

S T A T E O F M I C H I G A N

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF ALLEGAN

PARKS & RECREATION - APPROVE LETTER OF SUPPORT RELEASE

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners approves the request from the Tourist Council to release the attached letter of support on behalf of the County; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the Clerk is hereby instructed to provide a certified copy of this resolution to Midwest Strategy and Representatives: Joey Andrews, Nancy DeBoer, Matt Hall, Angela Rigas, Pauline Wendzel and Rachelle Smit.

DRAFT



ALLEGAN COUNTY
REQUEST FOR ACTION FORM

Date: 4/17/23

Request Type Routine Items
Department Requesting Tourist Council
Submitted By Brandy Gildea
Contact Information bgildea@allegancounty.org

Description

The Tourist Council is seeking approval to send this letter of support on behalf of Robert Allegan & 5 A group to create a bicycle & XC ski trail system in areas of the Allegan County State Game area. The Parks Advisory Board made the same request in October 2021. See the attached BOC resolution supporting the park's request. The Tourist Council is seeking approval using the same letter the parks board used. The goals and objectives (see listed in letter) in our current recreation plan that was approved by the BOC on December 12, 2019 support this request.

FROM TOURIST COUNCIL MINUTES: 1. Letter of Support - Bicycle/XC ski trail Through State Game Area – Review and recommend to BOC/County Administrator a request for Support from Rob Allen/5A's for creating a bicycle/XC ski trail system through the Allegan County State Game Area. - Rob Allen spoke regarding his proposal to MTAC council for a trail system. He states the trails are unsafe and unreachable and his proposal would create access and usability. Currently DNR wildlife division is in control of the game area which is causing final approval to be stalled. Allen proposal includes a linear trail and a single, natural path following topography of the land with trailheads in Hamilton and Allegan. A motion was made by Burn, seconded by Albright to recommend to the BOC/County Administrator a request for support for Rob Allen/5 A's for creating a bicycle/XC ski trail system through the Allegan County State Game Area. The motion carried.



Allegan County Parks, Recreation, & Tourism

3283 122nd Avenue

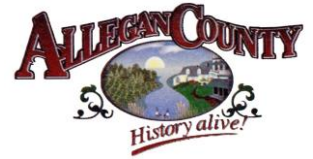
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Tourism Web: www.visitallegancounty.com

E-mail: parks@allegancounty.org



April 28, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of Allegan County Parks, Recreation and Tourism, I am writing to express support for creating a quality, safe, accessible bicycle & XC ski trail system in areas of the Allegan County State Game Area not already in use and that would align with the mission of the DNR for the State Game Area. This effort is consistent with the goals and objectives below from within the Allegan County Board of Commissioners approved Parks 5-Year Recreation Plan.

- Goal 2: Provide safe, broad community-based recreation opportunities, facilities, and programs that improve the overall quality-of-life year round for all Allegan County residents and tourists.
 - Objectives
 - Add recreational opportunities/amenities, which fall in line with the purpose of the park and are based upon recreation needs, trends, and input from the community.
 - Continue efforts to find and enhance recreation opportunities throughout Allegan County
 - Create more winter recreation opportunities, such as cross-country skiing, sledding, and snowshoeing.
- Goal 3: Provide leisure time activities with special consideration given to improving health, wellness, and fitness.
 - Objectives
 - Provide both passive and active activities for a variety of ages and abilities of the community.
 - Expand healthy lifestyle, physical fitness, and wellness programs, educating residents about the benefits of this lifestyle.
- Goal 4: Provide non-motorized and/or multi-use pathways/waterways for recreational and transportation use.
 - Objectives
 - Expand non-motorized and/or multi-use pathways/waterways through Allegan County with a focus on linking parks, schools, neighborhoods, cities, business areas, regional trails, and local destination points.
 - Support the efforts of trail groups (Friends of the Blue Star Trail, River to River trail committee, etc.) to connect Allegan County to parks, schools, neighborhoods cities, business areas, regional trails, and local destination points.

Based on alignment with these goals and objectives, to include increasing community-based recreation opportunities, increased tourism, economic growth, and public health improvements, Allegan County Parks, Recreation and Tourism supports your effort to move this project forward.

Sincerely,

Brandy Gildea
Parks Manager