



Macatawa River Greenspace

(former Holland Country Club)

Ottawa County Parks has been selected to receive a grant of \$646,800 from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) grant program for its “*Golf Course to Wetlands: Holland Country Club Restoration Project*”.

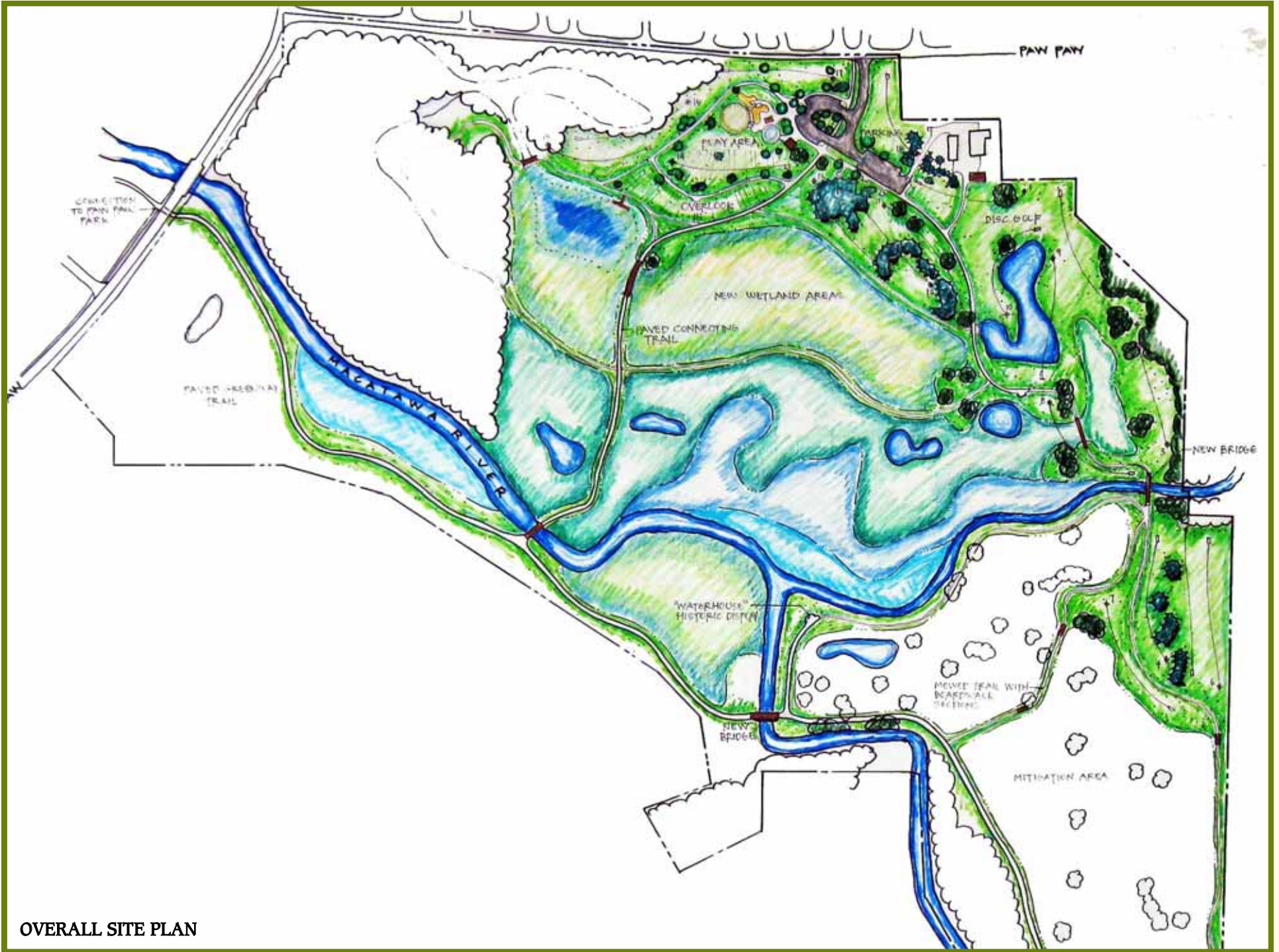
The project involves Ottawa County Parks, working with partners, to implement best management practices identified in the Macatawa Watershed Implementation Plan including wetland and stream restoration in the lower riverfront areas within the 122 acre park property.

Partners include the Macatawa Area Coordinating Council (MACC) watershed project and the Outdoor Discovery Center/Macatawa Greenway. Plans call for 32 acres of wetland restoration through the grant project which will supplement 21 acres of wetland mitigation funded and constructed by Request Foods, a private business that paid Ottawa County Parks \$73,000 for the right to construct a wetland mitigation project on the property. The Request Foods wetlands, which were carefully designed to enhance and restore the site, will replace wetlands that were removed while expanding the company’s operations at its Holland Township location at a ratio of 2 new acres for every acre removed..

Both the EPA funded grant project and the privately funded mitigation project will create wetlands and stabilize stream banks which will reduce non-point source pollutant loading to Lake Macatawa and Lake Michigan and reduce phosphorous levels. The highly visible restoration projects with restored plant and wildlife communities will provide excellent opportunities for watershed education in addition to a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities.

The Holland Country Club property was acquired in March of 2010 for \$450,000. Funding was provided by the county parks millage plus \$70,000 in donated funds raised by the Outdoor Discovery Center – Macatawa Greenway Partnership, a project partner. The EPA funded wetland project will be constructed in 2011.

Ottawa County initiated a public input process in the spring of 2011 to help develop a conceptual master plan for the site. Two meetings were held to provide information about the site to the public and to gather comments. A plan was then developed that integrates the proposed wetland and stream bank improvements with recreation facilities. The plan incorporates new parking, hiking and cross-country ski trails, a paved greenway trail lining perks and preserves along the greenway corridor, nature and historic interpretation, a nature play area, picnic facilities, and disk golf. The parks commission has budgeted funds for 2011 to construct the first phase of improvements to provide basic access and amenities to the site and as well as implement the trail system and disc golf. Comments and suggestions for current and future development items can still be made by contacting the parks office.



OVERALL SITE PLAN

