

NEWS RELEASE



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DATE: October 12, 2009

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Elmwood Township Announces Greilickville Harbor Park Improvements Groundbreaking

ELMWOOD TOWNSHIP, Mich.:

On the 50th anniversary of its Greilickville waterfront park, Elmwood Township will break ground on the most significant improvement to the park in many years. The \$800,000 improvement project will make the West Grand Traverse Bay water frontage more accessible, more environmentally friendly, and provide first-class facilities for park users. This project was selected to be a catalyst, spurring other public and private re-development in the Greilickville area of Elmwood Township.

The park property and the adjacent marina property were transferred from the State to Elmwood Township in 1959. Lying between West Bay and M-22, immediately south of the Elmwood Township Marina, the park and its beach have the potential to provide premier recreational experiences for thousands of visitors and citizens. However, its facilities are dated, poorly connected, lack restrooms, as well as other amenities of quality parks. For more than 5 years, Elmwood Township officials have evaluated options to increase utilization of its public waterfront.

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The improvement project includes: two architecturally-designed pavilions including restrooms; improved parking and storm water runoff management; park lighting; universal access to the park and beach; new playground equipment; landforms and interpretive panels to provide interest and sub-spaces within the park; as well as enhancements to the waterfront promenade. Permeable pavement will be installed in some areas to reduce storm-water runoff. An outdoor classroom has been incorporated into one of the pavilions. There are also plans to connect the park across Hawley Creek to the open space at the former coal dock site.

Elmwood Township Supervisor, Jack Kelly said, “This project is the result of many years of active planning. It will provide a first-rate facility for our citizens. It will also help the Township take an important step in the overall improvement of the entire M-22 corridor by connecting the park with the businesses and marina. Our Parks and Recreation and Marina Committees, Planning Commission, Township Board, and interested citizens should be congratulated for their efforts.”

Planning for the park project began in 2004 and 2005 with the Township’s creation of a *5-Year Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Greenways Plan*. “Considerable public input and involvement was a key part of this project’s success,” said Supervisor Kelly. Early in the planning process, focus was directed at the marina and the Greilickville Harbor Park because they abut Grand Traverse Bay. According to Landscape Architect Klaus Heinert, “People want to be at the place where the land meets the water. This project will draw people to the Township’s waterfront and provide them with an enjoyable recreational opportunity for their

Gosling Czubak Engineering Sciences developed a plan for the park improvements and Elmwood Township submitted grant applications to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and the Kellogg Foundation. These two agencies provided nearly \$540,000 of the project's \$800,000 cost. Jack Kelly added, "We also hope to secure funding from Rotary Charities and other sources to fund a universal access play structure and a second restroom facility."

Contributions will also be made by some contractors and suppliers. Unilock Company has offered to supply the permeable pavers at a reduced cost. Additionally, Decra-Scape Inc. of Sterling Heights has offered to install the pavers for a reduced price. They will use a mechanical system to place the pavers as a Leelanau and Grand Traverse area demonstration project.

Construction is scheduled to begin in October and the projected completion date is August 2010. A brief groundbreaking ceremony will take place on site at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, October 17th, 2009. To help celebrate the park's golden anniversary and the project, former Township officials from the last 50 years have been invited to join current Township officials and committees at the groundbreaking.

Gosling Czubak Engineering Sciences, Inc. is a professional consulting firm providing landscape architecture, engineering, surveying, environmental, and geotechnical services to a large variety of clients. Currently employing a staff of more than 50, the firm has served public and private clients throughout Michigan since 1957.