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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Township to Receive Major Greenspace and Recreation Grant

Funds to be used to purchase and preserve property along North Branch of Clinton River

Macomb Township, Mich. --- To top off a record year of bringing tax dollars back to the community, Macomb Township will be awarded \$742,500 from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund program to fund the beginning steps of the North Branch Greenway Initiative aimed at connecting the Township's northern and southern boundaries with preservation and conservation properties.

The grant, which will be combined with \$1,000,000 obtained through Macomb County, will kick off a major initiative that envisions a fully connected corridor of protected wetlands and riverfront extending the length of Macomb Township. In time, the Township hopes to offer an area for recreation along the riverfront.

"With this grant, the Township will begin acquiring land to preserve for future recreation," said Macomb Township Supervisor Frank Viviano. "Although this initiative will require years to fully complete, the payoff will be immense, ensuring recreation opportunities, clean river water and a habitat for wildlife."

In 2023 alone, the Township has received about \$10 million for projects including the renovation of the bridge on 21 Mile Road near Garfield, the extension of Broughton Road, conversion of Township streetlights to LEDs, renovation of the Marvin Blank Senior Center, as well as tree and wildflower planting to create a Monarch Butterfly Habitat at Pitchford Park. This latest success makes 2023 the most successful year in the Township for acquiring grants.

"The Township Board focused on obtaining privately funded grants and on bringing residents' tax dollars back home through state and federal grants like never before," said Macomb Township Treasurer Leon Drolet.

"This new Greenways grant brings the total in 2023 to over \$10 million in money we normally wouldn't have that will now be invested into Macomb Township roads and recreation. It's great to see taxpayers' federal and state tax dollars finally benefitting our own residents."

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