



# Oakland Charter Township

Parks, Recreation, &  
Land Preservation

# MASTER PLAN 2015 - 2019



Adopted February 24, 2015

prepared by







# Charter Township of Oakland

## Parks, Recreation, and Land Preservation 2015 - 2019 Master Plan

Adopted: February 24, 2015  
Oakland County, Michigan



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# Introduction

The Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Department has completed the process of a Master Plan review, in concert with a Strategic Master Plan, in an effort to inform and guide their park planning activities over the next five years, and to meet Michigan Department of Natural Resources requirements. A thorough inventory and analysis of the existing parks and facilities managed by the Parks Department helped give the Department and the Parks Commission a better understanding of the wants and needs of the community, and allows them to adjust planning to meet current needs as well as plan for future ones.

The plan is broken into five basic categories:

## *Community Description:*

A general description of the community demographics and trends. The chapter examines the demographic and economic trends in the community as well as the physical characteristics of Oakland Township. The information plays a key role in defining goals and objectives.

## *Administrative Structure and Funding:*

A description of the Township management, history, and economic resources. The chapter details the Township and Parks and Recreation Department administrative structures, and provides a listing of the Department's expenditures and revenues, funding, and grant history.

## *Parks & Recreation Inventory:*

An overview of individual parks and recreation facilities available to Oakland Township residents. The overview examines various levels of the park structure and includes facilities not explicitly included in the Township holdings, such as schools, regional trails, and quasi-public facilities. The chapter helps inform the decisions incorporated in the basis for action plan.

## *Basis for Action Plan:*

A discussion of the planning and public input process and an analysis of Township parks and facilities. This section lays the groundwork for recommendations in the final chapter. The chapter details the methodology used to determine community impressions of the park system and details the results of those investigations. The recommendations build upon the information gathered for this Master Plan as well as the results from the previous iteration and information detailed in the Strategic Plan.

## *Action Plan:*

Recommendations for the future development of the Parks system, from specific parks to general system wide levels. The Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan is also contained in this section. This chapter provides the ultimate recommendations for the next five years, including a description of any capital expenditures associated with those recommendations. While the projects and expenditures listed have a timeline associated with each item, it is important to remember that these items are meant to be guidelines; all of the entries are intended to be flexible and implementation may be adjusted depending on budget availability, new information, or any other extenuating circumstances.

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# Chapter 1

## Community Description



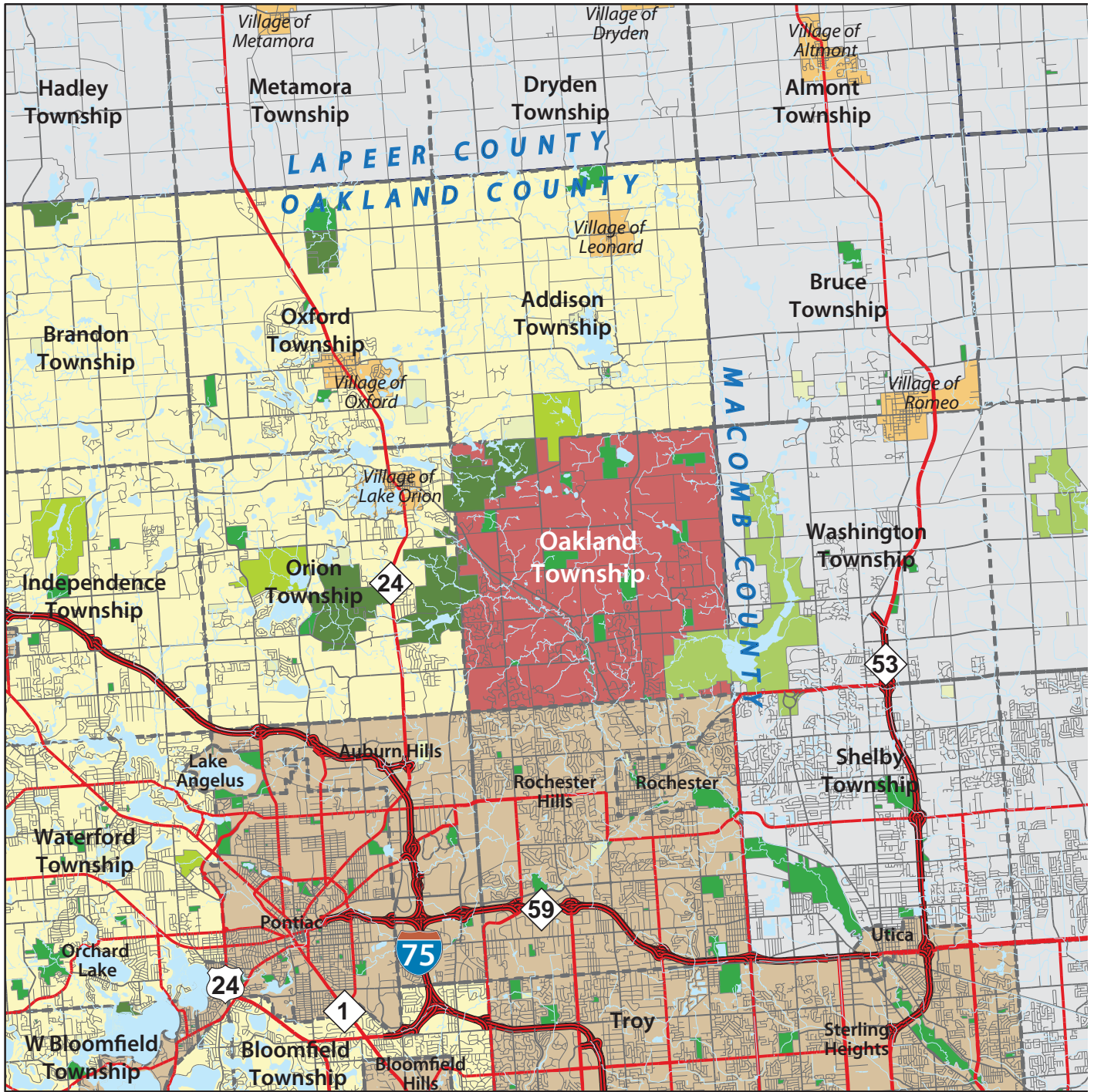
Figure 1.1 - Cyclists at Paint Creek Cider Mill  
Source: Paint Creek Trailways Commission

The following Community Description is a picture of the various physical and socioeconomic characteristics of Oakland Township. The information included in this chapter provides valuable insights into the basic makeup of the community which in turn can help understand the needs and wants of Township residents. The Township takes great pride in being a community that provides a high quality of life for its residents and offers a diversity of values and experiences.

### **Regional Setting**

Oakland Township is located in the northeast portion of Oakland County adjacent to Macomb County. The Township is bordered by Addison Township to the north, Washington Township (Macomb County) to the east, the City of Rochester Hills to the south, and Orion Township to the west. In addition to the adjacent communities, the Township is located a short drive from Pontiac, Rochester, Village of Lake Orion, Romeo, Auburn Hills, and Troy. See Map 1 – Regional Location.

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GIS Data Source: Michigan Department of Technology, Management, & Budget  
Southeast Michigan Council of Governments



- Charter Township of Oakland
- Cities
- Villages
- Townships (Oakland County)
- Townships (Other Counties)
- State Park and Recreation Facilities
- County Park and Recreation Facilities
- Metropark
- Municipal Park
- Other Park or Open Space

**Map 1:**  
Regional Context  
Charter Township of Oakland

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## Demographic Characteristics

The following demographic report reveals some of the unique characteristics of Oakland Township. The demographic makeup of the community helps determine the quality and quantity of parks and recreation facilities and programs necessary to serve Oakland Township residents.

### Population

The Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) projections indicate that the Township's population is expected to increase at a brisk pace through 2040. The population increased approximately 23.8% from 2000 to 2009, as indicated in Table 1.1, and is projected to grow at a 21.5% rate through 2040. Growth is expected to level off somewhat between 2030 and 2040, with a more modest percentage rate of 3.9%. The Township has experienced continuous population growth since 1910 with the most significant increases occurring after 1950. Between 1960 and 1970, Oakland Township's population increased by 94.1% (2,324 new residents).

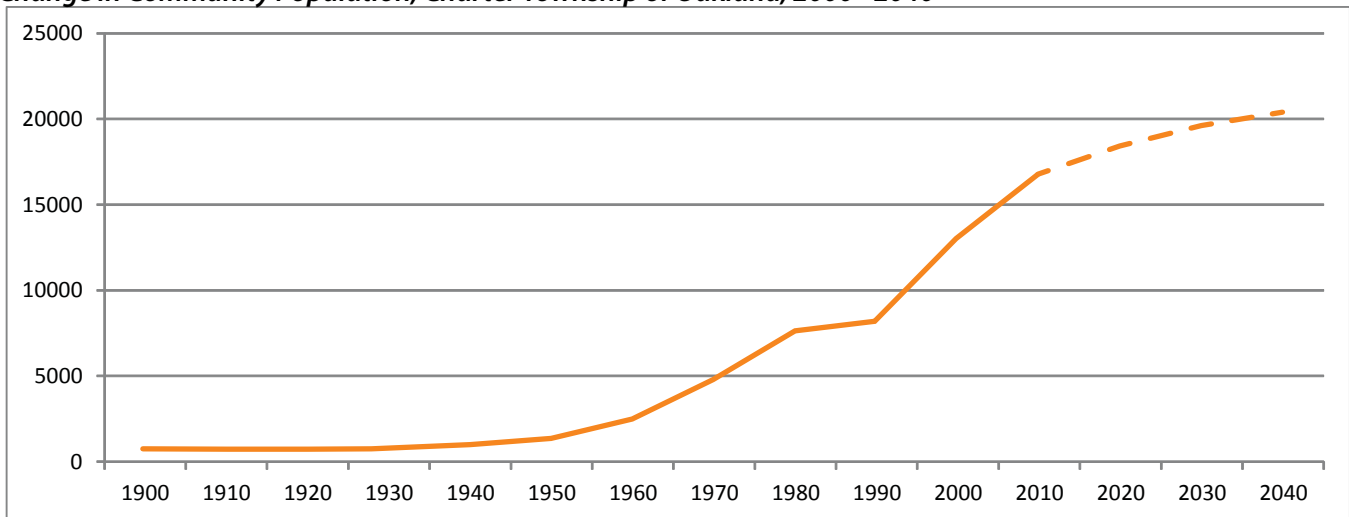
**Table 1.1 Change in Community Population, Charter Township of Oakland, 2000 - 2040**

2000	2010	Percent Change (2000 to 2010)	2040*	Percent Change (2000 to 2040)
13,071	16,779	28.40%	20,400	56.10%

Source: US Census Bureau, SEMCOG  
\*SEMCOG 2040 Forecast

**Figure 1.1**

**Change in Community Population, Charter Township of Oakland, 2000 - 2040**



Source: US Census Bureau, SEMCOG  
\*SEMCOG 2040 Forecast

Population increases in the Township can be attributed to a continuous influx of residents who seek a community with a high quality of life. The Township offers a number of advantages to residents, particularly related to parks and recreation amenities. As shown in Table 1.2, a majority of the surrounding area has experienced increases in the past nine years, with the exception of Addison Township and southeast Michigan as a whole. Lake Orion and Rochester Hills, both of which were projected to lose population in the last Census, actually showed modest growth. Oakland County showed minimal growth, while southeast Michigan continued to lose population primarily in Wayne County and Detroit. Oakland Township is second only to Washington Township in neighboring Macomb County in population growth since 2000. While the economic climate of the region and state have improved, growth in many communities is anticipated to either slow or decline.

**Table 1.2**  
**Change in Community Population, Surrounding Communities, 2000 - 2040**

Community	2000	2010	Percent Change (2000 to 2010)
Oakland Township	13,071	16,779	28.4%
Addison Township	6,107	5,948	-2.6%
Lake Orion	2,715	2,973	9.5%
Orion Township	30,748	32,421	5.4%
Rochester	10,467	12,711	21.4%
Rochester Hills	68,825	70,995	3.2%
Washington Township	17,122	23,296	36.1%
Oakland County	1,194,156	1,202,362	0.7%
Southeast Michigan	4,833,368	4,704,809	-2.7%

Source: US Census Bureau, SEMCOG

### **Housing**

Households are defined as a person or group of people occupying a housing unit. The number of households in Oakland Township is expected to increase, as indicated in Table 1.3. Average household size, defined as the number of persons per household, has been declining and this trend is expected to continue. It should be noted, however, that the Township has a higher than average household size for the region (Oakland County and southeast Michigan are 2.46 and 2.51 respectively in 2009). The Township's population has increased over the past ten years and this growth is expected to continue. The increase in population and households will mean additional demands from the current and new residents for parks and recreation facilities and programs. The decline in household size will create a more isolated population if housing densities do not increase accordingly. Future parks and facilities will thus need to be dispersed throughout the community to meet the needs of residents.

**Table 1.3**  
**Community Population and Housing Statistics, Charter Township of Oakland, 2000 - 2040**

	2000	2010	2014	2040
Population	13,071	16,779	17,909	20,400
Households	4,341	5,777	6,621	7,345
Household Size	3.01	2.90	2.86	2.77

Source: US Census Bureau, SEMCOG  
 \*SEMCOG 2040 Forecast

Households are classified as Families with Children, Families without Children, and Non-Families, which include persons living alone and two or more non-related persons living in the same home. In Oakland Township, 46.6% of households are classified as Families with Children, 42.2% as Families without Children, and 11.2% as Non-Families. The percentage of households with children has grown 1.4% since the last Master Plan was approved while the percentage of non-family/single occupant households has decreased 1.9%. The composition of households in Oakland Township is important to help plan the desired parks and recreation facilities and programs in a manner that is consistent with and proportionate to these characteristics. The trend towards more homes with children should be considered for future park programming.

## Age Distribution

An understanding of the age distribution in the Township is essential in planning for future parks and recreation needs. As we pass through the various stages of life, our activity requirements change resulting in the need for different facilities and programs. In Oakland Township, the population 65 years and older is forecast to grow dramatically (158.4%) between 2010 and 2040. Proportionally, this represents a 13% increase in population. The 18 to 34 age group will experience a more modest increase (4.1%), while the 5 to 17 group (-5.8%) and the 35 to 64 age group (-11.3%) will experience significant declines. The preschool age group will remain essentially static.

The residents from 35 to 64 years of age continue to make up the majority of the population. School age children almost double the number of young adult and retirement age populations. By 2040, however, the number of adults in retirement will approach the size of the working age adult population. The Township parks and recreation facilities and programs must address the different needs of an aging population while at the same time account for the youth and adults in the community. While it is important to address the needs of an aging population, it is equally important to provide facilities which will attract younger residents to the Township. Healthy living, recreational, and cultural opportunities play a major role in where people choose to live, raise families, and retire.

**Table 1.4**  
**Age Distribution, Charter Township of Oakland, 2000 - 2040**

Age group	Life Phase	2000		2010		2040*	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0-4	Preschool	911	7.0%	770	4.6%	931	4.6%
5-17	School Age	3,081	23.6%	3,888	23.2%	3,553	17.4%
18-34	Young Adult	1,846	14.1%	2,112	12.6%	3,410	16.7%
35-64	Adult	6,310	48.3%	8,074	48.1%	7,505	36.8%
65+	Retirement	923	7.1%	1,935	11.5%	5,001	24.5%
	Totals	13,071	100.0%	16,779	100.0%	20,400	100.0%

Source: US Census Bureau, SEMCOG

\*SEMCOG 2040 Forecast

## Education and Ethnicity

According to the 2010 U.S. Census, 53.9% of Oakland Township residents have a bachelor's degree or higher and 24.6% hold a graduate or professional degree. Compared to the surrounding communities, the education level of the Township is only exceeded by the City of Rochester. The Township exceeds both Oakland County and the State of Michigan averages.

Along with high education levels, the community is fairly homogenous in race and ethnicity, although it has become slightly more diverse between 2000 and 2010. In 2000, 93.3% of the population was white with 2.6% Asian, 2.0% African American, 1.2% Hispanic, and 1.0% multi-racial or some other race. By 2010, only 88.6% of the population was white; the Asian population has more than doubled and now makes up 5.3% of the total population, while the remaining populations have also increased. The population of foreign-born residents increased 8.2% in 2000 to 11.0% by 2010. The community has shown continued diversification since 1990, and is anticipated to continue to diversify in the future. Parks and recreation activities and programs should be flexible to address the changing community composition.

## Persons with Disabilities

Understanding the status of persons with disabilities will assist in planning future programs and appropriate locations for facilities and activities. The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) requires that all public services, including parks, recreation, and cultural facilities, be subject to barrier-free requirements. Public providers must eliminate any eligibility requirements for participation in programs, activities, and services. Disability data is collected for five age groups. As the population ages, the proportion with one or more disabilities steadily increases. This trend is consistent with the figures for Oakland Township. Approximately 7.6% of the Township's population has one or more disability; of those individuals, 42.8% are over the age of 65, 47.0% are between 18 and 64, and only 10.1% are under the age of 18. The Parks and Recreation Department must account for the needs of these residents and continually examine the existing inventory for compliance.

**Table 1.5**  
**Persons with a Disability, Charter Township of Oakland, 2010**

Age Group	Total Population	With a Disability	Percent
Under 18	4,276	128	3.0%
18 to 64	10,022	594	5.9%
65 and over	2,408	541	22.5%

Source: US Census Bureau, SEMCOG

## Economic Characteristics

A variety of indicators suggest that Oakland Township enjoys strong economic health and its residents are rather affluent. After several decades of strong growth, residential construction came to a virtual standstill in 2010. New developments on the north side of the Township have not been included in the census data, however, and appear poised to dramatically increase the amount of available housing. At \$313,000, the median household value is significantly higher than the surrounding homes in Oakland County. Similarly, the median household income of the Township's residents is significantly higher than Oakland County, Macomb County and southeast Michigan, and the Oakland Township area has fared better than the counties, region, and state in unemployment figures.

The relatively strong economic health of Oakland Township suggests that residents will continue to demand high-quality services and facilities from the Parks and Recreation Department and that continued funding is necessary to help fund these activities. This position is supported by the previous plan and Township residents.

### Construction Activity

The number of local building permits issued fluctuates with market demands, paralleling national economic strength. According to SEMCOG figures, the largest residential construction boom over the past 40 years took place between 1993 to 2004, when 61.5% of the total building permits were issued. Residential construction slowed to a virtual standstill during the recent recession; only recently have new developments begun to appear in the Township. New parks and recreation facilities should be located appropriately to serve current Township residents, and areas of existing residential concentration are ideal locations for new facilities.

## Income

Median household income is a broad measure of relative economic health. It is defined as the income level where half of all households earn more and half earn less. In 2010, the median household income in Oakland Township (\$100,310) was higher than in Oakland County (\$65,637), neighboring Macomb County (\$53,628) and all of Southeast Michigan (\$53,242). The Township, like the rest of the state, experienced severe drops in median income during the recent recession. From 2000 to 2010, the Township's median household income decreased by 16.7% while Oakland County as a whole decreased by 18.1%.

## Employment

While employment in Oakland Township is historically healthy, the Township experienced its share of difficulty during the recession. According to Census figures, unemployment rates in the Township in 2010 were moderate (6.1%), consistent with surrounding Oakland (6.9%) and Macomb Counties (8.2%), and the State of Michigan (7.8%) as a whole, but significantly stronger than the Detroit Metropolitan Area (14.8%).

## Physical Characteristics

The following is a description of the physical characteristics of Oakland Township, including land use and natural features. This is important in understanding the potential for the type, location, and extent of parks and recreation improvements.

### Land Use

Oakland Township has seen significant development in recent years. Nearly 80% of the area has been developed while the remaining 20% is vacant, recreation/conservation, agriculture, or water, as shown in Table 1.6 below. Single family residential (69.5%) is the highest single land use in Oakland Township given that it is primarily a bedroom community. Township residents rely on neighboring communities for goods, services, and employment needs with the exception of small pockets of commercial, industrial, and office uses. Even with this high level of development, only 8% of the total land area is considered impervious (buildings, roads, driveways, or parking lots). Through the

**Table 1.6**

**Land Use, Charter Township of Oakland, 2010**

Land Use	Acres	Percentage
Land Use	Acres	Percentage
Agricultural	257	1.1%
Single-family residential	16,314	69.5%
Multiple-family residential	0	0.0%
Commercial	164	0.7%
Industrial	356	1.5%
Governmental/Institutional	525	2.2%
Park, recreation, and open space	4,481	19.1%
Airport	0	0.0%
Transportation, Communication and Utility	990	4.2%
Water	390	1.7%
TOTAL	23,478	100.0%

Source: SEMCOG

efforts of the Parks and Recreation Commission and support from the community, the Township has maintained its rural character and significant acres of the land have been preserved.

### ***Transportation and Access***

The current transportation system in and around Oakland Township is predominately oriented toward the automobile. This can limit access to recreation facilities for certain segments of the population, namely children, young adults, and seniors who may not have access to transportation. However, Oakland Township residents pay for the Older Persons' Commission to provide transportation for senior citizens residing in Oakland Township and the Township is adding local safety paths and trails using the Township Trails Improvement millage funds.

### ***Road System***

Both I-75 and M-24 are located nearby and allow quick access to other locations in the Detroit Metro area. Within Oakland Township, Rochester and Adams Roads serve the main north/south corridors, and Stony Creek, Romeo (32 Mile Road), and Silverbell Roads are the major east/west connections. Orion Road cuts across the southwest portion of the Township.

### ***Non-Motorized Pathways***

Non-motorized pathways provide physical fitness, recreation, and transportation opportunities for pedestrians, runners, bikers, and other similar users. The pathways in the Township include trails within Township parks, the Mill Race Trail, the regional Paint Creek Trail, and the continued development of a comprehensive pathway and trail system throughout the Township to link all areas of the community with non-motorized travel. The Township's Trails and Pathway Master Plan map is included in Appendix A.

Oakland Township's safety path and trail system provides opportunities for physical activities such as walking, running and cycling, safe route alternatives to motorized transportation, and greater access to nearby destinations including parks, schools, shopping areas, and community facilities.

Safety paths are intended for recreation/transportation use by walkers, bicyclists, and runners. Trails are primarily intended for recreation/transportation walkers, bicyclists, as well as nature observation, mountain bicycling, and horseback riding (separate trail). The Master Plan map illustrates 32.6 miles of proposed pathways and 16.7 miles of proposed trails.

It is important to note that Oakland Township's safety path and trail system is operated and maintained by the Oakland Township Trails and Pathways Advisory Committee and not by the Parks and Recreation Department. Any trails located within the boundary of a park, however, fall under the jurisdiction of the Parks Department. The Parks Department is additionally responsible for maintenance and operation of the 5.3 mile segment of the Paint Creek Trail that runs through Oakland Township. Interconnectivity between the internal trail systems and the safety path and

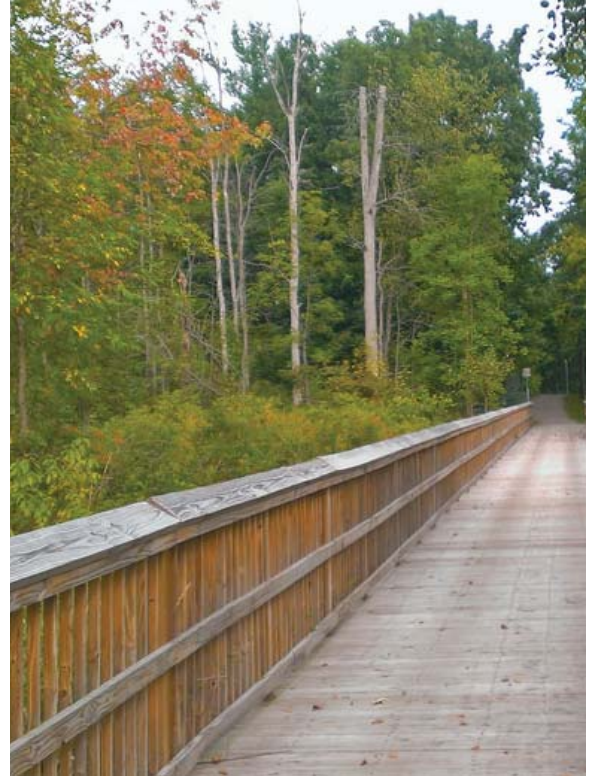


Figure 1.2 - Non-motorized pathway  
Source: Johnson Hill Land Ethics Studio

trail system is critical to the overall success of the parks and that relationship is a frequent topic of discussion between the two departments. For the purposes of this Master Plan, however, unless otherwise noted, any description of “trails” should be construed as a description of an internal park trail or of the Paint Creek Trail.

### ***Mass Transit***

The Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation (SMART) provides the majority of the mass transit services for the suburban Detroit Metro area in Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, and Wayne Counties. The routes are generally located along major roadways connecting the suburban areas to one another and to downtown Detroit. SMART services do not currently extend into Oakland Township, but it can be accessed in neighboring Auburn Hills, Rochester Hills, and Shelby Township.

Oakland Township senior citizens are eligible to use transportation provided by the Older Persons’ Commission. This transportation alternative is partially funded by an OPC transportation millage that was approved in Oakland Township in 2006 at .09 mills. For seniors who may no longer want or be able to provide their own transportation, it offers a safe, economical transportation alternative which allows them to perform necessary activities such as grocery shopping and medical visits.

### ***Environmental and Natural Features***

Environmental features, such as climate, topography, hydrology, soils, vegetation, and wildlife are important to planning for the Parks and Recreation Department. Natural features are not easily restored after they are impaired. These natural features provide numerous recreation and cultural opportunities for the Parks system.

The Township and the Parks and Recreation Commission have been attentive to the environmental and natural features in the community and has made it a priority to preserve important parcels of land. They have accomplished this through a series of initiatives including development of environmental regulations, open space requirements, conservation easements, and via land acquisition. A number of documents have been completed over the years to not only better understand the natural features in the Township but to guide acquisition, management, and use of properties. The full list of these documents is included in Appendix I - Environmental and Natural Features Documents.

### ***Climate***

There are no unusual climatic conditions which severely impede outdoor recreational activities in the Township. The climate is humid continental modified by the Great Lakes. Temperature data obtained from the National Weather Service at White Lake reveals an average annual temperature of 49.7 degrees in 2008. The average annual precipitation was 33.98 inches with an annual snowfall of 82.6 inches in 2008, one of the snowiest winters on record. Due to the variations in the weather patterns in Southeast Michigan, local residents have the opportunity to enjoy many seasonal recreational activities.



Figure 1.3 - Bear Creek Nature Park  
Source: Johnson Hill Land Ethics Studio



Figure 1.4 - Wet prairie

Source: Jonathan Schechter, Liveoaklandcounty.com

### ***Topography***

The topography of Oakland Township is generally characterized by rolling hills and some steep slopes. Such features offer visually appealing scenery and contribute to the rural character of the community. The greatest concentration of slope changes is found along the Paint Creek valley in the south-central part of the Township.

### ***Surface Water and Watershed Districts***

Surface water resources are among the Township's most valuable natural resources. A significant group of naturally-formed glacial lakes occurs in the northern portion of the Township, including Cranberry, Tamarack, Green, Lost, Clam, and Twin Lakes, as well as the lakes of Bald Mountain Recreation Area. These lakes provide recreational opportunities such as boating, fishing, and swimming for area residents. Two sub-watersheds of the Clinton River occur in Oakland Township. The Paint Creek and its tributaries flow across the southwest sector of the Township, while the West Branch of Stony Creek flows through the east side of the Township and empties into Stony Creek in the southeast.

The Clinton River watershed is the primary watershed in the Township. The Clinton River flows from its headwaters, located in Springfield and Independence Townships, to Lake St. Clair in Harrison Township. Watershed districts include many smaller tributaries that feed into a larger river and are influenced by the lay of the land. The Clinton River Watershed is fed by several other sub-watersheds including Clam Lake, Paint Creek, and Stony Creek.

### ***Wetlands***

Oakland Township contains many wetlands areas scattered throughout the Township. These wetlands are transitional areas between aquatic ecosystems and the surrounding uplands. They serve to filter stormwater runoff, help control flooding and erosion, and are home to many different types of wildlife. These features are important to preserve and are valuable educational resources for residents.

### ***Soils***

Soil features affect the cost of development and are a basis for determining the presence of a regulated wetland. The soils in Oakland Township predominately consist of Riddles-Marlette-Houghton soils which are the result of the advance and retreat of the glaciers. They are a mix of moderately drained to poorly drained loamy and mucky soils. These soils are good for recreational uses and can offer a good foundation for recreation buildings and structures such as community centers, gazebos, and pavilions.

## **Vegetation**

The topography, soils, and climate in the Township create conditions which support a variety of indigenous Michigan plant species. A total of 344 plant species, of which 280 are native to Michigan, have been identified within the park sites. The Oakland County Planning Division Natural Features Inventory indicates that portions of the vegetation are of area-wide and county-wide significance.

Common plant communities in the Township include:

- Emergent marsh wetlands
- Southern wet meadow
- Bog
- Southern swamp
- Southern shrub-carr wetlands
- Dry-mesic southern forest (Oak hardwood)
- Dry southern forest (Oak)
- Native prairie
- Old field
- Fen



*Figure 1.5 - Blue Heron*  
Source: Peter Gray, [fineartamerica.com](http://fineartamerica.com)

A good representation of the native landscape of the Township is still present although the oak-hickory forests and oak barren grasslands have been fragmented by development. The presence of a number of state regulated wetlands has preserved the integrity of the scattered forested wetlands in the northern half of the Township.

## **Wildlife**

Many types of wildlife are present throughout the Township. Known species include turkey, ermine, coyote, fox, squirrel, raccoon, whitetail deer, skunk, groundhog, and a variety of snakes, amphibians, and birds. Paint Creek is the major remaining trout stream in Metro Detroit, and it provides habitat for game and non-game birds, frogs, snakes and toads, as well as stocked trout. Gallagher Creek, a tributary of Paint Creek, is a rare and significant native brook trout stream, which is endangered by negative impacts from development pressure within its watershed. Oakland Township received several grants for protection and maintenance of the stream.

### ***Federal and State Listed Animals, Natural Communities, and Plant Species***

An important part of the environmental and natural features of Oakland Township is protecting and enhancing the existing areas which provide vital habitats for the diversity of animals, natural communities, and plant species present in the Township, some of which may be federally or state listed. A comprehensive inventory for Oakland Township is available from the Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI). Table 1.7 contains the 2010 list of federal and state listed animals, natural communities, and plant species and their current status.

**Table 1.7**  
**State and Federal Listed Plant & Animal Species, Oakland Charter Township, 2010**

Scientific Name	Common Name	State Rank	State Status	Federal Status
Agalinis gattingeri	Gattinger's gerardia	S1	E	—
Alasmidonta viridis	Slippershell	S2; S3	T	—
Arabis missouriensis var. deamii	Missouri rock-cress	S2	SC	—
Asio otus	Long-eared owl	S2	T	—
Calephelis mutica	Swamp metalmark	S1; S2	SC	—
Carex richardsonii	Richardson's sedge	S3; S4	SC	—
Castanea dentate	American chesnut	S1; S2	E	—
Cirsium hillii	Hill's thistle	S3	SC	—
Clemmys guttata	Spotted turtle	S2	T	—
Coregonus artedi	Lake herring or Cisco	S3	T	—
Cypripedium candidum	White lady slipper	S2	T	—
Dry-mesic Southern Forest	Dry-mesic Southern Forest	S3	—	—
Floodplain Forest	Floodplain Forest	S3	—	—
Galearis spectabilis	Showy orchis	S2	T	—
Gentiana puberulenta	Downy gentian	S1	E	—
Gentianella quinquefolia	Stiff gentian	S2	T	—
Great Blue Heron Rookery	Great Blue Heron Rookery	SU	—	—
Hieracium paniculatum	Panicled hawkweed	S2	T	—
Hydrastis canadensis	Goldenseal	S2	T	—
Meropleon ambifusca	Newman's brocade	S1; S2	SC	—
Mesic Southern Forest	Rich Forest, Central Midwest Type	S3	—	—
Nicrophorus americanus	American burying beetle	SH	X	—
Panax quinquefolius	Ginseng	S2; S3	T	—
Papaipema beeriana	Blazing star borer	S1; S2	SC	—
Plantanthera ciliaris	Orange- or yellow-fringed orchid	S1; S2	E	—
Polemonium reptans	Jacob's ladder	S2	T	—
Prairie Fen	Alkaline Shrub/herb Fen, Midwest Type	S3	—	—
Prosapia ignipectus	Red-legged spittlebug	S2; S3	SC	—
Rich Tamarack Swamp	Forested Bog, Central Midwest Type	S3	—	—
Scirpus clintonii	Clinton's bulrush	S3	SC	—
Sistrurus catenatus catenatus	Eastern massasauga	S3; S4	SC	—
Southern Hardwood Swamp	Southern Hardwood Swamp	S3	—	—
Villosa iris Rainbow	Rainbow	S2; S3	SC	—
Viola pedatifida	Prairie birdfoot violet	S1	T	—

Source: Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI)

**State Rank Codes**

S1 = Critically imperiled due to extreme rarity (5 or fewer occurrences or very few remaining individuals or acres) or because of some factor(s) making it especially vulnerable to extirpation.  
S2 = Imperiled because of rarity (6 to 20 occurrences or few remaining individuals or acres) of because of some factor(s) making it especially vulnerable to extirpation.

S3 = Rare or uncommon in state (on the order of 21 to 100 occurrences).  
S4 = Apparently secure in state, with many occurrences.  
SH = Of historical occurrence in state and suspected to be still extant.  
SU = Possibly in peril in state, but status uncertain; need more information.

**State Status Codes**

E = Endangered  
T = Threatened  
SC = Special Concern  
X = Extinct

**Federal Status Codes**

LE = Listed Endangered  
C = Species being considered for federal status

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## Chapter 2

# Administrative Structure and Funding



Figure 2.1 - Paint Creek Cider Mill  
Source: Paint Creek Trailways Commission

The Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Department provides a wealth of parks, recreation, and cultural facilities and programming. The department collaborates with a variety of commissions, agencies, and groups such as the Trails and Pathways Advisory Committee, to provide the high quality parks and recreation facilities present in the Township. The administrative structure and budget analysis for parks, land preservation, recreation, and trails are reviewed in this section.

### Administration

#### **Board of Trustees**

The Oakland Township Board of Trustees was established in 1827 and functions as the main governing body representing citizen interests. Additional governmental agencies and administrative divisions have been established to better serve the varied needs of the Township, including a parks and recreation commission and department.

### ***Parks and Recreation Commission (Park Commission)***

The Park Commission was established in 1974 by approval of Township voters to:

*Acquire, maintain, and manage Township park land and natural areas and to provide recreational opportunities and facilities for the benefit and enjoyment of all present and future Oakland Township residents.*

In 1999 the Park Commission was additionally authorized to act as the Township Recreation Board and became the Parks and Recreation Commission. The Parks and Recreation Commission is a seven-member elected body which meets monthly to provide direction on land acquisition and recreation items and administration. They have the primary responsibility for land acquisition, park planning, and significant recreation improvements in Oakland Township. The Parks and Recreation Commission is also involved during the site plan review process for input on open space, preservation, and recreation needs for new subdivisions. This Parks, Recreation, and Land Preservation Master Plan includes goal statements, recommendations, and a five-year capital improvement schedule that generally guides decision-making and policies for the Parks and Recreation Commission and staff. In addition, decisions such as land acquisition and use of millage funds require specific criteria for the Parks and Recreation Commission to follow. The lists of criteria are provided in Appendix F.

As a governmental agency legally separate from the Township Board, the Parks and Recreation Commission may spend funds or request bonds for the acquisition of land or construction of facilities. The Township Board may also appropriate monies from the general fund to acquire park land or build facilities. Both groups are interested in protecting the Township's continuing interest in the community's natural and cultural resources. To assure the continued protection of these resources the Parks and Recreation Commission must receive approval from the Township Board and the Planning Commission for the implementation of significant recreation improvements in Township Parks.

### ***Parks and Recreation Department***

Daily operations of the Parks and Recreation Department are the responsibility of the full-time Parks and Recreation Director. The current director is in charge of a staff of nine employees, in addition to seasonal interns, who contribute to the on-going management of a segment of the parks and recreation system. The Parks and Recreation Department's organization structure reflects the Department's operational programming and emphasis on natural area stewardship (see Figure 2.2). This aligns with the recommendations outlined in the 2009 Strategic Master Plan prepared by PROS Consulting. The Park Commission works with the director to facilitate development of recreation policies, facilities, programs, and services. The Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for:

- Preparation of agenda and notices for monthly Park Commission meetings
- Correspondence and record keeping
- Oversight and maintenance of Township park land
- Maintenance of the portion of the Paint Creek Trail in Oakland Township
- Public communication and awareness of park programs
- Preparation of grant applications and administration
- Master Plan revision and updates
- Park and land preservation planning
- Park land acquisition
- Implementation of park and natural area acquisition
- Natural areas stewardship
- Coordination and oversight for park programs and special events

The Oakland Township Strategic Master Plan makes the following recommendation regarding the operations of the Department:

- Strengthen the volunteer program by dedicating staff hours to overseeing this area
- Develop a performance measurement system
- Develop standards for maintenance, recreation, and design of parks
- Develop cost of service analysis
- Develop a Commission approved sustainability policy statement
- Complete a sustainability audit and develop an action plan for improvement
- Continue to build teamwork and internal communities through staff meetings, workdays, and cross training opportunities
- Develop leadership as a core competency and use as a succession plan
- Continue training opportunities, aligned with strategy
- Improve the employee performance appraisal process
- Strengthen collaborations and partnerships with other agencies
- Document the most significant internal processes

### ***Environmental and Historic Groups***

The environmental and historical activities of the Township have increased in keeping with new needs and opportunities. These concerns are reflected in the formation of commissions and committees with responsibilities for environmental protection and enhancement in the Township and region, as described below.

### ***Historic District Commission (HDC)***

The HDC was established in 1979 and is made up of seven members who are appointed by the Oakland Township Board of Trustees for three-year terms. The HDC's mission is to promote and preserve the rich heritage of Oakland Township by safeguarding its historical resources. The HDC administers Ordinance 37-A, which follows the guidelines set forth by The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation for historic resources. HDC believes in educating residents about the value of preserving buildings, structures, and areas that have contributed to this heritage. Currently, two Township parks, Cranberry Lake Park (of which Cranberry Lake Farm Historic District is a part), and Mill Race Trail, are designated historic resources. The HDC currently manages and operates the historic Axford-Coffin farm in conjunction with the 16-acre historic district.

## ***Intergovernmental Recreation Agencies***

The Township participates in two important intergovernmental agencies. These agencies provide recreational and senior services to Township residents and are described below.

### ***Paint Creek Trailways Commission***

This intergovernmental Commission contains two representatives and two alternates from each of the four member communities of Rochester, Rochester Hills, Oakland Township and Orion Township that are involved with this rails-to-trails facility, and one non-voting representative from the Village of Lake Orion. Through appointed representatives, the Oakland Township Park Commission and the Township Board participate in trail management and development to ensure compatibility with the recreational needs and the resources of the Township.

The operation of the Trailways Commission is funded by annual contributions from each of the four voting member municipalities. In addition, the communities set aside millage funds to cover staff who maintain the Oakland Township portion of the trail, including mowing, pruning, and surface repair within their own boundaries. A part-time Trail Manager organizes the monthly meeting agendas and performs general trail administration. A seasonal bike patrol person handles safety and security concerns between May 1 and October 31. As an in-kind service, Oakland Township provides office space and payroll administration for the Trailways Commission staff.

### ***Older Persons' Commission (OPC)***

This intergovernmental commission was organized in 1983 for the purpose of providing activities and services for persons 60 years of age or older residing within Rochester, Rochester Hills and Oakland Township. The Commission is governed by an eight-member body comprised of four representatives from the City of Rochester Hills, two representatives from the City of Rochester and two representatives from Oakland Township.

The operation of the OPC is funded by three ten-year millages in all three communities. Oakland Township's three OPC millages consist of an operating millage that was approved in 2010 at .2342 mills, a debt retirement millage that was approved in 2001 at .3093 mills, and a transportation millage that was approved in 2006 at .09 mills. All three millages have been rolled back as required by state law.

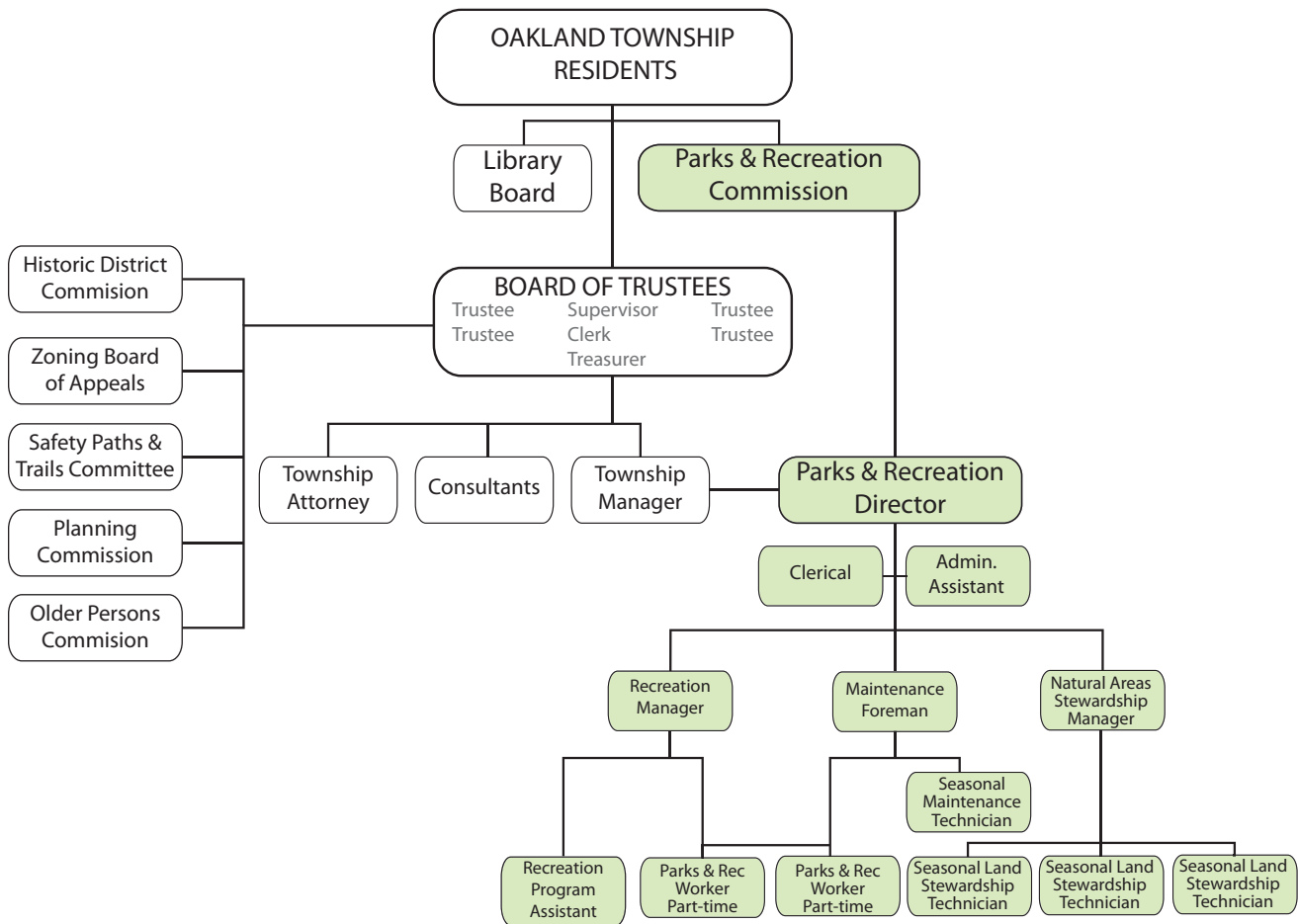
The activities and services provided by OPC include the joint operations of an older persons' activity center, transportation, and initiatives directed toward improvement of the social, legal, health, housing, educational, emotional, nutritional, recreational, and mobility status of older persons. The activity center provides recreational facilities including swimming pools, weight training and aerobic equipment, an indoor track for walking/running, rooms for educational programs, a branch of the Rochester Hills Library and a cafeteria. Programming offered by OPC is described in the Programming section of Chapter 3 and OPC Transportation was described in the Transportation and Access section of Chapter 1.

## ***Parks, Recreation, and Land Preservation Funding and Grant History***

The majority of funding to support the Township's parks and recreation system comes from two millages, the park millage (Park Fund) and the land preservation millage (Land Preservation Fund). The park millage was approved in 2006 for a 10-year period. The land preservation millage, initiated in 2001 for a 10-year period as well, was extended 10 more years through an early renewal in 2006. Both millages began as 0.75 mills each, but have been annually rolled back as required by state law. Each fund has different obligations and two separate budgets.

Each fund has its own listing of expenditures. The Park Fund covers park operating expenditures including salaries and wages, consultation, education, park programming, contracts, insurance, workers compensation, and maintenance of buildings, grounds, facilities, park, trails, and the Oakland Township section of the Paint Creek Trail. The Land Preservation Fund contributes a percentage for acquiring and managing park natural areas. Each fund also includes capital expenses to support annual investments in land and facilities. The Land Preservation Fund has traditionally had a higher capital expense budget because the purpose of the fund is to acquire land for preservation purposes. Other Land

**Figure 2.2 - Oakland Township Administrative Structure**



Preservation capital expenses include preservation equipment purchases and providing access to park natural areas. The Park Fund budget shows capital expenditure for the purchase of multipurpose park lands, as well as for bond repayments, building improvements, park equipment purchases, and office equipment purchases.

The Land Preservation Fund has significantly expanded opportunities for the Township Parks and Recreation Department. Additional land preservation has become possible, a natural areas stewardship manager has been hired, additional property maintenance has been provided, and some of the previous Park Fund costs have been shared with the Land Preservation Fund. While the two millages remain in effect it is important to plan projects that will maximize the benefit of these two funding sources.

Tables 2.1 and 2.2 summarize the Park Fund and Land Preservation Fund revenues and expenditures for fiscal years 2011/2012 through 2014/2015. The expenditures are categorized as operations and maintenance, programming, or capital improvements. Oakland Township has also received five state grants for acquisition and development projects. Table 2.3 summarizes the state recreation grants awarded to the Township.

**Table 2.1**  
**Park Fund Revenues and Expenditures, 2011 - 2015**

Revenue	2011 - 2012	2012 - 2013	2013 - 2014	2014 - 2015*
Millage	\$ 756,550.00	\$ 764,997.00	\$ 735,331.00	\$ 832,900.00
Grants	\$ 21,480.00	\$ 29,330.00	\$ 61,960.00	\$ -
Miscellaneous Income	\$ 60,143.00	\$ 85,272.00	\$ 74,561.00	\$ 81,800.00
Transfer in from Park Reserve	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 877,950.00
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$ 838,173.00</b>	<b>\$ 879,599.00</b>	<b>\$ 871,852.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,792,650.00</b>
Expenditures				
Operations & Maintenance	\$ 325,023.00	\$ 677,067.00	\$ 654,542.00	\$ 973,450.00
Programs	\$ 24,715.00	\$ 25,764.00	\$ 32,756.00	\$ 36,600.00
Capital Improvements	\$ 20,746.00	\$ 377,202.00	\$ 47,918.00	\$ 782,600.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 370,484.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,080,033.00</b>	<b>\$ 735,216.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,792,650.00</b>
<b>Addition to Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$ 188,689.00</b>	<b>\$ (200,434.00)</b>	<b>\$ 136,636.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

Source: Budget Report for Charter Township of Oakland, 3/31/2014

\* Forecast budget amount

**Table 2.2**  
**Land Preservation Fund Budget, 2011 - 2015**

Revenue	2011 - 2012	2012 - 2013	2013 - 2014	2014 - 2015*
Millage	\$ 697,612.00	\$ 705,906.00	\$ 678,079.00	\$ 768,000.00
Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 112,159.00	\$ 47,600.00
Miscellaneous Income	\$ 5,667.00	\$ 9,455.00	\$ 3,389.00	\$ 5,000.00
Transfer in from Park Reserve	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 149,450.00
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$ 703,279.00</b>	<b>\$ 715,361.00</b>	<b>\$ 793,627.00</b>	<b>\$ 970,050.00</b>
Expenditures				
Operations & Maintenance	\$ 590,864.00	\$ 562,603.00	\$ 577,303.00	\$ 786,050.00
Programs	\$ 760.00	\$ -	\$ 1,603.00	\$ 4,000.00
Capital Improvements	\$ 3,318.00	\$ 302,082.00	\$ 25,623.00	\$ 180,000.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 594,942.00</b>	<b>\$ 864,685.00</b>	<b>\$ 604,529.00</b>	<b>\$ 970,050.00</b>
<b>Addition to Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$ 108,337.00</b>	<b>\$ (149,324.00)</b>	<b>\$ 189,098.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

Source: Budget Report for Charter Township of Oakland, 3/31/2014

\* Forecast budget amount

**Table 2.3**  
**Recreation Grant History, Charter Township of Oakland**

Funding Source	Project Name	Grant Amount	Project Results
Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund	TF99-128 Marsh View Park Acquisition	\$ 2,010,101	Acquisition of Marsh View Park
Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund	TF00-311 Bear Creek Nature Park Development	\$ 313,302	Development of Bear Creek Nature Park
Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund	TF02-013 Lost Lake Nature Park Acquisition	\$ 1,762,800	Acquisition of Lost Lake Nature Park
Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund	TF05-102 Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park Acquisition	\$ 893,700	Acquisition of Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park
Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund	TF07-057 Marsh View Park Development	\$ 293,300	Development of Marsh View Park
Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund	TF10-069 Lost Lake Nature Park Development	\$ 154,900	Development of Lost Lake Nature Park

Source: Michigan Department of Natural Resources - Recreation Grant History, 9/24/2013

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## Chapter 3

# Parks and Recreation Inventory



Figure 3.1 - Playground at Bear Creek Nature Park  
Source: Johnson Hill Land Ethics Studio

Oakland Township is blessed with an abundance of open spaces and spectacular natural beauty. Oakland Township's Parks Department places a strong emphasis on preservation stewardship, and most of its parks tend towards generally passive use as a result. A careful inventory of the existing parks and recreation facilities can help to identify needs and opportunities for the park system, helping to inform development of facilities and future acquisitions. This chapter builds on previous Master Plans, and details the recreation opportunities available to Township residents, both public and private. The inventory covers the following components:

- Township Parks and Facilities
- Public School Facilities
- Linear Parks
- Regional Parks and Facilities
- Barrier Free Accessibility
- Local Trails and Pathways System
- Regional Trail System
- Local Parks and Facilities
- Quasi-Public and Private Recreation Facilities
- Programming
- Current Condition of Grant Funded Projects

## Township Parks and Facilities

Oakland Township owns and/or maintains eighteen parks, facilities, and trails. The scale of the facilities varies significantly, from small conservation easements to 200-acre nature parks. An inventory of the parks and facilities is described below and shown on Map 2 – Parks and Recreation Facilities and in the Inventory Tables contained in Appendix C. Continuing the convention set with the previous Master Plan, these parks and facilities are broken into categories based on size and function. These categories are suggested by the National Recreation and Parks Association and meant to aid in determining the primary purposes and uses of existing facilities in the Township.

### Mini Parks

Mini parks are categorized as small, specialized parks that are usually less than one acre in size and serve the needs of the residents in the immediate area, approximately less than one-quarter mile away. These parks usually serve a limited, isolated, or unique population.

There are nearly 1,100 acres of mini-parks in the Township in the form of private open space areas in some of the residential subdivisions; this number is expected to increase as data comes available for the Oakland Township 2014 Master Plan. These areas, which are generally intended for use by residents of the developments, have been strongly supported by Township government to help satisfy the need for neighborhood open space and habitat preservation. These mini parks are enforced by the building department and volunteer monitoring is coordinated by the Six Rivers Regional Land Conservancy. Although residential common areas enhance the appearance of developments, most only minimally address active recreation needs as they often consist of retention ponds, drainage ways, woodlands, wetlands, and other undevelopable land. Some areas contain picnic tables and playground equipment although generally, they do not function as active recreation areas; their value lies in the preservation of natural features. A list of selected Residential Common Areas is provided in Table 3.1 below.

**Table 3.1**  
**Residential Common Areas, Charter Township of Oakland**

Development	Acres	Description
Adams Road Estates	0.8	Passive, for residents only
Bear Creek	2.3	Passive, site has limited potential for playground
Carrollton Hills	11.5	Passive
Century Oaks	51.9	Passive, for residents only
Century Woods	1.8	Passive, for residents only
Claremont	11.3	Passive
Cloisters	10.1	Active & passive, with 2 pocket parks
Coach Lamp Hills	1.0	Passive, site may be developed to provide school access & tot lot
Cornerstone	3.6	Passive, for residents only
Country Creek	47.3	Passive, for residents only
Cranberry Lake Farms	1.3	Active with boat launch & waterfront access, for residents only
Crossings	100.4	Active & passive, with community center, pool, courts, for residents only
Deer Point	33.2	Passive, part of Blue Heron Environmental Area, for residents only
Goodison Hills	9.0	Passive
Green Brook Hills	4.0	Passive

Development	Acres	Description
High Meadows	2.0	Passive
High Meadows II	5.0	Passive
Hills of Oakland	8.5	Passive
Kingsridge	17.8	Passive
Kirklands	3.6	Passive
Knob Creek	16.0	Passive, site has potential for playground & natural area preserve
Knorrwood Knolls	13.0	Passive, for residents only
Knorrwood Pines, West	6.3	Passive, for residents only
Log Cabin Club	16.0	Active & passive, beach, boat dock, playground, for residents only
Low Meadow Estates	1.5	Passive, for residents only
Mill Valley	3.0	Passive
Oak Arbor	11.2	Passive with planned active recreation area, for use by residents only
Oakland Crest	5.5	Passive, for Township residents
Oakland Hunt	144.0	Passive, trail
Oakland Knolls	11.5	Passive, for residents only
Orchard Ridge	6.0	Passive, stormwater detention
Pinnacle	22.5	Passive
Ridgewood Hills	3.5	Passive, potential for tot lot & natural area preservation
Silvercreek	130.0	Passive, wetlands, trails
Southgate Farms	5.0	Active & passive, with two tennis courts & natural area preserve
Stonehenge Estates	4.0	Passive
Tamarack Heights	1.0	Active, with swimming beach & waterfront access, for residents only
Trout Creek	6.9	Passive
Twin Lakes	353	Active & passive, with golf course
Vitale	1.5	Passive
Wellington	11	Passive
Woodlands	4	Active, clubhouse, tennis, playground, & volleyball, for residents only
<b>Total</b>	<b>1098.80</b>	



Figure 3.2 - Twin Lakes Golf Club  
Source: weddingwire.com

## Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks are typically multi-purpose facilities that serve as the recreational and social focus of a neighborhood. They provide areas for both passive and active recreation activities such as fields, playgrounds, picnicking, and trails. These parks are typically between five and ten acres in size and serve residents within one-half mile. Oakland Township owns two parks that can be classified as Neighborhood Parks. Also, a number of public school facilities and private open space meet this need by providing playgrounds and fields for Township residents and can be classified as mini or neighborhood parks. Map 4 shows the areas serviced by Neighborhood and Community parks.

### **Gallagher Creek Park** **2780 Silverbell Road** **Rochester, MI 48306** **15 acres**

Located at the headwaters of Gallagher Creek, just east of Adams Road and north of Silverbell Road, the Park is located one of the more highly developed areas of Oakland Township. Popular with dog walkers from the nearby subdivisions, the park consists of a gravel parking lot, upland area, and a cattail marsh. The park was donated to the Township in August 2000 as part of The Heights PUD.



Figure 3.3 - Prescribed burn at Gallagher Creek Park  
Source: Oakland Township Parks and Recreation

### **Paint Creek Junction Park** **2210 Orion Road** **Oakland, MI 48363** **5 acres**

Paint Creek Junction Park is a 3-acre park located west of Orion Road and south of Clarkston Road along the Paint Creek Trail. The parcel was acquired in December 2003 with Township Park Millage Funds to provide a connection between Marsh View Park, Bald Mountain Recreation Area, and the Paint Creek Trailway.



Figure 3.4 - Marshview Connector  
Source: Oakland Township Parks and Recreation

## Community Parks and Facilities

Community parks typically contain a wide variety of recreation facilities to meet the diverse needs of residents in the Township. Community parks may include areas for intense active recreation as well as passive recreation opportunities not commonly found in mini or neighborhood parks. The focus of these parks is to meet community-based recreation needs, as well as preserve unique landscapes and open spaces. Community parks are generally between 30 and 50 acres in size and serve residents within one-half to three miles of the park. Community parks may also include smaller parks that are more specialized in nature and are meant to serve the entire community. Oakland Township has eight parks that can be classified as Community Parks.

**Bear Creek Nature Park**  
**740 West Snell Road**  
**Rochester, MI 48306**  
**107 acres**

One of the most centrally located park properties in Oakland Township, Bear Creek Nature Park was the first parcel of land to be purchased by the Parks and Recreation Commission with Township Park Millage Funds. With access off Gunn and Snell Roads, from the Township Hall property, and through a private subdivision easement, the park is actively utilized by a variety of users. The park has an established trail system which includes limestone, woodchip and mowed rustic trails, as well as boardwalks and observation decks, a picnic pavilion, restroom facilities, rest area, information kiosks, parking area, and playground near the park's southern entrance. The park is host to concerts and other special events during the summertime. The trails have been upgraded for barrier-free accessibility. The addition of these facilities was funded by a combination of park millage and a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant.

Despite its generally active use, the site is still considered a "nature park"; the northern half of the park in particular contains high-quality oak-hardwood forests, Bear Creek Marsh and Pond, and old farm fields. This variety of ecosystems and wildlife Habitats makes Bear Creek Nature Park an excellent place for ecological, environmental and scientific study and is home for a number of programs sponsored by the Parks and Recreation.

The forest, wetlands and fields located in the northern half of the park are protected by a conservation easement held by the Six Rivers Regional Land Conservancy.



Figure 3.5 - Bear Creek Nature Park  
Source: [stewardshipnetwork.net](http://stewardshipnetwork.net)



Figure 3.6 - Volunteers at Bear Creek Nature Park  
Source: [oaklandnaturalareas.com](http://oaklandnaturalareas.com)



Figure 3.7 - Bear Creek Nature Park  
Source: [Johnson Hill Land Ethics Studio](http://Johnson Hill Land Ethics Studio)



Figure 3.8 - Playground at Bear Creek Nature Park  
Source: [Johnson Hill Land Ethics Studio](http://Johnson Hill Land Ethics Studio)

**Charles Ilsley Park**  
**1479 E Predmore Rd**  
**Oakland, MI 48363**  
**120 acres**

Charles Ilsley Park was donated to the Township in January 1990 and more acquired in 2005. Currently undeveloped, the site sits just northeast of a rapidly growing subdevelopment. While restrictions on recreational development expire in 2015, it is anticipated that the site will continue as a primarily passive-use property.

60% of this site consists of old farm fields and 40% is regenerating forest and wetlands. The terrain is gently rolling and the site contains a small wetland area. Mowed trails are provided along the edge of the hayfields, and generally passive opportunities available at the park currently include hiking, mountain biking, cross-country skiing, horseback riding, and nature observation. The site recently received a U.S. Fish and Wildlife grant to allow grassland restoration work.

**Cranberry Lake Park**  
**388 West Predmore Road**  
**Oakland, MI 48363**  
**213 acres**

Located west of Rochester Road, Cranberry Lake Park spans between Predmore and Romeo Roads and is a potentially key component in a trailway system that would connect Addison Oaks, Bald Mountain, and Lost Lake Nature Park. Purchased in March 1996 and August 2003, the park consists primarily of former agricultural fields and wet woodlands. The park includes a swamp forest, the shoreline of Cranberry Lake and a bog protected by a conservation easement held by the Six Rivers Regional Land Conservancy. There is no developed access to the lake's shoreline at this time.

The Nationally-designated Axford-Coffin Farm 16-acre Historic District, consists of two historic homes, a barn, spring house and several other accessory structures dating back to the 1840's. The Township Historic District Commission (HDC) has been responsible for the historical restoration projects, and operation and management of the farm. A portion of the farm is leased to the Oakland Township Historical Society for educational and cultural purposes. The Parks and Recreation Department also uses the property for cultural events and programs including concerts, maple syrup tapping, birding, and more.

The variety of topography and wildlife habitats makes this park an excellent place for nature education and is utilized by the Parks and Recreation Commission for numerous outdoor programs. A maintained mowed and woodchip trail system is used for hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, and nature observation. Additionally, a 20-space limestone parking lot, picnic shelter, and restrooms are provided near the park's historic district.



Figure 3.9 - Charles Ilsley Park  
Source: Oakland Township Parks and Recreation



Figure 3.10 - Concert at Axford-Coffin Farm, Cranberry Lake  
Source: Oakland Township Parks and Recreation

**Draper Twin Lake Park**  
**1015 Inwood Road**  
**Rochester, MI 48306**  
**90 acres**

Located between Inwood and Parks Roads, Draper Twin Lake Park and was acquired in 2005 to protect water resources in the Stony Creek Watershed. The park was acquired using a combination of land preservation millage funds and a significant donation in land value. The park includes half of the most easterly Twin Lake, habitat for native plants and wildlife, and nearly 40 acres of farmland. Numerous improvements have been made to the park, including parking near Hadden and Inwood Roads, a mowed and woodchip trail system on the east side of the property, and a universally accessible trail leading to a barrier-free dock at the lake's edge. The dock includes benches and accommodates nature observation, fishing and canoe/kayak access, and numerous kayak programs are held at this site. The park also recently initiated a prairie restoration utilizing funds from a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service grant.

**Lost Lake Nature Park**  
**846 Lost Lake Trail**  
**Oakland, MI 48363**  
**58 acres**

Lost Lake Nature Park was acquired with a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant and with Land Preservation Millage funds in March 2004 and 2008. Located south of Predmore Road between Lost Lake Trail and Turtle Creek Lane, the park includes an 8-acre glacial lake, frontage on Green and Tamarack Lakes, wetlands, and a variety of geological formations and natural communities including a rare oak/pine barren plant community. A combination of monies from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust, the Parks millage, and Land Preservation millage continue to fund the site.

Lost Lake Nature Park is one of Oakland Township's more active-use parks. Containing the Township's first nature center, the park also boasts barrier-free boating and fishing access to Lost Lake, and welcomes upwards of 3,000 students each school year. The park includes one of the highest elevations in the Township, making it a natural sledding locale.



Figure 3.11 - Fishing dock at Draper Twin Lake Park  
Source: Oakland Township Parks and Recreation



Figure 3.12 - Sledding at Lost Lake Nature Park  
Source: Oakland Township Parks and Recreation



Figure 3.13 - Universally accessible boat launch at Lost Lake  
Source: candgnews.com



Figure 3.14 - Lost Lake  
Source: candgnews.com

**Marsh View Park**  
**3100 E Clarkston Rd**  
**Oakland, MI 48363**  
**91 acres**

Marsh View Park was purchased in April 2001 with a grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, which was matched by Township park millage funds. This 91-acre site is located west of Adams Road, north of Clarkston Road, and south of Stony Creek Road and consists of 27 acres of wetlands and 63 acres of rolling fields and dry forests. Parking is provided at the Clarkston Road entrance.

Marsh View Park is Oakland Township's only truly active-use park. Containing two multi-use sport fields, two soccer fields, a basketball court, ice-skating in the winter, and a beginner archery range, Marsh View offers a variety of activities for residents. The archery range has proven wildly popular, and is being lengthened to allow higher levels of competition. Expanded parking and an expanded trail system are also being planned. The new facilities are concentrated in the old field areas near Clarkston Road to minimize disturbance to the forest and wetland areas. Native prairie plantings and a series of bioswales surround the park's facilities to help filter storm water before it enters the marsh. Park expansion projects are being funded by a combination of monies from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and the Park millage.

**Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park**  
**1280 Knob Creek Drive**  
**Rochester, MI 48306**  
**60 acres**

Located between Snell Road and Knob Creek Drive, north of Stony Creek Metropark, the park preserves a half-mile stretch of the West Branch of the Stony Creek, one of the highest quality tributaries of the Clinton River, as well as oak hardwood forest, wetland and grassland. The Six Rivers Regional Land Conservancy holds a conservation easement on the western side of the park which protects the Stony Creek, its floodplain and forested slopes. The Parks Department purchased the remaining portions of the property with Trust Fund Grants and Land Preservation Funds. Future improvements to the park include trails to provide new opportunities for wildlife observation, nature trails, northern parking lot, fishing access, and continued restoration of the natural environment as well as a link between Oakland Township's trail system and nearby regional park and trail systems. Excellent trout fishing along Stony Creek and high quality forests bring anglers and hikers throughout the year. The department will continue to seek to provide additional access from Snell Road.



Figure 3.15 - Aerial - Marsh View Park  
Source: Oakland Township Parks and Recreation



Figure 3.16 - Archery at Marsh View Park  
Source: russelldesign.net



Figure 3.17 - Soccer game at Marsh View Park  
Source: Oakland Township Parks and Recreation



Figure 3.18 - Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park  
Source: Oakland Township Parks and Recreation

**Watershed Ridge Park**  
**1720 W Buell Rd**  
**Oakland, MI 48363**  
**170 acres**

Located at the northeast corner of Buell and Lake George Roads, Watershed Ridge Park's central location, remarkable topography, and varied ecology make it an attractive destination for residents. The park was acquired in 2008 with land preservation funds and a donation of land value. The park includes woodlands, wetlands, and actively farmed agricultural fields. The park contributes to the protection of wildlife habitat, wetlands, and the water quality associated with the Stony Creek and Paint Creek watersheds. An existing pole barn has been converted into a maintenance and storage building for the Parks Department. Potential future improvements to the park include a trail system and parking lot, and possible equestrian, dog park, and community garden facilities.

## **Natural Resource Areas**

Natural Resource Areas are generally lands set aside for the preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space, and visual aesthetics/buffering. The location of these areas is based on resource availability and opportunity, thus the size varies depending on the property. Oakland Township has six properties that can be classified as Natural Resource Areas.



**Blue Heron Environmental Area**  
**3320 N Rochester Road**  
**Rochester, MI 48306**  
**139 acres**

The Blue Heron Environmental Area consists of land purchased and donated in 1990/91 and 1997. It is one of the most environmentally sensitive areas in the Township. Located west of Rochester Road, between Gunn and Buell Roads, the park is home to a great blue heron rookery. Up until 2010, the rookery contained somewhere between 25 to 50 active nests. For reasons unknown, the nests have been abandoned. Researchers are hopeful the birds will return in the future.

The site contains a rich mixture of upland hardwood forest, swamp, shrubby wetlands, and a small portion of agricultural fields. At this time, the majority of public access is provided through seasonal guided nature programs sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Commission. The entire Blue Heron Environmental Area is protected by a conservation easement held by the Six Rivers Regional Land Conservancy, except the four acres at the southern end of the property that contains the Deer Point Subdivision detention basin.

Figure 3.19 - Blue Heron  
Source: Peter Gray, fineartamerica.com

### ***Hirt Easement***

The Hirt Easement was acquired in 2008 and is a 1-acre conservation easement located near the Paint Creek Trail. The conservation easement is held by Oakland Township on privately-owned residential property. This easement helps to protect the wet meadow and creek which are shared with the Township's Paint Creek Heritage Area – Wet Prairie.

### ***Kamin Easement***

The Kamin Easement consists of approximately 4 acres and is located adjacent to the Paint Creek Trail, south of Silverbell Road and directly across from the Nicholson Prairie (owned by the Paint Creek Trailways Commission and managed by Oakland Township Parks and Recreation). This conservation easement was acquired in 2007 and is held by Oakland Township on privately-owned residential property and serves to protect upland oak forest and a floodplain forest adjacent to the Paint Creek located within the south end of the parcel.

### ***O'Connor Nature Park*** ***89 Mead Road*** ***Rochester, MI 48306*** ***10 acres***

Located at the northwest corner of the intersection of Rochester and Mead Roads. The park was acquired in 2008 through donation and preserves dramatic topography, mature oak woodlands, and marshes for the enjoyment of Township residents. There are no plans to provide vehicular access or trails at this time.

### ***Paint Creek Heritage Area - Wet Prairie*** ***1150 Silverbell Road*** ***Rochester, MI 48306*** ***10 acres***

Located northwest of Silverbell and Orion Roads, this 10 acre park was acquired using Land Preservation Millage funds in August 2003 to preserve the parcel's unique wet prairie plant communities. The park is located adjacent to and is accessible from the Paint Creek Trailway.

### ***Paint Creek Heritage Area - Fen*** ***1150 Silverbell Road*** ***Rochester, MI 48306*** ***0.5 acres***

The Paint Creek Trail Parcel is approximately a half acre in size and was acquired in 2008. The parcel is located adjacent to the Paint Creek Trail along the northern half of the trail located in Oakland Township and protects a prairie fen wetland community.



Figure 3.20 - O'Connor Nature Park  
Source: Oakland Township Parks and Recreation



Figure 3.21 - Paint Creek Heritage Area - Wet Prairie  
Source: Oakland Township Parks and Recreation

## Conservation Easements

Oakland Township is the first community in Oakland County to establish conservation easements within public park land. This effort by the Parks and Recreation Commission and Parks Department staff was not only supported by the Township Board, but also supported by the voters of the Township. It has been an accomplishment involving a passion for preserving nature, extensive research, professional expertise, and public support.

The purpose of a conservation easement is to provide a legally binding agreement that will perpetually preserve the land in its natural, scenic, cultural, agricultural, open space and/or forested condition. An easement can be used to protect the watershed values of the property, to retain quality habitat for native plants and animals, and to maintain and enhance the natural features of the property.

The Six Rivers Regional Land Conservancy holds and monitors four easements – Bear Creek Nature Park (47 acres), Blue Heron Environmental Area (139 acres), Cranberry Lake Park (52 acres), and Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park (36 acres). These easements support the continued use of these Township parks as public recreation areas while at the same time prohibiting uses that would impair or interfere with the purposes of the agreement. In addition, Oakland Township holds two easements on private property discussed above and shown to the left, the Hirt Easement and the Kamin Easement.

## Public School Facilities

Oakland Township residents also use recreation facilities at many of the schools in the community. The Township is served by Lake Orion Community Schools, Rochester Community Schools, and Romeo Community Schools. The Lake Orion Schools have one facility in the Township – Oakview Middle School. The entire district consists of seven elementary, three middle, and one high school. Rochester Schools have four facilities in the Township – Baldwin Elementary School, Delta Kelly Elementary School, Hugger Elementary School, and Musson Elementary School. The Rochester school district consists of 13 elementary, four middle, and three high schools in total. Finally, the Romeo Schools serve the northeast corner of the Township but do not have any facilities in the Township. The district includes six elementary, two middle, and one high school. The public school facilities located in the Township are the following:

- **Baldwin Elementary School (Rochester Community Schools).** This 12-acre site is located in historic Goodison. The school has one gymnasium/auditorium, with outdoor facilities including one playground, one soccer field, one basketball court, and a nature area.
- **Delta Kelly Elementary (Rochester Community Schools).** The newest elementary school in Oakland Township, Delta Kelly serves the majority of the southwestern portion of the Township. The school features two playgrounds areas, two ball fields, one soccer field, and one basketball court.
- **Hugger Elementary School (Rochester Community Schools).** This elementary school was built on 22 acres fronting Sheldon Road. Facilities include one community recreation facility, one soccer field, two ball fields, playground equipment, sandlot, and one basketball court.
- **Musson Elementary School (Rochester Community Schools).** Musson is an elementary school located in the southwestern corner of the Township and serves much of the Rochester Hills area. In addition to one gymnasium/auditorium, facilities include two sandlot playground areas, two ball fields, one soccer field, and one basketball court.
- **Oakview Middle School (Lake Orion Community Schools).** Located on Lake George Road in the northern portion of the Township, Oakview Middle School is the only middle school located within the Township. The 30-acre site contains one football field, one track, one ball field, one basketball court, and picnic areas.

## Linear Parks

While the state of the Township's safety path and trail system is covered in detail by the Trails Master Plan, the Parks Master Plan would be incomplete if it did not briefly discuss linear connector parks. Areas specifically developed for recreational travel, such as hiking, biking, horseback riding, canoeing, or cross-country skiing are classified as linear parks. These parks should link with other parks, residential neighborhoods, community and regional facilities. The Paint Creek Trail and Mill Race Trail both qualify as linear parks.

### **Paint Creek Trail**

Built on an abandoned railroad line, the Paint Creek Trail extends 8.9 miles from Rochester Municipal Park to the Lake Orion Village limits. The railroad property was purchased in 1983 using a combination of funds from the local communities and Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and was one of the first in Michigan to be converted from a railroad to trail usage. The regional, compacted limestone path is owned and operated by the Paint Creek Trailway Commission, an intergovernmental agency composed of Rochester, Rochester Hills, Village of Lake Orion, Orion Township, and Oakland Township.

The portion of the trail located within Oakland Township is 5.3 miles long, stretching from Dutton Road northwest to the Kern/Clarkston intersection, and is managed by the Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Commission. The trail right-of-way includes a variety of scenic natural areas, including woodlands, wetlands and grasslands. The Oakland Township portion of the trail allows equestrian usage in addition to bicycling and pedestrians.

### **Mill Race Trail**

Donated to the Township in June 1974, the donors stipulated that the site is to remain as a natural wilderness area. Today, the site serves as a popular trail providing an off-road connection between the Goodison and Paint Creek Cider Mills. The trail runs from the corner of Gallagher Road to Orion Road, between the historic mill race of the Paint Creek Cider Mill and Paint Creek.



Figure 3.22 - Paint Creek Trail  
Source: [wearemodeshift.org](http://wearemodeshift.org)



Figure 3.23 - Paint Creek - Mill Race Trail  
Source: Oakland Township Parks and Recreation

## Regional Parks and Facilities

Regional parks offer unique natural features that are particularly suited for outdoor recreation, such as viewing and studying nature, fishing, boating, hiking, and trail use. Many also include active play areas such as ball fields or courts. While these parks are not used for formal programming by Oakland Township, they provide active and passive recreational opportunities for the residents of the community and may lessen the need to build new or expanded facilities within the Township's own park system. Regional facilities are provided by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority, and Genesee, Lapeer, Livingston, Macomb, Oakland, and Wayne Counties. The regional parks located in the Township are shown on Map 2 – Parks and Recreation Facilities, and those within close proximity are shown on Map 3 – Regional Parks and Recreation Facilities.

### *Michigan State Parks*

Oakland Township is ideally positioned to take advantage of a number of state run parks. These state facilities provide a variety of activities including camping, picnicking, swimming, hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, hiking, cross-county skiing, mountain biking, and horseback riding. There is one state park located in Oakland Township.

**Bald Mountain State Recreation Area.** 1,605 acres of this 4,637-acre regional park reserve are located in the Township's northwest sector. Created in 1944 and operated by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), Bald Mountain provides significant open space and natural area preservation on one of the most picturesque areas in southeast Michigan. Facilities provided at the park include picnic areas, playgrounds, a boat launch, campground, and beach area. The park also provides areas for activities such as hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, hiking, and cross-country skiing.

In addition to Bald Mountain State Recreation Area, 14 state facilities are located within thirty miles of the Township. They include:

- Dodge #4 State Park
- Highland Recreation Area
- Holly Recreation Area
- Lapeer State Game Area
- Maybury State Park
- Metamora-Hadley Recreation Area
- Ortonville Recreation Area
- Pontiac Lake Recreation Area
- Proud Lake Recreation
- Seven Lakes State Park
- St. Clair Flats State Wildlife Area
- St. Johns Marsh State Recreation Area
- Tri-centennial State Park and Harbor
- Wetzel Recreation Area

## ***County Parks***

The Oakland County park system consists of 13 parks and more than 6,000 acres of land. One park, Addison Oaks, is located in Oakland Township. The county parks offer year-round recreational opportunities including camping, hiking, swimming, boating, golfing, picnicking, cross-country skiing, ice skating, and ice fishing. The county parks also include two waterparks, the state's first refrigerated toboggan run, two nature centers, two dog parks, five golf courses, motocross track, an adaptive recreation program, outdoor amphitheater, and conference and banquet facilities.

### ***Addison Oaks.***

This 1,141-acre regional park is located on the northwest side of the Township. The park is operated by the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Department and opened in 1971. Addison Oaks has a good mix of hardwood stands, swamps, open fields with two lakes and spring fed ponds. A Tudor-style conference center, built in 1927, is available for wedding receptions, banquets, parties, and limited group conferences. In addition, the park offers campsites, an 18-hole championship disc golf course, hiking trails, natural beach, picnic areas, and boat rental.

In addition to Addison Oaks, 22 county facilities are located within thirty miles of the Township. They include:

- Bell Creek County Park (Wayne County)
- Catalpa Oaks (Oakland County)
- Chandler Park (Wayne County)
- Columbus County Park (St. Clair)
- Freedom Hill Park (Macomb County)
- General Squier Park (Lapeer County)
- Glen Oaks (Oakland County)
- Goodells County Park (St. Clair County)
- Groveland Oaks (Oakland County)
- Highland Oaks County Park (Oakland County)
- Hines Park (Wayne County)
- Independence Oaks (Oakland County)
- Lola Valley County Park (Wayne County)
- Lyon Oaks (Oakland County)
- Orion Oaks (Oakland County)
- Red Oaks (Oakland County)
- Rose Oaks (Oakland County)
- Springfield Oaks (Oakland County)
- Torzewski County Park (Lapeer County)
- Warren Valley Golf Course (Wayne County)
- Waterford Oaks (Oakland County)
- White Lake Oaks (Oakland County)

## ***Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority***

The Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA) is a regional park district that encompasses the counties of Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Washtenaw and Livingston. Since its inception in 1940, the HCMA has obtained over 20,000 acres of park land, all located in the metro Detroit region. The parks provide a variety of outdoor recreation and educational activities including picnicking, hiking, golf, biking, winter sports, golf, water-related activities, horseback riding, and special programs. There is one Metropark located in Oakland Township.

### ***Stony Creek Metropark***

Stony Creek Metropark. 1,265 acres of this 4,461-acre regional park are located in the southeast corner of the Township. Owned by the HCMA, the park features the 500-acre Stony Creek Lake and offers a variety of year-round recreational activities such as picnicking, hiking, boating, fishing, bicycling, swimming, cross-country skiing, skating and sledding. The park also features an 18-hole golf course, championship disc golf course, nature center, fitness trail, and group camping facilities.

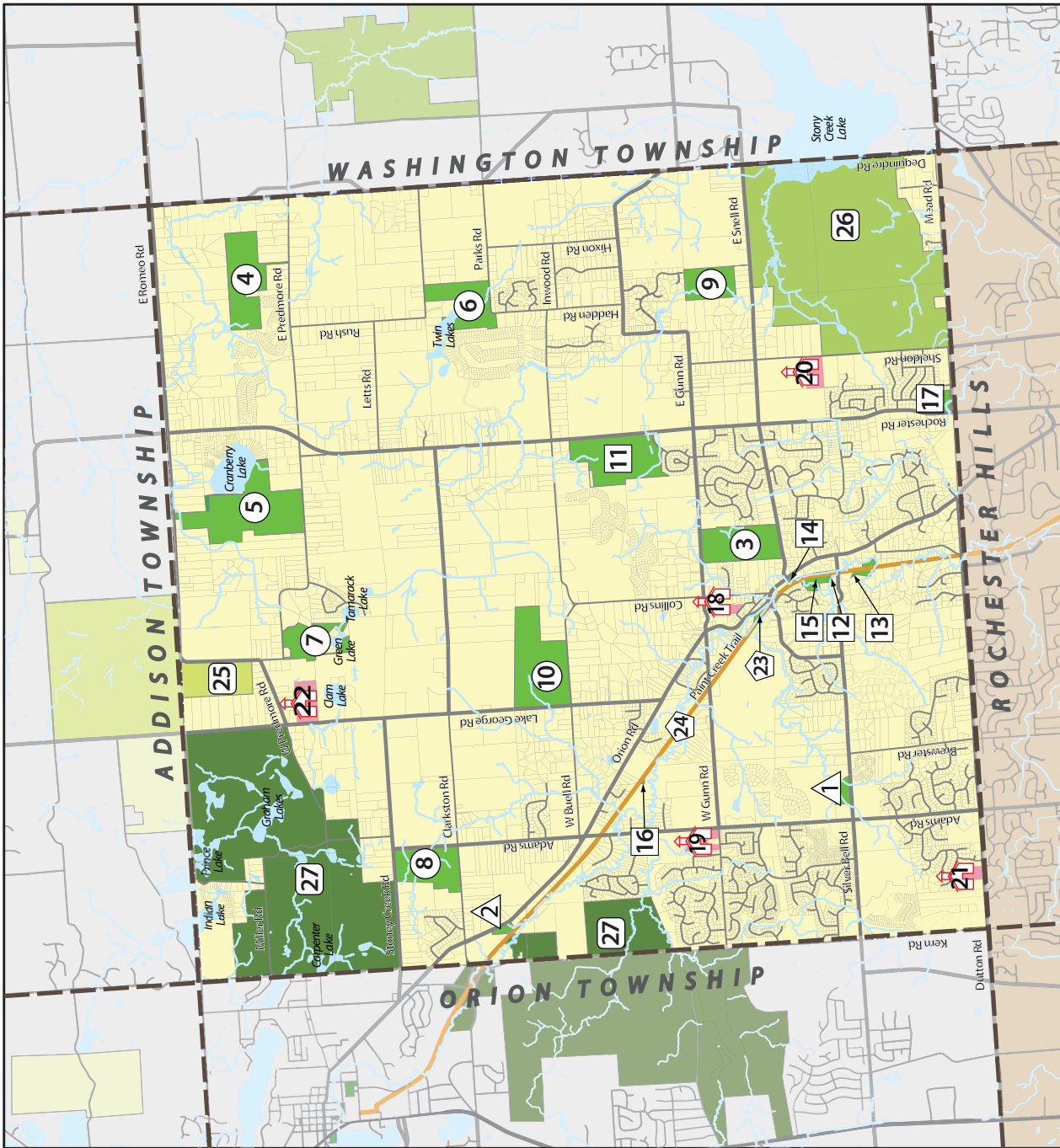
In addition to Stony Creek Metropark, four HCMA facilities are located within thirty miles of the Township. They include:

- Indian Springs Metropark
- Kensington Metropark
- Metro Beach Metropark
- Wolcott Mill Metropark

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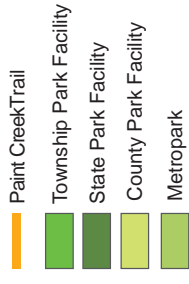
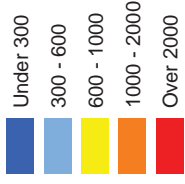
- Paint Creek Trail
  - Oakland Township Park Facility
  - State Park Facility
  - County Park Facility
  - Metropark Facility
- NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS**
1. Gallagher Creek Park
  2. Marsh View Connector
- COMMUNITY PARKS**
3. Bear Creek Nature Park
  4. Charles Ilesley Park
  5. Cranberry Lake Park
  6. Draper Twin Lake Park
  7. Lost Lake Nature Park
  8. Marsh View Park
  9. Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park
  10. Watershed Ridge Park
- NATURAL RESOURCE AREAS**
11. Blue Heron Environmental Area
  12. Hirt Conservation Easement
  13. Kamin Conservation Easement
  14. Mill Creek Crossing
  15. Paint Creek Heritage Area - Wet Prairie
  16. Paint Creek Trail Parcel
  17. O'Connor Nature Park
- Public School Facilities**
18. Baldwin Elementary (Rochester)
  19. Delta Kelly Elementary (Rochester)
  20. Hugger Elementary (Rochester)
  21. Musson Elementary (Rochester)
  22. Oakview Middle School (Lake Orion)
- Linear Parks**
23. Mill Race Trail
  24. Paint Creek Trail
- Regional Parks**
25. Addison Oaks
  26. Stony Creek Metropark
  27. Baid Mountain Recreation Area

**Map 2:**  
**Park & Recreational Facilities**  
 Charter Township of Oakland  
 Oakland County, Michigan



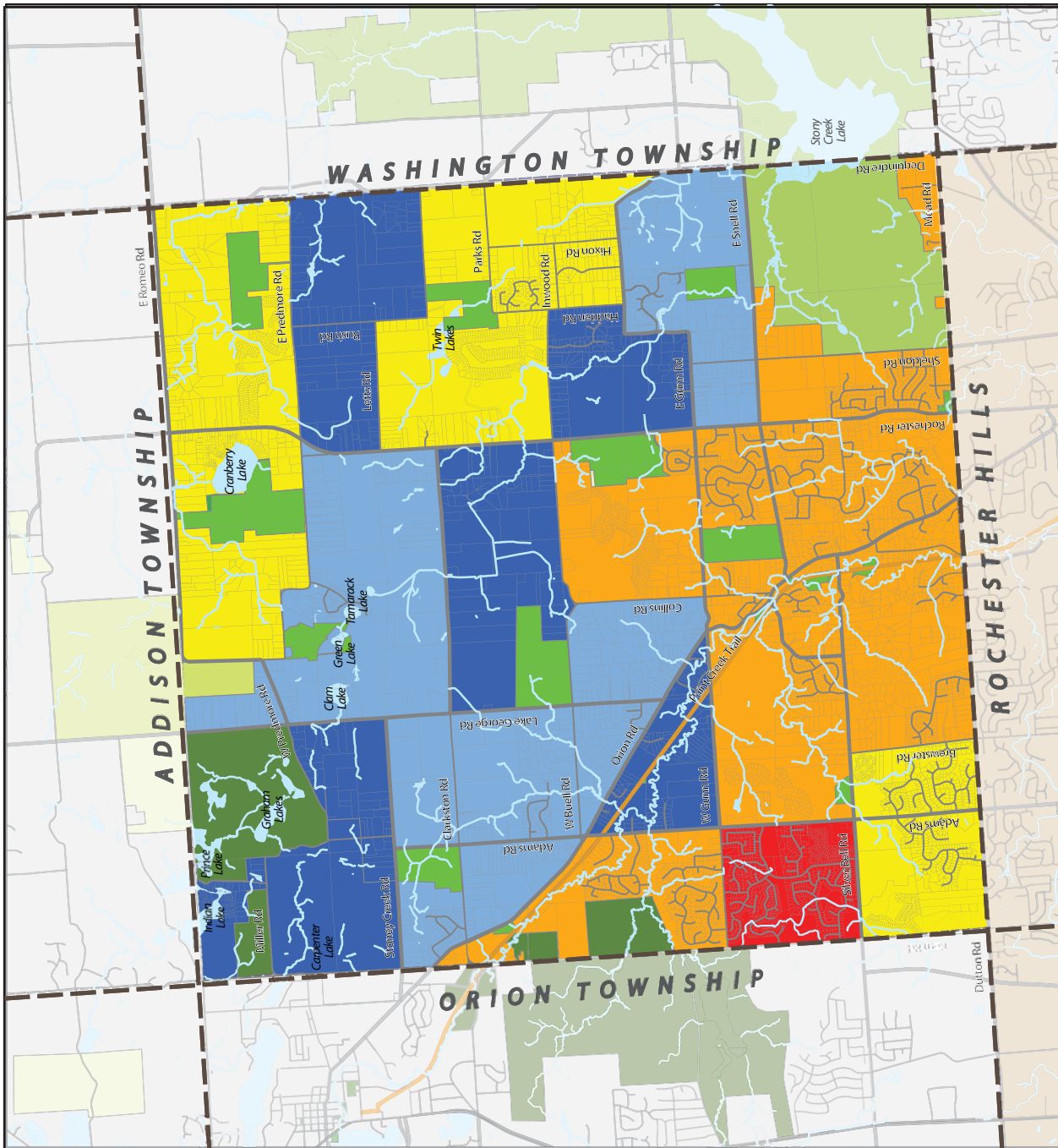
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**Estimated population**

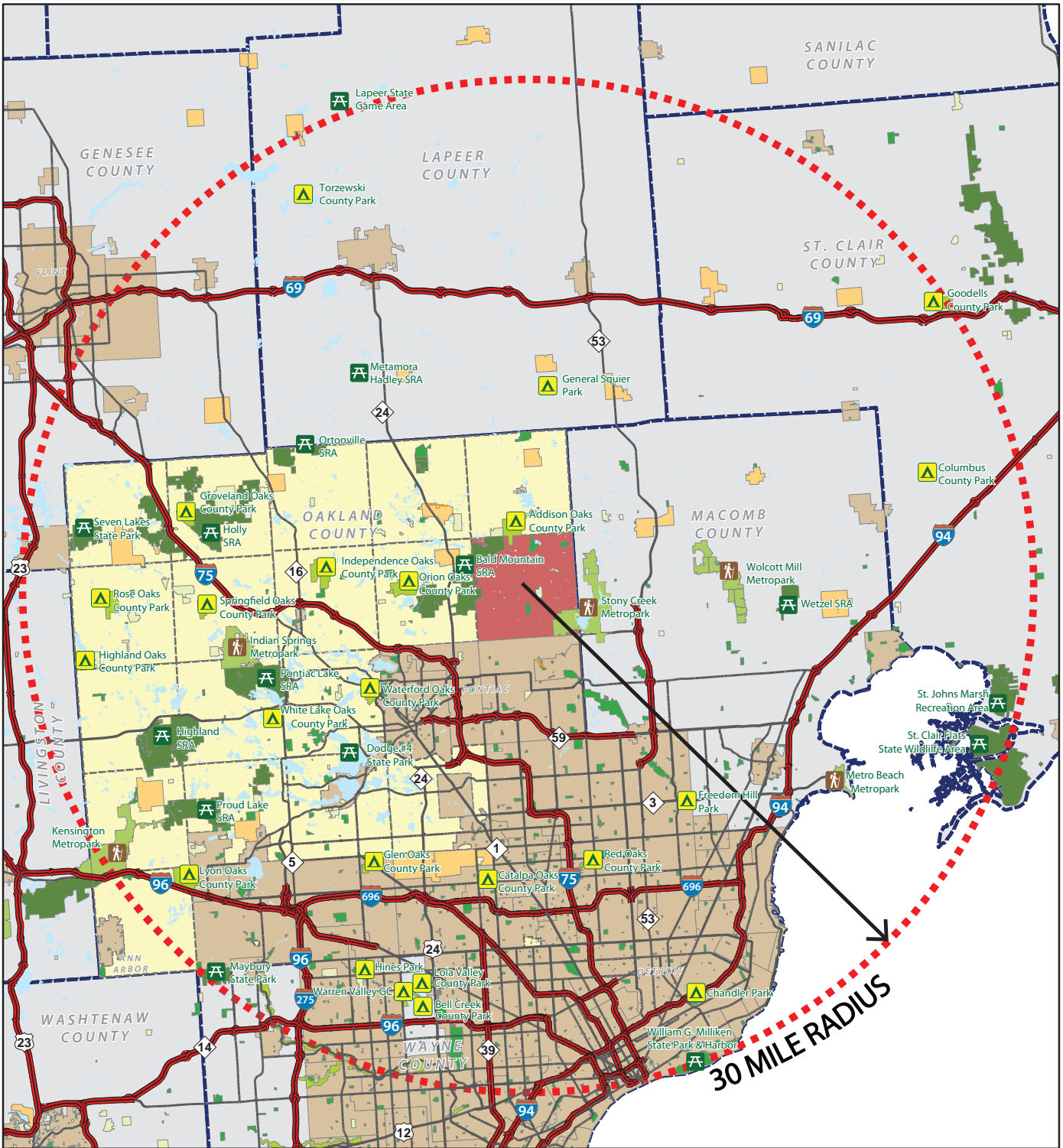


**Map 3:**  
**Park & Recreational Facilities**  
**In Relation To Population**  
**Density**

Charter Township of Oakland  
 Oakland County, Michigan

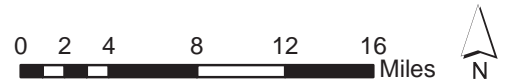


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GIS Data Source: Michigan Department of Technology, Management, & Budget

- State Parks and Recreation Areas
- County Parks
- Huron-Clinton Metroparks
- Charter Township of Oakland
- Cities
- Villages
- Townships (Oakland County)
- Townships (Other Counties)



**Map 4:**  
**Regional Parks & Recreation Facilities**  
 within a 30 mile radius of Oakland Township



## Barrier Free Accessibility

The passage of the American Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) requires all areas of public service, including parks and other recreation facilities, to have barrier-free accessibility. As part of the 2009-2014 Parks and Recreation Master Plan, an evaluation of Oakland Township parks and recreation facilities was conducted by McKenna and Associates as part of the inventory. This data was re-visited in December 2014 as part of the overall parks inventory by Parks and Recreation staff. In accordance with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) standards, facilities were evaluated to determine if a person with any of the following criteria can safely and independently access and use the park or facility:

- Has limited sight or is blind
- Uses a wheelchair
- Has a hearing impairment or is deaf
- Uses a walking aid
- Has a mental impairment

The five-point evaluation system used to rank each facility's accessibility is described below. Based on discussions with Parks staff, the original accessibility rankings have been updated can be found in the Inventory Tables contained in Appendix C.

Level 1. The park is not accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. The site includes little paved areas and the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are not easily accessible.

Level 2. The park is somewhat accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Either the parking area or pathways are paved, but not both. Many of the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are not easily accessible.

Level 3. The park is mostly accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Most of the parking areas and pathways are paved, and some of the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are accessible but may be completely barrier-free. This level of accessibility includes parks adjacent to the Paint Creek Trail from which viewing and interpretive activities can take place for those need barrier-free facilities.

Level 4. The park is completely accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Parking areas and pathways area paved, and most of the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are easily accessible.

Level 5. The entire park was developed or renovated using the principles of universal design, a design approach which enables all environments to be usable by everyone, to the greatest extent possible, regardless of age, ability, or situation.

## Local Trails and Pathways System

Oakland Township's safety trails and pathways system provides the following benefits to Township residents according to the Township's Trails and Pathways Vision:

1. Support a healthy lifestyle by:
  - providing nearby facilities for physical activities such as walking, running and cycling
  - providing safe routes which are an alternative to motorized transportation
2. Improve knowledge of and connection to our local ecosystems and agricultural history by providing greater access to them, while also protecting these important community assets.
3. Strengthen our community's social connections by providing facilities that support the interaction of families and users of all ages, abilities and interests.
4. Provide greater access to nearby destinations including parks, schools, shopping areas, and community facilities such as offices and Bookmobile stops.
5. Provide an opportunity for local residents to take an action that helps to reduce their carbon footprint.

The current system includes 13.6 miles of existing pathways within private developments, the trails in the Township parks, and the portion of the Paint Creek Trailway located in Oakland Township. The Trails and Pathways Master Plan (Appendix A) proposes 32.6 miles of new pathways and 16.7 miles of new trails. Included as part of the new network is 23.8 miles of connected pathways and trails known as 'The Loop' which will connect the Township's northern, southern, eastern, and western areas along a main pathway and trail corridor. In addition, it will connect residents to local parks, commercial areas, and regional recreation facilities. When the network of pathways and trails is complete in the future, the Township will have a total of 62.9 miles of non-motorized transportation. Many of the projects are proposed to be done in conjunction with parks and facilities improvements to further the goal of connectivity in the Township.

## Regional Trail System

In addition to Oakland Township's local trails and pathways system, there is a significant regional system of trails through Oakland County and in nearby Lapeer and Macomb Counties. This has been made possible by improvements within regional and state parks and recreation areas, and through path development along local roads, abandoned railroads, greenways, and utility corridors. While there are still gaps in this regional trail system, Oakland Township residents have convenient access to the Paint Creek Trail as well as the trail systems throughout the adjacent regional area. Examples of existing regional trail systems include:

- Addison Oaks County Park (14.2 miles; cross-country skiing, equestrian, hiking, mountain biking, walking)
- Bald Mountain State Recreation Area (15 miles; cross-country skiing, mountain biking, snowmobiling, walking)
- Clinton River Trail (16 miles; located south of the Township in Rochester, Rochester Hills, Auburn Hills, Pontiac, and Sylvan Lake is an extension of the Macomb-Orchard Trail; biking, mountain biking, walking)
- Macomb-Orchard Trail (23.5 miles; located southeast of the Township in the Townships of Shelby, Washington, Armada and Richmond, passing through Romeo, Armada and Richmond with a connection in Rochester to the Clinton River Trail; biking, equestrian, walking, wheelchair)
- Orion Oaks County Park (10 miles; cross-country skiing, hiking, mountain biking)
- Orion Township Safety Path System (38.47 miles; provides non-motorized linkages to most major destinations in the Township, including Friendship Park, Civic Center Park, Orion Oaks County Park,

Orion Township Library, most of the public schools, and connects the Village of Lake Orion with the Gingellville area)

- Polly Ann Trail (35 miles; located north and northwest of the Township passing through Leonard, Dryden, Imlay City, Lum, Kings Mill, Orion Township, the Village of Lake Orion, Oxford Township, the Village of Oxford, and Addison Township with a future connection planned to the Paint Creek Trail; biking, cross-country skiing, equestrian, mountain biking, walking)
- Stony Creek Metropark (19.2 miles; biking, cross-country skiing, mountain biking, walking)

## Local Parks and Facilities

Surrounded by eleven different communities (Addison Township, Bruce Township, Charter Township of Orion, Charter Township of Shelby, City of Auburn Hills, City of Rochester, City of Rochester Hills, Oxford Township, Village of Lake Orion, Village of Romeo, and Washington Township), Oakland Township residents benefit from the proximity of six neighboring communities' parks and recreation facilities. These parks and facilities supplement those located in the Township with offerings such as active recreation, athletic fields, educational programs, golf, nature centers, playgrounds, and swimming. The following local parks and facilities are located within a short distance of the Township:

### **Addison Township**

- Atwater Park
- Children's Park
- Green's Park
- Meek's Park

### **Bruce Township**

- Bruce Township Park
- Orchard Hills Park

### **Charter Township of Orion**

- Civic Center Park
- Friendship Park
- Jesse Decker Park
- Orion Center
- Wildwood
- Moose Tree Nature Preserve
- Gingell Nature Park
- McConnell Field
- Paint Creek Trail
- Poly Anne Trail

### **Charter Township of Shelby**

- Chief Gene Shepherd Park
- Community Center
- Ford Field - Central Park
- Heritage Garden
- Hope Chapel
- Holland Ponds
- Lombardo Park
- Mae Stecker Park
- Municipal Grounds
- River Bends Park
- Whispering Woods Park
- Woodall Neighborhood Park & Skate Park

### **City of Auburn Hills**

- Civic Center Park
- Riverside Park
- River Woods Park
- Manitoba Park
- E. Dale Fisk Hawk Woods Nature Center
- Auburn Hills Skate Park
- Dennis Dearing Jr. Memorial Park
- Community Center
- Fieldstone Golf Club
- Clinton River Trail

### **City of Rochester**

- Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve
- Elizabeth Park
- Halbach Field and Memorial Grove
- Howlett Park
- Municipal Park
- Older Persons Center
- Scott Street Park- Jaycee Field
- Rochester Community House
- Clinton River Trail
- Paint Creek Trail

### **City of Rochester Hills**

- Avon Nature Study Area
- Avondale Park
- Bloomer Park
- Earl E. Borden Park
- Eugene S. Nowicki Park
- Helen V. Allen Park
- Riverbend Park
- Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm
- Thelma G. Spencer Park
- Veterans Memorial Pointe
- Wabash Park
- Yates Park

### **Oxford Township**

- Powell Lake Park
- Stony Lake Park
- Oakwood Lake Park
- Seymour Lake Park
- KLR Splash Pad

### **Village of Lake Orion**

- Atwater Park
- Children's Park
- Green's Park
- Meek's Park
- Swiss Village Park
- Unger Park
- Paint Creek Trail
- Polly Ann Trail

### **Village of Romeo**

- Crystal Diamonds Fields
- Romeo Lions Field
- Romeo Center Park & Fields
- Romeo Trailside Park
- Village Park

### **Washington Township**

- Community Center Park
- Gilcher Crissman Park & Fields
- Washington Township Park

## Quasi-Public and Privately Owned Facilities

The recreation needs of some residents in Oakland Township are provided by a number of quasi-public and privately owned facilities in and surrounding the Township. These facilities range from private swim clubs to bowling establishments. Many of these facilities charge a membership or user fee. Quasi-public and private recreation facilities located within and around Oakland Township include:

### **Bowling Alleys**

- Airway Lanes
- Avon North Hill Lanes
- Century Bowling
- Cherry Hill Lanes North
- Classic Lanes
- Collier Lanes
- Shelby Lanes
- Summit Bowling Center
- Three Hundred Bowl

### **Cider Mills and Orchards**

- Addison-Oaks Christmas Tree Farm
- Blake's Orchard
- Blake's Big Apple Orchard
- Goodison Cider Mill
- Hy's Cider Mill
- Miller's Big Red Apple Orchard
- Rochester Cider Mill
- Stony Creek Orchard and Cider Mill
- Verellen Orchards
- Westview Orchards
- Yates Cider Mill

### **Dance Instruction**

- Adagio Dance
- Andrea Redman Dance Academy
- Argentine Tango Detroit
- Artistic Revolution Dance Studio
- Avondale Dance
- Broadway Dance Company
- Center Stage Dance Co.
- Dance Class
- Dance For Fun
- Dance Shoppe
- Dance Studio Inc.
- Dance World
- Dancer's Edge Studio
- Deborah's Stage Door Dance Center

- Ealain Ceime Irish Dance School
- Elegance in Motion Ballroom Studio
- GOB Gymnastics & Dance
- Graceful Moves Dance Studio
- Kerry's Dance Stage
- LA Dance
- Michigan Ballet Theater
- Oakland Regional Ballet
- Orion Oxford Dance Arts
- Oxford Academy of Dance and Performing Arts
- Pointe Academy Dance Center
- Rhythm Pointe Dance Academy
- Rochester Avon Rec Dance
- Rochester Ballroom
- Roxana's Dance Expressions
- Stars & Stripes Kids Activity Center
- Step by Step School of Dance
- Suzanne Hawkins Ballet Workshop
- Suzette's Masters of Dance
- Tina Marie's School of Dance
- Wonder Women Pole Studio

### **Entertainment and Cultural Facilities**

- AMC Star - Great Lakes 25
- Avon Players
- DTE Energy Music Theatre
- Emagine Theaters Rochester Hills
- Goodrich - Oxford 7
- Meadowbrook Hall
- Meadowbrook Music Festival
- Meadowbrook Theatre
- Paint Creek Center for the Arts
- Palace of Auburn Hills
- Romeo Theaters

### **Exercise and Fitness Facilities**

- American Fitness
- Anti-Dote Yoga
- Anytime Fitness
- Bliss Yoga
- Clarkston Hot Yoga
- Core Control Pilates
- Curves
- East Street Pilates
- Fitness 19
- Great Lakes Athletic Club
- Hamsa Yoga
- Level Health and Fitness
- Life Spa
- Lifetime Fitness
- Macomb Yoga Spot
- McEntire Pilates
- Pilates Activcore Studio
- Planet Fitness
- Powerhouse Gym
- Red Lotus Yoga
- Rochester Athletic Club
- Rochester Holistic Arts
- Sculptors Fitness Center
- Snap Fitness
- Sola Life & Fitness
- The Gym of Lake Orion
- Transformation Studio/Soothe Your Soul
- Updog Yoga of Rochester
- VIP Fitness
- White Lotus Yoga Studio
- World Gym
- Xtend Barre
- YMCA
- Yoga for Life
- Yoga Oasis
- Yoga Planet Studio
- Yoga Studio of Shelby
- ZellaDor Wellness & Fitness

### **Golf (Courses)**

- Auburn Hills Golf Center
- Bald Mountain Golf Course
- Blackheath Golf Club
- Boulder Pointe Golf Club and Conference Center
- Brookwood Golf Club
- Bruce Hills Golf Course
- Cherry Creek Golf Club
- Copper Hills Golf and Country Club
- Devil's Ridge Golf Club
- Fieldstone Golf Club of Auburn Hills
- Glacier Club Golf Course
- Great Lakes Golf & Sports Complex
- Great Oaks Country Club
- Greystone Banquet and Golf Club
- Hampton Golf and Recreation Club
- Heather Hills Golf Club
- Henrikson's Driving Range
- Indianwood Golf and Country Club
- Mulberry Hills Golf and Country Club
- Myth Golf and Banquets
- Oakhurst Golf and Country Club
- Oakland University (Katke Cousins, R&S Sharf Courses)
- Orchards Golf Club
- Oxford Hills Golf and Country Club
- Paint Creek Country Club
- Pine Knob Golf Course
- Pine Trace Golf Club
- Pine Valley Golf Course and Tennis Club
- Romeo Golf and Country Club
- Sanctuary Lake
- Silver Lake Golf Club
- Stony Creek Metropark Golf Course
- Twin Lakes Golf and Swim Club
- Westwynd Golf Course
- Willow Creek Golf & Sports Center

- Wyndgate Golf and Country Club Golf (Driving Ranges, Miniature Golf)

### **Gymnastics**

- American Gymnastics
- FlipSpot
- Flip Starz Gymnastic Academy
- Great Lakes Elite Gyms
- GOB Gymnastics & Dance
- GTC Gymnastics & Activity
- Olympia Gymnastics Academy
- Stars & Stripes Kids Activity Center
- Tumbling Tumblers

### **Horseback Riding and Stables**

- Just a Folly Farm
- O.A.T.S. (Offering Alternative Therapy with a Smile)
- Oak Pointe Stables
- Oakland Hills Farm
- Rochester Hills Stables
- Shenanagans Farm
- Times Square Riding Academy
- Waverly Farm
- Win A Gin Farm

### **Martial Arts**

- Bryant Karate Studio
- Castro's Martial Arts
- Citizen Defense Training
- Clarkston Self Defense & Fitness
- Conquest Martial Arts & Wellness Center
- D-Lux Martial Arts / Kids Karate
- Dynamic Martial Arts
- JSKA of Rochester
- Karate Club USA
- Kerry Roop's Superkicks
- Lee's Martial Arts
- Martial Science Center
- New Way Martial Arts
- Okinawan Karate Do
- Pro Martial Arts
- Rochester Hills Choi Kwong Do
- Rochester School of Martial Arts

- Stars & Stripes Kids Activity Center
- TNT Martial Arts
- Waterford TaeKwon DO

### **Skating Facilities (Ice, Roller, Skateboard)**

- 240 Squirrel Skateboard Park
- The New Rink
- Onyx Rochester Ice Arena
- Rochester Hills Skating & Sports
- Romeo Skate Park
- Suburban Ice

### **Skiing**

- Alpine Valley Ski Area
- Mt. Holly Ski Area
- Pine Knob Ski Resort

### **Sports Facilities**

- Basketball America
- Borden Park
- The Buckhorn Disc Golf Course
- Croatia Park
- Elite Indoor Sports
- Extra Innings
- Great Lakes Golf & Sports Complex
- JC Little League Field
- Joe Dumars Fieldhouse
- MOR Archery
- Oakland County Sportsmen's Club
- Oakland University
- Oakland yard Athletics
- Palazzo di Bocce
- RC Baseball field
- Royal Oak Archers
- Sky Zone Indoor Trampoline Park
- Sports Allstarz
- Thompson Jason Baseball
- Winstar Sports

## **Swimming**

- Addison Oaks County Park
- Bald Mountain Recreation Area
- Goldfish Swim School
- Great Oaks Country Club
- Heart of the Hills Swim Club
- Kingfish Aquatics of Waterford
- Lake Orion Community Schools
- Lifetime Fitness
- Oakland University
- Rochester Community Schools
- Rochester Hills Parks and Recreation
- Stony Creek Metropark
- Twin Lakes Golf and Swim Club
- Utica Shelby Swim Club
- Waterford Wave Pool
- YMCA

## **Programming**

Oakland Township residents fund a variety of program offerings via millages paid to support Oakland Township Parks and Recreation, the Older Persons' Commission, and the Rochester Hills Library. Local school districts and the Rochester-Avon Recreation authority also offer enrichment classes and recreation programming.

### ***Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Commission (OTPRC)***

Oakland Township currently offers a variety of programs and events. The OTPRC offers a variety of programming related to nature and conservation education, fitness and wellbeing, outdoor adventure, and natural area stewardship. Some recent programs and events that have been offered include:

- After School Nature Nuts
- Bats and Bags
- Bats of the World
- Concerts in the Park
- Discovery Backpacks
- Down on the Farm
- Gifts for the Birds
- Goodison Good Tyme
- Halloween Science
- Preschool Park Pals
- Winter Carnival
- Kayaking
- Yoga
- Ice Skating
- Running

The Parks and Recreation Commission has worked with other Township departments and businesses to sponsor some of the above programs and events. An example of this is the Goodison Good Tyme, a festival held in late September offering food, scavenger hunts, a marathon, and other family activities.

### ***School Districts***

Three different school districts serve Oakland Township; Lake Orion, Rochester, and Romeo Community Schools, with the Rochester district serving the majority of the Township. All of the districts offer a variety of continuing education programs for adults, leisure and enrichment classes, and activities for people of all ages that Township residents in their respective school districts can utilize. User fees and an operating budget established by the school boards provide funding for these programs. Activities, classes, and programs are held at the various schools. The types of activities currently offered include:

- Arts and Crafts
- Dance
- Dog Training
- Computers
- Cooking
- Family Matters
- Finance and Investment
- Fitness and Health
- Golf
- Gymnastics
- Home and Garden
- Karate
- Language
- Music
- Photography
- Skating
- Swimming
- Team Sports
- Tennis

### ***Rochester-Avon Recreation Authority (RARA)***

The Cities of Rochester and Rochester Hills offer recreational programming through Rochester-Avon Recreation Authority (RARA). This regional recreation authority has been the main recreation provider to the communities of Rochester and Rochester Hills since 1946. Although Oakland Township is not an administrative participant of RARA, Township residents can participate in programs by paying an additional amount over the resident user fees for both children and adults. RARA focuses on providing year-round recreation programs for adults and children including:

- Adult w/ Child Activities
- Baseball
- Basketball
- Bowling
- Dance
- Daycamp
- Fitness
- Football
- Horseback Riding
- Karate
- Lacrosse
- Skiing
- Soccer
- Softball
- Tennis
- Theatre
- Therapeutic Special Events

### ***Older Persons' Commission (OPC)***

The Rochester-Oakland-Rochester Hills Older Persons' Commission (OPC), funded by a millage in all three communities, manages programs targeted toward seniors in the community. The commission operates from its Activity Center in Rochester Hills and offers a variety of programs for seniors. Examples of activities are:

- Arts & Crafts
- Computers
- Dancing
- Day Trips
- Foreign Language
- Games
- Health/Wellness
- Hot Lunches
- Legal Aid
- Meals on Wheels
- Minibus Transportation
- Swimming

### ***Library***

There are no library facilities currently exist within Oakland Township, however residents contribute to a library millage for the Rochester Hills Public Library. The library provides Oakland Township residents with convenient access to books, video and audio recordings, magazines, and newspapers. The library also hosts a number of individual and group activities including:

- Book Clubs
- Concerts
- Film Festivals
- Seminars
- Story Hours
- Workshops
- Bookmobile

### ***Volunteer Organizations***

In addition to the above listed recreational programs, many other clubs and groups offer social, competitive, and child-oriented recreational activities. Many of these groups are volunteer organizations requiring payment of annual or monthly dues to support activities. These groups include:

- 4-H Clubs of Oakland County
- Boy Scouts of America
- Friends of Bald Mountain Recreation Area
- Friends of the Paint Creek Trailways
- Girl Scouts of America
- Paint Creek Center for the Arts
- Oakland Township Historical Society
- Rochester Redskins Football
- Rochester Youth Soccer League
- Rochester-Avondale Little League
- Supporters of Parks in Oakland Township
- YMCA of North Oakland County
- Wild Ones: native plants, natural landscapes

### ***Current Conditions of Grand Funded Projects***

**Project Name:** *TF99-128 Marsh View Park Acquisition*  
**Source:** Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund  
**Grant Amount:** \$2,010,101  
**Status:** The MNRTF funds were used to acquire property west of Adams Road between Stoney Creek Road and Clarkston Road. The property, now called Marsh View Park, has undergone significant changes since acquisition (see TF07-57 below) and has been transformed into Oakland Townships only major active use park. Further development to improve access for the large volume of park users is anticipated over the next five years.

**Project Name:** *TF00-311 Bear Creek Nature Park Development*  
**Source:** Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund  
**Grant Amount:** \$313,302  
**Status:** Significant boardwalk/trail improvements, a new playground facility, picnic structure, and parking lot and were all implemented at Bear Creek Nature Park as a result of this grant. The park is the most heavily utilized park in the Township's system; it is regularly used for programmed events such as concerts and festivals, as well as by passive users taking advantage of the extensive trails. The Township plans to add potable water and permanent restroom facilities over the next five years, as well as additional trail improvements.

**Project Name:** *TF02-013 Lost Lake Nature Park Acquisition*  
**Source:** Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund  
**Grant Amount:** \$1,762,800  
**Status:** Lost Lake Nature Park, located in the northwest corner of the Township, was acquired as a result of this grant. Lost Lake Nature Park currently houses the Township's only Nature Center and a highly popular sledding hill. Significant improvements have been made since acquisition (see TF10-069 below for details), and future development includes the introduction of permanent restroom facilities.

**Project Name:** *TF05-102 Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park Acquisition*  
**Source:** Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund  
**Grant Amount:** \$893,700  
**Status:** Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park was acquired using these grant funds. Still largely undeveloped, Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park is popular with hikers and fishermen. Trail, parking and entry road improvements are planned for the park in the near future, with a possible connection to Stony Creek Metropark being considered.

**Project Name:** *TF07-057 Marsh View Park Development*  
**Source:** Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund  
**Grant Amount:** \$293,300  
**Status:** Marsh View Park is the most highly developed park in the Township's system. These grant funds were used to create an archery range, soccer fields, a basketball court, accessible paths between facilities, a wetland observation deck, interpretive signage and parking lot for the site. While all of the improvements have proved popular with Township residents, the archery range in particular stands out as a huge draw. In 2015 additional parking is being planned as well as the expansion of the archery facilities. In the future there is the potential for the addition of active use facilities, permanent restrooms and trails.

**Project Name:** *TF10-069 Lost Lake Nature Park Development*  
**Source:** Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund  
**Grant Amount:** \$154,900  
**Status:** A nature center renovation, universally accessible kayak launch and fishing dock, improved parking lot, accessible pedestrian paths, and interpretive signage were implemented at Lost Lake Nature Park using these funds. The parking reconfiguration helps to accommodate the large number of visitors the park receives year round. The nature center, which formally opened in 2013, hosts more than 1000 elementary age children annually. The launch is a welcome addition to the park system and is actively used for fishing, kayaking, yoga, and nature observation. Trail improvements will be installed over the next five years.

## Chapter 4

# Basis for Action Plan



Figure 4.1 - Paint Creek Trail  
Source: Johnson Hill Land Ethics Studio

Consideration of the needs for the community is the impetus for any Parks related planning. Determining exactly what those needs are requires a multi-step evaluation process; input from the community, direction from national recreation guidelines, research of the Township's current offerings and programming, and key information compiled from the Parks and Recreation Department and the Parks and Recreation Commission are all components in the decision making process. Only after a complete understanding of the Township's requirements is established can an Action Plan be formulated.

### **Planning and Public Input Process**

#### **Planning Process**

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan update is the result of a combination of efforts from multiple sources across the community. The Parks and Recreation Commission directed the update of the Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Citizen input, in the form of surveys and direct interaction with the planning consultants, was instrumental in the forming the plan recommendations. A thorough review of existing planning documents and an inventory of surrounding facilities also played a key role. The resulting recommendations described within the action plan reflect the needs and ideas of those who use the Township's parks and recreation facilities. The plan process, which is based on the Michigan Department of Natural Resources guidelines, includes seven tasks:

**Task One - Community Description:** The first task was to describe Oakland Township's physical and social features. These features include location, land use, environmental and natural features, as well as population features including age distribution, people with physical disabilities, types of households, employment, and income. This information is featured predominately in Chapter 1.

**Task Two - Administrative Structure and Funding:** This task was accomplished via a thorough review of the administrative structure of the Township, the Parks and Recreation Department, the Parks and Recreation Commission, and the various other recreation providers associated with the Township. A review of the current and projected revenues and expenditures for the Township as well as the grant history of funding received from the MDNR are included as part of Chapter 2.

**Task Three - Parks and Recreation Inventory:** The parks and recreation inventory was completed in part via a tour of facilities with representatives of Johnson Hill Land Ethics Studio (JHLE) and Parks staff. Written descriptions of the facilities incorporated information gleaned from a variety of sources including Parks staff, historic document review, and Consultant impressions. Township parks and facilities, schools, linear parks, regional parks and facilities, local and regional trails and pathways, local parks and facilities, and quasi-public and private recreation facilities were included as part of this inventory. The information includes the acreage, barrier-free accessibility, types of recreation facilities, natural features assessments, and other descriptions of the physical attributes of the area's facilities. Covered in Chapter 3, programming for both the Township's facilities as well as those of other recreation providers are discussed in this section.

**Task Four - Public Participation:** Public participation was encouraged and advertised throughout the Master Plan process:

- Focus Groups - A series of four focus groups were created in conjunction with D.P. Bostwick and Associates to help formulate the questions which would be utilized in the Community Survey.
- Website - A website was prepared by JHLE to communicate Master Plan updates and encourage feedback from residents. The website, which went "live" on December 17, 2014 included a calendar feature to highlight upcoming events and deadline, draft versions of each of the individual chapters and appendices created for the Master Plan, and an interactive feature which allowed readers to comment directly on individual chapters of the Plan. A link was also provided to allow users to e-mail the Parks Department directly with their comments and concerns.
- Community Survey - A Parks and Recreation survey by D.P. Bostwick and associates was prepared and sent to Township residents in October 2014. Data was compiled at the end of November and available for review by early December. This information complemented the data originally compiled by PROS Consulting in 2009.
- A Master Planning workshop was held on January 7, 2015 with JHLE and the Parks and Recreation Commission.
- The complete Master Plan was made available for public review and comment on January 22, 2015. The Master Plan website allowed users to download and comment on the individual chapters of the Plan. The webpage was available throughout the process, up to and including the final adoption of the plan on February 24, 2015. To reduce the incidences of comments bots or spammers, users were required to log on, either by utilizing social media accounts or by creating an account specifically for the purposes of viewing the documents. Input was welcomed from anyone who had an interest in the Parks, and was not restricted to only Township residents.

- Parks and Recreation Commission Meetings – Drafts of the Master Plan were presented during meetings of the PRC on December 10 and December 17, 2014, January 14, 2015, February 5, and February 18. In each instance, the public was encouraged to comment.
- Community master Plan Open Houses were held on January 29, 2015. The Open House was advertised on the cover page of the Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Newsletter mailed to every Township household on 12/12/14. Information was also posted on the Master Plan website starting 12/17/2014. Notices/articles about the open house were in the 1/22/2015 Rochester Post and the 1/26/2015 Community Lifestyles newspapers as well posted on the Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Facebook page and Twitter account.

A follow up meeting to review the comments and receive additional public comments was held on February 5, 2015. JHLE, the Parks and Recreation Department, and the Parks and Recreation Commission facilitated afternoon and evening sessions to allow as much participation as possible. Over 75 people attended the two sessions. Attendees were able to visit a number of different stations displayed around the room including: Township's parks and recreation programs, environmental stewardship, the park concept plans for Watershed Ridge Park, and updates on the current park development projects.

A number of attendees provided written comments, many of which were supportive of the master planning efforts. Some residents expressed concerns regarding future park and trail developments, but many of those concerns were addressed in person at the open house. The comments provide valuable feedback as the plans for park and trails developments move forward. All of the above-noted written comments can be found in Appendix B.

- Public Hearing (Preliminary) – On February 5, 2015, the Parks and Recreation Commission held a preliminary public hearing on the plan and reviewed comments from the open house. The final public hearing was held on February 18 prior to the PRC's recommendation for adoption.

**Task Five - Analysis:** The collected information was analyzed based on the a number of pertinent factors. The analysis incorporated national and state guidelines, and placed strong emphasis on local needs, the experience of the Parks and Recreation Department and consultants, the desires of the residents, and potential funding sources.

**Task Six - Action Plan:** Upon completion of the analysis, a review of the recently completed Strategic Master Plan (including goals and strategies), public input results, and the specific needs of the Township was conducted. This resulted in the creation of the five-year plan and provides the Township a checklist of what action is to be accomplished, when and where it will occur, who will accomplish it, how much it will cost, and potential funding sources.

**Task Seven - Plan Completion and Adoption:** Once consensus was reached among the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Parks and Recreation Department, the plan was presented to the Township Planning Commission on February 3, 2015, where they provided a resolution of support for adoption of the plan. On February 10, the Master Plan was presented to the Township Board. On February 18, 2015, the Parks and Recreation Commission held a public hearing and provided a recommendation for adoption. Finally, on February 24, 2015, the Township Board reviewed the Parks and Recreation Master Plan along with the Strategic Plan, and formally adopted the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. See Appendices H and E for adoption documentation and meeting minutes.

## Focus Group Survey

D.P. Bostwick and Associates facilitated a series of focus groups in the summer of 2014 to help define the questions that would be developed for a community-wide survey. The focus group discussions covered a broad array of topics, ultimately indicating the general attitudes of the participants and, by extension, the community as a whole. A complete analysis of the focus group comments is provided in Appendix B. A sample of the key results include the following concepts and comments, which were used to help prepare the Action Plan:

- Avoid duplicating what is offered in adjacent communities and facilities such as: Addison Oaks, Rochester, Stoney Creek Metropark, Bald Mountain, etc.
- Avoid building facilities and programs that require mass participation such as: RARA, Mass-Market Soccer, Baseball, Tennis, Hockey, Basketball facilities, etc.
- Provide facilities, programs and activities that foster community and give residents a chance to belong to a like-minded group, honoring their desire to remain “a world apart” from typical urban/suburban environments
- Challenge residents to take part in the appreciation, preservation and protection of these unique assets
- Provide means of raising awareness while providing compelling opportunities for visits to the facilities
- Provide modern conveniences and amenities in a rustic setting
- “In the big picture, I just think that Oakland Township has done a great job by preserving open space preventing the suburbs and manufacturing – there are so many more affluent Townships that you can see around the Southeast Michigan area that all they do is go in and clear cut so there’s nothing left.”
- “I’m not going to suggest for a minute that the parks are a wasted investment because they do provide that buffer. This is not the country, guys. But this is the closest thing to the country you’re going to get for a long way. And it’s beautiful and I love living here. ..because of the trees, because there’s not a bazillion cars driving by all the time. And I like that. And these parks are part of that buffer. So if I don’t use them, I do, because I use them for that purpose”
- “If we could have some nice wide trails so if somebody is flying by on their bike, there’s room to get by or if someone’s on a horse or someone is walking – a lot of complaints I hear about the Paint Creek Trail overall is the bike riders are flying..”
- “I think there’s opportunity to create something that the other parks don’t have... A rope-climbing course or outdoor adventure type thing.”
- “But people like more of the wilderness, not so formal parks or anything. They want the outdoorsy feel rather than the lights and they want the gravel maybe more than the pavement. And that’s the impression I get, make it pristine but make it more rugged..”
- “A big chunk of us get up and we go somewhere else doing work. When we come home, you know your neighbor, the one to your right and the one to your left, and maybe one across the street, maybe the one behind you, but you don’t know kind of anybody else for the most part outside of your subdivision, and maybe in a lot of cases just the houses that touch you... There aren’t any central places where people would come together and say, ‘It’s Sunday morning, let’s take the dog and go up and throw the ball for the dog.’ There’s going to be the other eight people who always come there on Sunday morning with their cup of coffee and throw it or do yoga.”

## Community Survey

D.P. Bostwick and Associates conducted a community survey late autumn 2014 to gather further information regarding the Community's perceptions and expectations of the Parks and Recreation Department, with a special emphasis on the Township's approach towards the provision of parks and recreation in the Township. The information was used to solidify the recommendations in both this plan and the Strategic Master Plan. A complete summary of the survey results is provided in Appendix B. A summary of key results include the following, which were used to help prepare the Action Plan:

- Parks and Program/Events usage has increased since the 2009 survey.
- Opportunities for improvement remain in many areas, including facilities and specific programs.
- Parks and program usage is clearly affected by proximity, although the Paint Creek Trail is almost universally used, regardless of location of residence. This also applies to use of other, non-Township parks and programs adjacent to the Township.
- Communications initiatives are needed to create a higher level of awareness and visibility for both parks and programs. Parks, in particular, need to be consistently identified, emphasizing the theme of natural, rustic venues that offer opportunities for exercise and nature appreciation.
- The most avid users of parks and recreation programs are between 35 and 54, especially those with children in the household.
- Dog Owners represent a significant subset of the population and represent significant demand for designated off-leash dog parks in the Township. In addition, many residents indicated, in verbatim comments, that dogs allowed to go off-leash in existing parks is a deterrent to visiting the parks.
- Those over 55 clearly indicate interest in programs and activities designed for their age group.
- There are significant patterns throughout the data that support the theme of rustic, natural areas and the desire for more convenient access to the parks and facilities through access paths and expanded parking.
- The sledding hill at Lost Lake Nature park and Music in the Meadows have significantly increased park usage. Based on future desires, the ice skating rink should have a similar effect.
- The majority of respondents dwell in the Southwest and Southeast quadrants of the Township.
- Paint Creek Trail attracts near universal use while other Park Property usage varies by proximity of residence.
- Exercise is the predominant reason for using the parks, coincident with the Paint Creek Trail being the most popular site. Those under 55 and with children in the household have the most diverse reasons for visiting the parks.
- Lack of leisure time, lack of knowledge about park locations, lack of parking and access and safety concerns top the list. Note that Females are twice as concerned about safety compared to males.
- Restrooms top the list of desired improvements.
- A clear pattern exists demonstrating that "appropriateness" for Oakland Township, according to Township residents, includes "nature, preserves, wildlife, wetlands, rustic, picnic, fishing, hunting, outdoor activity, symphony and horse" as opposed to "lighting, rock music, large multi-field, fireworks, campgrounds, asphalt and concrete."
- Oakland Township is perceived and valued as a natural, quiet, "preserve", a buffer against noise, traffic, bright lights and massive organized activities.
- *"My main desire is to have well-maintained parks with nature activities and trails. Any sports or non-natural entertainment (e.g. splash parks) shouldn't be in natural areas but in more developed areas. Maintain as much of the natural setting as possible with easy access and paths to appreciate the natural beauty.*
- *"[I] would like to see better signage including road signs directing to parks. Parks in Oakland Township need to be consistent with the open and rural feel of the Township."*

- *"I'd like to see more trails inside our parks and trails connecting to our other parks. I'd also like to have the millage for the acquisition of additional parks extended for another 10 years. We will never hear anyone complain about too many parks twenty years from now. If we stop acquiring property, we run the risk of becoming another Troy or Sterling Heights."*
- *"I really enjoy that Oakland Township has so many beautiful outdoor natural areas. I prefer a more rustic/natural setting for our parks but a few amenities to make it more user friendly is appreciated (like restrooms and drinking fountains); those are useful for those travelling with children."*
- *"I think it's important that in planning, OT not duplicate services that are available within 5 miles of the township. Specialty parks, for example, are readily available nearby. This is a special place because it is green, natural - something surrounding communities don't have. For that reason, I would prefer more land preservation and more passive use parks."*
- *"Not to be repetitive, but I believe the most important thing the committee could do is creating walking/ biking access to parks. To get to any of the parks, an individual typically has to load their bike in a car and drive to the park because there are no bike/walking paths that lead to the parks."*

### **Open House Comments**

By the time of the Open House on January 29, 2015, Township residents had begun to articulate comments and concerns on more specific, personal topics. Whereas the focus groups and community survey indicated a broad consensus on common themes, the Open House began to indicate specific amenities residents were hoping to see implemented or left out of the parks. Participants were asked to fill out a Facility Ranking Sheet and encouraged to fill out comment sheets and mark their ideas directly on concept plans.

As might be expected, some of the amenities were more controversial than others. Even with these divisions, however, common themes were noted between the Open House, the focus groups, the community survey, and comments from the previous Parks and Recreation Master Plan. A summary of these themes can be found below. The comments were taken into consideration during preparation of the Action Plan and a complete summary of the comments received is provided in Appendix B:

- The participants indicated a clear preference for maintaining a passive, natural look in their parks. Generally, expansion or improvement of existing trail systems was preferred to active use facilities, although multiple participants mentioned a desire for pickleball courts and playground facilities. Larger active use facilities that were popular in the Community Survey, such as a zip line course, were not as well received at the Open House.
  - *"I haven't visited some of these parks so it is hard to comment but I am in favor of keeping our parks as natural as possible. The least amount of interruption of our nature as possible."*
  - *"The parks in this Township drew us to this area. I believe that the parks should be left as natural as possible as to not disturb (or minimally disturb) the wildlife."*
  - *"Would be nice to have some active parks, baseball, pickleball, swing sets."*
  - *"We need more for families. That includes trails (Limestone or paved), play areas, splash parks, baseball fields, dog parks, & other recreation areas. The Township has plenty of land for both nature lovers and active families."*
  - *"Too many non-rural non-nature park "improvements" that are "city-like". Don't need fishing docks, zip lines, amphitheater, community gardens. Keep as natural as possible."*
- Restroom facilities and additional parking were highly rated and desired.
- Among the Open House participants there seemed to be somewhat of a disconnect between land acquisition and ongoing preservation efforts. While virtually everyone agreed that the Township should retain its rural character, not everyone agreed that buying additional land for preservation was the best solution. Still, the majority of respondents were inclined to continue purchasing land when possible.

- *“Keep alert to buy key parcels especially adjacent to existing parks. Provides buffer and expansion options.”*
- *“Keep acquiring land. They’re not making any more.”*
- *“I see no need for additional land acquisition. There is plenty of opportunity for improvement of existing parks.”*
- Implementation of a proposed dog park at Watershed Ridge Park proved to be extremely controversial. Participants were fairly evenly split regarding introducing a dog park in that location, although the comments indicated a general agreement that a dog park should be introduced somewhere in the Township.
  - *“My main concern is a dog park in our community. Keep it on a main, paved road. Not a dirt, poor condition road.”*
  - *“No to dog parks – they restrict that space to only one group. All other trails, open fields & woods are shared by runners, bikers, XC skiers, hikers, picnickers, etc. ”*
  - *“We have a beautiful township and we are fortunate to live here for many years. My wife (name withheld) and I would like to see the township add a dog park. Our daughter loves dogs and now drives quite a distance to use a dog park in eastern Macomb County. We would love to have a park in our own Township.”*
  - *“Would prefer to have dog park closer to where more people live. Bear Creek? Walking to the park with dog is a nice afternoon.”*
- Improved communication with the community and increasing exposure to the parks was a theme clearly shared by the Focus Group and Open House participants.
  - *“I enjoyed and appreciated the evening. Would like to see a lot more of the residents of Oakland County who live in the subdivisions near Adams/Silverbell start to use the parks. Please continue to invest strongly in parks near main populations (Gallagher, Bear Creek, Blue Heron).”*
  - *“I like the programs that you offer. However, as a marketing professional, I recommend you embrace social media and online resources. Your posters and flyers are too wordy, and not interesting. You have too much detail included, and it does not get our attention.”*

## Park Land Analysis and Service Areas

Approximately 4,169.9 acres of parks and facilities and 22.8 miles of trails exist within Oakland Township, with 1,091.84 acres owned by the Township and managed by the Parks and Recreation Department. The remaining 3,078 acres are owned by public schools, Oakland County, Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA), and the MDNR.

As required by the MDNR, the Oakland Township park land and facilities were compared to the minimum guidelines set forth by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA, 1983, 1995). Although the NRPA's updated guidelines were last updated in 1996, the MDNR and similar agencies across the country still utilize the standards as their guide to establishing minimum community needs in terms of land area and number of facilities.

While the guidelines were set nearly two decades ago and may not represent current popular activities and trends, they are based on well established concepts. Each community, based on its own particular resources and resident preferences and demands, are encouraged to establish its needs and requirements adjust the plan accordingly. No set of guidelines can replace clear public input and guidance from experienced Park representatives. For purposes of this Master Plan, NRPA guidelines and the MDNR standards were considered in the development of the Action Plan but information gathered during the public input sessions and the Strategic Action Plan ultimately directed the Action Plan.

Table 4.1 –Park Land Acreage Analysis and the following discussion compares the amount of park land as it relates to the conditions of the Township and the MDNR standards based on the 2010 US Census population estimate of 17,909. This total represents a 10.7% increase over the 2009 SEMCOG estimate of 16,178, and the park requirements have been adjusted accordingly. The recommendations can be viewed in terms of total acreages or total parks required. Park classifications used by the MDNR are defined as follows:

**Mini Parks:** As discussed in Chapter 1, mini parks are small, specialized parks that are usually less than 1 acre in size, serving limited, isolated, or unique populations typically less than ¼ mile away from the park itself. Oakland Township has approximately 1,093 acres of private open space areas in residential subdivisions which can serve this purpose. This is well in excess of the maximum recommended acreage of 8.95 acres. No further action is recommended for this category of park.

**Neighborhood Parks:** Neighborhood parks serve an area up to a one-half mile distance and are typically less than 10 acres in size. Oakland Township has two neighborhood parks, Gallagher Creek Park and Paint Creek Junction Park. The NRPA guidelines recommend between two to seven parks of this type, depending on the acreage of property. In Oakland Township, the two parks total 17.97 acres; this meets the minimum requirement of 17.90 acres, but is deficient 17.83 acres based on the maximum recommended acreage of 35.80. Assuming continued growth, the Township will need to begin looking for opportunities to develop smaller parks in areas of high residential concentration or near the Township Hall facilities. Though not counted in this category, school facilities and private neighborhood parks generally help to fulfill the need for neighborhood parks (see School Facilities discussion below).

**Community Parks:** Community parks typically serve an area within one-half to three miles and are between 30 to 50 acres in size. NRPA guidelines recommend between 89.5 and 179 acres, with a maximum of six parks; Oakland Township owns 908.88 acres of community park land in eight parks, and exceeds the recommended maximum acreage by 729.88 acres. The vast majority of this land is used for passive activities (picnicking, trails, fishing), preservation, and nature observation;

only Marsh View Park caters to active recreation users. The NRPA Guidelines suggest that Oakland Township is lacking active use facilities, but is clear from the Community Survey and subsequent open houses that the citizens of the Township prefer to continue park development with a more passive aesthetic.

**Natural Resource Areas:** Natural resource areas are lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space, and visual aesthetics/buffering. Six areas meet this requirement in the Township for a total of 164.99 acres. The NRPA makes no suggestions for this type of space, but this is a significant asset and is highly valued by the community. The Township should continue to acquire natural resource areas as they become available.

**School Facilities:** School properties can fulfill the requirements for other classes of parks such as neighborhood, community, sports complex, and special use. For the purposes of this analysis the four elementary schools and one middle school located in the Township were included. They provide a total of 118.0 acres, which complements the Township facilities and provides more active recreation facilities.

**Linear Parks:** Linear parks are trails and trail systems and the buffer space surrounding the trails. Linear parks often include educational signage, rest stops, play areas, natural features (stream, river), or human-defined corridors (railroad right-of-way, power line easement). Multiple modes of transportation such as hiking, biking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, canoeing, or pleasure driving may be incorporated into the same linear park or separated into individual-use areas. The Township includes linear park area consisting of two types of trails and pathways – external and internal. External trails and pathways currently consist of 13.6 miles of pathways associated with private developments. Additionally, there are a total of 49.3 miles of trails and pathways (16.7 miles of trails, 32.6 miles of pathways) proposed in the Township’s Trails and Pathways Master Plan, for a future total of 62.9 miles. Internal trails and pathways consist of those located in the Township parks. This linear systems represent an excellent opportunity to link parks within the Township to each other, and also to facilities in bordering communities, e.g. Addison Oaks. Links to Regional Facilities, i.e. Stony Creek Metropark and Bald Mountain Recreation Area should also be enhanced.

**Regional Parks:** Regional facilities offer a variety of active and passive recreational opportunities which help in meeting the need for local park land and help balance the deficiencies in facilities. Oakland Township is fortunate to have three regional parks within its borders – Addison Oaks (Oakland County), Stony Creek Metropark (HCMA), and Bald Mountain Recreation Area (MDNR). These parks account for 2,960.0 acres of park land, well exceeding the maximum recommended 179.0 acres. Resident access to the parks is key, and improving connectivity to the parks is of critical importance.

In terms of pure park area, Oakland Township exhibits a surplus in all of the park land categories with the exception of neighborhood parks. As mentioned earlier, active use facilities continue to be lacking, although school facilities help to make up for some of those deficiencies. Overall, the Township is providing an exceptional amount of park land for its residents.

**Table 4.1**  
**Park Land Acreage Analysis**

Park Classification	NRPA Guidelines							Existing Situation	
	Location Criteria	Acre / 1000	Ideal Size	Min. Acres	Max. Acres	Min. # Parks	Max. # Parks	Acres	Parks
Mini Park	< 1/4 mile distance, residential setting	0.25 - 0.5 acres	1 acre or less	4.48	8.95	4	149	1100	See table 3.1 - 42 properties
Neighborhood Park	1/4 - 1/2 mile distance, uninterrupted by non-residential roads	1 to 2 acres	15+ acres	17.9	35.8	2	7	17.97	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gallagher Creek</li> <li>Paint Creek Junction Park</li> </ul>
Community Park	Determined by quality and suitability of site; serves multiple neighborhoods in 1/2 to 3 mile radius	5 to 8 acres	25+ acres	89.5	143.2	2	6	908.88	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bear Creek</li> <li>Charles Isley Park</li> <li>Cranberry Lake</li> <li>Draper Twin Lake</li> <li>Lost Lake Nature</li> <li>Marsh View Park</li> <li>Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park</li> <li>Watershed Ridge</li> </ul>
Natural Resource Area	Resource availability and opportunity	var.	var.	var.	var.	var.	var.	164.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Blue Heron Environ.Area</li> <li>Hirt Easement</li> <li>Kamin Easement</li> <li>O'Connor Nat. Park</li> <li>Paint Creek Heritage Area - Wet Prairie</li> <li>Paint Creek Trail Parcel</li> </ul>
School Parks	Determined by school district property	var.	var.	var.	var.	var.	var.	101	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Baldwin Elem.</li> <li>Delta Kelly Elem.</li> <li>Hugger Elem.</li> <li>Musson Elem.</li> <li>Oakview Middle School</li> </ul>
Regional Parks	Serves several communities w/in 1 hour drive	5 to 10 acres	200+ acres	200	-	1	1	2,960	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Addison Oaks (Oakland County)</li> <li>Stony Creek Metropark (HCMA)</li> <li>Bald Mountain Recreation Area (MDNR)</li> </ul>

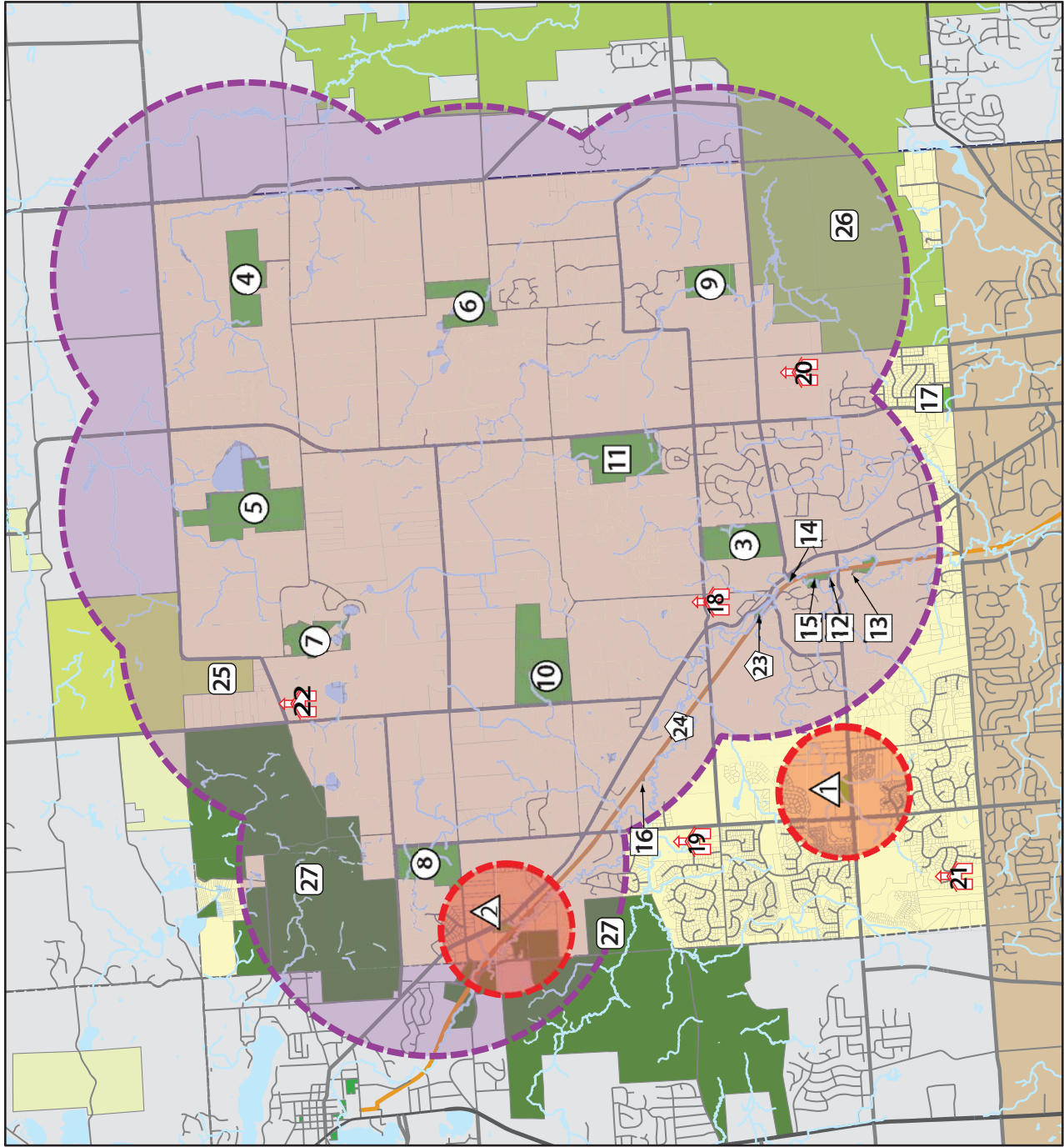
Source: Lancaster, R.R, Ed. *Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines*. Alexandria, VA: NRPA, 1983; Mertes, J.D. and J.R. Hall. *Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines*. Alexandria, VA: NRPA, 1995 . Based on 2010 U.S. Census population estimate of 17,990 residents

While the overall amount of park land in the Township is important, the type of parks, their location, and their disbursement throughout the Township is of equal if not greater importance. Population density and housing patterns are key factors in determining placement of the various levels of parks. The MDNR established a recommended service area for each park classification, with service area boundaries for each type of park as follows:

- Neighborhood Parks 0.25 – 0.5 miles
- Community Parks 0.5 – 3.0 miles
- Regional Parks 30 minute driving time

The parks and recreation service areas are shown on Map 4 – Parks and Recreation Service Area. For the purposes of measuring the service area, a radius of 0.5 miles was used for neighborhood parks and 1.5 miles for community parks. The service boundary of the natural resources areas, public school facilities, linear parks, and regional parks were not included. The majority of the Township is well-served by community parks, with the exception of the southwest corner. This is a strong residential area that would benefit from smaller neighborhood parks given the limited amount of large parcels of land. Additionally, there are two existing elementary schools and private neighborhood parks that supplement the lack of community parks.

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## Facilities Analysis

In addition to park land, existing fixed facilities were evaluated against the recommended guidelines set by the NRPA and the MDNR to determine if Oakland Township's facilities are adequate to meet the needs of residents based on national averages. The analysis takes into account a variety of factors including specific needs and existing conditions in Oakland Township, information obtained during the public input opportunities, programming needs, site conditions, as well as national averages. Table 4.2 indicates the recommended guideline and facilities, the number of facilities in the Township, and the surplus or deficiency of facilities. The comments below the table provide further prospective and assist in identifying key issues related to specific facilities.

### **School Facilities**

A number of the facilities included in Table 4.2 are owned by Rochester Community Schools and Lake Orion Community Schools. Schools provide limited hours and access to the general public and do not serve primary parks and recreation functions. National recognized sources suggest that school sites can satisfy only some of the recommended park space.

Rochester Community Schools, for example, rents most of their classroom and athletic facilities at an hourly or daily rate depending on the type of facility requested. Facilities must be reserved in advance, with priority for scheduling the facility set as follows:

- Long term contracts
- District wide programs
- School instructional programs
- District athletic programs
- Enrichment programs
- RARA (Rochester Area Recreational Authority)
- Requests from the general public

Lake Orion employs a slightly different use model, but again priority given to school related activities and organized youth leagues. General users pay a higher rate and are given a lower priority. As a result of these priority structures, casual Oakland Township users may not be able to utilize the facilities. Currently, school sites comprise a small portion of the total park land acreage in the Township, but they account for a significant number of facilities.

There are 100% of the baseball/softball, football, multiple recreation courts, and running tracks located at the schools. Furthermore, 80% of the basketball courts, 67% of the playgrounds, and 43% of the soccer fields are located on school property. Given that a large percentage of the facilities are located on school sites, it is evident that there is a need for additional Township-owned facilities as specifically noted below.

### ***Athletic Fields (Baseball/Softball, Soccer, Football, Running Tracks)***

The different types of athletic fields are specifically discussed below based on recommended and projected need. On average, survey respondents did not indicate a preference for the construction of new facilities.

**Baseball/Softball Fields:** The analysis of the baseball and softball fields in the Township indicates a surplus of two facilities. All of the fields are located at schools. While previous surveys suggested a desire for baseball/softball fields to complement those provided by the schools, the more recent results clearly indicate that Township residents are not interested in pursuing development of these type of facilities.

**Soccer Fields:** According to the national guidelines, there is a significant surplus of five soccer fields in the community. The reality of the numbers is that there has been a considerable increase in the number of youth and adults participating in soccer in not only Oakland Township but the surrounding area and Michigan as a whole. The large numbers of participants results in a large demand for practice and game fields. The soccer fields also experience strain due to their use for other sports' practices and games. Development of large facilities in surrounding communities, particularly in Rochester, may lessen the demand for these features. The Township should continue to monitor the use of the fields at Marsh View Park to determine if there is a continued demand for soccer and other uses. If so, the Township should consider the development of additional fields in the future.

**Football Fields:** The provision of football facilities is met entirely by the school facilities at the present time, as there are no facilities owned by the Township. At this time the school facilities appear to meet the current and expected needs of the community.

**Running Tracks:** The provision of running tracks is met entirely by the school facilities at the present time, as there are no facilities owned by the Township. At this time the school facilities appear to meet the current and expected needs of the community.

### ***Court Sports (Basketball, Tennis, Volleyball)***

The different types of courts are specifically discussed below based on recommended and projected need.

**Basketball:** The basketball courts show a surplus of two courts, but a majority of the courts are located at school facilities. Demand for additional outdoor basketball courts is low, with only 8% of the survey respondents indicating an interest in new facilities.

**Tennis Courts:** There are no public tennis courts located in the Township, thus there is a deficiency of eight courts according to the national guideline. Despite this deficiency, only 14% of the survey respondents indicated a need for tennis courts.

**Volleyball Courts:** The most recent community survey did not specifically list volleyball courts as a development option. According to the NRPA, the need for indoor and outdoor volleyball courts is not being met. Considering the generally apathetic response to construction of other active use facilities, the Township should further gauge public opinion on this topic before construction of any new courts.

**Table 4.2**  
**Park Facility Analysis**

<b>Park Classification</b>	<b>NRPA Guideline</b>	<b>Recommend Facilities</b>	<b>Township Facilities</b>	<b>School Facilities</b>	<b>Regional Facilities</b>	<b>Total Facilities</b>	<b>Surplus / Deficiency</b>
Archery Range	1/50,000	1	1	0	0	1	0
Baseball / Softball	1/5,000	3	0	5	0	5	+ 2
Basketball	1/5,000	3	1	4	0	5	+ 2
Football	1/20,000	1	0	1	0	1	0
Golf Driving Range	1/50,000	1	0	0	1	1	0
Golf Course (9-Hole)	1/25,000	1	0	0	1	1	0
Golf Course (18-Hole)	1/50,000	1	0	0	1	1	0
Ice Rink	Indoor - 1/100,000 Outdoor - climate dependent	Indoor - 1 Outdoor - climate dependent	Outdoor - 1	0	0	Indoor - 0 Outdoor - 1	Indoor - 1 Outdoor - N/A
Multiple Recreation Court	1/10,000	2	0	2	0	2	0
Playground	1/3,000	5	1	4	1	6	+1
Running Track	1/20,000	1	0	1	0	1	0
Soccer	1/10,000	2	4	3	0	7	+5
Swimming Pool	1/20,000	1	0	0	0	0	(1)
Tennis	1/2,000	8	0	0	0	0	(8)
Trails	1 system per region	1	1 system	0	3 systems	4 systems	+ 3 systems
Volleyball	1/5,000	3	0	0	0	0	(3)

Source: Lancaster, R.R, Ed. *Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines*. Alexandria, VA: NRPA, 1983; Mertes, J.D. and J.R. Hall. *Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines*. Alexandria, VA: NRPA, 1995 . Based on 2010 U.S. Census population estimate of 17,990 residents

### **Ice Rinks**

The national guideline reveals that there is a deficiency of one indoor ice rink in the Township. There is one outdoor facility located in the Township, but this does not meet the year-round need in the same way as an indoor facility. This being said, ice rink users frequently travel to neighboring communities to participate in figure skating clubs and hockey teams and many arenas are not self-sustaining financially. The township should consider development of a fixed-location skating facility which could double as a concert venue/amphitheater in warm months.

### **Playgrounds**

Currently a majority of the playgrounds in the Township are located at school facilities, with a surplus of one playground according to the national guideline. There is a need for additional playgrounds at Township facilities, with over 1 in 5 respondents mentioning playground structures as a needed facility. The playgrounds should be ADA accessible and be located throughout the Township to better serve the entire population.

### ***Swimming Pools***

Based on the guideline, the Township is deficient by one swimming pool. There are no public pools located in the Township, and 23% of respondents indicated a desire for a pool. This relatively large response rate is low compared to other usages, however, and considering the high cost of construction and maintenance of such a facility, the Township would better served tabling the issue.

### ***Golf Courses***

The need for driving ranges and 18-hole courses is being met, while there is a deficiency of 9-hole courses according to the national guideline. There is a driving range and 18-hole course at Stony Creek Metropark, and there are a number of existing golf courses throughout the community and in the surrounding areas. At this time there is no need for the Township to pursue additional golf course facilities.

### ***Archery Range***

The need for archery ranges is being met according to the national guideline for the Township. The facilities are slated for expansion as of 2015, and no further development beyond this expansion is necessary.

### ***Trails***

The Township is fortunate to have an abundance of trails and exceed the national guideline for the recommended number of trail systems. Despite exceeding the guideline, trail expansion and development continued to rate very high among survey respondents. Walking and biking trails and fitness trails were the top two results of the survey with 56% and 48% of respondents indicated a desire for further development. Expanded in-park trail systems should be evaluated, and existing paths upgraded to allow for a wider variety of uses.

### ***Nature Center***

The Township's nature center at Lost Lake Nature Park has proven to be very popular, with high usage by elementary school students throughout the school year. Nearly 30% of survey respondents indicated they would like to see either additional nature centers or further development of the center at Lost Lake. The Township should consider expansion of the current facilities or expansion of hours to allow a greater number of residents to utilize the asset.

### ***Passive Recreation***

In addition to active recreation facilities, it is important to those in the Township to continue to provide passive recreation. The majority of respondents mentioned passive use facilities, such as walking trails, as a priority for the Township. A majority of the parks in the Township meet this need, but opportunities to enhance and utilize the natural and open areas should continually be sought. When developing and improving parks it is important to incorporate walking paths, picnic areas, benches, open spaces, and other amenities that further enhance the passive recreation opportunities.

## ***Dog Park***

Development of off-leash dog parks continue to be popular with residents. 28% of respondents indicated a desire for development of such a facility. While several dog parks exist in surrounding communities and another is in development at Addison Oaks, the desire for such a facility “close to home” is clear. The addition of a dog park could help to ease problems related to owners allowing their pets to run off-leash in the existing parks, a problem that was noted by several respondents.

As discussed in the Open House comments, however, residents are concerned about the scale and placement of any facilities. The Township should perform a careful evaluation of their properties to determine the best placement of any dog park facilities. The Township should also work closely with Oakland County in order to create a dog park that meets the needs of residents but is also complementary to a proposed dog park being developed at Addison Oaks. Working together, the two groups can scale their facilities appropriately and avoid duplication of efforts.

## ***Other Facilities***

Other facilities noted during the public input process include an outdoor adventure park with rope course and zipline, new canoe/kayak launches, and additional fishing/observation docks. These facilities should be evaluated for inclusion in future park developments in the Township as they are deemed appropriate.

## ***Land and Amenity Standards Overview***

### ***Land Standards***

Given this outstanding amount of land available in the Township, the Parks and Recreation Commission will focus on future land acquisition that meets one or more of the following requirements:

- Easements or properties that provide trail connections.
- Properties adjacent to existing parks that protect green spaces and natural features.
- Properties with sensitive habitats for the protection of natural areas.

### ***Amenity Standards***

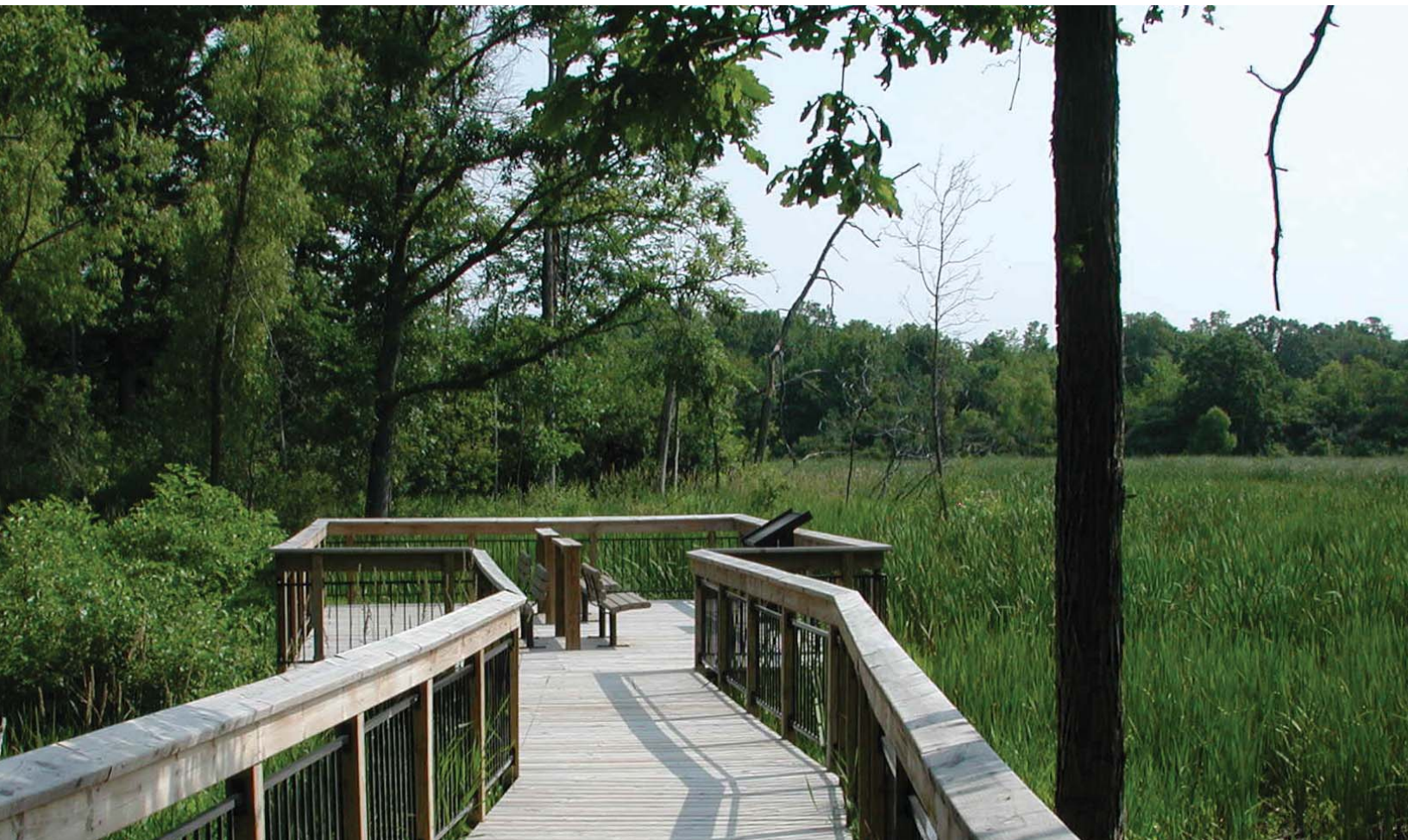
Based on the national guidelines, survey results, and evaluation of current and future facilities improvements the following should be considered in the next five years:

- ***Trails and Pathways:*** The Township should continue to work closely with the Trails and Pathways Committee to develop external trails and pathways. Attention should be paid in particular to connectivity between the parks along the northern edge of the Township. In terms of internal trails and pathways, the Township should provide a better way-finding system (signage, maps, etc.) within the parks, connectivity between trails and facilities, restrooms, drinking fountains, and trash receptacles. Additionally, the needs of bikers, hikers/walkers, cross-country skiers, and horseback riders should be evaluated and appropriate facilities provided to ensure user group compatibility.
- ***Nature Center:*** The Township should continue to evaluate the efficacy of the Lost Lake Nature Center and consider expansion of hours to allow use by a wider variety of residents.
- ***Passive Recreation:*** When developing and improving parks it is important to incorporate walking paths, picnic areas, benches, open spaces, and other amenities that further enhance the passive recreation opportunities.

- **Playgrounds:** There is a need for additional playgrounds at Township facilities which could possibly be included at existing or new facilities as they develop. The playgrounds should be ADA accessible and be located throughout the Township to better serve the entire population.
- **Access:** The Township should continue to provide general access to under-utilized parks.
- **Ice Skating:** The addition of an outdoor ice rink at Marsh View Park reduces the immediate need for skating facilities. The Township should closely monitor use of the rink to determine if the demand for an additional facility exists.

## Chapter 5

# Action Plan



*Figure 5.1 - Bear Creek Nature Park*  
*Source: Johnson Hill Land Ethics Studio*

By incorporating comments and expertise from community members, consultants, and Township Parks staff, and utilizing guidelines from Federal and State sources, Oakland Township has been successful in creating a thorough and comprehensive Master Plan. This Master Plan creates an effective framework for the Action Plan. Extensive historical research, surveys, focus groups, and community interviews have enabled the Township to identify trends and specific community needs. The Action Plan details improvements and enhancements recommended for the Oakland Township Parks system, and identifies tools needed to implement these components.

A key component of the Action Plan, the Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), helps to identify specific projects which may require significant capital outlay on the part of the Township. Implementation of these projects will be affected by numerous factors, including grant awards and general economic conditions. Even so, the projects identified in this Action Plan are distinct, meeting the needs of the community and the visions and goals of the Township itself.

The Action Plan is organized as follows:

- Vision and Mission
- Goals and Strategies
- System Wide Recommendations
- Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan

## *Vision, Mission, and Community Values*

### ***Vision***

The Vision Statement reflects the Park and Recreation Department's core principles and how they are conveyed to the Township's residents:

"Our vision is to provide responsible management and stewardship of our natural resources through quality parks, trails and recreation experiences now and for future generations."

### ***Mission***

The Park and Recreation Department's Mission Statement reflects the overarching goal of the department:

"The Mission of Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Commission is to provide a sustainable system of parks, trails, programs, amenities, and services which create memorable experiences and a sense of place, contributes to the economic value of the Township and preserves the historical and natural heritage of the landscapes for existing and future generations."

### ***Community Values***

Community values elicited during the community input process of the strategic plan and carried over into subsequent Master Plans include:

- Preservation of open space and our natural heritage
- Safe parks and trails
- Quality recreation experiences
- Environmental sustainability and stewardship
- Financial sustainability
- Easy and safe access to parks and trails
- Quality staff
- Open and rural feeling
- Leverage resources through effective partnerships

## *Goals and Strategies*

As part of the 2009 Master Plan, the Parks and Recreation Department developed a 10-year Strategy Matrix to help guide them through the decision making process. The goals and strategies outlined in that original document have been updated to reflect current community values in an effort to provide the best possible framework for future decision making. The Strategy Matrix should be viewed as an organic document, growing and changing as the community itself develops, and therefore should be reviewed and modified periodically as needed. In 2019, at the culmination of the 10-year implementation period, the strategy matrix should be evaluated for significant revision.

## 1.0 PARK LAND

### ***Vision for Parks:***

Our vision for park lands and open space is to provide a variety of parks and trail experiences that are desired by the community for passive and active recreation that supports the community values of accessibility, preservation and safety of their experiences in our parks.”

### ***Goal:***

Achieve the land acquisition and development goals for the Township over the next ten years of which 80% of park lands will be left in a natural preservation state and the remainder to be utilized for trails and general park development.

***Strategy 1.1:*** Adopt the land and amenity standards as outlined in the Master Plan.

- Implement the land and amenity standards over a ten year period in existing and future parks to meet the community’s unmet need for recreation and preservation pursuits.
- Develop design principles and standards for parks to support appropriate recreational needs and available operational money available.
- Develop a way finding system for parks with a signage program that informs the community of the parks that are available for their use and how to access them in the Township.

***Strategy 1.2:*** Seek and/or explore alternatives for funding the developing and operational costs of trails.

- Develop trails sponsorships to help support the operational costs of trails.
- Develop partnership agreements with local park and recreation systems to help develop trails that can connect to their parks and create a system of trails for the Township.

***Strategy 1.3:*** Create trail path standards with various surfaces based on operational costs and in meeting user desires for a quality experience

- Implement trail design and maintenance standards for soft surface and hard crushed rock surfaces.
- Develop a trail signage program and way finding system to access trails within the Township.
- Develop partnerships with neighboring park and recreation, schools, utilities type agencies to develop a regional approach to trail connectivity.

***Strategy 1.4:*** Continue to seek voter approval for the millage to acquire land including development and maintenance costs on an as needed basis.

- Develop capital improvement costs and operational costs for projects planned in the millage levy to evaluate the impact on the park system.
- Seek voter approval for land preservation millage which will be up for renewal in 2020.
- Seek voter approval for park millage which will be up for renewal in 2016.

***Strategy 1.5:*** Develop maintenance standards for developed park areas and the cost to maintain the standard on a yearly basis by acre and type of amenity.

- Seek to share operational costs with permitted users for access to the developed park areas where appropriate.
- Incorporate maintenance costs into program fees where appropriate.
- Establish an environmental sustainability strategy into the daily operations of the Park system.

## 2.0 PROGRAMS

### ***Vision for Programs:***

Our vision for recreation programs services will be to deliver the highest level of program experiences for people of all ages that create positive memories and appreciation for parks and living in Oakland Township.

### ***Goal:***

Develop core recreation services to maximize the Township resources and support other service providers in the region by working together to enable people of all ages to enjoy and participate in recreation opportunities both passive and active.

***Strategy 2.1:*** Confirm core recreation services the Township will be developing over the next five years, i.e. fitness and wellness, special events, family and 50+ adult programs, nature and environmental programs, and special interest clubs.

- Develop a plan for each core service to determine its overall direction, cost and operational impact.
- Pursue online registration capabilities.

***Strategy 2.2:*** Continue to develop new policies for pricing of services, partnership development and earned income development as it applies to recreation programs and services.

- Increase partnerships particularly with schools and sports groups.
- Involve similar providers in a roundtable programming discussion on a regular basis to limit duplication and raise awareness on how each agency operates.
- Explore Paint Creek Cider Mill with Township as a site for special events and programs.

***Strategy 2.3:*** Initiate an active adult launch group to develop the active adult programs working in partnership with public and private entities.

- Create an advisory group of active adults to help develop engaging programming to attract older adults.
- Utilize survey results to help inform programming.

***Strategy 2.4:*** Continue to evaluate staff hours dedicated toward managing core recreation services including fitness and wellness, special events, family and 50+ adult programs, nature and environmental programs, and special interest clubs

- Adequately staff the recreation division to build strong support for each core program

***Strategy 2.5:*** Maximize science and nature education opportunities at Lost Lake Nature Center

- Initiate Partnership with Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve staff to:
  - Increase hours of operation of nature center facility
  - Increase the number and type of nature programs provided to Oakland Township residents
  - Expand programming services offered to additional audiences
  - Assume operational and administrative oversight for the nature center

### 3.0 OPERATIONS AND MANAGEMENT OF PARKS AND FACILITIES

#### ***Vision for Operations and Management:***

Our vision for park and recreation operations and maintenance is to provide the highest level of Operations and Maintenance standards possible within the resources available to meet the community's expectations for clean, safe and well- maintained parks and facilities.

#### ***Goal:***

Establish and implement an Operations and Maintenance management program that addresses maintenance standards for various types of park and recreation amenities to meet the needs of users and increases the value of property for residents living in the Township.

***Strategy 3.1:*** Develop design standards for parks and recreation amenities that support a quality experience within the operational monies available to manage the resource.

- Incorporating natural area management recommendations, establish design principles and standards for planners and architects to follow in the design of parks and recreation amenities.
- Incorporate maintenance management recommendations and establish a capital improvement program that is realistic and achievable

***Strategy 3.2:*** Develop operational standards for parks and recreation amenities that support a quality experience within the operational monies available to manage the resource.

- Create a Maintenance Management Plan that supports established operation standards

***Strategy 3.3:*** Continue to evaluate staff hours dedicated toward maintenance of parks and recreation facilities

- Adequately staff the maintenance division to meet the operational standards established for each park in accordance with the Maintenance Management Plan

### 4.0 FINANCE

#### ***Vision for Finance:***

Our vision for financing Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Department capital and operational costs is to maximize every available resource available to create the finest parks and recreation township system in Oakland County.

#### ***Goal:***

Prioritize funding streams to create options for the Township to access and meet the unmet needs of the community for recreation facilities, parks, and programs for the future.

***Strategy 4.1:*** Develop and implement financial tools to ensure financial performance and sustainability through cost of service analysis for significant operations of the Department.

- Track how the Township will spend its money in the future on parks, recreation facilities and programs.
- Inform the public on the resources available and how the Township will spend its money in the future on parks, recreation facilities and programs.

**Strategy 4.2:** Develop and implement a capital improvement program for the Township that follows what the community desires in the most cost effective manner.

- Prioritize the capital improvements based on cost benefit, greatest impact and operational costs.

**Strategy 4.3:** Develop a parks and trails foundation to help raise dollars for needed capital and operational projects.

- Seek “seed” money from public and private sources to help support the goals and vision of the Master Plan’s capital and operational costs.

**Strategy 4.4:** Designate partnership dollars invested by the Township for partnership groups by seeking consistency in permitting fees based on the level of maintenance required to limit entitlement.

- Develop written partnership agreements with key agencies to ensure fairness and equity is established with performance measures to track results.
- Seek new partnerships to help deliver and manage programs and events.

**Strategy 4.5:** Develop a business plan for the Park and Recreation System in the Township each year on how the Commission will manage itself through cost of services and appropriate pricing, with measurable outcomes for parks, recreation amenities and program services.

- Align the business plan to the strategic master plan to ensure operational and capital dollars are in place to support the programs or facilities being developed.
- Develop a pro-forma on the cash flow of the system to manage to sustainability.
- Develop efficiency practices throughout the system to maximize the Parks and Recreation resources.

## **5.0 NATURAL AREAS STEWARDSHIP**

### ***Vision for Natural Areas Stewardship:***

Our vision for the stewardship of park natural areas is to manage Township Park natural areas with care and attention to creating and maintaining habitats suitable for the highest possible diversity of native plants and animals, and to provide our citizens with quality natural areas close to home.

### ***Goal:***

Implement a stewardship program that manages Township Park natural areas – through invasive plant control, ecological restoration, and active management – in order to maximize the diversity of native plants, animals, and natural communities found here, while facilitating park users’ access to many of these areas.

**Strategy 5.1:** Establish baseline information for all natural areas.

- Prioritize natural areas for initial baseline information inventories.
- Floral, faunal, insect, bird, and herpetological surveys on prioritized natural areas.
- Continue efforts for ecological monitoring through contracts for T & E species; work with MNFI for more in-depth data regarding populations and locations.

**Strategy 5.2:** Incorporate stewardship into park development, trail, and signage design standards.

- Work with Planners to design all new facilities to minimize disruption to natural areas, enhance ecosystem services (storm water management, pollinator abundance, etc.) and maximize usefulness of trails as burn breaks.
- Evaluate all existing trails for effectiveness and possible damage to natural areas connectivity, natural areas function, wetlands, etc.
- Incorporate native species, natural community information, and stewardship into park and trail interpretive signage strategy to create greater awareness and understanding.
- Utilize Park Management and Use Zones to guide development of improvements.

**Strategy 5.3:** Implementation of WHIP grant stewardship efforts

- Implement next Hub efforts, follow up on previous Hub actions

**Strategy 5.4:** Increase community involvement in natural areas protection and stewardship.

- Work with The Stewardship Network, Six Rivers, Parks programming, and others for new volunteer activities and outreach methods.
- Develop partnerships with outside organizations (CRWC, MNFI, MDNR etc.) to carry-out programming. Target mailings to neighbors regarding invasive plant educational opportunities.

**Strategy 5.5:** Explore supplementary funding for long-term stewardship of natural areas.

- Working with other organizations such as Community Foundation, US Fish & Wildlife Service, etc., to secure funding.
- Assess projected funding and compare with projected needs.

**Strategy 5.6:** Coordinate Parks and Recreation Ordinances with the full protection of natural areas.

- Provide stewardship input into ordinance revisions concerning proposed uses in parks with high quality natural areas.

**Strategy 5.7:** Acquisition, protection, and/or management of natural areas adjacent to Township Parks.

- GIS/Ground truth assessment of adjacent natural areas and prioritization for their protection and management.

**Strategy 5.8:** Use conservation easements to protect additional parkland natural areas.

- Prioritize park land for possible application of conservation easements.
- Place the conservation easement initiative on the ballot for Township residents to vote on.

**Strategy 5.9:** Implement natural area management plans.

- Implement and evaluate management plan objectives, staff requirements, and other resources.
- Develop/enhance partnerships with conservation and stewardship organizations such as The Stewardship Network, HCMA, MDNR, MNA, and County Parks to share resources required for natural areas stewardship.
- Restore native vegetation to selective areas of farm lands within Township Parks to protect sensitive habitats.

**Strategy 5.10:** Continue to evaluate staff hours dedicated toward managing natural areas including routine stewardship work, special restoration projects, and stewardship programs.

- Adequately staff the natural areas stewardship division to efficiently implement natural areas management plans, complete special restoration projects, and promote community involvement.

## 6.0 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### ***Vision for Community Engagement:***

Our vision for community engagement is to promote best practices for Oakland Township Parks, Recreation and Natural Areas Stewardship community engagement, marketing and communication within the resources available.

### ***Goal:***

Effectively promote interest in and advocacy for Oakland Township Parks, Recreation and Natural Areas Stewardship activities through the best marketing and communications initiatives and partnering with individuals, community groups and organizations.

***Strategy 6.1:*** Develop a strong volunteer program to help staff in managing events, programs and parks to achieve the outcomes desired and build advocacy for Oakland Township Parks and Recreation.

- Develop a volunteer training and recruitment program for volunteers.
- Establish job descriptions and duties in the park system for volunteers to help deliver services and support staff work in the Township.
- Develop a volunteer recognition program to recognize volunteer efforts in the Township parks and programs.
- Establish funded Volunteer Coordinator position.

***Strategy 6.2:*** Create a stronger marketing and communications effort for the program services offered through Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Commission.

- Improve awareness and branding of programs for the Park and Recreation System to build recognition, advocacy to energize the community to spend time in the parks and enroll in the programs.
- Develop a strong website to inform the community of activities and events upcoming. Include activity calendar and maps.
- Continue to develop marketing efforts to reach various age groups and user groups through various media methods.
- Develop consistent signage, symbols, and park identity.
- Develop pocket maps.
- Provide e-newsletters & e-mail blasts
- Prepare mobile app with virtual township park tour guide and/or trail maps
- Determine if Marketing and Communications needs are best met by staff or contractor and implement that plan.

## 7.0 OPERATION OF PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

### ***Vision for Operation of Parks and Recreation Department:***

Our vision for the operation of the Parks and Recreation Department is to support the Vision and Mission of Oakland Township Parks and Recreation by providing a respectful and supportive work environment that enables employees to contribute at optimum levels.

### ***Goal:***

Develop and implement policies, programs and services in all personnel operations with integrity, responsiveness and sensitivity to employees. Improve efficiency and effectiveness of human resources. Employ methods that enhance service, communications and productivity.

***Strategy 7.1:*** Align the organizational structure with the Strategic Master Plan, considering additional positions for overseeing Community Engagement.

- Establish roles and responsibilities for a Volunteer Coordinator
- Establish roles and responsibilities for a Communications and Marketing Coordinator

***Strategy 7.2:*** Annually evaluate the staffing of each functional area (stewardship, recreation, maintenance, community engagement) to meet operational standards within available funds.

- As necessary, suggest revisions to staffing types, responsibilities and levels
- Reflect any staffing revisions in annual proposed budgets

***Strategy 7.3:*** Develop teamwork and internal communications through ongoing staff meetings, work plans, organizational priority calendars and cross training opportunities.

- Teach and train staff and volunteers on how to communicate with each other in a proactive and productive manner.

***Strategy 7.4:*** Develop a leadership core within the Department focusing on core competencies and training needed to implement the elements of the Strategic Master Plan.

- Document the most significant internal processes that need to be improved.

## *System Wide Recommendations*

The Parks and Recreation Department must continue to evaluate the current system and review long-range options for providing parks and recreation. The Township's Strategic Master Plan outlines a number of recommendations in great detail in addition to those identified throughout the master planning process. The recommendations include the following:

### ***Operations and Maintenance***

- Strengthen the volunteer program by pursuing a paid Volunteer Coordinator position.
- Develop a performance measurement system.
- Develop standards for maintenance, recreation and design of parks.
- Develop cost of service analysis.
- Develop a Commission approved sustainability policy statement.
- Complete a sustainability audit and develop an action plan for improvement.
- Continue to build teamwork and internal communication through staff meetings, workdays, and cross training opportunities.
- Develop leadership as a core competency and use as a succession plan.
- Continue training opportunities, aligned with strategy.
- Improve the employee performance appraisal process.
- Strengthen collaborations and partnerships with other agencies.
- Document the most significant internal processes.

### ***Programs***

- Develop social networking opportunities as a way of increasing park program awareness.
- Re-format the Commission Newsletter, segregating and highlighting programs and events from general information.
- Develop better signage to provide more easy access to all the parks in the system, as a way of increasing park usage.
- Develop online registration capabilities.
- Develop pricing for recreation programs.
- Improve the age segment distribution of program offerings to include more active adult and senior programming.
- Develop a business plan for future recreation program offerings, including concentration on the program areas with the greatest unmet need: adult fitness and wellness programs, special events, 50+ adult programs, general nature/environmental programs, and walking, biking, and running clubs. This should include an identification of space availability for programs.
- Develop an active adult launch group to develop brand and image around active adult programs, working in partnership with OPC.
- Increase staff hours dedicated toward managing recreation programs.
- Increase staff hours dedicated toward a volunteer and partnership program.
- Increase staff hours dedicated toward marketing efforts.
- Use Paint Creek Cider Mill for events and programs.
- Involve similar providers in a roundtable programming discussion on a regular basis.
- Increase the use of partnerships, particularly with the schools.

### ***Land Acquisition***

- Purchase additional property next to Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park along Snell Road.
- Purchase properties with sensitive habitats for the protection of natural areas.
- Purchase additional land adjacent to existing parks where when it protects green spaces and natural features.
- Continue to promote and accept donations of land.
- Acquire land for easements and trails.

### ***Facilities***

- Address barrier-free accessibility where necessary in all of the Township's parks and facilities.
- Provide all required facilities to meet MDNR grant obligations.
- Provide facilities to enhance water access throughout the park system.
- Improve the park and trail systems with amenities such as benches, trash containers, restrooms, drinking fountains, parking, etc. as funds are available.
- Increase maintenance staff as additional facilities are added to the park system.
- Continue to balance active and passive facilities' needs.
- Continue to facilitate planning, design, and implementation in park and trail systems.
- Implement a signage program in the following categories – directional, internal, interpretative, and regulatory.
- Continue to focus on connectivity of external and internal trails to connect facilities.
- Continue to focus on the restoration of natural areas and habitat, native plantings, and invasives management.
- Provide more opportunities for fishing.

### ***Strategic Partnerships***

- Continue collaboration with the all current partners and agencies.
- Seek new partnerships and collaborations with new partners and agencies when appropriate.
- Continue discussions with partner communities to cover gaps in programming.
- Seek collaboration with other agencies on development projects where priorities align.

### ***Natural Areas Stewardship***

- Implementing park-specific natural area management plan recommendations in prioritized order.
- Creation of natural area stewardship management standards dependent upon criteria such as natural area quality and type of threat such as invasive plant population type and density.
- Exploring alternative funding for long-term stewardship of natural areas.
- Developing partnerships with other Commissions, agencies and groups to share the resources required for maintenance of natural areas.
- Developing staffing standards for natural area stewardship tasks – understanding from a cost-benefit perspective which tasks should be performed by staff vs. consultants and that there are adequate resources to do so.
- Development of natural area stewardship volunteer program.
- Education of park neighbors and residents concerning invasive plants and appropriate yard management to support healthy natural areas including appropriate disposal of yard waste and use of fertilizers and pesticides– potential partnering to offer Township residents a local composting site.
- Incorporating natural area stewardship into creation of park and trail design standards to evaluate and correct existing trail systems and plan future trails and development (minimizing disruption to floral and faunal dispersal and maintaining ecological functioning).

- Consideration of conservation easement on existing park properties for future ballot consideration (Charles Ilsley Park, Draper Twin Lake, Gallagher Creek Park, O'Connor Nature Park, Paint Creek Heritage Area-Wet Prairie, Watershed Ridge Park).
- Evaluation of existing land preservation millage intent and funding in comparison to projected needs for long-term stewardship of park natural areas.
- Definition and prioritization of farm field re-vegetation efforts (removing drain tile to restore hydrology, conversion to native plant community).
- Conservation of grassland communities through the protection and stewardship of grassland corridors and hubs.
- Education and coordination of residents to identify and reduce populations of invasive species across the Township and to identify and protect populations of threatened and endangered species across the Township including in the Township parks.
- Acquiring, protecting, managing adjacent natural areas that are shared with park natural areas or connected to parks through use of conservation easements, management agreements or other long-term methods.
- Establishing baseline information concerning plants, mammals, birds, insects, amphibians and reptiles which inhabit our parks, continually updating that information and incorporating into planning and management of natural areas.
- Coordinating parks and recreation ordinance with protection of natural areas, provision of new recreation facilities, and approval/disapproval of proposed park uses.
- Creating greater awareness and understanding of value of natural areas including their animals and plants that we are protecting within parks system (perhaps through interpretive materials including signage as well as programming and demonstration projects).

### *Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan*

This section summarizes the overall system recommendations as well as specific improvements to individual parks. Some are multi-year efforts that will involve time and coordination, while others are park improvements that require largely monetary investment. Table 5.1 – Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan incorporates the top recommendations that require capital improvement in the next five years for planning purposes.

Priorities should be reviewed on an annual basis and adjusted to respond to updated findings and identification of funding opportunities. In particular, costs should be closely monitored, as the proposed plan estimates are in 2009 dollars and are strictly preliminary. Actual costs for each project will be more specifically determined as site surveys, programming elements, and engineering plans are developed if applicable, as well as further analysis of the proposed improvement. If funding levels are lower than required to implement the Plan based on the schedule provided, the implementation could be stretched over additional years.

It should be noted that the CIP is based on the Strategic Plan financial model to ensure that the projects are aligned with the operational and financial realities of the Township's resources and are not simply a pure reflection of community desires. The Township has taken a comprehensive approach of preparing the Strategic Plan and Master Plan together to fully evaluate and prioritize projects based on the cost benefit, impact to the community, and operational costs.

**Table 5.1**  
**Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Est. Cost</b>	<b>Fund Source</b>
2015	System-Wide: Improve signage system - design	\$15,000	PM, LPM
2015	System-Wide: Land Acquisition - due diligence and purchase	\$110,000	LPM
2015	Draper Twin Lake Park: Limestone Path Surface and Drainage Improvements	\$10,000	PM, LPM
2015	Draper Twin Lake Park: Prairie Restoration	\$27,000	LP, USFWS
2015	Gallagher Creek Park: Expanded trail system, playground, and picnic shelter development - Architectural services	\$6,340	PM
2015	Gallagher Creek Park: Expanded trail system, playground, and picnic shelter development - Construction	\$47,400	PM
2015	Paint Creek Junction Park: Orion Road Parking Lot, architectural services and construction	\$124,500	PM, TGF
2015	Marsh View Park: Archery expansion	\$31,345	PM
2015	Marsh View Park: Fields A and D Drainage improvements	TBD	PM
2015	Marsh View Park: Western Parking Lot - Phase I preparation, engineering, and construction	\$283,000	PM
2015	Mill Race Trail: Weir Safety Barrier	\$10,000	PM
2015	Paint Creek Cider Mill: Information Kiosk, Light Fixture, Phone Lines	\$2,100	PM
2015	Watershed Ridge: Trail system and parking lot development - preliminary plans	\$10,000	PM
2015	Undetermined Location: Deer exclosures	\$4,000	LPM
2015	Undetermined Location: Dog Park/Support Facilities - architectural services and construction	\$225,000	PM
2015	Undetermined Location: Equestrian Sand Arena	\$10,000	TBD

<b>Year</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Est. Cost</b>	<b>Fund Source</b>
2016	System-Wide: Improve signage system - fabrication	\$75,000	PM, LPM
2016	System-Wide: Land Acquisition - due diligence and purchase	\$810,000	LPM, MDNR
2016	Bear Creek Nature Park: Expansion and Resurfacing of limestone trails	\$20,000	PM
2016	Blue Heron Environmental Area: Fencing along southern park boundary	\$25,000	PM, LPM
2016	Charles Ilsley Park: Prairie Restoration Parcel 1	\$15,000	LP, USFWS
2016	Draper Twin Lake Park: Prairie Restoration	\$15,000	LPM, USFWS
2016	Paint Creek Trail: Additional parking & restrooms, Gallagher Road parking lot	\$50,000	MNRTF, PM, donations
2016	Watershed Ridge: Trail system and parking development	\$245,000	PM, LPM
2016	Undetermined Location: Deer exclosures	\$4,000	LPM

*Millages/Township Funds:*  
HDM = Historic District Millage  
LPM = Land Preservation Millage  
PM = Parks Millage  
TGF = Township General Fund

*Grants:*  
MDNR = Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR); multiple funding resources including Recreation Improvement Fund (RIF), Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF), Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), and Recreation Passport (RP)

*TE = Transportation Enhancement*  
USFWS = U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

**Table 5.1**  
**Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Est. Cost</b>	<b>Fund Source</b>
2017	System-Wide: Land Acquisition - due diligence and purchase	\$110,000	LPM
2017	Bear Creek Nature Park, Lost Lake Nature Park, Marsh View Park: Restroom facility development & construction - \$52,800/facility	\$158,400	PM, RP, MNRTF
2017	Bear Creek Nature Park: Prairie Restoration	\$12,000	LP, USFWS
2017	Bear Creek Nature Park: Water well and 2 hydrants	\$20,000	PM
2017	Charles Ilsley Park: Prairie Restoration Parcel 2	\$15,000	LP, USFWS
2017	Charles Ilsley Park: Entryway and parking development and construction and trail improvements	\$58,300	PM
2017	Marsh View Park: Playground, sports courts, picnic area, zip line/ adventure course - preliminary plans	\$10,000	PM
2017	Paint Creek Trail: Wayfinding signage	\$10,000	MNRTF, PM, donations
2017	Paint Creek Trail: Interpretive side trails, sites & materials	\$13,000	PM, MDNR
2017	Paint Creek Trail: Side Parcel Acquisition for Parking & Trail Access	\$125,000	PM, MDNR
2016	Paint Creek Trail: Bridge 33.7 Replacement, architectural services and construction	\$525,000	PM, MDNR
2017	Watershed Ridge: Trail system and parking lot development - design/engineering & construction	\$245,000	PM, LP, MDNR
2017	Undetermined Location: Deer exclosures	\$4,000	LPM

<b>Year</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Est. Cost</b>	<b>Fund Source</b>
2018	System-Wide: Land Acquisition - due diligence and purchase	\$110,000	LPM
2018	Bear Creek Nature Park: Prairie Restoration	\$12,000	LP, USFWS
2018	Cranberry Lake Park: 400' Boardwalk and educational dock on Cranberry Lake	\$25,000	PM
2018	Cranberry Lake Park: Expand equestrian trails (clear dirt path), expand southern parking area and include turnaround to allow equestrian trailer parking	\$40,000	PM
2018	Draper Twin Lake Park: Access road to drop-off area for kayak/canoe portage.	\$35,000	PM, LPM
2018	Draper Twin Lake Park: Universally accessible dock for kayaking	\$40,000	PM, LPM
2018	Draper Twin Lake Park: Boardwalk Trail Connection - design/ engineering and construction	\$37,000	PM, LPM
2018	Mill Race Trail: Trail Improvements/Resurfacing	\$2,000	PM
2018	Paint Creek Trail: Limestone Resurfacing	\$182,700	PM
2018	Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park: Access improvements - preliminary plans	\$10,000	LPM

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MDNR = Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR); multiple funding resources including Recreation Improvement Fund (RIF), Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF), Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), and Recreation Passport (RP)

*TE = Transportation Enhancement*  
*USFWS = U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service*

**Table 5.1**  
**Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Est. Cost</b>	<b>Fund Source</b>
2019	System-Wide: Land Acquisition - due diligence and purchase	\$110,000	LPM
2019	Bear Creek Nature Park: Prairie Restoration	\$12,000	LP, USFWS
2019	Lost Lake Nature Park: Green Lake, Tamarack Lake, and Oakview Middle School Trail Construction - site prep and construction	\$23,500	LPM
2019	Marsh View Park: Playground, sports courts, picnic area, trail expansion, zip line/adventure course - Architectural Design and Construction	\$353,000	PM, MDNR, MNRTF, RP
2019	Marsh View Park: Western Parking Lot - Phase II engineering and construction	\$200,000	PM

<b>Year</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Est. Cost</b>	<b>Fund Source</b>
TBD	Bear Creek Nature Park: Connection to Township safety path along Snell Road	\$3,000	TBD
TBD	Blue Heron Environmental Area: Connection to Township Trail system along Rochester and Gunn Roads with ornithologist recommendation	\$5,000	TBD
TBD	Undetermined Location: Amphitheater / Seasonal Ice Rink	TBD	TBD
TBD	Undetermined Location: Kayak locker	TBD	TBD

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LPM = Land Preservation Millage  
PM = Parks Millage  
TGF = Township General Fund

*Grants:*  
MDNR = Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR); multiple funding resources including Recreation Improvement Fund (RIF), Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF), Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), and Recreation Passport (RP)

*TE = Transportation Enhancement*  
USFWS = U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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# Appendix A

## Trails and Pathways Master Plan

This Trails and Pathways Master Plan:

- is an older plan that was originally published on October 26, 2010
- is not a part of the 2015-2019 PRC Master Plan
- is currently under review and will be revised by the Safety Paths and Trails Committee
- is included here as a historical reference.





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# Appendix B

## Community Input

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# Oakland Township Parks and Recreation

Focus Group Study  
September 2014



D. P. BOSTWICK & ASSOCIATES, INC.

## The Oakland Township Experience

### What it is

- Peace
- Quiet
- Wetlands
- Paths
- Wildlife
- Darkness
- Wilderness
- Unpaved Roads
- Agriculture

### What it's not

- City sidewalks
- Office buildings
- Strip malls
- Four-lane roads
- Central shopping districts
- Clear cutting
- Manufacturing
- Gas stations



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# Mission

## The Mission of Oakland Township in the minds of your residents:

- Maintain, protect and enhance the rustic, rural character of Oakland Township
- Facilitate the connection between the land and the community
- Provide both a buffer and an appropriate connection to adjacent communities



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## Activities in our “Rustic” Community

- **Personal Mobility**
  - Hiking, walking, running, biking, horseback riding
- **Recreation**
  - Sledding, ice skating, skateboarding, x-county skiing, snow-shoeing, yoga, fitness/agility training
- **Sport**
  - Soccer, baseball, lacrosse, basketball, golf, disc golf, tennis, archery
- **Subsistence**
  - Hunting, fishing, gardening
- **Art**
  - Painting, photography, crafts, music, poetry, story-telling
- **Nature**
  - Nature study, environmental appreciation, preservation and maintenance
- **Social**
  - Picnics, dog exercise, social gatherings, campfires



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# Fulfilling the mission: Trails

- ✓ Connect me from my residence to the trail safely and conveniently
  - Connections/paths
  - Parking
  - Maps and apps
- ✓ Promote trail sharing etiquette
  - Safety
  - Courtesy/Community
  - Accessibility
  - Education/Awareness
- ✓ Provide for needs along the trail
  - Water/Toilets
  - Trash/Dog waste
  - Signage/information
  - Wide, firm surfaces



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# Fulfilling the mission: Parks

- ✓ Draw the audience “inside” the Parks
  - Provide common identity/symbols/signage
  - Maps and apps
  - Virtual tours on website
  - Personal/Group tours “get to know your parks”
  - Treasure/scavenger hunts
  - Organized “clean-ups”
  - School field trips
- ✓ Use the Parks to make a personal connection
  - Evening programs
  - Campfires/Storytelling
  - Nature Appreciation Programs
  - Painting/Photography outings
  - Craft events – using materials found in parks



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# Fulfilling the mission: Activity

## ✓ Activity-based facilities

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baseball diamonds            | <input type="checkbox"/> Sledding hill                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tennis courts                | <input type="checkbox"/> Kayaking facility              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soccer fields                | <input type="checkbox"/> Expanded hunting opportunities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basketball court             | <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing access                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Equestrian sand arena        | <input type="checkbox"/> Dog exercise area              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor ice skating facility |   |



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# What to avoid

- **Duplicating what is offered in adjacent communities and facilities** such as: Addison Oaks, Rochester, Stoney Creek Metropark, Bald Mountain, etc.
- **Building facilities and programs that require mass participation** such as: RARA, Mass-Market Soccer, Baseball, Tennis, Hockey, Basketball facilities, etc.
- **Mimicking “Urban” park concepts** Instead, provide modern conveniences and amenities in a rustic setting



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# What to Pursue

- Provide facilities, programs and activities that *foster community* and *give residents a chance to belong to a like-minded group, honoring their desire to remain “a world apart”* from typical urban/suburban environments
- *Challenge residents to take part* in the appreciation, preservation and protection of these unique assets
- *Provide means of raising awareness* while providing compelling opportunities for visits to the facilities



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# Audience Breakdown

## Interested but Unaware

Don't know about facilities or programs

## Interested but Too Busy

Not enough time in the day

## Non-Users

## Not Interested

Satisfied with my own plot of land  
Not a parks or activity person

## Needs Met Elsewhere

Needs facilities and programs not appropriate to Township



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# Audience Breakdown

**Destination Point**  
Physical attraction

**Transition Point**  
Pathway to destination outside township

**Users**

**Activity Based**  
Sports, Fitness, Adventure,  
Learning, Nature Appreciation,  
Hunting, Fishing, etc.

**Social Gathering Place**  
Family, Friends, Children,  
Neighbors, Common Interests



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# Audience Breakdown

**Lifestyle**  
Equestrian Groups, Fitness  
Groups, Dog Owner Groups,  
Biking/Running/Hiking Groups,  
etc.

**Advocates**

**Conservation**  
Preservation of Natural, Rural,  
Rustic character of Township



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# Communications: Tailor to Audience

- Those who are interested in parks and programs appreciate the Newsletter approach
- Those who use internet look there for instant information about a specific site or program
- Some who have children expect info to flow through schools
- Those without children will need targeted approach to get them re-engaged (both in media and subject matter)
- Those who are not interested ignore communications – selective perception



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# Thought Starters

- **What types of facilities and amenities are missing?**
  - Ice Skating Facility
  - Equestrian Sand Arena
  - Dog Park
  - Connections from Residence to Trails
  - Baseball diamond
- **What recreation programs are needed?**
  - Evening Programs in Parks (star gazing, campfires, storytelling, music)
  - Trail Etiquette Education
  - Disc Golf
  - Dog Exercise
  - Nature Education Programs
  - Fun/Charity Runs



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# Thought Starters

- **What is attractive about parks outside the township that cannot be found here?**
  - Convenient running/biking/hiking loops
  - Facilities and activities that are not necessarily appropriate to Oakland Township
- **What communications are needed?**
  - Awareness building
  - Interactivity
  - Maps and Apps
  - Audience/Message/Media targeting



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## QUOTES



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## Buffer

“I’m not going to suggest for a minute that the parks are a wasted investment because they do provide that buffer. This is not the country, guys. But this is the closest thing to the country you’re going to get for a long way. And it’s beautiful and I love living here. ..because of the trees, because there’s not a bazillion cars driving by all the time. And I like that. And these parks are part of that buffer. So if I don’t use them, I do, because I use them for that purpose”

*Non-User*



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## Protector

“In the big picture, I just think that Oakland Township has done a great job by preserving open space preventing the suburbs and manufacturing – there are so many more affluent Townships that you can see around the Southeast Michigan area that all they do is go in and clear cut so there’s nothing left. I’ve seen them starting out at Crossroads and within 10 years there’s really nothing left, but closets and suburbs. We’re really blessed to have the opportunity that we’re actively finding more open spaces while preserving open spaces. Just having those there and what we do with them – it’s good to have those. ... It gives a nice borderline to suburbs and homes to have the opportunity to have wildlife in the backyard.”

*Park User*



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## Connector

“In the 27 years that we’ve lived out here probably the gem of everything that they’ve ever done is the way they maintain and keep Paint Creek Trail, because you create something that has... function. You can go on that any time of the week, almost any time of the day when it’s light outside and there will be people. There are people that are cross-country skiing the winter. There are people on horseback, there are people riding bikes. There are people walking, there are people running. There’s always activity, and whether it’s a destination ride to Paint Creek Yacht Club or to the Dairy Queen, or it’s just up and down to get some exercise to just be out communing, they have done a great job on that... Everybody I know that lives out in this area... probably has used that at some point.”

*Non-User*



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## Promote trail sharing etiquette

“If we could have some nice wide trails so if somebody is flying by on their bike, there’s room to get by or if someone’s on a horse or someone is walking – a lot of complaints I hear about the Paint Creek Trail overall is the bike riders are flying... It is a problem because I’ve almost been clipped a-half-a-dozen times by bikers... Saturdays are the worst. When they’re behind you they’ll say, ‘Passing on the left.’ I always say, ‘Thank you for saying that.’ I say it every single time because there are so many who don’t.”

*Park User*



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## Provide for needs along the trail

“I think the trails have always – the places that we’ve been – the trails have been very well-groomed. The parks have always been very, very clean. You’ve never walked up and tried to get a little baggy or something and it’s been empty. The trash is always emptied all the time. I think that for the most part the parking lot areas and bathrooms and all of that have all been very well-maintained. It’s impressive.”

*Park User*



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## Duplicating what is offered in adjacent communities and facilities

“I think there’s opportunity to create something that the other parks don’t have... A rope-climbing course or outdoor adventure type thing. I think there was one that popped up in Troy not long ago, something along that line, just something different. I mean, because like I said, there are parks with the lakes that they’ll go over there for. There are parks that cater to soccer, the baseball diamonds. I don’t know if they have the property in these [Township] parks to do it. But there are other outdoor adventure type things that are popping up.

*Non-User*



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## Building facilities and programs that require mass participation

“To be honest, I appreciate that the Oakland Township is situated where it is. You look at some of the programs that maybe happen just south of here in Rochester. Again, if I want those programs I’ll go there. I couldn’t imagine some of the things that go on in Rochester happening here. It would dramatically change traffic and the feel of this community .”

*Park User*



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## Avoid mimicking the urban park

“But people like more of the wilderness, not so formal parks or anything. They want the outdoorsy feel rather than the lights and they want the gravel maybe more than the pavement. And that’s the impression I get, make it pristine but make it more rugged, I think is what she had said. And that’s the impression I get even in the people in our neighborhood... putting a little fence up. They just wanted a very basic, clean, natural flowers, trees. Don’t put anything artificial in here. Just make it natural. Natural beauty I guess is what I’m saying, and so they have a lot of trails and they have a lot of the nature walks, the butterflies. That’s what they think that people will always want and maybe as time has gone on and you’ve grown and grown and grown, that audience has changed. But a lot of people have moved to Oakland Township to stay in the nature and be close to downtown Rochester.”

*Park User (Empty Nest)*



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## Provide facilities, programs and activities that *foster community*

“A big chunk of us get up and we go somewhere else doing work. When we come home, you know your neighbor, the one to your right and the one to your left, and maybe one across the street, maybe the one behind you, but you don’t know kind of anybody else for the most part outside of your subdivision, and maybe in a lot of cases just the houses that touch you... There aren’t any central places where people would come together and say, ‘It’s Sunday morning, let’s take the dog and go up and throw the ball for the dog.’ There’s going to be the other eight people who always come there on Sunday morning with their cup of coffee and throw it or do yoga.

*Park User*



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## Challenge residents to take part

“I think that would be neat to get more people to go to different parks so they could do some kind of program or activity for kids to come in like at Ludington State Park, if my kids went around and picked up garbage, they would turn in their bag and if it had 10 pieces of garbage in it, they would give them a free ice cream. What if they said, “Come on in kids and sign up. We want you to go to Charles Ilsey,” and they’ll say, “Where is that?” Then you get them out there, maybe they pick up some garbage somewhere, and then turn it back in and they could get a coupon for a kayak rental. ... Yeah, a coupon for a kayak rental or something like that or a scavenger hunt... It could be a summer-long event, so you start out with this card, and you fill in the... Yeah, like the Library Reading Program... Yeah I agree.”

*Park Users*



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*Provide means of raising awareness while providing compelling opportunities for visits to the facilities*

“There was a park near where I grew up and they had a parking lot that was rather big and they flooded it every winter. skating rink in the winter would be great... And they had an ice skating rink. And then they had a little house that you could go in and stuff... It’s interesting, I don’t know if anybody’s ever been down to Detroit to... When they first developed that area they put a skating rink in there, kind of like Rockefeller Center and all, I never thought anybody would go there. It’s amazing how many people go down there. It’s amazing how many people in the suburbs go down.”

*Non-Users*



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## Resident Survey Summary

Based on a sample of 880 people, randomly drawn from a population of approximately 6,000 households, your confidence interval at a 95% confidence level is +/- 3%. The interval at a 99% confidence level is +/- 4%. This means that you can be 95 % confident that, for example, if an answer to your question in the survey is 50% on an issue, the total population would agree at somewhere between 47% and 53% with the survey sample. In the same example, you can be 99% confident that the total population would agree at somewhere between 46% and 54%. Almost all surveys use the 95% confidence level as a standard.

The interval does not decline in proportion to the number of returns. For example, if there were 1,000 returns (17% return rate), the confidence interval would still be 3%. At 1,200 returns, the confidence interval would be 2.5%. If we had achieved a 25% return rate (1,500 returns rather than 880), the confidence interval would still only be 2% rather than the 3% we achieved with your sample.

There were approximately 60 questionnaires that arrived after the survey was cut off which would have increased the total returns to 945 and therefore would have no effect on confidence intervals. One of these questionnaires just arrived yesterday.

The sample for your survey, given the total population being surveyed, was very robust. Any improvement in the return rate within the bounds of probability would not have made any difference in your conclusions based on the data analysis.

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# Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Resident Survey

Final Report  
December 17, 2014



D. P. Bostwick & Associates, Inc.

## The Survey

- **Objective**
  - To quantify opinions among Oakland Township Residents as to the functionality, design, usage, scope and desirability of Oakland Township Parks and Recreation offerings, including recreational programs, as input to Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Master Planning.
- **Methodology**
  - Questionnaires were mailed to all households with registered voters in Oakland Township, randomly addressed to one registered voter per household (5,940 mailed)
  - Respondents were urged to respond by internet survey, if possible. Total returns 880 (67% mail/33% internet)
  - Response rate was 15%

# Executive Summary

- Parks and Program/Events usage has increased since the 2009 survey.
- Opportunities for improvement remain in many areas, including facilities and specific programs.
- Parks and program usage is clearly affected by proximity, although the Paint Creek Trail is almost universally used, regardless of location of residence. This also applies to use of other, non-Township parks and programs adjacent to the Township.
- Communications initiatives are needed to create a higher level of awareness and visibility for both parks and programs. Parks, in particular, need to be consistently identified, emphasizing the theme of natural, rustic venues that offer opportunities for exercise and nature appreciation.

## Executive Summary (continued)

- The most avid users of parks and recreation programs are between 35 and 54, especially those with children in the household.
- Dog Owners represent a significant subset of the population and represent significant demand for designated off-leash dog parks in the Township. In addition, many residents indicated, in verbatim comments, that dogs allowed to go off-leash in existing parks is a deterrent to visiting the parks.
- Those over 55 clearly indicate interest in programs and activities designed for their age group.
- There are significant patterns throughout the data that support the theme of rustic, natural areas and the desire for more convenient access to the parks and facilities through access paths and expanded parking.
- The sledding hill at Lost Lake Nature park and Music in the Meadows have significantly increased park usage. Based on future desires, the ice skating rink should have a similar effect.

Familiarity, Geographics, Demographics, Usage, Lifestyle

## BACKGROUND

### Familiarity with Oakland Township's Park System

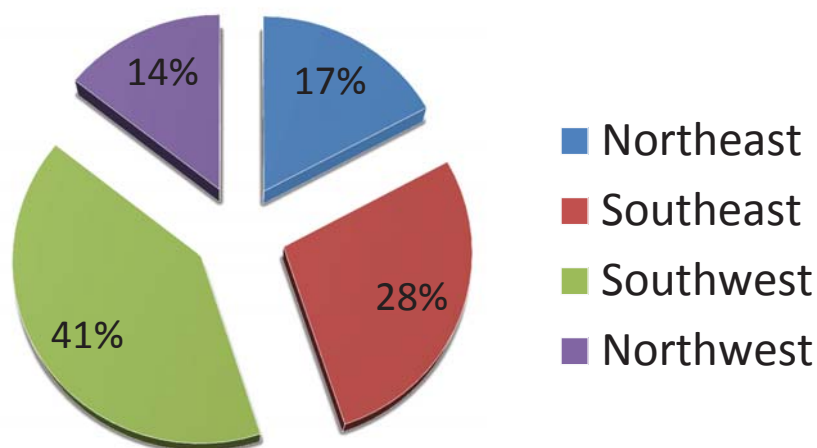
		Age		
	Total Sample	Under 35	35-54	55 & Over
Not at all Familiar	10%	14%	7%	12%
Somewhat Familiar	68%	71%	68%	67%
Very Familiar	<u>22%</u>	<u>16%</u>	<u>26%</u>	<u>21%</u>
	100%	100%	100%	100%

Note that those aged 35-54 are more likely to be very familiar with Oakland Township's park system.

# A Word of Caution in Interpreting Survey Results

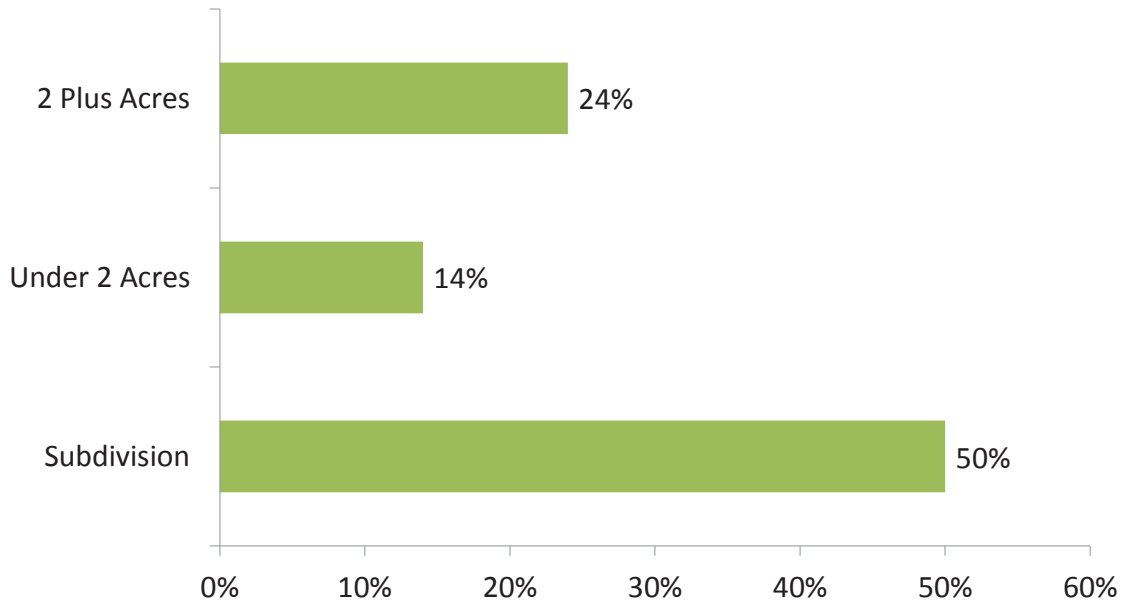
- Although most of the subsamples used in the analysis represent robust sample sizes, the columns marked “Under (age) 35” and “Horse Owner” comprise only 8% and 4% of the sample population, meaning their statistics allow for wide variations when compared with other subsamples. Nonetheless, when their differences are statistically significant, they are highlighted.
- The highlighting scheme employed uses **green** as an indication of significant positive deviation from the mean and **red** a negative deviation. Values that are close to the mean remain posted in black.
- The following graphs illustrate the key demographic and behavioral splits used in the analysis:

## Township Quadrants

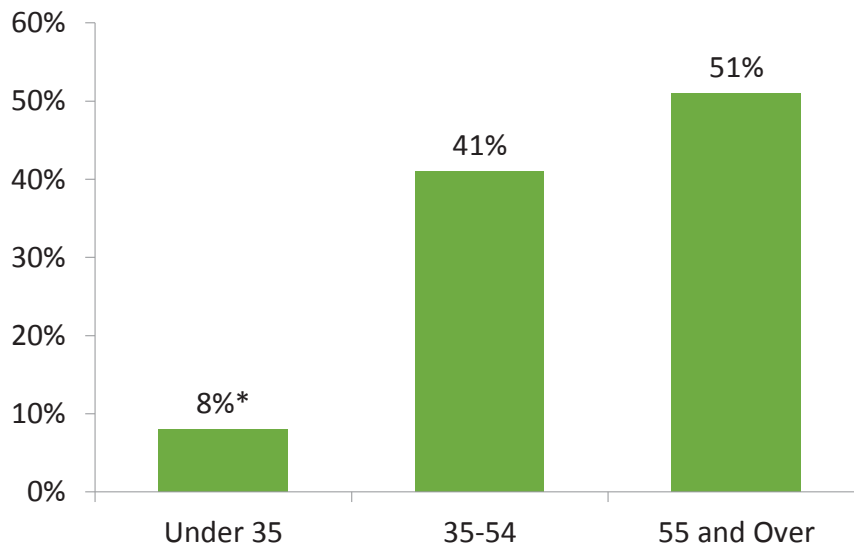


The majority of respondents dwell in the Southwest and Southeast quadrants of the Township.

# Residence Type

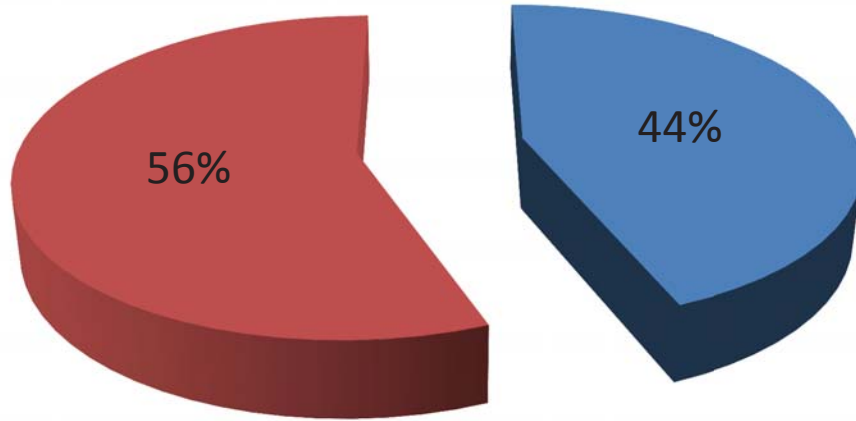


# Age



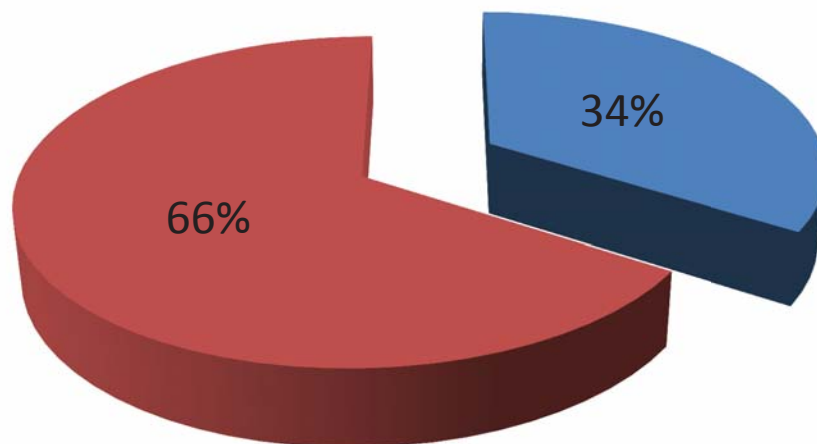
\*(n=53)

## Gender



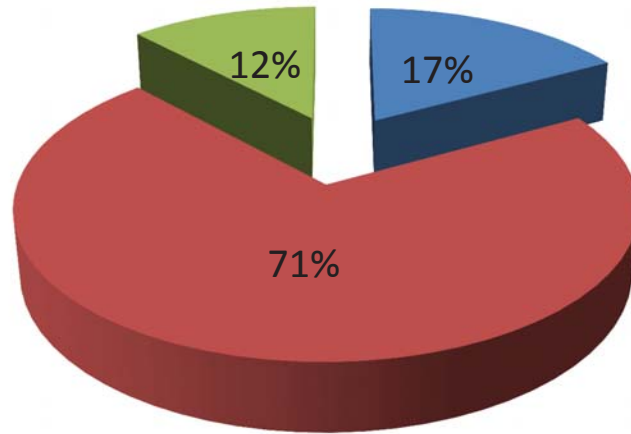
■ Male ■ Female

## Children in Household



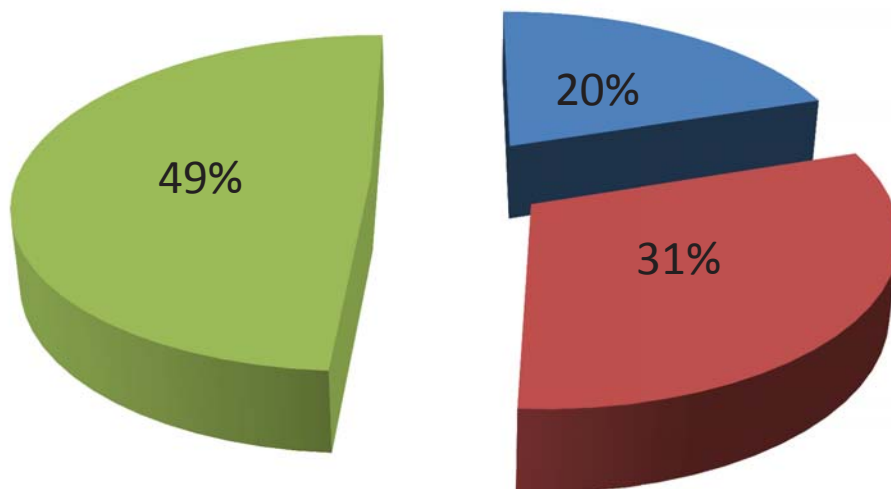
■ With Children ■ Without Children

## Parks Usage (in last year)



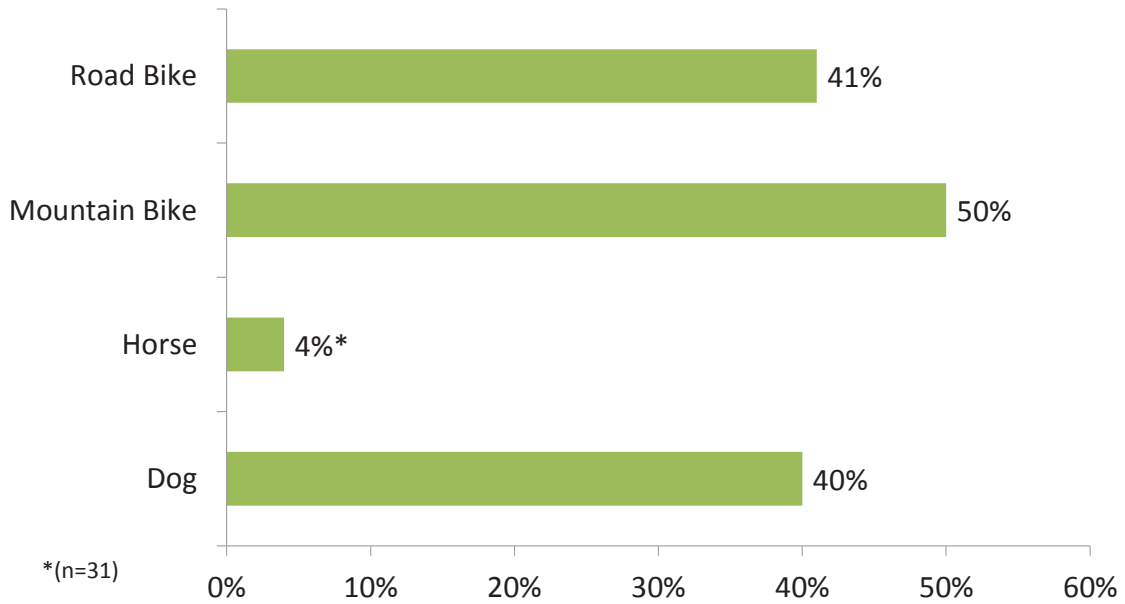
■ Single Park User ■ Multi-Park User ■ Non-Park User

## Rec Program Usage (in last year)



■ Single Rec Program ■ Multi-Rec Program ■ Non-Rec Program

# Lifestyle-Related Ownership



# Lifestyle-Related Ownership

	Total Sample	Gender		Age			Children	
		Male	Female	Under 35	35-54	55 and over	With Children	Without Children
Mountain bike(s)	50%	59%	52%	66%	76%	40%	79%	36%
Sledding equipment	47%	48%	54%	57%	75%	36%	86%	27%
Fishing equipment	44%	52%	43%	40%	59%	40%	59%	36%
Camping equipment	43%	53%	43%	58%	61%	36%	64%	33%
Road bike(s)	41%	43%	46%	47%	50%	40%	51%	36%
Ice skates	40%	42%	46%	49%	58%	34%	61%	30%
Dog(s)	40%	40%	46%	53%	58%	33%	58%	31%
Hiking equipment	31%	40%	29%	53%	44%	26%	41%	27%
Cross-country skis	28%	24%	34%	28%	27%	32%	27%	28%
Hunting equipment	24%	32%	23%	21%	33%	24%	31%	21%
Kayak(s)	17%	18%	17%	23%	24%	15%	22%	14%
Archery equipment	16%	20%	15%	15%	24%	12%	26%	11%
Skateboard(s)	13%	14%	14%	13%	27%	4%	31%	3%
Canoe(s)	8%	11%	7%	6%	8%	9%	9%	8%
Horse(s)	4%	3%	5%	4%	4%	3%	4%	3%
No Answer	15%	6%	10%	2%	1%	13%	1%	22%

## PARKS AND FACILITIES

### Oakland Township Park Usage (Past Year)

	Total Sample	Township Quadrant			
		Northwest	Northeast	Southwest	Southeast
Paint Creek Trail	75%	81%	71%	80%	75%
Bear Creek Nature Park	52%	39%	40%	52%	73%
Lost Lake Nature Park	30%	36%	46%	20%	34%
Cranberry Lake Park, including Historic District	30%	32%	49%	22%	27%
Mill Race Trail, including Historic District	19%	19%	13%	21%	20%
Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park	18%	20%	16%	14%	25%
Paint Creek Heritage Area - Wet Prairie	17%	20%	12%	18%	19%
Marsh View Park	16%	27%	16%	18%	11%
Draper Twin Lake Park	11%	7%	29%	4%	13%
Gallagher Creek Park	11%	9%	5%	16%	8%
Charles Ilsey Park	8%	3%	23%	4%	8%
Blue Heron Environmental Area	7%	7%	4%	6%	9%
Watershed Ridge Park	5%	8%	4%	5%	3%
O'Connor Nature Park	2%	1%	1%	1%	3%
None/No Answer	12%	8%	10%	8%	8%

Paint Creek Trail attracts near universal use while other Park Property usage varies by proximity of residence.

# All Organizations Used for Recreation Activities During Past Year

	Total Sample	Township Quadrant			
		Northwest	Northeast	Southwest	Southeast
Oakland Township Parks and Recreation	53%	57%	61%	52%	58%
State of Michigan Parks (e.g. Bald Mountain)	40%	55%	40%	42%	38%
Oakland County Parks (e.g. Addison Oaks)	40%	48%	53%	40%	38%
Huron Clinton Metroparks (e.g. Stony Creek)	39%	37%	36%	35%	57%
School District facilities	33%	37%	32%	36%	35%
Private clubs (tennis, health, fitness, golf, swim)	28%	24%	26%	32%	32%
Older Persons Commission	27%	27%	27%	25%	33%
Nature Centers	24%	26%	26%	24%	28%
Churches	23%	22%	25%	25%	25%
RARA	19%	14%	18%	22%	22%
Recreation facilities in other communities	18%	15%	19%	20%	19%
Private youth sports leagues	15%	11%	16%	19%	15%
Homeowners association amenities	11%	7%	18%	15%	7%
College recreation facilities	8%	6%	7%	10%	8%
YMCA	7%	5%	4%	12%	5%
Other (please specify)	6%	5%	7%	7%	7%
No Answer	12%	7%	6%	10%	6%

Use of other organizations also reflects the same patterns of proximity as usage of Oakland Township Parks among Oakland residents.

## Park Usage 2014 vs 2009

	2014	2009
Paint Creek Trail	75%	74%
Bear Creek Nature Park	52%	46%
Lost Lake Nature Park	30%	18%
Cranberry Lake Park, including Historic District	30%	14%
Mill Race Trail, including Historic District	19%	9%
Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park	18%	20%
Paint Creek Heritage Area - Wet Prairie	17%	11%
Marsh View Park	16%	5%
Draper Twin Lake Park	11%	9%
Gallagher Creek Park	11%	5%
Charles Ilsey Park	8%	5%
Blue Heron Environmental Area	7%	5%
Watershed Ridge Park	5%	NA
O'Connor Nature Park	2%	NA
None/No Answer	12%	13%

Paint Creek Trail and Bear Creek Nature Park Usage remained high, compared to 2009, while several other facilities posted significant increases.

# Reasons for Using Parks

	Total Sample	Age			Children	
		Under 35	35-54	55 and over	With Children	Without Children
Exercise	75%	77%	83%	75%	80%	73%
Physical attributes or setting	59%	62%	64%	57%	64%	57%
Nature appreciation	53%	53%	57%	52%	55%	52%
Getaway from everyday routine, surroundings and activities	52%	66%	55%	52%	53%	51%
Facilities, such as sled hill, sports fields, picnic areas, playscapes, archery range, trails, docks	43%	51%	59%	34%	62%	33%
Access to natural areas	41%	43%	44%	41%	41%	41%
Pathway to destination elsewhere	26%	43%	31%	20%	30%	24%
Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Programs/events	25%	28%	29%	23%	32%	21%
Family, Friends, Neighborhood or Community gatherings	19%	21%	22%	15%	25%	16%
Nature education	16%	9%	18%	18%	20%	14%
Organized activities/sports	15%	15%	23%	10%	26%	10%
School programs	7%	4%	13%	4%	16%	3%
Other (please specify)	10%	9%	10%	11%	9%	10%
None/No Answer	6%	0%	0%	5%	0%	9%

Exercise is the predominant reason for using the parks, coincident with the Paint Creek Trail being the most popular site. Those under 55 and with children in the household have the most diverse reasons for visiting the parks.

# Reasons for Using Parks

	Total Sample	Parks			Rec Program		
		Single Park User	Multiple Park User	Non-Park User	Single Rec Program	Multiple Rec Programs	Non-Rec Program
Exercise	75%	73%	84%	31%	79%	76%	74%
Physical attributes or setting	59%	40%	70%	22%	63%	69%	51%
Nature appreciation	53%	40%	60%	27%	51%	64%	46%
Getaway from everyday routine, surroundings and activities	52%	38%	60%	27%	54%	54%	50%
Facilities, such as sled hill, sports fields, picnic areas, playscapes, archery range, trails, docks	43%	26%	51%	18%	38%	61%	33%
Access to natural areas	41%	25%	49%	13%	39%	51%	35%
Pathway to destination elsewhere	26%	20%	30%	5%	23%	28%	25%
Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Programs/events	25%	15%	30%	12%	26%	45%	12%
Family, Friends, Neighborhood or Community gatherings	19%	14%	22%	8%	14%	30%	13%
Nature education	16%	8%	20%	8%	14%	29%	10%
Organized activities/sports	15%	8%	19%	3%	12%	27%	9%
School programs	7%	3%	9%	4%	8%	10%	5%
Other (please specify)	10%	10%	11%	4%	9%	10%	10%
None/No Answer	6%	3%	0%	44%	2%	1%	10%

Multiple Park Users find the most reasons to visit the parks, but even those who haven't visited in the past year choose the same top six reasons for visiting.

# Reasons for Using Parks

	Total Sample	Lifestyle Ownership				Residence		
		Dog owner	Horse owner	Mountain bike owner	Road bike owner	Subdivision	2 Acres	2 plus Acres
Exercise	75%	82%	69%	83%	85%	80%	80%	72%
Physical attributes or setting	59%	65%	72%	65%	69%	62%	63%	57%
Nature appreciation	53%	57%	66%	55%	58%	53%	58%	54%
Getaway from everyday routine, surroundings and activities	52%	55%	50%	56%	59%	52%	57%	55%
Facilities, such as sled hill, sports fields, picnic areas, playscapes, archery range, trails, docks	43%	49%	53%	52%	51%	48%	39%	38%
Access to natural areas	41%	46%	53%	45%	50%	39%	49%	44%
Pathway to destination elsewhere	26%	26%	13%	33%	32%	28%	30%	21%
Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Programs/events	25%	27%	34%	28%	29%	26%	21%	28%
Family, Friends, Neighborhood or Community gatherings	19%	21%	31%	19%	21%	19%	23%	20%
Nature education	16%	20%	28%	18%	19%	15%	13%	22%
Organized activities/sports	15%	17%	22%	19%	18%	18%	12%	17%
School programs	7%	8%	6%	10%	9%	10%	8%	3%
Other (please specify)	10%	13%	25%	10%	9%	8%	16%	12%
None/No Answer	6%	1%	0%	1%	1%	3%	4%	3%

# Reasons for Not Using Parks

	Total Sample	Gender		Age			Children	
		Male	Female	Under 35	35-54	55 and over	With Children	Without Children
Lack of leisure time	28%	30%	29%	40%	34%	25%	33%	26%
I do not know the location of parks	26%	23%	29%	32%	36%	19%	37%	20%
Lack of parking	22%	23%	22%	23%	21%	23%	23%	22%
Lack of walking/biking access to parks	21%	24%	20%	26%	22%	21%	23%	21%
Safety concerns	20%	12%	27%	13%	19%	23%	19%	21%
Parks are not well-maintained	16%	17%	16%	11%	18%	15%	17%	16%
Facilities/Amenities not available	16%	13%	18%	8%	19%	15%	20%	14%
I am not familiar with the park system	11%	11%	11%	21%	13%	10%	13%	9%
Appreciate open space without using a park	9%	10%	7%	9%	2%	13%	3%	11%
Rustic in-park trails are too difficult to use	5%	4%	7%	2%	6%	6%	4%	6%
Parks lack the right equipment	5%	5%	5%	8%	5%	5%	7%	4%
Park facilities in other communities better suit my needs	5%	4%	5%	2%	5%	5%	6%	4%
Not interested in using parks	4%	5%	3%	4%	1%	5%	1%	5%
Insufficient staffing or services	3%	3%	4%	4%	4%	3%	3%	3%
Not accessible for people with disabilities	2%	2%	2%	2%	0%	3%	0%	3%
Other (please specify)	12%	13%	12%	9%	11%	14%	11%	12%
None/No Answer	13%	9%	12%	13%	8%	12%	10%	15%

Lack of leisure time, lack of knowledge about park locations, lack of parking and access and safety concerns top the list. Note that Females are twice as concerned about safety compared to males.

# Reasons for Not Using Parks

	Total Sample	Parks			Rec Program		
		Single Park User	Multiple Park User	Non-Park User	Single Rec Program	Multiple Rec Programs	Non-Rec Program
Lack of leisure time	28%	33%	28%	26%	37%	27%	26%
I do not know the location of parks	26%	30%	25%	20%	26%	23%	27%
Lack of parking	22%	18%	25%	13%	30%	21%	20%
Lack of walking/biking access to parks	21%	20%	24%	7%	26%	25%	17%
Safety concerns	20%	26%	21%	6%	20%	18%	22%
Parks are not well-maintained	16%	11%	19%	6%	19%	17%	15%
Facilities/Amenities not available	16%	8%	19%	5%	15%	20%	13%
I am not familiar with the park system	11%	15%	8%	21%	9%	5%	15%
Appreciate open space without using a park	9%	8%	8%	15%	9%	8%	9%
Rustic in-park trails are too difficult to use	5%	5%	6%	4%	6%	7%	5%
Parks lack the right equipment	5%	2%	6%	2%	5%	8%	3%
Park facilities in other communities better suit my needs	5%	5%	5%	2%	7%	6%	3%
Not interested in using parks	4%	8%	1%	13%	2%	2%	6%
Insufficient staffing or services	3%	4%	3%	1%	1%	4%	3%
Not accessible for people with disabilities	2%	1%	2%	4%	2%	4%	1%
Other (please specify)	12%	8%	13%	11%	5%	17%	12%
None/No Answer	13%	10%	11%	32%	10%	12%	15%

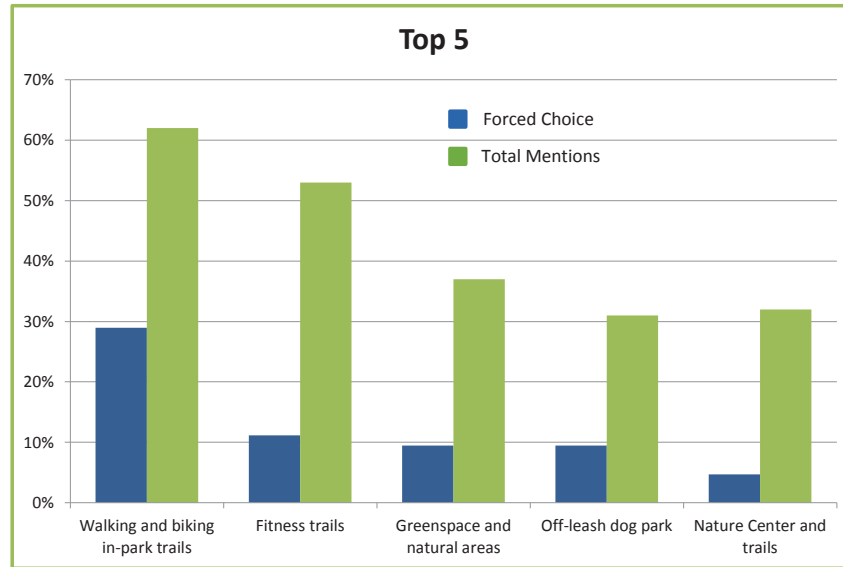
Although Non-Park users respond at lower levels due to general disinterest, their top three reasons for not using the parks are the same as the general population.

# Desired Park Improvements

	Total Sample	Gender		Age			Children	
		Male	Female	Under 35	35-54	55 and over	With Children	Without Children
Restrooms	40%	36%	46%	38%	46%	42%	48%	37%
Well-defined trail access points	26%	23%	31%	25%	28%	29%	31%	24%
Road signs directing to parks	24%	22%	27%	23%	27%	25%	27%	22%
Parking	21%	24%	21%	23%	23%	23%	24%	20%
Benches	20%	17%	24%	21%	19%	23%	20%	20%
Informational/interpretive signs within parks	20%	19%	22%	15%	19%	24%	19%	20%
Drinking fountains	19%	16%	22%	23%	26%	16%	23%	17%
Picnic tables	17%	16%	19%	17%	20%	17%	21%	15%
Groomed park trails for cross-country skiing	16%	14%	20%	13%	18%	19%	20%	14%
Groomed park trails for all-season running	16%	17%	17%	28%	23%	12%	25%	12%
Restoration of natural areas	14%	16%	12%	19%	12%	15%	11%	15%
Hard surface in-park trails	11%	11%	13%	11%	13%	11%	11%	11%
Bike racks	9%	10%	9%	13%	10%	10%	10%	9%
Handicap accessibility (parking, trails)	5%	3%	5%	2%	3%	6%	2%	6%
Hitching posts	2%	1%	3%	4%	2%	2%	1%	3%
Other (please specify)	12%	15%	10%	6%	13%	12%	12%	11%
None/No Answer	16%	13%	14%	8%	10%	15%	9%	20%

Restrooms top the list of desired improvements. Highest needs for improvement are highlighted in red.

# Top 5 Most Needed Facilities (Forced Choice)



## Needed Parks and Rec Facilities

	Total Sample	Gender		Age			Children	
		Male	Female	Under 35	35-54	55 and over	With Children	Without Children
Walking and biking in-park trails	56%	54%	61%	49%	62%	59%	63%	52%
Fitness trails	48%	49%	50%	45%	63%	39%	62%	41%
Winter sledding hills	35%	35%	39%	34%	55%	26%	61%	22%
Outdoor ice skating rink	34%	28%	40%	42%	46%	24%	49%	26%
Greenspace and natural areas	34%	32%	37%	38%	35%	34%	35%	33%
Nature Center and trails	29%	26%	34%	30%	33%	29%	36%	26%
Off-leash dog park	28%	25%	33%	30%	39%	23%	39%	23%
Canoe/kayak launch	27%	28%	28%	32%	37%	21%	38%	21%
Outdoor adventure park (rope course and zipline)	26%	26%	29%	28%	47%	13%	48%	15%
Fishing/Observation docks	25%	29%	24%	28%	31%	22%	33%	21%
Picnic shelters	25%	23%	26%	19%	31%	22%	30%	22%
Swimming pool	23%	18%	27%	34%	34%	17%	36%	16%
Playground structures	21%	18%	26%	30%	30%	16%	36%	14%
Splash park	15%	11%	20%	26%	25%	9%	30%	8%
Tennis courts	14%	13%	15%	17%	21%	9%	22%	10%

# Needed Parks and Rec Facilities

	Total Sample	Parks			Rec Program		
		Single Park User	Multiple Park User	Non-Park User	Single Rec Program	Multiple Rec Programs	Non-Rec Program
Walking and biking in-park trails	56%	53%	62%	24%	61%	61%	50%
Fitness trails	48%	45%	54%	17%	53%	52%	43%
Winter sledding hills	35%	26%	41%	15%	36%	50%	25%
Outdoor ice skating rink	34%	29%	39%	14%	34%	44%	28%
Greenspace and natural areas	34%	19%	40%	16%	37%	40%	28%
Nature Center and trails	29%	19%	35%	8%	33%	39%	21%
Off-leash dog park	28%	22%	33%	9%	32%	32%	24%
Canoe/kayak launch	27%	16%	33%	5%	31%	37%	18%
Outdoor adventure park (rope course and zipline)	26%	16%	32%	6%	23%	36%	21%
Fishing/Observation docks	25%	17%	30%	10%	21%	40%	17%
Picnic shelters	25%	23%	26%	17%	29%	31%	19%
Swimming pool	23%	22%	24%	15%	19%	27%	21%
Playground structures	21%	22%	23%	11%	21%	26%	18%
Splash park	15%	11%	18%	7%	14%	19%	14%
Tennis courts	14%	13%	15%	8%	15%	16%	12%

# Needed Parks and Rec Facilities

	Total Sample	Lifestyle Ownership				Residence		
		Dog Owner	Horse Owner	Mountain Bike Owner	Road Bike Owner	Subdivision	Under 2 Acres	2 Plus Acres
Walking and biking in-park trails	56%	58%	47%	65%	67%	58%	58%	57%
Fitness trails	48%	51%	25%	58%	59%	57%	45%	39%
Winter sledding hills	35%	43%	41%	45%	43%	41%	33%	30%
Outdoor ice skating rink	34%	38%	31%	42%	38%	36%	38%	32%
Greenspace and natural areas	34%	38%	25%	36%	42%	35%	36%	36%
Nature Center and trails	29%	31%	28%	33%	37%	30%	23%	37%
Off-leash dog park	28%	60%	56%	35%	31%	30%	38%	27%
Canoe/kayak launch	27%	32%	28%	34%	34%	27%	28%	30%
Outdoor adventure park (rope course and zipline)	26%	32%	34%	37%	33%	30%	23%	22%
Fishing/Observation docks	25%	28%	25%	31%	26%	23%	30%	30%
Picnic shelters	25%	23%	16%	25%	30%	28%	18%	23%
Swimming pool	23%	26%	16%	28%	26%	25%	23%	20%
Playground structures	21%	21%	9%	25%	23%	23%	20%	21%
Splash park	15%	18%	3%	19%	20%	16%	18%	11%
Tennis courts	14%	17%	9%	17%	17%	16%	16%	12%

# Needed Parks and Rec Facilities

(continued)

	Total Sample	Gender		Age			Children	
		Male	Female	Under 35	35-54	55 and over	With Children	Without Children
Community garden	13%	11%	16%	19%	18%	10%	18%	11%
Archery range	12%	14%	12%	19%	16%	8%	19%	9%
Youth soccer/lacrosse fields	10%	13%	8%	11%	19%	3%	21%	4%
Disc golf	10%	13%	9%	17%	14%	7%	15%	7%
Youth baseball and softball fields	9%	12%	7%	11%	17%	4%	19%	4%
Primitive camping	8%	12%	6%	25%	12%	5%	11%	7%
Expanded hunting opportunities	8%	12%	5%	6%	12%	6%	12%	6%
Outdoor basketball courts	8%	9%	7%	11%	14%	2%	16%	3%
Outdoor pickleball court	7%	6%	6%	6%	4%	9%	5%	7%
Adult soccer/lacrosse fields	6%	9%	5%	13%	11%	3%	12%	4%
Adult softball fields	6%	10%	4%	11%	10%	4%	10%	4%
Horse trails	5%	3%	7%	4%	4%	5%	4%	6%
Skateboarding park	5%	5%	6%	2%	11%	2%	10%	2%
Equestrian sand arena	4%	2%	5%	2%	3%	5%	3%	5%
Other (please specify)	5%	6%	5%	6%	5%	6%	4%	6%
None/No Answer	10%	6%	7%	4%	2%	9%	2%	13%

# Needed Parks and Rec Facilities

(continued)

	Total Sample	Parks			Rec Program		
		Single Park User	Multiple Park User	Non-Park User	Single Rec Program	Multiple Rec Programs	Non-Rec Program
Community garden	13%	10%	15%	7%	15%	18%	10%
Archery range	12%	7%	15%	5%	13%	20%	7%
Youth soccer/lacrosse fields	10%	8%	11%	4%	12%	12%	8%
Disc golf	10%	8%	11%	5%	13%	12%	7%
Youth baseball and softball fields	9%	7%	10%	7%	9%	9%	8%
Primitive camping	8%	5%	10%	2%	9%	15%	4%
Expanded hunting opportunities	8%	3%	10%	6%	7%	13%	6%
Outdoor basketball courts	8%	5%	9%	3%	6%	9%	7%
Outdoor pickleball court	7%	3%	8%	2%	5%	9%	6%
Adult soccer/lacrosse fields	6%	3%	8%	1%	7%	8%	5%
Adult softball fields	6%	4%	7%	3%	5%	8%	6%
Horse trails	5%	4%	6%	1%	2%	10%	3%
Skateboarding park	5%	5%	6%	2%	2%	9%	3%
Equestrian sand arena	4%	3%	5%	1%	1%	8%	3%
Other (please specify)	5%	3%	6%	7%	7%	5%	5%
None/No Answer	10%	9%	5%	40%	3%	2%	17%

# Needed Parks and Rec Facilities

(continued)

	Total Sample	Lifestyle Ownership				Residence		
		Dog owner	Horse owner	Mountain bike owner	Road bike owner	Subdivision	Under 2 Acres	2 plus Acres
Community garden	13%	16%	16%	16%	15%	15%	15%	11%
Archery range	12%	12%	9%	16%	13%	13%	13%	14%
Youth soccer/lacrosse fields	10%	13%	6%	13%	10%	12%	11%	6%
Disc golf	10%	13%	6%	14%	11%	9%	13%	11%
Youth baseball and softball fields	9%	11%	6%	13%	8%	10%	10%	7%
Primitive camping	8%	9%	9%	14%	10%	8%	8%	9%
Expanded hunting opportunities	8%	8%	9%	12%	7%	7%	9%	11%
Outdoor basketball courts	8%	10%	6%	11%	9%	9%	9%	6%
Outdoor pickleball court	7%	8%	16%	6%	7%	7%	5%	7%
Adult soccer/lacrosse fields	6%	8%	3%	8%	8%	8%	7%	2%
Adult softball fields	6%	7%	3%	8%	8%	7%	9%	3%
Horse trails	5%	10%	75%	5%	4%	2%	2%	13%
Skateboarding park	5%	8%	6%	7%	7%	6%	6%	4%
Equestrian sand arena	4%	8%	56%	3%	4%	2%	2%	10%
Other (please specify)	5%	5%	16%	6%	6%	5%	4%	8%
None/No Answer	10%	3%	-	2%	4%	5%	10%	7%

## In-Park Trail Usage

	Total Sample	Gender		Age			Children	
		Male	Female	Under 35	35-54	55 and over	With Children	Without Children
Walking	84%	86%	88%	89%	91%	86%	91%	81%
Nature observation	54%	54%	55%	53%	54%	56%	53%	54%
Family bicycling	51%	52%	54%	57%	69%	41%	74%	39%
Running/Jogging	34%	35%	35%	58%	54%	19%	53%	24%
Mountain biking	21%	25%	18%	21%	32%	13%	29%	17%
Recreation/Transportation biking to a destination outside of a Township Park	16%	20%	13%	30%	20%	12%	21%	13%
Horseback riding	3%	1%	4%	2%	3%	3%	2%	4%
Other (please specify)	8%	6%	9%	4%	5%	11%	4%	10%
No Answer	8%	5%	5%	0%	2%	7%	1%	12%

# In-Park Trail Usage

	Total Sample	Parks			Rec Program		
		Single Park User	Multiple Park User	Non-Park User	Single Rec Program	Multiple Rec Programs	Non-Rec Program
Walking	84%	82%	93%	32%	92%	90%	77%
Nature observation	54%	38%	64%	14%	57%	66%	44%
Family bicycling	51%	40%	60%	12%	51%	63%	43%
Running/Jogging	34%	29%	39%	7%	36%	36%	31%
Mountain biking	21%	14%	26%	2%	24%	27%	16%
Recreation/Transportation biking to a destination outside of a Township Park	16%	14%	19%	2%	14%	19%	15%
Horseback riding	3%	1%	4%	1%	1%	7%	2%
Other (please specify)	8%	5%	8%	13%	9%	8%	8%
No Answer	8%	6%	1%	56%	3%	3%	14%

# In-Park Trail Usage

	Total Sample	Lifestyle Ownership				Residence		
		Dog Owner	Horse Owner	Mountain Bike Owner	Road Bike Owner	Subdivision	Under 2 Acres	2 Plus Acres
Walking	84%	91%	94%	91%	91%	88%	87%	87%
Nature observation	54%	56%	56%	60%	59%	50%	59%	63%
Family bicycling	51%	57%	41%	67%	70%	57%	56%	42%
Running/Jogging	34%	41%	28%	47%	42%	39%	25%	30%
Mountain biking	21%	25%	13%	36%	25%	21%	26%	21%
Recreation/Transportation biking to a destination outside of a Township Park	16%	17%	13%	24%	21%	15%	22%	17%
Horseback riding	3%	6%	53%	2%	1%	1%	1%	6%
Other (please specify)	8%	9%	13%	6%	6%	8%	9%	8%
No Answer	8%	3%	3%	2%	3%	4%	5%	7%

# 3 Greatest Needs

## In-Park Trails and Pathways

	First Mention	Second Mention	Third Mention	Total Mentions
Restrooms	43%	20%	10%	71%
Drinking fountains	13%	15%	11%	37%
Directional signage	13%	14%	11%	35%
Trailhead information kiosks	9%	11%	12%	31%
Trash receptacles	7%	15%	18%	35%
Benches	6%	15%	19%	37%
Mile markers	5%	8%	12%	23%
Bike racks	1%	2%	5%	8%
Other (Please specify)	3%	2%	3%	7%

## Preferred In-Park Trail Treatment

	Total Sample	Gender		Age			Children	
		Male	Female	Under 35	35-54	55 and over	With Children	Without Children
Varies depending on what is appropriate for specific parks	37%	32%	40%	40%	33%	41%	35%	38%
Crushed stone trails (similar to Paint Creek Trail surface)	27%	31%	26%	34%	37%	22%	36%	22%
Rustic trails (woodchip, mowed or packed dirt surface with narrow width)	19%	23%	18%	17%	20%	17%	19%	19%
Trails adhering to ADA accessibility guidelines (asphalt or concrete surface with wider width)	8%	6%	10%	8%	8%	9%	8%	8%
No Answer	10%	8%	6%	2%	2%	9%	2%	14%

# Preferred In-Park Trail Treatment

	Total Sample	Lifestyle Ownership				Residence		
		Dog owner	Horse owner	Mountain bike owner	Road bike owner	Subdivision	Under 2 Acres	2 plus Acres
Varies depending on what is appropriate for specific parks	37%	37%	38%	36%	43%	36%	43%	43%
Crushed stone trails (similar to Paint Creek Trail surface)	27%	29%	19%	35%	28%	33%	23%	22%
Rustic trails (woodchip, mowed or packed dirt surface with narrow width)	19%	23%	41%	18%	19%	19%	17%	22%
Trails adhering to ADA accessibility guidelines (asphalt or concrete surface with wider width)	8%	7%	0%	7%	7%	8%	9%	6%
No Answer	10%	4%	3%	3%	4%	5%	9%	8%

# Preferred In-Park Trail Treatment

	Total Sample	Parks			Rec Program		
		Single Park User	Multiple Park User	Non-Park User	Single Rec Program	Multiple Rec Programs	Non-Rec Program
Varies depending on what is appropriate for specific parks	37%	38%	38%	26%	38%	42%	33%
Crushed stone trails (similar to Paint Creek Trail surface)	27%	28%	30%	7%	34%	26%	24%
Rustic trails (woodchip, mowed or packed dirt surface with narrow width)	19%	18%	20%	12%	19%	23%	16%
Trails adhering to ADA accessibility guidelines (asphalt or concrete surface with wider width)	8%	10%	7%	8%	7%	8%	8%
No Answer	10%	7%	4%	48%	2%	2%	18%

# 3 Most Important Destinations Accessible by Trails and Pathways

	Township Quadrant			
	Northwest	Northeast	Southwest	Southeast
Paint Creek Trail	90%	75%	90%	90%
Parks/Natural Areas	73%	76%	74%	74%
Urban Areas (Rochester, Lake Orion, Romeo)	58%	59%	47%	47%
Residential Neighborhoods	29%	25%	26%	26%
Shopping/Commercial Areas	10%	14%	24%	24%
Schools	15%	11%	11%	11%
Other (Please specify)	4%	7%	6%	6%

Participation, Motivation, Future Needs, Specific Program Interest,  
Appropriateness of Programs and Events

## **PARKS AND RECREATION PROGRAMS AND EVENTS**

# Program/Events Usage (Past Year)

	Total Sample	Gender		Age			Children	
		Male	Female	Under 35	35-54	55 and over	With Children	Without Children
Music in the Meadows concerts at Cranberry Lake and Bear Creek Nature Park	26%	26%	26%	21%	23%	31%	23%	27%
Winter sledding at Lost Lake Nature Park	19%	18%	21%	17%	31%	12%	36%	9%
Goodison Good Tyme at Bear Creek Nature Park	18%	16%	20%	9%	22%	15%	22%	15%
Nature programs at any Oakland Township Park	14%	16%	14%	9%	15%	14%	18%	13%
Free fishing at Lost Lake Nature Park or Draper Twin Lake Park	9%	10%	7%	4%	10%	8%	11%	8%
Winter Carnival at Lost Lake Nature Park	7%	8%	7%	6%	10%	6%	9%	6%
Kayaking at Lost Lake Nature Park or Draper Twin Lake Park	7%	7%	7%	6%	9%	6%	8%	6%
Archery at Marsh View Park	5%	6%	5%	6%	9%	2%	10%	2%
Soccer camp at Marsh View Park	3%	4%	3%	2%	8%	1%	7%	1%
Yoga at Lost Lake Nature Park	2%	2%	2%	6%	3%	1%	3%	1%
Natural Area Stewardship Workdays	1%	2%	1%	-	2%	1%	1%	2%
Basketball at Marsh View Park	1%	1%	2%	-	3%	0%	3%	1%
Hunting at Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park	1%	1%	0%	-	2%	1%	2%	0%
None/No Answer	49%	46%	49%	62%	41%	50%	39%	54%

## Program/Events Usage 2014 vs 2009

	2014	2009
Music in the Meadows concerts at Cranberry Lake and Bear Creek Nature Park	26%	18%
Winter sledding at Lost Lake Nature Park	19%	NA
Goodison Good Tyme at Bear Creek Nature Park	18%	11%
Nature programs at any Oakland Township Park	14%	9%
Free fishing at Lost Lake Nature Park or Draper Twin Lake Park	9%	NA
Winter Carnival at Lost Lake Nature Park	7%	9%
Kayaking at Lost Lake Nature Park or Draper Twin Lake Park	7%	NA
Archery at Marsh View Park	5%	NA
Soccer camp at Marsh View Park	3%	NA
Yoga at Lost Lake Nature Park	2%	NA
Natural Area Stewardship Workdays	1%	2%
Basketball at Marsh View Park	1%	NA
Hunting at Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park	1%	NA
None/No Answer	49%	NA

## Reasons for Participation in Programs/Events

	Total Sample	Gender		Age			Children	
		Male	Female	Under 35	35-54	55 and over	With Children	Without Children
Exercise	64%	62%	71%	68%	78%	60%	76%	57%
Nature appreciation	50%	49%	54%	58%	54%	50%	53%	49%
Physical attributes or settings	47%	45%	51%	47%	56%	47%	55%	44%
Family activities	41%	39%	47%	43%	63%	28%	72%	25%
Hobbies and personal interests	38%	35%	44%	60%	53%	29%	53%	31%
Nature education	28%	26%	31%	28%	28%	29%	33%	26%
Learning	26%	21%	32%	28%	28%	26%	32%	23%
Sense of community	25%	22%	28%	25%	30%	23%	32%	21%
School programs	10%	10%	12%	11%	21%	3%	25%	2%
Other (please specify)	3%	4%	3%	4%	2%	5%	3%	3%
None/No Answer	13%	11%	7%	8%	3%	13%	4%	17%

## Reasons for Non-Participation in Programs/Events

	Total Sample	Rec Program			Parks		
		Single Rec Program	Multiple Rec Programs	Non-Rec Program	Single Park User	Multiple Park User	Non-Park User
Unaware of what is being offered	40%	45%	42%	37%	41%	43%	20%
Lack of leisure time	36%	41%	37%	33%	36%	37%	27%
I do not know the locations of the parks	16%	20%	12%	18%	24%	15%	13%
Not interested in attending programs/events	14%	10%	7%	20%	22%	12%	14%
Preferred program or special event not offered	14%	14%	21%	9%	10%	16%	7%
Insufficient staffing and services	4%	3%	6%	3%	5%	4%	2%
Not accessible for people with disabilities	2%	3%	3%	2%	3%	2%	4%
Prefer to participate in programs in other communities	1%	2%	1%	2%	3%	1%	0%
Other (please specify)	8%	6%	12%	6%	6%	9%	7%
None/No Answer	17%	9%	16%	21%	11%	14%	40%

# Needed Programs

	Total Sample	Gender		Age			Children	
		Male	Female	Under 35	35-54	55 and over	With Children	Without Children
Special Events, i.e. concerts, festivals	47%	44%	53%	58%	58%	44%	60%	41%
Walking, hiking and running clubs	41%	37%	48%	49%	54%	36%	54%	35%
Adult fitness and wellness programs	40%	35%	48%	49%	49%	38%	46%	37%
Nature appreciation programs	34%	33%	37%	36%	34%	36%	35%	33%
Adult programs for 50 years and older	31%	27%	37%	17%	18%	50%	17%	39%
Bicycling clubs	23%	23%	25%	26%	33%	17%	32%	18%
Environmental stewardship, conservation and ecology programs	19%	23%	19%	19%	21%	19%	22%	18%
Adult fine arts and performing arts	17%	13%	20%	23%	17%	19%	15%	18%
Youth sports programs	15%	16%	15%	23%	31%	3%	36%	4%
Youth summer day camp programs	14%	12%	17%	21%	28%	3%	34%	3%
Teen-oriented programs	10%	8%	12%	6%	21%	2%	26%	2%
Preschooler programs	9%	7%	12%	9%	19%	2%	23%	3%
Equestrian club	8%	5%	10%	13%	15%	2%	20%	2%
Programs for persons with special needs	7%	6%	9%	17%	12%	3%	17%	3%
Other (please specify)	4%	3%	5%	6%	4%	4%	4%	4%
None/No Answer	3%	2%	4%	4%	3%	4%	3%	3%

# Needed Programs

	Total Sample	Rec Program			Parks		
		Single Rec Program	Multiple Rec Programs	Non-Rec Program	Single Park User	Multiple Park User	Non-Park User
Special Events, i.e. concerts, festivals	47%	54%	67%	32%	32%	55%	22%
Walking, hiking and running clubs	41%	49%	45%	36%	36%	46%	19%
Adult fitness and wellness programs	40%	38%	48%	36%	40%	43%	22%
Nature appreciation programs	34%	41%	48%	22%	27%	40%	8%
Adult programs for 50 years and older	31%	34%	32%	30%	30%	34%	16%
Bicycling clubs	23%	23%	29%	19%	20%	26%	7%
Environmental stewardship, conservation and ecology programs	19%	21%	30%	12%	14%	23%	6%
Adult fine arts and performing arts	17%	18%	22%	13%	14%	20%	5%
Youth sports programs	15%	15%	20%	12%	14%	17%	2%
Youth summer day camp programs	14%	12%	20%	10%	9%	17%	5%
Teen-oriented programs	10%	7%	16%	7%	8%	12%	2%
Preschooler programs	9%	6%	17%	6%	7%	11%	1%
Equestrian club	8%	6%	13%	5%	5%	9%	1%
Programs for persons with special needs	7%	9%	7%	7%	8%	8%	6%
Other (please specify)	4%	2%	9%	2%	5%	5%	-
None/No Answer	3%	2%	4%	3%	5%	3%	4%

# Needed Programs

	Total Sample	Lifestyle Ownership				Residence		
		Dog owner	Horse owner	Mountain bike owner	Road bike owner	Subdivision	Under 2 Acres	2 plus Acres
Special Events, i.e. concerts, festivals	47%	55%	44%	55%	53%	51%	43%	49%
Walking, hiking and running clubs	41%	49%	25%	50%	49%	46%	41%	39%
Adult fitness and wellness programs	40%	45%	28%	49%	50%	46%	43%	39%
Nature appreciation programs	34%	39%	38%	38%	40%	33%	36%	42%
Adult programs for 50 years and older	31%	31%	38%	29%	34%	33%	27%	38%
Bicycling clubs	23%	26%	9%	34%	32%	26%	22%	22%
Environmental stewardship, conservation and ecology programs	19%	25%	25%	24%	21%	18%	22%	27%
Adult fine arts and performing arts	17%	20%	19%	18%	19%	18%	13%	22%
Youth sports programs	15%	19%	9%	21%	16%	17%	20%	9%
Youth summer day camp programs	14%	16%	9%	20%	16%	16%	17%	9%
Teen-oriented programs	10%	15%	25%	15%	11%	12%	8%	8%
Youth fine arts and performing arts	9%	12%	9%	14%	12%	11%	14%	6%
After school programs	8%	9%	3%	10%	9%	9%	9%	6%
Preschooler programs	7%	7%	0%	9%	8%	7%	11%	6%
Equestrian club	4%	7%	47%	3%	4%	2%	2%	8%
Programs for persons with special needs	3%	2%	3%	2%	4%	4%	4%	1%
Other (please specify)	4%	5%	3%	5%	3%	4%	5%	6%
None/No Answer	15%	7%	19%	7%	9%	9%	20%	12%

# Specific Desired Programs

	Total Sample	Gender		Age			Children	
		Male	Female	Under 35	35-54	55 and over	With Children	Without Children
Local history events in the parks	29%	32%	29%	26%	28%	33%	31%	29%
Wildlife study events	28%	28%	29%	26%	29%	28%	30%	27%
Gardening with native plants, heirloom vegetables and fruits	28%	23%	33%	23%	31%	27%	30%	27%
Stargazing events	28%	25%	32%	36%	37%	23%	38%	22%
Outdoor theatre	24%	22%	27%	26%	34%	20%	35%	19%
Botanical study events	22%	19%	23%	17%	18%	24%	19%	23%
Art and photography events in parks	21%	20%	23%	23%	22%	22%	24%	20%
Know your parks outings	20%	20%	22%	21%	22%	23%	22%	19%
Scavenger and geocache hunts in parks	18%	18%	19%	25%	29%	10%	35%	9%
Crafts events in parks	17%	11%	23%	28%	22%	14%	26%	12%
Supervised campfires with music	15%	11%	19%	15%	25%	9%	28%	8%
Supervised campfires with storytelling	13%	10%	17%	13%	23%	8%	26%	7%
Park clean up events with prizes	13%	12%	15%	21%	20%	8%	21%	9%
Trail etiquette brochures and education events	12%	12%	13%	13%	14%	13%	13%	11%
Other (please specify)	4%	4%	4%	2%	5%	3%	4%	4%
No Answer	23%	20%	21%	15%	13%	24%	14%	27%

# Specific Desired Programs

	Total Sample	Rec Program			Parks		
		Single Rec Program	Multiple Rec Programs	Non-Rec Program	Single Park User	Multiple Park User	Non-Park User
Local history events in the parks	29%	37%	37%	21%	21%	35%	9%
Wildlife study events	28%	35%	41%	17%	18%	34%	11%
Gardening with native plants, heirloom vegetables and fruits	28%	33%	35%	22%	26%	32%	8%
Stargazing events	28%	32%	35%	21%	21%	32%	10%
Outdoor theatre	24%	27%	31%	19%	24%	27%	10%
Botanical study events	22%	20%	31%	16%	18%	25%	8%
Art and photography events in parks	21%	21%	27%	17%	11%	26%	8%
Know your parks outings	20%	31%	24%	13%	17%	23%	9%
Scavenger and geocache hunts in parks	18%	16%	26%	14%	14%	21%	4%
Crafts events in parks	17%	18%	21%	13%	14%	19%	9%
Supervised campfires with music	15%	11%	25%	10%	10%	18%	2%
Supervised campfires with storytelling	13%	13%	19%	9%	12%	15%	3%
Park clean up events with prizes	13%	13%	19%	9%	10%	16%	1%
Trail etiquette brochures and education events	12%	12%	17%	9%	8%	14%	3%
Other (please specify)	4%	2%	5%	4%	5%	3%	6%
No Answer	23%	11%	11%	35%	27%	16%	58%

# Specific Desired Programs

	Total Sample	Lifestyle Ownership				Residence		
		Dog owner	Horse owner	Mountain bike owner	Road bike owner	Subdivision	Under 2 Acres	2 plus Acres
Local history events in the parks	29%	29%	38%	32%	31%	28%	26%	39%
Wildlife study events	28%	31%	34%	32%	33%	26%	33%	36%
Gardening with native plants, heirloom vegetables and fruits	28%	33%	44%	32%	33%	26%	30%	33%
Stargazing events	28%	34%	25%	33%	31%	31%	34%	23%
Outdoor theatre	24%	29%	28%	29%	26%	28%	23%	20%
Botanical study events	22%	25%	34%	23%	23%	18%	22%	30%
Art and photography events in parks	21%	25%	31%	23%	24%	21%	19%	25%
Know your parks outings	20%	22%	16%	22%	24%	22%	16%	21%
Scavenger and geocache hunts in parks	18%	21%	19%	24%	20%	20%	20%	15%
Crafts events in parks	17%	21%	9%	20%	19%	19%	14%	16%
Supervised campfires with music	15%	18%	19%	20%	19%	17%	16%	12%
Supervised campfires with storytelling	13%	16%	16%	17%	14%	16%	11%	12%
Park clean up events with prizes	13%	17%	16%	18%	18%	14%	13%	14%
Trail etiquette brochures and education events	12%	14%	19%	16%	17%	14%	13%	11%
Other (please specify)	4%	4%	3%	5%	4%	5%	3%	5%
No Answer	23%	16%	19%	15%	18%	20%	22%	17%

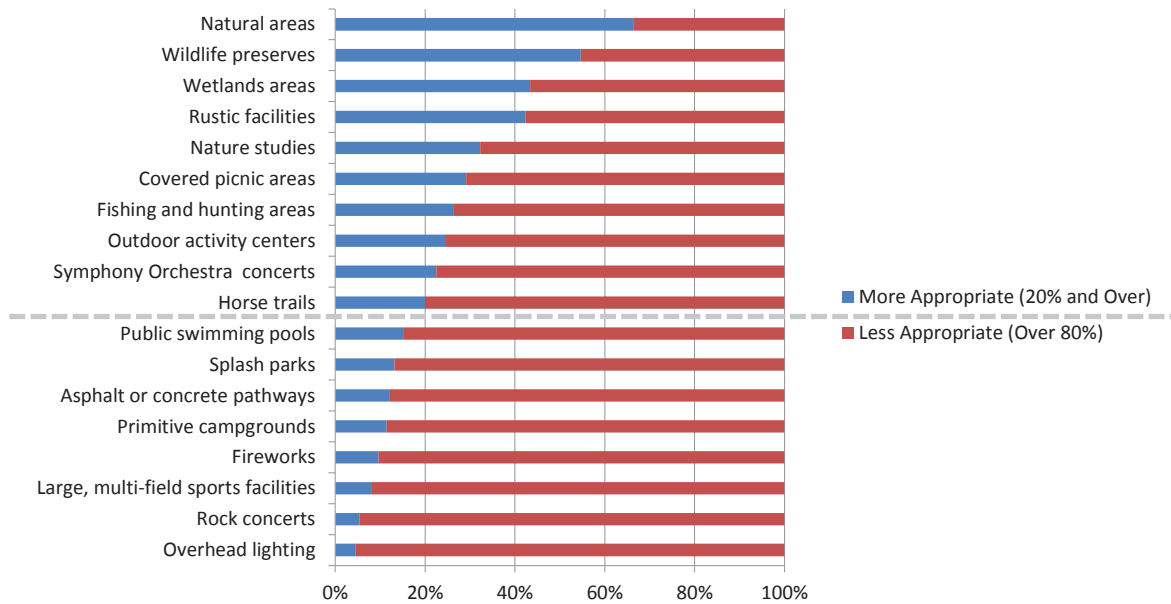
# All Organizations Used for Recreation Activities During Past Year

	Total Sample	Gender		Age			Children	
		Male	Female	Under 35	35-54	55 and over	With Children	Without Children
Oakland Township Parks and Recreation	53%	56%	55%	53%	62%	53%	61%	49%
State of Michigan Parks (e.g. Bald Mountain)	40%	49%	38%	42%	52%	35%	50%	35%
Oakland County Parks (e.g. Addison Oaks)	40%	43%	42%	42%	55%	35%	52%	34%
Huron Clinton Metroparks (e.g. Stony Creek)	39%	46%	38%	53%	52%	35%	50%	34%
School District facilities	33%	35%	36%	42%	55%	21%	64%	18%
Private clubs (tennis, health, fitness, golf, swim)	28%	31%	30%	34%	38%	25%	40%	22%
Older Persons Commission	27%	27%	28%	19%	9%	43%	9%	36%
Nature Centers	24%	24%	27%	21%	29%	24%	29%	22%
Churches	23%	22%	26%	26%	29%	21%	31%	19%
RARA	19%	21%	21%	26%	36%	10%	43%	7%
Recreation facilities in other communities	18%	17%	20%	34%	22%	15%	24%	14%
Private youth sports leagues	15%	18%	16%	13%	34%	5%	37%	3%
Homeowners association amenities	11%	13%	12%	11%	18%	9%	19%	8%
College recreation facilities	8%	10%	7%	21%	11%	5%	12%	6%
YMCA	7%	7%	9%	6%	10%	6%	10%	5%
Other (please specify)	6%	6%	7%	6%	6%	7%	6%	6%
No Answer	12%	9%	6%	8%	4%	9%	4%	17%

## Facilities and Programs More Appropriate for Oakland Township

- The following charts and tables demonstrate that a clear pattern exists demonstrating that “appropriateness” for Oakland Township, according to Township residents, includes “nature, preserves, wildlife, wetlands, rustic, picnic, fishing, hunting, outdoor activity, symphony and horse” as opposed to “lighting, rock music, large multi-field, fireworks, campgrounds, asphalt and concrete.”
- This measure supports the hypothesis identified in the Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Focus Group Study, that Oakland Township is perceived and valued as a natural, quiet, “preserve”, a buffer against noise, traffic, bright lights and massive organized activities.
- Respondents’ preferences for individual facilities and programs supports and reinforces that vision.

# Facilities and Programs More Appropriate for Oakland Township



# Facilities and Programs More Appropriate for Oakland Township

	Total Sample	Gender		Age			Children	
		Male	Female	Under 35	35-54	55 and over	With Children	Without Children
Natural areas	66%	69%	69%	64%	71%	71%	68%	65%
Wildlife preserves	54%	52%	59%	53%	57%	57%	53%	55%
Wetlands areas	43%	45%	45%	45%	45%	45%	41%	44%
Rustic facilities	42%	48%	40%	49%	45%	42%	43%	41%
Nature studies	32%	30%	37%	40%	33%	34%	33%	31%
Covered picnic areas	29%	24%	35%	30%	30%	33%	32%	27%
Fishing and hunting areas	26%	35%	21%	42%	31%	23%	33%	23%
Outdoor activity centers	24%	25%	27%	26%	30%	25%	32%	20%
Symphony Orchestra concerts	22%	18%	28%	19%	18%	30%	20%	23%
Horse trails	20%	16%	24%	26%	22%	19%	23%	18%
Public swimming pools	15%	12%	19%	19%	22%	12%	25%	10%
Splash parks	13%	10%	17%	23%	20%	8%	25%	7%
Asphalt or concrete pathways	12%	11%	15%	15%	12%	14%	12%	12%
Primitive campgrounds	11%	14%	11%	19%	16%	9%	17%	8%
Fireworks	10%	7%	13%	25%	13%	8%	14%	7%
Large, multi-field sports facilities	8%	6%	10%	15%	12%	6%	11%	7%
Rock concerts	5%	5%	6%	8%	6%	6%	5%	5%
Overhead lighting	5%	3%	6%	11%	5%	4%	4%	5%
No Answer	9%	5%	5%	2%	3%	6%	2%	13%

# COMMUNICATIONS

## Ways You Learn About Programs and Events

	Total Sample	Gender		Age			Children	
		Male	Female	Under 35	35-54	55 and over	With Children	Without Children
Parks and Recreation Newsletter	68%	69%	72%	47%	72%	75%	70%	67%
Oakland Township Newsletter	60%	63%	61%	40%	56%	73%	55%	62%
Newspaper articles	37%	30%	44%	38%	35%	43%	35%	38%
Family, friends and neighbors	24%	24%	26%	45%	28%	19%	29%	21%
Oakland Township Website	21%	27%	19%	17%	26%	22%	21%	21%
Special event postcards	15%	10%	19%	13%	21%	12%	20%	12%
Rochester Community Schools Enrichment Program Catalog	15%	8%	22%	19%	26%	8%	32%	6%
Flyers/posters at Parks and Recreation facilities	12%	12%	13%	23%	15%	10%	15%	10%
Social media, blogs, Facebook	8%	6%	9%	17%	12%	4%	12%	5%
Handouts at Oakland Township Park events and programs	8%	6%	9%	8%	8%	8%	9%	7%
Cable access television	2%	2%	2%	4%	1%	3%	1%	3%
Other (please specify)	3%	4%	3%	4%	4%	3%	4%	3%
No Answer	9%	6%	5%	2%	4%	5%	4%	12%

# Ways You Learn About Programs and Events

	Total Sample	Parks			Rec Program		
		Single Park User	Multiple Park User	Non-Park User	Single Rec Program	Multiple Rec Programs	Non-Rec Program
Parks and Recreation Newsletter	68%	53%	77%	40%	79%	84%	53%
Oakland Township Newsletter	60%	53%	64%	43%	65%	68%	52%
Newspaper articles	37%	40%	39%	22%	42%	40%	33%
Family, friends and neighbors	24%	22%	27%	9%	23%	27%	23%
Oakland Township Website	21%	12%	26%	5%	22%	31%	14%
Special event postcards	15%	7%	18%	4%	19%	25%	6%
Rochester Community Schools Enrichment Program Catalog	15%	10%	17%	7%	13%	20%	13%
Flyers/posters at Parks and Recreation facilities	12%	6%	15%	2%	10%	20%	7%
Social media, blogs, Facebook	8%	3%	10%	3%	6%	11%	7%
Handouts at Oakland Township Park events and programs	8%	1%	10%	2%	6%	17%	2%
Cable access television	2%	0%	3%	3%	1%	4%	1%
Other (please specify)	3%	3%	4%	2%	3%	4%	3%
No Answer	9%	10%	4%	39%	3%	2%	16%

## Needed Communications Initiatives

	Total Sample	Gender		Age			Children	
		Male	Female	Under 35	35-54	55 and over	With Children	Without Children
Consistent signage, symbols, park identity	39%	36%	44%	42%	42%	39%	42%	37%
Interactive Parks and Recreation website with active calendar and maps	35%	35%	38%	49%	43%	32%	44%	30%
E-newsletters and email blasts	32%	37%	30%	28%	43%	28%	46%	25%
Pocket maps	28%	30%	29%	32%	26%	31%	24%	30%
Mobile app with virtual township park tour guide or trail maps	26%	31%	27%	36%	38%	21%	40%	20%
Informational/interpretive signage	14%	14%	15%	13%	13%	18%	13%	14%
Laminated maps available on request	10%	9%	11%	6%	10%	12%	9%	11%
Program webcasts/podcasts	3%	4%	2%	2%	3%	3%	2%	3%
Other (please specify)	3%	2%	3%	6%	1%	3%	2%	3%
No Answer	19%	16%	15%	6%	10%	20%	8%	25%

# Needed Communications Initiatives

	Total Sample	Parks			Rec Program		
		Single Park User	Multiple Park User	Non-Park User	Single Rec Program	Multiple Rec Programs	Non-Rec Program
Consistent signage, symbols, park identity	39%	32%	44%	17%	43%	46%	32%
Interactive Parks and Recreation website with active calendar and maps	35%	31%	40%	8%	37%	39%	31%
E-newsletters and email blasts	32%	21%	38%	13%	37%	39%	26%
Pocket maps	28%	25%	30%	18%	27%	33%	25%
Mobile app with virtual township park tour guide or trail maps	26%	23%	30%	8%	27%	34%	21%
Informational/interpretive signage	14%	12%	16%	5%	17%	17%	10%
Laminated maps available on request	10%	12%	10%	11%	10%	15%	8%
Program webcasts/podcasts	3%	1%	4%	-	4%	3%	2%
Other (please specify)	3%	4%	2%	4%	1%	2%	4%
No Answer	19%	25%	12%	56%	13%	9%	29%

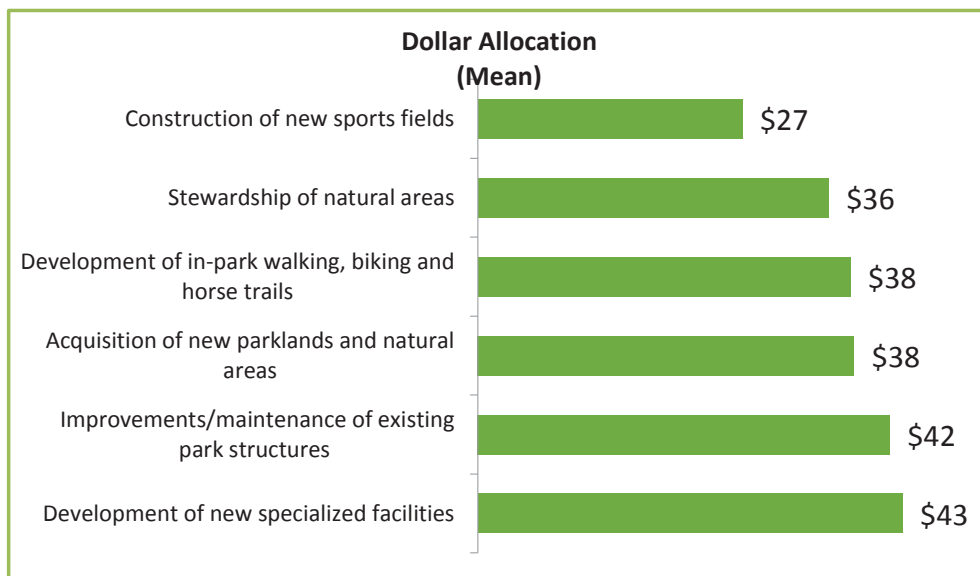
Investment Focus, Reasons to Support Land Acquisition

## RESOURCE ALLOCATION

# Resource Allocation

	Total Sample	Gender		Age			Children	
		Male	Female	Under 35	35-54	55 and over	With Children	Without Children
Improvements/maintenance of existing park structures (playgrounds, picnic shelters, docks, historic buildings, etc.)	\$42	\$40	\$44	\$31	\$39	\$45	\$36	\$45
Acquisition of new parklands and natural areas	\$38	\$38	\$38	\$33	\$34	\$40	\$34	\$41
Construction of new sports fields (softball, soccer, baseball, etc.)	\$27	\$28	\$28	\$24	\$27	\$31	\$29	\$25
Development of in-park walking, biking and horse trails	\$38	\$35	\$42	\$30	\$37	\$41	\$35	\$40
Development of new specialized facilities (splash park, dog park, adventure park, etc.)	\$43	\$36	\$49	\$40	\$48	\$34	\$49	\$36
Stewardship of natural areas (natural area restoration and invasive plant management)	\$36	\$31	\$38	\$25	\$29	\$41	\$26	\$40

# Resource Allocation



# Reasons to Support New Land Acquisition

	Total Sample	Gender		Age			Children	
		Male	Female	Under 35	35-54	55 and over	With Children	Without Children
Land should be acquired for natural area protection (devoting finances to actively protect and maintain the integrity of natural resources)	55%	59%	56%	64%	58%	57%	57%	54%
Land should be acquired for passive recreation usage (for example, trails, picnicking, enjoyment of outdoors)	52%	57%	53%	66%	58%	53%	60%	49%
Land should be acquired for active youth and adult recreation (for example, baseball, soccer, baseball)	23%	25%	24%	40%	32%	18%	34%	17%
Land should be acquired for any reason	17%	14%	19%	19%	18%	16%	17%	17%
No new land should be acquired	14%	18%	12%	2%	13%	17%	10%	16%
No Answer	8%	2%	4%	0%	1%	5%	1%	11%



## Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Resident Survey



D. P. Bostwick & Associates, Inc.

# Summary of Verbatim Comments “Other (Please Specify)”

## Summary of Verbatim Comments “Other (please specify)”

Listed here, summarized by category, are responses to questions in the survey that included an opportunity for respondents to specify, in their own words, choices that were not included in the closed-ended portion of the questions. In many cases, the “other” comments were either redundant to choices already offered or were elaborations on those choices. In other cases, they tend to include choices that were not included in the prepared question.

In one case, illustrated below, the authors of the questionnaire clearly “left out” a popular response (“dog walking”) and a significant number of respondents corrected this oversight by writing it in as an “other” response.

Keep in mind that the “other” responses make up, in most cases, a very small portion of the quantitative sample and do not constitute enough common response to affect the overall conclusions drawn from the data tabulations. For example, a total of eight respondents specifying the same “other” comment on a particular question would only represent 1% of the total sample. They can, however, be useful in providing more detailed clarification to some of the overall findings of the survey, such as when they elaborate in on exactly where they feel a trail connection should be located, citing specific locations by street and intersection.

The comments are presented in their entirety. Spelling errors have been corrected to facilitate understanding of the verbatim comments.

### Q3 Reasons for Visiting Parks (other)

#### Dog Walking

- Walk dog
- Horseback riding, dog walk
- Dog walking
- Exercise horses and dogs
- Dog walks
- Dog walking
- Dog walking
- Dog park
- Dog walking
- Exercise dogs
- Dog walking
- Pet exercise
- Dog walking
- Walk the dog
- Opportunity to walk our dog

- To walk the dog
- Dog walking
- Walk dog
- Exercise dog. Why isn't this on your list? Bear Creek has a dog!
- Open area for dogs
- Walk our dog on her leash
- Walk dog
- Walk dog
- My art group meets at some of these parks and we paint. I also take my dog to some of these parks and trails.
- Walk the dog
- Exercise dogs
- Dog walking
- Trails to walk dog
- Dog walk
- Dog walking
- Dog walking
- Walk dog
- Walk dogs
- Walking dog, snowmobiling

### **Equestrian**

- Horseback riding, dog walk
- Exercise horses
- Equestrian trails
- Horseback riding , running
- Trail riding horses

### **Walking, Running**

- Hike a path for nature enjoyment, fresh air, and exercise
- Like to walk in Stoney Creek Park
- Running and biking
- Running
- Walking the trails
- Horseback riding , running
- Walking

### **Biking**

- Cross country skiing, biking
- Hard bike trails
- Bicycling and cross country skiing
- Bike path
- Running and biking

- I link the parks on my mountain bike rides.

### **Hunting, Fishing**

- Hunting if made available
- Fish
- Fishing
- Fishing
- fishing
- Hunting and fishing
- Fishing

### **Nature**

- Birding
- Camping
- More guided tours on trails
- birding
- For the quiet and peaceful surroundings
- Wildlife viewing
- Peace with nature
- birding
- Geocache

### **Painting, Photography, Writing**

- Take pictures
- Painting outdoors
- My art group meets at some of these parks and we paint. I also take my dog to some of these parks and trails.
- Writing, lyrical composition

### **Snow Sports**

- Walking dog, snowmobiling
- Cross country skiing, biking
- Bicycling and cross country skiing
- Snowshoeing

### **Kids, Family**

- Going out with kids, play
- Need more picnic areas
- With grandkids
- Playground and ducks for grandkids

### **Adjacent to property**

- backs up to our property
- Home contiguous to Blue Heron Park

- Easy access vi my subdivision

### **Concerts**

- Blue Grass show, other music shows
- Concerts

### **Destinations, Events**

- Santa breakfast
- Visit historic resources
- Addison oaks
- Goodison good Tyme!!
- Paint creek cider mill

### **Miscellaneous**

- Seeing what our tax dollars pay for.
- Eagle Scout projects

## Q4 Reasons for Discouraging Use (other)

### Access, Proximity

- Lack of safe access via my horse
- Lack of trails/pathways connecting/linking different parks together
- Need bike path from subdivision to p.c. trail
- No sidewalks in oak twp. Dangerous to walk need to lower speed limits!
- Like the ones closer to home.
- Our property abuts the Paint Creek Trail--- it is so convenient--- I am on it at least twice a day
- Like the parks I do use close to home
- I get everything I need from Bear Creek without driving
- Hard to get to on bike or running due heavy traveled streets. Not plowed during winter.
- People adjacent to park consider property as their own
- Inability to get kayaks to twin lakes
- Can't access paint creek trail easily from Adams rd. Dutton lake Orion rd. access
- Pathway to destination unsafe
- More than five minutes' drive from my house
- Proximity to Bald Mountain
- Closer to Rochester Hills Park (I live at Brewski & Dutton)
- Staying closer to home
- Going to nice state park instead which also are right here.
- They are on dirt roads (ruins our cars)

### Dogs

- Dogs not on leash
- Unleashed dogs running loose
- Walk dogs off lease at Cranberry Lake Park. I know your insurance requires leashes but if you were to "enforce" it I would go to State Park instead.
- Dog owners who have dogs off leash
- Dogs off leash
- People do not have dogs on a leash. My dog has been attacked. Lack of rest room facility. Too many deer
- Loose dogs
- People with dogs don't clean up their feces
- Need a dog park
- Dog restrictions
- Dogs must be on leash, even in remote parks
- Lack of dog park, travel to Lake Orion minimum of 3-4 times per week
- Dogs cannot run free.
- Dogs not on leashes
- Not dog friendly
- Pet friendly
- Nowhere to play with dogs off leash
- No enforcement of leash laws

## **Age**

- In our 80s, do not have use for the parks
- Old age, 82 years old
- Age; am concerned about being too far from house alone
- Kids getting older
- Age 80's
- Elderly
- We are over 70, we have no young children
- Health

## **Facilities, Amenities**

- We only use water activities or playgrounds
- Lack of restrooms, un-groomed cross-country ski trails
- No tables or shady area
- They don't offer anything like the Rochester parks do.
- Watershed Ridge has no in park trails
- People do not have dogs on a leash. My dog has been attacked. Lack of rest room facility. Too many deer
- Need new playscapes. Stoney Creek Metro Park is a great example. Water play park.
- Need more bathrooms strategically located
- Need regular bathrooms, not porta-potties
- Not enough activities, ice rink
- Bathrooms, marsh view
- Lack of bathrooms
- Lack of programs that interest me
- No hunting allowed
- Hunting park

## **Maintenance**

- Unkempt restrooms
- Snow too deep in winter
- Wood chip trails not maintained
- Parking lot poorly maintained

## **Unaware**

- Lack of trail signage and park land boundaries identification
- Parks are not well marked with signs
- facilities, amenities unknown
- Just don't even know where they all are. Comfortable with the ones we do use.
- Insufficient signage/directions
- No signs to identify parks from private property.

### **No Reason**

- None of these apply.
- Not discouraged at all
- None of the above
- None of the above apply to the parks at the time
- Never discouraged
- None
- No reason not to use
- None they're excellent
- No reasons
- I have none
- None of the Above
- I find nothing bad about our parks
- None
- I am not discouraged

### **Disinterest**

- Not that interested
- Laziness
- I have my own acreage to appreciate nature
- Never consider it
- Already live in park like setting

### **Safety**

- Safety
- Lack of security

### **Overcrowded**

- Overcrowded
- Non-residents allowed
- Over used by non-residents

### **Miscellaneous**

- Work many hours to be able to afford house and property taxes in Oakland township
- Board of Trustees, interference. [A Township Official] is constantly disparaging the parks.
- I like that the open space is maintained and available even if I don't go.
- I find the parks I have visited suit the needs and abilities I possess to use them. They also meet the needs on the occasional visits of my family from other areas. They are a wonderful asset to the twp. And are well maintained.
- Ticks

- Busy

## Q5 Improvements (other)

### Trails, Connections, Access, Functionality

- Access to get to trail via bike
- Add access path on Adams Rd south of Paint Creek Trail. People walk or bike the dangerous hill to the school.
- Sidewalk access to Paint Creek Trail, access from Adams Rd
- More trails and paths
- Groomed park trails for fat bike riding. See what is happening in the Traverse area with that. Vasa Pathway for fat biking in
- Snow shoe trails/ areas
- Connecting trails and paths. Need crosswalk at Collins and Orion roads.
- Trail system linking parks
- Need path from sub to trail
- Trails that lead to the parks if you want to run to the trail heads or bike to them.
- Snowmobile/ATV trails
- More trails
- Creating walking/biking access to parks. To get to any of the parks, an individual typically has to load their bike in a car and
- Please groom the Paint Creek Trail for winter walking/running
- Mountain point creek trail even surface, bathroom, clean up fallen trees
- Paving of Paint Creek Trail
- Bike trails separate from hiking trails
- Pave the roads that get you there
- Improve bike trails
- Snowmobiling permitted
- Trails for snowshoeing
- Snow shoeing
- Twin lakes too difficult to use get kayaks to water
- More kayak access and lockers for kayaks
- Some type of separating berm? From adjacent and owners

### Signage

- Directional signs in the park
- Entrance to Park Signs.
- Mileage signs
- Clear trail marks - mile markers, arrows, etc.
- Signage must be low key
- Something (sign?) For horse owners to pick up horse droppings on trails
- More info on natural history along trails
- Signs pick up after horses dogs

### Dog Park

- Dog park
- Need dog park

- Dog friendly enclosed park!
- I would love a dog run area
- Dog park
- We need a dog park
- SIGNS ON TRAIL :No Loose Dogs" like in Bear Creek
- Dog off leash area
- Dog park & horse/skating rinks
- Dog park

### **Kids**

- more playscapes
- Playground
- trees & play ground
- playground structures for kids
- Playgrounds
- Upgrading of playscapes, parks with a water feature
- Other activities such as ball parks, swings, slides climbing structure(for Kids)
- Children's actives, grills, benches etc., bicycle path
- We need a sprinkler pad or splash park

### **Physical Conveniences**

- More trash cans along trail.
- Few more garbage cans at key points
- Restrooms on Paint Creek Trail
- Water along Paint Creek Trail to drink like a cooler
- Drinking fountains past September

### **Security**

- Security presence from time to time
- Safety
- Safety for pedestrians on Paint Creek Trail bikes go too fast
- Enforcement of leash laws
- More police presence

### **Hunting and Fishing**

- Hunting seasons
- Hunting access at some of the parks
- Fishing piers
- Stock more fish
- No hunting in parks

### **Parking**

- Parking at Marsh View
- well maintained parking lots - no mud or potholes; trails without ruts and waterlogged portions

### **Communications**

- Maps of pts, of interest in each park with facilities
- Educate me on parks and resources available

### **Miscellaneous**

- Cut lawn Islay Park, use for RC park
- pickleball courts
- Water in mill race
- More farm land like Bowers Farm

### **Nothing Needed**

- I only and infrequently enjoy Bear Creek it is fine
- Perfect way it is
- The parks we have used adequately suit my needs and those of my visiting family
- Parks used suit needs adequately
- None
- Leave them natural!
- Leave them natural!
- Leave as is-no tax increase
- Happy with parks i visit
- Great as is
- None, stop sending
- No more improvements
- None
- None
- None
- Already over done
- None
- None needed
- Ok with current status
- Can't give a blanket answer. I'd like to address each park separately.
- Too many parks

### **Don't Know/Don't Care**

- Don't know area
- Not able to give an opinion at this time since not seeing them.
- Don't know, parks well enough
- I don't care about these parks

## Q6 Needed Facilities (other)

### Trails

- Biking trails
- None at this time since golf, biking and other activities occupy my time.
- More MTB trails. We have the land for it.
- We love to bike and walk on P.C. trail, use 90% of time, not parks
- Hard bike trails
- hard surface on trails for roller blading
- Roller Blade
- Move some of the rocks at Paint Creek Trail
- Groomed running trails in the winter on the Paint Creek Trail.
- all season running trails that are groomed
- Indicators of degree of difficulty on trails as far as walking, biking, etc.

### Motorized Recreation

- ATV Trails
- 4 wheeling routes, off road driving
- snowmobiling areas
- Swimming in lake, snowmobiling

### Snow Sports

- cross country ski trails
- Cross country skiing
- Cross country ski trails
- Snow shoe trails
- 

### Equestrian

- Equestrian arena could be used for ice rink in the winter
- horse trails separate from walking; more natural area-unimproved

### Miscellaneous Activities

- Volleyball court
- Children playground with swings and slides
- Shooting range, although others in area
- Deer (Doe Only)
- Ice skating, hockey
- Place for kites, high ground no trees. Look at field across the street from Folgers
- RC flying park
- Berry picking
- Something like RARA or right to RARA without extra fees

- Toboggan
- Volleyball Courts
- Splash park would be great
- use historic resources

**Nothing Needed**

- I would like minimal development
- none
- None
- None
- All these cost money no tax increase leave as is
- None
- No need
- None
- None
- No need

## Q8 Trails and Pathway Use within Parks (other)

### Dog Exercise

- dog exercise
- Dog walking
- Dog walking
- Dog walking
- dog walking
- pet exercise
- Walking the dog
- Dog walking
- Drawing and painting nature. Walking my dog.
- Walk the dog
- Dog exercise
- off-leash dog park
- Dog walking
- Dog walks
- Walking our dog
- Dog walking
- Dog walking
- Dog walking
- Dog walking
- Walk our dog

### Snow Sports

- snowshoeing/x-country skiing
- Cross country skiing
- Cross country skiing
- Snowshoeing
- Snow shoeing, X country skiing
- cross country skiing & snow shoes
- Cross-country skiing
- X country skiing
- Cross country skiing
- Cross country skiing

### Kids

- Playground
- Playground for grandkids
- Play structures

## **Fishing**

- Access to Fishing
- only once for fishing(free event set up)
- fishing

## **Art, Photography**

- Plein Air landscape painting
- Drawing and painting nature. Walking my dog.
- Art, painting, Plein Air
- Photography

## **Nature**

- Astronomical observing
- Nature tours
- birding
- Geocache

## **Music**

- Summer music programs
- summer music programs

## **Family**

- family gatherings
- Picnicking

## **Miscellaneous**

- visit historic resources
- Carriage driving
- Bike to town
- Paddle boating
- kayaking
- Taking a break from riding
- Snowmobiling
- use only Paint Creek Trail

## **None**

- Don't use right now
- don't use
- we don't use the parks
- Don't currently use
- None

- None
- None
- Do not currently use.
- None
- None
- Do not use
- None
- Don't use at this time
- None

## **Q11 Destinations Requiring Access by Trails and Pathways within Parks (other)**

### **Main Roads**

- The pathways should continue alongside Adams Road, north of Gunn Road, towards Paint Creek Trail. Also alongside Silver Bell Road, east of Brewster, towards Paint Creek Trail. Also along Gunn from Adams towards Paint Creek Trail. Also along Kern from Dutton to Paint Creek Trail and along Dutton from Kern to Paint Creek Trail.
- need sidewalk or trail on Adams road from delta Kelly to stoney creek, it is extremely unsafe area for bikes and pedestrians to be along with hi speed traffic
- Direct access off a main road
- Walking access to trails. Gallagher Rd is dangerous!
- It was really stupid that the township refused to install the Adams Road bicycle path to the PCT. I have lost all confidence in the ability of the board to discern the best use of recreational/safety funding.

### **Town, Meals, Schools**

- would be nice to get from Paint Creek trail to LOHS
- Bike or hike to town
- breakfast or lunch destinations accessing via the paint creek trail on bikes
- A close 4th would be access for the kids to walk/bike to school.
- Cider mills
- Cider mills and small cafes
- Cider Mill

### **Other Trails**

- Other Trail Connectors
- Other: Would like existing trails/natural areas to connect with other existing trails/natural areas.
- Links to other trails - Clinton River, Polly Ann

### **Nature, Water**

- Scenic areas
- Natural areas
- Water features
- Ponds
- The whole point of parks & trails is not to go shopping. Access to water & a bench is still the most desired.
- Access to water features

### **Parking**

- Parking so we can get to and from the trails.
- Automobile

### **Outside Parks**

- Stoney Creek Park

- Addison Oaks (done)
- Stoney Creek Metro Park is the park we utilize most.

### **Miscellaneous**

- Clean restrooms
- Being able to loop around by using the trails. Not just there and back.
- Private fitness
- We need many safe bike routes all around the township!
- This seems more like a safety path and trails question than a Parks & Rec question.

### **No Destination**

- Trails are for walking or biking. They do not need to go to any commercialized nonsense.
- There does not need to be specific destinations. Do not commercialize or open opportunity for outsiders to access the parks.
- None
- None, no trails/paths outside of parks
- None
- none
- None No Need
- have no other reason
- none
- For the next question 12 I often go to state land at the end of Adams to go paddle boating and take my kids to 2 spots on state land for sledding. Save are money for better projects!

## Q13 Reasons for Participating in Programs or Events (other)

### Life Stage

- Now Married - Spend time together nicely that way.
- Senior Activity Programs
- Probably none, we're becoming elderly
- Have not participated but plan to in the future
- Did not participate yet
- Age & interest

### Teen Organizations

- Volunteer Opportunities
- Girl Scout Badge Earning Programs
- Girl and Boy Scouts
- teenagers riding Paint Creek Trail to Rochester

### Dog Exercise

- Dog walking
- Dog park

### Kids

- Activities for toddlers
- Children's classes

### Music in the Park

- Would love to get to the music in the park---summer schedule is so busy
- Enjoyment of activity as in music in the meadows

### Miscellaneous

- Landscape painting
- Fishing/hunting
- Cross country skiing
- Biking
- High quality events at low cost
- snowmobiling

### No need

- No need to participate
- None
- None

- None
- None
- None
- Don't need programs.
- We do not need sponsored programs

## Q14 Reasons for Non-Participation in Programs or Events (other)

### Scheduling Conflicts

- not available when program is presented
- The times for Children's activities are too early in the afternoon for my child. Please consider times for all children and the school districts in the township, not just Rochester.
- Time conflict with other activities
- Wrong time/place
- schedule conflict
- Busy schedule, conflict with events offered
- Timing
- Not in Oakland Township during summer months
- Some events fill up to quickly
- Just freewheeling. We're spontaneous
- Just hadn't thought of it - or thought of it too late.

### Life Stage

- No kids
- We don't have children at home so we are not motivated to participate. We do our own thing now.
- Little interest due to age
- Would like more events for active 50 somethings!
- No programs for seniors or for senior volunteers
- Prefer more programs in our Township for young kids and families not available when my kids were younger. 99% of the times we visit a park it is not for a program or special event. Proper facilities for public use like trails, picnic area and park development
- Not physically able
- don't use parks

### Safety Concerns

- Safety
- Safety, I am a widow
- Many parks deserted, afraid to walk or bike alone
- Not safe if you are alone
- In Shelby Twp., I left a Park setting not feeling safe due to an occurrence. Safety Needed!

### Access

- Very little offered for people w/ disabilities RARA does much better job responding to this need
- Restriction to entrance for carriage
- They are on dirt roads
- Lack of pathways to trails

### Use other locations

- We're very involved in other locations
- Again state land is right here to use, we are very lucky to have it here work, together if you want more.
- Except for visiting, my children and their families have access to like programs in their communities
- We go to Rochester parks Muni etc. since they offer more.

### **Unaware**

- Need more advertisement
- I didn't know the programs existed but probably wouldn't have time to go anyway.
- Don't think to check for activities
- Poor Communication regarding locations and events

### **Limited Offerings**

- Limited hunting opportunities
- Would like more bow hunting opportunities
- I would like to see more park concerts of the kind now offered.
- How about a dog park with weekly training from somebody local?
- No dog park

### **Health Concerns**

- Mosquitos for the night time concerts
- Severe bug allergies

### **Not Discouraged**

- I'm not discouraged; need to attend more events.
- Plan to attend in the future

### **Cost/Budget Concerns**

- Cost, natural areas should be left as natural: city people should stay in the city if they want skate parks, tennis courts, paved trails etc.
- archery program expensive
- Tax reduction

### **Miscellaneous**

- Park employees not knowing local laws and regulations. This not wanting us to return.
- Marsh Park soccer fields are not accessible to public!!
- Watershed Ridge parks which is closest to us lacks general use amenities like playground, picnic area and proper trails
- non-residents allowed
- leave the area to kayak
- Park neighbors treat property as theirs
- [A Township official's] presence
- No/dirty restrooms

- Too crowded
- Laziness

**No Reason**

- None
- None of the above
- None
- None
- No reason
- None
- None
- None
- None apply.

## Q15 Needed Nature, Sports and Recreation Programs (other)

### Nature

- Phragmite control program
- How to identify important flora in the woods
- Birding

### Hunting and Fishing

- Angler Club/Fishing
- Hunters for hungry/ take a kid hunting
- Hunting

### Life Stage

- Youth Sports programs for benefit of the families in the township with young kids. Our kids are grown and gone but we had a great youth sports program in Shelby before we moved to Oakland Twp.
- Would like children playground with swings slides etc.
- Grandparent/Grandchild Programs
- adult sports
- Splash park
- boy scouts

### Individual Hobbies/Activities

- Gardening
- Tennis
- Photography
- Swimming as therapeutic
- Teaching opportunities for seniors
- RARA without added fees
- X country skiing

### Dog Park

- off-leash dog walking
- Make an RC park and dog park
- Dog park

### Motorized Activities

- snowmobiling
- ATV Club

### Miscellaneous

- HORSE DROPPING NEEDS TO BE OFF TRAILS
- THESE SHOULD NOT BE THE DUTY OF OUR COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT
- I AM GLAD OAKLAND TOWNSHIP OFFERS SO MANY NICE PROGRAMS TO THE COMMUNITY

**None**

- None
- None
- None
- Do not need organized activities
- None needed
- None
- No programs needed
- No needs
- None
- None
- No need
- No clubs

## Q17 Needed Specific Programs (other)

### Nature

- Mushrooms
- More birdwatching events
- Protecting/preserving flora on our own wood lot
- Habitat restoration - volunteer

### Kids

- Kid stuff
- Easter egg hunt, day with Santa
- Take a kid hunting, youth hunting programs
- Bike Clinics

### Dogs

- Dog training
- Lessons for people who walk dogs

### Various Activities

- Kite flying
- Farming
- Fishing activities
- 5k and 10k races
- RC flying parks
- Ice hockey rink(s) - awesome idea! fire pits, warming areas, hockey games, figure skating fun

### Miscellaneous

- Deer control
- City water
- On line Parks and Trails maps including condition, severity and multiple uses allowed.
- Have equal access to RARA for youth programs
- You omitted item# 10 in question # 18.
- Should be offered by the private sector
- All sound good, just need time
- Programs and activities that will not raise my taxes.

### None

- None of the above
- none
- None
- None

- None
- Nothing specific
- None
- No needs
- None
- No need

## Q19 Ways You Learn about Programs and Activities (other)

### email

- For other activities, e-mail reminders are awesome. I'm not aware if I can sign up for them or if that is an option with the parks and recreation department.
- email
- emails
- email
- Email and ability to sign up on the web
- Emails/blasts
- e-mail newsletter
- Email blast
- Emails

### Signage

- Sign and paint Creek Cider Mill
- Signage on roads for concerts
- Yard signs

### Township

- Chart Township of Oakland booklet
- Oakland Twp. Meetings
- Mailings from dept.

### Newspapers

- Rochester Post
- Newspaper
- Articles in local papers

### Blog

- Oakland Township Sentinel
- Oakland Twp. Sentinel

### Unaware

- I don't really read about your programs
- Don't know much about programs available
- Not sure

### Word of Mouth

- My step father used to be a supervisor at Addison Oaks
- Gossip

## Miscellaneous

- Stopping while driving
- No response to 20
- Did not circle

## Q21 Needed Communications Initiatives (other)

### Mailings

- Township newsletter
- More mailed newsletters
- Mailings with programs available
- township newsletter
- We have no computer so like newsletters

### Maps

- Google Map the trails so a resident with a cell phone can see where they are and how far it is to get back with existing park trails shown
- Where do you park to access Bub park

### Social Media

- social media
- Facebook page announcing upcoming events

### Newspaper

- Rochester Post paper
- Rochester Post paper

### Miscellaneous

- Ability to sign up for events via a website
- Text
- survey too long

### None

- none
- none
- None
- None, save the money
- None
- None
- None- Dislike signs
- None

## Q23 Funds Allocation (other)

### Swimming Pool

- Community swimming pools
- Development of swimming pool
- Swimming pool for Oakland Twp. residents
- Swimming pool, safety signage along PCT for speeding bikers
- Pool
- Pool
- Public Swimming Pool

### Hunting, Fishing

- Hunting
- Expanded hunting opportunities
- Fish planting in Paint Creek
- Fishing opportunities - buy access to water and stock ponds
- Hunting/Fishing improvements and stocking

### Connecting Trails

- Connecting trails
- Creating walking/biking access to parks
- New safety trails allowing access to existing
- Path/park connector trails
- Connect the trails that we already have.
- 50 maintenance of existing bike paths and 50 sidewalks to the Paint Creek Trail accessing Silver Bell and Dutton
- Connecting parks to one another via trails
- Connect parks and trails
- Trails to connect parks to each other, schools, other area destinations. I would like to see our community become more bike friendly.
- Adams Rd bike trail, Delta-Kelly School to Paint Creek Trail
- For pathway along Gallagher to Paint Creek Trail
- Reinstate bike path from Delta Kelly to Paint Creek Trail
- Useful sidewalks along main roads so that we can use the Paint Creek Trail
- Creating walking/biking access to parks

### Trail Function, Maintenance

- Snowmobile trails Tennis courts
- X country ski-grooming/trails
- 50 maintenance of existing bike paths and 50 sidewalks to the Paint Creek Trail accessing Silver Bell and Dutton
- Handicap accessible

- Groom Paint Creek Trail for winter use
- Maintain a regular resurfacing of Paint Creek Trail
- Widening trail
- groomed x-country ski trails
- Restrooms, improve 'rustic' trails
- Separate trails for bikers versus hikers
- 30% of the money should go towards development new park land for safe passive use, in park trails, picnic areas, restrooms, and playgrounds for families to want to go to the parks together.
- Always welcome an expansion of the parks area and stop the suburban sprawl. Also, would like to see parts of Paint Creek Trail hard surfaced for roller blading

### **Restrooms, Drinking Fountains, Water**

- Restrooms
- Improving restrooms
- City water
- Restrooms, improve 'rustic' trails
- 30% of the money should go towards development new park land for safe passive use, in park trails, picnic areas, restrooms, and playgrounds for families to want to go to the parks together.
- Drinking fountains on Paint Creek Trail!
- More drinking fountains

### **Give back to taxpayers**

- Give it back to the taxpayer
- Return to the tax payers
- Save the money
- Give back to taxpayers
- I'd keep money for myself, too many parks!
- I would spend on animal's food/vet expenses or gas-food-heating bill
- We spend enough on parks only few have time to access. Spend no more! The majority of citizenry doesn't use parks.

### **Parking**

- Gunn Road parking for Bear Creek
- Improved parking, signage(so we know were the parks are) and more children's playgrounds
- Passive use development of Watershed Ridge and Blue Heron Gravel Trails, Picnic areas, playgrounds and parking.

### **Roads**

- Fix roads
- Paving road they are on

### **Signage**

- Improved parking, signage(so we know were the parks are) and more children's playgrounds

- Much better signage directing to parks.
- Signage
- Interpretive signage
- Signs to let you know where you are in park? Location

### **Skating Rink, Tennis Courts, Pickleball Park, Rope Course**

- Outdoor ice skating rink
- Pickleball park
- Outdoor skating rink
- Rope course/zipline
- Snowmobile trails Tennis courts

### **Picnic Areas, Playgrounds**

- picnic area development and shade trees and maintenance
- 30% of the money should go towards development new park land for safe passive use, in park trails, picnic areas, restrooms, and playgrounds for families to want to go to the parks together.
- Improved parking, signage(so we know where the parks are) and more children's playgrounds
- Passive use development of Watershed Ridge and Blue Heron Gravel Trails, Picnic areas, playgrounds and parking.
- Picnic areas with grills

### **Safety, Security**

- Pay a cop to ticket a person whose dog is not on a leash.
- Swimming pool, safety signage along PCT for speeding bikers
- Security devices
- Safety when walking or biking

### **Activities**

- Kites for specialized area
- Provide classes that are in high demand, like bird watching.
- Bring activities to Oak Park!!
- Restore mill race
- Gardening programs

### **Miscellaneous**

- Always welcome an expansion of the parks area and stop the suburban sprawl. Also, would like to see parts of paint creek trail hard surfaced for roller blading
- Free access days
- Maintenance

## Q25 Organizations Used for Indoor and Outdoor Recreation Activities (other)

### City Parks and Facilities

- city parks elsewhere
- Borden park
- OPC Rochester Park tennis
- Grosse Pointe Wood community pool is awesome
- Dinosaur Hill
- Rochester Park
- Rochester City Park
- Lake Orion Community Education
- Orion Oaks Bark Park
- Library, RSO
- Library and appreciate parks
- Pine Knob
- Stoney Creek Hiking & Golf
- Clinton river for kayaking
- Horse riding in Metamora Trails
- Thumb County Parks
- Cranbrook Gardens volunteer

### Oakland Township

- Paint Creek Trail
- Paint Creek Trail
- Friends of the Paint Creek Trail
- paint creek trail, Macomb orchard trail, Clinton trail
- Bear Creek Nature Park
- township gravel roads for mountain biking
- PCCA Paint Creek Art Center
- Paint Creek Cider Mill
- OPC, Updog yoga
- Brookside Running Groups

### Remote Parks

- National Parks, Australian Parks
- National Park
- National parks
- national parks
- Sleeping Bear Dunes
- Ohio parks-horse trails
- We have a RV camp thru mi

## **Backyard**

- Backyard duh!!!
- Backyard play area

## **Specialized Facilities**

- Gym
- Yacht club
- Private youth sports leagues used facilities in other communities
- Downhill skiing
- golf courses
- Onyx ice rink
- Indoor figure skating

## **Scouts**

- Boy/Girl Scouts
- boy scouts

## **Don't Use**

- usage low past year due to back surgery
- I haven't used any
- Me and my wife plan to start a family. Until the we do not use these services, but when we have children we expect to

## **Miscellaneous**

- Nice choices, eh?

## **None**

- None
- None
- none
- None

# Summary of Comments from Parks and Recreation Survey

## Summary of Comments from Parks and Recreation Resident Survey

At the end of the online version of the Parks and Recreation Resident Survey we asked the following question:

*“Thank you for sharing your opinions with us. If there is anything additional you would like to share with the Parks and Recreation Master Planning Committee, please enter it in the comments area below:”*

Here are the comments that residents shared with us. The comments are included exactly as written, except where names are redacted. This summary is intended to group common themes, as appropriate.

Many comments reflected the themes uncovered in the Parks and Recreation Focus Group Study conducted prior to the quantitative survey. These themes include:

### The “Mission” of Oakland Township Parks and Recreation:

- **Maintain, protect and enhance the rustic, rural character of Oakland Township**
  - *“Please continue to maintain, support and develop the current parks, trails, pathways, wetlands and nature areas that make Oakland Township such a nice community in which to live.”*
  - *“Please always plan and use all the resources in our parkland; preserve natural and historic and other resources of the land into the future. Incorporate it all for the best experience.”*
  - *“Overdevelopment is the worst thing that can happen to the township. The natural beauty is lost along with all the abundant wildlife. Strip malls, new senior centers, shopping malls and too many subdivisions all contribute to this problem. A conservative plan for growth should be maintained and acquisition of new green spaces for more parks and wildlife areas should have a priority in decision making. We live in the area because of all the natural beauty and hope elected officials keep this in mind. Thank you :)”*
  - *“Please restrict residential and commercial development. Preserve more green space. Oakland Township is in danger of losing the beautiful rural charm that nature affords it.”*
  - *“Please continue to protect our natural features!”*
  - *“My main desire is to have well-maintained parks with nature activities and trails. Any sports or non-natural entertainment (e.g. splash parks) shouldn't be in natural areas but in more developed areas. Maintain as much of the natural setting as possible with easy access and paths to appreciate the natural beauty. Maintain the lake areas to reduce the weeds around the fishing docks. It was impossible to cast from the accessible fishing dock due to the overgrowth of water lilies.”*
  - *“I love living in Oakland Twp. because of the open spaces and natural beauty. It is extremely important to me to retain the natural beauty of the area.”*
  - *“More trails and connections for hikers and bikers, less maintenance intensive facilities. More parks with more natural areas. We have development all around us. We don't need it here too. We can be different.”*
- **Facilitate the connection between the land and the community**
  - *“I noticed there wasn't much about snow shoeing, which is becoming more popular. My major issue with the park system is there are some parks that seem useless which therefore I think many of the others are as well. For example there is a park on Silver Bell right behind the landscaping store...I went back there but didn't understand the purpose...just seemed over-run with*

greenage...not really anything to do. So therefore I think many of the other parks would be similar and just don't venture out."

- "We have many parks, however their locations are difficult to find. We need improved signage and also better communications about our parks and what they offer. Once we get there we need to make sure that there is adequate parking. This is for parks as well as trails. If you are fortunate to live within walking or riding distance to a park/trail that is great, if not parking is at times an issue. Our community is not heavily populated, but it is still suburban (we would like to keep it as rural as possible). That means our parks should offer activities for our 17,000 residence. For children and grandchildren it would be nice to have more children playgrounds. For teens, basketball, baseball and soccer fields and fishing to keep them "off the streets". Thanks"
- "[I] would like to see better signage including road signs directing to parks. Parks in Oakland Township need to be consistent with the open and rural feel of the Township."
- "Having a mobile app with park info would be a great idea ~~ just about everyone has a smartphone these days (iPhone, Android etc.) I don't think there is enough proactive electronic communication about the O.T. parks & event to our residents."
- **Provide both a buffer and an appropriate connection to adjacent communities**
  - "Oakland Township needs more trails connecting parks and neighborhoods like Rochester Hills and Orion Township."
  - "I would like to see Oakland Township participate in a plan to connect to other parks/trails in the Region."
  - "You could look into purchasing the Bald Mountain Golf Course as a new park/natural area for Oakland Twp., perhaps as a joint effort with Orion Twp., since it lies within their jurisdiction."

### Specific strategies for planning Oakland Township Parks, Trails and Programs:

- ✓ **Connect me from my residence to the trail safely and conveniently**
  - "We love Oakland Twp.; however our entire family has found it more difficult than we ever anticipated to enjoy walking or bicycling outside of our subdivision. We would have loved to be able to walk or ride bikes on the roads near us. We have had so many close calls with speeding cars trying to walk on Sheldon Road, Snell Rd. and Gunn Road outside of our subdivision that we no longer even try. We have joined a health club for exercise now. Walking paths would be a great help with walking/biking on Sheldon and Snell and Gunn Roads (dirt roads) as others I'm sure. It's a shame because we live close to Stoney Creek Park, Bear Creek Nature Park, and Lost Lake Nature Center and we have to drive a car to get there because it is unsafe to walk or ride a bike to reach parks or even walk or ride bikes."
  - "I must add, anything you can do to make Dutton Rd safe, like paving, is so needed. Help please, as we must use to get to the parks."
  - "Love the parks. Use the paint creek trail 3 times per week, friendly people exercising and full of nature – very unique in a suburban area and a true gem. We would love to have more connecting trails. Also, a bike/walk path extending north from Tienken up Rochester road is badly needed. Thanks."
  - "Please make a safe continuous trail/pathway connecting Paint Creek Trail with Stony Creek Metro Park, from Paint Creek Cider Mill, a blinking light with a crosswalk across Orion, up Collins Rd, to Oakland Twp. Hall, through Bear Creek and along Snell Rd."
  - "Because we live in close proximity to both Paint Creek Trail and Bald Mountain Recreation Area, those are the facilities we use most. We use the township parks hardly at all. None the less we recognize the importance of the parks for others who live in other parts of the township and for their role in establishing the character of the community. We support the continued acquisition of land for parks in order to preserve natural areas and for the development of activity areas for younger families and children. We support the continuation and development of programs and activities for others even though we don't necessarily participate in them ourselves. We also

support the continued development of trails and safety paths for convenient and safe access to the parks, especially the one from Delta Kelly School to Paint Creek Trail. We appreciate the excellent work that the Parks and Recreation Department has done and is doing and trust that it will continue.”

- *“I realize that the Paint Creek Trail is NOT a part of the Parks for Oakland Township; but I feel strongly that there needs to be SAFE access to the trail for walkers and for bikers---and, consequently safe access to township park facilities.”*
- *“There are 2 public access paths and bridges over Paint Creek from Ellaemae Road north to Ellaemae Road south. The path on the east side has been weed covered and impassible for at least 4 years. One bridge does not have steps and I need to take my bike across this one. Please help! I contacted the O. T. Trails Commission several years ago and they did not know what I was talking about. I hope to try again in May. Thank you for any help you can give the local residents that want to use this path.”*
- *“Not to be repetitive, but I believe the most important thing the committee could do is creating walking/biking access to parks. To get to any of the parks, an individual typically has to load their bike in a car and drive to the park because there are no bike/walking paths that lead to the parks. Thanks.”*
- *“I'd like to see more trails inside our parks and trails connecting to our other parks. I'd also like to have the millage for the acquisition of additional parks extended for another 10 years. We will never hear anyone complain about too many parks twenty years from now. If we stop acquiring property, we run the risk of becoming another Troy or Sterling Heights.”*

✓ **Promote trail sharing etiquette**

- *“Paint Creek Trail is great and we love using it but the bikers cause problems for runners/walkers. Some seem to think it's a racetrack up and down the trail and don't give adequate space when passing. The lack of natural areas where we can have our dog off leash is frustrating. Our dog loves to run and he doesn't have many places he can do that in Oakland Township. The best time of year for him/me is the winter mornings when no one is on any of the trails and I can let him run. We moved to Oakland Township so we could enjoy nature with our family and the lack of parks limits those experiences.”*
- *“ I would just like to implore you to place sign/signs periodically on Paint Creek Trail suggesting Trail etiquette to the many, many bikers that use our trail. I have been walking the trail for over 38 years with my dog. I have almost been run over by bikers so many times that don't seem to want to stop their conversation when they are in tandem, and will not go into single file as they approach a walker. They also race up behind you without warning. There are no signs indicating that they respect this rule anywhere. Please take the time to consider this issue before there are more serious accidents. Also, having the trail patrolled by mounted police, and police on bikes would be so wonderful, and appreciated.”*
- *“As an avid jogger who uses the Paint Creek Trail quite frequently, I am getting frustrated by the bicyclists that use the trail for high intensity training. Aside from the speeds, these folks don't want to break pace and will zigzag between and around pedestrians even when there is a bit of trail congestion. Also, with some bicyclists now riding 2-3 abreast, the pedestrian has to really watch out. I realize that we can't designate jogging/walking trails and biking trails but I am surprised that there haven't been any accidents (or confrontations) when these worlds come together. Just as baseball facilities are different than soccer facilities, perhaps certain parks could be groomed more for joggers/walkers with other facilities more suited for bikers, in-line skaters, etc.”*

✓ **Provide for needs along the trail (and in the park)**

- *“Don't overdo. There are too many benches. Leave the area untouched.”*
- *“We are a modern community that needs to have modern, usable facilities at all parks. For example at the soccer fields, there is no playground equipment for younger siblings to utilize. There is a lack of a picnic area and lack of kayak or canoe rental at Draper Twin Lakes.”*

- *"I really enjoy that Oakland Township has so many beautiful outdoor natural areas. I prefer a more rustic/natural setting for our parks but a few amenities to make it more user friendly is appreciated (like restrooms and drinking fountains); those are useful for those travelling with children. I also feel that it is important to protect our natural areas from invasive species and protect the wildlife in the area. Thank you!"*
- ✓ **Avoid duplicating what is offered in adjacent communities and facilities**
  - *"I think it's important that in planning, OT not duplicate services that are available within 5 miles of the township. Specialty parks, for example, are readily available nearby. This is a special place because it is green, natural - something surrounding communities don't have. For that reason, I would prefer more land preservation and more passive use parks."*
  - *"Do not invest any more money in active recreation at Marsh View or any other park. We go to Rochester or use school ball fields for these needs. No need to duplicate facilities. Use money to buy more land, before it is all developed and gone forever."*

### **Ideas for expanded use of park areas:**

- ✓ **New uses for undeveloped parks**
  - *"I have been a member in the Shelby Twp. Garden club for many years. It could be nice if Oakland Twp. were to develop something similar or collaborate with a surrounding township or city that has one established. This is not the same as a public garden on park land which I do not agree with because they are not maintained by those that start them and interest fades. Shelby's garden club is more botanical in nature. We also have concerns with the future development of Watershed Ridge Park as we live directly across from it. This is an amazing piece of land and the township is lucky to own it. It is my understanding that this land was purchased with land preservation funds and thus should be developed as such with passive use gravel multi use trails throughout the park, picnic areas, restrooms, playground, sledding hill and parking at least 200 feet off Buell Rd. I heard that a dog park was proposed for this park but we would hope that that is not considered as a dog park is definitely not a passive use and if requested by many residents a dog park would be better suited off a paved main road like Rochester Road Blue Heron or Silver Bell Rd. Gallagher Park. I have also heard that Addison Oaks Park is proposing a dog park which would be also better suited. Thank you for requesting our input I hope it helps."*
  - *"As I kind of stated throughout the survey, I feel it is time to develop the passive use park land already purchased for the benefit of the residents of Oakland Twp. We live 4 houses down from Watershed Ridge Park land which was purchased with Land Preservation funds so it is meant to be developed for passive use. Because this is the largest park land in the township this could be a great family gathering location with the addition of Picnic Area, Playground, Restrooms, Parking, Small Sledding hill at the corner of Lake George and Buell and Gravel in Park Multi use Trails (including horses) throughout for the residents to enjoy. The parking lot should be in an open area / field at least a football field length from Buell Rd. so as to not bother the neighbors but visible from the road for safety. Parking and restrooms should be lighted and should be closed by gating at the road 1 hour after dusk and open at dawn. This park and trails should be open to animals but dogs should be on a leash and horse trailers should have a separate fenced parking area so that horses can be tied to their trailers when not being ridden away from other vehicles and families with small kids. You have a township road cleanup day; it might be good to have a park cleanup day as well to clear dead brush and trees or invasive plants. As long as it is on a weekend before summer starts or in the fall I am sure residents would love to help. Stack the dead plants in an open field then the fire department could supervise a controlled burn in the middle of the winter. If you ever need help developing or clearing for trails in Watershed Ridge just call I have tractors and plenty of equipment that could start it in the right direction by clearing, grading and spreading gravel. Thank you for requesting citizen input."*
  - *"I live in walking [distance] to both Gallagher Creek Park and Eugene S Nowicki Park. They both are unusable and inaccessible and this is an absolute shame. What is the point of these two*

parks? They are both in ideal locations and sit there and offering ZERO to our community. These parks should be developed into something that actually brings the community out and together. Playscapes, splash parks, picnics areas, etc. The Stoney Creek Metro park playscape is a great example of what a playground should/could be. It suits all ages and brings people out. Also, look at something like the Nature Boardwalk at the Lincoln Park zoo in Chicago. They took an absolute mess of a pond and transformed it into greatness. Do something different and unique that will bring people out. Vacant parks/land are serving no one and are a waste.

<http://www.lpzoo.org/nature-boardwalk> Please develop these parks!!!" [Here is the link to a video showing the construction and finished product: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V49G-9rV8RY&feature=player\\_embedded](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V49G-9rV8RY&feature=player_embedded) ]

#### ✓ Expanded Use of Current Facilities

- "We love Oakland Township and I walk my dog and run or bike on the PCT year round almost every day of the year. We use Lost Lake in the winter and love this park. It is amazing! We also love the addition of Marsh Park. It is 1 mile from our house and we have 3 kids that play year round soccer, high school and travel. We were so happy that soccer fields were built nearby, but we are very upset that the kids cannot use the fields. The soccer nets are either locked down or locked together so the fields are not able to play soccer. I called the township offices and they told me that the fields have to be rented by a team in order to be used. Playing soccer as a family or a group of children is not allowed because of the wear and tear on the fields. This is so very sad and unfortunate; we are talking about outdoor grass and a soccer net. We pay taxes to maintain the fields and all that I ask is that the township considers opening up the soccer fields to the community a couple of hours each week: (Sunday afternoons and Thursday evenings for example.) The only times teams were playing there this fall were on Saturday mornings with the RSC soccer club. I realize that the fields are new and nice, but all other nearby community parks allow the community to use their soccer fields and don't lock up the nets. (Civic Center Park, Friendship Park, Rochester Parks...) There is a basketball court at Marsh Park and that is available to the public to use. We do use the basketball courts every now and then. We would really appreciate the township reconsidering the use of the soccer fields at Marsh Park. Thank you."
- "I play in adult soccer leagues throughout greater Detroit, mostly at Delia (Sterling Heights) & Borden (Rochester) parks. On rare occasions we played at Marsh View Park, it's a golden secret in the adult soccer community. The field is the nicest one we play on, the teams all comment about how nice the field is. Thanks for making it available. It gives visitors a very positive impression of Oakland Township, I'm glad to say I live here."
- "I feel strongly that Oakland Township should focus on enhancing the usability of the land we have rather than purchasing additional land. Having more trails, and grooming trails for winter use would be very helpful. In addition, more facilities would be helpful."
- "As noted in my previous comments. I really wish Twin Lakes was more user-friendly. Restroom is by parking lot, long walk to lake, impossible to carry kayaks or pull them that distance. Also bought paddleboards and will not be able to use those either. I live right by the park and have to drive to Stoney Creek Metro Park which is at least a 20 minute drive when Twin Lakes is 1/4 mile away and worthless. Very few people use the park do to the winding road to the lake. We should have had a road with the ability to drop items off to use the lake. Lost lake has a kayak launch but the lake is so small, what a waste. We wouldn't bother to use that lake for 10 minutes to go around it. I think the parks could be better utilized if their form and function was thought through a little better by the Parks Commission."
- "I think the park system is great but we admittedly don't make much use of it. Kids' activities/sports, school activities take a large chunk of leisure time, we belong to Life time and that gets a chunk of our "exercise time". I've used the PC trail sparingly for running now and then. We have a cottage up north, and that gets us a lot May-Sept. If money no object, I think outdoor sports facilities would be great. In particular, an outdoor sledding and ice facility would be fantastic. Kids skating; pond hockey, sledding.... We would use that."

- *"I think that Oakland Township has the ability to provide a unique opportunity for equestrians and ATV owners. Currently, there are very few areas/facilities in our area that can provide such accommodations. Perhaps make Oakland Township "ATV friendly" like some other municipalities have. Southeast Michigan has the largest number of ATVs registered in the state, and yet I would challenge you to find a safe, nearby, fun place to use them."*
- *"Oakland Township needs to work more with Rochester to supplement their programing. All of the youth programs are funneled into Rochester and OT needs to become a utilized area. Doesn't make sense to me that I need to drive 20 minutes for my children to play a game at Borden Park or downtown Rochester. Practice facilities are unavailable for many sports soccer/baseball/softball/basketball/ Lacrosse and should be addressed with the land in OT. A dog park, splash park, a connected trail is needed also."*
- *"We would love a local outdoor skateboard park with a sheltered picnic area, restrooms and a playground!!!! We would love kayak rentals too!"*
- *"More mountain bike trails and look into grooming some trails at Addison for fat biking in the winter."*
- *"Please add some splash pad/water park! We go to other areas for this and would love one closer to home."*
- *"I have a handicap daughter and would like to see more handicap accessible playground"*
- ✓ **Need for a Dog Park**
  - *"Off Leash Dog Parks Please"*
  - *"The PRC needs to implement a dog park and also put in multiple sand equestrian arenas!"*
  - *"I hope you plan very carefully before you add a dog park to any existing parks, especially Watershed Ridge. The road access to that park would be very poor, especially if you include horse trailers. Commercial farming does not seem to be compatible with dog runs and community gardens if you consider possible commercial fertilizer and weed killer use."*
  - *"I would love an off-leash dog park in the township!! (with a swim area if possible)"*
- ✓ **Fireworks and Hunting**
  - *"The use of FIREWORKS - i would love to see the use of these limited or eliminated in our parks. They are problematic for pet dogs and disturbing to the wildlife living our parks. If they could please be taken out of Stony Creek Metro Park's holiday celebration - I would be grateful. Thank you for taking the feedback of the community into consideration of the management of our parks."*
  - *"Parks should be for nature enjoyment not killing. There was never any hunting until 15 years ago; we were told it was a onetime event."*
- ✓ **Changing Life Stages**
  - *"I am really not very interested in Oakland Township parks much anymore. But they are very nice and I hope you are able to contact every family in Oakland Township because I believe you have so much to offer both young and old. If I remain living in Oakland Township when I soon retire, I would most like to have nice walking trails or pathways. I feel that is what most people my age like to do nowadays is walk for exercise. This past summer I did take advantage of your bird watching and kayaking classes both of which were very good. You had very knowledgeable teachers and I thank you for that. I think you should continue them and advertise them more for better attendance. Oakland Township can become one of the best communities to live in if you all keep up the good work with things to do. I have loved living here for 27 years and am glad to see the many beautiful parks that you are creating for everyone's enjoyment and relaxation, which is what we all need. Good job Oakland Township!"*
  - *"We don't use our parks as often as we should or could - but we appreciate having such great parks so close to home!!!! And now we've begun taking our grandson to the parks."*
  - *"It is great to have all these options available but being that my family does not live in the area we do not actively participate".*

- *“For many years we have used Stoney Creek for swimming, hiking, golf, boating and the nature center. I am alone now and unable to use the park, however I look out onto the natural area every day. There are many branches and down trees and could certainly use a cleanup.”*

## **Administration:**

### ✓ **Budget/Allocation Concerns**

- *“Please do not do anything that will cause our taxes to go up. Oakland County has enough parks and recreational opportunities.”*
- *“Stop wasting money on consultants and legal fees and use it for better parking at Marsh View, a dog park, garden, horse arena, someplace to park at Stoney Creek Ravine, better signs to mark the parks, and updated playground for toddlers and young children.”*
- *“I really object to buy land for \$4M & then do nothing but a cheap lease to a farmer with it. I am really tired of having SIX millages for something we get very little value & use from. I will not support any future millages & would like to kill at least 3 of the current ones.”*
- *“The more facilities and programs you add to the township the more that will require more manpower and resources to maintain. Oakland Township is great because of its master plan for large land parcels and minimization of commercial land use. Oakland Township is great because it attracts quality residents who want open land and nature that enhances where we live. Residents who have lived in the township for some time move here not for facilities and programs. We all can walk out of our front doors to see natural beauty or walk along a country road. Do not raise our taxes such that we cannot afford to live here anymore or bring facilities that bring people into our community that do not belong. We authorize you to buy land to minimize development, nothing more.”*
- *“I think that we need to have the budget to take care of what we have now improving the sites to meet the demand and needs of the local community and draw visitors from the surrounding community.”*
- *“Require proof of Oakland Township residency. We pay for the parks through property taxes. Why would non-residents be allowed to use parks without paying a daily or annual fee? The Oakland County Dog Parks require a fee (sticker) on a vehicle to use their dog parks.”*

### ✓ **Parks Commission Conduct**

- *(Redacted – Not relevant to Master Plan)*

### ✓ **Parks and Rec Appreciation**

- *“We absolutely love the trail and park system here.....one main reason for us moving to this location.”*
- *“I enjoy all the parks as much as possible. Live in this region because of parks like Addison & Stoney. Keep up great work.”*
- *“We love Oakland Township!”*
- *“Like the parks”*
- *“Basically, I think that our Parks and Rec system is awesome and it is one of the main reasons that I love living in Oakland Township. I am pleased to see this survey – it shows that the focus is on keeping it awesome. Please keep up the good work.”*
- *“Love the Paint Creek trail, Macomb Orchard trail, Clinton trail, and Stoney Creek Metropark. Enjoy biking and rollerblading. Would like to canoe and/or kayak also.”*
- *“You're doing a great job! Don't deviate from the path you are on.”*
- *“Keep up the parks stewardship!”*
- *“Thank you for taking your time and effort for the continued beautification of Oakland Twp., in so many ways!”*
- *“I will be happy to share more at your open house.”*
- *“Overall, very nice work in Oakland Township. Thanks for having such great outdoor opportunities available. Also, appreciate reaching out to the community for input for future developments.”*

### ✓ **Survey Comments**

- *“Excellent survey. Thanks for asking for our input”*
- *“What an awesome survey”*
- *“The map above in question 29 is very hard to read ... couldn't tell if I was in Northwest or Southwest quadrant. We have only been in Oakland Township about one year so we are still investigating all that it has to offer. I'm shocked at the number of dirt roads, which is fine, and I know you try to keep them in good condition but Clarkston, Greenbrier, Kerns, all need some more attention.”*
- *“You might get a better survey response if the link was easier to access, e.g. instruct residents to access the main township website and from there provide a clickable link. Also, have fewer questions, and with fewer redundancies, and less ambiguous wording (on a few questions).”*
- *“Thanks for asking our opinions on these questions!”*

# Open House Comments - Facility Ranking Summary

## Open House - Facility Ranking Sheet - Summary of Results\*

High	Medium	Low	No Answer**	No***			Weighted Score****
5	5	25	13	1	Equestrian Sand Arena and Equestrian Trailer Parking	Undetermined location	147
4	9	22	12	2	Zip Line / Adventure Course / Rope Course	Marsh View Park	148
9	4	21	10	5	Dog park and parking lot	Undetermined location	149
7	17	9	15	1	Trail expansion and surface improvement, fishing access, creek overlook and addition of parking lot	Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park	161
8	12	17	11	1	Trail Improvements and Equestrian Trailer Parking	Cranberry Lake Park	162
7	14	17	9	2	Multi-use sports courts	Marsh View Park	162
9	15	10	16		Trail Connection to Oakview Middle School and Green Lake	Lost Lake Nature Park	167
7	20	9	13		Trail, Parking Lot and Entrance Road Improvements	Charles Ilsley Park	168
11	13	14	11		Universally Accessible Kayak Dock	Draper Twin Lake Park	171
11	14	12	12		Trail Connection / Improvements and Kayak Drop-off	Draper Twin Lake Park	171
10	17	9	13		Trail Connection to Tamarack Lake	Lost Lake Nature Park	171
12	13	14	7	3	Amphitheater for Outdoor Performances	Undetermined location	171
9	19	10	11		Educational Boardwalk on Cranberry Lake	Cranberry Lake Park	173
13	11	14	11		Trail Expansion and Surface Improvement	Gallagher Creek Park	173
15	10	12	12		Playground and Picnic Area	Marsh View Park	175
16	12	9	12		Trail Expansion in Northern Section	Marsh View Park	179
16	12	12	9		Trail System Establishment	Blue Heron Env. Area	182
16	10	16	7		Playground & Picnic area	Gallagher Creek Park	182
17	13	9	9	1	Trail system and parking lot	Watershed Ridge Park	183
19	8	16	5	1	Limestone Path Expansion and Resurfacing	Bear Creek Nature Park	186
22	12	4	11		Parking lot expansion and Restroom addition at Gallagher Road	Paint Creek Trail	192
22	9	11	7		Parking lot and restroom addition near Adams Road	Paint Creek Trail	193
19	15	10	4	1	Water Well and Drinking Fountains	Bear Creek Nature Park	194

\* - Original sheet included only "High", "Medium", and "High" categories.

\*\* - Any entries left blank by the respondent

\*\*\* - Any entries where respondent physically wrote in "No"

\*\*\*\* - Weighted score gives 5 points to high, 4 to medium, 3 to low, 2 to no answer, and 1 to no.

# Open House - Comments received from Comment Cards, Letters, E-mails, and Website

## Verbatim Comments from Master Plan Open House Comment Cards:

### COMMUNICATION & SIGNAGE

- I like the programs that you offer. However, as a marketing professional, I recommend you embrace social media and online resources. Your posters and flyers are too wordy, and not interesting. You have too much detail included, and it does not get our attention. You should consider using Instagram, Twitter, Facebook and Pinterest. A Parks mobile app would be nice. Calling to register is time consuming. Please change to an online registration program. Oakland Township is progressive. The park program registration process is not. P.S. Consider online surveys for feedback instead of paper.
- Better location of sign @ Lost Lake Park.
- Signs to identify plants, self-guided tours
- Info about Phragmites
- We need trail etiquette signs, i.e. Paint Creek Trail

### ANTI-DOG PARK (primarily Watershed Ridge Park)

- Watershed Ridge Park Study #2 – Totally “against”. (2) Dog parks off Lake George Rd would create chaos and way too much traffic in that area.
- We have plenty of parks to walk dogs. We could use more trails for walking. Please, no dog parks. I have visited several with my dog and owners tend to gather, have a coffee, chat and not pay attention to their dogs and what they are doing. We no longer go to dog parks and would not use one in Oakland Twp. Thank you.
- Why do we need 2 dog parks at Ridge Park? Isn't there enough park land for dogs to be taken to?
- Having a dog park is a duplication of resources.
- Consideration if you proceed with dog park – breeding ground for fleas, ticks and transmission of disease. Control of small children, good dogs can become aggressive, seemingly unprovoked. Would consider nature trail identification of plants and trees and grasses.
- No dog parks. Your 7-10-13 PRC meeting – Risk assessor says dog park near trail system, playgrounds & horse trails are a concern.
- A dog park in Watershed Ridge is not a good idea for several reasons:
  - too much traffic on narrow gravel road (Lake George & Buell)
  - Noise (barking) in a quiet area
  - Non-residents may also use it
  - Maintenance costs
  - “Parks” are for people, not dogs. A dog park would prevent picnic areas from being developed!
- No to dog parks – they restrict that space to only one group. All other trails, open fields & woods are shared by runners, bikers, XC skiers, hikers, picnickers, etc.

- Watershed Park dog park inappropriate off of Lake George. If Buell is used, dog park needs to be set back behind maintenance shed. Charles Ilsley Park?
- Please do not put a dog park at Watershed Park because the road cannot take the traffic. Also there is a beautiful area for a picnic area. If you put a dog park on this park, you cannot have a picnic area. This park was bought with Land Preservation Money.
- Recommend dog park @ “(Farmer’s)” property.
- Watershed Ridge Park was purchased with Land Preservation money. This means they can only use a small area of the park. A picnic area, playground, garden & trails for everyone would be great. If there is a dog park, there will be no picnic area & playground because the small area will be used up. Is this fair to the majority of the residents of Oakland Township?
- Make a more long term plan with respect to park development. Watershed should be trails only saving the allowed 14 acres of active use for future development. Oakland Township can have dog friendly parks not fenced and mowed dog parks. Parks & Rec can have a dog off leash permit for dogs and residents that have been reviewed by program or by approved obedience program like Petco etc.
- Dog park is already being introduced at huge, populated park paid for by County!
- No dog parks or big sports fields.
- No Dog Park!
- No dog parks
- No need for a dog park.
- Every state has cities and townships w dog parks. WTF. Why is having a dog park in Oakland Twnsp such a big deal??
- No dog parks
- *(from Blue Heron Environmental Area, regarding dog park)* Very bad idea.
- *(from Blue Heron Environmental Area)* If dogs got loose, they would certainly be hit on such a busy road.
- *(from Blue Heron Environmental Area, regarding loose dogs)* Ditto! Too true!
- *(from Blue Heron Environmental Area)* No dog parks!
- *(from Marsh View Park – regarding dog park)* No!
- *(from Marsh View Park – regarding dog park)* No dog park
- *Multiple no dog park comments – See Watershed Ridge General Comments*
- We’re sorry we were unable to attend the Open House on January 29<sup>th</sup>. However, we would like to voice our concerns regarding the proposed development of Watershed Ridge Park.
  - We live at *(address withheld)* Buell Road, directly across from the proposed parking lot of Alternative 3. This part of the property is a designated wet lands. Buell Road is gravel and often muddy and bumpy, especially during the spring months.
  - Watershed Ridge Park was purchased for the preservation of the many streams and creeks. It is our opinion this land should not be disturbed.
  - Plan #2 (walking trails) would not disturb the beautiful trees now on the property.
  - The property is also home to deer, sandhill cranes, coyotes and even an eagle was sighted at this location as well as blue herons.

- Due to the recent killing of a horse by coyotes, we feel the dogs would not be safe if allowed to run in a dog park as we have sighted many coyotes on the land across from us.
- We feel there are many other Township Parks that would be more favorable for a dog park. It should be on a paved road with denser population such as Bear Creek Park, Blue Heron or Gallagher Creek.

Thank you for your consideration of our above suggestions.

- So to be sure that I am completely clear, the total number of acres allowed for “Active Use” development at the 170 acre park Watershed Ridge is 14 acres. Once this 14 acre Active Use threshold is met then no additional active use development can be included or added within the park per the purchase agreement and the use of Land Preservation Millage Funds. Please confirm.
- Thank you so much for gathering the information that you supplied. It adds to the clarity and purpose of the 2006 Land Preservation Millage and Renewal. I understand that you noted there are no deed restrictions on the purchase of Watershed Ridge 156 acres purchased with Land Preservation Funds and I agree when and where the future development of the land is for Trails and passive uses associated with the protection of green space and natural habitat. This would also include multiple educational opportunities for the users as well as noted with respect to your documented examples of Lost Lake and Draper Twin Park - Fishing and Park Tours. The supplied information and wording also clearly notes “ future passive use recreation potential where residents could hike or observe wildlife ”. Most importantly the millage renewal ballot wording clearly defines the acceptable purpose and allowed use of the Land Preservation Millage Funds. “Shall the Charter Township of Oakland be authorized to renew a levy of up to 0.6916 of one mill for a period of ten (10) years, starting with the December 2011 levy, for the purpose of continuing to provide funds and financing for the timely acquisition of land, the protection of natural habitat, and the preservation of green spaces within the Township”? With all of the additional information received I still agree that the donated 14 acres would still allow Active Use in one or multiple areas of Watershed Ridge with a total allowable space not to exceed 14 acres. The remaining 156 acres purchased with Land Preservation Millage funds would be limited to the specific purpose of the millage wording and limited passive use promoting Trails, observation and improvement of our parks natural habitat and the education of our residents about that habitat. I hope to attend the Parks and Rec special meeting tomorrow night ( Feb 6th ) but I would also like to formally request that you or (*Planning Coordinator*) give a printed copy of this email and your attached document to each of the (7) Park and Rec Commisioners before the meeting so that they have a chance to review it as well. I know that all are attached as well but with the meeting only 30 hours from now some may not have had a chance to read their emails. This would also confirm that all received the information ( if their email is not working ) as it is extremely important when reviewing the acceptable development of Watershed Ridge Park.
-

## PRO-DOG PARK

- Watershed Ridge needs a dog park and equestrian trails & arena.
- Put the dog park (if any) at northeast corner of Marsh View, corner of Adams & Stony Creek.
- My main concern is a dog park in our community. Keep it on a main, paved road. Not a dirt, poor condition road. Cannot handle traffic. Who will police who comes to park? Residents only. Do neighbors need to watch daily and call Township or police if the rules are not followed? This park (Watershed) is a beautiful piece of property. Let the residents use it for picnics, group gathering, walking, biking trails, etc.
- We really need a dog park and horse arena in this Township... Dammit!
- As a realtor I'd like to see more amenities in the Township... Tennis, newer play area, dog park.
- It would be great to have a dog park in the Township. Because I live in a condo.
- A secure place for our dogs to play – a park just for them, please.
- Dog park please!
- #1 Dog park.
- It certainly would be nice to have a dog park in the Township as well as more potties.
- Dog park, dog park, dog park for the love of Pete. How many times do we have to ask for one?
- Dog park and horse area!
- Dog parks, dog parks, dog parks.
- My dog Kate would love a place to run off leash.
- My family and friends would really use a dog park. Please look at Watershed and Blue Heron.
- DOG PARK
- Love the idea of a dog/equestrian park. #3 makes the most sense. I think the addition of a 2<sup>nd</sup> dog park beside the existing would be advisable to give the ground a rest.
- Yes dog parks
- Yes dog parks!
- Yes to Dog Park!
- At least one park that is in agreement should be used for dog park.
- *(from Bear Creek Nature Park)* Dog park should go here. Put in a well to water the animals
- *(from Bear Creek Nature Park, arrow to southwest prairie area)* Put the dog park here and put in a well.
- *(from Blue Heron Environmental Area)* The dog park should be at Blue Heron Park because it should be on a paved road and by many homes that can use it better than on a gravel road.
- *(from Blue Heron Environmental Area)* Since the heron rookery is long gone, excellent idea – dog park with easy, major road access
- *(from Blue Heron Environmental Area)* Alternate dog park location! With double fence system.
- *(from Blue Heron Environmental Area)* Too busy of a road for dog park.
- *(from Blue Heron Environmental Area)* Dog park should be here on a paved road
- *(from Marsh View Park)* How about a dog park here?
- *(from Marsh View Park)* Given this is an active park might as well expand its usage. Dog park here may be feasible.

- *(from Marsh View Park)* If we need a dog park this is already an active use park.
- *(from Marsh View Park)* Diagram of locations for big and little dog park zones along northern edge of park.
- We have a beautiful township and we are fortunate to live here for many years. My wife (*name withheld*) and I would like to see the township add a dog park. Our daughter loves dogs and now drives quite a distance to use a dog park in eastern Macomb County. We would love to have a park in our own Township.
- I am not against dog parks in Oakland Township. However I am for good planning. Here are two issues that concern me and need consideration in planning dog parks..
  - Open to non-residents? In our parks where we used MDNR funds, it is my understanding that we cannot restrict access to residents only. Is this true? Therefore if we build an attractive dog park or parks will we attract people from Rochester, Rochester Hills, Auburn Hills, Was Twp. Shelby Twp. Addison Twp, etc. because such parks are rare and they don't have one? I know one dog owner who is a personal friend who has this concern. Will the number of people from outside the Township ruin it for township residents by overcrowding? If we then expand will it just be worse as dogs increase to fill what we offer, as roads tend to do? Should we therefore build only on land that has not become "encumbered" by MDNR grants?
- I've just waded through much of the material available online and am very impressed with the effort and consideration put into this process. However, I do have a couple of comments. Listening to the summary presentation by (*Consultant*) yesterday, it appeared to me that the results of the Open House held last week held as much, if not more weight than did the township-wide citizen survey. The open house was attended by a select few. Had I known that dog park plans could be jeopardized because of the organized presence of Buell/Lake George Road neighbors, I would have recruited every dog and horse owner I know to attend yesterday's meeting. I'm sorry that I did not fill out the comment forms. I was encouraged at the open house to draw and comment on the maps but I did not hear any of my opinions were mentioned last night. Also, in reviewing the survey results, I saw that the dog park was grouped with splash parks and adventure parks. I don't think that's a fair comparison to get an accurate opinion.
- I was pleased that (*Commissioners*) stated that other parks could be considered for a dog park. I still feel that the central location of Watershed Ridge is the best site for a dog park and with set-back dog areas, the neighbors would be satisfied. I really think their concerns are unfounded and other uses like active ball fields would be MUCH more disruptive. However, alternate centrally-located parks like Blue Heron, if safely fenced, are a good alternative and these options ought to be built into the master plan now for quick implementation.

## ANTI-EQUESTRIAN SAND ARENA / TRAILS

- How many equestrians are there in Oakland Township? Are we just trying to placate a few?
- Watershed Ridge needs a dog park and equestrian trails & arena.
- I do not think a substantial amount of money should be spent to appease the few horse owners and horse riders in the Township. I can probably count the number of horse riders in the

Township on one hand. I think the existing trails we have are adequate. Improvements to the parks to appease horse owners will be expensive.

- We need simplicity & nature for our township – NO horse trails.

## PRO-EQUESTRIAN SAND ARENA

- Watershed Ridge needs a dog park and equestrian trails & arena.
- We really need a dog park and horse arena in this Township... Dammit!
- Dog parks, dog parks, dog parks.
- Dog park and horse area!
- A place where our grandchildren could ride their horses instead of just boarding them for months & months.
- Because of the popularity of horses in the Township a horse arena would be an excellent addition!!
- At least one park that is in agreement should be used for equestrian sand arena.
- Sand arena (*from Cranberry Lake Park comments*)
- Though avid horse owner, I can understand citizens concerns about a sand arena for 4% of the respondents. That is why I encourage a covered arena that could be used as an ice rink in the winter. A covered rink would keep nicer ice than one at the mercy of rain sleet and snow freeze/thaw process. Bigger than the rink at Marshview, it would get a lot more use. I sent (*Parks Director*) some information about horse arena maintenance and maintenance does need to be considered as mentioned by the one horse-owner/homeowner last night. It's really just a simple matter of dragging the arena. Never forget... horse owners are keeping this community "rural", encourage them to remain in the community and we will keep the large parcels of land that could fall to development.
- The same horse-owner mentioned the need for a separate parallel dirt trail for horses because the crushed gravel is hard on their feet. This is true in some instances, but if her horse was shod, it would not be an issue. I don't feel her concerns warrant the expense of a separate side trail. If her horse is tender-footed, she can ride on the outer edge.
- I wanted to address a few thoughts shared at the recent Master Plan public hearing regarding the equestrian trails and sand arena proposed in Watershed Ridge Park (WRP). I was one of fourteen citizen task force members to develop ideas for a dog park, sand arena, and community gardens (Dog / Equestrian Park task force or DEP task force). We invested a considerable amount of time into planning concept ideas with importance placed on trail network connectivity, continued use of farming, resident concerns, setbacks from private property, and avoidance of wetlands. We also researched appropriate footing, fencing options, and convenient access to farm fields.

We sought out expert recommendations to develop concept plans and none of our most acceptable options were included in the Master Plan open house. In fact, the two maps shown included one location that was never a consideration due to the close location to private residents and because of high quality soils for farming operation (NW corner), and the other option displayed at the open house, was a concept idea that uncovered too many drawbacks:

completely blocked access to the NE farm fields, complaints by placing the entrance directly across from residents on Buell, and loss of the most productive farm field. The DEP researched these options and found them to be unacceptable, however, these were the options being compared in the Master Plan Open House.

The DEP task force presented to PRC at their January 8, 2014 meeting. (Agenda item #6) many of the comments brought up in the Master Plan discussions, however, none of this research was available to the residents. Below are a few observations with respect to the research and planning provided by the DEP task force.

Limestone trails are not bad for horses hoofs. In fact, crushed rock with limestone fines is listed as one of the best footings for traction, durability, comfort, compaction, erosion, and maintenance. In fact, the only negative is the cost being much more expensive than dirt trails.

Trail riding is not the only activity horse and rider enjoy, there are many disciplines for equestrian enthusiast including but not limited to: reining, speed, hunt seat, saddle seat, western, jumping, eventing, and dressage. Many of these disciplines use the sand arena to train. A sand arena can be compared to a "classroom" for schooling or training your horse. Dressage means "training" and develops the natural athletic ability and attentiveness between horse and rider. This cannot be accomplished while trail riding.

Rings are not solely used to repeatedly ride around the perimeter. Many riders work the full use of the arena, especially when training specific aids.

The DEP contacted professional contractors that install sand arenas to establish cost and specifications for slope, sub-base, 4"-6" base, and 3"-6" footing. This was presented on 1-8-14 and the cost was captured in the proposed budget.

The DEP ranked WRP as a good location to maintain the sand area footing because PRC owns a tractor kept in the pole barn at WRP, which could easily drive a few hundred feet to the arena to rake or "drag" the sand. The cost was researched for a chain rake starting at \$150 and increasing upwards of \$500 for a professional arena rake that pulls behind a tractor.

A sand arena would be used by high school and middle school equestrian teams, 4-H clubs, and local residents that do not have access to a sand arena. Some boarding facilities have sand arenas while others do not. Many backyard horses do not have access to a sand arena.

The easiest tie for a horse is called a picket line where the horse is tied to a line with distance from other horses. Most riders have their own picket line and they only need a few trees. Another easy, inexpensive way to safely tie a horse is a simple wooden post with a breakaway lead line.

Building corrals for a rider to "put their horse so they can have a picnic" is not exactly safe practice for these reasons:

1. Hacking out with a group of friends does not mean one rider's horse is best buddies with another rider's horse. Common "horse" sense knows one cannot leave horses unattended next to a strange horse because of the high probability one of them will try to harm the other - either by biting over the corral or kicking through the boards.

2. Horses left in stalls need to have their tack removed because they could roll or snag their bridle on a board or latch. Good horsemanship is avoiding these scenarios, and the majority of riders are not going to untack to have a picnic. Normally, coolers are left in the horse trailer, and after a long ride, when the horses are safely tethered and untacked, after their hooves are picked, after they have been offered water, that is usually when riders have time to eat.

I've focused on the equestrian aspect of park planning as that is where I have more experience. I hope I have shed some insight as you begin to plan for equestrian use in Township parks.

## **PAINT CREEK TRAIL**

- The Paint Creek Trailways Commission would like to see the expansion of the Gallagher Parking Lot moved up to 2016, to match the objectives in their Recreation Master Plan. Thank you for including the Paint Creek Trail in your Capital Improvement Plan!
- Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I am in favor of restroom facilities at both Gallagher and Adam Roads to make the Paint Creek Trail more accessible to those who wish to walk the entire length.
- Need better parking on Paint Creek.
- Parking off of Adams for P.C.T would be helpful.

## **COMMUNITY GARDENS**

- How about: Community gardens, Community bee hives given the bee crisis in the USA.
- Community garden @ Blue Heron would be nice.
- No community gardens – People in subs have to take that up with their association. The rest of us have room and no restrictions.
- Community gardens in field behind house area (*from Blue Heron Environmental Area*)
- I was sorry to hear the community gardens get a bad rap. However, I think your first priority should be the existing garden beds outside the township hall and Paint Creek Cider Mill. They look shabby at best and I bet you can find a local garden club willing to take them on.

## **PASSIVE VS ACTIVE / PARK ACTIVITIES / NATURAL AREAS**

- Too many non-rural non-nature park "improvements" that are "city-like". Don't need fishing docks, zip lines, amphitheater, community gardens. Keep as natural as possible.
- Nice ideas for all parks! The questionnaire is very well designed and easy to complete. Blinds for viewing to give wildlife less disturbance and keep sensitive areas off limits. This would help nesting species and reptiles and amphibians. Hold classes/workshops to educate residents about native plants, rain gardens, etc.

- We need to continue acquiring land – to preserve open space / recreation and to keep our township “rural. It’s what most of the residents move here for! If not we will turn into the next Rochester Hills / Sterling Heights. We need the “long term” vision. Thank you to all previous boards and old time residents for giving us what we have!
- The parks are beautiful – Thank you. Wish Township would buy vacant buildable property and lease it to (*Farmers*) for farming like you do on Lake George and Buell. Keeps subdivisions out and no maintenance and we make money!!

## SPORTS FACILITIES

- No to tennis courts or ball fields on park property.
- I wish my children had a soccer field to play on in the summer.
- As a realtor I’d like to see more amenities in the Township... Tennis, newer play area, dog park
- Would be nice to have some active parks, baseball, pickleball, swing sets.
- No to tennis courts or ball fields on park property.
- Why can’t we have a gun range like our archery range?
- No dog parks or big sports fields.
- We need more for families. That includes trails (Limestone or paved), play areas, splash parks, baseball fields, dog parks, & other recreation areas. The Township has plenty of land for both nature lovers and active families.
- At least one park that is in agreement should be used for Tennis (or multi use courts)
- I’m hearing rumors at OPC that there is to be a decision made on adding pickleball or tennis courts at Marsh View Park. I went on the Oakland Township website and can’t see any mention of that in upcoming or past meetings. Is the rumor true? If so, when is the meeting? As an avid pickleball player, it’s frustrating to know that the closest outdoor courts are at Riverview Park and they’re constantly in demand with as many as 9 players waiting to get on their 3 courts. It would be fantastic if Oakland Township would build more courts. I know that tennis nets are 3.5 feet at the side and 36” in the middle, while pickleball nets are 36” at the side and only 34” at the middle. Is it possible to get net poles that would allow adjustment to both heights? That way, both tennis players and pickleball players would be happy. If both sets of lines were painted in (especially if done in different colors) we all could get used to which color was “our” court. While I personally would prefer to see pickleball courts at Marsh View since the high school has tennis courts available, I can see where having both kinds of courts would be beneficial.
- We are thrilled to be able to put in our input on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan It is quite a lengthy and well thought-out plan but we would like to add our input into a specific park – Marsh View – since we just live around the corner. We are excited to see the addition of 4 multi-use or tennis courts in that park’s master plan. However, we would like to see more courts added and those courts to be marked for pickleball. Let me explain our rationale for that designation.
  - Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the US. The attached transcript from World News Tonight December 21, 2014 explains it well. The schedule of the OPC gym use

- Bear Creek Park is the jewel. Thank you for what you did and didn't do. Keeping it "natural" is so important in a society that thinks progress is "development".
- We like the parks the way they are now. Leave good alone!!
- I haven't visited some of these parks so it is hard to comment but I am in favor of keeping our parks as natural as possible. The least amount of interruption of our nature as possible. There are parks already existing that offer paved areas, fitness areas, buildings, etc. The least amount of signage because it is like an electric shock to the eyes when you are in a natural area. Thank you for all of your good work.
- I know there has not been a lot of snow lately but we need at least one park that has groomed trails with easy & difficult parts. We really need to have lockers on some of the lakes to hold kayaks and canoes for those of us who do not have trucks. This could be a good source of revenue.
- Where does all the money go!? Why is your overhead so high @ 75%? We spend too much on nature stuff and not enough on active rec. The parks belong to the Township not the Parks Department. How do I get a free place to stay like the people @ Lost Lake?
- I would please like a place to play baseball.
- The parks in this Township drew us to this area. I believe that the parks should be left as natural as possible as to not disturb (or minimally disturb) the wildlife.
- Would be nice to have some active parks, baseball, pickleball, swing sets.
- Non-active use development.

## LAND ACQUISITION

- Stop buying more land!!! Why can't we have a gun range like our archery range?
- I see no need to acquire more land. There is a lot of park land to be developed. I would like to see: Multiple dog parks, shooting gun range, more activities. Currently there is little to entice (sic) me to leave my acreage.
- No buying land. Improve what you have.
- Keep up the very professional and citizen-oriented work. Try to acquire as much land as possible while there is still a chance... even if it can only be warehoused for the time being.
- Keep alert to buy key parcels especially adjacent to existing parks. Provides buffer and expansion options.
- Keep acquiring land. They're not making any more.
- I see no need for additional land acquisition. There is plenty of opportunity for improvement of existing parks.
- I agree (*to not acquiring additional land*)
- I also agree – work with what you have and don't take piece-meal land off the tax roll.
- No new acquisitions until Marsh View sets some Pickleball courts. 2017 is too far out.
- Spend \$ on what we have
- Parkland will not go cheaper in the future. Planning ahead is appropriate. Buy more parkland before it is developed and not available.

demonstrates it also. The fact that 93 tournaments are listed on the USAPA Pickleball website (<http://www.usapa.org/events/>) further illustrates that. These are sanctioned tournaments only; it does not include tournaments that are run by individual clubs or locations such as Holly or Grand Blanc, etc.

- Pickleball is universal. Most area high schools and middle schools are now including pickleball instruction in their PE classes and Rochester High School even has a league. There was a great article that discussed pickleball and I quoted just a small bit below. (<http://www.worldpickleball.com/pickleball-craze/pickleball-continues-to-gain-fans-as-a-year-round-sport-for-all-ages-in-the-south-metro-area/>)
- “I tried out the sport recently and, for many reasons, was immediately hooked. It doesn’t require expensive equipment or much time, can be played year-round by virtually anyone of any age (one Apple Valley player is 93), improves hand-eye coordination and balance, raises your heartbeat and metabolism rate, promotes good sportsmanship, and is fun vs. the often-boring workout at a fitness club. It is typically played two against two (doubles) and thus is an enjoyable social outing, as well. Jim Miller is the ‘ambassador for pickleball’ for Prior Lake and has a business card to prove it. A former tennis coach, he has introduced scores of people throughout the south metro to pickleball. Here’s his take on the sport: “What’s neat about pickleball is that a match is only 11 points and lasts just 10 to 15 minutes. Then you can sit down if you’re tired and let someone take your place, or keep on playing. Pickleball is a happy revelation for women who were in school when sports weren’t offered for girls. These women give the sport a try and suddenly realize, ‘Wow, I can do this!’ It’s fun to watch them take on their husbands and clean their clocks.” Although older adults make up most of the pickleball players, more and more young people are getting involved. Typically, this happens when their parents or grandparents take them to a court and kick their behinds. They are not going to let that happen again, so they take up the sport seriously, get their revenge, and then continue playing because it’s so competitive and so much fun.”
- If we are to believe the Master Plan’s demographic projection of the 65+ year olds increasing 154.3% in the next few years, then, once again, pickleball is the logical choice for the type of courts to be built in Oakland Township parks.
- Pickleball moves slower than a game of tennis, so it’s perfect for seniors who still want to exercise competitively, which is one reason why the sport has become so popular in recent years, its fans say. In 2012 MPR News called it the “shuffleboard of this generation”; and this spring it was dubbed the fastest-growing sport in America, according to NBC News. (<http://bringmethenews.com/2014/07/07seniors-flock-to-courts-to-play-pickleball>). Many of us, who have played both sports, would contradict that pickleball moves slower. When you’re on the court, that ball can really whiz by.
- Pickleball does have its own unique court. Tennis courts are available at the high schools in the area as well as Waldon Middle School and during the summer, we seldom have trouble getting on them to play. However, there are not enough outdoor pickleball courts as evidenced by the individuals waiting at River Bend Park (3 courts) in Shelby on

any summer day. That is the closest outdoor courts for us. Included in your packet are the places that are listed in Michigan to play pickleball. As you can clearly see, most of the courts are indoor and most require a membership or fee to play. They are not open to the common public. I thought you might enjoy seeing all the listings and I did mark the ones that are closest to us. If we developed adequate outdoor courts, we would once again prove our leadership in the geographical area, since neither Rochester nor Lake Orion has such courts.

- Pickleball can be played on tennis courts. If you should decide to go ahead with tennis courts, we have included some ways that courts could be marked for pickleball also. This is not ideal however, since pickleball nets are 2 inches lower in the middle and 6 inches lower at the posts.
- The master plan discusses the desire for people to get involved in our parks. If we were to involve ourselves in either tournaments or the Michigan Senior Olympics we would draw people into our parks and surrounding businesses. In 2014 over 1000 athletes participated in the Senior Olympics and Lake Orion High School even held some events. To paraphrase a common quote, "Build pickleball courts and they will come." A tournament could also be a fundraising event.
- There is a grant available to subsidize training programs for novice pickleball players. This too would encourage local participation in the parks system of Oakland Township.
- I hope that you will seriously consider adding additional courts, preferably pickleball courts, to the master plan for Marsh View Park. We believe that it would be in Oakland Township's best interest.

## **BATHROOM FACILITIES / DRINKING FOUNTAINS**

- More bathrooms and drinking fountains.
- More bathrooms.
- It certainly would be nice to have a dog park in the Township as well as more potties.
- Need more bathrooms.
- More bathrooms and drinking fountains.
- More bathrooms
- It certainly would be nice to have a dog park in the Township as well as more potties.
- Would like a drinking fountain and "real" bathrooms! *(from Bear Creek Nature Park)*
- Restroom facilities are needed. *(from Bear Creek Nature Park)*
- I think it's about time to think about restrooms and water *(from Bear Creek Nature Park)*
- Install real restrooms *(from Cranberry Lake Park)*
- Not in favor of real toilets. *(from Cranberry Lake Park)*
- Install real restrooms *(from Marsh View Park)*

## **PARK SPECIFIC/CONCEPT PLAN COMMENTS – BEAR CREEK NATURE PARK**

- Any ideas yet on dog park location? I see only one area in SE quadrant that is not part of Nature Park. *(from Bear Creek Nature Park)*

- Too many safety paths proposed! Township not a city! (from Bear Creek Nature Park)
- Need to keep all established trails for variety. (from Bear Creek Nature Park)
- Great park! Leave as is – Beautiful
- *(redacted – discussion unrelated to Master Plan)*
- *(redacted – discussion unrelated to Master Plan)*
- *(redacted – discussion unrelated to Master Plan)*
- *(redacted – discussion unrelated to Master Plan)*
- *(redacted – discussion unrelated to Master Plan)*
- *(redacted – discussion unrelated to Master Plan)* - Great beautiful park
- Like grass trails
- Let people get out and walk to see the beauty
- Don't overdevelop path through the woods – lots of wildlife there!
- How about groomed snow ski trails?
- One gem park – *(redacted – discussion unrelated to Master Plan)*
- Don't overdevelop pathways so as not to disturb wildlife
- *(redacted – discussion unrelated to Master Plan)*
- *(redacted – discussion unrelated to Master Plan)*
- *(redacted – discussion unrelated to Master Plan)*
- Splash park – bathroom – family oriented.
- Beautiful park – the Parks Department do a fabulous job of looking after it. I would be happy to keep it just as it is!
- *(Regarding parking along Gunn Road)* No parking here – it's a wetland
- *(Regarding parking along Gunn Road)* Don't block hard to enter w/horse
- *(Regarding parking along Gunn Road)* Allow for 1-2 space roadside parking
- Would like to see continued investment and growth in this park – is one of the few that is walking distance to many residents.
- *(Regarding dirt trail in southwest lower corner and grass trail in-between west-central wetlands)*  
Need to widen and improve surface
- *(Regarding dirt trail in southwest lower corner)* This segment never really constructed as a surfaced trail. Could consider that!
- This is a fabulous park. "Jewel of the Township"
- Leave it as is!
- Leave as is!
- *(Regarding observation docks)* These are an unnecessary expense.
- *(Regarding observation dock expense)* Yes!
- *(Regarding observation dock expense)* Yes, but it's there, it's fabulous, enjoy it!
- *(redacted – discussion unrelated to Master Plan)*
- *(redacted – discussion unrelated to Master Plan)*
- *(redacted – discussion unrelated to Master Plan)*
- *(redacted – discussion unrelated to Master Plan)*

- *(redacted – discussion unrelated to Master Plan)*
- *(redacted – discussion unrelated to Master Plan)*
- Add splashpad!
- *(Regarding proposed safety path along Snell Road)* Yes!
- *(Regarding proposed safety path along Snell Road)* Great for children to avoid traffic.

## **PARK SPECIFIC/CONCEPT PLAN COMMENTS – BLUE HERON ENVIRONMENTAL AREA**

- Pedestrian trails
- *(Regarding pedestrian trails)* Disagree! Too many proposed!
- Like idea of mowed grass trail and safety path extension
- Connect trail to parking on Rochester Road
- Yes to *(connecting trail to parking on Rochester Road)*
- Allow hunting at all parks.
- So sad blue herons are gone!
- I live on W Buell Road and we noticed population decrease of herons at our pond, why? Where's the heron? Where's the dog park? Where do we park, can we get electric, new bathrooms?
- Move to the city if that's what the yuppies want. Live the parks virgin!
- I look forward to being able to walk Blue Heron Park. Long time owned with no use? Fairly minimal expense to install trail and some parking. Looking forward to seeing it soon!
- Would really love to use this park... please open it soon!
- Consider additional uses.
- Great location, rural site, camping, no electricity
- Rename Ex-Blue Heron Park
- *(Regarding proposed safety path along Rochester Road)* Good!
- Community garden area by old house site
- Add trail to parking
- *(Regarding community garden)* Great!
- Where is the parking lot? I tried to walk here and there was a chain over driveway.
- Blue Heron looks good... Perhaps a safety path parallel to Lake George and all the way along Buell Road should be considered.

## **PARK SPECIFIC/CONCEPT PLAN COMMENTS – CHARLES ILSLEY PARK**

- I like the trails and possible exercise stations.
- Pedestrian only trails somewhere
- More parking along entrance road
- Perhaps too much prairie to maintain and burn
- I heard this is a bad area for ticks. Will burns help that?
- Keep mowed trails, no fitness equipment (go to a gym). Off leash dogs no fenced area!
- Why fitness equipment?
- Need groomed X-country ski trails. Good place for it.

- Allow hunting @ all parks
- *(Regarding hunting at all parks)* No!
- Multi-use trails for all to use, share
- Great natural area – private – no hunting.
- Nice private, quiet park – Leave it!
- Love this park only problem is the ticks from May onwards! (shame)
- This is awesome. Please leave it just as it is. Thanks.
- Add more (dirt) trails
- Leave it alone
- *(Regarding proposed parking turn-around)* Nice addition (needed!)
- *(Regarding proposed horse trailer parking)* Good
- *(Regarding proposed safety path along Predmore)* Good!

### **PARK SPECIFIC/CONCEPT PLAN COMMENTS – CRANBERRY LAKE PARK**

- Signs needed to direct visitors on different paths @ Cranberry Lake Park.
- Cranberry Lake – needs real restrooms and signage on Rochester Road. Memorial tree-area.
- Why doesn't the Park Department take care / better care of the farm at Cranberry Lake?
- A boardwalk at Cranberry Lake Park would be lovely. Have done nature program in the park. Some areas can be wet
- Too many proposed safety paths. We are a Township, not a city!
- Plant trees. Memorial tree-area?
- Would it be possible to put the kayak idea to use in this park? The lake is bigger.
- Enlarge parking lot for horse trailers
- Have canoe/kayak rentals or lockers for kayaks
- More work needed on the trails in this park. May need mosquito control, too!
- Increase fishing access.
- Great for fishing.
- Beautiful natural trails.
- Family fun and close to Addison Oaks.
- This trail through Addison Oaks is excellent
- *(Regarding Addison Oaks trail)* Agree – They did a fantastic job!
- Trails need more signage
- Play area for kids
- *(Regarding expanded parking)* Good idea!

### **PARK SPECIFIC/CONCEPT PLAN COMMENTS – DRAPER TWIN LAKE PARK**

- Have canoe/kayak access to creek
- I don't think this lake is big enough to justify expense of universally accessible dock.
- We need better access to the dock for vehicles. It's too far to take a boat out even walk down there.
- Have kayak lockers for people who can't bring kayaks in their car.

- Like proposed path to dock.
- Enlarge parking areas. Include drive to dock for emergencies and boat drop off.
- *(Regarding proposed safety path along Parks Road)* Going where?
- *(Regarding proposed universally accessible kayak/canoe launch)* Great idea
- Very nice as is!
- *(Regarding proposed boardwalk connections)* Nice!
- *(Regarding prairie restoration in north field)* Is this for hay?

## **PARK SPECIFIC/CONCEPT PLAN COMMENTS – GALLAGHER CREEK PARK**

- Good site for playground!
- Add picnic tables in addition to area highlighted
- Would love this park plus a safety path from Gallagher
- Too many safety paths! People live here for the rural atmosphere.
- *(Regarding too many safety paths)* Agree!
- Is there visibility of the creek at all?
- Playground at Gallagher would be fun!
- Please review for better use of this park land. Closest park for residents to walk to.
- Love this.
- Great for Veterans Memorial
- Would like to do something that draws more of the people who live by here to walk to this park and enjoy it. I live about ¼ mile away and did not really even know it was a place we could go visit and walk.

## **PARK SPECIFIC/CONCEPT PLAN COMMENTS – LOST LAKE NATURE PARK**

- “Water trail” would limit birds in feeding and nesting (by adding human disruption)
- No more safety paths. You are proposing too many.
- *(Regarding no new safety paths)* Agree.
- Need kayak lockers for rent so people without trucks / SUVs can keep kayaks. Good source of revenue.
- Need X-country groomed trails
- Better fishing access / ramp for canoe or row boat
- Was a “natural” amphitheater planned here in summer month? Great place to view Music in the Meadows.
- Expand fish access to other lakes
- Don’t ruin this park!
- Like the way of protecting the lakes
- *(Regarding proposed trail connection to Oakview Middle School)* Great idea!
- *(Regarding proposed Green Lake trail extension)* Make sure this trail allows for equestrian use
- *(Regarding proposed Green Lake trail extension)* Elevation too steep for horses
- How feasible is it to consider a trail easement to Lake George Road (potential trail hook-up via development to Watershed Ridge)

- Expand fishing access (*on Green and Tamarack Lakes*)
- (*Regarding proposed Tamarack Lake trail extension*) How will this path be surfaced?
- (*Regarding proposed Tamarack Lake trail extension*) No surfacing. Self-guided trail.

## PARK SPECIFIC/CONCEPT PLAN COMMENTS – MARSH VIEW PARK

- Would proposed multi-purpose include tennis and basketball?
- Marsh Park was so beautiful untouched. In the spring and summer I don't get the opportunity to walk my dog there because of crowds and lack of parking. I would love to walk my dog at a new trail on Buell and Lake George. Please, no dog park.
- Plant trees
- Horses should be allowed. Consider tying into BMRA trail system. There are many horses in this area. Bring trail behind the archery range.
- Answer traffic on Clarkston Road. Not passable for 2 cars in many areas. Dangerous with potholes from present amount of cars to pull out on Orion Road. What to do with additional traffic?
- (*No*) safety paths
- Better fishing access
- Fitness trail
- This has the makings of a great park!
- Expand multi-use trails.
- Safety path along Clarkston Road
- What about the house?
- Beautiful hill, high point at proposed multi-purpose sports courts. Best to find appropriate site for flat level parkland for multi-use courts. Save yourself the aggravation (i.e. sinking wetlands)
- (*Regarding proposed safety path along Stoney Creek Road*) Encourage multi-use trail link through Bald Mountain north to existing path and boardwalk at Addison Oaks. Direct link to trails at Cranberry Lake Park. Future trail link north up Lake George Road (1.7 miles) to Polly Ann Trail!
- This will link to trails on Kern and Orion Road to Paint Creek Trail
- Encourage multi-use trail hookup between Bald Mountain and Addison Oaks
- (*Regarding trail hookup to Bald Mountain*) Not open to horses!
- (*Regarding in-park trail on western edge*) Not so much boardwalk required if you move the trail
- I like the idea of this being a real active park where kids can go and spend a whole day on different activities
- Need more security. Lots of teens and kids loose without supervision
- (*Regarding proposed multi-use sports court*) Not a good location, location, location. Too hilly, too many trees.
- More multi-use courts needed. Line them for pickleball.
- (*Regarding pickleball courts*) Ditto!
- (*Regarding southwest corner of park*) Children's play structure. Too hilly for flat parking.

- Poor use for parking. Clarkston Road cannot handle traffic as it is not good quality with many pot holes. Plus not able to have 2 cars pass at once.
- Must do possible interpretation of historic resource. Preserve!
- *(Regarding small soccer fields on east side of park)* Too small (Not utilized). Make additional parking.
- Where are the equestrian trails in this Park's original grant application?
- Need X-country groomed trails
- *(Regarding northeast corner of park)* Parking

## **PARK SPECIFIC/CONCEPT PLAN COMMENTS – STONY CREEK RAVINE PARK**

- You don't fish streams from a dock
- What about creating blinds to observe wildlife and limit human disruption (to birds, etc.)
- Fishing dock intrusive – won't be used.
- As it sits now, it appears this park is just good for adjacent subdivisions and property owners.
- Fly fishing is not dock fishing. Bad, expensive idea.
- This is a beautiful natural area that does not need fishing piers and/or boardwalks at the stream.
- Just a trail through and a parking lot.
- Please, no more safety paths.
- Call it a viewing deck.
- Allow hunting.
- Better fishing access.
- I like the idea of connecting the park to Stoney Creek Metropark. It will allow for more use.
- Shame that Stoney Creek won't partner with us on a parking lot – We should clear the Snell Road access for walkers. The cars don't always have to rule!
- Awesome!
- Add marked trails.
- Better access and parking. Great fishing, too!
- *(Regarding possible land acquisition)* Parcel 7, 4.9 acres. Fire road here
- *(Regarding proposed safety path along Snell Road)* Good idea
- *(Regarding land acquisition opportunities/connection to Metropark)* Push this!
- Signage
- Great place for groomed X-country ski trails on existing trails
- *(Regarding access path from Snell Road)* Can we at least clear this access? At least for walkers...? Couple of volunteer days would do it.

## **PARK SPECIFIC/CONCEPT PLAN COMMENTS – WATERSHED RIDGE PARK – GENERAL COMMENTS**

- I propose no dog park and moving the parking and trail head to the corner of Lake George and Buell. See my notes on Study #1

- No dog park, however, walking and bike trail is a great idea for Lake George and Buell. That way, all people in the Township can make use of this beautiful area. Dogs have plenty of parks to walk in, plus walking paths at Silverbell and Adams and downtown Lake Orion.
- No need for a dog park or community gardens. Put dog park on 16 acres Township owns at Stoney Creek and Lake George.
- No dog parks!
- No need for dog park here
- Prefer alternate #1 plan
- No dog park needed
- No dog park – especially in this area – off Lake George Road – Too much of a traffic / noise problem.
- *(Regarding noise problem)* And barking
- I would prefer no dog park – but if enough people want one, we need more info as to \$\$\$. Reading approved PRC minutes from 3/13 – 9/13, many red flags. Reps from Oakland Co Parks – from your Risk Assessment person seem not to be heard.
- A dog park would generate too much traffic on a narrow gravel road. Such a park does not match the character of the Township. How would maintenance of the park be paid for. Not a good idea.
- The only map that is the best is map 1. No dog park. The gravel road cannot take the increased traffic. Roads are also too narrow.
- Would like the different ideas for Watershed Ridge to be on OT website to look at with more thoughtfulness
- I like alternative #1
- As a lifetime Township resident I think a dog park is a good idea if this is something the bulk of the residents want to see, but I would like to see more planning on this and would like to see other parks with better access explored. This gravel road does not seem to be a good place.
- Watershed Ridge should stay as a nature park and not an active use park. Lots of wildlife would be displaced like sandhill cranes, geese, ducks, deer, fox, etc. I have seen all on this land each year. Trails would be nice that connect to others. Stop the farming. Find a different park for active use, dog parks, etc.
- None of these plans represent what dog task force worked on for WS Ridge. It was a great design and the task force really listened to farmer and home owner and residents.
- We need a sheltered picnic area with usable bathrooms.
- Most of the property surrounding Watershed Ridge to the north sits poised for future development. Therefore, the pathways shown on your concept plans indicating connections to the SPTC current master plan are at best, a best-case scenario. (On the current SPTC master plan the trails continue north behind the Braid property, crossing Stoney Creek Road and continuing through the old "Harvest Corners" site & *(Township resident's)* property.) However in reality, these future trails will most likely be designated by developers' layout and assume that *(Township resident)* wants the public hiking through his property. I think you need to keep that in mind as you plan trails in Watershed Ridge. A trail that keeps close to the perimeter would allow for easier accessibility from any direction, not just from the east. The entry/exit point from

the north currently serves no one. I think it's important to consider how citizens coming from either direction of Lake George or Buell Road can get off the road as quickly as possible to utilize the trails. I've attached a map of Watershed ridge we created last year during my involvement with the ill-fated dog park committee. Take a look at the trails we laid out for Watershed Ridge after we hiked the bulk of that property. NME indicates non-motorized access to the park. The trail avoids wetlands, yet still gets hikers, bikers, equestrians back on the road should they wish to continue north to Bald Mountain, Addison Oaks, and destinations north. Thanks for your consideration.

- Congrats on what appeared to be a great turn out for your Open House on Thursday. FYI, I was unable to get on to your Master Plan website without a sign-in and password to make my comments there and I neglected to add some important comments during Thursday's workshop. When planning park improvements, I believe PRC should follow the same requirements for including safety paths and trails as developers do. There should be a perimeter trail along the road sides wherever practical, and particularly on property such as Watershed Ridge Park or Blue Heron Park, which will provide significant links to the current or future inter-township trail system. If a perimeter trail is not practical, there should be an obvious trail through the park connecting to the SPT system. For example, a safety path along Rochester Road in Blue Heron Environmental area would provide a major link along Rochester to existing subdivisions along Gunn and Buell Roads. All of the property to the north of Watershed Ridge sits poised for development. Your plans for Watershed Ridge show nice inter-park trails, but let's make sure we provide the necessary trail connections to help complete the SPT between Goodison and the north end of the township. This practical approach should be applied to all of your park planning. Thanks for all of your important work!
- Thank you so much for organizing and having a really good Parks and Rec Open House function last Thursday. There was a plethora of information about each and every OT Park. It was also great to be able to have knowledgeable personal at the event to answer the majority of our questions. It looks like a lot of work has gone on prior to this event as well, so that you were prepared. Again thank you to all involved. Hopefully it was a great success. Two items sadly I still need more information and clarity on:
  - I went to the township website and first of all I had a hard time finding the future meeting Agenda link (ecode360). If I am correct this use to be an easy link on the bottom of the OT home page. It took me 5 minutes to finally find it inside the Parks and Rec Page then it took me to the general ecode360 link anyway. If someone can mention it to the Webmaster, an easy to find link on the Home Page to send a resident to the right place to find the Meeting Agenda they need would be much more helpful. I went to the link to see the agenda for the Feb 5th PRC Special meeting but it has not been posted. Any ideal as to the agenda or when it will be posted?
  - I have to say the one item that I was a bit surprised about at the open house is that, with respect, to Watershed Ridge Park land nothing was noted that this 170 acres was purchased with Land Preservation funds and thus has specific limitations as to its development. (*Commissioner*) was very helpful when I asked about the amount of acreage that is permitted for active use at Watershed Ridge and she was knowledgeable about the limitation but did not have the actual number of acres so she took me to

(Parks Director) who agreed with the active use limitation on Watershed Ridge Park. (Parks Director) explained the purchase of land and that a small portion was also donated which brought her to the conclusion that after informally calculating it previously that the total allowable acreage for active use within the Park was roughly 14 acres. (Parks Director) explained that the Trails only proposed Plan is all “in active” use as planned parking and facilities such as restrooms support the proposed “in active” use which is trails. I would like to request to please have a formal calculation completed and recorded so that the rest of the Parks and Rec Commissioners and the consultants are aware of the actual amount of active use allowed when developing proposals.

- The calculation of allowed active use at Watershed Ridge and all of our other Parks is extremely important for future proposed development and construction of the 5 year master plan. When we discussed it further with the consultants during the Open House it was also a grey area but in the end they concurred that both Dog Park proposals as shown likely exceeded the amount of total active use allowed at Watershed Ridge Park. It is easy to determine by looking at both proposals because 14 acres is only roughly 8% of the total 170 acres of Land Preservation park land. It was mentioned they could be downsized to the allowed 14 acres of active use but then leaving nothing for any other active use in the park for the future. Then to confirm I wanted to clarify that a fenced in and mowed dog park is active use and they agreed that it was as it is the same as a mowed soccer field or a fenced in and mowed Baseball field which are also active use. The nice benefit of the Trails Only proposal is that it is still a dog friendly park which any resident can take their dogs to for a walk and all 14 acres is still available for future active use planning and development with the entire 170 acre park in mind.

## **PARK SPECIFIC/CONCEPT PLAN COMMENTS – WATERSHED RIDGE PARK – CONCEPT 1**

- This land was bought with Land Preservation \$ only 14 AC for active use
- Best of 3 park plans. No dog park.
- At some point in time should either Watershed or Blue Heron Parks be considered for Township expansion? i.e. community center, vets memorial?
- *(Regarding Township expansion)* Blue Heron is to protect the blue herons. No development should be considered.
- Best plan of all 3. Allows for future possible active use if or where needed. Please include restrooms and covered picnic area. Offer off-leash dog area not fenced or mowed.
- *(Diagram for proposed parking in southwest corner of park)* This is the best map for Watershed Park. Everyone can use it. No dog park.
- *(Regarding existing maintenance facility)* No!
- This is the best proposal for Watershed Park – No dog parks, please. There are sandhill cranes, blue heron, muskrats, mink in this park. Good for walking trails & picnic areas only.
- How about a restoration agriculture project?
- Move parking back off main road.

## PARK SPECIFIC/CONCEPT PLAN COMMENTS – WATERSHED RIDGE PARK – CONCEPT 2

- No – way too concentrated would create a traffic / safety nightmare. Barely room for 2 cars to pass
- Important – 2 car passage in all roads necessary. Note Clarkston Road has same problem by Marsh View Park
- (*diagrams of two houses along Lake George*) Too close to homeowners
- Gravel and mostly clay road cannot handle extra traffic. Who is going to watch if residents only use park? Road is not wide enough to handle two cars passing. Hill and blind spots on road.
- “Active use” shown exceeds allowed 14 acres of total 170 acres. Land preservation. We need a dog friendly park not a dog park. No future development possible.
- “Dog friendly” would be a great start. Good suggestion – even do a trial to see how it works out?
- Be considerate of neighbors when planning driveways.
- Let’s spend money on kids not dogs
- (*Regarding spending money on kids*) Great!! But what if you can’t have kids?
- Totally against Study #2

## PARK SPECIFIC/CONCEPT PLAN COMMENTS – WATERSHED RIDGE PARK – CONCEPT 3

- Would prefer to have dog park closer to where more people live. Bear Creek? Walking to the park with dog is a nice afternoon.
- Like the dog park. Consolidate parking.
- Please do not put a dog park on Watershed Park. All the blue heron will leave. This park needs to be on a paved road only.
- (*Regarding blue herons at Watershed Ridge*) No blue herons here!
- (*Regarding intersection of Lake George and Buell Roads*) Pitted intersection most days. Don’t pave!
- Great plan. Good for dogs and horses. Available water nice (well).
- Keep dog park close to parking. Best spot
- Consolidate parking to save \$\$?
- No community gardens! Use your own yard!
- Move dog area back off road – parallel to other large dog area. Also, best plan of 3.
- Yes! Best plan of 3, but move dog park off Road. Sand arena should be closer to water source so you can flood it in winter for skating and control dust in summer. Make sure parking lots are large enough for horse trailers. Cover arena for better ice in winter.
- (*Regarding sand arena*) Needs to be larger and should have some horse trailer parking
- Cover arena would be great and water source.
- Township residents do not need to foot the bill for outsiders to use arena. Provide permits for Township residents and charge outsiders.

- Consider that Addison Oaks is planning a dog park. Please don't duplicate. Make a dog and multi-use natural park, not a dog park.

## COMMENTS FROM WEBSITE

- *(Regarding Chapter 3)* I was unable to attend the open house, but have looked at the plans so far on this site. I live near Watershed Ridge Park, which I did not even know was a park! I love the Watershed Concept #3 and am very excited to have a dog park and horse arena. My friends who have horses in the area think this would be a fantastic place to have an exercise arena and I agree! Also, I think the fenced dog park should encompass a large enough area for there to be walking trails in the wooded areas as well as some open field for some ball throwing. The Orion Oaks Bark Park has different fields that they alternate for the dogs and as well as a lake for the dogs to swim in. I hope our dog park is at least 8-10 acres. If it is too small, it is not worth the trip. We have a lot of parkland in this area...let's use it! You should also consider a separate area for smaller or older dogs. A dog park is also a great way for people to socialize with other dog owners. Can't wait to see this park open! I have three active dogs who will love this!!
- *(Regarding Chapter 4)* I see no mention of a sand arena for the Township's many equestrians. There may be a low percentage of horse owners, but for a relatively small amount of money, a sand arena or two in our parks would be a draw for many residents who love to watch horses exercise. It could also be educational for people when the sand arena is used by local high school equestrian teams, 4-H clubs, etc.
- *(Regarding Chapter 4)* I think you should remove the last sentence of the "Dog Park" paragraph on page 18 of Chapter 4 regarding Addison Oaks County Park plans. It makes no difference to Oakland Township residents what Addison Oaks does as far as putting in a dog park. Addison Oaks currently has plans to put in a 1 acre fenced area for camper's dogs. Per the Oakland County Commission members, any large dog park will not be put in for many years if at all. Oakland Township residents pay property taxes for Township Parks. As Oakland Township has over 1100 acres of parkland, surely we could put in a decent sized off-lead dog park (at least 8-10 acres for large dogs and 3 acres for small dogs) for our residents who want to use it with their canine companions! Our residents should be able to use the parks as they please without the hinderences the current PRC places upon the residents of this Township. The main theme of the current park survey is PROXIMITY to one's residence. People do NOT want to go too far from their homes to use amenities! The majority of the population in Oakland Township is in the South quadrants. They will not be more apt to use Addison Oaks future tiny dog park. They want something closer and LARGER!
- I want to comment on the idea that has been suggested (names redacted) an UNFENCED park to be used for dogs OFF LEAD. You must hate dogs and be sadistic to want to have a park like this. Dogs will run away, get hit hit by a car or otherwise injured. Truly an INSANE idea. No one will ever use a dog park like this...but then that was probably why you suggested it. SHAME ON YOU!
- I wholeheartedly agree that we need a dog park!
- we want a big dog park!

I was unable to attend the Open House, but did attend the last PRC meeting on February 5th. I was so very disappointed that the comments of a FEW residents who do not want a dog park or horse arena seemed to have such an impact on the plans for Watershed Ridge Park.

It was my understanding that the township survey results came back with a dog park being in the top five of residents park needs! Clearly, this township NEEDS a dog park! I am requesting that a dog park be implemented at Watershed Ridge. It should NOT be a tiny dog park, but at least use 25 acres of this 176 acre park. This township has over 1100 acres of parkland. Surely, with the number of residents who pay taxes for our parks we should be able to put in a "premier" dog park to be an example of how a dog park should be. As our township has a dedicated millage for parks, our residents should be able to use parks as they would like to. I believe the residents have spoken on this issue!

This township has a population of over 16,000 residents and most of them are animal lovers and dog owners. Oakland Township supports two veterinary clinics, boarding facilities, dog daycare and obedience. This fact alone would indicate there are plenty of residents who agree with a dog park. The survey results also indicated that residents want parks close in proximity to their residences. No one wants to have to travel to far away parks when there is so much useable parkland nearby. We should have a dog park like the Orion Bark Park in size with multiple fields that can be rotated. As much as we enjoy watching birds, trees and turtles, as humans we have an undeniable need to interact with other people and our residents would love to enjoy nature along with our friends and our canine companions!

I was part of the Dog Park Equestrian Arena Task force comprised of very knowledgeable and dedicated residents who volunteered their expertise to come up with a beautiful and viable plan. We developed some wonderful plans down to the finest detail, only to be brushed aside for purely political reasons. The majority of the PRC ignored our plans and voted to hire a professional planning consultant who would not be as dedicated to the details and wants of our township. On this Task Force we carefully looked at each Oakland Township park and determined that Watershed Ridge would be the best location for this type of park for several reasons. 1. It is centrally located. Most of the residents are in the southern portion of the township. 2. Watershed Ridge is large enough to support a dog park and horse arena as well as other facilities in a later phase. 3. There are no restrictions on active recreation in this park. It will support active and passive recreation, per the 2009 masterplan for which our residents paid over \$87 thousand dollars!  
4. This park already has potable water which is necessary for a dog park.

I was disappointed to hear comments of some park commissioners that the park should be only 2 acres. Again, with over 1100 acres of parkland, the majority of residents being dog owners and tax payers AND your constituents, one would think that this PRC would be a little more in tune with what is popular as well as what is needed by the residents of Oakland Township.

I was shocked and dismayed that (names redacted) among others suggested dedicating a park (Charles Isley) to be used as an UNFENCED OFF LEAD dog park! This idea is LUDACRIS on multiple levels! Dogs will inevitably run away and get lost or killed or cause trouble at surrounding residences with livestock. Even the best obedience trained dog can be distracted and tragedy could ensue. How would one be able to pick up after their dog in a 90 acre park? Again BAD IDEA! Why would anyone set up a park like this to fail in tragedy? Please don't waste

ANY time on this poor idea.

In conclusion, I want to reiterate that a large enough dog park at Watershed Ridge is desperately needed in OT. Dog parks encourage social activities! They encourage a sense of community, something mentioned in the survey as much needed in OT. Families enjoy time spent together with their canine companions. Dog parks are not seasonal; dog parks can be used year round. Residents would look forward to meeting up with their friends and enjoying trails and exercise with their companions in all seasons. This is what is really needed in our township. My question is WHEN are you going to listen to us?

- A dozen points – Comments for the Master Plan
  - The people of Oakland Township paid for a survey. You used our tax dollars to survey what we want in our parks.
  - The survey clearly stated that we want more amenities, not just more trails or areas which seem off-limits to the people of Oakland Township.
  - Our parks seem very unwelcoming to our residents, as some are even without signage.
  - The last Parks meeting made it clear that you have more standing if you live next to a park, even though you do not own the land.
  - The last Parks meeting made it clear that PRC has “favorite” residents.
  - The people of Oakland Township have more than 1100 acres of park, most of which is completely underutilized.
  - The people of Oakland Township want a dog park, not just an area where dogs can be free to run with their owners, and not on a busy road.
  - The people of Oakland Township deserve more than areas for bird watching and one small playground.
  - A horse arena would be a great investment for the Township.
  - For the amount of money spent, we seem to have very little to show for it.

## GENERAL COMMENTS

- Thank you! Wonderful presentation! Great displays.
- Wow! Impressive documentation! Public participation opportunity is fantastic! Location of offices at Paint Creek CM is very convenient and staff are very friendly & knowledgeable! Should fix the deck so can have events, etc. Stewardship is important!
- Excellent format for open house ability to comment on each park.
- Congratulations on an impressive show/event. A lot of work has gone into this. Well done!
- 4.5 Surprised you don't have a business plan already considering the Parks Department has been around for almost 40 years!
- Where is our conservation program?
- Draper Twin Lakes looks like old field.
- Can we have kite flying in the parks?
- Can you please explain what “weed trees” are?
- *(redacted – discussion unrelated to Master Plan)*
- *(redacted – discussion unrelated to Master Plan)*
- Park staffing seems high for what we get.

- *(redacted – discussion unrelated to Master Plan)* How about camping in our parks. Can I cut wood in the park? There are some lovely old oaks I could use for furniture. Since their just weed trees.
- *(redacted – discussion unrelated to Master Plan)*
- Where does all the money go!? Why is your overhead so high @ 75%? We spend too much on nature stuff and not enough on active rec. The parks belong to the Township not the Parks Department. How do I get a free place to stay like the people @ Lost Lake? *(redacted – discussion unrelated to Master Plan)*
- *(redacted – discussion unrelated to Master Plan)*
- Park staffing seems high for what we get.
- Less waste on “consultants”.
- *(redacted – discussion unrelated to Master Plan)*
- Should *(spend)* more time programming and less time writing grants.
- It seems to me that the location and expansion of PARKING LOTS are keys to expanding/using park amenities. Nobody goes to a parking lot as a destination.
- Please no restaurant / gift shop at Cider Mill. Who will expect shopping at Township offices? Keep LLNP as is!
- Very informative presentation. Suggestion – Finance charts should have key for funding source abbreviations.
- I enjoyed and appreciated the evening. Would like to see a lot more of the residents of Oakland County who live in the subdivisions near Adams/Silverbell start to use the parks. Please continue to invest strongly in parks near main populations (Gallagher, Bear Creek, Blue Heron).
- Multi use Parks – multi use trails – picnic areas, bathroom facilities in a few – (some porta-potties OK).
- Thank you *(Stewardship Director)*. We appreciate all you do.
- *(Stewardship Director)*, thanks for the controlled burn lecture!
- Pedestrian only paths
- Thank you *(Stewardship Director)*. Keep up the good work!
- *(redacted – discussion unrelated to Master Plan)*
- Where is the legend that tells what TM, PM & LPM are?
- I would like to know if my private recreational facility could be listed on the Parks & Recreation Map, currently on p.22 of your newsletter.
- Kudos to the Parks/Rec group for a job very well done at the open house & with all the time/efforts put into the Oakland Township parks!
- The Planning Process: Generally the PRC has used steps in planning. Some inexperienced residents seemed to feel these steps could be short-cut. The short-cut method has been applied to parking at Marshview Connector with zero results for money spent. I propose that PRC formalize the steps is park planning into a township ordinance so that they steps cannot be asily skipped by some future PRC.
- Again great event and thank you. *(redacted – discussion unrelated to Master Plan)*

- My sister and I attended your Master Plan open house last week at different times due to our work schedules. We have started to pay attention to the exorbitant amount we tax-payers have put into our parks system. To say it has been an awful lot of money without very much to show for it would be an understatement. Setting that recent revelation aside, I have a few comments I would like to put on the record.

I thought it was good that somebody wrote “DRAW!” on the maps on the tables, but thought perhaps it was more of a marketing tactic than an actual request for input. Mayhap you will use some of those suggestions in the future. Neither my sister nor I signed in, as there were about 3 people in front of me, and one in front of her, and since your “anonymous” survey had our initials on it, we were again leery of why you wanted our information. The Parks seem to have a rather rabid and disagreeable following, and neither of us wish to be targeted by these individuals.

While I noted that there were a number of both Park personnel and Commissioners present, including the director, (*Parks Director*), I was pleasantly greeted only by the maintenance gentleman, as well as (*Commissioner*) and the gentleman from (*Consultants*). (*redacted – discussion unrelated to Master Plan*). We both had questions for (*Parks Director*).

Since our questions remained unanswered, I would like to record some thoughts:

I am uncertain as to how a dog park facility could become so contentious, (*redacted – discussion unrelated to Master Plan*). For the record, I am all for a large dog park in Watershed Ridge or smaller one in Bear Creek, as there are already numerous dogs off-leash in Bear Creek whenever we go walking or birding there.

It does not seem to us that for all of the planning and expense that has gone into a “Master Plan,” that very much is ever accomplished. A lot of great ideas, but not a great number of accomplishments. (*redacted – discussion unrelated to Master Plan*). It would be wonderful for the Parks people to all work together to accomplish new features for the residents.

(*redacted – discussion unrelated to Master Plan*)

I think the green park areas in our Township are very nice, and set us apart as more rural, but am disappointed that there are not more active things to do. Most of the park boundaries are unclear, and there are not areas where the simplest, most basic or primitive outdoor activities could occur: Sunday picnics, horse-shoe pits, croquet, a field for kite-flying, or badminton. We observe young people playing tennis and volleyball in Rochester parks, and would like to see some of that here. Since we enjoy being set apart as rural, I would also like to inquire as to why there do not seem to be any horse areas, aside from some trails. We muse that horses in our parks might actually add to our rural character.

Thank you for your consideration in these matters.

- The simplest and logical rename is: “Paint Creek Trail Connector Park” or just “Paint Creek Trail Park”. Another good and maybe better option, for everyone to know it is an Oakland Township park, could be Oakland Township “Heritage Park”. Then have a bronze plaque in the park with high light information from the OT Historical Society web page noting all of the original settlers in Oakland Township.

<http://www.oaklandtownshiphistoricalsociety.org/OT%20Brief%20History.htm> There could also be a tri-fold brochure (take one) box next to the bronze plaque giving all of the full details about our Townships History including the electric train that went from from Detroit thru Goodison pass this park to Lake Orion and Oxford. This would be a perfect stop for all of the bike riders and walkers and they could learn something they might not know. The park should include roughly 30 gravel lot parking spots, gravel connector trail to the Paint Creek Trail, proper restroom, “Historical themed”, covered picnic area and playground, bike racks, benches and running water. You need a good size parking lot because some may come just to use the Park but others would primarily come to use the trail leaving their car for 2 to 3 hours while they ride. I know you have a lot to consider for the Parks and Rec Master plan but if it is possible to still include, what a great asset this small park could be.

## COMMENTS ON PROPOSED FACILITIES RANKING SHEETS

- Regarding limestone path expansion and resurfacing at Bear Creek:
  - No need – Leave as is!
- Regarding water well and drinking fountains at Bear Creek Park:
  - Not needed
- Regarding Trail System Establishment at Blue Heron Environmental Area:
  - (*moderately interested*) if herons not expected back
  - Dog park yes!
- Regarding Trail, parking lot and entrance road improvements at Charles Ilsley Park:
  - Expand trails - more
- Regarding Trail improvements and equestrian trailer parking at Cranberry Lake Park:
  - No
- Regarding Universally accessible kayak dock at Draper Twin Lake Park
  - Lost Lake
  - Lake looks small
- Regarding Playground and Picnic area at Marsh View Park:
  - It's enough
- Regarding Multi-use sports courts at Marsh View Park:
  - Already have it
  - No!
- Regarding Zip Line / Adventure Course / Rope Course:
  - No!
- Regarding Parking lot expansion and restroom addition at Gallagher Road, Paint Creek Trail:
  - Where? Is there room?
- Regarding Dog park and parking lot:
  - No! (*3 separate sheets*)
  - Just allow off leash not a park
  - Marsh View #3 (*Watershed Ridge #3?*)
  - No, may need for political reasons
  - No dog park
- Regarding Equestrian sand arena and equestrian trailer parking at undetermined location:
  - No
  - No equestrian
  - Arena needs to be dragged on a routine basis – who will do this machinery to be purchased
  - Who will clean manure from arena parking and surrounding area? Where will it go?
  - Will water be available?
  - Permits should be provided to residents all others need to purchase a permit (dog park, also)
  - Insurance?
  - Maintenance?

- Regarding Amphitheater for Outdoor Performance:
  - No! Spare me!
  - No! (*3 separate sheets*)
- Regarding Trail expansion and surface improvement, fishing access, creek overlook and addition of parking lot at Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park:
  - Sounds nice. Let's talk \$ for acquisition first
  - No fish really in here
  - *Fishing access crossed off by user*
- Regarding Trail System and Parking Lot at Watershed Ridge Park:
  - No comments on dog park as it is not on this page.
  - Yes high (to trail system), no (to parking lot)
  - Dog park, either #2 or #3, #1 if off leash dogs allowed
- General comments:
  - Are any of these lake(s) able to support a beach or pools?
  - How about ski trails that are groomed?
  - Blue Heron Env. Area (reclassify as nature area – heron rookery is long gone)
  - Blue Heron Env. Area – dog park
  - Make parks more family friendly by providing picnic areas, water fountains and play equipment for children.

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# Appendix C

## Park Inventory Sheets

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## **Key to Map Categories:**

### **PARK USE & MANAGEMENT ZONES**

- Conservation: The primary focus is conservation of natural areas of exceptional quality or special significance (e.g. habitat for notable wildlife or a rare plant community). No development is allowed in this zone, although interpretive signage in adjacent zones is encouraged.
- Cultural Landscape: In this overlay zone, preservation of the historical and cultural resources is the primary management focus. The Cultural Landscape Overlay allows the uses in the underlying zone but addresses the cultural and historical resources found within the park.
- Developed Recreation: Allows high density active recreation in areas not designated for natural areas significance. Appropriate development includes athletic fields, pavilions, and other specialized facilities, courses, or field that allow active recreation.
- Natural Areas Recreation: Emphasizes natural areas, allowing limited development for passive recreation uses. Examples of appropriate development include trails, boardwalks, docks, sledding hills, and interpretive signage.
- Visitor Services: Encompasses the developed areas required for program administration and operations. This zone will include any maintenance facilities and all related land required to conduct the business of running Oakland Township parks.

### **RECREATION TYPES**

- Active recreation refers to a structured individual or team activity that requires the use of special facilities, courses, fields, or equipment. Examples include soccer, football, golf, tennis, or basketball.
- Passive recreation refers to recreational activities that do not require prepared facilities. Examples include nature photography, wildlife study, hiking, biking, and kayaking. Passive recreational activities place minimal stress on a site's natural areas; as a result, natural areas can provide ecosystem service benefits and are highly compatible with natural resource protection.

### **ACCESSIBILITY INDEX**

- Level 1. The park is not accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. The site includes little paved areas and the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are not easily accessible.
- Level 2. The park is somewhat accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Either the parking area or pathways are paved, but not both. Many of the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are not easily accessible.
- Level 3. The park is mostly accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Most of the parking areas and pathways are paved, and some of the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are accessible but may be completely barrier-free. This level of accessibility includes parks adjacent to the Paint Creek Trail from which viewing and interpretive activities can take place for those need barrier-free facilities.
- Level 4. The park is completely accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Parking areas and pathways area paved, and most of the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are easily accessible.
- Level 5. The entire park was developed or renovated using the principles of universal design, a design approach which enables all environments to be usable by everyone, to the greatest extent possible, regardless of age, ability, or situation.

## **PARK CATEGORIES**

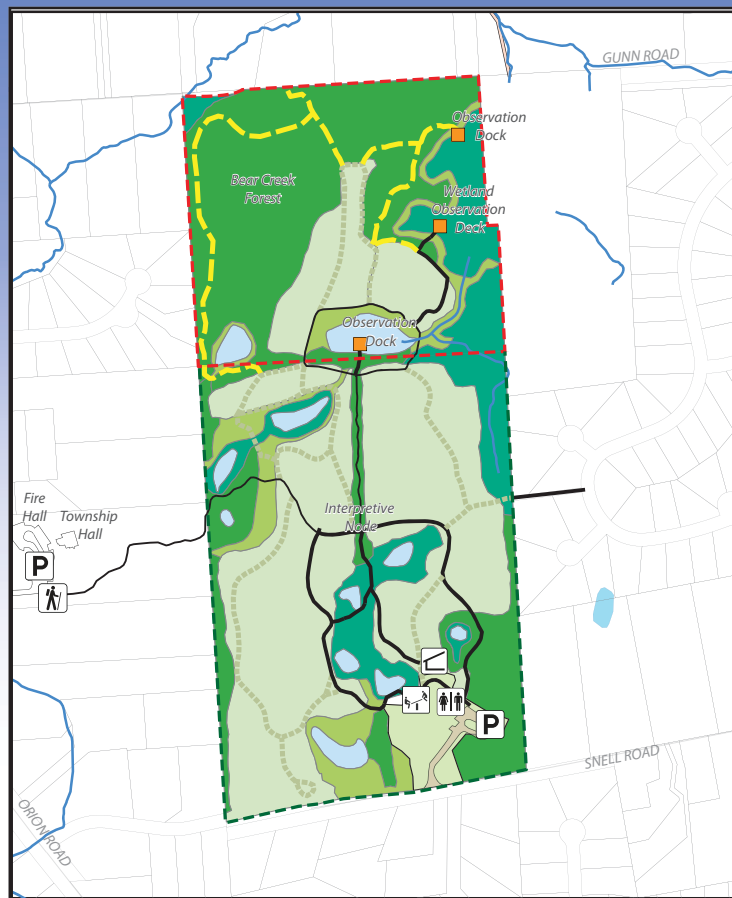
- Mini Parks: Small, specialized parks that are usually less than 1 acre in size, serving limited, isolated, or unique populations typically less than ¼ mile away from the park itself.
- Neighborhood Parks: Serve an area up to a one-half mile distance and are typically less than 10 acres in size.
- Community parks typically serve an area within one-half to three miles and are between 30 to 50 acres in size. NRPA guidelines recommend between 89.5 and 179 acres, with a maximum of six parks.
- Natural Resource Areas: Natural resource areas are lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space, and visual aesthetics/buffering.
- Linear parks are trails and trail systems and the buffer space surrounding the trails. Linear parks often include educational signage, rest stops, play areas, natural features (stream, river), or human-defined corridors (railroad right-of-way, power line easement). Multiple modes of transportation such as hiking, biking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, canoeing, or pleasure driving may be incorporated into the same linear park or separated into individual-use areas.
- Regional facilities offer a variety of active and passive recreational opportunities which help in meeting the need for local park land and help balance the deficiencies in facilities.



## BEAR CREEK NATURE PARK

Location	740 West Snell Road
Size (acreage)	107
Acquisition	1977
Conservation Easement	47 acres, held by Six Rivers Regional Land Conservancy (SRRLC)
Predominant Usage	Passive Recreation and Natural Area Preservation
Accessibility Assessment	Level 3
Category	Community Park

Forest - Deciduous	Shrub Wetland
Grassland / Open Area	Water
Lawn	Wetland
<b>TRAILS</b>	
Mowed Grass	Trailhead
3' Wide Woodchip/Dirt	Picnic Shelter
5' Wide Limestone	Playground
8' Wide Limestone	Portable Toilet
Oakland Township Park	Parking
Conservation Easement	



Park Asset / Amenity	Quantity	Condition	Comments
Benches	3+	Good	3 @ playground & 7 along trails & 8 on docks
Bridges/Boardwalk	3	Good	
Docks/Decks	3	Good	Wooden
Fencing		Good	Split-rail fence
Fields - Open Lawn	1	Excellent	Open lawn area only
Grill	1	Good	Includes charcoal disposal bin
Interpretive Signage	1	Good	
Kiosks	4	Good	
Natural Areas		Excellent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Over 30 acres of oak forest provide important habitat for resident wildlife and migratory birds</li> <li>System of wetlands cleans and stores stormwater</li> </ul>
Parking Lot	22 spaces	Good	Gravel
Portable Toilets	1	Excellent	Barrier free, rented from contractor
Storage Shed	1	Good	Connected to restroom
Trails - limestone - mowed - packed soil	Total of all trails: 4.1 miles	Good	8' wide ADA access / 5' wide trails; much effort required to keep in good condition
Overflow Parking	up to 50 spaces	Good	Lawn can serve as overflow parking for special events

## BEAR CREEK NATURE PARK, cont.

Natural Area Type	Acres	Condition	Comments
Old Field	48.5	Fair	Encroachment of invasive shrubs and trees
Dry-Mesic Southern Forest	25.0	Good	Some invasive shrubs
Southern Hardwood Swamp	9.5	Fair	Encroachment of invasive shrubs and trees
Southern Shrub-Carr	7.5	Fair	Area with extensive encroachment by glossy buckthorn and Phragmites
Mesic Southern Forest	6.6	Poor	Degraded area near old homestead site. Has some remnant native plants
Vernal Pool	3.8	Excellent	Site hydrology fairly intact. Important habitat for amphibians
Emergent Marsh	3.6	Good	Need to work to protect and manage the entire marsh
Other/Developed Area	2.3	Good	Mowed lawns, playground, picnic shelter, parking lot, shed
Water	1.2	Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Site hydrology fairly intact, few aquatic noxious weeds</li> </ul>

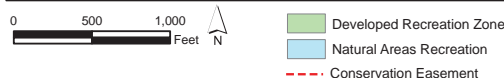
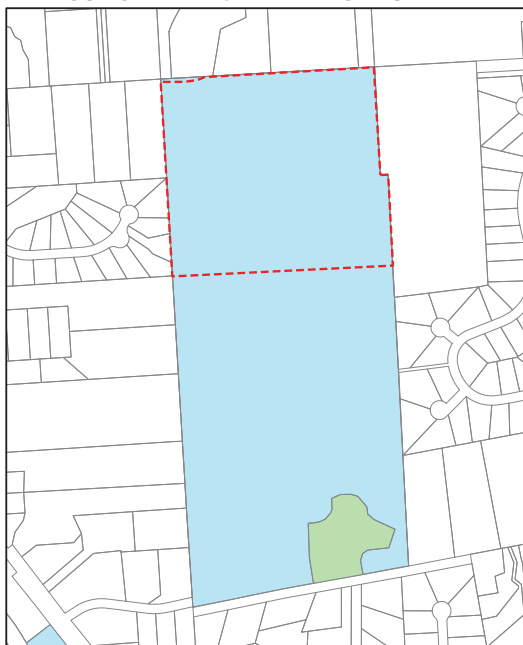
### STRENGTHS

- Best access to multiple activities of any Township park
- Well designed pavilion and picnic space suitable for events
- A welcoming park
- Trail and interpretive maps are available
- Access off Gunn and Snell Roads, from the Township Hall property, and through a private subdivision easement
- Contains high quality oak/hardwood forests, Bear Creek marsh, and many ponds

### CHALLENGES

- The Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Commission only manages west half of Bear Creek Marsh; entire marsh needs to be managed as one
- Lack of potable water
- Natural areas stewardship along edges shared with subdivision property, succession of old farm fields
- Erosion problems on trails due to topography
- Neighbor encroachment and dumping of yard waste is problematic
- OCRWC plan to locate water main and water tower at this park

### PARK USE & MANAGEMENT ZONES



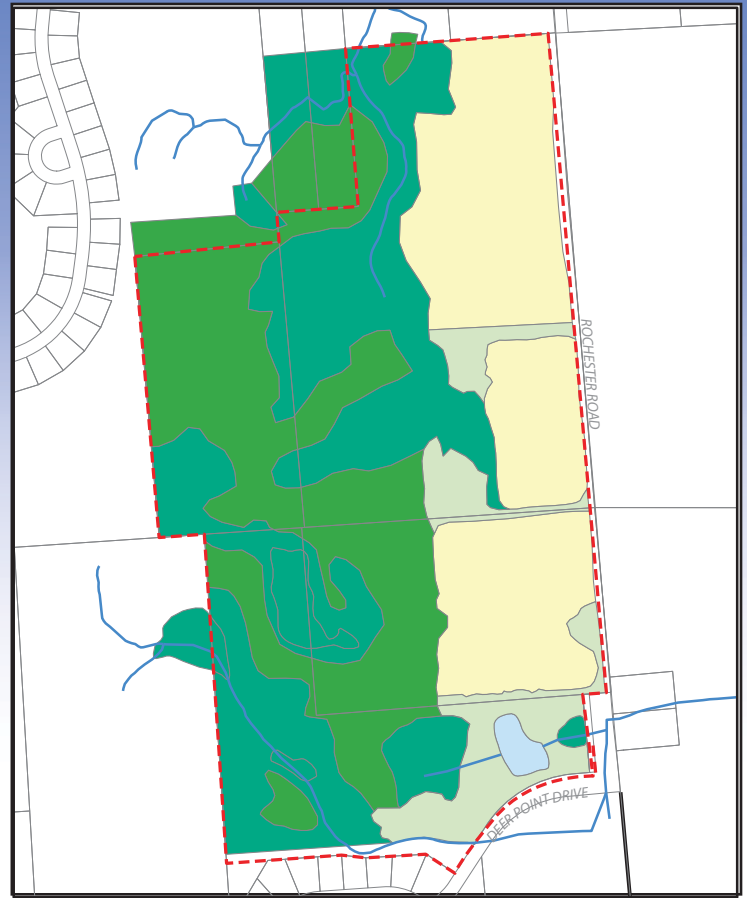
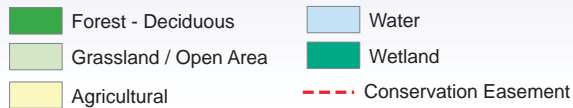
### POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES

- Neighbor education regarding dumping followed up with site visits to discuss uniqueness of site
- Trail management and maintenance - assess where trails are truly needed / desirable.
- Incorporate fitness trail components to segments of existing trails
- Resurface limestone trails which were installed in 2002
- Monitor erosion along Gunn Road
- Prairie restoration in old fields in southern half of park
- Evaluate potential addition of high quality forest to the park on the western boundary
- Management of entire Bear Creek Marsh with permission of other owners and use of donation funds
- Connection to Township safety path along Snell Road
- Potential location for small fenced dog park



## BLUE HERON ENVIRONMENTAL AREA

Location	3320 North Rochester Road
Size (acreage)	139
Acquisition	1990 / 1991 / 1997
Conservation Easement	139 acres Six Rivers Regional Land Conservancy
Predominant Usage	Environmental Protection
Accessibility Assessment	Level 1
Category	Natural Resource Area



Park Asset / Amenity	Quantity	Condition	Comments
Fields - farm		Excellent	Leased by local farmers
Forest (upland and wetland)		Excellent	
Rookery		Fair	Thriving population until 2009 and has never recovered

Natural Area Type	Acres	Condition	Comments
Southern Hardwood Swamp	46.5	Excellent	Effects of high deer densities evident
Mesic Southern Forest	43.6	Excellent	Effects of high deer densities evident
Agricultural Field	39.0	Good	Conservation easement says that must be restored to native vegetation if agriculture ends
Old Field	12.2	Fair	Encroachment of invasive shrubs and trees
Emergent Marsh	4.3	Good	Some glossy buckthorn around edges of marshes
Other	1.0	Fair	Retention pond

# BLUE HERON ENVIRONMENTAL AREA, cont.

## STRENGTHS

- Environmental area
- 25 to 50 active heron nests documented from 1978 - 2008; Herons deserted site in 2009 and have not returned
- Upland hardwood forest, swamp, and shrubby wetlands
- Cultural conservation of agriculture history
- Size of the preserve
- Diversity of plant species and high floristic quality
- Located along Rochester Road which offers the opportunity to reach the public and allow a greater appreciation of the park

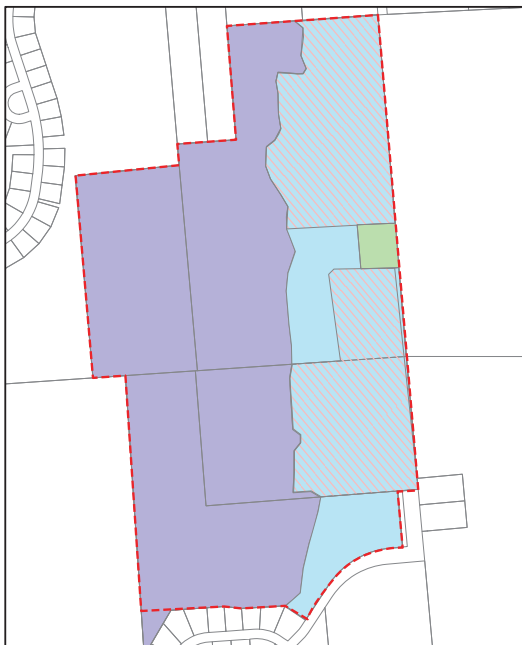
## CHALLENGES

- Dump cleanup
- Public access is only provided through seasonal guided nature programs
- No established access; no parking or trails
- High impact of deer on the site due to the forested area; must reduce the deer population to maintain and restore the quality of the area
- Mowing of parks property along southern boundary shared with subdivision

## POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES

- Protect forested areas to north and west of park to buffer high quality forest
- Take advantage of educational opportunities to raise awareness for need for protected habitat
- Fields could be used for native plant propagation, community garden is organic garden; water is available for this
- Proposed connection to Township Trail system along Rochester and Gunn Roads
- Restore natural area connectivity within the park
- Neighbor education regarding dumping along west, north, and south
- Fencing along southern park boundary to delineate property ownership and/or signage
- Joint management of woodland at northwest corner of park with permission of adjacent property owners and use of donation funds
- Consult with ornithologist to determine likelihood of herons returning to rookery. Develop limited trail system in conjunction with the Six Rivers Land Conservancy based upon the ornithologist's recommendations.
- Open the park for deer hunting

## PARK USE & MANAGEMENT ZONES



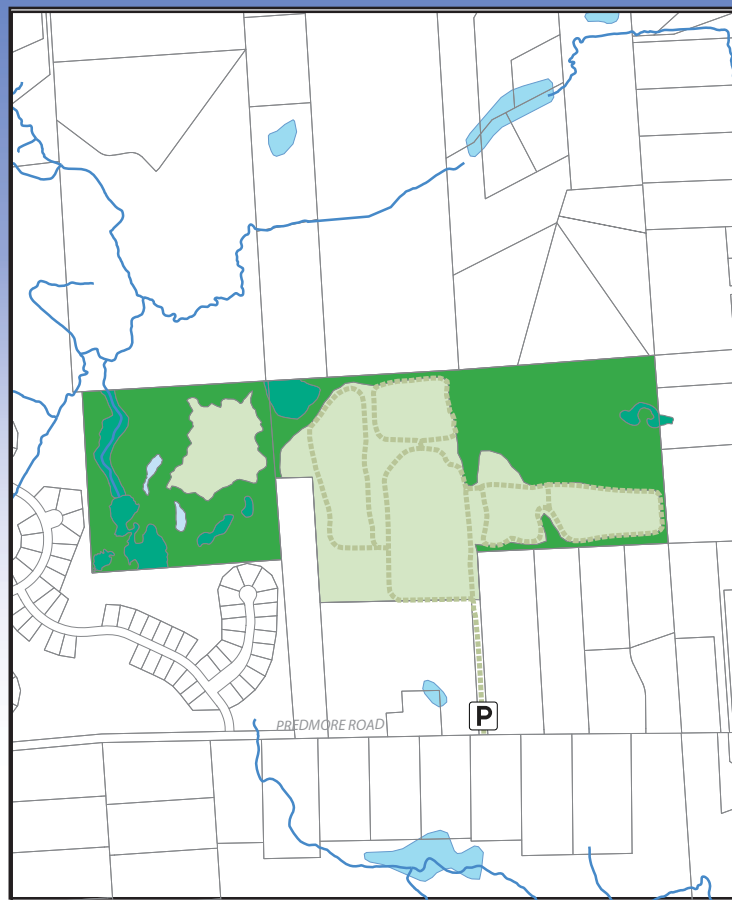
- Conservation
- Cultural Landscape Overlay
- Developed Recreation Zone
- Natural Areas Recreation
- Conservation Easement



## CHARLES ILSLEY PARK

Location	East Predmore Road
Size (acreage)	120
Acquisition	1990, 2005
Conservation Easement	N/A
Predominant Usage	Passive Recreation, Natural Area Preservation
Accessibility Assessment	Level 1
Category	Community Park

Forest - Deciduous	Shrub Wetland
Grassland / Open Area	Water
TRAILS	Wetland
Mowed Grass	Parking



Park Asset / Amenity	Quantity	Condition	Comments
Parking Lot	1	Good	Gravel
Trails - mowed	2.3 miles	Excellent	
Old Farm Fields		Good	
Woodland at northeast corner		Good	

Natural Area Type	Acres	Condition	Comments
Old Field	56.4	Fair	Convert to native prairie/oak savanna 2015-2017
Dry-Mesic Southern Forest	55.0	Good	Large diameter trees and steep topography
Emergent Marsh	3.9	Fair	
Southern Hardwood Swamp	3.5	Good	Low diversity, but few invasives
Water	0.6	Good	
Vernal Pool	0.2	Good	Important amphibian habitat

# CHARLES ILSLEY PARK, cont.

## STRENGTHS

- Rolling hills
- Open pastoral setting
- Prairie restoration started in 2014 in old farm fields with potential for haying by local farmers
- Northeast woods

## CHALLENGES

- Panhandle entrance limits visibility of park and facilities from Predmore Road
- High impact of deer on the site; must reduce the deer population to maintain and restore the quality of the area
- Parking lot too small to accommodate larger programs and equestrian trailers
- Swallow-wort population on land south of park

## POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES

- Recreation activities such as cross country skiing, hiking and horseback riding
- Panhandle entry could be dynamic “parkway” drive into main park area in post-2014 development
- Proposed connection with Township Trail system along Predmore and up to Romeo Road
- Restore natural area connectivity within the park
- Continue to convert agricultural fields to a native plant community
- Establish appropriately placed trails to minimize disruption
- Incorporate fitness track elements on trails
- Establish trail connection to Wyndstone subdivision to west
- Protect fields, wetlands, and forest on surrounding properties to buffer natural areas
- Possible playground facility
- Park may be designated as an off-leash dog facility

## PARK USE & MANAGEMENT ZONES

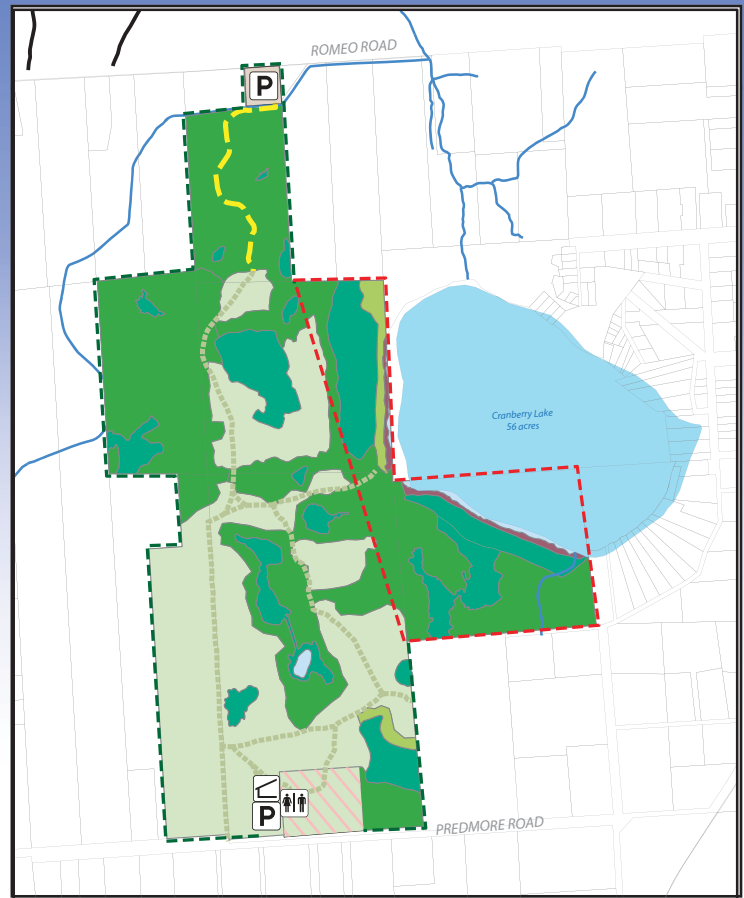




## CRANBERRY LAKE PARK

Location	388 West Predmore Road
Size (acreage)	213
Acquisition	1996, 2003
Conservation Easement	52 acres, held by Six Rivers Regional Land Conservancy (SRRLC)
Predominant Usage	Passive recreation, Natural Area Preservation
Accessibility Assessment	Level 2
Category	Community Park

Forest - Deciduous	Shrub Wetland
Grassland / Open Area	Water
Historic District	Wetland
<b>TRAILS</b>	
Mowed Grass	Bog
3' Wide Woodchip/Dirt	Picnic Shelter
Oakland Township Park	Portable Toilet
Conservation Easement	Parking



Park Asset / Amenity	Quantity	Condition	Comments
Bridge	1	Excellent	
Grill	1		
Historic District Farmstead	1		16 acres
Historic Farmhouse	1	Excellent	
Outbuildings within H.D.	8	Excellent	
Kiosks	2	Excellent	
Parking Lot	20 spaces	Good	Gravel
Portable Toilet	1	Excellent	Barrier free, service contracted
Trails - dirt	2.4 miles total	Good	3' wide
Trails - mowed		Good	5' wide
Trails / boardwalk		Good	4' wide; in low areas of northern woods
Trails - limestone	300 linear feet	Excellent	8' wide; connects to Addison Oaks

Natural Area Type	Acres	Condition	Comments
Mesic Southern Forest	87.7	Good	Somewhat fragmented
Old Field	69.9	Fair	Encroachment by invasive shrubs and trees
Emergent Marsh	13.2	Good	
Southern Hardwood Swamp	11.6	Good	
Southern Shrub-Carr	6.0	Good	Primarily adjacent to Cranberry Lake
Other	5.6	Poor	Developed area around historic farm. Invasive woody plant encroachment, farm dump
Southern Wet Meadow	2.8	Good	Need to protect wet meadow on property to southeast
Bog	1.6	Good	Only bog in township property

# CRANBERRY LAKE PARK, cont.

## STRENGTHS

- Beautifully restored national and state historic site; 1840s Axford-Coffin Farm managed by Historic District Commission
- Location for concerts and other special events and farm programs
- Nature education, bird watching and orienteering programs
- Great location for hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, and cross-country skiing
- Connection between Predmore and Romeo Roads
- Cranberry Lake shoreline high quality - mixed hardwood swamp, bog, and shrub swamp
- Very diverse flora and high floristic quality
- New trail connections to Addison Oaks County Park

## CHALLENGES

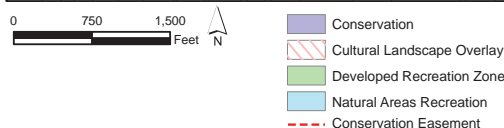
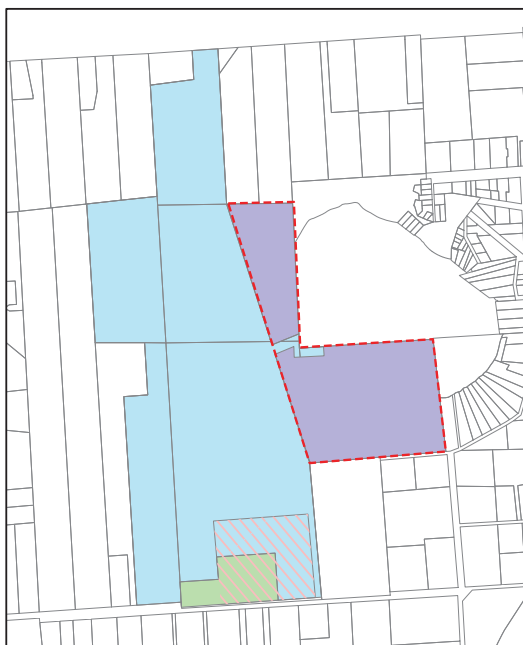
- Clean up farm dump
- Establish appropriate access to Cranberry Lake and its shoreline
- Trails appear to require more maintenance to keep to the quality standards set at other Township parks
- Weeds continually establish within and along the edges of the lake: Starry Stonewort and Eurasian Milfoil
- Climate changes over time suggest that bogs may eventually disappear in southern Michigan

## POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES

- Conduct prescribed burns
- Determine and implement future efforts to protect the bog
- Eventual connection with Bald Mountain and Lost Lake Nature Park via Township and County Park and Trails
- Primitive camping experience
- Improve trails in wet woods in north of property
- Restore native plant communities to old fields
- Protect wetland on southwest corner of park to allow management of *Phragmites*
- Expand parking at southern entrance to allow equestrian trailer access

## PARK USE & MANAGEMENT ZONES

- Expand horse trail system
- Observation dock / educational platform on Cranberry Lake to be developed in conjunction with Six Rivers Land Conservancy.

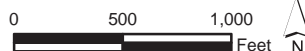




## DRAPER TWIN LAKE PARK

Location	1181 Inwood Road
Size (acreage)	90
Acquisition	2005
Conservation Easement	N/A; Deed restriction limits usage to only Parks and Recreation & Natural Area Preservation activities
Predominant Usage	Passive recreation
Accessibility Assessment	Level 3
Category	Community Park

	Forest - Deciduous		Shrub Wetland
	Grassland / Open Area		Water
			Wetland
TRAILS			Portable Toilet
	Mowed Grass		Parking
	8' Wide Limestone		



Park Asset / Amenity	Quantity	Condition	Comments
Benches	5	Good	2 @ dock, 1 @ trailhead, 2 along trail
Boardwalk / Fishing Docks	1	Excellent	
Parking Lot	1	Excellent	22 cars & trailers, gravel
Portable Toilet	1	Excellent	Contract for service
Prairie Restoration	20 acres	Excellent	
Storage Shed	1	Good	
Trails - Limestone	1.6 miles total	Excellent	10' wide
Trails - Mowed			

Natural Area Type	Acres	Condition	Comments
Old Field	40.8	Poor	Encroachment by invasive shrubs and trees
Agricultural Field	23.2	Fair	Convert to native prairie/oak savanna 2015-2017
Southern Wet Meadow	8.9	Good	High quality wetland vegetation present
Southern Shrub-Carr	7.3	Good	High quality wetland vegetation present
Water	5.8	Good	Phragmites on adjacent lake properties
Dry-Mesic Southern Forest	1.3	Poor	Highly degraded
Southern Hardwood Swamp	0.4	Poor	Adjacent to Inwood Rd, degraded
Emergent Marsh	0.1	Good	Few invasives

## DRAPER TWIN LAKE PARK, cont.

### STRENGTHS

- New facilities - parking, limestone trail, dock in 2008 / 2009
- Trail connection between Inwood and Parks Roads
- High quality wet meadow bordering the lake to the south and other wetlands
- Prairie restoration in old farm fields at northeast corner started in 2014

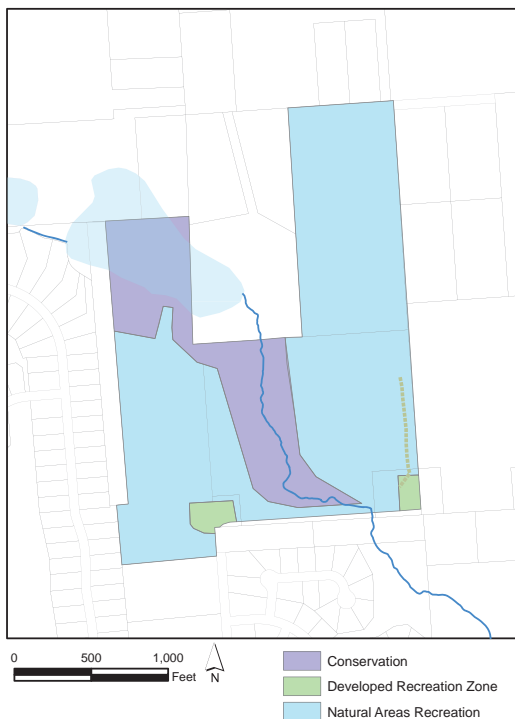
### CHALLENGES

- Large wetland separates west and east sides of park
- Must reduce the deer population to protect natural features of the park
- Maintenance of limestone trail to dock due to steep topography
- Continued use of original trail to dock causing erosion
- Phragmites on other properties around lake

### POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES

- Relocation of existing park signage; current location is confusing as it is located next to a barricaded entry to the park
- Connecting west and east sides of park with trail
- Establish appropriately placed trails to minimize disruption
- Restore natural area connectivity within the park
- Connect park trails with Township safety paths proposed for Inwood and existing on Parks Road
- Improvements to limestone trail and original trail to reduce erosion
- Protect wetlands around lakes with Conservation Easement
- Continued restoration of old fields to native plant communities
- Improved access drive with drop-off area near top of hill to reduce portage distance
- Universally accessible dock for kayak/canoe launch
- Possible zip line/rope course location





### PARK USE & MANAGEMENT ZONES

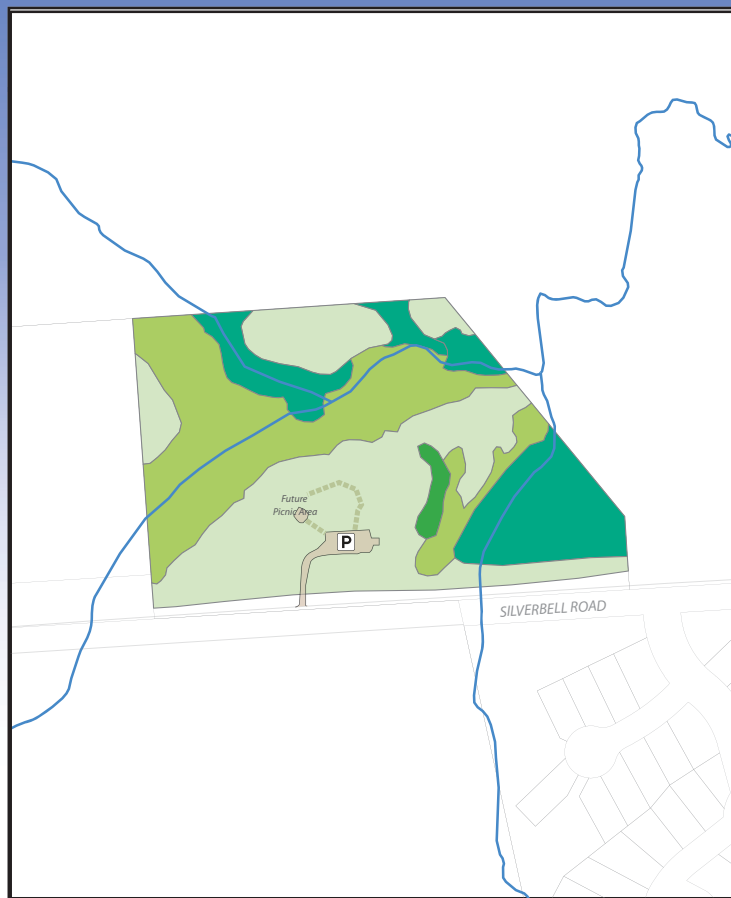




## GALLAGHER CREEK PARK

Location	Silver Bell Road
Size (acreage)	15
Acquisition	2000
Conservation Easement	N/A
Predominant Usage	Nature Preserve, Passive Recreation
Accessibility Assessment	Level 1
Category	Neighborhood Park

 Forest - Deciduous	 Shrub Wetland
 Grassland / Open Area	 Wetland



Park Asset / Amenity	Quantity	Condition	Comments
Parking Lot	1	Good	Gravel
Trail - mowed	0.2 miles	Excellent	

Natural Area Type	Acres	Condition	Comments
Old Field	6.6	Fair	Degraded, but some conservative plants present
Southern Shrub-Carr	4.6	Fair	Phragmites present
Emergent Marsh	1.8	Good	Phragmites present, but relatively intact
Southern Wet Meadow	0.9	Fair	Phragmites present
Southern Hardwood Swamp	0.2	Fair	
Dry-Mesic Southern Forest	0.2	Poor	Highly degraded

## GALLAGHER CREEK PARK, cont.

### STRENGTHS

- Near high population density of subdivision; safety paths proposed for both sides of Silver Bell in that area
- Contains a delicate balance of upland area, emergent marsh, and the Gallagher Creek headwaters area
- Unique riparian corridor; one of the only remaining populations of native brook trout in southeastern Michigan
- If maintained, park could act as an important refuge for bird species
- Location offers both an educational outlet and valuable resource for neighbors
- Easy access from nearby subdivisions for dog walking

### CHALLENGES

- Location along busy Silver Bell Road
- Must reduce the deer population to protect natural features of the park
- Large *Phragmites* populations will need to be controlled
- Enhance the park while protecting sensitive natural resources

### POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES

- Future plans include a picnic pavilion, playground, nature trail, and wetland observation deck
- Conduct prescribed burns
- Address the impact of development on water quality and hydrology
- Restore natural area connectivity within the park; extend management beyond site boundaries to include natural areas immediately outside park
- Re-route walking paths to better showcase natural areas; potential boardwalk areas as required
- Possible location for Veterans Memorial
- Possible fenced off-leash dog park location

### PARK USE & MANAGEMENT ZONES





## LOST LAKE NATURE PARK

Location	846 Lost Lake Trail
Size (acreage)	57.88
Acquisition	2004, 2008
Conservation Easement	N/A; Restrictions: Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund project agreement
Predominant Usage	Passive recreation, Natural Area Preservation, Environmental Education
Accessibility Assessment	Level 4
Category	Community Park

	Forest - Deciduous		Shrub Wetland
	Grassland / Open Area		Water
	Lawn		Wetland
<b>TRAILS</b>			
	3' Wide Woodchip/Dirt		Trailhead
			Picnic Shelter
			Playground
			Portable Toilet
			Parking



Park Asset / Amenity	Quantity	Condition	Comments
Caretaker's House / New Nature Center	1	Good / Excellent	
Kiosks	2	Good	
Outbuildings	2	Excellent	Outbuildings and converted barns
Parking Lot	37 spaces	Excellent	
Portable Toilets	2	Excellent	
Shore - Lakeside Native Plantings		Excellent	
Sled Hill	2	Excellent	Recontoured for safety
Storage Shed	1	Excellent	
Trails - dirt	0.3 miles		1' wide from Caretaker's House to top of sled hill
Warming Shelter	1	Excellent	
Asphalt paths	730 linear feet	Excellent	5' - 10' wide
Universally Accessible Canoe, Kayak & Fishing Dock		Excellent	
Audio - Interpretive Signs	2	Excellent	
Potable Water Hydrants	2	Excellent	
Concrete Pads - Picnic / education nodes	2	Excellent	

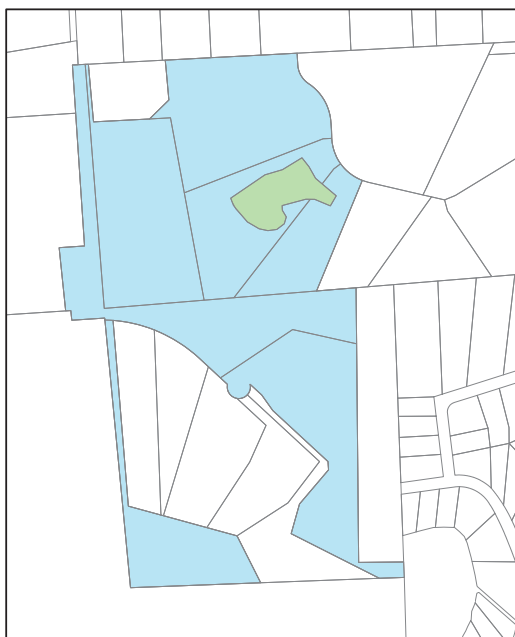
# LOST LAKE NATURE PARK, cont.

Natural Area Type	Acres	Condition	Comments
Oak-Pine Barren	17.2	Good	Red maple reducing light in understory
Dry-Mesic Southern Forest	10.4	Good	Red maple reducing light in understory
Emergent Marsh	6.9	Fair	High quality wetland vegetation, but significant glossy buckthorn encroachment in areas
Southern Shrub-Carr	6.8	Fair	High quality wetland vegetation, but significant glossy buckthorn encroachment in areas
Water	6.0	Good	No known aquatic invasives, little Phragmites, mostly undeveloped shoreline
Southern Hardwood Swamp	3.5	Good	
Other	5.4	Fair	Developed area. Various invasive plants due to disturbance history
Old Field	2.1	Poor	Heavily disturbed

## STRENGTHS

- Fishing programs
- Winter organized events and sledding
- Non-motorized lake access to 8-acre Lost Lake, provision of kayaking classes and kayak rentals
- 17 acres of wetlands
- Mature oak and white pine forest
- Highest quality natural area in the Township parks system
- Portions of park west and south of Green Lake offer a chance to expand the extent of the high-quality upland and wetland areas
- Hosting all 2nd & 3rd grad students from Rochester Community Schools for environmental education at Nature Center

## PARK USE & MANAGEMENT ZONES



0 400 800 Feet N  
 Legend:  
 ■ Developed Recreation Zone  
 ■ Natural Areas Recreation

## CHALLENGES

- Presence of several invasive species
- Gravel parking lot may be too small for events and to support additional facilities at this park

## POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES

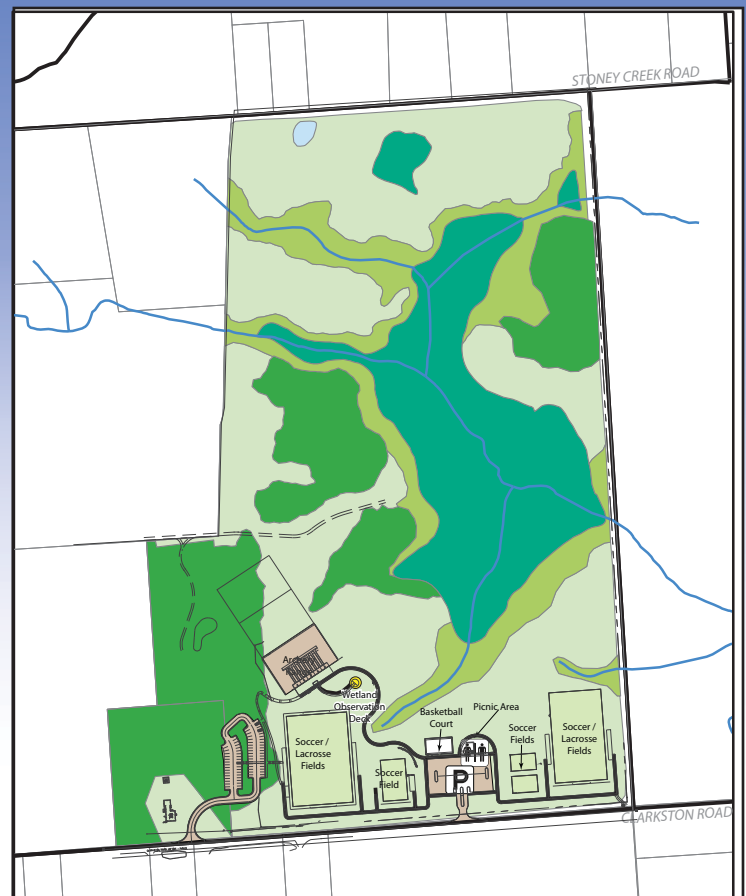
- Collaboration and trail connection with Oak View Middle School, Addison Oaks, Bald Mountain Recreation Area
- Expand trail system in collaboration with neighboring residents to connect all areas of park
- Continue to maintain oak / pine barren community
- Improve the habitat for the Eastern Massasauga rattlesnake on site
- Manage the wetlands surrounding Lost Lake
- Conduct prescribed burns
- Partnership with Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve to operate Nature Center
- Work with adjacent landowners to protect wetlands and natural areas bordering the park
- Self-guided kayak "water trail"
- Possible location for zip line/rope course



### MARSH VIEW PARK

Location	Clarkston Road
Size (acreage)	91
Acquisition	2001
Conservation Easement	N/A; Restrictions: Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund project agreement
Predominant Usage	Active & Passive recreation, Natural Area Preservation
Accessibility Assessment	Level 4
Category	Community Park

- Forest - Deciduous
- Shrub Wetland
- Grassland / Open Area
- Water
- Lawn
- Wetland
- TRAILS
- Portable Toilet
- Parking
- 8' Wide Limestone



Park Asset / Amenity	Quantity	Condition	Comments
Basketball Court	1	Good	With 2 adjustable height nets
Interpretive Signs	2	Excellent	
Multi-use Sports Fields	2	Excellent	190x330', soccer, lacrosse, football
Observation Deck	1	Excellent	
Outdoor Archery Range	1	Excellent	10 lane, universally accessible
Parking Lot	70 spaces	Excellent	Gravel
Portable Toilets	2	Excellent	Barrier free
Soccer Fields	2	Excellent	90x50'
Storage	1	Excellent	
Trails - asphalt	0.7 miles	Excellent	10' wide ADA
Trails - gravel		Excellent	to observation deck
Portable Ice Rink	1	Excellent	60' x 100'

## MARSH VIEW PARK, cont.

Natural Area Type	Acres	Condition	Comments
Old Field	32.4	Fair	Some native prairie vegetation persists
Emergent Marsh	16.5	Good	Site hydrology still fairly intact, few noxious invasive species
Other	14.2	Fair	Athletic fields and archery range. Surrounding areas planted to native vegetation, but some invasive species problems
Southern Shrub-Carr	10.9	Fair	
Dry-Mesic Southern Forest	10.1	Poor	Old apple orchard, black locust
Mesic/Wet-Mesic Southern Forest	6.1	Fair	Low native plant diversity from disturbance history
Vernal Pool	0.3	Fair	Not surrounded by native vegetation

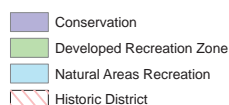
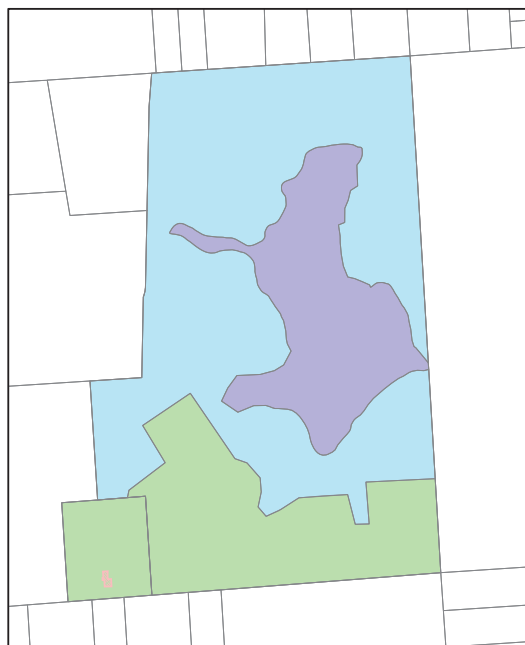
### STRENGTHS

- New facilities in 2009
- 27 acres of native plantings, prairies and wetlands provide important wildlife habitat
- Emergent marsh most remarkable natural feature of the site
- Added 5 acres on Park's western boundary
- Historic Value

### CHALLENGES

- Separation of active, passive and natural area preservation zones
- Maintain athletic fields while protecting the hydrology and nutrient load of the wetlands
- Provision of adequate parking for use of all facilities including athletic fields, archery range and basketball court

### PARK USE & MANAGEMENT ZONES



### POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES

- Future development of the north portions of the park including improved trails, boardwalks, overlooks, amphitheater and open recreation areas. Enhance wildlife habitat with native plantings, prairies and wetlands
- Future addition of playground and picnic pavilion at south end of park
- Connection to Bald Mountain Recreation Area
- Development of additional parking on west edge of park
- Expansion of archery facilities
- Possible historic interpretation of homestead
- Possible multi-use sports court
- Possible permanent ice rink/amphitheater
- Zip course/rope course location
- Introduce fitness trail elements to existing/new trails
- Possible trail along east side of park and/or connector to Bald Mountain State Recreation Area

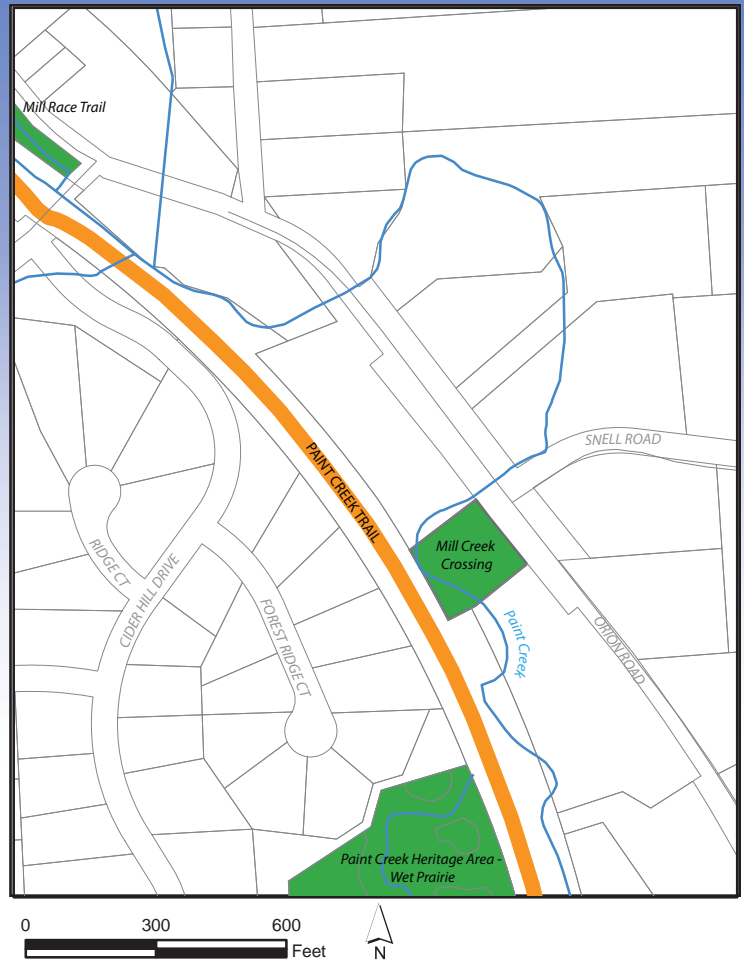
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## MILL CREEK CROSSING

Location	Orion Road west of Snell
Size (acreage)	1
Acquisition	1991
Conservation Easement	N/A
Predominant Usage	Future Trail Connection and Natural Area Preservation
Accessibility Assessment	Level 1
Category	Linear Park

Forest - Deciduous



Park Asset / Amenity	Quantity	Condition	Comments
-	-	-	-

### PARK USE & MANAGEMENT ZONES



### STRENGTHS

- Contains 215 feet of Paint Creek and borders additional 200 feet of Creek on northwest boundary
- Strategic location across from Snell

### CHALLENGES

- N/A

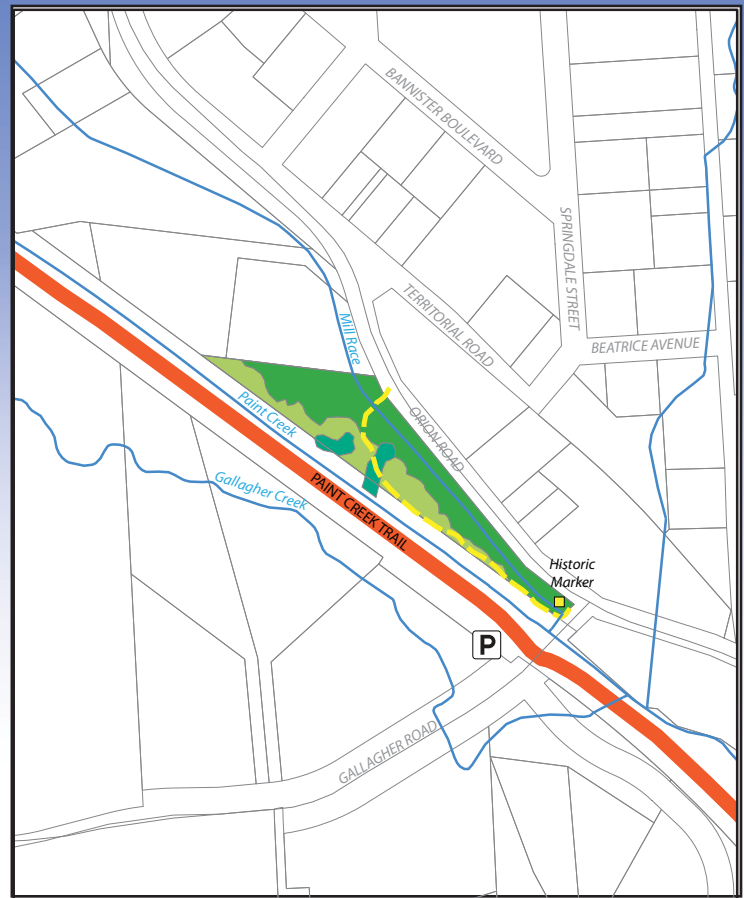
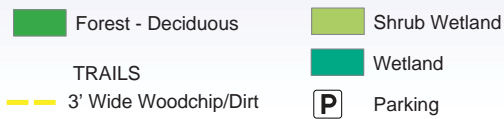
### POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES

- Conduct floristic survey and map natural area types
- Protect Creek frontage and floodplain to the northwest and southeast
- Potential fishing access



## MILL RACE TRAIL

Location	Gallagher Road and Orion Road
Size (acreage)	2.5
Acquisition	1974
Conservation Easement	N/A
Predominant Usage	Trail Connection and Natural Area Preservation
Accessibility Assessment	Level 3
Category	Linear Park



Park Asset / Amenity	Quantity	Condition	Comments
Bridge over Mill Race & 2 Stairways	1	Excellent	Wooden - Pedestrian
Mill Race Control Structure	1	Fair	
Trail - woodchip	0.3 miles	Good	
Parking	1	Good	Gallagher Road parking lot and Paint Creek Trail

Natural Area Type	Acres	Condition	Comments
Dry-Mesic Southern Forest	1.5	Poor	Thick invasive shrub and tree cover
Southern Shrub-Carr	0.7	Poor	Thick invasive shrub and tree cover
Southern Wet Meadow	0.2	Poor	Thick invasive shrub and tree cover

### STRENGTHS

- Off-road connection between Goodison and Paint Creek Cider Mills
- State designated historic site: Paint Creek Millrace
- Trail provides views of Paint Creek and Mill Race on either side

### CHALLENGES

- Deed restrictions
- Keeping invasive plants from overwhelming natives and trail corridor

### POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES

- 2 Mill Race control structures are located on other property also owned by Oakland Township; this other property could provide trail connection to Gunn Road
- Remove invasive plants and restore examples of native vegetation, with appropriate interpretive signage

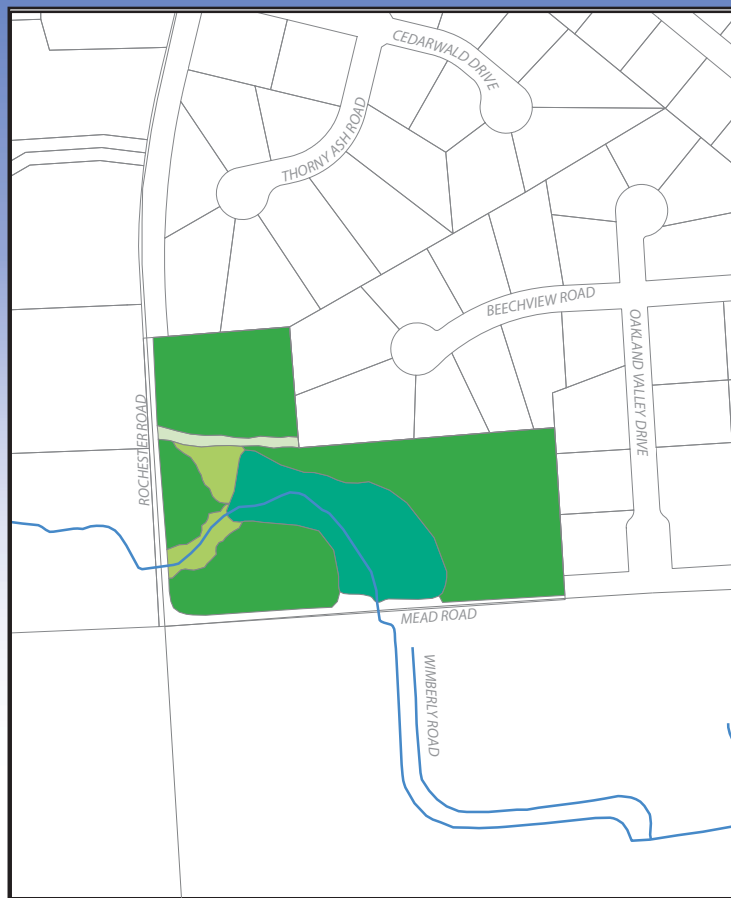
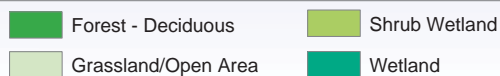
### PARK USE & MANAGEMENT ZONES





## O'CONNOR NATURE PARK

Location	NE corner of Mead & Rochester
Size (acreage)	10
Acquisition	2008
Conservation Easement	N/A
Predominant Usage	Nature Preserve
Accessibility Assessment	Level 1
Category	Natural Resource Area



Park Asset / Amenity	Quantity	Condition	Comments
Emergent marsh	2.5 acres	Good	

Natural Area Type	Acres	Condition	Comments
Mesic/Wet-Mesic Southern Forest	3.8	Fair	High diversity, but also high invasive plant pressure
Dry-Mesic Southern Forest	3.2	Good	Remnants of former oak savanna present
Emergent Marsh	2.0	Good	High quality floating sedge mat on east side
Southern Shrub-Carr	0.5	Fair	Phragmites abundant in areas
Old Field	0.2	Poor	Frequent disturbance in utility right-of-way allow invasive plants

## O'CONNOR NATURE PARK, cont.

### STRENGTHS

- Nature preserve area with limited access for protection of natural features
- High botanical diversity

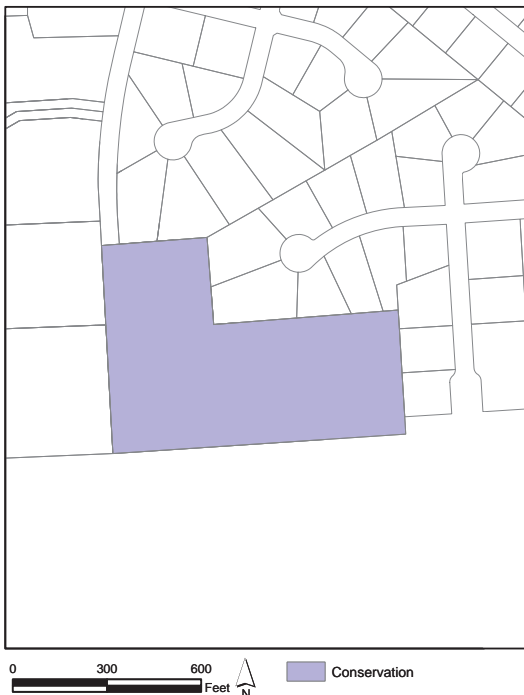
### CHALLENGES

- Natural area stewardship along edges shared with subdivision to the north and houses to the east; must stop neighbor dumping and remove yard waste
- Erosion associated with the abutting roads and their right-of-ways
- Significant *Phragmites* populations
- Frequent disturbance in the utility right-of-way

### POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES

- Proposed viewing and interpretation from possible future Township Trail system along Rochester and Mead Roads
- Neighbor education regarding dumping followed up with site visits to discuss uniqueness of site
- Conduct prescribed burns
- Educate neighbors about invasive plant species on their property
- Use check dams to slow flow of water and establish a native plant community along the Rochester Road right-of-way

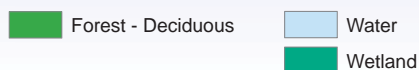
### PARK USE & MANAGEMENT ZONES





### PAINT CREEK JUNCTION PARK

Location	Orion Road
Size (acreage)	6
Acquisition	2003
Conservation Easement	N/A
Predominant Usage	Potential parking to service Paint Creek Trailway
Accessibility Assessment	Level 1
Category	Neighborhood Park



Park Asset / Amenity	Quantity	Condition	Comments
-	-	-	-

#### STRENGTHS

- Property strategically purchased to offer trail connections between Township parks, trails and pathways, regional trails and state parklands
- Trail's immediate adjacency to the wet meadows provides a nice education outlet and chance for passersby to appreciate wetland without leaving trail

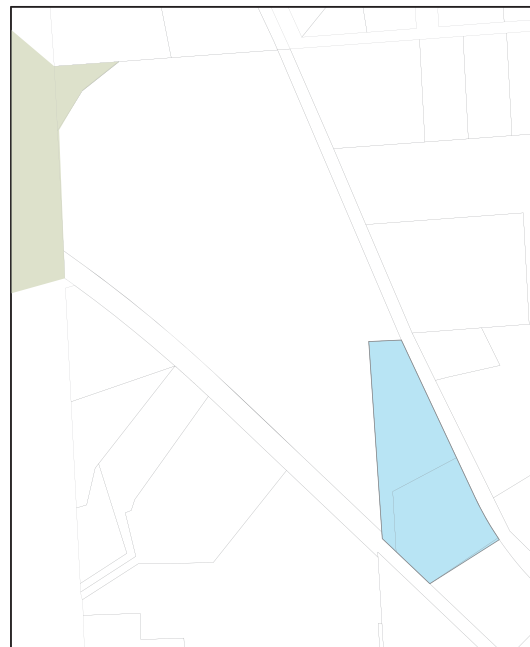
#### CHALLENGES

- No development has occurred since purchase; no construction started
- Connecting path and trail here along Clarkston and Orion Roads
- Highly disturbed and invaded parcel

#### POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES

- Potential parking to service Paint Creek Trailway
- Conduct prescribed burns
- Conduct floristic survey and map natural area types

#### PARK ACTIVITY ZONES





## PAINT CREEK HERITAGE AREA - FEN

Location	Paint Creek Trail
Size (acreage)	0.5
Acquisition	2008
Conservation Easement	N/A
Predominant Usage	Nature Preserve
Accessibility Assessment	Level 3
Category	Natural Resource Area

 Wetland (Fen)



Park Asset / Amenity	Quantity	Condition	Comments
Fen	0.5	Excellent	

Natural Area Type	Acres	Condition	Comments
Fen	0.5	Fair	High diversity, but also high invasive plant pressure

### STRENGTHS

- Nature preserve with limited access for protection of natural features
- Only fen in the Township park system (fens are biologically and geologically unique wetlands only found in the Midwest)

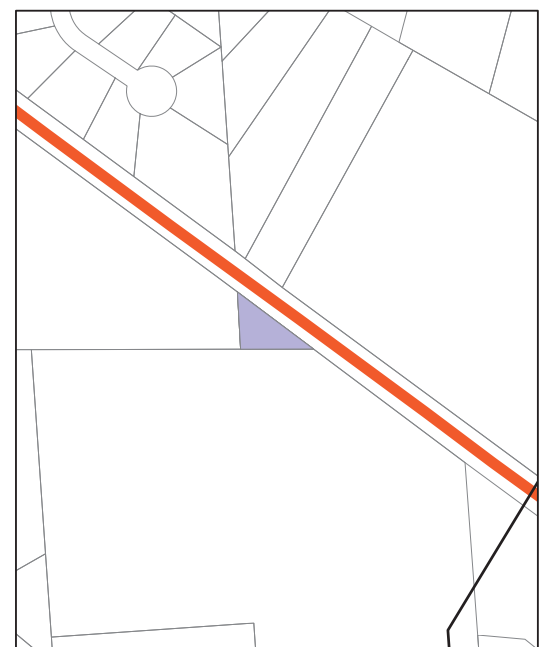
### CHALLENGES

- Small size makes it more vulnerable to present and future site stressors
- Invasive species are present
- Neighbors are encroaching on the site

### POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES

- Installation of interpretive signage at trail edge
- Coordination of natural area stewardship with Six Rivers Regional Land Conservancy Conservation easement to west and Paint Creek Trail
- Work with the neighbor to the west to end encroachment (mowing along west and northwest edges)
- Conduct prescribed burns
- Remove invasive species
- Work with southern landowners to extend management further into wetland complex

### PARK USE & MANAGEMENT ZONES





## PAINT CREEK HERITAGE AREA - WET PRAIRIE

Location	Paint Creek Trail
Size (acreage)	10.46
Acquisition	2003
Conservation Easement	N/A
Predominant Usage	Nature Preserve
Accessibility Assessment	Level 3
Category	Natural Resource Area

- Forest - Deciduous
- Wetland
- Grassland / Open Area
- P Parking
- Conservation Easement



Park Asset / Amenity	Quantity	Condition	Comments
Deer Exclusion	1	Good	
Parking	1	Good	Silver Bell Road parking lot of Paint Creek trailway

Natural Area Type	Acres	Condition	Comments
Wet-Mesic Prairie	6.8	Good	Core area excellent. Areas to north and south more resemble floodplain forest and have heavy encroachment of invasive trees and shrubs
Oak Savanna	3.2	Fair	Encroachment by invasive shrubs and trees
Southern Wet Meadow	0.3	Good	
Floodplain Forest	0.2	Fair	Encroachment by invasive shrubs and trees

# PAINT CREEK HERITAGE AREA - WET PRAIRIE, cont.

## STRENGTHS

- Preservation of globally threatened grassland ecosystem and wildlife
- Adjacent to and accessible from the Paint Creek Trail
- Hosts approximately 200 native species and has very high floristic quality
- Protects wetland and floodplain corridor

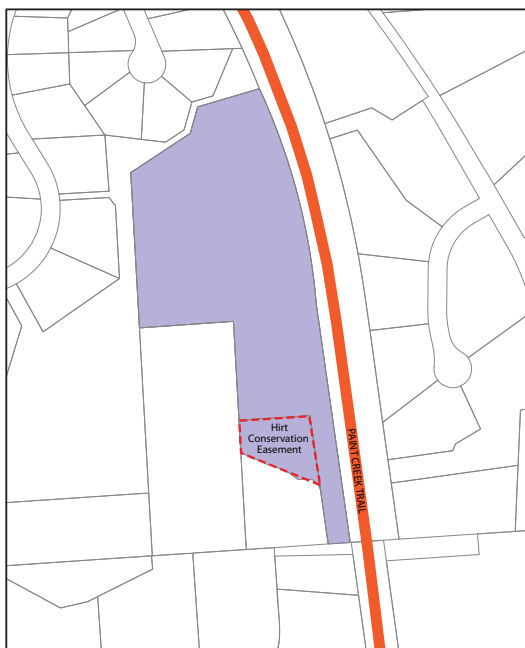
## CHALLENGES

- Natural area interpretation done from edge of Paint Creek Trail

## POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES

- Installation of interpretive signage at trail edge
- Coordination of natural area stewardship/protection of adjacent subdivision natural area, Hirt easement, and Paint Creek Trail
- Remove invasive species and work with southern neighbor to do the same
- Habitat restoration to expand the wet prairie area

## PARK USE & MANAGEMENT ZONES





### STONY CREEK RAVINE NATURE PARK

Location	Knob Creek Drive
Size (acreage)	60
Acquisition	2008
Conservation Easement	36 acres, Six Rivers Regional Land Conservancy. Restrictions: Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund project agreement
Predominant Usage	Passive recreation, Natural Area Preservation
Accessibility Assessment	Level 1
Category	Community Park

- Forest - Deciduous
  - Shrub Wetland
  - Grassland / Open Area
  - Water
  - Wetland
- TRAILS
- Mowed Grass
  - 3' Wide Woodchip/Dirt
  - Oakland Township Park
  - Conservation Easement



Park Asset / Amenity	Quantity	Condition	Comments
Trails - Dirt	0.6 miles	Good	

Natural Area Type	Acres	Condition	Comments
Old Field	34.4	Poor	Autumn olive and oriental bittersweet dominant
Dry-Mesic Southern Forest	20.1	Good	Deer herbivory significant
Southern Shrub-Carr	2.5	Fair	Encroachment by invasive shrubs and trees
Floodplain Forest	1.2	Fair	Encroachment by invasive shrubs and trees
Southern Wet Meadow	0.2	Fair	Encroachment by invasive shrubs and trees

## STONY CREEK RAVINE NATURE PARK, cont.

### STRENGTHS

- Located across Snell Road from Stony Creek Metropark
- Scenic stream valley with fishing opportunity
- Oak forest
- Undisturbed natural areas
- High floristic quality
- Extremely variable habitat - dry-mesic southern forest, wet meadow/floodplain forest, steeply sloped dry-mesic southern forest, early forest succession/old field/prairie remnants
- Controlled archery antlerless hunting two days per week Oct. 1 - Jan. 1 helps control high deer densities

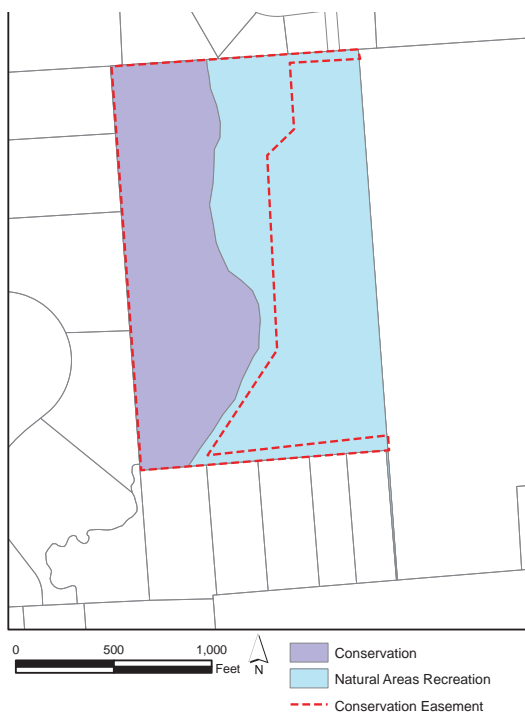
### CHALLENGES

- Encroachment of invasive trees and shrubs in old farm fields
- Walk-in access only at this time
- Parking locations are challenging due to access connection through residential street and potential conflict with Metropark over southern boundary parking

### POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES

- Parking lot located near the southern edge of the park would provide best access for residents
- Developed trails and picnic areas
- Fishing piers and/or boardwalks at the stream
- Interpretive panels along a nature walk
- Marked trail system
- Trail connection to Stony Creek Metropark
- Proposed connection to Township Trail system from Snell Road
- Conduct prescribed burns
- Remove invasive species and establish native vegetation
- Work with adjacent landowners to protect high quality forest and stream corridor

### PARK USE & MANAGEMENT ZONES

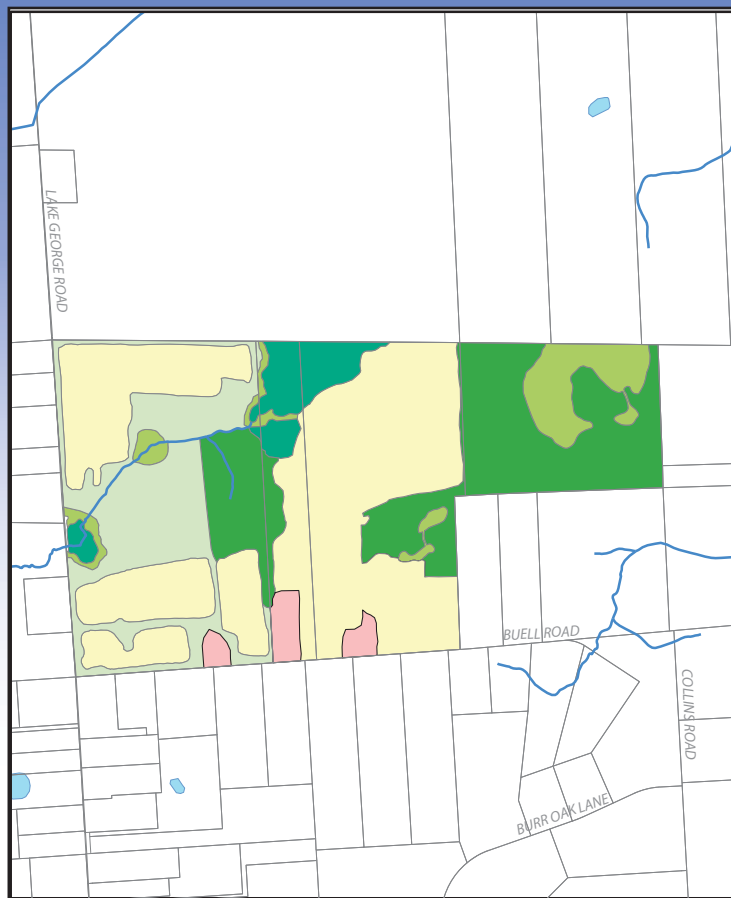




## WATERSHED RIDGE PARK

Location	1720 West Buell Road
Size (acreage)	170
Acquisition	2008
Conservation Easement	N/A
Predominant Usage	Active & Passive recreation, Natural Area Preservation
Accessibility Assessment	Level 1
Category	Community Park

Forest - Deciduous	Shrub Wetland
Grassland / Open Area	Water
Former Homestead	Wetland
	Agricultural



Park Asset / Amenity	Quantity	Condition	Comments
Farm Fields	1	Good	
Storage Building I	1	Good	Main maintenance and stewardship storage for entire parks system

Natural Area Type	Acres	Condition	Comments
Agricultural Field	81.1	Good	Low habitat quality, but few invasive weeds
Mesic Southern Forest	40.4	Good	Effects of high deer densities evident
Old Field	28.8	Poor	Autumn olive very dense
Southern Shrub-Carr	11.8	Fair	Phragmites and invasive trees and shrubs encroaching
Emergent Marsh	7.4	Fair	Large Phragmites patches in some areas
Other	5.7	Poor	Old homestead sites
Southern Hardwood Swamp	1.5	Fair	Some encroachment by invasive trees and shrubs

# WATERSHED RIDGE PARK, cont.

## STRENGTHS

- Rolling hills
- Property includes both Paint Creek and Stony Creek sub-watersheds
- Cultural conservation of agricultural history
- Central location, size, and combination of natural and highly altered landscapes make it an excellent candidate for both active and passive uses

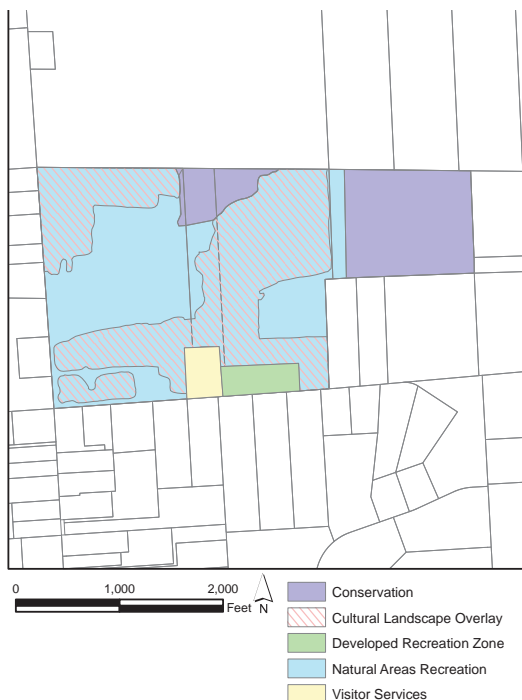
## CHALLENGES

- No defined access: i.e. parking or trails
- Agricultural portions of park contain drain tiles which flow into natural areas
- Large *Phragmites* population

## POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES

- Active recreation accessed from Buell Road, limited to acreage not purchased with Land Preservation millage
- Interpretation of hydrology in two watersheds that are included in park
- Addition of parking lot and trail system
- Trail construction within park would contribute to Township Trail system's proposed connection between Buell and Stony Creek Roads
- Conduct prescribed burns
- Convert agricultural fields to a native plant community to increase habitat connectivity
- Establish appropriately placed trails to minimize disruption
- Integrate active-use areas within the agricultural fields
- Work with adjacent property owners to protect high quality forest and wetland

## PARK USE & MANAGEMENT ZONES



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# Appendix D

## Concept Plans

Bear Creek Nature Park.....iii

Blue Heron Environmental Area .....v

Charles Ilsley Park.....vii

Cranberry Lake Park .....ix

Draper Twin Lake Park .....xi

Gallagher Creek Park.....xiii

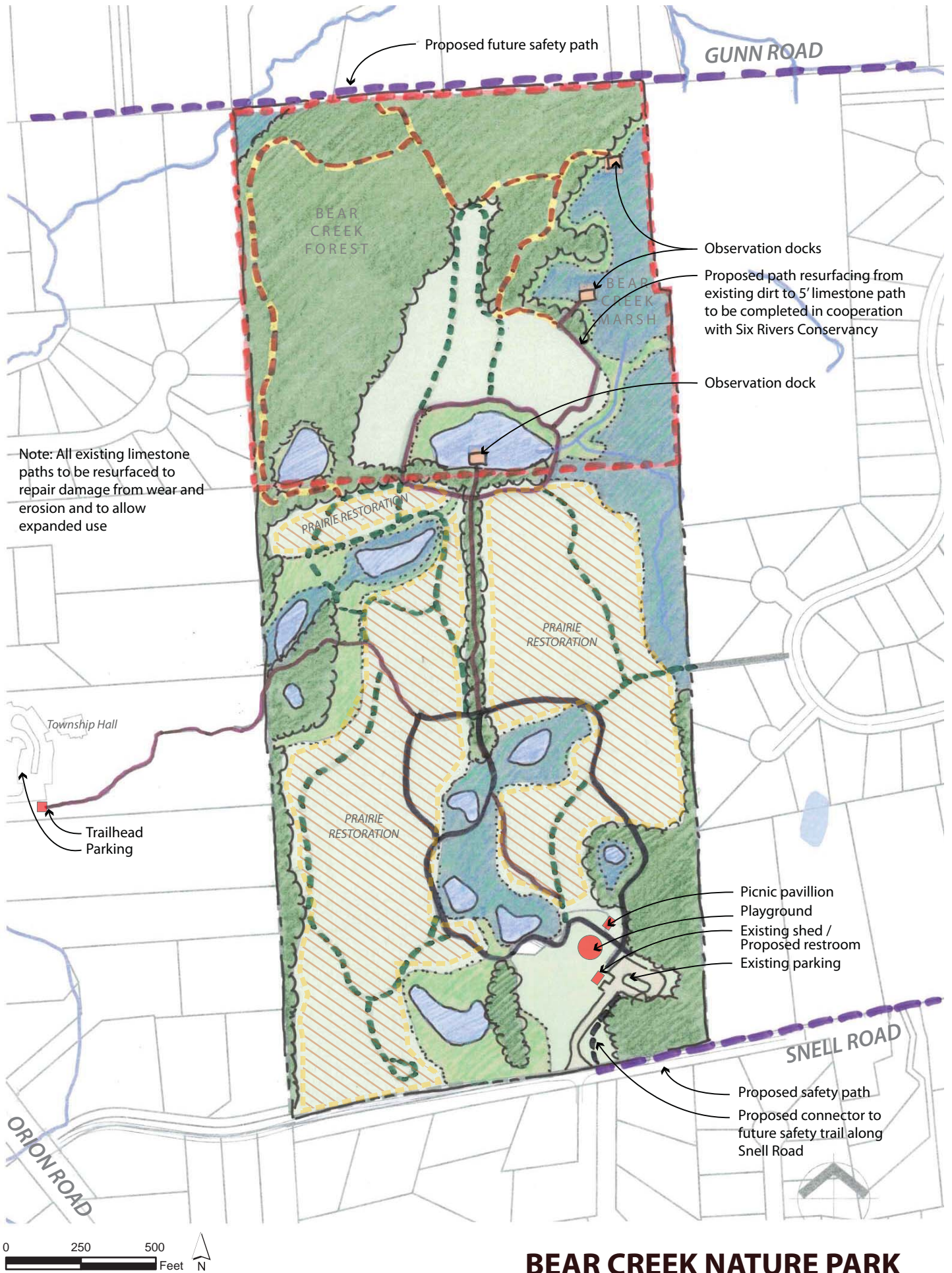
Lost Lake Nature Park .....xv

Marsh View Park.....xvii

Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park.....xix

Watershed Ridge Park.....xxi

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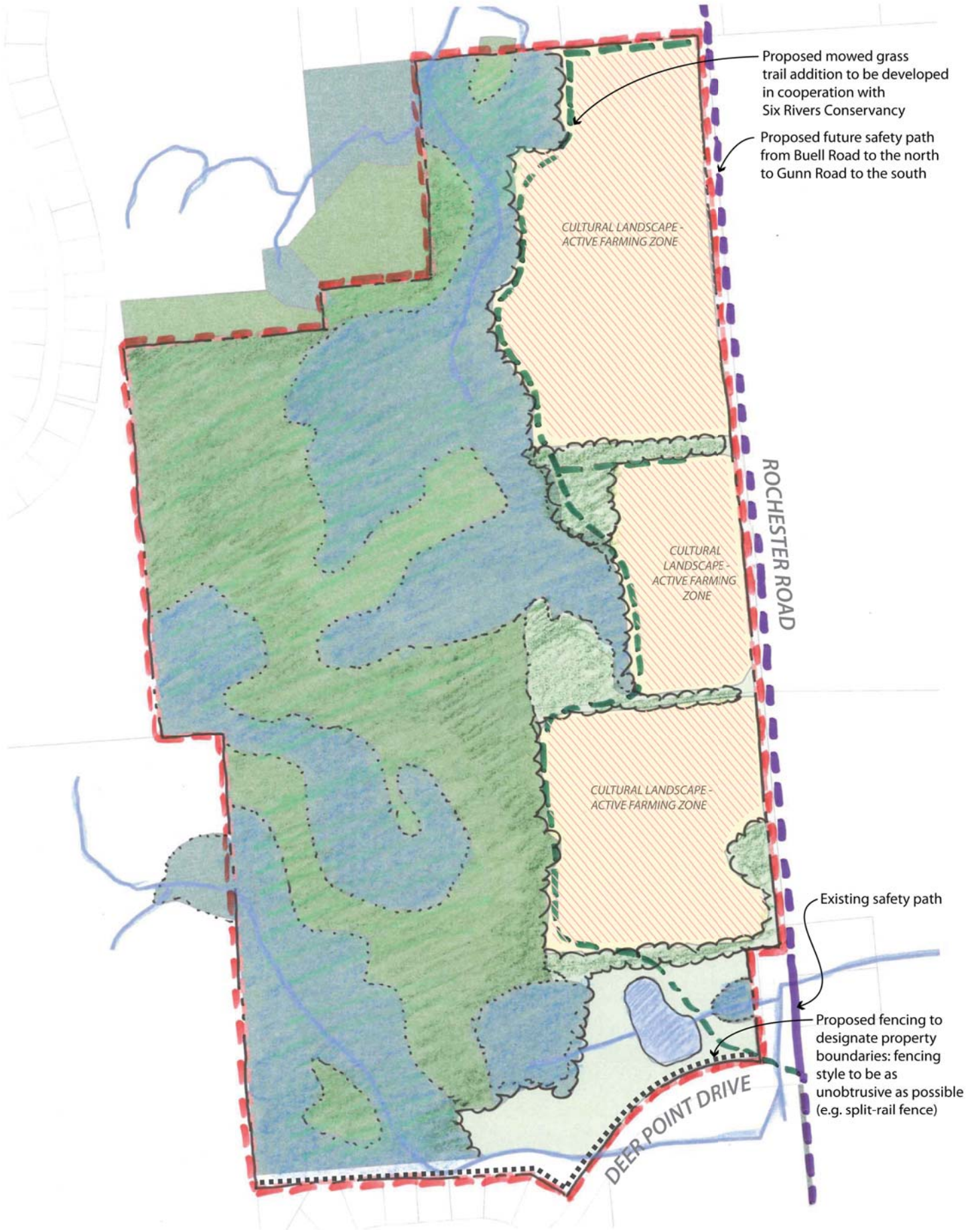


Note: All existing limestone paths to be resurfaced to repair damage from wear and erosion and to allow expanded use

# BEAR CREEK NATURE PARK

Oakland Township, Michigan

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Proposed mowed grass trail addition to be developed in cooperation with Six Rivers Conservancy

Proposed future safety path from Buell Road to the north to Gunn Road to the south

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE - ACTIVE FARMING ZONE

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE - ACTIVE FARMING ZONE

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE - ACTIVE FARMING ZONE

Existing safety path

Proposed fencing to designate property boundaries: fencing style to be as unobtrusive as possible (e.g. split-rail fence)

# BLUE HERON ENVIRONMENTAL AREA

Oakland Township, Michigan

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**PARKING NOTES:**

- Parking areas should be adjusted to protect mature oaks along east edge of drive
- Equestrian and standard parking zones should be clearly designated and separate
- Parking configuration may be adjusted dependent upon acquisition of additional land adjacent to entry drive

**GENERAL NOTES:**

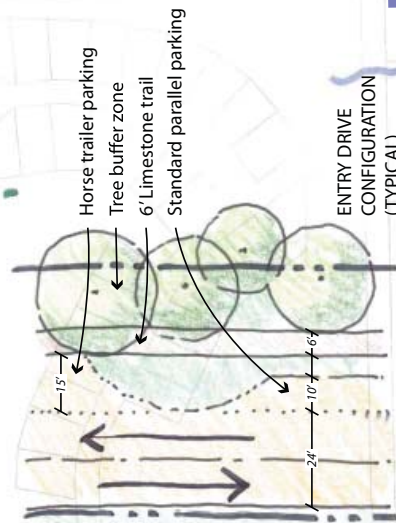
- Recommend park to be designated as an "off-leash" facility
- Possible introduction of fitness equipment along trails
- Existing trails to remain mowed-grass

Horse trailer parking  
(3 spots)  
Standard parallel parking  
(8 spots)

Proposed future safety path

**PREDMORE ROAD**

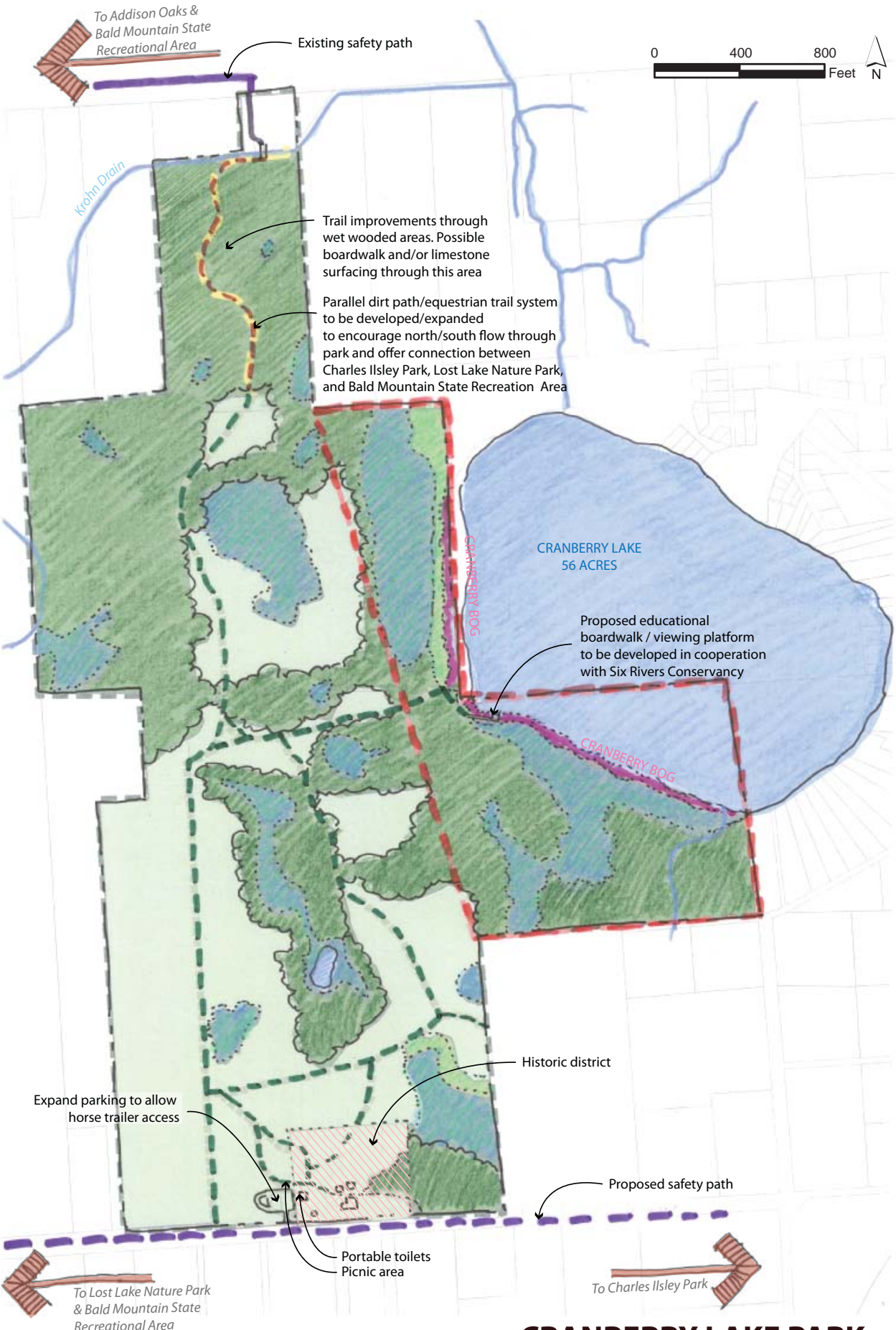
Proposed new trail with connection to Wynstone development



# CHARLES ILSLEY PARK

Oakland Township, Michigan

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To Addison Oaks & Bald Mountain State Recreational Area

Existing safety path



Krohn Drain

Trail improvements through wet wooded areas. Possible boardwalk and/or limestone surfacing through this area

Parallel dirt path/equestrian trail system to be developed/expanded to encourage north/south flow through park and offer connection between Charles Ilsley Park, Lost Lake Nature Park, and Bald Mountain State Recreation Area

CRANBERRY LAKE  
56 ACRES

Proposed educational boardwalk / viewing platform to be developed in cooperation with Six Rivers Conservancy

CRANBERRY BOG

CRANBERRY BOG

Historic district

Expand parking to allow horse trailer access

Proposed safety path

To Lost Lake Nature Park & Bald Mountain State Recreational Area

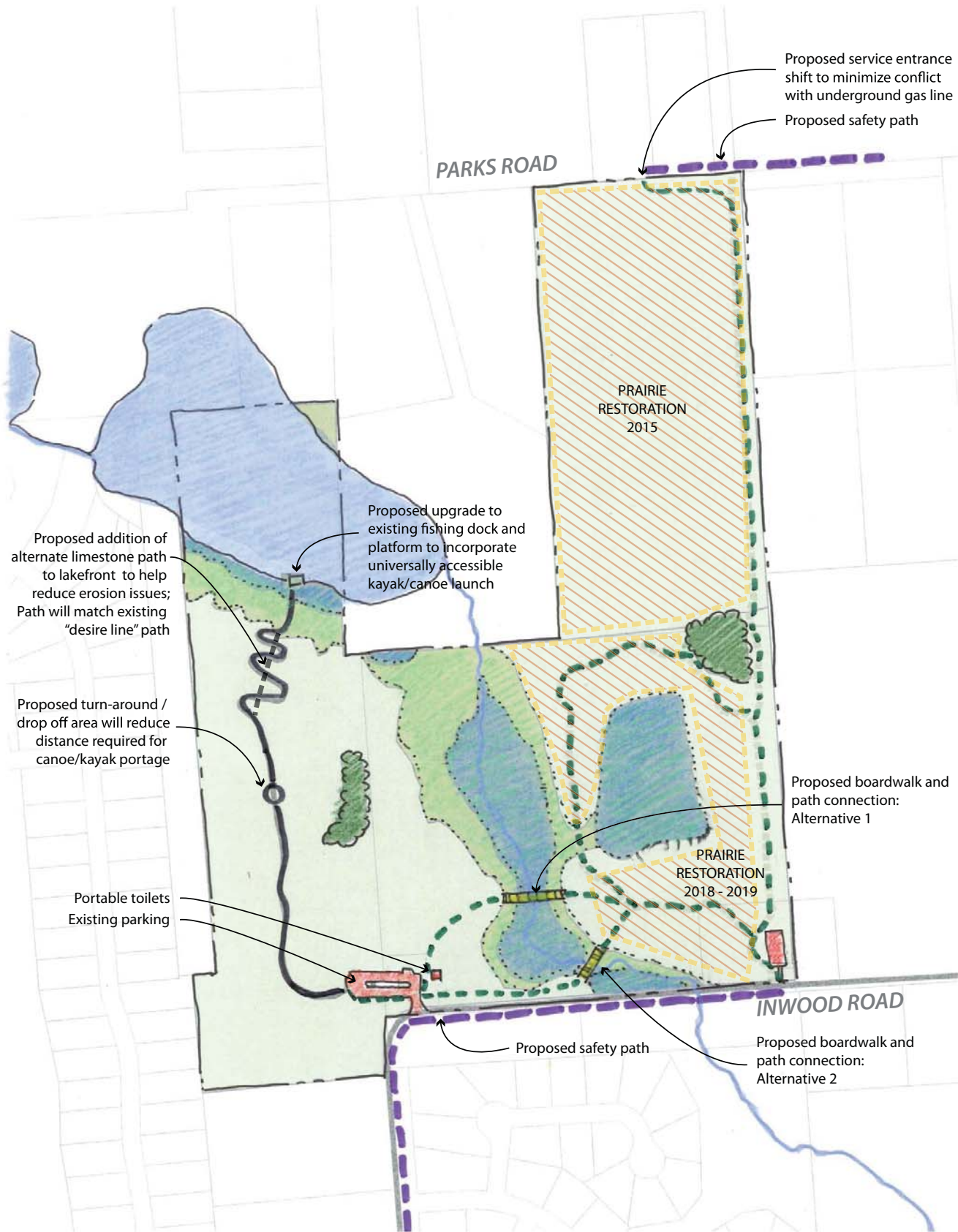
Portable toilets  
Picnic area

To Charles Ilsley Park

# CRANBERRY LAKE PARK

Oakland Township, Michigan

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Proposed service entrance shift to minimize conflict with underground gas line  
 Proposed safety path

PARKS ROAD

PRAIRIE RESTORATION 2015

Proposed addition of alternate limestone path to lakefront to help reduce erosion issues; Path will match existing "desire line" path

Proposed upgrade to existing fishing dock and platform to incorporate universally accessible kayak/canoe launch

Proposed turn-around / drop off area will reduce distance required for canoe/kayak portage

Proposed boardwalk and path connection: Alternative 1

PRAIRIE RESTORATION 2018 - 2019

Portable toilets  
 Existing parking

INWOOD ROAD

Proposed safety path

Proposed boardwalk and path connection: Alternative 2



# DRAPER TWIN LAKE PARK

Oakland Township, Michigan

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# GALLAGHER CREEK PARK

Oakland Township, Michigan

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Proposed future safety path

PREDMORE ROAD

LOST LAKE

Proposed trail connection to Oakview Middle School

- Possible "Lost Lake Water Trail"; self-guided tour of lake with audio and/or visual materials
- Existing universally accessible fishing and kayak dock
- Nature Center
- Existing parking

- Warming shelter & portable toilet; proposed restroom facilities
- Kiddie sled hill
- Sled hill
- Existing woodchip / dirt trail

TURTLE CREEK LANE

- Proposed Green Lake trail extension
- Proposed educational boardwalk / observation dock

GREEN LAKE

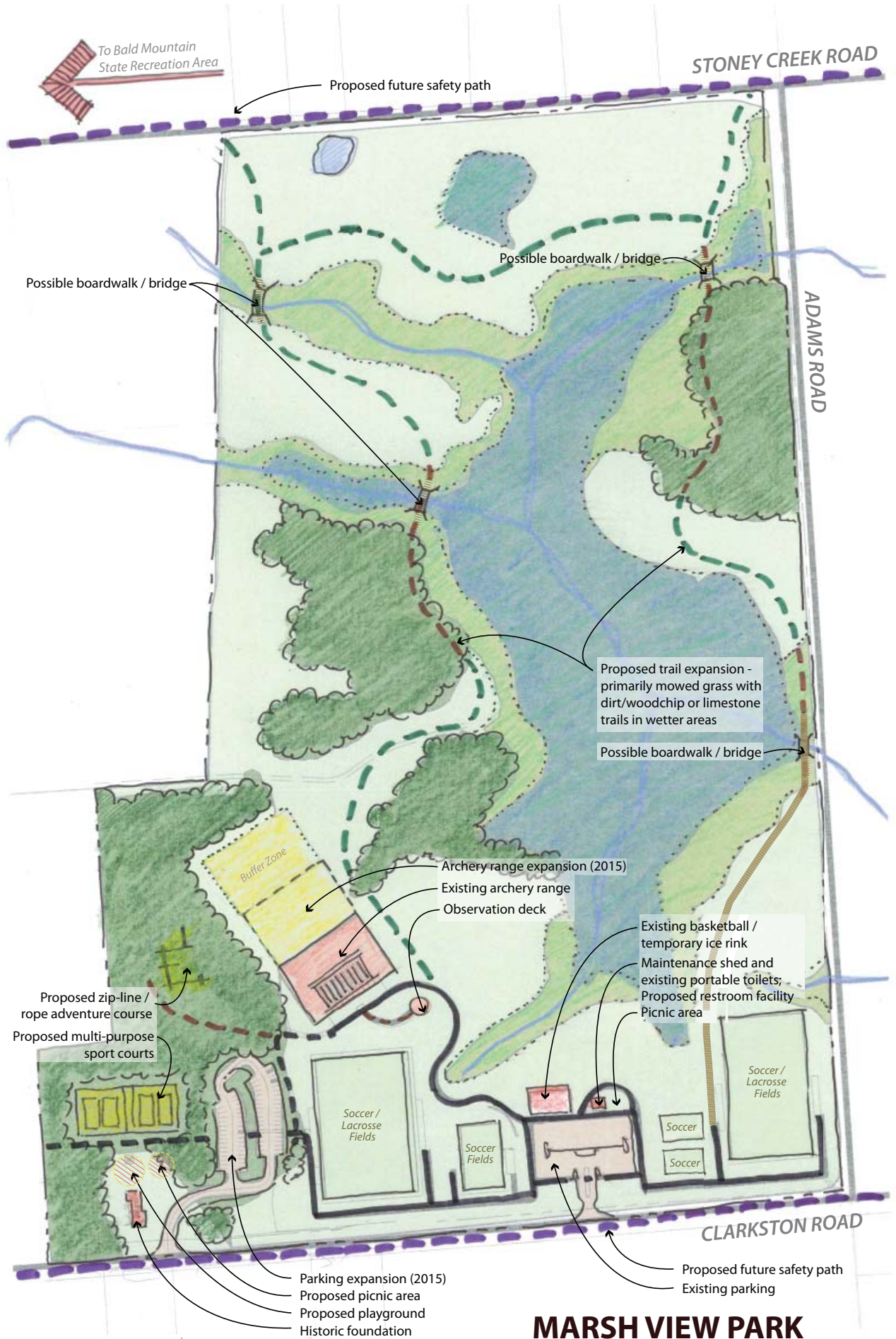
TAMARACK LAKE



# LOST LAKE NATURE PARK

Oakland Township, Michigan

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To Bald Mountain  
State Recreation Area

STONEY CREEK ROAD

Proposed future safety path

Possible boardwalk / bridge

Possible boardwalk / bridge

ADAMS ROAD

Proposed trail expansion -  
primarily mowed grass with  
dirt/woodchip or limestone  
trails in wetter areas

Possible boardwalk / bridge

Buffer Zone

Archery range expansion (2015)  
Existing archery range  
Observation deck

Proposed zip-line /  
rope adventure course  
Proposed multi-purpose  
sport courts

Existing basketball /  
temporary ice rink  
Maintenance shed and  
existing portable toilets;  
Proposed restroom facility  
Picnic area

Soccer /  
Lacrosse  
Fields

Soccer  
Fields

Soccer

Soccer

Soccer /  
Lacrosse  
Fields

CLARKSTON ROAD

Parking expansion (2015)  
Proposed picnic area  
Proposed playground  
Historic foundation

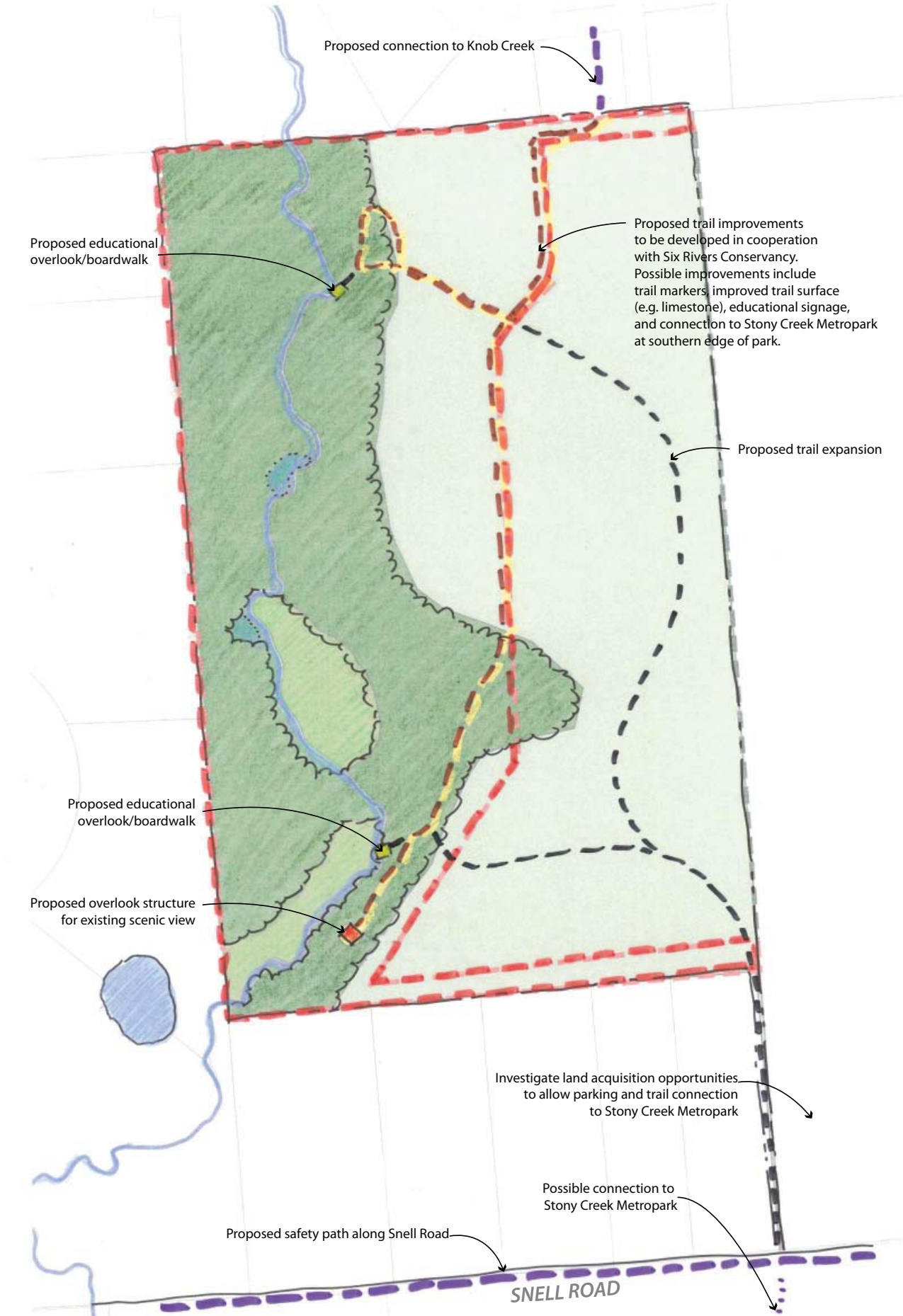
Proposed future safety path  
Existing parking



# MARSH VIEW PARK

Oakland Township, Michigan

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# STONY CREEK RAVINE NATURE PARK

Oakland Township, Michigan

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WATERSHED RIDGE PARK SCALE: 1" = 200'  
 STUDY #1 12/14

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# Appendix E

## Notices and Meeting Minutes

Charter Township of Oakland Planning Commission, 2/3/2015 .....	ii
Special Meeting, Charter Township of Oakland Parks and Recreation Commission, 2/5/2015 .....	xi
Charter Township of Oakland Parks and Recreation Commission, 2/18/2015.....	xxi
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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OAKLAND  
PLANNING COMMISSION  
February 3, 2015

---

The February 3, 2015 regular meeting of the Charter Township of Oakland Planning Commission was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Chambers of the Oakland Township Hall.

PRESENT: James Carter, Chair  
Janine Saputo, Vice Chair  
John Giannangeli, Secretary  
Ron Hein  
Danny Beer  
Anthony Scaccia  
Gary Kwapis

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Elaine Leven, Planning Coordinator

A quorum of the Planning Commission was present.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Carter led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**OPENING STATEMENT**

Giannangeli read the Oakland Township Planning Commission's Opening Statement.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOTION by HEIN, SECONDED by KWAPIS to approve the agenda as presented.  
UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

**APPROVAL OF JANUARY 6, 2015 MINUTES**

MOTION by HEIN, SECONDED by SAPUTO to approve the December 2, 2014 regular meeting minutes with the following corrections: p.47 "Chair Carter led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance." p.50 "and are is wondering how electrical supply" p.51 "will work with the township engineer" and "traffic, safety, and the size of homes" p.53 "was on the Oakland Sentinel website" and "sent out the request RFP to 12 firms" p.54 "pass it on to us as an addendum" p.55 "Ssurvey Mmonkey" and "McClure stated the only thing". UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

The Commission also had Closed Session meeting minutes from January 6, 2015 that they reviewed and made some corrections to, which will be considered for approval at the next meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Carter asked if there was anyone who wished to speak about anything that was not on the agenda. The following spoke:

Parks Director Mindy Milos-Dale invited everyone to attend the Winter Carnival at Marsh View Park, which includes a new ice rink. There will be a 10 time national champion sharing skating tips, an ice sculptor, sledding, carnival games, kite flying, winter archery, a magician, and donated pizza and beverages will be available. Marsh View Park is at the intersection of Adams and Clarkston Road. The entire 2/7/2015 event is free.

Dave Davis, 829 Jack Pine Drive, inquired about the Buell Road rezoning application and if there would be any dialogue tonight or another time in the future. Carter noted it is not on agenda for tonight, and added that the applicant did not request to be on this agenda, and so it will not be a discussion item tonight. Carter added that we received an email from Mr. and Mrs. Van Agen opposing the rezoning for Buell Road Ventures.

**PRC MASTER PLAN DISCUSSION**

Carter noted that the Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) has been developing a master plan, and they have asked for our review and a recommendation to the Board of Trustees.

Mindy Milos-Dale, Parks and Recreation Director, noted this is a five year master plan they are developing, and was last done in 2009. She wanted to thank everyone helping out and for providing feedback. She noted members have been working on this since last spring, and acknowledged resident focus groups, survey respondents, and those who attended their open house sessions. Survey results were made available at the meeting and via the township website.

Chris Nordstrom, Johnson Hill Land Ethics Studio, has assisted the PRC with their plan. He noted this has been a large effort. Carter noted the Planning Commission has reviewed the plan and they do not require an overview of the plan. Milos-Dale stated they want to highlight the significant differences from their last master plan. Mr. Nordstrom reviewed the presentation that outlines the purpose, process, and tasks. Carter explained that the Planning Commission is here to conduct their review and ask questions regarding the plan, noting other opportunities for public comment.

Giannangeli noted the plan states 19.1 percent of the land in the Township is used for parks or open space, and asked if it is stated anywhere what our target is. He also asked about active and passive land use, and the long range plan target for each. Mr. Nordstrom didn't believe there was anything in the plan addressing that specifically, noting they try to meet the needs and desires of the community, who have expressed more interest in passive use, though the definition of passive is not clear. They reflect the comments received and adjust their expectations.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OAKLAND  
PLANNING COMMISSION  
February 3, 2015

---

Giannangeli inquired about the expenditures and budget for programs amounting to approximately \$40,000. Milos-Dale stated that includes all of their special events, Goodison Good Tyme, the Winter Carnival, archery, kayaking, concerts, and land stewardship programs. Giannangeli felt they were running effective and efficiently on programs though was concerned about spending such a small amount of the PRC \$1.7 million budget on programs, and they should review their operating costs. Giannangeli also asked about the 15 percent return rate for the survey. Milos-Dale stated it is statistically significant and a sufficient representative sample size.

Saputo thanked Milos-Dale for the opportunity to review the plan, and commented that parks are a significant part of land use in the township. She is well aware of the plan and opportunities for input, and felt they are going above and beyond the minimum required. She attended a session last week, along with many attendees, and found the materials very helpful. Milos-Dale noted this is an update to their last plan, noting some additions to their parks. Milos-Dale also noted they have a strategy for programming, which they are always trying to improve, and have a goal of increasing programs to seniors and others. Saputo asked if they have an estimate of how much of the population they have reached. She also asked if there is a plan for a connection on Orion Road to the Paint Creek Trail. Milos-Dale noted a parcel they were planning to utilize for a parking lot and trail access will more than likely be used for a parking lot, and trail access will be located elsewhere. Hein added that this project plan is separate and the Safety Path and Trails Committee is now working on it. Milos-Dale noted the trail connector project is still on the Capital Improvement Plan for completion in 2015. Saputo also noted the plan to develop the 5 acre parcel is still included, and appreciates incorporating historic and natural resources into the plan.

Giannangeli asked about the relationship with the Paint Creek Trail. Milos-Dale stated it is owned by an Intergovernmental Agency composed of the municipalities it is within. PRC maintains almost 6 miles within the Township. PRC pays for the operation and maintenance of the portion in our Township with their budgeted funds, utilizing staff and contractors. There is a complete resurfacing project coming up in 2018/19 that will cost Oakland Township about \$200,000. Saputo added that the Parks millage is up for renewal in 2016 and the Land Preservation millage in 2020. Carter felt the rural nature is what draws people to Oakland Township, and that PRC works to maintain that. He added that PRC has its own master plan, and the Township has a master plan, which the Planning Commission is responsible for and is currently working on. Though the methodology is similar, PRC has a different focus, even though we are serving the same residents. He recognizes the demographic changes, and feels this is an excellent plan that will help retain our rural character. Hein participated with the PRC Master Plan committee and felt they had a good road map from 2009, though it was still reviewed painstakingly page by page and all input was considered. It is a long process which is very comprehensive, and he appreciates the efforts of Mindy and Chris, as well as the group.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OAKLAND  
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February 3, 2015

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Bob Davidson, 1132 Bear Creek Court, asked them to take a close look at what happened in Rochester Hills, and not to sell off our land for mining. Milos-Dale responded to this and an earlier inquiry that the parkland goal within the strategic plan is that over the next 10 years is to leave 80 percent of the parkland in a natural state.

Bob Yager, 1146 Bear Creek Court, has been doing some research on why Oakland Township is so special, noting that so far he found the Oakland Township Association was incorporated in 1970, which was a precursor to the PRC. He has tracked down a person by the name of Kent Kelly and hopes to get more background from him. He also felt we need some good discussion on what our parks should be and how the money should be spent.

Milos-Dale noted that all the survey results are on the website to every household, which shows how people would like to spend the money. Carter noted a good plan doesn't happen overnight, and there are always differences of opinion on how money should be spent. He added that PRC is an autonomous elected board, and they have asked the Planning Commission for support of the plan from a plan perspective.

Rita Davidson, 1132 Bear Creek Court, asked who decides whether drilling, fracking, a phone tower or water storage tank can be put up.

Carter responded that we have an elected Board of Trustees as your representatives for decisions. Depending on how the land became part of our system may have an effect and place restrictions on the land. Milos-Dale said it can depend on how the park was purchased and with what monies. If a park was purchased with monies for natural features preservation, fracking would be counterintuitive. PRC is charged with the planning, operation, and management of the parks. They have been very protective of the parkland. Many parks have conservation easements. Carter asked what percentage of the Township are parks. Milos-Dale stated we have 1100 acres, though was not sure what percentage of land total that is. Carter also asked what percentage of that is protected by a conservation easement. Milos-Dale thought about 25 percent. Milos-Dale believes the PRC dictates what is done on park property. Carter added that based on the Telecommunication Act, a Township cannot block the construction of cell towers, however we can say where we want to see them via an overlay map which provides for acceptable locations. In the Township it primarily follows the DTE towers. At times an interested party may not like the location and have sued for it. Milos-Dale noted there is a management and use plan within the PRC Master Plan which indicates environmentally significant areas where we don't want development.

Prior to the motion Giannangeli stated that it was his understanding that there is no requirement for the Planning Commission to review or approve the PRC Master Plan. Unlike other motions which the Planning Commission acts upon there is no criteria or guidance for the Planning Commission to base their decision on. He feels that the PRC Master Plan resolution goes beyond the scope of the Planning Commission.

MOTION by SAPUTO, SECONDED by SCACCIA to adopt the resolution in support of 2015-2019 Parks and Recreation Master Plan per the resolution dated February 3, 2015: AYES: HEIN, SAPUTO, KWAPIS, CARTER, BEER, SCACCIA. NAYS: GIANNANGELI. MOTION CARRIED.

**LEISURE LIVING ACCEPT FOR STUDY**

Carter stated we have received a proposal for Leisure Living for Accept for Study, though the Commission has not received any input from the Planning Consultant at this point.

Barry Stulberg, 342 Sycamore Court, Bloomfield Township, the representative for the applicant, stated they have submitted an application for Special Accommodation Use to the Board of Trustees and the Township Supervisor for their review. He stated that the Supervisor has requested that the Planning Commission review the site plan prior to the Board of Trustees review and make a recommendation. He added that this is not a rezoning request, just a review of the site plan to send to the Township Board and Supervisor for them to consider.

Carter asked for clarification from the applicant since the application is for rezoning. Mr. Stulberg responded that they did once file an application for rezoning for Special Accommodation Use at the Planning Commission, which was found to be erroneous. Carter also noted that the applicant went to the Zoning Board of Appeals for an interpretation, which was later requested to be tabled, and they are now back at the Planning Commission. Carter noted that a rezoning request would be appropriate for the Planning Commission to review and is consistent with what the Planning Consultant Larry Nix advises the applicant to do. Mr. Stulberg stated he is here for a site plan review pursuant to a Special Accommodation Use. Though Mr. Nix's letter feels their project is allowable under office zoning, the applicant did not agree, so they chose to go to the ZBA for an interpretation. At the ZBA the Chair suggested the ZBA does not have jurisdiction to make the decision, and the applicant agreed so they withdrew their request, and have subsequently filed to the Planning Commission again for SAU. The applicant stated the Zoning Administrator, whom he understands to be the Supervisor, needs to make the final determination if the project is a nursing home. Mr. Stulberg stated the Supervisor has not made a decision yet and wants to see what the site plan approval will look like. Carter stated the Township Supervisor has not said that to us, and that we have no indication of that. We have the minutes of the BOT meeting that reflect their decision to remand it to the Planning Commission per Mr. Nix's options. Carter felt the applicant's option is to rezone and this application is out of order.

Carter noted that they once owned the land adjacent to the property, and the split resulted in 6.73 acres, which is short of the 10 acres required to pursue the project as Residential-Multiple or Planned Residential Overlay. Mr. Stulberg stated he was involved in the planning of all the property since the mid-1990s and ten acres was always reserved for this parcel. During the process of the Preliminary Plat approval the owner was requested to dedicate space for the road right-of-way. At the time this wasn't thought of and they don't want to rezone this to office, and don't believe the project is a nursing home as they are not licensed for them. The Special Accommodation Use provides if there are no other provisions today that would allow the use, the Township can approve it under SAU because it is for a protected class, the elderly, under the Fair Housing Act. We are requesting that option.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OAKLAND  
PLANNING COMMISSION  
February 3, 2015

---

Mr. Stulberg added that when he brought the application to the Board of Trustees they approved a resolution to pass it to the Planning Commission. Carter noted that the motion at the September 9, 2014 motion by Bailey and Seconded by Buxar referred it to the Planning Commission with Mr. Nix's letter of suggestions, it doesn't say for a site plan in disregard of Mr. Nix's letter.

Giannangeli's understanding was that it was being sent to the Planning Commission with Mr. Nix's letter requesting rezoning as one of the alternatives. Carter asked Giannangeli if he thought the Board understood the recommendations. Giannangeli understood it and felt the other Board members did as well. Carter felt that if the Board members had confusion it wouldn't have been a unanimous decision. Carter stated the applicant has the right to disagree with the opinion of the consultant that advises the Township. He also stated the Master Plan identifies 3 areas in the Township appropriate for senior housing. Although this is not one of them, that doesn't mean it couldn't be used for this purpose. It is not a permitted use or special land use in this zoning district. Carter opined that the applicants' options are to rezone the property or petition to have the language of the zoning ordinance changed to allow what you want to do.

Mr. Stulberg felt there is a third option under SAU. One of the findings that the Supervisor, as the Zoning Administrator, needs to make is that there is no existing provision in the ordinance that allows this use. He asked the Supervisor if he made that determination yet. He was told the Supervisor had not made that determination yet. Mr. Stulberg communicated to the Supervisor that he would go forward and ask the Planning Commission to vet the site plan and to make a recommendation to the Supervisor and Board. He stated the Supervisor wanted this review before he makes the decision whether the project is or is not a nursing home. Carter asked if the Supervisor is looking for a statement from the Planning Commission if they would or wouldn't meet the requirements such as setbacks under the present zoning. Mr. Stulberg added that there are no specific setback requirements under SAU. He feels there is flexibility for the design standards and no specific setbacks.

Carter felt it sounds like the applicant is looking for a way to circumvent the Planning Commission. There is a reason the SAU is a rarely used mechanism. There are provisions in our ordinance to avoid spot zoning. Mr. Stulberg stated they are not looking for a loophole, they feel they meet the criteria. It was discussed to possibly table the decision and go back to the Board of Trustees since it is not clear to the Planning Commission what they are being asked to study.

Kwapis feels we shouldn't act on this application since it is not in our purview and needs the outstanding issue resolved. Saputo wonders what we should review and for what purpose. She would also like to see a review from our Planner. She sees a confusion in terms and would like a true definition. She also has concerns with what came out of the ZBA, in addition to some confusion with the BOT motion. There is no mention of the Planning Commission as part of the SAU process. She wonders what part of the zoning ordinance should be used for the review. Carter noted a concept review is different than site plan review. Hein noted that at the ZBA meeting the issue there was an interpretation. It was discussed that if we were rewriting the Zoning Ordinance we would include Assisted Living in one of the classifications. ZBA Chair Tyler reviewed several other communities' ordinances and noted some bundled assisted living with nursing homes and convalescent homes.

Mr. Stulberg stated that all 1970's definitions reference *nursing homes*. He added that in the 1975 Township Policy it was stated they shall not discriminate against senior housing and he feels it would have been added to multiple family zoning. Carter noted that the Planning Commission drafted a new Zoning Ordinance that was completed more than 2 years ago. Saputo believes the term "assisted living" is in the draft version. Carter continued that we can't utilize that Zoning Ordinance draft, so we have to use the current version. He added that the applicant can request an ordinance amendment to include this use in VLRD zoning.

Giannangeli doesn't think we should accept this for study, it has all the elements of a nursing home, including 24/7 care, constant vehicle traffic, and is for profit. Therefore O-1 zoning makes perfect sense. Mr. Stulberg feels the Zoning Administrator needs to make his decision. Kwapis felt that per Mr. Nix's letter the applicant has two processes to consider before pursuing a SAU. Beer understands that the applicant is hesitant to follow what Mr. Nix's letter says, and is concerned about setting precedent for future uses. Scaccia felt it is not our place to discuss an SAU.

Carter reiterated that the applicant came here for Accept for Study for a site plan, though a rezoning might be more appropriate. Mr. Stulberg asked what the Planning Commission thought about him withdrawing his request and returning to the Board of Trustees for clarification of their direction. Carter suggested a concept plan since there are no standards in the ordinance to review an SAU against. For Accept for Study we ask the Planner if we have sufficient information to undertake this review. Carter speculated that if Mr. Nix were here, he would say we do not in this case. Stulberg felt the direction from the Township Board was not as specific as he would like, and would like to go back to them for clarification and possibly to come back to the Planning Commission for a concept review. Carter suggested his next step should be to speak with Mr. Nix. Mr. Stulberg agreed and will correspond with him, staff, and the Supervisor. He will withdraw this request at this point. Carter felt that was most appropriate as the applicant might come back with a different request.

#### **OPINION SURVEY**

Carter hoped for some discussion at this meeting, however understands the contract was just signed and an updated schedule has been submitted. Hein affirmed that the contract was signed today, and was pleased to see the contract incorporated the Planning Commission's request for the Township logo on the mailing and a restriction on extemporaneous communications. The revised time schedule provided is due to the contract being two days late, however it has not changed the date for the report or presentation. This should not present a problem. We have shared the prepared questionnaire, noting the requested changes. The next step will be approval of the revised survey. Hein suggested a small review group, deciding to include Hein and Carter. Hein noted there may be some format changes. Giannangeli asked about when the reminder postcards would be sent out. Hein thought it would be about one week after the survey is sent out. It was noted the final report will be included in the Planning Commission packets and the cost was as predicted.

**OPENING STATEMENT**

Carter noted that at the last meeting they received a comment from a resident that pointed out the opening statement is not accurate since the addition of Danny Beer to the Planning Commission because he is not a resident, though he is a stakeholder as an Oakland Township business owner. It was discussed that it could be changed to state businessmen or stakeholder instead of resident.

Bob Yager, 1146 Bear Creek Court, stated the purpose of his comment was to get the matter out in open, not that he objects to a non-resident being on the Planning Commission. Carter suggested replacing residents with representatives.

MOTION by SAPUTO, SECOND by HEIN to update the Opening Statement by replacing the word "residents" with "representatives" effective immediately. ALL AYES. MOTION CARRIED.

**OFFICER SELECTION**

Carter stated the Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary positions are up for election every year in February. Saputo nominated Carter for Chair given his leadership skills and knowledge. Hein nominated Saputo for Chair given her experience and noting change can be good and bring new ideas. Saputo thanked Hein for the vote of confidence, though felt the best role for her is as Secretary. She added that this meeting shows what is needed in preparation and leadership for this group. Beer felt that with three new members it would be good to continue with the current officers if they are willing to continue. Scaccia agrees. Giannangeli felt Saputo would be a good secretary and would like to give someone else a chance to serve. Giannangeli and Hein both expressed interest in being Vice Chair. Giannangeli withdrew his request.

MOTION by KWAPIS, SECONDED by GIANNANGELI, to appoint James Carter as the Chair, Ron Hein as the Vice Chair, and Janine Saputo as the Secretary for one year. ALL AYES. MOTION CARRIED.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Saputo mentioned that Planning & Zoning Coordinator Leven confirmed the renewal of Michigan Association of Planning (MAP) membership for ZBA and PC members. She added that the current issue focused solely on citizen planner training. She also added that Leven has benefitted by taking classes recently.

Carter appreciated the vote of confidence by the Planning Commission members for the appointment as Chair and welcomes the chance to serve.

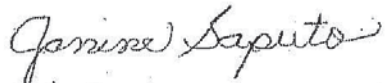
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**ADJOURNMENT**

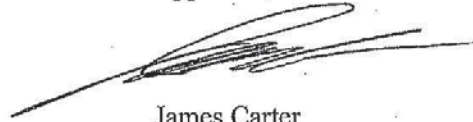
MOTION by HEIN, SECONDED by GIANNANGELI to adjourn the meeting at 10:03 p.m. ALL AYES.

Respectfully submitted,



Janine Saputo  
Secretary

Approved,



James Carter  
Chair

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OAKLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
SPECIAL MEETING

\*\*\*APPROVED \*\*\*

February 5, 2015

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The February 5, 2015, special meeting of the Charter Township of Oakland Parks and Recreation Commission (hereinafter "PRC") was called to order at 7:03 p.m. in the Township Hall.

PRESENT: Andy Zale, Chairperson  
Alice Tomboulion, Vice-Chairperson  
Colleen Barkham, Secretary  
Roger Schmidt, Treasurer  
David Mackley, Commissioner  
Joseph Peruzzi, Commissioner  
Ann Marie Rogers, Commissioner

Melinda Milos-Dale, Director

ABSENT: None

A quorum was present.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chairman Zale led the Commissioners, staff and those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

**AMENDMENTS TO AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOVED BY BARKHAM, SECONDED BY MACKLEY, to approve the agenda as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOVED BY BARKHAM, SECONDED BY ROGERS, to approve the minutes of the January 7, 2015, special meeting as presented, with the understanding that the spelling of Mr. Hein's name should be corrected.

MOTION CARRIED (Abstention: Peruzzi).

The Commissioners next considered the minutes of the January 15, 2015, meeting. Commissioner Rogers asked that the "Citizens: Conduct of Commissioner Rogers at Board of Trustees Meeting" (page 147) and her response "Commissioner Rogers' Reports -- Response to Comments by Judy Keyes" (page 156) be deleted. She explained that she does not feel it is appropriate to have this material in the minutes as it has nothing to do with PRC business, and that she was not acting in an official PRC capacity at that meeting.

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Commissioner Peruzzi objected to removing this from the minutes. Vice-Chairperson Tomboulion stated that she feels it is appropriate to keep the minutes as they are because this discussion took place at a meeting. She further stated that when a person is an elected official, they are always cloaked in the mantle of public responsibility, and needs to behave in public as an elected official.

Commissioner Rogers said that if the Commissioners choose to leave this information in the minutes, then every other Commissioner's "dirty laundry" can be aired at a PRC meeting.

Commissioner Rogers said she has concerns regarding how the minutes are kept, and asked that this matter be placed on the next meeting's agenda.

Treasurer Schmidt proposed a change to the minutes at page 154 under "Appointments for Parks and Recreation Commission Committees – Discussion on Motion," the second paragraph should be revised to read, "...questioned if Commissioner Peruzzi, who has a full-time job, will be available to attend if the Personnel Committee meets during his business hours."

MOVED BY TOMBOULIAN, SECONDED BY BARKHAM, to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2015, meeting with the following correction: on page 154 under "Appointments for Parks and Recreation Commission Committees – Discussion on Motion," the second paragraph should be revised to read, "...questioned if Commissioner Peruzzi, who has a full-time job, will be available to attend if the Personnel Committee meets during his business hours."

AYES: Zale, Tomboulion, Barkham, Mackley, Peruzzi

NAYS: Schmidt, Rogers

ABSENT: None

MOTION CARRIED.

CITIZENS

There was no one present this evening who wished to comment on an item not already on this evening's agenda.

PUBLIC HEARING: CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OAKLAND  
PARKS, RECREATION AND LAND PRESERVATION 2015-2019 MASTER PLAN

Chairman Zale opened the public hearing at 7:17 p.m. for the purpose of accepting comments regarding the Charter Township of Oakland Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation 2015-2019 Master Plan. There were approximately 17 people present.

Resident and neighbor Craig Blust commented on the plans for Watershed Ridge Park. Of the three proposed concept plans, he prefers concept plan 1. However, he asked that the parking

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lot be located farther away (maybe 100 to 300 feet) from other development in order to minimize the impact of lights on the neighbors.

Mr. Blust recalled that when this parcel was purchased in 2008, it was his understanding that only about 14 acres could be used for active use, and that the remaining acreage was to accommodate passive use only. He considers a dog park to be an "active" use, and said this should be kept in mind when planning this park.

Resident Bob Matouka said he also lives near Watershed Ridge Park. He said there are a number of questions the PRC needs to consider with respect to this park including (1) the cost to implement concept plans 1, 2 and 3, (2) operational costs, (3) maintenance costs, (4) where funding would come from, (5) if the PRC will be able to continue to maintain any improvements made, (6) the timeline for improvements, and (7) who will police the operation of a park of this size to ensure that it is used for the intended purpose. Mr. Matouka concurred with Mr. Blust that he prefers concept plan 1, which he feels is most in line with the intended use of this park. He also asked that any development of the park be located away from neighbors, as possible.

Resident Steve Miller lives near Watershed Ridge Park. Like his neighbors, Mr. Miller prefers concept plan 1. He noted that the dog park is proposed to be directly across from his home and asked that if a dog park is indeed located at this park, that it be situated farther back from the road.

Resident Sam Armbruster thanked the PRC for hosting an open house on the Master Plan. He found this to be an excellent opportunity to learn more and to share his thoughts and concerns. Mr. Armbruster said he lives near Watershed Ridge Park and, like his neighbors, favors concept plan 1. He said he has a number of concerns about concept plan 2: the road is narrow, and he is concerned about safety; the entrance is proposed for the top of a hill, which he feels also poses a safety hazard, particularly in the winter if it is icy; and the dog park is too close to the road. Mr. Armbruster said he moved to Oakland Township to enjoy peace and tranquility, and fears that a dog park across from his house will change this.

Resident Janet Salisbury said she, too lives near Watershed Ridge Park. She does not feel we need a dog park here. She then commented on equestrian use as her family has horses. Ms. Salisbury said she appreciates that Oakland Township welcomes horses, and understands that horses must stay off the paths at certain times of the year. However, she said she does not feel a sand arena is necessary. She noted that installation of a sand arena would require engineering to ensure that it is safe for horses and riders, as well as ongoing maintenance. She proposed that instead the PRC consider installing a small fenced area/corral in a park where horses are welcome. This will allow the horses to cool down. She also proposed a nearby picnic table for riders to use for picnicking, and a parking lot that will accommodate horse trailers.

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Resident Marian Galler said she had sent a letter to the PRC regarding this matter. Director Milos-Dale acknowledged that she received it, and said she forwarded it to the Commissioners.

Resident Maryann Whitman questioned how a dog park will work in a park that is primarily designated for passive use. She noted that the Township has other parks that can be used for active recreation, which might be a better fit for a dog park.

Resident Rita Davidson asked how Oakland County determined that they want to place a water storage tank in Bear Creek Nature Park, and what the PRC's role was with respect to this decision. Director Milos-Dale said the water tower is not a part of the Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Master Plan. Chairman Zale noted that there will be a meeting hosted by Oakland County on Monday at Baldwin Elementary School at 7:00 p.m. and urged her to attend. He also offered to speak with Ms. Davidson after the meeting.

There being no further comments, Chairman Zale closed the public hearing at 7:38 p.m.

(At this time, Chairman Zale called for a brief recess. The meeting was reconvened at 7:45 p.m.)

**PARKS, RECREATION AND LAND PRESERVATION MASTER PLAN, 2015-2019**

Chris Nordstrom and Mark Robinson of Johnson Hill Land Ethics Studio were present.

**Review of Open House Results**

Mr. Nordstrom shared a PowerPoint presentation summarizing comments received at the Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Master Plan open house held on January 29, 2015.

Treasurer Schmidt noted that the results are divided with respect to interest in a dog park. Mr. Nordstrom said he would like to look into this further before the Master Plan is finalized.

Director Milos-Dale said she will have the open house summary (presented this evening), verbatim comments received, and ranking sheets placed on the Township's website under the Master Plan link.

**Review of Master Plan Draft Chapter 5**

The Commissioners and Mr. Nordstrom reviewed the revised draft of Chapter 5, "Action Plan," of the Master Plan, which includes the vision and mission statements, goals and strategies, system-wide recommendations, and a five-year capital improvement plan.

Chairman Zale said he likes this format better than the format previously used.

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Secretary Barkham noted that the last Master Plan combined Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation plans with Safety Paths and Trails plans. This resulted in much confusion, as people thought the PRC must also be in charge of Safety Paths and Trails (which is a separate millage and not administered by the PRC). She suggested making some clarification in this Master Plan. Mr. Robinson offered that he and Mr. Nordstrom will develop wording to try to clarify this, and will propose the wording to the PRC.

Former PRC Commissioner Maryann Whitman suggested that a clarification also be made to distinguish between “paths” and “trails.”

Vision, Mission, and Community Values

The Commissioners agreed that this section is fine as presented.

Strategy and Goal 1.0: Park Land

The Commissioners agreed that this section is also fine as presented.

Strategy and Goal 2.0: Programs

The Commissioners agreed to revise the vision to read, “...will be to deliver the highest level of memorable, enjoyable, educational and healthy program experiences...”

Under Strategy 2.2, it should read, “Continue to develop new policies...”

Strategy and Goal 3.0: Operations and Management of Parks and Facilities

The Commissioners agreed that this section is fine as presented.

Strategy and Goal 4.0: Finance

The Commissioners agreed that this section is also fine as presented.

Strategy and Goal 5.0: Natural Areas Stewardship

The Commissioners proposed no changes to this section.

Strategy and Goal 6.0: Community Engagement

The Commissioners proposed no changes to this section.

Strategy and Goal 7.0: Operation of Parks and Recreation Department

The Commissioners proposed no changes to this section.

System-Wide Recommendations

Mr. Nordstrom said he still needs to update this section. However, he noted that it is clear from both the survey results and the open house comments that restrooms will be proposed for Bear Creek Nature Park, Marsh View Park and Lost Lake Nature Park.

Treasurer Schmidt had a question regarding stewardship and establishing protective programs. After discussion, the Commissioners explained that under "Natural Areas Stewardship," on page 82, the fourth bullet point ("Establishing baseline information concerning plants, mammals, birds,...") proposes such a protective program.

Blue Heron Environmental Area

Secretary Barkham proposed providing a connection from a parking area at the old homesite along Rochester Road to the trail system.

Watershed Ridge Park

Mr. Nordstrom and Mr. Robinson asked that the PRC select one of the three proposed concept plans so that Johnson Hill may have a better sense of what the PRC wants, and so that they may have the opportunity to make revisions to the concept plan before the Master Plan is finalized.

Mr. Robinson and the Commissioners agreed that concept plan 2 is not a valid option and should not be considered.

Commissioner Rogers said she prefers concept 3, but would like to see the dog park situated more behind the maintenance facility. She likes the location of Watershed Ridge Park as it is central in the Township. She also likes the idea of including the sand arena for equestrian use as there are many horses in the area.

Vice-Chairperson Tombouljian pointed out that if the PRC selects concept plan 3, this is not responsive to the comments and concerns expressed by residents who are not in favor of a dog park at this location (the plan proposes two dog parks), and noted that there are other parks that might be more suitable for a dog park.

Secretary Barkham said she prefers concept plan 1 of the three proposed. She continued that the PRC should keep the idea of a dog-friendly park high on the list of priorities – whether it is a dog park per se, or an off-leash park. Treasurer Schmidt suggested that the PRC look at other parks that already have parking facilities and where we would minimize the impact of a dog-friendly park on neighbors. He also liked concept plan 1.

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Commissioner Peruzzi said he also prefers concept plan 1, and agreed that a dog park is of interest to the PRC. He commented that he likes the idea of a horse-friendly park, and said he had never contemplated building a corral/fenced area and picnic area, but that this is something that he believes could be installed for a minimal amount of money.

Commissioner Mackley also preferred concept plan 1, but feels more study is necessary to determine which park is the best fit for a dog park.

Commissioner Rogers proposed a motion to approve concept plan 3 for Watershed Ridge Park, but this motion failed for lack of support.

MOVED BY TOMBOULIAN, SECONDED BY BARKHAM, to approve concept plan alternate 1 for Watershed Ridge Park.

Discussion on Motion:

Neighbor Craig Blust reiterated that he would like to see parking further from the road. Steve Miller thanked the PRC for listening to the concerns of the neighbors. Bob Matouka concurred. Sam Armbruster thanked the PRC for doing a fantastic job with the Master Plan review, and inquired about the process for Master Plan approval and implementation. Treasurer Schmidt thanked all the residents for their input this evening.

Commissioner Peruzzi explained to the residents that this evening's discussions and actions do not preclude the possibility of a dog park at Watershed Ridge Park. The PRC will need to study this matter further to determine the best location for a dog park. Chairman Zale pointed out that the five-year capital improvement plan includes monies for a dog park.

Vote on Motion:

AYES: Zale, Tomboulian, Barkham, Schmidt, Mackley, Peruzzi  
NAYS: Rogers  
ABSENT: None  
MOTION CARRIED.

Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan

The Commissioners and Mr. Nordstrom reviewed a revised plan. Commissioner Peruzzi noted that the last page includes a number of projects with the year of implementation marked as "to be determined." Director Milos-Dale said it would be very helpful if the PRC could prioritize these items as it will help with planning. Vice-Chairperson Tomboulian noted that it will likely be more economical if some of the projects that require the same contractors can be grouped. The Commissioners agreed that Ms. Milos-Dale will work with Mr. Nordstrom and Mr. Robinson to review data (including the resident survey, open house comments, etc.) and develop recommendations for the PRC's consideration.

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Commissioner Peruzzi noted that if a project is listed to be implemented in a given year and that does not occur, it does not reflect a "failure" of the PRC.

Vice-Chairperson Tombouljian said that a project she would like to see occur in 2015 is to study the possibility of constructing a small dog park at Bear Creek Nature Park. Secretary Barkham suggested that instead of specifying the park, that the location be left as "undetermined."

Secretary Barkham said that she would like to see emphasis placed on doing something to improve Gallagher Creek Park as there are many residents in the area who could enjoy this park.

Chairman Zale said he would like to see restrooms constructed.

MOVED BY SCHMIDT, SECONDED BY TOMBOULIAN, to accept the draft of the Charter Township of Oakland Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Master Plan, 2015-2019 chapter 5, including the Goals and Strategies, and Capital Improvement Plan.

Discussion on Motion:

Resident Janet Salisbury said it is her understanding that the Blue Heron Environmental Area was protected by a conservation easement and would never be disturbed. She noted that she had herons visiting in her pond this past summer, and said she routinely sees turkeys, geese and sandhill cranes on the park property. She questioned if the prevalence of phragmites might be a reason that the herons have not returned in large numbers. She asked that this park be left alone and that trails not be put in this park.

Ms. Salisbury also commented on trails in general, and said that in order to make parks horse-friendly, it would be good to have a horse-friendly path next to the limestone paths.

Resident Bob Matouka had questions regarding the cost of projects noted in the Capital Improvement Plan as compared to the budget.

Craig Blust agreed with Secretary Barkham that it would be good for Oakland Township to make improvements to Gallagher Creek Park a higher priority, and that improvements (e.g., picnic area) be sized to accommodate the number of people he anticipates will use this park.

He recalled that there has been a lot of discussion regarding parking to access the Paint Creek Trailways. He noted that the Safety Paths and Trails Committee is working on a safer way to access the Paint Creek Trail, and Trailways users may fully utilize the Paint Creek Cider Mill parking lot in the not-too-distant future. He also noted that the PRC owns the Marsh View Connector parcel, which could be used for parking.

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Further, he feels it would be helpful to note the author of comments the PRC receives via email regarding the Master Plan.

Vice-Chairperson Tombouljian noted that this would be a good time to consider renaming the Marsh View Connector parcel, as this name can cause confusion. Mr. Blust suggested renaming it the "Paint Creek Connector." The Commissioners agreed to place this matter on the next meeting's agenda.

Vote on Motion:

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORTS**

**Master Plan Upcoming Schedule**

Director Milos-Dale reviewed previous and upcoming significant Master Plan dates. She presented the Master Plan to the Planning Commission at their February 3, 2015, meeting, at which time they indicated their support. Director Milos-Dale will next present the Master Plan to the Board of Trustees at their meeting on February 10<sup>th</sup>. At the PRC's rescheduled February 18<sup>th</sup> meeting, there will be a second public hearing on the Master Plan, and the PRC will consider adoption. The Master Plan will again be presented to the Board of Trustees at their February 24<sup>th</sup> meeting, at which time they will consider adoption. Finally, the Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Master Plan for 2015-2019 will be submitted to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Oakland County, and the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) on February 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Winter Carnival**

Director Milos-Dale stated that this year's Winter Carnival will be held on Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup> from noon to 4:00 p.m. at Marsh View Park, where attendees can enjoy the new ice rink. There will be many activities and events including ice skating, ice sculpture demonstrations, a magic show, kite flying demonstrations, carnival games, etc. There will also be refreshments.

**TREASURER SCHMIDT'S REPORT**

**Concerns Regarding Water Tower in Bear Creek Nature Park**

Treasurer Schmidt briefly responded to concerns raised earlier this evening about the consideration of placement of a water tower in Bear Creek Nature Park. He explained that it is his understanding that Oakland County establishes criteria for placement of a water tower, and they felt that this would be the best location. Commissioner Peruzzi said Oakland County will be hosting a meeting on Monday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at Baldwin Elementary School, and he encouraged residents and Commissioners to attend to learn more.

APPROVAL OF INVOICES

Director Milos-Dale reviewed the list of invoices.

MOVED BY MACKLEY, SECONDED BY PERUZZI, to approve payment of the invoices as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

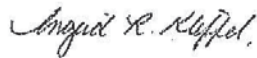
ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY BARKHAM, SECONDED BY MACKLEY, there being no further business before the Commission, to adjourn the meeting at 9:32 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved,



Ingrid R. Kliffel  
Recording Secretary



Colleen Barkham  
Secretary

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OAKLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
\*\*\*APPROVED \*\*\*  
February 18, 2015

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The February 18, 2015, rescheduled meeting of the Charter Township of Oakland Parks and Recreation Commission (hereinafter "PRC") was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the main meeting room of the Paint Creek Cider Mill.

PRESENT: Andy Zale, Chairperson  
Alice Tombouljian, Vice-Chairperson (left at 9:15 p.m.)  
Roger Schmidt, Treasurer  
David Mackley, Commissioner  
Joseph Peruzzi, Commissioner  
Ann Marie Rogers, Commissioner

Melinda Milos-Dale, Director

ABSENT: Colleen Barkham, Secretary

A quorum was present.

**CLOSED SESSION**

MOVED BY SCHMIDT, SECONDED BY TOMBOULIAN, to enter into a closed session at 6:03 p.m., pursuant to subsection 8(d) of the Michigan Open Meetings Act, for purposes of discussing the purchase or lease of real property.

AYES: Zale, Tombouljian, Schmidt, Mackley, Peruzzi, Rogers  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: Barkham  
MOTION CARRIED.

The regular session was reconvened at 6:49 p.m.

Chairman Zale called for a brief recess until 7:00 p.m., at which time the regular session resumed.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chairman Zale led the Commissioners, staff and those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

**AMENDMENTS TO AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Commissioner Rogers noted that the agenda proposes to hold a second public hearing regarding the Master Plan this evening (item 6 on the agenda), that the Master Plan consultants will update the PRC on any revisions to the plan (item 7), and that then the PRC will consider approval immediately thereafter (item 8). She questioned if this will give the PRC adequate time to consider any comments received during the public hearing.

Director Milos-Dale responded that the PRC is only required to hold one public hearing, which was held on February 5<sup>th</sup>. The PRC voluntarily chose to hold a second public hearing. Further, the PRC has been soliciting input and accepting comments since we began the Master Plan revision process, including at public meetings, through a Township-wide survey, at open house events, via an online Master Plan site, at the previous public hearing, etc. She believes that those who are interested have had an opportunity to share their thoughts, and that the PRC has been able to consider their input. Vice-Chairperson Tomboulion concurred that she feels this process has not been lacking in interaction with residents and the public.

MOVED BY PERUZZI, SECONDED BY MACKLEY, to approve the agenda as presented.

Discussion on Motion:

Chairman Zale said he understands Commissioner Rogers' concerns, and added that he feels the PRC will have time to make changes if necessary.

Vote on Motion:

MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED BY TOMBOULIAN, SECONDED BY PERUZZI, to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2015, special meeting as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.

CITIZENS

Frank Ferriolo: Concerns About PRC Logo

Resident Frank Ferriolo noted that this evening's agenda packet includes a proposed Request for Proposal for a Parks and Recreation logo. He speculated that the PRC may be pursuing its own logo in response to friction between the PRC and the Board of Trustees. However, he said he believes this problem is moving towards resolution. Mr. Ferriolo said he is troubled that the PRC is considering a separate logo as he feels the Township's logo (which includes a great blue heron and the words *Curamus Terram*, which translates to "we care for the land") accurately represents the philosophy of the PRC as well. He noted that the survey recently conducted reflects that the PRC needs to improve communication with residents. Mr. Ferriolo is concerned that a second logo would be confusing and would be in conflict with the Township's logo. He asked that the PRC work to improve communication, but that it not pursue a separate logo.

MAINTENANCE BUILDING INTERIOR IMPROVEMENTS

Maintenance Foreman Doug Caruso and Natural Areas Stewardship Manager Dr. Ben VanderWeide were present.

Director Milos-Dale stated that the Maintenance and Stewardship staff would like to make some interior improvements to the pole barn at Watershed Ridge Park. The proposed shelving improvements will provide adequate storage and work space for stewardship equipment, improving workplace safety and organization. The enclosed, heated storage area will provide a place to store stewardship and maintenance supplies and equipment that cannot freeze, which are currently transported to the Paint Creek Cider Mill for the winter months and then back to Watershed Ridge Park in the spring. The space above the heated storage area will be used for additional storage.

The Maintenance and Stewardship staff are also proposing to first correct drainage that slopes toward the west garage door causing standing water and mud year round at this main access to the building, and then adding gravel to this area.

Director Milos-Dale stated that staff would make the proposed improvements themselves. The estimated total cost is \$4,000, and this amount would be split between the park and land preservation development accounts, which have monies available for this use.

MOVED BY TOMBOULIAN, SECONDED BY MACKLEY, to approve the improvements for the maintenance building at Watershed Ridge Park at a cost of \$4,000, as presented.

Discussion on Motion:

Dr. VanderWeide explained that it will be safer and more convenient to be able to store herbicides, etc. at the maintenance building, than having to transport them to keep them from freezing.

Treasurer Schmidt inquired about natural gas at the site and questioned if this would be a better option for heating the small storage room. Maintenance Foreman Caruso responded that the gas line was disconnected at Buell Road, so there would be greater cost to tap into that line. At this time, he is proposing an electric heater for the small storage room, which will be insulated. Director Milos-Dale noted, however, that the PRC may consider constructing a second maintenance building at this site in fiscal year 2016-2017. The PRC may consider hooking up to the natural gas line at that time.

Vote on Motion:

MOTION CARRIED.

**RENAMING OF MARSH VIEW CONNECTOR PARK**

Director Milos-Dale recalled that the PRC had originally hoped to be able to extend a path from Marsh View Park (located at Clarkston Road and Adams Road, south of Stoney Creek Road), west along Clarkston Road, south on Orion Road, and then connect to this park, which was initially named "Marsh View Connector Park." However, it is no longer feasible to make this connection, and there has been confusion because the names of the two parks are very similar. Therefore, the PRC is proposing to rename the Marsh View Connector Park at this time.

The Commissioners reviewed the 36 name suggestions received for this park. Vice-Chairperson Tomboulian explained that when the PRC has named parks in the past, we have attempted to include in the name a reference to the main water or land features of that park. She proposed "Creekside Park," which she feels follows this natural features theme. Other themes of this area are the glacial history of the Paint Creek valley, and the history of the railroad (this park connects to the Paint Creek Trailways, which runs along the former Detroit Urban Railroad line). Another name she likes is "Trailside Park."

Chairman Zale polled the Commissioners. Names of interest included "Oakland Junction Park," which reflects the railroad history, "Paint Creek Trail Park," "Oakland Heritage Park," and "Red Tail Ridge." Commissioner Peruzzi said he would like the name to contain "Oakland." He also likes the term "gateway." Chairman Zale said he likes a name that connects the park to the railroad and/or the Trailways.

Resident Cam Manino said she likes the name "Paint Creek Junction." Resident Barb Barber said she likes the term "heritage." She felt the term "junction" is misleading as the railroad stop was in fact by the Paint Creek Cider Mill (the Goodison station). Resident John Markel proposed "Oakland Heritage Connector Park." Director Milos-Dale suggested that the name not include the term "heritage" as we already have the Paint Creek Heritage parks (wet prairie, fen, etc.) and this could become a new source of confusion.

MOVED BY TOMBOULIAN, SECONDED BY PERUZZI, to rename "Marsh View Connector Park" as "Oakland Heritage Park."

Discussion on Motion:

Chairman Zale said he learned at a Paint Creek Trailways Commission meeting that the Michigan Department of Natural Resources has plans to install a trail just southeast of this park, with a bridge crossing to the Paint Creek Trailways. He added that he would prefer the name "Paint Creek Junction."

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OAKLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
\*\*\*APPROVED \*\*\*  
February 18, 2015

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Vote on Motion:

AYES: Tomboulian, Peruzzi  
NAYS: Zale, Schmidt, Mackley, Rogers  
ABSENT: Barkham  
MOTION FAILS.

MOVED BY PERUZZI, SECONDED BY TOMBOULIAN, to rename "Marsh View Connector Park" as "Paint Creek Junction Park."

Vote on Motion:

AYES: Zale, Tomboulian, Mackley, Peruzzi  
NAYS: Schmidt, Rogers  
ABSENT: Barkham  
MOTION CARRIED.

**PUBLIC HEARING: CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OAKLAND  
PARKS, RECREATION AND LAND PRESERVATION 2015-2019 MASTER PLAN**

Chairman Zale opened the public hearing at 7:40 p.m. for the purpose of accepting comments regarding the Charter Township of Oakland Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation 2015-2019 Master Plan. There were approximately 11 people present.

Resident John Markel said he was disappointed in the comments he heard at the last meeting regarding a dog park, specifically with respect to "active" and "passive" use of Watershed Ridge Park. He asked that the PRC develop definitions of these terms and include them in the Master Plan. He questioned whether mown trails would be considered an "active" use and if they would even be appropriate in this park, referring again to comments made at the February 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. He concluded by stating that he would like a dog park.

Resident Frank Ferriolo said he feels this Master Plan is really what the PRC Commissioners want, regardless of what residents ask for (he referred specifically to a dog park and an equestrian sand arena). He said he would like to see the PRC promote the resources we already have and work to increase the diversity of what we currently offer to entice more people to get involved in their community.

Resident Barbara Barber asked if the Commissioners had received the letter she sent them in support of an equestrian sand arena. She said she sent her letter to members of the Commission as well as members of the Dog Park Task Force. Commissioner Rogers said that she received it, as well as a letter from resident Libby Dwyer. Director Milos-Dale explained that she forwarded any comments that she received (she recalled receiving Ms. Dwyer's letter) to the Commissioners approximately one week ago. However, she continued that she only included in this evening's packet those comments that she received very recently, as she

thought the Commissioners may not have time to review them. Commissioner Peruzzi stated that he received a letter from Ms. Barber in his spam folder late last night.

Ms. Barber continued that she likes the idea of trying small amenities such as a dog park or sand arena because she feels they would be relatively inexpensive and if they are not successful, it would be easy to let them revert to their natural state.

Vice-Chairperson Tomboulion interjected that certain residents are telling the PRC what we think, and this is not so.

There being no further comments, Chairman Zale closed the public hearing at 7:51 p.m.

### **PARKS, RECREATION AND LAND PRESERVATION MASTER PLAN, 2015-2019**

Chris Nordstrom and Mark Robinson of Johnson Hill Land Ethics Studio were present.

#### **Capital Improvement Plan**

In response to comments made during this evening's Master Plan public hearing, Vice-Chairperson Tomboulion pointed to the Capital Improvement Plan for 2015 and noted that it includes monies for architectural services and construction of a dog park and support facilities, although the location is still undetermined. Mr. Nordstrom confirmed this and added that the PRC has had the concept of a dog park of some sort in the Master Plan since the start. It was originally proposed for Watershed Ridge Park, but then there were questions as to the best location. Therefore, a study will be done this year to determine the best location for a dog park. The dog park can then be planned and constructed in 2015.

Additionally, Vice-Chairperson Tomboulion pointed out that the Capital Improvement Plan for 2015 includes monies for architectural services and construction of parking lot improvements for Marsh View Connector Park (now Paint Creek Junction Park).

With response to an equestrian sand arena, Commissioner Mackley wondered who would use it other than immediate neighbors. Resident Barbara Barber said there are local middle school and high school equestrian teams, as well a number of residents and boarding facilities in the area, and the majority of these facilities do not have sand arenas. Additionally, there is the Paint Creek Valley 4-H equestrian team, although she believes they meet in Oxford.

#### **Review of Master Plan Draft Chapters**

Mr. Nordstrom reviewed final revisions.

Chapter 3 – Mr. Nordstrom stated that he needs to review the section on “Public School Facilities” and make sure that this list is up to date.

Chapter 5 – A new strategy is proposed under “Goals and Strategies,” Strategy 2.5, regarding the proposed partnership with Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve for programming at Lost Lake Nature Park. Director Milos-Dale read proposed additional strategy. The Commissioners agreed to add this strategy.

Appendix B: Community Input –

Inflammatory Comments

Mr. Nordstrom stated that this section includes all of the comments received during the Master Plan process. At the recent Board of Trustees meeting, there was concern about the inflammatory language contained in some of the comments. Mr. Nordstrom asked for guidance regarding whether the PRC feels comments that are not park-related belong in the Master Plan.

Commissioner Rogers felt it would be fine to leave in any comments that have to do with parks, the planning of parks, or Park Commissioners, even if they are inflammatory. However, she asked that “political comments” (she explained that this would include comments about who a person would vote for in the next election, for example) be removed.

Vice-Chairperson Tombouljian said that she feels it is inappropriate and irrelevant to include inflammatory comments. Rather, the comments should be about our parks and parks services.

Commissioner Peruzzi said he doesn’t like this “name calling,” but said he is okay with leaving these remarks, which he feels are a “tombstone” for Oakland Township.

Vice-Chairperson Tombouljian said she feels that in official statements and publications, which include the Master Plan, we should put forth constructive and positive statements. She feels it is not appropriate to include “dirty linen” in our Master Plan.

Commissioner Mackley said he feels these comments should be removed as they do not reflect anything regarding the Master Plan, and they are not necessary for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to know.

Chairman Zale said he believes our Master Plan consultants are good neutral parties to decide what is necessary and not necessary to keep in the plan.

MOVED BY TOMBOULIAN, SECONDED BY MACKLEY, to ask our Master Plan consultants to use their best judgment in removing from the Master Plan comments those statements they feel would not be useful for Master Plan planning.

Discussion on Motion:

Commissioner Rogers questioned if this would also encompass inflammatory comments received in the survey.

Treasurer Schmidt said he agrees with Commissioner Mackley. As this Master Plan will be submitted to the MDNR if the PRC applies for a grant through the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, he said he does not feel it would be constructive or informative to the MDNR to have these inflammatory comments. He therefore felt they should be deleted. Consultant Mark Robinson offered that he and Mr. Nordstrom would use their best judgment to delete those comments that have no bearing with respect to the planning effort. He said he feels they can do this objectively. However, he asked that the PRC give Johnson Hill Land Ethics this responsibility fully. The Commissioners agreed.

Chairman Zale said that we received some great comments and thoughts about our parks. However, there were also some unpleasant comments, and it is shameful to have these personal attacks, which show a lack of respect for each other.

Vote on Motion:

MOTION CARRIED.

Comments Regarding Water Tower

Mr. Nordstrom noted that there are also a number of comments regarding the water tower that Oakland County is proposing to place in Bear Creek Nature Park. He noted that a water tower is not a part of the PRC's plan, and he proposed that these comments be deleted. The Commissioners agreed.

Appendix D: Concept Plans – Mr. Nordstrom stated that he will make the following revisions: for Bear Creek Nature Park, he will show the proposed restroom. For Blue Heron Environmental Area, he will show the proposed trail connection to a parking area at the site of the old homestead. At Charles Ilsley Park, he will make changes to better show the proposed paths. At Cranberry Lake Park, he will update the equestrian trail language to show that there will be dirt paths (not limestone) for horses. At both Lost Lake Nature Park and Marsh View Park, he will show the proposed restrooms. Finally, for Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park, the term “fishing pier” will be replaced with the term “overlook/educational boardwalk.”

Appendix E: Notices and Meeting Minutes – Mr. Nordstrom will obtain these from the Parks and Recreation Department.

Appendix F: Millage Funds Use Criteria – Mr. Nordstrom will obtain a clean copy and include this.

Appendix G: Funding Sources – Mr. Nordstrom will include this.

Appendix H: Resolutions of Approval – Mr. Nordstrom will obtain these from the Township.

Appendix J: Post-Completion Self-Certification Reports – Director Milos-Dale will complete these and forward them to Mr. Nordstrom for inclusion in the Master Plan.

Park Name - Vice-Chairperson Tomboulian asked Mr. Nordstrom to make sure to update the name of "Paint Creek Junction Park" (formerly called "Mash View Connector" park).

Survey Results – Vice-Chairperson pointed out that the survey was sent to approximately 6,000 Oakland Township households. Approximately 15 percent of those households returned the survey, and there was no enticement to respond. She said she feels these results are very statistically significant and would like the Master Plan to include an explanation to this effect. Director Milos-Dale said she will contact survey consultant David Bostwick and have him prepare a statement.

**RESOLUTION 15-01: RESOLUTION FOR ADOPTION OF CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OAKLAND 2015-2019 MASTER PLAN FOR PARKS, RECREATION, AND LAND PRESERVATION**

MOVED BY TOMBOULIAN, SECONDED BY MACKLEY, to adopt Resolution 15-01, a Resolution for Adoption of Charter Township of Oakland 2015-2019 Master Plan for Parks, Recreation, and Land Preservation with the revisions proposed this evening.

Discussion on Motion:

Resident Janet Salisbury reiterated her comments made at the February 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. She said she does not feel an equestrian sand arena is necessary. If the PRC decides to create one, they will need to make accommodations for horse trailers, and will also have to figure out how to manage the manure. As an Oakland Township taxpayer, she is opposed to monies being spent to benefit only a very few, and she anticipates this will also be used by non-residents. She questioned if the PRC will charge non-residents for use of this facility.

With respect to Blue Heron Environmental Area, Ms. Salisbury asked the PRC to please not disturb the site until a study is done to determine why the herons left this nesting area and if they might return to the site.

Resident Craig Blust apologized for arriving late at this evening's meeting, explaining that he just left a Safety Paths and Trails Committee meeting. He asked and Chairman Zale confirmed that the Master Plan contemplates concept 1 for Watershed Ridge Park.

Vote on Motion:

AYES: Zale, Tomboulian, Schmidt, Mackley, Peruzzi, Rogers  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: Barkham  
MOTION CARRIED.

A copy of this resolution is attached as a part of these minutes.

**PAINT CREEK MILL RACE SLUICE BOX SAFETY BARRIER**

The Commissioners agreed that they want to install safety measures around the Paint Creek mill race sluice box, which is within the Mill Race Trail Park. Director Milos-Dale corresponded with the Historic District Commission ("HDC"), and they forwarded their recommendations to the PRC in the memorandum dated January 30<sup>th</sup> from Barbara Barber, Historic Preservation Planner to the Historic District Commission. Ms. Milos-Dale reviewed the HDC's recommendations. With respect to fencing, Director Milos-Dale said one recommendation is to match the existing fencing around the mill pond, but she said this still needs to be explored. The HDC recommends, and the PRC agreed that they will review fence railing selection with the Township Building Director for code compliance.

If the PRC approves this project in concept, then the Parks and Recreation Department staff will obtain bids to accomplish this work in the spring.

MOVED BY PERUZZI, SECONDED BY SCHMIDT, to obtain quotes for safety measures around the Paint Creek mill race sluice box, located within the Mill Race Trail Park, as recommended by the Historic District Commission.

**Discussion on Motion:**

Resident John Markel thanked the PRC for moving forward with this. From a safety standpoint, he said he is most concerned about the bars that stick up.

**Vote on Motion:**

MOTION CARRIED.

**CRANBERRY LAKE PARK AND FARM TEMPORARY ROADSIDE SIGN**

The PRC received a request from the HDC to collaborate on directional signage to Cranberry Lake Park and the Cranberry Lake Farm Historic District.

Director Milos-Dale said she discussed with the HDC that the PRC intends to do a signage study and asked if this could wait until the signage study is complete. However, the HDC feels that such a study can take time and, as they are offering programming at Cranberry Lake Farm, she believes they are eager to have signage up to better promote the site.

The Commissioners reviewed a memorandum dated February 12<sup>th</sup> from the HDC. The directional signs would be placed on northbound Rochester Road, just south of Predmore Road, at a location determined by the Road Commission for Oakland County. The cost of the sign is estimated at between \$800 and \$1,000, and the HDC is proposing to share this cost equally with the PRC.

MOVED BY ROGERS, SECONDED BY PERUZZI, to approve temporary roadside signage as discussed this evening, with the PRC's contribution not to exceed \$500.

Discussion on Motion:

Chairman Zale said he does not like paying twice for something, but understands the need to help get the word out about Cranberry Lake Farm.

Treasurer Schmidt questioned if there will also be a sign on southbound Rochester Road. Director Milos-Dale responded that there is not a sign proposed for the southbound traffic. She said the Road Commission does not allow a two-sided sign, and it would cost an extra \$800 to \$1,000 for southbound signage. Further, she speculated that most Township residents would be traveling northbound.

Vote on Motion:

MOTION CARRIED.

**PARK FUND BUDGET: 2014-2015 Fiscal Year Amendments**

(Treasurer Schmidt stepped out briefly at this point.)

Director Milos-Dale reviewed the proposed amendments to the 2014-2015 fiscal year Park Fund budget. She referred to her memorandum of February 17<sup>th</sup>. She reviewed the proposed amendments. Ms. Milos-Dale stated that differences in the Paint Creek Trailways staffing levels and changes in their 2015 budget (their fiscal year runs with the calendar year) necessitated five proposed amendments. She explained that Oakland Township processes the Paint Creek Trailways payroll as an in-kind service, but the Trailways Commission has their own staff. We incorporate their budget requests into our proposed budget amendments.

She continued that the other two Park Fund accounts ("Park Maintenance" and "FICA – General Government") concern casual PRC employees who perform both recreation and maintenance work. The actual division of their payroll between the maintenance and recreation staff accounts did not agree with the intention in the Park Fund budget. Between the two accounts, the PRC budgeted \$44,000 total, and we have already spent about \$37,000. The PRC will exceed the \$44,000 slightly when the snow plowing needs and the ice rink maintenance, which were unknown quantities, are taken into account. Next year, the PRC has budgeted a total of approximately \$50,000 for this work.

MOVED BY MACKLEY, SECONDED BY ROGERS, to approve the amendments to the 2014-2015 fiscal year Park Fund budget as presented.

MOTION CARRIED (Absent: Schmidt).

**LAND PRESERVATION FUND BUDGET: 2014-2015 Fiscal Year Amendments**

Director Milos-Dale reviewed the proposed amendments to the 2014-2015 fiscal year Land Preservation Fund budget. She said that during the stewardship season, we tried to make the best use of staff that could stay longer into the fall season, and slightly exceeded our seasonal staffing budget as a result. Next year, the PRC has budgeted \$36,500 for this account.

MOVED BY ROGERS, SECONDED BY PERUZZI, to approve the amendments to the 2014-2015 fiscal year Land Preservation Fund budget as presented.

MOTION CARRIED (Absent: Schmidt).

(Treasurer Schmidt returned at this point.)

**PARK FUND BUDGET: 2015-2016 Fiscal Year**

Director Milos-Dale reviewed the proposed 2015-2016 fiscal year Park Fund budget; projected budgets for the 2016-2017 fiscal years are also included at the Board of Trustees' request, for informational purposes. Ms. Milos-Dale said the Township Treasurer's office has indicated that the PRC should figure in a five percent increase in the yearly tax revenue and cost of hospitalization benefits, a two percent inflationary increase for expenditures (where warranted), and a two percent increase in salary, wages, pension and FICA each year. The Township is currently conducting a study to allocate indirect costs to respective departments; once this is complete, the PRC will be asked to incorporate those costs into its budgets.

The Board of Trustees will review the Park Fund and Land Preservation Fund budgets at their February 24<sup>th</sup> meeting, a public hearing will be held at their March 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, and the Board will consider all budgets for approval at their March 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Director Milos-Dale then reviewed suggested new items or policies for the Park Fund budget for the 2015-2016 fiscal year. The budget proposes a five-year vehicle replacement cycle that would include selling older vehicles during the same fiscal year that a new one would be purchased. There is now a revenue account for the sale of fixed assets (such as vehicles).

The capital improvement projects for the Park Fund budget for the 2015-2016 fiscal year include the signage master plan (this expense to be split between the Park Fund and the Land Preservation Fund); Draper Twin Lake Park trail improvements; Gallagher Creek Park play structure, picnic and trail improvements; Marsh View Park athletic field improvements, parking lot and archery range expansion; Marsh View Connector (now Paint Creek Junction Park) parking lot; Mill Race Trail weir safety fencing; carport at the Paint Creek Cider Mill for Parks and Recreation Department trucks (this expense to be split between the Park Fund and the Land Preservation Fund); Paint Creek Trail shoreline stabilization; Paint Creek Trailways resurfacing annual installment; dog park; and equestrian sand arena.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OAKLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

\*\*\*APPROVED \*\*\*

February 18, 2015

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Ms. Milos-Dale is suggesting that the PRC apply for two MDNR grants by April 2016 for restroom improvements at Marsh View Park, Lost Lake Nature Park and Bear Creek Nature Park, as well as adding a trail system and support facilities at Watershed Ridge Park. If the PRC wishes to repair or replace the bridge along the Paint Creek Trailways at the 33.7 mile marker, the Paint Creek Trailways Commission could submit a grant application with which the PRC could partner.

Director Milos-Dale is recommending changing maintenance department worker Jeff Johnson's classification to full-time (the addition of 0.15 full time employee to the Parks Fund budget staffing, and 0.25 full time employee to the Land Preservation Fund budget staffing). This will allow the departments to accomplish winter activities including ice rink maintenance, snow plowing and invasive plant management. She noted that the additional 17 weeks of productivity would increase the Parks Fund wages/fringe benefits by \$8,400, and the Land Preservation Fund wages/fringe benefits by \$12,000.

Director Milos-Dale added \$10,000 to the Communication Consultant line item in the Park Fund budget to contract with marketing professionals to initiate implementation of marketing and communication strategies suggested in the Master Plan.

Finally, she stated that 2015-2016 Park Fund budget equipment purchases suggested include soccer goals, a Slip-n-Slide to be used during the summer at Lost Lake Nature Park, a vegetation control mat to be installed around the Lost Lake Nature Park dock to facilitate fishing and kayaking, a rescue boat, and a wood chipper that would be shared by the maintenance and stewardship staff.

Director Milos-Dale recalled that the PRC had discussed providing \$15,000 to help with maintenance of Cranberry Lake Farm if the Board of Trustees agrees to match this amount. The PRC agreed to include this amount in the budget for the 2015-2016 fiscal year only.

Additionally, the Commissioners agreed to leave in the budget funding for the Paint Creek Junction Park parking lot with the understanding that the cost will be shared equally between the Park Fund, the Township's General Fund, and the Safety Paths and Trails Fund.

The Commissioners discussed the five-year vehicle replacement policy. Maintenance Foreman Caruso stated that he has looked into this and feels that a five-year plan will be good. He noted that Oakland Township is able to purchase vehicles at a substantial savings through the MiDeal program. This will allow the PRC to replace vehicles before they become more expensive to maintain, and while they will still command a good resale price. Treasurer Schmidt noted that the carport will help protect the vehicles from the elements.

Chairman Zale recalled that the recent survey results reflect that residents would like more maintenance in the parks. Increasing the maintenance and stewardship staff will help with this.

MOVED BY SCHMIDT, SECONDED BY PERUZZI, to approve the 2015-2016 fiscal year Park Fund budget as presented.

Discussion on Motion:

Natural Areas Stewardship Manager Dr. VanderWeide and Maintenance Foreman Caruso shared some information regarding the proposed wood chipper. They will be able to chip a 10" diameter log. This will help immensely with maintenance of the parks. Resident John Markel asked if the PRC owns a vehicle that will be able to transport the wood chipper. Mr. Caruso responded that we have both a tow vehicle for the chipper and a separate tow vehicle and trailer to transport chipped materials. Resident Cam Manino was very pleased to hear that the Commission will be making this purchase, as she said it has been looking messy where brush has been cut and left alongside the trails.

Mr. Markel commented about the carport. He said he likes the concept, but feels it may be out of keeping with the site if it is located at the historic Paint Creek Cider Mill. He asked that the PRC consider if there is another possible location for the carport.

Vote on Motion:

MOTION CARRIED.

(Vice-Chairperson Tomboulian left at this time, 9:15 p.m.)

LAND PRESERVATION FUND BUDGET: 2014-2015 Fiscal Year

Director Milos-Dale reviewed the proposed 2015-2016 fiscal year Land Preservation Fund budget. She reviewed suggested new items or policies for the 2015-2016 Land Preservation Fund budget. Capital projects include the signage master plan (this expense to be shared with the Park Fund budget); Draper Twin Lake Park trail improvements; carport at Paint Creek Cider Mill for Parks and Recreation Department trucks (this expense to be shared with the Park Fund budget); deer exclosures; and preliminary plans to apply for grant funding to add trail system and support facilities at Watershed Ridge Park.

Additional Land Preservation revenue is being suggested from donations to treat invasive plants and to purchase prairie seeds. Land Preservation research grants (\$3,000 total annual funding) are being suggested to accomplish ecological research in our parks.

Finally, Land Preservation Fund equipment purchases include a seed harvester for habitat restoration.

MOVED BY ROGERS, SECONDED BY SCHMIDT, to approve the 2015-2016 fiscal year Land Preservation Fund budget as presented.

MOTION CARRIED (Absent: Tomboulian).

## DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

### Prescribed Fire Gear

Director Milos-Dale presented a quote for prescribed fire gear. The proposal from Natural Areas Stewardship Manager VanderWeide explains that he is actively working to develop an in-house prescribed burning program run by trained staff and volunteers. This would save costs because we would not have to hire a contractor to complete all prescribed burns. Additionally, we would have the flexibility to complete prescribed burns using the methods and timing that works best for us. The proposed gear would equip a crew of eight to 10. The purchase of additional suppression equipment, including water tanks and pumps, is budgeted for future years.

The Commissioners reviewed the proposal. Dr. VanderWeide contacted seven different suppliers. The total for this purchase is \$2,634.38. There are monies in the budget to cover this expenditure. The Commissioners indicated their support of this purchase.

### Request for Quote for Logo

Director Milos-Dale presented a draft Request for Proposal for a Parks and Recreation logo. A number of the Commissioners did not feel that it is necessary to work on developing a PRC logo at this time. Commissioner Peruzzi said he thinks Oakland Township's logo is fine, but wondered if it could somehow denote Parks and Recreation where appropriate.

Chairman Zale thought it might be good for the PRC to develop our own logo to help increase awareness of our parks. When the PRC contracts with a marketing professional, he suggested that a logo or "brand" is something they should consider.

Treasurer Schmidt commented that if the PRC develops a logo, he would really like it to include a deer.

After further discussion, the Commissioners agreed to not pursue this matter at this time.

## CHAIRMAN ZALE'S REPORT

### Paint Creek Trailways Commission

Chairman Zale reported that at a recent Paint Creek Trailways meeting, they were discussing that they would like to conduct a survey, and Chairman Zale shared the PRC's experience with them. He also shared with them that 75 percent of the survey respondents had visited the Paint Creek Trailways within the last year.

At the meeting, they also discussed a native plant approval policy. Director Milos-Dale thought this was interesting, and recalled that some years ago, Oakland Township partnered with a neighbor along the Paint Creek Trailways who made improvements near the boundary

with the Trailways. The PRC worked with the neighbor to purchase native seed that was planted both on his property and on the Trailways property.

### APPROVAL OF INVOICES

#### Security and Review of PRC Invoices

At former treasurer Peruzzi's request, the Commissioners and Treasurer Schmidt discussed the practice of reviewing invoices. Treasurer Schmidt said that since January, he has been taking copies of all invoices (not the originals) home and studying them. He explained that he is keeping running totals regarding certain expenditures with a view to suggesting ways to reduce costs. He plans to keep these invoice copies so that he can look at costs for the entire calendar year. Treasurer Schmidt added that Oakland Township Treasurer Langlois told him that it was a good idea for him to be taking the invoices home for review.

Commissioner Peruzzi was concerned that the invoices may include some secure information, such as credit card numbers, etc., and wanted to make sure that this information is being kept confidential. Treasurer Schmidt responded that he is not sharing these invoices or the information contained on them with anyone.

However, Treasurer Schmidt noted that the invoices are public records and are available to the public through a Freedom of Information Act request.

Commissioner Peruzzi asked if Treasurer Schmidt would be able to present to the PRC a report on the invoices (which Director Milos-Dale currently does). Treasurer Schmidt said this would not be a problem.

Commissioner Peruzzi said that he is not familiar with any policy regarding commissioners taking invoices home, and suggested that this would be an issue for a new Oakland Township Manager to address.

#### Review of Invoices

Director Milos-Dale reviewed the list of invoices.

MOVED BY MACKLEY, SECONDED BY PERUZZI, to approve payment of the invoices as presented.

#### Discussion on Motion:

Resident John Markel shared an excerpt from the Michigan Constitution. While invoices are public records, he and the Commissioners discussed that it may be necessary and appropriate to redact the invoices before they are produced to the public (through a FOIA request, for example) in order to maintain the security of accounts.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OAKLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
\*\*\*APPROVED\*\*\*  
February 18, 2015

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Vote on Motion:

MOTION CARRIED.

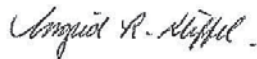
ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY SCHMIDT, SECONDED BY ROGERS, there being no further business before the Commission, to adjourn the meeting at 9:37 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved,



Ingrid R. Kliffel  
Recording Secretary

Colleen Barkham  
Secretary

**RESOLUTION 15-01**  
**Parks and Recreation Commission of the Charter Township of Oakland**  
**Recommendation for Adoption of Charter Township of Oakland**  
**2015 – 2019 Master Plan for Parks, Recreation, and Land Preservation**

At a regular meeting of the Charter Township of Oakland Parks and Recreation Commission held on Wednesday February 18, 2015 the following Resolution was moved by Commissioner Tombouljian and seconded by Commissioner Mackley:

WHEREAS, the Charter Township of Oakland Parks and Recreation Commission has undertaken a planning process to determine the recreation and natural resource conservation needs and desires of its residents during a five year period covering the years 2015 through 2019, and

WHEREAS, the Charter Township of Oakland Parks and Recreation Commission began the process of developing a community recreation and natural resource conservation plan in accordance with the most recent guidelines developed by the Department of Natural Resources and made available to local communities, and

WHEREAS, residents of the Charter Township of Oakland were provided with well-advertised opportunities during the development of the draft plan to express opinions, ask questions and discuss all aspects of the recreation and natural resource conservation plan, through a variety of methods and events including focus groups held in September 2014; a community opinion survey conducted by D.P. Bostwick Associates in October 2014; a master plan website made available in December 2014, the review of draft master plan chapters at four December 2014 and January 2015 Parks and Recreation Commission meetings, a 30-day public review period starting January 19, 2015 and a community master plan open house held January 29, 2015; and

WHEREAS, public hearings were held on February 5, 2015 and February 18, 2015 at Parks and Recreation Commission meetings to provide an opportunity for all residents of the planning area to express additional opinions, ask additional questions, and discuss all aspects of the Charter Township of Oakland 2015 – 2019 Master Plan for Parks, Recreation, and Land Preservation, and

WHEREAS, the Charter Township of Oakland Parks and Recreation Commission has developed the plan as a guideline for improving recreation and enhancing natural resource conservation for the Charter Township of Oakland, and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Commission has reviewed the draft Parks, Recreation, and Land Preservation Master Plan and finds itself in accord with the basic plans and strategies outlined in this document; and

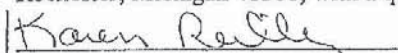
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Charter Township of Oakland Parks and Recreation Commission hereby recommends adoption of the Charter Township of Oakland 2015 – 2019 Parks, Recreation, and Land Preservation Master Plan as a guideline for improving parks and recreation for the residents of the Charter Township of Oakland.

Ayes: Tombouljian, Mackley, Rogers, Schmidt, Zale, Peruzzi

Nays: None

Absent: Barkham

I, Karen Reilly, Charter Township of Oakland Clerk, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and original copy of a resolution offered and adopted by the Parks and Recreation Commission of the Charter Township of Oakland at a Regular meeting held on February 18, 2015 at 7:00 pm in the Oakland Township Paint Creek Cider Mill, 4480 Orion Road, Rochester, Michigan 48306, with a quorum present.



Dated: 2-24-15

Karen Reilly, Charter Township of Oakland Clerk

# Charter Township of Oakland

4393 Collins Road, Rochester, Michigan 48306-1670  
Telephone: (248) 651-4440  
Fax: (248) 651-1510  
www.oaklandtownship.org



## BOARD OF TRUSTEES NOTICE AND AGENDA Tuesday, February 24, 2015

### 7:00 PM - REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING

- I. Call to Order
- II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Roll Call
- III. Announcements and Proclamations
  1. Legislative Update from Representative Michael Webber
- IV. Public Comment for items not on the Agenda
- V. Amendments to the Agenda/Approval of the Agenda
- VI. CONSENT AGENDA:
  1. Approval of Bills
    - a. February 18, 2015 in the amount of \$14,050.34
    - b. February 24, 2015 in the amount of \$291,279.30
  2. Approval of Minutes
    - a. February 6, 2015
    - b. February 10, 2015
  3. Wyndgate Country Club Fireworks Application
- VII. OLD BUSINESS
  1. Township Superintendent Employment Agreement
  2. Phase II Stormwater Permit Application
  3. Parks & Recreation Final Master Plan Resolution 15-05
- VIII. PENDING BUSINESS
  1. Resolution 15-04 Approving Prepayment of Oakland-Macomb Interceptor Drain Assessment
  2. Participation in 2015 Tri-Party Program
  3. 2015-2016 Meeting Schedule
  4. 2015-2016 Budget Discussion
    - a. 2015-2016 Draft Budgets
    - b. Parks & Recreation Commission Correspondence to Board of Trustees
- IX. Public Comment for items not on the Agenda
- X. Township Manager's Report
- XI. Board Reports & Correspondence: Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer, Trustees
- XII. Adjournment

**CALL TO ORDER**

The February 24, 2015 Regular Meeting of the Charter Township of Oakland Board of Trustees was called to order by Supervisor Gonser at 7:00 PM in the Township Hall, 4393 Collins Rd., Rochester, MI.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND ROLL CALL**

Supervisor Gonser led the reciting of The Pledge of Allegiance.

Clerk Reilly called the Roll.

Members Present: Terry R. Gonser, Supervisor  
Jeanne Langlois, Treasurer  
Karen Reilly, Clerk  
Robin Buxar, Trustee  
Michael Bailey, Trustee  
John Giannangeli, Trustee

Absent: Maureen Thalmann, Trustee

Also Present: Jamie Moore, Interim Township Manager  
Attorney Dan Kelly  
Jane Bombard, Recording Secretary

A quorum was present.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS and PROCLAMATIONS**

There were no announcements.

Representative Michael Webber was not present due to a scheduling error.

**PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

The Board heard public comment from:  
John Markel - 245 Birch Hill Drive

**AMENDMENTS/APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

MOTION By Buxar, supported by Bailey to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Item 3 was removed from the Consent Agenda.

MOTION by Bailey, supported by Buxar to approve the Consent Agenda as amended.

1. Approval of Bills
  - February 18, 2015 in the amount of \$14,050.34
  - February 24, 2015 in the amount of \$291,279.30
2. Approval of Minutes
  - February 6, 2015
  - February 10, 2015

Motion carried unanimously.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Wyndgate Country Club Fireworks Application**

MOTION by Buxar, supported by Bailey, to approve the Wyndgate Country Club Fireworks Application, subject to the applicant modifying the application to include specific start and end times, and that the end time shall be no later than 11:00-PM.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Board heard public comment from:  
Jan Olson - 4190 Orion Road

#### **Township Superintendent Employment Agreement**

MOTION by Buxar, supported by Bailey, to approve the employment agreement between Mr. Warren Brown and the Charter Township of Oakland and to authorize the Township Supervisor to sign same.

The Board heard public comment from:  
John Markel - 245 Birch Hill Drive

Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Phase II Stormwater Permit Application**

MOTION by Bailey, supported by Buxar to approve the Phase II Stormwater Permit Application and to be submitted by April 1, 2015.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Parks & Recreation Final Master Plan Resolution 15-05**

MOTION by Bailey, supported by Buxar to approve the Parks & Recreation Master Plan Resolution 15-05.

The Board heard public comment from:  
Andrew Zale - Parks & Recreation Commission Chairman  
Alice Tomboulion - 798 W. Gunn Road  
John Markel - 245 Birch Hill Drive

Frank Ferriolo - 5600 Kirkridge Trail  
Trevor Barkam - 717 Less Road  
Mindy Milos-Dale - Parks & Recreation Director

Roll Call: Ayes: Buxar, Bailey, Langlois, Reilly, Giannangeli  
Nays: Gonser  
Absent: Thalmann

Motion carried: 5/1.

**PENDING BUSINESS**

**Resolution 15-04 Approving Prepayment of Oakland-Macomb Interceptor Drain Assessment**

MOTION by Bailey, supported by Buxar to approve Resolution 15-04 Approving Prepayment of Oakland-Macomb Interceptor Drain Assessment.

Roll Call: Ayes: Giannangeli, Reilly, Gonser, Langlois, Bailey, Buxar  
Nays: None  
Absent: Thalmann

Motion carried: 6/0.

**Participation in 2016 Tri-Party Program**

MOTION by Giannangeli, supported by Langlois to approve the Participation in 2015 Tri-Party Program for road improvements in the amount of \$20,719.00 with Board approval of any identified projects.

The Board heard public comment from:  
John Markel - 245 Birch Hill Drive

Motion carried unanimously.

**2015-2016 Meeting Schedule**

MOTION by Buxar, supported by Bailey to approve the 2015-2016 Meeting Schedule as presented with the exception of changing the March 8, 2016 meeting to March 7, 2016.

Ayes: Buxar, Bailey, Langlois, Reilly, Giannangeli  
Nays: Gonser  
Absent: Thalmann

Motion carried: 5/1.

**2015-2016 Budget Discussions**

a. 2015-2016 Draft Budgets

The Board discussed the following draft budgets:  
Historic District Commission, Parks & Recreation and Land Preservation

The Board heard public comment from:  
John Markel - 245 Birch Hill Drive  
Barb Barber – Historic Preservation Planner  
Gene Ferrera - Historic District Commissioner  
Mindy Milos-Dale - Parks & Recreation Director  
Alice Tombouljian - 789 W. Gunn Road  
Heidi Patterson - Historic District Commission Chairperson  
Frank Ferriolo - 5600 Kirkridge Trail  
Andrew Zale - Parks & Recreation Commission Chairman

b. Parks & Recreation Commission Budget Amendments to Board of Trustees

MOTION by Langlois, supported by Bailey to approve the Parks & Land Preservation budget amendments as described in a memo dated February 19, 2015.

Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jan Olson - 4190 Orion Road  
John Markel - 245 Birch Hill Drive

**TOWNSHIP MANAGER'S REPORT**

Interim Manager Moore had nothing to report.

**BOARD REPORTS & CORRESPONDENCE**

**Trustee Giannangeli**

Nothing to report.

**Clerk Reilly**

Nothing to report

**Treasurer Langlois**

Treasurer Langlois gave a report of a recent Safety Path and Trails meeting.

**Trustee Bailey**

Trustee Bailey gave a report on the Paint Creek Cider Mill vision as well as the Clinton River Watershed Council current litigation.

**Trustee Buxar**

Trustee Buxar also gave an update on the Paint Creek Cider Mill vision.

She clarified that she never knew Mr. Brown prior to him applying at Oakland Township.

Further, Representative Webber is proposing HB4067 to help with gravel road speed limits.

**Supervisor Gonser**

Supervisor Gonser met with Congressman Bishop; and he would like to meet periodically with our community to keep open dialogue.

He further mentioned that all OPC meetings are recorded, and the Township receives a DVD if anyone wishes to view those meetings.

**ADJOURNMENT**

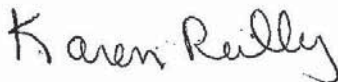
MOTION by Bailey, supported by Buxar to adjourn this regular meeting at 10:17 p.m.

Motion carried unanimously.

**NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING**

Tuesday, March 10, 2015 at 7:00 P.M.  
Oakland Township Hall – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Meeting Room

Respectfully submitted,



Karen Reilly, Clerk  
OT Board of Trustees

Approved,



Terry R. Gonser, Supervisor  
OT Board of Trustees

**RESOLUTION 15-05**  
**Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Oakland**  
**Adoption of Charter Township of Oakland**  
**2015 – 2019 Master Plan for Parks, Recreation, and Land Preservation**

At a regular meeting of the Charter Township of Oakland Board of Trustees held on Tuesday February 24, 2015 the following Resolution was moved by Trustee Bailey and seconded by Trustee Buxar:

WHEREAS, the Charter Township of Oakland Parks and Recreation Commission has undertaken a planning process to determine the recreation and natural resource conservation needs and desires of its residents during a five year period covering the years 2015 through 2019, and

WHEREAS, the Charter Township of Oakland Parks and Recreation Commission began the process of developing a community recreation and natural resource conservation plan in accordance with the most recent guidelines developed by the Department of Natural Resources and made available to local communities, and

WHEREAS, residents of the Charter Township of Oakland were provided with well-advertised opportunities during the development of the draft plan to express opinions, ask questions and discuss all aspects of the recreation and natural resource conservation plan, through a variety of methods and events including focus groups held in September 2014; a community opinion survey conducted by D.P. Bostwick Associates in October 2014; a master plan website made available in December 2014, the review of draft master plan chapters at four December 2014 and January 2015 Parks and Recreation Commission meetings, a 30-day public review period starting January 19, 2015 and a community master plan open house held January 29, 2015; and

WHEREAS, public hearings were held on February 5, 2015 and February 18, 2015 at Parks and Recreation Commission meetings to provide an opportunity for all residents of the planning area to express additional opinions, ask additional questions, and discuss all aspects of the Charter Township of Oakland 2015 – 2019 Master Plan for Parks, Recreation, and Land Preservation, and

WHEREAS, the Charter Township of Oakland Parks and Recreation Commission has developed the plan as a guideline for improving recreation and enhancing natural resource conservation for the Charter Township of Oakland, and

WHEREAS, after the public hearings, the Charter Township of Oakland Parks and Recreation Commission voted to recommend adoption of said Charter Township of Oakland 2015 – 2019 Parks, Recreation, and Land Preservation Master Plan.

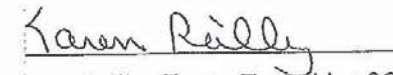
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Charter Township of Oakland Board of Trustees hereby adopts the Charter Township of Oakland 2015 – 2019 Parks, Recreation, and Land Preservation Master Plan as a guideline for improving parks and recreation for the residents of the Charter Township of Oakland.

**Ayes:** Giannangeli, Reilly, Langlois, Bailey, Buxar

**Nays:** Gonser

**Absent:** Thalmann

I, Karen Reilly, Charter Township of Oakland Clerk, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and original copy of a resolution offered and adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Oakland at a Regular meeting held on February 24, 2015 at 7:00 pm in the Oakland Township Hall, 4393 Collins Road, Rochester, Michigan 48306, with a quorum present.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Karen Reilly, Charter Township of Oakland Clerk

Dated: February 25, 2015

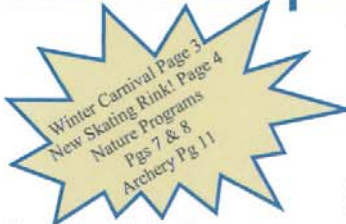
# Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Commission Newsletter

## Winter/Spring 2015

The Mission of Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Commission is to provide a sustainable system of parks, trails, programs, amenities, and services which create memorable experiences and a sense of place, contributes to the economic value of the Township and preserves the historical and natural heritage of the landscapes for existing and future generations.



Cranberry Lake Park, Photo by George Ingram



Winter Carnival Page 3  
 New Skating Rink! Page 4  
 Nature Programs  
 Pgs 7 & 8  
 Archery Pg 11

## January 29<sup>th</sup> Community Open House for Parks and Recreation Master Plan

The 2015 – 2019 Parks, Recreation, & Land Preservation Master Plan is under way! Township residents have been sharing their opinions concerning Township parks, recreation facilities, and activities through focus groups and a Community-wide opinion survey that was mailed to 6000 Township households. However, one of the best opportunities for residents to participate in this planning effort is to drop in during the afternoon or evening session of our upcoming open house, which will be facilitated by professional parks and recreation planners from Johnson Hill Land Ethics (JHLE) Studio of Ann Arbor.

### COMMUNITY MASTER PLAN OPEN HOUSE

Thursday January 29, 2015 between 2-4 and 6-8pm

Oakland Township Hall, 4393 Collins Road



Past Master Plan meeting

Refreshments will be provided as guests review, discuss and comment on the proposed 5-year master plan for Township park preservation, recreation, and programming. Parks and Recreation officials, staff and planning advisors will be available to speak with you!

JHLE will be evaluating local parks and recreation opportunities, in conjunction with public input received, to create a draft master plan, which will include recommendations that are appropriate for our parks, population and budget. The draft master plan will be presented at the open house and will also be available in web-based and hard-copy formats for review and comment. Click on the link on the home page of our Township website ([www.oaklandtownship.org](http://www.oaklandtownship.org)) to go to our Parks and Recreation Master Plan website where you can get current information on the planning process, review and comment upon draft planning documents, and find out about upcoming public meetings!

## Inside this issue:

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What's New in the Parks	2
Winter Carnival	3
Lost Lake Sled Hill	5
Skating Programs	6
Nature Programs	7, 8
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Kayaking Programs	10
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Cranberry Lake Farm Historic District Stewardship	15
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Kids Corner	18, 19
Safety Paths and Trails	20
News, Thank Yous	21
Parks Map	22
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Commissioners, Staff	24

### Special points of interest:

- ◆ Winter Carnival
- ◆ Skating Rink!
- ◆ Nature Programs
- ◆ Kayaking & Archery
- ◆ Fitness Programs
- ◆ Stewardship
- ◆ Safety Paths & Trails
- ◆ Sled Hill
- ◆ Teen Night at Sled Hill!

## Ice Rink Will Open at Marsh View Park!

An ice rink was considered an important recreation facility by Township residents in our 2010 -2014 Master Plan. So, we are excited that as soon as the weather conditions are right, we will be opening our new ice rink at Marsh

(Continued on page 15)

## Mindy Milos-Dale

---

**From:** Connie Lippert <conlippert@twolipps.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 17, 2014 10:11 PM  
**To:** Jamie Moore  
**Cc:** Mindy Milos-Dale; Chris Nordstrom  
**Subject:** Re: Oakland Township Master Plan Web site

Thanks Jamie!

Conlippert-sent from iPad

On Dec 17, 2014, at 9:22 PM, Jamie Moore <jmoore@oaklandtownship.org> wrote:

Hi Connie,  
I'm sorry- your email was caught up in my spam last night and I didn't notice until Mindy called it to my attention. I've added the link to our homepage. Let me know how else I can help!

Jamie

---

**From:** Connie Lippert [conlippert@twolipps.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 16, 2014 1:56 PM  
**To:** Jamie Moore  
**Cc:** Chris Nordstrom; Mindy Milos-Dale  
**Subject:** Oakland Township Master Plan Web site

Hi Jamie,  
We are ready to add the link to the Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Website. This is to the Master Plan Web site and here is the link:  
<http://www.jhle-studio.com/OTMP>. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call.  
Thank you,  
Connie Lippert

--

<logo-  
new-2-  
small.gif> Constance Lippert, Web Designer  
Twolipps Graphics and Web Design  
<http://www.twolipps.com>  
734-355-8094  
734-418-0634 ( SKYPE 9am-5pm EST Mon-Fri )

## Mindy Milos-Dale

---

**From:** Connie Lippert <conlippert@twolipps.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 19, 2015 10:27 AM  
**To:** Chris Nordstrom; Mindy Milos-Dale  
**Subject:** Re: Any comments?

Hi Chris and Mindy,  
This is done.  
Connie

On 1/19/2015 8:27 AM, Chris Nordstrom wrote:

Good morning Connie,

Just checking in to see if we have received any comments on the Oakland Township documents yet.

Also, I had a bit of correspondence with Mindy on Friday. She asked that we add this item to the website:

*Draft of Chapter 5 now available for review. The final master plan chapter (action plan) was presented at the January 14 PRC meeting. The draft master plan is available for review and comment via several venues:*

1. *Master Plan website (see link below)*
2. *Jan. 29 Open House at Oakland Township Hall from 2:00 to 4:00 and 6:00 to 8:00. (Connie: can you make the underlined section a hyperlink to <http://www.jhles.com/OTMP/8-latest-news/2-news-item-2>)*
3. *Public Hearing at Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> PRC*
4. *Public Hearing at Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> PRC*

She also asked that the calendar be updated to:

- Add February 3, 2015 Planning Commission meeting which will occur at the Township Hall at 7pm for Final Master Plan Presentations with request for Planning Commission Resolution of Support.
- Change 2/10/15 Joint Meeting to just Board of Trustees meeting at 7pm for Final Master Plan Presentation.

Lastly, she asked, "Can Connie send me an email indicating that all this has been accomplished as I will need to provide verification to the MDNR that the draft plan was available for public review for 30 days prior to approval."

I need to talk with Mindy regarding the Chapter 5 draft, so don't post it right away... I'll let you know as soon as I get clearance.

Thanks Connie,

Chris Nordstrom, Associate ASLA  
Associate

---

*The Johnson Hill Land Ethics Studio*  
516 East Washington Street



# Charter Township of Oakland

4393 Collins Road, Rochester Michigan 48306 | PHONE: 248-651-4440 | FAX: 248-651-1510  
mail@oaklandtownship.org General Office Hours: M-F 8:00-4:30

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[Boards & Commissions](#)

[Township Departments](#)

[Community Info](#)



## NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

## CALENDAR Of EVENTS

### TAX INFORMATION

All tax payments received by the February 17th due date have been posted. Reminder bills were mailed on February 20th to all properties that still have outstanding 2014 Summer or Winter taxes due. Payments on these properties must be received by March 2nd, 2015. Postmarks do not apply. After March 2nd, any outstanding amounts are considered delinquent and will be turned over to the Oakland County Treasurer with additional penalties and interest.

The Township Treasurer's Office is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM to accept payments. The office will be open until 5:00 PM on March 2nd. A drop box is located to the right of the front doors to accept after hours deposits. Please do not deposit cash in the drop box.

Payments can be made on-line at [www.paylocaltaxes.com](http://www.paylocaltaxes.com). A convenience fee will apply. On-line payments will only be accepted through February 28, 2015.

### PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN

Visit the Parks & Recreation Master Plan website here for the latest happenings. <http://www.jhle-studio.com/QTMP/>

### 2015 CLEAN SCENE

Mark your calendars for the 2015 Oakland Township Clean Scene event which will be held May 2nd.  
[Read More...](#)

« January 2015 »

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

### Back to Event List

January 29th, 2015  
Oakland Township Open House - Parks, Recreation, and Land Preservation and Master Plan  
Oakland Township Hall Board Room  
Oakland Township Open House - Parks, Recreation, and Land Preservation and Master Plan  
Oakland Township Hall Board Room

[View All Events](#)

[Employment Opportunities](#)   [View All News](#)





(/OTMP/2014-12-02-16-51-56/facility-ranking-summary)

Master Plan Draft 2 (/OTMP/2014-12-02-16-51-56/master-plan-draft-2)

Master Plan Draft 3 (/OTMP/2014-12-02-16-51-56/master-plan-draft-3)

We welcome comments and suggestions and encourage you to take advantage of this website. In order to leave a comment, you must log in either with one of the social media accounts below, or create an account specifically for this site using the form below.

Login Form

Username

Password

Remember Me

Log in

Create an account (/OTMP/component/users/?view=registration)
Forgot your username? (/OTMP/component/users/?view=remind)
Forgot your password? (/OTMP/component/users/?view=reset)

Login with Facebook

Login with Twitter

Login with Google+

Login with LinkedIn

Open House Comments (/OTMP/2-uncategorised/31-open-house-comments) have been compiled and are now available for review. The comments come from a variety of sources including e-mails, comment cards, and notes on the Facility Ranking Summary. Comments have been added verbatim, although names and addresses have been removed to protect the identities of the Township residents who commented.

A summary of the Facility Ranking Sheets (/OTMP/2-uncategorised/32-facility-ranking-summary) have also been prepared. The summary sheet includes raw numbers from the sheets (i.e. the exact number of times a column was checked) and a weighted ranking column to help indicate the create a valuation of the results. For both the raw data and the subjective rankings, the top and bottom 20% of the results have been highlighted.

You can access the Open House Comments Here (/OTMP/2-uncategorised/31-open-house-comments).

You can access the Facility Ranking Summary here (/OTMP/2-uncategorised/32-facility-ranking-summary).

Park Concept Plans now available for comment:

Concept designs (/OTMP/2014-12-02-16-51-56/concept-plans) for nine of the Township's parks are now available for public review and comment. These plans will be available at the public Open House on January 29 (/OTMP/calendar/9). The designs are intended to initiate a dialogue between the Parks staff, Commissioners, and the general public. You can leave comments on individual designs here, or come voice your opinions at the Open House between 2:00 and 4:00 p.m. or 6:00 and 8:00 p.m.

Read more... (/OTMP/8-latest-news/27-park-concept-plans-now-available-for-comment)

Focus Group Results

The results of the Focus Group studies completed in the fall of 2014 are now available for review. You can download a copy of the document HERE (/OTMP/images/Oakland-Township-Parks-and-Rec-Report-B-W.pdf) or read the document in the Viewer.

Read more... (/OTMP/2014-12-02-16-51-56/focus-group-results)

Park Inventory Maps

An inventory of all of the Oakland Township park facilities has been completed and a graphical summary of this inventory is now available for review. The inventory considered items such as ADA compliance, geographical and natural features, and strengths, weaknesses, and potential opportunities for each park. These Inventory Maps will be included as an appendix to the Master Plan. You can download a copy of these maps HERE (/OTMP/images/DRAFT-Park-Inventory-Map.pdf) or read the document in the Viewer.

Read more... (/OTMP/2014-12-02-16-51-56/park-inventory-maps)

Survey Results - Verbatim Comments now available for review

A complete list of all comments made on the Community Survey are now available for download. You can access the document [HERE \(/OTMP/images/Summary-of-Verbatim-Comments-Other.pdf\)](#) or read the document in the Viewer.

[➤ Read more... \(/OTMP/2014-12-02-16-51-56/summary-of-comments-from-community-survey\)](#)

### Draft of Chapter 5 now available for review.

The final master plan chapter (action plan) was presented at the January 14 PRC meeting. The draft master plan is available for review and comment via several venues:

1. Master Plan website - Click here for Chapter 5 ([/OTMP/2014-12-02-16-51-56/chapter-5](#))
2. Jan. 29 Open House ([/OTMP/8-latest-news/2-news-item-2](#)) at Oakland Township Hall from 2:00pm to 4:00pm and 6:00pm to 8:00pm.
3. Public Hearing at Feb. 5th ([/OTMP/calendar/10](#)) PRC.
4. Public Hearing at Feb. 18th ([/OTMP/calendar/12](#)) PRC.

### Comments from the Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Opinion Survey now available

User comments from the Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Opinion Survey have been compiled and are available for download on this site. These comments supplement the survey results presented to the Parks Commission by D.P. Bostwick and Associates on 12/17/2014. The comments expand on questions presented in the survey and provide valuable insight into how the Parks system is viewed and utilized. We encourage you to add your voice to this by coming to the Open House on January 29 at the Paint Creek Cider Mill, or by leaving comments on this website.

You can download a copy of the comments here ([/OTMP/images/Resident-Comments-from-Parks-and-Recreation-Survey-Final.pdf](#)) or read the comments in the viewer below.

[➤ Read more... \(/OTMP/2014-12-02-16-51-56/survey-of-comments\)](#)

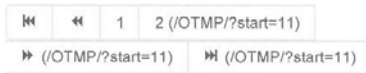
The 2015 – 2019 Parks, Recreation, & Land Preservation Master Plan is underway! ([/OTMP/8-latest-news/1-news-item-1](#))

Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Opinion Survey Results Presented at 12-17-14 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting ([/OTMP/8-latest-news/10-oakland-township-parks-and-recreation-opinion-survey-results-presented-at-12-17-14-parks-and-recreation-commission-meeting](#))

COMMUNITY MASTER PLAN OPEN HOUSE ([/OTMP/8-latest-news/2-news-item-2](#))

From the Director... ([/OTMP/8-latest-news/8-from-the-director](#))

Page 1 of 2


[1 \(/OTMP/?start=11\)](#)

## **HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE IN OAKLAND TOWNSHIP PARKS, RECREATION AND LAND PRESERVATION MASTER PLAN PROCESS**

You are invited to attend upcoming public meetings (which are listed on the reverse) concerning this master plan effort.

In addition, the draft master plan is available for review and comment on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update web page:

<http://www.jhles.com/OTMP>.

Hard copies are available for review during regular business hours at the reference desk of the Rochester Hills Public Library, at the Parks and Recreation Offices at the Paint Creek Cider Mill, and at the Oakland Township Hall.

Written comments sent via the master plan web page, emailed to [parksplanning@oaklandtownship.org](mailto:parksplanning@oaklandtownship.org), or mailed to "Parks Master Plan", 4393 Collins Road, Rochester, MI 48306, will be received until February 18, 2015.

Contacts: Mindy Milos-Dale, Director, Oakland Township Parks and Recreation  
TEL 248-651-7810, ext 402, EMAIL [mmdale@oaklandtownship.org](mailto:mmdale@oaklandtownship.org)

## **UPCOMING SCHEDULE:**

### **Planning Commission Meeting**

Tuesday, February 3, 7:00 p.m., Township Hall

### **Parks & Recreation Special Meeting**

Review Open House comments & Public Hearing  
Thursday, February 5, 7:00 p.m., Township Hall

### **Board of Trustees Meeting**

Final Master Plan Presentation

Tuesday, February 10, 7:00 p.m., Township Hall

### **Parks & Recreation Meeting**

Final Master Plan Presentation including Public Hearing and  
Adoption

Wednesday, February 18, 7:00 p.m., Paint Creek Cider Mill

### **Board of Trustees Meeting**

Revised Final Master Plan Presentation including Adoption

Tuesday, February 24, 7:00 p.m., Township Hall

### **Submittal to Michigan DNR, Oakland County, and Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG)**

Thursday, February 26

**MEDIA ALERT FROM OAKLAND TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

By: Carol Kasprzak, Admin. Assistant, Oakland Township Parks and Recreation  
TEL 248-651-7810, EMAIL [ckasprzak@oaklandtownship.org](mailto:ckasprzak@oaklandtownship.org)

Contacts: Mindy Milos-Dale, Director, Oakland Township Parks and Recreation  
TEL 248-651-7810, ext 402, EMAIL [mmdale@oaklandtownship.org](mailto:mmdale@oaklandtownship.org)

Andy Zale, Chairperson, Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Commission  
TEL 248-495-9695, EMAIL [azale@oaklandtownship.org](mailto:azale@oaklandtownship.org)

Chris Nordstrom, Associate, The Johnson Hill Land Ethics Studio  
TEL 734-668-7416, EMAIL [cnordstrom@jhle-studio.com](mailto:cnordstrom@jhle-studio.com)

Mark Robinson, Principal, The Johnson Hill Land Ethics Studio  
TEL 734-668-7416, EMAIL [mrobinson@jhle-studio.com](mailto:mrobinson@jhle-studio.com)

**January 29th Oakland Township Open House Presents**  
**Parks, Recreation, and Land Preservation Master Plan**

Oakland Township- Michigan

Oakland Township will host two drop-in, Open Houses on Thursday January 29, 2015 for the community to review and comment upon the 2015-2019 Parks, Recreation, and Land Preservation Master Plan.

2pm-4pm in the afternoon and 6pm-8pm in the evening  
at the Oakland Township Hall  
4393 Collins Road, Rochester, Michigan 48306

Township residents have been sharing their opinions concerning Township parks, recreation facilities, and activities through focus groups and a Community-wide opinion survey that was mailed to 6000 Township households. However, one of the best opportunities for people to participate in this planning effort is to drop in during the afternoon or evening session of our upcoming open house, which will be facilitated by professional parks and recreation planners from Johnson Hill Land Ethics (JHLE) Studio of Ann Arbor. Refreshments will be provided as guests review and discuss the proposed 5-year master plan with Parks and Recreation officials, staff and planning advisors.

The draft master plan is also available for review and comment on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update web page: <http://www.jhles.com/OTMP>. Hard copies are available for review during regular business hours at the reference desk of the Rochester Hills Public Library, at the Parks and Recreation Offices at the Paint Creek Cider Mill, and at the Oakland Township Hall. Written comments sent via the master plan web page, emailed to [parksplanning@oaklandtownship.org](mailto:parksplanning@oaklandtownship.org), or mailed to "Parks Master Plan", 4393 Collins Road, Rochester, MI 48306, will be received until February 18, 2015.

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Open houses look at parks

**OAKLAND TOWNSHIP** — Two Jan. 29 open houses will allow residents to review and comment upon a five-year township park, recreation and land preservation master plan.

A daytime and an evening session are planned, from 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m., at the Oakland Township Hall, located at 4393 Collins Road. Residents are invited to review and discuss the plan with township parks and recreation officials, staff and planning advisors.

### Community well presentation planned

**OAKLAND TOWNSHIP** — County officials will hold a community well presentation to residents living south of Buel Road 7 p.m. Jan. 28 at Baldwin Elementary School.

Water treatment and water storage options, and their costs, will be presented. Baldwin Elementary is located on Bannister Road, east of Orion Road.

### City Light Church to open at Rochester Adams High School

**ROCHESTER HILLS** — A new nondenominational Christian

church, called City Light, will be opening at 10 a.m. Jan. 25 within the Performing Arts Auditorium of Rochester Adams High School.

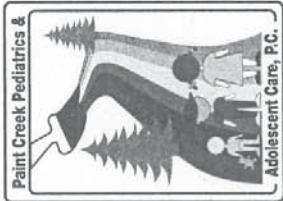
Auburn Hills native Jason Rollin and his wife, Nicole, will be the lead pastors and are hoping to build a congregation out of a growing population of families who do not currently call any church home.

City Light Church also wants to encourage families to attend with a "come as you are" atmosphere and a children's program for birth through fifth grade. The Performing Arts Auditorium of Rochester Adams High School is located at 3200 W. Tienken Road in Rochester Hills.

### Friends of the Clinton River Trail host open house

**ROCHESTER** — The public is invited to the Friends of the Clinton River Trail open house and general membership meeting 7-8:30 p.m. Jan. 27 at the Auburn Hills Library, located in the Auburn Hills Civic Campus, 3400 E. Seyburn Drive. Trail-related displays and light refreshments will be available at 6:45 p.m., with the meeting starting at 7 p.m.

The meeting will feature Jonathan Schechter, the nature education writer for Oakland County Parks, who also writes monthly for Woods N Water News as guest speaker. He will share his passion for the outdoors with tales of wild-



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## Oakland Township Open House

Oakland Township will host two drop-in Open Houses on Thursday, Jan. 29, for the community to review and comment upon the 2015-2019 Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation and Master Plan. Township residents have

been sharing their opinions concerning Township parks, recreation facilities and activities through focus groups and a community-wide opinion survey that was mailed to 6,000 Township households. However, one of the best opportunities for people to participate in this planning effort is to drop in during the afternoon or evening session of the upcoming open house, which will be facilitated by professional parks and recreation planners from Johnson Hill Land Ethics (JHLE) Studio

of Ann Arbor. Refreshments will be provided as guests review and discuss the proposed five-year master plan with Parks and Recreation officials, staff and planning advisors.

The draft master plan is also available for review and comment on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update web page: <http://www.jhles.com/OTMP>. Hard copies are available for review during regular business hours at the reference

desk of the Rochester Hills Public Library, at the Parks and Recreation Offices at the Paint Creek Cider Mill and at the Oakland Township Hall. Written comments can be sent via the master plan Web page, emailed to [parksplanning@oakland-township.org](mailto:parksplanning@oakland-township.org) or mailed to "Parks Master Plan," 4393 Collins Road, Rochester, MI 48306, and will be received until Feb. 18.

*The open house will be held from 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. at the Oakland Township Hall, 4393 Collins Road, Rochester.*

## What to Consider when Choosing a Realtor:

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- ✔ How long have they been in business? Is this their full-time career?
- ✔ How large is their Relocation Network?
- ✔ In how many Real Estate Boards will your listing appear?
- ✔ How many closed transactions did they have last year?
- ✔ What is their success rate in selling their own listings?
- ✔ What marketing materials can you review?
- ✔ How often will feedback on showings and market review will be communicated to you? And by whom?

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 lbaker@hallandhunter.com

**Debv Gannes** | 248 270 2002

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**\$ STOP HARASSMENT BY CREDITORS, FORECLOSURES, GARNISHMENTS**

## The Parallel Lives of the Hamlin and Woodward Families'

The Rochester-Avon Historical Society (RAHS) will hold its evening meeting for members and the public on Feb. 5 at 7 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room of the Rochester Hills Public Library, 500 Olde Town in Rochester.

The program will feature historical researcher and librarian Deborah Larsen and a look at the parallel lives and legacies of two prominent Rochester pioneer families. Learn how the paths of John F. Hamlin and Lysander Woodward intersected and shaped the history of our community.

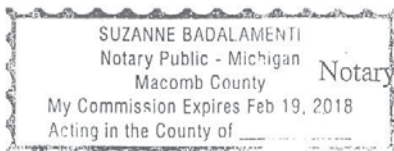
# Affidavit of Publication

State of Michigan }  
County of Macomb } ss.

I Stephanie Maul, being duly sworn, deposes and says that an advertisement of 2 columns x 2.75 inches, a true copy of which is annexed hereto, was published in the **Rochester Post**, a newspaper printed and circulated in said State and County on 01-22-15 A.D. 2015; and that he is the principal clerk of the printers of said newspaper, and knows well the facts stated herein.

Stephanie Maul

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 22 day  
of January A.D. 2015



Suzanne Badalamenti  
Notary Public, Macomb County, Michigan  
My commission expires 2-19-2018



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After an investigation, it was determined that a rechargeable battery had heated and caused one round of ammunition to fire. A small fragment from the casing lodged in the man's chest. The injured man was treated and released.

**Work sparks fire**  
**ROCHESTER HILLS** — According to a police report, at 11:17 a.m. on Jan. 15, a house fire was reported in the 100 block of Grosse Pointe Drive, located off of Walton Road, west of Livernois. No injuries were reported. According to the report, a utility worker was drilling a hole in the wall of the house and struck an electrical line, starting the fire.

— LINDA SHEPARD AND MARY BETH ALMOND

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**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OAKLAND  
 PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
 NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS**

The Charter Township of Oakland Parks and Recreation Commission will hold two public hearings to receive public comment on the 2015 - 2019 Oakland Township Parks, Recreation, and Land Preservation Master Plan:

THURSDAY, February 5, 2015, 7:00 pm at Oakland Township Hall, 4393 Collins Road, Rochester, MI.  
 WEDNESDAY, February 18, 2015, 7:00 pm at the Paint Creek Cider Mill, 4480 Orion Road, Rochester, MI.

The draft master plan is available for review and comment at the Community Master Plan Open House; Thursday, January 29, 2015 between 2 - 4 pm and 6 - 8 pm at the Oakland Township Hall and on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update web page:

<http://www.jhlea.com/OTMP>. Hard copies are available for review during regular business hours at the reference desk of the Rochester Hills Public Library, at the Parks and Recreation Offices at the Paint Creek Cider Mill, and at the Oakland Township Hall. Written comments sent via email to [parksplanning@oaklandtownship.org](mailto:parksplanning@oaklandtownship.org), or mailed to "Parks and Recreation Master Plan", 4393 Collins Road, Rochester, MI 48306, will be received until February 18, 2015.

If you are planning to attend the hearings or open house and require any special assistance, please notify the Parks and Recreation Director by calling 248-651-7810 as soon as possible.

Andy Zale, Chairperson, Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Commission

0439-1504

Published: Rochester Post 01/22/2015

**MEETING SUMMARY  
 CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OAKLAND BOARD OF  
 TRUSTEES  
 REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 13, 2015.**

A regular meeting of the Charter Township of Oakland Board of Trustees was called to order on Tuesday, January 13, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Oakland Township Office Building, First Floor Meeting Hall.

PRESENT: Terry R. Gonser, Supervisor; Jeanne Langlois, Treasurer; Karen Reilly, Clerk; Robin Buxar, Trustee; Michael Bailey, Trustee; Maureen Thalmann, Trustee; John Giannangeli, Trustee

THE FOLLOWING MOTIONS WERE MADE AND PASSED:

1. To approve the agenda as presented.
2. To approve the consent agenda as follows:
  - a. December 19, 2014 bills in the amount of \$21,902.32
  - b. December 28, 2014 bills in the amount of \$3,967.97
  - c. January 13, 2015 bills in the amount of \$240,298.73
  - d. January 14, 2015 bills in the amount of \$13,179.22
  - e. Hiring of an additional paid on-call firefighter.
3. To approve the December 9, 2014 Regular Meeting minutes, as amended.
4. To allow resident taxpayers to file a Board of Review request protest letter for the 2015 assessment year, and the Township shall notify citizens of this option by public notice as required.
5. To establish the "very low income" limits as the eligibility guidelines for the Board of Review hardship applications along with a total asset level not to exceed \$136,662 subject to the following conditions:
  - a. Total assets shall not include the first \$136,662 of the homestead.
  - b. Total assets shall not include the first \$8,252 of one car.
  - c. Total household income shall include the income of all persons residing in the homestead.
  - d. The Board of Review has the discretion of granting hardship exemptions for non-qualifying applicants if, after consideration, in the Board's opinion, unusual or extreme circumstances exist where granting relief would be justifiable and appropriate.
  - e. The Board of Review has the discretion of granting full or partial exemptions.
6. To award the bid for Planning Commission Master Plan Opinion Survey to D.P. Bostwick & Associates in the amount of \$22,839.
7. To approve the Tentative Settlement Agreement; Michigan AFSCME Council 25 AFL-CIO, Parks & Recreation Commission, and to authorize labor attorney, John C. Clark to sign.
8. To approve participation in the 2015 NO HAZ program.
9. To authorize the Supervisor to sign the 2015 North Oakland County Household Hazardous Waste Interlocal Agreement.
10. To request bids for Township refuse and recycling collection, and to prepare an RFP to solicit those services with a review of the bids received within no later than 180 days.
11. To enter into contract with Neighborhood House to provide transportation services for low to moderate income citizens of Oakland Township utilizing Community Development Block Grant funds appropriated to the Township.
12. To adopt Resolution 15-01.
13. To distribute Ordinance 97 and Resolution 15-01.
14. To amend the Purchasing Guidelines as read to include that they are guidelines only and subject to management discretion.
15. To adjourn the meeting at 11:02 p.m.

The foregoing is a summary of proposed minutes. Complete proceedings of these minutes are available in the Township Hall, 4393 Collins Road, during regular business hours, Monday - Friday, 8 AM to 4:30 PM.

Published: Rochester Post 01/22/2015

0418-1504

# **CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OAKLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS**

The Charter Township of Oakland Parks and Recreation Commission will hold two public hearings to receive public comment on the 2015 – 2019 Oakland Township Parks, Recreation, and Land Preservation Master Plan:

THURSDAY, February 5, 2015, 7:00 pm at Oakland Township Hall, 4393 Collins Road, Rochester, MI.

WEDNESDAY, February 18, 2015, 7:00 pm at the Paint Creek Cider Mill, 4480 Orion Road, Rochester, MI.

The draft master plan is available for review and comment at the Community Master Plan Open House; Thursday, January 29, 2015 between 2 – 4 pm and 6 – 8 pm at the Oakland Township Hall and on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update web page:

<http://www.jhles.com/OTMP>. Hard copies are available for review during regular business hours at the reference desk of the Rochester Hills Public Library, at the Parks and Recreation Offices at the Paint Creek Cider Mill, and at the Oakland Township Hall. Written comments sent via the master plan web page, emailed to [parksplanning@oaklandtownship.org](mailto:parksplanning@oaklandtownship.org), or mailed to “Parks Master Plan”, 4393 Collins Road, Rochester, MI 48306, will be received until February 18, 2015.

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Andy Zale, Chairperson, Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Commission

Published: Rochester Post 01/22/2015

0439-1504

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# Appendix F

## Millage Funds Use Criteria

METHODOLOGY  
FOR  
SITE EVALUATION

Prepared for Oakland Township  
Park Commission

Alice Tomboulian, Publications Consultant  
March 9, 1976

### Community Park

Generally these areas provide the individual an opportunity to enjoy contact with broad expanses of natural scenery, but an equally important purpose is to provide a pleasant environment in which he can engage in a variety of recreational activities. It is usually designed and developed for the enjoyment and diversified use of large numbers of people.

One facility/40,000 residents                      therefore, two in the township

Minimum acreage: 50 acres

Oriented toward more extensive outdoor uses not possible in small recreation areas

The park can be combined with additional community needs for intensive recreation uses (swimming pools, tennis courts, skating rinks, ball fields) or with needs for municipal buildings to require a 100 acre site

### Neighborhood Park

Generally there should be a recreation area near the center of every residential area. A neighborhood is usually considered to be the geographical area served by an elementary school. Two types of areas have served the neighborhood - the playlot, serving a radius of 1/8 mile, and the playground or park, serving a 1/2 mile radius.

1 acre/1000 residents - minimum acreage: 6 acres

Usually designed for passive, unsupervised play. The neighborhood park is desirably combined with a playground (1/3000, 4 acres) and ballfields (3/6000, 7 acres) and if possible located at a school. This would total a 25 acre school site, larger than conventional. Neighborhood parks might also be associated with critical natural areas. There are 21 proposed elementary schools in the Master Plan; assuming each of these satisfies the requirements for playgrounds and ball fields, we are considering, in addition, 15-21 neighborhood parks of 6 acres each.

These neighborhood parks will be provided by:

1. Working with the school districts to insure suitable site and size selection.
2. Working with developers to provide open spaces and recreation facilities in subdivisions.
3. Acquisition of neighborhood park sites near concentrations of population where suitable open space has not otherwise been provided. Priority will be given to critical resource areas where preservation of the resource is compatible with intensive recreational use.

#### Critical Resource Areas

Here, fixed acreage requirements cannot be assigned. Acquisition will depend on a careful inventory of township lands and be based on an evaluation of the environmental, economic and social consequences of conversion to urban use.

"As part of an outdoor educational program, it would be well to consider the preservation of a system of natural areas representative of those found in the township. These would include oak, beech maple, swamp and floodplain forests, bogs, marshes, sedge meadows, lake ponds and streams, meadows and prairies. With careful selection a number of other important natural features could be included in the above areas such as glacial channels, moraine, till and outwash plain, eskers, glacial knobs and various land forms. By careful choice it would also be possible to include the principal soil types on these tracts. These would be useful in demonstrating the relationship of vegetation to soil characteristics and land patterns. These natural area preserves could also serve a dual purpose by preserving the natural scenic beauty of the township and in providing the protective natural vegetative cover for retarding erosion of steep slopes and controlling flood waters along floodplain areas. Swamps, bogs and marshes could also serve as valuable natural reservoirs which in turn function to retard flood damage and give more even flow to streams and creeks. All preserves of sizeable area would be important wildlife sanctuaries and would provide opportunities for bird study and other related activities. These tracts would provide examples of the natural flora of the area, especially retaining outstanding examples of the colorful spring wildflower stands which are to be found in certain locations." <sup>1</sup>

1 Paul W. Thompson, Ecological Survey of Oakland Township, 1974

COMMUNITY PARK SITE EVALUATION WORKSHEET

Site designation \_\_\_\_\_

PARCEL SIZE RATING \_\_\_\_\_ 4 2 0

RESOURCES RATING \_\_\_\_\_

Woodland vegetation	4	3	2	1	0
Wildlife habitat	4	3	2	1	0
Representative natural area	4	2	0		
Water resources	4	3	2	1	0
Topography	4	2	0		
Scenic view			2	1	0
Land form			2	1	0
Historic feature			2	1	0

USE POTENTIAL RATING \_\_\_\_\_

Water Recreation	4	3	2	1	0
Intensive recreation	4	3	2	1	0
Passive recreation			2	1	0
Winter Sports			2	1	0
Parking lot potential	4	2	0		
Municipal or recreation building	4	2	0		
Compatibility of resource protection and use	4	2	0		

COMMUNITY PLANNING RATING \_\_\_\_\_

Compatibility with current adjacent land uses	4	3	2	1	0
Fit with Township Master Plan (Future land uses)	4	3	2	1	0
Accessibility by local residents	4	3	2	1	0
Accessibility for school use	4	3	2	1	0
Fit with other Township and comparable park sites	4	3	2	1	0

PROBABILITY OF LOSS RATING \_\_\_\_\_

Sale is likely in near future	4	3	2	1	0
Threat of conversion	4	3	2	1	0
Price related to time	4	3	2	1	0

Rev. 3/30/76

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK SITE EVALUATION WORKSHEET

Site designation \_\_\_\_\_

PARCEL SIZE RATING \_\_\_\_\_ 4 2 0

RESOURCES RATING \_\_\_\_\_

Woodland vegetation	4	3	2	1	0
Wildlife habitat	4	3	2	1	0
Representative natural area			2	1	0
Water resources	4	3	2	1	0
Topography			2	1	0
Scenic view			2	1	0
Land form			2	1	0
Historic feature			2	1	0

USE POTENTIAL RATING \_\_\_\_\_

Water recreation	4	3	2	1	0
Intensive recreation	4		2		0
Passive recreation			2	1	0
Winter sports			2	1	0
Parking lot potential			2	1	0
Municipal or recreation building	4	2			0
Compatibility of resource protection and use	4	2			0

COMMUNITY PLANNING RATING \_\_\_\_\_

Compatibility with current adjacent land uses	4	3	2	1	0
Fit with Township Master Plan (Future land uses)			2	1	0
Accessibility by local residents	4	3	2	1	0
Accessibility for school use	4	3	2	1	0
Fit with other Township and comparable park sites	4	3	2	1	0

PROBABILITY OF LOSS RATING \_\_\_\_\_

Sale is likely in near future	4	3	2	1	0
Threat of conversion	4	3	2	1	0
Price related to time	4	3	2	1	0

CRITICAL RESOURCE AREA SITE EVALUATION WORKSHEET

Site designation \_\_\_\_\_

RESOURCES RATING \_\_\_\_\_

Wildlife habitat	4	3	2	1	0
Representative natural area	4		2		0
Water resources	4	3	2	1	0
Rare ecological community	4		2		0
Rare plant or animal species	4		2		0
Land form	4		2		0
Historic feature				2	1 0

USE POTENTIAL RATING \_\_\_\_\_

Educational or scientific use	4	3	2	1	0
Selected recreational use				2	1 0
Compatibility of resource protection and use	4		2		0

COMMUNITY PLANNING RATING \_\_\_\_\_

Compatibility with current adjacent land uses	4	3	2	1	0
Fit with Township Master Plan (Future land uses)				2	1 0
Accessibility by local residents				2	1 0
Accessibility for school use	4	3	2	1	0
Fit with other Township and comparable park sites				2	1 0

PROBABILITY OF LOSS RATING \_\_\_\_\_

Sale is likely in near future	4	3	2	1	0
Threat of conversion	4	3	2	1	0
Price related to time	4	3	2	1	0

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-7-  
FACTOR CHECKLIST

<u>PARCEL SIZE</u>	<u>Factor Points</u>
A. Size of potential site is within the desirable range for the type of park contemplated	4
B. Size of potential site is outside the desirable range, causing drawbacks or an extra public expense, but still usable for the type of park contemplated	2
C. Size of potential site is such that usability is doubtful	0

RESOURCES FACTORS

WOODLAND VEGETATION

To provide scenic beauty; to shade, separate and buffer activities; to provide wildlife cover and food; to control erosion.

	<u>Factor Points</u>
A. Woodland vegetation covers about $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ of site, and has most or all of the characteristics listed below.	4
B. Woodland vegetation covers about $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ of site, but lacks some of the characteristics listed below.	3
C. Woodland vegetation covers only about $\frac{1}{4}$ or over $\frac{1}{2}$ of site, and lacks several of the characteristics listed below.	2
D. Woodland vegetation covers very little or almost all of the site, and lacks most of the characteristics listed below.	1
E. Woodland vegetation not present.	0

Characteristics:

Trees arranged in clusters advantageous for park use.  
 Boundary buffer characteristics.  
 Wide range of tree species, ages and sizes.  
 Provide wildlife cover, nesting and feeding.

WILDLIFE HABITAT

To provide opportunities for formal and informal observation of all forms of plant and animal life; to preserve plant and animal species in an urbanizing community.

	<u>Factor Points</u>
A. Diverse and significant wildlife species are present. Adequate cover and food for continued existence. Buffering from human activities both external to and within the park.	4
B. Habitat suitable for continued support of a substantial variety of wildlife.	3
C. Extensive habitat for common species of plants and animals.	2
D. Some habitat for common species which can be expected to be preserved	1
F. No potential for wildlife habitat preservation	0

REPRESENTATIVE NATURAL AREA

To preserve outstanding examples of representative natural areas found in the Township, for their educational and scenic values. These areas include: oak forests, swamp and floodplain forests, marshes, sedge meadows, lakes or ponds, streams and dry meadows.

	<u>Factor Points</u>
A. An outstanding example of a representative natural area is present, with significant populations of the important component species, and of sufficient extent to assure continued vitality.	4-community or critical resource 2-neighborhood
B. A good example of a representative natural area is present, but lacking substantial populations of some important species or lacking the extent for assured vitality.	2-community or critical resource 1-neighborhood
C. Site does not have a natural area which displays representative features.	0

WATER RESOURCES

To provide scenic beauty and recreational opportunity; to preserve natural systems for flood control, water quality control, and aquifer recharge.

	<u>Factor Points</u>
A. Site includes a lake or free-flowing stream, with significant buffer zones	4
B. Site includes a lake or free-flowing stream lacking natural buffer zones; OR Site includes floodplain or wetland with significant retention and aquifer recharge capacity; OR Site has potential for a significant impoundment.	3  3 3
C. Site includes wetlands with some retention and recharge capacity; OR Site includes major drainage swales.	2  2
D. Site has potential for storm-water retention.	1
E. No potential contribution to water resources.	0

TOPOGRAPHY

A variety of topographic features is visually appealing, and may include examples of important glacial land forms. Slopes can provide vertical differentiation of activities and buffering from surrounding uses; slopes can be useful for recreational use, but can also present limitations to use.

	<u>Factor Points</u>
A. Site is largely in gentle and moderate slopes, with some steep slopes in locations advantageous to park use.	4 community 2 neighborho
B. Site has mixed slope types, but over half of the site has one predominant type.	2 community 1 neighborho
C. Site is almost entirely flat, or almost entirely covered with steep slopes.	(flat) 0 community 1 neighborho (steep) 0

Slope types: Gentle - less than 8% gradient  
Moderate - 8 to 20% gradient  
Steep - over 20% gradient

SCENIC VIEWS

To enhance attractiveness of a park, and to preserve outstanding scenic views for public enjoyment.

	<u>Factor Points</u>
A. Site affords unusual scenic views for park users; contributes to amenity of adjacent properties and passers-by.	2
B. Site affords pleasant yet not unusual scenic views	1
C. Site does not afford scenic views	0

LAND FORM

To include significant land forms in a system of natural areas, for their educational and scenic values, and in order to retard erosion and control flooding. These land forms include: glacial channels, moraines, till and outwash plains, eskers, glacial knobs, swamps, bogs, marshes and floodplains.

	<u>Factor Points</u>
A. Site includes a significant land form which is well-displayed and is entirely or sufficiently contained within the site.	4-critical re- source 2-comm. or neigh borhood.
B. Site includes a significant land form, but it is not well-displayed or a large part lies off the site.	2-critical res. 1-comm. or neigh borhood
C. Site does not include a significant land form.	0

HISTORIC FEATURE

To incorporate historic features when their location coincides with other park resources, and their inclusion is economically feasible.

	<u>Factor Points</u>
A. Site includes a structure of recognized historic significance in the community	2
B. Site includes the location or remains of a former structure or activity of historic significance in the community	.1
C. Site does not include a historic feature	0

RARE ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITY (Critical Resource Area)

To preserve ecological communities which are rare in the Township and the region, for their educational, scientific and heritage value.

	<u>Factor Points</u>
A. A rare ecological community is present, with significant populations of the important component species, and of sufficient extent to assure continued vitality.	4
B. A rare ecological community is present, but lacking substantial populations of some important species or lacking the extent for assured continued vitality.	2
C. No rare ecological community is present.	0

RARE PLANT OR ANIMAL SPECIES (Critical Resource Area)

To preserve rare or endangered species and their habitats, for their educational, scientific and heritage value.

	<u>Factor Points</u>
A. A significant population of a rare or endangered species of plant or animal is present, with adequate habitat for continued existence	4
B. A smaller population of a rare or endangered species of plant or animal is present; OR Habitat is less reliable for continued existence of the species	2  2
C. No rare plant or animal species known to be present	0

USE POTENTIAL FACTORS

WATER RECREATION

In most cases a site adjacent to a river, lake or wetland is preferred to a site with no surface water; water-related recreation has prime use value.

	<u>Factor Points</u>
A. Potential for swimming, plus some of the following	4
B. Potential for boating, plus some of the following	3
C. Potential for fishing, plus the following	2
D. Potential for wildlife observation and visual amenity, related to surface water	1
E. No surface water on site	0

INTENSIVE RECREATION

Intensive recreational use includes:

- Field games - softball, baseball, football, soccer, golf practice
- Court games - tennis, basketball, volleyball, shuffleboard, handball, horseshoes
- Playground or tot lot

	<u>Factor Points</u>
A. Site has potential for incorporating 5 or more intensive recreational uses (Community)	4
3 or more intensive recreational uses (Neighborhood)	4
B. Site has potential for incorporating 4 intensive recreational uses (Community)	3
C. Site has potential for incorporating 3 intensive recreational uses (Community)	2
1 or 2 intensive recreational uses (Neighborhood)	2
D. Site has potential for incorporating 1 or 2 intensive recreational uses (Community)	1
E. Site has no potential for intensive recreational use	0

PASSIVE RECREATION

Major passive recreational uses include:

- Picnicking
- Hiking and bridle trails
- Informal and formal nature study and wildlife observation

	<u>Factor Points</u>
A. Site has excellent potential for two or more passive recreational uses	2
B. Site has excellent potential for one passive recreational use; OR Site has lower quality potential for two or more passive uses	1  1
C. Potential for passive recreation is questionable	0

WINTER SPORTS

Winter sports include:

- Ice skating and hockey
- Coasting hill
- Cross-country skiing

	<u>Factor Points</u>
A. Site has excellent potential for two or more winter sports	(2)
B. Site has excellent potential for one winter sport; OR Site has lower quality potential for two or more winter sports	(1)  (1)
C. Site lacks potential for winter sports	0

PARKING LOT POTENTIAL

An adequate area for vehicle parking is essential for a community park site; parking lot potential may be desirable but not essential for a neighborhood park or a critical resource area.

	<u>Factor Points</u>
A. Site has parking lot potential meeting all criteria listed below.	4 - Community 2 - Neighborhood or critical resource
B. Site has some parking lot potential, but meetings only 2 or 3 of the criteria listed.	2 - Community 1 - Neighborhood or critical resource
C. Parking lot potential meets no more than one of the criteria listed.	0

Criteria:

- Lot area could serve estimated peak number of vehicles.
- Soil conditions would permit lot construction.
- Lot construction would cause minimal damage to resources.
- Lot(s) would have good access from public road.

MUNICIPAL OR RECREATION BUILDING

A fully-developed community park could include a full-sized recreation building, or could be combined with a site for a large municipal building such as a library or administration building. A neighborhood park could include a small recreation building or a small municipal building such as a fire station.

	<u>Factor Points</u>
A. Building site potential meets all criteria listed below.	4
B. Building site potential lacks one or more of the criteria listed.	2
C. Building site potential is lacking.	0

Criteria:

- Building could be of desired scope.
- Building could be of normal construction.
- Desirable building location is available.

EDUCATIONAL OR SCIENTIFIC USE (Critical Resource Area)

"In modern education, natural areas serve as outdoor laboratories for demonstrating the important application of ecological principles to modern conservation and stress(ing) the need to preserve our valuable natural resources such as forests, waters and wildlife." - Paul W. Thompson

	<u>Factor Points</u>
A. Educational or scientific potential meets all criteria listed (below).	4
B. Site meets 3 of the criteria listed.	3
C. Site meets 2 of the criteria listed.	2
D. Site meets only one of the criteria listed.	1
E. Site lacks educational or scientific potential.	0

Criteria:

Site can be used to demonstrate one or more types of natural areas found in the Township.

Site can be used to illustrate one or more glacial land forms and/or representative soil types.

Site functions as a wildlife sanctuary and offers opportunities for wildlife observation and study.

Site has potential for development of a support building for educational or scientific uses.

SELECTED RECREATIONAL USE (Critical Resource Area)

Certain recreational uses may be appropriate on a critical resource site and would fulfill community expectations. These appropriate uses include:

Boating

Picnicking

Hiking and horseback riding

Ice skating

Fishing

	<u>Factor Points</u>
A. Site has potential for two or more recreational uses.	2
B. Site has potential for one recreational use.	1
C. Site lacks recreational potential.	0

COMPATIBILITY OF RESOURCE PROTECTION AND USE

	<u>Factor Points</u>
A. Site meets all criteria listed below.	4
B. Site meets only 2 or 3 of the criteria listed.	2
C. Site would not meet more than one of the criteria.	0

Criteria:

Areas needed for recreational uses would not include principal resource areas of site.

Activity areas could be separated from resource areas by buffers such as slopes, tree groupings, or waterways.

Users could reach activity areas without causing damage to resource areas.

Site location and characteristics would permit surveillance, if necessary to prevent abusive use.

COMMUNITY PLANNING FACTORS

The Community Planning factors are less quantifiable than the resources and use potential factors, so the factor checklists do not assign specific point values to the favorable criteria. The compiler will have to consider the relevant information as related to the criteria, and use judgment in assigning a point value.

COMPATIBILITY WITH CURRENT ADJACENT LAND USES

Favorable criteria

Site would not be adversely affected by noise, visual impact, fumes, traffic, or other negative features of current adjacent land uses.

Projected park traffic or on-site activities would be compatible with existing adjacent conditions.

Current adjacent land uses would blend visually with the type of park under construction.

Adjacent landowners would regard a park as an asset to the area.

Park could be coordinated with existing private recreational activities in the adjacent areas (e.g. horseback riding, boating, or fishing, cross-country skiing).

FIT WITH MASTER PLAN (Future land uses)

Favorable Criteria:

Site is consistent with the Greenways portion of the Master Plan.

Site would be compatible with future adjacent land uses as projected in the Master Plan.

Site would serve to guide community development, by establishing open space in a strategic location.

Site could provide a location for other municipal uses (e.g. library, administrative offices, fire station) which are projected in Master Plan or other planning documents.

Park use, vs. urban development of site, would beneficially modify future Township plans for utility extensions (e.g. lowered public costs, decreased development pressures in vicinity).

### ACCESSIBILITY BY LOCAL RESIDENTS

#### Favorable criteria:

Site is located where present or projected land use indicates a significant number of residents may be within an easy walk. For a community park, this could be a one-mile radius (20-minute walk); for a neighborhood park, this could be a  $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile radius (10-minute walk); this locational factor would be less important for a critical resource area.

Site can be reached by safe pedestrian routes from locations of present or future residential developments.

Site can be connected to Township pedestrian trail system.

Site can be reached by a safe bicycle route or a projected Township bikeway.

Site can be connected to Township bridle trail system.

Site can be reached by automobile via present or projected roads which are adequate.

### ACCESSIBILITY FOR SCHOOL USE

#### Favorable criteria:

Site is within one mile (preferably  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile) from an existing school, for pedestrian access.

Site can be reached from an existing school via a safe pedestrian access.

Site is within the neighborhood for a projected school in the plans of the school system or the Master Plan.

Site is adjacent to a school site (present or projected) and can be developed in coordination with school site.

### FIT WITH OTHER TOWNSHIP AND COMPARABLE PARK SITES

#### Favorable criteria:

Area served for pedestrian access does not overlap area served by another present or projected park site.

Site would fulfill a need in Township park master plan.

Site location would attract mainly local use, little regional use.

PROBABILITY OF LOSS FACTORS

The probability of loss factors are less quantifiable than the resources and use potential factors, so the factor checklists do not assign specific point values to the relevant information. The compiler will have to use judgment in assigning point values to the information, with higher values indicating greater probability of losing the opportunity to acquire the site.

SALE IS LIKELY IN NEAR FUTURE

Relevant information:

Owner has placed property on the real estate market, or has made private contracts offering it for sale.

Potential private purchasers have made purchase offers or have stated a definite interest in purchasing the property.

Owner is known to have personal situations conducive to a sale of the property (e.g. tax burden, age, change of residence).

THREAT OF CONVERSION

Relevant information:

Urbanized development of the site could occur in the near future, if left in private hands.

Site is threatened with damaging uses, although not urbanized development, if left in private hands.

Scenic or conservation easement would not suffice for long-range protection (for a critical resource).

PRICE RELATED TO TIME

Relevant information:

Site is available at an advantageous price, due to current conditions.

Purchase price may increase in future.

Financial situation of Park Commission would permit purchase at this time.

# **Charter Township of Oakland Parks and Recreation Commission**

4393 Collins Road, Rochester, Michigan 48306-1670  
Telephone: (248) 651-7810 • Fax: (248) 601-0106

At a regular meeting of the Charter Township of Oakland Parks and Recreation Commission held on Wednesday April 17, 2002 the following resolution was offered by Commissioner Bennett and seconded by Commissioner Barkham.

## **RESOLUTION**

### **02-01**

A Resolution establishing a policy for the evaluation and selection of parcels as candidates for Oakland Township's land preservation funding.

**Whereas** on September 11, 2001 Township residents approved a proposal authorizing the Charter Township of Oakland to levy .75 of 1 mill for a period of ten years, starting with the December 2001 levy, for the purpose of providing funds for the acquisition of land, the protection of natural habitat, and the preservation of green spaces within the Township (the "millage funds"); and

**Whereas** the Parks and Recreation Commission is the Township entity primarily responsible for the review of potential purchases and acquisition of properties on behalf of the Township using these millage funds; and

**Whereas** the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Township Board are currently undertaking the process of considering and adopting an ordinance and program which will establish the procedure and requirements to be followed in acquiring property and property rights using the millage funds; and

**Whereas** the Parks and Recreation Commission has been approached by a property owner in the Township offering to convey certain property to the Township, which property appears to be of potential environmental value consistent with the purposes of the land preservation millage; and

**Whereas**, if the Parks and Recreation Commission does not engage in some initial steps to begin the evaluation of this property for possible purchase, the opportunity to purchase said property may be lost; and

**Whereas** the Parks and Recreation Commission desires to capitalize on opportunities to work with willing landowners in the near term to preserve remaining Township green spaces; and

**Whereas** the Parks and Recreation Commission desires to evaluate parcels consistently and objectively according to a policy utilizing an established review process and screening criteria;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Charter Township of Oakland Parks and Recreation Commission does hereby adopt the following process as an interim policy governing the evaluation and selection of parcels for possible acquisition (pending adoption of an ordinance and program by the Township Board), whether these parcels have been previously evaluated, are currently being evaluated or will be considered in the future as candidates for Oakland Township's land preservation funding:

1. Property Owner or Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) shall complete and submit a Property Owner Nomination Form.
2. PRC Staff shall gather the following types of information on the property: aerial photo, natural features, zoning, land use, development potential, title information, and tax valuation records.
3. Property information shall be forwarded to the PRC Land Preservation Parcel Recommendation Subcommittee.
4. The Subcommittee shall evaluate applications based on following screening/review criteria types, using a format adopted by the PRC upon recommendation by the PRC Site Selection Criteria Subcommittee:

Water Resources; Special Landforms, Animals, Plants and Plant Communities; Adjacency to Protected Lands; Parcel Size; Compatibility with Community Planning; Environmental Hazards; Aesthetic Value, Feasibility of Acquisition; Condition of Title; Availability of Property and Probability of Loss; Cultural Value and other unique factors.

If the Subcommittee decides that an application warrants further study, a site visit will be scheduled with the property owner for the Subcommittee (and any necessary staff or consultants).

If, after the site visit and the establishment of clear title to the property, the Subcommittee believes the property should be considered for acquisition, various conservation techniques and financial scenarios would be evaluated and discussed with the property owner (including Township accounting, legal and conservation consultants as the Subcommittee deems necessary).

5. After initial discussions with the property owner, the Subcommittee shall recommend to the Parks and Recreation Commission whether the property should be appraised and/or a Phase I Environmental Assessment requested. If the Parks and Recreation Commission approves an appraisal and/or Phase I request, the written report(s) will be shared with the property owner. If the property owner disagrees with the appraisal and/or Phase I, they may obtain a second appraisal and/or Phase I at their own expense and this should be filed with the Parks and Recreation Commission.
6. When the Subcommittee and the property owner agree on the method and dollar amount for the acquisition, the Subcommittee will recommend to the Parks and Recreation Commission whether the property should be acquired using a particular conservation technique, indicating the financial impact of the acquisition on future land preservation revenues.
7. If the Parks and Recreation Commission agrees with the recommendation of the Subcommittee to purchase the property, they shall direct the Oakland Township Legal Counsel to complete the documents necessary to complete the transaction.
8. The Township is not in any way obligated to purchase or to agree to purchase any property unless and until an approved and signed agreement for such purchase is in place, i.e., neither this Resolution nor any policy adopted hereunder give rise to an obligation to purchase any given property in the Township even should that property meet any stated or unstated criteria.

**Ayes:** MACKLEY, TOMBOULIAN, BENNETT, BARKHAM, PERUZZI, GODIN

**Nays:** NONE

**Absent:** PHILLIPS

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution offered and adopted by the Parks and Recreation Commission of the Charter Township of Oakland at a Regular meeting held on April 17, 2002 at 7:00 pm in the Oakland Township Parks/Police Building, 4393 Collins Road, Rochester, Michigan 48306, with a quorum present.

Mindy Milos-Dale

Dated: 4-18-02

Mindy Milos-Dale, Park Manager, Charter Township of Oakland

**PROPERTY OWNER NOMINATION FORM**

Name:	
Address:	Daytime Phone:
City:	Email:

Is this nomination partly the result of encouragement by others?  Yes  No

If yes, please note the group or organization:

Address:	City:
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Property Location

Address:

City:

Size: (Number of Acres)	Parcel ID Number (sidwell):
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**SUGGESTED ACTION:**

Donation of Property                       Donation of Easement or Development Rights  
 Fee Simple Purchase                       Easement or Property Development Rights Purchase  
 Lease to Purchase                       Other

Are there any existing easements or rights of way?  Yes  No

If yes, please describe: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Are there any other encumbrances or liens on property?  Yes  No

If yes, please describe: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**PROPERTY OWNER NOMINATION FORM (continued)**

**FEATURES OF PROPERTY (check those that apply to all or part of the property)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Woodland                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Roads/drives enter/bisect property |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prairie/Meadows                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultivated lands (past or present) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waterbody                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Existing structure(s)              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rare or endangered plant/animal species | <input type="checkbox"/> Historical site or property        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stream or Water course                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Existing foot trails               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wetland                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Varied topography                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adjacent to protected land              | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____                        |

Are you aware of the existence of any environmental contaminants or concerns associated with the property?       Yes       No

If so, please describe:

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Has a general environmental assessment been conducted of the property by a qualified consultant?  
 Yes       No

If so, is a copy of the report available for review?       Yes       No

Has a review of the property, for natural areas values, been performed by a recognized expert (biologist, wetlands consultant, ecologist)?       Yes       No

If so, is a copy of the report available for review?       Yes       No

Are Oakland Township staff, officials and consultants permitted to visit your property if you are notified prior to the scheduled visit?       Yes       No

**PLEASE ALSO ATTACH ANY AVAILABLE PHOTOGRAPHS, AERIAL MAPPING, MAPS, REPORTS OR OTHER DEPICTIONS OF THE PROPERTY.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Commission  
4393 Collins Road  
Rochester, MI 48306

(248) 651-7810  
(248) 601-0106 Fax  
[www.oaklandtownship.org](http://www.oaklandtownship.org)

Revised (2/6/02)

**Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Commission**  
**Land Preservation Program Screening/Review Criteria** (revised 12/18/02)

Property Owner \_\_\_\_\_  
 Property Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Instructions: If property fits in more than one category assign the highest value and circle any information which applies in that category. (\* next to criteria requiring a site visit)

A. Water Resources

I. Water Resources Access/Frontage. Does the property have frontage on a lake, Paint or Stony Creeks or a perennial tributary of the Paint or Stony Creeks?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No Size and Name of Lake: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Linear Feet of Frontage and Name of Creek \_\_\_\_\_

If the property borders an aquatic ecosystem assign relative screening score following table below. If it fits in more than one category use highest value.

Borders Lake, large pond, or chain of ponds		Borders perennial creek (as shown on USGS quad)	
Frontage is 100-500 ft.	Medium	50 – 100 feet	Medium
Frontage is 501-1000 ft.	High	100 – 2000 ft.	High
Frontage > 1000 ft. or the entire system is contained in the parcel.	Very High	>2000 ft. or >500 ft. on both sides	Very High

II. Surface water quality protection. Is the property directly connected to a surface-water ecosystem? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Does the property drain to:	
A seepage system with significant public access and/or ownership	Medium
A small drainage system such as Bear Creek.	High
A larger drainage system such as the Paint Creek, Stony Creek, Gallagher Creek or Trout Creek.	Very High

III. Ground water quality protection. Does the parcel contain any known or expected recharge areas? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Does the property contain significant areas of known or expected groundwater recharge (as defined in the 1991 Paint Creek Nonpoint Sources Control Plan, 1992 Biological Survey of Paint, Sargent and Gallagher Creeks or as cited in Paul Thompson's Inventory):	
Regional groundwater recharge	Medium
Local high velocity recharge for throughflow/groundwater connections to surface water such as lakes or perennial creeks	High
Local high velocity recharge for throughflow/groundwater connections to private or public well or drinking water supply systems as documented by existing occupied structures, approved site plans or plats	Very High

IV. Wetland Conservation/protection. Does the parcel contain or border wetland areas as defined in National Wetlands Inventory and Oakland Township Wetlands Inventory?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No Wetland Acreage: \_\_\_\_\_

Does the property <u>contain or border</u> 5-10 acres of lacustrine, riverine, or palustrine wetlands	Medium
Does the property <u>contain or border</u> 10 or more acres of lacustrine, riverine, or palustrine wetlands	High
Does the property <u>contain</u> >5 acres of a complete wetland of any type	Very High
Note: Lacustrine = lake; Riverine = river/creek; Palustrine = standing water such as marsh, bog, swamp	

### B. Special Landforms, Animals, Plants and Plant Communities

I. Landforms. Does the parcel contain any unique glacial landforms (as cited in Paul Thompson's Inventory or another source)? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Contains part of a moraine, glacial channel, till or outwash plain, esker, glacial knob, or ice contact formation such as kettle lake or a kame	Medium
Contains all of a moraine, glacial channel, till or outwash plain, esker, glacial knob or ice contact formation such as kettle lake or a kame	High
Contains all or part of more than one landform: moraine, glacial channel, till or outwash plain, esker, a glacial knob, or ice contact formation such as kettle lake or a kame	Very High

II. Wildlife Habitat\*. Does the property support important terrestrial or aquatic populations or habitat or add to adjacent property/ies that would protect wildlife populations or habitat? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Documentation attached: \_\_\_\_\_

The property contributes high quality home range habitat for wide ranging resident wildlife compatible with surrounding land uses.	Medium
The property secures important habitat within the property or in combination with adjoining properties for at least one of the following: migrating songbirds, migrating waterfowl, desirable resident species requiring specialized habitat conditions.	High
The property secures essential habitat for rare, threatened or endangered species.	Very High

III. Adequate Habitat Area. Is the habitat area (property minus a 200 ft. wide buffer adjacent to unprotected property) larger than 10 acres? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

	The core area contains >10 and <40 acres.	Medium
	The core area contains >40 and <80 acres.	High
	The core area contains >80 acres.	Very High

IV. Special Plants and Plant Communities\*. Does the property have some native vegetation? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Documentation attached: \_\_\_\_\_

The property contains sufficient components of pre-European settlement vegetation to allow restoration to pre-European settlement conditions. There has been minimal degradation by invasive plants.	Medium
The property supports populations of plant species that show a fidelity to high quality natural communities and specialized habitats within the property. There has been minimal degradation by invasive plants.	High
The property secures essential habitat for rare, threatened or endangered plant species or rare, imperiled or critically imperiled plant communities such as oak barrens, oak "openings", prairies, fens, or conifer swamps.	Very High

#### C. Adjacency to Protected Land

Adjacency and enhancement. Does the property under consideration abut, or is otherwise integral to, a permanently protected tract of public or private land being held for conservation or recreation purposes? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

If yes, which land? \_\_\_\_\_

The property under consideration contains <25% of an adjacent ecosystem or will provide <200 ft wide buffer for adjacent permanently protected tract.	Medium
The property under consideration contains <50% of an adjacent ecosystem or will provide <300 ft wide buffer for adjacent permanently protected tract.	High
The property under consideration contains >50% of an adjacent ecosystem or will provide >300 ft wide buffer for adjacent permanently protected tract.	Very High

#### D. Property Size

Is the property larger than 10 acres? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No Size: \_\_\_\_\_

The property contains >10 and <40 acres.	Medium
The property contains >40 and <80 acres.	High
The property contains >80 acres.	Very High

### E. Community Planning

I. Location's Relationship to Surrounding Land Uses. In which quadrant of the Township is the property located?

Northwest \_\_\_\_\_, Northeast \_\_\_\_\_, Southwest \_\_\_\_\_, Southeast \_\_\_\_\_  
Does this quadrant have less than 300 acres of Township Parkland? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

The property is located in a quadrant containing between 200 and 300 acres of Township park, conservation or environmental areas.	Medium
The property is located in a quadrant containing between 80 and 200 acres of Township park, conservation or environmental areas.	High
The property is located in a quadrant containing less than 80 acres of Township park, conservation or environmental areas.	Very High

II. Accessibility by Local Residents. Is the property accessible either from a publicly owned road, safety path, or trail? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

If yes, which ones? \_\_\_\_\_

Site is located where present or projected land use indicates a significant number of residents may be within a 3 mile radius.	Medium
Site is located where present or projected land use indicates a significant number of residents may be within a 1 mile radius (20 minute walk).	High
Site is located where present or projected land use indicates a significant number of residents (or schoolchildren) may be within a ½ mile radius (10 minute walk).	Very High

III. Is property consistent with Greenways portion of the Township Master Plan?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Property is consistent with Greenways portion of the Master Plan, is not adversely affected by and is compatible with current or future adjacent land uses.	Medium
Property is consistent with Greenways portion of the Master Plan, is not adversely affected by, is compatible with current or future adjacent land uses and is viewed by adjacent landowners as an asset to the area.	High
Site is consistent with Greenways portion of the Master Plan and would serve to guide community development, by establishing open space in a strategic location.	Very High

**F. Environmental Hazards**

Source of Information:  Common Knowledge  Current Owner  Phase I

Is the property or any adjoining property currently being used or have been used in the past for the following purposes: gas station, motor vehicle service or repair facility, commercial printing facility, dry cleaners, photo developing lab, junkyard, landfill, waste treatment, storage, processing or recycling or disposal facility?

Yes  No If Yes, indicate which use: \_\_\_\_\_

Are any of the following currently being stored, discarded or used or have been used in the past on the property or any adjoining property: automotive or industrial batteries, pesticides or other chemicals used in agricultural practices, paints, industrial waste or other chemicals in drums or other containers or storage tanks?

Yes  No If Yes, indicate which use: \_\_\_\_\_

If yes to either, documentation attached: \_\_\_\_\_

**G. Aesthetic Value**

I. Scenic View\*. Does the property preserve an outstanding scenic view or access to an outstanding scenic view?  Yes  No

Property preserves <u>access to or contains</u> scenic view for parks users as well as passers-by. Examples might include panoramic overlooks, open water bodies, tree galleries, and actively pastured or farmed agricultural fields.	Medium
Property preserves <u>access to permanently protected</u> unusual scenic view for parks users as well as passers-by. Examples might include panoramic overlooks, open water bodies, tree galleries, and actively pastured or farmed agricultural fields.	High
Property <u>contains</u> unusual scenic view for parks users as well as passers-by. Examples might include panoramic overlooks, open water bodies, tree galleries, actively pastured or farmed agricultural fields.	Very High

II. Variety of Topographic Features.

Site is almost entirely flat or almost entirely covered with steep slopes.	Medium
Site has mixed slope types, but over half of the site has one predominant type.	High
Site is largely in gentle and moderate slopes, with some steep slopes in advantageous locations.	Very High
Note: Gentle = less than 8% gradient, Moderate = 8 - 15% gradient, Steep = over 15% gradient	

**H. Feasibility of Acquisition.** Would the acquisition of this property be compatible with the Land Preservation fund's short-term and long-term budgetary guidelines?

Yes  No Type of Acquisition: \_\_\_\_\_  
Appraisal Value: \_\_\_\_\_ Township Expenditure: \_\_\_\_\_

Fee Simple purchase of Property at or below the value determined by Township's independent appraiser.	Medium
Fee simple purchase of an easement or development rights at or below the value determined by the Township's independent appraiser.	High
Grant Support, Donation of portion or entire property value; or donation of a conservation easement or development rights.	Very High

**I. Availability of Property and Probability of Loss.**

Is the property currently available for acquisition?	Yes	No
Owner is known to have personal situations conducive to a sale of the property (tax burden, age, change of residence).		Medium
Owner has placed property on the real estate market or has made private contracts offering it for sale.		High
Private purchasers have made known purchase offer or have stated a definite interest in purchasing the property.		Very High

**J. Cultural Value.**

Does property include the location or remains of a former structure or activity of historic significance in the community such as an archeological site, native American village, burial ground or ceremonial mound? This would be as a result of evidence found or indicated through site's presence on Oakland Township Historic and Cultural Resources Inventory Map.

Yes  No If yes, please indicate cultural resource(s): \_\_\_\_\_

**K. Other Unique Factors.**

I. Does the property offer other unique characteristics which were not covered in these criteria but would serve to benefit our community?

Yes  No If yes, please indicate resource(s): \_\_\_\_\_

II. Are there other unique factors which were not covered in these criteria that would detract from the property or cause it to be a detriment to our community?

Yes  No If yes, please indicate resource(s): \_\_\_\_\_

**Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Commission  
Land Preservation Property Evaluation Worksheet (12/18/02)**

Property Owner \_\_\_\_\_

Property Location: \_\_\_\_\_

A. Water Resources Total Values Assigned: Yes \_\_\_\_\_, No \_\_\_\_\_  
Medium \_\_\_\_\_, High \_\_\_\_\_, Very High \_\_\_\_\_

Individual Criteria	Does Criteria Apply? Yes/No?	Value Assigned: (NA, Medium, High, Very High)
I. Access/Frontage: A. Borders lake, large pond(s) Or B. Borders perennial creek		
II. Surface Water Quality Protection		
III. Ground Water Quality Protection		
IV. Wetland Conservation/Protection		

B. Special Landforms, Animals, Plants and Plant Communities Total Values Assigned:  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_, No \_\_\_\_\_  
Medium \_\_\_\_\_, High \_\_\_\_\_, Very High \_\_\_\_\_

Individual Criteria	Does Criteria Apply? Yes/No	Value Assigned: (NA, Medium, High, Very High)
I. Landforms		
II. Wildlife Habitat		
III. Adequate habitat Area		
IV. Special Plants and Plant Communities		

C. Adjacency to Protected Land Total Values Assigned: Yes \_\_\_\_\_, No \_\_\_\_\_  
Medium \_\_\_\_\_, High \_\_\_\_\_, Very High \_\_\_\_\_

D. Property Size Total Values Assigned: Yes \_\_\_\_\_, No \_\_\_\_\_  
Medium \_\_\_\_\_, High \_\_\_\_\_, Very High \_\_\_\_\_

**Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Commission  
Land Preservation Property Evaluation Worksheet (12/18/02)**

Property Owner \_\_\_\_\_

Property Location: \_\_\_\_\_

E. Community Planning Total Values Assigned: Yes \_\_\_\_\_, No \_\_\_\_\_, NA \_\_\_\_\_  
Not Applicable \_\_\_\_\_, Medium \_\_\_\_\_, High \_\_\_\_\_, Very High \_\_\_\_\_

Individual Criteria	Does Criteria Apply? Yes/No	Value Assigned: (NA, Medium, High, Very High)
I. Location's Relationship to Surrounding Land Uses		
II. Accessibility by Local Residents		
III. Consistency with Greenways Map		

\*\*F. Environmental Hazards: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

G. Aesthetic Value Total Values Assigned: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
Medium \_\_\_\_\_, High \_\_\_\_\_, Very High \_\_\_\_\_

Individual Criteria	Does Criteria Apply? Yes/No	Value Assigned: (NA, Medium, High, Very High)
I. Scenic View		
II. Variety of Topographic Features	Yes	

H. Feasibility of Acquisition Values Assigned: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
Medium \_\_\_\_\_, High \_\_\_\_\_, Very High \_\_\_\_\_

I. Availability of Property and Probability of Loss Total Values Assigned:  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
Not Applicable \_\_\_\_\_, Medium \_\_\_\_\_, High \_\_\_\_\_, Very High \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*J. Cultural Value: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*K. I. Other Unique Beneficial Factors: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
II. Other Unique Detrimental Factors: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Commission  
Land Preservation Property Evaluation Worksheet (12/18/02)**

Property Owner \_\_\_\_\_

Property Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Important Considerations Concerning Evaluation:

**FINAL SUMMATION OF CRITERIA WITH VALUES ASSIGNED (17 possible):**

Total Values Assigned: Yes \_\_\_\_\_; Medium \_\_\_\_\_, High \_\_\_\_\_, Very High \_\_\_\_\_  
No \_\_\_\_\_  
Not Applicable \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (NO VALUE ASSIGNED):**

Environmental Hazard: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
Cultural Value: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
Other Beneficial Factors: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
Other Detrimental Factors: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Date Evaluation Was Completed \_\_\_\_\_

Land Preservation Parcel Recommendation Subcommittee Members  
Participating in Evaluation: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Oakland Township Staff/Consultants Participating in Evaluation:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## **Resources Needed to Complete Land Preservation Property Evaluation Worksheet**

### **A. Water Resources and B. Special Landforms, Animals, Plants and Plant Communities:**

Oakland County Natural Feature Information including:

Current Aerial Photo, 2001 MNFI Natural Areas, Woodlands, Wetlands,  
Topography, Rivers, Lakes, 100 year floodplain, Soil Types

#### **A. Water Resources:**

Maps showing watersheds and groundwater recharge areas in Township  
1991 Paint Creek Nonpoint Sources Control Plan  
1992 Biological Survey of Paint, Sargent and Gallagher Creeks  
USGS Quad Maps for Oakland Township  
National Wetland Inventory  
Oakland Township Wetlands Inventory (by J&L Consulting)

#### **B. Special Landforms, Animals, Plants and Plant Communities:**

1996 Revision of Oakland Township Ecological Survey by Paul Thompson  
Current listing of MNFI plant communities  
Current listing of MNFI element occurrences  
Current MDNR Listing of Michigan's Rare Threatened or Endangered Species  
MDNR Floristic Quality Assessment Manual  
Presettlement Vegetation Map from Oakland County Planning

#### **C. Adjacency to Protected Land:**

Oakland County Plat Map

#### **D. Property Size:**

Parcel Tax Valuation Records

#### **E. Community Planning:**

Oakland Township Zoning and Land Use Plan  
Oakland Township Master Plan

#### **J. Cultural Value:**

Oakland Township Historic and Cultural Resources Inventory Map

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## Appendix G

# Funding sources

The Oakland Township Parks Department has utilized different funding sources over the years to help mitigate the costs of land acquisition, facility upgrades, and other large community projects. A number of grants and other funding sources are available for these types of projects, and are described below.

### *General Funding Sources*

#### *Millage*

A property tax millage can be used to finance specific park and recreation projects or to operate recreation facilities. Township voters approve a millage to operate over a set time frame, with funds to be used by a specific department and for a specific purpose. Millages can be used to match grant funds or finance entire projects. A millage allows more flexibility with how the money is allocated than with a bond.

The majority of funding to support the Township's parks and recreation system comes from two millages, the park millage (Park Fund) and the land preservation millage (Land Preservation Fund). The park millage was approved in 2006 for a 10-year period. The land preservation millage, initiated in 2001 for a 10-year period as well, was extended 10 more years through an early renewal in 2006. Both millages began as 0.75 mills each, but have been annually rolled back as required by state law. Each fund has different obligations and two separate budgets.

Each fund has its own listing of expenditures. The Park Fund covers park operating expenditures including salaries and wages, consultation, education, park programming, contracts, insurance, workers compensation, and maintenance of buildings, grounds, facilities, park, trails, and the Oakland Township section of the Paint Creek Trail. The Land Preservation Fund contributes a percentage for acquiring and managing park natural areas. Each fund also includes capital expenses to support annual investments in land and facilities. The Land Preservation Fund has traditionally had a higher capital expense budget because the purpose of the fund is to acquire land for preservation purposes. Other Land

Preservation capital expenses include preservation equipment purchases and providing access to park natural areas. The Park Fund budget shows capital expenditure for the purchase of multipurpose park lands, as well as for bond repayments, building improvements, park equipment purchases, and office equipment purchases.

#### *User Fees*

The Township can charge reasonable fees to the users of specific recreation facilities and for enrollment in recreation programs. User fees can provide substantial support for park and recreation facilities and programs. Other Michigan communities have established user fees for the use of swimming pools, tennis courts, lighted athletic fields, and indoor facilities. The Township currently charges fees for use of soccer and archery facilities at Marsh View Park and for a variety of programs.

## ***Recreation Bonds***

A number of bond programs can be used to finance construction of parks and recreation facilities. General Obligation Bonds are issued for specific community projects and may not be used for other purposes. These bonds are usually paid for with property tax revenues.

Revenue Bonds are issued for construction of public projects that generate revenue. The bonds are then retired by using income generated by the project.

## ***Conservation Easements***

A conservation easement is a method of preserving open space that is guaranteed through formal documentation. This technique is a cost effective method of preserving open space when it is not feasible or practical for the Township to acquire the land.

Oakland Township is the first community in Oakland County to establish conservation easements within public park land. The Six Rivers Conservancy holds and monitors four easements – Bear Creek Nature Park (47 acres), Blue Heron Environmental Area (139 acres), Cranberry Lake Park (52 acres), and Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park (36 acres). These easements support the continued use of these Township parks as public recreation areas while at the same time prohibiting uses that would impair or interfere with the purposes of the agreement. In addition, Oakland Township holds two easements on private property, the Hirt Easement and the Kamin Easement.

## ***Public-Private or Public-Public Partnerships***

Reduced funding for the public and private sector has created a need for various partnerships between public and private entities as well as between two or more public entities to accommodate specialized large-scale recreation demands. The Township should seek partnerships where available and beneficial.

## ***Donations***

Businesses, corporations, private clubs, community organizations, and individuals will often contribute to recreation and other improvement programs to benefit communities in which they are located. Private sector contributions may be in the form of monetary contributions, the donation of land, the provision of volunteer services, or the contribution of equipment or facilities.

The Township has been very fortunate to receive generous land donations over the years and should continue to seek opportunities for additional donations in the future.

## ***Foundations***

A foundation is a special non-profit legal entity that is established as a mechanism through which land, cash, and securities can be donated for the benefit of parks and recreation services. The assets are disbursed by the foundation board of directors according to a predetermined plan.

## ***Specific Funding Programs***

### ***Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF)***

Oakland Township has received over \$5 million in funding from the MNRTF for acquisition and development of parks in the Township. MNRTF provides funding assistance for the purchase and development of land for public outdoor recreation and natural resource protection. This fund is directed at creating and improving outdoor recreational opportunities and providing protection to valuable natural resources. By law, no more than 25 percent of the Trust Fund revenues available for appropriation each year can be used for development, therefore the majority of funding is allocated for acquisition projects.

Priority project types of the MNRTF Board are:

- Trails/Greenways
- Wildlife/Ecological Corridors and Winter Deeryard Acquisitions
- Projects located within Urban Areas.

The available development grants are between \$15,000 and \$300,000 and there is no limit on the amount for acquisition projects because they depend upon the value of the property. A local minimum match of 25% is required for all projects. Applications must be postmarked by April 1st for both acquisition and development projects and August 1st for acquisition projects only.

Each year the Trust Fund Board of Trustees decides on priority project types on which proposals will receive special attention. The special initiatives for 2015 include:

- Wildlife/ecological corridors that connect at least two existing protected properties
- Acquisition projects that will protect imperiled or highly desired natural resources
- Acquisition of DNR-established winter deer yard, or acquisition of land that connects or provides a buffer area to land that is already protected and that provides critical wildlife habitat or is of high ecological value.

### ***Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)***

LWCF provides matching grants to help local communities protect parks and recreation resources. Funds can be used for a variety of outdoor recreation activities from hiking and biking trails to improving community parks, playgrounds, and ball fields. A local match of 50% required for all projects, and the minimum request amount is \$30,000 and the maximum is \$100,000. Projects are evaluated based on project need, applicant history, site and project quality, and alignment with the state's recreation plan (2008-2012 Michigan Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan). The fourth criterion is how well a project aligns with Michigan's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and is cumulative among the following categories: trails, community outdoor recreation, green technology in outdoor recreation, universal access or coordination and cooperation among recreation providers.

The MDNR makes recommendations to the National Park Service (NPS) on which applications to fund, and the NPS grants the final approval. Applications are due March 1st for grants.

### ***U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service***

The Fish and Wildlife Service administers a variety of financial assistance programs that award grants to local governments. Funds are available in the form of Formula and Project grants and Direct and Guaranteed/Insured loans which cover a broad spectrum of projects, including community development, land acquisition, environmental protection and restoration grants, among others. Deadlines and terms vary depending on the direct source of the funds, although a typical project requires a 25% financial match.

### ***Transportation Enhancement (TE) Program***

The TE program was originally established with the passage of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) in 1991, the reauthorization of the TEA-21 program in 1998, and finally the authorization of SAFETEA-LU in 2005 authorizing highway safety, transit and other surface transportation programs, including regional pathways and trailway systems. The TE program is a 10 percent set-aside of Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds that are administered by the MDOT Office of Economic Development. Eligible activities include those related to non-motorized transportation, transportation aesthetics, historic preservation, and water quality and wildlife. TE funding requires matching funds of at least 20% of the project cost and must be related to surface transportation.

### ***Urban and Community Forestry Program – Community Forestry Grants***

This program provides funds for projects that address the urban forestry needs of municipal governments, schools, nonprofit organizations, and volunteer groups throughout Michigan. These projects may include tree inventories, management plans, tree planting educational workshops and trailing materials, and other maintenance activities. Projects that develop or enhance urban and community forestry resources, such as management and planning, education and training, tree planting, and library resources, are looked upon highly. Applications are due each summer with minimum request of \$5,000 and maximum of \$10,000.

## Appendix H

# Resolutions of Approval and Letters to County and Regional Planning Agencies

**RESOLUTION**  
**Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Oakland**  
**Support for Adoption of Charter Township of Oakland**  
**2015 – 2019 Master Plan for Parks, Recreation, and Land Preservation**

At a regular meeting of the Charter Township of Oakland Planning Commission held on Tuesday February 3, 2015 the following Resolution was moved by Commissioner Saputo and seconded by Commissioner Scaccia:

WHEREAS, the Charter Township of Oakland Parks and Recreation Commission has undertaken a planning process to determine the recreation and natural resource conservation needs and desires of its residents during a five year period covering the years 2015 through 2019, and

WHEREAS, the Charter Township of Oakland Parks and Recreation Commission began the process of developing a community recreation and natural resource conservation plan in accordance with the most recent guidelines developed by the Department of Natural Resources and made available to local communities, and

WHEREAS, residents of the Charter Township of Oakland were provided with well-advertised opportunities during the development of the draft plan to express opinions, ask questions and discuss all aspects of the recreation and natural resource conservation plan, through a variety of methods and events including focus groups held in September 2014; a community opinion survey conducted by D.P. Bostwick Associates in October 2014; a master plan website made available in December 2014, the review of draft master plan chapters at four December 2014 and January 2015 Parks and Recreation Commission meetings, a 30-day public review period starting January 19, 2015 and a community master plan open house held January 29, 2015; and

WHEREAS, public hearings will be held on February 5, 2015 and February 18, 2015 at Parks and Recreation Commission meetings to provide an opportunity for all residents of the planning area to express additional opinions, ask additional questions, and discuss all aspects of the Charter Township of Oakland 2015 – 2019 Master Plan for Parks, Recreation, and Land Preservation, and

WHEREAS, the Charter Township of Oakland Parks and Recreation Commission has developed the plan as a guideline for improving recreation and enhancing natural resource conservation for the Charter Township of Oakland, and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission has reviewed the draft Parks, Recreation, and Land Preservation Master Plan and finds itself in accord with the basic plans and strategies outlined in this document; and


NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Charter Township of Oakland Planning Commission hereby supports the adoption of the Charter Township of Oakland 2015 – 2019 Parks, Recreation, and Land Preservation Master Plan as a guideline for improving parks and recreation for the residents of the Charter Township of Oakland.

**Ayes:** Hein, Saputo, Kwapis, Carter, Beer, Scaccia

**Nays:** Giannangeli

**Absent:** None

I, Karen Reilly, Charter Township of Oakland Clerk, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and original copy of a resolution offered and adopted by the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Oakland at a Regular meeting held on February 3, 2015 at 7:00 pm in the Oakland Township Hall, 4393 Collins Road, Rochester, Michigan 48306, with a quorum present.

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Dated: 2-24-15

Karen Reilly, Charter Township of Oakland Clerk

**RESOLUTION 15-01**  
**Parks and Recreation Commission of the Charter Township of Oakland**  
**Recommendation for Adoption of Charter Township of Oakland**  
**2015 – 2019 Master Plan for Parks, Recreation, and Land Preservation**

At a regular meeting of the Charter Township of Oakland Parks and Recreation Commission held on Wednesday February 18, 2015 the following Resolution was moved by Commissioner Tombouljian and seconded by Commissioner Mackley:

WHEREAS, the Charter Township of Oakland Parks and Recreation Commission has undertaken a planning process to determine the recreation and natural resource conservation needs and desires of its residents during a five year period covering the years 2015 through 2019, and

WHEREAS, the Charter Township of Oakland Parks and Recreation Commission began the process of developing a community recreation and natural resource conservation plan in accordance with the most recent guidelines developed by the Department of Natural Resources and made available to local communities, and

WHEREAS, residents of the Charter Township of Oakland were provided with well-advertised opportunities during the development of the draft plan to express opinions, ask questions and discuss all aspects of the recreation and natural resource conservation plan, through a variety of methods and events including focus groups held in September 2014; a community opinion survey conducted by D.P. Bostwick Associates in October 2014; a master plan website made available in December 2014, the review of draft master plan chapters at four December 2014 and January 2015 Parks and Recreation Commission meetings, a 30-day public review period starting January 19, 2015 and a community master plan open house held January 29, 2015; and

WHEREAS, public hearings were held on February 5, 2015 and February 18, 2015 at Parks and Recreation Commission meetings to provide an opportunity for all residents of the planning area to express additional opinions, ask additional questions, and discuss all aspects of the Charter Township of Oakland 2015 – 2019 Master Plan for Parks, Recreation, and Land Preservation, and

WHEREAS, the Charter Township of Oakland Parks and Recreation Commission has developed the plan as a guideline for improving recreation and enhancing natural resource conservation for the Charter Township of Oakland, and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Commission has reviewed the draft Parks, Recreation, and Land Preservation Master Plan and finds itself in accord with the basic plans and strategies outlined in this document; and

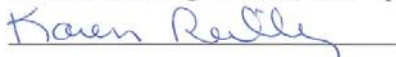
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Charter Township of Oakland Parks and Recreation Commission hereby recommends adoption of the Charter Township of Oakland 2015 – 2019 Parks, Recreation, and Land Preservation Master Plan as a guideline for improving parks and recreation for the residents of the Charter Township of Oakland.

Ayes: Tombouljian, Mackley, Rogers, Schmidt, Zale, Peruzzi

Nays: None

Absent: Barkham

I, Karen Reilly, Charter Township of Oakland Clerk, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and original copy of a resolution offered and adopted by the Parks and Recreation Commission of the Charter Township of Oakland at a Regular meeting held on February 18, 2015 at 7:00 pm in the Oakland Township Paint Creek Cider Mill, 4480 Orion Road, Rochester, Michigan 48306, with a quorum present.



Dated: 2-24-15

Karen Reilly, Charter Township of Oakland Clerk

**RESOLUTION 15-05**  
**Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Oakland**  
**Adoption of Charter Township of Oakland**  
**2015 – 2019 Master Plan for Parks, Recreation, and Land Preservation**

At a regular meeting of the Charter Township of Oakland Board of Trustees held on Tuesday February 24, 2015 the following Resolution was moved by Trustee Bailey and seconded by Trustee Buxar:

WHEREAS, the Charter Township of Oakland Parks and Recreation Commission has undertaken a planning process to determine the recreation and natural resource conservation needs and desires of its residents during a five year period covering the years 2015 through 2019, and

WHEREAS, the Charter Township of Oakland Parks and Recreation Commission began the process of developing a community recreation and natural resource conservation plan in accordance with the most recent guidelines developed by the Department of Natural Resources and made available to local communities, and

WHEREAS, residents of the Charter Township of Oakland were provided with well-advertised opportunities during the development of the draft plan to express opinions, ask questions and discuss all aspects of the recreation and natural resource conservation plan, through a variety of methods and events including focus groups held in September 2014; a community opinion survey conducted by D.P. Bostwick Associates in October 2014; a master plan website made available in December 2014, the review of draft master plan chapters at four December 2014 and January 2015 Parks and Recreation Commission meetings, a 30-day public review period starting January 19, 2015 and a community master plan open house held January 29, 2015; and

WHEREAS, public hearings were held on February 5, 2015 and February 18, 2015 at Parks and Recreation Commission meetings to provide an opportunity for all residents of the planning area to express additional opinions, ask additional questions, and discuss all aspects of the Charter Township of Oakland 2015 – 2019 Master Plan for Parks, Recreation, and Land Preservation, and

WHEREAS, the Charter Township of Oakland Parks and Recreation Commission has developed the plan as a guideline for improving recreation and enhancing natural resource conservation for the Charter Township of Oakland, and

WHEREAS, after the public hearings, the Charter Township of Oakland Parks and Recreation Commission voted to recommend adoption of said Charter Township of Oakland 2015 – 2019 Parks, Recreation, and Land Preservation Master Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Charter Township of Oakland Board of Trustees hereby adopts the Charter Township of Oakland 2015 – 2019 Parks, Recreation, and Land Preservation Master Plan as a guideline for improving parks and recreation for the residents of the Charter Township of Oakland.

**Ayes:** Giannangeli, Reilly, Langlois, Bailey, Buxar

**Nays:** Gonser

**Absent:** Thalmann

I, Karen Reilly, Charter Township of Oakland Clerk, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and original copy of a resolution offered and adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Oakland at a Regular meeting held on February 24, 2015 at 7:00 pm in the Oakland Township Hall, 4393 Collins Road, Rochester, Michigan 48306, with a quorum present.



Dated: February 25, 2015

Karen Reilly, Charter Township of Oakland Clerk

# Charter Township of Oakland Parks and Recreation Commission

February 26, 2015

Mr. Ed Hug, Review Coordinator  
Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG)  
1001 Woodward Avenue, Suite 1400  
Detroit, MI 48226-1904

**Subject: 2015-2019 Oakland Charter Township  
Parks, Recreation, and Land Preservation Master Plan**

Dear Mr. Hug:

Enclosed is a copy of the **Oakland Charter Township 2015 - 2019 Parks, Recreation, and Land Preservation Master Plan**. We have submitted this plan to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for certification and the Oakland County Division of Planning to ensure cooperation and coordination of recreation planning efforts.

This plan was recommended for adoption by the Oakland Charter Township Parks and Recreation Commission on February 18, 2015 and formally adopted by the Oakland Charter Township Board of Trustees on February 24, 2015.

If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (248) 651-7810.

Respectfully submitted,



*Melinda Milos-Dale*

Melinda Milos-Dale, Director, Oakland Township Parks and Recreation

Enclosure

Mailing: 4393 Collins Road, Rochester, Michigan 48306-1670  
Office: 4480 Orion Road, Rochester, Michigan 48306-1670  
Telephone: (248) 651-7810 Fax: (248) 601-0106  
[www.oaklandtownship.org](http://www.oaklandtownship.org)

# Charter Township of Oakland Parks and Recreation Commission

February 26, 2015

Ms. Charlotte Burckhardt, AICP, PCP  
Oakland County Planning  
2100 Pontiac Lake Road, Building 41 W  
Waterford, MI 48328

**Subject: 2015-2019 Oakland Charter Township  
Parks, Recreation, and Land Preservation Master Plan**

Dear Ms. Burckhardt:

Enclosed is a copy of the **Oakland Charter Township 2015 - 2019 Parks, Recreation, and Land Preservation Master Plan**. We have submitted this plan to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for certification and the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments to ensure cooperation and coordination of recreation planning efforts.

This plan was recommended for adoption by the Oakland Charter Township Parks and Recreation Commission on February 18, 2015 and formally adopted by the Oakland Charter Township Board of Trustees on February 24, 2015.

If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (248) 651-7810.

Respectfully submitted,



*Melinda Milos-Dale*

Melinda Milos-Dale, Director, Oakland Township Parks and Recreation

Enclosure

Mailing: 4393 Collins Road, Rochester, Michigan 48306-1670  
Office: 4480 Orion Road, Rochester, Michigan 48306-1670  
Telephone: (248) 651-7810 Fax: (248) 601-0106  
[www.oaklandtownship.org](http://www.oaklandtownship.org)

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## Appendix I

# Environmental and Natural Features Documents

Numerous documents have been written regarding Oakland Township's natural features. The documents can help to guide facility management decisions, including acquisition, maintenance, and property usage. The following titles are a sample of scientific articles that directly reference the Oakland Township region:

- A Limnological and Fisheries Survey of Cranberry Lake with Recommendations and a Management Plan, David J. Jude, Ph.D., 28 September 2010.
- Park Management Overview and Prioritization Among Parks and Natural Plant Communities. David Mindell & Matt Demmon, Plantwise LLC, May 2010.
- 2008 Oakland Township Deer Survey, Matt Vance, Natural Areas Stewardship Manager, Oakland Township Parks and Recreation. January 23, 2008.
- 2014 Aerial Deer Survey, Oakland County Parks, January 23, 2014.
- 2015 Aerial Deer Survey, Oakland County Parks, January 15, 2015.
- Paint Creek Heritage Area Fen – Floristic Quality Assessment, August 2014. Benjamin VanderWeide, Oakland Township Parks and Recreation.
- Gallagher Creek Park – Floristic Quality Assessment, August 2014. Benjamin VanderWeide, Oakland Township Parks and Recreation.
- O'Connor Nature Park – Floristic Quality Assessment, August 2014. Benjamin VanderWeide, Oakland Township Parks and Recreation.
- Oakland Township Parks: Rapid Site Assessment and Initial Management Recommendations, 2009, *David Mindell*
- Amphibian and Reptile Surveys of Bear Creek Nature Park, Cranberry Lake Park and Marsh View Park in Oakland Township, Michigan, 2008, *Matthew W.H. Chatfield*
- Bear Creek Nature Park Management Plan, 2008, *Six Rivers Regional Land Conservancy*
- Macro-moths of the Paint Creek Heritage Area Wet Prairie, 2008, *Dwayne R. Badgero*
- Sedimentation in Paint Creek, 2008, *Mike Losey*
- Soil Surveys of Bear Creek Nature Park and Paint Creek Heritage Area – Wet Prairie. University of Michigan NRE 501 Students. 2007
- The Insects of Oakland Township Parks: An Entomological Survey, 2008, *Vincent Belill*
- Paint Creek Heritage Area - Floristic Quality Assessment July 2006, *Weatherbee's Botanical Survey and Klatt Environmental Associates, LLC*
- Oakland Township Herpetological Survey Report August 2005, *Herpetological Resource and Management*
- Stony Creek Corridor Park Acquisition - Ecological Assessment August 2005, *Weatherbee's Botanical Survey*
- 2004 Natural Features Assessment Map, *Tilton & Associates*
- 2004 Critical Habitat Areas, *Williams & Works*
- 2004 Greenways Vision, *Tilton & Associates* and *Williams & Works*
- Oakland County Potential Conservation/Natural Areas Report 2002

- Recreation Visioning and Preliminary Site Development Plan - Ecological Assessment May 2000 and March 2002 Addendum, *Weatherbee's Botanical Survey*
- Lost Lake Park - Ecological Assessment July 2001, *Weatherbee's Botanical Survey*
- Ecological Restoration Plan - Nicholson Prairie - 1.2 Acre Site, Section 33 of Oakland Township - Paint Creek Trailways Commission, 2001, *Applied Science and Technology, Inc.*
- An Update of Critical Natural Areas in Oakland Township, 1997, *Paul Thompson*
- Blue Heron Environmental Area Preservation Plan 1994
- Blue Heron Environmental Area Natural Inventory Report 1978
- Natural History Survey Bear Creek Nature Park 1976
- Oakland Township Ecological Survey 1974, *Paul Thompson*

# Appendix J

## Post-Completion Self-Certification Reports



**Recreation Grant History**

**Applicant**

**Oakland Charter Township**

**Project No. TF95-217**

**Project Year: 1995**

**Project Title:** Oakland Township Park Acquisition

**Project Status:** Withdrawn

**Grant Amount: \$1,107,000.00**

**Project Description:** Acquisition of 2 parcels totaling 121-acre acres for dual use as township park and pedestrian link between the Paint Creek Trail and Bald Mountain State Recreation Area.

**Project No. TF99-128**

**Project Year: 1999**

**Project Title:** Oakland Township Park Acquisition

**Project Status:** Closed

**Grant Amount: \$2,010,101.00**

**Project Description:** Acquisition in fee simple of about 90 acres for use as a Township Park for active and passive recreation and pedestrian link between the Paint Creek Trail and Bald Mountain Recreation Area.

**Project No. TF00-311**

**Project Year: 2000**

**Project Title:** Bear Creek Park Development

**Project Status:** Partial Request

**Grant Amount: \$313,302.00**

Element

Element

Demolition

Parking/Drive

Earthwork

Signage

Path Surfacing

Landscaping

Interpretive Node

Restroom Screen, Benches, Fence

Picnic/Playground

Boardwalks

**Project Description:** Development of Bear Creek Park to provide nature interpretation and observation via trails, boardwalks, observation decks and interpretive signage, as well as a picnic pavilion, playground and parking lot.

**Project No. TF02-013**

**Project Year: 2002**

**Project Title:** Oakland Township Lost Lake Park Acquisition

**Project Status:** Closed

**Grant Amount: \$1,762,800.00**

**Project Description:** Acquisition in fee simple of approximately 32 acres, including an entire lake, geological formation, wetland areas and structure for nature center, to be used for passive recreation and environmental education.



Recreation Grant History

**Applicant**

**Oakland Charter Township**

**Project No. TF05-102**

**Project Year: 2005**

**Project Title:** Stony Creek Corridor Park Acquisition

**Project Status:** Closed

**Grant Amount: \$893,700.00**

**Project Description:** Acquisition in fee simple of 60.56 acres of forested land with 2,000 linear feet of frontage on the west branch of Stony Creek for passive recreation and to provide a regional trail link.

**Project No. TF07-057**

**Project Year: 2007**

**Project Title:** Marsh View Park Development

**Project Status:** Closed

**Grant Amount: \$293,300.00**

**Element**

---

Overall Site Preparation  
Multi-Use Sports Field  
Archery Range  
Basketball Court  
Observation Deck  
Parking Lot

**Element**

---

Path  
Interpretive Signage  
Utilities  
Landscaping  
Storage Building

**Project Description:** Development of Marsh View Park to provide active and passive recreation via trails, wetland observation deck, interpretive signage, archery range, sports fields, and basketball court.

**Project No. TF10-069**

**Project Year: 2010**

**Project Title:** Lost Lake Nature Park Development

**Project Status:** Closed

**Grant Amount: \$154,900.00**

**Element**

---

Nature center renovation  
ADA-accessible canoe/kayak launch  
Bioswale and lakeshore native plantings  
Site preparation and restoration  
Gravel entrance drive and parking lot  
10' wide asphalt walkways

**Element**

---

Permit fees  
MNRTF sign  
Interpretive signage

**Project Description:** Development to include renovation of existing residence for nature center use, fishing dock , non-motorized boating, nature observation/education, accessibility improvements to parking lot, pedestrian routes, interpretive signage, and storm water buffers.



**Recreation Grant History**

---

**Applicant**

**Oakland Charter Township**

**Project No. TF11-107**

**Project Year: 2011**

**Project Title:** Paint Creek Trail/Polly Ann Trail South Connector Development

**Project Status:** Withdrawn

**Grant Amount: \$300,000.00**

<u>Element</u>	<u>Element</u>
Site preparation and restoration	Retaining walls
Asphalt trail	MNRTF Sign
Boardwalks	Permit Fees
Pedestrian bridges	
Fishing access ramp and platform	
Directional and interpretive signs	

**Project Description:** Development to include paved trail, boardwalks, pedestrian bridges, interpretive/directional signage and fishing access.

---



PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT

This information required under authority of Part 19, PA 451 of 1994, as amended;
the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, 78 Stat. 897 (1964); and Part 715, of PA 451 of 1994, as amended.

GRANT TYPE: [X] MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND [ ] CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE
(Please select one) [ ] LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND [ ] RECREATION PASSPORT [ ] BOND FUND

GRANTEE: Oakland Charter Township

PROJECT NUMBER: TF99-128

PROJECT TYPE: Acquisition

PROJECT TITLE: Oakland Township Park Acquisition

PROJECT SCOPE: Acquisition of 90-acre park for active and passive recreation.

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Table with 3 columns: Name of Agency (Grantee), Contact Person, Title, Address, Telephone, City, State, ZIP, Email. Row 1: Oakland Twp. Parks and Recreation Commission, Melinda Milos-Dale, Director, 4393 Collins Road, 248-651-7810, Rochester, MI, 48306, mmdale@oaklandtownship.org

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided? [X]Yes [X]No
If yes, please describe change(s).

Since we implemented TF-07-057 for development of recreation facilities at this park we
have added a temporary ice skating rink.

Please refer to the attached boundary map. Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use
other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include
cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.) [ ]Yes [X]No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. [ ]Yes [X]No

Is the site and all facilities accessible to persons with disabilities? If no, please explain. [X]Yes [ ]No

List all additional existing development/facilities at the referenced project site. If the site is undeveloped, please describe
the present use and provide a schedule for future development, including a list of proposed facilities.

**POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT (CONT'D)**

<b>SITE QUALITY</b>	
Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area? If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there any features near the site which would detract from the use and enjoyment of the site or would pose a health or safety problem? If yes, please explain.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain. <u>Daily maintenance of athletic fields and ice rink. Weekly maintenance of other facilities.</u> <u>Parking lot plowed in winter. 4-season natural areas stewardship.</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>GENERAL</b>	
Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure. <u>Fee is charged for use of two athletic fields.</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site? <u>Daylight hours in four seasons.</u>	

POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT (CONT'D)

COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)

Empty space for comments.

CERTIFICATION

*I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.*

Melinda Milos-Dale  
Please print

*Melinda Milos-Dale* 2/20/15  
Grantee Authorized Signature Date

Deb Gallo  
Please print

*Deb Gallo* 2/20/15  
Witness Signature Date

Send completed report to: POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS  
GRANTS MANAGEMENT  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
PO BOX 30425  
LANSING MI 48909-7925



# 2014 Oakland Township Parks & Recreation Schedule of Fees

For ALL field reservations please call (248) 651-7810 or Fax 248-601- 0106  
e-mail: [bmclogan@oaklandtownship.org](mailto:bmclogan@oaklandtownship.org)

SOCCER FIELDS FEES						
All fees are <i>per game, per field.</i>  <i>* = no practice allowed !</i>			Youth <i>High School or under age 19</i>		Adult	
			Resident	Non-Resident	Resident	Non-Resident
Field A (U13+) Regulation 73 x 110 yd	11 v 11	*	55	70	90	120
Field A (U11 & U12) 50 x 73yd	8 v 8	*	55	70	90	120
Field B (U7 & U8) 30 x 50 yd	5 v 5	*	30	50	NA	NA
Field B (U6/U5/U4) 20 x 25 yd	4 v 4	*	30	50	NA	NA
Field D (U13+) Regulation or (U11 & U12) 63 x 110 yd	11 v 11	*	55	70	90	120
Field D (U9 & U10) 45 x 60yd	6 v 6	*	40	60	NA	NA

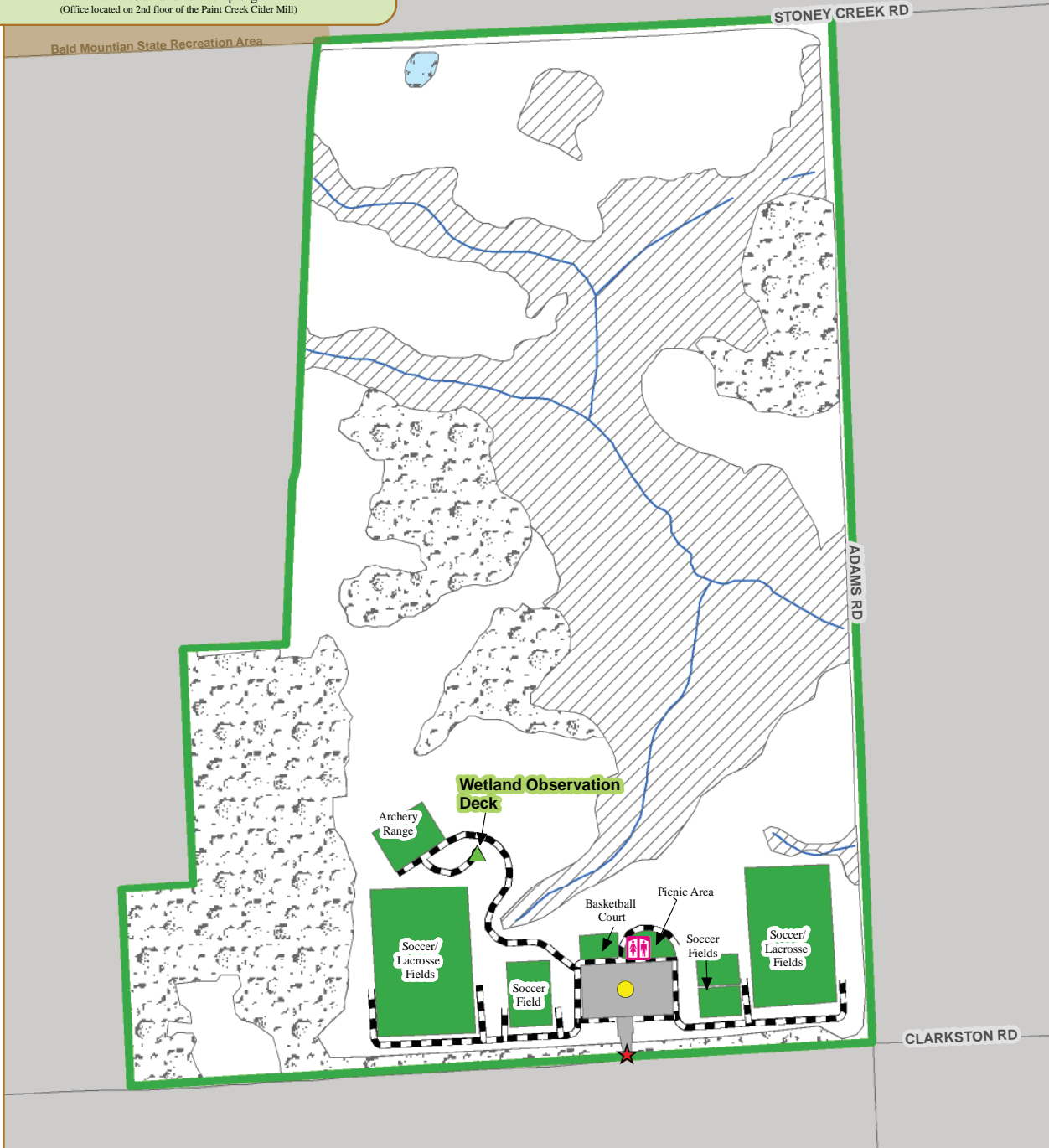
ADDITIONAL FEES AND SERVICES per OTP&R Field Use Policy		
\$15 Application Fee	\$10 Cancellation or Schedule Change Fee	\$200 Security/Damage Deposit





# Charter Township of Oakland Parks and Recreation

4393 Collins Road  
Rochester, MI 48306  
Phone: 248.651.7810  
www.OaklandTownship.org  
(Office located on 2nd floor of the Paint Creek Cider Mill)



**MARSH VIEW PARK - 96 Acres**

### Park Facilities

- ★ Vehicular Entrance
- Parking
- ▲ Dock/Deck/Launch
- ♿ Portable Toilet

### Trails & Walkways

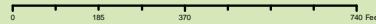
- 8' Wide Asphalt (Universally Accessible)
- ~ Roads

### Ecosystem Types

- Open Area
- ▨ Wetlands
- ▩ Woodlands
- ~ Rivers & Streams
- Lakes & Ponds

### Boundaries

- Oakland Township Park
- Play Field
- Other Recreation Area





PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT

This information required under authority of Part 19, PA 451 of 1994, as amended;
the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, 78 Stat. 897 (1964); and Part 715, of PA 451 of 1994, as amended.

GRANT TYPE: [X] MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND [ ] CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE
[ ] LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND [ ] RECREATION PASSPORT [ ] BOND FUND

GRANTEE: Oakland Charter Township

PROJECT NUMBER: TF00-311

PROJECT TYPE: Development

PROJECT TITLE: Bear Creek Park Development

Trails, boardwalks/decks, pavilion, playground, parking lot, storage.

PROJECT SCOPE:

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Table with 3 columns: Name of Agency (Grantee), Contact Person, Title, Address, Telephone, City, State, ZIP, Email. Row 1: Oakland Twp. Parks and Recreation Commission, Melinda Milos-Dale, Director, 4393 Collins Road, 248-651-7810, Rochester, MI, 48306, mmdale@oaklandtownship.org

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided? If yes, please describe change(s). [ ] Yes [X] No

Please refer to the attached boundary map. Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.) [ ] Yes [X] No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. [ ] Yes [X] No

Is the site and all facilities accessible to persons with disabilities? If no, please explain. [ ] Yes [X] No

Accessibility assessment = level 3. Most facilities are in southern half of park and accessible.

List all additional existing development/facilities at the referenced project site. If the site is undeveloped, please describe the present use and provide a schedule for future development, including a list of proposed facilities.

Not applicable.

**POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT (CONT'D)**

SITE QUALITY	
<p>Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area? If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain.</p> <p>_____</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<p>Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain.</p> <p>_____</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<p>Are there any features near the site which would detract from the use and enjoyment of the site or would pose a health or safety problem? If yes, please explain.</p> <p>_____</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<p>Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism.</p> <p>_____</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<p>Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain.</p> <p><u>4-season natural area stewardship. Weekly trail, pavilion, and playground inspection and maintenance in warm season. Snow plow parking lot in winter.</u></p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
GENERAL	
<p>Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants)</p> <p>_____</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
<p>Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain.</p> <p>_____</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<p>Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure.</p> <p><u>Fee is charged for exclusive rental of pavilion on weekends.</u></p> <p>_____</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<p>What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?</p> <p><u>Daylight hours in four seasons.</u></p> <p>_____</p>	

**POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT (CONT'D)**

**COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)**

Empty space for comments.

**CERTIFICATION**

*I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.*

Melinda Milos-Dale Please print	 Grantee Authorized Signature	2/20/15 Date
Deb Gallo Please print	 Witness Signature	2/20/15 Date

Send completed report to: **POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS  
GRANTS MANAGEMENT  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
PO BOX 30425  
LANSING MI 48909-7925**

**Charter Township of Oakland**  
Parks & Recreation Commission  
4393 Collins Road  
Rochester, MI 48306  
Phone 248-651-7810 Fax 248-601-0106  
[www.oaklandtownship.org](http://www.oaklandtownship.org)

Bear Creek Nature Park Picnic Pavilion Reservation Policy  
(10/05/07)

**Pavilion and Support Facility Information**

	Pavilion size:	24' x 36'
Number of Tables:	Six 6-foot tables and two 7-foot tables (2 wheelchair accessible)	
Maximum User Capacity:	50	
Maximum Vehicle Capacity for Adjacent Parking Lot:	25 Vehicles	
Toilet Availability:	One unisex handicap-accessible portable toilet	
Water Availability:	None	
Electricity Availability:	None	
Grill Availability:	1 stand-alone grill	
Reservation hours:	8 am - dusk	
Non-refundable Reservation Fee per event:	\$25.00	
Refundable Deposit per event:	\$25.00	

**Procedure for Reserving Park Pavilion**

1. After January 1<sup>st</sup> of the same year for which an application is being submitted, park users may submit an application for a permit to reserve the Bear Creek Nature Park Picnic Pavilion. The pavilion can be reserved Monday through Sunday, excluding holidays and is only available one day on weekends. If a weekend day is already reserved, the other day cannot be reserved.
  - a. Applications must be accompanied with \$50.00 cash or check. No phone reservations or credit cards are accepted.
  - b. Applications will not be accepted less than one month prior to the usage date. If the usage requires the written authorization of the Parks and Recreation Commission the applicant must leave adequate time for their approval at a regularly scheduled Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, which occur on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month.
2. The pavilion shall be considered "reserved" upon the payment of the prescribed fee and deposit and the issuance of a Park Facilities Permit, to be provided by the Parks and Recreation Department where applicable. At this time the user can also obtain trash bags from the Parks and Recreation Department for use at the event.

*Keep pages 3-5 for your records.*

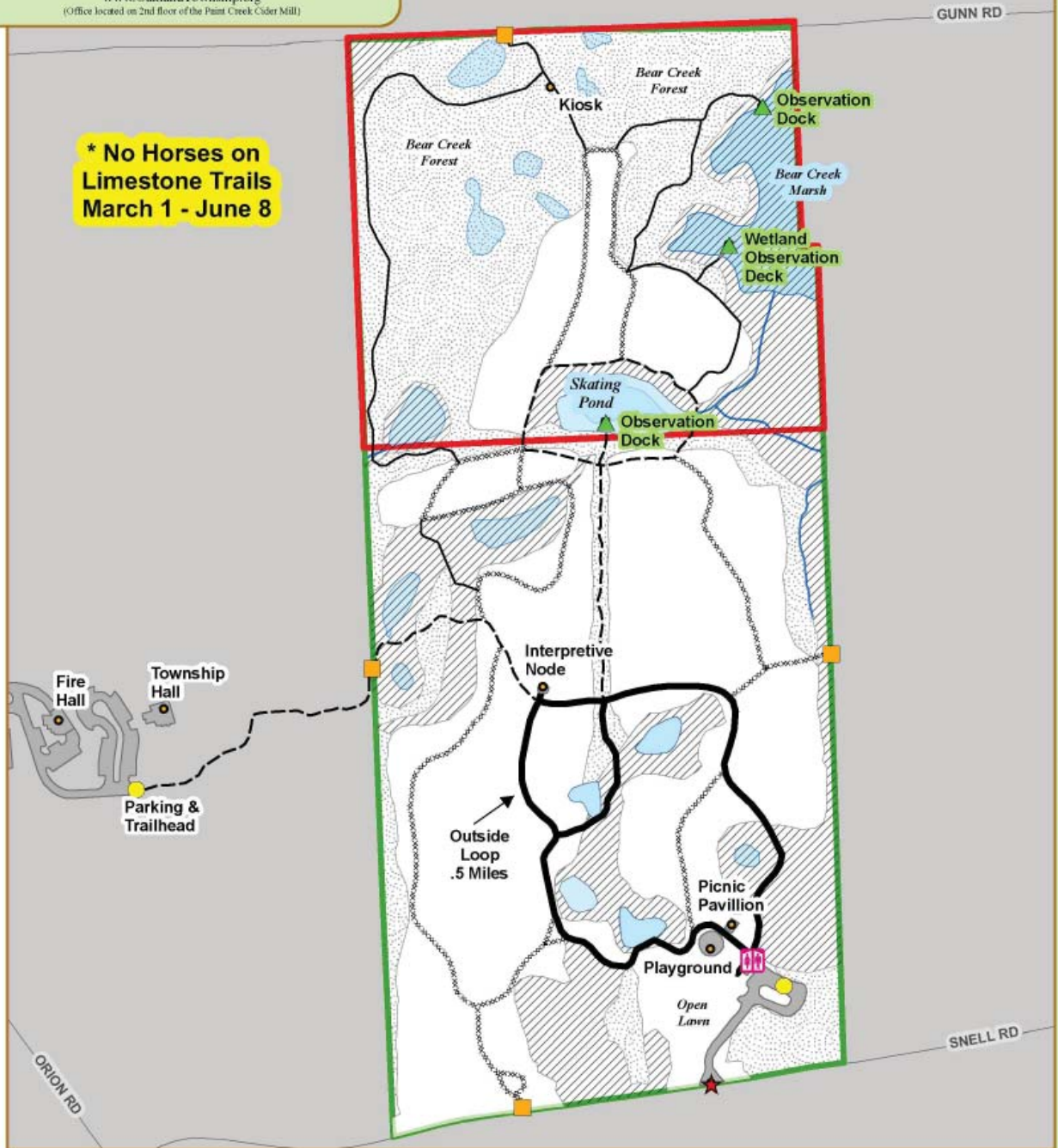




# Charter Township of Oakland Parks and Recreation

4393 Collins Road  
Rochester, MI 48306  
Phone: 248.651.7810  
www.OaklandTownship.org  
(Office located on 2nd floor of the Paint Creek Cider Mill)

**\* No Horses on  
Limestone Trails  
March 1 - June 8**



**BEAR CREEK NATURE PARK - 107 Acres**

### Park Facilities

- ★ Vehicular Entrance
- Pedestrian Entrance
- Parking
- ▲ Dock/Deck/Launch
- ♻️ Portable Toilet

### Trails & Walkways

- xxxxx Mowed Grass
- 3' Wide Woodchip/Dirt Trail
- - - 5' Wide Limestone Trail
- 8' Wide Limestone Tail (ADA Accessible)
- ↔ Roads

### Ecosystem Types

- Open Area
- ▨ Wetlands
- ▨ Woodlands
- Lakes & Ponds
- ~ Rivers & Streams

### Boundaries

- ▭ Oakland Township Park
- ▭ Conservation Easement

N





PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT

This information required under authority of Part 19, PA 451 of 1994, as amended;
the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, 78 Stat. 897 (1964); and Part 715, of PA 451 of 1994, as amended.

GRANT TYPE: [X] MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND [ ] CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE
[ ] LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND [ ] RECREATION PASSPORT [ ] BOND FUND

GRANTEE: Oakland Charter Township

PROJECT NUMBER: TF02-013

PROJECT TYPE: Acquisition

PROJECT TITLE: Oakland Township Lost Lake Park Acquisition

PROJECT SCOPE: Acquisition of 32-acre park including structure for nature center.

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Table with 3 columns: Name of Agency (Grantee), Contact Person, Title, Address, Telephone, City, State, ZIP, Email. Row 1: Oakland Twp. Parks and Recreation Commission, Melinda Milos-Dale, Director, 4393 Collins Road, 248-651-7810, Rochester, MI, 48306, mmdale@oaklandtownship.org

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided? If yes, please describe change(s). [ ] Yes [X] No

Since we implemented TF-10-069 for development of recreation facilities at this park we have not added or changed facilities, layout or activities offered.

Please refer to the attached boundary map. Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.) [ ] Yes [X] No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. [ ] Yes [X] No

Is the site and all facilities accessible to persons with disabilities? If no, please explain. [X] Yes [ ] No

List all additional existing development/facilities at the referenced project site. If the site is undeveloped, please describe the present use and provide a schedule for future development, including a list of proposed facilities.

**POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT (CONT'D)**

SITE QUALITY	
Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area? If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<hr/>	
Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<hr/>	
Are there any features near the site which would detract from the use and enjoyment of the site or would pose a health or safety problem? If yes, please explain.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<hr/>	
Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<hr/>	
Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<u>Daily inspection/maintenance of sled hill in winter. 4-season natural area stewardship.</u> <u>Weekly facility maintenance in warm season. Snow plow parking lot in winter.</u>	
GENERAL	
Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<hr/>	
Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<u>Fee is charged for exclusive rental of warming shelter and sled hill during evenings</u> <u>after hill is closed to public.</u>	
What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?	
<u>Daylight hours in four seasons and Friday/Saturday evenings for sled hill.</u>	

**POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT (CONT'D)**

**COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)**

Empty space for comments.

**CERTIFICATION**

*I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.*

Melinda Milos-Dale  
Please print

*Melinda Milos-Dale*  
Grantee Authorized Signature

2/20/15  
Date

Deb Gallo  
Please print

*Deb Gallo*  
Witness Signature

2/20/15  
Date

Send completed report to: **POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS  
GRANTS MANAGEMENT  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
PO BOX 30425  
LANSING MI 48909-7925**

Charter Township of Oakland

Return To: **Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC), 4393 Collins Road, Rochester, MI 48306**

Application for Temporary Permit Lost Lake Nature Park

Phone 248-651-7810 Fax 248-601-0106

[www.oaklandtownship.org](http://www.oaklandtownship.org)

Lost Lake Nature Park Sled Hill & Warming Shelter Reservation Policy  
(Adopted 11/14/12)

**Facility Information**

Warming Shelter and Sled Hill facility information size: 24' x 24'  
Number of Tables Inside Shelter: Five 8-foot tables  
Number of Tables Outside Shelter: Two picnic tables  
Maximum User Capacity: 40  
Maximum Vehicle Capacity for Adjacent Parking Lot: 30 Vehicles  
Toilet Availability: One unisex handicap-accessible outdoor portable toilet  
Water Availability: Single User Handwash Station 16 gallon  
Electricity Availability: 10 outlets inside shelter  
Grill Availability: None. No outside grills allowed.  
Reservation hours: 6pm-10pm, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday only  
Non-refundable Reservation Fee per event: \$300.00  
Refundable Deposit per event: \$75.00

**Procedure for Reserving Warming Shelter and Sled Hill**

1. After April 1<sup>st</sup>, park users may submit an application for a permit to reserve the Lost Lake Nature Park Warming Shelter for the upcoming winter season. The shelter can be reserved Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday, excluding holidays and is only available from 6pm-10pm on those days.
  - a. Applications must be accompanied with \$375.00 cash or check. No phone reservations or credit cards are accepted.
  - b. Applications will not be accepted less than two weeks prior to the usage date. If the usage requires the written authorization of the Parks and Recreation Commission, the applicant must apply at least one month prior to the usage date to allow enough time for their approval to be heard at a regularly scheduled Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, which occur on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month.
2. The warming shelter shall be considered "reserved" upon the payment of the prescribed fee and deposit and the issuance of a Park Facilities Permit, to be provided by the Parks and Recreation Department where applicable.

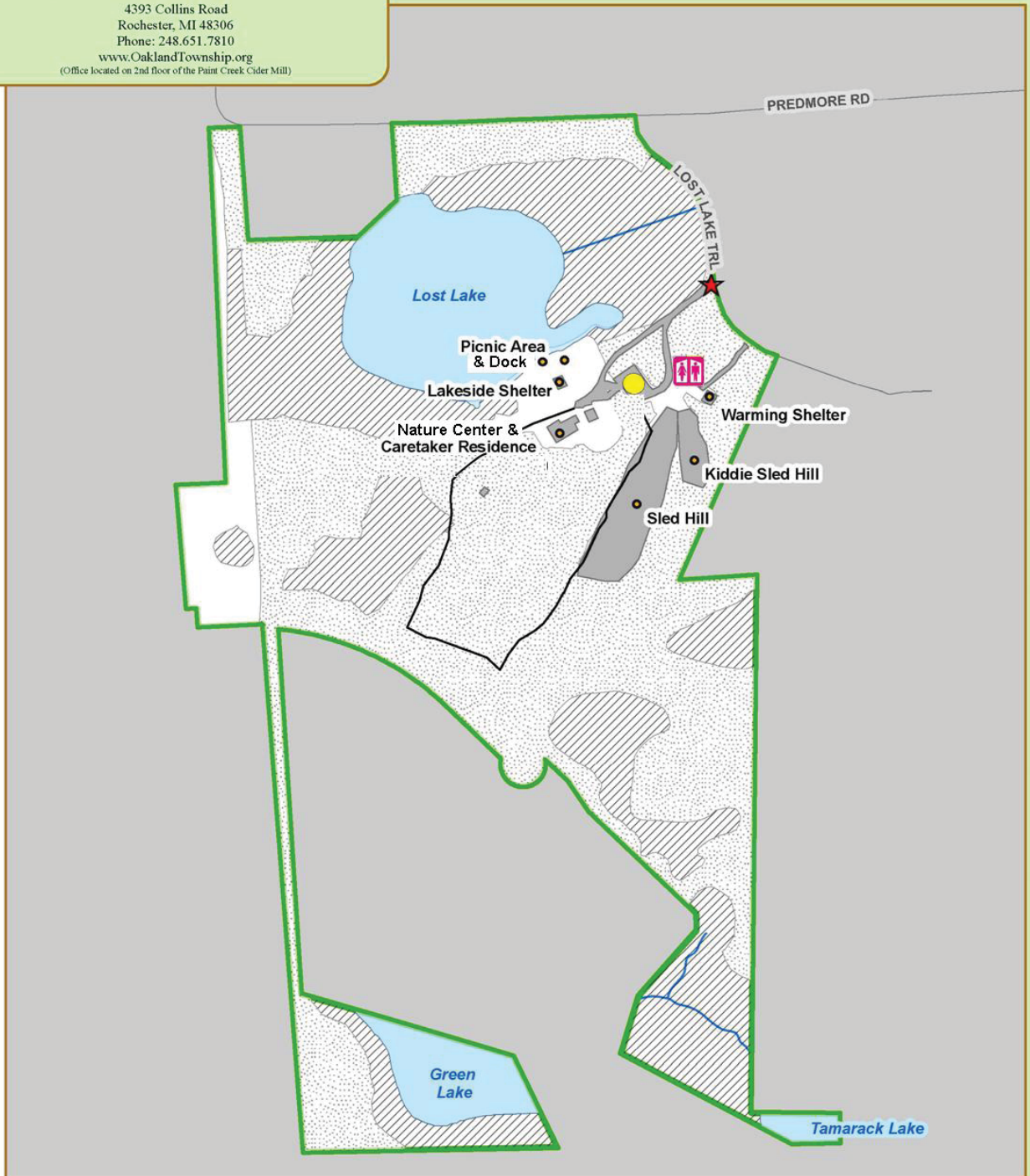
**Rules Governing Lost Lake Nature Park Warming Shelter and Sled Hill Usage**

1. Events can only be scheduled between 6pm and 10pm on specified weekdays, renter **must** arrive 30 minutes prior to event.
2. Vehicles can only be used in authorized areas, such as the driveway or parking lot.
3. Application/Permit must be retained at all times by user group and reserved sign displayed on the door of the warming shelter while the event is occurring.
4. The Permit is only valid for the date shown.
5. Renter and all members of their party must obey **Rules & Regulations for Designated Winter Sledding Areas in Oakland Township Parks** that have been adopted by resolution as additional rules and regulations and incorporated into the Charter Township of Oakland Ordinance Number 38A-1, Article V, Other Rules and Regulations.
6. The group is responsible for leaving the areas clean and orderly.
7. **No alcoholic beverages are allowed in any Oakland Township Park per Ordinance 38A-1.**



# Charter Township of Oakland Parks and Recreation

4393 Collins Road  
Rochester, MI 48306  
Phone: 248.651.7810  
www.OaklandTownship.org  
(Office located on 2nd floor of the Paint Creek Cider Mill)



LOST LAKE NATURE PARK - 58 Acres

### Park Facilities

- Vehicular Entrance
- Parking
- Portable Toilet

### Trails & Walkways

- 3' Wide Woodchip/Dirt Trail
- Roads

### Ecosystem Types

- Open Area
- Wetlands
- Woodlands
- Lakes & Ponds
- Rivers & Streams

### Boundaries

- Oakland Township Park





PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT

This information required under authority of Part 19, PA 451 of 1994, as amended;
the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, 78 Stat. 897 (1964); and Part 715, of PA 451 of 1994, as amended.

GRANT TYPE: [X] MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND [ ] CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE
[ ] LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND [ ] RECREATION PASSPORT [ ] BOND FUND

GRANTEE: Oakland Charter Township

PROJECT NUMBER: TF05-102

PROJECT TYPE: Acquisition

PROJECT TITLE: Stony Creek Corridor Park Acquisition

PROJECT SCOPE: Acquisition of 60-acre park including west branch of Stony Creek.

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Table with 3 columns: Name of Agency (Grantee), Contact Person, Title, Address, Telephone, City, State, ZIP, Email. Row 1: Oakland Twp. Parks and Recreation Commission, Melinda Milos-Dale, Director, 4393 Collins Road, 248-651-7810, Rochester, MI, 48306, mmdale@oaklandtownship.org

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided? If yes, please describe change(s). [ ] Yes [X] No

Please refer to the attached boundary map. Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.) [ ] Yes [X] No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. [ ] Yes [X] No

Is the site and all facilities accessible to persons with disabilities? If no, please explain. [ ] Yes [X] No
The site has only been minimally developed and contains a packed dirt tail system.

List all additional existing development/facilities at the referenced project site. If the site is undeveloped, please describe the present use and provide a schedule for future development, including a list of proposed facilities.

The site is basically undeveloped at this time. We are trying to acquire additional property along the southern boundary for appropriate development of an entry road, parking lot and trailhead. Improvements to the trail system would be accomplished concurrently with the entry and support facility improvements.

**POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT (CONT'D)**

SITE QUALITY	
Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area? If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<hr/>	
Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<hr/>	
Are there any features near the site which would detract from the use and enjoyment of the site or would pose a health or safety problem? If yes, please explain.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<hr/>	
Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<hr/>	
Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain. <u>Routine inspection/maintenance of trails. 4-season natural area stewardship.</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<hr/>	
GENERAL	
Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<hr/>	
Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<hr/>	
What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site? <u>Daylight hours in four seasons.</u>	
<hr/>	


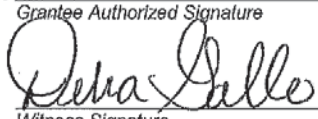
**POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT (CONT'D)**

**COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)**

Empty space for comments.

**CERTIFICATION**

*I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.*

Melinda Milos-Dale Please print	 Grantee Authorized Signature	2/20/15 Date
Deb Gallo Please print	 Witness Signature	2/20/15 Date

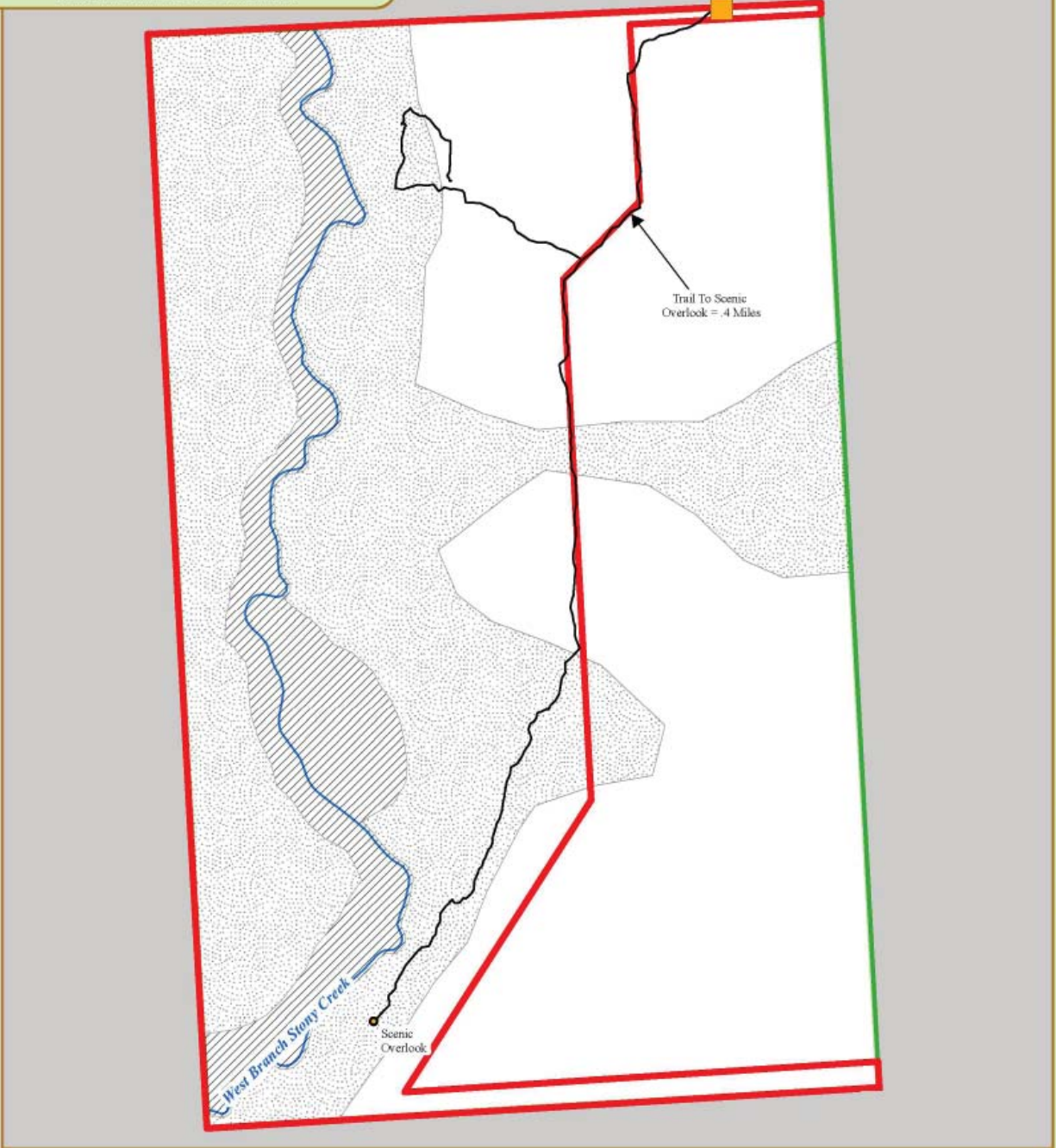
Send completed report to: **POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS  
GRANTS MANAGEMENT  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
PO BOX 30425  
LANSING MI 48909-7925**



# Charter Township of Oakland Parks and Recreation

4393 Collins Road  
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Phone: 248.651.7810  
www.OaklandTownship.org  
(Office located on 2nd floor of the Paint Creek Cider Mill)

## STONY CREEK RAVINE NATURE PARK - 60 Acres



### Park Facilities

Pedestrian Entrance

### Trails & Walkways

3' Wide Woodchip/Dirt Trail  
 Roads

### Ecosystem Types

Open Area  
 Wetlands  
 Woodlands  
 Lakes & Ponds  
 Rivers & Streams

### Boundaries

Oakland Township Park  
 Conservation Easement





PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT

This information required under authority of Part 19, PA 451 of 1994, as amended;
the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, 78 Stat. 897 (1964); and Part 715, of PA 451 of 1994, as amended.

GRANT TYPE: [X] MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND [ ] CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE
(Please select one) [ ] LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND [ ] RECREATION PASSPORT [ ] BOND FUND

GRANTEE: Oakland Charter Township

PROJECT NUMBER: TF07-057

PROJECT TYPE: Development

PROJECT TITLE: Marsh View Park Development

PROJECT SCOPE: Trails/deck, sports fields, basketball court, archery range, parking.

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Table with 3 columns: Name of Agency (Grantee), Contact Person, Title, Address, Telephone, City, State, ZIP, Email. Row 1: Oakland Twp. Parks and Recreation Commission, Melinda Milos-Dale, Director, 4393 Collins Road, 248-651-7810, Rochester, MI, 48306, mmdale@oaklandtownship.org

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided? If yes, please describe change(s). [X]Yes [ ]No

Since we implemented TF-07-057 for development of recreation facilities at this park we have added a temporary ice skating rink.

Please refer to the attached boundary map. Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.) [ ]Yes [X]No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. [ ]Yes [X]No

Is the site and all facilities accessible to persons with disabilities? If no, please explain. [X]Yes [ ]No

List all additional existing development/facilities at the referenced project site. If the site is undeveloped, please describe the present use and provide a schedule for future development, including a list of proposed facilities.

**POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT (CONT'D)**

SITE QUALITY	
Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area? If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<hr/>	
Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<hr/>	
Are there any features near the site which would detract from the use and enjoyment of the site or would pose a health or safety problem? If yes, please explain.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<hr/>	
Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<hr/>	
Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<u>Daily maintenance of athletic fields and ice rink. Weekly maintenance of other facilities</u> <u>Parking lot plowed in winter. 4-season natural areas stewardship.</u>	
GENERAL	
Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<hr/>	
Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<u>Fee is charged for exclusive use of two athletic fields.</u>	
<hr/>	
What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?	
<u>Daylight hours in four seasons.</u>	

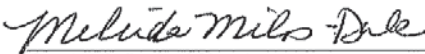
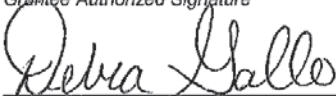
**POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT (CONT'D)**

**COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)**

*(This area is intentionally left blank for comments.)*

**CERTIFICATION**

*I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.*

Melinda Milos-Dale Please print	 Grantee Authorized Signature	2/20/15 Date
Deb Gallo Please print	 Witness Signature	2/20/15 Date

Send completed report to: **POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS  
GRANTS MANAGEMENT  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
PO BOX 30425  
LANSING MI 48909-7925**



# 2014 Oakland Township Parks & Recreation Schedule of Fees

For ALL field reservations please call (248) 651-7810 or Fax 248-601-0106  
e-mail: [bmclogan@oaklandtownship.org](mailto:bmclogan@oaklandtownship.org)

SOCCER FIELDS FEES						
All fees are <b>per game, per field.</b>  * = no practice allowed !			Youth <i>High School or under age 19</i>		Adult	
			Resident	Non-Resident	Resident	Non-Resident
Field A (U13+) Regulation 73 x 110 yd	11 v 11	*	55	70	90	120
Field A (U11 & U12) 50 x 73yd	8 v 8	*	55	70	90	120
Field B (U7 & U8) 30 x 50 yd	5 v 5	*	30	50	NA	NA
Field B (U6/U5/U4) 20 x 25 yd	4 v 4	*	30	50	NA	NA
Field D (U13+) Regulation or (U11 & U12) 63 x 110 yd	11 v 11	*	55	70	90	120
Field D (U9 & U10) 45 x 60yd	6 v 6	*	40	60	NA	NA

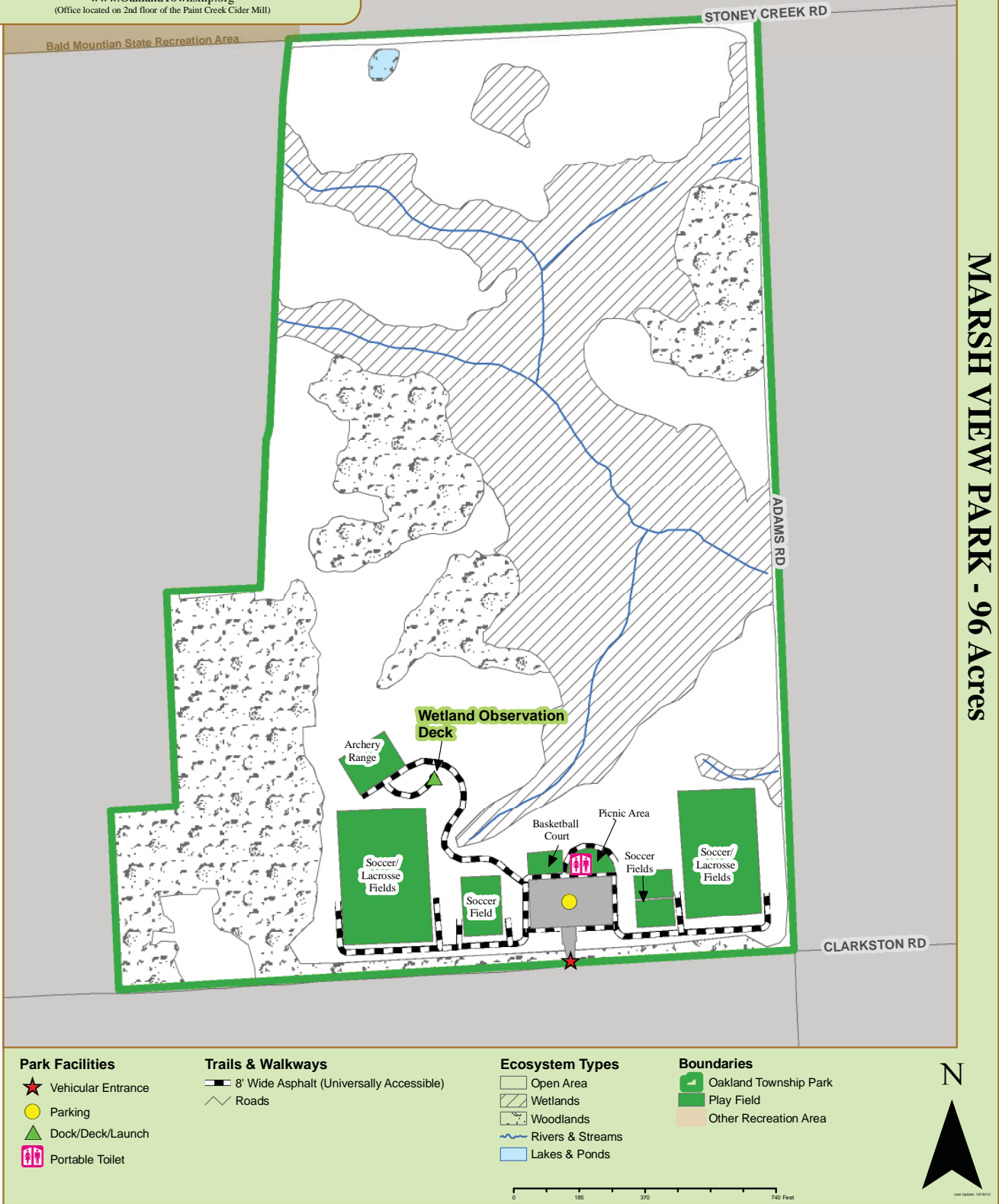
ADDITIONAL FEES AND SERVICES per OTP&R Field Use Policy		
\$15 Application Fee	\$10 Cancellation or Schedule Change Fee	\$200 Security/Damage Deposit





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4393 Collins Road  
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Phone: 248.651.7810  
www.OaklandTownship.org  
(Office located on 2nd floor of the Paint Creek Cider Mill)



MARSH VIEW PARK - 96 Acres



PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT

This information required under authority of Part 19, PA 451 of 1994, as amended;
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GRANT TYPE: [X] MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND [ ] CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE
[ ] LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND [ ] RECREATION PASSPORT [ ] BOND FUND

GRANTEE: Oakland Charter Township

PROJECT NUMBER: TF10-069

PROJECT TYPE: Development

PROJECT TITLE: Lost Lake Park Nature Park Development

PROJECT SCOPE: Nature Center, dock/kayak launch, parking lot, walkways, signage.

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Table with 3 columns: Name of Agency (Grantee), Contact Person, Title, Address, Telephone, City, State, ZIP, Email. Row 1: Oakland Twp. Parks and Recreation Commission, Melinda Milos-Dale, Director, 4393 Collins Road, 248-651-7810, Rochester, MI, 48306, mmdale@oaklandtownship.org

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided? If yes, please describe change(s). [ ] Yes [X] No

When we implemented TF-10-069 for development of recreation facilities at this park we also added outdoor learning stations, a portable restroom enclosure, and drinking water.

Please refer to the attached boundary map. Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.) [ ] Yes [X] No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. [ ] Yes [X] No

Is the site and all facilities accessible to persons with disabilities? If no, please explain. [X] Yes [ ] No

List all additional existing development/facilities at the referenced project site. If the site is undeveloped, please describe the present use and provide a schedule for future development, including a list of proposed facilities.

Concrete pads for 2 outdoor learning station areas to host small classes at tables.

Two hydrants for drinking water, science classes and cleaning purposes.

A centralized portable restroom enclosure on a concrete pad.

**POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT (CONT'D)**

<b>SITE QUALITY</b>	
Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area? If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there any features near the site which would detract from the use and enjoyment of the site or would pose a health or safety problem? If yes, please explain.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<u>Daily inspection/maintenance of sled hill in winter. 4-season natural area stewardship.</u> <u>Weekly facility maintenance in warm season. Snow plow parking lot in winter.</u>	
<b>GENERAL</b>	
Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<u>Fee is charged for exclusive rental of warming shelter and sled hill during evenings after hill is closed to public.</u>	
What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?	
<u>Daylight hours in four seasons and Friday/Saturday evenings for sled hill.</u>	

**POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT (CONT'D)**

**COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)**

Empty space for comments.

**CERTIFICATION**

*I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.*

Melinda Milos-Dale  
Please print

Melinda Milos-Dale  
Grantee Authorized Signature

2/20/15  
Date

Deb Gallo  
Please print

Deb Gallo  
Witness Signature

2/20/15  
Date

**Send completed report to: POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS  
GRANTS MANAGEMENT  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
PO BOX 30425  
LANSING MI 48909-7925**

Charter Township of Oakland

Return To: **Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC), 4393 Collins Road, Rochester, MI 48306**

Application for Temporary Permit Lost Lake Nature Park

Phone 248-651-7810 Fax 248-601-0106

[www.oaklandtownship.org](http://www.oaklandtownship.org)

Lost Lake Nature Park Sled Hill & Warming Shelter Reservation Policy

(Adopted 11/14/12)

**Facility Information**

Warming Shelter and Sled Hill facility information size: 24' x 24'  
Number of Tables Inside Shelter: Five 8-foot tables  
Number of Tables Outside Shelter: Two picnic tables  
Maximum User Capacity: 40  
Maximum Vehicle Capacity for Adjacent Parking Lot: 30 Vehicles  
Toilet Availability: One unisex handicap-accessible outdoor portable toilet  
Water Availability: Single User Handwash Station 16 gallon  
Electricity Availability: 10 outlets inside shelter  
Grill Availability: None. No outside grills allowed.  
Reservation hours: 6pm-10pm, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday only  
Non-refundable Reservation Fee per event: \$300.00  
Refundable Deposit per event: \$75.00

**Procedure for Reserving Warming Shelter and Sled Hill**

1. After April 1<sup>st</sup>, park users may submit an application for a permit to reserve the Lost Lake Nature Park Warming Shelter for the upcoming winter season. The shelter can be reserved Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday, excluding holidays and is only available from 6pm-10pm on those days.
  - a. Applications must be accompanied with \$375.00 cash or check. No phone reservations or credit cards are accepted.
  - b. Applications will not be accepted less than two weeks prior to the usage date. If the usage requires the written authorization of the Parks and Recreation Commission, the applicant must apply at least one month prior to the usage date to allow enough time for their approval to be heard at a regularly scheduled Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, which occur on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month.
2. The warming shelter shall be considered "reserved" upon the payment of the prescribed fee and deposit and the issuance of a Park Facilities Permit, to be provided by the Parks and Recreation Department where applicable.

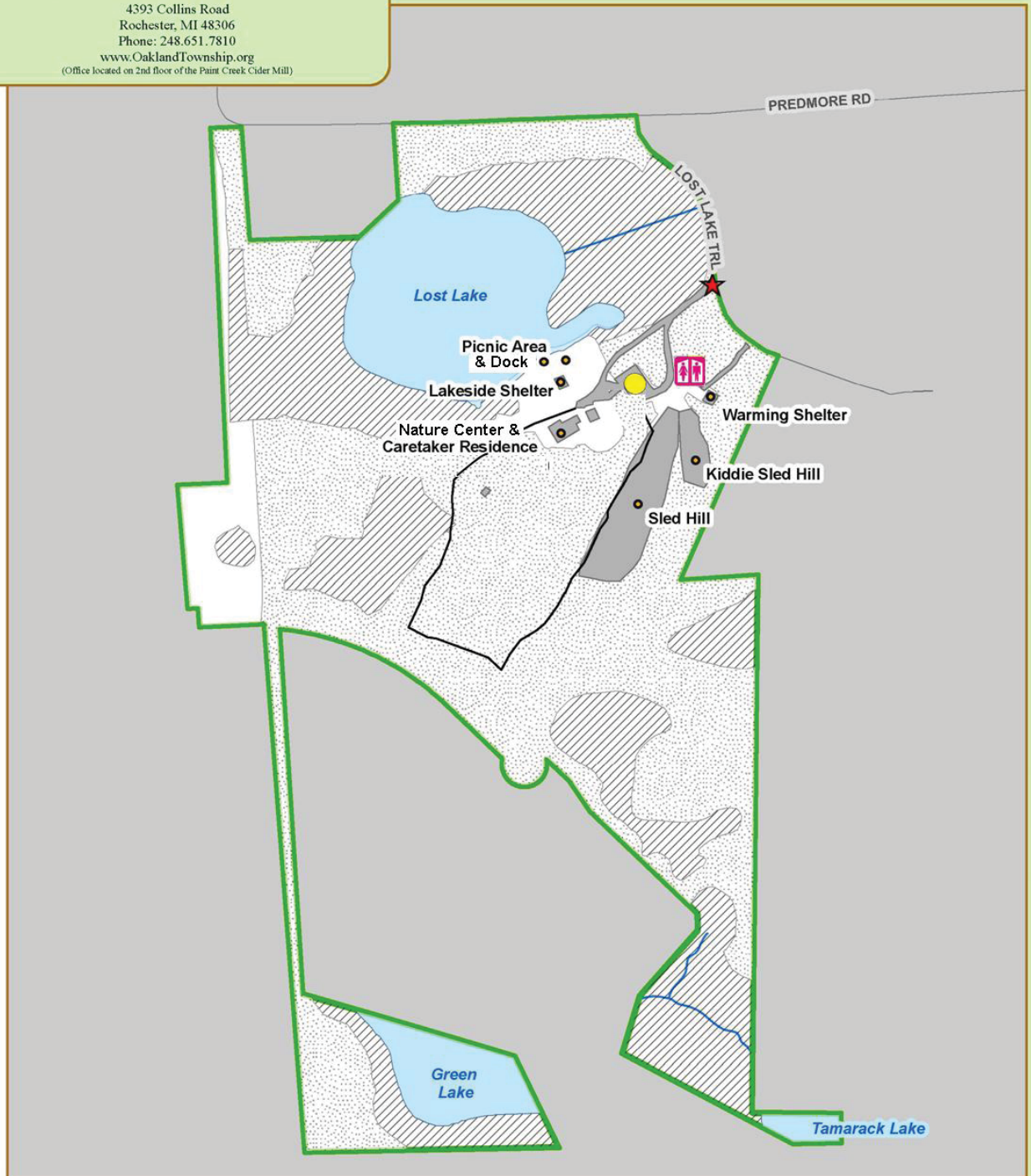
**Rules Governing Lost Lake Nature Park Warming Shelter and Sled Hill Usage**

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2. Vehicles can only be used in authorized areas, such as the driveway or parking lot.
3. Application/Permit must be retained at all times by user group and reserved sign displayed on the door of the warming shelter while the event is occurring.
4. The Permit is only valid for the date shown.
5. Renter and all members of their party must obey **Rules & Regulations for Designated Winter Sledding Areas in Oakland Township Parks** that have been adopted by resolution as additional rules and regulations and incorporated into the Charter Township of Oakland Ordinance Number 38A-1, Article V, Other Rules and Regulations.
6. The group is responsible for leaving the areas clean and orderly.
7. **No alcoholic beverages are allowed in any Oakland Township Park per Ordinance 38A-1.**



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LOST LAKE NATURE PARK - 58 Acres

### Park Facilities

- Vehicular Entrance
- Parking
- Portable Toilet

### Trails & Walkways

- 3' Wide Woodchip/Dirt Trail
- Roads

### Ecosystem Types

- Open Area
- Wetlands
- Woodlands
- Lakes & Ponds
- Rivers & Streams

### Boundaries

- Oakland Township Park

N



0 200 400 600 800 900 Feet

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Mark Robinson, Principal..... Project Lead

Chris Nordstrom, Associate..... Project Planner, GIS Mapping, Graphic Design

Constance Lippert, Twolipps Graphics & Web Design ..... Project Website Design and Maintenance

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