

Hampton Township

Community Description

Hampton Township is located in southern Bay County, east of Bay City and Essexville. It contains approximately 9 miles of Saginaw Bay shoreline and 1.5 miles of Saginaw River frontage. The eastern portion of the Township is known for its rich agricultural lands. The western portion of the township is more densely populated resembling a suburban setting. M-25 is the major roadway in the Township. It runs east to west across the southern portion of the Township and it carries the majority of the traffic in and through the community.

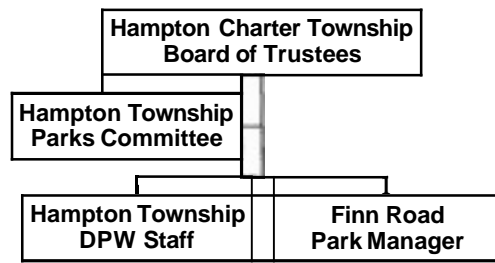
According to the **2000** Census, Hampton Township has a population of **9,902**. The **2006** population estimate for Hampton Township is 9,834, which shows a slight population decrease. Similar population decreases are estimated for most of the other communities in Bay County.

Administrative Structure

The Hampton Township Recreation Committee is responsible for the parks and recreation function in Hampton Township. They are a committee created by the Hampton Township Board. The committee is comprised of Hampton Township Board members. Currently, the entire Hampton Township Board **makes** up the Committee.

The ten member Department of Public Works Staff is responsible for operating and maintaining the parks in Hampton Township. Additionally, a full time manager is hired for the Finn Road Park during the summer months.

**Hampton Township Parks and Recreation
Organizational Chart**



Relationships with other agencies

Hampton Township has a good working relationship with the Essexville-Hampton School District in terms of parks and recreation facilities. The Hampton Township DPW staff grooms the four ball diamonds at Verellen School for the Little League program. They also maintain the fields at **Pondside** Park for practice fields. The school district has used **Pondside** Park for High School Cross-Country meets.

Hampton Township has representation on the Bay County **Riverwalk/Railtrail** Committee. This committee is an initiative of the Bay Area Community Foundation and it deals with issues relating to operating, maintaining, and **improving/extending** the existing **Riverwalk/Railtrail**. The group focuses on visioning and **fundraising** as well. Membership includes representatives from various **governmental** units, governmental agencies (i.e. Road Commission, Bay County Transportation Planning Department), the community at-large and the Bay Area Community Foundation.

Budgets

The sources of funding for parks and recreation in Hampton Township are the Township General Fund, campground fees, Finn Road Boat Launch fees, and pavilion rentals. The current and next year parks and recreation budgets are shown below.

HAMPTON TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION BUDGETS

	2007	2008
Operation & Maintenance	\$104,686	76,925
Programming (leagues, special events, etc.)	0	0
Capital Expenditures	\$58,040	46,750

Recreation Inventory

Hampton Township currently owns six recreational facilities. A seventh parcel at the end of Callahan Road has been acquired by the Township but has not yet been developed. The planning consultant visited each park facility in Hampton Township to complete the inventory below.

HAMPTON TOWNSHIP RECREATION INVENTORY

	Bay-Hampton Rail Trail	Ridge Road Park	Pondside Park
Park Type*	Park-Trail	Neighborhood Park	Community Park
Acreage/Distance	1 mile	6 acres	30 acres
Accessibility*	4	3	3
Service Area	Entire County	Local Neighborhoods within 2 miles	Entire Township
Ball Diamond		1	2
Multi-use Path	Yes, 10' wide		
Pavilion		2	1
Tennis Courts			4 (lighted)
Playground		1	1
Basketball Court		1/2	1
Sledding Hill		1	1
Picnic Area		Yes	
Restrooms	Portable	Yes	Yes
Playfield (open space)		Yes	Yes
Other	Benches	Grills, Horseshoes	Pond

HAMPTON TOWNSHIP RECREATION INVENTORY (cont.)

	Finn Road Campground	Jones Road Park	Nature Trail	Callahan Road Property
Park Type*	Special Use	Special Use	Park-Trail	undeveloped
Acreeage/Distance	12 acres	3 acres	2 miles	2.5 acres
Accessibility*	3	2	2	N.A.
Service Area	Entire Township & beyond	Entire Township & beyond	Entire Township	
Multi-use Path	Yes - 5' wide		Yes	
Pavilion	Yes			
Campground	52 spaces			
Playground.	Yes			
Boat Launch	Yes	Yes		
Picnic Area	Yes			
Overlook Platform	Yes	Yes		
Restrooms	Yes	Yes		
Playfield (open space)	Yes			
Saginaw Bay Access	Yes	Yes		Yes
Other	Grills, Benches Overlook deck			

*See County inventory section for definitions of park type and accessibility.

Hampton Township received an acquisition grant in 1997 (TF97-167) for \$130,000 for the expansion of Finn Road Park. Aerial views of Ridge Road Park, Ponside Park, Finn Road Park, Jones Road Park and the Rail Trail are included on the following pages. A location map for the parks is included at the end of the Hampton Township section.

Comparison to Standards

General park guidelines suggest that a community should have five to ten acres of community parkland per 1,000 residents. This suggests that Hampton Township should have between 50 and 99 acres of parkland for its 9,900 residents. Currently, the Township has approximately 54.5 acres of parkland. This indicates that Hampton Township is within acceptable guidelines for parkland.

However, there are several reasons whereby this may not be sufficient:

- Existing land is not sufficient to add new amenities that the citizens desire
 Certain geographic areas of the township are underserved in terms of park land.
- There are unique natural resources that the township wishes to preserve and protect.







Goals and Objectives

Developing goals and **objectives** is an important part of the recreation planning process. The overall goal of a parks and recreation department is, obviously, to provide recreation **opportunities** for the community **and/or** region it serves. More specific goals must be based on the demographic characteristics of the population served, the physical and environmental characteristics of the area, and the input of the community.

Goals are the broadest level. They are overarching and general. Objectives carry out the purpose of the goal. The Action Program is the last level and it identifies specific projects and programs. The Action Program can include organizational, staffing, programming, public information, and operation and maintenance actions.

The Hampton Township Parks Committee formulated the following goals and objectives based upon the characteristics of the overall community and the input received at the Bay County community input sessions.

GOAL 1

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

GOAL 2

Provide recreational opportunities for people with disabilities.

Objective: Develop programs for special needs population.

Objective: Ensure that improvements and upgrades to parks are handicap accessible.



Jones Road boat launch and dock

GOAL 3

Develop a non-motorized trail network in Hampton Township. Hampton Township currently has two separate trails – the unpaved Nature Trail and a portion of the paved Bay County Railtrail/Riverwalk. Based on community input, the Township would like to expand its trail system and develop a network of trails for residents and visitors.

GOAL 4

Acquire more park land as needed and as it becomes available.

GOAL 5

Improve communication with residents regarding parks and recreation facilities and programming.

Objective: Improve Township's Parks and Recreation web site to communicate with residents regarding park and recreation.

Objective: Develop a brochure that describes the parks in Hampton Township.

GOAL 6

Provide recreational facilities that take advantage of the water based natural resources in Hampton Township.

Objective: Add shore fishing facilities in Hampton Township.

Objective: Develop swimming access points in Hampton Township.

GOAL 7

Provide quality leisure time activities with special consideration given to activities improving health and fitness.



Tennis Courts at Pondsides Park

Action Plan

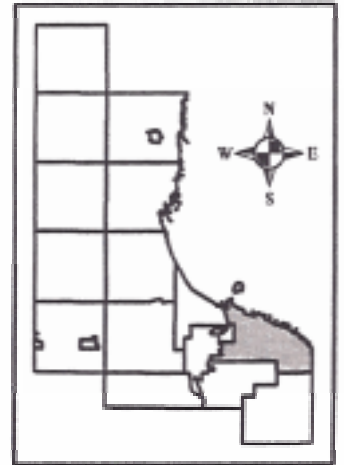
With goals and objectives in place, Hampton Township was able to develop a 5-year Action Plan to work toward accomplishing the goals and objectives. The Action Plan details the direction the community wishes to take over the next five years in order to maintain and improve the quality and diversity of area park and recreation opportunities.

Projects were assigned a priority of one through five with one being most important and 5 being least important. Each action items relates to one or more of the numbered goals **from** the previous section. Potential capital improvements described in this Plan have been established to provide a framework for decision makers and to enable the Township to apply for grant **funding** for the proposed projects.

Action Item	Priority	Relates to Goal
1. Develop a fitness course.		1, 7
2. Improve tennis courts at Pondsides Park.		1
3. Develop dog walks at Parks.		1
4. Complete segment of Nature Trail between Jones Road & Wagner Road.		1, 2, 3, 7
5. Add interpretive signs on Nature Trail.		1, 2, 5
6. Add a boardwalk through the mud flats for nature observation.		1, 2, 6, 7
7. Add educational nature programs such as hunting safety and fishing.		1
8. Improve parking at parks.		1
9. Begin to develop improvements at Callahan Road end property.		1, 2, 6

Feb 10, 2009

Hampton Twp Park & Trail Locations



Map Produced By
Bay County Department of Environmental Affairs ■
Community Development Program
Data Source Bay County ■ State of Michigan CGI

DISCLAIMER This map is intended for general planning purposes only. The information has not been verified and was compiled from very generalized information and therefore, **SHOULD NOT BE USED FOR ANY SITE SPECIFIC PURPOSES**. Bay County shall not be responsible for any direct or consequential damage resulting from any use of this information.

Legend

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|--------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| Parks | Boat Ramps | Railroad |
| Golf Courses | Existing Trails | Streams & Drains |
| Schools | Local Roads | Township City Boundaries |
| | State Trunklines | Saginaw Bay |
| | Major Roads | |

