



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF HIGHLAND

NON- MOTORIZED PATHWAY MASTER PLAN

ADDENDUM TO RECREATION PLAN 2009

July 11, 2012



Acknowledgments

Highland Township Board of Trustee

Patricia M. Pilchowski, Supervisor
Mary L. McDonell, Clerk
Judith A. Kiley, Treasurer
Raymond P. Polidori, Trustee
Mary Pat Chynoweth, Trustee
Russ Tierney, Trustee
Barry Sherman, Trustee

Highland Township Planning Commission

Alexandra Stellas, Chair
Michael Wiza, Vice Chair
A. Roscoe Smith, Secretary
Eugene H. Beach, Jr.
Chris Gostek
Patricia Hamlin
Barry Sherman
John Stewart
Scott Temple

Highland Township Sidewalk Committee

Michael Wiza, Planning Commission
Patricia Hamlin, Planning Commission
Russ Tierney, Board of Trustees
Melissa Dashevich, Highland Downtown District Authority Director
Gayle Olson, Parks and Recreation Committee
Marie Hewitt, Beautification Committee
Jim Lloyd, Highland Conservancy
Janet Roberts, Huron Valley Schools

Adopted: July 11, 2012

Prepared by: Jennifer Frederick, AICP; Planner

TABLE ON CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....4

HISTORY.....4

PLANNING PROCESS.....4

STAKEHOLDERS.....5

EXISTING CONDITIONS.....8

PROPOSED PATHWAYS

- PRIORITY PATHWAYS.....12
- FUTURE PATHWAYS.....13

NON-MOTORIZED PATHWAY TYPES.....18

GOALS AND ACTIONS.....20

INTRODUCTION:

The Charter Township of Highland Non-Motorized Pathway Master Plan has been developed to provide a structure for creating a connected system of trails and greenways throughout Highland Township, to connect with adjacent communities, Oakland County's linked path and trail system, and to take part in a regional pathway and greenway system throughout S. E. Michigan. Highland Township's non-motorized pathway system is intended to serve a wide range of users, and to provide and to maintain a safe connection to natural, cultural and civic destinations within Highland Township and outside the municipal boundaries. Highland Township will utilize existing pathways and plan for future connections.

HISTORY

In the past, the Highland Township Zoning Ordinance required that all non-residential developments include sidewalks along road frontage. Some sidewalks were installed where adjacent properties were not served by sidewalks and it has created patches of sidewalks that do not connect. Sometimes Highland Township would postpone the installation of the required sidewalks and the majority of those sidewalks have never been installed.



Currently, the Highland Township Zoning Ordinance requires the installation of multi-purpose paths for all developments subject to site plan review, land use or special land use permits unless waived or deferred by the approving body based on priorities within this plan. Highland Township has existing pathways that should be surveyed and updated to meet the requirements from the American Disabilities Act and American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, (AASHTO).

PLANNING PROCESS:

As expressed in the Charter Township of Highland Parks and Recreation Plan, adopted November 2009, Highland Township wants to ensure that residents can access community centers, historical downtown, schools, recreation lands and natural areas. The Highland Township Non-Motorized Pathway Master Plan will provide the framework for a hierarchy of non-motorized pathways that accommodate multiple uses including biking, equestrian, hiking and walking.

The Charter Township of Highland Non-Motorized Pathway Master Plan will be used to guide Highland in the planning and construction of Highland's pathway system over the next five years. The Charter Township of Highland's Non-Motorized Pathway Master Plan will also assist Highland Township to obtain funding for future Pathway projects.

STAKEHOLDERS:

There are several stakeholders that Highland Township has worked with and must consider in their planning for non-motorized pathways. The stakeholders are Highland Township Board of Trustees, Planning Commission, Sidewalk Committee, Highland Downtown Development Authority (HDDA), Parks and Recreation committee, Huron Valley Schools (HVS), Oakland County, Oakland Trails Advisory Council (OTAC), Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC), Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), Highland Conservancy, Highland Equestrian Conservancy, Highland Township citizens and other users of the pathway system.

Highland Township Board of Trustees and Planning Commission initiated the Non-Motorized Master Pathway Plan process in response to the needs expressed by the citizens during the Highland Township's Recreation Plan process. The number one goal set under the Recreation Plan Goals and Actions is that Highland Township will strive to meet the needs of pedestrians, bicyclists, equestrians and other users. The first action in response to the goal is to develop a non-motorized facility plan that creates a community wide pathway network, tied to the county wide trail plan, and identifies existing opportunities, needed improvements and an action schedule for implementation. The second action is to select high priority segments from the planning effort and begin implementing the

plan. The Recreation Plan also plans to evaluate and identify opportunities to improve non-motorized transportation from population centers to existing parkland in the Township.

Under the direction of the Board of Trustees, the Planning Commission appointed a Sidewalk Subcommittee to start the non-motorized pathway planning process and draft a Non-Motorized Master Plan. The subcommittee is comprised of eight members representing a variety of stakeholder groups. The subcommittee reviewed Highland's existing pathway system and offers the recommendations found in this Non-Motorized Pathway Plan.

The HDDA is moving forward with their proposed streetscape plan, which includes sidewalks and safety/side paths along Milford Road south of Highland Road to Colasanti's Market and along Livingston Road, from Milford Road to Eleanor Street.

MDOT is planning improvements for 2011. MDOT plans to update the pedestrian lights, installing at grade pedestrian crosswalks at the intersection of Highland and Milford Roads and pedestrian improvements at the intersection of Highland and Duck Lake Roads.

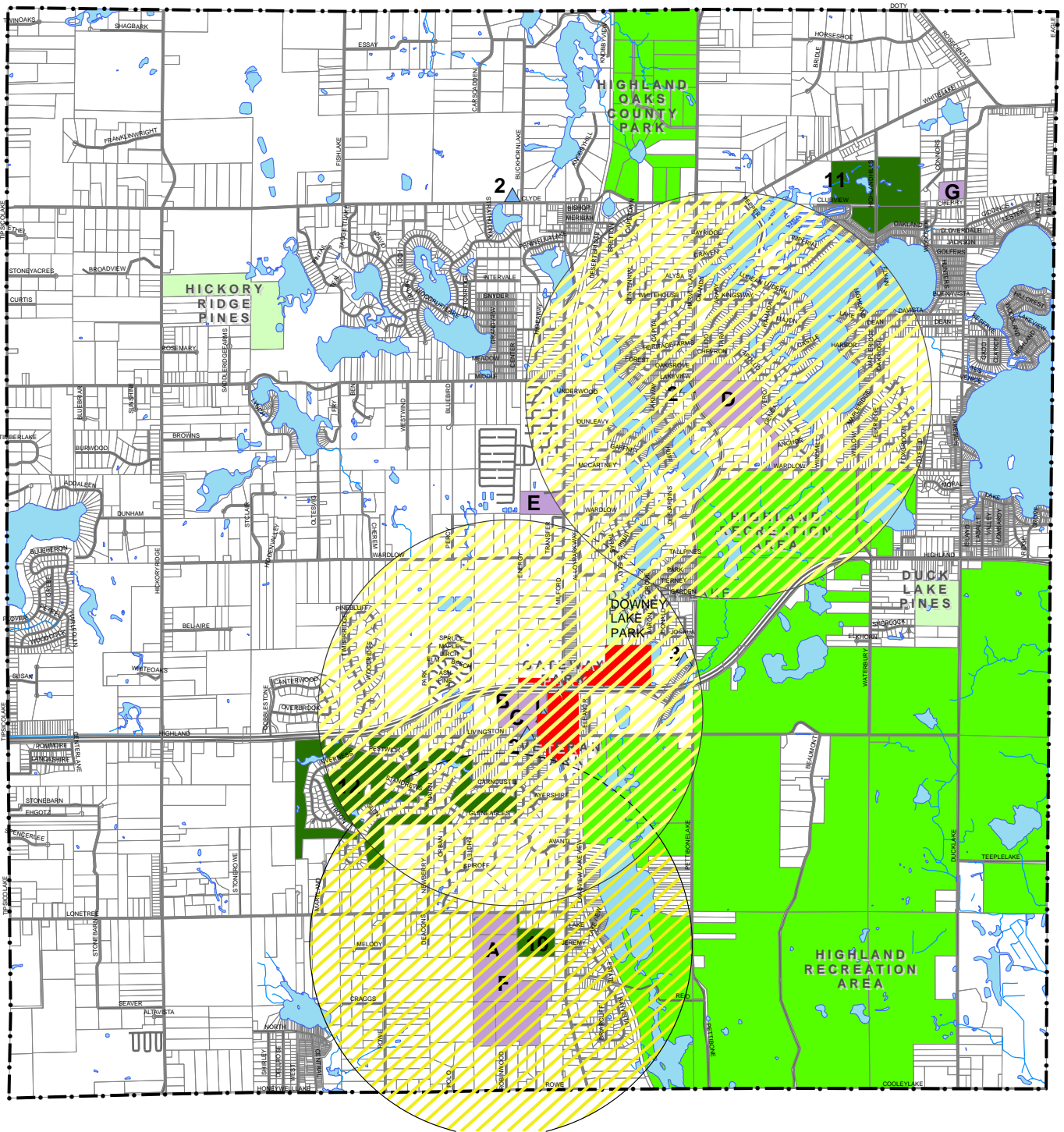
Highland Township is currently working with the Huron Valley Schools to proceed with Safe Routes to Schools (SR2S). SR2S is a Federal program to help communities make it safe, convenient and fun for children to bicycle and walk to school. SR2S program is for infrastructure and non-infrastructure projects within two miles of

schools with K-8th grade. Highland Township has three schools that qualify for the SR2S program; Highland Elementary, Spring Mills Elementary and Heritage Elementary. The Parks and Community Facilities map on page 5, illustrates a one mile radius around each of the three schools. The area that is eligible for the SR2S program covers most of Highland's priority area.

Southeastern Michigan's Green Ways Initiative.

Highland Township would like to work with the RCOC to implement a Complete Streets policy, so that all new roadway projects in Highland Township will be designed to promote safe access for all users. Roadways should accommodate vehicles, transit, bicyclists, and pedestrians of all ages and abilities.

Highland Township continues to coordinate with Oakland County on county-wide projects. Highland Township has accepted Oakland County's Pathway Concept from the Oakland County Trails Master Plan. The County pathway concept highlights Harvey Lake Road, from E. Livingston Road north to Highland Oaks County Park and E. Livingston Road from Milford Road east to the White Lake Township line, Highland Township has included both concepts into Highland's Non-Motorized Pathway Master Plan. The E. Livingston Road pathway, identified as a second phase project by the MNDR that would also connect to the newly proposed MDNR north-south, regional multi-use trail, in White Lake Township. Highland Township is also in line with the Regional Trails and Greenways Vision produced by the Community Foundation for



Legend

- Highland Township Parks
- Community Facilities
 - 1 Township Hall
 - 2 Fire Station
 - 3 Township Library
- School Facilities
 - A Millford High School
 - B Highland Middle School
 - C Highland Elementary School
 - D Spring Mills Elementary School
 - E Apollo Community Center
 - F Heritage Elementary School
 - G Duck Lake Education Center

- Regional Parks
- Private Recreational Facilities
 - 10 Golf Driving Range
 - 11 Highland Hills Golf Club
 - 12 Prestwick Village Golf Club



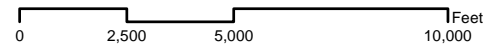
One mile Radius Around Eligible SR2S Schools



DDA Development Area



PARKS & COMMUNITY FACILITIES
Highland Township
Oakland County, MI



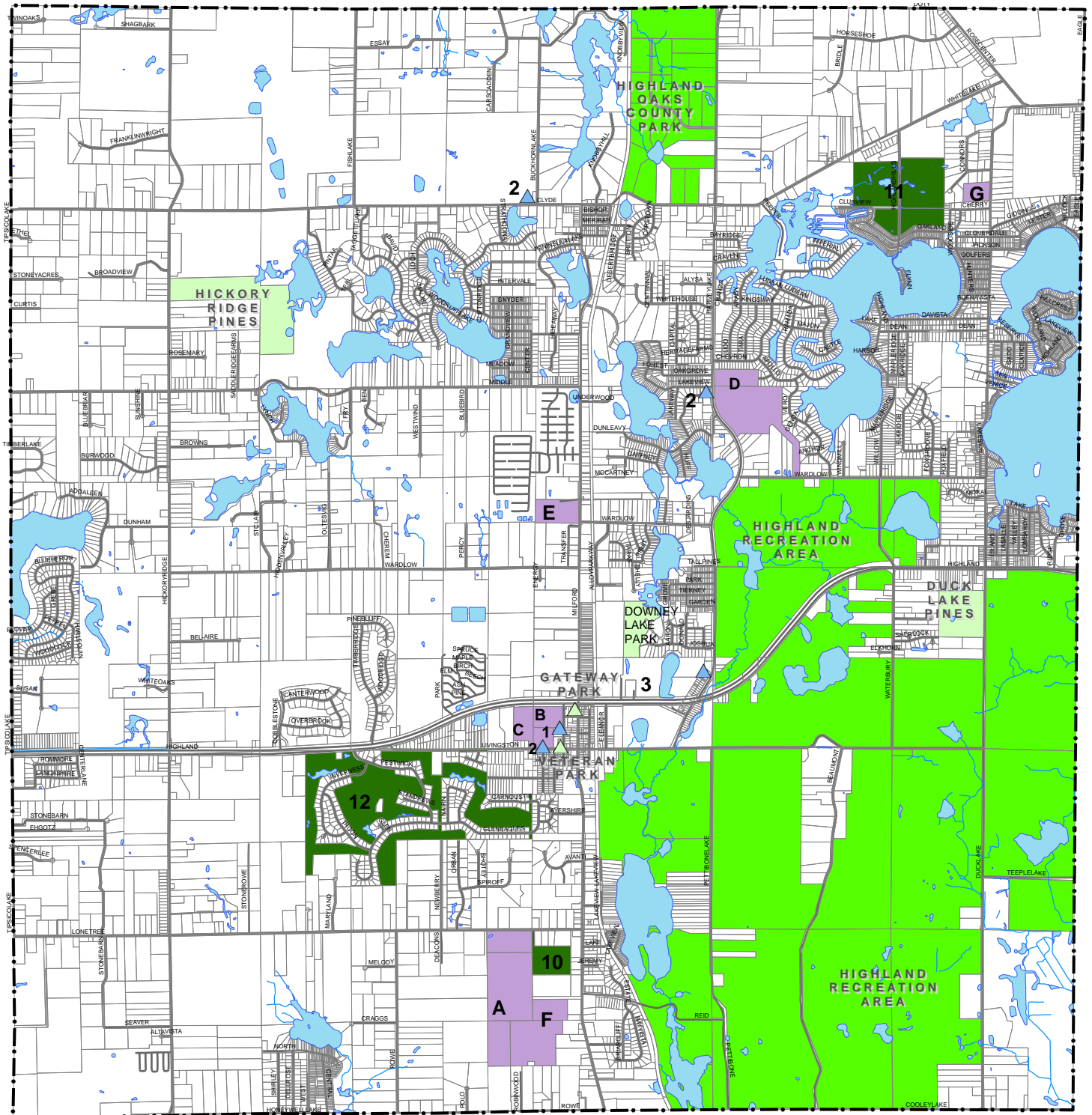
EXISTING CONDITIONS

As stated in the Charter Township of Highland Recreation Plan, Recreation Inventory and illustrated on the Parks and Community Facilities map on page 7. Highland's recreational area consists of State, County and Township Parks. Oakland County owns and maintains Highland Oaks with 264 acres. The State owns and maintains Highland State Recreation Area with 5,900 acres split between Highland and White Lake Townships. Highland Township owns and maintains five parks and open spaces with approximately 170 acres as follows: Hickory Ridge Pines and Duck Lake Pines Township parks are developed with soccer and baseball fields, tennis and basketball courts, trails, pavilions and concession buildings. Veteran's Park is centrally located in Highland Station and is utilized for summer concerts and other gatherings. The Highland Station Park is also located in Highland Station and is the site of Highland's replica railroad station. Downey Lake Park is adjacent to the Highland Library and is currently undeveloped, but accessible by foot.

The Pathways map on page 8, illustrates the existing trails, safety/side paths, sidewalks, bike lanes, bike routes and park paths in Highland Township and the Existing Pathways spreadsheet on page 9, breaks down the miles of pathways by type. The Pathways map also illustrates the mountain bike and equestrian trails in the Highland State Recreation Area.

Highland Township has twenty-four miles of non-motorized pathways, six miles of

refuge lane along Highland Road, and sixteen miles of mountain biking and a portion of the twelve miles of equestrian paths in the Highland Recreation Area.



Legend

- Highland Township Parks
- Community Facilities
- Regional Parks
- Private Recreational Facilities
- 1 Township Hall
- 2 Fire Station
- 3 Township Library
- 10 Golf Driving Range
- 11 Highland Hills Golf Club
- 12 Prestwick Village Golf Club
- School Facilities
- A Millford High School
- B Highland Middle School
- C Highland Elementary School
- D Spring Mills Elementary School
- E Apollo Community Center
- F Heritage Elementary School
- G Duck Lake Education Center

**PARKS &
COMMUNITY FACILITIES**
Highland Township
Oakland County, MI

