21, 2022*
 - 7. Pickleball Sound Mitigation, Tennis & Pickleball Courts, *Falmouth, MA, Article*
 - 8. Communication from Bob Gibbs, November 10, 2022

VIII. Unfinished Business

IX. New Business

X. Open To The Public for Items Not On the Agenda

XI. Next Regular Meeting – January 10, 2023

Individuals requiring accommodations, such as interpreter services, for effective participation in this meeting should contact the City Clerk's Office at (248) 530-1880 at least one day in advance of the public meeting.

Las personas que requieren alojamiento, tales como servicios de interpretación, la participación efectiva en esta reunión deben ponerse en contacto con la Oficina del Secretario Municipal al (248) 530-1880 por lo menos el día antes de la reunión pública.
(Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964).

If you cannot attend the meetings, please contact Connie Folk at the Birmingham Ice Arena (248) 530-1642.
Minutes are available for review at the Birmingham Ice Sports Arena, 2300 East Lincoln, Birmingham, MI 48009

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MISSION STATEMENT

The Parks and Recreation Board strives to provide opportunities for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration for present and future generations of residents and visitors through stewardship of natural, cultural and recreational resources. By continuously elevating the beauty and quality of the parks and recreation system of Birmingham, the Parks and Recreation Board will promote health and wellbeing, and strengthen the community.

Should you have any statement regarding the above, you are invited to attend the meeting in person or virtually through
ZOOM: Meeting ID: 981 9146 6679

You may also present your written statement to City of Birmingham, Parks and Recreation Board,
851 South Eton, Birmingham, Michigan 48009 prior to the meeting.

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

November 1, 2022

Heather Carmona, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm at 851 South Eton.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Heather Carmona
Susan Collins
Pam Graham
Ross Kaplan
Anne Lipp
Ellie Noble
John Rusche

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

ABSENT:

Zachary Miketa, Seaholm High School
Matthew Windsor, Seaholm High School

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

ADMINISTRATION:

Jana Ecker, Assistant City Manager
Carrie A. Laird, Parks and Recreation Manager
Connie J. Folk, Recreation Coordinator

PRESENTER:

Tiffany Smith, president, MCSA, Group, Inc.

GUESTS:

Jack Burns, Kyle Goulding, Debbie Hormel, Ron Hormel,
Eliza Lipp, Linda Orlans and Joe Orlans

It was moved by Lipp, seconded by Carmona, to approve the minutes of the Tuesday, October 11, 2022, regular meeting as submitted.

Ayes,

Heather Carmona, Susan Collins, Pam Graham, Ross Kaplan,
Anne Lipp, Ellie Noble, and John Rusche

Nays,

None

Absent,

None

Agenda item #1: Trail Improvements Concept Plan-Public Input Session

Carmona confirmed there is no action required, rather a public input session to receive comments regarding the trail improvement concept plan.

PM Laird introduced Tiffany Smith, president MCSA Group, who reviewed the concept plan assets provided in the Meeting Agenda Packet.

PM Laird began by highlighting that trail improvements were planned for and called out on the project priority list in preparation for the Parks and Recreation Bond. PM Laird stated the goal of tonight's meeting is to get feedback and comments from the public and the board. On Engage Birmingham there is a survey that is available until November 30, 2022. In addition, the concept plan is being reviewed with other city departments, boards and committees.

Carmona added that there was an extensive review during the last Parks and Recreation Board meeting, but concept plan shown does not include feedback from the board.

PM Laird confirmed that this presentation does not include feedback from last month: all feedback will be compiled and redistributed in the next phase.

Tiffany Smith, president, MCSA, Group, Inc. walked through the concept plan which has not been approved.

Booth Park North Corner

- Modified corner entry area
- Open plaza- food truck/coffee cart, movable seating, concrete plaza paving
- Park perimeter seating
- Park signage
- New restroom building
- 10 ft. concrete path- accessibility and event set up
- Trail entry- columns and pavers

Museum Trail:

- Improved trail connection along Willits, north side heading east to the Museum
- Trail entry identifiers (3) - columns and pavers
- Confidence markers
- Coordinate with Museum Improvements
- Accessible boardwalk and overlook

Booth to Linden Trail:

- Confidence markers along Maple Rd
- New trail plaza – near bus stop
- Willits to Baldwin- new overlook, signage
- Trail entry identifier
- New crushed stone path
- 10 ft. Bridge with built in benches

Carmona opened up discussion with members of the Parks and Recreation Board.

Kaplan asked about the Booth Park section and was there any investigation about not putting the restroom facility centered as the main view into Booth Park.

Smith stated that the further you place the restroom facility in the park the more costly utilities will be.

Kaplan asked about the parking lot proposed in the museum plan. Smith stated that is a single barrier-free parking space. Kaplan confirmed based on the concept plan that one of the lawn waves at Booth Park will be leveled.

Graham had two areas of comments related to sidewalks and trail maintenance. Graham recommends that there be a new sidewalk added along the south side of Willits Street with our own development and the museum property.

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Graham spoke about the abrupt end of the asphalt trail along Maple Rd. before the safe crossing near Baldwin Road. Graham stated there is a difficult section of the trail connected to Booth Park due to a tree that needs shoring up the area to make it more passible, and the second relates to the end of the trail where it connects to Baldwin Road.

Rusche asked what would be the frequency of cleaning and maintenance for the proposed restroom facility at Booth Park.

PM Laird stated the restroom models under consideration have automatic locking features and frequency of cleaning and maintenance would be daily and with an ongoing cost occurring.

Rusche asked once the plan is approved how the plan could be funded.

ACM Ecker stated that Parks and Recreation Board would recommend the concept plan to the City Commission.

ACM Ecker stated the City Commission would then authorize the funds. In addition to city funding there are several other funding sources that the city could pursue. The engineering department has a sidewalk fund that could potentially be utilized for adding sidewalks along the museum property. The concept plan will also be reviewed by the multimodal board. And the multimodal board has a sidewalk gap plan that shows areas that don't have sidewalks and the board could agree that connectivity is important.

ACM Ecker stated that MCSA, Group, Inc. would assist the city for applying for grants as well. ACM Ecker stated that there sustainability grants and funding through the Oakland County Parks budget since there are all kinds of utilities throughout the park.

Lipp referenced a public comment made last month related to access and inclusivity when she inquired about bathroom specifics.

Consultant Smith stated that MCSA, Group, Inc. designs a lot of restrooms with the most recent one for Kentwood. Instead of having those fold down changing tables, which are vandalized frequently an accessible and inclusive bench could be installed such as what was installed at Kentwood that would be inclusive.

Noble stated that when she was walking Booth trail and arrived at the house located at Baldwin Road it was dicey, there were private property signs installed and she could not find a way to continue to Baldwin Road without going onto the private property.

Carmona stated the area needs to be addressed in the proposed concept plan. ACM Ecker and PM Laird agree the plan needs a balanced solution for the section of Booth Trail at Baldwin Road. Currently the concept plan does includes some property markers along the property line.

Consultant Smith stated that the proposed food truck/coffee cart location would not be in front of the donor wall at Booth Park.

Carmona opened the meeting for public comment for the trail Improvement concept plan.

Burns asked what the objective of building a restroom facility at Booth Park. Burns stated that maintenance costs will be expensive. Burns stated that improving the trails is an asset and asked if Manor Park trail could ever be enhanced as well.

L. Orlans stated that she does not know if there is a need for a restroom facility at Booth Park. L. Orlans stated that the park draws teenagers and homeless in the evening. J. Orlans stated the budget is too expensive and she is against the proposed changes to Booth Park.

Carmona stated that no decisions will be made until the plan is finalized and the board is nowhere near finalizing the concept plan and during the development of the 2018 Parks and Recreation Master Plan the need for restroom facilities was ranked very high.

Carmona stated that the 2018 Parks and Recreation Master Plan is available on the City of Birmingham website, at city hall, library, DPS and the Birmingham Ice Sports Arena.

Additional comment from a resident who lives on Harmon Street stated she often hears late night fighting and believes a change to enable more entertainment features and a bathroom would increase foot traffic, not necessarily Birmingham residents.

Carmona explained that before any final decisions are made, the board is working within the timeframe of the funding that we have, with the bond, as well as looking for additional funding. At this time, there are no construction times or exact approval times, but construction would not likely begin before 2024.

Kyle Goulding asked why Booth Park would not be a good location for a splash pad. Carmona stated that a splash pad would be slated for a larger park and that location has not been determined.

Carmona closed the public comment.

ACM Ecker confirmed that Booth Park is not being rezoned. Property owner notification is required by state law for rezoning, but this plan is not proposing rezoning or a change of use.

ACM Ecker stated there are many ways to stay informed by visiting the City of Birmingham website.

R. Hormel asked if the sequence of steps could be included in the Parks and Recreation Board minutes when looking at future concept plans.

No action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #1: South Well Sites/ Well Sites

PM Laird provided an update to the previous South Wells Site discussion: the South Wells Sites, both parcels, have been designated by the City Commission as a park, and we are directed to do further research on each well site, individually, including Pump House Park (formerly referred to as Wakefield Well). The other well sites were not designated by the City Commission; they requested separate reviews for each location.

No action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

Graham stated the area adjacent to Fire Station #2 is not designated as a park and should the Parks and Recreation Board ask the City Commission to clarify the designation of the Fire Station #2 property.

ACM Ecker said the location is designated for public safety, fire and police, with no interest in changing the designation; however the City Commission may be open to having landscape improvements or other improvements considered.

No action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #2: Communication received from Sarah Kupczyk, October 11, 2022

RC Folk provided the board the communication from Sarah Kupczyk.

PM Laird stated that administration will be meeting with Sarah and the architect at Adams Parks to review the play apparatus.

No action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #3: Project Updates

a. Adams Park Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, November 12, 2022 at 10 am

PM stated Laird that representatives from Roeper School, Oakland County and Mari Manoogian, Michigan State Representative will be in attendance.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

b. Pickleball

PM Laird stated the contractor will not be installing courts this year but will most likely begin in May, 2023.

Graham asked if there had been any follow-up of related pickleball rules, residents' complaints, park rule violations, parking, music and profanity.

PM Laird stated that pickleball rules will be posted when the courts are completed and the police are patrolling the area.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #4: Golf Course Updates

a. Golf Course Report –October 28, 2022

PM Laird presented the golf course report.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

No Unfinished Business

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

NEW BUSINESS:

It was moved by Rusche, seconded by Noble to move VIII. Open To The Public For Items Not On The Agenda after III. Agenda Items on future Parks and Recreation Board Agendas as long as there are no presentations from outside sources.

Ayes,

Heather Carmona, Susan Collins, Pam Graham, Ross Kaplan,
Anne Lipp, Ellie Noble, and John Rusche

Nays,

None

Absent,

None

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA:

D. Hormel stated she has seen the equipment is being used by the older Roeper students and dogs being off-leash and asked if no dog signs can be installed. The City could look at having neighborly conversations with the school as well as adding supplemental signs reiterating park rules that prohibit dogs near play equipment, requiring dogs being leash controlled, and advertising the location of the City's off-leash dog park.

Carmona stated that Adams Park is a public park, and these behaviors could be addressed with the school administration. The City and Roeper does have a good relationship, and it's all about being neighborly and understanding it's a shared asset to the community.

Noble asked D. Hormel about the dogs being at the park before and after Adams Park renovations.

D. Hormel stated that people have always brought their dogs. However, in the past they were typically people walking from within the neighborhood, and now it seems more people are arriving by cars.

Noble asked, similarly, about the kids on the equipment, and D. Hormel stated that the students used the swings prior to the Adams Park renovations.

R. Hormel was unaware that the City had an off-leash dog park at Lincoln Hills Golf Course and wondered if additional dog parks would be added to the City of Birmingham properties.

Kaplan stated there is long history of the City of Birmingham dog park and currently there is only one located at Lincoln Hills Golf Course at the end of the parking lot.

Kaplan stated that there are parks signs posting the parks and recreation rules and regulations and there is a QR code on each sign to link to detailed Parks Rules & Regulations.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

Carmona stated the next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 6, 2022, at 6:30 pm, at 851 South Eton.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:28 pm
Connie J. Folk, Recreation Coordinator
Stacy Vail, Clerical

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
OF
CITY OF BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN

RULES OF PROCEDURE

Article I – Organization

- A. The parks and recreation board consists of the city manager and the director of public services or their designated representatives as nonvoting ex-officio members, and seven members, who are electors in the city, appointed by the city commission.
- B. The members of the parks and recreation board shall be appointed except to fill vacancies, for a term of three years. All appointments for the purpose of filling vacancies occurring otherwise than by expiration of term of office, shall be for the unexpired term.
- C. Annually, the members of the board shall meet in regular session and elect from the members a chairman who shall be the presiding officer of the board, and a vice-chairman who shall serve in the absence of the chairman.
- D. A secretary who shall keep and maintain the minutes and records of the board shall also be elected. The secretary need not be a member of the board. The terms of office for such officers shall be one year and until their successors have been elected and there shall be no limitation upon successive elections of the same person to any office. The ex-officio members of the board may not act as chairman or vice-chairman but may act as secretary.

Article II – Meetings

- A. The parks and recreation board shall set a time for a regular meeting which will be held at least once each month and shall determine the manner in which special meetings may be noticed and held. A quorum for the transaction of business at the regular and special meetings shall be five members, at least one of whom shall be an ex-officio member or a designated representative.
- B. All meetings of the parks and recreation board are open to the public.

Rules for, “Open To The Public for Items Not Appearing On the Agenda.
Two minutes per person.

- No one may speak a second time until everyone in the audience has spoken.
- The chairperson may alternate speakers pro & con on issues being discussed.

- C. The parks and recreation board agenda items shall be limited to six items. Limitations upon the number of agenda items to be accommodated will allow the parks and recreation board and staff sufficient opportunity to review.

Procedure for submitting agenda items:

- All items appearing on the agenda must be submitted in writing to the Birmingham Ice Sports Arena, by 5:00 p.m. Monday one week prior to the meeting.
- Agenda items are provided from three sources:
 - a. Staff
 - b. Parks and Recreation Board members
 - c. Public

- D. The order of business at parks and recreation board meetings shall be as follows:

1. Call to order
2. Approval of the minutes
3. Agenda Items
4. Communications
5. Unfinished Business
6. New Business
7. Open To The Public for Items Not Appearing On the Agenda
8. Adjournment

Article III – Notification of Meetings

- A. Public notice of all special meetings of the parks and recreation board, including starting date, time and place of such meetings shall be posted at least eighteen (18) hours prior to the meeting.

Article IV – Scope of Authority

- A. The parks and recreation board is a non-administrative board serving in an advisory capacity. In that capacity, the board may make recommendations to the city commission but may not assume any legislative or administrative authority in the operation of any city department, park, or recreation facility except as specifically provided in this article.

Article V – Objectives & Duties

- A. The parks and recreation board shall promote a recreation program and a park development program for the city. In carrying out these objectives it shall:
- 1). Serve as a forum for the consideration of policy matters related to the operation of a parks and recreation program.
 - 2). Advise the public with regard to the policies established by the city commission relating to the park and recreation program.
 - 3). Serve in advisory capacity to the city commission in regard to all matters affecting parks and recreation which are referred to it by the city commission.
 - 4). Recommend to the city commission a recreation program, fee schedules, and the adoption of a long-range program for the development of park areas and facilities.
 - 5). Recommend to the city commission hours of operation and allocation of facility use.

Article VI – Regulations

- A. The parks and recreation board shall recommend to the city commission for adoption such rules and regulations pertaining to the conduct and use of parks and public grounds as are necessary to administer the same and to protect public property and the safety, health, morals and welfare of the public. The violation of any such duly adopted rule or regulation by any party shall be deemed to constitute a violation of this section.

Article VII – Compensation

- A. All members of the parks and recreation board, except ex-officio members, shall serve without compensation.

Article VIII– Amendments

- A. These Rules of Procedure may be amended at any regular meeting of the parks and recreation board upon the affirmative vote of five members.

Adopted 5/8/01

Jane moved Bill seconded

5-0 vote



MEMORANDUM

Department of Public Services

DATE: December 1, 2022

TO: Parks and Recreation Board

FROM: Carrie Laird, Parks and Recreation Manager

SUBJECT: MI Spark Grants Application

At the November 28, 2022 City Commission meeting, a resolution was passed authorizing the submission of a MI Spark Grants application for \$1,000,000, and further resolving to make available a local match during the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

Please see the attached report that was included in the November 28, 2022 City Commission Meeting regarding our MI Spark Grants Application. A signed and dated resolution is also attached.



MEMORANDUM

Department of Public Services

DATE: November 16, 2022

TO: Thomas M. Markus, City Manager

FROM: Carrie A. Laird, Parks and Recreation Manager

SUBJECT: Michigan Spark Grants

INTRODUCTION:

Administered by the DNR, Michigan Spark Grants will support projects that provide safe, accessible, public recreation facilities and spaces to improve people's health, introduce new recreation experiences, build on existing park infrastructure and make it easier for people to enjoy both indoor and outdoor recreation. This grant opportunity is possible because of the Building Michigan Together Plan, signed in March 2022, which included a historic infusion of federal funding in our state and local parks.

The Department of Public Services is recommending an application for Trail Improvements be submitted. The first round of applications are due December 19, 2022. Two more rounds of application periods will be announced in early 2023. Communities must have an approved resolution by their governing body in order to apply.

BACKGROUND:

Trail improvements are slated as a priority project as part of the approved Parks and Recreation Bond. The City is currently in the preliminary design phase for trail improvements and a Trail Improvement Concept Plan is undergoing public review and comment at this time, on Engage Birmingham, at our Parks and Recreation Board meetings, and with City departments and various boards such as the Museum and Multi-Modal Transportation Board.

This is perfect timing to apply for a grant for this project. This is our next priority project in the queue to accomplish with Parks and Recreation Bond funding. We have a preliminary concept plan, cost estimate, and funding available for a match in 2024. We are currently gathering public input, with a public input session held at the November 1, 2022 Parks and Recreation Board meeting, and a survey currently open through November 30th on [Engage Birmingham](#), Birmingham. All of these items are part of the grant application.

Included in the preliminary concept plan are ADA compliance and accessible connections and overlooks, sustainability features, the Booth Park corner feature with seating and a restroom facility, trail entry identifiers, a connection to the Birmingham Museum, and connectivity

improvements including confidence markers and wayfinding in navigating from Booth Park to Linden Park. Our consultant, MCSA Group, Inc., will prepare the application on behalf of the City, included as part of their contract with the City. They have a good track record with obtaining various grants for municipalities throughout the state.

We plan to explore other grant opportunities as well such as Oakland County Parks and Recreation Trailways program, for both pre-development and development, among others.

LEGAL REVIEW:

The City Attorney has reviewed the resolution and has no objection.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This grant would potentially award Birmingham up to \$1,000,000, the maximum award amount, to apply toward the cost of the Trail Improvements project. Funding for the Trail Improvements project is budgeted and available with Parks and Recreation Bond Funding, with the next bond issue in 2024. Additionally, a donation received by the city towards trail improvements is part of this application. Matching funds are not required, but encouraged.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION:

The grant application will be announced at the December 6, 2022 Parks and Recreation Board meeting. Should Birmingham be awarded MI Spark Grants funding, it will be communicated through all appropriate avenues.

SUMMARY:

The Department of Public Services recommends approving the attached resolution so that Birmingham may apply for the MI Spark Grants Program.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Resolution of Authorization for Birmingham to apply to the MI Spark Grants Program
- [Michigan Spark Grants application overview](#)

SUGGESTED COMMISSION ACTION:

Make a motion to approve the attached resolution, authorizing Birmingham to apply for a grant from the Michigan Spark Grants Program, and further, directing the City Clerk to sign the resolution.

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF BIRMINGHAM TO APPLY FOR A GRANT
FROM THE MICHIGAN SPARK GRANTS PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the City of Birmingham supports the submission of an application titled, "Trail Improvements" to the Spark Grants Program for improvements to the Rouge River Trail Corridor including trail entry identifiers, accessible connections and viewing areas, connectivity improvements including confidence markers and wayfinding signage, a new pedestrian bridge and Booth Park entry area including a restroom along the Birmingham Rouge River trail system, and,

WHEREAS, the City of Birmingham has funded the concept plan and has budgeted for these trail improvements in its Capital Improvement Plan, has received private donations, and proposes to use parks and recreation bond funding to provide a local match,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Birmingham hereby authorizes the submission of a Spark Grants application for \$1,000,000.00, and further resolves to make available a local match during the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

AYES:

NAYES:

ABSENT:

MOTION APPROVED.

I, Alexandria Bingham, City Clerk, of the City of Birmingham, HEREBY CERTIFY, that the foregoing is a Resolution duly made and passed by the Birmingham City Commission at their regular meeting held on November 28, 2022, at 7:30 p.m., with a quorum present.

Alexandria Bingham, City Clerk

Dated: _____

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF BIRMINGHAM TO APPLY FOR A GRANT
FROM THE MICHIGAN SPARK GRANTS PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the City of Birmingham supports the submission of an application titled, "Trail Improvements" to the Spark Grants Program for improvements to the Rouge River Trail Corridor including trail entry identifiers, accessible connections and viewing areas, connectivity improvements including confidence markers and wayfinding signage, a new pedestrian bridge and Booth Park entry area including a restroom along the Birmingham Rouge River trail system, and,

WHEREAS, the City of Birmingham has funded the concept plan and has budgeted for these trail improvements in its Capital Improvement Plan, has received private donations, and proposes to use parks and recreation bond funding to provide a local match,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Birmingham hereby authorizes the submission of a Spark Grants application for \$1,000,000.00, and further resolves to make available a local match during the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

AYES: 6 - Longe, McLain, Host, Baller, Boutros, Schaefer

NAYES: 0

ABSENT: Haig

MOTION APPROVED.

I, Alexandria Bingham, City Clerk, of the City of Birmingham, HEREBY CERTIFY, that the foregoing is a Resolution duly made and passed by the Birmingham City Commission at their regular meeting held on November 28, 2022, at 7:30 p.m., with a quorum present.



Alexandria Bingham, City Clerk

Dated: 11/28/22



MEMORANDUM

Birmingham Museum

DATE: December 6, 2022

TO: Parks and Recreation Board

FROM: Leslie Pielack, Museum Director

SUBJECT: Museum Park Improvements and Trail Improvements Concept Plan

INTRODUCTION:

The Birmingham Museum site includes almost four acres of property and is adjacent to the Rouge River. Due to the site's history and natural features, the Museum Board made preservation and public access a priority for the park and associated trails in its Landscape Master Plan in 2018. Barrier free access is a key focus of planned improvements in the area of the pond, which includes accessible pathways, seating areas, and a restricted special needs/handicap parking spot off Willits. Extensions of these accessible pathways would also create access to an overlook to the Rouge River from the museum lawn. In addition, a major focus of planned improvements is the preservation of the natural and built pond features, native plant use, and emphasis on sustainable design and materials.

These objectives integrate with many of the city's overall initiatives and Parks and Recreation Board priorities, and coordinating the museum's park improvement efforts with the Trails Improvements Concept Plan offers potential benefits in planning, implementing, and funding efforts. Combining certain aspects of the museum's planned improvements in the city's Michigan Spark grant application would strengthen the case for both the museum site and the city's Rouge Trail improvements, and improve the chances of receiving Spark funding for the overall project.

BACKGROUND:

The Birmingham Museum site includes almost four acres of property that spans the distance from Maple Road to Willits Street and is adjacent to the Rouge River to the west. The property was part of a city acquisition in 1969 to create a historic park, to include the Allen House and grounds as well as the Hunter House, which was moved to the property to preserve it. The overall site has a long history from the town's founding in 1819 as part of Elijah Willits' property, to the 19th century location of the first brick school in Birmingham, to the construction of the historic Harry and Marion Allen House in 1926 and the final relocation here

of the 1822 Hunter House, the oldest house in Oakland County. The steeply sloping grounds feature natural springs and a pond near Willits Street that also have a long history—in particular, the enclosure of part of the pond in the 1920s to create a natural ‘swimming pool’ for the Allen children. This is one of the earliest known efforts in the country to build what would become the ‘modern American swimming pool’ of the mid-twentieth century.

In recent years, the area around the pond and pool has become overgrown, and is difficult to access due to invasive *phragmites* and other plants that create a visual and physical barrier. Otherwise, the lawn area and grounds are used on a regular basis throughout the year, and park visitors often use the museum grounds to gain access to the Rouge Trail. There is a trail entry point just west of the museum at Maple Road, a side trail from the museum lawn north of the Allen House to the trail, and a trail outlet at Willits just west of the museum boundary.

Due to the site’s history and natural features, the Museum Board prioritized preservation and public access for the park and associated trails in its Landscape Master Plan in 2018. The plan was developed with a historical landscape architect to address both its built history and unique landscape, and to guide detailed park improvement plans that preserve and protect these significant features while offering enhanced public access. The plan identifies four distinct zones, one of which (the Heritage Zone around the two buildings) was targeted for initial park improvements that were completed in 2021 with a combination of donated and city funds.

The next area of museum park improvements involves addressing the need for barrier free public access to the natural and historic features of lower portion of the museum grounds, a.k.a., the Pond Zone. To ensure consistency, the planned design for the Pond Zone by Anderson Eckstein & Westrick was coordinated with the Trail Improvements Concept Plan by MSCA Group, and meetings were held with city staff and both design firms before final design for the Pond Zone was complete. The AEW design includes phases within the Pond Zone that lend themselves to special grant funding opportunities. Approximately \$50,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds has been set aside to complete Phase 1 and 2 of the Pond Zone project: an ADA-compliant parking space off Willits, and an accessible sidewalk and seating area overlooking the pond along the street. These two phases are expected to be completed during the 2023 construction season.

The remaining two phases in the Pond Zone include Phase 3, accessible access to a boardwalk and a patio inspired by the historic swimming pool enclosure and landing; and Phase 4, extension of an accessible pathway to a Rouge River overlook with seating area at the edge of the museum’s lawn area. Both emphasize sustainability in design and materials.

Phase 3 includes components that have high value from a Michigan Spark grant funding perspective. The shoreline is especially suited for rain garden design, since natural springs are present around the sloping shore, and storm and groundwater drains into the pond. The patio and pool boardwalk are devoted to public accessibility and viewing, not only of the historic swimming pool area, but also of planned native plant materials and rain garden viewing as well. Non-intrusive interpretive content accessible with QR codes and existing Wi Fi on the museum grounds will support educational objectives that are unique to the site. Furthermore, the Phase 3 plan specifies permeable pavement pathways that are easier to navigate for all members of the public, while representing recent advancement in improved and sustainable materials and reduced maintenance. It is anticipated that the boardwalk and patio elements will be funded as a standalone CDBG project in 2023-2024; however,

the remaining components of this phase, or approximately \$63,000, would be appropriate for inclusion in the Michigan Spark grant for implementation in 2024/2025. The pond's physical connection to the Rouge River trail offers opportunities for strengthening the grant request for a larger project that emphasizes the city's Trail Improvements plan. (The Pond Zone's Phase 4, the path to the Rouge River overlook, would likely be pursued for funding and construction in 2025 and beyond, as other grant resources and funding become available, and so is not planned for inclusion in the Michigan Spark grant at this time.)

LEGAL REVIEW:

The City Attorney's office will review the legal aspects of a grant agreement that includes the Birmingham Museum's planned improvements with the Rouge trail improvements if the grant application is successful.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The City of Birmingham has already requested and re-programmed approximately \$50,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds for Phases 1 and 2, ADA/barrier free portions of the museum's Pond Zone improvements, expected to be constructed in the 2023 construction season. The Museum Board plans fund-raising efforts with the Friends of the Birmingham Museum for certain elements of Phase 3 of the Pond Zone plan, including trees and benches. The museum's 2022/23 budget also includes funding for other Phase 1 and 2 costs. CDBG funding is planned for Phase 3 in the 2023/2024 budget year, and it is anticipated that city funding will be requested for any components of the project that are not funded by the Michigan Spark grant.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS:

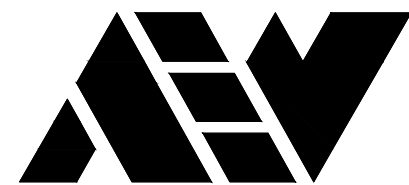
The Birmingham Museum Landscape Master Plan was shared with the public at an open house in September of 2018. Attendees included a large number of neighbors along Willits Street, who were universally enthusiastic about the plans to preserve and visually enhance the pond area and make it more accessible to the public. There was no opposition to the single handicapped parking space as long as it was for handicapped parking only. The plan has also been shared with the Parks and Recreation Board and the Birmingham City Commission.

SUMMARY:

The Birmingham Museum's planned improvements for the Pond Zone, as detailed in the final design by AEW, follow from the museum's 2018 Landscape Master Plan, and were designed to preserve the natural features of the landscape and its history as well as provide barrier free access to the park's pond, Rouge River views, and wildlife. The final Pond Zone design includes options for sustainable materials and landscaping, some of which are more costly than standard construction. By including these planned improvements in an overall Michigan Spark grant for Rouge Trail improvements, the application may be strengthened because of its unique historic, preservation, and barrier-free elements.

ATTACHMENTS:

- [Birmingham Museum 2018 Master Landscape Plan](#)
- Birmingham Museum Pond Zone Phased Construction Plan (AEW)
- Birmingham Museum Pond Zone Construction Plan (Detail) (AEW)
- Birmingham Museum Pond Zone Grading Plan Detail (AEW)
- Birmingham Museum Pond Zone Cost Estimates-Phase 3 (AEW)



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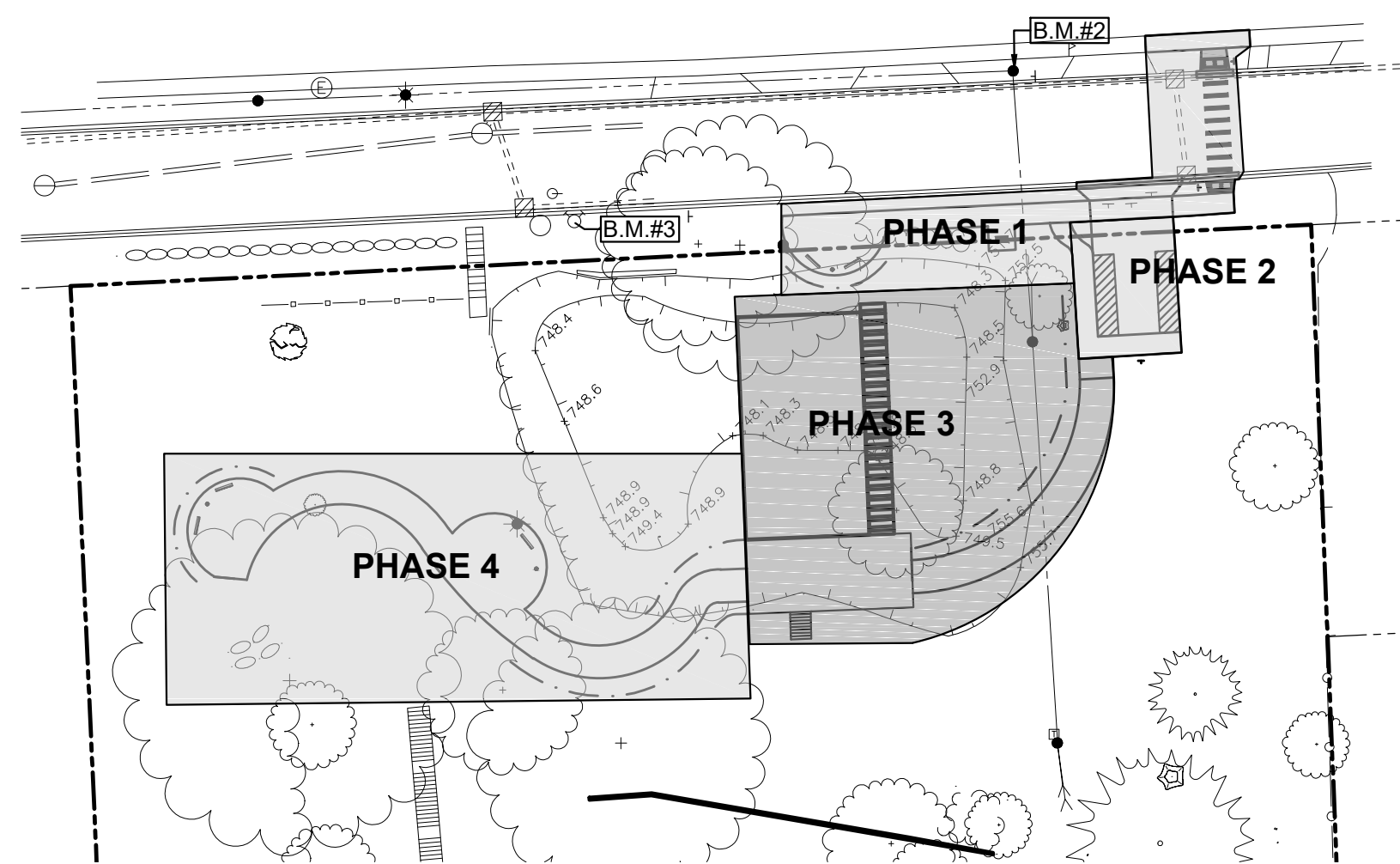
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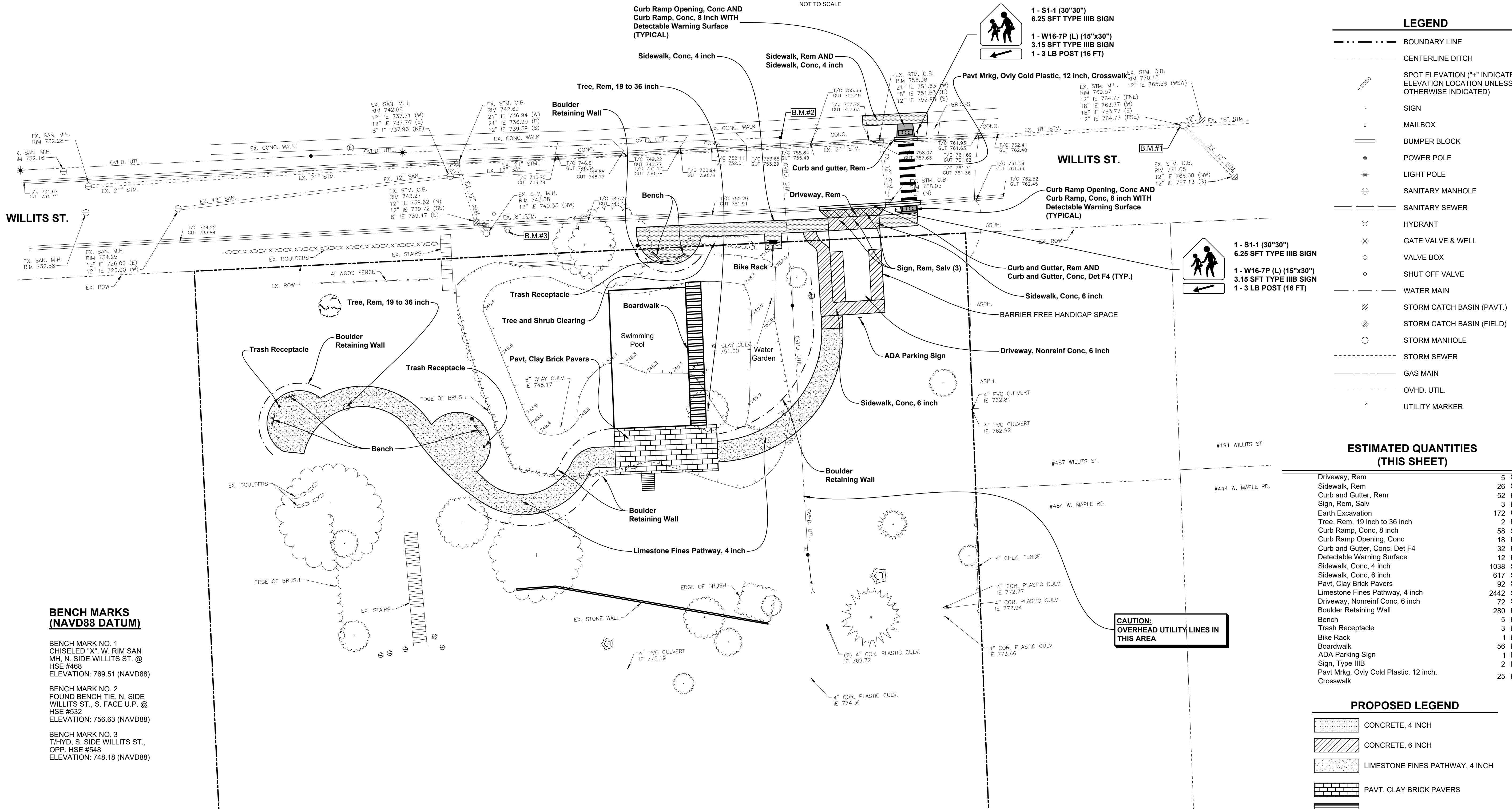


LOCATION MAP
NOT TO SCALE



CONSTRUCTION PHASING PLAN

NOT TO SCALE



DATE	SUBMITTALS/REVISIONS
PROJECT NAME:	

Birmingham Museum
John West Hunter Park

SHEET TITLE:

CONSTRUCTION PLAN

CLIENT:

City of Birmingham

☒ PRELIMINARY	☐ CONSTRUCTION	☐ RECORD
DRAWN BY: DB	CHECKED BY: RRK	DATE: DECEMBER 2022
SCALE: 1" = 20'		



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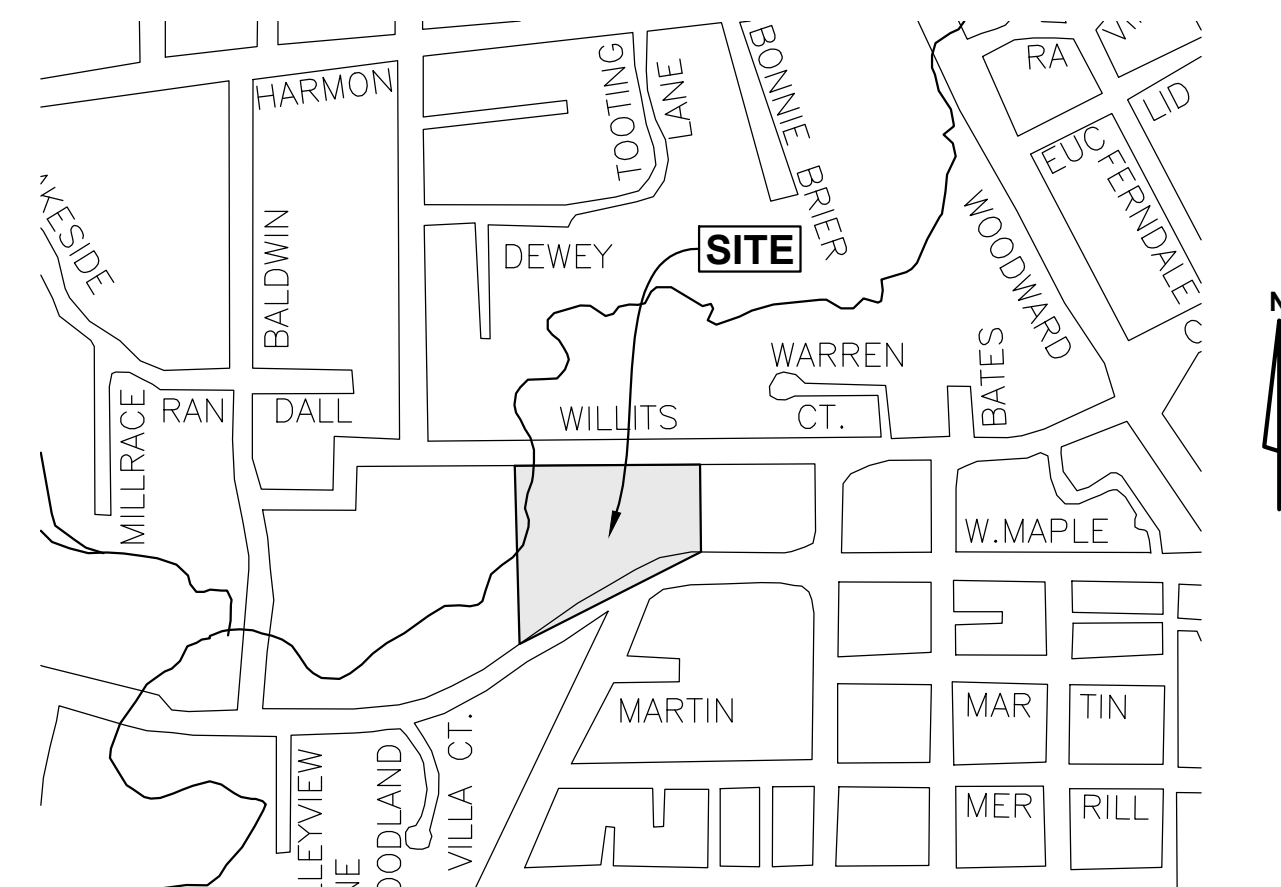
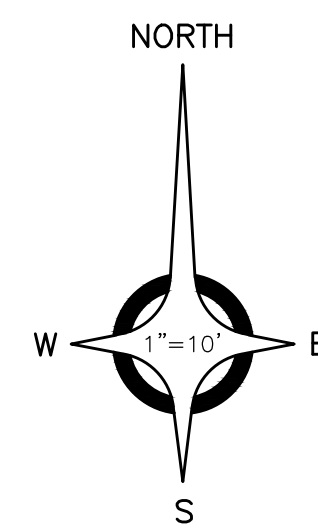
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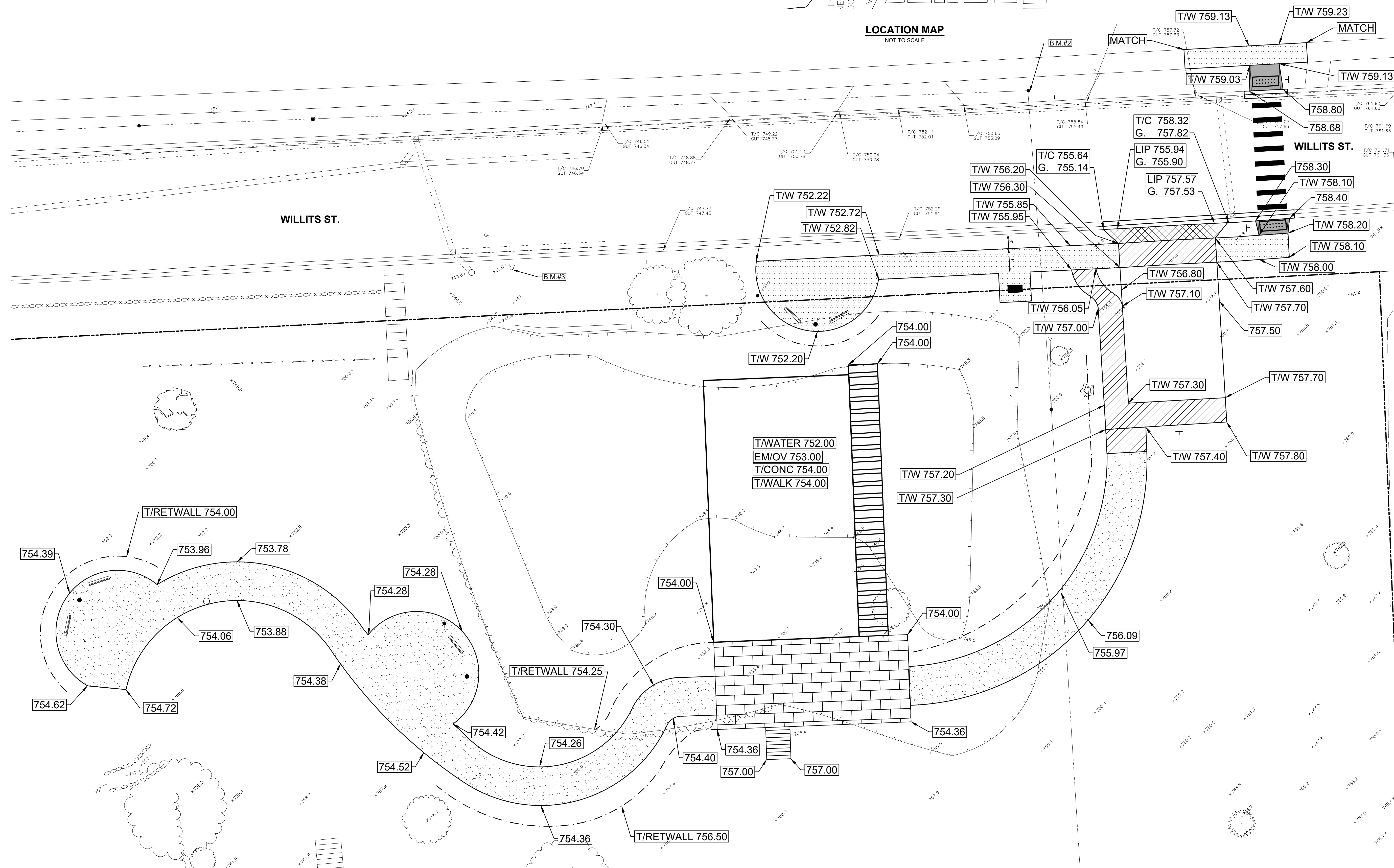
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BENCH MARK NO. 3
T/HYD, S. SIDE WILLITS ST.,
OPP. HSE #548
ELEVATION: 748.18 (NAVD88)



LOCATION MAP
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SUBMITTALS/REVISIONS	
DATE	

PROJECT NAME:

**Birmingham Museum
John West Hunter Park**

SHEET TITLE

PROPOSED GRADING PLAN

CLIENT:

City of Birmingham

☒ PRELIMINARY	☐ CONSTRUCTION	☐ RECORD
DRAWN BY: DB	CHECKED BY: RRK	DATE: DECEMBER 2022

SCALE: 1" = 10'



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DURING CONSTRUCTION, THE CONTRACTOR SHALL USE EXTREME CAUTION WHEN OPERATING NEAR ANY AND ALL OVERHEAD AND / OR BURIED UTILITIES.

PROJECT NC

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SHEET NO.

(Phase 3 is the focus for inclusion in the city's Michigan Sparks grant application)



Birmingham Museum Pond Zone

Phase 3: Shoreline, Pathway, Boardwalk, and Patio

 ANDERSON, ECKSTEIN & WESTRICK, INC. 51301 Schoenherr Road Shelby Township, MI 48315 Phone: 586-726-1234 Fax No: 586-726-8780 PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE Permeable Sidewalk Alternative	PROJECT: John Hunter West Park Improvements AEW Project No. 0221-0054 OWNER: City of Birmingham PREPARED BY: R. Ryan Kern, P.E. DATE: 10/17/2022
WORK ITEM	QUANTITY UNIT UNIT PRICE AMOUNT

PHASE 3 - BOARDWALK/STONE PATIO/PATH (PARKING SPACE TO PATIO)				
Mobilization, Max 3%	1 LS	\$	2,130.00	\$ 2,130.00
Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control	1 LS	\$	2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Tree Rem, 19 inch to 36 inch	1 Ea	\$	1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00
Aggregate Base, 4 inch, 21AA	90 Syd	\$	8.00	\$ 720.00
Boardwalk	360 Sft	\$	80.00	\$ 28,800.00
Wood Rail Fencing	95 Lft	\$	75.00	\$ 7,125.00
Stone Patio and Stairs	800 Sft	\$	30.00	\$ 24,000.00
Sidewalk, Conc, 4 inch, Permeable Pavement	770 Sft	\$	20.00	\$ 15,400.00
Earth Excavation	25 Cyd	\$	40.00	\$ 1,000.00
Aggregate Base, 4 inch, Class II Sand	110 Syd	\$	8.00	\$ 880.00
Underdrain, 4 inch	100 Ft	\$	25.00	\$ 2,500.00
Boulder Retaining Wall	100 Ff	\$	40.00	\$ 4,000.00
Vegetative Restoration	300 Syd	\$	10.00	\$ 3,000.00
			SUBTOTAL	\$ 92,755.00
CONSTRUCTION COST				
Contingencies (15%)				\$ 13,910.00
Inflation (3% over 1 year)				\$ 2,580.00
			GRAND TOTAL	\$ 109,245.00

Cost Estimate Notes:

- Yellow-highlighted items will be addressed as a standalone project for CDBG funding, to be requested in 2023/2024, and not included in the Michigan Spark Grant application.
- Final design work for this phase has already been completed by AEW; no further design funding is needed for this phase.

2018

Landscape Master Plan



BIRMINGHAM
The **MUSEUM**

Brian Devlin, Nagy Devlin Land Design
Leslie Pielack, Birmingham Museum
Approved by the Museum Board, 2/20/2018
Accepted by the City Commission, 3/12/2018

This Landscape Master Plan for the Birmingham Museum and grounds, a City of Birmingham property, is the result of contributions from a wide range of stakeholders. These include members of the public; the City Commission and other advisory boards and commissions; the Friends of the Birmingham Museum; donors; and city administration and staff. In particular, we would like to acknowledge the following:

CITY COMMISSION

Andrew Harris, Mayor
Patty Bordman, Mayor Pro Tem
Pierre Boutros, Commissioner
Carroll DeWeese, Commissioner
Rackeline Hoff, Commissioner
Mark Nickita, Commissioner
Stuart Sherman, Commissioner

CITY ADMINISTRATION

Joseph A. Valentine, City Manager
Leslie Pielack, Museum Director

MUSEUM BOARD

Tina Krizanic, Chair
James Cunningham
Russell Dixon
Lori Eaton
Judith Keefer
Marty Logue
Caitlin Rosso
Carson Claar, Student Representative
Hanna Sandler, Student Representative

FRIENDS OF THE BIRMINGHAM MUSEUM BOARD

Daniel C. Patton, President
Fred Amrose
George Getschman
Marty Logue
Leslie Mio
Jennifer O'Hare
Caitlin Rosso
Mark Thomas

THE ROSSO FAMILY FOUNDATION

Acknowledgements



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I. Introduction



The site of the Birmingham Museum is one of the most historically and topographically complex in the city. It has distinctive natural landscape features on a steeply sloping lot with a rich history from pioneer times to the 20th century. Its location makes it accessible to both people and haven for a wide range of wildlife, yet it is centrally located in downtown Birmingham. In 2009, a preliminary landscape master plan by Michael Dul & Associates proposed a highly developed site with activity areas, a playground, paved terracing, extensive pathways and gardens, lighting, structures such as an arbor, decorative stone walls, and sculptures. Cost estimates exceeded 1 million dollars; at the time, it was hoped that park bond funds would be available to pay for the plan. However, sufficient park bond funding was not available, and it was not implemented. Dul's plan did provide guidelines for the final design and construction of Americans with Disability Act (ADA)/barrier-free access to the Allen and Hunter Houses in 2010 and 2012. These were completed largely with federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, which support ADA projects.

The Dul plan was preliminary only, and is now incompatible with the direction of recent museum strategic planning. It also does not reflect changes in technology that have occurred since it was proposed. For example, providing public WiFi was not a consideration at that time, but now our digital needs have developed in new ways, making this a key focus of public programming and providing alternative access opportunities. Also, the Rouge Trail Corridor plan was not incorporated into the 2009 plan, although the museum site shares a long boundary with the consistently used area as part of its overall landscape. But most importantly, the Dul plan did not survey the significant historic nature of the site and its existing features, so that no provision could be made for their protection or preservation.

In 2016, the Museum Board considered the most appropriate approach for the landscape in the course of reviewing its general Museum Strategic Plan for 2017-2020. The Museum Board wished to identify general concepts for the park, determine how phased approaches (such as improvements at the pond) could be utilized, and make additional recommendations. As the park is part of Birmingham's Mill Pond Historic District, the first step was to survey existing historic and natural features of the landscape, to understand and make recommendations to preserve and protect those resources and factor in public education and access in planning. The Friends of the Birmingham Museum and the Rosso Family Foundation provided funding, and Brian Devlin, historic landscape architect of Nagy Devlin Land Designs was selected to study the landscape and make recommendations to the Museum Board before further master planning was undertaken.

The Museum Board worked with Mr. Devlin to review his findings and integrate them into a final Landscape Master Plan that is closely aligned with the museum's mission and 2017-2020 Birmingham Museum Strategic Plan. It protects and preserves the natural aspects of the landscape, while restoring its unique historic character that has been lost or obscured by invasive plants. Furthermore, the plan integrates a variety of public access options, enhancing the museum's community engagement and educational opportunities. Although flexible and conceptual, it is comprehensive and consistent with the city's other planning initiatives and parks, allowing for coordination of projects. The identified zones also lend themselves very well to project-based funding support through grants or private donations.

II. Goals and Objectives



PURPOSE of PLAN

The overall purpose of developing a Landscape Master Plan for the museum site is to provide long term guidance for improvement projects and other planning that incorporates the needs of the public with the existing natural features, the site's history and location in a local historic district, and city initiatives. The Birmingham Museum Landscape Master Plan is compatible with, but separate from, the 2017-2020 Birmingham Museum Strategic Plan. It is also aligned with the museum's mission, as stated below:

Museum Mission—The Birmingham Museum will explore meaningful connections with our past, in order to enrich our community and enhance its character and sustainability. Our mission is to promote understanding of Birmingham's historical and cultural legacy through preservation and interpretation of its ongoing story.

Goals and Objectives

The specific goals and objectives of the Birmingham Museum Landscape Master Plan are as follows:

1. To Improve public access, especially barrier-free access, to the museum site
2. To preserve the natural and historic landscape features
3. To provide opportunities for education and interpretation of the site, its natural environment and its cultural history
4. To coordinate with the City of Birmingham Parks and Recreation and Rouge River Corridor plans and projects, such as pathways, access priorities, materials, and signage.
5. To utilize phased planning to optimize private donations and grant funding opportunities

Planning Process

In order to approach the museum landscape planning comprehensively, input was gathered from a wide range of sources. These included:

- The Museum Board's extensive review of existing conditions, historical materials, site review and survey data through meetings with historical landscape consultant Brian Devlin. Other consultation included Hubble, Roth, and Clark regarding a pond and wetlands survey and associated state regulations and requirements.
- Input of the city staff from Parks, Engineering, Building, and Planning/Historic Preservation Departments regarding infrastructure, planning, alignment with local historic district ordinance and State Historic Preservation Office guidelines, ADA access and parking issues, and integration/coordination with policies and materials used by other city parks.
- A joint workshop between the Museum Board, the Parks and Recreation Board, and the Historic District Commission was held on January 17, 2018 to discuss the plan and gather input from board members as well as the public.
- Ongoing updates during 2016 and 2017 and formal presentation and discussion with the Friends of the Birmingham Museum Board on January 25, 2018.
- Public input was gathered through the joint workshop on January 17, 2018. Immediate neighbors were contacted

and invited to attend the workshop. Several were present at the meeting, including a neighbor who shares the east boundary with the Hunter House. Some public data was also gathered through the Parks and Recreation Master Plan's survey process in the fall of 2017.

- Meetings were held and the review process discussed with members of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, and DTE Energy planners regarding requirements of the site that involve wetlands regulation and utilities issues to aid in additional planning.
- The Historic District Commission Design Review Board reviewed and unanimously approved the plan on January 17, 2018.

The resulting Birmingham Museum Landscape Master Plan is conceptual in nature. While it provides a broad approach to integrating diverse components, it is designed to give general guidance in more detailed future planning. Additional design work will be needed on a project-related or phased basis.

Its strength lies in its careful consideration of providing for public needs while maintaining a fundamental preservation focus to ensure that no irreversible changes are made that negatively impact the historic or natural character of the landscape.



III. Historic Background



EARLY SETTLEMENT PERIOD (1818-1856)

The landscape of the area that is now downtown Birmingham is characterized by its proximity to the Rouge River, which has formed valleys and has several branches and numerous tributaries as it works its way south through Oakland County to the Detroit River. The Saginaw Trail (now Woodward Avenue) followed the best route through swampy areas northwest out of Detroit. It was the only land route through the area when pioneer settlers came to Michigan in the early 19th century.

Settlers sought to purchase land at locations that had multiple resources, especially water and mill sites. Elijah Willits made claim to one of four parcels that intersected near where the Rouge River crossed the Saginaw Trail in what is now downtown Birmingham. This original purchase of 160 acres includes the site of the Birmingham Museum.

The original landscape wilderness was populated by a variety of native plants, trees and woodland wildlife, much of which is still present. Over time, non-native plants have begun to dominate. The museum site includes a portion of the floodplain of the Rouge River valley, as well as a spring-fed pond that drains to the river near Willits Street. Spring seeps also form a wetland environment on the southeast side of the pond.

RED SCHOOLHOUSE PERIOD (1856-1869)

In 1855-56, Willits sold a portion of his acreage to the local school district as a site for the first brick schoolhouse in Birmingham. Built of local brick, the 'red schoolhouse' as it is known, was in service until 1869, when the larger Hill School was built. The red

schoolhouse was converted to a residence, and by the end of the 19th century a small barn was built on the property behind the building and near the edge of the slope to the Rouge. Around this time, fieldstone walls were constructed on the property as well. The former schoolhouse continued to serve as a residence until Marion and Harry Allen purchased the property in the mid-1920s.

ALLEN HOUSE PERIOD (1928-1970)

The Allens attempted to incorporate the schoolhouse into their plans for their new home but were unable to use the entire building, as portions of it collapsed when excavating their basement. However, they re-used the brick and a portion of the school that remained, creating the current version of the Allen House in 1928. It is a Colonial Revival style house with prominent red brick and cedar shingle siding, featuring a large front porch and many dormers.

The Allens made some changes to the landscape that are documented in photos. These included enhancing the park-like appearance of much of the property with large elm trees and open areas of lawn. The area near the house was planted with perennials and shrubs characteristic of the period.

Two years before they built the house, 9 year old Jim Allen was struck with poliomyelitis—reportedly the only person in Birmingham to be afflicted. The spring fed pond was partially enclosed with concrete walls to create a swimming pool to help ease Jim's physical symptoms. Photos show the rectangular edges of the enclosure with a spillway to allow water to drain into the pond and on to the Rouge, and a platform and rail that may have led to a stair into the pool.

CITY OWNERSHIP-1969-PRESENT

In 1969 voters approved the purchase of the house and land by the city to create a historic park, and to move the Hunter House there to save it from demolition. The Clizbe-Allen family continued to occupy the Allen House until 1973 by agreement with the city. From 1973-1977, the Allen House was renovated through efforts of a bicentennial commission and members of the community, who raised funds in a combination of private donations and grants.

As part of the landscape renovation during this time, the pond and pool were a concern because of maintenance needs and crumbling concrete walls. Filling them in and plowing them over was one solution to make way for more extensive landscaping and development, which included a possible arboretum. This concept for the landscape did not materialize, however due to the high cost. Instead, volunteers planted and maintained flower gardens for a number of years at the Hunter and Allen Houses, which depended on volunteer resources and availability. Boy Scout troops helped with clearing old growth and placing wood chips in pathways. Basic maintenance only was provided for the site otherwise.

For a number of years, event rentals were used to help raise funds, but were insufficient to make the building self-sustaining. Even so, the Allen House and grounds was a popular site for parties and weddings. Toward the mid to late 1990s, a joint plan between the city and the Birmingham Historical Society emerged to establish an endowment and to turn the house into a professionally staffed museum. The program met its goals and the Allen House, Hunter House, and surrounding park grounds became a city operated public museum in 2001.

Since then, the museum has expanded its audience and embraced changes in the museum field to incorporate new technology to reach the next generation. At the same time, preserving the historical past as accurately as possible is also of utmost importance. After the recession of 2008/2009, the focus has been primarily on needed maintenance of the two buildings, on preserving and exhibiting the museum collection, and on public engagement.

The landscape has always been important, however. The Museum Board is now in a position to direct its resources and attention to responsible and comprehensive planning. This will ensure the essential history and uniqueness of the site are preserved and that future citizens of Birmingham will experience the benefits of this long term strategy.

IV. Survey and Analysis of Existing Conditions



SURVEY AND ANALYSIS OF EXISTING CONDITIONS

Natural Resources

Two (2) significant natural resources occur on the museum property that substantially contribute to the quality of the overall landscape and offer unique elements for an expanded museum experience. The first is the Riverine Woodland ecosystem which comprises the western portion of the property. This ecosystem includes the Rouge River along the western boundary with a sparse woodland on the steep slopes rising up to the Allen House which sits at the top of the ridge. Plant species comprising the woodland include black walnut, hickory, maple, elm, box elder, cottonwood, mulberry, and catalpa with honeysuckle, privet, barberry, and buckthorn in the understory and grapevine and daylily occurring in the ground layer. Dead trees and limbs occur throughout the ecosystem. Several invasive species also occur in this ecosystem and include common reed (*Phragmites australis*) near the river, garlic mustard (*Allaria petiolata*), oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*), creeping Charlie (*Glechoma hederacea*), buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*), barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*), and privet (*Ligustrum sp.*), all occurring on the steep slopes.

Two (2) paths meander through the woodland. The primary path enters the woodland near the westerly driveway of the Allen House and runs diagonally to the northwest to the bridge over the Rouge River at Willits Street. The second path enters the woodland at the base of the steep slope behind the Allen House and connects to the primary path at the base of the slope of the Riverine Woodland ecosystem. Both paths consist of wood chips and include timber steps at the steeper sections of the route. Many timber steps are rotting away and need replacement.

The second natural feature is the spring-fed pond on the north central property line immediately adjacent to Willits Street. The pond is fed from groundwater seeps on the east side of the pond. The pond is overgrown with common reed (*Phragmites australis*) and cattails, and has accumulated debris over the years. The outlet for the pond occurs at the northwest point with a small spillway that leads to a catch basin. A wetland ecosystem is associated with the pond as groundwater is near and at the surface creating wetland conditions that, ironically, occur significantly up the slope, particularly in the southeast corner of the pond. The museum property also includes many trees including catalpa, elm, Norway maple, callery pear, Norway spruce, mulberry, European linden, bald cypress, and arborvitae.

Historic Resources

The historic resources on the property include two (2) fieldstone walls. One wall occurs along the top of the ridge to the west of the Allen House and may have been part of a barn that was originally on the property. Unfortunately, a north section of this wall has been undermined and has fallen down the slope. The other fieldstone wall is located midway down the slope to the north of and between the Allen House and Hunter House. Both walls are made of fieldstone, both containing whole rounded stones and split face stones, characteristic of 19th c. farms in southeast Michigan.

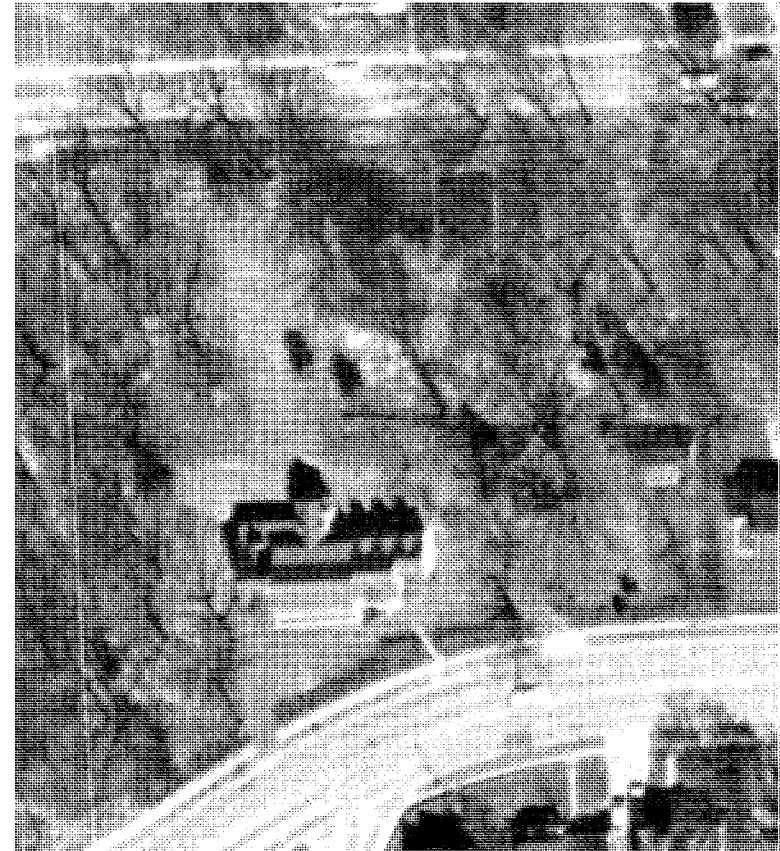
Probably the most unique historic feature on the property is the swimming or bathing pool with cement walls built into the easterly portion of the pond. The pool was used by the Allens' son Jim, who was afflicted with polio, for physical therapy. The swimming pool is evident in the 1963 aerial photograph from Oakland County and from early photographs as indicated below.



Early photograph showing the swimming pool in the pond

The pool is unique in concept and design as well as history. It originally incorporated the spring as a natural water source and utilized a flow gate at the surface of the western divider to permit natural drainage and continuous flow. A landing with rail provided access into the water, presumably for Jim Allen to use. These unique aspects of the landscape are especially important for preservation and interpretation, and are highly desirable elements that may be eligible for special funding opportunities.

The pond has been surveyed and only two (2) partial walls (the north and east corner) of the swimming pool remain. Concrete was discovered at the bottom of the pond which could be one or more collapsed sides of the pool.



*Aerial photograph showing the swimming pool in the pond
(from Oakland County, 1963)*

V. Proposed Landscape Master Plan



GENERAL INFORMATION

A conceptual Landscape Master Plan has been prepared and is the result of a collaborative effort of the museum staff, Museum Board, and landscape architectural consultant over a period of about one (1) year. Early on, the museum property was divided into several zones with distinct elements and characteristics associated with each. These distinct areas include:

1. The Heritage Zone along Maple Road with the Allen House, the Bell Plaza, and the Hunter House
2. The Transition Zone immediately north of the houses and plaza
3. The Riverine/ Woodland Zone on the west side of the Allen House to the Rouge River, the westerly boundary of the property; and
4. The Pond Zone which includes the north edge of the property along Willits Street. Each zone and the resulting master plan components are described below.

Zone 1: Heritage Zone

The Heritage Zone is along Maple Road with the Allen House on the west, the Bell Plaza in the center, and the Hunter House on the east. This section of the museum property has had recent improvements to eliminate the circle drive and provide handicap parking as well as short term parallel parking in front of the Bell Monument. Pedestrian circulation has also been added with a sidewalk along the front and rear of the Allen House, a handicap accessible ramp to the Hunter House, and a plaza and garden area

at the Hill School Bell monument. Wi-Fi provides public access opportunities for visitors to the park and the museum.

The design objective for this zone was to provide features which could unite these three (3) distinct subzones with minimal impact to historical features while providing opportunities for the community to participate in museum activities.

Plan for the Heritage Zone

The Master Plan includes restoration of early elm plantings, a children's garden in front of the Hunter House, and a garden of Birmingham heirloom plants at the Hill School Bell Plaza. The early photograph below of the Allen House shows a simple foundation planting with specimen elm trees planted in front of and behind the house.



Early photograph showing elm trees in the foreground and background of the Allen House

The Master Plan shows removal of undesirable trees and replacement with modern elm cultivars able to withstand Dutch elm disease. Original planting locations are indicated from recent surveys and a couple of elm stumps are preserved to show the impressive size of these trees. Two (2) new elm cultivars have been planted on either side of the bell monument to replace the diseased elms removed in 2016.

A children's garden is proposed for the space directly in front of the Hunter House. This location was chosen because the area provides level ground for gardening activity and the southern exposure is ideal for plants. Impacts from Maple Road are mediated with the existing picket fence and proposed yew hedge and gate for the front sidewalk. Other improvements include removal of undesirable species along the east property line and replacement of the picket fence. The Master Plan proposes a garden with heirloom plants from Birmingham with a boxwood shrub border in front of the bell monument. Residents of the city will be encouraged to bring their heirloom plants to the museum to create this specialty garden.

I'm proud to be a part of the development of this landscape master plan. Each zone preserves and enhances the Birmingham Museum's scenic natural historic site while seamlessly integrating unique interpretive/educational opportunities for community members of all ages.

—Tina Krizanic, Museum Board Chair

Signage for the museum will respect the historic setting by complementing the Heritage Zone surroundings while clearly

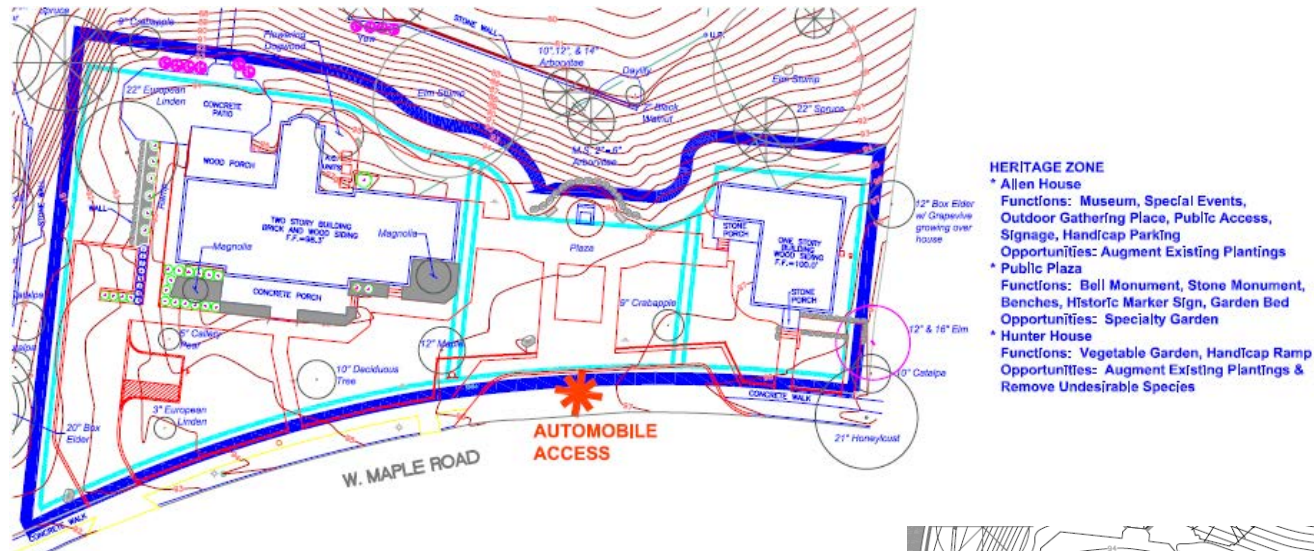
identifying the museum site in a manner that is consistent with historic district requirements. An effective approach is to utilize existing elements and compatible materials; a section of the existing fence can feature signage in a highly visible manner without overwhelming the historic character of the Allen House. Other signage on the grounds will coordinate with that used in other parks to provide a unified experience for visitors.

Heritage Zone Programming and Community Engagement

Opportunities: Public Access, Visibility, and Gathering

- Historical children's garden with heritage plants for educational/demonstration activities and tours
- Community perennial gardens showcasing Birmingham heirloom plants with interpretive information and tours
- Low maintenance organic herb garden with interpretive information and programming
- Family events and activities in the plaza area
- Musical performances and other programs on the back porch of the Allen House
- Outdoor exhibits utilizing app development and Wi-Fi to provide interpretive history of Allen House, Hunter House, Hill School Bell/school history and plantings in Heritage Zone with unobtrusive signage
- Improvements and programs at the plaza that promote public gathering, Wi-Fi connectivity and electronic access to museum collection and online exhibits

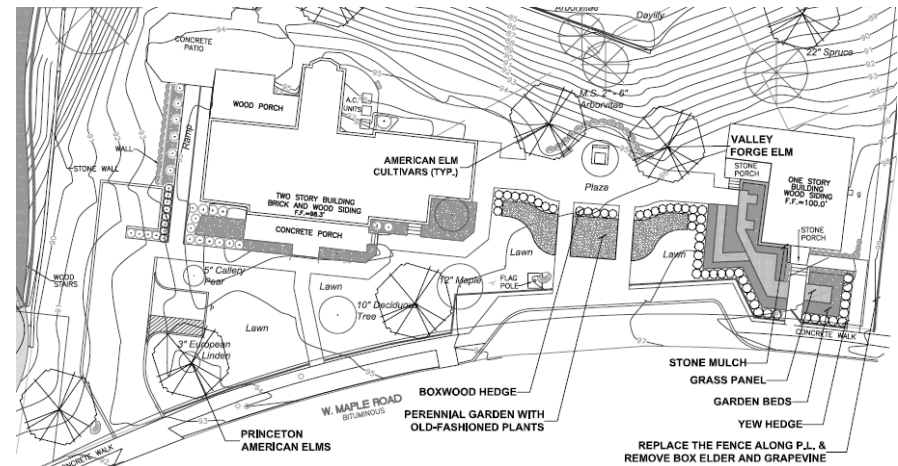
The images below show the characteristics of the Heritage Zone and the concept for the Landscape Master Plan. (See Attachments for additional views).



Existing conditions and analysis of the Heritage Zone

I am the most excited for the educational/interpretive parts of the pond area. My personal connections and understanding of our Birmingham community comes from my experiences with the museum as a child. Some of my most invaluable memories involve the “Birmingham, Long, Long, Ago” movie and school tours. They helped me become passionate about this wonderful community. This landscape design and pond interpretation will only add value to those museum programs to provide more access to our historic landscape.

–Caitlin Rosso, Museum Board member



Conceptual Master Plan for the Heritage Zone

Zone 2 : Transition Zone

The Transition Zone begins at the top of the slope immediately behind the houses and plaza and extends down to the base of the slope. This zone provides access from the house to the pool and includes the original fieldstone wall and remnants of early plantings including elm and Norway spruce. Other trees include arborvitae, Norway maple, and mulberry. A wood staircase behind the Allen House provides pedestrian access down the slope to the open space on the west side of the pond. It appears that the stairs are placed over cement steps with fieldstone edges that were built just after the city purchased the property. The slopes of the area consist of maintained lawn.

Plan for Transition Zone

The Master Plan for the Transition Zone shows removal of undesirable trees and replacement with modern elm cultivars. From early photographs of this area it appears that elm plantings formed a glade with maintained lawn and minimal plantings.

The Museum's Landscape Master Plan restores and enhances, in both a timeless and contemporary setting, the natural beauty of a historically significant part of our community.

—James Cunningham, Museum Board member

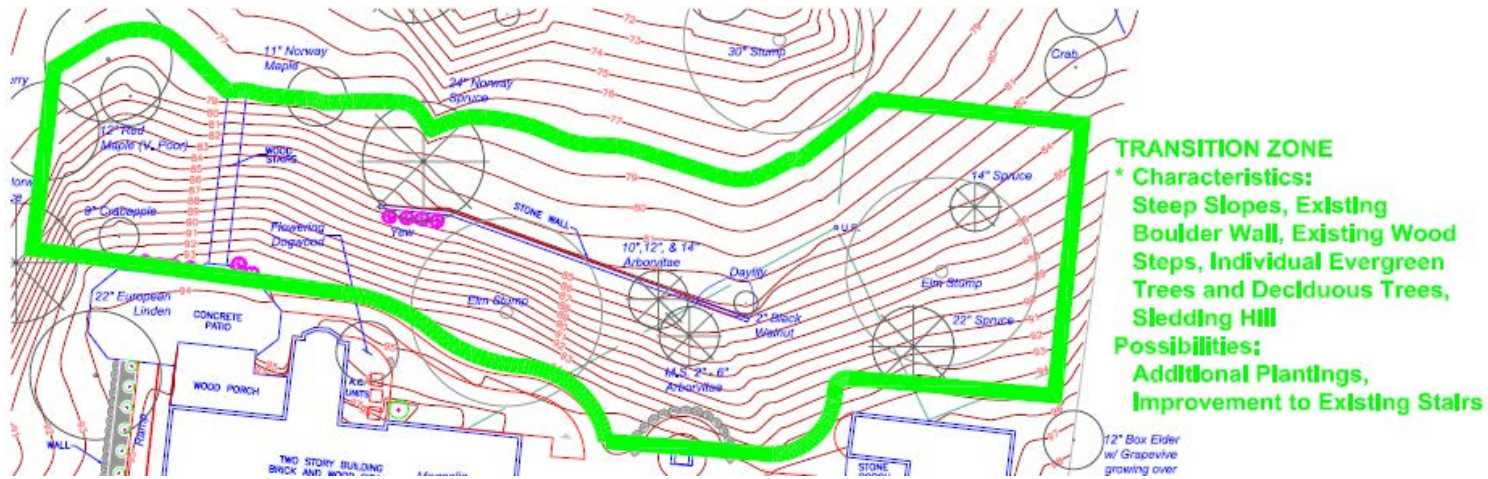
A significant new feature proposed for the Transition Zone is the concrete steps and fieldstone wall to replace the wood staircase. The proposed stairs with walls and handrails provide a safe route for pedestrians to move from the patio behind the Allen House to the woodland trail and pond at the bottom of the slope. The relatively large landing areas of the steps can allow people to congregate for small venues on an intimate scale.

Transition Zone Programming and Community Engagement

Opportunities: Education and Intimate Gatherings

- Stair design provides for multi-use as small amphitheater-like performance area on lower lawn
- Open lawn provides area for traditional lawn activities such as picnics
- Wi-Fi based interpretive education about overall site history from pioneer period to present
- Small garden area for daylilies to feature historic varieties and interpretation of Allen House landscape
- Outdoor photography and art programs and display at stone wall

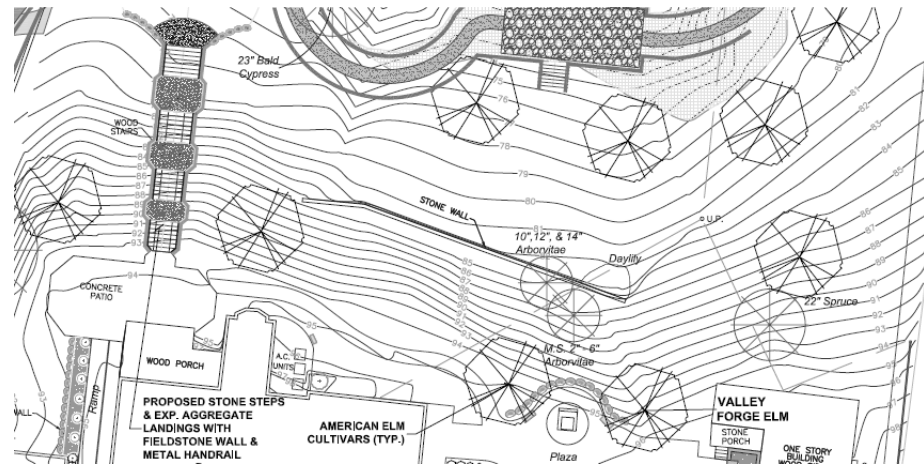
The images below show the characteristics of the Transition Zone and the concept for the Landscape Master Plan. (See Attachments for additional views).



Existing conditions and analysis of the Transition Zone

I'm very excited, as a member of the Museum Board and the Friends Board, regarding the Landscape Master Plan for the museum grounds. These plans will help the community learn more about the grounds and its history.

—Marty Logue, Museum Board member



Conceptual Master Plan for the Transition Zone

Zone 3: Riverine/Woodland Zone

The Riverine/Woodland Zone begins at the top of the slope immediately west of the Allen House and extends to the Rouge River. This space offers an opportunity for residents to enjoy a secluded natural area within the city with trails and the potential to experience the river in close proximity.

Plan for Riverine/Woodland Zone

The Master Plan for the riverine/woodland zone proposes the creation of a climax woodland with the removal of invasive species and planting of sugar maples and associated sub-canopy and ground layer plants. A decision was made to keep the existing trails with the replacement of the timber steps with stone steps and a handrail. To conform to the existing Rouge River Trails Corridor Master Plan, a new path is proposed which runs parallel to the existing stone wall from the entry of the existing trail, where an overlook is proposed, and exiting at Maple Road. The steep slopes in this area will necessitate the use of boulder retaining walls to allow the layout of the path.

What distinguishes Birmingham from our neighbors is the diversity of our topography—the same that Birmingham’s founders (Hamilton, Hunter, Pierce, and Willits) observed 200 years ago. The Museum’s grounds are part of this landscape, and making them more accessible to the public gives a starting point to tell Birmingham’s history and educate future generations about the environment.

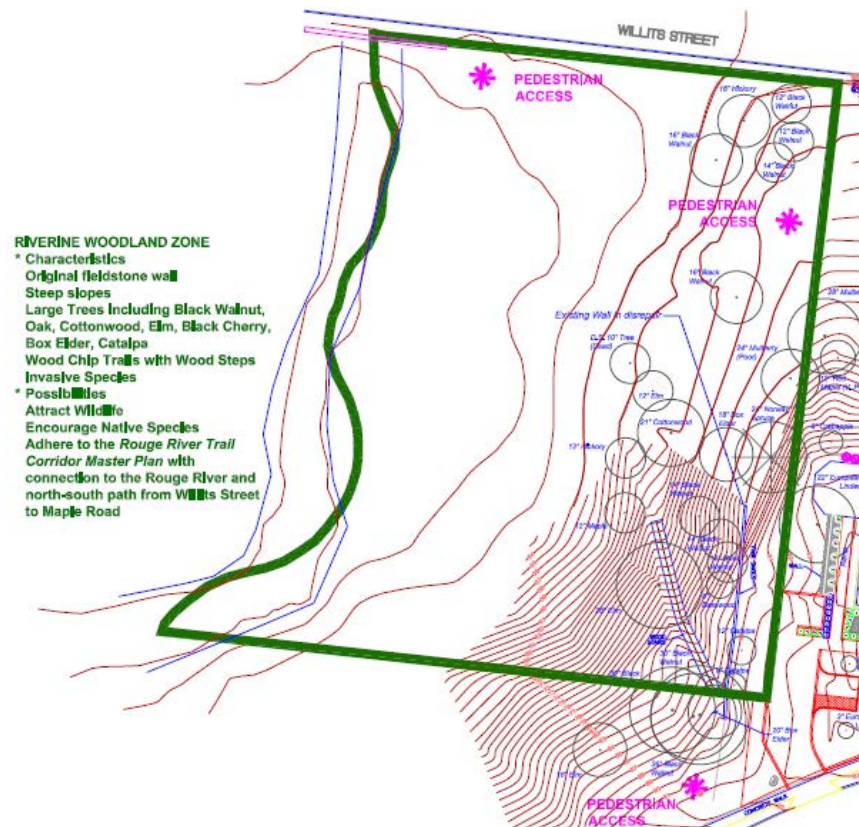
—Russ Dixon, Museum Board member

The original fieldstone wall is proposed to be stabilized and the sections that have fallen will be rebuilt following the original line of the wall. The boulder retaining walls will stabilize the slope and prevent further undermining of the original wall. Also to conform to the Rouge River Trails Corridor Master Plan, a boardwalk is proposed at the intersection of the existing trails which provides access to the Rouge River with a wood deck overlook. Large boulders as sculpture are proposed in the woodland zone.

Riverine/Woodland Zone Programming and Community Engagement Opportunities: Natural Habitat, Native American and Cultural History, and Education

- River Rouge natural history and landscape
- Native American presence in the area and land use
- Settlement and pioneer period of Birmingham and importance of Rouge River
- Wildlife and natural habitat information and interpretive materials (Wi-Fi/electronic)
- Invasive species vs. native plants-tours and interpretive materials
- Bird watching programs
- Other nature programs and tours

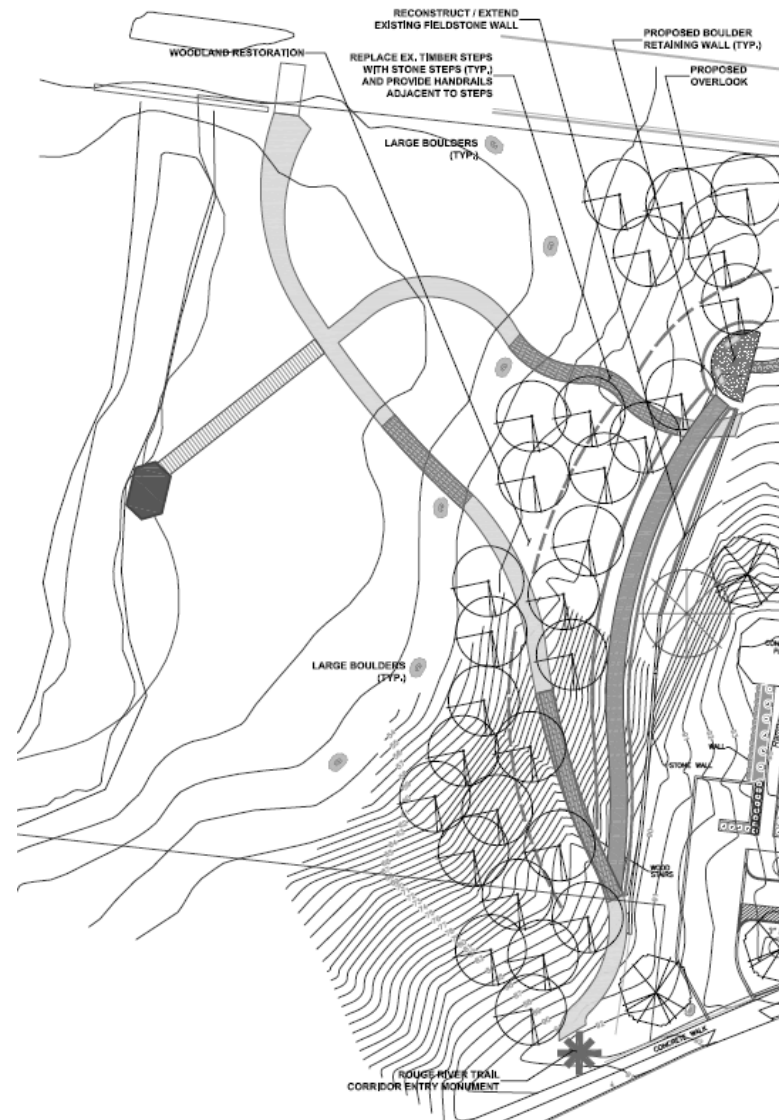
The images below show the characteristics of the Transition Zone and the concept for the Landscape Master Plan. (See Attachments for additional views).



Existing conditions and analysis of the Riverine/Woodland Zone

I'm so inspired by our board's dedication to making our museum a cultural highlight of the community. I will always take pride in this opportunity to help with planning for our exceptional landscape and give back to our very unique and special city!

—Judith Keefer, Museum Board member



Conceptual Master Plan for the Riverine/Woodland Zone

Zone 4: Pond Zone

The Pond Zone comprises the north portion of the museum property and includes the gentler slopes at the base of the transition zone and extends to Willits Street. A main goal of the Master Plan is to provide handicap parking along Willits Street with access to the museum property and especially to the pool and pond area. The preservation and interpretation of the swimming pool within the pond is an equally important goal, as this is an extremely unique use of the spring-fed pond.

Plan for Pond Zone

The Master Plan for the Pond Zone proposes a handicap accessible path from a new sidewalk along Willits Street around the pond to a staging area at the historic swimming pool location, then to a seating area on the west side of the pond, and finally to the new overlook at the woodland trail. The construction of this path will necessitate the use of boulder retaining walls to create the level surface for the path. This path is proposed to consist of crushed limestone and will include plantings along the pond side to act as a barrier to the pond below.

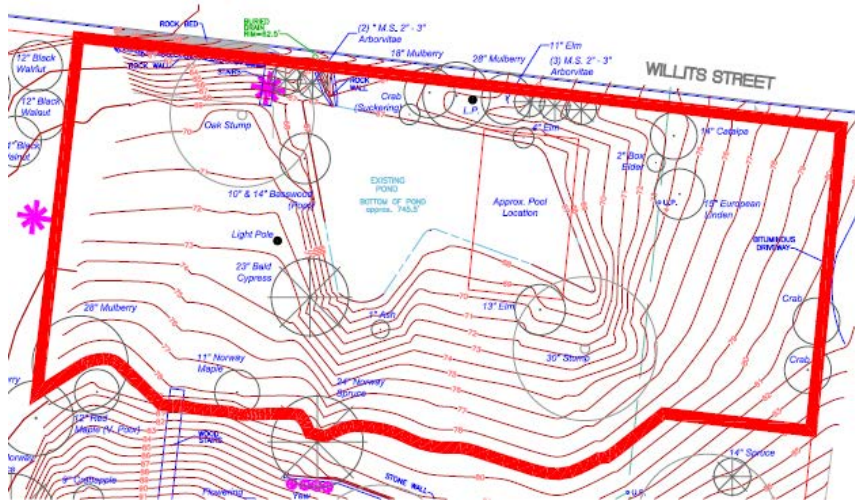
The interpretation of the swimming pool will be accomplished by the construction of a boardwalk along the east edge to complete that side. This boardwalk will also provide an opportunity to experience the pool right in the middle of the pond. A wood fence with cable railing is proposed for the west side of the boardwalk and a curb is proposed for the east side of the boardwalk. A water garden is proposed to the east of the boardwalk, giving an opportunity for visitors to learn about native water plants. A stone surface area is proposed for the south side and the existing

concrete wall defines the north edge of the pool. This stone surface and associated new stone wall allows a relatively large space where groups of people could congregate. To complete the rectangular shape of the swimming pool, a divider is proposed that runs from the south side of the pond to the north side. Care should be taken to preserve existing historical fabric so the remaining walls of the pool should be stabilized and maintained. The boulder walls and new fieldstone wall should be constructed with a different pattern to distinguish these new walls from original walls.

Pond Zone Programming and Community Engagement Opportunities: Barrier-Free Public Access and Polio History

- Wi-Fi/online interpretive materials about poliomyelitis and the unique Allen House pool for Jim Allen's physical therapy
- Acknowledgment of importance of ADA and barrier-free access in signage and surroundings
- Barrier-free outdoor programming for all ages
- Interpretive programs for natural wetlands, native water plants, and wildlife
- Educational activities and programs on environmental value of birds, bees, bats, and butterflies and associated wild plants and flowers for habitat
- Barrier-free tours throughout grounds, including Pool area, Rouge overlook and Allen and Hunter Houses

The images below show the characteristics of the Transition Zone and the concept for the Landscape Master Plan.



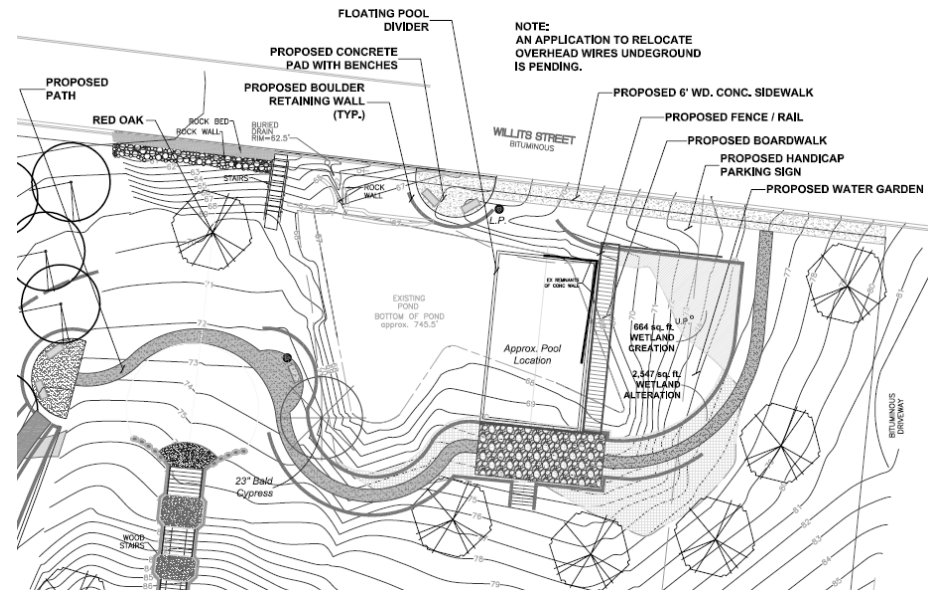
Existing conditions and analysis of the Pond Zone

POND ZONE

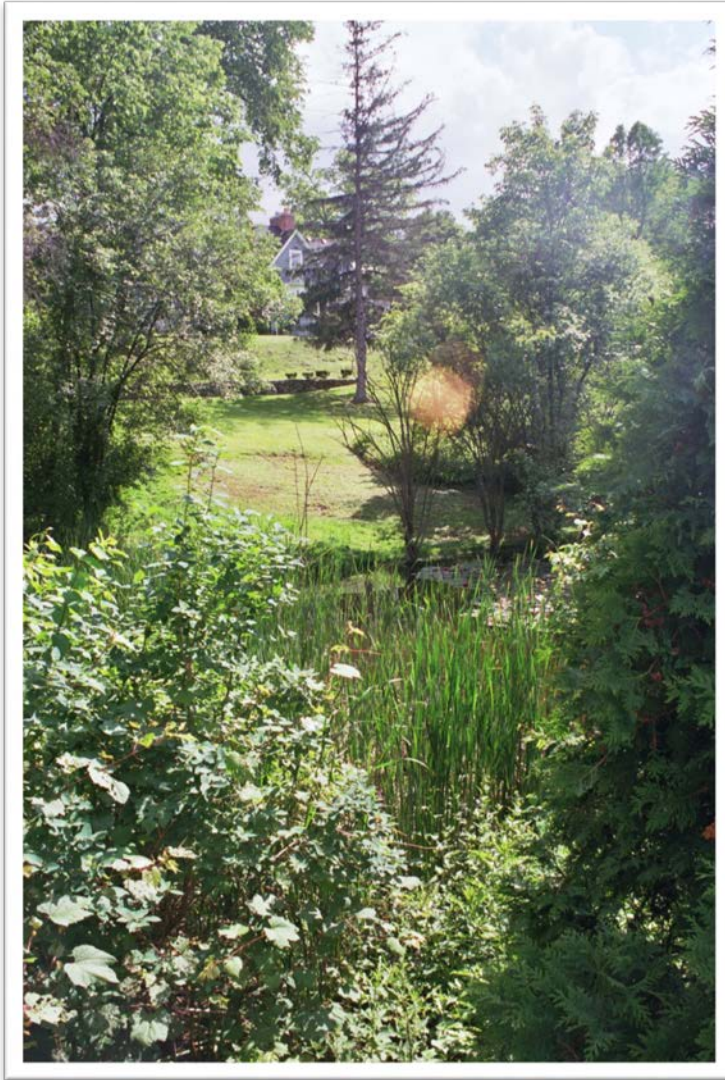
- * **Characteristics:**
Moderate Slopes, Pond with Historic Pool, Pedestrian Access from Willits Street, Light Pole with Internet Access, Overhead Lines
- * **Possibilities**
Automobile Parking
Pond Improvements
Possible Handicap Accessible Path
Seating Area near Existing Light Pole
Tree Planting
Water Garden
Relocate Overhead Wires Underground

It is especially fitting that the Landscape Master Plan pays special attention to accessibility as it echoes the physical challenges young James Allen faced as he struggled to overcome the effects of polio.

—Lori Eaton, Museum Board member



Conceptual Master Plan for the Pond Zone



VI. Capital Improvements and Funding

This conceptual Landscape Master Plan is intended to provide a guideline for long-term planning and project development. Each zone can be approached as a separate project for planning and funding purposes; however available grants, changing conditions, or other needs may make it more efficient to combine certain elements from different zones. Whenever possible, work will be coordinated with other city Parks and Recreation projects for purposes of timing, to avoid duplication, or to enhance progress.

Establishing priorities by zone or project component will assist with planning, especially as regards targeted fundraising and grants. The Landscape Master Plan assumes that funding will be project-specific, but as part of a “big picture” that can be communicated to particular granting organizations and potential sponsors. Special interest grants and private donors are expected to figure prominently in all funding, and some likely sources are noted in the table that follows. Fund-raising initiatives will be held at the museum as well, which will also help connect the community physically to the landscape, promoting the museum’s mission.

PRIORITY LEVELS

Four levels of priority with their expected timelines are used in the table on the following page:

Priority 1—2018-2019

Priority 2—2019-2021

Priority 3—2021-2022

Priority 4—2023-2025

(Components of each zone area are sequentially identified with decimals, e.g., 2.1, 2.2 as first and second steps in Priority 2)

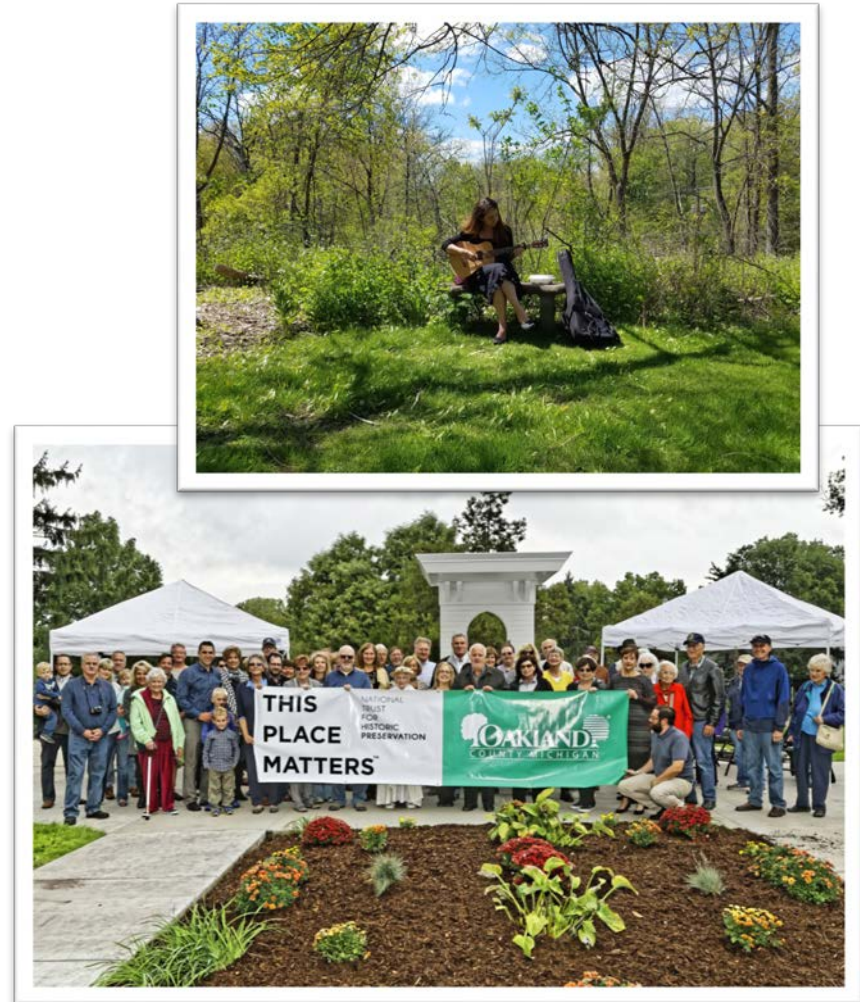


Photo by Carroll Deweese, 2016

TABLE-MASTER LANDSCAPE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND FUNDING

Project Component	Priority	Cost Estimates	Comments	Potential Funding Sources
Heritage Zone	1.0		The visibility and impact of improvements in the Heritage Zone have the highest priority because they lend themselves well to enhanced programming and continued funding for other parts of the plan	
Design	1.1	\$ 3,000.00		Friends of Museum/City
Construction	1.2			Anticipated funding sources for construction includes a combination of grants, donations, funds from Friends of the Museum, and fundraising. Volunteers may assist with garden bed preparation. Plant material may be available through sponsorships or partnerships
tree removal		\$ 4,000.00	Tree removal coordinated with Parks to be re-planted elsewhere when possible	
new plant material				
deciduous trees		\$ 1,950.00		
densiformis yew		\$ 3,600.00		
winter gem boxwood		\$ 3,000.00		
garden bed preparation		\$ 6,000.00	Coordinate work with existing DPS maintenance plan	
wood fence		\$ 2,400.00		
metal edging		\$ 480.00		
stone mulch		\$ 225.00		
Subtotal		\$ 24,655.00		
Relocate utilities	1.0-2.0	\$ 3,500.00	DTE estimates represent the majority of the cost, but do not include relocation of other shared line users	Donations combined with grants

Priority 1—2018-2019
Priority 2—2019-2021

Priority 3—2021-2022
Priority 4—2023-2025

Project Component	Priority	Cost Estimates	Comments	Potential Funding Sources
Pond Zone	2.0			
Additional Survey	2.1	\$ 7,900.00	Survey will determine detail for construction at pond and will complete needed topography	Grants, fundraising + Friends
Engineering Plan	2.2	\$ 15,000.00	Grading plan for ADA paths around pond	Grants, fundraising + partnerships
Design (Pond & Transition Zones)	2.3	\$ 5,000.00	Transition Zone & Pond Zone to be designed together	Friends and donations
Construction	2.4			
tree removal		\$ 6,000.00		Anticipated funding sources for construction includes a combination of grants, donations, funds from Friends of the Museum, and fundraising. Plant material may be available through sponsorships or partnerships
shrub removal		\$ 4,000.00		
pond digging		\$ 10,200.00		
boulder retaining walls		\$ 39,200.00		
stone walls		\$ 31,200.00		
crushed limestone path		\$ 7,320.00		
boardwalk		\$ 23,400.00		
wood and cable rail fence		\$ 2,400.00		
concrete sidewalk & pad		\$ 8,320.00		
benches		\$ 700.00		
stone patio		\$ 14,740.00		
new plant material		\$ 25,000.00		
Subtotal		\$ 200,380.00		

Transition Zone	3.0			
Design (see Pond Zone)	2.3		Transition Zone & Pond Zone to be designed together	
Construction	3.1			Anticipated funding sources for construction includes a combination of grants, donations, funds from Friends of the Museum, and fundraising. Plant material may be available through sponsorships or partnerships
tree removal		\$ 15,000.00		
stone walls		\$ 62,400.00		
stone steps		\$ 27,200.00		
exposed aggregate concrete		\$ 7,200.00		
new plant material- deciduous trees		\$ 3,250.00		
Subtotal		\$ 115,050.00		

Project Component	Priority	Cost Estimates	Comments	Potential Funding Sources
Woodland/Riverine Zone	4.0			
Design	4.1	\$ 5,000.00		
Construction	4.2			
tree removal		\$ 7,500.00	Cost estimates for construction items are likely to change over the projected time period but are presented here in current dollars.	The Woodland/Riverine Zone has a higher level of cost but also may be eligible for grants because of multi-community involvement and importance in Michigan watershed management. Anticipated funding sources for construction includes a combination of grants, donations, funds from Friends of the Museum, and fundraising. Sponsorships or partnerships will be important for this zone, but the possibility of large scale corporate volunteer assistance is also greater for some components.
boulder retaining walls		\$ 86,800.00		
large boulders		\$ 9,000.00		
stone wall		\$ 38,400.00		
stone steps		\$ 26,160.00		
crushed limestone path		\$ 6,300.00		
crushed limestone pad		\$ 1,740.00		
boardwalk				
wood and metal hand rail		\$ 4,750.00		
river overlook		\$ 14,000.00		
new plant material		\$ 25,000.00		
benches		\$ 700.00		
invasive species eradication		\$ 12,000.00		
Subtotal		\$ 232,350.00		

Grand Total	\$ 572,935.00	
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PLANT LIST - WOODLAND RESTORATION

KEY	QTY.	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	SIZE / HT.	FLOWER COLOR	FLOWERING TIME
Canopy Trees						
ASR	--	<i>Acer saccharum</i>	Sugar Maple	2" - 2-1/2" cal. B&B		
CO	--	<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	Northern Hackberry	2" - 2-1/2" cal. B&B		
LT	--	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	Tuliptree	2" - 2-1/2" cal. B&B		
Subcanopy Trees						
AA	--	<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	Downy Serviceberry	2" cal. B&B		
CA	--	<i>Cornus alternifolia</i>	Pagoda Dogwood	1" cal. B&B		
CC	--	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	Muscledwood	2" cal. B&B		
OV	--	<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>	American Hopbroom	2" cal. B&B		
Shrub Layer						
HV	--	<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	Witch-Hazel	36" ht. B&B		
LB	--	<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	Spicebush	30" ht. 5 gal. pot		
VD	--	<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	Arrowwood Viburnum	30" ht. 5 gal. pot		
VL	--	<i>Viburnum lentago</i>	Nannyberry Viburnum	30" ht. 5 gal. pot		
FERNS						
AP	--	<i>Adiantum pedatum</i>	Maidenhair Fern	12" - 24"		
PAC	--	<i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i>	Christmas Fern	12" - 24"		
-- Quantity to be determined in the field.						

PLANT LIST - WATER GARDEN

KEY	QTY.	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	SIZE / HT.
Shrub Layer				
AG	--	<i>Andromeda glaucophylla</i>	Bog Rosemary	24" ht., 3 gal. pot
CCA	--	<i>Chamaedaphne calyculata</i>	Leatherleaf	24" ht., 3 gal. pot
GH	--	<i>Gaultheria hispida</i>	Creeping Snowberry	24" ht., 3 gal. pot
KP	--	<i>Kalmia latifolia</i>	Bog Laurel	24" ht., 3 gal. pot
LG	--	<i>Ledum groenlandicum</i>	Labrador Tea	24" ht., 3 gal. pot
LL	--	<i>Larix laricina 'Girard's Dwarf'</i>	Dwarf American Larch	24" ht., 3 gal. pot
VC	--	<i>Vaccinium macrocarpa</i>	Cranberry	24" ht., 3 gal. pot
Ground Layer				
MT	--	<i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i>	Bogbean	8" - 12"
DS	--	<i>Drosera</i> spp.	Sundews	6"
PO	--	<i>Pogonia ophioglossoides</i>	Pitcher Plants	9" - 18"
SC	--	<i>Spiranthes cernua</i>	Ladies'-tresses	8" - 20"
SS	--	<i>Sarracenia</i> spp.	Pitcher Plants	9" - 18"
-- Quantity to be determined in the field.				

COST ESTIMATE

AREA	QTY.	COST	TOTAL
HERITAGE ZONE:			
* Tree Removal:	4	\$500	\$4,000.00
* New Plant Material:			
Deciduous Trees	3	\$650	\$1,950.00
Densiformis Yew	30	\$120	\$3,600.00
Winter Gem Boxwood	25	\$120	\$3,000.00
* Garden Bed Preparation:			
Wood Fence:	80 l.f.	\$30 l.f.	\$2,400.00
* Metal Edging:	48 l.f.	\$10 l.f.	\$480.00
* Stone Mulch:	3 c.y.	\$75 c.y.	\$225.00
Subtotal			\$21,655.00

TRANSITION ZONE:			
* Tree Removal:	3	\$500 ea.	\$1,500.00
* Stone Walls:	520 f.f.	\$120 f.f.	\$62,400.00
* Stone Steps:	340 s.f.	\$80 s.f.	\$27,200.00
* Exposed Aggregate Conc.	400 s.f.	\$18 s.f.	\$7,200.00
* New Plant Material:			
Deciduous Trees	5	\$650	\$3,250.00
Subtotal			\$101,550.00

POND ZONE:			
* Tree Removal:	12	\$500	\$6,000.00
* Shrub Removal:			\$4,000.00
* Pond Dredging:	\$85,000 / ac. 0.12 ac.		\$10,200.00
* Boulder Retaining Walls:	1,120 f.f.	\$35 f.f.	\$39,200.00
* Stone Walls:	260 f.f.	\$120 f.f.	\$31,200.00
* Crushed Limestone Path:	1,220 s.f.	\$6 s.f.	\$7,320.00
* Boardwalk:	360 s.f.	\$65 l.f.	\$23,400.00
* Wood & Cable Rail Fence:	96 l.f.	\$25 l.f.	\$2,400.00
* Concrete Sidewalk & Pad:	1,040 s.f.	\$8 s.f.	\$8,320.00
* Benches:	2	\$350	\$700.00
* Stone Patio:	670 s.f.	\$22 s.f.	\$14,740.00
* New Plant Material:			\$25,000.00
Subtotal			\$172,480.00

WOODLAND / RIVERINE ZONE			
* Tree Removal:	15	\$500	\$7,500.00
* Boulder Retaining Walls:	2,480 f.f.	\$35 f.f.	\$86,800.00
* Large Boulders:	6	\$1,500	\$9,000.00
* Stone Wall:	320 f.f.	\$120 f.f.	\$38,400.00
* Stone Steps:	744 s.f.	\$60 s.f.	\$26,160.00
* Crushed Limestone Path:	1,050 s.f.	\$6 s.f.	\$6,300.00
* Crushed Limestone Pad:	290 s.f.	\$6 s.f.	\$1,740.00
* Wood & Metal Handrail:	190 l.f.	\$25 l.f.	\$4,750.00
* River Overlook:			\$14,000.00
* New Plant Material:			\$25,000.00
* Benches:	2	\$350	\$700.00
* Invasive Species Eradication:			\$12,000.00
Subtotal			\$232,350.00

Total \$528,035.00

Pool Restoration: \$180,000.00

date: October 5, 2017

revised:

11-02-2017 Adjust for pond survey.

01-04-2018 Refine plan.

01-05-2018 Minor adjustments.

LANDSCAPE PLAN FOR:

City of Birmingham
151 Martin Street
Post Office Box 3001
Birmingham, Michigan
48012-3001
(248) 530-1808

PROJECT LOCATION:

Birmingham Museum/
John West Hunter Park
556 West Maple Road
Birmingham, Michigan
48009

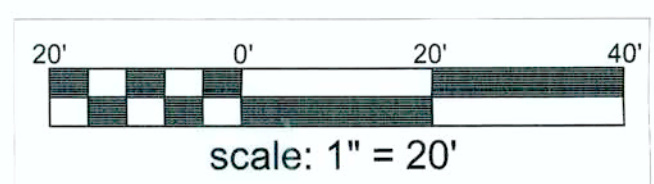
Ms. Leslie Pielack, Director
(248) 530 1928

LANDSCAPE PLAN BY:

Nagy Devlin Land Design
31736 West Chicago Ave.
Livonia, Michigan 48150
(734) 634 9208



J. Brian Devlin
AUTOCAD SIGNATURE
ORIGINAL IN BLUE



CLP - 1:
CONCEPTUAL
LANDSCAPE
MASTER PLAN

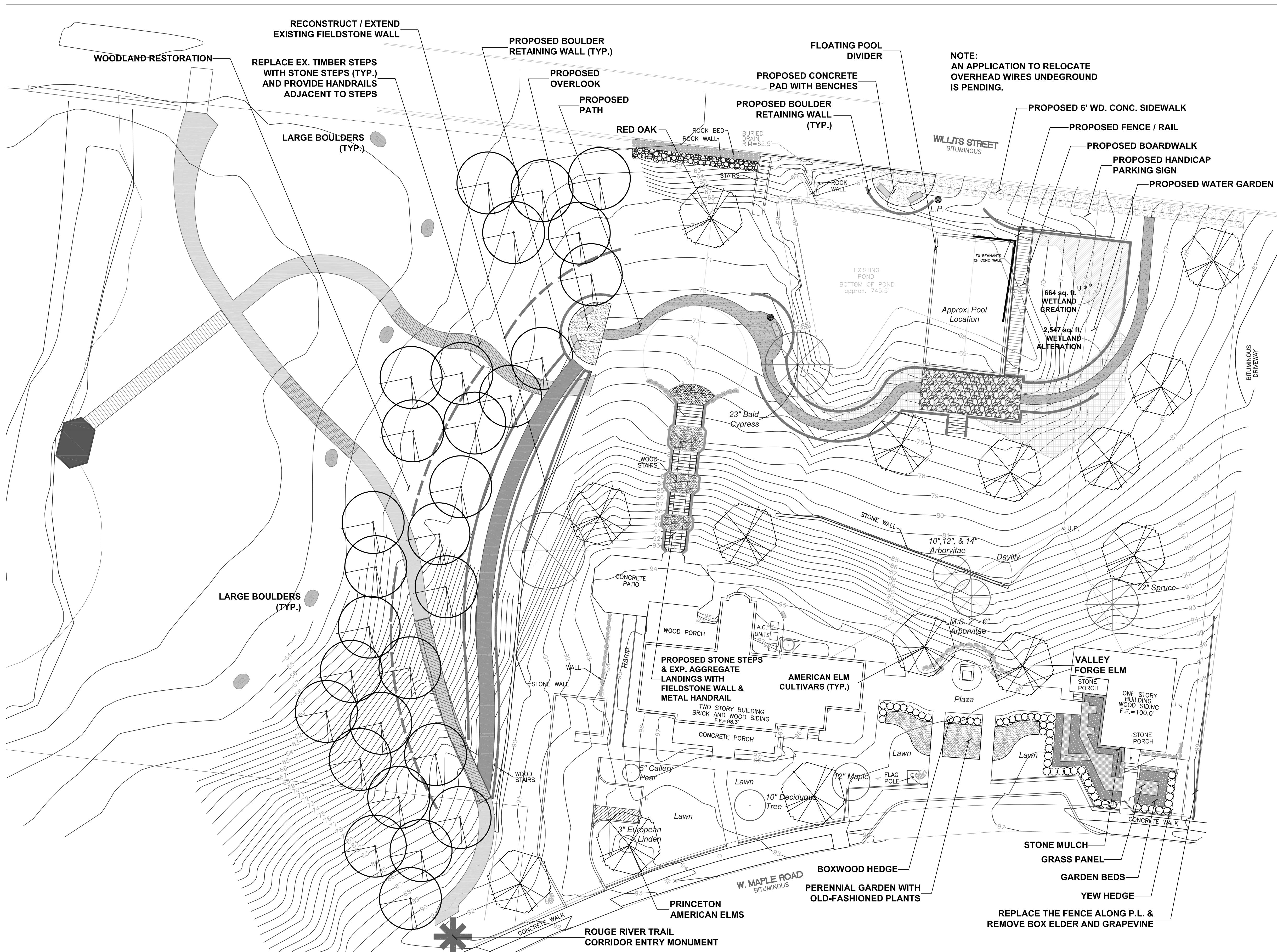
* Base data provided by
Client from Atwell Hicks & HRC.

KEY	QTY.	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	SIZE / HT.
Canopy Trees				
ASR	-	<i>Acer saccharum</i>	Sugar Maple	2" - 2-1/2" cal. B&B
CO	-	<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	Northern Hackberry	2" - 2-1/2" cal. B&B
LT	-	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	Tuliptree	2" - 2-1/2" cal. B&B
Subcanopy Trees				
AA	-	<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	Dawdo Serviceberry	2" cal. B&B
CA	-	<i>Cornus alternifolia</i>	Pagoda Dogwood	1" cal. B&B
CC	-	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	Muscadewood	2" cal. B&B
OV	-	<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>	American Hornbeam	2" cal. B&B
Shrub Layer				
HB	-	<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	Witch-Hazel	36" ht. B&B
LV	-	<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	Spicebush	30" ht., 5 gal. pot
VL	-	<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	Arrowwood Viburnum	30" ht., 5 gal. pot
VL	-	<i>Viburnum lentago</i>	Nannyberry Viburnum	30" ht., 5 gal. pot

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KEY	QTY.	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	SIZE / HT.
Shrub Layer				
AG	-	<i>Andromeda glaucophylla</i>	Bog Rosemary	24" ht., 3 gal. pot
CCA	-	<i>Chamaedaphne calyculata</i>	Leatherleaf	24" ht., 3 gal. pot
GH	-	<i>Gaultheria hispida</i>	Creeping Snowberry	24" ht., 3 gal. pot
KAL	-	<i>Kalmia latifolia</i>	Bog Laurel	24" ht., 3 gal. pot
LD	-	<i>Ledum groenlandicum</i>	Labrador Tea	24" ht., 3 gal. pot
LL	-	<i>Larix laricina</i> 'Glard's Dwarf'	Dwarf American Larch	24" ht., 3 gal. pot
VC	-	<i>Vaccinium macrocarpa</i>	Cranberry	24" ht., 3 gal. pot
Ground Layer				
MT	-	<i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i>	Bogbean	8" - 12"
DS	-	<i>Drosera</i> spp.	Sundews	6"
PO	-	<i>Polygona officinoides</i>	Pitcher Plants	6" - 18"
SC	-	<i>Spiranthes cernua</i>	Ladies'-tresses	8" - 20"
SS	-	<i>Sarracenia</i> spp.	Pitcher Plants	9" - 18"

= Quantity to be determined in the field.



scale: 1" = 20'

AREA	QTY.	COST	TOTAL
HERITAGE ZONE:			
* Tree Removal:	4	\$500	\$4,000.00
* New Plant Material:			
Deciduous Trees	3	\$650	\$1,950.00
Densiformis Yew	30	\$120	\$3,600.00
Winter Gem Boxwood	25	\$120	\$3,000.00
* Garden Bed Preparation:			\$6,000.00
* Wood Fence:	80 l.f.	\$30 l.f.	\$2,400.00
* Metal Edging:	48 l.f.	\$10 l.f.	\$480.00
* Stone Mulch:	3 c.y.	\$75 c.y.	\$225.00
Subtotal			\$21,655.00

TRANSITION ZONE:			
* Tree Removal:	3	\$500 ea.	\$1,500.00
* Stone Walls:	520 f.f.	\$120 f.f.	\$62,400.00
* Stone Steps:	340 s.f.	\$80 s.f.	\$27,200.00
* Exposed Aggregate Conc.	400 s.f.	\$18 s.f.	\$7,200.00
* New Plant Material:			
Deciduous Trees	5	\$650	<u>\$3,250.00</u>
Subtotal			<u>\$101,550.00</u>

POND ZONE:			
* Tree Removal:	12	\$500	\$6,000.00
* Shrub Removal:			\$4,000.00
* Pond Dredging:	\$85,000 / ac.	0.12 ac.	\$10,200.00
* Boulder Retaining Walls:	1,120 f.f.	\$35 f.f.	\$39,200.00
* Stone Walls:	260 f.f.	\$120 f.f.	\$31,200.00
* Crushed Limestone Path:	1,220 s.f.	\$6 s.f.	\$7,320.00
* Boardwalk:	360 s.f.	\$65 f.f.	\$23,400.00
* Wood & Cable Rail Fence:	96 l.f.	\$25 f.f.	\$2,400.00
* Concrete Sidewalk & Pad:	1,040 s.f.	\$8 s.f.	\$8,320.00
* Benches:	2	\$350	\$700.00
* Stone Patio:	670 s.f.	\$22 s.f.	\$14,740.00
* New Plant Material:			\$25,000.00
Subtotal			\$172,480.00

WOODLAND / RIVERINE ZONE			
* Tree Removal:	15	\$500	\$7,500.00
* Boulder Retaining Walls:	2,480 f.f.	\$35 f.f.	\$86,800.00
* Large Boulders:	6	\$1,500	\$9,000.00
* Stone Wall:	320 f.f.	\$120 f.f.	\$38,400.00
* Stone Steps:	744 s.f.	\$60 s.f.	\$26,160.00
* Crushed Limestone Path:	1,050 s.f.	\$6 s.f.	\$6,300.00
* Crushed Limestone Pad:	290 s.f.	\$6 s.f.	\$1,740.00
* Wood & Metal Handrail:	190 l.f.	\$25 l.f.	\$4,750.00
* River Overlook:			\$14,000.00
* New Plant Material:			\$25,000.00
* Benches:	2	\$350	\$700.00
* Invasive Species Eradication:			\$12,000.00
Subtotal			\$232,350.00

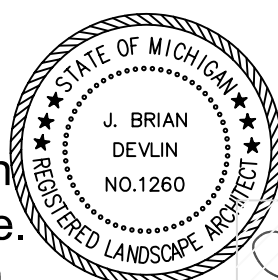
Total	\$528,035.00
-------	--------------

Pool Restoration:	\$180,000.00
-------------------	--------------

City of Birmingham
151 Martin Street
Post Office Box 3001
Birmingham, Michigan
48012-3001
(248) 530-1808

PROJECT LOCATION:
Birmingham Museum/
John West Hunter Park
556 West Maple Road
Birmingham, Michigan
48009
Ms. Leslie Pielack, Director
(248) 530 1928

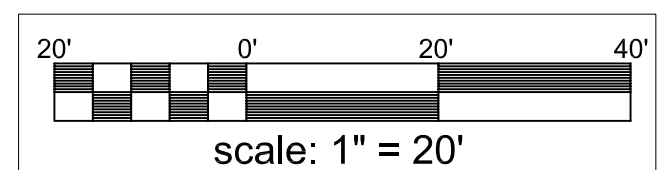
LANDSCAPE PLAN BY:
Nagy Devlin Land Design
31736 West Chicago Ave.
Livonia, Michigan 48150
(734) 634 9208



J. Brian Devlin
AUTOCAD SIGNATURE
ORIGINAL IN BLUE



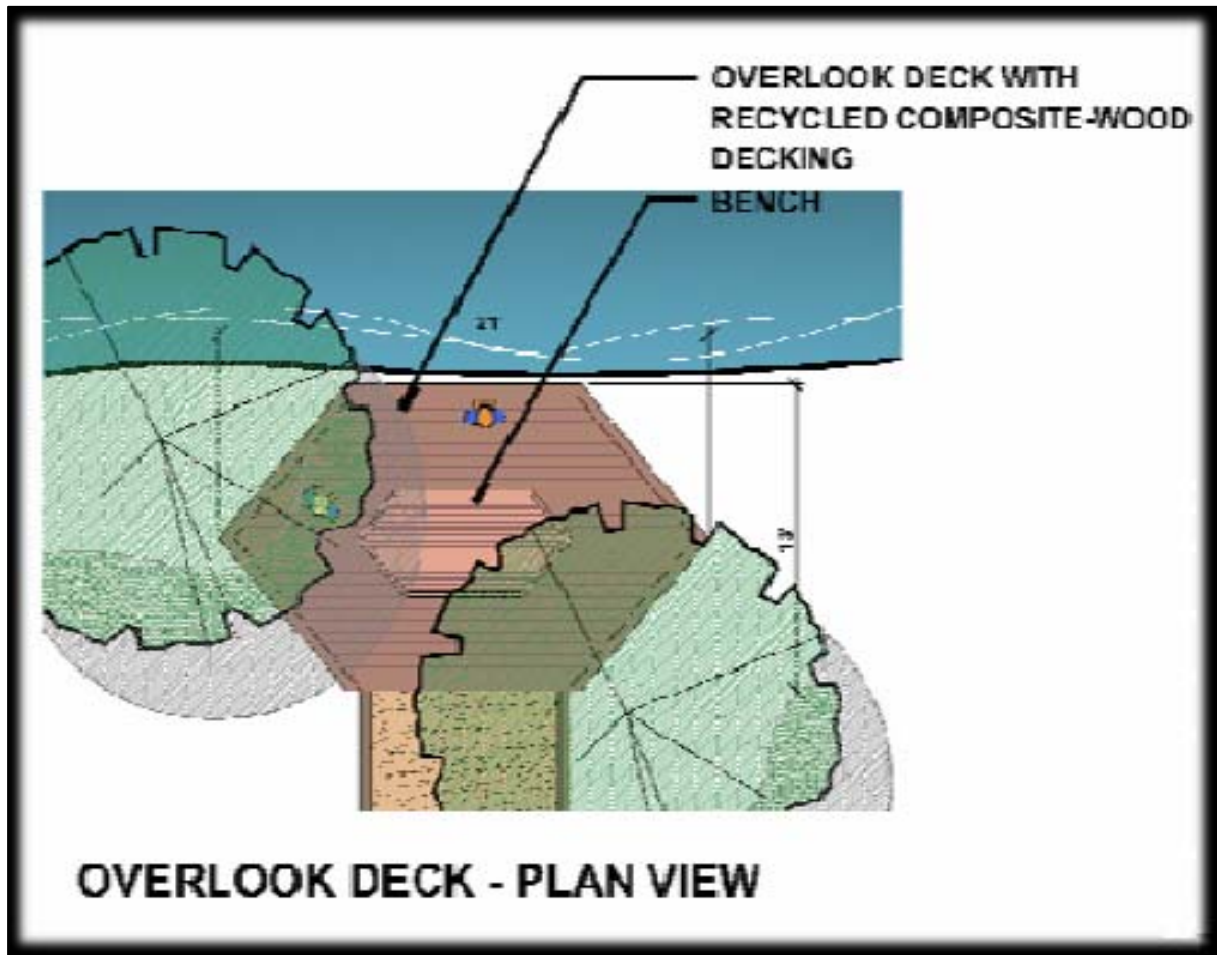
Know what's **below**.
Call before you dig.



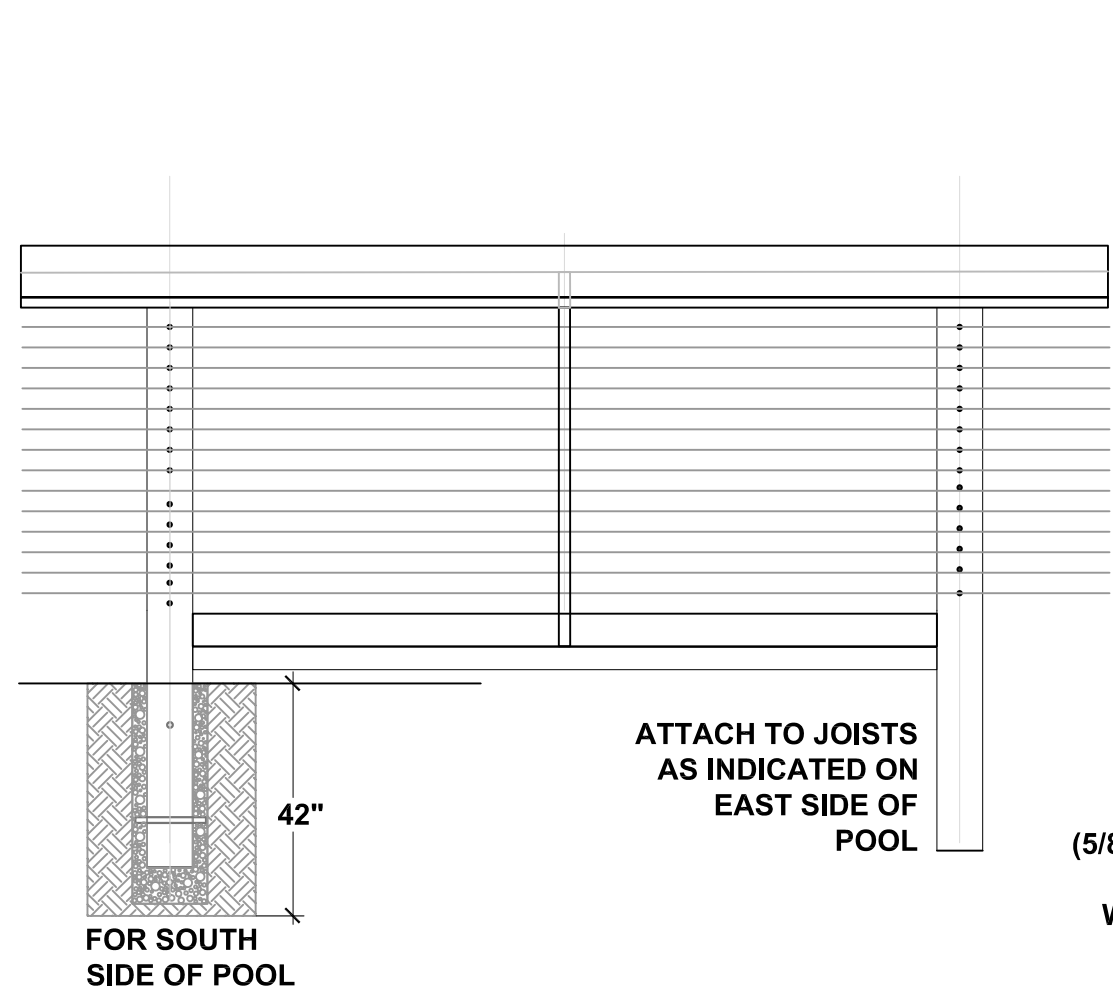
CLP - 1:
CONCEPTUAL
LANDSCAPE
MASTER PLAN

* Base data provided by client from Atwell Hicks & HRC.

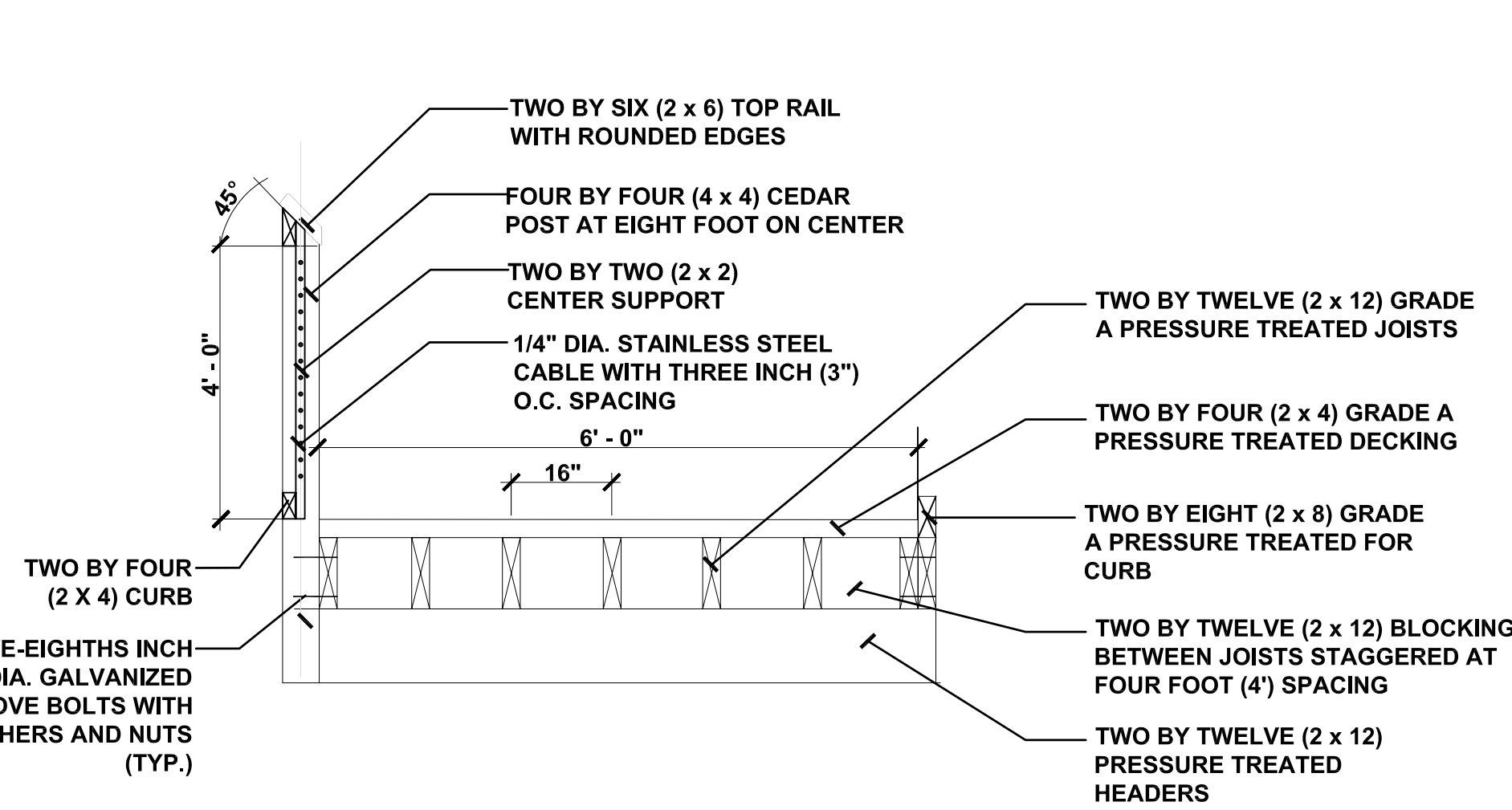
date: October 5, 2017
revised:
11-02-2017 Adjust for pond
survey.
01-04-2018 Refine plan.
01-05-2018 Minor adjustments.



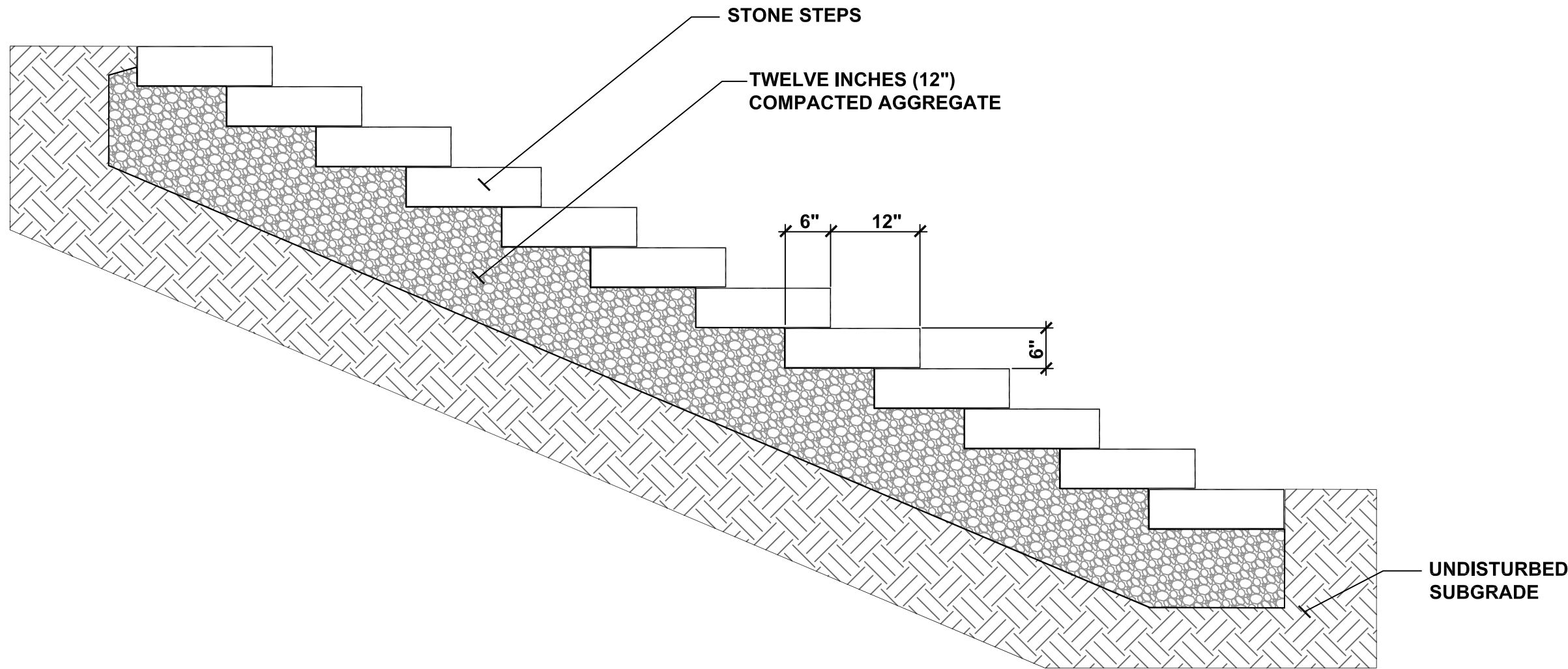
From the *Rouge River Trail Corridor Master Plan* for the City of Birmingham.



BOARDWALK DETAIL & CABLE RAIL FENCE DETAIL

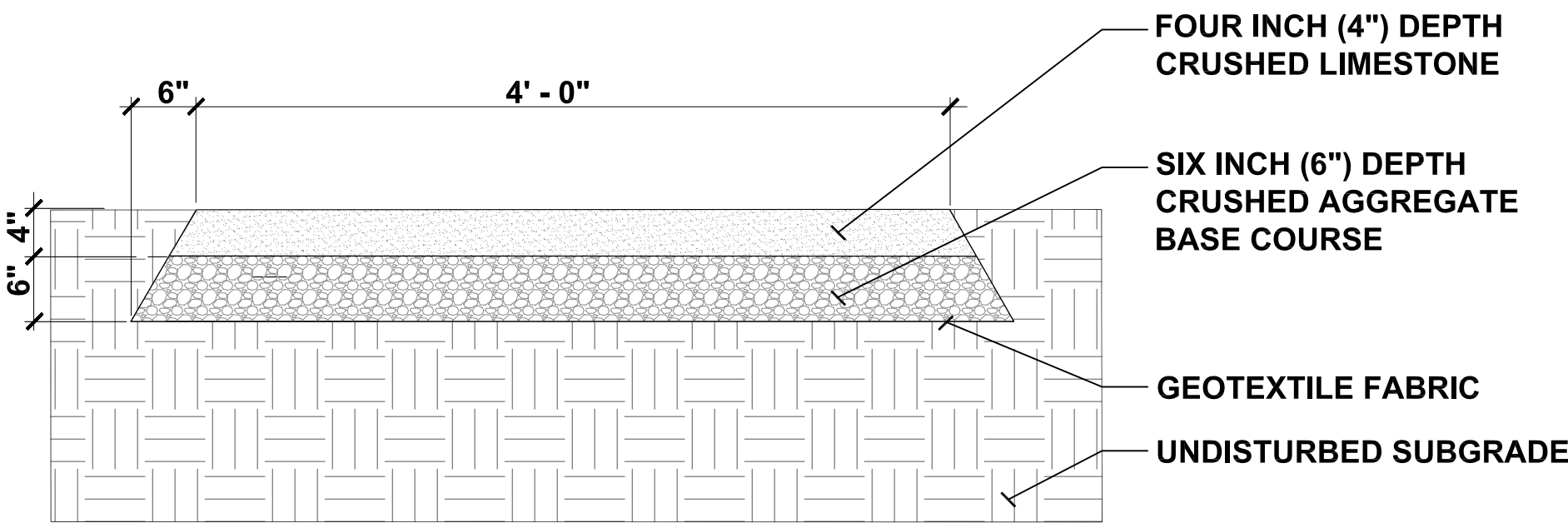


not to scale



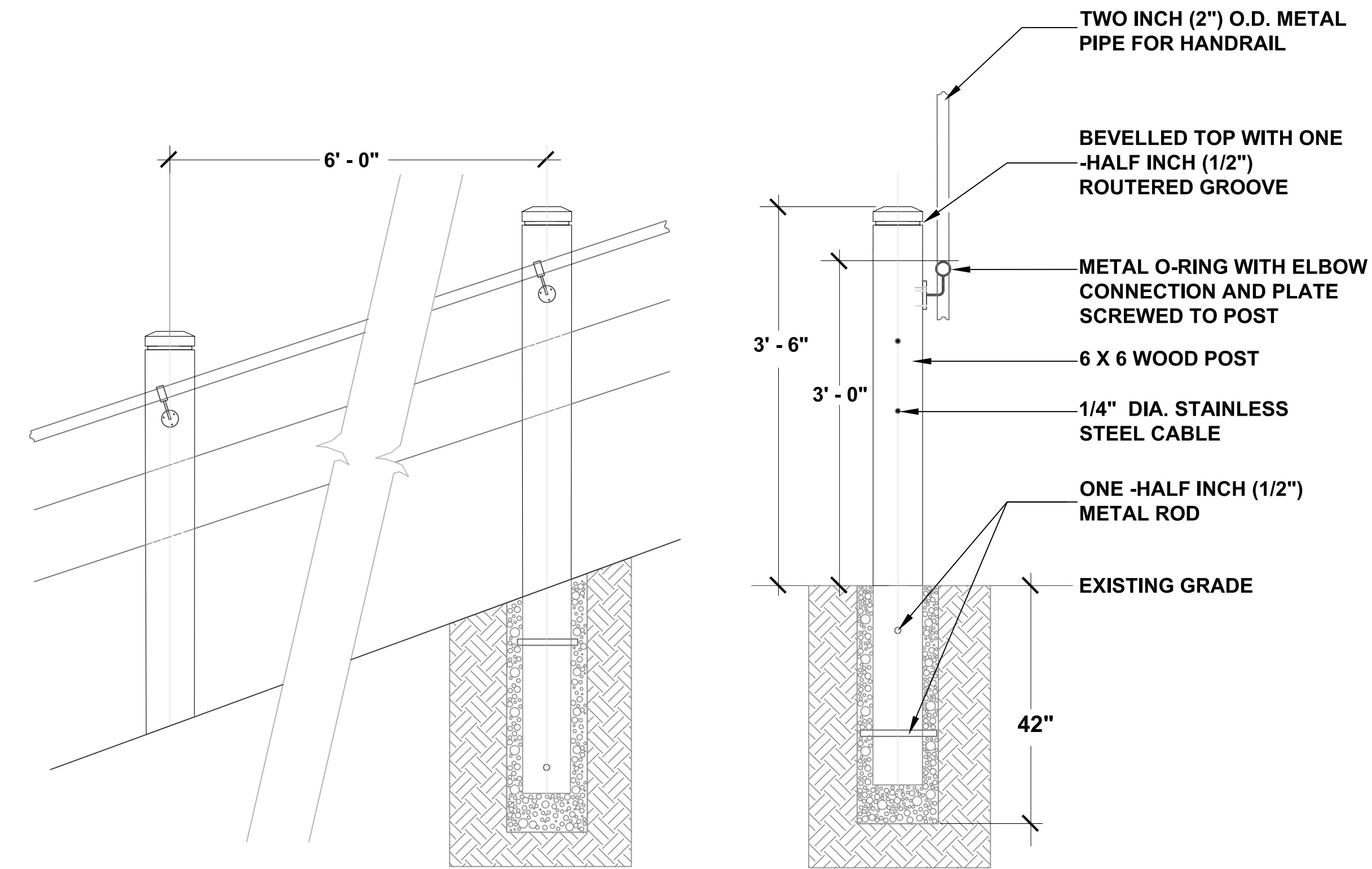
STONE STEPS DETAIL

not to scale



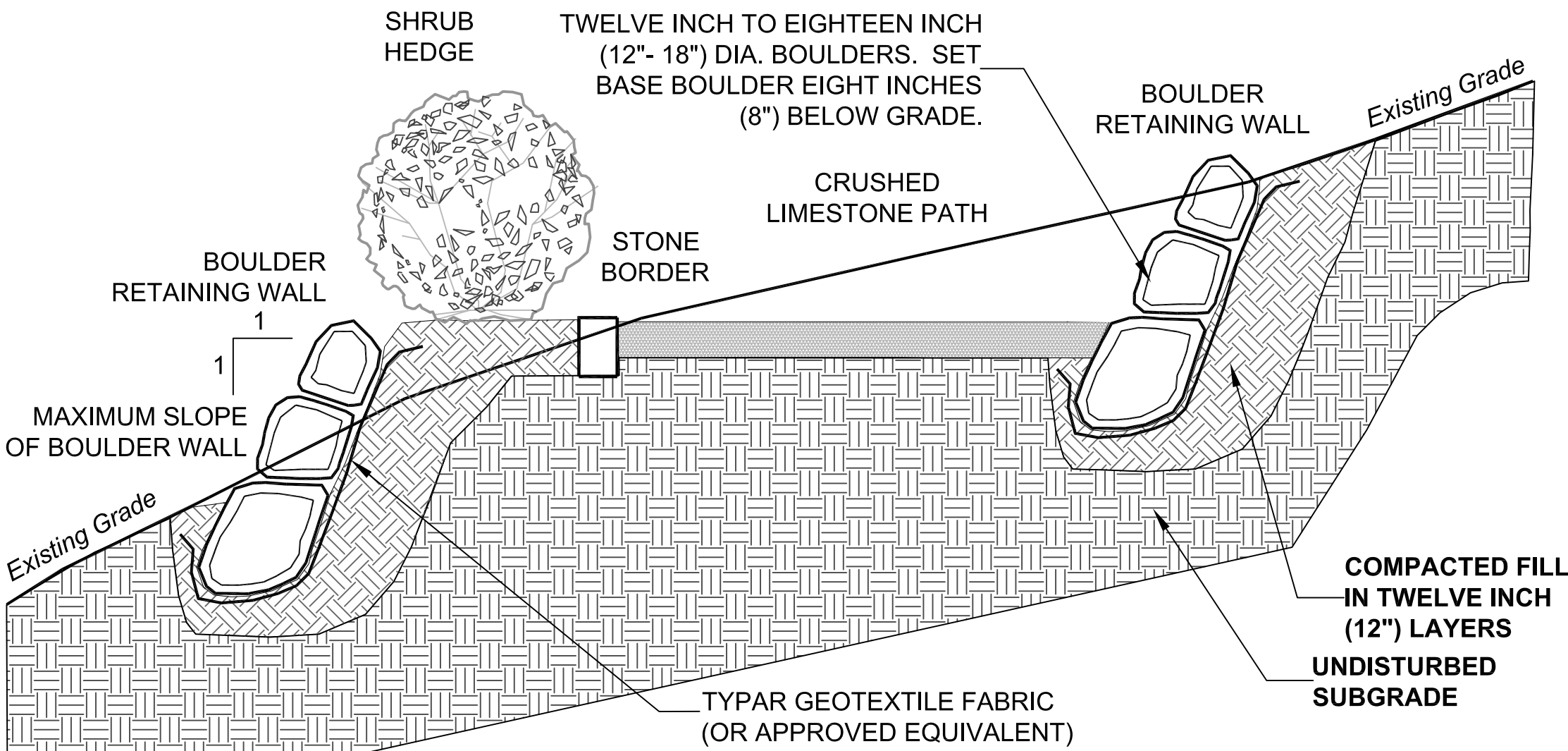
CRUSHED LIMESTONE PATH DETAIL

not to scale



WOOD POST W/ METAL HAND RAIL DETAIL

not to scale



BOULDER RETAINING WALL DETAIL

not to scale

NOTES FOR CONTROL OF *Phragmites* WITH HERBICIDES:

PLANT DESCRIPTION
Common Reed, *Phragmites australis* subsp. *australis*, is a warm-season perennial grass with a rigid, hollow stem that grows between six feet and thirteen feet (6' - 13') in height. The leaves are flat, smooth, and green to grayish-green and the flowers grow as dense branched clusters on the end of each stem that are open and feathery at maturity. It is often found in ditches, swales, wetlands, and on stream banks and pond banks. Common Reed has become an invasive species as it outcompetes native vegetation lowering local plant diversity.
Common Reed can be eradicated with a long-term management strategy that may include burning, mechanical methods (mowing or hand pulling), and / or herbicides. The following guidelines utilize a management program to control *Phragmites* with the application of herbicides.
(Information from the State of Michigan and Wikipedia.)

- The first step in the control of *Phragmites* is the application of herbicides. Glyphosate and imazapyr are two (2) herbicides effective in controlling *Phragmites*. Imazapyr can be used in combination with glyphosate to provide control over *Phragmites* for a longer period of time but can also be used alone for effective control. *Phragmites* should be treated in early to late summer (June through September) when using imazapyr or late summer (August through September) when using glyphosate or a imazapyr/glyphosate mixture to achieve the best results. These herbicides are non-selective and will affect any plant which is contacted by the solution. The applicator should strictly adhere to the chemical manufacturer's specifications for the correct method of application and rate of application.
Methods of application depend on the size of the *Phragmites* stand and existing site conditions. Scattered plants or isolated plant stands may be treated by injecting stems, hand swiping, or selective hand spraying. Large stands may require the use of commercial equipment. The application of herbicides should be conducted by a licensed or certified applicator to provide the best method for eradication of the *Phragmites* while minimizing damage to native plants and following best management practices for required safety procedures.
Either herbicide should be used in a formulation that is specifically approved for use in wet areas.
- The next step in the eradication of *Phragmites* is to mow or cut the dead plant material after the herbicide treatment. This process should not occur until at least two (2) weeks after the herbicide treatment to allow maximum exposure to the herbicide. Mowing or cutting of the treated plants is recommended during late summer to fall (August to first hard frost) or in the winter when the ground is frozen. Hand cutting is effective for removing individual plant stems or very small stands but a brush cutter is more effective for large dense stands. The cutting blade should be set to a mowing height of greater than four inches (4") to help minimize any impact to small mammals and native plants. Any equipment used to manage *Phragmites* should be cleaned of all debris before removing it from the treatment site to prevent the spread of seeds or rhizomes to other sites. If the plants are mowed or cut, the plant material should be immediately collected and bagged to prevent the spread of seeds and disposed of properly.
- Reseeding of the treated area:
Since Glyphosate does not persist in the soil for an extended period of time, reseeding of the desired seed mix can occur after the mowing or cutting process has been completed.
Imazapyr remains in the soil for a much longer period of time, therefore, reseeding of the desired seed mix should not occur for a year after the application treatment.
- Annual monitoring shall be conducted in mid to late summer. Any individual plants should be treated and removed by hand techniques as described above to insure that *Phragmites* does not become reestablished.

NOTES FOR CONTROL OF GARLIC MUSTARD:

PLANT DESCRIPTION
Garlic Mustard, *Alliaria petiolata*, is an herbaceous biennial flowering plant that smells like garlic when crushed. The plant produces heart-shaped basal rosettes (leaves) that appear in year one at ground level. In the second year, stems shootup to one foot to four feet (1' - 4') in height and develop flowers and seeds while the leaves become more toothed and triangular in shape. In early Spring, clusters of tiny, white, four-petaled flowers bloom before the overstory trees leaf out. The seed pods aree green, long, and narrow and look like stems, turning brown in the Fall. Garlic Mustard thrives in woodlands because it can tolerate deep shade.
Garlic Mustard has become an invasive that spreads quickly through woods outcompeting understory plants including tree saplings.
(Information from the State of Michigan.)
Garlic Mustard can be eradicated with a long-term management strategy that may include prescribed burning, manual and mechanical methods (mowing or hand pulling), and / or herbicides. The following guidelines utilize a management program to control *Phragmites* with the application of manual and mechanical methods.

- The manual method includes the removal of the plants by pulling the entire root mass with the leaves. Care should be taken to disturb the soil as little as possible since the disturbance can encourage seeds sprouting from the existing seed bank. Hand pulling of Garlic Mustad plants may be limited to year one plants. In conjunction with hand pulling, the management program can include the removal of just the flowers and seedheads. With this method it is important repeat the procedure multiple times during the growing season. The goal is to eliminate the individual plants while reducing the potential seed bank and minimizing soil disturbance and desirable plant damage or elimination.
- Another manual technique is cutting the stem at ground level with a weed whip or other cutting device. This method is best employed in the second year of plant growth especially during a period of drought when the plant is already stressed. The resulting vegetative debris should be entirely removed from the site and discarded in a manner that does not allow seeds to escape and colonize other areas. Care should be taken to clean all tools used thoroughly including clothing and footwear to minimize any accidental seed dispersion.
The successful elimination of Garlic Mustard is a process that will take several years and must be attempted with a sustained, long-term management approach.
(Information from the Natural Resources Conservation Service.)

LANDSCAPE PLAN FOR:
City of Birmingham
151 Martin Street
Post Office Box 3001
Birmingham, Michigan
48012-3001
(248) 530-1808

PROJECT LOCATION:
Birmingham Museum/
John West Hunter Park
556 West Maple Road
Birmingham, Michigan
48009
Ms. Leslie Pielack, Director
(248) 530 1928

LANDSCAPE PLAN BY:
Nagy Devlin Land Design
31736 West Chicago Ave.
Livonia, Michigan 48150
(734) 634 9208



J. Brian Devlin
AUTOCAD SIGNATURE
ORIGINAL IN BLUE

date: January 4, 2018
revised:
01-05-2018 Minor adjustments.



CLP - 2:
CONCEPTUAL
LANDSCAPE
MASTER PLAN
DETAILS

Appendix B

Comments from January 16, 2018 Museum Board Special Meeting/Joint Workshop with Parks and Recreation Board, Historic District Commission, and Public

(Heritage Zone): Parks and Recreation Board questions related to

1. Tree restoration and replacement; distinction of volunteer trees vs. intentional/original landscape design, transplanting procedure and costs, use of proposed elm cultivars

Historic District Commission questions related to

2. The impact of volunteer tree removal and replacement with smaller, younger trees
3. Handicap/barrier free access; current accessibility near museum for parking and access and proposed additional access at Willits Street

Public questions related to

4. Planned designated handicapped parking on Willits Street as part of existing street parking

(Transition Zone): Parks and Recreation Board questions related to

1. Construction details of proposed stairs and adjacent fieldstone walls

Historic District Commission questions related to

2. Lighting design opportunities
3. Benefits of using concrete for safety, cost, and historical accuracy

There were no public questions

(Riverine/Woodland Zone): Parks and Recreation Board questions related to

1. Locating a children's play area along the Rouge River

2. Clarification that the Rouge River Master Plan is conceptual only
3. Use of crushed limestone in the zone for barrier free access; barrier free paths from Willits to Maple
4. Proposed replacement of rotting timber steps with stone
5. Prevalence of invasive species and maintenance costs

There were no questions from the Historic District Commission or the public

(Pond Zone): Parks and Recreation Board questions related to

1. Historic use of pool for polio physical therapy by Jim Allen; no public use of pool will be permitted
2. Provisions for water flow in proposed pond and pool design
3. Possibility of future water garden in pond
4. Use of vegetative barriers to maintain safety at edge of pond and depth estimates
5. Proposed relocation of utilities underground
6. Uncertain nature of original pool divider; goal is to educate about the history and its association with disabilities and to emulate the original pool barrier edge, as complete restoration would be costly

Historic District Commission questions related to

1. Ability to lower water to expose concrete structures for study
2. Cost of reconstruction of pool's divider wall; possibilities of partial reconstruction as an educational approach
3. Cost and difficulty of dredging; permitting issues with Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ)
1. Reconstruction of MDEQ-required wetlands is a small amount of square footage as an offset of spring seeps

There were no questions from the public

Appendix C

Comments from Parks and Recreation Board Master Plan Process, September and October, 2017

- A. October 3, 2017 Open House Recommendations (Parks-Rec Master Plan draft p. 134)
 - 1. *historical games/playground at museum (1 comment)*
 - 2. *outdoor museum area at museum (1 comment)*
- B. Public Engagement Resource Mapping (Parks-Rec Master Plan draft p. 137)
 - 3. no recommendations
- C. Survey Responses-Park Use (Parks-Rec Master Plan draft p. 155)
 - 4. 18 respondents of 441, or 4.4% (includes Allen/Hunter House facilities)
- D. Survey Comments-(Parks –Rec Master Plan draft p. 197)
 - 5. *#70- Partnering with the schools, library, BBAC, museum, NEXT, Community House, etc is vital.*
 - 6. *#74-The Museum Park has been forgotten. It should be developed as an outdoor historic museum including walking exhibits and a game/play area.*









mParks Foundation "Play is Essential for All" equipment grant is intended to help mParks partners provide recreational opportunities for everyone in their community.

Award Specifications: Total of \$20,000 available for 2023 project funding

Timeline:

- Applications due December 30, 2022
- Awardees notified the week of February 20, 2023
- Awards will be presented and awarded during the 2023 mParks Conference & Trade Show
- Project must be completed by November 2023

Applicant Requirements:

- mParks member in good standing.
- Submit completed grant application by December 30, 2022
- Applicants have the option to submit an essay or video response to questions on the next page.
- No financial match required.

If awarded a grant:

- Funds must be used by November 30, 2023
- Must provide recognition of mParks Foundation financial support
- Must provide photo of equipment at the location.
- Maximum grant amount available is up to \$5,000 per agency

Equipment Specifications:

Grant monies must be used for new equipment that will assist your community in providing recreational opportunities for individuals of all abilities. Examples include (but not limited to) accessible equipment for swings, communication boards, kayaking, beach mats, bikes, picnic tables, etc.)

Funding for the 2023 Play is Essential for All Grant is made possible in part, by MI Big Green Gym.

MI Big Green Gym is a partnership between mParks, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

APPLY

2021 Award Recipients

Community	Project	Funding Amount
City of Ann Arbor	Adaptive Paddling Gear for Kayaks	\$1,500
Eaton County	Expression Swing Universal	\$2,000
East China Township	Accessible Swing Set	\$800
City of Eaton Rapids	Zero-G Swing Chair	\$500
City of Kentwood	Recumbent Tricycle	\$2,500
City of Menominee	Accessible Picnic Tables	\$500
Oshtemo Township	Communication Boards*	\$2,500
Northwest Ottawa Recreation Authority	Accessible/Sensory Equipment	\$2,500
Sanilac County	Grill with Swivel Grate / Accessible Picnic Tables	\$1,000
		\$13,800
<i>\$13,000 was funded by the Play is Essential Grant account (Virtual 5K proceeds and individual donations); \$800 was funded from the general budget of the mParks Foundation.</i> *Assists with non-verbal communication promoting inclusion on the playground.		

mParks Foundation

Copyright © 2016, mParks Foundation

info@mparks.org

Mailing: P.O. Box 27609, Lansing, MI 48909-0609 | 517-485-9888 | Fax: 517-485-7932

[Login](#)

**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY
WATER RESOURCES DIVISION****State High Water Infrastructure Grant Program
2023 Request for Proposals****Introduction**

Under Section 1006 of PA 87 of 2021, the Michigan Legislature appropriated \$14.25 million to the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) for a grant program to provide infrastructure and planning grants that directly address the impacts and vulnerabilities presented by severe weather events, with a focus on projects that address flooding, coastline erosion, urban heat, and storm water management. The goal is obligate the entire available funding with this one Request for Proposal funding opportunity.

Eligibility

Regional councils of government and local units of government are eligible to apply. A local unit of government may act as a primary project sponsor and fiduciary for a grant that includes partnerships or consortiums with other public or nonprofit organizations. Applicants must demonstrate their project will address the impacts and vulnerabilities presented by high water and severe weather events.

Eligible Activities

Funding is available statewide and restricted to infrastructure and planning projects that directly address the impacts and vulnerabilities presented by high water severe weather events (e.g., projects that address flooding, coastline erosion, urban heat, and storm water management). Eligibility of activities will be project-specific and determined on a case-by-case basis. Any activities or costs not directly related to the proposed project or costs incurred outside of the project period are not eligible. Eligible activities under this funding opportunity include:

- Development of local or regional resiliency plans.
- Updating local master plans to consider high water levels, climate and storm resiliency, the dynamic nature of the Great Lakes, infrastructure risk assessments for climate and storm resiliency, or nature-based or green infrastructure to address flooding, coastline erosion, urban heat, or storm water management.
- Implementation of nature-based and green infrastructure solutions that strengthen climate and storm resiliency and preparedness, or address flooding, coastline erosion, urban heat, or storm water management.
- Development of feasibility studies or engineering plans for nature-based and green infrastructure projects that address climate and storm resiliency.
- Relocation and protection of critical infrastructure (e.g., roads, sewer, water line) using nature based and climate resilient principles.
- Development or implementation of climate resiliency projects for storm water management, including restored and constructed wetlands, stream/floodplain connectivity restoration, or other green infrastructure.
- Habitat restoration projects that directly address the impacts and vulnerabilities presented by high water and severe weather events.

Application Requirements

The maximum grant amount allowable per applicant is \$1,500,000 and will require a minimum of 20 percent matching funds. The grant award start date is anticipated as early as April 1, 2023, and projects must be completed by September 30, 2026.

The total grant award will be based on reasonably estimated costs and documentation provided by the grantee at grant application. The grant will function on a reimbursement basis where work is reported quarterly and expenses are based on costs incurred and paid and associated invoices or other appropriate supporting documentation are submitted to EGLE, prior to grant funds being reimbursed to the grantee.

Applications are to be submitted in PDF form to EGLE-WRD-CoastalProgram@Michigan.gov and must be received no later than **November 30, 2022**.

Process, Schedule, and Deadlines

Applications will be batched and scored based on the how well the project addresses the impacts and vulnerabilities presented by high water and severe weather events. EGLE will use a cross-discipline team to rank all applications and prioritize funding accordingly. Applications will be scored in winter 2022 and awards will be made in early 2023.

EGLE may request additional information for clarification purposes. EGLE may offer grant amounts other than those requested and request changes to the proposed work plan. Submitted application information is not confidential. Grant applications are considered public information under the Freedom of Information Act, 1976 PA 442, as amended.

Successful applicants will be required to enter into a grant agreement with EGLE. A grant agreement consists of standard “boilerplate” language and the applicant’s project description, work plan, timeline, and budget information.

Contact

For questions about this grant opportunity, contact Emily Kirkpatrick, Coastal Management Program Unit, Field Operations Support Section, Water Resources Division (WRD), at 517-420-5921 or KirkpatrickE@Michigan.gov or Ronda Wuycheck, Supervisor, Coastal Management Program Unit, Field Operations Support Section, WRD, at 517-420-5921 or WuycheckR@Michigan.gov.

If you need this information in an alternate format, please contact EGLE-Accessibility@Michigan.gov or call 800-662-9278.

EGLE does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, age, national origin, color, marital status, disability, political beliefs, height, weight, genetic information, or sexual orientation in the administration of any of its program or activities, and prohibits intimidation and retaliation, as required by applicable laws and regulations. Questions or concerns should be directed to the Nondiscrimination Compliance Coordinator at EGLE-NondiscriminationCC@Michigan.gov or 517-249-0906.

Although this publication makes every effort to teach users how to meet applicable compliance obligations, use of this publication does not constitute the rendering of legal advice.

Summary Report

27 October 2022 - 30 November 2022

Engage Birmingham

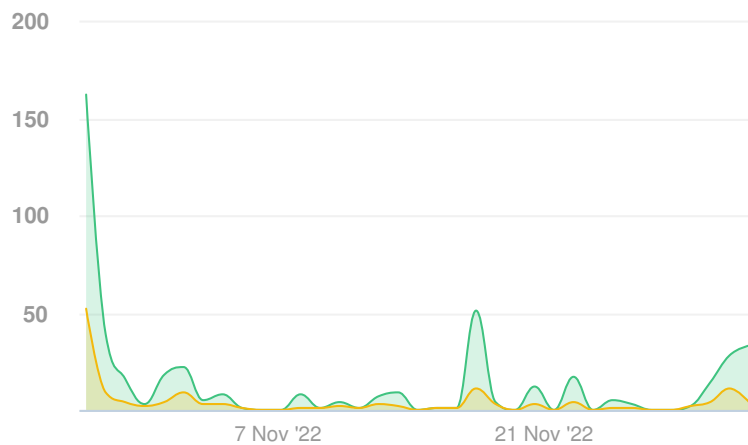
PROJECTS SELECTED: 1

Trail Improvements

FULL LIST AT THE END OF THE REPORT



Visitors Summary



— Pageviews — Visitors

Highlights

TOTAL VISITS	MAX VISITORS PER DAY	
152	52	
NEW REGISTRATIONS		
9		
ENGAGED VISITORS	INFORMED VISITORS	AWARE VISITORS
43	93	128

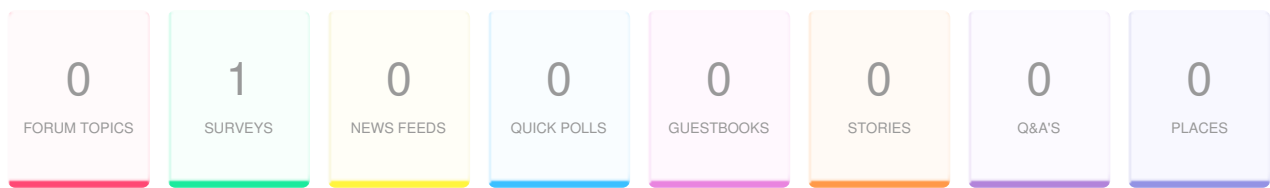
PARTICIPANT SUMMARY

ENGAGED	43 ENGAGED PARTICIPANTS				(%)
INFORMED		Registered	Unverified	Anonymous	
	Contributed on Forums	0	0	0	Trail Improvements43 (33.6%)
	Participated in Surveys	43	0	0	
	Contributed to Newsfeeds	0	0	0	
Participated in Quick Polls	0	0	0		
AWARE	Posted on Guestbooks	0	0	0	
	Contributed to Stories	0	0	0	
	Asked Questions	0	0	0	
	Placed Pins on Places	0	0	0	
	Contributed to Ideas	0	0	0	
* A single engaged participant can perform multiple actions				* Calculated as a percentage of total visits to the Project	

ENGAGED	93 INFORMED PARTICIPANTS				(%)
INFORMED		Participants			
	Viewed a video	0			Trail Improvements93 (72.7%)
	Viewed a photo	0			
	Downloaded a document	44			
Visited the Key Dates page	3				
AWARE	Visited an FAQ list Page	0			
	Visited Instagram Page	0			
	Visited Multiple Project Pages	51			
	Contributed to a tool (engaged)	43			
	* A single informed participant can perform multiple actions				

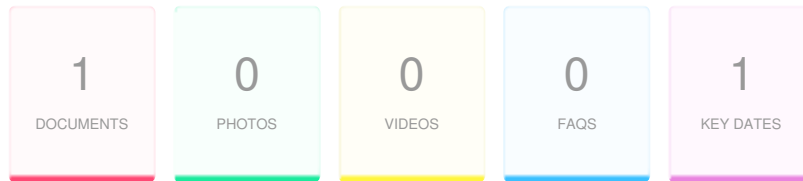
ENGAGED	128 AWARE PARTICIPANTS				
INFORMED		Participants			
	Visited at least one Page	128			Trail Improvements128
AWARE					
	* Aware user could have also performed an Informed or Engaged Action				* Total list of unique visitors to the project

ENGAGEMENT TOOLS SUMMARY



SURVEYS SUMMARY		TOP 3 SURVEYS BASED ON CONTRIBUTORS	
1	Surveys	43 Contributors to Trail Improvements Concept Plan Survey	
43	Contributors		
43	Submissions		

INFORMATION WIDGET SUMMARY



DOCUMENTS	
1	Documents
44	Visitors
51	Downloads

TOP 3 DOCUMENTS BASED ON DOWNLOADS	
51	Downloads
Trail Improvements Concept Plan	

KEY DATES	
1	Key Dates
3	Visitors
4	Views

TOP 3 KEY DATES BASED ON VIEWS	
4	Views
Trail Improvements	

TRAFFIC SOURCES OVERVIEW

REFERRER URL	Visits
m.facebook.com	8
www.google.com	7
linktr.ee	6
l.facebook.com	3
lm.facebook.com	3
android-app	1
e.issuu.com	1
issuu.com	1
www.bing.com	1

SELECTED PROJECTS - FULL LIST

PROJECT TITLE	AWARE	INFORMED	ENGAGED
Trail Improvements	128	93	43

Trail Improvements Concept Plan Survey

SURVEY RESPONSE REPORT

27 October 2022 - 30 November 2022

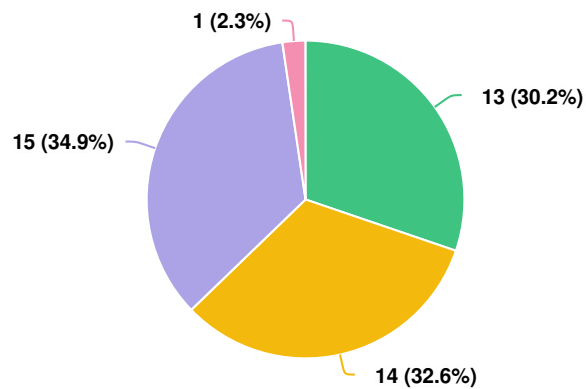
PROJECT NAME:

Trail Improvements



SURVEY QUESTIONS

Q1 I use the trail system:

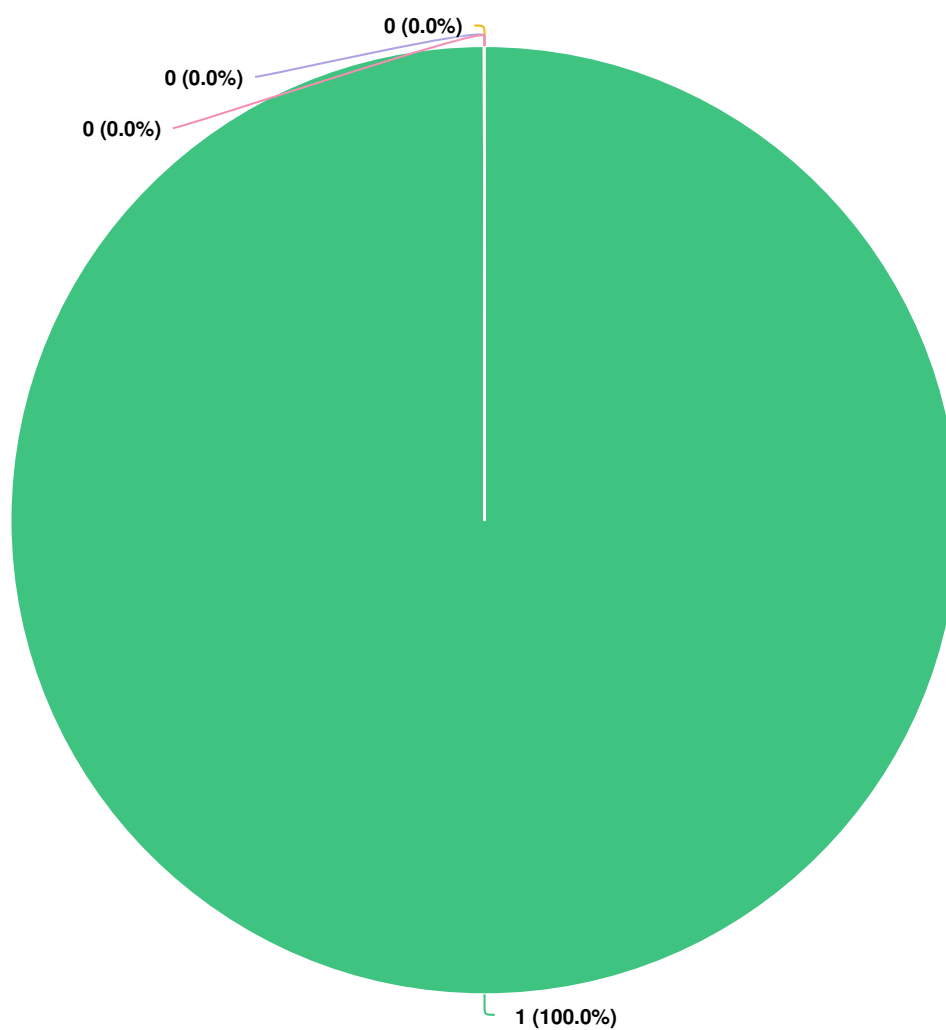


Question options

- Often (more than 1 time per week) ● Sometimes (more than 1 time per month) ● Occasionally (about 3-4 times per year)
● Never

Mandatory Question (43 response(s))
Question type: Radio Button Question

Q2 If never: Why?



Question options

- ☒ It's not very accessible ☐ Never knew about it ☐ I walk/hike somewhere else ☐ Other (please specify)

Optional question (1 response(s), 42 skipped)

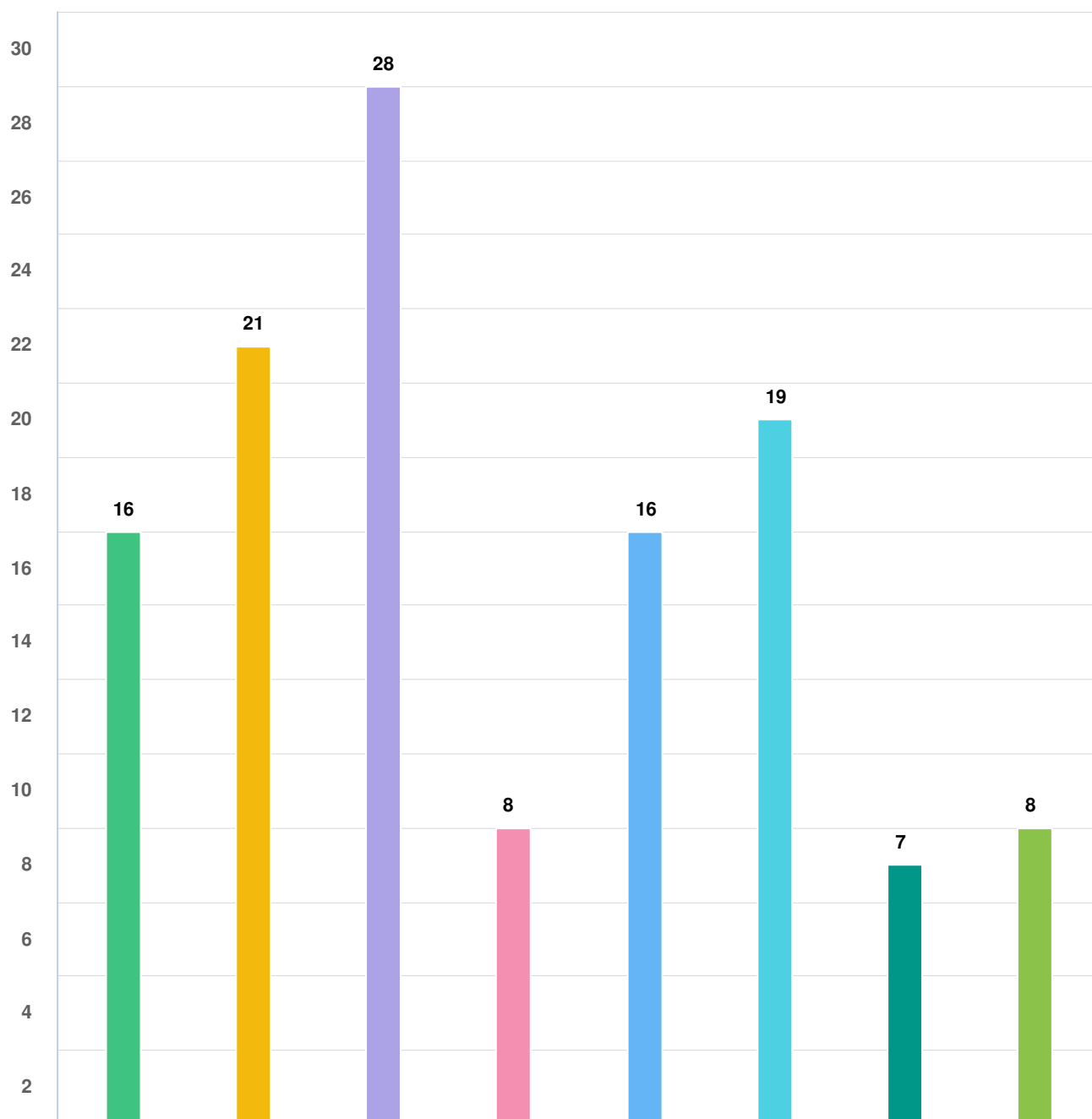
Question type: Radio Button Question

Q3 | The concept plan is divided into 3 Sections: Booth Trail, Museum Trail, and Linden. This is done for planning and budgeting purposes, phasing opportunities if necessary, and to work with other City departments on coordinating projects. It also al...

OPTIONS	AVG. RANK
Section 1 - Booth Trail	1.67
Section 2 - Museum Trail	2.09
Section 3 – Linden Trail	2.23

Mandatory Question (43 response(s))
Question type: Ranking Question

Q4 The Concept Plan items I believe to be most important are: (check all that apply)



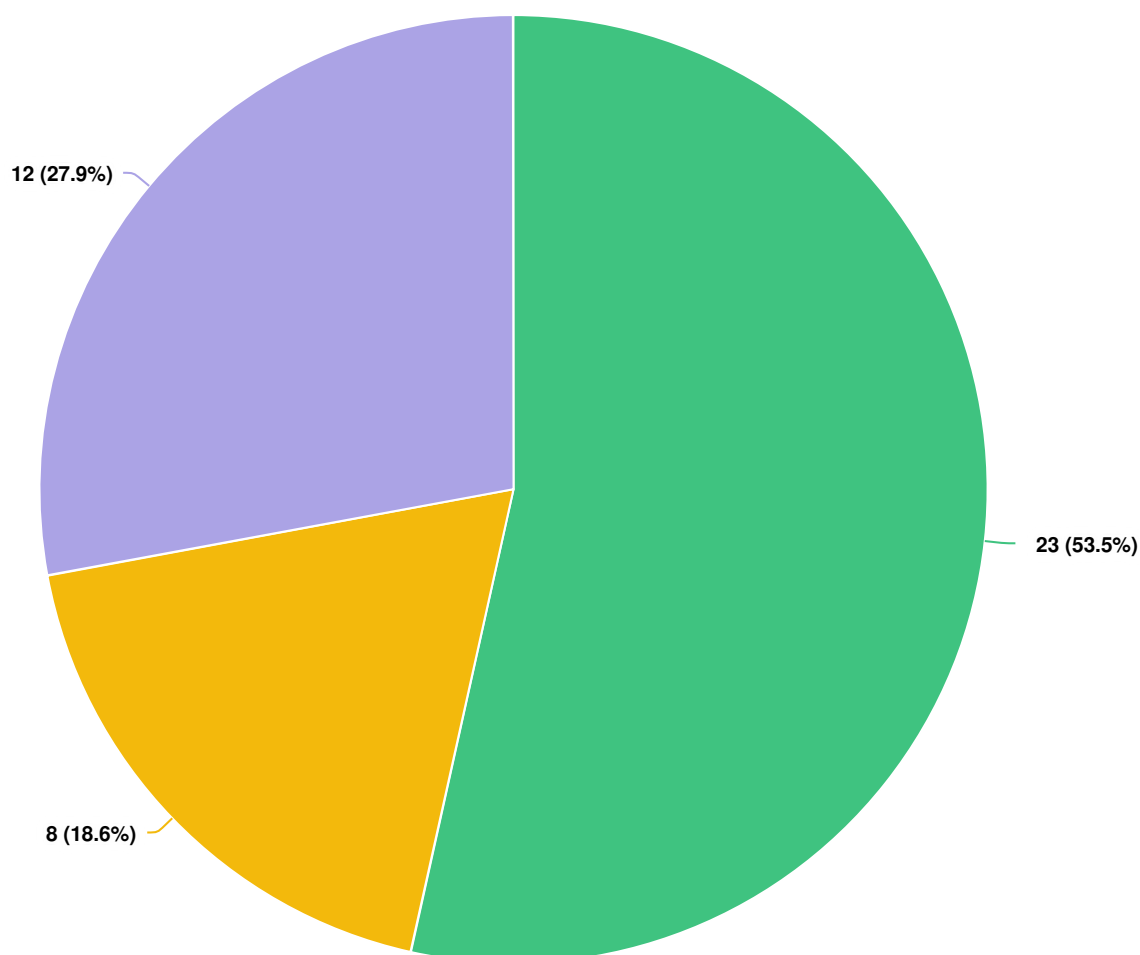
Question options

- Accessible Entries, boardwalks and viewing/seating areas
 ● Connectivity and Wayfinding (signs, maps, confidence markers)
- Sustainability features (bio-swales, streambank stabilization, low maintenance paths)
- Booth Park Corner Feature (seating and plaza)
 ● Booth Park Restroom
 ● New Pedestrian Bridge leading to Linden Park
- Interpretive Information (Museum Trail)
 ● Other (please specify)

Mandatory Question (43 response(s))

Question type: Checkbox Question

Q5 What is your opinion on the concept plan?Overall,



Question options

☒ I like the plan ☐ I do not like the plan ☐ I think the plan is lacking in some area(s)

Mandatory Question (43 response(s))

Question type: Radio Button Question

Q6 Describe what area the plan is lacking in:

Ee

10/27/2022 06:56 AM

The plan doesn't really account for bike use. It would be great if it was expanded for bikes (perhaps a couple of branching single track trails to the side of the main trail

duff

10/27/2022 07:07 AM

Is there going to be continuation of trail on the immediate north side of Maple?

Nick Dupuis

10/27/2022 07:21 AM

An overt and strong commitment to sustainable trail development along the Rouge Corridor

cb24

10/27/2022 07:22 AM

Again, a solid surface giving a better footing - allowing more people the confidence and comfort to utilize the trails.

stepper67

10/27/2022 07:26 AM

A bridge across the river leading from maple road to the linden trail (North) as to avoid the property owner on Baldwin road. There is an unleashed dog outside that intimidated walkers and the owner insists the path is his property.

SPJ

10/28/2022 07:17 AM

Trail should be 100% accessible to our seniors, disabled, strollers....The wood chips make the trail unusable for some on certain days (rain, slush) and many on ALL days. A permeable hard surface is a must.

DavidHohendorf

10/29/2022 05:16 AM

I don't think wood chip trails are sufficient. There must be some material that would provide a better experience especially if you want to take a stroller on one of the trails.

Engaged Resident

11/01/2022 12:19 PM

I am very unclear on the connection between the museum trail and linden trail and walking the connection area is currently unpleasant, so I'd like to get a better image of how that will change.

Austin

11/07/2022 07:53 PM

I think the stuff in booth park is unnecessary, but maintaining and improving the trails and connectivity is a worthy cause

kgeorgescu

How is increased usage of the trails going to impact the surrounding

11/30/2022 05:42 PM

homes - people, traffic, noise, safety

cs2021

plans for growth

11/30/2022 08:17 PM

Optional question (11 response(s), 32 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question

Q7 What do you dislike about the concept plan?

ML

10/27/2022 06:42 AM

The trails should be left as natural as possible. Do not overdevelop them. Stop including art along the paths.

Jack48009

10/27/2022 09:04 AM

I have always congratulated the Birmingham P&R people for not building permanent public restrooms in any of our parks. The ongoing maintenance costs and user security risks must be considered - they may become a real burden/liability on the City.

Voeffray.

10/27/2022 03:56 PM

Seems like overkill. I would aim to add more nature, less signs, bridges, etc. Spend the money to connect Linn Smith park to Linden.

gbabes66

11/01/2022 04:39 PM

It changes the nature of the park.. It is turning it into an entertainment center. The neighbors should be notified.

JojoJem

11/19/2022 10:54 AM

This plan is very concerning for many reasons, some of which I will include in these comments. I live along the trail and am speaking from personal experience. (1) Events in Booth Park are very loud and carry the noise throughout the Rouge River Ravine. Additional events & a stage that encourages additional noise will become a disruption to the right of quiet enjoyment for all houses near Booth. (2) Bathrooms at Booth will encourage loitering and homeless, can increase crime and congestion. (3) the proposed improvements along with additional signage will encourage many non-residents to use the trails. Safety and security are a primary concern. The trails are not monitored and not lit. I have personally witnessed incidents of drugs, sexual behavior, shooting fireworks and noise caps, and attempts at graffiti along the trail just past Booth Park (Booth Park Section and Museum Trail Section). This is in addition to litter accumulating in and along the river as well as many trespasses onto my property. This plan will only foster more of this concerning behavior, without any controls or safety measures. The incidents now are limited and

controlled because the population is mostly local. This will not be a limiting factor if Booth is expanded to encourage more events, loitering, and non-residents. Stewards of the City must keep top of mind that this is a family-friendly small town that due to it's nature and charm, commands high property values. Birmingham is already congested. Crime in the Booth Park area is increasing of late (see recent crimes along Harmon and Quarton Lake). This plan is not neighborhood friendly. We do not need additional development that disrupts residents' safety, security, and property values.

Bhamvoter6

11/21/2022 03:22 AM

Concern re noise for neighbors Concern re increase in non-resident crime

Birminghammommy

11/25/2022 10:57 AM

I have many concerns regarding this concept plan. My family, including 2 young children, live along the trail and have experienced and witnessed these concerns first hand. First of all, the noise from events in Booth Park carries down the path. I enjoy sitting outside and this noise disrupts the quietness and will be further limited if more events are allowed to take place there. Secondly, allowing bathrooms to be installed will attract more people and can increase crime. Another concern is that if more signage is made available then that will lead to more people using the trails. As a mother, I am concerned about the safety of my kids. The trail is not well lit and I have personally experienced inappropriate behavior along the trail. For example, sex, drugs, trespassing, loitering, and fireworks. All of these things jeopardize the safety of the residents along the trail. It will allow for increased crime and take away from the quiet, family friendly neighborhood that Birmingham is.

JBhm

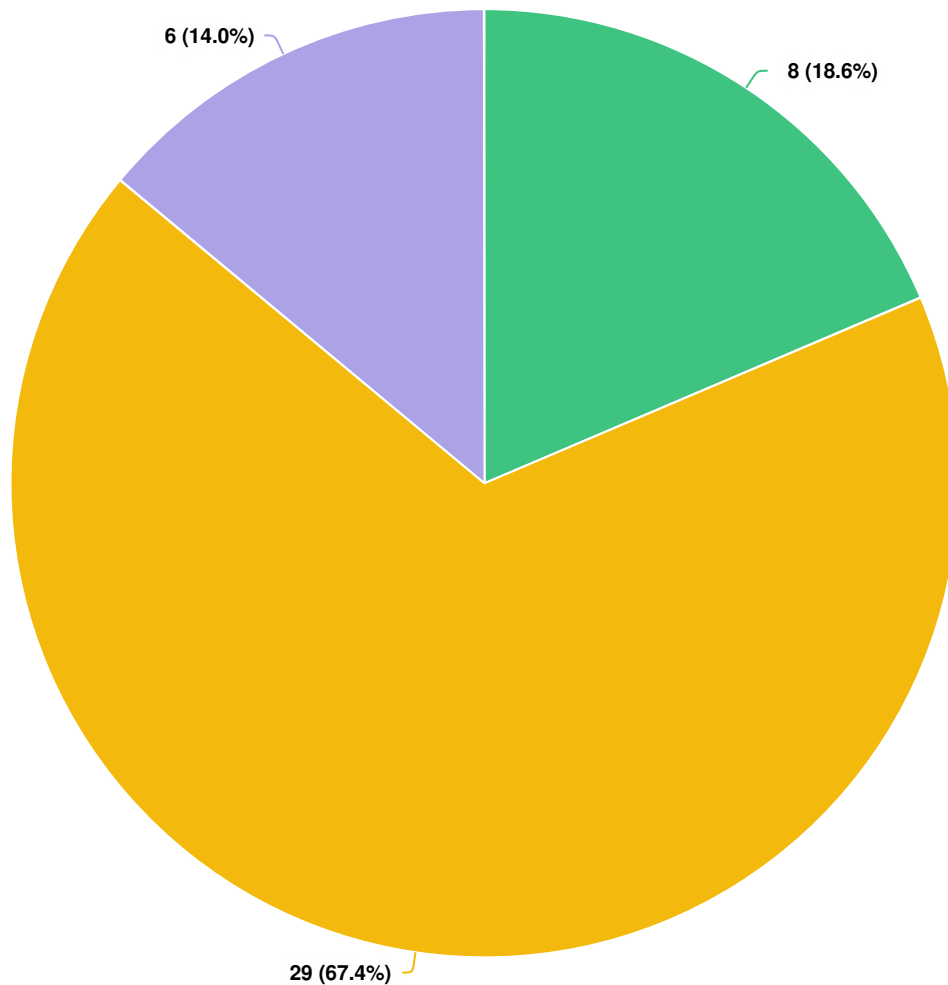
11/28/2022 09:20 AM

Changing the character of Booth Park from a children's play area to an adult food and entertainment area. Parking is already difficult. There are already restaurants, no need for food trucks. Permanent restroom will require significant maintenance.

Optional question (8 response(s), 35 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question

Q8 Fill in the blank! _____ use the unimproved path that leads from Willits to Baldwin North of and along the Rouge river.



Question options

☒ Always ☒ Sometimes ☒ Never

Mandatory Question (43 response(s))
Question type: Radio Button Question

Q9 What do you most like about the trail system as it exists today?

ML

10/27/2022 06:42 AM

Natural and not overcrowded

jeffle

10/27/2022 06:43 AM

dogs are allowed

Ee

10/27/2022 06:56 AM

That it's unimproved and a little rugged

Kim Cramer

10/27/2022 07:00 AM

I love that a beautiful natural area is maintained on my neighborhood.
We use it all the time.

duff

10/27/2022 07:07 AM

the improved areas: wood chips

brianmyers3

10/27/2022 07:17 AM

The quietness of the trail and the fact that it's relatively hidden.

Nick Dupuis

10/27/2022 07:21 AM

It is an essential natural space for persons, but also important wildlife.

cb24

10/27/2022 07:22 AM

Proximity to the area, natural, expansive.

stepper67

10/27/2022 07:26 AM

I like that the city has been adding chips more regularly in the last year. However it needs more care. Need to improve the trail from Willits to Baldwin. It turns into a swamp when it rains.

Sunnykimmer

10/27/2022 07:36 AM

Na

LPielack

10/27/2022 08:15 AM

Natural setting, wildlife, and beauty

jtome

10/27/2022 08:35 AM

It is better than before. It is safe. It is used by a lot of people

kde1974

10/27/2022 09:01 AM

Proximity to downtown Birmingham.

Jack48009

10/27/2022 09:04 AM

It is not easily available to me - and the one in Manor Park is not on the list.

Alan Stamm

10/27/2022 09:21 AM

Nature immersion in an "Up North"-style environment and experience -- visual and auditory separation from residences, business and traffic.

Tottenham

10/27/2022 10:29 AM

Its quiet

SDSchutte

10/27/2022 11:27 AM

Nature-focused, with some assisting features, like waste receptacles, dog waste supplies, and trail markers.

Lauren

10/27/2022 12:08 PM

Hello! Thank you for providing the trail system. It is such a special, wonderful asset to have a serene and beautiful nature trail in the middle of our city. I love that I can take a peaceful walk just blocks from my home.

Madison St

10/27/2022 01:07 PM

Just the fact that it's there and a safe place to walk.

LMenco

10/27/2022 02:27 PM

We have such a serene network of trails (that a lot of residents do not even know about)

Gaby

10/27/2022 03:22 PM

Peaceful

Voefrayer.

10/27/2022 03:56 PM

How easy it is to access nature in a busy community. Focus on less signs, buildings, and more on developing and connecting trails together.

mdleduc

10/28/2022 07:11 AM

The opportunity to be in the woods in the middle of the city

SPJ

10/28/2022 07:17 AM

allows access to the river and the most amount of nature we have in our town

DavidHohendorf

10/29/2022 05:16 AM

While I appreciate the natural state of the areas surrounding the trails, the trail material must be improved

Steve Nickoloff

10/29/2022 01:51 PM

Linden river trail is awesome, I use it several time per week

LM_0928

10/30/2022 04:49 AM

That there is a trail. However, it is poorly marked and unclear so I don't end up using it.

MCSA

10/31/2022 07:50 AM

You can walk large distances along the river

Susan

10/31/2022 08:55 AM

We are fortunate to have these beautiful trails through our town. I enjoy walking through them and look forward to having better signs and accessibility

Angela Groves-Cheek

11/01/2022 03:17 AM

That it is unpaved and kept natural.

Engaged Resident

11/01/2022 12:19 PM

Has a strong nature walk feel in the first two parts. Linden is more like just a walking trail, but is still enjoyable. Would like to see this enhanced to possibly have more nature added.

gbabes66

11/01/2022 04:39 PM

It is natural.

Gail W

11/02/2022 06:46 AM

there should be a sign that says "ends here" - this is not a loop

Anusia T.

11/03/2022 06:55 AM

walkability, nature

Austin

11/07/2022 07:53 PM

I like that I can travel on the path as an alternate path which is far from cars

Jane Hoffman

11/16/2022 04:22 PM

It's a natural trail that takes you through to woods and real nature. It's not groomed.

JoJoJem

11/19/2022 10:54 AM

Quiet, serene, natural, wildlife.

Bhamvoter6

11/21/2022 03:22 AM

Peaceful and not crowded

Birminghammommy

11/25/2022 10:57 AM

Quietness, wildlife

JBhm

11/28/2022 09:20 AM

Feeling of being "up North," while being in the City.

pahillbe

11/29/2022 02:05 AM

The rustic feel of the Linden Trail

kgeorgescu

11/30/2022 05:42 PM

the quiet time in nature

cs2021

11/30/2022 08:17 PM

natural setting - feeling of walking thru natural woods - untampered, natural, wild but with paths

Mandatory Question (43 response(s))

Question type: Essay Question

Q10 Are there any other items that should be added to the plan?

jeffle

10/27/2022 06:43 AM

seats for those needing to rest

Ee

10/27/2022 06:56 AM

A dedicated bike trail/loop (mtb loop)

Kim Cramer

10/27/2022 07:00 AM

The crosswalk on maple to connect the booth park/museum trail with the linden trail is not sufficient to allow safe use of the trails. Cars do not stop. The biggest improvement that could possibly be made the trail system is not listed in the plan: a pedestrian bridge or other safe crossing.

brianmyers3

10/27/2022 07:17 AM

Better connectivity of the trail at Baldwin and Maple. The homeowner leaves his German Shepherd outside in front of his house, and it

intimidates people and prevents them from accessing that portion of the trail. A fence needs to be added to allow people to safely access the portion that goes from Baldwin to Willits. No one will use the trail as long as that dog is allowed to sit outside.

Nick Dupuis

10/27/2022 07:21 AM

The plan has a very human focus, it would be nice to see a focus paid to natural habitats and the trails effects on them.

stepper67

10/27/2022 07:26 AM

More waste receptacles. Need one at entrance of trail at Willits street. Need to address linden park. Need bridge from Linden park to Linn Smith Park.

Sunnykimmer

10/27/2022 07:36 AM

Na

LPielack

10/27/2022 08:15 AM

Possible arboretum in appropriate areas along the trail would be nice!

jtome

10/27/2022 08:35 AM

Easy to maintain and improving drainage of rain water

Jack48009

10/27/2022 09:04 AM

I congratulate P&R for the initiative and effort. They do a super job. Jack Burns

Alan Stamm

10/27/2022 09:21 AM

More tree species identification signs

SDSchutte

10/27/2022 11:27 AM

the unimproved path leading from Willits to Baldwin N. needs some improvement. Not necessarily ADA, but remove fallen limbs blocking the path, add wood chips to reduce standing water, and assure access to Baldwin N without running into a residential fence.

Madison St

10/27/2022 01:07 PM

I wouldn't mind if there was some solar powered lighting added to the trail or situated near benches. Not sure if there's a railing be added to the steps to the museum. I think large stone slabs would be a nice alternative to wooden steps and perhaps some lighting, too.

LMenco

10/27/2022 02:27 PM

It would be great if they could make the "unimproved" trail in the Linden section along maple human friendly. If i don't want to risk personal injury, I have to retrace my steps back to Willits and up to

the railroad tie steps and then walk along maple in order to jump back on the trail to head south to Lincoln

Voeffray.

10/27/2022 03:56 PM

Add the connector to Linn Smith Park!

SPJ

10/28/2022 07:17 AM

Hard surface path that allows use by all residents not just the sure-footed

Steve Nickoloff

10/29/2022 01:51 PM

Yes Linn Park should be included. It needs a pedestrian bridge to connect it to Linden Park, and an overlook from the high elevation just before it drops down to the river. No one uses it at the moment and this would totally activate/energize it. And be consistent with the stated objective of Connectivity.. So much potential!!

MCSA

10/31/2022 07:50 AM

None at this time.

Angela Groves-Cheek

11/01/2022 03:17 AM

I hope there is no need to regrade the ground near the location of the new restroom building in Booth Park. The kids love to run up and down those little hills.

Engaged Resident

11/01/2022 12:19 PM

Again, since the Museum Trail and Linden Trail connection is confusing, it's hard to say if you've hit the mark there or not....I just purposely walked the trail today and had to backtrack etc, as I landed on the private property, and then ended up walking the neighborhood street to get back to Willets. Not a great experience. The plans do not clearly show the planned connection.

gbabes66

11/01/2022 04:39 PM

This plan is a bad idea. Its will attract the wrong element. The neighbors should be notified.

Anusia T.

11/03/2022 06:55 AM

Trail markers, especially at Baldwin entry to Willits. Owner of 110 Balwin hinders trail entry

Jane Hoffman

11/16/2022 04:22 PM

Keep the natural, natural. Nothing needs to be added there.

JoJoJem

11/19/2022 10:54 AM

The plan needs major overhaul. It encourages crime, loitering, makes no accommodations for safety and security, it disrupts natural

habitats, and it takes something beautiful and natural and makes is commercialized.

Birminghammommy

11/25/2022 10:57 AM

The plan needs to be reconsidered. It disrupts the quietness of the neighborhood, allows for more loitering, has the potential for increased crime due to more congestion, and will disrupt the wildlife and pure nature that Birmingham/Rouge River currently is.

kgeorgescu

11/30/2022 05:42 PM

Concerned about the noise level and people loitering at night at booth park with new plans. Also can not find info on museum plans - trying to understand pool plans??

cs2021

11/30/2022 08:17 PM

sorry to repeat myself - enlarge,expand grow the trail system

Optional question (27 response(s), 16 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question

Pickleball Is Expanding. Tennis Is Mad.

From New York to Hawaii, weekend athletes and government officials are taking part in a battle that goes beyond the fight for court space.



By Steven Kurutz

Published Oct. 21, 2022 Updated Oct. 24, 2022

Charlie Dulik and Michael Nicholas, tennis enthusiasts in Brooklyn, have lately been consumed by another racquet sport: pickleball.

They have no interest in joining those who have taken up the game in recent years. Rather, they have been following pickleball's increasing popularity with a mixture of disbelief and outrage.

Mr. Dulik, a tenant organizer, and Mr. Nicholas, an urban planner, are the founders of Club Leftist Tennis, a Substack newsletter that covers their favorite sport through a progressive lens. In a recently published manifesto, "Against Pickleball," they called for tennis players to "oppose the gangrenous spread of pickleball at every turn."

Mr. Dulik, 27, and Mr. Nicholas, 28, adopted a semisatirical tone in their essay. But they are serious about their disdain for pickleball, a combination of badminton, Ping-Pong and tennis played with a small paddle and a hard plastic ball. Indeed, the two are participants in a cultural battle now playing out from New York to Hawaii, as pickleball players seek places to play and tennis players defend their ground.





Charlie Dulik, a tenant organizer in Brooklyn, co-wrote a manifesto urging tennis players “to oppose the gangrenous spread of pickleball.” Dana Golan for The New York Times

When officials in Asheville, N.C., submitted plans to convert the three tennis courts in Murphy-Oakley Park into eight pickleball courts, tennis players rebelled. In Arizona, there was so much bad blood between the two factions that a law firm provided guidance to homeowners’ associations on how to avoid lawsuits. Tennis players in Hawaii complained that the organizers of the Pacific Rim Pickleball Cup had created a potential safety hazard on the courts because of the “gooey adhesive” they had left behind after they laid out pickleball lines with yellow tape.

When pickleball players in Exeter, N.H., petitioned to convert three of the town’s eight public tennis courts, tensions flared at a town meeting in what one resident called “The Great Tennis v. Pickleball War of 2022.” Martina Navratilova, the winner of 59 Grand Slam tennis titles, weighed in on the kerfuffle in Exeter: “I say if pickleball is that popular let them build their own courts,” she said on Twitter.

Tennis advocates have expressed irritation at the spate of reports chronicling the sport’s rise. “Is the Next Great Pastime Pickleball?” New York magazine asked, shortly before an NPR article called it “America’s fastest-growing sport.” The New Yorker weighed in with a story titled “Can Pickleball Save America?,” and The New York Times asked in a headline: “Why Is Pickleball So Popular?”

Mr. Dulik bemoaned the media reception. “It’s always the exact same phrases: ‘Pickleball is much more accessible and fun than tennis’; ‘Pickleball is the fastest growing sport,’” he said. “I’m cringing at being sold something so blatantly.”

Pickleball devotees say their sport is a sport of the people. It can be played by the young and the old — and, indeed, it is popular in retirement communities. They bolster their case by describing tennis as an elitist country-club pursuit.

Tennis lovers extol the elegance of their sport, captured in poems by Galway Kinnell and Robert Pinsky and in the dreamlike documentary “John McEnroe: In the Realm of Perfection” by the French filmmaker Julien Faraut.





Pickleball players sample new paddles at a recent promotional event in New York. Dana Golan for The New York Times





A recent pickleball match. Dana Golan for The New York Times

There are more than 10,000 registered pickleball facilities in the United States, according to USA Pickleball, the sport's national governing body. "We added about 1,000 sites last year," said Carl Schmits, a USA Pickleball executive, up from 938 the year before.

The boom has come so fast that many new players have trouble finding places to play. Mr. Schmits said he regularly conferred with local officials who must grapple with the seemingly irreconcilable differences of pickleball and tennis players.

Long Beach, Calif., a city of 460,000, has one dedicated pickleball court and 57 tennis courts in its park system. The discrepancy led officials there to create a "Pickleball Master Plan." Proposals include adding bright orange or yellow lines to tennis courts, so that pickleball may be played on them.



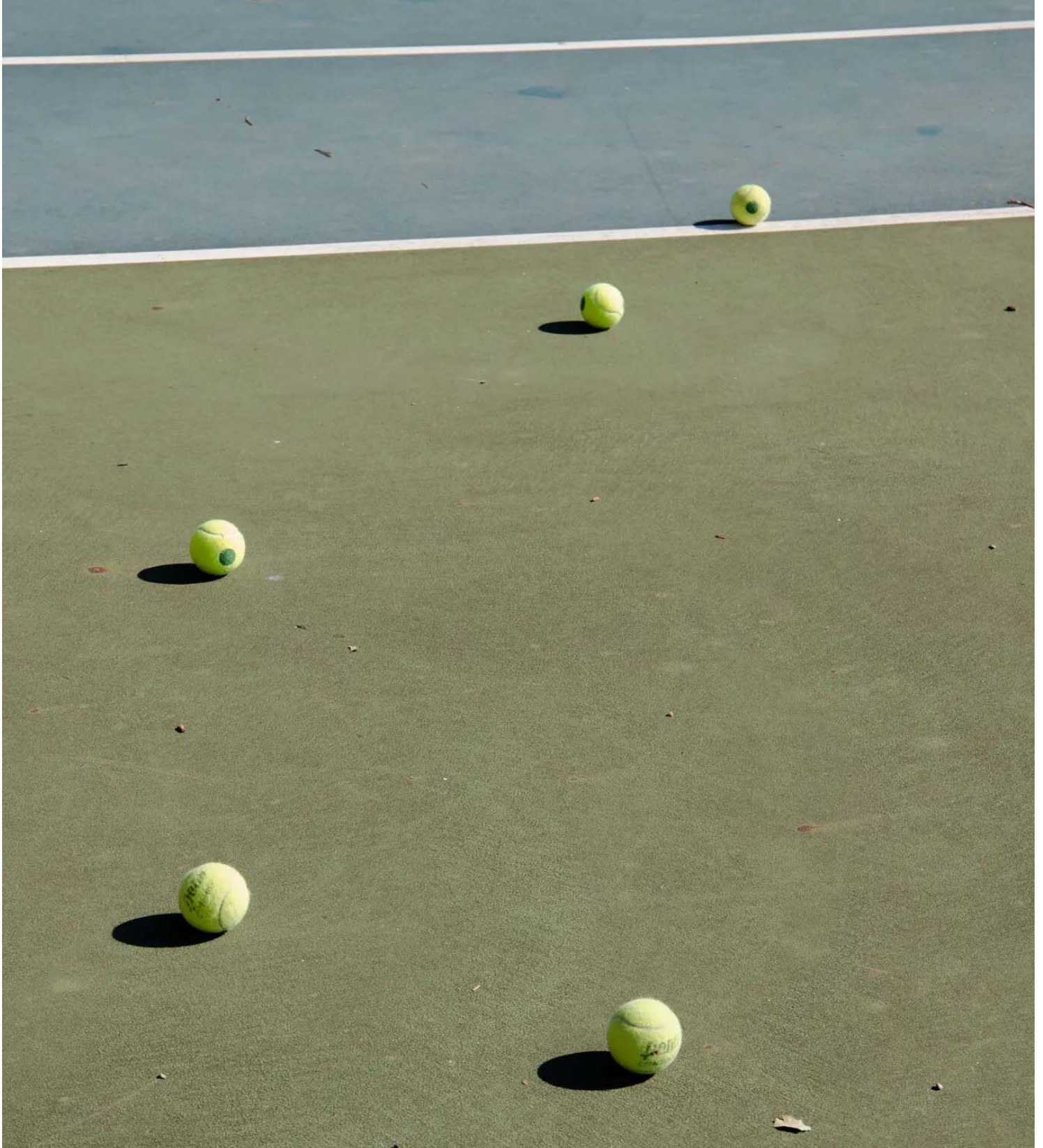
Pickleball games in progress at William F. Passannante Ballfield in Greenwich Village. Dana Golan for The New York Times

But sharing can be awkward for both groups. The sports use different nets, for one thing, and tennis players have complained about the distracting jumble of lines. There is also the matter of who controls court time.

"The trend is toward the purpose-built facility," Mr. Schmits said.

In Florida, a group of real estate developers are spending \$180 million to build 15 private pickleball clubs, including a 33,000-square-foot facility in Sarasota with 12 indoor courts, a cafe and a retail shop. It is one of dozens of private- and public-sector projects in the works nationwide. Matthew Gordon, a partner in the Florida venture, told a news outlet: “We plan on being the market leader during this all-important land-grab phase of the industry.”

Pickleball has been around since the mid-1960s, invented by three vacationing dads on Bainbridge Island in Washington who were trying to entertain their bored children. But, for decades, it barely made a ripple — pickle what? Even now, the number of players in the United States is estimated at around five million, according to a 2022 report from the Sports & Fitness Industry Association. By contrast, some 21 million Americans played tennis in 2020, according to the Physical Activity Council.





Tennis balls on a court at Highland Park in Brooklyn. Dana Golan for The New York Times





A recent tennis game at Highland Park. Dana Golan for The New York Times

Still, the desire for court space seems insatiable, and talk of pickleball as the next big thing is unceasing. Its newfound popularity is often framed as a grass-roots revolution fueled by what InPickleball magazine has described as the sport’s “uniquely transformative power.”

That language suits the ecstatic tones used in the sport’s marketing. It is often pitched as a unifying force able to bring together old and young, Republican and Democrat. A recent InPickleball article described the sport as “both comforting and exhilarating.”

“It’s about more (much more) than the sheer thrill of the game,” the story continued, “triggering something bigger, happier, healthier, and kinder in the lives of players.”

To some tennis partisans, the whole thing is a crock. Rather than being a grass-roots sport, Mr. Dulik and Mr. Nicholas argue, pickleball has been imposed on America by wealthy entrepreneurs looking to make money from the craze.

Many of the sport’s most influential boosters are seasoned investors. Connor Pardoe, who created the Professional Pickleball Association tour, is a scion of Utah real-estate developers. Tom Dundon, who now owns the P.P.A., is a Texas billionaire who made his fortune in subprime auto loans. The self-promoting marketing executive Gary Vaynerchuk is the latest to jump on the bandwagon. He bought a professional pickleball team and has claimed that the game will “save people’s lives.” The sport got another shot of publicity when LeBron James and Tom Brady recently invested in pro teams.



Tennis players in Brooklyn. Dana Golan for The New York Times

Caitlin Thompson, the co-founder of Racquet, a publication and retail brand that celebrates the style, history and culture of tennis, likened pickleball to NFTs or cryptocurrency. “This is like a pitch deck that you see from some V.C. company: ‘Look at the hockey stick growth!’” Ms. Thompson said. “The same energy pervades.”

She added witheringly, “I remember playing pickleball in middle school in Atlanta and thinking, ‘Oh, that’s tennis for non-athletes.’”

Disparaging comments like those end up on Dinkheads.com, a website for pickleball fans owned by the conservative commentator Michelle Malkin. Along with tips for improving your game, the site lists examples of what it sees as the “anti-pickleball war” being waged by the tennis world.

The journalist and author Anne Helen Petersen recently took aim at complaining tennis players, writing on Twitter: “Pickleball has a lower barrier to entry and is very fun. If you’re mad about people playing it on your courts, push for MORE COURTS.”

Tennis appears to be losing the public image campaign. Case in point: Tennis magazine, which has covered the sport since 1965, featured the pickleball star Ben Johns on the cover of its summer issue. And Bobby Riggs Racket & Paddle, a Southern California club named for the tennis legend, now hosts the Nike Pickleball Camps and advertises itself with a new slogan: “Once a full tennis facility, now a pickleball players dream.” The Tennis Channel is showing professional pickleball matches — including on the day that Roger Federer announced his retirement.

“Very few things are more depressing than turning on the Tennis Channel and seeing pickleball,” Ms. Thompson said.



The pickleball scene at William F. Passannante Ballfield in Greenwich Village. Dana Golan for The New York Times

Tensions run especially hot in a part of the country where space is at a premium: Manhattan. The trouble started last spring when pickleball players descended on Corporal John A. Seravalli Playground in the West Village.

For 60 years, Seravalli Park was a play land for neighborhood children, with swings and a jungle gym. This year, the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation approved two pickleball courts there. An open blacktop on the site beckoned even more players, who need only a portable net and chalk or tape to make a court. At times up to a dozen unsanctioned courts were going.

Many of the players at Seravalli Park were not seniors enjoying a little low-impact exercise but men in their 20s and 30s. And far from the happier, healthier and kinder nature that pickleball is supposed to bring out, the Seravalli players were muscling children out of the way to play hotly contested matches. By September, parents and pickleballers were shouting at one another while children looked on in confusion.

Mark Borden, a writer and a father of two, was one of the parents who started a Change.org petition to have the parks department end pickleball at Seravalli Park. “There seems to be a lack of awareness by the pickleball players,” he said. “They’re blinded by their passion for their sport.” He likened pickleball players to “the lantern flies of the sports world — an invasive species that takes over a natural ecosystem and destroys it.”

Unbowed, the pickleballers kept showing up.





Katherine Hedden, a USA Pickleball ambassador in Manhattan, said that tennis and pickleball “are equal.” Dana Golan for The New York Times

“It’s just all of a sudden become a nightmare,” said Katherine Hedden, a USA Pickleball ambassador for Manhattan, who has been at the center of the fight at Seravalli Park and other pickleball hot spots.

Ms. Hedden, 66, who is retired from the TV news business, said the battles for public space were predictable. Since 2019, she said, she has lobbied the city’s parks department, community boards and the owners of indoor tennis clubs to establish more pickleball courts.

“I kept saying, ‘Get ready for the boom,’” she said. “It’s like that movie where you see the meteor coming.”

Ms. Hedden, who often takes part in pickleball games at another Lower Manhattan playground, William F. Passannante Ballfield, using a parks department permit to play on Sundays, acknowledged that some players had crossed the line. Recently, she said, while she was playing one of her Sunday matches, a group of young men showed up with their own net and tried to kick her off the court.

Nevertheless, her solution to the pickleball wars may sound like fighting words to tennis players.

“We need a facility like the Central Park Tennis Center,” Ms. Hedden said, referring to the 30-court complex with a locker room and pro shop. “Because the two sports are equal.”



Pickleball Sound Mitigation

Judge Issues Preliminary Injunction Closing Pickleball Courts – Falmouth MA

In 2019 the city of Falmouth spent \$310,000 to convert one tennis court and one basketball court into 5 pickleball courts.

On 1-04-2022 neighbors filed complaint in Superior Court alleging failure of the Zoning Board to enforce the town bylaws against nuisances. The neighboring homes ranged between 40 and 350 feet from the new courts. The complaint included a copy of the acoustical engineer's report paid for by the neighbors. The complaint also noted that the City had declined a 2021 recommendation from the Recreation Department to install a \$50,000 noise mitigating wall.

On 9-12-2022 Plaintiffs moved for a preliminary injunction to halt pickleball pending resolution of the suit. A hearing was held on 9-29-2022 and on 9-30-2022 the judge wrote his decision:

"The plaintiffs have established a likelihood of success that they would suffer irreparable harm if the injunction is not issued, that the plaintiffs' claimed injuries outweigh the defendants harm, and that the injunction would not harm the public interest. Therefore the preliminary injunction is ALLOWED. UPON THE PAYMENT OF \$90.00, the preliminary injunction will be issued to plaintiffs."

On 10-6-2022 the judge issued the formal Order for Preliminary Injunction stating that the city is "hereby enjoined and restrained from allowing the use of the courts located at the Lawrence Middle School for playing pickle ball until further order of this court".

Neighbors have also submitted an amended complaint seeking money damages for Nuisance and Infliction of Emotional Distress, as well as attorney fees.

The city website has now posted a copy of the Order for Preliminary Injunction on its website and announced temporary closure of the courts. [Tennis & Pickleball Courts | Falmouth, MA \(falmouthma.gov\)](https://www.falmouthma.gov/tennis-pickleball-courts) ✓

Memorandum

Date: 10 November 2022
To: Nick Dupuis
From: Bob Gibbs
Subject: City Wide Parks Plan

Message

Nick, I would like to discuss City Wide Plan's recommendations for Birmingham's park improvements at the next available Parks and Recreation Board meeting.

Below a summary of my proposed topics:

- Rouge Park enhanced trail network
- Neighborhood park universal design-walkways
- Community Gardens
- Playground Age Expansion
- Dog Play Areas
- Civic Art
- Cafes – meeting centers
- Athletic Fields-Exercise Equipment

Below, the Master Plan's park's long range park improvement guidelines for the board's reference.

	<i>Athletic Fields</i>	<i>Café- Meeting</i>	<i>Community or/Flower Garden</i>	<i>Dog Area</i>	<i>Electric- Water</i>	<i>Exercise Expt.</i>	<i>Play Lot</i>	<i>Universal Design- Walkways</i>
Mini Parks								
Baldwin Well								
Derby Well			X		X			X
Pump House (BGC)								
Redding Well			X		X			
Neighborhood Parks								
Creastview	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Howarth	X		X		X		X	X
Linden								X
Lynn Smith			X		X			X
Manor								
Martha Baldwin			X		X			X
Pembroke	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Quarton School			X		X			X
St. James	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
W. Lincoln Well			X		X	X	X	X
Community Parks								
Barnum	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Booth		X	X		X	X	X	X
Kenning	X		X		X	X	X	X
Lincoln Hills				X	X			
Museum			X					X
Poppleton	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Shain Park		X			X		X	X
Springdale			X		X		X	X
Quarton Lake					X			X