

# Bay County Area Recreation Plan 2019 - 2023



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## Participating Communities

City of Auburn  
City of Bay City  
Bay County  
Bangor Township  
Beaver Township

City of Essexville  
Frankenlust Township  
Fraser Township  
Hampton Township  
Kawkawlin Township

Merritt Township  
Monitor Township  
City of Pinconning  
Portsmouth Township  
Williams Township

## For the Bay County Recreation Plan

Jim Barcia, Bay County Executive  
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Public meeting held on 1-8-19. Adopted by Bay County on 1-8-19  
Adopted by Hampton Township on 1-14-19



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# Introduction

With rich natural features including over 30 miles of Saginaw Bay shoreline, Bay County has abundant opportunities for recreation. The natural features and shoreline are a regional tourism draw and serve as an important component and contributor to the County's economy and overall quality of life.

According to the National Park and Recreation Association, parks and recreation have three values that make them essential services to communities:

## 1. Economic Value

- Parks improve the local tax base and increase property values. It is proven that private property values increase the closer such land is to parks. This increase in private property value due to the proximity to parks increases property tax revenues and improves local economies.
- Parks and recreation programs and facilities provide significant indirect revenues to local and regional economies from sports tournaments and special events such as arts, music, and holiday festivals. Economic activity from hospitality expenditures, tourism, fuel, recreational equipment sales, and many other private sector businesses is of true and sustained value to local and regional economies. This indirect economic value is in addition to direct revenues that are gained from park facilities and programs.

## 2. Health and Environmental Benefits

- Parks are the places that people go to get healthy and stay fit.
- Parks and recreation programs and services contribute to the health of children, youth, adults, and seniors.
- Parks and protected public lands are proven to improve water quality, protect groundwater, prevent flooding, improve the quality of the air we breathe, provide vegetative buffers to development, produce habitat for wildlife, and provide a place for children and families to connect with nature and recreate outdoors together.

## 3. Social Importance

- Parks are a tangible reflection of the quality of life in a community. They provide identity for citizens and are a major factor in the perception of quality of life in a given community. Parks and recreation services are often cited as one of the most important factors in surveys of how livable communities are.
- Parks provide gathering places for families and social groups, as well as for individuals of all ages and economic status, regardless of their ability to pay for access.
- Parks have a value to communities that transcend the amount of dollars invested or the revenues gained from fees. Parks provide a sense of public pride and cohesion to every community.

Geographically, Bay County is well-positioned to exemplify these benefits. Bay County is located within a unique and diverse ecological area within Michigan. It is part of the Saginaw Bay watershed. Its rich resources support agriculture, manufacturing, tourism, outdoor recreations, and a vast variety of wildlife. The Saginaw Bay watershed is Michigan's largest watershed (8,709 square miles), including a part of 22 counties. The Bay contains sections of white sandy beach shorelines as well as freshwater coastal wetland areas. The watershed drains approximately 15% of Michigan's total land area.

## Regional Plan with 15 Participating Communities

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Recognizing the importance of regional recreation and cooperative planning efforts, community officials from across the County have joined together in an effort to develop a Parks and Recreation Plan aimed at improving and developing recreational resources in Bay County.

Bay County led the effort to complete this recreation plan. Fourteen of the governmental jurisdictions within Bay County have also participated in this multi-jurisdictional recreation plan. Those 14 governmental jurisdictions include 10 townships and four cities:

1. Auburn
2. Bangor Charter Township
3. Bay City
4. Beaver Township
5. Essexville
6. Frankenlust Township
7. Fraser Township
8. Hampton Charter Township
9. Kawkawlin Township
10. Merritt Township
11. Monitor Charter Township
12. Pinconning
13. Portsmouth Charter Township
14. Williams Charter Township

Figure 1 shows a map of Bay County and the communities that are participating in the recreation plan.

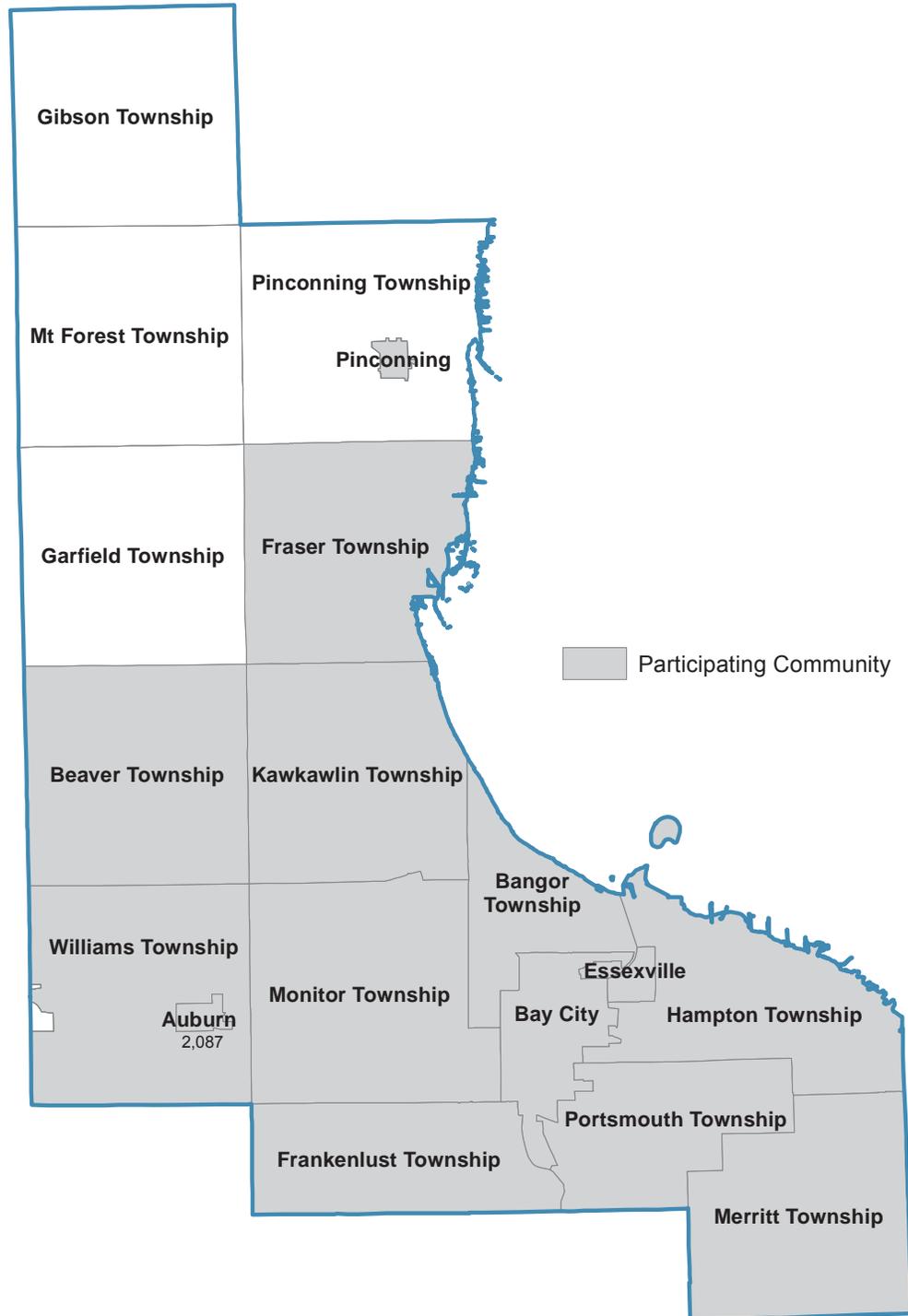


Figure 1 – Communities that are participating in the Bay County Area Recreation Plan

## About this Plan

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In accordance with the State recommended five-year cycle for recreation planning, this updated plan covers the five-year period 2019-2023. The content and process follow requirements of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for a community recreation plan.

This document is intended to serve as a guide in the planning for future park and recreation opportunities, services and implementation. Population shifts, new development and changing attitudes towards leisure have added additional pressures to the community's existing parks and recreation system, thus increasing the need for both short and long-range planning.

Recommendations such as land acquisition, and facility expansions and construction, and even the design of a neighborhood park improvement, will require additional study or involvement of residents in order to address the site-specific details. This plan lays the foundation upon which these activities can build.

Implementation strategies are identified over the next five years, at which time the plan will again be updated. The delineation of these improvements will aid Bay County and the other communities participating in the plan in grant solicitation from the DNR and other granting agencies, as well as with long range capital improvement budgeting. Additionally, during the next five years, it is important for Bay County and the participant communities to reference the plan and make appropriate priority adjustments as conditions change and funding opportunities arise.

The plan is an update of the 2014 Recreation Plan that included Bay County and 15 constituent communities. The document is formatted such that data related to the overall County comprises the first portion of the Plan. The second half of the plan provides detailed information regarding each of the participating communities, including the inventory, goals and objectives, and action plan for each community. The document concludes with an overall summary and description of the adoption process.



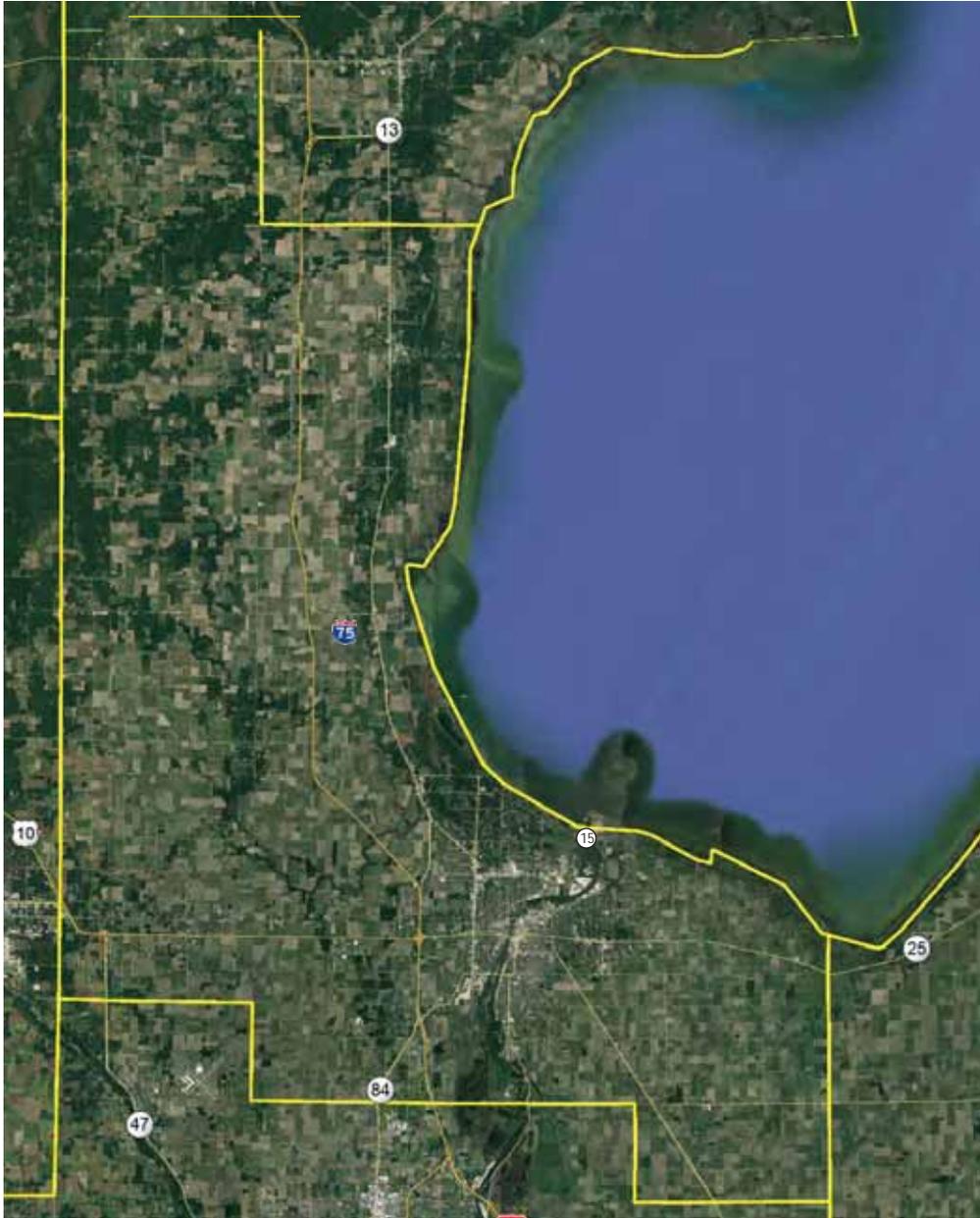
# Community Description

Bay County is located in east central lower Michigan along the mouth of the Saginaw Bay. The County is largely rural, with the majority of the land being used for agricultural purposes. There are 444 square miles in Bay County and approximately 35 miles of Saginaw Bay/Lake Huron shoreline. Bay City is the county seat of Bay County and it serves as the commercial and employment center of the County. Bay County is part of the Great Lakes Bay Region, which consists of Bay, Saginaw, and Midland Counties.

Fourteen townships and four cities are located within Bay County. A small portion of a fifth city, Midland, is also located within Bay County.

According to the 2010 Census, Bay County has a population of 107,771 in 44,603 households, giving it an average household size of 2.38 persons. The July 1, 2017, population estimate was 104,239. The population has seen a slight decline each decade since 1980, when the population peaked at 110,157 people.

According to the 2016 population estimates program the median age of residents in Bay County is 42.7 years. This is more than three years greater than the median for Michigan, which is 39.5 years. It is five years greater than the median age of the United States which is 37.7 years. This is worth noting because an older population may have differing needs in terms of recreation facilities and programs.



**Figure 2** – An aerial image shows the rural nature of Bay County, Bay City as the population center, and the location of major thoroughfares. *Image Courtesy of Google Earth*

Another population that can have differing needs in terms of recreation facilities and programs is the disabled. At 16.6%, Bay County ranks higher than Michigan and the United States in the percent of the population with a disability. This statistic generally correlates directly with age. The higher the median age, the larger the disabled population.

Figure 3 shows some of the significant demographic data regarding the residents of Bay County as they compare to Michigan and the United States.

	Bay County	Michigan	United States
Median Age	42.7	39.5	37.7
% of Population 65+	18.3%	15.4%	14.5%
% of Population under 18	21.0%	22.5%	23.1%
Owner Occupied Homes	77.9%	73.0%	65.10%
Average Household Size	2.39	2.51	2.64
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	18.1%	27.4%	30.3%
Median Household Income	\$45,851	\$50,803	\$55,322
Per Capita Income	\$24,753	\$27,549	\$29,829
Disabled	16.6%	14.2%	12.5%
% Below Poverty Level	15.8%	16.3%	15.1%

Figure 3 – Demographic data comparisons for Bay County, Michigan and the United States. *Source: 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.*



# Administrative Structure

## Governing Bodies and Administration

### **Bay County Board of Commissioners**

A seven-member elected Board of Commissioners governs the Bay County. As the elected governing body, the Board of Commissioners is responsible for establishing countywide policy, articulating priorities, and adopting an annual operating and capital improvement budget. Through its policy setting functions, the Board of Commissioners establishes recreational opportunities through land and facility use decisions and funding appropriations for programs. The Board of Commissioners is organized into different committees. Recreation planning and programming generally falls in two of these committees. Specifically, the Personnel and Human Services Committee reviews recommendations made by the County Executive for personnel matters, including staffing and filling of vacancies and other planning functions. Budget appropriations, authorizations for grant applications, the establishment of fees and other financial matters are the responsibility of the Ways and Means Committee.

### **County Executive**

In 1978, Bay County voters approved the optional unified form of County government as specified by PA 139 of 1973, with an elected County Executive. The County Executive is responsible for the

administrative oversight of recreational facilities and programming, community planning and economic development. Day-to-day management decisions affecting recreational facilities and activities is the responsibility of the Facility Manager and Recreation Facilities Director. Broad community development and recreational planning, including non-motorized trails, Saginaw Bay shoreline access and land use improvements is under the direction of the Environmental Affairs and Community Development Director.

A recreation staff organization chart is shown at the end of this chapter in Figure 6.

## Programming

Bay County offers a variety of programs at its park facilities and it cooperates with other communities and school districts to expand those offerings.

### At the Civic Arena

The Bay County Civic Arena, established in 1997, provides ice skating opportunities in the form of figure skating, speed skating, and hockey. These programs provide opportunities for skaters of all ages. Non-profit collaboration occurs with the SK8 Bay Figure Skating Club, the Bay County Hockey Association, local school districts and others.

Three youth summer camps are offered each summer, and learn-to-skate is available on a year-round basis. A youth 3 on 3 hockey league is offered as well as four seasons of adult hockey. The Civic Arena serves as the home ice for the SK8 Bay Figure Skating Club and four hockey teams: Bay City Wolves high school team, the Bay Area Thunder high school team, Bay County Blizzard, and Icehawks Junior hockey. The Civic Arena also hosts numerous hockey tournaments and exhibits each year.

### At the Community Center

Bay County owns and operates the Bay County Community Center, located adjacent to Veterans Memorial Park (which is owned by the City of Bay City) at 800 John F. Kennedy Drive. Constructed in the 1970's, the Community Center is home for the county operated summer youth recreation programs during June, July and August each year. It also serves as the home of the original portion of Bay County Sports Hall of Fame. An outdoor swimming pool is operated each summer at the Community Center site. Programs for young people and families are offered, as well as use by BAYS, the Bay Area Youth Swim team.



Other programs offered at the Community Center include fitness classes, pickleball, badminton, and knockerball. Shuffleboard is offered in conjunction with the Department of Aging. The Community Center is also used by men's basketball, volleyball, and church league basketball groups.

### At the Golf Course

Bay County owns and operates the Bay County Golf Course, an 18-hole public golf course established in 1966. It serves as a host site for local high school golf programs, and it is home to many leagues as well as open golf opportunities for the public. The course is home to group golf outings for businesses and a variety of tournaments. The golf course also offers youth golf clinics.

### At the Bay County Fairgrounds

Bay County owns and operates the Bay County Fairgrounds, located at 800 Livingston Avenue. This multi-use facility serves as home to the Bay County Fair and Youth Exposition each year in early August. Other activities include use of the handicapped accessible grand stands for shows and events such as tractor pulls and demolition derbies. The site also has a canteen building used for events. It is often rented for private parties and it is used as a congregate nutrition site for Senior Citizens operated by the Bay County Division on Aging.

Bay County works cooperatively with the Bay County Fair Board, Humane Society of Bay County, and other groups on programs offered at this location.

### Other Cooperative Programs

Bay County works collaboratively with the Bay County Softball Association to provide softball league play using the lighted diamonds in Veterans Memorial Park. These diamonds are owned by the City of Bay City but maintained by the Bay County Parks and Recreation maintenance staff. The Bay County Softball Association covers the cost of that maintenance.

## Current Funding Sources and Budgets

Sources of revenues for Parks and Recreation in Bay County include the county general fund, user fees, rental fees and donations. A breakdown of two years of budget data for revenues and expenditures is shown in Figures 4 and 5.

<b>Figure 4</b>		
<b>BAY COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION BUDGETED REVENUES</b>		
	<b>2017 Budget</b>	<b>2018 Budget</b>
User Fees	\$832,280	770,231
Rental Fees	\$653,481	593,000
Donations	\$21,727	\$8,900
Other Revenues	\$20,008	\$12,732
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,527,496</b>	<b>\$1,384,863</b>

**Figure 5**  
**BAY COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION BUDGETED EXPENDITURES**

	2017 Budget	2018 Budget
Operation, Maintenance & Programming	\$2,252,276	\$2,223,169
Capital Expenditures	\$35,085	\$29,800
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,287,361</b>	<b>\$2,242,969</b>

**Role of Volunteers and Relationships with School Districts, Other Public Agencies, or Private Organizations**

The County serves the population within its geographical and political boundaries. To serve its citizens, elected officials and staff seek out the input and involvement of others. On-going communication with citizen groups, other elected officials and staff of the surrounding municipalities, schools, private non-profit organizations, and private sector assures a coordinated effort. Although the community does not have a formally recognized recreational advisory group, several other groups of citizens fulfill essentially comparable responsibilities.

These other groups including associations, collaborations, and fund-raising efforts, provide countless volunteer hours developing, maintaining and providing recreational opportunities for the citizens of Bay County. The Bay County Volleyball Association and Basketball Association of Bay County meet with staff, at a minimum, twice each year. Similarly, meetings with Golf League Secretaries and the Bay County Softball Association occur at season opening and closure. Efforts are directed at developing programming. These efforts are fostered by strong relationships with the local schools and non-profit community that provides access to other facilities and programming. Activities also occur on a weekly basis with the Division on Aging, which is located on the north side of the Community Center.



In addition to the County operated summer recreation program, Bay County provides funding for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Bay County with site locations in Bay City, Essexville, and Pinconning. In 2018, funding for these programs was \$13,000. Several hundred children are served each year.

Outside the Community Center, Bay County maintains, by contract, lighted softball diamonds which are owned by the City of Bay City. This City/County/Softball Association collaboration at this location has been a long-standing arrangement for many years.

At the Bay County Fairgrounds, the County works in concert with the Bay County Fair Board, MSU Extension and 4-H, and the Humane Society of Bay County. In 2006, the County established a dog park at the site with funding provided by the Humane Society and labor by the County staff.

## Recreation Policies and Procedures

Generally, policies and procedures fall into two categories. First, there are those established by the Board of Commissioners and County Executive that apply to all county departments such as the County purchasing policy, annual budget, and schedule of fees. Facility Managers, along with other county administrators, develop other department specific procedures. Examples of these procedures include fee waivers, rules of facility use, and cash handling practices.

Recognizing the County's limited financial resources, the organization has adopted a general practice that prioritizes lower or no cost opportunities for youth while adult opportunities generally require payment. Adult sports activities such as softball are responsible to cover all program cost through user fees.

In general, when planning recreational opportunities, programs always provide opportunities for the needs and the skills of each individual enrolled. Programs are broad based, and every effort is made to provide updated programs to meet the changes in recreational trends. Programs are planned and offered for the following:

- Elementary, Middle School, High School & Adults
- Senior Citizens 60 and above
- Individuals with disabilities

Seminars, classes and other planned activities will involve well-trained and educated instructors to provide the participant with the best possible experience. The program will involve opportunities for everyone educationally and recreationally. Opportunities for team competition will be programmed. Currently, adult basketball and volleyball are played at the Community Center and adult hockey at the Civic Arena. Additional athletics will be planned where interests exist and when facilities are available. Bay County programming strives to improve the physical and social well-being of the individual.

Bay County has continued to focus on wellness activities for county employees, as well as county residents. Under this initiative, employees will be offered incentives to utilize county recreation facilities for physical activities which promote good health and wellness. This includes use of the fitness centers at the Community Center and Civic Arena, free fitness classes, lap swim, and noon ice skate, and discounted golf.

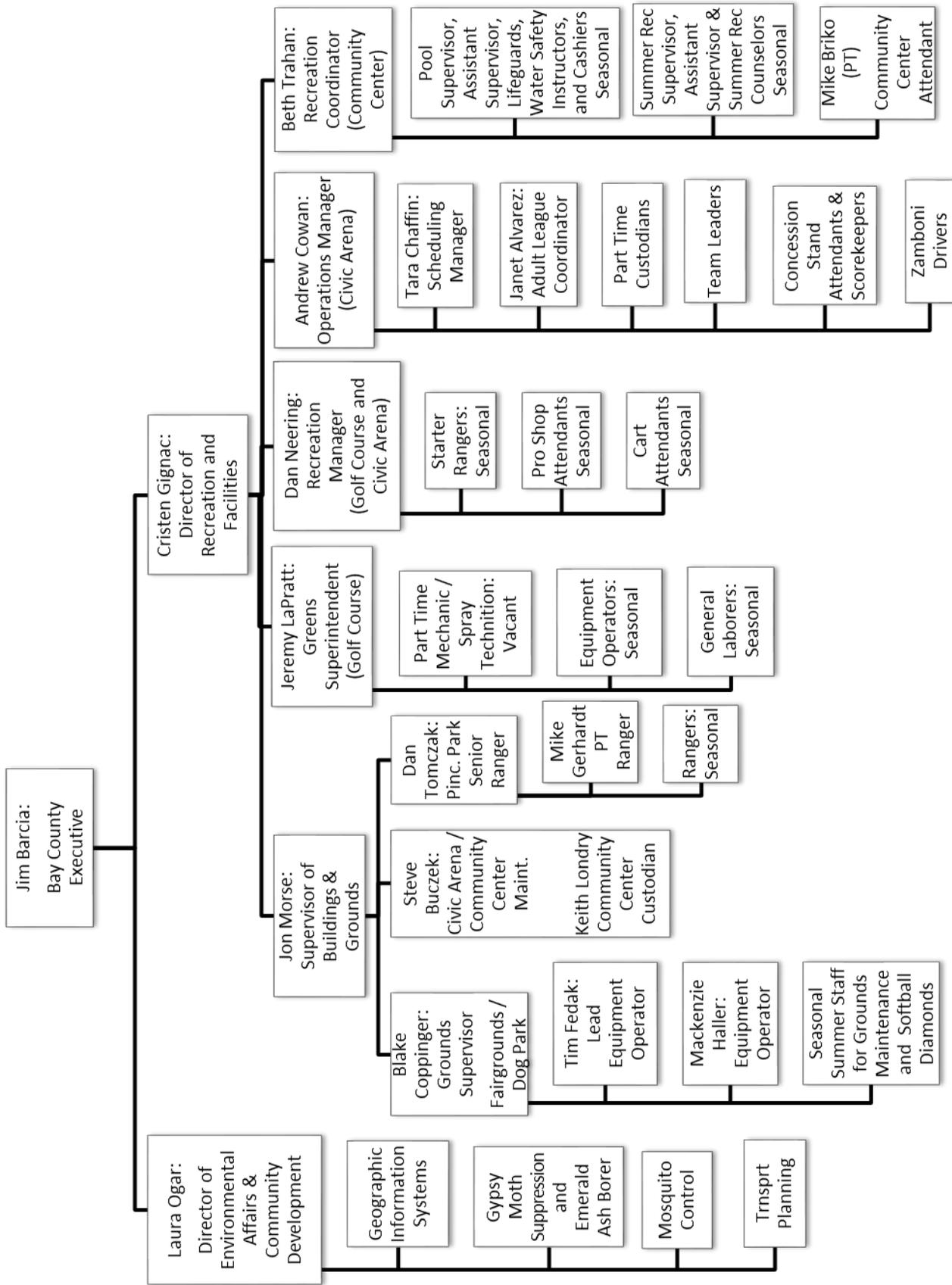


Figure 4 – Recreational staff organization chart for Bay County.



# Recreation Inventory

In order to plan for parks and recreation in the future, communities need to examine the types of facilities that currently exist in Bay County. It is also helpful to compare these existing facilities to various standards as one measure of the adequacy of the parks and recreation facilities in the community. The inventory was completed by updating the inventory used in the previous plan. The consultant and County staff worked together to complete any updates or revisions. They also completed an accessibility review of each park's facilities.

## Park Classification

The Recommended Classification System for Local and Regional Open Space from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources defines seven types of parks that may be applicable to parks within Bay County.

A **Mini-Park** is less than one acre in size and is less than 1/4 mile from a residential setting. It is used to address limited, isolated or unique recreational needs. **Neighborhood Parks** are generally 5 - 10 acres in size and they serve as the recreational and social focus of a neighborhood. Their service area is generally 1/4 to 1/2 mile. **School-Parks** can combine parks with school sites to help meet the recreational space needs for the community. **Community Parks** serve a broader purpose than Neighborhood Parks. They have more amenities and usually serve two or more neighborhoods within 1/2 to three miles and are generally 30 - 50 acres in size. Neighborhood Parks, Mini-Parks and Community Parks tend to be provided by local governing jurisdictions. This can be seen in the inventories of many of the communities that are included in this plan. Their parks are smaller and tend to meet the needs of the local community.

A **Special Use** facility is oriented toward single-purpose use. The Bay County Community Center/Swimming Pool, the County Golf Course, and the Civic Arena are all classified as Special Use Parks in Bay County. A **Natural Resource Area** is land set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space, and visual aesthetics/buffering. The Discovery Preserve (formerly known as the Keit Wetland Preserve/Euclid Linear Park) is a Natural Resource Area. A **Large Urban Park** is typically 50 to 75 acres and its focus is on meeting community-based recreational needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces. In Bay County, the County Fairgrounds and the Pinconning Park are classified as Large Urban Parks. A **Park Trail** is located within a greenway, park, or natural resource area and its focus is upon recreational value and harmony with the natural environment. The trails in the Discovery Preserve and the Pinconning Park are park trails.

A Bay County park location map is provided at the end of this section.

## Bay County Parks

### Bay County Community Center and Pool



**Area:** 4 acres

**Location:** 800 John F. Kennedy Drive, Bay City

**Park Classification:** Special Use

**Accessibility:** 4

**Service Area:** Entire County

The Community Center was developed jointly by the State of Michigan, City of Bay City, and Bay County. Now owned and operated by Bay County, the Community Center offers a variety of recreational facilities. The large gym provides an excellent location for basketball, pickleball, volleyball, fitness classes and other team sports. A smaller, multi-purpose sized gymnasium is suitable for basketball, and

gatherings such as wedding showers, trade shows, and card tournaments. The facility also houses a batting cage and a weight room/fitness center. Meeting rooms of various sizes can accommodate groups up to 240 people. The outdoor pool features a lap swim area, slide, and wheelchair access ramp.

Each summer the Community Center hosts a summer recreation program for area youth. Young people enjoy many social building skills, make new friends, and enjoy fun activities like arts and crafts, sports, and field trips.

## Bay County Civic Arena



**Area:** 5 acres

**Location:** 4231 Shrestha Drive, Bay City

**Park Classification:** Special Use

**Accessibility:** 4

**Service Area:** Entire County

The Bay County Civic Arena offers two ice surfaces year-round. An Olympic sized ice surface (100' x 200') and NHL sized ice surface (85' x 200') provide opportunities for hockey, figure, speed, and open skating. The facility also offers concessions, an arcade area, pro shop and nine locker rooms. A community room can seat up to 40 people comfortably for birthday parties and other special events like wedding showers. A 20,000 square foot dry floor surface is available for a variety of events, such as concerts, auto/boat/rv shows and trade shows.

Working in partnership with the Bay County Hockey Association, the arena offers year-round hockey programming for youth of all ages. The facility also includes an arena pro shop with skating equipment, repair, and sharpening, a concession area, and an arcade.



### Bay County Fairgrounds

**Area:** 42 acres

**Location:** 800 Livingston Street, Bay City

**Park Classification:** Large Urban Park

**Accessibility:** 3

**Service Area:** Entire County

The Fairgrounds features a grandstand with race track, various barns, campsites, pavilions and exhibit halls that are used primarily for the Bay County Fair. Other amenities include a walking path, playground, open playfield, a dog park and a canteen building that is used as a congregate meal site for the Division on Aging, for wedding receptions, showers, graduation parties, reunions, etc.



### Pinconning Park

**Area:** 205 acres

**Location:** 3041 E. Pinconning Road, Pinconning

**Park Classification:** Large Urban Park

**Accessibility:** 3 (lacking accessible pathway to beach, no push button entry doors to bath house)

**Service Area:** Entire County

Pinconning Park features year-round back to nature facilities and amenities located on Saginaw Bay. The park is popular for birdwatching, nature viewing, waterfowl hunting, swimming, and fishing. It includes 62 campsites and 6 camping cabins for overnight stays. Nature features include two trails (1.4 miles and .4 miles) that wind through the woodlands and delicate wetland ecosystem. Two observation towers are placed along the trails. Other amenities at the park include two pavilions, playground, boat launch, canoe/kayak rental, and bathroom with showers.

Bay County Golf Course



**Area:** 145 acres

**Location:** 584 West Hampton Road, Essexville, MI 48732

**Park Classification:** Special Use

**Accessibility:** 3 (does not have accessible picnic tables in the pavilion)

**Service Area:** Entire County

The Bay County Golf Course is an 18-hole facility located in Hampton Township. It features continuous cart paths winding throughout the course and a full fleet of golf carts. The course also features a practice putting green adjacent to the clubhouse. Three local high schools use it for their home golf course.

## Other Bay County Owned Recreation Facilities

**Discovery Preserve** – The 9-acre Discovery Preserve at 1701 Euclid Avenue in Bay City was formerly known as the Keit Nature Preserve & Euclid Linear Park. In 2015, the Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy began managing the park so that it could become a learning landscape for children and families. It includes a nature playground, boardwalk, spotting scope, birdhouses, and a pavilion. It is one of the Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy’s Outdoor Urban Recreation (O.U.R.) projects.

**Stoney Island** – This is a seven-acre island located within the Saginaw River west of Harry Browne Airport. It is undeveloped.

**Par 3 Golf Course** – This 17-acre parcel was formerly a private golf course driving range that included three golf holes. It is currently undeveloped.

## Grant History

Bay County has received nine DNR recreation grants. They are listed below:

1. LWCF 26-00163 – Veterans Park, \$27,796, Development
2. LWCF 26-0075 – Pinconning Park, \$44,000, Acquisition
3. LWCF 26-00561 – Veterans Park, \$17,539, Development
4. LWCF 26-00809 – Pinconning Park, \$33,845, Development
5. TF88-110 – Pinconning Park, \$60,000, Development
6. BF92-311 – Pinconning Park, \$71,900, Development
7. TF95-255 – Keit Linear Park, \$375,000, Acquisition
8. CM00-164 – Pinconning Park, \$95,538, Development
9. TF00-354 – Bay County Wetlands Improvements (Keit Linear Park), \$88,226, Development
10. TF01-087 – Bay County Trail Improvements (Fairgrounds), \$22,000, Development
11. TF09-027 – Pinconning Park Improvements, \$325,000, Development

All of the improvements are open, functional and operational. It should be noted that the encumbrances associated with the two Veterans Park projects are in the process of being transferred to the City of Bay City since the City owns Veterans Park.

## Water Trails

Due to the rise of paddling sports and recreation activities in the past decade, considerable effort has been spent to develop water trails on the Saginaw Bay and its tributaries. In 2015, Bay County completed the Saginaw Bay Blue Water Trail Development Plan. It was undertaken by Bay County and its partners to identify sites and to create a preliminary map of ready-to-use landing sites. The plan investigated each of those sites and add others that were not identified. The plan also identified deficiencies in each site and proposed possible site improvements that would make each landing more usable by paddlers. A map of the water trail access sites is included in the Appendix.

## Non-Motorized Trails

Trails are generally identified as one of the most desirable recreation facilities in any community. Many of the communities within Bay County have developed stand-alone trails in their community or they have developed trails that are part of a larger network. These are listed below and described within each jurisdiction's section of the plan.

- Bay County Riverwalk Trail System consisting of:
  - Riverwalk/Railtrail Loop – Bay City
  - Portsmouth Township Rail Trail
  - Bangor Township Rail Trail
  - Bay City State Park Trails

A map of the Bay County Riverwalk Trail System is included in the Appendix.

- Hampton Rail Trail – Hampton Township
- Fraser Township Rail Trail – Fraser Township
- BayZil Rail Trail – Frankenlust Township

In recent years Bay County has joined with Midland and Saginaw Counties in the Great Lakes Bay Regional Trail (GLBRT) Alliance to develop a plan to link the three counties in a combined trail network. Several sections of the trail have been completed. The Bay Zil Rail Trail is part of the GLBRT Trail. A map of the GLBRT Trail is included in the Appendix.

## Other Significant Public Bay County Recreation Facilities

In addition to the park and recreation facilities owned by the local jurisdictions that are described elsewhere in this plan, there are five significant large state-owned recreation facilities in Bay County:

**Bay City State Recreation Area** – 540-acre state park just north of Bay City on Saginaw Bay. Includes a spray park, observation towers, fishing, hunting, trapping, visitor center, pavilions, beach, and approximately 135 campsites.

**Tobico Marsh Nature Area** – 1,848-acre wildlife refuge that is located adjacent to the Bay City State Recreation Area. Tobico Marsh State Game is undeveloped and contains a variety of habitat, from small pockets of cattail marshes and oak/maple climax forest to Tobico Lagoon, a 900-acre body of water and the largest remaining wetland along Saginaw Bay. The entire area is home to deer, beaver, muskrat, and mink, but it's the wide variety of birds, especially waterfowl, that makes this refuge significant. It includes 4.8 miles of trails.

**Quanicassee Wildlife Area** – Approximately 980 acres in two separate areas in Bay County's Hampton Township. Additional acreage is located in Tuscola County. The Quanicassee Wildlife Area features large wetland tracts and Saginaw Bay frontage.

**Nayanquing Point Wildlife Area** – Approximately 1,040 acres in Fraser Township. Nayanquing Point is a collection of farm fields, diked pools, mud flats and Saginaw Bay marshland. It is known as an important bird area by the Audobon Society. It includes an observation tower and waterfowl hunting areas. An additional 130 acres is located to the north in Pinconning Township.

**Crow Island State Game Area** – Approximately 25% of the 3,489-acre game area lies within Frankenlust Township in Bay County. It is managed to promote safe nesting, brood rearing and migration stop-over habitat for local and migratory waterfowl and shorebirds and to provide for myriad hunting and non-consumptive wildlife related recreational pursuits.

Accessibility

Creating a park system that is safe, accessible and usable to all individuals within the community, including those with disabilities, is essential. Bay County has done considerable work to meet the requirements of the ADA and provide barrier free access to many of its facilities. Among its efforts includes a review of all buildings and programs.

A grading system has been developed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to easily identify those parks and facilities which are most and least handicap accessible and usable, based on the ADA guidelines. The accessibility grading system uses a five point system ranging from one, none of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines, to five, the entire park was developed/renovated using the principals of universal design.

MDNR Accessibility Grading System for Parks and Recreational Facilities	
Accessibility Grade	Definition
1	None of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines.
2	Some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines.
3	Most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines.
4	The entire park meets accessibility guidelines.
5	The entire park was developed/renovated using the principles of universal design.

An Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance assessment of Bay County’s parks was conducted during the spring of 2008, reviewed in 2013 and again in 2018. The assessment consisted of a visual inspection of each park in regards to access and circulation in relation to the park facilities. This was done so that the Recreation and Facilities Department would have a basis when considering any physical improvements to make park facilities more readily usable by persons of all abilities. As noted in the inventory listing, some of the parks do not meet all criteria for handicap accessibility. The County Board of Commissioners will continue its efforts towards improving accessibility at all County parks.

## Natural Resources Inventory

A resource inventory can be used to identify open space areas that may be desirable for protection and/or public access through acquisition or other means. In Bay County, the most significant natural resource is the Saginaw Bay, and its shoreline. Public access to the 38 miles of Bay County shoreline is extremely limited. Private residential development occurs along much of the beachfront shoreline except for the Bay City State Recreation Area. In other areas, the shoreline is predominantly state-owned wildlife refuge area where public access is restricted.

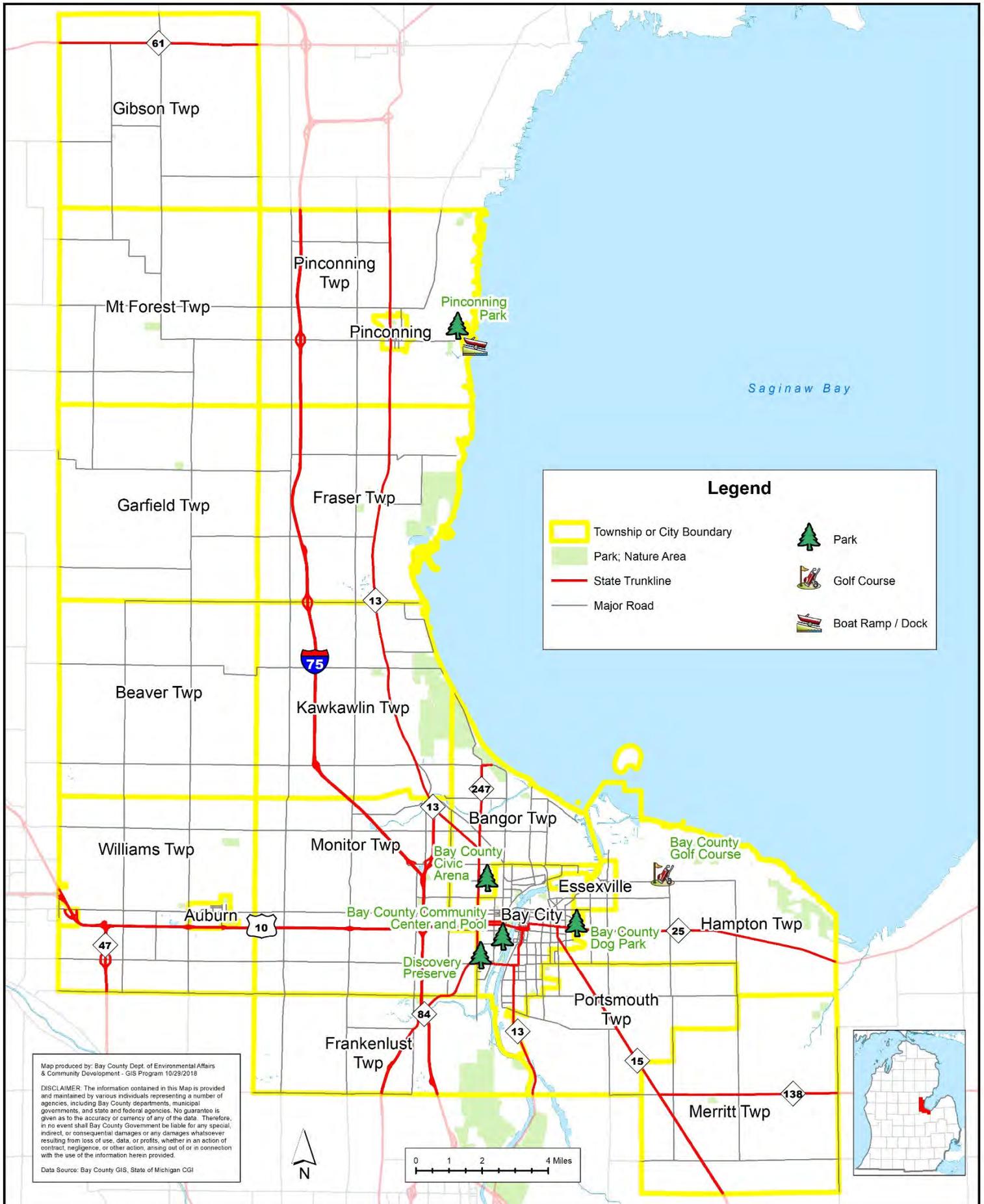
The Bay provides habitat for large populations of waterfowl, birds, and more than 90 fish species. It provides a wide variety of year-round recreational activities which comprise an important component of the Bay County economy. The Saginaw and Kawkawlin Rivers are two large rivers in Bay County that drain into Saginaw Bay. These rivers and the wetlands that surround them are also significant natural resources in Bay County. As described above, the Michigan DNR controls significant natural resource lands in Bay County, most of which are along the bay and river shorelines. Bay County and all of the communities that contain bay or river shoreline should take care to preserve and protect these unique resources so they can be enjoyed for generations to come, while also keeping options available for creating public access.

Lastly, there are some large stands of woodlands scattered across Bay County that can also be considered significant natural resources. These may be worthy of public preservation, especially if there is concern that they may be lost due to development or agricultural use. The state-owned lands and the large woodland tracts can be viewed in the aerial image in Figure 7.





# Bay County Recreation Facilities



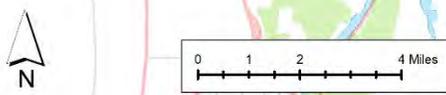
### Legend

	Township or City Boundary		Park
	Park; Nature Area		Golf Course
	State Trunkline		Boat Ramp / Dock
	Major Road		

Map produced by: Bay County Dept. of Environmental Affairs & Community Development - GIS Program 10/29/2018

DISCLAIMER: The information contained in this Map is provided and maintained by various individuals representing a number of agencies, including Bay County departments, municipal governments, and state and federal agencies. No guarantee is given as to the accuracy or currency of any of the data. Therefore, in no event shall Bay County Government be liable for any special, indirect, or consequential damages or any damages whatsoever resulting from loss of use, data, or profits, whether in an action of contract, negligence, or other action, arising out of or in connection with the use of the information herein provided.

Data Source: Bay County GIS, State of Michigan CGI





# Community Input

To comply with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation Open Space and Greenway Plans, Bay County provided two public input opportunities – an online survey and an advertised public meeting held prior to adoption of the plan. The online survey was used as its primary method for community input. The survey was developed with general questions about parks and recreation. All respondents were also presented with survey questions about Bay County Parks and Bay City Parks. Bay City chose to present its survey questions to all survey respondents because its larger parks tend to be used by all county residents.

Each other participating community was also offered the opportunity to add questions to the survey that would be seen only by those respondents that indicated they lived in that community. The following communities added questions to the survey that were specific to their community: Auburn, Beaver Township, Hampton Township, Kawkawlin Township, and Monitor Township.

The survey was primarily distributed online. Paper copies were also developed for those communities who indicated a need for them. The survey was available from September 10, 2018 until October 2, 2018. It was publicized with a variety of methods:

- Bay County website
- Bay County individual park website pages
- Bay County Park Facebook posts
- Bay County Facebook posts
- Spicer Group Facebook boosted posts (advertisements)
- Participating community websites

- E-mail blasts with survey links from Bay County and participating communities
- Via the Environment Report on Delta College Q-90.1 FM radio
- Fliers that were distributed to all local communities for posting in public places
- Postcards for distribution

**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

**Bay County is updating its Parks and Recreation Plan.** This plan will document what we want to do with parks and recreation across the County and in **your community** in the upcoming years. Please take a few minutes to take our online survey so we know what you think about the County and local parks in Bay County. It will help us to plan for the future!

Go to [www.BayCountySurvey.com](http://www.BayCountySurvey.com)

Mobile device users  
scan here!



}



Notifications about the survey included a QR code that could be scanned by mobile device users.

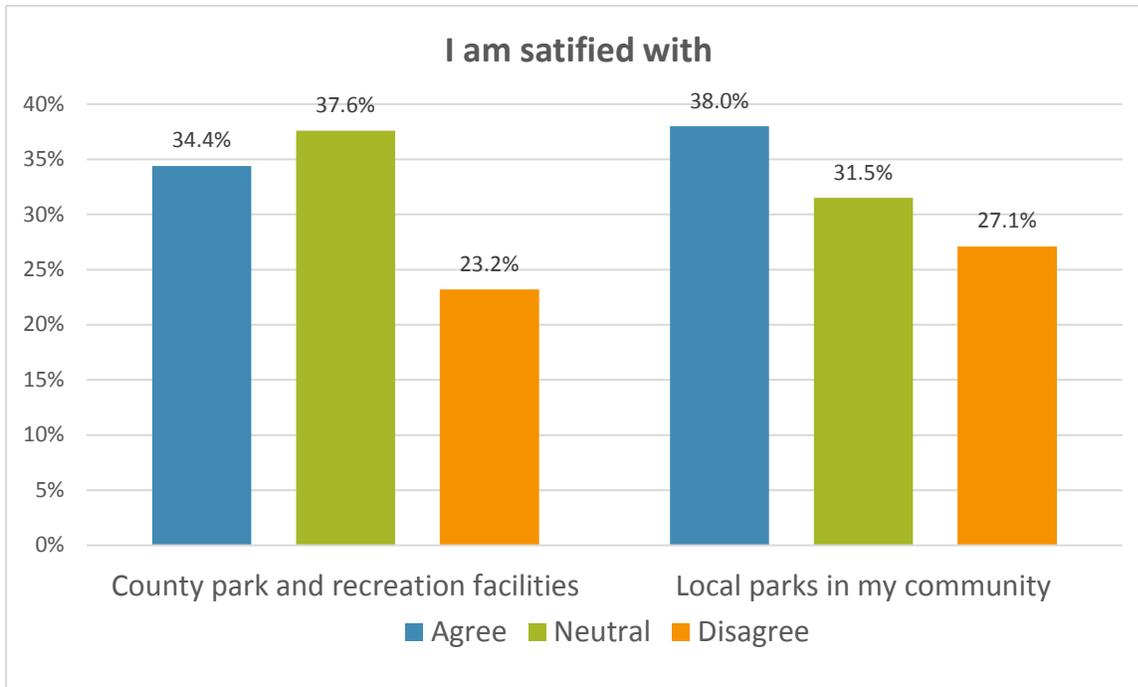
The survey received 956 complete responses and another 315 partial responses, whereby the respondent completed at least one question. This is a huge increase over the input received in 2013, when the survey had 342 responses. A compilation of all survey responses is given in the Appendix. Highlights of the survey are described in the paragraphs below.

### General Park Questions

#### Satisfaction with Parks

When asked to rate their feelings regarding statements about County and local parks, the respondents had varied opinions. More than 35% of respondents were neutral regarding their satisfaction with County Parks. Slightly less than one-third agreed that they were satisfied with County park and recreation facilities in Bay County. Approximately 23% of the respondents disagreed with the statement that they were satisfied with County park and recreation facilities in Bay County.

Thirty-eight percent of respondents agreed that they were satisfied with local parks in their community. Slightly more than 31% were neutral regarding that statement and 27% disagreed. See Figure 8.



**Figure 8** – Respondents opinions were mixed regarding their satisfaction with County and Local parks.

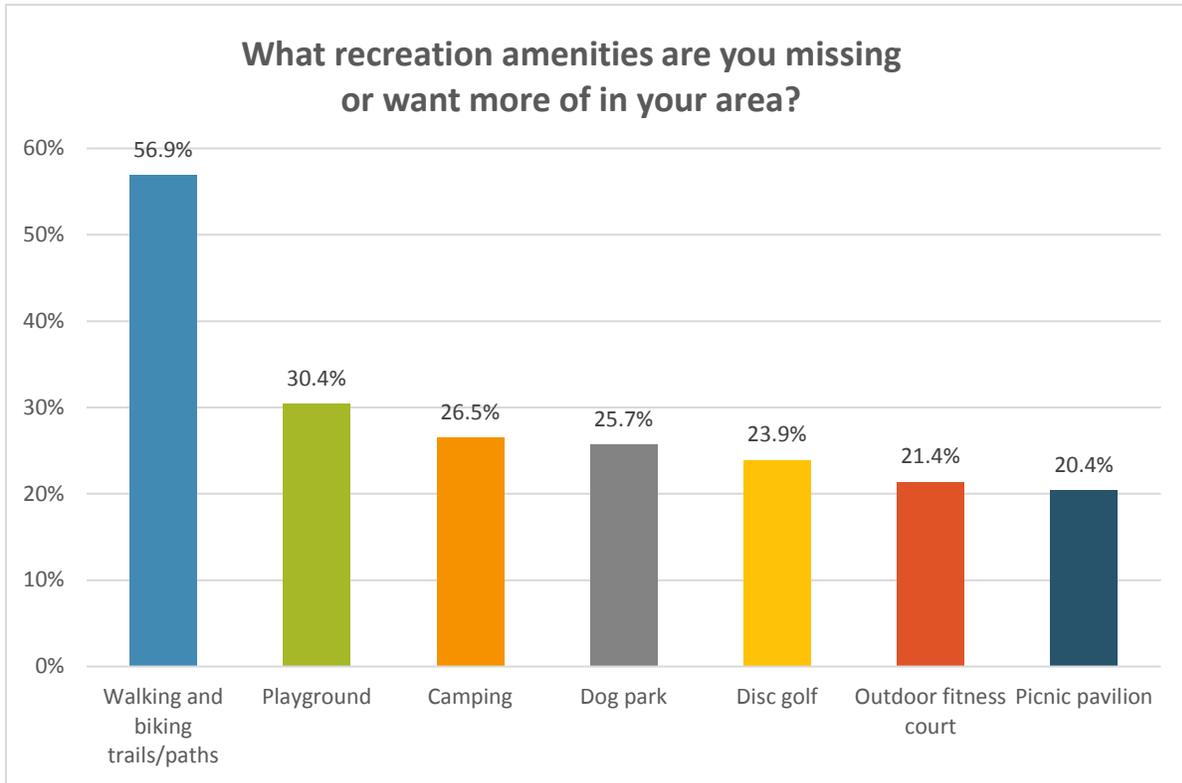
### Natural Areas

Survey respondents had strong positive feelings about improving access to and enhancing natural resources and recreation opportunities on the Saginaw Bay and Saginaw River as well as how preserving natural areas and water resources have a positive effect on their quality of life. Nearly three-fourths of the respondents agreed with the statement that the preservation of natural areas and water resources in our community has a positive effect on my quality of life. More than 90% agreed with the statement that It is important to improve access to and enhance the natural resources and recreation opportunities on the Saginaw Bay and Saginaw River.

### Recreation Opportunities Missing

Respondents were presented with 16 potential recreation facilities and asked to check those that were missing or that they wanted more of in their area. Respondents could also fill in a response that had not been indicated. Walking and biking trails/paths was, by far, the most popular facility checked with nearly 57% of the respondents checking that item. The top seven items needed are shown in Figure 9.

One hundred ninety-eight respondents wrote in other recreation opportunities that were missing in their area. Frequent other responses that were written in included a clean beach, access to water or waterpark, and tennis courts.



**Figure 9** – Top seven recreation amenities missing or wanting more of.

### Programs

Question 4 of the survey was a fill in the blank question that asked what kind of recreational programs the respondents would like to see added to their community. Nearly 550 respondents provided an answer. Many of the more popular answers mentioned facilities as opposed to programs. For example, more than 100 respondents again mentioned the need for a path or walking trail. Fifty-two mentioned the need for disc golf. The most popular response in terms of programs was fitness, aerobics, or yoga classes. Other answers were widely varied including such items as a ladder ball tournament, golf league, fishing clinics, cheerleading, and archery.

### Seniors and Active Older Adults

Question 5 asked respondents to write in the types of recreational opportunities that wanted to see added in Bay County for senior citizens and active older adults. Three hundred sixty-nine responses were received. Answers here were similar to the things that were needed for the general population. Walking programs and trails were mentioned nearly 150 times. Other responses included fitness and exercise classes, yoga, pickleball, and dancing.

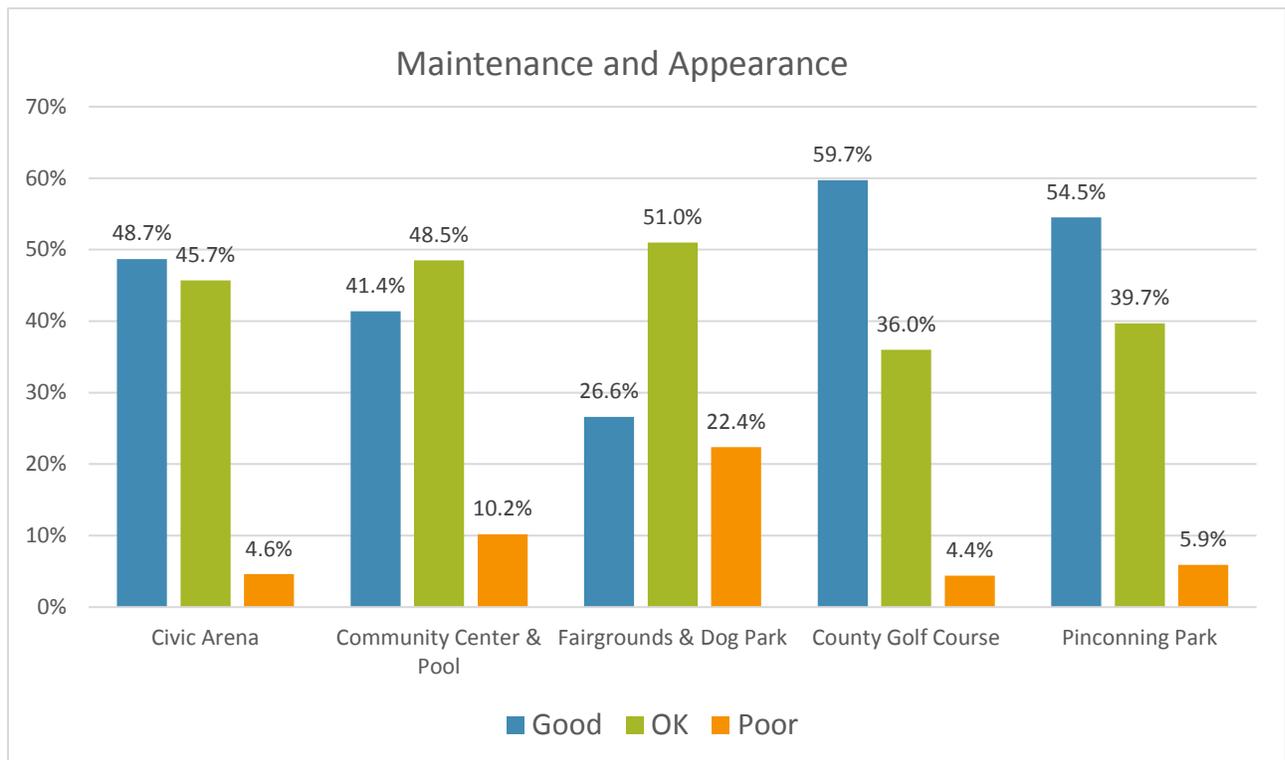
## Bay County Parks

The next section of the survey asked questions about the five recreation facilities that are operated by Bay County: the Civic Arena, Community Center and Pool, Bay County Fairgrounds and Dog Park, the Bay County Golf Course and Pinconning Park. Respondents were provided space to provide written feedback about each facility. More than 100 written comments were received about each park. The Fairgrounds received the most comments at 222.

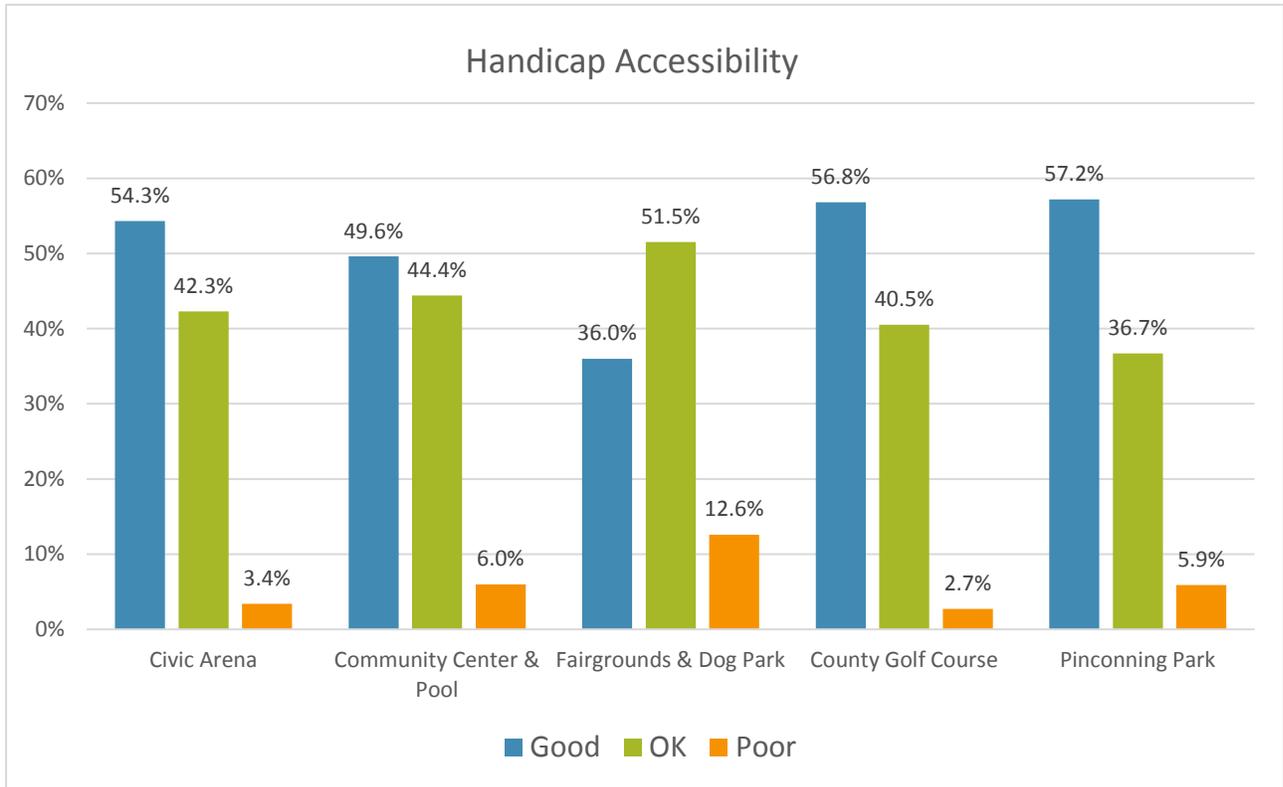
Respondents were asked to rate two factors as good, ok, or poor for each park: maintenance and appearance and handicap accessibility. Figures 11 and 12 show the result for those questions for those people **who had an opinion**. It should be noted that at least 30% of the respondents checked “don’t know” for their response. For some of the questions the percentage who indicated “don’t know” was over 70%.

In terms of maintenance and appearance, the County Golf Course had the highest percentage of respondents who rated the park as good (59.7%). The County Fairgrounds and Dog Park had the smallest percentage of respondents who rated the park as good in maintenance and appearance at 26.6%.

Handicap accessibility was rated good by the most respondents for Pinconning Park at 57.2%. The County Fairgrounds and Dog Park had the smallest percentage of respondents rating handicap accessibility as good at 36%.



**Figure 10** – Respondents were asked to rate the maintenance and appearance of the five park facilities that are owned and managed by Bay County.



**Figure 11** – Respondents were asked to rate the handicap accessibility of the five park facilities that are owned and managed by Bay County.

### Other Communities

The following communities asked specific questions as part of the online survey:

- Auburn
- Bay City
- Beaver Township
- Hampton Township
- Kawkawlin Township
- Monitor Township

Since many of its parks are regional in nature, the Bay City questions were offered to all survey respondents. The other individual questions were offered only to those who responded that they were residents of that community.



# Goals and Objectives

## Introduction

Developing goals and objectives is an important part of the recreation planning process. The overall goal of a parks and recreation department is 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, acquisitions, and programs. The Action Program can include organizational, staffing, programming, public information, and operation and maintenance actions. Bay County formulated the following goals and objectives in 2014 based upon the characteristics of the overall community, the input received at the community input sessions and the survey. They were reviewed for the 2019 Recreation Plan. These goals are applicable for Bay County parks and recreation and many of them also apply for the individual participating communities.

## GOAL 1

### **Retain public land for future generations.**

#### Objectives:

1. Retain existing parkland and acquire new public lands to meet the recreational needs of the community.
2. Promote and enhance the financial stability of Bay County's Parks and Recreation Division.
3. Preserve and protect open space and significant natural features in Bay County.
4. Increase access to the Great Lakes shoreline.

#### *Comments and Justification*

Residents of Bay County are proud of their parks and recreational facilities. They realize they are part of the quality of life in the area. New parcels of land may need to be acquired so specific facilities can be added or so that special natural features can be preserved.

## GOAL 2

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

#### Objectives:

1. Provide passive and active programming for a variety of ages and abilities of the population.
2. Continue to work with existing recreation partners in the community to provide programs, leagues, and special events. Explore options for new and expanded partnerships to provide additional recreational opportunities.

#### *Comments and Justification*

Due to limited resources and staffing, recreational programming and facilities in Bay County are provided by several different organizations and entities. Some of them work with the County in some capacity. The County wishes to continue facilitating and enhancing these relationships, where feasible, so as to meet the needs of residents without offering duplication of services. One successful example from recent years is the Great Lakes Bay Regional Trail group which is working together with Bay County to establish trail connectivity across Bay, Saginaw, and Midland Counties.

## GOAL 3

### **Provide safe, broad, community-based recreation opportunities that improve the overall quality of life for all residents of Bay County.**

#### Objectives:

1. Continue to add amenities to Bay County park facilities based upon community input and need.
2. Maintain and upgrade existing facilities to provide park facilities that inspire a sense of community pride.

### *Comments and Justification*

The county will use community input along with recreational trend data to formulate recreational capital improvement plans for the future. It will also work to improve and maintain existing facilities to keep them current, functional, and efficient.

#### GOAL 4

#### **Provide trails and multi-use paths for recreational and transportation use.**

##### Objectives:

1. Update the Bay County non-motorized trail plan.
2. Where possible, connect trails to regional trails and destinations.
3. Where feasible, encourage the County Road Commission to provide easements for trails and trail corridors that will connect to regional trails and destinations.



### *Comments and Justification*

All forms of non-motorized transportation are becoming increasingly important across the United States. Multi-use paths, trails, and bike lanes are used for recreation and transportation. Paths can be used for active and passive recreation and they are just one of many ways that can increase the health and fitness of a community.

#### GOAL 5

#### **Make Bay County a better place to live for seniors and people with disabilities.**

##### Objectives:

1. Promote the development of an inventory of services and opportunities in our community that promote the independence and quality of life for older adults and the disabled.
2. Initiate partnerships with other units of government and recreation providers to promote the development of senior friendly community amenities.
3. Provide recreational opportunities for people with disabilities, developing improvements and upgrades to park facilities that are handicap accessible.
4. Continue program development for special needs populations.

### *Comments and Justification*

According to the 2016 ACS 5-year estimate, the median age of Bay County residents is 42.7 years. That is more than three years greater than that of the State of Michigan at 39.5 years and 5 years greater than the median age of the United States which is 37.7 years. As the baby boom population continues to age, there will be increased demand for recreational facilities and services that meet the needs of aging adults. There was strong support for programs for senior citizens and active older adults in the online

survey comments. Further, Figure 3 shows that the 16.6% of County residents have a disability. This population also has special needs in terms of recreational facilities.

Bay County is attentive to the needs of its senior citizens and all those who have some diminished capacity that may limit their access to recreational resources in the community. Designs will incorporate the philosophies and principals of universal design and they will address Communities for a Lifetime goals. Communities for a Lifetime is an assessment and improvement planning process that helps make a community more “aging-friendly”.

#### GOAL 6

##### **Provide youth development programming and expand recreational facilities for such in Bay County.**

###### Objectives:

1. Encourage new sports leagues in Bay County based upon community input, recreation trends and general need.
2. Encourage the addition of one-day recreation events for youth in the community.
3. Provide a mechanism to assist youths with financial need to participate in County recreational activities.

###### *Comments and Justification*

Recreational opportunities for youth in Bay County are both numerous and diverse. The inventory of recreational resources substantiates both diverse recreational opportunity and geographic distribution of youth recreational facilities. This recreation plan supports the inclusion of new and emerging new youth recreational projects and facilities, like the skate park constructed in Bay City, that further diversify the types of recreation in which youth can engage and/or expand the geographic distribution of existing recreational opportunities in Bay County.

#### GOAL 7

##### **Develop recreation opportunities that focus upon and take advantage of Bay County’s natural assets.**

###### Objectives

1. Develop public fishing opportunities in Bay County.
2. Develop public hunting/shooting range opportunities in Bay County.
3. Develop opportunities, alone or in partnership with others, to educate citizens about natural resources and environmental stewardship in Bay County.
4. Develop recreation opportunities that take place along the Great Lakes Shoreline.
5. Continue to work to develop the Saginaw Bay Blueways Water Trail.

###### *Comments and Justification*

Bay County has some unique natural resources and habitats. It is part of the Mississippi and Atlanta flyway for migratory birds. The Saginaw Bay provides a shoreline wetland habitat and a great location for sport fishing – especially walleye. Woodlands provide habitat for deer, raccoons, muskrat, squirrels, rabbits, and other small game. Bay County wishes to incorporate these features into its parks and recreation facilities. Further, it wishes to educate the public about the unique environments in Bay County.

## GOAL 8

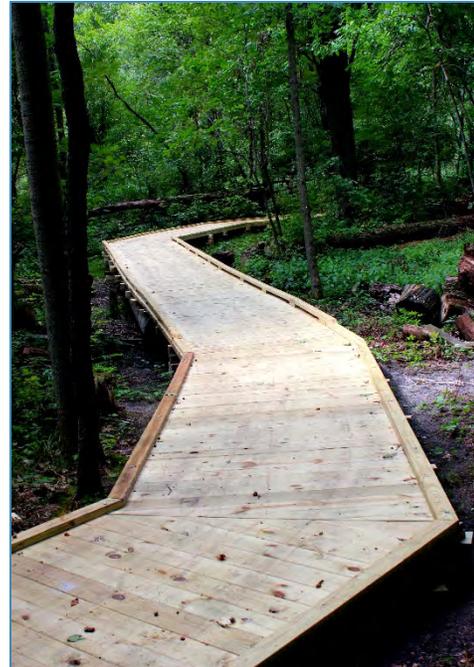
### **Promote community awareness for all the recreation opportunities that Bay County has to offer.**

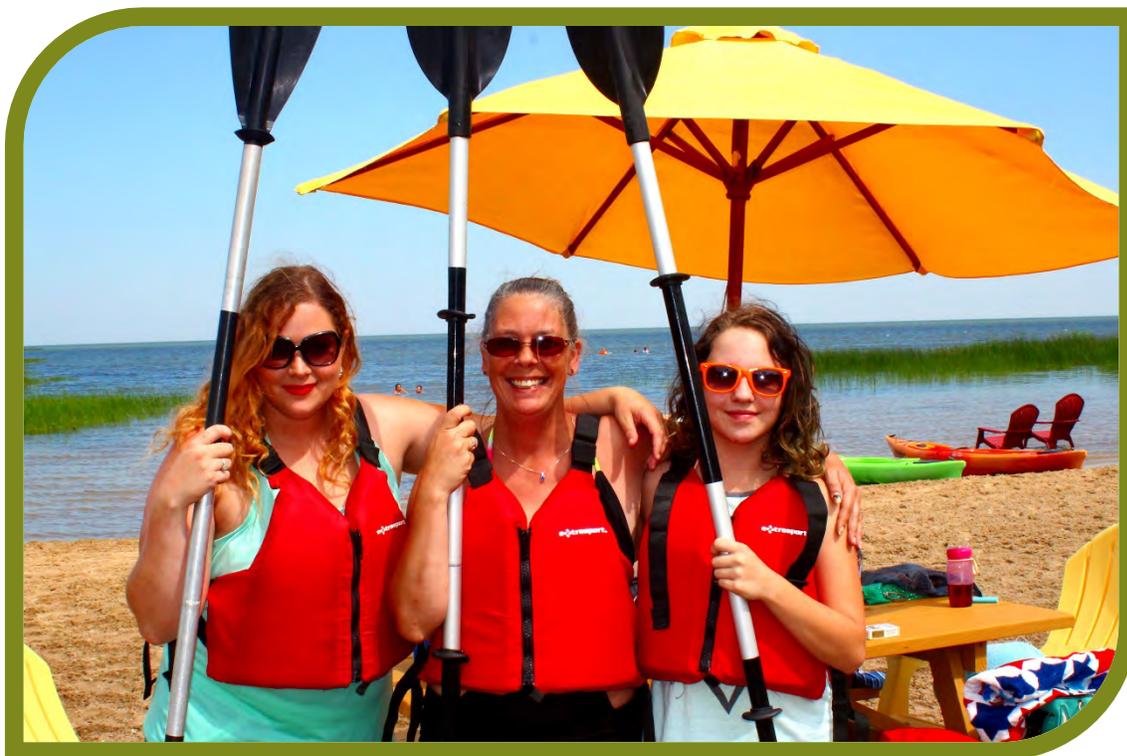
#### Objectives:

1. Work with the local convention and visitor's bureau to promote recreation opportunities in Bay County.
2. Keep the county web site and recreation database updated regarding recreation opportunities in Bay County.
3. Use social media to promote recreation opportunities in Bay County.

#### *Comments and Justification*

In order for citizens to take advantage of recreation opportunities, the community must be aware of them. Several survey respondents commented that they were not sure of what recreational opportunities were available in the County. As improvements and upgrades are undertaken, the County and its constituent communities need to celebrate their accomplishments and share their successes at meetings, on web sites, and with the media. Further, since Bay County has abundant shoreline and unique natural resources, it attracts recreational tourists and visitors from across the state, creating the secondary economic benefits talked about earlier in this document. The County needs to continue to promote all that it has to offer across the state.





# Action Plan

With goals and objectives in place, Bay County was able to develop a 5-year action program to work toward accomplishing the goals and objectives. County staff reviewed the Action Plan items from the 2014 plan and updated and added to them as needed. The Action Program 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.

Potential projects were assigned a priority of 1 through 5 with 1 being most important and 5 being least important. Each action item relates to one or more of the numbered goals from the Goals and Objectives chapter. Potential capital improvements described in this Plan have been established not only to provide a framework for decision makers but also to enable the County to apply for grant funding for these proposed projects.

The project list is not a fixed element and it is neither all-inclusive or exclusive. The schedule reflects the results of the input received from the online survey and County staff. Future circumstances, especially availability of funding, may change priorities or require reprioritization of items.

The action program is shown in the table at the end of this section.

## Financing Potential Improvements

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

required. The Appendix contains a current listing of programs and agencies that can provide funding for parks and recreation projects.

Bay County Recreation Plan Action Items			
Action Item	Priority	Relates to Goal	Justification
<b>Pinconning Park</b>			
ADA accessible kayak launch	1	2, 3, 5, 7	Increase water access.
Add locational, informational, and interpretive signage.	1	3, 5	Increases usability of parks.
Additional bathhouse	1	3, 5	To meet increased demand.
Floating walkway and fishing pier	1	1, 3, 5, 7	Community input requested shore fishing.
Add cabins and campsites (rustic and modern)	1	3, 7	Based on need.
ADA bathhouse updates	1	3, 5	To make facilities more accessible and functional.
Expand shoreline access	2	2, 3, 5, 7	To enjoy the opportunities on the Bay.
Day Use Activities	2	2, 3	More activities for visitors.
Playscape	2	3, 6	Additional play opportunities needed for children.
Expand the trail system	2	2, 4	Community input.
Interpretive building	2	1, 7	Adds educational element.
Dog park/beach.	2	3, 5	Additional facility for park users.
Parking lot redesign and reseal, including additional ADA parking	3	5	Deteriorated. More spaces needed. To make facilities more accessible.
Audio interpretive displays	3	3, 7	To enjoy unique natural resources.
Spray park.	3	3, 6	Mentioned in community input.
Additional telescopes	4	3, 7	To enjoy unique natural resources.
Basketball area	5	2, 6	Provides an additional recreational opportunity.
Low voltage electrical lighting	5	1, 3, 5	Improves park safety & access for those with disabilities.

## Bay County Recreation Plan Action Items

Action Item	Priority	Relates to Goal	Justification
<b>Bay County Fairgrounds</b>			
Improve existing facilities such as bleachers, grandstand, track and stables. (Includes roofs, electrical and utility upgrade, path and driveway resurfacing).	1	2, 3, 5	Facilities are outdated, old, and unsafe.
Additional ADA parking spaces	1	5	To make facilities more accessible.
Universal Access playscape area with fitness area, playscape, surfacing, water fountain, fencing, signage, benches and picnic tables	1	3, 5, 6	Existing playground equipment is old and outdated.
Add recreation/leisure activities such as permanent yard games.	3	2, 3	Community input survey.
Expand the dog park.	3	3, 5	Community survey. Need to separate large and small dogs.
Add bleachers at corrals.	4	2, 3	To allow people to sit and watch.
<b>Civic Arena</b>			
Replace one Zamboni.	1	2, 3, 5	Improve maintenance and ice condition.
Upgrade old and outdated systems including heating, AC, solar, foam, and parking lot.	1	2, 3, 5	Aging and not functional.
New seating with universal accessibility	1	3, 5	Improves functionality and accessibility.
Fitness room upgrades	3	2, 3	Improve functionality.
<b>Community Center &amp; Pool</b>			
New gym floor in small and large gym	1	3, 6	Existing is old and outdated.
Marketing and advertising campaign to increase usage	1	8	Increased awareness and revenue.
Add promotional signage.	1	8	Community is not aware of what is offered here.
Accessible tables	1	3, 5	Improves accessibility.
Building upgrades: roof, heating, AC	2	2, 3	Needed capital improvements. Existing is old and outdated.
Shower replacement in pool locker room	2	3, 5, 6	Existing is old and outdated.
Improve fitness equipment.	2	2	Existing equipment is old and outdated.

## Bay County Recreation Plan Action Items

Action Item	Priority	Relates to Goal	Justification
<b>Community Center and Pool (continued)</b>			
Add an outdoor recreation experience.	2	2, 3	Additional amenity. Take advantage of outdoor space.
Spray Park	4	3, 6	Mentioned in community input.
<b>Golf Course</b>			
Two fairway mowers	1	3	Maintain existing course condition.
Netting for driving range	1	3	Improves safety.
Pathway to pavilion	1	5	Improves accessibility.
Replace member barn roof	1	3	Existing is old and outdated.
2nd ADA cart	2	5	Improves accessibility.
New tractor and greens mower	2	3	Maintain existing course condition.
New golf carts	2	3	Replace old and outdated.
Construct new pavilion with light, power and grills.	3	3, 5	To allow for group gatherings.
Consider offering cross-country skiing, foot golf, disc golf, or other alternative recreation.	3	2, 3	Adds additional activities to increase usage.
Remodel existing outdoor restrooms.	3	3, 5	Improve accessibility.
<b>Trails</b>			
Expand motorized and non-motorized trail opportunities.	ongoing	2, 3, 4	Community input priority.
Develop trail between Delta College and SVSU.	2	2, 3, 4	Connect the two universities.
Complete the Bay-Zilwaukee Trail to Bay City Railtrail/Riverwalk. (Iron Belle Trail link).	2	2, 3, 4	Part of Great Lakes Bay Regional Trail Plan.
Begin to develop the Bay City to Midland Connection of the Great Lakes Bay Regional Trail.	3	2, 3, 4	Part of Great Lakes Bay Regional Trail Plan.
Signage, lighting, and non-motorized facility improvements for the Urban Recreation Heritage Route to the Bay	3	2, 3, 4	Improvements to enhance the trail.

## Bay County Recreation Plan Action Items

Action Item	Priority	Relates to Goal	Justification
<b>Trails (continued)</b>			
Enhance the Saginaw Bay Blue Water trail system including signage, portages, etc.	3	2, 3, 4, 7	Part of 2015 Bay County Saginaw Bay Blue Water Trail Development Plan.
<b>Programming</b>			
Explore programming for senior citizens and disabled by forming partnerships with applicable groups such as MI Sports Unlimited and Bay County Division on Aging.	1	2, 3, 5	Adding programs not currently available. Mentioned in community input.
Develop partnership with local community recreation and tourism providers.	1	2, 3, 6	Adding programs not currently available.
Promote Bay County recreational opportunities, especially Saginaw Bay access.	1	8	Community is not aware of what is available. Tourism and economic growth opportunities.
Develop a partnership with local community education providers for programming at county facilities.	1	2, 3, 6	Adding programs not currently available.
Explore offering hunter safety classes.	2	6, 7	Mentioned in community input.
<b>Miscellaneous</b>			
Develop outreach brochure that describes parks in Bay County.	1	1, 8	To communicate with residents and visitors about facilities offered.
Begin a Parks & Recreation Endowment fund.	1	1	To provide financial stability for the Parks and Recreation functions in Bay County.
Develop social media awareness campaign.	1	8	Improve awareness and usage of county facilities.
Work with community groups to develop an additional disc golf course in Bay County.	1	3	Requested in community input survey; takes advantage of current recreational trend.
Continue to purchase lands for cultural opportunities.	1	1, 7	To meet need for specific cultural opportunities.
Acquire lands to increase public shoreline access to the Saginaw Bay.	1	1, 7	To reduce the shortage of public access points on Saginaw Bay.

## Bay County Recreation Plan Action Items

Action Item	Priority	Relates to Goal	Justification
<b>Miscellaneous (continued)</b>			
Improve existing access to Saginaw Bay including beach maintenance equipment, swimming access, seasonal fishing docks, and ADA Kayak launches.	1	1, 3, 7	To increase access to the Saginaw Bay. Requested on survey. Taking advantage of unique natural resource.
Continue to invest in community enhancement and recreational features.	1	1 - 7	To meet community needs.
Convene local public sector recreation providers to implement a joint purchasing program for recreation suppliers.	2	1	Cost saving measure.
Develop interactive web site or social media platform to communicate with residents regarding parks and recreation.	2	1, 8	To communicate with residents and visitors about facilities offered.
Explore opportunities for environmental education in the parks.	2	2, 7	To educate youth and adults and provide a different type of recreational opportunity.
Develop an inventory of significant open space and natural resources in Bay County.	3	2, 7	So as to document potential sites for preservation and/or acquisition.



# City of Auburn

## Community Description

The City of Auburn is located in southwestern Bay County between Midland and Bay City. It is surrounded by Williams Township. Auburn largely serves as a bedroom community for people who work in the nearby cities of Midland, Bay City, and Saginaw. According to the American Community Survey, the 2016 5-year population estimate for Auburn is 1,935.

Other significant demographic data for Auburn as compared to the county, state, and country is shown in Figure 12 on the following page.

	Auburn	Bay County	Michigan	United States
<b>Median Age</b>	40.1	42.7	39.5	37.7
<b>Population 65+</b>	16.7%	18.3%	15.4%	14.5%
<b>Population under 18</b>	21.2%	21.0%	22.5%	23.1%
<b>Owner Occupied Homes</b>	62.7%	77.9%	73.0%	65.10%
<b>Average Household Size</b>	2.13	2.39	2.51	2.64
<b>Bachelor's Degree or Higher</b>	18.7%	18.1%	27.4%	30.3%
<b>Median Household Income</b>	\$52,396	\$45,851	\$50,803	\$55,322
<b>Per capita income</b>	\$29,536	\$24,753	\$27,549	\$29,829
<b>Disabled</b>	14.4%	16.6%	14.2%	12.5%
<b>Poverty level</b>	7.3%	15.8%	16.3%	15.1%

Figure 12 - Selected Census Data for the City of Auburn as compared to the county, state and country.

### Administrative Structure

The City Commission and the Auburn-Williams Recreation Board are responsible for all parks and recreation functions of the City, including the City parks. The Auburn-Williams Recreation Board is composed of twelve members representing the City of Auburn and Williams Township. As the administrative head of the City, the City Administrator carries out the policies that are made by the Commission and directs and coordinates the work of all City departments. It is the City Administrator's job to keep the Commission informed of the conditions and needs of the City and to make recommendations for action as the need arises. The City Administrator also prepares the annual budget for Commission recommendation and upon its enactment sees that its provisions are upheld.

Maintenance activities for parks and recreation are implemented by the Auburn Department of Public Works (DPW) and designated work is contracted with private service companies. Three full-time employees of the DPW currently carry out maintenance activities at the parks.

### Programming, Volunteers, and Cooperative Relationships

The City of Auburn/Williams Township Recreation Board administers recreational activities. This is a joint 12-member recreation board with equal representation from both units of government, each having 6 members on the board. Five of the Auburn representatives on the board are at-large members appointed by the City Commission and the sixth member is appointed from the City Commission. Each unit provides \$9,000 a year for planning and implementation of recreational activities. The board currently provides organized baseball/softball activities, organized gun range programs, summer day-camp program and organized outings. The recreation board also provides recommendations for recreational facilities, maintenance and improvements to the City's administrative staff.

Volunteers assist the parks through coaching, the gun range programs, and flower bed maintenance throughout the year. The Auburn Chamber of Commerce and the Auburn Jaycees own a 20-acre piece of property adjacent to the Auburn Community Park. They sponsor the annual Auburn Corn Festival which uses their property and the Community Park property. Soccer fields were added to the Jaycees property in 2013.

The City of Auburn and Williams Charter Township have strong relationships through the school district and civic organizations that help to facilitate recreational activities in the area. This is illustrated with the new community recreation building that was recently constructed in the main park on Jaycee Drive. The pavilion serves many groups in the area from the Lions Club, Jaycees, Special Olympics and many more. It features heated bathrooms, kitchen, educational training/meeting room, and a sizeable roof structure. Various recreational activities are held in the facility including basketball, pickle ball and hockey. During the summer months, the facility is host to the local Farmer’s Market. In the winter, the facility and the surrounding area will feature a choreographed Holiday Light and Sound Display. It will serve as the gathering place for festivals and the Holiday Tree lighting.

### Budgets

The sources of funding for parks and recreation in Auburn are the city general fund, park rental fees, and donations. The current and next year parks and recreation budgets are shown below.

Figure 13 AUBURN PARKS AND RECREATION BUDGETS		
	2018 (proposed)	2017 (actual)
Operation & Maintenance	\$98,121	\$101,158
Programming (leagues, special events, etc.)	\$9,000	\$9,000
Capital Expenditures	\$0	\$80,000*
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$107,121</b>	<b>\$171,158</b>

\*This is a contribution from the DDA used as part of the overall funding of a new community recreational pavilion with a covered hockey/basketball/multiuse area, enclosed and heated ADA compliant bathrooms, kitchen space and meeting rooms. The new facility built in 2017-18 will exceed a total cost of \$750,000 finance through the USDA loan and grant program and DDA funding support.

### Recreation Inventory

The City of Auburn reviewed its recreation inventory from the 2014 plan and updated it accordingly. The inventory data as compiled from those forms is shown on the following page.

#### Grant History

The City of Auburn has received two DNR grants for its Auburn City Park. All improvements are still in place and functional.

- BF98-247 - \$22,500, Auburn City Park Fishing Pier Development
- LWCF 26-01736 - \$62,000, Auburn City Park Pond Improvements

**Figure 13  
AUBURN RECREATION INVENTORY**

	<b>Auburn Community Park</b>	<b>Auburn Recreation Area</b>	<b>Auburn Shooting Range**</b>
<b>Park Type*</b>	Community Park	Neighborhood Park	Special Use Park
<b>Acreage</b>	20	4	30
<b>Accessibility*</b>	4	4	
<b>Service Area</b>	Auburn / Williams Twp.	Auburn / Williams Twp.	Auburn / Williams Twp.
<b>Ball Diamond</b>	2		
<b>Multi-use Path</b>	1 mile	Yes (on dikes)	
<b>Pavilion</b>	3		
<b>Picnic Area</b>	Yes		
<b>Ice Skating</b>	Yes		
<b>Horseshoes</b>	12		
<b>Sledding</b>		Yes	
<b>Archery/Gun Range</b>			Yes
<b>Pond/Observation Docks</b>	Yes		
<b>Restrooms</b>	Yes		
<b>Playfield (open space)</b>	Yes		
<b>Basketball Courts</b>	3		
<b>Fishing</b>	Yes		
<b>Sand Volleyball</b>	1		
<b>Pickleball</b>	2		
<b>Playground</b>	1		
<b>Grills</b>	6		
<b>Dog Walking</b>	Yes		Yes
<b>Farm Market</b>	Yes		

\*See County inventory section on pages 14, 1 and 21 for definitions of park type and accessibility.

\*\* The Auburn Shooting Range is located north of the City of Auburn on the east side of 9-Mile Road south of W. Wheeler Road.

## Goals and Objectives

The City of Auburn developed the following goals and objectives for parks and recreation in 2013. The goals were reviewed for the 2018 plan.

### GOAL 1

**Continue to improve and upgrade the City of Auburn’s recreational and support facilities in order to offer parks and recreational activities the community can be proud of.**

Objectives:

1. Retain and maintain the existing Auburn City Park and acquire new public lands to fulfill the recreational needs of the city and local community.
2. Provide multi-use recreational opportunities at park facilities.
3. Make active and passive park facilities available to as many individuals as possible.
4. Ensure that improvements and upgrades to the Auburn City Park are handicap accessible.
5. Provide adequate maintenance of all City parks and recreational facilities.
6. Consider the long-term or on-going maintenance costs of all future park improvements to City recreational facilities prior to making such improvements.
7. Utilize volunteers to assist with special events and maintenance opportunities.

### GOAL 2

**Promote coordination of recreational facilities, programs and activities with other recreation providers to avoid duplication and use City resources wisely.**

Objectives:

1. Provide facilities that complement those of Bay County, Williams Township, the school district and other groups.
2. Cooperate and contribute to community wide recreation projects.
3. Seek active participation in the planning of recreation facilities and/or opportunities that affect the City and Williams Township residents.
4. Initiate interaction and cooperation with the school system.
5. Develop and formalize an agreement to jointly share and support mutually beneficial facilities.
6. Work with the schools to improve the recreational facilities available to the community at the school sites, particularly elementary schools.
7. Engage in joint purchasing with other governmental units when feasible with the goal of saving tax dollars.

### GOAL 3

**Provide quality recreational opportunities to improve health and fitness with extra emphasis placed on organized youth activities.**

Objectives:

1. Provide organized programs and activities for a variety of ages with an emphasis on youth programs through the Auburn-Williams Recreation Board.
2. Continue to partner with existing recreational partners to provide recreation programs, events, and leagues.

### GOAL 4

**Develop a recreation system that will be responsive to, and effective in, meeting the present and future needs of residents.**

Objectives:

1. Update the recreation plan as needed and entirely review the plan every five years.
2. Develop an interactive web site to communicate with residents regarding park and recreation opportunities.
3. Explore marketing services and sponsoring special events.
4. Use the City newsletter to identify what is happening, what's available, who to talk to, and to seek community input.
5. Use local newspaper to highlight recreation news whenever possible.



## GOAL 5

### **Provide access trails and multi-use recreational paths.**

#### Objectives:

1. Cooperate and participate in intergovernmental efforts to establish a non-motorized greenway and trail system connecting Midland County to Bay County.
2. Coordinate possible routes, methods, and funding to connect non-motorized greenway and trail systems in Bay and Midland Counties to the Auburn City Park.
3. Identify possible non-motorized routes, methods, and funding to connect Auburn City Park with the Williams Township Park.

## GOAL 6

### **Develop methods to meet future recreational needs in the City.**

#### Objectives:

1. Pursue a variety of possible funding sources, including state and federal grant programs.
2. Explore a means for evaluating and accepting private donations of land, time and monies.
3. Budget funds for a recreational capital improvement program each year to improve recreational facilities and eliminate deficiencies.



## Action Plan

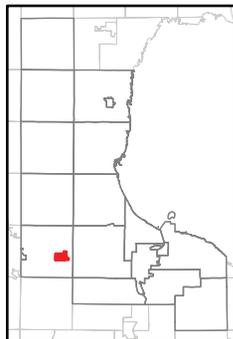
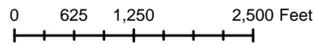
The City of Auburn developed the following items that it wishes to consider for improvements for the next five years. This list is based on known issues and needs in the parks and feedback from the community input survey.

1. Develop an ADA compliant fishing dock/pier connected and accessible by means of the paved walking path.
2. Resurface and widen the walking path for better ADA accessibility complete with lighting.
3. Improve baseball fields by replacing outfield and dugout fencing and adding designated fenced in "on deck" areas. This will help protect against injury and provide a safe and enclosed area for swinging bats.
4. Update the playground equipment near the ball diamonds with handicap accessible equipment. This will ensure a safe place for children to play.
5. Install a fountain in the City park pond for not only aesthetic purposes but also for beneficial aeration. This project would enhance the existing fishing docks.
6. Complete projects for the improvement of drainage throughout the City parks.
7. Reconfigure the entrance to the Community Park utilizing curb and gutter, islands, spacing and safe walkways to provide a safer more restricted roadway for the park facilities on Jaycee Drive. This will increase safety, direct and reduce traffic speed, provide more appropriate and defined parking.
8. Add a spray park feature to compliment the play scape area.
9. Acquire additional property when available and feasible to expand community park offerings.
10. Replace and install ADA Picnic tables near the play scape and the new pavilion while also upgrading benches.
11. Landscape for better wind and sound barriers around the new pavilion.
12. Develop an outdoor fireplace area for gathering and warming at the Community Park.
13. Develop a disc golf course.

# Park and Trail Locations in Auburn Michigan

## Legend

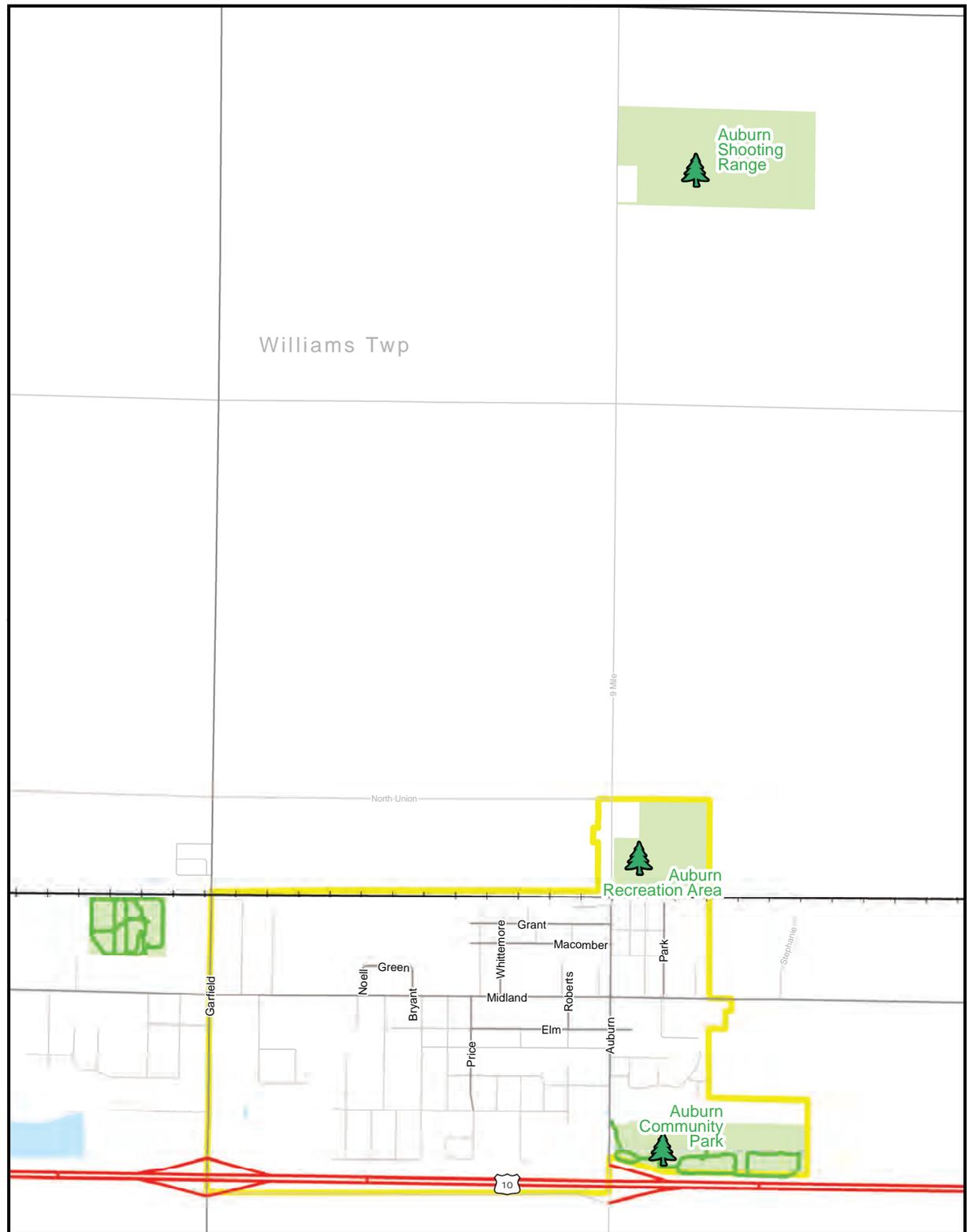
-  Township
-  State Trunkline
-  Major Road
-  Minor Road
-  Railroad
-  Non-Motorized Trail
-  Park
-  Golf Course
-  Boat Ramp / Dock
-  Park; Nature Area

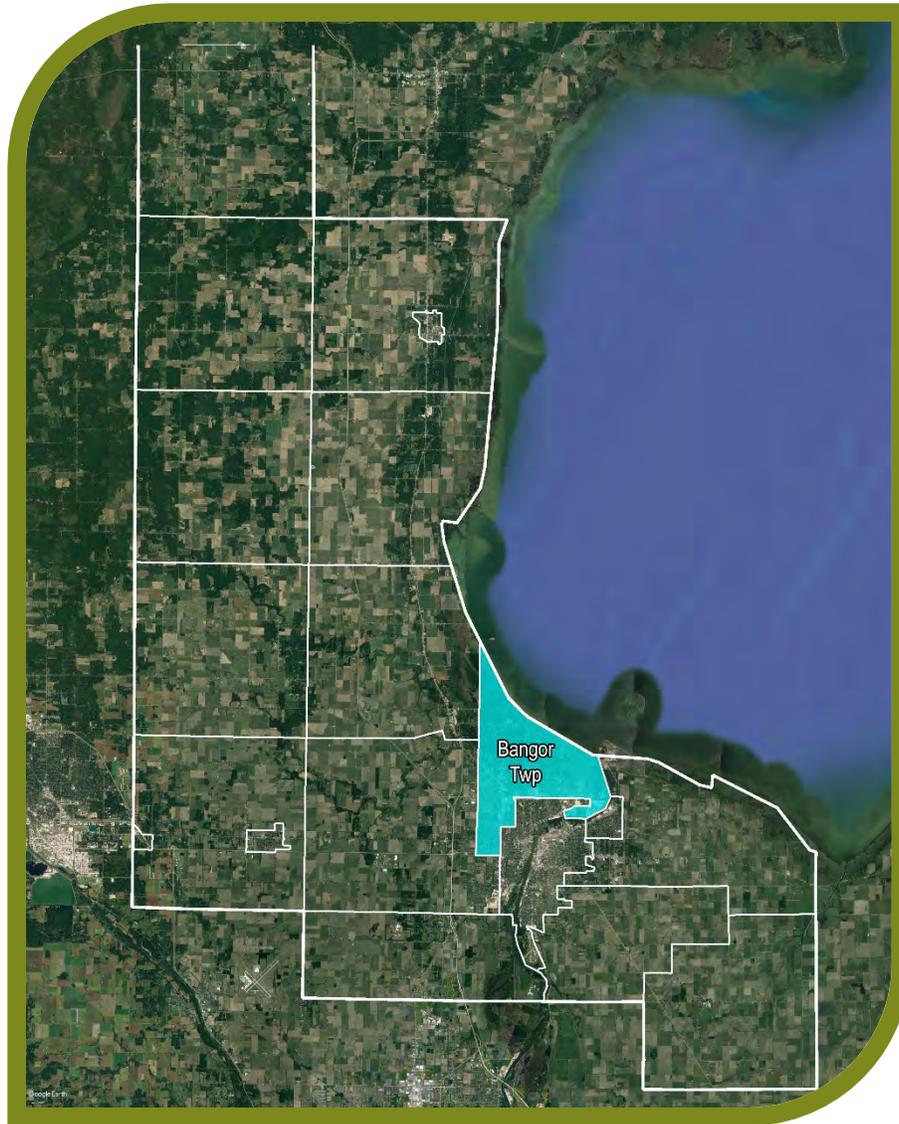


Map produced by: Bay County Dept. of Environmental Affairs & Community Development - GIS Program 10/29/2018

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Data Source: Bay County GIS, State of Michigan CGI





# Bangor Township

## Community Description

Bangor Township is located north of the cities of Bay City on Saginaw Bay. Founded in 1859, the Township has large areas of woodlands, wetlands and industrial areas. Bangor is the third oldest Township in Bay County. Residential uses are clustered in various areas, most of which are near Bay City in the southern part of the Township and near the Bay City State Park in the northern part of the Township. According to the 2016 American Community Survey 5-year population estimate, Bangor Township has 14,358 people. It is the second highest population of all the jurisdictions in Bay County. Bay City has the highest population at 34,110.

Other significant demographic data for Bangor Township as compared to the county, state, and country is shown in Figure 15 below.

	Bangor Twp.	Bay County	Michigan	United States
<b>Median Age</b>	45.3	42.7	39.5	37.7
<b>Population 65+</b>	22.6%	18.3%	15.4%	14.5%
<b>Population under 18</b>	19.0%	21.0%	22.5%	23.1%
<b>Owner Occupied Homes</b>	73.0%	77.9%	73.0%	65.10%
<b>Average Household Size</b>	2.35	2.39	2.51	2.64
<b>Bachelor's Degree or Higher</b>	16.9%	18.1%	27.4%	30.3%
<b>Median Household Income</b>	\$45,158	\$45,851	\$50,803	\$55,322
<b>Per Capita Income</b>	\$25,853	\$24,753	\$27,549	\$29,829
<b>Disabled</b>	14.8%	16.6%	14.2%	12.5%
<b>Poverty level</b>	16.8%	15.8%	16.3%	15.1%

Figure 15 - Selected Census Data for Bangor Township as compared to the county, state and country.

### Administrative Structure

Parks and recreation functions in Bangor Township are administered by the seven-member Township Board. The Township Maintenance Department has one full-time employee responsible for maintenance and two part-time seasonal employees work at the boat launch.

### Programming, Volunteers, and Cooperative Relationships

Bangor Township pays Bangor Township Schools to run a very limited sports program for the Township. Two volunteers facilitate many activities at parks and recreation facilities in Bangor Township. These include mowing the lawn at the park and rail trail and maintaining the flowers.

Bangor Township also has a cooperative relationship with the Saginaw Valley Naval Ship Museum, which docks the USS Edson at the Independence Boat Launch park. The Edson is a retired United States Navy destroyer that has been converted to a museum. The Saginaw Valley Naval Ship Museum owns the museum buildings and dock at the site. It also maintains the parking area for the museum. The Township leases the land used for the museum and parking to the Museum.

### Budgets

The source of funding for the park and recreation budget in Bangor Township is the township general fund. The Township wishes to explore grant funding for future projects. The current and prior year parks and recreation budgets are shown in Figure 17.

**Figure 16**

**BANGOR TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION BUDGETS**

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Operation & Maintenance	\$10,000	\$10,000
Programming (leagues, special events, etc.)	\$5,000	\$5,000
Capital Expenditures	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>

**Recreation Inventory**

The Township reviewed its inventory from the 2014 Bay County Area Recreation Plan and updated it accordingly. Bangor Township owns and operates one special use park and a park-trail. It also owns an undeveloped parcel that can be developed into a park. See Figure 17.

**Figure 17**

**BANGOR TOWNSHIP RECREATION INVENTORY**

	<b>Bayside Park</b>	<b>Independence Boat Launch</b>	<b>Rail Trail/Patterson Road Trailhead</b>
<b>Park Type*</b>	Undeveloped	Special Use	Park-Trail
<b>Acreage</b>	30	5	5.6 miles
<b>Accessibility*</b>	NA	5	5
<b>Service Area</b>	NA	Bay County	Bay County
<b>Boat Launch</b>		Yes	
<b>Pavilion</b>			Yes
<b>Picnic Area</b>			Yes
<b>Restrooms</b>		Yes	Yes
<b>Waterfront Property</b>		Yes	

\* See County inventory section on pages 14 1 and 21 for definitions of park type and accessibility.

**Goals and Objectives**

The establishment of realistic and agreed upon goals and objectives are essential to the formulation of attainable long-range plans. Goals serve as guidelines for the development of policies and plan recommendations. The primary goal implicit in all other secondary goals is the desire of the officials and citizens of Bangor Township to develop and maintain an attractive, pleasant, clean, healthful and economically stable community environment.

## GOAL 1

**Seek means of expanding recreation programs and facilities designed to serve the needs of all segments of Bangor Township's population.**

### Objectives:

1. Foster cooperation with adjacent communities and other recreation providers. Coordinate Bangor's recreation plans with those adjoining communities and the County as a whole to help avoid costly depreciation and to create a greater variety of recreation opportunities.
2. Cooperate in the coordination of land use planning efforts and in the provision of area wide recreation services, facilities, and programs.
3. Encourage joint use of school site and buildings.
4. Stimulate interest among established groups, such as P.T.A.'s and business service organizations, to assist the Township in developing recreation areas in Bangor.

## GOAL 2

**Assure the preservation of sufficient open space and the development of recreation facilities to adequately serve the needs of Bangor Township's present and anticipated population.**

### Objectives:

1. Encourage the acquisition of land and a conservation measure to protect specific natural features.
2. Encourage cooperation with Federal, State, County and Local agencies in the preservation of open space as a natural resource. Work closely with the County, State and Local recreation authorities in developing interregional recreation open space areas.
3. Encourage, wherever possible, the development of future public open spaces on a scale large enough to allow the implementation of a multiple use concept of recreation services.
4. Encourage a Township-wide development pattern that will provide for convenient and ample recreation areas throughout the Bangor community.
5. Encourage subdividers to provide recreational areas in new residential developments.
6. Encourage a diversity of both public and private recreational facilities.
7. Preserve floodplains and wetlands for recreation use wherever possible.
8. Coordinate efforts of land subdividers and school officials in developing recreation areas and facilities.
9. Encourage the use of drainage courses and utility easements for recreation purposes.
10. Develop design standards which permit drains to be incorporated as an integral part of a recreation area.
11. Wherever feasible, develop pedestrian pathways and bicycle paths following public and utility corridors.

12. Seek involvement in all State and Federal programs which can assist the Township in providing improved services and facilities to residents.

### GOAL 3

**Continue to operate and maintain recreational facilities that improve the overall quality of life for all residents of Bangor Township.**

#### Action Plan

Based on the goals, objectives, and community input, Bangor Township has identified the following items to be part of its action plan. Local funding would come from the general fund of the Township or the Township Schools. Some funds for additions to the Linear Park may be available through the Bay Area Community Foundation or other grants. Expanded descriptions of some of the projects are found in the paragraphs following the five items below.

1. Maintain amenities to the existing rail trail such as parking and restrooms.
2. Develop a community park that would connect to the rail trail. This park would provide parking and service facilities for the trail and serve as a standalone community park. It is envisioned that the park would contain the following type of facilities:
  - Picnic tables and grill
  - Pavilion
  - Restrooms
  - Landscaping
  - Fencing
  - Parking facilities
  - Playground equipment
  - Basketball courts
  - Soccer Fields
  - Open space for beach volleyball, etc.
  - Tennis courts
  - Horseshoes
  - Shuffleboard
  - Jogging trail
  - Physical fitness exercise stations
3. Provide three public bike repair stations.
4. Maintain/replace dock at the boat launch.
5. Work with the school system to expand active recreational facilities through Bangor Township Schools and continue to support Bobcat Recreation.
6. Resurface existing Trail
7. Expand Bangor Rail Trail – An expanded Bangor Trail/Linear Park would build on a successful effort ongoing in Bay County to develop a trail system. Trails completed to date are heavily utilized and it is expected that an effort to connect spurs to the Trail will ultimately compliment the Trail throughout the Township. The Township will work closely with the Bay Area Community Foundation to establish the trail. The Foundation has been instrumental in the development of current trails in Bay County.

There are two options for a trail expansion that follow. Formal proposals have not been advanced, and not all individuals who have interest in the property have been contacted. Aside from the usual issues of the establishment of spurs on the trail, specific logistical concerns must be addressed such as where the trail will connect with the City of Bay City's trail. Alternatives

have been established to provide flexibility and to provide options for these issues. Specific descriptions of the options are being plotted into maps that will be available in the near future.

- Option I – A connector from the Bay City Mall. Start at the southeast corner of the Bay City Mall plat, then go north along the easterly and northerly curb of the mall’s drive and parking area to the east side of State Road, then continue north within the State Road right-of-way to the Dow pipeline property. Then go east on the Dow pipeline property, crossing Bangor Road and continue until crossing Patterson Road and connect to Option III.
- Option II – Start at the Bangor boat ramp located on the north side of the Saginaw River, just east of the Independence Bridge, and follow the railroad to Norwich Street. Continue North within the Norwich right-of-way to the south side of Wilder Road, cross Wilder Road, follow the railroad right-of-way northwesterly to Patterson Road. Then connect to the trailhead on Patterson.

### General Cost Estimates

The following costs have been estimated for some of the action items listed above.

#### **Linear Park Expansion**

- Trail and complimenting facilities design \$30,000
- Trail development \$120,000

#### **Expanded School Recreational Facilities**

- John Glenn High School jogging trail \$25,000
- John Glenn High School four mini basketball courts off block parking lot \$7,000
- West Central School playground equipment \$25,000
- West Central School upgrade ball diamonds \$15,000
- West Central School mini basketball courts \$7,000

**Bobcat Recreation Annual Contribution** \$5,000

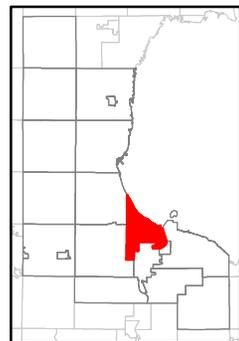
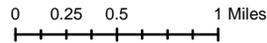
**Rail Trail Bike Repair Stations** \$2,800

**Trail Resurfacing** \$286,000

# Park and Trail Locations in Bangor Township Michigan

## Legend

-  Township
-  State Trunkline
-  Major Road
-  Minor Road
-  Railroad
-  Non-Motorized Trail
-  Park; Nature Area
-  Park
-  Golf Course
-  Boat Ramp / Dock

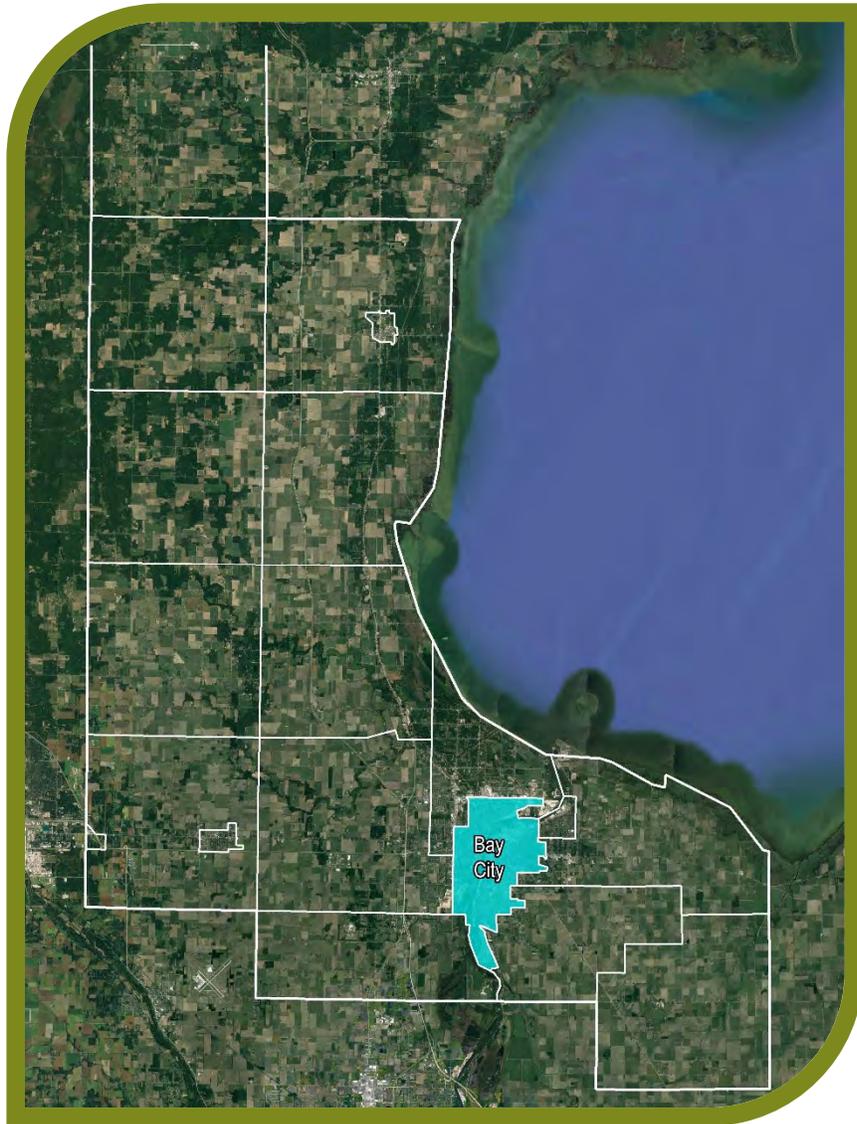


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Data Source: Bay County GIS, State of Michigan CGI





# Bay City

## Community Description

Bay City is the county seat of Bay County and its largest municipality in terms of population. According to the 2016 American Community Survey 5-year population estimate, population of Bay City is 34,110. The City encompasses 11 square miles and is bisected by the Saginaw River, which flows northerly into the Saginaw Bay. It is bordered by the City of Essexville, as well as Hampton, Bangor, Portsmouth and Frankenlust Townships.

Bay City's roots are in the lumbering industry of the late 1800's. The Center Avenue historic district is lined with lumber baron homes that are a testament to the wealth and prosperity of that era. In the 20<sup>th</sup>

century, the community went on to be a center for shipbuilding and manufacturing. The Saginaw River was the hub for all of these activities. Today, the Saginaw River serves as the recreational center of the community. The City’s flagship parks, Veterans and Wenonah, are located across from one another on the river and they serve as the location of various festivals and events throughout the year. The river is lined with boats, marinas, fishing piers, and trails. It has been the site of major redevelopment activity over the past 20 years, including new housing in warehouses and other historic buildings in Downtown Bay City and Uptown Bay City, which is billed as a live, work and play development. It includes brownstones, sidewalk cafes, offices, hotels, and locally owned shops.

## Demographics

According to the 2016 American Community Survey 5-year population estimate, Bay City has a population of 34,110. In 2010, the population of Bay City was 34,932, down from 36,817 persons in 2000. The population of Bay City peaked in 1960 at 53,604 residents. Over the last several decades the city’s population has declined with the greatest decrease of over 15% occurring between 1970 and 1980. The loss of population in Bay City reflects a larger national trend of people migrating out of urban areas and into suburban and rural areas, along with change in household size, due to an aging baby boomer population. In some instances, communities have seen a reversal of this trend, with residents moving back into urban areas especially in downtown centers. This trend is occurring in Bay City where residential living units are being constructed in renovated historic buildings in the downtown area.

Other significant demographic data for Bay City as compared to the county, state, and country is shown in Figure 18 below. It is worth noting that Bay City is typical of urban areas in Michigan. Residents of Bay City are younger, less affluent, and are less likely to own a home than residents of Bay County and the surrounding jurisdictions. These factors have implications for parks and recreation facilities and

	Bay City	Bay County	Michigan	United States
<b>Median Age</b>	36.7	42.7	39.5	37.7
<b>Population 65+</b>	14.1%	18.3%	15.4%	14.5%
<b>Population under 18</b>	24.0%	21.0%	22.5%	23.1%
<b>Owner Occupied Homes</b>	69.6%	77.9%	73.0%	65.1%
<b>Average Household Size</b>	2.37	2.39	2.51	2.64
<b>Bachelor's Degree or Higher</b>	15.6%	18.1%	27.4%	30.3%
<b>Median Household Income</b>	\$34,102	\$45,851	\$50,803	\$55,322
<b>Per Capita Income</b>	\$20,367	\$24,753	\$27,549	\$29,829
<b>Disabled</b>	17.3%	16.6%	14.2%	12.5%
<b>Poverty level</b>	23.1%	15.8%	16.3%	15.1%

Figure 18- Selected Census Data for Bay City as compared to the county, state and country.

programming. For example, renters tend to have less greenspace available to them at home (smaller shared lots, apartment buildings, etc.). This means they may have a greater need for parks and open space in order to spend time outdoors. A younger median age may indicate a need for more active sports programming and youth activities.

## Administrative Structure

Bay City has a commissioner-manager form of government. The City Commission consists of nine members who are nominated and elected by the ward system. The voters also choose a Mayor who is elected at large. A City Manager is appointed by the Commission and is largely responsible for the day-to-day administrative functions of the City.

Figure 19 illustrates the organizational chart in Bay City's governmental structure. As can be seen, Parks is an operational unit under the direction of the City Manager and the Department of Public Works Director. The City Parks Division maintains all facilities comprising the community parks system. This includes the maintenance of buildings and grounds, and includes equipment, furnishings, walkways, parking lots, drives and utility systems.

The city does not have a formal role in recreation programming. However, it hosts many special event programs in its parks.

## RECREATION ADMINISTRATION

### Planning

The Bay City Planning Department works with Parks Division staff to develop plans for recreation improvements in the community parks system. The County Recreation Department is included in the planning process when facilities are being designed to support recreation program activities.

The Park and Recreation Plan considers recommendations from the City's Citizens District Councils to define recreational interests, and to coordinate recreation planning with other city planning and development activities.

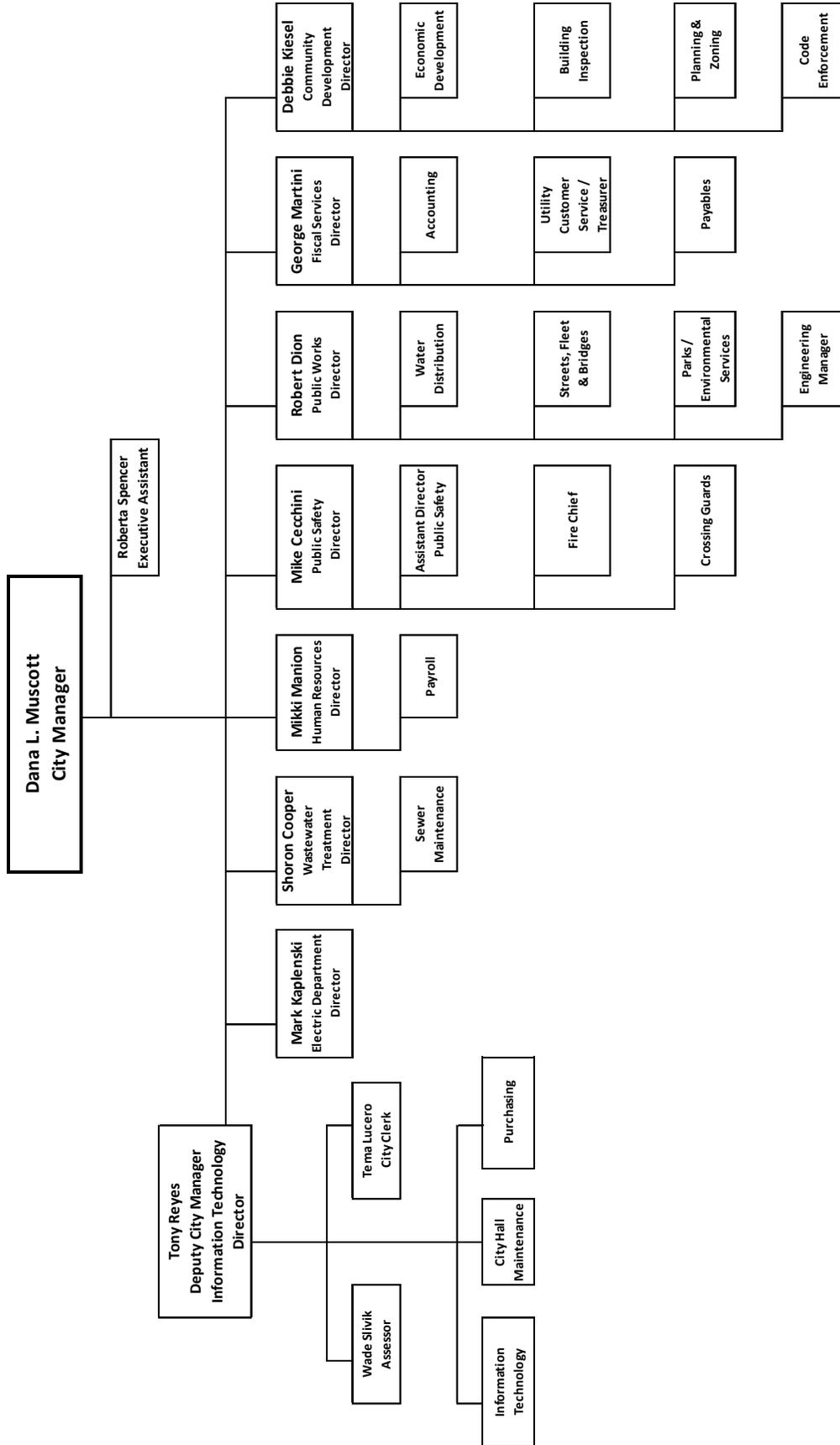
Issues related to the planning of recreation facilities require coordination and communication between a number of municipal departments and entities, including: Planning Department, Department of Public Works, Engineering Department, Parks Department and the City Commission. In addition, the planning and implementation of physical recreation space is reviewed by the Planning Commission based on the Municipal Planning Act 285.

### Maintenance/Operations

The Parks Division, under the direction of the Public Works Manager has responsibility for managing and maintaining the community park system. Responsibilities are shared with Bay County as it relates to facilities used for programmed recreation activities such as softball diamonds. In addition to maintaining community park facilities, the Parks Division has a number of other non-parks related responsibilities. These include managing and maintaining the Liberty Harbor Marina, James Clements Airport and Oakridge Cemetery. During the winter months, personnel have snow removal responsibilities in locations throughout the City. These varied and non-park related responsibilities mean that less time is available for park maintenance.

Figure 19

# City of Bay City Organizational Chart



The approved personnel complement for the Parks Division during FY2018 is 6 full-time employees and 14 part-time employees.

Part-time employees are primarily used to supplement the full-time labor force during the summer months. Employees are hired through a contractual labor service. Additional labor services are occasionally retained through volunteer groups, local work programs sponsored by the school system, and community service programs administered by detention centers and the local court system. Part-time personnel are deployed to assist in performing general maintenance routines, provide services for special events, and to staff the Liberty Harbor Marina. Contractual employees assist with the maintenance and management of the James Clements Airport and Oak Ridge Cemetery.

During the winter months, full-time employees are responsible for plowing cul-de-sacs and alleys citywide, school crossings, parking lots associated with business districts, and public properties and park walkways. Depending on weather conditions, they also perform maintenance in parks, refurbish picnic tables and benches, and repair equipment and clear brush at the Airport.

Park maintenance operations are generally structured into maintenance routines. Typical maintenance routines include: mowing, litter pickup and removal, restroom cleanup, park facilities inspection and repair, special event services, snow removal and horticultural tasks.

Opportunities to adopt and implement “best practices” is an on-going process. Incorporating successful practices into parks operations will standardize work functions while enhancing the quality of services. Examples of best practices established include mulching leaves on park lawns during the fall instead of collecting and removing them.

Efforts continue to identify and reinforce critical maintenance routines that comprise core services, and to regularly monitor and evaluate them on the basis of efficiency, effectiveness and cost. Changes have been implemented affecting both maintenance practices and policies that will bring more focus to service priorities. As an example, special events sponsors are being required to provide a higher level of maintenance support for their activities, which has significantly reduced the City’s involvement.



*Volunteers clean up Wenonah Park*

## Programming, Volunteers, and Cooperative Relationships

Strategic partnerships continue to be developed with groups, individuals, and organizations to provide a pool of volunteers to assist with maintenance. Examples include a cooperative program with the Bay Area Community Foundation Railtrail Committee to manage the care of pocket parks located along 10 miles of the Riverwalk and Riverwalk/Railtrail loop in the city, and partnerships with Master Gardeners and volunteers to maintain Veterans Memorials and perennials gardens in the Kantzler Arboretum. Parks Department staff will continue to identify, pursue and promote similar initiatives in the future. Guidelines have been prepared to assist in identifying the required procedures for volunteers, as well as a list of potential projects.

The City works cooperatively with Bay County on the maintenance of the ball diamonds in Veterans Park. The Bay County Softball Association runs the leagues in Veterans Park. Other cooperative relationships include the Bay City Rowing Club and the Boys and Girls Club who use and lease the facilities at Bigelow Park. The Columbus Avenue Management Board manages Columbus Green. The Sage Library leases Pershing Park. The Bay City DDA coordinates Friday at the Fall concerts and does the maintenance for the Third Street Waterfall Park. The Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy takes care of the Golson Park Nature Area and they assisted with development at the Rowing Club. The State Theatre programs concerts and children's activities at Wenonah Park.

### Special Events

Bay City Parks are host to several special events each year which serve as a regional tourism draw. Most of them are possible due to cooperative relationships with local community organizations, such as the YWCA, the Bay City DDA, the Bay City Fireworks Festival Board, and the Bay County Historical Society. Some of the larger special events include:

- Easter Egg Hunt – Wenonah Park
- Michigan Walleye Tour Fishing Contest – Saginaw River
- Riverside Arts Festival – Wenonah Park
- Cool City Car Show – Wenonah Park
- Santa Arrival – Wenonah Park
- 4th of July Fireworks Festival – Wenonah Park and Veterans Memorial Park
- Tall Ships Celebration – Wenonah Park and Veterans Memorial Park
- River of Time Living History Event – Veterans Memorial Park
- Birney Park Car Show – Birney Park
- Blooperball Tournament – Defoe Park
- Rockin River/River Roar – Veterans Memorial Park and Wenonah Park



*The Tall Ships Celebration is a large special event in Bay City that uses Wenonah and Veterans Park*

## Budgets

The Parks Division budget for 2017 through 2019 is presented in Figure 20. The budget expenditures for personal services and fringe benefits, operating supplies, capital outlay and other services and charges are included in the budget figures.

The budget for park maintenance is determined in the same manner as other general fund budgets. Each department and division present a proposed budget to the City Manager, based upon previous budgets, current year needs, and the City's five-year Capital Improvement Program. The City Manager and the Finance Director then work out a proposed budget that is submitted to the City Commission. The Commission holds hearings, votes on a preliminary budget and is subsequently adopted.

Figure 20 BAY CITY PARKS AND RECREATION BUDGETS		
	2017/2018	2018/2019
Operation & Maintenance	\$1,131,590	1,116,196
Programming	NA	NA
Capital Expenditures	\$50,000	\$50,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,181,590</b>	<b>\$1,166,196</b>

## Bay City Recreation Inventory

There are 25 public park and recreation sites owned and operated by the City of Bay City, covering approximately 240 acres. These sites range in size from 0.1 acre to 90 acres, and they contain a wide variety of active and passive uses. Seasonal and year-round parks have a regional emphasis. Veterans Memorial Park, Wenonah Park and Bigelow Park (Middlegrounds) provide superior recreational complexes because of their size and location on the Saginaw River. These public park and recreation areas within Bay City serve not only Bay City residents because they draw heavily from the entire county and throughout the region.

The following is a brief history for each of the City parks and a general description of recreation elements provided. A recreation inventory chart and a park location map follow the park descriptions.

### Battery Park

Battery Park is a dedicated passive park located in the downtown area encompassing the four corners located at Center Avenue and Jefferson Street. It is one acre in size and was platted as a public square in 1849. It features short paved pathways, trees, benches, and the two southerly quadrants serve as a passive park area for the Bay County Public Library. On September 30, 2017 a Gold Star Families Memorial Monument was added to the Park. Also added were Iron Shell Gun Monuments replicating Civil War Artillery.

### Bicentennial Commons Park

Bicentennial Commons Park is actually two small parks located on the east and west ends of Veterans Memorial Bridge. The park space provides lawn area with a scattering of trees. The west

parcel is city-owned and has a flagpole and a covered picnic table. The park space on the east side of the river contains a 30-foot monument as a memorial to the veterans of the Revolutionary War. The property is maintained by the City but is owned by the Michigan Department of Transportation.

### Bigelow Park

Bigelow Park is located at the north end of Middleground Island and is approximately 11.8 acres. The property for the park was donated in 1929 as a gift from Charles Bigelow, who operated a large sawmill on the riverfront. Additional land was purchased by the City in 1949 and it was developed into a park in 1991. The park contains an extensive footbridge that crosses the river channel and connects the park to Veterans Memorial Park and the Riverwalk. Playground equipment and a pavilion were constructed by the Bay City Lions Club. The pavilion is frequently rented for family reunions, company picnics and other social events. The new Riverview Discovery Island Play Station will be built in 2019. A concept plan is provided in the Appendix.

The north end also contains a Victorian style building leased to the Bay City Rowing Club as a clubhouse, a Boys and Girls Club facility, and a transient boat dock. The Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy worked with the Rowing Club to complete improvements on the paved apron leading to the dock as well as adding a new kayak and canoe launch ramp. This was one of the Conservancy's Outdoor Urban Recreation Projects (O.U.R.)



*The Bay City Rowing Center is part of Bigelow Park in Bay City. It is a cooperative partnership among the City of Bay City, the Bay City Rowing Club, and the Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy.*

### Birney Park

Birney Park is bordered by 9th Street, 10th Street, Jackson Avenue and Madison Avenue and is 3.5 acres in size. Formerly known as Madison Park, this large rectangular park was renovated in 2010 and includes a center plaza, shelter, picnic facilities and a playground. It is primarily an open playing

field with playground equipment and a covered pavilion. Along with Carroll Park, Birney Park is one of the oldest parks in the City.

Universal design was used in the last renovation of this park to allow for accessibility to all amenities.

#### Breakers Cove Park

A 6.6-acre public open space along the Saginaw River, the park includes a walking path, lighting and bench seating. The parcel was improved when the Breakers Cove condominiums were constructed in 1998. The walking path was recently extended northward to Wenonah Park.

#### Carroll Park

The 13.7-acre Carroll Park is located on the northeast corner of Groveland Road and Park Avenue. The park is the oldest platted park in the City, established in 1875. The unique features of the park include a duck pond and bridge and a large stand of old maple and oak trees. The park is located in the center of the Historic District and is bordered by historic homes. It can be accessed by the Riverwalk/Railtrail loop. Park facilities include playground equipment, an informal ball diamond, tennis courts, a pavilion and picnic areas. New gaga ball courts were installed in 2018. A concept plan for Carroll Park is included in the Appendix.



*Carroll Park*

In terms of accessibility, there are no accessible paths to the tennis court, ball diamond and playground.

#### Cass Avenue Boat Launch

The Cass Avenue Boat Launch was constructed in 2003 and is adjacent to the Saginaw River at the end of Cass Avenue. The one-acre site features a single boat dock, restrooms and a small grassy area with bench seating.

#### Columbus Green

Columbus Green is a ½-acre public square dedicated in 2003, bordered by Columbus Avenue, Washington Avenue and Fitzhugh Street. It includes brick walking paths, benches, four flag displays and a butterfly garden. The Columbus Avenue Management Board maintains oversight of this park.

## Defoe Park

Defoe Park is adjacent to Marquette Avenue and is 11 acres in size. The park includes three little league diamonds and two adult softball diamonds, a playground, shelter, picnic facilities and a skate park. The original 3-acre property was given to the city by the North American Construction Company in 1914. The company stipulated that the land be used for “playground or park purposes” and went by the name of Aladdin Park. It was later renamed Defoe Park in honor of Harry Defoe of the Defoe Shipbuilding Company.



*Movie night at Defoe Park*

## Edward M. Golson Boat Launch and Nature Area

Located at the intersection of the former Johnson Street and the Saginaw River, the 43-acre recreational facility was completed in 2003. It provides two boat launch platforms and a ramp specifically designed for handicap accessibility.

Included in the 43-acre park is a 26-acre nature area with paved and gravel trails that includes two viewing platforms overlooking a wetland area provided. The Nature Area is run as a collaboration between the Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy and the city of Bay City. It has received support from General Motors, as well. The Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy identifies it as one of its Outdoor Urban Recreation Projects (O.U.R).

The site includes a large gazebo for use as a covered shelter area for student classroom tours, as well as a river viewing and fishing platform. A bald eagle nesting area is a unique feature of the site. Universal design was utilized in the last renovation of the park to allow for accessibility to all amenities including a wheelchair boat ramp.

## Hewitt Park

Hewitt Park is 5.4 acres and is bordered by Johnson Street, Hampton Street, 19th Street, and 20th Street. It is a rectangular sports park that contains two tennis courts, a baseball diamond, a playground, and a basketball court. The park name was formally changed from “Hewitt Field” to “Hewitt Park” in 1994.

## Infinity Skate Park

The Infinity Skate Park is located adjacent to Defoe Park on Marquette Avenue and contains 5.06 acres. This outdoor recreation area opened in 2002 and is a professionally designed facility with an elaborate network of cement ramps.



*Infinity Skate Park*

## Joseph M. Trombley/Banks Park

Trombley Park is a small 1/2-acre park located in the Banks area. The park serves the neighborhood and offers tennis and basketball courts. The park had been casually known as “Smith Park” or “Banks Park,” but in 1985 the City Commission formally renamed it “Joseph M. Trombley / Banks Park” named for an early settler who established the Village of Banks in 1843. A new gaga ball court and playground were added in 2018.

## Maplewood Park

Maplewood Park is a 9.7-acre park bounded by 1st Street, 3rd Street, Sheridan Street, and vacated Van Buren Street. The park provides a baseball diamond and is popular for its basketball courts. Nearly all of the park amenities are accessible.

## Nate Doan Park

Nate Doan Park is located in the Midland Street Neighborhood and is 6.4 acres in size. It is designed for low-impact activities and includes a playground and a small, hilly playfield. A shelter building and restrooms are provided on the site. The park, established in 1977 is named in honor of Mr. Nate Doan, a community volunteer.

### Pershing Park

Pershing Park is adjacent to the Sage Library located in the Midland Street Historic District. The parcel is one and a half acres and contains green space, trees and a monument dedicated to Veterans of World War I. The park is leased to the Sage Library with the Library responsible for upkeep.

### Ramsey Park

Ramsey Park is 1.3 acres located in the west area of the City adjacent to Fisher Avenue. It was deeded to the City for park purposes in 1949. This is a small, irregularly shaped parcel in a residential neighborhood and contains a small playground and open space.

### Rexer-Jablonski Park

Rexer-Jablonski Park is a 3.3-acre park that was designed and constructed in 2004. The park is named after two police officers killed in the line of duty near the present park site. Elements include a memorial area for the fallen officers, open play area, playground equipment and other amenities. The park was constructed using the principals of universal design.

### Riverwalk/Railtrail Loop

The Riverwalk/Railtrail loop is a non-motorized 10-mile trail that surrounds the east side of Bay City and follows the west bank of the Saginaw River. The trail is an asphalt and cement path on land once used as railroad right-of-way. The Riverwalk/Railtrail loop connects or passes very near to the following parks: Maplewood Park, Carroll Park, Bigelow Park, Ted Putz Nature Area, Riverwalk, Veterans Memorial Park, Dwan Property, Defoe Park, and Infinity Skate Park.

The Riverwalk is a scenic path that provides public access to the Saginaw River and is part of the route of the Iron Belle Pathway. The path is paved to encourage use by cyclists and roller-bladers. The pathway travels through Veterans Memorial Park, Kantzler Arboretum, and along the riverfront. A pier with a large gazebo extends into the Saginaw River. The Riverwalk was connected to Bigelow Park when a pedestrian bridge was built in 1993. Access and continued improvements to the system on the east side of the river will provide public use of the riverfront and will expand the Riverwalk to both sides of the river. The railtrail will soon be extended southward from the City to Frankenlust Township and is part of the Iron-Belle Trail.



*Part of the Riverwalk/Railtrail near the Uptown Bay City Development.*

The railtrail paths and amenities are fully accessible.

### Roosevelt Park

Roosevelt Park is a 2.8-acre park adjacent to Broadway Avenue in the south end. Originally named Broadway Park, it was renamed Roosevelt Park in 1907. A boulder and a memorial plaque are located in the park in memory of a Native American Indian whose remains rest beneath the stone. The park also provides a tennis court, playground equipment, shelter, picnic facilities and open space area.

### Sovereign Field

Sovereign Field is a City-owned park located at the corner of Truman Parkway and Woodside Avenue and is 3.2 acres in size. Established in 1974, it lies adjacent to another baseball diamond that is privately owned. This park is used by the North East Little League.

### Ted Putz Nature Area

Located on the western bank of the Saginaw River at Ivy Avenue in the Salzburg Business District, this 4-acre park is an open space area and contains a boardwalk overlooking wetlands along the river floodplain.

### Third Street Waterfall Park

Third Street Waterfall Park is a new park space located in downtown of the foot of Third Street and the Saginaw River. The side includes a limestone waterfall fountain, seating areas, a bridge and deck, signage, landscaping, and lighting. The Downtown Development Authority provides the maintenance for the park.

### Veterans Memorial Park

#### **Overview**

Veterans Memorial Park (also known as Vets Park) is the central park of Bay County containing approximately 97 acres. It is roughly 1.2 miles long and 0.2 miles wide. This area includes land that encompasses Liberty Harbor Marina, the Veterans Memorial Park ball fields, Kantzler Arboretum, Santa House, and Trombley House. It includes the Riverwalk and the Riverwalk/Railtrail loop. Major community events such as the 4th of July Fireworks celebration, the River of Time and concerts take place in the park. A new gaga ball court was installed in 2018. A concept plan for North Veterans Park is included in the Appendix.

Improvements are still needed at this park to make it fully accessible. There are not



*Liberty Harbor Marina is part of Veterans Memorial Park.*

accessible pathways to all of the features such as the playground, sand volleyball, and some of the ball diamonds. There is no accessible seating area at some of the ball diamonds.

### ***Liberty Harbor Marina***

Liberty Harbor is a public marina just north of Veterans Memorial Bridge. Liberty Harbor is listed as one of 80 certified harbors by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Facilities include the 100-berth marina, shower, restroom and parking lot.

### ***Kantzler Memorial Arboretum***

The 12-acre arboretum is a landscaped plaza with various plantings maintained by civic and private organizations. It is located along the riverfront near the Bay County Community Center. The Davidson Dry Dock, a 500-foot inlet that had once been used for ship building, is located on the north edge of the arboretum. A pedestrian bridge crosses the dry dock at its mouth and joins with the Riverwalk that runs the length of Veterans Memorial Park and beyond.



*Kantzler Arboretum is part of Veterans Memorial Park.*

### ***Santa House and Trombley House***

The Santa House is a log building that is leased seasonally to Santa House Inc. for its event every December. The site is located near the entrance to Veterans Memorial Park on John F. Kennedy Drive.

The Trombley House is Bay County's first frame house, completed in 1837, by pioneer Joseph Trombley and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Trombley House was moved to this site in 1981. The structure is owned by the Bay County Historical Society. The house is being restored, maintained, and used by the Bay County Historical Society for public events.

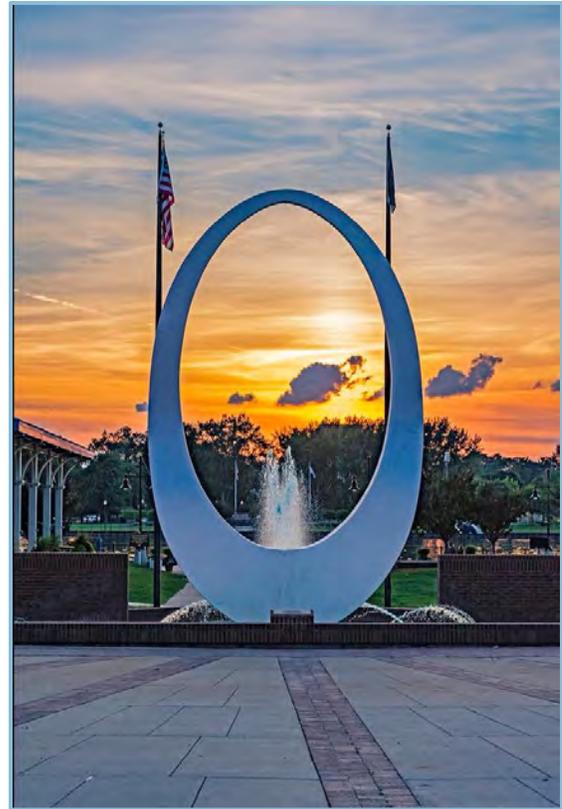
### **Wenonah Park**

This 6.1-acre downtown park is centered on an amphitheater and is used primarily for special events and arts performances at the World Friendship Shell. It is decorated with a large oval sculpture and water fountain that can be seen down the length of Center Avenue. The seawall which

accommodates all sizes of vessels was renovated in 2010 using a Michigan Natural Trust Fund Grant. In 2017, the Downtown Development Authority, in partnership with the City, constructed a multi-purpose pavilion shelter (known as the Nickless Family Community Pavilion) that provides ice skating opportunities in the winter months.

The State Theatre schedules both paid and free concerts throughout the summer and in conjunction with major events such as the 4th of July and the Tall Ships Festivals. It also offers free children’s programming and concerts. Wenonah Park was established in 1908 and has a rich history serving as public space in the downtown area.

Universal design was utilized in the last renovation of the park, allowing for accessibility to all amenities, including restrooms and building doorways.



*Fountain in Wenonah Park.*

### Accessibility

The consultant reviewed and updated the accessibility scores from the City’s 2014 Recreation Plan based upon an aerial photography review of the parks and input from the City parks manager. Comments regarding accessibility were provided for some of the parks in the previous section. An accessibility score is included in the inventory chart on page 20. An explanation of accessibility scores is provided in the Bay County inventory chapter on page 21. With the exception of Ramsey Park, all of the parks in Bay County have some accessible features. The most common accessibility features that are missing include accessible paths to amenities and signed and marked ADA parking.

To the extent possible, accessibility improvements will be funded through operating budgets that support yearly maintenance routines. Capital improvement monies will be requested for individual projects that require significant funding support, and which cannot be undertaken as a routine maintenance operation. It should be noted that in the period since the 2014 Recreation Plan was improved, all park improvements have been developed with universal accessibility.



# Parks and Trail Locations in Bay City Michigan

## Neighborhood Park

5. Birney Park
6. Breaker Cove Park
12. Hewitt Park
13. Maplewood Park
14. Nate Doan Park
16. Ted Putz Nature Area
18. Ramsey Park
19. Rexer-Jablonski Park
20. Roosevelt Park
22. Trombly / Banks Park

## Regional Urban Park

4. Bigelow Park
11. Golson Nature Area
23. Wenonah Park
24. Veteran's Memorial Park

## Special Use Park

8. Cass Ave Boat Launch
21. Sovereign Field

## Community Park

7. Carroll Park
10. Defoe Park

## Mini Park

1. Battery Park
2. Bicentennial Commons East Park
3. Bicentennial Commons West Park
9. Columbus Green Park
15. Pershing Park
25. Waterfall Park
26. Liberty Harbor Marina

Columbus CDC

Midland Street CDC

Northwest CDC

Northeast CDC

Southend CDC

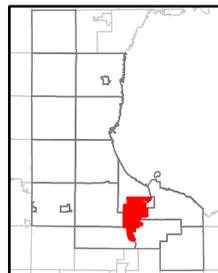
State Trunkline

Major Road

Minor Road

Riverwalk Railtrail

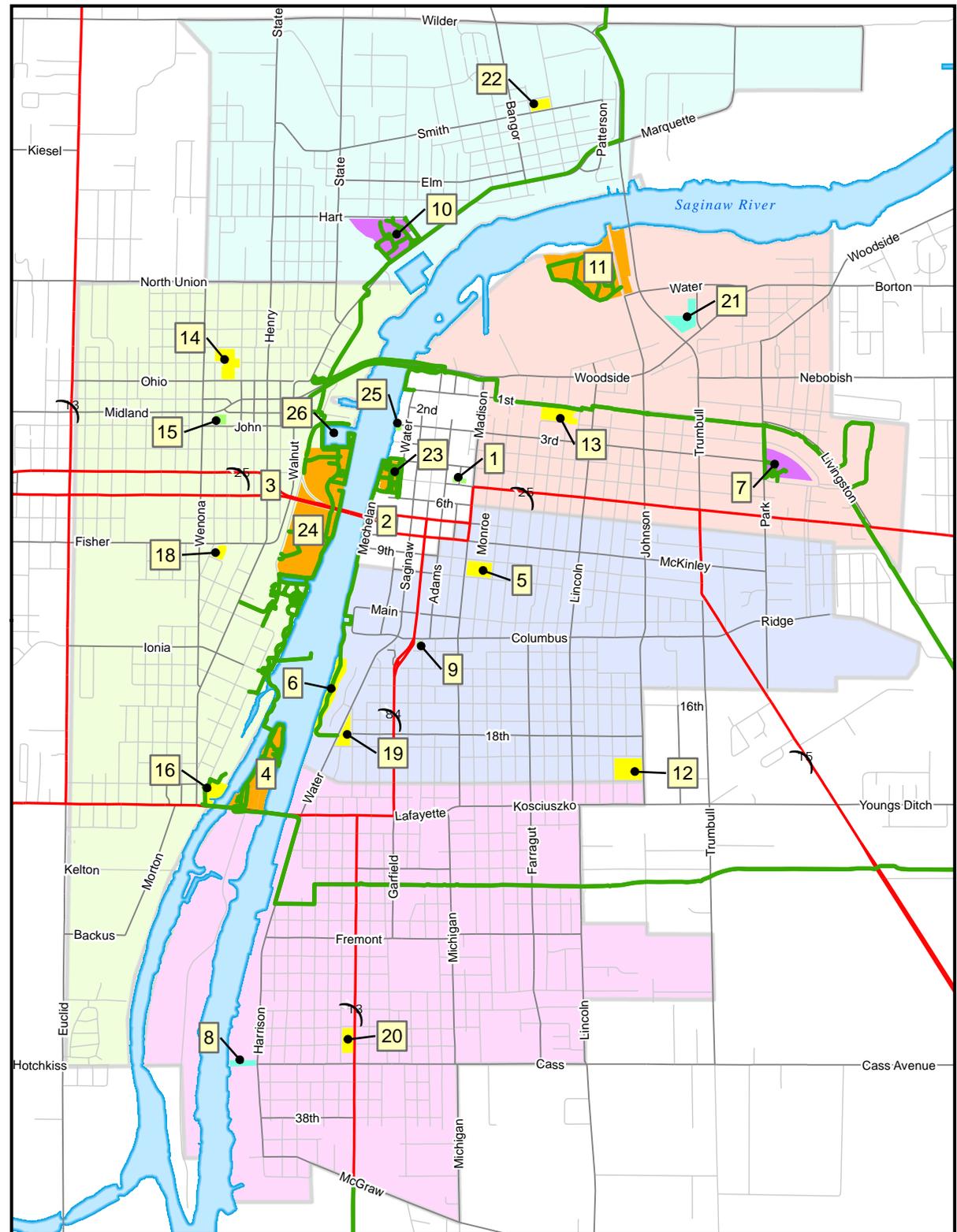
0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles



Map produced by: Bay County Dept. of Environmental Affairs & Community Development - GIS Program 10/29/2018

DISCLAIMER: The information contained in this Map is provided and maintained by various individuals representing a number of agencies, including Bay County departments, municipal governments, and state and federal agencies. No guarantee is given as to the accuracy or currency of any of the data. Therefore, in no event shall Bay County Government be liable for any special, indirect, or consequential damages or any damages whatsoever resulting from loss of use, data, or profits, whether in an action of contract, negligence, or other action, arising out of or in connection with the use of the information herein provided.

Data Source: Bay County GIS, State of Michigan CGI



## Other Local Outdoor Recreation

The Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy and Michigan Sugar Company have rehabilitated and developed a natural space with dedicated single-track trails for mountain bikes, trail running, and hiking. The 26-acre Michigan Sugar Trails site is located on the Middlegrounds with trails open to a wide variety of users. Birders, fishermen, walkers, runners and cyclists all can enjoy the trails for recreational purposes.

Single-track, natural surface trails do not exist elsewhere in Bay City. The existing trail network loops throughout the site and covers a variety of terrain, providing quality riding experiences for riders of all levels.

## Grant Assisted Projects

Bay City has received 17 previous recreation grants. All improvements are still functioning and being used with the exception of the tennis courts at Maplewood Park and the exercise path in Veterans Park. The tennis courts are no longer in use, having deteriorated beyond their expected lifetime. The exercise path fitness stations have been removed due to deterioration and safety issues.

- LWCF 26-00896 – \$51,295 Maplewood Park Improvements, 1977
- LWCF 26-01060 P – \$15,577, Nate Done Park Acquisition, 1978
- LWCF 26-01060 Q – \$73,667, Veterans Park Acquisition, 1978
- LWCF 26-01425 – \$98,866, Exercise/Handicap Path, 1986
- TF87-128 – \$400,000, Bay City Saginaw River Pier, 1987
- LWCF 26-01487 – \$162,865, Veteran’s Memorial Park Riverwalk, 1988
- BF89-315 – \$163,500, Bay City-Hampton Railtrail, 1989
- TF89-030 – \$375,000, Wenonah Park Riverfront, 1989
- BF90-325 – \$31,500, Carroll Park Tennis Court, 1990
- BF91-075 – \$518,000, Veterans/Bigelow Footbridge, 1991
- BF93-228 – \$335,000, Riverwalk E.P.A. Link, 1993
- TF93-229 – \$55,000, Riverwalk Land Acquisition, 1993
- TF93-230 – \$60,000, Bay City Railtrail-27th Street Land Acquisition, 1993
- TF98-006 – \$178,000, 27th Street Railtrail Development, 1998
- TF06-022 – \$500,000, Wenonah Park Renovation, 2006
- TF09-062 – \$325,000, Birney Park Renovations, 2009
- TF17-0023 – \$300,000, Imagination Station Playground, Bigelow Park, 2017

## Goals and Objectives

Bay City has established the following Mission Statement to provide direction and guide decision making, as well as establishing practices and policies that will guide the improvement of recreation opportunities.

Bay City Parks and Recreation Mission Statement

***Enhance the community and the city's vitality through its parks and recreation areas and to provide safe and welcoming opportunities to play, learn, and build community.***

The goals and objectives which follow embody many of those stated in for the county-wide system, while elaborating on those most applicable to the City of Bay City.

### Goal 1

**Provide facilities and services that meet the diverse recreational needs of residents and visitors to the community.**

Objectives:

1. Provide a balanced recreation system characterized by a variety of active, passive and cultural opportunities.
2. Provide a recreation system that reflects the needs of all users.
3. Emphasize quality of facilities and programs rather than quantity, especially in view of existing budget constraints.

### Goal 2

**Support the preservation and restoration of park areas or features having historical, cultural, architectural or natural significance. Preserve and enhance parks as a visual resource in the community.**

Objectives:

1. Maintain existing plant communities, while continuing to improve landscapes by introducing new plantings and historical tree species, such as elms and chestnuts.
2. Adopt superior design practices. Ensure that all park improvements are utilitarian, attractive and fit within the context of existing site features.

### Goal 3

**Continue efforts to enhance the river corridor.**



*The annual Fireworks Festival is a huge tourism draw in Bay City*

Objectives:

1. Execute Master Plans for Wenonah and Veterans Memorial Park to reduce activity conflicts, and to rehabilitate areas to better support both current and future uses.
2. Capitalize on opportunities to expand use of the river, by providing improved access for a variety of activities like fishing, boating and walking.
3. Strengthen pedestrian connections to parks within and from neighborhoods.
4. Strengthen both physical and pedestrian connections to parks within and from business districts.
5. Join with other entities to promote the river as a major recreational resource.



*Bay City Rowing Club taking advantage of the Saginaw River recreational opportunities.*

Goal 4

**Achieve a sound financial basis for maintenance and development.**

Objectives:

1. Develop long term funding strategies including the investigation of establishing a maintenance endowment fund.
2. Investigate opportunities to implement select fees.
3. Shift more financial responsibility for event services to event sponsors.
4. Develop a reliable base of volunteers to assist with maintenance needs.
5. Aggressively pursue state and federal grants for recreational improvements.
6. Seek alternative sources of funding including private donations and local grants.
7. Create an endowment program for tree plantings.

Goal 5

**Increase public awareness and participation of the parks.**

Objectives:

1. Utilize the City of Bay City website, newsletter, press releases to communicate information.
2. Cooperate with local volunteers, non-profit organizations and foundations that are actively participating in park improvements.
3. Explore opportunities and establish priorities for public-private partnerships to realize the full potential of park spaces.

Goal 6

**Elevate the cultural qualities of the community, by incorporating visual arts disciplines in parks design and development.**

Objectives:

1. Whenever feasible, promote and emphasize the unique characteristics of individual neighborhoods and the community, by incorporating artistic, historical and/ or cultural features in park areas.
2. Strengthen relationships with the local arts community, to identify opportunities to incorporate art and cultural features in park areas.



*Exercising along the Saginaw River.*

Goal 7

**Adopt a sound planning basis for future park developments.**

Objectives:

1. Develop master plans for all parks identifying needs and improvements.
2. Continue to assess community needs
3. Continue to monitor leisure trends to validate future improvements and to exploit the opportunity to modify or add services.

4. Develop a “Maintenance Impact Statement” for all proposed park improvements.
5. Insure sufficient funding is available to support all new developments or programs.
6. Focus on the rehabilitation of existing facilities.
7. Identify and modify underutilized facilities.

#### Goal 8

##### **Ensure current and future park facilities comply with all facility use and development standards.**

###### Objectives:

1. Perform regular safety inspections on all play equipment.
2. Inspect all park areas for compliance with the “American With Disabilities Act”.
3. Develop a transition plan to address barriers to accessibility.
4. Incorporate universal accessibility and safety standards into all new designs.

#### Goal 9

##### **Continue to develop partnerships with entities to program and maintain facilities.**

###### Objectives:

1. Renew agreement with Bay County for continued cooperative programming and maintenance of community park areas.
2. Promote cooperation and resource sharing among recreation providers.
3. Support volunteer efforts to maintain and improve park areas.
4. Pursue “community service opportunities” with the local court and school systems.
5. Inventory potential maintenance needs
6. Where feasible, design facilities for multi-purpose uses.

#### Goal 10

##### **Improve the efficiency of park maintenance and management operations.**

###### Objectives:

1. Develop priorities for maintaining service levels.
2. Refine maintenance routines.
3. Enhance personnel training
4. Equip workforce with state-of-the-art tools and equipment.
5. Apply new technologies to maintenance management (equipment, methods, and materials).
6. Develop data base and inventory of each park facility.
7. Upgrade and continue to improve maps, records and record keeping.
8. Refine policies, procedures, rules and regulations.
9. Adopt best practices.

### Action Plan

Bay City has developed list of capital improvements for the next five years. This list is based on known issues and needs in the parks and feedback from the community input survey. Each of these projects will accomplish one or more of the goals and objectives listed above.

Figure 21

### BAY CITY PARKS AND RECREATION ACTION PLAN

Location	Type of Improvements	Year	Estimated Cost	Potential Funding Source
Dwan Property	Open for public access	2019-2020	\$20,000	City/local grant
Middlegrounds (Bigelow Park)	New rugby field	2018 – 2019	\$30,000	Rugby Team
Wenonah Park	Phase III bandshell renovation	2020	\$1,500,000	DDA, City, local grants, CDBG, and DNR grants
Railtrail	Extension south to Bay-Zil Trail	2020-2021	\$300,000	City, local grants, CDBG, and DNR grants
Maplewood Park	Site improvements* and new playground	2021	\$200,000	City, local grants, CDBG, and DNR grants
Nate Doan Park	Park renovation	2022	\$250,000	City, local grants, CDBG, and DNR grants
Ramsey Park	Site improvements*, splash pad, new playground, picnic area and umbrellas	2022	\$480,000	City, local grants, CDBG, and DNR grants
Vets Park	Picnic area with umbrellas, parking lot rehabilitation, food truck lot	2022	\$450,000	City, local grants, CDBG, and DNR grants
Defoe Park	New playground (Hart Street), site improvements	2023	\$275,000	City, local grants, CDBG, and DNR grants
Wenonah Park	Site improvements*, new decorative water feature, parking lot rehabilitation, restroom rehabilitation.	2023	\$500,000	DDA, City, local grants, CDBG, and DNR grants
Carroll Park	Site improvements*, new playground and parking lot rehabilitation.	2024	\$240,000	City, local grants, CDBG, and DNR grants
Roosevelt Park	Site improvements*, picnic area with umbrellas, splash pad, new playground	2024	\$580,000	City, local grants, CDBG, and DNR grants

\* Site improvements typically include sidewalks, benches, rubbish/recycling bins, and lighting.



# Beaver Township

## Community Description

Beaver Township is located on the west side of Bay County, approximately 10 miles northwest of Bay City. Townships bordering Beaver are Williams to the south, Garfield Township to the north and Kawkawlin Township to the east. Midland County's Larkin Township is located to the west. The Township is very rural and the land is used largely for agricultural purposes. The Kawkawlin River flows across the northeast portion of the Township. According to the 2016 American Community Survey 5-year population estimate, Beaver Township has a population of 2,849.

Other significant demographic data for Beaver Township as compared to the county, state, and country is shown in Figure 22 below.

	Beaver Twp.	Bay County	Michigan	United States
<b>Median Age</b>	42.6	42.7	39.5	37.7
<b>Population 65+</b>	22.2%	18.3%	15.4%	14.5%
<b>Population under 18</b>	21.4%	21.0%	22.5%	23.1%
<b>Owner Occupied Homes</b>	88.7%	77.9%	73.0%	65.1%
<b>Average Household Size</b>	2.75	2.39	2.51	2.64
<b>Bachelor's Degree or Higher</b>	16.4%	18.1%	27.4%	30.3%
<b>Median Household Income</b>	\$53,844	\$45,851	\$50,803	\$55,322
<b>Per Capita Income</b>	\$26,758	\$24,753	\$27,549	\$29,829
<b>Disabled</b>	14.4%	16.6%	14.2%	12.5%
<b>Poverty level</b>	5.6%	15.8%	16.3%	15.1%

Figure 22 - Selected Census Data for Beaver Township as compared to the county, state and country.

### Administrative Structure

The Beaver Township Board is responsible for all parks and recreation functions in Beaver Township. Beaver Township formed a Parks and Recreation Committee in 1979 which oversees parks and recreation functions in the community. Nine people serve on the committee – eight from within the community and one rotational Board of Trustees member. Committee members are appointed by the Township Board of Trustees. The group meets monthly.

### Programming, Volunteers, and Cooperative Relationships

Beaver Township owns and operates a Township Park. Additionally, recreational facilities are provided to the public by the Beaver Athletic Association and Zion Lutheran Church and schools. There are also recreational programs put on at the Beaver Township Hall. The Township provides three annual recreational programs and has plans to include more special events in the coming years. Volunteers serve the parks in the capacity of activities such as park clean up, programming organization, and other functions as needed.

### Budgets

The sources of funding for parks and recreation functions in Beaver Township are the township general fund, grants, and donations. Most recently, the Township received an \$11,870 grant from the East Michigan Council of Government’s 2017 Mini Grant Cycle for playground equipment.

**Figure 23  
BEAVER TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION BUDGETS**

	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>
Operation & Maintenance	\$2,417	\$3,005
Programming (leagues, special events, etc.)	\$5,442	\$6,535
Capital Expenditures	\$12,100	\$6,660
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$19,959</b>	<b>\$16,200</b>

### Recreation Inventory

Beaver Township completed a park inventory in summer of 2018. The Township has two park facilities, the Township Park and the area around the Township Hall. They are working on expanding the outdoor recreation opportunities at the Township Hall. The parks are inventoried in the table below.

**Figure 24  
BEAVER TOWNSHIP RECREATION INVENTORY**

	<b>Beaver Township Park</b>	<b>Beaver Township Hall</b>
<b>Park Type*</b>	Community Park	Mini-Park
<b>Acreage</b>	15	2
<b>Accessibility*</b>	2	3
<b>Service Area</b>	Beaver Township	Beaver Township
<b>Basketball Court</b>		1
<b>Horseshoe Pits</b>	Yes	
<b>Parking Facilities</b>	Front and Rear Parking Lots	Front
<b>Pavilion</b>	Yes	
<b>Picnic Tables</b>	4	
<b>Playground</b>	1	
<b>Restrooms</b>	Seasonal Port-a-John only (Handicap-Accessible)	
<b>Walking Trail</b>	1	

\* See County inventory section on pages 14, 15, and 21 for definitions of park type and accessibility. Beaver Township needs improvement in several areas in order to increase its rating for accessibility. Needed are paved, striped, and signed ADA parking spaces; accessible pathways to all amenities; accessible picnic tables; accessible grills; and wheelchair spaces next to benches.

## Goals and Objectives

Beaver Township developed the following goals and objectives for parks and recreation in the community in 2013. These were reviewed and verified in 2018.

### GOAL 1

**Continue to promote the park and its facilities.**

#### Objectives

1. Establish and maintain contacts with the public, residents, local schools, and organizations encouraging use of the park and shared use of other facilities.
2. Preserve and protect open space and significant natural features in the Township and the park.



### GOAL 2

**Provide safe, broad, community-based recreation opportunities that improve the overall quality of life for the area residents.**

### GOAL 3

**Develop recreational facilities that provide accessibility for people of all abilities.**

## Action Plan

Based on the goals, objectives, and community input, Beaver Township has identified the following items to be part of its action plan.

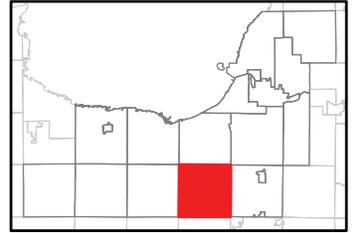
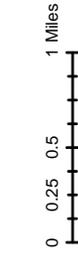
1. Expand Township recreational facilities and utilities.
2. Update and expand existing trails and tracks.
3. Continue holding annual events.



# Park and Trail Locations in Beaver Township Michigan

## Legend

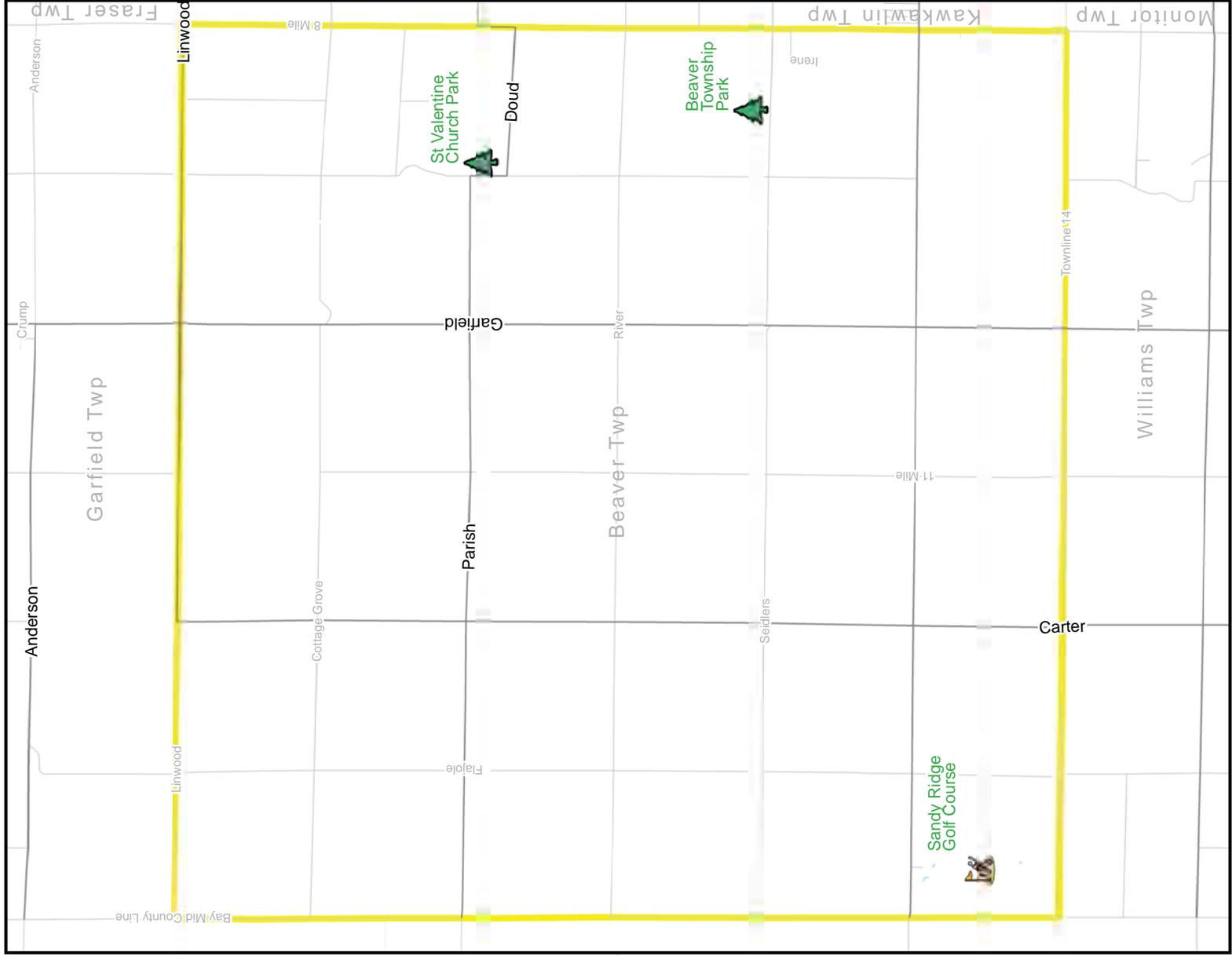
-  Township
-  State Trunkline
-  Major Road
-  Minor Road
-  Railroad
-  Non-Motorized Trail
-  Park; Nature Area
-  Park
-  Golf Course
-  Boat Ramp / Dock

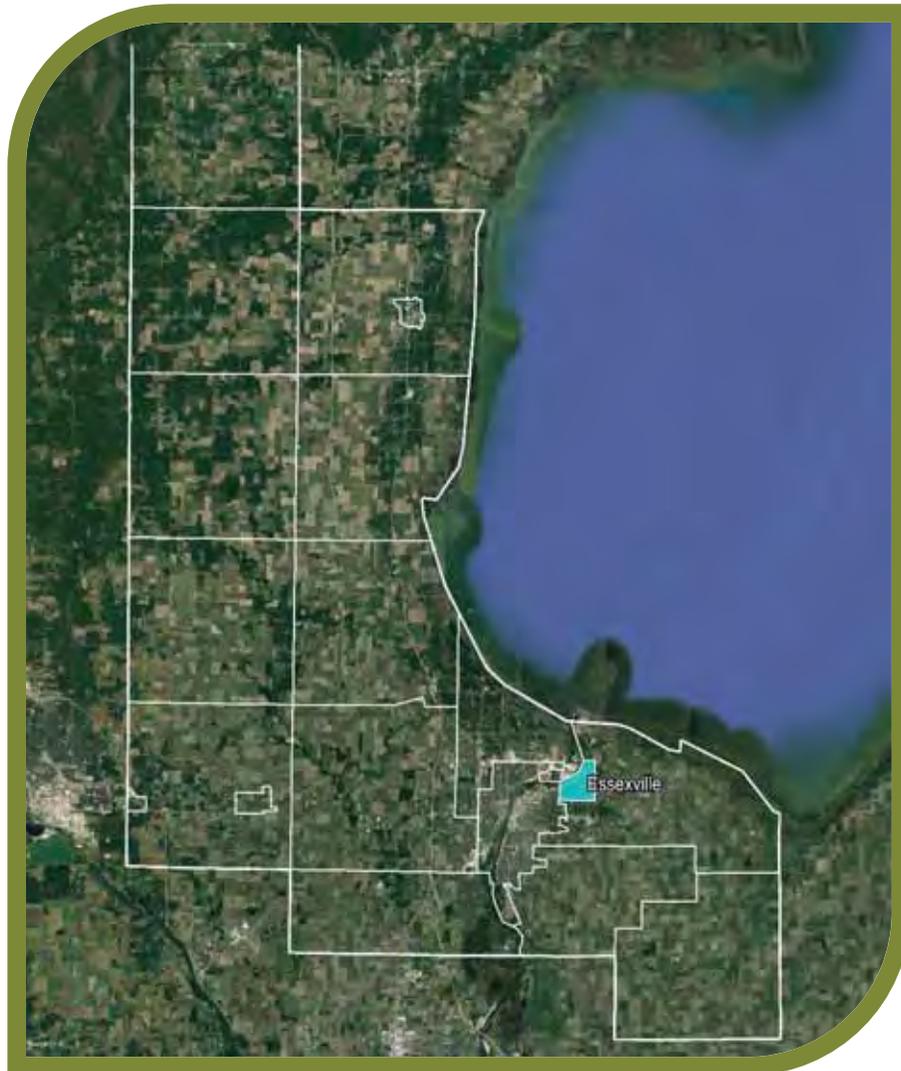


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Data Source: Bay County GIS, State of Michigan CGI





# Essexville

## Community Description

The City of Essexville is a small community located on the Saginaw River that is sandwiched between Bay City on its west and Hampton Township to the east. The City contains approximately 900 acres and most of the land is developed for residential use. There are significant industrial uses along the 1.4 mile stretch of the Saginaw River frontage in Essexville. Most of these are storage for grain and construction materials that take advantage of the river and adjacent railway for transportation. According to the 2016 American Community Survey 5-year population estimate, Essexville has a population of 3,418.

Other significant demographic data for the City of Essexville as compared to the county, state, and country is shown in Figure 25 below.

	Essexville	Bay County	Michigan	United States
Median Age	38.9	42.7	39.5	37.7
Population 65+	17.8%	18.3%	15.4%	14.5%
Population under 18	22.7%	21.0%	22.5%	23.1%
Owner Occupied Homes	89.4%	77.9%	73.0%	65.1%
Average Household Size	2.42	2.39	2.51	2.64
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	22.7%	18.1%	27.4%	30.3%
Median Household Income	\$49,531	\$45,851	\$50,803	\$55,322
Per Capita Income	\$29,017	\$24,753	\$27,549	\$29,829
Disabled	15.5%	16.6%	14.2%	12.5%
Poverty level	15.2%	15.8%	16.3%	15.1%

Figure 25 - Selected Census Data for Essexville as compared to the county, state and country. *Source: 2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Population Estimates.*

### Administrative Structure

The City of Essexville operates and maintains its municipal facilities under the auspices of the City Manager, in conjunction with the Department of Public Works. The Department of Public Works is responsible for park maintenance. Recreation facility planning is done with the assistance of the Recreation Committee. The Recreation Committee is composed of community residents who are appointed by the City Council. This committee reviews plans that the City is proposing in regard to recreation and makes suggestions to the City Administration. The City of Essexville does not provide any recreation programming and its recreation expenditures are used for capital improvements and maintenance.

### Programming, Volunteers, and Cooperative Relationships

The Essexville Little League Association sponsors baseball and softball programs for youth.

### Budgets

The source of funding for parks and recreation in Essexville is the City general fund. The current and next year parks and recreation budgets are shown in Figure 26.

Figure 26

**ESSEXVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION BUDGETS**

	2016-17	2017-19
Operation & Maintenance	\$20,921	\$36,310
Programming (leagues, special events, etc.)	NA	NA
Capital Expenditures	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$20,921</b>	<b>\$36,310</b>

### Recreation Inventory

Essexville has 7.80 acres of parkland in seven different parks. Five of these parks are very small at less than one-half acre. The quantity of parkland in the City has more than doubled in the past five years with the addition of the new Ransom Essex Park, which was part of the former Hughes Elementary School. This adds a large open space four-acre parcel to the City's park properties. The recreation inventory was completed from the existing recreation master plan and updated as necessary by City staff. It should be noted that Essexville-Hampton School facilities are also used for local public recreation.



**Figure 27  
ESSEXVILLE RECREATION INVENTORY**

	Smith Park	Municipal Park	Main Street Boat Launch	Veterans Memorial Park	Woodside Right-of-Way Park	Woodside - Borton Plaza Park	Youth Memorial Park	Ransom Essex Park
<b>Park Type*</b>	NP	MP	MP	MP	MP	MP	MP	NP
<b>Acreage</b>	2.04	0.1	0.77	0.12	0.2	0.1	0.38	4.09
<b>Accessibility*</b>	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	3
<b>Service Area</b>	City	City	City	¼ mile	¼ mile	¼ mile	¼ mile	City
<b>Basketball Court</b>		2						
<b>Multi-use Path</b>							Yes	
<b>Pavilion</b>	Yes							
<b>Picnic Area</b>	Yes							
<b>Sand Volleyball</b>	Yes							
<b>Boat Launch</b>	Yes		Yes					
<b>Grills</b>	Yes		Yes					
<b>Restrooms</b>	Yes							
<b>Open Playfield</b>								Yes
<b>Swingset</b>	Yes							

\* See County inventory section on pages 14, 1 and 21 for definitions of park type and accessibility.

**Accessibility** – Accessibility scores are rated as such because not all amenities in the parks are fully accessible. There may not be accessible paths to features and/or ADA parking spaces may be lacking or not adequately signed.

### Grant History

The City of Essexville has received one DNR recreation grant. In 1991, it received \$69,000 from the MNRTF (TF91-254) for improvements at Smith Park. The improvements are still open and functional.

## Goals and Objectives

The City of Essexville developed the goals and objectives for parks and recreation in the community in 2014. They were updated for the current plan.

### GOAL 1

#### **Increase recreation opportunities along the Saginaw River.**

Objectives:

1. Develop a marina.
2. Develop shore fishing and viewing areas.
3. Link recreational opportunities with multi-use paths.
4. Add a boat launch.

### GOAL 2

#### **Provide recreation opportunities for senior citizens and the disabled.**

Objectives:

1. Insure that all future improvements are ADA accessible.

### GOAL 3

#### **Improve the quality of Neighborhood Parks.**

Objectives:

1. Provide more active recreational opportunities in Essexville.
2. Work on cooperative agreements with the school district to enhance outdoor recreation on existing school facilities.

### GOAL 4

#### **Provide recreation facilities in known recreation deficient zones.**

Objectives:

1. Acquire additional park/open space acreage to develop as a neighborhood park facility on the western side of the City.
2. Promote the redevelopment of vacated lands for recreational use where appropriate.

### GOAL 5

#### **Provide more citywide recreation opportunities.**

Objectives:

1. Add multi-use paths, focusing on areas near the Saginaw River and paths that will provide a linking trail network across the City.
2. Develop an ice skating rink, dog park and walking paths in Ransom Essex Park.
3. Develop outside gathering areas at the various municipal parks.

## Action Plan

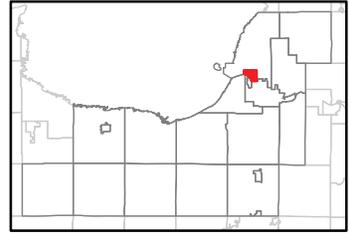
Based on the goals, objectives, and community input, Essexville has identified the following items to be part of its action plan. Each project will work toward accomplishing one or more goals and objectives identified above.

1. Main Street Overlook and Fishing Pier - Redevelopment of Main Street street-end to include a boat launch and ADA accessible fishing pier and viewing platform.
2. Smith Park – Renovation of Smith Park to include fishing pier and park improvement.
3. Hughes Field – Continue to develop the elementary school property as a neighborhood park. Investigate the availability of additional land on the west side of the City to develop into a neighborhood park.
4. Develop a seawall and fishing platform at Smith Path.
5. Develop an outdoor auditorium (band shell) at Ransom Essex Park.

# Park and Trail Locations in City of Essexville Michigan

## Legend

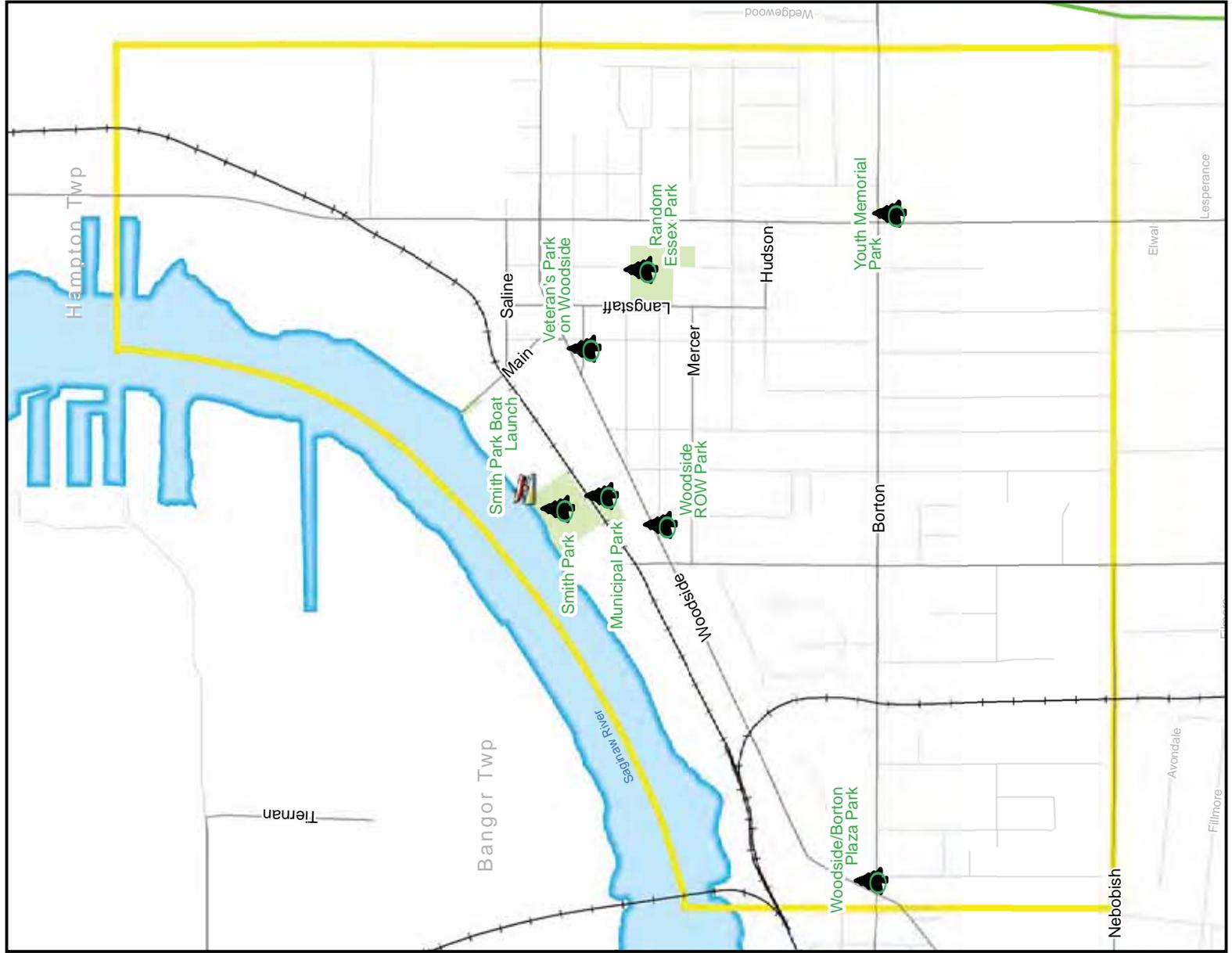
-  Township; City
-  State Trunkline
-  Major Road
-  Minor Road
-  Railroad
-  Non-Motorized Trail
-  Park; Nature Area
-  Park
-  Golf Course
-  Boat Ramp / Dock

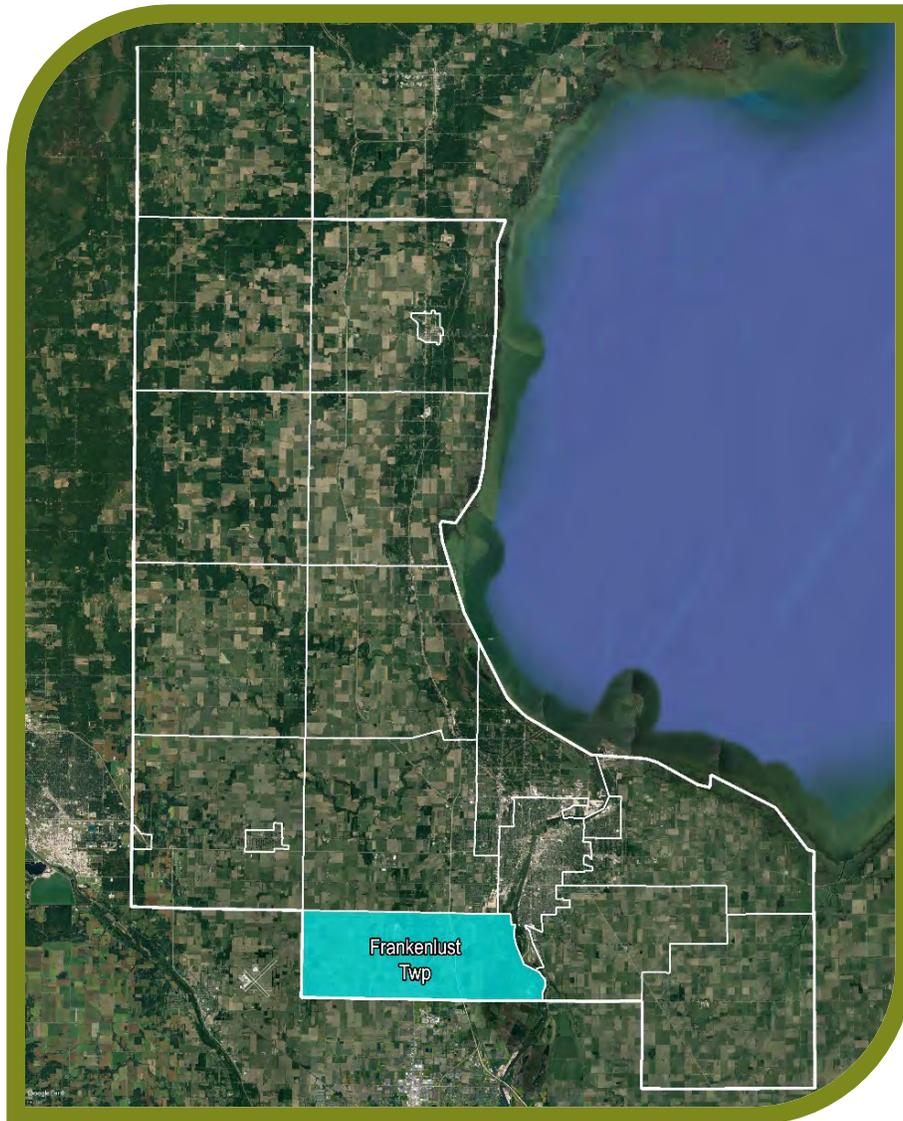


Map produced by: Bay County Dept. of Environmental Affairs & Community Development - GIS Program 10/29/2018

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Data Source: Bay County GIS, State of Michigan CGI





# Frankenlust Township

## Community Description

Frankenlust Township is located in southern Bay County, southwest of Bay City. It is one of the County's smaller townships, at 23.05 square miles. The majority of the land in the Township is used for agricultural purposes. There is a significant amount of wetlands in the southeast portion of the Township near the Saginaw River. Bay Valley and Saginaw Valley Golf courses are also located in Frankenlust Township. The Township is the home of Delta College, the community college that was established to serve Saginaw, Midland, and Bay Counties. According to the 2016 American Community Survey 5-year population estimate, Frankenlust Township has 3,562 people.

Other significant demographic data for Frankenlust Township as compared to the county, state, and country is shown in Figure 28 below. In general, the Township’s residents are older and wealthier than other townships in Bay County.

	Frankenlust	Bay County	Michigan	United States
<b>Median Age</b>	45.4	42.7	39.5	37.7
<b>Population 65+</b>	19.7%	18.3%	15.4%	14.5%
<b>Population under 18</b>	19.7%	21.0%	22.5%	23.1%
<b>Owner Occupied Homes</b>	76.5%	77.9%	73.0%	65.1%
<b>Average Household Size</b>	2.50	2.39	2.51	2.64
<b>Bachelor's Degree or Higher</b>	38.4%	18.1%	27.4%	30.3%
<b>Median Household Income</b>	\$75,714	\$45,851	\$50,803	\$55,322
<b>Per Capita Income</b>	\$35,261	\$24,753	\$27,549	\$29,829
<b>Disabled</b>	8.1%	16.6%	14.2%	12.5%
<b>Poverty level</b>	15.2%	15.8%	16.3%	15.1%

Figure 28 - Selected Census Data for Frankenlust Township as compared to the county, state and country. *Source: 2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Population Estimates.*

### Administrative Structure

In Frankenlust Township, the Parks Committee and the Township Board handle the parks and recreation functions. The Parks Committee is made up of 8 to 10 volunteer township residents. They meet monthly from March through November. Their decisions are subject to approval by the Frankenlust Township Board. These residents also serve as volunteers who perform parks maintenance activities.

### Programming, Volunteers, and Cooperative Relationships

Frankenlust Township works closely with the Great Lakes Bay Regional Trail Committee for maintenance of the GLBRT Trail in Frankenlust Township. Currently, the Saginaw County Parks maintains the trail for the GLBRT Committee.

### Budgets

Funding for Parks and Recreation functions in Frankenlust Township come from the Township general fund and donations. Budgets for the current year are shown in the chart below.

**Figure 29**

**FRANKENLUST TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION BUDGETS**

	<b>2017-2018</b>	<b>2018-2019</b>
Operation & Maintenance	\$10,000	\$10,000
Programming (leagues, special events, etc.)	NA	NA
Capital Expenditures	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>

**Recreation Inventory**

Frankenlust Township owns two parks, the Frankenlust Township Park and the Frankenlust Nature Park. Since the development of the 2014 Bay Area Recreation Plan, Frankenlust has also added 3.5 miles of the Great Lakes Bay (GLBRT) Trail. This section of the trail is known as the BayZil Rail Trail. The 2018 inventory was completed by updating data from the previous plan. A concept plan for the Nature Park and a park location map are provided at the end of this section.

**Figure 30**

**FRANKENLUST TOWNSHIP RECREATION INVENTORY**

	<b>Frankenlust Township Play Park</b>	<b>Nature Park</b>	<b>GLBRT Trail</b>
<b>Park Type*</b>	Neighborhood Park	Community Park	Park-Trail
<b>Acreage</b>	5.5	23	3.5 miles
<b>Accessibility</b>	3	3	5
<b>Service Area</b>	Entire Township	Entire Township	Region
<b>Basketball Court</b>	Yes		
<b>Nature Trail</b>	Yes	Yes	
<b>Pavilion</b>	Yes		
<b>Picnic Area</b>	Yes	Yes	
<b>Waterfront Property</b>		Yes (2 ponds)	
<b>Playground</b>	Yes		
<b>Playfield (open space)</b>	Yes	Yes	

\* See County inventory section on pages 14, 1 and 21 for definitions of park type and accessibility.

**Accessibility** – Accessibility scores are rated as such because not all amenities in the parks are fully accessible. Some features do not have accessible paths to access them and/or ADA parking spaces may be lacking or not adequately signed.

#### Grant History

Frankenlust Township has received two recreation grants from the DNR. Both are for the Great Lakes Bay Regional Trail. All improvements are still functional.

- TF11-089 – \$300,000, GLBRT Trail Development
- TF14-0234 – \$280,000, GLBRT Trail Development

#### Goals and Objectives

Frankenlust Township developed the following goals for parks and recreation in the community in 2014. They were reviewed for the 2018 plan and no changes were made.

##### GOAL 1

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

##### GOAL 2

**Develop the Township Park into a family friendly active use park.**

##### GOAL 3

**Develop the Nature Park into a quiet, natural, passive park.**

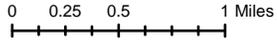
#### Action Plan

Based on the goals, objectives, and community input, Frankenlust Township has identified the following items to be part of its action plan.

1. Add electricity to pavilion at Play Park.
2. Rebuild dam between hatching pond and main pond at Nature Park.
3. Widen and pave handicap walkway at Play Park.
4. Add bathroom to pavilion at Play Park.
5. Make the Nature Park more handicap-accessible.
6. Consider adding a gazebo on the hill at the Nature Park.
7. Identify different plants and trees at the Nature Park.



# Park and Trail Locations in Frankenlust Township Michigan



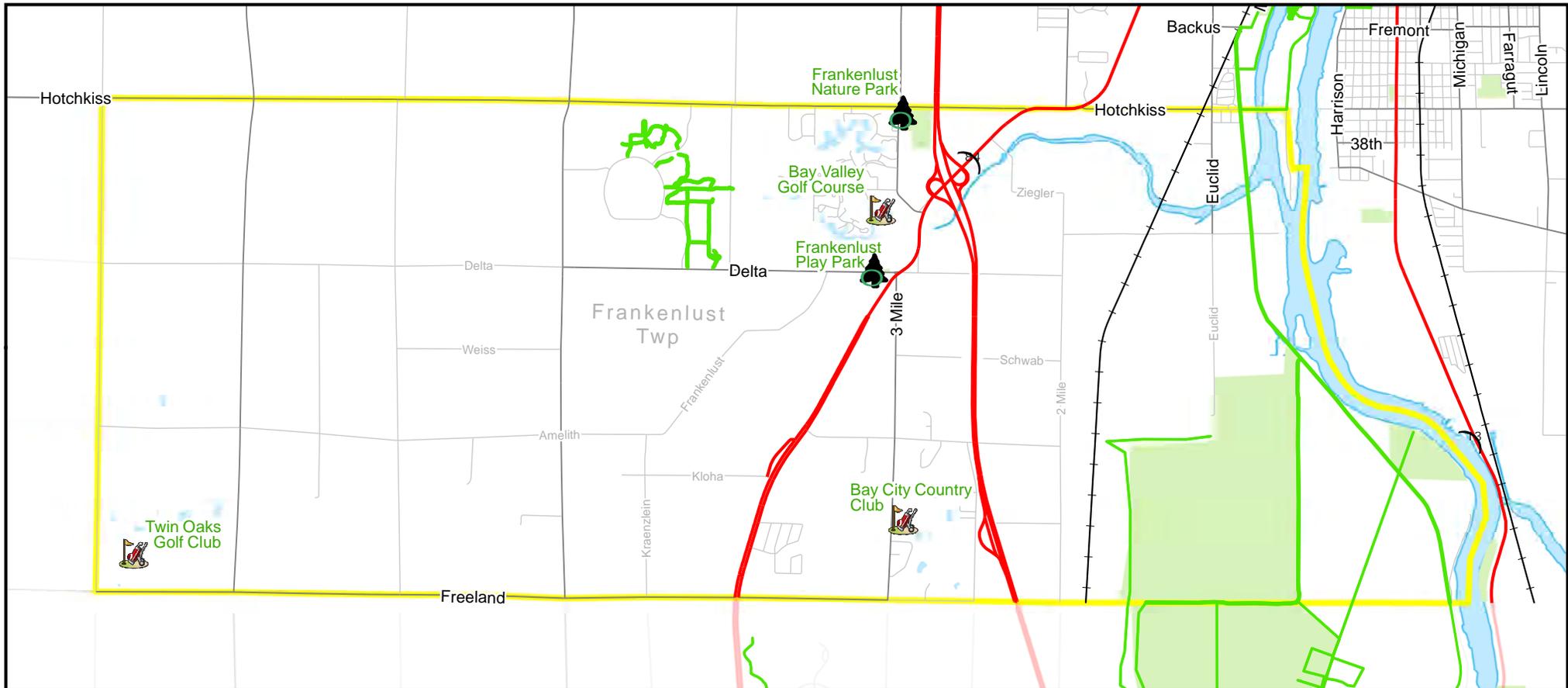
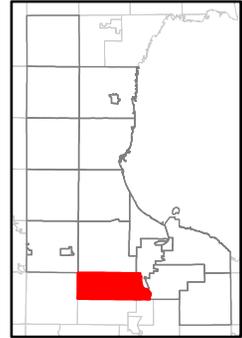
## Legend

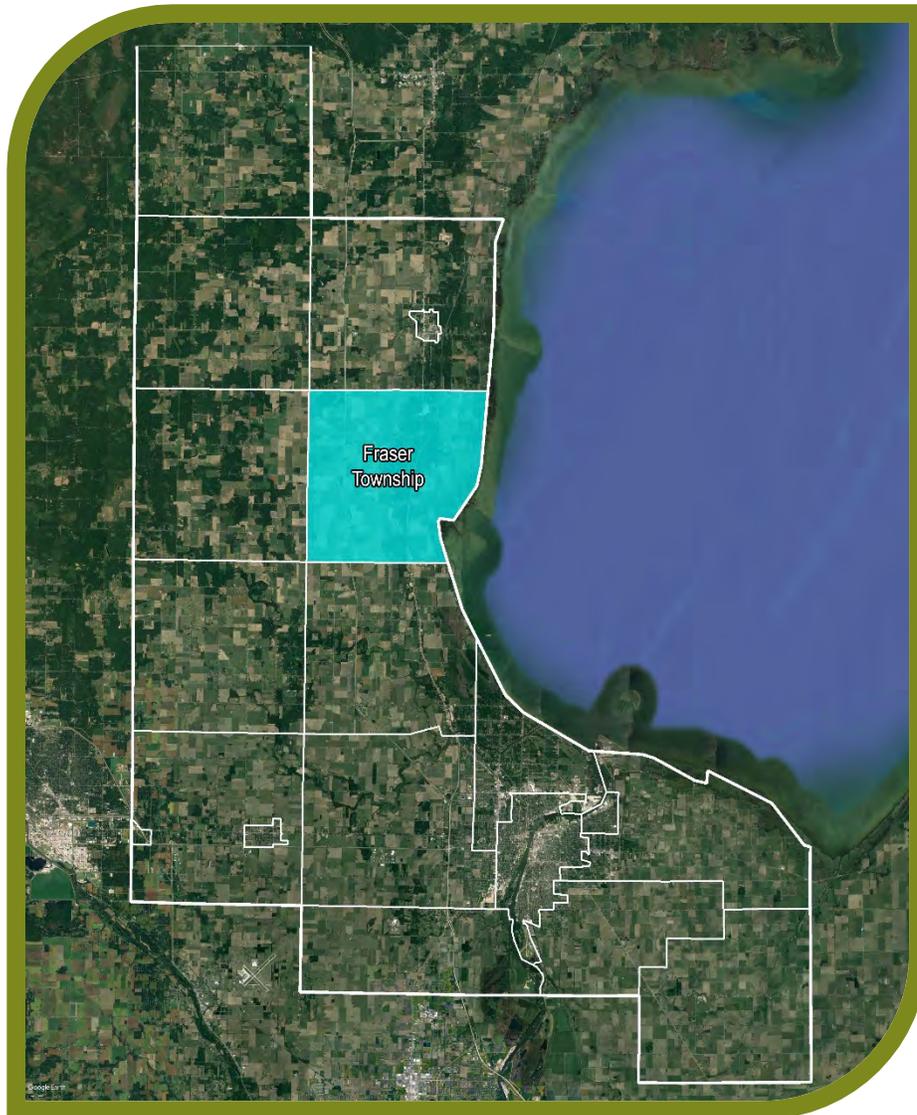
- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
|  Township; City      |  State Trunkline |  Park             |
|  Park; Nature Area   |  Major Road      |  Golf Course      |
|  Railroad            |  Minor Road      |  Boat Ramp / Dock |
|  Non-Motorized Trail |   |  |

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Data Source: Bay County GIS, State of Michigan CGI





# Fraser Township

## Community Description

Fraser Township is located on Saginaw Bay approximately 10 miles north of Bay City. It contains the northern portion of the community of Linwood. The Township lands are largely used for agricultural purposes. Large tracts of woodlands are located along M-13 which traverses the east side of the Township from north to south. According to the 2016 American Community Survey 5-year population estimate, Fraser Township has 3,145 people.

Other significant demographic data for Fraser Township as compared to the county, state, and country is shown in Figure 31 below. It is worth noting that Fraser Township's median age is higher than all other

communities in Bay County, except Merritt Township. It also has a very high percentage of owner occupied homes, at 93.8%.

	Fraser	Bay County	Michigan	United States
<b>Median Age</b>	50	42.7	39.5	37.7
<b>Population 65+</b>	24.8%	18.3%	15.4%	14.5%
<b>Population under 18</b>	16.5%	21.0%	22.5%	23.1%
<b>Owner Occupied Homes</b>	93.8%	77.9%	73.0%	65.1%
<b>Average Household Size</b>	2.36	2.39	2.51	2.64
<b>Bachelor's Degree or Higher</b>	11.9%	18.1%	27.4%	30.3%
<b>Median Household Income</b>	\$47,133	\$45,851	\$50,803	\$55,322
<b>Per Capita Income</b>	\$23,243	\$24,753	\$27,549	\$29,829
<b>Disabled</b>	22.5%	16.6%	14.2%	12.5%
<b>Poverty level</b>	17.5%	15.8%	16.3%	15.1%

Figure 31 - Selected Census Data for Fraser Township as compared to the county, state and country. *Source: 2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Population Estimates.*

### Administrative Structure

Parks and recreation functions in Fraser Township are administered by the Township Board. It contracts out grass cutting for the Township Park. The Township has no recreation programming of its own. Volunteers coach the soccer teams in the community.

### Programming, Volunteers, and Cooperative Relationships

Volunteers coach the soccer teams in the community. The local school district uses soccer fields at the Township Park for practice. The Township Park also serves as a storage area for football equipment for Pinconning Linwood Area Youth Football.

### Budgets

The source of funding for the park and recreation budget in Fraser Township is the Township general fund. Current and prior year parks and recreation budgets are shown in Figure 32.

**Figure 32**  
**FRASER TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION BUDGETS**

	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
Operation & Maintenance	\$6,000	11,000
Programming (leagues, special events, etc.)	NA	NA
Capital Expenditures*	NA	NA
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,000</b>	<b>\$11,000</b>

\* The Township has \$10,000 to \$15,000 available for capital expenditures.

**Recreation Inventory**

Fraser Township updated its existing inventory based on the 2014 Plan. Fraser Township has two parks which are inventoried in the chart below. It also leases a trail from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources that has recently been developed as part of the Iron Belle Trail. It should be noted that the Linwood Road Scenic Park is owned partly by Fraser Township and partly by Kawkawlin Township. The portion north of Linwood Road belongs to Fraser Township and the portion south of Linwood Road belongs to Kawkawlin Township. A location map for the parks is contained at the end of this section.



**Figure 33  
FRASER TOWNSHIP RECREATION INVENTORY**

	<b>Township Park</b>	<b>Linwood Road Scenic Park</b>	<b>Iron Belle Trail</b>
<b>Park Type*</b>	Community Park	Special Use Park	Park Trail
<b>Acreage</b>	80	.8	3.5 miles
<b>Accessibility*</b>	3	2	3
<b>Service Area</b>	Entire Township	Bay County	Fraser Township
<b>Boat Launch</b>		Yes	
<b>Football/Soccer Fields</b>	Yes		
<b>Ball Diamonds</b>	2		
<b>Pavilion</b>	Yes		
<b>Grills</b>	2		
<b>Horseshoes</b>	2		
<b>Picnic Area</b>	Yes		
<b>Restrooms</b>	2		
<b>Playground</b>	Yes		
<b>Playfield (open space)</b>	Yes		
<b>Waterfront Property</b>		Yes (500')	

\* See County inventory section on pages 14, 1 and 21 for definitions of park type and accessibility.

**Accessibility** – Accessibility scores are rated as such because not all amenities in the parks are fully accessible. Some features do not have accessible paths. ADA parking spaces may be lacking or not adequately signed.

### Goals and Objectives

Fraser Township developed the following goals and objectives for parks and recreation in the community when the 2014 Recreation Plan was written. Those goals and objectives were reviewed and verified for the 2019 Plan.

## GOAL 1

### **Provide a safe place for children to play.**

#### Objective:

Maintain recreational playground equipment for children aged 2 – 12 that complies with current safety standards.

## GOAL 2

### **Improve existing park facilities so as to provide recreational facilities that the entire community can be proud of and thereby increase usage.**

#### Objective:

Improve and upgrade existing ball field.

## GOAL 3

### **Provide more information to the community about the Iron Belle Trail**

#### Objective:

Inform residents and visitors about bird and wildlife watching opportunities along the Iron Belle Trail.

## Action Plan

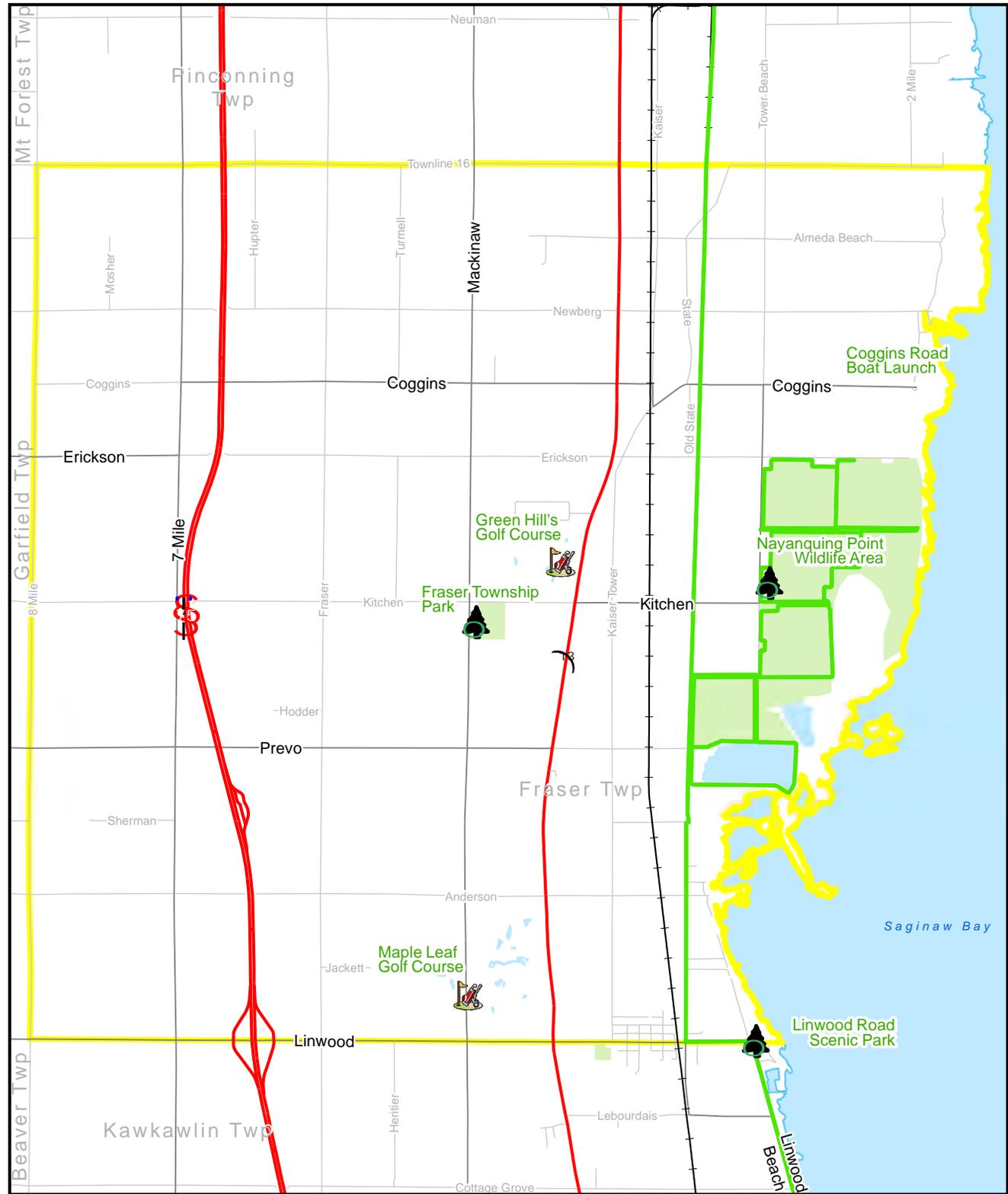
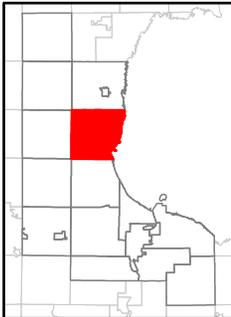
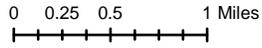
Based on the goals, objectives, and community input, Fraser Township has identified the following items to be part of its action plan.

1. Develop a disc golf course on the Township's 80-acre parcel.
2. Convert a ball diamond at the Township Community Park into a dog run.
3. Add information about the Township park and recreation opportunities on the Township website.

# Park and Trail Locations in Fraser Township Michigan

## Legend

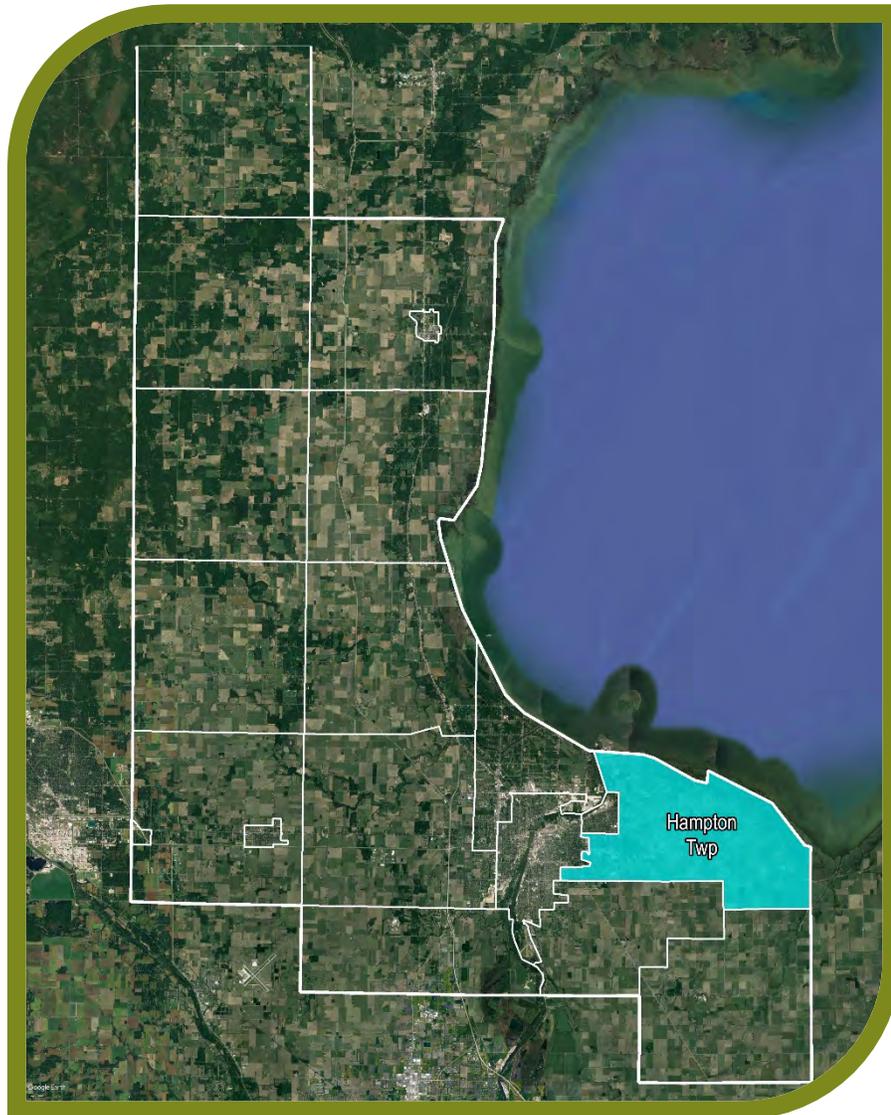
-  Township; City
-  State Trunkline
-  Major Road
-  Minor Road
-  Railroad
-  Non-Motorized Trail
-  Park; Nature Area
-  Park
-  Golf Course
-  Boat Ramp / Dock



Map produced by: Bay County Dept. of Environmental Affairs & Community Development - GIS Program 10/29/2018

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Data Source: Bay County GIS, State of Michigan CGI



# Hampton Township

## Community Description

Hampton Charter Township is located in southeast 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, serving as an extension of Bay City. This area features several apartment complexes and senior living centers. The shoreline is dotted with wetlands that serve as habitat for wildlife and waterfowl. 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. The population of Hampton Township is 9,521, according to the 2016 American Community Survey 5-year population estimate.

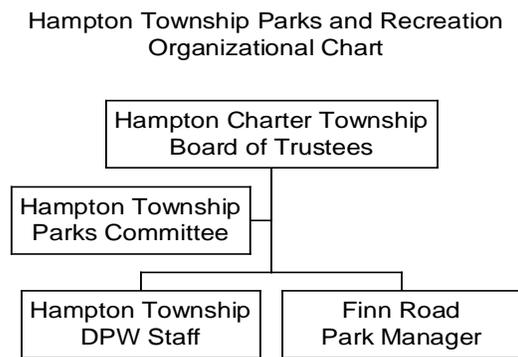
Other significant demographic data for Hampton Township as compared to the county, state, and country is shown in Figure 34 below.

	Hampton	Bay County	Michigan	United States
<b>Median Age</b>	48.5	42.7	39.5	37.7
<b>Population 65+</b>	21.9%	18.3%	15.4%	14.5%
<b>Population under 18</b>	18.3%	21.0%	22.5%	23.1%
<b>Owner Occupied Homes</b>	64.8%	77.9%	73.0%	65.1%
<b>Average Household Size</b>	2.17	2.39	2.51	2.64
<b>Bachelor's Degree or Higher</b>	20.1%	18.1%	27.4%	30.3%
<b>Median Household Income</b>	\$45,865	\$45,851	\$50,803	\$55,322
<b>Per Capita Income</b>	\$27,023	\$24,753	\$27,549	\$29,829
<b>Disabled</b>	18.0%	16.6%	14.2%	12.5%
<b>Poverty level</b>	14.9%	15.8%	16.3%	15.1%

Figure 34 - Selected Census Data for Hampton Township as compared to the county, state and country. *Source: 2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Population Estimates.*

### Administrative Structure

The Township Department of Public Works (DPW) is responsible for the parks and recreation function in Hampton Charter Township. The current parks and recreation department functions are operated under the DPW and carried out by three full-time DPW workers.



The seven-member Department of Public Works staff is responsible for operating and maintaining the parks in Hampton Charter Township. Additionally, a full-time manager is hired for Finn Road Park during the summer months. The Township Board of Trustees is advised by the Hampton Township Parks Committee regarding park related issues.

### Programming, Volunteers, and Cooperative Relationships

Hampton Charter Township has a good working relationship with the Essexville-Hampton School District in terms of parks and recreation facilities. The Hampton Charter Township DPW staff maintains the fields at Pondsides Park for practice fields.

Hampton Charter 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 and 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 Charter Township are the Township general fund, campground fees, Finn Road Boat Launch fees, and pavilion rentals. The current and previous year parks and recreation budgets are shown below.

Figure 35 HAMPTON TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION BUDGETS		
	2016	2017
Operation & Maintenance	\$86,830	\$83,888
Programming (leagues, special events, etc.)	NA	NA
Capital Expenditures*	\$63,654	\$48,720
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$150,484</b>	<b>\$132,608</b>

### Recreation Inventory

Hampton Charter 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. Hampton Township reviewed its inventory from the 2014 Recreation Plan and updated it accordingly. The parks inventoried for Hampton Charter Township are found on the following pages.

**Figure 36  
HAMPTON CHARTER TOWNSHIP RECREATION INVENTORY**

	Bay-Hampton Rail Trail	Ridge Road Park	Pondside Park	Finn Road Campground	Jones Road Park	Nature Trail	Callahan Road End Property
<b>Park Type*</b>	Park-Trail	Neighborhood Park	Community Park	Special Use	Special Use	Park-Trail	Not developed
<b>Acreage /Distance</b>	1 mile	6 acres	30 acres	12 acres	3 acres	3.5 miles	2.5 acres
<b>Accessibility*</b>	4	2	2	3	2	4	NA
<b>Accessibility Comment</b>		No ADA marked parking. Lacking paths to amenities.	No ADA marked parking. Lacking paths to amenities.	Restroom not fully accessible	No ADA marked parking.		
<b>Service Area</b>	County	Neighborhoods within 2 miles	Entire Twp.	Entire Twp. & beyond	Entire Twp. & beyond	Entire Twp.	Entire Twp.
<b>Ball Diamond</b>		Yes	2				
<b>Multi-use Path</b>	Yes			Yes		Yes	
<b>Pavilion</b>		2	Yes	Yes			
<b>Tennis Courts</b>			4				
<b>Playground</b>		Yes	Yes	Yes			
<b>Basketball Court</b>			Yes				
<b>Sledding Hill</b>		Yes	Yes				
<b>Picnic Area</b>		Yes		Yes			
<b>Restrooms</b>	Yes**	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
<b>Open Playfield</b>		Yes	Yes	Yes			
<b>Campground</b>				57 sites			
<b>Boat Launch</b>				Yes	Yes		
<b>Overlook Platform</b>				Yes	Yes		
<b>Saginaw Bay Access</b>				Yes	Yes		Yes
<b>Other</b>	Benches	Grills, Horseshoes	Pond	Grills, Benches			

\* See County inventory section on pages 14, 15, and 21 for definitions of park type and accessibility.

\*\* Portable restrooms only.

## Grant History

Hampton Township has received six DNR Recreation Grants for acquisition of or improvements to its parks. All projects are open and functional with the exceptions as noted below.

- LWCF 26-00460 – \$30,011, acquisition of 10 acres for Finn Road Park
- TF724 – \$34,783, Pondsides Park Improvements (tennis courts are no longer lit – 42 years old)
- TF26-01464 – \$99,000, Finn Road Park Improvements
- BF90-041 – \$53,600, Hampton Railtrail
- TF00-063 – \$130,800, Expansion of Finn Road Park
- TF15-0011 – \$182,300, Finn Road Park Improvements

## Goals and Objectives

The Hampton Charter Township Parks Committee formulated the following goals and objectives in 2008 based upon the characteristics of the overall community and the input received from the Bay County community input survey. The goals were reviewed and verified for the 2014 plan and they have been reviewed and verified again for the 2019 plan.

### GOAL 1

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

### GOAL 2

**Provide recreational opportunities for people with disabilities.**

#### Objectives

1. Develop programs for special needs population.
2. Ensure that improvements and upgrades to parks are handicap accessible.

### GOAL 3

**Develop a non-motorized trail network in Hampton Charter Township.**

Hampton Charter 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.**

#### Objectives

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

2. Develop a brochure that describes the parks in Hampton Charter Township.

#### GOAL 6

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

##### Objectives

1. Add shore fishing facilities in Hampton Charter Township.
2. Develop swimming access points in Hampton Charter Township.

#### GOAL 7

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

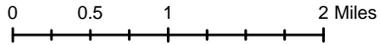


#### Action Plan

Based on the goals, objectives, community input, and available resources, Hampton Township has identified the following items to be part of its action plan.

1. Remove the tennis courts at Pondsides Park. The tennis courts are more than 40 years old and are no longer repairable.
2. Consider options for open space at Pondsides Park after the tennis courts are removed.
3. Upgrade the playground equipment at Pondsides Park. The existing playground equipment is old, outdated, and potentially unsafe.
4. Upgrade the playground equipment at Finn Rod Park. The existing playground equipment is old, outdated, and potentially unsafe.
5. Upgrade the trail between Finn Road and Jones Road Park. New gravel is needed.
6. Upgrade the gravel parking lot at Jones Road Park.

# Park and Trail Locations in Hampton Township Michigan



Map produced by: Bay County Dept. of Environmental Affairs & Community Development - GIS Program 10/29/2018

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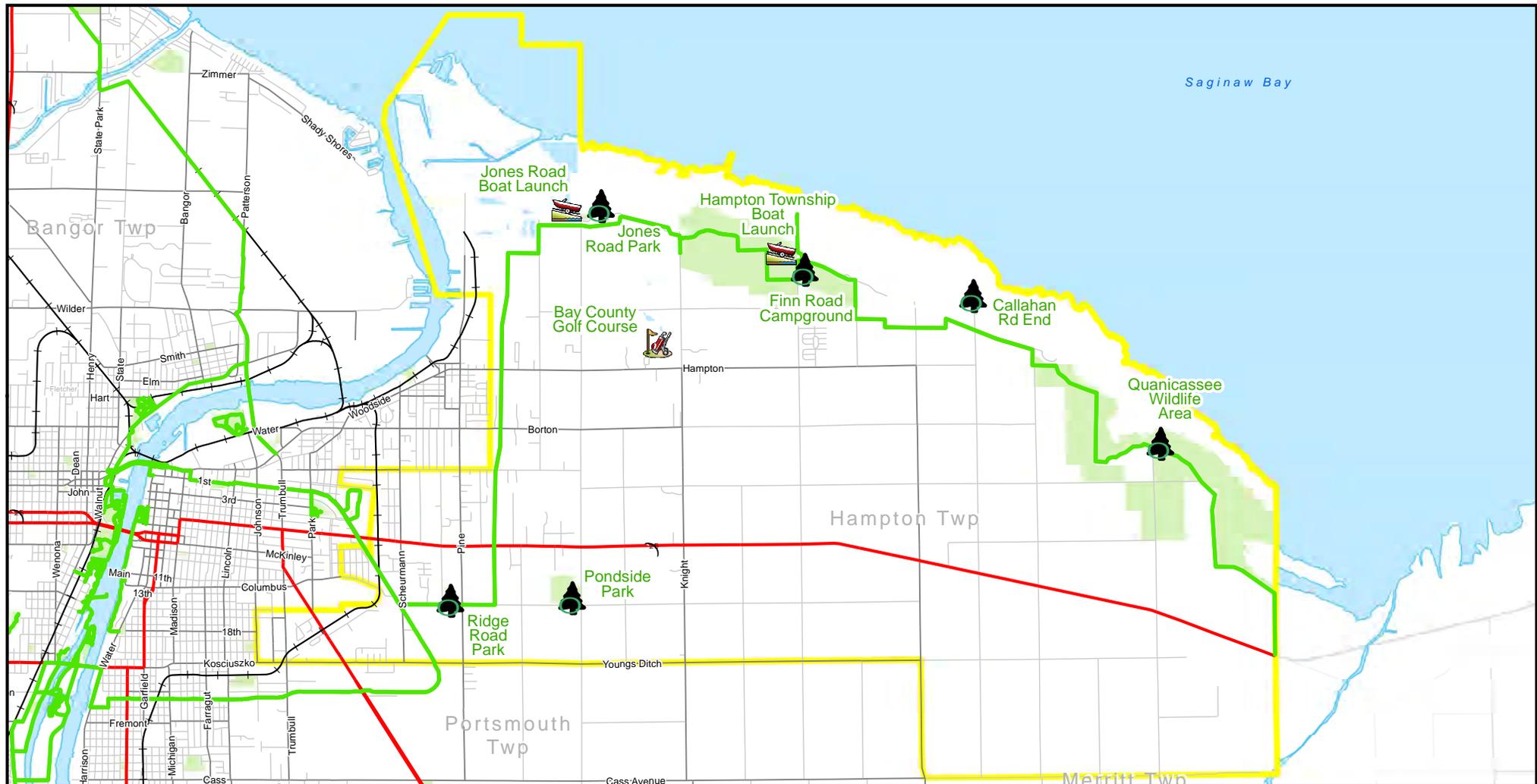
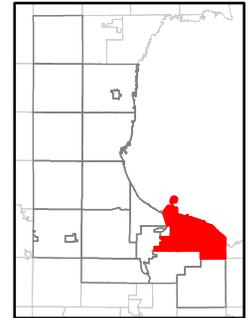
Data Source: Bay County GIS, State of Michigan CGI

- Township; City
- Park; Nature Area
- Railroad
- Non-Motorized Trail

## Legend

- State Trunkline
- Major Road
- Minor Road

- Park
- Golf Course
- Boat Ramp / Dock





# Kawkawlin Township

## Community Description

Kawkawlin Township is located north of Bay City and Monitor Township along Saginaw Bay. Lands within the Township are largely agricultural with some woodlands and wetlands located near the Bay and along the Kawkawlin River. The wetlands contain the large Tobico Marsh Wildlife Unit of the Bay City State Recreation Area. The nearly 2000-acre Tobico Marsh serves as habitat for a wide variety of wildlife and waterfowl. The unincorporated community of Kawkawlin is located in the southern part of the Township, along M-13. The population of Kawkawlin Township is 4,764, according to the 2016 American Community Survey 5-year population estimate.

Other significant demographic data for Kawkawlin Township as compared to the county, state, and country is shown in Figure 37 below.

	Kawkawlin	Bay County	Michigan	United States
<b>Median Age</b>	45.3	42.7	39.5	37.7
<b>Population 65+</b>	17.5%	18.3%	15.4%	14.5%
<b>Population under 18</b>	21.9%	21.0%	22.5%	23.1%
<b>Owner Occupied Homes</b>	91.1%	77.9%	73.0%	65.1%
<b>Average Household Size</b>	2.46	2.39	2.51	2.64
<b>Bachelor's Degree or Higher</b>	18.6%	18.1%	27.4%	30.3%
<b>Median Household Income</b>	\$53,942	\$45,851	\$50,803	\$55,322
<b>Per Capita Income</b>	\$29,178	\$24,753	\$27,549	\$29,829
<b>Disabled</b>	14.9%	16.6%	14.2%	12.5%
<b>Poverty level</b>	8.7%	15.8%	16.3%	15.1%

Figure 37 - Selected Census Data for Kawkawlin Township as compared to the county, state and country. *Source: 2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Population Estimates.*

### Administrative Structure

The Township Board is responsible for the function of parks and recreation in Kawkawlin Township. The Township contracts the responsibilities of grass cutting and parks maintenance each year. One part-time employee monitors the pavilion at Kawkawlin Park.

### Programming, Volunteers, and Cooperative Relationships

Volunteers assist with several parks and recreation programs in Kawkawlin. Volunteers serve as coaches and work in the concession stand for the youth baseball league. Volunteers who participate in the Kawkawlin youth ball league maintain the Township’s four ball diamonds. Volunteers also work in the Township’s Archery program as instructors. There are about 40 to 50 volunteers who assist with Parks

There are many examples of ongoing relationships with community organizations in the facilitation of parks and recreation in Kawkawlin. Bay Area Soccer Association (BASA) teams use the Township soccer field for practice. During the Linwood Pickle Fest, the ball fields are used for a tournament, and the township hall is used for a pageant.

## Budgets

Funding for the park and recreation budget in Kawkawlin Township mainly comes from the Township general fund, with a small amount of support coming from fundraisers and donations. The current and prior year parks and recreation budgets are shown below.

Figure 38 KAWKAWLIN TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION BUDGETS		
	2017-18	2018-19
Operation & Maintenance	\$17,650	\$14,200
Programming (leagues, special events, etc.)	0	\$500
Capital Expenditures	0	\$15,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$17,650</b>	<b>\$29,500</b>

## Recreation Inventory

Kawkawlin Township reviewed and updated the inventory completed as part of the 2014 Recreation Plan. Kawkawlin Township owns one traditional park, Kawkawlin Park. It owns a portion of Linwood Scenic Park. The portion of Linwood Scenic Park on the north side of Linwood Road is owned by Fraser Township and the portion of the south side of Linwood Road is owned by Kawkawlin Township. Kawkawlin Township also owns four additional Saginaw Bay waterfront access points. Those include a small beach park known as Brissette Beach and three road end easements. The road end easements are 66' wide areas located at the end of Boutell Road, Cottage Grove Road and Lebourdais Road.

Since 2014, the Township has added two additional parcels in its recreation inventory. The first is a 40-acre parcel on the Kawkawlin River that the Township would like to see developed into a kayak launch. The second parcel is located at the east end of Jose Road. It contains a parking lot that is used for people who wish to access the Tobico Marsh.

Another important park in the community is Linwood Bicentennial Park, owned by the Pinconning School District. The parks are inventoried in the chart below. A park location map is included at the end of this section.

## Grant History

Kawkawlin Township has received two past DNR Grants. All improvements are still open and functional.

- LW26-00829 – \$10,073, Kawkawlin Township Park Improvements (1976)
- TF95-253 – \$34,500, Lindwood Road Scenic Point Boat Launch (1995)

Figure 39

**KAWKAWLIN TOWNSHIP RECREATION INVENTORY**

	<b>Kawkawlin Park</b>	<b>Linwood Scenic Park</b>	<b>Brissette Beach Park</b>	<b>Bond &amp; River Road Site</b>	<b>Jose Road Lot</b>
<b>Park Type*</b>	Community Park	Special Use Park	Special Use Park	Undeveloped	Special Use Park
<b>Acreage</b>	53	0.8	0.2	40	.88
<b>Accessibility*</b>	3	2	2	NA	2
<b>Accessibility Comments</b>	Lacking accessible routes to amenities, ADA parking spots	No ADA Parking	No ADA Beach Access		No ADA Parking
<b>Service Area</b>	Entire Township and community of Linwood	Fraser Kawkawlin Townships	Fraser Kawkawlin Townships	Township	Township
<b>Archery Equipment</b>	Yes				
<b>Ball Diamonds</b>	4				
<b>Football/Soccer Fields</b>	2				
<b>Boardwalk</b>		Yes			
<b>Playground Equipment</b>	2				
<b>Tennis Courts</b>	2				
<b>Open playfield</b>	Yes				
<b>Pavilion</b>	Yes				
<b>Grills</b>	3				
<b>Restrooms</b>	2				
<b>Waterfront Access</b>		Yes	Yes	Yes	
<b>Swimming Beach</b>			Yes		
<b>Boat Launch</b>		Yes		Proposed Kayak Launch	

\* See County inventory section on pages 14, 1 and 21 for definitions of park type and accessibility.

**Goals and Objectives**

The Township developed the following goals and objectives for parks and recreation in the community in 2014. They were reviewed and verified for the 2018 Plan.

#### GOAL 1

**Encourage community health and fitness while promoting “the community” for all groups.**

#### GOAL 2

**Provide safe and enjoyable recreational activities.**

#### GOAL 3

**Offer appropriate access and opportunities for our special needs population.**

Objective:

Add more ADA accessible equipment and amenities to the parks and other recreational facilities.

#### GOAL 4

**Enhance the natural beauty of our parks.**

#### GOAL 5

**Strengthen recreationally related social opportunities within the community.**



#### Action Plan

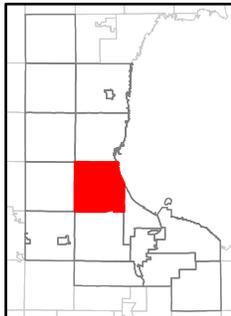
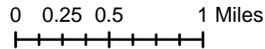
Based on the goals, objectives, and community input, Kawkawlin Township has identified the following items to be part of its action plan. Each project will work toward accomplishing one or more goals and objectives identified above.

1. Design and dig a pond for swimming and fishing activities.
2. Design and develop a walking path in park and through the wooded area.
3. Create beach volleyball courts.
4. Create sledding hill.
5. Provide a splash park.
6. Add a skate park.
7. Construct a new smaller building for recreational and community use with bathrooms that are accessible from inside and outside.

# Park and Trail Locations in Kawkawlin Township Michigan

## Legend

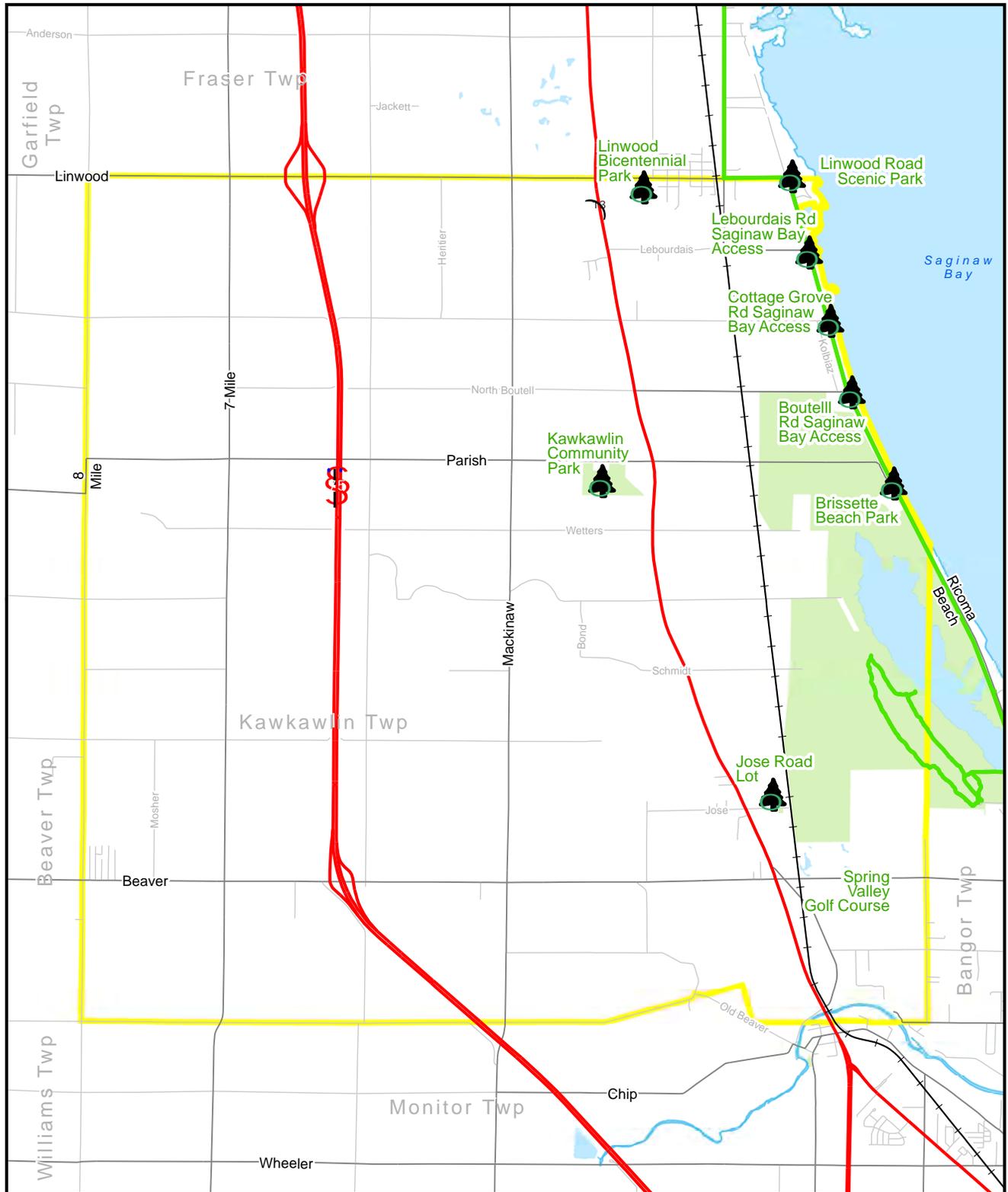
-  Township; City
-  State Trunkline
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-  Railroad
-  Non-Motorized Trail
-  Park; Nature Area
-  Park
-  Golf Course
-  Boat Ramp / Dock

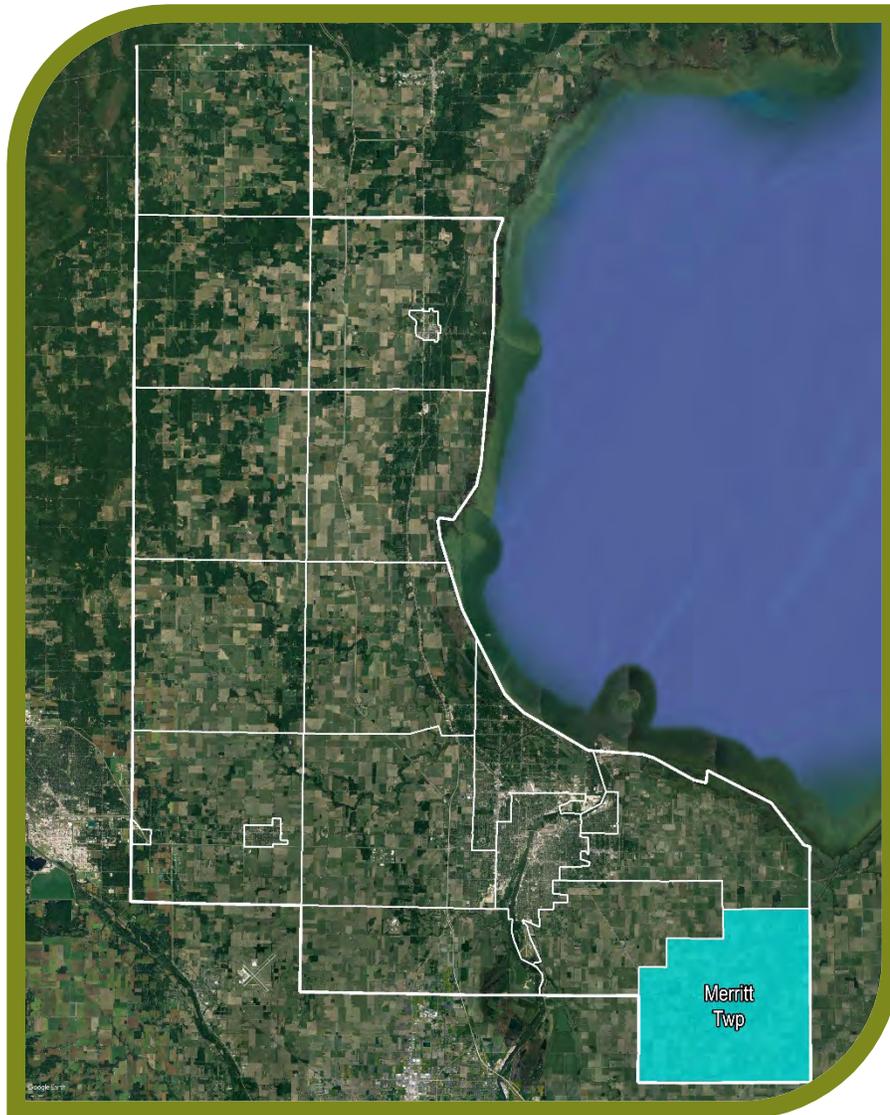


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Data Source: Bay County GIS, State of Michigan CGI





# Merritt Township

## Community Description

Merritt Township is located at the southeast corner of Bay County, south of Hampton Charter and southeast of Portsmouth Township. It contains the unincorporated community of Munger. The land in Merritt Township is largely rural and agricultural. The population of Merritt Township is 1,198, according to the 2016 American Community Survey 5-year population estimate. It is the smallest township, in terms of population, in Bay County.

Other significant demographic data for Merritt Township as compared to the county, state, and country is shown in Figure 40 below. The median age of 50.5 years is the highest of any of the municipalities in the County.

	Merritt	Bay County	Michigan	United States
<b>Median Age</b>	50.5	42.7	39.5	37.7
<b>Population 65+</b>	21.0%	18.3%	15.4%	14.5%
<b>Population under 18</b>	17.3%	21.0%	22.5%	23.1%
<b>Owner Occupied Homes</b>	92.2%	77.9%	73.0%	65.1%
<b>Average Household Size</b>	2.79	2.39	2.51	2.64
<b>Bachelor's Degree or Higher</b>	20.0%	18.1%	27.4%	30.3%
<b>Median Household Income</b>	\$64,265	\$45,851	\$50,803	\$55,322
<b>Per Capita Income</b>	\$32,849	\$24,753	\$27,549	\$29,829
<b>Disabled</b>	13.1%	16.6%	14.2%	12.5%
<b>Poverty level</b>	6.1%	15.8%	16.3%	15.1%

Figure 40 - Selected Census Data for Merritt Township as compared to the county, state and country. *Source: 2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Population Estimates.*

### Administrative Structure

Parks and recreation functions in Merritt Township are administered by the Township Board. The Park is maintained by Township staff.

### Programming, Volunteers, and Cooperative Relationships

The Township works closely with the Munger Volunteer Fireman Corporation which assists with many functions including administering the summer ball program for boys and girls. Approximately 20 to 25 volunteers assist with the youth ball program each year.

### Budgets

The source of funding for the park and recreation budget in Merritt Township is the Township general fund, donations, and the Munger Volunteer Fireman Corporation. The current and prior year parks and recreation budgets are shown in Figure 41.

**Figure 41**  
**MERRITT TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION BUDGETS**

	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>
Operation & Maintenance	\$4,000	\$5,000
Programming (leagues, special events, etc.)	NA	NA
Capital Expenditures	\$1,360	\$1,360
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,360</b>	<b>\$6,360</b>



**Recreation Inventory**

Merritt Township has one park, Habina Park. The Township reviewed the inventory from the 2014 plan and updated it accordingly. It is inventoried in Figure 42.

**Figure 42**  
**MERRITT TOWNSHIP RECREATION INVENTORY**

	<b>Habina Park</b>
<b>Park Type*</b>	Neighborhood
<b>Acreage</b>	18
<b>Accessibility*</b>	4
<b>Service Area</b>	Entire Township
<b>Ball Diamond</b>	2
<b>Multi-use Path</b>	¾ mile
<b>Pavilion</b>	Yes
<b>Picnic Area</b>	Yes
<b>Restrooms</b>	Yes
<b>Playfield (open space)</b>	Yes
<b>Soccer Field</b>	Yes
<b>Tennis/Pickleball Court</b>	Yes
<b>Basketball Court</b>	Yes

\* See County inventory section on pages 14, 1 and 21 for definitions of park type and accessibility.

Grant History

Merritt Township has received two recreation grants in the past 10 years. All improvements are still open and functional.

RP13-462 – \$45,000, Habina Park Playground, (2013)

MNRTF 26-01747 – \$50,000, Habina Park Improvements (2015)

Goals and Objectives

In 2014, Merritt Township developed the following goal for parks and recreation in the community. Those goals were reviewed and verified for the 2019 Plan.

GOAL 1

**Provide a park that the community can be proud of.**

GOAL 2

**Provide a safe trail system which will promote health and fitness for Township residents.**

GOAL 3

**Provide family friendly activities in the park.**

GOAL 3

**Provide safe equipment for youth participating in activities.**

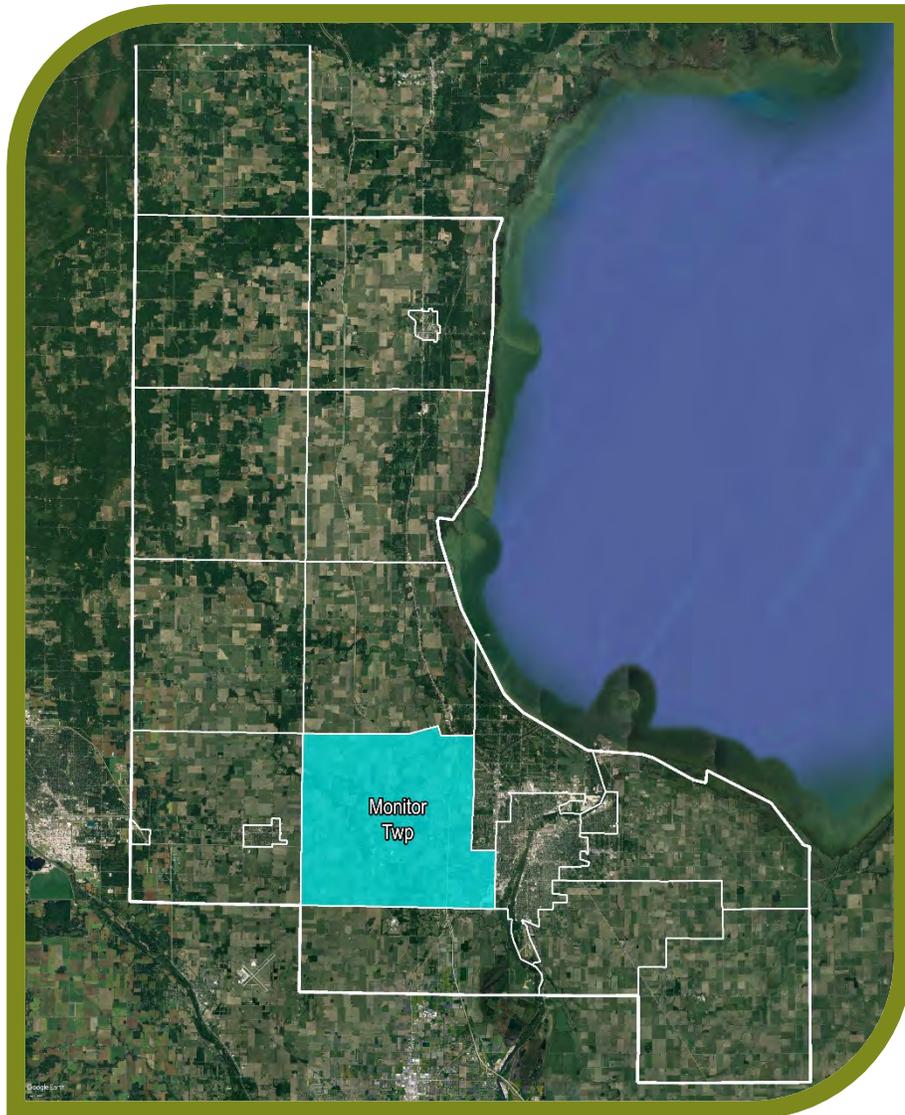
## Action Plan

Merritt Township developed the following items that it wishes to consider for improvements for the next five years. This list is based on known issues and needs in the parks and feedback from the community input survey. Each of these projects will accomplish one or more of the goals listed above.

1. Provide a non-motorized walking trail between Reese and Munger.
2. Provide a non-motorized walking trail between Munger and Bay City.
3. Update youth softball equipment.
4. Upgrade restroom facilities.







# Monitor Township

## Community Description

Monitor Township is located west of the City of Bay City and Bangor Township. It is largely rural and agricultural in nature, with more densely used residential and commercial lands located on the east side of the Township, adjacent to Bay City. It is the home of Bay City's Michigan Sugar Company factory as well as the Valley Center Technology Park. The population of Monitor Township is 10,617, according to the 2016 American Community Survey 5-year population estimate. It is the second largest Township in the county, in terms of population. Bangor Township is the largest.

Other significant demographic data for Monitor Township as compared to the county, state, and country is shown in Figure 43 below.

	Monitor	Bay County	Michigan	United States
<b>Median Age</b>	48	42.7	39.5	37.7
<b>Population 65+</b>	23.2%	18.3%	15.4%	14.5%
<b>Population under 18</b>	19.5%	21.0%	22.5%	23.1%
<b>Owner Occupied Homes</b>	91.2%	77.9%	73.0%	65.1%
<b>Average Household Size</b>	2.44	2.39	2.51	2.64
<b>Bachelor's Degree or Higher</b>	22.6%	18.1%	27.4%	30.3%
<b>Median Household Income</b>	\$53,674	\$45,851	\$50,803	\$55,322
<b>Per Capita Income</b>	\$27,146	\$24,753	\$27,549	\$29,829
<b>Disabled</b>	17.1%	16.6%	14.2%	12.5%
<b>Poverty level</b>	11.1%	15.8%	16.3%	15.1%

Figure 43 - Selected Census Data for Monitor Township as compared to the county, state and country. *Source: 2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Population Estimates.*

### Administrative Structure

Parks and recreation functions in Monitor Charter Township are administered by the seven-member Township Board. One part-time employee maintains the two parks in the Township. This employee performs custodian and grounds maintenance work at both parks and reports to the Township Supervisor.

### Programming, Volunteers, and Cooperative Relationships

Not applicable

### Budgets

The source of funding for the park and recreation budget in Monitor Township is the Township general fund. Two years of budget data is shown in Figure 44.

**Figure 44**

**MONITOR TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION BUDGETS**

	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
Operation & Maintenance	\$18,765	\$33,751
Programming (leagues, special events, etc.)	NA	NA
Capital Expenditures	\$209,600	\$5,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$228,365</b>	<b>\$38,751</b>

**Recreation Inventory**

The Township reviewed the inventory from the 2014 plan and updated it accordingly. Monitor Township has two parks that comprise 22.5 acres. They are inventoried in the chart on the following page.



**Grant History**

Monitor Township has received two DNR recreation grants in the past. All improvements from the projects are still open and operational.

- LWCF 26-01705 – \$69,200, Monitor Township Park Improvements (2010)
- LWCF 26-01770 – \$102,300, Monitor Township Park Improvements (2016)

**Figure 45**  
**MONITOR TOWNSHIP RECREATION INVENTORY**

	<b>Monitor Park</b>	<b>Steih Park</b>
<b>Park Type*</b>	Community Park	Special Use
<b>Acreage</b>	21.25	1.24
<b>Accessibility*</b>	4	2
<b>Accessibility Comment</b>		Lacking ADA marked parking
<b>Ball Diamonds</b>	2	
<b>Non-Regulation Ball Diamonds</b>	2	
<b>Canoe Launch</b>		Informal
<b>Dog Waste Stations</b>	Yes	
<b>Grills</b>	3	
<b>Horseshoe Pits</b>	4	
<b>Pavilion</b>	Yes	
<b>Picnic Area</b>	Yes	Yes
<b>Playfield</b>	Yes	Yes
<b>Playground Equipment</b>	Yes	
<b>Restrooms</b>	Yes	
<b>Universally Accessible Path with Fitness Stations</b>	Yes	
<b>Waterfront Property</b>		Yes

\* See County inventory section on pages 14, 1 and 21 for definitions of park type and accessibility.

**Goals and Objectives**

In 2014 Monitor Township developed the following goals for parks and recreational facilities in the Township. They were reviewed and verified in 2018.

**GOAL 1**

**Continue to improve and upgrade Monitor Township's recreational facilities so as to have parks the Township can be proud of.**

**GOAL 2**

**Develop Steih Park to increase its use.**

**GOAL 3**

**Make existing parks more user-friendly.**

## Action Plan

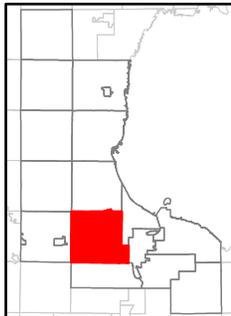
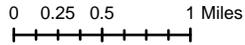
Based on the goals, objectives, and community input, Monitor Township has identified the following items to be part of its action plan. Each project will work toward accomplishing one or more goals and objectives identified above.

1. Add picnic tables and grills to Steih Park.
2. Build a pavilion at Steih Park.
3. Pave the roadway at Monitor Park.
4. Add lighting around ball diamonds, paths, playground area, and parking areas at Monitor Park.
5. Make Monitor Park useable all year round.
6. Improve the ball diamonds at Monitor Park.
7. Add a floating kayak launch and fishing dock at Steih Park.
8. Add a basketball court at Monitor Park.
9. Add a pavilion at Monitor Park.
10. Add a soccer field at Monitor Park.
11. Add an all-season pavilion that can be used for ice skating in winter at Monitor Park.
12. Add an unleashed dog play area at Monitor Park
13. Add fitness stations at Monitor Park.
14. Add tennis courts at Monitor Park.
15. Add lighting at Steih Park.
16. Repave the parking lot and sidewalk in Steih Park.

# Park and Trail Locations in Monitor Township Michigan

## Legend

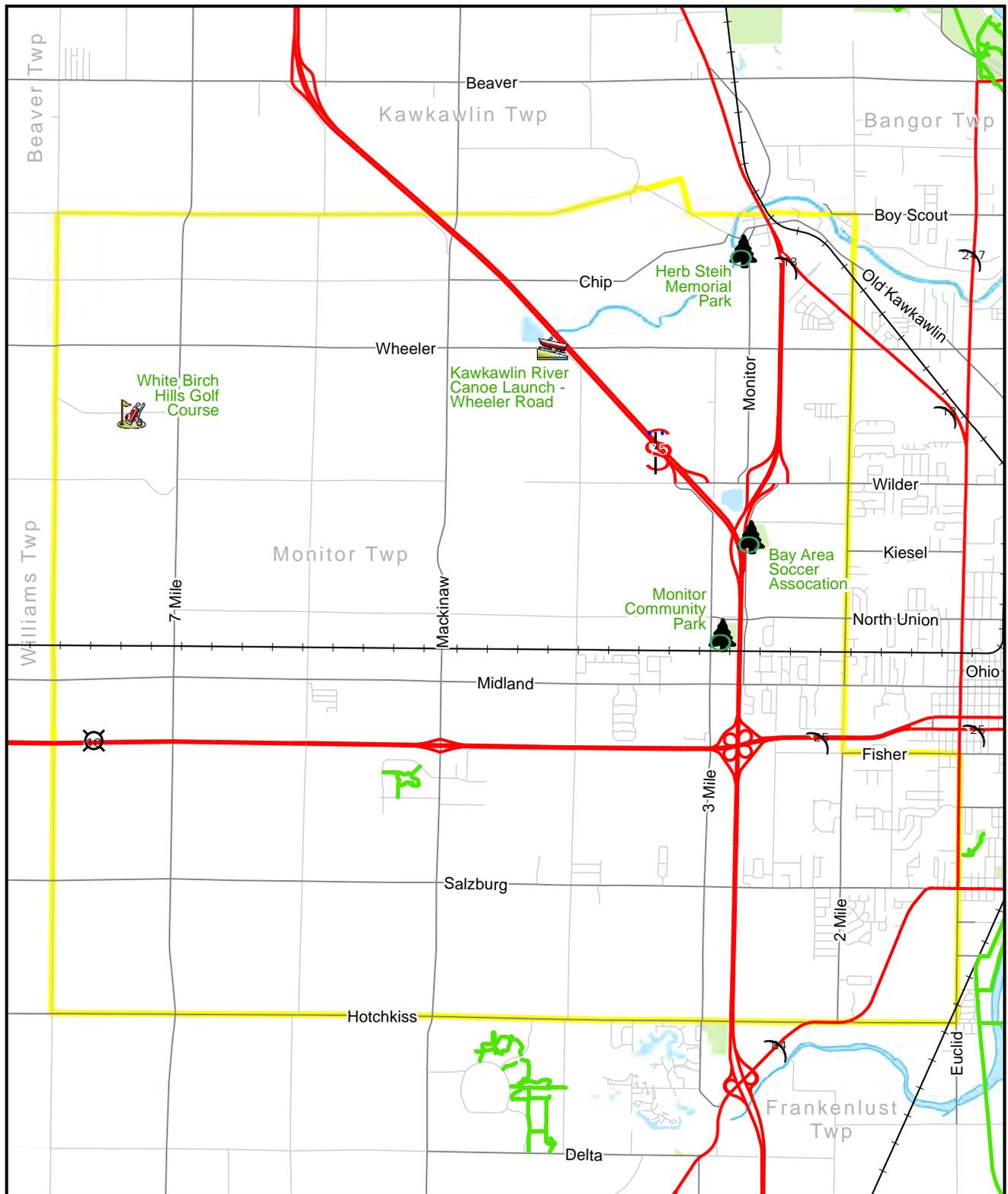
-  Township; City
-  State Trunkline
-  Major Road
-  Minor Road
-  Railroad
-  Non-Motorized Trail
-  Park; Nature Area
-  Park
-  Golf Course
-  Boat Ramp / Dock

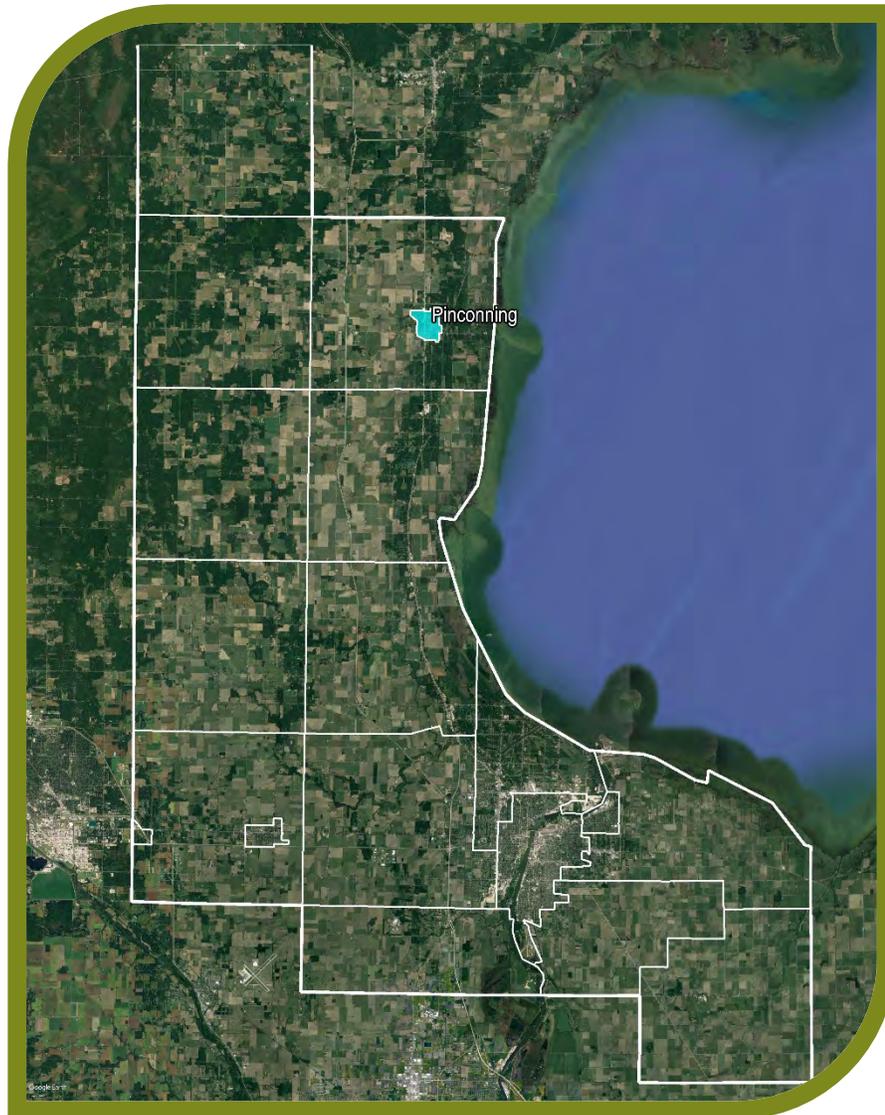


Map produced by: Bay County Dept. of Environmental Affairs & Community Development - GIS Program 10/29/2018

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Data Source: Bay County GIS, State of Michigan CGI





# Pinconning

## Community Description

The City of Pinconning is located in northern Bay County approximately 18 miles north of Bay City. Surrounded by Pinconning Township, it is two miles east of Saginaw Bay. The Pinconning River flows west to east across the middle of the City. The population of Pinconning is 1,249, according to the 2016 American Community Survey 5-year population estimate.

Other significant demographic data for Pinconning as compared to the county, state, and country is shown in Figure 46 below. It is worth noting that the City's proportion of residents that are under 18

(26.3%) is the highest of any of the municipalities in Bay County. It also has the highest poverty level at 23.6%.

	Pinconning	Bay County	Michigan	United States
<b>Median Age</b>	39.1	42.7	39.5	37.7
<b>Population 65+</b>	15.0%	18.3%	15.4%	14.5%
<b>Population under 18</b>	26.3%	21.0%	22.5%	23.1%
<b>Owner Occupied Homes</b>	69.3%	77.9%	73.0%	65.1%
<b>Average Household Size</b>	2.17	2.39	2.51	2.64
<b>Bachelor's Degree or Higher</b>	14.4%	18.1%	27.4%	30.3%
<b>Median Household Income</b>	\$30,347	\$45,851	\$50,803	\$55,322
<b>Per Capita Income</b>	\$17,278	\$24,753	\$27,549	\$29,829
<b>Disabled</b>	14.0%	16.6%	14.2%	12.5%
<b>Poverty level</b>	23.6%	15.8%	16.3%	15.1%

Figure 46 - Selected Census Data for Pinconning as compared to the county, state and country. *Source: 2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Population Estimates.*

### Administrative Structure

The Pinconning City Council is responsible for the parks and recreation functions in the community. They are advised by a three-member subcommittee for parks and recreation. The Pinconning DPW handles the maintenance for the park.

### Programming, Volunteers, and Cooperative Relationships

Recreation programming is provided by local baseball, softball, and soccer programs. Numerous volunteers assist as coaches. The City also works with Pinconning Area Schools, Rotary Club, the Chamber of Commerce and Bay County Mental Health. These organizations use the city park for various festivals and events such as Cheesetown Challenge and Tuesdays in the Park.

### Budgets

The source of funds for parks and recreation functions in Pinconning is the city general fund and rental fees from the pavilions and gazebo. The current and prior year parks and recreation budgets are shown in Figure 47.

Figure 47

### PINCONNING PARKS AND RECREATION BUDGETS

	2018/2019	2017/2018
Operation & Maintenance	\$12,000	\$12,00
Programming (leagues, special events, etc.)	NA	NA
Capital Expenditures	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$12,000</b>	<b>\$12,000</b>

### Recreation Inventory

The City owns and operates two parks and a trail known as the Pinconning Riverwalk. The City completed an updated inventory for the parks and provided it to the planning consultant. The inventory for the park is shown below. A park location map is provided at the end of this section.

Figure 48

### CITY OF PINCONNING RECREATION INVENTORY

	Doc Letchfield Park	Pinconning Riverwalk	Hartwick Park
<b>Park Type*</b>	Community Park	Park Trail	Mini-Park
<b>Acreage</b>	24	.7 miles	.23
<b>Accessibility*</b>	3	4	3
<b>Accessibility Comment</b>	Missing accessible paths to amenities and signed handicap parking		
<b>Service Area</b>	City and Township	City and Township	Local neighborhood
<b>Ball Diamonds</b>	3		
<b>Batting Cages</b>	2		
<b>Pavilions</b>	2		
<b>Gazebo</b>	1		1
<b>Concession Stand</b>	1		
<b>Tennis Courts</b>	2		
<b>Bandshell</b>	1		
<b>Playscape</b>	Yes		
<b>Open Playfield</b>	Yes		
<b>Soccer Fields</b>	Yes		
<b>Restrooms</b>	Yes		
<b>Walking Trail</b>		Yes	

\* See County inventory section on pages 14 1 and 1 for definitions of park type and accessibility.

## Grant History

The City of Pinconning has received one recreation grant from the DNR. In 1997, it received an \$18,000 MNRTF grant to purchase two parcels of land on the Pinconning River. The parcels were used to develop the Pinconning Riverwalk trail, which is still open and operational.

## Goals and Objectives

The City of Pinconning has developed the following goals and objectives for parks and recreation.

### GOAL 1

**Provide safe, broad, community-based recreation opportunities that improve the overall quality of life for all residents of Bay County.**

Objectives:

1. Continue to add amenities to Pinconning Park facilities based upon community input and need.
2. Maintain and upgrade existing parks to provide facilities that inspire a sense of community pride.

### GOAL 2

**Provide recreational facilities for all ages and abilities.**

Objectives:

1. Improve ADA accessibility at existing facilities and ensure all new amenities are accessible.

### GOAL 3

**Provide non-motorized paths and trails for recreational and transportation use.**

### GOAL 4

**Maintain and improve access to the Pinconning River.**



## Action Plan

The City of Pinconning developed the following items that it wishes to consider for improvements for the next five years. This list is based on known issues and needs in the parks and feedback from the community input survey. Each action plan item works to accomplish one or more of the City's park and recreation goals and objectives.

### 1. Doc Letchfield Park Upgrades

- Make restrooms handicap accessible
- Redo parking lot to include drainage and repave handicap markings
- Add new fence and maintain all fences around all ball diamonds and park
- Upgrade and maintain play scape area for more ADA accessibility for all children

- Upgrade our electrical system, water and sewer to a more efficient up-to-date system
- Upgrade and repave tennis courts and add new fence

## **2. Doc Letchfield Park New Recreational Improvements**

- Add two volleyball courts
- New basketball courts
- Add a splash park
- Horseshoe pits
- Disc golf
- Playfield open space
- Multi-use paths
- Dog Park
- Sledding
- Regulation pony league diamond with fence, bleachers, and dugouts
- More picnic tables, benches, playground equipment for all ages, and ADA equipment
- Outdoor fitness court
- Cross country skiing
- Swimming pool
- Improvements to community building including air conditioning

## **3. River Trail and Pinconning River**

- Clean up Pinconning River and Nature trail
- Make river kayak accessible
- Parking space for Kayak to launch
- Add a dock at river for kayaks
- New lighting on trail
- Provide necessary signage and markings

## **4. Other**

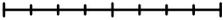
- Expand trail to the Bay County Park
- Add more walking and biking trail paths
- Add camera security systems at all parks
- Provide different social activities for all ages: movies, dancing, playing cards

# Park and Trail Locations in Pinconning Michigan

## Legend

-  Township; City
-  State Trunkline
-  Major Road
-  Minor Road
-  Railroad
-  Non-Motorized Trail
-  Park; Nature Area
-  Park
-  Golf Course
-  Boat Ramp / Dock

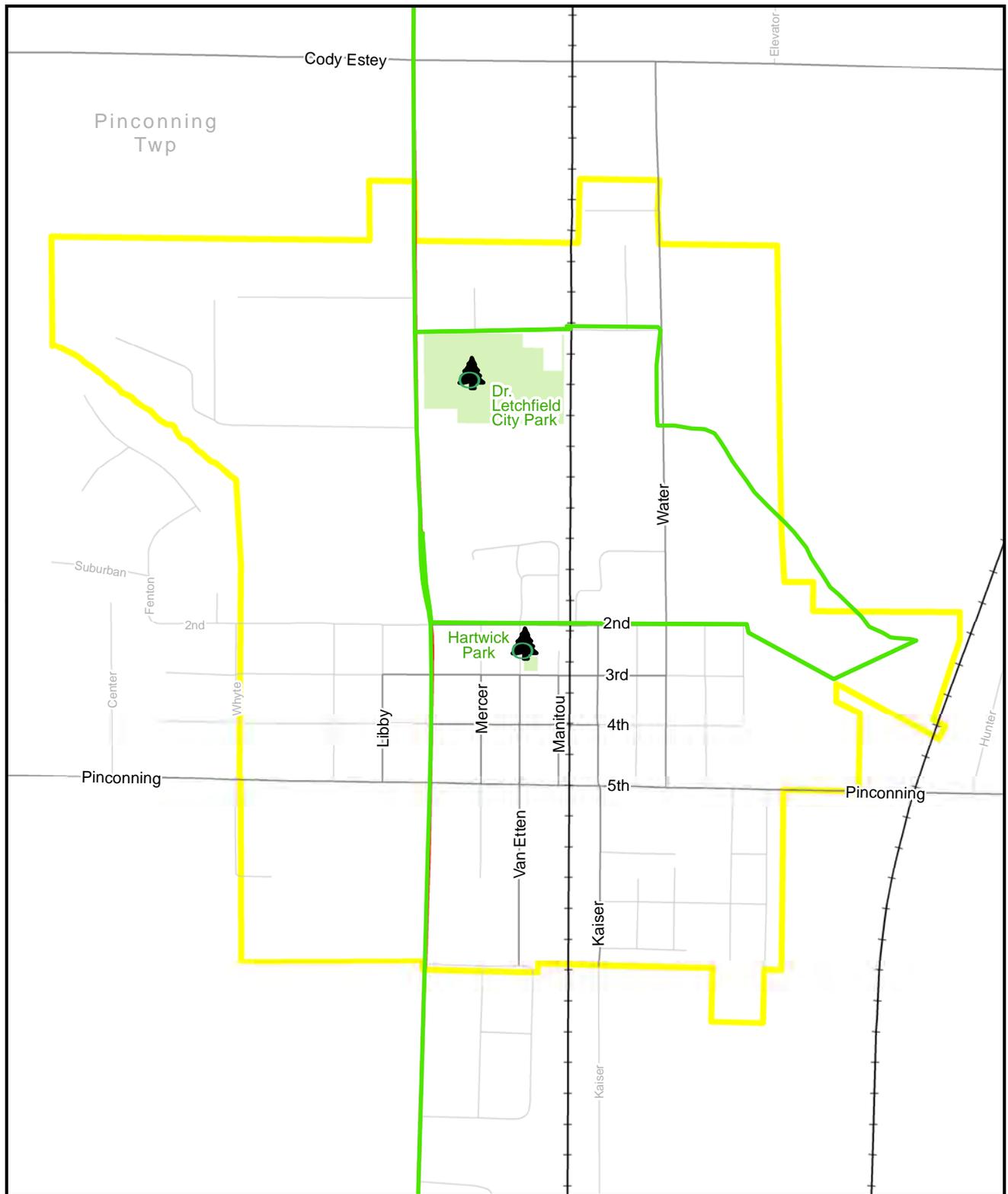
0 300 600 1,200 Feet

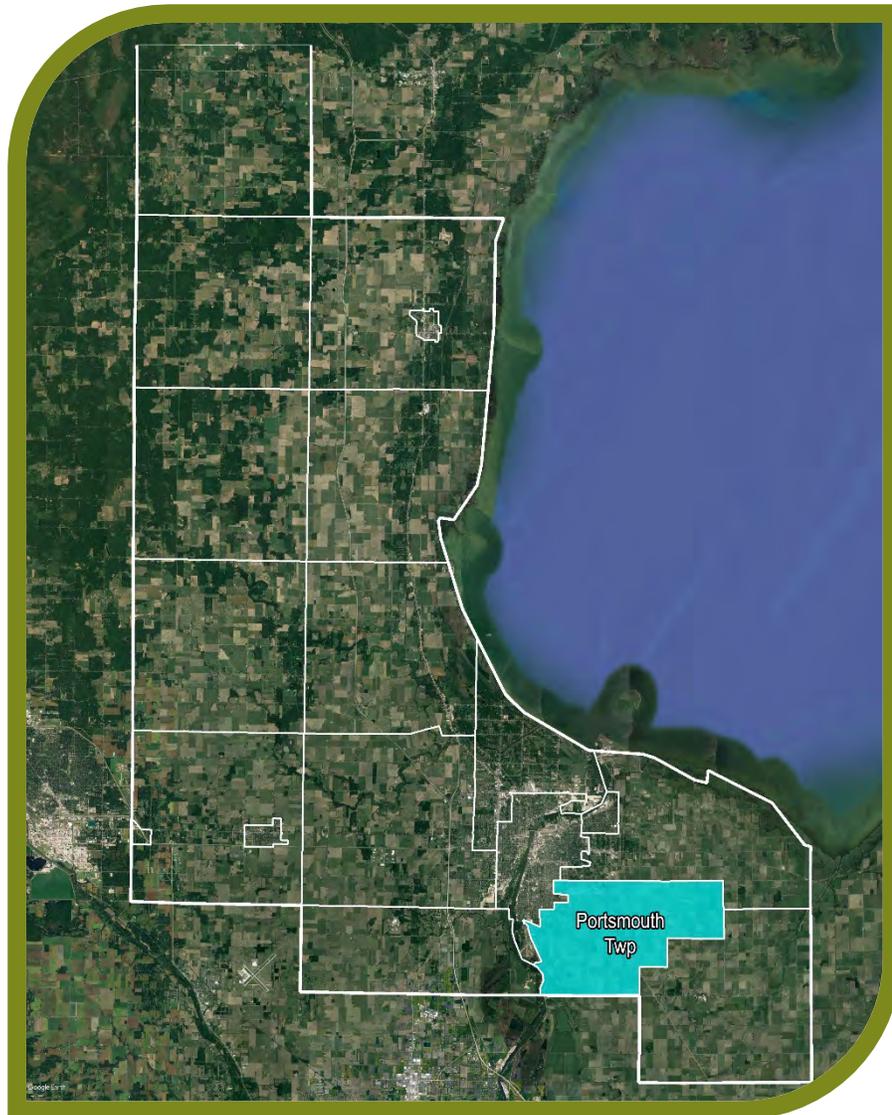



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Data Source: Bay County GIS, State of Michigan CGI





# Portsmouth Township

## Community Description

Portsmouth Township is located in the southern Bay County, southeast of Bay City and south of Hampton Township. At 20.1 square miles, it is one of the smaller townships in the County. The land within the Township is largely agricultural with some more densely populated residential lands in the northwest adjacent to Bay City. The population of Portsmouth Township is 3,239, according to the 2016 American Community Survey 5-year population estimate.

Other significant demographic data for Portsmouth Township as compared to the county, state, and country is shown in Figure 49 below. It is worth noting that Portsmouth Township has the highest

proportion of owner occupied homes (95%) of any municipality in the County. It also has the lowest poverty rate and proportion of the population that is disabled.

	Portsmouth	Bay County	Michigan	United States
<b>Median Age</b>	47	42.7	39.5	37.7
<b>Population 65+</b>	18.7%	18.3%	15.4%	14.5%
<b>Population under 18</b>	19.6%	21.0%	22.5%	23.1%
<b>Owner Occupied Homes</b>	95.0%	77.9%	73.0%	65.1%
<b>Average Household Size</b>	2.52	2.39	2.51	2.64
<b>Bachelor's Degree or Higher</b>	16.9%	18.1%	27.4%	30.3%
<b>Median Household Income</b>	\$49,375	\$45,851	\$50,803	\$55,322
<b>Per Capita Income</b>	\$23,790	\$24,753	\$27,549	\$29,829
<b>Disabled</b>	8.3%	16.6%	14.2%	12.5%
<b>Poverty level</b>	4.3%	15.8%	16.3%	15.1%

Figure 49 - Selected Census Data for Pinconning as compared to the county, state and country. *Source: 2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Population Estimates.*

### Administrative Structure

Parks and recreation functions in Portsmouth Township are administered by the Township Board. Portsmouth Township has part-time seasonal employees who perform tasks such as mowing and trimming.

### Programming, Volunteers, and Cooperative Relationships

The Bay County Railtrail Committee has adopted pocket parks which are maintained by citizens. The Bay Area Community Foundation performs the adoption process for these pocket parks. Volunteers serve the Township parks and recreation by maintaining pocket parks.

### Budgets

The source of funding for the park and recreation budget in Portsmouth Township is the township general fund. The Township does not have a specific budget line for parks and recreation activities. Recreation funding is included as part of the overall Building and Grounds budget. The current and prior year parks and recreation budgets are shown in Figure 50.

Figure 50 PORTSMOUTH TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION BUDGETS		
	2019	2018
Operation & Maintenance	\$4,000	\$4,000
Programming (leagues, special events, etc.)	NA	NA
Capital Expenditures	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,000</b>	<b>\$4,000</b>

**Recreation Inventory**

Portsmouth Township owns Portsmouth Township Park and a portion of the area Railtrail. The inventory was updated based upon a review of the 2014 inventory. The inventory of amenities in the parks is shown below. A park location map is provided at the end of this section.

Figure 51 PORTSMOUTH TOWNSHIP RECREATION INVENTORY		
	Portsmouth Township Park	RailTrail
<b>Park Type*</b>	Community Park	Park-Trail
<b>Acreage</b>	3.5	2 miles
<b>Accessibility*</b>	3	4
<b>Accessibility Comments</b>	Lacking paths to amenities. Insufficient ADA Parking	
<b>Service Area</b>	Entire Township	Entire County
<b>Beach Volleyball</b>	Yes	
<b>Playground Station, including slide, etc.</b>	Yes	
<b>Basketball court</b>	Yes	
<b>Horseshoe Pits</b>	Yes	
<b>Pavilion</b>	Yes	
<b>Restrooms</b>	Yes	
<b>Merry-go-Round</b>	Yes	
<b>Swing set</b>	Yes	

\* See County inventory section on pages 14, 1 and 21 for definitions of park type and accessibility.

**Grant History**

Portsmouth Township has received two DNR recreation grants for the Bay County Riverwalk-Railtrail. All of the improvements are still open and functional.

- TF95-200 – \$102,300, Development of the Township Railtrail (1995)
- LWCF 26-01735 – \$71,300, Railtrail improvements (2013)

## Goals and Objectives

Portsmouth Township developed goals and objectives for parks and recreation when the 2014 Recreation Plan was developed. Those goals were reviewed and verified for this plan.

### GOAL 1

#### **Retain public land for future generations.**

Objectives:

1. Retain existing parkland and, if the opportunity becomes available, acquire new public lands to meet future needs of the community.
2. Preserve existing recreational facilities and acquire new public lands to enhance and expand those facilities.



### GOAL 2

#### **Provide quality leisure time activities with special consideration for improving health and fitness.**

Objectives:

1. Provide new features and upgrade facilities with consideration for health and safety.
2. Continue to work with existing recreation partners in the community to provide programs and facilities for special events, if needed.

### GOAL 3

**Provide safe, broad, community-based recreation opportunities that improve the overall quality of life for all residents of Portsmouth Township and Bay County.**

Objectives:

1. Continue to add amenities to Portsmouth Township Park based upon community input, need, and funding
2. Partner with other units of government and recreation providers to further promote broad-based recreation where available in Portsmouth Township.

### GOAL 4

**Enhance and improve the existing Railtrail (Portsmouth Township section) for recreational use.**

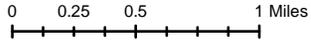
Objectives:

1. Where possible, connect existing Railtrail to regional trails and destinations.
2. Where feasible, encourage the Bay County Road Commission to provide easements for trails and possibly help with maintenance and improvement projects.
3. Develop and enhance existing features of the Railtrail to ensure that it is accessible to the greatest number of people and meets existing and future safety concerns.

### Action Plan

1. Network with area realtors regarding potential lands that may become available for future development opportunities.
2. Continue to maintain and upgrade existing facilities by utilizing a Township maintenance person, who has a background in safety training. Continue to utilize work crews from the Department of Corrections to maintain and improve facilities at the Township Hall.
3. Start and maintain a dialogue with neighboring townships, Bay County, and Bay City so as to be included in any broad-based recreation opportunities.
4. Apply for any state and/or federal grants that could be used to enhance and improve the existing section of the Railtrail that runs through Portsmouth Township. Also work with Railtrail Committee to utilize its maintenance endowment fund' to maintain the trail.

# Park and Trail Locations in Portsmouth Township Michigan



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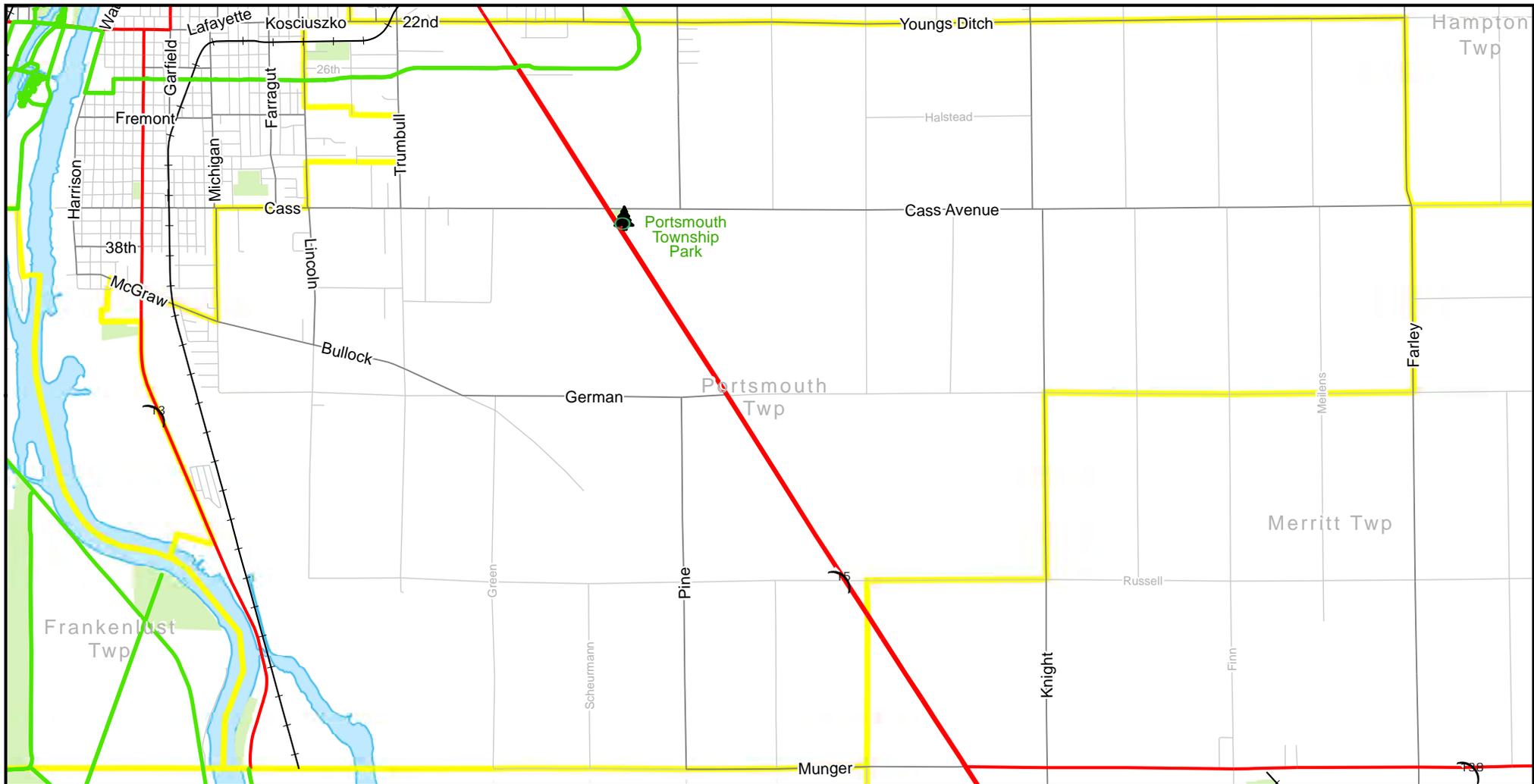
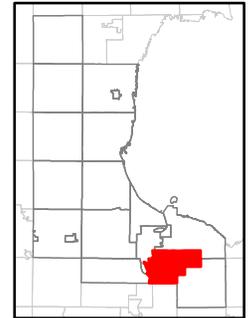
Data Source: Bay County GIS, State of Michigan CGI

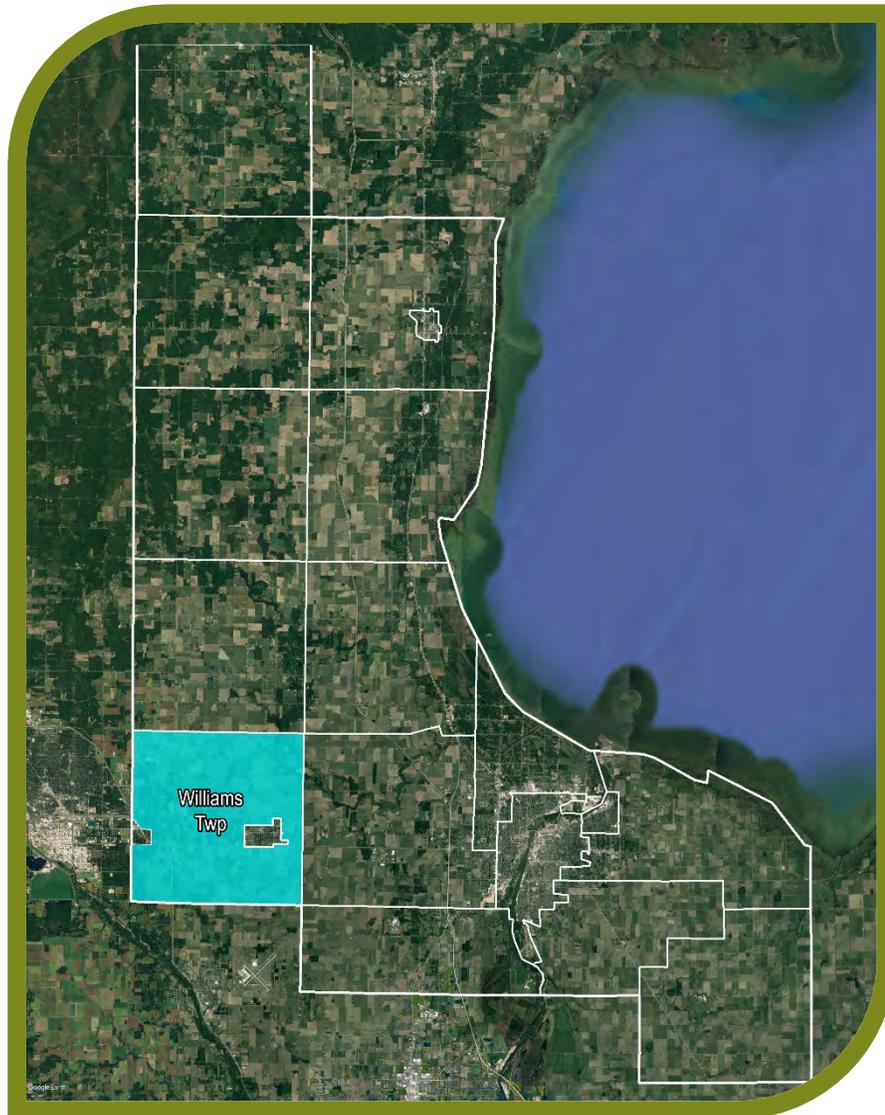
- Township; City
- Park; Nature Area
- Railroad
- Non-Motorized Trail

## Legend

- State Trunkline
- Major Road
- Minor Road

- Park
- Golf Course
- Boat Ramp / Dock





# Williams Township

## Community Description

Williams Township is located in the southwest corner of Bay County, east of the City of Midland. The Township surrounds the City of Auburn. The land within the Township is largely agricultural with some more densely populated residential areas around Auburn and Midland. The population of Williams Township is 4,851, according to the 2016 American Community Survey 5-year population estimate.

Other significant demographic data for Williams Township as compared to the county, state, and country is shown in Figure 52 below. It is worth noting that Williams Township has the second highest median household income of any municipality in the County while having one of the lower median ages.

	Williams	Bay County	Michigan	United States
Median Age	39	42.7	39.5	37.7
Population 65+	13.9%	18.3%	15.4%	14.5%
Population under 18	22.6%	21.0%	22.5%	23.1%
Owner Occupied Homes	92.1%	77.9%	73.0%	65.1%
Average Household Size	2.72	2.39	2.51	2.64
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	23.5%	18.1%	27.4%	30.3%
Median Household Income	\$72,962	\$45,851	\$50,803	\$55,322
Per Capita Income	\$28,061	\$24,753	\$27,549	\$29,829
Disabled	15.5%	16.6%	14.2%	12.5%
Poverty level	4.8%	15.8%	16.3%	15.1%

Figure 52 - Selected Census Data for Williams Township as compared to the county, state and country. *Source: 2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Population Estimates.*

### Administrative Structure

Parks and recreation functions in Williams Township are administered by the Township Board. Operation and Maintenance of the Township Park is handled by the Department of Public Works, which consists of one full-time and two part-time seasonal employees and one part-time seasonal gardener.

The Auburn-Williams Recreation Board is composed of twelve members representing the City of Auburn and Williams Township. Williams Township’s six members are comprised of 5 members appointed by the Township Board and one member who is a Township Board member. The recreation board meets six times a year. It coordinates recreation programming as described below and also provides recommendations for recreational facilities, maintenance and improvements to the Township Board. Each unit provides \$9,000 a year for planning and implementation of recreational activities

### Programming, Volunteers, and Cooperative Relationships

Williams Township works with the City of Auburn and the Auburn-Williams Recreation Association to coordinate recreation programming. This includes activities such as youth baseball, summer recreation, and soccer coordination. The Summer Recreation program is a free six-week program for children 5 to 12 years old, operated by a combination of paid staff and volunteers.

### Budgets

The sources of funding for the park and recreation budget in Williams Township are the Township’s general fund, grants, and donations. The current and prior year parks and recreation budgets are shown in Figure 53.

Figure 53 WILLIAMS TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION BUDGETS		
	2018	2017
Operation & Maintenance	\$37,000	\$22,470
Programming (leagues, special events, etc.)*	\$9,000	\$9,000
Capital Expenditures**	\$195,000	\$98,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$241,000</b>	<b>\$129,470</b>

\* These figures represent the Summer Recreation Program, administered by the Auburn - Williams Recreation Association. The City of Auburn and Williams Township each provide \$9,000 per year toward programming to include youth baseball, softball, and soccer.

\*\*Approximately \$98,000 was spent in 2017 for the purchase of property to expand Williams Township Park. Approximately \$195,000 was spent in 2018 for park upgrades including access pathway 6' wide, landscaping, play equipment and site furnishings, PIP/EWF surfacing.



*Williams Township Park*

**Recreation Inventory**

Williams Township owns one park, Williams Township Park. The park has been expanded by 4 acres since the 2014 Plan. To complete the current inventory, the Township reviewed and updated the inventory from their previous recreation plan. The inventory of amenities in the park is shown in Figure 54. A location map for the park is shown at the end of this section.

Figure 54

**WILLIAMS TOWNSHIP RECREATION INVENTORY**

<b>Williams Township Park</b>	
<b>Park Type*</b>	Community Park
<b>Acreage</b>	22
<b>Accessibility*</b>	4
<b>Service Area</b>	Entire Township and the City of Auburn
<b>Basketball Courts</b>	1
<b>Volleyball Courts</b>	Yes
<b>Football/Soccer Fields</b>	1
<b>Playground Equipment</b>	Yes
<b>Ball Diamonds</b>	2
<b>Horseshoe Pits</b>	2
<b>Pavilion</b>	1
<b>Restrooms</b>	Yes
<b>Grills</b>	12
<b>Multi-Use Paths</b>	1.25 miles
<b>Fitness Course</b>	Yes
<b>Picnic Area</b>	Yes

\* See County inventory section on pages 14, 1 and 21 for definitions of park type and accessibility.

### Grant Assisted Projects

Williams Township has received five previous recreation grants for the Williams Township Park. All improvements are still functioning and being used.

- TF913 – \$8,000, Acquisition of 3 acres
- LWCF 26-01376 – \$47,443, Township Park Improvements
- LWCF 26-01501 – \$55,370, Township Park Improvements, Phase II
- TF15-0145 – \$140,600, Acquisition of 4 acres
- LWCF 26-01761 – \$100,000, Township Park Improvements

### Goals and Objectives

In 2009, Williams Township developed the goals and objectives for parks and recreation in the community. They were reviewed and verified for the 2014 and the 2019 Recreation Plan.

## GOAL 1

**Continue to improve and upgrade Williams Township recreational and support facilities in order to offer parks and recreational activities the community can be proud of.**

Objectives:

1. Retain and maintain the existing Williams Township Park and acquire new public lands to fulfill the recreational needs of the township and local community.
2. Preserve and protect open space for recreational activities and programs.
3. Provide adequate maintenance of the Williams Township Park and recreational facilities.

## GOAL 2

**Provide quality recreational opportunities to improve health and fitness with extra emphasis placed on organized youth activities.**

Objectives:

1. Provide organized programs and activities for a variety of ages with an emphasis on youth programs through the Auburn-Williams Recreation Association.
2. Continue to partner with existing recreational partners to provide programs, events, and leagues.
3. Identify new recreational partners to meet the Township's current and future recreational needs, goals, and objectives.

## GOAL 3

**Provide safe, community-based recreation opportunities that improve the quality of life for all Williams Township and Auburn Area residents.**

Objectives:

1. Continue to add features to Williams Township Park as identified by public input, the Auburn-Williams Recreation Association, and the Township Board of Trustees as needed.
2. Continue to maintain and provide recreational opportunities for people with disabilities.
3. Ensure that improvement and upgrades to the Township Park are accessible.



*Williams Township Park*

#### GOAL 4

##### **Develop and provide access to trails and multi-use recreational paths.**

###### Objectives:

1. Cooperate and participate in intergovernmental efforts to establish a non-motorized greenway and trail system connecting Bay, Midland, and Saginaw counties.
2. Coordinate possible routes, methods, and funding to connect non-motorized greenway and trail systems in Bay, Midland, and Saginaw Counties to Williams Township Park.

#### GOAL 5

##### **Develop a recreation system that will be responsive to and effective in meeting the present and future needs of residents.**

###### Objectives:

1. Review the recreation plan as needed and update it every five years.



*Construction photo of recent playground addition at Williams Township Park.*

#### Action Plan

Williams Township developed the following items that it wishes to consider for improvements for the next five years. This list is based on known issues and needs in the parks and feedback from the community input survey. Each of these projects will accomplish one or more of the goals and objectives listed above.

1. Develop an overall Master Plan for the Williams Township Park to plan for future improvements.

2. Resurface or reseal walking paths as needed.
3. Install fencing in northeast corner of park by Dell Creek Drain and railroad track and configure to prevent prohibited vehicles from entering the park.
4. Improve baseball fields by replacing backstop fencing, adding dugouts, adding outfield fencing, and other pertinent features.
5. Add a spray park type water feature.
6. Improve video security system to promote safety and protect facilities at Township parks.
7. Complete projects for the improvement of drainage throughout the Township parks.
8. Connect park via pathways or sidewalks to the non-motorized greenway and trail system when available in Williams Township.
9. Acquire additional property to fill park needs if it is available at a reasonable cost.
10. Explore the development of pocket parks in subdivisions and residential areas of the Township.
11. Develop a mini practice area for disc golf.
12. Add pavilion and restroom facilities for the west side of the park.
13. Continuation of sidewalks along the Midland Road right-of-way from 11 Mile Road west to the Township Boundary.
14. Promote private business ventures to increase recreational awareness and uses in Williams Township.

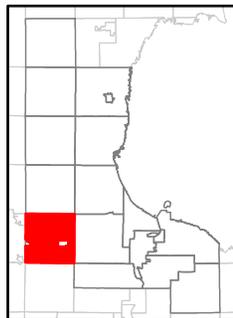
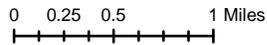


*Recent playground addition at Williams Township Park.*

# Park and Trail Locations in Williams Township Michigan

## Legend

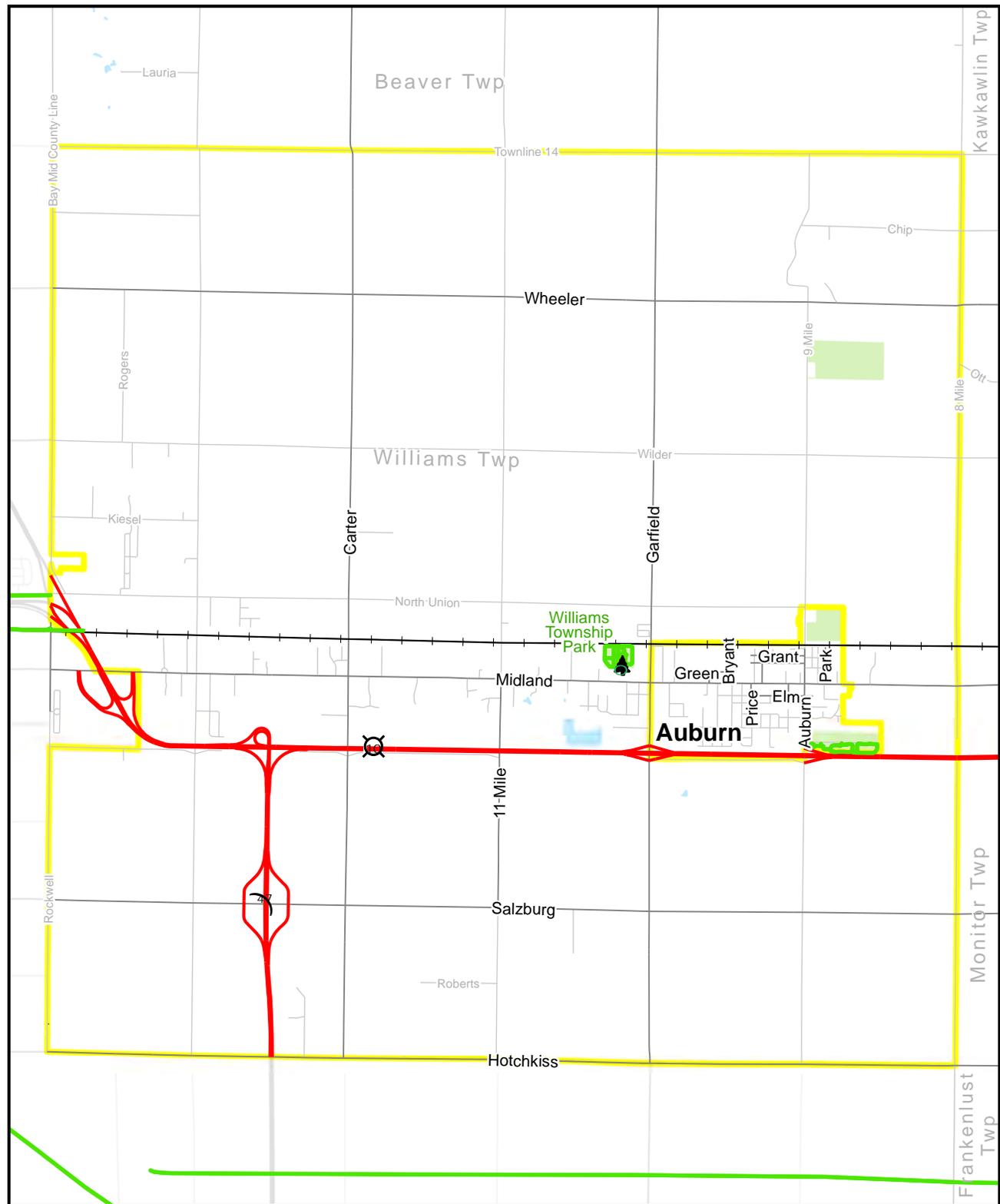
-  Township; City
-  State Trunkline
-  Major Road
-  Minor Road
-  Railroad
-  Non-Motorized Trail
-  Park; Nature Area
-  Park
-  Golf Course
-  Boat Ramp / Dock



Map produced by: Bay County Dept. of Environmental Affairs & Community Development - GIS Program 10/29/2018

DISCLAIMER: The information contained in this Map is provided and maintained by various individuals representing a number of agencies, including Bay County departments, municipal governments, and state and federal agencies. No guarantee is given as to the accuracy or currency of any of the data. Therefore, in no event shall Bay County Government be liable for any special, indirect, or consequential damages or any damages whatsoever resulting from loss of use, data, or profits, whether in an action of contract, negligence, or other action, arising out of or in connection with the use of the information herein provided.

Data Source: Bay County GIS, State of Michigan CGI





# Summary of the Planning Process and Adoption

In its continuing effort to provide quality recreational opportunities for its citizens, Bay County has developed an multi-jurisdictional Area Recreation Plan as a tool to guide the development of community park and recreational facilities and locations over the next five years. This plan is the latest effort by Bay County and 14 of its constituent communities to establish recreational goals and objectives for recreation across the County. The plan will also provide the County and the participating communities with eligibility for grants from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to assist the community in reaching its recreational goals.

Bay County contracted with Spicer Group of Saginaw, Michigan, to assist them with completion of the Bay County Area Recreation Plan. Spicer worked with Bay County staff members to develop a format and schedule for completing the plan. Two group meetings were held with representatives from the participating communities during the course of preparing the plan.

Data was collected about the participating communities including maps, demographics, park information and an inventory of existing facilities. This data was collected from a number of resources

such as: forms completed by the participating communities, county staff, the existing Bay County Recreation Plan, Bay County GIS Department, various websites and through field observations.

Community input was collected during the summer of 2018 via an online survey. Participating communities then reviewed existing goals and objectives for parks and recreation in their community and updated them, if needed. Communities that had not developed goals and objectives previously, did so for this plan. Each community also planned for an action program to accomplish the goals and objectives of the plan.

The consultant completed the draft Bay County Area Recreation document and it was made available for review at the Bay County Building and four of the branches of the Bay County public library for at least 30 days beginning on December 1, 2018. A PDF file of the draft was also available on the Bay County web site and on several of the participating community websites. The reviewing opportunity was advertised in the Bay City Times. The final opportunity for community input occurred at the advertised public meeting held prior to adoption of the plan. This meeting was held on January 8, at 4:00 p.m. at the County Building. In the weeks following the public hearing, each participating community adopted the joint recreation plan via resolution. Communities with parks and recreation committees or commissions had that body pass a resolution recommending adoption prior to the governing body's adoption. Copies of the advertisements, public meeting minutes, and the resolutions are included in the Appendix.