

BirdSong Nature Preserve and Superior Township Community Farm

The property once commonly referred to as the “Rock” property—purchased by the Township from Rock Superior LLC—now has a new name and identity. At its June 23rd meeting, the Parks & Recreation Commission officially designated the 160.5-acre site north of Vreeland Road (west of LeForge Road) as BirdSong Nature Preserve. Also included will be the 162 acres to be acquired from the Michigan Land Conservancy later this year.

Plans for the preserve include construction of a parking area, installation of informational kiosks, a scenic observation platform, butterfly gardens, and a trail connecting to the Cherry Hill Nature Preserve. Thanks to a generous grant from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, funding for these initial improvements is already in place. Additionally, 11 acres of farmland at the preserve were recently planted with native grasses and wildflowers in partnership with Ducks Unlimited. A bluebird trail has been started, and Bluebirds have already taken up residence, raising four baby Bluebirds. Additional habitat restoration projects are also being planned.

The 141-acre portion of the property located south of Vreeland Road has been designated as the Superior Township Community Farm. Proposed improvements for this area include a barn, maintenance building, hoop houses, and community garden plots. While funding has not yet been secured for these features, the Parks & Recreation Commission will be seeking grants to cover the costs, with the goal of avoiding the use of Township tax dollars.

As soon as initial public access improvements are completed, the Commission plans to focus on programming—especially initiatives that engage children and families. A portion of the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation grant will support some of the youth programming efforts. It will be exciting to see how we can transform these unique properties into vibrant spaces where nature and community come together.