

TOWNSHIP OF SCIO

PARKS & PATHWAYS MILLAGE POLICY

I hereby certify that the Parks and Pathways Millage Policy
was adopted by the Board of Scio Township at it regular
meeting held remotely on October 27, 2020, due to COVID-19



Jessica M. Flintoft, Township of Scio Clerk

Parks & Pathways Millage Policy Statement

Purpose: The purpose of this policy is to guide planning, construction and maintenance of various facilities funded in whole or in part by the Scio Township Parks & Pathways Millage or other funds including nature preserves, parks, trails, recreational opportunities, and a network of non-motorized pathways in accordance with the Parks and Pathways Ordinance.

Goals: To develop and maintain nature preserves, parks, and non-motorized pathways. The resulting network of non-motorized pathways will connect Scio Township residents and visitors to nature preserves, parks, neighborhoods, the business district and other community destinations. This network will serve as a safe means for movement throughout the Township for pedestrians and cyclists.

Background: In 2004, Scio residents supported a new millage to protect natural and agricultural land by funding the Open Space Fund, advised by the Land Preservation Commission (LPC). This millage was renewed in 2012. The LPC has protected nearly 1,500 acres since its inception, including multiple township-owned nature preserves. In 2015, the Parks Advisory Board (PAB) was created to develop plans to make these accessible to the public.

In 2010, the Township's Paths Technical Advisory Commission issued a report recommending the creation of a network of shared-use pathways. Work began on the Zeeb Road pathway. The Transportation Alternatives Planning Committee (TAP), was launched in 2017 and developed a concept plan for a system of pathways to allow people to move safely through the Township without using a motorized vehicle.

In 2019, the LPC, PAB, and TAP began to coordinate more closely. One resulting proposal was the Parks and Pathways millage. The millage was placed on the ballot by the Scio Township Board of Trustees and approved by Township voters in August 2020.

Authority: The Scio Township Board of Trustees is the decision-making authority.

Application: This policy applies to all Township elected officials, appointed officials, department heads, employees, contractors fall under the Parks and Pathways Ordinance.

Advice and Planning: The Board of Trustees will receive recommendations and proposals for millage expenditures and overall funding strategy from the following:

The **Parks & Recreation Advisory Board (PAB)** is responsible for advising and assisting the BOT on all aspects of parks and recreation services. The PAB will recommend projects for approval to the BOT for the design, installation and maintenance of a system of trails, parks and opens spaces. PAB will plan, facilitate and effect capital improvement projects for parks and preserves.

The **Transportation Alternatives Planning committee (TAP)** is responsible for advising and assisting the BOT on all aspects of alternative transportation. TAP will recommend projects for approval to the BOT for the design and installation of a system of non-motorized pathways. TAP will coordinate with the Planning Commission on recommendations to the BOT that include PUD engagement. TAP will provide advice and support as need to Township management/staff leading implementation.

Parks and Recreation Master Plan: The **Paths, Preserves, Parks, and Open Space Master Plan (PPPOS)** will serve as the guiding document for expenditures of Parks & Pathways Millage funds, and other related funds. The Parks Advisory Board will oversee the five-year update of the PPPOS Plan in collaboration with the Transportation Alternatives Planning Committee and consistent with the Township Land Use Master Plan.

Plan Review: The PPPOS Plan is subject to review by the Planning Commission and approval by the Board of Trustees. The PPPOS Plan shall be amended as needed to incorporate required revisions from either PAB or TAP. All parties will solicit and receive public input for the formulation of the PPPOS Plan and share in annual progress reports.

Coordination: The PAB and TAP will work closely with each other and coordinate with other Township bodies including the Planning Commission, Land

Preservation Commission, and Downtown Development Authority. All bodies require one BOT representative as a member.

Executive Team: A five person executive team, consisting of Township Supervisor or his/her designee, and BOT representatives and chairs from PAB and TAP, may facilitate implementation oversight of PAB and TAP projects. The Executive Team can draw on Township staff and consultants to advise as appropriate for each project. This forum may also serve as a means of coordination across these and other Commissions (e.g., Planning) on relevant issues prior to project approval.

Implementation: All proposals to the BOT shall include a project plan which will provide costs, timeline, operational and financial resources, and township responsibilities. The execution of a project plan may be overseen by the executive team and/or Township employees. Regular progress reports will be made to the appropriate originating bodies (e.g. PAB, TAP, etc.) and the BOT.

Design Criteria:

The Township will follow all the current Local, State and Federal guidelines and laws which provide guidelines for safe and reasonable access to all.

The following are guidelines for pathway element widths:

- Sidewalks: six (6) feet minimum width
- Paths: eight (8) feet minimum width
- Pathway bridges or boardwalks: ten (10) feet minimum width

Maintenance: The PAB will oversee planning and implementation for maintenance of preserves, parks and non-motorized pathways. Township staff charged with responsibility for this work will review work plans with and provide regular updates to the PAB. Proposals for major maintenance expenditures will be discussed and reviewed by PAB before submission the BOT.