

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF SUPERIOR
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
SUPERIOR CHARTER TOWNSHIP HALL
3040 N. PROSPECT, SUPERIOR TOWNSHIP, MI 48198
March 31, 2023
12:00 p.m.
AGENDA**

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
4. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION
 - a. Letters of support for Grant Proposal
5. NEW BUSINESS
 - a. Resolution 2023-21, Resolution Authorizing Submission of a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) Grant Application

The grant proposal to acquire 162 acres which lie in-between the Cherry Hill Nature Preserve and the Township's Rock Superior properties in furtherance of the Township's Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan (2023-2027), adopted January 17, 2023

6. ADJOURNMENT

Lynette Findley, Clerk, Superior Township, 3040 N. Prospect, Superior Township, MI 48198
Telephone: 734-482-6099; Email:lynettefindley@superior-twp.org

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF SUPERIOR
WASHTENAW COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF A MICHIGAN NATURAL
RESOURCES TRUST FUND (MNRTF) GRANT APPLICATION**

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2023-21

DATE: MARCH 31, 2023

WHEREAS, the preservation of open spaces in Superior Township enjoys wide public support and is critical to the survival of sensitive ecosystems in the Township; and,

WHEREAS, the Superior Greenway is a regionally significant land conservation effort which is supported by the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission, the City of Ann Arbor's Greenbelt Program, the Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy, the Charter Township of Superior and many other groups and individuals; and,

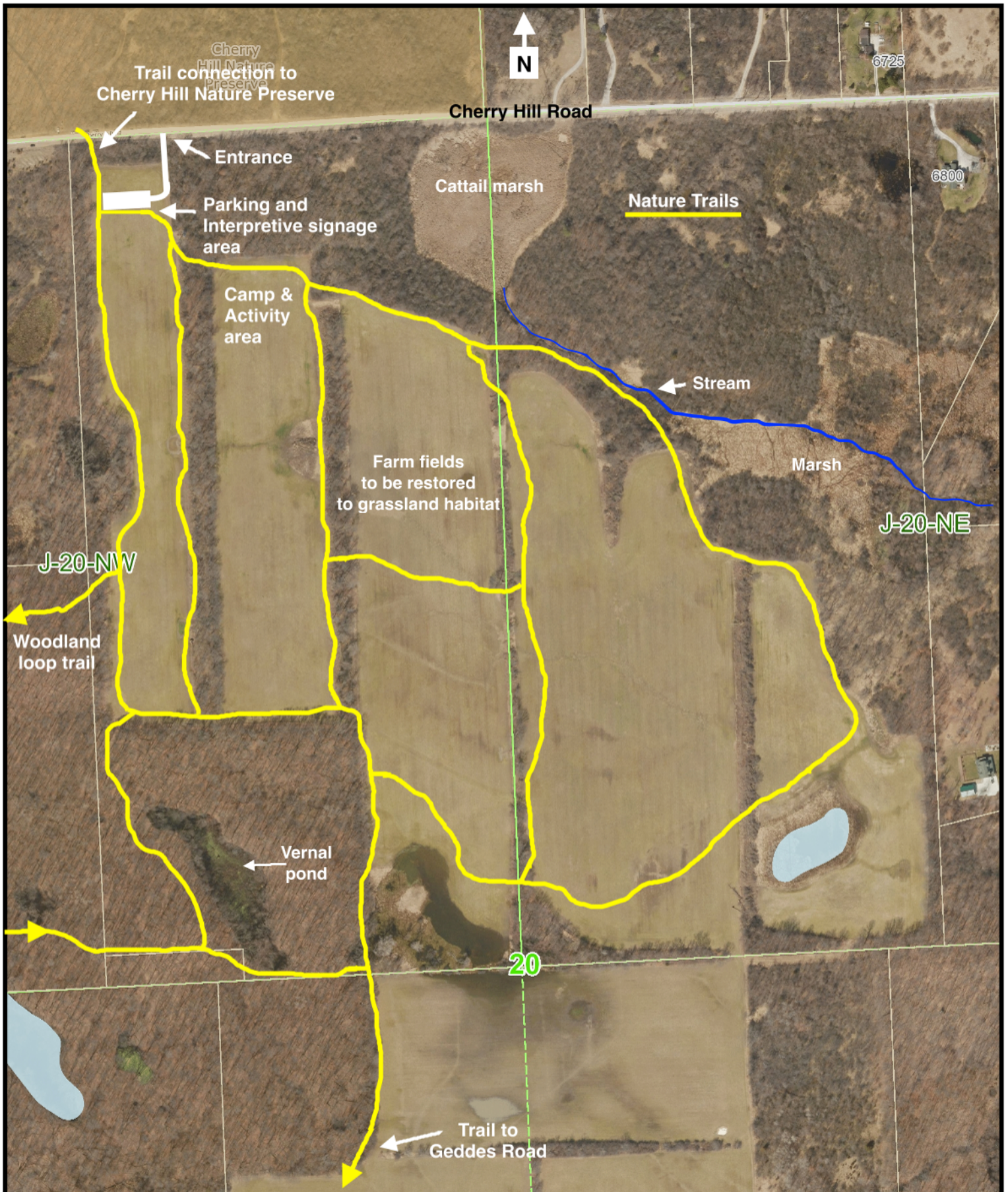
WHEREAS, the grant application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, titled Superior Greenway Nature Preserve Acquisition, if awarded, would enable the purchase of 162 acres which will protect important woodland, wetland and grassland habitats and connect the Cherry Hill Nature Preserve with the Township's Rock Superior properties, consolidating 659 acres of natural habitat and open space; and,

WHEREAS, this key acquisition would provide significant public recreation and wildlife viewing opportunities and provide habitat for numerous species of wildlife, many of which are rare or endangered including Short-eared Owl, Blanding's Turtle, and Massasauga Rattlesnake; and,

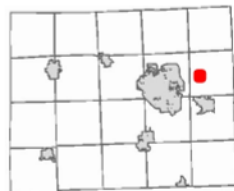
WHEREAS, the proposed application is supported by Superior Township's Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan (2023-2027) and would allow for the creation of a public hiking trail from the Cherry Hill Nature Preserve to Geddes Road, as proposed in the Township's Non-motorized Pathway Plan; and,

WHEREAS, the Michigan Land Conservancy has agreed to donate the local match requirement by donating 33% of the land's value, which will exceed the 25% local match requirement.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Charter Township of Superior hereby authorizes submission of a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant Application for \$1,020,000.00 and further resolves to accept the Michigan Land Conservancy's land value donation of \$520,000.00 as the local match, which represents 33% of the total project cost of \$1,540,000.00.



Conceptual Site Plan



1: 4,800

3/7/2023

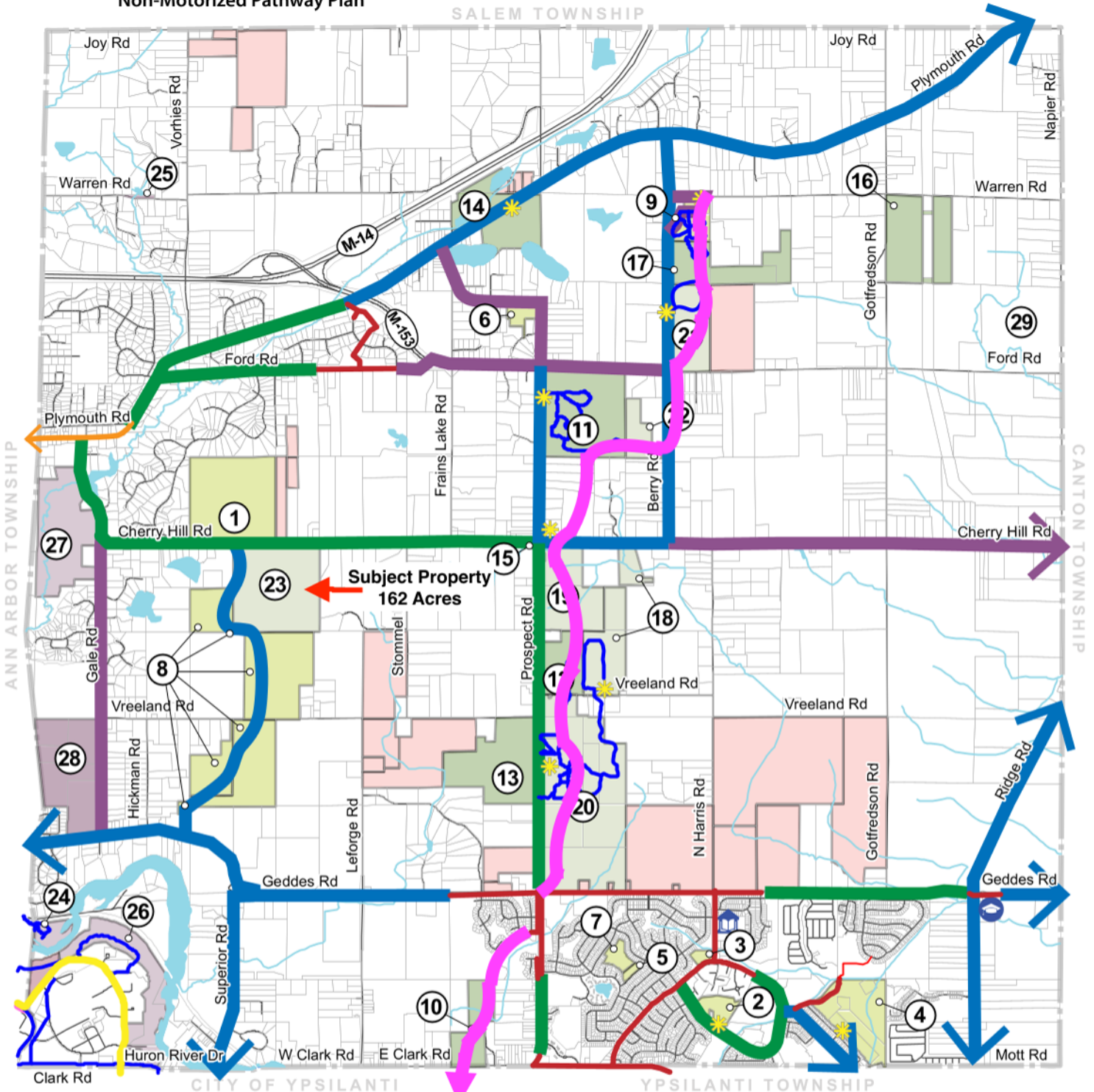


NOTE: Parcels may not be to scale.

The information contained in this cadastral map is used to locate, identify and inventory parcels of land in Washtenaw County for appraisal and taxing purposes only and is not to be construed as a "survey description". The information is provided with the understanding that the conclusions drawn from such information are solely the responsibility of the user. Any assumption of legal status of this data is hereby disclaimed.

THIS MAP REPRESENTS PARCELS AT THE TIME OF PRINTING. THE OFFICIAL PARCEL TAX MAPS ARE MAINTAINED SOLELY BY THE WASHTENAW COUNTY EQUALIZATION DEPARTMENT AND CAN BE OBTAINED BY CONTACTING THAT OFFICE AT 734-222-6662.

Non-Motorized Pathway Plan



- Existing Superior Township Trails
- Planned Superior Township Trails (construction estimated 2023-24)
- Border-to-Border Trail
- Other Trails
- Proposed Route - Priority 1
- Proposed Route - Priority 2
- Proposed Route - Priority 3
- Superior Greenway Nature Trail
- * Public Recreation Parking

- SUPERIOR TOWNSHIP**
1. Cherry Hill Nature Preserve
 2. Community Park
 3. Fireman's Park
 4. Harvest Moon Park
 5. Norfolk Park
 6. North Prospect Park
 7. Oakbrook Park
 8. Rock Superior Properties
 9. Schroeter Park

- SE MICHIGAN LAND CONSERVANCY**
18. Conservancy Farm
 19. Jack R. Smiley Nature Preserve
 20. LeFurge Woods Nature Preserve
 21. Secret Preserve
 22. Springhill Nature Preserve
 23. Unnamed Preserve

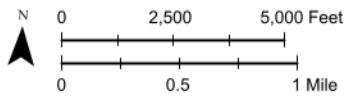
- WASHTENAW COUNTY**
10. Highland Preserve
 11. Kosch Headwaters Preserve
 12. Meyer Preserve East
 13. Meyer Preserve West
 14. Staebler Farm
 15. Superior Center County Park
 16. Lost Wagon Lake Preserve
 17. Weatherbee Woods Preserve

- OTHER OPEN SPACE**
24. Forest Nature Area
 25. Wing Nature Preserve
 26. St. Joe's Nature Area
 27. Matthaei Botanical Gardens
 28. Radrick Farms Golf Course
 29. Hickory Creek Golf Course

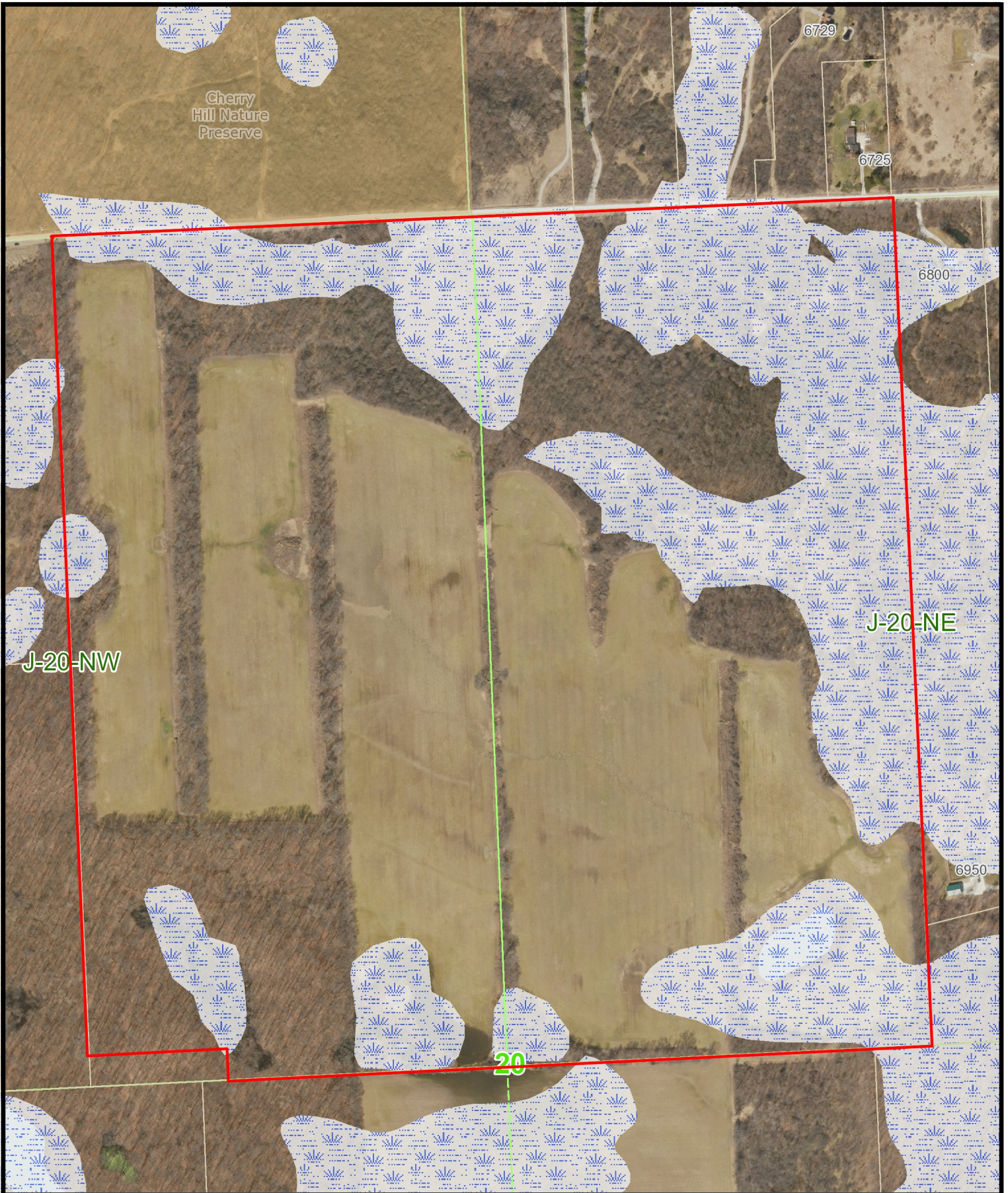
NON-MOTORIZED PATHWAY PLAN

Superior Township
Washtenaw County

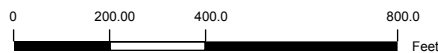
Source: Washtenaw County GIS



April, 2022
Carlisle/Wortman Associates, Inc.
Ann Arbor, Michigan



Wetlands Map



1: 4,800

12/27/2021



NOTE: Parcels may not be to scale.

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From: C Hilger <c.hilger@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2023 9:36 AM
To: Lynette Findley <lynettefindley@superior-twp.org>
Subject: TF23-0058 Superior Greenway Nature Preserve Acquisition
Importance: High

You don't often get email from c.hilger@comcast.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

Superior Township Board of Trustees
3040 N. Prospect Road
Superior Township, MI 48198

I'm writing to express my support for the proposed grant application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, "*Superior Greenway Nature Preserve Acquisition*".

This acquisition not only supports the township's Master Plan, it also provides for the well-being and health of its residents. Numerous studies have shown that people who live in, or have access to, green spaces are healthier, physically and mentally. The acquisition also protects the area's biodiversity and provides recreational opportunities.

Having lived in the township for 30 years, I'm especially proud of the preservation efforts that makes Superior Township a truly special place.

Sincerely,

Cynthia A Hilger
3748 Creekside Ct
Superior Township, MI 48105

From: Dan Ezekiel <dan.ezekiel24@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 26, 2023 2:33 PM
To: Lynette Findley <lynettefindley@superior-twp.org>
Subject: Cherry Hill Rd. property

You don't often get email from dan.ezekiel24@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Ms. Findley,

I am writing in support of the Natural Resources Trust Fund application to preserve the Cherry Hill Rd. property (162 acres). While I serve on the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission, I am writing as a private citizen, a birder, and a lover of nature.

One evening recently, I had the opportunity to witness throngs of Spotted Salamanders engaging in mating behavior in a vernal pond on the property. I'm aware it also holds an active Bald Eagle nest. This property will help make the Vreeland corridor even more vital of a refuge for wildlife and wildlife lovers, help further the township's non-motorized trail plans and master land use plans. Additionally, this excellent addition to protected space can be done at no cost to the township and it will leverage donation of the land from the conservancy.

Dan Ezekiel

23 March 2023

Superior Township Board of Trustees
Superior Township Hall
3040 N. Prospect Road
Superior Township MI 48198

I am voicing my support for the grant application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund to help fund the acquisition of the 162 acres between the Cherry Hill Nature Preserve and the Rock Superior property.

I have enjoyed hiking many of the preserves in Superior Township such as JR Smiley and LeFurge Woods and this is a great opportunity to connect existing preserves and provide hiking trails from Geddes to Cherry Hill.

Protecting contiguous lands whenever possible is very important in maintaining healthy ecosystems and maximizing our chance to mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Thank you for your consideration,

Don DeMallie
19627 Willshire Blvd
Beverly Hills, MI

Superior Township Board of Trustees
3040 N. Prospect Road
Superior Township, MI 48198

Re: TF23-0058 Superior Greenway Nature Preserve Acquisition

Dear Board of Trustees,

I am writing in strong support of the proposed grant application to MNRTF, titled "Superior Greenway Nature Preserve Acquisition". By supporting this grant application, the Township will be able to continue its important past work of preserving green space in the Township. But this grant application is about much more than protecting green space. It will create a corridor linking two protected areas, thus benefiting both native animal and plant populations. And just as important, this proposal will also create opportunities for hiking trails and a camp. Thus, the true strength of this proposal is its unique and important combination of preserving habitat for wildlife, but also improving the lives of everyone who lives in Superior Township.

Sincerely,
Dr. Catherine Bach
Professor Emeritus of Ecology, EMU Department of Biology



March 29, 2023

Superior Township Board of Trustees
3040 N. Prospect Road
Ypsilanti, MI 48198

Dear Trustees:

Re: TF23-0058, Superior Greenway Nature Preserve Acquisition

The Huron River Watershed Council supports Superior Township's proposed grant application to purchase 162 acres which lie between the Cherry Hill Nature Preserve and 302 acres recently acquired by the Township. This is an opportunity for the Township to directly protect a portion of the headwaters of the Huron River.

The project will protect approximately 1,700 feet of Huron tributary stream corridor and over 50 acres of wetlands, including riparian and forested wetlands. HRWC recognizes the importance of protecting riparian areas and wetlands throughout the watershed and especially in headwater areas.

Sincerely,

Kris Olsson
Watershed Ecologist



From: john copley <jalmoncopley@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 26, 2023 5:45 PM
To: Lynette Findley <lynettefindley@superior-twp.org>
Subject: 162 acre acquisition

You don't often get email from jalmoncopley@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To Whom it may Concern,

I am writing to voice my strong support of the Township's grant application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for the purpose of acquiring the 162 acres adjacent to the Township's recent purchase of the Rock property. When added to the Cherry Hill Nature Preserve, the 162 acres will join the two, and provide more than 600 contiguous acres of natural wildlife corridor on the west side of the Township. One of the things that makes Superior Township so attractive is that we have not succumbed to the lure of rampant development, prizing open rural vistas above shopping centers and fast food restaurants. Open land and viewscapes such as are found in our Township, are becoming rarer, and highly prized. I served on the Township's Planning Commission for 20 years, and during that time, became increasingly aware of the desire of most of our citizens to keep our Township predominantly rural. We are the stop gap between dense development from the East and West, providing a safe haven for animals and other wildlife, and a balm for people weary of cities and noise.

Sincerely Yours,
John A. Copley

John A. Covert
17711 Lathers St.
Livonia, MI 48152
7acjock@gmail.com
March 23, 2023

Dear Superior Township Board of Trustees,

I am writing to express my support for the grant proposition titled “Superior Greenway Nature Preserve Acquisition.”

I have always considered the Ypsilanti-Ann Arbor metropolitan area one of the most desirable places to live in the state of Michigan, unfortunately I don't reside in Superior Township, but you folks do and I am confident that you share my appraisal of your community. One of the many compelling aspects of this appraisal is the halo of farms, fields and forests that has always provided a buffer from the relentless development that is devouring Southeastern Michigan including the Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti area. Fortunately, the Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy evolved about thirty years ago and has been able to protect and restore a significant part of this halo. The Superior Greenway is a little slice of Eden, preserved forever, an oasis for families to learn about and enjoy the complex orchestra of plants and animals that sustain life on this planet.

I don't spend much time in your nature preserve but I take great pleasure in its existence, inspired by Jack Smiley, I have donated many times over the years to help it grow. By providing continuity among the parcels that comprise the Greenway, its natural resistance to disturbance by invasive organisms and natural calamities is enhanced as well as the quality of a visitor's experience. One hundred and sixty-two acres isn't much compared to property that has already been saved but it is located in a key location to tie the entire preserve together and to enhance opportunities for visitors enjoyment and education.

I hope that you share my appraisal of the Superior Greenway and its value to the present and future residents of your community. Please support the grant request.

Sincerely,

John A. Covert

March 24, 2023

Karl & Kay Williams
9105 Ann Arbor Road
Plymouth, Michigan
48170-5103

Superior Township Board of Trustees
3040 North Prospect Road
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198

Attn. Lynette Findley

With regard to the hearing scheduled March 31, 2023 concerning a proposed grant application to acquire 162 acres of undeveloped land in Superior Township.

Both my wife and I support the proposal.

It is difficult to predict the future but it is quite evident that development will force it's way into the township in the oncoming years. Perhaps we can slow down this process enough to retain for Superior Township some options regarding our future development, and in the process save for our residents and neighbors access to nature.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karl Williams". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "K".

Kyle James Schanta
2231 Faber Street
Hamtramck, MI. 48212

March 28, 2023

Superior Township Board of Trustees
3040 North Prospect
Superior Township, MI 48198

Dear Members of the Board of Trustees,

As an avid birder, amateur naturalist and all-around lover of nature, I write this letter in support of the grant proposal to acquire and protect the land outlined in the "Superior Greenway Nature Preserve Acquisition" in perpetuity. The network of Superior Township parks, farms and corridors have provided me and countless others with a diversity in flora, fauna and habitats, among many other wonders, that are very rare in Southeast Michigan in our current time. There are many reasons as to why this purchase is one of utmost importance.

The new land acquired would link the extensive Cherry Hill Nature Preserve with the new Rock Superior property. With land ownership and large tracts in general becoming harder to come by each day, this important link is priceless to the continuation of the goal of these park systems. With forest fragmentation being an unfortunate byproduct of our current culture, this opportunity would provide wildlife a safer, more extensive corridor to go about their natural processes. Birdwatching your interpretive properties and preserves can be world-class, especially during migration. This link would protect and provide important habitat for migrating and nesting birds, especially grassland birds, which is imperative to their ongoing conservation.

It would also provide new recreation opportunities for the residents and visitors of Washtenaw County, creating a much needed connection from Cherry Hill Nature Preserve to Geddes Road. This trail would be a four season recreation destination, but still large and quiet enough to find your own peace, which is an underlying theme to your properties.

The vernal ponds, wetlands, forests and prairies within the 162-acres hold an exceedingly rarer biology that simply doesn't exist everywhere anymore. The countless mammals, amphibians, birds, insects, plants and everything in between needs their place too, and though their voice is muted to some, the Board of Trustees can hear it. This purchase would provide a literal once in a lifetime opportunity, because we all know how quick the big machinery and chainsaws can come in. This tract of land needs to be connected with your bordering properties, for the wildlife and for the people too. Thank you for considering a grant proposal. It has the support of many, many people, myself included.

Sincerely,
Kyle James Schanta

March 27, 2023

Dear Superior Township Board of Trustees,

I write in support of the grant application "Superior Greenway Nature Preserve Acquisition." As a citizen of Ann Arbor, a hiker, birder and person who relishes the outdoors, I have long valued the open spaces of our thriving natural areas. This includes those in Superior Township where I have led public nature tours.

Adding the proposed 162-acre parcel would not only protect the important forest, wetland and grassland habitat of numerous wildlife species, but it would also enhance the vision Superior Township has been instrumental in establishing. This includes:

- Implementing key elements of the Township's Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan;
- Connecting Cherry Hill Nature Preserve to the Rock Superior land, a significant wildlife corridor;
- Establishing a hiking trail that I look forward to exploring, from Cherry Hill Nature Preserve to Geddes Rd. This would complete a noteworthy portion of the Township's Non-Motorized Pathway Plan!
- Connecting with the larger trail network being established by the Township; and
- Providing a wonderful site for the Township's proposed youth camp.

This land acquisition is a win-win specifically for Superior Township and its citizens, but also the rest of us in Washtenaw County and beyond. First, there is no cost to the Township since the Michigan Land Conservancy has agreed to donate \$520,000 in land value, which exceeds the local match requirement.

In addition, the other "win" for the Township will be preserving an important part of its natural heritage which will be enjoyed by generations to come.

For the above reasons, I strongly urge you to support the proposed grant application.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lisa Lava-Kellar
707 Miner St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

From: MP <mperu777@proton.me>

Sent: Monday, March 27, 2023 12:14 PM

To: Lynette Findley <lynettefindley@superior-twp.org>

Subject: I support the Superior Greenway Nature Preserve Acquisition

You don't often get email from mperu777@proton.me. [Learn why this is important](#)

Superior Township Board of Trustees,

I'm a resident of Superior Township. I support the grant application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF), titled "Superior Greenway Nature Preserve Acquisition".

Our nature preserves are important to the quality of life in Superior Township. I'm out hiking in them every week. This acquisition will protect important wildlife habitats, which are sadly diminishing.

Please support this acquisition. Thank you.

Marin Perusek

March 30, 2023

Superior Township Board of Trustees
3040 N. Prospect Road
Superior Township, MI 48198

Re: TF23-0058 Superior Greenway Nature Preserve Acquisition

Dear Board of Trustees:

Matthaei Farm is a community of 62 single family homes occupying approximate 100 acres in Superior Township. Founded in 1988, residents are drawn here by the Township's long-term dedication to preserving forest, wetland, and grassland habitats, and the recreational opportunities they afford.

This acquisition will enhance the quality of life in the Township by expanding the existing network of trails and wildlife corridors within the Township and beyond. It also will help protect the many species of flora and fauna under pressure by development in nearby municipalities.

We, the Matthaei Farm Board of Directors, fully supports this acquisition.

Sincerely,

David Masch - President
Hedwig Murphy - Vice President
William Dahms - Treasurer
Bill Schikora - Secretary
Michael Marcovitz - Member at large

March 29, 2023

Dear Superior Township Board of Trustees,

I am writing this letter to express my strong support for the proposed grant proposal to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) to acquire the 162 acres of land between the Cherry Hill Nature Preserve and the Rock Superior properties. The purchase of this land would serve as a critical step in protecting the natural environment, connecting these two important properties and ensuring a natural corridor for the wildlife across the entire length of the properties.

The preservation of natural areas is of utmost importance as the people of today and future generations face the continued threat of overdevelopment and climate change and the acquisition of this land would provide a valuable opportunity to protect and preserve a critical ecosystem for the plants, mammals, birds, and amphibians living there while also creating a space for people to connect with and appreciate the natural world.

Furthermore, the proposed acquisition of the land using the MNRTF would further the Township's adopted Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan, while not placing any additional cost on the township. By connecting the two properties, it will enhance the quality and diversity of the local ecosystem, allowing for a greater range of species to thrive.

In conclusion, I strongly support this grant proposal and urge you to consider it carefully. The acquisition of this land will serve as an important investment in the future of the Superior Township community, and I believe it will make a lasting impact on the environment and the lives of those who call it home.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Segerson
2272 Keller Road
Holt, MI 48842

March 24, 2023

Superior Township Board of Trustees

Superior Township Hall
3040 N. Prospect Road
Superior Township MI 48198

IN REGARD TO THE "SUPERIOR GREENWAY NATURE PRESERVE ACQUISITION":

Hello,

I live with my family and two Boston Terrier dogs at Geddes and Prospect Road. My family and I specifically moved to this location to enjoy the quiet and slow life of Superior Township whilst being close to our jobs, families, and surrounding cities. We have lived here for three years and hope to spend the rest of our lives in this location. Since moving here, we discovered many of the gems that Superior Township has to offer, specifically, the energy it puts behind 'keeping our wildlife, wild'. We have made it a priority to frequent all the parks in this area and can often be found at Cherry Hill Nature Preserve or Kosch-Headwaters Preserves up to three times per week. Our dogs are very thankful that they are allowed to enjoy these beautiful pieces of land. You can tell the preserves are cherished by the community and public since they are always very well maintained; signs of dogs are non-existent through the public's vigilance in keeping the land clean. My husband and I enjoy connecting and running on the trail systems. We often find ourselves in the presence of deer, rodents, hawks, bald eagles and sandhill cranes. These aspects bring us much joy. We are passionate about keeping the wildlife around as they were here before us. Acquiring the 162 acres between Cherry Hill Nature Preserve and the Rock Superior properties will be vital to keeping a natural corridor for the wildlife. It will also protect forest, wetland, and grassland habitats. This proposal and acquisition will create likeminded individuals to move to this area and strengthen our voice to protect this area we are lucky to call home.

Sincerely,

Olivia de bear

*Pamela W. Larson
38525 Sycamore Place
Westland, Michigan 48185-7603*

March 26, 2023

Superior Township Board of Trustees
3040 N. Prospect Road
Superior Township, MI 48198

Re: TF23-0058 Superior Greenway Nature Preserve Acquisition

Dear Trustees:

This letter is in support of the grant proposal for the above-referenced nature preserve acquisition.

Protecting contiguous parcels of land, especially in an area that is already focused successfully on creating wildlife corridors, is critical and every opportunity for protection should be taken when and where possible.

This 162-acre property will offer opportunities for youth (as in the proposed youth camp) and for all who enjoy hiking public trails as well as for providing wildlife habitat. The range of benefits is broad and the value to Superior Township and improvement of its quality of life will be invaluable. A win-win all around.

Please support this grant proposal for acquisition.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Pamela Larson

From: William Secrest <willysecrest@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 26, 2023 2:27 PM
To: Lynette Findley <lynettefindley@superior-twp.org>
Subject: Trust Fund Grant

Howdy Lynette ... Wish I could attend the special meeting on the 31st, but I'm half way round the world in Croatia. I'm strongly in support of our applying for the Trust Fund Grant. I'm one of us who put up the loan cash to purchase this most significant acreage which provides a contiguous preserve from Ford Road down to Geddes. This "Superior Greenway" is providing a model for other Localities and the world at large. If we are to continue as a viable, life-friendly, planet, we MUST preserve natural areas that our plants and animals require for survival. We are in the midst of the world's 6th mass extinction event. This one is owing to our annihilation of nature. If it keeps getting sold off for "development", the kids will have a very sorry world to live in.

As you know, I am a huge supporter of taking better care of our residents south of Geddes, and funding the proposed new Community Center. We must strive for justice, long overlooked. We must also provide remedial care for our severely damaged natural world.

Looking forward to getting back to our beautiful Superior Township and continuing to work closely with you to help steer the ship. Let's do lunch again to stay in close touch.

Peace and Happy Springtime...

~ Willy ~