

***HAMPTON TOWNSHIP  
RECREATION PLAN  
1991-2010***

**MILLER ASSOCIATES**  
28 NORTH MONROE  
ROCKFORD, MICHIGAN

**HAMPTON TOWNSHIP  
RECREATION PLAN  
1991 - 2010**

**RECREATION COMMITTEE:**

**Gerald L. DeWyse, Chairman  
Richard J. Hart  
Terry Spegel**

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## INTRODUCTION

The provision of parks and recreational facilities is important in any community. As the density of population increases and homes, apartments and mobile homes are constructed or placed on smaller parcels of land the need for quality open-space and parks greatly increases.

Up until the early 1960's Hampton Township was primarily a rural community consisting of farms and individual homes on relatively large lots. During the 1960's and 1970's, many new homes have been constructed and since 1970, approximately 1500 new apartments and 400 mobile home sites have been developed. As a result, the Township's population more than doubled with approximately 11,000 persons presently living within the Township.

As late as 1970, the only public recreational facilities provided in the Township were those provided by the two school districts serving the area. Since that date, the Township has provided a wide range of recreational facilities located at three separate sites. The total cost of these facilities is nearly \$1,000,000.

In constructing these facilities the Township has received grants from the State Recreation Bond Program, the Waterways Commission, the Land and Water Conservation and the Coastal Zone Management Commission. In addition to committing Township funds to these projects the Township has also committed the staff of the Department of Public Works in constructing portions of these facilities.

The Township has also been innovative in developing multi-use facilities to derive the maximum benefit from Township expenditures. One example has been the development of a thirty acre storm water retention basin which was designed so that about ninety percent of the site can be used for recreational activities. As a result, several ball diamonds, a picnic area and a sledding hill were provided at no greater cost than if just a retention basin was built. Another project involved dredging a channel to the Saginaw Bay to alleviate a severe flooding condition and this facility is also used as a boat launch.

Throughout the provision of these facilities the Township Board has worked closely with the Recreation Committee and the Planning Commission and has

continually kept the public involved through the use of newsletters, questionnaires and public meetings. The Township has also worked closely with the school administrators of the Bay City and Hampton-Essexville school districts, the Bay County Planning Department and the Bay County Parks and Recreation Department.

The preparation of the new Township Recreation Plan is therefore not a new endeavor but rather one step in a continuing program of satisfying the recreational needs of Hampton Township.