



## **We need your help to preserve our parks!**

**The Wayne County Park System is 100 years old this year.**

**Where the Park System goes in the next 100 years depends on you!**

**The Wayne County Executive Office is once again trying to sell off sections of the Park System.**

The voters of Wayne County overwhelmingly voted to support a park millage every election since 1996. Since then, more than \$245 million has been collected to preserve, maintain and improve the parks. Voters did not support the millage to see our parkland sold off for private development. Currently the park millage generates around \$9 million per year.

***Save Hines Park***, a group of Wayne County residents, was organized in 2017 to stop the sale of the Warren Valley Golf Course and surrounding parklands in Hines Park to a housing developer. They are once again being called upon to stop the sale of two Ford Village Industry Plants and eleven (11) acres of parkland (Parcel B) near Wilcox Lake to private developers.

In 1948, the two Ford Plants, Newburgh and Wilcox, were given to the Wayne County Road Commissioners (who were Park Trustees), to be incorporated into Hines Park as part of their overall parkway plan along the Rouge River. This stemmed from a previous agreement between the Road Commission and Henry Ford to rebuild the dams controlling the mill ponds in exchange for the mills and land for the parkway. Currently, the Newburgh Mill houses the Sheriff Mounted Division. The Wilcox Mill has been used since 1948 as a storage facility for the Park Division until they were told in October of 2018 to vacate the mill.

The Department of Economic Development has promoted the sale of these historic mills under the guise of a “Place Making Project” through slick videos, web sites and news articles. In these P.R. efforts, they do not state that they are proposing to sell the mills along with three to five acres of parkland around each of them. Nor do they mention putting another 11 acres up for sale for housing. **Adaptive reuse of these facilities is possible. The sale of parkland is not necessary.**

The County says they cannot afford to fix the mills so they want to sell them as a way of saving them. **Not true!** They are currently spending \$825,000 on renovating just the *lobby* of Nankin Mills and spending another \$6 million for other site amenities. The County will receive an increase of over \$3 million in park millage funds over last year because new developments, increased home sales and higher property values have increased the tax base. **Use park millage funds to fix the mills, not sell them!**

How are they funding the replacement of the Mounted Division operations and the Parks Department storage facility when the cost of replacement is more than double the listed price the mills are being offered for?

These mills are eligible for historic restoration grants. Private owners cannot access these funds. Private developers will not be able to manage the flood plain that surrounds these Mills. Once these lands and mills are sold, there is little to no control over how they are redeveloped in the future.

**The Save Hines Park Group supports redevelopment of the mills, not the sale of the mills or parklands.** These flood plains and historic structures are vital to preserving our heritage and managing the floodway. This is the wrong vision for Wayne County Parks and must **STOP!** Call your Commissioner and tell them, **“Parks are for People not Politicians to Peddle for Profit.”**

Tim Killeen: tkilleen@waynecounty.com	(313) 224-0920 District 1
Jewel Ware: jware@waynecounty.com	(313) 224-0916 District 2
Martha Scott: mscott2@waynecounty.com	(313) 224-0878 District 3
Ilona Varga: ivarga@waynecounty.com	(313) 224-0886 District 4
Irma Clark: iclark@waynecounty.com	(313) 224-0942 District 5
Monique McCormick: mbmccormick@waynecounty.com	(313) 224-0884 District 6
Alisha Bell: abell3@waynecounty.com	(313) 224-0936 District 7
Diane Webb: dwebb1@waynecounty.com	(313) 224-0930 District 8
Terry Marecki: tmarecki@waynecounty.com	(313) 224-0946 District 9
Melissa Daub: mdaub@waynecounty.com	(313) 224-0882 District 10
Al Haidous: ahaidous@waynecounty.com	(313) 224-0944 District 11
Glenn Anderson: district12@waynecounty.com	(313) 224-8855 District 12
Sam Baydoun: sbaydoun@waynecounty.com	(313) 224-2383 District 13
Raymond Basham: rbasham@waynecounty.com	(313) 224-0876 District 14
Joseph Palamara: jpalamar@waynecounty.com	(313) 224-0880 District 15
Warren Evans: ombudsman@waynecounty.com	(313) 224-0286

P.O. Box 531281, Livonia MI 48153

[www.savehinespark.com](http://www.savehinespark.com)

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