

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

A public hearing on the 2024-2028 Saginaw County Area Parks and Recreation Plan was held on November 21, 2023. The Joint Parks and Recreation Plan was adopted by the County Board of Commissioners on November 21, 2023.

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Taymouth Township
Zilwaukee Township

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INTRODUCTION

Saginaw County covers 816 square miles and is comprised of 27 Townships, three cities, and five villages. The County has a variety of recreational opportunities available for residents and visitors. Situated in the middle of the lower peninsula, just southwest of the Saginaw Bay and Lake Huron, the County is easily accessible to many of the surrounding areas and easily accessible to the larger region due to the proximity of I-75.

Parks and Recreation facilities offer a variety of essential services to communities. According to the National Park and Recreation Association, there are three core values that Parks and Recreation bring to a community:

- Economic Value
- Health and Environmental Benefits
- Social Importance

These facilities are essential for enjoyment and quality of life. If individuals have access to parks and recreation, they have access to a larger sense of community and they have opportunities to form relationships inside that community. They also have a place to seek out physical recreation thereby improving both their mental and physical well-being. In addition to the benefits to residents, parks themselves increase the quality of life in a community are a source of economic development, and protect valuable natural spaces.

ABOUT THE PLAN

Saginaw County has spearheaded the development of a Multi-Jurisdictional Recreation Plan to serve as a guide for improving recreation facilities and developing new recreational opportunities in the region. To that end, this document forms the basis to guide policy for the implementation of improvements and new initiatives that will meet the recreational goals and interests of the Saginaw County community. The Plan was developed by the Saginaw County Parks and Recreation Commission, and the following six communities, with their respective Boards and Commissions:

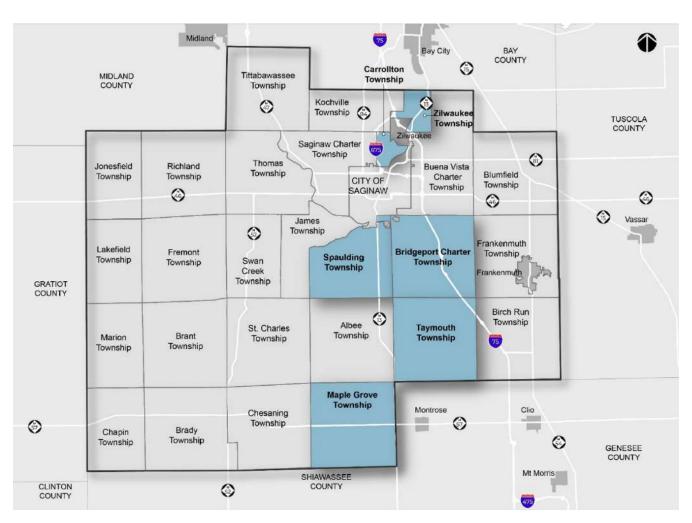
- Bridgeport Charter Township
- Carrollton Township
- Maple Grove Township
- Spaulding Township
- Taymouth Township
- Zilwaukee Township

In the past, the County has always had a separate Parks and Recreation Master Plan for their own facilities and many of the individual communities in the County engage in the same process. This Plan is the first formal multi-jurisdictional recreation planning effort in the County. The Plan includes the communities listed above.

There are many benefits to participating in a multi-jurisdictional planning effort. They range from improving coordination and communication among the participating local governments, avoiding duplication of effort during the planning process and when constructing new facilities, creating a larger understanding of the region to provide a high level of service for the entire population, and reducing costs and sharing resources for the local communities who choose to participate. Recognizing the importance of regional recreation and cooperative planning efforts, community officials from across the County have joined together in an effort to develop a Parks and Recreation Master Plan aimed at improving and developing recreational resources in Saginaw County.

The Plan will cover all community aspects from the community description to administrative structure, recreation inventory, community input, goals and objectives, and an action plan for each participating jurisdiction. The Plan begins with the Saginaw County information in Chapters 2-7, followed by Chapter 8 which includes sections for each participating community where it will cover all the topics listed above for each individual community.

MAP 1 - RECREATION PLAN PARTICIPANTS



PLAN PROCESS

Before any Parks and Recreation Master Plan is adopted and enacted, it is first important to understand what the needs of the residents are, what recreational opportunities already exist, and what sort of projects are relevant for residents based on age, ability, population, density, and the availability of recreational opportunities in neighboring communities. This Plan has carefully considered input and suggestions via active communication from residents, officials, and other community stakeholders. This input is a critical component of this Plan, and, together, the voices of Saginaw County have united to develop a Multi-Jurisdictional Recreation Plan to enhance the quality of life for everyone.

The foundation for the development of the Saginaw County Area Parks and Recreation Master Plan was based on the following goals:

- Involve the community in the process of developing a five-year Recreation Plan,
- Identify and map existing recreational facilities for each participating jurisdiction,
- Build common ground among Saginaw County stakeholders in addressing the future recreational needs and priorities of the region,
- Ensure eligibility for all the participating communities for financial assistance based on the Recreation Plan.
- Facilitate interagency collaboration in establishing recreation goals, objectives, and actions, and
- Continue to support and implement improvements for barrier-free, Universal Access to all parks.

This Plan was developed in accordance with the State's recommended five-year cycle for recreation planning, this updated Plan covers the five-year period 2024 - 2028. This Plan was developed in accordance with the guidelines for Parks and Recreation Plans published by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). A five-year, MDNR-approved Recreation Plan is necessary for any community to pursue MDNR-administered grants and this Plan ensures eligibility for all of the participating jurisdictions.

This document is intended to serve as a guide for future park and recreation opportunities, services, and implementation. Over the last couple of years, attitudes have changed towards leisure activities, and recreational desires, putting additional pressures on the communities' recreation system, thus increasing the need for both short and long-range planning.

Recommendations such as land acquisition, facility expansions and construction, and even the design of a neighborhood park improvement, require involvement from residents in order to address site-specific details. This Plan lays the foundation upon which these activities can be built.

Implementation strategies are identified throughout this Plan and cover the next five years, at which time the Plan will again be updated. The delineation of these improvements will aid Saginaw County and the other participating communities in grant solicitation from the DNR and other state agencies, and with long-range capital improvement budgeting. During the next five years, it will be important for Saginaw County and the participating communities to reference this Plan and make appropriate priority adjustments as conditions change and funding opportunities arise.

The plan is an update of the 2018 Saginaw County Recreation Plan. The document is formatted such that data related to the overall County comprises the first portion of the Plan. The second half of the Plan provides detailed information regarding each of the participating communities, including the inventory, goals and objectives, and action plan for each community. The document concludes with an overall summary and description of the adoption process.





COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Saginaw County is located in central Lower Michigan, see map 2. Counties that are adjacent to Saginaw include Bay and Midland Counties to the north, Tuscola County to the east, Gratiot County to the west, and Genesee and Shiawassee Counties to the south. Organized in 1835, Saginaw County was settled as a lumbering and fur trading community. Outside of the urbanized area in and around the City of Saginaw, the County remains a largely rural agricultural community. Saginaw is the County seat, and it is home to several automotive-related manufacturing facilities, as well as two regional healthcare centers.

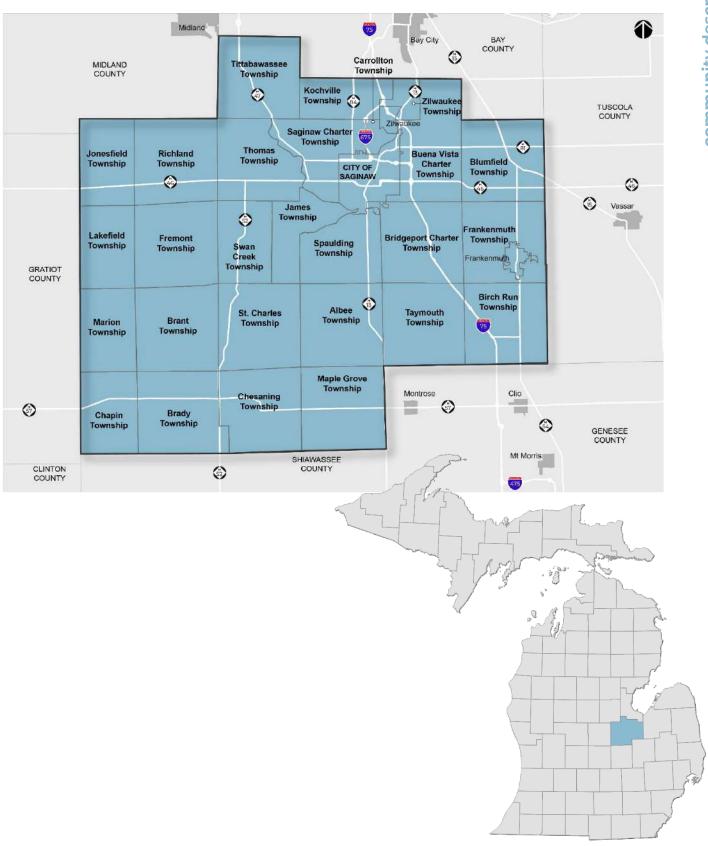
Saginaw County is approximately 816 square miles in size, or 521,800 acres. State roadways that carry traffic north to south across the County are M-83, M-13, M-52, M-84, and I-75. Major roadways that carry traffic east to west across the County are M-57, M-46, and M-81.

The Tittabawassee, Shiawassee, Cass, and Flint Rivers are all major tributaries of the Saginaw River in Saginaw County. Each river and its corridor provide unique fish and wildlife habitat. Migratory birds in the Atlantic and Mississippi flyways use these river corridors, especially those in the Shiawassee River "flats" area in the central portion of the County. Anglers from across the state enjoy walleye fishing in Saginaw County, particularly in the Tittabawassee and Saginaw Rivers.

Michigan experienced a sluggish economy and a decrease in population from 2000-2010 due to the 2007-2009 housing-based economic recession. Today, the nation is still impacted by the recession. However, the State economy's recent improvements, including nine straight years of job growth and an accelerating recovery of the housing sector, show positive signs for reinvestment and stabilization in Saginaw County and the State as a whole.



MAP 2 - REGIONAL LOCATION



DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

In this section, background information from the U.S. Census was used to analyze Saginaw County's current demographic conditions. The following section analyzes Census-based data on overall population trends, housing characteristics, and economic information within the County to present an overall demographic condition analysis.

Understanding the characteristics of the population is helpful when evaluating parks and recreation facilities and needs. The table below provides a comparison of key demographic data between Saginaw County and the State of Michigan.

The information presented in this chapter uses the most recent Census Data from the 2020 and 2010 Census and the 2021 American Community Survey.

TABLE 1 - SAGINAW COUNTY DEMOGRAPHICS

	Saginaw County	Michigan
Population		
2010 Population	200,169	9,883,640
2020 Population	190,124	10,077,331
Percent of the Population 65 and Older	19.7%	18.1%
Percent of the Population Under 18	24.7%	24.4%
Percent of Population with a Disability	16.9%	14.2%
Median Age	40.9	40.2
Education		
Percent with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher	22.5%	30%
Income		
Median Household Income	\$50,606	\$59,234
Per Capita Income	\$28,092	\$ 34,768
Housing		
Average Household Size	2.31	2.54
Median Housing Values	\$128,600	\$162,600
Renter-Occupied Housing as a percentage of Total Occupied Units	28.3%	26.8%

In 2020, Saginaw County's population was 190,124, a decrease of 10,045 residents from 2010. Exploring all the population's characteristics further allows the County to understand its specific recreational needs. Today, 16.9% of County residents have a physical disability. In comparison to the State, the County has slightly more residents over 65 (19.7%), and only 0.3% more residents under 18 (24.7%) than the State. The older population and those with a disability may tend to look for more passive recreational facilities such as trails and multiuse paths that meet their needs. Even though the County doesn't have a proportionally large percentage of residents 65 and older and the median age is 40.9, the County will keep aging and recreation needs will change.

In addition to understanding the population in the County, it's important to look at other demographic data points. The County has a slightly lower household income and per capita income in comparison to the State, the County's average household size is 2.31. Within the County, 28.3% of the population are renters. Residents in high-density housing have a greater need for open spaces and recreational facilities. These owners may not have large green spaces at home and therefore will rely on parks and recreational facilities for their needs.

Within the County is a wide range of age groups who all have their own recreational needs. Park facilities can create multigenerational linkage between individuals in these groups, and across all demographic groups. They provide gathering places, make exercise opportunities available, promote civic participation, and improve the quality of life in an area.





ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

INTRODUCTION

Within the parks system are many important roles. The structure of parks and recreation begins at the top with the residents, followed by the County Board of Commissioners, Parks Commission, and County staff. There are seven park facilities within the County boundary that are operated by the County Parks and Recreation staff.

The Saginaw County Board of Commissioners is the governing body of Saginaw County. The Board is comprised of 11 Commissioners who are elected by district. Board of Commissioner decisions that affect the Parks and Recreation Commission are first acted upon by its County Services Committee. The committee is comprised of the Chairman of the Board and three additional Commissioners.

The Saginaw County Parks and Recreation Commission was formed in 1969 under the provisions of the Michigan County and Recreation Act, Act 261 of the Public Acts of 1965. The Parks and Recreation Commission is authorized to plan, develop, maintain, and supervise parkland, and to establish rules for the protection, regulation, and control of its facilities. They also approve grant applications and land acquisitions, establish a budget, and recommend fee structures, with final approval from the Saginaw County Board of Commissioners. All actions of the Saginaw County Parks and Recreation Commission are subject to the approval of the Saginaw County Board of Commissioners.

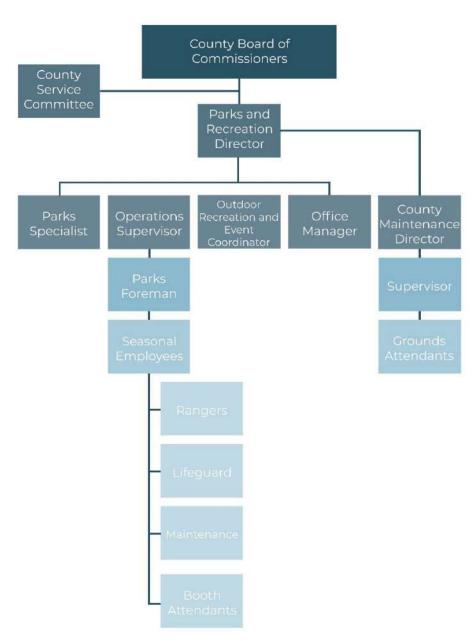
The County Parks and Recreation Commission is composed of ten members. Four of the members are represented on the Commission by statute:

- Chairperson (or designee) of the Saginaw County Road Commission
- Saginaw County Public Works Commissioner
- Chairperson (or designee) of the Saginaw County Metropolitan Planning Commission
- No less than one and no more than three members of the Saginaw County Board of Commissioners.

The remaining four to six members (to a total of ten Commissioners) are members of the Saginaw County community at large. They are appointed for three-year terms by the County Commission. The Saginaw County Parks and Recreation Commission meets monthly.

The Department of Parks and Recreation is responsible for operating and maintaining the parks, making day-to-day decisions regarding financial expenditures, and implementing development plans. The Director of the Saginaw County Parks and Recreation Commission oversees all activities and functions of the Parks Commission. Six full-time employees, and approximately 30-35 seasonal employees, work under their direction. Certain maintenance operations at the County parks are combined with overall Saginaw County maintenance activities under the direction of the County's Maintenance Director. The parks maintenance functions are funded through the Parks and Recreation Commission's budget as a purchase of services from the County. Some limited maintenance activities including grass-cutting and snowplowing are contracted to the private sector and to other County departments. See Figure 1.

FIGURE 1 – ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE



FUNDING AND BUDGET

The County's Parks and Recreation budget is set by the County Board annually. The budget is used for park improvements, maintenance, and special events. The budget is updated annually depending on the needs of the parks system. Primarily funding comes from a County-wide recreation millage, which was first passed in 1990 and then renewed in 2000, 2010, and 2014. Other sources of funding include boat and pavilion rentals, program fees, grants, and donations.

TABLE 2- SAGINAW COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION BUDGET

	2022	2023
Operation and Maintenance	1,312,250	1,318,450
Programming	75,500	98,750
Capital Improvements	1,150,250	\$450,000
Total	2,538,000	1,867,200

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Programming

In the past five years, Saginaw County Parks has greatly expanded its programming and outreach across the County. The department runs many different programs tailored to a wide variety of users including families, adults, nature enthusiasts, and dogs. Some of its family programming includes try-it kayaking and stand-up paddleboards, outdoor concerts and movies, hikes, and the Catch Me If You Can Fishing Festival. Adult programming includes yoga classes, travel programs, senior golf cart rides on the Rail Trail, and more. The Parks and Recreation Commission also facilitates nature activities that include pond life, hikes, and wildlife programs. Activities for dog owners and their dogs include Howl-O-Ween, Dog Days of Summer, and Soggy Doggy swimming in Haithco Lake.

Recently, the Parks Department has offered some mobile programming playdates in specific underserved and lower-income recreation areas across the County. This included programmed games and activities for children (Gaga Ball, 9 Square in the Air, Supersize Fun, Parachute Games, etc.) The program joined with the Saginaw YMCA's Mission Nutrition program to provide a free lunch in conjunction with the mobile recreation. For the past seven years, the County has partnered with Friends of Hoyt Park (a City of Saginaw park) to operate a summer youth baseball league. They also sponsor the six Bringing Back the Ice sledding and ice skating events at Hoyt Park in the winter. A summary of the 2023 programs with attendance is included in Appendix A.

ADDITIONAL RELATIONSHIP

Volunteers

Volunteers work at a variety of Saginaw County Parks and Recreation events. The Optimist Club and the Saginaw Bay Walleye Club volunteer at Catch Me If You Can, an annual family fishing festival. Over 20 different organizations volunteer and host activities at Children's Fun Night every year. Several other outdoor education classes are run by volunteers from the Association for Youth Outdoor Adventures and local Scout troops. Dog events generally have volunteers from Pet Supplies Plus and the Great Lakes Bay Animal Society. Other smaller programs also have local community members that volunteer as well.

The Saginaw County Parks and Recreation Commission is open to collaboration that strengthens recreation opportunities throughout Saginaw County and in the City of Saginaw. Specific to the City of Saginaw, the following organizations are working towards improving recreational amenities and programming. Saginaw County Parks recognizes their efforts and will explore collaboration efforts when/if applicable.

- Friends of Hoyt Park Fundraised and completed extensive renovations to the Hoyt Park warming house, restrooms, and ball diamonds, including the construction of a storage garage.
- **Friends of Morley Park** Focused on the long-term sustainability of Morley Park, hosts events such as the African Cultural Festival and others.
- Project Unify Focused on the adoption of Unity Park on Washington, leads multiple beautification efforts.
- Veterans/McKinney Dedicated group of individuals revitalizing
 Veterans/McKinney Park and providing sports and day camp programming.
- Get Outside for a Healthy Inside (GOHI) The goal is to increase the opportunity for outdoor physical activities and community engagement with more parks, trails, and green spaces.
- **Counter Culture** Dedicated to community development through art and also manages the weekly group bicycle ride 'Counter Cruise'.
- Heritage Square Neighborhood Association (Otto Roeser Park) A
 neighborhood association with a vested interest in the betterment of their
 neighborhood park, Otto Roeser.
- Saginaw Area Neighborhood Associations
- Saginaw Community Foundation
- **First Ward Community Services** runs day camps and other youth development programs including a site for the MDNR's Summer Youth Employment Program.

 Several other outdoor education classes are run through partnerships with MSU Extension and local scout troops.

Local Agencies

In addition to the volunteer groups described above, Saginaw County Parks and Recreation staff also work with some other groups and agencies to provide recreation to County residents. The Great Lakes Bay Regional Trail (GLBRT) Committee is actively pursuing the development of the railtrail between Saginaw, Bay, and Midland counties. The Public Libraries of Saginaw, Great Start Collaborative, YMCA of Saginaw, Saginaw Spirit, PRIDE in Saginaw, Special Olympics, Saginaw Valley State University, Apple Mountain, Mid-Michigan Waste Authority, Midland Parks and Recreation Department, Titan Golf Carts, 98 FM KCQ Country Radio, Next Media, Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy, City of Saginaw, Neighborhood Associations, Saginaw County Commission on Aging, Triathlon Training Group (Team ATP), and the Chippewa Nature Center are just a few other organizations that work with Saginaw County Parks and Recreation to provide events and activities for the community.



PAST RECREATION HISTORY

Saginaw County has received 20 different grants from various DNR programs since 1979. Eighteen of those projects are completed and closed. The remaining two are active and are being completed as this Plan is written. A list of all the grants is provided below.

TABLE 3 – SAGINAW COUNTY GRANT HISTORY

Project Title	Project Number	Project Year	Grant Amount	Status	Description
Haithco Recreation Area Splash Pad Development	TF19-0113	2019	\$300,000	Grant Closed	Development of a splash pad, benches, picnic tables, pathways, rain garden, and paved ADA-compliant parking spaces at Saginaw County's 77-acre Haithco Recreation Area. These amenities are being added to the swimming beach; kayak, canoe, and paddle board rentals; fishing piers; pavilions; playground equipment and swings; sand volleyball courts; horseshoe pits; pathway; and restrooms already available at the recreation area.
GLBRT Trailhead Development	TF17- 0103	2017	\$209,200	Amendment Initiated	Development of a trailhead with parking lot and amenities and public access to the south end of the Great Lakes Bay Regional trail. This segment of the trail is part of the Governor's Showcase Trail, also known as the Iron Belle Trail.
GLBRT Land Acquisition	TF15-0156	2015	\$104,400	Grant Closed	Acquisition of 32.43 acres for continuation of the Great Lakes Bay Regional Trail (GLBRT) which is also the Iron Belle Trail in this location. The subject parcel also includes valued wetland resources which will be managed for wildlife habitat and public recreation.

Project Title	Project Number	Project Year	Grant Amount	Status	Description
Great Lakes Bay Regional Trail Development	TF13-090	2013	\$280,000	Grant Closed	This project is for the development of the first paved phase of the Great Lakes Bay Regional Trail beginning at Kochville Road going north for approximately 2.3 miles to the Saginaw County-Bay County line. The trail will be universally accessible and runs along the border of the Crow Island State Game Area. Interpretive signs will be installed to provide information on the natural features of the adjacent game area.
Saginaw Valley Rail Trail Development	TF11-090	2011	\$251,500	Grant Closed	Development to include 1.4 mile connection of trail between existing trail and the pathway along Center Road.
Saginaw Valley Rail Trail	TF03-119	2003	\$493,000	Grant Closed	Development of 3.2 miles of 10-foot wide paved pathway continuing the Saginaw Valley Rail Trail from Van Wormer Road to Stroebel Road. The project will include road crossings, fencings/plantings, restroom/storage facility, and staging area.
Saginaw Valley Rail Trail	TF01-082	2001	\$493,000	Grant Closed	Development of the Saginaw Valley Rail Trail from Martin Rd. in St. Charles to Benkert Road and construction of a fishing platform and a wildlife viewing station.
Saginaw Valley Rail Trail	TF94-213	1994	\$90,000	Grant Closed	The Saginaw Valley Rail Trail will be a 10.5 miles long with trailheads at Lumberjack Park in St. Charles and at Paine's Junction in James Township.
Haithco Lake Phase iii	BF93- 054	1993	\$256,100	Grant Closed	Phase III project enhances active and passive recreational use through facility construction and natural area development.

Project Title	Project Number	Project Year	Grant Amount	Status	Description
William H. Haithco Recreation	BF90-136	1990	\$54,300	Grant Closed	Expand parking capacity
Ringwood Forest Improvement	BF89- 542	1989	\$38,500	Grant Closed	Asphalt paving of entry, parking area, and canoe launch area of popular county park.
Imerman Memorial Park	BF89- 540	1989	\$35,500	Grant Closed	Shoreline stabilization, pave boat launch, recoat tennis and basketball courts, tot lot.
Haithco Recreation Area- Phase III	TF88-095	1988	\$335,250	Grant Closed	To develop a swimming beach, activity center, fishing areas, expansion of parking lot.
S&H Lake	TF87-271	1987	\$400,000	Grant Closed	To develop the Saginaw County's first public swimming beach, fishing opportunities, picnicking and passive recreation.
S&H Lake	TF-1075	1985	\$247,500	Grant Closed	To acquire approximately 39.3 acres of land with a 40 acres manmade lake
Ringwood Forest	26-01395	1985	\$25,413.18	Grant Closed	Roads, parking, picnic/play area, interpretive displays and sledding hill-overlook
Imerman Park	26-01291	1984	\$74,433	Grant Closed	Site preparation, grading, seeding and planting, open picnic shelter, dock, dock shoreline stabilization, lighting, parking lot, picnic equipment, and LWCF sign
Price Nature Center	TF-716	1983	\$12,000	Grant Closed	To acquire approximately 12 acres of land bordering on two sides the existing Price Nature Center property.
Price Nature Center	TF-503	1981	\$25,000	Grant Closed	Acquisition of 35 acres as an addition to Price Nature Center.
Price Nature Center	26-01087	1979	\$64,009.60	Grant Closed	Develop: includes drive, parking, picnic pavilion, tables, grills, play are, restroom/storage building signs, fencing, and utilities
Total			\$3,791,105.78		



RECREATION INVENTORY

INTRODUCTION

In order to plan for parks and recreation in the future, communities need to examine the types of facilities that currently exist in the community. It is also helpful to compare the existing facilities to various standards as one measure of the adequacy of the parks and recreation facilities in the community. The following inventory chapter studies the parks in Saginaw County. This inventory was updated by the planning consultants in the summer of 2023 and verified by the County staff. The text below includes an in-depth description of Countyowned parks, park classifications, and ADA accessibility ratings. Table 4, later in the chapter, summarizes park amenities in a tabular form.

The Saginaw County Parks & Recreation Commission



owns or manages nearly 900 acres of parkland ranging in size from 35 acres to 334 acres, including approximately 13.5 miles of paved non-motorized pathway. Chapter 8 contains the recreation inventory, facility inventory, and park location map for the other participating communities who are involved in this planning effort.

A brief description of each Saginaw County Park is listed on the following pages. A park location map is on page 35. With an overall park facility inventory chart on page 36.

Accessibility

Creating a park system that is safe, accessible, and usable to all individuals, including those with disabilities, is essential. A grading system has been developed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to easily identify those parks and facilities that are most and least accessible, based on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines. The accessibility grading system uses a five-point system ranging from one (none of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines) to five (the entire park was developed/renovated using the principles of universal design). See Table 4, below, for the grading system.

In the summer of 2023, the planning consultants with assistance from County staff updated the ADA compliance information. The County recognizes the importance of equal access for all park users and is dedicated to improving accessibility at each of its parks when improvements are made. This includes parking, paths, restrooms, activity areas, amenities, and signage.

To that end, in 2021, the County updated its ADA Transition Plan for the County Parks system. The Plan is intended to evaluate the park system, establish internal policies and processes to update facilities, and create an action item list with a timeline of all the park facilities and equipment that need updated. In addition to outlining the facilities that need updated, the County also identified the following action items to implement the Plan, appoint an ADA coordinator, and adopt a grievance procedure. The Plan is included as Appendix B in this recreation plan.

TABLE 4 - DNR ACCESSIBILITY GRADING SYSTEM FOR PARKS AND RECREATION **FACILITIES**

Accessibility Grade	Definition
1	None of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
2	Some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
3	Most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
4	The entire park meets accessibility guidelines
5	The entire park was developed/renovated using the principles of universal design

Parks and Service Area Classification

A recreation inventory is the foundation for developing an understanding of the County's recreation needs, deficiencies, and future plans. An inventory provides a snapshot of all the available facilities within a community along with details about the types of activities and features. The following classification system is adapted from the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) guide. It categorizes different types of parks based on size, service area, facilities, and user groups. There are three classification types in the County: natural resource area, large urban park, and park trail. The NRPA classifies several other park types, but they are not all applicable to Saginaw County as they tend to be part of a municipal park system commonly found in a city or village.

Natural Resources Area

Natural Resource Area parks are areas of natural quality for nature-oriented outdoor recreation such as viewing and studying wildlife, hiking, camping, or general conservation. The lands are set aside for the preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space, and visual aesthetics/buffering. Examples include wetlands or forest preserves. Saginaw County has the following Natural Resources Area parks:

- Veterans Memorial Park
- Price Nature Center
- Ringwood Forest

Large Urban Park

Large Urban Parks serve a broader purpose than community parks and are used when community parks and neighborhood parks are not adequate to serve local needs. They generally serve the entire community and are a minimum of 50 acres to 75 acres which focuses on meeting community-based recreational needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces. Saginaw County Large Urban Parks include:

- William Haithco Recreation Area
- Imerman Memorial Park
- Saginaw River Headwaters Rec Area

Park-Trail

A Park-Trail is a multipurpose trail located within greenways, parks, and natural resource areas.

Saginaw Valley Rail Trail

COUNTY PARK FACILITIES

Veterans Memorial Park

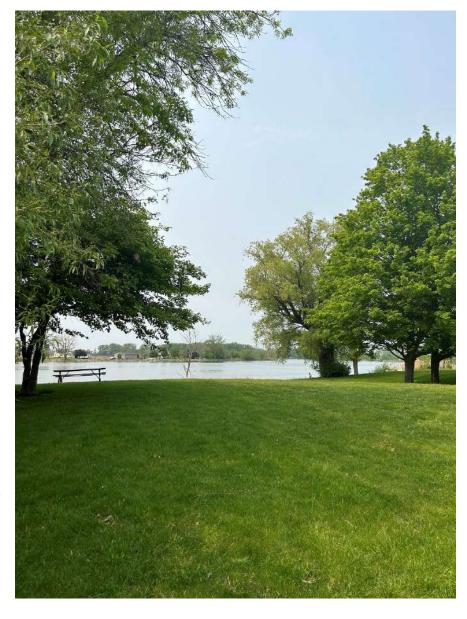
Location: On the west side of M-13, Zilwaukee Township

Acres: 35 Acres

ADA accessibility: 2 Classification: Natural

Resource Area

Veterans Memorial Park is a 1.5-mile parkway on the Saginaw River, near the border with Bay County. It features picnic areas, fishing, and boat launch access. The launch was completed in 1982 with assistance from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Waterways Division. The launch is heavily used, reflecting interest in boating and fishing on the Saginaw River. The northern portion of the park lies within Bay County.



William H. Haithco Recreation Area

Location: 2121 Schust Road, Saginaw Township

Acres: 76 Acres

ADA accessibility: 3

Classification: Large Urban Park

William H. Haithco Recreation Area is a beautiful park located on Saginaw County's only public lake. The 40-acre Haithco Lake was created as part of the construction of I-675. The park offers paddleboat, kayak, canoe, and paddleboard rentals, horseshoes, a lifeguard-supervised beach, sand volleyball courts, a playground, fishing access, and modern restrooms. There are five pavilions available for rent, two on the north end and three on the south end of the park. Most recently, the park has a new splash pad and playground facilities. The park is conveniently located off I-675 near the Tittabawassee Road exit.



Imerman Memorial Park

Location: 3495 Midland Road, Saginaw Township

Acres: 96 Acres

ADA accessibility: 3

Classification: Large Urban Park

Imerman Memorial Park has 3,475 feet of frontage on the Tittabawassee River. With access to the river, patrons can fish from shore, rent a canoe, or launch a boat. This popular park offers a variety of recreation facilities complemented by attractive natural features. Four park pavilions are available through reservations and are regularly booked for group picnics throughout the summer months. A large playground receives heavy use in the spring, summer, and fall. Visitors also enjoy tennis, volleyball, softball, horseshoes, cross-country skiing, and other activities. The facility also offers a scenic 1-¼ mile riverfront hiking trail. A ¼ mile-long trail is located in the interior of the park. The park also has modern and rustic restroom facilities. A waterfront area includes a riverfront pavilion with a viewing deck, a floating dock for fishing, interpretive displays, and a parking area. The Steven A. Kirshenbaum Memorial Bark Park is a very popular facility that is open all year long.



Saginaw River Headwaters Rec Area

Location: 77 W Center Street, Saginaw

Acres: 334 Acres **ADA accessibility:** 3

Classification: Large Urban Park

Saginaw River Headwaters Rec Area is a collaborative effort between the State of Michigan (DNR) and the Saginaw County Parks and Recreation Commission. The site is a 334-acre passive recreation site that features significant natural resources including river frontage, wetlands, shallow water ponds, and forested river corridors. This property is directly adjacent to the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge and the Greenpoint Nature Center. The site features include a parking area, an accessible portable toilet, and over three miles of developed trails along the Saginaw River and adjacent wetlands. Continued development and habitat restoration are planned through 2026, including planting over 1,000 trees and other pollinator species, the addition of an accessible fishing platform and observation overlook, and additional trail development across the 334 acres.



Price Nature Center

Location: 6685 Sheridan Road, Bridgeport Township

Acres: 186 Acres
ADA accessibility: 2

Classification: Natural Resource Area

Price Nature Center is located five miles south of the City of Saginaw. It is one of the largest parks in the Saginaw County Park system. This park offers nearly three miles of hiking trails through its 186 acres. Additionally, the park offers one pavilion available for rent with a play area nearby. A group campground is also available for those interested in rustic camping.



Ringwood Forest

Location: South of the Village of St. Charles on Ring Road, Brant Township

Acres: 160 Acres
ADA accessibility: 2

Classification: Natural Resource Area

Ringwood Forest is the most ruggedly beautiful of all Saginaw County parks. The 160 acres include some of Michigan's oldest forest pine plantations. This park's three miles of trails offer towering pine forests and hilly terrain. It also has fishing access and a canoe launch on the Bad River for picnickers, nature lovers, hikers, and cross-country skiers. Ringwood has a pavilion available on a first come first serve basis, along with a playground and rustic restroom facilities.

Ringwood Forest was presented to the University of Michigan in 1930 by Clark Ring for use related to forestry research, demonstration, and education. In 1983 the University of Michigan entered into an agreement with Saginaw County Parks and Recreation Commission that allowed Ringwood Forest to be used by the Commission for public forestry education and recreation. The park opened to the public in 1987.



Saginaw Valley Rail Trail

Location: The main trailhead begins at Lumberjack Park, Village of St. Charles

Length: 11.5 miles **ADA accessibility:** 4

Classification: Non-Motorized Trail

The Saginaw Valley Rail Trail is an 11.5-mile paved non-motorized pathway. The trail starts just south of the Bad River in the Village of St. Charles at Lumberjack Park and follows a former rail bed to Stroebel Road. From there it heads eastward along Stroebel Road, ending at Center Road in James Township.

The Saginaw Valley Rail Trail has three trailheads that provide parking access to the trail. The Van Wormer Trailhead on the corner of Van Wormer and Swan Creek Roads in Swan Creek Township also



includes modern restrooms, picnic tables, pop machines, a water fountain, and a tire pump. The Water Street Trailhead also includes an outhouse facility.

The trail was designed with an intact tree canopy that provides a cooler place in the summertime than most local trails. Interpretive signs lead you through your outdoor journey teaching about area flora and fauna, wildlife wetlands and you can even learn how landfills work. Lucky trail users have been known to see white-tailed deer, turtles, rabbits, geese, and ducks. Clean and well-maintained, there are three pocket parks and several benches along the trail offering a sheltered place to rest.

For added scenery, this trail has seven bridges over various rivers and creeks and runs along the Shiawassee State Game Area. Equestrians also have a place on this trail. Trailer parking for equestrian users is available at the Van Wormer Road parking lot; from there, equestrians can follow the equestrian trail signs either North or South for a quiet, challenging ride. The trail is also open to hunters and anglers who are looking to access the various rivers and Shiawassee State Game Area.

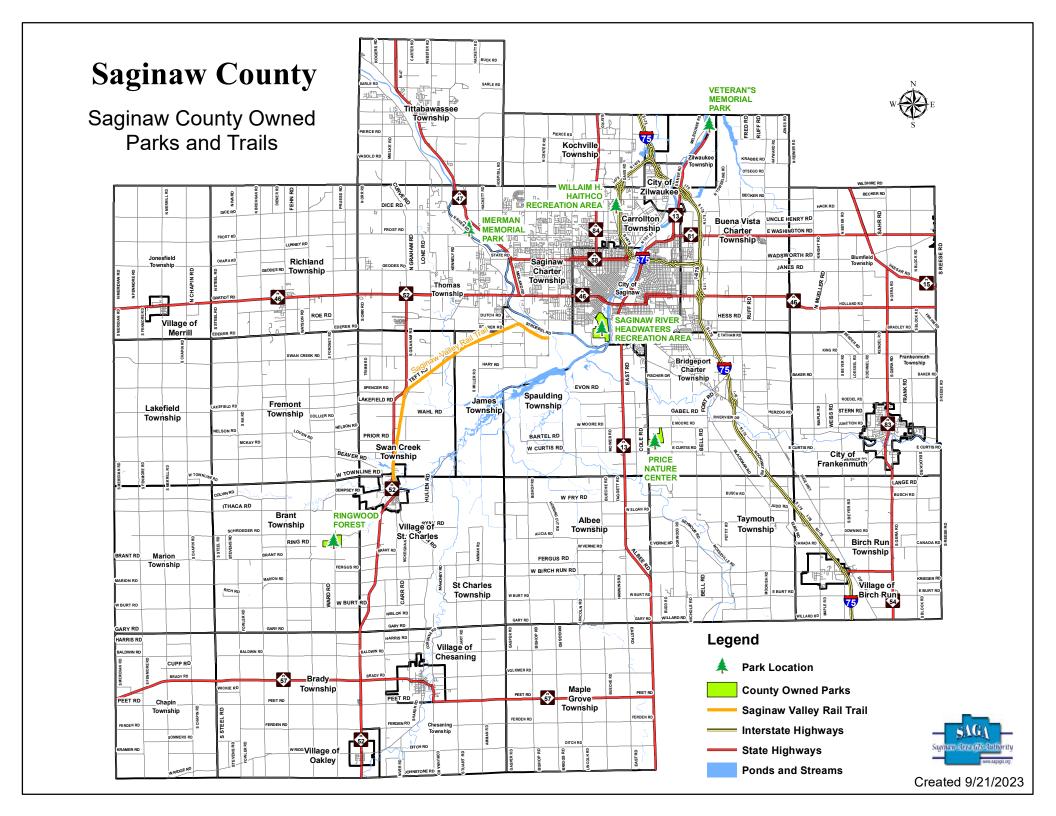


TABLE 5 – PARKS AND RECREATION INVENTORY

	Veterans Memorial Park	William H. Haithco Recreation	Imerman Memorial Park	Saginaw River Headwaters Rec Area	Price Nature Center	Ringwood Forest	Saginaw Valley Rail Trail	Bay/Zil Trail (GLBRT)
Acres	35	76	96	334	186	160	11.5 Miles	2.3 Miles
Accessibility	2	3	3	3	2	2	4	5
Park Type	NRA	LUP	LUP	LUP	NRA	NRA	PT	PT
Facilities								
Ball Fields			Х					
Basketball Courts			2					
Boat Launch	Х		Х					
Boat Rental		Χ	Х					
Canoe/Kayak Launch		Χ				Χ		
Concessions		Χ						
Cross Country Skiing			X		Χ	X	Χ	X
Dog Park			X					
Equestrian Trail							Χ	
Fishing	X	Χ	Χ			Χ	Χ	
Group Camping					Χ			
Historic Pine Plantation						Χ		
Horseshoes		Χ	X			Χ		
Interpretive Displays		Χ	X				Χ	
Observation Platform			X				Χ	
Paddle Board		Χ						
Parking	X	X	X	Χ	Χ	X	X	X
Pavilion		5	4		Χ	X		
Picnicking	X	Χ	X		X	X	Χ	
Playground		2	X		Χ	X		
Pocket Parks							Χ	
Restrooms	X	X	X	X	X	Χ	X	
Roller Hockey Rink			Χ					
Sail Board Beach		X						
Swimming Beach		X						
Splash Pad		X						
Tennis Courts			X					
Trails		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Virgin Hardwood Stand					Χ			
Volleyball		Χ	X					

Key LUP – Large Urban Park NRA – Natural Resources Area PT – Park Trail

Comparison to Standards

The County has committed to taking a steady and consistent approach to developing park facilities that provide lifelong recreation options for the residents of Saginaw County. To help analyze the adequacy of parks and recreation facilities owned and operated by Saginaw County, it is helpful to compare the County's system to various standards and benchmarks.

Overall Quantity

Saginaw County has nearly 900 acres of parkland to serve about 190,124 people. This equates to approximately 2.9 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. General recreation guidelines suggest there should be 5 to 10 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. According to the quantity standards, this means the County should have at least 950.62 acres of parkland and as much as 1,901.24 acres to meet the general guidelines. According to the standards the County owned facilities are not enough for the County's population. However, each local community in Saginaw County has its own parks and it is not the sole responsibility of the County to provide all the acreage. When considering all the parkland, local, county, and state/federal, the County residents have access to enough parkland to far exceed the standards. This is why a multi-jurisdictional planning effort is so important, the parks all work as a large system for the region and only considering one jurisdiction does not paint an accurate picture of the recreation opportunities available to residents.

Facility Standards

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has published typical recreation facility standards that specify facility service areas, the number of facilities needed to service the population, and the land area needed. These standards can be used in conjunction with the acreage standards to further identify Saginaw County's recreation needs. Table 6 provides a comparison of the County's public facilities against published recreation facility standards.

According to the standards, the County is deficient in the majority of the categories. However, the resulting deficiencies, as determined by this NRPA standards evaluation, do not account for the recreational facilities owned and operated by other agencies and governmental entities that service local populations. Saginaw County can optimize the recreational resources available to all residents in the County by supporting recreation provided by the local municipalities.

Level of Service

More recent park guidelines indicate that one must also consider the "Level of Service" desired by the community. If Saginaw County residents' needs are met with the existing amount of parkland and facilities, then that amount is sufficient. This is why the community input portion of a recreation plan is so important. While the national standards indicate that the County does have enough recreational land, the community input results

indicated what local community members actually want to see in their parks. Each park has its own needs and improvements, however, the overall survey indicated that park users would like to see improved trails and trail extensions, restroom facilities, disc golf courses, fishing platforms, general park maintenance park facilities like benches and water fountains added, and updated play equipment. The Parks Commission and Board need to understand the wishes of the community they serve to provide the appropriate level of service.

Further, just because the County does not own or operate a recreation facility does not mean it does not exist. For example, while the County does not have a public pool, there is one available to the County residents. Also, while the County does not own/operate baseball or softball fields, several other Townships within Saginaw County do, and therefore, residents have opportunities to access them. Finally, while the standards require a large amount of facilities for the County, the survey results do not indicate that there is a large deficiency in the County parks. The County will assess the current facilities provided throughout the County, prior to expending taxpayer dollars that would duplicate services already being provided.

TABLE 6 - FACILITY STANDARDS

Recommended	County	Recommended	Surplus/
Standard ¹	Facilities	Public Need ²	Deficiency ³
1/5,000	2	38	-36
1/2,000	1	95	-94
1/5,000	1	38	-37
1/30,000	0	6	-6
1/5,000	0	38	-38
1/20,000	0	10	-10
1/10,000	0	19	-19
1/25,000	0	8	-8
1/50,000	0	4	-4
1/20,000	0	10	-10
1/40,000	0	5	-5
1/50,000	1	4	-3
1/20,000	0	10	-10
1/3,000	5	63	-58
1 system per region	7	-	+7
	Standard ¹ 1/5,000 1/2,000 1/5,000 1/30,000 1/5,000 1/20,000 1/10,000 1/25,000 1/50,000 1/40,000 1/50,000 1/20,000 1/3,000	Standard¹ Facilities 1/5,000 2 1/2,000 1 1/5,000 1 1/30,000 0 1/5,000 0 1/20,000 0 1/25,000 0 1/50,000 0 1/40,000 0 1/50,000 1 1/20,000 0 1/3,000 5 1 system per region 7	Standard¹ Facilities Public Need² 1/5,000 2 38 1/2,000 1 95 1/5,000 1 38 1/30,000 0 6 1/5,000 0 38 1/20,000 0 10 1/10,000 0 19 1/25,000 0 8 1/50,000 0 4 1/20,000 0 10 1/50,000 1 4 1/20,000 0 10 1/3,000 5 63 1 system per region 7 -

¹ Recommended number of facilities per unit of population (National Recreation and Park Association)

² Population of 190,124 (2020 Census Data)

³ Rounded to the nearest whole number

REGIONAL FACILITIES

Most of the local municipalities within Saginaw County offer their own local recreation facilities. These include Frankenmuth, Saginaw, Birch Run, Birch Run Township, Bridgeport Township, Saginaw Township, Thomas Township, Swan Creek Township, Tittabawassee Township, Kochville Township, Richland Township, Albee Township, Merrill, St. Charles, Chesaning, Oakley, Zilwaukee, and Carrollton.

Saginaw County contains several large tracts of public or semi-public lands. The largest tracts are controlled by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. The DNR lands include the Gratiot-Saginaw State Game Area, in Marion and Brant Townships; the Shiawassee River State Game, area in St. Charles, Swan Creek, James, and Bridgeport Townships; and the Crow Island State Game Area. in Zilwaukee Township, Kochville Township, and Buena Vista Townships. The Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge, owned by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, is located mostly in Spaulding and James Township. State and Federal recreation lands are described below. Together, these lands comprise several thousand acres of significant natural resources in Saginaw County.

State/Federal Recreation

The Shiawassee Flats - Is comprised of the Shiawassee River State Game Area at 9,758 acres and the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge at 9,870 acres. Located near St. Charles, Michigan, the Shiawassee Flats area is a massive floodplain located at the confluence of the Flint, Shiawassee, Bad, Cass, and Tittabawassee rivers as well as Swan Creek. This unique geographical feature creates outstanding waterfowl habitat. According to the Friends of the Shiawassee River Facebook site, it is the largest managed waterfowl hunting area in Michigan.

Gratiot-Saginaw State Game Area – Approximately 25% of the 17,000-acre Gratiot-Saginaw State Game Area lies in Saginaw County in Marion and Brant Townships. It is managed to provide quality habitat for wild turkey, white-tailed deer, ruffed grouse, American woodcock, wood duck, and ring-necked pheasants and for recreational opportunities associated with these species.

Crow Island State Game Area – The Crow Island State Game Area encompasses 3,489 acres. Approximately 80% of the Crow Island property lies with Saginaw County, in Zilwaukee, Kochville, and Buena Vista Townships. It is managed to promote safe nesting, brood rearing, and migration stop-over habitat for local and migratory waterfowl and shorebirds and to provide for myriad hunting and non-consumptive wildlife-related recreational pursuits.

Private Recreation

The other public or semi-public lands are largely golf courses.

Non-Motorized Trails

Communities across the United States are creating regional trail systems in both cities and rural areas to provide a higher quality of life for residents. Trails give residents the opportunity to be more active and healthier, safer while walking or biking on the roads, additional ways to experience their community, and give all users the option of increased mobility in different modes of travel.

Why trails are Important

While trails can be a challenge to implement, their positive effects on a community cannot be disputed. It has been proven that trails create a place of pride and a sense of ownership in Michigan residents. Trails are also an important driver in the local and regional economy, they increase property values and provide safe and healthy recreation options. The growing trail trend in Michigan is also reflected in the County. Trails and pathways are an asset to every community.

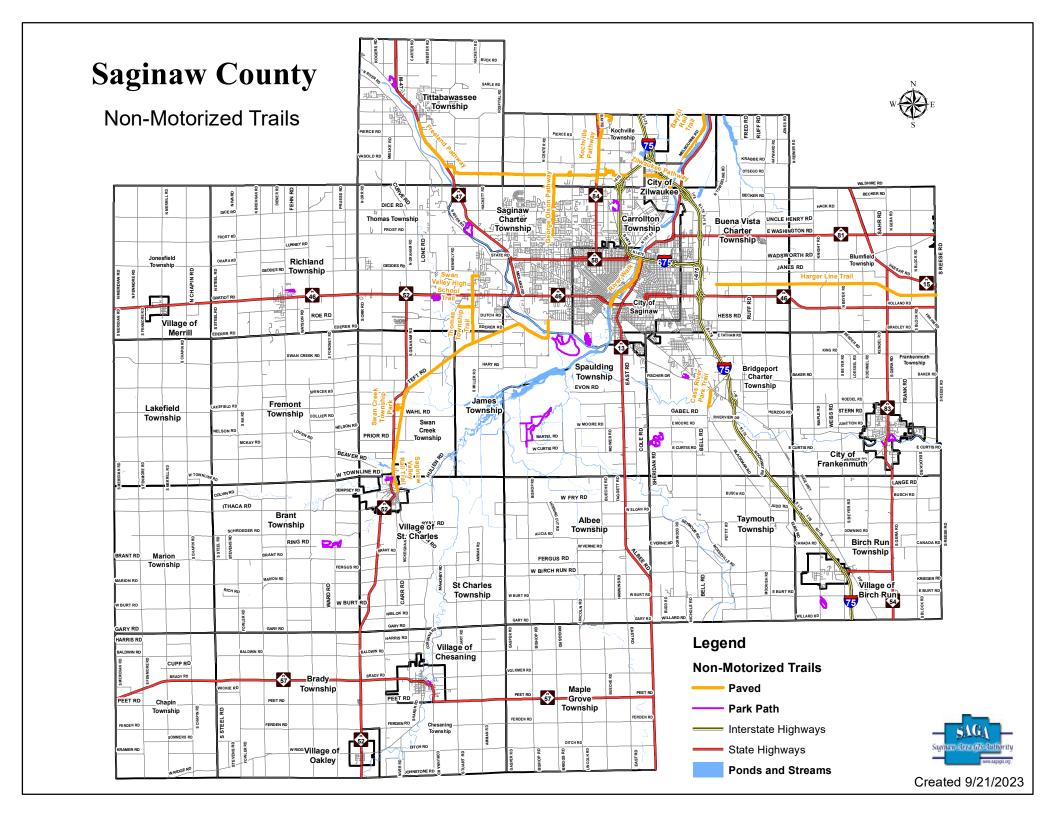
Trail users have a measurable impact on the local economy. Working with the surrounding townships and other jurisdictions is an effective way to connect with existing systems and expand the non-motorized pathway infrastructure. These projects create a long-term, valuable investment in the community and the opportunity to connect the County to others in the region, which promotes economic vitality, encourages a healthier lifestyle in residents, and creates a safer travel environment.

Great Lakes Bay Regional Trail (BayZil Trail) - The Great Lakes Bay Regional Trail (GLBRT) is a multi-jurisdictional trail that will connect the Bay, Midland, and Saginaw Counties. The BayZil Rail Trail is part of the GLBRT trail and it runs parallel to the Saginaw River in Frankenlust Township (Bay County) and Kochville Township in Saginaw County. Saginaw County Parks owns the portion of the trail in Zilwaukee Township. Saginaw County has recently received grant funds to extend the trail south to Kochville Road and west to an additional trailhead. One can start the trail on Melbourne Road north of Kochville Rd heading north to the Bay County Line. There are 2.3 miles in Saginaw County and 4 miles in Bay County. The entire trail is accessible.

Iron Belle Trail - The Iron Belle Trail is a set of two trails that traverse the entire State of Michigan from Belle Isle in Detroit to Ironwood in the Upper Peninsula. The Eastern Trail, 827 miles, is a bike route that utilizes existing bike paths, bike lanes, and designed bike routes. The Western Trail, 1,203 miles, is the hiking route that uses the North County National Scenic Trail. The Eastern Trail traverses through the City of Saginaw. The route starts at the south end of the City by Wickes Park and travels north along the River through Ojibway Island and Potthoff Park until it connects with the River Walk Loop. The planned route north of downtown is to cross the Johnson Street bridge and continue north through the City until it intersects with the trail in Carrollton Township. North of Carrollton Township the trail intersects with the County-owned portion (BayZil) and continues north to Bay City.

Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge - Access to the main trailhead is located on the south side of the interpretative building. The main trail intersects with four other trails, totaling seven trails within the refuge. The trail winds through wooded wetlands, open fields, a pond, and good wildlife habitat. Off the Duck Trail and Beaver Trail, there is a beach along the Tittabawassee River where trail users can sit and experience the wildlife.





Water Trails

Just as the trend and desire for non-motorized trails are increasing, so is the interest in water trails. Currently, water trails do not hold the popularity of non-motorized trails, nor do they have the same awareness. However their popularity is increasing, and water recreation enthusiasts support the development of these trails wholeheartedly. According to Michigan Water Trails, a water trail is a marked route on a navigable waterway or coastline used for recreational use. They could include streams, rivers, lakes, or canals. The trails allow access to waterways for non-motorized boats such as kayaks, canoes, single sailboats, or rowboats. Water trails feature well-developed launch points, and access to campgrounds, rest stops, restrooms, and connections to historical, environmental, or cultural points of interest. They are often near connections to municipalities for places to eat, shop, and sleep.

The National Forest Service has a designated national water trails program. The State of Michigan has a program as well. To be a designated water trail included in the Michigan Water Trails, a trail must:

- Be open to non-motorized craft
- Include access sites open to the public
- Have developed and up to date trail data that is publicly available
- Be actively supported, managed, and maintained by at least one organization or community that serves as the source of information

The DNR has also developed Water Trail Standards and Designations so paddlers across Michigan have a consistent tool when planning a trip along a water trail.

Saginaw County Rivers - The rivers of Saginaw County are an important natural resource in the community. They include the Flint, Shiawassee, Bad, Cass, Tittabawassee, and Saginaw Rivers, along with Swan Creek and Misteguay Creek. They provide important wildlife habitat, as well as recreational fishing and boating opportunities. In the past 30 years, state and local officials have focused on reducing and remediating contamination in these rivers, especially the Tittabawassee and Saginaw Rivers. Both of these have suffered from industrial facility contamination, particularly dioxin from Dow Chemical. At Saginaw County's Imerman Park, Dow has regularly sent crews to clean up after the Tittabawassee River floods portions of the park.

Cass River Water Trail - Starting in Wickes Park in the City of Saginaw, the trail traverses southeast through Bridgeport Charter Township, Frankenmuth Township, City of Vassar and ends in the Vassar State Game Area. There are fourteen launch sites along the river, many of which have parking. The trail is 37.5 miles long. Paddlers can expect diverse paddling experiences with a variety of scenic views. For more information visit www. cassriverwatertrail.org.

Flint River Water Trail - The Flint River Water Trail was established by the Flint River Watershed Coalition in the early 2000s. It is a 73-mile trail that runs from the north and south branches of the Flint River in Lapeer County, traverses across Genesee County, and ends at the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge in Saginaw County. There are 24 canoe/kayak access sites identified on the trail.

Shiawassee Heritage River Trail - The Shiawassee River Trail, recently named a national water trail, offers users a wide range of ecosystems and scenery along the journey. There are numerous access points along the river, the last being just south of Chesaning before the trail flows into Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge. There are two access points within Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge. In total, the trail is 125 miles traversing through Oakland, Genesee, Shiawassee, and Saginaw Counties.

Water trail maps can be found in Appendix C.



NATURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY

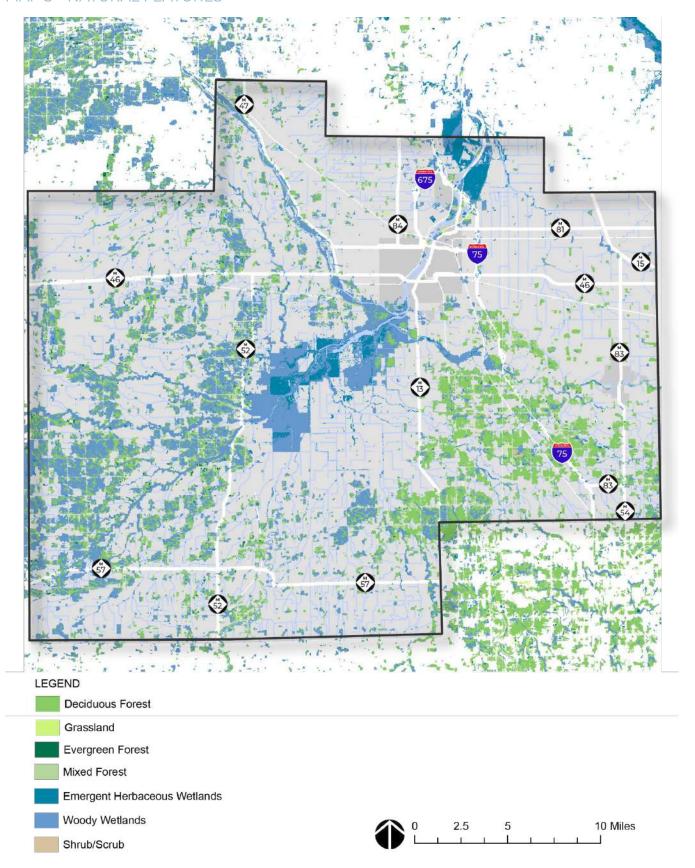
A natural features inventory is useful to recreation planning because it highlights existing resources showing where gaps may be located. Furthermore, the natural features map, located on the following page, can be used as a guide for any future park acquisitions or park and trail development. Natural features include things such as wetlands, water bodies, and wooded land.

Saginaw County is primarily comprised of Deciduous Forest and Woody Wetlands. A large portion of the Deciduous Forest are concentrated in the southeastern portion of the County with smaller pockets spread throughout the remainder of the County. There is a large area of Woody Wetlands centralized in the middle of the County, also known as Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge. Emergent Herbaceous Wetlands are largely concentrated around the Shiawassee River and in the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge. The reminders of the natural features include Grasslands, Evergreen Forests, Mixed Forests, and Shrub/Scrub which are all spread throughout the County in small pockets.

The County has four large rivers that flow throughout it, the Saginaw River, Shiawassee River, Tittabawassee River, and the Cass River. The Saginaw River is located in the middle of the County and runs through the middle of the City of Saginaw. At the southern boundary of the City the Saginaw River then breaks off into the Tittabawassee River to northwest, Shiawassee River to the south and Cass River to southeast.

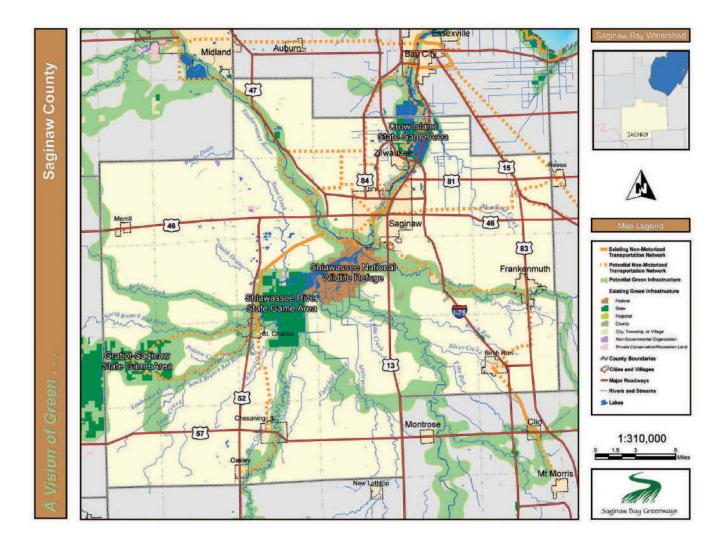


MAP 5 – NATURAL FEATURES



Many of these areas correspond to the green infrastructure areas highlighted in the A Vision of Green Plan that was completed in 2005 by the Saginaw Bay Greenways. The plan highlights the importance of green infrastructure in the Saginaw, Midland, and Bay County regions. Each County has its own section in the plan, the map depicting the green infrastructure in Saginaw County is below. The entire plan is provided in Appendix D.

MAP 6 – SAGINAW COUNTY GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE





COMMUNITY INPUT

OVERVIEW

Saginaw County believes in solid community input as the basis for decisions and capital improvement projects in the County. Public input helps community leaders determine the needs of residents and then provides the framework and basis for parks and recreation goals and objectives. To comply with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Guidelines for Development of Community Parks and Recreation Plans, the County offered two public input opportunities. These included an online community input survey and a 30-day public review period for comments on the draft plan.

The Plan was available for public comment during the required 30-day public review period held between October 2023 to November 2023 and concluding with a public hearing on November 21, 2023, and adoption by the Board on November 21, 2023.

COMMUNITY INPUT SURVEY

In the summer of 2023, an online survey was available to residents. The survey was used to gather input regarding parks and recreation in Saginaw County for County officials and staff. The online survey included five demographics questions about survey respondents. There were 22 questions regarding Saginaw County public park usage, appearance, facilities, ADA-accessible equipment, and respondent demographics. The remainder of the survey was 42 questions, with each participating community asking a few of their own questions. Each respondent was able to select which community they wanted to provide input on. The community-wide survey received 1,361 responses. The survey was assigned to the web domain www.saginawcountyparksurvey.com, and was available on the County website, the websites of each participating community, Facebook, and flyers placed around the County.

Key points of the survey are summarized on the following pages, and the remaining tables developed for the report can be found in Appendix E.

About the Respondents

- Of the 1,361 respondents, there were participants from almost every community in Saginaw County, 17.3% were Saginaw Township residents, 14.5% were Bridgeport Charter Township residents, 11.7% were Carrollton Township residents, 9.8% were City of Saginaw residents, and 5.9% were Taymouth Township residents. See Appendix E for the remaining communities. Each participating community had some level of response from the survey.
- Every age cohort participated in the survey. The responses below are listed from highest to lowest percentage.

o Age 30-39: 22%

o Age 40-49: 20%

o Age 60-69: 19%

o Age 50-59: 17%

o Age 70-79: 12%

o Age 18-29: 9%

o Age 80+: 1%

o Under 18: 0.5%

• The survey asked respondents when they visit the parks who they visit with. The top response was spouse/partner. The responses are listed below.

o Spouse: 57.5%

o Myself: 45.1%

o Children: 44.8%

o Friends: 33%

o Pets: 27.1%

o Grandchildren: 26.5%

Respondents were asked how they feel about the Saginaw County facilities and local parks within their community. Generally, respondents are satisfied/somewhat satisfied with County parks and local parks.



Survey Highlights

Understanding which parks users are visiting helps officials determine which parks may need more maintenance or additional facilities, in terms of wear and tear and usage. In comparison, understanding the parks which are not being visited helps officials determine if there is a lack of amenities or if the parks are unpopular for other reasons. The survey indicated that more respondents visit the Saginaw County Parks a couple of times a year or have never visited them. The Saginaw Valley Rail Trail is the most visited park.

Understanding the needs of your residents is crucial to providing the right recreational amenities. The survey asks what amenities would make the County parks and facilities more user-friendly. Respondents said:

Paved/hard surfaced trails: 29.4%

Accessible restrooms: 26.6%

Accessible waterfront access: 24%

• Flatter, easier grades: 22.4%

Accessible parking: 18.8%

Accessible playgrounds: 13.8%

Accessible programming: 6.3%

"Rentable adaptive equipment, larger/clearer signage, interactive park maps with a large amount of pictures (highlighting points of interest, facilities, signage, resources on site"

The goal of the County is to improve the quality of life for residents, a way to do that is to make sure that the recreation facilities are in good shape and that residents feel safe in them. The survey is used to help the County gauge how they are doing. In the survey, respondents were asked how to evaluate the following areas of the parks.

Quality/friendliness of staff:

o Very good/good: 59.1%

o Neutral: 14.5%

Quality of programs

Very good/good: 50.9%

o Neutral: 20.3%

Variety programs:

o Very good/good: 43.2%

o Neutral: 23.8%

o Poor/very poor: 3%

o Don't know: 23.6%

o Poor/very poor: 3.2%

o Don't know: 25.6%

o Poor/very poor: 5.8%

o Don't know: 24.1%

WHAT DO YOU LIKE BEST ABOUT SAGINAW COUNTY PARKS

"That we have parks in genera and that there seems to be ar actual effort put forth to improve the parks and the programs."

"The number and variety of different uses of the parks. ie. Dog park, walking trails, paved biking trails, swimming."

"Well-maintained, I can go for a walk at any of your parks and feel confident that trees will be removed promptly after storms. So happy you do such a good job. The good maintenance you do gives a good impression of

"Ringwood Forest is a precious nugget to visit. Most of my access to places in Saginaw County are done by bicycle."

"Well maintained and in diverse locations. They offer many environments"

"I enjoy the opportunity to experience the outdoors, nature, especially in this part of the state! The Saginaw valley, rivers, streams, habitat, land formation, resources, National Wildlife Refuge, (mosquitos) give this geographic location a special significance! What you folks have done to promote the area through Parks and Recreation is outstanding!

Keep up the GOOD WORK!!!"

The County offers a mobile recreation vehicle that visits and delivers recreation programming to the communities in the County. With 35 different communities, this survey question helps the County determine which park residents would like to visit. The most common parks and areas are:

- City of Saginaw Parks
- Ringwood Forest, Saginaw County
- William H. Haithco Recreation Area, Saginaw County
- Coal Miners Park, Village of St. Charles
- Birch Run Township Parks
- Imerman Park, Saginaw County
- Bridgeport Charter Township Parks
- Showboat Park, Village of Chesaning
- Price Nature Center, Saginaw County

The County offers a variety of recreational opportunities to residents, however, one of the main goals of the survey is to determine what additional activities and programs residents would like to see offered.

OTHER WRITE IN RESPONSES

Disc Golf Groups
Senior Activities
Kids Summer Camps
Biking Group
Kayaking Groups

The top responses are listed below.

- Nature/Outdoor classes
- Adult programs
- Children's programs
- Movies in the park
- Fitness classes Saginaw County Parks

The Saginaw County portion of the survey asked respondents about each Saginaw County owned facility. The survey asked two questions about each park, the first was to please evaluate the following aspects of the park in terms of variety of facilities/amenities, maintenance/appearance, handicap accessibility, and safety/security. The second question asked respondents to select which amenities they would like to see added or improved at the park. The text below will summarize the results for each park.

Imerman Memorial Park: In all categories respondents were asked to evaluate the aspects of the park, respondents' top response in each category was good. The top amenities they would like to see improved or added are paths/trails, restrooms renovations, canoe/kayak rental, drinking fountain, updated play equipment.

Haithco Park: When asked to evaluate the aspects of the park, the top responses were mixed between good and don't know. Variety of facilities/amenities, maintenance/appearance, and safety/security are good, whereas, handicap accessible was mostly unknown. In terms of additional amenities or improvements, respondents would like a walking trail around the lake, improved beach/swim area, pavilion or amenities, updating fishing docks, and tennis/pickleball courts.

Price Nature Center: Respondents were asked to evaluate all the categories provided. The top response in all categories was unknown. However, the respondents who were familiar with the park selected good or neutral in all categories. Respondents would like to see more restrooms or renovate the existing ones and add more trails and update the existing one.

Ringwood Forest: Respondents were asked to evaluate the following park based on the four categories listed above, in all categories the top response was don't know. Of the respondents who were familiar with Ringwood, respondents said selected good or neutral. Respondents would like to see mountain bike courses/features, updates to the existing trails, more trails, and interpretative signage.

Saginaw Valley Rail Trail: In all categories, good was the top response. Respondents were provided three options for trail; the top response was that they would like to see an extension northwards beyond W. Michigan and Center Roads in Saginaw Township.

WHAT IS ONE THING YOU WOULD DO TO IMPROVE SAGINAW COUNTY PARKS

" I would love to see more hands on educational opportunities within parks and on the trails."

"Increased advertising for programs held at the parks and amenities offered in the parks.

As someone who spends a large portion of my free time exploring local natural areas, I've learned more about the Saginaw county parks in this survey than anything else."

"Increased accessibility on trails. Our daughter loves to hike with us but uses a cane for distances and needs to rest often. Trails that are more evenly graded and have rest spots are great so people with disabilities can enjoy our parks, too."

"Trails, trails, trails. We want more trails."

"I feel like many parks feel run down and dark which impacts my sense of safety with my children"

"Have more group hikes so people can feel safe."

"More fishing opportunities Interactive educational displays." Veterans Park: In all categories, respondents were asked to evaluate, neutral was the top response. The top three amenities that respondents would like to see added or improved in the park are shoreline clean-up, shoreline fishing access, and improved boat launch.

Saginaw River Headwaters Rec

Area: Saginaw River
Headwaters Rec Area is the
County's newest park, to
understand how to develop
the park to meet resident's
needs the survey asked what
amenities they would like to
see. The top three responses
were: observation overlooks,
trail connection, and habitat
restoration.

Recreation Funding

The voter's tax levy is an important part of the recreation in Saginaw County,

VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK SAGINAW COUNTY PARKS

as they primarily support the parks. The levy allows all county residents free entry into the parks. 90% of the respondents would like to continue to support this.



GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

INTRODUCTION

Developing effective and achievable goals and objectives is an important part of the park and recreation planning process. Overall, the Parks and Recreation Commission, Parks Department, and Saginaw County Board of Commissioners aim to provide high-quality recreation opportunities for the Saginaw County community and region they serve. More specific goals and objectives are based on the demographic characteristics of the population served, the



physical and environmental characteristics of the area, and the input of the community.

Goals are the broadest level of planning. They are over-reaching and general. However, objectives carry out the purpose of the goal. An action plan is the most specific planning level, as it identifies specific projects and programs to be pursued over the next five years. The action plan can include organizational, staffing, programming, public information, and operation and maintenance actions. The Saginaw County Parks & Recreation Commission formulated goals and objectives in 2018 based upon the characteristics of the overall community, community feedback, and staff and parks commission opinions and input, the 2018 goals were an update from the 2013 plan The following Plan reflects updated goals based on previous accomplishments and recreational changes that have occurred in the past five years.

The following chapter outlines Saginaw County's recreational goals. The remainder of the local municipalities' goals can be found in their section starting in Chapter 8. Each will follow the same format as discussed, goals and objectives followed by an action plan that outlines projects to be completed over the next five years.

SAGINAW GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goal 1: Promote multi-use path connectivity throughout the three-county region.

Objectives:

- 1. Participate in the ongoing regional project and continue to work with surrounding counties and the steering committee.
- 2. Determine the feasibility of expanding the Saginaw Valley Rail Trail south of the Village of St. Charles to Chesaning.
- 3. Determine the feasibility of expanding the Saginaw Valley Rail Trail north to the Saginaw Township Trail.
- 4. Determine the feasibility of expanding the Saginaw Valley Rail Trail east toward the Saginaw Riverwalk.
- 5. Evaluate opportunities for additional paths and trails in the County and parks.
- 6. Continue to repair the trail and add trail amenities where needed.
- 7. Explore working with County communities for additional trail connections.

Goal 2: Promote and provide high-quality recreational opportunities that improve the quality of life for County residents.

Objectives:

- Continue to add amenities to Saginaw County park facilities based upon community input and need.
- Provide passive and active programming for a variety of ages and abilities of the population throughout Saginaw County.
- Continue to expand mobile recreation programming across Saginaw County.
- 4. Explore park improvements that ensure residents feel safe and secure in the parks.
- 5. Continue to update and maintain the parks and their facilities.



Goal 3: Develop recreation opportunities that focus on and utilize Saginaw County's water resources such as the Tittabawassee River, Shiawassee River, Saginaw River, Bad River, Cass River, and Haithco Lake.

Objectives:

- 1. Enhance existing and develop new public fishing opportunities in Saginaw County.
- 2. Develop opportunities, alone or in partnership with others, to educate citizens
 - about the natural resources in Saginaw County.
- Promote water safety education to ensure safe usage for all populations, including access to affordable canoe/kayak rentals.
- Add accessible boat/kayak launches.



Goal 4: Identify and encourage accessibility improvements at County parks by incorporating Universal Design in all new updates and when upgrading existing amenities, as appropriate.

Objectives:

- 1. Identify and prioritize needed accessibility improvements to all Saginaw County Parks.
- 2. Ensure all new improvements are developed to be universally accessible, whenever possible.
- 3. Continue to provide outdoor recreation experiences for people of all ages and abilities.
- 4. Address ADA deficiencies identified in Saginaw County Parks ADA Transition Plan Update of 2020.

Goal 5: Continue to determine the recreational needs and wants of all Saginaw County citizens, including those living in urban areas.

Objectives:

- 1. Collaborate with other communities to develop a mutual understanding of recreation needs for identified population groups.
- 2. Continue to focus on providing mobile recreation programming in the City of Saginaw and across the County.
- 3. Continue to work with existing recreation partners in the community to provide support to programs and special events. Explore options for new and expanded
 - partnerships to provide additional recreational opportunities.
- 4. Continue to seek partnerships with other recreation providers, agencies, and neighboring communities to share ideas and provide complementary programs and facilities.



Goal 6: Retain public land for future generations.

Objectives:

- 1. Retain existing parkland and acquire new public lands to meet the recreational needs of the community.
- 2. Preserve and protect open space and significant natural features in Saginaw County.
- 3. Identify open space for potential future parkland.
- 4. If possible, acquire spaces that are high in natural resources value.



ACTION PLAN

INTRODUCTION

With goals and objectives in place, Saginaw County has developed a five-year Action Plan that will enable the County to move towards accomplishing specific projects. The Action Plan is used to highlight specific projects that will maintain and improve the quality and diversity of parks and recreation opportunities.

Each action item relates to a goal/objective from the previous section. Each item has been assigned to a priority level of 1, 2, and 3. The potential capital improvements listed in Table 7 have been established to provide a framework for decision makers and enable the County to apply for grant funding for those proposed projects.

The project list is not a fixed element, nor is it exhaustive. It reflects the results of the input received from the Township staff and the online survey. Future circumstances, especially the availability of funding, may influence the order in which the projects are completed.

TABLE 7 - SAGINAW COUNTY ACTION LIST

Facility/Project	Relates to Goal	Priority
Non-Motorized Trail		
Determine feasibility, cost estimates, and a funding plan to extend the Saginaw Valley Rail Trail to Chesaning.	1, 2, 5, 6	1
Develop the southern trailhead on the BayZil Trail.	1, 2, 5, 6	1
Add new picnic and pavilion areas, including drinking fountains, at select locations along the rail trail.	1, 2, 4	3
Imerman Memorial Park		
Address ADA deficiencies and additional infrastructure improvements, including a canoe/kayak launch, boat launch renovation, paved pathways, and a new or renovated restroom facility at Imerman Memorial Park	3, 6	1
William H. Haithco Recreation Area		
Begin work on Phase IV of the William H. Haithco Recreation Area, which includes a waterfront boardwalk/pathway, replacement of playground equipment, construction of a large pavilion, and additional aquatic features.	2, 3, 4	2
Install an accessible canoe/kayak launch	3, 4	1
Price Nature Center		
Address ADA deficiencies in the restrooms through renovation or a family restroom installation. Add an ADA-paved pathway from the parking lot to the park pavilion.	4	1

Facility/Project	Relates to Goal	Priority
Ringwood Forest		
Add an accessible family restroom unit	4	2
Explore the feasibility and design of single-track mountain bike trails/elements.	2, 5	3
Veteran Memorial Park		
Explore accessibility improvements, including paved pathways, fishing platforms, and picnic tables.	3	3
Saginaw River Headwaters Recreation Area		
Continue extensive habitat restoration, including invasive species removal and planting of native species and pollinators.	2, 5, 6	1
Install a fishing platform on the Saginaw River.	3	1
Additional Projects		
Acquire additional land to expand existing parks.	6	2
Continue regular evaluations of amenities at all parks.	2	1
Investigate the feasibility and design of a disc golf course in County owned or operated facilities.	2,5	2
Cont. Additional Projects		
Continue to replace/renovate playground equipment with a UD focus.	2, 4, 5	2
Continue to support parkland and facilities in the City of Saginaw	2, 5	1
Continue to support community events promoting health, wellness, and recreation	2, 5	1





BRIDGEPORT CHARTER TOWNSHIP



INTRODUCTION

Bridgeport Charter Township is located in the central eastern part of Saginaw County along the Cass River. The Township encompasses thirty-four and seven-tenths (34.7) square miles with the major access from I-75, running north-south, and the Dixie Highway, which crosses I-75. Bridgeport is a short driving distance from a number of metropolitan areas including Saginaw, Bay City, Midland, and Flint. It is bordered on the west by Spaulding Township. Bridgeport and Spaulding Townships have a combined school district. Other bordering communities include the City of Saginaw to the northwest, Buena Vista Township to the north, Frankenmuth (Township and City) to the east, and the Village of Birch Run and Taymouth Township to the south. The map below shows the location of Bridgeport Charter Township within Saginaw County.

The Cass River is a prominent waterway in Bridgeport Township. At the center of downtown, the river takes a sharp bend, giving the area its original name, "The Bend in the Cass", or "Cass Bend." It has also been known as "Cass Bridge." Both the river and the original village were named after General Lewis Cass, the territorial governor of Michigan in the early 1800's. The town was finally named "Bridgeport," for the numerous bridges in the area.

MAP 7 - LOCATION MAP



COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

TABLE 8 - BRIDGEPORT CHARTER TOWNSHIP DEMOGRAPHICS

	Bridgeport Charter Township	Saginaw County	Michigan
Population			
2010 Population	10,514	200,169	9,883,640
2020 Population	10,104	190,124	10,077,331
Percent of the Population 65 and Older	22%	19.7%	18.1%
Percent of the Population Under 18	26.2%	24.7%	24.4%
Percent of Population with a Disability	24.2%	16.9%	14.2%
Median Age	40.4	40.9	40.2
Education			
Percent with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher	16.4%	22.5%	30%
Income			
Median Household Income	\$44,199	\$50,606	\$59,234
Per Capita Income	\$26,594	\$28,092	\$ 34,768
Housing			
Average Household Size	2.36	2.31	2.54
Median Housing Values	\$85,400	\$128,600	\$162,600
Renter-Occupied Housing as percentage of Total Occupied Units	26.1%	28.3%	26.8%

Bridgeport Charter Township has one of the largest populations in Saginaw County. In comparison to the County and State, the Township has a larger percentage of residents who are under the age of 18, as well as a larger percentage of residents who are over the age of 65. The Township's median age is 40.4.

Housing data can be important to Township officials as it is one indicator of the type of recreation amenities their residents might need. For instance, 26.1% of the population are renters in the Township. Renters may not have as much open space available to them as a homeowner may have. The average household size in the Township is 2.36.

As mentioned in Chapter 2, reviewing the population and age groups, the percentage of the population with a disability, and renter percentage are key factors in determining what kind of recreational amenities your Township may need. Over 20 percent of the population is disabled, and providing amenities for that percentage is highly important.

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

INTRODUCTION

There are many important roles that play a part in the Township, the first and foremost are the citizens of Bridgeport Charter Township who are the voices of the Township. The Township Board is the highest governing body in the Township. Other important serving bodies include the Downtown Development Authority, the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Zoning Board of Appeals, the Planning Commission, the Roads and Drains Board, the Building and Grounds Board, the Personnel Board, and the Construction Board of Appeals.

The Township Board is a seven-member body, elected by the citizens of the Township. The Board not only is the decision maker for all Township projects, including recreation projects, but they also establish the recreation budget.

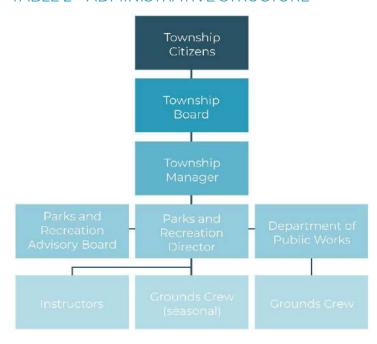
The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was formed in 2013, a combination of the Bridgeport Parks Commission and the Bridgeport Recreation Commission. The Board is made up of five residents who are appointed by the Township Supervisor. The responsibilities of the Board include planning, acquiring, developing, and administering recreation programs and facilities in the Township. The Board meets monthly to discuss and plan projects.

The Township's Parks and Recreation Department is led by the Director. The Director is responsible for running the department on a day-to-day basis, carrying out policies established by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, hiring and overseeing all

programming and maintenance staff, and working closely with the Department of Public Works (DPW) to share equipment and personnel. Within the department is a part-time Parks and Recreation Assistant who is responsible for marketing and running programs. The seasonal positions in the Township help with maintaining the parks and programming.

The DPW is responsible for the maintenance of the parks. There are also seasonal staff who assist the full-time DPW staff in park operations and maintenance. The staff consists of three full-time staff and two seasonal summer staff.

TABLE 2 - ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE



FUNDING AND BUDGETS

In Bridgeport Charter Township, the Parks and Recreation Department is primarily funded by the general fund. In addition to the general fund, the Township receives sponsorships, donations, and grants for special projects or events. Pavilion rental fees also contribute to the park's funding and projects.

TABLE 9 - BRIDGEPORT PARKS AND RECREATION BUDGET

	2023	2024
Operation and Maintenance	\$100,000	\$100,000
Programming	\$8,000	\$8,000
Capital Improvements	-	-
Total	\$108,000	\$108,000

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES Programming

Township Programming: The Township offers youth leagues to its residents. These leagues consist of the following:

- Youth Basketball (45-75 participants it should be noted that numbers were higher prior to COVID)
- Youth Baseball (25-30 participants it should be noted that numbers were higher prior to COVID)

In the future, the Township may reintroduce more of the programs they had in the previous years. Since COVID-19, the programs in the Township have struggled and the Township



has lost its part-time programming staff. The Township would like to get back to the level of programming and the number of participants they had prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Great Lakes Bay Miracle League: The league is a non-profit organization that provides children with mental or physical disabilities an opportunity to play baseball as a team member in an organized league. The GLBML accepts participants from beyond the Great Lakes Bay Region (Saginaw, Bay, and Midland Counties) as well. Since its inception in 2010-11, and the opening of the Andersen Recreational Complex in Bridgeport, the league has had up to eight teams in the spring league, from early May through late June, and the fall league, from early September through late October, each year. The GLBML has also sponsored a Football Camp and Bowling events for youth with disabilities.

Events

The Great Lakes Rendezvous takes place every year in Davis Community Park on the 3_{rd} weekend in August. This is an 1800s encampment and has 50-75 participants and is run by the Great Lakes Educational Society.

ADDITIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

Volunteers / Collaborations

The Township is fortunate to have many strong relationships, including volunteers, the Bridgeport Historical Society, and the School District.

Volunteers: In the Township, the volunteers' role is to help coach the youth leagues, help with special projects or events, and help in the Parks and Recreation Department. The department usually has 10-20 volunteers each year.

School District: The school district and the Township have an ongoing relationship, which takes place in a variety of capacities. One example is that the Township uses the school facilities to host the youth basketball program.

Bridgeport Historical Society: The Historical Society was formed in 1969, and since then the group has completed many projects in the Township. The Township also works with the Historical Society on various occasions and would like to strengthen this relationship. The society hosts summer concerts, a flea market in the summer, Halloween Merchant Days, and Pioneer Days.

Cass River Greenway and Water Trail Coalition: The CRG is a group of local volunteers and municipal leaders, whose goal is to enhance the recreational opportunities and environmental nature of the Cass River. The Township has worked with the CRG to build an accessible canoe/kayak launch along the River.

A future relationship that the Township is looking to establish is a partnership with the local library.

GRANT HISTORY

TABLE 10 – BRIDGEPORT CHARTER TOWNSHIP GRANT HISTORY

Project Title	Project Number	Project Year	Grant Amount	Project Status	Description
Bridgeport Community Park	26- 00640	1975	\$23,177.53	Grant Closed	Channel dredging and cleaning, entrance road, parking, comfort station, and LWCF sign
White Park	26-01023 A3	1977	\$7,828.62	Grant Closed	White Park: shuffleboard, bleachers, drinking fountain, water service, parking lot posts, and LWCF sign.
Bridgeport Twp. Park Bridge	26-01060 H1	1983	\$3,695.83	Grant Closed	Develop: 2 picnic shelters, electric service, and lights for one shelter, picnic equipment, and softball backstop, fitness trail station and LWCF sign
Bridgeport Community Park	26-01495	1990	\$45,737.05	Grant Closed	Develop park with following facilities: fishing dock, boat launch, tennis courts, ice rink, sled hill, fitness trail, shuffleboard, playgrounds, and picnic areas.
Liberty Park Improvements	TF09- 092	2009	\$500,000.00	Grant Closed	Development to include a multi-purpose sports field, accessible parking lots, and accessible pathways to link park facilities.

Project Title	Project Number	Project Year	Grant Amount	Project Status	Description
Cass River Water Trail - Davis Park	TF14-0217	2014	\$121,100.00	Grant Closed	The proposed project will develop a universally accessible canoe/kayak launch access site on the Cass River Water Trail at Davis Park with parking, paths, a floating dock/launch and an interpretive sign. This site is 3-miles from the proposed Hoffman access site (TF14-0218) (a 3-mile paddle from this site). The CRWT currently has accessible launches in both Frankenmuth (a 9 mile paddle) and Tuscola Township (an 14 mile paddle).
Cass River Water Trail – Hoffman Site	TF15-0008	2015	\$50,000.00	Grant Closed	Development of a universally accessible canoe/kayak launch site on the Cass River Water Trail (CRWT). This project will include parking, paths, a floating accessible canoe/kayak launch and an interpretive sign. From this site it is a 3-mile paddle to Bridgeport Township's Davis Park, a 6-mile paddle to an accessible launch site in Frankenmuth and an 11-mile paddle to Tuscola Township's park.

Project Title	Project Number	Project Year	Grant Amount	Project Status	Description
Bridgeport Cass River Trailhead	TF15-0140	2015	\$275,800.00	Grant Closed	Development of trailhead facilities for Bridgeport's Cass River Pathway which is part of the Iron Belle Trail. The site is located on the Cass River in downtown Bridgeport. All improvements will be universally accessible and include renovating an existing building into restrooms, a new pavilion, a wildlife viewing and fishing platform, landscaping and other amenities.
Total			\$1,049,900.03		

RECREATION INVENTORY

Liberty Park

Location: 3650 Southfield, Bridgeport

Acres: 19

ADA accessibility: 4

Classification: Community Park

Liberty Park is primarily used for its baseball/softball fields, in the summer Miracle League hosts events at the Andersen Recreation Complex. Less than 20 acres in size, this park has a variety of recreational amenities including a playground, walking path, basketball courts, picnic area, a sledding hill, a pavilion, Bicentennial Hall with restrooms and a concession stand, and parking for its visitors. On site is the Andersen Recreational Complex, inside the facility are multi-sport rubber fields, 1 baseball and 2 basketball courts, restrooms, spectator bleachers, storage facilities, and a pavilion area with picnic tables.

Little Gardens Park

Location: 1900 Iowa Ave, Saginaw

Acres: 1

ADA accessibility: 1

Classification: Neighborhood Park

At only 1 acre in size, the park has a few recreational facilities, intended to serve the surrounding neighborhood. Located within Little Gardens Park is a playground, pavilion, and parking.

Davis Community Park

Location: Mill St and, McKinley Rd, Bridgeport

Acres: 35

ADA accessibility: 3

Classification: Community Park

Davis Community Park is mostly a passive park. Within the park boundary are two playgrounds, walking paths, volleyball courts, a picnic area, fishing, kayak launch, restrooms, and parking. The park also has two pavilions that are available for rent.



Lyle Park

Location: 4442-5128 Cass River Park Trail,

Acres: Apart of Davis Park

ADA accessibility: 4

Classification: Community Park

Lyle Park is a part of Davis Park, within the park is the bridge over the Cass River. Along the bridge is fishing access and the non-motorized trail path. One can find picnic tables and benches at the park as well.

Village Park

Location: 2391 Iowa Ave, Saginaw

Acres: 0.5

ADA accessibility: 1

Classification: Mini Park

Village Park is a small park located downtown; the park currently does not have any recreational amenities.

Hoffmann Community Park

Location: 7072 Dixie Hwy, Bridgeport

Acres: 21.56

ADA accessibility: 5

Classification: Community Park

Hoffmann Park is the Township's second largest park. Today the park is mostly open space with a kayak launch, a small walking path, and a few parking spaces.

Cass River Trailhead Park

Location: 4422 Williamson Bridgeport

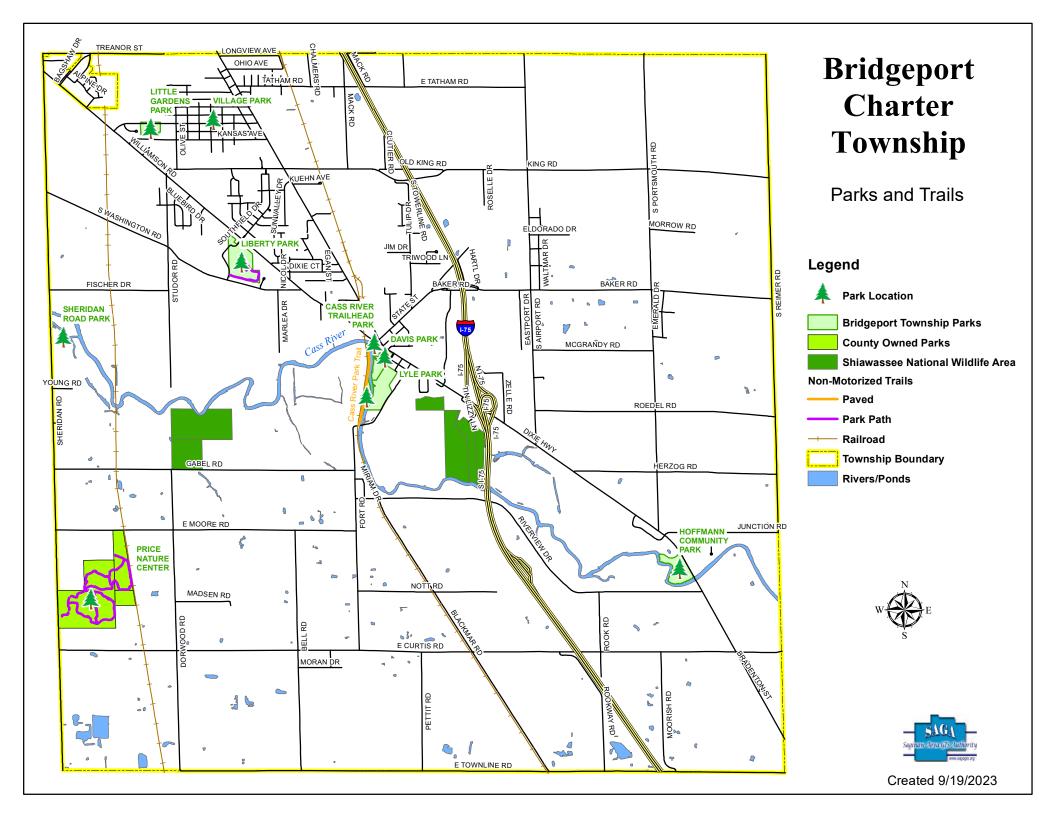
Acres: 0.35

ADA accessibility: 5

Classification: Community Park

Roffmann Community Park

The Cass River Trailhead has a small park by the trail entrance. The park includes an overlook area, a bridge over the river, restrooms, benches, and a pavilion with picnic tables.



Comparison to Standards

The following classification system is adapted from the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) guide. It categorizes different types of parks based on size, service area, facilities, and user groups. There are three classification types in the Bridgeport Charter Township: mini parks, neighborhood parks, and community parks.

Mini Park

A mini park also known as a pocket park is a small outdoor space usually ¼ to 1 acre in size. They serve a concentrated or limited population area or serve a specific function or age group. Mini parks could have amenities that draw people from a greater area but typically serve an area within ¼ mile radius.

Neighborhood Park

Parks in this classification are the most basic park unit of a system and serve as the recreation and social focus of a neighborhood. Neighborhood parks are easily accessible to neighborhood populations and geographically centered within safe walking distance and bike access. Typically, neighborhood parks are five to ten acres in size and can service a population of approximately 5,000 residents. The parks have a service location of $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ mile distance. National standards recommend one acre of neighborhood parks per 1,000 residents. The national standard for the Township is 10.10 acres.

Community Park

Community parks are intended to provide recreational services for several neighborhoods and usually serve a broad range of uses. The typical park size is 30 acres or more. The Township has five parks that are classified as community parks. Of the five, not all are 30 acres, however, they are included in this category because of the broad population base they serve and the facilities/intended use of the parks. The national classification system recommends five acres per 1,000 residents. The national standard for the Township is 50.52 acres.

TABLE 11- COMPARISON TO STANDARDS

	Standard	Park Acreage	Standard Amount	Deficiency / Excess		
Mini Parks	-	0.5	-	+0.5		
Neighborhood Parks	1 acres/1,000 residents	1	10.10	-9.1		
Community Parks	5 acres/1,000 residents	75.91	50.52	+25.39		
Total		77.11	60.62	+16.79		
Table is based on the 2020 Census population						

TABLE 12 – PARKS AND RECREATION INVENTORY

	Liberty Park	Little Garden Park	Davis Community Park	Lyle Park	Village Park	Hoffmann Community Park	Cass River Trailhead Park
	-5 		ŏ		<u>;</u> ——	ŏ	C Tra
Acres							0.35
Accessibility							5
Park type							СР
Facilities							
Baseball Fields	5						
Basketball	X						
Benches				X			Χ
Bike Repair							
Station							
Concessions	X						
Fishing			X				
Grills							
Kayak Launch			X			X	
Multi Sports Fields	3						
Open Space					X		
Pathway	X		X	X		Х	X
Pavilion	2	X	2				Χ
Picnic Area	X		Χ	X			Χ
Playground	X	X	2				
Parking	X	X	X			X	
Restroom	X		Х				
Facilities							
Storage Facility	X						
Sledding Hill	X						
Volleyball Courts			2				

COMMUNITY INPUT

The Bridgeport Charter Township portion of the survey asked respondents eleven questions. These questions covered topics such as park conditions, current/future programming, economic benefits, and recreational improvements.

Park Conditions

For Bridgeport Township to understand how park users view the current park conditions, the survey asked respondents how they would rate the physical conditions of the facilities. Generally, respondents said that they were good.

■ Excellent: 4%

• Good: 57%

• Fair: 31%

Poor: 8%

Making sure that the park users enjoy the facilities is key to keeping them coming back. The survey asked respondents what improvements they would like to see in the parks. The top five responses are below:

Walking/Biking Path: 66.9%

Park Restroom Facilities: 66.9%

Playgrounds: 55.8%

Pavilion/Picnic Area: 46.1%Boat/Canoe Launch: 31.2%

Not only is it important to have a variety of well-maintained recreational amenities, it is also important to make sure there are amenities for individuals of all ability levels. Of the Township residents, 25% have a disability. The survey asked respondents what could be done to make parks more user-friendly. Respondents said accessible restrooms, paved trails, accessible parking, easier grades, and accessible playgrounds are all important.

Programming

Programs are a large part of the Recreation Department in Bridgeport. The Township offers four different programs. However, since the COVID-19 pandemic, the participation numbers have been lower than what the Township has seen in the past. The survey asked a series of programming questions. The first question asked respondents what recreational programs they have participated in within the past year, respondents said basketball, baseball, and kayaking. Some of the respondents said they were unaware of programming.

Of the programs offered, the survey asked respondents how often they participate in the programs.

Frequently: 11%

Infrequent: 45%

Never: 44%

Lastly, the survey asked how respondents would rate the quality of the overall programs that they participate in.

■ Excellent: 4%

Good: 53%

Fair: 28%Poor: 15%

Marketing your facilities and programs is key to getting residents involved. The survey asked respondents how they learn about parks and recreation programs and activities in the Township. The top five responses are listed below.

Website: 46.5%

Friends/Neighbors: 31.2%
Other write in: 24.8%
Town Newsletter: 19.1%
Flyer/Brochure: 15.3%

Other - write in

- Facebook / social media
 - Email
- Meetings at church
- Work
- Township signs

The Township is interested in adding additional recreation programs or activities. To understand what the residents would be most interested in, the survey asked respondents what type of programs they would like. The top five answers are listed below.

Musical Concerts: 56%

Community Events: 56%

Nature Programs/Environmental Education: 54.7%

Movie Night in the Park: 52.2%

Adult Enrichment Programs: 50.3%

If the Township were to add an indoor sport facility, residents would like to see:

Walking/jogging track: 68.4%

Aerobic, fitness, dance classes/space: 52.6%

Space for meetings, parties, banquets: 49.3%

Arts and Craft rooms: 44.1%

Wright room/cardio activities: 41.4%

Economic Benefits

Parks are not only facilities that provide health and well-being benefits for residents, they can also provide economic value to a community. In the survey, the residents of Bridgeport Charter Township indicated that they believe parks also play a role in improving the economy of the Township. From that statement, the Township can infer that spending money on park improvements is supported by the survey respondents in two ways, they want more facilities at the existing parks because they like to use the parks and because they recognize that parks improve the community as a whole.

The survey asked respondents if they believe parks and open space provide economic benefits to the Township. The majority of the respondents (86%) said yes.

Providing facilities that improve the health of community members is important, but also making sure the facilities are well maintained and add additional benefits to the community is key. The survey asked respondents if they believe the well-maintained open spaces enhance the property values of the surrounding homes. Of the respondents, 96% believe that they do.



GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goal 1 - Provide safe, broad, community-based recreation opportunities that improve the overall quality of life for all residents of the Township.

- 1. Continue to add amenities to the park facilities in Bridgeport Charter Township based on community input.
- 2. Implement quality management principles at all levels by maintaining an adequate number of staff to accommodate the existing needs of park users and continue to evaluate future staff needs.
- 3. Encourage volunteers' assistance as needed to assist staff in the maintenance and operability of parks.
- 4. Develop facilities and recreation activities that will attract tourists and visitors to Bridgeport.
- 5. Use the master plan for future park improvements.
- 6. Maintain, assess, develop, and preserve the parklands and facilities in order to provide for the needs of present and future generations.
- 7. Improve general maintenance practices at all facilities with regard to equipment upgrades, staff/user safety, and accessibility.
- 8. Employ seasonal and part-time staff with competitive wages to compete with private businesses.
- 9. Enforce park rules and regulations to ensure safe and attractive park environments.
- 10. Assess and plan for the future of the Parks and Recreation facilities on a regular basis.
- 11. Prepare long-range plans based on projected user needs.

Goal 2 - Routinely assess the need for parklands acquisition and expansion.

Objectives:

- 1. Studying specific demographic trends that may correspond to the generation of recreation services within a geographical target area.
- 2. Maintain land holding levels consistent with recreation standards for population and facilities.
- 3. Develop feasibility studies for parklands that may be unique in recreation resources or experiences.
- 4. Acquire additional parkland when available to provide expanded recreation opportunities.
- 5. If possible, acquire spaces that are high in natural resources.

Goal 3 - Provide recreational opportunities for people with disabilities.

- 1. Ensure that improvements and upgrades to park facilities are handicap accessible, and are designed with Universal Access principles in mind, where feasible.
- 2. Build more paved connections from parking areas, pavilions, activity areas, and park attractions.
- 3. Incorporate barrier-free elements in future park improvements.
- 4. Develop programs for special needs populations.
- 5. Continue to team with and/or seek community input from organizations and individuals who are handicapped or have experience with handicapped people to appropriately design facilities and address the needs of special needs populations.
- 6. Conduct an evaluation of Township facilities and develop a report/priority list with improvement recommendations.

Goal 4 -Provide and expand programs and facilities with special consideration given to activities improving health and fitness.

Objectives:

- 1. Provide both passive and active programming for a variety of ages and abilities of the population.
- 2. Promote the development of new recreation programs with active sports facilities and passive / leisure opportunities that are in high demand, innovative, unique, or not presently provided.
- 3. Produce a programming review and restructure activities as necessary to provide residents with convenient, appropriate opportunities.
- 4. Identify other recreational resources and the potential for sharing programs with other community-affiliated facilities.
- 5. Monitor the service and participation levels for future planning efforts.
- 6. Continue to sponsor special events.

Goal 5 - Promote and enhance the financial stability of Bridgeport Parks and Recreation by generating funding.

- 1. Seek out funding to fulfill determined needs in order to complete plans and construct facilities.
- 2. Strive to maintain current general fund appropriations from the Township.
- 3. Bridgeport Parks and Recreation will continue to seek sustained and enhanced funding, and continued use of facilities, as necessary to adequately serve the residents of Bridgeport.
- 4. Continue to seek grants and other matching sources of revenue.
- 5. Continue to charge user fees for programs and monitor and evaluate programs to ensure appropriate user fees are being charged.
- 6. Pursue other sources of funding for parks and recreation within the Township, such as:
 - a. Park Millage
 - b. Bonds, Loans Bonds and loans may be pursued for initial startup capital to create revenue-generating facilities.
 - c. Gifts & Endowments

Goal 6 –Foster the current parks and recreation partnerships and relationships and provide the opportunity to build upon them.

Objectives:

- Promote interaction, involvement, and communication between the Parks and Recreation Department, Township board members and staff, the Bridgeport- Spaulding School District, and the citizens of the community.
- 2. Maintain and develop partnerships/coalitions with other agencies, educational institutions, community organizations and groups, volunteers, and individuals.
- 3. Develop shared visions for regional possibilities and implement regional solutions when feasible.
- 4. Work with surrounding communities on common recreational program opportunities.

Goal 7 – Improve community awareness of recreation opportunities.

Objectives:

- 1. Actively market and promote parks and recreation facilities in the Township.
- 2. Create exhibit displays in the community and develop promotional materials. Install location maps/entry signs at each facility.
- 3. Maintain the Township's website on a regular basis with current, interesting, and useful information.
- 4. Information about Bridgeport's accomplishments, events, facilities, and programs.
- 5. Increase awareness of rental opportunities at the park facilities.

Goal 8 - Provide pedestrian linkages and trail connections.

- 1. Link parks, schools, downtown, and other traffic generators through a network of paved paths.
- 2. Work with local community and neighborhood groups to explore linkage strategies.
- 3. Work with the River Corridor Task Force and other agencies or groups in Saginaw County, and the tri-county region, to develop a regional trail system.
- 4. Create a "Walkable Community".

Goal 9 - Protect and enhance the Township's natural features.

- 1. Encourage the preservation of Bridgeport's natural systems/features and education interpretation opportunities. Provide access and recreational opportunities along the Cass River while protecting its natural systems and preserving its natural beauty.
- 2. Provide both "passive" and "active" types of recreational facilities to create a mix of recreational areas and natural open space areas.
- 3. Continue to capitalize on the recreational opportunities provided by the Cass River.



ACTION PLAN

TABLE 13 – BRIDGEPORT TOWNSHIP ACTION LIST

Facility/Project	Relates to Goal	Priority
Liberty Park		
Install batting cages	1	4
Renovate the Bi-Centennial Hall	1	1
Renovate restrooms	1, 3	1
Renovate/replace pavilion	1	2
Renovate ball diamonds	1	1
Davis/Lyle Park		
Develop a non-motorized trail loop and connections	1, 8	1
Install pedestrian bridge to connect parking and island	1	3
Develop an amphitheater, island	1	3
Improve water and recreational quality on river	9	2
Renovate existing/develop new restrooms	1, 3	2
Add/renovate park (volleyball, horseshoes, etc.)	1	3
Village Park		
Develop phase II (sidewalks, limited landscaping)	1	3
Construct a pavilion or gazebo	1	3
Construct a fitness trail	1, 3, 8	3
Little Gardens Park		
Install utilities (water, electric)	1	4
Develop a parking lot	1	2
Hoffmann Park		
Construct restroom facilities	1	3
Expand parking area	1	2
Cass River Trailhead Park		
Expand parkland	1	1
Add pavilion/picnic tables	1	2
Add parking area	1	2
Add a playground area	1, 3	2
Explore adding a kayak/canoe launch	1	4

Facility/Project	Relates to Goal	Priority
Community-Wide Initiatives		
Install park amenities at all sites (benches, tables, drinking fountain, bike rack, signages, etc.)	1, 3	2
Develop non-motorized paths	8	2
Collaborate with Frankenmuth & Birch Run to develop and community sports facility	6	2
Continue to develop programming that meetings the community's needs	4	1
Determine the best way to inform the community about recreational opportunities and events	7	1
Select 2-3 events to host a year in the parks	4, 7	2
Explore the development of a disc golf course	1	4
Update facilities in parks to meet ADA standards for accessibility	3	2
Additional Projects		
Acquisition of additional parkland	2	4



CARROLLTON TOWNSHIP



INTRODUCTION

Carrollton Township is located in northern Saginaw County on the east side of Michigan's Lower Peninsula. Originally settled in the mid-19th century as the Village of Florence, the Township of Carrollton was organized in 1866. In the late 1800s, the Township had extensive manufacturing interests including housing numerous saw and shingle mills and salt works and had strong community institutions in its schools and churches. The Township today is approximately 3.4 square miles in area. It is bordered by Kochville Township to the north, the City of Zilwaukee to the east, Saginaw Charter Township to the west, and the City of Saginaw to the south. The Township also lies in a favorable location. It is adjacent to the Saginaw River and only a short distance from the Saginaw Bay and the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge.

MAP 9 - LOCATION MAP



COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

TABLE 14 - CARROLLTON TOWNSHIP DEMOGRAPHICS

	Carrollton Township	Saginaw County	Michigan
Population			
2010 Population	6,103	200,169	9,883,640
2020 Population	5,750	190,124	10,077,331
Percent of the Population 65 and Older	13.5%	19.7%	18.1%
Percent of the Population Under 18	25.5%	24.7%	24.4%
Percent of Population with a Disability	19.8%	16.9%	14.2%
Median Age	36.4	40.9	40.2
Education			
Percent with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher	17.5%	22.5%	30%
Income			
Median Household Income	\$37,828	\$50,606	\$59,234
Per Capita Income	\$20,735	\$28,092	\$ 34,768
Housing			
Average Household Size	2.09	2.31	2.54
Median Housing Values	\$70,100	\$128,600	\$162,600
Renter-Occupied Housing as percentage of Total Occupied Units	34.0%	28.3%	26.8%

Today, Carrollton Township has a population of 5,750, a loss of 353 residents in the past decade. The Township has a fairly young population with a median age of 36.4 and 25.5% of their population is 18 and under. In comparison to the County and State, their 65 and older population is also low at only 13.5% of their population.

The Township has a higher percentage of renters (34%) compared to the County and State, and their housing sizes and median housing values are also lower.

As mentioned in Chapter 2, paying attention to the age groups, population with a disability, and percentage of renters are key factors in determining what kind of recreational amenities a Township may need.

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

INTRODUCTION

In Carrollton Township, the Township Board is the decision-making body when it comes to parks and recreation in the Township. The Board was founded in 1866 and given the authority to acquire by gift or devise tracts of land for the purpose of public parks and recreational spaces in accordance with the Michigan Township Park Act of 1905. The Township Supervisor serves as the Chief Administrative Officer of the Township and Chair of the Township Board. The Board oversees assessing, building inspections, recreation, and public works in the Township. The remainder of the Board is composed of the Clerk, the Treasurer, and two Trustees, each elected for 4-year terms.

The Township also has a Recreation Committee. The committee is a seven-member committee appointed by the Board who serve as volunteers to assist with the programming in the Township. Their focus is on the youth basketball leagues and baseball where they not only help with the programming but also serve as coaches and help to maintain the baseball fields.

The recreation facilities in the Township are maintained by the Department of Public Works which employs three full-time and one seasonal staff member. The full-time staff keep parks clean, empty trash bins, set out/put away picnic tables at the beginning and end of summer, maintain outdoor pavilions and playscapes. The seasonal employee works April through November and does the same duties, along with mowing the lawn at all Township parks.

FIGURE 3 – ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE



FUNDING AND BUDGET

The Carrollton Township parks and programming funds come from two different pots of allocated money. The money for park maintenance and improvements is allocated from the general fund, and the money for programming is allocated from the recreation fund. Recreation programming is largely funded through fees and donations. This includes registrations, concession sales, fundraiser sales, and donations. The remaining portion of park programming funds come from the Township general fund.

TABLE 15 - CARROLLTON PARKS AND RECREATION BUDGET

	2022	2023
Operation and Maintenance	\$15,210	\$19,130
Programming	\$24,000	\$35,400
Capital Improvements	-	-
Total	\$39,210	\$54,530

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Programming

Carrollton Township administers recreation programming which includes Youth Baseball, Youth Basketball, Football, and Cheerleading which take place at the public school facilities. The sports programs which include Baseball, Basketball, Cheerleading, and Flag Football (new in 2023) have an average of 150-175 registrations for both baseball and basketball. Cheerleading, which is fairly new had only about 10 registrants in 2022. Flag Football is the newest program, the first season will start in August 2023.

Events

There are a few events held in the park annually. The Carrollton Lions Club holds its Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Stoker Park, and the Carrollton Public Schools hold a Meet Up & Eat Up Free Summer Lunch program at Hanchett Park.

ADDITIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

Volunteers / Collaborations

The Township uses volunteers in a variety of ways, annually they have approximately 25 people who help in the parks. The Recreation Committee helps with sports programming and coaching, as mentioned above. Additionally, the Township and the schools work together, the schools allow the Township to use the gym and ball fields for practices and games. In addition to the Recreation Committee, the Township has other volunteers who help with spring clean-up in the parks and run the concession stand.

GRANT HISTORY

TABLE 16- CARROLLTON TOWNSHIP GRANT HISTORY

Project Title	Project Number	Project Year	Grant Amount	Status	Description
Hanchett Street Park	26- 00718	1976	\$20,576.62	Closed	2 tennis courts, 2 basketball courts, LWCF sign
Carrollton Bar Nature Park	TF723	1983	\$174,000.00	Withdrawn	To acquire 90 acres of valuable Saginaw River floodplain plus Carrollton Bar Island to become the township's first passive park.
Carrollton Iron Belle Trail Trailhead	TF21- 0136	2021	\$134,500.00	PA Executed	Development of a trailhead along the Iron Belle Trail (IBT) in Carrollton Township. The trailhead will include parking, a pathway connecting to the IBT, benches, interpretive signage, bike repair station, porta-john structure, and rain garden with native plantings.
Total			\$329,076.62		

08

RECREATION INVENTORY

Sherman Park

Location: 800 Sherman Road

Acres: 5

ADA accessibility: 2

Classification: Neighborhood Park

This 5-acre park located at Sherman Street and Taylor Street is a Neighborhood Park near the northeast border of the Township. The park includes a pavilion with grills, 2 basketball courts, a playground, and open space. Sherman Park amenities that are ADA accessible include: the parking lot and playground.



Stoker Park

Location: 520 Stoker Drive

Acres: 3

ADA accessibility: 2

Classification: Neighborhood Park

This 3-acre park is located at the intersection of Stoker and Eddy Streets, in the southeast corner of the Township. The park includes a picnic pavilion with four benches and two grills, an extensive playground, one youth basketball court, and various play structures. Stoker Park amenities that are ADA accessible include: the parking lot and playground.



Hanchett Park

Location: 800 Rustic Drive

Acres: 3

ADA accessibility: 2

Classification: Neighborhood

Park

This 3-acre park located at the intersection of Hanchett and Rustic Street is a small community park. The park includes a picnic pavilion with four benches and two grills, an extensive playground, one youth basketball court, and various play structures. Carrollton Township



received funding in 1976 through the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) for two basketball courts, and two tennis courts at the park. The enclosed area surrounding the former tennis courts has been converted for use as a playground. Hanchett Park amenities that are ADA accessible include: the parking lot and playground.

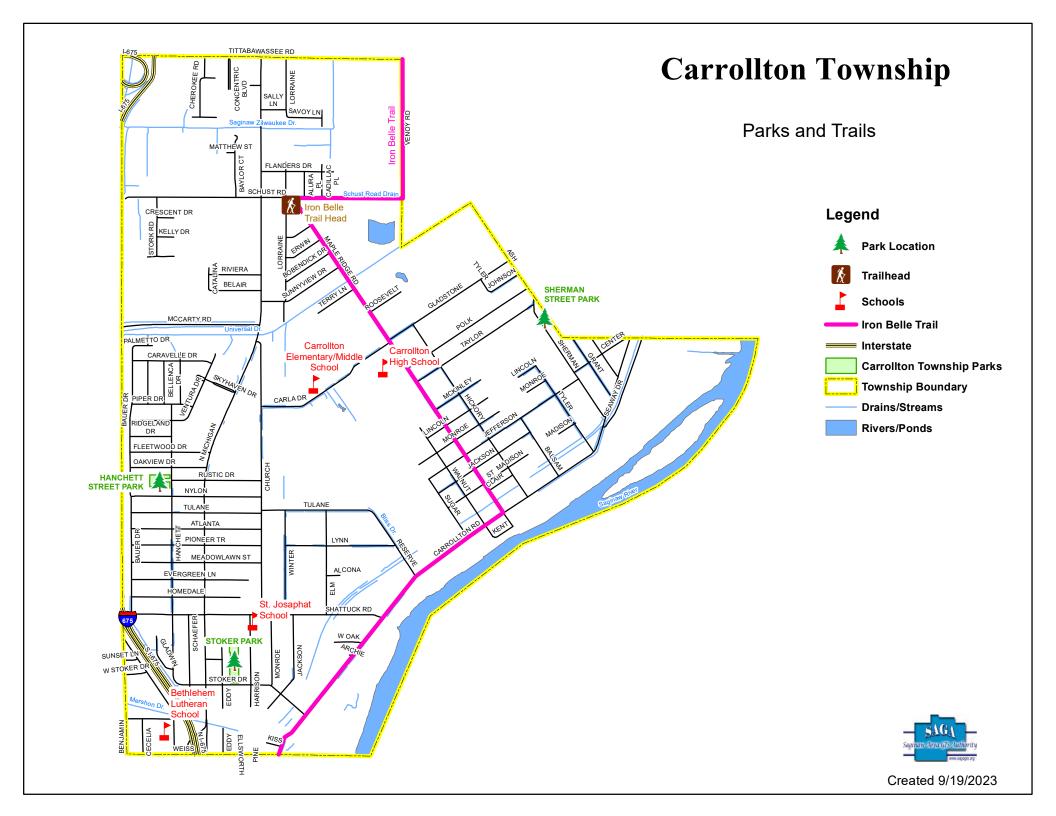
Iron Belle Trailhead

Location: 4400 Lorraine

The trailhead located off Lorraine is a designated trailhead for the State Iron Belle Trail. It has benches, a bike repair station, paved parking lot, portable restrooms, and an informational kiosk. This Trailhead was recently opened in August of 2023, during the writing of this plan. The Trailhead is dedicated to Police Chief/Township Director Craig Oatten who recently passed away but dedicated his time and hard work to Carrollton Township for almost four decades.

School Facilities

Carrollton Township is home to multiple public schools. These schools include Carrollton Elementary School, Carrollton Middle School, Carrollton High School, and OMNI Adult and Alternative Education. These schools each hold unique recreational opportunities for the students who attend them. Carrollton High School, located at 1235 Mapleridge Road, includes a full-sized track, softball fields, and a full-sized high school football field. The schools offer approximately 73 acres of recreational space.



Comparison to Standards

The following classification system is adapted from the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) guide. It categorizes different types of parks based on size, service area, facilities, and user groups. There is one classification type in the Carrollton Township: neighborhood park.

Neighborhood Park

Parks in this classification are the most basic park unit of a system and serve as the recreation and social focus of a neighborhood. Neighborhood parks are easily accessible to neighborhood populations and geographically centered within safe walking distance and bike access. Typically, neighborhood parks are five to ten acres in size and can service a population of approximately 5,000 residents. The parks have a service



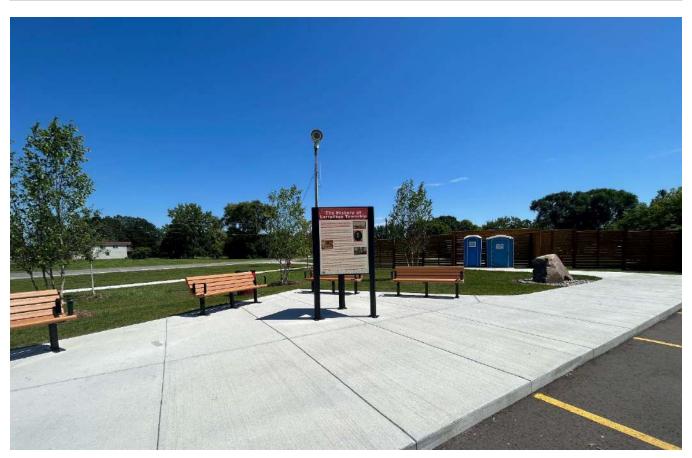
location of $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ mile distance. National standards recommend one acre of neighborhood parks per 1,000 residents. The national standard for the Township is 5.75.

TABLE 17- COMPARISON TO STANDARDS

	Standard	Park Acreage	Standard Amount	Deficiency / Excess		
Neighborhood Parks	1 acres/1,000 residents	11	5.75	+5.25		
School Facilities	-	73.2	-	+73.2		
Total		84.2	<i>5.75</i>	+78.45		
Table is based on the 2020 Census population						

TABLE 18 – PARKS AND RECREATION INVENTORY

	Sherman Park	Stoker Park	Hanchett Park	Iron Belle Trailhead
Acres				
Accessibility				
Park Type				Trailhead
Facilities				
Basketball	2	X	2	
Benches	X	X	X	X
Bike repair station				X
Grills	X	X	X	
Open Space	X	X		
Pathway	X			
Pavilion	X	X	X	
Playground	X	X	X	
Parking	X	X	X	X
Restroom Facilities	X	X	X	X



COMMUNITY INPUT

The Carrollton Township portion of the survey asked ten questions. These questions covered topics from visitation, park usage, and park amenities to land acquisition. Identifying the park usage will provide Township officials with determining what parks are being used the most and where areas of improvements might best be suited. When asked respondents which parks they visit and how often the responses are below.

Hanchett Park

Weekly: 8.8%

• Couple times a month: 25.3%

• Couple times a year: 45.1%

Never: 20.9%

Sherman Park

Weekly: 2.3%

• Couple times a month: 8%

Couple times a year: 34.1%

Never: 55.7%

Stoker Park

Weekly: 8%

Couple times a month: 25%

Couple times a year: 40.9%

■ Never: 42%

Iron Belle Trailhead

Weekly: 8%

Couple times a month: 10.3%

Couple times a year: 29.8%

• Never: 51.7%

If respondents said never, the next question asked why they do not visit the parks. This will help officials understand why users are not using the parks and if there is something they could do to improve usage. Respondents said that they do not visit the parks because they have just never been, because of safety concerns, their location, or park offerings.

It's just as important to know what respondents are using in the parks and why they are visiting. Respondents said they visit the parks for the following reasons:

Walking or exercising: 72.5%

Playgrounds: 60%

Hanging with friends: 30%

Picnic of family gatherings: 22.5%

Participating in or watching sports: 11.3%

What do you like best?

"Close to home and so far it's a true community enjoyment"

Township officials want to gauge residents' feelings on four statements. Of the four statements the majority of the respondents selected that they agree with them.

 It is important to enhance the natural resources and recreation opportunities along the Saginaw River: 89.5% agree

 It is important to provide outdoor recreation facilities, athletic fields, and courts within the Township: 93% agree

 It is important that Carrollton Township Parks have non-motorized pathways and trails: 76.7% agree

 The preservation of natural areas and water resources in the community has a positive effect on my quality of life: 83.7% agree The best way to make improvements within the Township parks is to know what residents and visitors would like to see. The survey asked respondents what additional facilities or amenities they would like to see added to the parks. The top ten responses are listed below.

- Restrooms
- Non-Motorized pathways
- Concerts in the parks
- Winter activities
- Playground

- Dog park
- Pavilion
- Public access to the Saginaw River
- Fishing platform
- Wooded nature areas

What would you improve about the parks?

" More access to the river for pedestrian fishing." Township officials' priorities might not be the same as Township residents, therefore, the survey asked respondents how they would prioritize the acquisition of land along the Saginaw River. Respondents said

• A top priority: 38%

■ Important: 48%

Not Important: 6%

No opinion: 9%

The survey also asked respondents to prioritize the following activities.

Maintaining existing parks

o A top priority: 45.9%

o Important: 50.5%

o Not Important: 2.4%

o No opinion: 1.2%

Upgrade/add amenities to existing parks

o A top priority: 44.7%

o Important: 50.6%

o Not Important: 3.5%

o No opinion: 1.2%

Maintaining existing programs

o A top priority: 31.1%

o Important: 61.5%

o Not Important: 3.6%

o No opinion: 3.6%

Add new recreational programs

o A top priority: 38.1%

o Important: 55.9%

o Not Important: 3.6%

o No opinion: 2.4%

The Township currently offers four different programming opportunities to Township residents and has two events within their parks. Additional programming and activities respondents would like to see are:

- Food truckfestivals
- Concerts in the park
- Summertime activities
- Kids safety events
- Craft shows
- Adult recreational leagues

What do you like best?

"Having these places for the area youth is wonderful"

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goal 1 - Provide safe broad community-based recreation opportunities that improve the overall quality of life for all residents of Carrollton Township.

Objectives:

- Continue to ensure well-maintained and safe conditions at Hanchett, Stoker, and Sherman Parks.
- 2. Continue to add amenities to Carrollton Township park facilities based on community input and need.
- 3. Ensure public parks are safe.
- 4. Improve existing facilities that need updated or have become outdated.

Goal 2 - Improve access to the Saginaw River through recreational facilities and open space.

Objectives:

- 1. Utilize land along the Saginaw River that can be used for boating, kayaking, canoeing, or passive use.
- 2. Explore the possibility of acquiring Carrollton Island for recreation purposes.

Goal 3 - Improve/provide barrier-free access or Universal Design standards to all recreation facilities.

- 1. Provide equal recreational opportunities for all people.
- 2. Improve barrier-free access to existing recreation facilities.
- 3. Develop programs for special needs population.
- 4. Ensure that upgrades are accessible.
- 5. Where possible, strive to meet Universal Design standards with new park amenities and facilities.
- 6. Conduct an audit of all Township owned facilities, which includes a detailed report and priority list with recommendations to improve accessibility.

Goal 4 - Improve walking and pedestrian opportunities throughout Carrollton Township.

Objectives:

- Continue to increase connectivity of pedestrian pathways and provide connections to local amenities and other regional trail systems like the Great Lakes Bay Regional and Iron Belle Trail systems.
- 2. Add walking and multi-use paths within existing parks.
- 3. Improve path surfaces when appropriate.
- 4. Improve pedestrian access throughout the Township by working with the Road Commission and Great Lakes Bay Regional Trail group to implement projects that align with the schedule and goals of each of these groups.

Goal 5 - Improve communication about existing recreational programs in Carrollton Township.

Objectives:

- 1. Continue to utilize the Township's Parks and Recreation website and Facebook page to communicate with residents regarding parks and recreation.
- 2. Develop a brochure that describes the parks and facilities in Carrollton Township.
- 3. Explore partnerships, grants, foundations, and other funding opportunities.
- 4. Continue to work with existing recreation partners in the community to provide programs, leagues, and special events.
- 5. Explore options for new and expanded partnerships to provide additional recreational opportunities.

Goal 6 – Investigate opportunities to acquire new properties for parkland and open space as they become available.

Objectives:

- 1. Acquire additional parkland in various open spaces in the Township including parcels with access to the Saginaw River.
- 2. Preserve and protect open space and other important natural resources in the Township.
- 3. If desired, acquire property adjacent to existing park facilities.

Goal 7 – Investigate opportunities to develop an indoor recreational facility.

ACTION PLAN

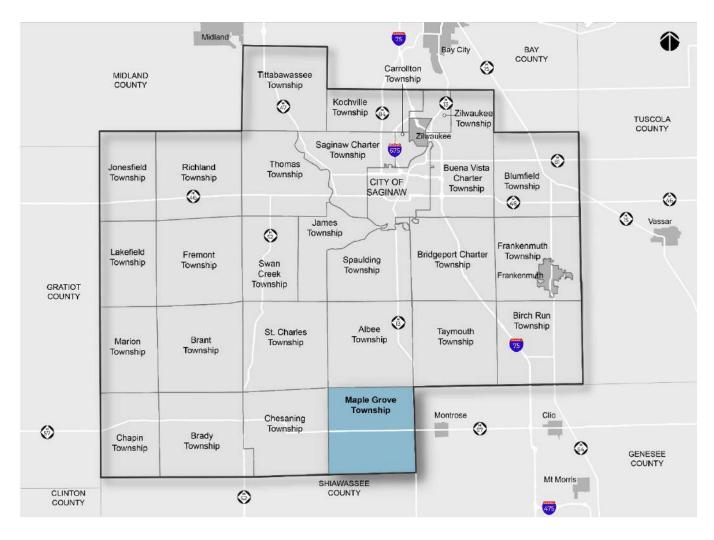
TABLE 19 – CARROLLTON TOWNSHIP ACTION LIST

Facility/Project	Relates to Goal	Priority
Sherman Park		
Add handicap-accessible features and surfacing	1.7	,
at the park when appropriate.	1, 3	1
Investigate potential Disc Golf Course	1	2
Investigate potential dog park opportunities	1	3
Add restroom facilities	1, 3	4
Stoker Park		
Improve security and curfew enforcement	1	1
Add handicap-accessible features and surfacing	1,3	2
where appropriate	۱,۵	Z
Investigate potential dog park opportunities	1	3
Add restroom facilities	1, 3	4
Hanchett Park		
Add handicap-accessible features and surfacing	1.7	2
where appropriate	1,3	Δ
Improve security and curfew enforcement	1	1
Add restroom facilities	1, 3	3
Township Wide Initiatives		
Develop a non-motorized trail for sections of the		
Iron Belle Trail that do not have existing	4	1
sidewalks.		
Provide walking paths in existing parks when	4	2
appropriate.	T	2
Investigate parcels for acquisition including land	2, 5	6
along the Saginaw River	2,0	0
Upgrade basketball and other court facilities at parks	1	3
Provide new play structures at Township parks	1, 3	4
Work with school district on potential property		_
acquisition adjacent to baseball fields	5, 6	5

INTRODUCTION

Maple Grove Township is located in the southern portion of Saginaw County, bordering both Genesee and Shiawassee Counties. The Township was established in 1870 and is approximately 36.7 square miles. The main transportation route in the Township is M-57, an east to west route which traverses through the center of the Township. M-13 is the primary north to south route which lies on the eastern edge of the Township.

MAP 11 - LOCATION MAP



COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

TABLE 20 – MAPLE GROVE TOWNSHIP DEMOGRAPHICS

	Maple Grove Township	Saginaw County	Michigan
Population			
2010 Population	2,655	200,169	9,883,640
2020 Population	2,676	190,124	10,077,331
Percent of the Population 65 and Older	20%	19.7%	18.1%
Percent of the Population Under 18	27.7%	24.7%	24.4%
Percent of Population with a Disability	10.5%	16.9%	14.2%
Median Age	40.6	40.9	40.2
Education			
Percent with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher	16.2%	22.5%	30%
Income			
Median Household Income	\$69,344	\$50,606	\$59,234
Per Capita Income	\$31,935	\$28,092	\$ 34,768
Housing			
Average Household Size	2.56	2.31	2.54
Median Housing Values	\$170,100	\$128,600	\$162,600
Renter-Occupied Housing as percentage of Total Occupied Units	11.0%	28.3%	26.8%

Maple Grove Township's population has increased in the past ten years, this is the opposite of many Saginaw County communities. The Township median age is on par with the County and State, at 40. In comparison to the County and State, the Township has a higher percentage of residents over the age of 65 (20%), and under the age of 18 (27.7%).

Maple Grove Township has an average household size of 2.56 which is higher than the County, and a higher median housing value than both the County and the State. The Township also has a fairly low renter percentage at only 11%, which is almost half of the County and State.

Population and household characteristics are important factors in determining what kind of recreation might be needed.

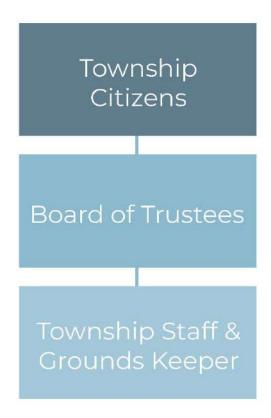
ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

INTRODUCTION

Park and recreation decisions in the Township are one of the Township Board's many responsibilities. The Township Board is a five-member body. The Board is responsible for allotting how much money should be used for recreation each year. In addition, the Board also makes decisions on new equipment, maintenance, new projects, programming, and administrative problems.

The Township facilities are maintained by the Township's seasonal grounds keepers. Their responsibility is to upkeep the parks maintenance, open and close the restrooms, manage pavilion rentals, and any other duties associated with the parks.

FIGURE 4 - ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE



FUNDING AND BUDGET

The funding in the Township is determined annually by the Township Board, recreation funding is part of the general fund.

TABLE 21 - MAPLE GROVE TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION BUDGET

	2023	2024
Operation and Maintenance	\$6,000	\$6,000
Programming	-	-
Capital Improvements	as needed	as needed
Total	\$6,000	\$6,000

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Programming

The Township itself does not offer any recreational programming to its residents. However, the local sports leagues use the ballfields in the park. The divisions are set up by grades with T-Ball being pre-kindergarten and kindergarten, Machine Pitch 1st and 2nd graders and these divisions are intramural. The Minor's division is 3rd and 4th graders. This league is separated by boys and girls with boys playing baseball and girls playing softball. The Majors are 5th and 6th graders, and Jr. Pony is 7th and 8th graders. During the summer on Wednesday night, a local men's slow-pitch softball league plays at the park fields. The leagues have 230 - 300 participants annually.

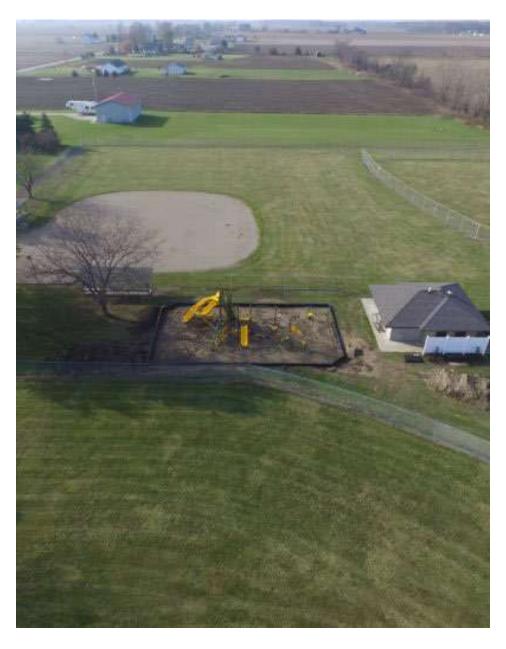
ADDITIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

The Recreation Committee works with various local organizations such as sports boosters, baseball/softball leagues, and little league to provide recreation and entertainment to the community. The baseball program is run by Diamond Lynx, they use the fields Monday through Thursday from April to July. The Township has a few volunteers who also assist with these organizations and events.

GRANT HISTORY

TABLE 22 – MAPLE GROVE TOWNSHIP GRANT HISTORY

Project Title	Project Number	Project Year	Grant Amount	Status	Description
Maple Grove Township Park Addition	TF20-0071	2020	\$23,100.00	Withdrawn	Acquisition of 4 acres to add to Maple Grove Township Park. The township has the ability to acquire property from two land owners that abut the Township's popular park.



RECREATION INVENTORY

Maple Grove Township Park

Location: 17994 Lincoln Rd, New Lothrop,

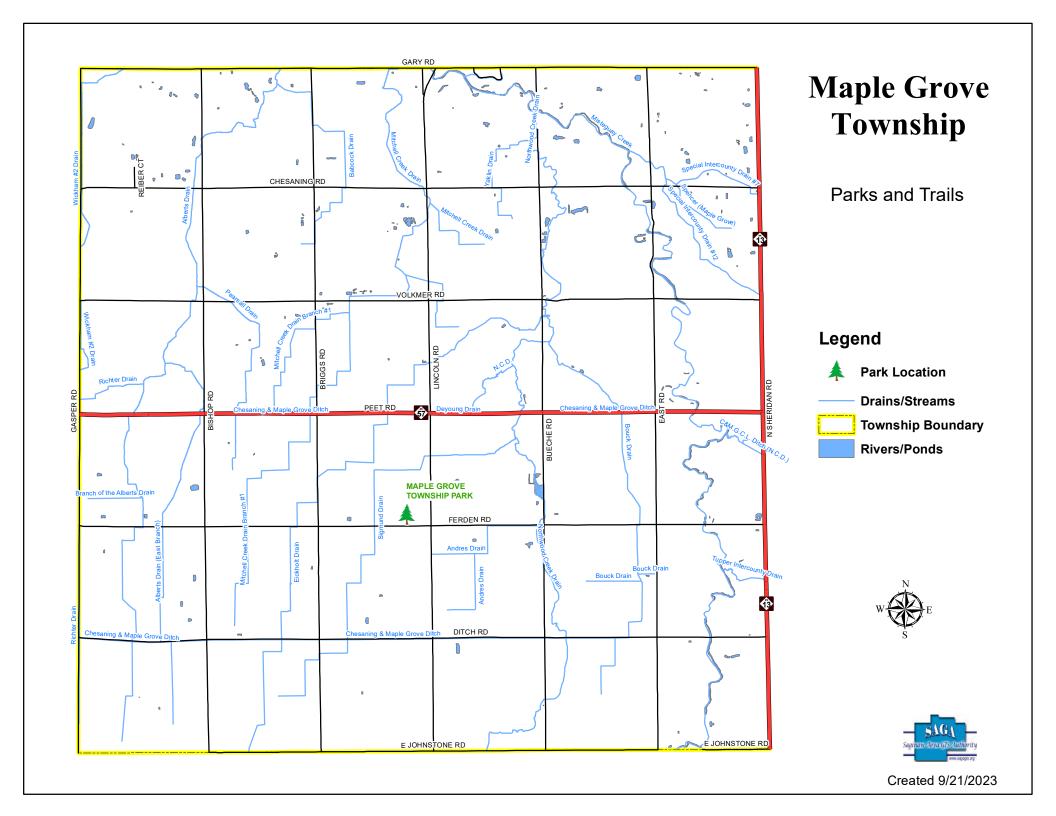
MI 48460 **Acres:** 9.5

ADA accessibility: 2

Classification: Community Park

Maple Grove Township Park and Bob Andres Ballfields are located in the southern portion of the Township just south of M-57 off Ferden and Lincoln Road. At 9.5 acres in size, the park has four ballfields with ample parking and concessions for tournaments, a playground, a pavilion, and a basketball court. The pavilion and ballfields are both available for rent.





Comparison to Standards

The following classification system is adapted from the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) guide. It categorizes different types of parks based on size, service area, facilities, and user groups. There are three classification types in the Bridgeport Charter Township: mini parks, neighborhood parks, and community parks.

Community Park

Community parks are intended to provide recreational services for several neighborhoods and usually serve a broad range of uses. The typical park size is 30 acres or more. The Township has one park that is classified as a community park. Even though the one park is not 30 acres it is still included in this category because of the broad population base it serves and the facilities/intended use of the park. The national classification system recommends five acres per 1,000 residents. The national standard for the Township is 13.38.

TABLE 23 – COMPARISON TO STANDARDS

	Standard	Park Acreage	Standard Amount	Deficiency / Excess
Community Parks	5 acres/1,000 residents	9.5	13.38	-3.38
Total		9.5	13.38	-3.38
Table is based on the 2020 Census population				

TABLE 24 – PARKS AND RECREATION INVENTORY

	Maple Grove Township
Acres	9.5
Accessibility	
Park Type	
Facilities	
Baseball Fields	4
Basketball	X
Benches	
Concessions	X
Fishing	
Grills	
Kayak Launch	
Multi Sports Fields	
Open Space	
Pathway	X
Pavilion	X
Picnic Area	X
Playground	X
Parking	X
Restroom Facilities	X
Storage Facility	
Sledding Hill	
Volleyball courts	

COMMUNITY INPUT

Maple Grove Township asked survey respondents five questions. The questions cover items of importance, park facilities, and park amenities. With the Township having only one park, it is important that it offers a variety of amenities for Township residents.

To help Township officials understand what items residents find the most important, the survey asked respondents to rank three statements. The ranking is listed below.

- 1. Upgrade/add amenities to the existing park.
- 2. Maintain the Township's existing park and recreation facilities.
- 3. Acquire additional parkland.

To determine the focus area of the park, the survey asked respondents to provide their opinion on three topics. Generally, the respondents are satisfied with the park's maintenance/appearance, variety of amenities/facilities, and safety/security.

Park Maintenance/Appearance

Satisfied: 36.1%

Somewhat Satisfied: 30.6%

Neutral: 13.9%Unsatisfied: 5.6%

Variety of Amenities/Facilities

Satisfied: 11.4%

Somewhat Satisfied: 42.9%

Neutral: 20%Unsatisfied: 11.4%

Safety and Security

Satisfied: 57.1%

Somewhat Satisfied: 8.6%

Neutral: 11.45Unsatisfied: 8.6%

Offering amenities to all resident groups no matter their age or ability is very important. Within the Township 10.5% of the residents have some sort of disability. Survey respondents indicated that they would like to see more user-friendly amenities.

Accessible restrooms: 40.6%

Paved/hard surface trails: 34.4%

Accessible parking: 31.3%

Accessible playground: 18.85

Sensory gardens: 18.8%

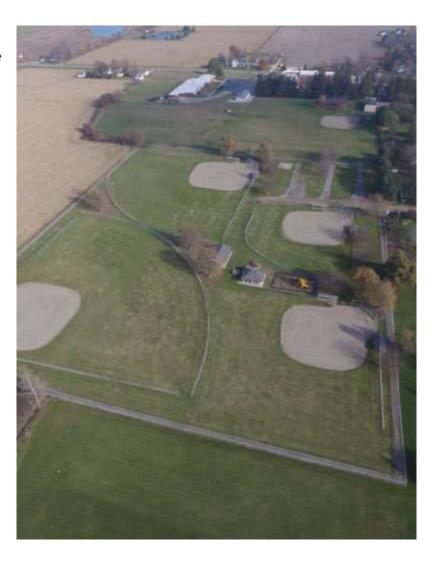
Flatter, easier grade: 15.6%

Survey respondents would like to see some of the following amenities added to the Township park.

- Trails
- Pavilion/amphitheater
- Splash pad
- Larger playground
- More kid activities
- Disc golf course
- Pickleball courts

Understanding what is not working is the best way to improve and make changes that will positively impact the community. The survey asked respondents to state one thing they would do to improve the park in the Township. Respondents said:

- Trails
- Accessible amenities
- Increase the size
- Add more amenities
- Path to the ballfields/playground
- More options for kids /teens
- Disc golf
- Horseshoe pits
- Corn hole
- Splashpad
- Swings
- More parking



GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goal 1 - Improve active outdoor recreation opportunities.

Objectives:

- 1. Offer Township residents a variety of activities that meet the needs of all segments of the population including youth, young adults, families, the elderly, and persons with impairments.
- 2. Maximize the use of the park by upgrading existing facilities to make them safer and more accessible.
- 3. Create a master plan for Maple Grove Township Park that graphically depicts future improvements with considerations to cost feasibility.
- 4. Ensure park facilities are safe, clean, and well-maintained.
- 5. Preserve and protect open space and significant natural features in the Township and the park.
- 6. Plan for non-motorized trail options in the Township and upgrade the existing walking path in the park.

Goal 2 - Explore additional parkland opportunities adjacent to the existing park.

Objectives:

1. If new land becomes available around the existing park, consider acquiring that property for expansion.

Goal 3 - Improve/provide barrier-free access or Universal Design standards to all recreation facilities.

Objectives:

- 1. Provide equal recreational opportunities for all residents and visitors regardless of ability level.
- 2. Improve barrier-free access to existing recreation facilities.
- 3. Ensure that park upgrades are accessible.
- 4. Where possible, strive to meet Universal Design standards with new park amenities and facilities.

Goal 4 - Maintain Fiscal Responsibility

Objectives:

- Develop parks and recreation facilities based on a sound fiscal policy.
- Consider the use of volunteers, state and federal funding programs, and other private funding sources.
- 3. Based on the master plan and need, discuss seeking out grant and endowment funding for park improvements at a minimum of once a year.
- Develop a short-term and long-term maintenance plan for the park facilities.



ACTION PLAN

TABLE 25 – MAPLE GROVE TOWNSHIP ACTION LIST

Facility/Project	Relates to Goal	Priority
Create Master Plan for Maple Grove Township Park	1, 4	1
Write grant for land acquisition and park improvements based on Master Plan	2,4	1
Basketball/pickleball courts development	1, 4	4
Field improvements	1, 4	2
Parking lot improvements	1, 3, 4	3
Upgrade fencing	1, 4	2
Pathway improvements	1, 3, 4	3
Add playground equipment	1, 3, 4	3
Concession stands improvements	1, 4	3

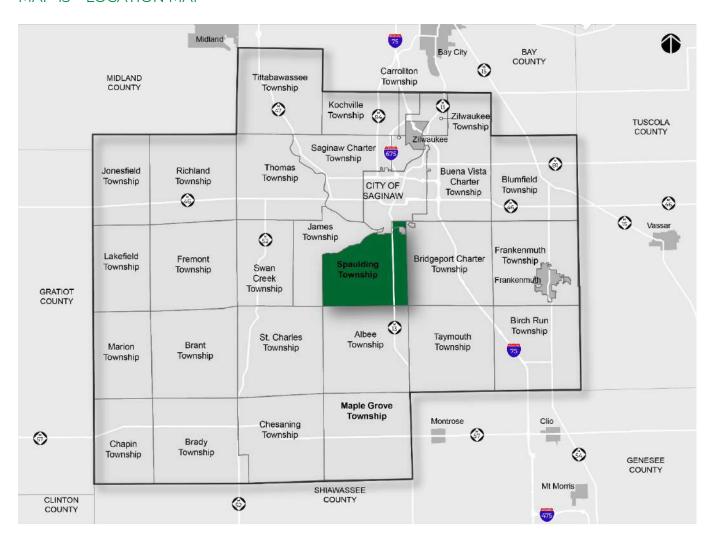




INTRODUCTION

Spaulding Township is located in central Saginaw County, with the City of Saginaw to the north, Bridgeport Charter Township to the east, Albee Township to the south, and James Township to the west and north. The Township is located just west of I-75 allowing for ease of access to the Township. M-13 traverses north and south through the eastern portion of the Township. The Township encompasses 27.4 square miles, with the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge covering most of the northwestern portion of the Township.

MAP 13 - I OCATION MAP



COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

TABLE 26 - SPAULDING TOWNSHIP DEMOGRAPHICS

	Spaulding Township	Saginaw County	Michigan
Population			
2010 Population	2,153	200,169	9,883,640
2020 Population	1,975	190,124	10,077,331
Percent of the Population 65 and Older	33.6%	19.7%	18.1%
Percent of the Population Under 18	21%	24.7%	24.4%
Percent of Population with a Disability	24.8%	16.9%	14.2%
Median Age	47.3	40.9	40.2
Education			
Percent with a bachelor's degree or Higher	10.1%	22.5%	30%
Income			
Median Household Income	\$57,333	\$50,606	\$59,234
Per Capita Income	\$27,944	\$28,092	\$ 34,768
Housing			
Average Household Size	2.57	2.31	2.54
Median Housing Values	\$94,800	\$128,600	\$162,600
Renter-Occupied Housing as percentage of Total Occupied Units	7.5%	28.3%	26.8%

In the past decade, Spaulding Township has experienced a decrease in its population, a loss of 178 residents. The Township has a significantly high median age of 47.3, which is higher than the County and State. As reflected by their median age, the Township has a much larger percentage of residents who are 65 and older (33.6%), and a much smaller percentage of residents 18 and younger (21%). All of these factors will play an important role in determining what recreational facilities will suit the Township best.

Housing characteristics are also an important item to factor into an area's recreational needs. If an area has a large number of renters, they may consider adding recreational facilities that meet the needs of renters who may not have the same recreational space at their homes as homeowners. Within the Township, there are 7.5% of the residents who rent, this is low compared to other jurisdictions in the area. The Township's median household value is slightly lower than the County and State at \$94,800.

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

INTRODUCTION

Spaulding Township does not have a parks and recreation commission or committee. The recreation decisions in the Township are determined by the Township Board. The Board is comprised of five elected members. The Department of Public Works Director oversees the maintenance of the parks in the Township with assistance from a seasonal employee and the Spaulding Township Event and Action Committee which consists of volunteers.

Due to low staff, the Township appreciates additional help, there are Township residents who volunteer to help mow the grass in the parks and general maintenance.

FIGURE 5 - ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE



FUNDING AND BUDGET

Funding for parks and recreation is from the general fund. The general fund is set by the Township Board annually. Donations and pavilion rentals are also used towards park projects.

TABLE 27 - SPAULDING PARKS AND RECREATION BUDGET

	2023-2024	2022-2023
Operation and Maintenance	\$16,800	\$64,020
Programming	\$7,500	\$7,500
Capital Improvements	\$23,000	-
Pavilion Rentals	\$3,000	\$2,000
Total	\$50,300	<i>\$73,520</i>

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Events and Action Committee: The Events and Action Committee hosts park concerts and facilities activity series in the parks on Wednesday nights during the summer months. They also put together an annual easter egg hunt, bike giveaways, old-fashioned Christmas with Clydesdales wagon rides, food giveaways in collaboration with the Michigan Food Bank, community flea markets, and other events in the fall months.

Township Events

- Easter Egg Hunt Every April
- Christian Music Festival
- Wednesday Nites in the Park –in July and August
- Flea Market Two times during the year one in May and one in September
- Roadside Cleanup Day Every Spring
- Trunk-or-Treat Every October
- Christmas in the Park –Every Season

ADDITIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

The Township does not currently have a group of volunteers who help out with parks and recreation in the Township. The Township would be open to gathering a group of volunteers to assist with park functions.

GRANT HISTORY

The Township has not received any DNR grants.

RECREATION INVENTORY

Spaulding Township Park

Location: 5825 Cole Rd, Saginaw, MI 48601

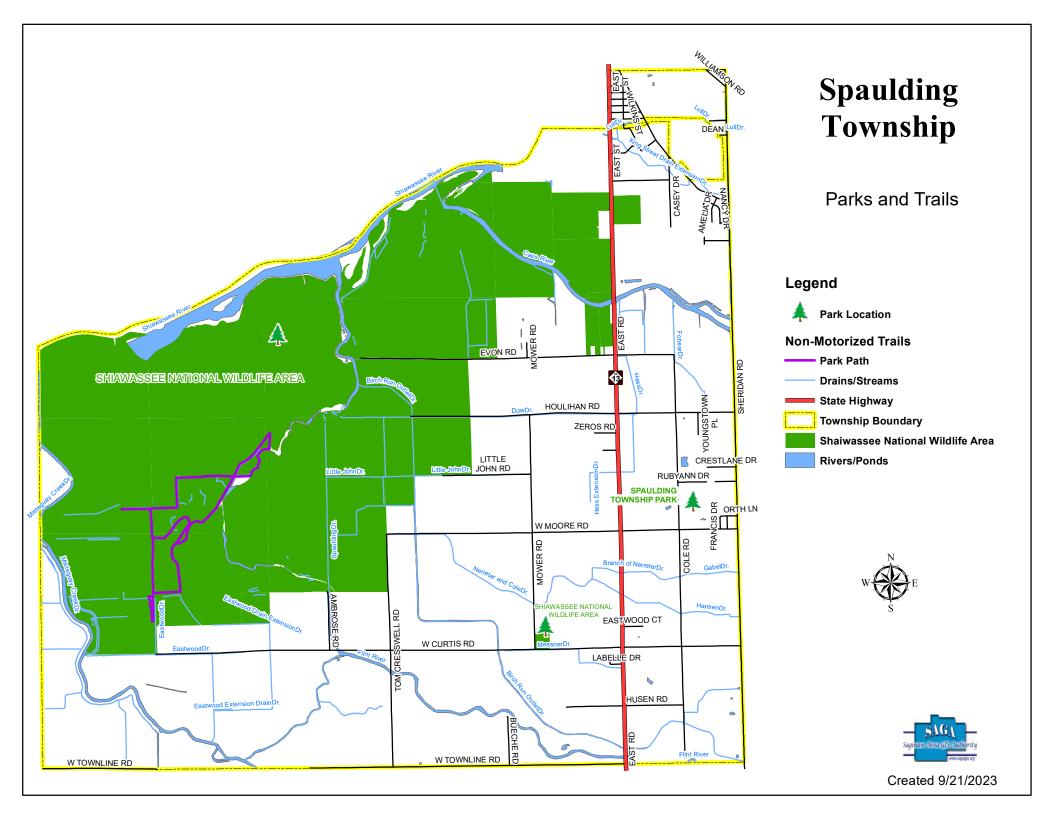
Acres: 23 acres

ADA accessibility: 3

Classification: Community Park

Spaulding Township Park is the Township's only park located near the eastern border of the Township. At 23 acres in size, the park has a variety of recreational amenities that it offers to Township residents. Onsite is a large picnic area with a pavilion and 30 picnic tables, several benches throughout the site, and a Township Hall that is rentable. A full list of the recreational amenities is listed on page 127.





Comparison to Standard

The following classification system is adapted from the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) guide. It categorizes different types of parks based on size, service area, facilities, and user groups. There are two classification types in the Spaulding Township community park and special use facility.

Community Park

Community parks are intended to provide recreational services for several neighborhoods and usually serve a broad range of uses. The typical park size is 30 acres or more. The Township has one park that is classified as a community park. The national classification system recommends five acres per 1,000 residents. The national standard for the Township is 9.88.

TABLE 28 - COMPARISON TO STANDARDS

	Standard	Park Acreage	Standard Amount	Deficiency / Excess
Community Parks	5 acres/1,000 residents	23	9.88	+13.12
Total		23	9.88	+13.12
Table is based on the 2020 Census population				



TABLE 29 – PARKS AND RECREATION INVENTORY

	Spaulding Township
Acres	23
Accessibility	3
Park Type	СР
Facilities	
Baseball Fields	2
Basketball Hoops	2
Benches	X
Fishing	
Grills	
Kayak Launch	
Multi Sports Fields	
Pathway	
Pavilion	X
Picnic Area	X
Playground	X
Parking	X
Portable Restroom	X
Facilities	
Shuffleboard	X
Sledding Hill	
Volleyball Courts	

COMMUNITY INPUT

The Spaulding Township portion of the community input survey included seven questions. These questions covered topics from visitation, recreational items of importance, quality, and safety of parks, and park amenities.

Determining how often the Township park is visited can help determine a variety of things, such as, how often the park may need maintenance, are park users satisfied, and whether the Township needs another park due to overpopulated facilities. The survey asked respondents how often they visit the Township Park, respondents said:

Very frequently: 17%

Occasionally: 46%

Rarely: 37%

"The playground is nice and well maintained, it's very open and we feel safe when walking or driving to the park. I like that over the past few years we've seen an increase in community events that have taken place there also."

The Township only has one park, therefore it's crucial for the Township to figure out what park users find important and what should be prioritized first. Of the four options provided, upgrading/adding amenities in the park is the most important to respondents.

- 1. Update/add amenities in the park
- 2. Maintain existing facilities in the park
- 3. Acquire additional recreational activity opportunities
- 4. Implement/increase safety and security

There are three key components to having a successful park, the park is well maintained, there are a variety of amenities, and the park is safe. To determine how the Township is doing, the survey asked respondents to rank these items on a scale of satisfied to don't know.

Park Maintenance/Appearance

Satisfied: 34.3%

Somewhat Satisfied: 21.3%

Neutral: 19.4%

Unsatisfied: 3%

Variety of Amenities/Facilities

Satisfied: 14.1%

Somewhat Satisfied: 31.3%

Neutral: 25%

Unsatisfied: 17.2%

Safety and Security

Satisfied: 25.8%

Somewhat Satisfied: 27.3%

Neutral: 30.3%

Unsatisfied: 7.6%

The previous question indicated that park users are not totally satisfied with the variety of amenities and facilities. Therefore knowing what they are looking for is highly valuable when the Township is exploring options to add to the existing park. The survey asked respondents what additional facilities/amenities they would like to see added to the park. The top ten responses are listed below.

- 1. Permanent restrooms
- 2. Pedestrian walking trail
- 3. Stationary trash receptacles
- 4. Permanent park resting benches
- 5. Dog playground/walking area
- 6. Pavilion 400+ capacity
- 7. Playground equipment additions
- 8. Additional/improved vehicle parking
- 9. Stationary recycling only receptacles
- 10. Hand sanitizing stations

Offering recreational amenities to all user groups should be a Township priority. The survey asked respondents what would make the park more user-friendly for those with disabilities. Respondents indicated the following:

- Accessible restrooms: 33.9%
- Paved/hard surfaced trails: 30.4%
- Flatter, easier grade: 26.8%
- Accessible parking: 26.8%
- Accessible playgrounds: 25%
- Special needs playground equipment (all-inclusive): 19.6%
- Not applicable: 58.9%

The final two survey questions asked respondents what they like best about the park and what they would do to improve it. These two questions allowed the respondents to vocalize anything they were not able to on the previous questions. Of the written responses, the most common responses are listed below.

Like best about the Township Park

- Clean
- The concerts
- The location

Would improve in the Township Park

- Add more amenities
- A water fountain
- Walking trails

"Add more things to draw people to the park like a basketball court, disc golf nets, or a soccer net to practice shooting."

"I would like to see a walking trail go around the perimeter of the park, so I don't have to drive to Birch Run. Also, a free little library would be nice to have in the area."

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goal 1 – Provide a variety of recreational opportunities to the residents and visitors of Spaulding Township.

Objectives:

- 1. Projects should be easily accessible to all Township residents, regardless of ability level or age.
- 2. Whenever or wherever possible, facilities should be for multiple and/or year-round use.
- 3. Proposed projects should eliminate identified recreational deficiencies as described in this plan.
- 4. Facilities should be safe, clean, and well-maintained.
- 5. Improve existing facilities that are outdated or need replaced.

Goal 2 - Improve/provide barrier-free access or Universal Design standards to all recreation facilities.

Objectives:

- 1. Provide equal recreational opportunities for residents and visitors of all ability
- 2. Improve barrier-free access to existing recreation facilities.
- 3. Ensure that upgrades are accessible.
- 4. Where possible, strive to meet Universal design standards with new park amenities and facilities.

Goal 3 – Make optimal use of recreational opportunities offered by the area's natural environment.

Objectives:

- 1. Facilities should be designed to complement the surrounding natural quality of the area.
- 2. Whenever possible, the Township, private interests, and adjacent units of government should coordinate the development of recreation facilities and programs.
- 3. When feasible, existing facilities should be upgraded before new ones are built.

Goal 4 – Develop parks and recreation facilities with a focus on sound fiscal policy and maintenance efforts.

Objectives:

- 1. The Township should make maximum use of state and federal assistance programs to acquire and develop recreation areas and facilities.
- 2. Coordinate recreation planning and implementation activities to avoid duplicity of services and effort to make optimal use of financial and other resources.
- 3. User fees should be established where feasible to help defray maintenance costs at specific facilities.
- 4. Develop short-term and long-term maintenance plans for the park facilities.
- 5. When planning for new improvements, consider the financial and maintenance requirements that will be necessary to keep the facility in good repair.



ACTION PLAN

TABLE 30 – SPAULDING TOWNSHIP ACTION LIST

Facility/Project	Relates to Goal	Priority
Township Park		
Improvements to the pavilion	2, 3,4	2
Construct ice rink 150' x 300'	1, 4	3
Construct heated warming room	2, 4	3
Develop new picnic area and add additional permanent grills	1	3
Ball field improvements and add bleachers	1, 4	1
Replace basketball hoops and repair	1	1
Improve playground area in the park-build small kid's kingdom	1, 2	3
Improve ice rink- portable 40' x 80'	1, 4	3
Thin undergrowth in outlying park area	2, 3	
Improve playground area in park	2, 4	1
Construct walking path and bike trail	1, 2, 3	1
Install dusk to dawn lights in pavilion area, and future nature walking and biking trails	2, 3	2
Maintain and improve parks as needed	1, 4	1
Improve pavilion – install additional water and electricity	2	3
Improve pavilion – construct enclosed kitchen facility	2, 3, 4	3
Construct bandshell	1	3
Construct permanent restrooms	2, 4	3
Construct an addition 60' x 100' pavilion	1, 4	4
Install resting stations throughout nature walking and bike path	1, 2, 3	4
Construct beach volleyball	1, 3, 4	2
Construct pickleball court	1	3
Construct soccer field	1, 3	4
Construct disc golf area	1, 3	4
Increase size of parking lot	2, 4	4

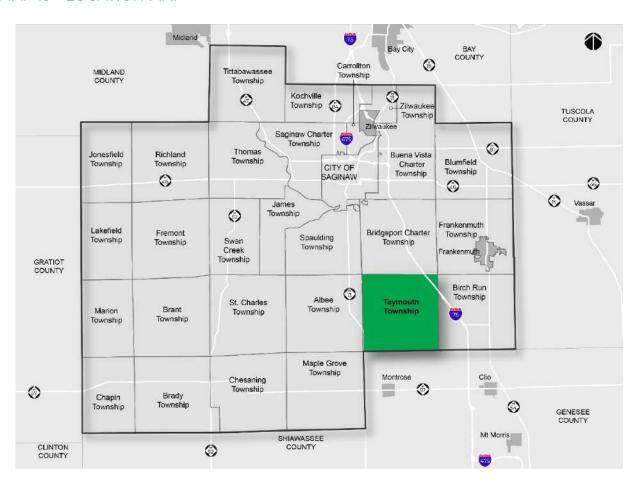


INTRODUCTION

Taymouth Township is located in the southern region of Saginaw County. The Township is surrounded by Bridgeport Charter Township to the north, Birch Run Township to the east, Montrose Township in Genesee County to the south, and Albee Township to the west. The Village of Birch Run nearly abuts the Township along its central eastern limits. The Township is Michigan's traditional size for a Township, 36 square miles. The City of Saginaw is approximately 15 miles northwest of the Township, other significant urban centers nearby are Flint (20 miles), Bay City (25 miles), Detroit (70 miles), and Lansing (50 miles).

Taymouth Township is located approximately two miles west of I-75, which is the principal vehicular thoroughfare providing access to the Township. The Birch Run Road interchange provides direct access to the area. In addition, there are a number of state highways that facilitate access to the Township. Most notable, M-13, which links I-69 to the south with the City of Saginaw to the north, abuts the western edge of Taymouth Township. The Flint River flows through the western portion of the Township, dividing the agricultural and natural areas, which account for approximately 90 percent of the Township's area. There is very limited commercial and industrial development in the Township.

MAP 15 - LOCATION MAP



COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

TABLE 31 – TAYMOUTH TOWNSHIP DEMOGRAPHICS

	Taymouth Township	Saginaw County	Michigan
Population			
2010 Population	4,520	200,169	9,883,640
2020 Population	4,065	190,124	10,077,331
Percent of the Population 65 and Older	23%	19.7%	18.1%
Percent of the Population Under 18	24.4%	24.7%	24.4%
Percent of Population with a Disability	15.3%	16.9%	14.2%
Median Age	46.8	40.9	40.2
Education			
Percent with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher	13.1%	22.5%	30%
Income			
Median Household Income	\$64,051	\$50,606	\$59,234
Per Capita Income	\$ 33,055	\$28,092	\$ 34,768
Housing			
Average Household Size	2.47	2.31	2.54
Median Housing Values	\$ 151,600	\$128,600	\$162,600
Renter-Occupied Housing as percentage of Total Occupied Units	5.6%	28.3%	26.8%

Since 2010 there has been a decrease in the population throughout the County. This trend is also true in the Township which has seen a loss of 455 residents. The median age in the Township is 46.8 and 23% of the population is older than the age of 65. An aging population could affect the loss of residents. In comparison, the Township's young population, 18 and under is on track with the County and State.

There are many other factors to explore when analyzing demographics in relation to parks and recreation. The Township has a higher median household income than the County and State, and a higher median household value compared to the County. They also have a significantly low renter population. Since the Township is predominantly rural and there is a low renter population there may not be a need for an abundance of parks in the Township.

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

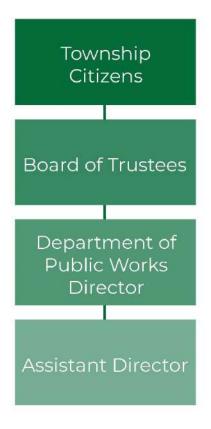
INTRODUCTION

The administration of all Taymouth Township, including Township recreation facilities and programs, is determined by the Township Board. The Board has five members and is composed of the Township Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer, and two Trustees. The Township Board makes the final decision on all public expenditures within the Township. This includes the approval and allotment of yearly operating funds for the Parks and Recreation Committee.

The Parks and Recreation Committee was formed due to the small community size, and love for the Township Park. The Township has a dedicated group of local residents who make up the Parks and Recreation Committee. The Committee meets several times a year to discuss potential park projects and recommends projects to the Township Board.

The park's maintenance and operations are run through the Department of Public Works. DPW has two full-time employees, one part-time, and three seasonal staff who are responsible for parks and recreation-related activities such as mowing, trash removal, and maintenance in the parks.

FIGURE 6 - ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE



FUNDING AND BUDGET

The Township Board allocates money for the maintenance and development of park facilities on an annual basis. The Parks and Recreation Committee prepares an annual budget and submits it to the Township Board, who then reviews the budget before establishing the annual allotment. Once determined, the money is transferred from the Township's general fund to the park fund. The park fund is supported by various other funding sources including donations, rental income of park facilities, and interest income which total almost 12% of the Township's park funds.

TABLE 32 - TAYMOUTH PARKS AND RECREATION BUDGET

	2022- 2023	2023-2024
Operation and Maintenance	\$23,500	\$24,750
Programming	-	-
Capital Improvements	-	-
Total	\$23,500	<i>\$24,750</i>

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Throughout the year there are a variety of events that are put on for the community to enjoy. Those events at not necessarily put on by the Township themselves, but by other community leaders and are hosted in the Township park. Events include the following:

- Annual Easter Egg Hunt: The library hosts an Easter Egg Hunt which is held in the Township Park annually, over 800 residents and their families attend this event. The library hides over 10,000 eggs which are filled with prizes.
- Reading Programs: The library
 hosts reading programs for children during the summer months and adult reading
 programs during the winter. There are over 4,275 cardholders and over 200
 participants in the summer reading program.
- Community Meetings: The library is also used for different community meetings, both social and administrative.



ADDITIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

The Township has a few additional relationships that pertain to parks and recreation in the Township.

- The Birch Run Parents for Youth utilizes the Park's ball diamond for baseball and softball leagues. In the previous years, they have had 45 teams signed up.
- Tri-Valley Slow-Pitch Men's League (12 slow-pitch teams)
- Men's and women's leagues use the soccer fields occasionally on the weekend for tournaments.
- Cross County Meets: The Birch Run High School Cross Country Team also utilizes the park for meets and practices, and over the last two years the Tri-Valley



Conference Cross Country meet has brought thousands of athletes and spectators into the park including Birch Run and the greater Saginaw Valley Conference Cross Country teams.

Scouts and Girl Scouts provide concessions at all of the events listed above.

Volunteers are a large part of the community as well. Throughout the years different groups have undertaken a variety of projects in the parks these projects include:

- The Birch Run American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) has spent time creating soccer fields in the park.
- Birch Run Parents for Youth members have worked to mend ball fields.
- Scouts have placed bat houses in the park.
- Brick-and-mortar dugouts were donated and built by a community member and have improved the ball diamonds significantly.
- Members of the Taymouth Parks and Recreation Committee have also volunteered many hours making plans for the park and installing playground equipment.
 Members have planted flowers, worked on pavilion roofs, and manned concession stands.
- The Birch Run Rotary Club planted trees in the park for Arbor Day.

GRANT HISTORY

TABLE 33 – TAYMOUTH TOWNSHIP GRANT HISTORY

Project Title	Project Number	Project Year	Grant Amount	Status	Description
Community Park	26-01123	1980	\$10,001.50	Grant Closed	Develop: entrance road, parking area, pavilion, horseshoe courts, and play area
Taymouth Twp Community Park	26-01220	1981	\$5,658.02	Grant Closed	Develop boundary fencing, security lighting, electrical service, and nature trails
Riverside Park	TF91-234	1991	\$19,500.00	Withdrawn	Acquisition of 9.03 acres with 2,700 feet of frontage on the Flint River for use as boat launch picnicking, ice skating parking area, and scout camping.
Park Development Project	BF-98- 085	1998	\$33,750.00	Grant Closed	Develop the township park by constructing an ice rink, play equipment, basketball court, ball field fencing, bleachers, and skating shelter. Also includes upgrades for barrier-free access.

RECREATION INVENTORY

Taymouth Township Park

Location: 2386 E. Burt Road

Acres: 40 acres

ADA accessibility: 2

Classification: Community Park

The Taymouth Township Park is located in the far southwest corner of the Township on Burt Road. The Park is a 33-acre park and is the only major outdoor recreation center in the community. The park was once home to the Burt South Elementary School. The school closed in the mid-seventies, and in an effort to preserve the recreation opportunities of the site, the Township purchased the school site. Over time, additional contiguous land purchases were made by the Township to improve the park, and eventually, the small school structure was sold and converted to apartment units. Today there are a variety of recreational amenities in the park, these amenities include softball fields, basketball courts, and picnic area with two pavilions and grills, restroom facilities, walking trails, a concession stand, playground equipment, a sledding hill, soccer fields, and a parking area for all visitors.

The picnic area is often used for family reunions and local events/gatherings. The Park pavilions are available for rent for Taymouth residents at \$40 per day (non-residents pay \$60 per day) with a \$100 deposit. Both pavilions are available for rent throughout the warmer months.



Taymouth Township Community Center

Location: 4343 Birch Run Rd, Birch Run, MI 48415

Acres: 4.90 acres
ADA accessibility: 4

Classification: Special Use Facility

The Taymouth Township Community Center is located off Birch Run Road near the southern end of the Township. The Center is home to the Township Fire Department and Township Offices. The Community Center does not provide any outdoor recreation facilities but does provide indoor facilities for 4-H and is available for rent for various functions and occasions for \$100 with a \$100 deposit The Saginaw County Sheriff's Department and Michigan State Police maintain a substation in the center as well.

Taymouth Township Library

Location: 2361 E Burt Rd, Burt, MI 48417

Acres: 0.90 acres

ADA accessibility: 3

Classification: Special Use Facility

Located across from the Township Park is the library. The library was once used as a school to educate all age groups in the community. When the need for the school diminished, the Township purchased the property and turned the building into a library museum. A major renovation of the structure was completed in 1995 converting the entire facility into a library with a small addition at the rear of the building to house its growing collection. The library contains more than 19,000 volumes, over 600 videos, 724 audiobooks, and 44 periodicals. There are thousands of library cardholders who get to use the library throughout the year for a variety of uses.

Burt Opera House

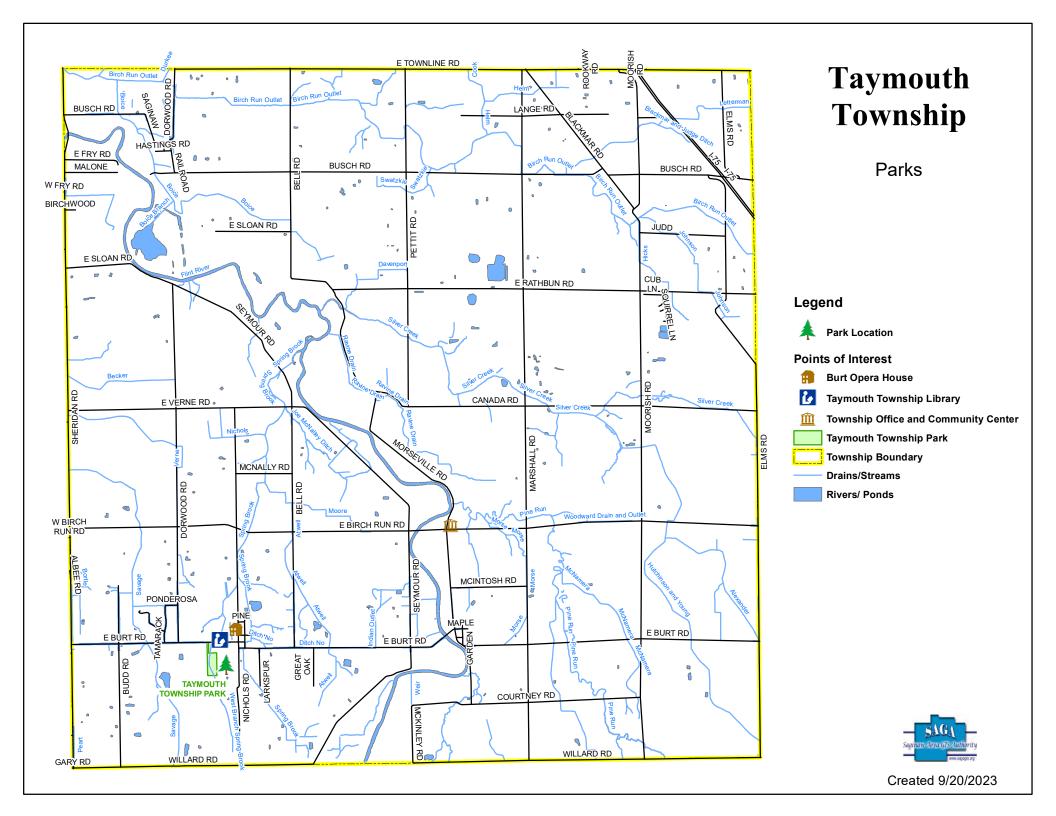
Location: 12888 Nichols Road, Burt, MI 48417

Acres: .95 acres

ADA accessibility: 2

Classification: Special Use Facility

The Burt Opera House is a Township historical landmark built in 1881. Today, the home is used for events and group gatherings. The house can be rented for \$75 with a \$100 deposit.



Comparison to Standards

The following classification system is adapted from the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) guide. It categorizes different types of parks based on size, service area, facilities, and user groups. There are two classification types in the Taymouth Township: community park, and special use facility.

Community Park

Community parks are intended to provide recreational services for several neighborhoods and usually serve a broad range of uses. The typical park size is 30 acres or more. The Township has one park that is classified as a community park. The national classification system recommends five acres per 1,000 residents. The national standard for the Township is 20.33.



Special-Use Facility

Special-use parks cover a broad range of parks and recreation

facilities oriented toward single-purpose use. There is no national standard for special-use facilities.

TABLE 34 - COMPARISON TO STANDARDS

	Standard	Park Acreage	Standard Amount	Deficiency / Excess			
Community Parks	5 acres/1,000 residents	40	20.33	+19.67			
Special Use Facility	-		-	+			
Total							
Table is based on the 2020 Census population							

TABLE 35 – PARKS AND RECREATION INVENTORY

	Taymouth Township Park	Township Community Center	Township Library	Burt Opera House
Acres				0.95
Accessibility				2
Park Type				SPF
Facilities				
Baseball Fields	5			
Basketball	1.5			
Benches	Х			
Bike repair station				
Concessions	X			
Disc Golf	X			
Fishing				
Football Goal	X			
Grills	2			
Kayak Launch				
Multi Sports Fields				
Open Space				
Pathway	X			
Pavilion	2			
Picnic Area				
Pickleball Court	X			
Playground	2			
Parking	X			
Rentable Space		X		X
Restroom Facilities	8			
Soccer Field				
Storage Facility				
Sledding Hill	X			
Volleyball courts				

COMMUNITY INPUT

The Taymouth Township portion of the survey asked respondents four questions. With only one park in the community, the Township's goal was to gather what park users like about the park, what would they like to see improved at the park, whether would they be interested in water access, and what type of events they would like to see.

The 40-acre park offers a variety of amenities to park users. The survey asked respondents to name three things they like about the park. The top responses included ball diamonds, playground, pavilion, proximity to home, and cleanliness.

"Add a water fountain and more benches at the basketball court"

"Paved walking trail, better playground equipment, actual bathrooms instead of the porta potties"

"Routine maintenance of playground equipment."

Users of the parks have many things they enjoy about it, however, that does not mean that there aren't items that they would like to see improved. The survey asked respondents to please share what they would like to see improved at the park. The most common responses are listed below.

- Add bathrooms
- Add paved trails
- Improve the fields (baseball and soccer)
- Add tennis courts
- Improve the parking

The Township does not currently have any recreational facilities with water access. However, with the growth of water trails the desire for water access is increasing, the survey asked respondents if they would like to have water access for boats or kayaking in the Township. The responses are listed below.

- Yes: 55%
- No: 15%
- No opinion/unsure: 30%

Events have the ability to bring communities together, not only their own but surrounding community members too. Not only do they bring them together, but they create a sense of pride in the community. The survey asked respondents what type of event they would like to be held in the park. The most common responses are listed below.

- Concerts
- Community events
- Food truck rallies
- Movie nights
- Sporting events/leagues

"The Easter egg hunt is always great, but it would be cool if they had community get together.

Have multiple yard games, maybe some food trucks, a little friendly competition."

.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goal 1 – Develop, provide, maintain, and enhance diverse recreational activities for residents and visitors.

Objectives:

- 1. Upgrade and update existing park facilities as needed.
- 2. Add more amenities and facilities to meet the wants of Township residents.
- 3. Provide recreation facilities to improve health and fitness.
- 4. Improve the website to communicate with the public about Township Park facilities and events.
- 5. Research and implement effective marketing strategies for community awareness of programs and services.
- 6. Seek and apply for grants to support recreational initiatives through the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and local foundations.

Goal 2 - Increase the availability of activities and programming in the Township.

- 1. Implement more sports programs with tournaments, i.e. baseball, softball, and soccer.
- 2. Offer new leagues/groups to Township residents i.e. horseshoes, nature walkers, and pickleball.
- 3. Explore what events Township would like to host i.e. community picnics, parkwide events, movie nights, and food truck nights.
- 4. Develop programs that meet the interests of all age groups.
- 5. Seek partnerships with other recreational providers, agencies, and neighboring communities to share ideas and provide complementary programs.
- 6. Provide necessary staffing, administrative infrastructure, and operating budget to support the expansion of recreational programs. Create a partnership with the Birch Run Area school district.

Goals 3 - Improve/provide for barrier-free access standards at Township parks and facilities.

Objectives:

- 1. Continue to provide outdoor recreation experiences for people of all ages and abilities.
- 2. When feasible, incorporate Universal Design standards in all new amenities and existing amenities as appropriate.
- 3. Provide equal access to recreation opportunities to all individuals.
- 4. Improvements to existing facilities should be designed to meet or exceed the minimum requirements of the Michigan barrier-free code.
- 5. Conduct a thorough audit of all Township-owned facilities, which entails a detailed report and priority list with recommendations.

Goal 4 - Strive to protect and enhance Township's natural features.

Objectives:

- 1. Preserve and protect open space and other important natural features in the Township.
- 2. Incorporate unique natural features (woodlands, wetlands, floodplains, and rivers) into future recreation planning whenever feasible.
- 3. Provide both "passive" and "active" types of recreational facilities to create a mix of recreational areas and natural open space areas.
- 4. Continue to capitalize on the recreational opportunities provided by the Flint River.

Goal 5 – Acquire additional recreational land for potential park facilities when deemed necessary.

- 1. Acquire additional parkland when available to provide expanded recreational opportunities.
- 2. Be aware of property acquisition opportunities that are adjacent to or near existing parks, may provide natural resource protection, access to water/riverfront, and/or wildlife habitat.
- 3. If possible, acquire spaces that are high in natural resources value.
- 4. Explore acquiring land on the Flint River for fishing and kayak access.

Goal 6 – Develop pathways and other park connections to promote healthy lifestyles and safety.

- 1. Increase connectivity in the Township by developing more biking and walking trails.
- 2. Increase connectivity from neighborhoods to parks, trails, and amenities.
- 3. Maintain an ease of flow of traffic in the park, by making sure all park amenities and areas are connected.



ACTION PLAN

TABLE 36 - TAYMOUTH TO WNSHIP ACTION LIST

Facility/Project	Relates to Goal	Priority
Township Park		
Explore adding a permanent year-round restroom facility	1, 3	1
Additional Projects		
Acquire additional land to expand existing parks.	5	1
Update and add park amenities, i.e. benches, trashcans, water fountains, etc.	1, 3	1
Community-wide Initiatives		
Develop more water access points for canoe/kayak launch points	3, 4	1



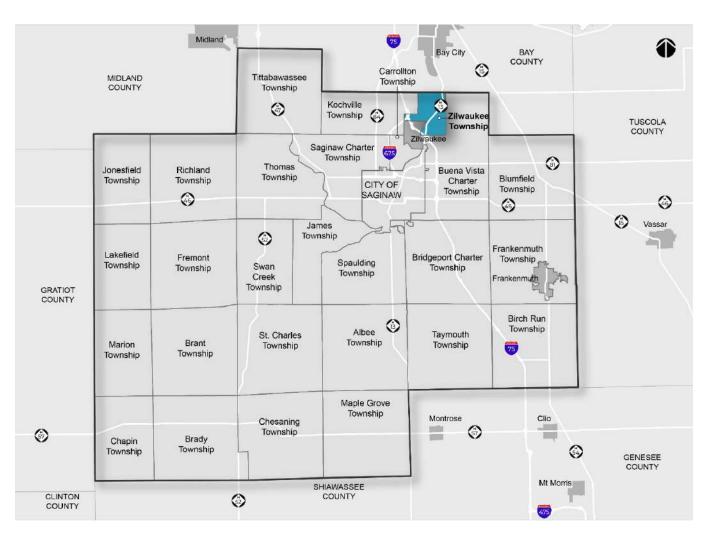


INTRODUCTION

Zilwaukee Township is located in the northern portion of Saginaw County. The Township is surrounded by Portsmouth Charter Township in Bay County to the north, Buena Vista Charter Township to the west, City of Zilwaukee to the south, and Kochville Township to the west. The Township is located just shy of 10 miles north of the City of Saginaw. The Township is easily accessible, via I-75 and 1-675 runs through the western corner and southern corner of the Township with M-13 traversing north and south through the middle of the Township.

The Township is a very natural resource rich area with the Crow Island State Game area covering the majority of the Township and the Saginaw River running through the middle.

MAP 17 - LOCATION MAP



COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

TABLE 37 – ZILWAUKEE TOWNSHIP DEMOGRAPHICS

	Zilwaukee Township	Saginaw County	Michigan
Population			
2010 Population	67	200,169	9,883,640
2020 Population	62	190,124	10,077,331
Percent of the Population 65 and Older	1.1%	19.7%	18.1%
Percent of the Population Under 18	43.1%	24.7%	24.4%
Percent of Population with a Disability	29.5%	16.9%	14.2%
Median Age	31.5	40.9	40.2
Education			
Percent with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher	29.8%	22.5%	30%
Income			
Median Household Income	\$55,938	\$50,606	\$59,234
Per Capita Income	\$22,295	\$28,092	\$ 34,768
Housing			
Average Household Size	3.68	2.31	2.54
Median Housing Values	\$175,000	\$128,600	\$162,600
Renter-Occupied Housing as percentage of Total Occupied Units	18.5%	28.3%	26.8%

Zilwaukee has a fairly small population in comparison to the other Saginaw County jurisdictions. In the past decade, they have only had a loss of five residents. The Township does have a fairly low median age, 31.5, at least ten years younger than the County and State. Additionally, they also have a very high percentage of their population under 18 years of age, at 43.1%. This is almost double that of the County and State. With a low median age and a high percentage of the population being younger, it's expected that the older population would be smaller in comparison to the County and State. This holds true, only 1.1% of the Township population is older than 65.

Other items to note are that the Township's average household size is slightly higher than the County and State's at 3.68.

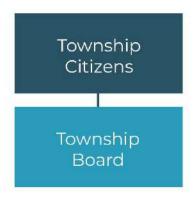
Understanding your Township's population is key when determining how to plan for recreational needs for the future. Different age groups have different recreational needs, with a younger population the Township should focus on making sure that there are amenities for children; playgrounds, fields, activities, etc.

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

INTRODUCTION

Zilwaukee Township is a small township. The Township Board is responsible for all parks and recreational decisions in the Township. However, the Township does not have any recreational facilities they own or operate. If they were interested in providing recreation opportunities, it would be the Board's decision to pursue a land acquisition for recreational purposes or develop Township property for recreation. Since the Township does not have a current park, they do not have any funds budgeted for parks and recreation.

FIGURE 7 - ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE



ADDITIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

Volunteers

The Township has a group of volunteers who assist with various tasks at the undeveloped property the Township owns along the Saginaw River. The group will arrange small property clean-ups, remove trash/debris, and repair vehicle rut damage. Should the Township ever transform the property into a formally developed park, the volunteers' assistance may change.

Local Groups

The Township also has a relationship with Great Lakes Bay Regional Trail/ BayZil Trail. The BayZil Rail Trail is located on the western side of the Saginaw River and is approximately 2 miles. Together the groups work together to be partners on the trail and support its development in the Township.

GRANT HISTORY

This is the Township's first recreation plan, they have not been awarded any previous DNR grants.

RECREATION INVENTORY

Melbourne Road

Location: 7600 Melbourne Road, Saginaw, MI 48604

Acres: 2.64

ADA accessibility: 1

Classification: Community Park

Zilwaukee Township owns 2.64 acres along the Saginaw River off Melbourne Road. The property is currently undeveloped. In the future, the Township may decide to develop this site and make it the Township's first park.

Zilwaukee Township Hall

Location: 6189 Sherman Road

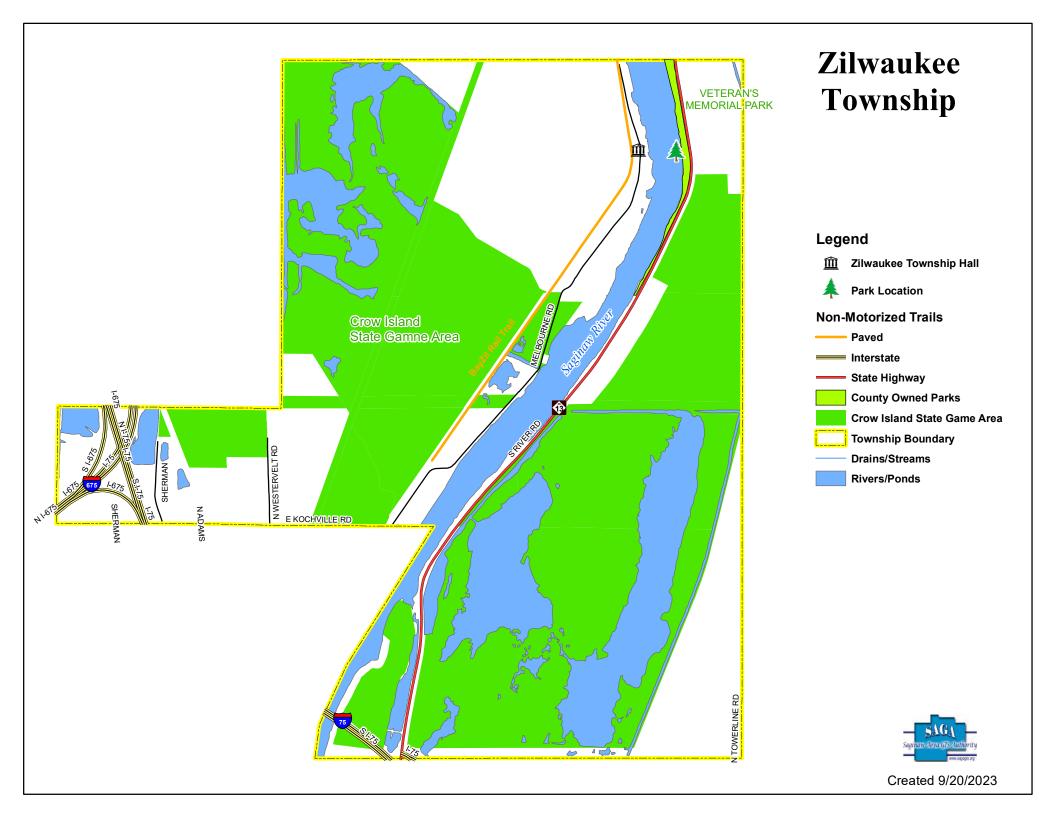
Acres: 2.3

ADA accessibility: 2

Classification: Special Use Facility

The Township Hall is situated between I-75 and Sherman Road. There is open space around the Township Hall, however, due to its location, the property may be limited on recreational opportunities.





Comparison to Standards

The following classification system is adapted from the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) guide. It categorizes different types of parks based on size, service area, facilities, and user groups. There are two classification types in the Zilwaukee Township: community park and special use facility.



Community parks are intended to provide recreational services for several neighborhoods and usually serve a broad range of uses. The



typical park size is 30 acres or more. The Township has one park that is classified as a community park. The national classification system recommends five acres per 1,000 residents. The national standard for the Township is 2.64.

Special-Use Facility

Special-use parks cover a broad range of parks and recreation facilities oriented toward single-purpose use. There is no national standard for special-use facilities.

TABLE 38 - COMPARISON TO STANDARDS

	Standard	Park Acreage	Standard Amount	Deficiency / Excess
Community Parks	5 acres/1,000 residents	2.64	0.31	+2.33
Special Use Facility	-	2.3	-	+2.3
Total				+4.63
Table is based on the 2020 Census population				

COMMUNITY INPUT

Zilwaukee Township asked survey respondents five questions. The questions cover items of importance, park facilities, amenities, safety, water access, and items to improve. As the Township has no parks, and they are so small, a park would be a significant investment. It will be important that they determine what residents may like to see for any future development.

The first question of the survey asked respondents to rank what is most important to them, the respondents said that they would like to see amenities added to the existing Township property before the Township acquires additional parkland.

The next question asked respondents how they feel regarding the park maintenance and appearance, the variety of amenities/facilities, and the safety and security. The majority of the respondents selected satisfied in all categories.

Park Maintenance/Appearance

Satisfied: 46.4%

o Somewhat Satisfied: 28.6%

Neutral: 10.7%Unsatisfied: 4.8%

o No opinion/do not use: 9.5%

Variety of Amenities/Facilities

o Satisfied: 34.9%

o Somewhat Satisfied: 30.1%

Neutral: 16.9%Unsatisfied: 9.6%

o No opinion/do not use: 8.4%

Safety and security

o Satisfied: 37.3%

o Somewhat Satisfied: 19.3%

Neutral: 18.1%Unsatisfied: 15.7%

o No opinion/do not use: 9.6%

Offering recreational amenities for all ages and abilities should be considered when making park updates and improvements. To determine what recreational amenities would be most helpful for those with a disability, the survey asked respondents to select amenities that would make the property more user-friendly. The responses are as follows:

Paved/hard surface trails: 37%

Accessible restrooms: 35.6%

Flatter, easier grades: 28.8%

Accessible fishing access: 24.7%

Accessible parking: 23.3%

Sensory gardens: 16.4%

Not applicable: 43.8%

The Saginaw River is a significant component of the Township's natural features. Within the Township today, there is one point of river access located at Veterans Memorial Park in the northern portion of the Township. Veterans Memorial Park is owned by Saginaw County. The survey asked respondents if they would support recreational access along the Saginaw River.

Yes: 89%

No: 1%

No opinion/unsure: 10%

The final question of the survey asked respondents what is one thing they would do to improve recreation in the Township. The most common responses are listed below.

- Extend the trail
- Provide water access
- Maintenance/clean up in the park

"Rail trail connector from the riverfront to BayZil rail trail. (through Crow's Island) That trail is the most scenic and full of wildlife, however it is nearly impossible to access from the Saginaw side. It would be great to start at the riverfront park and be able to ride to Bay City from there."

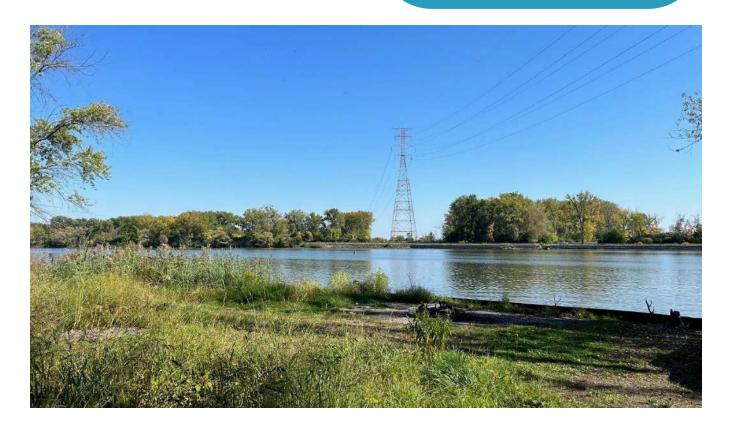
"More fishing area, including docks or board walks"

"Keeping it clean and making sure restrooms have plenty of toilet paper."

"Add more recreation area. An area where you can view the wildlife"

"Better bike trail. Plant trees the path is awful in the summer. Get the trail away from the power lines."

"Disc golf course would be nice."



GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goal 1 – Develop, provide, maintain, and enhance diverse recreational activities for residents and visitors.

Objectives:

- 1. Add amenities and facilities to meet the wants and needs of Township residents.
- 2. Provide recreation facilities to improve health and fitness.
- 3. Ensure facilities are safe, clean, and well-maintained.
- 4. Seek and apply for grants to support recreational initiatives through the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and local foundations.

Goal 2 - Improve/provide barrier-free access to parks and facilities.

Objectives:

- 1. Provide outdoor recreation experiences for people of all ages and abilities.
- 2. When feasible, incorporate Universal Design standards in all new amenities and existing amenities as appropriate.
- 3. Provide equal access to recreation opportunities to all individuals.
- 4. Improvements to existing facilities should be designed to meet or exceed the minimum requirements of the Michigan barrier-free code.

Goal 3 - Strive to protect and enhance Township's natural features.

- 1. Preserve and protect open space and other important natural features in the Township.
- 2. Incorporate unique natural features (woodlands, wetlands, floodplains, and rivers) into future recreation planning whenever feasible.
- 3. Provide both "passive" and "active" types of recreational facilities to create a mix of recreational areas and natural open space areas.
- 4. Capitalize on the recreational opportunities provided by the Crow Island State Game Area and Saginaw River.

Goal 4 – Acquire additional recreational land for potential park facilities when deemed necessary.

Objectives:

- 1. Acquire additional parkland when available to provide expanded recreational opportunities.
- 2. Be aware of property acquisition opportunities that are adjacent to or near existing parks, and may provide natural resource protection, access to water/riverfront, and/or wildlife habitat.
- 3. If possible, acquire spaces that are high in natural resources value.

Goal 5 – Develop pathways and other park connections to promote healthy lifestyles and safety.

- 1. Increase connectivity in the Township by developing more biking and walking trails.
 - 2. Increase connectivity from neighborhoods to parks, trails, and amenities.



ACTION PLAN

TABLE 39 – ZILWAUKEE TOWNSHIP ACTION LIST

Facility/Project	Relates to Goal	Priority
Township Park		
Explore the development of the Township-owned property on the Saginaw River along Melbourne Rd.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	1
Additional Projects		
Explore connectivity to the BayZil Trail and trailhead	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	2
Community-wide Initiatives		
Explore and expand partnerships with the State of Michigan, Saginaw County municipalities, and entities such as the Saginaw County Road Commission and the Great Lakes Bay Regional Trail	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	2





PLANNING PROCESS

PROCESS

In a continuing effort to provide quality recreational opportunities for its citizens, Saginaw County in collaboration with the participating communities in the multi-jurisdictional planning effort has developed this Parks and Recreation Master Plan as a tool to guide the development of community parks and recreational facilities over the next five years. The Plan will provide the County and Townships with eligibility for grants from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to assist each community in reaching their recreational goals.

Saginaw County contracted with Spicer Group of Saginaw, Michigan to assist with the completion of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The consultant met with the County and Township's staff and the Parks and Recreation Commissions several times during the development of the Plan. Two group meetings were held with representatives from the participating communities during the course of preparing the plan. A joint public hearing was held at the Saginaw County Board of Commissioners for the plan after the 30-day review period.

Data was collected about the participating communities including maps, demographics, park information, and an inventory of existing facilities. This data was collected from a number of resources such as forms completed by the participating communities, county staff, the existing Saginaw County Recreation Plan, the existing Townships recreation plans, the Saginaw County GIS Department, various websites, and field observations.

During the development of the plan, two opportunities for input, participation, and review were provided:

- Online community input survey that was available from July 2022 to September 2022.
- 30-day review period and a public hearing held on November 21, 2023.

Based upon the existing information and public input, the County and each Township have developed the goals and objectives for their parks and recreation for the next five years. Then, the County and the Townships developed action plans to accomplish the goals and objectives.

REVIEW AND ADOPTION

Spicer Group completed a draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan which was available for review at the County and Township's offices and on each community's website. The review period from November to December was publicized in the local paper and online through social media. The final opportunity for community input occurred at the advertised public hearing held before the adoption of the Plan at the Saginaw County Board of Commissioners meeting on November 21, 2023. After the public hearing, the Board of Commissioners passed a resolution adopting the plan for the County, and then each Township Board from the individual communities also adopted the Plan via resolution.

Copies of the Plan were transmitted to the Eastern Michigan Council of Governments. The Plan was uploaded to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for approval in February 2024. Copies of the noticed advertisements, public hearing minutes, and the resolution are included in Appendix F.

