



City of South Haven

PRESS RELEASE

City of South Haven

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Local Media

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MNRTF AWARDS CITY OF SOUTH HAVEN \$250,000 FOR SOUTH BEACH IMPROVEMENTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – (South Haven, Michigan) The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF), through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources & Environment (MDNRE), announced earlier today that the City of South Haven has been awarded \$250,000 for the development of South Beach. The City will match \$250,000 for the project.

The development includes improved sidewalk access/connection from Erie Street to a beach promenade, a universally accessible trail mat, painted crosswalks, accessible parking aisles and an extension to the existing HarborWalk.

The selection process is based on a rating system of which points are scored to meet certain criteria. The City's project was scored high in the ranking - number 15 of 102 applicants.

Mayor Bob Burr and members of City staff made the trip in not the best of weather conditions for traveling. Mayor Burr stated, "It took us three hours to get to our destination, but it was well worth it. The announcement of the City of South Haven as one of the recipients was gratifying. All of our hard work paid off."

This is the second year the City has applied for a MNRTF grant for the South Beach improvements. Last year, the City asked for \$500,000 in matching grants. When applying this year, the City scaled back the project, excluding the concession building.

The City will await confirmation from the MDNRE after the Legislature approves the federal expenditures. After confirmation, city staff will begin the planning stages for construction.

For more information, contact Deb Davidson, DDA Director, 269-637-0748 or ddavidson@south-haven.com

The South Beach improvement plan can be found at the City's web site www.south-haven.com under "Project News" or at this link:

http://www.south-haven.com/pages/beaches/south_beach_master_plan.pdf

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