

Trailside Park project plans move forward

By **MATT DECEMBER**
Source Staff Writer

The Macomb Orchard Trail Commission has received permission from the Romeo Planning Commission and the Romeo Historic District Commission to move forward with the Romeo Trailside Park project on Clinton Street.

The Romeo Planning Commission approved the trail commission's revised site plans for the park, allowing for more preliminary work to be completed before the planning commission makes its final recommendation to the village council.

The Romeo Historic District Commission also gave the trail commission permission to tear down an old equipment barn located on the park property.

Macomb County Commissioner Don Brown, a member of the Macomb Orchard Trail Commission, said a final decision hasn't been made on what to do with the dilapidated barn.

Brown said renovations to the building would cost more money than the trail commission currently has available; however, so would tearing the building down.

"Either way it is going to take a lot of money, more

money than we have available," he said. "We are probably going to secure the building until we have the funding to reclaim it or tear it down."

John Crumm, program manager of planning and environmental services for Macomb County, said the building in question is an old road commission equipment barn.

The building, he said, has several problems as it pertains to renovations or removal.

"The cement floor is uneven, there is an oil changing system in the floor like you would have

at an oil change place," he said. "There were some questions about the environmental impact that would have.

"The real major issue is the cinder blocks. The mortar that holds it together is falling apart in certain areas," Crumm continued. "It would require some major rebuilding."

Crumm said the building also has environmental issues related to lead paint and asbestoses that are still being investigated.

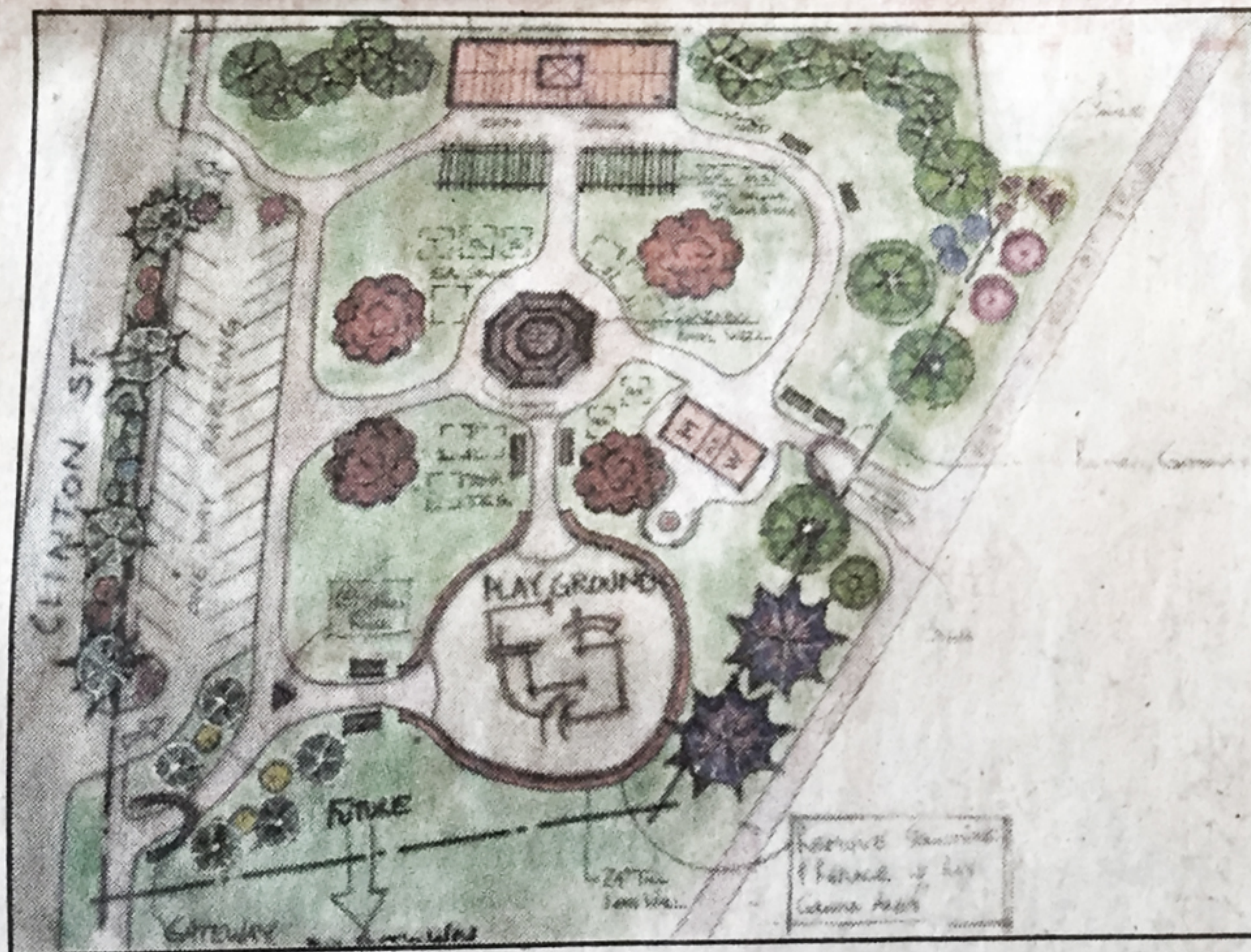
"We are still trying to make a determination," Crumm said. "The building does have some

historical value to it."

Brown said this fall and through the winter, cleanup of the new park will begin, including removing concrete and broken light poles, applying grass seed and performing some initial landscaping work.

"Cleaning up the site is the first step," Brown said. "We want to move on that as soon as possible."

Brown said the first phase of the park cleanup will cost approximately \$110,000, money which the trail commission currently has available.



Plans continue to move forward for the Romeo Trailside Park, located on Clinton Street. Updated site plans include an additional entrance into the park for motor vehicles.