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Grand Ledge Expands Oak Park

GRAND LEDGE, MI, October 25, 2016 — The City of Grand Ledge has increased the size of Oak Park by nearly 40% with the purchase of 3.41 acres of undeveloped land, including 442 feet of shoreline along the Grand River. The acquisition was made possible through the City's successful grant award of \$42,000 from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Trust Fund and City matching funds of \$18,000. Oak Park and its ledges are located at 700 West Front Street along the north side of the Grand River.

Beloved by rock climbers and nature lovers, Oak Park now has nine acres of land to enjoy, including 1,054 feet of riverfront that will be protected from future residential development. As a condition of the MDNR Trust Fund grant, the new addition is required to be utilized as parkland and open to the public. Located on a northerly bluff overlooking the Grand River, Oak Park offers a passive, natural setting as well as access to the popular sandstone ledges from which the City's name was derived.

Mayor Kalmin Smith remarked, "With the premier location along the Grand River, the City looks to this addition of Oak Park as an amazing advancement of the park system." The City is grateful for local businessperson, Terry Hanks for selling this key parcel and enhancing outdoor opportunities for generations to come.



"The City is committed under the terms of the MDNR grant funding and the direction provided within the future Parks and Recreation Master Plan to enhance Oak Park with better hiking and biking trails, interpretive signage, improved access to the river and ledges, a canoe/kayak pull out area, and improved directional signage to locate the park from downtown," City Administrator, Adam Smith said.

In 1901, the City of Grand Ledge declared the original 5.58-acre plot as, Oak Park. The addition of 3.41 acres, which also includes rock outcrops, significantly increases the park size and provides additional recreation opportunities for hiking, rock climbing, and enjoyment of the natural features of the Grand River. Oak Park offers a beautifully shaded picnic and wildlife viewing area beneath the canopy of its mature oaks.

Oak Park is open to the public from dusk until dawn, seven days a week. For additional information on parks in the City of Grand Ledge, visit www.cityofgrandledge.com.

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