



Seneca County Commissioners

Shayne Thomas | Michael Kerschner | Anthony Paradiso

111 Madison St.
Tiffin, Ohio 44883

January 8, 2020

State Rep. Bill Reineke and State Senator Dave Burke
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear State Rep. Bill Reineke and State Senator Dave Burke,

The Seneca County Board of Commissioners would like to express its official support for the Opportunity Park project. We have received backing from the Seneca County Opportunity Center, the entity that manages the park, to seek state funding. One of the things we have worked to improve over the past several years is our handicap accessibility. Currently, Opportunity Park is the only park solely dedicated to those with special needs. By moving forward, we would improve this offering and raise the quality of life of many.

Another benefit of the project is that it would satisfy an important portion of our active transportation plan. The plan was a multi-jurisdictional effort and was endorsed and adopted by the city of Tiffin. The park would help provide a safe pathway to cross US 224, a major highway that runs through our county. One of our priorities as a board has been to offer more recreational opportunities for our residents and this project would help to accomplish that.

Our board has enjoyed a fruitful partnership with the Seneca County Park District, and we are proud of what has been able to be accomplished by that entity. The district operated solely on volunteerism and donations for many years until recently it was approved for a levy. Since the organization has not had reliable funding, they have been put in a position to need outside money to continue to provide exceptional recreational facilities and access to all citizens. If this project receives state funding, we can make much-needed equipment purchases and double the size of the park.

Moving forward with the project also will allow us to demolish an obsolete juvenile detention center adjacent to the park. Removing the detention center and upgrading the park will have a positive impact on the quality of life for Eden Township residents and those in the surrounding areas by providing a safe and easily accessible area for exercise and fitness.

In our community, we pride ourselves on the seamless level of cooperation and collaboration between different political subdivisions and institutions and we are proud of the county-state partnership we have built over the years. We hope we can count on your support, joining us and our collaborative partners to bring this project to fruition.

Sincerely,

Commissioner Shayne Thomas

Commissioner Michael Kerschner

Commissioner Anthony Paradiso