

Holland Charter Township

353 North 120th Avenue • Holland, MI 49424 • phone: 616.396.2345 • Fax: 616.396.2537

Memorandum

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Steve Bulthuis

DATE: March 30, 2025

SUBJECT: Project Clarity and Macatawa Greenway funding requests

Outdoor Discovery Network is requesting support for their Project Clarity and Macatawa Greenway efforts.

The requests for Project Clarity and Macatawa Greenway are again \$50,000 and \$13,000, respectively. This is the tenth and final installment of a ten-year commitment to Project Clarity. The \$13,000 for Greenway efforts has been in place since 2011. Project Clarity has a dedicated budget line item while the greenway services falls under the budget allocation for contracted services.

Recommendation

To approve the \$50,000 request for Project Clarity and refer the \$13,000 request for Macatawa Greenway to the contract for services committee for review.



January 16, 2025

Steve Bulthuis, Township Manager
Holland Charter Township
353 N 120th Ave.
Holland MI 49424

Dear Steve,

On behalf of the ODC Network, I'd like to thank Holland Charter Township for partnering with us in the important work to clean, restore and maintain the waters of Lake Macatawa and the Macatawa Watershed. We are in the process of finalizing our watershed's management plan, which helps guide future initiatives and helps our community stay competitive for state and federal grants. It has taken a good deal of effort to update and include our past decades-worth of projects and activities, which should position us well for gaining future funds. We have also undertaken a feasibility study to evaluate further engineered solutions for phosphorus removal from area waterways.

Furthermore, the Township's support of the Macatawa Greenway has been pivotal in the advancement the Greenway has seen in the last few years. 2024 has been another successful year for the Greenway Partnership. We are excited to continue pursuing options to increase the connectivity for pedestrians in the Greater Holland Township and Zeeland Community, especially across the BR-196 corridor. Additionally, we are excited to have received grant funding for our pathway connection through the Middle Macatawa area and are eager to see work begin in 2025. In the coming year, we look forward to continuing to work with our partners to create more connections for residents to connect to the Macatawa Greenway and points beyond. Please let us know if there is a good time to update you, your team, or your council on these efforts in person.

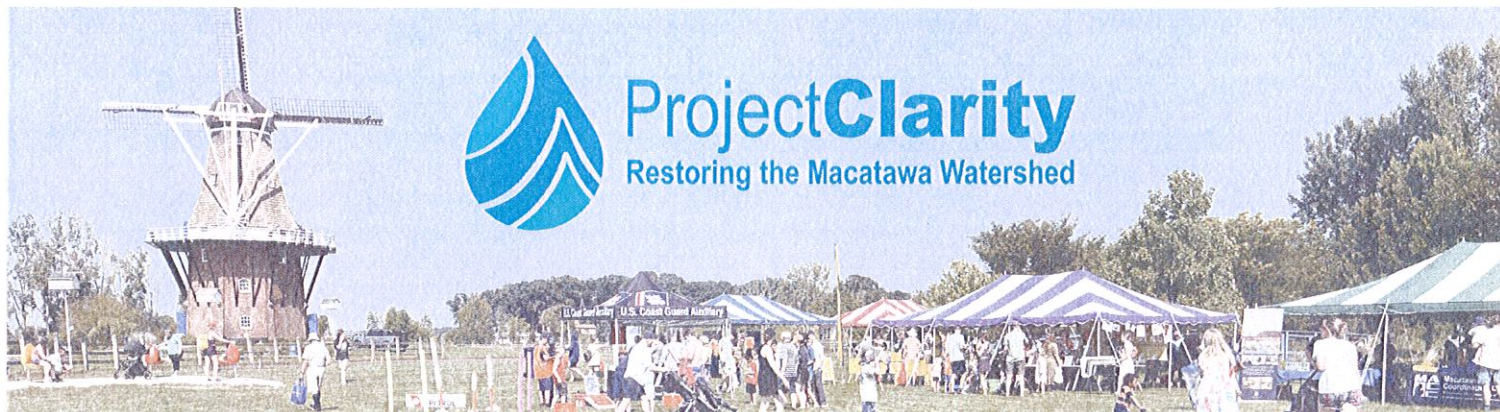
Our continued partnership with Holland Charter Township is very important for our organization and the community. In this light, **we respectfully request 2025 financial investments of:**

\$13,000 for the Macatawa Greenway
\$50,000 for Project Clarity

By collaborating with local units of government, corporations, foundations, and individuals, we can make our community a better place to live, work, play and learn. Thank you again for your support and your leadership in our community. Please feel free to contact us should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Dan Callam
Greenway Manager



2024 Annual Report

Project Clarity is a community-wide partnership that works to improve the health and clarity of Lake Macatwa and its watershed. Since 2012, we have realized significant improvements in water quality, including a 60% reduction in the amount of phosphorus in the lake. Our work in 2024 focused primarily on updating the Macatawa Watershed Management Plan, project planning and outreach and education.

Watershed Management Plan

The purpose of a watershed management plan is to guide water quality restoration and protection actions. The existing plan was approved in 2012, so it was due for an update. Updating includes evaluating existing data and past implementation actions, conducting various field inventories, completing priority areas modeling, and gathering public input. An EGLE grant is helping to fund this work. A draft plan will be submitted to the EGLE by the end of March 2025. The plan will be available for public comment and the ODC welcomes your input.



Phosphorus Removal Study

In early 2024, ODC solicited proposals for an engineered solution for phosphorus removal. Several local experts helped review proposals and select the team of Fleis & Vandenbrink and Environmental Research and Design, Inc. They will evaluate the feasibility of implementing an engineered solution to help remove additional phosphorus from the Macatawa River. The study will be completed over the next nine months. If the solution is determined to be feasible, we will include it as part of our continued comprehensive watershed restoration in the coming years.

Outreach and Education

- Hosted 2 Explore the Mission Tours to showcase Project Clarity and Macatawa River Greenway restoration projects
- 24 community partners helped to make the Macatawa Water Festival a success!
- Completed 40 rainscaping site assessments
- Completed 50 road stream crossing inventories



Thank you Sam & Liz!

We had two amazing interns this summer to help with field inventories, management plan writing, and other events.

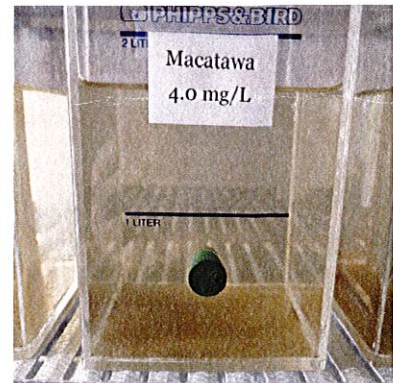
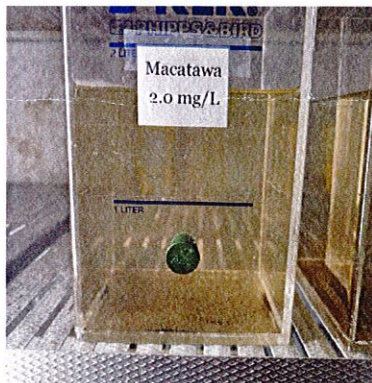
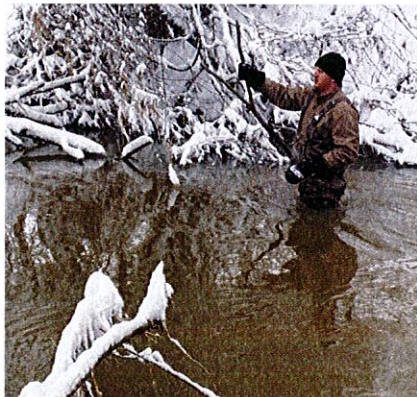
Project Clarity Phase III

Progress Report | January 10, 2025



In early 2024, ODC solicited proposals for an engineered solution for phosphorus removal. Through this process, we hired the team of Fleis and Vandenbrink (F&V) and Environmental Research and Design, Inc (ERD) to conduct a study to investigate possible options that may work for the Macatawa Watershed. A contract was signed with F&V in September 2024. The following work has been completed since the contract was signed:

- Held a kickoff meeting on November 4 with the study team and ODC staff to review project roles and responsibilities, a communication plan, project elements, project schedule, and take a tour of the watershed
- F&V reviewed existing data and studies
- F&V starting collecting water samples for lab processing in Early December at 4 locations in the watershed: Macatawa River at 96th Ave, Macatawa River just upstream of the dredge disposal site, Macatawa River at N River Ave, and Pine Creek at Stu Visser Trail
 - First sampling event was on Pine Creek - able to reduce total phosphorus from 98 ppb to 19 ppb using 4 mg/L of alum (80% reduction)
 - Sampling of Macatawa River sites is scheduled starting the week of January 13



Top left: F&V employee taking measurements in the Macatawa River near 96th Ave

Top right: F&V pontoon boat used for collecting lake samples moored in Pine Creek

Bottom left: Lake Macatawa water being treated with various concentrations of alum - from left to right, raw water, 2 mg/L of alum, 4 mg/L of alum

Bottom right: Lake Macatawa water samples 24 hours after alum treatment

The Macatawa River Greenway (MRG) consists of a network of permanently protected public and private lands that wind their way along the Macatawa River. The MRG Trail is a paved route across the greenway that connects Laketown and Park Townships all the way to Zeeland Township and beyond. Designed for both local and regional users, it connects our community to local parks as well as the Fred Meijer Kenowa Trail and Bike Route US-35, tying our pathways to Grand Rapids, Grand Haven, Saugatuck, and beyond. Over 24 partners are involved in featuring parks and natural areas designed for wildlife habitat and human recreation.

Middle Macatawa Improvements

ODC Network, in collaboration with Ottawa County Parks and Holland Township, have been a part of design and permitting discussions for trail construction and park improvements along the greenway between the Upper Macatawa Natural Area and Hawthorn Pond Natural Area. Improvements include updates to trails and new bathroom facilities. Construction is anticipated in 2025.



2025 Volunteer Dates

Macroinvertebrate Collection - May 1
Spring River Cleanup - May 17
Macatawa Water Festival - July 12

PawPaw Streambank Restoration

ODC was awarded a \$300K grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for streambank stabilization and restoration along the Macatawa River running through Paw Paw Park. This part of the river is scouring at a rapid rate, threatening wetland restoration and a section of the future greenway trail. This is a two year grant, and the first year of work has consisted of finalizing engineering designs and obtaining permits. In 2025, construction will take place and the grant will wrap up at the end of the year. We can only continue to receive these grants with local matching funds pledged by our greenway partners -- thank you for your ongoing support of our work!



In 2024 we hosted 3 cleanup events:
over 50 volunteers removed 400 pounds of trash!

EXTENDED TO NOVEMBER 15, 2024

Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax

OMB No. 1545-0047

Form **990**

Under section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code (except private foundations)

Do not enter social security numbers on this form as it may be made public.

Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for instructions and the latest information.**2023**

Open to Public Inspection

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service**A** For the 2023 calendar year, or tax year beginning

and ending

B Check if applicable:

- ☐ Address change
☐ Name change
☐ Initial return
☐ Final return/terminated
☐ Amended return
☐ Application pending

C Name of organization

ODC NETWORK

Doing business as

Number and street (or P.O. box if mail is not delivered to street address)

A-4214 56TH STREET

Room/suite

City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code

HOLLAND, MI 49423

F Name and address of principal officer: TRAVIS WILLIAMS

SAME AS C ABOVE

D Employer identification number

-***

E Telephone number

616-393-9453

G Gross receipts \$ 10,210,098.**H(a)** Is this a group returnfor subordinates? ☐ Yes ☒ No**H(b)** Are all subordinates included? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If "No," attach a list. See instructions

H(c) Group exemption number**I** Tax-exempt status: ☒ 501(c)(3) ☐ 501(c)() (insert no.) ☐ 4947(a)(1) or ☐ 527**J** Website: WWW.OUTDOORDISCOVERY.ORG**K** Form of organization: ☒ Corporation ☐ Trust ☐ Association ☐ Other**L** Year of formation: 1999**M** State of legal domicile: MI**Part I** Summary

Activities & Governance	1	Briefly describe the organization's mission or most significant activities: <u>ADVANCING OUTDOOR EDUCATION AND CONSERVATION IN WEST MICHIGAN.</u>		
	2	Check this box <input type="checkbox"/> if the organization discontinued its operations or disposed of more than 25% of its net assets.		
	3	Number of voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1a)	3	17
	4	Number of independent voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1b)	4	17
	5	Total number of individuals employed in calendar year 2023 (Part V, line 2a)	5	139
	6	Total number of volunteers (estimate if necessary)	6	550
	7a	Total unrelated business revenue from Part VIII, column (C), line 12	7a	0.
b Net unrelated business taxable income from Form 990-T, Part I, line 11		7b	0.	
Revenue	8	Contributions and grants (Part VIII, line 1h)	Prior Year	Current Year
	9	Program service revenue (Part VIII, line 2g)	5,362,418.	5,947,436.
	10	Investment income (Part VIII, column (A), lines 3, 4, and 7d)	2,656,393.	3,510,262.
	11	Other revenue (Part VIII, column (A), lines 5, 6d, 8c, 9c, 10c, and 11e)	3,704.	90,615.
	12	Total revenue - add lines 8 through 11 (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	873,594.	616,459.
Expenses	13	Grants and similar amounts paid (Part IX, column (A), lines 1-3)	8,896,109.	10,164,772.
	14	Benefits paid to or for members (Part IX, column (A), line 4)	0.	0.
	15	Salaries, other compensation, employee benefits (Part IX, column (A), lines 5-10)	0.	0.
	16a	Professional fundraising fees (Part IX, column (A), line 11e)	4,302,967.	5,861,847.
	b	Total fundraising expenses (Part IX, column (D), line 25)	0.	0.
Net Assets or Fund Balances	17	Other expenses (Part IX, column (A), lines 11a-11d, 11f-24e)	385,198.	
	18	Total expenses. Add lines 13-17 (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)	2,831,223.	4,329,637.
	19	Revenue less expenses. Subtract line 18 from line 12	7,134,190.	10,191,484.
	20	Total assets (Part X, line 16)	1,761,919.	-26,712.
	21	Total liabilities (Part X, line 26)	Beginning of Current Year	End of Year
22	Net assets or fund balances. Subtract line 21 from line 20	19,699,091.	22,328,994.	
		6,901,454.	10,037,990.	
		12,797,637.	12,291,004.	

Part II Signature Block

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than officer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge.

Sign Here	Signature of officer		Date			
	TRAVIS WILLIAMS, CEO					
Paid Preparer Use Only	Print/Type preparer's name		Preparer's signature	Date	Check <input type="checkbox"/> if self-employed	PTIN
	JILL R. SCHUTTE, CPA		JILL R. SCHUTTE, CPA	11/04/24		P01773354
Firm's name	HUNGERFORD CPAS + ADVISORS		Firm's EIN		**-*****	
	Firm's address		675 E. 16TH STREET #100		HOLLAND, MI 49423	
		Phone no.		616-392-8534		

May the IRS discuss this return with the preparer shown above? See instructions

☒ Yes ☐ No

LHA For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the separate instructions.

332001 12-21-23

Form 990 (2023)

Form 990 Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service	Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax Under section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code (except private foundations). Do not enter social security numbers on this form as it may be made public. ▶ Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for instructions and the latest information.	OMB No. 1545-0047 2022 Open to Public Inspection
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A For the 2022 calendar year, or tax year beginning 01-01-2022, and ending 12-31-2022			
B	Check if applicable: <input type="checkbox"/> Address change <input type="checkbox"/> Name change <input type="checkbox"/> Initial return <input type="checkbox"/> Final return/terminated <input type="checkbox"/> Amended return <input type="checkbox"/> Application pending	C Name of organization ODC NETWORK Doing business as OUTDOOR DISCOVERY CENTER Number and street (or P.O. box if mail is not delivered to street address) Room/suite A-4214 56TH STREET City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code HOLLAND, MI 49423 F Name and address of principal officer: TRAVIS WILLIAMS A 4214 56TH AVENUE HOLLAND, MI 49423	D Employer identification number 38-2461102 E Telephone number (616) 393-9453 G Gross receipts \$ 8,949,950
I Tax-exempt status: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 501(c)(3) <input type="checkbox"/> 501(c) () (Insert no.) <input type="checkbox"/> 4947(a)(1) or <input type="checkbox"/> 527		H(a) Is this a group return for subordinates? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No H(b) Are all subordinates included? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If "No," attach a list. See instructions. H(c) Group exemption number ▶	
J Website: ▶ WWW.OUTDOORDISCOVERY.ORG			
K Form of organization: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Corporation <input type="checkbox"/> Trust <input type="checkbox"/> Association <input type="checkbox"/> Other ▶		L Year of formation: 1999	M State of legal domicile: MI

Part I Summary			
1	Briefly describe the organization's mission or most significant activities: ADVANCING OUTDOOR EDUCATION AND CONSERVATION IN WEST MICHIGAN.		
2	Check this box <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> if the organization discontinued its operations or disposed of more than 25% of its net assets.		
3	Number of voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1a)	3	16
4	Number of independent voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1b)	4	16
5	Total number of individuals employed in calendar year 2022 (Part V, line 2a)	5	110
6	Total number of volunteers (estimate if necessary)	6	400
7a	Total unrelated business revenue from Part VIII, column (C), line 12	7a	0
7b	Net unrelated business taxable income from Form 990-T, Part I, line 11	7b	
8	Contributions and grants (Part VIII, line 1h)	8	5,064,388
9	Program service revenue (Part VIII, line 2g)	9	1,588,194
10	Investment income (Part VIII, column (A), lines 3, 4, and 7d)	10	34,359
11	Other revenue (Part VIII, column (A), lines 5, 6d, 8c, 9c, 10c, and 11e)	11	2,023,910
12	Total revenue—add lines 8 through 11 (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	12	8,710,851
13	Grants and similar amounts paid (Part IX, column (A), lines 1-3)	13	0
14	Benefits paid to or for members (Part IX, column (A), line 4)	14	0
15	Salaries, other compensation, employee benefits (Part IX, column (A), lines 5-10)	15	3,126,212
16a	Professional fundraising fees (Part IX, column (A), line 11e)	16a	0
16b	Total fundraising expenses (Part IX, column (D), line 25) ▶ 254,825	16b	
17	Other expenses (Part IX, column (A), lines 11a-11d, 11f-24e)	17	2,631,933
18	Total expenses. Add lines 13-17 (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)	18	5,758,145
19	Revenue less expenses. Subtract line 18 from line 12	19	2,952,706
20	Total assets (Part X, line 16)	20	16,247,311
21	Total liabilities (Part X, line 26)	21	5,133,923
22	Net assets or fund balances. Subtract line 21 from line 20	22	11,113,388

Part II Signature Block				
Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than officer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge.				
Sign Here	Signature of officer TRAVIS WILLIAMS CEO Type or print name and title	Date 2023-11-06		
Paid Preparer Use Only	Print/Type preparer's name Firm's name ▶ MEYAARD TOLMAN & VENLET PC Firm's address ▶ PO BOX 320 ZEELAND, MI 49464	Preparer's signature Date 2023-11-06	Check <input type="checkbox"/> if self-employed Firm's EIN ▶ 38-2598193 Phone no. (616) 772-1901	PTIN P00585722

May the IRS discuss this return with the preparer shown above? See Instructions. ☐ Yes ☒ No