

**THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUGAR ISLAND, MICHIGAN  
RESOLUTION NO. 1 OF 2021**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND SUPPORTING  
THE DEVELOPMENT OF ISLAND #1**

**WHEREAS**, there is an opportunity to develop an inhabited, undeveloped piece of property within the borders of Sugar Island Township currently owned by the United States and overseen by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; and

**WHEREAS**, it is a goal of local community and the Township Board to expand and improve outdoor recreational opportunities within the Township, in part through participation in unique private-public partnerships; and

**WHEREAS**, Michigan Codified Law (MCL) 41.421 provides, in part, that a Township Board shall have the power to authorize the development and maintenance of parks and recreational areas within its geographic boundaries; and

**WHEREAS**, access to well-developed, off-road, hiking, jogging, and cross-country skiing trails are in limited supply for Sugar Island Township residents, seasonal visitors, and other taxpayers; and

**WHEREAS**, access to dedicated kayak, canoe and small watercraft launch sites are in limited supply for Sugar Island Township residents, seasonal visitors, and other taxpayers; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township shall take into consideration the relationship of this project to any larger plan or long-range program for the development of the area in which the Township has responsibility or functions; and

**WHEREAS**, Sugar Island (the "Township") has identified a specific property comprised of a vacant, uninhabited portion of land containing approximately 63 acres located on a small island immediately adjacent to the St. Mary's River, and commonly known as Island #1. Island #1 is also distinguished by its location immediately adjacent to the Sugar Island ferry dock; and

**WHEREAS**, the Island #1 is unique in that the Great Lakes shipping channel is on its west shore with deep water and exceptional access to those wishing to watch lake freighters. The east end of the island has shallow to moderate water depths and limited water currents that are perfect for small watercraft operations; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township will work with other governmental entities, non-profit groups, for profit contractors, and philanthropic organizations and individuals to plan and create a multi-use, self-sustaining recreational property; and

**WHEREAS**, the Sault Area Engineer at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has given his permission to develop this property for recreational use; and

**WHEREAS**, MCL 123.51, *et seq*, authorizes a Township to plan and develop properties for recreational use; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Township's support for this initiative does not suggest, inure, or otherwise imply any intent to provide any future commitment of funds, resources, or other assets. Any future commitment of funds, resources, or other assets will require a separate action; and,

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SUGAR ISLAND, THAT:**

**Section 1:** The Township supports the preliminary development of Island #1 such that it is consistent with any the larger plan or long-range program for the development of the area.

**Section 2:** If the local trails organization should be successful in acquiring funds, grants, or other financial resources to begin work, the Township shall be available to provide emergency fire and ambulance support to ensure the health and safety of workers.

**Section 3:** The Township shall assign a representative with the vested authority to work with public-private partnership on behalf of the Township Board.

**Section 4:** The Township does not set aside, expend, allocate, appropriate, authorize or otherwise commit local tax proceeds by virtue of this resolution. Any request to use local tax funds will require a separate Township action.

**Section 5:** The Township does not anticipate any need to take zoning or other ordinance-associated actions as a result of this resolution. Should zoning or ordinance-associated actions become necessary, those appropriate Township committees or employees should refer to this document for the Township's intent.

**ADOPTED BY A ROLL CALL VOTE OF THE BOARD OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SUGAR ISLAND THIS 12<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JANUARY, 2021.**

**Supervisor Eitrem –Aye**  
**Clerk Andary –Aye**  
**Treasurer Rosenbum –Aye**  
**Trustee Noble –Aye**  
**Trustee Repa –Aye**

Attest:

  
NANCY ANDARY, Clerk