

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Application 2016

Organization: Oakland Charter Township

TF16-0009

Section A: Applicant Site and Project Information: Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park

*Is the application for site development <u>or</u> land acquisition? Development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Acquisition			
*Name of Applicant (Government Unit) Oakland Charter Township		*Federal ID Number 38-2004632	*County Oakland County
*Name of Authorized Representative Melinda Milos-Dale		*Title Parks and Recreation Director	
*Address 4393 Collins Road		*Telephone (248) 651-7810 Fax(248) 601-0106	
*City Rochester	*State MI	*ZIP 48306	*E-mail mmdale@oaklandtownship.org
*State House District District 45		*State Senate District District 16	*U.S. Congress District District 9

*Proposal Title (Not to exceed 60 characters) Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park Expansion
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*Proposal Description Expansion of Oakland Township's 60-acre Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park through acquisition of 209 acres including MNFI Priority 2 natural area, forests, wetlands and active farm fields. The 209-acre acquisition is composed of 74-acre fee simple purchase and the purchase of less than fee simple rights on the remaining 135 acres. Some farm field areas within the 135-acres are proposed for wetland restoration and participation in mitigation banking. Oakland Township would purchase the remaining property rights after the current land owner furnished conservation easements to the MDEQ for the creation of the wetland areas. The 209-acre addition could connect trail and ecological corridors with both Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park and Stony Creek Metropark, provide improved trail and vehicular access from Snell Road, increase length of proposed multi-use trails to more than 2 miles, offer a local/regional trail head composed of a vehicular entrance and parking lot, and a play structure.
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*Address of Site 10-25-100-009 and 10-25-200-001	*City, Village or Township of Site Oakland Township	*Zip 48306
*County in which Site is located Oakland	*Town, Range and Section Numbers of Site Location <i>Letters must be upper-case: (examples: T02N, R13E, 22)</i> (Town) T04N (Range)R11E (Section)25	*Latitude/Longitude at park entrance 42.733869 -83.110266
*Park Name Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park		

Section B: Project Funding and Explanation of Match Sources

SOURCES OF MATCHING FUNDS

PROJECT COST AMOUNTS

*Grant amount requested (round to the nearest hundred dollars)	\$2,216,400.00
Total Match	\$738,900.00
Total Project Cost	\$2,955,300.00
Percentage of match commitment (Must be at least 25% of total project cost)	25%
a) General Funds or Local Restricted Funds (Applicant's own cash)	\$738,900.00
b) Force Account Labor/Materials (Applicant's own paid labor or materials)	
c) Federal or State Funds	

You have entered a value for item c). Please provide the information below for each federal or state program from which matching funds will be provided. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) AND RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM (RTP) ARE THE ONLY FEDERAL FUNDS THAT CAN BE USED AS MATCH:

* (1) Program Name	*Administering Agency	
*Contact Name for Administering Agency	*Telephone	*Amount

*Type of Funds

Grant funds awarded

Date grant funds approved

Grant funds applied for, not yet approved

Estimated approval date

Appropriated funds

Date appropriated

Other, explain

*Is documentation containing the scope of work and budget for the other grant funds included with application?

Yes No

*Is documentation (such as grant approval letter) that verifies the availability of funds included in the application?

Yes No

Check to add program information for additional State of Federal funds that will be used as Match.

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Section B: Project Funding and Explanation of Match Sources

(2) Program Name	Administering Agency	
Contact Name for Administering Agency	Telephone	Amount

Type of Funds

Grant funds awarded

Date grant funds approved

Grant funds applied for, not yet approved

Estimated approval date

Appropriated funds

Date appropriated

Other, explain

Is documentation containing the scope of work and budget for the other grant funds included with application?

Yes No

Is documentation (such as grant approval letter) that verifies the availability of funds included in the application?

Yes No

Check to add program information for additional State of Federal funds that will be used as Match.

(3) Program Name	Administering Agency	
Contact Name for Administering Agency	Telephone	Amount

Type of Funds

Grant funds awarded

Date grant funds approved

Grant funds applied for, not yet approved

Estimated approval date

Appropriated funds

Date appropriated

Other, explain

Is documentation containing the scope of work and budget for the other grant funds included with application?

Yes No

Is documentation (such as grant approval letter) that verifies the availability of funds included in the application?

Yes No

d) Cash Donations

Section B: Project Funding and Explanation of Match Sources

You have entered a value for item d). Please list the individual sources and the amounts to be donated below.

SOURCE	AMOUNT
*	
Total	\$0

*Is a letter of intent from each donor included with the application?

Yes No

e) Donated Labor and/or Materials

You have entered a value for item e). Please include each item to be donated, the source, dollar value, and how the dollar value was determined.

ITEM	SOURCE	DOLLAR VALUE	VALUATION METHOD
*			
		Total	\$0

*Is a letter of intent from each donor included with application?

Yes No

f) Donated Land Value (acquisition applications only)

You have entered a value for item f). Please describe how the value of the land donation was determined.

*

*Is a letter from the landowner committing to the donation of a portion of fair market value and any conditions placed upon their commitment included with application?

Yes No

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Section C1: Project Details

Land Acquisition Applications ONLY

*Interest acquired will be (check all that apply)

- Fee Simple
- Easement
- Other 74 AC fee simple, 135 AC less than

*What are the current land uses that exist on the parcel? (check all that apply)

- Undeveloped/natural land
- Agricultural
- Residential
- Commercial (including timber extraction)
- Recreational
- Other (describe)

*Any buildings on the site? No Yes

*Any encroachments or boundary disputes with neighbors? No Yes

Parcel Information Table

*Itemize estimated cost information for each parcel. For phased projects, the parcels and dollar amounts provided should include all phases.

	LANDOWNER	ACREAGE	STATE EQUALIZED VALUE (SEV)	(1) ESTIMATED APPRAISED VALUE (\$)
1)	Divine Home Associates	209	\$2,022,200.00	\$2,865,200.00
2)				
3)				
4)				
5)				
TOTALS		209	\$2,022,200.00	\$2,865,200.00

(2) ESTIMATED INCIDENTAL COSTS

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Section C1: Project Details

Prorated Taxes	\$20,600.00		
Recording Fees	\$100.00		
Transfer Tax	\$24,000.00		
Title Insurance	\$7,000.00		
Appraisal Fees	\$20,000.00		
Closing Fees	\$300.00		
Environmental Assessment Costs	\$18,100.00		
TOTAL	\$90,100.00		
		TOTAL APPRAISED VALUE (1)	\$2,865,200.00
			0
		TOTAL INCIDENTAL COSTS (2)	\$90,100.00
		TOTAL ACQUISITION COSTS	\$2,955,300.00
			0

Comments:

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Section D: Justification of Need

- *1) If you are submitting multiple acquisition or development applications, what is the priority for this application? (1 = highest) 1
- *2) What page(s) of your recreation plan is the need for the proposed project discussed? From: 87 To: 89
If proposed project is on only one page, please enter the page number in both boxes
- *3) What was the date(s) of public meeting to discuss submission of the grant application? 3/9/2016
Additional dates: 03/22/2016
- *4) Did you gather public input from individuals with disabilities, their families, or advocates? No Yes
- *5) Are you the primary provider of recreation services to any surrounding communities, as documented in your recreation plan? No Yes
List Communities:
- *6) Was the application developed through collaboration with adjacent communities or school districts? No Yes

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Section F: Site Conditions

NO YES UNKNOWN

- *1) Does the applicant, landowner, or others have knowledge that any portion of the property is or has been used for industrial purposes, including manufacturing and/or minerals' processing or extraction (sand, gravel, oil, or gas) at this time or in the past?
- *2) Does the applicant, landowner, or others have knowledge that any portion of the property is currently being used or has been used in the past for a gas station, motor vehicle service or repair facility, commercial printing facility, dry cleaners, photo developing lab, junkyard, landfill, waste treatment, storage, processing or recycling or disposal facility?
- *3) Does the applicant, landowner, or others have knowledge that any of the following are or have in the past been stored, discarded, or used on the property – automotive or industrial batteries, pesticides or other chemicals used in agricultural practices, paints, industrial waste, or other chemicals in drums or other containers?
- *4) Does the applicant, landowner, or others have knowledge that fill dirt or other fill material of unknown origin is on this property or has in the past been placed on the property?
- *5) Does the applicant, landowner, or others have knowledge of any evidence of leaks, spills, or stains from a substance other than water at this time or in the past?
- *6) Does the applicant, landowner, or others have knowledge that there are or have in the past been waste disposal pits, lagoons, or ponds on the property?
- *7) Does the applicant, landowner, or others have knowledge that there are at this time or have in the past been registered or unregistered storage tanks on the property?
- *8) Does the applicant, landowner, or others have knowledge that contaminated groundwater lies below the property?
- *9) If there is a water well on the property, does the applicant, landowner, or others have knowledge that contaminants have been identified in the well that exceeded legal standards or has the well been identified as contaminated by a government agency?

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Section F: Site Conditions

- *10) Has the landowner been notified about any current violations of environmental laws pertaining to activities on the property or does applicant, landowner, or others have knowledge about past violations? ✓
- *11) Has the landowner been notified of any environmental assessments of the property that identified a) the presence of hazardous substances, petroleum products, or contamination; or b) the need for further assessment? ✓
- *12) Does the applicant, landowner, or others have knowledge that any hazardous substances, unidentified waste materials, tires, or automotive or industrial batteries have been dumped above ground, buried, or burned on the property? ✓
- *13) Is the property listed on any federal or state list of contaminated sites, including the site of a leaking underground storage tank? ✓
- *14) Does the applicant, landowner, or others have knowledge that any of the adjoining properties are currently being used or have been used in the past for the purposes listed in the previous questions 1-13? ✓
- *15) Has an environmental assessment been completed for the site?
If yes, provide the most current on the Required Attachments page. NO
- *16) Are permits required for the development of the site?
If yes, please complete the following table: YES

NO YES UNKNOWN

EFFORTS TAKEN TO OBTAIN PERMIT OR DETERMINING PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

TYPE OF PERMIT	PERMITTING AGENCY	EFFORTS TAKEN TO OBTAIN PERMIT OR DETERMINING PERMIT REQUIREMENTS
Wetland 303 Permit Fill App.	Michigan Dept. of Environmental Quality	Application to be Submitted in Summer 2016

If 'Yes' or 'Unknown' was selected for any of the questions on this page, please explain here:
Regarding Wetland 303 Permit Application: This permit would be submitted by current owner, Divine Home Associates, for the displacement of underground water flow through breaking and removal of drain tiles, thereby creating surface ponding and artesian above-ground flow of water for

Section F: Site Conditions

mitigation bank basins A and B that are proposed for wetland mitigation banking on parcel 10-25-200-001. The construction of these wetland mitigation basins is projected to be completed by Spring 2017.

Technical information in the Preliminary Mitigation Bank Submittal to MDEQ will remain the same although the Wetland Mitigation Basin Concept Plan has been revised from three to two basins which now total 27.2 acres. This information is attached as well as the MDEQ Model Wetland Bank Agreement and Belle River Watershed Wetland Mitigation Package example.

Section G: Natural Features of The Project Site

To the best of your knowledge, does the project site include:

***Great Lakes shoreline or Great Lakes connecting water frontage?** No Yes

If yes, name of Great Lake or Great Lakes connecting water:

How many linear feet of shoreline or frontage?

***Inland lake frontage?** No Yes

If yes, name of water body:

What is the size of the total water body in acres?

How many linear feet of frontage are on site?

***River and/or tributary frontage?** No Yes

If yes, name of water body:

How many linear feet of frontage?

Is the river or tributary a state natural river or a federally dedicated wild and scenic river? No Yes

***Wetland acreage or frontage?** No Yes

If yes, please list the number of acres of the type(s) of wetland(s) on site:

Marsh	37	Bog		Dune and swale complex	
Prairie		Forest	9	Boreal Forest	
Fen		Shrub	5	Type unknown	27

Is documentation of type and quality with application? No Yes

If yes, source of information: J&L Consulting, Brooks Williamson

***Other water acreage or frontage?** No Yes

If yes, name of other water body:

Is the entire water body completely within the site boundaries? No Yes

How many linear feet of frontage or acres of water are on site?

***Sand dunes?** No Yes

If yes, list the number of acres of sand dunes on the site:

Critical Not designed as critical, or designation unknown

Is documentation of type and quality provided with application? No Yes

If yes, source of information:

***Dedicated state or federal listed wilderness or dedicated natural area or** No Yes

Pigeon River County State Forest land or inholding?

If yes, name of area:

How many acres on site?

Section G: Natural Features of The Project Site

*Rare species or any other significant feature as defined by the Michigan
Natural Features Inventory?

No Yes

If yes, list species or feature and status.

if too many to list here, include in the application narrative.

Population/range locations denoted on site plan or other map?

No Yes

Section H: Wildlife Values of The Project Site

Will the proposed park or park development:

* **Protect wildlife habitat** (for example, breeding grounds, winter deeryards, den sites)?

No Yes

If yes, list species:

See Attached Lists of Species

How many acres of habitat does the site provide?

209

* **Act as a wildlife corridor between existing protected areas or buffer an existing protected area?**

No Yes

If yes, name the existing park(s) or protected area(s):

Stony Creek Metropark, Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park

How many acres are currently in protected status?

4521

Is documentation of the ecological value of adjacent protected areas and/or the ability of the project site to act as a corridor/buffer provided with application?

No Yes

If yes, source of information:

Weatherbee's Botanical Surveys, MNFI Survey of Stony Creek Metropark

Section I: Natural Resource Recreation Opportunities

Will the proposed park or park development provide new or additional:

- *Water recreation opportunities? ✓ No Yes
- *Motorized recreation opportunities (ORV and/or Snowmobile)? ✓ No Yes
- *Hunting Opportunities? No ✓ Yes
 If yes, what seasons will be available? (for example, deer/firearm) Deer/Archery
 How many acres will be available for hunting? 100
- *Fishing opportunities? ✓ No Yes
 If yes, what type of fishing opportunities will be provided? (species/methods)
- *Bird watching or other nature viewing opportunities? No ✓ Yes
 If yes, what species can be viewed? See attached
Audubon Checklists
- *Nature interpretation or education opportunities? No ✓ Yes
 If yes, how are the interpretation or education opportunities provided? (check all that apply)
 - ✓ Interpretive signage ✓ Part time or volunteer naturalist
 - ✓ Interpretive brochures Full time naturalist
 - Nature center
- Have you formed a partnership with another organization to provide No ✓ Yes
 interpretive/educational services?
 If yes, name of organization Dinosaur Hill Nature
Preserve

Provided examples of interpretive materials, descriptions of classes, and other documentation on the interpretive/educational services provided with application:

Please find attached several pages from the Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Newsletter that include nature programs which we currently offer for children, families, and adults at a variety of Oakland Township parks. There are also pages of Natural Areas Stewardship programs and volunteer workday opportunities which include weekly bird walks. Proposed program ideas for the project area are also included to interpret the site's glacial history and wildlife including owls, turkeys and coyotes.

On the attached Preliminary Site Development Plan we are proposing the addition of three interpretive signs to describe wetland and habitat restoration areas as well as other interesting features such as a specimen oak tree.

Section J: Public Access Opportunities

* Will the site be open to the general public? No Yes

List the hours open to the public:

	From	To	Closed
Sunday	Sunrise	Sunset	
Monday	Sunrise	Sunset	
Tuesday	Sunrise	Sunset	
Wednesday	Sunrise	Sunset	
Thursday	Sunrise	Sunset	
Friday	Sunrise	Sunset	
Saturday	Sunrise	Sunset	
Holidays	Sunrise	Sunset	

Comment:

How will the public reasonably be able to access this site?

- Automobile
- Boat
- Public Transportation
- Motorized Trail
- Non-Motorized Trail including Mountain Bike and Hiking Trails
- Sidewalk or Pathway
- Other (describe)

Section K: Trails

* Is the proposed site a trail?

No Yes

Who is the primary intended user? (Check one)

- Hikers/Pedestrians
- Road Bicyclists
- Equestrians
- Mountain Bicyclists
- Cross-Country Skiers
- Snowmobilers
- Other motorized vehicle users
- Other, explain:

Who are the secondary users?

- Hikers/Pedestrians
- Road Bicyclists
- Equestrians
- Mountain Bicyclists
- Cross-Country Skiers
- Snowmobilers
- Other motorized vehicle users
- Other, explain:

Is the trail connected to another trail(s) or part of a larger trail network?

No Yes

If yes, what is the name of the network?

Oakland Township, Stony Creek Metropark

How long is the trail?

- 10560 Total linear feet
- Linear feet bituminous (paved)
- Linear feet boardwalk (if applicable)
- Linear feet sidewalk
- 10560 Linear feet other hard surface

What is the width of the trail?

- 4 Linear feet

* Is this proposed project part of the Iron Belle Trail (Governor's Showcase Trail)?

Yes No

Application Narrative

*I. Project Justification and Support:

1. Need for the Project

a. Need as Documented in the Community Recreation Plan

This proposed acquisition addresses three strategic land acquisition recommendations: protection of sensitive habitats, protecting natural areas adjacent to existing parks and acquiring land for trails. The first Strategic Land Acquisition recommendation is (p. 87): "purchase additional property next to Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park (SCRNP) along Snell Road". The 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan includes funding for this land acquisition project in 2016 (p.89). Strategic Facilities and Natural Areas Stewardship recommendations that support this project include "Continue to focus on connectivity of external and internal trails to connect facilities, restoration of natural areas, and farm field re-vegetation efforts (removing drain tile to restore hydrology and convert to native plant community)".

b. Need for the Project in Relationship to Existing Facilities

The attached maps for the Oakland Township Natural Areas Survey, MNFI Natural Areas, and Oakland County's Green Infrastructure indicate that the 209 acres is a high priority for natural area preservation. The majority of the Stony Creek, one of the highest quality tributaries of the Clinton River, flows through privately owned lands and this project offers a unique opportunity to protect highly valued habitats both on this parcel as well as downstream. See the attached Stony Creek Critical Area map, which shows that the protection of the project site is critical to prevent further degradation of the Stony Creek.

The SCRNP Expansion will improve this park's accessibility and visibility by adding 2000 linear feet of frontage on Snell Road, a major east-west collector road, as well as area for the appropriate siting of a park entry road, parking lot, and trail head.

This project's proposed north-south-oriented trail will complete the majority of a trail connection between Stony Creek Metropark trails and proposed safety paths along Snell and Gunn Roads, as shown on the attached Oakland County Trail Network and Oakland Township Pathways maps. This new trail connection would meet local and regional needs by providing a northerly trail connection across Oakland Township as well as between three regional recreation facilities: the Paint Creek Trail, Stony Creek Metropark and the Macomb Orchard Trail.

2. Collaboration on Proposed Park Operations

OTPRC currently contracts with Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve (DHNP) to provide nature programming and lead field trips at OT parks for all second and third grade students of Rochester Community Schools. As shown in the attached letter of intent, DHNP, a non-profit organization, is in the process of drafting a partnership agreement with OTPRC. It is our expectation that DHNP will be responsible for the operation and management of all OTPRC environmental education facilities and programming in the future, including the SCRNP Expansion.

*II. Project Description:

This grant application is by the Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Commission for the 209-acre

Application Narrative

expansion of Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park (SCRNP), in Section 25, located east of Sheldon Road and north of Snell Road. The property is vacant and contains no existing structures or improvements.

The SCRNP Expansion offers resource restoration, protection and recreation opportunities within its additional 209 acres as well as through its connections to other natural habitats and recreation areas. See the Preliminary Site Development Plan. The project area will service the second most densely populated area of Oakland Township (Map 3, 2015 - 2019 Master Plan) and is within walking distance of Stony Creek Metropark, which serves over 1,500,000 visitors annually, Knob Creek Subdivision to the northwest and an adjacent subdivision in Macomb County. One public and two private schools are also located within one mile of the site.

The project site's additional half-mile of Snell Road frontage, where the park's entrance will be located, increases this park's visibility. In the proposed 2016 OTPR signage master plan a way-finding sign will be proposed along Rochester Road, a state trunk line, at the intersection with Snell Road to guide people to the new entrance.

Proposed recreation facilities (including a park entry road, 30-space parking lot, trail head, play structure, and potential active recreation area) are to be located in open farm fields in the southwest section of the project site, keeping a minimum 400' buffer between them and adjacent residential land uses. An existing 24' tall hill in the middle of the site could provide winter sledding opportunities. The proposed 2.32-mile multi-use trail system (hiking, bicycling, horseback riding) will connect internally to the existing .54 miles of park trails that overlook Stony Creek and will provide a nature trail loop that will parallel the edge of wooded and wetland areas, providing viewing and interpretation opportunities. The SCRNP Expansion trail could provide a hiking/biking connection to Stony Creek Metropark, just north of the West Branch Picnic area. Trail users would be able to connect to the existing 14-mile Metropark trail system which weaves through unique and diverse ecosystems or continue on to the 8.30-mile paved hike/bike trail which circles around the park and connects to the Macomb Orchard Trail on the southeast side.

Two proposed wetland restoration basins will be constructed; restoring 27.2 acres of poorly drained farm fields to a combination of marsh, forested and shrub wetlands. The existing wetlands and high quality forests, totaling 50 acres, will be protected and stewarded. Any remaining farm fields would be converted to native vegetation in phases. If this park land acquisition is completed in 2017, OTPRC intends to apply for supplemental funding in 2019 to construct the proposed access and recreation improvements in 2021.

***III. Natural Resource Access and Protection:
Natural Features & Recreation Opportunities**

This property contains a MNFI Priority 2 Natural Area; recommended for protection as Critical Area #3 by Paul Thompson, Cranbrook Institute of Science, in attached excerpts from his Township Ecological Survey. In 2015, OTPR staff inventoried the site's natural communities, plants and wildlife, arriving at an FQI of 50.6, indicating that it is a "significant component of Michigan's native biodiversity." See attached Ecological Assessment, Site Photos, and Natural Communities Map for SCRNP East Addition.

This project will also protect two groups of highly valued wetlands:

1. 13 existing wetlands totaling 50 acres; three of which range from 6 to 20 acres in size. The attached J& L Consulting report emphasizes their hydrological and wildlife values.

Application Narrative

2. Two proposed wetland areas, 17.4 and 9.8 acres respectively, will be restored from poorly drained farm fields. These marsh, forest and shrub wetlands will offer new wildlife observation opportunities and new habitat for birds, reptiles, and amphibians; similar to the attached Belle River Watershed Wetland Mitigation Bank goals.

This project's additional 2+ miles of trails will provide new views of woods and wetlands including restored wetland areas.

This park expansion will increase deer hunting opportunities beyond what has been offered at SCRNP during the past seven years. See attached 2014 SCRNP controlled hunt procedures and the 2015 SCRNP aerial deer survey.

Natural Area Buffers & Wildlife Corridors

This project is a key link in the attached Oakland County Green Infrastructure Map that identifies it as a "Site" and as a "Link" which facilitates movement between a "Site" and a "Hub" (larger site): Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park (SCRNP) and Stony Creek Metropark.

This project will buffer and completely connect to SCRNP natural areas: 2000 linear feet of Stony Creek's West Branch, wetlands, oak woods, and grassland remnants. The attached August 2005 SCRNP Ecological Assessment classifies SCRNP as "an important natural resource at a state-wide level" that contains a state threatened plant species. 36 acres of SCRNP are also protected by a Six Rivers Land Conservancy (SRLC) conservation easement.

SCRNP Expansion will also buffer the ecosystems in Stony Creek Metropark's Sheldon property by protecting the water source for exemplary natural communities including a wet-mesic forest, mesic and wet-mesic prairie, and a tamarack fen, as noted in the attached MNFI survey.

Site Management

OTPRC will use funding from the Township's Land Preservation and Parks millages; 10-year and approximately .75-mill taxes, to manage the SCRNP Expansion to support ecological values, public access, and recreation. See attached proposed maintenance plan and list of OTPRC SCRNP management accomplishments. OTPRC will manage this additional property in coordination with the attached existing SCRNP and SRLC easement management plans.

*IV. Other Information:

Public Support

The Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park Expansion is wholeheartedly supported in letters by the following agencies and individuals who affirmed its wider recreation, conservation and education benefits: Michigan Natural Features Inventory, Oakland County Trails, Water and Lands Alliance; Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority, Six Rivers Land Conservancy, Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve, Oakland Township Safety Paths and Trails Committee, Trout Unlimited Vanguard Chapter, and Clinton River Area Mountain Bike Association.

Application Narrative

Wetland Restoration and Conservation Easement

The current property owner has submitted a wetland banking pre-proposal indicating the intention to provide a conservation easement to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) on restored wetlands at this project site. Oakland Township Parks and Recreation is proposing to acquire the remaining property rights after the conservation easement is executed.

The MDEQ would verify that Michigan wetland restoration performance and maintenance standards are met by the wetland bank sponsor; Divine Home Associates (an LLC under the MJC Companies). Please see the attached Letter to the MDEQ which indicates this intent as well as the model MDEQ Wetland Mitigation Banking Agreement (including conservation easement) which outlines the wetland bank sponsor's responsibilities to own, establish, operate, maintain and provide for protection of the wetland bank. Oakland Township Parks and Recreation would maintain natural areas and facilities on the remaining 181.80 acres.

Additional Information

Provide the information listed below, as applicable, and any other information you believe will give us a more complete understanding of your proposed project and assist us in evaluating your application.

- 1) Explain the circumstances under which you closed, sold, or transferred control of any parkland or recreation facilities within your park system.
- 2) List any parks within your system for which you have a "residents only" policy.
- 3) Discuss any health advisories for the water bodies accessed by your project. Describe how these advisories will affect the use of the site and your proposed facilities.

Crime Prevention Measures

Park safety and crime prevention starts with the appropriate design, location, and management. The main entrance to this park will be from Snell Road, a collector road which supports natural and scheduled surveillance of the park by deputies from the Oakland County Sheriff's Department, which is Oakland Township's law enforcement organization. The proposed parking lot will be visible from the Snell Road park entry and will provide access to all looped trails. Park rules and regulations, including hours of operation (dusk to dawn), will be posted at the park entrance.

The proposed internal trails and connections to other trail systems will be very popular with pedestrians and bicyclists. The combination of this site's location suitability, preventative design and demand for the proposed recreation facilities will create a popular and safe environment.

Programming and Marketing

When Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park Expansion is opened to the public there will be an opening celebration including a ribbon-cutting that will be widely advertised in the media across the region. Moreover, each of the collaborating organizations cited will also be publicizing the availability of programs at this new facility to their respective target audiences through their websites and newsletters. Afterwards, this park's new programming will be specifically promoted in quarterly Oakland Township municipal newsletters; the quarterly Township parks and recreation newsletters; the parks and recreation pages of the Township website; Oakland Township's public access cable TV channel; and at special events including our fall festival, winter carnival, and summer concerts.

Formal Recreation Department

Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Department's 10 employees report to a 7-member elected Parks and Recreation Commission. Both the Commission and Department are described on pages 18 and 19 of the 2015 - 2109 5-year Master Plan.