



Candice S. Miller

Public Works Commissioner
Macomb County

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 2, 2021

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Clinton River Spillway parcel sold to Clinton Township

Vacant property slated for recreational use

Approximately 6.3 acres of vacant property along the Clinton River Spillway has been sold to Clinton Township for recreational use.

The parcel is located along the north side of the Spillway, just east of Harper Avenue and north of Metropolitan Parkway. The sale of the acreage to the township for \$377,940 was approved by the Clinton River Spillway Drainage Board and the Clinton Township Board of Trustees.

To pay for the land, the township obtained a grant through the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund.

“The township is to be commended for applying for, and getting, the grant,” said Macomb County Public Works Commissioner Candice S. Miller, who serves as secretary on the inter-county drain district board that manages the Spillway. “The public is well-served by this sale. It’s an example of a good government partnership that keeps it under local control. The property will be preserved for public use.”

As a condition of the grant awarded by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the township is required to use the parcel for recreational purposes only, such as a park.

“We’re thrilled to be getting this property,” Clinton Township Supervisor Bob Cannon said. “We’re anxious to put our Trust Fund money to good use for recreational purposes.”

Cannon said the township board will determine a specific land use after welcoming suggestions from nearby residents.

“We want to make sure it’ll be something the Spillway drain board and nearby residents will be happy with,” the township supervisor said.

Proceeds from the sale of the property will help pay for continued maintenance of the Spillway such as the removal of logs and other debris in order to maintain the flow of the water in the channel and to operate the nearby weir.

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“Clinton Township’s eventual use of the 6.3-acre parcel will further enhance the aesthetics and attraction of the Spillway,” Miller said.

About the Clinton River Spillway:

The Clinton River Spillway is a nearly 2.5-mile long channel that works as a bypass of the Clinton River for excess stormwater that flows from the more than 40 communities in parts of Macomb, Oakland, Lapeer and St. Clair counties into the river. Designed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the spillway was constructed from 1949-1951 to reduce recurring flooding in Mount Clemens and parts of Clinton and Harrison townships. An inflatable dam known as a weir was installed across the approximately 80-foot-wide spillway in the 1980s, and can be raised or lowered to allow more water into the spillway but also to prevent lake water from flowing upstream when water levels in the river are low.

A few years ago, the spillway was upgraded by creating a series of wetland ponds along its banks, natural habitats were restored for wildlife, and invasive plant species were removed. Those activities, completed in 2019, were part of a \$4.4 million Great Lakes Restoration Initiative project approved by the Spillway inter-county drainage board using grants from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. A fishing pier was added in 2017 and is very popular with local anglers.

PHOTOS:

Aerial view of the vacant parcel along the Clinton River Spillway, just east of Harper Avenue, sold to Clinton Township for recreational use (image from Google Maps).

Wildlife on the Clinton River Spillway near Harper Avenue.

The fishing pier on the Clinton River Spillway just west of Harper Avenue in Clinton Township.

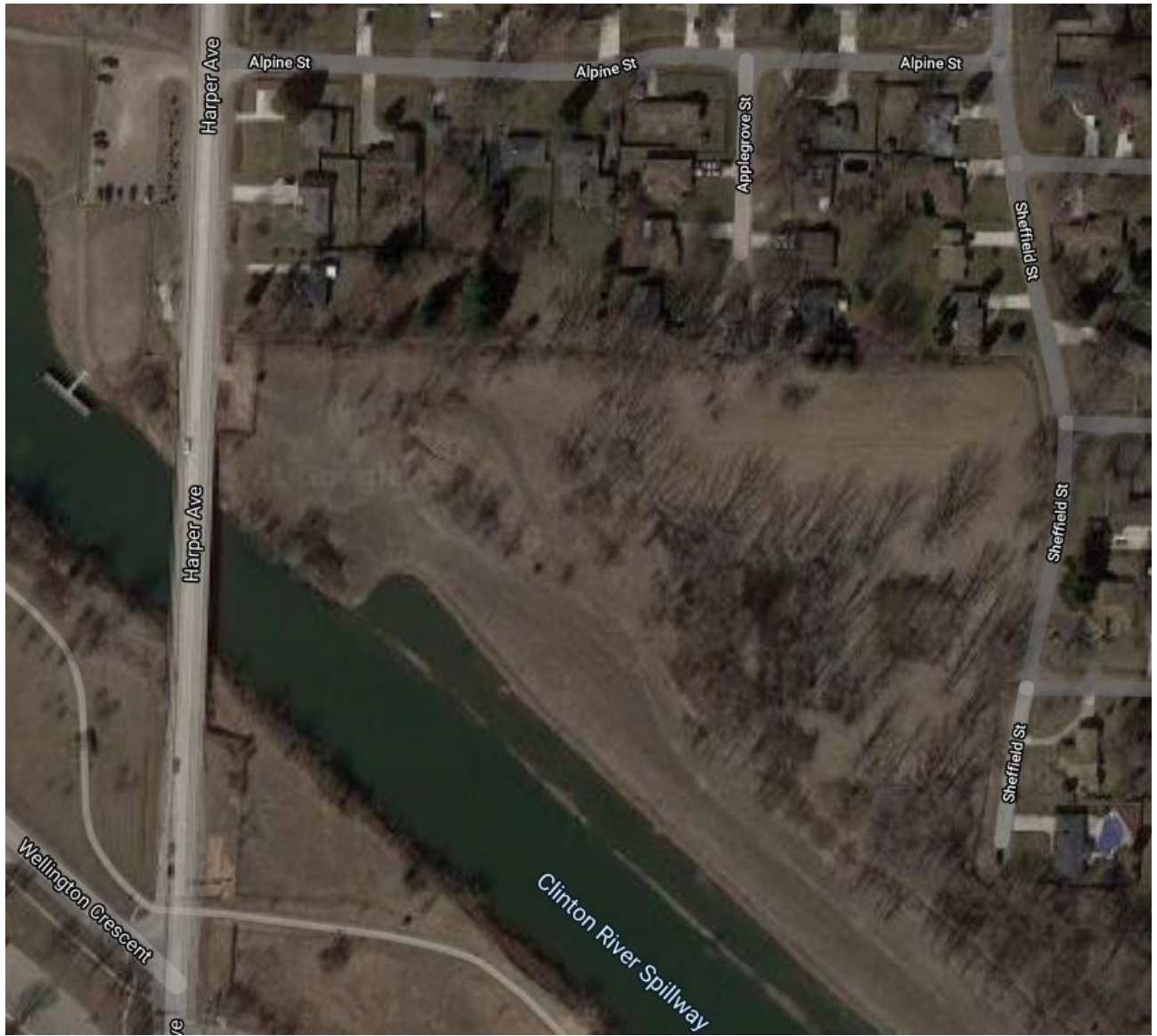
The Clinton River Spillway is a nearly 2.5-mile-long channel that was designed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and constructed from 1949-51 to reduce recurring flooding in Mount Clemens, Clinton Township and Harrison Township.



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