



Regional Agricultural Learning and Demonstration Site Update and MoU

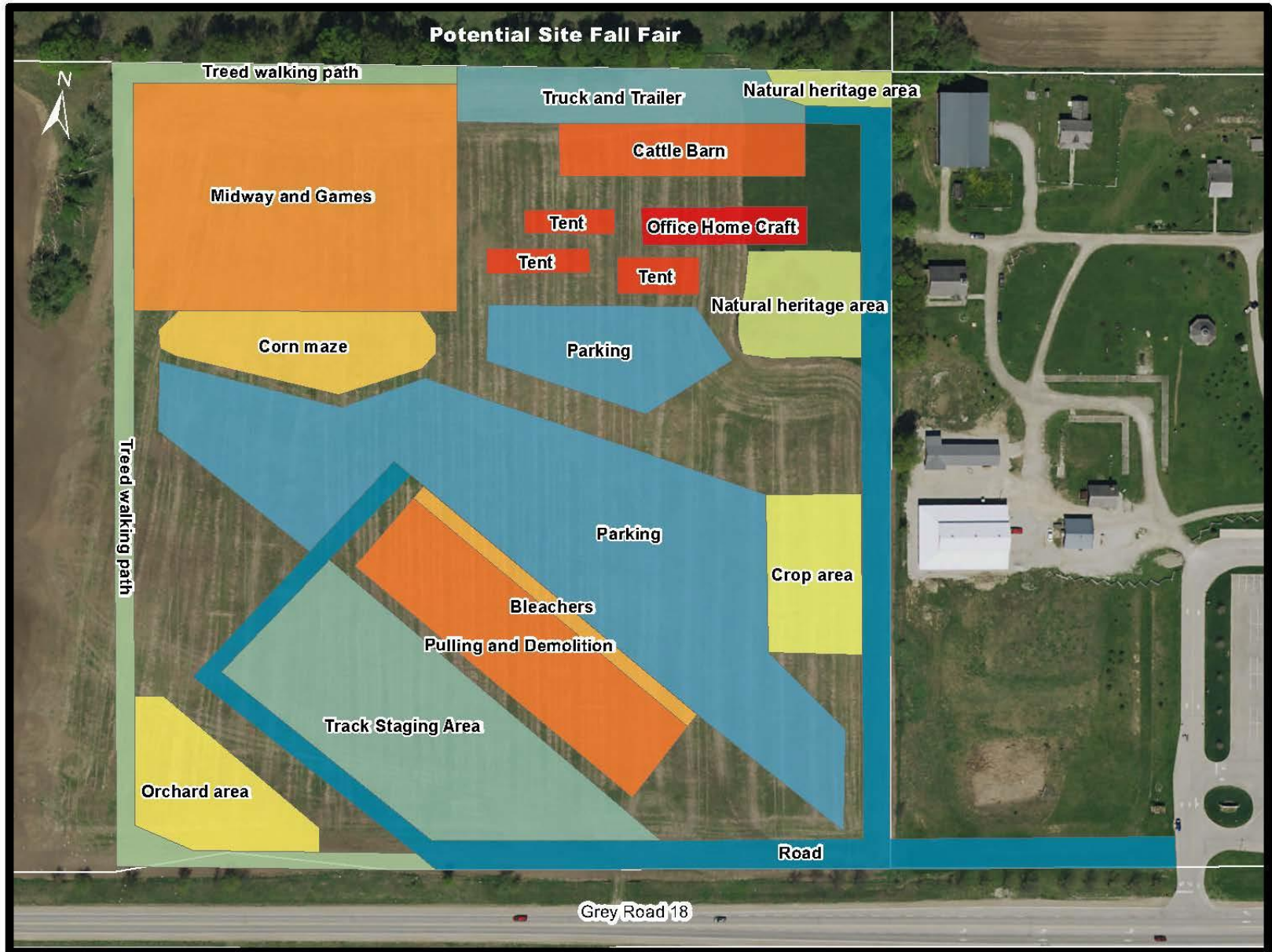
Partnership with Owen Sound and Chatsworth
Agricultural Societies

This presentation contains a summary of Report PDR-CW-02-20. For more details, please see the Staff Report.

Subject Lands



Draft Concept Plan



Memorandum of Understanding

- ▶ The County and Agricultural Societies see opportunities for shared uses between Grey Roots and the Regional Agricultural Learning and Demonstration Site (RALDS) facilities. Such uses would include access road use, parking, utilities access, facility/structure use.
- ▶ The County will assist the Agricultural Societies with applying to the Niagara Escarpment Commission (“NEC”) for a Niagara Escarpment Plan Amendment to permit the RALDS
- ▶ Vehicle access to the RALDS will be via the entrance from Grey Road 18 to the existing Grey Roots Museum facility and an access road to be built on the County’s land from that entrance to reach the Donated Land.
- ▶ The Halls will transfer title of the Donated Land to the County.
- ▶ The County will lease the lands to the Agricultural Society’s for a period of 5 years (with the possibility for extension) for \$2.00 per year. The Agricultural Societies will be responsible for payment of all costs of land ownership, including municipal property taxes.

Memorandum of Understanding

- ▶ The land lease will contain an option for the Agricultural Societies to purchase the Donated Land at a nominal value (e.g. \$10.00) contingent on use of the Donated Land being restricted to the operation of the RALDS or normal agricultural use by the terms of the Niagara Escarpment Plan at the time of transfer. If the use of the land is not restricted in this way, then the purchase price would be at fair-market value.
- ▶ The land lease will permit the Agricultural Societies to develop and construct the RALDS
- ▶ The MoU sets out responsibilities for both the Agricultural Societies and the County as part of this partnership.
- ▶ Suggested timelines are also identified in the MoU identifying next steps with respect to land transfer, agreements required, NEC applications, etc.

Next Steps

- ▶ It is recommended that the Memorandum of Understanding be endorsed, and that staff be directed to implement the next steps outlined in the MoU which includes, amongst other items:
 - Completing the documents necessary for transferring the lands from the Hall's to the County initially
 - Developing a land lease with the two Agricultural Societies which will include the option for the Agricultural Societies to own the lands following the initial term of the lease, and
 - Submitting the Niagara Escarpment Plan Amendment application and supporting documents to the NEC to establish the Regional Agricultural Learning and Demonstration Site.

Staff Recommendation

- 1. That Report PDR-CW-02-20 be received which provides an update on the partnership initiative between Grey County, the Owen Sound Agricultural Society and the Chatsworth Agricultural Society to create a Regional Agricultural Learning and Demonstration Site directly adjacent to Grey Roots; and**
- 2. That the proposed memorandum of understanding detailing the partnership with the Owen Sound and Chatsworth Agricultural Societies be endorsed; and**
- 3. That staff be directed to proceed with finalizing and implementing the Memorandum of Understanding which includes the land transfer from Mr. and Mrs. Hall being donated to establish the Regional Agricultural Learning and Demonstration Site, creating a Lease Agreement with the Agricultural Societies, as well as submitting a Niagara Escarpment Plan Amendment application to the Niagara Escarpment Commission to seek permission for establishing a Regional Agricultural Learning and Demonstration Site adjacent to Grey Roots; and**
- 4. That such by-laws be prepared for the consideration of County Council as may be required to implement the Memorandum of Understanding and the development of the Regional Agricultural Learning and Demonstration Site.**