



Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: February 22, 2023

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Location: Virtual

Roll Call

Attending remotely:

Ann Conklin; Canton Township, Wayne County
Chris Graham; Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County
Mike McDonald; East Lansing, Ingham County
Shaun McKeon; Lansing Township, Ingham County
Mary Pitcher; Lake Township, Benzie County
Mike Foote; Ada, Kent County

Absent:

Julie Clark
Jim Bradley
Dave Nyberg
Bob Hoffmeyer

Present for the Department of Natural Resources:

Ron Olson, Chief
Jacklin Blodgett
Vicki McGhee
Jason Fleming
Scott Pratt
Tim Novak
Nicole Hill
Deb Jensen
Greg Kinser
Doug Rich
Mike Knack
Chris Stark
Barbara Graves

Opening Comments

Committee member Ann Conklin called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m. and asked for a roll call.

Approval of the Minutes

Committee member Ann Conklin asked for a motion for approval of the December 7, 2022 minutes. The motion was moved by Chris Graham, supported by Mike Foote, and passed unanimously.

Information Only

Nicole Hill, Youth Engagement and Employment Coordinator, provided highlights on the 2022 Summer Youth Employment program. The program had 229 participants between the ages of 16 – 19 who worked over 32,000 hours in over 20 state, local, and county parks completing over 60 different work projects. The kids also visited various colleges to learn about programs and scholarships. The program and work achieved received compliments from the committee. Presentation attached.

Deb Jensen, Park Plan Administrator, gave an informational overview of the Sanilac Petroglyphs Historic State Park Phase 2 General Management Plan. This site has the most extensive, single group of petroglyphs in Michigan and is considered sacred to Native Americans. Some of the big items in the plan are to replace the shelter as well as updating interpretive signage.

There were no questions.

Ron Olson, Chief, reported that the 2024 proposed budget elements were announced by the Governor. Some of the highlights of that proposal are: a \$43 million one-time General Fund investment to address critical infrastructure needs at Belle Isle Park; \$5 million one-time investment within the budget to purchase and implement an asset management software solution to inventory, assess, track, prioritize, and manage DNR assets; and \$1.5 million ongoing investment (\$780,900 General Fund) to the Broadening Access to the Outdoors program to promote participation and engagement in outdoor recreation and foster knowledge of natural resource conservation among traditionally underserved populations. Also included in the proposal was \$7.8 million to support additional seasonal ranger positions and hours, \$3.4 million for energy efficiency upgrades, \$4 million for the new Nature Awaits Program, and \$3.5 million investment to add spray park playgrounds at Warren Dunes, Grand Haven, and Holland State Parks.

Doug Rich, Western U.P. District Supervisor, and Mike Knack, Unit Supervisor, gave an update on the Porcupine Mountain ski hill. Somewhat of an operational challenge the past year, the operation has since become

successful this season thanks to the staff and the new concessionaire, Simple Adventures. The division did everything from obtaining a pass printer, hiring two new employees, to purchasing a new custom Bully 100 and Bully 400 for the ski hill and trails. The past weekend they had a record-breaking day of 634 lift tickets sold and received a lot of kudos from visitors. They have partnered with the University of Michigan Urban Planning Development to look at the economics, climate change, the core structure of the hill, as well as a community outreach. They have also been working with the Ontonagon Convention and Visitor Bureau to partner together to essentially build tourism, essentially looking at investing in items such as snow bikes and other alternative uses.

Mike Macdonald asked if the Michigan Cares 4 Tourism was taking place there at the Porkies this year. Doug Rich said the dates are September 10 through September 13.

Members congratulated and thanked the staff for a job well done.

Brittany Ruff, Development Planner, gave an update on the ARPA projects that included data of the proposed total ARPA allotment, current Sigma budget, and actual expenditures, and percentages of projects in complete construction and complete design. The presented update report is attached.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Member Conklin asked if the committee planned to meet in person in April, as some of the previous suggestions were areas such as Belle Isle, and that it is beneficial to see projects in the field. Chief Olson said April could be a possibility if they had ideas on where to meet. Member MacDonald suggested MSU (he also suggested visiting the MSU website to purchase merchandise to support the victims of the MSU shooting). Member McKeon suggested going to Belle Isle after the conservatory renovations are completed and suggested touring the summer camp in Waterloo and tour the new Mill Lake developments, hosted by MUCC. Member Graham suggested Hoffmaster. Chief Olson asked the members to pass along any other ideas for locations they would like to see.

Chief Olson will work on finishing the reorganization and getting new members on board.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

MDNR 2022 Summer Youth Employment Program Overview

Nicole L. Hill, CDF

Youth Engagement & Employment Coordinator



Summer Youth Employment Program

During his Special Message on Public Safety on **March 7, 2012**, Governor Snyder stressed the need for the program

- Four Michigan cities were ranked among the top 10 most violent cities in the nation
- SYEP would help reduce crime and address juvenile unemployment in those cities

Initial Funding of \$2 Million (PA 236 of 2012)

- (1) From the funds appropriated in Part 1, the department shall award funds to non-government organizations that specialize in the employment of at-risk youth in Detroit, Flint, Saginaw, and Pontiac. The department may utilize the funding to have the at-risk youth participate in outdoor recreation activities consistent with the department's mission. The funds shall be awarded in a form and manner prescribed by the department.
- (2) As used in this section:
 - (a) "At-risk youth" mean individuals between the ages of 16 and 19 who are eligible for the free lunch program.
 - (b) "Department" means the Department of Natural Resources.

2022 Partner Agencies

Partner Agency	Location
Centro Multicultural La Familia (CMLF)	Pontiac
Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation (DHDC)	Detroit
Detroit Zoological Society (DZS)	Detroit
First Ward Community Center (FWCC)	Saginaw
Genesee Area Focus Fund (GAFF)	Flint
Green Door Initiative (GDI)	Detroit
Healthy Kidz, Inc. (HK)	Detroit
Saginaw County Community Action Committee (SCCAC)	Saginaw
Southwest Detroit Environmental Vision Project (SDEV)	Detroit
The Youth Connection, Inc. (TYC)	Detroit
Urban Neighborhood Initiatives (UNI)	Detroit

2022 Program Highlights

- ❖ 229 participants ages 16-19
- ❖ Over 32,000 hours worked
- ❖ Over 20 state, local, & county parks visited
- ❖ Visited various colleges to learn about programs & scholarships
- ❖ Earned industry & nationally recognized credentials
- ❖ Engaged over 50 employer & community partners
- ❖ Completed over 60 different work projects at state, county, and local parks, community agencies, and various Michigan communities

2022 Participant Breakdown

- Total # of Participants = **229**
- Demographics
 - 61% African American (AA) or Black
 - 17% Latinx or Hispanic
 - 2% Bi-Racial (Latinx/Hispanic, Middle Eastern, Asian, Native American, AA)
 - 1% Caucasian or White
 - .04% Middle Eastern
 - 18.9% Did not indicate
- Total Number of Hours Worked = **32,242.92**

Skills & Activities

Workplace &
Employability
Skills

Natural
Resource-Based
Skills

Life Skills

Natural
Resource-Based
Activities

Workplace Behaviors &
Expectations

Comprehension of
ecosystems

Conflict Resolution

Fishing

Customer Service &
Community Engagement

Analyzing & interpreting
the environment

Interpersonal &
Intrapersonal Skills

Kayaking & Canoeing

Resume Building &
Interviewing

Sustainable landscaping
techniques, water
quality sampling &
testing

Diversity, Equity &
Inclusion

Camping

Problem Solving &
Critical Thinking

Species observation,
invasive plant
monitoring & control

Financial Literacy

Rock Climbing

Work Projects

- Landscaping & Lawn Maintenance
- Skilled Trades
- Staining & Painting Fences
- Planting Flowers & Various Species
- Invasive Species Removal
- Painting Grills
- Trail Maintenance
- Grounds & Park Maintenance
- Tree trimming
- Harvesting Techniques
- Soil Aeration & Maintaining Garden Beds
- Managing Agricultural Waste
- Demolition
- Park Clean-Up
- Tiny House Construction
- Community-Supported Agriculture & Organic Farms
- Community Healing Gardens
- Painting Signage & Murals
- Food Insecurity & Nutrition
- Recycling & Repurposing Fabric, Materials, etc.
- Construct Garden Beds
- Environmental Pollution Advocacy
- Data Collection
- Great Lakes Watershed & Belle Isle Field Work
- Repair Break Wall & Dig Trenches
- Facilitated Table Activities
- Set-Up & Breakdown of Activity Tables,
- Paint Playground Equipment & Pick-Up Trash
- Blight Elimination & Community Clean-Ups
- Equipment Repair
- Urban Gardening Operations
- Beautification Projects
- Hoop-Houses
- Large Scale Murals
- Business Operations of Community Bike Store
- Bike Mechanics
- Coordinating Community Bike Rides
- Strategize How to Increase Bike Ridership
- Built Raised, Wood Beds
- Dirt Transfer, Transplants & Seed Planting
- Tend Plants, Harvest Fruits & Seeds for Residents
- Build Water Harvesting System
- Community Engagement through Events & Canvassing
- Drone Piloting & Operations
- Identify Native Plants & Flowers
- Drip Irrigation Systems & Install Rain Borders

2022 Program Outcomes

39 participants matriculated to college

- Various Majors – psychology, electrical engineering, social work, business administration, pre-med, nursing, agriculture, music education, criminal justice, physical therapy, computer technology, sports management, financial advisor, education, art, mechanical engineering, etc.

41 participants were hired after SYEP

- Various Positions – groundskeeping, retail, service industry, office/clerical, painting, small construction projects, etc.

6 participants matriculated to skilled trades school or advanced training programs

- Various Areas - truck driving, construction, pre-apprenticeship, IT, tree trimming, etc.

43 youth returned to high school

Remaining youth are still undecided on next steps

SDEV - Harvested Produce & Tractor Use for Mulch





CMLF
Community Healing Garden
& Team Building Activities



GDI – 15ft Skiff

SCCAC – Grounds Maintenance





DHDC – Community Garden
DZS – Belle Isle Aquarium



Healthy Kidz – Proud Lake
TYC - MSU

TYC – Driving Range DZS - Reptiles





HK - Edging Grass
GDI - Sailing & Animal Fur



FWCC – Grounds Maintenance & Training Workshops



GAFF – Rock Climbing & Kayaking



HK – Building Tiny House
GAFF – Grounds
Maintenance



UNI - Canoeing & Camping

Questions?

Nicole L. Hill, CDF
Youth Engagement &
Employment Coordinator
DNR, Parks & Recreation
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(517) 449-6704

Thank you!

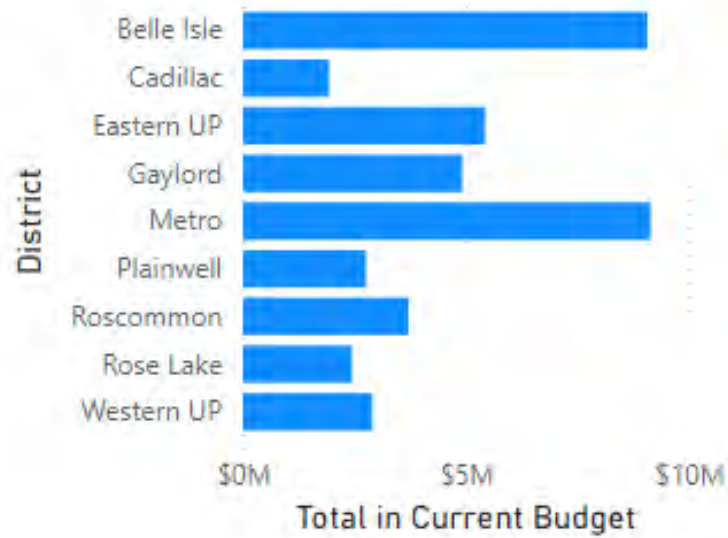




AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT:
INVESTING IN MI STATE PARKS AND TRAILS

MICHIGAN STATE PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
02/22/2023

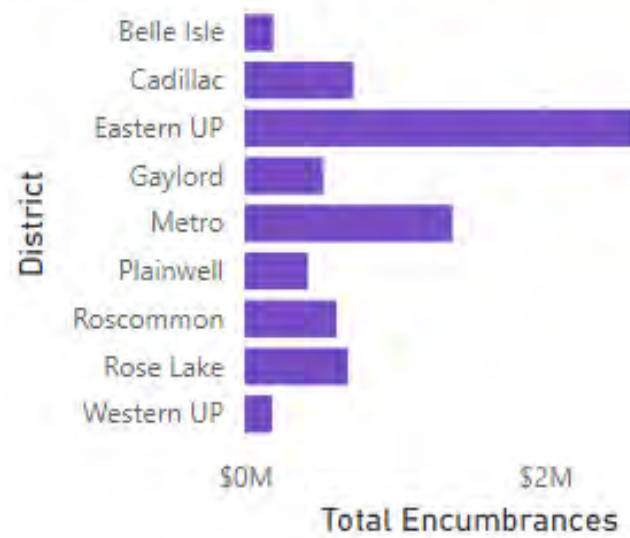
Current Sigma Budget by District



\$149.18M

Current Sigma Program Budget

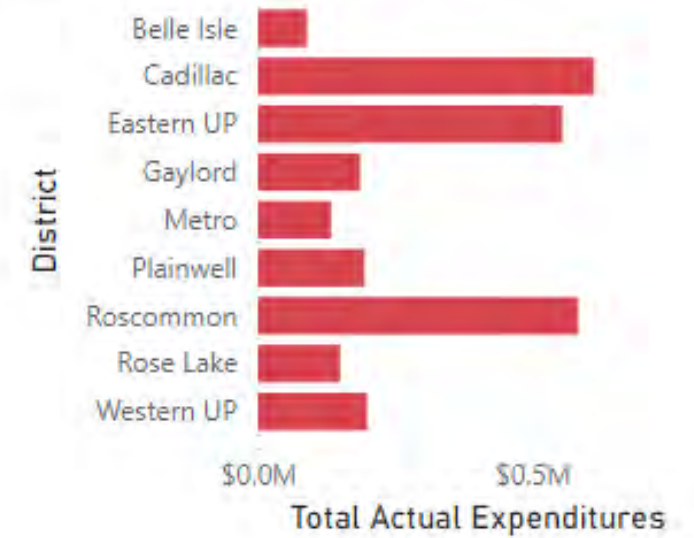
Encumbrances by District



\$79.56M

Sum of Encumbrances

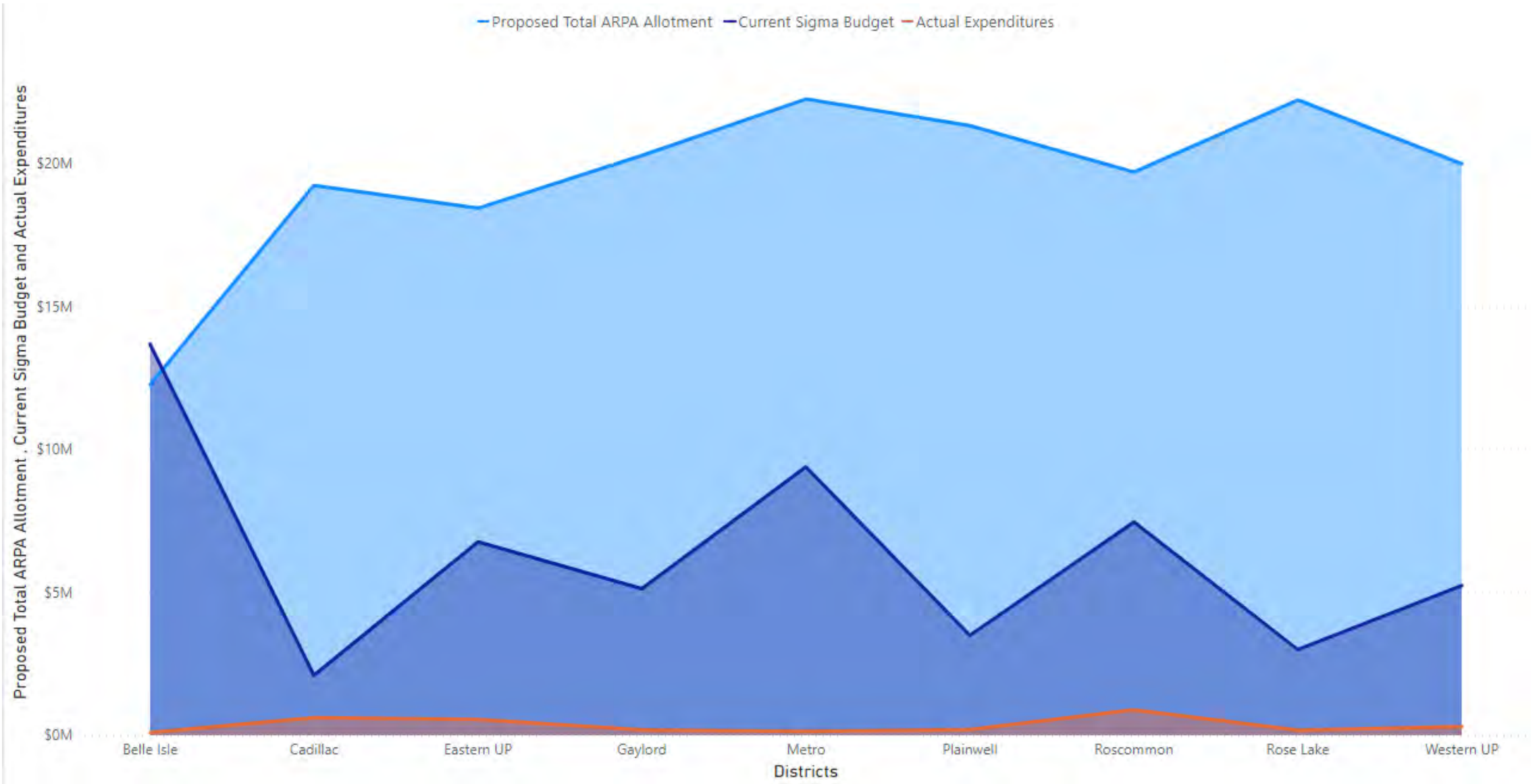
Actual Expenditures by District



\$3.84M

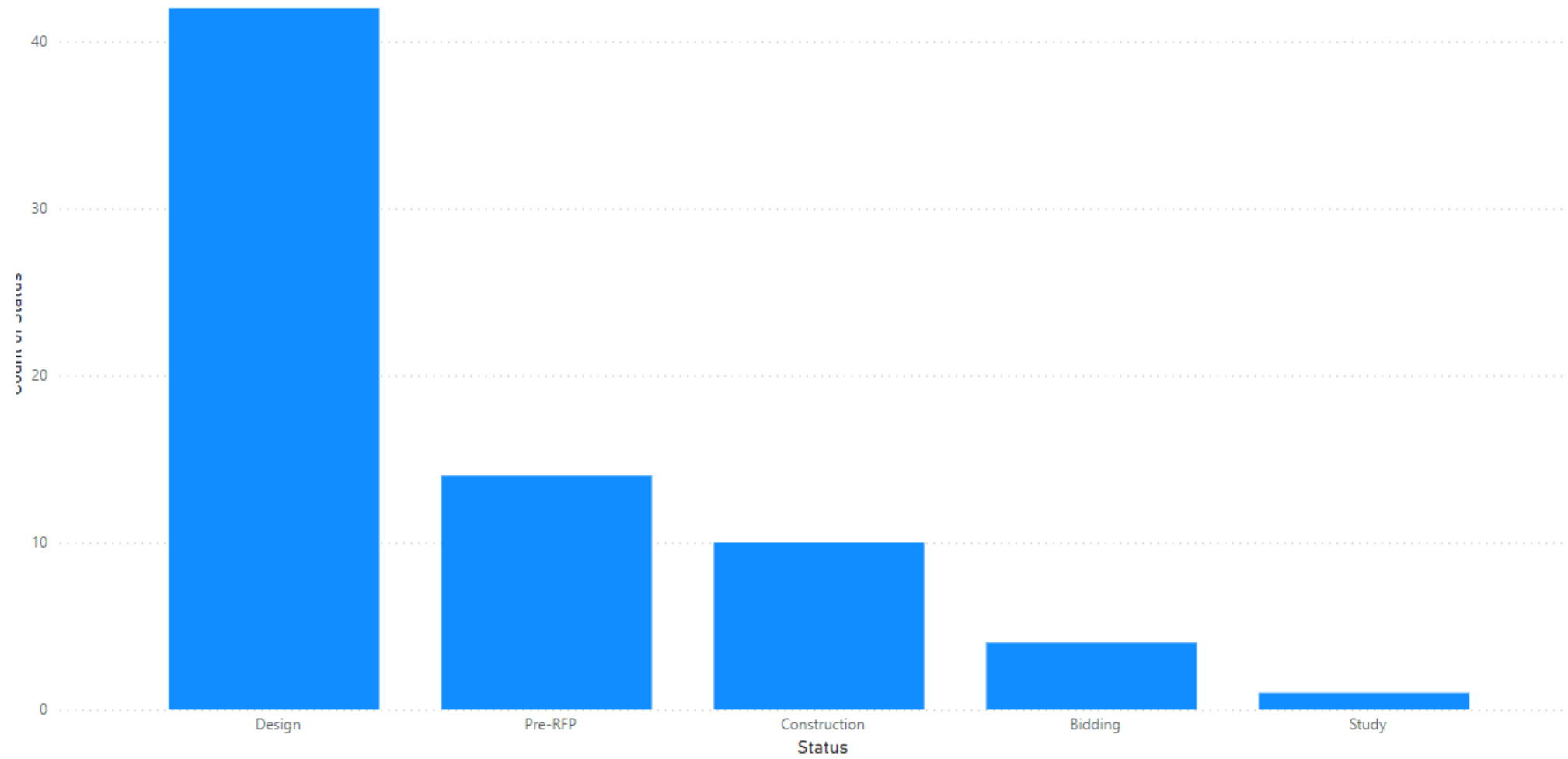
Actual Expenditures

PROGRAM STATUS BY THE NUMBERS

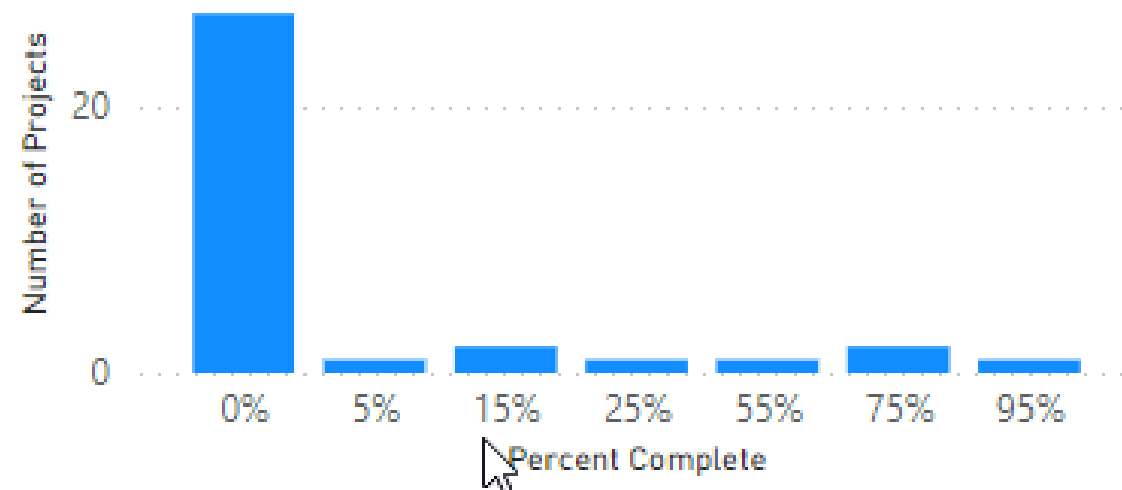


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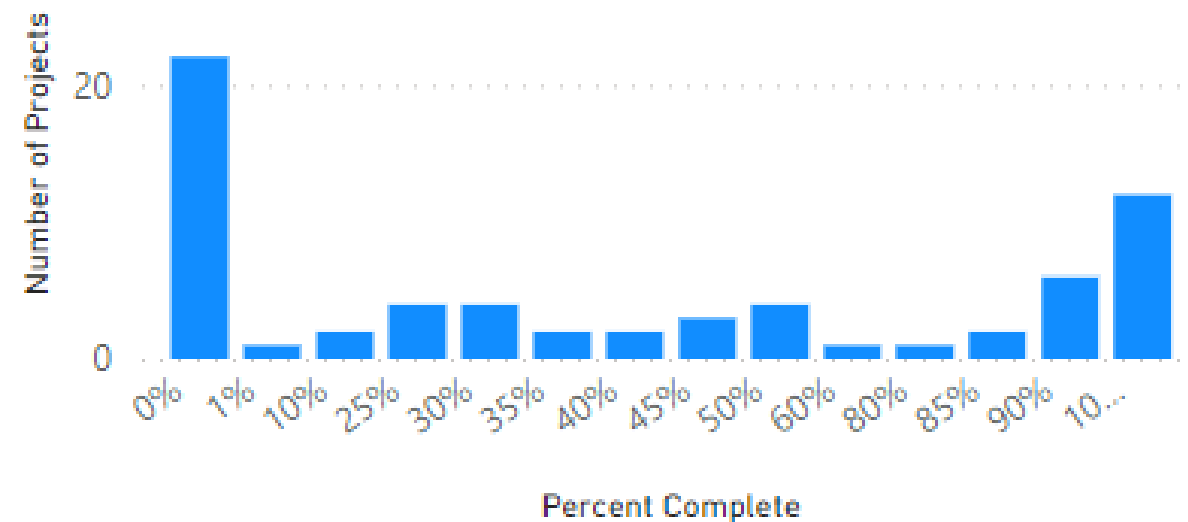
PROJECTS BY STATUS



Percent Complete Construction     ...



Percent Complete Design



PROGRAM PROGRESS BY PROJECT STATUS

2023 ANTICIPATED CLOSURES



Belle Isle ASWC Dome



Straits SP Upper CG Toilet Building Demolition



Manistee River Bridge, BVT



Tawas Point Historic Lighthouse

- Algonac State Park - Campground
- Belle Isle Park – Anna Scripts Whitcomb Conservatory
- Betsie Valley Trail - Manistee River Bridge in Mesick
- Cheboygan State Park - Modern Campground
- Hoffmaster State Park – Various
- Interlochen State Park - South Campground
- Bay City State Park - Saginaw Bay Visitor's Center
- Metamora-Hadley RA – Modern Campground
- Straits State Park - Upper Campground
- Tawas Point State Park – Historic Lighthouse
- Twin Lakes State Park - Modern Campground
- Yankee Springs Recreation Area - Gun Lake Campground

PROJECT FUNDING SUMMARY	
District	Requested Funding
Cadillac	\$ 225,000
Eastern UP	\$ 450,000
Gaylord	\$ 457,000
Metro	\$ 63,500
Plainwell	\$ 340,000
Roscommon	\$ 450,000
Rose Lake	\$ 465,000
WUP	\$ 427,000
Total Non-Motorized Investment:	\$ 2,877,500

ARPA & NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS

- Hike, Bike, Equestrian:
 - \$1,950,000
- Regional:
 - \$927,500



WHAT QUESTIONS DO YOU HAVE?

Thank you for your time!