



# HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

## STATE OF MICHIGAN

### Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

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1. The sponsoring representative's first name:  
Kathy
2. The sponsoring representative's last name:  
Schmaltz
3. The cosponsoring representatives' names. All cosponsors must be listed. If none, please type 'n/a.' A signed letter from the sponsor approving the co-sponsorship and a signed letter from the member wishing to co-sponsor are required. Attach letters at question #9 below.  
n/a
4. Name of the entity that the spending item is intended for:  
City of Jackson
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:  
161 W. Michigan Ave., Jackson, MI 49201
6. If there is not a specific recipient, the intended location of the project or activity:  
Ella Sharp Park, Jackson, MI
7. Name of the representative and the district number where the legislatively directed spending item is located:  
HD 46 - Kathy Schmaltz
8. Purpose of the legislatively directed spending item. Please include how it provides a public benefit and why it is an appropriate use of taxpayer funding. Please also demonstrate that the item does not violate Article IV, S 30 of the Michigan Constitution.  
The purpose of legislatively directed spending item is to address continued improvements in Jackson's infrastructure. This item is included in part of a larger plan to improve Ella Sharp Park in Jackson, which also includes privately funded pump track and infrastructure improvements to be added to the existing soccer and softball fields, as well as disc and traditional golf courses.

The mountain bike trails at Ella Sharp Park are a valuable asset to the Jackson

community. However, after years of vegetation growth and erosion, they are in need of renovation. The current layout is based on an outdated horseback riding trail system, with additions made over time by volunteers and enthusiasts—often without a comprehensive plan to maximize the potential of the space.

Research shows that 13 to 18 miles of single track are typically needed for a trail system to be considered a regional destination. With approximately 11 miles currently, the Sharp Park trails fall short of that benchmark. Additionally, because the system wasn't designed with a unified vision, there is no clearly defined route. In many areas, trails split into two or even three directions, making navigation confusing.

Establishing a defined route and alternating the direction of travel based on the day of the week would enhance both usability and safety. Partnering with a professional trail building company will allow the City of Jackson to redesign and construct multi-use trails that resist erosion and offer an exceptional riding experience for users of all skill levels—further increasing the park's appeal for both residents and visitors.

In addition to improving the trail system, the City of Jackson plans to launch a community "Bike Library." This initiative will make Jackson a more welcoming and inclusive place by providing access to mountain biking for residents and visitors who may not have their own equipment. Access to nature and outdoor recreation should be available to everyone, and the Bike Library represents a meaningful step toward building a vibrant, active community.

Modeled after a traditional library, users will be able to check out a bike, helmet, and other necessary gear for a day on the trails. Each bike will be equipped with a GPS tracker to prevent loss or theft. The city of Jackson is currently working with community partners to determine the best plan for administering the program and ensuring it serves the broadest possible audience. This appropriation meets a need within the City of Jackson for its residents and visitors with an anticipated positive economic impact based up on the regional draw for use.

**9. Attach documents here if needed:**

Attachments added to the end of this file.

**10. The amount of state funding requested for the legislatively directed spending item.**

750000

**11. Has the legislatively directed spending item previously received any of the following types of funding? Check all that apply.**

["Private"]

**12. Please select one of the following groups that describes the entity requesting the legislatively directed spending item:**

Local unit government

13. For a non-profit organization, has the organization been operating within Michigan for the preceding 36 months?

Not applicable

14. For a non-profit organization, has the entity had a physical office within Michigan for the preceding 12 months?

Not applicable

15. For a non-profit organization, does the organization have a board of directors?

Not applicable

16. For a non-profit organization, list all the active members on the organization's board of directors and any other officers. If this question is not applicable, please type 'n/a.'

n/a

17. "I certify that neither the sponsoring representative nor the sponsoring representative's staff or immediate family has a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in the legislatively directed spending item."

Yes, this is correct

18. Anticipated start and end dates for the legislatively directed spending item:

Privately funded trail assessment to be completed in 2nd Quarter of 2025 o Groundbreaking during spring/summer 2026 o Late summer/early fall 2026 completion and ribbon cutting

19. "I hereby certify that all information provided in this request is true and accurate."

Yes