

Shelby misses out on Getty Park renovation grant

By [Sharon Hallack Contributing Writer](#) Dec 30, 2019

SHELBY — Shelby Village recently received notification from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Trust Fund Board that it was not a recipient of a MDNR Recreation Development Grant applied for in August.

The grant was submitted for the renovation of Getty Park.

“The Trust Fund Grant is a competitive grant program and it can be difficult for small rural agencies to receive funding,” said an e-mail from Dan Lord, manager of the Grants Management Finance and Operations Division.

In his village administrator report to council last Tuesday, Rob Widigan said, “Our game plan now is to regroup and investigate our options for filing a new application for the April 1, 2020 deadline. I believe this project is of significant value to the community, and we should not give up on upgrading this community asset.”

Widigan will be attend an MDNR grant workshop in Lansing with John Wilson, the village’s Parks and Rec Consultant Jan. 6. There they will meet with their state grant coordinator to consider recommendations and strategies for the new application.

Parks and Rec Committee Chairperson Andy Near said, “We submitted our application with ‘2 Phases,’ but sometimes projects in multiple phases don’t have as good of a chance. The state wants to know a project will be completed, before giving money toward it. That is something we can look at in the next go around.”

An e-mail to council from consultant Wilson stated that the final score was 310 points out of 470. Compared with the village’s 2015 application, this application improved by over 29 percent. While the village missed out on points in the following categories: Collaboration, Site and Project Quality, Natural Resources Based Recreation Opportunities, Applicant Match and Universal Access Design, in the process the village was able to correct some property conversion issues that had been created over the years and it successfully entered into an intergovernmental agreement with Shelby Public Schools for the use of Getty Field.

On Jan. 20, the council’s Parks, Recreation and Buildings Committee will have a public hearing for the 2020-2025 Parks and Rec Plan starting at 5:30 p.m. at the village hall. The renovation of Getty Park and updates on the grant process will be shared at that time.

According to the MDNR, the Trust Fund Board (TFB) considered a total of 160 applicants seeking nearly \$54 million in funding for 2019 Recreation Development Grants. Their final recommendations included \$25.6 million of funding for 138 projects. These recommendations will now go to the legislature for review.