

September 26, 2018 Draft



Saginaw County Recreation Plan 2019 – 2023



Saginaw County Recreation Plan

2019 – 2023

Saginaw County Board of Commissioners – Adopted on _____

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Introduction

About the Saginaw County Recreation Plan

Saginaw County has developed a Recreation Plan to serve as a guideline to improve recreation facilities and develop new recreational opportunities. To that end, this document forms the basis to guide policy for implementation of improvements and new initiatives that will meet the recreational goals and interests of the Saginaw County community. The Plan was guided by the Saginaw County Parks and Recreation Commission. It is an update to the 2014 - 2018 Recreation Plan.

Before any Recreation 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 County residents, County officials, and other community stakeholders. This input is a critical component to this Plan, and, together, the voices of Saginaw County have united to develop a Recreation Plan to enhance the quality of life for everyone.

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

- ❖ Involve the community in the process to develop a five-year Recreation Plan,

- ❖ Identify and map existing Saginaw County recreational facilities,
- ❖ Build common ground among Saginaw County stakeholders in addressing the future recreational needs and priorities of the County,
- ❖ Enable Saginaw County to be eligible for financial assistance based upon 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 County parks.

Broadly speaking, Saginaw County officials intend to use this Plan to continue to guide their work on all future recreational and parks projects within the County. It is also a strategic document that articulates specific goals to various agencies and organizations that fund local recreational and parks improvement projects. Specifically, this Plan is developed in accordance with the guidelines for Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans published by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). A five-year, MDNR-approved Recreation Plan is necessary for Saginaw County to pursue MDNR-administered grants. This Recreation Plan is written for a single county, Saginaw County. It covers all aspects of recreation within the community.



Participants of a kayaking class on William H. Haithco Lake.



Community Description

About Saginaw County

Saginaw County is located in central Lower Michigan. See Figure 1. 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 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 a regional health care center.

Saginaw County contains three cities, 27 townships and five incorporated villages. According to the 2010 U.S. Census, the population of Saginaw County was 200,169. The 2000 population was 210,839 showing a population decrease of approximately 5.1% from 2000 to 2010. The 2016 5-year estimate of the population was 195,201, showing that the County population is continuing to decline.

This is reflective of a sluggish economy in Michigan during the decade from 2000-2010, which was exacerbated by the impact of the 2007-2009 housing-based economic recession still impacting the nation. 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.

According to the American Community Survey’s 2016 Five-year estimate of the population, four communities in Saginaw County have more than 10,000 people: Saginaw (49,892), Saginaw Township (40,053), Thomas Township (11,691), and Bridgeport Township (10,195). These communities account for 56% of the population in Saginaw County. Two townships and two villages have less than 900 people. Those are Zilwaukee Township (193), Chapin Township (877), the Village of Merrill (717), and the Village of Oakley (212).



Figure 1 – Saginaw County is located in central Lower Michigan

Other demographic characteristics of Saginaw County as compared to the state of Michigan are shown in Figure 2. In general, Saginaw County’s population is older, less educated, and poorer than the population of Michigan. Within the County, there are wide variations in demographic characteristics between jurisdictions. For example, the median household income is estimated at \$26,700 in Buena Vista Township and \$79,779 in Frankenmuth Township (ACS 2016 5-Year Estimate).

Figure 2 COMPARATIVE DEMOGRAPHIC DATA		
	Saginaw County	Michigan
Median Age	40.4 years	39.5 years
Population under 18	16.3%	22.5%
Population over 65	17.2%	15.4%
Housing units occupied by renters	27.9%	27.0%
Median Household Income	\$43,712	\$50,803
Population with a disability	16.2%	14.2%
Individuals below poverty level	17.9%	16.3%
Population with bachelor’s degree or higher*	20.7%	27.4%

Saginaw County is approximately 818 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.

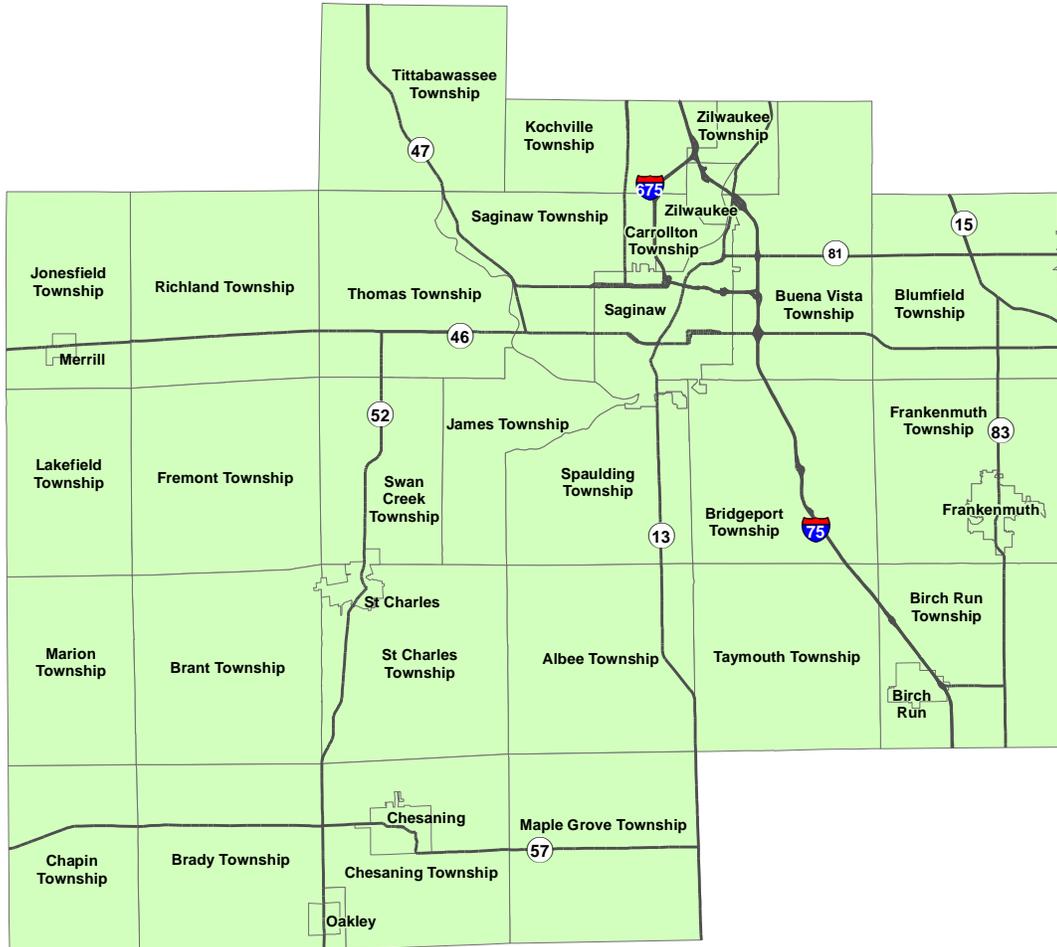


Figure 3 – Saginaw County contains three cities, 27 townships and five incorporated villages.

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.

The other public or semi-public lands are largely golf courses, and County, City, and Township parks. Figure 4 shows the Conservation and Resource Lands (CARL) in Saginaw County, based upon mapping data from the Nature Conservancy and Ducks Unlimited.

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 in Michigan. 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 the walleye fishing in Saginaw County, particularly in the Tittabawassee and Saginaw Rivers.

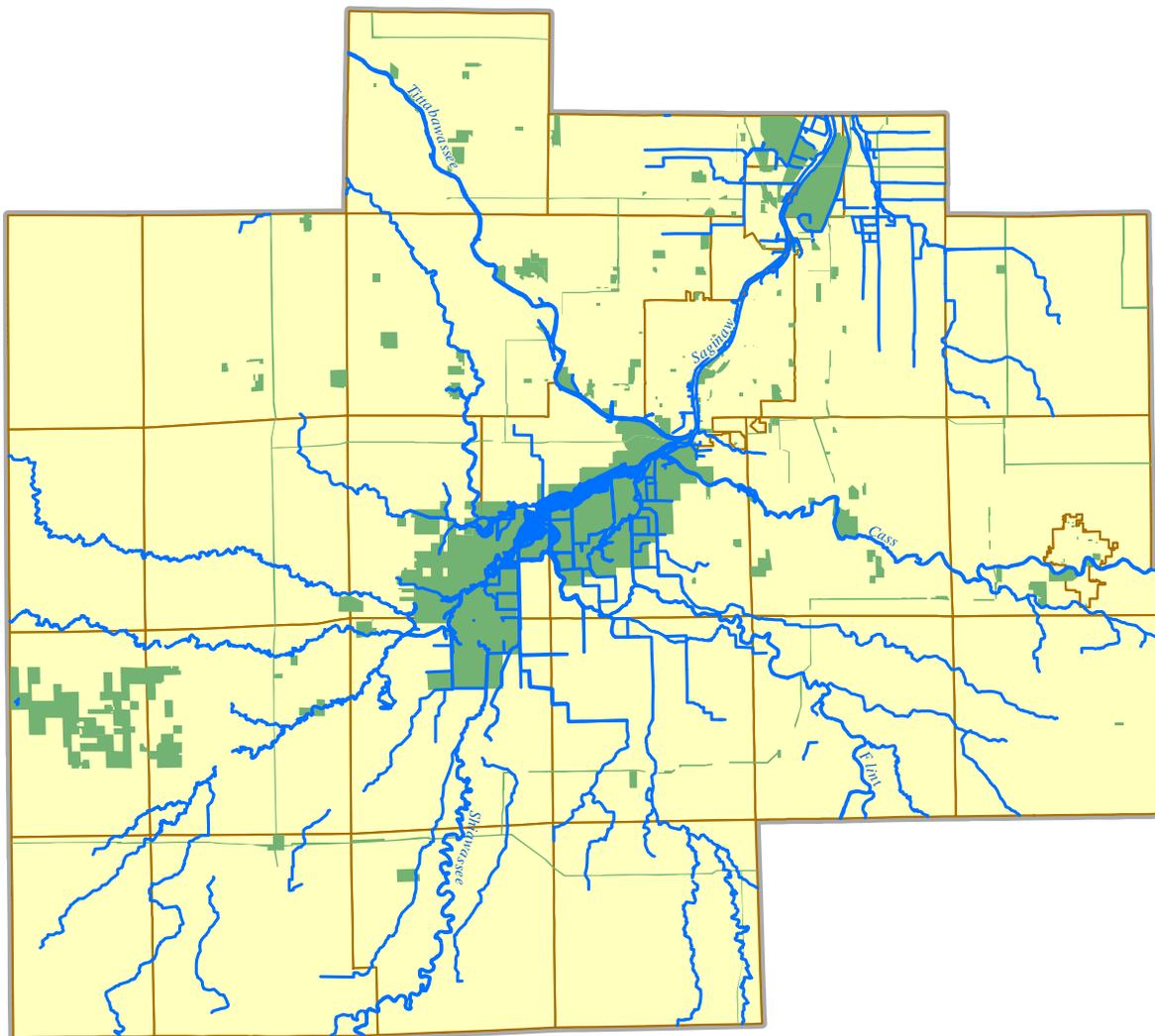


Figure 4 – The green shaded areas show publicly and privately held conservation and resource lands in Saginaw County. The large green areas in the center of the County are the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge and the Shiawassee River State Game Area. (Source: The Nature Conservancy and Ducks Unlimited)



Administrative Structure

How Parks and Recreation Works in Saginaw County

Policy-Making Bodies

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 park land, and to establish rules for the protection, regulation, and control of its facilities. All actions of the Saginaw County Parks and Recreation Commission are subject to the approval of the Saginaw County Board of Commissioners.

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 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 total 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.

Management Structure and Staff

The Saginaw County Parks and Recreation Commission establishes policies, develops plans, approves grant applications and land acquisitions, establishes a budget, and recommends fee structures, with final approval from the Saginaw County Board of Commissioners. The Department of Parks and Recreation is responsible for operating and maintaining the parks, making the 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. Five full-time employees, and approximately 30-35 seasonal employees, work under his/her 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 snow-plowing are contracted to the private sector and to other County departments. See Figure 4.

Funding and Budgets

Funding for Parks and Recreation in Saginaw County primarily 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.

Budgets for the current and previous year are shown below:

Figure 5 Saginaw County Parks and Recreation Budget		
	2018	2017
Operation and Maintenance	\$1,212,800	\$1,154,179
Programming	\$51,178	\$53,265
Capital Improvements	\$142,500	\$207,540
Total	\$1,406,478	\$1,414,984

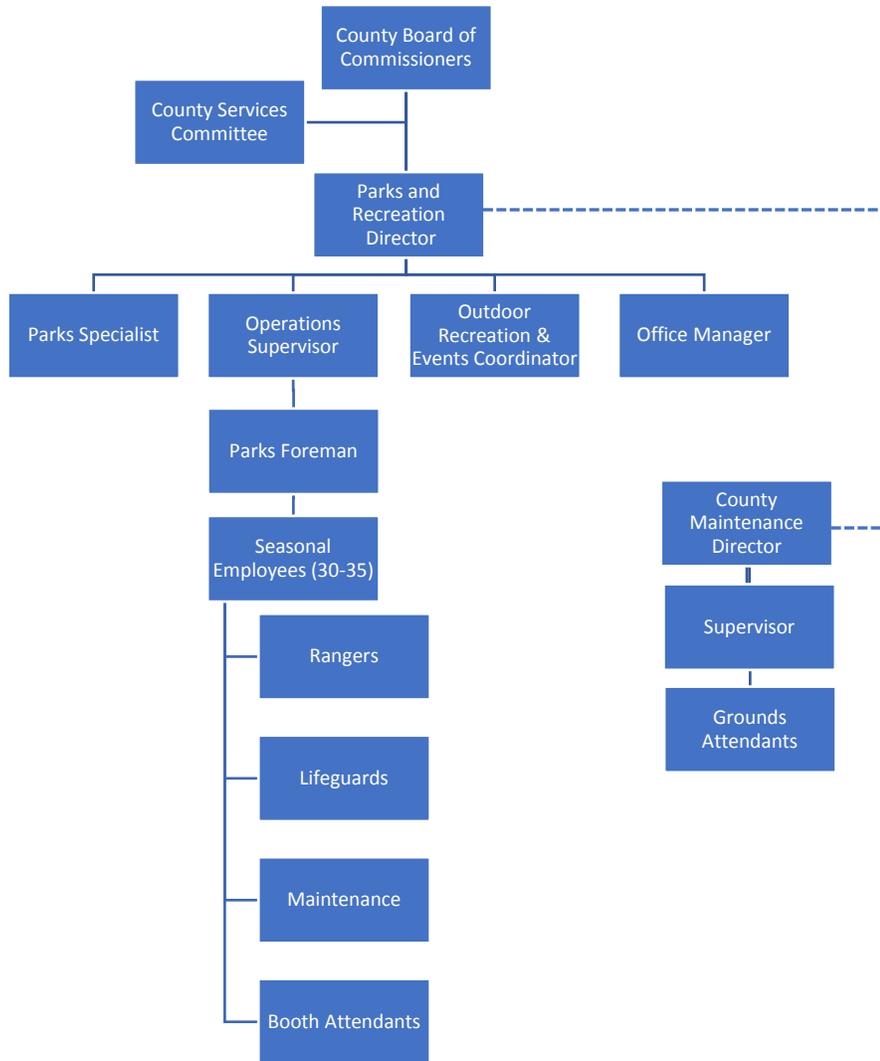


Figure 6 – Saginaw County Parks and Recreation Organization Chart

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, 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 three years, the County has partnered with Friends of Hoyt Park (a Saginaw City park) on operating 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 2018 programs with attendance is shown in Appendix A.

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 Boy 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 recreational 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 in the City and



Jack-O-Dash

beyond. 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 construction of a storage garage.
- Friends of Morley Park – Focused on the long-term sustainability of Morley Park, host 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) – Goal 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 manage the weekly group bicycle ride 'Counter Cruise'.

- Heritage Square Neighborhood Association (Otto Roeser Park) – Neighborhood association with a vested interest in the betterment of their neighborhood park, Otto Roeser.
- Saginaw Area Neighborhood Associations
- Saginaw Community Foundation

Relationships with Other Agencies Involved in Recreation

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 rail trails between Saginaw, Bay, and Midland counties. The Public Libraries of Saginaw, Great Start Collaborative, YMCA of Saginaw, Buckley’s Mountainside Canoe, 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, Team ATP (triathlon training group) and the Chippewa Nature Center are just a few other organizations that work with Saginaw County Parks and Recreation to provide events



Mobile Recreation Programming Vehicle

and activities for the community.



Recreation Inventory

Parks in Saginaw County

Classifying Parks

In order to plan for parks and recreation in the future, the types of facilities that currently exist in Saginaw County need to be examined. It is also helpful to compare these existing facilities to various standards as one measure of the adequacy of the parks and recreation facilities in the area. The inventory was completed by updating the inventory used in the previous Plan. The planning consultant and County recreation staff worked together to make necessary updates or revisions. They also conducted an accessibility review of each park's facilities.

The Recommended Classification System for Local and Regional Open Space from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) defines several types of parks. Three of these are applicable to and found within the parks owned and operated by the Saginaw County Parks & Recreation Commission.

The three classifications of parks that can be found in Saginaw County are Natural Resource Area, Large Urban Park, and Park-Trail. A Natural Resource Area is land set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space, and visual aesthetics/buffering. A Large Urban Park is typically 50 to 75 acres and its focus is on meeting community-based recreational needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces. A Park-Trail is a multipurpose trail located within greenways, parks, and natural resource areas.

The other types of parks classified by the MDNR are Mini-Parks, Neighborhood Parks, School Parks, Community Parks, and Special Use facilities. All of these tend to be part of municipal park systems such as is found in a city or village.

Saginaw County Parks Overview

The Saginaw County Parks & Recreation Commission owns or manages 553 acres of park land ranging in size from 75 acres to 200 acres, including approximately 13.5 miles of paved non-motorized pathway. These parks include three Natural Resource Areas, two Large Urban Parks, and two Park-Trails. A brief description of each park is listed on the following pages. A park location map is shown below. An inventory chart is shown at the end of this section. Individual park maps are contained in the Appendix.

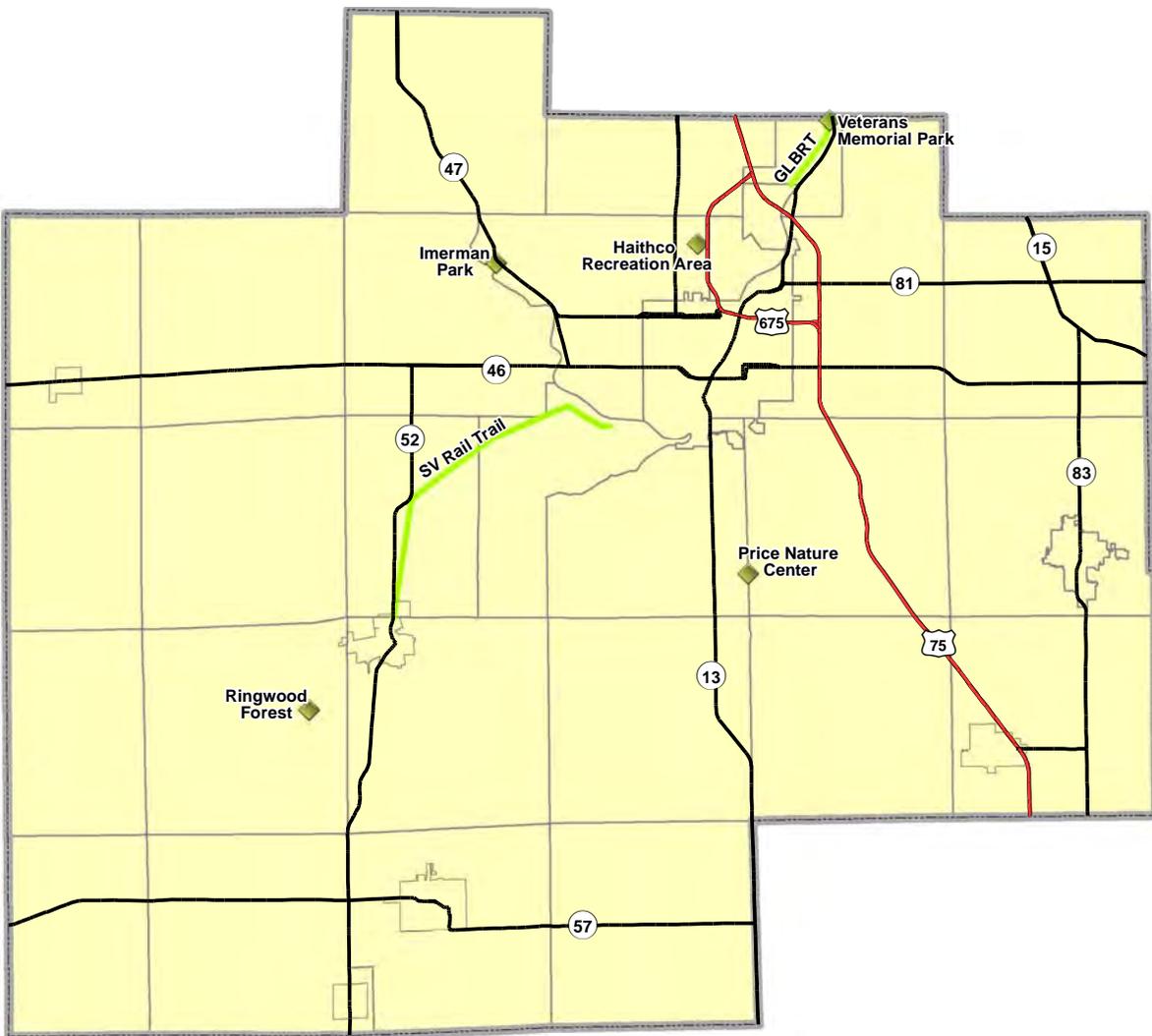
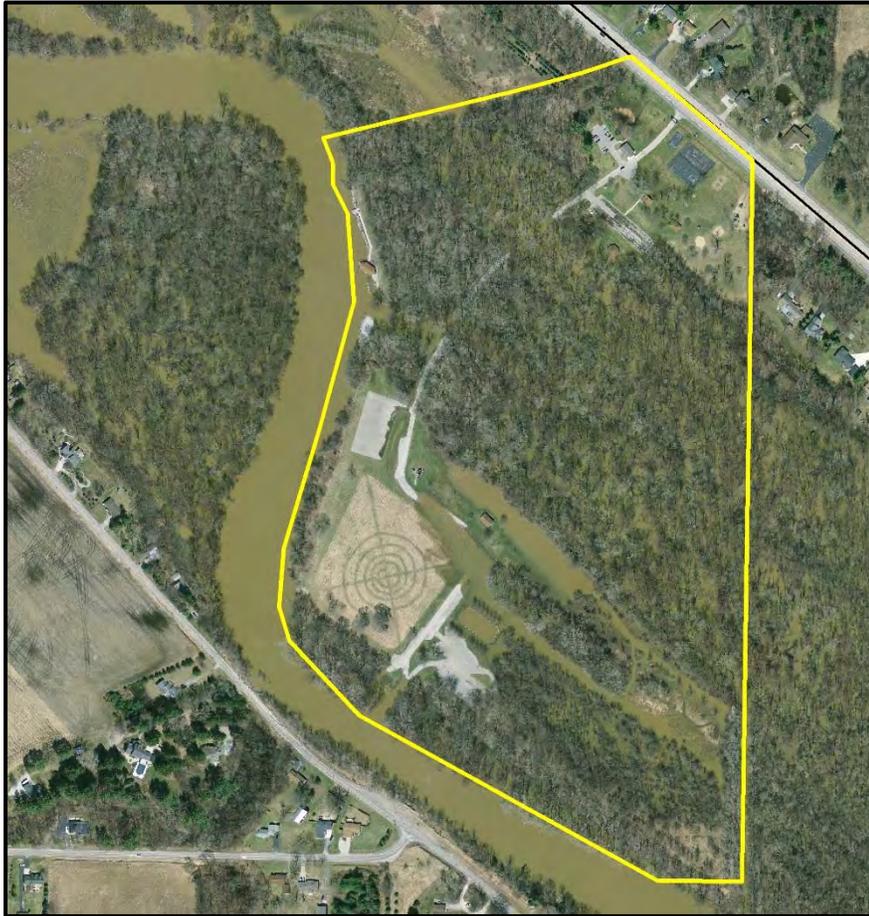


Figure 7 – Saginaw County Park Location Map

Imerman Memorial Park



Area: 96 Acres

Location: 3495 Midland Road, Saginaw Township

Park Classification: Large Urban Park

Accessibility: 3 (most of the facilities/park areas meet MDNR accessibility guidelines). Some of the amenities are missing accessible routes.

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 viewing deck, 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.

William H. Haithco Recreation Area



Area: 76 Acres

Location: 2121 Schust Road, Saginaw Township

Park Classification: Large Urban Park

Accessibility: 3 (most of the facilities/park areas meet MDNR accessibility guidelines). Some of the amenities are missing accessible routes.

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, 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. The park is conveniently located off I-675 near the Tittabawassee Road exit.

Price Nature Center



Area: 186 Acres

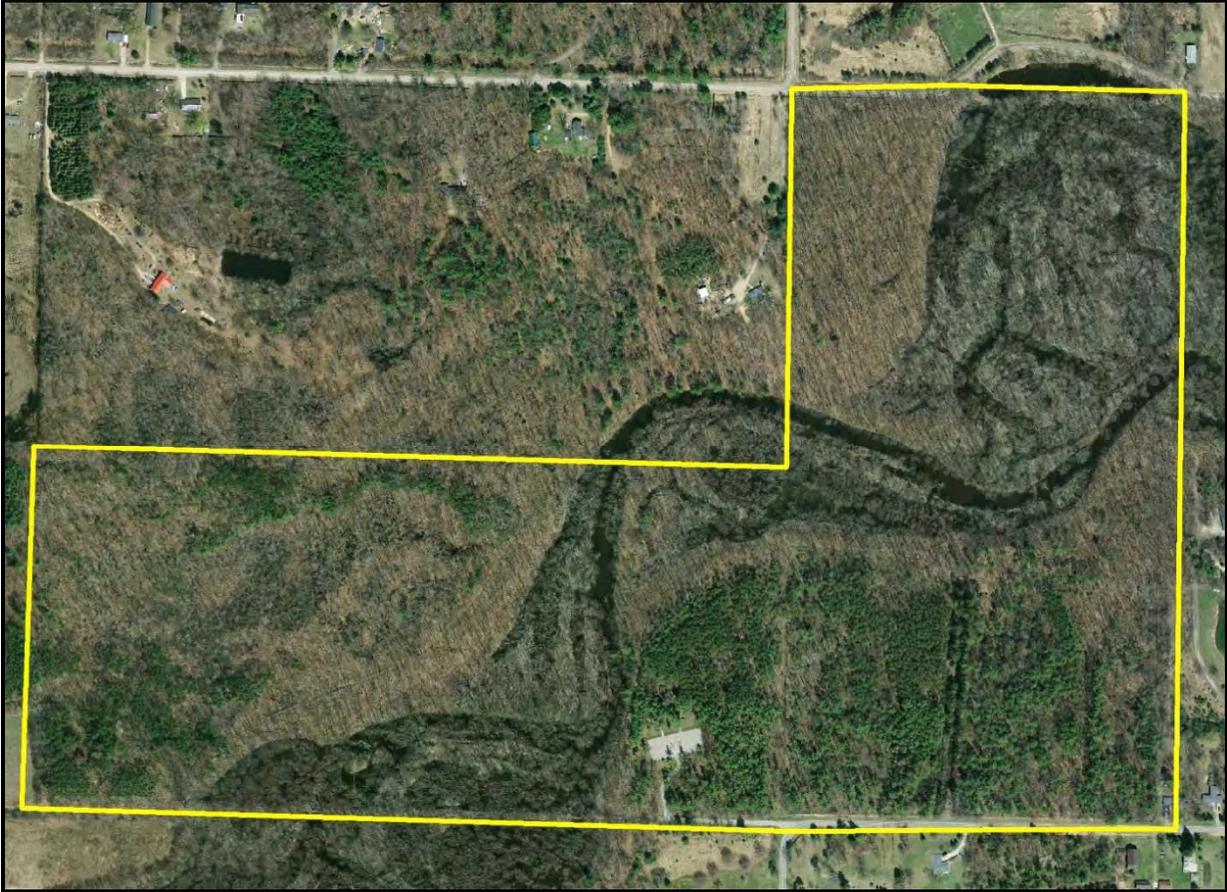
Location: 6685 Sheridan Road, Bridgeport Township

Park Classification: Natural Resource Area

Accessibility: 2 (some of the facilities/park areas meet MDNR accessibility guidelines). The trails are not fully accessible, some amenities do not have accessible routes.

Price Nature Center is located five miles south of Saginaw. It is the largest park 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



Area: 160 Acres

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

Park Classification: Natural Resource Area

Accessibility: 2 (some of the facilities/park areas meet MDNR accessibility guidelines) The trails are not fully accessible, some amenities do not have accessible routes.

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, hilly terrain, 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.

Veterans Memorial Park



Area: 35 Acres

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

Park Classification: Natural Resource Area

Accessibility: 2 (some of the facilities/park areas meet MDNR accessibility guidelines). There is no paved or marked ADA parking, shore fishing is not accessible.

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.

Saginaw Valley Rail Trail



Length: 11.5 miles

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

Park Classification: Non-Motorized Trail

Accessibility: 4 (entire park meets MDNR accessibility guidelines)

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 trail provides for many types of non-motorized transportation, including horseback riding along a nine-mile portion.

Great Lakes Bay Regional Trail (BayZil Trail)



Length: 2.3 miles in Saginaw County, 4 miles in Bay County

Location: on Melbourne Road north of Kochville Rd heading north to the Bay County Line

Park Classification: Non-Motorized Trail

Accessibility: 5 (entire park was developed/renovated using the principles of universal design)

The Great Lakes Bay Regional Trail (GLBRT) is a multi-jurisdictional trail that will connect 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 Kochville Township.

Saginaw County has recently received grant funds to extend the trail south to Kochville Road and west to an additional trailhead.

**Figure 8
SAGINAW COUNTY PARKS INVENTORY**

	William H. Haithco Recreation Area	Imerman Memorial Park	Veterans Memorial Park	Price Nature Center	Ringwood Forest	Saginaw Valley Rail Trail	Bay/Zil Trail (GLBRT)
Acres	76	96	35	186	160	11.5 miles	2.3 miles
Park Type	Large Urban Park	Large Urban Park	Natural Resource Area	Natural Resource Area	Natural Resource Area	Park-Trail	Park-Trail
Service Area	Saginaw County	Saginaw County	Saginaw County	Saginaw County	Saginaw County	Saginaw County Region	Saginaw County Region
Accessibility	3	3	2	2	2	4	5
Basketball Courts		2					
Boat Launch		yes	yes		yes (canoe)		
Boat Rental	yes	yes					
Concessions	yes						
Cross Country Skiing		yes		yes	yes	yes	yes
Dog Park		yes					
Fishing	yes	yes	yes		yes	yes	
Group Camping				yes			
Horseshoes	yes	yes			yes		
Interpretive Displays	yes	yes				yes	
Pavilion	5	4		yes	yes		
Picnicking	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	
Playground	2	yes		yes	yes		
Restrooms	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	
Swimming Beach	yes						
Tennis Courts		yes					
Trails	yes	yes		yes	yes	yes	yes
Volleyball	yes	yes					
Other	sailboard beach	roller hockey rink		virgin hardwood stand	historic pine plantation	wildlife observ. platform, 2 pocket parks, equestrian trail	

DNR Grant History

Saginaw County has received 19 different grants from various DNR programs since 1979. Seventeen of those projects are completed and closed. The remaining two are active and are being completed as this plan is written. A listing of all the grants is provided in the Appendix.

Other Outdoor Recreation Facilities in Saginaw County

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.

Further details regarding the state and federal recreation lands mentioned in Section 2 are described below. Together, these lands comprise several thousand acres of significant natural resources in Saginaw County.

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 Tittbawassee 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 hunt 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.

Trails

Saginaw County has been very involved in developing trail networks across the County and region. Their first initiative has been the Saginaw Valley Rail Trail. Since that time the Parks Department has worked with other communities in Saginaw County and neighboring Bay and Midland Counties to develop a regional path system. The Saginaw County Parks director is on the board of directors of the Great Lakes Bay Regional Trail Committee. Saginaw County has developed a portion of the GLBRT trail (BayZil Rail Trail) and they are working to develop a trailhead at the southern end of that portion of the trail.

Other Significant Natural Resources

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 Mistequay 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 remediation 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 Tittabawssee River floods portions of the park.

Accessibility

Creating a park system that is safe, accessible and usable to all individuals within the County, including those with disabilities, is essential. A grading system has been developed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) to easily identify those parks and facilities which are most and least handicap 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 and/or renovated using the principals of universal design. See Figure 8.

An Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance assessment of Saginaw County’s parks was conducted during the fall of 2008, and was re-evaluated in 2013 and 2018. The assessment consisted of a visual inspection of each park in regard to access and circulation in relation to the park facilities. As noted in the inventory listing, some of the parks do not meet all criteria for handicap accessibility. The Saginaw County Parks & Recreation Commission will continue its efforts towards improving accessibility at each of the parks when improvements are made. This includes accessible parking, paths, restrooms, activity areas, amenities, and signage.

Figure 8
MDNR 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 meest accessibility guidelines.
5	The entire park was developed/renovated using the principles of universal design.



Community Input

The Foundation for the Development of Recreational Goals

Overview

To comply with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation Open Space and Greenway Plans, the Saginaw County Parks & Recreation Commission offered two opportunities for public input, along with a 30-day period for review and comment on the draft Recreation Plan.

The first opportunity for public input was an online survey. It was made available through links on Saginaw County's home page (www.saginawcounty.com), on the main page for the Parks & Recreation Commission (www.saginawcounty.com/parks), and via Facebook and Twitter. The survey was available for approximately four weeks beginning on June 7, 2018. The results of the survey are discussed in more detail later in this section. A compilation of all responses and comments from the survey are provided in Appendix B.

The online survey was well publicized. In addition to advertisements on social media, flyers were posted, postcards were distributed to park patrons and e-mail blasts were sent to various contacts within the Saginaw County Parks and Recreation contact lists. A story about the survey with a link was included in the Park and Recreation Commission's summer newsletter.



Facebook posts encouraged people to take the community input survey.

After the draft was completed on September 28, 2018, it was advertised as available for public review and comment for 30 days in the Parks & Recreation Commission office and the Hoyt Public Library. The third and final public input opportunity was at an advertised public meeting held on _____, 2018 at the Saginaw County Governmental Center.

Online Survey Discussion

The online survey received 382 completed responses. Another 163 respondents completed at least part of the survey. Responses came from 19 of the 25 different zip codes within the County. The responses were well distributed across age groups, with more than 52% received from those aged 30 to 49.

The following narrative summarizes key takeaways from questions asked about each park.

Imerman Park Community Input Takeaways

- Safety and security, variety of facilities/amenities, maintenance and appearance were all ranked as good or very good by the majority of respondents.
- Top three amenities desired: canoe/kayak rental, paths/trails, drinking fountains

Haithco Park Community Input Takeaways

- Safety and security, variety of facilities/amenities, maintenance and appearance were all ranked as good or very good by the majority of respondents.

- Top four amenities desired: walking trail around the lake, spray pad, inflatable lake features, improved beach and swimming area.

Price Nature Center Community Input Takeaways

- Most respondents were not familiar with this park.
- Top three amenities desired: more trails, upgraded wood chip trails to hard surface, upgrade the campground.

Ringwood Forest Community Input Takeaways

- Most respondents were not familiar with this park.
- Top three amenities desired: mountain bike course, more trails, nature/interpretive signage.

Saginaw Valley Rail Trail Community Input Takeaways

- Safety and security, variety of facilities/amenities, maintenance and appearance were all ranked as good or very good by the majority of respondents.
- Top three amenities desired: extension northward beyond W. Michigan and Center Road in Saginaw Township, vault toilet at the Stroebel Road trailhead, extension southward toward Chesaning.

Veterans Park Community Input Takeaways

- Most respondents were not familiar with this park.
- Top three amenities desired: shoreline clean-up/phragmites control, shoreline fishing access, pavilion/picnic shelter.

Programming and Staff

Over 70% of the respondents said that the quality/friendliness of the staff was good or very good. The quality and variety of the programs was also generally ranked as good or very good. There was strong support for more nature and outdoor classes and programs as well as movies in the park. Respondents also wanted to see more adult and more children’s programs.

Funding

Survey respondents expressed strong support for the voter-approved tax levy which allows for free entry to all County Parks.

Other Feedback

One hundred sixty people offered reasons why they like Saginaw County Parks. Common answers included close to home, free, variety, scenery, and safety. Those are illustrated on the following page.



Word Cloud that illustrates what survey respondents liked about Saginaw County Parks.

One hundred thirty-two respondents wrote in a large variety of suggestions for how to improve Saginaw County Parks. Some were for specific improvements at parks, such as disc golf at Imerman. Others were general comments about safety and ongoing maintenance. Many respondents mentioned the general need for more trails while others offered suggestions for specific trail locations. Others mentioned the need to increase awareness of the parks and programs.



Goals and Objectives

A Roadmap for the Future

Developing goals and objectives is an important part of the parks and recreation planning process. The overall goal of the Parks & Recreation Commission is to provide recreation opportunities for the Saginaw County community and region it serves. More specific goals 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. Objectives carry out the purpose of the goal. An action program is the most specific planning level, as it identifies specific projects and programs to be pursued over the next five years. The action program can include organizational, staffing, programming, public information, and operation and maintenance actions. The Saginaw County Parks & Recreation Commission formulated goals and objectives in 2013 based upon the characteristics of the overall community, community feedback, and staff and parks commission opinions and input. Those goals and objectives were reviewed in 2018 and adjusted and changed as necessary based on previous accomplishments and any changes in recreation needs that have occurred in the past five years.

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

The Saginaw Valley Rail Trail extends for almost eleven miles through the southwestern portion of Saginaw County and, based on the comments received from all the types of input received for this Plan, it is wildly popular. One could say it is the jewel of the parks system. By sheer force of its popularity, the rail trail is a tremendous asset that is used frequently and has broad-based support. Community input survey results show that interest in expanding trails and opportunities for walking, hiking and biking throughout the County is very high. This could be because residents feel a need to expand upon the Rail Trail's benefits and to make them more accessible through an expanded trail network. Furthermore, all forms of non-motorized transportation are becoming increasingly important across the United States. Multi-use paths, paved trails, and bike lanes are increasingly being used for recreation and transportation purposes.

Saginaw County Parks is looking beyond the Saginaw Valley Rail Trail to other paths in the region, particularly the Great Lakes Bay Regional Trail. It wants to continue to support this effort. This may be by facilitating conversations among trail partners for routing and concept plans, assisting with operation and maintenance, or by developing trail segments.

The following objectives are designed to support this goal and to help strengthen trail connectivity in Saginaw County.

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.

Goal B: Promote and provide diverse recreational opportunities to satisfy all age groups and levels of ability.

Providing a diverse range of recreation opportunities that are appropriate for different age groups and user types will help improve the health and fitness, as well as the quality of life for Saginaw County residents. These opportunities will also be fun and create lasting memories and should help retain families in and attract families to Saginaw County. Census information shows that Saginaw County is aging relatively fast when compared to the rest of Michigan, and improvements to recreation may help encourage more participation across the population spectrum. Results from the online survey, specifically Question #4 which addressed other recreational programs or activities needed in County parks, show a need for programs for children as well as adults.

Objectives:

1. Continue to add amenities to Saginaw County park facilities based upon community input and need.
2. Provide passive and active programming for a variety of ages and abilities of the population throughout Saginaw 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. Obtain indoor program space to increase off season programs and to have a rain location.
5. Expanding mobile recreation with a second vehicle.

Goal C: 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.

Saginaw County offers unique water resources that offer a variety of opportunities for active and passive recreation. Furthermore, results from the online survey also indicate a strong desire for more nature and outdoor-related programming.

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.
3. Promote water safety education to ensure safe usage for all populations, including access to affordable canoe/kayak rentals.
4. Add accessible boat/kayak launches.

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

Many of the features in the parks in Saginaw County are already handicap accessible, but changes are needed to improve overall accessibility. Input from the community suggests a need to improve the accessibility of existing facilities, further bolstered by the fact that American Community Survey's (ACS) one-year estimates from 2012 show that 16.2% of the population in Saginaw County has a disability. This goal and subsequent objectives are designed to support improvements in County parks that address accessibility.

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.

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

Comments from the community input online survey indicate a need for quality recreation opportunities throughout all of Saginaw County. Within Saginaw County, there are a total of 35 local municipalities, which include three cities, five villages, and 27 townships. Many provide local parks and community recreational facilities. State and federal agencies also provide recreational opportunities. The management of these public facilities is the responsibility of the elected boards and commissions of the respective entity. The Saginaw County Parks and Recreation Commission recognizes the health benefits, positive economic impacts, and overall contribution to quality of life that recreation provides to the residents of Saginaw County. As such, the Parks & Recreation Commission supports efforts to improve all recreational facilities and services within the County. With approximately 26% of the County's population located in the City of Saginaw, access to recreation opportunities is important. The Parks & Recreation Commission recognizes this need and wishes to collaborate with communities in order to promote recreation throughout Saginaw County.



Kids at a mobile program

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.

Goal F: Retain public land for future generations.

Saginaw County is proud of its parks and recreational facilities and realizes they contribute to the quality of life of its residents. When access to natural areas is enhanced, these areas are a draw not only for residents but also for tourists, thus contributing to the larger economic development picture in Saginaw County. New lands may need to be acquired so specific facilities can be added or so that special natural features can be preserved.

Objectives:

1. Retain existing park land 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.



Action Plan

Transforming Ideas into Reality

With goals and objectives in place, the Saginaw County Parks & Recreation Commission developed a five-year action program that will enable them to move toward accomplishing the goals and objectives. The action program details the direction the Parks & Recreation Commission wishes to take over the next five years in order to maintain and improve the quality and diversity of its park and recreation opportunities.

Potential projects are shown on the following page, titled “Project List.” Each action item on the project list relates to one or more of the lettered goals from the Goals and Objectives section of this Plan. These potential capital improvements that are described on the following page have been established to not only provide a framework for decision makers, but to also enable Saginaw County to apply for grant funding for the proposed projects.

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

The action program is shown in the table on the following page.

Figure 9
Saginaw County Recreation Plan – Action Program
Project List

<i>Action Item</i>	<i>Relates to Goal</i>	<i>Justification</i>
Continue to investigate the potential extending the Saginaw Valley Rail Trail.	A, B, E, F	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public input comments. ▪ Improves accessibility and functionality. ▪ Staff input.
Develop the southern trailhead on the BayZil Trail.	A, B, E, F	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public input comments. ▪ Improves accessibility and functionality. ▪ Staff input.
Continue to support park land and facilities in the City of Saginaw	B, E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public input comments. ▪ Staff input.
Add new picnic and pavilion areas, including drinking fountains, at select locations along the rail trail.	A, B, D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public input comments.
Develop canoe launch/fishing platform(s) on area rivers such as the Saginaw, Tittabawassee, Bad, and Cass Rivers.	B, C, D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public input comments. ▪ Improves accessibility and functionality. ▪ Staff input.
Investigate the feasibility of a splash park at the William H. Haithco Recreation Area.	B, D, E, F	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public input comments. ▪ Improves accessibility and functionality. ▪ Staff input.
Investigate the feasibility of developing a new dog park at the William H. Haithco Recreation Area or other County parks.	B, D, E, F	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public input comments. ▪ Improves accessibility and functionality.
Continue riverbank stabilization efforts and infrastructure improvements at Imerman Memorial Park.	C, F	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Staff input.
Construction of a program center at one of the County parks.	B, E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Staff input. ▪ Improves accessibility and functionality.
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.	B, C, D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Staff input. ▪ Improves accessibility and functionality.
Acquire additional land to expand existing parks.	F	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Staff input.

Financing Potential Improvements

Funding for parks and recreation capital improvements can come from a range of local, state, and federal programs. Grant funding is available for parks and recreation projects. However, applicants need to target potential funding agencies and programs very carefully so as to meet the specific criteria required. Appendix E contains a current listing of programs and agencies that can provide funding for parks and recreation projects.



Children's Fun Night



Summary of the Planning Process and Adoption

A Plan Supported by the Community

In its continuing effort to provide quality recreational opportunities for its citizens, Saginaw County has developed a Parks and Recreation Master Plan as a tool to guide the development of community park and recreational facilities and locations over the next five years. This plan is the latest effort by the local governmental officials in Saginaw County to establish recreational goals and objectives for the community. The plan will also provide the County with eligibility for grants from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) to assist the community in reaching its recreational goals.

Saginaw County contracted with Spicer Group of Saginaw, Michigan, to assist them with completion of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The consultant worked with the Saginaw County staff and the Road Commission acting as park trustees through the course of the plan.

Data was collected about the County including maps, demographics, park information and an inventory of existing facilities. This data was collected from a number of resources such as: county staff, relevant planning documents, field observations and various websites.

Community input was collected via an online survey conducted in September of 2018. Based upon the existing information and the community input, Saginaw County reviewed and revised its goals

and objectives for parks and recreation. Then, action plan items were written that would work toward accomplishing the goals and objectives.

The consultant completed the draft Recreation Master Plan document. The plan was made available for review online and at the Saginaw County Parks office for at least 30 days beginning on September __, 2018. This reviewing opportunity was advertised in the _____, on the Saginaw County Parks website and on the Saginaw County Parks Facebook page. The final opportunity for community input occurred at the advertised public meeting held prior to adoption of the plan. This meeting was held on _____ at the County Building at 111 S. Michigan Avenue, Saginaw. The Saginaw County Parks Commission passed a resolution recommending adoption of the Recreation Plan on _____.

On _____ the Saginaw County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution adopting the Recreation Plan. Copies of the advertisements and resolutions are included in the Appendix.

Copies of the Recreation Plan were transmitted to the East Michigan Council of Governments, the Saginaw County Metropolitan Planning Commission, and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) in December of 2018.

Appendix A: Recreation Program Attendance

2018 PROGRAM NUMBERS

Programs/Events	PARTICIPANTS
Aquatics	38
Kayak	24
Lake Swim	6
SUP	8
Baseball	561
Hoyt Youth Ball League	288
End of Season Celebration	200
Sugar Beets Baseball Camp	73
Fitness	331
BroomBall	0
Hike Shoe	2
Pickleball	48
Yoga 4 Any Body	216
Cider and Donut Hike	15
Holiday Hike	50
Furry Friends	405
Dog Days	149
Soggy Doggy	183
Winter Romp	33
Howl-O-Ween	40
Large Events	1490
Catch me If You Can	250
Children's Fun Night	1130
Jack-O-Dash	110
Movie Nights	1031
Kochville Movie- Despicable Me 3	400
Movie Night- COCO	400
Movie Night- Jumanji	216
Movie Night-Thor Raganok	15
Paid Vendors	568
Birds of Prey	260
Village Puppeteers	98
Halloween Magic Show	110
Snakes Alive	100
Partnerships	9660
Bringing Back the Ice	1500
Cannonball Run	198
Covenant Cares Event	300
Zilwaukee Bridgefest Parade	300
Zilwaukee Family Engagement	500
Zoovie-Movie Night	781
5th Annual Outhouse Races	370

2018 PROGRAM NUMBERS

Parent Fair	300
Tinkergarten	80
Homeruns for Headstones	140
Healthy Kids Day	125
Light up the City Kickoff	1000
YMCA's Kid's Night Out	150
Early Head Start Dance Party	150
Row Ride Run	275
Run for your Heart	1080
Run for your Heart-Family Training	90
Run like an Animal	800
Run Michigan Cheap	116
Water Safety Classes	10
Great Saginaw Adventure Race	95
Heritage Cross Country Invitational	1300
Playdates	1085
9 Square	77
Art in the Park	154
Build It	248
Gaga Ball	157
Hangtime	109
Parachute	40
Pondlife	20
Supersize Fun	280
Seniors	635
Jolly Hammers and Strings	188
Rail Trail Rides	129
Walk with Ease	318
2018 Reaches within the Community:	15,804

2018 has experienced huge growth in program numbers and community reaches. Our Playdate numbers alone have nearly tripled since 2017 as community awareness and participation continues to grow. SCPRC has offered and participated in nearly 200 events and programs throughout Saginaw County for the 2018 calendar year.

In addition to the programs and partnerships listed, SCPRC has reached thousands within the community through sponsorships for events such as African Cultural Festival, Lawn Chair Festival and Saginaw Area Fireworks. SCPRC has also participated in the Festival of Trees and Holidays in the Heart of the City by donating a wreath and gingerbread house for community enjoyment during the holidays.

*Program numbers for October-December 2018 are estimated off the 2017 numbers.

Appendix B: Park Maps

Park Information

The William H. Haithco Recreation Area located at 2121 Schust Road in Saginaw Township is one of Saginaw Counties hidden gems. This beautiful park houses a 40 acre man-made lake, perfect for a day of fishing, cooling off on a hot day, hosting your next family reunion or birthday party or even learning how to kayak.

From Memorial Day through Labor Day the park offers a lifeguard supervised beach, paddleboat, rowboat, canoe, paddleboard and kayak rentals along with a concession stand. While the park does not have a boat launch we do allow non-motorized boats under 17 feet in length. Other park amenities include sand volleyball courts, horseshoe pits, playgrounds, fishing access, and modern restrooms.

One frequent question about the park is if there is fish in our lake. The answer is yes! We have a variety of fish species in the lake. You can catch Largemouth Bass to Pike to Bluegills. All Michigan Department of Natural Resources fishing rules do apply while fishing at the William H. Haithco Recreation Area.

The park is also the location for several of our larger events such as children's fishing and fun days, concert series, and maybe even an outdoor movie. There are five pavilions available for rent, two on the north end and three on the south end of the park. The park is conveniently located off I-675 at the Tittabawassee Road exit.

Visit Our Parks

Imerman Memorial Park, 3495 Midland Rd., Saginaw Township, offers a wide variety of activities. With access to the Tittabawassee River, you can fish from shore or launch your own boat. The park also offers a sand volleyball court, a basketball court, tennis court, a playground, dog park and modern and rustic restroom facilities. Over one mile of hiking trails take you around the park and past each of the four pavilions, which are available for rent.

Price Nature Center, 6685 Sheridan Rd, Bridgeport Township. If seclusion is more your style, then this is the place for you! Located 5 miles south of Saginaw, 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.

Saginaw Valley Rail-Trail begins at Lumberjack Park in St. Charles and ends 11 miles north at Center Rd. The trail features include several bridges over various rivers and creeks, wetland areas, a wildlife viewing platform a parallel Equestrian trail, trail side shelters and a variety of different habitats.

Ringwood Forest is located 2 miles south of St. Charles and 2 miles west of M-52 on Ring Road. Ringwood Forest is the most ruggedly beautiful of all of our parks. The 160 acres include some of Michigan's oldest forest plantations. This park's three miles of trails offer picnickers, nature lovers, hikers and cross country skiers towering pine forests, hilly terrain, fishing access and canoe launch on the Bad River. If you are interested in picnicking, Ringwood has a pavilion available on a first come first serve basis, along with a playground and rustic restroom facilities.

Veterans Memorial Park is a one and a half-mile parkway on the Saginaw River, located off M-13 and north of Zilwaukee. It features picnic areas, fishing and boat launch access.



111 S. Michigan Ave., LL012, Saginaw, MI 48602



Phone: 989-790-5280

Fax: 989-790-5284

Email: parks@saginawcounty.com

Website: www.saginawcounty.com/parks



Paddleboarding

Vehicle entry fees are free for Saginaw County Residents!

Out of county residents entry rates

- \$1.00/Person/Bus
- \$1.00/Walk-In
- \$5.00/Vehicle

Boat Launch Fee

\$1.00/Non-Motorized Boat 17 ft & Under

Pavilion Rental Rates

- \$60.00/Pavilion
- \$100.00/Tandem

Boat Rental Rates

- Paddleboats \$4.00 per half hr
\$5.00 per hr
- Rowboats \$8.00 for 2 hrs
\$1.00 each additional hr
- Canoes \$7.50 for 2 hrs
\$1.00 each additional hr
- Kayaks \$5.00 per hr
- Paddleboards \$10.00 per hr

Key

- Booth 
- Beachhouse 
- Pavilion 
- Playground 
- Boat Rental 
- Swimming Beach 
- Fishing dock 
- Restroom 
- Port-a-john 
- Volleyball 

Trail

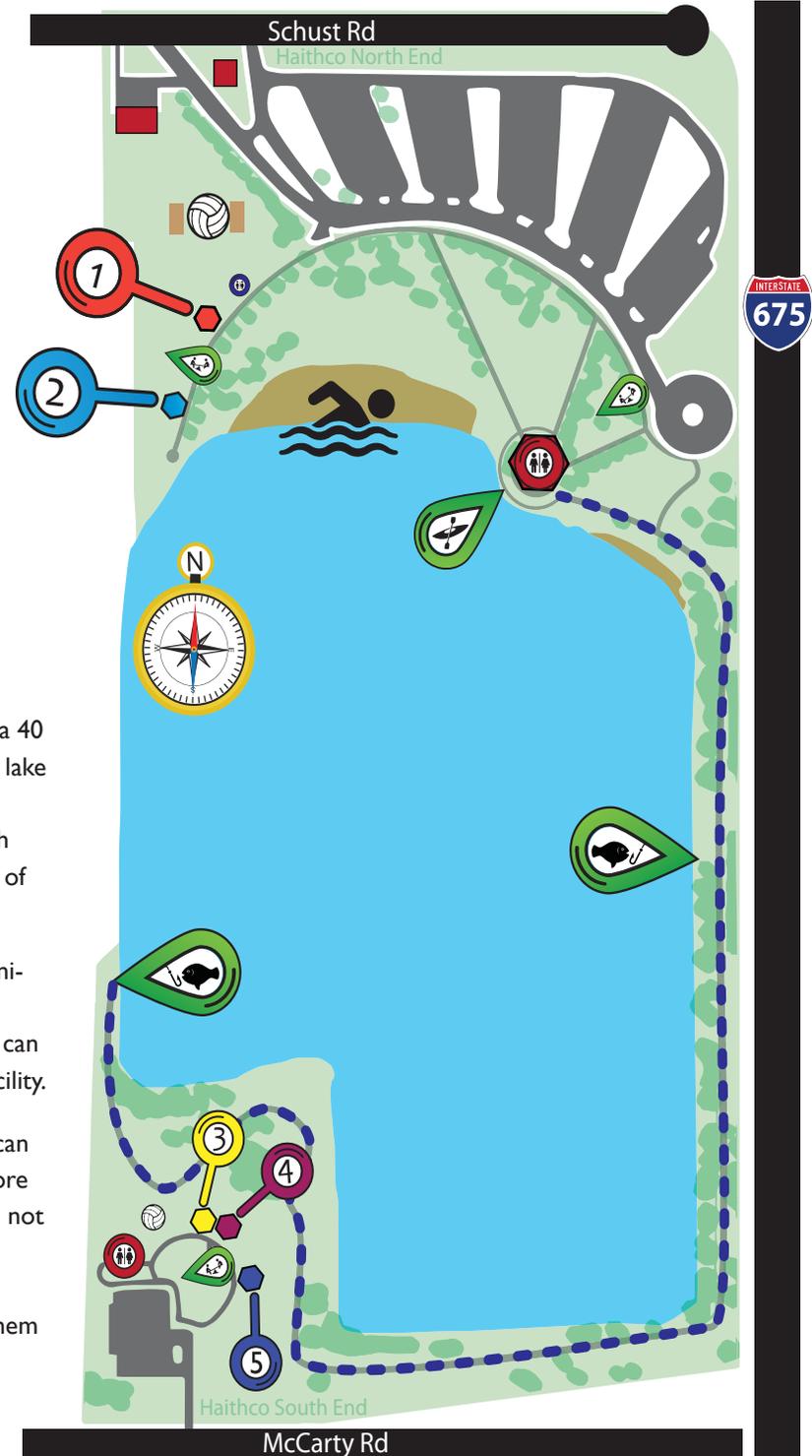
Lake Trail 7/8 mile 

William H. Haithco Recreation Area is home to a 40 acre Lake. The last time fish were stocked in the lake was in 1999. Our lake is home to an abundant variety of fish including Bass, Bluegill, Pike, Catfish and Crappie. The lake is 25ft deep at the center of the lake.

Our lake is home to many recreational opportunities from fishing to scuba to paddle boarding to swimming. Throughout the summer season you can even see Triathlon participants training at our facility.

The Lake is also abundant with wildlife. Visitors can see herons, turtles, muskrat, geese ducks and more while visiting the park. We just ask you to please not feed the wildlife that you encounter. Although feeding seagulls may be fun...by the end of the season the gulls are so used to people feeding them that they steal food right off patrons tables.

Enjoy your time at Haithco Recreation Area.



Park History

Imerman Memorial Park was the first of six parks to be acquired by the Saginaw County Parks and Recreation Commission. This 96 acre facility is located at 3495 Midland Road. Imerman Memorial Park resided on property that was originally part of a land grant given by President Jackson in 1835 to Andrew Ure, a Scotland native who came to the Saginaw Valley in 1883. In 1955, the Saginaw Junior Chamber of Commerce (Jaycees) along with friends and relatives of Dr. Lewis Imerman raised enough money to purchase a portion of Andrew Ure's farm. The park was dedicated as a memorial to Dr. Lewis Imerman's brother, Elliot, who died in 1949 at the age of 38. Elliot Imerman was a very conscientious citizen, lawyer, Circuit Court Commissioner, member of the military during World War II, Commander of American Legion Post #22, and President of the Saginaw Jaycees. In 1956, the Saginaw Jaycees deeded approximately 90 acres of property to Saginaw County for the development of Imerman Memorial Park. In 1970, the Parks Commission undertook the development of Imerman Memorial Park. The majority of development in the park began after 1973, which included a self guiding nature trail, parking lots, pavilions, basketball and tennis courts, sand volleyball court, bathroom facilities, a large children's play ground and a boat launch with access to the Tittabawassee River.

Steven A. Kirshenbaum Memorial Bark Park

The Steven A. Kirshenbaum Memorial Bark Park is a fenced in area designed for off leash K-9 fun for dogs of all sizes. The Bark Park has three agility obstacles, two doggie dropping clean up stations, a dog friendly drinking fountain, benches and a picnic table for you to rest on after a romp though the park. To keep the park enjoyable for all patrons please remember to follow all of the Bark Park rules while at the park.

Visit Our Parks

William H. Haithco Recreation Area, 2121 Schust Rd., Saginaw Township, is a beautiful park with a 40 acre man-made lake. The park offers a lifeguard supervised beach, sand volleyball courts, paddleboat, canoe, rowboat and kayak rentals, horseshoes, 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. The park is conveniently located off I-675 at the Tittabawassee Road exit.

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Veterans Memorial Park is a one and a half-mile parkway on the Saginaw River, located off M-13 and north of Zilwaukee. It features picnic areas, fishing and boat launch access.



111 S. Michigan Ave., LL012, Saginaw, MI 48602

This advertisement for Imerman Memorial Park is set against a green background with a large tree silhouette. At the top right, a yellow arrow points to a photograph of children playing in a grassy field. The text "PLAY HERE" is written vertically in white on the arrow. Below the photo, the park's name "Imerman Memorial Park" is written in large, bold, black letters. Underneath that, the address "3495 Midland Rd." is displayed in a similar bold font. To the left of the address is a cartoon illustration of a brown dog's head. Below the dog, the text "Home of the Steven A. Kirshenbaum Memorial Bark Park" is written in black. At the bottom of the ad, the "Saginaw County Parks & Recreation Commission" logo is repeated, featuring a tree and a "PLAY HERE" arrow. A blue wavy banner at the very bottom contains contact information: "Phone: 989-790-5280", "Fax: 989-790-5284", "Email: parks@saginawcounty.com", and "Website: www.saginawcounty.com/parks".

Phone: 989-790-5280

Fax: 989-790-5284

Email: parks@saginawcounty.com

Website: www.saginawcounty.com/parks

Vehicle Admissions

(Free for residents of Saginaw County):
begin in May and end in September

Price per vehicle :
\$2.00 / vehicle
\$.50/person/bus

Boat Launch

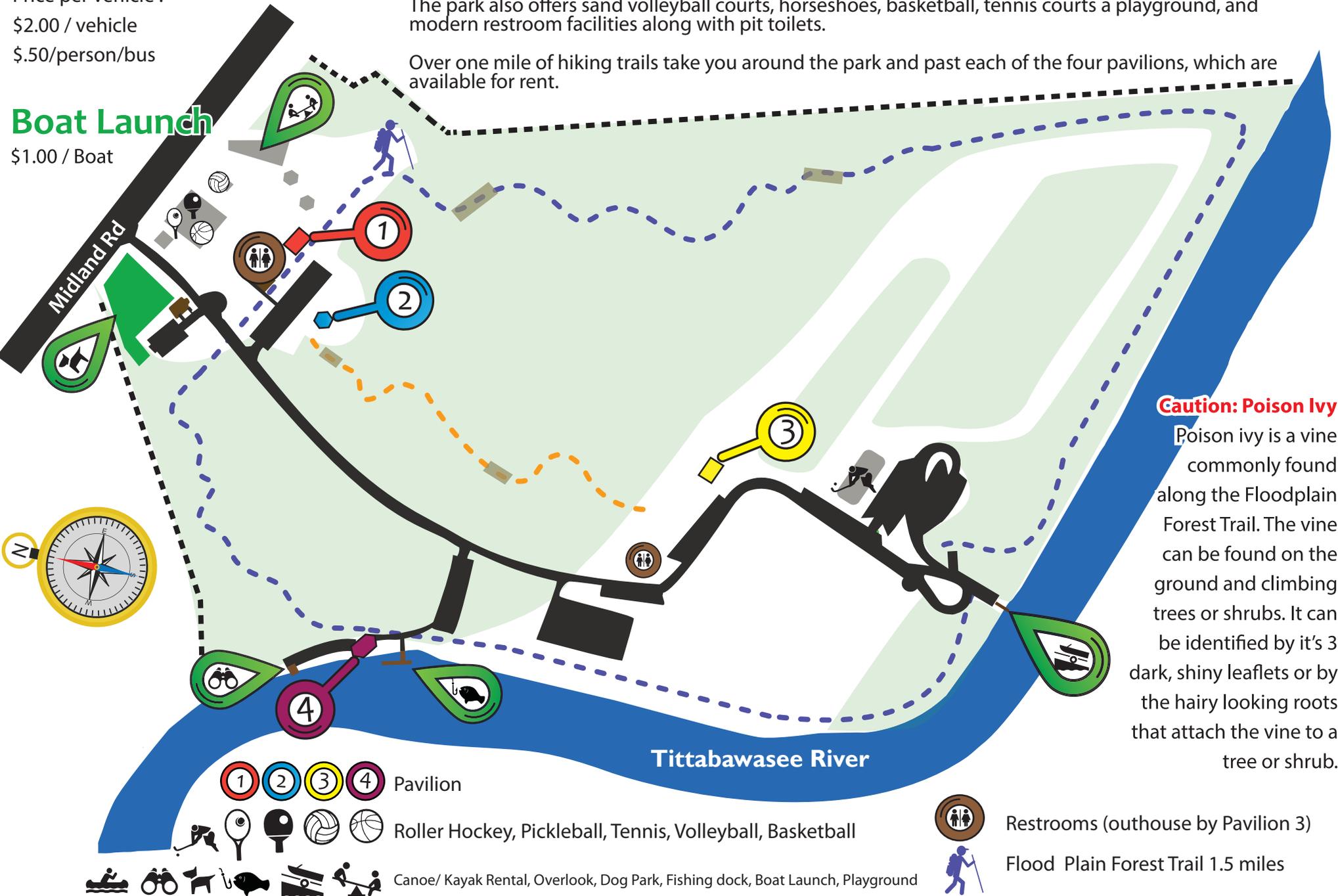
\$1.00 / Boat

Imerman Memorial Park

Imerman Memorial Park offers a wide variety of activities. With access to the Tittabawassee River, you can fish from shore, or launch your own boat.

The park also offers sand volleyball courts, horseshoes, basketball, tennis courts a playground, and modern restroom facilities along with pit toilets.

Over one mile of hiking trails take you around the park and past each of the four pavilions, which are available for rent.



Caution: Poison Ivy

Poison ivy is a vine commonly found along the Floodplain Forest Trail. The vine can be found on the ground and climbing trees or shrubs. It can be identified by it's 3 dark, shiny leaflets or by the hairy looking roots that attach the vine to a tree or shrub.

1 2 3 4 Pavilion

Roller Hockey, Pickleball, Tennis, Volleyball, Basketball

Restrooms (outhouse by Pavilion 3)

Flood Plain Forest Trail 1.5 miles

Canoe/ Kayak Rental, Overlook, Dog Park, Fishing dock, Boat Launch, Playground

Park History

In 1940, James C. Price wrote a letter to Michigan State University, stating he wanted to deed land to the MSU Board of Agriculture.

“...To assure it's continued use to the public for public purposes as a memorial to my (Price) family.”

MSU accepted the land and its Forestry Department used it for field studies and experiments. In 1971, the forest department at MSU announced its intent to sell the property to an agency which could better accommodate its evolving use as a park since many community groups were using Price for camping, picnicking, etc. And these uses were antagonistic to research and experiments conducted by the forestry department. In 1979, the Price Memorial Forest officially became part of the Saginaw County Parks System. Price Nature Center, a 186 acre natural area located at 6685 Sheridan, was opened to the public in 1981. Facilities at the park include: a picnic area with pavilion, children's playground, group campground, modern restrooms and 3.5 miles of hiking trails.

Visit Our Parks

Imerman Memorial Park, 3495 Midland Rd., Saginaw Township, offers a wide variety of activities. With access to the Tittabawassee River, you can fish from shore or launch your own boat. The park also offers a sand volleyball court, a basketball court, tennis court, a playground, dog park and modern and rustic restroom facilities. Over one mile of hiking trails take you around the park and past each of the four pavilions, which are available for rent.

William H. Haithco Recreation Area, 2121 Schust Rd., Saginaw Township, is a beautiful park with a 40 acre man-made lake. The park offers a lifeguard supervised beach, sand volleyball courts, paddleboat, canoe, rowboat and kayak rentals, horseshoes, 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. The park is conveniently located off I-675 at the Tittabawassee Road exit.

Ringwood Forest is located 2 miles south of St. Charles and 2 miles west of M-52 on Ring Road. Ringwood Forest is the most ruggedly beautiful of all of our parks. The 160 acres include some of Michigan's oldest forest plantations. This park's three miles of trails offer picnickers, nature lovers, hikers and cross country skiers towering pine forests, hilly terrain, fishing access and canoe launch on the Bad River. If you are interested in picnicking, Ringwood has a pavilion available on a first come first serve basis, along with a playground and rustic restroom facilities.

Saginaw Valley Rail-Trail begins at Lumberjack Park in St. Charles and ends 11 miles north at Center Rd. The trail features include several bridges over various rivers and creeks, wetland areas, a wildlife viewing platform a parallel Equestrian trail, trail side shelters and a variety of different habitats.

Veterans Memorial Park is a one and a half-mile parkway on the Saginaw River, located off M-13 and north of Zilwaukee. It features picnic areas, fishing and boat launch access.



111 S. Michigan Ave., LL012, Saginaw, MI 48602



Phone: 989-790-5280

Fax: 989-790-5284

Email: parks@saginawcounty.com

Website: www.saginawcounty.com/parks

Price Nature Center

Caution: Poison Ivy

Poison ivy is a vine commonly found along the Cottonwood Grove Trail. The vine can be found on the ground and climbing trees or shrubs. It can be identified by its 3 dark, shiny leaflets or by the hairy looking roots that attach the vine to a tree or shrub. The oil in the vine that can cause an allergic reaction is present year around so, if you are unsure if a vine/plant is Poison Ivy your best bet is to avoid contact.

Moore Rd

If seclusion is more your style, then this is the place for you! Located 5 miles south of Saginaw, this park offers nearly three miles of hiking trails through its 186 acres.

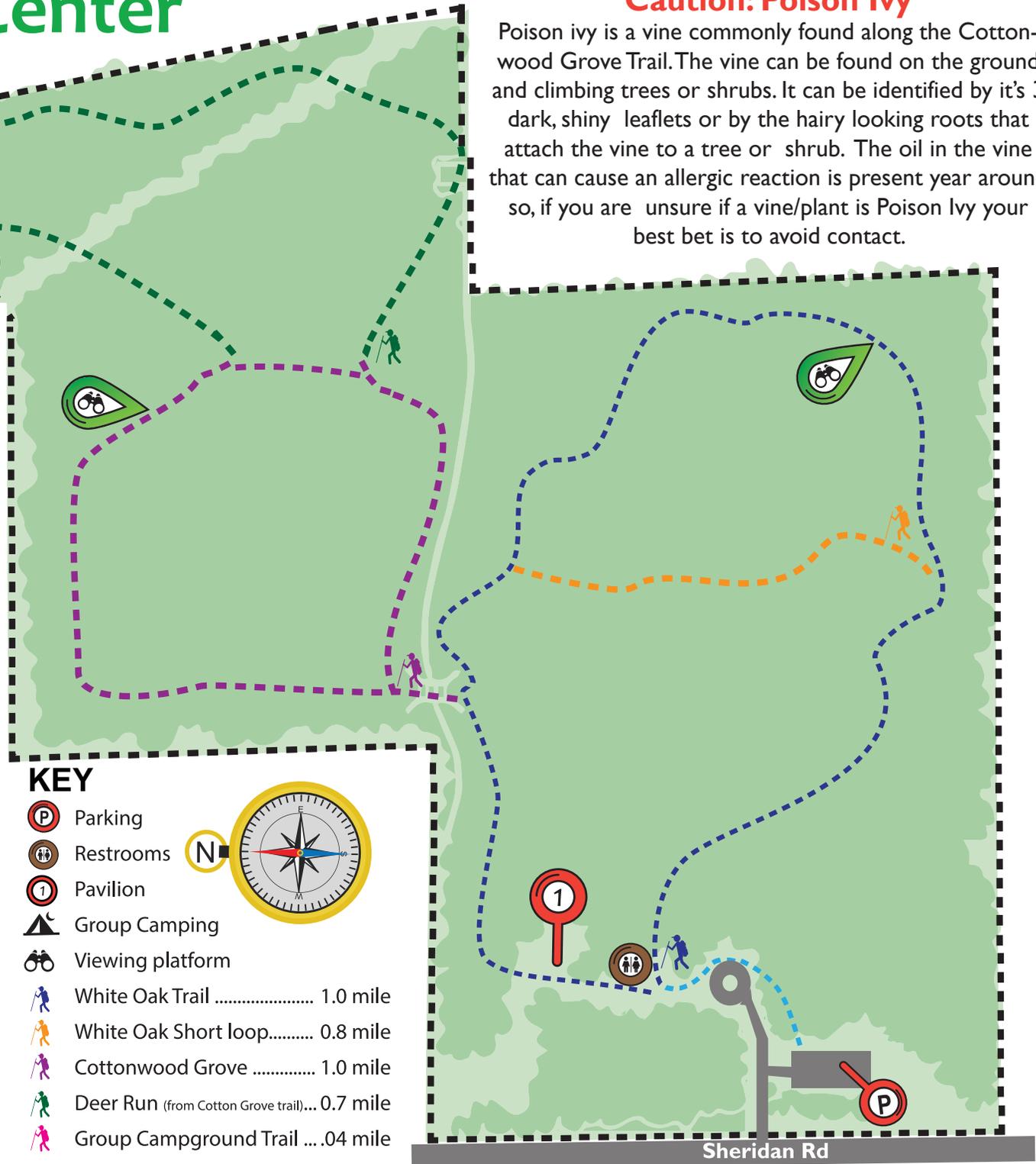
While visiting Price Nature Center, take time to notice the different forest layers. Layers you may notice include the canopy, understory, shrub layer, herb layer and forest floor. The canopy is the top layer of the forest where all of the leaves are. The canopy shades the forest floor below.

The under story is the next layer of the woods. The understory usually contains younger saplings that await an older canopy tree dieing off so that they can reach the canopy

The shrub layer is composed of small to medium woody plants such as Viburnum, Witchazel and Spicebush.

The herb layer is composed of green plants with soft stems.

The forest floor is a variable recycling factory that reprocesses all of the dead leaves, sticks, animals etc. into nutrients that can be reabsorbed by new plants.



KEY

- Parking
- Restrooms
- Pavilion
- Group Camping
- Viewing platform
- White Oak Trail 1.0 mile
- White Oak Short loop..... 0.8 mile
- Cottonwood Grove 1.0 mile
- Deer Run (from Cotton Grove trail)... 0.7 mile
- Group Campground Trail04 mile

Sheridan Rd

Park History

Acquisition of the land for the trail (which began in 1993) was completed in the fall of 1999. The master plan and design details have been worked out. Phase I was completed in the Fall of 2001. Phase IIa of the Trail was completed in 2002. Phase IIb was completed in 2003. Phase III construction began in the spring 2005 and was completed in the spring of 2006.

The Saginaw Valley Rail Trail travels across 11 miles of abandoned rail corridor and road right of way in Saginaw County. The trail stretches from St. Charles to the City of Saginaw and incorporates a number of natural features including:

Seven bridges over various rivers and creeks.

The Shiawassee River State Game Area.

The Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge

Many wetland areas.

Whether you are looking for a short or long walk, run or ride, you'll love the time you spend on the Saginaw Valley Rail Trail.

Parking

Parking facilities for the Saginaw Valley Rail Trail are available at:

Lumberjack Park Trail Head
Water Street, St. Charles, MI

Van Wormer Road Trail Head
Corner of Van Wormer Rd.
and Swan Creek Rd.

Stroebel Road Trail Head
Located on Stroebel Rd. between
Center Rd. and River Rd.



Visit Our Parks

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111 S. Michigan Ave., LL012, Saginaw, MI 48602



Saginaw Valley Rail Trail

Water Street in St. Charles to
Center Road in James Twp



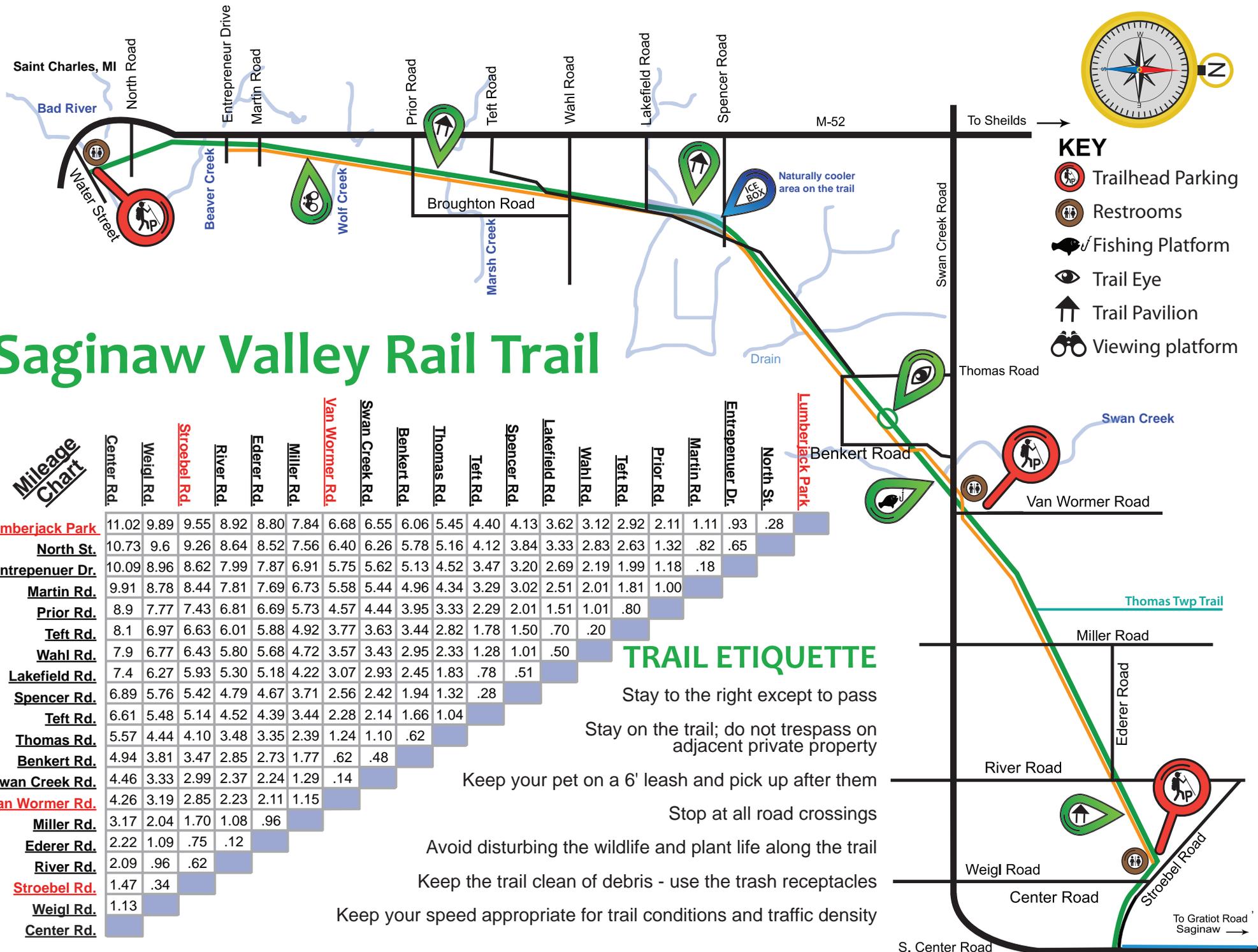
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Saginaw Valley Rail Trail



Mileage Chart

	Center Rd.	Weigl Rd.	Stroebl Rd.	River Rd.	Ederer Rd.	Miller Rd.	Van Wormer Rd.	Swan Creek Rd.	Benkert Rd.	Thomas Rd.	Teft Rd.	Spencer Rd.	Lakefield Rd.	Wahl Rd.	Teft Rd.	Prior Rd.	Martin Rd.	Entrepenuer Dr.	North St.
Lumberjack Park	11.02	9.89	9.55	8.92	8.80	7.84	6.68	6.55	6.06	5.45	4.40	4.13	3.62	3.12	2.92	2.11	1.11	.93	.28
North St.	10.73	9.6	9.26	8.64	8.52	7.56	6.40	6.26	5.78	5.16	4.12	3.84	3.33	2.83	2.63	1.32	.82	.65	
Entrepenuer Dr.	10.09	8.96	8.62	7.99	7.87	6.91	5.75	5.62	5.13	4.52	3.47	3.20	2.69	2.19	1.99	1.18	.18		
Martin Rd.	9.91	8.78	8.44	7.81	7.69	6.73	5.58	5.44	4.96	4.34	3.29	3.02	2.51	2.01	1.81	1.00			
Prior Rd.	8.9	7.77	7.43	6.81	6.69	5.73	4.57	4.44	3.95	3.33	2.29	2.01	1.51	1.01	.80				
Teft Rd.	8.1	6.97	6.63	6.01	5.88	4.92	3.77	3.63	3.44	2.82	1.78	1.50	.70	.20					
Wahl Rd.	7.9	6.77	6.43	5.80	5.68	4.72	3.57	3.43	2.95	2.33	1.28	1.01	.50						
Lakefield Rd.	7.4	6.27	5.93	5.30	5.18	4.22	3.07	2.93	2.45	1.83	.78	.51							
Spencer Rd.	6.89	5.76	5.42	4.79	4.67	3.71	2.56	2.42	1.94	1.32	.28								
Teft Rd.	6.61	5.48	5.14	4.52	4.39	3.44	2.28	2.14	1.66	1.04									
Thomas Rd.	5.57	4.44	4.10	3.48	3.35	2.39	1.24	1.10	.62										
Benkert Rd.	4.94	3.81	3.47	2.85	2.73	1.77	.62	.48											
Swan Creek Rd.	4.46	3.33	2.99	2.37	2.24	1.29	.14												
Van Wormer Rd.	4.26	3.19	2.85	2.23	2.11	1.15													
Miller Rd.	3.17	2.04	1.70	1.08	.96														
Ederer Rd.	2.22	1.09	.75	.12															
River Rd.	2.09	.96	.62																
Stroebl Rd.	1.47	.34																	
Weigl Rd.	1.13																		
Center Rd.																			

TRAIL ETIQUETTE

- Stay to the right except to pass
- Stay on the trail; do not trespass on adjacent private property
- Keep your pet on a 6' leash and pick up after them
- Stop at all road crossings
- Avoid disturbing the wildlife and plant life along the trail
- Keep the trail clean of debris - use the trash receptacles
- Keep your speed appropriate for trail conditions and traffic density

- ### KEY
- Trailhead Parking
 - Restrooms
 - Fishing Platform
 - Trail Eye
 - Trail Pavilion
 - Viewing platform

To Gratiot Road Saginaw →

Park History

By the year 1862, Lumberjacks cut down nearly all of Ringwood's White Pine trees, also known as Michigan's "Green Gold." Thanks to reforestation efforts by the Ring Family and the University of Michigan Ringwood Forest is home to some of the state's oldest tree plantations.

"This land, originally part of the great pine forest of Michigan, was lumbered in 1862 by Eleaser J. Ring. Here one of the earliest forest plantations in the state was established in 1883, by his son, William Lee Ring, in whose memory his brother, Clark L. Ring, presented the tract to the University of Michigan in 1930 to be used henceforth for instruction, demonstration and research in forestry."

In 1983, a lease was executed between the University of Michigan and the Saginaw County Parks and Recreation Commission and the park officially opened to the public June 1987. Facilities at the 160 acre park include 3.5 miles of trails for hiking and cross-country skiing, educational displays, a canoe launch which accesses the Bad River, and a children's play area.

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111 S. Michigan Ave., LL012, Saginaw, MI 48602



Ringwood Forest
14000 Ring Rd.
St. Charles, MI

Phone: 989-790-5280

Fax: 989-790-5284

Email: parks@saginawcounty.com

Website: www.saginawcounty.com/parks

Ringwood Forest is full of rich history, if only the trees could talk. While walking the trails you will have the pleasure of passing by several different species of trees. These trees include but are not limited to, Red Oak, White Pine, European Larch, American Beech, Poplars, Sassafras, Hawthorn, Locust, Black Cherry, Balsam Fir, Scotch Pine, Jack Pine, White Cedar and Maple.



Caution Poison Ivy:

Poison Ivy is a vine commonly found at Ringwood Forest. The Vine can be found on the ground and climbing trees and shrubs. It can be identified by its 3 dark, shiny leaves or by the hairy looking roots that attach to a tree or shrub.

Key

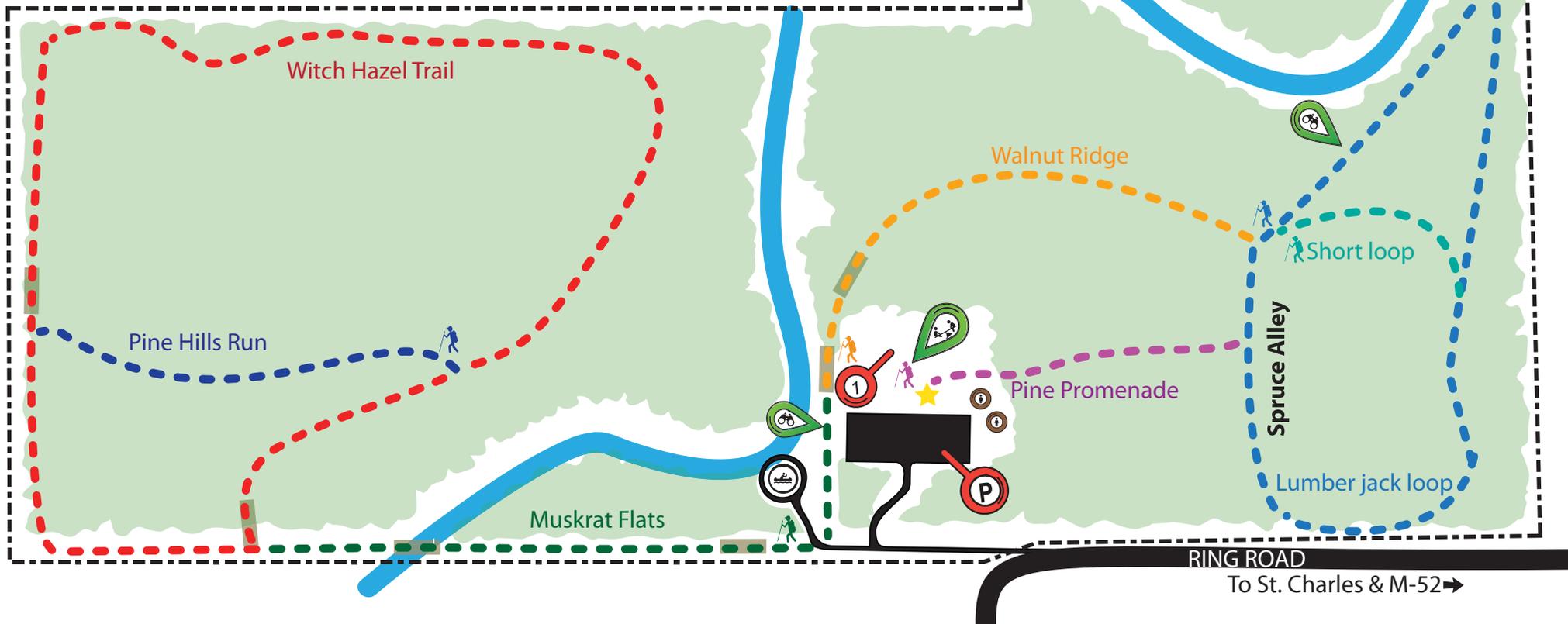
- Parking
- Outhouses
- Pavilion
- Playground
- Boardwalks
- Overlook



Trails

- Walnut Ridge Trail..... 0.6 mile
- Pine Promenade.....0.4 mile
- Historic Spruce Alley.....0.4 mile
- Lumberjack Loop Trail**
 - Long Loop..... 1.1 mile
 - Short loop..... 0.9 mile
- Western Trails**
 - Muskrat Flats.....0.6 mile
- Witch Hazel Trail**
 - Long loop.....1.8 mile
 - Pine Hills Run... 1.4 mile

★ Distances are round trip from the welcome sign near parking lot.



Veterans Memorial Park



Park Features

- Boat Launch
- Open Spaces
- Outhouses

Appendix C: Grant History



Grant History

Grantee
Saginaw County - Saginaw County

Project No. 26-01395	Project County: Saginaw	Project Year: 1985
Project Title: Ringwood Forest		
Project Status: Grant Closed		Grant Amount: \$25,413.18

Scope Item:
Bridge repair
Entry drives and parking
Interpretive exhibit
Main gate and signs
Picnic area with restrooms and well
Play equipment
Sled hill

Project Description: roads, parking, picnic/play area, interpretive displays and sledding hill-overlook LEASED PROPERTY-
-LEASE EXPIRES 07/01/2013.

Project No. TF1075	Project County: Saginaw	Project Year: 1985
Project Title: S & H Lake		
Project Status: Grant Closed		Grant Amount: \$247,500.00

Project Description: To acquire approximately 39.3 acres of land with a 40 acres man-made lake.

Project No. TF87-271	Project County: Saginaw	Project Year: 1987
Project Title: S & H Lake		
Project Status: Grant Closed		Grant Amount: \$400,000.00

Project Description: To develop the Saginaw County's first public swimming beach , fishing opportunities, picnicking and passive recreation.

Project No. TF88-095	Project County: Saginaw	Project Year: 1988
Project Title: Haithco Recreation Area-Phase II		
Project Status: Grant Closed		Grant Amount: \$335,250.00

Project Description: To develop a swimming beach, activity center, fishing areas, expansion of parking lot.



Grant History

Grantee
Saginaw County - Saginaw County

Project No. BF89-540 **Project County:** Saginaw **Project Year:** 1989
Project Title: Imerman Memorial Park
Project Status: Grant Closed **Grant Amount:** \$35,500.00

Scope Item:
 asphalt boat launch
 refurbish basketball cour
 refurbish playground
 refurbish tennis court
 shoreline stabilization

Project Description: Shoreline stabilization, pave boat launch, recoat tennis and basketball courts, tot lot.

Project No. BF89-542 **Project County:** Saginaw **Project Year:** 1989
Project Title: Ringwood Forest Improvements
Project Status: Grant Closed **Grant Amount:** \$38,500.00

Scope Item:
 asphalt parking & entry

Project Description: Asphalt paving of entry, parking area, and canoe launch area of popular county park.

Project No. BF90-136 **Project County:** Saginaw **Project Year:** 1990
Project Title: William H. Haithco Recreation
Project Status: Grant Closed **Grant Amount:** \$54,300.00

Scope Item:
 Construct addl. parking

Project Description: Expand parking capacity.

Project No. BF93-054 **Project County:** Saginaw **Project Year:** 1993
Project Title: Haithco Lake-Phase III
Project Status: Grant Closed **Grant Amount:** \$256,100.00

Scope Item:
 Access, Fishing Dock
 Nat. Area & Shoreline En.
 Parking and Access
 Path & Trail Network
 Picnic & Restroom Fac.
 Swimming Area & Beach

Project Description: Phase III project enhances active and passive recreational use through facility construction and natural area development.

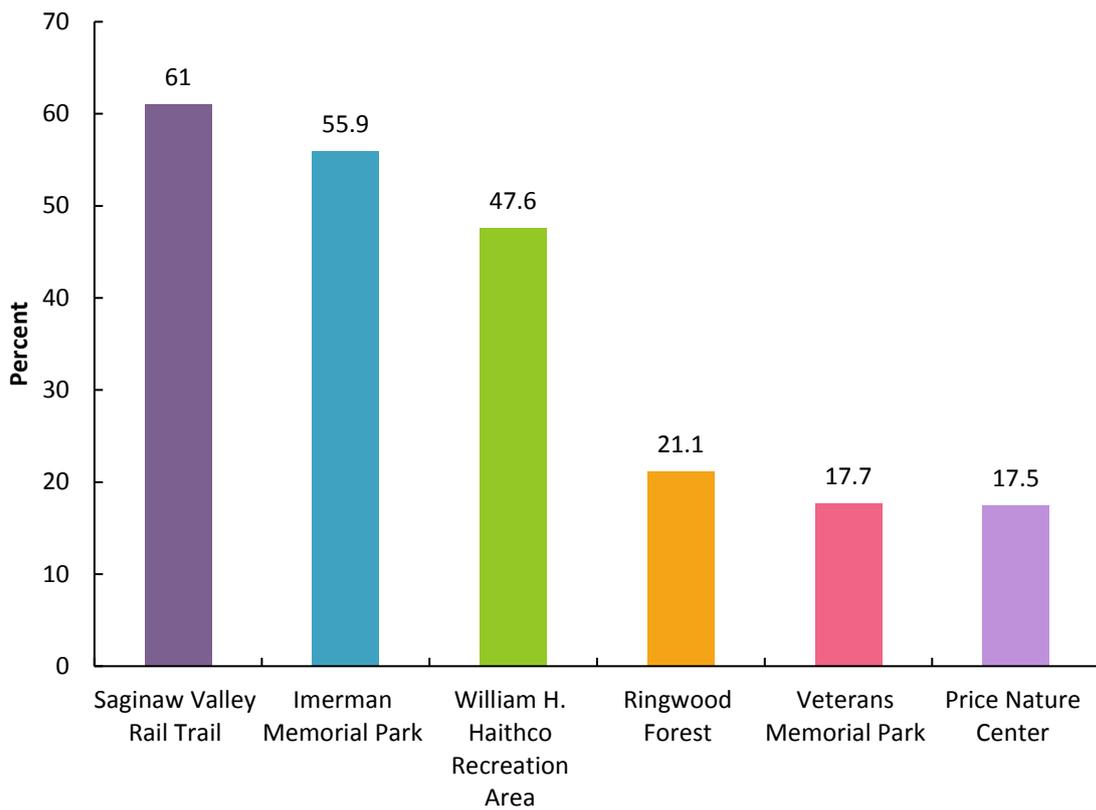
Appendix D: Community Input Survey Results

Saginaw County Recreation Plan Online Survey Report

Response Statistics

- Survey Available from June 7, 2018 to July 7, 2018
- 382 completed responses
- 163 partial responses

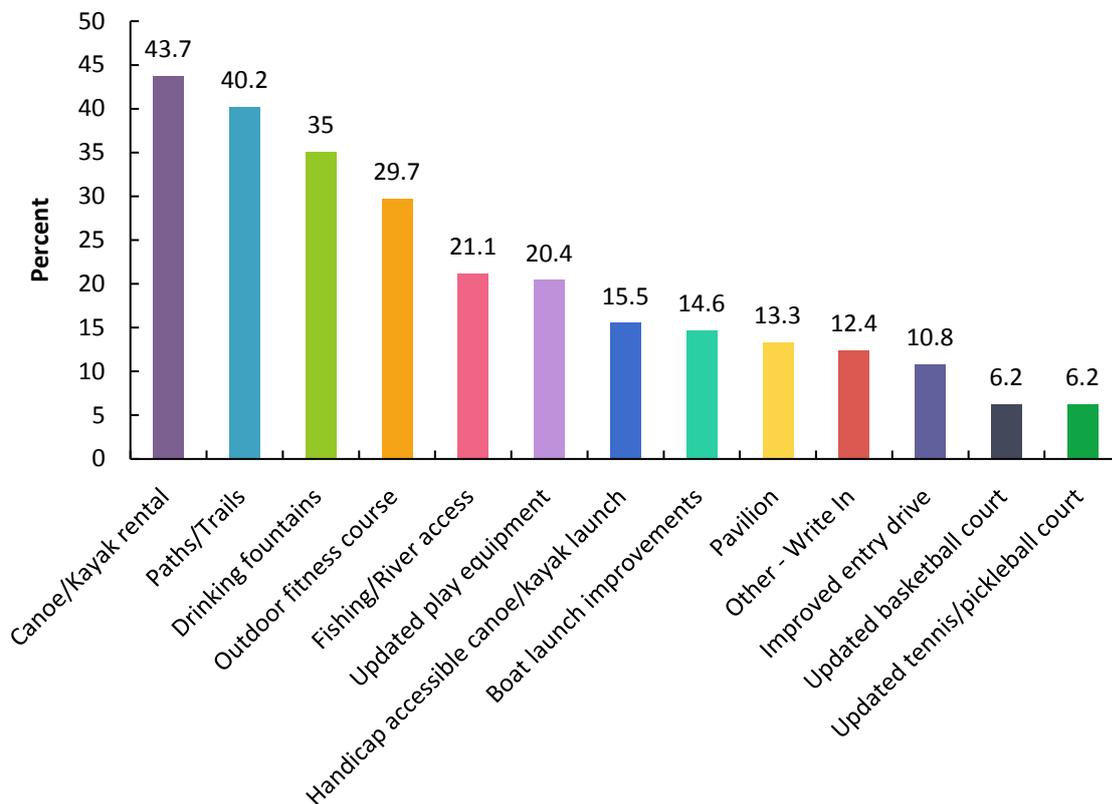
1. Which of the following Saginaw County Parks have you visited in the past year?



2. Please evaluate the following aspects of Imerman Memorial Park.

	Very Good	Good	Neutral	Poor	Very Poor	Don't Know	Responses
Safety and Security	25.8%	39.5%	11.3%	1.2%	0.5%	21.7%	423
Variety of Facilities/Amenities	26.9%	39.2%	12.5%	1.2%	0.2%	20.0%	401
Maintenance and Appearance	26.3%	42.3%	9.0%	3.0%	0.5%	19.0%	400
Handicap Accessibility	9.0%	17.8%	15.3%	1.8%	0.5%	55.5%	398

3. What amenities would you like to see added or improved at Imerman Memorial Park? Please check all that apply.



Other - Write In

I know it floods a lot, but there has to be a better solution for the wood path in the woods. They seem to be uprooted or out of commission for most of the year

Actual kayak launch point. Disc Golf

Bath rooms and a flag on the flag pole.

Bathrooms if not updated in the last couple years.
Bathrooms instead of outhouses.
Better bathrooms
Bigger dog area
Bike trail
Boards around hockey rink. My family has played roller hockey but it is kind of hard with out boards to keep pucks / balls on pavement
Concession stand
Disc golf
Disc golf!
Expand dog park
Handicap trail to the children's play area
I am new in this community so haven't been there to give an opinion
I prove the back restrooms
Improvement to dog area
Instead of just the standard fountains refillable water bottle stations would be neat and hey maybe even sell some reusable Saginaw county parks water bottles ;)
More dog-friendly areas for off-leash dogs
More play ground equipment. If 10 kids are on the playground it's is crowded
More wheelchair accessible trails
Mountain bike trails
Need a path to playground as it is hard for older people to get there with there grandkids
Nice kayak launch
Outdoor racquet ball court
Playground close to the dog park!!!!
Removal of trees with thorns smooth out ground
Saw reports of dioxin in ground there. Why not make public aware?
Splash park
Spray pad
Spray park
Swimming

Trees cleaned up. Went fishing there last fall and ilthe place looked like maintenance isnt a top priority. Trees and branches down all over the place. The boat launch was destroyed and just sat there. What took so long to fix it? We were promised that things like this were a high priority! Maybe less time trying to fix old landfills and removing Parks Commissioners who get iin the way and more time on cleaning up Imerman.

continue grooming cross country ski trail

just drove through. Can not give answer

off M-47 - turning into park

4. Do you have any other feedback regarding Imerman Memorial Park?

Imerman Park is an asset to the community. I love all the areas for activities they offer. I feel like the entrance is tight when two large vehicles are entering and exiting at the same time. And updated and added play equipment would draw more people into the park.

Please add a playground closer to the dog run! I'd like to be able to watch the dog and kids at the same time! The two areas are too far apart.

Whoever was in charge of the lighted walk could have been friendlier. People arrived and no one said anything to them (greeting, directions, or information).

I like to paddle board, but I am not comfortable when I am alone at the back of the park. Not the fault at all of the Parks department.

Paved pathways to make more handicap accessible

Love the dog area

Stop closing the back of the park off in the winter if there is no snow.

I love Imerman Park. It disappoints me when the trails are not maintained. Understandable but disappointing.

bad place for cell tower

Clearing all the dead trees would be great. Most of the trails look like a wasteland with all the half cut trees everywhere.

Increased mosquito repellants during summer months

Would be awesome to have canoes and kayaks!!

Noise ordinances for pavilion events would be a nice feature to incorporate.

They offer programs for younger children, but what about programs for tweens?

I always feel "contaminated" by dioxin when we go there and for this reason we don't frequent this park as much as we'd like.

1 - more connected trails for running/longer runs 2 - a trail (instead of grass) to connect parts of the run/walk trail

looks beautiful

Was there for cross country meet. I was surprised by how many people were there and how

functional the park is. Only problem was getting into the park with runners on the course. Lots of vehicles were waiting on Midland Rd to get in.

LOVE the park. It's beautiful. And the trails are usually maintained, except the wood bridges in the woods. I know it's hard to keep up with the flooding but there has to be a better solution

LOVE IT

I love the trails there

I haven't gone here in a couple years mainly because of having to pay to get in. It's annoying that I pay taxes for the parks yet I'm still paying an admission fee. Small or not I don't like it.

None very nice park

The instillation of a disc golf course, would be a wonderful update/add-on to the park.

Doggy bag dispensers along trails and scenic photography areas

Love Geocaching with scouts there. We have to set up our own course each time... would be nice if there were more coaches maintained in the park.

I have not been there in years. But I do enjoy kayaking and that would be nice.

Lots of downed trees. Could use some cleanup

I understand Dow is doing remediation on the river, but basically the walking paths are almost entirely closed and it has been this way for over a month with no end in site basically shutting down Imerman's trail for the summer. I have seen days and weeks go by with little to no work being done. There hasn't been much rain, so that can't be the problem. Further, the trails themselves are not being proactively maintained. Dead trees are near the walking trails and every time there is a big storm they all fall down and block the trails. Why could this not be done proactively and avoid having the trails shut down for days/weeks. The South entrance to the trail has not be useable at all this year. First a tree and then the bridge was taken out by a storm and it is almost July and it has not been repaired. You are unable to walk the entire trail due to the bridge being out, you basically have to turn around and go back. Further, they quit cutting the grass in the middle of the park

Park is very nice

Love taking our dog to the dog run. Trails are good, but often flooded out. Comes with being so close to the water.

I have not been to the park above being about the robbery on the trail a couple of years ago

Great park for picnics. And reunions. Would like nicer bathrooms though.

A larger dog fenced in area.

I love the walking trails!!

Install spray park!!

Love the dog park

Kayak launches are so needed!

A kayak launching pad would be great. Especially if u could coordinate with other towns and townships parks along the way so you could access in and out. Ex- Freeland park and gordonville boat launch.

Love the upgrades being done.

Make the dog park bigger and better, more things for the dogs to do

Clean up the fallen trees.

A handicap kayak launch would be nice for launching there. It would also be nice if there was better access to the river for shore fishing.

Love the idea of canoe/kayak rental!

I Love this park, it's nice to see the dogs run and play. My family had our reunion here a couple years back and now I take my kids here.

Have only used the dog play area which isn't even listed here!

Discgolf

I don't use the parks, too much rif-raf

One of the WORST parks in Saginaw County.. rarely open during the spring or fall except for the disease ridden dog park

Shade for the play area.

Extended trail system for running/walking/hiking would be great. Saginaw county has very limited trail systems, and 1-2 mile trails don't quite cut it

Well maintained; great look from M-47; front of park always in use

Nope you do a good job go for the dog park

Like the dog park and the inline hockey rink in the back

Open up fishing areas down the shore line

My kids enjoy this park! We don't go there much because there are other parks closer, but we like it.

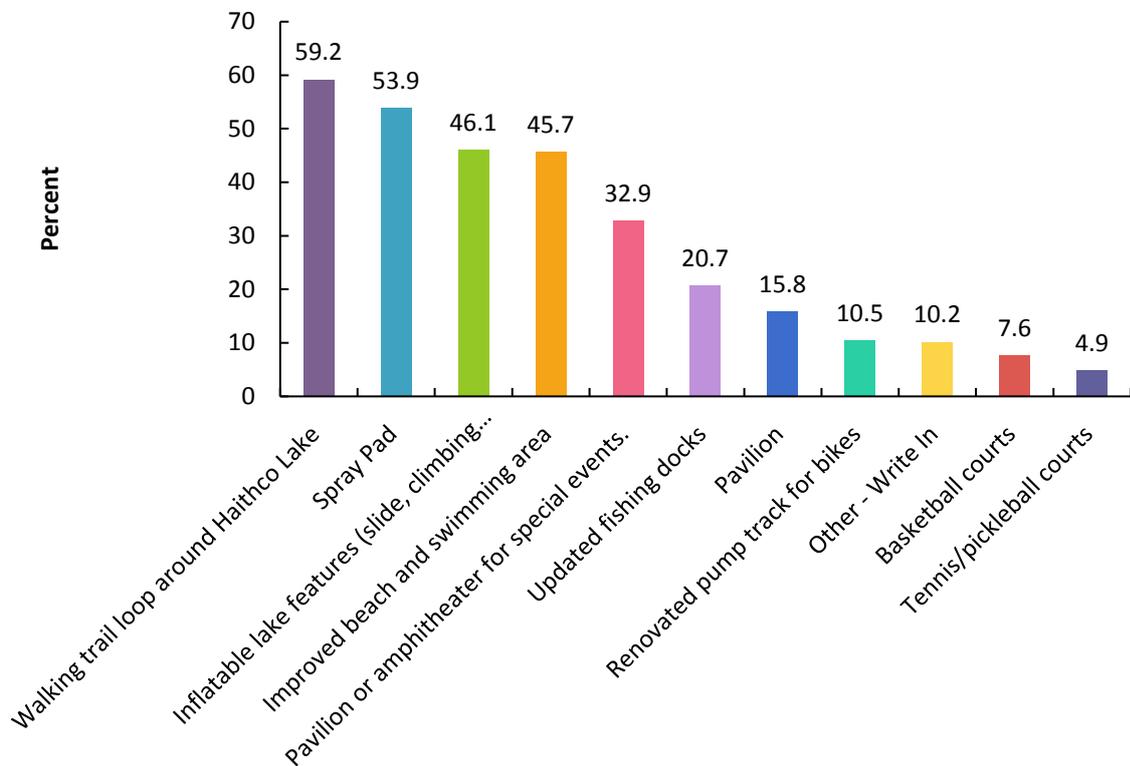
Very nice park. Greatful to have it in Saginaw. Likewise with the dog park. If the dog park could ever be increased to allow for more of an area to play fetch, maybe one of the large fields out back, it would be really appreciated. Upfront gets congested with dogs.

A place to hose down the dog after would be nice.

5. Please evaluate the following aspects of Haithco Park.

	Very Good	Good	Neutral	Poor	Very Poor	Don't Know	Responses
Safety and Security	23.3%	35.7%	13.2%	2.1%	1.0%	24.8%	387
Variety of Facilities/Amenities	22.0%	35.1%	15.0%	2.7%	%	25.2%	373
Maintenance and Appearance	23.1%	35.8%	13.4%	2.4%	%	25.3%	372
Handicap Accessibility	9.2%	16.0%	15.7%	2.4%	0.5%	56.1%	369

**6. What amenities would you like to see added or improved at Haithco Park?
Please check all that apply.**



Other - Write In
Dog park
A wider swim area would be nice its a little cramped

Anyone of these additions would be great!

Bathrooms updated

Boat rental to take kids fishing

Clean up between the lake and I-675. This area looks overgrown and uncared for.

Designated dog beach area

Dog beach area

Golf cart rental

Handicap beach access

I would like to be able to bring my dog to the park. Not on the beach, but to walk the trail.

Improve handicap accessibility to boats and swimming area.

Improved parking lot

Make it dog friendly.. I have been only on soggy doggy days

More benches for us seniors. A handicap boardwalk maybe in the beach area. Allow dogs on a leash in a specified area.

More park equipment

Mountain bike trails

Play area closer to parking more items to play on

Please make a swimming area for dogs.

Rentable cabanas

Safer area

Showers or at least a tall outside spray off (like at Sandford). And new signs, to make it easier to find the entrance.

Updated/actual kayak launch dock

climbing wall would be neat.

something to aerate the water. It's pretty stagnant and icky if you really think about it. A bit more shade.

7. Do you have any other feedback regarding Haithco Park?

Golf cart for handicap people to get to back side of lake

Haithco is a great place, but I feel they would benefit from a spray pad and a stage for music in the park. It would bring in a lot more people from the community. I also think showers or an outside tall spray off with changing rooms (much like Sandford Beach) is needed. My number one suggestion is for new signs to make it clear where the entrance to the park is, because currently it is almost hidden to most people who are visiting for the first time.

Love swim night!
Swimming area for dogs, there is no place in saginaw that we can swim with our dogs.
Do not add too many amenities...it's such a nice place with just the kayaks, paddle boats, beach....a nice peaceful place to go and relax.....
Trail around the lake needs to be refilled with gravel or paved because of large holes.
complete walk /jog loop around lake-connected
I would like to go back to charging a small fee per car because ever since that was lifted, there have problems. Charging a little will hopefully keep some of the riffraff and troublemakers out.
More trees or other things for shade.
Haven't been out here in a while but the perception is still that the water quality isn't so great and the beach can get trashy.
We love the swimming, but the beach closes way too early. Please pay employees to work later hours. Also, for 20 years we have been puzzled..why oh why can't you connect the trail so we can walk all the way around the lake!!!!
Our family loves Haithco Park already, but would really enjoy added features such as added water attractions and more park equipment.
LOVE IT
It's not nice enough for me to drive 25 min to get there. Last time I was there (prolly 20 yrs ago) I remember the "lake" being gross.
A trail all the way around the lake would be awesome for running, walking etc. Last I knew this wasn't available.
Making those additions would make it the most coveted spot in the area and absolutely worth it!!
Love the park! Often not enough enforcement of policies...
Nothing needed, just keep up what is already there.
The beach smells. You should bring in fresh sand. Deep sand
Very nice and well maintained
The last time I was there I found it frustrating to walk around the lake only to be met with a fence and made to turn around.
I had no idea it had all these boat rentals. No idea. You must do a much much better job of advertising and not assume people know or know where to go for this information. Everythings kept a secret.
BBQ grills
I think your inflatable option is a bad idea. If a child gets hurt the parents will blame you.
Only been there once. Not high on my list
I always hear bad things about the water, but haven't been in years, so I'd either work on the water or work on the reputation.

Yes! Definitely make a walking loop so fisherman don't have to walk all the way back from where they came from. I also do not think it would hurt to allow electric trolling motors on boats. Keep it gas free though.

Have not been- anytime I think about going it is to busy.

This is a well run park. Keep it secure and family friendly. Adding a walk trail, spray pad and improved swimming(clean, treated, clear) would benefit the health of the community.

Add a beach area for dog!!! For all summer!!!

Like your dog swim days.

I think that some of the rules are not practical. I understand that they don't want people fishing from boats by the swimming area or the docks, but if they are not by either one, they should be able to fish less than 100 feet from shore. I'd also like a few more trees on the far side of the lake to provide more shade on that side. You should be able to bring your own grill as well.

I go to a variety of parks but haithco is not one I visit anymore.

I don't go to Haithco anymore due to the smell of the water. Something needs to be done in that regard.

I think all Lifeguards should be removed just like the City Of Midland! This removes the risk for the County. Most of the Life Guards are sleeping, playing on their phones, or hanging out wasting the counties money! 8-12 Lifeguards pay can go a long way on adding more Park Rangers or adding more maintenance people which can help cleaning up the parks greatly and is definitely needed to keep up.

This park is a complete joke. One has to go in the early morning or be a ice fisherman in the winter to gain an usefulness

I haven't been there in years.

Lovely park just needs more things to do

Don't really care for this park. Too many rules and not much space

Great park!

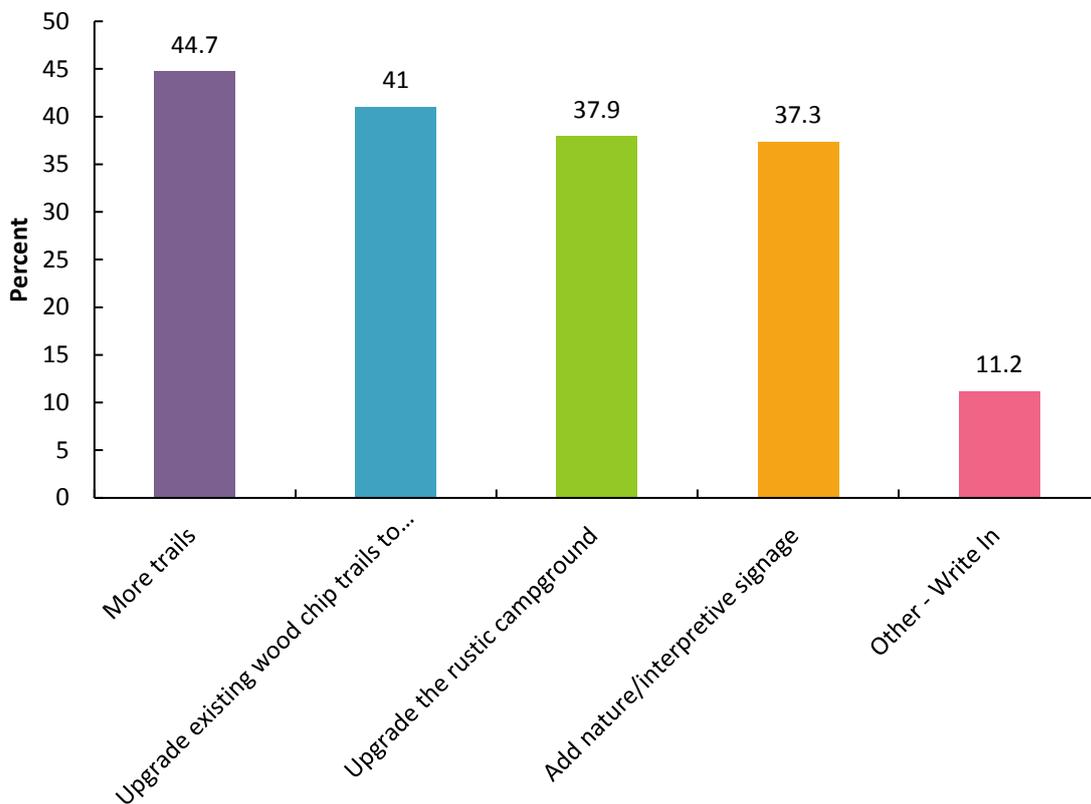
Lovely plce. Headed there today

We rented kayaks. Had a good time but the price was steep. We'd go more often if it were more affordable (we're a family of 6, it adds up fast!)

8. Please evaluate the following aspects of Price Nature Center.

	Very Good	Good	Neutral	Poor	Very Poor	Don't Know	Responses
Safety and Security	5.5%	15.4%	13.7%	3.5%	0.6%	61.3%	344
Variety of Facilities/Amenities	5.6%	15.1%	14.2%	3.0%	1.2%	60.8%	337
Maintenance and Appearance	6.0%	18.7%	11.7%	0.9%	0.3%	62.3%	332
Handicap Accessibility	3.0%	7.2%	12.3%	1.5%	0.9%	75.0%	332

9. What amenities would you like to see added or improved at Price Nature Center? Please check all that apply.



Other - Write In
Continue to improve the paved loop- fix pot holes and post signage
I love it how it is. Beautiful and quiet
Im vey concerned about safety and security here

Mountain Bike Trails
Mountain bike trails
Nothing to do here. Usage is poor so just leave it the way it is.
Restroom
add disc golf course
continue to groom trails for cross country skiing
have never used & have no intention
open up the front to the road for more visual accessibility.
spring flower walks before mosquitos

10. Do you have any other feedback regarding Price Nature Center?

sometimes less is more...nice to have a rustic quiet area
Price is a great place to hike and get away from the city. Keeping the trails looking good is key to this park.
I have heard (no direct knowlege) that Price has a lot of litter.
Mountain biking trails?
trails have become too rutty in several areas
Loved the event with candlelight walk hosted there last fall
Never go here anymore because it is dangerous. I heard a dead body was found there. Plus, there are always strange people loitering in cars or lurking around. Would never take my kids here again unless there was a police presence.
Riding the trails on my bike was really fun
I haven't been to Price Nature Center in a very long time, but hope to check it out soon as our family loves taking nature walks/going on hiking trails.
It gets confusing walking the trail sometimes
I quit walking it because there was so much graffiti. I loved walking it in the fall. I have kids would like to see more added to the park/ playground
I have not visited this park in about 5 years.
It has been many years since i have been there.
Love this nature center. Would say you do have quite a few people who go there to sit in their cars and drink/ smoke, otherwise a good place. Lots of flooding on the back trail limits use in spring.
Homeschool days/ events
Sometimes not comfortable going to this location - you cannot see into the park at all and being there alone is sometimes just too risky

There isn't much for camping around the area so add more and make it available for individuals instead of just groups.

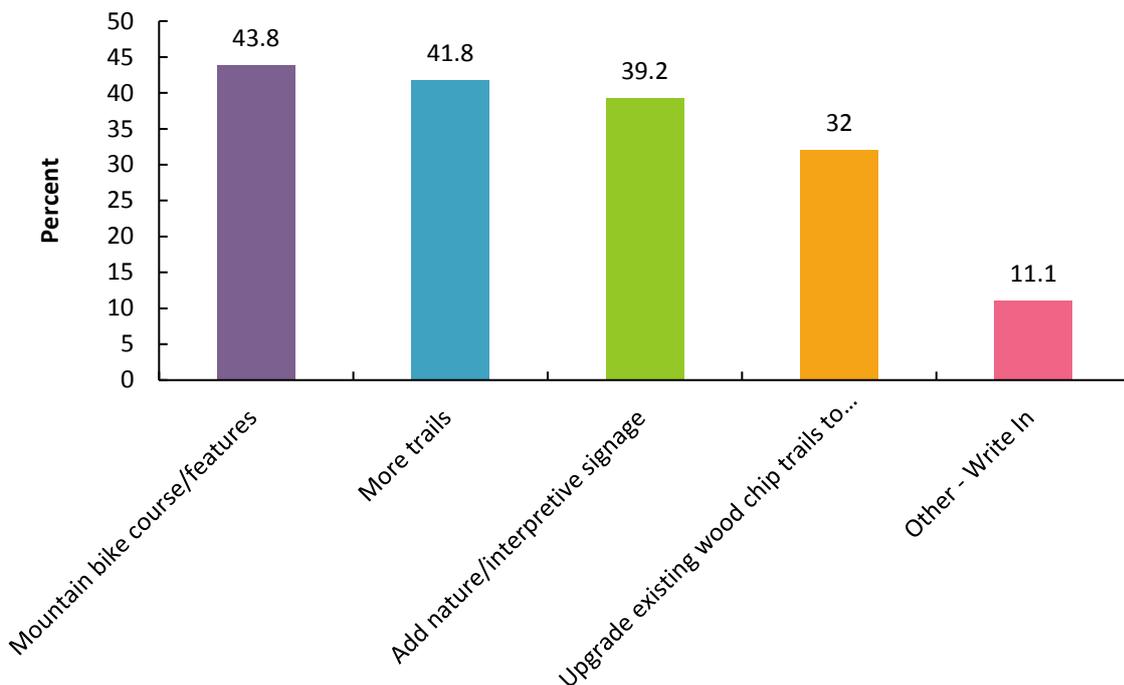
I like the nature center but my kids are young and the trails aren't all maintained well enough for them to easily hike with us. I would like to see better signage and more clearly marked/maintained trails. The staff in the center is super helpful! We see more wildlife here than any where else. The paved loop that used to be a golf course is great for the kids and I would like to see that area improved. It has a lot of potential. It's good for runners too!

Mountain bike trails

11. Please evaluate the following aspects of Ringwood Forest.

	Very Good	Good	Neutral	Poor	Very Poor	Don't Know	Responses
Safety and Security	6.9%	17.3%	12.8%	2.1%	1.0%	59.9%	289
Variety of Facilities/Amenities	3.8%	17.4%	14.3%	5.6%	0.3%	58.5%	287
Maintenance and Appearance	5.6%	19.9%	12.5%	2.4%	1.0%	58.5%	287
Handicap Accessibility	2.5%	7.7%	13.0%	2.1%	0.7%	73.9%	284

12. What amenities would you like to see added or improved at Ringwood Forest? Please check all that apply.



Other - Write In

Better playground equipment and restroom facilities.

I don't know why but I always get an eerie feeling in this park. It's far back off the road and I never come here without a friend

In the Summer the Mosquitoes are awful, its too swampy to enjoy, and everything is overgrown! Just leave it.

Mountain Bike Trails

Mountain Bike trails

Take care of graffiti on picnic tables

The only true kayak/canoe laugh point in the county. And the river is impassable due to all the debris and fallen trees. This is a potential gem nobody even remembers being in working order. I would lust this job priority #1

Updated restrooms

Upgrading play area and facilities.

bathrooms to be upgraded

cross country ski grooming

have never used & no intention

13. Do you have any additional feedback regarding Ringwood Forest?

Keep coming in there with mosquito control. Terrible mosquito problem there.

St. Charles loves this park, but it does seem kinda older looking. As well as up keep to the trails, this park would benefit from some upgrading to the play area and facilities. This park seems to attract some negative people, so security is important here. Presence of staff more often may help a bit with this.

Would love to see some mountain bike trails in saginaw county! Ringwood forest is the perfect place on my opinion. Also would love to be involved in any planning/I put if possible. KKeilitz@gmail.com

I like the rustic feel of Ringwood, I wouldn't want it to get too trendy. Tom Hensel has done so much with the trail, it's awesome.

Tear down the exhausting bathroom and build new. I never use that bathroom because it's so outdated and creepy feeling.

again trails uneven ,rutty in parts

I would like to see the wood chip trails go away. I would also like to see more MTB singletrack built. Some drainage added to the outer reaches of the park.

I like that it is secluded but at the same time it is hard to feel safe.

Better marked trails would be nice. Some parts of the trail seem vandalized and poorly maintained. It seems like more of a teen hangout than a family/nature getaway.

don't get there much because of the mosquitoes, but I know nothing you can do about that. LOL

About 25 years ago, someone told me a body was found in this park. I haven't taken my kids there because of how isolated it feels.

Love tjis park

Not frequent often. Doesn't offer much compared to the other parks.

Have not visited this park.

Many years since I have been there

Drove to it to turn around many years ago when I got lost looking for a house on M52.

Cleaned up!

Best hiking trail for some distance. Wish it could be longer.

Grounds need to be cared for more frequently also trails need to be maintained.

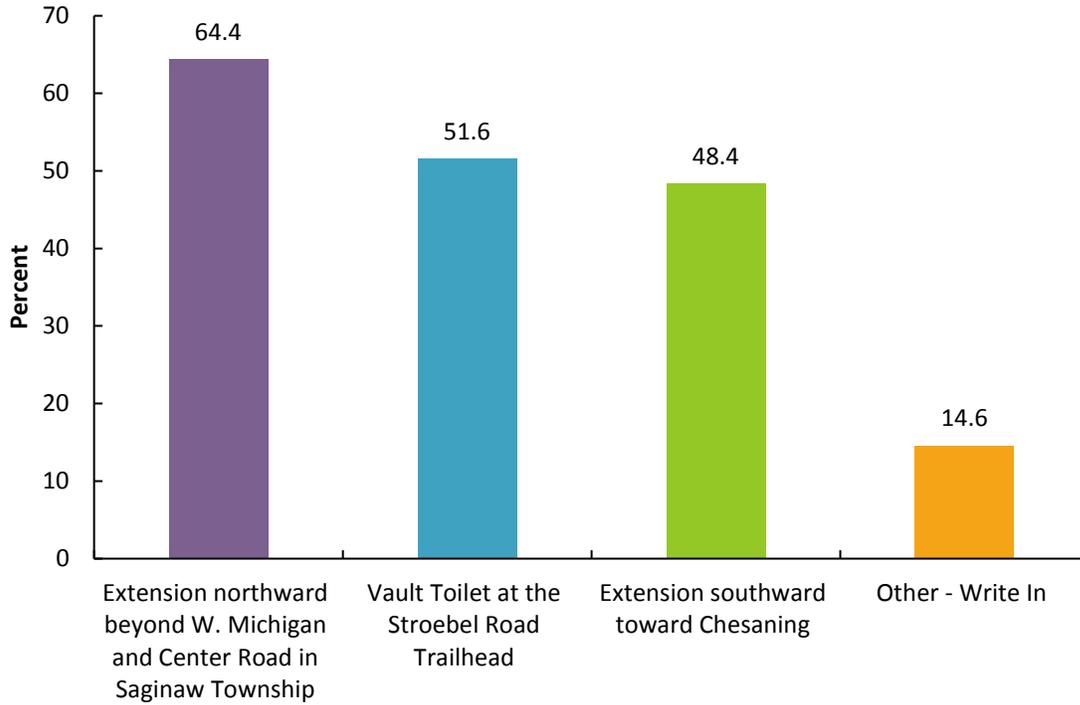
This is my favorite Saginaw park for a hike/run. I love the hiking trails and the variety of the terrain. The improvements on the playscape are great too! I plan on taking my kids here for a picnic play date this summer. Love it!

Haven't visited, yet, but I've heard good things about the trails and biking. I will be visiting this summer and fall to check out.

14. Please evaluate the following aspects of the Saginaw Valley Rail Trail.

	Very Good	Good	Neutral	Poor	Very Poor	Don't Know	Responses
Safety and Security	26.2%	36.1%	13.5%	4.5%	0.3%	19.4%	355
Variety of Facilities/Amenities	21.6%	38.5%	18.7%	2.6%	%	18.7%	348
Maintenance and Appearance	34.0%	41.5%	5.8%	0.9%	%	17.9%	347
Handicap Accessibility	23.6%	26.3%	8.6%	%	0.6%	41.0%	339

15. What type of improvements or additions would you like to see on the Saginaw Valley Rail Trail? Please check all that apply.



Other - Write In
A one seater toilet half way between Swan Creek Road and St. Charles.
Addition of rail trail law enforcement presence. Or background checked, trained emergency response volunteers/dept to patrol.
Additional drinking fountains where able
Additional toilets along the trail
Connect wit Zilwaukee
Connecting towards freeland
Drinking fountain at Stroebel
Drinking fountains along the trail
Extension by Zilwaukee
Go in to Bridgeport
Horse trails be cut and cleaned so they can actually be used

Join kochville and Zilwaukee trails

Leave it be.

Mile marker signs/ sitting bench/ telescopes to look up at the birds/ a nice fence

Modern rest rooms at the st. Charles parking lot. More wildlife signs ans educational information.

More portable restrooms along the way

More restrooms along the way

More signage about the history of the area and rail line.

More toilets and drinking fountains asking the trail

More trash baskets and picnic tables, maybe a vending food truck at one of the outlets.

More water availability

More water fountains along the trail.

Resurfacing to make roller blade friendly.

Safety addressed

Seal cracks, smooth on/off Bridges and roads

Some safety buttons like they have at universities or hospitals.

Spray for mosquitoes!!!!

The fishing dock near the Swan Creek entrance desperately needs a kayak launch point. It's difficult to explore without one

Trails at Race site.

Vending machines at restrooms.

Water refill areas throughout trail

We need to develope additional trails through out the county.

a few more drinking fountains would be nice

electronic way to donate money to help with improvements. a Go Fund Me style account

more water fountains

16. Do you have any additional feedback regarding the Saginaw Valley Rail Trail?

The rail trail is awesome and I love how it spreads across the county. Everytime I have been on it, the up keep has been great.

parts of the rail trail are very nice - other parts seem neglected with limited views. Don't really know if this is fixable. Would be nice to have more parking options, rest areas and programmin on the eastern ends of the trail.

It would be nice if there was a building that you could leave your bikes in racks inside and pay a fee during the summer to leave bikes on sight (with a keypad) for those who pay a fee to retrieve their bikes from the building.

Please make the rail trail more dog friendly with places to water and cool dogs off.

Absolutely, love the rail trail! It is always clean and peaceful. I was disappointed so many trees had to be cleared but an employee driving in the Rail Trail said it was necessary.

In my experience extending the trail to chesaning is something many people would like to see.

There are many patches where a repave could be needed soon.

great asset

Perhaps have some drinking fountains along the trail including some with lower fountains so that dogs may drink from them.

Expanding to Chesaning would be awesome. The extra length would attract more serious cycling enthusiasts and make the rail trail more of a destination ride bringing people to the area. Currently it seems to be much more local traffic.

Has been a great addition to the county

People do not slow down on Swan Valley Rd! This needs to be enforced! We have witnessed people speed up when they saw us crossing. It is dangeous for familues and we avoid the Van Wormer station now, even though it has nuce amenities. Also, Last year we witnessed a great deal of cutting and poisoning of plants and trees along the rail trail. These poisons work their way into the water before becoming "inert" (which is a lie that these chemicals become inert on contact) The poisoning and cutting made the rail trail unsightly all summer. We utilize the rail trail to enjoy nature as intended, not to see stretches of manmade death and destruction. Please refrain from pesticide use in our county parks!

Would be great if trail was longer.

Love this trail

I know you are working on a limited budget, but some kind of security cameras to watch the area due to increased crime in the area.

Please encourage people to pick up after their dogs. The trail smells by middle of summer.

I haven't been on the entire rail trail, but the one concern I have as a woman when running alone on any trail is the general lack of video cameras as a security feature. I feel that, while rail trails are generally fairly safe, added cameras would further dissuade possible crime.

Other than the vault toilet suggestion at Stroebel, the trail is perfect!

LOVE IT

Biking?

Love this

At times the mosquitos will carry you away.

Love walking the trail. Would like to see more benches for the elderly walkers (I have often seen them needing a rest and not have the opportunity) and additional vault toilets.

Thank you for this service. I like the historical and educational plaques along the way. Mile markers are also very important!

Very nicely maintained.

Add extension to connect through Saginaw Nature Center and Maleable Plant site....

1. More attention to making repairs in cracks and holes in asphalt. 2. Attention to spraying for mosquitos at St. Charles trail head. 3. Possibly clearing out close obstacles (tree branches, shrubbs, etc., at crossroads that give cyclists better view of traffic. (Idea that cyclists stop at each crossroad is admirable, but not likely) Note: Strongest aspect of SVRT is the people involved in overseeing and maintaining trail. Keep up the good work!

Informative signage about trail area etc. Definately something to help handicapped or people who dont walk well to use trail.

In the St Charles area the young teens tend to "gather" ear the first rest stop after leaving the trail head. Seem to be up to no good.

We've used the equestrian trail for years, and the last 2-3 years they have not been maintained, making it impossible for us to use the trails. This leaves us sharing the main pathways with the bikes and dogs, in which we get many nasty remarks from people

I would love to see it connect to more areas!!!

The extensive trail needs a visual presence of law enforcement to promote safety, security and confidence for young families, single women, youth to participate and enjoy.

More trails throughout Saginaw county.

More frequent toilet and drinking fountain stops. Emergency phones periodically.better maintained in winter months (snow clearing)

more parking areas with wheelchair access

Don't ride a bike.

thereare several sections(mostly south of swan creek rd) that need to be re-paved, as they are broken up very bad, and patching only makes it worse...also the gates on swan creek rd are not accessible for a handcycle- if someone was a quad or paraplegic they would not be able to maneuver around those gates without an able bodied person with them. I DO ride a handcycle, and because I know them , and I am very abled, I can do it- although it is a three step process. These gates cannot be ADA compliant. (this also applies to the gates along Stroebel road- although I know thats not a sagianw county thing)

I would love to have Midland's Rail trail connect with Saginaw through Freeland.

This trail is a lot of fun to walk or ride. I enjoy it!

Would love for the rail trail to go through Chesaning and end in Oakley. I would be more apt to use it frequently.

More cooling stations and marked area on trail for bikes so they don't have traffic for other users

Make signage clear enough that users stop trespassing on private property.

As a volunteer at the St. Charles Area Museum we would LOVE to see the Rail Trail extended south so it would attract more foot traffic to our museum. We are located at 603 Chesaning street and the rail road tracks are behind our museum. We could provide a resting point for travelers on their way to Chesaning if the rail trail was extended our way. Please extend it south. It amazes me on how many people do use the rail trail on a daily basis; an extension is just what we would like to see.

Extension into Chesaning and onward to Owosso

What is a vault toilet

The Rail Trail Ranger was an awesome hire! He makes this place worth using. It's like an Ash Tree burial ground. How many more trees can fall during a light breeze. More tree cutting would be the only recommendation!

How about adding some security measures like trail cams

Amazing amount of usage; only positive comments from friends, coworkers, et al; connecting with other trails the logical priority

It's great, I love it. Peaceful and lovely.

I love the rail trail along Melbourne to Bay city, it's not easy to get to from the Zilwaukee end and would love for it to connect to Zilwaukee's trail.

Access at some point near the tracks N. of Kencliff Dr. on S. Center Rd would be ideal

Maintain the horse trail a little better for those who drive. More bathroom/rest area/garbage would be great, as well as somewhere more to refill water.

Would like to see the restrooms at Van Wormer open earlier during the spring and summer

More gardens! We like to ride bikes and picnic. I enjoy the benches and planted gardens as we eat. I love the trail for all seasons and as a beginner trail for kids. There are some sections where we have to cross very busy roads and that's a bit hair raising.

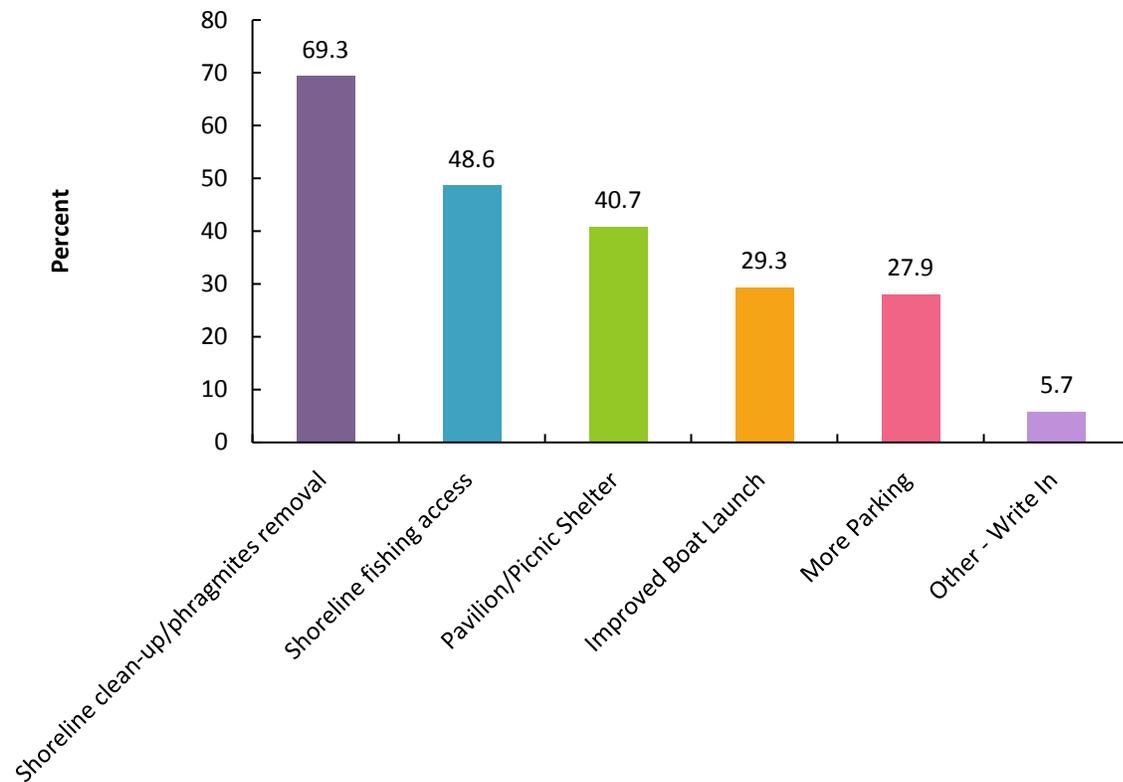
Would be great to extend to Chesaning and connect to other parks along with river amenities

We love the rail trail and use it quite a bit, and we recommend it to friends and family often. It would be a significant improvement for us if there was some kind of bathroom and a drinking water source between Van Wormer and St. Charles. As far as safety, it's safe because it goes through quiet, low-crime areas, but there are no protections on the trail (emergency phones, cameras, County employees, etc), most of it isn't within sight of homes or busy roads, and I do not feel safe on the trail alone. I never use it alone. This is not a complaint, just a statement, and I will continue to use it frequently.

17. Please evaluate the following aspects of the Veterans Park.

	Very Good	Good	Neutral	Poor	Very Poor	Don't Know	Responses
Safety and Security	5.0%	11.0%	14.2%	7.1%	2.1%	60.6%	282
Variety of Facilities/Amenities	5.0%	7.6%	16.5%	7.9%	2.2%	60.8%	278
Maintenance and Appearance	5.4%	14.7%	12.9%	5.8%	1.4%	59.7%	278
Handicap Accessibility	3.2%	6.5%	14.7%	1.8%	0.4%	73.5%	279

18. What type of improvements or additions would you like to see at Veterans Park? Please Check all that apply.



Other - Write In
Dont waste your/our money upgrading this eye sore.
lighting, other security

It's literally named after our vets, and is by far the filthiedt park in the county. Unkempt grass and weeds. Our vets deserve a much, much nicer park overall. Honestly I don't know where to start. It's bad, unattractive and basically needs everything we can do

better parking lot would be nice

never used & no intention

19. Do you have any additional feedback regarding Veterans Memorial Park?

Doesn't have the best reputation as a place I'd take my family. What can be done to change that or the perception of that?

Didn't realize this was a Saginaw County park. I will have to explore the boat launch, paddle board capabilities here.

better bathrooms and fountains

I like the location of the park but it doesn't appear to be very safe.

WHEN I WAS YOUNG, 70'S-80'S WAS VERY BUSY PARK, NOW SEEMS EMPTY-GOOD AND BAD, GOOD, NO ONE BOTHERING YOU, BAD, UNDER UTILIZED, NO ONE GETS OUTSIDE-POOR ACTIVITY/FITNESS OF CITIZENS

Fishing is good

Just driving by this place it's looks terrible. The bathrooms are roped off half the time it's never mowed nicely and the launches look terrible.

I've only been once... not a great park... I don't intend to return.

Nice facility. Very seldom stop there.

I have not been to Veterans park in many years due to the lake of safety and security issues. It seems to me that this is a park no longer in great need, people rarely travel M13. maybe resources should be placed on the parks being the most utilized.

Make the river more accessible for ice fishing. The bank is too steep

Please more fragment cleanup! Lots of dead heads in the river that aren't fun to worry about while out on the water.

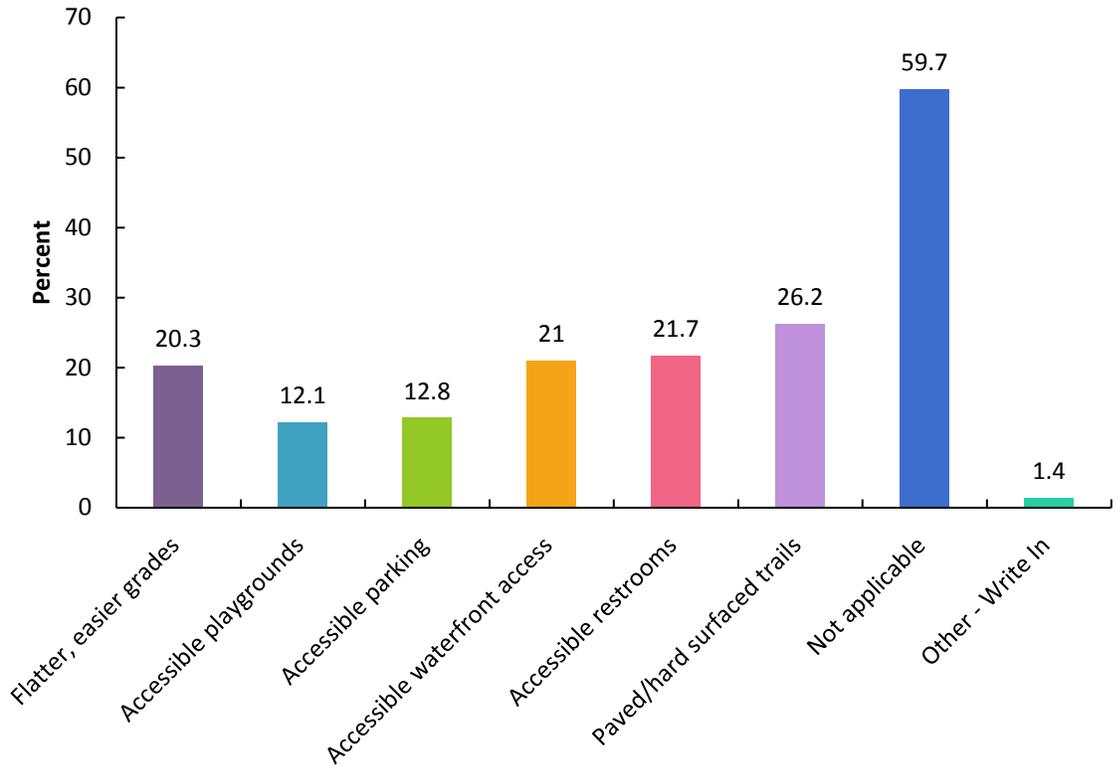
Drove past it many time going to and from bay City. Looked like it was seldom used.

WSte if money. Close it. It's known as a facility that services illicit homosexual activity. We used to go there to fish but now is disgusting to see the activity taking place

Great park! My kids love the play structures and I appreciate the fence and hill by the highway. Lol. Lots of space to run around!

Haven't been here in years. Last time I visited, there was a lot of homosexual activity that made me feel unsafe.

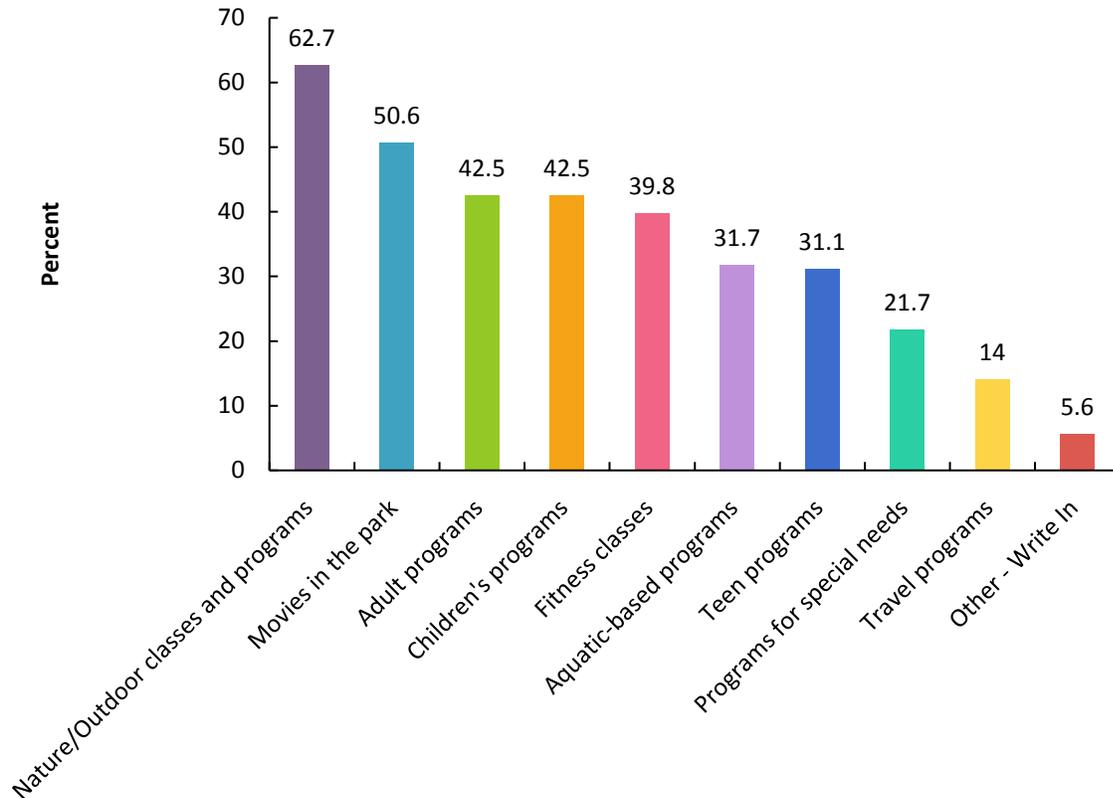
20. If there is a person with a disability in your family, please indicate which of the following would make Saginaw County parks more user-friendly for you and your family member. Please check all that apply.



21. Please evaluate the following aspects of Saginaw County Parks.

	Very Good	Good	Neutral	Poor	Very Poor	Don't Know	Responses
Quality/Friendliness of Staff	28.5%	41.6%	13.1%	1.2%	0%	15.7%	344
Quality of Programs	18.4%	38.3%	17.2%	2.4%	0.9%	22.8%	337
Variety of Programs	17.2%	34.1%	21.1%	3.3%	1.2%	23.1%	337

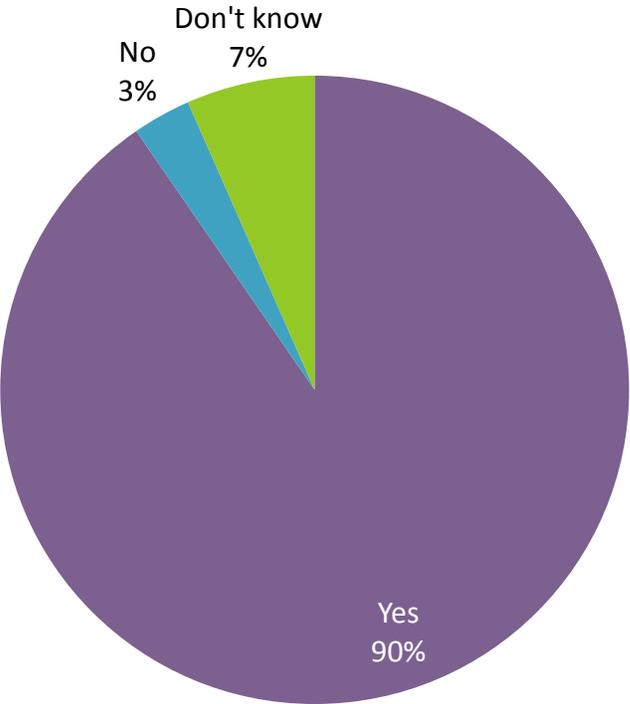
22. What types of activities and programs would you like to see more of at Saginaw County Parks?



Other - Write In
A kayak group
Arts; paint in the park. Music outdoors; lessons, jam sessions maybe all working in the same song(s) and a concert at the end
Continue & add even more help at Hoyt Park
Dog events
Dog parks. Check out the dog park in Fluahing. Awesome
Fishing Tournaments
Geocaching and outdoor skills offered more frequently
Have Haithco open so dogs could use an area for swimming, not just once in the spring and again in the fall.
Less things from the year 2000. Your Marketing person needs to try new things and quit using all of

her old programs!
Longer fishing Times
More dog events at Imerman
Mountain bike trails
No programs needed. Current ones are a joke
Outdoor roller rinks maybe music
Programs held in the evening hours so those of us who work can attend.
Swim lessons/competitive swim for kids
Tai Chi

23. Saginaw County's parks are primarily supported by a voter-approved tax levy. The current tax levy allows for free entry to all County Parks for all Saginaw County residents. Do you support the continuation of this funding mechanism?



24. What do you like best about Saginaw County Parks?

The people who work for the Saginaw County Parks! They are passionate and loyal and really care about what they do and continue to strive to overachieve everthing they possibly can for the benefit of all of saginaw county.
ease and close to home
they are accessible and located throughout the County. There is a variety that would encompass different tastes and interests
Don't use any parks other than the Rail Trail.
Availability of use.
I love the choice of various types of parks available to choose from and the fact that they are spread all over Saginaw County.
Trails are well kept.
The parks make our county a nicer place to live.
For the most part, they are very well maintained. I also like the no cost entry (for Sag residents) which truly makes them available for everyone!
Clean and close to home.
Each one offers different activities. Swimming, basketball, volleyball, grill
Close to home
The only one I really go to is Haithco because it's so close,,and I love it there. Clean beach area, nice restrooms, free entry for Saginaw County residents....it's just beautiful.
Free entry and close to home
Close to home.
The friendly staff and (for the most part) clean parks.
Variety of them around the county
I enjoy having the trails so close to home.
Never visited one as they do not offer recreation that I participate in (Mountain biking)
I live in Midland, but I would travel to Saginaw if there were mountain bike trails.
I enjoy the trails.
Very close and easy to access.
There needs to be more parks. There are not enough, especially in Freeland. Kids cannot ride their bike to the township park.

I like that I can take my dog to Imerman Park and let her run around and socialize with other dogs at the bark park.

Having a nice area to swim and relax close to home

Saginaw has a bad reputation and the parks are shining gems.

Access, rail trails

great place to take my dogs

I have only been to two, but with having young children, I love that there are decent playgrounds for them.

Location nothing is very far away

Variety of options for recreation

Pretty clean.

The staff and people that go to the park.

The variety of locations.

the accessibility. GREAT staff and their willingness to help.

Well maintained and encourages healthy lifestyles.

Spending quality family time in nature

So many and very accessible. Beautiful advantage to living here

They're clean and available.

RIGHT HERE, MANY TO USE

Price nature center is better

Free access to all, relatively clean

I like how green they are and the way they're taken care of

Outdoor opportunities for families

I like that I can go to the park for free and that they are nicely maintained

I love that there is a beach at Haithco and you are able to kayak there. It is close to my house so it is super convenient.

Even with financial downturn these are needed

We love the rail trail, just wish they sprayed for mosquitos more.

Accessible nature trails

The great opportunity they provide my family to get outside and experience nature.
Love the upgraded and maintenance we have seen in recent years. Great leadership and vision!
locations
Nice trails, not over-improved
Close to where I live
Close by and free
Need to do more with Price Park
Local park, locally funded.
access to parks & water bodies and the Rail Trail
The ones that I can see from the road, look like they are well maintained.
They offer a lot of variety and are scattered around the county. Well maintained.
Large variety. With the exception of Vets, I've been to every park numerous times and grew up close to Ringwood and used it weekly. Overall the department does a great job maintaining the parks.
Access
Close to town.
The mix use of our parks and trails.
Imerman park - location. I feel Haithco is a unique park with much possibilities.
Cleanliness, upkeep of lawns
Nice local place to spend the weekends.
Availability, staff professionalism, wide bike trails
Variety of outdoor activities and venues. Each has its own flare.
The variety in amenities that all the parks offer.
Over the years I've seen great improvement in our city parks. Bringing things back like baseball & ice skating at Hoyt (even though this park wasn't mentioned).
Provide activities and opportunities to get outdoors.
Close proximity to my home.
Easy access
The friendly staff!
I like that they are wide spread but I would like to see other areas that have trail improved as well.

Variety of areas to use
Different things to do at different parks
Most importantly they are still open and most have waterfront access.
Lots of improvements
I love the dog park at Imerman!
Easily accessible
I do like that they are free or cheap enough for the families to get into. We need family friendly places to go.
Size and availability. Upkeep is good for most part. Restrooms need maintenance.
Local and convenient. Free for county residents. Kid friendly.
Being people that live in the city of Saginaw pay for mileage too- that they have expanded to help in the city parks even though no county park is within city limits except Blanchard Park.
Having a choice while being active
Clean and safe.
Accessible, clean, keeping with nature
Love the rail trail. It does need more activities for seniors. The golf cart ride was awesome.
Well groomed.
How they are maintained, that they are close,
Very enjoyable places to go and for free!
Very nice
Variety and locations
Yoga in the park, kayak launches, rail trail.
Mostly like spending time at each for different reasons- depending on what we want to do
Love the work being done so far in our local parks. Looking forward to more
Free access.
I can take my dog with me to immerman and she can burn off energy there, there aren't very many places to take animals
That residences enter free.
I like to see deer at Imerman

They are beautiful
Swimming. Skiing. Snowboarding.
I love to take my grandkids to Haithco , they have a Blast. Didn't know about the one on M 13, will have to go and check it out.
I like the fact that it allows you to get outdoors locally.
The dog park and Immerman Park is a lot of fun. My wife and I visit a few times a year. Drainage in the dog park is king of poor though. If you want to improve it, I'd suggest installing/fixing drain tiles in the center of the field.
The bark park
The scenery and programs.
Being in nature.
Haithco Park is a gem, I love visiting on hot summer days.
Every park is colse by. Maintenance is good.
We usually go to haithco, we love it there. We like the extras like free movies and other events.
They are located in my area. Easy accessibility.
Free place to get outside and close to home !!
Wicks park
Ringwood forest the quiet peaceful trails.
I like that Saginaw County residents can get a pass for use at Imerman and Haithco.
The lake at Hathico park and the paved trail on rail trail.
I don't use them
Free entrance, pavillion, peddle boat rental, good fishing.
Accessibility
Bark park
We are so blessed
The friendliness of the office lady. She is always so nice and keeps things organized.
Nothing. It's geared toward the Saginaw City, or Saginaw Township raise ts
Simply that they exist ND we have a variety of beautiful parks
Dog park, it would be great to have one at every location.

Variety of Locations.
Close too home
Accessibility. Perfect for the whole family.
Nice variety of parks
Free to get in
It's a place we have access to go and enjoy Mother Nature
Well maintained and clean
Locations
They are free to go to
close; diversity of parks/programs
Close to home and no cost to use
Lots of parks and well maintained for the most part.
Ringwood Forest and the rail trail offer such beauty that we love getting out of the city and spending time there! The way they are maintained are so important. It feels like we are on a mini vacation when we go there! I always feel like these parks are a jewel in our county.
Biking and walking
They are easily accessible, well maintained and I feel safe walking there alone during the day.
The natural setting they're in
Never to far from a park. Park passes.
Small and large dog parks
Free, friendly staff,
They're a great way to spend quality time outside while getting to stay close to home.
Near my home and a safe place to spend time
Locations
It brings community together.
It's a way for us to get outside and enjoy our town.
Availability in our area
Variety of location
The accessibility to those of us that can't afford other places

Accessibility
I love the rail trail! The locations of the parks I use (Haithco, Imerman, Rail Trail) are good.
That we have some. I travel Michigan a great deal and Saginaw only has a few recreation areas / parks as compared to other areas. I'm thankful for them, but would love to have more options.
Variety of things to do
Hiking, cycling, and dog fun opportunities.
Local and accessible. Would really love longer rail trail that connects thru other communities
The nature
Being able to get in free and enjoy the day!
getting back to nature
The programming in communities across the county
Rail trails and bike trails

25. What one thing would you do to improve Saginaw County Parks?

Increase their budget for staff. They really work hard for the tiny Dept. Staff. They are need huge raises in my opinion.
serve the outlying areas better.
Security on the rail trail (having someone in sight periodically
Feeling of Safety & Security when using in more of the isolated areas alone... example Rail Trail, Ringwood Forest.
New brighter signs at the parks and for advertisement.
Create a more safe environment. Before I got my dog I didn't feel safe running alone.
Add disc golf at Immerman.
Continuously increase the number of hiking and biking trails.
I think you guys are on point with the mountain bike trails. Make sure there is an extensive amount of trails that are planned and executed properly and they could become a destination point. People travel to get to Midland City Forest. Bay County did one thing right and brought in IMBA for they're planning however they area they chose didnt leave much room for the length of trails. While they were fun it's not something most people will travel to.
My biggest concern is safety, but I realize it is impossible to completely "police" the parks.
not very much. All are pretty well kept up.

Swimming for both me and my dog
Continual weekly grass, edging, etc
If mosquito control doesn't already spray in the parks, then I'd have them come spray one a month or however often they could.
Some picnic tables or benches under the trees closer to the parking lot at Haithco.
Refill parking lots/trails.
Trails for mountain bikes and the rail trail extension
I would really like a better bathroom situation closer the to North end of the rail trail. It's not a huge deal, as there are perfectly fine portable ones on location. It would just be helpful when I have younger kids with me. When I do, I usually take them closer to the main area on VanWormer.
Create Mountain bike trails.
Make more pet friendly. Not every one has children, and would like more places to take my pets.
More paved bike trails.
More parks in town with easy access
Extend trail to Chesaning.
More cross country ski trails/grooming
Rail trail markers for safety, More variety of programs
More program/classes
Making residents more aware of programs and what is available to them as residents. Who can participate myself and sometimes in conversation with others we aren't always sure if things are open to us.
We need more walking/hiking trails. We also need to be better known. Please advertise and spread the word to other counties!
More trails for running and biking. The expansion of the SV rail trail would be great since it is short (not easily connected to other biking paths for farther distances) and their is very limited miles of off-road trails for running in Saginaw County that are within a short distance of the major population.
Make bigger
Extend trails
More community activities
Extend the rail trail towards chesaning
mosquitoes. make them go away. :-)
Advertise more, until this survey I thought there was a charge for Haithco, so I've never gone.

Increased community presence and activities (guided tours, half-off paddleboarding days, kids' days, etc)

Advertising programs through Facebook

Accessibility, and commercials. I don't know where most of those parks are

Having staff available all year at all parks.

More advertising

Last time I swam I came out of the water with little bugs in my feet. Maybe there is a way to prevent them.

Overall better utilization of the parks. Concerts in the parks, lawn chair film set ups, the addition of disc golf courses.

I would love if the rail trail extended to Chesaning

More frequent programming at some of the outlier parks

provide alternative and sustainable funding sources

Better security

More nature, more ease of access, biodegradable nature friendly items

Restroom availability at most parks

Improved walking paths at Imerman

Better serve outlying areas of the county. Most parks & spending serves Saginaw City & Twp.

more bike trails

Hold more events during the weeknight evening to get more residents involved

We have a rich heritage. Some signage expounding on our history might be nice. Railroad history on the rail trails. Lumbering and native american heritage along the rivers. What makes Ringwood and Imerman unique.

I feel Price does have a few bums hanging around now and then, but still feels relatively safe. Could also make a continual loop of the lake at Haithco

More activities

More chairs to sit.

The addition of a county park with the city of Saginaw.

More children activities. These are the future generations that will support the parks.

Have more activities

I'd like to be able to bring my dog into all of them.

Maintaining the highest quality of each area (bike trails, picnic tables, etc.).

I really have no idea, maybe have a open house to feature all of the benefits of each park. Maybe do one per year or per quarter to highlight a particular park. Immerman, Haithco and the Rail Trail seem to get most of the attention.

Frankenmuth area is neglected

More access to paddle sports on the river.

Keep up the good work!!

Even more programs would be a plus. More advertisement of events and programs. More handicap accessibility.

Much more advertisement. More childrens programs and for handicapped/ seniors. More free or special days at haithco and immerman.

More fishing access

More security on hand.

Honestly just cleaned up areas and fresh paint on some equipment/buildings

One thing Saginaw Co is lacking is an outdoor swim area. I have a 9 year old who swims at other local pools but there aren't fun summer classes, swim programs etc She would love to do some swim with a coach and have a fun competition during summer for a local camp that doesn't take a lot of time but easy like two hours a week

Find a way to get some public campgrounds built!

More police

Add spray pads

Seem to be doing ok.

More of a media presence.

I wish they offered more hiking/running paths and it would be really neat if they (the parks) could somehow all be connected by paths.

More kayak launches. More activities. Bathroom upgrades.

Kayaking and/or canoeing | Opportunities

More lighting.

I noted suggestions in previous suggestions.

Make sure they are all very well taken care of

More dog friendly

Hiking/walking trails

More wheelchair access.
Add fitness equipment.
Clean up the woods at Immerman
The 100 foot from shore thing at Haiithco is not a very good rule. And a handicap canoe/kayak launch at Immerman.
Keep all parks neatly cut it reduces bugs and creatures attacking
Access drives and parking areas.
Safety at some of the parks locations.
More programming in city parks. DO NOT need to buy a park, only put supervised recreation in them.
Keep them cleaner
Have more options of events in the different parks
Keep them cleaner! Possibly more security to ensure no vandalism takes place.
I'd like to see more play equipment new stuff that kids have never seen before. Or something more imaginative than swings and a jungle gym.
Would like a splash park for kids.
Entrance fee instead of taxes to keep up
Bathroom & water fountains
Add splash pad to Haiithco
Reduce the Millage if they are going to keep "Blowing" our money supporting the Malleable Iron property. Chopping the board members was too far as they challenged Mr Keenans beliefs. He came up with a bogus reason to get rid of them just because he knew he was doomed with them teaming up against his idea.
Kayak launches would be a huge improvement. Volley ball leagues would allow use of several facilities.
Have trash cans and doggie waste bags throughout the trails. I would love to take my dogs on the trails as they are my service dogs and go everywhere with me.
A little more Security.
More distance hiking trails.
Post signs and info for stinging nettle, poison ivy, etc.
More things for children to do.
I would like to feel safe at our parks and on the trails

More police
Keep them clean
The parks are geared for the masses. Fitness oriented people take a back seat to park planning and design although can be huge advocates and supporters of the parks.
Wider variety of adult activities, including trips like they've had in the past.
Improve the parks in the more rural areas of Saginaw county, those parks aren't getting enough attention.
The trails take a beating in the winter. more gravel to even out trail surface and fix low spots and pot holes.
Safety and add updated entrances and facilities.
I can't comment because, answering this questionnaire makes me realize that I/we don't make nearly enough use of this wonderful resource.
More adult activiitied
Upkeep of trails/walkways.
Add more bike trails. The Traverse City TART trail provides a safe place for people to walk or bike through town. I'd like to see that in Saginaw
Winter events.
I would support the millage so you can do more of what you are already doing. We use all the parks and appreciate your work. One of the reasons we have stayed in MI is the seasons and the access to nature and the parks help us enjoy it.
Clean up Imerman dioxin and water area
Not sure if this is already in place, but it would be cool to have a kayak and canoe trial at the lake.
Safety
More workers.
Fund the hiring of more Saginaw City and/or County law enforcement.
Increase the size and number
Interconnect the rail trail
Clean a little better.
make them bigger
Perhaps advertise beyond Facebook (where I see most events)
Keep extending, improving, and adding both paved and mountain bike trails

26. Do you have any other feedback regarding Saginaw County Parks?

I support the millage. I think parks are an asset. I DO NOT agree with increasing my millage rate to pay for gate entry fees. This is the portion that makes me waiver on supporting the millage. I support parks but i don't support paying entry fees with my tax dollars. Let the individuals utilizing the parks pay the fee. Also, this is a good way to generate funds from out of County.

The Saginaw County Parks & opportunities I have taken advantage of are Great.

I love the parks in Saginaw County! ♥

I'd love to see more kids camps for children 3-6 years old!

Like the directions parks are moving in. Great ideas and innovative projects. Maybe someday a climbing wall? I know, liability.

I just hope and pray that these parks can stay the way they are,,,seems whenever Saginaw gets something nice, some people have to ruin it. Thank you to all the folks who work so hard to keep them nice, clean, and safe!

Advertisement for the parks needs to be improved.

More activities posted on Facebook for the public or county residents

Mountain biking as an activity is a economic boon for communities that embrace it. Saginaw county does not have a single foot of mountain bike trail in the entire county. Where do all the cyclist go? to Midland county or north. Spending their recreational dollars elsewhere. I ride 2-4 times a week and know dozens of other riders who ride the same or more. That is monies leaving the county coffers to be spent elsewhere.

I would like to know more information about the old malleable iron location that was just acquired. This area would be a perfect spot to plant trees and build mountain bike single-track. Currently Saginaw really has nowhere to ride mountain bikes. Currently we have to drive an hour out of Saginaw to ride. Please hold a public hearing on what will be done with that new location.

Ringwood forest would be an awesome site for mountain biking and expand what the park system currently offers.

Sure do have some nice trucks! Hopefully you are being fiscally responsible.

Thanks for being around!

More dog play areas

Keep up the good work!

Love the Rail Trail. We use a few times a week.

Stop wasting money on programs

They are well done and a nice addition to our communities.

They are great

Take over Wickes Park on Saginaw River.

How can we work with the road commission to develop better signage for biking and develop trails on road right of ways.

Keep up the good work!

I would like to see a trail along the Saginaw river.

Overall, I appreciate the parks. They're in pretty good condition and we always have a good time when we visit one.

I don't know if people are aware of all of the Saginaw County Parks and all they offer. Some type of informational campaign might be helpful. But a quick Google search did bring me to the Saginaw County Parks page which provided good information!

Why are there no parks located east of I 75?

I make it a hobby to visit new parks Saginaw parks are good but they could be alot better!

Thanks for all the hard work and advertising that is put forth !

I would vote to sell them

This survey is a joke and geared toward only getting positive responses instead of actual turthful responses

I love the idea of signage throuout the parks with some of the history of Saginaw. Making them more handicap accessible to the trails and throughout would also be great. Some seating along the way for when people need a break would be lovely as well.

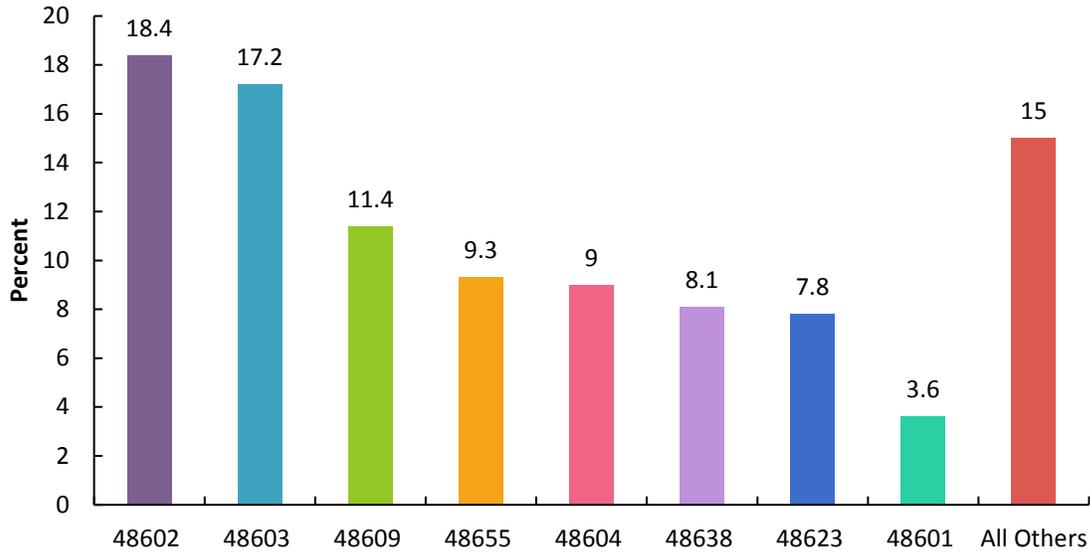
I think there should be cameras on the trails

The parks are geared for the masses. Fitness oriented people take a back seat to park planning and design although can be huge advocates and supporters of the parks. Many Saginaw County residents travel to Midland and Bay Counties to use their park systems because of the longer length and quality of their paved and natural trails. Seems like the parks have really been improving over the last few years, but we need to expand!

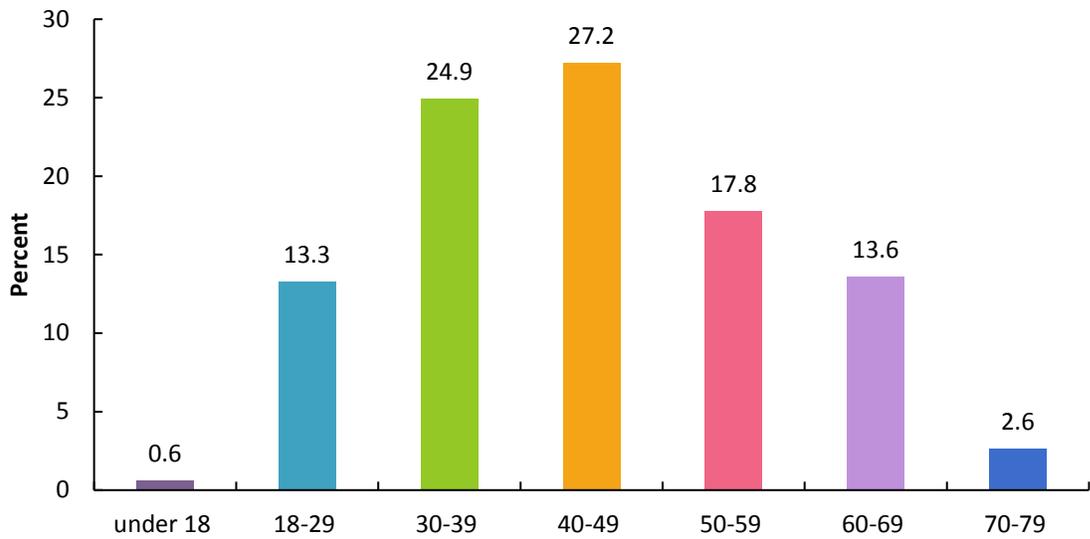
Better/more hours for activities. I work first shift and a few programs I would like to try out happen during my working hours.

How can you make people aware of our parks? Do you have a facebook page?

27. What is your zip code?



28. What is your age?



Appendix E: Funding Sources for Parks and Recreation Projects

SOURCES OF RECREATION GRANT FUNDING IN MICHIGAN

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF)

- Match requirement – minimum of 25%
- Development grants
 - Minimum Grant Request \$15,000
 - Maximum Grant Request \$300,000
- Acquisition grants
 - No minimum or maximum
- Goals of MNRTF Board
 - Resource Protection
 - Water Access
 - Community Recreation
 - Urban Recreation
 - Economic Development
- Due annually on April 1
- www.michigan.gov/dnr

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

- Administered by MNRTF
- 50% match required
- Minimum grant request \$30,000 (\$60,000 project total)
- Maximum grant request \$150,000 (\$200,000 project total)
- Funds a wide variety of outdoor recreation projects
- Applications due annually on April 1
- www.michigan.gov/dnr

Michigan Recreation Passport Grant

- Administered by MNRTF
- Focus is on improving and renovating existing parks
- Minimum Grant Request - \$7,500, Maximum 150,000
- Applications due on April 1
- For outdoor *and indoor* recreation projects
- www.michigan.gov/dnr

Michigan Department of Transportation - Transportation Alternatives Program

- For non-motorized transportation (paths) and rehabilitation and operation of historic transportation buildings, structures, or facilities (bridges, railroad depot, etc.)
- 20% minimum match required, 40% recommended
- Eligible applicants include county road commissions, cities, and villages. Other organizations may *sponsor* applications (i.e. County Road Commission or local MDOT office sponsors a township application)
- Rolling on-line application process
- www.michigan.gov/mdot Go to “Projects and Programs”.

Great Lakes Fisheries Trust (GLFT)

- Objective – improve or create shore-based Great Lakes recreational access.
- Must be located on the Great lakes or lower portions of major tributaries
- Matching funds not required but projects with local funding will be favored.
- Relatively simple application form and requirements.
- Due dates vary.
- www.glft.org

Michigan Coastal Management Grants

Objectives

- Protect, manage and restore coastal communities and habitats
- Restore historic structures
- Revitalize urban waterfronts
- Increase recreational opportunities along Michigan's Great Lakes coast
- Applicant must be a coastal unit of government
- Maximum grant request - \$100,000
- Match requirements – 50% (some flexibility in match for non-construction projects that result in changes to local master plans or zoning ordinances, regional greenways, or include conservation planning)
- Eligible projects
 - Studies, Designs and Land Use Plans – must have a direct connection to coastal planning and/or resource protection.
 - Construction – boardwalks, trails, lighthouse preservation, habitat restoration, scenic overlook, etc.
- www.michigan.gov/ogl

Other grant programs to consider:

Coastal Program – Great Lakes – US Fish and Wildlife Service

- Grants to conserve fish and wildlife and their habitats and to support healthy coastal ecosystems
- Rolling application process
- www.fws.gov/midwest/greatlakes/apply.htm

Specific sports and sports foundations

- United States Tennis Association (USTA)
 - funding for tennis courts and programs
 - www.usta.com
- Major League Baseball
 - Baseball Tomorrow Fund
 - www.baseballtomorrow.com
- United States Soccer
 - www.ussoccerfoundation.org

Safe Routes to School

- For projects near elementary and middle schools:
 - Sidewalks
 - Traffic calming and speed reduction
 - Pedestrian and bicycle crossing improvements
 - On-street and off-street bicycle facilities
 - Off-street pedestrian facilities
 - Traffic diversion improvements in the vicinity of schools
- Need to complete the safe routes planning process to apply
- www.saferoutesmichigan.org

Trust for Public Land (TPL)

- Conservation Transactions
TPL helps structure, negotiate, and complete land transactions that create parks, playgrounds, and protected natural areas. TPL serves as an independent agent, buying land from willing landowners and then transferring it to public agencies, land trusts, or other groups for protection. In some instances, TPL will protect land through conservation easements, which restrict development but permit traditional uses such as farming and ranching.
- www.tpl.org

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Grants

- Must be part of a watershed management plan
- Projects aimed at reducing nonpoint source pollution (streambank and shoreline stabilization, rain gardens, erosion control, conservation easements)
- 25% match required
- www.michigan.gov/deq

Community Foundations

Private Foundations and Endowments

Wickes Foundation
Strosacker Foundation
Gerstacker Foundations
Consumers Energy

KEEP IN MIND...

- Match requirements can usually be in-kind services, donations, or cash,
- Most grants are provided on a reimbursable basis.
- Barrier free accessibility is usually required for improvement projects,
- Multiple partners, multiple jurisdictions can be viewed favorably – think “regional” projects.
- Grant applications can be complicated, detailed and competitive. Make sure your grant writer is familiar with the grant and funding source. Learn as much as possible ahead of time to know if your project has potential for funding.

Appendix E: Adoption Documentation