

# 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

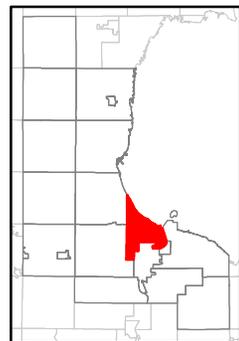
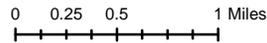
**Rail Trail Bike Repair Stations** \$2,800

**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

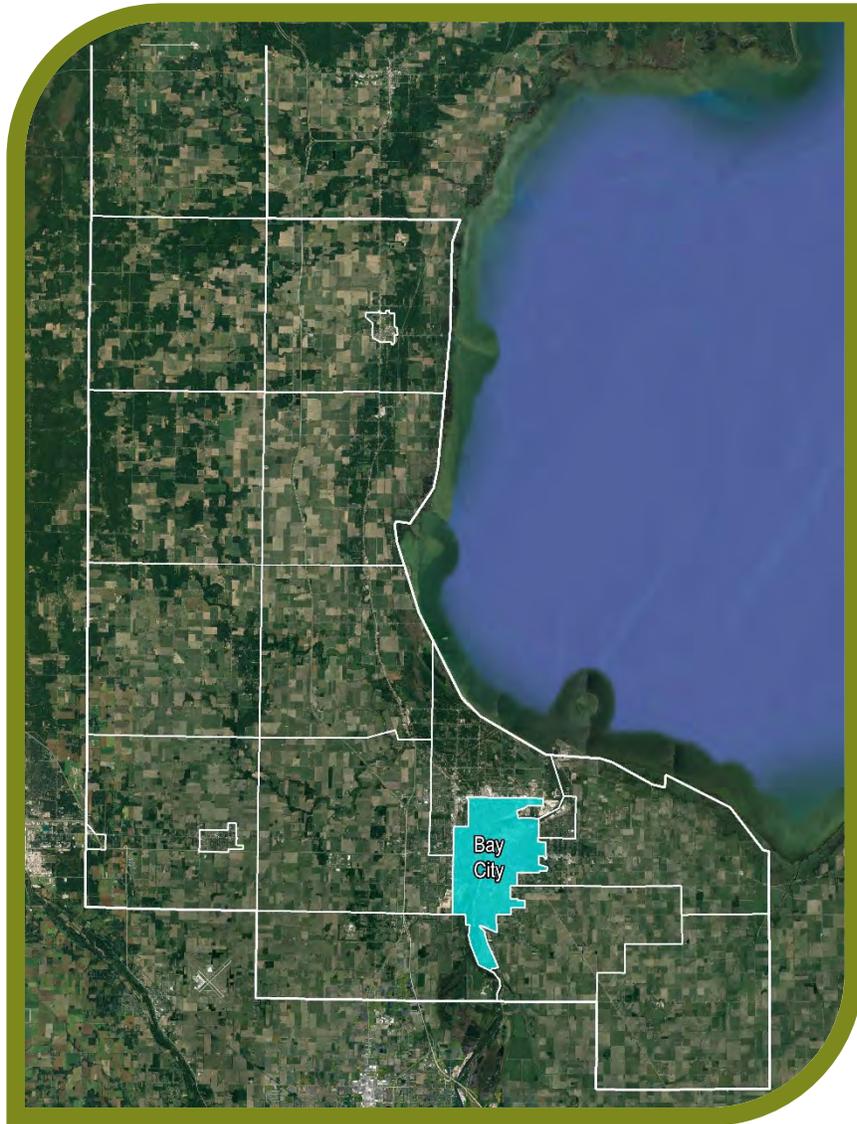


Map produced by: Bay County Dept. of Environmental Affairs & Community Development - GIS Program 10/29/2018

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





# 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.

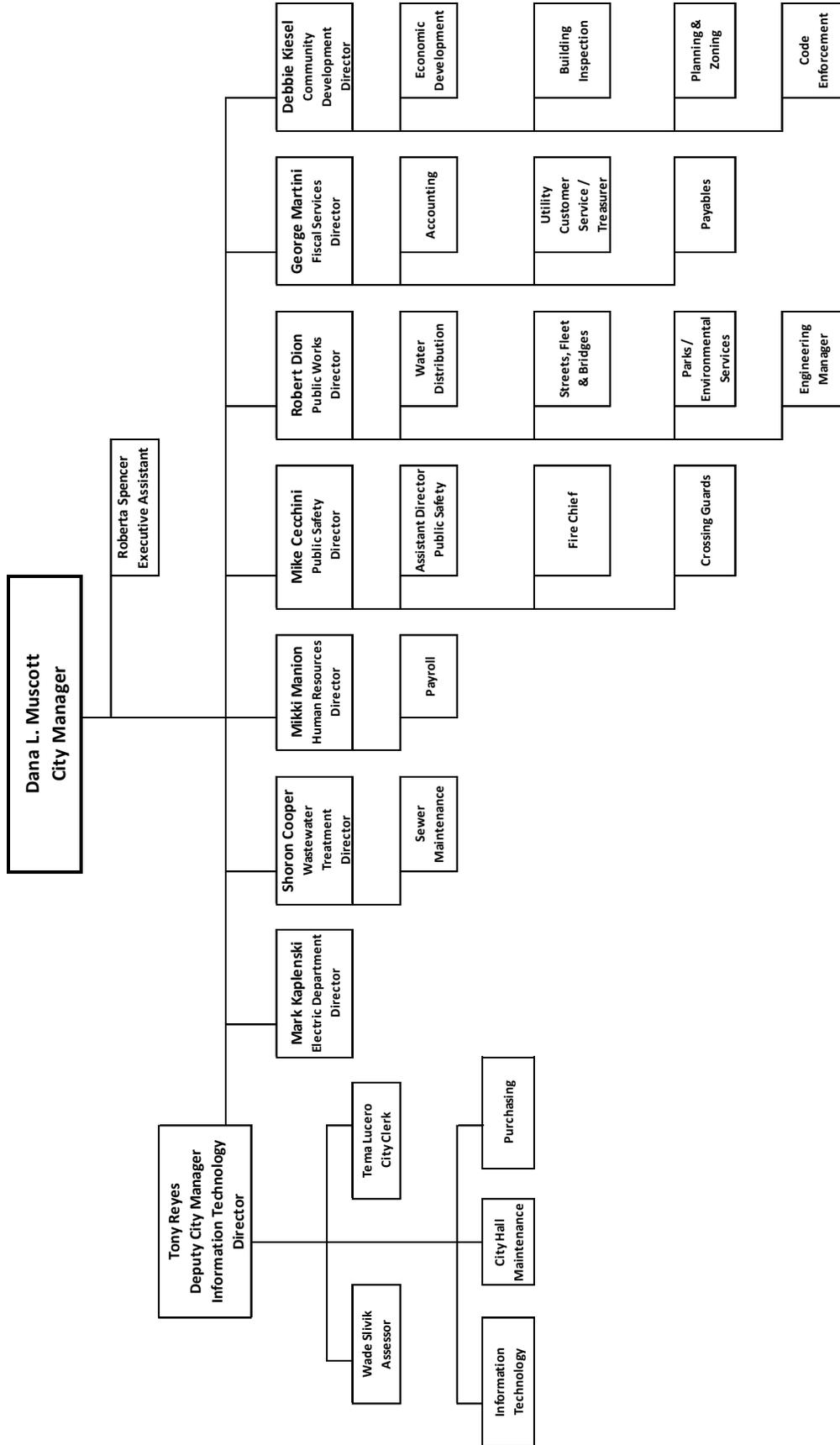
Issues related to the planning of recreation facilities require coordination and communication between a number of municipal departments and entities, including: Planning Department, Department of Public Works, Engineering Department, Parks Department and the City Commission. In addition, the planning 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.

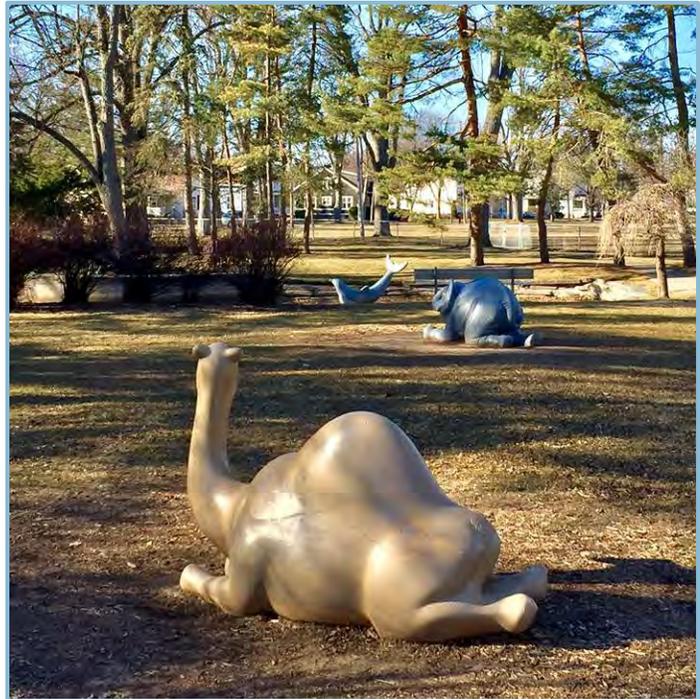
Universal design was used in the last renovation of this park to allow for accessibility to all amenities.

#### 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.

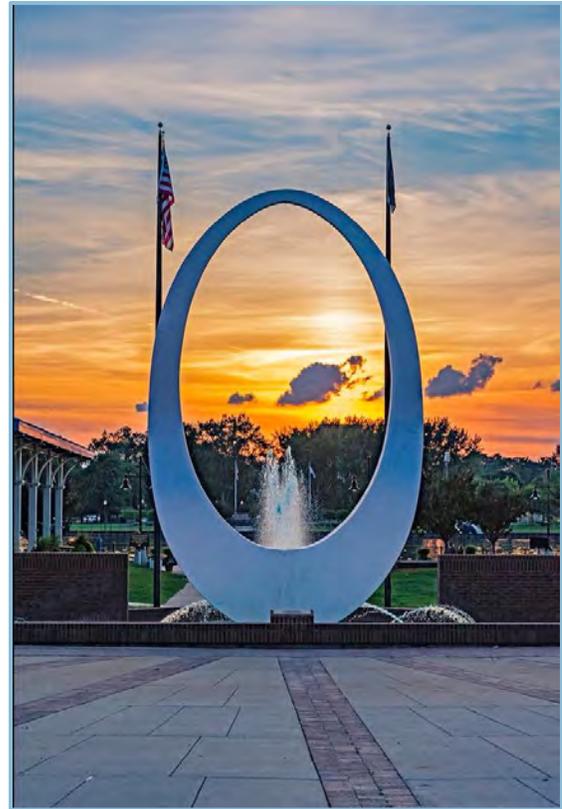
### **Wenonah Park**

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

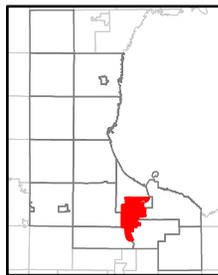
State Trunkline

Major Road

Minor Road

Riverwalk Railtrail

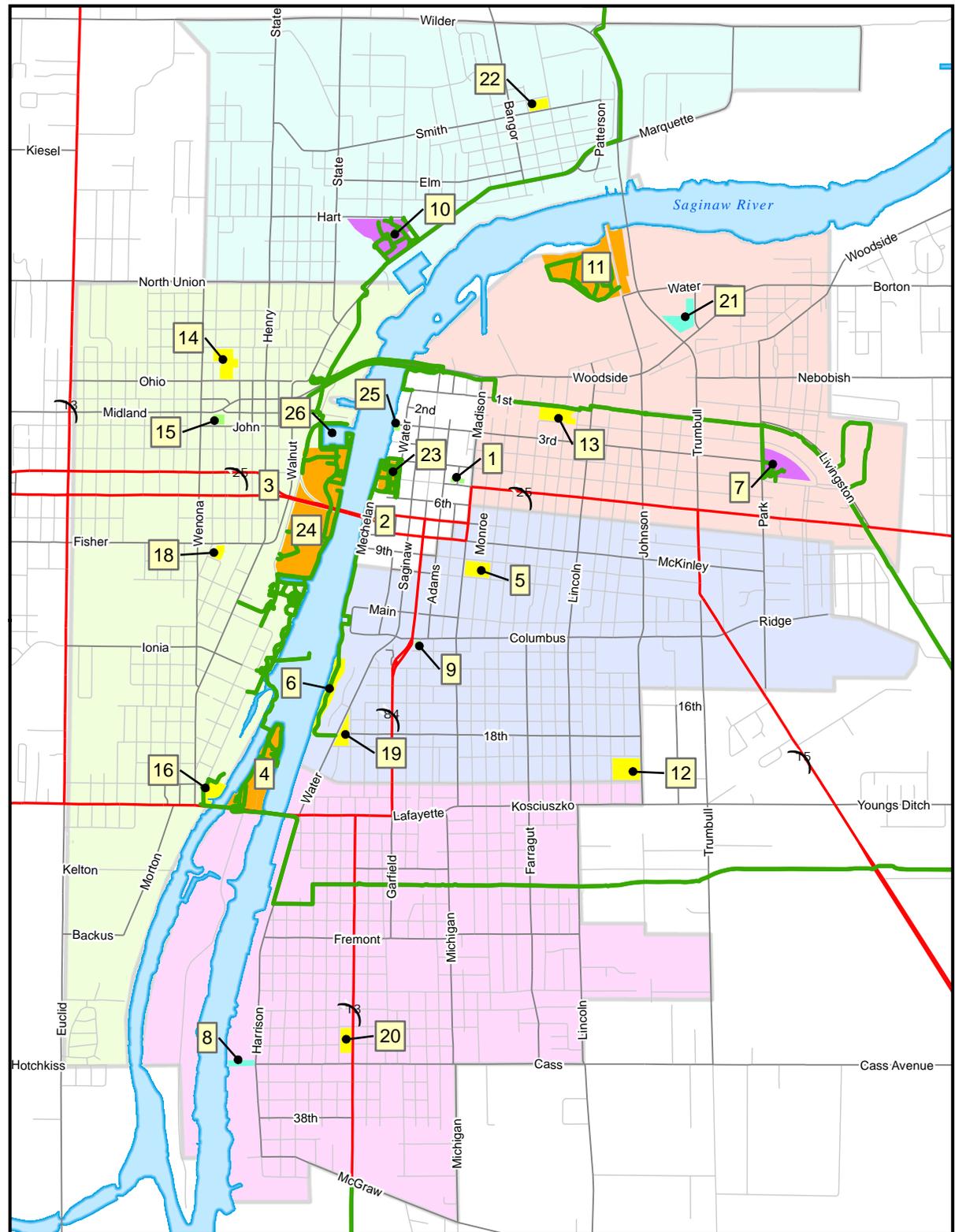
0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles



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

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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.

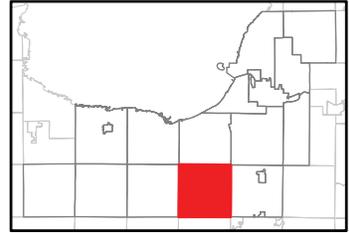
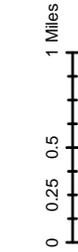
1. Expand Township recreational facilities and utilities.
2. Update and expand existing trails and tracks.
3. Continue holding annual events.



# Park and Trail Locations in Beaver Township Michigan

## Legend

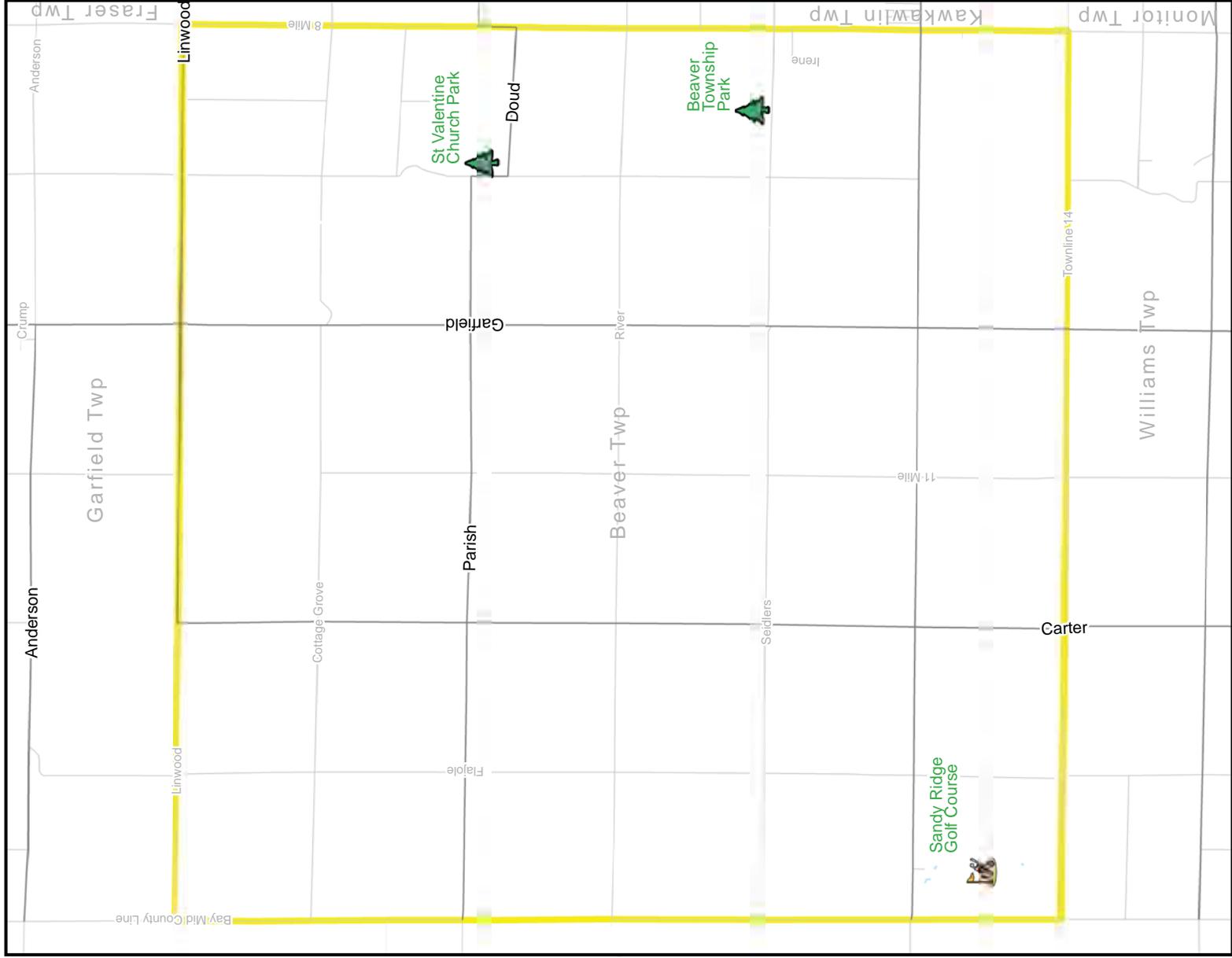
-  Township
-  State Trunkline
-  Major Road
-  Minor Road
-  Railroad
-  Non-Motorized Trail
-  Park; Nature Area
-  Park
-  Golf Course
-  Boat Ramp / Dock

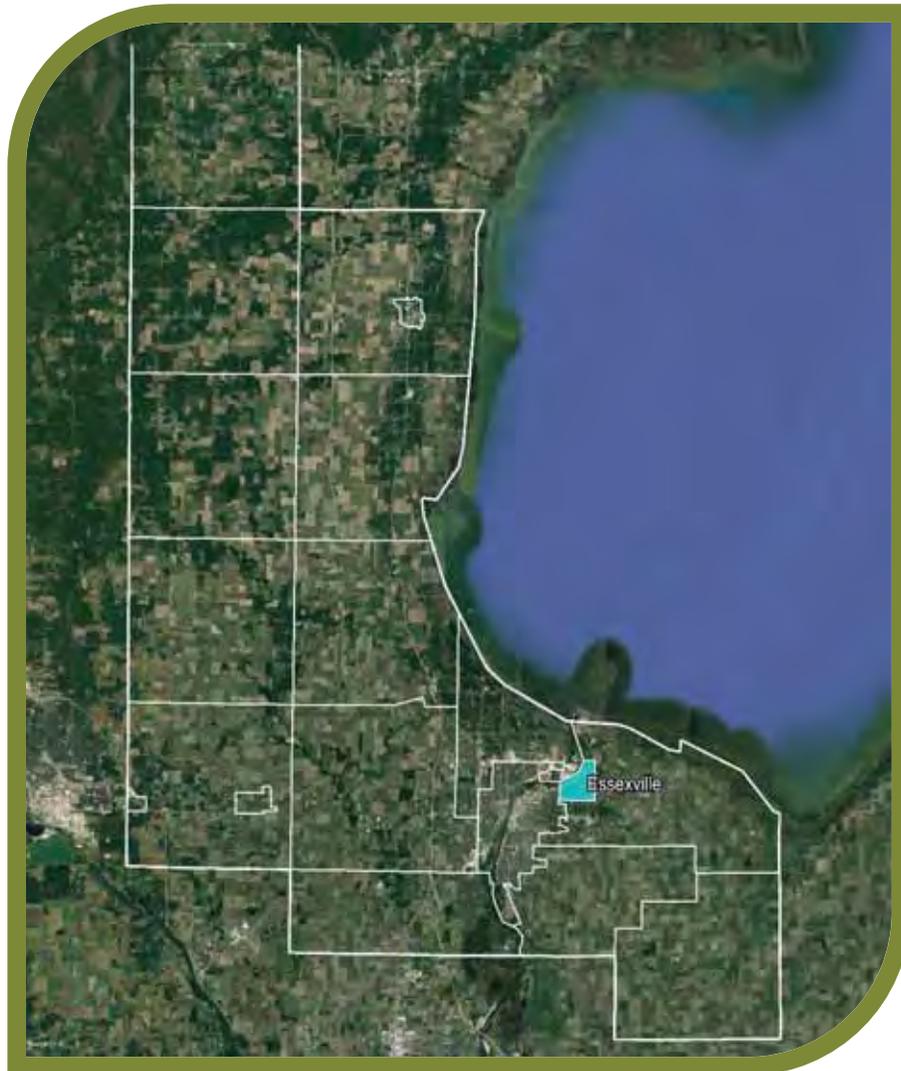


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Data Source: Bay County GIS, State of Michigan CGI





# 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

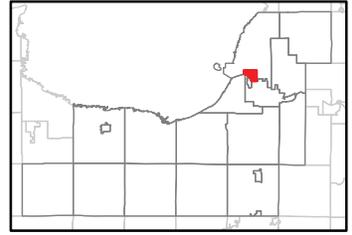
Based on the goals, objectives, and community input, Essexville has identified the following items to be part of its action plan. Each project will work toward accomplishing one or more goals and objectives identified above.

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

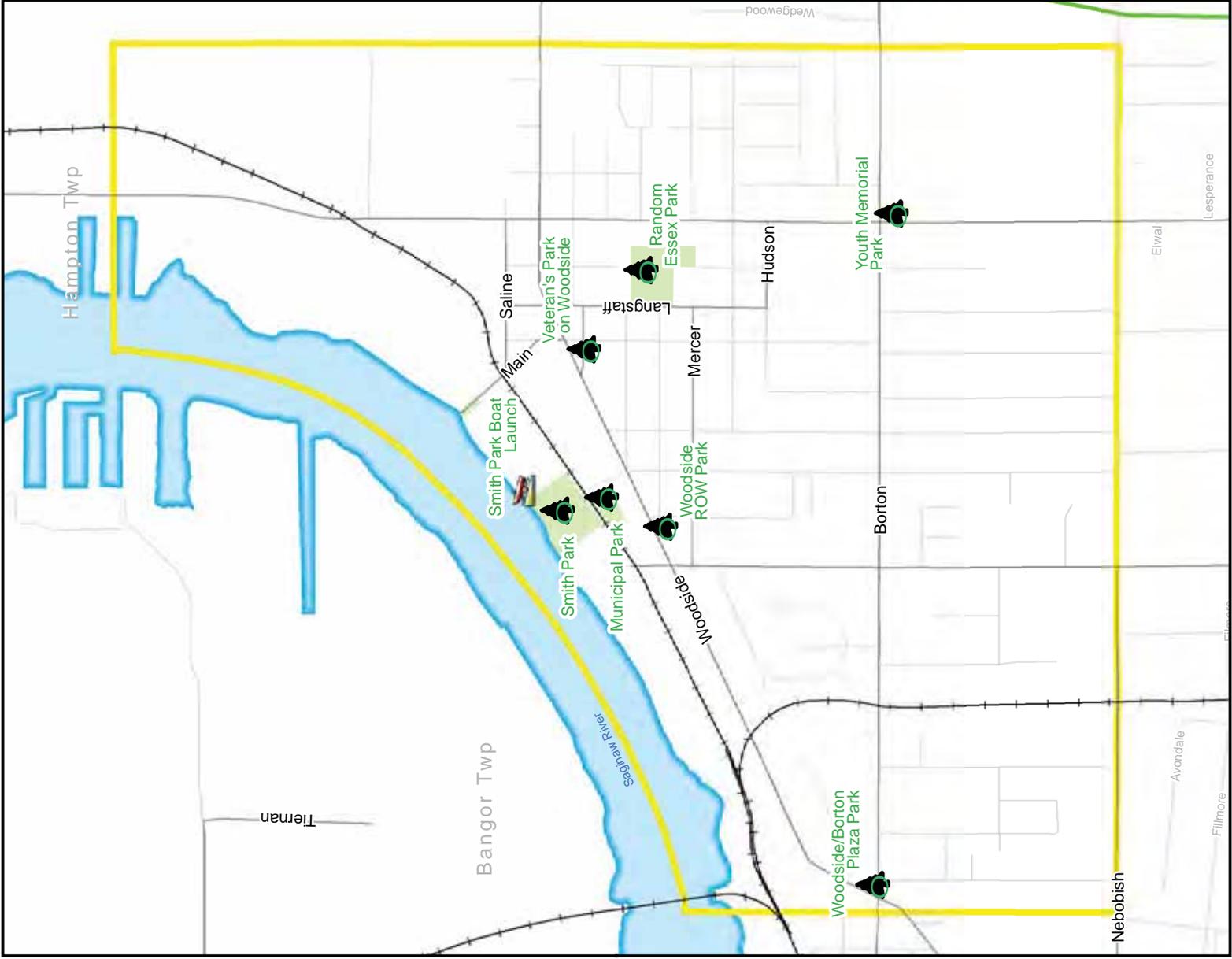
-  Township; City
-  State Trunkline
-  Major Road
-  Minor Road
-  Railroad
-  Non-Motorized Trail
-  Park; Nature Area
-  Park
-  Golf Course
-  Boat Ramp / Dock

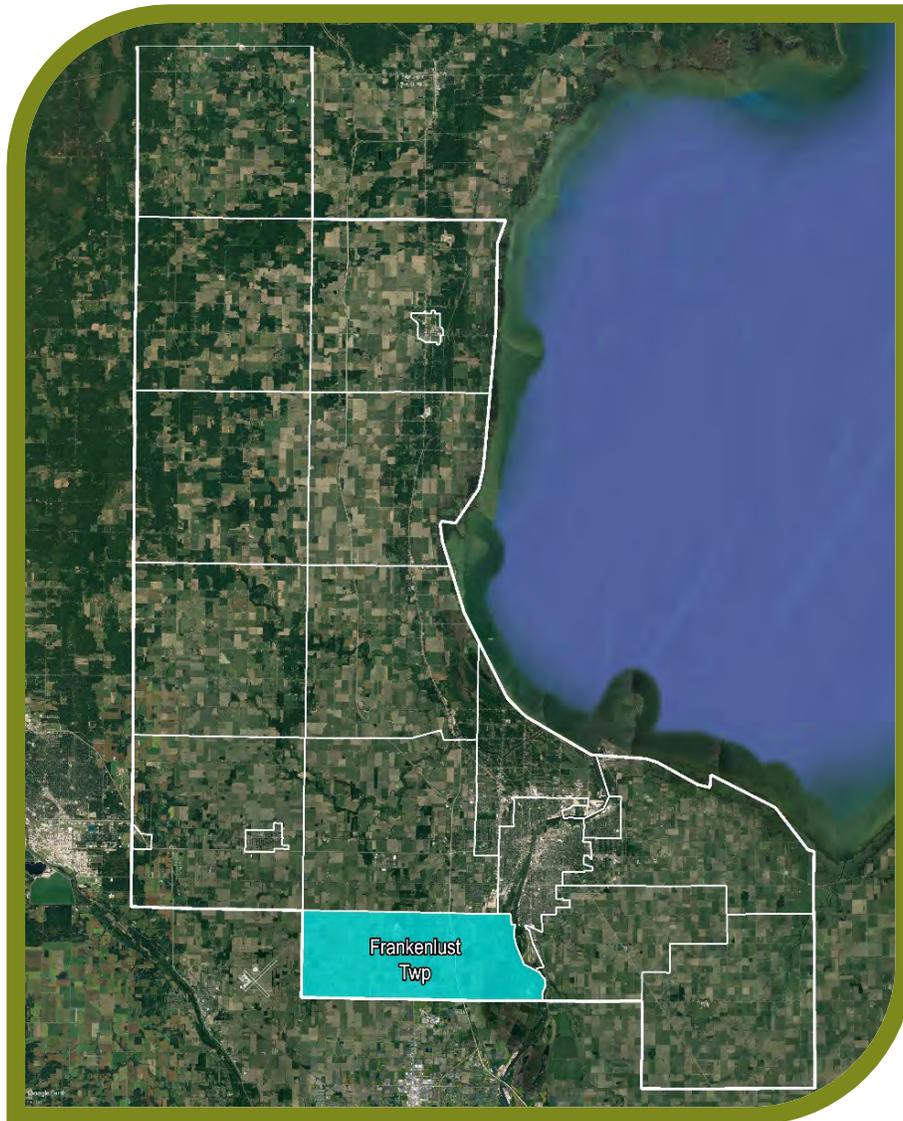


Map produced by: Bay County Dept. of Environmental Affairs & Community Development - GIS Program 10/29/2018

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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.**

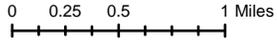
#### Action Plan

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

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