

# **Fish Hatchery Park Task Force**

## **January 12, 2016**

**Attendance:** Mark Chester, and John (Jack) Klarr, adjacent property owners,  
Chris Maida, PE Soil Materials Engineering,  
Elizabeth Iszler, Chief of Design Wayne County Parks,  
Jim Allen and Nancy Darga, Northville City Council,  
Jason Spiller Director Northville Parks & Recreation  
Jill Rickard, staff Engineer Northville Township  
George Tsakoff, PE OHM Advisors  
Ron Cavallaro, PE OHM Advisors  
Michael Nurse, Aquatic Biologist, Streamside Ecological Services (absent)

**Purpose:** To develop a strategy to stabilize the creek embankment, address the siltation of the pond, improve the fish habitat of pond and creek and update old park master plan to accommodate these improvements.

### **Issues:**

1. Stabilization of the Creek embankment is immediate concern.
2. Silting in of pond also concern. Cause of sediment build up is unknown
3. Parking lot layout needs improvement
4. Not known how WTUAA Super Sewer pipes are affecting pond.
5. Condition of current Wayne County Park grant needs to be verified.

### **Discussion:**

Nancy Darga, welcomed everyone and thanked them for agreeing to serve on the Fish Hatchery Park Task Force. She explained that the Task Force was formed to develop a strategy for the stabilization of the creek embankments and the enhancement of fish habitat. The intent of this strategy is to secure partnerships and funding for the water features of the park, as well as the overall long term development.

Jason Spiller reviewed the history of actions taken by NPR to obtain grants that address the need to stabilize the concrete wall along the creek and pond. Jim Allen provided pictures and site plans of Paint Creek restoration project in Rochester Hills. He proposed that we use that project as a model for restoration work at Fish Hatchery Park. He described the on-site inspections made of Fish Hatchery Pond

and Johnson Creek. He also explained several steps he took to secure a price estimate from Mike Nurse, for grant applications.

### **Johnson Creek Deliberation:**

1. Johnson Creek is one of the few cold water creeks in Michigan, the existing concrete retaining walls cause an increase in stream flow causing more scouring damage to river edge. To enhance the habitat along the creek we need planting that provide shad and we need to slow down the flow.
2. The original focus of the project was to address wall failure between creek and pond. We have a DNR permit for a hard scape solution designed by SME and OHM. Jim Allen and Ron Cavallaro felt we could modify the hard scape solution and soften it for habitat. It was also felt that more than 1/3 of the pond was going to be lost putting in the proposed wall. We would have to reshape the pond to gain back lost volume.

### **Fish Hatchery Pond:**

1. It was pointed out that it is non-conclusive in what is causing siltation of pond. Jill Rickard stated that if we clean out the pond we could probably find ends of pipes etc that may be responsible for the siltation.
2. Jill also pointed out that the previous attempt to get grant funding to dredge the pond was met with resistance from the State in that they felt it was maintenance. Jill however felt it was important to save the pond. Mark Chester and John Klarr felt that the pond is popular with park users. It has historical significance and it could provide if cleaned out deep enough water to sustain fish.
3. Jim Allen had reservations about connecting the dredging the pond with the creek work.

### **Consensus:**

1. After deliberation a vote was taken which passed unanimously to save the pond as an integral feature of the park and enhance its ability to support fish.
2. It was agreed upon to stabilize the entire bank of the creek within the park.
3. It was decided that the new slope configuration would impact the ball diamonds. Mr. Klarr felt as the former Ball League President that one of the fields is mostly un-useable due to insects and poor drainage. We could go down to one field.

4. It was agreed to revisit the old Master Plan and develop a revised layout that included the improved water features and to evaluate the parking. J Allen offered to do some simple parking lot layouts.
5. It was agreed upon that interpretive signage would be included in the final solution.

**Actions:**

1. George and Ron from OHM will verify location of sewer through park.
2. Jason Spiller is to send ECT plant to J Allen.
3. Jim Allen is to meet with Mike Nurse to walk site again and solidify proposal to develop grant applications.
4. Elizabeth Iszler will check with Wayne County Parks to see what the time conditions are on the outstanding grant with Northville.
5. Jill Rickard is to check to see if she can get a grade map of the site.
6. Nancy Darga is to start identifying grants for projects.

## NEXT MEETING

JANUARY 26, 2016 9:00 am  
Northville Community Center