

Shoreline stabilization project planned for 2022

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ALANSON — Camp Petosega will receive about 1,000 feet worth of bioengineered shoreline improvements early next year to combat erosion issues.

The project at the Emmet County park near Alanson, slated for spring 2022, is being funded through a grant from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy and being headed up by Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council. The Emmet County Parks and Recreation Department consulted with the watershed council over the course of the past year before they

submitted an application to the state in November for a grant through EGLE's non point source program.

"(The project will focus on) the area near the south side of our property, where we started noticing a few years ago that we were at risk of losing the small turnaround road that services the canoe and kayak launch area," said Ryan Bauman, Emmet County Parks and Recreation director.

The agency awarded those grants, intended "for watershed management projects that will benefit wetlands, lakes, and streams," last month. The agency awarded 11 grants totaling more than \$4.7 million in this grant cycle. Tip of the Mitt will receive \$153,938 to install 1,000 feet of shoreline im-

provements.

"We will have a very little expense on this project, just a small amount of staff time, and some equipment usages to move supplies," said Mike Reaves, Emmet County administrator, in his written report to the board of commissioners for next week.

The method being used will be similar to work that has already been done on parts of the campground's shoreline.

"They previously did a similar project about six years ago near the mouth of the small creek there that enters Pickerel Lake and it's worked very well, and it's added close to five six seven feet there close to the

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shoreline," Bauman said.

The project uses coir logs — biodegradable tubing made from densely packed coconut husk fibers — to hold back sedimentation along the shoreline.

Coir logs can help stabilize shorelines in coastal areas by buffering them from waves and water currents that might cause erosion. Coir logs can also be incorporated with vegetation and other strategies to prevent

As part of the grant award, the watershed council will be providing "targeted outreach," which entails working



Emmet County's Camp Petosega is located along Pickerel Lake southeast of Alanson.

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with the Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership to introduce the technique to local construction engineers.

"What's cool about

this project is it's essentially going to be a training for local contractors to learn this technique for local shoreline stabilization," Bauman said.