



Open Space and Trails Advisory Board

April 13, 2026

To the Erie Town Council Members:

The Open Space and Trails Advisory Board (OSTAB) writes to clarify its position regarding the Page property. OSTAB's position is that the property should be preserved in its entirety only for appropriate open space uses, and that no development should occur on any portion of the site. OSTAB believes the Page property holds significant open space, ecological, agricultural, scenic, and community value, and that preserving the property as a whole best protects those attributes for current and future generations. If the opportunity to purchase the entire property and rezone to an appropriate open space zoning, OSTAB would welcome that opportunity.

OSTAB also recommends that the existing buildings on the property be further evaluated for potential use as storage for the Parks and Open Space Division. This evaluation would allow the Town to consider whether the structures can serve a functional purpose while remaining consistent with preserving the broader property as open space.

In addition, OSTAB suggests that staff pursue opportunities to enhance the property's value through exploration of trail connections, restoration activities, agricultural uses, and management of the existing pond. OSTAB believes these efforts could strengthen habitat value, improve connectivity, and support long-term stewardship of the site in a manner consistent with the Town's open space goals.

Should Council determine that development is desired and move forward with a development plan, OSTAB maintains that at least 50 percent of the property's acreage should remain as open space and any additional requirements should be in accordance with the Unified Development Code. Any development plan should also strive to preserve as much of the property's open space value as possible, including viewsheds, trail corridors, and natural habitat.

OSTAB offers this clarification to ensure its position is clearly understood as Council considers the future of the Page property. OSTAB continues to support conservation-focused planning that protects the site's unique character and long-term public value.

Sincerely,

The OSTAB Board

Ken Martin, Chair

Christine Felz, Vice-Chair

Phil Brink, Member

Tim Payne, Member

Bill Rigler, Member

Joe Swanson, Member

Dave Tazik, Member