



Parks & Recreation Master Plan 2021 - 2025



Adopted January 4, 2021

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Chapter 1: Executive Summary

Highland Township wishes to improve the quality of life for the Township's existing and future residents by ensuring that adequate recreation facilities and programs are available. The Highland Charter Township Recreation Plan articulates a vision for parks and recreation, providing a guide for recreation planning and development over the next five years. Once adopted, the Plan is the official document to be used by the community to guide decisions regarding parks and recreation.

KEY PLAN FINDINGS

Highland Township residents appreciate their park system and recognize the importance of ongoing facility maintenance. Over 90% of survey participants identified maintenance as a top priority, ensuring that park amenities are safe and usable for years to come.

There is also a strong desire to see better connections between parks, neighborhoods, and the surrounding communities. Residents expressed frustration with having to use a car to get to an area where it is safe to take the family for a walk. Almost 85% of residents indicated that they want to see a network of pathways and trails developed in the Township. The overwhelming style preference is for multi-use safety paths with clear separation from the road. Suggested routes included Harvey Lake Road and Milford Road, as well as improved connections along and across M-59.

A more in-depth analysis of community desires can be found in the Public Participation section beginning on page 18.

WHAT THE PLAN CONTAINS

The Highland Township Recreation Master Plan follows the format suggested by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) in the Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans (IC 1924, revised 11-20-2018).

- The plan begins with this **Executive Summary** and a description of the processes used to prepare the plan.
- **Goals & Objectives** were obtained by compiling input from community members, staff, and Township officials. They provide a broad set of values which drive recreation development in Highland Township;
- The **Action Program** then provides steps and strategies for implementing the Plan.
- The **Public Participation** portion of the Plan presents the input received from local officials, staff, and residents of Highland Township, which helped the Park and Recreation Board formulate the Plan's goals and objectives.
- A detailed **Recreation Inventory** describes the existing parkland and recreational facilities of the community as well as those of the region and state.
- A description of the Township's **Administrative Structure** follows, including information on funding and budgets.
- The Plan then presents a **Community Description**, providing information on both the social and physical characteristics of the community.
- Finally, the **Appendices** include supporting materials, such as a copy of the public input survey, and resolutions and notices that document the Plan's adoption by the Board of Trustees.

PLANNING PROCESS

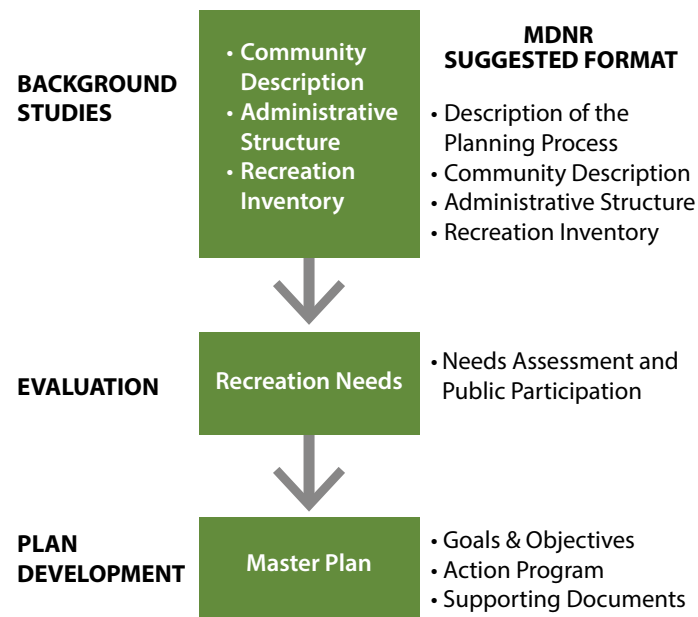
The process used to draft the Plan consists of three phases: *background studies*, *evaluation*, and *plan development*. Each is described more fully below:

Background Studies. This phase involved gathering and updating data from the U.S. Census, existing documents and plans, and from field observations. The data is organized into two main categories: *community description* and *recreation inventory*.

Evaluation. The second phase in the planning process evaluated and analyzed the data compiled to determine recreation facility deficiencies and needs. Public input to assess recreational needs was also sought at this level. A written survey and a public hearing were conducted to receive residents’ opinions and ideas for the park and recreation system. Input from Township officials and the Park and Recreation Board were also used.

Plan Development. The last phase in the process involves Plan development and adoption. Based on the deficiencies and needs, goals and objectives were formulated and a specific action plan developed. Strategies to implement the Plan were also discussed.

The following diagram illustrates the planning process and how it corresponds to the MDNR suggested format described earlier:



This Recreation Plan was developed with input from local officials, staff, and residents. A survey was posted on the Township’s web-site to encourage participation and generate ideas for improving the community’s parks and recreation system. Input from local officials and members of the Parks, Recreation, & Sidewalk Committee were also used. The Plan was recommended for adoption at the Committee’s meeting on December 10, 2020. The Plan was adopted by the Township Board of Trustees on January 4, 2021, following a public hearing. The Plan was also available for public review and comment at the Township Offices for one month prior to the public hearing.

This Plan will be used as a guide for improving recreation opportunities for the five-year period of 2021 to 2025. If additional actions are necessary prior to the expiration of this Plan, the Township will amend the Plan and justify the additional actions.

Table 1. Input Participation

Participants	Rec. Inventory, Resource Inventory, & Community Description	Public Input	Goal Formulation	Action Program	Public Hearing	Plan Adoption
Township Board		√			√	√
Park & Recreation Committee	√	√	√	√	√	
Township Residents		√	√		√	

Chapter 2: Goals & Objectives

The Highland Township Parks and Recreation Committee has formulated goals and actions for the next five years. The goals are broad enough to encompass the needs expressed from the residents, Township Officials, and staff, and to address the observed deficiencies in the recreation resources of the area. They also consider demographic changes, current and anticipated growth and development, the area's physical resources, and recreation trends.

Goal # 1: Continue to strive to meet the needs of pedestrians, bicyclists, equestrians, and other users.

- Evaluate and identify opportunities to improve the non-motorized transportation opportunities from population centers to existing parkland in the Township.
- From the list of identified gaps in sidewalks, and the pathway/trail system, design and implement high-priority segments to connect to local, County and State parks, subdivisions, and sidewalks/pathway/trail systems in surrounding communities.
- Look for partnership opportunities, including the Road Commission for Oakland County, to design and implement pathway/trail segments that have been identified as a longer-term priority.
- Continue to work with local bicycle, equestrian, running, and other groups such as the Road Commission for Oakland County and the State, to identify their needs and desires for trails and/or safety paths.

Goal # 2: Continue to develop and improve the Township Parks.

- Review and revise as appropriate the existing Master Plans for the three major Township Parks, evaluating the plans to consider the following:
 - i. Investigate the potential for constructing a dog park at an existing Township-owned property.
 - ii. Evaluate opportunities for construction of a disc golf course at Hickory Ridge Pines or Duck Lake Pines Park.
 - iii. Evaluate opportunities to construct a fishing pier on Murray Lake at Hickory Ridge Pines Park.
 - iv. Work with land conservancies and other preservation groups to acquire and/or protect environmentally sensitive areas.
 - v. Evaluate existing environmental data to identify environmentally-significant sites within the Township and Township parks.
 - vi. Add nature study and interpretation opportunities for ecosystems within existing parkland.
 - vii. Evaluate existing trails and walking paths in Township parks to determine how they can be expanded to meet more user needs and more fully connect with other pathway systems.
 - viii. Upgrade existing play structures as required to replace amenities which have reached the end of their usable life span, and add new play structures to parks in underserved areas of the Township.
 - ix. Evaluate the need for and feasibility of a new splash pad in a Township park.

Goal # 3: Implement best practices for maintenance of existing facilities in Township parks, and continue to work with other groups to share maintenance activities.

- Develop a schedule that evaluates existing facilities on a regular basis to ensure they are in good working order, and determine if maintenance and/or replacement is needed.
- Improve communication with other groups that maintain facilities in Township parks so that proper regular maintenance is conducted.

Goal # 4: Promote the Township’s recreation opportunities.

- Expand the use of the Township’s website to inform residents of recreation facilities available in the Township’s parks, as well as other recreation venues, such as the YMCA and Huron Valley Schools.
- Consider developing a quarterly newsletter that highlights existing recreation programs available for community residents. Use the web and social media to distribute the newsletter.
- Promote the Township’s recreation opportunities at existing community-wide events.

Goal # 5: Continue to work with the Huron Valley School District, local sports leagues, surrounding communities and other groups to provide adequate active-use facilities for youth and adult sports including baseball, softball, soccer, and lacrosse.

- Work with the various groups to identify the additional number of fields necessary to meet the area’s existing and projected needs.
- Identify potential sites adjacent to Hickory Ridge Pines Park for additional facilities and acquire land.
- Develop site(s) in partnership with various groups.

Goal # 6: Address accessibility and affordability of recreation facilities within the Township.

- Evaluate and identify opportunities to improve the non-motorized transportation opportunities from population centers to existing parkland in the Township.
- Evaluate opportunities for property acquisition to allow development of community or neighborhood parks near high density neighborhoods, especially in the northeast quadrant of the Township
- Evaluate and improve the universal accessibility of the Township’s existing recreation facilities.
- Evaluate the current rate structure of existing recreation programming, and identify areas where costs to residents could be supported through grants or other funding mechanisms.

Goal # 7: Investigate the benefits of hiring a full-time Recreation Director and creating a Parks and Recreation Commission.

- Identify differences between the committee approach and a Commission. Determine which organizational style would work better and adopt it.
- Identify desired qualities of a Recreation Director – salary, hours responsibilities, and other details for the “ideal” candidate.
- Township Board to determine feasibility.



Chapter 3: Action Program

The Action Program for Charter Township of Highland Recreation Plan identifies potential actions the Township hopes to undertake during the five year planning period. While the goals listed above identify a number of actions, the Action Program identifies major actions that require funding and significant commitments from the Township and other groups.

These actions address the recreation priorities in the Township and include a time frame, location for implementation, cost estimates, and potential funding sources. This section also provides justification for each action. Justifications are based on community input, demographics, available facilities, and common sense.

ACTION PLAN

The following list of specific projects and actions are recommended to be accomplished during the planning period.

Action #1: Continue to develop a sidewalk, trail, and path network within Highland Township that provides continuous routes between residential areas, Township attractions, local businesses, and regional non-motorized systems.

- a) Update maps and implement recommendations from 2012 Highland Township Non-Motorized Plan
- b) Identify and fill in gaps in sidewalks, pathways, and trails as identified in Table 2 below.
- c) Design and implement high priority pathways and trails as identified in Table 2 below.
- d) Continually seek partnerships with neighboring communities, regional governmental and planning authorities, and other interested stakeholders to implement longer-term pathway/trail priorities as identified in Table 3 on page 12, and partner or assist these stakeholders on grant funding opportunities.

Table 2. Key Sidewalk and Trail Infill and Gaps

Route	Length	Cost Estimate	Time frame	Funding Sources
High Priority Trails (1 to 5 years)				
Westbound M-59 from Highland Public Library to 2565 East Highland Road	2 miles	\$2,000,000	ST - MT	GF, G, D
Sidewalks				
Milford Road north of M-59 to Woodruff Lake Road	2 miles (10,560 feet)	\$970,000	ST - MT	GF, G, D
Milford Road south to Township border	1.6 miles (~8,500 feet)	\$782,000	ST - MT	GF, G, D
N Duck Lake Rd to E Wardlow, then west to Vero Drive	1.2 miles (~6,300 feet)	\$583,000	ST - MT	GF, G, D
N Duck Lake Rd from E Wardlow to Jackson Boulevard	1.25 miles (~6,600 ft)	\$607,000	LT	GF, G, D
W Livingston Rd from Highland Elementary to M-59	4,300 feet	\$395,000	ST	GF, G, D

GF = GENERAL FUND, G = GRANT, D = DONATIONS
 ST = SHORT TERM, MT = MEDIUM TERM, LT = LONG TERM, OG = ONGOING

NOTE REGARDING COST ESTIMATES

“Hard costs”, i.e. construction costs, for non-motorized facilities vary dramatically depending on factors such as topography, easement requirements, and more. “Soft costs”, i.e. engineering, public outreach, and the like, are determined separately and can equate to 20 to 30 percent of the total project cost. For purposes of this plan, hard costs per linear foot are estimated as follows:

- Sidewalks - \$92/lf
- Multi-use paths - \$190/lf
- Bike lanes - \$10/lf

Action #2: Continue to maintain and develop existing Highland Township park facilities

- a) Establish and adhere to a defined maintenance program to ensure that all park amenities are safe and in good working condition
- b) Create and maintain park master plans for Hickory Ridge Pines, Duck Lake Pines, and Downey Lake Pines Parks. Evaluate and update existing Master Plans on a regular basis to ensure recreation opportunities at the parks and reflect the ongoing recreation needs of Highland Township residents.
- c) Perform ecological evaluations of individual parks with a focus on the potential for restoration of degraded areas and possible development nature trails, outdoor classrooms and study, and other interpretive amenities.
- d) Seek partnership agreements with environmental advocacy groups such as the North Oakland Headwaters Land Conservancy, Six Rivers Land Conservancy, and others to assist with restoration and maintenance activities and pursuit of grant opportunities.
- e) Continue to evaluate resident requirements for active-use facilities such as baseball, softball, soccer, and lacrosse, and incorporate field development into the park master plans as appropriate.
- f) Investigate opportunities to acquire land to expand existing parks

Action #3: Continue to address the administrative needs of the Parks and Recreation department

- a) Actively promote Township Parks and Recreation facilities through social media, the Township website, and periodic newsletters or flyers
- b) Seek grant funding through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), and other resources to finance trail and park development
- c) Seek partnership opportunities and input from sporting organizations to assist with administration of leagues, basic field maintenance, park development and acquisition needs, and other club sport-related activities.
- d) Promote the development of a “Friends of” group to encourage community engagement and assist with maintenance, fundraising, and other park- and trail-related activities.
- e) Evaluate the feasibility of creating a full- or part-time Recreation Director to administer day-to-day operations, grant applications, and special event programming.

Table 3. Long-term Priority Trail Segments (5 years or longer)

Route	Length	Cost Estimate	Time frame	Funding Sources
Long-term Priority Trails (1 to 5 years)				
Clyde Rd/White Lake Rd from western border to Rose Center Rd	5 miles	\$5,000,000	LT	GF, G, D, P
N Hickory Ridge Rd from Clyde Rd to M-59	3 miles	\$3,000,000	LT	GF, G, D, P
Eastbound M-59 from western border to N Duck Lake Rd	5.7 miles	\$5,700,000	LT	GF, G, D, P
E Livingston Rd from railroad to S Duck Lake Rd, then north to Duck Lake Pines Park	2.8 miles	\$2,800,000	LT	GF, G, D, P

GF = GENERAL FUND, G = GRANT, D = DONATIONS, P = PARTNERSHIPS
 ST = SHORT TERM, MT = MEDIUM TERM, LT = LONG TERM, OG = ONGOING

PROJECT SCHEDULE

Table 4 lists the individual projects along with the specific tasks the Township would like to accomplish, the project goal reference, a cost estimate, and potential funding sources. These projects are not prioritized, and will be implemented as funding and/or resources are available. However, to guide implementation, each project is assigned a time frame for completion.

Short-term (ST) projects are recommended for completion within one to two years, while longterm (LT) projects may take longer to be completed, five years or beyond. Mid-term (MT) falls between the two other categories. Ongoing (OG) projects are those which are considered part of regular facility operations.

Table 4. Improvement Schedule

Project	Cost Estimate	Funding Source	Time Frame
All Parks			
Evaluate and update existing Master Plans for Hickory Ridge Pines, Duck Lake Pines, and Downey Lake Pines Parks	\$15,000 to \$20,000 per plan	GF, G, D	OG
Establish maintenance programs for each park	TBD	GF	OG
Ensure that all parks meet or exceed ADA requirements	varies	GF, G, D	OG
Hickory Ridge Pines Park			
Add play structure near concession stand	\$40 - \$60,000	GF, G, D	MT
Add soccer, multi-use fields and/or baseball/softball diamonds in newly acquired section of park	varies depending on layout	GF, G, D, P	LT
Repair asphalt & concrete trails and add crushed limestone surfacing to rustic trails to ensure ADA compliance	\$ 100,000 - \$120,000	GF, G, D	ST - MT
Add or upgrade benches along pathways to include accessible seating platforms	\$ 10,000 - \$12,000	GF, G, D	ST
Add accessible picnic tables to picnic structures	\$ 4,000 - \$8,000	GF, G, D	ST
Upgrade parking areas	\$200,000- \$300,000	GF, G, D	LT
Evaluate opportunities for construction of new dog park	\$ 50,000 - \$100,000	GF, G, D, P	MT - LT
Plan and develop pathways in newly acquired park land	TBD	GF, G, D, P	ST
Duck Lake Pines Park			
Repair skating rink and upgrade to allow use as ice rink in winter	\$100,000 - \$150,000	GF, G, D	MT
Repair or replace tennis and basketball courts	\$ 40,000 - 60,000	GF, G, D	MT
Add accessible routes and seating areas at ball fields	\$ 20,000 - \$ 40,000	GF, G, D	ST - MT
Upgrade existing structure for more age appropriate use and add additional play structures such as zip lines, swings, or other amenities	\$ 100,000 - \$200,000	GF, G, D	MT - LT
Downey Lake Pines Park			
Add wayfinding kiosks at entrance points	\$ 20,000 - \$ 30,000	GF, G, D	ST
Add crushed limestone surfacing to ensure trails meet ADA accessibility standards	\$ 20,000 - \$ 30,000	GF, G, D	ST
Gateway Park			
Add benches	\$ 2,000 - \$4,000	GF, G, D	MT
Veterans Park			
Add paved viewing platform and walkway near stage	\$ 5,000 - \$10,000	GF, G, D	MT
Trails & Pathways			
Expand Highland Township trail network as shown in the priority trail segments in Table 2 and Table 3.	-	GF, G, D, P	ST - LT

GF = GENERAL FUND, G = GRANT, D = DONATIONS, P = PARTNERSHIPS
ST = SHORT TERM, MT = MEDIUM TERM, LT = LONG TERM, OG = ONGOING

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

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

Apply for Federal Funding

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

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

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

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

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

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

Apply for State Funding

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

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

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

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

The LWCF is a federal appropriation to the National Park Service, who distributes funds to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment for development of outdoor recreation facilities. The focus of the program has been on trailway systems and other community recreation needs such as playgrounds, picnic areas, skate parks, ball fields, soccer fields and walking paths. Minimum grant requests are \$30,000 and maximum grant requests are \$500,000. The match percentage must be 50 percent of the total project cost. Applications are accepted throughout the year, but must be in by April 1 to be considered for the following years grant funds.

The *Recreation Passport* grant program offers funding for the development of public recreation facilities for local units of government. Minimum grant requests are \$7,500 and maximum requests are \$150,000. The local match obligation is 25 percent of the total project cost. Application are typically due on April 1st.

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



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Apply for Other Grant Funding

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

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

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

Recreation Access Matching Grant provides up to 50 percent matching funds (up to \$10,000) for the purchase of universally accessible recreation equipment and materials such as all terrain hiking wheelchairs, pool lifts, accessible playground surface, transfer systems, beach access mats, trail surface enhancements, and accessible picnic tables that enhance recreation participation by people with disabilities; and

Accessible by Design Awards is designed to stimulate the development of creative universally designed recreation experiences that invite, welcome, and support the inclusion of people of all abilities. Winning designs demonstrate how going above and beyond the minimum requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act can create greater access and usability for people of all abilities in the community. Winning designs are awarded cash prizes to build the projects up to \$250,000 with 25 percent minimum match.

Increase Support for Parks

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

Seek Other Sources of Funding

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



Chapter 4: Needs Analysis & Public Participation

An essential task in the recreation planning process is to determine the needs of the community to formulate an action plan for parks and recreation improvement. Needs provide the rationale for goals and objectives and identify areas for capital improvements. To assess needs, consideration was given to current recreation trends and an online survey was conducted to receive opinions and desires from residents. These sources of information helped to inform a strategic solution to meet Highland Township's recreation needs.

COMPARISON TO NATIONAL STANDARDS

According to a 1996 National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) study, parks and open spaces are categorized as mini-parks, neighborhood parks, community parks, regional parks, and preserves. The mini, neighborhood, and community parks are the close-to-home parks, designed to satisfy the recreational needs of local communities within a service radius of up to two miles. Highland Township's parks are considered close-to-home parks. According to NRPA standards, the amount of recommended close-to-home park land is 6.25 to 10.5 acres for every 1,000 residents.

Regional parks are parks that serve a broader area (one hour drive or about a 45 mile radius) than community parks and focus on meeting the recreation needs of the region as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces. For Highland Township, County, State, and HCMA parks fill this role. The NRPA standard for regional parks is 15 to 20 acres of park land per 1,000 people.

Other types of parks include the following:

- Schoolyards, areas that can fulfill the space requirements for other types of parks such as neighborhood, community, sports complex or special use which include the public school facilities located near the Township;
- Greenways, areas that link parks together to form a continuous park environment such as multi-use pathways in the Township; and
- Private recreation facilities, areas that are privately owned yet contribute to the Township parks and recreation system.

According to these standards, local parks fall within the range for recommended acreage for close-to-home park land. Using numbers based on population estimates for 2045, the amount of existing parkland should continue to be adequate to meet the Township's recreation needs. Acreage provided by schools and private facilities further help meet resident recreation requirements. Highland Township residents are especially well-served by regional park facilities provided by the state and other recreation providers, with both the Highland State Recreation Area, Dodge Brothers State Park No. 10, and Highland Oaks County Park all located within the Township borders.

Table 5. Parkland Acreage Standards

Type of Park	NRPA standard per 1000 population	Required - Township based on 2020 population of 18,228	Existing	Deficiency / Surplus
Close-to-Home Parkland & Greenways	6.25 - 10.5 acres	113 to 191 acres	180 acres	-
Regional Parks (within 1 hour drive)	15 - 20 acres	273 to 364 acres	27,000 acres	+26,636 acres
Schoolyards	-	-	235 acres	-
Greenways and trails	-	-	26 miles	-
Private Recreation Facilities			350 acres	

NRPA METRICS

Recognizing that a “one size fits all” approach to park planning is not practical for most communities, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) annually releases a set of park metrics which allow community planners to compare their facilities with those found in similarly sized communities. The list of amenities described in the 2019 report is by no means exhaustive, but it offers a starting point for Highland Township to consider as it looks toward the future park development.

The report describes the average number of facilities provided for communities ranging from small (under 20,000) to large (more than 250,000 residents). These comparisons are summarized in Table 6. Highland Township sits above the median for miles of non-motorized facilities provided, but falls short of the median on the number of residents served per park and acres of parkland per thousand residents.

The report further describes specific outdoor and indoor recreation facilities for communities based on the number of residents per square mile. This comparison can be seen in Table 7 and Table 8. Where amenities

Table 6. Park Facility Comparison for Communities with Less Than 20,000 Residents

Amenity	Highland Twp	Median	Lower Quartile	Upper Quartile
Miles of trails	26 miles	n/a	n/a	n/a
Number of residents per park	3,033	1,231	1,985	788
Acres of parkland per thousand residents	9.9	11.8	5.3	18.9

SOURCE: NRPA PARK METRICS REPORT, 2019

Table 8. Indoor Park Facilities for Communities with Greater than 2,500 residents per square mile

Amenity	% of agencies with amenity	# of residents served by amenity
Community Centers	57.9	33,071
Rec Center (gyms, etc.)	56.9	34,000
Senior Centers	39.9	77,014
Amphitheater	32.9	85,071
Nature Center	27.5	106,644
Stadiums	18	97,959
Ice Rink	16.3	57,135
Teen Center	13.3	75,000
Arena	8.7	54,778

SOURCE: NRPA PARK METRICS REPORT, 2019

are currently provided, Highland Township tends to offer slightly less than the average number of facilities. Some notable amenities that are not currently available within the Township park system are a dog park and community gardens. Facilities at the state and county parks offset most of those deficiencies, however, ensuring that Township residents have good access to recreation opportunities overall.

Finally, the 2019 report describes typical programming options, providing the percentage of communities offering programs in a variety of categories. While Highland Township offers several community-wide events throughout the year, it does not provide any other forms of recreation programming. Typical program types and the percentage of communities offering these programs is provided in Table 9 and Table 10.

Table 7. Outdoor Park Amenities for Communities with Greater than 2,500 residents per square mile

Amenity	% of agencies with amenity	# per 1000 Hld. Twp.	# per 1000 Average
Playgrounds	94.4	0.11	0.32
Basketball courts	86.1	0.11	0.14
Tennis courts	79.7	0.11	0.21
Baseball - youth	77.9	0.11	0.14
Softball - adult	66.5	0.16	0.07
Multi-purpose fields	66.1	0.00	0.11
Softball - youth	60.9	0.11	0.07
Dog park	59.3	0.00	0.02
Baseball - adult	54.7	0.16	0.04
Pool (outdoor)	52.3	0.00	0.02
Tot lot	48.1	0.00	0.09
Soccer field - youth	48.1	0.27	0.11
Community garden	46.3	0.00	0.03
Basketball/volleyball	42	0.05	0.06
Soccer field - adult	40.9	0.27	0.07
Football field	38	0.00	0.03
Skate park	26.2	0.00	0.02
Synthetic field	19.1	0.00	0.02
Ice rink (outdoor)	16.7	0.00	0.03
Lacrosse field	11.7	0.00	0.03
Cricket field	9.2	0.00	0.01
Overlay field	7.5	0.00	0.05
Field hockey field	4	0.00	0.02

SOURCE: NRPA PARK METRICS REPORT, 2019



MUSICIANS PERFORM AT THE SOUNDS LIKE SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Table 9. Typical Program Offerings - All Agencies

Programs Offered	% of agencies with program
Themed special events	87
Team sports	87
Social recreation	86
Health & Wellness	80
Fitness enhancement	79
Individual sports	72
Safety training	71
Aquatics	71
Racquet sports	66
Trips and tours	62
Performing arts	61
Cultural crafts	60
Martial arts	60
Virtual arts	57
Natural/Cultural History	55
Golf	48
Running/cycling races	20

SOURCE: NRPA PARK METRICS REPORT, 2019

Table 10. Targeted programs for children, seniors, and people with disabilities in communities with less than 20,000 residents

Programs Offered	% of agencies with program
Summer camp	60.8
Specific senior programs	67.5
Specific teen programs	50.3
Programs for people w disabilities	30.5
After-school programs	46.8
Preschool	27.2
Before-school programs	14.7
Full daycare	3.4

SOURCE: NRPA PARK METRICS REPORT, 2019

TEN MINUTE WALK INITIATIVE

The NRPA, Trust for Public Land (TPL), other recreation advocacy groups, and communities across the country have embraced the concept of the “ten minute walk”, or the idea that every American should be within walkable distance to a local park or recreation facility. Numerous studies have shown the psychological, health, and general quality of life benefits provided by improved access to green spaces, but the likelihood of utilizing these spaces decreases as distance to the facility increases. For planning purposes, the traditional NRPA service radius of 1/4 mile for neighborhood parks and 1/2 mile for community parks is frequently used to demonstrate the effective reach of park systems.

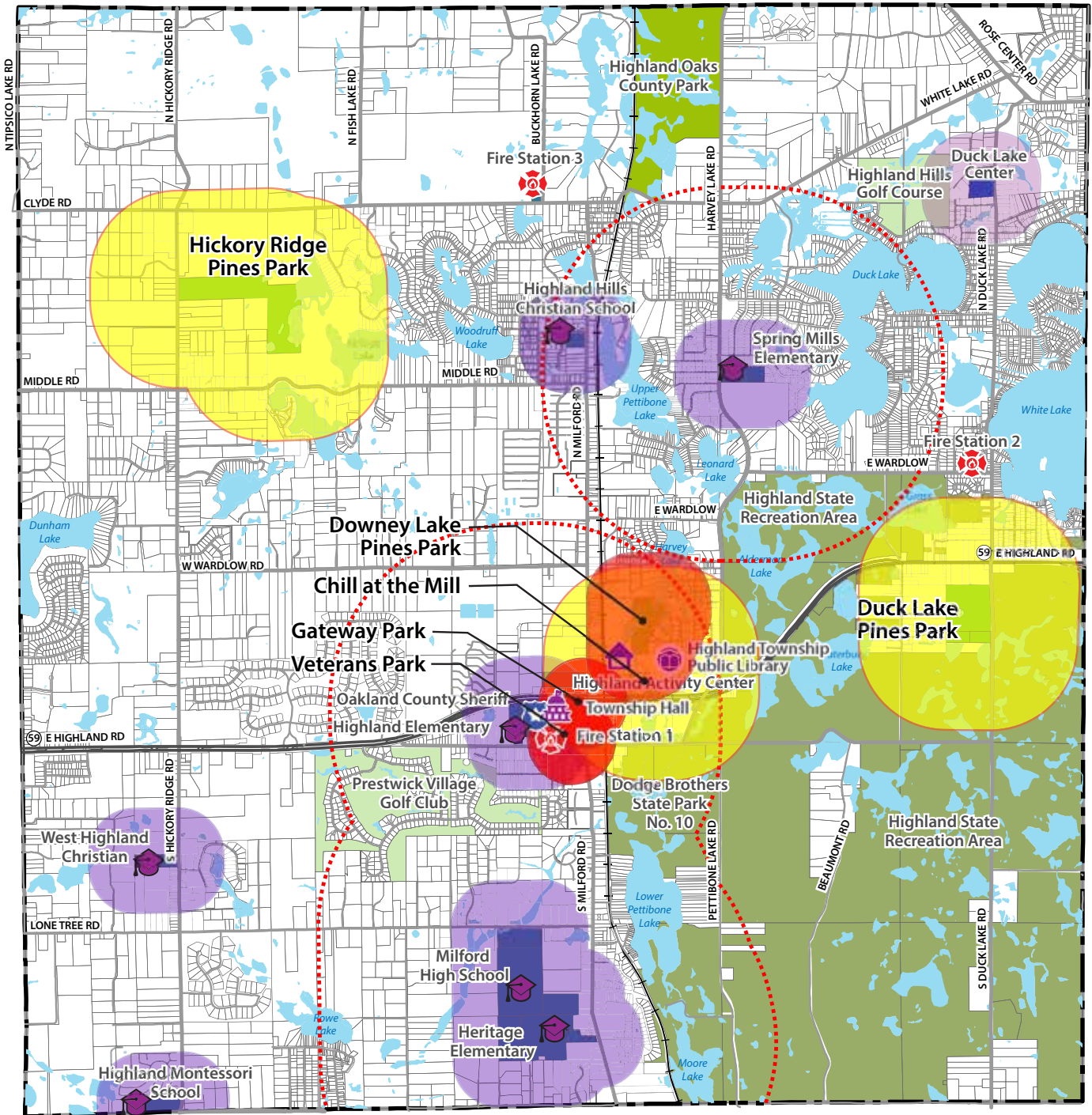
As shown in Map 1, Highland Township’s auto oriented history has had a significant impact on recreation access. In terms of Township-owned facilities, residents are able to access recreation opportunities near the downtown area relatively easily, but there are few opportunities to walk to recreation elsewhere. Neighborhoods in the northeast quadrant of the Township in particular lack access to local parks, although school facilities offer limited recreation options.

M-59 represents a formidable barrier, effectively preventing pedestrian or bicycle access for residents seeking to use facilities on the opposite side of the road. Further development of non-motorized trails along M-59 will help residents reach existing parks, but it will be crucial for the Township to work with the Oakland County Road Commission to ensure that safe crossing points are provided at key intersections.
















Regional recreation facilities (Highland Oaks and Highland State Recreation Area) provide another recreation outlet for residents. Because regional facilities are intended to serve residents within a 45 minute drive, their service areas are not shown on this map. These facilities are typically accessed by car and are fee based. While the parks serve a valuable purpose, do not provide the same services that a local neighborhood or community park would offer.



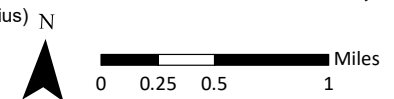
Map 1. Local Park Coverage Areas



Recreation Service Areas

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
|  Township-owned Parks |  Township Hall |  Neighborhood Park (1/4 mile radius) |
|  Oakland County Parks |  Oakland County Sheriff |  Community Park (1/2 mile radius) |
|  State of Michigan Parks |  Fire Station |  School (1/4 mile radius) |
|  Private Recreation Facilities |  US Post Office |  Safe Routes to School Zone (1 mile radius) |
|  Schools & Institutional Facilities |  Highland Township Library | |
| |  Schools | |

Highland Township
Oakland County



Carlisle/Wortman Associates
October 2020
Source: Oakland County GIS



National Recreation Trends

Recreation trends on a national and regional level provide insights into activities that show the greatest growth in popularity and may affect the future direction of parks and recreation. The National Sporting Goods Association (NSGA) regularly conducts national surveys to measure participation in physical activities and track changes from previous years. Table 11 lists the top seven outdoor activities persons aged seven years and older participated in at least once in 2016.

Table 11. Top Outdoor Activities - 2016

Activity	Participation (National)	Overall Rank	Participation (East North Central Region)	Overall Rank
Exercise walking	106.3 million	1	15.4 million	1
Swimming	46.3 million	3	6.3 million	7
Running / jogging	44.5 million	5	6.2 million	8
Hiking	42.0 million	6	5.3 million	12
Camping	40.1 million	7	6.4 million	5
Bicycle riding	36.0 million	9	5.8 million	9
Fishing	29.5 million	13	5.4 million	10

SOURCE: NSGA SPORTS PARTICIPATION IN THE UNITED STATES 2016

The 2016 study shows a continued trend towards individual-based outdoor activities, with open water sports, outdoor activities, and snow sports all showing increases in participation. Team related sports, with the exception of soccer and lacrosse, have showed a steady decline in popularity in recent years, while trail related sports continue to grow in popularity. The top growing outdoor activities between 2006 and 2016 were exercise walking (87.5 to 106.3 million), running/jogging (28.8 to 44.5 million), hiking (31.0 to 42.2 million) and kayaking (5.9 to 9.2 million).

Table 13. Outdoor Recreation Activities - Children under 18

Activity	Participation Rate
Visit parks or playgrounds	85%
Swimming outdoors	76%
Sledding/tubing	54%
Fishing	52%
Non-league team or individual sports	46%
Tam or individual sports in a league	44%
Road biking	41%

SOURCE: MICHIGAN COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN

These trends are consistent with trends observed in Michigan. According to a survey of Michigan residents conducted as part of the 2018-2022 Michigan Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, walking outdoors was identified as the most important outdoor activity by 26 percent of users statewide. A list of participation rates for the most popular activities is listed in Table 12 below. Participation rates for children under age 18 is provided in Table 13.

Table 12. Top Outdoor Recreation Activities in Michigan

Activity	Participation Rate
Relaxing outdoors	75%
Walking outdoors, including dog walking	74%
Visit parks or playgrounds	67%
Sightseeing and/or driving for pleasure	64%
Visiting nature centers or historic sites	56%
Swimming outdoors	54%
Picnicking	53%
Fishing	41%
Biking of any kind (on or off road)	40%
Camping of any kind (modern, RV, tent, rustic)	39%
Team or individual sports outdoors	37%
Wildlife viewing and/or photography including birding	36%
Hiking/backpacking	34%
Jogging/running	34%
Canoeing, kayaking, stand-up paddle boarding, or wind surfing	32%
Road biking	31%
Motor boating	31%
Sledding/tubing	30%
Tent or rustic camping	30%
Shooting sports, including archery	30%
Modern or RV camping	25%
Hunting of any kind	20%

SOURCE: MICHIGAN COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN

Some key findings from the Metro Detroit region include:

- Nearly 75 percent of residents feel that outdoor recreation is very important or moderately important to their household.
- Walking outdoors, including dog walking, was identified as the most important outdoor activity.
- 87 percent of participants went outside 52 or more days per year, with nearly 54 percent doing so for more than 100 days.

Monitoring parks and recreation trends is important in determining how parks and recreation services should evolve. The implication of the trends noted above along with the demographic and physical characteristics of the area can be summarized as follows:

- While future recreation facility development should respond to the expected increase in seniors, developments should be designed to accommodate a variety of abilities and interests. Meeting or exceeding ADA standards for recreation uses will be critical.
- There is a need for more walk/bike ways to accommodate bicycle and pedestrian recreation use and to contribute to a healthy and walkable environment. The Township should make efforts to connect with existing regional hike/bike systems in surrounding communities and facilities.



PUBLIC INPUT

An online survey was made available to residents from September 2 through October 15, 2020. A hard copy version of the survey was also available to residents, although only one individual chose to utilize that method. The survey was advertised via social media and on the Township website (see Appendix A). A total of 92 unique responses were received. The raw data and verbatim responses to the survey questions are provided in Appendix F.

Residents are generally happy with their park system. When asked about their satisfaction levels with each individual recreation facility, over 40% of residents indicated that they were “very satisfied” or “satisfied” for all of the Township properties. Duck Lake Pines Park received the highest satisfaction rating (65%), while Downey Lake Pines Park and the bike paths on M-59 received the lowest ratings (41%). The bike paths also received the highest amount of “Somewhat or Very Unsatisfied” responses (20%), while Veteran’s Park received the fewest (2%).

Park usage varied from facility to facility. Relatively few individuals visited local parks more than twice per month. A surprisingly high percentage of residents had not visited local facilities at all during the past year, ranging from 62% to 83% for all facilities except Duck Lake Pines Park. The latter park enjoyed relatively high usage, with more than 12% visiting more than 20 times and only 36% indicating they had not visited the park at all in the past year.

Park visitation levels seemed to correlate closely with opinions of the facilities; the more frequently visited the park was, the higher the satisfaction level. Some of the open-ended responses demonstrated this trend very well. In particular, several participants expressed extreme dissatisfaction with the bike paths on M-59; one comment suggested that the paths were still just “shoulders on the road”, indicating that they had not seen or used the multi-use pathways that were installed in 2019. This disconnect suggests the importance of highlighting and promoting park improvements both large scale and small. Ongoing community outreach will be critical for the success of Township parks, and the Parks and Recreation Committee should continue to utilize social media, emails, flyers, and other forms of communication available for their use.

The survey showed a clear desire for further development of paths, trails, and sidewalks throughout the community. Over 80% of participants used paved trails, while over 86% used nature trails. When asked to rank their recreation priorities, Multi-use trails were the top choice with a score nearly double that of the next amenity (dog park). Almost 82% stated that developing a Township-wide system of pathways and trails was “very important” or “somewhat important”, and no participants considered trail development to be “unimportant”. A lack of pathways or trails was cited as a factor preventing further use of area parks by 31% of residents. When specifically asked if the Township should expand its sidewalk and trails network, almost 85% indicated yes, and offered a number of suggestions for routes. Milford Road received the most mentions. Finally, when asked about the type of path they would like to see developed, 89% of respondents expressed a preference for multi-use trails as opposed to shared road routes or bike lanes (including buffered and protected bike lanes).

Maintaining and upgrading existing parks (91.8%) was also viewed as very or somewhat important by the vast majority of residents. Acquiring and developing new facilities (60.2%) was not as overwhelmingly popular, but still received a strong rating.

The top three most requested amenities and their relative scores were

- multi-use paths (131)
- a dog park (67), and
- passive nature areas (49).

Active-use facilities scored relatively low, with new baseball and softball fields being the only amenities to score in the 20s. Lacrosse fields received no votes in the ranking question.

The survey results are a tool which can be used to determine what features should be developed, but they should not be followed blindly. The expertise and experience of the Parks, Recreation, and Sidewalk Committee, Township staff, and hired consultants are factors which should be taken into account as the Township moves forward with park and trail development in the coming years.

Chapter 5: Recreation Inventory

Residents of Highland Township are able to take advantage of a variety of recreational resources at the local and the regional level. Highland Township is fortunate to have Township-owned parks, an Oakland County park, a state-owned recreation area, schools, and privately-owned recreational facilities located within its borders and in nearby communities.

This following pages describe these recreational opportunities as well as existing pathways and trails. The information contained in the following pages was compiled from community recreation plans, websites, aerial photographs, and field surveys.

HIGHLAND TOWNSHIP PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

Highland Township owns six parks and open spaces that total about 180 acres of land. Map 2 on page 27 depicts the location of these parks and other community facilities.

Figure 1. Gateway Park



Gateway Park

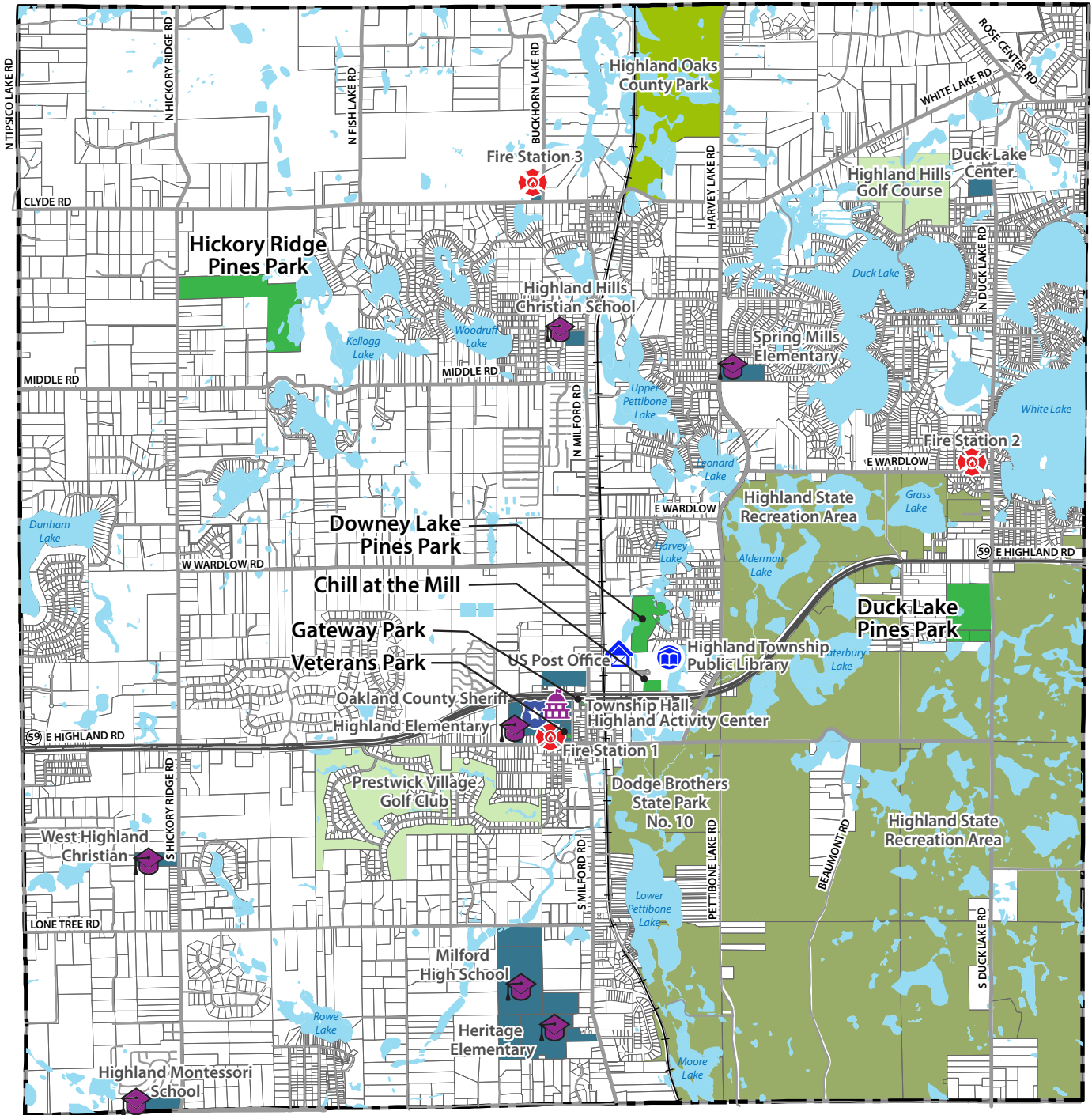
Mini/Pocket Park (Neighborhood Park)
0.43 acres
Passive use

This small open space contains less than one acre and is located on the southwest corner of the intersection of M-59 and Milford Road. The park contains:












- Historic Railroad Station
- Sidewalk
- Landscaping
- Community message sign



Map 2. Highland Township Existing Recreation Facilities

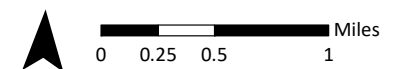


Existing Community Facilities

- | | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|
|  | Township-owned Parks |  | Township Hall |
|  | Oakland County Parks |  | Oakland County Sheriff |
|  | State of Michigan Parks |  | Fire Station |
|  | Private Recreation Facilities |  | US Post Office |
|  | Schools & Institutional Facilities |  | Highland Township Library |
| | |  | Schools |

Highland Township
Oakland County

N



0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

Carlisle/Wortman Associates
October 2020
Source: Oakland County GIS



Hickory Ridge Pines Park

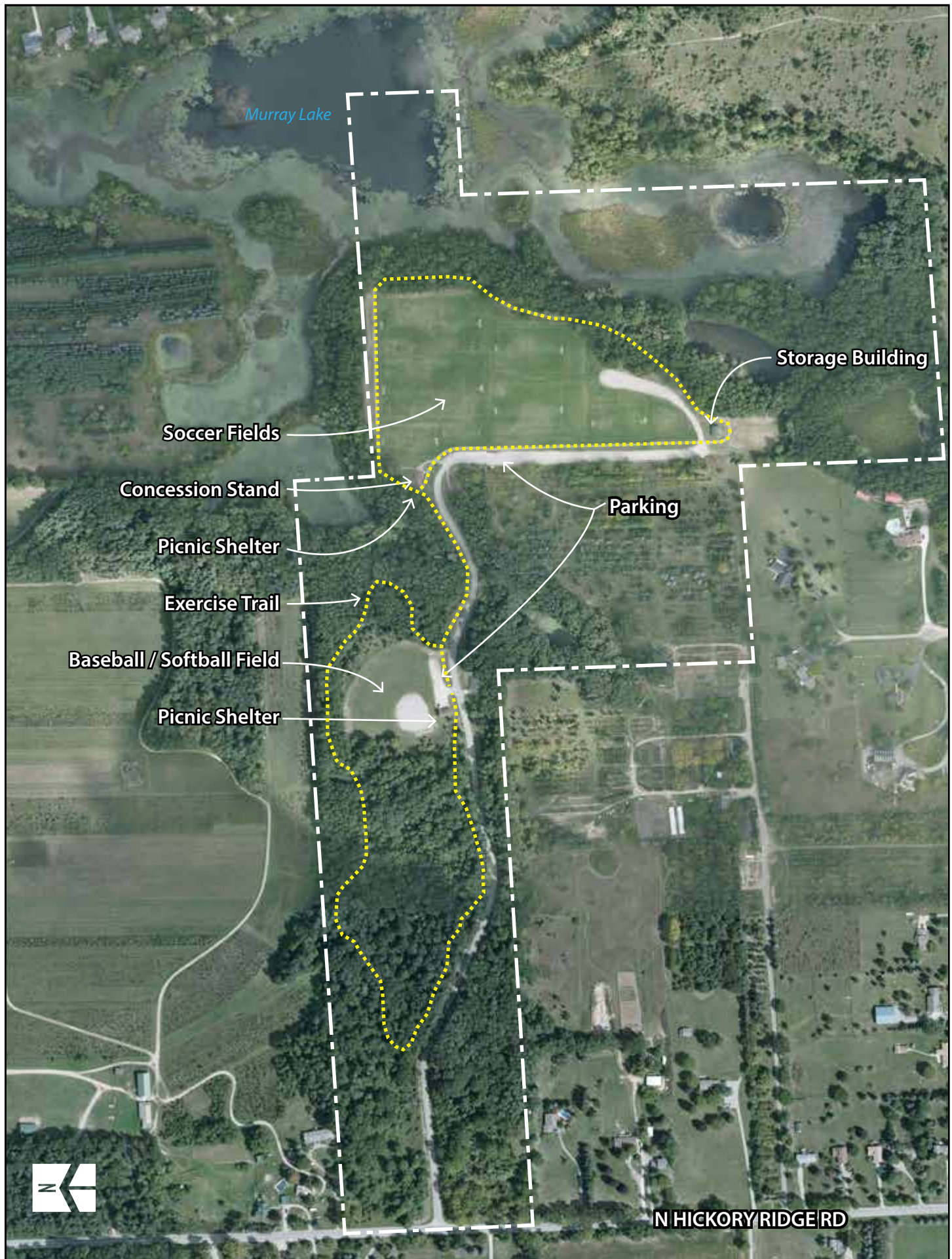
Community Park
105 acres
Passive and active use

The Township obtained an MNRTF grant in 2014 to purchase 15 acres to add to this site. The Huron Valley Athletic Complex maintains the Soccer Fields while the Township maintains the remainder of the property. The park is accessed from Hickory Ridge Road and includes the following recreational facilities:

- One baseball/softball field
- Six soccer fields
- Two picnic shelters & grills
- Storage building
- Concession Building with restrooms
- 3,300 foot long fitness trail
- 3,200 feet of paved trail
- Access to Murray Lake (No swimming or boating access)



Figure 2. Hickory Ridge Pines Park



Duck Lake Pines Park

Community Park

40 acres

Passive and active use

With a wide variety of active- and passive-use amenities, Duck Lake Pines Park is a prime recreation destination for Highland Township residents. This park contains approximately 40 acres of land and is located on Duck Lake Road, south of M-59 in the southeast quadrant of the Township. The park is the home of the Huron Valley Youth Baseball and Softball League, who maintain the restrooms and concession building during the regular season play and tournaments. The park provides a number of recreation activities and facilities including:

- Four softball/baseball fields
- Basketball and volleyball
- Tennis
- In-line skating
- Play structure
- Picnic pavilion and grills
- Restroom building and concession stand
- Walking trails with interpretive nature information
- Little Library



Figure 3. Duck Lake Pines Park



Downey Lake Pines Park

Neighborhood Park
36 acres
Passive use

This 36-acre park is located north of the Highland Township Library near the center of the community. It was conveyed to the public in 1998 as part of the Highland Valley Subdivision. It is accessible from the adjoining subdivision and Township library by foot, and contains the following natural features:

- Mown trails
- High quality wetlands
- Unimproved natural areas
- Lake frontage
- Native prairie grasses

The Library uses its grounds for recreation activities as well, with its trails currently housing a "Storytime Trail".



Chill at the Mill

Community Park
1 acres
Passive use

Highland Township's newest park is a nod towards the community's history. While a playground is not typically considered a community park, this park's unique design is expected to attract large amounts of visitors. The park, which is currently under construction, will include a replica of the Spring Mills flour mill along with a variety of play equipment and native gardens. Other amenities include:

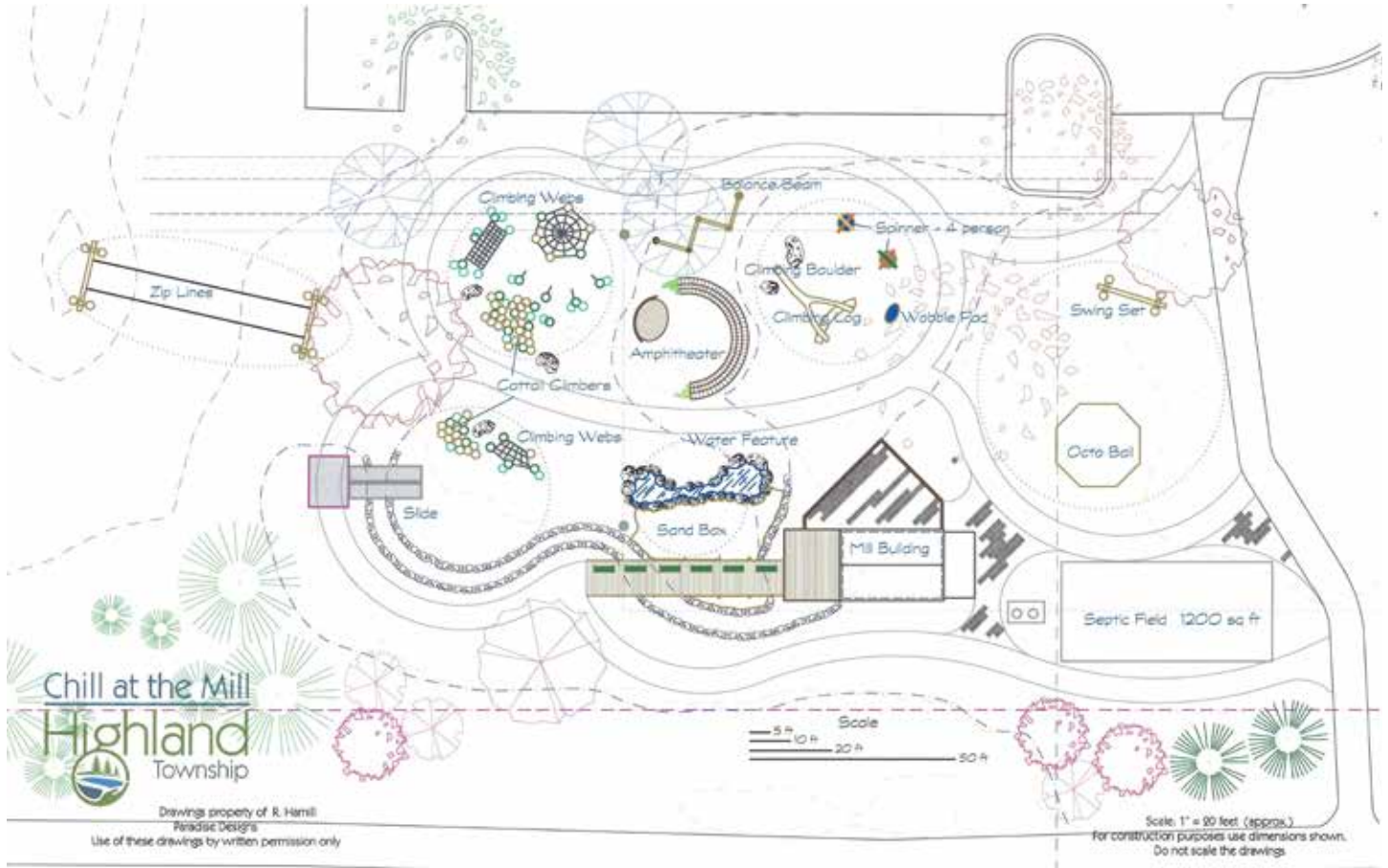
- Climbing and balance structures
- Swing sets
- Zip lines
- Slides
- Native plant gardens designed to attract and sustain butterflies

Figure 4. Downey Lake Pines Park & Chill at the Mill



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Administrative Structure
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Figure 5. Chill at the Mill Concept Plan



Veterans Park

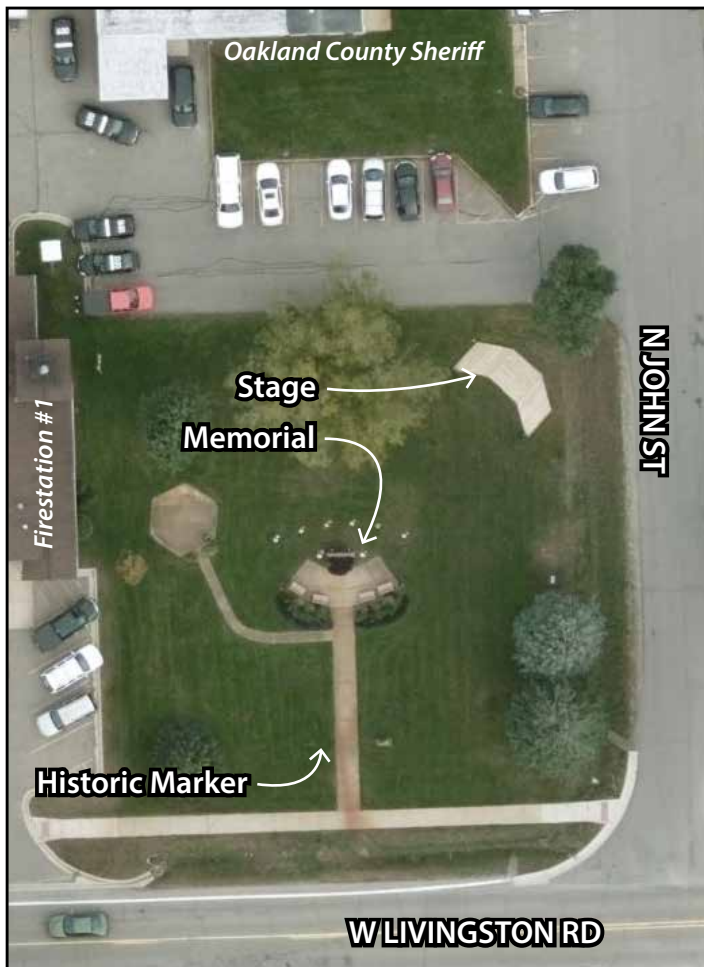
Mini/Pocket Park (Neighborhood Park)
0.40 acres
Passive use

This small open space is centrally located in Highland Station at the intersection of Livingston and John streets adjacent to the Township Fire Station and Offices. It is frequently used for community events such as the "Sounds like Summer" concert series and Veterans and Memorial Day services. The park contains:

- A soldier's monument
- U.S., State, and MIA/POW flags
- Historic marker
- Sidewalk
- Landscaping
- Stage
- Little Library



Figure 6. Veterans Park



EXISTING SIDEWALKS, PATHS, & TRAILS

Map 3 on page 37 illustrates the existing trails, safety/ side paths, sidewalks, bike lanes, bike routes, and park paths in Highland Township, and how they relate to other community facilities. It also illustrates the mountain bike and equestrian trails in the Highland State Recreation Area. Table 14 below details the total miles of pathways by facility type.

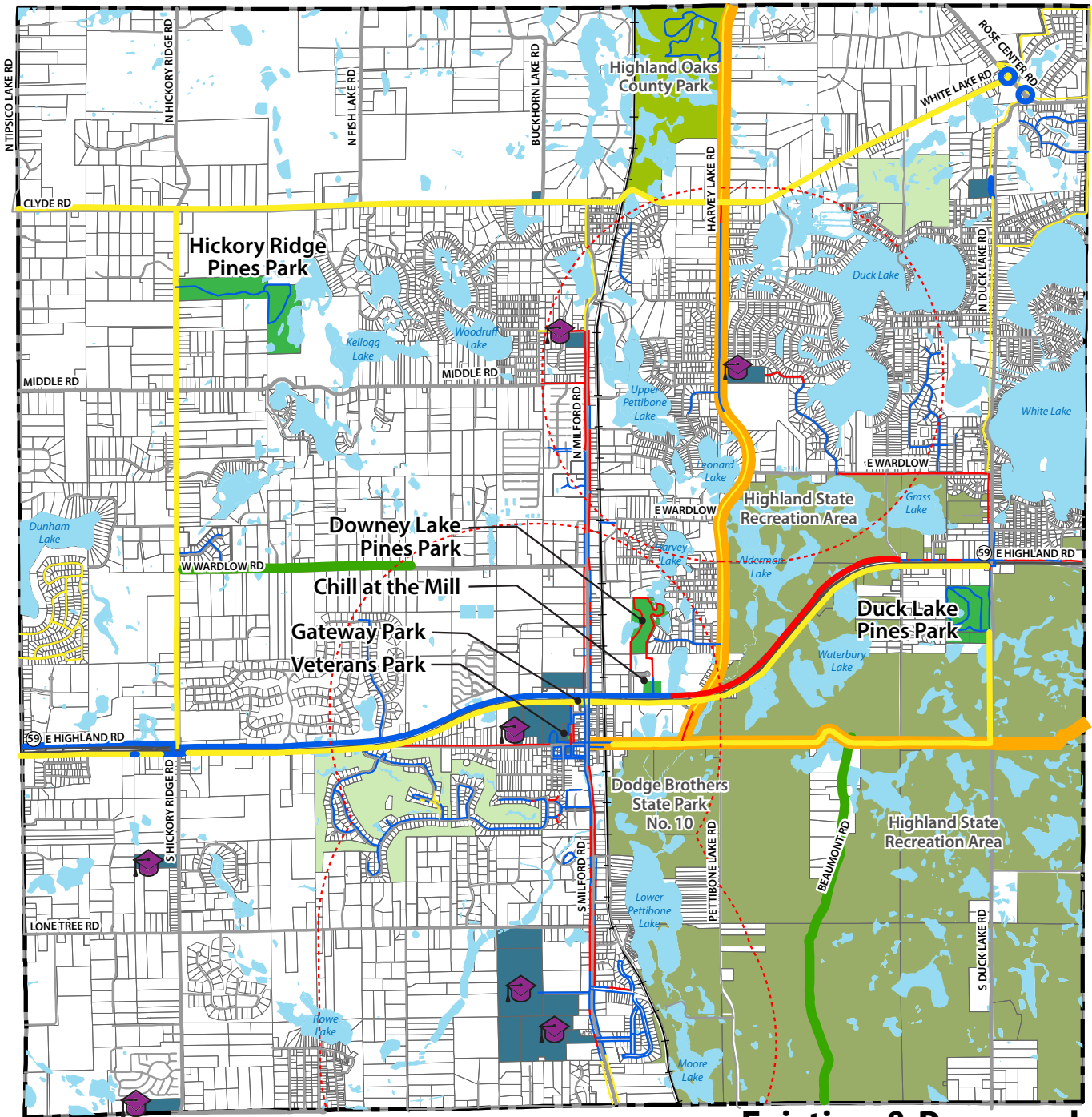
Highland Township has 26.5 miles of non-motorized pathways, 6 miles of paved shoulder along Highland Road, and 16 miles of mountain biking trails, and a portion of a 12-mile equestrian path in the Highland Recreation Area and Highland Oaks.



Table 14. Sidewalks, Paths & Trails

	Miles
Safety/Roadside Path	
M-59 north side (Tipsico Lake Rd to Town Center Dr/Highland Township Public Library)	3.5
Paved Shoulder	
M-59 (Town Center Dr to Duck Lake Rd)	2.0
Roadside Sidewalks	
Misc. Highland Road (M-59)	0.5
Misc. Duck Lake Road	0.5
Misc. Milford Road	3.0
Misc. Harvey Lake Road	1.25
Misc. Livingston Road	0.5
Total Roadside Sidewalks	5.75
Residential Development Sidewalks	
Bayview	0.5
Prestwick	4.0
Glenns	0.25
Cobblestone	1.0
Knollview	1.0
Briarcliff	1.25
Chelsey Park	0.25
High Pointe Estates	0.5
Pinewood South	0.25
South Bay Shores	0.5
Huntwood	2.0
Lakeside Pines	0.25
Waling Woods	0.25
Countryside Condominiums	0.5
Highland Place	0.5
Highland Valley	0.5
Total Residential Development Sidewalks	13.5
Park Paths	
Highland Oaks	1.5
Hickory Ridge Pines	1.25
Duck Lake Pines	1.0
Total Park Paths	3.75
Mountain Bike Trails	
Highland State Recreation Area	16.0
Equestrian Trails	
Highland State Recreation Area	4.0
Highland Oaks	2.5

Map 3. Existing and Proposed Non-Motorized Facilities



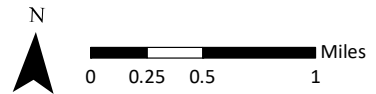
Township Non-motorized Facilities

- Blue = Existing
- Red = Planned (1 - 5 year priority)
- Yellow = Planned (5 - 10 year priority)
- Green = Natural Beauty Road
- Orange - Oakland County Trail Concept Under Consideration
- Solid/thin = Sidewalk
- Solid/thick = Multi-use Trail

- Township-owned Parks
- Oakland County Parks
- State of Michigan Parks
- Private Recreation Facilities
- Schools & Institutional Facilities
- Safe Route to School Grant Eligible

Existing & Proposed Non-motorized Facilities

Highland Township
Oakland County



Carlisle/Wortman Associates
October 2020
Source: Oakland County GIS



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SUBDIVISION PARKS & COMMON AREAS

Although private, subdivision parks and common areas in Highland Township are a valuable recreation resource, providing areas for the passive recreational use of the subdivision residents. These open spaces are usually small and total about 38 acres of land. They typically consist of open grassy areas with trees, benches, playground equipment, and walkways. Some also provide access to area lakes.



SCHOOL FACILITIES

The public school grounds in Highland Township provide valuable recreation opportunities for residents. The use of school property and facilities, however, offers limited public access and is dependent on each individual school's policies. The Huron Valley Public School District includes three public elementary schools and one high school in Highland Township, three private schools, and two additional educational facilities. Map 2 on page 27 depicts the location of the schools. A detailed description of the public school facilities is provided below.

- Milford High School, located on Milford Road, contains 95 acres of land with many recreational facilities including: eight lighted tennis courts, two baseball fields, four softball fields, one lacrosse field, two soccer fields, an equestrian field, and a lighted football stadium with running track, stands, and concession area. The school also includes a theater, an indoor gymnasium, a lap pool and a recreation swimming pool.
- Highland Elementary School, located on Livingston Street, contains 25 acres of land.
- Spring Mills Elementary School, located on Harvey Lake Road, contains 14 acres of land with a baseball field, a soccer field, and playground equipment. Indoor facilities include a multi-purpose gymnasium/fitness center.
- Apollo Center, located on Milford Road, occupies 25 acres of land with two basketball backstops, a picnic shelter, sidewalks, and playground equipment. The Center also includes an indoor gymnasium.
- Heritage Elementary School, located on Watkins Boulevard adjacent to the High School, shares facilities with the high school and includes a variety of playground equipment and an indoor gymnasium.

PRIVATE RECREATION FACILITIES

In contrast to municipal or school facilities, commercial private recreation resources are often designed to serve customers from around the area. Some of the commercial recreation facilities located near Highland Township are described and listed below.

CAMP DEARBORN

Camp Dearborn is a family-orientated recreational facility owned and operated by the City of Dearborn with 626 acres of rolling hills encompassing six lakes. The Camp is located in Milford south of Highland Township and offers a wide range of amenities for outdoor activity including a half-mile swimming beach, acres of shaded picnic sites, fishing, paddle boat rentals, hayrides, Mystic Creek Golf Club with mini golf and opportunities for a choice of camping styles.

GOLF COURSES

Seven golf courses are located in or near Highland Township:

- Beacon Hill Golf Club, Commerce Township
- Dunham Hills Golf Course, Hartland Township
- Hartland Glen Golf Club, Hartland Township
- Highland Hills Golf Club, 18-hole golf course with 115 acres of land in Highland Township
- Prestwick Village Golf Club, Highland Township
- Majestic Golf Course, Hartland Township.
- Mystic Creek Golf Course, Milford Township.

HURON VALLEY ATHLETIC COMPLEX

Located on Lone Tree Road, the facility offers a variety of indoor and outdoor recreation services, including:

- Flag football
- Baseball
- Soccer
- Basketball
- Softball
- Preschool sports
- Fitness classes
- Various in-person and virtual lessons
- Sports camps

RECREATION SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

Residents of Highland Township can enjoy a number of recreation programs including fishing, sports programs, hiking, golfing, and many others. These programs are offered through the area youth athletic organizations, senior center, the Huron Valley School Continuing Education program, and other organizations.

The youth athletic organizations in Highland Township include the Huron Valley Soccer Club (HVSC), Huron Valley Baseball/Softball League (HVBLS) and the Huron Valley Athletic Complex (HVAC) which operate soccer and baseball/softball programs and maintain the fields at both community parks. They also use school facilities.

Senior programs are run from the Township's Activity Center which is located adjacent to the Township Hall. The Center offers a variety of programs and activities for seniors such as bingo, cards, bowling, crafts, exercise classes, picnics, and trips. The Center also provides meals on the premises through a meals-on-wheels program. Western Oakland Transportation Authority (WOTA) provides seniors transportation services to the center, medical appointments, shopping, banks and other places for Highland, Walled Lake, Waterford, and White Lake.

The Huron Valley School operates continuing education programs from the Brooks Center, providing opportunities to Highland Township residents including academic enrichment classes, high school equivalency, and a variety of programs such as swimming, daycare, summer camps, volleyball, basketball, horseback riding, computer classes, exercise and fitness programs, art, dance, crafts, and many more. They also operate and run programs from the Milford High School Pool and Fitness facility located at Milford High School. Located on Milford Road south of Lone Tree Road, the Center is a 98,500-square-foot aquatic and fitness facility. It has both competitive and recreation pools, a 5,000-square-foot fitness center with weight and aerobic equipment, a 1/9-mile indoor walking/running track, and a field house designed for three sports events at once. The recreational pools have been closed, but the lap pools remain open.

The Carls Family YMCA also offers a variety of programs to community residents. Opened in 2002, this is a state-of-the-art facility located in the Village of Milford, south of Highland Township. It includes an indoor pool, fitness center, and gymnasium. This branch of the Y also has a childcare program. Classes are offered in aquatics, basketball, gymnastics, martial arts, pilates, and yoga. There are numerous opportunities for homeschoolers and also the preschool set, including parent/tot classes.

REGIONAL RECREATION FACILITIES

In addition to the local recreation facilities, there are 2,380 acres of parkland owned by Oakland County Parks around Highland Township, almost 6,700 acres of parkland operated by the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA), and an additional 18,345 acres of state-owned recreational facilities.

These facilities are considered regional recreational facilities. There are large facilities that provide opportunities such as camping, swimming, boating, fishing, hunting, hiking, and golfing which are typically beyond the ability of a local municipality to provide.

Map 4 on page 43 depicts the location of the regional parks and Table 31 on page 69 lists the recreation activities they offer. A description of the facilities follows.

Oakland County Parks

HIGHLAND OAKS

With 302 acres of parkland, Highland Oaks is located within the headwaters of the Shiawassee River and preserves sensitive habitat in the northeast quadrant of Highland Township. The park has been recently expanded and is relatively undeveloped. It offers hiking, geocaching, horseback riding, mountain biking, and cross-country skiing are allowed on a 2.5 mile multi-purpose trail. Bow hunting for deer is allowed in a limited area seasonally.

HIGHLAND OAKS



LYON OAKS

With 1,024 acres of parkland, Lyon Oaks preserves more than 800 acres of environmentally sensitive wetlands. It features a nature center, dog park and a golf course. Other amenities include:

- 13-acre, fenced dog park with water and picnic shelter;
- Day-use area with 3.6 miles of hiking trails, a picnic shelter, playground and athletic fields;
- Nature center with exhibits, programs for the public, scouts and school groups;
- Seasonal archery deer hunting;
- Arthur Hills-designed 18-hole golf course and driving range; and
- Banquet and meeting facilities.

ROSE OAKS

This 620-acre largely undeveloped park preserves three different ecosystems: wetlands, meadows, and woodlands and is located north of Highland Township. The park contains several glacial lakes and has frontage along Big School Lot Lake. Activities and facilities include:

- Fishing;
- Approximately 10 miles of hiking trails;
- Designated parking areas on Fish Lake Road and Buckhorn Lake Road; and
- Annual Ride the Rose equestrian event.

LYON OAKS



SPRINGFIELD OAKS

Located northeast of Highland Township, Springfield Oaks contains 276 acres of parkland. The park offers an activity center, golf course, and is the site for the Oakland County Fair held annually. Activities and facilities include:

- Springfield Oaks Activity Center with exhibit hall for shows, wedding receptions, and dances, and a multipurpose room for banquets, seminars, and reunions;
- Home of annual Oakland County Fair;
- The historic Ellis Barn;
- Community Gardens producing food for the Food Bank of Oakland County as well as flowers and tree seedlings for use at the parks (The garden is worked by volunteer Master Gardeners and 52nd District Court Weekend and Weekday Alternative Misdemeanants);
- Two outdoor arenas; and
- 18-hole, par 71 golf course.

WHITE LAKE OAKS

This 195-acre park primarily contains an 18-hole golf course facility with cross-country skiing during the winter. Activities and facilities include:

- 18-hole, par 70 course;
- A clubhouse featuring a pro shop, club room, garden patio, outdoor wedding area and banquet facilities; and
- Hosts the annual Warren Orlick inclusive golf outing.

SPRINGFIELD OAKS



WHITE LAKE OAKS



Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority Parks

INDIAN SPRINGS METROPARK.

Located in the northwest part of the County, Indian Springs Metropark encompasses 2,215 acres of parkland at the headwaters of the Huron River. Much of the park is dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of the natural environment. Activities and facilities include:

- An 18-hole, par-71 regulation golf course with driving range;
- A nature center;
- An environmental Discovery Center;
- Nature interpretation and birding;
- Twelve miles of groomed cross-country trails;
- Eight miles of paved hike-bike trail;
- Picnic shelters;
- Sledding hill;
- Spray 'n' play park; and
- Playscape.

KENSINGTON METROPARK.

Kensington Metropark is a 4,481-acre HCMA recreational facility spanning Livingston and Oakland counties. Its wooded, hilly terrain surrounds Kent Lake. The park features beaches, a nature study area with nature center and trails, a farm learning center, a paved trail and a golf course. The park includes the following:

- Two beaches with concessions;
- Two boat launches with docking facilities and boat tours on the Island Queen Sternwheeler;
- Paddleboat and rowboat rentals;
- Overnight canoe campsites;
- Shore fishing;
- Organized youth group campsite;
- 18-hole par 71 golf course;
- Disc golf;
- A farm center with animals, barns and hayrides/sleigh rides;
- Ten miles of marked equestrian trails;
- A nature center and nature trails;
- Eight miles of paved hiking/biking trails, Ten miles of hiking trails and a fitness trail; and
- Cross-country skiing, equipment rentals, ice skating, heated lodge with fireplace and concession, tobogganing and sledding.

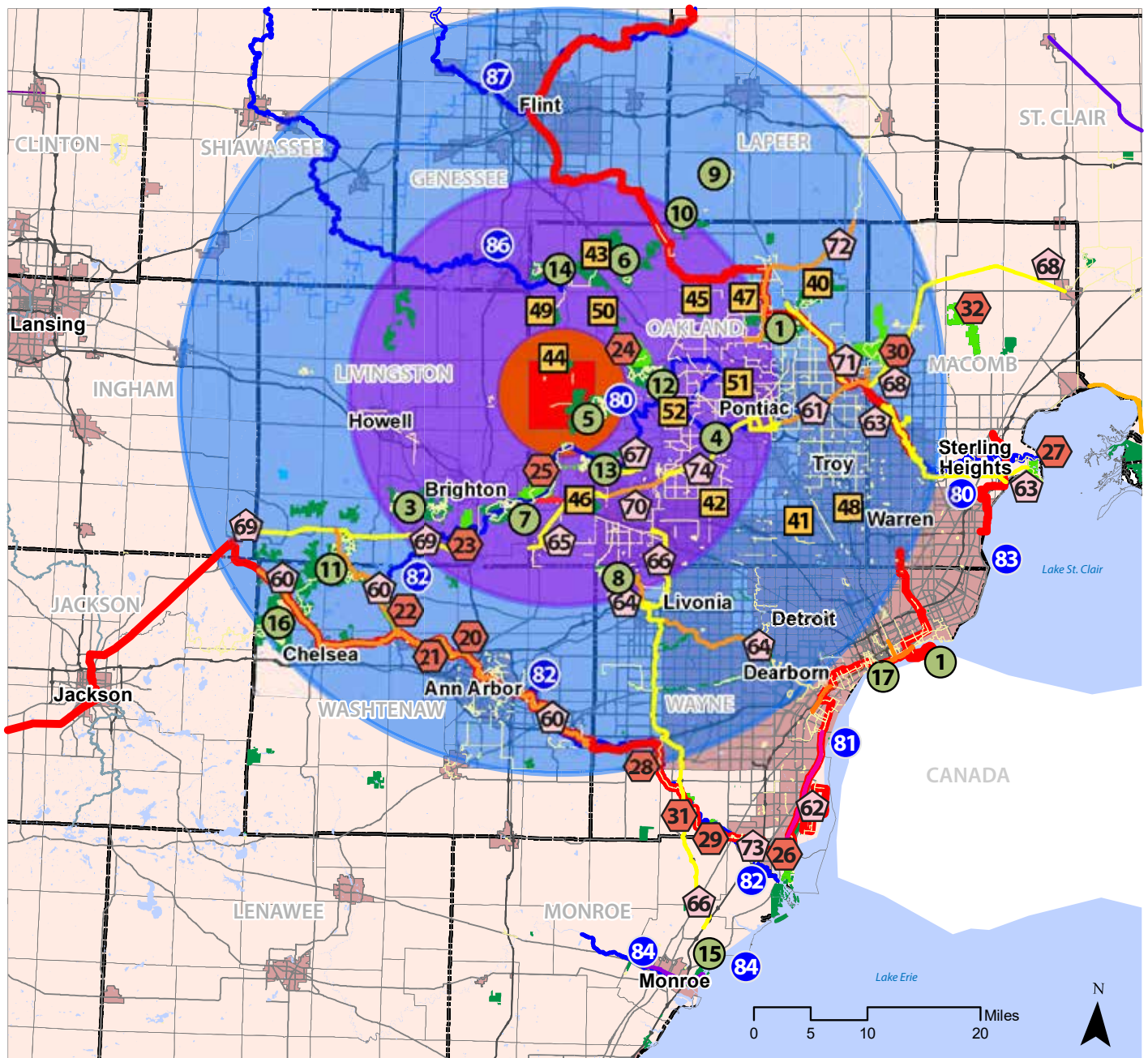
INDIAN SPRINGS METROPARK



KENSINGTON METROPARK



Map 4. Regional Recreation Facilities



- | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| (X) State & Federal Park/Rec Areas | (X) Huron Clinton Metroparks | (X) Oakland County Parks | (X) Major Trails | (X) Water Trails |
| 1. Bald Mountain Rec. Area | 20. Delhi | 40. Addison Oaks | 60. Border-to-Border* | 80. Clinton River |
| 2. Belle Isle State Park | 21. Dexter-Huron | 41. Catalpa Oaks | 61. Clinton River Trail* | 81. Detroit Heritage River |
| 3. Brighton Rec. Area | 22. Hudson-Mills | 42. Glen Oaks Golf Course | 62. Downriver Linked Greenways* | 82. Huron River |
| 4. Dodge #4 State Park | 23. Huron Meadows | 43. Groveland Oaks | 63. Freedom Metro Trail* | 83. Lake St. Clair Coastal |
| 5. Highland Rec. Area | 24. Indian Springs | 44. Highland Oaks | 64. Hines Park Trail | 84. Monroe County /
River Raisin / Lake Erie |
| 6. Holly Rec. Area | 25. Kensington | 45. Independence Oaks | 65. Huron Valley Trail | 85. Rouge River |
| 7. Island Lake Rec. Area | 26. Lake Erie | 46. Lyon Oaks | 66. I-275 Metro Trail | 86. Shiawassee River |
| 8. Maybury Rec. Area | 27. Lake St. Clair | 47. Orion Oaks | 67. Lakes Community Trail | 87. Flint River |
| 9. Metamora-Hadley Rec. Area | 28. Lower Huron | 48. Red Oaks Golf Course | 68. Macomb Orchard Trail* | |
| 10. Ortonville Rec. Area | 29. Oakwoods | 49. Rose Oaks | 69. M Levine Lakelands State Trail | |
| 11. Pinckney Rec. Area | 30. Stony Creek | 50. Springfield Oaks Golf Course | 70. Michigan Airline Trail** | |
| 12. Pontiac Lake Rec. Area | 31. Willow | 51. Waterford Oaks Water Park | 71. Paint Creek Trail* | |
| 13. Proud Lake Rec. Area | 32. Wolcott Mill | 52. White Lake Oaks Golf Course | 72. Polly Ann Trail | |
| 14. Seven Lakes State Park | | | 73. River Raisin Heritage Trail* | |
| 15. Sterling State Park | | | 74. West Bloomfield Trail | |
| 16. Waterloo Rec. Area | | | | |
| 17. William G. Milliken State Park | | | | |

* = part of Iron Belle Trail
 ** = in construction

Regional Recreation Facilities

Highland Township, Michigan

Carlisle/Wortman Associates
 October 2020



Table 15. Regional Recreation Facilities

Key	Agency: HCMA = Huron Clinton Metroparks, MDNR = Dept Of Natural Resources, OC = Oakland County Parks & Rec	Property Name	Acres / Miles	ACTIVE SPORTS										PASSIVE ACTIVITIES													
				Baseball / Softball	Basketball	Disc Golf	Golf	Horseshoes/shuffleboard	Sand volleyball	Skate park	Soccer / multipurpose field	Tennis / pickleball	Cricket	Banquet / Special Events	Visitors Center / Nature Center / Museum	Comm. Center / Meeting space	Fairground / Major event space	Fitness Center / Gym / Exercise Equipment	Michigan State Park Explorer	Nature Programs	Geocaching	Metal Detecting	Dog Park / Trial Course	Pet Friendly Area	Playground	Picnic Area	Picnic Shelter
1	MDNR	Bald Mountain Rec. Area	4,637			•													•	•			•	•	•	•	
2	MDNR	Belle Isle State Park	982									•						•	•				•	•	•		•
3	MDNR	Brighton Rec. Area	4,947			•										•			•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•
4	MDNR	Dodge #4 State Park	139																			•	•	•	•		
5	MDNR	Highland Rec. Area	5,900											•						•	•			•	•	•	•
6	MDNR	Holly Rec. Area	8,000			•										•			•	•		•	•	•		•	
7	MDNR	Island Lake Rec. Area	4,000																			•		•			•
8	MDNR	Maybury Rec. Area	1,000																				•	•	•		•
9	MDNR	Metamora-Hadley Rec. Area	723													•				•			•	•	•		
10	MDNR	Ortonville Rec. Area	5,340																	•			•	•	•		
11	MDNR	Pinckney Rec. Area	11,000													•				•			•	•	•		•
12	MDNR	Pontiac Lake Rec. Area	3,745													•							•	•	•	•	•
13	MDNR	Proud Lake Rec. Area	4,700													•						•	•	•			
14	MDNR	Seven Lakes State Park	1,434																				•	•	•		
15	MDNR	Sterling State Park	1,300													•				•			•	•	•		•
16	MDNR	Waterloo Rec. Area	20,500			•								•						•			•	•	•		•
17	MDNR	William G. Milliken State Park	31													•							•	•			

Table 16. Regional Non-motorized Trail Facilities

Key	Trail Name (* = part of Iron Belle Trail)	Location	Distance
60	Border-to-Border*	Washtenaw Cty	40+ miles
61	Clinton River Trail*	Oakland Cty	16 miles
62	Downriver Linked Greenway	Wayne Cty	75+ miles
63	Freedom Metro Trail*	Macomb Cty	19.3 miles
64	Hines Park Trail	Wayne Cty	17.5 miles
65	Huron Valley Trail	Wayne Cty	25 miles
66	I-275 Metro Trail	Wayne Cty	35 miles
67	Lakes Community Trail	Oakland Cty	8.9 miles

Key	Trail Name (* = part of Iron Belle Trail)	Location	Distance
68	Macomb Orchard Trail*	Macomb Cty	23 miles
69	M. Levine Lakelands Trail	Livingston Cty	34 miles
70	Michigan Airline Trail	Oakland Cty	7.8 miles
71	Paint Creek Trail	Oakland Cty	8.9 miles
72	Polly Ann Trail	Oakland Cty	14.2 miles
73	River Raisin Heritage Trail*	Wayne Cty	8 miles
74	West Bloomfield Trail	Oakland Cty	6.8 miles

TRAILS					WATER SPORTS					WINTER SPORTS					CAMPING								HUNTING/FISHING										
Hiking	Biking	Bike Rental	Mountain Biking / BMX	Equestrian	Swimming / Beach	Splash pad / Pool / Water slide	Paddlesports	Boat Rental	Boat launch	Designated Water Trail	Snowshoeing	Cross Country Skiing	Snowmobiling	Ice Skating / Hockey	Sledding	Equestrian Camping	Electrical Service	Winter Camping	Concession Store / Food	Cabins and lodges	Rustic site	Group Use Area	Walk-in / Paddle-in sites	Yurts	Vault or Portable Toilets	Modern restrooms	Sanitation station	Shooting range	Archery Range	Hunting	Fishing	Fishing pier	
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Table 17. Major Water Trails

Key	Water Trails	Location	Distance
80	Clinton River	Oakland and Macomb Counties	81.5 miles
81	Detroit Heritage Trail	Wayne County (Belle Isle, Rouge River, Huron River, and Lower Detroit River)	33 miles
82	Huron River	Livingston, Oakland, Washtenaw, and Wayne Counties	104 miles
83	Lake St. Clair Coastal	St. Clair County / Lake St. Clair	33+ miles
84	Monroe County / River Raisin / Lake Erie	Monroe County (six segments)	11+ miles
85	Rouge River	Wayne County (four segments)	14.4
86	Shiawassee River	Oakland, Saginaw, and Shiawassee Counties	85.3
87	Flint River	Genesee, Oakland, and Saginaw Counties	104

State Parks and Recreation Areas

HIGHLAND RECREATION AREA

This recreation area offers 5,900 acres of forest, marshes and lakes in the rolling hills of White Lake Township. The park contains trails to accommodate equestrian riders, mountain bikers, hikers and skiers. Three different day-use areas provide space for picnics, swimming, horseshoes or volleyball. Access sites are located on four lakes within the park for fishing and boating. Highland includes the following activities and facilities:

- 30 rustic campsites, a horseman's camp, an organization camp and cabins;
- Safari-style tent rentals;
- Picnic area;
- Playgrounds;
- Beach house;
- Boat launch;
- 17 miles of nature trails and cross-country skiing;
- 16 miles of mountain biking trails; and
- 12 miles of equestrian trails.

HIGHLAND RECREATION AREA



IMAGE SOURCE: MICHIGAN.ORG



IMAGE SOURCE: MLIVE.COM



IMAGE SOURCE: FRIENDS OF HIGHLAND RECREATION AREA

ISLAND LAKE RECREATION AREA

This recreation area comprises 4,000 acres in Livingston County and Oakland County. The terrain is a mixture of open brush land, mature hardwood forest, with some pockets of open meadows. Island Lake includes the following activities and facilities:

- Parking areas;
- Five picnic shelters;
- A beach at Spring Mill Pond with concessions, toilets, playground and volleyball;
- Soccer, baseball/softball and horseshoe pits;
- Over 14 miles of trails for hiking or biking and four miles of paved trail;
- A shooting range including skeet, trap, and sporting clays;
- A balloon port;
- 3,000 acres open to hunting;
- Two rustic cabins;
- Canoe rental;
- Rowboat and paddleboat rental; and
- Snowmobiling in designated areas, cross-country, skiing, snowshoeing and ice fishing.

ISLAND LAKE RECREATION AREA



IMAGE SOURCE: MICHIGAN.ORG



IMAGE SOURCE: MICHIGAN.ORG



IMAGE SOURCE: YOUTUBE

PONTIAC LAKE RECREATION AREA

With 3,745 acres of rolling woodland terrain, the recreation area includes a mixture of marshes, ponds, heavy forests, old farm fields, river bottom and lakes that support a wide variety of animals and activities. Designated trails are available for horseback riding, hiking and mountain biking. Activities and facilities include:

- Camping including 176 modern campsites and 24 equestrian sites
- Swimming and beach houses
- Playground equipment
- Picnic shelters
- Boat access site and launch
- Shooting/archery range
- Hunting
- Fishing
- 17 miles of equestrian trails
- 11 miles of cross country ski, mountain biking and hiking trails

PROUD LAKE RECREATION AREA

With more than 4,700 acres, Proud Lake Recreation Area offers diverse and numerous recreational opportunities on the scenic Huron River. It is located southwest of Highland Township. More than 20 miles of trails cover several diverse habitats. It also offers the unique River Hawk Lodge. Activities and facilities include:

- 130 modern campsites, an organization camp, mini cabins, and tent rentals
- Nine miles of equestrian and mountain biking trails
- Six miles of hiking and cross-country skiing trails
- Picnic areas and playgrounds;
- A beach house
- Boat launch and canoeing



REGIONAL GREENWAY NETWORK

In addition to the local and regional parks, there is a vision of regional trails linking parks and communities to form an interconnected greenway system. Highland Township contains a primary network of existing and planned trails linking hubs and destinations which includes Island Lake Recreation Area, Kensington Metropark, the Huron River, Camp Dearborn, the Village of Milford, Highland Recreation Area, Highland Station, Highland Oaks, Pontiac Lake Recreation Area, and Indian Springs Metropark.

Figure 7. Oakland County Regional Trail Concept Plan



ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT

Highland Township continues to work to bring all Township park facilities into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). An assessment of the accessibility of each Township park to people with disabilities was conducted. This assessment considers the accessibility of both the facilities themselves as well as the access routes to them. The ranking system used to evaluate the parks range from 1 to 5 with 1 being “none of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines” to 5, “the entire park was developed using the principles of universal design.” Results of the assessment are provided in Table 18.

Highland Township is committed to ensuring that all future parks projects, including Chill at the Mill, will adhere to accessibility standards.

Table 18. Accessibility Assessment

Facility	Rank	Description
Hickory Ridge Pines Park	3	Some facilities are ADA compliant. The baseball field and soccer fields do not have accessible routes or viewing areas. Portions of the trails are not considered stable and slip resistant.
Duck Lake Pines Park	4	Most facilities are compliant. Adjustments can be made to play equipment area to improve access.
Downey Lake Pines Park	1	Trails are all rustic (mown grass) and are not ADA compliant.
Veterans Park	5	All areas are ADA compliant.
Gateway Park	5	All areas are ADA compliant.

STATUS OF GRANT ASSISTED PROJECTS

Highland Township was the recipient of an MDNR Land and Water Conservation Fund grant of \$219,000 in 1990 to purchase land for a Township Community park which became Hickory Ridge Pines Park. The Township also received an MDNR Recreation Bond grant of \$142,875 in 1990 to build a concession/restroom building and two picnic shelters, and pave the roadway at Hickory Ridge Pines. These facilities have been well maintained and used over the years.

In 1999, the Township received an MDNR grant of \$425,000 to purchase property on Duck Lake Road, south of M-59, for a proposed park. In 2001, the Township received another MDNR grant of \$488,946 for this park's development, which included concession stand with restrooms, interpretive/fitness trail, skating park, parking lot, picnic tables, tennis and basketball courts, and a play area.

The Township's most recent grant award came in 2015. In 2015, Highland Township received an MNRTF grant in the amount of \$127,800. These funds were used to acquire 15 acres of land to add to the Township's existing Hickory Ridge Pines Park. The 15 acres will provide residents with additional natural areas, the opportunity to expand the pathway system, and add additional soccer fields.

Table 19. Grant Assisted Projects

Application Year and Source	Description	Grant Amount	Current Conditions
1988, MNRTF TF88-068	Acquire 89 acres on Murray Lake	\$164,250	Property is now Hickory Ridge Pines Park. The park is heavily used and is in good operating condition
1992, Bond Fund BF92-107	Construct concession, restroom building, and two picnic shelters. Pave park roadway.	\$142,875	Park is heavily used and is good operating condition
1998, MNRTF TF98-135	Purchase property on Duck Lake Road	\$425,000	Park is now Duck Lake Pines Park. The park is heavily used and is in good operating condition overall
2000, Clean Michigan Initiative, CM00-066	Development grant to build concession stand, trail, skating park, picnic tables, tennis and basketball courts, and play area at Duck Lake Pines Park	\$ 488,946	Some amenities are nearing the end of their effective life span, but for the most part all are still functional and in good operating condition.
2014, MNRTF TF14-0124	Acquire 15 acres for expansion of Hickory Ridge Pines Park	\$127,800	Park is in good operating condition
2017, SR2S	Partnered with Oakland County Road Commission and Highland Elementary Schools to apply for a Safe Routes to Schools Grant (SR2S). In addition to the projects listed under current conditions, the grant is used to facilitate pedestrian and bicycle education through skills training sessions, a series of pedestrian safety special events, creation of two remote drop programs, development of business safe haven effort, and a parent safety drive initiative to raise awareness about walkers and pedestrians at each school.	\$330,900	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5' sidewalk infill & intersection improvements along south side of Watkins Blvd near Heritage Elementary • 5' sidewalk infill along east side of S Milford between Watkins & Briarwood Dr • 5' sidewalk infill along west side of Harvey Lake Rd between Oakgrove Road and Lakeview Boulevard • 5' sidewalk connector at Juno Drive and the Spring Mills Elementary track path • 5' sidewalk infill and ADA ramp upgrades near Highland Elementary

Chapter 7: Administrative Structure

The Charter Township of Highland is organized to provide governmental services pursuant to the Charter Township Act. This particular legislation permits a general act township to provide more services, become responsible for certain community activities, and enact a budget supported by up to 5 mills. The Charter Act also precludes contiguous cities from annexation of township territory. Highland was incorporated under the Charter Act. The Township organization structure is shown below. The citizens of Highland Township elect a Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer and four Trustees.

A series of line departments and positions flow from each elected position regarding land use regulations, assessing, fire, police, and ordinance enforcement. The Township Board is comprised of seven members, all elected at large. The three operating officials serve as members of the Board, which is the legislative and overall policy making body in the Charter Township of Highland.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

The Highland Parks and Recreation Committee is directly responsible to the Township Supervisor and Township Board. The Township established the committee in the 1980s via resolution to develop and maintain an up-to-date Recreation Plan and provide the Township Board with guidance related to implementing the Plan. Committee members include Township officials, school representatives, recreation providers, and interested residents.

Figure 8. Organizational Chart



FINANCE

The table below provides a summary of the Township's revenues and expenditures related to recreation. The Township Board approves all budget requests for recreation expenditures.

THE TOWNSHIP GENERAL FUND BUDGETS FOR 2018 THROUGH 2020 ARE SUMMARIZED IN THE TABLE BELOW:

Table 20. General Fund Budget Summary

Account Title	12/31/2018 Actual	12/31/2019 Actual	12/31/2020 Adopted	7/31/2020 Actual (58%)	2021 Proposed	Notes
Parks: Gateway	\$ 50	\$ 0	\$ 2,500	\$ 53	\$ 2,500	
Parks: Veteran's Park	\$ 247	\$ 283	\$ 2,500	\$ 192	\$ 2,500	
Parks: Hickory Ridge	\$ 6,336	\$ 2,450	\$ 3,000	\$ 1,300	\$ 3,000	
Parks: Duck Lake Pines	\$ 7,476	\$ 2,600	\$ 3,000	\$ 583	\$ 3,000	
Parks: Utilities	\$ 2,754	\$ 1,702	\$ 3,000	\$ 908	\$ 3,000	
Parks: Maintenance	\$ 10,593	\$ 11,677	\$ 18,000	\$ 3,826	\$ 18,000	
Parks: Twp Beautification Project	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	
Parks: Historical Markers	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 3,000	\$ 0	\$ 3,000	
Twp Community Parks Total	\$ 30,955	\$ 22,212	\$ 35,000	\$ 6,862	\$ 35,000	
Hickory Ridge Park Improvement	\$ 3,581	\$ 0	\$ 35,000	\$ 1,665	\$ 35,000	Pathway repair/ development
Duck Lake Park Improvement	\$ 1,741	\$ 0	\$ 90,000	\$ 10,243	\$ 90,000	Court replacement
Capital Imp Fund Expense Total	\$ 5,322	\$ 0	\$ 125,000	\$ 11,908	\$ 125,000	

MAINTENANCE / VOLUNTEERS/ PARTNERSHIPS

While the Township does not have a park maintenance staff, the Township has partnered with the Huron Valley Soccer Club (HVSC) and the Huron Valley Youth Baseball and Softball League (HVYBSL) to manage its active recreation facilities. These organizations have been instrumental in the planning, construction, and regular maintenance of the Township's soccer fields and ballfields. Volunteers from each organization also maintain the restrooms and run the concession stands during regular season play and tournaments.

Both the HVSC and HVYBSL are all-volunteer, nonprofit organizations that provide opportunities for children to play on organized sports teams. Both organizations are run by a Board of Directors elected by the membership. The HVSC oversees both youth and adult soccer programs, and the HVYBSL oversees youth and adult baseball and softball programs.

NON-MOTORIZED PLANNING STAKEHOLDERS

Previous Highland Township Parks and Recreation Plans called for ensuring that residents can access community centers, the historic downtown, schools, recreation lands and natural areas via non-motorized means including pedestrians, bicyclists, equestrians and other users. Under the Board's direction, the Planning Commission appointed a Sidewalk Committee to start the non-motorized planning process and draft a Non-Motorized Master Plan. The Sidewalk Committee is comprised of eight members representing a variety of stakeholder groups.

Other stakeholders include 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 Equestrian Conservancy, Highland Township citizens and other users of the pathway system.

Ways that the Township is currently working or would like to work with these stakeholders to develop its non-motorized pathway system is described below:

HDDA NON-MOTORIZED EFFORTS

The HDDA is recently completed a streetscape improvement 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 NON-MOTORIZED EFFORTS

MDOT and Highland Township coordinated efforts to construct a mile-long pathway on the north side of M-59, from Tipsico east past Hickory Ridge.

HVS NON-MOTORIZED EFFORTS

Highland Township and Huron Valley Schools along with the Oakland County Road Commission successfully applied for a Safe Routes to Schools (SR2S) grant which funded five separate sidewalk infill projects near Spring Mills and Highland Elementary Schools, as well as the development of several pedestrian and bicyclist safety programs (see Table 19 on page 53). 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. Map 1 on page 22 illustrates a one mile radius around each of the three public schools. The area that is eligible for the SR2S program covers most of Highland's priority area.

RCOC NON-MOTORIZED EFFORTS

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.

OAKLAND COUNTY NON-MOTORIZED EFFORTS

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 MDNR 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 Southeastern Michigan's Green Ways Initiative.

Chapter 8: Community Background

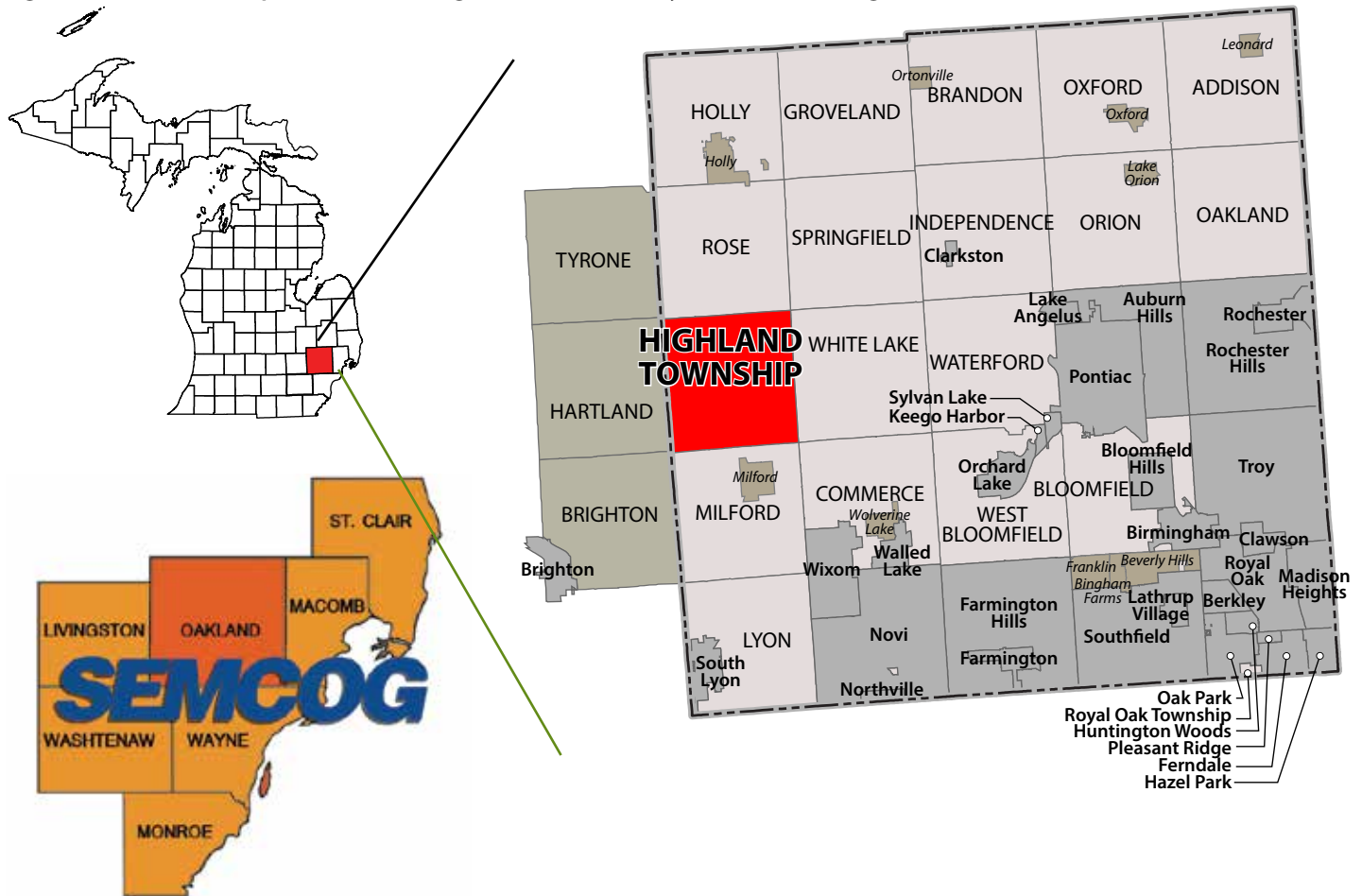
This section of the Plan describes many of the area’s natural and built features, as well as a description of the community’s population characteristics. The purpose is to provide users of the Plan with an overview of the physical features and demographic trends of the Township, and provide a basis for the plan by identifying the unique features and opportunities the community has to offer.

REGIONAL SETTING

Highland Township is located in western Oakland County. The Township is bordered by Rose Township to the north, White Lake Township to the east, Milford Township to the south, and Livingston County’s Hartland Township to the west. The Township is 45 miles northwest of Detroit, 35 miles south of Flint, 50 miles east of Lansing, and 30 miles north of Ann Arbor. M-59, a major east/west local access highway bisects the community, giving residents access to US 23 to the west and the more urbanized areas of southeast Michigan to the east.

Oakland County is in southeast Michigan and is bordered by the counties of Lapeer to the north, Macomb to the east, Wayne to the south, and Livingston to the west. Oakland County is in the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) region. SEMCOG is the regional planning agency that conducts planning studies and maintains a comprehensive database of information about each community it serves. It is a source for some of the population and land use related data included in this report.

Figure 9. Context Maps - State of Michigan, Oakland County, and SEMCOG Region



HISTORY OF THE COMMUNITY

Rufus and Jesse Tenny traveling west from Rochester, New York, during 1832 were among the first settlers within the present Highland Township boundaries. Three years later in 1835 by act of the Michigan Territorial Legislature, Highland Township was officially established. The name "Highland" was derived from the Township's topographic characteristic of having the highest elevations relative to surrounding lands throughout Oakland County.

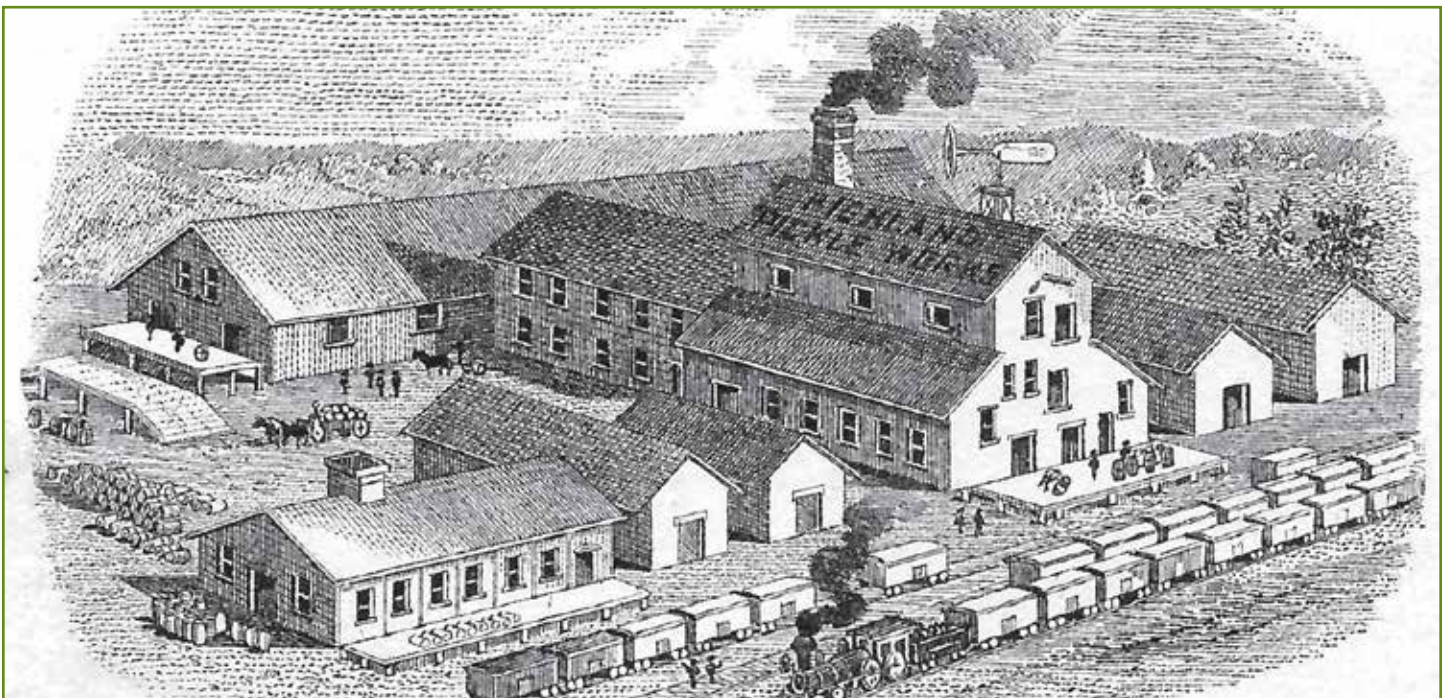
At the time of Highland Township's official establishment in 1835, then Michigan Governor Lewis Cass encouraged sale of lands located in Oakland County. Such land sales required cash from all purchasers at \$1.25 per acre, and offered many desirable resources in the form of lakes, springs, streams and marshes, the latter providing winter hay for livestock. Sales were brisk, and a large measure of Township public land sold off by 1840.

The early Highland inhabitants like other settlers of their era constructed initial dwellings from logs, this material being abundantly available from land clearing operations. Although cleared land was fertile for raising crops, the glacial soil structure produced unwanted quantities of stones severely challenging to these early farmers' strength and implements. On the positive side, stones removed from fields were in some cases utilized for building both residences and barns. A number of these stone structures remain today particularly those with stone and mortar "Michigan basements."

The first town meeting was held in 1835 with 22 residents in attendance, and records show that one year later a total of \$28 was expended in support of Highland Township's first year of expenses. The initial school building was a two-room building constructed of logs in 1834, and served as a place for these early town meetings together with school classes and religious observances. The original log school house was located on the 240-acre Tenny farm settled in 1832 within Section 31 of the Township.

Native Americans inhabiting the area during these early years of development camped on land situated on the east side of Section 34 and were recorded as generally peaceful. Trails at that time were common throughout the Township. The principal trail in the Township was the Shiawassee Trail that entered Highland near the southeast corner of Section 35, and ran northwest where it intersected the Walled Lake Trail, a branch of the main Grand River Trail to the south.

Highland Township settlers were primarily farmers; however, manufacturing interests developed in the form of shops, blacksmiths, sawmills and grist mills, the latter being powered by water from the area's streams. By 1867, a former water-powered sawmill was converted to a pickle and vinegar works which by 1885 was producing 1,400 gallons of vinegar per day. The plant also manufactured and shipped out large quantities of pickles processed from cucumbers grown on surrounding Township farms. Reputed to be one of the largest pickle factories in Michigan, the plant ceased operations when destroyed by fire in 1896.



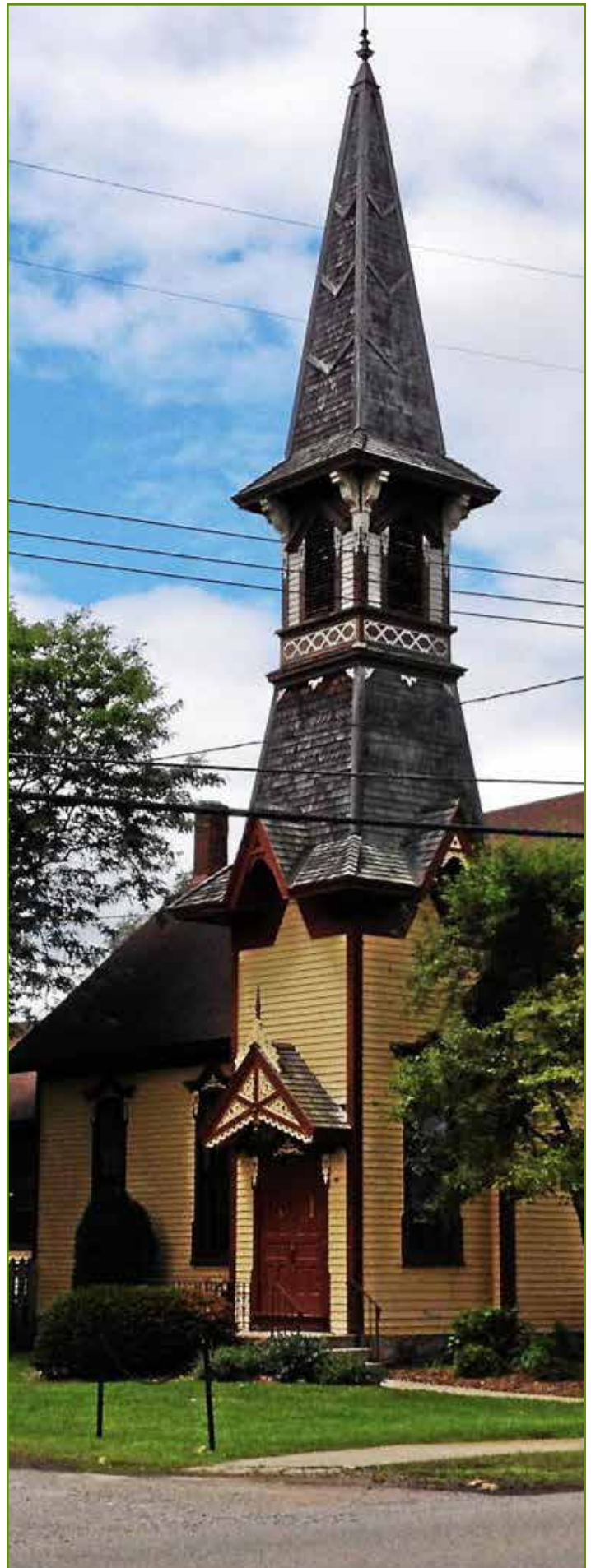
In 1871, the first train steamed through Highland Township and “Highland Station” as a village within parts of Sections 22 and 27 was platted. The railroad’s impact on the Township produced accelerated growth both in farming and manufacturing, transporting settler’s produce to Detroit markets and returning with “store-type goods.”

Throughout the 185 years since its establishment in 1835, Highland Township has generally remained an agricultural community. During recent years, however, following the region’s continuing reduction in small or family-owned farms, large tracts of former cropland together with Highland’s desirable lake-front property have been developed into single family subdivisions. Related commercial support development has also accompanied housing construction particularly along the M-59/Milford Road corridors running east/west and north/south respectively through the Township.

There are two historic sites identified on the Michigan Register of Historic Places in the Township. The Highland United Methodist Church, later known as the Highland Station House, which is located at 205 W. Livingston Road. It currently houses Senior Center activities and other community groups such as the Huron Valley Council of the Arts and the Highland Downtown Development Authority (HDDA). Michigan listed the site in 1981, and received its national designation in the same year. The historic marker was erected in 1988.

The second site is the Stone Rowe House. This site received its State designation in 1974, its national designation in 1975, the same year a historical marker was erected. The Stone Rowe House is located at 2360 Lone Tree Road.

In addition to unique historic resources, The National Trust’s Main Street Revitalization Program has recognized Highland Township’s downtown (Highland Station) as the first Horse-Friendly downtown through Oakland County’s Main Street Program. In addition, the Township was recognized as Michigan’s first Equestrian Community by the State of Michigan in 2006.



SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

This section identifies the Township’s population characteristics. Highland Township’s population characteristics are different from Michigan’s or Oakland County’s in a number of ways that may influence the recreational needs of the community. The following is a description of these characteristics and the impact they may have on recreation.

Highland Township’s population nearly doubled between the 1970s and 1980s, but has since seen a more stable growth rate. Between 2000 and 2010, Highland Township’s growth rate was essentially flat, with a numeric increase of only 33 residents. Since 2010, the Township’s population has decreased by 974 residents, a 5.1% loss. During the same period, Oakland County’s population increased by 5% (59,579 new residents), while Southeast Michigan’s population increased by 1.3% (63,618 new residents).

Despite the current losses, SEMCOG is projecting the Township’s population will increase by 5.3% by the year 2045, a slightly higher rate than the County’s (4.5%). At the same time, household sizes are projected to drop from 2.49 in 2019 to 2.37 in 2045, a trend commonly attributed to an aging population. This is evidenced by increases in median age; Highland Township saw dramatic increases between 2010 and 2018, and their median age is significantly higher than Oakland County’s and the state as a whole.

The number of children in the Township age 19 and under decreased by 16.2% between 2000 and 2018, and the number of older adults age 65 and up has increased by 73.4%. Young working adults (40-44 years) dropped by 30%, while early retirees (65-69 years) increased by almost 95%. Looking forward, as the age distribution continues to shift to an older mix of residents, priorities focusing on recreational opportunities will shift to older adult activities.

According to the 2018 American Community Survey, 12.5% of Township residents have some form of physical disability. This statistic underscores the need to accommodate individuals with disabilities when planning for parks and recreation facilities and programs.

Table 21. Median Age, Highland Township & Region

Year	Highland Township	Oakland County	State of Michigan
2010	41	40.2	38.9
2011	41.2	40.6	39.2
2012	41.4	40.7	39.3
2013	41.7	40.8	39.5
2014	42.9	40.9	39.5
2015	43.7	41	39.6
2016	44.6	41	39.6
2017	46.1	41	39.7
2018	46.5	41	39.8

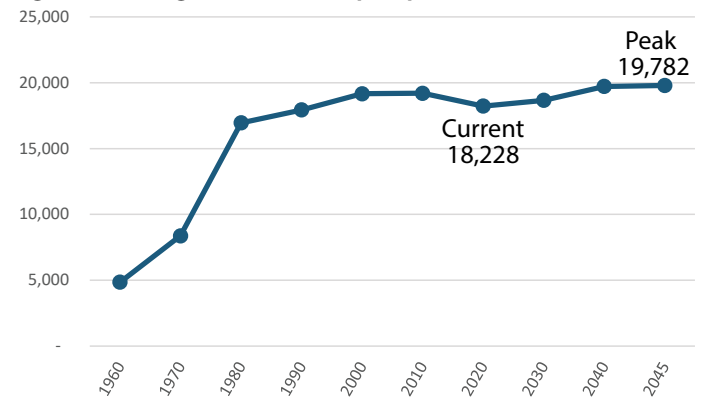
SOURCE: AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY, 2010 - 2018

Table 22. Population Projections, Highland Township Area

Community	2020	2045	% change 2020-2045
Highland Township	18,228	19,782	8.5%
Commerce Township	39,548	42,023	6.3%
Milford (Village)	6,660	7,004	5.2%
Milford Township	10,430	11,034	5.8%
Rose Township	5,533	5,858	5.9%
Springfield Township	13,917	14,467	4.0%
White Lake Township	30,434	32,194	5.8%
Brighton Township (Livingston)	19,568	21,883	11.8%
Hartland Township (Livingston)	15,953	19,871	24.6%
Tyrone Township (Livingston)	10,798	12,486	15.6%
Oakland County	1,261,941	1,319,089	4.5%
Southeast Michigan	4,768,427	5,104,922	7.1%

SOURCE: US CENSUS, SEMCOG

Figure 10. Highland Township Population Trends



SOURCE: US CENSUS, SEMCOG

Table 23. Historical Population Data, Highland Township Area

Community	1990	2000	2010	2020 (SEMCOG Projection)	Percent change 2010 - 2020
Highland Township	17,941	19,169	19,202	18,228	-5.1%
Commerce Township	22,156	30,349	35,874	39,548	12.1%
Milford (Village)	5,500	6,272	6,175	6,660	7.7%
Milford Township	6,624	8,999	9,561	10,430	9.7%
Rose Township	4,926	6,210	6,250	5,533	-11.5%
Springfield Township	9,927	13,338	13,940	13,917	-0.2%
White Lake Township	22,677	28,219	30,019	30,434	1.5%
Brighton Township (Livingston)	14,815	17,673	17,791	19,568	10.1%
Hartland Township (Livingston)	6,860	10,996	14,663	15,953	11.7%
Tyrone Township (Livingston)	6,854	8,459	10,020	10,798	9.2%
Oakland County	1,083,592	1,194,156	1,202,362	1,261,941	5.0%
Southeast Michigan	4,590,468	4,833,368	4,704,809	4,768,427	1.3%

SOURCE: US CENSUS, SEMCOG

Figure 11. Age Distribution Comparison 2000 - 2018

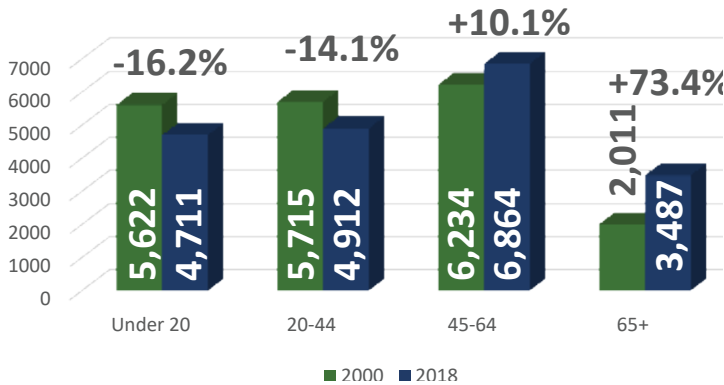


Figure 12. Highland Township Age Distribution 2018

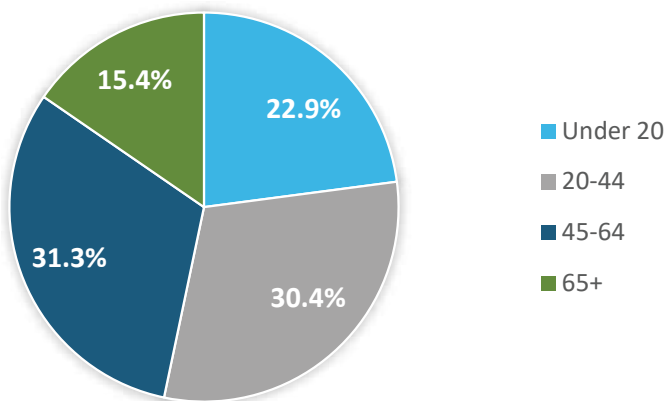


Table 24. Highland Township Age Ranges 2000 - 2018

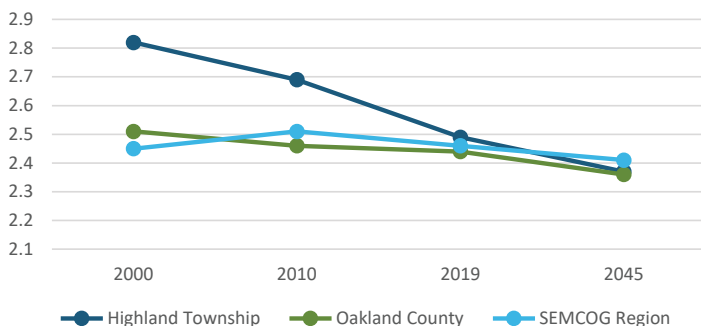
Age group	Census 2000	Census 2010	ACS 2018	% change 2000 - 2018
Under 5	1345	967	940	-30.1%
5 - 9	1406	1321	1010	-28.2%
10 - 14	1500	1468	1250	-16.7%
15 - 19	1371	1418	1511	10.2%
20 - 24	883	909	829	-6.1%
25 - 29	829	853	896	8.1%
30 - 34	969	846	924	-4.6%
35 - 39	1421	1212	1134	-20.2%
40 - 44	1613	1542	1129	-30.0%
45 - 49	1770	1816	1757	-0.7%
50 - 54	1820	1861	1774	-2.5%
55 - 59	1519	1555	1833	20.7%
60 - 64	1125	1254	1500	33.3%
65 - 69	777	903	1513	94.7%
70 - 74	531	547	903	70.1%
75 - 79	340	326	484	42.4%
80 - 84	228	235	325	42.5%
85 and up	135	169	262	94.1%

SOURCE: US CENSUS, ACS

The number of households and housing units saw a 2.3% increase between 2010 and 2020. SEMCOG data predicts a fairly significant change by 2045, with the number of households projected to increase 14.1%. Consistent with an aging population, families with children have decreased by 9.7% between 2010 and 2018, contrasted with a rise in families without children of 9.0%

Another regional trend that is impacting the Township is the number of people living in each household. Highland Township, much like the rest of the region and the United States in general. Instances of seniors living alone increased by 78% between 2010 and 2018 in Highland Township.

Figure 13. Household Size Trends



SOURCE: US CENSUS, SEMCOG

Table 25. Household Characteristics

Household Types	Census 2010	ACS 2018	% change	2045 SEMCOG
With seniors 65+	1582	2383	50.6%	3669
Without seniors	5543	5176	-6.6%	4645
2 or more persons w/out children	3284	3578	9.0%	3689
Live alone 65+	479	853	78.1%	1200
Live alone, under 65	905	909	0.4%	1286
With children	2457	2219	-9.7%	2139

SOURCE: US CENSUS, ACS, SEMCOG

Table 26. Household Size, Highland Township & Region

	2000	2010	2019	2045
Highland Township	2.82	2.69	2.49	2.37
Oakland County	2.51	2.46	2.44	2.36
SEMCOG Region	2.45	2.51	2.46	2.41

SOURCE: US CENSUS, SEMCOG



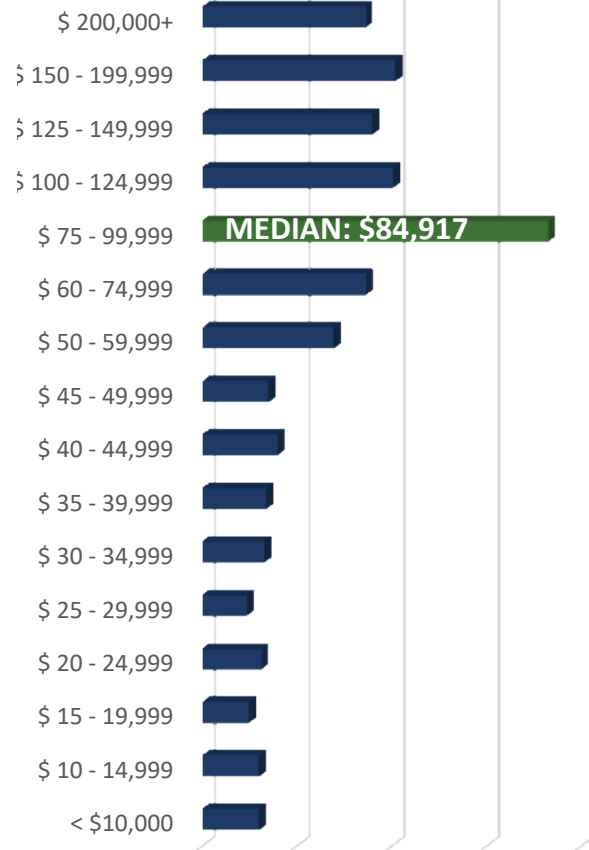
SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Highland Township's median household income increased by \$6,349 between 2010 and 2018. According to ACS 2018 estimates, the median income for Township households stands at \$84,917. Poverty rates for the Township dropped by 3.3% during the same period from 7.8 to 4.5%. This was a positive trend reflecting a rebound from the 2008 recession.

According to the SEMCOG 2045 Regional Development Forecast, the largest employment sector for Highland Township residents is in the Information & Financial Activities group, followed by Retail Trade. Healthcare Services is expected to see a large percentage increase by 2045, with the category becoming the top employment sector.

83.2% of workers are employed outside of the community; outside of the Township itself, Milford and White Lake Township are the most common commuter destinations. For positions inside the Township borders, 33.8% of workers reside in Highland Township.

Figure 14. Household Incomes 2018



SOURCE: ACS 2018, SEMCOG

Table 27. Where Residents Work

Destination	Percent	Destination	Percent
Highland Twp	16.8%	Auburn Hills	3.6%
Milford	5.2%	Farmington Hills	3.5%
White Lake Twp	4.3%	Wixom	3.5%
Out of the region, in state	4%	Novi	3.5%
Waterford Twp	3.6%	Southfield	3.4%
		Elsewhere	48.7%

SOURCE: SEMCOG

Table 28. Where Workers Commute From

Origin	Percent	Origin	Percent
Highland Twp	33.8%	Commerce Twp	3.3%
White Lake Twp	9.8%	W Bloomfield Twp	3.1%
Out of the region, in state	5.8%	Hartland Twp	3%
Waterford Twp	4.4%	Rose Twp	2.8%
Milford Twp	4.1%	Tyrone Twp	2.8%
		Elsewhere	28.1%

SOURCE: SEMCOG

Table 29. Forecasted Jobs by Industry Sector

Sector	2015	2020	2045	% change 2020 - 45
Natural Resources, Mining, & Construction	694	793	782	12.7%
Manufacturing	291	329	260	-10.7%
Wholesale Trade	284	296	290	2.1%
Retail Trade	988	1,004	856	-13.4%
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	336	347	364	8.3%
Information & Financial Activities	1,054	1,092	165	-84.3%
Professional and Technical Services & Corporate HQ	412	462	537	30.3%
Administrative, Support, & Waste Services	833	856	926	11.2%
Education Services	744	783	814	9.4%
Healthcare Services	637	703	943	35.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	591	629	658	11.3%
Other Services	548	564	527	-3.8%
Public Administration	80	81	81	1.3%

SOURCE: SEMCOG

CLIMATE

Weather influences the types of recreation that an area can support. Highland Township, like the rest of Michigan, experiences seasonal changes, which means the area can support a variety of recreational activities ranging from outdoor swimming in the summer to sledding in the winter. Generally, January is the coldest month of the year with an average temperature of 23.0° F, and July is the warmest month of the year with an average temperature of 71.0° F. January has the highest average snowfall with 11.9 inches. Snow generally falls in seven of the twelve months of the year. June has the highest average precipitation rate with 3.12 inches and February has the lowest average with 1.55 inches. Prevailing winds are from the southwest.



Table 30. Temperature & Precipitation

Month	Average Daily Temperature	Precipitation	
		Average	Average Snowfall
January	23.0	1.52	11.9
February	25.2	1.55	9.3
March	33.9	2.13	7.5
April	47.0	2.78	2.4
May	58.4	2.83	trace
June	68.1	3.12	0
July	72.1	2.52	0
August	70.4	3.07	0
September	63.2	3	0
October	52.8	2.1	0.2
November	39.3	2.47	3.7
December	27.7	2.19	9.9
Annual	48.4	29.28	44.9

SOURCE: USDA; WEATHER.COM; NOAA.GOV

TOPOGRAPHY & SOILS

Nearly all of the hills and lakes in Oakland County were formed during the retreat of the glaciers, approximately 14,000 years ago. Like much of Oakland County, Highland Township is relatively flat, but has many areas with rolling topography. Elevations range from a low of 950 feet above mean sea level in Section 36 to a high of 1,100 feet in Section 2, 5, 6, 7, 16, 18 and 21.

Soils information can be used to compare the suitability of large areas for general land uses. Soils across the Township fall into four broad categories. These categories are named after the major soils existing in each area.

- 1) Riddles-Marlette-Houghton: These soils are nearly level to steep, well drained, moderately well drained and poorly drained, have a loamy and mucky texture and are present on moraines, till plains and in bogs. This soil category is found in the northern quarter of the Township, as well as in a small section of the Township's southwest corner. The upland soils (Riddles and Marlette) are suited for cropland and pasture, or building site development and septic tank absorption fields, but slow permeability and slope of these soils could be a limitation. The Houghton soils, or muck soils, generally occur in wetlands and are not suitable for building sites, septic fields or other development uses.
- 2) Fox-Oshtemo-Houghton: This soils category includes soils that are nearly level to hilly, well drained and very poorly drained, are a loamy, sandy and mucky texture, and appear on outwash plains, moraines, beach ridges and in bogs. This soil category is found on the western boundary of the Township, as well as through the Township's northern half. A small section of the Township's southwestern corner also contains this soil category. The Fox and Oshtemo (upland) soils are suited for woodland, wildlife habitat, building sites and septic tank absorption fields. However, they could be limited by slope or poor filtering capacity. The Houghton (muck) soils are found in wetlands and not suitable for development.
- 3) Oshtemo-Spinks-Houghton: This soil category is on nearly level to steep landscape features, is well drained and very poorly drained, and is sandy and mucky in texture. They are located on outwash plains, beach ridges, and moraines and in bogs. This soil category is found in the central portion of the Township, as well as throughout the southern half of the community. The Oshtemo and Spinks (upland) soils are generally used for woodland, wildlife habitat, and parks, as well as building sites and septic systems. However, poor filtering capacity could be a limiting factor. The Houghton (muck) soils are found in wetlands and are not suitable for development.
- 4) Urban Land-Spinks-Oshtemo: Urban land soils are so disturbed that their natural characteristics have been permanently altered. The Spinks-Oshtemo soils are on nearly level to rolling terrain, are well drained sandy soils found on outwash plains, beach ridges and moraines. This soil category is located in the center of the Township, to the community's eastern boundary. The developed portions of this soil category are used for residential and commercial land uses. The undeveloped Spinks and Oshtemo soils are suitable for woodlands, playgrounds, parks and wildlife habitat, as well as new building sites and septic absorption fields.





WATER RESOURCES

Highland Township is rich in water resources. It is within the watersheds of two main river systems – the Huron River and the Shiawassee River. A “watershed” is an area of land that drains to a river, stream or other water body. The Huron River watershed covers the eastern half and northwest corner of the Township (19,076 acres), while the Shiawassee River watershed covers the remaining portions of the Township (4,076 acres). Watershed and sub-watershed boundaries are shown on the Natural Features map on page 68 of this report.

Since 2000, the Federal Clean Water Act has required communities to apply for and receive a stormwater permit to discharge stormwater runoff from developed areas into waters of the State. Stormwater is the main cause of “non-point source pollution”, or pollution that cannot be traced to a particular discharge such as an industrial or wastewater treatment plan. Rainfall or snowmelt moving over and through the ground picks up and carries pollutants to lakes, rivers, and wetlands, or even to underground sources of drinking water.

Pollutants often found in stormwater runoff are numerous and include phosphorus and nitrogen, dirt and sediments, oils/greases, vehicle lubricants, herbicides and insecticides, metals and garbage. Highland Township received its stormwater permit in 2005 after completing a watershed management plan for the Kent Lake Subwatershed of the Huron River. This watershed management plan has implications for recreation planning in the Township because parks and other areas used for recreation can contribute to stormwater pollution, or be models of how land development should occur to protect water resources. Protecting water resources means clean drinking water supplies, property values, healthy wildlife habitats, and economic advantages derived from water-based recreation such as fishing, swimming and other activities.

The Kent Lake Watershed Management Plan identified several problems occurring in this watershed:

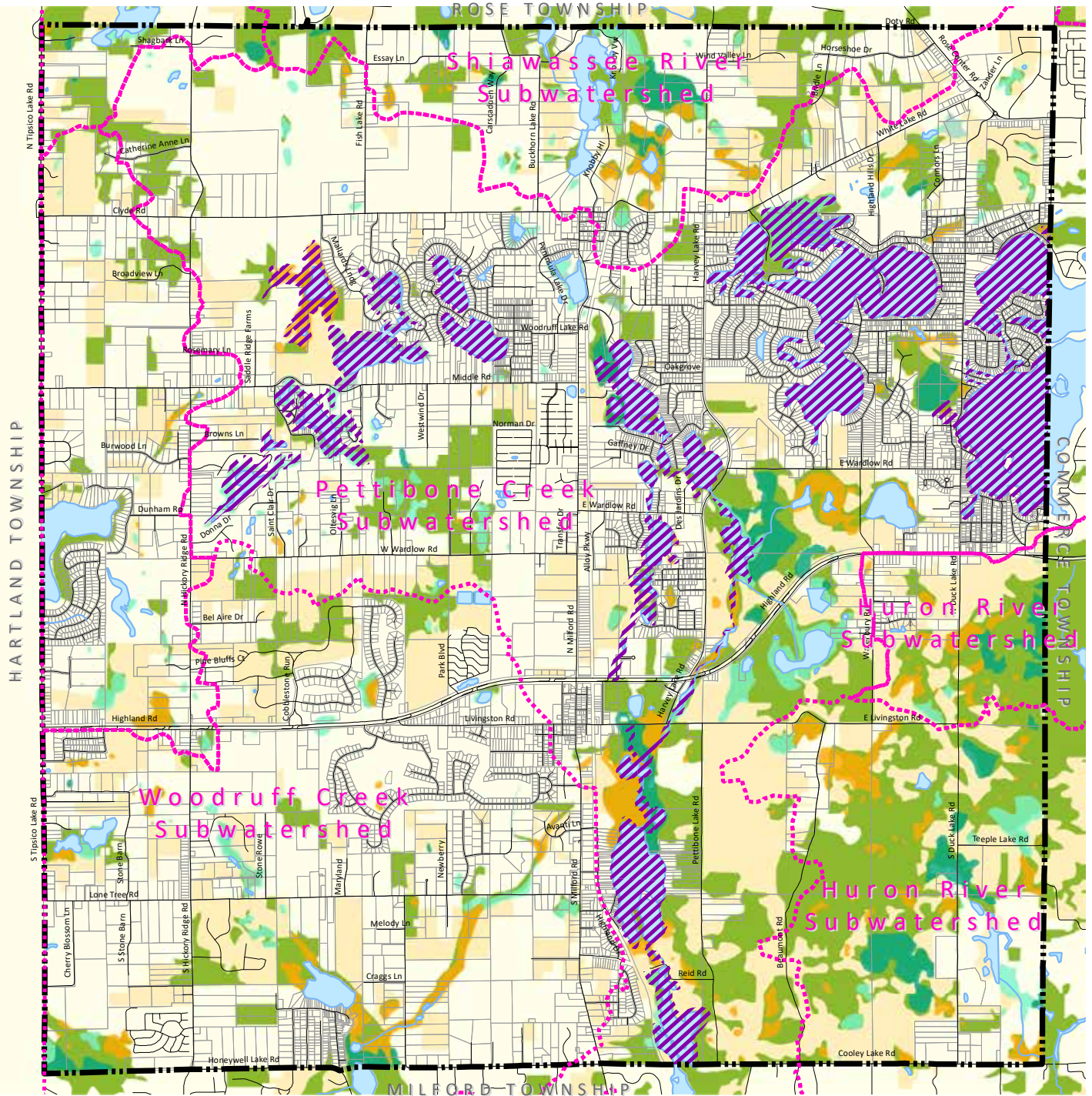
- 1) Phosphorus loading from over fertilization of lawns, sedimentation from construction and development, and failing septic systems can cause algae blooms in lakes, which reduces dissolved oxygen and threatens fish and other aquatic organisms.
- 2) Nitrogen loading from human (failing septic systems) and animal waste, decomposing organic matter and runoff from fertilizers also cause algae blooms in lakes.

- 3) Suspended sediments carry absorbed phosphorus and decrease dissolved oxygen levels in water bodies. Sources of suspended sediments include runoff from disturbed land (construction activities and impervious surfaces such as roads and rooftops), poorly operating wastewater treatment plans, and erosion from stream banks.
- 4) Dissolved oxygen is depleted by excessive plant growth. As the plants die and start to decompose, they use up the oxygen in the water. In turn, this suffocates desirable fish, plants and other aquatic organisms vital to a healthy lake. As described above, excessive plant growth can be caused by increased levels of phosphorus and nitrogen coming from stormwater runoff and failing septic systems.

Because a key goal of the Kent Lake Subwatershed Management Plan is to restore water bodies for all recreation activities, including fishing and swimming, management and development of Township-owned recreation lands can be a part of the solution by implementing the following actions.











- 1) Protect existing wetlands in Township parks.
- 2) Provide riparian (lake/stream/wetland) buffers between developed areas of parks and water resources.

Map 5. Natural Features



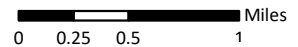
Natural Features

Highland Township
Oakland County

- | | | | |
|---|------------------|---|---------------------|
|  | Grassland |  | Open Water |
|  | Forested Upland |  | Rivers & Streams |
|  | Scrub-Shrub |  | Floodplain |
|  | Forested Wetland |  | Watershed Subbasins |
|  | Emergent Wetland | | |
|  | Aquatic Bed | | |



Source: State of Michigan



Carlisle/Wortman Associates
October 2020
Source: Oakland County GIS



Highland Township has nearly two dozen lakes within its boundaries. These lakes have attracted residents to the area for both desirable residential settings and water-based active and passive recreation. The lakes cover approximately 1,682 acres, or 7.2 percent of the Township’s land area.

Many of the lakes throughout the Township are connected to one another by streams that drain one lake into another. For example, the Pettibone Lake complex creates a chain of lakes that drains into Milford Township.

Associated with streams and lakes are 1,711 acres of floodplains across the Township. Floodplains provide important storage areas for flood waters that occur after a large rain event, and during the spring high water season. Preserving floodplains helps to protect property and human life by limiting the flood hazards in built areas of the community.

Floodplains are shown on the Natural Features Map on page 43. The Township also has significant wetland resources, which are mainly located in association with its lakes and streams. Wetlands cover a total of 1,861 acres of land within the Township, and are categorized as Emergent wetlands (661 acres), Forested wetlands (478 acres), and Scrub-Shrub wetlands (722 acres). These categories correspond to the vegetation growing in each wetland. Emergent wetlands are dominated by herbaceous plants, such as cattails and reeds; forested wetlands are dominated by large trees; and scrub-shrub wetlands are dominated by lower growing shrubs. These resources are also shown on the Natural Features Map. Wetlands are beneficial because they store stormwater runoff, and treat this runoff by allowing sediments to settle out of the water, and absorbing pollutants through wetland plants. They are also key to the life cycle of many species of wildlife.

Table 31. Highland Township Lakes

Sector	Location (Section)
White Lake	12,13
Duck Lake	11, 12, 14
Lower Pettibone Lake	27, 34
Knoblok Lake	3
Dunham Lake	18, 19
Upper Pettibone Lake	10, 15
Moore Lake	34
Grass Lake	13
Leonard Lake	14,15
Woodruff Lake	9
Rowe Lake	32
Waterbury Lake	23
Harvey Lake	15
Highland Lake	17
Alderman Lake	14, 23
Pickerel Lake	27
Peninsula Lake	10
Downey Lake	22
Murray Lake	8
Charlick Lake	9
Tomahawk Lake	9
Gourd Lake	9
Kellogg Lake	8,9
Taggett Lake	8,9
Middle Lake	
Huff Lake	15
Winegar Lake (WMP)	
Total # Lakes	28

Important Habitats

In 2000, Highland Township participated in a study conducted by the Michigan Natural Feature Inventory staff to identify important habitats within the Township. This study, called the Shiawassee and Huron Resource Preservation Project (S&H), identified 18 different areas of the Township that had high quality environmental resources. Each site was ranked using a point system of eleven possible points, based on five criteria: intactness, upland and wetland complexes, riparian corridors, significant forested tracts, and potential for restoration.

The top ranked site (with 11 points) was the Haven Hill Complex, located in Highland Recreation Area. Second and third ranked sites, with nine points, were the Pettibone Lake Complex and the Alderman Lake Complex. These areas are vital habitats and should be considered for targeted protection practices. These areas are shown on page 71.

Vegetation

Oakland County lies in a deciduous forest zone in which the primary forest type is Beech and Maple. These plants prefer a deep organic soil that has plenty of moisture. Other vegetation types typical of the area include forested wetlands, emergent wetlands, bogs (acid wetlands), lake and stream sides (riparian areas), meadows and fields.

Five major forest types are found in the County:

- floodplain forests,
- mixed hardwoods,
- oak-hickory,
- beech-maple, and
- pine-hardwoods.

Early records indicate that conifers constituted an important element in Michigan's original forests; however, pure evergreen forests are characteristic only of the northern and western part of the Upper Peninsula.

Birch and tamarack wetlands, the latter being rare in the County, and several kinds of marshes are found in the area. Cattail marshes are most easily identified. In addition, there are dogwood-holly marshes, a few dogwood-willow marshes, as well as sedge-rush marshes.

A fairly unique environment in Oakland County is the bog. These are generally dominated by a single species, either tamarack, cedar or spruce, with a supporting shrub layer of leatherleaf, rosemary, and poison sumac.

The County's numerous lakes are not identical in soils quality and water clarity and, therefore, the vegetation supported on the shores is varied. Some lakes are completely enclosed by wetlands, others have forested, emergent wetland, or sandy shores.

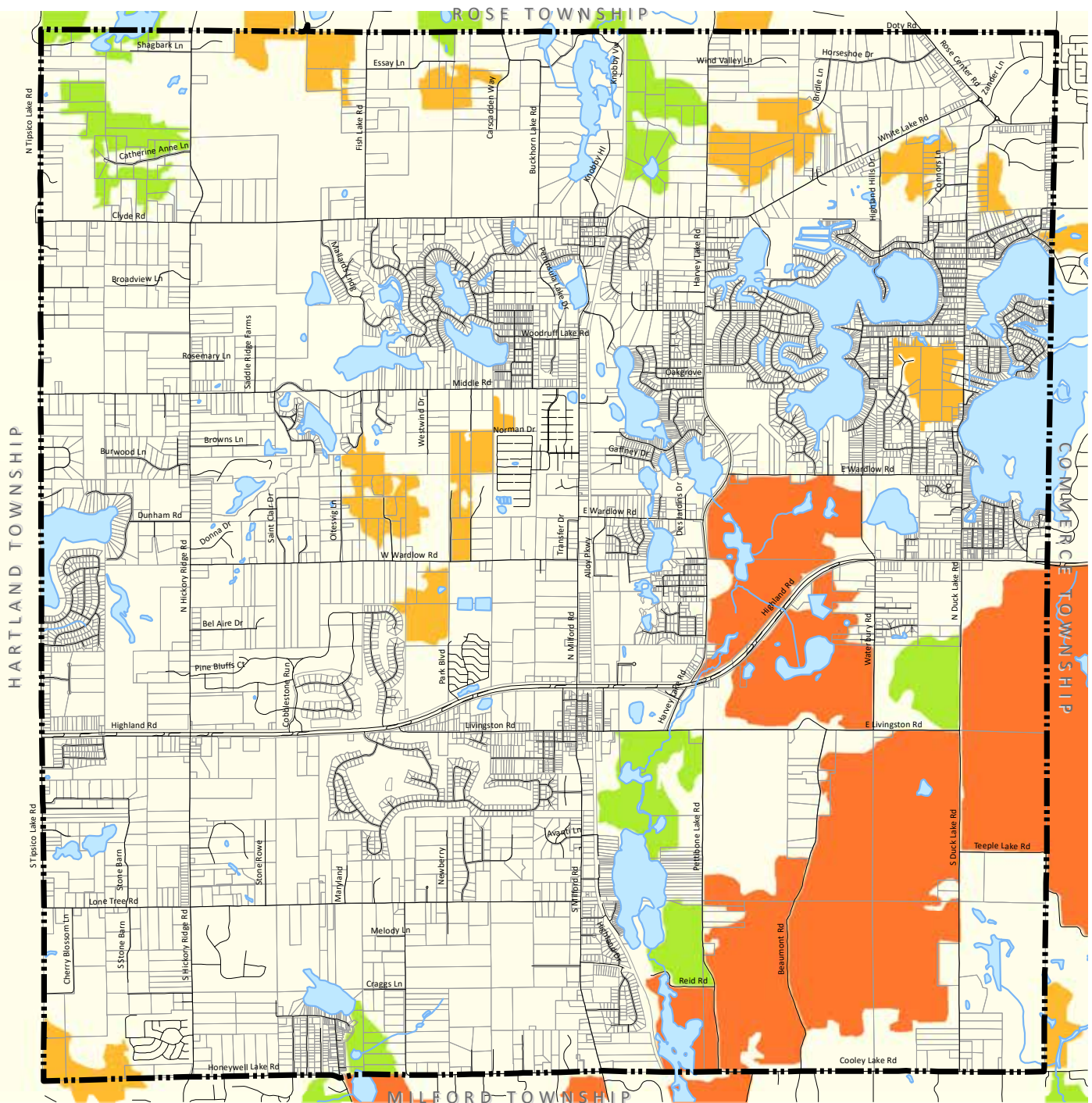
The land is low and level along most water courses that have not experienced flashy flows due to development and increased stormwater runoff. In the case where a natural environment has been maintained, the streams generally flow sluggishly in and out of the lakes and wetlands. Plants typical of this environment are similar to those floodplain forests and in wet meadows.

Wildlife

The larger species have moved north as urbanization has occurred. Many townships in Oakland County have numerous game species, such as deer, pheasant and ducks, and have hunting seasons on these animals. In addition, other wildlife species that have successfully adapted to urban life inhabit the Township, including raccoons, muskrats, opossum, turkey, rabbits, mice, rats, snakes, geese, birds, and fish.

Fishing is the major wildlife recreation pastime in the County, due to its abundance of lakes. The Department of Natural Resources Fisheries and Wildlife Division stocks some of the lakes and streams. Some of the county parks were stocked in the 70s and 80s with bass, pike, and rainbow trout, which seem to be preferred by anglers.

Map 6. Michigan Natural Features Inventory



Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI)

Highland Township
Oakland County

- High Priority Area
- High Priority Area
- High Priority Area



0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

Source: MDNR,
Michigan Natural Features Inventory

Carlisle/Wortman Associates
October 2020
Source: Oakland County GIS



EXISTING LAND USE

Land uses in the Township have changed substantially over the past several decades. Oakland County's methodology used to describe land use types has been modified over the years as well, making a direct comparison between decades difficult. Despite this challenge, a few trends are clear.

While it still retains much of its rural character, the Township seen a dramatic increase in single-family residential land use since 1990. Concurrently, vacant land has been diminishing at a fast rate. Residential development consists of large lots, small cottage developments around lakes, and the newer "cluster" development pattern, which reduces lot size in trade for open space in the subdivision.

Commercial and office land uses have also increased, and continue to be oriented along M-59 and the southern portion of Milford Road. Similarly, higher intensity industrial land uses have increased as well, although at a somewhat slower rate, and are located on the north portion of Milford Road, as well as along M-59. Extractive operations are located in the north central area of the Township.

Recreation and conservation areas have increased and now constitute 22.4% of the total land uses in the community. The large amount of recreation and conservation acreage is primarily due to the Highland State Recreation Area, which covers 3,895 acres within the Township (5,900 acres total). Increases in recreation and conservation areas can also be attributed to the newer cluster pattern of residential development, often called Open Space or Conservation Subdivisions. This development pattern clusters homes close together, and leaves much of the site in an undeveloped condition. This pattern helps to preserve important natural features and the character that people desire in the area.

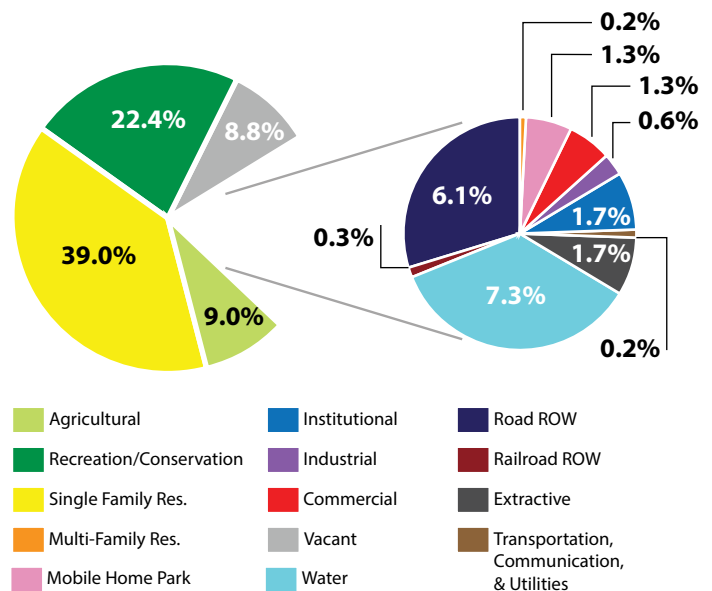
The Existing Land Use map on page 73 illustrates the land use distribution in the Township.

Table 32. Existing Land Use 2019

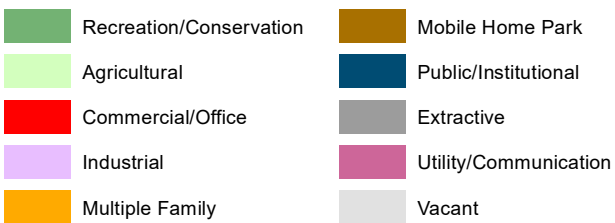
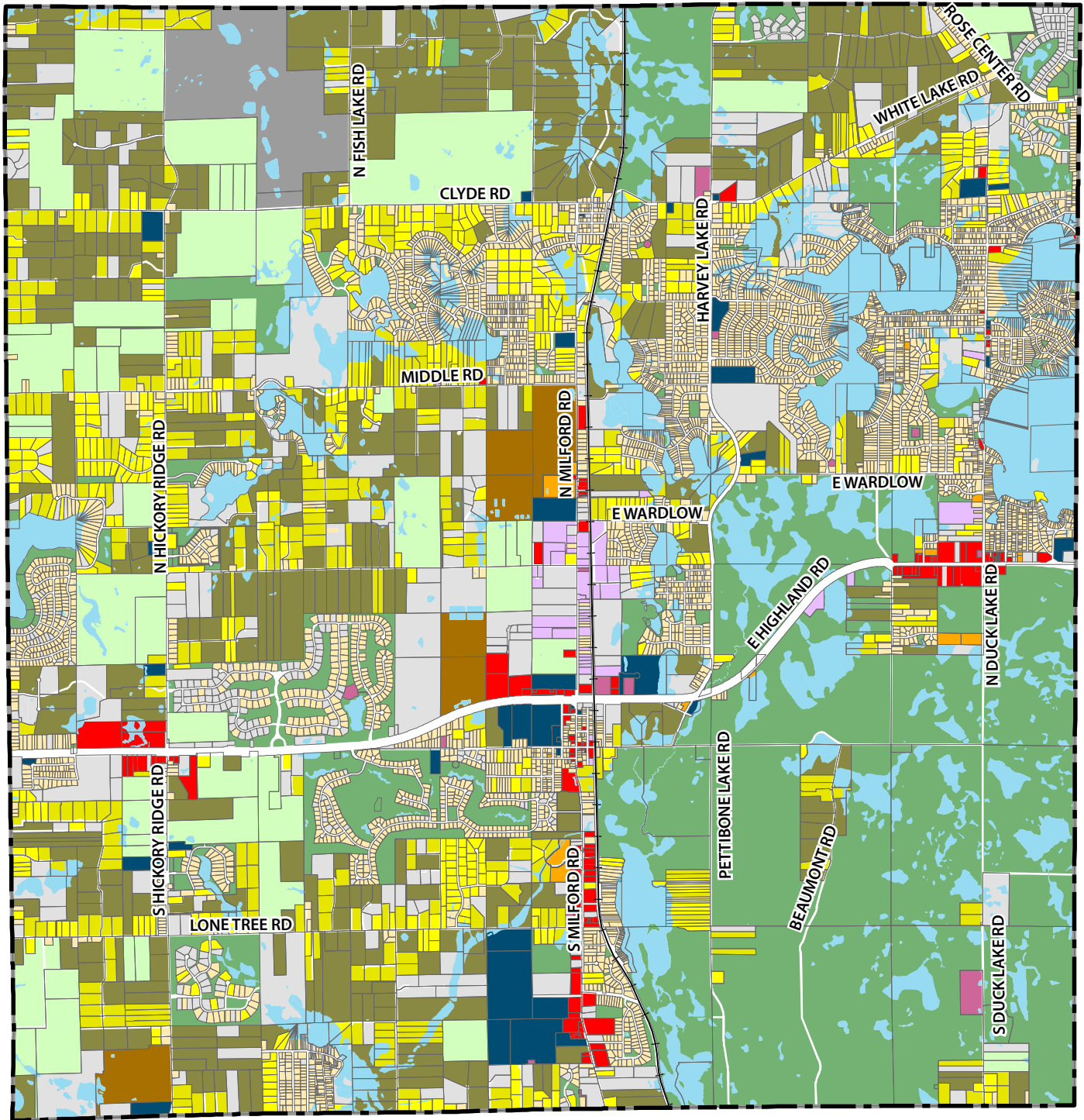
Land Use	Acres	Percent
Agricultural	2,075.0	9.0%
Single Family Residential	9,020.4	39.0%
Multi-Family Residential	56.2	0.2%
Mobile Home Park	310.3	1.3%
Commercial	309.2	1.3%
Industrial	135.6	0.6%
Public / Institutional	388.9	1.7%
Recreation/Conservation	5,189.1	22.4%
Transportation / Communication / Utility	49.8	0.2%
Extractive	396.1	1.7%
Vacant	2,048.0	8.8%
Water	1,687.8	7.3%
Railroad Right-of-Way	70.3	0.3%
Road Right-of-Way	1,419.4	6.1%
TOTAL AREA	23,156.1	

SOURCE: OAKLAND COUNTY GIS

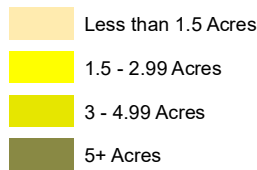
Figure 15. Existing Land Use 2019



Map 7. Existing Land Use 2019

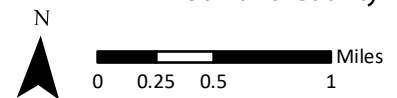


Single Family Residential



Existing Land Use

Highland Township
Oakland County



Carlisle/Wortman Associates
October 2020
Source: Oakland County GIS



PLANNING INITIATIVES

Highland Township continues to grow and evolve as new residents are attracted to the community's beauty and amenities. While change is inevitable, it is important to look ahead and plan for the needs of new and existing residents. The Township's Master Plan and County planning initiatives address broad goals to direct future change for the benefit of the Township and County.

2012 Highland Township Non-Motorized Plan

Developed as an addendum to the 2009 Recreation Plan, the 2012 Highland Township Non-Motorized Plan offers a vision for a comprehensive trail network in the Township. The plan acts as a valuable reference point as it establishes priority routes and provides information on trail types. While the facility cost information is somewhat out of date, the overall information provided in the plan provides valuable insight into types of amenities, implementation challenges, and priorities for trail and path development in Highland Township.

2017 Highland Township Land Use Surveys

The Planning Commission performed a series of resident land use surveys in 2017 as an initial step in approaching the Master Land Use plan review. In general, the findings are consistent with previous surveys, in that the residents are attracted to the open space, lake front living and "rural" atmosphere of the community, and that in general, they were satisfied with shopping and services. Of relevance to the Parks & Recreation Master Plan, residents indicated a desire for local officials to invest in bike paths and road improvements.

Oakland County Parks Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan: 2018-2022

The 10-member Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission (OCPRC) oversees 13 facilities totaling just over 6,700 acres. Highland Oaks, located in the northern section of the Township, contains over 300 acres offering a wide variety of recreation opportunities for area residents, including boating, equestrian facilities, hunting, and more.

The OCPRC adopted their 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan in February, 2018. The County is currently working on a Baseline Park Analysis and Park Vision and Facility Concepts.

SEMCOG Parks and Recreation Plan for Southeast Michigan

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

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

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

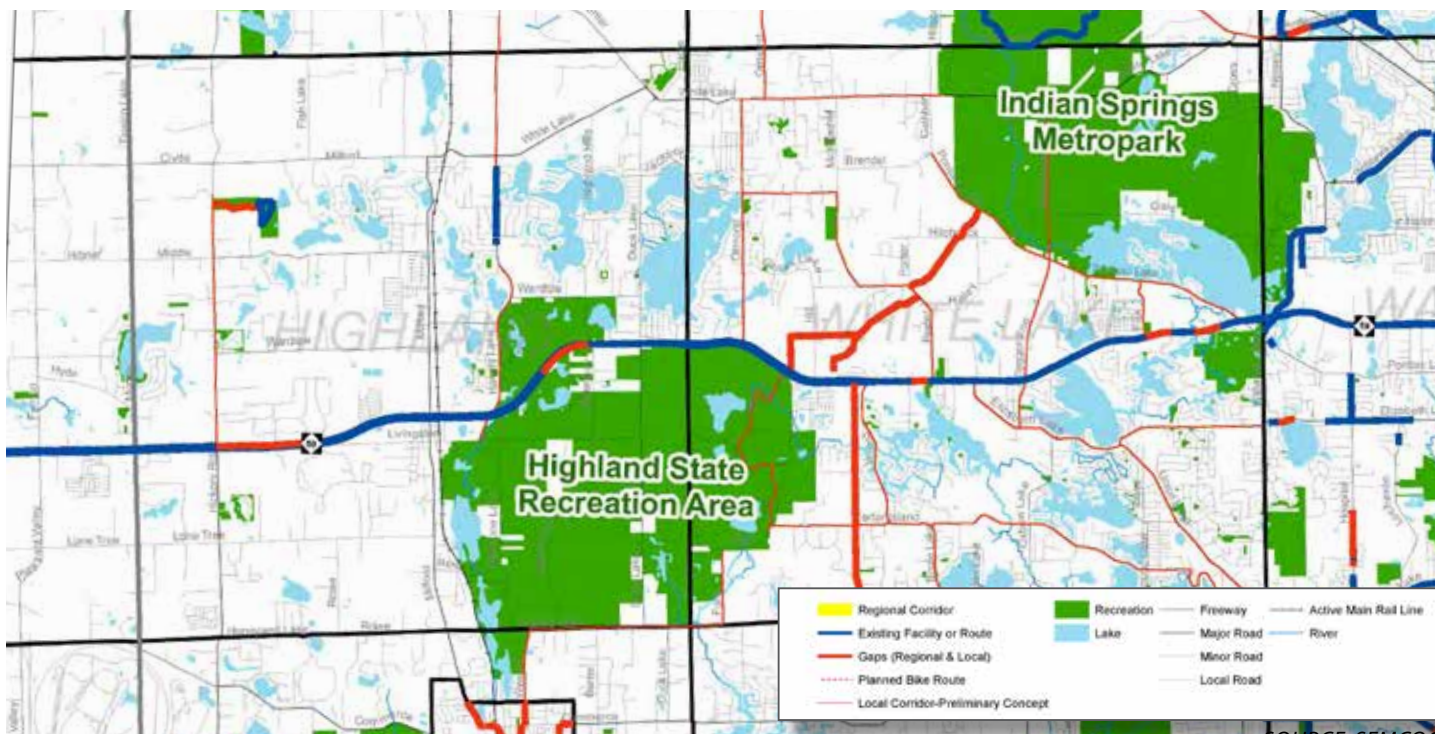
SEMCOG 2045 Regional Transportation Plan / 2014 Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan for SE Michigan

The 2045 Regional Transportation Plan provides broad transportation recommendations for projects across the seven-county region, with a budget of over \$5 billion proposed for transportation infrastructure improvements. While this plan focuses on motorized infrastructure, it does provide a chance to look at upcoming projects and plan accordingly for other related infrastructure improvements.

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

Maps of existing and planned facilities shows existing routes along M-59 and preliminary concept routes along Harvey Lake Road and Hickory Ridge Road. Concept routes are also shown running east-west on the southern edge of the Highland State Recreation Area, and connect to Milford via Weaver Road.

Figure 16. Detail: SEMCOG 2014 Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan



SOURCE: SEMCOG

Major Trail Projects

The State of Michigan and Oakland County in particular has seen a boom in non-motorized projects in recent years. The projects are often interconnected, and development of one segment can have a significant impact on existing and planned developments in other communities. If trails can be established south to Milford, Highland Township residents will have access to an expansive network of trail facilities.

Commerce Township and the cities of Walled Lake and Wixom are in the process of completing the **Michigan Air Line Trail**, a 4.5 mile route utilizing the former Airline Railroad corridor. The property was acquired in 2017 utilizing a combination of Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) and Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) grants. In 2018, a pedestrian bridge was constructed over M-5 in Commerce Township. The Trail's grand opening was scheduled for spring of 2020, but was delayed due to coronavirus concerns.

The Michigan Air Line Trail will be a key segment of the **Great Lake to Lake Trails-Route**, which will stretch from Port Huron to South Haven. This 275-mile route is comprised of a number of smaller trails including the **Lakes Community Trail**, the **West Bloomfield Trail**, the **Clinton River Trail**, and the **Macomb Orchard Trail**.

This continuous east-west trail network will also connect to the **M-5/I-275 Metro Trail**, extending from Monroe County to Commerce Township. MDOT has been rehabilitating many sections of the trail and includes the replacement of bridge structures, surface reconstruction, and trail widening.

Ultimately, Highland Township residents will have the opportunity to use the Great Lake to Lake Trail to connect to the **Iron Belle Trail (IBT)**, a 2,000+ mile network stretching from Belle Isle in Detroit to Iron Mountain in the far western Upper Peninsula. The IBT includes a 1,273 mile long hiking route which winds along the west side of the Lower Peninsula and borders Lake Superior in the Upper Peninsula, and a 791 mile long biking trail on the east side of the state and following US-2 in the Upper Peninsula. Since 2012, over \$68 million in grant and local funds and \$155 million in private donations have been collected to complete the trail.

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

Figure 17. Michigan Air Line Trail



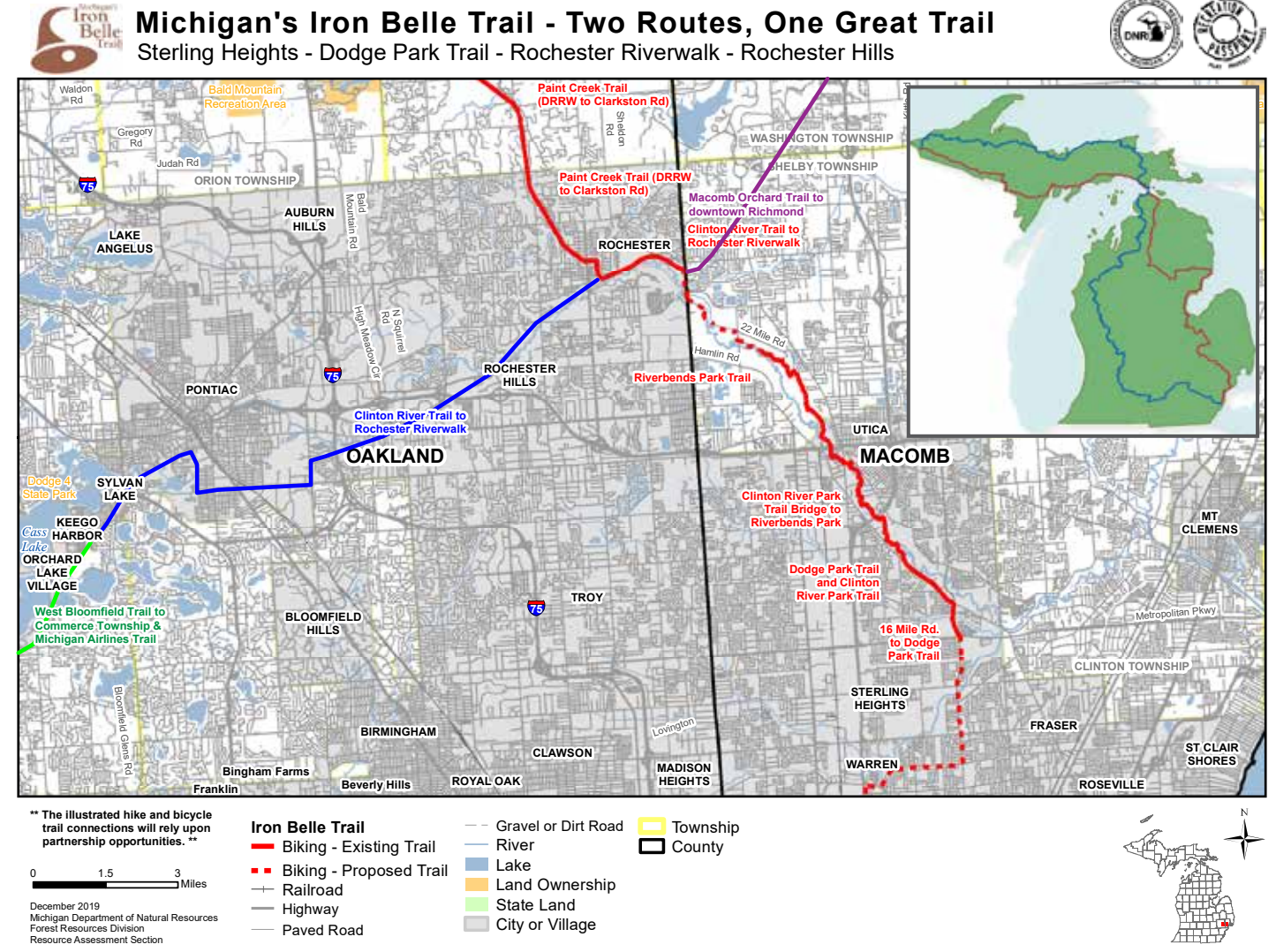
SOURCE: CITY OF WIXOM

Figure 18. Great Lake-to-Lake Trail Alignment



SOURCE: BIKESIGNUP.COM

Figure 19. Detail: Iron Belle Trail, Oakland County



SOURCE: REVISED FROM MDNR MAP

Highland Matters

Susan Med shared a post. 20 hrs

Charter Township of Highland, Michigan posted a job. 20 hrs


We need your help!
 Highland Township is seeking resident input to help us develop the 2021 – 2025 Parks & Recreation Master Plan.

An online survey will be available from September 7 through October 7, 2020.
 The survey can be accessed at <https://survey.sogosurvey.com/r/aVSenu>. Hard copies of the survey are available upon request.

If you have any questions please contact Jennifer Frederick at 248-887-3791 ext. 6 or email at info@highlandtwp.org

About
 The Highland Matters group is focused on strengthening the community of Highland, Michigan and the surrounding areas. Please look at the group ... [See more](#)

- Public**
Anyone can see who's in the group and what they post
- Visible**
Anyone can find this group.
- Highland, Michigan**
- General group**



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF HIGHLAND, MICHIGAN

Resident
 Highland · Full-time


Like Comment

Write a comment...

nextdoor View on Nextdoor

 Administrative Assistant Karen Provo, Charter Township of Highland **AGENCY**

Highland Township is seeking resident input to help us develop the 2021 – 2025 Parks & Recreation Master Plan. An online survey will be available from September 7 through October 7, 2020. The survey can be accessed at <https://survey.sogosurvey.com/r/aVSenu>. Hard copies of the survey are... [See more](#)



General · Sep 3 to subscribers of Charter Township of Highland

😊 Thank 🗨️ Private message

[View or Reply](#) [View or Reply](#)

This message is intended for info@highlandtwp.net. [Unsubscribe here](#). Nextdoor, 875 Stevenson Street, Suite 700, San Francisco, CA 94103

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION STATE OF MICHIGAN COUNTY OF OAKLAND

Lynn Donohue being duly sworn, deposes and says that the annexed printed copy of a notice was taken from the SPINAL COLUMN NEWSWEEKLY, a newspaper printed and circulated in said State and County, and that said notice was published in said newspaper on the following date(s):

December 2, 2020 Legal Notice

That (s)he is the agent of the printers of above said newspaper and knows well the facts stated herein.

Subscribed and sworn before me on this 2nd day of December, 2020



Lynn A. Donohue
Notary Public, Oakland County, Michigan
My Commission Expires 06/16/2023



Highland Charter Township is seeking public input regarding the Highland Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources requires a minimum 30-day public review process as part of the master planning process. A formal public hearing for adoption of the Plan will be held upon completion of the 30-day review period.

A hard copy of the draft master plan is available for review at the following locations:

- Highland Township Hall, 205 N John St, Highland, Michigan
- The draft plan is also available online on the Township's website at www.highlandtwp.net, or can be directly accessed at <https://www.calameo.com/read/005107673326e3368a26d>.
- For questions or comments, please call the Township offices at (248) 887-3791 X 6.

SON 12/2/20

**AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION
STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF OAKLAND**

Lynn Donohue being duly sworn, deposes and says that the annexed printed copy of a notice was taken from the SPINAL COLUMN NEWSWEEKLY, a newspaper printed and circulated in said State and County, and that said notice was published in said newspaper on the following date(s):

December 23, 2020 Legal Notice

That (s)he is the agent of the printers of above said newspaper and knows well the facts stated herein.

Subscribed and sworn before me on this 23rd day of December, 2020

umnonline.com

The Spinal Column

Public Notices



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Highland Charter Township is seeking public input regarding the Highland Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The hearing will take place as part of the regularly scheduled Board of Trustees meeting at 6:30 p.m. on January 4, 2021. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, meetings are held virtually and can be accessed via the Township website at www.highlandtwp.net.

A draft copy of the plan has been available for review since November 13, 2020 and will remain available through the date of the hearing. The plan can be viewed at the following locations:

- Highland Township Hall, 205 N John St, Highland, Michigan
- The draft plan is also available online on the Township's website at www.highlandtwp.net, or can be directly accessed at <https://www.calamep.com/read/005107673326e3368a26d>.

For questions or comments, please call the Township offices at (248) 887-3791.

SCN 12/23/20

APPROVED

Park Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, December 10, 2020
Highland Township Auditorium
VIA Zoom

The meeting was called to order via Zoom, by Jennifer Frederick at 6:40 PM.

Members Present:

Rick Hamill, Jennifer Frederick, Roscoe Smith, Brian Howe, Melissa Dashevich, Angela Willis, Elizabeth Corwin, Matthew Robert, Jim Lloyd.

Visitors

Chris Nordstrom, Landscape Architect/Planner, Carlisle Wortman Associates

Approval of Minutes:

N/A

Draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2021-2025

The committee discussed the Draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan dated 11-05-2020.

The committee discussed whether the draft plan language covered the possibility of working with Consumers Energy to acquire a pathway along the natural gas pipeline that runs north to south through Highland Township. They decided it was covered in the goals, objections and action plans.

The committee discussed the Huron Valley Schools properties and other edits.

It was moved by Jennifer Frederick and supported by Roscoe Smith to recommend approval to the Highland Township Board of Trustees the draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan, dated 2021-2025 to include the changes discussed.

The motion passed unanimously with 10-yes votes and 0-no votes

Adjournment

It was moved by Rick Hamill and supported by Roscoe Smith to adjourn. Motion was passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer L Frederick

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF HIGHLAND
REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
January 4, 2021 - 6:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Rick Hamill, Supervisor
Tami Flowers, Clerk
Jenny Frederick, Treasurer
Judy Cooper, Trustee – Absent (death in the family)
Brian Howe, Trustee, Trustee
Beth Lewis, Trustee
Joseph Salvia, Trustee
Also Present: Ken Chapman, Fire Chief
Gary Dovre, Township Attorney
Matt Snyder, Lieutenant OCSO
Visitors: 6

Approval of Agenda:

Mr. Salvia moved to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Howe supported, and the motion carried with the following roll call vote: Hamill – yes, Flowers – yes, Frederick – yes, Howe – yes, Lewis – yes, Salvia – yes.

Consent Agenda Approval:

- a) December 7, 2020 Board of Trustees Minutes
- b) List of Bills dated 12/28/20 plus additions
- c) Fire Fighter/Paramedic Positions

Mr. Salvia moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Mr. Howe supported, and the motion carried with the following roll call vote: Hamill – yes, Flowers – yes, Frederick – yes, Howe – yes, Lewis – yes, Salvia – yes.

Receive and File:

Activity Council Minutes – November 11, 2020
Activity Center Director's Report – November 2020
Building Department Report – November 2020
Financial Report – October 2020
Fire Department Report – November 2020
Library Director's Report – December 2020
Library Board Minutes – November 3, 2020
Ordinance Enforcements – November 2020
Ordinance Inspections – November 2020
Treasurer's Report – November 2020
2021 Dental Renewal Summary

Announcements and Information Inquiry:

- a) Township offices will be closed Monday, January 18th, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Rick Hamill has completed some of the advance work at the Community Sharing site. The passing of Phil Rashid and Bill Bullard was announced.

Public Comment:

None

Public Hearing:

- a) **Dunleavy and Leonard Lakes Special Assessment District**

The Public Hearing was opened at 6:42 p.m. and closed at 6:46 p.m.

Mr. Hamill moved to set the final Public Hearing for the Dunleavy and Leonard Lakes Special Assessment District for the next Board Meeting scheduled on February 1, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. Mrs. Lewis supported, and the motion carried with the following roll call vote: Hamill – yes, Flowers – yes, Frederick – yes, Howe – yes, Lewis – yes, Salvia – yes.

Mr. Hamill moved to amend the motion to specify the Public Hearing is for confirmation of the special assessment roll that is to be prepared by the Supervisor and filed by the time required by statute, and the Board at this meeting is approving the cost estimates, plans and specifications. Mrs. Lewis supported, and the motion carried with the following roll call vote: Hamill – yes, Flowers – yes, Frederick – yes, Howe – yes, Lewis – yes, Salvia – yes.

- b) **Highland Township Parks and Recreation Plan**

The Public Hearing was opened at 6:53 p.m. and closed at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Chris Nordstrom from Carlise Wortman reviewed the Plan.

Mr. Hamill moved to approve the Highland Township Parks and Recreation Plan as presented in draft dated 12-14-2020. Mrs. Frederick supported, and the motion carried with the following roll call vote: Hamill – yes, Flowers – yes, Frederick – yes, Howe – yes, Lewis – yes, Salvia – yes.

New Business:

- a) **Hire Steve Davies as Part Time Building Inspector**

Mr. Hamill moved to hire Steve Davies as Part Time Building Inspector at a rate of \$30.00 per hour not to exceed 29 hours per week with a start date after January 18, 2021. Mrs. Frederick supported, and the motion carried with the following roll call vote: Hamill – yes, Flowers – yes, Frederick – yes, Howe – yes, Lewis – yes, Salvia – yes.

b) Annual Fire Fighter Physicals thru Bio Care

Mr. Hamill moved to approve Bio Care to perform the annual Fire Fighter physicals at a cost not to exceed \$9,000. Mr. Howe supported, and the motion carried with the following roll call vote: Hamill – yes, Flowers – yes, Frederick – yes, Howe – yes, Lewis – yes, Salvia – yes.

c) Budget Amendment – Fire Fund Capital

Mr. Hamill moved to approve the Fire Fund Capital Budget Amendment as presented. Mr. Salvia supported, and the motion carried with the following roll call vote: Hamill – yes, Flowers – yes, Frederick – yes, Howe – yes, Lewis – yes, Salvia – yes.

Mr. Hamill moved to approve the Fire Expenses Budget Amendment as presented. Mr. Salvia supported, and the motion carried with the following roll call vote: Hamill – yes, Flowers – yes, Frederick – yes, Howe – yes, Lewis – yes, Salvia – yes.

e) WOTA Second Inter-Local Agreement for Transportation Services

Mr. Hamill moved to adopt a Resolution approving the City of Walled Lake as a voting and contributing member of WOTA and authorize the Supervisor to sign a Second Amended Inter-Local Agreement for Transportation Services to provide for that. Mr. Salvia supported, and the motion carried with the following roll call vote: Hamill – yes, Flowers – yes, Frederick – yes, Howe – yes, Lewis – yes, Salvia – yes.

Kim Viener was complimented on the good work she has done as the WOTA Director.

Closed Session:

Possible closed session requested by Fire Chief regarding strategy connected with negotiation of collective bargaining agreement with Michigan Association of Fire Fighters Union (POC Paid on Call)

No Closed Session

f) Agreement between Charter Township of Highland and Michigan Association of Fire Fighters Union

Mr. Hamill moved to approve the Agreement between Charter Township of Highland and Michigan Association of Fire Fighters Union (POW Paid on Call) as presented. Mr. Howe supported, and the motion carried with the following roll call vote: Hamill – yes, Flowers – yes, Frederick – yes, Howe – yes, Lewis – yes, Salvia – yes.

The attorney credited Chief Chapman for his efforts in negotiating the contract. It went a lot smoother because the guys respect the Chief.

Adjourn:

Supervisor Hamill adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.



Tami Flowers, MiPMC
Highland Township Clerk



Rick A. Hamill
Highland Township Supervisor



**RESOLUTION 21-03 TO ADOPT THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP HIGHLAND
PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2021 – 2025**

At a regular meeting of the Charter Township of Highland Board of Trustees held on the 1st day of February 2021:

Present: Rick Hamill, Tami Flowers, Jennifer Frederick, Judy Cooper, Brian Howe, Beth Lewis, and Joe Salvia

Absent: None

The following resolution was offered by Mr. Hamill and supported by Mrs. Cooper:

WHEREAS: Charter Township of Highland has undertaken the update of its five-year recreation plan which describes the Township's physical and social characteristics, existing parks and recreation facilities, and the desired actions to be taken to improve our system of parks and recreation facilities during the period of 2021 through 2025; and

WHEREAS: Township residents were given the opportunity to provide input through an online survey which was made available from September 2 through October 15, 2020; and during a public hearing held on January 4, 2021; and

WHEREAS: The Highland Township Parks, Recreation, & Trails Committee reviewed the 2021 – 2025 Parks & Recreation Master Plan for completeness and accuracy and deemed that the Plan meets the desires and needs of the community and recommended approval to the Highland Township Board; and

WHEREAS: The Plan was made available for public review in a manner required by law and all comments from the public have been considered by the Parks, Recreation, & Trails Committee and the Township Board; and

WHEREAS: The Highland Township Board agrees that the Parks & Recreation Master Plan was developed for the benefit of the entire community;

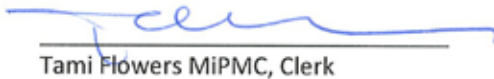
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Charter Township of Highland Board of Trustees approves the adoption of the Highland Township Parks & Recreation Master Plan 2021 – 2025.

The motion carried with the following roll call vote:

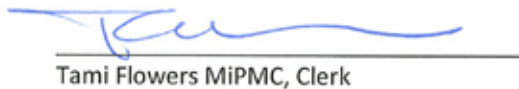
Ayes: Hamill, Flowers, Frederick, Cooper, Howe, Lewis, and Salvia
Nays: None
Abstained: None

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED


Rick A. Hamill, Supervisor


Tami Flowers MiPMC, Clerk

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified and elected Clerk of the Charter Township of Highland, Oakland County, Michigan, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of the resolution enacted by the Township Board at a regular meeting held on the 1st day of February 2021, the original of which is on file in my office.


Tami Flowers MiPMC, Clerk



Carlisle | Wortman
ASSOCIATES, INC.

117 NORTH FIRST STREET SUITE 70 ANN ARBOR, MI 48104 734.662.2200 734.662.1935 FAX

January 27, 2021

Kristen Wiltfang
Principal Planner
Economic Development & Community Affairs
Executive Office Building
2100 Pontiac Lake Road
Building 41W
Waterford, Michigan 48328

Dear Ms. Wiltfang:

The Highland Township Board of Trustees adopted the attached Parks & Recreation Master Plan at a meeting held on January 4, 2021. The plan and Certification Checklist have been uploaded to the MDNR website for their review and approval. The plan will be subject to future review and updates as deemed necessary by the Highland Township Board of Trustees and the Parks, Recreation, & Sidewalk Advisory Board.

Please feel free to contact Highland Township or myself if you have any comments regarding this plan.

Thank you for your consideration,

CARLISLE/WORTMAN ASSOC., INC.

Chris Nordstrom, PLA, ASLA
Landscape Architect

cc. Jennifer Frederick, Treasurer

*Richard K. Carlisle, President Douglas J. Lewan, Executive Vice President John L. Enos, Principal
David Scurto, Principal Benjamin R. Carlisle, Principal Sally M. Elmiger, Principal Craig Strong, Principal R. Donald Wortman, Principal
Laura K. Kreps, Associate Paul Montagno, Associate*



Carlisle | Wortman
ASSOCIATES, INC.

117 NORTH FIRST STREET SUITE 70 ANN ARBOR, MI 48104 734.662.2200 734.662.1935 FAX

January 27, 2021

Tyler Klifman
Regional Review Office
Southeast Michigan Council of Governments
1001 Woodward Avenue, Suite 1400
Detroit, Michigan 48226

Dear Mr. Klifman:

The Highland Township Board of Trustees adopted the attached Parks & Recreation Master Plan at a meeting held on January 4, 2021. The plan and Certification Checklist have been uploaded to the MDNR website for their review and approval. The plan will be subject to future review and updates as deemed necessary by the Highland Township Board of Trustees and the Parks, Recreation, & Sidewalk Advisory Board.

Please feel free to contact Highland Township or myself if you have any comments regarding this plan.

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David Scurto, *Principal* Benjamin R. Carlisle, *Principal* Sally M. Elmiger, *Principal* Craig Strong, *Principal* R. Donald Wortman, *Principal*
Laura K. Kreps, *Associate* Paul Montagno, *Associate*

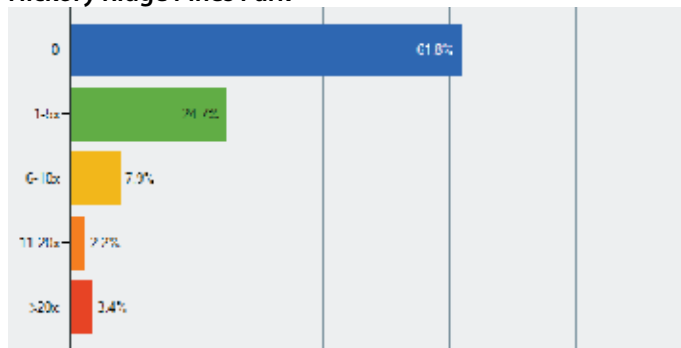
Highland Township Recreation Plan Survey Results

An online survey was made available to Highland Township residents from September 2 through October 15, 2020. The survey was advertised via social media and on the Township website. 92 unique responses were received during that time period. The following pages provide a summary of the results. For open-ended questions, responses are provided verbatim; no edits have been made for grammar or spelling errors.

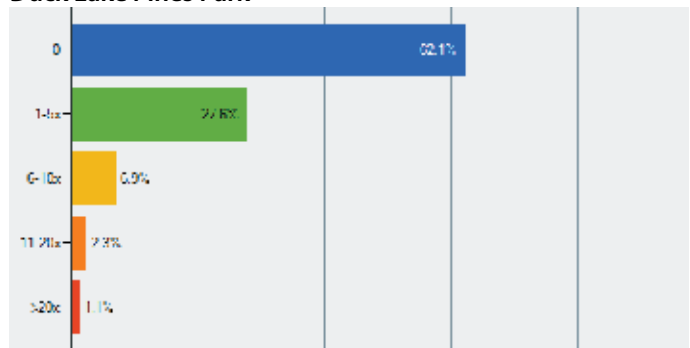
Question 1: From the following list of parks and recreation facilities, please tell us how frequently you used each in the past year.

	0 (have not visited)		1 to 5 times		6 to 10 times		11 to 20 times		more than 20 times		Total Responses
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Hickory Ridge Pines Park	55	61.8%	22	24.7%	7	7.9%	2	2.2%	3	3.4%	89
Duck Lake Pines Park	32	36.0%	28	31.5%	10	11.2%	8	9.0%	11	12.4%	89
Veteran's Park	54	62.1%	24	27.6%	6	6.9%	2	2.3%	1	1.1%	87
Highland Station Park	71	82.6%	12	14.0%	2	2.3%	0	0%	1	1.2%	86
Downey Lake Pines Park	71	81.6%	14	16.1%	2	2.3%	0	0%	0	0%	87
Bike Paths on M-59	53	61.6%	21	24.4%	6	7.0%	2	2.3%	4	4.7%	86

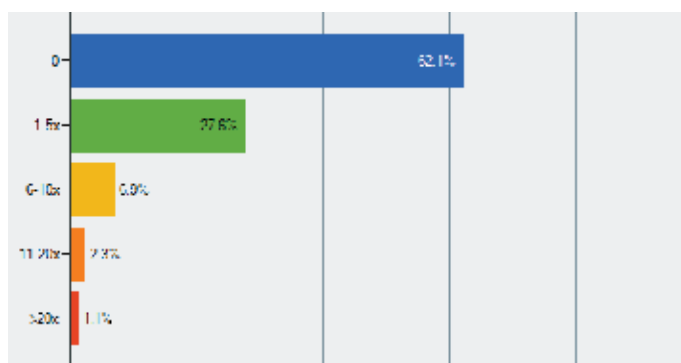
Hickory Ridge Pines Park



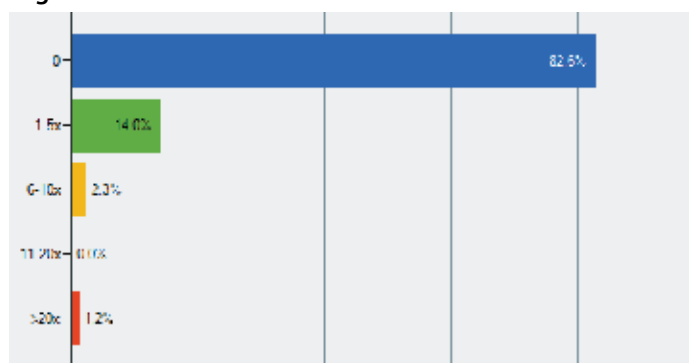
Duck Lake Pines Park



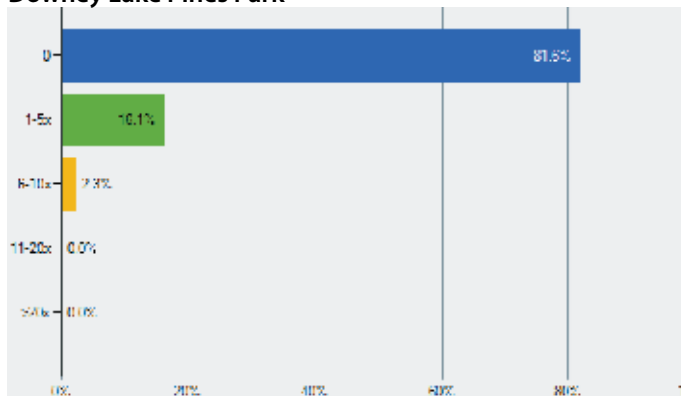
Veteran's Park



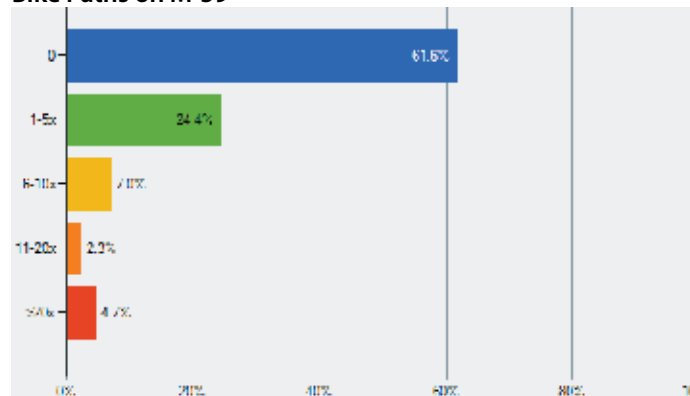
Highland Station Park



Downey Lake Pines Park



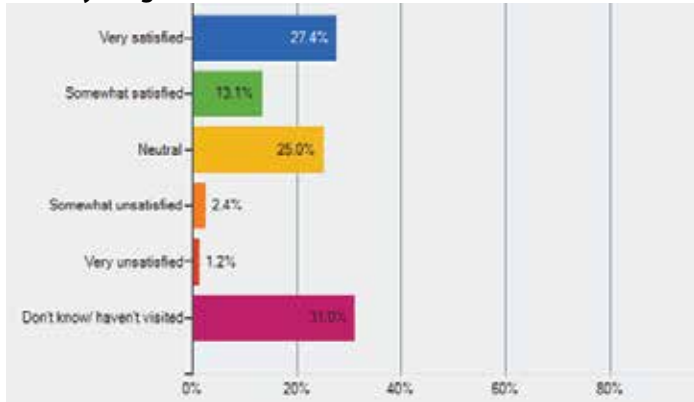
Bike Paths on M-59



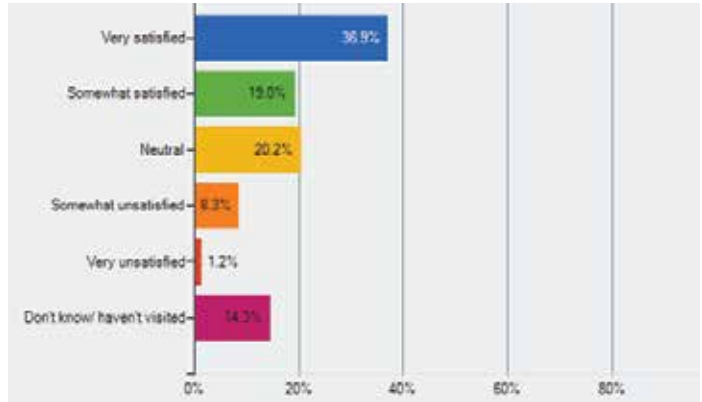
Question 2: On a scale of 1 (very satisfied) to 5 (very dissatisfied), please rate your satisfaction with Township parks.

	Very satisfied		Somewhat satisfied		Neutral		Somewhat unsatisfied		Very unsatisfied		Don't know / Haven't visited		Total Responses
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Hickory Ridge Pines Park (Hickory Ridge Road)	23	27.4%	11	13.1%	21	25.0%	2	2.4%	1	1.2%	26	31.0%	84
Duck Lake Pines Park (Duck Lake Road)	31	36.9%	16	19.0%	17	20.0%	7	8.3%	1	1.2%	12	14.3%	84
Veteran's Park (Livingston St. & John St.)	20	25.6%	9	11.5%	22	28.2%	0	0.0%	1	1.3%	26	33.3%	78
Highland Station Park (M-59 & Milford Road)	13	16.3%	9	11.3%	23	28.8%	2	2.5%	2	2.5%	31	38.8%	80
Downey Lake Pines Park	6	7.6%	11	13.9%	23	29.1%	0	0%	1	1.3%	38	48.1%	79
Bike Paths on M-59	13	16.0%	11	13.6%	23	28.4%	10	12.3%	2	2.5%	22	27.2%	81

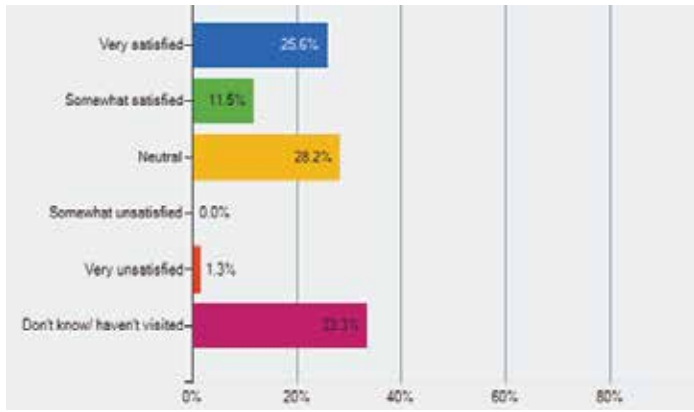
Hickory Ridge Pines Park



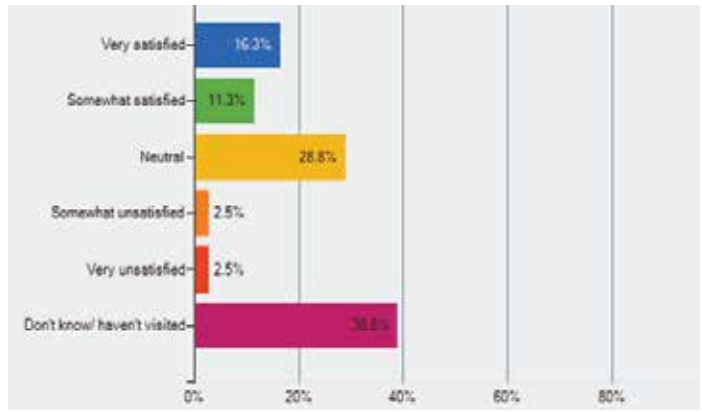
Duck Lake Pines Park



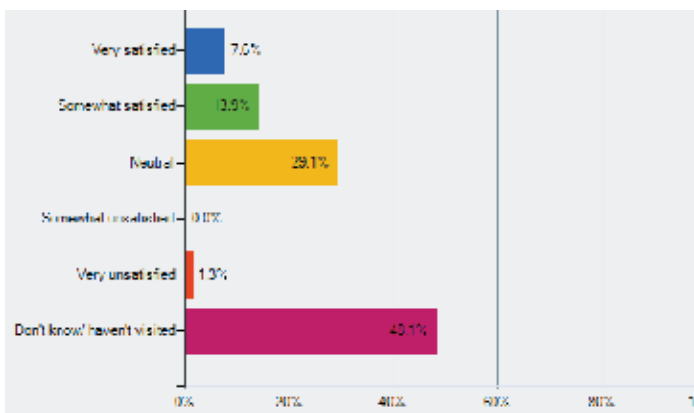
Veteran's Park



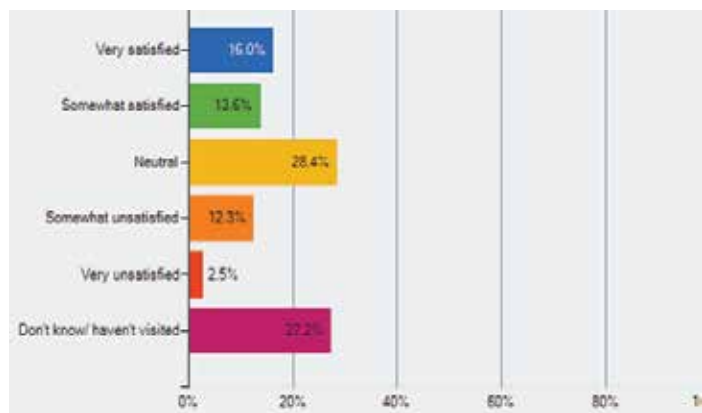
Highland Station Park



Downey Lake Pines Park



Bike Paths on M-59



Question 2 (continued): On a scale of 1 (very satisfied) to 5 (very dissatisfied), please rate your satisfaction with Township parks.

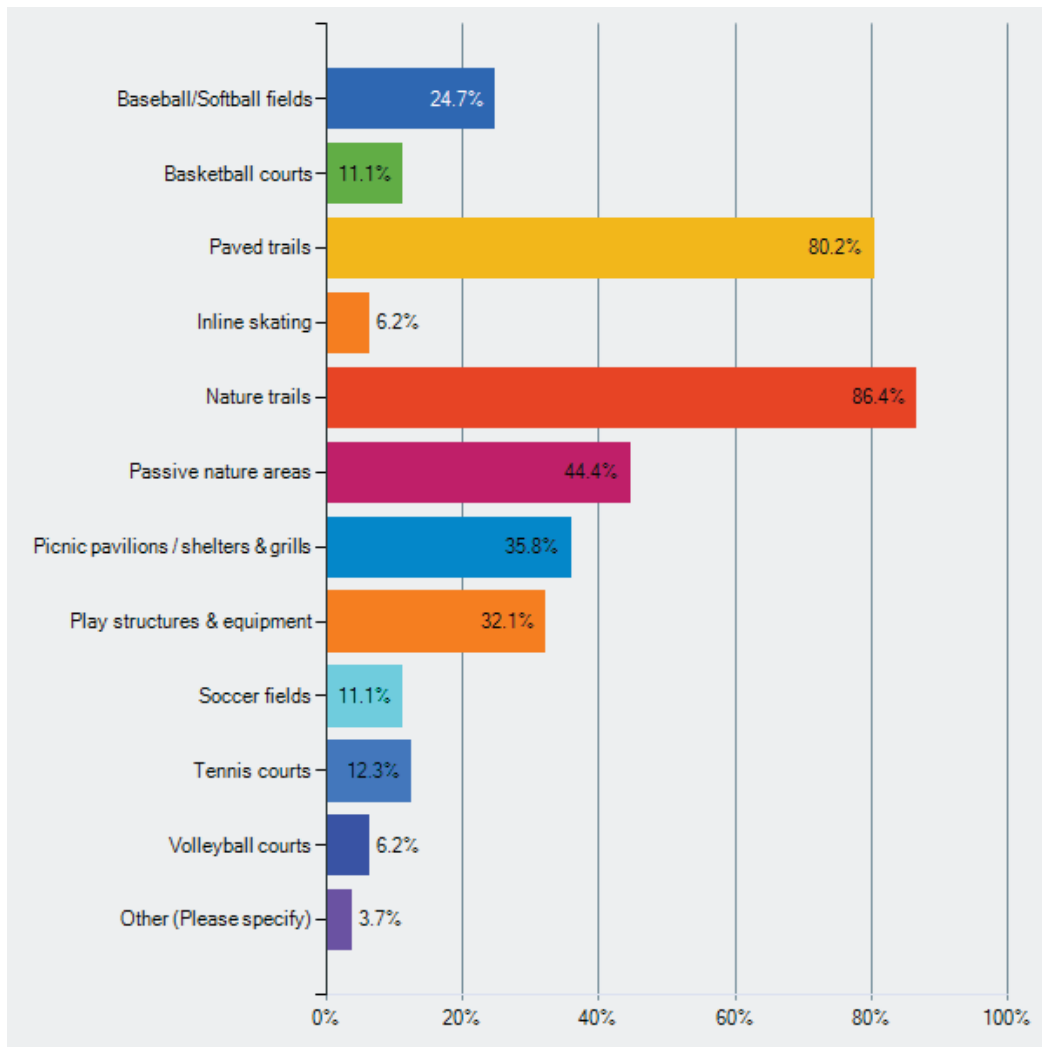
Results with "Don't Know/Haven't Visited" results discarded (i.e. active facility user responses only)

	Very or Somewhat Satisfied	Neutral	Somewhat or Very Unsatisfied	Total Responses
Hickory Ridge Pines Park (Hickory Ridge Road)	59%	36%	5%	58
Duck Lake Pines Park (Duck Lake Road)	65%	24%	11%	72
Veteran's Park (Livingston St. & John St.)	56%	42%	2%	52
Highland Station Park (M-59 & Milford Road)	45%	47%	8%	49
Downey Lake Pines Park	41%	56%	2%	41
Bike Paths on M-59	41%	39%	20%	59

Question 3. If you were unsatisfied with any of the Township parks or facilities, please tell us what we can do to improve your experience.

- Improve sidewalks for walking and biking on Milford Rd
- Duck Lake Pines is only half utilized. Could do a ton with the trails and around the parking lot
- Put sidewalk/bike path on the south side of 59. Those of us on the south side can not EASILY walk to the north side to get to the sidewalk. Or put a sidewalk on Livingston Rd
- "Bike Paths" on 59?? You mean the shoulders to the road? They are a mess, overgrown and are not safe to ride.
- We don't use them
- More bike paths (continuous)
- I don't like the gate inside Hickory Ridge Pines. Some of the bike paths need stop signs from the path across driveways replaced.
- My family and I (young kids) do not use the parks regularly, however, we wish that there were more sidewalks along main roads to encourage walking/bike riding for residents that live on busy roads. It is frustrating to have to get in your car just to go for a walk with your family.
- More paved bike paths
- Duck Lake Pines needs repairs in areas outside of ball fields.
- I'm not sure the M-59 bike paths can count as a park. You'd have to be a little crazy to ride a bike that close to M-59. They may e used more if they had guard rails in areas where they are close to the road or were much further offset from the road.
- N/A Nothing there for me
- Bike paths are covered in glass.
- Very pleased with the M-59 bike paths - would love to see them extended about a mile further east and a few miles further west
- Maintain the pathways & courts
- The new bike path from Tipsico Lake Rd to The Library is great. Anything past the Library is like riding in a war zone. There's more broken pavement chunks and large cracks with grass in them that makes riding pretty difficult.
- Add moresidewalks to be able to walk to the parks.
- Bike path is a waste of money for the amount of use it gets.
- I walk my dog alone at Duck lake Pines park. I do not go into the woods alone so I walk the path between the baseball fields. This is never plowed during the winter so I am unable to walk the dog and get my exercise. Also, the skating rink is an eyesore and should be maintained.
- Duck Lake has the potential for improvements. Do something with the empty skating rink, so residents can use it.
- There is no reason to ever visit highland station. It's just some tiny parcel by a busy intersection.
- Love the bike paths! Keep them going!!
- More connected bike paths
- The inline skating at Duck Lake park is in horrible shape. It looks like a weed garden.
- Bathroom never open
- Repair tennis court.
- "Bike Paths" as In the shoulders on M59? They are a mess. Debris and overgrowth make riding and walking difficult.

Question 4. Which of the following recreation amenities in Township parks do you or your family use? Check all that apply.



Facility	Meets needs completely or very well	Neutral (Meets needs adequately)
Baseball/Softball fields	20	24.7%
Basketball courts	9	11.1%
Paved trails	65	80.2%
Inline skating	5	6.2%
Nature trails	70	86.4%
Passive nature areas	36	44.4%
Picnic pavilions / shelters & grills	29	35.8%
Play structures & equipment	26	32.1%
Soccer fields	9	11.1%
Tennis courts	10	12.3%
Volleyball courts	5	6.2%
Other (Please specify)	3	3.7%

Other Responses:

- Sidewalks wherever applicable!
- use for biking
- none.

**Question 5. Which of the following recreation amenities would you like to see more of in Township parks?
Please rank your top THREE items.**

Facility	Rank 1	Rank 2	Rank 3	Weighted Rank (Score)
Multi-use trails (walking, biking, exercise stations)	30	14	13	1 (131)
Dog park	17	6	4	2 (67)
Passive nature areas	4	13	11	3 (49)
Ice skating rink	6	5	6	4 (34)
Fishing dock	4	8	1	5 (29)
Disc golf course	3	6	7	6 (28)
Play structures & equipment (climbing, slides, swings)	3	6	5	7 (26)
Baseball / softball fields	4	4	5	8 (25)
Mountain biking paths	4	4	2	9 (22)
Splash pad	4	3	4	9 (22)

Facility	Rank 1	Rank 2	Rank 3	Weighted Rank (Score)
Picnic structures (pavilions, grills, etc.)	1	4	8	10 (19)
Skateboard park	3	2	3	11 (16)
Basketball courts	1	4	4	12 (15)
Bocce & shuffleboard courts	1	1	6	13 (11)
Sand volleyball courts	1	1	3	14 (8)
Volleyball courts	1	2	1	14 (8)
Pickleball courts	0	1	4	15 (6)
Tennis courts	0	2	0	16 (4)
Soccer fields	0	1	0	17 (2)
Lacrosse fields	0	0	0	0 (0)
Total Responses				87

Question 6. Please tell us about any other amenities you'd like to see added that are not listed in question 5.

- wildlife viewing habitats.
- Real bike paths would be nice. Cross walk over M 59 for safety. I am excited about the work being done at the library.
- Golf course
- community vegetable garden
- SIDEWALKS/BIKE LANES!!! - Highland township is very car dependent, which honestly, is a deal breaker for living here long term. I (and other young families I know) would love to be able to walk to more places without the fear of the busy/dangerous road!
- gaga ball and human foosball
- Areas for older people to sit and people watch
- More safe biking
- Mow the trails to the lakes in the soccer park
- Walking/hiking trails
- connecting trails like the Milford trail
- Swimming pool
- None
- Bigger play structure at duck lake pines and also the walking path redone.
- More safe walking path to each of the parks
- regular bike paths

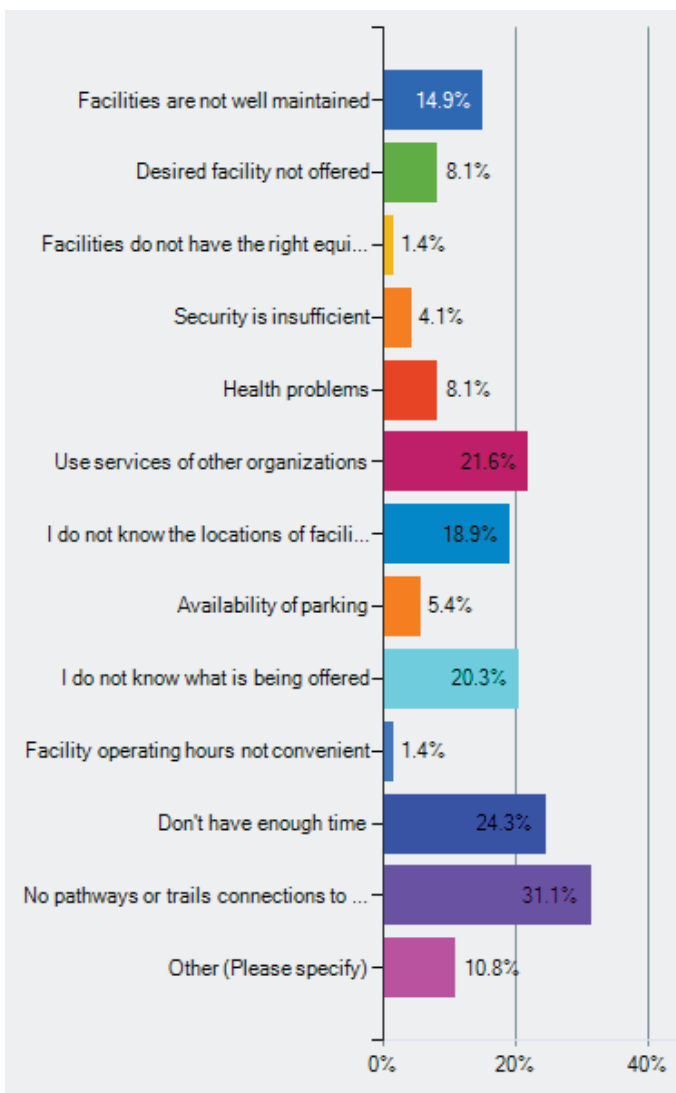
Question 7. Please tell us about any factors that prevent you or other members of your household from using Township parks or recreation facilities. Check all that apply*.

Facility	Responses	Percent*
No pathways or trails connections to the facility	23	31.10%
Don't have enough time	18	24.30%
Use services of other organizations	16	21.60%
I do not know what is being offered	15	20.30%
I do not know the locations of facilities	14	18.90%
Facilities are not well maintained	11	14.90%
Other (Please specify)	8	10.80%
Desired facility not offered	6	8.10%
Health problems	6	8.10%
Availability of parking	4	5.40%
Security is insufficient	3	4.10%
Facilities do not have the right equipment	1	1.40%
Facility operating hours not convenient	1	1.40%
Total Responses	126	

* Because multiple answers per participant are possible, the total percentage may exceed 100%.

Other Responses:

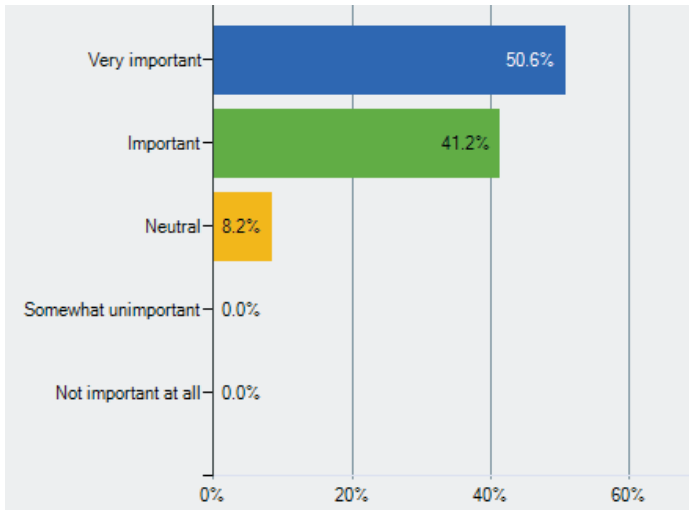
- not enough sidewalks connecting downtown with near by neighborhood
- Cleanliness of restrooms.
- NO SIDEWALK/BIKE LANES
- I've never heard anyone speak of them
- Near by parks rec areas are far superior
- You have to drive somewhere to exercise
- Parks aren't very close to home
- Parks are small as would be, I am more into State & Metro Parks to ride horses



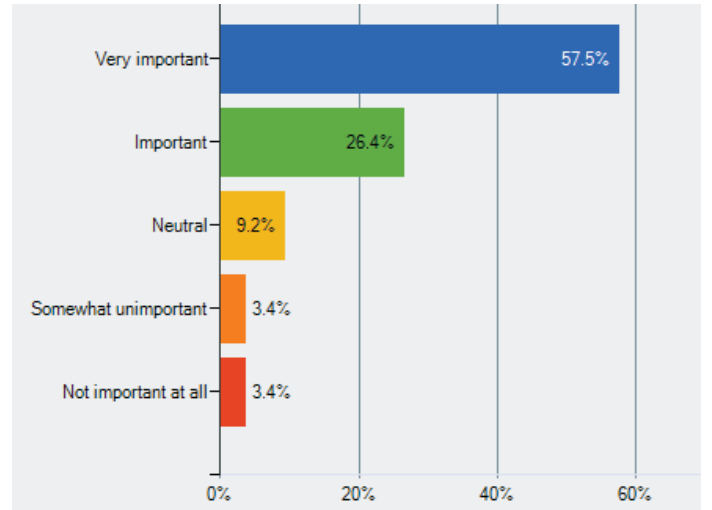
Question 8: How important are the following items?

	Very important		Somewhat important		Neutral		Somewhat unimportant		Not important at all		Total Responses
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Maintaining and upgrading existing parks & facilities	43	50.6%	35	41.2%	7	8.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	85
Developing a Township-wide system of pathways & trails for walking and biking	50	57.5%	23	26.4%	8	9.2%	3	3.4%	3	3.4%	87
Acquiring and developing new parks and open spaces	24	28.9%	26	31.3%	17	20.5%	7	8.4%	9	10.8%	83

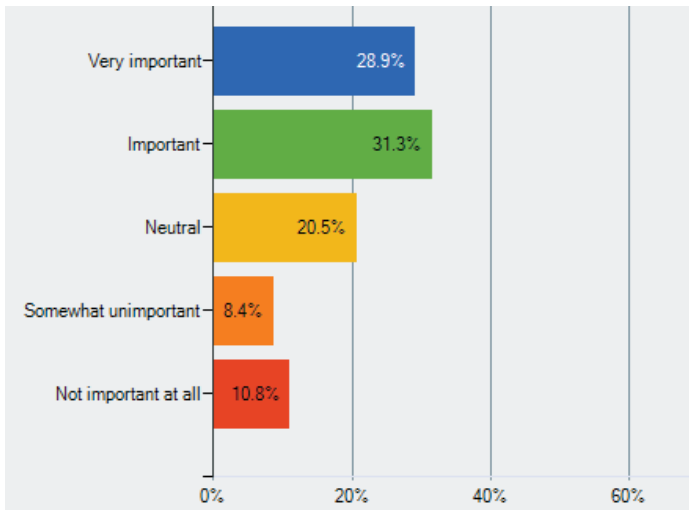
Maintaining and upgrading existing parks & facilities



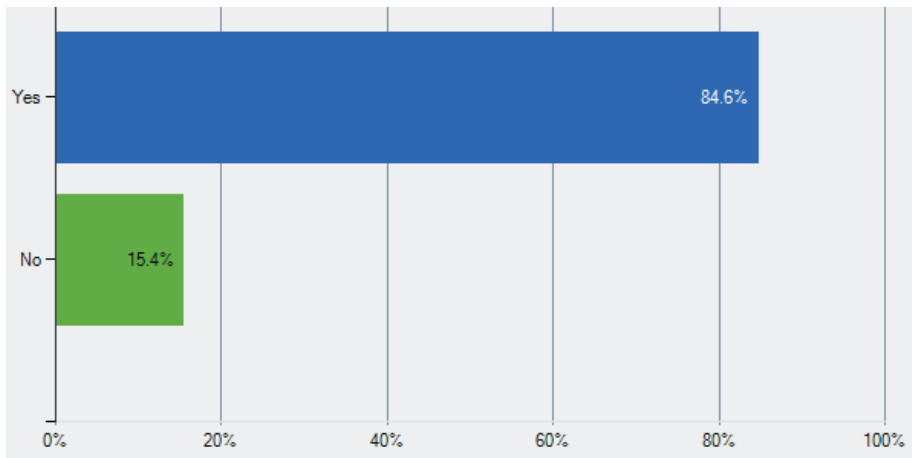
Developing a Township-wide system of pathways & trails for walking and biking



Acquiring and developing new parks and open spaces



Question 9. Should Highland Township expand its sidewalk and trails network?



	Responses	Percent
Yes	77	84.6%
No	14	15.4%
Total Responses	91	

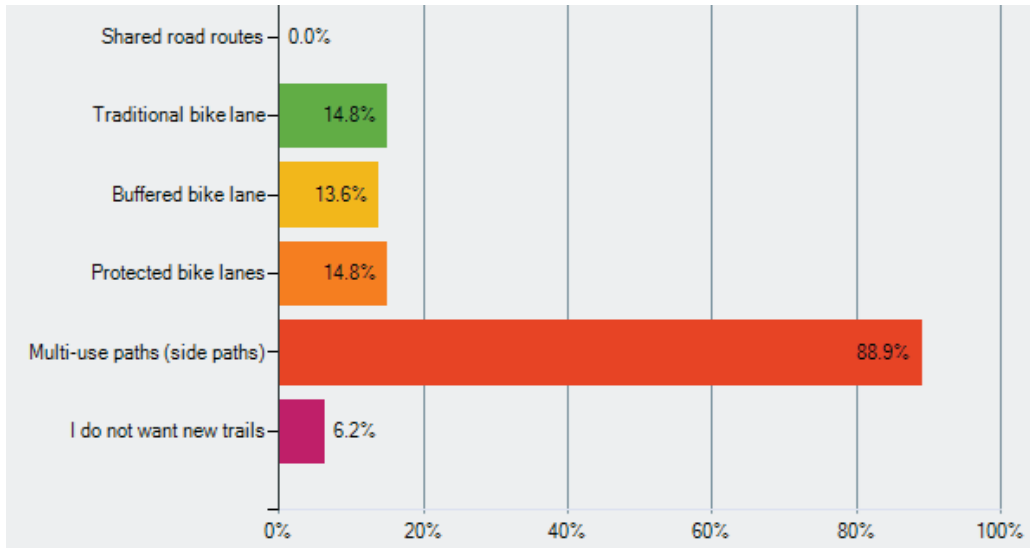
Question 10. If yes, are there any specific routes you'd like to see?

- Milford Rd, Harvey Lk Rd
- Milford Rd
- connecting Highland to the Milford paved trails (and subsequently the 100+ miles of trails to the south and east)
- would like to connect to Milford to get to Kensington
- West Livingston road to milford rd.
- Highland to Milford
- Milford rd
- Milford, Clyde South to township line.
- Can we work in conjunction with Consumer's Energy to have a path along the pipeline?
- North Milford Road to M-59
- Trail to hook up M-59 to Hickory Ridge Pines. Livingston Rd, Milford Road area into Highland Recreation Area. Protected bike lane on Hickory Ridge North and south of M-59
- Hickory Ridge Rd, Middle Rd, Milford Rd
- Just connecting the sidewalks would be great!
- White Lake road, Wardlow road, Harvey Lake road, Duck Lake rd (north), Milford Road (north), etc.
- We need a sidewalk or trail connecting the southern end of Highland Twp to Milford Twp sidewalks along Miford Rd. Connect Milford High School to downtown Milford and to downtown Highland by filling in the gaps of the existing sidewalks. Or build a new trail along the pipeline that just got cleared.
- Wardlow between duck lake and Harvey lake
- I really like the paved trail that goes all the way up to Tipsico
- I would like a path that connects M-59 down into Milford, near Milford Rd.
- In the soccer park the trails to the lakes are overgrown
- Harvey lk rd and milford rd
- Harvey Lake Road to M-59
- Protected E/W routes, eg along M-59
- Milford Road from the Milford Village limit to Clyde Rd
- Livingston to milford township. W wardlow to m59 behind the new fire station #2
- A north south route to Milford... off the road so more appealing to non motorized traffic
- W. Livingston rd. To Milford rd.
- Milford Road trail, connects to Milford Township
- Make it easier And safer to walk Accross m-59 to downtown and shopping. to
- Milford road completion
- Along Milford rd - North & South of M59.
- Sidewalk connections on north south Milford Rd and N Duck Lake Rd Wardlow - to Duck Lake Pines
- North-South along Hickory Ridge that hopefully connects with Milford and gets people safely to/from Kensington and Highland parks and Library
- A trail for biking and walking that connects the Highland rec. areas.
- More of the northern homes with trails or walking paths to the parks
- paths taking us into Highland businesses, Colasantis, feed store area, market area
- Milford Road, M-59, Duck Lake Road, Wardlow between Harvey-Milford, Wardlow between Harvey-Duck Lake

Question 11. If the Township builds more bike and/or pedestrian trails, what types of facilities would you most like to see?

	Responses	Percent*
Shared road routes	0	0%
Traditional bike lane	12	14.8%
Buffered bike lane	11	13.6%
Protected bike lanes	12	14.8%
Multi-use paths (side paths)	72	88.9%
I do not want new trails	5	6.2%
Total Responses	112	

* Because multiple answers per participant are possible, the total percentage may exceed 100%.



Shared Road Routes - 0%



Traditional Bike Lane - 14.8%



Buffered Bike Lane - 13.6%



Protected Bike Lanes - 14.8%



Multi-Use Paths (Side Path) - 88.9%

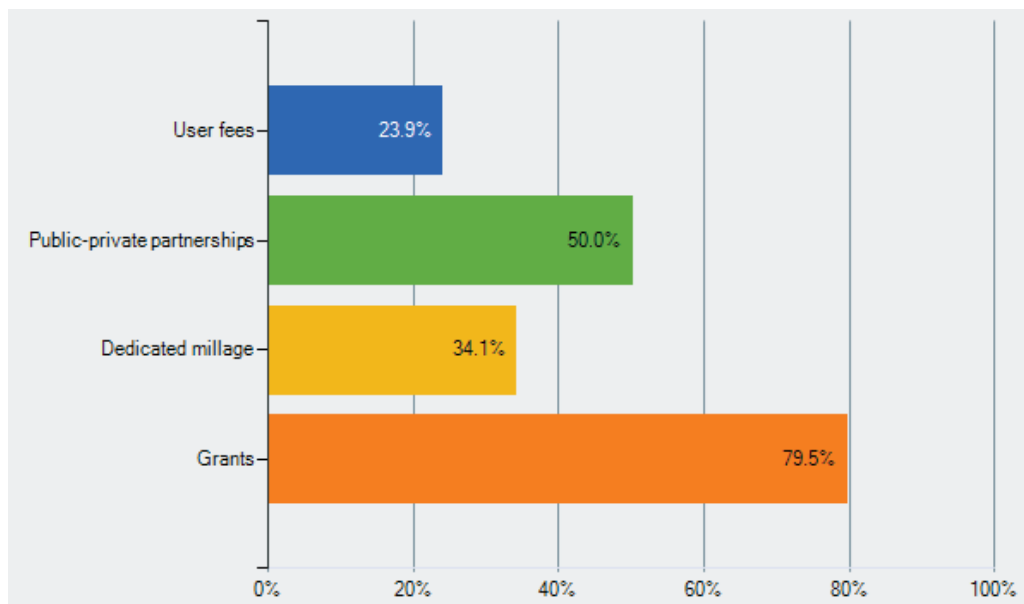


I do not want new trails - 6.2%

Question 12. What other sources of revenue should the Township consider to improve parks and recreation facilities?

	Responses	Percent*
User fees	21	23.9%
Public-private partnerships	44	50.0%
Dedicated millage	30	34.1%
Grants	70	79.5%
Total Responses	165	

* Because multiple answers per participant are possible, the total percentage may exceed 100%.



Question 13. Please tell us where you live.

	Responses	Percent
Highland Township	88	96.7%
Holly	1	1.1%
Hartland	1	1.1%
Other - not specified	1	1.1%
Total Responses	91	

Question 14. Please tell us the ages of the members of your household.

	Responses	Percent*
Children under 18	36	40.4%
18 to 24	14	15.7%
25 to 34	8	9.0%
35 to 44	22	24.7%
45 to 54	28	31.5%
55 to 64	32	36.0%
65 to 74	22	24.7%
75 to 84	6	6.7%
85 and over	2	2.2%
Total Responses	170	

* Because multiple answers per participant are possible, the total percentage may exceed 100%.

Question 15. Please tell us about any other recreation-related issues you may want us to consider.

- dog park
- Easy walking and biking trails for seniors! I dont like that I had to pick 3 choices I only want walking trails
- I grew up in Highland, lived around the US for 8 years, and recently moved back to Highland. Highland rec, and all other Highland parks are appealing to my family as well as other young familes I know. The problem commonly expressed is with having to get into the car for recreation, instead of walking or biking paths. I firmly believe that Highland Twp has a chance to attract younger, healthy lifestyle oriented familes by connecting the more "rural" parts of Highland with sidewalks or bike paths.
- I think a trail connection between Highland and Milford is the most important factor. If it were easier to walk/ bike between the two communities there would be a lot more people travelling back and forth all spring/summer/ fall. People could walk/ride from Milford up to sporting events at the high school and stop at businesses along the way.
- Develop the area where the Jr. High was into an area for open air markets in the summer and an ice skating area in the winter
- connect existing bike trails all the way into Milford
- Fishing docks on the lakes at the soccer park
- More side walks
- Open space is great but so and maybe more importantly are the routes to get there that can be walked, hiked, horsebacked, biked, and run with dogs.... from all corners of the community and connecting with other communities
- A community outdoor pool and snack cabana!!
- Fitness stations and benches along the walking paths

A - Public Notices

B - Parks & Rec Board
Resolution

C - Minutes of Public
Hearing

D - Board of Trustees
Resolution

E - Letters of Transmittal

F - Public Input Summary

G - Post Completion Self
Certification & Checklist



Michigan Department of Natural Resources - Grants Management

PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT

This information required under authority of Part 19, PA 451 of 1994, as amended;
the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, 78 Stat. 897 (1964); and Part 715, of PA 451 of 1994, as amended.

GRANT TYPE: [X] MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND [] CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE
[] LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND [] RECREATION PASSPORT [] BOND FUND

GRANTEE: HIGHLAND TOWNSHIP

PROJECT NUMBER: TF-88-068

PROJECT TYPE: ACQUISITION

PROJECT TITLE: HIGHLAND TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY PARK

TO ACQUIRE 89 ACRES WITH 1000 FT FRONTAGE ON MURRAY

PROJECT SCOPE:

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Table with 3 columns: Name of Agency (Grantee), Contact Person, Title, Address, Telephone, City, State, ZIP, Email. Contains information for Highland Township.

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided? If yes, please describe change(s). [] Yes [X] No

N/A ACQUISITION

Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.) [] Yes [X] No

N/A ACQUISITION

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. [] Yes [X] No

N/A ACQUISITION

SITE QUALITY

Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area? If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain. [X] Yes [] No

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain. [X] Yes [] No

Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism. [] Yes [X] No

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain. Yes No
MAINTENANCE IS SCHEDULED ANNUALLY BASED ON REVIEW OF PROPERTY

GENERAL

Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants) Yes No N/A

Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain. Yes No

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure. Yes No

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?
ALL YEAR ACCESS, DAWN TO DUSK

COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)

[Large empty box for comments]

A - Public Notices
B - Parks & Rec Board Resolution
C - Minutes of Public Hearing
D - Board of Trustees Resolution
E - Letters of Transmittal
F - Public Input Summary
G - Post Completion Self Certification & Checklist

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.

Jennifer L Frederick Please print	 Grantee Authorized Signature	12-22-20 Date
KAREN M PROVO Please print	 Witness Signature	12-22-2020 Date

Send completed report to: POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS
GRANTS MANAGEMENT
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PO BOX 30425
LANSING MI 48909-7925



TF-88-068



Michigan Department of Natural Resources - Grants Management

PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT

This information required under authority of Part 19, PA 451 of 1994, as amended;
the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, 78 Stat. 897 (1964); and Part 715, of PA 451 of 1994, as amended.

GRANT TYPE: [] MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND [] CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE
(Please select one) [] LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND [] RECREATION PASSPORT [X] BOND FUND

GRANTEE: HIGHLAND TOWNSHIP

PROJECT NUMBER: BF92-107

PROJECT TYPE: ACQUISITION

PROJECT TITLE: TOWNSHIP PARK DEVELOPMENT

CONSTRUCT BLDG RESTROOMS, CONCESSIONS & OPEN PICNIC SHELTER &

PROJECT SCOPE: TABLES

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Table with 3 columns: Name of Agency (Grantee), Contact Person, Title, Address, Telephone, City, State, ZIP, Email. Row 1: HIGHLAND TOWNSHIP, JENNIFER FREDERICK, TREASURER, 205 N JOHN STREET, 248.887.3791 x 4, HIGHLAND, MI 48357, FREDERICKJ@HIGHLANDTWP.ORG

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided? If yes, please describe change(s). [] Yes [X] No

Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.) [] Yes [X] No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. [] Yes [X] No

SITE QUALITY

Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area? If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain. [X] Yes [] No

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain. [X] Yes [] No

Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism. [] Yes [X] No

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain. Yes No
MAINTENANCE IS SCHEDULED ANNUALLY BASED ON REVIEW OF PROPERTY

GENERAL

Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants) Yes No N/A

Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain. Yes No

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure. Yes No

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?
ALL YEAR ACCESS, DAWN TO DUSK

COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)

[Empty space for comments]

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POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.

<u>Jennifer L Frederick</u> Please print	<u>Jennifer L Frederick</u> Grantee Authorized Signature	<u>12-22-20</u> Date
<u>KAREN M DEVO</u> Please print	<u>Karen M Devo</u> Witness Signature	<u>12-22-2020</u> Date

Send completed report to: POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS
GRANTS MANAGEMENT
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PO BOX 30425
LANSING MI 48909-7925



A - Public Notices

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BF-92-107



Michigan Department of Natural Resources - Grants Management

PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
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the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, 78 Stat. 897 (1964); and Part 715, of PA 451 of 1994, as amended.

GRANT TYPE: [X] MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND [] CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE
(Please select one) [] LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND [] RECREATION PASSPORT [] BOND FUND

GRANTEE: HIGHLAND TOWNSHIP

PROJECT NUMBER: TF98-135

PROJECT TYPE: ACQUISITION

PROJECT TITLE: HIGHLAND TOWNSHIP PARK

PROJECT SCOPE: ACQUIRE 40AC TO DEVELOP MULTI-PUPOSE COMMUNITY PARK

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Table with contact information for Highland Township, including Name of Agency, Contact Person (Jennifer Frederick), Title (Treasurer), Address (205 N John Street), Telephone (248.887.3791 x 4), City, State, ZIP (Highland, MI 48357), and Email (frederickj@highlandtwp.org).

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided? If yes, please describe change(s). [] Yes [X] No
N/A ACQUISITION

Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.) [] Yes [X] No
N/A ACQUISITION

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. [] Yes [X] No
N/A ACQUISITION

SITE QUALITY

Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area? If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain. [X] Yes [] No

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain. [X] Yes [] No

Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism. [] Yes [X] No

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain. Yes No
MAINTENANCE IS SCHEDULED ANNUALLY BASED ON REVIEW OF PROPERTY

GENERAL

Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants) Yes No N/A

Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain. Yes No

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure. Yes No

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?
ALL YEAR ACCESS, DAWN TO DUSK

COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)

[Empty space for comments]

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POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.

Jennifer L Frederick

Please print

Jennifer L Frederick

Grantee Authorized Signature

12-22-20

Date

KAREN M PROVO

Please print

Karen M Provo

Witness Signature

12-22-2020

Date

Send completed report to: **POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS
GRANTS MANAGEMENT
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PO BOX 30425
LANSING MI 48909-7925**



TF-98-135



Michigan Department of Natural Resources - Grants Management

PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
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GRANT TYPE: [] MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND [X] CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE
(Please select one) [] LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND [] RECREATION PASSPORT [] BOND FUND

GRANTEE: HIGHLAND TOWNSHIP

PROJECT NUMBER: CM00-066

PROJECT TYPE: DEVELOP

PROJECT TITLE: HIGHLAND TOWNSHIP PARK (RENAMED DUCK LAKE PINES)

PROJECT SCOPE: DEVELOP MULTI-PUPOSE COMMUNITY PARK

To BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Table with 3 columns: Name of Agency (Grantee), Contact Person, Title, Address, Telephone, City, State, ZIP, Email. Row 1: HIGHLAND TOWNSHIP, JENNIFER FREDERICK, TREASURER, 205 N JOHN STREET, 248.887.3791 x 4, HIGHLAND, MI 48357, FREDERICKJ@HIGHLANDTWP.ORG

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided? If yes, please describe change(s). [] Yes [X] No

Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.) [] Yes [X] No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. [] Yes [X] No

SITE QUALITY

Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area? If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain. [X] Yes [] No

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain. [X] Yes [] No

Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism. [] Yes [X] No

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain. Yes No
MAINTENANCE IS SCHEDULED ANNUALLY BASED ON REVIEW OF PROPERTY

GENERAL

Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants) Yes No N/A

Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain. Yes No

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure. Yes No

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?
ALL YEAR ACCESS, DAWN TO DUSK

COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)

[Empty space for comments]

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POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.

<u>Jennifer L Frederick</u> Please print	<u>Jennifer L Frederick</u> Grantee Authorized Signature	<u>12-22-20</u> Date
<u>Karen M Arora</u> Please print	<u>Karen M Arora</u> Witness Signature	<u>12-22-2020</u> Date

Send completed report to: POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS
GRANTS MANAGEMENT
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PO BOX 30425
LANSING MI 48909-7925



CM00-066



Michigan Department of Natural Resources - Grants Management

PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
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the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, 78 Stat. 897 (1964); and Part 715, of PA 451 of 1994, as amended.

GRANT TYPE: [X] MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND [] CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE
(Please select one) [] LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND [] RECREATION PASSPORT [] BOND FUND

GRANTEE: HIGHLAND TOWNSHIP

PROJECT NUMBER: TF14-0124

PROJECT TYPE: ACQUIRE

PROJECT TITLE: HICKORY RIDGE EXPANSION

PROJECT SCOPE: ACQUIRE 15 AC TO ADD TO EXISTING PARK

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Table with 3 columns: Name of Agency (Grantee), Contact Person, Title, Address, Telephone, City, State, ZIP, Email. Row 1: HIGHLAND TOWNSHIP, JENNIFER FREDERICK, TREASURER, 205 N JOHN STREET, 248.887.3791 x 4, HIGHLAND, MI 48357, FREDERICKJ@HIGHLANDTWP.ORG

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided? If yes, please describe change(s). [] Yes [X] No

N/A ACQUISITION

Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.) [] Yes [X] No

N/A ACQUISITION

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. [] Yes [X] No

N/A ACQUISITION

SITE QUALITY

Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area? If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain. [X] Yes [] No

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain. [X] Yes [] No

Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism. [] Yes [X] No

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain. Yes No
MAINTENANCE IS SCHEDULED ANNUALLY BASED ON REVIEW OF PROPERTY

GENERAL

Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants) Yes No N/A

Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain. Yes No

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure. Yes No

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?

ALL YEAR ACCESS, DAWN TO DUSK

COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)

[Empty space for comments]

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.

Jennifer L Frederick

Please print

Jennifer L Frederick
Grantee Authorized Signature

12-22-20

Date

KAREN M PROVO

Please print

Karen M Provo
Witness Signature

12-22-2020

Date

Send completed report to:

POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS
GRANTS MANAGEMENT
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PO BOX 30425
LANSING MI 48909-7925



TF14-0124

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