

Olive Shores (updated 01.17.11)

Ottawa County Parks took a big step forward in its quest to improve the last remaining undeveloped county park parcel on Lake Michigan. The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board met in Lansing in December to make their final grant recommendations for the 2010 grant cycle, and Ottawa County's Olive Shores Implementation grant proposal was on the list of projects recommended for funding. The total amount recommended for the grant was \$365,000 which will be matched by another \$365,000 from County Park millage funds to complete construction financing. The Trust Fund Board's recommendations will be presented to the state legislature in 2011 for inclusion in an appropriation bill. If funds are successfully appropriated, construction could begin as early as fall 2011.

The Olive Shores project involves a total of 20.5 acres with 738 feet of Lake Michigan shoreline. The site is composed of a 7-acre parcel with 200 feet of Lake Michigan frontage that was acquired by Ottawa County in 2001 and an additional 13.5-acres also acquired with Trust Fund assistance in 2008. The original property was acquired with park millage funds immediately following use of the site to film scenes for the movie *Road to Perdition*. The property is one of the very few remaining locations in Ottawa County where there is a significant stretch of undeveloped shoreline with high quality wooded dunes.

Projected uses for the new park as designed in the master plan approved in 2009 include beach activities, trails, nature interpretation and picnicking. A stairway and boardwalk with overlooks and scenic views will provide access up and over the wooded dune to the beach. Barrier-free parking, paths and a modern restroom are also planned.

