

Recreation Inventory

The residents of Highland Township are able to take advantage of a variety of recreational resources at the local and the regional level. There are township parks, county parks, state-owned recreation areas, schools, as well as privately-owned recreational facilities located in and around Highland Township. This section describes these recreational opportunities. The information contained in the following pages was compiled from community recreation plans, websites, aerial photographs, and field surveys.

Highland Township Parks and Open Space

Highland Township owns four parks and open spaces that total about 140 acres of land. Figure 2 on the next page depicts the location of these parks.

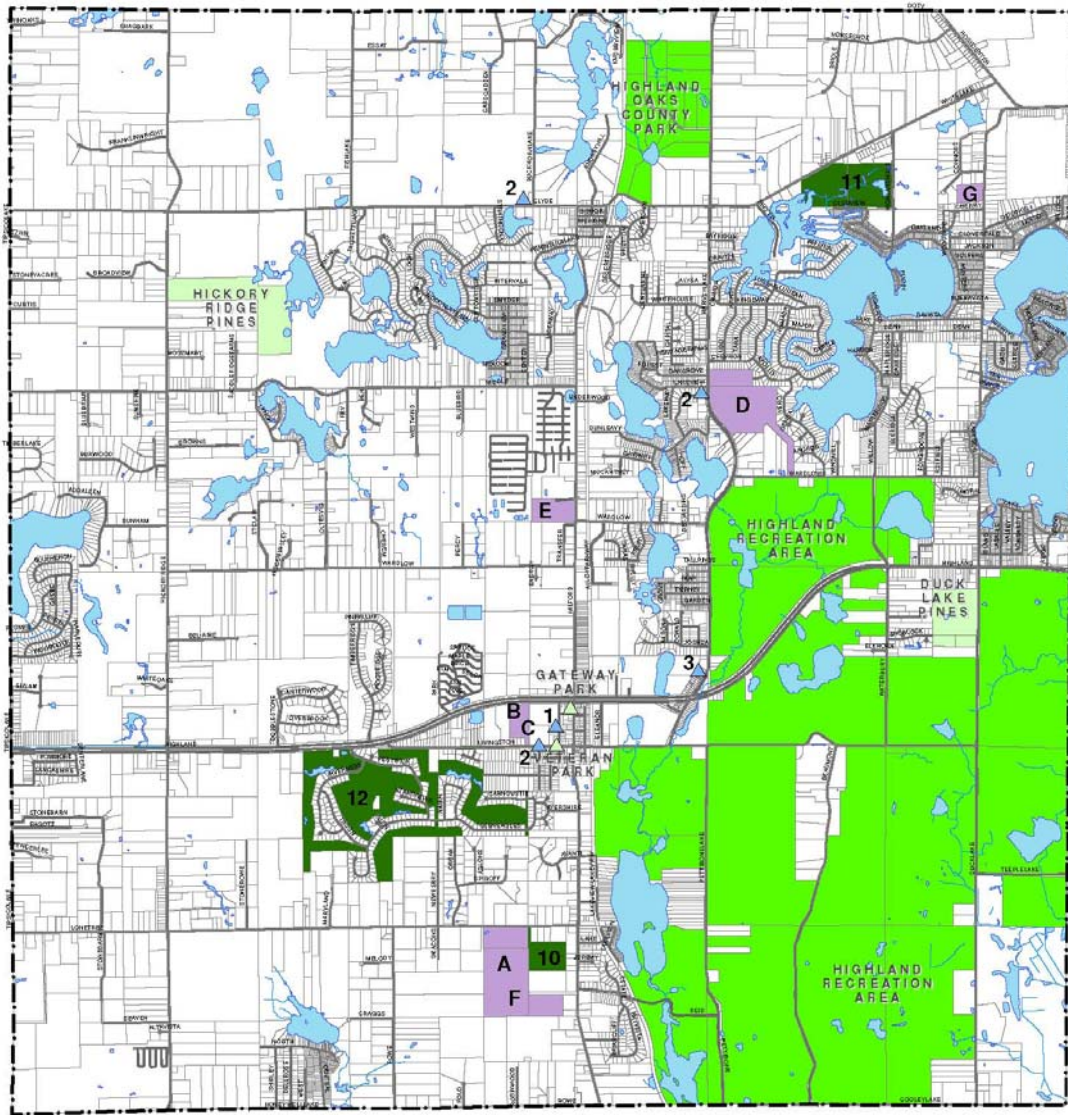
Hickory Ridge Pines

The Township owns this 90-acre community park in the northwest quadrant of the Township. The Huron Valley Soccer Club maintains the soccer fields and the restrooms 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
- Three restrooms
- Two picnic shelters
- Storage building
- Concession Building
- 3,300 foot long fitness trail
- 3,200 feet of paved trail
- Lake access to Murray Lake (No swimming or boating access)

Figure 1: Hickory Ridge Pines





Legend

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

PARKS & COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Highland Township
Oakland County, MI



Carlisle/Wortman Assoc., Inc.
December 2008

Duck Lake Pines

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 Athletic Association who maintains the ball fields and restrooms during regular season play and tournaments. It provides a number of recreation activities and facilities including:

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

Figure 3: Duck Lake Pines



Veteran's Park

This small open space contains less than one acre and is centrally located in Highland Station at the intersection of Livingston and John streets adjacent to the Township Fire Station and Offices. The park contains:

- A soldier's monument
- U.S., State, and MIA/POW flags
- Sidewalk
- Landscaping
- Kiosk

Figure 4: Veteran's Park



Highland Station Park

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

Figure 5: Highland Station Park

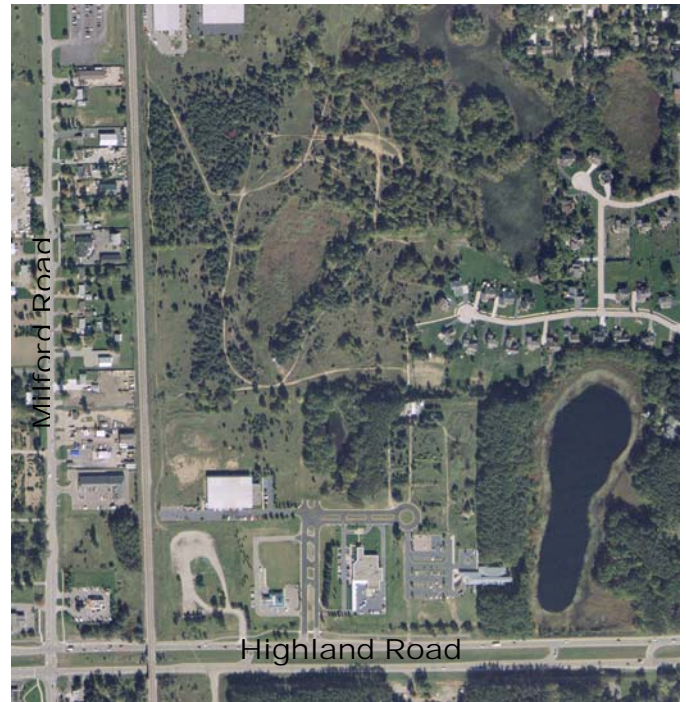


Downey Lake Park

This 36-acre park is an undeveloped parcel 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 adjoining subdivision parks by foot, and contains the following natural features:

- High quality wetlands
- Lake frontage
- Native prairie grasses

Figure 6: Downey Lake Park



Subdivision Parks and 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 dependant on each individual school's policies. The Huron Valley Public School District includes three elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school in Highland Township. Figure 2 depicts the location of the schools. They are listed below.

- Milford High School, located on S. 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 Middle School, located on N. John Street south of Highland Road, contains 14 acres of land with seven baseball fields, a running track, four basketball backstops, a concession stand, picnic area, and playground equipment. Indoor facilities include two gymnasiums.
- Highland Elementary School, located on W. Livingston Road, contains 25 acres of land and shares facilities with the Highland Middle School.
- 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 multiple purpose gymnasium/fitness center.

- Apollo Center, located on N. Milford Road, occupies 25 acres of land with a ball field, two basketball backstops, a picnic shelter, sidewalks, and playground equipment. The former school 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.
- Duck Lake Education Center, located on N. Duck Lake Road, contains 10 acres of land with a ball field, volleyball court, and playground equipment. The facility offers community education classes.

Private Facilities

In contrast to municipal or school facilities, private recreation resources are often designed to serve customers from around the area. Some of the commercial recreation facilities located near Highland Township are depicted on Figure 2 and described and listed as follows.

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 Township 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, in Commerce Township
- Dunham Hills Golf Course, 18-hole golf course located in Hartland Township
- Hartland Glen Golf Club, in Hartland Township
- Highland Hills Golf Club, 18-hole golf course with 115 acres of land in Highland Township
- Golf Driving Range, located on Lone Tree Road
- Prestwick Village Golf Club, located in Highland Township
- Majestic Golf Course, located in Hartland Township
- Mystic Creek Golf Course, located in Milford Township

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) and the Huron Valley Youth Athletic Association (HVYAA) (formerly Hi-White) 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 Adult 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 or through a meals-on-wheels program. Transportation services to the Center, medical appointments, shopping, banks and other locations are also provided in conjunction with the Village of Milford.

The Huron Valley School operates continuing education programs from the Duck Lake Center and Apollo Center and provides a variety of opportunities to Highland Township residents. Some the programs offered include 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 Pool and Fitness facility. Located on Milford Road, south of Lone Tree Road, the Milford Pool and Fitness 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 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 aerobics, aquatics, basketball, gymnastics, martial arts, pilates, and yoga. There are numerous opportunities for homeschoolers and also the preschool set, including parent/tot classes.

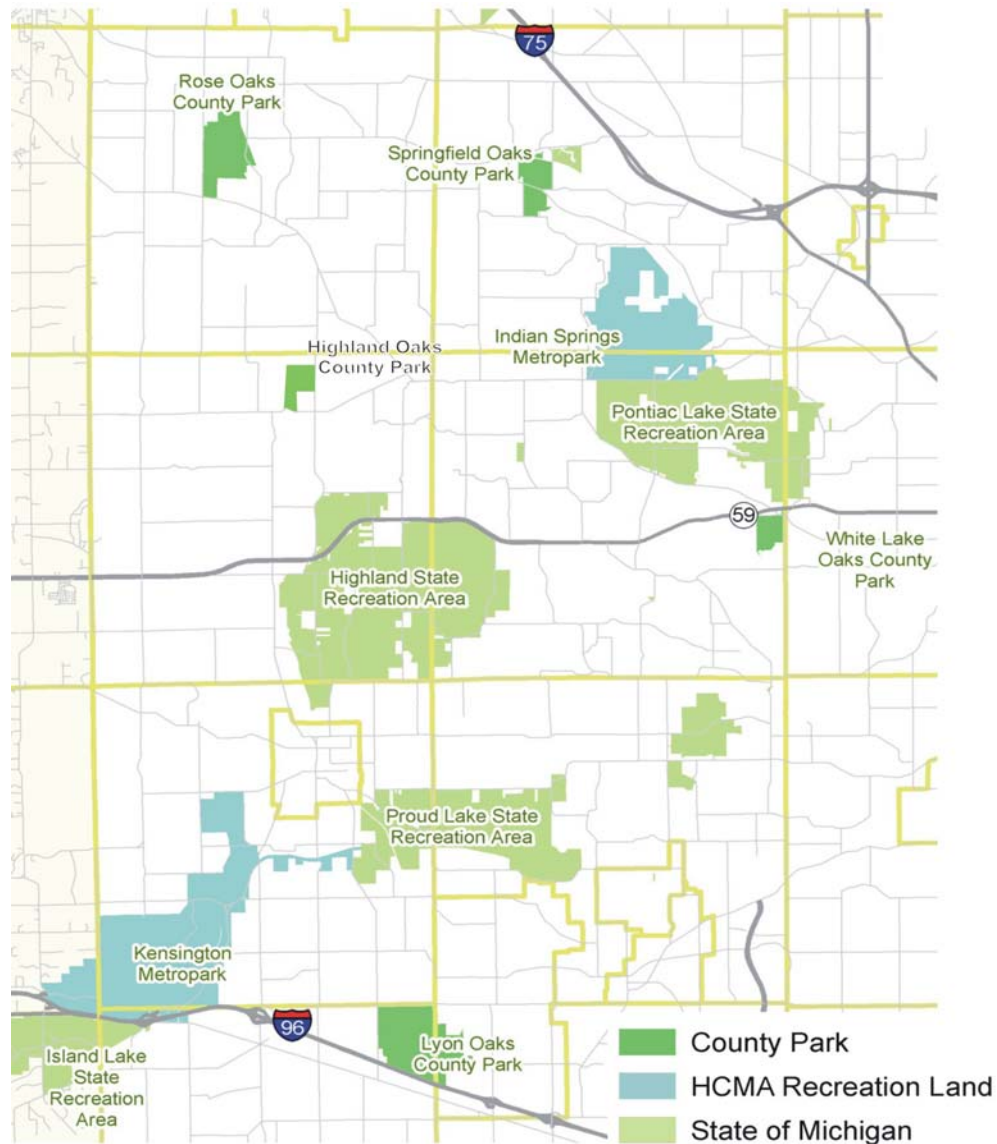


Regional Recreation Facilities

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. Figure 6 depicts the location of the regional parks and Table 1 lists the recreation activities they offer. A description of the facilities follows.

Figure 6: Regional Recreation Facilities in and around Highland Township



Source: Adapted from Oakland County Planning and Economic Development Services

Table 18. Regional Recreation Facilities in and around Highland Township		Oakland County					HCMA		State			
		Highland Oaks	Lyon Oaks	Rose Oaks	Springfield Oaks	White Lake Oaks	Kensington Metropark	Indian Springs Metropark	Highland State Rec Area	Island Lake State Park	Pontiac Rec Area	Proud Lake Rec Area
Passive	Picnicking		●				●	●	●	●	●	●
	Playground		●				●	●	●	●	●	●
Trails	Paved Trail						●	●		●		
	Nature Trail	●	●	●			●	●				●
	Marked Hiking Trail		●	●			●	●	●	●	●	●
	Mountain Biking Trail								●	●	●	●
	Equestrian Trail	●		●	●		●	●	●		●	●
	Cross-country skiing		●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Snowmobiling								●	●	●	●
Water Activities	Swimming Beach						●	●	●	●	●	●
	Splash Park						●	●				
	Boat Rental						●		●			●
	Boat Launch						●	●	●		●	●
	Marina						●					
	Canoeing								●			
	Shore Fishing			●			●		●		●	●
	Dock Fishing						●		●	●	●	●
Boat Fishing						●	●	●		●	●	
Winter & Seasonal Activities	Ice Fishing			●			●	●	●	●		
	Ice Skating						●	●				
	Sledding						●	●	●			
	Tobogganing						●					
	Hunting	●	●						●	●	●	●
Interpretive Facilities	Nature Center		●				●	●				
	Nature Study Area		●	●			●	●	●			
	Farm						●					
	Garden & Historic Building				●							
Court & Turf Games	Soccer		●						●			
	Ball field						●		●			
	Basketball & Disc Golf						●					
	Horseshoes							●	●			
	Golf Course		●		●	●	●	●				
Misc.	Dog Park		●									
	Balloon Port								●			
	Banquet/Event Facility		●		●	●						
	Activity Center				●							
Camping	Shooting Range								●	●		
	Rustic Campsite							●	●	●	●	
	Modern Campsite							●		●	●	
	Cabin Rental							●	●	●	●	
	Group Camping					●		●	●	●	●	