

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 - LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR CITY OF ALLEGAN SPARK GRANT
APPLICATION TO REPLACE THE CLOSED TRESTLE TRAIL BRIDGE**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners authorizes the release of the letter of support, as attached.

DRAFT

Allegan County Board of Commissioners



County Services Building
3283 – 122nd Avenue
Allegan, MI 49010
269-673-0203 Main Office
269-686-5331 Main Fax
<http://www.allegancounty.org>

Jim Storey, Chairperson
Dean Kapenga, Vice Chairperson

June 9, 2023

DISTRICT 1

Jim Storey
616-848-9767
jstorey@
allegancounty.org

State of Michigan
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 30028
Lansing, MI 48909

DISTRICT 2

Mark DeYoung
616-318-9612
mdeyoung@
allegancounty.org

RE: City of Allegan, Michigan SPARK Grant Application to replace the closed Trestle Trail Bridge

Dear Funding Agency,

DISTRICT 3

Dean Kapenga
616-218-2599
dkapenga@
allegancounty.org

The Allegan County Board of Commissioners submit this letter of support for the City of Allegan as they endeavor to secure funding to replace the closed Trestle Trail Bridge. The Trestle Trail Bridge is a wooden structure that is failing in many places and has been officially closed to the public by the City of Allegan. The bridge is approximately 10 feet wide and has a span of 70 feet as it crosses the Kalamazoo River. This is a critical piece of the city's recreation infrastructure as well as for the county's interconnected off-road vehicle trails.

DISTRICT 4

Scott Beltman
616-292-1414
sbeltman@
allegancounty.org

Located at the northern end of the city-owned Jaycee Park, this bridge connects an underserved neighborhood to recreation opportunities which include a skate park, a disc golf course, a dog park, a basketball court, a playground and a .3-mile walking loop. This bridge also serves as the primary connector for Off-Road Vehicles into Downtown Allegan and with the impending MDOT-funded roundabout construction at the M89/M40/Hubbard Street junction, this bridge will be the only connection for Off-Road Vehicles into Downtown Allegan. Unless this bridge is replaced, Downtown Allegan will not be connected to the existing Off-Road Vehicles trail system throughout Allegan County.

DISTRICT 5

Gale Dugan
269-694-5276
gdugan@
allegancounty.org

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:

Mission Statement

“The Allegan County Board of Commissioners shall plan, develop, and evaluate the necessary policies and resources to ensure our county continues to progress and prosper”

- a. 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.
- b. Increase recreational opportunities for people with disabilities.
- c. Continue efforts to find and enhance recreation opportunities throughout Allegan County
- d. Continue to add structural amenities, such as pavilions and restroom buildings, to the park facilities based upon community input and need to ensure that there are sufficient park and recreation opportunities for all current and potential users.

Goal 3: Provide leisure time activities with special consideration given to improving health, wellness and fitness.

Objectives:

- a. Provide both passive and active activities for a variety of ages and abilities of the community.

Goal 4: Provide non-motorized and/or multi-use pathways/waterways for recreational and transportation use.

Objectives:

- a. Expand non-motorized and/or multi- use pathways/waterways through Allegan County with a focus upon linking parks, schools, neighborhoods cities, business areas, regional trails and local destination points.
- b. 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, the Allegan County Board of Commissioners supports your effort to move this project forward.

Sincerely,

Jim Storey, Board Chairperson