



HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF MICHIGAN

Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

1. The sponsoring representative's first name:
Reggie
2. The sponsoring representative's last name:
Miller
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:
Van Buren Township
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
46425 Tyler Rd, Van Buren Twp, MI 48111
6. If there is not a specific recipient, the intended location of the project or activity:
n/a
7. Name of the representative and the district number where the legislatively directed spending item is located:
Rep. Reggie Miller, MI-HD-31
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.
A new park, fishing pier, and boardwalk on Belleville Lake, in Van Buren Township, will serve as a vital enhancement to Van Buren Township's outdoor recreation offerings, providing safe and inclusive access to Belleville Lake, the largest inland lake in Wayne County, for residents and visitors. Currently, there is only one other sanctioned fishing area in the township which has limited space and is not in a central location. This park and boardwalk will encourage outdoor recreation on the township's waterfront, support

local economic development, and provide residents with another opportunity to enjoy the township's beauty and resources.

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.

2000000

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

["None"]

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:

Fall'26 - Fall'28

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

Yes



2025 BUDGET REQUEST

State Representative Reggie Miller

PROJECT TITLE

The Van Buren Township Lake House

PROJECT CONTACT

Elizabeth Renaud, Director of Community Services

erenaud@vbtmi.gov

734-787-0542

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

The Lake House is a visionary community project planned in Van Buren Township designed to serve as a central hub for social engagement, outdoor recreation, and scenic enjoyment of Belleville Lake. The Township acquired the 3.02-acre site in 2019 from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources with the goal of transforming it into a multifunctional space that fosters community connection and enhances public access to the lake. The Lake House will feature a beautifully designed multipurpose space with panoramic lake views, a community gathering space and conference amenities for local organizations and corporate events. The site is planned to also include an expansive outdoor deck, seamlessly blending indoor and outdoor spaces for social gatherings and celebrations.

A critical component of the project is ensuring accessibility and integration with the surrounding area. Pedestrian pathways will connect The Lake House to downtown Belleville, the Iron Belle Trail, and other key locations, creating a cohesive and inclusive space for residents and visitors alike. Site enhancements will maintain the natural beauty of the lakeshore while incorporating modern landscape features, shoreline improvements, and outdoor recreational elements. Among these, a proposed fishing pier and boardwalk will provide unparalleled lake access for fishing, relaxation, and community enjoyment, reinforcing The Lake House's role as a destination for outdoor recreation and social interaction.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT & INPUT

Public input is essential to ensuring that The Lake House reflects the needs and desires of the Van Buren Township community. Before finalizing any formal design or construction plans, we will implement a comprehensive public engagement process to gather feedback from residents, stakeholders, and local organizations. This will include community meetings, online surveys, interactive workshops, and open house events where attendees can review preliminary concepts, share ideas, and voice concerns. By incorporating public input at every stage, we aim to create



space that truly serves the community, enhances recreational opportunities, and fosters a sense of local pride in Belleville Lake's future.

FUNDING REQUEST FOR THE FISHING PIER BOARDWALK

Van Buren Township is seeking \$2 million in funding from the State of Michigan to support the construction of a fishing pier boardwalk as part of The Lake House development. This vital addition will provide safe, inclusive access to Belleville Lake for fishing enthusiasts, families, and community members looking to enjoy the lakefront. The pier will encourage outdoor recreation, promote environmental appreciation, and enhance the overall appeal of the site as a public gathering space. Additionally, it aligns with the Township's commitment to expanding recreational opportunities and improving community wellness through increased access to natural resources. With state funding assistance, the fishing pier will become a cornerstone of The Lake House project, ensuring that all residents—regardless of age or ability—can experience and benefit from the beauty of Belleville Lake. This investment will not only support local economic growth through increased tourism and event hosting but will also reinforce Michigan's dedication to outdoor recreation and public access to natural waterways. We appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to the opportunity to make this vision a reality.

PURPOSE

The fishing pier and boardwalk at The Lake House will serve as a vital enhancement to Van Buren Township's outdoor recreation offerings, providing safe and inclusive access to Belleville Lake for residents and visitors alike. This feature will create a welcoming space for fishing enthusiasts, nature lovers, and families to enjoy the lake in a serene and accessible setting. Currently, the only other sanctioned fishing area in the township is located at French Landing Park, which is limited in space and not as centrally located. By adding a designated fishing pier at The Lake House, we can expand equitable access to one of the community's most treasured natural resources. As a community that values outdoor recreation, Van Buren Township recognizes the importance of providing high-quality public spaces that encourage physical activity, social interaction, and environmental appreciation. The boardwalk will not only enhance lake access but also promote a deeper connection between residents and the natural beauty of Belleville Lake, reinforcing the township's commitment to expanding recreational opportunities and fostering a healthier, more active community.