



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MEMORANDUM

To: WCPARC
From: Robert L. Tetens, Director
Date: March 11, 2014
Re: MNRTF grant application: Staebler Farm

Background

In 2001 WCPARC purchased 98 acres of land in Superior Township from Donald Staebler (Staebler Farm). At the time of purchase it was agreed that Donald Staebler would have a life-long lease on the property and that, when it was developed, the essential farm character would be retained. The property is bisected by Plymouth Road with the residence located south of Plymouth and the main farm buildings located to the north. During the last decade the Commission has repaired several components of the farmstead: loafing barn, cattle barn, horse barn, milk house, corn crib, etc. This area has been fenced off from the remaining portion of the site, which has been used for cattle grazing. Currently there is no public access to the property. Staff presented a concept plan and park development alternatives for the Staebler property to the Commission at the June 2012 meeting and to the Superior Township Planning Commission in January 2013. Positive feedback was received and WCPARC submitted an application for a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) grant to assist with project funding last April.

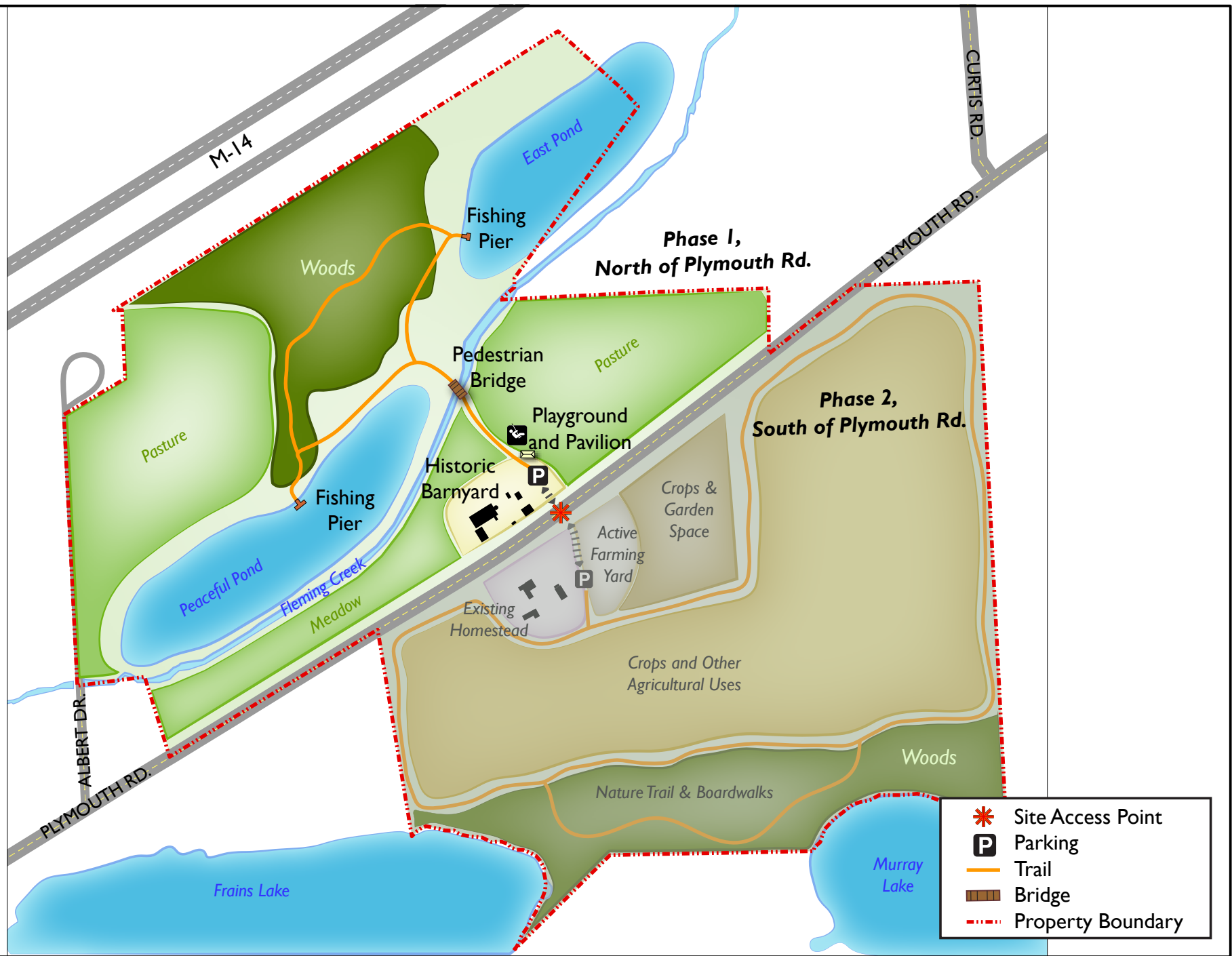
Discussion

Unfortunately, last December we learned that the DNR judged that the scope of our proposed project was too agricultural and educational to receive a Recreation grant. Accordingly, we have revised the concept plan and are in the process of preparing a grant application to include more recreational elements while still maintaining the promised farm theme. In addition to the major elements in last year's application we intend to add a children's playground, increased picnicking space and a second fishing pier. Funding to assist in making improvements to the farmyard and a cattle bridge and shelter, in the 2013 application, will not be included this year. These improvements can be made in the future, if the Commission so desires, but are probably the main reason the prior project was not considered sufficiently recreational to be granted funding.

The budget for the 2014 project is \$700,000 (current CIP has \$750,000). If our application is successful WCPARC could receive \$300,000 from the Trust Fund to assist in project implementation. Development of this park would add a new dimension to the recreational activities we now offer to County residents. Providing public facilities for the north portion of the park (Phase 1) could be followed by expansion of the agricultural uses (cash crops, nursery, incubation farms, etc.) on the southern portion (Phase 2) to further strengthen the park's important farm theme.

Recommendation

It is my recommendation that the Commission authorize staff to submit a grant application to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (prior to April 1, 2014) to obtain a Trust Fund grant to help fund this worthwhile project. A public hearing is a requirement of the grant application and is scheduled for the March 11 Commission meeting.

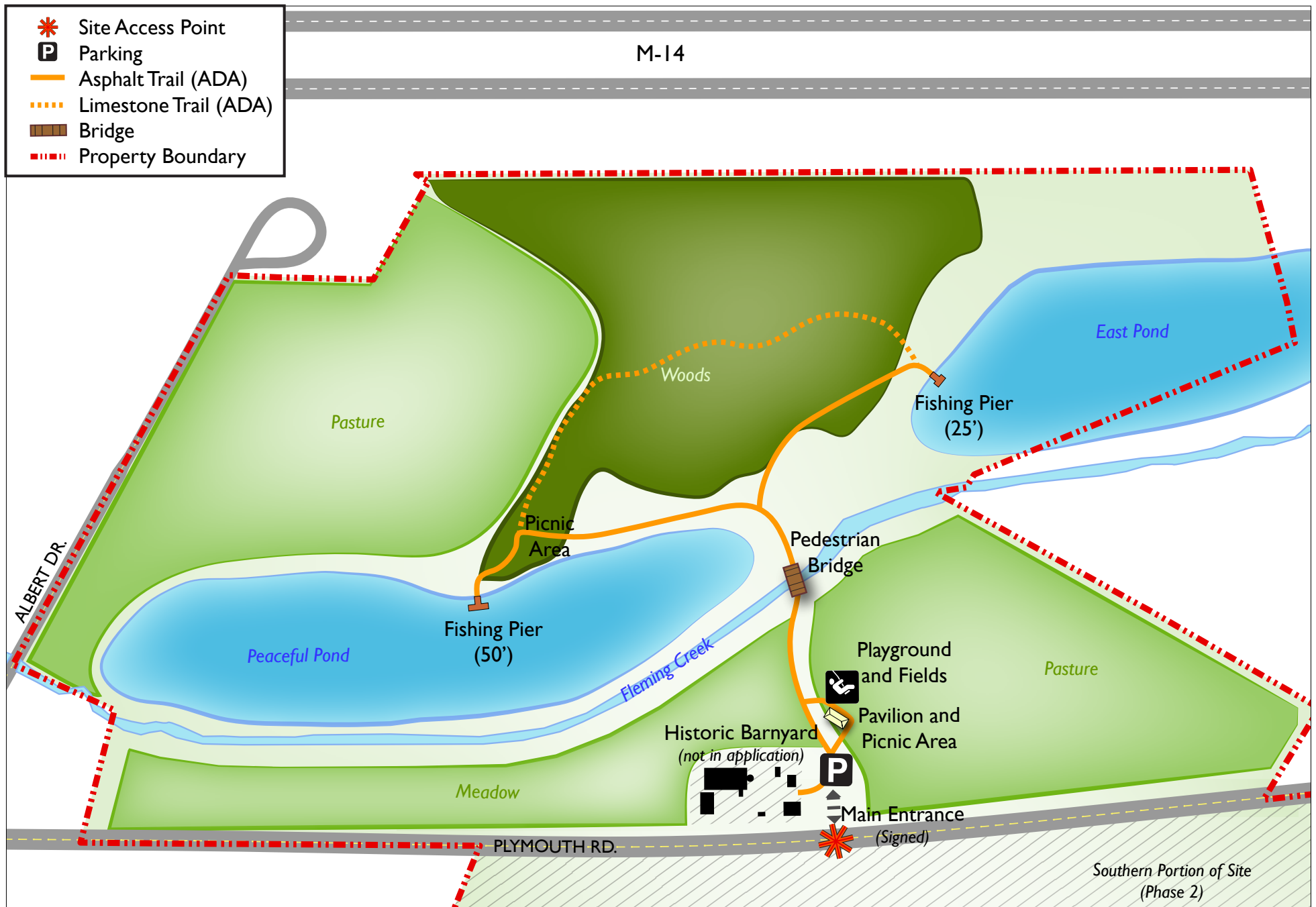


DATA SOURCE: WASHTENAW COUNTY GIS
DATE: March 3, 2014

STAEBLER FARM COUNTY PARK CONCEPTUAL MASTER PLAN

0 100 200 400
Feet
Site Elements Not To Scale



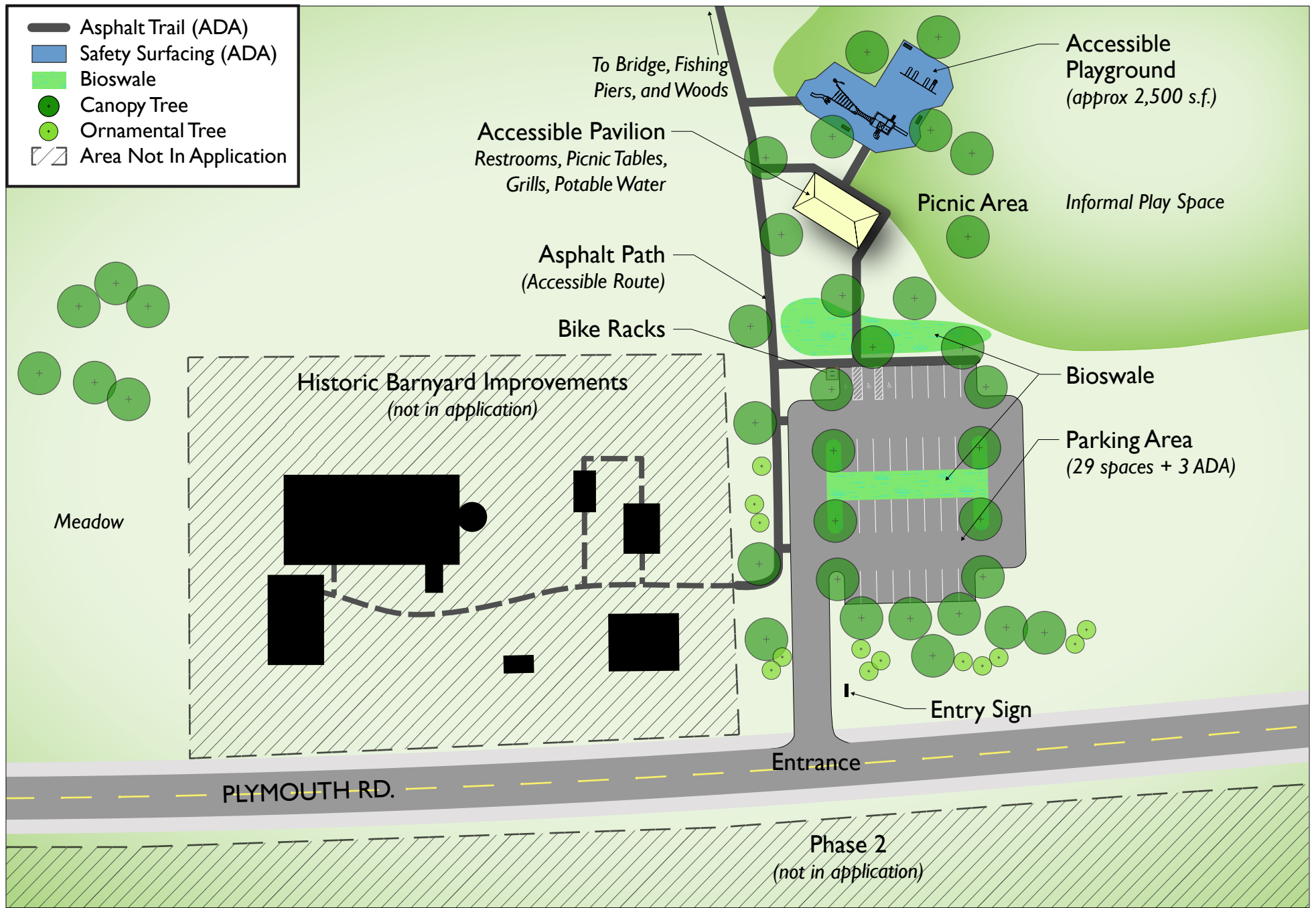


DATA SOURCE: WASHTENAW COUNTY GIS
DATE: March 3, 2014

STAEBLER FARM COUNTY PARK PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN (PHASE I)

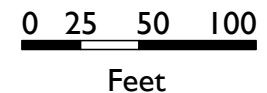
0 150 300 600
Feet
Site Elements Not To Scale





DATA SOURCE: WASHTENAW COUNTY GIS
DATE: March 3, 2014

STAEBLER FARM COUNTY PARK PARTIAL SITE PLAN





Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION TO PROVIDE MATCHING FUNDS FOR A
2014 MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND GRANT APPLICATION
TO THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MARCH 11, 2014

WHEREAS, the current Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2010-2014 calls for completing a master site development plan for the Staebler Farm property as an initial step in developing the land as a public park; and

WHEREAS, the development of this park will add a new dimension to the recreational activities the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission now offers to County residents; and

WHEREAS, currently there is no public access to the property and the planned site development would provide it and other desirable recreational amenities; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Commission seeks to augment its voter approved millage funding with outside financial grant assistance,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission agrees to furnish up to \$400,000 (four hundred thousand dollars) as its share of the costs of this project, if a Michigan Natural Trust Fund grant, administered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, is awarded to the Commission.

Resolution moved by: _____

supported by: _____

Passed with _____ aye votes recorded and _____ nay votes recorded.

Jan Anschuetz, Secretary
Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission