



HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF MICHIGAN

Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

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:
Jackson County/Jackson County Parks
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
128 W. Ganson St., Jackson MI 49201
6. If there is not a specific recipient, the intended location of the project or activity:
Sparks Foundation County Park/Cascade
7. Name of the representative and the district number where the legislatively directed spending item is located:
Kathy Schmaltz, HD 46
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. Not only is the Cascades a monument marking the strong history of the great city and County, but it also serves as a community gathering place where wholesome fun occurs regularly. Sparks Foundation County Park is an integral asset to our community and receives nearly half a million visits each year. The expansive park hosts bands, family fun nights with reduced admission, field trips, birthday parties, larger community events, and so much more.

Since 1932, The Cascades has captivated locals and visitors from around the world. Jackson's most famous landmark resides within the 465-acre Sparks Foundation County Park and is under the management of the Jackson County Parks Department. This magnificent engineering feat was the dream of Jackson resident William Sparks. A serial entrepreneur and philanthropist, Sparks was inspired to build the 500-foot-long, man made illuminated waterfall after a trip to Barcelona. Larger than life, The Cascades includes six fountains, 16 falls, thousands of LED lights, and projects 2,000 gallons per minute to create the unmistakable water shows. Jackson County Parks is fortunate to have dedicated funding through a park millage that was approved by the voters of Jackson County in 2018. Voters and taxpayers were informed prior to the millage passing that funds would be used for "Restoration of the Cascades." While the millage was passed, the annual revenue from the millage only allows us to make improvements in small phases, which increases costs and does not generate enough interest amongst contractors due to the complexity, and as such, the project has stalled. With state appropriated money, accrued interest from contractors will enable the complete restoration in significantly fewer phases. By passing the park millage, Jackson County voters have shown that they are supportive of tax dollars being utilized to go toward Restoration of the Cascades.

While many improvements have been made over the years, there is still much to do to make sure that the Cascades once again becomes a destination and Jackson icon for generations to come. There is concrete that is crumbling, and mechanical components that are original to the 1932 construction. A capital campaign is underway, led by community stakeholders, to raise 3.5 million dollars to completely restore the Cascades. With a lead gift of one million dollars from Alro, and additional support since, we are halfway to our fund-raising goal. An appropriation would significantly increase our likelihood of finishing this capital campaign.

The Cascades is Jackson's most spectacular attraction and has entertained millions of locals and visitors for decades. Captain William Sparks created this treasure for the Jackson community almost 100 years ago, and we want to make sure that it's around for another 100 years.

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.**

1500000

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

["Private", "Local"]

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:

January 1, 2026-December 31, 2028

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

Yes

CASCADES CAPITAL PLAN

The Cascades is Jackson's most spectacular attraction. This unique man-made waterfall feature, that is both illuminated and choreographed, has entertained millions of locals and visitors for nearly 100 years. Captain William Sparks created this treasure for the Jackson community almost 100 years ago, and we want to make sure that it's around for another 100 years.

COMPLETED RENOVATIONS

Since 2014, there have been renovations and routine maintenance projects completed totaling 2.5 million dollars. Much of the original infrastructure from 1932 remains. Some recent renovations include:



ORIGINAL FOUNTAIN
PUMPS



RENOVATED FOUNTAIN
PUMPS



ORIGINAL STEPS



RENOVATED STEPS



ORIGINAL ELECTRICAL



RENOVATED ELECTRICAL

FUNDS NEEDED

With \$500,000 of parks millage funds and a generous lead gift of \$1 million dollars, the finish line is in sight and the time is now to raise the remaining \$2 million dollars to restore the Falls.

OUTSTANDING RENOVATIONS

Mechanical Improvements: \$1.5 million

The underground pump room with original 1932 pump and piping will be abandoned and a new, above ground pump room, with new pumps and piping will be built.

Structural Improvements: \$2 million

Various areas of the concrete, from original flower beds and pool floors, to failing spindles, columns, and stairs, will be replaced or repaired.

**\$3.5
mil**

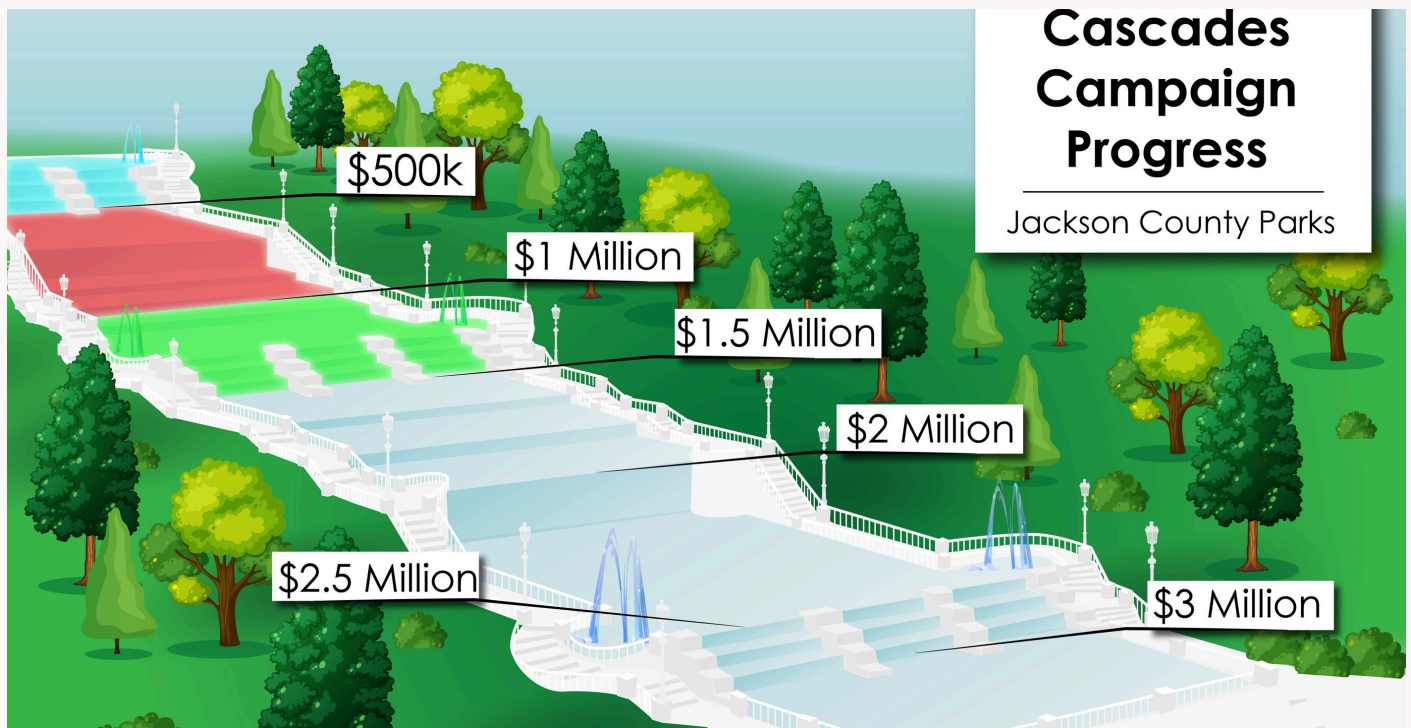
TOTAL GOAL

**\$1.7
mil**

CAMPAIGN PROGRESS

**\$1.8
mil**

FUNDS NEEDED



TO SUPPORT THE CASCADES, DONATIONS CAN BE MADE TO THE JACKSON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OR JACKSON COUNTY PARKS.