



MEDIA RELEASE

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Kalamazoo County Parks to Host Woollam Preserve Master Plan Public Workshop

KALAMAZOO, Mich. – The Kalamazoo County Parks and Recreation Commission is developing a Master Plan for the Woollam Preserve and is seeking public input at an open house workshop on Wednesday, Feb. 15, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the Main Expo Room at the Kalamazoo County Expo Center & Fairground located at 2900 Lake St.

The workshop is a key step in the development of a master plan for the newest Kalamazoo County Park, the Arthur E. & Mildred H. Woollam Preserve that the County purchased in March of 2021 and previously served as the Boy Scout Camp Rota-Kiwan that closed in 2019.

“This a critical step in the planning process for the future of the preserve and we are looking forward to hearing from the public to create a plan that builds on the unique outdoor recreation opportunities,” said David Rachowicz, Kalamazoo County Parks Director.

The preserve features the 40-acre Bass Lake, a 16-acre pond, scenic natural views, and hiking trails. In addition, the planning effort will define the future of the remaining scout camp infrastructure. Cabins, dining halls, restrooms, picnic shelters, and other structures will be evaluated for future park and/or youth programming use. The County has also partnered with the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy to establish a conservation easement on the Woollam Preserve to protect the unique natural features in perpetuity.

“This is a special 212 acres located in Texas Township,” said Rachowicz. “The County Parks recognized the need for a County Park in the Western portion of Kalamazoo County and the Woollam Preserve is going to be an amazing public park.”

Everyone is encouraged to attend this informal open house process to participate in the plan development and express ideas. Participants are welcome to arrive at any time between 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.