

## Appendix A - Michigan Natural Features Inventory

### MICHIGAN NATURAL FEATURES INVENTORY PROGRAM. REVIEW OF SPECIAL SITES IN OTTAWA COUNTY

The following is a review of the 15 sites which were identified by the Michigan Natural Features Inventory Program for Ottawa County as being of particular significance. The site reviews, as described in the Program's findings, are numbered and refer to the identified sites in Figure 3.3.

#### Kitchel Dunes (PNA #5)

Sec. 19, T. 8N., R.16W., Spring Lake Township. This site lies just northwest of downtown Grand Haven, across the Grand River. It is situated south of North Shore Road and east of North Shore Drive. Kitchel Dunes was determined to have three notably significant natural community occurrences: Open Dunes, Interdunal Wetland and Great Lakes Barrens.

The 94 acre dunes are dominated by Sand Cherry (Prunus pumila) and a Dunegrass (Calamovilfa longifolia). A number of artificial disturbances degrade these dunes. A road on the lakeward side of the dunes has disrupted natural excavation and deposition of sand; a sand mine is present on the north side of the site; and the west half of the dunes were planted with pines in the 1940's.

Six Interdunal Wetlands totaling 16 acres are located within the dunes. They are dominated by Twig-rush (Cladium mariscoides) and Jack Pine (Pinus banksiana). Surrounding these wetlands in sand-filled interdunal troughs are Jack pine-dominated Great Lakes Barrens totaling 40 acres. In both of these natural communities, sand deposition is believed to be occurring faster than naturally.

One population of a state threatened plant and one population of a state threatened/proposed federally threatened plant occur at this site. Ownership is by the City of Ferrysburg, Central Michigan University, the City of Grand Haven and Construction Aggregates Corporation. The majority of the area is under the first two ownerships and is protected as a natural area.

#### Hoffmaster State Park (PNA #7)

Sec. 1, T.8N., R.17W. and w 1/2 sec 6, T.8N., R.16W., Spring Lake Township. This site is midway between Muskegon and Grand Haven, in both Ottawa and Muskegon Counties. It was determined to have two natural communities of exceptional significance: Dry-Mesic Southern Forest and Open Dunes. In addition, populations of a state threatened and a federally threatened/state threatened plant occurs within the Ottawa County acreage of this site.

The 256 acre mature Dry-mesic Southern Forest is dominated by

Northern Red Oak, Beech and Sugar Maple. It is transitional to Mesic Northern Forest and includes a dozen 5-10 acre stands of this community type. The 116 acre dunes rise in a series of blowouts 180' above Lake Michigan. They are dominated by a Dunegrass (Calamovilfa longifolia), with either Merram Grass or Little Bluestem (Andropogon scoparius) co-dominant. Some ORV use and locally heavy foot traffic are major artificial disturbances on the dunes.

One population of a state threatened plant and one population of a state threatened/proposed federally threatened plant occur here. Ownership (within Ottawa County) is nearly all in P. J. Hoffmaster State Park, with only a few acres owned by Construction Aggregates Corporation. The majority of the natural quality acreage in the park is designated as Hoffmaster Natural Area.

#### South Lloyd Island (PNA #10):

S 1/2, SE 1/4, sec. 22, N 1/2, NE 1/4, sec 27; and NW 1/4, NW 1/4, NW 1/4, sec. 26, T.8N., R.16W., Spring Lake Township. This 31 acre marsh is approximately one mile due south of Spring Lake and is one in a series of natural-quality marshes found on islands within the Grand River. Natural-quality marsh, in contrast to previously cultivated (or otherwise disturbed) land, occupies approximately one-half of the island which is owned by Twin Lakes Farms, Incorporated.

This island is a mosaic of Southern Wet Meadow and Emergent Marsh (including tall emergent, broad-leaved emergent, and floating-leaved zones), with Submergent Marsh (dominated by Coontail (Ceratophyllum demersum) and Water-milfoil (Myriophyllum sp.)) restricted to the small protected bayous. The meadow is dominated by Blue-joint (Calamagrostis canadensis) and Reed Canary-grass (Phalaris arundinacea), and occupies the south, southeast, southwest and west sides of the island. These areas appeared to be heavily disturbed in 1938 aerial photographs, perhaps the result of either agriculture and/or use as river dredging spoil sites. In addition to the meadows, Willows (Salix sp.) and Purple loosestrife are locally dominant here. The Emergent Marsh is of natural quality and was locally dominated by either Hybrid Cat-tail (Typha X glauca), Pickerel-weed or Arrow-arum. The substrate is a deep silt, generally under 1-2 feet of water in 1988.

This island is the site for one state threatened plant population. No other Special Plants or Special Animals are known from, or were encountered while surveying this marsh. This marsh was determined to be a notably significant Great Lakes Marsh occurrence.

#### Pottawattomie Bayou (PNA #11)

SW 1/4; W 1/4, SE 1/4; SW 1/4, NW 1/4; W 1/2, SE 1/4, NW 1/4, sec. 2; N 1/2, NW 1/4, W 1/2, NW 1/4, NE 1/4, sec. 11; NE 1/4, NE

1/4, NE 1/4, sec. 10; E 1/2, sec. 3, T.7N, R. 16W., Grand Haven Township; and SE 1/4, SE 1/4, sec. 34, T.8N., R.16W., Spring Lake Township. This 122 acre marsh lies approximately 3 miles south south-east of Grand Haven. It is locally known as Hofma Park and is accessible from a boardwalk near the east end of Sleeper Street, 0.75 miles east of 168th Avenue. The majority of the site is owned and protected by the Township of Grand Haven, with significant additional unprotected acreage in Pitcher Investment company, Ester D. Witteveen, McBeath & Kule, and Nicholas Wolf.

Highly diverse Emergent and Southern Wet Meadow communities dominate most of the area, with moderately diverse Submergent Marsh (dominated by Coontail and Greater Duckweed (Spiroldela polyrhiza)) restricted to the main channel and the deeper, northern portions of the marsh. The Emergent Marsh is dominated by Arrow-arum and Pond-lily and gradually grades into atypical Southern Wet Meadow community (dominated by either Sedge (Carex aquatilis) or Swamp Loosestrife (Decodon verticillata) and Beggar-ticks (Ridens cernua) as the floating peat mat becomes more stable. Meadows on unstable mats are rarely encountered in Great Lakes Marshes. A narrow zone of Southern Shrub-Carr (dominated by Red-osier (Cornus stolonifera), Speckled Alder (Alnus rugosa), and Rice Cut-Grass (Leersia oryzoides) occurs at the base of the uplands. The only major disturbance to this marsh is a former railroad right-of-way which crosses through the center of the site. It is now occupied by an elevated boardwalk which allows for a natural hydrologic regime.

This site was determined to be exceptionally significant as a Great Lakes Marsh. It is the highest quality estuary-type marsh in the southern half of Michigan's Lower Peninsula. In addition, it has a population of a state threatened plant species. No Special Animals are known from this marsh.

#### Dermo Island (PNA #14)

S 1/2, SE 1/4, NW 1/4; S 1/2, NE 1/4; NE 1/4, SE 1/4, sec. 26, T.8N., R.16W., Spring Lake township. This 88 acre marsh lies approximately two miles east of Grand Haven and is one in a series of natural marshes on islands within the Grand River. Approximately one-half of this island was determined to be natural quality Great Lakes marsh, with the remainder (at the north and south ends of the island) as former agricultural land and/or river dredge spoil sites. These latter areas are dominated by Hybrid Cat-tail, Willows, Reed Canary-grass and Purple Loosestrife. The island is owned by the State of Michigan and is part of the Grand Haven State Game Area.

The essentially undisturbed marsh, on the south and west sides of the island, consists of a mixture of Southern Wet Meadow, Emergent Marsh (including tall emergent, broad-leaved emergent, and floating-leaved zones), and Submergent Marsh. A Bulrush (Scirpus fluviatilis), locally dominant within the Emergent Marsh, is uncommon in other marshes along the Grand River.

A portion of this island was determined to be notably significant Great Lakes Marsh occurrence. No Special Plants or Special Animals are known from this island.

#### Indian Channel (PNA #15)

Sec. 36, T.8N., R.16W., Spring Lake Township; NE 1/4; NE 1/4, NE 1/4, NW 1/4 sec. 1, T.7N., R.16W. Spring Lake Township; NW 1/4, sec. 6, T.7N., R.15W., Robinson Township; and S 1/2, sec. 31, T.8N., R.15W., Robinson Township. This 503 acre marsh lies 3 miles southeast of Grand Haven and is situated alongside and within the Grand River. The site consists of three adjacent marshes including an island west and south of Indian Channel, the wetland portion of a peninsula immediately east of the channel, and marsh east of these areas and immediately south of the main channel of the Grand River. The entire wetland acreage north of the Grand River was determined to be a Great Lakes Marsh of natural quality. The site south of the river is natural quality except immediately alongside the river, where dredging spoils may have been deposited. The majority of the area is within Grand Haven State Game Area. Significant private tracts include Felix Pytlinske, Marc Leona Crum, and Walter Maciejewski.

The island west of Indian Channel consisted of either Hybrid Cat-tails on exposed, sandy ground, or Arrow-arum on deep, unstable muck. High recent water levels have significantly lowered plant diversity at this site. The area east of the channel was primarily Arrow-arum, with Coontail and Greater Duckweed in the Submergent Marsh. The marsh south of the Grand River is dominated by three floating-leaved Emergent Marsh species: Water Lily, Pond-lily, and a Pondweed (Potamogeton nodosus). This plant community exists where water depths exceed three feet. The emergent-leaved plant community of Hybrid Cat-tail, Bur-reed (Sparganium eurycarpum), and Softstem Bulrush (Scirpus validus) occurs on slightly more elevated sites (0.5 to 2.5 feet of water depth). In between these two zones (in depths from 2.5 to 3 feet) are Pickerel-weed and Arrow-arum. A submergent zone was found in deeper water throughout the area and is dominated by Star Duckweed (Lemna trisulca), Waterweed (Elodia nuttallii), and Coontail.

This site was determined to be a notably significant Great Lakes Marsh occurrence. One state threatened animal is known from the Indian Channel of the Grand River. While no other Special Animals or Special Plants are known from the area, there is a likelihood of a state threatened plant occurring here.

#### Millhouse Bayou (PNA #16)

SW 1/4, sec. 1 and W 1/2, NE 1/4; E 1/2, NE 1/4, NW 1/4, sec. 12, T.7N., R.16W., Grand Haven Township. This 57 acre marsh lies approximately four miles southeast of Grand Haven, on a tributary of the Grand River. The vegetation is similar to Potawattomie

Bayou (PNA #11) one mile west, but the zonation is much narrower due to the smaller size of the bayou. The exotic weed Purple Loosestrife is abundant in localized areas in this marsh, which makes this a lower quality community than Potawattomie Bayou, despite less artificial disturbance. This site is owned by Floyd Payne, Ruth Kube, George Unger, and Martin Zimonick.

This site was determined to be a notably significant Great Lakes Marsh occurrence. A population of a state threatened plant occurs here. No other Special Plants or Special Animals are known from this marsh.

#### Vincent Creek Woods (PNA #19)

N 1/2, NE 1/4, sec. 6, T.8N., R.15W., Crockery Township. This site miles 1.5 miles southeast of Fruitport, 0.25 miles due south of the I-96/Fruitport Road interchange. It is characterized by a 65 acre notably significant Mesic Northern Forest, locally dominated by either Hemlock with White and Black Oak or Northern Red Oak and Sugar Maple. It represents the only natural quality example of a Hemlock forest type that was once widespread in the western part of the county. While many Hemlock and White Pine stumps are present from logging in the 1890's, some remain and there is reproduction of these species.

The two tracts comprising this site are owned by C. Jesiek and Don Jablonski. Moderate to locally heavy logging took place in 1987 to a mature to old second growth White Oak stand immediately west of Vincent Creek Woods. There are no Special Animals or Special Plants known from this site.

#### Bruce Bayou (PNA #20)

N 1/4, sec. 32; N 1/4, sec. 33; S 1/2, SE 1/4, SW 1/4; S 1/4, SE 1/4, sec. 29; SW 1/4; SW 1/4, SE 1/4, sec. 28, T.8N., R. 15W., Crockery Township. This 379 acre marsh lies along the Grand River, 3.5 miles southwest of Nunica. The majority of the site is within the boundaries of the Grand Haven State Game Area, with private ownerships in Spoonville Gun Club, John Leavitt, Clinton Peterson, and Arn. Johnson.

This site is characterized by an extensive Emergent Marsh dominated by Arrow-arum and Water-lily on 3.5 to 6 feet of unstable muck. It is mostly undisturbed, with the exception of a long, shallow ditch through the northeast part of the site. Submergent Marsh is restricted to protected embayments and is dominated by Coontail. Southern Wet Meadow is found where muck depth is less than 3.5 feet and underlain by sand. These meadows are dominated by Reed Canary-grass and Willow-weed (Polygonum lapathifolium).

This site was determined to be a notably significant Great Lakes Marsh occurrence. A population of a state threatened plant was found here. No other Special Plants or Special Animals are known

to occur in this marsh.

Stearns Bayou (PNA #22)

S 1/2, Sw 1/4; W 1/2, SW 1/4, SE 1/4, sec. 5 and NE 1/4; E 1/2, NE 1/4, NW 1/4, sec. 8, T.7N., R.15W., Robinson Township. This site was determined to be non-qualifying as a Great Lakes Marsh based on a field evaluation. However, a state threatened plant population occurs here. Ownership of the threatened plant habitat is by Chester Stolarz.

Grand Valley Ravines (PNA #26)

W 1/2, sec. 29; E 1/2, SE 1/4; SE 1/4, NE 1/4, sec. 30; E 1/2, NE 1/4; NE 1/4; SE 1/4 sec. 31; and NW 1/4, sec. 32, T.7N., R.13W., Tallmadge Township. This site lies six miles north of Hudsonville, along the west banks of the Grand River at Grand Valley State college. It extends from 0.2 to 1.3 miles south of the M-45 bridge over the Grand River. The 170 acre Mesic Southern Forest was determined to be notably significant. It is a diverse mature to old-growth woods dominated by Sugar Maple, Beech and Northern Red Oak. Included in this acreage are small areas of Dry-Mesic Southern Forest (Oak-Maple) and a Red Ash-Sugar Maple Southern Floodplain Forest, neither of which are large enough to be recognized as element occurrences.

Grand Valley Ravines was a historic locality for a state threatened plant, as well as being adjacent to more recent occurrences for a state threatened plant and a special concern plant. Ownership is by Grand Valley State College, Grand Valley State College Faculty Club and Calvin Aldrink.

Aman Park (PNA #31)

Sec. 22, T.7N., R.13W., Tallmadge Township. This site is located about six miles northwest of Grandville, two miles east of Grand Valley on M-45. It lies in the northwest part of a park owned by the City of Grand Rapids. This 23 acre Dry-Mesic Southern Forest was determined to be notably significant. It lies atop a 40-50' escarpment and is dominated by Northern Red Oak and White Oak. Historic fires probably maintained on Oak Opening natural community in presettlement times. Presently, the forest canopy has closed in and the woods are undergoing succession to a Beech-Sugar Maple stand due to lack of fire.

No Special Plants or Special Animals are known from within the natural community, although two plants inhabit the floodplain forest downslope.

South Grand Valley Ravine (PNA #32)

SE 1/4, sec. 32, T.7N., R.13W., Tallmadge Township and sec. 5, T.6N., R.13W., Georgetown Township. This site lies five miles north of Hudsonville, on the south bank of the Grand River. It

was determined to be a notably significant Mesic Southern Forest dominated by Sugar Maple and Beech. While old growth trees still remain, many of the oaks and beech were cut 20-24 years ago. This 47 acre forest contains small acreages of Dry-Mesic Southern Forest and Southern Floodplain Forest, which individually do not qualify as natural community occurrences. The site is owned by Ricardo Meana. There are Special Plants or Special Animals reported from the site.

#### Marne Bog (PNA #33)

E 1/2, sec. 36, T.8N., R.13W., Wright Township. This site lies 1.5 miles east of Marne, between Garfield and Hayes Streets. It was determined to be a notably significant, 25 acre Bog dominated by Cat-tails, Sphagnum and a Sedge (Carex stricta). The Bog lies in the center of a shallow depression on glacial outwash, surrounded by Relict Conifer Swamp and Southern Swamp. While the former is of high natural quality, it is not large enough to be a natural community occurrence.

This site is owned by Henry Kaptein. There are no Special Plants or Special Animals reported from here.

#### Stafford Lake (PNA #36)

Sec. 25 and 36, T.N., R.13W., Tallmadge Township. This site lies approximately four miles north of Grandville, 0.2 miles northwest of the junction of Fennessy Drive and 2nd Avenue. It was determined to be a notably significant Bog (11 acres) and Emergent Marsh (22 acres). The Bog is locally dominated by Cat-tails and a Spike-rush (Eleocharis sp.) and is essentially undisturbed. The Emergent Marsh is dominated by Water Lily and is also essentially undisturbed. However, both of these communities are of rather low diversity.

A historical record for a population of a state threatened/federal candidate plant is known from this site. It was not possible to verify the occurrence of this species at the site since permission for access to its appropriate habitat was denied by the landowner. The site is under multiple ownership, including: Jack Goodale, Ruth Densel, Teresa Kasperlik, Richard Bjork and Consumers Power Company.

# Appendix B - Previous DNR Grant Projects



Grants Management  
Department of Natural Resources

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

## Recreation Grant History

---

### Applicant

Ottawa County

Project No. 26-00108

Project Year: 0000

Project Title: Grose Park

Project Status: Withdrawn

Grant Amount: \$5,000.00

**Project Description:** To acquire about 20 acres of land adjoining Grose Park for additional parking, picnic area, play area and walking trails. 8/12/68 County decided to withdraw project due to requirement of relocation of power lines. 9/10/68 Notification of withdrawal

---

Project No. 26-00044

Project Year: 0000

Project Title: Hager Hardwood Arboretum & Park

Project Status: Withdrawn

Grant Amount: \$36,000.00

**Project Description:** To acquire 40 acres of property contiguous to an existing developed county park. 6/9/67 BOR informed this office that the project was being withdrawn in accordance with project processing time policy. Project was unactionable for a period of 75 days.

---

Project No. 26-00089

Project Year: 1966

Project Title: Hager Hardwood Park

Project Status: Closed

Grant Amount: \$12,450.10

**Project Description:** Acquire 10.46 acres.

---

Project No. 26-00384

Project Year: 1972

Project Title: Camp Kirk County Park

Project Status: Closed

Grant Amount: \$80,000.00

**Project Description:** Acquisition of approximately 27 acres of land located seven miles south of Grand Haven city along Lake Michigan in Ottawa county

---

Project No. 26-01216

Project Year: 1981

Project Title: Kirk Park Acquisition #2

Project Status: Closed

Grant Amount: \$50,345.00

**Project Description:** Acquisition of 15 acres for outdoor recreation

---





### Recreation Grant History

---

**Applicant**

Ottawa County

**Project No.** TF710

**Project Year:** 1983

**Project Title:** Grand River Park

**Project Status:** Closed

**Grant Amount:** \$120,000.00

**Project Description:** Acquire 163 acres of undeveloped land with 1 mile of frontage on the Grand River in Georgetown Township in Ottawa County.

---

**Project No.** 26-01468

**Project Year:** 1986

**Project Title:** Kirk Park

**Project Status:** Closed

**Grant Amount:** \$99,783.00

**Element**

- Site preparation and landscaping
- Roads and parking
- Wire burial
- Trail
- Picnic equipment
- Picnic shelter

**Project Description:** site prep. & landscaping, roads, parking, wire burial, fitness trail, picnic shelter & equip, LWCF sign.

---

**Project No.** TF87-229

**Project Year:** 1987

**Project Title:** Grand River Park

**Project Status:** Closed

**Grant Amount:** \$120,000.00

**Project Description:** multi-purpose shelter, fitness trail, nature study area, dock & pier, multi-use trail

---

**Project No.** 26-01474

**Project Year:** 1988

**Project Title:** Tunnel Park

**Project Status:** Closed

**Grant Amount:** \$103,260.00

**Element**

- Entrance drive
- Parking
- Tot lot/dime climb
- Deck
- Shelter/picnic area
- Ballfield

**Element**

- 2 Volleyball courts
- Walkways
- Stairway
- Signs
- Picnic equipment

**Project Description:** develop: parking, tot lot/dime climb, stairway, deck, shelter-picnic area, ballfield, olleyball courts, walkways, signs, picnic equipment, landscaping

---



Recreation Grant History

---

**Applicant**

Ottawa County

**Project No. BF89-474**

**Project Year: 1989**

**Project Title:** Hager Park - Phase I

**Project Status:** Closed

**Grant Amount: \$225,000.00**

**Element**

Site Preparation and Grading  
Landscaping  
Paved Parking Lot  
Play Area  
Picnic Shelter  
Site Furniture

**Element**

Visitor Center Renovations  
Gates, Bollards  
Entrance Signs  
Walks & Paths  
Relocate Sawmill  
Lighting  
Well  
Plaque Pedestal/Drinking Fountain

**Project Description:** Construct park entrance, drives, parking areas. Convert existing museum to visitor center w/restrooms & multi-purpose room. Construct children's play area, group picnic area and trail loop.

---

**Project No. 26-01482**

**Project Year: 1989**

**Project Title:** Kirk Park

**Project Status:** Closed

**Grant Amount: \$72,933.00**

**Element**

Trails  
Active day use area  
Dune grass and tree planting  
Concession/restroom building  
Interpretive panels (2)  
Picnic deck on lodge

**Project Description:** trails, active day use area, dune grass and tree plantings, concession/restroom building, interpretive panels, picnic deck on lodge

---

**Project No. TF89-232**

**Project Year: 1989**

**Project Title:** Pigeon Creek Expansion

**Project Status:** Closed

**Grant Amount: \$107,300.00**

**Project Description:** Acquisition of 170 acres of land adjacent to existing park to provide regional trail center for hiking, cross-country skiing and nature trail activities.

---



Recreation Grant History

---

**Applicant**

Ottawa County

**Project No. TF90-028**

**Project Year: 1990**

**Project Title:** Grose Park Expansion

**Project Status:** Withdrawn

**Grant Amount: \$45,000.00**

**Project Description:** Acquisition of approximately 60 acres lowland hardwoods adjacent to Grose Park with 500 feet on Crockery Lake and encompassing valuable wetlands, stream and 1-1/2-acre pond.

---

**Project No. TF91-051**

**Project Year: 1991**

**Project Title:** Riverside Park Expansion

**Project Status:** Closed

**Grant Amount: \$114,000.00**

**Project Description:** Acquisition of approximately 5.17 acres adjacent to Riverside Park with 285 feet of frontage on the Grand River.

---

**Project No. BF92-234**

**Project Year: 1992**

**Project Title:** Tunnel Park Development

**Project Status:** Closed

**Grant Amount: \$113,000.00**

**Element**

**Element**

Woodchip Trail

Concession Shell

Trail Stairs - Upper

Concession Plaza

Trail Stairs - Lower

Drinking Fountain/Footwsh

Dune Boardwalk/Benches

Parking Improvements

Overlook Deck/Display

Landscaping & Screening

Picnic Shelter w/Electric

Irrigation System

Dumpster Enclosure

**Project Description:** Request was to complete master plan improvements at a heavily used lakefront park including a new shelter, trail with overlooks, park concession, parking lot improvements and landscaping. Grant is for all but park concession building.

---



### Recreation Grant History

---

**Applicant**

Ottawa County

**Project No. TF93-106**

**Project Year: 1993**

**Project Title:** Pigeon Creek-Phase I

**Project Status:** Closed

**Grant Amount: \$315,000.00**

**Element**

Park Entrance/Supp. Fac.

Trail Development

Barrier-Free Loop

Group Camping Area Dev.

Interpr./Educ. Display

**Element**

Professional Fees

Sledding Hill

Lodge Access Drive

Building and Walks

Topographic Survey

**Project Description:** Development of trails and support facilities for hiking, biking, horseback riding and cross-country skiing and facilities for group camping, sledding and picnicking.

**Project No. TF95-208**

**Project Year: 1995**

**Project Title:** North Beach Improvements

**Project Status:** Closed

**Grant Amount: \$150,000.00**

**Element**

Site Preparation

Earthwork

Concrete Walks

Asphalt Parking Lot

Resurface Existing Lot

Parking Guardrails

**Element**

Barrier-Free Picnic Areas

Play Equipment

2 Tree Benches

Beach Ramp

Overlook Deck

Furniture

Landscaping

**Project Description:** Improvements to popular Lake Michigan beach park including parking expansion and resurfacing, walkways to improve pedestrian access, new play area and accessible picnic sites.

**Project No. TF96-238**

**Project Year: 1996**

**Project Title:** Camp Blodgett Acquisition

**Project Status:** Withdrawn

**Grant Amount: \$1,400,000.00**

**Project Description:** Acquisition of 13.4 acres of camp property with approximately 700 feet Lake Michigan frontage for development as a County Park featuring swimming, picnicking, nature study, etc.



### Recreation Grant History

---

**Applicant**

Ottawa County

**Project No. TF97-242**

**Project Year: 1997**

**Project Title:** Pigeon River Greenway Acquisition

**Project Status:** Closed

**Grant Amount: \$397,500.00**

**Project Description:** Acquire approximately 86 acres of prime natural land with Pigeon River frontage for greenway park with trails, fishing, canoe access, natural and historical interpretation, etc.

---

**Project No. TF98-052**

**Project Year: 1998**

**Project Title:** Grose Park Improvements

**Project Status:** Closed

**Grant Amount: \$410,000.00**

**Element**

New Entrance Drive, Sign and Gate

Renovate Existing Parking and Access Walks

New Parking Area and Drop Off

Improve Beach Area with H.C. Access

New Picnic Shelter and Grill Area

New Restroom Building

**Element**

New Play Area

Boardwalk, Ramp and Stairs

Fishing Access

Sand Volleyball

Renovate Softball Field

Nature Trail Improvements

Landscaping and Lawn Improvements

Topographic Survey

**Project Description:** Major improvements to an inland lakefront park to include new entrance, parking expansion, beach improvements, picnic shelter, play area, trails, and fishing access. The site has frontage on both Crockery Lake and Lange Creek.

---

**Project No. TF98-285**

**Project Year: 1998**

**Project Title:** Pigeon River Greenway II

**Project Status:** Closed

**Grant Amount: \$390,000.00**

**Project Description:** Acquisition in fee simple terms of approximately 61 acres of natural area with 1,600 feet of Pigeon River frontage for a greenway park with trails, fishing, canoe access, and nature interpretation.

---

**Project No. TF99-235**

**Project Year: 1999**

**Project Title:** Crockery Creek Site Acquisition

**Project Status:** Closed

**Grant Amount: \$805,000.00**

**Project Description:** Acquire in fee simple an estimated 268 acres of high quality wetlands and woodlands including 1.7 miles of frontage on the Crockery Creek for County park greenway purposes.

---



Recreation Grant History

---

**Applicant**

Ottawa County

**Project No. TF00-150**

**Project Year: 2000**

**Project Title:** Grand River Ravines Acquisition

**Project Status:** Withdrawn

**Grant Amount: \$910,000.00**

**Project Description:** Acquisition in fee simple of approximately 100 acres of natural area, including ravines, mature forest and meadows with approximately 1,100 feet of frontage on the Grand River for County Park greenway purposes.

---

**Project No. TF01-159**

**Project Year: 2001**

**Project Title:** Pigeon River Greenway Improvements

**Project Status:** Closed

**Grant Amount: \$471,000.00**

- |   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| Element   | Element               |
| Site preparation and grading                          | Pedestrian bridge     |
| Bituminous paving                                     | Amenities/signage     |
| Concrete paving                                       | Interpretive displays |
| Site lighting   | Landscaping           |
| Architecture/structures<br>(restroom&picnic shelters) |                       |
| Trail/boardwalk/overlooks                             |                       |

**Project Description:** Development of 1-1/2 mile stretch of Pigeon River and surrounding lands with parking, trails, canoe/kayak launch, footbridges, interpretive displays and scenic overlooks.

---

**Project No. TF01-158**

**Project Year: 2001**

**Project Title:** Rosy Mound Improvements

**Project Status:** Closed

**Grant Amount: \$500,000.00**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Element   | Element                                       |
| Parking area and entry drives                     | Beach access drive (emergency access)         |
| Landscaping                                       | Signage/interpretive displays                 |
| Parking area restrooms                            | Grading and walls                             |
| Beach area restrooms, deck and signage            | Amenities-picnic tables, entrance gates, etc. |
| Trails, non-motorized path and barrier-free paths |   |
| Beachfront access stairs, boardwalk and trail     |   |

**Project Description:** Development of Lake Michigan access via entrance drive, parking, barrier-free paths, trails, beach access stairs and boardwalks plus restrooms, interpretive displays and picnic areas.

---



### Recreation Grant History

---

**Applicant**

Ottawa County

**Project No. TF03-146**

**Project Year: 2003**

**Project Title:** Connor Bayou Acquisition

**Project Status:** Closed

**Grant Amount: \$823,000.00**

**Project Description:** Acquire in fee simple 95 acres of high quality forested land with nearly 2,000' of Grand River frontage plus a portion of Connor Bayou and wetlands for development of a future county park.

---

**Project No. TF04-108**

**Project Year: 2004**

**Project Title:** North Ottawa Dune Acquisition Project

**Project Status:** Closed

**Grant Amount: \$3,900,000.00**

**Project Description:** Acquisition in fee simple of 500 acres including 304 acres of critical and barrier dunes which houses endangered species to provide scenic viewing opportunities of the Lake Michigan shoreline and opportunities for active and passive recreation.

---

**Project No. TF06-208**

**Project Year: 2006**

**Project Title:** Bur Oak Land Acquisition

**Project Status:** Closed

**Grant Amount: \$773,000.00**

**Project Description:** Acquisition of 175 acres of high quality, undeveloped natural land with 4,925' of Grand River frontage, one-half mile of bayou frontage and 67 acres of wetlands for hunting, fishing, hiking, and other resource based recreational uses.

---

**Project No. TF06-067**

**Project Year: 2006**

**Project Title:** Mount Pisgah Dune Protection Project

**Project Status:** Audit

**Grant Amount: \$280,000.00**

**Element**

Site preparation

Bituminous pathway

Wood stairs, boardwalk, decks and railings

Interpretive trail signage

Dune restoration

**Project Description:** Improvements to Mount Pisgah Dune with exceptional views of Lake Michigan and Lake Macatawa including boardwalks, steps and decks, interpretive signs, and dune grass plantings to improve access to dune for area 1.5 million annual visitors and residents.

---



## Recreation Grant History

---

**Applicant**

**Ottawa County**

**Project No. TF07-090**

**Project Year: 2007**

**Project Title: Olive Shores Acquisition**

**Project Status: Closed**

**Grant Amount: \$2,000,000.00**

**Project Description:** Acquisition in fee simple of 13.5 acres with 538 feet of Lake Michigan frontage, 7 acres of critical sand dunes, mesic northern forest, beach, wildlife habitat, and buffering 7 acres of existing undeveloped county park land.

---

**Project No. TF09-075**

**Project Year: 2009**

**Project Title: Grand River Ravines Acquisition**

**Project Status: Active**

**Grant Amount: \$720,000.00**

**Project Description:** Acquisition of approximately 100 acres of high quality natural land including huge ravines, mature forest and rolling meadow, with approximately 1100 feet of frontage on the Grand River for County Park greenway purposes.

---



| STATE & COUNTY PARK FACILITY INVENTORY |                          |                                      | PICNIC AREA | PICNIC SHELTER | REC BUILDING | RESTROOMS | CONCESSION | PLAYGROUND | BALLFIELD | BASKETBALL | TENNIS | SOCCER | VOLLEYBALL | X-COUNTRY SKIING | SWIMMING BEACH | FISHING | LAUNCH RAMP | NATURAL AREAS | HIKING TRAILS | BIKE PATH |  |  |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|--------|--------|------------|------------------|----------------|---------|-------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|--|--|
| Park Location and Name                 | Total Acres              | Natural Resource (River, Dune, etc.) |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               |               |           |  | Comments   |
| <b>STATE OF MICHIGAN</b>               |                          |                                      |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               |               |           |  |  |
| Hoffmaster State Park                  | 1100 (± 300 in Ott. Co.) | Lake Michigan, Dunes                 | X           | X              |              | X         |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                | X       |             | X             | X             |           |  | Nature Center, Camping                                   |
| Grand Haven State Park                 | 48                       | Lake Michigan                        | X           | X              |              | X         | X          | X          |           |            |        |        | X          |                  | X              |         |             |               |               |           |  | Pier fishing, camping, walk connections to downtown G.H. |
| Holland State Park                     | 142                      | Lake Michigan, Dunes                 | X           | X              |              | X         | X          | X          |           |            |        |        | X          |                  | X              |         |             | X             | X             | X         |  | Camping  |
| Bass River State Recreation Area       | 1665                     | Grand River                          |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                | X       | X           | X             | X             |           |  |  |
| Grand Haven State Game Area            | 1139                     | Grand River                          |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                |         |             | X             |               |           |  |  |
| Ottawa Mini Game Areas                 | 396                      |                                      |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                |         |             | X             |               |           |  |  |
| <b>OTTAWA COUNTY</b>                   |                          |                                      |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               |               |           |  |  |
| <b><u>Grand River Greenway</u></b>     |                          |                                      |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               |               |           |  |  |
| Connor Bayou                           | 142                      | Grand River, Inland Bayou            |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                |         |             | X             |               |           |  | currently undeveloped                                    |
| Crockery Creek Natural Area            | 334                      | Grand River, Crockery Creek          |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            | X                |                |         |             | X             | X             |           |  |  |
| Jubb Bayou (Open Space)                | 97                       | Grand River, Inland Bayou            |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                |         |             | X             |               |           |  |  |
| Riverside Park                         | 95                       | Grand River                          | X           |                |              | X         |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                | X       | X           | X             | X             |           |  |  |
| Bur Oak Landing (Open Space)           | 261                      | Grand River                          |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                |         |             | X             |               |           |  |  |
| Eastmanville Farm                      | 229                      | Grand River                          | X           |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                |         |             | X             | X             |           |  |  |
| Eastmanville Bayou                     | 157                      | Grand River, Inland Bayou            |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                |         |             | X             |               |           |  | currently undeveloped                                    |
| Deer Creek Park                        | 2                        | Grand River, small stream            | X           |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                |         | X           |               |               |           |  |  |
| Ripps Bayou (Open Space)               | 172.5                    | Grand River, Inland Bayou            |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                |         |             | X             |               |           |  | limited access   |
| Kuits Bayou (Open Space)               | 80                       | Grand River, Inland Bayou            |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                |         |             | X             |               |           |  | limited access   |
| Bolthouse Property (Open Space)        | 111                      | Grand River                          |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                |         |             | X             |               |           |  |  |

| COUNTY PARK FACILITY INVENTORY               |             |   | PICNIC AREA | PICNIC SHELTER | REC BUILDING | RESTROOMS | CONCESSION | PLAYGROUND | BALLFIELD | BASKETBALL | TENNIS | SOCCER | VOLLEYBALL | X-COUNTRY SKIING | SWIMMING BEACH | FISHING | LAUNCH RAMP | NATURAL AREAS | HIKING TRAILS | BIKE PATH | Comments |  |
|--|-------------|---|-------------|----------------|--------------|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|--------|--------|------------|------------------|----------------|---------|-------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|----------|--|
| Park Location and Name                       | Total Acres | Natural Resource<br>(River, Dune, etc.) |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               |               |           |          |  |
| <b>OTTAWA COUNTY (cont'd)</b>                |             |   |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               |               |           |          |  |
| Fillmore at the Bend (Open Space)            | 68          | Ravines                                 |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                |         |             | X             | X             |           |          |  |
| Grand River Park                             | 162         | Grand River, Inland Pond                | X           |                | X            | X         |            | X          |           |            |        |        |            | X                |                | x       | X           | X             | X             |           |          |  |
| Bend Area (Open Space)                       | 188         | Grand River, Inland Lake                |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                |         | X           | X             |               |           |          | shore fishing  |
| <b><u>Pigeon River Greenway</u></b>          |             |   |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               |               |           |          |  |
| Hemlock Crossing/Pine Bend                   | 239         | Pigeon River                            | X           | X              |              | X         |            |            |           |            |        |        |            | X                |                |         | X           | X             | X             |           |          | kayak, canoe launch                                      |
| Pigeon River Open Space                      | 30          | Pigeon River                            |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                |         |             | X             |               |           |          |  |
| Pigeon Creek Park                            | 282         | Pigeon River                            | X           |                | X            | X         |            |            |           |            |        |        |            | X                |                |         |             | X             | X             |           |          | groomed ski trails                                       |
| Pigeon Creek Forest (Open Space)             | 130         | Pigeon River                            |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                |         |             | X             | X             |           |          |  |
| <b><u>Macatawa River Greenway</u></b>        |             |   |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               |               |           |          |  |
| Holland Country Club                         | 122         | Macatawa River                          |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               |               |           |          | currently undeveloped                                    |
| Adams Street Landing                         | 10          | Macatawa River                          |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                |         | X           | X             |               |           |          | kayak, canoe launch                                      |
| Hawthorne Pond Natural Area                  | 41          | Macatawa River                          |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                |         |             | X             |               |           |          | joint ownership with Holland Twp., currently undeveloped |
| Upper Macatawa Natural Area                  | 612         | Macatawa River                          | X           |                |              | X         |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                |         |             | X             | X             | X         |          |  |
| <b><u>Lake Michigan Coastal Greenway</u></b> |             |   |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               |               |           |          |  |
| North Ottawa Dunes                           | 513         | Dunes                                   | X           |                |              | X         |            |            |           |            |        |        |            | X                |                |         |             | X             | X             |           |          |  |
| North Beach Park                             | 13          | Lake Michigan                           | X           | X              | X            | X         |            | X          |           |            |        |        | X          |                  | X              |         |             |               |               |           |          |  |
| Rosy Mound Natural Area                      | 164         | Lake Michigan, Dunes                    | X           |                |              | X         |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                |         |             | X             | X             |           |          |  |
| Kirk Park                                    | 68          | Lake Michigan, Dunes                    | X           | X              |              | X         | X          | X          |           |            |        |        |            | X                | X              |         |             | X             | X             |           |          |  |
| Olive Shores                                 | 20.5        | Lake Michigan, Dunes                    |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                |         |             | X             | X             |           |          | currently undeveloped                                    |

| COUNTY PARK FACILITY INVENTORY              |             |                                      | PICNIC AREA | PICNIC SHELTER | REC BUILDING | RESTROOMS | CONCESSION | PLAYGROUND | BALLFIELD | BASKETBALL | TENNIS | SOCCER | VOLLEYBALL | X-COUNTRY SKIING | SWIMMING BEACH | FISHING | LAUNCH RAMP | NATURAL AREAS | HIKING TRAILS | BIKE PATH | Comments |
|---|-------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|--------|--------|------------|------------------|----------------|---------|-------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|----------|
| Park Location and Name                      | Total Acres | Natural Resource (River, Dune, etc.) |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               |               |           |          |
| <b>OTTAWA COUNTY (cont'd)</b>               |             |                                      |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               |               |           |          |
| Tunnel Park                                 | 22.5        | Lake Michigan, Dunes                 | X           | X              |              | X         | X          | X          |           |            |        |        | X          |                  | X              |         |             | X             | X             |           |          |
| Historic Ottawa Beach Parks                 | 58          | Lake Michigan, Lake Macatawa, Dunes  | X           |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  | X              |         |             | X             | X             |           |          |
| <b>General Parks, Open Space and Trails</b> |             |                                      |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               |               |           |          |
| Musketawa Trail                             |             |                                      | X           |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               |               |           | X        |
| Un-named Site - Wright Township             | 8           | Forested Wetland                     |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                |         |             | X             |               |           |          |
| Grose Park                                  | 40          | Crockery Lake                        | X           | X              |              | X         |            |            |           |            |        |        |            | X                | X              | X       |             | X             | X             |           |          |
| Marne Bog                                   | 40          | Bog, wetland                         |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                |         |             | X             |               |           |          |
| Robinson Forest (Open Space)                | 80          | Forest                               |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                |         |             | X             |               |           |          |
| Johnson Street Forest (Open Space)          | 50          | Forest                               |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                |         |             | X             |               |           |          |
| Hiawatha Forest (Open Space)                | 365         | Forest                               |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                |         |             | X             | X             |           |          |
| Hager Park                                  | 104         | Forest                               | X           | X              | X            | X         |            | X          |           |            |        |        |            | X                |                |         |             | X             | X             | X         |          |
| Port Sheldon Natural Area (Open Space)      | 440         | TenHagen Creek                       |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                |         |             | X             | X             |           |          |
| VanBuren Street Dunes (Open Space)          | 120         | Dunes                                |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                |         |             | X             | X             |           |          |
| Spring Grove Park                           | 16          | Artesian Spring                      | X           |                | X            | X         |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                |         |             | X             |               |           |          |
| Riley Trails                                | 300         | Forest, pond                         |             |                |              | X         |            |            |           |            |        |        |            | X                |                |         |             | X             | X             |           |          |

| LOCAL GOVERNMENT PARK FACILITY INVENTORY |             |                                      | PICNIC AREA | PICNIC SHELTER | REC BUILDING | RESTROOMS | CONCESSION | PLAYGROUND | BALLFIELD | BASKETBALL | TENNIS | HORSESHOES | SOCCER | VOLLEYBALL | X-COUNTRY SKIING | SWIMMING BEACH | FISHING | LAUNCH RAMP | NATURAL AREAS | HIKING TRAILS |                           |
|--|-------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|--------|------------|--------|------------|------------------|----------------|---------|-------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| Park Location and Name                   | Total Acres | Natural Resource (River, Dune, etc.) |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |            |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               |               | Comments                  |
| <b>CITY OF COOPERSVILLE</b>              |             |                                      |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |            |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               |               |                           |
| Coopersville Community Park              | 10          | 3 acre pond                          | X           | X              | X            | X         |            | X          | X         |            | X      |            |        |            |                  |                | X       |             |               |               |                           |
| Grove Street Park                        | 4           | Deer Creek                           | X           |                |              | X         | X          |            | X         |            | X      |            |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               |               |                           |
| Main Street Park                         | 3.5         | Deer Creek                           | X           |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |            |        |            |                  |                | X       |             |               |               |                           |
| Veteran's Memorial Park                  | 17.5        |                                      | X           | X              |              | X         |            |            |           |            |        |            |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               |               |                           |
| City Sports Complex                      |             |                                      | X           |                | X            | X         | X          | X          | X         | X          |        | X          |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               |               | 3 ballfields + lights     |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>35</b>   |                                      |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |            |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               |               |                           |
| <b>CITY OF FERRYSBURG</b>                |             |                                      |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |            |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               |               |                           |
| William Ferry Park                       | 2           | Grand River                          | X           | X              |              | X         |            | X          |           |            |        |            |        |            |                  |                | X       |             |               |               | 400 ft. boardwalk         |
| Coast Guard Park                         | 80          | Forest, dunes                        | X           | X              |              | X         |            |            | X         | X          |        |            | X      | X          | X                |                |         |             |               | X             |                           |
| Fire Barn Park                           | 5           |                                      | X           |                |              | X         |            | X          | X         | X          | X      |            |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               |               | Ice Skating               |
| Kitchel/Lindquist Dunes Preserve         | 113         | Grand River                          |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |            |        |            | X                |                |         |             | X             | X             |                           |
| Natural Preserve                         | 43          |                                      |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |            |        |            |                  |                |         |             | X             |               | No parking / improvements |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>243</b>  |                                      |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |            |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               |               |                           |
| <b>CITY OF GRAND HAVEN</b>               |             |                                      |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |            |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               |               |                           |
| City Beach                               | 13.86       | Lake Michigan                        | X           |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |            |        |            |                  | X              |         |             |               |               |                           |
| Bicentennial Park                        | 2.3         | Grand River                          | X           |                | X            | X         | X          |            |           |            |        |            |        |            |                  |                | X       |             |               |               | Boardwalk                 |
| Bolt Park                                | 0.9         |                                      | X           |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |            |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               |               | Greenspace                |
| Central Park                             | 2.4         |                                      | X           |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |            |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               | X             | Fountain, benches         |



| LOCAL GOVERNMENT PARK FACILITY INVENTORY |             |                                      | PICNIC AREA | PICNIC SHELTER | REC BUILDING | RESTROOMS | CONCESSION | PLAYGROUND | BALLFIELD | BASKETBALL | TENNIS | HORSESHOES | SOCCER | VOLLEYBALL | X-COUNTRY SKIING | SWIMMING BEACH | FISHING | LAUNCH RAMP | NATURAL AREAS | HIKING TRAILS | Comments |                                  |
|--|-------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|--------|------------|--------|------------|------------------|----------------|---------|-------------|---------------|---------------|----------|----------------------------------|
| Park Location and Name                   | Total Acres | Natural Resource (River, Dune, etc.) |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |            |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               |               |          |                                  |
| <b>CITY OF HOLLAND</b>                   |             |                                      |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |            |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               |               |          |                                  |
| Lakeview City Park                       | 2.3         |                                      | X           | X              | X            |           | X          |            | X         |            |        |            |        | X          |                  |                |         |             | X             | X             |          |                                  |
| Centennial Park                          | 5.6         |                                      | X           | X              | X            |           |            |            |           |            |        |            |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               | X             |          | Historic park                    |
| Smallenburg Park                         | 24          |                                      | X           | X              | X            |           | X          | X          |           |            |        | X          |        | X          |                  |                |         |             |               |               |          | Ice skating, stadium, Bouws Pool |
| Matt Urban Sports and Recreation Complex | 23          |                                      | X           | X              | X            | X         | X          | X          | X         |            |        |            | X      | X          |                  |                |         |             |               |               |          |                                  |
| Window on the Waterfront                 | 30          | Macatawa River                       | X           | X              |              |           | X          | X          |           |            |        |            | X      |            |                  |                |         | X           | X             | X             |          |                                  |
| Kollen Park                              | 14.5        | Lake Macatawa                        | X           | X              | X            |           | X          |            |           |            |        |            |        |            |                  |                | X       | X           |               | X             |          | Boardwalk                        |
| Holland Heights Park                     | 1           |                                      | X           | X              |              |           | X          | X          | X         |            |        |            |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               |               |          | Totlot                           |
| Holland Heights School Park              | 6           |                                      | X           | X              | X            |           | X          |            | X         | X          |        |            |        | X          |                  |                |         |             |               |               | X        |                                  |
| VanBragt Park                            | 3.4         | Macatawa River                       | X           |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |            |        |            |                  |                | X       | X           | X             |               |          |                                  |
| Prospect Park                            | 7.5         |                                      | X           |                |              |           | X          | X          |           |            |        |            |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               | X             | X        |                                  |
| Rosa Green (College Avenue) Park         | 3.2         |                                      | X           | X              |              |           | X          | X          | X         |            |        |            |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               |               |          |                                  |
| Lincoln Park                             | 2           |                                      | X           |                |              |           | X          | X          |           | X          |        |            |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               |               |          | Skate park on tennis courts      |
| DeGraaf Nature Center                    | 18          | Forest, wetlands                     | X           |                | X            | X         | X          |            |           |            |        |            |        |            |                  |                |         |             | X             | X             |          | Educational facility             |
| Windmill Island                          | 10          | Macatawa River                       | X           | X              | X            | X         | X          | X          |           |            |        |            |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               | X             |          | Historic windmill, fee area      |
| Moran Park                               | 4.2         |                                      | X           | X              | X            | X         | X          | X          | X         | X          |        |            |        | X          |                  |                |         |             |               |               |          | Shuffleboard, fitness stations   |
| Van Raalte Farm                          | 160         | Forest, stream                       | X           | X              | X            |           | X          |            |           |            |        |            |        |            | X                |                |         |             | X             | X             |          | Sledding                         |
| Macatawa Marsh                           | 75          | Macatawa River                       |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |            |        |            |                  |                | X       |             | X             |               |          | Wildlife observation             |
| 37th Street Preserve                     | 4           |                                      |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |            |        |            |                  |                |         |             | X             |               |          | Wooded open space                |







| LOCAL GOVERNMENT PARK FACILITY INVENTORY |              |   | PICNIC AREA | PICNIC SHELTER | REC BUILDING | RESTROOMS | CONCESSION | PLAYGROUND | BALLFIELD | BASKETBALL | TENNIS | HORSESHOES | SOCCER | VOLLEYBALL | X-COUNTRY SKIING | SWIMMING BEACH | FISHING | LAUNCH RAMP | NATURAL AREAS | HIKING TRAILS | Comments |   |
|--|--------------|---|-------------|----------------|--------------|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|--------|------------|--------|------------|------------------|----------------|---------|-------------|---------------|---------------|----------|---|
| Park Location and Name                   | Total Acres  | Natural Resource<br>(River, Dune, etc.) |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |            |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               |               |          |   |
| <b>ALLENDALE TOWNSHIP</b>                |              |   |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |            |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               |               |          |   |
| Allendale Recreation Park                | 41.86        |   | X           | X              |              | X         | X          | X          | X         | X          | X      | X          |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               | X             | X        | Shuffleboard, veterans & memorial gardens |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>41.86</b> |   |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |            |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               |               |          |   |
| <b>CHESTER TOWNSHIP</b>                  |              |   |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |            |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               |               |          |   |
| Chester Park                             | 15.76        |   | X           | X              |              | X         |            | X          | X         | X          |        |            |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               | X             |          | Township Hall                             |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>15.76</b> |   |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |            |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               |               |          |   |
| <b>CROCKERY TOWNSHIP</b>                 |              |   |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |            |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               |               |          |   |
| Crockery Township Recreational Facility  | 20           |   | X           | X              |              | X         |            | X          | X         | X          |        |            |        |            | X                | X              |         |             |               | X             | X        |   |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>20</b>    |   |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |            |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               |               |          |   |
| <b>GEORGETOWN TOWNSHIP</b>               |              |   |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |            |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               |               |          |   |
| 8th Avenue Community Park                | 55           |   | X           | X              |              | X         |            | X          | X         | X          |        |            |        |            |                  | X              | X       |             | X             | X             |          | Non resident entrance fee                 |
| Dale E. Wagner Little League Complex     | 27.9         |   |             |                |              | X         | X          |            | X         |            |        |            |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               |               |          |   |
| Georgetown Ice Arena                     |              |   |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |            |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               |               |          |   |
| Woodcrest Park                           | 10.9         |   |             |                |              |           |            | X          |           |            |        |            | X      |            |                  |                | X       |             | X             |               |          | Pond                                      |



| LOCAL GOVERNMENT PARK FACILITY INVENTORY    |             |                                      | PICNIC AREA | PICNIC SHELTER | REC BUILDING | RESTROOMS | CONCESSION | PLAYGROUND | BALLFIELD | BASKETBALL | TENNIS | HORSESHOES | SOCCER | VOLLEYBALL | X-COUNTRY SKIING | SWIMMING BEACH | FISHING | LAUNCH RAMP | NATURAL AREAS | HIKING TRAILS | Comments  |  |
|---|-------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|--------|------------|--------|------------|------------------|----------------|---------|-------------|---------------|---------------|---|--|
| Park Location and Name                      | Total Acres | Natural Resource (River, Dune, etc.) |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |            |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               |               |   |  |
| <b>HOLLAND TOWNSHIP</b>                     |             |                                      |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |            |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               |               |   |  |
| Beechwood Park                              | 6           |                                      | X           | X              |              | X         |            | X          |           | X          | X      |            |        |            |                  |                |         |             | X             |               | Lighted shuffleboard & tennis                                       |  |
| Brookwood Park                              | 1           |                                      | X           | X              |              |           |            | X          |           | X          |        |            |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               |               |   |  |
| Howard B. Dunton Park                       | 21          | Lake Macatawa                        | X           | X              |              | X         |            | X          |           |            |        |            |        |            |                  |                | X       | X           | X             | X             | Boardwalks, viewing shelters  |  |
| Helder Park                                 | 159         |                                      | X           | X              |              | X         | X          | X          | X         | X          | X      |            |        | X          |                  |                |         |             | X             | X             | Boardwalks  |  |
| Quincy Street Park                          | 133         |                                      | X           |                |              | X         |            | X          | X         |            | X      |            | X      |            |                  |                |         |             | X             |               |   |  |
| Hawthorne Pond Natural Area                 | 40          | Pond, forest                         |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |            |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               | X             |   |  |
| <b>Total</b>                                | <b>320</b>  |                                      |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |            |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               |               |   |  |
| <b>PARK TOWNSHIP</b>                        |             |                                      |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |            |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               |               |   |  |
| Ashwood Reserve                             | 0.6         | Lake Macatawa                        |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |            |        |            |                  |                |         |             | X             |               | Kayak & canoeing, natural beach                                     |  |
| Brookside Bicycle Park                      | 0.19        |                                      | X           |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |            |        |            |                  |                |         |             | X             |               | Bike route  |  |
| Chief Waukazoo Park                         | 0.75        |                                      | X           |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |            |        |            |                  |                |         |             | X             |               |   |  |
| Cooper - Van Wieren Park                    | 66          |                                      |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |            |        |            |                  |                |         |             | X             | X             | Horseback riding  |  |
| Keppel Forest                               | 40          |                                      | X           |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |            |        |            | X                |                |         |             | X             | X             | Cabin   |  |
| Virginia Park / Maatman Center              | 6           |                                      | X           | X              | X            | X         |            | X          | X         | X          | X      |            |        |            |                  |                |         |             | X             |               | Shuffleboard, lighted tennis  |  |
| Park Twp. Comm. Center / Park (Fairgrounds) | 50.75       |                                      | X           | X              | X            | X         |            | X          | X         | X          | X      | X          |        | X          |                  |                |         |             | X             | X             | Lighted tennis, dog & skateboard parks, indoor & outdoor basketball |  |
| Stu Visser Trails                           | 37          | Pine Creek                           | X           |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |            |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               | X             | Boardwalk, pond, wetlands   |  |
| Ransom Park                                 | 20          |                                      | X           | X              |              |           |            | X          |           | X          |        |            | X      |            | X                |                |         |             | X             | X             | Open sports field   |  |
| Wendt Park                                  | 20          |                                      | X           | X              |              | X         |            | X          | X         | X          | X      |            | X      |            |                  |                |         |             | X             | X             | Fitness trail   |  |







| ADJACENT COUNTY PARK FACILITIES |                   |                                      | PICNIC AREA | PICNIC SHELTER | REC BUILDING | RESTROOMS | CONCESSION | PLAYGROUND | BALLFIELD | BASKETBALL | TENNIS | SOCCER | VOLLEYBALL | X-COUNTRY SKIING | SWIMMING BEACH | FISHING | LAUNCH RAMP | NATURAL AREAS | HIKING TRAILS | BIKE PATH | Comments |   |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|--------|--------|------------|------------------|----------------|---------|-------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|----------|---|
| Park Location and Name          | Total Acres/Miles | Natural Resource (River, Dune, etc.) |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               |               |           |          |   |
| <b>KENT COUNTY</b>              |                   |                                      |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               |               |           |          |   |
| Bettes Memorial Park            | 3 acres           |                                      |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               |               |           |          | open space preservation   |
| Earl Brewer Park                | 95 acres          |                                      | X           | X              | X            |           | X          | X          | X         | X          | X      | X      | X          |                  |                |         |             |               |               |           |          | disc golf   |
| Caledonia Lakeside Park         | 43 acres          | Emmons Lake                          | X           | X              | X            |           | X          |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  | X              | X       |             |               |               | X         |          |   |
| Chief Hazy Cloud Park           | 120 acres         | Grand River                          | X           |                | X            |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                |         |             | X             | X             |           |          |   |
| Coldwater River Park            | 6 acres           | Coldwater River                      | X           |                | X            |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                | X       |             |               |               |           |          |   |
| Cooper Creek Park               | 6 acres           | Cooper Creek                         |             |                | X            |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                | X       |             | X             | X             |           |          | bridal trails   |
| Creekside Park                  | 32 acres          |                                      | X           | X              | X            |           | X          | X          |           |            |        | X      |            |                  |                |         |             |               | X             | X         |          | exercise station  |
| Douglas Walker Park             | 81 acres          | Buck Creek                           | X           | X              | X            |           | X          | X          |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               | X             | X         |          | Kent Trails staging area, rugby, winter sports, horseshoes              |
| Dutton Shadyside Park           | 18 acres          | Plaster Creek                        | X           | X              | X            |           | X          | X          |           | X          |        |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               |               |           |          |   |
| Dwight Lydell Park              | 39 acres          | Mill Creek, ponds                    | X           | X              | X            |           | X          | X          | X         |            |        |        |            |                  |                | X       |             |               |               | X         |          |   |
| Fallasburg Park                 | 324 acres         | Flat River, Page Creek               | X           | X              | X            |           | X          |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                | X       |             | X             | X             |           |          | shelter house, winter sports  |
| Fisk Knob Park                  | 4 acres           |                                      | X           |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               |               |           |          | highest geographic point in County                                      |
| Gordon Park                     | 28 acres          |                                      | X           | X              | X            |           | X          | X          |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               | X             | X         |          |   |
| Johnson Park                    | 258 acres         | Grand River                          | X           | X              | X            |           | X          | X          |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                | X       | X           |               | X             | X         |          | disc golf, exercise station, shelter house, winter sports, scenic drive |
| Kent Trails                     | 15 miles          | Grand River                          |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            | X                | X              |         |             |               | X             | X         |          |   |
| Knapp Valley Forest             | 104 acres         |                                      |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               | X             | X         |          |   |
| Kroes Park                      | 31 acres          |                                      |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               |               |           |          | open space preservation   |
| Lamoreaux Park                  | 263 acres         | Grand River, ponds                   |             |                |              |           |            | X          |           |            |        |        |            | X                | X              |         |             | X             | X             |           |          | winter sports   |
| Lamoreaux Memorial Park         | 2 acres           |                                      |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               | X             | X         |          | staging for White Pine Trail  |

| ADJACENT COUNTY PARK FACILITIES                  |                   |                                      | PICNIC AREA | PICNIC SHELTER | REC BUILDING | RESTROOMS | CONCESSION | PLAYGROUND | BALL FIELD | BASKETBALL | TENNIS | SOCCER | VOLLEYBALL | X-COUNTRY SKIING | SWIMMING BEACH | FISHING | LAUNCH RAMP | NATURAL AREAS | HIKING TRAILS | BIKE PATH | Comments  |  |
|--|-------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------|--------|------------|------------------|----------------|---------|-------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|---|--|
| Park Location and Name                           | Total Acres/Miles | Natural Resource (River, Dune, etc.) |             |                |              |           |            |            |            |            |        |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               |               |           |   |  |
| <b>KENT COUNTY, (cont.)</b>                      |                   |                                      |             |                |              |           |            |            |            |            |        |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               |               |           |   |  |
| Lepard Preserve                                  | 52 acres          |                                      |             |                |              |           |            |            |            |            |        |        |            |                  |                |         |             | X             | X             |           | preserve  |  |
| Long Lake Park                                   | 231 acres         | Long Lake                            | X           | X              | X            |           | X          | X          |            |            |        |        |            |                  | X              | X       | X           |               |               |           | non motorized watercraft, shelter house             |  |
| Lowell Regional Park                             | 484 acres         |                                      |             |                |              |           |            |            |            |            |        |        |            |                  |                |         |             | X             |               |           | preserved open space                                |  |
| Luton Park                                       | 264 acres         |                                      |             |                |              |           |            |            |            |            |        |        |            | X                |                |         |             | X             | X             | X         |   |  |
| Millennium Park                                  | 1,465 acres       | Grand River, lake                    | X           | X              | X            | X         | X          |            |            | X          |        |        | X          |                  | X              | X       | X           | X             | X             | X         | beach house, splash park                            |  |
| M-6 Trail  | 8.5 miles         |                                      |             |                |              |           |            |            |            |            |        |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               | X             | X         | non motorized use, passes Butler & Creekside parks  |  |
| Myers Lake Park                                  | 6 acres           | Big & Little Myers Lakes             | X           |                |              | X         |            | X          |            |            |        |        |            |                  | X              | X       |             | X             |               |           | changing area                                       |  |
| Palmer Park                                      | 335 acres         | Buck Creek                           | X           | X              | X            |           | X          | X          |            |            |        |        |            | X                |                | X       |             | X             | X             |           | 18 hole golf course                                 |  |
| Paris Park                                       | 70 acres          |                                      |             |                |              |           |            |            |            |            |        |        |            | X                |                |         |             | X             | X             |           |   |  |
| Paul Henry Thornapple Trail                      | 4.8 miles         |                                      |             |                |              |           |            |            |            |            |        |        |            | X                | X              |         |             |               | X             | X         | non motorized use                                   |  |
| Pickerel Lake Park (Fred Meijer Nature Preserve) | 310 acres         | Pickerel Lake                        |             |                |              | X         |            |            |            |            |        |        |            | X                | X              |         |             | X             | X             |           | boardwalks  |  |
| Provin Trails Park                               | 45 acres          |                                      |             |                |              | X         |            |            |            |            |        |        |            | X                |                |         |             | X             | X             |           | winter sports                                       |  |
| Rogue River Park                                 | 79 acres          | Rogue River                          | X           | X              | X            |           | X          | X          |            | X          |        |        |            | X                | X              |         |             | X             | X             | X         |   |  |
| Ruehs Park                                       | 5 acres           | Thornapple River                     | X           |                |              | X         |            | X          |            |            |        |        |            |                  |                | X       |             |               |               |           |   |  |
| Siedman Park                                     | 422 acres         | ponds                                |             |                |              | X         |            |            |            |            |        |        |            | X                | X              |         |             | X             | X             |           | winter sports                                       |  |
| Spencer Forest                                   | 550 acres         |                                      |             |                |              |           |            |            |            |            |        |        |            | X                |                |         |             | X             | X             |           | bridle trails, winter sports                        |  |
| Thornapple Riverbend Park                        | 209 acres         | Thornapple River                     |             |                |              |           |            |            |            |            |        |        |            |                  |                |         |             | X             |               |           | preserved open space                                |  |
| Townsend Park                                    | 144 acres         | Bear Creek                           | X           | X              | X            |           | X          | X          |            |            |        |        |            | X                | X              |         |             | X             | X             |           | preserved green space, winter sports, shelter house |  |
| Two Rivers Park                                  | 91 acres          | Thornapple & Coldwater Rivers        |             |                |              |           |            |            |            |            |        |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               |               |           | preserved open space                                |  |



| ADJACENT COUNTY PARK FACILITIES |                   |  | PICNIC AREA | PICNIC SHELTER | REC BUILDING | RESTROOMS | CONCESSION | PLAYGROUND | BALLFIELD | BASKETBALL | TENNIS | SOCCER | VOLLEYBALL | X-COUNTRY SKIING | SWIMMING BEACH | FISHING | LAUNCH RAMP | NATURAL AREAS | HIKING TRAILS | BIKE PATH |  |   |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|--|-------------|----------------|--------------|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|--------|--------|------------|------------------|----------------|---------|-------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|--|---|
| Park Location and Name          | Total Acres/Miles | Natural Resource (River, Dune, etc.)         |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               |               |           |  | Comments  |
| <b>KENT COUNTY, (cont.)</b>     |                   |  |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               |               |           |  |   |
| Wabasis Lake Park               | 104 acres         | Wabasis Lake                                 | X           | X              | X            |           | X          | X          | X         |            |        |        | X          |                  | X              | X       | X           | X             | X             |           |  | campground, beach house, shelter house, winter sports |
| Whalfield Park                  | 265 acres         |  | X           | X              | X            |           | X          |            |           |            |        |        |            | X                |                |         |             | X             | X             |           |  | winter sports   |
| White Pine Park                 | 60 acres          |  | X           |                | X            |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                |         |             | X             | X             |           |  | preserved open space                                  |
| <b>MUSKEGON COUNTY</b>          |                   |  |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               |               |           |  |   |
| Blue Lake Park                  | 25 acres          | Big Blue Lake                                | X           |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  | X              | X       |             |               |               |           |  | campground  |
| Derremo Access Site             |                   | Big Blue Lake                                |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                | X       | X           |               |               |           |  |   |
| Meinert Park                    | 88 acres          | Lake Michigan, sand dunes                    | X           | X              |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  | X              |         |             | X             | X             |           |  | campground, rental cottage                            |
| Moore Park                      | 36 acres          | Half Moon Lake                               | X           | X              | X            |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  | X              | X       | X           | X             |               |           |  |   |
| Patterson Park                  | 28 acres          | Little Rio Grande Creek                      | X           | X              | X            |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                |         |             | X             |               |           |  |   |
| Pioneer Park                    | 145 acres         | Lake Michigan, sand dunes                    | X           | X              | X            |           |            |            | X         | X          | X      |        | X          |                  | X              |         |             | X             |               |           |  | campground  |
| Twin Lake Park                  | 15 acres          | Twin Lake                                    | X           | X              |              |           | X          | X          |           |            | X      |        | X          |                  | X              |         | X           |               |               | X         |  |   |
| Duck Lake State Park            | 728 acres         | Lake Michigan, Duck Lake, sand dunes         | X           | X              |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            | X                | X              | X       | X           | X             | X             | X         |  | hunting, snowmobiling, beach house                    |
| Muskegon State Park             | 1,165 acres       | Lake Michigan, Muskegon Lake, forested dunes | X           | X              |              |           |            | X          |           |            |        |        |            | X                | X              | X       | X           | X             | X             | X         |  | luge, beach bath house                                |
| P.J. Hoffmaster State Park      | 1,200 acres       | Lake Michigan, sand dunes                    | X           | X              | X            |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            | X                | X              | X       |             | X             | X             |           |  | Gillette Visitor Center, camping                      |
| Hart-Montague Trail State Park  | 22 miles          |  | X           |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            | X                |                |         |             |               | X             | X         |  | snowmobiling  |

| ADJACENT COUNTY PARK FACILITIES         |                   |  | PICNIC AREA | PICNIC SHELTER | REC BUILDING | RESTROOMS | CONCESSION | PLAYGROUND | BALLFIELD | BASKETBALL | TENNIS | SOCCER | VOLLEYBALL | X-COUNTRY SKIING | SWIMMING BEACH | FISHING | LAUNCH RAMP | NATURAL AREAS | HIKING TRAILS | BIKE PATH |   |  |
|---|-------------------|--|-------------|----------------|--------------|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|--------|--------|------------|------------------|----------------|---------|-------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|---|--|
| Park Location and Name                  | Total Acres/Miles | Natural Resource (River, Dune, etc.)   |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               |               |           |   | Comments   |
| <b>ALLEGAN COUNTY</b>                   |                   |  |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               |               |           |   |  |
| Bysterfeld Park                         | 70 acres          |  |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                | X       |             | X             | X             |           |   |  |
| Dumont Lake Park                        | 186 acres         | Dumont Lake                            | X           | X              | X            |           | X          |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  | X              | X       |             |               |               |           |   |  |
| Dumont Lake boat launch                 | 3 acres           | Dumont Lake                            |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                |         | X           |               |               |           |   | vault toilets  |
| Ely Lake Campground                     | 90 acres          | Ely Lake                               | X           |                |              | X         |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  | X              | x       | X           |               |               |           |   | non motorized watercraft, vault toilets  |
| Gun Lake Park & launch                  | 4 acres           | Gun Lake                               | X           | X              | X            |           | X          |            | X         |            |        |        |            |                  | X              |         | X           |               |               |           |   | modern restrooms, ADA dock   |
| Littlejohn Lake Park                    | 113 acres         | Littlejohn Lake                        | X           | X              | X            |           | X          | X          | X         |            |        |        | X          |                  | X              |         |             | X             | X             |           |   | ADA beach walkway, horseshoes  |
| New Richmond Bridge Park                | 80 acres          | Kalamazoo River                        | X           |                |              | X         |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                | X       |             | X             | X             |           |   | restored 400' swing bridge, boardwalk  |
| Pine Point Campground & Equestrian Park | 80 acres          | Swan Creek Pond                        |             |                |              | X         |            |            |           |            |        |        |            | X                | X              | X       | X           |               | X             |           |   | camping, equestrian camping & trails, vault toilets                                      |
| Silver Creek Park & Campground          | 320 acres         | Silver Creek                           | X           |                |              | X         |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                |         |             | X             | X             |           |   | trout stream, camping, equestrian camping & trails, vault toilets                        |
| West Side Park                          | 11 acres          | Lake Michigan, dunes                   | X           | X              |              | X         |            | X          | X         |            |        |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               |               |           |   | dune stairways, modern restrooms   |
| Allegan State Game Area                 | 50,000 acres      |  | X           |                |              | X         |            |            |           |            |        |        |            | X                |                | X       | X           | X             | X             | X         | X | hunting, mountain bike trails  |
| Saugatuck Dunes State Park              | 1,000 acres       | Lake Michigan, dunes                   | X           | X              |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            | X                |                |         |             | X             | X             |           |   |  |
| <b>NEWAYGO COUNTY</b>                   |                   |  |             |                |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  |                |         |             |               |               |           |   |  |
| Diamond Lake County Park                | 156 acres         | Diamond Lake, Manistee National Forest | X           | X              |              | X         |            | X          |           |            |        |        | X          |                  | X              | X       | X           | X             | X             | X         |   | camping w/ bathhouses, sanitation station, horseshoes, boat rental                       |
| Sandy Beach County Park                 | 129 acres         | Hardy Pond                             | X           |                |              | X         |            | X          |           |            |        |        |            |                  | X              | X       | X           | X             |               |           |   | camping w/ bathhouses, sanitation station, boat & dock rental at hardy Dam County Marina |
| Ed H. Henning County Park               | 82 acres          | Muskegon River                         | X           |                |              |           |            |            | X         |            | X      | X      | X          |                  | X              | X       | X           |               |               |           |   | camping w/ bathhouses, sanitation station  |
| Pettibone Lake County Park              | 3 acres           | Pettibone Lake                         |             | X              |              |           |            |            |           |            |        |        |            |                  | X              | X       | X           |               |               |           |   | camping, vault toilets   |
| Newaygo State Park                      | 257 acres         | Hardy Dam Pond, Muskegon River         | X           |                |              |           |            | X          |           |            |        |        |            |                  | X              | X       | X           | X             |               |           |   | rustic camping, disc golf  |

# Appendix D - 2010 County Resident Survey Results

## Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Survey October 2010

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am calling from the Frost Research Center at Hope College. We are conducting a survey on behalf of the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission to gather residents' opinions on Ottawa County parks and places for recreation. This information will help the Parks and Recreation Department better serve the residents of Ottawa County.

Your phone number has been randomly selected. We are not trying to sell you anything. We're interested only in your opinions and any information you give us will be kept completely confidential and anonymous, combined with other respondents and reported as a group.

The survey takes about 15 minutes to complete. Would you be willing to take a few minutes and answer some questions about recreational opportunities and parks in Ottawa County?

S1 Which of the following categories best represents your age? **(READ CATEGORIES)**  
**If under 18, ask:** Is there someone 18 or older present that I could speak to?  
**If not:** Thank you, but we're only speaking with people 18 or older

|    |             |     |
|----|-------------|-----|
| 01 | 18 to 29    | 8%  |
| 02 | 30 to 39    | 13% |
| 03 | 40 to 49    | 23% |
| 04 | 50 to 59    | 24% |
| 05 | 60 to 69    | 18% |
| 06 | 70 or older | 15% |

N = 541

S2 Are you an Ottawa County resident?  
**If no or don't know:** Thank you for your time. We are only surveying Ottawa County residents.

|    |     |      |
|----|-----|------|
| 01 | Yes | 100% |
|----|-----|------|

N = 542

S3 Regarding your telephone, do you have a cell phone only, a landline only, or both?

|    |                        |     |
|----|------------------------|-----|
| 01 | Cell only              | 10% |
| 02 | Landline only          | 11% |
| 03 | Both cell and landline | 79% |

N = 542

Q1 First, we want to ask you how you feel about issues facing the Ottawa County Parks Commission. I'm going to read you a list of statements. Please tell me if you agree or disagree with each statement using a 1 to 5 scale, where 1 means you "strongly disagree," 2 means you "disagree," 3 means you neither disagree nor agree," 4 means you "agree," and 5 means you "strongly agree."

**RESPONSES**

- 01 Strongly Disagree
- 02 Disagree
- 03 Neither Disagree Nor Agree
- 04 Agree
- 05 Strongly Agree
- 98 Don't know
- 99 Refused

| <b><u>STATEMENTS</u></b>  | <b>% Agree &amp; Strongly Agree</b> | <b>Number</b> |
|---|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| Protection of Ottawa County's best remaining natural areas should be a high priority for future park land acquisition               | 83%                                 | 540           |
| Significant portions of parks should be kept in a natural and undisturbed state for preservation purposes                           | 83%                                 | 540           |
| Ottawa County should support a regional trail system linking different communities for walkers, bicyclists, and roller-bladers      | 71%                                 | 539           |
| Overnight camping opportunities should be provided in selected County parks   | 67%                                 | 535           |
| Deer numbers should be reduced by as necessary to protect vegetation in high quality natural areas                                  | 66%                                 | 536           |
| The County should consider the needs of tourists when planning future park facilities   | 63%                                 | 541           |
| The Parks Commission should acquire additional park land for future public use  | 55%                                 | 537           |
| The County should develop revenue-producing facilities such as campgrounds, golf courses or marinas to help finance the park system | 53%                                 | 537           |
| The County should develop revenue-neutral facilities such as zip lines, climbing walls, or dog parks                                | 47%                                 | 539           |
| Hunting should be allowed in unimproved portions of county parks and open-space lands   | 36%                                 | 537           |

Q2 The next set of questions deals with park facilities and recreational programming opportunities that Ottawa County either currently offers or is considering offering. For each of the items, please tell me how desirable such an opportunity is for Ottawa County residents, using one of three choices: not at all desirable, moderately desirable, or very desirable. The first one is...

**RESPONSES**

- 01 Not at all desirable
- 02 Moderately desirable
- 03 Very desirable
- 98 Don't know
- 99 Refused

| ITEMS – In order of Very Desirable  | Desirable  |            |      | Number |
|-------------------------------------|------------|------------|------|--------|
|                                     | Not at all | Moderately | Very |        |
| Beaches                             | 2%         | 12%        | 86%  | 541    |
| Picnic facilities                   | 2          | 25         | 73   | 540    |
| Hiking                              | 4          | 28         | 68   | 539    |
| Paths for biking and roller blading | 7          | 32         | 62   | 540    |
| Fishing                             | 5          | 34         | 61   | 540    |
| Nature education programs           | 7          | 33         | 60   | 540    |
| Nature center                       | 8          | 36         | 57   | 540    |
| Camping facilities                  | 8          | 36         | 56   | 541    |
| Sledding                            | 6          | 39         | 55   | 540    |
| Cross-country skiing                | 6          | 41         | 53   | 538    |
| Canoeing and kayaking               | 8          | 40         | 52   | 536    |
| Boat launches                       | 10         | 41         | 49   | 538    |
| Public marinas                      | 21         | 41         | 38   | 536    |
| Water play area or splash park      | 16         | 47         | 37   | 536    |
| Dog parks                           | 23         | 42         | 36   | 538    |
| Horseback riding                    | 21         | 46         | 33   | 534    |
| Disc or Frisbee golf                | 26         | 46         | 28   | 531    |
| Hunting                             | 38         | 35         | 27   | 534    |
| Golf                                | 34         | 41         | 25   | 537    |
| Snowmobile areas                    | 36         | 39         | 25   | 537    |

Q3 What other park facilities do you feel Ottawa County should offer?  
*(145 people provided responses - See end of report for complete list)*

Q4 Does anyone in your household hunt?

- 01 Yes 32%
  - 02 No 68%
  - 98 Don't know/doesn't matter <1%
- N = 542

**Q5 [ASK IF Q2, Camping Facilities=02-03] Do you think Ottawa County should have modern or rustic camping facilities, or both?**

|    |                           |     |
|----|---------------------------|-----|
| 01 | Modern                    | 13% |
| 02 | Rustic                    | 10% |
| 03 | Both                      | 73% |
| 98 | Don't know/doesn't matter | 3%  |

N = 498

**Q6 Can you name any Ottawa County parks or recreational areas? Which ones? (If needed: Can you think of any others? DO NOT READ LIST! PLEASE RECORD ALL RESPONSES, EVEN PARKS THAT ARE NOT PART OF OTTAWA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION)**

|                             |    |                             |    |                           |    |
|-----------------------------|----|-----------------------------|----|---------------------------|----|
| Adams Street Landing        | 0% | Musketawa Trail             | 1% | Bur Oak Landing           | 0% |
| Connor Bayou                | <1 | North Beach Park            | 6  | Eastmanville Bayou        | 1  |
| Crockery Creek Natural Area | 1  | North Ottawa Dunes          | 4  | Fillmore at the Bend      | 1  |
| Deer Creek Park             | 2  | Pigeon Creek Park           | 17 | Hiawatha Forest           | <1 |
| Eastmanville Farm           | 1  | Pine Bend                   | 1  | Johnson Street Forest     | 0  |
| Grand River Park            | 5  | Riley Trails                | 8  | Jubb Bayou                | <1 |
| Grose Park                  | 2  | Riverside Park              | 5  | Port Sheldon Natural Area | 1  |
| Hager Park                  | 10 | Rosy Mound Natural Area     | 15 | Ripps Bayou               | <1 |
| Hemlock Crossing            | 10 | Spring Grove Park           | 2  | Robinson Forest           | <1 |
| Historic Ottawa Beach Parks | 8  | Tunnel Park                 | 38 | Van Buren Street Dunes    | 1  |
| Kirk Park                   | 33 | Upper Macatawa Natural Area | 3  | Don't know/Can't name any | 25 |

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| 136th North of Baldwin Stanton Street 104th                | East End Park (2)  | Hoffmaster, but that's not ours                           |
| 16th St skiing, sledding and trails                        | Eastside   | Hofma Park (9)  |
| 24th & Georgetown  | Elder Park   | Hofma Park-very well liked park                           |
| 8th Ave/Beach/Park   | Fairbanks  | Holland Beach   |
| Allendale Township Park (2)                                | Fairbanks Park, on 24th st                                     | Holland Heights Park                                      |
| Aman Park (2)  | Fairbanks Smalenburg park                                      | Holland Park  |
| Bass River   | Fairgrounds in Holland   | Holland State Park (47)                                   |
| Bay St.  | Ferry Park   | Holland State Park biking trails                          |
| Big Bend Park  | Ferrysburg Park (2)  | Holland State Park Lake                                   |
| Bil-Mar on Lake Michigan, but I don't know if that counts. | fishermans wharf   | Macatawa  |
| Black River  | Georgetown park off Chicago Drive                              | Holland State Park. There's a campground near there, too. |
| Buchannan Street beach area                                | Grand Haven (4)  | Holland State Park--that's a state one, isn't it?         |
| Centennial Park (5)  | Grand Haven Beach Park (2)                                     | horse trails on the Grand River                           |
| Central Park in Spring Lake                                | Grand Haven Beach, tho' that's more beach than park, isn't it? | Hudsonville Nature Center                                 |
| Charlie's Dump at Jenison                                  | Grand Haven City Beach   | Hughes Park (4)   |
| Christian Reformed Conference grounds Grand Haven          | Grand Haven City Park.   | Huizenga Park (4)   |
| Coast Guard Park (2)                                       | Grand Haven Park (4)   | Huizenga Park in Ferrysburg                               |
| County Campground  | Grand Haven State Park (23)                                    | Huizenga Park in Zeeland (2)                              |
| Cranberry Lake   | Grand Haven State Park, but that's a state one, not county.    | I forgot the name of the one in Holland.                  |
| Cross country trails off Fillmore St                       | Grand Haven State Park, but that's not county.                 | Ideal Park  |
| DeGraaf Nature Center (3)                                  | Hawthorn Park (2)  | James Street Park   |
| Nature Center on Graafschap Rd                             | Helder Park (5)  | Jenison park  |
| Discovery at YMCA  | Hoffmaster Park (21)   | Kendall park  |
| dog park in Holland  | P.J. Hoffmaster (2)  | Kirkpatrick Park  |
| dog park on the north side (2)                             | Hoffmaster State Park (5)                                      | Kitchen cupboard  |
| dog park out by the airport                                | Hoffmaster, but I think that's in Muskegon County.             | Kollen Park (25)  |
| Duncan's Woods (2)   |  | Kollen, but that's city I guess                           |
| Dunton Park (13)   |  | Kouw Park (2)   |

Laketown Beach  
Laketown park  
Lakeview.  
Lindquist Dunes on North Shore  
Dr  
Lindstrom Park (2)  
Lloyds Bayou  
Ludington  
Macatawa Greenway (2)  
main street beach  
Maplewood Park (2)  
Market Park  
Matt Urban Park (2)  
Meddlewood Park  
Mercury Park  
Moran Park (2)  
Mt. Pisgah (4)  
Muskegon  
Nature Center.  
North Shore Park (4)  
Olive Township Park  
Ottawa Beach (6)  
Ottawa Beach State Park  
Ottawa County Beach  
Outdoor Discovery Nature Center  
Park 12 in Holland  
Park in Coopersville  
Patterson Park  
Pawpaw Park  
Pine Creek Park  
Pioneer Park  
Pontaluna  
Port Sheldon Park

Pottawattamie Park (11)  
Pottawattamie Park, if that's one  
Pottawattamie Bayou  
Quincy Park (2)  
Quincy Street Park  
Rallywood Trails  
Ransom St.  
Ransom Park (4)  
Ricks Robinson Park  
Riley Beach (3)  
Riley Street  
Riley Street beach  
Riverbend  
Robinson Township Park  
Rycenga Park (2)  
Rycenga Park on Hemlock Dr. in  
Ottawa County,  
Sanctuary Woods (2)  
Saugatuck Dunes  
Serenity Park  
Sheridan Park  
Silver Lake Dunes  
Silver Lake.  
Silvercreek Park  
skate park downtown Holland  
Skateboarding facility on 9th  
small park in Ferrysburg  
Smallenburg Park (2)  
State Beach  
State Parks  
Stony Creek  
Stu Visser Trails (2)  
That nature trail, forgot the name.

That one in Laketown--I forgot the  
name.  
That one in Spring Lake, I forgot  
the name.  
That park off Stanton Street, I  
forgot the name.  
The one around Waukazoo Lake,  
but I forgot the name.  
The one behind the fire station, off  
of Ransom  
The one in Allendale, but I forgot  
the name.  
The one in Spring Lake.  
the one near Veldheer's Garden  
The one on 18th Avenue  
The one on Fairbanks, but that  
might be city-owned.  
The one on Laketown and Ottawa,  
or is that in Allegan?  
the one with the tennis courts  
Van Raalte Farm (2)  
VanRaalte (2)  
VanRaalte nature farm,  
VanRaalte Park (3)  
VanRaalte, but I think that's city  
Veterans Park  
Wendt Park (3)  
Wendt Park on James St., Holland  
White Park  
Wilderness Discovery Center  
Windmill Island  
Winstrom Park (4)  
Yogi Bear

Q7 In the past year, how often did you visit the following parks or recreational areas? Would you say you visited each one often, sometimes, or never?

| <b>ITEMS</b> – in Visit descending order     | Never | Sometimes | Often | Number |
|--|-------|-----------|-------|--------|
| Tunnel Park                                  | 37%   | 37%       | 25%   | 538    |
| Pigeon Creek Park                            | 53    | 33        | 15    | 533    |
| Mt. Pisgah at Ottawa Beach                   | 64    | 25        | 11    | 533    |
| Kirk Park                                    | 49    | 41        | 10    | 529    |
| Rosy Mound Natural Area                      | 62    | 28        | 10    | 532    |
| Hager Park                                   | 63    | 27        | 10    | 533    |
| Riley Trails                                 | 71    | 20        | 10    | 530    |
| North Beach Park                             | 73    | 19        | 8     | 525    |
| Hemlock Crossing/Pine Bend                   | 74    | 19        | 7     | 529    |
| Musketawa Trail                              | 85    | 9         | 6     | 529    |
| Riverside Park                               | 73    | 21        | 5     | 523    |
| North Ottawa Dunes                           | 77    | 18        | 5     | 532    |
| Upper Macatawa Natural Area                  | 79    | 16        | 5     | 533    |
| Grand River Park                             | 78    | 18        | 4     | 530    |
| Spring Grove Park                            | 85    | 11        | 4     | 530    |
| Nature Education Center at Hemlock Crossings | 83    | 14        | 3     | 533    |
| Grose Park                                   | 93    | 6         | 1     | 525    |
| Eastmanville Farm                            | 93    | 6         | 1     | 530    |
| Deer Park                                    | 93    | 7         | <1    | 530    |

Q8 Next, we want to ask if you think Ottawa County should expand its park system by acquiring the following types of land. In each case, indicate if you agree or disagree with each type of park land. Again, please use a 1 to 5 scale, where 1 means you “strongly disagree,” 2 means you “disagree,” 3 means you neither disagree nor agree,” 4 means you “agree,” and 5 means you “strongly agree.”

**RESPONSES**

- 01 Strongly Disagree
- 02 Disagree
- 03 Neither Disagree Nor Agree
- 04 Agree
- 05 Strongly Agree
- 98 Don't know
- 99 Refused

| <b>STATEMENTS</b>   | % Agree & Strongly Agree | Number |
|---|--------------------------|--------|
| Land and easements for trails and bikepaths   | 61%                      | 536    |
| Unique environmental areas such as wetlands, sand dunes, mature woodlands, and wildlife areas | 62%                      | 537    |
| Lands along major rivers and streams  | 62%                      | 537    |
| Historic sites  | 66%                      | 536    |



Q9 Are you aware that there is currently a special millage, passed in 2006, in the amount of 1/3 of a mill, to help fund Ottawa County parks?

|    |            |     |
|----|------------|-----|
| 01 | Yes        | 32% |
| 02 | No         | 66% |
| 98 | Don't know | 2%  |

N = 539

Q10 This 1/3 of a mill amounts to \$25.00 per year for a house worth \$150,000. Do you favor or oppose the current parks millage? (IF RESPONDENT ASKS, The millage is up for renewal in 2016.)

|    |            |     |
|----|------------|-----|
| 01 | Favor      | 81% |
| 02 | Oppose     | 12% |
| 98 | Don't know | 8%  |

N = 536

Q11 In general, how satisfied are you with the Ottawa County parks? Would you say you are "very dissatisfied," "dissatisfied," "neither dissatisfied nor satisfied," "satisfied," or "very satisfied?"

|    |                                    |     |
|----|------------------------------------|-----|
| 01 | Very Dissatisfied                  | 3%  |
| 02 | Dissatisfied                       | 1%  |
| 03 | Neither Dissatisfied Nor Satisfied | 10% |
| 04 | Satisfied                          | 52% |
| 05 | Very Satisfied                     | 33% |

N = 530

Q12 Overall, would you say that the Ottawa County parks are an excellent value, a good value, a fair value, or a poor value?

|    |                 |     |
|----|-----------------|-----|
| 01 | Poor value      | 1%  |
| 02 | Fair value      | 12% |
| 03 | Good value      | 44% |
| 04 | Excellent value | 43% |

N = 531

## CLASSIFICATION SECTION

Finally, I have a few questions for classification purposes only:

Q13 What is your racial or ethnic background? **(READ CATEGORIES)**

|    |                                 |     |
|----|---------------------------------|-----|
| 01 | White or Caucasian              | 89% |
| 02 | Black or African American       | 1%  |
| 03 | Hispanic or Latino              | 7%  |
| 04 | Asian                           | <1% |
| 05 | Native American                 | <1% |
| 06 | Multi-racial (please specify)*  | 1%  |
| 08 | Prefer not to answer            | 1%  |
| 09 | Were not asked (finished early) | 1%  |

N = 542

\*Multi-racial responses:

- Caucasian and Native American (4)
- Caucasian and Hispanic (2)
- Caucasian and Asian

Q14 Do you currently own or rent your current residence?

|    |      |     |
|----|------|-----|
| 01 | Own  | 89% |
| 02 | Rent | 11% |

N = 529

Q15 How many people currently live in your household? \_\_\_\_\_

|      |     |
|------|-----|
| 1    | 12% |
| 2    | 38% |
| 3    | 15% |
| 4    | 16% |
| 5    | 11% |
| 6    | 5%  |
| 7-8  | 1%  |
| 9-11 | 1%  |

N = 536

Q16 And, how many children under age 18 currently live in your household? \_\_\_\_\_  
**(IF RESPONDENT SAYS "NONE," ENTER ZERO)**

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| 0 | 61% |
| 1 | 11% |
| 2 | 14% |
| 3 | 9%  |
| 4 | 4%  |
| 5 | <1% |

N = 537

Q17 For how many years have you lived in Ottawa County? **(READ CATEGORIES)**

|    |                    |     |
|----|--------------------|-----|
| 01 | Less than a year   | <1% |
| 02 | 1 to 3 years       | 5%  |
| 03 | 4 to 5 years       | 4%  |
| 04 | 6 to 10 years      | 12% |
| 05 | 11 to 15 years     | 12% |
| 06 | 16 to 20 years     | 10% |
| 07 | 21 to 30 years     | 15% |
| 08 | More than 30 years | 43% |

N = 536

Q18 What is the name of the city, township, or village in which you live?

|                                  |     |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Allendale Township               | 3%  |
| Blendon Township                 | 1%  |
| Chester Township                 | 1%  |
| Coopersville                     | 1%  |
| Crockery Township                | 1%  |
| Ferrysburg                       | 1%  |
| Georgetown Township              | 11% |
| Grand Haven (City)               | 4%  |
| Grand Haven Township             | 6%  |
| Holland (City)                   | 15% |
| Holland Township                 | 14% |
| Hudsonville                      | 6%  |
| Jamestown Township               | 1%  |
| Jenison                          | 1%  |
| Olive Township                   | 2%  |
| Park Township                    | 10% |
| Polkton Township                 | <1% |
| Port Sheldon Township            | 1%  |
| Robinson Township                | 2%  |
| Spring Lake Township             | 6%  |
| Spring Lake (City/Village)       | 1%  |
| Tallmadge Township               | 1%  |
| Wright Township                  | -   |
| Zeeland (City)                   | 5%  |
| Zeeland Township                 | 5%  |
| Other*                           | 1%  |
| Don't know                       | <1% |
| Not asked (didn't finish survey) | 1%  |

N = 542

\*Other responses:  
 Grand Rapids  
 North Ottawa  
 Ottawa Township

## Q19 RECORD GENDER

|    |        |     |
|----|--------|-----|
| 01 | Male   | 40% |
| 02 | Female | 60% |

N = 542

### CLOSING

That is my last question. Thank you very much for taking the survey. Your input is greatly appreciated.

#### **Q3** What other park facilities do you feel Ottawa County should offer?

For young children

- activity center for children
- At Pigeon Creek Park there should be playground equipment.
- More play equipment for the kids. Hager- wooden one which is great but the other side has a basic metal one which could be improved on.
- More playground equipment at all the county parks (3)
- More playgrounds
- More programs focused on children, educating them about conservation and the environment. I'm not sure we're doing enough to educate the little ones.
- Playground areas where people can exercise.
- Playground equipment available at all county parks for kids of all ages.
- Playground equipment available in all county parks for residents to use.
- Playground equipment in all county parks (5)
- Playgrounds (2)
- Rollerblading, for small children.
- Some type of aquatic park, to help with small children. Beach too big to watch small children. Splash park.
- Something for the little kids.
- Splash pad
- Splash parks

Sports/Activities

- 160th and James S-East Corner. would like to see it turned into a park with baseball and soccer fields.
- Ball diamonds, tennis courts
- Better access for scuba divers
- Bicycling
- Climbing walls
- Downhill skiing
- exercise parks
- fitness trail
- hockey arena
- Horseback and golf facilities
- I like snowshoeing, but that might be with cross-country skiing.

- I love the idea of a zip line--we don't have that around here to my knowledge; you have to go to Boyne for that.
- Ice skating (2)
- make Ottawa County a destination for bikers; bike paths from Grand Rapids to somewhere in Ottawa County
- more baseball fields in County Parks
- More basketball and tennis courts. Typical sports.
- More disc golf facilities (very enthusiastic) and horseshoes, ladder golf.
- more groomed cross-country ski trails
- more parks for horse back riding and to rent a cottage
- more pathways on the eastside of Ottawa County, blend with westside bike paths. Prevents from riding on dangerous roads. Such as Allendale road to Mercury.
- more skate parks
- More skate-board facilities in the county parks. Safe places for the teenagers to be able to visit and to use their laptops at outdoor facilities or in shelters and in safe conditions.
- more sport fields to get kids involved
- More walking paths, especially leading up to docks.
- More youth-style activities like skateboarding.
- Mountain biking (2)
- Mountain biking trails (2)
- Mountain biking--big time.
- outdoor fitness area "fitness trail" similar to the one behind North Ottawa Hospital
- Par-3 golf course, self-defense classes for women, martial arts for women, other such classes for women.
- rock climbing
- roller-blading trails
- skate board area would be a nice addition.
- Skate boarding park, playground equipment and exercise equipment in all county parks.
- skateboard parks in the county parks
- Sledding hills are great
- snowmobiling, I think it could provide income (licensing)
- sports and playing fields
- Track and skeet shooting

#### Facilities

- brewery
- build marina bigger for Hope College basketball
- building to hold reunions or gatherings. they already have them, and I like that.
- concession stands at the larger parks that get the most attention; even just vending machines would be nice.
- dry land storage for catamarans
- Good latrines. When I say ""good"", I mean clean, they don't smell bad, and they're environmentally friendly--and handy, easily accessible. It's no good having them a long way away from stuff.
- Handicap accessible areas would be nice, because I have some handicaps.
- Handicap parking should be located closer to boat launch area. Parks could be more senior-citizen friendly.

- I wish they would have more concrete restrooms for the children instead of port-a-potties. More security for the children. I wish they would keep them open little bit later and have more picnic tables and a little more lighting.
- In Ohio they have trails for the blind w/ cables they can follow and trail signs in Braille--we could have that here.
- Large board walk downtown near the river and Macatawa Lake on the south and the north side of lake for residents and the tourists and visitors to Holland. Then this would be competition with the Grand Haven large downtown boardwalk and access to the boats.
- more bathrooms in the parks
- More campgrounds
- More campgrounds and camping tax to put towards maintaining facilities.
- More camping developments- in good shape;
- More camping facilities
- More park facilities with boaters in mind - more places to park boats at docks and slips where people can more readily be accessible to docking at the parks to walk and enjoy the parks in Ottawa County
- more parking areas for some parks
- more picnic areas
- Need grills and seating areas for the picnic areas in all the parks
- picnic parks
- Place in case of rain- rain shelters; restrooms
- Recreational buildings with bumper-pool and other things like that. They have them in Las Vegas.
- recreational hall that could be rented out for weddings and things like that, so if it's raining you can have your reception there.
- restrooms
- RV facilities
- Senior citizen activity county park for meeting and recreation including a shelter area to enjoy year a round.
- some parks with bonfire facilities, a place where you can go and have a fire. A place where family can sit around the fire.
- Special Needs Park
- The whole marina aspect is something they should focus on, but I'm not sure how it'd work.
- There are so many road side parks that could be maintained better. More light. They're too dark.

#### Family / Dogs

- Amusement Parks
- better dog parks
- Family facilities
- more dog parks
- More dog parks in Ottawa County
- More parks open to dogs
- More pavilions that families can use for outings for get-togethers.
- Private beach for dogs. A lot of beaches do not approve of dogs and the dogs love to run in the sand and in the water.
- Some of the dog laws are stupid because dogs are a big part of our lives.

- wishes there were more places allowed to walk dogs

### Beaches

- Better beach facilities
- doesn't like that the beaches are at times contaminated
- I regretted that they had to get rid of the lifeguards at the beaches, but that's been a long time ago.
- make the beach more appealing to tourists
- More access to the beaches on Lake Michigan
- More areas for public beaches
- more beaches
- More lakes to swim in during the summer
- more public beaches
- more swimming areas; more convenient swimming areas with elevators not stairs
- Swimming facilities
- We have lots of beaches. We already have a lot.

### Programs

- nature center is very, very desirable
- Nature education facilities
- Should increase interest Art in the parks. Put up sculptures.
- Well--do they have art in the park? I'd be in favor of that too, especially since Grand Rapids has the ArtPrize.

### Other

- County-wide yearly sticker program to help support the county parks.
- curb-side leaf pickup program, free recyclables pickup curbside
- don't outlaw walking on the pier or pier jumping; natural areas with few regulations
- Draw tags for hunting and let it be known to the public. Put it on the news or give fliers through the mail to people to let them know about hunting. Open up hunting areas to bow hunting
- Expand Hoffmaster Park and Holland State Park and expand camping facilities on Lake Michigan in the county parks.
- Extension of the Grand River trail from Jenison to Grand Haven. More mass acreage and more mountain biking, completion of Muskatawa Trail eastern Ottawa Co. toward Muskegon
- Facilities should move more east in the county.
- feel as if his driveway should be paved before they spend more money on parks.
- Focus more on the Georgetown area and the Hudsonville area because we don't have much here and there are many small children. More free programs and adding things if they're free of taxes for people. If there's enough money to make improvements, do it but don't take out loans or raise taxes.
- Free camping once a year should be offered.
- I think they should have the kids come in and help w/ the maintenance of the parks--an educational program for nature. Another thing is that nonviolent felons should be allowed to go in the parks to clean them up, the ones who aren't a danger to society.
- If a green belt area along the Grand River or in county parks, don't make it too restrictive so that you can't get to the water or ride a bike.
- Keeping everything a bit more clean. that's the best thing that can be done for the parks.

- Maintaining of the parks and recreational areas in Ottawa County!!
- Make sure everything is accessible to wheelchairs
- Many opportunities to attract tourists- especially golf courses; work on keeping more trees in the area and preserve our environment more
- Millennium park with camping
- More common fee for launch sites for fishing and boating. Township launches you have to pay more than in the city. The area should be allowed to have a common fee.
- More industry and restaurants on the North Side to attract more revenue and more activities on the water on the North side
- more natural lands; undeveloped life preservations; no hunting
- More on the south side of Lake Macatawa because most are on the north side
- More preservation of wildlife areas and restricted access to these beautiful rare areas.
- More than adequate compared to surrounding counties.
- More water-front property in the downtown area. I want sewage and dumps to be ridden of, we want more water-front.
- Natural habitats
- no paying to go in; free parking instead of ticket
- not have to pay to get into beaches
- Ottawa County residents should be able to attend the beach for free
- proper sewage
- stop loud boats in Lake Michigan
- Stop signs should be lowered or angled so that there is a clear view from the bike/walking paths and from the height of the standard sedan or two-seated car. Improvement is needed in this area for better visibility for both the car drivers and the bicyclists!!
- The land should not be developed, but should be used more efficiently
- they have enough; more may cause budget problems..
- They need to keep up the ones they already have first--they're not always well-maintained. They need to take care of what they've got first.
- Want to see more urban and suburban parks near residential neighborhoods instead of strip malls. Such as the vacant lot on River and Douglas Streets in Holland on the northside.



# Appendix E - Public Workshop Notes

## 2011 Ottawa County Parks and Open Space Plan Public Planning Workshop

**Public Input Meeting**  
**Ottawa County Fillmore Complex**  
**7:00 pm, November 30, 2010**

### Attendees:

Approximately 22 members of the general public attended the meeting. Specific individuals recorded were as follows:

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Dave Busman        | Polkton Township                                    |
| Glenn Nykamp       | Zeeland Township                                    |
| Tom Oonk           | Zeeland Township                                    |
| Tim Barkel         | Zeeland Township                                    |
| Bill Van Appledorn | Holland City  |
| Joyce Smith        | Park Township                                       |
| Laird Schaefer     | 12543 Wilderness Trail, Grand Haven, 49417          |
| Todd Wolters       | Olive Township                                      |
| Alice Hoban        | Blendon Township                                    |
| Andy Hoban         | Blendon Township                                    |
| Ken Cott           | Ferrysburg, MI                                      |
| Erwin Schutte      | 9451 Marylou St., Zeeland, MI 49417                 |
| Craig Bessinger    | PO Box 38, Ferrysburg, MI 49409                     |
| Jill Vander Stel   | 14835 Parkwood Dr., Grand Haven, MI 49417           |
| Marlene Perry      | 18715 148 <sup>th</sup> Ave., Spring Lake, MI 49456 |
| Patrick Perry      | 18715 148 <sup>th</sup> Ave., Spring Lake, MI 49456 |
| Maureen Mc Elroy   | 3675 Leonard, Eastmanville, MI 49404                |
| Anne Engvall       | Coopersville, MI                                    |
| Lucas Hill         | 106 S Buchanan, Spring Lake, MI 49456               |
| Gray Gogolin       | 150 W. 8 <sup>th</sup> St., Holland, MI 49423       |

### Park Staff and Commissioners:

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| John Scholtz | Ottawa County Parks Director               |
| Curt TerHaar | Coordinator of Park Planning & Development |
| Roger Jonas  | Parks Commissioner                         |

Scholtz began the meeting with introductions and then reviewed the agenda for the evening. He then explained the importance of the Parks Plan and summarized how it is used in decision making by the Parks Commission. TerHaar next reviewed the schedule for preparation and approval of the parks plan concluding with plan approval by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment in April of 2011.

Using PowerPoint slides, Scholtz next reviewed key research efforts completed in the process of preparing the parks plan including a park user survey conducted in 2007, Parks Commission retreats and workshops, a review of all local recreation plans, an assessment of the top ten Michigan county park systems, analysis of national trends, and a detailed

survey of county residents conducted this past fall. The bulk of time was spent on the county resident survey conducted by the Frost Research Center at Hope College and copies of the preliminary results were distributed to interested persons.

Also using PowerPoint slides, TerHaar explained the role of the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission in terms of providing landscape scale preservation, natural resource based recreation opportunities, historic preservation, land stewardship, and accessible facilities. Scholtz followed with a detailed review and discussion of the Parks Commission's role in providing particular natural resource based recreation activities and facilities. Comments from attendees included the following:

- Ottawa County should consider offering a BMX (bicycle) course.
- Adding sledding opportunities at another park would be good since Pigeon Creek Park is so heavily used.
- Splash parks should be considered for some facilities, possibly in eastern Ottawa County.
- Would like to see snowmobiling made a higher priority.

Following discussion, each attendee was asked to rank all activities and facilities as to their importance for the Parks Commission to offer in the park system. See attached graph illustrating the survey results.

Scholtz and TerHaar next used slides to provide an overview of each greenway and the various projects. At the conclusion of each greenway review, a summary of the current focus on projects in that greenway was provided. The focus areas are summarized below:

#### Lake Michigan Coastal Greenway

- Implement Olive Shores master plan
- Complete Historic Ottawa Beach waterfront
- Small renovations and improvements
- Monitor potential to expand lake access

#### Pigeon River Greenway

- No major initiatives
- Monitor acquisition opportunities in focus areas
- Small renovations and improvements

#### Macatawa River Greenway

- UMNA Trail with connections to Fred Meijer Kenowa Trail
- Holland Country Club restoration and access improvements
- Partnership with ODC-MGP on greenway trail acquisitions and implementation
- Monitor acquisition opportunities in focus areas

#### Grand River Greenway

- Eastmanville Bayou improvements with connections
- Grand River Ravines improvements with connections

- Connor Bayou master plan and implementation
- Bend Area acquisitions and connections
- Grand River Greenway trail planning and development
- Small renovations and improvements with trail development at various sites.
- Monitor acquisition opportunities in focus areas.

Following the presentation there was general discussion with key points noted below:

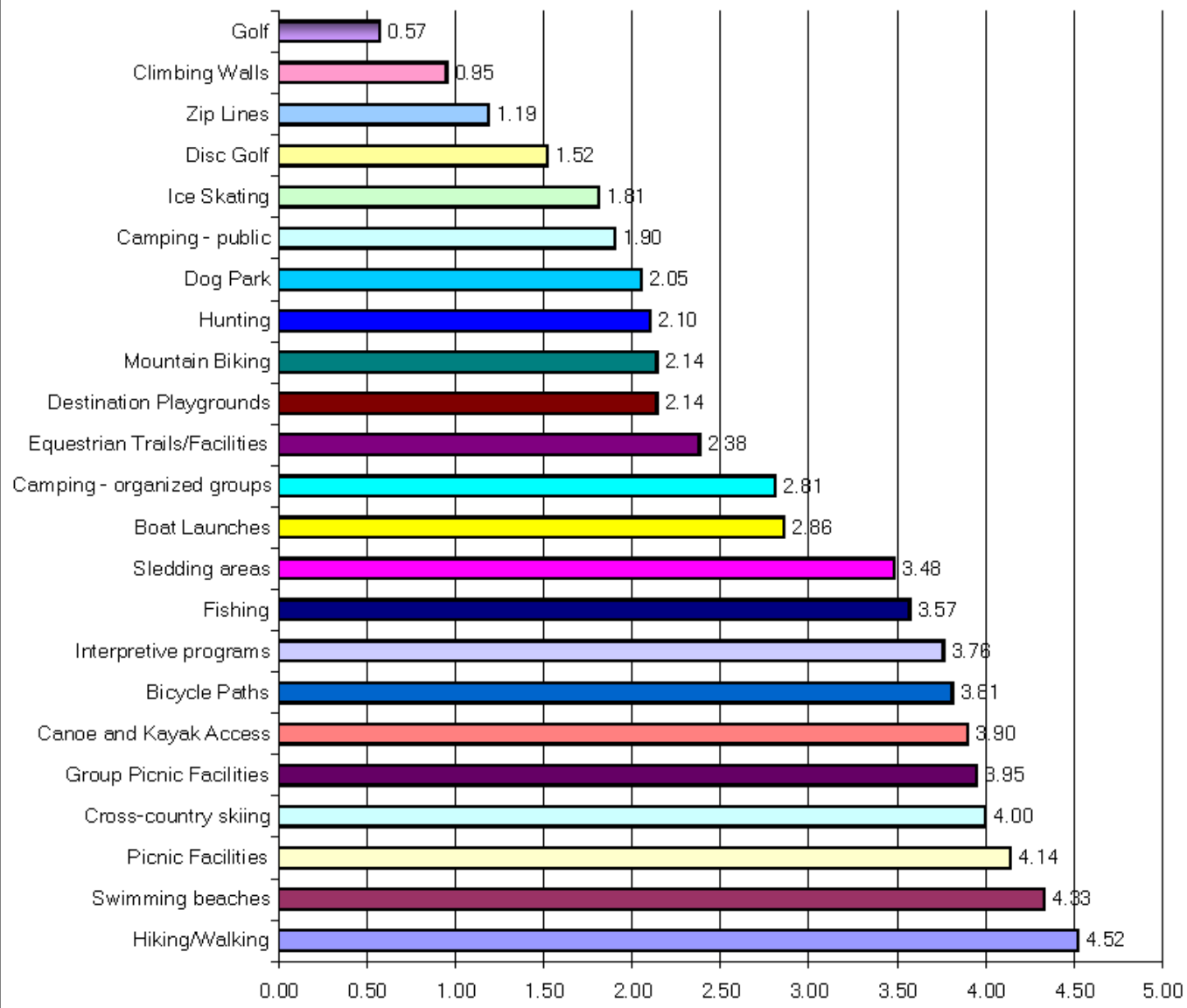
- The Parks Department should be commended for doing an excellent job in planning for the future.
- Dog rules and off leash opportunities at open spaces are not well explained on the parks website.
- Need comment capability on web site when the plan is available for review and comment.
- Coordination between the county and local units of government could be better.
- Most local units of government do not have parks millages and therefore may not be able undertake the local government role in parks and recreation as the county envisions.
- The timeline for providing swimming at the Upper Macatawa Natural Area should be shortened.
- Survey questions should be available on the website since 540 respondents are not that many in a county the size of Ottawa County.
- Dogs are not desirable in natural areas because they conflict with wildlife.
- Would like to see dogs allowed on leash at Rosy Mound during certain seasons.
- Beach crowding is an issue at Tunnel Park and possibly other sites.
- The trail loop with low voltage lighting at Pigeon Creek should be replaced with brighter, overhead lighting.
- Smaller “pocket” parks with high quality features should be offered, especially with water access.
- Single track mountain biking should be provided. Natural Areas with trails.
- Bicycle paths should be provided in rural areas as connectors to parks.

Meeting concluded at approximately 8:40 p.m.

### 2011 Ottawa Co. Parks & Open Space Plan Activity Analysis

| Answer Options               | 0 -<br>OCPRC should<br>not be involved | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 -<br>highest priority | Rating Average | Response<br>Count |
|------------------------------|--|---|---|---|---|-------------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Hiking/Walking               | 0                                      | 0 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 15                      | 4.52           | 21                |
| Swimming beaches             | 0                                      | 0 | 0 | 4 | 6 | 11                      | 4.33           | 21                |
| Picnic Facilities            | 0                                      | 0 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 9                       | 4.14           | 21                |
| Cross-country skiing         | 0                                      | 0 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 9                       | 4.00           | 21                |
| Group Picnic Facilities      | 0                                      | 1 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 8                       | 3.95           | 21                |
| Canoe and Kayak Access       | 0                                      | 1 | 0 | 6 | 7 | 7                       | 3.90           | 21                |
| Bicycle Paths                | 1                                      | 0 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 9                       | 3.81           | 21                |
| Interpretive programs        | 1                                      | 0 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 9                       | 3.76           | 21                |
| Fishing                      | 0                                      | 0 | 3 | 7 | 7 | 4                       | 3.57           | 21                |
| Sledding areas               | 1                                      | 0 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 4                       | 3.48           | 21                |
| Boat Launches                | 2                                      | 3 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 2                       | 2.86           | 21                |
| Camping - organized groups   | 0                                      | 4 | 4 | 7 | 4 | 2                       | 2.81           | 21                |
| Equestrian Trails/Facilities | 2                                      | 2 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 0                       | 2.38           | 21                |
| Destination Playgrounds      | 4                                      | 3 | 3 | 8 | 3 | 0                       | 2.14           | 21                |
| Mountain Biking              | 2                                      | 5 | 7 | 3 | 3 | 1                       | 2.14           | 21                |
| Hunting                      | 4                                      | 3 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 2                       | 2.10           | 21                |
| Dog Park                     | 6                                      | 1 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 2                       | 2.05           | 21                |
| Camping - public             | 5                                      | 4 | 3 | 6 | 3 | 0                       | 1.90           | 21                |
| Ice Skating                  | 4                                      | 7 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 0                       | 1.81           | 21                |
| Disc Golf                    | 6                                      | 5 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 0                       | 1.52           | 21                |
| Zip Lines                    | 10                                     | 3 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 0                       | 1.19           | 21                |
| Climbing Walls               | 12                                     | 1 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 0                       | 0.95           | 21                |
| Golf                         | 16                                     | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1                       | 0.57           | 21                |
| <i>answered question</i>     |  |   |   |   |   |                         |                | <b>21</b>         |
| <i>skipped question</i>      |  |   |   |   |   |                         |                | <b>0</b>          |

### 2011 Parks Plan Activities Analysis (by Rating Average)



## Appendix F - Public Notices and Parks Commission Minutes



**Ottawa County Parks &  
Recreation Commission**  
12220 Fillmore Street  
West Olive, Michigan 49460

### **NEWS RELEASE**

**Date:** January 11, 2011  
**For Release:** Immediately  
**Contact:** Curt TerHaar  
Coordinator of Park Planning & Development  
Ph: (616) 738-4656 Fax: (616) 738-4812  
E-mail: [cterhaar@miottawa.org](mailto:cterhaar@miottawa.org)

The Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission invites the public to review and comment on the draft 2011 Ottawa County Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan.

The 2011 plan sets goals and objectives for the next five years and beyond in regard to future land acquisition, facility development, and other priorities for the Parks Commission. The previous plan was completed in 2006.

The new plan can be viewed on the county web-site at [www.miottawa.org](http://www.miottawa.org) or at local public libraries.

For information, call the Ottawa County Parks office at (616) 738-4810.



Everything Michigan

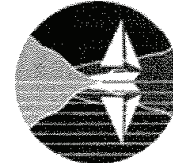
## Ottawa County Parks' five-year plan available to public

Published: Friday, January 14, 2011, 9:00 AM Updated: Friday, January 14, 2011, 9:54 AM



By Community News | The Muskegon Chronicle

OTTAWA COUNTY - The Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission invites the public to review and comment on the draft 2011 Ottawa County Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan.



The 2011 plan sets goals and objectives for the next five years and beyond in regard to future land acquisition, facility development, and other priorities for the Parks Commission. The previous plan was completed in 2006.

The new plan can be viewed on the county website at [www.miottawa.org](http://www.miottawa.org) or at public libraries in Ottawa County.

For more information, call the Ottawa County Parks office at 616/738-4810.

© 2011 MLive.com. All rights reserved.

# 6 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT new Ottawa parks plan

Booming systems look for input on future direction

By Peter Daining | [peter.daining@hollandsentinel.com](mailto:peter.daining@hollandsentinel.com) | (616) 546-4269

1-18-2011

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6

**The Ottawa County Parks Commission wants your input on its long-term parks plan.** What parks should be expanded? What new features or activities should be added? Check out the plan at [miottawa.org/parks](http://miottawa.org/parks). To comment on the plan, e-mail Curt TerHaar, the county's coordinator for parks planning and development. "This is the last chance to comment before it goes to the board Feb. 2," TerHaar said.

**Ottawa County now boasts 5,979 acres of parks and open space lands, including five with Lake Michigan access.** The parks nearest to Holland are Adams Street Landing, Tunnel Park, Riley Trails, Upper Macatawa Natural Area and Mount Pisgah.

**The parks system has flourished in Ottawa County, thanks in large part to a special 10-year parks millage,** approved by 67 percent of voters in 2006. The millage makes up \$3.2 million of the parks' \$5.5 million budget for 2010. Other revenues are from grants, donations and fees.

**The Parks Commission is continuously expanding and developing parks.** In 2010, the county purchased part of the former Holland Country Club in Holland Township and began work on the Holland Harbor Fishing Access Project next to Holland State Park. In 2011, look for that project to be completed, as well as the Olive Shores Park on Lake Michigan.

**These are all ideas spelled out in the county's 200-page 2011 parks, recreation and open space plan:** Expanding the boardwalk along Lake Macatawa near Lake Michigan. A 1.5-mile trail along the Pigeon River. The county's first campground. Building trails and a park at the former Holland Country Club.

**The 2011 plan recommends expanding the current county parks system by 900 acres in the next five years.** It puts the county's focus more on developing the Grand River Greenway and less on Lake Michigan, which doesn't have as much room for expansions.

Holland Sentinel



**Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission**

January 28, 2011

John A. Scholtz  
Director

**Commission Members**

Ted Bosgraaf  
President

Bobbi Jones Sabine  
Vice President

Philip Kuyers  
Secretary

Jim Miedema

Joyce Kortman

Roger E. Jonas

Ray Statema

David Van Ginhoven

David L. Vander Kooi

Paul Geerlings

**NOTICE OF MEETING**

Dear Interested Parties:

The regular meeting of the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission is scheduled for **Wednesday, February 2, 2011** at **4:00 p.m.** in **Conference Room E**, (in the lower level) of the Administration Building of the Fillmore Street Complex, 12220 Fillmore, West Olive, MI 49460.

The agenda for the meeting is attached for your review.

Please contact Sherry at the Parks and Recreation Commission Office at (616)738-4813 if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. Scholtz".

John A. Scholtz  
Parks and Recreation Director

JAS/sc

Enclosures

The County of Ottawa will provide necessary auxiliary aids/services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon ten (10) working days notice to the County of Ottawa. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the County of Ottawa by writing or calling the following: (Daniel C. Krueger, Ottawa County Clerk, 414 Washington-Room 301, Grand Haven, MI 49417. Phone: 616/846-8310, ext. 324- Sherri Sayles)

12220 Fillmore Street  
West Olive, Michigan

Phone (616) 738-4810  
Fax (616) 738-4812

Web Site: [miOTTAWA.org/Parks](http://miOTTAWA.org/Parks)  
e-mail: [parks&rec@miottawa.org](mailto:parks&rec@miottawa.org)



**Parks and Recreation Commission  
Annual Meeting Agenda**

February 2, 2011  
Conference Room E  
Fillmore Complex  
4:00 p.m.

***Mission Statement:*** *The Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission enhances quality of life for residents and visitors, by preserving parks and open spaces and providing natural resource-based recreation and education opportunities.*

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call: Bosgraaf  
Sabine  
Kuyers  
Geerlings  
Jonas  
Statema  
Miedema  
Van Ginhoven  
Vander Kooi  
Holtvluwer
3. Absences (excused/unexcused)
4. Additions/Deletions to Agenda
5. Approval of Minutes
  - a) Approve the minutes of the Commission's January 5, 2011 annual meeting.
6. Communications
  - a) Receive the January 3, 2011 letter from the American Cancer Society.
  - b) Receive the January 10, 2011 letter from Spencer Ballard, REHS from the Ottawa County Health Department.
  - c) Review comment cards and emails received since the previous meeting.
7. Public Heard (Public comments limited to 3 minutes)
8. Staff Reports
  - a) Director's Report
  - b) Coordinator – Parks Manager Report
  - c) Interpretive and Information Services Report

9. Committee Reports

- a) Receive the report of the Public Relations Committee meeting of January 12, 2011.
- b) Receive the report of the Planning Committee meeting of January 13, 2011.

10. Old Business

- a) Project Updates (*see Planning and Development Summary Report enclosed*).
- b) Discuss final report of the residents needs survey by the Frost Center at Hope College (distributed at January meeting).

11. New Business

- a) 5:00 p.m. Master Plan – Connor Bayou
  - Summary presentation of Master Plan given by staff
  - Parks Commission review and discussion
  - Public Comment
  - Approval of Master Plan
- b) Receive the West Michigan Park Association's proposed Park 12 dry line fire protection project (plan to be presented at meeting).
- c) Receive park and open space rule revisions as proposed by staff.
- d) Receive consultant proposals for design and construction oversight of the Golf Course to Wetlands: Holland Country Club Restoration Project (summary sheet enclosed).
- e) 5:30 p.m. 2011 "Ottawa County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan"
  - Summary presentation by staff
  - Review written comments
  - Parks Commission review and discussion
  - Public Comment
  - Approval of Plan

12. Public Heard (Public comments limited to 3 minutes)

13. Commissioners Heard

14. Closed Session to discuss property acquisition

15. Upcoming meeting dates:

March 2, 2011 – Regular meeting  
Time: 4:00 p.m.  
Location: Conference Room E, Fillmore Complex

16. Adjournment

**Regular Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission**

*Minutes*

- Date:** February 9, 2011
- Time:** 4:00 p.m.
- Place:** Fillmore Complex, Conference Room E
- Present:** Ted Bosgraaf, Bobbi Jones Sabine, Jim Miedema, Roger Jonas, Phil Kuyers, David Vander Kooi, and Ray Statema
- Absent:** Paul Geerlings, James Holtvluwer and David Van Ginhoven
- Staff:** John Scholtz, Director; Sherry Costello, Administrative Secretary; Dave Mazurek, Coordinator of Park Maintenance & Operations; and Curt TerHaar, Coordinator of Park Planning and Development
- Guests:** Joyce Smith, Marjie Viveen, and Greg Chandler (Grand Rapids Press)

*(Meeting Items omitted)*

**Subject: 2011 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan**

- PR 11-13      **Motion:**      To approve the *2011 Ottawa County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan* and present it to the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners for approval.
- Moved by:**      Sabine              Supported by: Statema              Unanimous

*(Meeting Items omitted)*

**Other Items Discussed:**

*(Meeting Items omitted)*

At 5:30 p.m. Bosgraaf called a public meeting for the 2011 Ottawa County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan. Scholtz gave a summary presentation of the Plan and reviewed written comments received. Sabine complimented staff on their tremendous job. She felt that it was very well organized. Commission members approved the plan to be forwarded to the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners by motion.

*(Meeting Items omitted)*

The Parks Commission went into Closed Session to discuss property matters.

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

# Appendix G - Parks Commission Retreat Results

## Special Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission

*Proposed Minutes*

- Date:** February 18, 2009
- Time:** 3:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- Place:** Weaver House at Pine Bend
- Present:** Ted Bosgraaf, Roger Jonas, Bobbi Jones Sabine, Phil Kuyers, Jim Miedema, Ray Statema, David Vander Kooi and David Van Ginhoven
- Absent:** Paul Geerlings and Joyce Kortman
- Staff:** John Scholtz, Director; Curt TerHaar, Coordinator of Park Planning and Development; Dave Mazurek, Park Operations Superintendent and Chip Francke, Parks Naturalist.
- Guests:** Pam Landis, Think Again (discussion facilitator); and Jeff Larabel.

Scholtz introduced the meeting discussion facilitator, Pam Landis, to lead the planning retreat.

Landis outlined the purposes of the meeting which included the following:

1. Discuss priorities for future projects based on latest county financial situation.
2. Take a “big picture” look at the park system and its needs for the future that may not occur during regular parks commission meetings
3. Discuss several more specific topics that have come to light recently including requests for special facilities in county parks.

Scholtz provided a brief PowerPoint presentation outlining the current park system as a whole and the activities it supports (attached).

Landis led a discussion about the commissioner’s vision of the future of the county park system in 20 to 50 years. Comments were recorded by the facilitator as follows:

- Natural features - not manmade
- Natural features with manmade (can show compatibility)
- Parks you can get lost in
- Preserve vistas
- More parkland
- Opportunities for outdoor education and recreation
- Work with schools...all levels
- High quality
- Variety of recreational opportunities – a “Mecca”
- Magnetic Frisbees
- Integrate with historic features

- Complement/connect with parks in region
- Meet the needs of the future – a legacy
- Parks as economic draw
- Parks as destination
- Linkages by trail
- Animals in natural setting
- Well funded – secure funding – millage
- Four season parks
- Manage to keep them “natural”
- Positive public image
- Carbon credits?

TerHaar provided a more detailed PowerPoint presentation that outlined current park initiatives in fifteen (15) greenway zones. A summary sheet outlining specific acquisition and development initiatives in each zone was also distributed (both attached). Commissioners were asked to rank the zones in level of importance for current planning and development efforts.

Scholtz reviewed the current budget and long range funding situation and distributed a chart (attached) showing all projects that were originally included in the 10 year master plan.

Scholtz summarized the issue of a parks emergency maintenance fund and the relationship to the General Fund dollars currently allocated to the Commission by the Board. Members of the Board of Commissioners have urged the creation of a fund which would provide emergency funding in the event a future millage vote fails. At the very least, the fund would allow services to continue until a new vote could be scheduled. Scholtz explained that the next millage vote would likely be held in 2016. Current funding is good through 2017 and a second vote would likely be held in 2018, so one year of funding (for 2018) is likely what would be needed. Sabine urged that General Fund dollars not be put in a restricted maintenance fund and instead the Commission commit to the Board to keep adequate fund balance on hand to provide the necessary bridge funding in 2018. She stated that the funds could better be used over the next few years to take advantage of land acquisition opportunities. Kuyers agreed and indicated that the Board could be convinced to accept this approach. Van Ginhoven indicated that renewals are usually not a problem and people do not expect government to stick tax revenues in the bank.

TerHaar discussed current population projections for Ottawa County and the effect that may have on acreage goals for the park system. A handout showing these projections was reviewed (attached).

After a break for dinner, the results of the greenway zone ranking were discussed. Results of this ranking were compiled and shown on a county map (attached). High priority areas were generally determined to be along the Lake Michigan shoreline and along the eastern Grand River where connections still need to be made.

Scholtz presented information on some activities that have been requested by citizens in the county parks including dog parks, disc golf, and water trails. Commissioners were then asked to rank a variety of activities which could be provided in terms of their fit with the Park Commission role in providing recreation and in the level of priority facilities for these activities should be planned and developed. Results of this exercise were not presented at the meeting but were compiled later. Ranking results are attached.

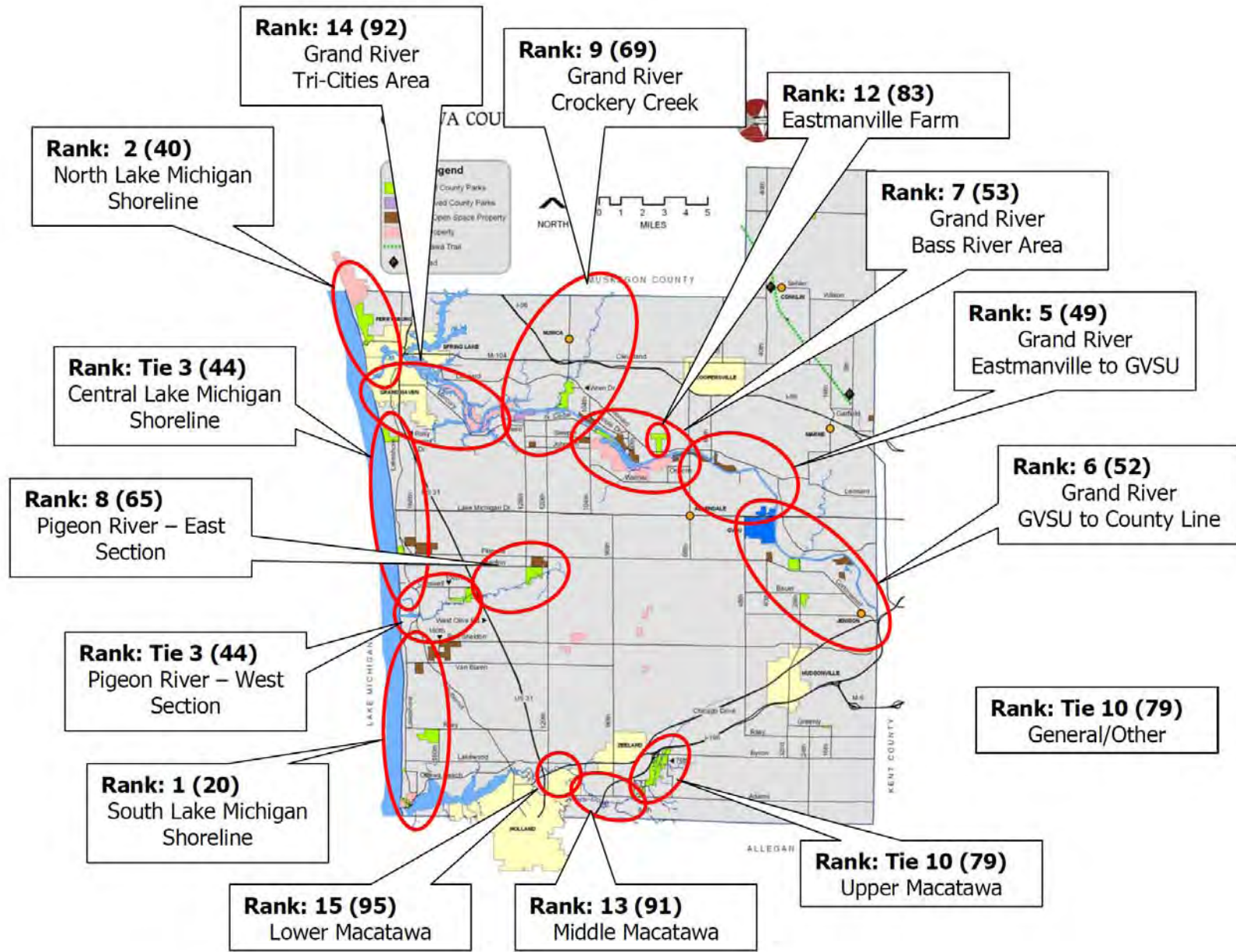
Scholtz reported on public relations strategies recommended by the Public Relations Committee which included:

- Emphasize promotion of existing, developed parks
- Explore use of blogs or Facebook or other on-line methods to capture younger audience. Newspapers reach older audiences.
- Importance of road directional signs – try to incorporate parks logo.
- More creative use of Website overall.
- The parks sell themselves once people get there – so do more to get people out to the parks the first time.

Specific comments recorded during all discussions included the following:

- Camping should not compete with the private sector especially in difficult economic conditions. It was noted that some campground business was down 30% last year.
- The farm park should be less of a priority, but develop the riverfront
- Riley winter sports development would be good.
- There was a request to evaluate the amount of waterfront in the county park system in terms of the total amount in the county as a whole.
- At the Park Township dog park there is a lot of use of adjacent land areas by dogs off-leash and this has caused some problems. Actual users of the dog park facility have not been a problem.
- There have been problems with disc golf users at Brewer Park in Kent County in relation to neighboring property owners.
- Ted Bosgraaf presented a blog that his daughter put together in a very short amount of time. Something like this could be used to promote the park system.
- Kuyers recommended studying Cranberry Lake for possible park acquisition opportunities.
- Bosgraaf noted that the millage renewal in 2016 gets sold today and what the Commission does over the next few years is key to our future success.
- There was general agreement that more up-to-date, aggressive and creative use of the Website should be explored and consultant assistance sought if not available through existing county sources.

***END OF MEETING NOTES – MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:00 PM***



# Facility/Activity Ranking Results

Park Commission Planning Retreat - February 18, 2009

| Best fit with County Parks Role |                              |                |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| Rank                            | Activity                     | Score (40 max) |
| 1                               | Hiking/Walking               | 40             |
| 2                               | Family Picnic Facilities     | 37             |
|                                 | Cross-country skiing         | 37             |
| 4                               | Bicycle Paths                | 36             |
| 5                               | Group Picnic Facilities      | 34             |
| 6                               | Sledding                     | 31             |
|                                 | Swimming                     | 31             |
| 8                               | Canoe and Kayak Access       | 30             |
| 9                               | Fishing                      | 28             |
| 10                              | Destination Playgrounds      | 27             |
|                                 | Ice Skating                  | 27             |
| 12                              | Equestrian Trails/Facilities | 26             |
| 13                              | Boat Launches                | 25             |
| 14                              | Hunting                      | 24             |
| 15                              | Mountain Biking              | 22             |
| 16                              | Dog Park                     | 16             |
| 17                              | Campground                   | 14             |
| 18                              | Disc Golf                    | 14             |

| Level of Priority |                              |                |
|-------------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| Rank              | Activity                     | Score (40 max) |
| 1                 | Hiking/Walking               | 39             |
| 2                 | Family Picnic Facilities     | 33             |
|                   | Cross-country skiing         | 33             |
| 4                 | Bicycle Paths                | 32             |
| 5                 | Group Picnic Facilities      | 30             |
| 6                 | Sledding                     | 28             |
| 7                 | Ice Skating                  | 26             |
| 8                 | Canoe and Kayak Access       | 24             |
| 9                 | Swimming                     | 21             |
|                   | Destination Playgrounds      | 21             |
| 11                | Fishing                      | 20             |
| 12                | Boat Launches                | 19             |
|                   | Equestrian Trails/Facilities | 19             |
| 14                | Mountain Biking              | 16             |
|                   | Hunting                      | 16             |
| 16                | Campground                   | 15             |
| 17                | Dog Park                     | 13             |
| 18                | Disc Golf                    | 12             |



**Special Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission**

*Approved Minutes*

- Date:** February 24, 2010
- Time:** 1:00 p.m.
- Place:** Nature Education Center – Hemlock Crossing Park
- Present:** Ted Bosgraaf, Bobbi Jones Sabine, Jim Miedema, David Van Ginhoven, Roger Jonas, Phil Kuyers, David Vander Kooi, Ray Statema and Paul Geerlings
- Absent:** None
- Staff:** John Scholtz, Director; Sherry Costello, Administrative Secretary; Curt TerHaar, Coordinator of Park Planning and Development; Chip Francke, Coordinator of Interpretive and Information Services; and Dave Mazurek, Coordinator of Park Maintenance & Operations
- Guests:** Kristen Hintz, Parks Naturalist; Alan Vanderberg, County Administrator (facilitator); and Keith Van Beek, Assistant County Administrator (facilitator)

President Bosgraaf welcomed everyone to the meeting. Scholtz outlined the purpose of the meeting and, with assistance from TerHaar, reviewed the following:

1. 2009 retreat results
2. 2009 accomplishments
3. 2010 Initiatives

Scholtz introduced the meeting discussion facilitators, Alan Vanderberg, County Administrator, and Keith Van Beek, Assistant County Administrator, to lead the planning retreat.

Vanderberg led the discussion by defining the difference between a vision statement and a mission statement.

Commission members discussed the current mission statement that reads:

*“The Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission will enhance quality of life for residents and visitors by preserving parks and open spaces and by providing natural resource-based recreation and education opportunities.”*

The following suggestions were made:

1. Change “will enhance” to “enhances”
2. Change “by providing to “provides”

Commission members moved on to the discussion of the Vision statement by using the following statement as the basis for discussion:

*“Ottawa County Parks and Recreation will enhance the environmental, economic, and enjoyment value for the community and its visitors by preserving and developing natural lands for today and tomorrow.”*

The following suggestions were made:

1. Integrate in the beginning “strive to improve the quality of life”.
2. Change the phrase “developing natural lands” by dropping the word “developing” and using a better word. Others suggested enhance, maintain or somehow work in stewardship.

Vanderberg and Van Beek then discussed and reviewed the next exercise by identifying Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats related to achieving the Parks commission’s mission (see attached). They then continued with a “brain dump” exercise and requested participants to list any objectives that they would like to see accomplished in the parks system. These objectives were then placed under four broad goal categories listed as:

Goal A: Preserve and manage park and open space lands which protect and enhance significant landscapes and natural communities to benefit both people and wildlife.

Goal B: Provide high quality natural resource based recreation opportunities for residents and visitors of all levels of ability.

Goal C: Promote understanding and appreciation of the natural and cultural history of Ottawa County and awareness of Commission operated facilities, programs and services.

Goal D: Develop and maintain a solid, diversified financial base for both short and long-term development, expansion, operation and maintenance of the park system.

Commission members then ranked each broad goal category by importance; 4 being the highest and 1 being the lowest ranking. After the objectives from the “brain dump” were compiled under their respective broad categories, Commission members then rated their 10 most important objectives; 10 being the highest rating and 1 being the lowest. The Goal’s were then ranked highest to lowest along with the objectives under each goal (see attached).

Van Beek then distributed the Population Projections & Acreage Goals from 4 different entities; West Michigan Regional Planning Commission, U.S. Census

Bureau, Ottawa County Planning and Performance Enhancement Department, and the University of Michigan. They reviewed the following:

1. Population projections
2. Project planning lists
3. Review revenue projections
4. Review long-range budget projections

Vanderberg noted that he viewed the future of the County very positively and Ottawa County is still the 3<sup>rd</sup> fastest growing county in the State. He felt confident that Ottawa County would rebound in the long-term and continue to lead the state in growth.

TerHaar then distributed the 3 Year Budget Projections for review. Vanderberg explained that monthly updates were being received from the Equalization Department relative to taxable values and a five to eight percent decrease could be expected in 2011. He noted that the parks millage runs 6 months behind due to timing of collection of the millage funds.

TerHaar noted that at the end of the 3 year Budget Projection, the Parks Fund Balance would be down to approximately \$500,000. TerHaar directed attention to the Acquisition and Development Project Planning List that showed potential projects that could be delayed for dropped. He then reviewed the Future Project List for discussion.

Scholtz then discussed the Olive Shores grant that needs to be submitted by April 1, 2010 to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. He asked Commission for direction on how to proceed as a public meeting would need to be presented at the March Commission meeting.

Boagraaf then discussed the Eastmanville Farm Park and farming lease. Kuyers noted that the MSU extension and Farm Bureau were interested in partnering to operate a farm park in the future. Consensus was reached to be receptive to a proposal for implementation of a farm park at Eastmanville Farm.

Scholtz then distributed a first scenario of potential projects to be cut for the Long-Range Budget to balance the projection with available revenues. He encouraged Commission members to review and discuss what projects could be delayed to maintain an adequate fund balance. TerHaar then reviewed the planned acquisitions. Van Ginhoven requested a matrix of the projects with pros and cons and recommendations for the Commission to review.

Commission then discussed the importance of linkage properties over acquiring acreage. Bosgraaf requested that staff compile key linkage properties through 2017.

Francke then distributed the memo previously reviewed at the last Parks Commission meeting regarding allowing reservations at the Nature Education Center. He reminded Commission members that at that time it was suggested to hold off allowing reservations for the first year to see what the use of the building

would be like. A discussion of cost centers and the need for more detailed cost accounting information ensued. Consensus was reached to hold off allowing reservations at the Nature Education Center for two years until building functions and programs could be evaluated.

Scholtz then indicated that in the interest of time the remaining items on the Agenda could be reviewed at the next Parks Commission meeting.

**END OF MEETING NOTES – MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:30 PM**

The members of the Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission examined the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats affecting the parks as a whole. The items in each category are not ranked by importance, nor is this intended to be an all-inclusive list. In addition, the items identified provide a view of potential

# STRENGTHS

- Staff eye on big picture
- High quality of maintenance
- Good corridor of properties
- County leadership
- Inviting place to go (parks & people)
- Diverse natural resource base (Lake MI as part of County)
- Supportive O.C. Board of Commissioners
- Friends of Parks
- High quality committed Parks Commission
- Ability to win grants
- Strong public relations/customer service to patrons
- Four seasons
- Citizens have a feeling of ownership
- Strong public support
- Tourist area gives latitude to do more
- Availability of desirable properties

# OPPORTUNITIES

- Greenways & future development
- Bend Area—proximity of GVSU to greenway
- “Vision” of park turning into reality
- Recreation & educational programming/NEC
- Profit centers : Marina, campgrounds, golf (user fees)
- Social networking technology/marketing
- Lake County, IL: visibility & importance in county
- Field staff—to generate support from public for parks system (volunteerism)
- Local units could be good partners/relationships
- Lower land prices—lower construction costs
- Exposure to youth
- Reach out to other states—youth programming choices “healthy living”
- Holland Country Club—long tradition

- Economy
- Marketing with today’s technology
- Achieve objectives (not enough time)
- Millage expiration—no assurance of renewal
- Impact on property values, loss of millage dollars
- Mindset shift—live with fewer resources
- Meeting expectations of what people want—dog parks
- Trying to match what is right & working with resources to provide that
- Use parks resources to attract & retain youth /talent/relatives
- Transition from acquiring property to developing & operating/maintaining (educate public)
- “over-loving” the resources
- Relationship to local units of government
- Situational changes (do we change goals) because land opportunities come up.

- Millage not passing
- Environmental threats; invasive species, Lake Michigan, etc.
- Negative feelings—public perception
- Viewed as lower on priority list for Ottawa County
- Complacency after level of success
- Losing sight of vision/mission
- Apathy of new generations to natural resources
- Available land/grants
- State parks moving away from a fee based system
- Inability to market to youth in new world
- Deer
- Profit centers
- Fees
- Controlling image
- Water quality/shoreline erosion

# WEAKNESSES

# THREATS

**Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission**  
**Strategic Planning Session February 24, 2010**  
**Category Ranking**

| Broad Category  | Objective   | Rank |
|---|---|------|
| Goal A<br>Preserve and manage park and open space lands which protect and enhance significant landscapes and natural communities to benefit both people and wildlife.         | Identify high quality natural resource features in Ottawa County and seek to preserve key parcels and interconnected natural lands through establishment of new parks and open spaces.  | 34   |
|   | Advocate for improved water quality levels for all regional waterways and water bodies.   | 28   |
|   | Continue to acquire land acreage.   | 28   |
|   | Connect properties along greenways "links"  | 10   |
|   | Preserve & Protect; Provide a high level of stewardship for natural lands; invasive species, etc.   | 20   |
|   |   |      |
| Goal B<br>Provide high quality natural resource based recreation opportunities for residents and visitors of all levels of ability.   | Maintain high standards for maintenance an operation of all park and open space lands facilities.   | 34   |
|   | Research development of profit centers (i.e. marina, campground, golf course, etc.) Eastmanville Park Management/site.  | 21   |
|   | Develop the Olive Shores site.  | 19   |
|   | Trail development system-wide.  | 17   |
|   |   | 14   |
|   | Provide a wide range of resource-based recreation opportunities and facilities to meet identified needs in the long-range parks open space plan.  | 9    |
|   | Universal accessibility.  | 7    |
|   | Identify areas within Ottawa County not adequately served by county park lands and facilities and expand recreation opportunities in these areas when natural resource features suitable for county park development are available. | 5    |
|   | Develop the Bend property.  | 3    |
|   | Provide lands and facilities which are accessible to individuals of all levels of ability (comply with ADA).  | 2    |
|   | Complete Ottawa Beach master plan.  | 1    |
|   | Identify and target user groups not currently served.   | 0    |
|   | Design and build the "development" of country club property.  | 0    |
| Develop first phase improvements at key sites.  | 0   |      |
| Goal D<br>Develop and maintain a solid, diversified financial base for both short and long-term development, expansion, operation and maintenance of the park system.         | Sustain dedicated millage to assist with acquisition, development and operation of the park system.   | 87   |
|   | Maximize grant funds to help accomplish the Commission's mission.   | 53   |
|   | Assess "cost to acquire" vs. "cost to maintain".  | 22   |
|   | Maintain efficient, cost effective system of maintenance and operations for the county park and open space system.  | 12   |
|   | Sustain commitment to high standards of maintenance.  | 11   |
|   | Develop partnerships which help achieve identified goals.   | 8    |
|   | Maximize donations to assist in achieving identified goals.   | 3    |
|   | Process of prioritizing to match resources with goals.  | 2    |
|   | Implement user fees where appropriate and consistent with Commission policies.  | 0    |
|   | Develop comprehensive replacement cost plan/existing & new facilities.  | 0    |
| Goal C<br>Promote understanding and appreciation of the natural and cultural history of Ottawa County and awareness of Commission operated facilities, programs and services. | Promote awareness and use of park and open space system and programs through on gong public relations campaign.   | 21   |
|   | Partnerships: private/public, non-profits, etc.   | 21   |
|   | Provide a wide range of educational programs and special events for people of all ages and abilities.   | 20   |
|   | Maximize rentals - increase revenues.   | 16   |
|   | Ho to "delight and excite" customers.   | 11   |
|   | Provide interpretive facilities for both natural and cultural history at park lands and open spaces.  | 9    |
|   | Promote good stewardship of county park lands and open spaces.  | 0    |
|   | Focus on Development of "quality" vs. "quantity" programming  | 0    |

| Objective Ranking   |      |
|---|------|
| Objective   | Rank |
| Sustain dedicated millage to assist with acquisition, development and operation of the park system.   | 87   |
| Maximize grant funds to help accomplish the Commission's mission.   | 53   |
| Identify high quality natural resource features in Ottawa County and seek to preserve key parcels and interconnected natural lands through establishment of new parks and open spaces.  | 34   |
| Maintain high standards for maintenance an operation of all park and open space lands facilities.   | 34   |
| Advocate for improved water quality levels for all regional waterways and water bodies.   | 28   |
| Continue to acquire land acreage.   | 28   |
| Assess "cost to acquire" vs. "cost to maintain".  | 22   |
| Research development of profit centers (i.e. marina, campground, golf course, etc.)   | 21   |
| Promote awareness and use of park and open space system and programs through on going public relations campaign.  | 21   |
| Partnerships: private/public, non-profits, etc.   | 21   |
| Provide a wide range of educational programs and special events for people of all ages and abilities.   | 20   |
| Preserve & Protect; Provide a high level of stewardship for natural lands; invasive species, etc.   | 20   |
| Eastmanville Park Management/site.  | 19   |
| Develop the Olive Shores site.  | 17   |
| Maximize rentals - increase revenues.   | 16   |
| Trail development system-wide.  | 14   |
| Maintain efficient, cost effective system of maintenance and operations for the county park and open space system.  | 12   |
| Sustain commitment to high standards of maintenance.  | 11   |
| Ho to "delight and excite" customers.   | 11   |
| Connect properties along greenways "links"  | 10   |
| Provide a wide range of resource-based recreation opportunities and facilities to meet identified needs in the long-range parks open space plan.  | 9    |
| Provide interpretive facilities for both natural and cultural history at park lands and open spaces.  | 9    |
| Develop partnerships which help achieve identified goals.   | 8    |
| Universal accessibility.  | 7    |
| Identify areas within Ottawa County not adequately served by county park lands and facilities and expand recreation opportunities in these areas when natural resource features suitable for county park development are available. | 5    |
| Develop the Bend property.  | 3    |
| Maximize donations to assist in achieving identified goals.   | 3    |
| Process of prioritizing to match resources with goals.  | 2    |
| Provide lands and facilities which are accessible to individuals of all levels of ability (comply with ADA).  | 2    |
| Complete Ottawa Beach master plan.  | 1    |
| Identify and target user groups not currently served.   | 0    |
| Design and build the "development" of country club property.  | 0    |
| Develop first phase improvements at key sites.  | 0    |
| Implement user fees where appropriate and consistent with Commission policies.  | 0    |
| Develop comprehensive replacement cost plan/existing & new facilities.  | 0    |
| Promote good stewardship of county park lands and open spaces.  | 0    |
| Focus on Development of "quality" vs. "quantity" programming  | 0    |

**Special Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission**

*Approved Minutes*

**Date:** November 18, 2010  
**Time:** 3:00 p.m.  
**Place:** Main Conference Room – Ottawa County Fillmore Complex  
**Present:** Ted Bosgraaf, Bobbi Jones Sabine, Jim Miedema, David Van Ginhoven, Phil Kuyers, Ray Statema, Joyce Kortman and Paul Geerlings  
**Absent:** Roger Jonas and David Vander Kooi  
**Staff:** John Scholtz, Director; Sherry Costello, Administrative Secretary; Curt TerHaar, Coordinator of Park Planning and Development; and Dave Mazurek, Coordinator of Park Maintenance & Operations  
**Guests:** Joyce Smith

**Subject: Go Into Closed Session**

PR 10-077 Motion: To go into Closed Session to discuss property matters.  
Moved by: Kuyers Supported by: Bosgraaf  
Yeas: Sabine, Statema, Van Ginhoven, Geerlings, Miedema, Kuyers, Kortman, and Bosgraaf.  
Nays: None Motion passed 8 to 0.

**Subject: To Rise From Closed Session**

PR 10-078 Motion: To rise from Closed Session.  
Moved by: Kuyers Supported by: Bosgraaf Unanimous

**Other Items Discusses:**

President Bosgraaf welcomed everyone, and turned the meeting over to Scholtz to chair. Scholtz called the meeting to order and requested to add two items to the agenda. He then outlined the purpose of the meeting and, with assistance from TerHaar, presented several topics for discussion.

Parks Plan Status and Previous Retreat Results

Scholtz provided a timeline that would need to be followed in order to have the Plan drafted, reviewed, and then approved by the Parks Commission and the Ottawa County



Board of Commissioners. It would then be submitted to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment for approval by April 1, 2011.

TerHaar reviewed the rankings from the previous work sessions/retreat held in February of 2009 and 2010. He reviewed the facility area and activity ranking results, the SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) Analysis, and the goals and objectives rankings.

#### 2010 County Resident Survey

Statema was impressed with the survey. He felt it was laid out well and helpful. He also opined that the results aligned closely with the Commission's thinking. He liked the overall positive nature of the responses. He then noted that dog parks were very low on the list and felt that the open space off-leash area may be sufficient enough to satisfy dog owners. Bosgraaf disagreed, and Scholtz indicated that dog parks and open space lands would give different experiences for users. Kuyers noted that some people want their dogs with them in their favorite park.

Van Ginhoven commented that "they love us but don't know us." He thought this was a good opportunity for outreach of residents. Van Ginhoven also agreed with Statema relative to the alignment of responses to current goals and felt there was good congruence with the Commission.

Jonas submitted comments via email as he was unable to attend the meeting. He expressed his concern with Ottawa County Parks' identity problem even though support for parks and open spaces remains strong. He felt branding efforts and marketing programs should remain a top priority.

Scholtz reported that 23% of households have hunters, that there was also a clear preference to provide both modern and rustic camping facilities and the list of parks visited was surprisingly high for Mt. Pisgah, Riley Trails and Pigeon Creek Park. Kortman noted that it appeared to be tied to quadrant areas.

#### 2007 Park User Survey

Scholtz presented several of his observations in regard to the results of the survey. No specific comments from the Commission were expressed.

#### Analysis of local recreation plans

TerHaar presented the results of his review of local recreation plans. Scholtz noted that the North Ottawa Recreation Authority has been getting more organized with a millage and facilities. He felt this could have an impact on the county parks system.

#### Analysis of top county park systems in Michigan

TerHaar presented information about other park systems in Michigan and what activities they are currently providing. Bosgraaf asked if the splash park play area at St. Clair County parks was revenue neutral. Scholtz responded that the splash park was recently added, and he didn't think that they charged a fee for the use. Bosgraaf then asked how

many County Parks in the State have millages. Scholtz indicated that out of the list of 12 presented, four had millages. TerHaar noted that St. Clair County Parks has a .5 percent mil with 25% of the revenue going to local units.

#### Review of national trends research

TerHaar presented several of his observations in regard to the results of the national surveys to measure participation in outdoor recreational activities. No specific comments from the Commission were expressed.

#### Draft Plan Chapters

Scholtz began by reviewing the categories listed under the Activity Needs Analysis (Chapter 7).

Van Ginhoven discussed parks users' mode of transportation to the parks. He expressed his view of the importance of accessibility to the parks by non-motorized means. Geerlings felt that there was a high impact from out-of-state users who would obviously not use non-motorized transportation.

Mazurek discussed mountain biking and how to measure the real need for this activity. Scholtz felt it would be a positive step to offer a mountain biking course. Geerlings reported that a mountain biking trail was just recently opened in Kent County using 7 acres of land. Kortman felt the activity would draw users from outside of the area and could possibly be an economic development project for the County. Geerlings felt that the Upper Macatawa Area site would be a favorable site as it would draw more users to the area.

Scholtz reported that the survey indicated strong support for a camping site and there is interest on the Commission to continue research, but the feeling is that there is not a "perfect site". Scholtz will continue to assess existing parks property and potential sites for a campground.

Jonas expressed his support (via letter submitted previously) of camping over hunting and the pumphouse project.

Statema felt that water is an important component for camping, however Baldwin Oaks campground is a very popular spot and does not have any water feature other than a pool. Scholtz felt that the campground should be based on a natural resource experience, and parks should not compete with the private camping sector. Bosgraaf also added that a swimming pool, splash park, climbing wall, or zip line could be potential activities to include. He felt that water is a high need at a campground and the more natural you keep it the less revenue you will collect. Kuyers suggested setting goals for the next 5 years. Bosgraaf felt that 5 years was too long to wait. Van Ginhoven questioned how much it would take away for the Capital Outlay and did not want to limit funds for other things. He felt a revenue neutral site should be one of the main goals of the campground and finding the right site should take top priority. TerHaar noted that a campground is no longer in the current long-range budget, so other projects would need to be put on hold to implement a campground in the near future.

A brief discussion regarding the National Survey and trail use proceeded with Statema commented that trails were the easiest to create and maintain.

Scholtz discussed the potential to expand opportunities for cross-country skiing in the future. Mazurek suggested several sites for potential cross-country use with a minimal amount of trail grooming including North Ottawa Dunes, Riley Trails, Hemlock Crossing and the Holland Country Club site. Sabine wondered if a rental opportunity for skis at those sites would increase the user-ship. She questioned staff as to what percentage of park users that rent skis versus bringing their own. Mazurek and Scholtz both offered different opinions on the percentage of ski rental usage, and all agreed research would be needed.

The issue of dog parks was discussed extensively with the Parks Commission's role subject to different opinions. All agreed that additional trails planned for Open Space lands where dogs can be walked off-leash will be appreciated by dog owners desiring off-leash opportunities. However, fenced dog parks serve a somewhat different clientele. Several local units of government are providing or plan to provide small fenced dog parks in their communities. Scholtz advised that staff returned from their Oakland County Parks visit two years ago with the sense that provision of one or more strategically located larger dog parks would be appropriate for Ottawa County Parks. These would be 5-10 acre fenced areas that would attract dog owners from a wider radius. Scholtz added that Oakland County Parks feels strongly that their relatively inexpensive dog parks are a great way of building support for their millage votes.

Bosgraaf expressed frustration regarding the Commission's inability to make a decision on the dog park issue. This led to a poll of Commission member opinions on the issue with all present in favor of moving forward with a dog park in the master plan for the Grand River Ravines property except Van Ginhoven. Van Ginhoven explained his negative response based on the resident survey results. Kortman qualified her support by saying that other sites should be considered along with Grand River Ravines. Sabine indicated she supports the dog park because it would not negatively impact high quality natural resource features and would be located near a larger urban area. Bosgraaf challenged the group to get the facility built by 2012.

TerHaar reviewed the Parks & Open Space Analysis (Chapter 9) and Recommended Actions (Chapter 11). In particular, TerHaar summarized the rationale for future land purchases which is transitioning from the general idea of purchasing large new blocks of land to meet minimum acreage goals to seeking acquisitions directed to specific objectives. The guideline of providing a minimum of 20 acres of land for every 1000 population has substantially been met based on current population projections through the year 2030. New acquisitions will increasingly focus on optimizing current properties for natural values and functionality and to create linkages between existing properties and other points of interest. There was general consensus that this was the right approach with the option remaining open to acquire substantial additional acreage if unusual opportunities become apparent.

TerHaar also requested input in regard to general planning, design, and operational issues that would be applied to all new park projects as currently drafted in Chapter 11. No specific additions were suggested.

Scholtz and TerHaar presented information on each of the greenway areas along with descriptions of the suggested priority projects for each area for the next five years. These projects are correlated with the latest long range budget showing projections to the end of the current millage and reflected in the updated project planning lists which were included in the materials provided to the Commission.

Bosgraaf felt that it was unwise at this time to purchase more land at the Eastmanville Farm site. He stated that contractor prices are currently low and it would be advantageous to work on land improvements. Bosgraaf also felt that purchasing additional land adjacent to Spring Grove Park would be a favorable enhancement.

Kuyers asked why Connor Bayou was not being used as a rental facility. Scholtz indicated that the master plan and site improvement needed to be completed first. Kuyers also asked if the pumphouse would require additional funding. Scholtz indicated that the architectural study needed to be completed first before any further decision could be made regarding funding. He reported that in the mean time the \$300,000 would be preserved in the development section.

Van Ginhoven complimented staff on the special meeting presentation. He asked when amendments could take place for the long range plan. Scholtz explained that the long-range plan is reviewed on an annual basis. Scholtz then asked for direction in reference to the 2010-11 long range plans. Consensus was reached to continue as planned. Van Ginhoven then noted that a high priority of park users was hiking and hoped staff would be able to incorporate more trails into the plan as the cost to make trails was minimal. Mazurek reported that there was a plan in place to add additional trails to the open space lands.

Bosgraaf expressed his support in improving and updating the playground equipment through out the park system.

Scholtz called for the public to be heard and Ms. Joyce Smith complimented staff and Commission members on their forward thinking, partnering, follow up with branding. She felt it was important to let people know who the parks are. She encouraged the Commission to keep up the partnering, education and networking.

The Commission went into Closed Session to discuss property matters.

**END OF MEETING NOTES – MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:00 PM**

| <b>Ottawa County Parks and Open Spaces</b> |                |   |             |                |
|--|----------------|---|-------------|----------------|
| <b>Acreeage Acquisition Goals</b>          |                |   |             |                |
| <b>Recommended<br/>2011-17</b>             |                | <b>Potential Additions</b>                          |             |                |
| <b>Base</b>                                | <b>Linkage</b> | <b>Parks and Open Spaces</b>                        | <b>Base</b> | <b>Linkage</b> |
|  |                | <b><u>Grand River Greenway</u></b>                  |             |                |
|  |                | Connor Bayou  | 60          |                |
| 200  |                | Crockery Creek Natural Area                         | 40          |                |
|  |                | Jubb Bayou (Open Space)                             |             | 40             |
| 15   |                | Riverside Park                                      | 30          |                |
|  |                |   |             |                |
| 30   |                | Bur Oak Landing (Open Space)                        | 35          |                |
| 40   |                | Eastmanville Farm                                   | 45          |                |
|  |                | Eastmanville Bayou                                  |             |                |
|  |                | Deer Creek Park                                     |             |                |
|  | 40             | Ripps Bayou (Open Space)                            |             | 20             |
|  | 100            | Kuits Bayou (Open Space)                            |             | 30             |
|  |                | Bolthouse Property                                  | 200         |                |
|  | 35             | Grand River Ravines (includes Fillmore at the Bend) |             |                |
|  | 20             | Grand River Park                                    |             | 20             |
| 250  |                | Bend Area (Open Space)                              |             | 130            |
| 535  | 195            |   | 410         | 240            |
|  |                | <b><u>Pigeon River Greenway</u></b>                 |             |                |
|  |                | Hemlock Crossing/Pine Bend                          |             |                |
|  |                | Pigeon River Open Space                             |             |                |
|  |                | Pigeon Creek Park                                   | 900         | 100            |
|  |                | Pigeon Creek Forest (Open Space)                    |             |                |
| 0  | 0              |   | 900         | 100            |
|  |                | <b><u>Macatawa River Greenway</u></b>               |             |                |
|  |                | Adams Street Landing                                |             | 25             |
| 80   |                | Upper Macatawa Natural Area                         | 40          |                |
|  |                | Middle Macatawa                                     |             | 120            |
| 80   | 0              |   | 40          | 145            |
|  |                | <b><u>Lake Michigan Coastal Greenway</u></b>        |             |                |
| 80   |                | North Ottawa Dunes                                  | 150         |                |
|  |                | North Beach Park                                    |             |                |
|  |                | Rosy Mound Natural Area                             | 162         |                |
|  |                | Kirk Park   |             |                |
|  |                | Olive Shores  |             |                |
|  |                | Tunnel Park   |             |                |
|  |                | Historic Ottawa Beach Parks                         |             |                |
| 80   | 0              |   | 312         | 0              |
|  |                | <b><u>General Parks, Open Space and Trails</u></b>  |             |                |
|  |                | Musketawa Trail                                     |             |                |
|  |                | Conklin Trailhead                                   |             |                |
|  |                | Marne Trailhead                                     |             |                |
|  |                | Un-named Site - Wright Township                     |             |                |
|  |                | Grose Park  | 30          |                |
|  |                | Marne Bog   | 20          | 10             |
|  |                | Robinson Forest (Open Space)                        |             |                |
|  |                | Johnson Street Forest (Open Space)                  |             |                |
|  |                | Hiawatha Forest (Open Space)                        |             |                |
|  |                | Hager Park  |             |                |
|  |                | Port Sheldon Natural Area (Open Space)              |             |                |
|  |                | VanBuren Street Dunes (Open Space)                  |             |                |
| 30   |                | Spring Grove Park                                   |             |                |
|  |                | Riley Trails  | 60          |                |
| 30   | 0              |   | 110         | 10             |
| <b>725</b>                                 | <b>195</b>     | <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>1772</b> | <b>495</b>     |

**Appendix H - Outstanding Michigan Park System Comparison**

| ACTIVITY MATRIX           |                 |               |                   |                     |                          |            |                   |          |               |               |                   |                |            |              |            |      |           |           |            |                            |          |                       |                 |         |         |         |                |        |             |                    |        |                        |                 |                   |                |                |               |                |                     |                          |                             |             |               |                 |                 |                                   |   |   |   |   |
|---------------------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|------------|-------------------|----------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|----------------|------------|--------------|------------|------|-----------|-----------|------------|----------------------------|----------|-----------------------|-----------------|---------|---------|---------|----------------|--------|-------------|--------------------|--------|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| TOP MICHIGAN PARK SYSTEMS |                 |               |                   |                     |                          |            |                   |          |               |               |                   |                |            |              |            |      |           |           |            |                            |          |                       |                 |         |         |         |                |        |             |                    |        |                        |                 |                   |                |                |               |                |                     |                          |                             |             |               |                 |                 |                                   |   |   |   |   |
|                           | Number of Sites | Total Acreage | Picnic Facilities | Open Picnic Shelter | Enclosed Picnic Building | Playground | Water/Splash Play | Swimming | Sports Fields | Tennis Courts | Basketball Courts | In-line Hockey | Horseshoes | Shuffleboard | Volleyball | Golf | Disc Golf | Dog Parks | Geocaching | X-country Skiing (groomed) | Sledding | Ice Skating (outdoor) | Downhill Skiing | Fishing | Hunting | Archery | Shooting Range | Marina | Boat Launch | Kayak/Canoe Launch | Hiking | Bicycle Trails (paved) | Mountain Biking | Equestrian Trails | Modern Camping | Rustic Camping | Group Camping | Shelter Rental | Wedding Site Rental | Historic Facility Rental | Other Group Rental Facility | Boat Rental | Nature Center | Nature Programs | Sports Programs | Other Recreation/Leisure Programs |   |   |   |   |
| Ottawa County             | 35              | 5979          | X                 | X                   | X                        | X          |                   | X        |               |               |                   |                | X          |              | X          |      |           |           | X          | X                          | X        |                       |                 | X       | X       |         |                |        | X           | X                  | X      | X                      | X               |                   |                |                | X             |                |                     | X                        | X                           |             |               |                 |                 |                                   |   |   |   |   |
| Allegan County            | 8               | 700           | X                 | X                   |                          | X          |                   | X        | X             |               | X                 |                | X          |              |            |      |           |           |            |                            |          |                       |                 | X       |         |         |                |        | X           |                    | X      |                        |                 |                   | X              |                |               |                |                     |                          |                             |             |               |                 |                 |                                   |   |   |   |   |
| Berrien County            | 5               | 365+          | X                 | X                   | X                        | X          |                   | X        |               |               |                   |                |            | X            |            | X    |           |           |            | X                          |          |                       |                 | X       |         |         |                |        |             |                    | X      |                        |                 |                   |                |                |               |                | X                   | X                        | X                           |             |               |                 |                 | X                                 |   |   |   |   |
| Genesee County            | 15              | 11,000        | X                 | X                   |                          | X          | X                 | X        | X             | X             | X                 |                |            | X            | X          |      |           |           | X          | X                          | X        |                       |                 | X       | X       |         |                |        | X           |                    | X      |                        |                 | X                 | X              |                |               |                | X                   | X                        |                             |             | X             | X               |                 |                                   |   |   |   |   |
| Grand Traverse County     | 9               | 1509          | X                 | X                   |                          | X          |                   | X        | X             |               |                   |                |            |              |            |      |           |           |            |                            |          |                       |                 | X       |         |         |                |        |             | X                  |        |                        |                 |                   |                |                |               |                |                     | X                        |                             |             | X             | X               |                 |                                   |   |   |   |   |
| Ingham County             | 14              | 1400          | X                 | X                   |                          | X          | X                 | X        | X             |               | X                 |                | X          |              | X          |      |           |           | X          |                            | X        | X                     |                 |         |         |         |                |        | X           | X                  | X      |                        |                 | X                 |                |                |               |                |                     |                          |                             | X           |               |                 | X               |                                   |   | X |   |   |
| Kalamazoo County          | 6               | 1052          | X                 | X                   |                          | X          |                   | X        | X             |               |                   |                | X          |              | X          |      | X         |           |            | X                          | X        |                       |                 | X       |         |         |                |        | X           |                    | X      | X                      |                 |                   |                |                |               |                |                     |                          | X                           |             |               |                 |                 |                                   |   |   |   |   |
| Kent County               | 37              | 6701          | X                 | X                   | X                        | X          | X                 | X        | X             | X             | X                 |                |            | X            | X          | X    |           |           |            |                            |          | X                     |                 |         |         |         |                |        | X           |                    | X      | X                      | X               | X                 | X              |                |               |                |                     |                          |                             |             |               |                 |                 | X                                 |   |   |   |   |
| Muskegon County           | 13              | 770           | X                 | X                   | X                        | X          |                   | X        | X             | X             | X                 |                |            | X            |            |      |           |           |            |                            |          |                       |                 | X       |         |         |                |        | X           |                    |        |                        |                 |                   |                |                |               |                |                     |                          |                             |             |               |                 |                 |                                   |   |   |   |   |
| Oakland County            | 13              | 6700          | X                 | X                   | X                        | X          | X                 | X        | X             | X             | X                 |                | X          |              | X          | X    | X         | X         | X          | X                          | X        | X                     |                 | X       | X       |         |                |        | X           | X                  | X      | X                      | X               | X                 | X              | X              |               |                |                     | X                        | X                           | X           | X             | X               | X               | X                                 | X | X | X | X |
| St. Clair County          | 5               | 920           | X                 | X                   |                          | X          | X                 | X        |               |               |                   |                |            |              |            |      |           |           |            | X                          | X        | X                     |                 |         |         |         |                |        |             | X                  | X      | X                      |                 |                   |                |                |               | X              | X                   |                          |                             |             |               | X               | X               |                                   |   |   |   |   |
| Washtenaw County          | 28              | 1800          | X                 | X                   | X                        | X          | X                 | X        |               |               | X                 |                | X          |              | X          | X    | X         | X         | X          | X                          | X        |                       |                 | X       |         |         |                |        | X           | X                  | X      | X                      |                 |                   |                |                |               |                |                     |                          |                             |             | X             |                 |                 | X                                 | X | X | X |   |
| Wayne County              | 10              | 1200+         | X                 | X                   |                          | X          | X                 |          | X             |               |                   |                |            | X            | X          | X    | X         | X         |            |                            |          |                       |                 | X       |         |         |                | X      | X           | X                  | X      | X                      |                 |                   |                |                |               |                |                     |                          |                             |             |               |                 | X               |                                   |   | X |   |   |

| NOTES/COMMENTS        |   |                  |  |                  |   |
|-----------------------|---|------------------|--|------------------|---|
| Allegan County        | Allegan State Game Area - 50,000 acres<br>2 campground in Game Area - memo of understanding<br>Heritage Trail (122 mile auto with guidebook)<br>50-miles of equestrian trails   | Ingham County    | "Exceptional in Nature"<br>Zoo, band shell, stocked fishing ponds, nature day camp, game rental, kayak trips | Oakland County   | Skatepark, cabin rentals, BMX, bike rental, mini -golf, platform tennis, mobile recreation program, water Award winning website, managed deer hunts<br>Banquet catering |
| Berrien County        | Ski trail fees, disc golf fees, birding club, endowment fund<br>Ski rental, lighted ski trails  | Kalamazoo County | Historic mill<br>Fairground<br>Corporate campground sponsor<br>Big soccer complex                            | St. Clair County | BMX, gardens, radio-controlled airplane field<br>Historic buildings, Lighthouse history museum?<br>0.5 mil prop tax - 25% back to local governments                     |
| Genesee County        | "Get Away. Right Away"<br>Large Pavillion - 300 people<br>Crossroad Village/Huckleberry Railroad, Paddlewheel boat rental, Carousel, Ferris wheel<br>ORV Area, Equestrian Area, Snowmobiling, BMX<br>Cater to film making | Kent County      | Six locations of groomed X-country ski trails<br>Seven enclosed picnic buildings<br>Millennium Park          | Washtenaw County | Badminton, Indoor Recreation Facility<br>Community gardens<br>Many other providers for dog parks<br>39,000 acres of state land  |
| Grand Traverse County | Ice rink/arena. Indoor pool<br>Overnight lodge - 200 people   | Muskegon County  | Rental Cottages<br>Muskegon Wastewater site - 11,700 acres   | Wayne County     | Light show  |

# Appendix I - 2007 Park User Survey Summary

## Executive Summary

The 2007 Ottawa County Park User Survey was created by the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission and the Carl Frost Center for Social Science Research. The purpose of the survey was to develop a picture of Ottawa County parks users. Information was collected about park users' residency and age, whether they come to the parks alone or in groups, the frequency and extent to which they used the parks and their mode of transportation to the parks. This survey also attempted to discover park users' attitudes about various aspects of the parks including specific likes and dislikes, entrance fees, future improvements or additions, and awareness and support for the Ottawa County Parks millage. More than 900 park visitors were interviewed at 11 Ottawa County Parks in July of 2007. Surveys were administered at each park on three or four different days between Monday July 15 and Tuesday July 24 from 11 AM to 4 PM.

### Residency

In 2007, just over half of all survey participants (54%, n=941) were residents of Ottawa County, and about one-sixth (16%) were from out-of-state. Residents of Kent County comprised about one-fifth (19%) of all survey participants. Residents of Muskegon County comprised only 2% of all survey participants.

When examined more closely, residency patterns differed among individual parks. At six of the eleven parks, most park visitors (70-90%) were Ottawa County residents. At five of the eleven parks, a third to half (35-48%) of visitors were Ottawa County residents. Hemlock Crossing and Riverside Park had the highest percentages of Ottawa County residents (88% and 84% respectively) while Kirk Park and Musketawa Trail had the lowest percentages of Ottawa County residents (35% and 37% respectively). Out-of-state residents made up nearly a quarter of visitors to Tunnel Park, North Beach Park, and Musketawa Trail (24%, 22%, and 22% respectively). Four out of ten visitors to Musketawa Trail (41%) were residents of Kent County, as were a third of visitors to Grose Park (36%) and Kirk Park (30%). Kent County residents made up less than 5% of survey respondents at Rosy Mound Natural Area (4%), Riverside Park (3%), and Hemlock Crossing (2%). A sixth of visitors to Grose Park (16%) were Muskegon County residents as were 7% of visitors to Riverside Park.

### Group Size

In the overall sample of park users, a substantial majority of respondents (68%) arrived at the parks in small groups of two to three (43%) and four to five (25%) people. About one-fifth of visitors (21%) came to the parks alone and 12% came to the parks in large groups of six or more people. Examined at a smaller scale, group size was found to vary by park. At Grand River and Spring Grove Parks, respondents were most likely to arrive with one or two other people (67% and 60% respectively). At Hemlock Crossing, nearly three-quarters of respondents (72%) arrived alone; at Musketawa Trail and Riverside Parks, about half of respondents arrived alone (46% and 45% respectively). Respondents were least likely to arrive by themselves at Kirk Park, North Beach Park and Tunnel Park (11%, 9%, and 9% respectively).

### **Adults in Group**

Just over half of all survey participants (53%) said their group contained two to three adults, and well over a third of participants (38%) said their group contained one adult; this category included respondents who came alone.

### **Children in Group**

Nearly half of all survey participants (48%) came without children. About a sixth of respondents (14%) came with one child and about a third (29%) came with 2-3 children. Parks with the greatest percentages of respondents accompanied by children were Tunnel Park (67%), North Beach Park (66%), and Hager Park (65%). Parks with the fewest respondents accompanied by children were Hemlock Crossing (9%), Musketawa Trail (11%), and Riverside Park (19%).

### **Ages of Persons in Groups**

Information about age was collected on 2769 individuals. Forty-one percent were under the age of 21, and forty-six percent were between the ages of 21 and 50. People over the age of 50 represented only thirteen percent of the overall sample. Visitors under the age of 21 comprised a quarter to half of park users at all but three of the parks. The parks with the fewest visitors under the age of 21 were Hemlock Crossing (14% were under 21), Musketawa Trail (14%), and Riverside Park (18%). People over the age of 50 were most likely to be seen at Musketawa Trail (33%), Hemlock Crossing (22%), Riverside Park (22%), and Spring Grove (19%).

### **Number of Visits to Park**

Over half of survey participants from the overall sample (57%) had visited the park at which they were being interviewed multiple times this summer. A fifth of respondents had visited 2-4 times, an eighth of respondents had visited 5-9 times, and a quarter had visited 10 or more times; less than half (43%) had visited the park just once.

At the individual park level, different patterns of park attendance emerged with some parks showing a predominance of first-time visitors and other parks showing a predominance of repeat visitors. Over half of respondents at Grose, Kirk, and Tunnel Parks had visited only once (57%, 57%, and 53% respectively); less than 20% of respondents had visited these parks 10 or more times. In contrast, about a quarter of respondents (24%) had visited Rosy Mound Natural Area just once, while half of respondents (51%) had visited 10 or more times. Likewise, at Musketawa Trail, Hemlock Crossing, Hager Park, and Grand River Park, respondents who had used the park 10 or more times were the largest group of park visitors (41%, 37%, 34%, and 30% respectively). First time users were the largest group of respondents at North Beach (42%), Riverside (42%), and Spring Grove Parks (38%).

### **Use of Other Ottawa County Parks**

When looking at the entire sample of survey respondents, a quarter of all respondents (26%) reported using other Ottawa County parks this summer. When looking at individual parks, percentages of respondents who reported using other parks varied dramatically. Half or more of respondents at Grand River, Rosy Mound, and Spring Grove Parks said they had used other parks this summer (61%, 60%, and 50% respectively), while 10% or fewer of Tunnel Park and North Beach Park respondents had used other parks. About a fifth of



respondents at Riverside Park, Musketawa Trail, and Kirk Park had used other parks (23%, 21%, and 19% respectively) and about a third of respondents (32%) at Grose Park reported visiting other parks. Approximately 40% of respondents from Hemlock Crossing (42%) and Hager Park (40%) used other Ottawa County parks.

### **Other Parks Used this Summer**

When asked if they had used any other Ottawa County parks this summer, respondents most frequently mentioned Kirk Park (28%), Tunnel Park (22%), or Hager Park (21%). The parks mentioned least often were Riverside (5%), Grose (4%), Musketawa Trail (4%) and Spring Grove (4%).

### **Mode of Transportation**

A sizeable majority of all respondents (88%) arrived at the parks by car; only 12% arrived by other means. Riverside Park was the only park where the percentage of survey participants who used cars to get to the park was below 80%. At this park, 68% of respondents arrived by car.

### **Mode of Transportation, if Not Car**

Among the 12% of respondents who had not use cars to get to the parks, about 44% had used bicycles and 42% had come on foot. When looking at individual parks, the percentages of respondents who came by bicycle or by foot varied considerably. At Musketawa Trail and Hemlock Crossing, 80% or more of non-car respondents came by bicycle (86% and 80% respectively), compared with 25% of non-car respondents who came to Rosy Mound by bicycle and 0% who came to Grose Park by bicycle. Percentages of non-car respondents who used bicycles to reach the remaining parks ranged from 30% to 67%.

### **Entrance Fees**

#### *Lakeshore Park Entrance Fees*

The vast majority of visitors (94%) at the four lakeshore parks felt that the current entrance fees were reasonable.

#### *Non-Lakeshore Park Entrance Fees*

Visitors to the seven non-lakeshore parks were asked what they would be willing to pay if there were to be entrance fees. A quarter of respondents (26%) said they were unwilling to pay any fee, a quarter (25%) said they would pay \$2-\$3 per day, and a quarter (24%) said they would pay for a \$10 annual pass. One-sixth of respondents (15%) were willing to pay \$1 per day and 7% were willing to pay \$5 per day.

Non-county residents were found to be more willing than county residents to pay park entrance fees. About a third of non-residents (31%) vs. a fifth of residents (21%) were willing to pay \$2-\$3 per day. Similarly, 9% of non-residents vs. 5% of residents would pay \$5 per day, and 26% of non-residents vs. 22% of residents were willing to buy a \$10 annual pass.

## **Millage**

### *Awareness of Millage*

Just under half of all respondents who were Ottawa County residents (48%) were aware that a special millage to expand and improve Ottawa County parks had been passed.

Respondents at Spring Grove, Rosy Mound, and Hemlock Crossing (66%, 62%, and 61% respectively) were more likely to be aware of the millage than were respondents at Kirk, Musketawa Trail, and Grose Parks (38%, 33%, and 27% respectively).

### *Support for Millage*

A substantial majority of respondents (89%) who were Ottawa County residents said they supported the Ottawa County Parks millage.

## **Primary Reason for Coming to Park**

When asked to name the primary activity they came to do at the park, respondents at the lakeshore parks most often cited swimming (38%), followed by hiking (13%) and picnicking (11%). Respondents at the non-lakeshore parks most often cited the playground (20%), followed by biking (18.3%), picnicking (11.8%), and hiking (11.3%).

## **What Do You Like Best about the Park?**

When asked what they liked best about the park, lakeshore park users most often reported that they liked everything (35%). The next most frequently chosen option was the beach/lake (18%). Non-lakeshore park users most frequently said they liked everything (23%) and the playground (12%).

## **What Do You Like Least about the Park?**

When asked what they liked least about the parks, a majority of lakeshore and non-lakeshore users said there was nothing they liked least (lakeshore = 62% and non-lakeshore = 66%). Small numbers of respondents said they didn't like the bathrooms (lakeshore = 6% and non-lakeshore = 4%) or parking (lakeshore = 3% and non-lakeshore = 3%). A small number of lakeshore users (4%) mentioned that crowding was the aspect they liked least about the park.

## **What Aspect Needs the Most Improvement?**

When asked what aspect of the park was most in need of improvement, more than half of respondents said that the park needed no improvements (lakeshore = 52%, non-lakeshore = 54%). Other respondents mentioned bathrooms (lakeshore = 14%, non-lakeshore = 7%) and parking spaces (lakeshore = 7%, non-lakeshore = 3%).

## **What Facility Would You Like to See Added?**

More than half of both lakeshore and non-lakeshore respondents felt that the park was fine as it was and needed no facilities added (lakeshore = 55%, non-lakeshore = 58%). Other respondents offered a variety of suggestions including bathrooms (lakeshore = 4%, non-lakeshore = 5%), playgrounds (lakeshore = 4%, non-lakeshore = 4%), sports areas (lakeshore = 7%, non-lakeshore = 2%).

# Appendix J - Comment Card

## VISITOR COMMENTS

The Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission values your opinion. Please make comments or suggestions regarding your park visit/experience below.

Park Name \_\_\_\_\_

Write your comment/suggestion below or email us: parks&rec@miottawa.org

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Are you an Ottawa County Resident?  Yes  No

Would you like to receive the Ottawa County Parks Newsletter?  Yes  No

### *Optional Information*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your comments!  
Please mail this self-addressed card or return to Parks staff.

Please  
Affix  
Postage



John Scholtz, Director  
Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission  
12220 Fillmore Street  
West Olive, MI 49460

## Executive Summary

Ottawa County is growing fast. From 1990, the county's population grew from 187,000 to 238,000, making it the fourth fastest-growing county in the state in terms of population. Much of the development is suburban expansion of the Grand Rapids area. An important asset in any community is recreational opportunities, including bicycle and walking paths. Recreational opportunities are equally important in Ottawa County because of tourism, which generates nearly \$80 million annually. As the county expands and there is increased pressure to improve roads to carry more traffic, and as residences and businesses develop in rural areas, the ability to develop safe bicycle and walking paths will be constrained. The Ottawa County Non-Motorized Pathways Plan has been developed to provide a vision for a countywide non-motorized pathway system that will benefit residents, tourists, and the businesses in this community.

If this non-motorized pathway system was in place, Ottawa County would have one of the most sophisticated non-motorized pathway networks in the state. This system, combined with Lake Michigan, can make Ottawa County a "destination location."

The goal of the Ottawa County Non-Motorized Pathways Study is to provide information that will assist local units of government to develop an interconnected non-motorized transportation network throughout the county. This network will be accessed and used by children on bicycles, recreational and family-oriented users, walkers and joggers, rollerbladers, and more serious touring and competitive cyclists. People will use the network for work and recreation. The network will support people wanting to commute to work and help reduce dependence on an use of the automobile. Ultimately, the vision can help realize an enhanced quality of life for residents of Ottawa County and visitors to the county.



Local units of government in Ottawa County have developed bike lanes and separated pathways in communities such as Grand Haven (above), Spring Lake, Coopersville, Allendale, Hudsonville, Georgetown Township, and Holland.



As people move outside the towns and cities, the shoulders of county roads become recreational pathways. Many of the road shoulders are not paved and are not suitable for bicycling.

Non-motorized pathways (also commonly referred to as bikepaths, trails, and rail-trails) generally refer to a physical facility such as a separated path that can be used by pedestrians, cyclists, joggers, and rollerbladers; widened road shoulders for use by cyclists; and, greenway trails along natural features such as rivers.

Currently, separated pathways along roadways are the most common types of non-motorized pathways in Ottawa County. These can be found in Holland, Grand Haven, Spring Lake, Coopersville, Allendale, Georgetown Township, and Hudsonville. The Musketawa Rail-Trail in the northern part of the county is a rail trail that was developed in the late 1990s by the State of Michigan along an abandoned railroad line. There are also signed bike lanes, which can be found in Grand Haven and a limited number of paved road shoulders.

A key reason for conducting this study is the strong support expressed by the public for bicycle and non-motorized trails in surveys conducted by the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission. In a 1999 County Resident Survey conducted by Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission, "paths for biking and rollerblading" were identified as one of the most desirable of a range of recreational resources and opportunities trailing only picnicking and beaches and "tied" with nature centers and programs and hiking. At a general level, the demand for these facilities can be assessed by observing high levels of use on existing trails and summer events in the county focusing on bicycling, rollerblading, and other trail activities. Meeting the demand for expansion and development of new trails must address three particular user groups:

- Those persons who use the trails as functional linkages between two points
- Those persons who use the trails for fitness, health and general enjoyment reasons
- Those persons who may use the trails as a recreation destination

Each user group has its own needs, but the non-motorized pathway concept can support the demands and needs of the people in all three groups. In addition, the development of an enhanced non-motorized network can increase the county's attractiveness for tourism and provide additional opportunities for tourists already coming to the area for its beaches and parks.

Improving development of non-motorized pathways in Ottawa County will best be accomplished by a cooperative effort involving all levels of government. Most trails in existence today have been initiated by local units of government and funded primarily by local millages. Ottawa County can provide support to the local units of government by providing leadership, expertise, and coordination in the development and expansion of the non-motorized pathway network.



The Musketawa Rail-Trail in northeastern Ottawa County was developed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and is maintained by Ottawa County.

The conceptual non-motorized pathway system identified in this report (Figure S-1) focuses primarily on development of regional linkages in Ottawa County that connect the existing pathways. The conceptual network includes paved road shoulders and off-street pathways, representing 178 miles of new facilities. Paved road shoulders identified as part of the network will be a minimum four-foot width consistent with nationally accepted standards while separated pathways are recommended to be from eight- to 14- feet wide, depending on anticipated usage. The widened paved road shoulders identified in the plan should be considered for signing and striping as bike lanes.



Bicycling in Ottawa County provides opportunities for recreation and exercise for residents and tourists.

## The Conceptual Network

Tables S-1 and S-2 present the conceptual pathway system. Table S-1 presents the conceptual improvements suggested for each area of the county as well as the cost and priority as defined in this plan. Table S-2 separates the new pathways by local unit of government.

The total construction cost for the Ottawa County non-motorized pathway network is approximately \$23 million. Engineering costs, including contingency, are typically 15 to 20 percent over and above the total project construction cost. Right-of-way acquisition can range from 0 percent to 10 percent over and above the total project construction cost.

As noted above, Table S-1 identifies a prioritization for each conceptual pathway. This prioritization was based on:

- Connections to activity centers
- Scenic/recreational opportunities
- Provides linkage to a gap in the network
- Capacity
- Cost/ease of implementation

The intent of prioritizing each conceptual pathway is to identify those paths whose completion would provide immediate community benefits. A local unit of government can certainly elevate a "long-range" priority project in its jurisdiction to a higher priority.

Table S-1  
Ottawa County Non-Motorized Pathway Study  
Conceptual Pathway Summary

| Pathway Description   | Length (miles) | Construction Cost <sup>1</sup> | Priority <sup>2</sup> |
|---|----------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Lakeshore Avenue Paved Shoulder                                       | 19.05          | \$ 1,042,500                   | Mid-range             |
| Riley Street Paved Shoulder   | 11.5           | \$ 1,150,000                   | Long-range            |
| Chicago Drive Paved Shoulder  | 7.75           | \$ 775,000                     | Mid-range             |
| Macatawa River Greenway/<br>Byron Road Connector                      | 18.5           | \$ 2,930,400                   | Short-range           |
| Stanton/Taylor/Bauer<br>Separated Pathway                             | 18.75          | \$ 2,970,000                   | Short-range           |
| 96th Avenue Separated Pathway   | 15             | \$ 2,376,000                   | Mid-range             |
| Grand River Greenway  | 26.3           | \$ 4,165,920                   | Short-range           |
| Luce Street Separated Pathway   | 5              | \$ 792,000                     | Mid-range             |
| Leonard/Cleveland Street East-West<br>Separated Pathway               | 14.75          | \$ 2,336,400                   | Mid-range             |
| Leonard Street Paved Shoulder   | 25.35          | \$ 2,535,000                   | Short-range           |
| Segment 1 - Grand Haven Trail Linkage                                 | 0.4            | \$ 63,360                      | Short-range           |
| Segment 2 - Mercury Drive Connector                                   | 1.6            | \$ 253,440                     | Mid-range             |
| Segment 3 - Olive Shore<br>Avenue Paved Shoulder                      | 1              | \$ 100,000                     | Long-range            |
| Segment 4 - Greenly Street<br>Separated Pathway                       | 0.5            | \$ 79,200                      | Mid-range             |
| Segment 5 - Angling Road/<br>Barry Street Connector Separated Pathway | 3.5            | \$ 554,400                     | Long-range            |
| Segment 6 - Lake Michigan Drive<br>Paved Shoulder                     | 2              | \$ 200,000                     | Short-range           |
| Segment 7 - 120th Avenue<br>Connector                                 | 1              | \$ 158,400                     | Long-range            |
| Segment 8 - Musketawa Rail-Trail Connector                            | 1.75           | \$ 277,200                     | Short-range           |
| Segment 9 - Tyler Street Connector<br>Paved Shoulder                  | 0.25           | \$ 25,000                      | Mid-range             |
| Segment 10 - 32nd Street<br>Paved Shoulder                            | 2              | \$ 200,000                     | Mid-range             |
| Segment 11 - Port Sheldon Street/<br>28th Avenue Separated Pathway    | 2              | \$ 316,800                     | Mid-range             |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>177.95</b>  | <b>\$ 23,301,020</b>           |                       |

<sup>1</sup> Engineering and contingency costs typically range from 15 percent to 20 percent over and above construction costs. Right-of-way acquisition can range from 0 percent to 10 percent over and above total construction costs.

<sup>2</sup> Short-range projects would be programmed and/or built in the first five years of the plan; mid-range projects in years 5-10; and long-range projects in 10+ years.

Source: The Corradino Group

Table S-2  
Ottawa County Non-Motorized Pathway Study  
Conceptual Pathway System By Local Unit of Government

| Unit of Government           | Length of Pathway (miles) |                     | Construction Cost <sup>2</sup> |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|
|                              | 4-Foot Paved Shoulder     | Multi-Use Separated |                                |
| Chester Township             |                           |                     | \$ -                           |
| Ferrysburg                   |                           |                     | \$ -                           |
| Spring Lake Village          | 1.6                       |                     | \$ 160,000                     |
| Spring Lake Township         | 2.5                       |                     | \$ 250,000                     |
| Crockery Township            | 7                         |                     | \$ 700,000                     |
| Crockery Township            |                           | 8                   | \$ 1,267,200                   |
| Polkton Township             | 7                         |                     | \$ 700,000                     |
| Polkton Township             |                           | 3.5                 | \$ 554,400                     |
| Coopersville                 |                           | 0.75                | \$ 118,800                     |
| Wright Township              |                           | 5                   | \$ 792,000                     |
| City of Grand Haven          |                           | 2                   | \$ 316,800                     |
| Grand Haven Charter Township | 9                         |                     | \$ 375,000                     |
| Robinson Township            |                           | 12.8                | \$ 2,027,520                   |
| Allendale Township           |                           | 11.5                | \$ 1,821,600                   |
| Tailmadge Township           | 7.25                      |                     | \$ 725,000                     |
| Tailmadge Township           |                           | 5.25                | \$ 831,600                     |
| Port Sheldon Township        | 7.75                      |                     | \$ 437,500                     |
| Port Sheldon Township        |                           | 4                   | \$ 633,600                     |
| Olive Township               |                           | 6                   | \$ 950,400                     |
| Blendon Township             |                           | 12.5                | \$ 1,980,000                   |
| Georgetown Township          | 1                         |                     | \$ 100,000                     |
| Georgetown Township          |                           | 15                  | \$ 2,376,000                   |
| City of Hudsonville          | 2                         |                     | \$ 200,000                     |
| City of Hudsonville          |                           | 0.25                | \$ 39,600                      |
| Jamestown Township           |                           | 5                   | \$ 792,000                     |
| Jamestown Township           | 0.75                      |                     | \$ 75,000                      |
| <b>Subtotal</b>              | <b>45.85</b>              | <b>91.55</b>        | <b>\$ 18,224,020</b>           |
| <b>MACC<sup>1</sup></b>      |                           |                     |                                |
| Park Township                | 8.8                       |                     | \$ 880,000                     |
| Holland Charter Township     |                           | 5.5                 | \$ 871,200                     |
| Holland Charter Township     | 6                         |                     | \$ 600,000                     |
| City of Holland              |                           | 1                   | \$ 158,400                     |
| City of Zeeland              | 0.25                      |                     | \$ 25,000                      |
| Zeeland Charter Township     | 8                         |                     | \$ 800,000                     |
| Zeeland Charter Township     |                           | 11                  | \$ 1,742,400                   |
| <b>Subtotal</b>              | <b>23.05</b>              | <b>17.5</b>         | <b>\$ 5,077,000</b>            |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                 | <b>68.9</b>               | <b>109.05</b>       | <b>\$ 23,301,020</b>           |

<sup>1</sup> The Macatawa Area Coordinating Council (MACC) is conducting its own non-motorized pathways study. The information presented in this report is intended only to provide a vision for the entire county.

<sup>2</sup> Engineering and contingency costs typically range from 15 percent to 20 percent over and above construction costs. Right-of-way acquisition can range from 0 percent to 10 percent over and above total construction costs.

Source: The Corradino Group



## Implementation

The goal of this plan is to provide an interconnected non-motorized network in Ottawa County. Coordinating the efforts of local units of government will be key. A countywide committee such as "Friends of Ottawa County Bikepaths" or a more formal entity such as an authority are options. A funding base that can be used by local units of government to build and maintain regional pathways and leverage additional grant funds should be identified. One option would be a countywide millage with funds appropriated to building and maintaining the regional network.

## Economic Benefit

The economic effects of a comprehensive non-motorized pathway system will principally be associated with expenditures by residents and tourists connected to their use of the system. And, while, admittedly, the data available upon which to measure these economic effects are limited, indications are that the trail/pathway system that currently exists in Ottawa County, is generating \$1.7 to \$6.8 million per year in direct, indirect and induced economic effects. Today, the amount of economic stimulus of tourists' use of the current trail system is considered quite limited. However, if the system as now proposed is completed, the additional annual economic effect associated with it could range from \$2 million to \$4 million per year (direct, indirect and induced effects). The latter could stimulate 20 to 40 net new jobs in the economy. And, while the tax revenues generated locally from these tourist-related activities are unknown, it is clear that generating \$2 million to \$4 million per year in new economic activity over the life of the trailway system (10 years before major rebuilding) would be a boost that allows the trailway system to be recognized as not only a quality-of-life enhancer but an economically viable public works project.

## Recommendations of the Ottawa County Non-Motorized Pathways Study

The following initial recommendations have been developed to support the realization of the Non-Motorized Pathways Plan.

- An organizational mechanism should be formed. This should be developed as a "Friends" group to work with local government.
- Coordination with bicycle store owners, bicycle and jogging clubs, tourist organizations, etc. should be facilitated to generate support for the plan.
- A countywide non-motorized millage should be considered to create a funding base that can be used to build, maintain, and replace regional pathways and also to leverage government grants and funds from foundations.
- The non-motorized plan being developed by the Macatawa Area Coordination Council (MACC) for the Holland-Zeeland area should be incorporated into the County plan.
- The Ottawa County Road Commission and County Transportation Planner should be encouraged to add paved shoulders on all new construction in the county.
- The Ottawa County Non-Motorized Pathway Plan and the existing and future network should be considered as an integral element of the county transportation network. The transit systems in Holland and Grand Haven should be encouraged to explore acquisition of bike racks for their buses. Grants should be sought on the basis of the non-motorized network to have congestion-mitigation and air quality benefits. As the non-motorized network is developed and marketed, its applicability as a commuter system as well as a recreational system should be emphasized.

- All local, county and state projects, particularly those on roads identified in this plan as having four-foot paved shoulders, should be reviewed for the possibility of including non-motorized considerations.
- It is important that as the non-motorized network is developed, the following issues are addressed:
  - Connecting the urbanized areas in the western part of the county with the urbanized areas in the east, including Grand Valley State University;
  - Developing where possible in natural commuter corridors (for example, along Chicago Drive from Hudsonville to the Holland/Zealand area);
  - Working to make Ottawa County a showplace for bicycle and pedestrian activity.
- Minimum design standards should be established. These include:
  - Paved shoulders should be a minimum of four feet in width if they are designated as pathways in the conceptual plan. Those shoulders identified as pathways in the plan should be considered for signing and striping as bike lanes.
  - Separated pathways should be designed to range from 8 to 12 or even 14 feet in width depending on the project use, available right-of-way, and the design of connecting trails.
- Staging areas should be identified as the non-motorized system is developed. Formal staging areas would be developed at major trailheads on the major separated pathways. Along the separated pathways, particularly destination facilities such as the Musketawa Trail, there should be restrooms and drinking water every three to five miles, parking and information every five to ten miles, signage from the roadway network to the staging areas, and telephone, covered shelters, benches and other amenities where desirable.
- Signage for the non-motorized pathway system should be consistent with the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices Guidance for bicycle operation on roadways and shared use paths. In addition, it is important that signage directing people to major destination trails be placed on major entry points into Ottawa County.
- Maintenance activities will typically be the responsibility of the local unit of government. As the countywide multi-jurisdictional network expands, it will be important to develop a coordinated approach to maintaining, repaving and replacement of the pathway network. This would be a good focal point for the "Friends" organization in the near-term.
- Local units of government should be encouraged to consider development of separated pathways and/or paved shoulders as opposed to sidewalks in ordinances regarding new development in suburban areas. Sidewalks would be appropriate for areas that are primarily residential but non-motorized pathways would be better suited for commercial and retail areas.

## Appendix L - Summary of Steering Committee Input

Critical review of the 2011 Parks & Recreation Plan by the steering committee resulted in several clarifications and resolutions of inconsistencies as well as small edits and corrections which have been incorporated into the text of the plan. Several additional topics and issues raised as a result of the review are listed below:

**Current Economic Conditions:** It was noted that the current weak economy may actually offer opportunities for land acquisition that might not be otherwise available

**Land Acquisition:** Although land purchases are likely to decrease as acquisition goals are met, purchase of land for undeveloped or less developed open space land may still be considered a “good buy” because of the low holding and maintenance costs.

**Local Unit Cooperation:** There may be value and mutual benefit in additional cooperation between local units of government and the Parks Commission. In particular, coordination with local planning commissions to implement appropriate land use including buffers for properties adjacent to park would be desirable. Planning commissions should also be aware of the larger park initiatives through presentations or other communications with the Parks Commission on a regular basis.

**Rule Enforcement:** The current plan does not comprehensively address the enforcement of rules in the park system. This issue will be increasingly important to assure the long term sustainability, quality, and success of both natural and built elements of the park system.

**Park User Fees:** Issues related to fees for use will continue to be important. Issues such as resident versus non-resident fees and low-income fee adjustments are two of the areas to be regularly evaluated.