

This update as of September 30th, 2011:

1. Our First Grant: The U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service has provided the Foundation with a grant of \$250,000. This initial grant will allow us to begin work in the spring of 2012 on the restoration of the first stretch of shoreline in front of the Blue Water YMCA. By the end of July we will have created a demonstration project of a fully restored stretch of “naturalized shoreline” allowing us to demonstrate our plans for the remainder of the shoreline.
 - a. As a part of this first grant, the public may see specialists (herpetologists) conducting field research to identify what types of animals live along the shoreline. Their work will survey birds, reptiles and amphibians living along the shoreline so that we may design suitable natural habitat.
2. Trail: With the support of the St. Clair County Road Commission we have submitted a grant request to the MDOT Transportation Enhancement Grant program. If successful, this grant would help cover the costs of the construction of a multi-purpose pedestrian path along the entire shoreline.
 - a. This section of the trail would be a critical link in the Bridge to Bay Trail program that when done, will stretch for over 50 miles through Michigan’s Thumb Region.
 - b. Phil Porte from BMJ Engineering has donated his time and expertise to assist our efforts in securing this grant.
3. St. Clair County Parks & Rec: The Parks & Rec continue to be great partners in developing the plans to restore the shoreline and guarantee public access in perpetuity. They have submitted their grant application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for a grant to purchase some additional acreage at the very southern end of Desmond Landing. Funding decisions won’t be made by the Trust Fund until late 2011.
4. Fishing Bridge: Keith Flemingloss from Professional Engineering & Construction Services has donated some initial time and expertise to help us explore the feasibility of constructing a Fishing Bridge on the southern end of the property. The concept would be to build a bridge out to one of two large steel pods or cells that sit about 20 yards offshore. This Fishing Bridge would provide the public with great access to the deeper waters of the St. Clair River.