

**Proposal for Town of Ulysses to Apply for Tompkins County Park Grant to Improve JCA Park Accessibility**

Tompkins County Planning has \$10,000 remaining in their Municipal Park and Trails Grant program and has invited municipalities to submit grants requesting no more than \$5,000 in 100% reimbursable funds.

The Jacksonville Community Association Board of Directors is requesting that the Town agree to submit an application to enable the JCA to improve the accessibility of the Community Park on Swamp College Road by contracting for an ADA compliant parking area and path to the pavilion and ADA compliant restroom.

**Original Plan:** The Board had hoped to seek funds to electrify the pavilion and restroom. However, the estimates sought from Pleasant Valley and Halco for running the line from the pole on Swamp College to a pedestal near the flagpole and on to the pavilion and restroom. The first estimate is too large for this grant.

**Alternative Plan** (as alluded to in the report submitted to the Town Board on May 22, 2023):

**Create an ADA accessible parking lot and paths to the pavilion and restroom**

The JCA received one estimate for creating a gravel path to the restroom and is using those rough estimates to project costs for the larger project. A second contractor will be preparing a more detailed estimate for the full project. If the Town agrees to submit the application and it is funded, the JCA would work closely with the Town to solicit additional bids from qualified contractors before any decisions are made since the Town would be contracting the vendor and the JCA wants to follow all Town procedures and assure full reimbursement from the County.

**The proposal and estimated budget:** Based on the 2021 SUNY Cortland Maintenance and Accessibility Plan and research into best practices for creating ADA accessible paths, the JCA proposes to seek contractors to:

- Excavate a parking lot ~ 20' x 50' 6' deep leveled for 4-5 cars near the flagpole, close to the pavilion.
- The substrate will be compacted, landscape cloth will be laid, 4 inches of 5/8' stone will be layered and compacted and then a finishing layer of 2 inches of 1/4" stone fines will be laid and compacted to create a hard surface, similar to the Black Diamond Trail.
- The path to the restroom will be 4' wide and 6 inches deep with the same layering and compacting process for the length of approximately 160 feet from the parking lot along the pavilion to the restroom.
- Expenses are estimated to include:

○ Contracted labor rates of \$100/hour/person x 2 laborers for 27 hrs	\$5,400
○ Equipment rental: Skid steer and compactor \$325/day x 3 days	\$1,050
○ Stone ~30 tons @ \$25/ton	\$ 750*
▪ Parking lot: 16 cubic yards of 5/8' minus rock + 8 cubic yards of 1/4" minus rock	
▪ Restroom Path: 8 cubic yards of 5/8" minus stone + ~4 cubic yards of 1/4" minus	
○ Landscape fabric 300 yards	\$ 300
○ Hauling fee	\$ 150*
○ Restroom accessibility equipment: sink, toilet, spigot, doors, grab bars, hardware	\$ 750
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$8,400</b>

LESS JCA funds available           \$3,400

**NET GRANT REQUEST   \$5,000**

\* **NOTE:** Highway may be able to provide stone at lower cost

Other County Application Requirements (to be completed by JCA if Town Board authorizes an application)

### **How does the Project Address Town and County Priorities;**

- 2012 Tompkins County Building Vibrant Communities Plan calls for nodal and rural development in Jacksonville and the Park is a key amenity for the hamlet
- Rt 96 Corridor Plan in 2009 called for increased development and accessibility in the hamlet
- Tompkins County's ADA Plan Priorities: *Priority 1 – Approach & Entrance*: An accessible route from site arrival and an accessible entrance should be provided for everyone and *Priority 3 – Toilet Rooms*: When toilet rooms are open to the public they should be accessible to people with disabilities.
- Town of Ulysses 2009 Comprehensive Plan calls for Special Area Plan for Jacksonville
- Accessible restroom and paths are part of JCA's 2019 Master Plan for the Park
- Accessible parking and paths are part of 2021 Park Maintenance and Accessibility Plan

### **Timeline**

- July Seek contractors bids for excavation and paving
- July-August Leach field installed to complete restroom & bathroom fixtures are plumbed
- Sept-October Excavation and Paving, starting with restroom path, parking lot, then Shurman Pavilion

### **Financial Need:**

To assure that the project is completed in a reasonable time, professional contractors are needed and the cost for professional services exceeds the annual allocation provided by the Town of Ulysses for JCA Park improvements. Compliance with ADA standards for public parks requires deeper excavation and specialty stone.

**Increase in Park Usage:** The Project will increase the number of park/trail visitors, enhance their experience, or increase the length of time spent at the park/trail. The completion of an accessible parking area, the accessible restroom, and the path to reach it will enable those with mobility issues related to age or disability to more fully experience the park. Once the parking area and path are completed, JCA hopes to engage community service groups and volunteers in constructing an ADA picnic table to enable all of our neighbors and visitor to enjoy the pavilion and participate fully in events hosted at the Park. If the Town Recreation program were to host movies or programs at the Park, these improvements would enable all members of the community to participate. News releases about the project will make area residents more aware of the park as an appealing place to visit and host events. The accessible restroom and water spigot will enable groups to host longer events such as reunions, graduations, weddings or family picnics.

### **Past use of funds**

The Town requested and received \$5000 in 2019 to build the restroom and lay the water line. The project was successfully completed, a detailed report was prepared for the County and Town, and full reimbursement was made to the Town.

### **SEQR**

The Town Planner has been asked to advise on whether this project requires SEQR review. That review, if needed, must be included in the in the application due June 19, 2023.