



HURON-CLINTON metroparks

Administrative Office | 13000 High Ridge Drive | Brighton, MI 48114-9058
1-800-477-2757 • www.metroparks.com

April 10, 2015

Grants Management Division
Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund
P.O. Box 30425
Lansing, MI 48909-7925

RE: Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund 2015 Grant Application
Oakland Township Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park Expansion Project

To Whom It May Concern:

The Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA) supports Oakland Township's application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for acquisition funding to assist with the "Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park Expansion" project, which would add an additional 209 acres to the Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park. Expansion of this park will help protect the water source for critical natural habitats, which feed southward into Stony Creek Lake of Stony Creek Metropark. The provision of a north-south oriented trail connecting Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park and Stony Creek Metropark would add an additional link in the regional trail network. Ownership and management of the property by Oakland Township Parks and Recreation will allow for excellent management of the wildlife habitat, steep slopes, and scenic features of the property.

Additionally, the proposed expansion of the township park is consistent with the goals and objectives of the Southeast Michigan Council of Government's (SEMCOG) *Green Infrastructure Vision for Southeast Michigan*, which include linking riparian corridors, connecting green infrastructure through restoration, and providing additional access to non-motorized trails by filling in gaps within the Southeast Michigan trail network.

The Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority is in full support of the proposed expansion project at Oakland Township's Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park. The proposed project will protect this unique and valuable natural area and provide additional recreational opportunities for Michigan residents.

Sincerely,

George Phifer
Director

Delhi | Dexter-Huron | Hudson Mills | Huron Meadows | Indian Springs | Kensington
Lake Erie | Lower Huron | Lake St. Clair | Oakwoods | Stony Creek | Willow | Wolcott Mill

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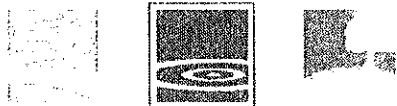
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TRAIL • WATER • LAND



A L L I A N C E
POWERED BY OAKLAND COUNTY

April 21, 2015

**An Informed, Coordinated
and Collaborative Body**
Supporting Oakland County Green
Infrastructure Network Initiatives

Oakland County • 2160 Pontiac Lk Rd
BLDG 41W • Waterford, MI 48328

PlanningGroup@OakGov.com
(248) 858-0721

ATTN: Ms. Amy Matisoff
Grants Management Division
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 30425
Lansing, MI 48909 7925

RE: 2015 Oakland Township MNRTF Acquisition Grant (TF 15-0130)

ALLIANCE SUPPORTERS

- Agriculture & Forestry
- Animal Services
- Arts & Economic Development
- Chamber of Commerce
- Conservation & Environmental Services
- County of Oakland
- County of Washtenaw
- County of Wayne
- County of Livingston
- County of Macomb
- County of Ingham
- County of Genesee
- County of Saginaw
- County of Lapeer
- County of Shiawassee
- County of Benzie
- County of Charlevoix
- County of Emmet
- County of Ionia
- County of Montcalm
- County of Ogemaw
- County of Oshtemo
- County of St. Clair
- County of Tawas
- County of Van Buren
- County of Washtenaw
- County of Westland
- County of Ypsilanti
- County of Jackson
- County of Kent
- County of Lenox
- County of Monroe
- County of Muskegon
- County of Newaygo
- County of Oceola
- County of Otsego
- County of Rock
- County of St. Joseph
- County of Tarrant
- County of Tuscola
- County of Van Wert
- County of Wood
- County of Woodland
- County of Woodworth
- County of York

Dear Ms. Matisoff,

I am writing on behalf of the Oakland County Trail, Water & Land Alliance (TWLA) to offer strong support for the MNRTF acquisition grant application being submitted by Oakland Township for the Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park expansion. The proposed park would provide an additional 209 acres of both passive and active recreational opportunities and is adjacent to Stony Creek Metropark.

The proposed park property is located in an area that includes a key site and link in the Oakland County Green Infrastructure Vision. The countywide Green Infrastructure Vision is a locally driven effort that was developed to identify the remaining valuable ecological lands and the linkages between them. The foundation of this process is largely based on the Potential Natural Area data, created by the Michigan Natural Features Inventory, and has input from a broad collection of stakeholders. The TWLA is a strong supporter of connected open space projects that play a part in implementing the Green Infrastructure Vision.

This park expansion offers outstanding open space protection, outdoor recreation and ecological restoration opportunities. Also, the additional 209 acres will provide direct connections to other natural habitats, wildlife corridors, multi-use trails and regionally significant recreation areas. We strongly urge the MNRTF Board members to approve this important request for funding.

Sincerely,

James Lloyd, Chair
Oakland County Trail, Water & Land Alliance





Six Rivers
Land Conservancy

4480 Orion Rd., 2nd Floor
P. O. Box 80902
Rochester, Michigan 48308-0902
248-601-2816
www.sixriversrlc.org
info@sixriversrlc.org

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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WE CONSERVE, SUSTAIN AND
CONNECT NATURAL AREAS, LANDS
AND WATERS THAT MAKE THE
PLACES WE LIVE SPECIAL.

Six Rivers Regional Land Conservancy
is a private non-profit organization.
All contributions are tax deductible as
provided by law.



March 26, 2015

Ms. Merrie M. Carlock, LLA
Grant Coordinator / Grants Management
Finance and Operations Division
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Grants Management
PO Box 30425
Lansing, MI 48909-7925

Re: TF 15-0130, Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park Expansion

Dear Ms. Carlock,

The Six Rivers Land Conservancy offers its enthusiastic support to this application. This acquisition will be a major addition to important conservation and recreation lands in the region. It will support multiple conservation and recreation goals shared by a range of institutions. In addition to the local conservation and recreation benefits, this acquisition supports significant water quality goals in the Clinton River Watershed and complements other work we are doing elsewhere in the region.

I urge you to fund this project and help continue the process of securing and preserving conservation and recreation opportunities here in southeastern Michigan. Thank you for all of the investment and support you provide to meet these objectives.

Sincerely,

Chris Bunch,
Executive Director



March 11, 2015

To Whom it May Concern,

Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve has forty years of experience in providing quality, curriculum centered environmental educational programming in the Greater Rochester Community. Our programs are designed to provide students with an understanding of science, environmental systems and critical thinking so that they can become informed decision makers as adults.

As environmental issues become ever more frequent parts of the political dialogue at the local, state and federal level an educated citizenry will become increasingly important. As the need for this education increases, other demands on the resources and time of classroom teachers are also increasing. It is very important for alternative educational facilities (such as nature centers) to take up the gap and work to inspire and educate students. Our access to natural properties and expertise can take the education far beyond the classroom walls.

Due to this increasing demand Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve has been expanding the quantity and scope of our educational programs. As we undergo this expansion, however, it is becoming increasingly evident that our small preserve has neither the capacity, nor the ecological diversity, to allow our programming to reach its full potential. For this reason, we intend to build further on our partnership with the Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Department. The Township parks offer the perfect opportunity to provide programs that cover the full range of environmental educational topics. The goal of the Township to provide active stewardship in their parks ensures that high quality habitats are available for preservation and for study by our students.

We look forward to building on our successful relationship with the Township to eventually manage the Townships environmental educational programs and facilities. Their high quality parklands combined with our education expertise should yield a partnership that will be of great benefit to our area school children and general public.

Sincerely,

Sue M. Neal
Executive Director

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

29 September 2015

Ms. Amy Matisoff
Grants Management Division
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 30425
Lansing, MI 48909-7925



Re: Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund 2015 Grant Application
Oakland Township Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park Expansion Project

Dear Ms. Matisoff,

MSU EXTENSION
Michigan Natural
Features Inventory
PO Box 13038
Lansing MI 48901
(517) 284-6200
(517) 373-9566
mnfi.anr.msu.edu

I am writing in support of the grant application of Oakland Township Parks to acquire additional acreage in the vicinity of their existing Stony Creek Nature Park. My association with Oakland Township Parks (OTP) goes back nearly twenty years and during that time I have found OTP to be one of the most proactive and stewardship conscious park systems that I have worked with. The management and staff take a long-range view of the park system and employee careful planning in their acquisitions and in the management of the park properties; this is especially true of their ecological management.

Having personally conducted the ecological evaluation of the original Stony Creek Nature Park, I am very familiar with that park and the neighboring area. My conclusions as to Stony Creek Nature Park were that it contained existing high-quality areas as well as areas very suitable for restoration. Additionally, due its location in the landscape it would serve as a buffer for the Stony Creek Metropark which it abuts. The property proposed for acquisition occupies a similar setting and would provide similar benefits for both the existing Stony Creek Nature Park and Stony Creek Metropark.

Additionally, the proposed acquisition area has been identified as a priority conservation area by my program, the Michigan Natural Features Inventory. The property has considerable direct conservation value, as well as being embedded within a larger, green infrastructure complex. I whole-heartedly support the acquisition of this property via MNRTF funding and have no doubt that it will be stewarded with the utmost care. This would be a very sound investment by MNRTF in natural resources of Michigan.

If you have any questions concerning the information, please do not hesitate to contact me at klattb@msu.edu, or by phone at 517-284-6195.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian J. Klatt".

Brian J. Klatt, Ph.D., C.S.E.
Director

September 22, 2015



**Safety Paths & Trails
Committee**

Amy Matisoff
Grants Management Division
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 30425
Lansing, MI 48909-7925

Dear Ms. Matisoff,

Oakland Township's Safety Paths and Trails Committee is very enthused about the possible addition of 209 acres to Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park. Not only does this parcel provide protection for unique natural habitats and water resources, but will provide fantastic trail networking opportunities for Oakland Township and beyond -- all of which are part of Oakland Township's Safety Paths and Trails Master Plan as well as the County-Wide Green Infrastructure Vision.

We are in favor of this land acquisition and urge you to support Oakland Township Parks and Recreations Grant Funding request to make this property part of our community's legacy.

Thank you for your help and support.

Sincerely,

Libby Dwyer
Chairwoman,
Oakland Township
Safety Paths and Trails Committee



CRAMBA
Clinton River Area
Mountain Bike Association



September 2015

Ms. Amy Matisoff
Grants Management Division
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 30425
Lansing, MI 48909-7925

RE: Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund 2015 Grant Application Oakland Township Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park Expansion Project

Ms. Matisoff,

CRAMBA-IMBA fully supports the "Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park Expansion" grant for the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF).

The parkland and the resulting trails would provide highly desirable connections that would help meet the need for 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.

This park expansion would also provide much needed green space and recreational space and conservation of lands in our region.

Sincerely,

Rodney Gullett
CRAMBA-IMBA
Cramba.org



September 24, 2015

Mindy Milos-Dale
Director, Oakland Township
Parks and Recreation

mmdale@oaklandtownship.org

Dear Mindy:

The Vanguard Chapter of Trout Unlimited, based in the greater Rochester, Michigan area is very much in support of your plans for a 209 acre expansion to the Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park.

As a conservation focused organization, Trout Unlimited members spend a good deal of time repairing bank erosion, eliminating barriers to fish passage and generally improving the condition of our cold water resources through the state of Michigan. As proposed, this work will restore 50 of the 209 acres of poorly drained farm fields to a combination of marsh, forest and shrub wetlands, in addition to the existing 50 acres in the existing Nature Park. The additional acreage will provide a buffer from development and extend the trails for recreational use.

We understand that these areas will be protected and stewarded and as such is a far better alternative to development that would disturb ground cover and the remove trees that would result in erosion that will add significant amounts of silt to the Stony Creek and if the past is repeated, the introduction of invasive plants.

The proposed recreational improvements to the site will allow use by the local population in a way that protects the watershed and reconnects our citizens to the watershed. Lastly, I would point out that the original section of the Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park has been a success as a recreation, educational and environmentally sound resource with solid support from the local and surrounding stake holders.

With the approval of our Board of Directors and our best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lawrence Butts", written over a textured, grey background.

Lawrence Butts
President, Vanguard Chapter
Trout Unlimited

Reference: Oakland Township Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park Expansion, Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, 2015 Acquisition Grant Application dated March 11, 2015