



NEWS RELEASE

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GRANT FUNDS RECOMMENDED FOR ROSELLE PARK

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources has announced that grant funding of \$122,000 has been recommended by the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board for the first phase of planned park improvements at Roselle Park, on Grand River Dr. The grant funds will supplement funding from the Township's voter-approved Parks and Land Preservation millage to complete the \$277,000 project.

Park improvements to be funded by the grant include over one mile of paved trail from the park entry back to the Grand River, a barrier-free boardwalk and river overlook, canoe landing, benches, litter receptacles and seasonal toilet facilities. These improvements will complement work already in progress to restore wetlands and wildlife habitat in the park, through a "Partners for Fish and Wildlife" project jointly undertaken by the Township, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Ducks Unlimited.

Roselle Park includes 230 acres of land and over one mile of frontage on the Grand River, and is the site of the former Ada Beef Company beef processing facilities. The park site was acquired by the Township in 2002, with the assistance of a major donation from Carl Ezinga, and numerous smaller donations from local residents. The Township has prepared a multi-year development plan for the park, which emphasizes passive recreation and preservation/restoration of the site's natural features. Demolition of the former industrial facilities on the site has been completed, and the park is already being used for hiking, bird-watching by local birding enthusiasts, cross-country skiing and guided educational tours sponsored by the Township Parks Department.

The grant funding remains subject to a legislative appropriation by the State, expected in early 2006. Final design and construction plans for the grant-funded project will be completed in 2006, with construction completed in either late-2006 or Spring, 2007.