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Desiree Stanfield
248-705-4108**

**Oakland County Parks and Recreation partners with Board of Commissioners,
Waterford Township to help fund extension of Waterford Riverwalk Trail**

OAKLAND COUNTY – Trailways provide a great opportunity for people to boost their physical and mental wellbeing and enjoy the great outdoors. Last month, the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission (OCPRC) approved \$58,000 in funding for a collaboration with the Oakland County Board of Commissioners and Waterford Township to support extending the Waterford Riverwalk Trail. The preliminary engineering and design plans for the new section of the Riverwalk, which will connect the existing trail to the Drayton Plains Nature Center, will cost \$172,000, with each of the contributing partners providing an equal amount of funding. At its meeting yesterday, the Waterford Township Board accepted the interlocal agreement with Oakland County, paving the way for the project to get underway.

Waterford Township first began construction on a Riverwalk along the Clinton River in 2000, starting it at Riverside Elementary School with the long-term goal of reaching the Drayton Plains Nature Center. Over the years, the project has moved forward in phases. Oakland County Commissioner Karen Joliat (District #4), who was serving as a Waterford Township Trustee back in the early days of the Riverwalk project, and Oakland County Commissioner Kristen Nelson (District #5) co-sponsored a resolution to secure county funding for this final stage of the project.

“Connecting the Riverwalk to the Drayton Plains Nature Center was always the big picture vision for this project, which has been in the works for nearly a decade,” Joliat said. “It is so exciting to see it come to fruition after all these years. With its location right in the center of the county, this beautiful trail will provide respite and recreation opportunities for both the deserving residents of Waterford and people in the surrounding communities.”

“I applaud Commissioner Joliat’s leadership in securing funding to complete the Riverwalk project,” Nelson said. “This will be another wonderful outdoor recreational space to enjoy in Oakland County!”

Partnering with the Oakland County Board of Commissioners and Waterford Township on this project is an opportunity for Oakland County Parks and Recreation to improve the health and wellness of county residents, to connect people with local facilities such as the Drayton Plains Nature Center, and to utilize funding set aside for local park and recreation improvements that benefit county residents. Waterford Township hopes to complete the preliminary design and engineering aspects of the project by the end of this fall.

“Our Riverwalk project here in Waterford Township has been ongoing for the last several years,” Waterford Township Supervisor Gary Wall said. “Recently, we approached Oakland County Parks and the Oakland County Board of Commissioners to join forces with Waterford Township to help complete the project. This joint collaboration will allow us to get this project designed and finished, bringing the Easternmost leg of the Riverwalk connection to the Drayton Plains Nature Center – truly one of the community’s crown jewels! This is what happens when governments work together, it’s a benefit for all!”

“Oakland County Parks and Recreation is pleased to be able to collaborate with local communities to make positive investments in parks and recreation resources that benefit our residents,” OCPRC Chairman Gary R. McGillivray said.

For information about Oakland County Parks and Recreation, visit [OaklandCountyParks.com](https://oaklandcountyparks.com). Join the conversation on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).