County Parks 101

Brian Keenan-Lechel
Director
Saginaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

History: 1965, Act 261, Imd. Eff. July 21, 1965;—Am. 2000, Act 496, Imd. Eff. Jan. 11, 2001.

The People of the State of Michigan enact:

46.351 County parks and recreation commission; creation; membership; terms; vacancy; commission as county agency; rules and regulations; compensation.

Sec. 1. (1) The county board of commissioners of a county, by resolution adopted by a 2/3 vote of all its members, may create a county parks and recreation commission, which shall be under the general control of the board of commissioners.

(2) The county parks and recreation commission shall consist of the following members:

(a) The chairperson of the county road commission or another road commissioner designated by the board of county road commissioners.

(b) The county drain commissioner or an employee of the drain commissioner's office designated in writing by the drain commissioner.

(c) One of the following:

(*i*) In a county that elects a county executive under section 9 of 1973 PA 139, MCL 45.559, the county executive or a designee of the county executive.

(*ii*) In a county with a population of 1,000,000 or less, the chairperson of the county planning commission or another member of the county planning commission designated by the county planning commission. In a county that does not have a county planning commission, the chairperson of the regional planning commission shall serve on the county parks and recreation commission if that person is a resident of that county. If the chairperson of the regional planning commission is not a resident of that county, then the boar shall, by a 2/3 vote, appoint a member of the regional planning commission who is a resident of that county serve on the county parks and recreation commission.

(d) Seven members appointed by the county board of commissioners, not less than 1 and not more tha of whom shall be members of the board of commissioners.

(e) For counties with a population greater than 750,000 but less than 1,000,000, the county bo commissioners shall appoint a neighborhood representative. The appointee under this subdivision sha officer of the homeowners or property owners association that represents the largest area geographi is located totally or partially within 1,000 feet of the property boundary of the most frequently u park who is willing to serve on the county parks and recreation commission. If a homeowners owners association is not located within 1,000 feet of that park or no officer is willing to s appointee shall be a resident who lives within 1/2 mile of that park and who is willing to serv parks and recreation commission. If no resident lives within 1/2 mile of that park or no resi serve, then the appointee shall be a resident of the city, village, or township in which that is willing to serve on the county parks and recreation commission. The first ap subdivision shall be made not more than 60 days from October 17, 2003 or not mor date a county qualifies for an appointment under this subdivision.

(3) Of the members first appointed by the county board of commissioners, 2 ending 1 year from the following January 1, 2 for a term ending 2 years from for a term ending 3 years from the following January 1. The first member

County Park Commissions –

1965 State Constitution Amendment

Annual Economic Development – Outdoor Recreation

$26.6 BILLION in consumer spending

232,000 direct jobs

$2.1 BILLION in state and local tax revenue

$7.5 BILLION in wages and salaries

COVID-19: SOCIAL DISTANCING IN PUBLIC PARKS AND TRAIL

CN CountyNews

County parks see big pandemic visitor boom, stresses

By Charlie Ban Aug. 10, 2022

Mary Ann Bonnell, visitor services and natural resources manager for Jefferson County, Colo. Open Space, decries the 1990s approach to limiting park use by limiting parking lot size, in remarks at the 2022 NACo Annual Conference. Photo by Hugh Clarke

NACo County News

- 16 percent growth in park visitation in urban and suburban parks in 2020, compared to 2019, according to Jonathan Vlaming, superintendent of the Three Rivers Park District in Minnesota and representative of the National Association of County Parks and Recreation Officials.
- Exurban Parks saw 30% growth

Pandemic-driven demand for recreation prompted county parks to speed up planned upgrades,

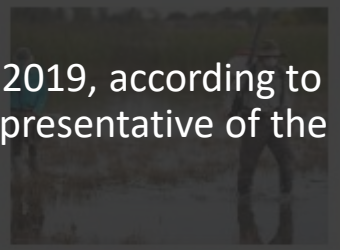
RELATED RESOURCES

BLOG

White House to hold Inflation Reduction Act briefings this week

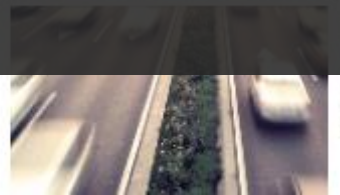
BLOG

Inflation Reduction Act Signed Into Law



BLOG

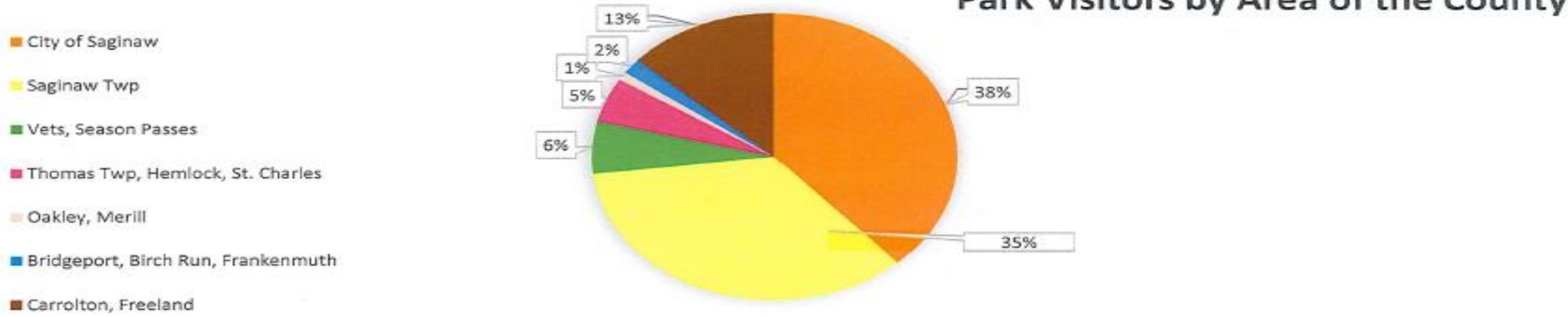
Mosquito-Borne Diseases 101



VIDEO

Implementing the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law: Restoring Healthy Ecosystems

Park Visitors by Area of the County

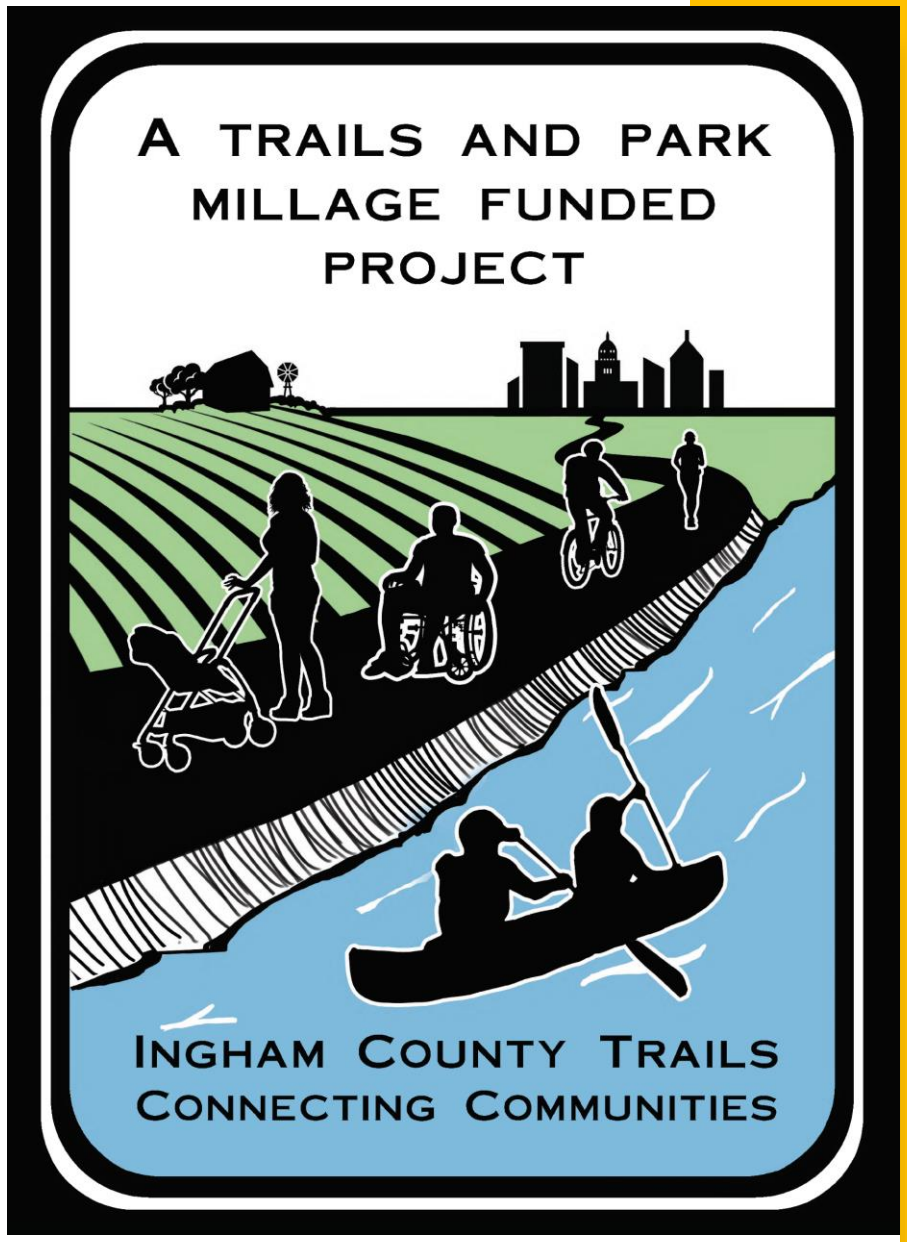


Total Park Visitors 2015			Total Park Visitors 2018			Total Park Visitors 2021			Total Park Visitors 2022		
	Haithco	Imerman		Haithco	Imerman		Haithco	Imerman		Haithco	Imerman
May	98	392	May	1,080	476	May	223	597	May	1650	512
June	552	1,137	June	3,711	2,455	June	3,708	3,240	June	5625	3342
July	1,481	1,470	July	2,712	2,655	July	3,498	3,428	July	6050	3652
August	957	870	August	2,175	2,312	August	3,442	3,930	August	4633	3507
September	143	202	September	237	195	September	428	715	September	427	385
Season Total	7,302 Vehicles 25,557 Patrons		Season Total	18,008 Vehicles 63,028 Patrons		Season Total	23,209 Vehicles 81,232 Patrons		Season Total	29,783 Vehicles 104,241 Patrons	

Funding Models

County Parks Budget examples

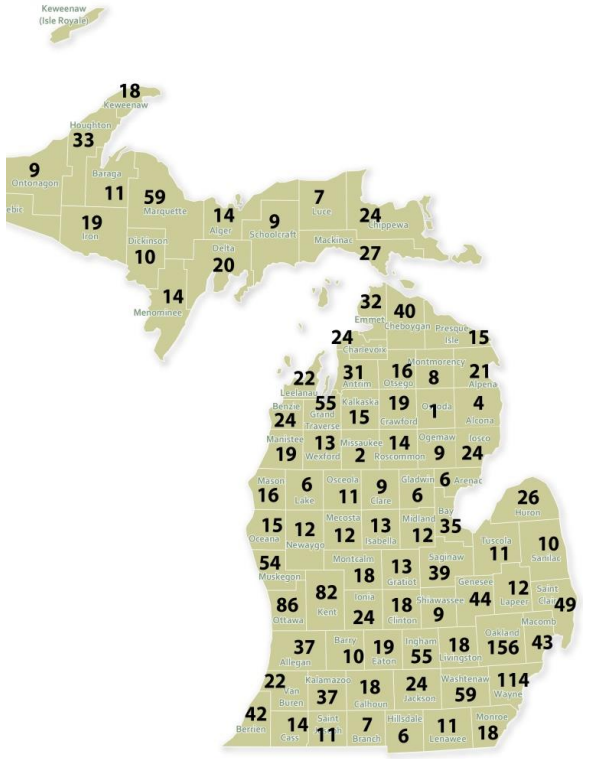
- Revenue Based Budget
- Revenue + General Fund
- Revenue + Millage
- Revenue + Millage + General Fund



Capital Project Funding –
Grant Opportunities

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund

- Development ($300,000 max) and Acquisition (no max) Applications
- 25% Minimum Matching Funds
- Must have a 5 Year Recreation Plan on file with the State
- April 1st Deadline, recommendations in December
- 2020 Ballot Proposal 1



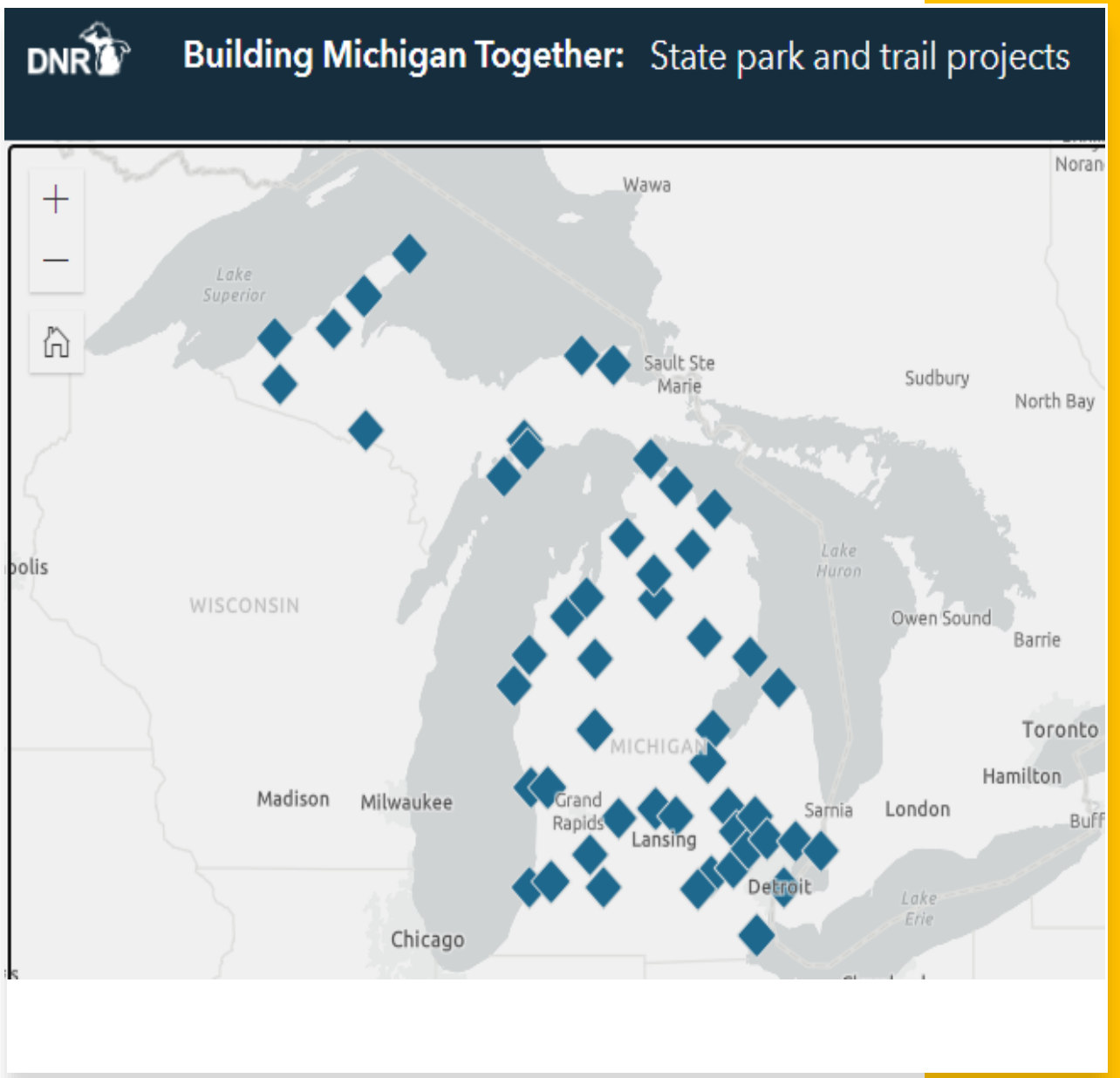
Recreation Passport Grants

- Development projects $7,500-$150,000
- 25% Minimum Matching Funds
- Must have a 5 Year Recreation Plan on file with the State OR a Capital Improvement Plan
- April 1st Deadline

“SPARK” Grants

MDNR ARPA for Local Parks

- Development Grants ($100,000 - $1mil max), preference to existing facilities.
- No matching fund requirement
- 3 Rounds of Funding: Fall 2022 ($15 million), Spring 2023 ($25 million), Fall 2023 ($25 million)



Local ARPA Funds

- Eligibility for park funding includes:
  - Qualified Census Tracts
  - Response to increased usage during pandemic
  - Other
- Can be used as matching funds to leverage additional dollars

Partnerships

County Park Partnership Possibilities

MUNICIPALITIES

COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

SCHOOL DISTRICTS / HEAD START PROGRAMS

PUBLIC LIBRARIES

NONPROFITS

Combined 5 Year Recreation Plans

Bay County Area
Recreation Plan 2019 - 2023

Bay County Area
Recreation Plan 2019 - 2023

Bay County Board of Commissioners

Vaughn J. Begick
Kim J. Coonan
Michael J. Duranczyk
Thomas M. Herek
Ernie Krygier
Michael Lutz
Tom Ryder

Participating Communities

City of Auburn
City of Bay City
Bay County
Bangor Township
Beaver Township
City of Essexville
Frankenlust Township
Fraser Township
Hampton Township
Kawkawlin Township
Merritt Township
Monitor Township
City of Pinconning
Portsmouth Township
Williams Township

For the Bay County Recreation Plan

Jim Barcia, Bay County Executive
Laura Ogar, Environmental Affairs and Community Development Director
Cristen Gignac, Director of Recreation and Facilities

Prepared by:
Bay County Administration
515 Center Avenue
Bay City, MI 48708
(989) 895-4130
www.baycounty-mi.gov

The County of Bay will provide necessary and reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired or audio tapes of printed materials, to individuals with disabilities; copies of the plan can be provided in alternative formats. Contact Personnel & Employee Relations Director/ADA Coordinator, 515 Center Avenue, Suite 301, Bay City, MI 48708 or call (989) 895-4098 Voice, or (989) 895-4049 TDD/TTY hearing or speech impaired or send e-mail to humanresources@baycounty.net.

With assistance by:
Spicer Group, Inc.
230 South Washington Avenue
Saginaw, MI 48607
(989) 754-4717
www.spicergroup.com

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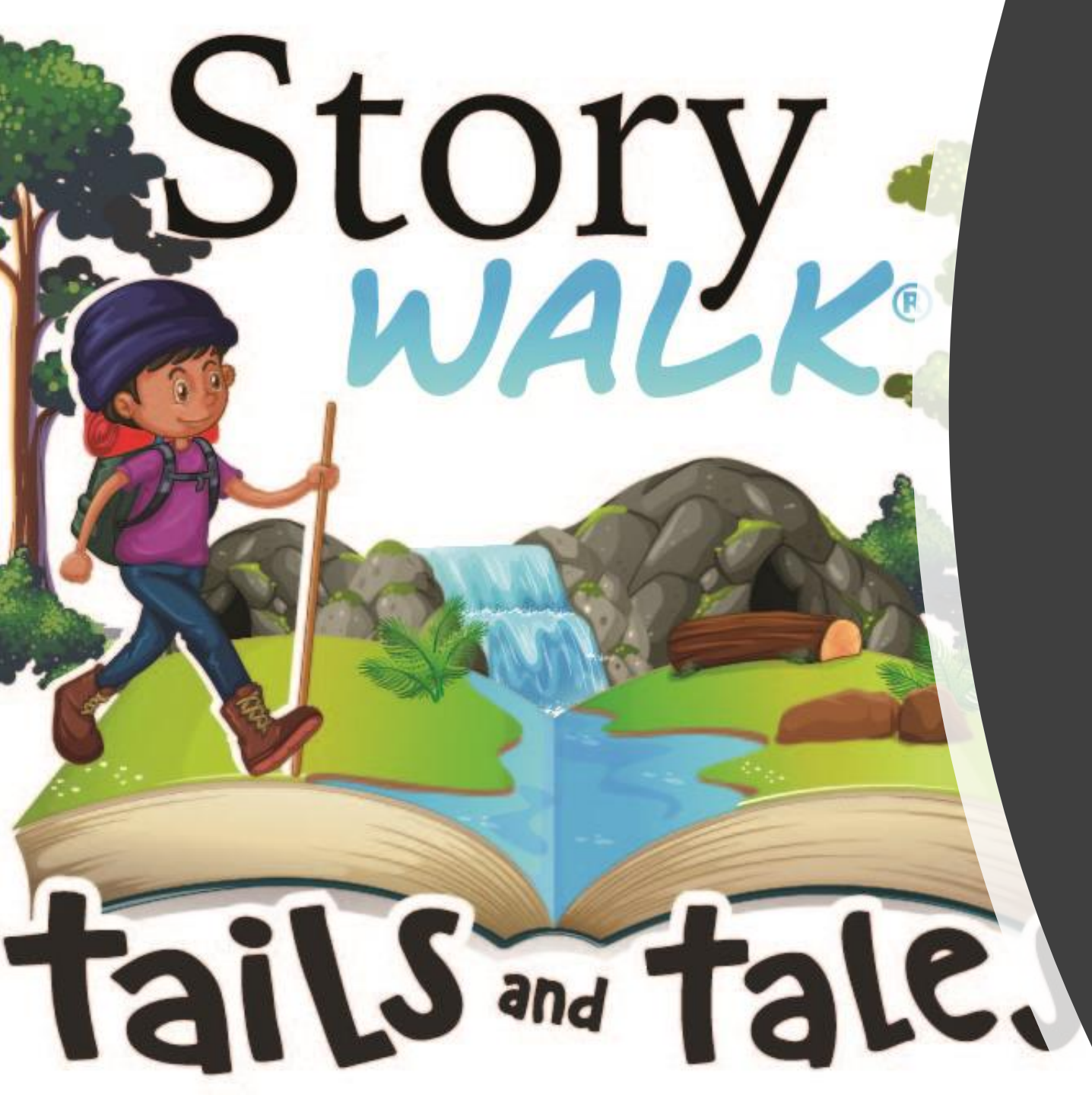
Mobile Recreation Unit

- Municipal parks across Saginaw County
- “Playdate” style programming
- Vendor Opportunities
- Summer Food Programs

YMCA Mission Nutrition

- Summer Food Service Program partnership
- Snacks/lunches provided at County Park Programs, baseball league

Programming



Public Library Partnership

- Trail walk story setup on park trails

Questions and Conversation