



BRIDGING COMMUNITY TO NATURE

OTTAWACOUNTYPARKSFUNDATION.ORG

2020 Impact Report

Thanks to the support of our generous donors, the Ottawa County Parks Foundation enjoyed a successful 2020. It was not the year any of us expected, yet Ottawa County Parks saw record attendance as people flocked to outdoor spaces for their physical and mental well-being. The Foundation committed funds to several key Parks projects.

Your support made possible:

- Funding for the multi-year Grand River Greenway Campaign, leading to trail construction along 12th Avenue in Georgetown Township;
- Additional property purchased in the Bend Area, now totaling 421 acres;
- Final design and engineering plans for the Stearns Connector, Eastmanville Connector, Bass River, and Jenison Mill segments;
- Designation of \$10,500 for the Ottawa Sands master plan and natural features inventory;
- Thanks to an anonymous foundation, a Treehouse overlook at Grand Ravines North will be constructed. Construction is expected to begin later this year.



Ottawa Sands Field Day

Left to right: Cathy Feyt, Pete Esser and Kristen Hintz

Also, the OCPF Board of Directors voted in October to support Parks educational programming for the next three years. Due to Covid-19 we could not host in-person events, but we did host a virtual event *Park it at Home*. Videos are available at <https://ottawacountyparksfoundation.org/parkitathome/>.

With your continued support, the Ottawa County Parks Foundation will be able to use private funds to leverage Ottawa County Parks millage dollars for public benefit. Non-designated donations are crucial so we have the flexibility to support unexpected acquisition opportunities.

PARKS FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF 2020

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Angela Miller-Niarhos

*In June, with heavy hearts we said goodbye to Parks & Recreation Commission President and Ottawa County Parks Foundation Treasurer David VanGinhoven, who passed away after battling cancer.

**Joined the Parks Foundation Board of Directors in 2021.

STEWARDSHIP CIRCLE

The Foundation's Stewardship Circle is a lead group of donors making an annual investment in order to help maintain and enhance our park system.

\$5,000 +

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\$2,500 +

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Parks for Life

Park supporters who include the Park Foundation in their planned and estate giving are members of *Parks for Life*. *Parks for Life* gifts can include wills and bequests, appreciated stock, bond and mutual funds, charitable trusts, "retirement accounts" and life insurance. *Parks for Life* members are ensuring that future generations will be able to enjoy our wonderful parks!

Alice & Andrew Hoban

Bobbi & Bob Sabine

Marjie & Bill Viveen

The Park Sustainers Club is a unique group of donors whose monthly investment allows us to complete special projects that can't be accomplished within the County Parks' budget, like building trail connections, adding land, and upgrading facilities.