

## PART 5 - BASIS FOR PLAN PROPOSALS

Recreational needs vary drastically from one **community** to another as a result of numerous interrelated factors. These most importantly include such things as density of development, housing types, climate, age structure of the community, availability of private recreational facilities and the availability of school facilities for joint use.

While numerous national standards have been developed they can only be used as general guidelines. The national Recreation and Park Association suggests that a minimum park system of 6.25 to 10.5 acres of developed open-space be provided for each 1000 persons. Hampton Township has a projected population of 15,000 persons for the year 2010 and based on this standard the **minimum** amount of required parkland would range from 100 to 150 acres. The "Bay County Recreation Plan 1980 - 2000" suggests that the higher number be used as a minimum. Approximately 150 acres would be required compared to 48 acres which is presently available.

The County Plan also encourages the joint development and use of school facilities and community parks. There are three existing schools located in Hampton Township but the lands surrounding these facilities are fully developed and therefore there is little opportunity to develop parks adjacent to these facilities. Additionally, these schools are only available for non-school use on a "permission basis" which greatly limits their use for general recreation. Also, the Township is served by two separate school districts and facilities are only available for use by members of each respective school district. This further limits their availability for public use.

In spite of these **limitations**, the schools contribute to satisfying some of the recreational needs of Hampton Township. Utilization of the "**School/Park Concept**" as suggested by the County Plan, however, is not a viable alternative for Hampton Township.

## **TYPES OF PARKS**

The National Recreation and Park Association defines five types of parks of which the following three are most applicable to Hampton Township.

### **1. *MINI-PARK***

Service Area - 1/4 mile radius.

Size - 1 acre or less

Facilities - Specialized facilities that serve a concentrated or limited population or specific group such as tots or senior citizens.

### **2. *NEIGHBORHOOD PARK/PLAYGROUND***

Service Area - 1/4 to 1/2 mile radius to serve a population of 500 persons.

Size - minimum of 15 acres.

Facilities - Area for intense recreational activities, such as field games, court games, crafts, playground apparatus area, skating, picnicking, wading pools, etc.

Desirable Site Characteristic - Suited for intense development. Easily accessible to neighborhood population - geographically centered with safe walking and bike access.

### **3. *COMMUNITY PARK***

Service Area - Several neighborhoods - 1-2 mile radius.

Size - minimum of 25 acres

Facilities - Area of diverse environmental quality. May include areas for intense recreational facilities, such as athletic complexes, large swimming pools. May be an area of natural quality for outdoor

recreation, such as walking, viewing, setting, picnicking.

Desirable Site Characteristics - May include natural features, such as water bodies and areas suited for intense development. Easily accessible to neighborhood served.

The two remaining types of parks are "Regional/Metropolitan Park", and "Regional Park Reserve". These have little applicability to Hampton Township and are usually provided in a regional or state basis.

### HAMPTON TOWNSHIP RECREATION STANDARDS

Type of Park	Service Area	Desirable Size	Acres/1000 Population	No. Required	Acres Required
Mini-Park	1/4 mile radius	1 acre or less	0.25 to 0.5	7 *	7
Neighborhood Park	1/2 mile radius or 5000 persons	15 acres +	1.0 to 2.0	3	45
Community Park	2 Miles	25 acres +	5.0 to 8.0	1	75 - 120
Total				11	127 - 172

Source: Roger A. Lancaster, Ed. 1983. Recreation. Park and Open Space Standards & Guidelines.

Alexandria, Virginia: National Recreation & Park Association

\* Mini-Parks are calculated for only densely populated areas.

### NATIONAL STANDARDS

The preceding national standards can be applied to Hampton Township to determine the general needs within the Township.

At the present, time there are no public mini-parks within the Township. Four apartment complexes and one mobile home park, however, provide private recreational facilities for use by their residents. As a minimum, they all have outdoor swimming pools and community buildings. Together these facilities

serve the residents of 1,037 dwelling units or about 25 percent of the total within the Township. To a large extent,, these private facilities serve as mini-parks for the residents they serve. Based on population densities and concentrations of development in other **areas** of the Township, it is anticipated that two additional mini-parks will be necessary to serve the needs of the Township.

By definition, both **Pondside** and Ridge Road parks are considered neighborhood parks. While Ridge Road Park only contains 6 acres it is developed and equipped to function as a neighborhood park for the southwest portion of the Township. **Pondside** Park contains a total of 30 acres, however, a portion of the site is a permanent detention pond and cannot be used for park purposes.

There are no community parks within the Township. Attempts were made in recent years to acquire additional land at Finn Road Park Which would enable **it** to function as a community park however, these attempts were unsuccessful. As a result, Finn Road Park functions as a special facility, providing a boat launch to Saginaw Bay and a campground. With only 12 acres, it does not have sufficient size to be developed as a community park.

HAMPTON TOWNSHIP  
ADDITIONAL RECREATIONAL LAND NEEDS

Type	Existing		Additional Required		Total Existing & Required
	Name	Acres	No.	Acres	Acres
Mini-Park	-	0	2	2	2
Neighborhood Park			1	15	51
	Pondside	30			
	Ridge Road	6			
Community Park	-	0	1	75-120	75-120
Special	Finn Rd.	12	0	0	12
Total		48	4	92-137	140-185

**STATE STANDARDS**

In addition to the national standards for types of parks the Michigan Department of Natural Resources has developed statewide standards for specific types of recreational activities. These standards are summarized in the following table and are applied to the inventory of existing facilities within the Township.

**HAMPTON TOWNSHIP  
MICHIGAN RECREATION OPPORTUNITY STANDARDS**

Type of Opportunity	Plan Standard (a)	No. Required	Existing	No. Additional Needed
Local Park Land (acres)	1011,000	160	48	102
Archery Ranges <b>(b)</b>	<b>1/50,000</b>		0	
<b>Ballfields (c)</b>	113,000	6	4	1
Outdoor Basketball Courts <b>(c)</b>	<b>1/5,000</b>	3	0	3
<b>Bicycle Trails (miles)</b>	<b>1/40,000</b>		0	
Golf Courses <b>(b)</b>	<b>1/25,000</b>	1	1	0
Indoor Ice Rinks	1160,000		0	
Outdoor Ice Rinks-Artif.	<del>1/20,000</del>	<del>1</del>	<del>0</del>	<del>1</del>
Picnic Areas (tables)	11200	76	30	45
Playgrounds <b>(c)</b>	<b>1/3,000</b>	<b>5</b>	3	7
Rifle Ranges <b>(b)</b>	1150,000		0	
Shotgun Ranger <b>(b)</b>	1160,000		0	
Sledding Hills <b>(c)</b>	<del>1/40,000</del>		2	0
Soccer <b>Fields (c)</b>	<del>1/20,000</del>	0	1	1
Outdoor Swimming Pools	1140,000		0	
Outdoor Tennis <b>Courts (c)</b>	<b>1/4,000</b>	4	4	0
Boat Launches <b>(parking)</b>	<b>1/400</b>	40	60	0
Campgrounds <b>(campsites)(d)</b>	<b>1/150</b>	<b>100</b>	37	63
X-Country Ski Trails <b>(miles)</b>	1110,000	1.6	0	1.6
Fishing Access (feet)	<del>1,000/1,000</del>	16,000	<b>2,000</b>	0
Fishing Piers	11100,000		1	0
Hiking Trails <b>(miles)</b>	116,000	3	0	3
Horseback Riding <b>Trails(miles)</b>	<b>1/20,000</b>	1	0	1
Nature <b>Areas (areas)</b>	1160,000	1	0	1
Nature Trails (miles)	1120,000	1	0	1
ORV Areas (acres)	117,000	2	0	2
ORV Trails (miles)	1110,000	1.6	0	1.5
Snowmobiling <b>(acres)</b>	<b>10/1,000</b>	150	0	150
Snowmobile Trails <b>(miles)</b>	<b>1/3,000</b>	5	0	6
Swimming Beaches	1126,000	1	0	1

- (a) Units/population
- (b) Includes private clubs and commercial establishments.
- (c) Does not include facilities on school grounds
- (d) Includes commercial facilities.

Source: Michigan Department of Natural Resources. **1986.**  
Buildina Michiaan's Recreation Future. Appendix B, Pages **100-101.**

## **TOWNSHIP SURVEYS**

To further refine and define the recreational needs of the Township a random sample survey was sent to 200 households during the preparation of the 1985 Recreation Plan. This survey was expanded and updated with questionnaires being sent to all 3000 households as part of a Comprehensive Plan update which was completed in 1988. Approximately **48** percent responded to the random sample survey and **30** percent responded to the general survey.

The top 20 recreational activities mentioned in the random sample survey included the following in the order of the most times mentioned.

- |                             |                           |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>1. FISHING</b>           | <b>11. HUNTING</b>        |
| <b>2. SWIMMING</b>          | <b>12. SLEDDING</b>       |
| <b>3. CAMPING</b>           | <b>13. BOWLING</b>        |
| <b>4. SKIING</b>            | <b>14. WALKING</b>        |
| <b>5. TENNIS</b>            | <b>15. BICYCLE RIDING</b> |
| <b>6. JOGGING</b>           | <b>16. GOLF</b>           |
| <b>7. PICNICS</b>           | <b>17. ROLLER SKATING</b> |
| <b>8. BASEBALL/SOFTBALL</b> | <b>18. ICE SKATING</b>    |
| <b>9. SNOWMOBILING</b>      | <b>19. BASKETBALL</b>     |
| <b>10. BOATING</b>          | <b>20. VOLLEYBALL</b>     |

Another question asked: "What types of additional recreational facilities do you feel are needed at the existing parks"? They are also listed in order of the greatest number of responses.

- 1. ICE SKATING**
- 2. SWIMMING POOL**
- 3. PICNICKING**
- 4. JOGGING/HIKING TRAILS**
- 5. TENNIS COURTS**
- 6. SHUFFLE BOARD**
- 7. PHYSICAL FITNESS EXERCISE STATIONS**
- 8. SOFTBALL DIAMONDS**
- 9. BASEBALL DIAMONDS**
- 10. BASKETBALL COURTS**

The 1988 survey determined that about **54** percent of the families live in single family homes as compared to 36 percent that live in apartments and 10 percent that live in mobile homes. It also indicated that 70 percent of the families living in single family homes had small lots. Therefore, nearly **84** percent of the total families live in relatively high density settings even though much of the Township is still rural. As a result, there is a greater need for public recreational facilities in Hampton as compared to more sparsely developed communities.

Three-fourths of the respondents were satisfied with the existing parks and facilities. This is an extremely high percentage and indicates residents feel the Township has done a good job in the development of existing parks. Practically, all residents, however, feel that additional facilities and activities are needed. Over one-quarter of the respondents are willing to pay additional taxes, over and above general fund expenditures, for recreation.

The following major conclusions can be drawn from the surveys.

- 1.** Residents have great interest in recreation as evidenced by the high percentage of returns.
- 2.** Residents participate in a great variety of recreational activities both within and outside of the Township.
- 3.** Residents feel that greater use should be made of the bayshore area for recreational activities.
- 4.** Many residents feel existing facilities are overcrowded and too far away.

5. In spite of a seemingly rural setting, **84** percent of the households live in relatively high density settings with little private open-space.

## **LOCAL CONSIDERATIONS**

In addition to the above, members of the Recreation Committee and the Township Board have made the following observations:

1. Picnic facilities are used for many reunions and office picnics and are overcrowded during prime period.
2. More specialized facilities are needed for senior citizens which is the fastest growing age group in the Township.
3. Existing tennis courts are often overcrowded. This in part **results** from a sharing arrangement the Township has with the Garber High School Tennis program.
4. Walking and bicycle paths are necessary to provide safer access to existing parks.
5. A greater number of winter activities are needed such as ice skating or tobogganing.
6. In addition to the Township placing emphasis on recreational development along its eight miles of Saginaw Bay frontage, the County has created a steering committee under the Bay County Growth Alliance and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources has developed a Saginaw Bay Strategy to encourage the expansion of tourism and recreational facilities adjacent to the Saginaw Bay.