

Introductory Note

Park District of Ottawa County 0.6 mill Levy

Since the creation of the Park District of Ottawa County in 1992, the Park District has had no source of revenue and was relatively inactive until 2017. Then, in 2017 the Ottawa County Commissioners used grant money from ODOT and worked with the Park District and the community to develop the Ottawa County Active Transportation Plan. Over the past couple of years, the Park District has been working with our neighboring counties to advance parts of the Plan that cross the county borders, without going to the voters of Ottawa County. But to further the Active Transportation Plan, the Park District has placed a 0.6 mill levy on the November ballot. The proposed levy will generate \$21 per \$100,000 property tax valuation per year. This would raise approximately \$1 million per year for capital projects, operations and maintenance and most importantly would enable the Park District to gain access to matching funds from organizations outside of Ottawa County, thus bringing federal and state tax dollars back to Ottawa County. The levy we are placing on the November ballot, will make projects across all of Ottawa County a reality.

Ottawa County is blessed with many existing parks and places of interest, well managed and maintained by local, state and federal organizations. The Park District of Ottawa County will support these parks and their owners in any way we can and we do not intend to take these parks into our remit unless asked to do so by their owners. The Park District's plan is to increase safe recreational opportunities throughout our beautifully diverse county for residents and visitors by working with the local communities to Connect People to Places and Parks, while at the same time protecting and enhancing our beautiful Lake Erie's water quality and her surrounding plant and wildlife habitat. To illustrate our vision for Ottawa County, here are some examples of projects that are currently being executed, with the help of neighboring counties:

- The Extension of the North Coast Inland Trail from Elmore to Genoa, with completion expected this fall.
- Collaboration with the Wood County Park District and the Village of Genoa to extend the North Coast Inland Trail from Genoa to Millbury
- Working with Sandusky County Park District and the Boy Scouts to develop a portion of a former farm near Elmore for Boy Scout camping, preserves and other projects.
- Discussion with both a local and a national conservancy organization to establish wetlands areas in support of wildlife habitat and water quality.
- And diligently working with Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments to establish and designate the Portage River Water Trail with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources by end of 2020.

These are very exciting projects that are helping us to increase safe biking and hiking opportunities while we Connect People to Parks and Places in Ottawa County and also support projects to protect the quality of water in Lake Erie and its connecting waterways. To expand these types of projects across all of Ottawa County, we have placed a levy on the November ballot. The Park District looks forward to a healthy and robust future for Ottawa County and are eager to be a part of it. Thank you and we appreciate your time in considering and discussing the details and benefits of the levy.

Park District of Ottawa County Tax Levy Fact Sheet

Park District of Ottawa County 0.6 Mill Levy

November 3, 2020 Ballot

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Park District of Ottawa County?

As a local, county level, outdoor conservation, recreation and education agency, the Park District of Ottawa County works to both conserve and make available for recreation, important natural environments. Our vision is to connect, enhance and protect the natural scenic, environmental and cultural resources of Ottawa County for the enjoyment of residents and visitors. The goal for the Board is to **CONNECT PEOPLE, PLACES AND PARKS**.

Our hope is to create spaces that are safe for wildlife such as bald eagles and songbirds and to provide spaces where Ottawa County residents can safely share the beauty of a wonderful collection of amazing environments that have been selected for conservation and recreation for today and future generations.

Is the November 3rd park issue a new tax levy?

Yes. This 0.6-mill levy is new and will support the operations and growth of the park district.

Why a New Levy?

The Park District of Ottawa County recognizes that Ottawa County is blessed with many beautiful natural resources from farmland, river ways and Lake Erie, including much wildlife. These natural areas and our water quality of Lake Erie are worth protecting and investing in. Many potential projects have been presented to the park district and to move forward, funding is needed. The Park District currently does not have a levy in place and therefore receives zero funds towards protecting, preserving or improving the natural resources of Ottawa County.

Most significantly, funds from this levy will enable the Park District to apply for some of the many federal and state grants that are available but require some level of seed money or local match money to access. **Without local funding, the Park District is not able to access Federal and State grant money and these Federal and State tax dollars are going to other parts of the country and state and not coming back home to Ottawa County.** The money generated by this levy will be used to leverage grant funding for the benefit of all of us here in Ottawa County.

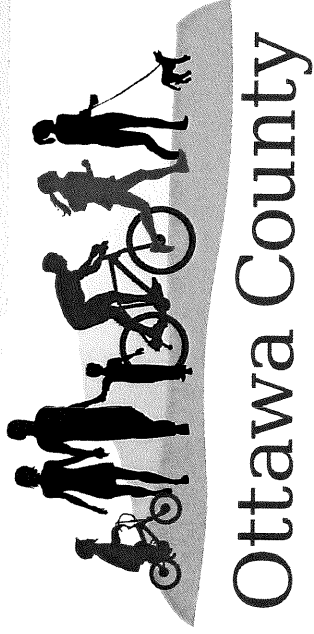
How much MORE will this levy cost?

This levy will cost each property owner approximately an additional \$21.00 a year or \$1.75 per month, per \$100,000 property value.

How will the Park District of Ottawa County use the money from the levy?

Ottawa County residents voiced where they believe the park district should focus their limited resources. Park District Commissioners established the following priorities based on resident responses:

- **Improve Water Quality** – Establish partnerships to protect and preserve fragile ecosystems and the waters that reach and go into Lake Erie and local rivers, streams and wetlands.
- **Enhance Public Health**- Offer free and accessible outdoor spaces for physical wellbeing. The Park District is currently working to expand the North Coast Inland Trail to provide a multi-use trail for safe off-road hiking and biking as well as assist with establishing the Portage River Water Trail.
- **Protect our county for future generations**- Work with The Boy Scouts of America and Sandusky County Park District to develop a camping and project site in Elmore.



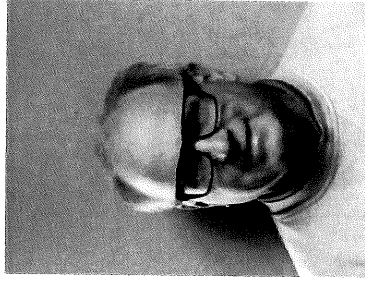
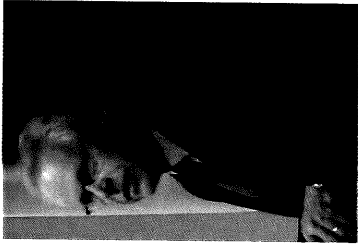
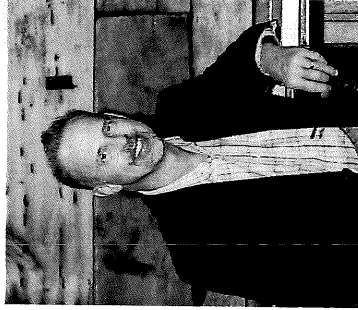
Park District of Ottawa County

October 27, 2020

Park District of Ottawa County

Board of Commissioners

- Gary Kohli, President
- Mike Shadoan, Treasurer
- Angela LeForce, Secretary
- Judy Indorf
- Jack Madison





- The mission of the Park District of Ottawa County is to connect, enhance and protect the natural, scenic, environmental and cultural resources of Ottawa County for the enjoyment of residents and visitors.
- The vision of the Park Board Commissioners is connecting People to Places and Parks within Ottawa County via trails for their recreational and cultural enjoyment.
- The goals for the Park District of Ottawa County are to:
 - Provide quality outdoor recreational and educational opportunities for its citizens, guests and visitors, through access to safe and environmentally conscious sites.
 - Protect and improve water quality by acquiring and conserving wetlands.
 - Provide operational excellence and effective fiscal responsibility, enhancing the quality of life to citizens of Ottawa County.
 - Establish cooperative relationships with all public, private and political entities within and outside the County.

CONNECTING PEOPLE, PLACES AND PARKS

Projects

EXTENSION OF NCIT FROM ELMORE TO GENOA

■ UNDER CONSTRUCTION

- Completion expected soon
- When complete, the NCIT will extend 150 miles from Lorain to Toledo.
- The NCIT is through Sandusky County to Elmore
- Ottawa County is connecting to the NCIT and extending the trail into Ottawa County



Extension of NCIT from Genoa to Millbury

- On abandoned railroad right-of-way
- Partnering with Wood County Park District and Village of Elmore
- Title Search Complete
- Next Step Appraisal and Negotiation with RR
- Approximately 5.3 miles
- Estimated cost for land purchase and construction
 - \$4.2 million with inflation and contingencies
- ODOT-TAP and ODNR COT funds – Est. \$4.1 million
- Local Funds – Est. \$123,000
- Projected completion 2025



Development of Magsig Farm

- ▶ Working with Sandusky County Park District on Transfer of Property
 - ▶ Sandusky County Park District aligned with transfer
 - ▶ Engaged family
- ▶ Boy Scouts currently active holding events and participating in future Magsig Farm development planning
- ▶ Terms and Conditions of Transfer of Property
 - ▶ No housing or commercial development
 - ▶ No motor vehicles on the property, except for park operations, farming, timber and firewood cutting and public visitor access and parking
- ▶ \$10,000 to \$50,000 per acre development cost
- ▶ Budget \$900,000 over 3 years

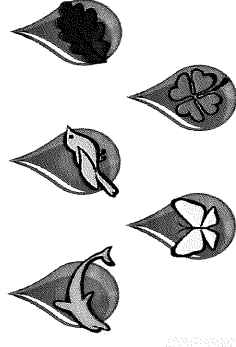


Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community



Other Proposed Future Projects

- Catawba Island
 - Separate Path from Ferry Service connecting businesses and recreational facilities
- Danbury Township/Marblehead
 - Engage with Township and Village leadership to connect or enhance existing assets
- Salem Township
 - Oak Harbor to Industrial Park/County Fairgrounds/Portage River Trail
- West Harbor Basin Wetlands (SR269 & SR163)
 - Acquisition of property by The Trust for Public Land for land conservation, protection of water quality and wildlife/vegetation habitat



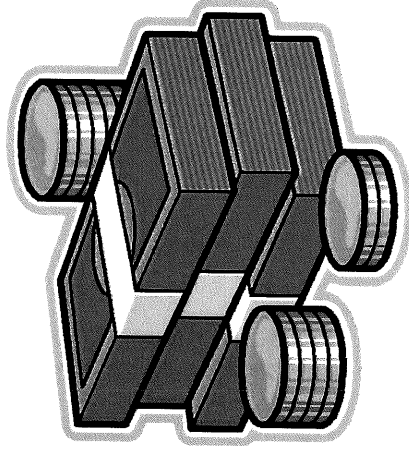


Tax Levy

- 10 year Investment Plan Developed
 - 0.6 mills will generate about \$1,000,000 based on current county valuation
 - \$21/year for \$100,000 property valuation
 - \$2.58/month for average homeowners (\$148,400 valuation)
 - Levy Term
 - 10 years

Levy Proceeds

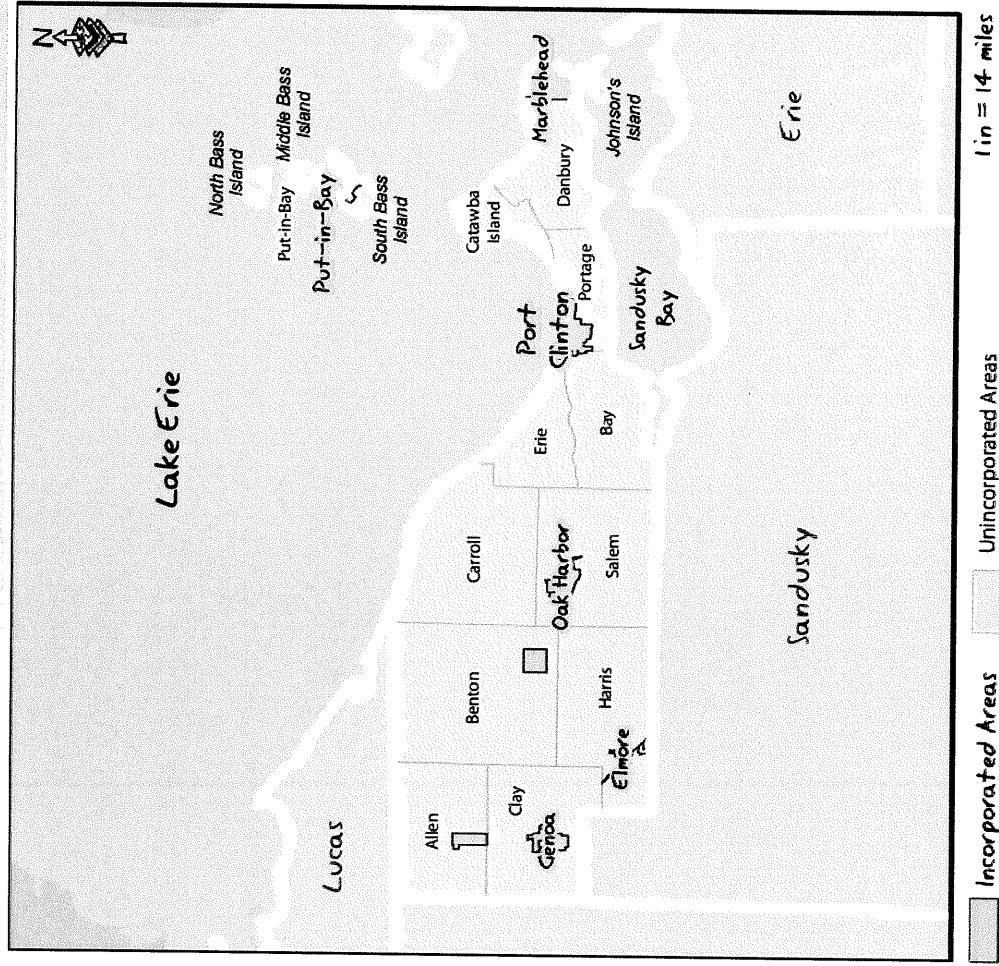
- Staff
- Maintenance, Security and Operations
- Local Match for Grants to Fund Capital Projects
- Grants to Local Governments through a Grant Process
- Sustainable Capital Investments



Grants

Local Governments in Ottawa County can request funding for recreation facilities

- Matching Funds for State/Federal Grants
- Park Improvements
- Local Pedestrian-Bike Paths and Water Trails
- Trailhead Parking
- Property Acquisition
- Recreational Facilities
- Conservancy and water quality projects



**Thank you for
your attention!**

