

Oakland Charter Township
Parks, Recreation,
& Land Preservation
Master Plan
2020 - 2024



Adopted January 14, 2020

On the cover:
Goodison Good Tyme at Marsh View Park

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Introduction



Fishing at Draper Twin Lake Park

Image Source: Flickr.com/Larry the biker

The Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Department has completed the process of updating the 2020 - 2024 Parks, Recreation, & Land Preservation 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.

The process used to generate the plan consists of three phases: background studies, evaluation, and plan development.

1. **Background Studies.** This phase involved gathering and updating data from census data, existing documents, plans, and field observations. The information is organized into three chapters: community description, administrative structure & funding, and parks & recreation inventory.
2. **Evaluation.** The second phase in the planning process includes an evaluation and analysis of the gathered data as well as community input to determine recreation facilities and program needs. A public input session was conducted to receive residents’ opinions and ideas for the park and recreation system, and an online survey offered data from over 200 individuals. Input from local officials and the members of the Park Commission was also used.
3. **Plan Development.** The last phase in the process involves plan development and adoption. Based on the deficiencies and needs, goals and objectives were formulated and a specific action plan developed. Strategies to implement the plan are also discussed.

The following diagram illustrates the planning process and how it corresponds to the MDNR suggested format.



This Master Plan was developed with extensive input from local officials, staff, community stakeholders, and residents. In addition to a resident survey, an open house was conducted to encourage participation and generate ideas for improving the community parks and recreation system. The plan was adopted by the Township Board of Trustees on January 14, 2020, following a public hearing. The Master Plan was also available for public review and comment at the Township Hall, the Township Library, and on the Township website for more than one month prior to the public hearing.

Chapter 1: Community Description



Paint Creek Trail in Autumn

Image Source: Flickr.com/Larry the biker

Chapter 1

Community Description

The following Community Description offers 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 to develop an understanding of 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.

Oakland County is a member of the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG), a seven-county planning region encompassing the Detroit metropolitan region. See Figures 1 through 3 for context maps.

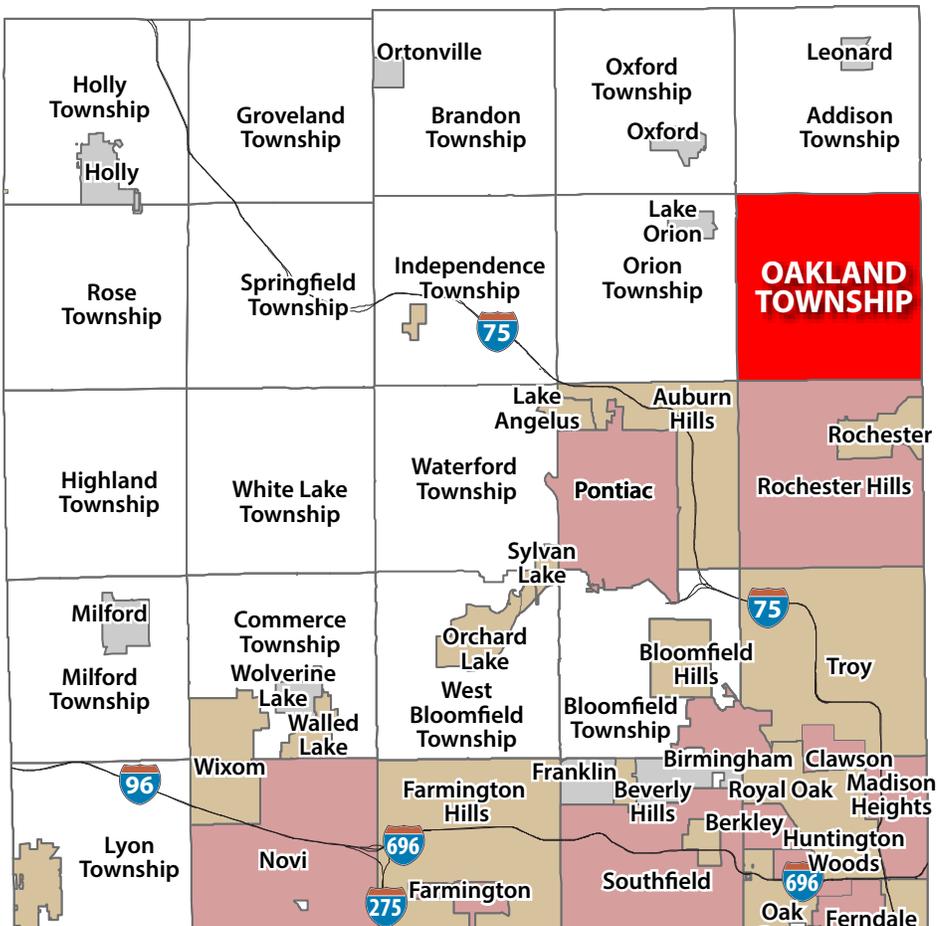
FIGURE 1: CONTEXT - STATE OF MICHIGAN



FIGURE 2: CONTEXT - SEMCOG



FIGURE 3: CONTEXT - OAKLAND COUNTY



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 2045. The population saw dramatic increase of nearly 60% between 2010 to 2019, as indicated in Table 1, and is projected to continue to grow by more than 26% rate through 2045, ultimately peaking at just over 26,000 residents in 2040. This growth rate is one of the highest in the immediate region; only Washington Township saw similar percentage increases between 2010 and 2019, while Shelby and Washington Townships saw actual higher numbers of new residents during the same period.

TABLE 1: HISTORICAL POPULATION OAKLAND TOWNSHIP

	1990	2000	2010	2019	2045	Change 2010- 2019	% Change 2010 - 2019	Change 2019- 2045	% Change 2019 - 2045
Oakland Township	8,227	13,071	16,779	20,566	25,924	7,495	57.3%	5,358	26.1%
Addison Township	4,785	6,107	5,948	6,152	6,008	45	0.7%	(144)	-2.3%
Auburn Hills	17,076	19,837	21,412	25,901	28,084	6,064	30.6%	2,183	8.4%
Lake Orion	3,057	2,715	2,973	2,967	3,295	252	9.3%	328	11.1%
Leonard	357	332	403	356	348	24	7.2%	(8)	-2.2%
Orion Township	21,019	30,748	32,421	37,429	37,032	6,681	21.7%	(397)	-1.1%
Oxford	2,929	3,540	3,436	2,943	2,890	(597)	-16.9%	(53)	-1.8%
Oxford Township	9,004	12,485	17,090	17,697	19,449	5,212	41.7%	1,752	9.9%
Pontiac	71,136	67,506	59,515	58,959	61,667	(8,547)	-12.7%	2,708	4.6%
Rochester	7,130	10,467	12,711	13,567	14,657	3,100	29.6%	1,090	8.0%
Rochester Hills	61,766	68,825	70,995	74,764	79,709	5,939	8.6%	4,945	6.6%
Utica	5,081	4,577	4,757	5,087	5,290	510	11.1%	203	4.0%
Bruce Township	4,193	6,395	6,947	6,906	6,542	511	8.0%	(364)	-5.3%
Shelby Township	48,655	65,159	73,804	79,300	85,844	14,141	21.7%	6,544	8.3%
Washington Twp	11,386	17,122	23,296	26,494	38,425	9,372	54.7%	11,931	45.0%
Oakland County	1,083,592	1,194,156	1,202,362	1,262,034	1,319,089	67,878	5.7%	57,055	4.5%
SE Michigan	4,590,468	4,833,368	4,704,809	4,767,013	5,104,922	(66,355)	-1.4%	337,909	7.1%

Source: US Census Bureau, SEMCOG

FIGURE 4: GROWTH TRENDS, OAKLAND COUNTY & SE MICHIGAN

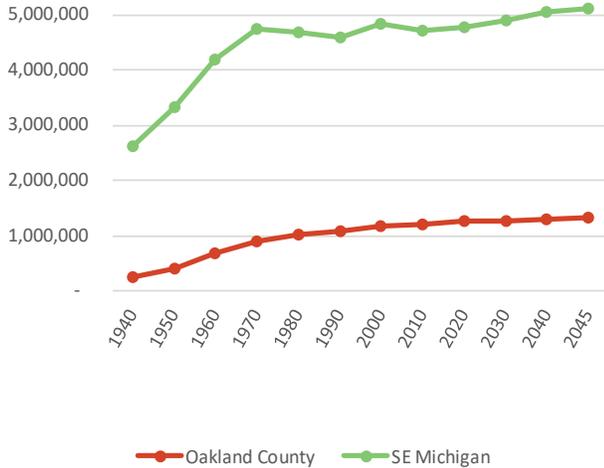
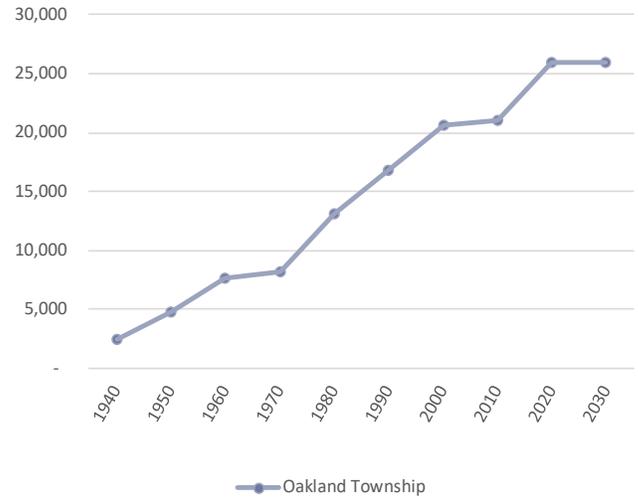


FIGURE 5: GROWTH TRENDS, OAKLAND TOWNSHIP



HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS

Households, defined as a person or group of people occupying a housing unit, are also expected to increase. As indicated in Table 2, despite SEMCOG’s estimated increase in 2019, average household size 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 2.44 and 2.46 respectively in 2019). The ongoing increases 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 2: OAKLAND TOWNSHIP HOUSEHOLD DATA, 2000 - 2045

	2000 Census	2010 Census	2019 Estimate	2045 Forecast
Population	13,071	16,779	20,566	25,924
Households	4,341	5,777	6,792	10,352
Household Size	2.79	2.9	3.02	2.5

Source: US Census Bureau, ACS, SEMCOG

TABLE 3: OAKLAND TOWNSHIP HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS

	2010 Census	ACS 2015	2045 Forecast
Households with children	2,371 (41%)	2,401 (38%)	3,095 (30%)
Households 65 years and over	1,307 (23%)	1,805 (29%)	4,438 (43%)
Median Age	42.5	44	n/a

Source: US Census Bureau, ACS, SEMCOG

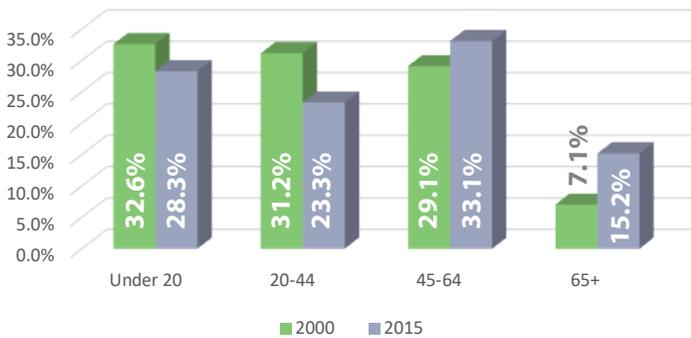
In Oakland Township, the percentage of households with children has been steadily dropping since 2010, while the percentage of households with seniors has grown dramatically (Table 3). The composition of households in Oakland Township is important to help plan the desired parks and recreation facilities and programs in a manner that is consistent with and proportionate to these characteristics. Future park plans should reflect the trend towards an older population while still striving to provide amenities that are attractive to younger families.

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, as the resident population grows, the percentage of residents 65 years and older is forecast to grow dramatically (72.3%) in comparison to 2019 levels. According to SEMCOG, residents over 85 years will increase over 400% by 2045, with declines expected in every other age group except the 25 - 54 year category. In terms of sheer numbers, according to the American Community Survey (ACS), this group grew by nearly 200% between 2000 and 2015.

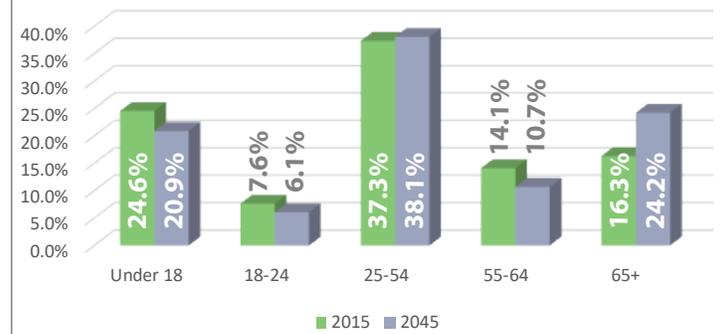
Residents between 45 to 64 years of age make up the largest percentage of the population, experiencing a 58% increase in numbers between 2000 and 2015. Very few (7.6%) young adults age 18 to 24 call the Township home, and the numbers are expected to fall further. Oakland Township parks and recreation 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.

FIGURE 6: HISTORICAL PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS BY AGE GROUP



Source: US Census Bureau, ACS, SEMCOG

FIGURE 7: PROJECTED PERCENTAGE OF INDIVIDUALS BY AGE GROUP



Source: SEMCOG

TABLE 4: HISTORIC AND PROJECTED POPULATION DATA, 2000 - 2045

Age Group	Life Phase	2000		2017 ACS Estimates		SEMCOG 2045 Forecast	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 5	Preschool	911	7.0%	780	4.6%	1,335	5.1%
5 - 17	School Age	3,081	23.6%	4,308	23.3%	4,087	15.8%
18 - 24	Young Adult	1,846	14.1%	1,356	7.8%	1,573	6.1%
25 - 64	Adult	6,310	48.3%	9,368	50.7%	12,643	48.8%
65+	Retirement	923	7.1%	2,682	14.5%	6,286	24.2%
Totals		13,071		18,494		25,924	

Source: US Census Bureau, ACS, SEMCOG



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 homogeneous in race and ethnicity, although it has become slightly more diverse between 2010 and 2015. Black and Hispanic populations have remained essentially static, but the Township’s Asian population increased from 2.6% in 2000 to 6.8% by 2015. The Township’s foreign born population continues to increase as well, rising from 1,727 in 2010 to 2,557 in 2017. As the community continues to diversify, 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 6% of the Township’s population has one or more disability; of those individuals, 40% are over the age of 65, 41% are between 18 and 64, and almost 8% 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 5: PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, 2017

	Total Population	With Disability	Percent
Under 18	5,088	86	7.8%
18 to 64	10,724	573	52.1%
65 and over	2,682	442	40.1%
TOTAL	18,494	1,101	5.9%

Source: US Census Bureau, ACS

ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

A variety of indicators suggest that Oakland Township enjoys strong economic health and that the Township has fared better than the immediate counties, region, and state during recent economic downturns. The relatively strong health of the 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. After several decades of strong growth, residential construction came to a virtual standstill in 2009 as a result of the Great Recession. New construction has since rebounded and, while not at the same levels seen in the early 2000s, are still proceeding at a rapid pace. 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.

TABLE 6: CONSTRUCTION PERMITS 2000 - 2019

Year	Single Family	Two Family	Attach Condo	Multi-Family	Total Units	Total Demos	Net Total
2000	170	4	7	0	181	5	176
2001	128	0	20	0	148	3	145
2002	258	44	282	0	584	8	576
2003	212	0	114	0	326	1	325
2004	109	0	8	0	117	10	107
2005	74	0	12	0	86	4	82
2006	43	0	0	0	43	10	33
2007	21	0	0	0	21	3	18
2008	12	0	0	0	12	2	10
2009	4	0	0	0	4	3	1
2010	11	4	0	0	15	3	12
2011	58	0	0	0	58	2	56
2012	153	0	0	0	153	6	147
2013	207	0	2	0	209	3	206
2014	125	0	16	0	141	3	138
2015	111	0	4	0	115	6	109
2016	69	0	8	0	77	6	71
2017	76	0	4	0	80	9	71
2018	70	20	0	90	180	3	177
2019	22	0	12	72	106	3	103
2000 to 2019 totals	1,933	72	489	162	2,656	93	2,563

Source: SEMCOG



TABLE 7: ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME 2015

Income	# Households
\$200,000 or more	1,453
\$150,000 to \$199,999	932
\$125,000 to \$149,999	654
\$100,000 to \$124,999	687
\$75,000 to \$99,999	766
\$60,000 to \$74,999	444
\$50,000 to \$59,999	173
\$45,000 to \$49,999	76
\$40,000 to \$44,999	207
\$35,000 to \$39,999	175
\$30,000 to \$34,999	97
\$25,000 to \$29,999	139
\$20,000 to \$24,999	158
\$15,000 to \$19,999	86
\$10,000 to \$14,999	114
Less than \$10,000	137
Total	6,298
Median:	\$ 120,612

Source: US Census Bureau, SEMCOG

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 2015, the median household income in Oakland Township (\$120,612) was higher than in Oakland County (\$67,465), neighboring Macomb County (\$54,582) and all of Southeast Michigan (\$53,594). The Township, like the rest of the state, experienced severe drops in median income during the recent recession. The effects of the recession are still being felt; from 2010 to 2015, the Township’s median household income remained relatively static with only a 0.2% drop, while Oakland County as a whole decreased by 6.5%.

EMPLOYMENT

According to American Community Survey figures, unemployment rates in the Township in 2017 were low (1.8%), significantly lower than surrounding Oakland (3.5%) and Macomb Counties (4.1%), and the State of Michigan (4.5%) as a whole. The unemployment figures also represent a significant improvement over those reported for the Township at the start of previous plan (6.1%).

The majority of residents are employed in Information & Financial Activities, Administrative, Support & Waste Services, and Leisure & Hospitality sectors, with relatively little change expected in the future. The notable exception is Healthcare Services, which is expected to see a 48% increase by 2045.

Only about 12% of Oakland Township’s work force is employed in the Township borders. The remainder commute to surrounding communities, with Troy (10.5%, Auburn Hills (10%), and Rochester Hills (8%) being the most frequent employment centers.

TABLE 8: FORECASTED JOBS BY INDUSTRY SECTOR

Income	2015	2045	% change
Natural Resources, Mining, & Construction	486	546	12.3%
Manufacturing	162	116	-28.4%
Wholesale Trade	137	138	0.7%
Retail Trade	397	329	-17.1%
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	91	98	7.7%
Information & Financial Activities	975	1,011	3.7%
Professional and Technical Services & Corporate HQ	511	586	14.7%
Administrative, Support, & Waste Services	672	744	10.7%
Education Services	388	417	7.5%
Healthcare Services	415	614	48.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	564	582	3.2%
Other Services	288	278	-3.5%
Public Administration	65	66	1.5%
Total Employment Numbers	5,151	5,525	

Source: US Census Bureau, SEMCOG

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

While Oakland Township has seen significant development in recent years, large portions of the community remain as open space thanks in part to state, county, MetroPark, and Township recreation holdings. While just over 40% of the Township has been developed as single-family residential, 51% of remaining area is vacant, recreation/conservation, agriculture, or water, as shown in Table 9 below and Map 1 on the following page. As a “bedroom community”, Oakland 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 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.

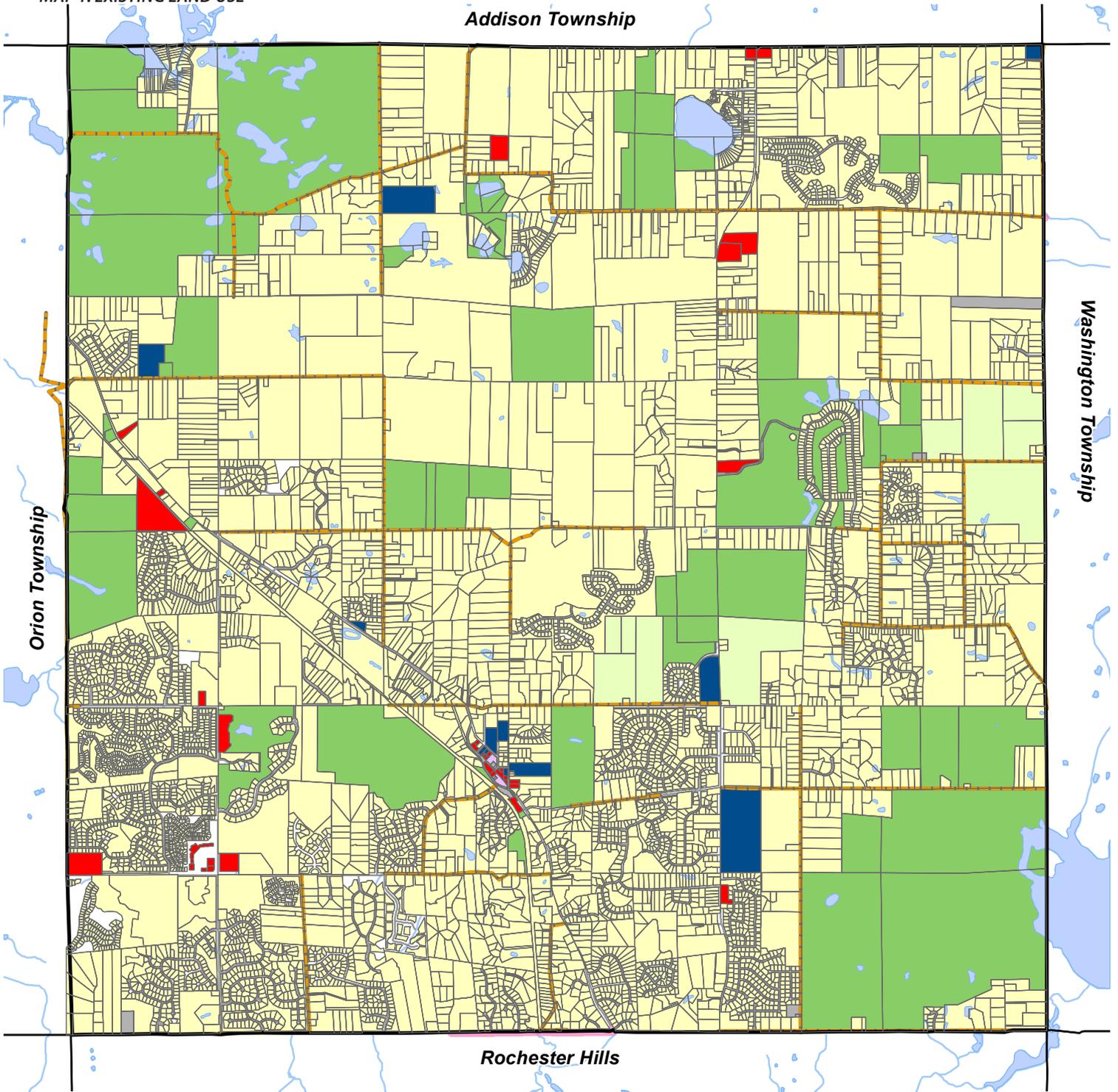
TABLE 9: 2015 LAND USE VALUES

Land Use Category	Area in Acres			Area by Percent		
	2010	2015	Change	2010	2015	Change
Agricultural	2027.3	2016.1	-11.2	8.6%	8.6%	0.0%
Single Family Residential	9137.9	9442.5	304.6	38.9%	40.2%	1.3%
Multiple Family	79.9	83.2	3.3	0.3%	0.4%	10.0%
Mobile Home Park	85.8	85.8	0	0.4%	0.4%	0.0%
Commercial / Office	81.6	81.3	-0.3	0.3%	0.3%	0.0%
Industrial	3.7	3.7	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Public / Institutional	335.3	296	-39.3	1.4%	1.3%	-0.1%
Recreation / Conservation	5701.4	5760.5	59.1	24.3%	24.5%	0.2%
Transportation / Utility / Communication	67	67.1	0.1	0.3%	0.3%	0.0%
Vacant	3923.3	3565.8	-357.5	16.7%	15.2%	-1.5%
Water	696.8	702.1	5.3	3.0%	3.0%	0.0%

Source: Oakland Township Master Plan 2017



Addison Township



Rochester Hills

- | | |
|---|---|
|  Agricultural |  Unpaved Roads |
|  Commercial |  Paved Roads |
|  Governmental / Institutional |  Natural Beauty Road |
|  Industrial |  Lakes and Ponds |
|  Parks, Recreation, and Open Space |  Rivers and Streams |
|  Single-family residential | |
|  Transportation, Communication, and Utility | |

EXISTING LAND USE

Oakland Township, Oakland County



Source: SEMCOG
 Parcel status has not been field verified and may contain inconsistencies
 Carlisle/Wortman Associates
 October 2019



Trails are multiple-use, 8 to 10-foot wide crushed stone, packed dirt, mown grass, or asphalt-paved walkways located inside of parks. *Trails are not located within or adjacent to road right-of-way.* Trails are primarily intended for recreation/transportation walkers, bicyclists, runners and equestrians.

Trails are owned, operated, and financed by the Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Department.

Safety Paths are multiple-use 8 to 10-foot wide asphalt-paved paths *located parallel to the road right-of-way.* Safety paths are intended for recreation/transportation use by walkers, bicyclists and runners.

Safety Paths are planned and financed by the Oakland Township Safety Paths and Trails Committee.

The **Paint Creek Trail** is a multi-jurisdictional trail stretching from Rochester to Orion Township. The 5.3 mile segment running through Oakland Township is maintained and operated by the Parks and Recreation Department.

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

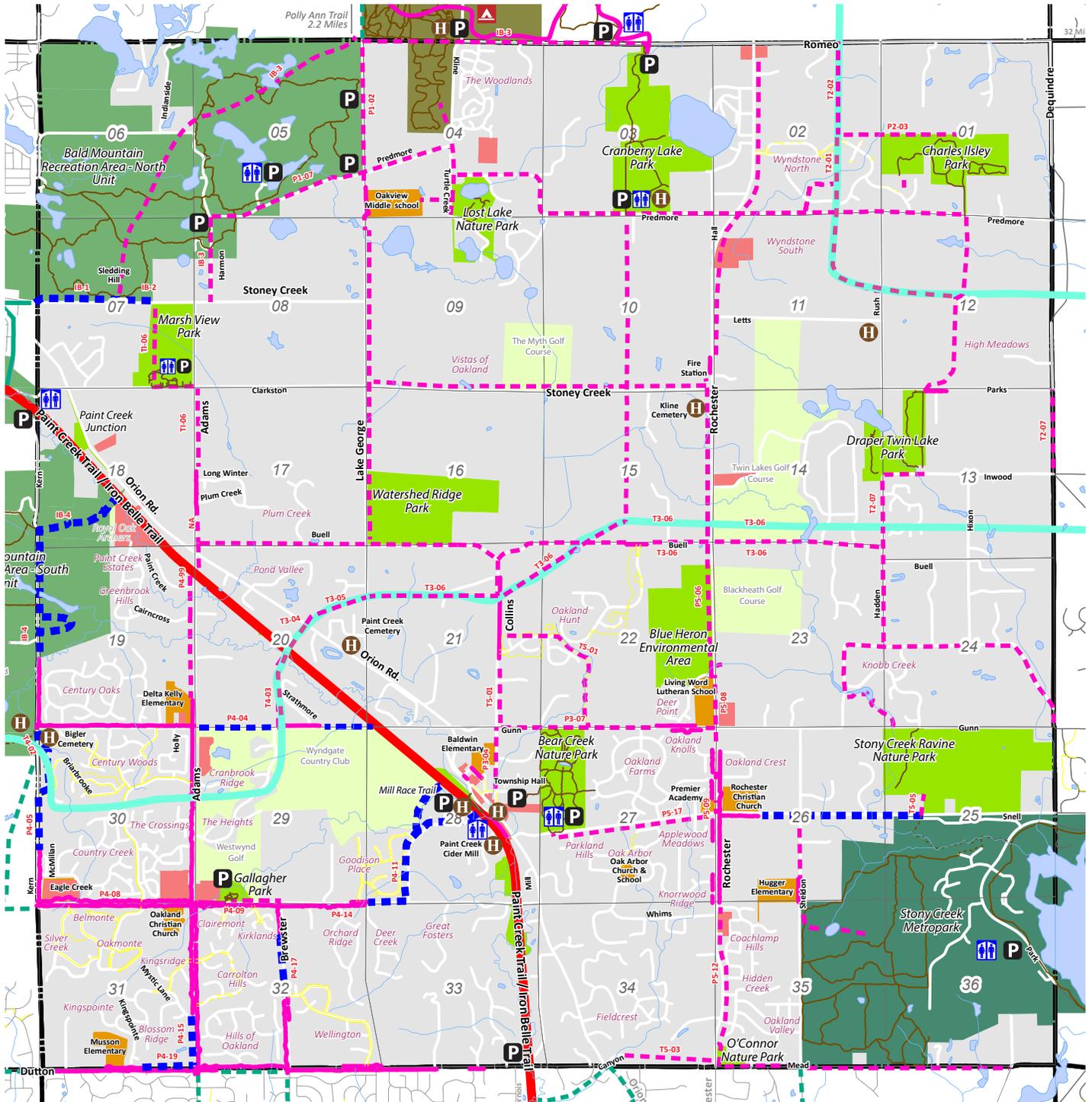
Non-motorized pathways provide physical fitness, recreation, and transportation opportunities for pedestrians, runners, bikers, and other similar users. The pathways in the Township include trails within Township parks, the Mill Race Trail, the regional Paint Creek Trail, and the continued development of a comprehensive pathway and trail system throughout the Township to link all areas of the community with non-motorized travel. Map 2 on the next page provides current and planned non-motorized facilities in Oakland Township, and the full Trails and Pathways 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 and 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 Safety Paths and Trails 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 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.

MAP 2: TRAILS & PATHWAYS STRATEGY PLAN



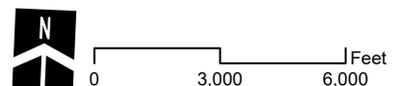
- | | | | |
|-------|-----------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| | Existing Safety/Sidepath or Trail | | Township Park |
| | Desirable Safety/Sidepath | | County Park |
| | Special Interest Connections | | Metropark |
| | Existing Sidewalk | | State Park |
| | Existing Park Path | | Private Recreation Facilities |
| | Proposed Park Path | | Schools / Churches |
| | Powerline Right-of-Way | | Commercial Areas |
| | Proposed by Others | | Parking / Staging |
| | Paint Creek / Iron Belle Trail | | Historical |
| T2-07 | Feasibility Study Segment Number | | Camping |
| | | | Rest Area |

NOTES:
Desirable routes are established in part by using the scoring criteria detailed in the Desirability / Feasibility Worksheets on pages 8-15 of this plan. Detailed feasibility studies have not been performed for every route indicated on the maps. Further study or changes in circumstances may reveal additional challenges that would prohibit progress of a route. Conversely, a low-scoring path may rise to higher priority due to new circumstances.

Contact the Township Manager with any recommendations, questions or concerns regarding proposed paths and trails.

Trails & Pathways Strategy Plan

Oakland Township
Oakland County, Michigan



February 9, 2017
Carlisle/Wortman Associates, Inc.
Ann Arbor, Michigan



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 2015 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. Oakland Township has a mean annual temperature of 49 degrees with highs of 83 in July and lows of 17 in January. The average annual precipitation is 33 inches with an annual snowfall of 37 inches per year. Due to the variations in the weather patterns in Southeast Michigan, local residents have the opportunity to enjoy many seasonal recreational activities.

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 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

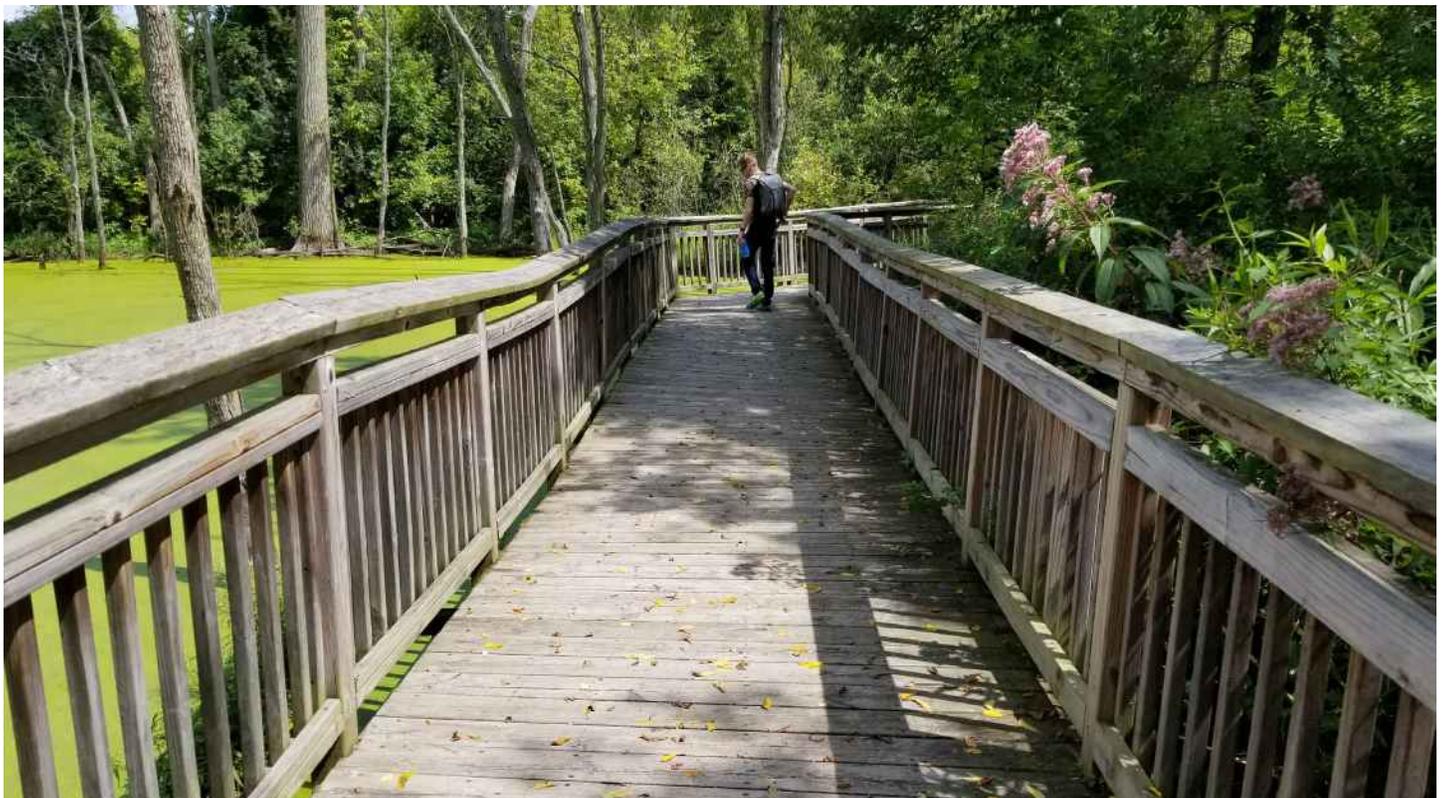
The topography, soils, and climate in the Township create conditions which support a variety of indigenous Michigan plant species. Previous studies have found well over 300 plant species, most of which are native to Michigan, within the park sites. The Oakland County Planning Division Natural Features 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 shrub-carr wetlands
- Native prairie
- Southern wet meadow
- Dry-mesic southern forest (Oak hardwood)
- Old field
- Bog
- Dry southern forest (Oak)
- Fen
- Southern swamp

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.

WETLAND AT BEAR CREEK NATURE PARK



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 10 contains the list of federal and state listed animals, natural communities, and plant species and their current status.

NATIVE PRAIRIE RESTORATION AT CHARLES ILSLEY PARK

TABLE 10: STATE & FEDERALLY LISTED PLANT & ANIMAL SPECIES

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank
Agalinis gattingeri	Gattinger's gerardia	—	E	G4	S1
Alasmidonta viridis	Slippershell	—	T	G4, G5	S2, S3
Boechea missouriensis	Missouri rock-cress	—	SC	G5, T3	S2
Asio otus	Long-eared owl	—	T	G5	S1
Calephelis mutica	Swamp metalmark	—	SC	G3	S1
Carex richardsonii	Richardson's sedge	—	SC	G5	S3, S4
Castanea dentata	American chestnut	—	E	G4	S1, S2
Cirsium hillii	Hill's thistle	—	SC	G3	S3
Clemmys guttata	Spotted turtle	—	T	G5	S2
Coregonus artedi	Lake herring or Cisco	—	T	G5	S3
Cypripedium candidum	White lady slipper	—	T	G4	S2
Dry-mesic Southern Forest	Dry-mesic Southern Forest	—	—	G4	S3
Floodplain Forest	Floodplain Forest	—	—	G3	S3
Galearis spectabilis	Showy orchis	—	T	G5	S2
Gentiana puberulenta	Downy gentian	—	E	G4, G5	S1
Gentianella quinquefolia	Stiff gentian	—	T	G5	S2
Great Blue Heron Rookery	Great Blue Heron Rookery	—	—	—	—
Hieracium paniculatum	Panicled hawkweed	—	T	G5	S2
Hydrastis canadensis	Goldenseal	—	T	G3, G4	S2
Meropleon ambifusca	Newman's brocade	—	SC	G3, G4	S2, S3
Mesic Southern Forest	Rich Forest, Central Midwest Type	—	—	G2, G3	S3
Nicrophorus americanus	American burying beetle	LE	X	G2, G3	SH
Panax quinquefolius	Ginseng	—	T	G3, G4	S2, S3
Papaipema beeriana	Blazing star borer	—	SC	G2, G3	S2
Plantanthera ciliaris	Orange- or yellow-fringed orchid	—	E	G5	S1, S2
Polemonium reptans	Jacob's ladder	—	T	G5	S2
Prairie Fen	Alkaline Shrub/herb Fen, Midwest Type	—	—	G3	S3
Rich Tamarack Swamp	Forested Bog, Central Midwest Type	—	—	G4	S3
Trichophorum clintonii	Clinton's bulrush	—	SC	G4	S3
Sistrurus catenatus	Eastern massasauga	LT	SC	G3	S3
Southern Hardwood Swamp	Southern Hardwood Swamp	—	—	G3	S3
Villosa iris	Rainbow	—	SC	G5	S2
Viola pedatifida	Prairie birdfoot violet	—	T	G5	S1

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 fewer remaining individuals or acres) 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.

G3 = Either very rare and local throughout its range or found locally (even abundantly at some of its locations) in a restricted range or because of other factor(s) making it vulnerable to extinction throughout its range;

G4 = Apparently secure globally, though it may be quite rare in parts of its range, especially at the periphery.

G5 = Demonstrably secure globally, though it may be quite rare in parts of its range, especially at the periphery.

State Status Codes

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

Federal Status Codes

- LE = Listed Endangered
- LT = Listed Threatened

RELATED PLANNING INITIATIVES

While change is inevitable and growth in both population and housing will occur, Oakland Township is committed to managing that growth to enhance economic benefit, recreational activities, and overall quality of life for all its residents. Maintaining the rural character of the community is considered critical by residents and Township leaders alike.

A variety of planning efforts have had important roles in helping to shape the character of Oakland Township. The Oakland County 2017 Natural Areas report, the current County green infrastructure project, and Oakland Township's current comprehensive Master Plan have all played important roles in shaping the Township's future, and each had a significant influence on this plan.

OAKLAND TOWNSHIP MASTER PLAN

Oakland Township last updated its master plan, land use goals, and objectives in 2017. The Township envisions several goals and objectives that will affect its role in providing parks, natural areas, open space, and recreation uses. The Plan's goals and policies relevant to parks and recreation include:

- Support the Parks and Recreation Commission in their efforts to plan for and expand the park and recreational facilities in the township and to preserve and steward environmental areas.
- Incorporate potential land preservation and recreational features as a priority in the site plan review process.
- Support the Historic District Commission in their efforts to inventory and plan for historic resources in the township.
- Incorporate potential features for historic preservation as a priority in the site plan review process.
- Protect natural areas through the development of Single Family - Conservation designations in new planned subdivisions.

OAKLAND TOWNSHIP 2017 SAFETY PATHS & TRAILS MASTER PLAN

The Oakland Township Safety Paths and Trails Committee (SPTC) was established to make recommendations to the Township Board of Trustees concerning the planning, analysis and implementation of this non-motorized system. The Committee, composed of Township officials and involved residents, holds regular monthly meetings to plan for and acquire easements or property to enable the establishment of an interconnected safety path system across the Township. The Township's safety paths and trails system fits into the larger regional and state trail planning and funding vision and forms a vital recreation and transit component for Township residents.

Oakland Township's Safety Path and Trails (SPT) Millage, established in 2006 and renewed in 2016, funds the planning, construction and maintenance of trails and paths that will provide safe, viable connections between subdivisions, parks, and other popular destinations in the Township and surrounding areas. For a map of current planned pathways, see page 17. The full Safety Path & Trails Master Plan is included as Appendix A.

OAKLAND COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION 2018 - 2022 MASTER PLAN

The 10-member Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission (OCPRC) oversees 13 facilities totaling just over 6,700 acres. Addison Oaks, partially located in Oakland Township, provides a wide variety of recreation opportunities for area residents, including camping, boating, mountain biking, and equestrian uses.

The OCPRC adopted their 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan in February, 2018. A number of projects are proposed for Addison Oaks, including Improvements to the Adams Lake Lodge area including replacement of the playground, restoration of the beach, new zero-depth water feature, site and landscape improvements, Buhl Estate garden and entrance landscape renovation, Buhl Estate deck replacement, off-leash dog recreation area.

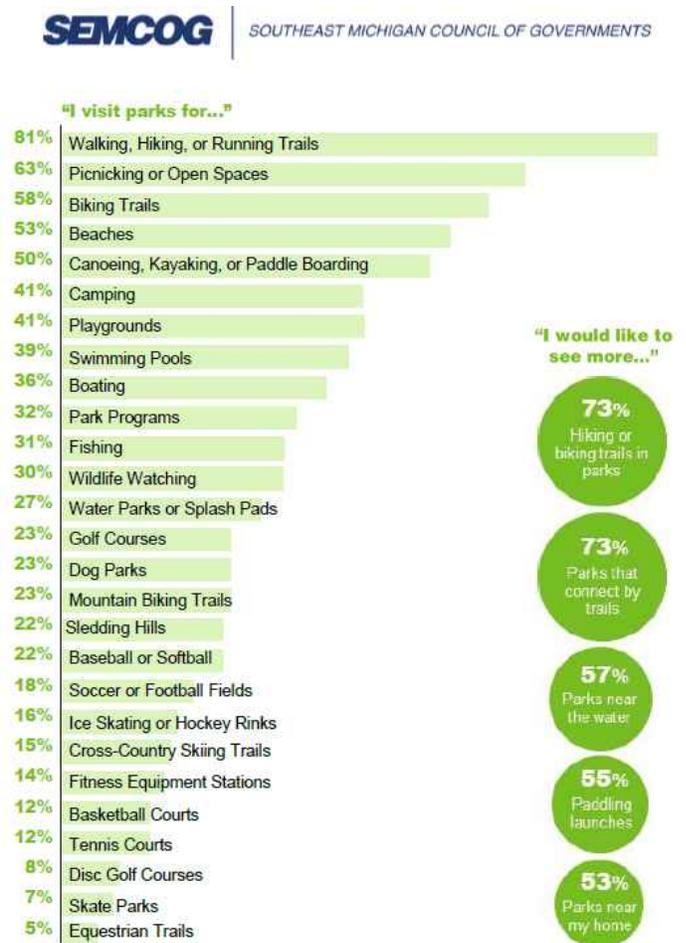
SEMCOG PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN FOR SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

The SEMCOG plan, adopted in 2019, was developed to highlight available recreation resources and ensure that the region's recreation system meets the needs of residents and visitors. The Plan notes that with over 2,300 parks covering 214,000 acres, over 400 miles of trails and greenways, and 450 miles of designated water trails, the region is well served by local, state, regional, and federal recreation authorities.

With almost 67,000 acres of parkland, Oakland County offers 56 acres of park per 1,000 residents. This level is higher than the region's average of 43 acres per resident. In terms of pure park availability, Oakland's acreage is almost double that of the next highest county (Washtenaw at 38,695).

The plan provides several regional policy recommendations to address recreation development. Among the recommendations, prioritization of investment in land acquisition is viewed as necessary to address gaps in access to outdoor recreation facilities. Fostering collaboration among outdoor recreation stakeholders speaks to the need for ongoing cooperation between local and regional recreation authorities. Utilization of universal design principles ensures that facilities are accessible to residents of all abilities. Supporting conservation and stewardship of natural resources recognizes the value of open space and the desire of the region's residents to have access to natural areas in reasonable proximity to their homes.

FIGURE 8: SEMCOG SURVEY RESULTS



Recreational trails are among the most popular reasons to visit parks, and the amenity that most people would like to see more

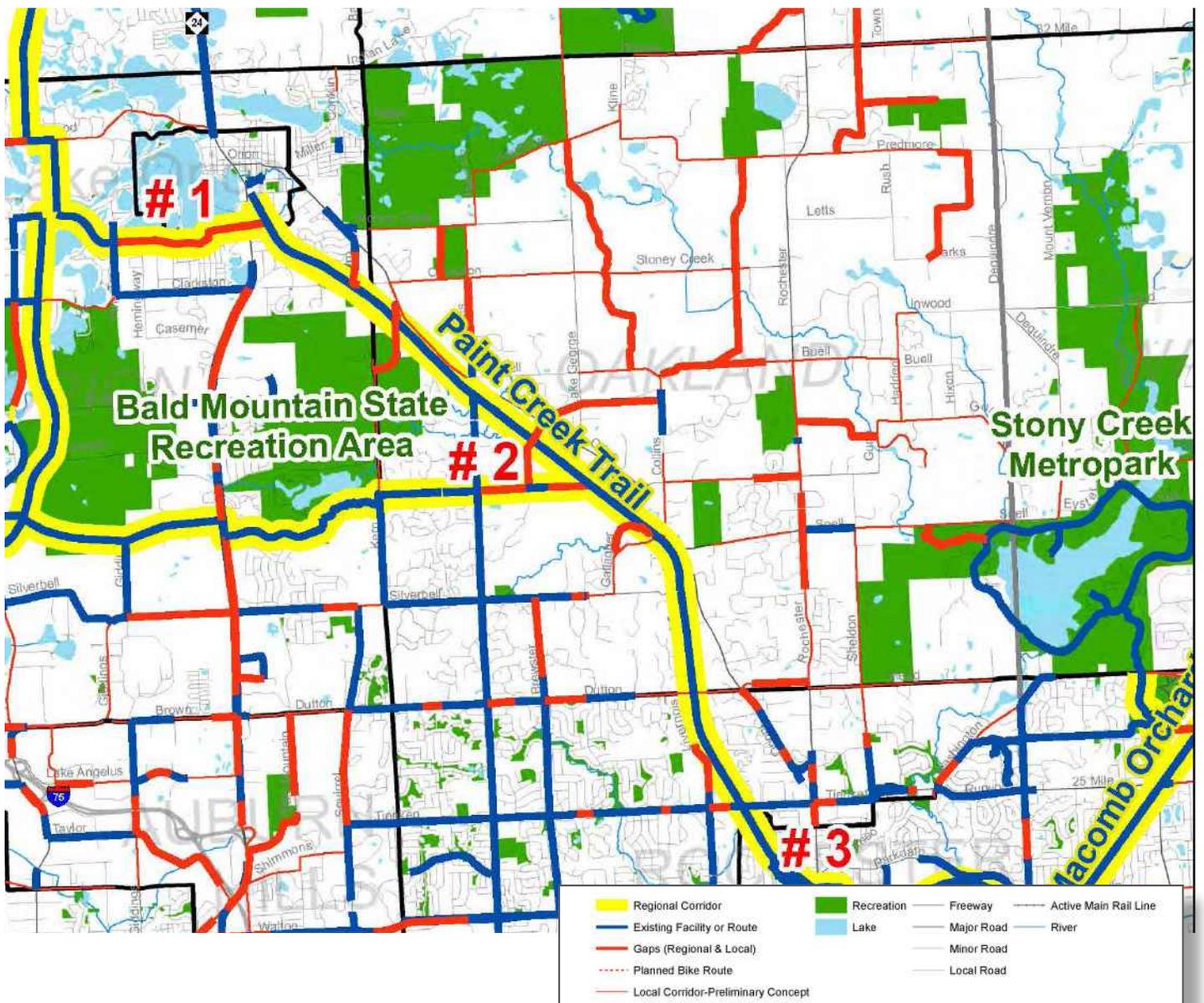
SEMCOG 2040 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN / 2014 BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN PLAN FOR SE MICHIGAN

The 2045 Regional Transportation Plan provides broad transportation recommendations for projects across the seven-county region, with a budget of over \$5 billion proposed for transportation infrastructure improvements. No projects specific to Oakland Township are mentioned, although a number of different initiatives such as air quality monitoring and improvements will indirectly benefit the community.

The 2014 SEMCOG plan is a joint effort between Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) and the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). The plan provides recommendations for bicycle and pedestrian facilities across 10 regions and incorporating 60 different action items. SEMCOG’s larger regional focus places more emphasis on existing non-motorized transportation options.

Maps of existing and planned facilities highlight the existing facilities and their interconnected nature in and around Oakland Township. A number of gaps are also identified, including short sections along Gunn Road and a proposed route utilizing utility corridors near Strathmore Boulevard. Other gaps demonstrate the need for better connectivity between parks and the importance of cooperation between various local and regional governmental entities.

FIGURE 9: DETAIL - TRAIL FACILITIES & GAPS - SEMCOG 2014 BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN PLAN



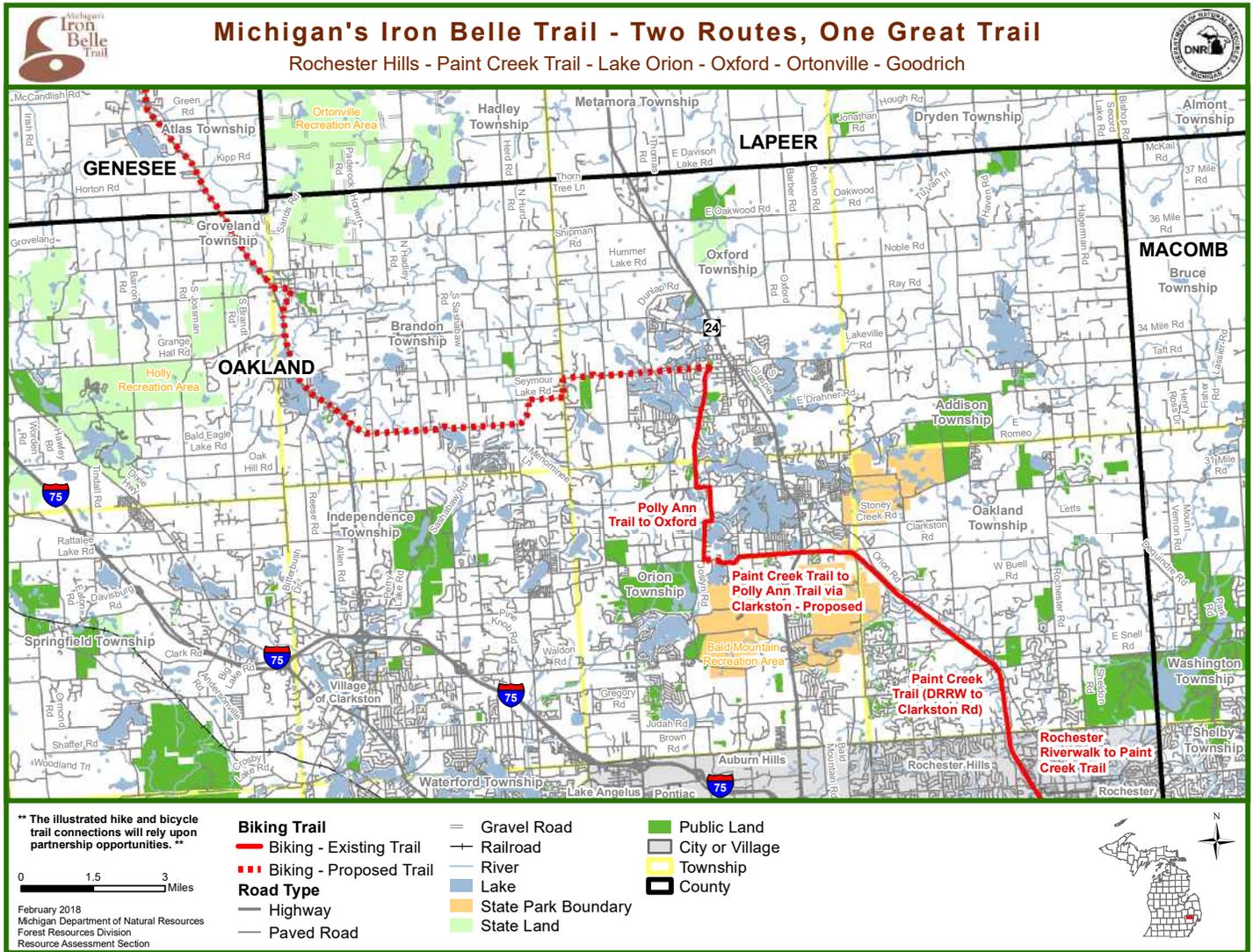
STATE OF MICHIGAN IRON BELLE TRAIL

The ambitious project by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) would connect a series of trails from Detroit's Belle Isle to Ironwood in the far west of the Upper Peninsula. The Iron Belle Trail (IBT) includes a 1,273 mile long hiking route which winds along the west side of the Lower Peninsula and borders Lake Superior in the Upper Peninsula. The 791 mile long biking trail uses existing multi-use trails on the east side of the state and follows US-2 in the Upper Peninsula. The IBT has had a tremendous impact on trail development in Michigan in recent years; since 2012, over \$68 million in grant and local funds and \$155 million in private donations have been collected. Over 200 miles of trails are scheduled to be completed in the next few years.

The **Paint Creek Trail (PCT)** is one of the first and most important links in the IBT system. Opened in 1983, the PCT was the first rail-trail developed in the state. The Paint Creek Trailways Commission was formed under the Urban Cooperation Act of 1967. The Commission is formed of representatives from each of the five communities along the trail's route. Recent projects along the trail include construction of a new bridge between Dutton and Silverbell Roads.

The PCT/IBT in turn becomes part of the **North Country National Scenic Trail**, which travels from eastern New York to central North Dakota. The trail passes through the seven states along the way, with the longest stretch found in Michigan. At approximately 4,600 miles, it is the longest of the eleven National Scenic Trails.

FIGURE 10: IRON BELLE TRAIL ALIGNMENT



Chapter 2: Administrative Structure & Funding



Paint Creek Cider Mill, home of the Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Department

Chapter 2

Administrative Structure & Funding

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.

LOCAL 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. 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.



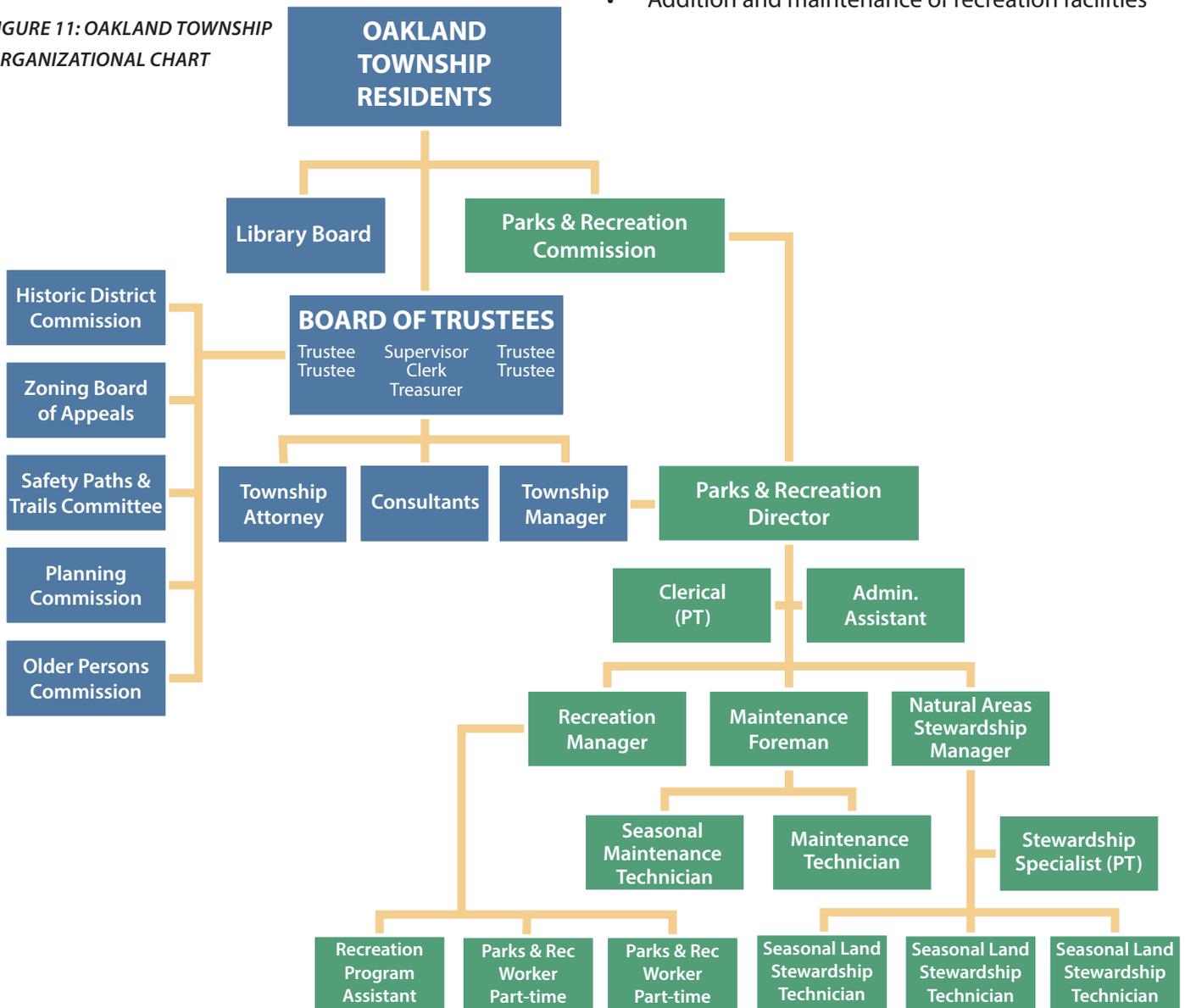
As a governmental agency legally separate from the Township Board, the Parks and Recreation Commission may spend funds or request bonds for the acquisition of land or construction of facilities. The Township Board may also appropriate monies from the general fund to acquire park land or build facilities. 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 ten employees, in addition to seasonal staff, 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 11). 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
- Addition and maintenance of recreation facilities

FIGURE 11: OAKLAND TOWNSHIP ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



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 Farm Historic District and the Mill Race Trail, are designated historic resources. The Mill Race Trail has a Michigan State Historical Marker and Cranberry Lake Farm Historic District is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The HDC currently manages and operates the 16-acre Cranberry Lake Farm 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 their 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 50 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 (rolled back to .2250 mills in 2017), a debt retirement millage that was approved in 2001 at .3093 mills, and a transportation millage that was approved in 2015 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 Parks & Recreation Millage (Park Fund) and the Land Preservation Millage (Land Preservation Fund). The Parks Millage was renewed in 2016 for a 10-year period. The Land Preservation Millage, initiated in 2001 for a 10-year period as well, was extended 20 more years through early renewals that occurred in 2006 and in 2018. 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, worker's 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.

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 12 and 13 summarize the Park Fund and Land Preservation Fund revenues and expenditures for fiscal years 2018/2019 through 2021/2022, and Table 14 does the same for the Historic Preservation Fund Budget. The expenditures are categorized as operations and maintenance, programming, or capital improvements. Oakland Township has also received eight state grants for acquisition and development projects. Table 11 summarizes the state recreation grants awarded to the Township.

TABLE 11: RECREATION GRANT HISTORY

Grant Number / Title	Year	Amount	Facility	Status
TF99-128 Marsh View Park Acquisition	1999	\$ 2,010,101	Marsh View Park	Park is in excellent condition and highly popular. Ongoing development has turned the park into the premier active-use destination for the Township.
TF00-311 Bear Creek Nature Park Development	2000	\$ 313,302	Bear Creek Nature Park	Park is in excellent condition and highly popular. It continues to be developed as a passive-use destination.
TF02-013 Lost Lake Nature Park Acquisition	2002	\$ 1,762,800	Lost Lake Nature Park	Park is in excellent condition and highly popular. It's accessible waterfront and nature center provides a unique educational experience for residents.
TF05-102 Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park Acquisition	2005	\$ 893,700	Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park	Park is in excellent condition and highly popular. While relatively undeveloped at this point, recent land acquisitions will make the park more accessible to all residents.
TF07-057 Marsh View Park Development	2007	\$ 293,300	Marsh View Park	Park is in excellent condition and highly popular. Ongoing development has turned the park into the premier active-use destination for the Township.
TF10-069 Lost Lake Nature Park Development	2010	\$ 154,900	Lost Lake Nature Park	Park is in excellent condition and highly popular. It's accessible waterfront and nature center provides a unique educational experience for residents.
TF16-0009 Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park Expansion	2016	\$ 2,216,400	Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park	Park is in excellent condition and highly popular. While relatively undeveloped at this point, recent land acquisitions will make the park more accessible to all residents.
TF18-0098 Paint Creek Trail / Polly Ann Trail Connector Development	2018	\$ 219,600	Paint Creek Junction	Engineering has been completed. Construction is anticipated in 2020.

TABLE 12: PARK FUND REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES, 2018-2022

Revenues	2018 - 2019	2019 - 2020	2020 - 2021	2021 - 2022
Millage	\$ 976,000	\$ 1,024,800	\$ 1,047,300	\$ 1,070,300
Grants	\$ 292,200	\$ 528,500	\$ 100,000	\$ -
Misc Income	\$ 109,600	\$ 122,000	\$ 148,200	\$ 124,400
Transfer in from Park Reserve	\$ 205,918	\$ 473,218	\$ 104,800	\$ -
Total Revenues	\$ 1,583,718	\$ 2,148,518	\$ 1,400,300	\$ 1,194,700
Appropriations	2018 - 2019	2019 - 2020	2020 - 2021	2021 - 2022
Buildings & Grounds	\$ 10,100	\$ 10,300	\$ 10,500	\$ 10,700
Trailway administration	\$ 55,600	\$ 55,000	\$ 56,200	\$ 57,400
Park Property	\$ 120,000	\$ 130,200	\$ 110,200	\$ 114,300
Parks & Rec Dept	\$ 852,900	\$ 941,500	\$ 817,700	\$ 822,000
Trailway Operation	\$ 46,100	\$ 51,700	\$ 57,000	\$ 52,200
Capital Outlay	\$ 843,618	\$ 959,818	\$ 348,700	\$ 50,000
Transfer Out	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Expenditures	\$ 1,928,318	\$ 2,148,518	\$ 1,400,300	\$ 1,106,600

TABLE 13: LAND PRESERVATION FUND BUDGET, 2018-2022

Revenues	2018 - 2019	2019 - 2020	2020 - 2021	2021 - 2022
Millage	\$899,800	\$944,900	\$965,600	\$986,800
Grants	\$2,208,400	\$2,210,000	\$ -	\$337,000
Misc Income	\$10,800	\$50,800	\$30,800	\$36,600
Transfer in from Land Preservation Reserve	\$18,500	\$856,500	\$ -	\$43,600
Total Revenues	\$3,137,500	\$4,062,200	\$996,400	\$1,404,000
Appropriations	2018 - 2019	2019 - 2020	2020 - 2021	2021 - 2022
Buildings & Grounds	\$1,900	\$2,000	\$2,100	\$2,200
Park Property	\$26,900	\$24,200	\$25,700	\$30,700
Parks & Rec Dept	\$434,850	\$417,000	\$373,000	\$442,700
Capital Outlay	\$3,253,500	\$3,267,000	\$134,000	\$602,000
Transfer Out	\$364,800	\$352,000	\$339,200	\$326,400
Total Expenditures	\$4,081,950	\$4,062,200	\$874,000	\$1,404,000

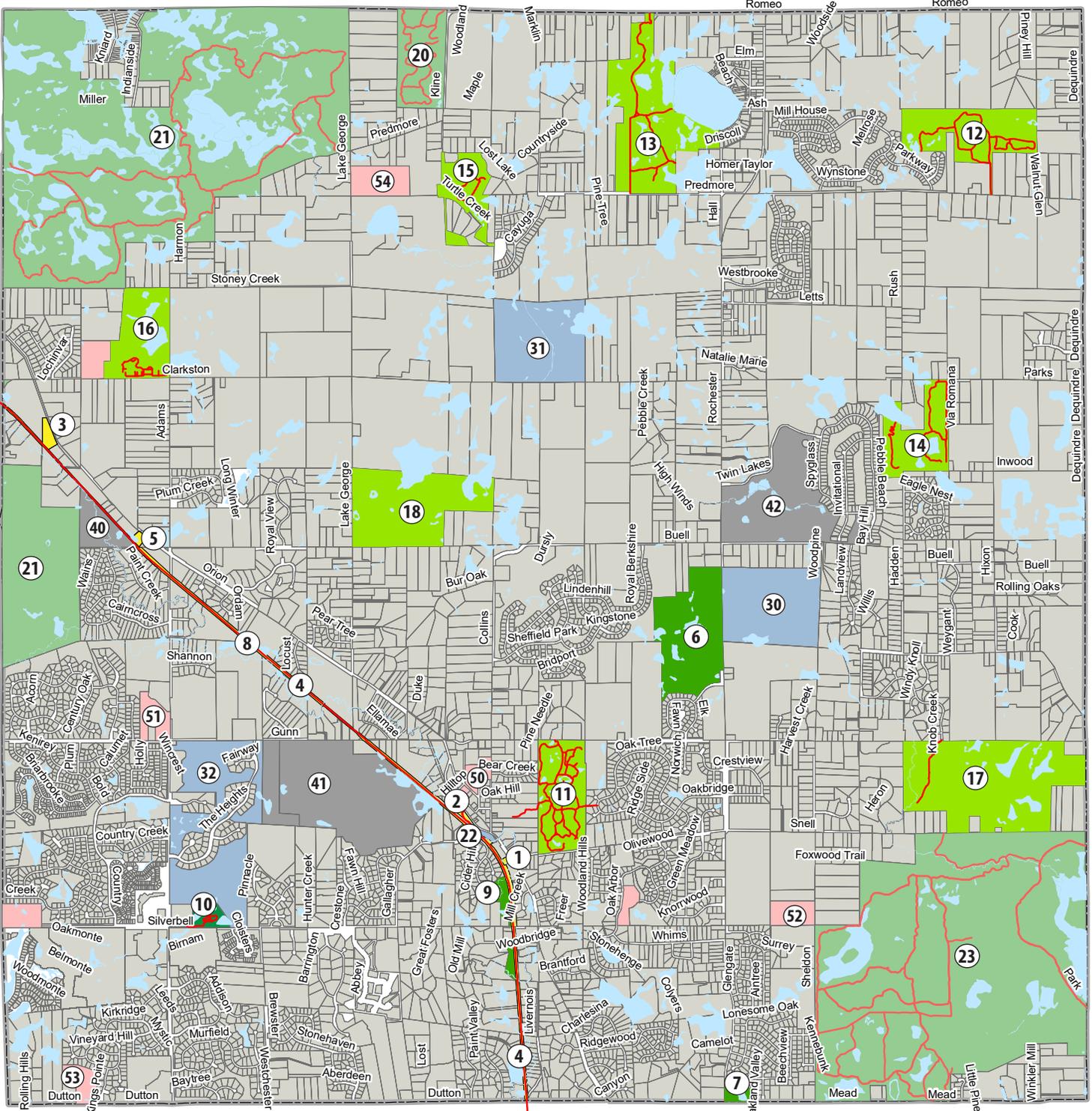
TABLE 14: HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND BUDGET, 2018-2022

Revenues	2018 - 2019	2019 - 2020	2020 - 2021	2021 - 2022
Millage	153,043	159,500	165,500	172,100
Grants	\$-	\$-	105,000	50,000
Misc Income	12,584	7,496	15,100	15,100
Transfer in from Fund Reserve	\$-	21,808	79,139	29,500
Total Revenues	165,627	188,804	364,739	266,700
Appropriations	2018 - 2019	2019 - 2020	2020 - 2021	2021 - 2022
Building & Grounds	24,126	30,650	31,900	32,550
HDC Dept.	91,097	105,308	110,500	114,050
Capital Outlay	33,272	51,050	68,400	89,500
Transfer out	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
Total Expenditures	148,495	187,008	210,800	236,100

Chapter 3: Parks & Recreation Inventory



MAP 3: OAKLAND TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION FACILITIES



Oakland Township Parks & Recreation Facilities

Trails & Trailheads

- 1 Mill Creek Crossing
- 2 Mill Race Trail
- 3 Paint Creek Junction Park
- 4 Paint Creek Trail
- 5 Unnamed Park

Conservation Parks

- 6 Blue Heron Env. Area
- 7 O'Connor Nature Park
- 8 Paint Creek Heritage Area (PCHA) - Fen
- 9 PCHA - Wet Prairie

Neighborhood Parks

- 10 Gallagher Creek Park

Community Parks

- 11 Bear Creek Nature Park
- 12 Charles Ilsley Park
- 13 Cranberry Lake Park / CL Farm Historic District
- 14 Draper Twin Lake Park
- 15 Lost Lake Nature Park
- 16 Marsh View Park
- 17 Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park
- 18 Watershed Ridge Park

Other Parks & Recreation Facilities

- 20 Addison Oaks County Park
- 21 Bald Mountain State Recreation Area
- 22 Paint Creek Cider Mill
- 23 Stony Creek Metropark

Public Golf Courses

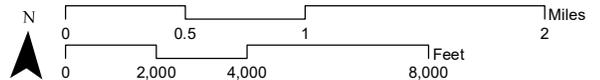
- 30 Blackheath Golf Club
- 31 The Myth Golf & Banquet
- 32 Westwynd Golf Course

Private Facilities

- 40 Royal Oak Archers
- 41 The Wyndgate Golf Course
- 42 Twin Lakes Golf & Swim Club

Public Schools

- 50 Baldwin Elementary
- 51 Delta Kelly Elementary
- 52 Hugger Elementary
- 53 Musson Elementary
- 54 Oakview Middle School



Chapter 3

Parks & Recreation Inventory

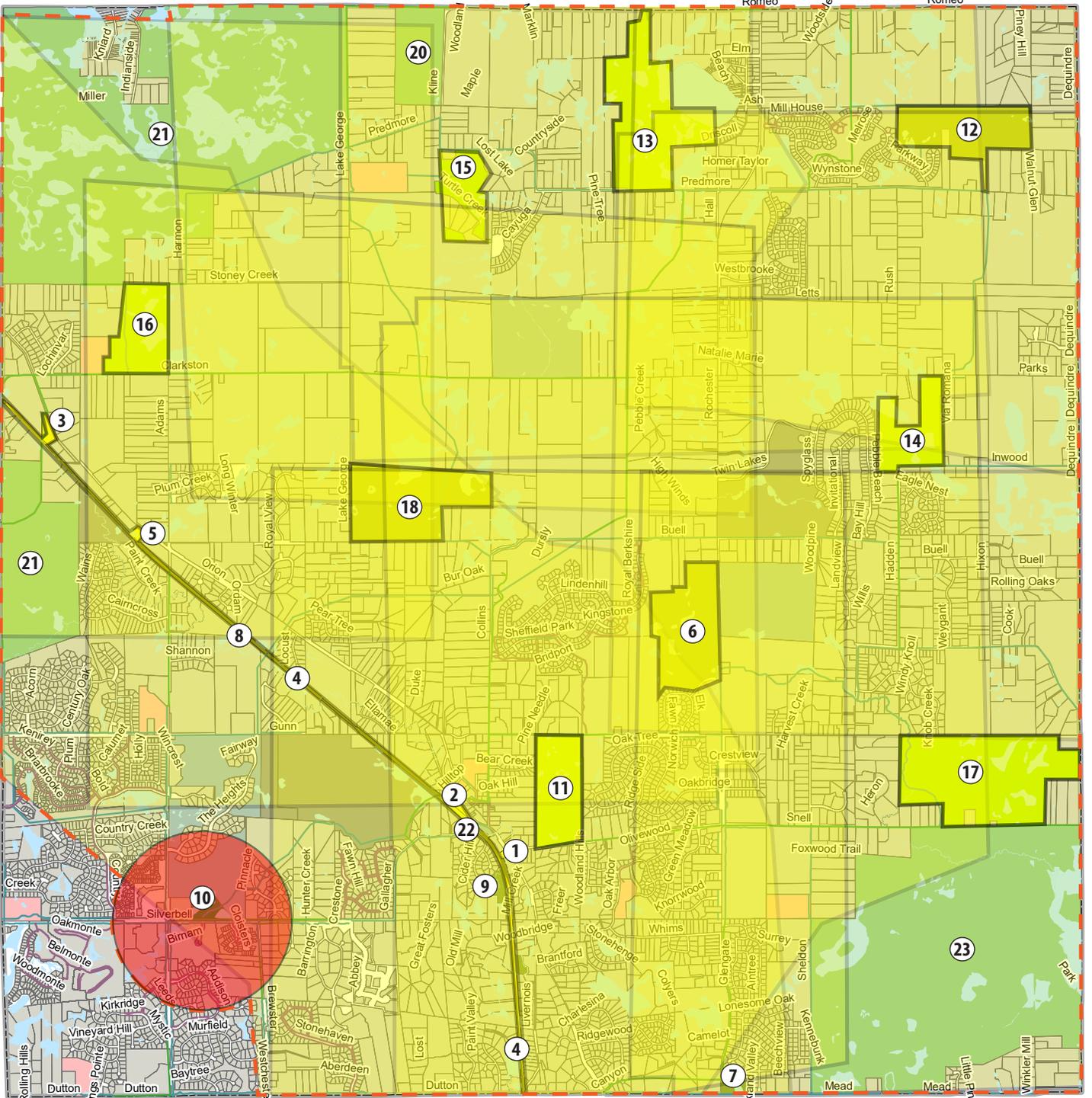
Oakland Township is blessed with an abundance of open spaces and spectacular natural beauty. Oakland Township's Parks Department places a strong emphasis on preservation stewardship, and most of its parks tend towards generally passive use as a result. A careful inventory of the existing parks and recreation 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

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 3 – Parks and Recreation Facilities and in the Inventory Tables contained in Appendix C. Categorization of Oakland Township park facilities can be difficult, as many parks meet the requirements for park size or activities for one category, but rarely meet both requirements at the same time. This makes sorting the parks into traditional classification “buckets” challenging. For this Master Plan, we continue to utilize the categories suggested by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA), meant to aid in determining the primary purposes and uses of facilities in the Township, but supplemented the categories with “Linear Parks & Trailheads” and “Conservation Parks”. In terms of service areas, both of the new categories act as Community Parks. We feel this configuration more accurately represents the park configurations in the Township, and provides a better understanding of park usage by area residents. Map 4 shows the service areas covered by Oakland Township parks.



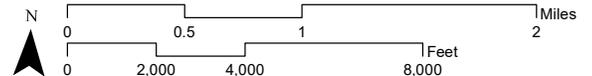


Oakland Township Parks & Recreation Facilities

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trails & Trailheads 1 Mill Creek Crossing 2 Mill Race Trail 3 Paint Creek Junction Park 4 Paint Creek Trail 5 Unnamed Park Conservation Parks 6 Blue Heron Env. Area 7 O'Connor Nature Park 8 Paint Creek Heritage Area (PCHA) - Fen 9 PCHA - Wet Prairie | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neighborhood Parks 10 Gallagher Creek Park Community Parks 11 Bear Creek Nature Park 12 Charles Ilsley Park 13 Cranberry Lake Park / CL Farm Historic District 14 Draper Twin Lake Park 15 Lost Lake Nature Park 16 Marsh View Park 17 Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park 18 Watershed Ridge Park | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other Parks & Recreation Facilities 20 Addison Oaks County Park 21 Bald Mountain State Recreation Area 22 Paint Creek Cider Mill 23 Stony Creek Metropark Public Golf Courses Private Facilities Public Schools |
|---|---|--|

- Neighborhood Park Service Area
0.5 mile radius
- Community Park Service Area
1.5 mile radius

**Oakland Township
Park Service Area**



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.

While Oakland Township does not directly own or operate any mini-parks, there are over 1,100 acres of mini-parks in the Township in the form of private open space areas in some of the residential subdivisions. 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. 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 15 on the below.

TABLE 15: SELECTED LIST OF MINI PARKS - OAKLAND TOWNSHIP 2019

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
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

Development	Acres	Description
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, 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, golf course
Vitale	1.5	Passive
Wellington	11	Passive
Woodlands	4	Active, clubhouse, tennis, playground, & volleyball, for residents only
Wynstone	42.0	Active, tennis, playground, pool, for residents only

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

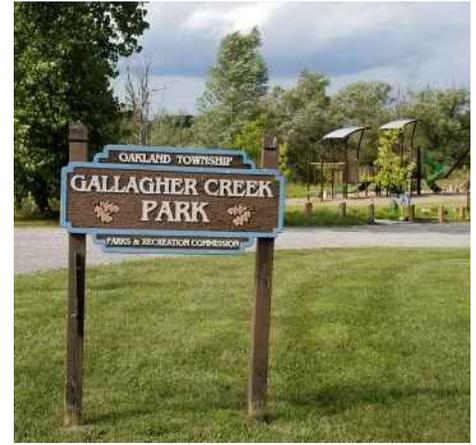
Neighborhood parks are typically multi-purpose facilities that serve as the recreational and social focus of a neighborhood. They provide areas for both passive and active recreation activities such as fields, playgrounds, picnicking, and trails. These parks are typically between five and ten acres in size and serve residents within one-half mile. Gallagher Creek Park can be classified as a Neighborhood Park. 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.

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 in one of the more highly developed areas of Oakland Township. The park was donated to the Township in August 2000 as part of The Heights PUD.

Gallagher Creek Park received a major upgrade in 2018, with a new picnic shelter, playground equipment, restrooms, and safety trail leading to the park. The parking lot is gravel, and features rain gardens along the lot's edge near the entrance of the park grounds.

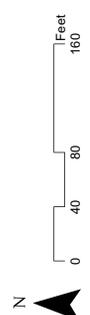




Gallagher Creek Park

2780 Silverbell Road
Rochester, MI 48306

-  Playground
-  Biking Trail
-  Restrooms (Portable)
-  Rain Gardens & Native Plant Landscaping
-  Observation Decks
-  Walking Trail
-  Picnic Shelter
-  Parking
-  Observation Deck



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

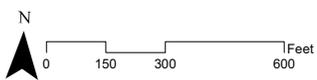
740 West Snell Road
Rochester, MI 48306
107 acres

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 Parks and Recreation 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 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 throughout the year, and holds an ice rink in winter months. The trails have been upgraded for barrier-free accessibility. The addition of these facilities was funded by a combination of Parks and Recreation Millage funds 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 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 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 Land Conservancy.





-  Restrooms (Portable)
-  Picnic Shelter
-  Playground
-  Observation Decks
-  Trailhead
-  Parking
-  Biking Trail
-  Walking Trail

Bear Creek Nature Park

740 West Snell Road
Rochester, MI 48306

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. The park's position just northeast of the rapidly growing Wynstone subdivision makes it a key recreation property. Restrictions on recreational development expired in 2015, but 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, and nearly 50 acres of native prairie have been planted on site since 2015.

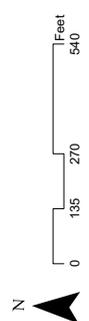




Charles Ilsley Park

1479 East Predmore Road
Oakland, MI 48363

-  Walking Trail
-  Parking



Cranberry Lake Park & Cranberry Lake Farm Historic District

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. A swamp forest, the shoreline of Cranberry Lake and a bog are protected by a conservation easement held by the Six Rivers Land Conservancy. There is no developed access to the lake's shoreline at this time.

The Nationally-designated 16-acre Cranberry Lake Farm 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 project, 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 limestone and mowed trail system is used for hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, and nature observation. Field parking near the north entrance accommodates horse trailer parking, while a 20-space limestone parking lot, picnic area, and restrooms are provided in the south near the park's historic district.





Cranberry Lake Park & Cranberry Lake Farm Historic District

388 West Predmore Road
Oakland, MI 48363

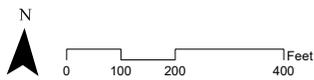
- N
- 0 200 400 800 Feet
-  Restrooms (Permanent)
 -  Trailhead
 -  Biking Trail
 -  Equestrian Facilities
 -  Picnic Area
 -  Parking
 -  Walking Trail

Draper Twin Lake Park

1015 Inwood Road
Rochester, MI 48306
90 acres

Located between Inwood and Parks Roads, Draper Twin Lake Park 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 a 20-acre prairie restoration planting. 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 completed a prairie restoration planting utilizing funds from a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service grant.





-  Restroom (Portable)
-  Walking Paths
-  Parking
-  Fishing Dock
-  Equestrian Facilities
-  Biking Paths
-  Trailhead
-  Observation Deck
-  Accessible Canoe / Kayak Launch

Draper Twin Lake Park

1015 Inwood Road
Rochester, MI 48306

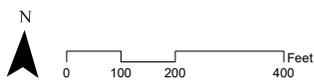
Lost Lake Nature Park

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.

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. The park includes one of the highest elevations in the Township, making it a natural sledding locale. Two sled hills and a warming hut are included on the site.





-  Restroom (Portable)
-  Walking Paths
-  Fishing Dock
-  Lost Lake Nature Center
-  Parking
-  Sledding Hill
-  Trailhead
-  Observation Deck
-  Accessible Canoe / Kayak Launch

Lost Lake Nature Park

846 Lost Lake Trail
Oakland, MI 48363

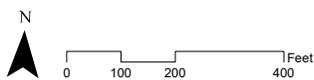
Marsh View Park

3100 E Clarkston Rd
Oakland, MI 48363
96 acres

Marsh View Park was purchased in April 2001 with a grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, which was matched by Township Parks and Recreation Millage funds. This 96-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 69 acres of rolling fields and dry forests. Parking is provided at the two Clarkston Road entrances.

Marsh View Park is Oakland Township's only truly active-use park. Containing two multi-use sport fields, two soccer fields, a basketball court, and an Olympic archery range, Marsh View offers a variety of activities for residents. The archery range has proven wildly popular, and was expanded to allow higher levels of competition. Expanded parking and an expanded trail system were also constructed since completion of the previous plan. 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 were funded by a combination of monies from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and the Parks and Recreation Millage.





- 
 Restroom
(Portable)
- 
 Walking
 Paths
- 
 Soccer /
 Lacrosse
- 
 Archery
 Range
- 
 Parking
- 
 Basketball
 Court
- 
 Picnic
 Area
- 
 Observation
 Deck

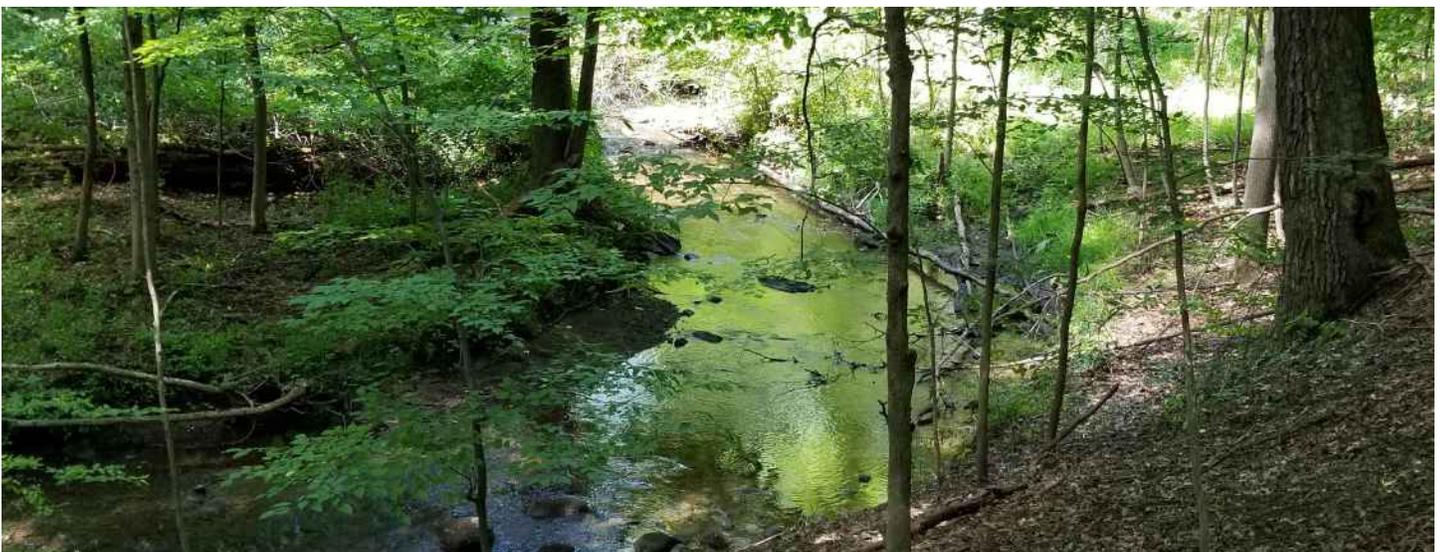
Marsh View Park

3100 E Clarkston Rd
Oakland, MI 48363

Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park

1280 Knob Creek Drive
Rochester, MI 48306
268 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. Excellent trout fishing along Stony Creek and high quality forests bring anglers and hikers throughout the year. The Six Rivers Land Conservancy holds a conservation easement on the western side of the park which protects Stony Creek, its floodplain and forested slopes. The Township was awarded a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund acquisition grant which enabled purchase of a 208-acre expansion of the park east to the Macomb County line. The expansion will allow improved access to the park from Snell Road. A parking lot, additional nature trails, fishing access, and continued restoration of the natural environment are all planned for the area. A link between Oakland Township's trail system and Stony Creek Metropark's trail systems is also proposed.





Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park

1280 Knob Creek Drive
Rochester, MI 48306

CURRENT
PRIMARY ENTRANCE

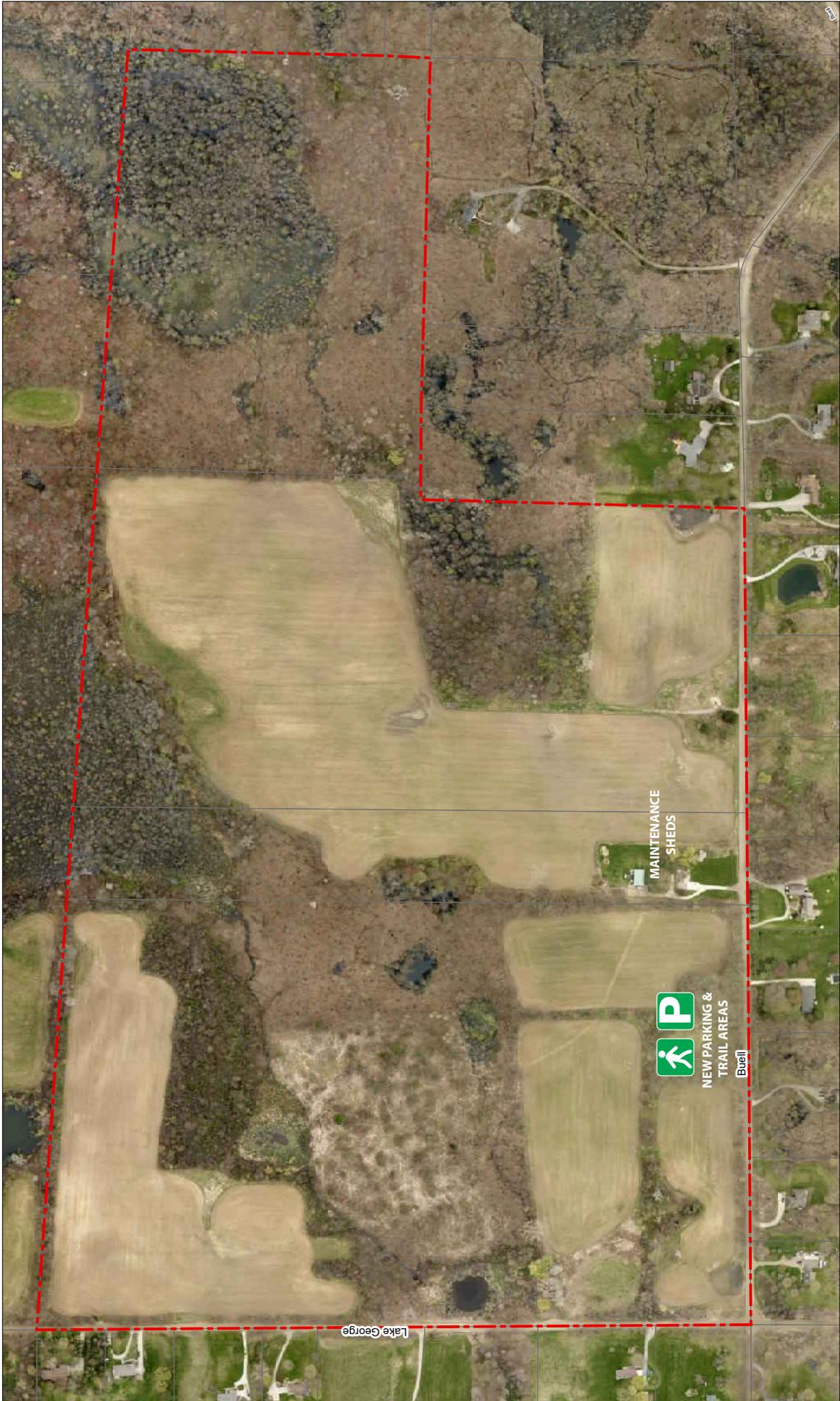


Watershed Ridge Park

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. New rustic trails and parking were installed in late 2019.





Watershed Ridge Park

1720 W Buell Road
Oakland, MI 48363

LINEAR PARKS & TRAILHEADS

The Paint Creek Trail (PCT) serves as a vital cog in the statewide Iron Belle Trail network and plays a major role in recreation development in Oakland Township. The Township has actively worked towards improving access to the PCT in recent years, acquiring and working towards development of two new parcels. These parcels and trails effectively work as community parks, but due to their distinct usage patterns, are presented as a separate category here.

Mill Race Trail

4400 Orion Road
Rochester, MI 48306
1 acre

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 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. Since completion of the previous plan, the sluice box has been outfitted with wrought-iron fencing. A State of Michigan Historic Marker highlights the history of the site.

Paint Creek Junction

2210 Orion Road
Rochester, MI 48306
5.7 acres

Currently undeveloped, the future trailhead has gone through preliminary engineering and detailed design and is planned for construction in 2020, with funding provided through a combination of Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant and Parks and Recreation Millage funds. The park will provide much needed access for equestrians, cyclists, and pedestrians alike, and will include amenities such as restrooms, a picnic area, and parking for horse trailers as well as standard automobiles. The most recent development plan is included in the Action Plan on page 215.

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 Trailways 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.

Unnamed Park

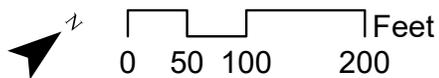
2700 Orion Road
Rochester, MI 48306
2.5 acres

One of the Township's most recently acquired parcels, this yet-to-be-named park provides an opportunity to develop a waystation station, picnic area, or other trail-related amenity. Due to close proximity to Paint Creek Junction, it is unlikely that this parcel would be developed for parking.



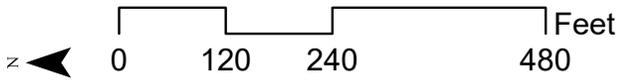
Mill Race Trail

4400 Orion Road
Rochester, MI 48306



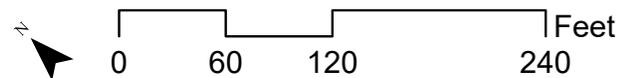
Paint Creek Junction

2210 Orion Road
Rochester, MI 48306



Unnamed Park

2700 Orion Road
Rochester, MI 48306



CONSERVATION PARKS

Natural Resource Areas or Conservation Parks 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 five properties that can be classified as Natural Resource Areas.

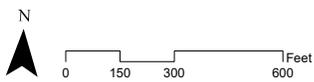
Blue Heron Environmental Area

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 was 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 Land Conservancy, except the four acres at the southern end of the property that contains the Deer Point Subdivision detention basin.





Blue Heron Environmental Area

3320 N Rochester Road
Rochester, MI 48306

Mill Creek Crossing

Orion Road
Rochester, MI 48306
1 acre

Mill Creek Crossing is a small undeveloped parcel just south of the Paint Creek Cider Mill on Orion Road. The parcel is separated from the Paint Creek Trail by the creek itself, which forms a small oxbow on the north and western sides of the property.

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

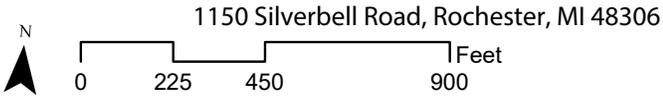
Orion Road
Rochester, MI 48306
0.5 acres

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.

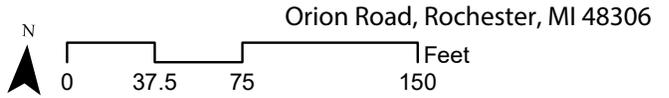




Paint Creek Heritage Area - Wet Prairie

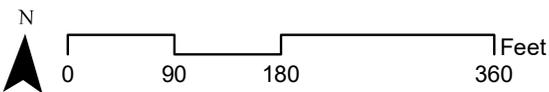


Paint Creek Heritage Area - Fen



O'Connor Nature Park

89 Mead Road, Rochester, MI 48306



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 Land Conservancy holds and monitors four easements – Bear Creek Nature Park (39.5 acres), Blue Heron Environmental Area (135.65 acres), Cranberry Lake Park (52.67 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.

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.

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 19-acre 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 on a 13-acre lot.
- **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.



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 5 – 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-country skiing, mountain biking, and horseback riding. There is one state park located in Oakland Township.

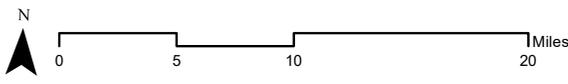
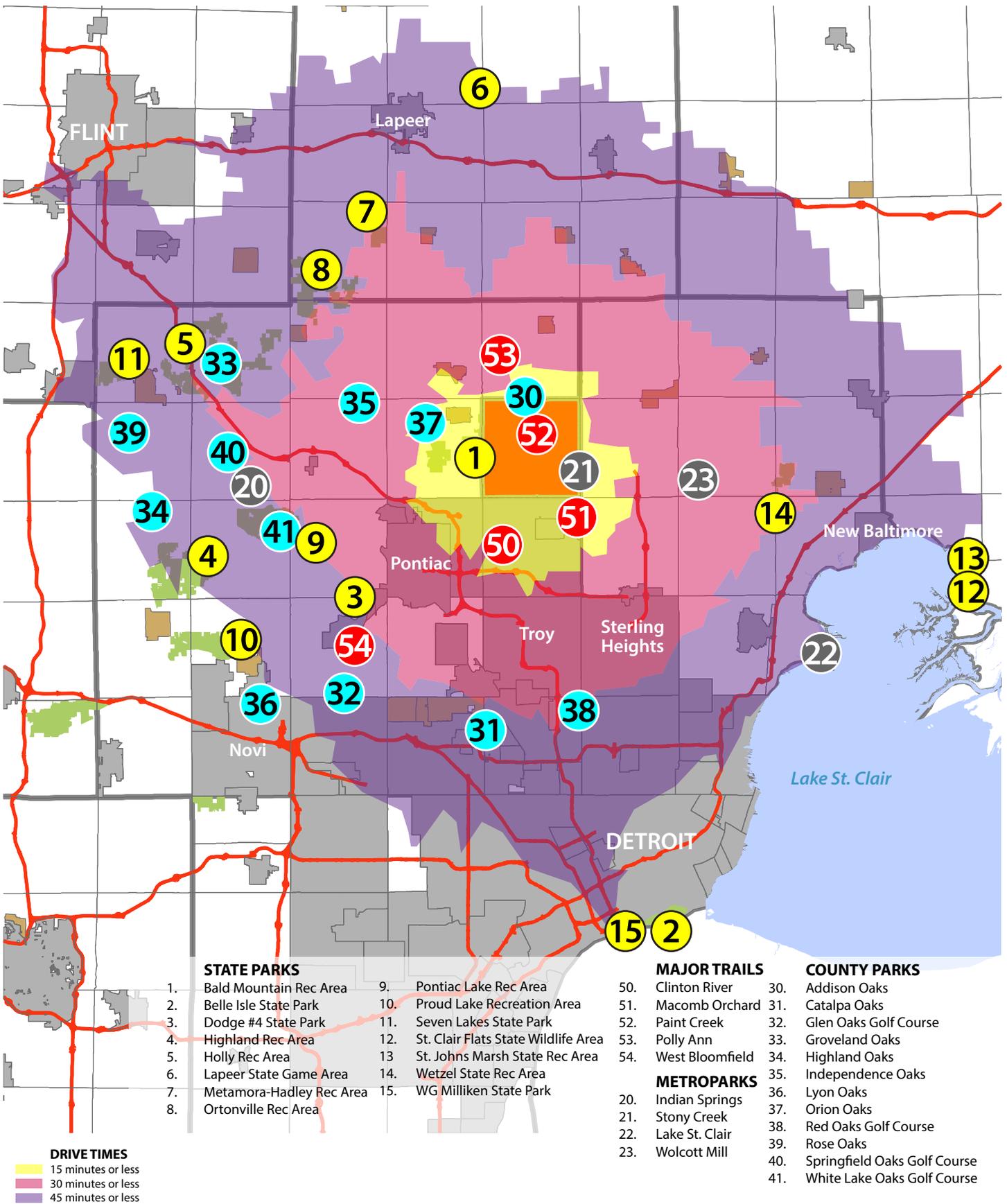
Bald Mountain State Recreation Area. 1,605 acres of this 4,637-acre regional park reserve are located in the Township's northwest sector. Created in 1944 and operated by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), Bald Mountain provides significant open space and natural area preservation on 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 a 45-minute drive of the Township. They include:

- Belle Isle State Park
- Dodge #4 State Park
- Highland Recreation Area
- Holly Recreation Area
- Lapeer State Game Area
- Metamora-Hadley Recreation Area
- Ortonville Recreation Area
- Pontiac Lake Recreation Area
- Proud Lake Recreation Area
- Seven Lakes State Park
- St. Clair Flats State Wildlife Area
- St. Johns Marsh State Recreation Area
- Wetzel Recreation Area
- William G. Milliken State Park and Harbor



MAP 5: DRIVE TIMES TO REGIONAL RECREATION FACILITIES



Drive Times To Regional Recreation Facilities
Starting Point: Paint Creek Cider Mill

TABLE 16: REGIONAL RECREATION FACILITY AMENITIES

Category	Key	Name	Acres / miles	ACTIVE-USE ACTIVITIES											PASSIVE-USE ACTIVITIES											
				Baseball / Softball Fields	Basketball	Disc Golf	Golf	Horseshoes / Shuffleboard	Sand Volleyball	Skate Park	Soccer / multi-purpose field	Tennis & Pickleball	Zip Line	Banquet Facilities / Spec Events	Visitors Center	Community Center/ Indoor Fac.	Fitness Center / Equipment	Michigan State Park Explorer	Nature Programs	Geocaching	Metal Detecting	Dog Parks / Trial Course	Pet Friendly Area	Playground	Picnic Area	Picnic Shelter
STATE PARKS	1	Bald Mountain Rec Area	4,637			•												•	•			•	•	•	•	
	2	Belle Isle State Park	982									•						•	•			•	•	•	•	•
	3	Dodge #4 State Park	139																		•	•	•	•	•	
	4	Highland State Rec Area	5,900										•						•	•			•	•	•	•
	5	Holly State Rec Area	8,000			•												•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•
	6	Lapeer State Game Area	8,534																		•	•	•	•	•	•
	7	Metamora-Hadley Rec Area	723													•			•			•	•	•	•	•
	8	Ortonville Recreation Area	5,340																			•	•	•	•	•
	9	Pontiac Lake State Park	3,745														•					•	•	•	•	•
	10	Proud Lake State Rec Area	4,700														•				•	•	•	•	•	•
	11	Seven Lakes State Park	1,434																			•	•	•	•	•
	12	St. Clair Flats State Wildlife Area	6,673																							
	13	St. Johns Marsh State Rec Area	25,555																							
	14	Wetzel State Rec Area	900																							
	15	WG Milliken State Park	31															•						•	•	•
METROPARKS	20	Indian Springs	2,547														•	•			•	•	•	•	•	
	21	Lake St. Clair	770		•			•										•	•			•	•	•	•	•
	22	Stony Creek	4,461			•							•													
	23	Wolcott Mill	2,625																							
COUNTY PARKS	30	Addison Oaks	1,140			•		•	•				•					•				•	•	•	•	•
	31	Catalpa Oaks	24	•							•							•					•	•	•	•
	32	Glen Oaks Golf Course	122										•													
	33	Groveland Oaks	361	•					•		•											•	•	•	•	•
	34	Highland Oaks	302																							
	35	Independence Oaks	1,286	•					•				•					•	•			•	•	•	•	•
	36	Lyon Oaks	1,041											•				•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
	37	Orion Oaks	916																			•	•	•	•	•
	38	Red Oaks Golf Course	141														•			•	•	•	•	•	•	•
	39	Rose Oaks	640															•					•	•	•	•
TRAILS	40	Springfield Oaks Golf Course	333										•													
	41	White Lake Oaks Golf Course	195										•													
	42	Clinton River	16 mi																							
	44	Macomb Orchard	24 mi																							
	46	Paint Creek	8.9 mi																							
	47	Polly Ann	14.2 m																							



COUNTY PARKS

The Oakland County park system consists of 12 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 water parks, 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 a 45-minute drive 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, three HCMA facilities are located within a 45-minute drive of the Township. They include:

- Indian Springs Metropark
- Lake St. Clair Metropark
- Wolcott Mill Metropark

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
- Has a hearing impairment or is deaf
- Uses a walking aid
- Uses a wheelchair
- 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 (14.2 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)

REGIONAL LOCAL-LEVEL 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
- Orion Art Studio at Moose Tree
- Gingell Nature Park
- McConnell Field
- Paint Creek Trail
- Polly Ann 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
- Innovation Hills Park
- Riverbend Park
- Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm
- Thelma G. Spencer Park
- Veterans Memorial Pointe
- Wabash Park
- Yates Park
- Clinton River Trail
- Paint Creek Trail

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
- 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
- Retro Fitness
- 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 Oasis
- Yoga Planet Studio
- ZellaDor Wellness & Fitness

GOLF (COURSES)

- Auburn Hills Golf Center
- 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:

- Archery
- Adult Health & Wellness
- Yoga
- Yoga on the Lake
- Tai Chi
- Tai Chi in the Park
- Seasonal Hikes
- Nature Programs
- Family Campfire Adventures
- Seasonal Evening Hikes
- 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
- Sledding Hill & Warming Shelter at Lost Lake Nature Park
- Ice Skating at Bear Creek Nature Park
- Kayaking
- Outdoor Skills Camps
- Soccer Camps

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, nature programs, crafts, music, balloon art, face painting, climbing wall, zip line, 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
- Finance and Language
- Dance
- Investment
- Music
- Dog Training
- Fitness and Health
- Photography
- Computers
- Golf
- Skating
- Cooking
- Gymnastics
- Swimming
- Family Matters
- Home and Garden
- Team Sports
- Karate
- Tennis

Rochester-Avon Recreation Authority (RARA)

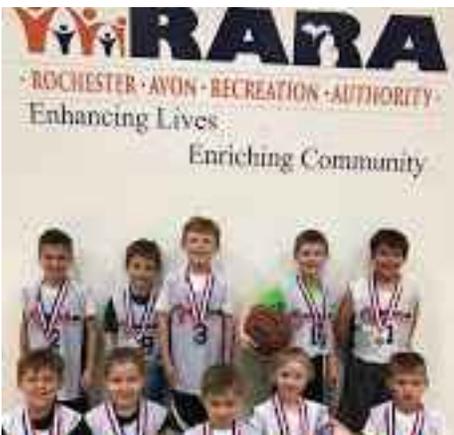
The Cities of Rochester and Rochester Hills offer recreational programming through Rochester-Avon Recreation Authority (RARA). This regional recreation authority has been the main recreation provider to the communities of Rochester and Rochester Hills since 1946. Although Oakland Township is not an administrative 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
- Theater
- 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.

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



Library

There are currently no library facilities 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
- Story Hours
- Concerts
- Workshops
- Film Festivals
- Bookmobile
- Seminars

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



Chapter 4: Public Input



*Goodison Good Tymes &
Archery Range Grand Opening at Marsh View Park*

Public Input

BASIS FOR ACTION PLAN

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 Carlisle / Wortman Associates (CWA) 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:

- Staff and Steering Committee Input - Two meetings were held with Parks Staff and the Recreation Plan Steering Committee on August 21, 2019, to discuss the status of park developments and general impressions of the efficacy of the previous plan. Staff and Park Commission members discussed current and planned projects, and helped to formulate the questions to be used in an online survey.
- Community Survey - A Parks and Recreation survey was offered online and in hard copy format to the public from September through October 2019. Data was compiled at the end of October and available for review as part of the mandated 30-day Master Plan review period. A total of 211 individual responses were received during the survey period.
- A Community Open House was held on October 23, 2019 with CWA, Parks Staff, and members of the Parks and Recreation Commission. The Open House was advertised on the cover page of the Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Newsletter mailed to every Township household. Notices/articles about the open house and survey were in the 10/2/2019 Rochester Post and the 9/25/2019 Community Lifestyles newspapers as well posted on the Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Facebook page and Twitter account.
- The complete Master Plan was made available for public review and comment from November 1, 2019 through December 10, 2019. This was publicly noticed in the October 23, 2019 Rochester Post. The plan was made available through Calameo.com, an online hosting platform which allows users to view and download PDF copies of the document. 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 – A summary of preliminary survey results was presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission on October 9, 2019. At the same time, preliminary plans for Paint Creek Junction Park and the proposed signage plan for Bear Creek Nature Park were presented to the public. In each case, public comment was encouraged.
- The Open House took place during an afternoon and evening session to allow as much participation as possible. Over 60 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, goals and objectives, environmental stewardship, park concept plans, 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 comments from the online survey and provided at the open house can be found in Appendix B.
- Public Hearing – On December 11, 2019, the Parks and Recreation Commission held a public hearing on the draft plan prior to the PRC’s recommendation for adoption. This was publicly noticed in the Rochester Post.

Task Five - Analysis: The collected information was analyzed based on the 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 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 January 7, 2020, where they provided a resolution of support for adoption of the plan. On January 14, 2020, the Master Plan was presented to the Township Board, where it was formally adopted. See Appendices H and E for adoption documentation and meeting minutes.

PARK LAND ANALYSIS AND SERVICE AREAS

Approximately 4,430 acres of parks and facilities and 22.8 miles of trails exist within Oakland Township, with 1,292 acres owned by the Township and managed by the Parks and Recreation Department. The remaining 3,138 acres are owned by public schools, Oakland County, Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA), and the MDNR.

Oakland Township park land and facilities were compared to the minimum guidelines set forth by a 1996 National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) study. The study, which categorizes parks and open spaces as mini-parks, neighborhood parks, community parks, regional parks, and preserves, has been somewhat discounted in recent years by the NRPA. The organization has suggested that a formulaic approach to park planning cannot accommodate all of the variables which are necessary to consider in a robust park system. Even so, the study has become the standard for park plans, and does offer a simple method of comparison to other communities. The mini, neighborhood, and community parks are the close-to-home parks, designed to satisfy the recreational needs of local communities within a service radius of up to two miles. All of the Township-operated parks are considered close-to-home parks. According to NRPA standards, the amount of close-to-home park land recommended is 6.25 to 10.5 acres for every 1,000 residents.

Regional parks are parks that serve a broader area, up to roughly an hour drive from home, and focus on meeting the recreation needs of the region as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces. In Oakland Township, they include the state, county and HCMA-owned parks and recreation areas described in the preceding pages. The NRPA standard for regional parks is 15 to 20 acres of park land per 1,000 people.

According to these standards, local parks currently exceed the required acreage for total close-to-home park land and, based on population estimates for 2045, will continue to be adequate for future uses. While not public, other recreation facilities located in the area including the ones provided by the schools, conservancy sites, subdivision parks, and other private facilities will help to meet local needs. In addition, Oakland Township residents are exceptionally well-served by the regional park facilities both within the community and in adjacent townships.

Table 17 - Comparison to National Standards 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 2019 US Census population estimate of 20,566. 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 1/4 mile away from the park itself. Oakland Township has in excess of 1,100 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 6.4 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 one neighborhood park, Gallagher Creek Park. Paint Creek Junction better serves as a trailhead/linear park and is no longer counted as a neighborhood park. The NRPA guidelines recommend between two to seven parks of this type, depending on the acreage of property. In Oakland Township, Gallagher Creek totals 15 acres; this is deficient in terms of both minimum and maximum acreage. When compared to the service coverage map (see Map 4 on page 38), only the southwest corner of the Township is underserved. Rather than seek additional property, the Township may wish to consider more intensive development on its community parks where residential development is growing (e.g. Charles Ilsley Park and Watershed Ridge). 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).

TABLE 17: COMPARISON TO NATIONAL STANDARDS

Assumes Population of 20,566 (per 2019 ACS data)					Existing Situation	
Classification	Location, Size Criteria	Acres/1000 residents	Min. Acres	Max Acres	Acres	Parks
Mini Parks	< 1/4 mile, residential setting; 1 acre or less	0.25 - 0.5 acres	5.2	10.3	1,100+	See table 14
Neighborhood Parks	1/4 - 1/2 miles, uninterrupted by non-residential roads	1 to 2 acres	20.6	41.2	15	Gallagher Creek
Community Park	Determined by quality and suitability of site; serves multiple neighborhoods in 1/2 to 3 mile radius	5 to 8 acres	103	165	1,122	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bear Creek Charles Hsley Cranberry Lake Draper Twin Lake Lost Lake Marsh View Stony Creek Ravine Watershed Ridge
Conservation Parks	Resource availability and opportunity	varies	-	-	164.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blue Heron Hirt Easement Kamin Easement O'Connor PCHA - Wet Prairie PCHA - Fen
Linear Parks	No standards available	varies	-	-	9.2 miles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paint Creek Trail Paint Creek Junction Mill Race Trail
Schools	Determined by school district property	varies	-	-	96	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baldwin Elementary Delta Kelly Elementary Hugger Elementary Musson Elementary Oakview Middle School
Regional Parks	Serves several communities within 1 hour drive	5 to 10	103	206	3,040	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addison Oaks Stoney Creek Metropark Bald Mountain State Recreation Area



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 1,122 acres of community park land in eight parks, and exceeds the recommended maximum acreage by 957 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 164.5 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 96 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 system represents 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 3,040 acres of park land, well exceeding the maximum recommended 206 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.

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 18 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 perspective and assist in identifying key issues related to specific facilities.

SCHOOL FACILITIES

A number of the facilities included in Table 18 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. Nationally recognized sources suggest that school sites can satisfy only some of the recommended park space requirements.

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.

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 could be assumed that there is a need for additional Township-owned amenities 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. Survey results indicate that only 3% of Township residents support 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 across 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. Trail facilities may also supplement or replace the need for tracks entirely. 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 4% 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. While demand for tennis courts has been low (7%), demand for pickleball courts (11%) is somewhat higher. If courts were to be developed, a shared-use setup would be appropriate.
- **Volleyball Courts:** Sand volleyball courts were mentioned by 7% of survey respondents. According to the NRPA, the need for indoor and outdoor volleyball courts is not being met.
- **Ice Rinks:** The national guideline reveals that there is a deficiency of one indoor ice rink in the Township. There is one formal Park-run outdoor facility located in the Township at Bear Creek, but this does not meet the year-round need in the same way as an indoor facility. Ice rink users frequently travel to neighboring communities to participate in figure skating clubs and hockey teams. Despite this, many arenas are not self-sustaining financially.

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 1 in 5 respondents mentioning playground structures as a needed facility. The playgrounds should be ADA accessible and situated near population centers in the Township to better serve the entire population.

Swimming Pools

Based on the guidelines, the Township is deficient by one swimming pool. There are no public pools located in the Township. 17% of respondents indicated a desire for a pool, while 16% would like to see a splash pad. 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 be 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.

MOST REQUESTED PARK AMENITIES & FACILITIES

1. Rustic walking paths (62%)
2. Natural areas (41%)
2. Restrooms (41%)
4. Restoration of natural areas (39%)
5. Multi-use asphalt trails (35%)
6. Fitness / exercise Trails (34%)
7. Dog park (29%)
8. Mountain biking trails (27%)
9. Well-defined trail access points (26%)
10. Benches (20%)
10. Playgrounds (20%)

Archery Range

The need for archery ranges is being met according to the national guideline for the Township.

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. Four of the top ten requested park items were trail related, and rustic trails (62%) was the most requested amenity in the survey. Exercise and fitness trails (34%) present an opportunity to further develop existing facilities, or attract new users to parks where trails are the primary attraction (e.g. Charles Ilsley or Watershed Ridge). Expanded in-park trail systems should be evaluated, and existing paths upgraded to allow for a wider variety of uses.

Passive Recreation & Stewardship

Where active-use amenities scored relatively low among survey participants, passive-use amenities and stewardship activities scored very high. The majority of respondents mentioned passive use facilities, such as walking trails, as a priority for the Township. Almost all of the Township's parks 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

Demand for off-leash dog parks continues to grow in popularity with residents. 29% of respondents, up 1% from the previous plan, indicated a desire for development of such a facility. Township residents currently have access to a dog park in Orion Oaks, and a new dog parks is being planned for Stony Creek Metropark. The Oakland County 2018 - 2022 Parks & Recreation Master Plan also shows that a dog park is planned for Addison Oaks, however, correspondence with the Addison Oaks' Parks Supervisor indicates that no new dog park facilities are planned for the near future.

The prospect of a close-to-home dog park is highly controversial. As passionate as proponents are for the facilities, opponents are equally as passionate, citing concerns about noise, pollution, and disruption to sensitive wildlife areas. Because the Township is well served by existing and planned dog parks, development of a park inside the Township borders is not recommended at this time.

Other Facilities

Other facilities noted during the public input process include new canoe/kayak launches and additional fishing/observation docks. Restrooms are a perennial issue, with users asking for portable toilets and permanent facilities at different parks. 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.

Financial analysis will be performed when considering significant capital improvements, whether the acquisition of park land or the addition of new recreation facilities, to ensure that the long-term stewardship, maintenance and operation of the proposed capital project can be adequately financed within the respective millage funds levied; whether the Parks and Recreation Millage or the Land Preservation Millage.

TABLE 18: PARK FACILITY ANALYSIS

Amenity	NRPA Guideline	Recommended Facilities	Township Facilities	School Facilities	Regional Facilities	Total Facilities	Surplus / Deficiency
Archery Range	1 / 50,000	1	1	0	0	1	0
Baseball / Softball	1 / 5,000	4	0	5	0	5	+1
Basketball	1 / 5,000	4	1	4	0	5	+1
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 / 1	0	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 0
Multiple Recreation Court	1 / 10,000	2	0	2	0	2	0
Playground	1 / 3,000	7	2	4	1	7	0
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	10	0	0	0	0	-10
Trails	1 system per region	1	1	0	3	4	+3
Volleyball	1 / 5,000	4	0	0	0	0	-4

Source: Lancaster, R.R., E. 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 2019 U. S. Census population estimate of 20,566.

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.
- 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.

Chapter 5: Action Plan



Winter Carnival at Marsh View Park

Chapter 5

Action Plan

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, 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

ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2015 - 2019

Oakland Township effectively utilized the 2015 - 2019 Master Plan to accomplish a number of goals. Projects completed since adoption of the 2015 plan include:

- Resurfacing of limestone trails at Bear Creek Nature Park and the Paint Creek Trail (2019);
- Receiving grant funding for restrooms at Bear Creek Nature Park and Marsh View Park (2019);
- Addition of a playground, picnic pavilion, new parking, and a rain garden at Gallagher Creek Park;
- Expansion of the archery range, addition of a new archer building, and construction of new parking at Marsh View Park;
- Development of Paint Creek Junction Park, a trailhead which includes a parking lot, drinking water, restrooms, picnic area, and connector path to the Paint Creek Trail (to be constructed in 2020);
- Replacement of Bridge 33.7 on the Paint Creek Trail (2019); and
- Addition of 208 acres to Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park (2019)



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:

MISSION

"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."

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."

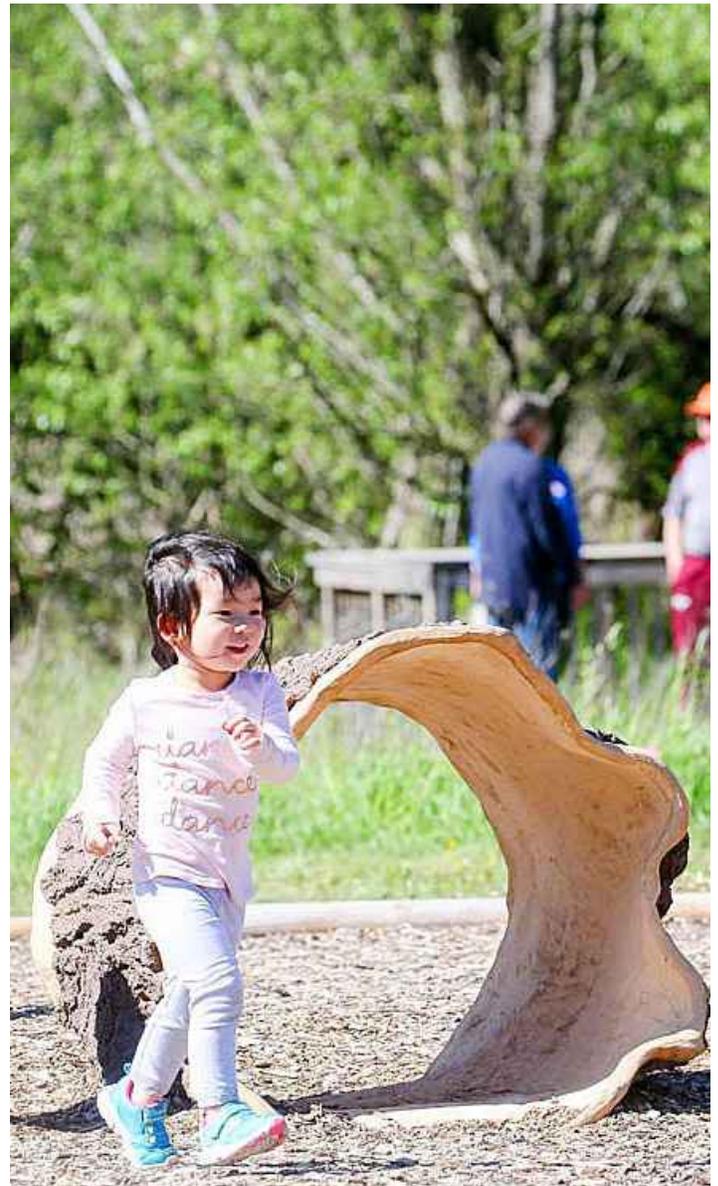
COMMUNITY VALUES

Community values elicited during the community input process 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 were updated in 2014 and again in 2019 to reflect current community values in an effort to provide the best possible framework for future decision making.



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.

Objective 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.
- Continue to balance active and passive facilities’ needs.
- Continue to facilitate planning, design, and implementation in park and trail systems.

Objective 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.

Objective 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, and utilities-type agencies to develop a regional approach to trail connectivity.
- Continue to focus on connectivity of external and internal trails to connect facilities.

Objective 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.

Objective 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 objective into the daily operations of the Park system.
- Complete a sustainability audit and develop an action plan for improvement.

Objective 1.6: Provide functional facilities to address operational requirements

- Address barrier-free accessibility where necessary in all of the Township’s parks and facilities.
- Implement a signage program in the following categories – directional, internal, interpretative, and regulatory.
- Provide facilities required 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.
- Provide more opportunities for fishing.

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.

Objective 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.

Objective 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.

- Continue to increase partnerships particularly with schools and sports groups.
- Involve similar providers in a round table 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.

Objective 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.

Objective 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

3.0 OPERATIONS & MANAGEMENT OF PARKS & 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.

Objective 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
- Develop a Commission-approved sustainability policy statement

Objective 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
- Develop cost of service analysis

Objective 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

Objective 3.4: Develop and maintain partnerships to reduce duplication of services and provide cost effective operation of parks and programs

- Strengthen collaborations and partnerships with other 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.

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.

Objective 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.

Objective 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.

Objective 4.3: Develop and implement a community donation mechanism to allow a supplemental funding source for park, trail, and other recreation items.

- Develop a parks and trails foundation or "Friends of" group 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
- Encourage individual in-memoriam or other donations in the form of park features such as benches, trees, bricks, and other hard- and softscape items.

Objective 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.

Objective 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 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, to maximize the diversity of native plants, animals, and natural communities found here, while facilitating park users' access to many of these areas.

Objective 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.

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

- Increase awareness through signage and programming efforts.
- 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 to create greater awareness and understanding.
- Utilize Park Management and Use Zones to guide development of improvements.
- Continue to focus on the restoration of natural areas and habitat, native plantings, and invasives management.

Objective 5.3: 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, Oakland County CISMA, etc.) to carry-out programming. Target mailings to neighbors regarding invasive plant educational opportunities.
- Educate 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. Consider potential partnering to offer Township residents a local composting site.

Objective 5.4: 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.

Objective 5.5: 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.

Objective 5.6: 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.

Objective 5.7: 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Acquire land for easements and trails.
- Consider conservation easements on existing park properties for future ballot consideration, including Charles Ilsley Park, Draper Twin Lake, Gallagher Creek Park, O'Connor Nature Park, Paint Creek Heritage Area-Wet Prairie, and Watershed Ridge Park.

Objective 5.8: 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, Oakland County CISMA, 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.
- Continue to promote and accept donations of land.
- Evaluate existing land preservation millage intent and funding in comparison to projected needs for long-term stewardship of park natural areas.
- Conserve grassland communities through the protection and stewardship of grassland corridors and hubs.

Objective 5.9: 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.
- 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.

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.

Objective 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.
- Development of natural area stewardship volunteer program.

Objective 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.
- Develop social networking opportunities as a way of increasing park program awareness.

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.

Objective 7.1: Align the organizational structure with the 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

Objective 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

Objective 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.

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

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

8.0 CRANBERRY LAKE FARM HISTORIC DISTRICT

Vision

Our vision for the Cranberry Lake Farm Historic District is to preserve the historic character of the District through restoration and rehabilitation of the built environment, and preservation of the agricultural history and gentleman's farm context for the benefit of future generations.

Goals

Cultivate an appreciation for the heritage of Oakland Township through education, collaboration, preservation, and innovative events, activities, programs, and exhibits.

Objective 8.1: Cultivate an appreciation for Oakland Township's history through a variety of recreation and preservation efforts.

- Maintain the historic character of the District through restoration and rehabilitation of barns, outbuildings, and houses
- Replicate lost buildings that contribute to the history of the farm
- Develop more exhibit areas for permanent and rotating exhibits
- Develop educational signage throughout the historic district
- Restore the agricultural landscape
- Work with the Natural Areas Stewardship program to preserve natural assets in the District

Objective 8.2: Offer historical and educational programs that engage all ages through innovative programming and events.

- Offer historical and educational programs such as activities and demonstrations, square dances, events, and special exhibits.
- Continue to hold Oakland Township Historical Society programs and events on the site.
- Continue to hold Oakland Township Parks and Recreation programs and events on site.
- Provide public use of grounds for local schools, Scout Troops, senior groups and other community organizations.
- Expand the variety programs to ensure that both passive and active options are available including hands-on and minds-on activities and workshops

Objective 8.3: Increase awareness of the Historic District through ongoing marketing efforts.

- Improve awareness with marketing, website, newsletters, social media, mobile applications, and e-mail blasts
- Educate residents about the value of preserving the buildings, structures and areas that have contributed to this heritage

Objective 8.4: Institute operations and management procedures to ensure the Historic District meets the needs of all area resident.

- Maintain safe, well-lighted, and clean facilities
- Develop accessible pathways to promote access to all buildings

Objective 8.5: Institute financial protocols to provide stable and ongoing funding for the District.

- Accept donations for interpretation of the agricultural history
- Provide additional public use of grounds/buildings for private rentals as available
- Continue to seek voter approved millage to fund the maintenance, operations, capital improvements, acquisitions, and programs
- Develop five-year Capital Improvement Plan
- Develop an endowment fund
- Apply for grants for capital improvement projects

Objective 8.6: Develop collaborative efforts to ensure efficient operation of the Historic District.

- Continue to partner with the Oakland Township Historical Society (OTHS) to develop, maintain, and operate the Historic District.
- Collaborate with other commissions and groups that have a mutual interest in preserving Oakland Township's heritage.
- Seek additional volunteer and collaboration opportunities with Schools, community groups, local businesses, and organizations

Objective 8.7: Develop planning documents to ensure the long-term viability of the District.

- Develop a disaster preparedness plan
- Create a Maintenance Management Plan that supports operational standards
- Develop master landscape plan and cultural landscape plan
- Develop historic district interpretive plan

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 19 – 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 2019 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 19: FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Year	Project	Est. Cost	Fund Source
2020			
2020	System-wide: Land Acquisition - due diligence & purchase	\$130,000	LPM
2020	Bear Creek Nature Park: Improve signage system; design & installation wayfinding, entry sign, parking signs	\$ 50 - 60,000	PM, LPM, D
2020	Bear Creek Nature Park: Water well, 2 hydrants, electricity for pavilion area	\$21,500	PM
2020	Paint Creek Junction: Parking, pathway, picnic area, well, signage, and restroom installation	\$ 350,000 - 400,000	PM, G, D
2020	Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park: Preliminary engineering for parking lot, trail system, playground, signage and picnic facilities	\$ 20 - 25,000	LPM
2020	Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park: Stewardship activities and vegetative restoration	\$30,000	LPM, G, D
2020	Blue Heron Environmental Area and Watershed Ridge Park: Farm field erodible area and wetland restoration	\$20,000	LPM, G, D
2020	Watershed Ridge Park: Additional Maintenance Building	\$65,000	PM, LPM,
2020	Lost Lake Nature Park: Additional Trail Loop	\$23,500	LPM, G, D
2020	Lost Lake Nature Park: Exterior Lighting for Parking Lot and Pathways	\$15,000	PM
2020	Draper Twin Lake: Addition of Kayak Launch	\$13,000	PM, LPM
2020	Cranberry Lake Farm Historic District (CLFHD): Outdoor signage	\$6,000	HDM, D
2020	CLFHD: Restoration of Crib Barn	\$50,000	HDM, G, D
2020	CLFHD: Restoration of East Porch vista, front lawn horse shoe garden & stone steps, and implementation of landscape plan	\$20,000	HDM, G, D
2020	CLFHD: Reflection pond wetland wildflower landscape plantings	\$3,750	HDM, D
2020	CLFHD: Milk House relocation & restoration	\$15,000	HDM, G, D
2020	CLFHD: Add northern benches	\$600	HDM, D
2020	CLFHD: Windmill acquisition and installation	\$5,000	HDM, G, D

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Year	Project	Est. Cost	Fund Source
2021			
2021	System-wide: Land Acquisition - due diligence & purchase	\$135,000	LPM
2021	Draper Twin Lake Park: Boardwalk Trail Connection, design & construction	\$210,000	P, LPM, G
2021	Marsh View Park, Lost Lake Nature Park: Improve signage system; design & installation wayfinding, entry sign, parking signs	\$ 50 - 60,000	PM, LPM, D
2021	Bear Creek Park: Upgrade restrooms to permanent flushable vault toilets	\$125,000	PM, G, D
2021	Marsh View Park: Upgrade restrooms to permanent flushable vault toilets	\$125,000	PM, G, D
2021	Cranberry Lake Park: Waste removal from woodlands	\$ 25 - 35,000	LPM, PM, HDM, D
2021	Marsh View Park: Archery Building Upgrade for Classes	\$30,000	PM, G, D
2021	Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park: Stewardship activities and vegetative restoration	\$30,000	LPM, G, D
2021	Blue Heron Environmental Area and Watershed Ridge Park: Farm field erodible area and wetland restoration	\$20,000	LPM, G, D
2021	Watershed Ridge Park: Preliminary engineering for parking lot, trail system, picnic and support facilities	\$ 20 - 25,000	LPM
2021	Blue Heron Environmental Area: Parking lot design & installation, mown grass pathway, connection to safety path	\$ 70 - 100,000	PM, LPM, G, D
2021	Paint Creek Trail: Bridge 33.7 Stairs	\$ 15-20,000	PM, G, D
2021	CLFHD: Pavilion/structure to cover Shed Pad	\$15,000	HDM, G, D
2021	CLFHD: Stone chip pathway for ADA access to lower Caretaker house, hen house, and pavilions and/or barns	\$10,000	HDM, G, D
2021	CLFHD: Northfield rock and obstacle area; develop further	\$1,500	HDM, D
2021	CLFHD: Implement displays / park restoration of dairy barn foundation, hay barn, shed	\$5,000	HDM, D
2021	CLFHD: Barn – Pavilion Use - Garling Barn Reconstruction	\$400,000	HDM, G, D
2021	CLFHD: Grounds Clean up; Northern edge of historic district	\$2,000	HDM, D
2021	CLFHD: Replicate the smaller lost barn with 20 x 30 open pavilion	\$20,000	HDM, G, D
2021	CLFHD: Wild Game Brooder Replicas (3) one open, one screened, one enclosed (1 of 3)	\$10,000	HDM, G, D
2021	CLFHD: WIFI for main house, monthly fee plus installation	\$850	HDM
2022			
2022	System-wide: Land Acquisition - due diligence& purchase	\$140,000	LPM
2022	Cranberry Lake Park, Cranberry Lake Farm Historic District, Gallagher Creek Park: Improve signage system; design & installation wayfinding, entry sign, parking signs	\$ 50 - 60,000	PM, LPM, D
2022	Cranberry Lake Park: Boardwalk, dock, equestrian trails and parking	\$ 65,000 - \$85,000	LPM, PM, G, D
2022	Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park: Construction of parking lot, trail system, signage, picnic facilities	\$ 300 - 350,000	G, D, LPM
2022	Paint Creek Trail: Resurface Parking Lots as Needed (Dutton, Silverbell, Gallagher)	\$50,000 -\$65,000	PM, G, D
2022	CLFHD: The Reading Place development at BBQ picnic area (history of children's author, history of children's home)	\$ 2,000	HDM, D
2022	CLFHD: Wild Game Brooder Replicas (3) one open, one screened, one enclosed (2 of 3)	\$ 10,000	HDM, G, D
2022	CLFHD: Develop more picnic areas with 2-4 tables	\$ 8,000	HDM, D
2022	CLFHD: Develop Community Garden plots, have water available	\$ 8,000	HDM, D

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Year	Project	Est. Cost	Fund Source
2023			
2023	System-wide: Land Acquisition - due diligence& purchase	\$145,000	LPM
2023	Charles Ilsley Park, Blue Heron Environmental Area, Gallagher Creek Park: Improve signage system; design & installation wayfinding, entry sign, parking signs	\$ 50 - 60,000	PM, LPM, D
2023	Charles Ilsley Park: Feasibility study to improve entrance road, parking lot, & trail system	\$ 65 - 95,000	PM, D, G
2023	Draper Twin Lake Park: Drop-off point and car turnaround design	\$30 - 40,000	LPM, PM
2023	Marsh View Park: Playground, tennis/pickleball court, restroom and northern trail loop design	\$ 15 - 20,000	PM
2023	Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park: Stewardship activities and vegetative restoration	\$30,000	LPM, G, D
2023	Watershed Ridge Park: Construction of parking lot, trail system, picnic and support facilities	\$300-350,000	PM, G, D, LPM
2023	CLFHD: Open Pavilion at lost hay barn	\$ 10,000	HDM, G, D
2023	CLFHD: Native grasses- wheat, hay fields as a typical crop demonstration at northern section of historic district (if beyond historic district need PRC approvals)	\$ 2,000	HDM
2023	CLFHD: Landscape restoration; Plant additional sugar Maple trees at eastern corner of historic district	\$ 1,200	HDM, G, D
2024			
2024	System-wide: Land Acquisition - due diligence& purchase	\$150,000	LPM
2024	Draper Twin Lake Park: Construction of East Parking lot and improvements to east walkway	\$50,000	LPM, PM
2024	Lost Lake Nature Park: Feasibility study for addition of boardwalk and trail from Nature Center to Oakview Middle School	\$20,000	LPM, PM, G, D
2024	Marsh View Park: Playground, tennis/pickleball court, restroom and northern trail loop engineering & construction	\$ 350 - 450,000	PM, G, D
2024	Marsh View Park: Phase 2 Parking, engineering, design, construction	\$ 200 - 275,000	PM, G, D
2024	Mill Race Trail: Feasibility study to connect Paint Creek Trail to Mill Race Trail, add crosswalk from Cider Mill across Gallagher Road	\$ 12,000 - 15,000	PM, TP
2024	Gallagher Creek Park: Install exercise equipment platforms along trails	\$ 40- 50,000	PM, G
2024	Blue Heron Environmental Area: Addition of Recreation Facilities	\$175,000	PM, G, D
2024	CLFHD: Replicate four lost structures in northern most section of the historic district as tiny cabins, or other uses	\$ 12,000	HDM, G, D
2024	CLFHD: Flushing restroom facility in Hen house or Caretaker basement renovation	\$ 19,200	HDM, G, D
2024	CLFHD: Wild Game Brooder Replicas (3) one open, one screened, one enclosed (3 of 3)	\$ 10,000	HDM, G, D

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IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

In order to accomplish the recommended actions during the next five years, it will be necessary to secure adequate funding. The current budget provides only a limited amount of funds for park development and improvements. The amount is well short of the projected expenses involved in the project schedule. Therefore, the following strategies are recommended to proceed as planned.

APPLY FOR FEDERAL FUNDING

At the federal level, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) funds Transportation Enhancements (TE) activities for community-based projects that expand travel choices and enhance the transportation experience by improving the cultural, historic, aesthetic, and environmental aspects of the transportation infrastructure. To be eligible, a project must fall into one of the TE activities. Activities which may apply to Springfield Township include:

1. Provision of facilities for pedestrians and bicycles such as walkways, curb ramps, bike parking, off-road trails, bike and pedestrian bridges and underpasses;
2. Educational programs for pedestrians and bicyclists designed to encourage walking and bicycling by providing potential users with education and safety instruction through classes, pamphlets, and signage; and
3. Preservation, conversion, and use of abandoned railway corridors for acquisition, development, planning, design, and construction of multi-use trails, as well as purchasing unused railroad property for reuse.

A minimum 20 percent local match is required for proposed projects and applications are accepted online on an on-going basis.

The ***Safe Routes to School*** program is a national movement to make it safe, convenient, and fun for children to bicycle and walk to school. When routes are safe, walking or biking to and from school is an easy way to get the regular physical activity children need for a healthy lifestyle. In Michigan, the program is sponsored by the Michigan Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and has gained momentum over the past few years. With the passage of the federal transportation legislation in 2005, Michigan's Safe Routes to School program made schools eligible for transportation enhancement funds, providing for infrastructure improvements and education campaigns. The purpose of the program, as defined in the federal legislation, is to:

1. Enable and encourage children, including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school;
2. Make bicycling and walking to school a safer and more appealing transportation alternative, thereby encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle from an early age; and
3. Facilitate the planning, development, and implementation of projects and activities that will improve safety and reduce traffic, fuel consumption, and air pollution in school areas.

The program provides mini grants for programming and major grants to help communities build sidewalks, crosswalks, and other infrastructure. Up to \$200,000 per school is available for infrastructure projects, and \$8,000 to build programming around the project. Communities must undergo an in-depth planning process prior to submitting an application. Deadlines are ongoing and awarded on a rolling basis. SR2S funding is 100 percent federal; no match is required.

APPLY FOR STATE FUNDING

At the state level, the *Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)* and the *Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF)* continue to be the primary funding sources for parkland acquisition and development.

The MNRTF provides funding for the purchase and development of parkland for natural resource based preservation and recreation. Goals of the program are to:

1. Protect natural resources and provide for their access, public use and enjoyment;
2. Provide public access to Michigan's water bodies, particularly the Great Lakes and facilitate their recreation use;
3. Meet regional, county and community needs for outdoor recreation opportunities;
4. Improve the opportunities for outdoor recreation in urban areas; and
5. Stimulate Michigan's economy through recreation related tourism and community revitalization.

Grant proposals must include a local match of at least 25 percent of the total project cost. There is no minimum or maximum for acquisition projects. For development projects, the minimum funding request is \$15,000 and the maximum is \$300,000. Applications are due in April and August for acquisition projects and April (only) for development projects.

The LWCF is a federal appropriation to the National Park Service, who distributes funds to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment for development of outdoor recreation facilities. The focus of the program has been on trailway systems and other community recreation needs such as playgrounds, picnic areas, skate parks, ball fields, soccer fields and walking paths. Minimum grant requests are \$30,000 and maximum grant requests are \$150,000. The match percentage must be 50 percent of the total project cost. Applications are accepted throughout the year, but must be in by April 1 to be considered for the following years grant funds.

The *Recreation Passport* grant program offers funding for the development of public recreation facilities for local units of government. Minimum grant requests are \$7,500 and maximum requests are \$75,000. The local match obligation is 25 percent of the total project cost. Application are typically due on April 1st.

Local units of government may use the Forest Stewardship program to develop a management plan for a municipal forest which would include a component targeting outreach to private landowners. A total of \$2,000 may be granted with a 50 percent local match. Applications are due in September. Non-game Wildlife Fund Grants have also been offered in the past to identify, protect, manage, and restore native plant and animal species, natural communities, and other natural features.

The Detroit Edison Tree Planting program began as DTE joined the US Department of Energy's voluntary Climate Challenge Program to address greenhouse gas emissions. Cost-share funds are available to municipalities in the Detroit Edison's service area on a competitive basis for tree planting projects. A total of up to \$4,000 may be granted to eligible tree planting projects on public and school property with a 50 percent local match. Applications are typically due in February.

APPLY FOR OTHER GRANT FUNDING

There are also a variety of smaller grant programs available for the establishment of greenways/pathways or greenway-related facilities such as ***Bikes Belong Coalition***. The Bikes Belong Coalition is sponsored by members of the American Bicycle Industry. Their mission is to put more people on bikes more often. The program funds projects in three categories: Facility, Education and Capacity Building. Requests for funding can be up to \$10,000 for projects such as bike paths, trails, lanes, parking, and safe routes to school. Applications are reviewed on a quarterly basis.

Access to Recreation is a grant program available for universal access of people of all abilities to a wide variety of recreation opportunities, such as nature viewing and photography areas, hiking trails, scenic outlooks, waterfalls and water activities of all kinds, beaches, fishing and boating, playgrounds, picnic areas, campgrounds, and much more. There are two primary grant programs under this source of funding:

1. *Recreation Access Matching Grant* provides up to 50 percent matching funds (up to \$10,000) for the purchase of universally accessible recreation equipment and materials such as all terrain hiking wheelchairs, pool lifts, accessible playground surface, transfer systems, beach access mats, trail surface enhancements, and accessible picnic tables that enhance recreation participation by people with disabilities; and
2. *Accessible by Design Awards* is designed to stimulate the development of creative universally designed recreation experiences that invite, welcome, and support the inclusion of people of all abilities. Winning designs demonstrate how going above and beyond the minimum requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act can create greater access and usability for people of all abilities in the community. Winning designs are awarded cash prizes to build the projects up to \$250,000 with 25 percent minimum match.

Increase Support for Parks

Public support for parks and recreation will be crucial in determining the level of services the Township will be able to provide in the future. A specific park or project millage over a limited period could be considered in the future for particular projects such as park or trail acquisition, development, or maintenance.

Seek Other Sources of Funding

Oakland Township Parks and Recreation should continue to search for additional sources of funding. Seeking donations, attracting sponsors, holding fund-raising events and seeking out other revenue sources are methods that should be pursued aggressively to raise funding for park acquisition and development.

