AGENDA



REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE PARKS, RECREATION AND ARTS COMMISSION

December 13, 2017 TIME: 6:00 PM

PLACE: City of Rocklin Council Chambers

www.rocklin.ca.us

MANNER OF ADDRESSING THE COMMISSION

Citizens may address the Commission on any item on the agenda at the time the item is considered. Citizens wishing to speak may request recognition from the Chairperson by raising their hand and stepping to the lectern when requested to do so. Speakers will usually be allowed five (5) minutes; however, the Chairperson may set shorter time limits. Speakers are asked to identify themselves by stating their name and the city they reside in for the official record.

STANDARDS OF DECORUM

Any person who disrupts the meeting of the Commission, may be barred by the presiding commissioner from further audience before the Commission during that meeting, unless permission to continue be granted by majority vote of the Commission.

All remarks shall be addressed to the Commission as a body and not to any member thereof, or to staff, or to the public. No person, other than a member of the Commission, and the person having the floor, shall be permitted to enter into any discussion without the permission of the presiding commissioner.

For items not on the agenda, and for non-hearing items on the agenda the person addressing the Commission shall be limited to five minutes, unless the time is adjusted by the presiding commissioner.

Whenever any group of persons wishes to address the Commission on the same subject matter, it shall be proper for the presiding commissioner to request that a spokesman be chosen by the group to address the Commission and, in case additional matters are to be presented at the time by any member of the group, to limit the number of persons so addressing the Commission, so as to avoid unnecessary repetition.

As a courtesy to all, please turn off cell phones and other electronic devices during the meeting.

WRITINGS RECEIVED AFTER AGENDA POSTING

Any writing related to an agenda item for the open session of this meeting distributed to the Parks, Recreation and Arts Commission less than 72 hours before this meeting is available for inspection at City Hall, 3970 Rocklin Road, Rocklin, during normal business hours. These writings will also be available for review at the Parks and Recreation Department Building located at 5460 5th Street, Rocklin. If you have questions related to this agenda, please call 916-625-5200.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Rocklin encourages those with disabilities to participate fully in the public hearing process. If you have a special need in order to allow you to attend or participate in our public meeting and public hearing processes, including receiving notices, agendas, and other writings in appropriate alternative formats, please contact our office at (916) 625-5200 well in advance of the public meeting or public hearing you wish to attend so that we may make every reasonable effort to accommodate you.

ELECTRONIC PRESENTATIONS

All persons with electronic presentations for public meetings will be required to bring their own laptop or other form of standalone device that is HDMI or VGA compatible. It is further recommended that presenters arrive early to test their presentations. The City is not responsible for the compatibility or operation of non-city devices or the functionality of non-city presentations.

POSTING OF AGENDA

In accordance with Government Code Section 54954.2(a) this agenda was posted on the City's bulletin board at City Hall, 3970 Rocklin Road, Rocklin, and City of Rocklin website at www.rocklin.ca.us.

AGENDA

INTRODUCTION

- 1. Meeting called to order at:
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance:
- 3. Roll Call:
 - A. Commissioners:
 - B. City Personnel:

AGENDA REVIEW

4. Agenda Modifications

CONSENT CALENDAR

The following routine matters can be acted upon by one motion. Individual items may be removed by Commission for separate discussion. The title is deemed to be read and further reading waived of any ordinance listed on the Consent Calendar for introduction or adoption.

5. Minutes

A. Minutes for November 8, 2017

CITIZENS ADDRESSING THE COMMISSION

Members of the public may address the Commission at this time on any item of business of interest to the public that is not on the agenda. Speakers are limited to five minutes unless the time is extended by the presiding commissioner. Commissioners may briefly respond to statements made or questions asked by the speaker, but may not make any decisions or take action on any item not on the agenda.

6. NAME AND CITY

REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS/DICUSSION AND POTENTIAL ACTION ITEMS

- 7. Sunset Whitney Golf Course Property Guiding Principals and Objectives
- 8. Parks, Trails & Open Space Communications Plan
- 9. Director's Report
- 10. Commission Priority Projects and Potential Subcommittees for 2018

COMMISSION REPORTS

- 11. Reports from Committee
- 12. Commission Comments

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

13. Meeting Adjourned at



MINUTES REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE

PARKS, RECREATION
AND ARTS COMMISSION

November 08, 2017 TIME: 6:00 PM

PLACE: Council Chambers, 3970 Rocklin Road

www.rocklin.ca.us

MANNER OF ADDRESSING THE COMMISSION

Citizens may address the Commission on any item on the agenda at the time the item is considered. Citizens wishing to speak may request recognition from the Chairperson by raising their hand and stepping to the lectern when requested to do so. Speakers will usually be allowed five (5) minutes; however, the Chairperson may set shorter time limits. Speakers are asked to identify themselves by stating their name and the city they reside in for the official record.

STANDARDS OF DECORUM

Any person who disrupts the meeting of the Commission, may be barred by the presiding commissioner from further audience before the Commission during that meeting, unless permission to continue be granted by majority vote of the Commission.

All remarks shall be addressed to the Commission as a body and not to any member thereof, or to staff, or to the public. No person, other than a member of the Commission, and the person having the floor, shall be permitted to enter into any discussion without the permission of the presiding commissioner.

For items not on the agenda, and for non-hearing items on the agenda the person addressing the Commission shall be limited to five minutes, unless the time is adjusted by the presiding commissioner.

Whenever any group of persons wishes to address the Commission on the same subject matter, it shall be proper for the presiding commissioner to request that a spokesman be chosen by the group to address the Commission and, in case additional matters are to be presented at the time by any member of the group, to limit the number of persons so addressing the Commission, so as to avoid unnecessary repetition.

As a courtesy to all, please turn off cell phones and other electronic devices during the meeting.

WRITINGS RECEIVED AFTER AGENDA POSTING

Any writing related to an agenda item for the open session of this meeting distributed to the Parks, Recreation and Arts Commission less than 72 hours before this meeting is available for inspection at City Hall, 3970 Rocklin Road, Rocklin, during normal business hours. These writings will also be available for review at the Parks and Recreation Department Building located at 5460 5th Street, Rocklin. If you have questions related to this agenda, please call 916-625-5200.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Rocklin encourages those with disabilities to participate fully in the public hearing process. If you have a special need in order to allow you to attend or participate in our public meeting and public hearing processes, including receiving notices, agendas, and other writings in appropriate alternative formats, please contact our office at (916) 625-5200 well in advance of the public meeting or public hearing you wish to attend so that we may make every reasonable effort to accommodate you.

ELECTRONIC PRESENTATIONS

All persons with electronic presentations for public meetings will be required to bring their own laptop or other form of standalone device that is HDMI or VGA compatible. It is further recommended that presenters arrive early to test their presentations. The City is not responsible for the compatibility or operation of non-city devices or the functionality of non-city presentations.

POSTING OF AGENDA

In accordance with Government Code Section 54954.2(a) this agenda was posted on the City's bulletin board at City Hall, 3970 Rocklin Road, Rocklin, and City of Rocklin website at www.rocklin.ca.us.

AGENDA

INTRODUCTION

1. Meeting called to order at:

Meeting called to order at 6:00 P.M.

2. Pledge of Allegiance:

Pledge of Allegiance led by Youth Commissioner Alexia Najera

3. Roll Call:

A. Commissioners:

Youth Commissioner Najera

Commissioner Anderson

Chair Woman Hartwell

Commissioner Stockton

Commissioner Armstrong-Bryant

Commissioner Richey

B. City Personnel:

Director Karen Garner (Parks and Recreation)

Parks Manager Sarah Novo (Parks and Recreation)

Recreation Manager Kevin Huntzinger (Parks and Recreation)

Assistant City Attorney DeeAnne Gillick (City Manager's Office)

Associate Management Analyst Michael Young (Central Services)

4. Agenda Modifications
Director Karen Garner approved discussing agenda item number 8 prior to discussion of agenda item number 7.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The following routine matters can be acted upon by one motion. Individual items may be removed by Commission for separate discussion. The title is deemed to be read and further reading waived of any ordinance listed on the Consent Calendar for introduction or adoption.

5. Minutes

- A. Minutes for September 13, 2017
- B. Minutes for October 11, 2017

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to approve the September 13th, 2017 and October 11th, 2017 minutes, commissioner Richey seconds the motion. Motion passed 5 to 0.

CITIZENS ADDRESSING THE COMMISSION

Members of the public may address the Commission at this time on any item of business of interest to the public that is not on the agenda. Speakers are limited to five minutes unless the time is extended by the presiding commissioner. Commissioners may briefly respond to statements made or questions asked by the speaker, but may not make any decisions or take action on any item not on the agenda.

6. NAME AND CITY

REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS/DICUSSION AND POTENTIAL ACTION ITEMS

7. Rocklin's 125th Anniversary (Presentation by Michael Young, Associate Management Analyst)

Michael Young gave a presentation discussing upcoming events for the 125th anniversary celebrations.

8. City's Role in Ballot Measure Campaigns (Presentation by DeeAnne Gillick, Assistant City Attorney)

DeeAnne Gillick spoke to commission in regards to best practices with the upcoming ballot measure.

9. Park Naming Recommendations

Commissioners discussed potential park names. Mr. Jerry Mitchell spoke during public comment and suggested naming the pocket park located behind Bass Pro Chris or Christine Anderson Park after current and long-time Parks, Recreation and Arts Commissioner, Chris Anderson. Commissioners unanimously votes to name the two upcoming parks, Christine Anderson Park and Sierra Pine Park.

Motion made by Commissioner Stockton, second by commissioner Armstrong-Bryant.

10. Parks, Trails & Open Space Communications Plan

Director Garner provided survey results conducted by Bamboo Creative which included more than 1,000 participants.

11. Priority Projects Update

Parks Manager Novo provided updates on Johnson-Springview Park water play area including a prelimnary design and projected installation. Director Garner discussed other priority projects as noted in the staff report.

12. Director's Report

Director Garner discussed:

- -Bike trail letter
- -Field user round table discussion
- -Golf Course purchase and the City Council's desire to involve commission in gathering community input on the golf course.
- -Gather event feedback

13. Park Manager's Report (verbal)

Parks manager Novo discussed sand area construction at Twin Oaks Park, play structure delivery at the new Christine Anderson Park, and completion of installation of bike racks at Quarry Park.

Recreation Manager Huntzinger gave a verbal report to commission on the NRPA Conference he attended in September.

COMMISSION REPORTS

14. Reports from Committees

Commissioner Armstrong-Bryant requested there be an Art-Task Force meeting prior to next commission meeting in December.

Commissioner Richey discussed senior survey being created.

15. Commission Comments

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- -List of committees and who is participating in what
- -Review of senior survey created by Commissioner Richey

ADJOURNMENT

16. Meeting Adjourned at

Meeting adjourned at 7:43 P.M.



Parks, Recreation, and Arts Commission Report

Subject: Sunset Whitney Golf Course Property-Guiding Principles and Objectives - Item 7

Submitted by: Karen Garner, Director Date: December 13, 2017

Department: Parks & Recreation

• Staff Recommendation:

• For Discussion Only.

BACKGROUND:

At the October 24th Council meeting, the City Council voted to approve purchase of the former Sunset Whitney Golf Course. The property is currently in escrow with closing scheduled no later than 105 days from council approval. There is, of course, great interest and excitement from the public regarding this property with many ideas for potential uses. It is anticipated that after the sale of the property is complete, the Parks, Recreation and Arts Commission will take the lead in soliciting and reviewing public comment and making recommendations to the City Council for both short and long-term plans.

As noted in the October 24th staff report to Council, the following findings were made.

- The site will serve many public purposes, presently and in the future, including but not limited to, recreational, park, trail and open space purposes.
- It will take time and additional resources to bring the property into minimum standards for public use. It is likely that there will be smaller phased openings for public use as minimum standards and further enhancements are applied to the property.
- The city will provide adequate weed abatement and fire control maintenance throughout the property irrespective of phased openings to the public.

Although the City has not yet closed on the property, staff recommends that the Commission begin outlining guiding principles and objectives related to public outreach. Guiding principles are overarching directives against which actions and recommendations should be evaluated and support. Objectives are specific tasks that are to be achieved and should always support the guiding principles. Staff suggests the following for Commission consideration;

Guiding Principles

- The Sunset Whitney Golf Course property will serve as an asset for the entire Rocklin community.
 Therefore, input should be sought from all Rocklin citizens and groups and should represent a variety of age groups and interests.
- The Commission shall collect and evaluate community input and make recommendations to the City Council.
- Similar to city parks, residents that border the property are more directly impacted by the condition and
 use of the property. This should be taken into consideration and acknowledged and a balance sought
 between the needs of adjacent residents and the greater community.

- Input on all aspects of the property should be sought including the type of amenity desired, potential short and long-term uses, level of maintenance and potential funding sources.
- Recommendations shall include consideration of one-time and ongoing funding needs, the identification
 of potential funding sources, identification of potential impacts to other city programs, services or
 personnel, consideration of the number of people or groups that will benefit, compatibility and potential
 partners.
- Recommendations shall take into consideration how they serve to further city's adopted goals and objectives including the General Plan, Citywide Strategic Plan, Parks and Trails Master Plan, Trails Strategy and Action Plan and other applicable documents.
- Input shall be obtained through a variety of manners including, surveys, workshops, social media and other public forums.
- Input and suggestions received should be considered informational and evaluated on its own merit as well
 considering compatibility and affect with other existed or planned elements. Partnership or other
 synergistic opportunities should be sought where possible.
- It is acknowledged that some desired amenities may not be feasible or advisable due to a variety of issues including funding constraints, compatibility, lack of broad interest or other circumstances.

Objectives

- Provide short-term recommendations to council for those items that can be implemented short-term, but also gather data and information with the goal of preparing a master plan in the future.
- Develop a plan for outreach including gathering input on use, amenities, priorities, funding, volunteer interest and other related matters.
- Research and vet ideas which commission believes have merit and prepare recommendations to City Council.
- Receive public input on recommendations.
- Develop a work plan that includes timeframes for short and long-term objectives.



Parks, Recreation, and Arts Commission Report

Subject: Parks, Trails and Open Space Communication Plan - Item 8

Submitted by: Karen Garner, Director Date: December 13, 2017

Department: Parks & Recreation

• Staff Recommendation:

No Action Necessary. For Information Only.

BACKGROUND:

Steps Completed to Date

 Online park survey with over 1,000 respondents plus approximately 20 phone surveys. Bamboo Creative reported out on the survey finding and developed possible messaging.

In Process

Bamboo Creative is testing sample messaging. The process will involve testing marketing language and photos using Facebook ads. The ads will direct people to the park's website, and what will be tested is the click-throughs and engagement with the ads. The testing will last approximately one week and targets people who live in Rocklin.

Based on results of the testing, Bamboo Creative will be able to determine what message resonates with the citizens of Rocklin. Once Bamboo has that data, they'll begin to work on design and assets for the messaging. See attached for images of Facebook test messaging.

Campaign Testing for Rocklin Parks and Recreation

Ad Set 1 - This is Where We Park

Text: Imagine having a ten-acre backyard. In Rocklin, the possibilities are right around your corner.





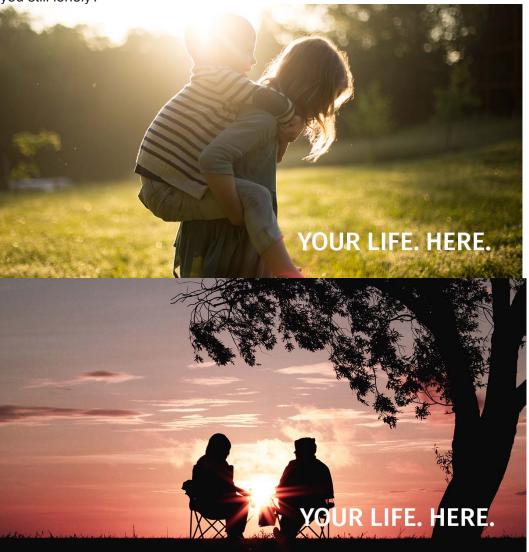
Headline: Come park with us.

Subheadline: Find the Rocklin park nearest you and expand your playground!

Link: https://www.rocklin.ca.us/parks

Ad Set 2 - Your Life. Here.

Text: You've got your phone and laptop, and not a minute goes by that you aren't connected... but are you still lonely?



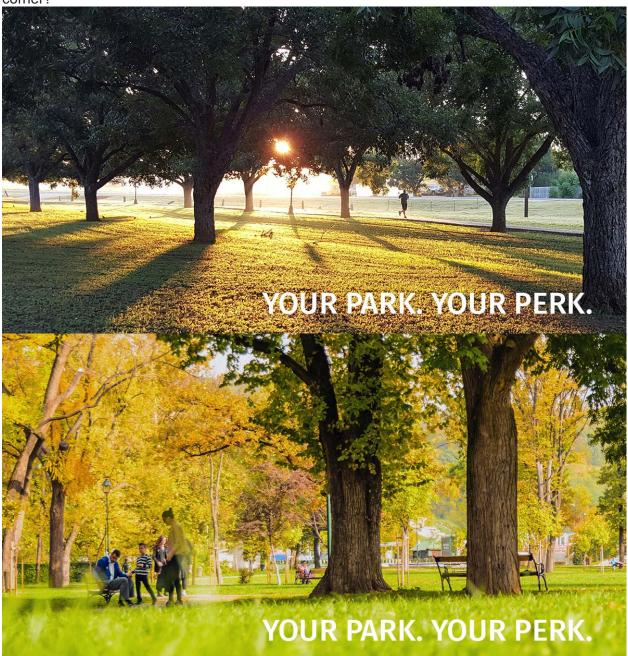
Headline: Do your life here, and truly plug in.

Subheadline: Find a Rocklin park near you and connect!

Link: https://www.rocklin.ca.us/parks

Ad Set 3 - Your Park. Your Perk.

Text: Did you know your property value might be 20% higher because of what you have around the corner?



Headline: Your home. Your city. Your park.

Subheadline: With over 30 parks to choose from, do you know which Rocklin Park is nearest you? Click

to find out and discover how your park can benefit you!

Link: https://www.rocklin.ca.us/parks



Parks, Recreation, and Arts Commission Report

Subject: Director's Report - Item 9

Submitted by: Karen Garner, Director Date: December 13, 2017

Department: Parks & Recreation

• Staff Recommendation:

• Informational Only. No Action necessary.

Pacific Street Bike Trail Segment

Letter prepared by Commissioner Richey on behalf of the Commission recommending inclusion of the missing segment of the Pacific Street bike lane was submitted to the Public Services Director, Justin Nartker. Staff will follow-up during the scheduled CIP process to ensure letter is considered by CIP committee.

Article Regarding Conversions of Former Golf Courses

Attached is an article Commissioner Stockton found and requested to share with the rest of the Commission. The article discusses the conversion of former golf courses into open space and restored nature areas.

Senior Survey

Commissioner Richey has drafted a survey to be distributed to seniors (attached). Staff would have hard copies available in the Senior Activity Room, but would also promote through social media and have an electronic version online. Staff asks that the Commission review and send any comments or suggestions to me. Staff will finalize and distribute after the holidays.

Upcoming Special Events

Gather – Holiday Edition – Rocklin Event Center, Saturday, December 16th afternoon/early evening As a replacement for the June Gather event that had to be cancelled due to heat, Gather – Holiday Edition will bring unique vendors, music and food and drink tasting and demonstrations to Rocklin. Last minute shoppers will find many unique gifts at this one-of-a-kind holiday event.

Breakfast with Santa - Saturday, December 23, 8 to 11 am, Sunset Event Center

Boy Scout Troop #29 will be taking over this event this year. Registration will begin soon for this amazing event that is sure to be a sell-out once again.

As hundreds of golf courses close, nature gets a chance to make a comeback

Bogeys may be gone, but birdies and eagles thrive as former greens and fairways are transformed into wild spaces.



Photo courtesy of Lauren Kamp Writer<u>Travis Wood</u> MPPA Candidate, University of Missouri–St. Louis

November 8, 2017 — No longer constrained by repeated mowing and herbicide applications, the manicured fairways of the shuttered Highlands Golf Course in western Michigan have given way to tall grasses swaying in the breeze, interrupted only by more than 2 miles (3.2 kilometers) of looping trails in what is now The Highlands natural area. Several of the old greens are now tall and short-grass prairie plots, offering a glimpse of what the future holds for a piece of land that had been a golf course for the past 100 years.

By annexing the 121-acre Highlands Golf Course, the <u>Blandford Nature Center</u> is following a path blazed by organizations in at least 13 states across the country: converting courses closed due to reduced demand into nature preserves, parks and restored wetlands. From Washington to New Jersey and Florida to Wisconsin, dozens of golf courses have been transformed into natural areas, providing new recreational and environmental education opportunities to surrounding communities and restoring habitat for native plants and animals.



Annexed by Blandford Nature Center, the former Highlands Golf Course in western Michigan is now home to prairie plots and looping trails instead of fairways and greens. Map data: Google "The potential for recreation to meet with wildlife habitat is pretty rare, because not much large open space is available for that kind of development in urban space," says landscape designer Nick Yoder, who examined sustainable reuse options for closed golf courses as a graduate student at the University of Maryland's Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture. Golf courses offer a unique and valuable opportunity to protect green space from development and incorporate nature into existing developed areas.

Opportunity Knocks

During the 1980s, 1990s and early 2000s more than 4,000 golf courses were built to feed an expected growth in demand tied to baby-boomer golfers. But the cost and time commitment required to play eroded demand, putting courses across the country out of business. Golf participation dropped nearly 17 percent, from a high of 30 million players in 2003 to 25 million in 2013, according to the National Golf Foundation (NGF). The 2008 financial crisis exacerbated the problem, resulting in owners placing large tracts of open land on the market, often in the heart of urban or suburban areas starved for green space. In fact, golf course closures have exceeded openings every year since 2006, according to the NGF, with 211 courses closing their doors in 2016. And the NGF expects the trend to extend for several more years as an oversaturated market continues to shed unprofitable courses that fail to find sufficient players to pay green fees.



Highlands Golf Course changed dramatically between spring 2016, when the course was still operational, and summer 2017, after it was renovated by Blandford Nature Center. Photos courtesy of Colin Hoogerwerf

After the housing market collapse beginning in 2007, nature-preserving organizations in Ohio, Wisconsin and many other states took advantage of affordable land prices to purchase golf courses, protecting green space from development. While many defunct courses are repurposed as residential developments, community opposition, zoning requirements and locations in floodplains are all barriers to development. Areas prone to flooding may be poor candidates for residential development, but perfect locations for wetland restoration efforts, while sites zoned for open space are candidates for parks and nature preserves that avoid contentious rezoning efforts.

Readied for Restoration

Once acquired, a golf course must be readied for restoration. This can include dealing with potential water quality issues, dilapidated infrastructure, security concerns, invasive species and more. And conditions that were perfectly fine for growing grass might need upgrading to make them suitable for other vegetation. "A lot of times [turf management] leaves behind a layered profile of soils that is not very conducive for a healthy reforestation effort," Yoder says.



Visitors hike a trail at The Highlands natural area, formerly Highlands Golf Course. Photo courtesy of Colin Hoogerwerf

At <u>Lemon Bay Conservancy's Wildflower Preserve</u> — situated between Sarasota and Fort Myers, along the Gulf of Mexico — thick mats of duckweed covered three interconnected ponds, a result of past fertilizer use and an influx of nutrients from a nearby water treatment facility used for irrigation. In 2010, Lemon Bay purchased the shuttered Wildflower Golf Club after plans for a residential development stalled amid the 2008 financial crisis. The small conservation organization employed solar aerators, artificial islands

of native vegetation, water pumps and volunteers armed with nets to remove vegetative cover and reduce nutrient levels. Today the ponds are clear and the nutrient levels have normalized.

If not managed right away, opportunistic invasive plant species can quickly dominate the open spaces that make up vacant golf courses, so routing them is an important part of renewing the landscape. More than 50 acres of non-native Brazilian pepper trees were removed from the Lemon Bay Conservancy's preserve, and it will be a constant battle in the near term to keep invasive species at bay.



Lemon Bay Conservatory's Wildflower Preserve in western Florida features wetlands that help cleanse water flowing into the Gulf of Mexico. Map data: Google

"Treatment on an ongoing basis until we can really get a new native community established is a real longterm challenge we're worried about," says Eva Furner, a Lemon Bay Conservancy board member and chair of the Wildflower Preserve Committee.

It took more than five months to prepare the Blandford Nature Center's Highlands site for public use. "You have underground sprinklers, utilities, electric lines. All sorts of hazards, safety concerns, and security issues," says Joe Engel, executive director of the <u>Land Conservancy of West Michigan</u>, which partnered with the nature center to acquire the property. Before the public could set foot on the site, cart paths had to be removed, trails had to be cut through overgrown fairways, and invasive species had to be managed.

Despite the challenges, golf courses offer relatively blank canvases for restoration ecologists to work with. "Since they're pretty large spaces, 150 to 200 acres, often times it's very flexible as to what type of threatened or endangered species habitats you can put there," Yoder says.

Nature Responds

Repurposed golf courses can offer large tracts of contiguous green space that attract native wildlife, restore ecological functions and provide opportunities for members of the surrounding community to interact with nature. "This really provides access for kids and for a lot of different constituents in the city to really get out and put their toes in nature a little bit," says Engel of the Highlands site. Along the coast of Lake Michigan in eastern Wisconsin, Squires Country Club operated for more than 70 years before the Ozaukee Washington Land Trust bought it. Surrounded by private land, the land trust, along with Pheasants Forever and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, created a mosaic of habitat types for migratory birds at what is now the Forest Beach Migratory Preserve.



In eastern Wisconsin, the repurposed Squires Country Club now provides habitat for sandpipers, warblers and other birds migrating along the wastern shores of Lake Michigan. Map data: Google "We wanted to achieve something to attract the widest diversity of birds, we achieved that by creating nine different habitat types," says William Mueller, director of the Western Great Lakes Bird and Bat Observatory, located in the former clubhouse on the property.

Acquired in 2008, the preserve now boasts 27 wetlands with water control structures, upland prairie, an expanded hardwood forest, and opportunities for hiking, biking and cross country skiing. "This immense area of prairie grassland with a lot of different wildflowers in it right now, it bears no resemblance to the golf course that it once was," Mueller says. Observers have witnessed more than 255 species of birds visit the preserve.

Just west of Dayton, Ohio, <u>Five Rivers Metroparks</u> purchased the Larch Tree Golf Course adjacent to both the Great Miami Mitigation Bank Conservation Area and Sycamore State Park in 2014. Plans for the site are still in the works, but as natural succession begins to take over, grassland birds are responding. "We've already seen several species of grassland birds that have begun to show up once we stopped mowing the golf course," says Mary Klunk, regional conservation manager for Five Rivers Metroparks.



Researchers monitor tarpon populations at the Lemon Bay Conservancy's Wildflower Preserve. Photo courtesy of Lemon Bay Conservancy

Lemon Bay Conservancy's Wildflower Preserve is home to a mangrove saltwater creek system, vital for juvenile tarpon development. Upland prairie restorations and the expansion of freshwater wetlands feeding into the creek system will improve the water quality flowing into Lemon Bay and the Gulf of Mexico. "There's so much development in Florida, that to be able to take a parcel like this and go the other way, that's the interesting aspect of this project," Furner says.

Back in western Michigan, Jason Meyer, president and CEO of the Blandford Nature Center, is working with the surrounding community to shape the long-term plan for The Highlands. The restoration project will transform the once vacant course into an asset for the whole community, protecting 121 acres of urban green space from development.

"Once these places are gone, they're gone," he says. "We need to do what we can do to save them today."

Editor's note: Travis Wood produced this feature as a participant in the Ensia Mentor Program. His mentor for the project was **Brian Bienkowski**.

Senior Survey

1. What programs/activities are you currently involved with?			
2. How often do you participate in senior adult activities?			
1. Weekly 2. Bi-Weekly 3. Monthly 4. Infrequently			
3. Which activities would you be interested in seeing available for senior adults. (Please circle all that apply).			
* Aerobics *Book Club * Chair Aerobics *Day Trips *Dance Lessons *Chess *Bingo			
* Computer Class *Art Lessons *Board Games *Ceramics *Art/Crafts *Yoga *Field Trips			
4. Please list any additional activities you would like to see offered:			
5. Please check the special events that you would like to see offered at the center. Please check all that apply.			
* Holiday Meal *Monthly Birthday Party *Coffee Hour *Happy Hour *Potluck Luncheons			
* Ice Cream Social *Play date with kids			
6. Please list any additional events you would like to see offered.			
7. <u>Is the staff courteous & helpful?</u>			
YES or NO (If no please explain)			
8. Do you feel safe during the activities offered?			

	YES OF NO (If	no piease explain)	
_	<u> </u>	with the physical state of the ce	
	* Satisfied	*Somewhat Satisfied	*Dissatisfied
10. What could we do to make the center more satisfying?			
			<u>s</u>