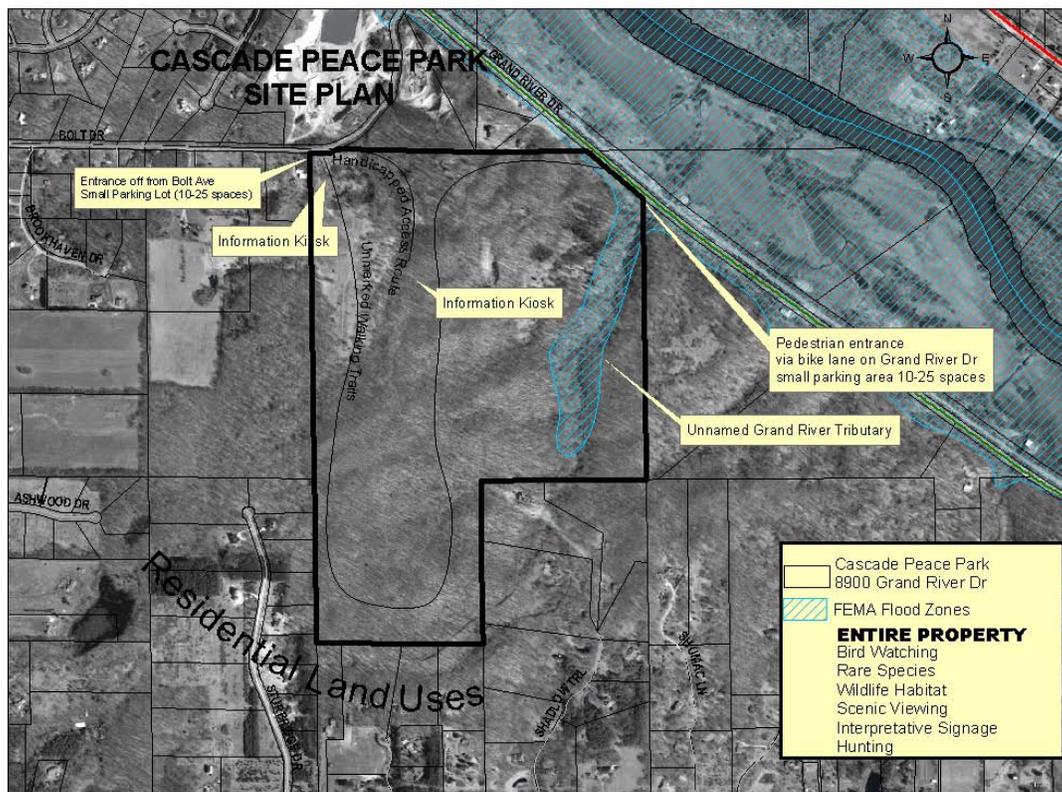


# A Master Plan for Cascade Peace Park



Approved March 10, 2010

## 2010 - Park and Recreation Committee:

Michelle Bottrall  
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## Staff:

Steve Peterson, Planning Director

## **Cascade Peace Park**

Cascade Peace Park is approximately 198 acres in size. This property consists of floodplain, meadow areas with extensive old growth forest. No improvements are on the property and it is intended that any changes to the property will only allow for passive recreational uses. This is complemented by the fact that the Township was awarded a Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund (MDNRTF) grant in 2009 for 1.2 million dollars in order to help purchase the property. In doing so the Township made several commitments to the State in order for the state to look favorable on our grant application. In doing so the Township must adhere to the grant requirements in order to be reimbursed the 1.2 million dollars.

Access to the property is obtained in two locations. The access off from Bolt Drive is located at the west end of the Bolt frontage and is an unpaved section of road. This access point will allow for a small parking area and is better suited for handicapped access than the other access off from Grand River Dr. The Grand River drive access is at the far NE corner of the property and is accessed off from a main arterial paved road. This road also has a dedicated bike lane on the park side of the road providing good access for non vehicular traffic to the site. This location also provides an opportunity to provide public parking. Some improvement will have to be made in order to provide access at both locations that are compliant with the KCRC requirements as well as providing the proper design and engineering for storm water purposes.

This property was identified originally by the Cascade Township open space study as having desirable features for preservation. In order to acquire the property the Township worked with the assistance of the open space committee, The Land Conservancy of West Michigan, The Nature Conservancy, The Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Disability advocates of West Michigan as well as local landscapers. The property was acquired with assistance by the MDNRTF and the TNC. Both of these organizations provided assistance in purchasing the property. Attached to this report is a copy of the narrative for the grant that specifies several items that the Township has committed to.

The Cascade Charter Township Parks Committee is recommending that the Cascade Peace Park be developed as follows:

1. A sign placed at both entrances identifying the park; these signs shall also indicate the assistance from the MDNRTF as well as the TNC in the acquisition of the property. It is preferred that these signs be low ground mounted signs no taller than 5 feet high and 64 sq.ft in size.
2. A small parking area should be developed at both entrances. These parking areas should be limited to non-paved surfaces or other

- stormwater sensitive design that will limit the increase in runoff from the parking areas.
3. One or two small information kiosks shall be provided at one or both of the entrances that provide information about the park as well as maps and the rules of the park.
  4. Hunting will be permitted on the property in conjunction with the State of Michigan rules for non-firearm hunting. Hunting shall be limited to archery for deer only. A permit process shall be developed to limit the number of hunters on the property but no fee will be required for the permit.
  5. Small property demarcation signs shall be provided sporadically through the park. These signs will assist in locating the property boundaries for those on the park property as well as the adjacent private property owners.
  6. Continue to work with disability advocates to ensure improvements to the park are consistent with access to disabled persons. A detailed plan for access to the park is included in the plan.
  7. The trails on the property will be unmarked and unimproved until such time as the Township feels it may be necessary to improve the trails. It is intended that any improvements would maintain a passive trail system and not any pavement surfaces.
  8. Bicycles are prohibited from the park as of March 10, 2010. It is intended that the Township will continue to evaluate this issue.
  9. The Cascade Peace Park should be open from dawn (around 7 am) until dusk (no later than 10 pm). Permitted hunters may enter one (1) hour earlier during the hunting season. These are similar hours to the other Township Parks.
  10. No gates are necessary, although a design that will limit vehicles from going beyond the entrance is encouraged.
  11. Develop an Ordinance and Rules for the Cascade Peace Park that are similar to other Township Parks.
  12. Develop a list of rules that can be posted at the entrances or kiosk
  13. The Township should provide an initial Forest Management Plan and have it updated every 10 years. This will be done to ensure that we are following sound forest management practices to monitor and maintain a healthy and vigorous forest.