

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Parks Advisory Commission

FROM: Josh Landefeld, Parks and Recreation Services Deputy Manager

DATE: June 17, 2025

SUBJECT: Resolution to Recommend the Discharging of Prohibited Restrictions for Hansen Nature Area

Attached for your review is a resolution to Recommend the Discharging of Prohibited Restrictions for Hansen Nature Area.

As part of a development agreement with Midtown Condos, a property adjacent to Hansen Nature Area was donated to the City of Ann Arbor. The City closed on the property in May and the 1.06 acres was added to Hansen Nature Area. While working through the process to accept and add the donation to the City, it was learned that the original Hansen Nature Area property had a restrictive covenant as part of the deed.

These restrictions are inconsistent with the Parks' goal to provide exceptional experiences for all and ensure that everyone should feel safe, welcome, and respected in the City Parks.

A Michigan law went into effect on December 13, 2022 called the Discharge of Prohibited Restrictive Covenants Act which gives Michigan property owners and Michigan community associations a new and easy way to affirmatively remove discriminatory restrictions from deeds and other recorded documents. As such, parks staff have worked with the City Attorney's Office to prepare a discharge form for all the Hansen Nature Area properties with the restrictions.

Staff recommend the submitting of the Discharge of Prohibited Restrictions form with the Register of Deeds to officially remove these restrictions from the deeds associated with Hansen Nature Area.

## Resolution to Recommend the Discharging of Prohibited Restrictions for Hansen Nature Area

Whereas, Parks staff accepted a parkland donation from Midtown Condos adjacent to Hansen Nature Area;

Whereas, While working through the process to accept and add the donation to the City, it was learned that the original Hansen Nature Area property had a prohibited restrictive covenant as part of the deed;

Whereas, Tax parcels with restrictions are 09-08-36-100-016 and 09-08-36-100-014 (see attached property description),

Whereas, a Michigan law went into effect on December 13, 2022 called the Discharge of Prohibited Restrictive Covenants Act which gives Michigan property owners and Michigan community associations a new and easy way to affirmatively remove discriminatory restrictions from deeds and other recorded documents.

Whereas, The Parks and Recreation Services strives to provide exceptional experiences for all Park visitors and residents, regardless of race, age, gender, sexual orientation, income level, ethnicity, or ability;

Whereas, The Park Advisory Commission believes everyone should feel safe, welcome and respected in the City Parks and that removing these prohibitive restrictions from the deeds associated with Hansen Nature Area is consistent with this goal;

RESOLVED, That the Park Advisory Commission recommend that the Mayor and Council approve this removal of these prohibited restrictions and initiate the process to submit necessary paperwork for the removal.