

Island Park Design

Dimondale Island Park Project Description

Island Park and the surrounding properties, including the Dimondale Lions Community Park, provide almost 14 acres of greenspace and wildlife habitat within the Village of Dimondale. This collective greenspace and the river running through it provide a valuable wildlife corridor and access to natural areas within an urban environment.

Accessible sidewalks connect Island Park to downtown Dimondale and the surrounding residential areas. These connections with the park increase access to recreation and natural areas for residents, a nearby elementary school and a senior housing facility within walking distance.

The park encompasses a variety of resources including a river, a section of river rapids, wooded areas, maintained grassy spaces and an historic mill site. A new bridge will replace the existing bridge that crosses the mill race. This bridge will be at least ten feet wide and exceed the minimum ADA requirements for width and slope to accommodate non-motorized users, people of all abilities and emergency vehicles. The bridge will also provide access to the 'island' where existing wood chip path nature trails and the historic mill site are located. Future phases of the park development will further enhance the local history of this site and provide universal access to the entire 'island'.

The proposed elements are sited to limit disturbance while providing access to the natural features on the property. The entrance drive will utilize the location of the existing drive into the site and the majority of the parking lot and access walks will be constructed in already cleared areas.

Non-motorized access will be provided into the park and within the park. The proposed sidewalk will connect to the existing wood chip paths, which will be made accessible in future phases of development. Within the park, new pathways will be provided to all of the park elements. The paths will be at least six feet wide and exceed minimum ADA requirements to accommodate people of all abilities. Access is provided from Washington Street via car and sidewalks. In addition, an existing pathway off West Quincy Street on the northeast side of the park provides access to the natural areas.

A fishing dock will be located between two boat landings on the west side of the site with access walks from the parking lot. The dock will be designed to universally accessible design principals, including slots in the railings for fishing poles and nets, sections of lowered railing to the extent of what is allowed within the building code, pole holders and decking laid diagonally to create a smooth direction of travel. Future plans include additional fishing platforms on the island. Fishing access is also provided on the boat launches.

The boat launch areas are limited to non-motorized boats, such as canoes and kayaks. The universally accessible boat launch can be used by people of all abilities. A transfer system allows users to transfer to and from a mobility device to a boat. The two launch sites are placed on either side of the weir so that a user can portage around the weir if their level of confidence is not sufficient to undertake the rapidly flowing water over the weir.

Future plans for the site include the addition of a restroom building and a multi-purpose pavilion that can be used for classroom nature programs and community events. An entrance sign will be located at the Washington Street parking lot to identify the location of the park and to display the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund plaque.

The design of all site elements will meet or exceed the most current ADA rules and Michigan Building Code, Barrier Free Rules. Materials will be selected for energy and resource reduction (i.e. materials with high post consumer content and local products). Plants for entrance signs, screening and gardens will be native Michigan species to promote and enhance the natural and educational theme of the park. Surface water from the parking lot and road will be directed towards two rain gardens to reduce the runoff and sediments flowing into the river.