

**Date of project Proposal:** 23 May 2008

**Title of Proposal:** Request for a sculpture in the Ludington Waterfront Park and Sculpture Garden depicting the Great Lakes Ecosystem as represented by Hamlin Lake

**Description of project:** Bronze Sculpture associated with Hamlin Lake's historical, sequential and ecological impact upon the local community.

**Mission:** To encourage awareness and stewardship of the environment, gain a better understanding of interconnectedness regarding Ludington and the surrounding community as an integral part of the Great Lakes Ecosystem. Gain an appreciation for native species, both plant and wildlife. Present a vision of sustainability and sense of belonging. Provide an attractive and engaging entry of monument for past, present and future generations utilizing and taking pleasure in the park and garden.

**Need for Project:** There are many permanent and seasonal residents, renters and vacationers, recreational enthusiasts for example: boaters, fishers, hunters, water-skiers, hikers, cross-country skiers, kayakers, bikers, campers, sailors, "pontooners", tubers, naturalists, and sightseers who revere Hamlin Lake as a part of the Ludington community and wish to have a sculpture representing Hamlin Lake inclusive to the other sculptures in the waterfront park.

**Objective:** Hamlin Lakers consider themselves an ingredient of the Ludington population and desire to commemorate this association with a permanent sculpture in the waterfront park and sculpture garden

**Action Plan:** Assenting individuals representing various locales on the lake, including the upper lake, the south, middle and north bayous, the lower lake and Tamarack, narrows and Partridge Pointe, Piney Ridge Road and cove and an other person who represents the business enterprise associated with the lake have expressed interest and the willingness to participate on a strategizing committee to further explore and develop a plan of action in order to raise funds and thereby procure this project. Areas of expertise such as fundraising and program development, the arts, managerial practices, gardening and wildlife, business executives, accounting and finance and understanding and knowledge from previous similar endeavors distinguish those individuals. The first meeting is in the process of being planned and scheduled for mid-July of 2008. During that initial meeting an outline of events, timetable and course of action will be discussed and designed.

Thoughts and ideas regarding the actual sculpture have included wide- ranged, creative visions. Most favored is a landscape berm (marron grass and white pines) comprising a fallen limb or tree trunk from which a grandpa and a child (timeless and together) fish amid native wildlife such as a white tail deer, red fox, eastern chipmunks or skunk, rabbits or coyote. And, possibly a bald eagle perched on a branch representing sustainability through environmental protection and succession. Succession refers to the predictable changes that occur in the plants and animals (web of life or food chains) that habituate an area over time. It has been suggested that the sculpture be interactive and informative, life sized, people friendly and photogenic.

Background: Historically Hamlin Lake and its "inhabitants" along with numerous government agencies and nonprofit organizations have influenced and continue to influence the Ludington area in the ensuing ways:

Logging and forestry industry

Tourism

Gaming and sportsmanship

Sand mining

Fish implant, monitoring and research

Preservation and conservation

Water quality control, stream and watershed monitoring

Land usage, planning and zoning, riparian information and education, wise use of land

Wetland conservation and restoration

Sustainability by slowing down lake aging

Reintroduction of trumpeter swan

Fish implant and natural resources

Dam reconstruction effort

Invasion of alien species and public information

Protective and sustainability-Slant drilling, fertilizers, septic tank leaching

Critical dune preservation, public awareness

Bird migration study, wildlife monitoring

Structural improvements enhancing the pleasure of visitors

***Closing thoughts:*** Many people share the unique natural resources that have made the City of Ludington, and the surrounding area, a special place to live and visit. Along with sharing comes a heartfelt sense of belonging that creates a responsibility to insure sustainability for future generations. It is our hope that a sculpture in the Water Front Park, sponsored by the people of Hamlin Lake, would be a permanent reminder to residents and visitors that humans along with wild and natural things make up this special, fragile and ever-changing part of the Great Lakes Ecosystem. Ludington's waterfront and Hamlin Lake are just a few short miles apart, but our similar natural resources link us culturally and economically. Let's tell this important story together in the form of art in the park where thousands of people will witness our recognition of the importance of preserving our environment

*Submitted by: Ginny Hluchan 6976 Partridge Circle W, Ludington MI 49431*

*Thank you for your consideration.*