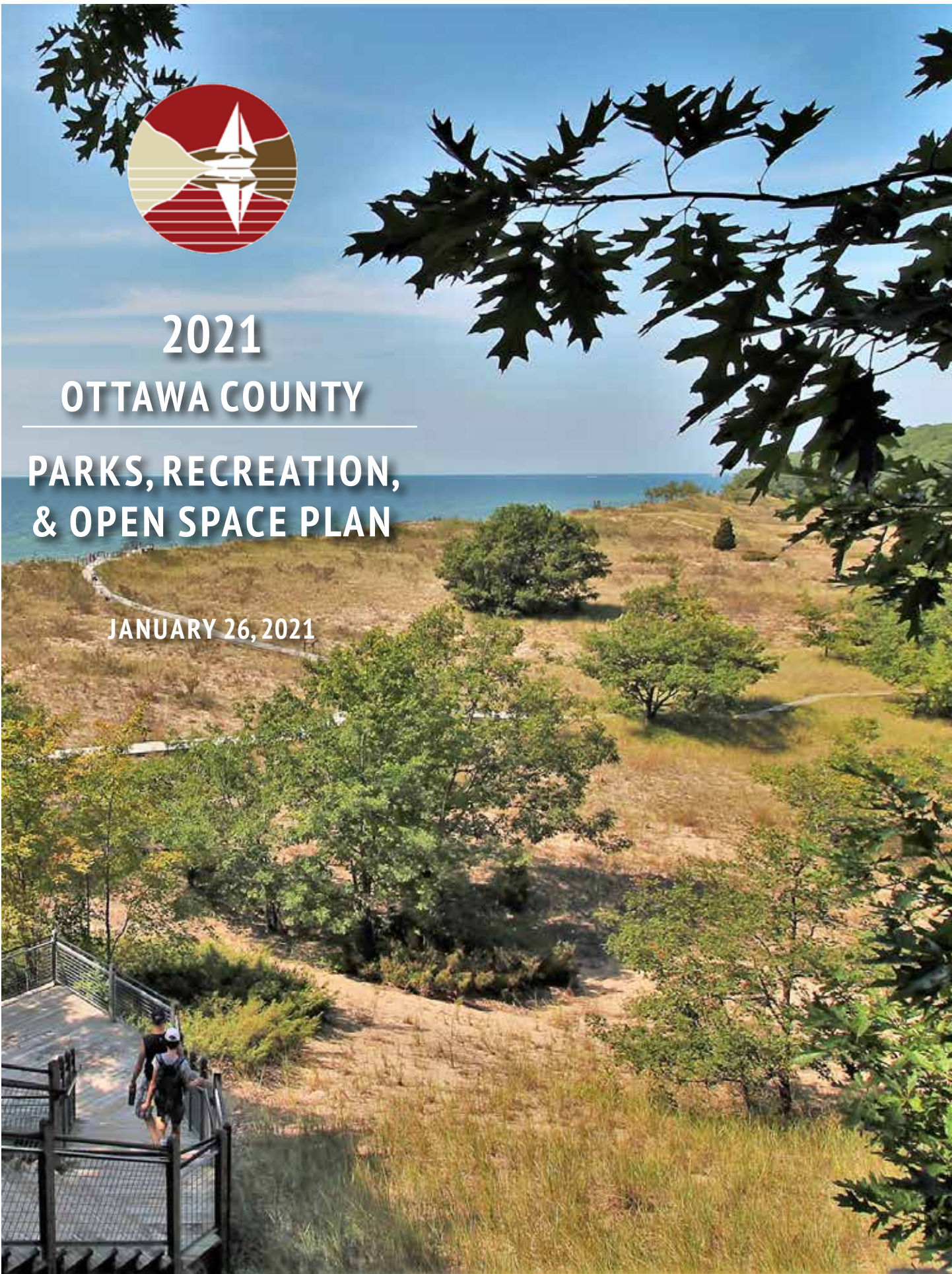




2021
OTTAWA COUNTY

**PARKS, RECREATION,
& OPEN SPACE PLAN**

JANUARY 26, 2021



**2021 OTTAWA COUNTY
PARKS, RECREATION, & OPEN SPACE PLAN**

January 26, 2021



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West Olive, MI 49460
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgments

Plan Adoption

Executive Summary

INTRODUCTION

SECTION ONE: PLANNING & PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

Chapter 1 The Planning Process 5

SECTION TWO: COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Chapter 2 Natural Features 7

Chapter 3 Cultural Features 17

Chapter 4 County Demographics 27

SECTION THREE: ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

Chapter 5 Administration & Operation 39

Chapter 6 Financing & Budget Projections 45

SECTION FOUR: EXISTING PARKS, NATURAL AREAS, & RECREATION FACILITIES

Chapter 7 Recreation Inventory 55

SECTION FIVE: NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Chapter 8 Needs Assessment Tools 151

Chapter 9 Parks & Open Space Analysis 157

Chapter 10 Activity Needs Analysis 179

Chapter 11 Accessibility Analysis 199

SECTION SIX: GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Chapter 12 Mission Statement, Goals, & Objectives 227

SECTION SEVEN: ACTION PROGRAM

Chapter 13 Recommended Actions 229

SECTION EIGHT: APPENDICES

Appendix A Michigan Natural Features Inventory

Appendix B Local Park and Recreation Inventory

Appendix C 2020 County Resident Survey Results

Appendix D 2020 Park User Survey Summary

Appendix E Parks Commission Minutes & Public Notices

Appendix F Outstanding Michigan Park System Comparison

Appendix G Comment Card

Appendix H Non-Motorized Pathways Study Executive Summary

Appendix I The Seven Principles of Universal Design

Appendix J Acreage Goals

Appendix K Proposed Capital Project List

Appendix L Master Project List

Appendix M Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant History

LIST OF TABLES

3.1	Summary of Land Use & Cover Change (1978-2010)	18
4.1	Population Trends and Projections of Surrounding Counties	27
4.2	Population Trends: 2010-2019	28
4.3	Population Projections: 2020-2030	29
4.4	Age by Community (2018)	30
4.5	Age Distribution (2019)	31
4.6	Race/Ethnic Distribution (2019)	31
4.7	Physical Disabilities (2018)	32
4.8	Household Distribution (2018)	33
4.9	Employment Trends (2019)	33
4.10	Labor Force Employment (2018)	34
4.11	Socio-Economic Levels (2018)	34
4.12	Educational Attainment (2018)	35
6.1	Long Range Budget Projection Summary	51
11.1	Program Access Test Chart	200
11.2	ADA Transition Plan/Facility Modifications List	221-222
13.1	Capital Improvement Schedule	265

LIST OF FIGURES

1.1	The Planning Process	5
2.1	Natural Communities Regional Context	9
2.2	Bedrock Geology	10
2.3	Quaternary Geology	10
2.4	Topography	11
2.5	Hydrology	11
2.6	Soils	13
2.7	Farmland	14
2.8	Pre-settlement Vegetation	15
3.1	Regional Context	17
3.2	2010 Land Use	19
3.3	Transportation Network	21
3.4	Non-Motorized Transportation Network	23
3.5	Political Jurisdictions	24
3.6	Countywide Standardized Zoning	25
3.7	Planning Areas	26
5.1	2020 Organizational Chart	42
7.1	Recreation Inventory Map	58
7.2	Adjacent County Public Recreation Facilities	145
9.1	Grand River Greenway Concept	164
9.2	Pigeon River Greenway Concept	167
9.3	Macatawa River Greenway Concept	170
9.4	North Coastal Greenway Concept	172
9.5	South Coastal Greenway Concept	173
10.1	Non-motorized Pathways Map with Existing, Proposed, and Conceptual Pathways	191

LIST OF FIGURES, CONTINUED

13.1	North Ottawa Dunes Master Plan	234
13.2	North Beach Park Master Plan	235
13.3	Ottawa Sands Master Plan	236
13.4	Rosy Mound Natural Area Master Plan	237
13.5	Kirk Park Master Plan	238
13.6	Olive Shores Master Plan	239
13.7	Tunnel Park Master Plan	240
13.8	Historic Ottawa Beach Parks (all Park 12 parcels) Conceptual Master Plan	241
13.9	Historic Ottawa Beach Parks (waterfront area) Conceptual Master Plan	241
13.10	Grand River Greenway Plan	242
13.11	Connor Bayou - West Master Plan	243
13.12	Connor Bayou - East Master Plan	244
13.13	Crockery Creek Natural Area Concept Plan	245
13.14	Riverside Park Master Plan	246
13.15	Bur Oak Landing Preliminary Site Development Plan	246
13.16	Eastmanville Farm (Community Haven) Preliminary Master Plan	247
13.17	Eastmanville Bayou Master Plan	248
13.18	Eastmanville Bayou Conceptual Trail Plan	249
13.19	Grand Ravines Master Plan	251
13.20	Bend Area Master Plan	253
13.21	Bend Area Preliminary Master Plan Update	253
13.22	Bend Area Concept Plan	253
13.23	Upper Macatawa Natural Area Master Plan	256
13.24	Macatawa River Adams Street Site Concept Plan	257
13.25	Paw Paw Park Conceptual Master Plan	258
13.26	Grose Park Master Plan	259
13.27	Spring Grove Park Master Plan	261
13.28	Hager Park Master Plan	262
13.29	Riley Trails Master Plan	263

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The development of the 2021 Ottawa County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan was a cooperative effort of the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission and the citizens of Ottawa County.

2021 OTTAWA COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

Kelly N. Rice, President
Jane Longstreet, Vice President
Philip Kuyers, Secretary
Joe Bush
Greg DeJong
Tom Elhart
Kate Harmon
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Kyle Roffey, Administrative Assistant
Tabitha Rowley, Senior Secretary
Mary Bohn, Park Secretary

Cover photo by Mike Lozon

COUNTY OF OTTAWA

STATE OF MICHIGAN

RESOLUTION

At a regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the County of Ottawa, Michigan held at the Fillmore Street Complex in the Township of Olive, Michigan on the 26th day of January 2021 at 1:30 o'clock p.m. local time.

PRESENT: Commissioners: Francisco Garcia, Joseph Baumann, Douglas Zylstra, Allen Dannenberg, Randall Meppelink, Kyle Terpstra, James Holtvluwer, Gregory DeJong, Philip Kuyers, Roger Bergman, Matthew Fenske. (11)

ABSENT: Commissioners: None _____

It was moved by Commissioner Gregory DeJong and supported by Commissioner Philip Kuyers that the following Resolution be adopted:

WHEREAS, the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission has undertaken a planning process to determine the recreation and natural resource conservation needs and desires of its residents during a five-year period covering the years 2021 through 2026, and

WHEREAS, the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission began the process of developing the *2021 Ottawa County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan* in accordance with the most recent guidelines developed by the Department of Natural Resources and made available to local communities, and

WHEREAS, residents of the Ottawa County were provided with a well-advertised opportunity during the development of the draft plan to express opinions, ask questions, and

discuss all aspects of the recreation and natural resource conservation plan, and

WHEREAS, the public was given a well-advertised opportunity and reasonable accommodations to review the final draft plan for a period of at least 30 days, and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on December 2, 2020 at the Ottawa County Fillmore Street Administrative Complex to provide an opportunity for all residents of the planning area to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the *2021 Ottawa County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan* and

WHEREAS, the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission has developed the plan as a guideline for improving recreation and enhancing natural resource conservation for the residents and visitors of Ottawa County, and

WHEREAS, at a meeting held on January 6, 2021, the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission voted to adopt said *2021 Ottawa County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan*.

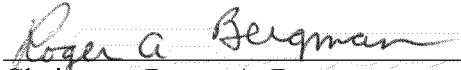
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts the *2021 Ottawa County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan* as a reference document for future decision-making and that the plan be transmitted to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

YEAS: Commissioners: Kyle Terpstra, James Holtvluwer, Douglas Zylstra, Philip Kuyers, Gregory DeJong, Randall Meppelink, Joseph Baumann, Matthew Fenske, Allen Dannenberg, Francisco Garcia, Roger Bergman. (11) _____

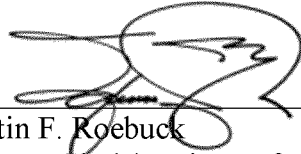
NAYS: Commissioners: None _____

ABSTENTIONS: Commissioners: None _____

RESOLUTION ADOPTED.



Chairman, Roger A. Bergman
Board of Commissioners



Justin F. Roebuck
County Clerk/Register of Deeds

The Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission

of the County of Ottawa

West Olive, Michigan

RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION OF THE *2021 OTTAWA COUNTY PARKS, RECREATION, & OPEN SPACE PLAN*.

At a meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission of the County of Ottawa, Ottawa County, Michigan, held at the County Building, West Olive in said County on January 6, 2021:

PRESENT: Members: Rice, Longstreet, Kuyers, Bush, Elhart, Harmon, Hill, Holtvluwer, McAffrey

ABSENT: Members: DeJong

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Holtvluwer and supported by McAffrey:

WHEREAS, it is a primary function of the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission to maintain a current plan for County park and recreation land, waters, and facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has analyzed the cultural and physical resources of Ottawa County, including an inventory of existing recreation facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has sought public input from a variety of channels in establishing goals and objectives which identified recreation deficiencies; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has transformed its goals into a logical plan of action for parks, recreation facility development, and open space preservation in Ottawa County;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Parks and Recreation Commission adopts the *2021 Ottawa County Parks, Recreation, & Open Space Plan* and forward the plan to the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners.

YEAS: Members: Rice, Longstreet, Kuyers, Bush, Elhart, Harmon, Hill, Holtvluwer, McAffrey

NAYS: Members: None

ABSTAIN: Members: None

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.



Kelly Rice
President



Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

Jason D. Shamblin
Director

January 29, 2021

Commission Members

Kelly N. Rice
President

Jane Longstreet
Vice President

Philip Kuyers
Secretary

Joe Bush

Greg DeJong

Tom Elhart

Lukas Hill

Kate Harmon

James Holtvluwer

Linda McAffrey

Mr. Paul Sachs, Director
Ottawa County Planning and Performance Improvement Department
12220 Fillmore Street
West Olive, MI 49460

Dear Mr. Sachs:

With this correspondence, please find for your records and use an electronic copy of the adopted *2021 Ottawa County parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan*.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me directly via telephone at (616) 738-4656 or e-mail at cterhaar@miottawa.org at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,
Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Curtis TerHaar".

Curtis TerHaar
Coordinator of Park Planning & Development

Enclosure



Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

Jason D. Shamblin
Director

January 29, 2021

Commission Members

Kelly N. Rice
President

Jane Longstreet
Vice President

Philip Kuyers
Secretary

Joe Bush

Greg DeJong

Tom Elhart

Kate Harmon

Lukas Hill

James Holtvluwer

Linda McAffrey

Mr. Dave Bee, Director
West Michigan Regional Planning Commission
820 Monroe NW, Suite 214
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Dear Mr. Bee:

With this correspondence, please find for your records and use an electronic copy of the adopted *2021 Ottawa County parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan*.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me directly via telephone at (616) 738-4656 or e-mail at cterhaar@miottawa.org at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,
Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Curtis TerHaar".

Curtis TerHaar
Coordinator of Park Planning & Development

Enclosure

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2021 Ottawa County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan is intended to guide Ottawa County with its parks, recreation, and open space planning and development efforts for the next five-year period. It comprehensively updates the 2016 plan and covers the time period that coincides with the completion of the current dedicated parks millage funding period that was approved in 2016 and ends in 2026. It is anticipated that this plan will provide context for further strategic planning of the entire County Parks organization as the Parks Commission looks ahead to renewal of the current Parks millage and the next phase of park system service.

The 2021 plan also continues the long-range planning effort begun in 1989 which has provided the basis for a wide range of improvements and accomplishments enhancing the quality of life and leisure experience for Ottawa County residents.

PROFILE OF OTTAWA COUNTY

Ottawa County's extensive natural resources including the Lake Michigan shoreline and associated dunes, the Grand River with its extensive bayous and wetlands, inland lakes including Lake Macatawa, Pigeon Lake, and Spring Lake, numerous rivers and streams and other features provide a tremendous resource base for outdoor recreation. Ottawa County is among the fastest growing counties in the state, which is a reflection of the area's unique natural attractions, diverse economy, and other indicators of a high quality of life.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Various methods were employed to obtain public input to help identify recreation needs in Ottawa County, including an in-depth on-line survey of County residents, a survey of people using the parks, public meetings, and other forms of public input including feedback through social media. This information, along with population data and other background information, was useful in helping to analyze a wide range of issues related to recreation needs. Specific activities of interest to Ottawa County Parks were analyzed, park accessibility issues were explored, and the issue of planning for open space needs was studied in detail.

Basic findings reveal that the size of the county park and open space system meets the general guidelines established by the Parks Commission based on current population numbers; and land acquisition required to complete the greenways, if successful, would enable the Parks Commission to comfortably

exceed guidelines for 2030 population projections. In terms of facility development, efforts should continue to monitor trends and assess the role of the county park system to meet the recreation needs of its residents and visitors as they evolve. Specific recommendations are made for facilities related to various recreation activities.

PLAN AND ACTION PROGRAM

Based on the Parks and Recreation Commission's mission statement, goals and objectives, an action program was developed to respond to specific identified needs. The final action plan does the following:

- Continues emphasis on high-quality maintenance and operations with projections of long-term capital renovation needs. Over one-third of discretionary (non-operating) millage funds are dedicated to renovations of current park facilities.
- Identifies key property acquisitions and funding to enhance and expand existing park properties.
- Calls for efforts to improve and develop the Macatawa and Pigeon River Greenways, Ottawa Sands, the Bend Area, and to complete the Idema Explorers Trail along the Grand River Greenway.
- Continues efforts to meet and exceed ADA accessibility guidelines at all lands and facilities.
- Provides flexibility to consider other unexpected opportunities and expand existing park properties.
- Continues focus on providing quality nature education programs throughout the park system.
- Expands emphasis on communications to residents of available opportunities for optimal park use.

The plan also includes detailed budget projections and a capital improvement schedule. The plan notes that the current dedicated parks millage combined with grant funds has allowed the Parks Commission to provide a large and high-quality park system to serve residents and visitors. However, with continued park expansion, a higher percentage of millage funds are now devoted to operations and maintenance, creating greater reliance on other funding for new initiatives.

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INTRODUCTION

Years of research by social and behavioral professionals have demonstrated that recreating out-of-doors can improve one's mental and physical health and general quality of life.

Because counties, like all municipalities, are interested in providing for the health, safety and welfare of their residents, it is important that Ottawa County direct time and effort to provide quality opportunities for its residents and visitors to participate in outdoor recreation activities. To direct this effort, proper planning is essential to take advantage of opportunities, maximize positive impacts, and efficiently use available resources. While this may be true for all counties, it has particular relevance to Ottawa County today for several reasons

NATURAL RESOURCES

Ottawa County is blessed with a natural resource base as extensive as any other county in the state. The Lake Michigan shoreline, sand dune formations, waterways, wetlands, bayous, and woodlands all contribute to make Ottawa County a very special environment. These resources have potential to support many healthy outdoor recreation activities. The fact that counties typically focus on natural resource-based activities, as opposed to neighborhood parks and sports fields, further highlights the tremendous opportunity for Ottawa County to positively impact its residents and visitors through the county park system.

POPULATION GROWTH

The population of Ottawa County has increased significantly in recent decades and, following a pause due to a dip in the economy, appears poised for continued growth in the future. The Ottawa County Planning and Performance Improvement Department reported the 2020 county population estimate as 294,497, an increase of 11.6 % from 2010 - the fastest growth of any county in the state during that period of time. With this fast growth, planning and maintaining recreational facilities and services to meet the needs of a growing population is a very real and pressing concern.

QUALITY OF LIFE

Providing a high quality of life for residents is a key component in maintaining a healthy and growing local economy. Quality outdoor recreation lands and facilities are vital to retaining and attracting young, highly educated, and productive residents to sustain a thriving economy in Ottawa County into the future. Businesses that require this type of workforce will, in turn, more seriously consider Ottawa County if they can be assured that talented and desirable employees will want to stay in the area on a permanent basis.

TOURISM

A final related reason to provide quality recreation services and facilities is the county's large and growing tourist trade and its economic implications. The shoreline of Lake Michigan acts like a magnet during the warmer months, attracting not only county residents but also visitors from around the State and beyond. Without proper planning, this migration of tourists into Ottawa County during the summer months can place a strain on recreation facilities. Planned properly, this tourism can serve as a strong foundation for the economic well-being of the county. Providing adequate capacity of attractive recreation opportunities for visitors will continue to facilitate this particular segment of the local economy.

PLAN HISTORY

The 2021 Ottawa County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan is the latest of a series of plans prepared for the County to address these needs. In 1970, a preliminary recreation plan for Ottawa County was prepared and followed by a 1975 update. To continue the planning process initiated in 1970, a second parks and recreation plan update was prepared in 1983 while administration of the parks was still under the authority of the Ottawa County Road Commission.

In 1989, the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission (OCPRC) completed its first plan since it was formed and took over

management of the park system in 1987. This plan established an aggressive approach to upgrading the park system and expanding access to Lake Michigan. The 1989 plan was followed by the 1995 Parks and Open Space Plan which provided solid direction for improving and expanding the park system and laid the groundwork for the County Parks millage, which was first approved by voters in 1996. The next plan, the 2000 Ottawa County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan, recognized the significant progress made toward implementing recommendations from the 1995 plan, and provided more details for establishment of the basic framework of the system of river based greenways.

The 2006 plan continued the strong emphasis on open space protection begun in the 1995 plan while providing a clearer vision for the trails and facilities which could be developed on the park lands. This plan also laid the groundwork for a ten-year renewal of the county parks millage and included a long-range budget projection demonstrating what could be accomplished with a diversified funding strategy using millage funds in combination with fee revenues, grant funds, donations and other funding sources. The 2011 and 2016 plans provided further direction for expanding and improving the park system, with a continued focus on expanding greenways in Ottawa County. The 2016 plan also laid the groundwork for justification of a renewed millage program

This plan continues to build on the work of the previous plans and reflects a maturing county park system. Goals for land acquisition are gradually being met, allowing more emphasis on targeted projects to improve and link existing park lands. As always, a major focus on high quality park maintenance and operations remains a fundamental focus of the OCPRC and staff.

In conclusion, an up-to-date parks and recreation plan is needed to best use available resources to meet the growing needs of county residents. The plan seeks to do this in a manner that recognizes the unique circumstances that currently exist in Ottawa County and are likely to extend into the foreseeable future. It is the intent of this plan to meet this goal in a comprehensive and objectively defensible manner that can be relied upon to guide the multitude of decisions required of the OCPRC and its staff.

SECTION 1

Planning & Public Input Process

CHAPTER 1 | THE PLANNING PROCESS

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CHAPTER 1 | THE PLANNING PROCESS

The development of the 2021 Ottawa County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan is the summation of many ongoing initiatives established since the OCPRC was established in 1987, while clarifying and refocusing efforts based on current conditions and needs. The various components of the plan were compiled based on input from a range of participants, including the Parks and Recreation Commission, parks staff, numerous consultants, and the general public.

The development of the plan followed a three-phase process (Figure 1.1). The first phase involved the gathering of base data pertaining to Ottawa County. This inventory of current conditions encompassed several areas of interest, including Ottawa County's natural and cultural features, as well as demographic information about its current residents. The current administrative structure of the parks department as well as its current and projected financial capacity was also identified. Finally, a detailed inventory of recreation facilities throughout the County was prepared. This data includes elements of federal, state, county, city, and township recreation facilities, as well as private and commercial recreation providers. The results of this data collection are presented in chapters two through seven.

The second phase of planning involved the analysis of the gathered data, and in particular, the identification of opportunities, constraints, and current recreation needs. Current and potential park and open space resources were evaluated, and additional attention was directed at specific recreation activities, as well as broader issues including quality of services and accessibility.

This assessment of needs was aided through a variety of methods, including a park user survey, a survey of county residents, public meetings, comment cards located in the parks, and other methods. Many of these tools were directed to solicit and encourage input

from the general public for both specific projects and activities included in the plan, as well as the overall direction of parks efforts. A complete description of these tools along with general analysis of their results is found in chapter eight; further results of analysis is presented in chapters nine through eleven.

In the third phase, detailed in chapters twelve and thirteen, the Parks Commission reached an understanding of the potentials and limitations of existing park resources, as well as the recreation needs and desires of residents, visitors, and park users. The multitude of ideas, suggestions, and plans were prioritized and synthesized into a comprehensive plan to direct the efforts of OCPRC. As a culmination of this effort, the OCPRC reviewed its mission statement and updated its goals, objectives, and strategies to guide its efforts. Finally, based on this groundwork, a detailed list of recommended actions aimed at addressing the plan's goals and objectives was prepared. OCPRC also created a capital improvement schedule, which assigns costs and relative priorities to the actions based on current budget projections for the next seven years.

As a final note, it should be recognized that the Plan is not an end in itself, but a decision-making tool in a continuing process of study as the OCPRC strives to serve the present and future needs of Ottawa County residents.

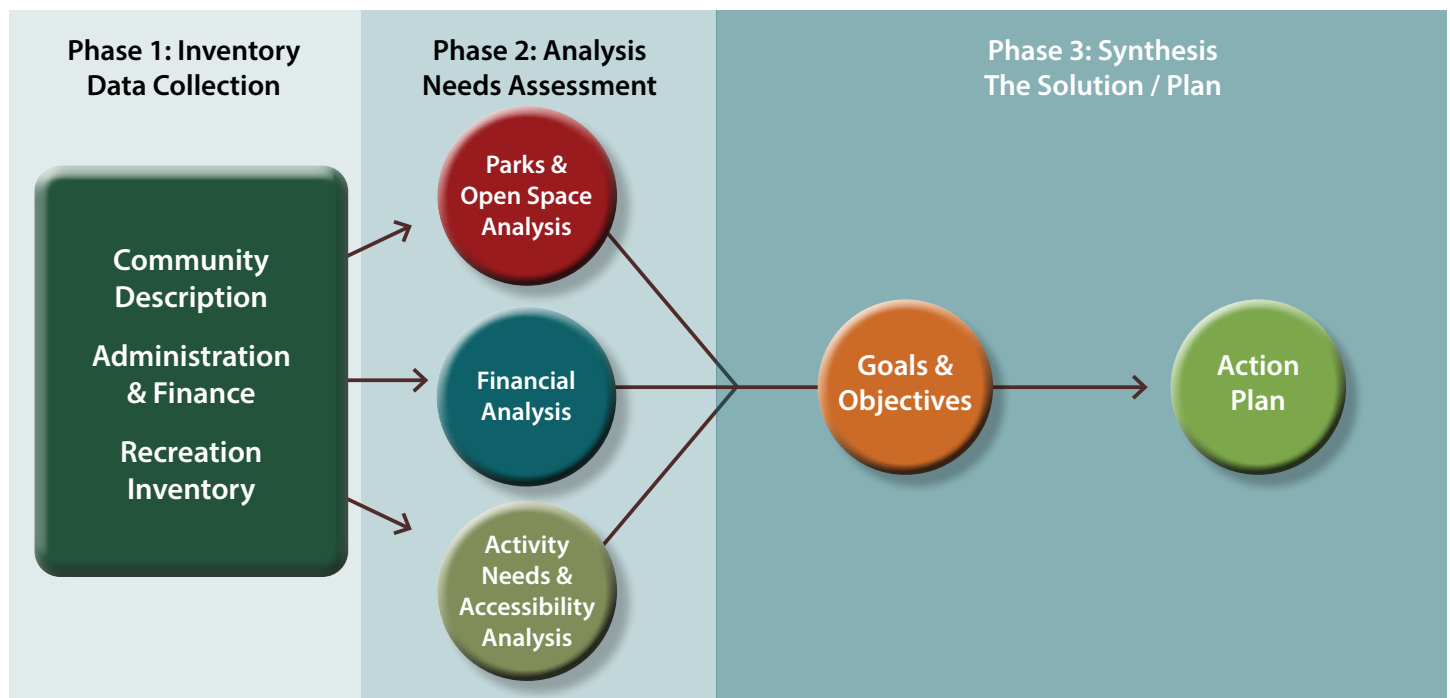


Figure 1.1 - The Planning Process

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SECTION 2

Community Description

CHAPTER 2 | NATURAL FEATURES

CHAPTER 3 | CULTURAL FEATURES

CHAPTER 4 | COUNTY DEMOGRAPHICS

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CHAPTER 2 | NATURAL FEATURES

GENERAL LOCATION & NATURAL CONTEXT

Ottawa County consists of 565 square miles of land located on the western edge of the lower peninsula of the State of Michigan. It borders the eastern shore of Lake Michigan, the second largest of the Great Lakes. The County's sandy shoreline is 24 miles long, while its eastern boundary runs 30 miles from north to south. Traveling straight across the County from the eastern boundary to the Lake Michigan shoreline involves a 22-mile trip. Michigan's largest river, the Grand, traverses the entire width of the county and enters Lake Michigan at Grand Haven. In terms of natural communities, Ottawa County occupies a somewhat unique location in what has been referred to as the transition zone (Figure 2.1), an area where northern and southern native forest ecosystem types overlap. This results in a relatively greater diversity of plants and animals than in either the northern or southern zones.

The environmental resources of Ottawa County have enticed fur trappers, lumbermen, early settlers, farmers, and today's residents and tourists. Outdoor recreation in Ottawa County has been enhanced by the existence of these environmental amenities – by the sandy beaches of Lake Michigan, by the slowly winding Grand River and its associated wetlands, by its popular inland lakes including Spring Lake and Lake Macatawa, and by the pleasant mixture of forests and open lands that support a variety of wildlife.

As attractive as they are, the environmental resources that exist today are far different than those that greeted the earliest European settlers to Ottawa County. In the past, many communities developed their land with little regard for existing natural systems. Natural features were often viewed as a liability, needing to be controlled or destroyed.

Attitudes toward land have changed dramatically in recent decades as people began to recognize the negative effects of human activity on the environment. A new realization has emerged that development activities which destroy natural features carry potentially greater economic and other non-monetary costs – the most basic of which is a reduction in overall quality of life.

The natural features of Ottawa County – lakes, dunes, rivers and streams, rolling hills, wetlands, forests and open space – give it a unique and special character. Previous studies have found that the citizens of Ottawa County are increasingly aware of the benefits which natural features provide and have noted a growing willingness to support strong policies to protect these environmental assets. A basic goal of this section is to better identify key natural conditions, features, and environmental resources so that they can be addressed in the planning process and protected as appropriate. In all of these areas, OCPR will seek to utilize established, peer-reviewed science and recognized experts to manage, develop, and make decisions regarding our natural resources.



Figure 2.1
Forest Communities by Region

CLIMATE

Climate influences not only the extent of outdoor recreation but also the types of activities pursued. Historically, the “four-season” nature of the climate in Ottawa County has allowed for variety of outdoor recreational opportunities. Abundant snowfall and extended periods of temperatures consistently below freezing have fostered participation in outdoor winter activities such as sledding, ice skating, snowmobiling, and skiing. In turn, warmer weather encourages many to travel to the County's popular shoreline seeking the cooling comfort of Lake Michigan or to inland waterways for boating and fishing. Providing more moderate temperatures and the seasonal beauty of wildflowers or colored leaves, spring and fall have become prime seasons for hiking and biking.

Unique to the counties along the eastern shore of Lake Michigan, westerly winds blowing across the lake effectively moderate extreme winter and summer temperatures. In comparison to areas across the lake or further inland, temperatures above 90°F in the summer and below zero in the winter occur infrequently. Prolonged periods of extremely hot or cold weather seldom prevail during the summer or winter. In addition, annual snowfall is typically higher in a band along the lakeshore as a result of the “lake effect”, an enhancement of snowfall due to cold air picking up moisture as it crosses the warmer waters of Lake Michigan.

Rainfall averages over 31 inches per year. June and September are typically the wettest months, while February remains the driest. The average annual snowfall measures 65 inches and increases to nearly 80 inches in a snow belt extending along the lake shore.

It should be noted that despite the politically charged nature of the topic of climate change, local evidence of warming including effects on wildlife and vegetation is becoming more obvious. Other potential aspects of a changing local climate include higher than usual precipitation leading to high water levels, and recent uncharacteristically mild winters that have significantly impacted park operations and visitor activities. Although it remains to be seen if these trends will continue, Ottawa County Parks will need to be ready to adapt to a variety of climate and weather-related scenarios.

GEOLOGY

Underlying the visible landscape of Ottawa County are materials and formations that are part of the region’s prehistoric past. Layers of rock, including shale and limestone deposits produced during times when the region was covered with saltwater seas, form the area’s bedrock layers (Figure 2.2). These features are essentially unobservable to the public except through sampling from well drilling or engineering soil borings. More recent and much more visible evidence of geologic activity is found in the area’s Quaternary Geology (Figure 2.3). These formations date from the time of the last ice age of 10,000-12,000 years ago, as well as more recent activity such as river and stream erosion and deposits. The most significant and grandiose of the more recent geologic features in Ottawa County are the sand dune formations along the Lake Michigan shoreline. The size and extent of the freshwater sand dunes which characterize the eastern Lake Michigan shoreline are found nowhere else in the United States or the world. Their visual impact and significance as a natural resource cannot be overstated. Accordingly, the dunes have been the focus of protective legislation, which attempts to regulate development in areas identified as “critical dune” areas by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE). Critical dunes in Ottawa County extend along nearly the entire Lake Michigan shoreline. The widest areas are north of Lake Macatawa, in or near the Holland

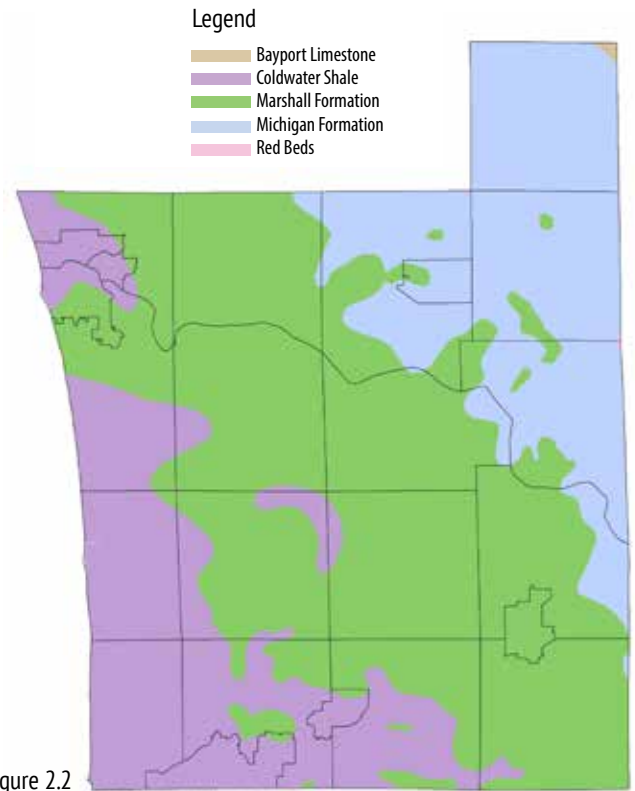


Figure 2.2
Ottawa County Bedrock Geology

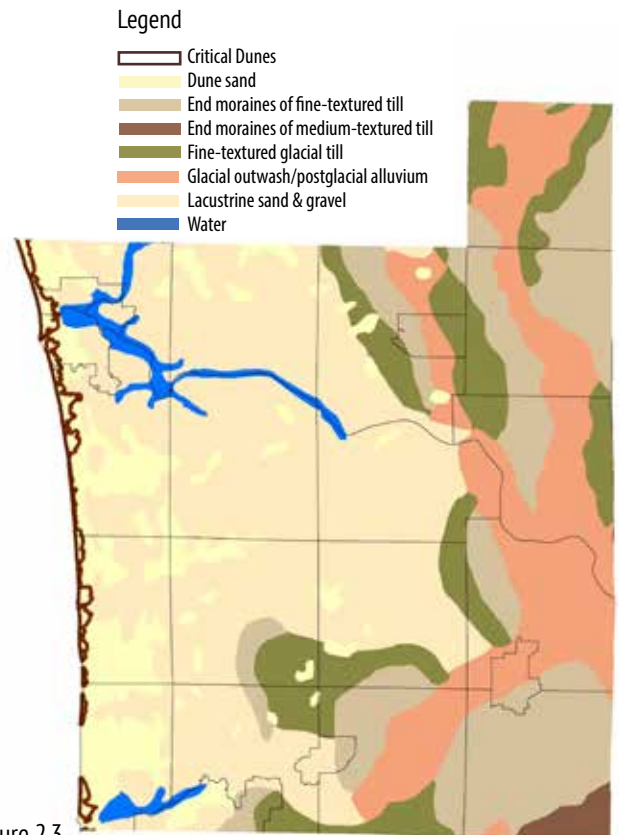


Figure 2.3
Ottawa County Quaternary Geology

State Park, and around Port Sheldon. Another significant area of dunes begins north of Lake Michigan Drive extending north to the County line. There are approximately 3,750 acres of critical dunes in Ottawa County.

TOPOGRAPHY

Directly overlying these ancient bedrock formations are glacially deposited sands gravels, and clays of varying concentrations and thicknesses. These glacial deposits are responsible for today's visible surface features or landforms, defining a landscape of generally flat to gently rolling terrain. Abrupt changes in topography are uncommon in Ottawa County, except for dune areas along Lake Michigan, where some sand dunes reach 200 feet, and steep clay ravines located along portions of river corridors. While at the Lake Michigan shoreline the elevation measures 580 feet above sea level, the highest elevation in the county is slightly more than 950 feet above sea level (Figure 2.4).

WATER RESOURCES AND HYDROLOGY

The water resources in Ottawa County are an extraordinary recreational asset. Many parks in the County have been established on or near water, with that particular water body serving as the focal point for recreation. Because of a seemingly ever-increasing demand for water-based recreation, the emphasis of many future parks will likely continue to be on the presence of an attractive body of water.

Lake Michigan dominates the western edge of the County. It has attracted County residents and non-residents alike to its sandy beaches for years and continues to grow in popularity. Without dispute, the lake is the County's greatest recreational feature. Lake Michigan inspires outdoor activities during both summer and winter. During the summer however, activities intensify with swimming, boating, fishing, and other water sports as popular shoreline pursuits.

The primary watercourse in the County is the Grand River. Before entering Ottawa County, it has already traveled through numerous other Michigan communities on its way west from its origin near Jackson. Ottawa County is the last stretch of the river's journey, entering the County from the southeast and meandering northwesterly towards Grand Haven, where it finally flows into Lake Michigan. The river drains the entire northern portion of the County and much of the eastern half through several small tributaries including Sand, Rush, Deer, and Crockery Creeks. The remaining portions of the County are drained by the Macatawa (Black) River, which empties into Lake Macatawa, and by the Pigeon River, which flows into Pigeon Lake (Figure 2.5).

The Grand River's potential for recreation is additionally enhanced by the river's bayous, wetlands and tributaries. Most of the bayous, such as Stearns, Pottawatomie, Lloyd, Millhouse and Bruce, are located along the northwestern reaches of the river and are popular fishing and boating locations.

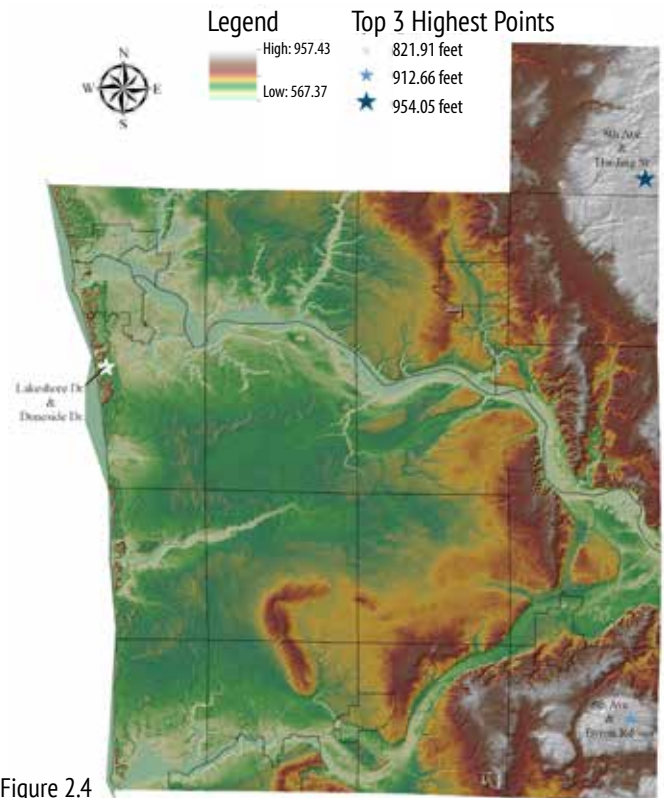


Figure 2.4
Ottawa County Topography

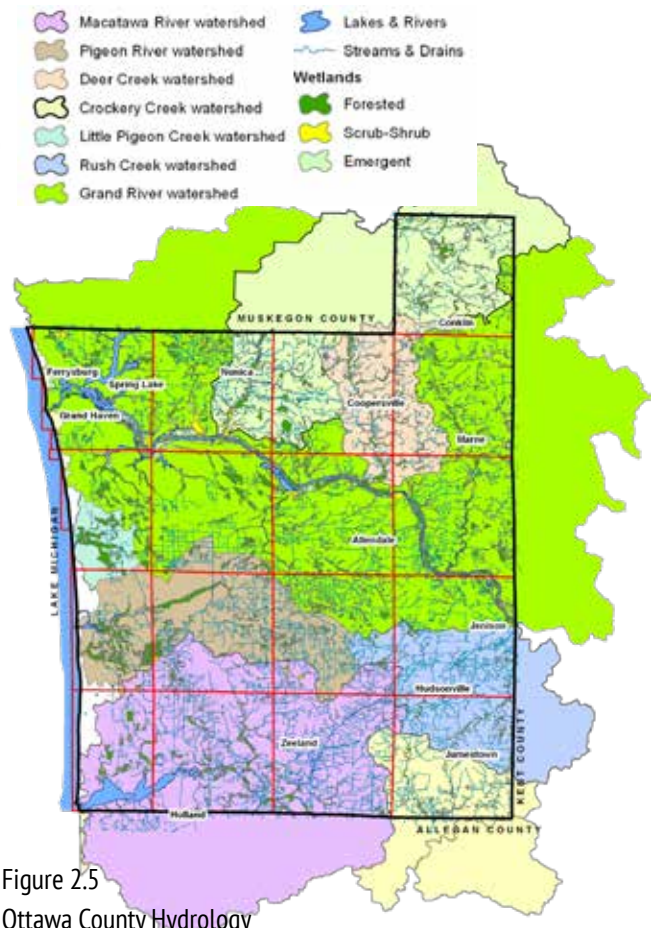


Figure 2.5
Ottawa County Hydrology

Most wetlands in the County are associated with the Grand River and its tributaries. Other wetland areas can be found along the Macatawa and Pigeon Rivers, inland from Lake Michigan, and sparsely scattered throughout other areas of the county. Wetlands are vitally important natural features for their fish, wildlife, and plant habitat values; for their ability to filter pollutants; for their groundwater recharge value; and for their importance in flooding reduction.

Anchoring the County's Lake Michigan shoreline are Spring Lake in the north and Lake Macatawa in the south. The recreational importance of these two large inland lakes is clearly evident by the concentration of much of the County's population in the communities located on these lakes. Because of these population concentrations, both Lake Macatawa and Spring Lake receive a large amount of recreational use.

There are several other inland lakes scattered throughout the County, ranging in size from 225 acres to less than five acres. Pigeon Lake (225 acres), adjacent to Lake Michigan, and Crockery Lake (108 acres), located in the northeast, are the largest of these inland lakes and are popular recreational waterbodies. Throughout the County, but especially concentrated along the Grand River in eastern Ottawa County, private manmade lakes and ponds are important recreational features. Many of these were formed when sand and gravel deposits were extracted for construction purposes leaving the water table exposed to the surface.

Water quality is a concern in many of Ottawa County's lakes and streams. Non-point source pollution is believed to be a major cause of water pollution. Non-point source pollution includes runoff from urban areas, farms, residential septic fields and many other difficult-to-define sources. Recent efforts associated with land protection in the river greenways have directly addressed this concern.

In recent years, groundwater resources within Ottawa County have become a major issue. Portions of the county have experienced growing salinization in well water. Extensive research has revealed that a lack of local groundwater recharge sufficient to meet the demand has caused salty water to be pulled from underlying rock formations. The need for conservation and protection of this resource has become apparent even in an area that appears to have almost unlimited water resources.

SOILS

Most soils in the County are the result of glaciation, except the wind-blown sand along the lake, the alluvial soils on the floodplain, and the organic soils produced from decaying vegetation. The soils range from the light sandy soils associated with the lake plain to the heavier silt and clay loams occurring in the upland moraines of the east (Figure 2.6). Excluding the dune sands and waterlogged marsh soils, most soils have been successfully utilized for many developmental activities. Many acres are considered prime farmland and are used for agricultural production (Figure 2.7). A few soil types in the County possess some limitations, such as susceptibility to erosion, compaction, drainage, etc., for certain uses and activities. Recreational development requires a site-specific evaluation of soil characteristics in order to identify potential problems.

PLANTS AND WILDLIFE

Prior to European settlement, extensive white pine and hardwood forests nearly covered the entire County (Figure 2.8). These forests initially attracted trappers and traders, but by the early 1800s, the lumbering industry was also motivated to utilize the vast forest resources. As these forests were logged out, the remaining cleared land was eventually farmed. Today, scattered patches of forest are found interspersed with fields of cultivated crops. Many of these smaller forests are located along wetlands, streams and rivers, on stabilized sand dunes along the lake, and on soils or lands not suitable for farming. In the 1930s, many acres of cleared land with sandy soils were planted in pine in order to combat wind erosion. These maturing pine plantations dot the western half of the County.

A beech-maple forest represents the climax forest characteristic of this climate. Many examples of this forest type can be found throughout the County, especially in the back dunes along the shoreline. In wetter bottom lands, along rivers and streams, those plant species more tolerant of wet soils have dominated, such as cottonwood, sycamore, and silver maple. Oaks and pines can be found in the drier upland areas of the County. A variety of native herbaceous plants can be found in fields, along roadsides, stream banks, marshes or other undisturbed areas.

An area of concern in regard to the trees of the county is the proliferation of forest and tree pests. American chestnut, American elm, and more recently, most ash species have been effectively eliminated from the local landscape because of disease. In addition, current pests attacking Canadian (Eastern) hemlock, American beech, and oak trees are becoming more prevalent. Ottawa County

Figure 2.6 - Ottawa County Soils

Rubicon-Blowout land Deer Park Association:
Level to steep, well drained, sandy soils of the dunes and plains

Mancelona - Nester - Belding - Loso Association:
Gently sloping to hilly, well drained to somewhat poorly drained, sandy and loamy soils of the uplands

Rubicon-Granby-Croswell-Au Gres Association:
Level and gently sloping, well drained to very poorly drained, sand soils of the lake plains and outwash plains

Sloan - Adrian - Houghton Association:
Level, poorly drained, bottom land soils and organic soils

Granby - Au Gres - Saugatuck Association:
Nearly level and gently sloping, very poorly drained to somewhat poorly drained, sandy soils of the lake plains

Chelsea - Mancelona - Montcalm Association:
Level and gently sloping, well drained and moderately well drained, gravelly and sandy soils of outwash plains and terraces

Bowers - Hettinger - Nester Association:
Nearly level to gently sloping, well drained to poorly drained, loamy soils of the lake plains

Nester - Kawkawlin - Sims Association:
Gently sloping to rolling, well drained to poorly drained, loamy soils of the uplands

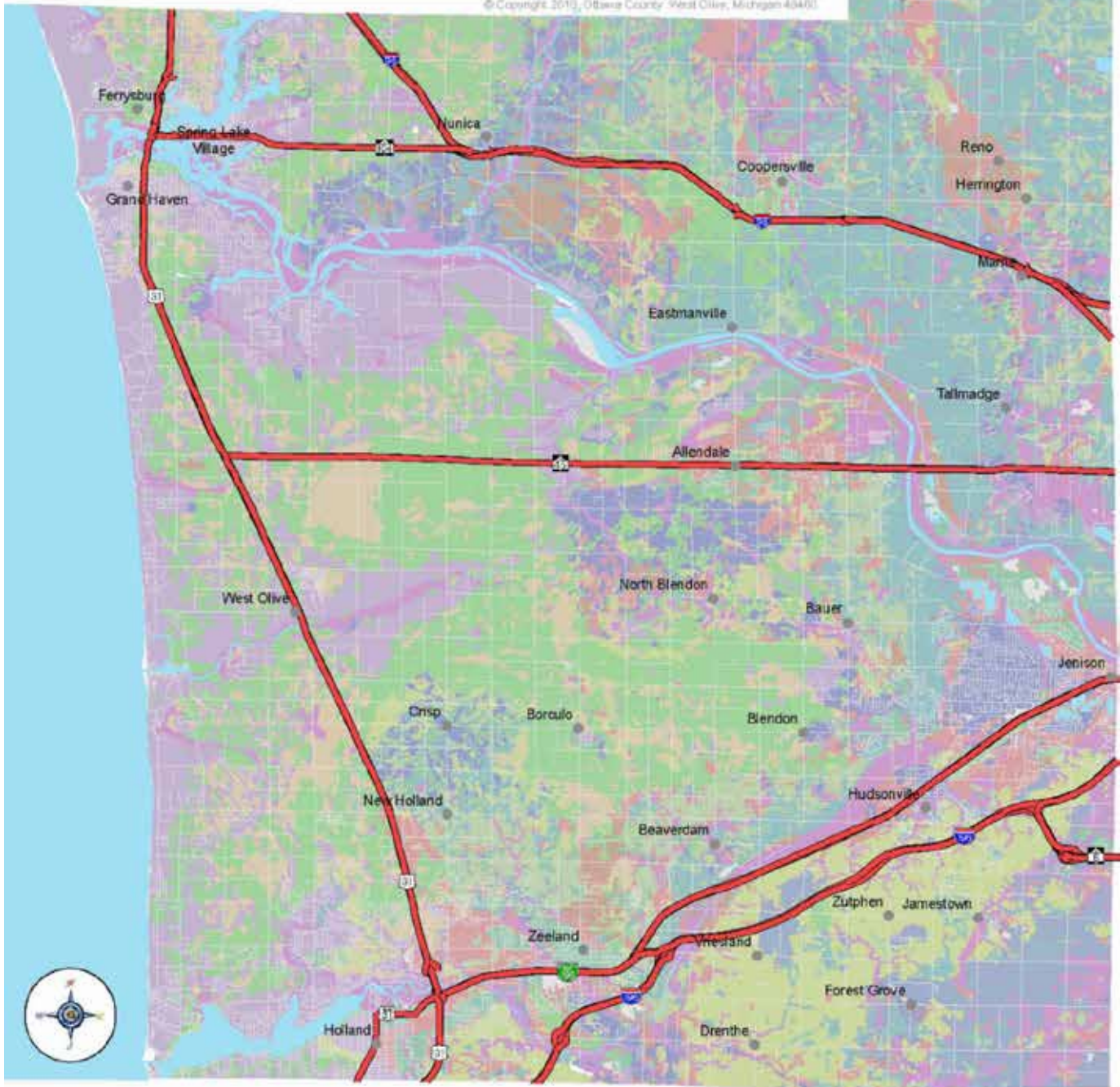
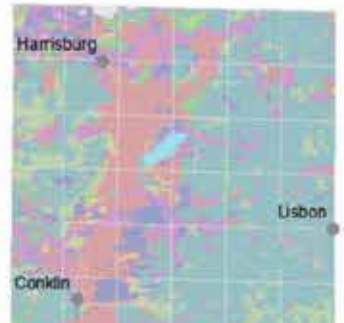
Blout - Morley - Kibbie Association:
Level and gently sloping, well drained to somewhat poorly drained, loamy soils of uplands

Kawkawlin Association:
Gently sloping, somewhat poorly drained, loamy soils of the till plains

Richter - Gilford - Gladwin Association:
Nearly level and gently sloping, somewhat poorly drained to very poorly drained, sandy and loamy soils of glacial drainage ways

Miami - Hillsdale - Spinks Association:
Rolling and hilly, well drained, loamy and sandy soils of the uplands

Gravel pit:
Open gravel mining



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Parks needs to be in the forefront of the effort to minimize the damage of these pests and begin restoration where possible.

The species of wildlife found in any area is dependent on the available habitat – that combination of associated plant species which provides wildlife with food and cover. With human disturbance of many of these areas, available habitat has been reduced or changed throughout the County. Although some impressive species such as wolves, cougars, and bears are no longer found in this area and the Passenger Pigeon was brought to extinction, the habitat that does remain in Ottawa County supports a variety of local wildlife. Rabbits, skunks, woodchucks, and hawks are examples of mammals and birds that normally frequent croplands, pastures, meadows, and other open areas. Woodland areas support such wildlife species as squirrels, raccoons, coyotes, ruffed grouse, woodcock, woodpeckers, opossum, warblers and other song birds, deer, and owls. In ponds, swamps, marshes, and other wetland areas, muskrats, beaver, ducks, geese, herons, mink and shorebirds can be found. A variety of fish species, including steelhead, northern pike, brown trout, largemouth bass, bluegill, channel catfish, and salmon can be found in the Grand River as well as in many other lakes and streams in the County. In fact, the Grand River is now recognized as having some of the greatest diversity of fish species in the state including several unusual and threatened species. Recent conservation success stories also include the proliferation of wild turkeys and Bald Eagles.

In 1988, an inventory of natural features was prepared for Ottawa County by the Michigan Natural Features Inventory, a joint effort of The Nature Conservancy and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. There were 37 natural areas of special interest which were rated as to their environmental quality and significance. Of the 37 areas, 11 were categorized as “notably significant,” four were categorized as having “exceptional significance,” and the remaining were categorized as “non-qualifying.” Of the areas

Figure 2.7 - Ottawa County Prime Farmland

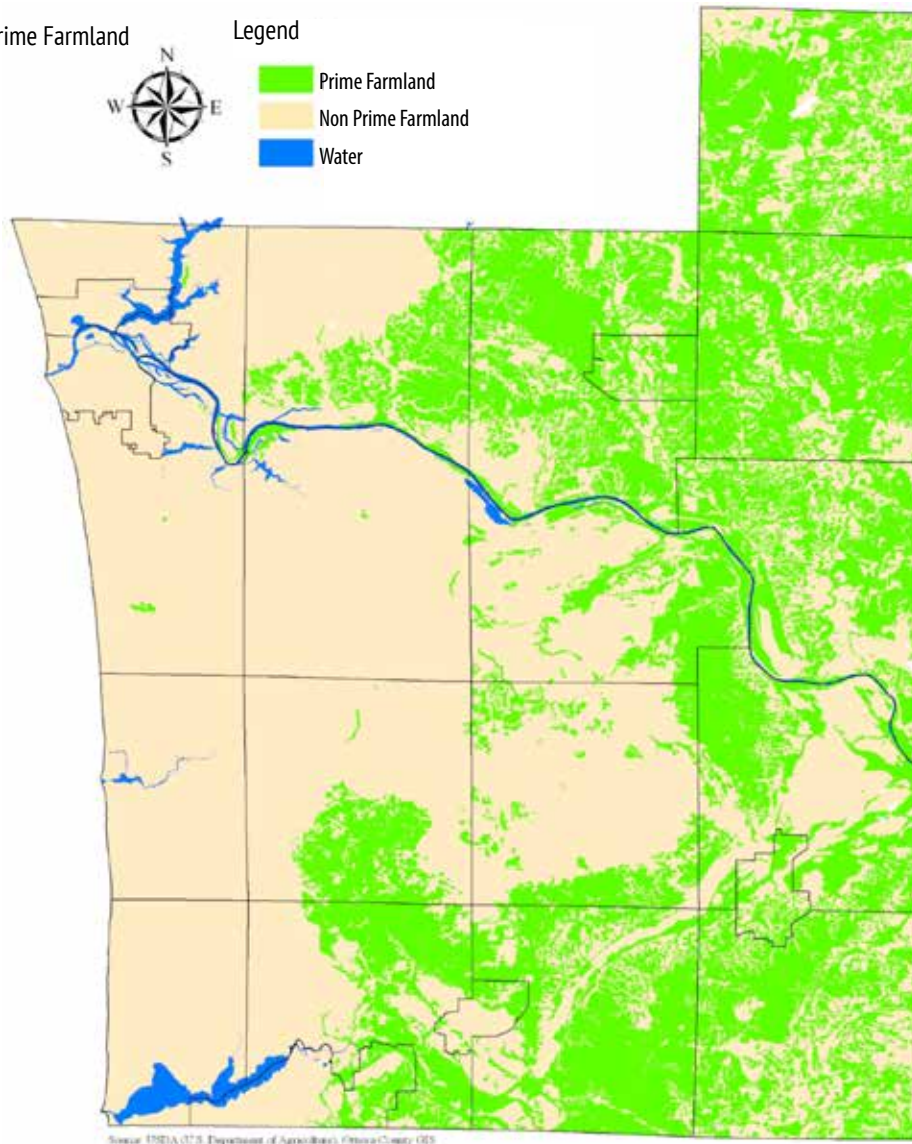
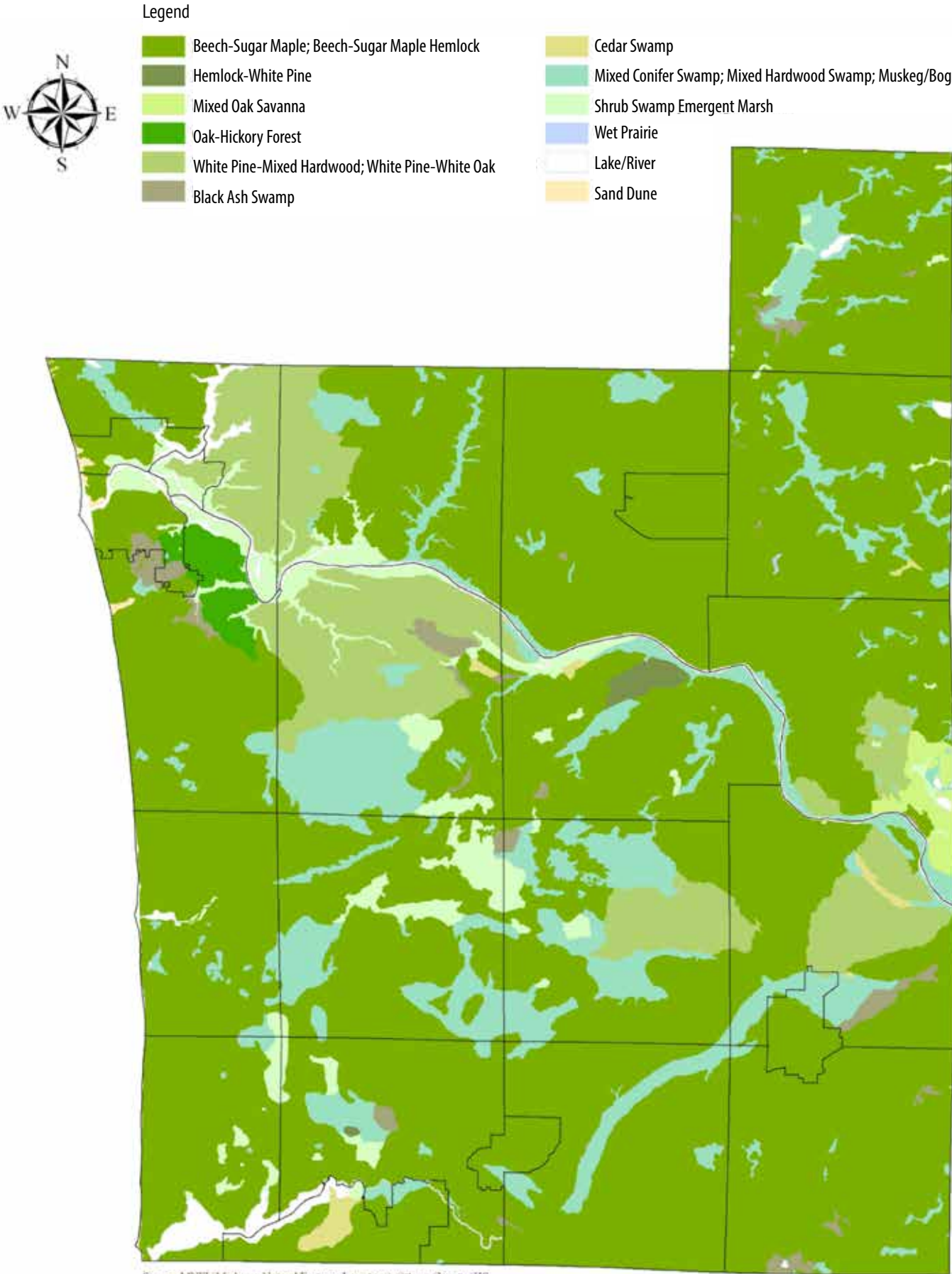


Figure 2.8 - Ottawa County Pre-settlement Vegetation



classified as “notably significant,” almost half serve as habitats for State- Threatened plant species. The vast majority of the significant areas identified are located along the Grand River corridor. Appendix A shows the locations of the significant areas and provides a description of each site.

Additional studies are needed to identify lands within Ottawa County which contain locally significant plant and wildlife populations. Priority should be placed on protecting these areas to ensure that remaining plant and wildlife populations survive as development continues. It should also be recognized that some ecosystems require disturbance or even human intervention to maintain them. Native grasslands and savannahs especially, although never prominent in Ottawa County, were maintained in some locations through the activities of Native Americans. Proper management techniques, such as selective clearing and prescribed fire, will be required to restore and maintain this type of diversity.

Many recreational pursuits depend on the existence of a diverse plant and wildlife community. They tend to define an area’s character and ambiance, making that area more attractive and interesting. As people become involved in outdoor recreation, they become more knowledgeable about the natural world around them, including its plants and wildlife.

SCENIC RESOURCES

One of the less tangible natural resources found in the County is its scenic beauty. The spectacular views of Lake Michigan, the majestic contours of the Grand River, and the panoramic display of farmland and grasslands are all part of what makes Ottawa County a special place to live.

Scenic resources cannot be defined by firm characteristics like sand dunes, woodlands, and other physical assets. Because scenic resources are determined by the “eye of the beholder,” defining a scenic resource thereby becomes more difficult. Most people see scenic views as including the roadway right-of-way area and adjacent roadside, but it is much more. The features found within these areas may include lakes, streams, and wetlands, striking stands of forest, and pastoral views.

Scenic resources also include notable urban scenes and historic and cultural resources. In areas of flat terrain or on high ground, the view may extend for miles in horizon-to-horizon vistas. Efforts should be made to quantify scenic views so that prime views can be identified. Following their identification, methods of protecting high-priority views should be explored.

CHAPTER 3 | CULTURAL FEATURES

It is not simply the environmental resources that make Ottawa County unique. Local history, land uses, and other cultural characteristics and activities also define the County's particular recreational identity. Consequently, as these cultural characteristics change, their impact on planning for recreation activities and facilities also change.

REGIONAL CONTEXT

Ottawa County is located in the center of western lower Michigan and also in the center of the three metropolitan areas of Grand Rapids, Muskegon, and Holland. Although two of these areas are not in Ottawa County, their populations and the highways that connect them form a strong geographic, economic, and cultural influence on the remainder of the county. Ottawa County borders Muskegon County to the north, Kent County to the east, and Allegan County to the south. It is located approximately 100 miles from Lansing, 175 miles from Detroit, and 165 miles from Chicago (Figure 3.1).

HISTORY

Ottawa County was once considered a wilderness. Although wild, the area was not uninhabited. Various tribes and people groups called the Grand River valley and surrounding woodlands home starting over 11,000 years ago. These included the early tribes known for their mound building and the later Pottawatomi and Ottawa Tribes who occupied the area when Europeans arrived. Hunting and fishing were their primary means of sustenance, but there is some evidence of modest agriculture. Permanent and semi-permanent settlements have been uncovered by archaeologists primarily along the County's river corridors. Reminders of the more recent tribes who met the first Europeans can be found in various place names such as Ottawa County, Pottawatomie Bayou, and Lake Macatawa.

During the late seventeenth century, Jesuit missionaries and French fur traders were possibly the first non-native people to venture into this wilderness. Because of the availability of many fur-bearing creatures, several trading posts were established in the County. When the demand for their products diminished, the fur trade ceased. When the traders left, lumbermen replaced them.

In 1836, the first sawmill was located at the mouth of the Grand River, the site for the future settlement of Grand Haven. With a seemingly endless supply of virgin timber in the County and a growing shipping industry on the lake, the lumber industry expanded exponentially. As the supply of timber eventually dwindled, all the large sawmills closed down by 1890 and the few remaining smaller mills were producing only a fraction of the wood output of the earlier lumbering days.

Farming and settlements followed closely behind lumbering. With the land cleared of the County's original dense forests, new homes and farms were established. In 1847, a group of immigrants from the Netherlands arrived in Ottawa County and founded the community of Holland. Before long, the few remaining tribes of Native Americans were either relocated outside of Ottawa County or gradually assimilated into a new and rapidly changing culture. The influence of these first Dutch settlers is still felt in various ways in the religious, political, and cultural aspects of everyday life.

As farming took hold, other communities spreading out from the lakeshore or following the Grand River were soon established. Even during this period, many took advantage of the County's recreational attractions. Excursions on riverboats plying the Grand River were quite popular, with picnics along the river's bank often the objective of such trips. The County's lakeshore was also a center of recreational pursuits. Resorts sprang up in Holland and Grand Haven, as well as a few places in between during the late nineteenth century. These tourist-oriented businesses catered to vacationers from Chicago, Detroit, St. Louis and other out-of-county communities.



Figure 3.1 Regional Context

Tourism and an unusually diverse agricultural sector remain as key components of the local economy, although manufacturing, especially related to the automobile and furniture making industries, is prominent as well.

One interesting and visible evidence of early settlement is the square-mile grid system of roads. This pattern resulted from the system used by early surveyors to prepare the land for division and future ownership. This grid system is used throughout the county, breaking down only when significant or unusual physical barriers to its implementation were encountered, such as along river corridors. This system also clearly identifies Ottawa County as part of the Midwest landscape similar to the states of Ohio, Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, and Minnesota.

More recently, immigration has continued to slowly diversify the population of Ottawa County. Hispanic migrant farm workers, who have for decades provided seasonal labor for blueberry farmers and other agricultural producers, have given way to a permanent population of first and second generation Spanish-speaking Americans. To a lesser extent, East Asian and other immigrants have also become more common.

LAND USE

Figure 3.2 shows land use cover for Ottawa County as of 2010. This graphic clearly shows the three previously mentioned urbanized areas of Holland, Grandville (extending from Grand Rapids), and Grand Haven (extending from Muskegon). For undeveloped portions of the county, agriculture dominates in the central, northwest, and southeast sections with large areas of forests and wetlands predominant in the western portions. Of more interest for planning purposes is the change in land use over the last three decades. Table 3.1 compares land use cover for the time periods of 1978, 1992, 2006, and 2010. Although the measuring methods used changed for the open field, woodland, and wetland categories in 2006 and again in 2010, overall trends are readily apparent.

As would be expected given the large increase in population over this time frame, urban land uses have increased significantly, primarily at the expense of agricultural uses, including what was categorized as open field. However, agriculture remains the county's largest land use with almost half of the total land area devoted to that purpose. Interestingly, loss of land for this use appears to have stabilized to a significant extent during more recent years.

Forest and wetland area loss also appears to have stabilized to a degree, although anecdotal information would suggest that these more natural areas continue to be disturbed and broken into smaller, less ecologically significant units as they continue to be most desired for home sites.

Many of these trends continue to support the need to preserve, protect, and restore significant natural lands especially if this can be done ahead of land use change in the areas surrounding current development, after which this effort becomes much more difficult.

Table 3.1 - Summary of Land Use & Cover Change 1978 to 2010

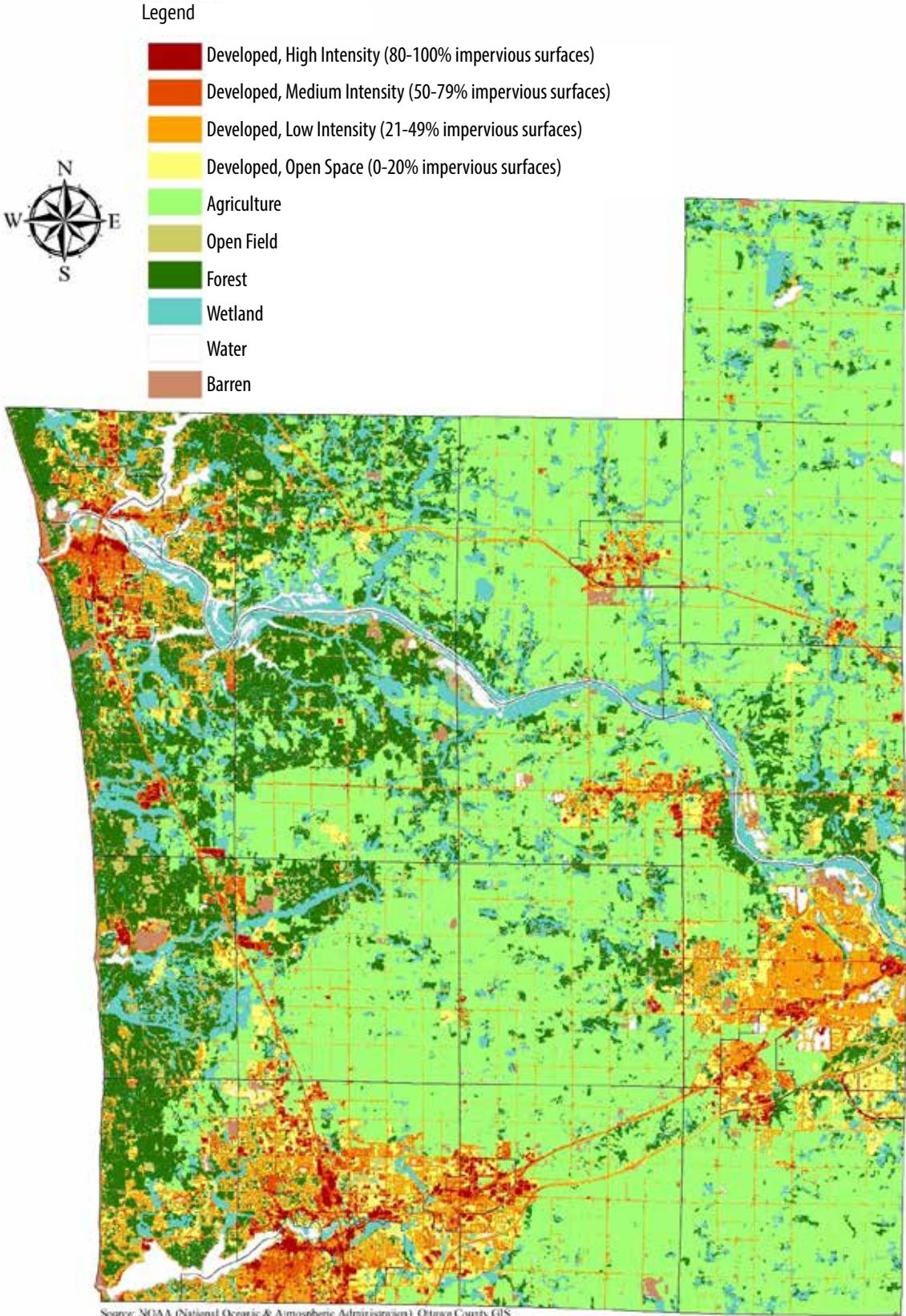
	1978 Acres	1992 Acres	2006 Acres	2010 Acres	Percent of County	Difference 1978-2010	Percent Change
Urban	43,792.5	56,522.5	72,635	72,849.1	19.7%	29,056.6	66.4%
Agriculture	201,757.5	173,810	177,614.5	174,124.7	47.2%	-27,632.8	-13.7%
Open Field	23,505	40,745	5,965.3	6,624.9	1.8%	*	*
Wooded	66,475	64,922.5	66,772	58,892.1	16.0%	-7,582.9	-11.4%
Wetland	5,770	5,772.5	33,202	42,605.4	11.5%	*	*
Water	8,072.5	8,465	9,263	9,753.3	2.6%	1,680.8	20.8%
Barren	605	547.5	3,425	4,144.4	1.1%	3,539.4	585.0%
Totals	369,097.5	369,097.5	368,883.5	368,993.9	100.0%	NA	NA

Source: Grand Valley State University Water Resources Institute (2006)

National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, Ottawa County GIS (2010)

*Data not calculated because of change in measuring methods

Figure 3.2 - 2010 Land Use



TRANSPORTATION NETWORK

The transportation network represents the physical and operational structure that provides people with mobility and access to economic, social, educational and recreational activities within and outside of the County. It also affects recreation in other more subtle ways. The costs to travel, the time it takes to get there, and the travel experience itself (whether the selected route was convenient, scenic, uncongested, and in good repair) all influence the willingness of an individual to leave home in order to participate in a recreation activity. At the same time, the transportation network influences the location of recreation facilities and is also impacted by the traffic these facilities may generate.

The automobile, as the primary means for personal transportation, has defined much of today's transportation network. Previously distant recreation areas are much closer and more accessible to population centers today as a result of the automobile and a highway system that allows higher speeds, fewer interruptions, greater access, and, consequently, more distance in less time. Conversely, the current transportation network dictates the use of the automobile in order to travel and reach most destination points.

Ottawa County is served by an efficient system of highway connections (Figure 3.3). Much of this highway system was designed to primarily carry traffic to and from major population centers located within and outside the County. Within Ottawa County, the three major population centers are connected by a triangular network of highways. US-31, running along the shoreline between Holland and Grand Haven, carries traffic north to the Mackinaw Bridge and south to the Indiana border. I-96 enters the County near Marne after its connections in Grand Rapids, Detroit and Lansing, and turns northwest just past Nunica on its way to Muskegon. Originating from Grand Rapids, I-196 continues southwesterly to Holland and then turns south towards the state line. Bisecting this triangle is M-45, which terminates near Lake Michigan at US-31. Re-alignment of M-45 was completed in 2003 and a new bridge was constructed over the Grand River as part of the project. The new bridge and road improvements increase the ease of travel to the west side of Ottawa County and have likely impacted the amount of use at the popular lakeshore parks in Ottawa County. They also affect growth patterns, potentially facilitating growth in the eastern portion of the county.

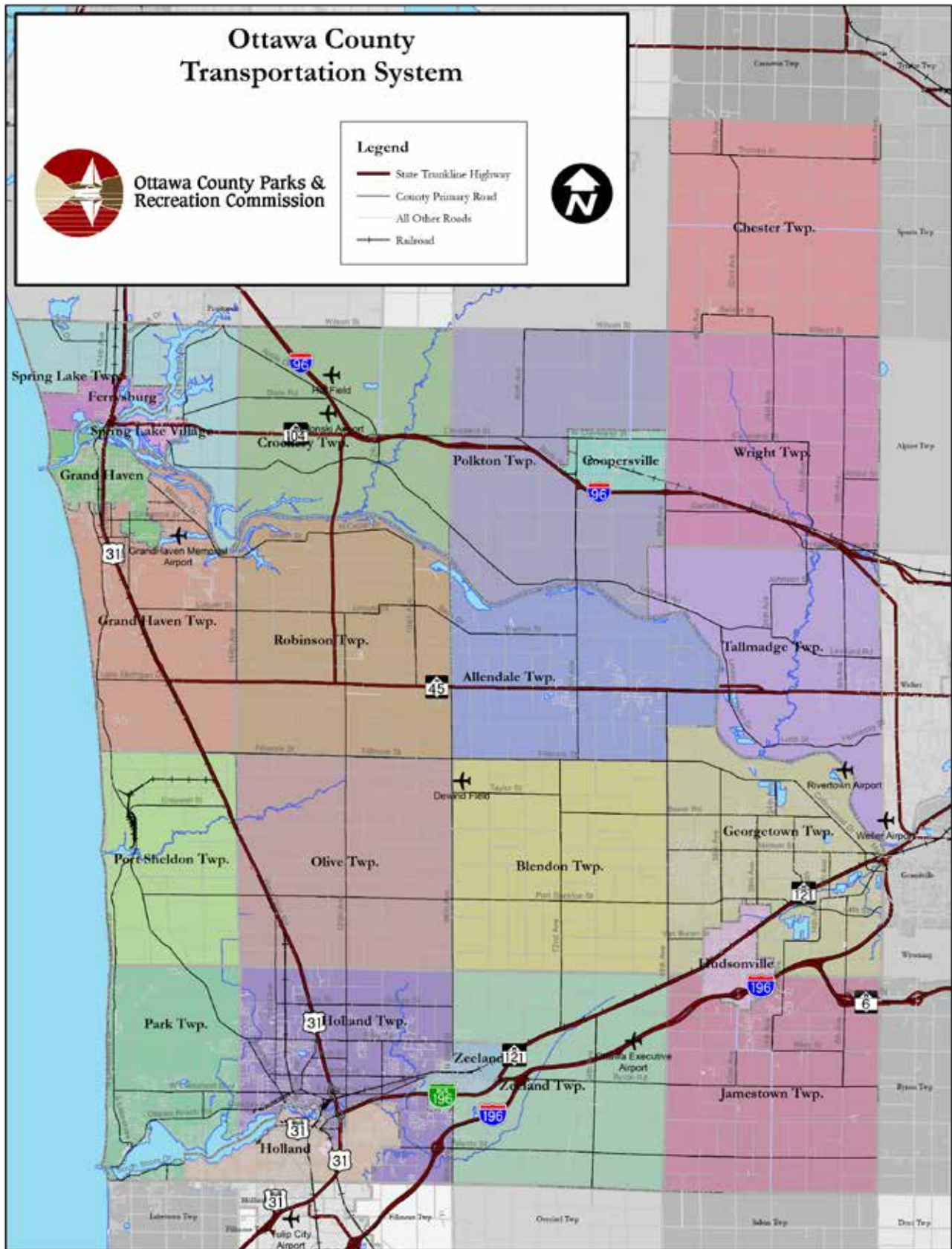
In the fall of 2004, M-6, the Paul B. Henry Freeway, also referred to as the "South Beltline," was completed. It connects I-196 in Georgetown Township to I-96 in Kent County. This new highway has increased the amount and ease of traffic between the south side of Grand Rapids and the Hudsonville and Jenison areas. Due to the ease of travel, Ottawa County Parks and Recreation facilities have seen an increased amount of use from non-residents. Existing parks that are being affected by this highway include Spring Grove and Hager Parks on the southeastern side of the County and Tunnel Park in Holland. Several County primary roads efficiently support these major regional transportation facilities. Because of the attraction of the Lake Michigan shoreline, the County does experience some difficult seasonal variations in the traffic load due to greater levels of recreational and tourist activities.

The US-31 bypass (M-231) highway study was completed in 1999 for the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration and the Michigan Department of Transportation as a means to evaluate the potential of providing an alternative route of traffic around the greater Grand Haven area. The project purpose and need identified for the US-31 study area was to develop alternatives to reduce traffic congestion and improve safety for the traveling public. The chosen alternative was to construct a new highway that connects with US-196 near Zeeland and runs north along 120th Avenue, crosses the Grand River, and connects to I-96 near Nunica. A lack of funding reduced the scope of the project to building a two lane highway between M-45 and M-104 in Nunica including a new bridge over the Grand River. This section of highway and bridge was completed and opened to the public in the fall of 2015. As discussed in relation to the Grand River Greenway in chapter nine, the new bridge included a non-motorized crossing which has been connected to local trails with additional linkages to the regional trail network in various stages of planning.

The study indicated that the major long-term impact on recreation along the new corridor will be noise, however, there will be other indirect impacts as well. For example, length of travel will be lengthened to some areas because of the limited access of the new highway, while other sites such as Crockery Creek will be more readily accessible from the south side of the Grand River. More importantly, the change in the transportation system will affect growth and land use, which will impact future needs for parks and open space. Disruption to local ecosystems is also inevitable.

General air carrier and full commercial services are predominantly provided to Ottawa County users by the Gerald R. Ford and Muskegon County International Airports. There are, however, six airport facilities in Ottawa County. Two of these, Grand Haven Memorial Airport and Park Township/ Holland, are public airports. The other four, Coopersville/Pilot County, Jenison/Riverview Airport, Nunica/Jablonski and Zeeland/Ottawa Executive are all private airstrips.

Figure 3.3
 Transportation Network



Water transportation is another important network in the County that creates additional opportunities for access and mobility. Lake ports at Holland and Grand Haven have gradually shifted from predominantly commercial centers to places of recreation. As recreational boating increases, these lake ports will continue to experience more pressure for boating facilities. This will be in addition to pressures from other competing uses for port resources, such as for commercial, industrial, and residential needs.

Of great interest in terms of recreation planning is the development and expansion of a non-motorized trail network in Ottawa County (Figure 3.4). This network includes a large number of locally-funded separated roadside paths, widened shoulders, sidewalks, and recreational trails that provide not only options for transportation but great recreational value as well. Additionally, a network of regional trails has been implemented in some areas and is in various stages of planning in several others. These trails have the potential to draw residents and visitors to them as a destination in themselves and to spur further trail development to create connections. Cities, towns, businesses, and other public attractions could all benefit from many of these connections.

UTILITY INFRASTRUCTURE

As impactful as roads in many respects, utility right-of-ways and other corridors crisscross the county. These include underground regional water, sewer, and gas pipelines and overhead electrical, phone, and cable lines. High voltage transmission lines, in particular, impact landscape views and restrict use underneath them. Also, communications towers continue to proliferate as needed for cell phone and other wireless communication. Understanding the needs of public utilities and being aware of the limitations and potentials of lands close to large public utility infrastructure will continue to be an important part of park planning and design.

PLANNING AND ZONING

Although not readily visible like other cultural features, the county's political jurisdictions and their planning and zoning regulations will affect almost all future land uses in the County. Figure 3.5 identifies the county's 17 townships, six cities, and one village. These local jurisdictions vary widely in terms of their population, concerns, and level of service. The unique situation of each must be considered as plans for recreation are planned and implemented.

One particularly good indicator of future growth patterns is the zoning regulations for these local jurisdictions. The standardized zoning map (Figure 3.6) shows areas that these local governmental units desire to be developed or kept in less intensive land uses. Again, these unique situations should be considered as county plans proceed.

Ottawa County is also part of larger planning areas. Figure 3.7 identifies the metropolitan statistical areas that cover portions of the county.

Figure 3.4 - Non-Motorized Transportation Network

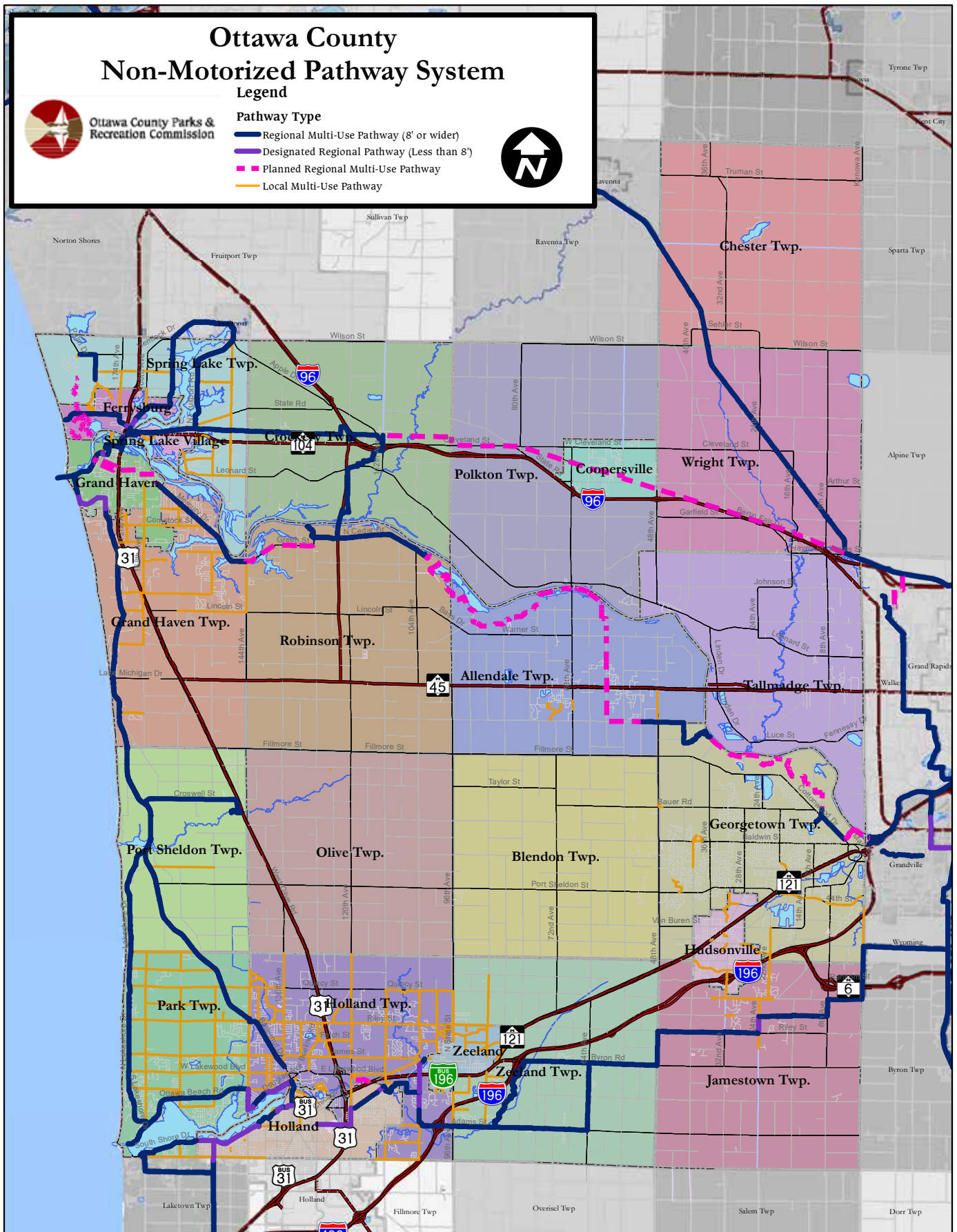


Figure 3.5 - Political Jurisdictions

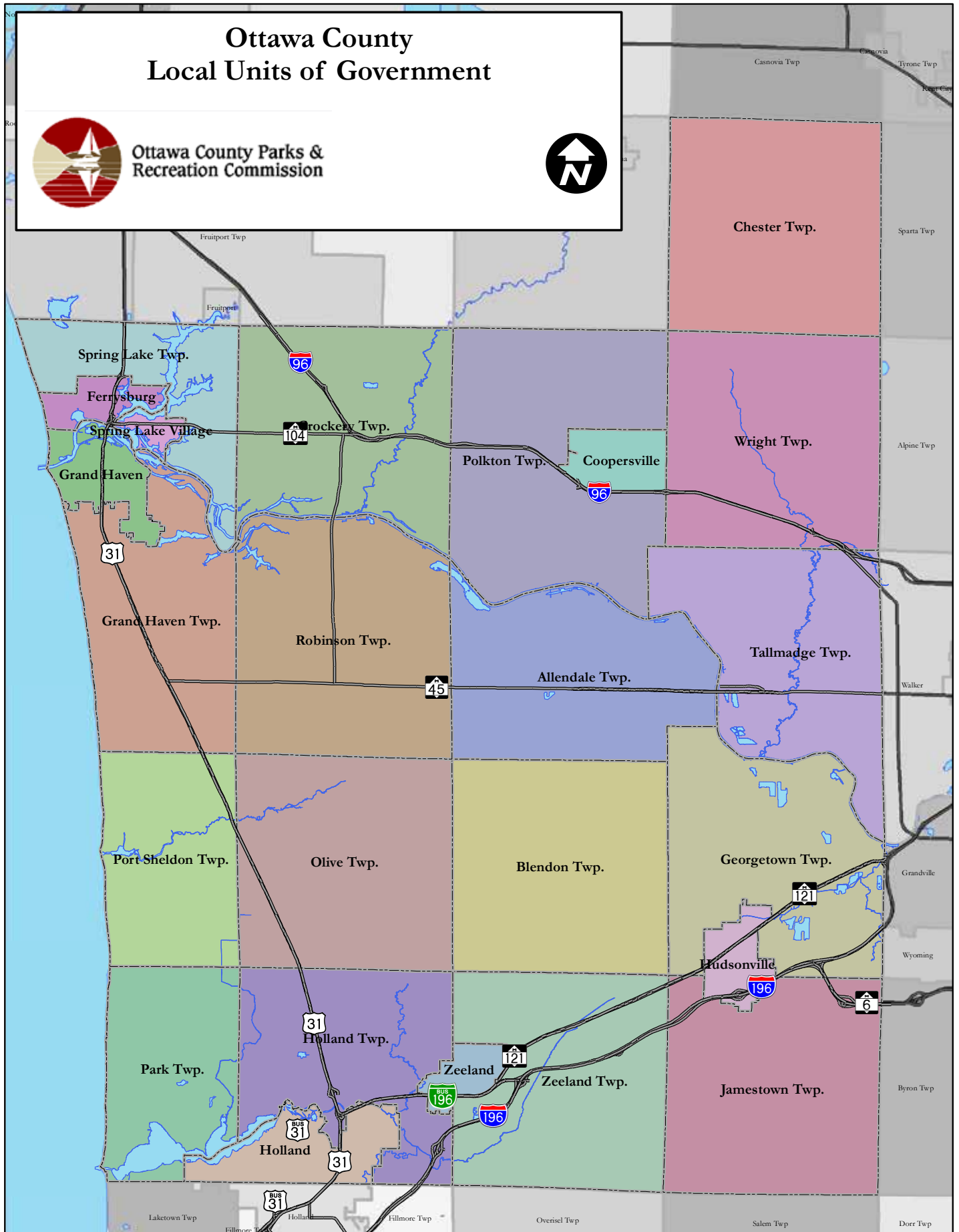
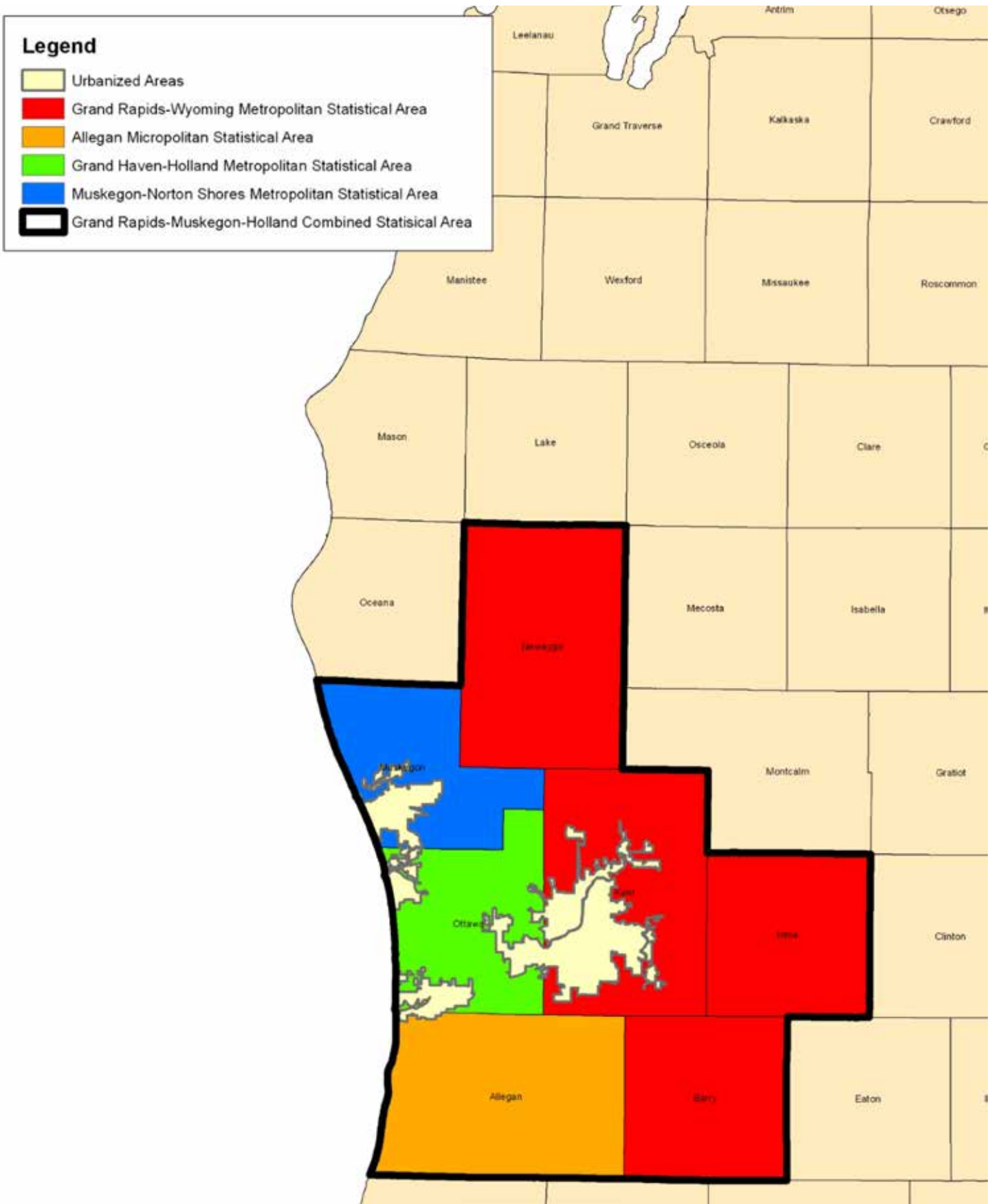


Figure 3.7 - Planning Areas



CHAPTER 4 | DEMOGRAPHICS

Various population characteristics – size, age, income, education and geographic distribution become important determinants as to the kind, amount, and location of recreational activities. The recreational activities of a person, for example, changes as a person ages, affecting the type and degree of recreation participation. A large proportion of individuals at a certain age level, such as under 15, would dictate certain types of facilities. In addition, many studies have also indicated that as a person’s income and education level rises, so does his participation in recreation. Perhaps, more importantly, the geographic distribution and the size of the population impact the provision of recreation. Facilities need to be located where the people are and in sufficient quantity to avoid overuse or underutilization.

POPULATION TRENDS

Ottawa County ranks first in Michigan for population increase between 2010 and 2019, with an increase of 28,029 people, representing a growth rate of 10.6%. In comparison, Kent County grew by 9.0%. The entire State grew by only 1.0% during the same time period.

Table 4.1 provides a comparison of population trends and projections to 2030 for Ottawa and surrounding counties.

Table 4.1 – Population Trends and Projections of Surrounding Counties

County	Population		Projections ¹	
	2010 Census	2019 Estimate	2020	2030
Allegan	111,408	118,081	119,092	129,203
Barry	59,173	61,550	62,127	67,896
Ionia	63,905	64,697	64,849	66,371
Kent	602,622	656,955	661,291	704,654
Muskegon	172,188	173,566	173,663	174,634
Newaygo	48,460	48,980	49,383	53,409
Ottawa	263,801	291,830	294,497	321,152
Michigan	9,883,640	9,986,857	10,009,514	10,236,086

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Ottawa County Planning and Performance Improvement Department

1. Projection data provided by the Ottawa County Planning and Performance Improvement Department. The calculations are based on the linear population trend from 2016-2019 in order to reflect the current economic conditions throughout Ottawa County and the State of Michigan.

The continuing growth of West Michigan and the Grand Rapids metropolitan area are strong indicators of the need for cooperative planning in Ottawa County. The economic and living environment of Ottawa County and the surrounding region is likely to continue to attract new employers and residents throughout the coming decade and beyond.

Within Ottawa County, the growth varies widely among local communities, as is shown in Table 4.2. The highest rate increase between 2010 and 2019 occurred in Allendale Township (29.0% increase in population). Over half of the population (55.9%) resides in five communities – Georgetown Township, Holland Township, Holland City, Allendale Township, and Park Township. These communities contain a population of 163,069.

Six townships have grown by more than 15% since 2010: Allendale, Blendon, Crockery, Grand Haven, Jamestown, and Zeeland Townships.

Table 4.2 – Ottawa County Population Trends: 2010-2019

Minor Civil Division	2010 Census	2019 Estimate	% Change	Population Change (2010-2014)
(2010-2019)	Population Change	21,655	4.6%	947
(2010-2019)	5,772	6,147	6.5%	375
Allendale Township	20,708	26,709	29.0%	6,001
Blendon Township	5,772	6,802	17.8%	1,030
Chester Township	2,017	2,057	2.0%	40
Coopersville City	4,275	4,387	2.6%	112
Crockery Township	3,960	4,611	16.4%	651
Ferrysburg City	2,892	3,028	4.7%	136
Georgetown Township	46,985	52,637	12.0%	5,652
Grand Haven City	10,412	11,047	6.1%	635
Grand Haven Township	15,178	17,614	16.0%	2,436
Holland City*	26,035	26,128	0.4%	93
Holland Township	35,636	38,690	8.6%	3,054
Hudsonville City	7,116	7,348	3.3%	232
Jamestown Township	7,034	8,901	26.5%	1,867
Olive Township	4,735	5,305	12.0%	570
Park Township	17,802	18,905	6.2%	1,103
Polkton Township	2,423	2,612	7.8%	189
Port Sheldon Township	4,240	4,713	11.2%	473
Robinson Township	6,084	6,523	7.2%	439
Spring Lake Township	11,977	12,615	5.3%	638
Spring Lake Village	2,323	2,485	7.0%	162
Tallmadge Township	7,575	8,332	10.0%	757
Wright Township	3,147	3,281	4.3%	134
Zeeland City	5,504	5,536	0.6%	32
Zeeland Township	9,971	11,564	16.0%	1,593
County Total	263,801	291,830	10.6%	28,029

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

*Ottawa County Only

Projections of future population growth serve as an important tool for projecting what the future recreational needs of the County may be. Table 4.3 illustrates the population projections for the County to the year 2030. These projections indicate continued substantial growth within the County for the coming years and therefore support the need for more recreational facilities and open space to meet the needs of County residents in the future.

Table 4.3 – Ottawa County Population Projections: 2010-2030

Minor Civil Division	2020	2030 Projection ¹	% Change (2010-2020)	% Change (2020-2030)
Projection1	2030	25,865	12.2%	12.7%
Projection1	% Change	7,779	17.1%	17.7%
(2010-2020)	% Change	2,242	5.5%	5.7%
(2020-2030)	4,478	4,701	4.7%	5.2%
Allendale Township	27,252	32,685	31.6%	19.9%
Blendon Township	6,946	8,386	20.3%	20.7%
Chester Township	2,054	2,020	1.8%	-1.7%
Coopersville City	4,389	4,406	2.7%	0.4%
Crockery Township	4,681	5,377	18.2%	14.9%
Ferrysburg City	3,039	3,151	5.1%	3.7%
Georgetown Township	53,115	57,899	13.0%	9.0%
Grand Haven City	11,085	11,468	6.5%	3.5%
Grand Haven Township	18,052	22,431	18.9%	24.3%
Holland City*	26,006	24,787	-0.1%	-4.7%
Holland Township	38,949	41,543	9.3%	6.7%
Hudsonville City	7,350	7,372	3.3%	0.3%
Jamestown Township	9,179	11,962	30.5%	30.3%
Olive Township	5,351	5,807	13.0%	8.5%
Park Township	18,990	19,835	6.7%	4.4%
Polkton Township	2,626	2,761	8.4%	5.1%
Port Sheldon Township	4,770	5,338	12.5%	11.9%
Robinson Township	6,562	6,951	7.9%	5.9%
Spring Lake Township	12,642	12,910	5.6%	2.1%
Spring Lake Village	2,489	2,527	7.1%	1.5%
Tallmadge Township	8,396	9,034	10.8%	7.6%
Wright Township	3,282	3,289	4.3%	0.2%
Zeeland City	5,520	5,357	0.3%	-3.0%
Zeeland Township	11,772	13,856	18.1%	17.7%
County Total	294,497	321,152	11.6%	9.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Ottawa County Planning and Performance Improvement Department

*Ottawa County only

1. Projection data provided by the Ottawa County Planning and Performance Improvement Department. The calculations are based on the linear population trend from 2016-2019 in order to reflect the current economic conditions throughout Ottawa County and the State of Michigan.

AGE

As noted previously, the age of the population is an important indicator for recreation planning. Considerable variation exists with respect to age. For example, while the County median age is 35.0 years (slightly above the age five years ag), the median in Allendale Township is only 21.3, reflecting the influence of Grand Valley State University. High concentrations of school-age children are found in some of the rural areas such as Blendon, Jamestown, and Olive Townships. At the opposite end of the spectrum, the median ages in the Spring Lake, Ferrysburg, and Grand Haven are 45.9, 50.5, and 45.2 years respectively and increasing, indicating an aging population. Table 4.4 shows the age by community in Ottawa County.

Table 4.4 – Age by Community – As a Percent of Community Population

Geographic Area	Total Population	Percent of Total Population					Median age (years)
		Under 18 years	18 to 24 years	25 to 44 years	45 to 64 years	65 years and over	
Allendale Township	24,558	18.9%	44.7%	18.2%	13.3%	4.9%	21.3
Blendon Township	6,397	27.3%	7.8%	24.8%	25.1%	15.0%	38.0
Chester Township	1,976	21.5%	9.7%	20.3%	31.7%	16.8%	43.0
Coopersville City	4,386	30.0%	10.4%	28.5%	18.8%	12.3%	31.0
Crockery Township	4,404	24.5%	10.9%	21.7%	31.1%	11.8%	38.7
Ferrysburg City	3,003	17.4%	5.1%	22.7%	27.6%	27.2%	50.5
Georgetown Township	51,325	26.1%	11.6%	23.5%	23.7%	15.1%	35.2
Grand Haven City	10,974	18.2%	8.1%	23.3%	27.8%	22.6%	45.4
Grand Haven Township	16,625	23.2%	9.6%	21.5%	31.3%	14.4%	40.9
Holland City*	26,456	21.0%	22.5%	23.1%	19.2%	14.2%	29.2
Holland Township	37,931	27.5%	10.2%	28.4%	23.2%	10.7%	33.2
Hudsonville City	7,344	27.0%	10.3%	24.9%	22.4%	15.4%	32.8
Jamestown Township	8,119	30.0%	8.1%	27.6%	23.1%	11.2%	33.6
Olive Township	5,142	21.0%	7.7%	29.4%	31.1%	10.8%	38.6
Park Township	18,689	23.6%	7.5%	20.1%	30.6%	18.2%	43.9
Polkton Township	2,656	26.6%	8.1%	22.2%	27.4%	15.7%	39.2
Port Sheldon Township	4,558	20.9%	5.4%	19.3%	34.6%	19.8%	48.6
Robinson Township	6,429	26.2%	7.5%	23.5%	29.8%	13.0%	40.0
Spring Lake Township	12,445	24.2%	6.6%	21.7%	28.4%	19.1%	42.1
Spring Lake Village	2,563	20.9%	6.1%	22.1%	26.5%	24.4%	45.9
Tallmadge Township	8,149	24.5%	10.8%	22.1%	30.2%	12.4%	35.6
Wright Township	3,279	23.1%	9.7%	23.8%	26.1%	17.3%	41.1
Zeeland City	5,581	25.3%	13.5%	20.7%	17.4%	23.1%	36.4
Zeeland Township	11,045	31.3%	7.9%	27.2%	21.7%	11.9%	35.1
County Total	284,034	24.5%	13.7%	23.5%	24.2%	14.1%	35.0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

* Ottawa County only

The latest data show that the current age make-up of Ottawa County remains slightly below that of the State.

Table 4.5 – Age Distribution (2019)

Age	Ottawa County		Michigan
	Percent	Percent	
Under 5	17,648	6.0%	5.7%
5-9	19,539	6.7%	5.9%
10-14	20,061	6.9%	6.1%
15-19	23,959	8.2%	6.4%
20-24	26,370	9.0%	6.8%
25-34	35,808	12.3%	13.1%
35-44	34,874	12.0%	11.7%
45-54	33,007	11.3%	12.6%
55-59	18,368	6.3%	7.1%
60-64	16,908	5.8%	6.9%
65-74	26,031	8.9%	10.4%
75-84	13,599	4.7%	5.2%
85+	5,658	1.9%	2.1%
Median Age	35.7		39.8

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division

RACE/ETHNIC GROUP DISTRIBUTION

The majority of the population in Ottawa County is white, non-Hispanic (83.4%). The percent of Ottawa County residents who are white has decreased 2.6% since 2010 but still remains higher than the State of Michigan which itself decreased by 2.1%.

The table below does not break out Hispanics or Latinos as a category under race, as the federal government considers race and Hispanic origin to be two separate and distinct concepts. Hispanics may be of any race. The latest data does show that 10.2% of Ottawa County's population indicated they were Hispanic or Latino. This is a significant and growing percentage of Ottawa County's population and warrants consideration in park planning and program development. Non-scientific observation of park use suggests that Hispanics are well represented in the parks that provide picnic areas, particularly the County Parks along Lake Michigan. The percentage of African Americans has remain unchanged, but the absolute number has increased along with the rest of the County.

Table 4.6 – Race/Ethnic Group Distribution (2019)

Race	Ottawa County		Michigan
	Percent	Percent	
White, Non-Hispanic	243,469	83.4%	74.7%
Hispanic	29,728	10.2%	5.3%
African American, Non-Hispanic	4,573	1.5%	13.8%
American Indian/Alaska Native, Non-Hispanic	850	0.3%	0.6%
Asian, Non-Hispanic	8,253	2.8%	3.3%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander, Non-Hispanic	88	0.1%	0.0%
Two or More Races, Non-Hispanic	4,869	1.7%	2.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division Physical Disabilities Population

PHYSICAL DISABILITIES POPULATION

Ensuring that recreational facilities are accessible to persons of all levels of physical ability is a top priority. Data concerning the number of persons with physical disabilities is an important consideration for programming facility needs. Table 4.7 indicates Ottawa County has slightly lower population levels of physically disabled people than the State of Michigan as a whole. This is also a slight decrease from the 2016 plan in terms of percentage but, as with race, a slight increase in absolute numbers. These numbers should not underestimate the importance of making recreational facilities accessible to persons with mobility limitations. Care should be taken in the design of all facilities to ensure they meet the needs of such persons.

Table 4.7 – Physical Disabilities (2018)

Disability Status	Ottawa County		Michigan
	Percent	Percent	
Persons Under 18 Years			
Disabled	2,750	4.0%	4.8%
Not Disabled	66,759	96.0%	95.2%
Persons 18 to 64 Years			
Disabled	14,183	8.0%	12.1%
Not Disabled	162,907	92.0%	87.9%
Persons 65 Years and Over			
Disabled	12,300	28.9%	34.1%
Not Disabled	30,316	71.1%	65.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

GENDER

Most communities have a higher proportion of females due to their higher life expectancy. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Ottawa County's 2019 population was 49.4% male and 50.6% female. Michigan's 2019 population was 49.3% male and 50.7% female.

HOUSEHOLD DISTRIBUTION

Household distribution can influence a community's recreation needs since the distribution often identifies unique community traits. Ottawa County has several household characteristics that may influence the recreation programming and planning. Table 4.8 shows the County has a higher proportion of family households (72.2 percent) than Michigan (64.8 percent). Within the overall category of family households, the County has a higher percentage of married couple families than the State, a lower proportion of female households with no spouse, and a lower percentage of male households with no spouse. Since Ottawa County has a higher proportion of family households, it follows that it has a lower proportion of non-family households. The County has a lower proportion of one-person households (20.8 percent) and a lower proportion of households 65 and over living alone. Overall, non family households increased slightly compared to the 2016 plan.

This information identifies the need to continue to focus attention on family households by providing programs and facilities designed to serve families with children while also acknowledging the changing needs of more non-traditional households.

Table 4.8 – Household Distribution (2018)

Household Distribution	Ottawa County		Michigan
	Number	Percent	Percent
Total Households	103,438	---	---
Family Households			
Total	74,706	72.2%	63.7%
Married Couple Family	62,474	60.4%	46.7%
Female Householder, no spouse present	8,110	7.8%	12.1%
Male Householder, no spouse present	4,122	4.0%	4.9%
Non Family Households			
Total	28,732	27.8%	36.3%
Householder Living Alone	21,492	20.8%	29.6%
Householder Living with Others	7,240	7.0%	6.7%
Persons in Household (Average)	2.72		2.47

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

EMPLOYMENT

Table 4.9 identifies Ottawa County and Michigan employment trends for the years 2015 through 2019. Unemployment has steadily decreased in the County since 2010. However, the impacts of the 2020 coronavirus pandemic are yet to be fully understood.

The employment information shows the area’s employment diversity and emphasizes the variety that exists including both active and more sedentary jobs. Recreation facilities and programs should exist that benefit both of these categories.

Table 4.9 – Employment Trends

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Ottawa County					
Total Labor Force	152,319	155,338	157,861	160,745	161,102
Employment	146,713	150,104	152,735	156,190	156,664
Unemployment	5,606	5,234	5,126	4,555	4,438
Unemployment Rate	3.7%	3.4%	3.2%	2.8%	2.8%
State of Michigan					
Unemployment Rate	5.4%	5.0%	4.6%	4.1%	4.1%
State of Michigan					
Unemployment Rate	12.6%	10.4%	9.1%	8.9%	7.3%

Source: Michigan Labor Market Information, Department of Labor and Economic Growth

Economic development of the County began with the exploitation of fur and timber resources during the early nineteenth century. Since that time, the economic base of Ottawa County has steadily expanded and diversified to include various manufacturing activities, numerous agricultural undertakings, and growing tourism-related enterprises. Table 4.10 identifies employment distribution in the County and in Michigan. Ottawa County’s employment distribution shows that “Management, professional and related” is the largest occupation category with “Sales and office”, “Manufacturing”, and “Education, health care, and social assistance” as the largest industries. Michigan’s employment distribution differs only slightly with the “Manufacturing” somewhat less important on a statewide basis.

Table 4.10 – Labor Force Employment (2018)

	Ottawa County		Michigan Percent
	Number	Percent	
Employed Population 16 Years and Over	150,729	---	---
Occupation			
Management, business, science, and arts	53,935	35.8%	36.5%
Service	26,158	17.3%	17.8%
Sales and office	30,400	20.2%	21.0%
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance	11,218	7.4%	7.8%
Production, transportation, and material moving	29,018	19.3%	16.9%
	21,574	17.2%	13.9%
Industry			
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, and mining	2,350	1.6%	1.1%
Construction	8,952	5.9%	5.6%
Manufacturing	35,702	23.7%	18.8%
Wholesale trade	5,285	3.5%	2.2%
Retail trade	15,019	10.0%	10.6%
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	5,397	3.6%	4.5%
Information	2,138	1.4%	1.3%
Finance, insurance, real estate, rental, and leasing	6,476	4.3%	5.3%
Professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management	12,757	8.4%	9.6%
Education, health care, and social assistance	33,046	21.9%	23.2%
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation, and food service	12,971	8.6%	9.8%
Other services (except public administration)	7,660	5.1%	4.6%
Public administration	2,976	2.0%	3.4%
Public administration	3,699	3.0%	4.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

The County's household income levels are considerably higher than Michigan's. Table 4.11 shows Ottawa County's 2018 median household income was \$83,341. This figure is much higher than Michigan's median household income of \$72,036. Ottawa County also has a very low percentage of people below the poverty level compared to the State level.

This information indicates most people in Ottawa County can afford to pay for recreational programs and that the area can afford to develop and maintain adequate facilities to meet the growing population needs.

Table 4.11 – Socio-Economic Levels (2018)

	Ottawa County	Michigan
Median Family Income	\$83,341	\$72,036
Per Capita Income	\$31,407	\$31,508
Percentage of Families Below Poverty Level	3.0%	9.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

The educational attainment of Ottawa County residents differs only slightly from the state with the exception of Bachelor's degrees. There are significantly more residents with a Bachelor's degree in Ottawa County compared to the state. This correlates with the relatively fewer residents who have not completed high school.

Table 4.12 – Educational Attainment (2018)

	Ottawa County		Michigan Percent
	Number	Percent	
Total Population	181,009	---	---
Less than 9th grade	2,545	1.4%	2.8%
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	7,890	4.4%	6.2%
High school graduate or GED	51,332	28.4%	28.7%
Some college, no degree	38,687	21.4%	23.2%
Associate's degree	17,548	9.6%	9.6%
Bachelor's degree	41,842	23.1%	18.0%
Graduate or professional degree	21,165	11.7%	11.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

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SECTION 3

Administrative Structure

CHAPTER 5 | ADMINISTRATION & OPERATION

CHAPTER 6 | FINANCING & BUDGET PROJECTIONS

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CHAPTER 5 | ADMINISTRATION & OPERATION

The Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission (OCPRC) was established in 1987 by the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners (OCBOC), pursuant to Act 261 of the Public Acts of 1965. Membership of the 10-member Commission, by statute, includes a representative of the Board of Road Commissioners, the Water Resources Commissioner, a representative of the County Planning Commission, and seven members appointed by the OCBOC, not more than three of whom are members of the Board. The OCPRC is a policy-making body that operates under the general control of the OCBOC.

OCPRC's expressed goal for the park system is to provide the highest quality recreational experience possible through creative park design, high quality programs, and by implementing high standards for parks maintenance, and facility construction. This goal has been pursued through the diligent efforts of park staff in all aspects of park planning, administration, programming, and park maintenance and operations.

UPDATED ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The basic structure for park operations was established in 1990 when the OCPRC acquired operations from the Road Commission. It has expanded and evolved as the park system has grown. Since its inception, the OCPRC has recognized the seasonal nature of its business and has sought to be efficient by employing a minimum number of highly capable full-time personnel while emphasizing the use of seasonal employees, alternative sources of labor, and a solid base of volunteers.

Over the years, the OCPRC has worked with the Ottawa County Human Resources Department to evaluate staffing needs in an effort to keep staffing capability in proportion to the growing operational commitment. In addition, organizational structures from successful parks systems in the state and region are continually reviewed and analyzed, and alternative organizational structures are examined. The county park system encompassed approximately 2,000 acres in 1996 and has expanded to over 7,100 acres by the end of 2020. Numbers of full-time park staff (all functions) grew from nine in 1996 to 19 in 2020, and a full-time equivalent of 22.9.

Assessing the organizational structure of the department includes the following:

- Evaluating ways to create a structure that allows for orderly growth and which continues to focus on high quality maintenance, operations, and community engagement. The system should also result in promotional opportunities to develop and maintain a diverse, experienced, and motivated work force.
- The need for employees to work independently, since many employees work in off-site locations without direct supervision.
- The need to maintain the appropriate balance of administrative and clerical support staff with a growing volume of activity.
- The potential addition of special facilities, such as a marina, campground or other staff-intensive operations, requires the need for flexibility in the organizational structure. Decisions should be made by the OCPRC with awareness of staffing needs, and the structure should be able to accommodate the necessary staff.
- Recognition that the growing diversity of recreational facilities offered in the park system requires an increasingly diverse staff in terms of training, expertise, and cultural intelligence.
- The distance between sites and related travel time is an important factor which influences how to best shape the park operations system. The need for satellite operations facilities has been identified and partially implemented.
- The seasonality of the operation sets County Parks apart from most other County departments and needs to be considered in shaping future operations.
- The OCPRC currently uses a wide variety of volunteers to accomplish many special projects within the park system. Staff recognizes the potential to significantly expand the use of volunteers but recognizes the need for adequate staff to manage volunteer resources. The current part-time volunteer coordinator position should be evaluated for the potential to expand hours to keep pace with the growing volunteer program.

- The need for natural resource management influenced the OCPRC to add a Natural Resources Management Supervisor (recently upgraded to a manager level) in 2011 and Stewardship Supervisor in 2018. Since then, significant progress has been made in detecting and managing invasive species, inventorying and understanding natural features within the park system, and restoring habitats at various park and open space lands. Additional staff will be needed in the future to address needs in both the expanding park system and the growing threat from invasive species.
- The importance of effectively engaging the public regarding the opportunities available within the park system has grown as the park system has expanded and matured. Social media has evolved to be one of the most impactful methods to engage citizens and encourage outdoor exploration. While websites remain the hub for core information, society has grown to rely on social media for real-time information. Covid-19 has reinforced the value of parks and trails to our community while forcing the Parks industry to rethink and how we engage our community with programs. Residents have flocked to the parks and trails while other recreational opportunities have been shuttered. In response to Covid-19 we have developed virtual programming hosted on our website that has been embraced by the community and will likely be a permanent fixture in our community engagement strategies long into the future.

The above observations will continually be assessed and new issues identified as the park system matures. The goal is to be proactive in evolving the organizational structure of the parks department to best manage the growing park system.

Past study and experience in managing the park system has led to the establishment of four distinct divisions within the Parks and Recreation department: Park Operations, Park Planning, Interpretive Services, and Park Administration (see long-term organizational chart on following page). This framework provides a logical division of basic functions within the department that allows for growth of staff and provides for promotional opportunity in all four divisions.

MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS

The Coordinator of Park Maintenance and Operations oversees all maintenance and operations functions, including a full-time staff of nine and over 80 part-time and seasonal staff. Park Maintenance and Operations encompasses all park maintenance activities at 40 separate properties, as well as administration of fee collection at lakeshore parks and boat launches, winter operations and concessions, and other special operations. The Parks Manager reports to the Coordinator and oversees four full-time Park Supervisors plus three full-time Maintenance Workers and a Parks Equipment Specialist. The addition of a third full-time Maintenance Worker position in 2016 reflected a recognition that, while seasonal employees can carry the bulk of the operational burden during the peak summer season, additional maintenance expertise and year-round capability is needed to keep the park system functioning at a high level. This position also allowed for the decentralization of maintenance staff to provide more decision making capability for the regional park supervisors. Adding both seasonal staff and an additional Maintenance Worker is considered a cost-effective way to adding maintenance and operational capability as the park system grows.

PARK PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Following approval of the first parks millage in 1996, the OCPRC added a Park Planner to help implement the expanding park development and improvement program. The Park Planner was hired with responsibilities for assessing lands, planning new parks and facilities, and developing long-range planning strategies. As the park planning and development functions expanded, the need to add the Coordinator of Park Planning and Development to oversee these functions was identified. The position was added in 2005, and Park Planning and Development was established as a division within the department. Park Planning and Development staff prepare and update the long-range parks and open space plan and individual park master plans. They have responsibility for planning and oversight of park improvements within the park system, plus providing input and assistance in a wide range of other matters.

INTERPRETIVE SERVICES

The Interpretive Division within the Parks and Recreation Department oversees all interpretive functions, including operation of the Nature Education Center at Hemlock Crossing. The four-season interpretive division is based out of the Nature Center at Hemlock

Crossing but also includes programs at parks throughout the system. The Coordinator of Interpretive Services was added in 2009 to oversee the Park Naturalist position. The establishment of this position coincided with the development of the Nature Center. Part-time Naturalist Guides were also added in 2010 to help with the expanded interpretive offerings and operation of the new Center. In addition to nature education programming, the Nature Education Center also functions as a visitor center for the park system, and its staff provide important public relations functions in addition to their other duties. The number of Nature Center guests and program participants has increased significantly. To manage the growing administrative tasks, the OCPRC added a full-time secretary in 2016. This position helps maintain high standards of programming and high-quality customer service.

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

General administrative support consists of the Parks and Recreation Director, Administrative Assistant, Senior Secretary (part-time), Records Processing Clerk II (part-time), and Communications Specialist. The Parks and Recreation Director reports to the County Administrator and is responsible for day to day administration of the Commission activities, implementing the goals, objectives, policies, and regulations established by the Commission, while operating within the County's fiscal and personnel procedures. The Administrative Assistant, who oversees the other clerical positions, also provides administrative support for facility reservations, mailings, general phone inquiries, and the Director. It will be important to carefully monitor activity levels and increase staffing levels as needed to manage the office and support all necessary services.

The Communications Specialist was added in 2015 in response to the growing need for capacity and expertise in the area of communications as noted previously. The Communications Specialist is the lead staff person for website updates and maintenance, social media, quarterly newsletter, park brochures, annual report, press releases, park kiosk information updates, and a range of other public relations activities.

FUTURE NEEDS

It is critical that the organizational chart (Figure 5.1) remain flexible depending upon how the park system evolves in the future and the types of facilities added. A future campground, for example, would have very specific staffing needs and likely offsetting revenues. It is believed that the current organizational structure could accommodate this type of growth but would likely need to be adjusted in response to opportunities as they arise.

As noted in Chapter 12: Mission Statement, Goals, and Objectives, providing “high quality maintenance and operations” is a top priority of the OCPRC. Maintaining high standards in an expanding park system is particularly challenging. It is critical that necessary administrative, operational and seasonal staff be added as operational requirements expand. Funds for supplies, repairs, needed equipment, and related items must also grow proportionately.

The long-range budget projection shown in Table 6.1 estimates staff needs and related operational costs for new facilities as they come online over the next several-year period. With uncertainty regarding future land purchases and facility development, it is not possible to accurately project all specific operational requirements.

This plan carefully analyzes county-wide park and recreation needs and proposes projects to address those needs. This chapter will examine potential sources for financing those projects, as well as the funds needed to maintain and operate the upgraded park system. This chapter reviews the broad range of potential funding sources and uses a long-range budget to illustrate the level of funding available from known sources. This projection is expanded upon in Chapter 13 to include specific projects reflecting current priorities and their potential funding sources, including grants and donations.

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CHAPTER 6 | FINANCING & BUDGET PROJECTIONS

PARK SYSTEM FINANCING

Generating the necessary financial resources to operate and improve the county park system is a crucial task. Passing with a 53.5% approval rating, the first dedicated millage for Ottawa County Parks in 1996 was a monumental event with regard to financing an expanding park system. Subsequent ten year renewals with support of 67% and 72.3% of the voters is viewed as a strong demonstration of support for the Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission's (OCPRC) progress in improving the park system. Despite this expanding base of support for its core source of funding, the OCPRC feels strongly that it should continue to diversify its funding support to as great an extent as possible. A diversified funding base will put less of a burden on property tax support and likely result in a more sustainable park system on a long-term basis.

The following sections briefly review some of the key known funding sources which the OCPRC has used or will explore using to assist with acquisition, development, and operations of the park system.

DEDICATED PARKS MILLAGE

Certainly one of the most reliable sources of funds for any park system is that of a voter-approved millage dedicated to parks and recreation services. As noted earlier, the OCPRC first received a dedicated county parks millage of 1/3 mill in 1996 and then renewed that amount in 2006 and 2016. The millage provides a relatively stable and secure source of annual funding for a 10-year period. The great strides made by the OCPRC over the past 24 years would not have been possible without the support of residents in the form of millage funding. The ability to use millage funds to leverage grant funds and private donations has also been key to the OCPRC's success. Over the last 15 years, the parks millage has provided 80% of operating revenues (not including grants for capital acquisitions and development).

The 2020 county resident survey showed continued strong support for the parks millage, with 84% of those polled expressing support for the millage and 96% expressing a positive rating for the overall park system. Based on the importance of the 1/3 mill levy in funding both new initiatives and ongoing operations, it is vital that the OCPRC continue to be responsive to voter desires as it expands, improves, and operates the county park system to assure continued public support for renewing this source of funds.

If supported by the County of Ottawa Board of Commissioners, the opportunity exists to request additional millage funds through a ballot initiative. This could come in the form of an increase in the current millage rate, passage of a separate millage for capital improvements with the existing millage devoted exclusively to operations, or other creative financing plan.

USER FEES

Surveys of Ottawa County residents indicate support for user fees as a method of paying for parks and recreation services. Currently users of Ottawa County Parks pay motor vehicle parking fees at the five Lake Michigan parks (North Beach, Kirk, Tunnel, Rosy Mound, and Olive Shores) and a boat launch fee at Riverside Park. Fee revenues from these sources totaled \$513,170 in 2020, the highest year on record, despite small beaches due to high Lake Michigan water levels and the coronavirus pandemic.

In addition to raising revenues to offset operational costs, user fees also provide a means for non-residents to support the park system, assist with management of high-use facilities, and provide a way to apportion costs to those who benefit most from special services. The OCPRC recognizes the importance of outdoor recreation opportunities to the health and well-being of all people and is concerned that fees could inhibit use of the parks by low-income residents. This concern prompted the OCPRC and OCBOC to establish a policy in 2010 that provides a means for low-income residents to apply for and receive a free annual motor vehicle parking permit. Applicants are required to show their Michigan Bridge Card, a benefit card issued by the Department of Health and Human Services to residents qualifying for assistance.

User fees are also charged for facility reservations (i.e., picnic shelters, picnic buildings, etc.) available at many of the parks. This source of user fee support generated over \$196,100 in 2019, which included 1,523 reservations serving approximately 82,632 people. Historically, total user fees have averaged about 15% of total operational revenues. The potential to increase revenues from user fees would require either increased fees or implementation of fees for new areas or facilities.

Fees are increased periodically by the OCPRC based on surveys of park users and research into fee levels in surrounding communities. A formal fee policy would be beneficial to help guide future decision-making regarding fees. The potential to implement motor vehicle parking fees at additional parks should be evaluated on a site-by-site basis; however, most likely do not have high enough use required to make manned fee collection cost-effective.

A small but potentially important growth area related to user fees is the sale of goods and services. Small retail operations are now in place at the Nature Center gift shop and Ottawa Beach Marina. In addition, vending machines have been placed at several park locations and even a self-serve dog wash station has been installed at Grand Ravines South. Fees for certain interpretive and other programs are also being charged. All of these activities and others should be evaluated from a business perspective that seeks to create positive revenue streams while providing for the needs and desires of park visitors.

It should be noted that while user fees are an important source of park revenues, the OCPRC feels it should not over-rely on these fees as it establishes plans and financial strategies. These fees can vary widely from year to year based on weather and other factors, therefore they are not generally a realistic source of capital improvements funds. They can, however help to offset many ongoing operational costs. An interesting example of this that could be expanded is the use of donation stations, secure locations where patrons can give “voluntary fees” related to the extra costs associated with special uses. This has been used effectively at the Grand Ravines Dog Park and could be utilized at other locations such as the Pigeon Creek ski trails, Paw Paw Park disc golf course, the Ottawa Beach Kayak Launch, and other spots where a unique facility is being offered.

GIFTS AND DONATIONS / PARKS FOUNDATION

Gifts to the OCPRC in the form of land, money, or other resources can play a vital role in the development of the park system. The acquisition of the 500-acre North Ottawa Dunes in 2005 was one of the first major examples of private funds supplementing a parks initiated effort. With the Land Conservancy of West Michigan helping to spearhead fundraising efforts, private donations to that project exceeded \$1.4 million and played a key role in helping to secure a large state grant.

More recently, donations from private foundations and individuals totaling over \$7 million dollars have made the completion of the Grand River Greenway initiative a feasible goal over the next several years.

OCPRC is committed to expanding its efforts to seek and encourage gifts of land, money, and other resources to help support the county park system. Towards that end, the Ottawa County Parks Foundation began organizing in 2015 and initiated fundraising efforts in 2016. The expressed purpose of the organization is to “...assist OCPRC by raising funds to be used for improvement, expansion, and promotion of the county park system...” Early success by the newly-formed organization is a big step forward for Ottawa County Parks to enlist the support of private citizens and organizations.

FRIENDS OF OTTAWA COUNTY PARKS

In 2005, a support group named Friends of Ottawa County Parks (FOOCP) formed and obtained non-profit status. The organization has sponsored numerous activities to build awareness and support for the county park system, has provided support for OCPRC programs, and has raised and donated funds for parks projects including the Nature Center. An agreement between the OCPRC and the Friends outlines the relationship between the two organizations. The OCPRC is most appreciative of the support it receives from the FOOCP and its members.

PUBLIC GRANT PROGRAMS

There are a variety of competitive public grant programs which are aimed at assisting communities in the development of area recreation facilities. The availability of specific programs and funding levels varies widely from year to year depending on the economy and funding cycles. Following is a brief overview of selected programs and their general guidelines:

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund

The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) provides grants to both acquire land (or rights to land) and develop public recreational facilities. The MNRTF is the primary source of grant funds in the state, with \$15-\$20 million available each grant year.

Funds were initially derived from oil, gas, and other mineral lease and royalty payments. By law, no more than 25 percent of the MNRTF revenues available for appropriation each year can be used for development; therefore the majority of funding is allocated for acquisition projects.

There are no minimum or maximum dollar amounts for acquisition projects, although development projects have a minimum funding of \$15,000 and maximum funding of \$300,000. All proposals for local grants must include a local match of at least 25 percent of the total project cost. A proposed change to this formula is part of a fall 2020 ballot proposal.

The MNRTF has been a key source of funding assistance for OCPRC as the park system has evolved over the past three decades. Many of the OCPRC's key projects, including the Rosy Mound Natural Area, the Pigeon River Greenway, North Ottawa Dunes, Crockery Creek, and Ottawa Sands relied heavily on the MNRTF for assistance, involving both acquisition and development funds. Most recently, the Bend Area Phase 2 acquisition project was completed in the fall of 2020, and the Stearns Creek Expansion has been recommended for funding in 2021. A full listing of past state grants including the MNRTF can be found in Appendix M.

A gradual shift in the criteria of the MNTRF in recent years away from high quality natural resource projects toward more of an urban and low-income focus, has made the grant application process more competitive. More than ever, Ottawa County Parks needs to carefully choose and develop projects to meet current criteria.

Recreation Passport Local Public Recreation Facilities Fund

This grant program, which began in 2011, was created by PA 32 of 2010 which creates a Local Public Recreation Facilities Fund for grants to local units of government. The source of funding is a portion of the proceeds from implementation of the Recreation Passport for Michigan State Parks.

The primary focus of the grant program is on improving and renovating existing parks. The minimum grant request is \$7,500; the maximum is \$45,000, and a 25 percent match is required. The grant submittal deadline is April 1, with grant awards determined by the DNR director and announced in November. Ottawa County Parks has been unsuccessful in securing any of these funds to this point.

Coastal Management Program

The Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program, housed in the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), utilizes federal funds from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to provide grants to qualifying coastal units of government. Grants are restricted to the coastal zone, which generally extends 1,000 feet inland from Lake Michigan in Ottawa County. It does extend further inland along the Grand River and other locations to encompass important coastal features. The CZM program provides grants of up to \$100,000. A 1-to-1 non-federal match is required.

Key objectives of the CZM program include:

- **Public Access:** Creation and enhancement of public access in coastal areas.
- **Water Quality:** Protection of high quality waters through protection, restoration, and enhancement of critical coastal resources.
- **Coastal Habitat:** Protection, management, and restoration of sensitive coastal habitats, including wetlands and sand dunes.
- **Hazard Management:** Support for efforts to increase the resilience of coastal communities to both natural and human-created threats.
- **Community Development:** Promotion of wise management of Great Lakes water and coastal resources through the development of vibrant and resilient coastal communities.

The CZM program has provided assistance with numerous planning, small construction, and habitat enhancement projects at the OCPRC's coastal parks and open spaces. These include renovation of a deteriorated set of wood stairs at North Beach Park, construction of a new universally accessible kayak launch at Ottawa Beach, and support of the master planning process for Ottawa Sands.

Land and Water Conservation Fund

This federal funding program is administered through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and provides a 50

percent matching grant for projects that meet the outdoor recreational needs of the County. The funds can be used for development of land and outdoor recreation facilities, such as restrooms, shelters, signs, trails, parking lots, tennis courts, swimming pools, golf courses, etc. Aside from ice skating rinks and indoor pools, major building complexes are presently not eligible. A portion of the riverfront improvements at Grand Ravines was funded by this program.

Transportation Alternatives Program

The Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) is a federal grant program which provides funding for programs and projects defined as transportation alternatives, including on- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, infrastructure projects for improving non-driver access to public transportation and enhanced mobility, community improvement activities, and environmental mitigation; recreational trail projects; safe routes to school projects; and projects for planning, designing, or constructing boulevards and other roadways largely in the rights-of-way of former divided highways.

A TAP grant was instrumental in funding the non-motorized trail through the Upper Macatawa Natural Area, a major trail project completed in 2015 as well construction of segments Idema Explorers Trail in Robinson and Georgetown Townships in 2018 and 2019. Additional segments of the Grand River trail are in various stages of application and approval with the TAP program, providing several million dollars to the overall project.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

Under this program, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provides funds for state and local post-disaster mitigation measures. Under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, FEMA may contribute up to 75% of the cost of hazard mitigation measures which are determined to be cost-effective and which substantially reduce the risk of future damage, hardship, loss, or suffering in the declared area. Past flooding and windstorm events in Ottawa County have qualified the county for funding. Funding through this program has been used to purchase land and remove structures on both the Macatawa River Greenway and the Grand River Greenway.

Waterways Fund Program

The Waterways Fund Program, administered through the MDNR, has the objective to provide assistance with design and construction of recreational boating facilities in the state. Funds are available for engineering studies and infrastructure improvement projects at state-sponsored harbor/ mooring and boating access site/launch facilities. Funds for this program are derived from three primary sources: the state gasoline tax, watercraft sales, and watercraft registration fees.

Grants-in-aid for the construction of recreational boating facilities, equal to up to 50% of the total cost of such facilities, are made to local units of government. The scope of the grant includes engineering and contingency costs, as well as the costs normally associated with facility development. The sponsoring municipality seeking a grant must provide the land free of cost and agree to operate and maintain the completed facility.

Other Grant Programs

Ottawa County has utilized several other publicly funded grant programs to assist with native habitat restoration, acquisition of key properties, and development of visitor facilities. These include the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP), Great Lakes Fisheries Trust (GLFT), Save Our Great Lakes (SOGL), and others.

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

Opportunities for joint projects with organizations in the public or private sector should be explored when such efforts can assist the OCPRC in accomplishing its stated goals. In 2008, the OCPRC and Holland Township partnered to acquire a 40-acre parcel within the Macatawa Greenway corridor. The Parks Commission's desire was to preserve this land for its natural and recreational value and for its greenway trail potential. Holland Township was seeking a passive park in that portion of the township and agreed to develop and maintain the site. Holland Township has since developed the Hawthorn Pond Natural Area into a high quality park site offering fishing, picnicking, trails, and other amenities.

Acquisition of the former Holland Country Club property was aided by partnering with the Outdoor Discovery Center Macatawa Greenway (ODCMG). The ODCMG raised \$70,000 in private funds to supplement the \$450,000 purchase.

In recent years, Ottawa County Parks has supported the Fred Meijer Kenowa Trail with a \$200,000 contribution to assist Zeeland and Jamestown Townships, the project sponsors. The new trail serves both Spring Grove Park and the Upper Macatawa Natural Area. Another partnership with the City of Ferrysburg resulted in the Parks Commission committing \$50,000 to the project for the North Shore Drive bike path, which provides a non-motorized route to both North Ottawa Dunes and North Beach Park.

OCPRC has also requested and received commitments of support in partnering to complete the Grand River Greenway. Recognizing the tremendous scope of the project, OCPRC appealed to township governments within the greenway corridor project area and so far, Georgetown, Allendale, and Robinson Townships have made firm commitments of financial support of the project that is expected to be implemented over the next few years. Private companies including Herman Miller and Gordon Foods have also made substantial contributions in exchange for programs and other incentives to engage their employees in team building and community service.

Future partnerships of this type should be explored with other potential greenway partners. Private sector partnerships could potentially be structured to provide revenue flow to the county while also providing recreation opportunities to the public.

GENERAL FUND SUPPORT

For many years, property taxes through Ottawa County's General Fund Budget were the principal means of support for the OCPRC budget. The financing proposal approved by the Board of Commissioners (OCBOC) in 1996, which included the request to seek millage support, called for continued general fund support. General fund support did in fact continue for 13 years following approval of the parks millage in the form of an allocation frozen at 1997 levels (\$530,000). The General fund allocation was eliminated in the 2010 budget amidst major county-wide funding shortfalls and a declining tax base. The OCPRC was aware that as a non-mandated county function with an alternative means of tax support, the park system would be particularly vulnerable to cutbacks during periods of financial instability. Despite this setback, the OCPRC remains hopeful that general funds may be allocated in the future either on an ongoing basis or for special projects.

It should be acknowledged that the Parks Commission receives support from the County General fund in indirect ways through the provision of office space and support of administrative, financial, and human resource services.

REVENUE BONDS

In some instances, recreation facilities (e.g., campgrounds, marinas, etc.) can generate revenue for operation and maintenance costs and enough extra to pay back principal and interest on revenue bonds. Before this method of generating revenue is chosen, it is essential to develop a detailed analysis of estimated cost and income for the particular project. This type of financing was used for the Ottawa Beach Marina where for both financial and public perception reasons it was desirable to have the marina operations pay for themselves rather than utilize millage funds.

GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS

Under Michigan State Law, county governments can issue General Obligation Bonds against anticipated tax receipts. The advantage for park and recreation development is that larger amounts of funds can be committed to the development of a major facility. A wide variety of needs can be addressed immediately, and anticipated increases in the cost of acquisition and development can be circumvented by early action. The disadvantages to issuing general obligation bonds are that they commit the county to a long payback (usually 15 to 20 years). This involves interest charges and places financial obligations on future generations. This option has not been utilized by the Parks Commission since it was founded in 1987.

LONG-RANGE BUDGET HISTORY & PROJECTION SUMMARY

One of the main purposes of this Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan is to carefully analyze county-wide park and recreation needs and eventually propose projects to address those needs along with their associated costs (Chapter 13). Historically, millage and user fee funds, in addition to small amounts from leases and interest on investments, have been more than sufficient to cover general operating costs of the park system with a substantial amount of funds remaining for projects. This remaining amount is classified as “discretionary” because it can be used for almost any use that the Parks Commission believes is important such as those determined by this planning process. This history is shown in Table 6.1 in key categories for the years 2008 through 2020. Of particular note is the general decline in discretionary funds during this time period. As the park system has grown, millage funds have gradually shifted toward funding increased personnel costs and other operating expenditures. It should be noted that this transition in the use of millage funds from land acquisition and park improvements to park operations was envisioned from the beginning and reflects a maturing park system that has met most of the goals set for itself over two decades ago.

The later portion of Table 6.1 projects this data into the future for the years 2021 through 2027. This section shows a leveling off in the amount of discretionary funds available during this time period. This leveling off is the result of fewer large scale additions (beyond those already planned such as the Idema Explorers Trail along the Grand River) coming in to the park system that would require additional operational capacity and costs. There are many variables that are difficult to estimate in this kind of projection such as inflation, rate of growth in the county, and other factors that affect both revenues and expenditures, but the conservative approach used here is meant to provide a reasonable estimate of future available resources.

This projection was used in developing the capital outlay program in chapter 13 (Table 13.1). A key concern reflected in this program is to ensure that the OCPRC plans for needed renovation of existing facilities within the scope of the existing millage levy and other projected funding sources. New lands and facilities will be possible only after these needs are met, using remaining discretionary funds plus available grants and donations.

Although not detailed in this plan, preliminary projections of expenses beyond 2027 to update and renovate existing facilities reveal that most if not all of the predicted discretionary funds will be needed for those purposes, leaving little or no funding for new acquisitions or development. If continued growth is to occur, new funding strategies will have to be developed. These strategies would include creative financing that leverages a small amount of millage dollars to secure a large amount of grant funding similar to what was done for the Stearns Creek and Ottawa Sands acquisitions and substantial expansion of private funding to supplement existing efforts. Finally, renewed and expanded public funding should be explored to provide a long term and stable source of funding for needed new initiatives.

Table 6.1 - Long-Range Budget History & Projection Summary

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	TOTAL 2008-2017	% of TOTAL
REVENUES												
Millage	\$3,039,393	\$3,141,232	\$3,171,884	\$3,035,087	\$2,987,203	\$2,969,261	\$2,991,778	\$3,084,822	\$3,252,870	\$3,428,114	\$31,101,644	81.30
User Fees	\$349,433	\$359,369	\$450,110	\$419,977	\$436,750	\$518,399	\$562,352	\$603,070	\$525,320	\$767,823	\$4,992,603	13.05
Other - Concessions, Leases	\$75,621	\$52,678	\$37,587	\$63,454	\$35,025	\$67,455	\$64,138	\$30,000	\$21,300	\$75,461	\$522,719	2.93
Interest on Investments	\$357,836	\$59,503	\$75,984	\$58,535	\$52,202	-\$7,744	\$74,816	\$40,850	\$74,800	-\$1,170	\$785,612	35.91
General Fund	\$530,000	\$297,790								\$25,000	\$852,790	14.62
Total Revenues	\$4,352,283	\$3,910,572	\$3,735,565	\$3,577,053	\$3,511,180	\$3,547,371	\$3,693,084	\$3,758,742	\$3,874,290	\$4,295,228	\$38,255,368	
EXPENDITURES												
Personnel	\$1,270,914	\$1,422,809	\$1,586,349	\$1,616,067	\$1,675,757	\$1,807,624	\$1,834,267	\$2,023,055	\$2,227,023	\$2,379,205	\$17,843,070	68.99
Supplies	\$150,542	\$175,117	\$178,720	\$187,125	\$240,111	\$240,111	\$195,616	\$284,495	\$259,555	\$276,571	\$2,187,963	8.46
Contractual Services	\$521,899	\$525,941	\$469,450	\$713,957	\$478,312	\$478,312	\$556,559	\$779,930	\$625,799	\$682,122	\$5,832,281	22.55
Total Operations	\$1,943,355	\$2,123,867	\$2,234,518	\$2,517,149	\$2,394,180	\$2,526,047	\$2,586,442	\$3,087,480	\$3,112,377	\$3,337,898	\$25,863,314	
DISCRETIONARY FUNDS	\$2,408,928	\$1,786,705	\$1,501,047	\$1,059,904	\$1,117,000	\$1,021,324	\$1,106,642	\$671,262	\$761,913	\$957,330	\$12,392,054	

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	TOTAL 2018-2027	
REVENUES												
Millage (+ 3.0%)	\$3,548,322	\$3,849,323	\$3,989,970	\$4,156,195	\$4,322,443	\$4,452,116	\$4,585,680	\$4,723,250	\$4,864,947	\$5,010,896	\$43,503,142	82.02
User Fees (+ 2.0%)	\$714,211	\$808,535	\$799,245	\$800,015	\$816,015	\$832,336	\$848,982	\$865,962	\$883,281	\$900,947	\$8,269,529	15.59
Other - Conc.s, Leases (+ 2.0%)	\$57,481	\$131,162	\$48,100	\$49,950	\$90,949	\$92,768	\$94,623	\$96,516	\$98,446	\$100,415	\$860,410	2.86
Interest on Investments (+ 0.0%)	\$54,765	\$34,204	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$408,969	11.04
General Fund				\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00
Total Revenues	\$4,374,779	\$4,823,224	\$4,877,315	\$5,046,160	\$5,269,407	\$5,417,220	\$5,569,285	\$5,725,728	\$5,886,675	\$6,052,258	\$53,042,050	
EXPENDITURES												
Personnel (+ 3%)	\$2,464,249	\$2,631,262	\$2,849,861	\$2,895,437	\$2,982,300	\$3,071,769	\$3,163,922	\$3,258,840	\$3,356,605	\$3,457,303	\$30,131,549	69.38
Supplies (+ 5.0%)	\$265,380	\$280,929	\$331,246	\$347,210	\$364,571	\$382,799	\$401,939	\$422,036	\$443,138	\$465,295	\$3,704,542	8.53
Contractual Services (+ 4.0%)	\$690,802	\$718,238	\$835,952	\$930,403	\$967,619	\$1,006,324	\$1,046,577	\$1,088,440	\$1,131,978	\$1,177,257	\$9,593,589	22.09
Total Operations	\$3,420,431	\$3,630,429	\$4,017,059	\$4,173,050	\$4,314,490	\$4,460,892	\$4,612,438	\$4,769,316	\$4,931,720	\$5,099,854	\$43,429,679	
DISCRETIONARY FUNDS	\$954,348	\$1,192,795	\$860,256	\$873,110	\$954,917	\$956,328	\$956,847	\$956,412	\$954,954	\$952,403	\$9,612,371	

Total Discretionary Funds to End of Current Millage \$6,604,972

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SECTION 4

Existing Parks, Natural Areas, & Recreation Facilities

CHAPTER 7 | RECREATION INVENTORY

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CHAPTER 7 | RECREATION INVENTORY

Recreation opportunities in Ottawa County are extensive and varied in character. From the large and popular State Parks along the Lake Michigan shoreline to the smaller neighborhood and community oriented parks in local municipalities, as well as private sector facilities such as marinas, campgrounds, and golf courses, Ottawa County offers a wide range of four-season

activities and programs. In order to determine how Ottawa County Parks fits into this mosaic of recreation opportunities, a detailed inventory of existing facilities was conducted. Parks staff verified facilities at the State Parks and at local recreation providers, compiled detailed information on the current state of the County Park System, and most importantly, contacted all local public recreation providers to get new and updated data on their existing facilities. Overall, the process inventoried almost 150 public recreational sites.

The purpose of this section is to identify the recreation facilities and services currently provided throughout Ottawa County to establish a basis for evaluating needs. The following recreation inventory review has been divided into two sections. The first section presents a classification of park and recreation areas which can be applied to all communities and municipalities. The second section reviews the various providers of recreation programs and facilities specific to Ottawa County including both public and private providers. Included is a review of the particular resources and facilities offered by each recreation provider. A complete listing of park and recreation areas offered by all levels of government is included in Appendix B, along with a summary of the facilities available.

CLASSIFICATION OF PARK AND RECREATION AREAS

Park and recreation services are most effective when provided through a system in which governmental agencies at all levels as well as the private sector combine to provide a variety of facilities and services. Planning for recreation services must therefore consider the roles and the inter-relationships between each provider in the system. Park and recreation areas are classified to reflect the scope of facilities offered and the approximate service area of each park. Below is a review of this classification system.

1. Sub-neighborhood includes tot-lots, mini-parks, playfields, and other small recreation areas (usually less than five acres) located within and serving high-density residential areas. Provision of these areas is considered the responsibility of the city, village, township government, or school district.
2. Neighborhood parks are generally designed as “walk to” parks of approximately five acres and larger serving the neighborhood unit. Typical facilities include play apparatus, multi-purpose courts, field games area, etc. Neighborhood parks are often planned in conjunction with elementary schools because of the similarity in the service areas of both facilities.

This type of park is normally provided by the city, village, township government, or school district.

3. Community parks are located to serve a group of neighborhoods and are accessible by either bicycle or automobile. Acreage varies from 5-50 acres, and the park usually includes a much broader range of facilities than what is normally provided at the neighborhood level. Typical facilities might include playfields, ball diamonds, tennis courts, swimming, ice-skating, a community building, or a wide range of other facilities. As with neighborhood parks, programs, and facilities should be adapted to the particular needs of the community being served. Community parks are the responsibility of city, village or township governments.
4. Area-Wide and Regional scale parks differ primarily in the size of their service areas, with area wide parks serving a radius of 10-20 miles as opposed to an approximate service area of 20-40 miles for regional scale parks. Parks in these classifications are usually large (100-500+ acres) and are located to take advantage of unique land and/or water resources. Park development emphasizes preservation of the natural environment and typical facilities might include picnic areas, swimming and boating facilities, camping areas, nature interpretation facilities, winter sports areas and a wide variety of other facilities. Responsibility for parks of this scale generally lies with the County or specially created park districts.
5. State and National Parks and Recreation Areas are most often located where outstanding natural resources of state or national significance exist. Development is designed to facilitate primarily passive recreational uses

geared to utilize the natural features of the site. In addition to park and recreation areas, the state and federal government also maintain forests, wildlife areas, public access sites and other special-use areas which serve a wide range of public recreation uses.

In addition to the five principal categories of park and recreation areas outlined above, two further categories are included to round out the total recreation system. These categories include facilities that are not necessarily an integral portion of the five major categories but can play an important role in the total recreation delivery system. They are:

- Greenway corridors, which often provide trail systems (e.g., foot, bridle, bicycle, canoe) and may maintain, protect, or preserve existing lineal, natural, and cultural features such as watercourses (rivers, streams, shorelines), abandoned transportation rights-of-way (railroad and highway), utility rights-of-way, and scenic drives. The greenway corridor can function as an entity in itself or more ideally as a connecting link to one or more of the five categories listed above. The major recreational use of greenway corridors is typically oriented towards various trail systems; however, other supporting activities can be included at strategic points along the corridor, e.g., picnicking, camping, etc. Greenway corridors often straddle multiple political jurisdictions and require combined efforts of governmental units at all levels.
- The special-use facility classification is provided to accommodate separate facilities not included in the categories listed above. The development program of such a facility will often include only a single activity, although it may accommodate several separate closely related activities. Among the more common special-use areas are golf courses, sports centers, zoos, group camps, swimming and racket clubs, off-road vehicle areas, horseback riding stables, and others.

RECREATION PROVIDERS

Federal Government

The federal government does not actively manage any recreational lands within Ottawa County. It does, however, operate a regional Coast Guard facility in Grand Haven on the Grand River's south side and a Coast Guard substation in Holland. The nearest National Park Service sites are Sleeping Bear Dunes in the northwest lower peninsula and Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore just south of the state line along Lake Michigan. Other nearby federal lands and facilities include the Manistee National Forest in Muskegon and Newaygo Counties and the North Country (hiking) Trail, which runs through Kent and Newaygo Counties.

State Government

The State of Michigan owns and operates a number of recreation facilities throughout the county. It is primarily through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) that these facilities are managed. The exception is three rest areas along state roadways in the county, which are managed by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT).

The MDNR owns and operates three parks, two game areas, and numerous boat launches in Ottawa County. All three state parks are located along the Lake Michigan shoreline. The state also owns a large undeveloped recreation area on the Grand River and the Musketawa Trail, a linear trail park located in the northeast section of the county, which is maintained by Ottawa County Parks.

Though the entrance to P.J. Hoffmaster State Park is in Muskegon County, the southernmost portion of the park is located in the far northwest corner of Spring Lake Township. The total park consists of 1,100 acres devoted to modern camping facilities - including 293 sites, the Gillette Visitor Center (a sand dune interpretive center), picnic areas, playgrounds, swimming and beach house, hiking, and cross-country skiing.

Grand Haven State Park, located several miles south of P.J. Hoffmaster State Park at the mouth of the Grand River, is comprised of 48 acres devoted to modern camping facilities, including 174 sites, picnic areas, playgrounds, fishing, swimming beach, and related facilities. This park is ranked second in the state for total attendance due to its high quality swimming beach.

Holland State Park, located near the far southwest corner of Ottawa County in Park Township, consists of 142 acres, and provides facilities similar to those of Grand Haven State Park. Also a beach attraction, Holland State Park is ranked first in visitor attendance of all the state parks in Michigan.

In addition, the state manages 1,665 acres in Robinson and Allendale Township in central Ottawa County for future development as a State Recreational Area. In 2002, 550 acres was added to the 1,115 acre Bass River Recreation Area. This purchase included expansive riverine wetlands, floodplain forest, bayous and approximately 2.25 total miles of frontage on the Grand and Bass Rivers. With such a large expanse of river frontage, this site can be expected to provide significant recreation opportunities in the future. Although a master plan identifying specific park plans has not yet been developed, a management plan designating various use zones has been completed. Currently the site is used primarily for mountain biking, horseback riding and hunting.

The Grand Haven State Game Area, with 1,139 acres in Robinson and Crockery Townships, provides opportunities for waterfowl hunting, fishing, and wildlife observation. The Ottawa Mini- Game Areas consist of five separate properties totaling 396 acres in Blendon and Olive Townships. These properties were purchased with hunters' funds to help bolster pheasant populations.

The MDNR operates eight public boat launch facilities located throughout the county. These launches are all constructed of concrete, and all have restroom facilities. Four are located on bayous along the western half of the Grand River, two on the Grand River itself, one on Lake Macatawa and one on Pigeon Lake, which provides access to Lake Michigan.

The Musketawa Trail, which runs from Marne to Muskegon, is a linear park developed on an abandoned rail line. The 12-mile paved section that runs from Marne to Conklin and to the west county line is managed by the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission (OCPRC) under an agreement approved in 2002. The basis for Ottawa County's involvement in operation of the eastern half of the trail stems from a commitment made in 1991 whereby the County agreed to operate the trail if the state would acquire and develop the trail corridor. The remaining 16-mile paved section that runs between Ravenna and the outskirts of Muskegon is currently managed though the West Shore Snowmobile Council under a grant from the MDNR. The Musketawa Trail is a barrier-free trail that features opportunities for walking, running, biking, snowmobiling, hiking, cross-country skiing, horseback riding, rollerblading, and nature observation.

County Government

Ottawa County, through the OCPRC, owns and operates over 40 sites, comprising 7,199 acres of park and open space land.

Ottawa County's parks, as might be expected, have a strong natural resource orientation. Six parks are located on Lake Michigan, six sites are on the Grand River, two are located on the Pigeon River, and another is situated on Crockery Lake. In addition to water frontage, many of the parks feature mature forests, dune formations, wetlands, high quality native plants, and other natural resource features.

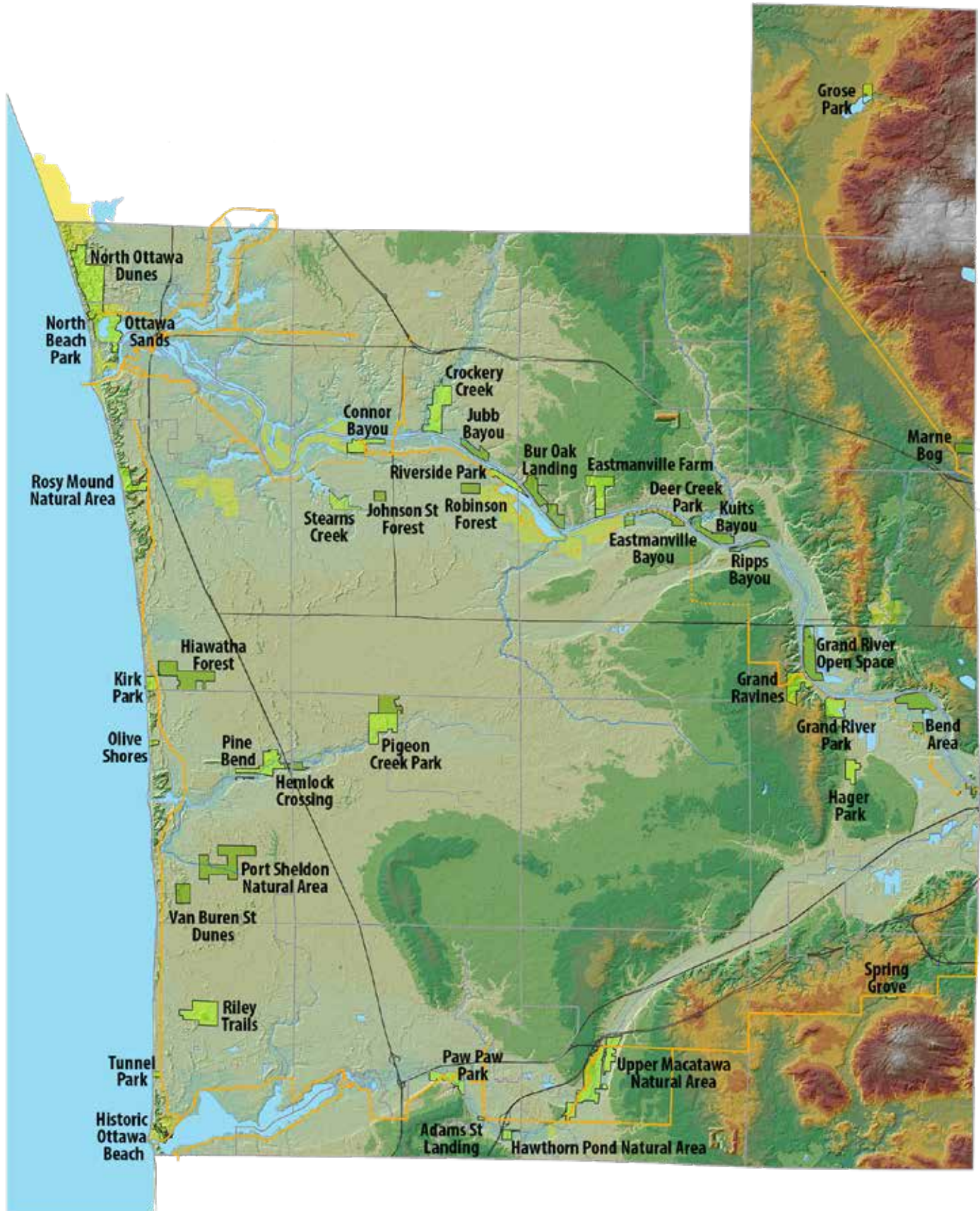
In addition to its parks, Ottawa County also owns and manages several large open space lands for conservation and recreation purposes. These properties tend to feature fewer improvements and less restrictive rules (e.g., more hunting opportunities and dogs allowed off-leash). The 1989 County Parks Plan noted Ottawa County's unique situation in that it owned 2,000 acres of undeveloped land—much of it having been acquired as tax-reverted land in the 1930s. Based upon the plan's recommendations, the properties were formally reviewed by the county as to their public value. Some of the smaller properties with less unique natural features were recommended for sale (total 324 acres), with the proceeds used to establish funds for land acquisition and park development. A total of 1,184 acres were dedicated as Open Space and put under management of the OCPRC. Since then, 1,354 additional acres of open space land have been added. There are 19 Open Space properties currently managed by Ottawa County Parks.

According to the Ottawa County Open Space Management Plan, adopted by the Board of Commissioners in 1992, Open Space lands are to be maintained in their natural state for future generations except "when their development for expansion of county facilities is considered to be in the county's best interest." The plan listed the following management goals for Open Space lands: Promote the natural character and diversity of each site.

- Allow and promote safe, non-intensive recreational uses with an emphasis primarily on activities that require minimal facility development and have limited impact on the natural character of the land.
- Manage timber for recreation, wildlife, and aesthetic purposes as opposed to maximum timber yield.
- Enhance wildlife habitat through conservation measures where feasible.

Following is a location map and description of each county property divided according to that property's location within the county greenway system. Several other properties not located within these greenways are also included.

Figure 7.1 - Ottawa County Recreation Inventory Map



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Stearns Creek Park, Connor Bayou, Crockery Creek Natural Area, Jubb Bayou, Riverside Park, Bur Oak Landing, Eastmanville Farm, Eastmanville Bayou, Deer Creek Park, Ripps Bayou, Kuits Bayou, Grand River Open Space, Grand Ravines, Grand River Park, Bend Area, Georgetown East Grand River Sites

STEARNS CREEK PARK

13594 136th Ave., Grand Haven, MI 49417

Robinson Township

Acquired: 2019

Size: 118 acres

Natural Features: Located at the headwaters of the Grand River's Stearns Bayou, Stearns Creek Park has over a mile of creek frontage, diverse wetlands, picturesque ravines, and tracts of older growth forests. The wetlands and shoreline are among the highest quality in the Ottawa County park system. Extensive old pine plantations across the interior of the site harbor uncommon prairie plants.

Water Frontage:

- Stearns Bayou - 6213 feet (1.18 miles)

Developed: 2019

Facilities/Activities: Gravel parking, natural surface hiking trails, picnic tables, portable toilet

Trails: 2.1 miles

Grant History:

- 2019 CECLP Stearns Creek Acquisition (118 acres, \$491,925 grant amount)
- 2017 MNRTF Stearns Creek Acquisition TF17-0073 (118 acres, \$528,000 grant amount)

Stearns Creek Park

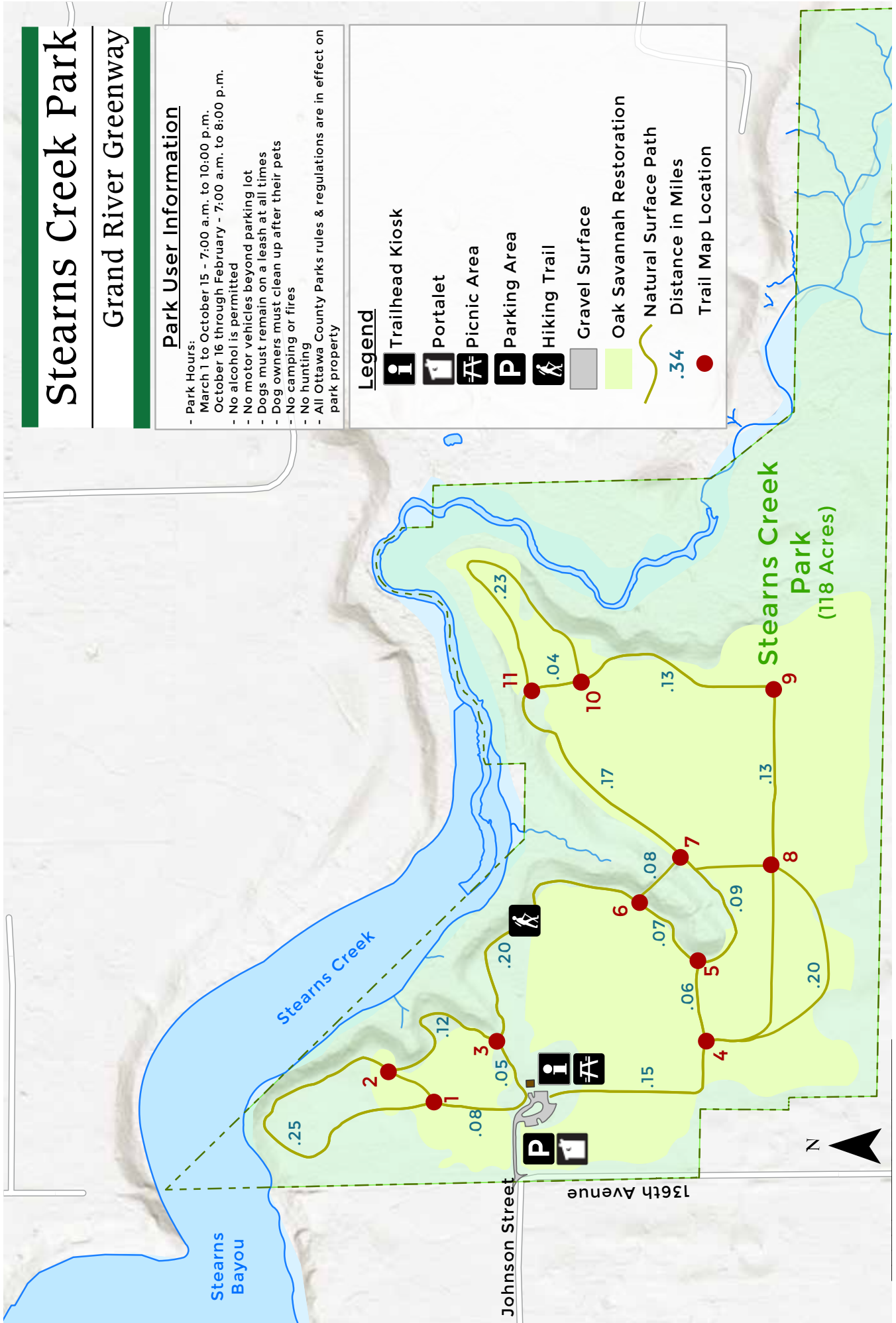
Grand River Greenway

Park User Information

- Park Hours:**
 March 1 to October 15 - 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
 October 16 through February - 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- No alcohol is permitted
 - No motor vehicles beyond parking lot
 - Dogs must remain on a leash at all times
 - Dog owners must clean up after their pets
 - No camping or fires
 - No hunting
 - All Ottawa County Parks rules & regulations are in effect on park property

Legend

- Trailhead Kiosk
- Portalet
- Picnic Area
- Parking Area
- Hiking Trail
- Gravel Surface
- Oak Savannah Restoration
- Natural Surface Path
- .34
- Trail Map Location



GRAND RIVER GREENWAY

Stearns Creek Park, Connor Bayou, Crockery Creek Natural Area, Jubb Bayou, Riverside Park, Bur Oak Landing, Eastmanville Farm, Eastmanville Bayou, Deer Creek Park, Ripps Bayou, Kuits Bayou, Grand River Open Space, Grand Ravines, Grand River Park, Bend Area, Georgetown East Grand River Sites

CONNOR BAYOU

12945 North Cedar Dr., Grand Haven, MI 49417

Robinson Township

Acquired: 2005

Size: 142 acres

Natural Features: Floodplain with extensive wetlands and high quality natural land with high ground and a fairly mature deciduous-coniferous upland forest. Views from the site are outstanding and encompass the river, Connor Bayou and associated wetlands plus an expansive marsh located immediately across the river.

Water Frontage:

- Grand River - 4563 feet (0.9 miles)
- Bayou - 1687 feet (0.32 miles)

Developed: 2012

Facilities/Activities: Paved parking, paved trails, pit toilet, picnicking, kayak launch, renovated log cabin for day use rental, fishing dock, lawn area, and hiking trails.

Trails: 2.99 miles

Grant History:

- 2003 MNRTF Connor Bayou Acquisition TF03-146 (95 acres, \$823,000 grant amount)
- 2012 MNRTF Grand River Accessible Kayak Launches TF12-080 (\$47,500 grant amount)

Connor Bayou

Grand River Greenway

Park User Information

- Park Hours:
March 1 to October 15 - 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
October 16 through February - 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- No alcohol is permitted
- No motor vehicles beyond parking lot
- Dogs must remain on a leash at all times
- Dog owners must clean up after their pets
- No camping or fires
- No hunting
- Bikes allowed on entry drive and paved surfaces only
- All Ottawa County Parks rules & regulations are in effect on park property

Spoonville Gun Club
(Private)

Cabin, Lawn, & Shelter
(Rental)

Riverfront trail and loop may be
inaccessible during high water

.60 Mile Loop

Connor Bayou
(142 Acres)

Grand Haven
State Game Area
(MDNR)
132nd Avenue

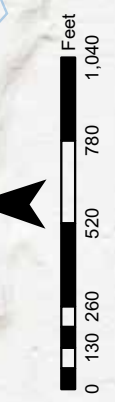
North Cedar Drive

Little Robinson Creek

128th Avenue

Legend

	Trailhead Kiosk		Paved Surface
	Kayak Access		Gravel Surface
	Scenic Views		Concrete
	Picnic Area		Trail Map Location
	Parking Area		Distance in Miles
	Hiking Trail		Natural Surface Path
	Fishing Access		Paved Path
	Rustic Restroom		Boardwalks
	Idema Explorers Trail		Crushed Stone Path
	Existing Route		
	Proposed Route		



Stearns Creek Park, Connor Bayou, Crockery Creek Natural Area, Jubb Bayou, Riverside Park, Bur Oak Landing, Eastmanville Farm, Eastmanville Bayou, Deer Creek Park, Ripps Bayou, Kuits Bayou, Grand River Open Space, Grand Ravines, Grand River Park, Bend Area, Georgetown East Grand River Sites

CROCKERY CREEK NATURAL AREA

11071 Wren Dr., Nunica, MI 49448

Crockery Township

Acquired: 1999

Size: 334 acres

Natural Features: Diverse mix of wet meadows and buttonbush swamp, floodplain forest, mixed deciduous and coniferous woods. The site is a nesting location for bald eagles and has nearly two miles of Crockery Creek frontage.

Water Frontage: Grand River - 2640 feet (0.5 miles)

Developed: 2006

Facilities/Activities: Minimally developed. Two trail loops provide access to the northeast portion of the site from a trailhead at the end of Wren Drive. An historic farmstead (not restored) is also part of the site.

Trails: 1.57 miles Grant History:

- 1999 MNRTF Crockery Creek Site Acquisition TF99-235 (268 acres, \$805,000 grant amount)

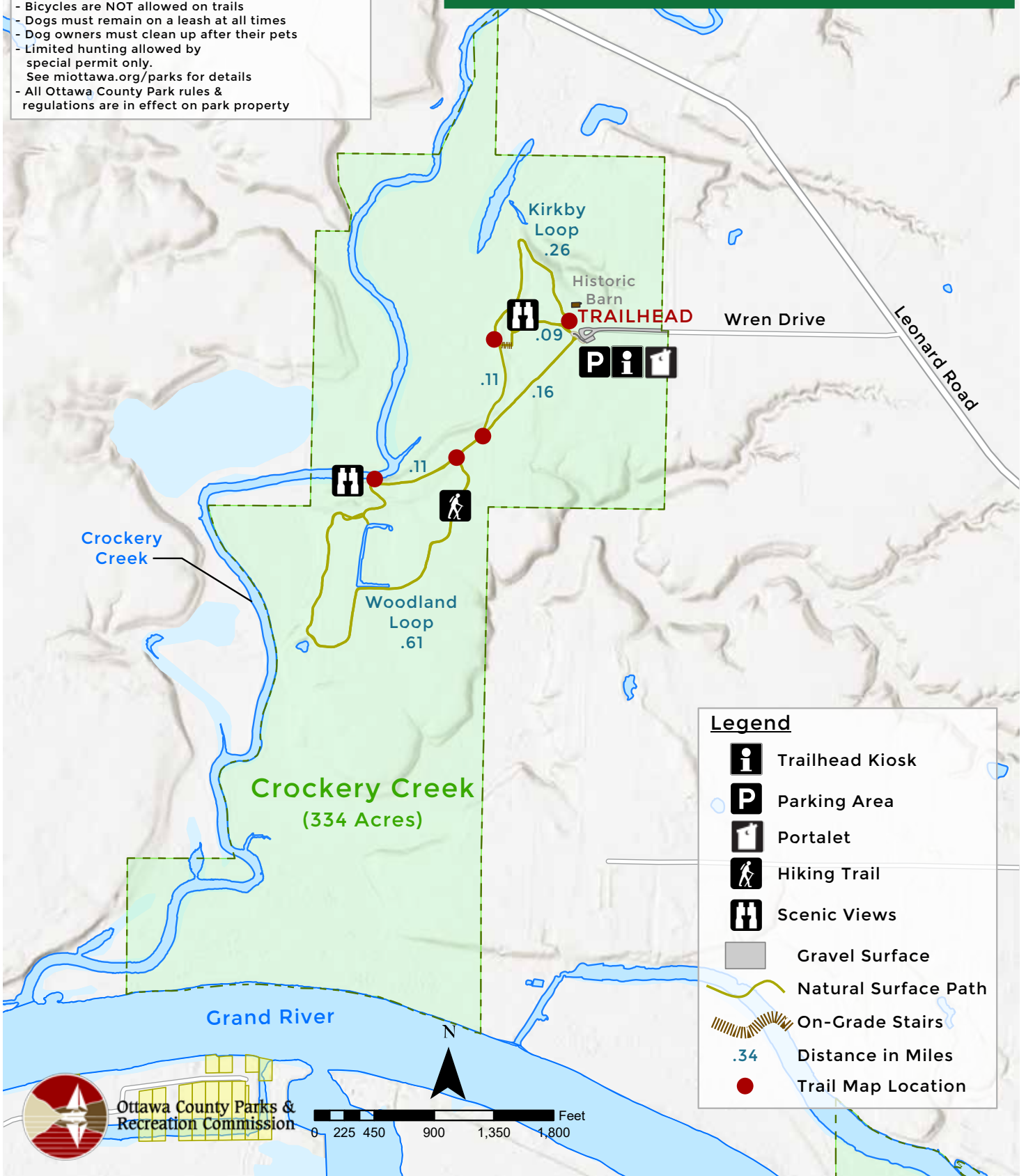
Site Notes: The site has been open to archery deer hunting by permit since 2003.

Park User Information

- Park Hours:
March 1 to October 15 - 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
October 16 through February - 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- No alcohol is permitted
- No motor vehicles beyond parking lot
- No ATVs or snowmobiles
- Bicycles are NOT allowed on trails
- Dogs must remain on a leash at all times
- Dog owners must clean up after their pets
- Limited hunting allowed by special permit only.
- See miottawa.org/parks for details
- All Ottawa County Park rules & regulations are in effect on park property

Crockery Creek Natural Area

Grand River Greenway



GRAND RIVER GREENWAY

Stearns Creek Park, Connor Bayou, Crockery Creek Natural Area, Jubb Bayou, Riverside Park, Bur Oak Landing, Eastmanville Farm, Eastmanville Bayou, Deer Creek Park, Ripps Bayou, Kuits Bayou, Grand River Open Space, Grand Ravines, Grand River Park, Bend Area, Georgetown East Grand River Sites

JUBB BAYOU

10340 Oriole Dr., Nunica, MI 49448

Crockery Township

Acquired: 2005

Size: 97 acres

Natural Features: Inland bayou with associated wetlands and floodplain. Site also contains mixed woods and old farm fields.

Water Frontage:

- Grand River - 4589 feet (0.9 miles)
- Bayou - 4026 feet (0.76 miles)

Developed: 2006

Facilities/Activities: Minimally developed with small gravel parking area and information kiosk. Bayou is a very good fishing location. There are some informal, unmarked trails accessing the riverfront.

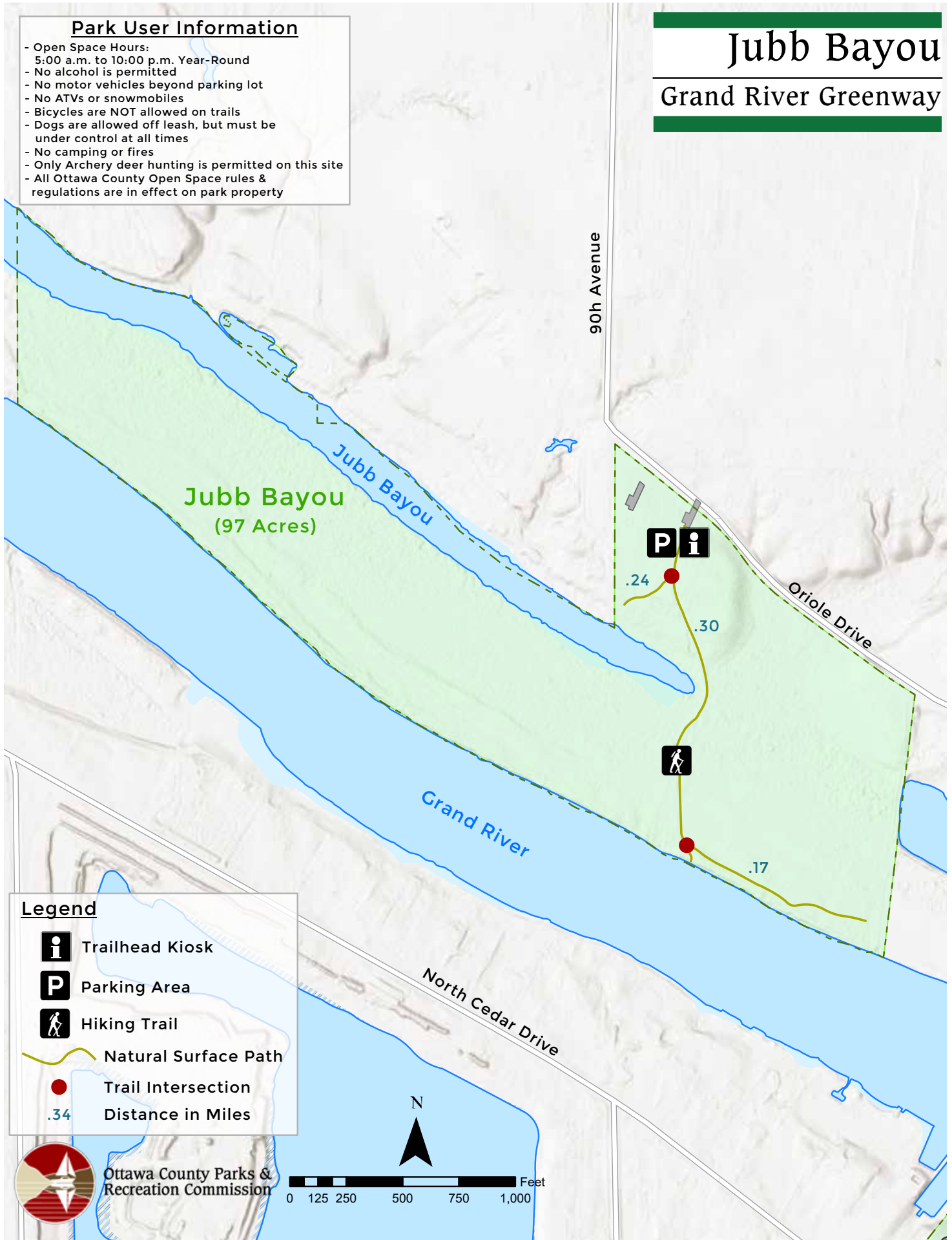
Site Notes: Canoes, kayaks, and other small boats can be carried to bayou from parking area.

Park User Information

- Open Space Hours:
5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Year-Round
- No alcohol is permitted
- No motor vehicles beyond parking lot
- No ATVs or snowmobiles
- Bicycles are NOT allowed on trails
- Dogs are allowed off leash, but must be under control at all times
- No camping or fires
- Only Archery deer hunting is permitted on this site
- All Ottawa County Open Space rules & regulations are in effect on park property

Jubb Bayou

Grand River Greenway



Legend

- Trailhead Kiosk
- Parking Area
- Hiking Trail
- Natural Surface Path
- Trail Intersection
- Distance in Miles



Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

0 125 250 500 750 1,000 Feet

GRAND RIVER GREENWAY

Stearns Creek Park, Connor Bayou, Crockery Creek Natural Area, Jubb Bayou, Riverside Park, Bur Oak Landing, Eastmanville Farm, Eastmanville Bayou, Deer Creek Park, Ripps Bayou, Kuits Bayou, Grand River Open Space, Grand Ravines, Grand River Park, Bend Area, Georgetown East Grand River Sites

RIVERSIDE PARK

10317 North Cedar Dr., Grand Haven, MI 49417

Robinson Township

Acquired: Original park transferred from Road Commission in 1987, addition in 1992.

Size: 95 acres (includes 31 leased from the State)

Natural Features: Extensive wetlands and floodplain forest parallel to the shoreline of the Grand River, with some upland at west end of site.

Water Frontage:

- Grand River - 6,737 feet (1.28 miles)

Developed: 1992, 2007

Facilities/Activities: Facilities include a large boat launch with four concrete ramps, two docks, and associated trailer parking. Additional parking for 80 cars is located near a waterfront picnic shelter east of the boat launch and also in the upland at the west edge of the park. The park also features pit toilets, barrier-free fishing, and recently signed trail system, including links to the adjacent Bass River State Recreation Area.

Trails: 2.20 miles

Grant History:

- 1991 MNRTF Riverside Park Expansion TF91-051 (6 acres, \$114,000 grant amount)

Site Notes: There are no entrance fees to the park; however, there is a self-serve boat launch fee. The park is open year around but is not plowed during the winter.

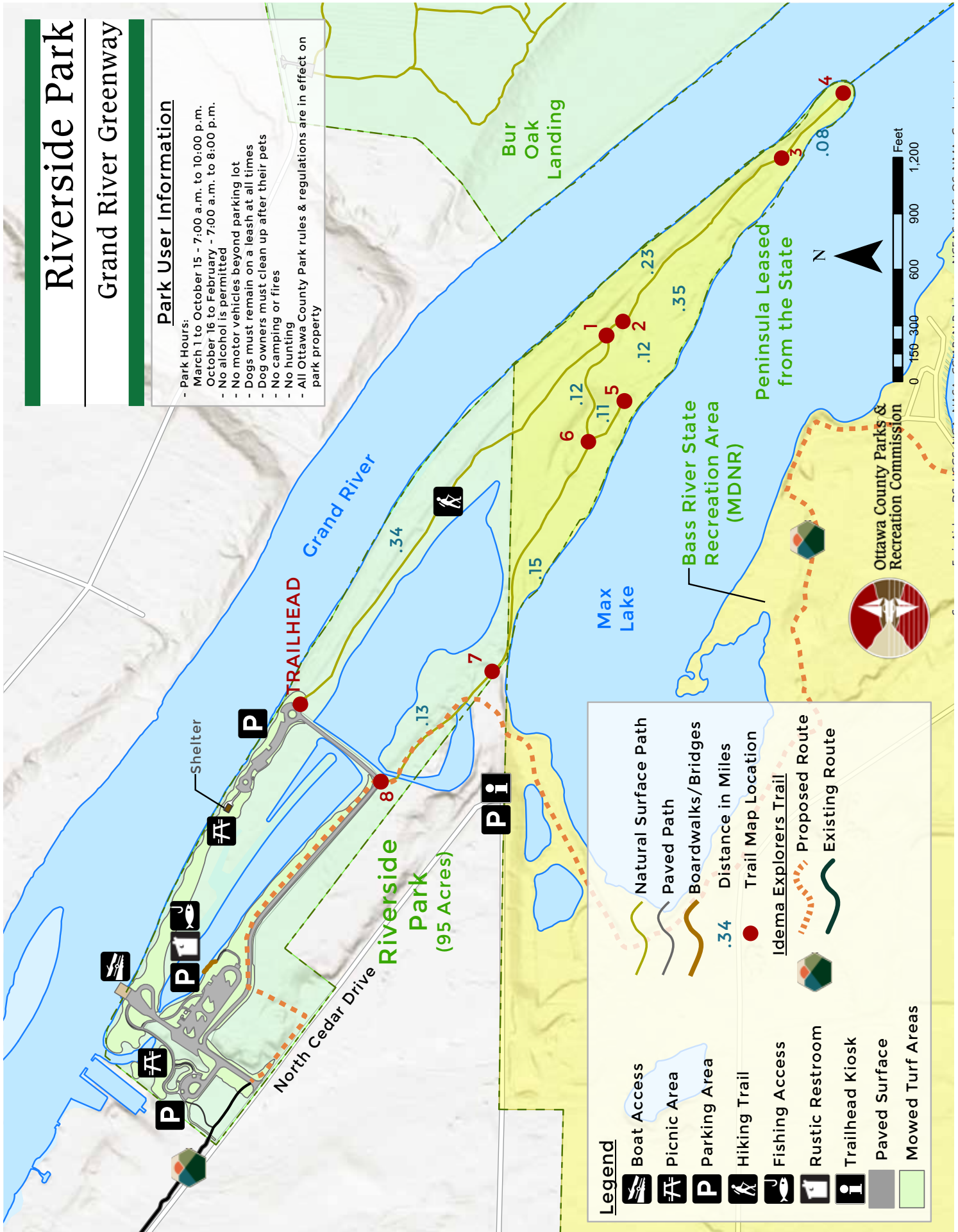
Riverside Park

Grand River Greenway

Park User Information

- Park Hours:

- March 1 to October 15 - 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
- October 16 to February - 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- No alcohol is permitted
- No motor vehicles beyond parking lot
- Dogs must remain on a leash at all times
- Dog owners must clean up after their pets
- No camping or fires
- No hunting
- All Ottawa County Park rules & regulations are in effect on park property



GRAND RIVER GREENWAY

Stearns Creek Park, Connor Bayou, Crockery Creek Natural Area, Jubb Bayou, Riverside Park, Bur Oak Landing, Eastmanville Farm, Eastmanville Bayou, Deer Creek Park, Ripps Bayou, Kuits Bayou, Grand River Open Space, Grand Ravines, Grand River Park, Bend Area, Georgetown East Grand River Sites

BUR OAK LANDING

13500 90th Ave., Coopersville, MI 49404

Polkton Township

Acquired: 2006, 2013

Size: 263 acres

Natural Features: Floodplain forest, shrub/ scrub swamp, inland bayou, ravines and bluffs above the floodplain.

Water Frontage:

- Grand River - 7392 feet (1.4 miles)
- Bayou - 5267 feet (1.0 miles)

Developed: 2006

Facilities/Activities: Minimally developed except for small gravel parking areas with information kiosks at three locations and a small marked trail system on the west end of the site.

Trails: 0.97 miles

Grant History:

- 2006 MNRTF Bur Oak Land Acquisition TF06-208 (175 acres, \$773,000 grant amount)

Site Notes: Archery hunting is allowed on entire site. General hunting is allowed on the portion east of 90th Ave.

Bur Oak Landing

Grand River Greenway

Park User Information

- Open Space Hours:
5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Year-Round
- No alcohol is permitted
- No motor vehicles
- No ATVs or snowmobiles
- Bicycles are NOT allowed
- Dogs are allowed off leash, but must be under control at all times
- No camping or fires
- No trapping
- Open to hunting per DNR laws
- All Ottawa County Open Space rules & regulations are in effect on park property

Bur Oak Landing
(263 Acres)

Bass River State Recreation Area
(Michigan Department of Natural Resources)

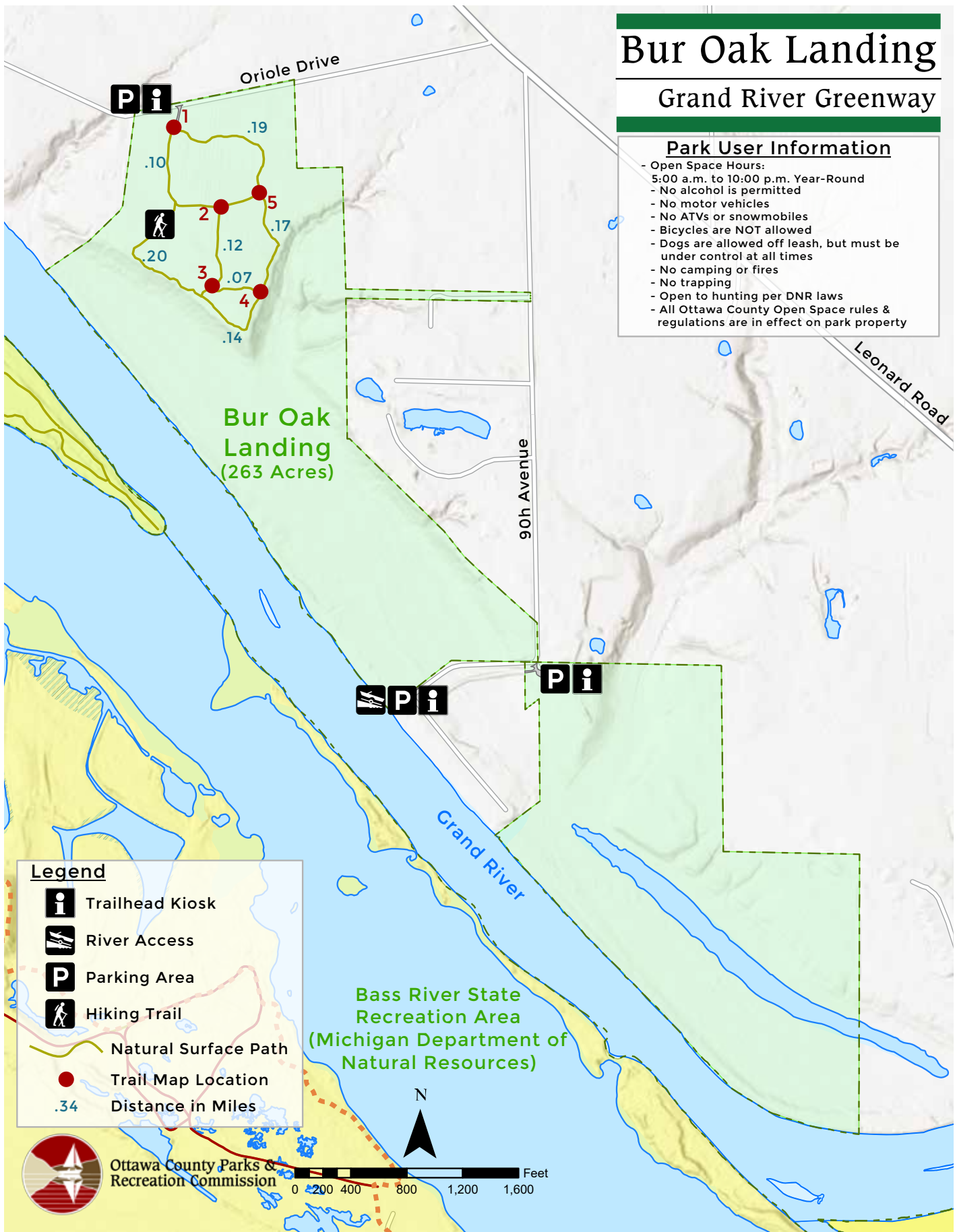
Legend

- Trailhead Kiosk
- River Access
- Parking Area
- Hiking Trail
- Natural Surface Path
- Trail Map Location
- .34
Distance in Miles



Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

0 200 400 800 1,200 1,600 Feet



Stearns Creek Park, Connor Bayou, Crockery Creek Natural Area, Jubb Bayou, Riverside Park, Bur Oak Landing, Eastmanville Farm, Eastmanville Bayou, Deer Creek Park, Ripps Bayou, Kuits Bayou, Grand River Open Space, Grand Ravines, Grand River Park, Bend Area, Georgetown East Grand River Sites

EASTMANVILLE FARM

7851 Leonard Rd., Coopersville, MI 49404

Polkton Township

Acquired: Land transferred from County in 2005

Size: 229 acres

Natural Features: 29 acres of rolling grassland on the south side with forested riverfront. The acreage north of Leonard includes approximately 30 acres of relatively flat ground where the farm and housing facilities used to be. North of that is approximately 50 acres of rolling terrain with a stream channel. Beyond that is relatively flat pasture land bordered on the east and west by forested ravines.

Water Frontage: Grand River - 1365 feet (0.26 miles)

Developed: 2008

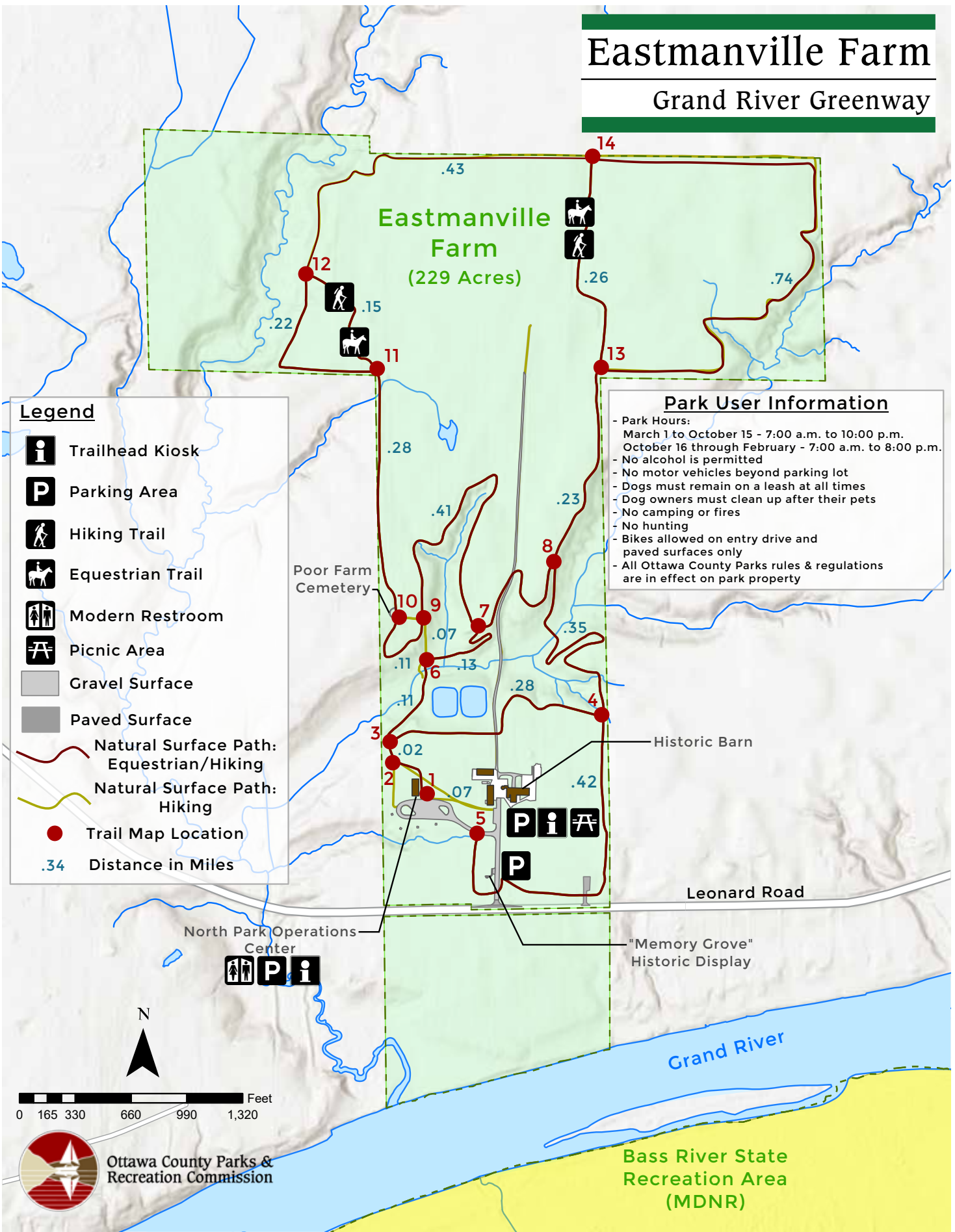
Facilities/Activities: Gravel parking areas, a pedestrian trail loop, and over three miles of equestrian trails. The site was the former County Poor Farm. An historic barn and cemetery from that era have been restored. There is also a small plaza area featuring interpretation of the site's history.

Trails: 5.01 miles

Site Notes: A farm education center is part of the site master plan. This center would be funded and operated by a non-profit group leasing land from Ottawa County Parks.

Eastmanville Farm

Grand River Greenway



Legend

- Trailhead Kiosk
- Parking Area
- Hiking Trail
- Equestrian Trail
- Modern Restroom
- Picnic Area
- Gravel Surface
- Paved Surface
- Natural Surface Path: Equestrian/Hiking
- Natural Surface Path: Hiking
- Trail Map Location
- .34 Distance in Miles

Park User Information

- Park Hours:
March 1 to October 15 - 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
October 16 through February - 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- No alcohol is permitted
- No motor vehicles beyond parking lot
- Dogs must remain on a leash at all times
- Dog owners must clean up after their pets
- No camping or fires
- No hunting
- Bikes allowed on entry drive and paved surfaces only
- All Ottawa County Parks rules & regulations are in effect on park property

North Park Operations Center

0 165 330 660 990 1,320 Feet

Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

GRAND RIVER GREENWAY

Stearns Creek Park, Connor Bayou, Crockery Creek Natural Area, Jubb Bayou, Riverside Park, Bur Oak Landing, Eastmanville Farm, Eastmanville Bayou, Deer Creek Park, Ripps Bayou, Kuits Bayou, Grand River Open Space, Grand Ravines, Grand River Park, Bend Area, Georgetown East Grand River Sites

EASTMANVILLE BAYOU

13507 68th Ave., Allendale, MI 49401

Allendale Township

Acquired: Donation in 1997, additional purchase in 2004

Size: 157 acres

Natural Features: Entire site is in the floodplain. The property includes heavily wooded floodplain forest and supports a variety of native flora and fauna including excellent displays of Virginia Bluebells.

Water Frontage:

- Grand River - 9364 feet (1.77 miles)
- Bayou - 8300 feet (1.57 miles)

Developed: 2010

Facilities/Activities: Paved parking, pit toilets, boat launch to the bayou, a canoe/kayak launch on the Grand River, and a connection under the bridge to the east half of the site. Fishing from the shore on both the Grand River and the bayou is popular. Ice fishing on Eastmanville Bayou in the winter is also popular.

Trails: 1.49 miles

Site Notes: A previous owner (west end of site) had dredged a channel from the Bayou to the Grand River which has filled in over time.

Eastmanville Bayou

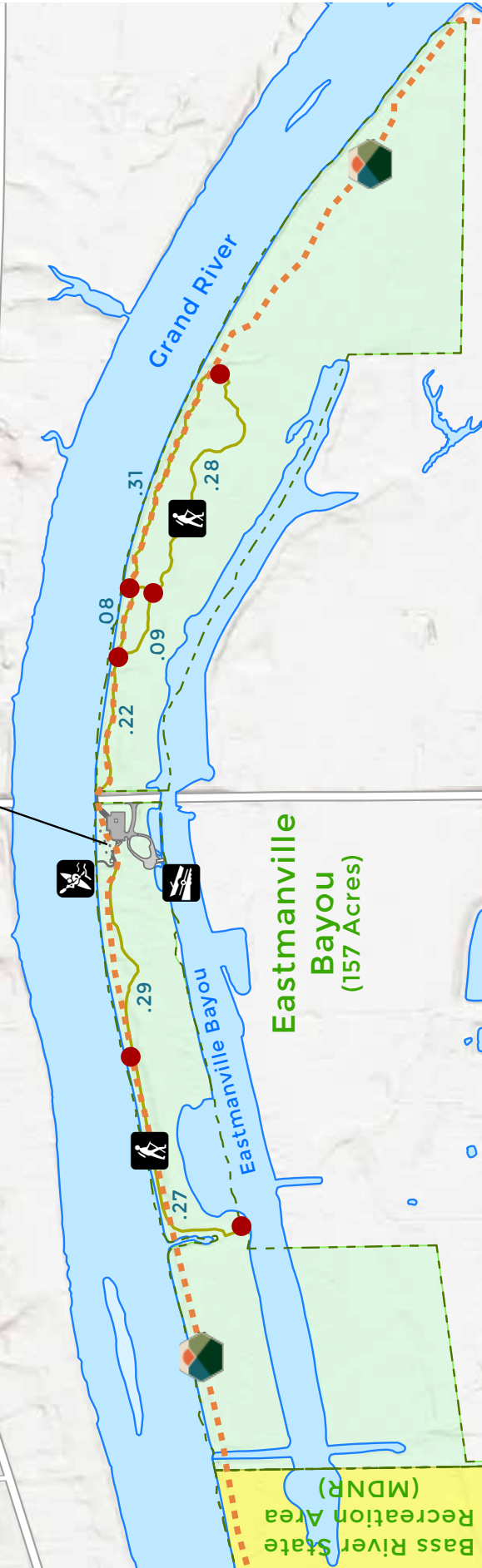
Grand River Greenway

Park User Information

- Open Space Hours: 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Year-Round
- No alcohol is permitted
- No motor vehicles beyond parking lot
- No ATVs or snowmobiles
- Bicycles are NOT allowed on trails
- Dogs are allowed off leash, but must be under control at all times
- No camping or fires
- Archery deer hunting only
- All Ottawa County Open Space rules & regulations are in effect on park property



Leonard Road

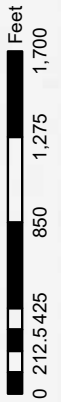


Eastmanville Bayou (157 Acres)

Bass River State Recreation Area (MDNR)

Osborn Street

68th Avenue



Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

Legend

- | | | | |
|--|-----------------|--|-----------------------|
| | Trailhead Kiosk | | Picnic Area |
| | Bayou Access | | Rustic Restroom |
| | Parking Area | | Gravel Surface |
| | Hiking Trail | | Paved Surface |
| | Kayak Access | | Natural Surface Path |
| | Fishing Access | | Idema Explorers Trail |
| | | | Proposed Route |

GRAND RIVER GREENWAY

Stearns Creek Park, Connor Bayou, Crockery Creek Natural Area, Jubb Bayou, Riverside Park, Bur Oak Landing, Eastmanville Farm, Eastmanville Bayou, Deer Creek Park, Ripps Bayou, Kuits Bayou, Grand River Open Space, Grand Ravines, Grand River Park, Bend Area, Georgetown East Grand River Sites

DEER CREEK PARK

13426 60th Ave., Coopersville, MI 49404

Polkton Township

Acquired: Original park transferred from Road Commission in 1987.

Size: 2 acres

Natural Features: Located at the mouth of the Deer Creek on the Grand River. Most of the site is mowed grass with northern upland area forested.

Water Frontage: Grand River - 530 feet (0.10 miles)

Developed: 1990

Facilities/Activities: Facilities include a small hard surface boat launch with gravel car/trailer parking for eight, car-only parking for six vehicles, plus picnic areas and pit toilets.

Site Notes: There are no entrance fees, and the park is open year around. The park is not plowed in the winter. This is the smallest of Ottawa County's parks.

Deer Creek Park & Ripps Bayou

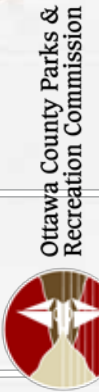
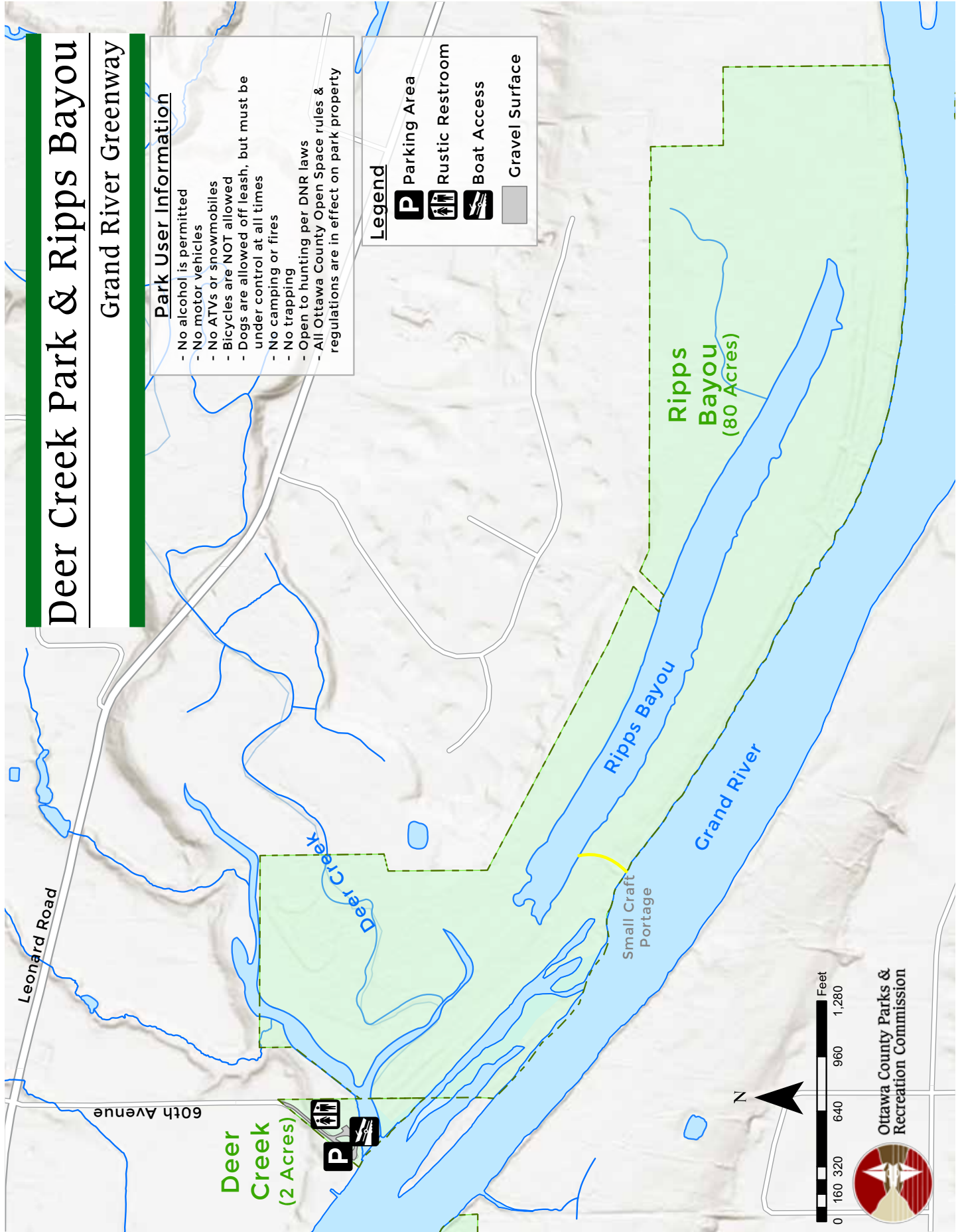
Grand River Greenway

Park User Information

- No alcohol is permitted
- No motor vehicles
- No ATVs or snowmobiles
- Bicycles are NOT allowed
- Dogs are allowed off leash, but must be under control at all times
- No camping or fires
- No trapping
- Open to hunting per DNR laws
- All Ottawa County Open Space rules & regulations are in effect on park property

Legend

- Parking Area
- Rustic Restroom
- Boat Access
- Gravel Surface



GRAND RIVER GREENWAY

Stearns Creek Park, Connor Bayou, Crockery Creek Natural Area, Jubb Bayou, Riverside Park, Bur Oak Landing, Eastmanville Farm, Eastmanville Bayou, Deer Creek Park, Ripps Bayou, Kuits Bayou, Grand River Open Space, Grand Ravines, Grand River Park, Bend Area, Georgetown East Grand River Sites

RIPPS BAYOU

5850 Leonard Rd., Coopersville, MI 49404

Polkton Township

Acquired: Four purchases from 1999 to 2004

Size: 173 acres

Natural Features: Floodplain forest which encompasses the majority of the Ripps Bayou.

Water Frontage:

- Grand River - 7550 feet (1.43 miles)
- Bayou - 7992 feet (1.51 miles)

Facilities/Activities: Undeveloped. Site is popular with hunters and fishermen.

Site Notes: The only public access to the bayou is via portage from the Grand River and only non-motorized water craft are permitted on the bayou.

Deer Creek Park & Ripps Bayou

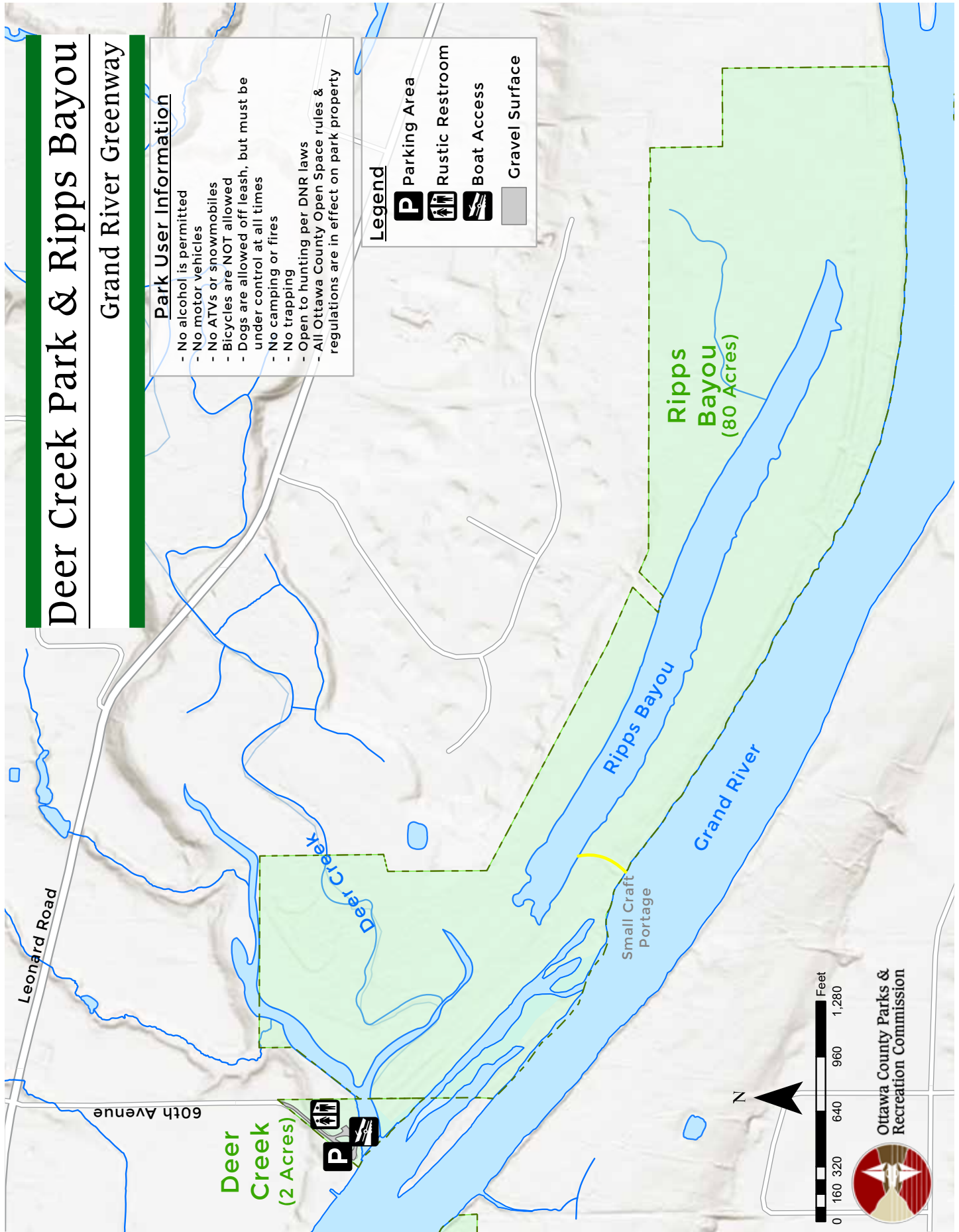
Grand River Greenway

Park User Information

- No alcohol is permitted
- No motor vehicles
- No ATVs or snowmobiles
- Bicycles are NOT allowed
- Dogs are allowed off leash, but must be under control at all times
- No camping or fires
- No trapping
- Open to hunting per DNR laws
- All Ottawa County Open Space rules & regulations are in effect on park property

Legend

- Parking Area
- Rustic Restroom
- Boat Access
- Gravel Surface



GRAND RIVER GREENWAY

Stearns Creek Park, Connor Bayou, Crockery Creek Natural Area, Jubb Bayou, Riverside Park, Bur Oak Landing, Eastmanville Farm, Eastmanville Bayou, Deer Creek Park, Ripps Bayou, Kuits Bayou, Grand River Open Space, Grand Ravines, Grand River Park, Bend Area, Georgetown East Grand River Sites

KUITS BAYOU

4575 Warner Dr., Allendale, MI 49401

Allendale Township

Acquired: Two purchases in 2009

Size: 80 acres

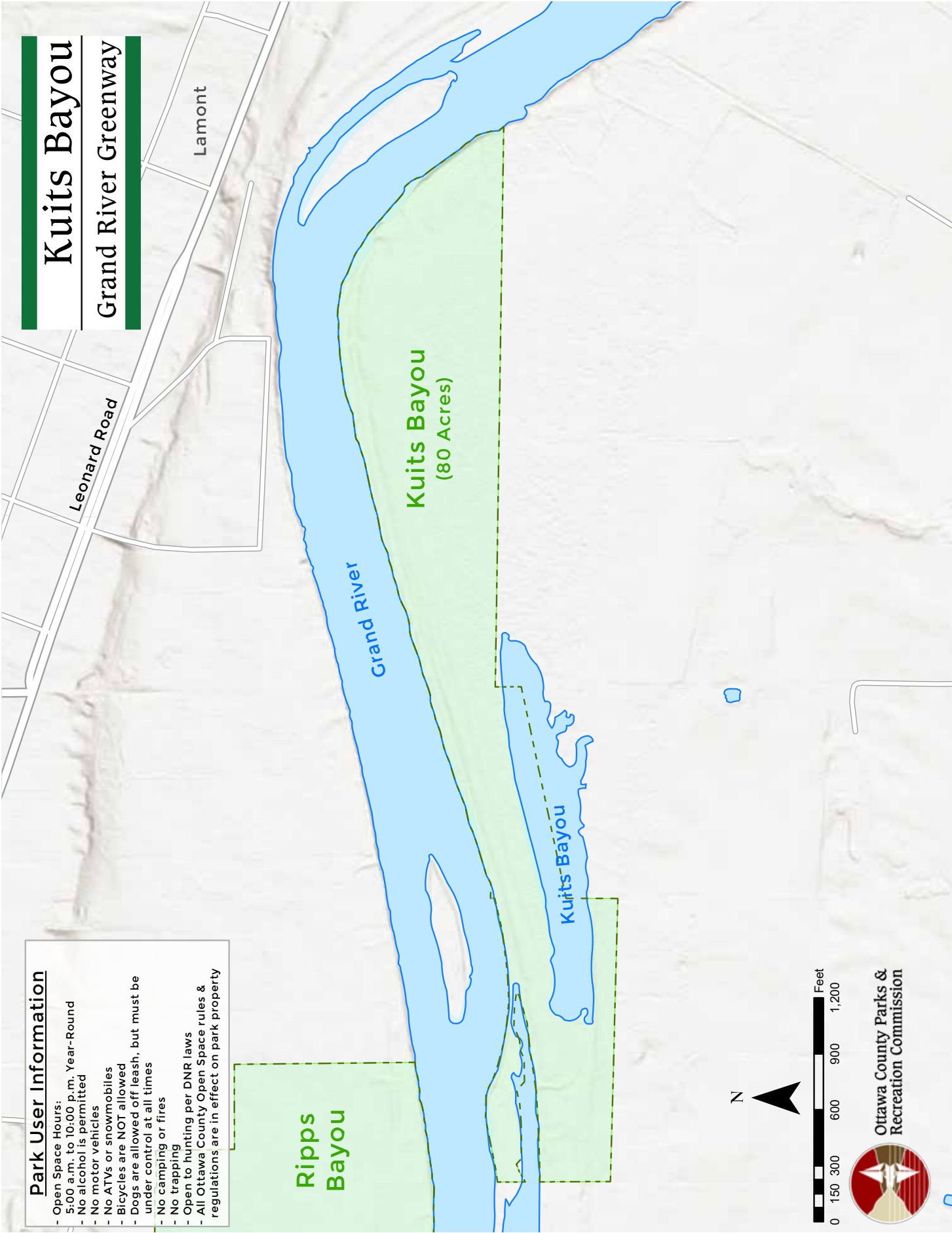
Natural Features: Floodplain forest with portion of inland bayou

Water Frontage:

- Grand River - 6191 feet (1.17 miles)
- Bayou - 2650 feet (0.50 miles)

Facilities/Activities: Undeveloped. Site is popular with hunters and fishermen

Site Notes: Access is currently by boat only.



Park User Information

- Open Space Hours: 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Year-Round
- No alcohol is permitted
- No motor vehicles
- No ATVs or snowmobiles
- Bicycles are NOT allowed
- Dogs are allowed off leash, but must be under control at all times
- No camping or fires
- No trapping
- Open to hunting per DNR laws
- All Ottawa County Open Space rules & regulations are in effect on park property

Kuits Bayou

Grand River Greenway

GRAND RIVER GREENWAY

Stearns Creek Park, Connor Bayou, Crockery Creek Natural Area, Jubb Bayou, Riverside Park, Bur Oak Landing, Eastmanville Farm, Eastmanville Bayou, Deer Creek Park, Ripps Bayou, Kuits Bayou, Grand River Open Space, Grand Ravines, Grand River Park, Bend Area, Georgetown East Grand River Sites

GRAND RAVINES

North: 9920 42nd Ave., Jenison, MI 49428

South: 3991 Fillmore St., Jenison, MI 49428

Georgetown Township

Acquired: South area 1999, North area 2010, riverfront addition in 2012.

Size: 187 acres

Natural Features: Scenic and ecologically significant steep wooded ravines extending from interior of site to the Grand River shoreline. Flatter, upland portions of site are former farm field. North fields have been restored to native grassland.

Water Frontage: Grand River - 2640 feet (0.50 miles)

Developed: 2015

Facilities/Activities: South area has access from Fillmore Street including paved parking area, modern restrooms, dog park, and hiking trails. There is also a restored historic barn at this location. North area includes paved entrance drive and parking, renovated house overlooking the river, a ravine overlook deck, trails, and a floating deck/kayak launch on the river. A pedestrian suspension bridge is a popular part of the trail system.

Trails: 5.5 miles

Grant History:

- 2009 MNRTF Grand River Ravines Acquisition TF 09-075 (100 acres, \$720,000 grant amount)
- 2014 LWCF Accessible Pathway 26-01739 (\$100,000)

Park User Information

- Park Hours:
March 1 to October 15 - 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
October 16 through February - 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- No alcohol is permitted
- No motor vehicles beyond parking lot
- Dogs must remain on a leash at all times whenever outside of the dog park fences
- Dog owners must clean up after their pets
- Additional posted Dog Park rules also apply
- No camping or fires
- No hunting
- Bikes allowed on entry drive and paved surfaces only
- All Ottawa County Parks rules & regulations are in effect on park property

Grand Ravines

Grand River Greenway

Grand River Open Space

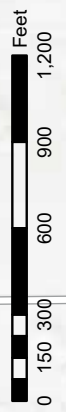


Legend

	Kayak Access		Paved Surface
	Scenic Views		Mowed Turf Areas
	Picnic Area		Natural Surface Path
	Parking Area		Paved Path
	Hiking Trail		Boardwalks/Bridges
	Fishing Access		Stairs
	Modern Restrooms		Distance in Miles
	Trailhead Kiosk		Trail Map Location
			Idema Explorers Trail
			Existing Route
			Proposed Route



Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission



GRAND RIVER GREENWAY

Stearns Creek Park, Connor Bayou, Crockery Creek Natural Area, Jubb Bayou, Riverside Park, Bur Oak Landing, Eastmanville Farm, Eastmanville Bayou, Deer Creek Park, Ripps Bayou, Kuits Bayou, Grand River Open Space, Grand Ravines, Grand River Park, Bend Area, Georgetown East Grand River Sites

GRAND RIVER PARK

Georgetown Township

Acquired: Transferred from Georgetown Township in 1999.

Size: 162 acres

Natural Features: The park features wooded hills, floodplain forest, wetlands, a small man-made lake, and restored native grassland areas.

Water Frontage:

- Grand River - 2505 feet (0.47 miles)
- Inland lake

Developed: 1990

Facilities/Activities: The park offers opportunities for hiking, mountain biking, and skiing on the nature trails, as well as fishing from a wooden dock/boardwalk or from the shore of the lake and the Grand River. The park also features a boat launch and universally-accessible kayak launch at the Grand River, overlook decks, a fully enclosed picnic building, and a barrier-free children's playground.

Trails: 3.43 miles

Grant History:

- 1983 MNRTF Grand River Park Acquisition TF 710 (160 acres, \$120,000 grant amount)
- 1987 MNRTF Grand River Park Development TF87-229 (\$120,000 grant amount)
- 2012 MNRTF Grand River Accessible Kayak Launches TF12-080 (\$47,500 grant amount)

Site Notes: There are no entrance or boat launch fees and the park is open year around. In 1999, OCPRC received a Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) grant from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to restore approximately 22 acres of existing farmland to native grassland.

Grand River Park

Grand River Greenway

Legend

- Kayak Access
- Boat Access
- Picnic Area
- Parking Area
- Hiking Trail
- Fishing Access
- Modern Restrooms
- Playground
- Mountain Biking
- Trailhead Kiosk
- Paved Surface
- Mowed Turf Areas
- Natural Surface Path
- Paved Path
- Boardwalks/Bridges
- Mountain Biking Route
- Distance in Miles
- Trail Map Location
- Idema Explorers Trail
- Proposed Route



Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission



Park User Information

- Park Hours:
 - March 1 to October 15 - 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
 - October 16 through February - 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- No alcohol is permitted
- No motor vehicles beyond parking lot
- Dogs must remain on a leash at all times
- Dog owners must clean up after their pets
- No camping or fires
- No hunting
- All Ottawa County Park rules & regulations are in effect on park property



GRAND RIVER GREENWAY

Stearns Creek Park, Connor Bayou, Crockery Creek Natural Area, Jubb Bayou, Riverside Park, Bur Oak Landing, Eastmanville Farm, Eastmanville Bayou, Deer Creek Park, Ripps Bayou, Kuits Bayou, Grand River Open Space, Grand Ravines, Grand River Park, Bend Area, Georgetown East Grand River Sites

BEND AREA

9500 12th Ave., Jenison, MI 49428

Georgetown Township

Acquired: 2007, 2020

Size: 405 acres

Natural Features: Mixed floodplain vegetation including wooded areas, wetland, and former gravel mining lakes.

Water Frontage:

- Grand River - 2505 feet (1.31 miles)
- Inland lake

Developed: Initial minor access area constructed in 2009

Facilities/Activities: A gravel parking lot provides access from the end of 12th Avenue. The site is popular for hunting and fishing.

Grant History: 2017 MNRTF Phase II Acquisition TF 16-0128 (\$729,000)

Site Notes: The site contains several active oil wells that will likely remain in use for the foreseeable future.

Bend Area

Grand River Greenway

Park User Information

- Open Space Hours: 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Year-Round
- No alcohol is permitted
- No motor vehicles beyond parking lot
- No ATVs or snowmobiles
- Bicycles are NOT allowed on trails
- Dogs are allowed off-leash, but must be under control at all times
- No camping or fires
- No trapping
- Archery deer hunting only
- All Ottawa County Open Space rules & regulations are in effect on park property

Bend Area
(421 Acres)

Steamboat Campground (Private)

Grand Lady Steamboat Landing

Wallinwood Golf Course

Moss House

12th Avenue

10th Avenue

Taylor Street

Cottonwood Drive

Grand River

Legend

- Parking Area
- Fishing Area
- Private Campground
- Idema Explorers Trail
- Existing Route
- Proposed Route

0 250 500 1,000 1,500 2,000 Feet



Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

GRAND RIVER GREENWAY

Stearns Creek Park, Connor Bayou, Crockery Creek Natural Area, Jubb Bayou, Riverside Park, Bur Oak Landing, Eastmanville Farm, Eastmanville Bayou, Deer Creek Park, Ripps Bayou, Kuits Bayou, Grand River Open Space, Grand Ravines, Grand River Park, Bend Area, Georgetown East Grand River Sites

GEORGETOWN EAST GRAND RIVER SITES (JENISON MILL)

Georgetown Township

Acquired: Multiple purchases 2012-2020

Size: 43 acres, including property owned by Georgetown Township

Natural Features: Floodplain forest

Water Frontage: Grand River - 405 feet (0.08 miles)

Facilities/Activities: Undeveloped

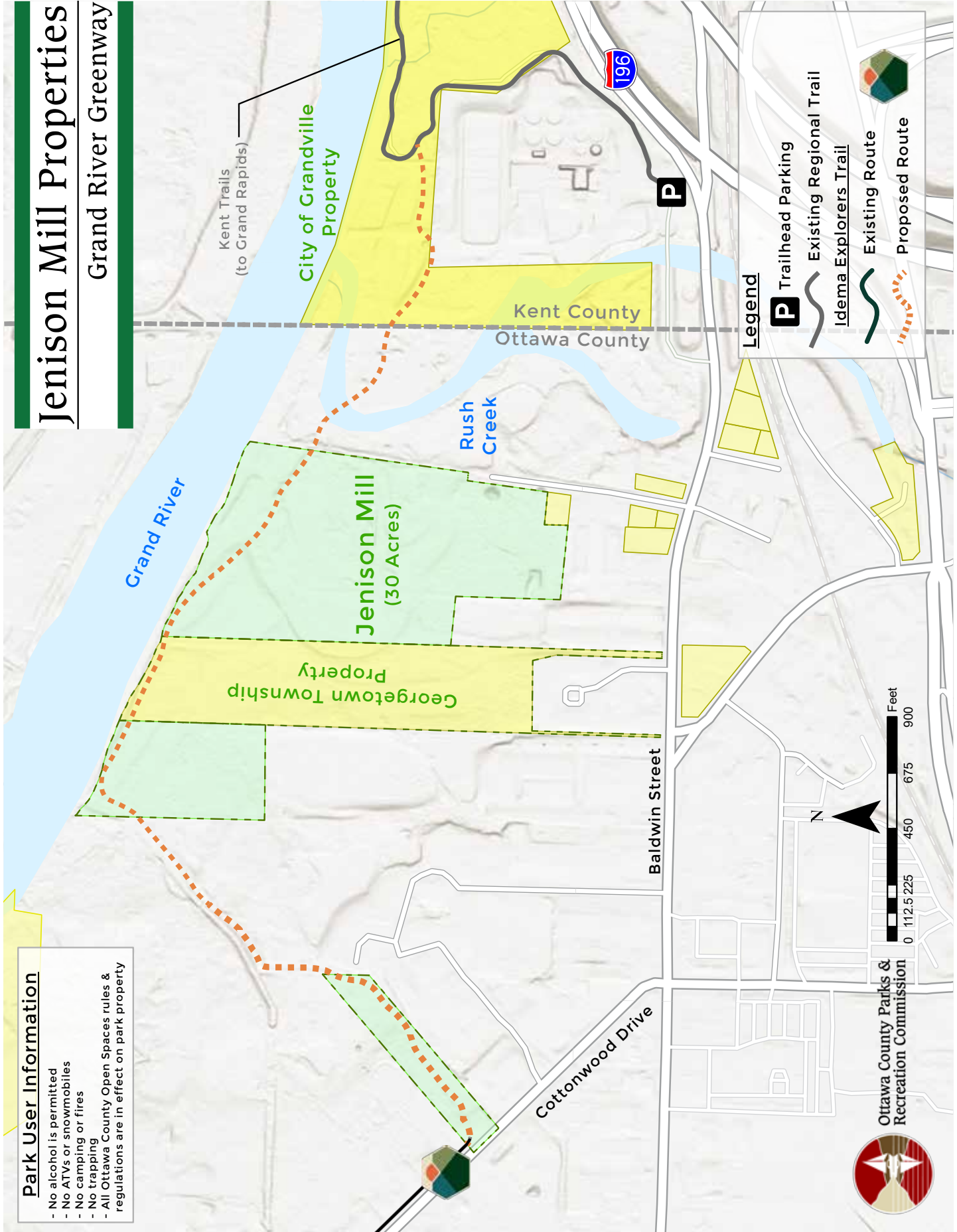
Grant History:

- 2019 MNRTF Idema Explorers Trail - Jenison Mill Segment TF 19-0117 (\$300,000 grant amount)

Jenison Mill Properties

Grand River Greenway

- Park User Information**
- No alcohol is permitted
 - No ATVs or snowmobiles
 - No camping or fires
 - No trapping
 - All Ottawa County Open Spaces rules & regulations are in effect on park property



HEMLOCK CROSSING/PINE BEND

8115 West Olive Rd., West Olive, MI 49460

15400 Polk St., West Olive, MI 49460

Port Sheldon Township

Acquired: Multiple purchases 1998-2004

Size: 239 acres

Natural Features: Woods and wetlands meander through bottomland and upland forest, old pine plantations and along the river.

Water Frontage: Pigeon River - 7902 feet (1.50 miles)

Developed: Main park facility 2003, Nature Education Center 2009.

Facilities/Activities: Facilities include two small picnic shelters, a kayak/canoe launch, and over a mile of paved trail. There are over 6 miles of trails for hiking and cross-country skiing. Pine Bend is a secondary access on the west end of the property that offers parking and a trail head. A pedestrian bridge and numerous overlooks offer scenic views of the river corridor, wetlands, natural springs and woods. Hemlock Crossing is the site of the 8000 square foot Nature Education Center which houses staff offices, a classroom, meeting space, and interpretive room. Pine Bend is also the site of the Weaver House, a restored residence available for event rental.

Trails: 6.25 miles

Grant History:

- 1997 MNRTF Pigeon River Greenway Acquisition TF97-242 (86 acres, \$397,500 grant amount)
- 1998 MNRTF Pigeon River Greenway II Addition TF98-285 (61 acres, \$390,000 grant amount)
- 2001 MNRTF Pigeon River Greenway Improvements TF01.159 (\$471,000 grant amount)

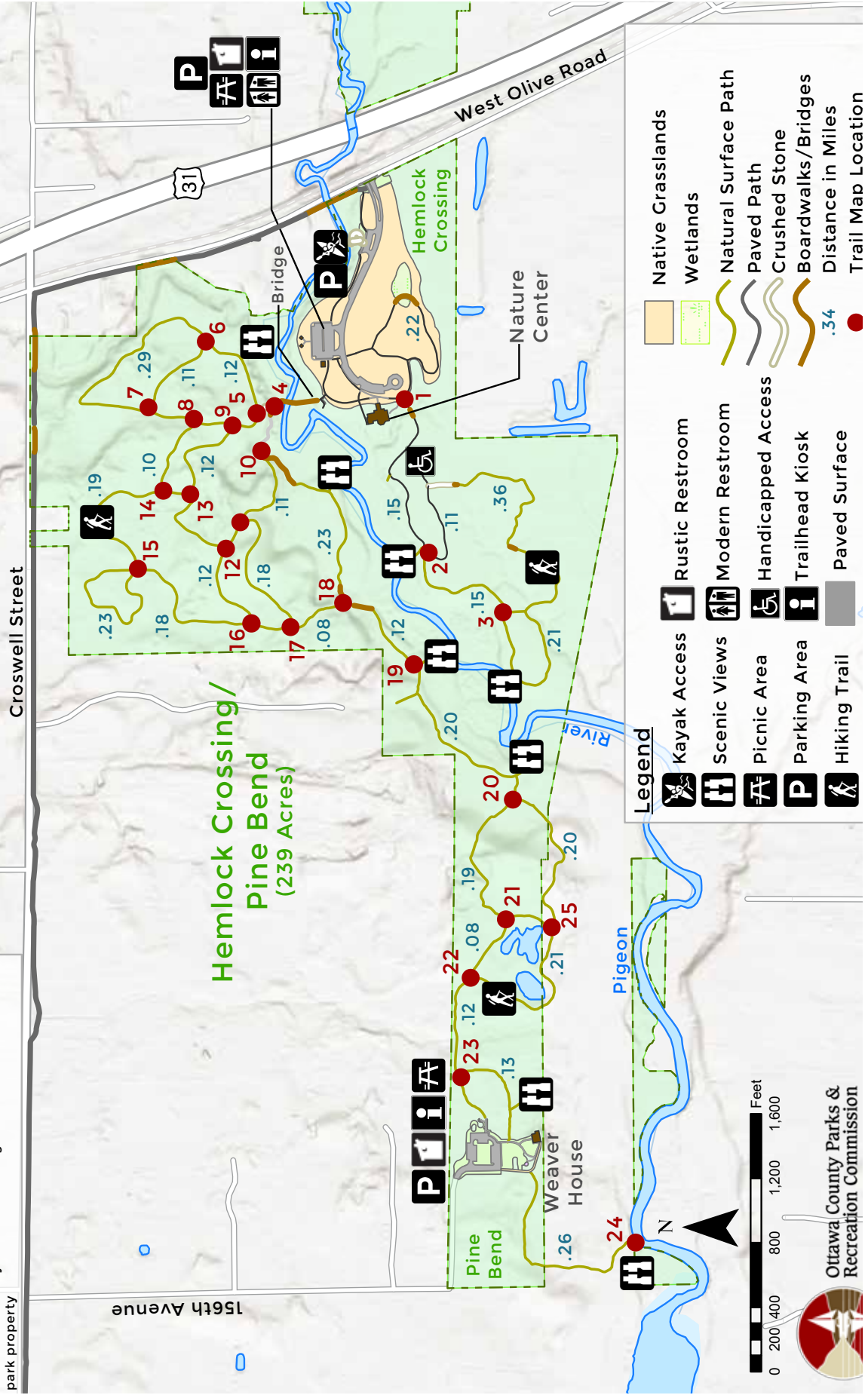
Site Notes: There are no entrance fees at Hemlock Crossing or Pine Bend, and both are open all year.

Park User Information

Park Hours:
 March 1 to October 15 - 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
 October 16 to February 28 - 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
 No alcohol is permitted
 No motor vehicles beyond parking lot
 Dogs must remain on a leash at all times
 Dog owners must clean up after their pets
 No camping or fires
 No hunting
 All Ottawa County Parks rules & regulations are in effect on park property

Hemlock Crossing & Pine Bend Parks

Pigeon River Greenway



PIGEON RIVER OPEN SPACE

Olive Township

Acquired: Donated in three parts - 2006, 2011, and 2013.

Size: 46 acres

Natural Features: Floodplain forest with over 2000' of frontage on the Pigeon River.

Water Frontage: Pigeon River - 2354 feet (0.46 miles)

Facilities/Activities: Undeveloped

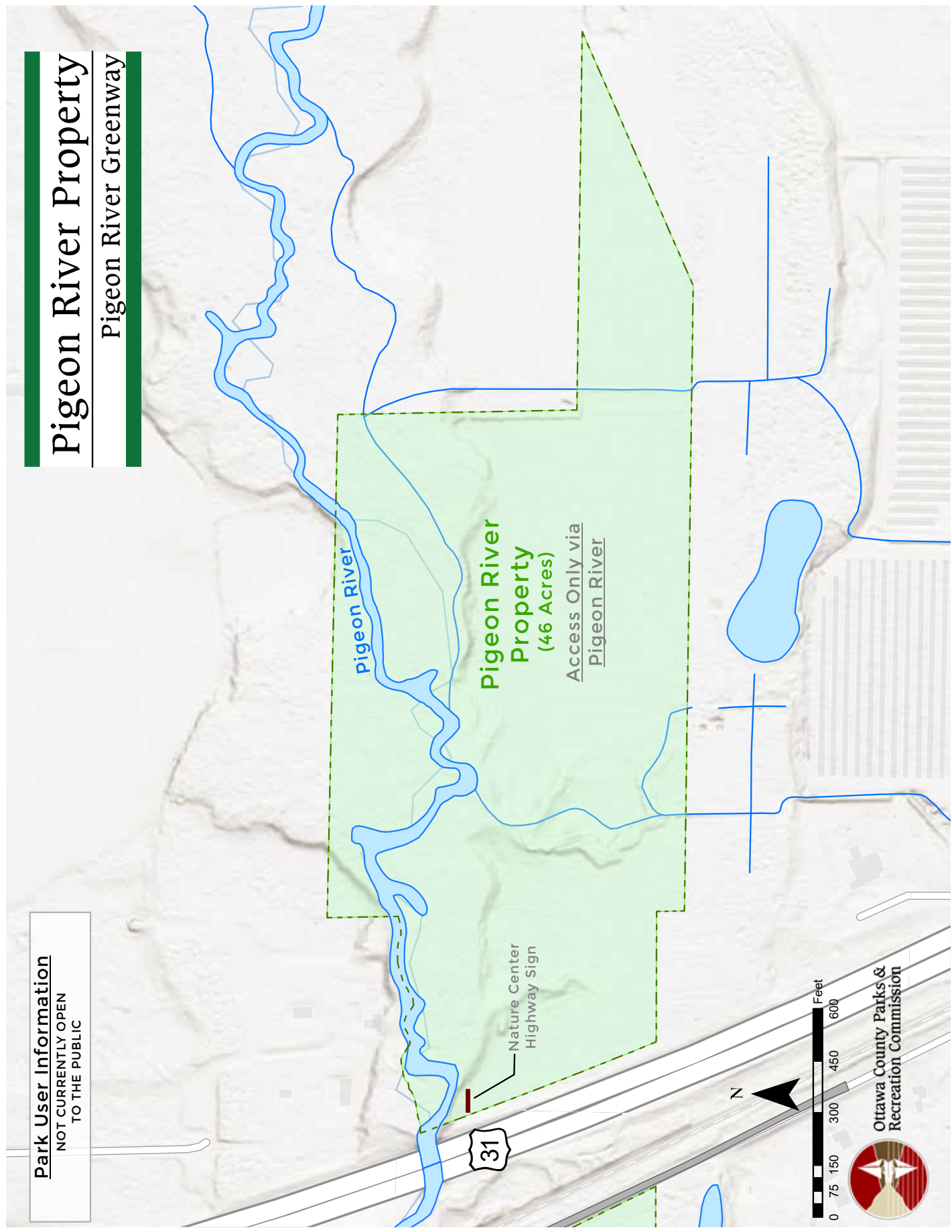
Site Notes: Site was donated to Parks Commission from a private citizen.

Park User Information

NOT CURRENTLY OPEN
TO THE PUBLIC

Pigeon River Property

Pigeon River Greenway



PIGEON CREEK PARK & FOREST

12524 Stanton St., West Olive, MI 49460

Olive Township

Acquired: 1989

Size: 412 acres

Natural Features: The majority of the park is heavily wooded with a diversity of habitat types including upland deciduous forest, pine plantations, floodplain forest, and wetlands.

Water Frontage: Pigeon River - 3200 feet (0.61 miles)

Developed: 2003, lodge in 1996, lodge and parking addition in 2012

Facilities/Activities: Facilities at the park include the Pigeon Creek Lodge, group camp area, sledding hills, picnic areas and over 10 miles of trails used for hiking, biking, cross-country skiing and equestrian use. There are three miles of cross country trails that are lighted for evening skiing. There is approximately a one-mile trail loop that generally meets barrier-free standards. During the winter, the lodge offers ski rental and concessions. The lodge functions as a picnic building which can be reserved in the non-winter months.

Trails: 10.13 miles

Grant History:

- 1989 MNRTF Pigeon River Expansion Acquisition TF89-232 (86 acres, \$397,500 grant amount)
- 1993 MNRTF Pigeon Creek Park Development TF93-106 (\$315,000 grant amount)

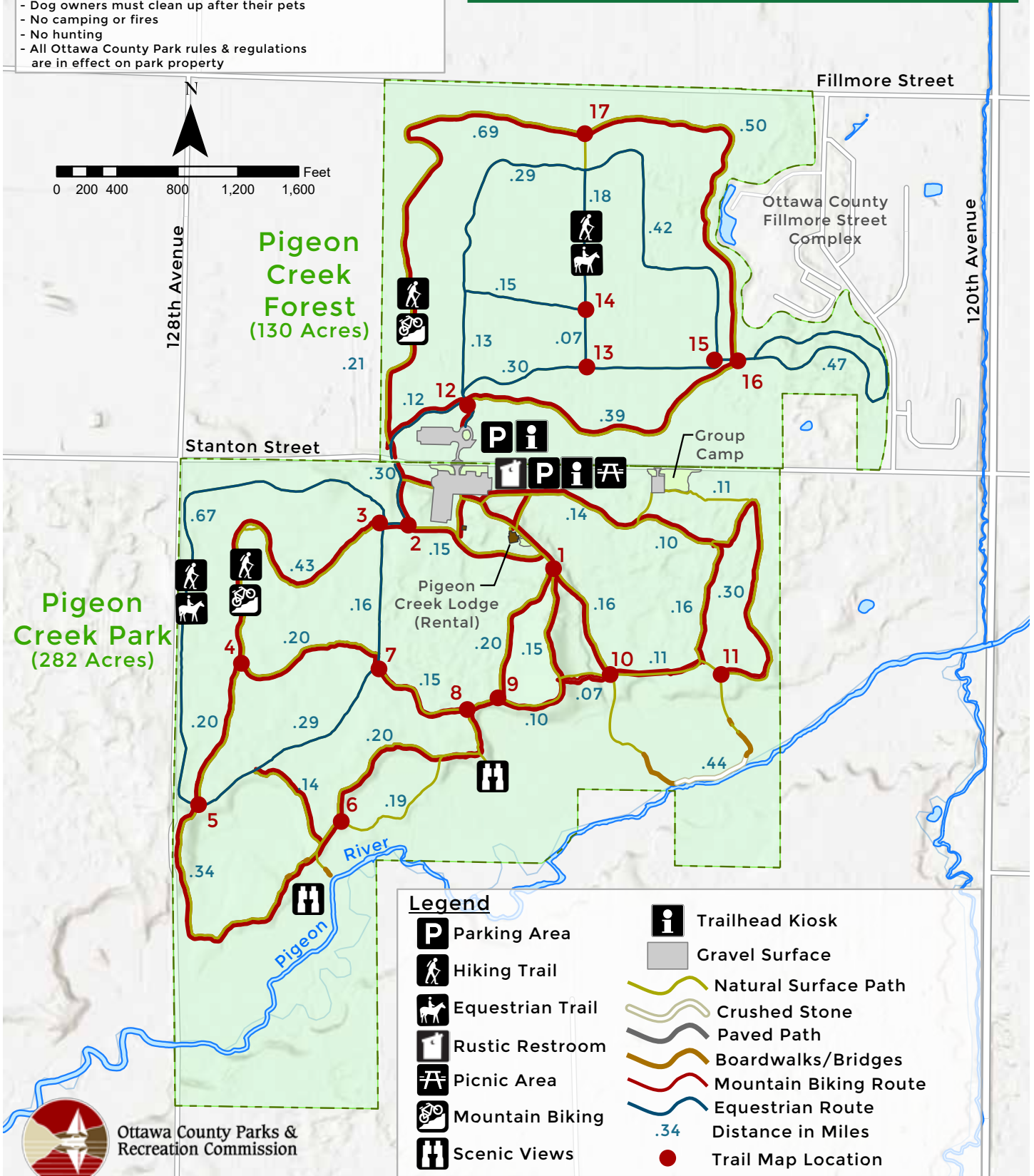
Site Notes: There are no entrance fees and the park is open year around, with the bulk of use occurring in the winter months. On the corner of 120th Avenue and Fillmore Street is the Ottawa County Fillmore Complex where county offices are located, including the Parks and Recreation Office.

Park User Information

- Park Hours: 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Year-Round
- No alcohol is permitted
- No motor vehicles beyond parking lot
- Bicycles allowed on designated mountain biking trails
- Dogs must remain on a leash at all times
- Dog owners must clean up after their pets
- No camping or fires
- No hunting
- All Ottawa County Park rules & regulations are in effect on park property

Pigeon Creek Park & Forest

Pigeon River Greenway



PAW PAW PARK

West: 1099 Paw Paw Dr., Holland, MI 49423

East: 1230 Paw Paw Dr., Holland, MI 49423

City of Holland

Acquired: East area 2010; management of West area transferred from City of Holland in 2015 via long-term lease

Size: 172 acres

Natural Features: The site contains some natural floodplain forest. Most of the remainder of the site is former golf greens and fairways with scattered large trees that have been restored to various types of wetland. Twenty-four acres of floodplain forest were also restored in 2010 as part of an agreement to provide space to Request Foods, Inc. for required wetland mitigation.

Water Frontage: Macatawa River - 6,878 feet (1.3 miles)

Developed: 1998 (West), 2011 (East)

Facilities/Activities: East Paw Paw Park has a paved entrance drive and parking, pit toilets, paved and natural surface trails, picnic tables, and 18 basket disc golf course. West Paw Paw Park has paved parking, a small picnic shelter, playground, mowed trails and riverfront access.

Trails: 3.16 miles

Grant History:

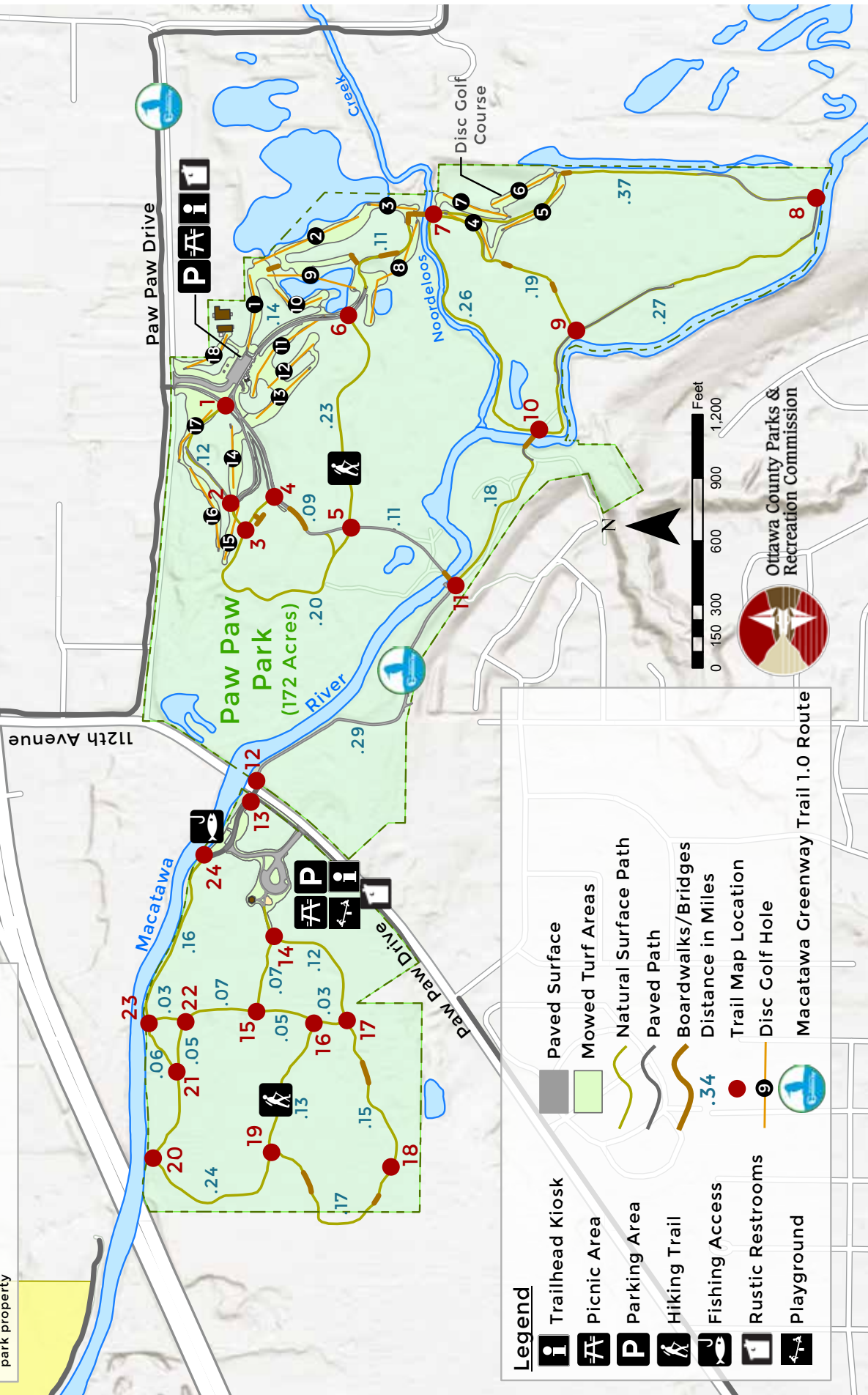
- 2010 Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Grant (\$650,000 grant amount)
- 2015 Michigan Department of Community Health - Building Healthy Communities Grant (\$63,000 grant amount)

Park User Information

- Park Hours:
March 1 to October 15 - 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
October 16 to February 28 - 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- No alcohol is permitted
- No motor vehicles beyond parking lot
- Dogs must remain on a leash at all times
- Dog owners must clean up after their pets
- No camping or fires
- No hunting
- All Ottawa County Park rules & regulations are in effect on park property

Paw Paw Park

Macatawa River Greenway



ADAMS STREET LANDING

10363 Adams St., Holland, MI 49423

Holland Township

Acquired: 1999

Size: 10 acres

Natural Features: The site is covered with mature trees and floodplain forest.

Water Frontage: Macatawa River 1100 feet (0.21 miles)

Developed: 2006

Facilities/Activities: This small park provides area for hiking and picnicking. It also serves as a staging location for canoes and kayaks. A separated non-motorized pathway runs past the property on Adams Street. The location is a very popular fishing spot.

Site Notes: In 1999, Ottawa County Parks received a FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) Hazard Mitigation Grant to purchase and remove flood-prone structures in the floodplain of the Macatawa River. With the assistance of the grant funds, Ottawa County purchased 10 acres including two houses in Holland Township and removed them in 2002.

Legend



Kayak Launch



Picnic Area



Parking Area



Fishing Area



Bituminous Paved Path



Crushed Stone Path



Boardwalk



Gravel Surface



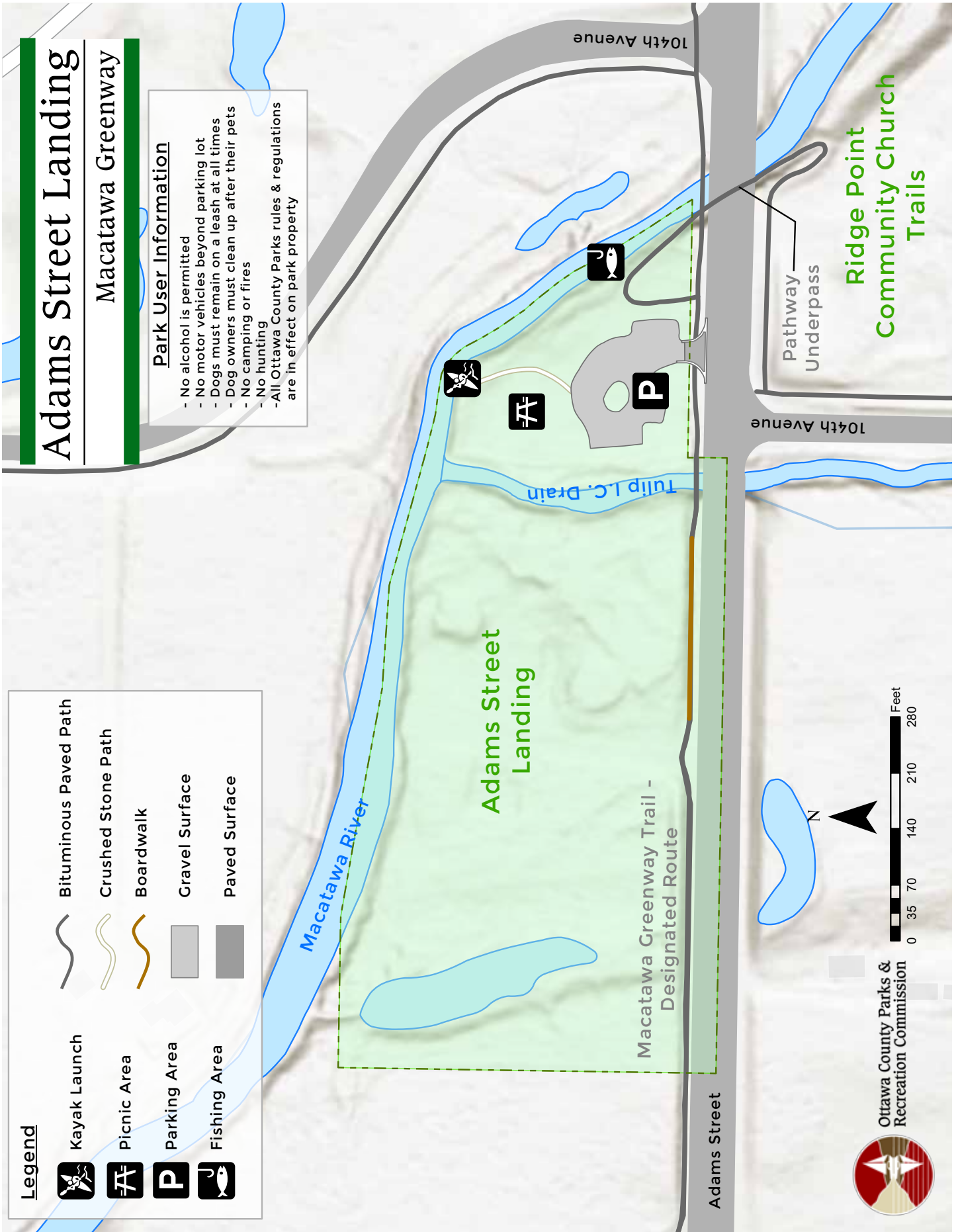
Paved Surface

Adams Street Landing

Macatawa Greenway

Park User Information

- No alcohol is permitted
- No motor vehicles beyond parking lot
- Dogs must remain on a leash at all times
- Dog owners must clean up after their pets
- No camping or fires
- No hunting
- All Ottawa County Parks rules & regulations are in effect on park property



Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

HAWTHORN POND NATURAL AREA

706 Black River Drive, Holland, MI 49423

Holland Township

Acquired: 2008

Size: 40 acres

Natural Features: Five-acre pond with deep water, wetlands, and forest along almost 1800 linear feet of Macatawa River shoreline.

Facilities/Activities: Paved entrance drive and parking, fishing dock, shelter, and trails around lake.

Site Notes: This site was purchased jointly with Holland Township, who is responsible for management and development.

Hawthorn Pond

Macatawa River Greenway

Middle Macatawa
(Outdoor Discovery Center -
Macatawa Greenway)

96th Avenue

96th Avenue Property
(5 Acres)

Park User Information

- No alcohol is permitted
- No motor vehicles beyond parking lot
- Dogs must remain on a leash at all times
- Dog owners must clean up after their pets
- No camping or fires
- No hunting
- All Ottawa County Parks rules & regulations are in effect on park property

Legend

- Parking Area
- Hiking Trail
- Fishing Access
- Portalet
- Picnic Area
- Paved Path
- Paved Surface

Black River Court

Macatawa River

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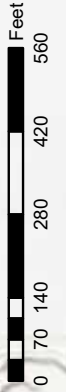
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Hawthorn Pond

Hawthorn Pond
(40 Acres)

Managed by
Holland Township



Ottawa County Parks &
Recreation Commission

UPPER MACATAWA NATURAL AREA

1300 84th Ave., Zeeland, MI 49464

Zeeland Township

Acquired: 2000-2001

Size: 612 acres

Natural Features: Located on the upper reaches of the Macatawa River, the property includes a variety of restored wetlands, restored grasslands, and an extensive system of deep wooded ravines that support native vegetation and a variety of wildlife.

Water Frontage: Macatawa River - 1100 feet (0.21 miles)

Developed: Main development 2007, Paved path and trailhead improvements 2015

Facilities/Activities: Improvements include two access points with parking, pit toilets, picnic tables, and access to a system of trails, boardwalks, overlooks, and interpretive displays. Recent improvements include a paved non-motorized trail traversing the entire site from north to south and trail head amenities including a shelter and water supply. This site also provides technically challenging mountain bike trails.

Trails: 8.21 miles

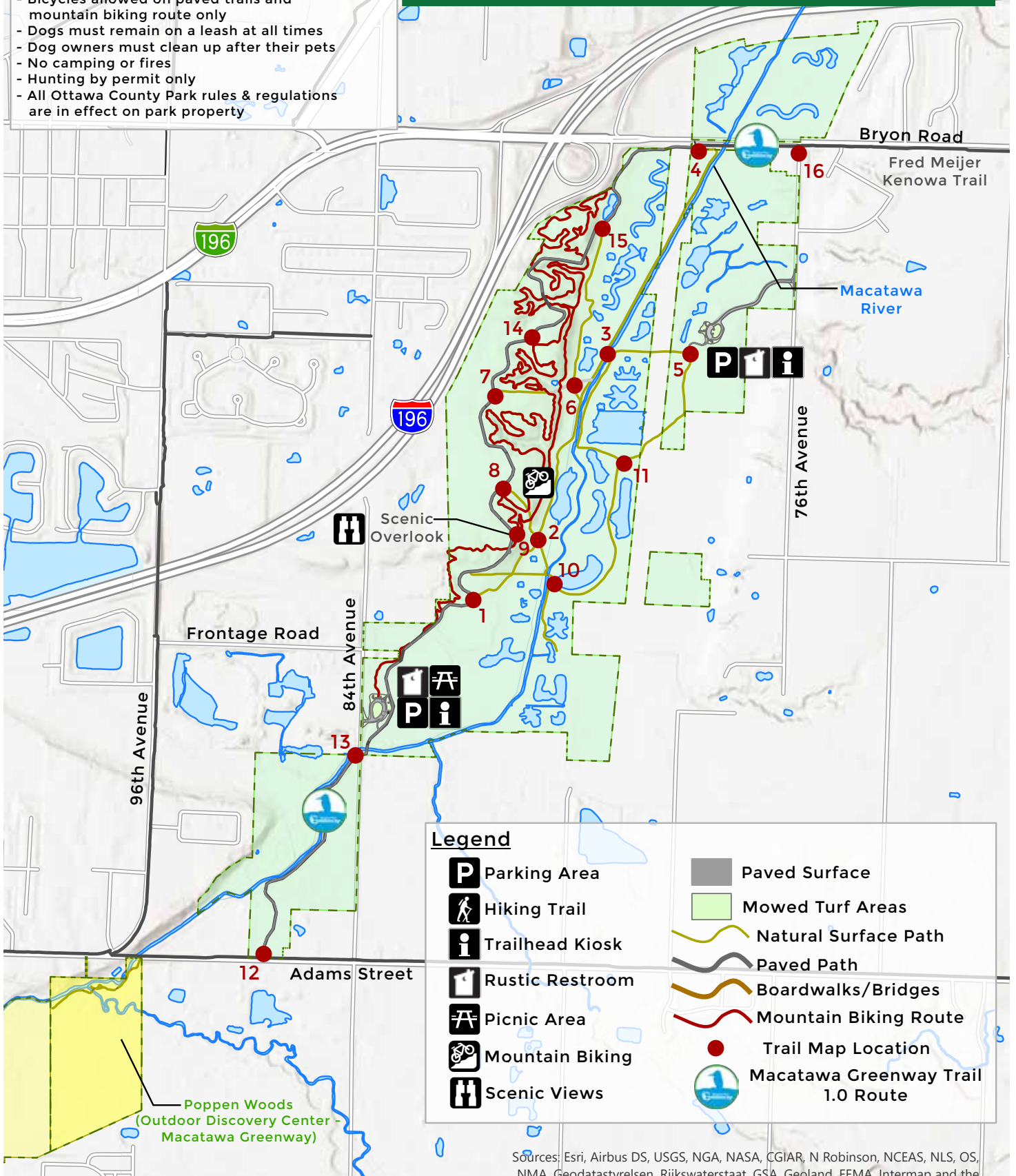
Site Notes: The Parks Commission began issuing a limited number of special permits for bow hunting deer on the property in 2004. The permits are issued on a lottery basis each fall.

Park User Information

- Park Hours:
March 1 to October 15 - 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
October 16 to February 28 - 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- No alcohol is permitted
- No motor vehicles beyond parking lot
- Bicycles allowed on paved trails and mountain biking route only
- Dogs must remain on a leash at all times
- Dog owners must clean up after their pets
- No camping or fires
- Hunting by permit only
- All Ottawa County Park rules & regulations are in effect on park property

Upper Macatawa Natural Area

Macatawa River Greenway



Legend

Parking Area	Paved Surface
Hiking Trail	Mowed Turf Areas
Trailhead Kiosk	Natural Surface Path
Rustic Restroom	Paved Path
Picnic Area	Boardwalks/Bridges
Mountain Biking	Mountain Biking Route
Scenic Views	Trail Map Location
	Macatawa Greenway Trail 1.0 Route

Sources: Esri, Airbus DS, USGS, NGA, NASA, CGIAR, N Robinson, NCEAS, NLS, OS, NMA, Geodatastvrelsen, Rijkswaterstaat, GSA, Geoland, FEMA, Intermap and the

NORTH OTTAWA DUNES

18201 North Shore Dr., Ferrysburg, MI 49409

City of Ferrysburg

Acquired: 2005

Size: 593 acres

Natural Features: Extensive undeveloped dunes and forestlands, and although it does not have frontage on Lake Michigan, it does provide views of the lake and an experience of the unique Lake Michigan shoreline environment.

Facilities/Activities: Over eight miles of natural surface trails provide access to the entire site and a connection to Hoffmaster State Park and North Beach Park. The North Beach Park connection includes extensive boardwalks, stairs, and overlooks through the largest dunes on the site. Access is provided by a paved parking area in adjacent Coast Guard Park (City of Ferrysburg). Amenities include a restroom, picnic tables, donor recognition plaza, and trailhead kiosk.

Trails: 8.67 miles

Grant History: 2004 MNRTF North Ottawa Dune Acquisition TF04-108 (500 acres, \$3,900,00 grant amount)

Site Notes: Purchase of this site was made possible by extensive private fundraising.

North Ottawa Dunes

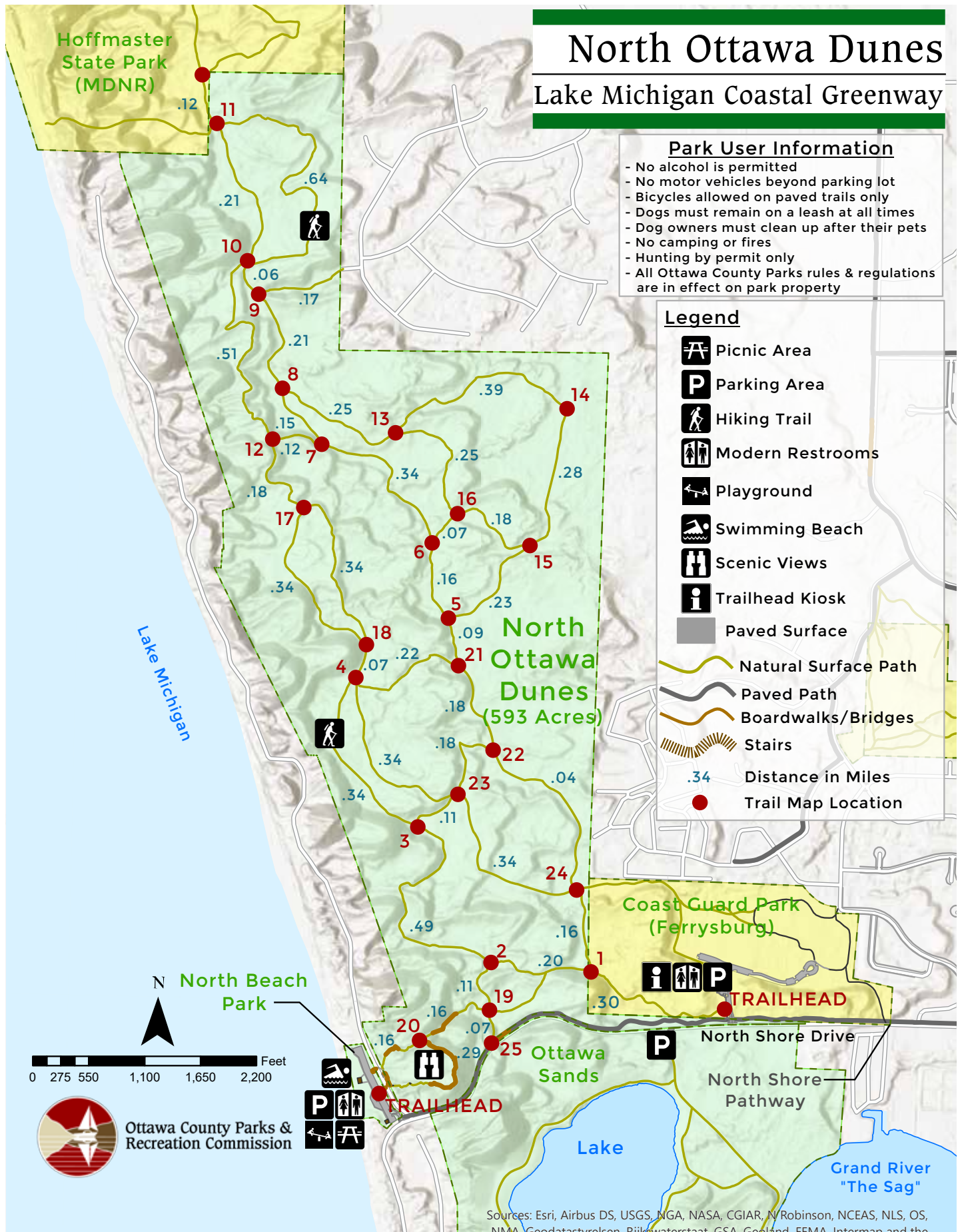
Lake Michigan Coastal Greenway

Park User Information

- No alcohol is permitted
- No motor vehicles beyond parking lot
- Bicycles allowed on paved trails only
- Dogs must remain on a leash at all times
- Dog owners must clean up after their pets
- No camping or fires
- Hunting by permit only
- All Ottawa County Parks rules & regulations are in effect on park property

Legend

- Picnic Area
- Parking Area
- Hiking Trail
- Modern Restrooms
- Playground
- Swimming Beach
- Scenic Views
- Trailhead Kiosk
- Paved Surface
- Natural Surface Path
- Paved Path
- Boardwalks/Bridges
- Stairs
- Distance in Miles
- Trail Map Location



NORTH BEACH PARK

18775 North Shore Dr., Ferrysburg, MI 49409

City of Ferrysburg

Acquired: Original park transferred from Road

Commission in 1987

Size: 7 acres

Natural Features: Large open, sandy beach with some natural dune inland.

Water Frontage: Lake Michigan - 745 feet (0.14 miles)

Developed: Various projects 1985-1993; extensive improvements 1997

Facilities/Activities: Facilities include parking for 187 cars (including six barrier-free spaces), a large picnic shelter, play area, volleyball court, restrooms, vending machine concession, a dune climb stairway with viewing deck, and a seasonal boardwalk for barrier-free access to the beach and Lake Michigan.

Grant History: 1995 MNRTF North Beach Improvements TF95-208 (\$150,000 grant amount)

Site Notes: The park is open year around and vehicle parking fees are in effect between Memorial Day weekend and Labor Day weekend.

North Beach Park

Lake Michigan Coastal Greenway

Motor vehicle parking fees are in effect from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day.

- Park User Information**
- Park Hours:
 - March 1 to October 15 - 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
 - October 16 to February - 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
 - Stay on trails to protect the fragile dunes
 - Dogs are not permitted at North Beach Park May 1 through September 30
 - No alcohol is permitted
 - Bicycles are allowed on paved trails only
 - No motor vehicles beyond parking lot
 - No camping or fires
 - No hunting
 - No lifeguards on duty
 - Swim at your own risk
 - No smoking on beach
 - All Ottawa County Parks rules & regulations are in effect on park property

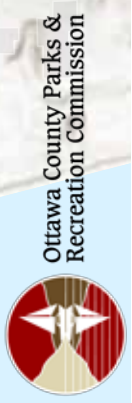
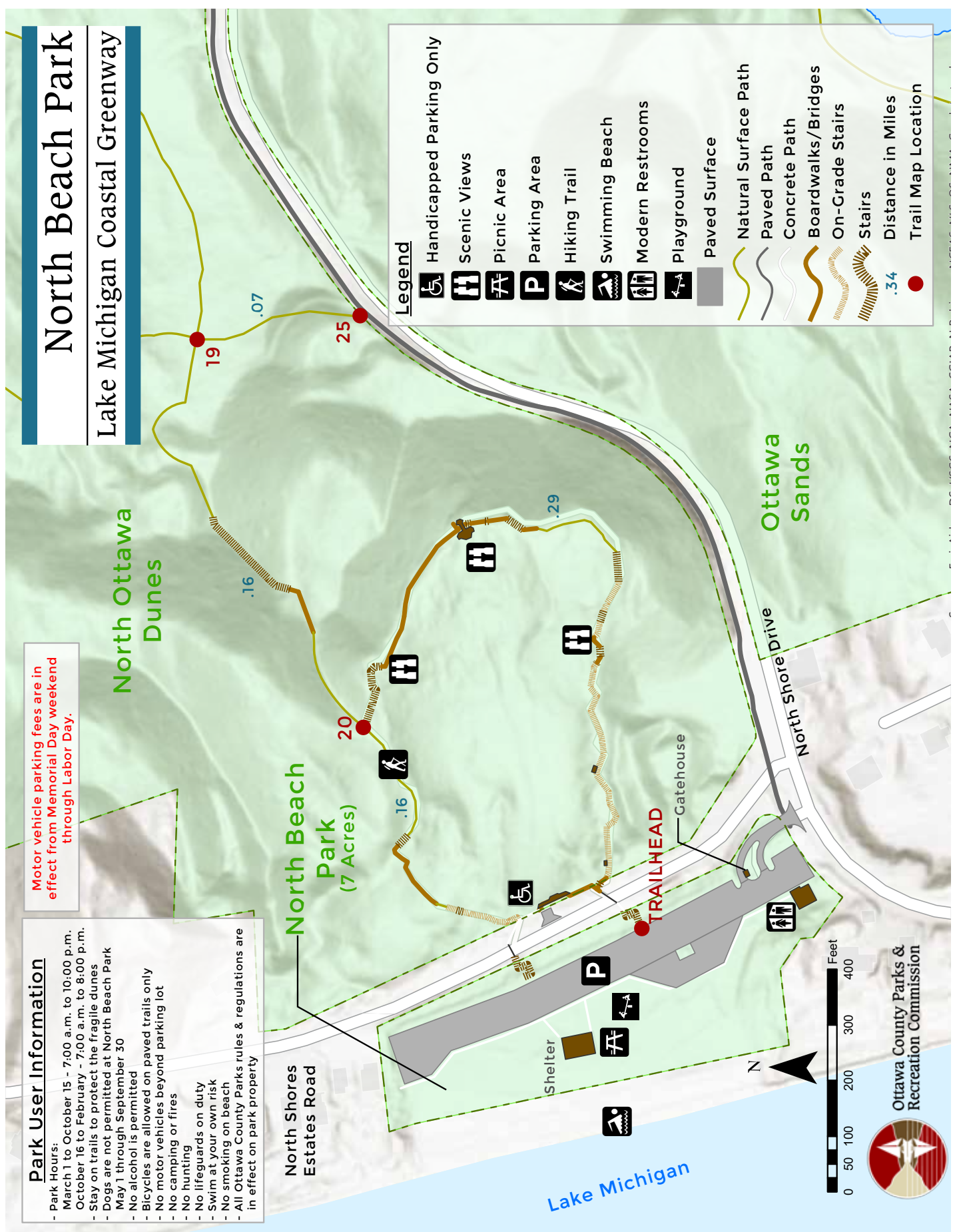
North Ottawa Dunes

North Beach Park (7 Acres)

Ottawa Sands

Legend

- Handicapped Parking Only
- Scenic Views
- Picnic Area
- Parking Area
- Hiking Trail
- Swimming Beach
- Modern Restrooms
- Playground
- Paved Surface
- Natural Surface Path
- Paved Path
- Concrete Path
- Boardwalks/Bridges
- On-Grade Stairs
- Stairs
- Distance in Miles
- Trail Map Location



OTTAWA SANDS

18153 North Shore Dr., Ferrysburg, MI 49409

City of Ferrysburg

Acquired: 2018, 2019

Size: 345 acres

Natural Features: The site had long been used for sand mining. The property includes forested dunes, an 80-acre inland lake, and riverfront land with wetlands.

Water Frontage:

- Grand River - 5740 feet (1.1 miles)
- Inland Lake - 8400 feet (1.6 miles)

Developed: Minor development in 2018

Facilities/Activities: Gravel parking area and marked natural surface trail system

Trails: 3.5 miles

Grant History:

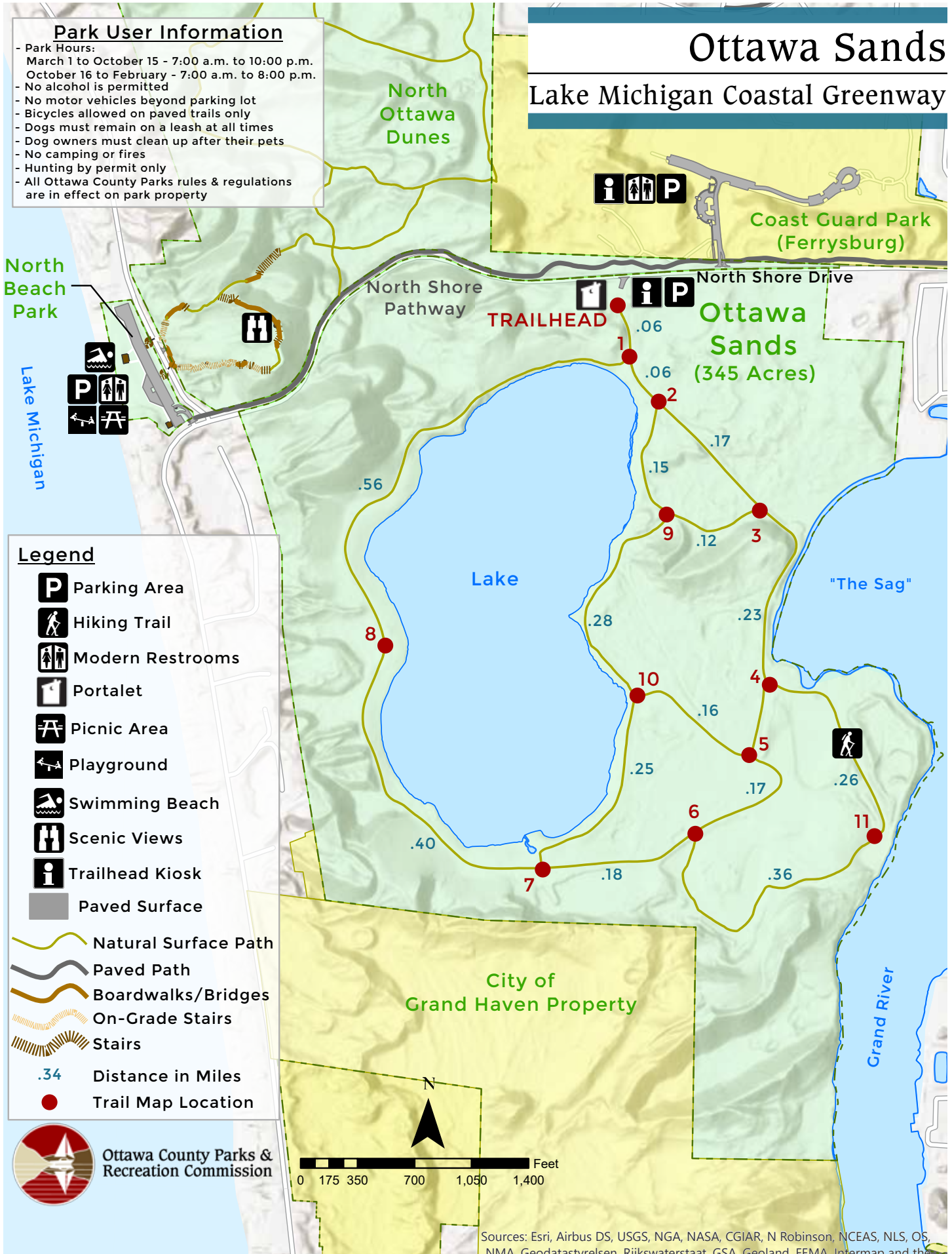
- 2018 MNRTF Ottawa Sands Acquisition Phase I TF17-0250 (157 acres, \$4,200,000 grant amount)
- 2019 MNRTF Ottawa Sands Acquisition Phase II TF18-0161 (188 acres, \$3,817,200 grant amount)

Ottawa Sands

Lake Michigan Coastal Greenway

Park User Information

- Park Hours:
March 1 to October 15 - 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
October 16 to February - 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- No alcohol is permitted
- No motor vehicles beyond parking lot
- Bicycles allowed on paved trails only
- Dogs must remain on a leash at all times
- Dog owners must clean up after their pets
- No camping or fires
- Hunting by permit only
- All Ottawa County Parks rules & regulations are in effect on park property



ROSY MOUND NATURAL AREA

13925 Lakeshore Dr., Grand Haven, MI 49417

Grand Haven Township

Acquired: 1994

Size: 164 acres

Natural Features: Rosy Mound is a classic Great Lakes dune system including high wooded dunes, foredunes, a dune blowout, and sandy Lake Michigan shoreline.

Water Frontage: Lake Michigan - 3450 feet (0.65 miles)

Developed: 2001

Facilities/Activities: 0.7 mile hiking trail from the parking area to the Lake Michigan shoreline, including 1,000 feet of stairs up and down the dune and scenic views of the woods, dunes, and Lake Michigan. A unique shade canopy, dune boardwalk trail, and rustic restrooms are located near the beach. A parking lot, modern restroom building, and picnic facilities were constructed on the east side of the dune as well as a crushed stone looped trail installed through the woods and open dune area.

Trails: 1.87 miles

Grant History: 2001 MNRTF Rosy Mound Improvements TF01-158 (\$500,000 grant amount)

Site Notes: A connection was made to the Lakeshore Drive bike path by a paved path extension through the park. Motor vehicle parking fees are in effect from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day, and the park is open year around.

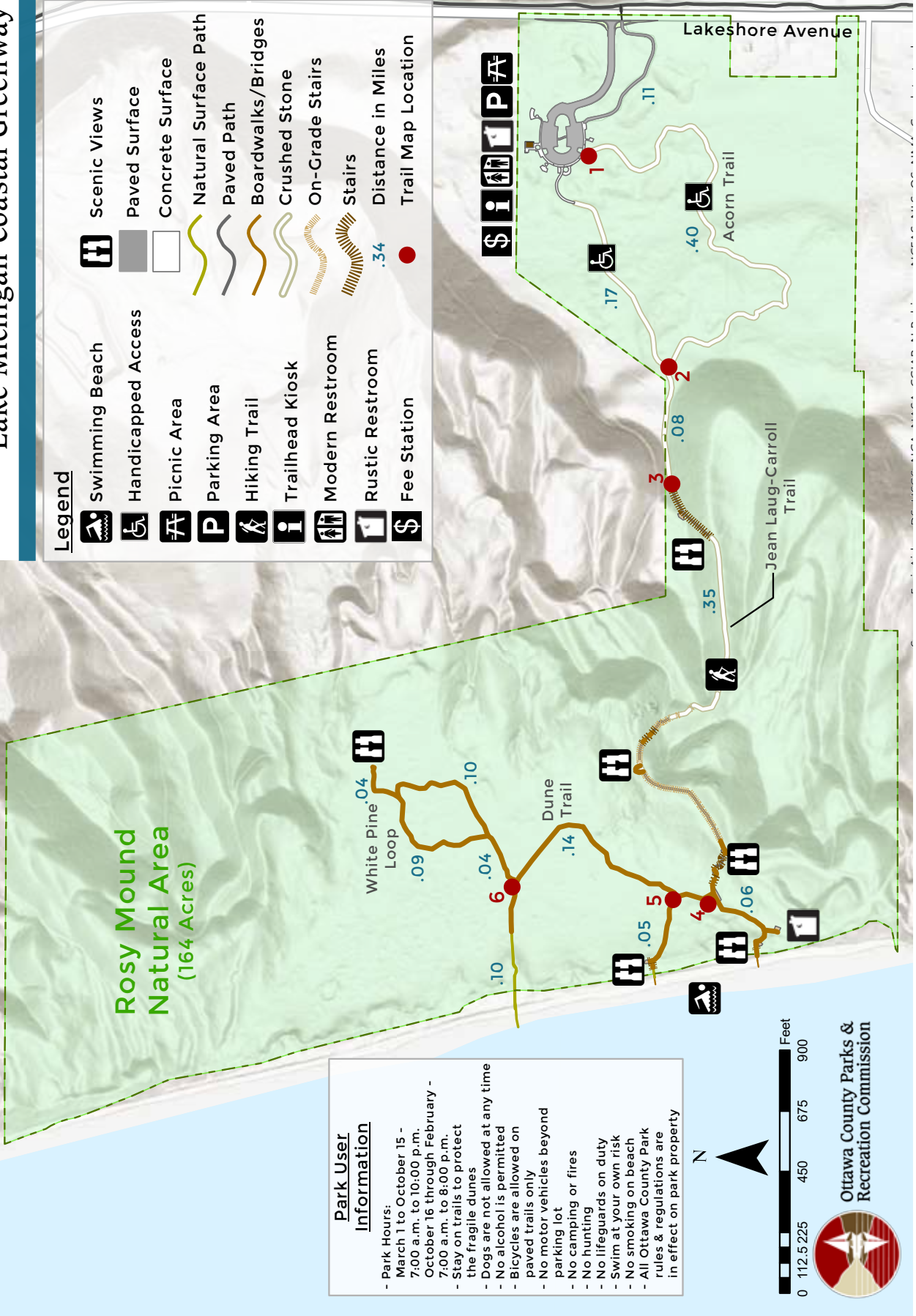
Rosy Mound Natural Area

Lake Michigan Coastal Greenway

Motor vehicle parking fees are in effect from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day.

Legend

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------|--|----------------------|
| | Swimming Beach | | Scenic Views |
| | Handicapped Access | | Paved Surface |
| | Picnic Area | | Concrete Surface |
| | Parking Area | | Natural Surface Path |
| | Hiking Trail | | Paved Path |
| | Trailhead Kiosk | | Boardwalks/Bridges |
| | Modern Restroom | | Crushed Stone |
| | Rustic Restroom | | On-Grade Stairs |
| | Fee Station | | Stairs |
| | | | Distance in Miles |
| | | | Trail Map Location |



Park User Information

- Park Hours:
 - March 1 to October 15 - 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
 - October 16 through February - 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Stay on trails to protect the fragile dunes
- Dogs are not allowed at any time
- No alcohol is permitted
- Bicycles are allowed on paved trails only
- No motor vehicles beyond parking lot
- No camping or fires
- No hunting
- No lifeguards on duty
- Swim at your own risk
- No smoking on beach
- All Ottawa County Park rules & regulations are in effect on park property

0 112.5 225 450 675 900 Feet

N

Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

KIRK PARK

9791 Lakeshore Dr., West Olive, MI 49460

Grand Haven Township

Acquired: Original park transferred from Road Commission in 1987

Size: 68 acres

Natural Features: Rugged, forested dunes and sand beach.

Water Frontage: Lake Michigan - 1850 feet (0.35 miles)

Developed: Various projects 1986-1990

Facilities/Activities: Facilities include extensive picnic areas with a large picnic shelter and a park lodge used as a picnic building. The lodge is also used for overnight group rentals in the off-season. Well-marked trails include many boardwalks and viewing decks overlooking Lake Michigan. Hard surface walkways lead to interpretive displays at the waterfront and stairs to the beach. Other facilities include a modern restroom building with an attached concession, vending machine enclosure, two playgrounds, and parking for 314 vehicles.

Trails: 2.01 miles

Grant History:

- 1972 Camp Kirk County Park 26-00384 (27 acres, \$80,000 grant amount)
- 1981 Kirk Park Acquisition #2 26-01216 (15 acres, \$50,345 grant amount)
- 1986 Kirk Park Development 26-01468 (\$99,783 grant amount)
- 1989 Kirk Park Phase II Development 26-01482 (\$72,933 grant amount)

Site Notes: Motor vehicle parking fees are in effect Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend.

Kirk Park

Lake Michigan Coastal Greenway

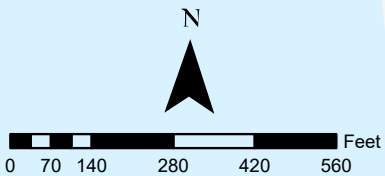
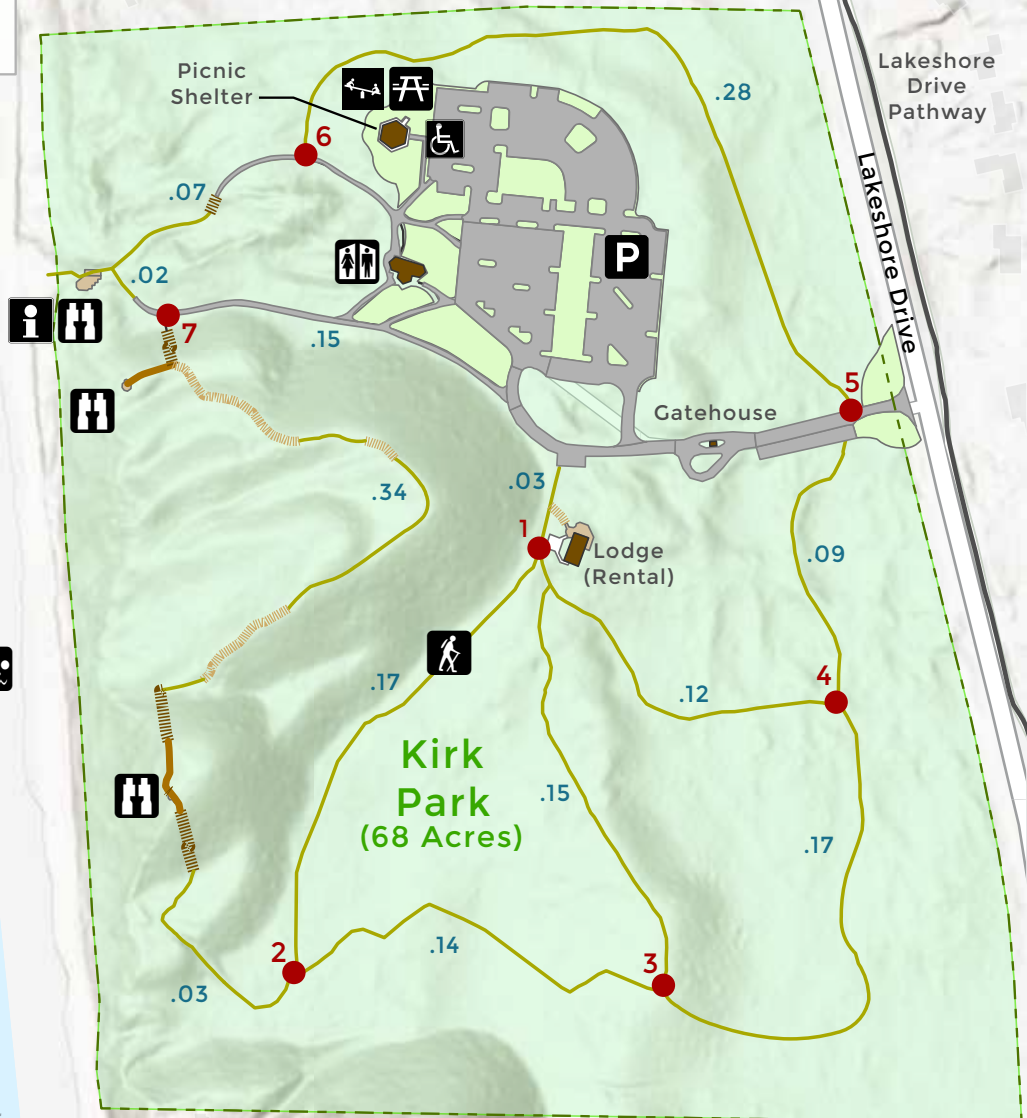
Legend

- | | | | |
|--|------------------|--|-----------------------|
| | Picnic Area | | Paved Surface |
| | Parking Area | | Concrete Surface |
| | Hiking Trail | | Mowed Turf Areas |
| | Modern Restrooms | | Natural Surface Path |
| | Playground | | Paved Path |
| | Swimming Beach | | Boardwalks/Bridges |
| | Scenic Views | | Crushed Stone |
| | Trailhead Kiosk | | Stairs |
| | Wood Structure | | On-Grade Stairs |
| | | | .34 Distance in Miles |
| | | | Trail Intersection |

Park User Information

- Park Hours:
 - March 1 to October 15 - 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
 - October 16 through February - 7:00 a.m. to 8:00
- Stay on trails to protect the fragile dunes
- Dogs allowed on beach off-leash at designated times
- No alcohol is permitted
- Bicycles are not allowed on trails
- No motor vehicles beyond parking lot
- No camping or fires
- No hunting
- No lifeguards on duty
- Swim at your own risk
- No smoking on beach
- All Ottawa County Park rules & regulations are in effect on park property

Motor vehicle parking fees are in effect from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day.



Sources: Esri, Airbus DS, USGS, NGA, NASA, CGIAR, N Robinson, NCEAS, NLS, OS, NMA, Geodatastrelsen, Riikswaterstaat, GSA, Geoland, FEMA, Intermap and the

OLIVE SHORES

8555 Olive Shore Ave., West Olive, MI 49460

Port Sheldon Township

Acquired: 2008

Size: 21 acres

Natural Features: A very high, steep dune is the dominant natural feature of the property along with 750 feet of shoreline on Lake Michigan. The dune is a classic beech–maple–hemlock dune with mature woods. Inland sections of the site include red pine plantation and dune savannah.

Water Frontage: Lake Michigan - 738 feet (0.14 miles)

Developed: 2011

Facilities/Activities: Recent improvements include paved parking, a modern restroom, trailhead, walkways, and an extensive system of wood stairs and boardwalks providing access over the dune to the Lake Michigan beach.

Trails: 0.57 miles

Grant History:

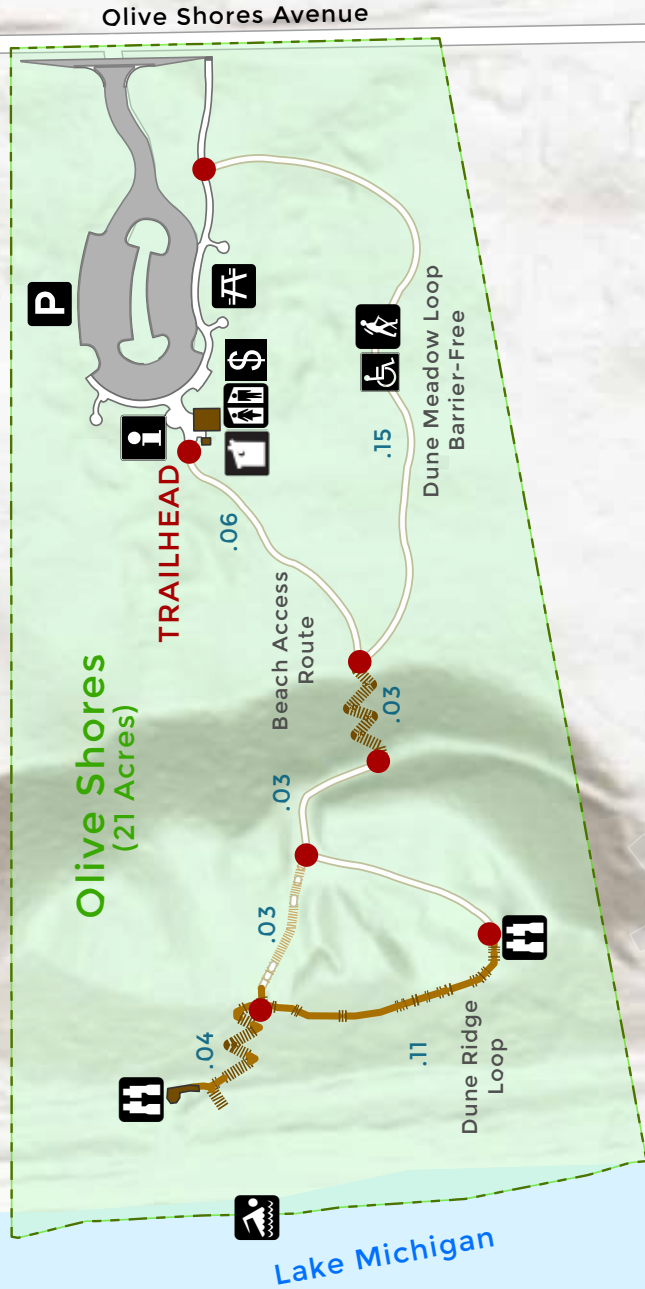
- 2007 MNRTF Olive Shores Park Acquisition TF07-090 (13.5 acres, \$2,000,000 grant amount)
- 2010 MNRTF Olive Shores Park Improvement TF01-101 (\$365,000 grant amount)

Site Notes: An interesting note about the property is that it was a filming location for the movie “The Road to Perdition” starring Tom Hanks. Vehicle entrance fees are required between Memorial Day weekend and Labor Day weekend and the park is closed between November 1 and March 31.

Olive Shores

Lake Michigan Coastal Greenway

- Park User Information**
- Park Hours:
 - March 1 to October 15 - 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
 - October 16 to February - 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
 - Stay on trails to protect the fragile dunes
 - Dogs are not allowed at any time
 - No alcohol is permitted
 - Bicycles are not allowed on trails
 - No motor vehicles beyond parking lot
 - No camping or fires
 - No hunting
 - No lifeguards on duty
 - Swim at your own risk
 - No smoking on beach
 - All Ottawa County Park rules & regulations are in effect on park property



Motor vehicle parking fees are in effect from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day.

Legend

- Fee Station
- Trailhead Kiosk
- Scenic Views
- Picnic Area
- Parking Area
- Hiking Trail
- Swimming Beach
- Modern Restrooms
- Rustic Restroom
- Paved Surface
- Concrete Surface
- Crushed Stone
- Boardwalks/Bridges
- On-Grade Stairs
- Stairs
- .34 Distance in Miles
- Trail Intersection

N

0 50 100 200 300 400 Feet

Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

TUNNEL PARK

66 Lakeshore Dr., Holland, MI 49424

Park Township

Acquired: Original park transferred from Road Commission in 1987.

Size: 23 acres (includes approximately 5 acres leased from the City of Holland)

Natural Features: Open and forested dune along the Lake Michigan shoreline. The remainder of the site is developed.

Water Frontage: Lake Michigan - 950 feet (0.18 miles)

Developed: 1988-1993

Facilities/Activities: Named after its unique tunnel through the dune providing beach access, Tunnel Park provides parking capacity (including overflow) for over 400 vehicles, Tunnel Park has the most parking capacity of any County Park and is typically the busiest park during prime beach season. Facilities include four sand volleyball courts, extensive picnic areas including two covered shelters, modern restrooms, a large playground with an adjacent dune climb, and a dune-top viewing area.

Trails: 0.57 miles

Grant History:

- 1988 Ottawa County Tunnel Park Development 26-01474 (\$103,260 grant amount)
- 1992 Bond Fund Tunnel Park Development BF92-234 (\$113,000 grant amount)

Site Notes: Vehicle entrance fees are required between Memorial Day weekend and Labor Day weekend and the park is closed between November 1 and March 31.

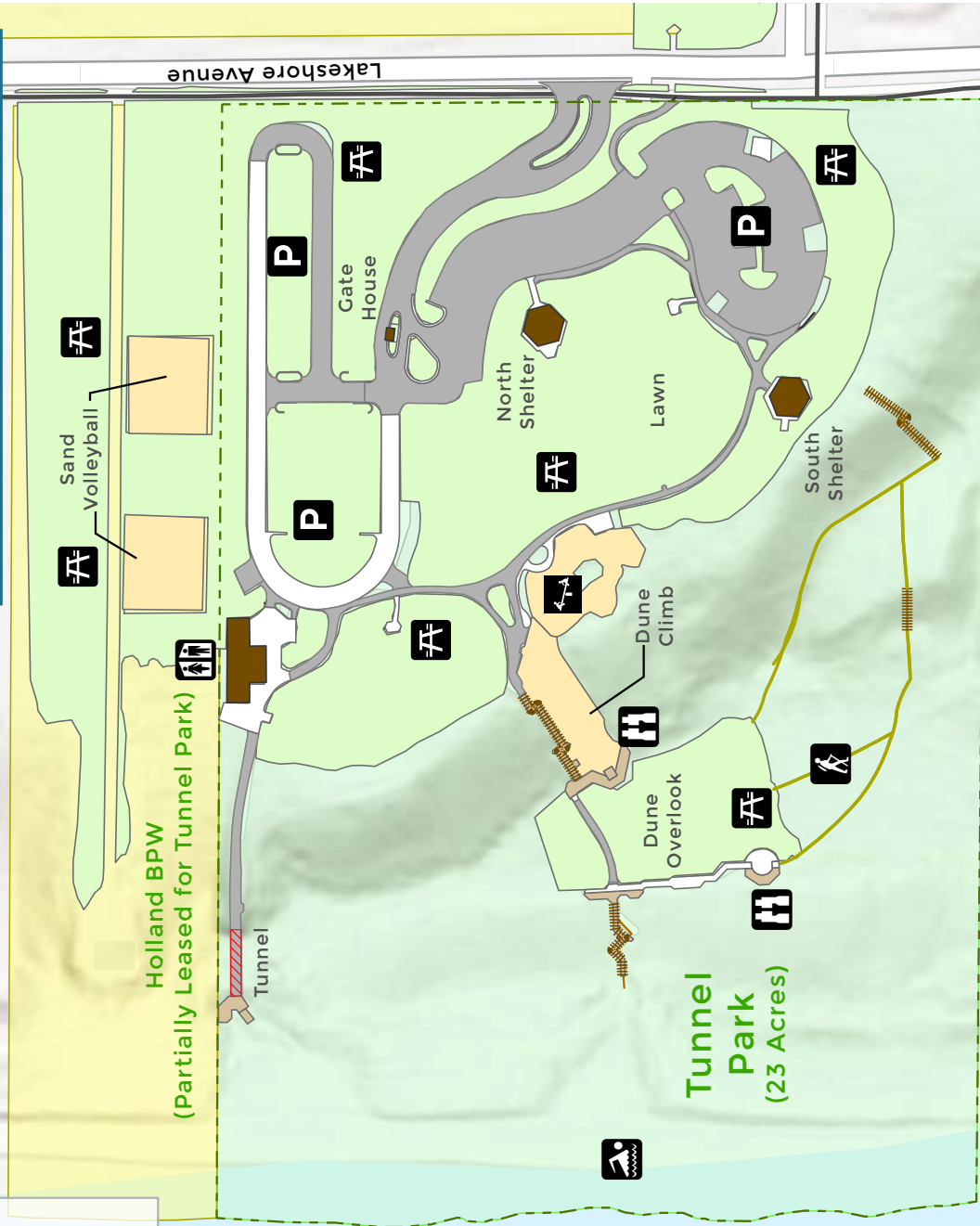
Park User Information

- Park Hours:
 - March 1 to October 15 - 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
 - October 16 through February - 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Stay on trails to protect the fragile dunes
- On-leash dogs permitted October 1 to April 30
- No alcohol is permitted
- Bicycles are allowed on paved trails only
- No motor vehicles beyond parking lot
- No camping or fires
- No hunting
- No lifeguards on duty
- Swim at your own risk
- No smoking on beach
- All Ottawa County Park rules & regulations are in effect on park property

Motor vehicle parking fees are in effect from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day.

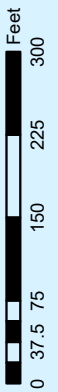
Tunnel Park

Lake Michigan Coastal Greenway



Legend

- Swimming Beach
- Scenic Views
- Picnic Area
- Parking Area
- Hiking Trail
- Modern Restrooms
- Playground
- Concrete Surface
- Paved Surface
- Mowed Turf Areas
- Wood Structure
- Field/Play Area
- Natural Surface Path
- Paved Path
- Stairs



Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

HISTORIC OTTAWA BEACH PARKS

2278 Black Lake Ave., Holland, MI 49424

Park Township

Acquired: Park came under management of the Parks Commission in 2005 after court agreement

Size: 12 separate parcels of land near Holland State Park that total 58 acres

Natural Features: The property features natural dune formations and vegetation including Mt. Pisgah, a landmark dune, as well as inland and great lakes shoreline.

Water Frontage:

- Lake Michigan - 756 feet (0.18 miles)
- Lake Macatawa - 2560 feet (0.48 miles)

Developed: Multiple phases of development 2004-2019

Facilities/Activities: Improvements include a separated bike path along Ottawa Beach Road, trails through the dunes including the Mt. Pisgah dune climb stairs, and Lake Macatawa waterfront improvements, including parking, walkways and boardwalks along the shoreline, picnic tables, benches, and fishing piers. The lakefront also contains the restored historic Pumphouse building and newly constructed Ottawa Beach Marina and kayak launch.

Trails: 0.96 miles

Grant History:

- 2006 Mt. Pisgah Dune Protection Project TF06-067 (\$280,000 grant amount)
- 2008 Great Lakes Fisheries Trust Holland Harbor Project (\$500,000)
- 2011 Ottawa Beach Waterfront Walkway Development TF11-106 (\$300,000)
- 2017 MNRTF Historic Ottawa Beach Waterfront Improvements TF17-0076 (\$291,000)
- 2017 CZM Historic Ottawa Beach Kayak Launch 17-WT-006 (\$68,000)
- 2018 Boating Infrastructure Grant Program (\$642,917)

Site Notes: Unique site location requires continuing cooperation with Holland State Park and the West Michigan Parks Association, the local homeowners association.

Historic Ottawa Beach Parks

Lake Michigan Coastal Greenway

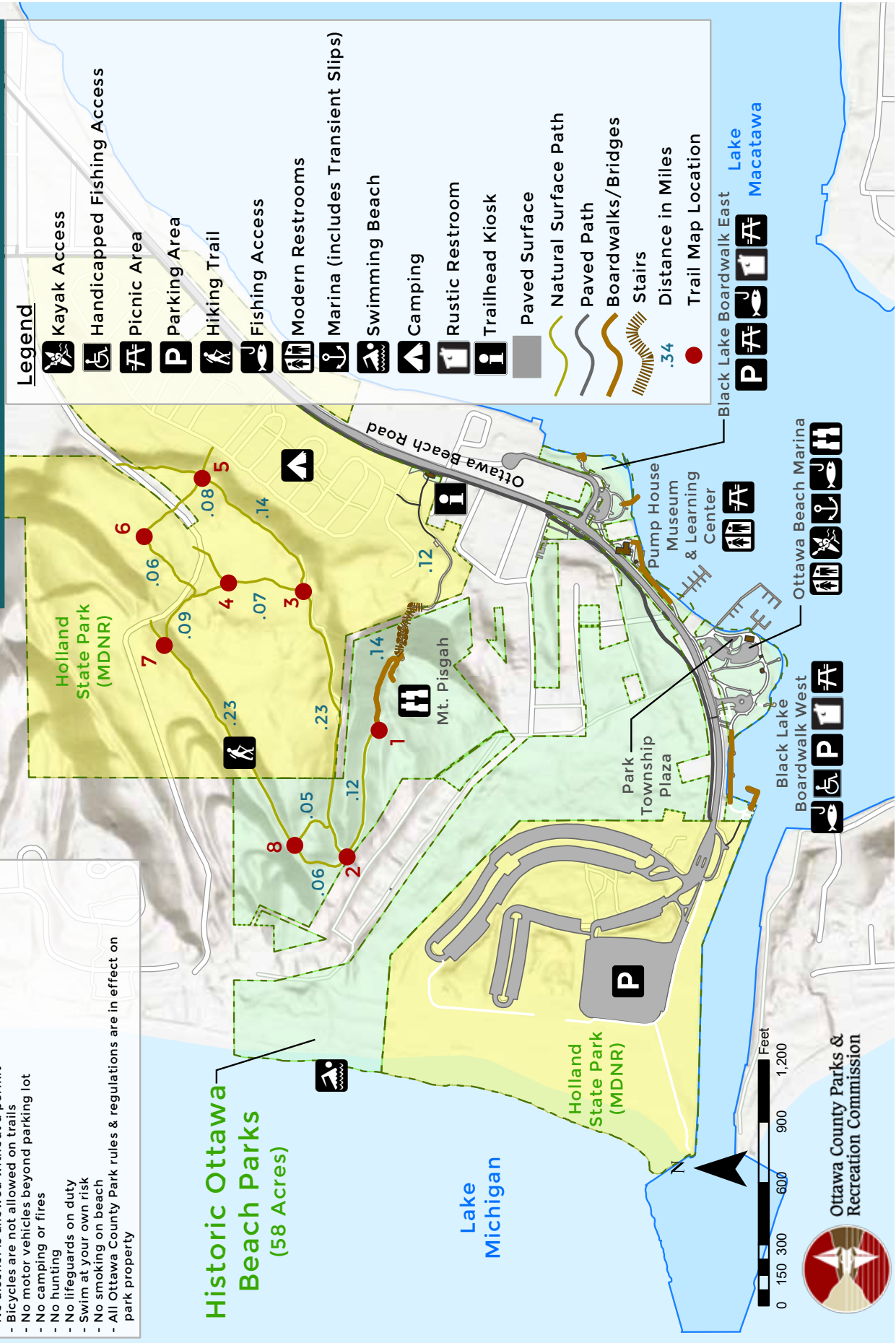
Park User Information

- Park Hours:
 - March 1 to October 15 - 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
 - October 16 through February - 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Stay on trails to protect the fragile dunes
- Dogs are not permitted on the Mt. Pisgah stairs or the beach without special permission
- No alcohol is allowed without a permit
- Bicycles are not allowed on trails
- No motor vehicles beyond parking lot
- No camping or fires
- No hunting
- No lifeguards on duty
- Swim at your own risk
- No smoking on beach
- All Ottawa County Park rules & regulations are in effect on park property

Historic Ottawa Beach Parks (58 Acres)

Legend

- Kayak Access
- Handicapped Fishing Access
- Picnic Area
- Parking Area
- Hiking Trail
- Fishing Access
- Modern Restrooms
- Marina (includes Transient Slips)
- Swimming Beach
- Camping
- Rustic Restroom
- Trailhead Kiosk
- Paved Surface
- Natural Surface Path
- Paved Path
- Boardwalks/Bridges
- Stairs
- Distance in Miles
- Trail Map Location



Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

GENERAL PARKS, OPEN SPACE LANDS, & TRAILS

Musketawa Trail, Unnamed Site, Grose Park, Marne Bog, Robinson Forest, Johnson Street Forest, Hiawatha Forest, Hager Park, Port Sheldon Natural Area, Van Buren Dunes, Spring Grove Park, Riley Trails

MUSKETAWA TRAIL

Conklin Trailhead: 19610 Main St., Conklin, MI 49403

Marne Trailhead: 15295 8th Ave., Marne, MI 49435

Wright & Chester Townships

Size: Total trail is a 26-mile linear park in both Ottawa and Muskegon Counties. Portion in Ottawa County is 10.83 miles long including new Fred Meijer Pioneer trail portion.

Natural Features: The trail traverses mostly agricultural lands with scattered forest.

Developed: 1992

Facilities/Activities: This multi-use trail is barrier-free and is used by several groups, such as bikers, horseback riders, rollerbladers, cross country skiers, hikers, and even snowmobilers when snow conditions are favorable.

Site Notes: The trail is owned by the State of Michigan. Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission currently manages the trail from the Kent County line to the Muskegon/Ottawa County line, and the West Shore Snowmobile Council manages the remaining trail. The Musketawa trail was extended to the east in 2013 to connect to the White Pine Trail in Comstock Park. This section of trail is named the Fred Meijer Pioneer trail. It was developed by Kent County, but the portion in Ottawa County is managed by Ottawa County Parks.

Musketawa Trail

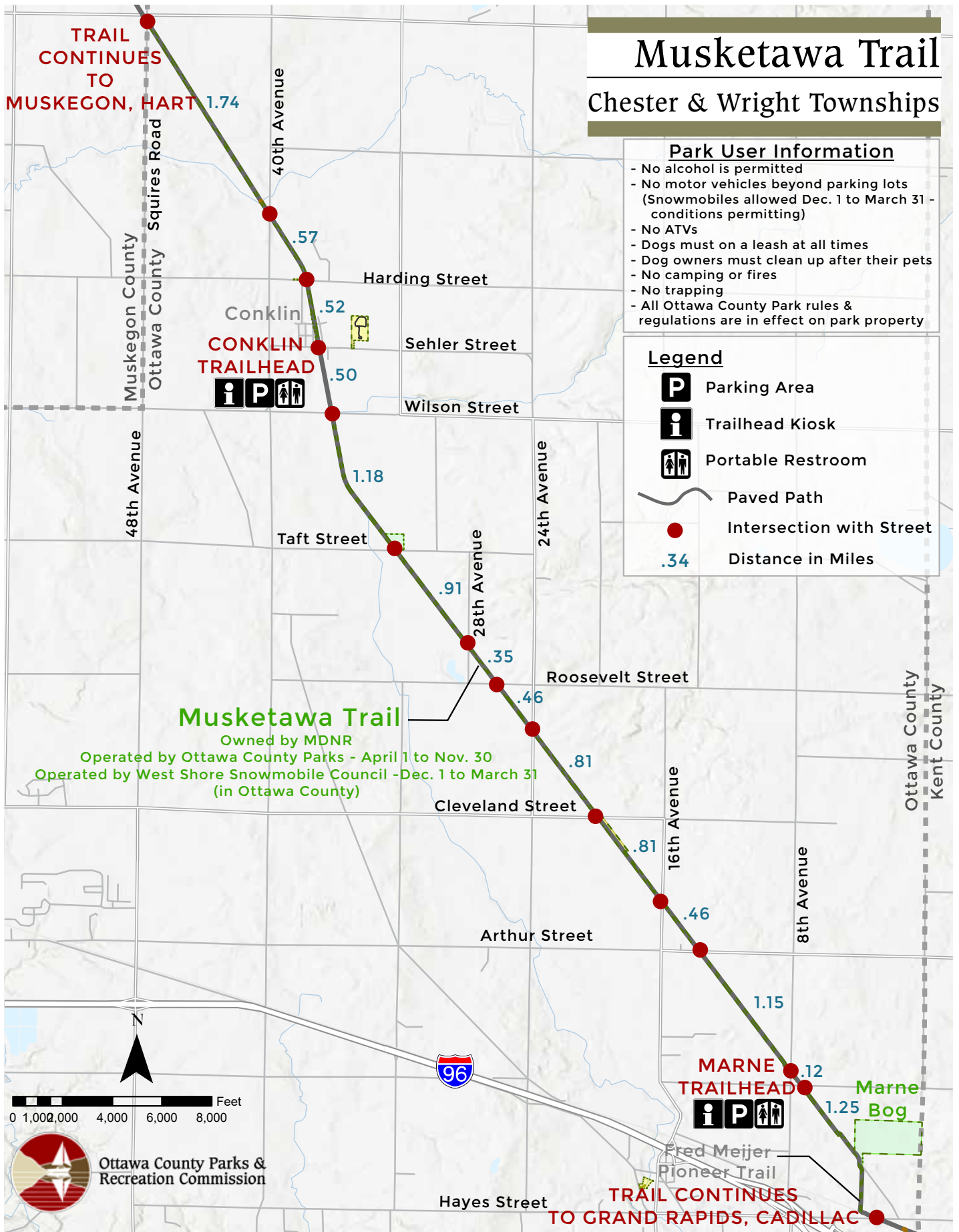
Chester & Wright Townships

Park User Information

- No alcohol is permitted
- No motor vehicles beyond parking lots (Snowmobiles allowed Dec. 1 to March 31 - conditions permitting)
- No ATVs
- Dogs must on a leash at all times
- Dog owners must clean up after their pets
- No camping or fires
- No trapping
- All Ottawa County Park rules & regulations are in effect on park property

Legend

- Parking Area
- Trailhead Kiosk
- Portable Restroom
- Paved Path
- Intersection with Street
- Distance in Miles



Musketawa Trail
 Owned by MDNR
 Operated by Ottawa County Parks - April 1 to Nov. 30
 Operated by West Shore Snowmobile Council - Dec. 1 to March 31
 (in Ottawa County)

TRAIL CONTINUES TO GRAND RAPIDS, CADILLAC



Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

GENERAL PARKS, OPEN SPACE LANDS, & TRAILS

Musketawa Trail, Unnamed Site, Grose Park, Marne Bog, Robinson Forest, Johnson Street Forest, Hiawatha Forest, Hager Park, Port Sheldon Natural Area, Van Buren Dunes, Spring Grove Park, Riley Trails

WRIGHT TOWNSHIP OPEN SPACE

Wright Township

Acquired: Donated in 1995

Size: 8 acres

Natural Features: Wet woods

Facilities/Activities: There are no park facilities on the site.

Site Notes: This property is adjacent to the Musketawa Trail in the northwestern corner of Wright Township.

Wright Township Property

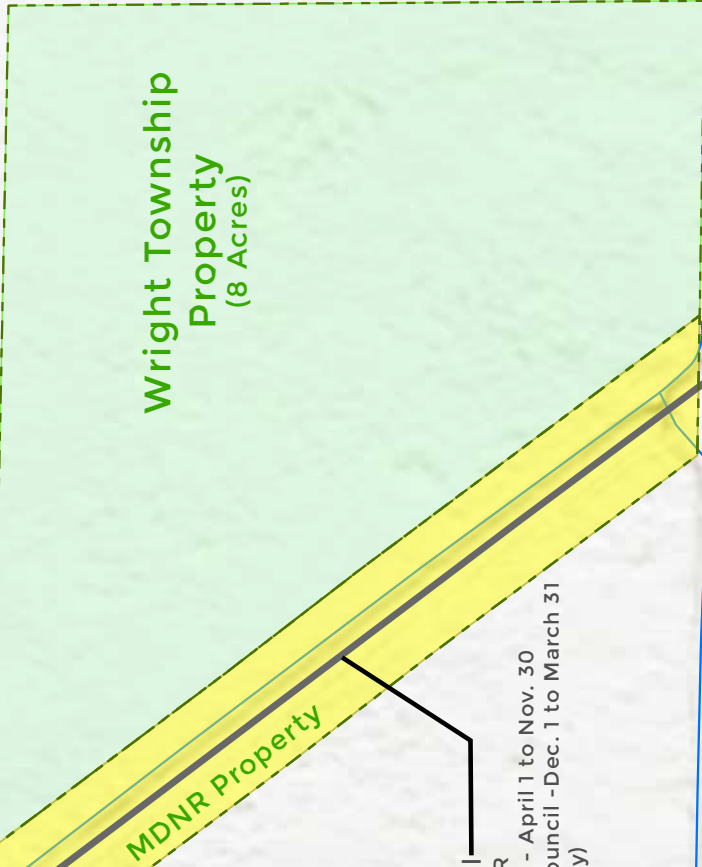
Wright Township

Legend





Paved Path

- Park User Information**
- No alcohol is permitted
 - No motor vehicles
 - No ATVs or snowmobiles
 - Bicycles are NOT allowed
 - Dogs are allowed off leash, but must be under control at all times
 - No camping or fires
 - No hunting or trapping
 - All Ottawa County Open Space rules & regulations are in effect on park property

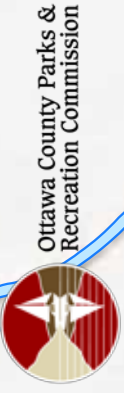


Musketawa Trail
Owned by MDNR
Operated by Ottawa County Parks - April 1 to Nov. 30
Operated by West Shore Snowmobile Council - Dec. 1 to March 31
(in Ottawa County)

N



Feet



GENERAL PARKS, OPEN SPACE LANDS, & TRAILS

Musketawa Trail, Unnamed Site, Grose Park, Marne Bog, Robinson Forest, Johnson Street Forest, Hiawatha Forest, Hager Park, Port Sheldon Natural Area, Van Buren Dunes, Spring Grove Park, Riley Trails

GROSE PARK

22200 24th Ave., Casnovia, MI 49318

Chester Township

Acquired: 1990

Size: 40 acres

Natural Features: The site includes a large area of mature hardwood forest with exceptional wildflowers and native plants, as well as shoreline along Crockery Lake.

Water Frontage: Crockery Lake - 823 feet (0.16 miles)

Developed: 2000

Facilities/Activities: There are facilities available for the entire family including a fishing deck, small swimming beach, two picnic shelters, sand volleyball courts, a children's playground, horseshoe pits, and hiking trails.

Trails: 1.58 miles

Grant History: 1998 MNRTF Grose Park Improvements TF98-052 (\$410,000 grant amount)

Site Notes: There are no entry fees, and the park is closed between November 1 and March 31.

Grose Park

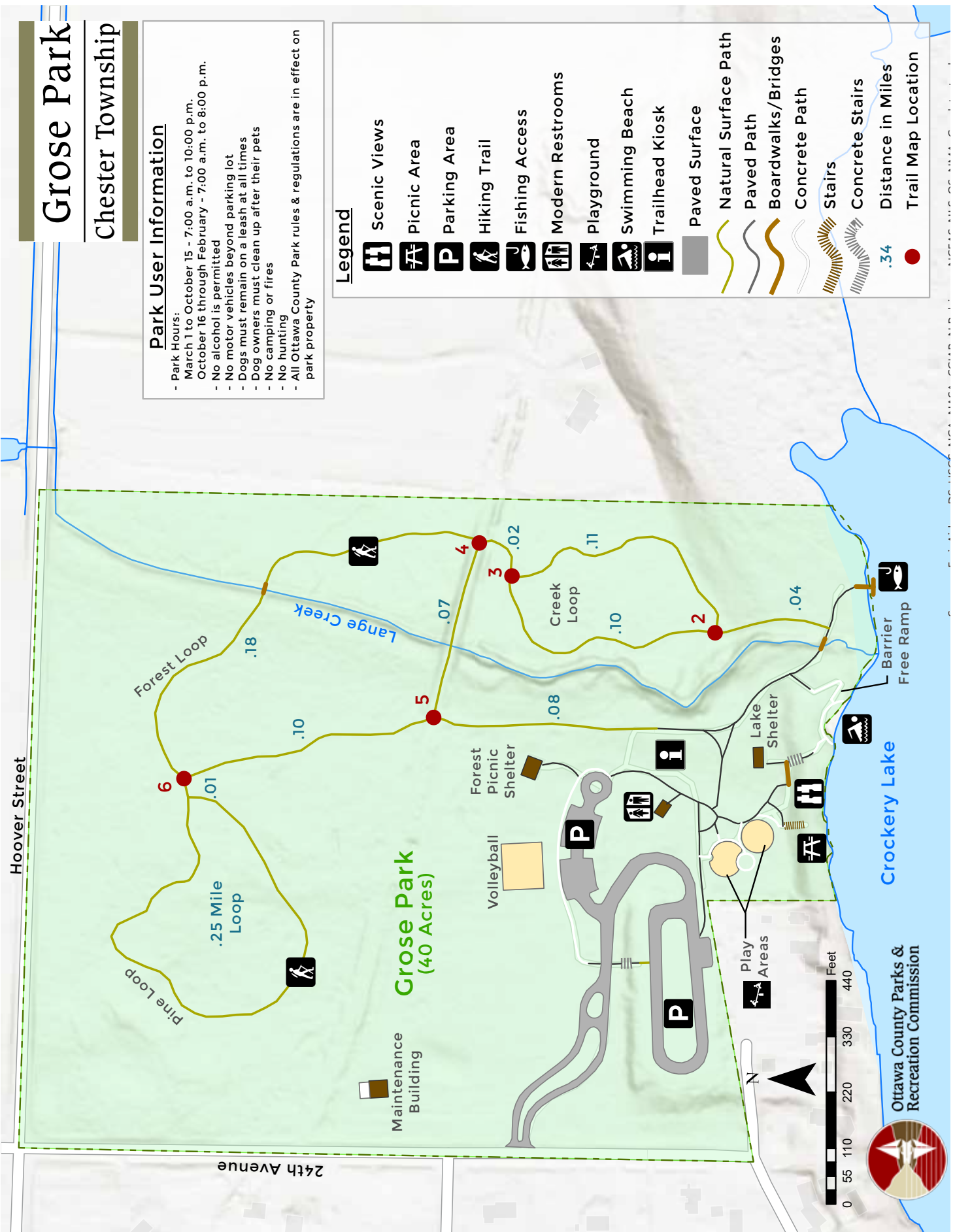
Chester Township

Park User Information

- Park Hours:
March 1 to October 15 - 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
October 16 through February - 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- No alcohol is permitted
- No motor vehicles beyond parking lot
- Dogs must remain on a leash at all times
- Dog owners must clean up after their pets
- No camping or fires
- No hunting
- All Ottawa County Park rules & regulations are in effect on park property

Legend

	Scenic Views
	Picnic Area
	Parking Area
	Hiking Trail
	Fishing Access
	Modern Restrooms
	Playground
	Swimming Beach
	Trailhead Kiosk
	Paved Surface
	Natural Surface Path
	Paved Path
	Boardwalks/Bridges
	Concrete Path
	Stairs
	Concrete Stairs
	Distance in Miles
	Trail Map Location



GENERAL PARKS, OPEN SPACE LANDS, & TRAILS

Musketawa Trail, Unnamed Site, Grose Park, Marne Bog, Robinson Forest, Johnson Street Forest, Hiawatha Forest, Hager Park, Port Sheldon Natural Area, Van Buren Dunes, Spring Grove Park, Riley Trails

MARNE BOG

Wright Township

Acquired: Donated in 2004, expanded in 2011

Size: 83 acres

Natural Features: 25-acre natural bog which was determined to be notably significant in the 1988 Natural Features Inventory of Ottawa County.

Facilities/Activities: This site is not currently developed. It is accessible by foot from the Musketawa Trail, although the terrain is extremely difficult to traverse.

Marne Bog

Wright Township

Marne Bog
(83 Acres)

Recognition Area/
Interpretive Sign

Fred Meijer Pioneer Trail

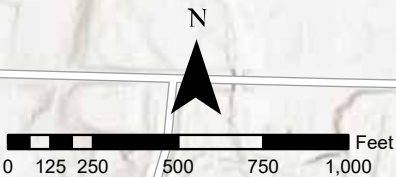
Private Road (No Parking)

Hayes Street

Ottawa County
Kent County

- Park User Information**
- Open Space Hours (for hunting): 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Year-Round
 - No alcohol is permitted
 - No motor vehicles
 - No ATVs or snowmobiles
 - Bicycles permitted on pavement
 - Dogs are allowed off leash, but must be under control at all times
 - Dog owners must clean up after their pets
 - No camping or fires
 - No trapping
 - Archery deer hunting only
 - All Ottawa County Open Space rules & regulations are in effect on park property

- Legend**
-  Bituminous Paved Path
 -  Wetland



GENERAL PARKS, OPEN SPACE LANDS, & TRAILS

Musketawa Trail, Unnamed Site, Grose Park, Marne Bog, Robinson Forest, Johnson Street Forest, Hiawatha Forest, Hager Park, Port Sheldon Natural Area, Van Buren Dunes, Spring Grove Park, Riley Trails

ROBINSON FOREST

13995 104th Ave., Grand Haven, MI 49417

Robinson Township

Acquired: County land transferred to OCPRC in 1992.

Size: 80 acres

Natural Features: A large portion of this relatively flat site is covered with a 40- to 50-year old red pine plantation, with a remainder combination of oaks and white pines. OCPRC removed significant numbers of red pines to spur natural forest regeneration in 2009.

Facilities/Activities: Roadside parking and an information kiosk provided on 104th Avenue were added in 2006.

Developed: 0.44 miles

Site Notes: The site has been closely monitored by forest researchers at Grand Valley State University and is considered an excellent red pine demonstration area.

- Park User Information**
- Open Space Hours: 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Year-Round
 - No alcohol is permitted
 - No motor vehicles
 - No ATVs or snowmobiles
 - Bicycles are NOT allowed
 - Dogs are allowed off leash, but must be under control at all times
 - No camping or fires
 - No trapping
 - Open to hunting per DNR laws
 - All Ottawa County Open Space rules & regulations are in effect on park property

- Legend**
- P** Parking Area
 - i** Trailhead Kiosk
 - .34** Distance in Miles

Robinson Forest

Robinson Township



GENERAL PARKS, OPEN SPACE LANDS, & TRAILS

Musketawa Trail, Unnamed Site, Grose Park, Marne Bog, Robinson Forest, Johnson Street Forest, Hiawatha Forest, Hager Park, Port Sheldon Natural Area, Van Buren Dunes, Spring Grove Park, Riley Trails

JOHNSON STREET FOREST

12255 Johnson St., Grand Haven, MI 49417

Robinson Township

Acquired: County land transferred to OCPRC in 1992.

Size: 50 acres

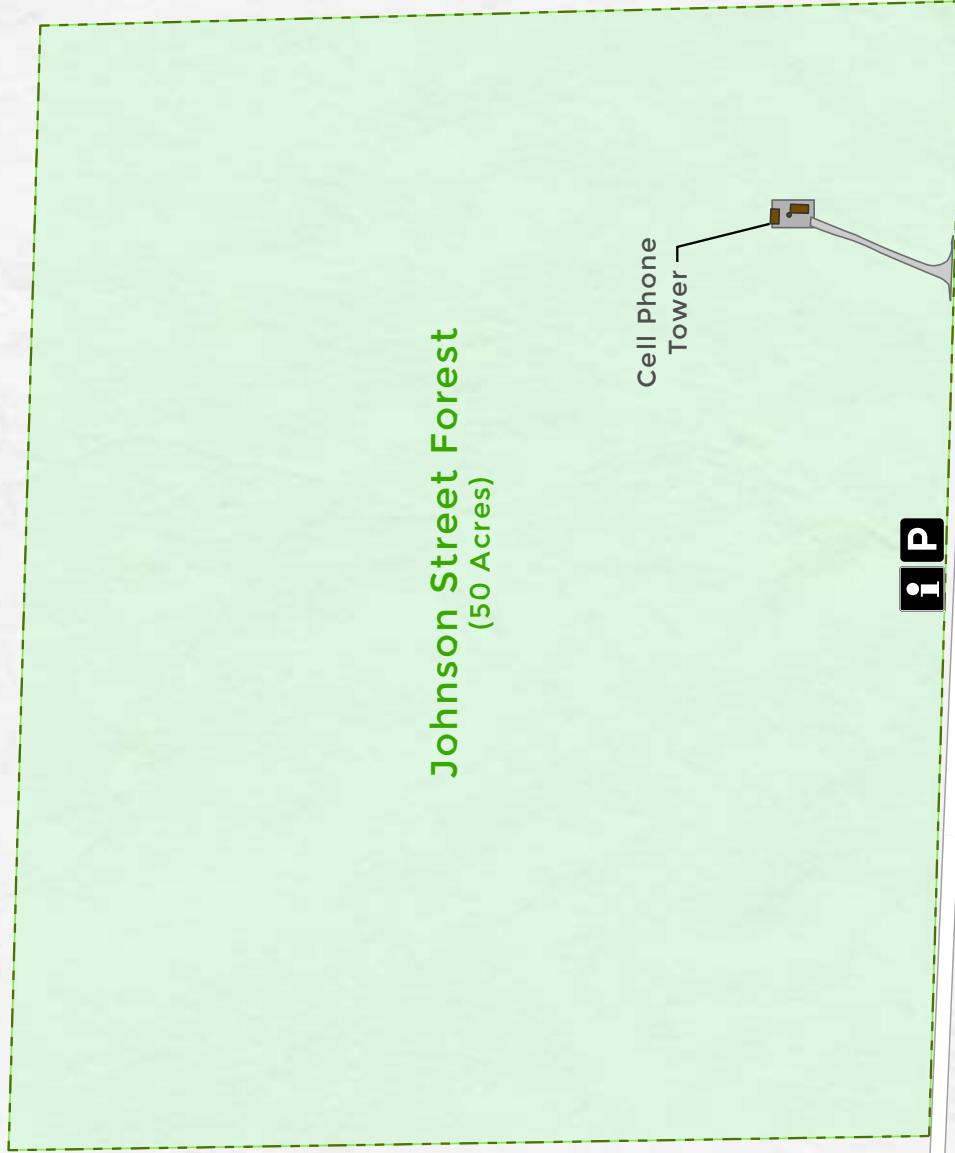
Natural Features: Vegetation consists of mixed hardwoods.

Facilities/Activities: Roadside parking and an information kiosk are provided on Johnson Street. These facilities were added in 2006.

Site Notes: Forest management for wildlife was a priority in the past.

Johnson Street Forest

Robinson Township



Legend



Parking Area



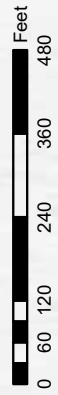
Trailhead Kiosk



Gravel Surface

Park User Information

- Open Space Hours:
5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Year-Round
- No alcohol is permitted
- No motor vehicles
- No ATVs or snowmobiles
- No bicycles
- Dogs are allowed off leash, but must be under control at all times
- No camping or fires
- No trapping
- Open to hunting per DNR laws
- All Ottawa County Open Space rules & regulations are in effect on park property



Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

GENERAL PARKS, OPEN SPACE LANDS, & TRAILS

Musketawa Trail, Unnamed Site, Grose Park, Marne Bog, Robinson Forest, Johnson Street Forest, Hiawatha Forest, Hager Park, Port Sheldon Natural Area, Van Buren Dunes, Spring Grove Park, Riley Trails

HIAWATHA FOREST

Grand Haven Township

Acquired: County land transferred to OCPRC in 1992.

Size: 365 acres

Natural Features: The site is flat and heavily forested with both hardwood stands and red pine plantations.

Facilities/Activities: An undeveloped road/trail easement connects the property with Kirk Park. Roadside parking and an information kiosk area on Fillmore Street were added in 2006 as well as a marked trail systems.

Trails: 1.89 miles

Site Notes: This is the second largest of the Open Space Lands, and the Park Operations Center for Ottawa County Parks occupies approximately two acres on the southwest corner of this site near the intersection of Fillmore and 168th Avenue.

Hiawatha Forest

Grand Haven Township

Park User Information

- Open Space Hours: 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., Year-Round
- No alcohol is permitted
- No motor vehicles beyond parking lot
- No ATVs or snowmobiles
- Bicycles are NOT allowed on trails
- Dogs are allowed off leash, but must be under control at all times
- No camping or fires
- No trapping
- Open to hunting per DNR laws
- All Ottawa County Open Spaces rules & regulations are in effect on park property

Legend

- Parking Area
- Trailhead Kiosk
- Gravel Surface
- Natural Surface Path
- Distance in Miles

Hiawatha Forest
(365 Acres)

.35 Mile Loop

1.4 Mile Loop

.12

Parks
Operations
Center

Hiawatha Drive

Lakeshore Drive

160th Avenue

Pierce Street

Fillmore Street



Ottawa County Parks &
Recreation Commission



GENERAL PARKS, OPEN SPACE LANDS, & TRAILS

Musketawa Trail, Unnamed Site, Grose Park, Marne Bog, Robinson Forest, Johnson Street Forest, Hiawatha Forest, Hager Park, Port Sheldon Natural Area, Van Buren Dunes, Spring Grove Park, Riley Trails

HAGER PARK

8134 28th Ave., Jenison, MI 49428

Georgetown Township

Acquired: Original park transferred from Road Commission in 1987.

Size: 104 acres

Natural Features: A former arboretum covers approximately 40 acres and displays a large variety of trees and shrubs. Much of this area that is open has been restored to a native grassland community. The southern half of the site is mature hardwood forest known for its spring wildflowers. Two creeks flow through and converge in the center of the site.

Developed: 1991-1992; major improvements in 2002

Facilities/Activities: The park features a wide variety of recreation opportunities. Numerous picnic facilities exist in the park including a picnic shelter, a picnic building, and two multi-purpose rooms available for reservations. The huge Age of Discovery community-built playground is a major attraction for families. The unique play area incorporates a terrain map of the United States exhibiting state boundaries, major water bodies, and mountain ranges. Near the play area, there is also a restroom, plaza area with vending machine concessions and picnic tables, and a small shelter. A paved path provides barrier-free and bicycle circulation through the park, connecting the park to the neighborhoods on the northeast and southeast sides.

Trails: 2.99 miles

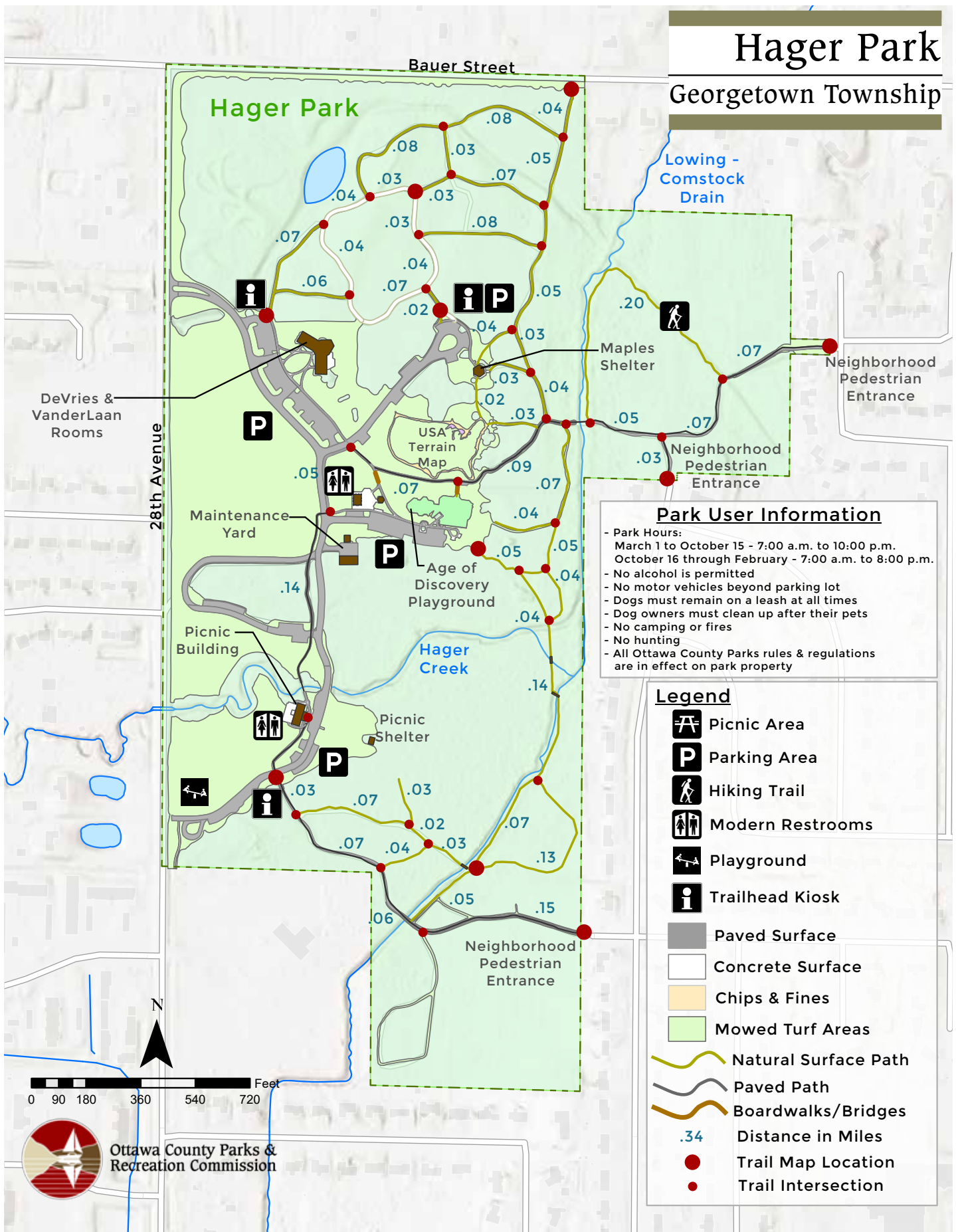
Grant History:

- 1966 Hager Hardwood Park 26-00089 (27 acres, \$80,000 grant amount)
- 1989 Bond Fund Hager Park - Phase 1 BF89-474 (\$225,000 grant amount)

Site Notes: Hager Park is one of the most popular of the County's parks. In addition to the park facilities being improved in 2004, Hager Creek itself was restored utilizing a Clean Michigan Initiative grant. Best Management Practices (BMPs) including rock riffles, new diversion structures and stream bioengineering were established to repair past erosion damage and prevent future damage. There are no park fees and the park is open year around.

Hager Park

Georgetown Township



Park User Information

- Park Hours:
March 1 to October 15 - 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
October 16 through February - 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- No alcohol is permitted
- No motor vehicles beyond parking lot
- Dogs must remain on a leash at all times
- Dog owners must clean up after their pets
- No camping or fires
- No hunting
- All Ottawa County Parks rules & regulations are in effect on park property

Legend

- Picnic Area
- Parking Area
- Hiking Trail
- Modern Restrooms
- Playground
- Trailhead Kiosk
- Paved Surface
- Concrete Surface
- Chips & Fines
- Mowed Turf Areas
- Natural Surface Path
- Paved Path
- Boardwalks/Bridges
- .34 Distance in Miles
- Trail Map Location
- Trail Intersection

0 90 180 360 540 720 Feet



Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

GENERAL PARKS, OPEN SPACE LANDS, & TRAILS

Musketawa Trail, Unnamed Site, Grose Park, Marne Bog, Robinson Forest, Johnson Street Forest, Hiawatha Forest, Hager Park, Port Sheldon Natural Area, Van Buren Dunes, Spring Grove Park, Riley Trails

PORT SHELDON NATURAL AREA

6260 160th Ave., West Olive, MI 49460

Port Sheldon Township

Acquired: County land transferred to OCPRC in 1992.

Size: 440 acres

Natural Features: This site has gently rolling terrain, a diversity of vegetation including hardwood forest and pine plantations, five wildlife ponds, and it is bisected by Ten Hagen Creek.

Facilities/Activities: Constructed in 2006, two small gravel parking areas with trailhead kiosks provide access from 168th Avenue. New marked trails have also been constructed.

Trails: 2.55 miles

Site Notes: Red pine thinning occurred on this site in 2009.

Port Sheldon Natural Area

Port Sheldon Township

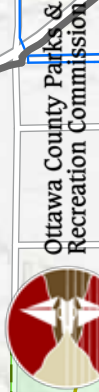
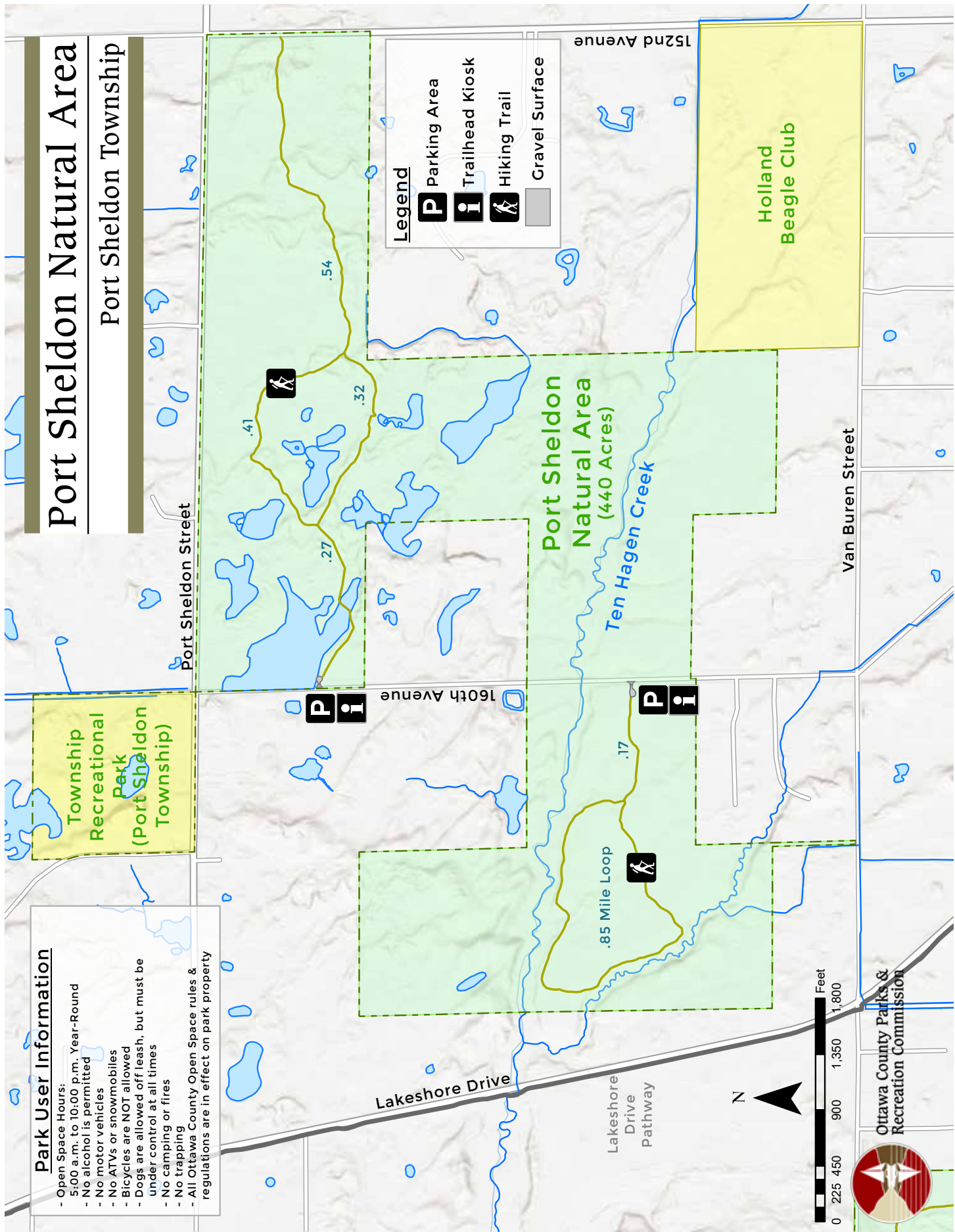
Township
Recreational
Park
(Port Sheldon
Township)

Park User Information

- Open Space Hours: 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Year-Round
- No alcohol is permitted
- No motor vehicles
- No ATVs or snowmobiles
- Bicycles are NOT allowed
- Dogs are allowed off leash, but must be under control at all times
- No camping or fires
- No trapping
- All Ottawa County Open Space rules & regulations are in effect on park property

Legend

- P** Parking Area
- i** Trailhead Kiosk
- K** Hiking Trail
- Gravel Surface



GENERAL PARKS, OPEN SPACE LANDS, & TRAILS

Musketawa Trail, Unnamed Site, Grose Park, Marne Bog, Robinson Forest, Johnson Street Forest, Hiawatha Forest, Hager Park, Port Sheldon Natural Area, Van Buren Dunes, Spring Grove Park, Riley Trails

VAN BUREN DUNES

16780 Van Buren St., West Olive, MI 49460

Port Sheldon Township

Acquired: County land transferred to OCPRC in 1992.

Size: 120 acres

Natural Features: This site has the most topographical relief of the Open Space lands. Vegetation consists of red pine plantations with scattered pockets of deciduous forest. The soils are extremely sandy.

Facilities/Activities: A trail system developed in 2006 provides access around the site. Roadside parking and an information kiosk are located on Van Buren Street.

Trails: 1.51 miles

Park User Information

- Open Space Hours:
5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Year-Round
- No alcohol is permitted
- No motor vehicles
- No ATVs or snowmobiles
- Bicycles are NOT allowed
- Dogs are allowed off leash, but must be under control at all times
- No camping or fires
- No trapping
- Open to hunting per DNR laws
- All Ottawa County Open Space rules & regulations are in effect on park property

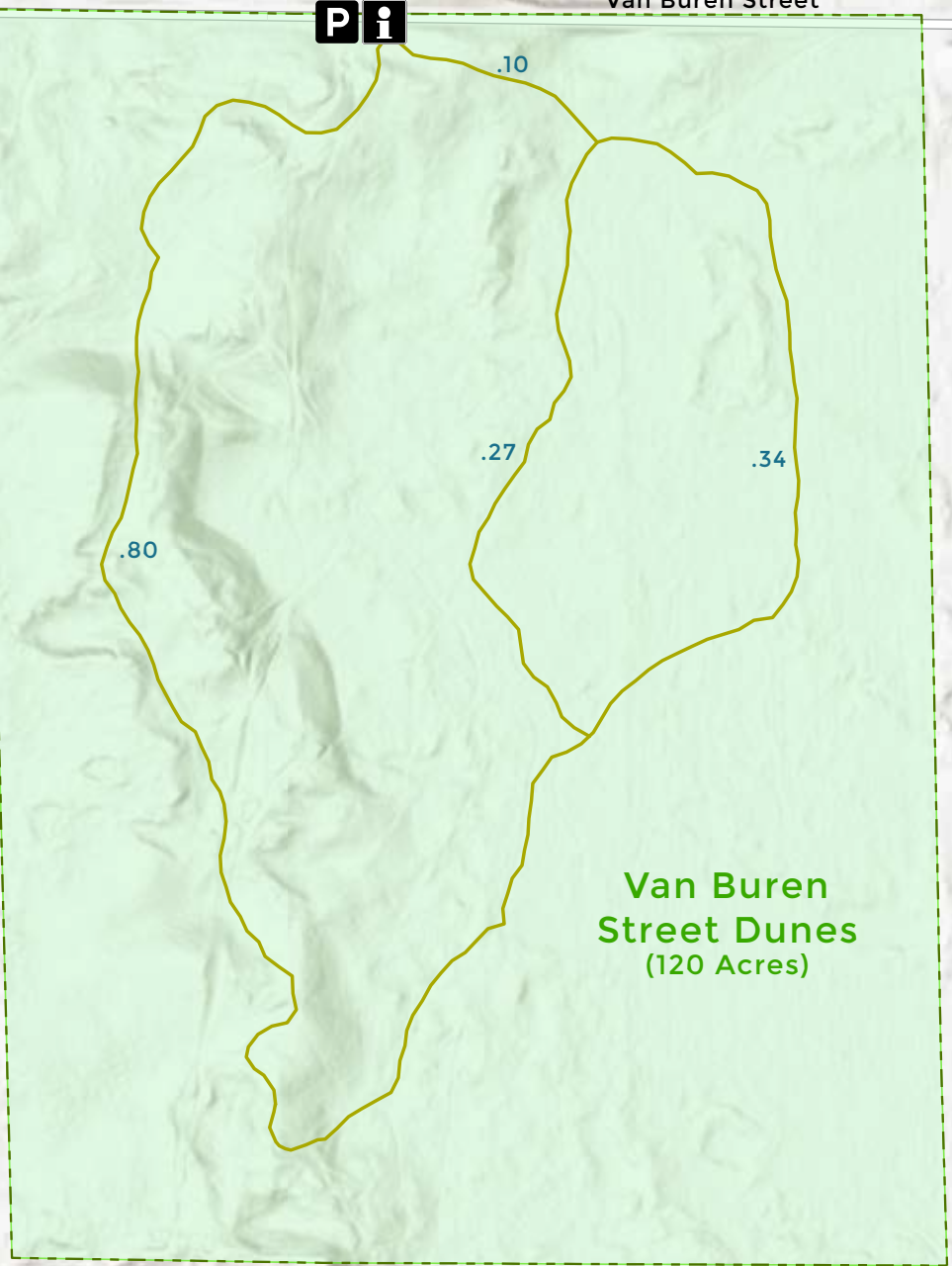
Van Buren Street Dunes

Port Sheldon Township

Legend

- P** Parking Area
- i** Trailhead Kiosk
- .34 Distance in Miles

Van Buren Street



Van Buren Street Dunes
(120 Acres)



0 85 170 340 510 680 Feet



Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

GENERAL PARKS, OPEN SPACE LANDS, & TRAILS

Musketawa Trail, Unnamed Site, Grose Park, Marne Bog, Robinson Forest, Johnson Street Forest, Hiawatha Forest, Hager Park, Port Sheldon Natural Area, Van Buren Dunes, Spring Grove Park, Riley Trails

SPRING GROVE PARK

1800 Greenly St., Grandville, MI 49418

Jamestown Township

Acquired: Original park transferred from Road Commission in 1987.

Size: 16 acres

Natural Features: This park features towering beech and maple trees and a flowing artesian spring.

Facilities/Activities: The most popular activity is picnicking, and a unique rustic picnic building is available to rent. A small playground is provided as well as a ball field, fire pit, and horseshoes. A trellis-covered gathering spot is also available for reservations and is heavily used for weddings and other ceremonies. The site is also extremely popular with photographers.


Trails: 0.31 miles

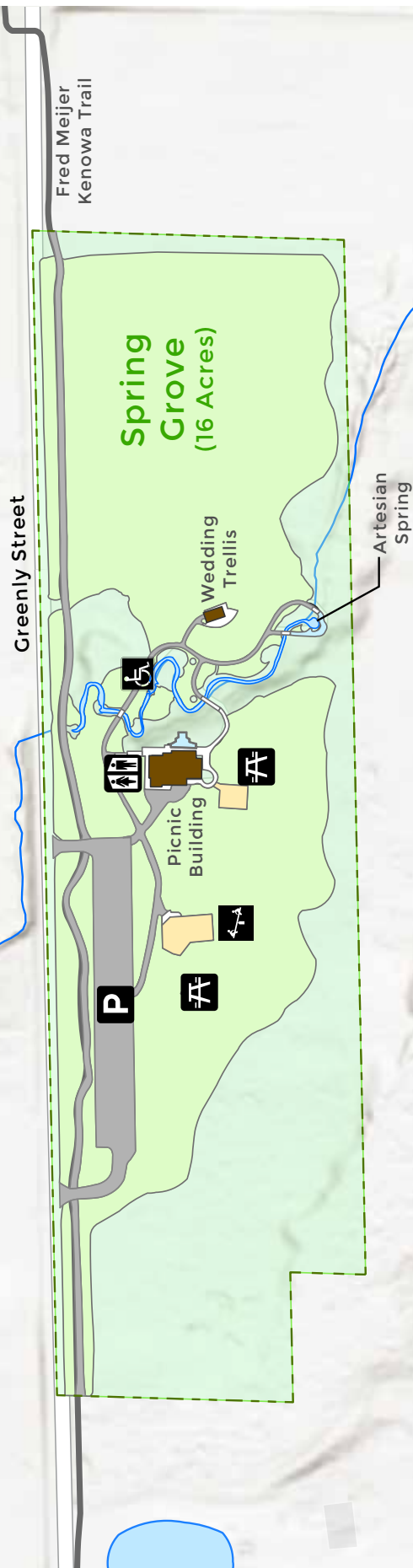
Site Notes: There are no entrance fees and the park is closed from the first snow through March 31.

Spring Grove

Jamestown Township

Legend

-  Handicapped Access
-  Picnic Area
-  Parking Area
-  Modern Restrooms
-  Playground
-  Paved Surface
-  Mowed Turf Areas
-  Paved Path

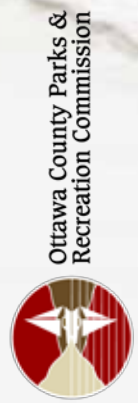


Park User Information

- **Park Hours:**
 - March 1 to October 15 - 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
 - October 16 to February - 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
 - Parking lot closed November 1 through March 31st
- No alcohol is permitted
- No motor vehicles beyond parking lot
- Dogs must remain on a leash at all times
- Dog owners must clean up after their pets
- No camping or fires
- No hunting
- All Ottawa County Parks rules & regulations are in effect on park property

Scale: 0 50 100 200 300 400 Feet

North Arrow: N



GENERAL PARKS, OPEN SPACE LANDS, & TRAILS

Musketawa Trail, Unnamed Site, Grose Park, Marne Bog, Robinson Forest, Johnson Street Forest, Hiawatha Forest, Hager Park, Port Sheldon Natural Area, Van Buren Dunes, Spring Grove Park, Riley Trails

RILEY TRAILS

16300 Riley St., Holland, MI 49424

Park Township

Acquired: Transferred from Ottawa County and designated as a park in 2006

Size: 300 acres

Natural Features: With the exception of the former landfill part of the property (a fenced 40-acre mound), the site consists of attractive rolling woodlands including mixed hardwoods and pine plantations. As part of the landfill recapping, a 2-acre pond was added in the north central section of the park.

Developed: 2007

Facilities/Activities: The park has a system of hiking and cross-country skiing trails which receive extensive use. Access is provided from Riley Street including gravel parking, pit toilets, and an information kiosk.

Trails: 10.0 miles

Site Notes: Ottawa County, through the Road Commission, currently maintains a large system of purge wells and a water treatment facility to mitigate water quality problems from the former landfill. The landfill portion of the site is currently closed to the public. Future plans for this area include trails and sledding hills.

Park User Information

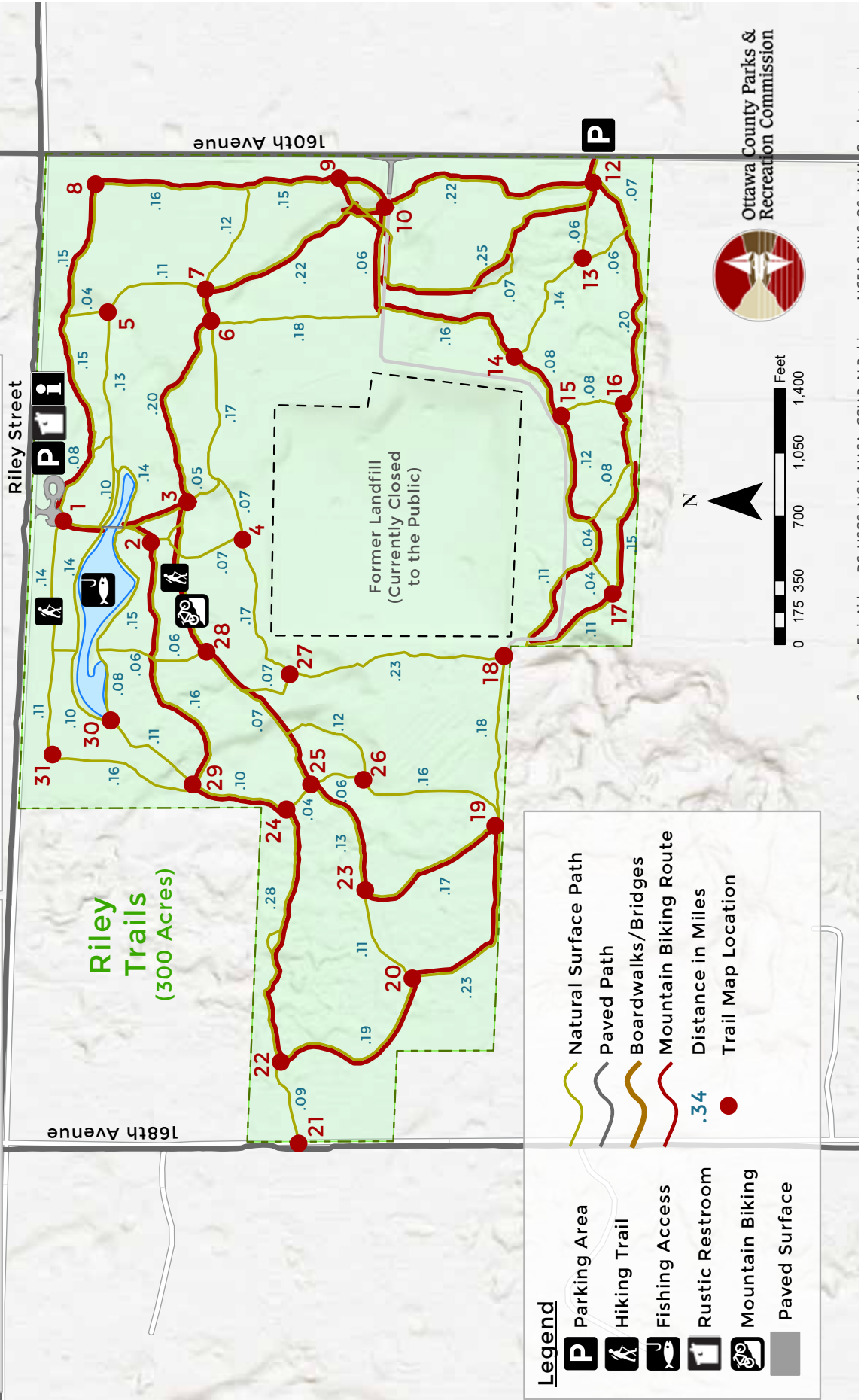
- Park Hours:
March 1 to October 15 - 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
October 16 to February - 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- All trails are multiuse (bikers, hikers, dog walkers, skiers)
- No alcohol is permitted
- No motor vehicles beyond parking lot
- Dogs must remain on a leash at all times
- Dog owners must clean up after their pets
- No camping or fires
- All Ottawa County Park rules & regulations are in effect on park property

Etiquette for Multi-use Trails

- Be courteous and announce yourself if passing.
- Do not wear earbuds that will prevent you from hearing other users
- Know who has the right of way: Bicycles yield to hikers; hikers yield to skiers.
- Stay to the right on bidirectional trails.
- Walk opposite of the direction of the day on the mountain bike loop.
- Keep your dog leashed, close to you, and on the same side of the trail.
- Travel at a speed that is safe for all users and ride slower when not on the mountain bike loop.
- Class 2&3 ebikes with a throttle and motorized scooters, boards, or similar devices are not permitted on the trails.

Riley Trails

Park Township



TOWNSHIPS AND CITY GOVERNMENTS

As federal, state, and county governments have traditionally led the way in providing regional recreation facilities based on significant natural resources, local jurisdictions including villages, cities, and townships have typically undertaken the provision of more locally oriented recreation facilities such as neighborhood parks, community parks, and community centers. Ottawa County exemplifies this scenario as well as any other county in the state.

Local townships and city governments provide a wide array of facilities aimed at meeting the more local recreation needs of their respective communities. These facilities generally vary from less than one acre to more than 60, but most are less than 20 acres in size. Some consist of nothing more than a ball field while others are more intensively developed, including recreation and community centers. Over 120 local park facilities were identified in a detailed inventory completed for Ottawa County (see Appendix C).

Although they are the exception, there are a number of local park facilities within Ottawa County that are larger, resource-based parks that attract significant users from outside the local community. Because these facilities may affect Ottawa County's plans, a more detailed description of each park is provided below:

Mulligan's Hollow, City of Grand Haven

In addition to its conventional local park facilities, this 81-acre park features one of the few downhill skiing and snowboarding facilities in the region. The park also features a unique children's playground, a skate park, and natural areas. The ski facility is operated by a non-profit organization.

Waterfront Development, City of Grand Haven

Though not a typical park, the waterfront of Grand Haven is certainly a primary recreation resource and attracts both residents and tourists. The piers, waterfront walkways, marinas, and associated facilities all act to create an exciting environment where the urban development interfaces with the Grand River and Lake Michigan.

Hofma Park, Grand Haven Township

Known for its unique floating boardwalk across Pottawattomi Bayou wetlands, Hofma Park is the largest township park in Ottawa County. It provides hiking trails and natural areas as well as more conventional local recreation facilities including ball fields, soccer, and a playground.

Aman Park, City of Grand Rapids

Though owned by the City of Grand Rapids, this 320-acre park is situated in Tallmadge Township in Ottawa County, on Sand Creek. Attractions at the park include high quality natural areas, hiking trails, cross-county ski trails and a Rotary-operated camp serving children with disabilities. As one of the larger public parks in Ottawa County with high quality natural features, the site has importance as a County-wide recreation attraction. Because the park is owned by a municipality, Ottawa County should monitor the status of the site and be prepared to add the park to the County Park system if it requires better management to protect its natural resources.

Georgetown Community Park

This popular Georgetown Township park provides the only swimming beaches in this heavily populated area. It exemplifies the excellent recreation potential associated with gravel pit lakes in eastern Ottawa County. It should be noted that Maplewood Park, previously identified in this section, has removed its swimming beach and now serves a more local recreational purpose.

Kollen Park, City of Holland

This popular 14.5-acre Holland City park, located on Lake Macatawa, is known for its beautiful lake views, picnic areas, band shell, large boat launch, and fishing opportunities.

DeGraaf Nature Center, City of Holland

Although small in size, the DeGraaf Nature Center is one of the few facilities offering formal instruction in outdoor education in Ottawa County. The 11-acre site includes a stream, pond, nature trails, and an interpretive building.

Van Raalte Farm, City of Holland

This large 155-acre park contains a century-old farmhouse on a hilltop overlooking pastureland and a valley with a stream. The park

is known for its three miles of trails, large lighted sledding area, parking areas, and picnicking.

Hudsonville Nature Center

This 74-acre site contains some of best displays of spring wildflowers in the county. It includes tables for picnicking, hiking trails, and a scenic overlook.

Consumers Energy Pigeon Lake North Pier Boardwalk

To mitigate for fish kills at the Ludington Pumped Hydroelectric Storage Facility in Ludington, Consumers Energy constructed a wooden boardwalk with overlook decks and fishing platforms along the north shore of Pigeon Lake. The boardwalk is more than 1/2 mile long and extends from a public parking lot on the Consumers Energy property westward all the way to the north pier of the Pigeon Lake outlet into Lake Michigan. It offers a nice length hike and good fishing access on the lake. Although not owned by a municipality, this facility functions as a park and regionally significant destination.

PUBLIC RECREATIONAL PROVIDERS OUTSIDE OF OTTAWA COUNTY

Although not in the geographical limits of Ottawa County, several facilities in adjacent counties provide services and facilities that draw from a more regional base of users, including residents of Ottawa County. Figure 4.2 shows the location of these and other public facilities in adjacent counties. Several of the most significant of these sites are described below.

Millennium Park, Kent County

This project is seeking to reclaim over 1500 acres of heavily used land for public recreation. Current facilities include a 6-acre beach with a splash pad and almost 20 miles of trails. It also is connected to the Kent Trails non-motorized path and touches the local municipalities of Grand Rapids, Wyoming, Grandville, and Walker.

Kent Trails

Kent Trails is a 15 mile paved, non-motorized trail running north and south through western Kent County. A spur of the trail connects to Ottawa County in Jenison near their water treatment facility.

Saugatuck Dunes State Park

This approximately 1000-acre park is relatively undeveloped and offers a secluded experience of coastal dunes with over 2.5 miles of shoreline. It offers a day use area but no camping.

Allegan State Game Area

At 50,000-acres, this large natural area in Allegan County provides many outdoor opportunities including hunting, fishing, mountain biking, hiking trails, boat launches, camping, and cross-country skiing. It also showcases Oak-Pine Barrens, an unusual plant community suited to dry sandy soils.

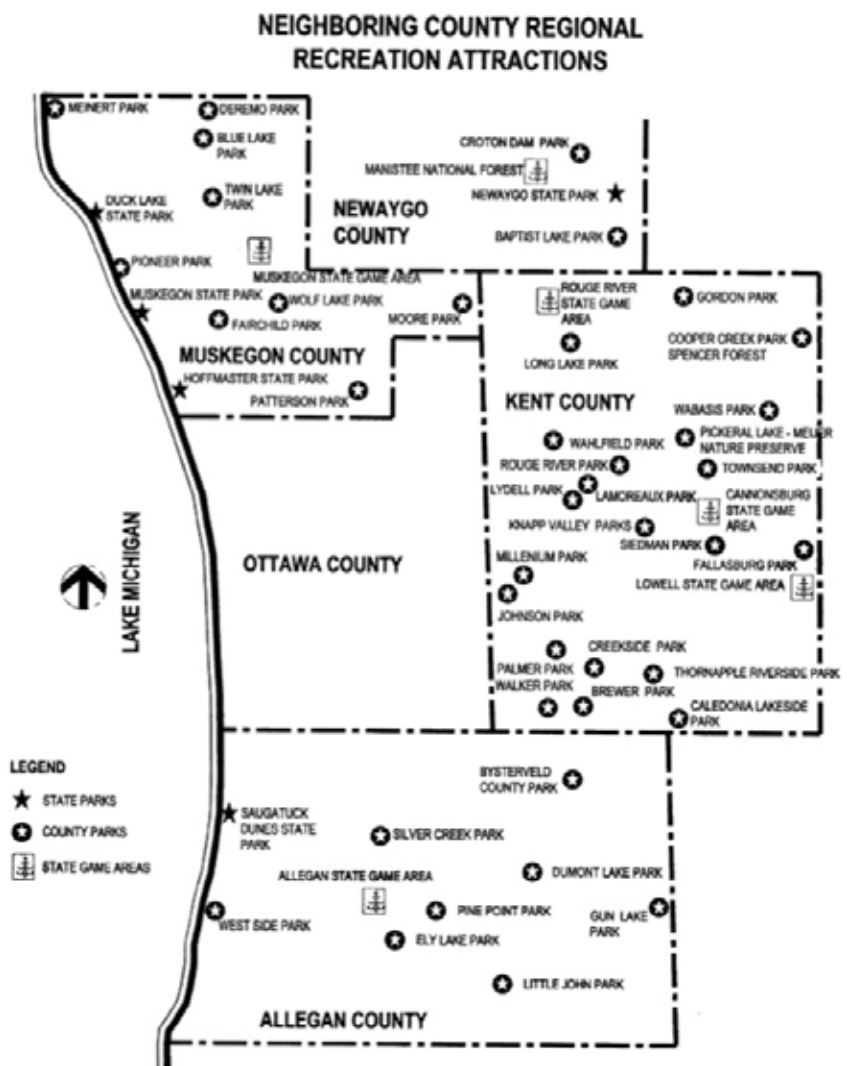


Fig. 7.2 - Adjacent County Public Recreation Facilities

Silver Creek Park

This park offers regionally significant opportunities for equestrians, including a rustic equestrian camping area. It is also a primary staging area to access over 25 miles of trails in and around the Allegan State Game Area, in addition to the 320 acres in the park itself.

Hoffmaster State Park

Hoffmaster State Park is known for its excellent formations of sand dunes and the Gillette Visitor Center, a regionally important nature center. The 1200-acre park includes dune stairs and overlooks, a modern campground, Lake Michigan swimming area, and three picnic areas. Three hundred acres of the park are located in the northwest corner of Ottawa County, with the remainder, including the entrance and visitor facilities, in Muskegon County.

SCHOOLS

In many areas, school systems serve as the backbone of locally oriented recreation facilities. While rural townships and cities may not have the resources, schools frequently provide neighborhoods with basic recreation opportunities as part of their overriding philosophy of education. Whether it is basketball courts, ball fields or gymnasiums, the schools and their facilities are available to the public at the most basic levels of social structure: the neighborhood.

Colleges, universities and similar advanced education institutions also provide recreation facilities which, though often dominated by the respective student population, are nearly always open to the general public to some extent. Hope College in the City of Holland and Grand Valley State University in Allendale Township provide this service.

PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS AND COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS

As one moves from a smaller to a larger population area, private and commercial recreation providers play an increasingly greater role in the delivery of area-wide recreational facilities. This is due, in large part, to the fact that larger populations are necessary to support many of the private and commercial recreation providers. Commercial providers play a particularly important role in Ottawa County where tourism increases the demand for many types of recreation-related business.

Private recreation providers in Ottawa County cover a wide spectrum, from bowling alleys to fitness clubs. For purposes of this study, only marinas, campgrounds, and golf courses were considered. Detailed discussion about Ottawa County's role in relation to these private facilities is included in chapter 10.

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SECTION 5

Needs Assessment

CHAPTER 8 | NEEDS ASSESSMENT TOOLS

CHAPTER 9 | PARK & OPEN SPACE ANALYSIS

CHAPTER 10 | ACTIVITY NEEDS ANALYSIS

CHAPTER 11 | ACCESSIBILITY ANALYSIS

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CHAPTER 8 | NEEDS ASSESSMENT TOOLS

Assessing the recreational needs of Ottawa County involved a number of techniques to gather as much pertinent data as possible to gain insight into the public's perception of the quality and availability of recreation opportunities in Ottawa County. The following pages briefly review the various methods used during the preparation of this plan and highlights some of the results.

2020 COUNTY RESIDENT ON-LINE SURVEY

One of the primary tools in evaluating current attitudes and desires with regard to outdoor recreation in Ottawa County is a survey of county residents. An on-line survey of Ottawa County residents was conducted in the spring of 2020 to provide insight regarding resident perceptions of the current park system and their needs and preferences for outdoor recreation areas and facilities. The survey was widely advertised to both current park contacts and the broader community and was patterned closely after surveys of residents conducted approximately every five years since 1994. Over 4400 people participated. The similarity of the surveys allows comparison to reveal changes and possible trends in attitudes among county residents. The survey results were analyzed by the Ottawa County Planning and Improvement Department, and a complete summary of 2020 survey results is provided in Appendix C.

Some particular observations are shown below. Many of these observations have special interest because they can be compared to the similar survey completed in 2016.

Park Usage and Recreation Data

- 3 of the 6 most visited parks are located along the Lake Michigan shoreline.
- 80% or more of respondents walk or hike.
- The Parks newsletter and website are the most frequently report channels for obtaining information about the activities of Ottawa County Parks & Recreation.

Survey Goal 1: Gauge residents' perception and satisfaction with the overall parks system

- 96% of respondents rate the job being done by Ottawa County Parks in providing recreational spaces to citizens of Ottawa County as Excellent or Good.
- Trails are identified by respondents as the most valuable service/program offered.

Survey Goal 2: Ensure long term goals of the Plan reflect the desire of the community

- 87% of respondents Strongly agree or Somewhat agree that Ottawa County Parks should support a regional trail system linking different communities
- Less than 50% of respondents Strongly agree or Somewhat agree that hunting should be allowed in unimproved portions of county parks and open space lands or that overnight camping should be provided at properties managed by Ottawa County Parks
- Over 60% of respondents report that Much more or More of the following activities/facilities are needed – Hiking Trails, Paved Paths, Canoeing/Kayaking Sites, and Sledding Runs

Survey Goal 3: Gauge residents' support for the County Parks' funding model/millage

- 52% of respondents are aware of the current Parks millage.
- 84% of respondents Strongly Favor or Somewhat Favor the current Parks millage.
- 72% of respondents think the annual pass cost is Just Right

2020 PARK USER SURVEY

A survey of actual users of the Ottawa County Parks system was also conducted from May through July of 2020. The survey was again patterned after a similar survey completed by Hope College students in the summers of 1993, 2001, and 2010, but was conducted by park staff and volunteers with the data analyzed by the Ottawa County Planning Department. Unfortunately, the COVID pandemic

greatly hindered this process as much person to person contact was limited. Instead, potential respondents were provided a link to an online survey to record their opinions. Although only 162 people responded, the aggregate data and comments about individual parks and facilities provided some useful information. In general, a high rate of user satisfaction was recorded in line with the County resident survey. A report summarizing these findings is in Appendix D. Although limited in its validity by the low number of respondents, several interesting results were recorded:

- 26% of users were from outside of Ottawa County
- Most users were in the 21 – 50 age group
- 21% were first time users
- 81% came for the trails
- 59% of visitors to the lakeshore parks felt that the fee was ‘Just Right’
- 48% were aware of the Ottawa County Parks millage

COUNTY DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

A review of the data presented in Chapter Four reveals several items of interest for park planning purposes. The most significant of these is the expected continued substantial growth in overall county population, as well as exponential growth in specific areas. This increase almost surely will result in an increased need for recreation land and programming. Several of the most popular parks are already at capacity on a regular basis and will require additional land and/or facilities to accommodate this additional use.

A second area of interest is in the county’s growing ethnic diversity. Although still overwhelmingly white and non-Hispanic, the overall population continues to trend toward greater diversity with the Hispanic population now over 10%. Continued efforts to monitor needs and desires of minority populations, as well as specific communication strategies may be required.

PARK PLANNING MEETINGS

Ottawa County Parks conducts public input meetings or hearings in conjunction with all new planning and/or development projects including grant applications. Public meetings of local governmental units to present plans or secure necessary approvals are also common. Although these meetings are usually site specific, parks staff often present general park planning information to provide background and context for the current project efforts. For example, OCPRC’s emphasis on greenways along its river corridors and efforts to connect recreation spaces with trails are often presented. These meetings also often allow for informal time to discuss a wide variety of topics of interest to citizens and local leaders and provide opportunities for park improvement suggestions. Since the 2016 plan, public meetings have been held for the following projects:

- Ottawa Sands Master Planning
- Bend Area Acquisitions
- Ottawa Beach Marina Development
- Stearns Creek Park Acquisition
- Grand River Greenway – Idema Explorers Trail
- Stearns Connector Segment
- Eastmanville Connector Segment
- Jenison Mill Segment

RESERVATION FACILITY USER SURVEY

In 2010, a system was put in place to measure satisfaction with services and facilities provided for park patrons paying to reserve facilities in the county park system. All patrons who have completed a reservation and have an email address are sent a link to a survey via email with questions related to their experience with the reservation process, service, and facilities. A portion of the survey also provides opportunities for comments. 12% of users given the opportunity to participate responded in 2018. This information is

compiled and analyzed to recognize trends and determine areas of possible improvement. Of those that responded, 99% of customers were highly satisfied or satisfied with the facility. Family and friends continue to be the highest percentage for patrons hearing about reservations sites at 31%; internet search provided 14% of reservations. Many site improvements have resulted from user survey comments as we continually monitor feedback and strive for excellent customer service. 98% of the customers who responded would rent again and 92% of them agreed that the fee was appropriate.

COMMENT CARDS & GENERAL PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE

For many years the OCPRC has had an ongoing effort to solicit input from park users through the use of comment cards at the highest use county parks (see sample card in Appendix G). Boxes labeled “Comment Cards” were installed at key locations within the parks, and users were encouraged by park staff to share their feelings about the parks. The program has proven very popular and hundreds of comments have been received over the years. Numerous helpful suggestions as well as many compliments have resulted in adjustments or strengthening of planning initiatives. The OCPRC and staff review and discuss all comment cards received on a regular basis.

In addition, general correspondence from the public via email, social media, and US mail regularly provide opportunities for the public to make their suggestions and comments known to park staff. These exchanges are taken seriously with timely responses from parks staff and inclusion of the correspondence in the pre-meeting package provided to parks commissioners.

ANALYSIS OF LOCAL RECREATION PLANS

Recreation plans were collected from all local units of government within Ottawa County as well as adjacent counties. The documents were reviewed and plans identified in an effort to refine the direction of the county’s park and recreation system.

As has been the case in previous reviews, it was generally concluded from the local recreation plans that most communities are providing very good recreation opportunities at the local level. Therefore, the county should not try to duplicate local recreation services but rather complement them by concentrating on larger, natural resource-based parks, which offer opportunities for picnicking, swimming, hiking, and other uses which rely upon natural features. In addition, the plans reveal that no major initiatives are being proposed that would significantly alter conditions for planning future county park improvements. Other general observations of emphases in these plans include the following:

- Serving all age groups and abilities including barrier-free areas
- Year-round recreation both indoor and outdoor
- Non-motorized trails with connections to residential areas and schools
- Geographic balance of park sites and amenities
- Natural area protection
- A discussion of specific local facilities is provided in Chapter 10, with a complete listing provided in Appendix B.

ANALYSIS OF OTHER OUTSTANDING PARK SYSTEMS IN MICHIGAN

An Internet search of the websites of ten of Michigan’s best and most active park systems was completed to determine what facilities and services are regularly provided in this region and what trends are becoming evident. Several of these systems are leaders regionally in developing programs to serve their residents and are located in areas such as growing suburban Detroit that could serve as models for some aspects of park system evolution in Ottawa County.

As with the analysis completed in the 2016 plan, there are several activities that are fairly common in other parks systems that are not currently provided by Ottawa County Parks. These include water/splash play, camping, boat rental, sports fields and courts, and picnic accommodations for large groups (over 200 people). These other systems are also continuing to evolve to provide a broader range of facilities and services that meet their own local circumstances. It should be noted that Ottawa County has followed this trend by adding disc golf and dog parks to its list of services in the last 10 years. Although these uses are not at the core of the OCPRC’s mission, they do require large land resources and meet growing outdoor recreation needs.

Some specific trends identified in this most recent review include accommodations for fat tire winter bike riding and for snow tubing, including tube rental. Interestingly, zip lines and archery facilities, although more common throughout the country, have not made an impact on these Michigan park systems.

A chart showing a comparison of these park systems with Ottawa County is included in Appendix F.

REVIEW OF STATE INITIATIVES

The State Michigan has evaluated public recreation needs from a variety of perspectives and taken public comment on a number of topics related to outdoor activities, land management, and tourism. Results of these efforts have been recorded in several documents, including the following:

- The Future of Michigan's Parks and Outdoor Recreation: A Report to Governor Rick Snyder prepared by the Michigan State Parks and Outdoor Recreation Blue Ribbon Panel in 2012.
- The Michigan Comprehensive Trail Plan prepared by the Michigan Snowmobile and Trail Advisory Council in 2013.
- The Michigan Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2013-2013 by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.
- The Michigan Health and Wellness 4x4 Plan prepared by the Michigan Department of Community Health in 2012.
- The Managed Public Land Strategy by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (2013).
- Although these initiatives cover a broad range of topics, several common themes can be seen that are applicable to the work of Ottawa County Parks. These include a strong emphasis on regional trail networks (both land and water) and collaboration between units of government as well as between the public and private sectors.

REVIEW OF NATIONAL INITIATIVES

Ottawa County Parks is a member of the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA), the largest organization of park and recreation professionals in the United States. For several years, NRPA has promoted the concept of three pillars of recreation. These pillars are Conservation, Health & Wellness, and Social Equity. Information resources and other support are provided to members so that they can build on these pillars of healthy communities. The NRPA national conference in particular has recently focused on the need for parks to be a major component of healthy lifestyles by providing facilities and access from neighborhoods to those facilities that can help people lead active and healthy lives. Research and experiences of members continues to grow, showing that parks can and should be viewed as an essential public service.

REVIEW OF NATIONAL RESEARCH

Several organizations conduct research to determine levels of participation and trends in outdoor recreation at a national level. Some of these findings are applicable to Ottawa County as indicators of potential future needs or areas that need to be evaluated on a regular basis. In particular, the Outdoor Recreation Participation Topline Report 2019 on paddlesports produced by The Outdoor Foundation provide detailed data to inform park planning and design decisions.

In particular, the most recent participation survey revealed that over 50% of US residents participated in some form of outdoor recreation last year with almost one third participating at least once a month. However, the report also revealed cause for concern:

- The moderate participation rate has declined by nearly two percent over the past decade.
- Overall outdoor outings declined by an average of 7.4 outings per participant over the past year.
- Youth outdoor outings have dropped by 1.4% over the past three years.

These trends indicate a continued need to communicate with constituents to encourage healthy outdoor activity.

PARKS COMMISSION WORK SESSIONS & RETREATS

The OCPRC periodically engages in special meetings to discuss particular planning and policy topics. These 2-4 hour retreats are designed to provide time for the OCPRC to focus solely on long- range planning issues and to evaluate public input, concerns, and suggestions. A special planning session was held to discuss this proposed plan on September 23, 2020. The results of this session are reflected throughout this plan document, and notes and resulting documents for each are provided in Appendix E.

In addition, every few years a special tour is given by parks staff to OCPRC and the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners. This tour highlights recent improvements to the parks system along with current planning, operations, or programming issues. The hope is to inform the county's public officials of current and proposed parks initiatives so that they can better engage with their constituents. The most recent special tour was conducted in the fall of 2019.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The draft plan was made available on the Ottawa County Parks website from October 13, 2020 through December 1, 2020 with a public hearing held on December 2, 2020 at a regularly scheduled Parks Commission meeting. All comments were collected, presented to the OCPRC, and incorporated into the plan if appropriate. Public notices for the public comment period and minutes of the public meeting are included in Appendix E.

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CHAPTER 9 | PARKS & OPEN SPACE ANALYSIS

As in previous plans, a key objective of the 2021 plan is to clearly define the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission's (OCPRC) role in the protection of open space. The term "open space," although difficult to define, includes parklands, but is a much broader concept encompassing a wide range of undeveloped lands. For purposes of this plan, open space is broadly defined as land which is free from intensive development and where the natural or cultural character of the land has been preserved or can be restored. The job of protecting open space in Ottawa County is a huge task which falls upon a wide range of entities. In addition to OCPRC, responsibility to address the task lies with local planning and parks commissions, the Ottawa County Planning Commission, private nonprofit land conservancy groups, and various state regulatory agencies.

Based on the results of past long-range planning efforts, the role of Ottawa County Parks in the protection of open space lands has emerged as one of identifying and acquiring select high quality natural and recreational lands for use by the public. Clearly, it is not feasible to protect a large percentage of the land base as open space in Ottawa County through direct acquisition. However, by acquiring key high quality natural and recreational lands, the OCPRC can provide the core natural lands which can serve as a basic green infrastructure for the county's future growth. The responsibility lies with local planning agencies and others to implement the necessary land use controls to limit sprawl and promote growth patterns which preserve open space.

This chapter will first explore the value of natural features and open space and comment on public support for these efforts. A review is then provided of past open space planning efforts which are important to understanding how the OCPRC's approach to open space planning has evolved. Park and open space acreage standards are discussed, and guidelines are identified to help evaluate needs on a countywide basis. Finally, the chapter concludes with a detailed review of various land acquisition and greenway initiatives established by the OCPRC, and the direction of each is assessed.

THE VALUE OF NATURAL FEATURES AND OPEN SPACE

General attitudes toward land have changed in recent decades as people have become more aware of the effects of human activity on the environment. A new realization has emerged that development activities which destroy natural features and remove open space carry greater long-term costs. These costs include the loss of water quality and wildlife habitat and diminished attractiveness for tourism and other economic development. The natural and open space features of Ottawa County - its lakes, rivers and streams, sand dunes, wetlands, forests, grasslands and agricultural lands also create a special character and unique "sense of place" that can be damaged by insensitive alterations to these features.

Most citizens now recognize that protected natural features and open space contribute to the county's outstanding quality of life. Some of the general benefits of protecting and conserving these features include:

- Clean and adequate supplies of municipal and private water sources
- Wildlife habitat
- Groundwater recharge and purification, flood control, pollution protection, and the support of unique plant and animal life
- Recreational opportunities including hiking, skiing, swimming, sledding, nature study, fishing, photography, and related pursuits
- Mental and physical health
- Aesthetics (views, serenity, rural nature, etc.)
- Educational and research opportunities (natural history, biology, geology, ecology, etc.)
- Economic opportunities in areas such as farming, forestry, and tourism, plus the improved ability to attract and retain businesses

Citizens in Ottawa County are acutely aware of the quality of the environment and appear to support strong policies protecting environmental assets and open spaces. County residents, increasingly sensitive to the value of their environment, are generally

supportive of reasonable policies to help ensure that these resources will be present for future generations to enjoy. The 2020 County Resident Survey showed similar results to the earlier surveys revealing a strong interest in open space protection as noted in the findings cited below.

- 82% felt there is a need to acquire additional land for future public use.
- 84% felt that OCPRC should focus on acquisition of “land along major rivers and streams.”
- 83% felt that OCPRC should acquire “unique environmental areas such as wetlands, sand dunes, mature woodlands, and wildlife areas.”

REVIEW OF PAST PLANNING EFFORTS

The 2021 Plan seeks to build on previous plans to establish a workable framework for open space planning in Ottawa County. Recognizing the many unique natural and open space resources found throughout Ottawa County and the threat to these assets posed by the County’s growth and sprawl, the OCPRC seeks to take a proactive position to preserve and protect selected resources of county-wide significance for future generations.

As noted in Chapter 1, there have been many excellent plans prepared for the county park system over the years. As part of the current planning process, past plans have been reviewed in an effort to evaluate and benefit from previous planning efforts. The 1995 plan utilized a basic approach to identify open space areas for protection involving mapping a wide range of natural, cultural and recreation features for all of Ottawa County. Studying the results of the overlay mapping process revealed concentrations of features that were then identified as “Areas of Interest.” These led to a focus in the 2000 Plan on greenways along the Grand, Macatawa, and Pigeon River corridors. This emphasis was reinforced and expanded in the 2006, 2011, and 2016 plans, with the addition of the Lake Michigan coastal greenway as a focus area. Not surprisingly, a look back 40 years to the 1970 Parks Plan reveals a focus on these same natural resource areas for development of parks and preserves.

Results from the 1995 Plan were used, along with additional information to structure the 1996 millage proposal to provide dedicated funds to expand the county’s park and open space system. The Parks Commission structured a millage proposal that included the establishment of greenways along the three key river corridors as the foundation for the millage campaign.

Many of Ottawa County’s best remaining natural features are associated with its rivers. The Parks Commission has identified three high priority river corridors for establishment of greenways. The goal would be to protect selected high quality natural, historic, and recreational lands through public/private partnerships with a long-range goal of providing a linked system of natural preserves, parks, and historic sites. Opportunities would be provided for hiking, biking, horseback riding, wildlife viewing, canoeing, and other recreational activities.

The 2006 millage renewal supported this strategy and identified a goal of adding 1,800 acres to the park and open space system as well as developing new parks, expanding existing facilities, and continuing high quality maintenance and land stewardship. In the latest millage renewal in 2016 funds available for acquisition were reduced, but there was continued emphasis on completing key greenway land purchases.

LAND ACQUISITION CRITERIA

As the OCPRC began assessing lands for acquisition, it soon became clear that well-defined land acquisition criteria were needed to help with the evaluation process. The following acquisition criteria have been adopted as a guide and discussion tool for use in reviewing properties under consideration for purchase.

Property Acquisition Criteria:

Natural Features

- Presence of unique or rare type of ecological association, natural community, or species that could be protected or sustained in a park setting.
- Occurrence of unique or dramatic geological or topographical features (e.g., ravines, glacial landforms, barrier dunes, steep slopes, gravel pit lakes, etc.).

- Presence of water-related natural features. Examples include Lake Michigan shoreline, riparian lands (i.e., riverfront or lakefront), streams, wetlands, etc.

Socio-Environmental Features

Recreation value in terms of type, uniqueness, and quality of recreational use anticipated at the site. Also, consider factors such as appropriateness of the site for the uses intended, the general attractiveness of the site and its surroundings, the suitability of the site for recreation development and meeting needs of special populations, and the impact the proposed recreation development would have on the natural environment.

Historical importance of the site. Does the site offer the opportunity to protect significant historical features? Do opportunities exist for historical interpretation to the public?

Size of overall acquisition project. Park plan guidelines require 100 to 500 acres to fit the definition of an area-wide or regional park, with larger sites receiving higher priority. Size is less important when evaluating lands as part of recreation corridors (e.g., greenways).

- Location of site. Consider the following factors:
 - Is part of a greenway/recreation corridor linking other public/natural lands; is part of an identified greenway project.
 - Is contiguous with or complementary to existing park or open space areas. Provides access to park or open space areas.
 - Is located in a highly populated area or high-growth portion of Ottawa County. Compatibility with adjacent land uses.
 - Potential for adverse development (e.g., higher importance given to sites where threat of development is imminent).
 - Lands possessing outstanding scenic qualities visible to the public from highways, public waterways, or park areas.

Economic Factors

- Is the property available for sale with a willing seller?
- Sale price.
- Revenue production potential.
- Environmental and development issues related to the property. What developmental limitations exist? Are high maintenance costs anticipated? Is environmental restoration required?
- Will the project provide significant economic benefits to the county? Does the project have significant potential to attract tourists or enhance the attractiveness of the county as a place to locate employment-producing enterprises?

PARK AND OPEN SPACE GUIDELINES

Standards have been used by many park and recreation agencies in the past to provide a benchmark or guide to help establish goals for the basic quantity of park and open space lands to set aside for the future. Although the OCPRC acknowledges standards of this type are somewhat subjective in nature, they can be an important tool in establishing goals.

The OCPRC has examined past standards and guidelines issued by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA, Lancaster 1983) and supports a classification system for park and open spaces which includes suggested acreage guidelines. For “local/close-to-home space” including city and township parks, the suggested guideline is 6.25 to 10.5 acres per 1,000 population. For “regional space,” comparable to the role of Ottawa County Parks, including regional/metropolitan parks and regional park preserves, the suggested guideline is 15 to 20 acres per 1,000.

After considering survey results and other factors involved in evaluating park and open space needs in Ottawa County, the OCPRC has adopted a guideline of a minimum of 20 acres per 1,000 population for county park and open space lands. In developing the guideline, the OCPRC has taken into consideration the strong public interest in preservation of natural lands and open space; the overall need for parklands and facilities to meet identified activity needs; and the importance of tourism in Ottawa County and the added demand this places upon parklands.

Based on the 2019 Census estimate of 291,830, Ottawa County should have 5,837 acres of park and open space land to meet the guideline of 20 acres per 1,000 people. Currently Ottawa County Parks manages 7,205 acres. Therefore, there is a surplus of 1,368

acres based on the guideline. By the year 2030, the population estimated at 338,233 would require 6,760 acres. Based on that projection, there would be a surplus of 445 acres. As indicated, these are guidelines only.

An important factor to consider is that acquiring high quality park land today will be much easier and less expensive than after significant population growth occurs. Another important consideration is the amount of land needed by the OCPRC to accomplish current goals and initiatives. Currently, completion of plans for the Grand River Greenway and Macatawa River Greenway will require purchase of an estimated 481 acres. If this is achieved, the park system would encompass approximately 7,686 acres and would exceed the 20 acres per 1,000 population guideline for the near future. However, as noted, the OCPRC would achieve its greenway goals and be well positioned for future growth in the county.

There are other factors to consider as well. In particular, the goal of optimizing each park site in terms of habitat protection, aesthetics, and function has become a primary consideration. If all existing park and open space lands were expanded to their optimal potential, the park system would grow by two to three thousand acres. The availability of funds will be an obvious limiting factor to the growth of the park system. The OCPRC will need to monitor public interest for an expanded park system as well as funding availability as it searches for the ideal long-term size of the park system to meet current and future needs.

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING

Ottawa County's focus on greenways is essentially a component of a broader way of looking at green space preservation in the country referred to as green infrastructure planning. As the name implies, green infrastructure planning views green space as essential to the functioning of a community. One description, put forth by the work group of The Conservation Fund and USDA Forest Service, reads as follows:

“Green infrastructure is our nation's natural life support system – an interconnected network of waterways, wetlands, woodlands, wildlife habitats, and other natural areas; greenways, parks and other conservation lands; working farms, ranches and forests; and wilderness and other open spaces that support native species, maintain natural ecological processes, sustain air and water resources and contribute to the health and quality of life for America's communities and people.”

Green infrastructure planning challenges park and open space planners to think more broadly and consider the health of the natural system beyond park and recreation needs. Mark Benedict and Edward McMahon refer to the following green infrastructure principles in their article “Green Infrastructure: Smart Conservation for the 21st Century”:

1. Green infrastructure should be the framework for conservation and development.
2. Design and plan green infrastructure before development.
3. Linkage is key.
4. Green infrastructure functions across multiple jurisdictions and at different scales.
5. Green infrastructure is grounded in science and land-use planning theories and practices.
6. Green infrastructure is a critical public investment.
7. Green infrastructure involves diverse stakeholders

GREENWAY INITIATIVES

As previously noted, Ottawa County has identified the establishment of greenways along the Grand, Pigeon, and Macatawa Rivers, plus the Lake Michigan coast in Ottawa County as high priority. Detailed assessments of each proposed greenway corridor are included in this section. First, however, some general information on greenways is provided.

The word “greenway” can be defined as: 1) a linear open space established along either a natural corridor, such as a riverfront, stream valley, or ridge-line, or overland along a railroad right-of-way converted to recreational use, a canal, a scenic road, or other route, 2) any natural or landscaped course for pedestrian or bicycle passage, 3) an open space connector linking parks, nature reserves, cultural features, or historic sites with each other and with populated areas, and 4) locally, certain strip or linear parks designated as a parkway or greenbelt (Source: Charles Little, Greenways for America).

There are hundreds of greenways across the United States. Their popularity stems from the growing awareness that preserving linear corridors serves the interests of protecting both natural habitat and providing opportunities for public recreation. Corridors of protected natural lands allow wildlife and plant life to migrate through the linear space to meet habitat needs. Trail-related recreation activities such as biking, rollerblading, and hiking are ideally suited to greenway corridors and have been growing in popularity in recent years.

Ottawa County's greenway initiatives focus on key river corridors and the Lake Michigan shoreline because these areas contain a concentration of the county's remaining high quality natural features and offer the potential to preserve large acreages of natural lands in a linked system. It is important to note that the scope of the greenway projects is very large, and in order to be successful and protect a significant portion of the natural landscape, it will be necessary to involve the efforts of many different entities, all working toward the same basic goal. Potential partners include private landowners, state and local governments, businesses, and nonprofit groups such as the Land Conservancy of West Michigan, the Audubon Society, and others.

Grand River Greenway

The Grand River and its surrounding lands have tremendous significance as a natural corridor within Ottawa County and across the state. With its headwaters near Jackson, the Grand is the state's longest river at 252 miles and encompasses a wide variety of natural features along the way from bayous and wetlands to rapids and deep ravines. Ottawa County's vision for a greenway along the Grand River is to ensure that the unique character of this corridor within Ottawa County is preserved and enhanced as follows:

- Prime natural features including many of Ottawa County's best remaining wetlands floodplain forests, ravines, rare plant communities and other ecologically significant areas will be protected for future generations.
- An extensive natural corridor will be protected which will provide habitat for wildlife movement.
- Key recreation areas along the river will be acquired and made available for public use.
- Facilities for picnicking, nature study, hiking, fishing, boating, and other popular recreation activities will be provided which will help meet long-range recreation needs in Ottawa County.
- Recreation areas will be connected by pathways for bicycling, hiking, and other recreational uses. Pathways will be constructed adjacent to the river in some places and run along existing roadways in other areas where private property or sensitive natural features preclude access to the riverfront.
- Private sector involvement will be encouraged in the establishment of the greenway through development of commercial recreation facilities (i.e., campgrounds, marinas, etc.), restaurants, or other compatible developments.
- Private landowner rights will be respected and every attempt made to seek the cooperation and agreement of landowners as greenway plans are implemented.
- Greenway planning and implementation will be a cooperative effort involving public/private partnership of citizens, organizations, businesses, and government agencies at all levels.
- The greenway will help maintain and enhance the quality of life for Ottawa County residents and visitors and will have positive economic benefits for the County as a whole, as well as landowners adjacent to the greenway.

Significant progress has been made over the past two decades in implementing this vision for the Grand River Greenway, but much more remains to be done. Over 2,400 acres have been acquired, including 13 miles of riverfront encompassing bayous, wetlands, ravines, and riparian forest land. Yet, there are still key lands and connecting properties to acquire in order to provide the linkages needed to accommodate both wildlife and people. The OCPRC has conceptual plans (Figure 9.1) for the Grand River Greenway showing lands targeted for acquisition and/or easements to accommodate parks and trails. Given the large scale and complexity of the Grand River corridor in Ottawa County, the greenway master plan is an evolving project which will take many more years to complete.

As noted above, the basic vision for the Grand River Greenway is to link greenway lands with a hard-surface trail. With a key large donation secured, the trail has now been named the Idema Explorers Trail. A more detailed plan for the trail location is shown in Figure 13.1. With many of the key properties in place, efforts have begun to focus on trail construction. Development of the trail has been undertaken in segments as land and easement acquisition in each section are completed. The route shown on the map should

be considered conceptual and will likely be revised as the OCPRC works with landowners to determine what is feasible. The long-range goal is to provide a hard surface trail linking Grand Haven, where the existing pathway already extends to 144th Avenue, to Georgetown Township and nearby Kent County trails which end very close to the county line in Grandville. The Grand River Greenway Trail is envisioned as a destination recreation trail with significance in the regional trail network and an important route for bicycle commuters traveling between Grand Haven and Grand Rapids.

The conceptual plan divides the river corridor into three segments based generally on the character of the river and the level of development in the area. The Urban Greenway Segment consists of the western portion of the river from Lake Michigan to approximately 120th Avenue. This segment is fairly developed and offers limited opportunities for large-scale land acquisition. A fair amount of public land is in place, as is a system of non-motorized paths, including well-used paths that generally follow the river along area roads.

The most recent efforts in this area include the highly significant acquisitions of the Stearns Creek and Ottawa Sands properties. Ottawa County's greenway focus in this area should include continued acquisition of key natural lands and points of interest along the river corridor, trail expansion and enhancement, preservation of cultural and historic features, and collaboration with local units of government.

The Rural Conservation Greenway Segment extends from approximately 120th Avenue east to M-45. This portion of the river is the most rural segment and contains primarily farming and residential land uses. The Crockery Creek and Bass River are two significant tributaries located in this stretch of river, and both have large expanses of natural lands located near their confluences with the Grand River. Opportunities still exist in this segment for relatively large-scale land acquisition. There is a need to further study lands and evaluate the potential to establish or expand parks and open spaces.

The most significant development in this segment in recent years was the completion of the M-231 bypass between M-45 and M-104 during 2015. The highway project includes a new bridge over the Grand River which was constructed with a non-motorized pedestrian/bike path crossing. Ottawa County was instrumental in convincing the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) to include the non-motorized crossing, and in turn pledged to work to connect the non-motorized bridge crossing to trails on both the north and south sides of the Grand River.

Soon after construction of the bridge, Ottawa County Parks constructed the first new section of the Idema Explorers Trail from Connor Bayou on the west to Riverside Park on the east. This almost four mile long segment included a connection to the M-231 non-motorized facility and was completed in 2018.

The Ottawa County Planning and Performance Improvement Department has taken the lead in developing the trail running north from the non-motorized bridge crossing. The plan is to develop the Spoonville Trail as a link running north to connect to the North Bank Trail. A portion of this trail was constructed from the north end of the bridge to Leonard Road with the remainder of the linkage north to Nunica in progress.

Another property of special significance in this segment is the Bass River Recreation Area located adjacent to Ottawa County's Riverside Park. The Bass River was most recently expanded in 2001 and compasses 1,665 acres with over 3 miles of riverfront. The relatively undeveloped site offers trails for mountain bikers and equestrians and is managed jointly by the Michigan State Parks and Recreation Division and the Michigan Wildlife Division. Initial steps have been taken by the state to develop a master plan for this area, but completion of the plan is still years away. Ottawa County Parks has secured permission from the MDNR to run the Idema Explorers Trail through the state property. Coordination will be needed to maximize recreation opportunities that span state and county properties while preserving the unique attractions of the state property which include offering opportunities for hunting.

East of Bass River, the route for the Grand River Greenway Trail runs south from Eastmanville Bayou and through Allendale before reconnecting with the river at Grand Ravines. This alternate route was developed because land/easement acquisition efforts along the river in Allendale Township are proceeding slower than anticipated. Also, Allendale Township has expressed interest in linking its commercial and recreation amenities to the Grand River Greenway Trail and providing access for residents. The potential exists for Allendale to function as a "trail town" offering amenities for travelers on the Grand River Greenway Trail. The route along the river is still shown as a desired route long-term, and the OCPRC will continue to pursue opportunities to acquire land and easements for this trail segment as opportunities arise.

The East Transition Greenway Segment runs from M-45 to the Kent County line and consists of a more urban and suburban area. Although opportunities for large-scale land acquisition still exist, they are diminishing as Ottawa County's largest and fastest-growing population concentration expands toward the river.

Grand Valley State University (GVSU) is located in this segment, and the university controls an expansive stretch of unique natural land along the river adjoining Grand Ravines to the south. With over a mile of frontage encompassing a large portion of the Grand Valley ravines, the area was designated by the Natural Features Inventory of Ottawa County (1988) as one of the highest-quality natural sites remaining in Ottawa County. OCPRC is working with GVSU to explore the potential for a joint hiking trail system (unpaved) linking Grand Ravines and GVSU's natural land along the river.

A key park property located within this segment is the Bend Area. A recent acquisition increased the size to 345 acres, but the grand vision is to expand it to over 700 acres and offer trails, fishing, swimming beaches, boating, and many other recreation amenities around a fully public 100-acre lake. OCPRC is currently exploring options for expansion of the site and will continue to make this a priority.

Other efforts have focused on the riverfront property closer to the Kent County line. Several small properties along the river have been acquired, and Georgetown Township also owns an adjacent property that is available for greenway purposes. A new portion of the greenway trail was constructed along Cottonwood Drive in conjunction with road improvements, and planning has also been completed to implement the greenway trail through the nearby riverfront property described above.

Overall, this segment of river is in close proximity to the county's highest population concentration and is experiencing the most rapid changes in land use. Opportunities must be evaluated and acted upon in order to put in place a system of green space before the landscape is fully developed.

Pigeon River Greenway

In contrast to the Grand River, the Pigeon River is much smaller and therefore somewhat easier to evaluate in terms of greenway potential. A greenway master-planning process was undertaken in 2000, with funding assistance from the Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program administered by the MDEQ. The Pigeon River is a relatively high quality river corridor, with intact adjacent wetlands. Much of the main branch of the river is still in forest cover with good water quality overall. In recent years, the DNR has resumed planting trout in the river downstream of 120th Avenue, an indicator that water quality levels have improved.

The Pigeon River Greenway Concept Plan (Figure 9.2) shows the river corridor from approximately 116th Avenue west to Lake Michigan. There is an extraordinary amount of diversity of natural and recreational resources in this stretch of river. In the upper stretches, the river runs through a mixture of upland forests and wetlands, with large expanses of native woodlands still intact.

Pigeon Creek Park is located in this upper segment. The park encompasses 282 acres with approximately 3/4 miles of natural riverfront and offers a wide range of activities with a focus on trails for hiking, cross-country skiing, horseback riding, and mountain biking.

Upstream of Pigeon Creek Park, the river is natural and flows through a wooded corridor for approximately one to two miles before it splits into drainage courses and loses its natural character. Potential exists for park/greenway expansion in this stretch of river, and additional study is needed.

Downstream of Pigeon Creek Park, before US-31, the two-mile stretch of river is undeveloped and heavily wooded with rolling hills, wetlands, and attractive natural features. The extensive tract of land that the river flows through is primarily in one large ownership with some smaller ownership immediately east of US-31. Several parcels in this area, totaling 46 acres of wooded riverfront, were donated to Ottawa County between 2003 and 2013 by a conservation minded landowner. The large ownership, or portions thereof, would be highly attractive as a future addition to the greenway system, and additional investigation is needed to evaluate this potential further. Currently the land is well managed as a private conservation preserve and does not appear to be under immediate threat of development.

The Pigeon River Greenway Master Plan focused on the lower stretch of river west of US-31 and provided detailed concepts for the eventual development of Hemlock Crossing and Pine Bend Parks. These parks provide excellent access to the natural lands along the Pigeon River and house the Ottawa County Parks Nature Center and the historic Weaver House, a unique and popular rental facility. Consumers Energy has large land holdings that border these parks and extend to Lakeshore Drive, including approximately one and one-half mile of natural riverfront land. A significant portion of their land holdings in this area is used for fly ash disposal. However, Consumers has extensive acreage, and all of their riverfront is set aside as conservation land. In the past, Consumers sponsored a biological field station at the site, offering educational opportunities for area schools.

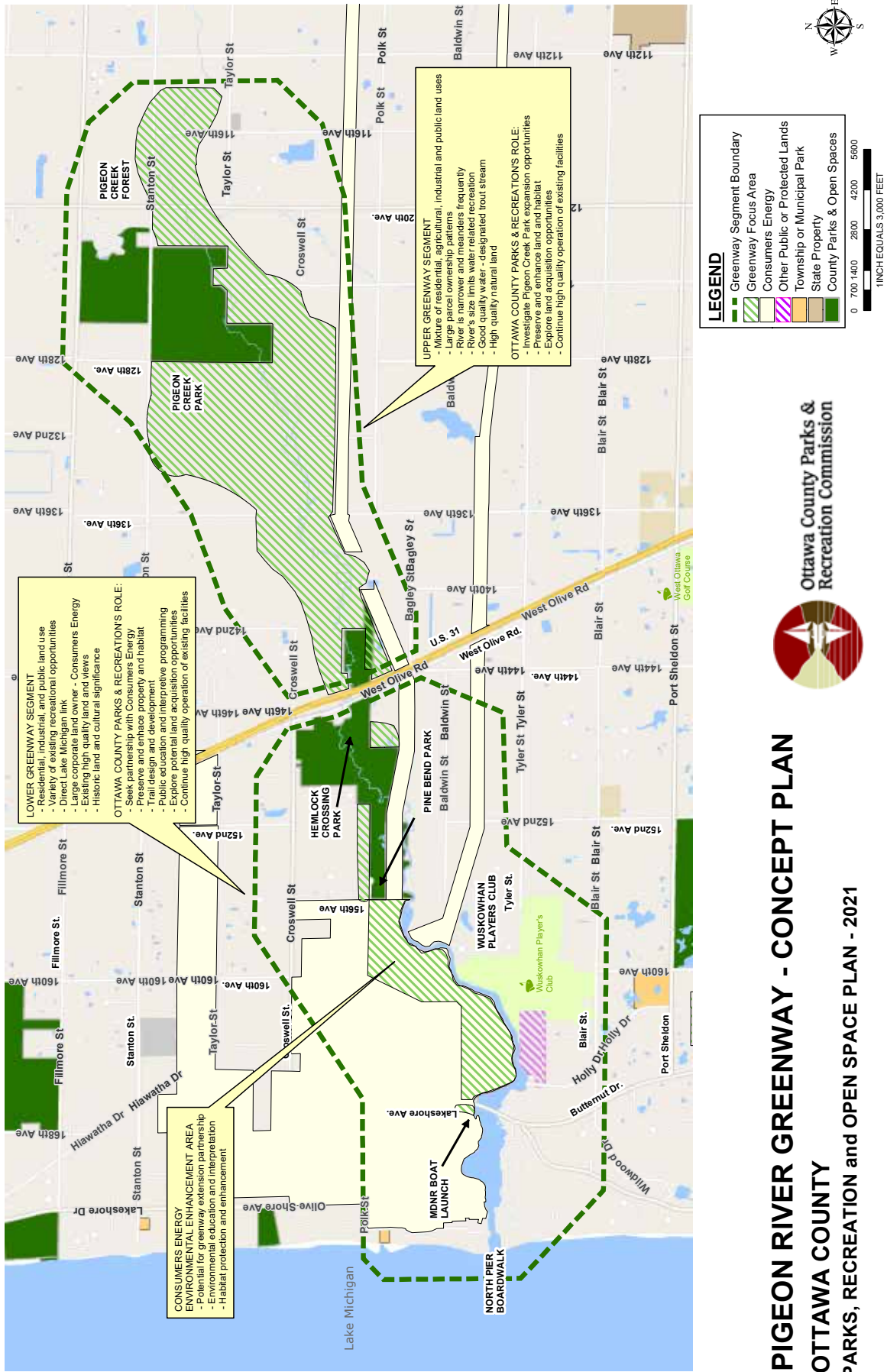
The Pigeon River Greenway Plan shows a concept for a continuous trail proposed to run through Ottawa County property and extend through Consumers Energy property out to Lakeshore Drive. The trail could connect to the Lakeshore Drive bike path that runs between Holland and Grand Haven. Port Sheldon Township operates Sheldon Landing, a small park on Lakeshore Drive with riverfront that serves as a downstream staging area for canoeists and kayakers and could potentially serve as a westerly trailhead for a hiking trail along the Pigeon River. Ottawa County Parks is seeking to collaborate with Consumers Energy on the greenway, which could eventually lead to construction of a trail through their conservation property. Ottawa County Parks should continually monitor the Consumers Energy natural riverfront land, seeking trail access or possible long-term acquisition. Ottawa County Parks should explore partnership opportunities with Port Sheldon Township for improvements to Sheldon Landing, given it is mostly unimproved and could be enhanced as both a canoe/kayak staging area and possibly in the future as a trailhead for hikers.

The OCPRC's vision of a trail through the Pigeon River greenway differs somewhat from other greenway projects. Unlike the Grand River greenway trail, for example, which would include a paved connector pathway, the Pigeon River trail is envisioned to be an unpaved nature trail suitable for hiking, cross-country skiing, and nature study. Development of a separated roadside bike path by Port Sheldon Township along Crowell Street, between Lakeshore Drive and West Olive Road, provides a logical route for bicycles paralleling the Pigeon River. The Township has also extended the pathway down West Olive Road to link to the Nature Center at Hemlock Crossing, which greatly enhances non-motorized access to the facility.

West of Lakeshore Drive, the Pigeon River flows into Pigeon Lake before emptying into Lake Michigan through the pier heads. Opportunities for land acquisition in this area are limited due to extensive development on Pigeon Lake. Public recreation opportunities currently existing in this area include a large DNR-managed boat launch located on the north side of the lake along Lakeshore Drive. Public access facilities also include a public boardwalk constructed by Consumers Energy to provide fishing and pedestrian access to their north pier. The boardwalk runs along the edge of Pigeon Lake from an interior location where parking is provided.

A long-range vision for the Pigeon River Greenway should include a continuous trail running from Pigeon Creek Park west to Lake Michigan. Although not on the immediate horizon, and contingent upon decisions of private landowners as well as funding availability, such a trail could be a tremendous asset, exposing trail users to some of the best natural features in the county, including upland forests, wooded wetlands, Great Lakes marshes, and coastal dunes. Recent news that the Consumers Energy electrical generating plant at this site is scheduled for closure in the next two decades should encourage continued efforts to collaborate with the power company to be in a good position to influence plans for this area as this land use changes.

Figure 9.2 - Pigeon River Greenway Concept



Macatawa River Greenway

The Macatawa River drains a large expanse of southern Ottawa County and flows through the suburbanizing countryside in Zeeland and Holland Townships before entering the already highly developed City of Holland and Lake Macatawa. Although highly impacted by nonpoint source pollutants, the river is an under-rated recreation resource with many attractive amenities including extensive natural lands, expansive wetlands, and scenic views. This analysis focuses on the main branch of the river flowing from northeast Zeeland Township on through Lake Macatawa to Lake Michigan.

In addition to assessing the physical resources of the river, it is important to note from the outset that the Macatawa River has an important resource not found presently on the Grand and Pigeon Rivers—a strong advocacy group. The Outdoor Discovery Center Macatawa Greenway (ODCMG) is a nonprofit group committed to preserving and connecting natural habitats, waterways, and open lands in the Macatawa watershed. Although the organization's focus is upon the entire watershed, they are concentrating much of their initial effort on the protection of land and trail establishment on the main river branch from Windmill Island upstream through Zeeland Township.

Figure 9.3 shows a basic concept plan and analysis for the Macatawa River. The river corridor is divided into four segments. The first segment, in the upper stretches of the river, called the Upper Macatawa Greenway Segment, encompasses a portion of river that runs through fairly open, agricultural land with relatively large ownership blocks. The river has been channelized in the upper portion of this segment and has less natural character than in lower stretches of river. The floodplain is broad through this area, and vast areas flood in major storm events.

Many years ago the Macatawa Greenway partners held a vision setting session for the upper Macatawa drainage area which fostered the idea to permanently protect certain critical lands north of Adams Street and east of 88th Avenue along the Upper Macatawa River drainage in order to create a significant greenway, enhance the area's water management capabilities, and establish a new park for the area's rapidly growing population. This vision, which Ottawa County Parks was a key player in developing, led to the establishment of the Upper Macatawa Natural Area. This park is unique in that the OCPRC has established diverse goals for the site, including: 1) provide park and open space land, 2) create and restore wildlife habitat, 3) improve water quality, and 4) expand flood storage. In addition to addressing a range of needs in the community, these broader goals provide more diverse opportunities for funding assistance.

The reference to enhancing the area's water management capabilities complements plans of the Macatawa Watershed Project, an EPA-funded project to improve water quality in the Macatawa Watershed. This organization calls for restoration efforts in the upper portion of the river to help reduce sedimentation and phosphorous loading in the river. With assistance from the DEQ, USDA, and other agencies focused on water quality enhancement, hundreds of acres of wetlands have been constructed at the Upper Macatawa Natural Area designed to enhance water quality.

In addition to habitat improvements, recreational amenities have been added to the Upper Macatawa Natural Area in recent years. Initial parking areas and trail improvements were completed in 2006. In 2014 and 2015, recreational amenities were greatly expanded. With assistance from a TAP grant from MDOT, a 2.4-mile paved pathway was constructed, representing an initial segment of the Macatawa Greenway Trail. The 10-foot wide paved trail features bridges over ravines and runs through a 60-acre prairie as it connects the Fred Meijer Kenowa Trail on Byron Road to the bike path along Adams Street. It immediately became popular with bikers, walkers, and other non-motorized users. In conjunction with this project, improvements were also completed to the 84th Avenue parking area, including paving the parking lot, addition of a small picnic shelter, plus water service and lighting.

As with the other river greenway projects, successful implementation of the Macatawa River Greenway will require the combined efforts of many governmental agencies, as well as private and nonprofit groups. The Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission views itself as a key organization to implement portions of the greenway and has targeted the Upper Macatawa Natural Area as one of its top priorities in the watershed.

The Middle Macatawa Greenway Corridor, the next river segment to the west, is in a high-growth area. Although still rural in nature, the area is rapidly developing, and opportunities for land preservation and greenway establishment are disappearing. This area has some quality natural land remaining and includes scenic landscapes. Additional study and investigation is needed to assess potential for park and greenway establishment in this area. OCPRC has a significant presence in this segment with the park access at Adams Street Landing, a highly visible location along a very busy primary road, and the 172-acre Paw Paw Park, located within the City of Holland.

Ottawa County's involvement with Paw Paw Park began with the purchase of 122 acres in 2010, including the majority of acreage from the former Holland Country Club. A large EPA grant assisted with the restoration of wetlands at the site in the following year, as did a large wetland mitigation project which involved a private corporation paying to develop wetlands within the park in accordance with park plans. In 2015, Ottawa County Parks agreed to a long-term lease with the City of Holland for its 50 acre Paw Paw Park located west of Paw Paw Drive. Combined with the former Holland Country Club property, the 172 acre Paw Paw Park is managed as one site. Improvements were made to the former city park during 2015. Also in 2015, a grant from through the Michigan Department of Community Health, facilitated by the Ottawa County Department of Public Health, provided funding to assist with the development of a half-mile paved trail through Paw Paw Park connecting the two halves of the park and improving access for surrounding neighborhoods.

Greenway Partners, Ridge Point Community Church, and the ODCMG also hold significant acreage in the Middle Macatawa Segment. The ODCMG has acquired significant acreage over the past few years along the Macatawa River south of Adams Street in conjunction with its Project Clarity Initiative. Project Clarity is a project focused on improving water quality in Lake Macatawa and the watershed through the construction of wetlands similar to what was accomplished at the Upper Macatawa Natural Area and Paw Paw Park. A total of 115 acres was acquired, extending nearly one mile along the river corridor linking the 53-acre Poppen Woods to Hawthorn Pond Natural Area. Restoration work in this section of the river was completed in 2015, and the wetland design will accommodate a paved trail in the future using a maintenance road constructed as part of the project.

Other notable improvements in the Middle Macatawa Segment include Holland Township's improvements to the Hawthorn Pond Natural Area. This 40-acre site was acquired jointly by Ottawa County and Holland Township with the idea that the township would develop it as a township park. Holland Township completed initial improvements in 2011, with additional enhancements added in 2015. The park offers a kayak launch, fishing dock, plus boardwalks and trails around the pond, and picnicking opportunities. Ottawa County's interest was in preserving the natural land and maintaining the potential for the greenway trail to traverse the site in the future.

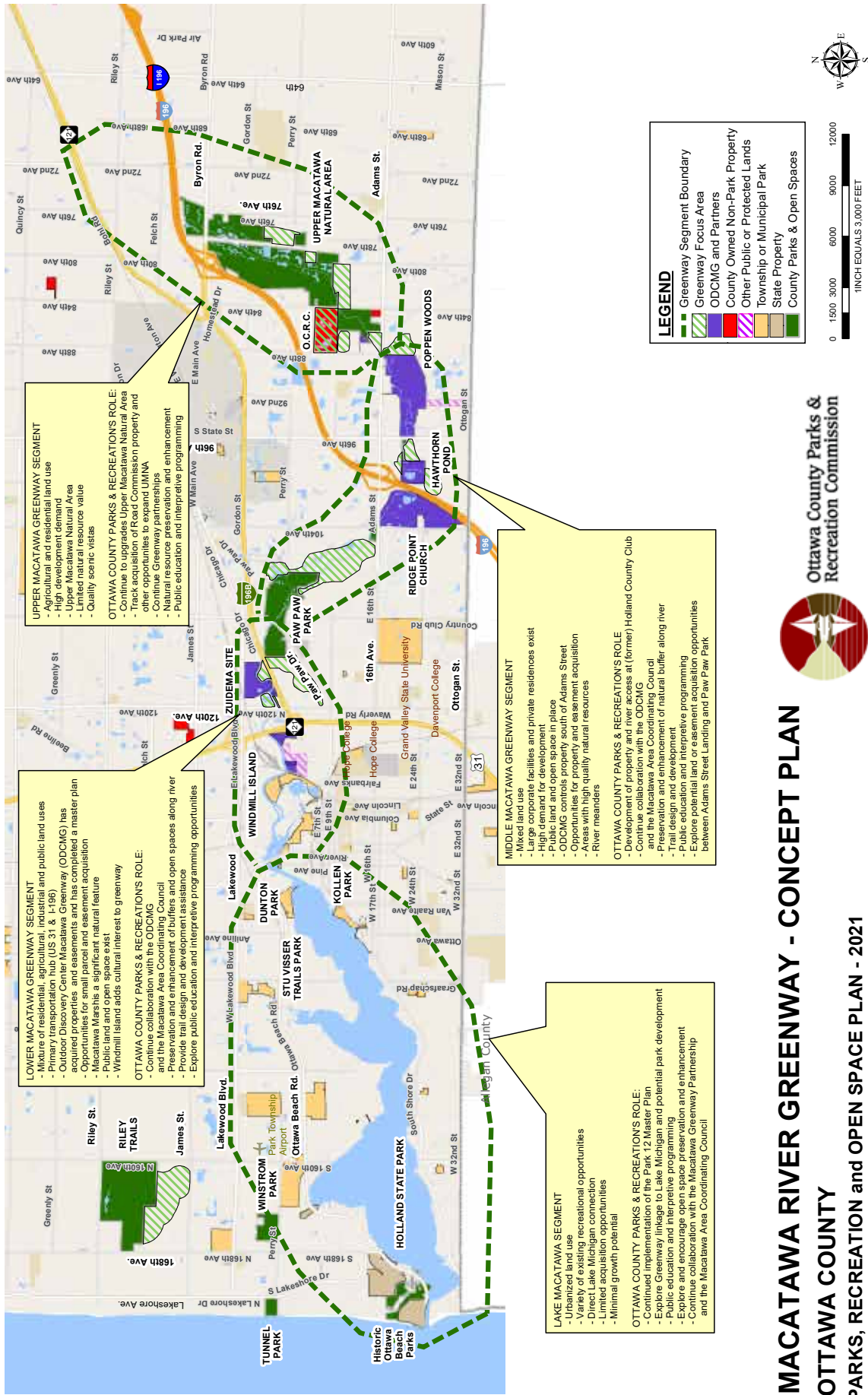
With the ODCMG actively involved in owning land and making improvements to its properties, there was a need to better define the role OCPRC should play in future efforts to complete the Macatawa River Greenway. After consulting with partners and considering its funding levels, the OCPRC determined that it can best serve the growing greenway by focusing on the section from Byron Road down to Adams Street, encompassing the Upper Macatawa Natural Area, plus the portion of the Middle Macatawa Segment from Adams Street Landing to Paw Paw Park, where additional work is needed to acquire land and easements and construct trail to connect the two parks. The ODCMG and other project partners will focus on the Middle Macatawa Segment south of Adams Street and the Lower Macatawa Greenway segment west of Paw Paw Park. All entities will collaborate and work jointly as possible, but the responsibilities for taking the lead on the various segments will be clearly defined with this approach. It should be noted that OCPRC made a commitment to acquire a small parcel of land from the ODCMG which links to Hawthorn Pond and completed that commitment in 2018.

The Lower Macatawa Greenway Corridor has been an area of focus for the ODCMG and partners in recent years as the Holland Board of Light and Power (BLP) constructed its new gas-fired power plant on the south side of the Macatawa River, just east of Windmill Island. As part of their project, the BLP provided some assistance with trail development in the area around the power plant. Crossing of the train tracks west of the power plant with a greenway trail remains a difficulty as the costs for a tunnel are extreme and an at-grade crossing denied by the railroad.

Despite its more urbanized nature, quality natural lands still exist in this stretch of river, most significantly the wetlands in the lower portion. The river throughout this segment is highly conducive to canoeing and kayaking. Windmill Island, a unique attraction featuring an authentic Dutch windmill, is located in the Macatawa Marsh at the west edge of this segment. The Macatawa Greenway Partnership has been active and successful in acquiring some small parcels and easements east of Windmill Island with a short-term goal of linking to Paw Paw Park.

The last segment, called the Lake Macatawa Segment, is highly developed with limited opportunities for larger-scale land acquisitions. Existing parklands in this segment include Holland's Kollen Park, the major public access point on the south side of the lake; Holland Township's Dunton Park, providing the major public access point on the northeast end of the Lake; Park Township's efforts to preserve lands along two small watersheds to the lake, including the Winstrom Preserve and Pine Creek Bay; and the Holland State Park, and Ottawa County's Historic Ottawa Beach Parks, which both provide the linkage to Lake Michigan. Additional study is needed to determine Ottawa County's role in greenway implementation in this segment. The Historic Ottawa Beach Parks are discussed in further detail under the Lake Michigan Coastal Greenway.

Figure 9.3 - Macatawa River Greenway Concept



MACATAWA RIVER GREENWAY - CONCEPT PLAN

OTTAWA COUNTY PARKS, RECREATION and OPEN SPACE PLAN - 2021



Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

Lake Michigan Coastal Greenway

Ottawa County's Lake Michigan shoreline and associated sand dunes comprise a tremendous recreational resource that attracts millions of parks visitors each year. It is also a well-defined linear corridor with a large number of public parks that are linked via the Lakeshore Drive bike path. The corridor has extensive forested lands and unique natural features (i.e., dunes, waterfront, etc.) that have tremendous habitat importance for wildlife, particularly migratory birds. Considering all of these factors, the Parks Commission has made the decision to view the county's shoreline resources as a Coastal Greenway and consider the planning for this greenway in the same framework as the river-based greenways (See Figures 9.4 and 9.5).

Currently, access to Lake Michigan is provided through combined efforts of the state, county, and local units of government. The State of Michigan operates three parks with Lake Michigan frontage in Ottawa County, including P.J. Hoffmaster, Grand Haven, and Holland State Parks. County parks with Lake Michigan frontage include North Beach Park (745 feet), Rosy Mound Natural Area (3,400 feet), Kirk Park (1,850 feet), Olive Shores (738 feet), and Tunnel Park (950 feet). Ottawa County also owns Lake Michigan frontage adjacent to Holland State Park as part of the Historic Ottawa Beach Parks (756 feet). Local parks with Lake Michigan frontage are limited but include Grand Haven's City Beach, Grand Haven Township's Brucker Beach, and Port Sheldon Township's Kouw and Winds Nest Parks. In addition, several road ends with established public access provide further Lake Michigan access.

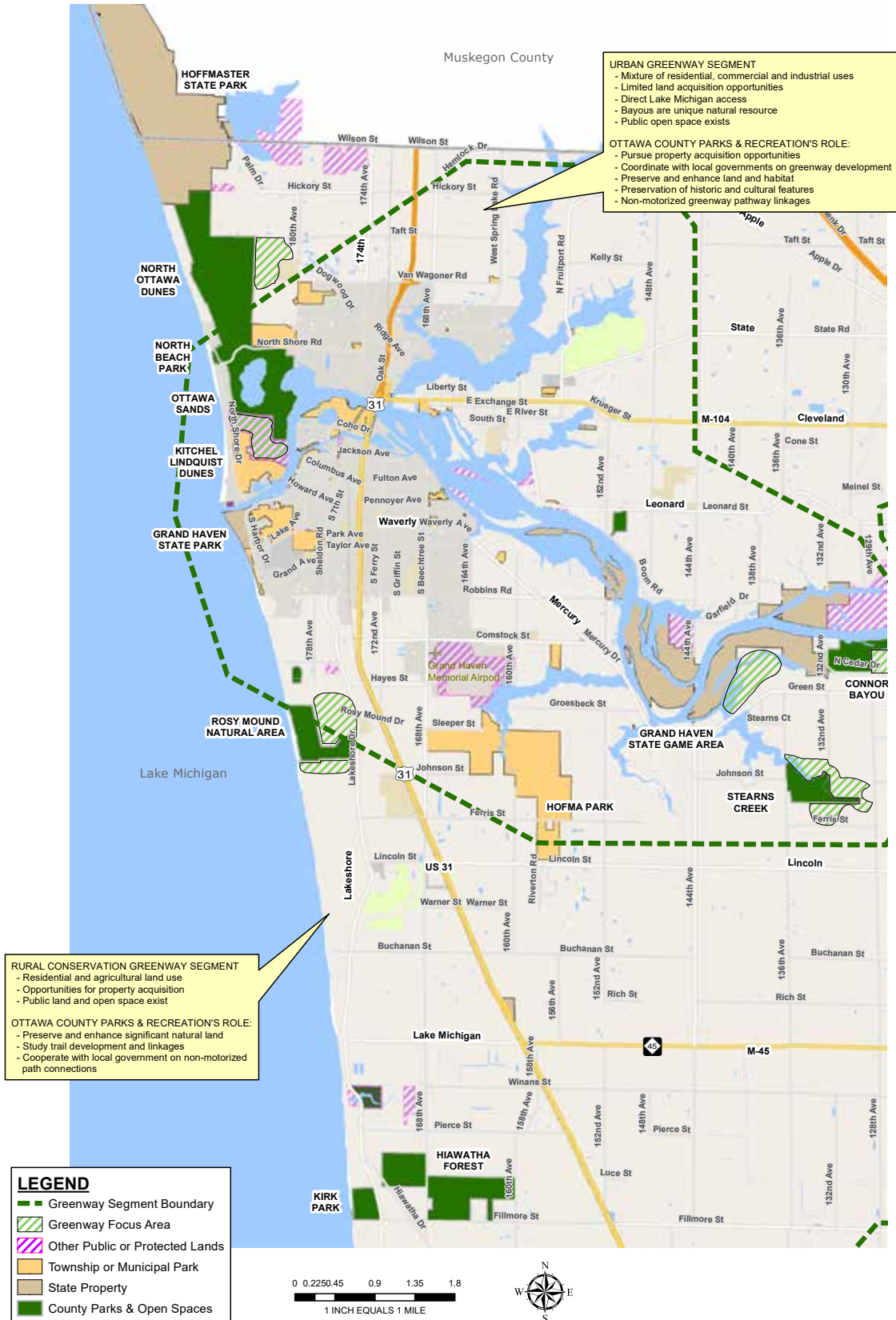
In total, an estimated 20,000 feet of Lake Michigan shoreline is in public ownership. This amounts to approximately 15% of the total shoreline in Ottawa County. Further public acquisition opportunities are limited, but unique situations to enhance public access need to be considered if they become available.

Although desirable, properties need not have Lake Michigan frontage to be important for the Coastal Greenway. The most significant recent accomplishment by Ottawa County relative to the Coastal Greenway was the purchase of Ottawa Sands Park in 2018 and 2019. This project, like the acquisition of the North Ottawa Dunes a decade before, involved large land purchases slightly inland from Lake Michigan.

The qualities that make these sites outstanding include their 1) size: large acreage that stretches nearly two miles, 2) special natural features: high quality dunes with significant topography, mature forest, rare and threatened plants, 3) linkage: the sites connect P.J. Hoffmaster State Park to the county's North Beach Park to Ferrysburg's Coast Guard Park, and to additional public lands to the south. 4) wildlife habitat: combined with other parklands, the properties preserve and link a vast wildlife habitat area with importance for many species, and 5) recreation potential: the sites can support a wide range of trail activities and recreational activities including hiking, cross-country skiing, wildlife viewing, picnicking, hunting, etc.

As noted previously in discussions of the river greenways, local units of government, private entities, and nonprofit groups should be encouraged to play a role in preserving land within the coastal greenway. Local units of government currently operate numerous parks within the greenway corridor. Consumers Energy, with its huge landholdings at the Campbell Plant in Port Sheldon, controls a tremendous amount of natural land along the coastline. The Land Conservancy of West Michigan also has several important preserves along the shoreline.

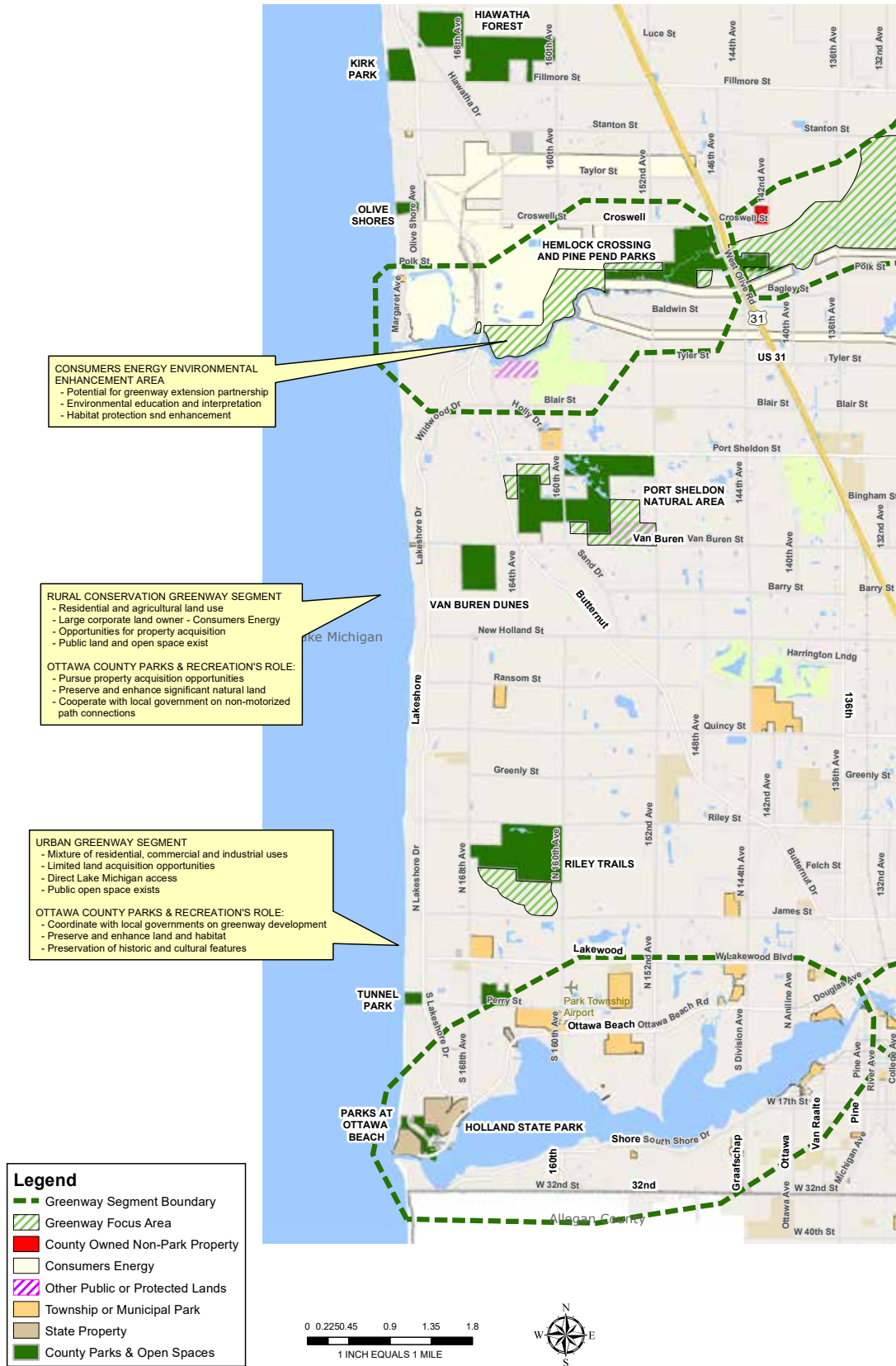
Figure 9.4 - Lake Michigan North Coastal Greenway Concept



NORTH COASTAL GREENWAY - CONCEPT PLAN
OTTAWA COUNTY
PARKS, RECREATION and OPEN SPACE PLAN - 2021



Figure 9.5 - Lake Michigan South Coastal Greenway Concept



SOUTH COASTAL GREENWAY - CONCEPT PLAN
OTTAWA COUNTY
PARKS, RECREATION and OPEN SPACE PLAN - 2021



GENERAL PARK, OPEN SPACE, AND TRAILS

In addition to the four greenways, Ottawa County Parks is interested in other opportunities to acquire new parks and open space lands and improve and expand existing sites. The initial 1996 millage campaign identified the greenways and Lake Michigan as target areas but also called for “general park, open space, and trail acquisition” in other portions of the county where opportunities exist to protect significant natural features and open space properties.

Land acquisition criteria as identified previously will be used to assess various opportunities to create new county parks. There is a need to systematically evaluate portions of Ottawa County not already under study as part of the greenway programs or Lake Michigan shoreline study. Ottawa County’s Geographic Information System has proven to be of great assistance in assessing lands on a county-wide basis. Within this category, lands should also be considered which are in high-growth areas and, although potentially lacking outstanding natural features, may provide important open space in the future. Expansion of existing parks and open space lands is also a high priority. The Parks Commission will be continually studying and evaluating the potential to add lands to existing sites when quality lands are available and park use levels warrant expansion.

Pathways and trails are another focus of the OCPRC. As indicated previously, the OCPRC operates the Musketawa Trail, and trails are planned as part of the greenway projects. Hard surface trails are components of both the Grand River Greenway and Macatawa River Greenway. These trails could be part of a countywide system of trails that provide recreation experiences and also serve non-motorized transportation needs.

As referenced in chapter 10, the Ottawa County Planning Commission, in conjunction with County Parks, completed a non-motorized pathway study in Ottawa County in 2002 which has subsequently been updated. The study recommended a system of regional trail linkages for both separated pathways and widened road shoulders. In accordance with the plan recommendations, Ottawa County Parks assisted with the funding of widened road shoulders along Lakeshore Drive as part of the Lake Michigan Coastal Greenway. Several segments of widened shoulder have been completed with hopes of completing the entire corridor within the next 3-5 years.

Ottawa County Parks was also instrumental in the project to complete the Fred Meijer Kenowa Trail in southern Ottawa County and connect the Musketawa Trail to the White Pine Trail in northern Ottawa and Kent Counties. The project had been delayed due to a perceived conflict with an agricultural operation located adjacent to the newly proposed trail. As part of a solution developed by Ottawa County government, Ottawa County Parks acquired a property which enabled the trail corridor to bypass the agricultural operation.

As more segments of the greenway and regional trail systems are put in place, Ottawa County should continue to work collaboratively with local governmental units to facilitate connections from local trail systems to the broader trail network.

WATER TRAILS

“Water trails”, sometimes referred to as “blueways,” have been growing rapidly in popularity in recent years across the country and are becoming recognized for their recreational, educational and economic value. The National Water Trails System defines water trails as “recreational routes on waterways with a network of public access points supported by broad-based community partnerships. Water trails provide both conservation and recreational opportunities.”

With its Lake Michigan coastline and three rivers with paddling potential, Ottawa County offers tremendous opportunity for water trail development, and steps have already been taken to implement a system of water trails. Following is a description of the potential and status of water trail development for Ottawa County’s primary bodies of water.

Lake Michigan Water Trail

Spurred by federal funding assistance through the Coastal Zone Management program, considerable planning for a Lake Michigan water trail has been completed in recent years for Michigan’s west coast. In fact, planners from all four states bordering Lake Michigan are working together to develop what will be the longest, continuous freshwater sea kayaking loop in the world. With its extensive Lake Michigan shoreline and numerous access points to the lake, participating in this water trail initiative is a natural fit for Ottawa County Parks.

During 2014, studies were completed by the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission and the West Michigan

Environmental Action Council working in partnership with Grand Valley State University. Ottawa County Park facilities have been inventoried, and information is available as websites are developed showing access points and their amenities. Additional study is still needed to determine how Ottawa County Parks can further the development and use of Lake Michigan as a paddling destination. Some of the issues that have been identified are listed below:

- Many park waterfronts are 100% identified as swim areas with no watercraft of any type
- allowed for safety purposes. The potential to provide launch/landing spots for non- motorized watercraft needs to be explored while maintaining the safety of the beaches for swimmers. Access is recommended every five miles along the coast.
- Universal access is recommended at all harbors where feasible. Based on previous study, a universally accessible launch was developed at the renovated marian at Historic Ottawa Beach in 2019, where it serves both Lake Michigan Water Trail users as well as paddlers on the Macatawa Water Trail.
- Although Lake Michigan camping is available at Holland and Grand Haven State Parks, a gap exists in the middle. Studies recommend camping be provided every 10 miles. Opportunities should be explored for overnight camping for sea kayakers—potentially in the area of the Pigeon River.
- Finding public access points while traveling off the coast in a sea kayak can be challenging. Ottawa County Parks should monitor the development of a uniform system for marking access sites and participate at prime access points.
- Information on Ottawa County’s parks and recreational amenities should be kept up-to- date on all Lake Michigan websites.
- Further study should be undertaken into the need for various amenities at sea kayak access points and they should be added as feasible when demand warrants. Potential amenities include kayak storage lockers, transportation arrangements to local stores and restaurants, access to water and restrooms, etc.

Grand River Water Trail

Canoeing and kayaking on the Grand River has grown in popularity in recent decades, prompted in part by the Grand River Expedition in 1990, an organized group paddle which traveled from the river’s headwaters near Jackson all the way to the river’s mouth in Grand Haven, a journey of over 250 miles. The goal of the expedition was to raise awareness of the tremendous resource the Grand River represents. The expedition drew attention to water quality issues and helped to educate the public on issues related to the river and renew interest in the river as a recreational resource. The trip continued in recent decades with over 150 paddlers making the trip in 2000 and 2010. Unfortunately the 2020 trip was cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The numbers of paddlers on the river has grown along with the awareness of the Grand River as a paddling destination. This interest in paddling on the Grand River prompted Ottawa County Parks to develop the Grand River Heritage Water Trail in 2010. The Grand River Heritage Water Trail generally follows Public Act 454 of 2002 adopted by the Michigan legislature and overseen by the Great Lakes Center for Maritime Studies at Western Michigan University. The basic goal of a “heritage trail” is to integrate educational information related to the cultural resources of the river. From the Native Americans who lived on its banks for a thousands of years, to the fur trappers who set up trading posts, to the European settlement of the area and the subsequent impact on the river during the logging era, followed by the steamboat era, there is no shortage of interesting cultural heritage to interpret along the Grand River.

With its focus in recent years on the development of a greenway along the Grand River, establishment of a water trail was a logical next step. Ottawa County Parks has 13 properties along the Grand River and seven are currently used for launch and retrieval of canoes and kayaks. Development of the Grand River Heritage Water Trail has involved adding signage in selected locations, development of a network of three universally accessible launches, and establishing a website which provides detailed information about the water trail. Specifically, the website provides information on launch sites (all sites—county, state, and local government) and the amenities offered at each, detailed maps showing the distances between access points to aid in trip planning, and information about both natural and cultural features in each section of the river.

Additional work is needed to improve the Grand River Heritage Water Trail. Specifically, additional water trail signs at various access

points would be beneficial. Signs located along the river to help paddlers identify their location as well as park boundaries, bridges, and other landmarks would be helpful. A study in 2015-2016 by the West Michigan Environmental Action Council, with funding by the Michigan Coastal Zone Management Program, evaluated improvements needed to the Grand River Heritage Water Trail in Ottawa County—both in terms of facility/sign improvements as well as ways to improve marketing the water trail to ensure the public is aware of all that is offered.

A related study was also led by the MDNR to evaluate the establishment of a Grand River Water Trail along the full length of the 250 mile long river. Representatives from local communities along the way have been meeting in 2015-2016 to discuss the potential for establishment of a Grand River Water Trail.

Macatawa Water Trail

Ottawa County Parks began in 2015 to help coordinate a Macatawa Water Trail, a much smaller and more manageable task than the effort underway on the Grand River. Meetings have been held with Holland Township, the City of Holland, Park Township, and the ODCMG to discuss how a water trail could assist paddlers to take advantage of the unique paddling opportunities available on the Macatawa River and Lake Macatawa.

Work has been completed to document the primary access points and collect information about the amenities available at each. The longer term plan is to develop a website which each community can link to with trip planning information for paddlers interested in opportunities within the Macatawa watershed.

Efforts are also underway to determine how facilities can be improved to best serve paddlers.

For example, Ottawa County Parks is studying Paw Paw Park to assess how the launch facility within that park can be improved. Ottawa County Parks, the City of Holland, and Park Township were all co-sponsors of a Great Lakes Trail Town grant which focused on the need for universally accessible launches in the Macatawa River area. This work, along with park planning within each governmental unit, should lead to enhanced access for paddlers which will be featured in water trail information as it is developed.

Pigeon River Water Trail

Although the Pigeon River has not technically been referred to as a water trail, and the overall resource is smaller in scope than the Macatawa, the Pigeon may be the most popular paddling destination in Ottawa County. The river above Hemlock Crossing is too small and brushy for good paddling, but the trip west of Hemlock Crossing to Lakeshore Drive is scenic and attractive for beginning and experienced paddlers alike. Large numbers of paddlers use the launch at Hemlock Crossing and spot a car at Sheldon Landing in Port Sheldon Township for the approximate two hour trip downstream. Others begin and end their trip at Sheldon Landing, paddling up-river and then returning to their point of origin. Much of the neighboring land between the two access points is natural and undeveloped, owned either by Ottawa County Parks or Consumers Energy, providing a great close-to-home opportunity to paddle in a high quality natural environment.

Pigeon River is enjoyed by its paddlers and its drowned river mouth lake also has importance for Lake Michigan paddlers. The needs of both groups should be considered in developing camping facilities in the future if land can be secured for this purpose and it is determined there is adequate demand.

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CHAPTER 10 | ACTIVITY NEEDS ANALYSIS

Assessing recreation needs requires the planning process to go beyond identifying what general programs, lands, and facilities should be provided. Below is a discussion of the needs assessment as it pertains to selected activities and facilities which the Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission (OCPRC) feels are consistent with its role as a recreation provider in Ottawa County. The list likely does not include all types of recreation areas and facilities that may be considered for development by the OCPRC.

SWIMMING / BEACH ACTIVITIES

Swimming is a highly popular recreational activity that is a key attraction in the Ottawa County Park System. Because of the basic differences between Lake Michigan beaches and inland water bodies, they are discussed separately below.

Lake Michigan

The beautiful sugar sand beaches of Lake Michigan in Ottawa County and throughout West Michigan are arguably among the best in the world. Evidence of this is the popularity of the Michigan State Parks located in Ottawa County, with Holland and Grand Haven State Parks consistently ranked in the top three in statewide attendance. Ottawa County's six Lake Michigan beach parks are the busiest parks in the County Park system during the warm summer months. They include North Beach Park, the Rosy Mound Natural Area, Kirk Park, Olive Shores, and Tunnel Parks, plus Historic Ottawa Beach. Historic Ottawa Beach is a cluster of small parks dedicated in a late 19th century subdivision plat in Park Township which includes 756 feet of shoreline on Lake Michigan adjacent to and immediately north of the Holland State Park beach. This Lake Michigan beach is accessed through Holland State Park or via public walkways through the historic cottage development.

The attraction of the Lake Michigan shoreline parks goes beyond simply the enjoyment of beach activities. These parks provide visitors an opportunity to experience and enjoy the vast open space that Lake Michigan has to offer. Hundreds of square miles of open water provide an extraordinary backdrop for both active and passive recreation pursuits.

The demand for access to Lake Michigan beaches can exceed the supply during peak summer periods. The OCPRC has long recognized that the dunes and beaches along the coast of Lake Michigan are the county's most important recreational resource. This realization led the Parks Commission to acquire and improve the Rosy Mound property on Lake Michigan as one of its first priorities after it was formed in the late 1980's. It also influenced the OCPRC to study the Lake Michigan shoreline to identify other possible opportunities, knowing that few opportunities exist to assemble larger blocks of natural land along the highly coveted shoreline.

In 2001, the OCPRC identified a target area and acquired an undeveloped parcel with 200 feet of Lake Michigan shoreline in Port Sheldon Township. In 2009, with help from a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant, the Parks Commission acquired an additional 538 feet of adjacent undeveloped lake frontage to complete land acquisition for a new Lake Michigan beach park in this location. The site's rugged terrain and high quality natural features were factors which influenced the park master planning process, resulting in a plan which limits parking to 50 cars and emphasizes preservation of the site's unique natural setting. Known as Olive Shores, the 20-acre park in Port Sheldon Township opened in 2012 and, similar to the Rosy Mound Natural Area, provides visitors an opportunity for a Lake Michigan beach experience in a more natural setting in comparison to more typical high volume Lake Michigan beaches.

With six parks on Lake Michigan encompassing 1.6 miles of shoreline, the county parks system offers substantial access to this amazing resource and a diversity of experiences. The OCPRC will continue to look for new opportunities to expand access, but few opportunities remain along the highly developed coast for park development on a scale appropriate for county park involvement. However, the challenge is always to meet the needs of an expanding population, and therefore, the OCPRC will always be alert for opportunities to expand Lake Michigan access.

Efforts to increase shoreline access should consider all possible strategies involving all levels of government before opportunities disappear and as development pressure along the shoreline intensifies further. Local units of government, for example, should be encouraged to work with the Road Commission to protect and enhance road-end access points to Lake Michigan.

One example of how shoreline access can be expanded without acquiring additional waterfront is the North Ottawa Dunes project. The trail and stairs which connect North Ottawa Dunes to parking in Ferrysburg's Coast Guard Park also provide additional access to

adjacent North Beach Park. North Beach Park has always had ample beach capacity but limited parking, so the potential exists for some beachgoers to park at Coast Guard Park and hike to the beach at North Beach Park or even further north to the beaches within Hoffmaster State Park. Similar strategies should be explored at other sites to maximize public access to the lakeshore.

Inland Beaches

While Ottawa County's Lake Michigan beaches are clearly the area's most popular swimming and sunbathing attractions, inland water bodies should be recognized for their potential to meet more localized swimming needs. And it should also be noted that inland water bodies have some advantages over Lake Michigan beaches in that they typically warm sooner and are not subject to high wave conditions, which frequently limit use at Lake Michigan beaches.

Other than Crockery Lake in Chester Township, where Grose Park offers a swimming beach, natural lakes are not common in Ottawa County. Lake Macatawa and Spring Lake are drowned river-mouth lakes that are tremendously popular recreation resources. Otherwise, lake resources are primarily limited to small water bodies created through gravel mining. Some of these lakes do offer important recreation opportunities, with a good example being Georgetown Township's 8th Avenue Park which features a popular swimming beach.

Another excellent example of nearby swimming opportunities that can be provided through gravel pit development is Kent County's Millennium Park. This 1,500-acre park, located just east of the Ottawa-Kent County line, has attracted large numbers of beachgoers since opening in 2003. The park offers a large public beach with high use capacity and many amenities.

The OCPRC's first long-range parks plan in 1989 identified the need for an "Eastern Inland Water Facility" to meet deficiencies in "swimming, boating, fishing, and other recreation opportunities" in the eastern portion of Ottawa County where the bulk of the population resides. Water-based recreation opportunities are still lacking today in this area. Georgetown Township closed its Maplewood Beach in recent years, leaving only 8th Avenue Park as a swimming destination in the immediate area.

This focus on water-based recreation opportunities in eastern Ottawa County led to discussions with the multiple gravel pit owners at the Bend Area, the name given to the large maze of gravel pits north of Fillmore Street and Cottonwood Drive. In 2000, the Bend Area Master Plan was adopted as both a park master plan and the area's mine reclamation plan. The Bend Area master plan illustrates how the area could offer a large public beach located on an approximate 125-acre water body which could provide excellent swimming and other water-based recreation opportunities. Land acquisition for this project has begun with three purchases completed so far, totaling 405 acres. Over 700 acres in total has been targeted for acquisition at the Bend Area, including many smaller water features in addition to the main water body. The goal has always been to acquire the properties when mining is completed, and it appears this long-awaited opportunity will present itself within the next few years.

An additional opportunity for a swimming facility is potentially available at the Upper Macatawa Natural Area. Adjacent to the restoration areas, an 80-acre property owned by the Ottawa County Road Commission and currently used for mineral extraction has the potential to provide swimming opportunities by coordinating extraction activities with park planning. A series of meetings with the Road Commission led to agreement to include the property in the park master plan. The OCPRC and Road Commission have agreed to work together on shaping the site for future park use, provided the Road Commission can extract the mineral needed for its purposes. At present, no specific timetable has been identified for mineral extraction, but both parties recognize that mineral extraction is likely to continue for many years into the future.

Most recently, opportunities for water-based recreation were expanded with the purchase of the Ottawa Sands park property. This large acquisition includes an eighty acre lake created by sand mining operations. This lake is deep and has extremely high water quality. Master planning efforts for this property are in process.

Efforts should continue to identify resources which can meet the water-based recreation needs of Ottawa County residents, particularly in eastern and central Ottawa County.

BOATING

Recreational boating (i.e., power boats, sail boats, etc.) in Ottawa County is another tremendously popular activity. The Grand River, Spring Lake, and Lake Macatawa serve as focal points for boating activity, with all offering prime access to Lake Michigan. Boat traffic in these areas is extremely heavy during the peak summer months.

Presently, Ottawa County's role in boating involves the provision of boat launches at Riverside Park, Grand River Park, and Deer Creek Park along with the newly constructed (2019) Ottawa Beach Marina.

Riverside Park, located on the Grand River, has a large fee-based launch site, which provides access to the upper stretches of the deeper dredged river channel. The United States Army Corps of Engineers historically dredged the channel up to the Bass River gravel pits, located immediately upstream of Riverside Park. Regular dredging operations were discontinued when gravel mining ended in the 1970s, but the river channel has maintained a functional depth for recreational boats in the small to mid-size category. Upstream of Riverside Park, in the portion of river served by both Deer Creek and Grand River Parks, water depths limit boating to small or shallow draft vessels.

The State of Michigan, through its Waterways Program, has taken the lead role in meeting the launch ramp needs of recreational boaters in Michigan both by operating launches and through grants-in-aid to local units of government. The three launches operated by Ottawa County Parks have each been funded with assistance from State boating programs. Additional launches are provided by numerous other local park agencies, most developed with assistance from State funds. An example is the Grand Haven Township launch on the Grand River at 144th Avenue, which was developed with State assistance. An evaluation of the need for Ottawa County Parks to expand its role in the provision of boat launches should consider a number of questions: Is the demand for boating growing in Ottawa County? Are there water resources in Ottawa County suitable for boating that are currently under-served by boat launches? Which level of government is the most logical service provider? Ottawa County Parks should do its part to ensure good long-term boating access to key water bodies in Ottawa County with respect to the role that is logical for Ottawa County.

In assessing these questions, the OCPRC generally feels navigable waters of the County are generally well served by the current system of launches. The economic down-turn which began in 2008 had the effect of depressing growth in recreational boating, but recent improvements in the economy have seen boating come back with launch ramps at or exceeding capacity on prime summer weekends and heavy boat traffic on Spring Lake, Lake Macatawa, and the connecting waters. One unexpected side-effect of the coronavirus pandemic was also increased boat usage. The current volume of boat traffic raises the question as to whether or not the need exists to expand launch capacity further.

Small boater access to the upper portions of the Grand River within Ottawa County is likely adequate but should be studied further. The launch at Grand River Park and a Kent County launch located just across the county line provide the primary access points. Further consideration should be given to additional launch capacity in conjunction with the Grand River Greenway implementation, but overall, current demand appears to be met adequately by the existing launches.

However, access to the many small bayous acquired as part of the Grand River Greenway initiative should be studied on an individual basis. Most are suitable for smaller boats with limited or no motors, but some sites, like Eastmanville Bayou in Allendale Township, have capacity for public recreational use with small motors. Ottawa County Parks included a launch and access for small fishing boats to Eastmanville Bayou when it made improvements to this 157-acre Open Space in 2011, and the site has been tremendously popular with fishermen.

The master plan for the Bend Area calls for a "marina" and boat launch area as part of the long-range plan along with swimming and other water-based recreation activities. Because the vision for the park is for non-motorized boat uses at the park, the park's marina would likely include fishing, boat rental, canoe and kayak rental, stand-up paddleboards, plus sailboats and possible pedal boats. The park is envisioned to become a major destination for people seeking water-based recreation experiences, and the boat rentals will ensure access to a variety of users. It is likely there would also be lessons offered for the various types of water sports available.

A boating-related issue requiring further study relates to access needs of personal watercraft. The numbers of personal watercraft in Ottawa County have grown significantly in recent years. The affordability of these water craft combined with technological advances have allowed greater numbers of people to enjoy boating. The large numbers of these craft have also raised policy issues.

Because personal watercraft are typically smaller and lighter, they can often be launched in areas with less-developed ramp facilities. However, when this involves Lake Michigan beaches, they bring with them serious safety concerns, fuel smells and noise, which are disruptive to traditional beach users. Ottawa County Parks has taken steps to discourage the use of personal watercraft at North Beach and Tunnel Parks due to conflicts with swimmers and sunbathers. Similar steps have been taken at the State Parks.

Another issue of concern with personal watercraft is their use in areas that have been previously inaccessible to high-speed

powerboats. The smaller size of these craft combined with their jet propulsion allows them to travel through shallow areas without grounding. Concerns relate to the use of high-speed watercraft in areas like the upper Grand River, which has significant wildlife value and has, until recently, experienced relatively little boat traffic. Further study is needed to assess impacts of personal watercraft on wildlife and to develop appropriate policies.

As noted above, OCPRC involvement in marinas has historically been limited to the lease of property on Lake Macatawa to a private marina operator, Parkside Marina. In general, the OCPRC feels the private sector does an adequate job of meeting needs for marina services in Ottawa County. However, following years of discussion and negotiation with the existing operator, the decision was made to develop a new public marina in this area. The primary goal for the project was to improve public access to this valuable waterfront. This goal is met with a new waterfront walkway, public restroom, and kayak launch. The final product also includes 15 seasonal slips required by court order when the Ottawa Beach Parks were turned over to Ottawa County for management and 26 transient slips, the only designated transient slips on all of Lake Macatawa. Overall, the sense of the Parks Commission is that the marina now meets a recognized need in a unique way that maximizes public benefit. Although additional marina development will likely not be needed, the layout of the new marina facilities would allow for easy expansion if the existing outlot between transient and seasonal portions of the marina was acquired.

In summary, Ottawa County Parks has a limited role in meeting boater needs in Ottawa County. Future efforts should focus on evaluating access needs in the upper Grand River within Ottawa County and policies addressing personal watercraft access.

CANOEING & KAYAKING

Lacking fast flowing rivers, Ottawa County has not been known historically as a destination for canoeing and kayaking. However, the tremendous increase in the popularity of kayaking in recent years has greatly expanded the demand for access to local water resources. The 2020 survey of Ottawa County residents revealed that 65% feel there is a need for additional canoeing and kayaking sites, which was second only to trails in terms of additional opportunities desired. Meeting canoeing and kayaking needs in Ottawa County requires examination of suitable water bodies along with study of access needs. The goal for all water bodies should be to work toward a connected system of access points and water trails which will facilitate a variety of user preferences for trip length, level of difficulty, and other amenities.

Pigeon River

A kayak/canoe launch was constructed at Hemlock Crossing in 2003 providing access to the Pigeon River. Since its development, use has grown tremendously as paddlers enjoy the scenic stretch of river between US-31 and Lakeshore Drive. Kayakers use both the Hemlock Crossing launch and the Sheldon Landing downstream access point operated by Port Sheldon Township. Consideration should be given to adding another landing at Pine Bend to provide paddlers an opportunity to stop and explore this site which includes the historic Weaver House. Consideration should also be given to partnering with Port Sheldon Township to upgrade Sheldon Landing to make it more attractive and functional for launch and retrieval as well as for general park use.

Macatawa River

Kayaking and canoeing activity has increased significantly on not only the Pigeon River but also the Macatawa and Grand Rivers. On the Macatawa, Ottawa County Parks installed a launch at Adams Street Landing in Holland Township. This launch receives use when water levels are higher in the spring and fall. Ottawa County Parks also took over management of Holland's Paw Paw Park which provides canoe and kayak access to the Macatawa River. Improvements are needed at this site to improve access to the river by modifying steep banks. Ottawa County Parks has also been involved in discussions to establish a Macatawa Water Trail. The effort involves coordinating all of the recreation providers (City of Holland, Holland Township, Park Township, and the Outdoor Discovery Center Macatawa Greenway) to ensure adequate access and services for paddlers while also marketing the network of access points through a website and other means to help water trail users plan trips and take advantage of the resources available. Further work needs to occur to formalize this arrangement and market it to potential users.

Although not on the river itself, Ottawa County Park's new kayak launch installed at the Ottawa Beach Marina is a key feature of a broader system of paddling access that includes not only the Macatawa River itself, but Lake Macatawa as a whole. A new launch at Holland Township's Dunton Park and an additional launch on the south side of the lake planned by Park Township would provide for

an interesting paddling loop around the lake. It should be noted that the launch at the Ottawa Beach Marina also serves as an access point and destination for Lake Michigan paddlers.

Grand River

Canoeists and kayakers have also discovered the Grand River as a paddling resource. The number of paddlers using existing access points has risen significantly in recent years. To help promote the vast opportunities for paddling on the Grand River and its tributaries in Ottawa County, Ottawa County Parks established the Grand River Heritage Water Trail in 2010. The initial focus was to provide paddlers web-based information on access points to help plan their trips. The river is divided into “reaches”, and information is also provided on natural and historic features within each reach. Efforts are underway to expand the water trail to include signs located on the river to help orient paddlers.

As demand for access on the Grand River has grown, Ottawa County Parks responded with new fully accessible facilities. In 2012, a new park was opened on the Grand River at Eastmanville Bayou (on the south side where 68th Avenue intersects the Grand River) which includes a universally accessible kayak launch. An accessible hard surface pathway connects the parking area to the Grand River, where a floating dock system provides people of all abilities an opportunity to launch and retrieve kayaks. A ramp to the floating dock is designed for wheelchairs, and a transfer station helps individuals with disabilities get in and out of a kayak. The kayak is positioned on rollers, and handrails allow the participant to guide the kayak in and out of the water. It is a great way to enable paddlers to launch and retrieve their kayak on a stable, accessible surface. Based on the success and popularity of the Eastmanville launch, additional universally accessible launches were installed at Connor Bayou and Grand River Parks in 2014 with assistance from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF). The three launches, all spaced about a two hour paddle apart, provide a network of universally accessible launches on the Grand River. Modifications to these launches were performed in 2020 to accommodate the much higher water levels which prohibited installation of some of them in 2019.

The Crockery Creek, a major tributary to the Grand River, is one of the few other watercourses in Ottawa County with potential for canoeing and kayaking opportunities. Many paddlers on the Grand River currently explore upstream from the river mouth. The Crockery Creek Natural Area includes approximately two miles of riverfront on the east bank of the creek and an effort has been made to keep the waterway free of obstructions in this area. Consideration should be given to locating an upstream launch site and maintaining a clear water course downstream to the Grand River to provide an added resource for paddlers in Ottawa County.

In addition to rivers and streams, kayakers and canoeists also seek out opportunities on other types of water bodies. The many bayous of the lower Grand River offer great paddling opportunities, and access opportunities are generally good. Some smaller bayous, many within the county park system (including Ripps, Jubb, and Kuits), offer unique opportunities for exploration and additional effort may be needed to encourage use by kayakers.

Lake Michigan

Lake Michigan is another paddling resource offering a totally different type of challenge than inland waters. Sea kayaking on Lake Michigan is gradually growing in popularity. Led by federal funding through the Coastal Zone Management program, extensive planning has occurred in recent years, and a Lake Michigan Water Trail has been established extending along the Lake Michigan coast. Frequent rough seas along the eastern shore of Lake Michigan create challenges for uninterrupted travel, but the goal is to offer coastal paddlers the resources needed to safely travel the shoreline. Ottawa County Parks will be evaluating how the county park system can help facilitate the Lake Michigan Water Trail. Kayaks are not allowed in marked swim areas, which encompass much of the park system's shoreline, but provisions have been made successfully to allow launching watercraft at North Beach Park adjacent to the swim area. Other parks will be studied for access opportunities as well. Studies indicate there may also be a need for markers to guide lake kayakers to access points, and this will be evaluated as a unified system is developed. Gaps in camping opportunities have been noted in central Ottawa County (half-way between Holland and Grand Haven), and this will be studied as well.

In addition to providing access, it is important to ensure adequate canoe/kayak rental opportunities to serve the large number of potential users who do not own watercraft. Presently, there are a few vendors providing rental and put-in and take-out service tailored to the needs of small groups and meeting their needs for trip planning and logistics. Ottawa County Parks should monitor the market and look for ways to ensure continued availability of rental opportunities with a priority on continued service through private vendors. Efforts should be made to provide private vendors easy access to launch areas, such as at Connor Bayou, where Ottawa County Parks allow vendors special access for launch and retrieval of watercraft.

FISHING

Fishing in Ottawa County is a tremendously popular sport on Lake Michigan, as well as on smaller inland waters, and it has important economic benefits. Area sport fish include salmon, lake trout, perch, pike, bass, pan fish, and others. The popularity of fishing was reflected in the 2020 County Resident Survey remained high with 38% participation.

Fishing opportunities can be enhanced in a number of ways. For some fisherman, the key is to provide launch facilities to access the area's water bodies. The Riverside Park boat launch is particularly popular with anglers and has been a favored location for large bass-fishing tournaments in past years. The recent addition of a launch for small boats on Eastmanville Bayou was primarily motivated by a desire to provide fishing access to this water body, which has proven to be extremely popular as a fishing destination. Ottawa County Parks also provides boat launches serving fishermen at Deer Creek and Grand River Parks.

Provision of shore fishing access and docks is another way of serving anglers, including ice fishermen in the winter. Most park properties with waterfront receive some fishing pressure. Given that the Ottawa County Park system offers over 26 miles of frontage on Lake Michigan and major rivers and bayous, a vast resource exists for anglers to explore. In addition to shoreline access, a number of improved fishing access points are currently available in Ottawa County Parks including a barrier-free fishing dock at Riverside Park, a large fishing dock at Grand River Park, and a barrier-free fishing dock at Grose Park on Crockery Lake. Shore fishing is also popular at Riverside Park, Deer Creek Park, Riley Trails, and Grand River Park and at some Lake Michigan locations in the early spring and fall. Ottawa County Parks has recently developed an extensive system of fishing docks along the Lake Macatawa shoreline at its Historic Ottawa Beach Parks which have proven tremendously popular. Funding assistance was provided by the Great Lakes Fishery Trust, which was interested in helping with fishing access where the waters of Lake Macatawa and Lake Michigan meet, and fishing can be excellent. Completed in 2011, the docks provide universally accessible fishing opportunities for a range of fish species.

A number of other unique fishing opportunities are available in the county park system, including Ripps Bayou. This mile-long narrow, remote bayou in Polkton Township is entirely owned by Ottawa County Parks and currently accessible to the general public only from the Grand River. Anglers historically access the bayou by portaging small boats from the Grand River approximately 200 feet to the bayou. In addition to this site and Eastmanville Bayou mentioned earlier, other bayou fishing opportunities are available at Jubb Bayou, Bur Oak Landing (Rice Lake), Kuits Bayou, and the Bend Area where recent parkland acquisitions have opened access to water bodies which have previously lacked public access. Yet an additional opportunity for fishing access was made available when Ottawa County Parks partnered with Holland Township to acquire the Hawthorn Pond Natural Area. Holland Township has since completed park development at the site which provides excellent access for fishermen.

Ottawa County Parks has cooperated with efforts of Trout Unlimited and other parties to improve habitat for trout in the Pigeon River. Although very little trout water exists in Ottawa County, the Pigeon River is a designated trout stream west of 120th Avenue. The Parks Commission will continue to cooperate with efforts to improve this fishery, with a goal of providing quality trout fishing opportunities in Ottawa County at some point in the future.

In addition to shore fishing available in Ottawa County Parks, quality fishing opportunities also exist at a number of city and township parks in the county, including Grand Haven Township's Pottawattamie Park, the City of Grand Haven's East End Park, Spring Lake's Mill Point Park, Holland Township's Dunton Park, and Holland's Kollen and VanBragt Parks. Fishing from the piers in Grand Haven, Holland, and Port Sheldon is also very popular.

Given the range of fishing opportunities available in Ottawa County, it was no surprise that the 2020 survey of county residents revealed that 44% feel there are adequate opportunities for fishing, with 55% desiring additional fishing sites. The Parks Commission will continue to evaluate existing and future parklands with a goal to provide a wide range of fishing opportunities for the public. A good example is the Bend Area in eastern Ottawa County, which offers tremendous opportunities to expand fishing access in close location to a very large population base. Another potential exists at Riley Trails, where improved fishing access to the pond could be attractive for children and their parents.

CAMPING

Ottawa County is a popular camping destination as reflected in unusually high occupancy rates at area State Parks and a well-established commercial campground industry. Most public sector camping opportunities are provided at the popular State Park

campgrounds on Lake Michigan. Generally, private campgrounds lack access to unique natural resource features but offer visitors close access to major transportation routes (particularly US-31), full service sites, and amenities such as arcades, swimming pools, and other attractions.

Some residents may be looking to the county to provide camping opportunities in settings with significant natural resource features. In the past, the Parks Commission has been concerned with competing with the private sector but has long felt that camping should be considered in existing or future County Parks when a particular site offers a resource-based camping experience not generally available in the private sector or when/if the private sector does not meet the demand for overnight camping.

A recent review of campgrounds throughout West Michigan revealed a wide range of public and private facilities with diverse facility types. In general, most successful public campgrounds are based around a significant water feature as a major amenity for swimming, fishing, and other water-based recreation activities. Most successful sites are also located relatively close to major travel corridors such as US-31. Sites within the Ottawa County Park system with water features, the space needed for a public campground, and near travel corridors are extremely limited. The OCPRC feels it is important to operate a campground in a revenue neutral manner, which means site selection is of the utmost importance.

The 2020 County Resident survey revealed that 57% of respondents agreed that more camping opportunities were needed in Ottawa County as a whole, with 49% saying they agree that overnight camping should be provided on County Parks properties.

Despite this apparent support, the idea of RV camping at Ottawa Sands, a site that has the physical features conducive to this activity, was strongly opposed during the master planning process for that site. This indicates the very site specific nature of a campground that can garner public support and the need to thoroughly assess potential sites and types of facilities before proceeding with any development.

In addition to the traditional public campgrounds discussed above, the OCPRC is concerned with the needs of scouts, church groups and other organized groups for camping opportunities. Two facilities in the county park system currently help meet this need. Groups may reserve the Kirk Park Lodge between September and May for overnight outings. Twenty-four bunks are available in a renovated rustic building with a fireplace, kitchen, and restrooms. For groups desiring an outdoor experience, a group campground was developed at Pigeon Creek Park as part of the 1995 construction project. This barrier-free rustic camp area has proven popular, offering parking, restrooms, water, tent sites, fire pits, picnic tables, and access to park trails. Other newer trends for non-traditional camping such as small cabins, yurts, and other “outfitted” camping opportunities should also be explored.

INTERPRETIVE SERVICES

Ottawa County has a rich natural and cultural history. Over 7,100 acres of natural land is managed by the OCPRC, providing a unique outdoor classroom to interpret the diverse natural features to park visitors of all ages throughout the year. In addition, a number of park properties include buildings and other features of cultural significance, such as the Weaver House at Pine Bend. With its focus on resource-based parks and greenways, it is important that Ottawa County Parks offer a variety of interpretive programs to help park visitors understand this natural and cultural history and enjoy the diversity of recreational opportunities available to connect with nature. The goal of interpretive staff is as follows:

To provide people a positive experience interacting with nature in order to initiate and encourage further exploration, deepen understanding and develop an emotional connection with nature, in hopes of leading them to a greater sense of connection to their place in the environment and thus promoting an attitude of responsible stewardship.

Ottawa County Parks is not the only provider of interpretive services for Ottawa County. The Gillette Visitor’s Center at Hoffmaster State Park in Muskegon County has interpretive staff and is well-known for its excellent interpretive programming focused on sand dune ecology. The DeGraff Nature Center, owned by the City of Holland but run by the Outdoor Discovery Center Macatawa Greenway (ODCMG), provides important interpretive services to schools and citizens in the Holland and surrounding area. The ODCMG, located on the north side of Allegan County, is a rapidly growing non-profit nature center that provides interpretive programs throughout the region. Finally, the Blandford Nature Center, just to the east in Kent County offers a variety of nature-based programs. Although other interpretive services exist in the region, Ottawa County Parks, with its focus on natural resource based parks, considers it vitally important to offer an active program to educate and connect park users with the natural features found in the park system in order

to foster a greater appreciation and promote future stewardship.

In 1998, the OCPRC hired its first full-time parks naturalist to develop, coordinate, and implement interpretive services in the parks system, resulting in the development of a wide variety of year-round interpretive programs for people of all ages. These programs included interpretive walks, field trips, workshops, and other activities. These programs proved popular, which led to a desire to expand services in line with the growing park system.

In 2010, Ottawa County Parks opened a Nature Center at Hemlock Crossing and hired a second full-time naturalist. The Ottawa County Parks Nature Center is an 8,000-square-foot facility designed to serve as a base of operations for interpretive programs in the county park system and also functions as an information center for the entire parks system. The Center provides a place for people to connect with each other, with staff, and the outdoors. The building is certified as a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) building at the gold level. The facility is available for rent for various types of functions when not in use for education programs.

In order to expand programs, especially to schools and other youth groups, a number of part-time Naturalist Guides were hired to assist with educational programming. Many school groups visit the center regularly, with the highest use in the spring and fall. While many interpretive programs are focused at Hemlock Crossing because of the proximity of the educational facility, a wide range of programs continue to be offered throughout the park system, taking advantage of the unique natural and cultural features in the various parks. An example of this are ecosystem explorations at the Upper Macatawa Natural Area and Grand River Park, plus dune ecology programs at the Rosy Mound Natural Area and North Ottawa Dunes.

Despite the difficulties created by the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic, efforts by park staff to provide virtual programming during this time have greatly expanded those opportunities for the public and provided incentives for staff to develop skills and competencies in this area which could assist in developing non-traditional programming in the future.

Another method of interpretation is through wayside interpretive signs that have been designed, fabricated, and installed at several parks to interpret natural and cultural features of these sites. Interpretive signs can be found at the Rosy Mound Natural Area, Hemlock Crossing, Upper Macatawa Natural Area, Connor Bayou, Eastmanville Farm, Paw Paw Park, Historic Ottawa Beach, Grand Ravines, Kirk, and Tunnel Parks. In addition, trailhead signs have been installed at most parks and open spaces which provide additional opportunities to display interpretive and general information.

One often-overlooked area of interpretation is self-discovery. Many visitors desire to visit parks alone or with friends and family and are not interested in a naturalist-led interpretive program. These visitors are best accommodated by providing properties with unique features along with an attractive and easy-to-navigate trail system and other facilities. Land acquisitions, the opening of new parks, and the design of many miles of trails are providing this opportunity. Parks maps are available on the parks' web site for those wishing to explore new areas.

It should also be noted that several on-going and potential partnerships also expand the interpretive reach of Ottawa County Parks. Local historians developed the Historic River Road self guided tour booklet highlighting sites along the Grand River, and the Historic Ottawa Beach Society (HOBS) runs the Pumphouse Museum and Learning Center in the Holland Area. The Shoreline Amateur Astronomical Association has assisted in running astronomy programs at the Hemlock Nature Center, and has spearheaded efforts to develop a small observatory on the site. Finally, staff from the Grand Rapids Public Museum have participated in planning for interpretation of the Grand Rive Greenway. Additional partnerships including with Native American tribes may also provide more opportunities for greater understanding of local ecological and cultural resources.

The 2020 county resident survey indicated that 52% of citizens desire additional opportunities for nature education programs. This was the highest ranked facility/activity where citizens would like expanded opportunities. Parks interpretive staff expects that programs and participation will continue to gradually increase. The completion of the Grand Ravines Lodge in 2015 was significant in that it provides a unique venue for interpretive programs in eastern Ottawa County. The facility offers public rentals and meeting space also, but use as a satellite nature center on the east side of the county offers exciting potential.

WALKING & HIKING

Surveys across the nation reveal a high level of public interest and support for expanded walking and hiking opportunities. A national trend toward walking for exercise further supports the need for trails. In a 2020 survey, county residents ranked hiking as one of their

top activities, with 95% listing this activity as one in which they participate.

The health benefits of walking and hiking are also being widely recognized. A report issued in the fall of 2015 by the United States Surgeon General stated the following:

One out of every two U.S. adults is living with a chronic disease, such as heart disease, cancer, or diabetes. These diseases contribute to disability, premature death, and health care costs. Increasing people's physical activity levels will significantly reduce their risk of chronic diseases and related risk factors. Because physical activity has numerous other health benefits— such as supporting positive mental health and healthy aging—it is one of the most important actions people can take to improve their overall health.

Step It Up! The Surgeon General's Call to Action to Promote Walking and Walkable Communities recognizes the importance of physical activity for people of all ages and abilities. It calls on Americans to be more physically active through walking and calls on the nation to better support walking and walkability. Improving walkability means that communities are created or enhanced to make it safe and easy to walk and that pedestrian activity is encouraged for all people. The purpose of the Call to Action is to increase walking across the United States by calling for improved access to safe and convenient places to walk and wheelchair roll and by creating a culture that supports these activities for people of all ages and abilities.

The call to action by the Surgeon General is consistent with local trends and observed needs. Ottawa County Parks has begun partnering with the Ottawa County Health Department in looking for opportunities to improve opportunities for people to access walking trails. That partnership led to the addition of a half-mile trail at Paw Paw Park in 2015 which connects neighborhoods and greatly improved the park's walking opportunities.

Fitness and greater contact with the outdoor environment are listed as reasons for people engaging in walking and hiking. The availability of interesting natural features combined with nearly a hundred miles of trails make the county park system a logical destination for walkers and hikers. It is believed that the beauty of the natural environment can be a real motivator in getting people out to exercise. Ottawa County Parks' efforts to meet the area demand for walking and hiking opportunities should focus on areas with unique natural features and address the need for varying degrees of trail difficulty, length, and distribution of trails throughout the county. The overwhelming popularity of the Rosy Mound Natural Area, opened in the spring of 2004, is likely due to the combination of outstanding scenic beauty of the site with an accessible trail surface attractive to all types of trail users. Similarly, the extensive trails at North Ottawa Dunes, waterfront walkways at Historic Ottawa Beach, and new trails through the Upper Macatawa Natural Area are being widely used by people desiring to both exercise and experience nature.

The 1989 Parks Plan first noted that while numerous parks offered trails of 1 to 3 miles in length, no opportunities existed for longer-distance hiking opportunities. Pigeon Creek Park was identified as a location for a regional trails center, which led to the development of the popular 10-mile multi-use trail system that exists today. The popularity of this site influenced the OCPRC to develop the 6-mile trail system at Hemlock Crossing and Pine Bend on the Pigeon River, which opened in the fall of 2003. Additional sites with longer distance trails now exist at Riley Trails, with 7 miles of multi-use trails; the Upper Macatawa Natural Area, with over 8 miles of hiking trails; North Ottawa Dunes with over 8 miles of hiking trails; and the Musketawa Trail with 10 miles within Ottawa County. These large parks with long-distance hiking options have greatly expanded opportunities available to hikers in Ottawa County in recent years.

Ottawa County Parks also offers quality hiking opportunities at Grand River Park in Georgetown Township and at Kirk Park in Grand Haven Township. Each park offers between 2 and 3 miles of trail with challenging terrain in attractive settings. The Rosy Mound Natural Area, mentioned above, is an attractive hiking area, and additional hiking opportunities exist at Grose Park and Hager Park, each with approximately 2 miles of trail. Trail improvements at Riverside Park, made possible by a lease of 31 acres of Bass River Recreation Area land from the State, resulted in the addition of 2 miles of highly scenic waterfront trails at this park.

Recently acquired properties offer tremendous potential to expand hiking opportunities. In light of the high popularity of hiking, Ottawa County Parks should continue its focus on expanding hiking trails where possible within the park system to maximize the opportunities available and the proximity of trails to where people live. A good example is Grand Ravines Park, which provides additional hiking opportunities in eastern Ottawa County. The potential to link with trails through natural areas at Grand Valley State University is also being explored as a means to offer expanded trail opportunities.

WINTER SPORTS

Ottawa County's climate generally permits participation in a full range of winter sports activities, particularly in the snow belt area located along the Lake Michigan shoreline. Presently, winter sports activities in the County Parks include cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and sledding at a number of parks that are open year-round.

Pigeon Creek Park has been the focal point for winter recreation opportunities in the county park system. Sledding is provided at the park in addition to 10 miles of trail groomed regularly for both classic cross-country skiers as well as ski skating.

Cross-Country Skiing

The 2020 county resident survey indicated that 29% of county residents identified themselves as cross-country skiers. Meeting the demand for cross-country ski opportunities is, to a large degree, similar to hiking trails. Health, fitness, and general enjoyment, along with greater contact with the outdoor environment, are primary reasons individuals participate in the activity. Accordingly, a variety of trail lengths and levels of difficulty are critical elements to be considered in responding to this demand. As with hiking trails, a need exists to offer longer trail distances to provide attractive and worthwhile opportunities for this sport.

Pigeon Creek Park has been a tremendous success in terms of attracting large numbers of skiers because of the quality of skiing opportunities provided. The park offers over 10 miles of groomed ski trails for all skill levels, plus trails for ski skaters as well as classic skiers. Its rolling terrain, combined with diverse natural features, makes it an attractive destination. The lodge/warming house is important to the facility's success because it provides ski (and snowshoe) rental and concessions, and it also serves as a gathering spot for skiers before and after their outing. The park's three miles of lighted trails extend park hours until 10:00 p.m., an important consideration given the shortened daylight hours during the winter months. Visitor bureaus in Holland and Grand Haven promote Pigeon Creek Park as a ski destination with a goal of attracting overnight visitors to the area.

Trends in cross-country skiing suggest the numbers of skiers will be steady and increasing in the future, driven by fitness motivation and those seeking opportunities to enjoy the out-of-doors in the winter. With good ski conditions, Pigeon Creek Park routinely reaches its parking capacity (210+ cars) by mid-day on weekends and continues at maximum capacity until early evening. With an average stay for most visitors estimated at two hours, it is clear that a tremendous number of users are accommodated in a busy weekend at the park.

Skiers will likely continue to want well-groomed trails including opportunities for ski skating. However, trends suggest skiers also desire adventure at a realistic level in the form of narrower trails offering a sense of discovery. This was considered in planning the trails at Hemlock Crossing and Pine Bend, which offer 6 miles of ungroomed trails, geared for the more adventurous skiers seeking a more secluded and rustic outdoor experience, in comparison to Pigeon Creek Park, with its busy groomed trails. The addition of the Nature Center, which can be used as a warming location, has increased ski use at this park.

The 2020 survey determined that 46% of residents feel that existing opportunities are adequate while 53% felt more are needed. This is seen as support for a continued focus on Pigeon Creek Park as the primary destination for groomed ski trails with rental, warming areas, and concessions. As with hiking, cross-country skiing is a logical activity to offer in large natural resource-based park areas and can usually be accommodated for minimal expense (primarily signage to explain trail difficulty levels). The goal should be to offer a range of opportunities to serve everyone from the ski skater, requiring the more developed facility offered at Pigeon Creek Park, to skiers desiring a more rustic or backcountry experience. In addition to resident needs, consideration should be given to tourism interests where the goal is to provide facilities that can serve as winter attractions during this typically slow tourist season, while also providing high quality cross-country ski opportunities for county residents.

Snowshoeing

The Outdoor Participation Report by the Outdoor Foundation reveals that, on a national level, snowshoeing is enjoyed by a small but steadily growing segment of the population. Numbers are likely higher in northern states like Michigan, where more people are looking for ways to stay active in the winter months. Snowshoeing is popular at many Ottawa County Parks where ungroomed trails are used by walkers, skiers, and snowshoers. Snow shoe trails and rentals have been added at Pigeon Creek Park in response to requests from park users. Groups will come to the park with individuals desiring to participate in multiple sports including sledding, skiing, and snowshoeing. Recent revisions to rental rules allow for the use of skis and snowshoes during the same rental period at no additional cost to help increase the use and enjoyment of both of these activities.

Sledding/Tobogganing

Sledding opportunities were favored by 67% of county residents in the 2004 survey, but dropped to 55% identifying the activity as moderately or very desirable in the 2010 survey. The 2020 survey asked whether adequate opportunities exist for the activity, and 64% of residents said more opportunities are needed, while 37% said there was enough or too much already. As noted previously, sledding hills at Pigeon Creek Park have been extremely popular when conditions are good—often too crowded during peak periods. Other existing facilities in Ottawa County are fairly limited—usually small, informal facilities provided by local communities. An exception is Holland’s VanRaalte Farm Park with its large, lighted sledding runs. One unique regional facility in the area is the winter sports park located at Muskegon State Park, which features a high quality luge run in addition to lighted cross-country skiing and ice- skating. The luge is a highly specialized winter sport activity that is open to members of the general public that are willing to pay a fee and take the necessary lessons.

Other than Pigeon Creek Park, no other organized sledding opportunities exist in the County Park system. However, the Riverside Park master plan calls for development of a sledding area utilizing an existing hill. In addition, when Ottawa County installed a new cap on the 40-acre closed landfill located within the 300-acre Riley Trails site, extra expense was incurred to reshape the northeasterly facing slopes to maximize the site’s value for sledding use in the future. The capped landfill is closed at the present time until methane gas emissions from vent pipes in the landfill are reduced to safe levels. The Riley Trails site offers a unique potential for a major destination sledding area, possibly combined with other sliding sports, such as tubing and snowboarding. The site should be continually monitored for methane gas emissions and the OCPRC should watch trends in this area carefully to determine what type of facility would best meet Ottawa County’s future needs. Ingham County recently offered a multi-use sledding, tubing, and snowboarding facility with a rope tow that has proven very popular. Such a facility could feature snow-making and grooming/shaping equipment and be combined with cross-country ski and skating facilities to offer a true winter sports destination.

Ice Skating

Outdoor ice skating opportunities have generally been considered a local government recreation responsibility, since they have traditionally been provided on the neighborhood level or in community parks. While Ottawa County Parks supports local governments taking the lead role in this area, it should also evaluate the potential to develop a large destination ice rink as part of a future winter facility for countywide use. The potential exists for a warming house, restrooms, and other support facilities to serve users of multiple winter activities. Following this logic, it would make sense to consider adding an ice rink at Pigeon Creek Park where skiing and sledding already exist; however, the site and support facilities are already beyond maximum capacity during peak periods, and no logical location exists for an ice rink given the current layout of the site. Consideration should be given to possible inclusion of an ice rink when sledding facilities are added at Riley Trails in the future.

Snowmobiling

Snowmobiling was the lowest ranked activity within the 2020 County Resident Survey. This activity, similar to ATV use, requires extensive acreage for safe enjoyment of the sport, which is normally beyond the scope of the county’s potential. However, snowmobiles have been included as a designated winter use on the Musketawa Trail (winter operations administered by the state) because this facility has the length of trail needed to provide a meaningful snowmobile experience.

BICYCLING / NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS

The 2020 survey indicated that 67% of county residents desire more opportunities while just 32% felt there was enough or too much at the present time. Also, in the most recent survey, 87% of respondents agreed with the statement, “The OCPRC should support a regional trail system linking different communities for walkers, bicyclists, and rollerbladers.” It is easy to see the support for bike trails in Ottawa County by observing the level of use on existing trails and summer events in the area focusing on bicycling and other trail activities. Another important sub-group within the biking community, mountain bikers, were not addressed specifically in the resident survey, but the unique needs of this user group are assessed later in this chapter.

Meeting the demand for expansion and development of new trails must address three particular user groups; 1) those persons who use the trails as functional linkages between two points, 2) those persons who use the trails for fitness, health and general enjoyment reasons, and 3) those persons who may use the trails as a recreation destination. Each user group has its own needs, though some

may overlap, and the development of bicycle trails must be responsive to these needs.

Trail development can best be accomplished by a cooperative effort involving all levels of government. Many local units of government in Ottawa County have made bike paths a high priority and have passed millages to provide funding for development of local bike path systems. The North Bank Trail, a joint effort of the North Bank Communities of Spring Lake Village and Township, Crockery, and Polkton Townships has made great progress in recent years and illustrates the strong commitment to trails. These combined efforts have resulted in a vast network of local trails that is promoted by area visitor's bureaus, including the Holland Area Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Grand Haven–Spring Lake Area Visitor Bureau.

Non-Motorized Pathway Study

In an effort to provide leadership, expertise, and general assistance to local municipalities interested in developing and expanding their local non-motorized circulation network, the OCPRC teamed with Ottawa County Planning Commission in completing the Ottawa County Non-Motorized Pathway Study in 2002. The plan, updated in 2011 and in 2014, is shown in Figure 10.1. The plan focuses on the county regional trail linkages – those that connect communities. It proposes both a separated pathway system and widened road shoulders in key locations. Currently, separated pathways along roadways are the most common type of pathways in Ottawa County. The plan recommends that separated pathways be 8 to 14 feet wide and that paved road shoulders be a minimum 4-foot width, consistent with nationally accepted standards. To maximize the benefit of this plan, communication and cooperation with local units of government both inside and outside of the established greenways should be fostered to facilitate local path linkages within or connected to the regional trail system.

Widened Road Shoulders

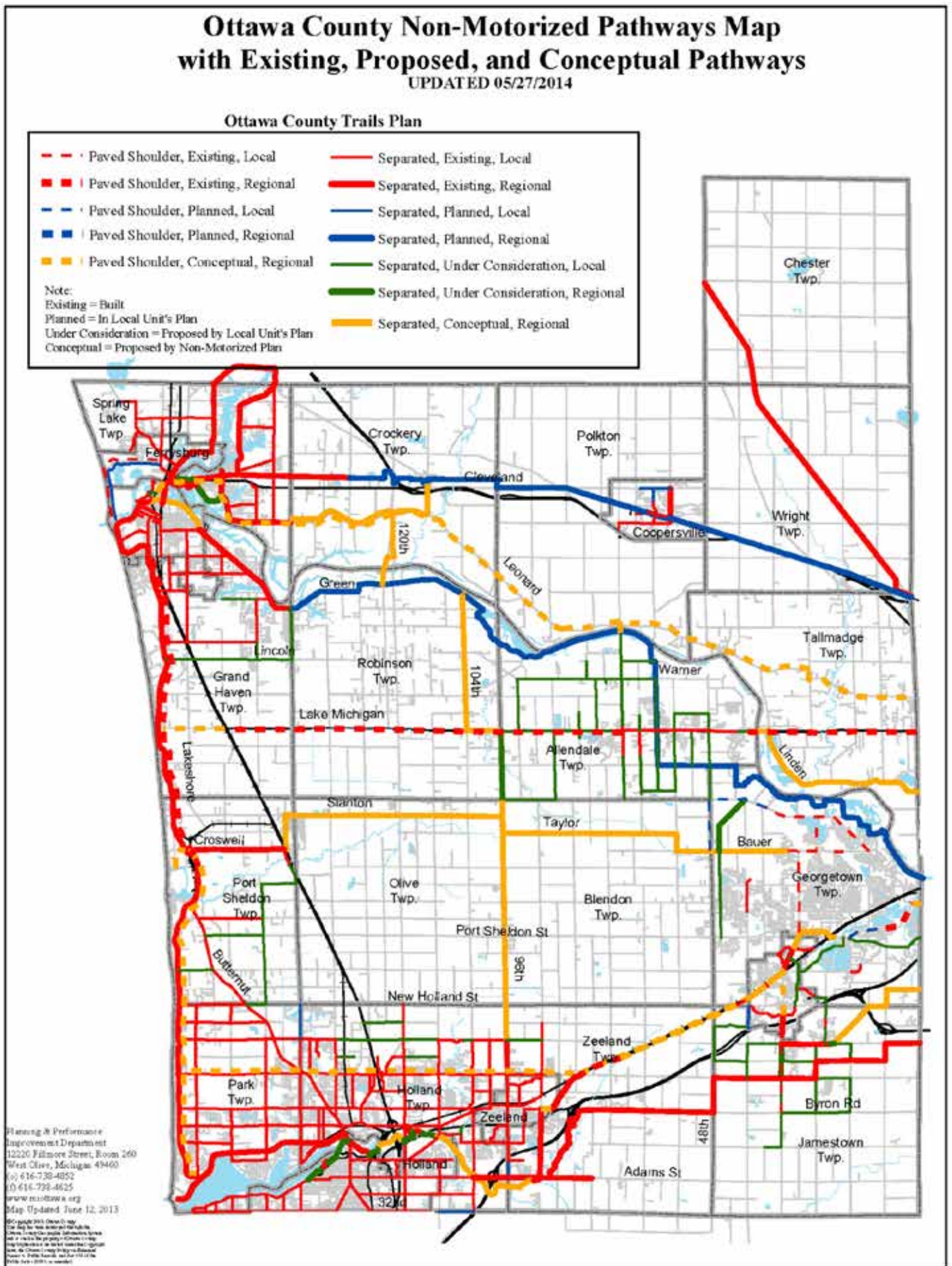
The non-motorized pathway study envisions widened road shoulders in key locations within the county for both recreational and commuter use. In 2004, the County Road Commission announced plans to re-paved approximately 7 miles of Lakeshore Drive between Hayes and Fillmore streets with 3 foot shoulders. The Road Commission indicated its willingness to work with outside agencies to widen the paved shoulders from the Road Commission's standard width of 3 feet to 4 feet wide to meet AASHTO (American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials) bike path standards. The county, the OCPRC, the Planning and Performance Improvement Department, and Road Commission shared the additional cost of \$125,000, and the wider shoulders were installed. Since that initial project, there has been collaboration on additional paving projects to add widened shoulder extending to New Holland Street on the south side of Port Sheldon Township. Leadership has been provided by the Ottawa County Planning and Performance Improvement Department, and funding assistance has been provided by Ottawa County Parks, Port Sheldon Township, and private donors. The goal is to continue to extend the widened shoulder as road paving projects in Park Township take place in the next few years. With both a separated pathway and widened shoulder, Lakeshore Drive provides alternatives for bicyclists, which increases its appeal as a recreational and commuter corridor.

Regional Trails

To the extent feasible, OCPRC desires to play a role in providing or assisting with non-motorized trails that have a regional recreational appeal. As far back as 1990, OCPRC, along with Muskegon County, was approached by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to consider a partnership in the development of a linear park on the abandoned railroad right-of-way between Marne and Muskegon. An extensive planning and public hearing process ensued, and the right-of-way was acquired by the State in 1991. A 12-foot-wide asphalt trail, along with staging/parking areas, was constructed in 1997. The trail is known as the Musketawa Trail, and OCPRC accepted its partnership responsibility and now manages the 10-mile segment of the Musketawa Trail located in Ottawa County.

One major regional trail development in recent years was completion of the six-mile Fred Meijer Pioneer Trail, which links to the Musketawa Trail and runs southeast toward Walker, a suburb of Grand Rapids. Spearheaded by Kent County Parks and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the trail ends at Fred Meijer Park across from Meijer Headquarters, but it will eventually be extended to Comstock Park to link to the White Pine Trail. Ottawa County Government was key in working with the Department of Natural Resources and Kent County to re-route the trail around an active feedlot operation in response to concerns within the agricultural community that the trail would have an adverse economic effect on the operation. Ottawa County Parks acquired property for re-routing the trail, which included the adjacent Marne Bog, a remote high quality natural area that is now connected to the Musketawa Trail corridor. The Parks Commission plans to make hiking trail linkages in the future between the Musketawa Trail and the bog.

Figure 10.1 - Non-Motorized Pathways Map



Steady progress continues on the North Bank Trail. The North Bank Trail, a collaborative project which includes several communities on the north side of the Grand River, is a proposed 18 mile non-motorized, multipurpose pathway located generally along the former Grand Trunk Railroad that extends from Spring Lake to Coopersville. The goal for the proposed path is to connect the east end of the Village of Spring Lake Bike Path to the east end of the Musketawa Trail and serve as a regional link. Currently the trail extends from the Village of Spring Lake through Spring Lake Township to Nunica in Crockery Township. Although not a direct concern of Ottawa County Parks, the project is a significant enhancement to the County Park trail systems.

Another significant regional trail development is the construction of a non-motorized crossing as part of the M-231 bridge over the Grand River, which was completed in November of 2015. Named the Henry E. Plant Memorial Grand River Non-Motorized Trail, the bridge crossing is 14-feet wide and offers tremendous views of the Grand River and associated wetlands. The Ottawa County Board of Commissioners had urged the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) to install the non-motorized crossing on the bridge, and MDOT agreed with the understanding that Ottawa County would take a leadership role in providing trail connections on both ends of the crossing. The Ottawa County Planning and Performance Improvement Department has taken a leadership role in developing the Spoonville Trail, which will connect the north end of the bridge crossing to the North Bank Trail. The first phase of this project, from the north end of the bridge to Leonard Road has been constructed with the final portion extending to a North Bank Trail trailhead in Nunica in progress.

Another significant regional trail development in Ottawa County is the Fred Meijer Kenowa Trail which runs nearly 10 miles from the north end of the Upper Macatawa Natural Area through Zeeland and Jamestown Townships. The trail works its way east and north to Spring Grove Park before ending at Kenowa Avenue. This trail was spearheaded by Zeeland and Jamestown Townships with funding assistance from the Meijer Foundation and a contribution of \$200,000 from OCPRC. OCPRC contributed funds to encourage and support the project, which borders and provides access to both the Upper Macatawa Natural Area and Spring Grove Park. With the Fred Meijer Kenowa Trail in place, Ottawa County Parks was able to secure an MDOT grant to fund the first segment of the Macatawa Greenway Trail. This project is discussed under the Greenway Trails section below.

Greenway Trails

Ottawa County's efforts to establish greenways along the Grand, Pigeon and Macatawa Rivers provide excellent opportunities for establishment of destination recreational trails within these corridors. With their scenic attributes, linear nature and concentration of parklands, greenways have the potential to incorporate trails that can meet non-motorized transportation needs and provide a significant destination for outdoor enthusiasts.

Macatawa Greenway Trail

Working with its non-profit partner, the ODCMG, the OCPRC's vision of establishing a paved, multi-purpose greenway trail within the greenway corridor is beginning to take shape. OCPRC completed the first large-scale portion of the trail in early 2015 when it connected to the Fred Meijer Kenowa Trail on Byron Road and developed 2.4 miles of trail south through the Upper Macatawa Natural Area to link to existing bike path along Adams Street. The trail connects to an existing 0.5-mile segment of trail within the park to provide a total of nearly 3 miles of very scenic paved trail within the park.

Future efforts will focus on extending the greenway trail along the river corridor as ownership or easements are put in place, with a long-term goal of establishing a linkage to the City of Holland's riverfront parks, including Windmill Island and Window on the Waterfront. Recent land acquisitions by the ODCMG as part of Project Clarity will likely help facilitate a trail route in the future.

Idema Explorers (Grand River Greenway) Trail

Significant progress has been made in the acquisition of key riverfront parcels to preserve land and provide for a variety of recreational uses, which include a future paved multi-use greenway trail. Efforts are nearing completion to secure a mix of public and private funding to provide for the final land and easement purchases and the paved greenway trail. In relation to the commitment to MDOT to connect to the non-motorized Grand River bridge crossing, OCPRC built the first segment of the Grand River Greenway Trail between Connor Bayou and Riverside Parks, which encompasses the bridge crossing in 2017. Additional segments in Georgetown Township were completed in 2019 and 2020.

Concurrently, work is underway to plan and design other segments of the trail. Coordination of roles and responsibilities with local units of government are key considerations before beginning actual trail construction. Support has been demonstrated by Robinson,

Georgetown, and Allendale Townships through financial and other support

Pigeon River Greenway Trails

The vision for the Pigeon River is for natural surface trails accommodating a range of uses as demonstrated at Pigeon Creek Park and Hemlock Crossing/Pine Bend where a combined total of over 16 miles of trails serve users at both parks. The long-term vision is to link both Pigeon Creek Park and Hemlock Crossing/Pine Bend with trails and extend west through Consumers Energy property to connect to Lakeshore Drive and eventually to Lake Michigan. That is admittedly an ambitious goal and will depend on both future landowner willingness to cooperate and funding availability. The Parks Commission recognizes its vision for the Pigeon River may take many years to achieve.

An initial step that should be pursued is to seek approval from Consumers Energy to extend a trail west from Pine Bend to connect to Port Sheldon Township's Sheldon Landing. This attractive natural riverfront land is not used by Consumers Energy as part of their energy generation and could provide an outstanding addition to the county's trail system for hikers and cross-country skiers.

Coastal Greenway Trails

The Lake Michigan shoreline has long been a top recreational attraction which prompted local units of government to develop the Lakeshore Drive bike path, an 8 foot wide paved pathway for walking, biking, and other recreational uses that runs from Grand Haven south to Tunnel Park and beyond to Holland State Park. Given the popularity of the route with higher speed cyclists, Ottawa County Parks is supporting the addition of a widened road shoulder as part of the Coastal Greenway corridor.

Although intense development along the shoreline precludes opportunities for continuous hiking trails in most areas, OCPRC offers trails at several of its lakeshore parks for walkers, hikers, trail runners, and cross-country skiers. A unique opportunity exists at North Ottawa Dunes where trails link to P.J. Hoffmaster State Park, offering five miles of continuous high quality forested dune habitat. With the acquisition of the Ottawa Sands property the potential exists to extend trails even further to the south to link to City of Grand Haven property and the Kitchel Lindquist Dune Preserve, owned by the City of Ferrysburg. This would provide a tremendously unique opportunity for hiking and habitat preservation and would be a regionally significant attraction.

Non-Motorized Trail Summary

The identified role of OCPRC in the provision of bike paths and non-motorized trails in Ottawa County includes the following:

- To promote a connected system of trails and pathways through efforts like the Non-Motorized Pathway Study and bike path brochures.
- To fulfill its partnership responsibility with the DNR and operate the Musketawa Trail, a true linear park and regional recreation destination.
- To support the linkage of regional trails in West Michigan.
- To work to develop greenway trails as multi-purpose regional recreational pathways in greenway corridors along the Grand River, the Macatawa River, and the Coastal Greenway (Note that the vision for Pigeon River Greenway trails is unpaved, rustic trails for hiking, cross-country skiing, equestrians, etc.

Mountain Biking

An important sub-group of the biking community is mountain bikers. Mountain biking involves the use of specialized bikes to ride over rugged terrain. Further specialization is provided by "fat bikes" which feature oversized tires that make it possible to ride on loose sand and snow. For many years Ottawa County Parks has permitted mountain bikes on designated trails at Pigeon Creek Park, Grand River Park and Riley Trails. Recent improvements at Riley Trails resulted in the designation of a 4 mile mountain bike loop which was improved with gravel in areas that were previously too sandy. Mountain bike use has risen dramatically at the site since the improvements including the use of fat bikes during all seasons of the year. Other opportunities for mountain biking on public lands in Ottawa County exist at the Bass River State Recreation Area. It should be noted that existing trails in many of the Ottawa County Parks are generally shorter, wider, and flatter than those preferred by skilled mountain bikers. Several sites to the east in Kent County (Luton, Merrill, Cannonsburg) and north (Owasippe) have been considered the best available in West Michigan.

Because opportunities for quality mountain biking experiences in Ottawa County were lacking, Ottawa County Parks welcomed the

opportunity to partner with the Michigan Edge Mountain Biking Association (MEMBA) to construct trails in ravines at the Upper Macatawa Natural Area.

MEMBA designed and constructed the trails under the guidance of park staff, and the resulting six-mile trail system, completed in 2015 and expanded since then, has proven tremendously popular. It is a highly technical trail with a high level of difficulty that appeals to the more skilled mountain bikers.

Consideration should be given to the expansion of mountain biking opportunities in the county park system with input from user groups. As developed at the Upper Macatawa site, provision of narrower trails with longer distance over varied terrain should be explored. The challenge is to find suitable terrain in Ottawa County, which is generally flat. As with other trail uses, site selection must consider environmental impacts of the sport, which can lead to erosion and potential damage to plant communities. Erosion is of particular concern due to the nature of much of the county's soil. Potential for conflicts with other user groups (i.e., hikers, equestrians, etc.) must also be considered.

Given these considerations, requests for mountain bike access in North Ottawa Dunes have been denied on multiple occasions. However, early planning has identified potential additional areas along the Crockery Creek and in the ravines north of Grand Valley State University as having long term potential. Development of the Mosquito Creek trails just to the north in Muskegon County is seen as a welcome addition to meeting the needs of local riders and taking pressure off from sites that are not well suited to this use.

PLAYGROUNDS

Ottawa County Parks provides many playgrounds within the county park system. These playgrounds are important because they provide an active recreation outlet for young children and are particularly important as support facilities for large group picnic outings.

Neighborhood or community park playgrounds, which are located in close proximity to population concentrations, are typically considered a local government responsibility. Because many rural communities do not have an active park system, many of the county parks fill the need for playgrounds in these communities.

Beyond serving strictly local recreation needs or as support facilities in a larger park setting, playgrounds can be developed as destination facilities attracting users from a 10- to 20-mile radius. Playground of this magnitude are considered appropriate for the county park system. The Age of Discovery Playground at Hager Park is an excellent example of a destination playground, with its extensive play apparatus and unique theme tied to the adjacent terrain map of the United States. The playground at Tunnel Park, while smaller in scale than the Hager Park playground, provides a unique attraction due to its adjacent dune climb.

Because of the anticipated growth of the county park system, the development of new playgrounds in conjunction with large group picnic areas is likely. It is important to consider the unique opportunities for connections that may exist between playgrounds and the natural environment. Playground can be not only a place for children to play but to learn as well. In this regard, "nature playgrounds" are an emerging trend in playground design which should be considered. These designated outdoor areas utilize natural materials including rocks, boulders, wood, water, landforms, and even living plants to form an interactive environment for children to play in and manipulate. The master plan developed for Paw Paw Park includes a nature-based playground as a future element.

PICNICKING

Picnicking is an important recreational activity within the Ottawa County Park system and one of the most popular. The 2020 survey revealed that while 48% of respondents wanted more picnic opportunities, 52% felt existing opportunities were adequate. Existing facilities range from enclosed picnic buildings with kitchens to picnic tables in a wooded setting.

For planning purposes, it is important to distinguish between smaller family picnics and large group outings. Small family-sized groups can normally utilize a few tables and grills on a first-come, first-served basis and have their needs met without making arrangements in advance through the county parks office. Large group outings, however, normally desire advance reservations and have more extensive facility requirements.

A wide range of facilities is currently available for reservation by larger groups within the County Park System. Group facilities have been added in recent years at Connor Bayou and Grand Ravines. In order to schedule reservations in advance, it is necessary to have

park staff on-site to oversee reservations, perform necessary cleaning, and complete other operational tasks. Parks with on-site staff and facilities which are reserved in advance include eight picnic shelters, seven enclosed picnic buildings, one group picnic area, the Vander Laan and DeVries Rooms at Hager Park, the Pigeon Creek Park Lodge, the Weaver House at Pine Bend Park, Connor Bayou Woodland Cabin, and Grand Ravines Lodge with the latter six having more modern indoor facilities. The total number of annual reservations has grown to over 1,200 in 2015, serving over 80,000 park users annually.

Large group picnics are clearly a popular activity within the park system and, while family picnic opportunities may be adequate, demand is expected to continue to increase for group areas. Expansion of large group picnic facilities is recommended, and many of the current park master plans reflect this with the addition of picnic shelters.

One apparent need that is not yet been realized is the provision of a group facility capable of accommodating 200 to 500 people. The county parks office receives many requests for facilities to serve larger-sized groups, but all current facilities are targeted at groups ranging from 50 to 125. Meeting the needs of these larger group gatherings includes not only provision of a large shelter and adequate tables but also adequate support facilities such as parking, restrooms, play area, and possibly volleyball or similar group activities. Consideration should be given to establishment of a large group shelter in a centralized, accessible location in the future. A large group area has been included in the current master plan for the Eastmanville Farm, and other sites could potentially include the needed facilities such as the Bend Area or the Rosy Mound Expansion.

GOLF

Over the years, the potential for development of a golf course in the county park system has been discussed frequently but never fully evaluated. Many county park systems in Michigan and around the country operate golf courses to provide recreation for their residents and as revenue-producing facilities. In some high growth and urbanized areas, public courses are provided to maintain adequate golf opportunities as privately-owned golf courses give way to development pressure. The goal in these situations is typically to provide economically priced golf activity for county residents. In other park systems, golf courses are developed as revenue-producing facilities, and many feature amenities designed to attract golfers seeking a higher quality and more exclusive golfing experience. No formal study or evaluation has occurred to determine the particular market segment that would be served if a course were to be developed in Ottawa County or whether such an endeavor would be economically feasible.

Previous surveys of county residents revealed that the majority of county residents do not consider development of a golf course a high priority for Ottawa County Parks. In the 2010 survey, county residents ranked golf low relative to other priorities, but support for the activity was shown. Questions pertaining to golf were not specifically included in the 2020 survey.

The OCPRC feels that development of a public golf course is not a high priority at the present time, especially with a general decline in golf participation in recent years and the relative health and abundance of privately owned public courses in Ottawa County. Further study should occur in the future to ascertain whether development of a golf course could further the goals of the county parks and meet the needs of residents.

HUNTING

Ottawa County Parks is one of the leading county park systems in Michigan in providing opportunities for hunting on county park-managed lands. A survey by park staff in the fall of 2014 revealed that of 36 counties with active park programs, only 12 offered some type of hunting. The combined acreage of the parks survey totaled 57,354, of which 14,091 acres were available for hunting (25%). The majority of those hunting acres were deer hunting only (72%). Of the 6,395 acres in the park system at that time, Ottawa County Parks had 3,818 acres open to some form of hunting (60%), with 74% of these open to deer hunting only. Among all the counties surveyed, only 1,795 acres were open to a full range of DNR hunting opportunities. Of this total, 1,010 acres (56% of the statewide total) was in Ottawa County Parks. Hunting opportunities are provided on many of the open space properties and at selected park properties within the county park system. Since 2016 when the last parks plan was completed, Ottawa County Parks has acquired additional land including Ottawa Sands and Stearns Creek that are open to some form of hunting.

Although hunting was revealed to be one of the less popular activities in recent county resident surveys, the Parks Commission feels it is important to consider a range of concerns in evaluating this issue:

- Hunting has been a long-standing use on many of the county's Open Space Lands.
- There is a strong tradition of hunting in Ottawa County.
- Hunting can be an important tool in management of certain wildlife populations (most notably deer). A good example of this is the population control hunt at North Ottawa Dunes
- Hunting requires no facility development and therefore has limited start-up costs.
- Encroaching suburban development on park-managed lands will likely result in increasing safety concerns associated with hunting, particularly regarding the use of firearms.
- Managing properties offering both hunting and general recreational use has great potential for user conflicts, with general recreational users shying away from hunting areas.

The OCPRC will continue to evaluate properties on an individual basis as to their suitability for hunting. The intent is to continue to allow hunting on properties that are larger and receive less general recreational use.

GEOCACHING

Capitalizing on current technology, geocaching is a family-friendly activity that has grown rapidly in popularity in recent years. It combines the use of global positioning system (GPS) and internet technology with the exploration of parks, fields, streets, and communities. A geocache is typically a small weather-resistant container that contains a logbook and an assortment of "treasures" for the finder. These geocaches are hidden by players over a wide geographic area and listed on an internet site for other players to see. A player visits the web site, documents a geocache location in degrees latitude and longitude, then uses a hand-held GPS receiver to locate the geocache. Once found, the player signs the log and if they take part of the "treasure," they are expected to leave something in return, typically of equal or greater value. Ottawa County Parks has established guidelines which support geocaching in the county parks while still protecting high quality natural features.

EQUESTRIAN TRAILS

Horse-back riding is a popular activity in Ottawa County. Many equestrians are actively seeking public lands with riding trails and are equipped to trailer their horse to these locations. Although the percentage of horse owners is low in the general population relative to other user groups, the activity is one which the OCPRC feels fits with its role of providing large resource-based parks.

Designated horse trails exist at three locations within the Ottawa County Parks system. The Musketawa Trail, located on a former rail line, features a separate horse path along much of the 10-mile section located in Ottawa County. More popular with equestrians are the trails at Pigeon Creek Park, where equestrians have had access to over three miles of trails for many years. Equestrian trails are kept separate from hiking and mountain bike trails to avoid conflict and because horse traffic softens up trail surfaces, making them difficult to use for hikers and bikers. Recently developed equestrian facilities and trails at Eastmanville Farm are gaining in popularity at this unique county park with its historic barn, rolling hills, and fields. Approximately three-and-a-half miles of trail exist currently at this site, with more planned in the future.

In addition to equestrian trails in the County Parks, the State's Bass River Recreation Area also offers several miles of horse-back riding trails.

OCPRC envisions focusing equestrian use at the sites identified above, with no plans currently to add sites in the future. Short-term plans call for expansion of trails where possible at existing sites. As noted above, the potential exists to add additional equestrian facilities and amenities at Eastmanville Farm in the near future. In the long term, large acquisitions of land in the Pigeon River area would make significant expansions to the trails at Pigeon Creek Park possible. Additional study should be undertaken as needed to explore the County parks' role in meeting future needs of the equestrian community. Options other than direct acquisition may also be possible including cross-country easements between public parks or other access points.

DISC GOLF

Disc golf is a sport that appears to be growing in popularity in recent years. It is played like regular golf, except the goal is to throw a

disc into a basket instead of hitting a ball into a hole. In 1990, there were about 300 courses world-wide, and by 2009 the number had grown to 3,000. In and near Ottawa County, there are now over 40 courses within a 25-mile radius of the County Fillmore Complex. A number of individuals have approached Ottawa County Parks over the years, particularly in the Holland area, requesting Ottawa County Parks develop a course on one of its properties. The OCPRC has long felt this activity could be a good fit within the county park system if the right site could be found. After assessing the feasibility of installing a course at the Paw Paw Park on the former Holland Country Club property, a decision was made to install a course as part of park improvements following large scale restoration of the property. The new disc golf course opened in 2013 and became quite popular. Based on the popularity of the course with a wide range of age groups, this use is something the Parks Commission should support where feasible. Feasibility depends to a large extent on the availability of a large amount of land that is not of high value ecologically, since regular use tramples any groundcover. High costs for maintaining mowed fairways is also an issue. Given the addition of several courses in the area recently, the need for additional courses will require further study. Some local parks may be a better suited in the short term.

DOG PARKS

OCPRC has been studying dog parks in larger Midwest park systems for several years to determine whether it should be the role of Ottawa County Parks to provide dog parks within the county park system. A dog park, for this discussion, is considered to be a fenced-in area where the public is allowed to bring dogs and run them off-leash. Many large county and regional park systems in the Midwest have elected to provide dog parks within their park systems. Most are near large urban areas, where opportunities to run dogs off-leash are limited.

Over the years, OCPRC has been approached by individuals encouraging Ottawa County Parks to provide a dog park in Georgetown Township. After further study, the OCPRC made the decision to include an off-leash dog park in the master plan for the new Grand Ravines Park on the southern portion of the site that fronts on Fillmore Street.

In the fall of 2015, OCPRC opened Grand Ravines Dog Park, a 21-acre, fenced off-leash area including two separate large dog areas and one small dog area, plus fenced areas for people to walk their dogs on trails off-leash. The popularity of the dog park has proven itself to be more than a fad. The 80-car parking area is often insufficient to meet the demands of the facility especially during nice weather and weekends.

In recent years, five local units of government have opened dog parks in Ottawa County – Park Township, the City of Ferrysburg, the Village of Spring Lake, the City of Grand Haven, and Holland Township. Nearby dog parks also include ones at Covell Park (City of Grand Rapids), Marquett Park (City of Wyoming), and Wahfield Park (Kent County Parks). The goal of the county park system is to complement the smaller dog parks by providing a larger, regional facility that can attract users from a longer distance for special outings, in addition to serving the daily needs of dog owners in the nearby high population area. Additional facilities in the County Park System would likely be popular, but significant research and coordination with local governmental units would be required.

Unlike many park departments where dogs must always be leashed, OCPRC allows dogs off-leash in its open space lands. A recent initiative to add trails within open space lands provided greatly expanded opportunities for dog owners desiring to run their dogs off-leash in the county park system. Note that properties designated as parks, as opposed to the lesser-developed open space lands, have strict leash rules.

It should be noted that while the trails on open space lands allow dogs off-leash, they do not provide the secure, fenced area that is desired by many dog owners. Some dog owners are primarily seeking a place to walk their dog off-leash, while others are seeking to allow their dog to socialize with other dogs in a large, fenced-in setting.

Finally, off-leash use of a portion of the beach at Kirk Park was added in 2016. This has also become very popular, although limited in recent years by the high water of Lake Michigan.

OTHER RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

The above list of recreation activities and facilities is not intended to include all possible areas of involvement by the OCPRC. Ongoing study and evaluation is needed to assess involvement in new areas considered appropriate for Ottawa County Parks, given its stated mission and focus on a natural resource-based system of parks and programs. At the Eastmanville Farm property, for example, a partnership with the agricultural community is being explored to establish an educational farm to interpret this important part of the county's heritage for the public. A new trend, zip lines, is being studied to determine whether this type of activity fits within the county park system. A zip line is included in Grand Ravines master plan, but no steps have been taken to implement the facility, pending further study.

Archery is another activity which could be provided, if demand increases. Archery range shooting, as well as stationed courses may be appropriate, especially since archery can be enjoyed by people of all ages and physical abilities.

The OCPRC will continue to focus on traditional resource-based recreation activities while also assessing new and emerging activities as to their appropriateness and feasibility to be offered within the county park system.

CHAPTER 11 | ACCESSIBILITY ANALYSIS

An expressed goal of the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission (OCPRC) is to offer facilities, programs, and services that are inclusive, welcoming, and accessible to all individuals. This includes accessibility to everyone, regardless of their physical level of ability. Meeting this goal requires close examination of not only physical barriers to participation but also the attitudes and philosophy of the agency itself. The OCPRC has adopted the following statement of philosophy:

The Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission intends to fully comply in spirit and intent with the Americans with Disabilities Act. We will provide reasonable accommodation to provide an opportunity for all to participate in an inclusive environment to provide quality leisure experiences.

Considerable legislation exists to ensure the rights of people with disabilities to participate in recreation opportunities. Most significant is “The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990” (ADA), which was enacted “to provide a clear and comprehensive national mandate for the elimination of discrimination against individuals with disabilities.” Since that time standards and guidelines have been published by the Department of Justice and the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board) to regulate and guide new and renovated facilities.

Current enforceable standards have been incorporated in the Department of Justice 2010 “Standards for Accessible Design”. These standards provide clear direction for the development of accessible parking, buildings, and many other types of facilities. Standards for additional recreational site elements (published in the Federal Register on September 14, 2010 and put into effect on March 15, 2012) such as playgrounds, amusement parks, fitness equipment, sports facilities, golf, recreational boating and fishing facilities are also included in the 2010 standards. Guidelines for other recreational facilities including trails, picnic areas, overlooks and viewing areas, beach access routes, and camping facilities are addressed in a separate final draft “Guideline for Outdoor Developed Areas” report produced by the Access Board and made available to the public in 2009. Although not enforceable, these guidelines provide the best available approach to meet the general requirement of the ADA to eliminate discrimination against persons with disabilities.

Evaluation of Ottawa County park facilities in this chapter utilizes both the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design (the standards) and the Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas (the guidelines).

APPLICATION OF THE STANDARDS & GUIDELINES

The OCPRC has made tremendous strides in eliminating barriers in the county park system. Extensive renovations at older county parks, as well as new facilities at Hemlock Crossing, Connor Bayou, Olive Shores, Upper Macatawa Natural Area, Historic Ottawa Beach, and Grand ravines were completed with strict attention to the ADA Standards and Guidelines. In addition to these large projects, many other smaller modifications have been completed throughout the park system that have significantly improved accessibility.

As a public agency, OCPRC is required to meet the “Program Access Test” for accessible facilities and to produce a “Transition Plan” that defines the improvements needed and time-frame to bring the park system into compliance with applicable regulations. The program access test is based on the determination that a public entity may not deny the benefits of its programs, activities, and services to individuals with disabilities because its facilities are inaccessible. This does not mean that every nonconforming facility must be made accessible, but that all services, programs, or activities, when viewed in their entirety (i.e., system-wide) must be readily accessible to all potential users. In addition, since the experience of the natural environments in the county parks is one of the primary attractions, an overall goal is to provide opportunities for all users to experience the various natural environments to a significant degree, even if all areas are not accessible. Table 11.1 summarizes the results of the program access test for developed parks in Ottawa County based on comprehensive site reviews of each site found later in this chapter.

Although the chart indicates that Ottawa County has fulfilled the requirements of the program access test for most elements and activities, it is clear that additional basic improvements should be provided at many sites to meet both the letter and the spirit of the law. In addition, many accessibility improvements, although not required by current legislation, would be desirable additions to the park system.

In this regard, the OCPRC seeks to implement universal design principles. As defined by the Center for Universal Design:

“The intent of universal design is to simplify life for everyone by making products, communications, and the built environment more

Table 11.1 - Access Test Chart

PROGRAM ACCESS TEST CHART	PARKING	WALKWAYS & TRAILS	OVERLOOKS	PICNIC TABLES	PICNIC SHELTER	RENTAL BUILDING	MODERN RESTROOMS	PITOR PORTABLE TOILETS	CONCESSION	PLAYGROUND	SWIMMING BEACH	BOAT LAUNCH RAMP	CANOE/KAYAK LAUNCH	FISHING DOCK/PIER	SEATING	BALLFIELD	HORSESHOES	SAND VOLLEYBALL	TRAILHEAD	INTERPRETIVE SIGNS
Park Name (Developed Parks Only)																				
Adams Street Landing	P	S											N		S					
Connor Bayou	A	S	A	S	A	A		A					A	A	A				A	A
Crockery Creek Natural Area	N	N																	N	
Deer Creek Park	P	N		N				N				N								
Eastmanville Bayou	S	S		N	A			A				N	A						A	A
Eastmanville Farm	N	N		N				A											N	S
Grand Ravines - North	A	S	A	A		A	A						A	A	A				A	A
Grand Ravines - South	A	S		A			A								A				A	
Grand River Open Space	N							P							N				P	
Grand River Park	A	S	N	S		A	A			S		A	A	P					P	
Grose Park	A	S	S	S	A		A			S	A			A	S	N	N	N	P	A
Hager Park	A	S		S	A	P	A		A	P					S		N		P	
Hemlock Crossing	A	S	S	S	A	A	A	A					S		S				P	S
Historic Ottawa Beach Parks	A	S	S	A			A				A		A	A	S				A	A
Kirk Park	A	S	S	S	A		S		A	N	N				S		N		P	A
North Beach Park	A	S	S	S	A		S		A	P	A				S			S		A
North Ottawa Dunes	A	S	NF	A			A								S				P	
Olive Shores	A	S	NF	A			A	A			N				S				A	S
Ottawa Sands	N	N						A											N	
Paw Paw Park - West	A	S	A		A			A		A					N					
Paw Paw Park - East	A	S	A	S				A							S				A	S
Pigeon Creek Park	P	S	N	S		A		A	A						S				P	
Pine Bend	A	S		N		A		A							S				P	A
Riley Trails	P	S	A					A							S				P	
Riverside Park	A	S		S	A			A				A		A	S				P	
Rosy Mound Natural Area	A	S	NF	A			A	A			NF				S				A	S
Spring Grove Park	A	S		S		A	A			P						N	N			
Stearns Creek	N	N		N				A											N	
Tunnel Park	A	S	S	S	A		A		A	P	N				S		N	N		NF
UMNA - 84th Ave.	A	S	A	S	A			A							A				P	A
UMNA - 76th Ave.	P	S	A	S				A							A				P	

A - All items/areas in category are accessible
 S - Meets Standards, improvements may be desired
 P - Partially accessible - some improvements needed to meet current standards
 N - Not currently accessible
 NF - Element provided but compliance is Not Feasible

usable by as many people as possible at little or no extra cost. Universal design benefits people of all ages and abilities.”

“Universal design is the design of products and environments to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design.” – Ron Mace

The seven recognized principles of universal design are listed in Appendix I.

ASSESSMENT OF FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS

The first comprehensive analysis of accessibility in the County Park System was conducted in 1993 by park staff. Since that time additional reviews have been undertaken as new standards and guidelines became available and the park system developed and aged. This 2021 plan again updates the recommended improvements and transition plan based on current standards and existing park conditions. A comprehensive review was completed by Coordinator of Park Planning and Development, Curt TerHaar, with assistance from various park operations staff, in consultation with Ms. Cindy Burkhour of Access to Recreation Group, a recognized expert in inclusive universal design and accessible recreation facility issues in 2015 and updated in this plan.

Table 11.2 at the end of this chapter lists all recommended actions needed to meet regulatory requirements and those recognized as desirable but not necessarily required. This list serves as the current transition plan. Items that are required are given time frames for implementation while other desirable items will likely be pursued as opportunities become available such as nearby construction or renovation.

REVIEW BY PARK/FACILITY

The following section consists of a description and assessment of developed park facilities to date. Parks are listed alphabetically. Barriers to accessibility are identified and summarized for each park and by activity type. While it is unlikely that every barrier to participation by persons with disabilities has been identified, it is hoped that this assessment can serve as a foundation leading to the development of a maximally accessible park system. Each park is also rated for accessibility compared to the 2010 ADA Standards on the following scale:

- 1 = None of the site elements meet the standards
- 2 = Some
- 3 = Most
- 4 = All
- 5 = The facility meets the principals of universal design

ADAMS STREET LANDING

Accessibility Rating: 2

This site is relatively undeveloped but is part of a larger plan for the Macatawa Greenway that would add barrier-free facilities and an accessible paved trail to the site.

- **PARKING:** Gravel surface parking includes 16 spaces. There is a designated barrier-free space.
- **WALKWAYS AND TRAILS:** An accessible crushed stone path leads from the parking area to the river access point. A paved bike path is located along the street and traverses along the entire length of the site, connecting to a paved path that goes under the Adams Street bridge over the Macatawa River on the southeast corner of the site. Long term plans call for a paved trail to traverse the site and connect to the bridge underpass; however, it would be desirable to add a barrier-free walk connection to the paved portions of the path in the near future.
- **CANOE AND KAYAK LAUNCH:** A set of wood timber stairs leads from the end of the crushed stone path to the edge of the river. A more accessible route is not feasible due to the steepness of the river bank. Currently, there are not accessible facilities in the Macatawa River Area, and this site is marginal at best as a destination for boaters. Regional plans call for accessible launches in other locations. When those are developed, signage should be added directing boaters to those sites.
- **SEATING:** A backed bench is located along the crushed stone path.

CONNOR BAYOU

Accessibility Rating: 4

- **PARKING:** Paved parking is provided in two areas. One area, related to the rentable Woodland Cabin contains 25 spaces, two of which are fully accessible. The second area designed for regular day use contains 27 spaces and the required two accessible spaces.
- **WALKWAYS AND TRAILS:** Accessible paved walks are adjacent to all parking areas and lead to the pit toilet, Woodland Cabin, and many other amenities. A crushed stone path leads to the three overlook locations. The remainder of the trails in the park are natural surface.
- **OVERLOOKS:** Three designated overlooks provide outstanding views of the river and associated wetlands. All three are accessible via crushed stone trails.
- **PICNIC TABLES:** There are five permanent picnic tables mounted on concrete pads. Two of these areas are accessible from the paved paths.
- **PICNIC SHELTER:** A roofed shelter directly adjacent to the Woodland Cabin provides additional outdoor space for cabin renters. It has a concrete floor and is connected to accessible paved paths.
- **WOODLAND CABIN:** A renovated former log cabin home provides a rentable space for family events and gatherings. The public spaces including the main floor, basement, deck, patio, and restrooms are fully accessible.
- **PIT TOILET:** An accessible pit toilet is located near the day use parking area on an accessible route.
- **CANOE/KAYAK LAUNCH:** A universally accessible floating dock launch is provided with a paved trail connection.
- **FISHING DOCK:** A wood dock extends into a cove in the river bank allowing better views and fishing access over the water. The dock has lowered railings in locations to allow accessible fishing opportunities and is connected to a paved accessible route.
- **SEATING:** There are backed benches located at two of the overlooks. Both of them have adequate space near them for a wheelchair companion.
- **TRAILHEAD:** A kiosk is located near the parking area. It is along a paved path and provides information about trail accessibility.

CROCKERY CREEK NATURAL AREA

Accessibility Rating: 1

This park is undeveloped except for a basic natural surface trail system. Master planning and an initial phase of development will greatly expand accessibility in the future. A designated gravel parking area was recently added that includes a designated accessible space and crushed stone connecting walk to the trailhead kiosk.

DEER CREEK PARK

Accessibility Rating: 2

Deer Creek Park is a small, two-acre park in Polkton Township. Accessibility improvements have been made in the park, although significant limitations exist for disabled users. It was hoped to remedy several of these conditions in conjunction with a project to connect Deer Creek Park with Ripps Bayou via a bridge over the Deer Creek. This project was determined to be prohibitively expensive and was delayed. Improvements in the shorter term should be considered.

- **PARKING:** The total capacity of the parking area is six cars and eight car/trailer spaces. One of the six car spaces is designated as an accessible space, although the surface of the entire parking area is gravel, which is not an acceptable accessible surface. The space should be resurfaced. In addition, one of the car/trailer spaces should be designated as accessible with new signage and surfacing.
- **RESTROOMS:** Two pit toilets are provided, which are constructed to meet accessibility guidelines. The path leading to the restrooms is a dirt and wood chip path which, although well compacted, does not meet accessibility guidelines. An accessible parking space should be added along the road at the entrance to the path to the toilets and the path improved to meet standards.

- **BOAT LAUNCH FACILITY:** A small boat launch exists for access to Deer Creek and the Grand River. No dock is provided at this location and no particular facilities to aid people with disabilities are present. A sign directs people with disabilities to accessible facilities at nearby Riverside Park.
- **PATHWAYS AND ROUTES OF TRAVEL:** No hard surface pathways exist in the park to connect the parking lot to the principal use areas. Because the park is in a floodplain area, it was necessary to construct the restrooms on higher ground near the park entrance to comply with floodplain ordinances. Restroom users must traverse the gravel entrance drive to access the restrooms from the main use portion of the park.
- **PICNIC AREAS/STRUCTURES:** There are two picnic tables located in grass areas of the park. One of these should be connected to the barrier-free parking space with an accessible pathway.
- **SEATING:** There are two backed benches in the park located in grass areas. An accessible route should be provided to one of these benches.
- **FISHING AREAS:** Fishing is a popular activity along the banks of Deer Creek. Although the banks are relatively level, they are grass covered, and no hard-surface walkways or dock structures provide access to the water's edge. A new accessible path combined with connections to a picnic table and bench should provide a location near the river for fishing.

EASTMANVILLE BAYOU

Accessibility Rating: 3

- **PARKING:** The main forty-car parking area is paved with the required two accessible spaces. Access to the launch ramp is provided by gravel drives and parking for ten vehicles.
- **WALKS AND TRAILS:** Concrete walkways surround most of the parking lot and connect to the restroom, picnic shelter, and kayak launch. The park has a significant amount of hiking trails that are natural surface.
- **RESTROOMS:** There are two accessible pit toilet buildings both located along an accessible route from the main parking area.
- **PICNIC TABLES:** There are five permanent picnic tables located in the grass areas of the park. Two are intended to be along a paved path to be developed in the future. It would be desirable to add at least one accessible table with connecting paved walks in the near term.
- **PICNIC SHELTER:** A small open shelter is provided along an accessible route. It has one permanent accessible table.
- **BOAT LAUNCH RAMP:** A small concrete plank boat launch ramp provides access to the inland bayou parallel to the Grand River. There is no skid pier, and it has a gravel approach. A sign directing people to the nearest accessible launch site is provided.
- **CANOE/KAYAK LAUNCH:** A universally accessible floating dock launch is provided with a paved trail connection.
- **TRAILHEAD:** A kiosk is located near the parking area. It is along a paved path and provides information about trail accessibility.
- **INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE:** Two interpretive signs are located on an accessible route. They meet height and space requirements.

EASTMANVILLE FARM

Accessibility Rating: 2

- **PARKING:** Gravel surface parking is provided for equestrians with vehicles and trailers, regular park visitors, and at the historic "Memory Grove" display. None of these areas have designated accessible spaces. Designated barrier-free spaces are provided.
- **WALKS AND TRAILS:** There is a paved walkway from the parking area to the memory grove display. All other existing paths are grass surfaced. It would be desirable to add a hard-surfaced path to provide a barrier-free route to more areas of the site. If not before, these improvements will be completed with future phases of development.
- **RESTROOMS:** A modern restroom connected to a new operations building is provided and is connected from nearby parking by an accessible concrete walkway.
- **PICNIC TABLES:** Four picnic tables are located near the equestrian parking area, none of which are located on hard

surfaces. An accessible route should be added to at least one of these picnic table locations.

- **TRAILHEAD:** A kiosk with park trail information is located in the equestrian parking area. Additional trail signage is located near the barn.

GRAND RAVINES–NORTH

Accessibility Rating: 4

- **PARKING:** Paved parking is provided in four locations including two small areas for accessing the trails and larger areas serving the lodge and riverfront. All have the required accessible spaces.
- **WALKWAYS AND TRAILS:** Concrete walkways about all of the parking areas and provide access to the lodge, overlooks, and trails. Recent phases added to this system of accessible walkways to provide additional access to the waterfront and between the north and south sections of the park. Sections of trail through the wooded ravines of the park are natural surface.
- **OVERLOOKS:** There are two overlook locations, including one featuring the deep ravines and the other adjacent to the lodge overlooking the Grand River. Both are fully accessible.
- **PICNIC TABLES:** There are permanent picnic tables located along concrete walkways adjacent to the two smaller parking areas. Both are accessible.
- **GRAND RAVINES LODGE:** A former residence has been renovated to be suitable for rental to the public. All entrances and the adjoining deck area accessible.
- **RESTROOMS:** There is a modern public restroom attached to the lodge building that is accessible via paved paths.
- **SEATING:** There is a box bench located at one overlook and two benches located at the lodge overlook that are accessible.
- **TRAILHEAD:** A kiosk is located near the parking area. It is along a paved path and provides information about trail accessibility.

GRAND RAVINES–SOUTH

Accessibility Rating: 4

- **PARKING:** A paved parking area serves the south portion of the park, providing over 70 spaces. Four paved accessible spaces are provided.
- **WALKWAYS AND TRAILS:** Concrete walkways about the parking area and provide access to the dog park, restroom, and paved trail system. There are also a paved loops within the fenced off-leash dog areas. The paved trail system includes an accessible loop featuring an accessible 275' long pedestrian suspension bridge. Other sections of trail through the wooded ravines and old farm fields of the park are natural surface or mowed grass.
- **PICNIC TABLES:** There are two permanent picnic tables located along the concrete walkways adjacent to the parking areas. Both are accessible.
- **RESTROOMS:** A modern restroom is provided meeting all accessibility standards. It includes a vending area and dog wash station.
- **SEATING:** There are nine benches total in this area. Eight are in the dog park, with six being accessible along and on paved surfaces. One located inside the dog park, is near an unusual tree and is not connected to a paved access route.
- **TRAILHEAD:** A kiosk is located near the parking area. It is along a paved path and provides information about trail accessibility.
- **DRINKING FOUNTAINS:** There are three drinking fountains in the dog park and one at the restroom which are accessible.

GRAND RIVER OPEN SPACE

Accessibility Rating: 2

- **PARKING:** The site is accessed by a gravel road with gravel parking lots. A small parking area is located along the entrance drive (three spaces) and a larger area (19 spaces) is in a more central location. Neither location has a

designated accessible space. Accessible surfacing and signage need to be added.

- **WALKS AND TRAILS:** There is a mowed path from the main parking area to the lake, but there are no other designated trails.
- **RESTROOMS:** There is an accessible pit toilet building directly adjacent to the parking area. An accessible surface should be provided from the accessible parking space.
- **SEATING:** There is one bench located in a grassy area near the main parking lot. An accessible route should be provided.
- **TRAILHEAD:** A kiosk is located near the parking area. An accessible surface should be provided from the accessible parking space.

GRAND RIVER PARK

Accessibility Rating: 3

- **PARKING:** Total capacity is 86 spaces, with seven signed accessible spaces. One space is van-accessible. Another parking area is located at the boat launch near the river. There are 14 spaces for vehicle parking, and approximately six spaces for vehicle/trailer parking. An accessible space is provided.
- **WALKWAYS AND TRAILS:** The primary routes of travel to the picnic building, restrooms, drinking fountain, play area, fishing dock, trailhead, and limited trails are accessible to persons with disabilities via hard-surfaced paths. The majority of the trails used for hiking and skiing are not considered to be within accessibility guidelines due to trail surfacing and terrain. However, there is about one half mile of hard-surfaced accessible trail located within the park, which allows visitors to experience portions of the park's natural area as well as primary destination points.
- **OVERLOOKS:** Two viewing platforms overlooking wetlands within the park are not considered accessible, due to stairs leading to the raised decks. These structures will be removed when their useful lives are over.
- **PICNIC TABLES:** There are 12 picnic tables located in areas surrounding the parking lot. The majority of the picnic tables in the park have accessible features. Two tables with concrete pads and accessible routes were added in 2009. An accessible route to at least one additional table needs to be provided to meet current standards.
- **PICNIC BUILDING:** A rental building in the center of the park is accessible from barrier-free parking via a concrete walkway. The shelter is used by groups for picnics and other types of outings. Banquet-style tables are available, which are accessible.
- **RESTROOMS:** The restrooms are located at the south end of the picnic building and are accessible to people with disabilities.
- **PLAYGROUND:** An accessible play area installed in 1999 features a play structure with a transfer station and swings. This play area is located along an accessible concrete walkway and has a concrete ramp from the walkway to the surfacing. This will be upgraded to meet current standards when it is renovated in the future.
- **BOAT LAUNCH FACILITY:** The boat launch is a hard-surface area with ramps sloping down to and below the surface of the river. One skid pier dock is provided to assist boaters. The dock meets accessibility standards in width and has a ramp providing smooth access for wheelchairs and other mobility-impaired users.
- **CANOE/KAYAK LAUNCH:** A universally accessible floating launch ramp was installed in 2014 and connected to the boat launch parking area with a paved path.
- **FISHING DOCK:** Fishing is a popular activity along the shores of the lake and on the boardwalk, which goes over the lake. This boardwalk was renovated in 2019 to include railings with lowered heights and fish landing gaps to meet accessibility standards. Fishing is also popular along the Grand River shoreline. A paved area along the route to the kayak launch provides access.
- **TRAILHEAD:** A kiosk with park trail information is located adjacent to the parking area and is fully accessible.
- **DRINKING FOUNTAINS:** There is a accessible drinking fountain on the south side of the picnic building.

GROSE PARK

Accessibility Rating: 3

A large park improvement project was completed in 2001 which addressed significant barriers that had previously existed to disabled persons in the park.

- **PARKING:** Parking improvements included a new barrier-free walk that makes it possible for people with disabilities to use the lower lot. Because of this, five barrier-free parking spaces are provided in this area. Three of these spaces are van-accessible. A second lot is also barrier-free with 30 spaces, two of which are barrier-free.
- **WALKWAYS AND TRAILS:** A complete barrier-free pedestrian circulation pathway connects to the majority of the park facilities. This includes access from parking locations to the restrooms, playground, picnic shelters, to the lower beach and sunbathing area and to a fully accessible fishing platform. There is approximately one mile of unmarked pathway that winds through woodlands within Grose Park. The trail surfaces are dirt, and no improvements exist for trail users in terms of surface preparation. There is access to natural areas (including a stream overlook deck) via hard surface paths.
- **OVERLOOKS:** There are decks overlooking a stream and Crockery Lake. Both are accessible via paved paths.
- **PICNIC TABLES:** There are three accessible picnic areas adjacent to hard surface paths in the park, one of which has a grill. Barrier-free pathways enable disabled users greater access to the miscellaneous picnic areas throughout the park.
- **PICNIC SHELTERS:** There are two picnic shelters located in the park with barrier-free accessible routes. Of the eight picnic tables located in the Lake Shelter, four accessible seating locations and a barrier-free grill are provided. Under the Forest Shelter, there are 15 permanent picnic tables with four accessible seats and one large accessible grill.
- **RESTROOMS:** A modern accessible restroom building replaced an old inaccessible restroom building in the 2001 project. The restroom is located on a hard-surfaced pathway.
- **PLAY EQUIPMENT:** There are two barrier-free play areas in the park, which include separated play areas for ages two to five and six to twelve. Both of these play areas are accessible from hard-surfaced walkways and have accessible surfacing. These areas will be updated to the latest standards when they are renovated in the future.
- **SWIMMING AREA/SUNBATHING:** The swimming beach is a major destination within the park and is accessed from a hard-surfaced path that leads to a concrete patio bordering the beach. The sand beach has ramp access from the concrete patio.
- **FISHING DOCK:** A fully accessible fishing dock with lowered railings is provided at the end of an accessible route.
- **SEATING:** Benches and other seating areas are located throughout the park along accessible routes.
- **GAME AND SPORTS AREAS:** Two horseshoe pits and one ball field are available within the park. Both types of facilities are located in grass areas and are not accessible by hard-surfaced pathways. However, both are located in relatively flat areas, presenting few other access problems. There are two sand volleyball courts located near the Forest Shelter. Neither the ball field or volleyball courts are accessible due to their surfacing material. Accessible walkways should be provided to each of these areas.
- **TRAILHEAD:** A kiosk with park trail information is located along a paved pedestrian path which is accessible.
- **INTERPRETIVE SIGNS:** Signs providing information about the natural features of the site are located at the accessible trailhead kiosk.
- **DRINKING FOUNTAINS:** There is a wall-mounted barrier-free drinking fountain located near the entrance of the restroom building.

HAGER PARK

Accessibility Rating: 3

Hager Park is a heavily used facility which received many improvements in 2004 to address accessibility issues.

- **PARKING:** Numerous parking lots exist throughout the park, with a total of 198 parking spaces. ADA requirements are met with six accessible parking spaces, and all are signed and marked to conform to the ADA standards. In 2004, additional parking was provided at the Visitor Center in anticipation of an increase in reservations. Nineteen spaces were added, with one of them barrier-free. Also added were five new spaces (one barrier-free) in conjunction with a

new restroom building near the Age of Discovery play area.

- **RESTROOMS:** Hager Park has four restroom facilities, two in the DeVries/Vanderlaan building, one at the Picnic Building, and a new restroom building built in 2004 near the Age of Discovery play area. This has become the park's primary restroom and meets all ADA requirements.

The restrooms located within the Vanderlaan Room at the Visitor Center lack the size required to permit wheelchair access. Users of this facility have the option to use these restrooms or the accessible restrooms in the building's lobby. Modifications should be made to these interior restrooms.

A barrier-free unisex toilet was added to the picnic building that is accessible from hard-surfaced walkways to all users of the picnic building and surrounding areas.

- **WALKWAYS AND TRAILS:** Accessible paved walkways abut all accessible parking spaces and provide access routes to major facilities in the park, including buildings, the Age of Discovery playground, and picnic shelter. In addition, an 8-foot wide bituminous path creates an accessible spine from the northeast neighborhood through the Age of Discovery play area, past the picnic building, continuing to the southeast neighborhood, it includes portions through the picnic areas and natural woodlands of the park. Additional accessible routes include a chips-and-fines pathway loop leading through the restored grasslands of the northern half of the park. Other less than fully accessible trails include mowed trails through the grasslands and natural surface paths through forested areas. Three of the four bridges in the southern half of the park have been replaced to be barrier-free. One other bridge crossing the creek in this area is not accessible and should eventually be replaced.
- **DRINKING FOUNTAINS:** There are eight drinking fountains in Hager Park. One fountain is a wall-mounted unit located within the DeVries/Vanderlaan building lobby. This fountain is accessible to people in wheelchair using the side approach. The height of the fountain controls are 34" instead of the required 32" maximum. The second drinking fountain is located adjacent to the Age of Discovery Playground. This fountain is a cantilevered freestanding fountain designed to meet ADA guidelines; however, the surface surrounding the fountain exceeds slope requirements and therefore offers barriers to accessibility. In addition, due to the slope in front of the fountain, the height of the fountain is less than the 27" required from the ground to the underside of the fountain to provide knee space for wheelchair users. Because modifications were considered infeasible, a new cantilevered drinking fountain was installed immediately nearby to meet accessibility guidelines. This fountain is located on a flat surface adjacent to the walkway running along the parking lot. A wall-mounted fountain meeting ADA requirements was included on the restroom building built in 2004. Two drinking fountains are located on the south side of the park in grass areas which are not accessible by a hard-surface pathway. Both are pedestal style fountains which are accessible using the side approach by wheelchair users. However, both fountains are 1-1/2" higher than ADA guidelines. The sixth fountain is located within the picnic building and is a wall-mounted fountain. This fountain is at the correct height for wheelchair users employing the side approach. An additional fountain installed on the patio of the picnic building is the cantilevered type and is located on concrete surface, it is fully accessible.
- **PICNICTABLES:** Picnicking is a primary activity at Hager Park and extensive picnic facilities exist. Forty-four permanent picnic tables are located in various areas of the park. These tables are of an accessible design; however, only two tables are located on a hard surface and designed with adequate legroom for wheelchair users. These tables are located along the walkway adjacent to the Age of Discovery playground. Additional concrete was added to enlarge the existing concrete pads to meet accessibility guidelines for turning space. Improvements to provide access to tables in various other locations needs to be provided.
- **PICNIC SHELTERS:** One picnic shelter, the Maples Shelter, is located on the north side of the park. A hard-surfaced pathway connects the nearby accessible parking with the shelter. Of the nine picnic tables in the shelter, four accessible seating locations are provided. One large group grill is accessible at the shelter on a hard surface but needs to be reoriented to allowed better access to wheelchair users.

A second older open shelter is located east of the park drive in the south picnic area. It is available on a first come, first served basis. The shelter and an associated drinking fountain are not accessible. An accessible route should be provided to the shelter and drinking fountain.

The gazebo at the Age of Discovery play area was replaced in 2004, including a shelter with two picnic tables, each

with one wheelchair spot. Although this shelter was intended to be fully accessible, clear space around the tables and benches in this area is not provided and needs to be added.

- **PICNIC BUILDINGS:** The Picnic Building, located in the south area of the park, is accessible. It has 16 picnic tables, with eight accessible seating locations located on adjacent patio space. The accessible seating spaces do not have adequate paving to allow circulation by wheelchair users or use of the nearby grill. Additional paving should be added to meet standards.

The Vanderlaan and DeVries Rooms, located in the old visitor center building near the main entrance to the park are also used by large groups for picnics and other types of outings. Banquet-style tables are available, which are accessible. Both also feature outdoor patio spaces. The Vanderlaan patio is accessible, however the circular outdoor tables provided do not have accessible seating locations. Tables should be added to create the required accessible seating locations. In the kitchen of the Vanderlaan room, clear spaces are less than required. Modifications to cabinetry and other elements should be completed to meet standards. The DeVries patio features movable tables and chairs making it fully accessible.

- **PLAYGROUNDS:** Two play areas exist at Hager Park. The oldest is a small play area located on the south side of the park, which features a limited variety of equipment located in a grass area with the ground cover being primarily wood chips. This play area offers few opportunities for participation by disabled users and is not accessible via a hard-surfaced pathway from the parking area. This play area has been renovated with new play equipment including areas of accessible surfacing beneath them.

The Age of Discovery playground, constructed in 1992, is a large play area designed specifically to provide opportunities for persons of all abilities. Approximately 75% of the play structure surface is either boardwalk or a special engineered wood fiber (e.g., "Fibar"), which is accessible by wheelchair users. The major limitation noted to the Age of Discovery Playground was the inaccessibility of the sand area, which covers approximately 25% of the play area surface. Swings located here are not available elsewhere within the play area which limits opportunities to disabled users. Steps were identified in several areas within the playground which exceed the ADA riser height parameters of 4 to 7 inches.

The large terrain map of the United States, located to the north of the playground complex and considered a part of it, lacks accessible features due to its grass surface and crushed limestone border. A crushed stone path should be added from the crushed stone surface surrounding the map to the adjacent paved path.

- **GAME AND SPORTS AREAS:** There are two sets of horseshoe pits located south of the picnic building. Neither is adjacent to an accessible route. New paths should be added to provide access from nearby paved paths.
- **SEATING:** Accessible benches are located in several areas of the park.
- **TRAILHEAD KIOSKS:** Three information kiosks are located near parking areas at trail access points to provide information about the trail system. The central one is fully accessible. The other two require improved surfacing to meet ADA standards.
- **FIRE PIT:** There is a designated area for fires located across the park drive and east of the picnic building. It currently has a dirt surface. An accessible route should be provided from the parking area and accessible surfacing should be installed around the fire pit and associated wood bench seating.

HEMLOCK CROSSING PARK

Accessibility Rating: 3

This park in Port Sheldon Township was completed in 2004 and was designed to meet the then-current accessibility standards.

- **PARKING:** The parking lot at the restroom building has 75 parking spaces, of which four are barrier-free and van accessible. There is a second small parking lot near the kayak launch in the park with ten parking spaces, two of which are barrier-free and van accessible. In 2010 an additional area of parking was added in association with the Nature Education Center. It has the required accessible parking spaces.
- **RESTROOMS:** The restroom building is located at the west end of the parking lot and is constructed with one barrier-free stall in each of the men and women's restrooms. All other facilities meet ADA requirements. There is also an

accessible pit toilet at the east end of the parking lot.

- **WALKWAYS AND TRAILS:** Paved surface paths connect the parking areas to all the main park features, including the Nature Education Center, restrooms, and picnic shelters. Additional bituminous pathway provides separate loops through the restored grassland and through mature forest, as well as connecting to the bike trail along West Olive Road, the kayak launch area, several overlooks, and the large bridge over the Pigeon River. Beyond the bridge, the trail reverts to an earthen surface with some wood-chip section, and is not considered accessible. The balance of the paths in the park are natural earth hiking and cross-county ski trails, dotted with boardwalks and overlook decks, which are not fully accessible.
- **PICNIC AREAS/STRUCTURES:** There are two small picnic shelters accessed by a concrete path. Each shelter has two barrier-free picnic tables and one grill, with appropriate accessibility space around it.
- **NATURE CENTER:** An 8000-square-foot building was constructed in 2009 to house nature interpretation, promote the park system, and is open for public rental for special events. The building including restrooms and other indoor facilities, and it is fully accessible.
- **SEATING:** Accessible benches are located in several areas of the park, although not all benches have surfacing to allow companion seating. Appropriate surfacing should be added to benches as required.
- **KAYAK LAUNCH:** Access to the Pigeon River for kayaks and canoes is provided via an accessible crushed stone path from nearby parking and paved path. A wood platform at the edge of the river is also accessible.
- **TRAILHEAD:** A kiosk is located along an accessible path. Signage should be updated describing trail widths, surface types, slopes, and other accessibility details.
A second kiosk in front of the Nature Center provides changing information about current activities and is in a paved plaza area that is fully accessible.
- **OUTDOOR CLASSROOMS:** Two outdoor classrooms with permanent wood bench seating have been constructed to facilitate nature programming. Neither has accessible surfacing connecting to adjacent paved paths. Crushed stone paths should be provided to connect from the accessible route to the seating areas.
- **DRINKING FOUNTAIN:** There is a double drinking fountain attached at ADA-specified heights on the front of the restroom building.

HISTORIC OTTAWA BEACH PARKS

Accessibility Rating: 4

Several improvements have been completed in recent years at different locations within the Ottawa Beach Area. All improvements recognized accessible standards and were designed accordingly.

- **PARKING:** Small paved parking areas are provided at the east and west ends of the Lake Macatawa waterfront walkway and at the marina and kayak launch. Each has the required accessible spaces.
- **WALKWAYS AND TRAILS:** Concrete walkways connect the parking areas to major attractions of the park: the waterfront walkway, overlooks, and interpretive features including the renovated Pumphouse building and marina public restroom. Accessible routes include all of the waterfront walkways and decks, the separated paved path along Ottawa Beach Road, and connecting walkway to the base of the Mt. Pisgah dune climb stairs. As with other dune properties with steep terrain, strict conformance to the standards was not feasible at the Mt. Pisgah dune climb; however, maximum accessibility has been provided. The massive stairway leading to the dune top was constructed following barrier-free design with low risers and wide treads. Accessible paths are provided where possible, and extensive signage directs patrons to alternative routes to access the overlooks and interpretive displays at the top of the dune. Signage in an accessible location displays pictures and interprets inaccessible portions of the site, including dune-top views.
- **OVERLOOKS:** The waterfront walkway provides special areas for viewing the lake at six locations along its length. All are fully accessible. As discussed above, overlooks on the dune climb have limited accessibility due to the natural terrain.
- **PICNIC TABLES:** Four picnic tables are provided along the waterfront walkway, one of which is covered by a small shelter. Each is on a paved accessible route, and two are of a universal design.
- **RESTROOMS:** Modern restrooms are provided at the Pumphouse and at the marina. Both are fully accessible including

family/unisex facilities

- **SWIMMING BEACH:** The park provides 750 feet of Lake Michigan Beach directly adjacent to Holland State Park. A seasonal hard surface walkway leads to this beach which supplements the full accessibility to the entire beach area provided by Holland State Park.
- **FISHING DOCKS:** The waterfront walkway provides special areas for fishing at several locations along its length. All are fully accessible and have lowered railings or no railings at all.
- **SEATING:** Many benches are provided at multiple locations. Benches along the waterfront walkway are accessible with companion spaces. Benches on the dune climb are limited as discussed previously.
- **TRAILHEAD:** A kiosk is located near the parking area. It is along a paved path and provides information about trail accessibility.
- **INTERPRETIVE SIGNS:** The trailhead at Mt. Pisgah is fully accessible and provides information describing access to various portions of the site.
- **MARINA:** The three marina docks are all connected to accessible walkways and have the required number of barrier free slips
- **KAYAK LAUNCH:** The kayak launch is universally accessible including exceptional features to maintain required slopes at extreme high and low water levels.

KIRK PARK

Accessibility Rating: 3

The assessment of Kirk Park has identified areas where accessibility improvements are needed. A basic limitation of this park relates to exceptionally steep terrain, which limits accessibility to undeveloped areas.

- **PARKING:** Total capacity is 312 cars, which requires eight accessible spaces, including one that is van accessible. Eight accessible spaces currently exist, but several are located on a slight slope, which is not fully acceptable under ADA guidelines. Two van accessible spaces are presently provided.
- **PATHWAYS AND ROUTES OF TRAVEL:** Hard surface pathways in the core of the park provide good accessibility to many of the key use areas. For example, two paved paths to the beach are provided, but one has a flight of stairs which is not evident at the beginning of the trail. Over two miles of woodchip paths, boardwalks, and stairways wind through the rugged dunes in Kirk Park. Although accessibility limitations will always exist in many areas, the trail loop north of the main parking lot could be upgraded with improved surfacing to provide a moderately accessible route for mobility-impaired persons. A barrier-free asphalt walk connects the picnic shelter with the restrooms and separates vehicular and pedestrian traffic.
- **OVERLOOKS:** A viewing deck complete with interpretive displays is fully accessible on the Lake Michigan shoreline overlooking the beach. Other view areas are located along the trails in the steep dunes and are not accessible.
- **PICNIC TABLES:** There are approximately 25 permanent picnic tables located primarily around the main parking area. Of the picnic areas located throughout the park, one is fully accessible with an accessible table and grill adjacent to barrier-free parking. Other accessible tables/grills are located on grass or other non-accessible surfaces but meet other ADA requirements. Accessible routes should be added to the required number of tables.
- **PICNIC SHELTER:** One picnic shelter exists which is accessible from the parking lot via an asphalt pathway. At the ten picnic tables in the shelter, four accessible seating locations are provided. One large accessible group grill is provided at the shelter.
- **RENTAL BUILDING:** The Kirk Park Lodge is used as an overnight camp facility for organized groups from fall through spring. Twenty-four bunks are installed on a seasonal basis for this purpose. Recent improvements have made the restrooms and kitchen up to standards. The Lodge is also used as a picnic building in the summer months. Of the eight picnic tables, two are accessible with two accessible seating locations provided. The slope of the route of travel from the main parking area to the Kirk Lodge exceeds the ADA requirements, however provisions for vehicle access to those requiring it including paved parking and access walks to the lodge entrances has recently been constructed.
- **RESTROOMS:** Although the main park restrooms are generally accessible, a number of modifications are necessary.

The width of the handicapped stall in both restrooms is too narrow to meet current ADA requirements, but it meets previous standards. The changing stalls are too narrow for wheelchair access and lack handrails. Improvements should be made when the restroom building is renovated.

- **CONCESSIONS:** Vending machines are located on the outside of the restroom building, accessible from the paved plaza area.
- **PLAY EQUIPMENT:** The play area west of the picnic shelter has an engineered wood chip surface which is considered to be accessible. It is near an accessible path and shelter; however, an accessible route into the play area is needed. The play equipment offers limited opportunities for participation by disabled children and will be replaced with a more accessible structure and equipment as part of a larger park improvement project
- **SWIMMING AREA/SUNBATHING:** Although accessible walkways lead to a waterfront viewing deck, a steep incline requiring stairs down the foredune prevents barrier-free access to the beach and water's edge. The stairs, combined with the loose sand beach, make access very difficult or impossible for mobility-impaired users. The amount of elevation change makes construction of a ramp impractical. The 1999 Guidelines recognize that often the natural environment will prevent full compliance with certain technical provisions in the Guidelines and allows for departures from the provisions if certain conditions exist. Visitors with disabilities seeking a beach experience should be directed with signage to North Beach Park, where accessible beach access is provided.
- **SEATING:** Benches and other accessible seating are provided along accessible routes.
- **GAME & SPORTS AREAS:** Horseshoe pits are located near a hard-surface pathway.

A moderate slope to the pits makes access possible, although the lack of a hard surface immediately surrounding the pits limits accessibility. When beach widths permit, a volleyball court is erected in the sand beach which is not accessible to mobility-impaired users. The horseshoe pits are to be removed as part of general park upgrades.

- **TRAILHEAD:** A central point for trail information is located at the restroom building. Additional signage to address accessibility issues should be provided.
- **INTERPRETIVE SIGNS:** Displays describing the dunes and their formation are located on the accessible lake overlook.
- **DRINKING FOUNTAINS/FOOTWASHES:** The park contains two drinking fountains. One cantilevered-type fountain is located in the picnic area near, but not directly adjacent to, an accessible path. An accessible pad still needs to be installed as part of a larger future project. A barrier-free cantilevered drinking fountain and foot wash were installed alongside the walk leading to the beach from the restrooms.

NORTH BEACH PARK

Accessibility Rating: 4

- **PARKING:** Total capacity is 187 cars, which requires six spaces to be accessible and one to be van-accessible. Eight accessible spaces currently exist, two of which are van-accessible. A two space accessible parking area is also located off North Shore Estates Drive to give access to a boardwalk and deck that provide views of the large dune east of the park.
- **WALKWAYS AND TRAILS:** The primary attraction at this park, the beach, contains a hard-surface walkway, installed on a seasonal basis, providing access to the lower beach area near the water's edge. The trail and walkway to the dune overlook cover steep terrain, and a 10-foot-wide concrete walk along the west side of the parking lot separates vehicles and beach users. The walkway serves as the core pedestrian circulation route connecting primary use areas including the restroom, play area, shelter, and picnic tables. A steep walkway/trail up the large dune to the east of the parking lot lacks accessibility due to the steepness of the terrain and the necessity for stairs.
- **OVERLOOKS:** Dune top overlooks are not accessible due to the steep terrain. There is a lower dune viewing area with an interpretive display that is fully accessible. Lake viewing is accessible from the picnic shelter and from the two decks alongside the accessible ramp/ walkway.
- **PICNIC TABLES:** Two accessible picnic sites are located directly west of the parking area. These picnic sites include a pedestal table, grill and trash receptacle and are accessible from the barrier-free walk along the west side of the parking lot.
- **PICNIC SHELTER:** One picnic shelter exists which can be accessed from the main park walkway. Of the 18 picnic tables in the shelter, four accessible seating locations are available which meet current ADA standards. Two large group

grills and serving tables for the shelter are located on an accessible surface with the proper height and circulation for wheelchair users.

- **RESTROOMS:** Although generally accessible, a number of problems requiring modification were noted:
 - Signs are lacking to indicate handicap accessibility.
 - Entrance doors exceed resistance limits to open. Accessible stalls are not marked with signs.
 - The width of the handicapped stall in both restrooms is too narrow to meet ADA but meets previous standards.

Improvements will be included in future restroom renovations.

- **CONCESSIONS:** Vending machines are located on the outside of the restroom building accessible from the paved plaza area.
- **PLAY EQUIPMENT:** The park has a barrier-free play area that features a rubberized tile surface which is accessible from the barrier-free walk along the west side of the parking lot. Because of sand, the swings are not accessible.
- **SWIMMING/SUNBATHING AREAS:** The seasonal barrier-free ramp/walkway described previously makes it possible for people with disabilities to access the beach area. The ramp has two deck areas along the ramp/walkway which make it possible to stop out of the main route of travel and to turn around. The ramps and decks are removed during the winter season because of the severe wind erosion.
- **SEATING:** Benches and other accessible seating areas are provided along accessible routes.
- **GAME & SPORTS AREAS:** One volleyball court is provided in a sand area within close proximity of the park walkway.
- **INTERPRETIVE SIGNS:** Displays describing the dunes and their formation are located on the accessible dune overlook.
- **DRINKING FOUNTAINS/FOOTWASHES:** The park has two barrier-free drinking fountains and footwashes which are located on accessible surfaces. One of the fountains is located near the entrance of the restroom, and the other is located near the picnic shelter. The footwashes are located near the drinking fountains.

NORTH OTTAWA DUNES

Accessibility Rating: 3

- **PARKING:** A parking area serving the North Ottawa Dunes property was developed in the adjacent Coast Guard Park, which is owned by the City of Ferrysburg. The bituminous paved lot contains 19 spaces. Two spaces meeting barrier-free requirements, including signage, are provided.
- **PATHWAYS AND ROUTES OF TRAVEL:** The parking area is surrounded by barrier-free walkways connecting to picnic tables, the donor recognition plaza, trailhead sign, and nearby restroom.

In cooperation with the City of Ferrysburg, a paved path along North Shore Drive was completed in 2015. This trail, which utilizes some park property, is accessible and provides an important link from the NOD trailhead to North Beach Park.

The extensive trail system through the natural areas of the park is completely natural surface, except for wooden stairs to traverse steep areas of terrain. There are also numerous very sandy areas of trail that make access difficult. Future phases, including a section of paved trail, will provide access to representative areas of the park.

- **PICNIC TABLES:** The trailhead area includes two picnic table pads which are along an accessible route and are barrier-free.
- **SEATING:** Benches are provided along accessible routes. Companion spaces need to be provided.
- **TRAILHEAD:** A kiosk is located at the main parking area. Additional signage to address accessibility issues should be provided.

OLIVE SHORES

Accessibility Rating: 4

This park was developed in 2011 to meet all current standards. As with the Rosy Mound site that was developed several years earlier, the unique characteristics of the barrier dunes between the parking area and Lake Michigan make it impracticable to make all of the trails fully accessible. The constructed elements east of the barrier dunes, however, comply with current accessibility standards. Trails through the barrier dunes to the beach are not fully accessible due to the existence of stairs, but they do comply with the 1999 Guidelines. Stairs are constructed using ADA design standards, and all trail sections between stairs are fully accessible.

- **PARKING:** The parking lot at the restroom building and trailhead has a capacity of 49 vehicles. Two of the spaces are barrier-free.
- **RESTROOMS:** The restroom building is located on the west side of the parking lot and is constructed with one barrier-free stall in each of the men and women's restrooms. All other facilities meet ADA requirements. There is also an accessible pit toilet on the west side of the restroom building for off-season use.
- **TRAILHEAD:** A kiosk is located near the parking area. It is along a paved path and provides information about trail accessibility.
- **WALKWAYS AND TRAILS:** Concrete walkways surround most of the parking lot and connect to the restroom and picnic areas, and they provide an accessible route from a pedestrian entrance at the roadway. A chips-and-fines trail loop, designed to meet ADA standards, traverses the eastern half of the site and brings visitors to the base of the large sand dunes that separate the developed area of the site from Lake Michigan. From this point, massive stairs and boardwalks traverse the steep slopes but limit access. The stairs themselves meet ADA requirements for stairs and handrails.
- **DRINKING FOUNTAIN:** There is a drinking fountain on the west side of the restroom building that is fully compliant with the ADA. There is also a water bottle filler mounted on a paved surface.
- **PICNIC AREAS:** There are three separate picnic nodes adjacent to the parking lot connected by concrete walkways. All meet the circulation and height requirements of the ADA, and all of the tables are approachable by wheelchairs from multiple directions.
- **SEATING:** There is a bench along the crushed stone path which is accessible with a companion seat location.
- **INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE:** An interpretive sign is located along the chips and fines path and is at the proper height. Additional signs are located near the beach and are not accessible.

OTTAWA SANDS

Accessibility Rating: 1

- This park is undeveloped except for a basic natural surface trail system. Master planning and an initial phase of development will greatly expand accessibility in the future. A designated gravel parking area has been added that includes a designated accessible space and trailhead kiosk. The existing kiosk information should be supplemented with information about accessibility.

PAW PAW PARK WEST

Accessibility Rating: 4

- **PARKING:** The existing bituminous paved lot contains 17 spaces and provides one space meeting accessibility requirements. Vehicle access is also provided to the riverfront area of the park.
- **PATHWAYS AND ROUTES OF TRAVEL:** The parking area is surrounded by concrete walkways connecting to the picnic shelter, play area, and a paved trail leads from the riverfront area across Paw Paw Drive to Paw Paw Park East. The remainder of the trails in the park are mowed grass or crushed stone and are generally not accessible.
- **OVERLOOKS:** There is a small deck overlook the Macatawa River. It is accessible via a paved path.
- **PICNIC SHELTER:** There is a small non-reservable shelter connected by concrete walk to the parking area. It has four permanent accessible tables and an accessible grill.
- **SEATING:** There are two backless benches along the natural surface trails which are not accessible.
- **PLAY EQUIPMENT:** The park has a barrier-free play area that features a rubberized surface under the entire structure and a concrete walkway with accessible benches around the outside.

PAW PAW PARK EAST

Accessibility Rating: 4

- **PARKING:** The existing bituminous paved lot contains 27 spaces and provides two spaces meeting accessibility requirements.

- **PATHWAYS AND ROUTES OF TRAVEL:** The parking area is connected to paved walkways that provide access to the restrooms, picnic tables, and overlook. Additional paved paths provide access to the interior of the site and a connection to Paw Paw Park West. The remainder of the trails in the park are mowed grass.
- **PICNIC TABLES:** Four permanent picnic tables are located near the parking area. Two are connected to accessible routes and are of an accessible design.
- **OVERLOOKS:** A small plaza area located on a high point of the site provides views of the restored river valley.
- **RESTROOMS:** There are two accessible pit toilets along an accessible route south of the parking area.
- **SEATING:** There are six benches. Five are located along accessible routes; three of these are accessible with companion seating locations. The sixth bench is located along a mowed trail.
- **TRAILHEAD:** A kiosk is located near the parking area and along a concrete path.
- **INTERPRETIVE SIGNS:** A set of three signs at the overlook plaza are fully accessible, and the plaza is along an accessible route. A fourth sign, located at the site of an historic building (no longer standing), is along a grass trail and is not accessible.
- **DISC GOLF COURSE:** Paw Paw Park East is home to Ottawa County Parks' only disc golf course. Although the course is primarily mowed turf, bridges and boardwalks between holes would allow use of a golf cart for people who required it.

PIGEON CREEK PARK

Accessibility Rating: 3

Existing facilities at the park include the Pigeon Creek Lodge, a group camp area, and over 10 miles of trails used for hiking, skiing, biking, and horseback riding. The majority of the park facilities are accessible to people with disabilities.

- **PARKING:** The parking lot surface is gravel with parking capacity for an estimated 120 cars. Five accessible spaces are currently provided. Two of these spaces are designated for van-accessibility.
- **RESTROOMS:** There are two accessible pit toilets in the park. One is near the main parking lot and another is in the group camp area. Accessible restrooms are also available in the Pigeon Creek Lodge.
- **PATHWAYS AND ROUTES OF TRAVEL:** Hard-surfaced (chips-and-fines) pathways connect main use areas to the parking lots. Main use areas include the lodge building, picnic sites, trailhead, and sledding hills. Over 10 miles of trails for hiking, cross-country skiing, biking and equestrian use are located at the park. Because of surfacing and terrain, the majority of the trail system is not fully accessible in terms of meeting all slope and surfacing requirements. However, approximately one mile of trail (constructed with stone chips and fines) is generally within barrier-free standards.
- **OVERLOOKS:** Two designated locations are provided with views over the Pigeon Creek. They are located on the natural surface trail system and are not fully accessible.
- **PICNIC AREAS/STRUCTURES:** Although picnicking is not one of the main uses at the park, accessible facilities do exist for this use. The lodge building is available to reserve for various outings and contains seating for approximately 80 people. The lodge is fully accessible to people with disabilities. Adjacent to the lodge building is a concrete patio which contains four accessible picnic tables. East of the parking lot, there are three picnic areas which are fully accessible. The lodge and picnic areas are accessible from the parking lot with chips-and-fines pathways.
- **SEATING:** Benches are provided at various locations along accessible routes.
- **TRAILHEAD:** A kiosk is located at the main parking area and near the lodge along a crushed stone path. Additional signage to address accessibility issues should be provided.
- **GROUP CAMPING:** Pigeon Creek Park has a reservable group camping facility which is accessible to people with disabilities. The group camping area contains barrier-free pit toilets, a hand water pump, a fire circle, picnic areas, and tent pads with transfer stations. There is a gravel parking lot with approximately 25 parking spaces, but none of the spaces is currently signed as barrier-free. ADA guidelines require one space to be signed.
- **DRINKING FOUNTAINS:** The only outside water source within the park is a hand pump located on an accessible path, which is located near the group camp area.

PINE BEND PARK

Accessibility Rating: 3

Pine Bend Park is located at the far west end of the same property as Hemlock Crossing Park; this is the location of the historic Weaver House.

- **PARKING:** The parking lot is paved with a total capacity of 64 cars. There is a 6-foot-wide concrete walk at the edge of the lot with two barrier-free ramps. The parking area has the required parking spaces for access to the house and trails.
- **WALKWAYS AND TRAILS:** Concrete walks connect the parking to the restroom, historic Weaver House, and the new wedding trellis. The site also serves as an access point to a large system of natural surface trails.
- **PICNIC TABLES:** Five tables are located near the parking area along with two grills. These tables are of a pedestal design that is accessible, but they are in grass areas not connected to accessible routes. Accessible routes need to be added to two of these tables.
- **RESTROOMS:** There is a barrier-free pit toilet near the parking lot, accessed from the concrete walk.
- **WEAVER HOUSE:** The Weaver House is a renovated historic early twentieth century building available for group rentals. It has accessible walks and ramps that provide access to the house and attached porch and deck. The upstairs of the house is accessible via stairs, but other barrier free access is not considered feasible.
- **WEDDING TRELIS:** A trellis that can be used for weddings or other activities was constructed in 2012. It is on an accessible route.
- **SEATING:** An accessible bench is provided at the interpretive plaza. Other benches along the unpaved trails are not accessible.
- **TRAILHEAD:** A kiosk is located near the parking area and along a concrete path. Additional signage to address accessibility issues should be provided.
- **INTERPRETIVE PLAZA:** A paved area with signage interpreting the history of the house and site is fully accessible.

RILEY TRAILS

Accessibility Rating: 2

- **PARKING:** Thirty-nine spaces are provided in a paved parking area with the required designated spaces. In addition a less formal parking area along the edge of 160th Ave. provided approximately seven spaces which are not accessible.
- **PATHWAYS AND ROUTES OF TRAVEL:** An accessible crushed stone path connects parking to the restrooms and to an accessible bridge over a portion of the nearby pond. The remaining trails on the site are natural surface.
- **OVERLOOKS:** The bridge offers excellent views of the lake and is accessible.
- **RESTROOMS:** Two pit toilets are provided that meet barrier-free requirements and are on a crushed-stone accessible path.
- **FISHING:** Fishing is a popular activity on the shoreline of the small lake on the north side of the park. Better accessibility should be considered in the long term.
- **SEATING:** An accessible bench is provided along the crushed-stone path.
- **TRAILHEAD:** A kiosk is located near the parking area. Additional signage to address accessibility issues should be provided.

RIVERSIDE PARK

Accessibility Rating: 3

Additions and renovations in 2008 addressed most barrier-free deficiencies.

- **PARKING:** There are three parking areas within the park: one near the entrance serving the western end of the park, a second serves the boat launch facility, and the last is on the far east side of the park serving the picnic shelter and riverfront. The west parking area has 12 paved spaces with an accessible space. The boat launch parking area has 43 car/ trailer parking spaces and 16 car-only parking spaces. Three accessible parking spaces in this parking lot include two van-accessible spaces and one accessible car/trailer space. The eastern lot is constructed with 47 spaces, including two barrier-free spaces.

- **WALKWAYS AND TRAILS:** The boat launch area is connected to two of the parking lots and restrooms with asphalt pathways. Although not all of the paths meet slope requirements, fully accessible paths connect the parking areas to the boat launch, picnic tables, restrooms and other park areas. Another hard-surface pathway leads from barrier-free parking on the east end of the paved lot to the accessible fishing docks. An accessible path also connects the east parking area to the adjacent picnic shelter. Other park trails are natural surface and are not accessible.
- **PICNIC TABLES:** Several pedestal-based tables meeting accessibility standards are provided near the launch ramp, picnic shelter, and new western parking area, but only one is connected to hard-surface trails. Additional accessible routes and surfacing should be added to meet requirements.
- **PICNIC SHELTER:** One picnic shelter is provided which is completely accessible, including a grill and serving table. At the eight picnic tables located under the shelter, four accessible seats are provided. Two of the four picnic tables provided at the new western parking area are accessible. Several pedestal-based tables meeting accessibility standards are provided in other areas of the park, but they are not connected to hard-surface trails.
- **RESTROOMS:** Two pit toilets are provided adjacent to the boat launch parking lot. The restrooms are fully accessible. An accessible portable restroom is available seasonally at the east parking area.
- **BOAT LAUNCH FACILITY:** The boat launch is a large, hard-surface area with concrete ramps sloping down to and below the surface of the water. Two skid pier docks are provided to assist boaters. Both docks meet accessibility standards in width, and both have ramps providing smooth access for wheelchairs and other mobility-impaired users.
- **FISHING AREAS:** Fishing is a popular activity along the banks of the large pond within Riverside Park and from the banks of the Grand River. Although there are many areas where grass extends to the Grand River water's edge at a gradual slope, no hard-surface walkways or docks provide accessible points for disabled anglers to approach the river. Connecting walkways should be added. There is a barrier-free boardwalk and fishing platform on the edge of the large pond within the park. These improvements are accessible to people with disabilities, with a hard-surface path leading from the parking lot where accessible parking exists.
- **VIEW AREAS:** Although no expansive overlooks exist within the park, viewing the Grand River from the riverbank is a popular activity. As noted previously, no hard-surface pathways aid mobility-impaired users in gaining access to the riverfront. The park master plan contains a series of pathways linking elements throughout the park that will be barrier-free when implemented.
- **SEATING:** Benches are located in various locations along the riverfront. Accommodations should be made to add some accessible benches.
- **TRAILHEAD:** A kiosk is located near the picnic shelter parking area. An accessible route to the kiosk needs to be provided, and additional signage to address accessibility issues should also be added.

ROSY MOUND NATURAL AREA

Accessibility Rating: 4

Completed in 2004, improvements to the Rosy Mound Natural Area presented unique opportunities and challenges from an accessibility standpoint. The Rosy Mound Natural Area is a 160-acre site featuring 3,400 feet of Lake Michigan shoreline and rugged and pristine coastal barrier dunes. Much of the site is regulated by Michigan's Sand Dune Protection and Management Act which regulates development in legally designated Critical Dune Areas.

When developing plans for the park, accessibility and compliance with the ADA was determined to be essential to the project, with recognition of the challenges created by the steep slopes and rugged natural terrain. Recognizing these challenges, the Accessibility Guidelines for Recreation Facilities & Outdoor Recreation Areas (1999), (1999 Guidelines) published by the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board) were utilized, and an Inclusive Recreation Consultant was hired to advise and assist with the project.

The unique characteristics of the barrier dunes between the parking area and Lake Michigan make it impracticable to make all of the trails fully accessible. The constructed elements east of the barrier dunes, comply with the ADA. Trails through the barrier dunes to the beach are not fully accessible due to the existence of stairs, but they comply with the 1999 Guidelines. Stairs are constructed using ADA design standards, and all trail sections between stairs are fully accessible.

- **PARKING:** The parking lot at the restroom building and trailhead has a capacity of 49 vehicles. Two of the spaces are barrier-free: one located near the restrooms and one van-accessible space near the trailhead.
- **WALKWAYS AND TRAILS:** There are paved paths adjacent to the parking area providing access to the restroom, picnic areas, and trail head kiosk. West of the parking area, the trail reverts to crushed stone. The 1999 Guidelines recognize that often the natural environment will prevent full compliance with certain technical provisions of the recommendations and allow for departures from the provisions if certain conditions exist. The pathways east of the primary dune were designed to meet the 1999 Guidelines and are fully accessible. Because the surface is crushed stone, there is, however, a greater difficulty factor than a paved trail such as that at Hemlock Crossing Park. As the trail leads to the beach, there comes a point where departures from the provisions were necessary due to the very steep existing grade and impact to the natural resources. The running slope of the trail gets steep, and there are areas of wooden stairs. Whenever possible, the trail returns to meet the recommended technical provisions. A paved accessible path also provides access from Lakeshore Drive and the parallel paved non-motorized trail to the parking area facilities.
- **OVERLOOKS:** Several outstanding viewing points overlook the dune and Lake Michigan in the western dune area of the park. These are not fully accessible.
- **PICNIC TABLES:** There are three separate picnic areas surrounding the parking lot. None of the picnic nodes have shelter. All meet the circulation and height requirements of the ADA and all of the tables are approachable by wheelchairs at either end. The first picnic node has one table and no grill. The second has two tables and one grill, and the last area has three tables and one grill.
- **RESTROOMS:** The restroom building is located on the north side of the parking lot and is constructed with one barrier-free stall in each of the men and women's restrooms. All other facilities meet ADA requirements. There is also an accessible pit toilet on the west side of the restroom building for off-season use.
- **SEATING:** Benches are provided along the crushed stone path. Most of these have companion seating locations. There is also seating on concrete walls at the connection to the trail system. Adjacent paved surfacing provides accessibility and companion seating area. Benches in the western part of the park are not fully accessible.
- **TRAILHEAD:** A kiosk is located near the parking area. It is along a paved path and provides information about trail accessibility.
- **INTERPRETIVE SIGNS:** Several displays along the trail interpret the dune environment. One is located along the accessible crushed stone path, but the others are inaccessible as described above.
- **DRINKING FOUNTAINS:** There is a drinking fountain on the west side of the restroom building that is fully compliant with the ADA. A water bottle filling station was recently added that is on a paved surface.

SPRING GROVE PARK

Accessibility Rating: 3

Due to park improvements in 2000, Spring Grove Park has become much more user-friendly for those with disabilities.

- **PARKING:** The total capacity of Spring Grove Park is 90 spaces. ADA requirements are met with four accessible spaces, one of which is van-accessible.
- **WALKWAYS AND TRAILS:** A hard-surface pathway connects the parking lot to the picnic building, which is the primary destination within the park. Barrier-free bituminous paths connect the parking lot and picnic building to the wedding trellis and spring in the lower part of the park. This walk also provides access to the barrier-free play area. There are no hiking trails in this park.
- **PICNIC TABLES:** Permanent picnic tables are located at various locations within the park. Accessible routes to a number of these should be provided. As part of a previous transition plan, an outdoor picnic area with accessible surfacing was constructed in 2009.
- **PICNIC BUILDING:** As noted previously, the park contains a large picnic building that is accessible from the parking lot by a hard-surface pathway. Of the 16 picnic tables within the picnic building, four accessible seating locations are provided. Small improvements to the kitchen such as lowering of the serving window should be considered.
- **WEDDING TRELLIS:** A trellis that can be used for weddings or other activities was constructed in 2000 along with other improvements to the spring area that make the lower part of the park accessible.

- **RESTROOMS:** The park restrooms are located within the adjoining picnic building and are fully accessible.
- **PLAY EQUIPMENT:** A barrier-free play area is located along an accessible route of travel west of the picnic building and uses engineered wood fiber safety surfacing which meets barrier-free standards. The other, older play equipment located in the park offers few opportunities for disabled users and is not accessible via a hard-surface path.
- **GAME AND SPORTS AREAS:** Horseshoe pits are provided in a grass/dirt area which is not served by a hard-surface pathway. An accessible route should be provided. A very informal ball field on the far east end of the park is not accessible via a pathway, but it will be removed or improved when future park development occurs in that area as per the park master plan.
- **DRINKING FOUNTAINS:** There is one drinking fountain located on a hard surface near the picnic building that meets accessibility requirements.

STEARNS CREEK PARK

Accessibility Rating: 1

- This park is undeveloped except for a basic natural surface trail system. Master planning and an initial phase of development will greatly expand accessibility in the future. A designated gravel and grass surface parking area has been added that includes a designated accessible space and trailhead kiosk. The existing kiosk information should be supplemented with information about accessibility.

TUNNEL PARK

Accessibility Rating: 3

Tunnel Park has undergone many accessibility improvements since 1989. The assessment highlights those areas where additional improvements are required. Overall, the park is fairly accessible with the exception of the beach. As with other Lake Michigan beaches, the steep slopes associated with waterfront dune formations limit accessibility.

- **PARKING:** Total parking capacity, not including the overflow area, is 270 cars; this capacity requires seven accessible spaces with one to be van accessible. Seven accessible spaces currently exist, including two near each picnic shelter and three at the restroom/concession area. Two van-accessible spaces are presently provided.
- **WALKWAYS AND TRAILS:** Hard-surface pathways in the core of the park provide barrier-free access to most of the key use areas. Exceptions are the dune top, which is accessible only by long stairways, and the beach, where steep slopes and sand limit accessibility. A small portion of trails in the dunes at the south end of the park are unpaved, but all other trails are paved or boardwalk. All the stairs meet ADA tread and riser ratios and have appropriate railings to maximize access.
- **OVERLOOKS:** A viewing deck is fully accessible via the dune tunnel to the Lake Michigan shoreline overlooking the beach. The other prime view area, located on the dune top, is not accessible due to steep stairways.
- **PICNIC TABLES:** There are 28 permanent individual picnic tables located throughout the park. Five of these, located on the dune top, are not accessible due to the stairs needed to get to them. Of the remaining 23 tables, three are located at the restroom plaza and are fully accessible. Two others are also accessible via short walkways from accessible parking. It would be desirable to add access to additional tables in other areas of the park.
- **PICNIC SHELTERS:** Two picnic shelters in the park are both fully accessible by asphalt pathways. The northern shelter has 12 permanent tables, with eight accessible seating locations. The south shelter has movable tables. One large group grill is provided on a hard surface adjacent to each shelter with the proper height and circulation requirements for use by a person in a wheelchair.
- **RESTROOMS:** A major renovation to the restroom building in 2007 provided for full barrier-free features, including a new family restroom and changing areas.
- **CONCESSIONS:** Vending machines are located on the outside of the restroom building, accessible from the paved plaza area.
- **PLAY EQUIPMENT:** A large children's playground and adjoining dune climb are located along a hard-surface pathway. A barrier-free area with rubberized surfacing makes the play structure accessible to people with disabilities. Other play equipment in the playground is not accessible due to the sand surfacing. A steep slope and sand also make the

dune climb inaccessible to persons with disabilities.

- **SWIMMING AREA/SUNBATHING:** Although accessible walkways lead to viewing areas of the beach, as with the other dune parks, the steep incline requires stairs to access the beach/waterfront, which presents a significant barrier to disabled users.
- **SEATING:** Benches are provided in several locations. Two benches at the restroom plaza are accessible with companion seating. Seven at the play area are directly adjacent to paved surfaces allowing companion seating areas. There are three benches in grass areas that are not accessible.
- **GAME AND SPORTS AREAS:** Four volleyball courts are located in a grass area on the north side of the park, and two sets of horseshoe pits are placed south of the play area. No hard-surface pathways provide access to the courts for spectators or users. Accessible routes should be provided.
- **INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE:** A set of three interpretive signs are located at the overlook and are at an appropriate height; however, it is not feasible to provide an accessible route to this part of the park.
- **DRINKING FOUNTAINS/FOOT WASHES:** Tunnel Park contains two pedestal-type drinking fountains. One is located on the patio in front of the restroom building. The second fountain is located on a hard-surface path near the playground. Tunnel Park also has two barrier-free foot washes which are located near the restrooms along the walk that leads to the beach.

UPPER MACATAWA NATURAL AREA-84TH AVE.

Accessibility Rating: 3

- **PARKING:** The 34-space lot off from 84th Avenue was paved in 2015 and contains two accessible spaces.
- **WALKWAYS AND TRAILS:** Concrete walkways lead from the parking lot to the restroom, picnic shelter, and other amenities. From the 84th Avenue lot, a half-mile paved bicycle and pedestrian path leads to a seating and overlook area on top of a bluff overlooking the Macatawa River valley. Although the elevation change is significant, this trail was carefully designed to meet barrier-free standards for trail slopes. In addition, another two miles of paved accessible trail, including wooden bridges, was added in 2015. This trail connects to existing accessible roadside trails at each end.

The UNNA has several miles of additional trails for walking and mountain biking that are natural surface or mowed.

- **PICNIC TABLES:** Three permanent picnic tables are provided. Two of the three tables are accessible.
- **PICNIC SHELTER:** A small non-reservable shelter is located near the parking lot and is accessible via a paved path.
- **RESTROOMS:** There is an accessible pit toilet on a paved trail.
- **OVERLOOKS:** A viewing area overlooking the Macatawa River valley is accessible via the paved non-motorized trail.
- **SEATING:** Accessible benches are provided along the paved trail and at the overlook.
- **TRAILHEAD:** An information kiosk is provided along an accessible paths. Additional signage to address accessibility issues should be provided.
- **INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE:** A set of three interpretive signs are located at the overlook and are at an appropriate height.

UPPER MACATAWA NATURAL AREA-76TH AVE.

Accessibility Rating: 3

- **PARKING:** A crushed stone parking area is provided, serving the northeastern portion of the site from 76th Avenue. The lot contains 34 spaces and provides two marked barrier-free spaces with ramps to the accessible paths. The existing surface is fairly firm and stable but could be improved.
- **WALKWAYS AND TRAILS:** Paved accessible paths lead from the 76th Avenue parking area to the nearby wetland overlooks and to the bridge over Dutchman's Creek. The remaining trails accessed from this area are natural surface.
- **PICNIC TABLES:** Three permanent picnic tables are provided. One of three tables is accessible.
- **RESTROOMS:** There is an accessible pit toilet on a paved trail.
- **OVERLOOKS:** Two areas overlooking and adjacent to wetland are accessible via paved paths.

- **SEATING:** Accessible benches are provided at the two overlook locations.
- **TRAILHEAD:** An information kiosk is provided along an accessible paths. Additional signage to address accessibility issues should be provided.

PROGRAMS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

As noted previously in this document, the OCPRC offers a variety of programs and special events within the park system. In addition to physical access, program accessibility is an important part of responding to ADA and other accessibility requirements.

A basic consideration in the provision of programs is the physical location for the activity and the accessibility of that particular area or facility. Whenever possible, accessible county facilities are used for program locations. Equally important are the methods of advertising, registration procedures, and adaptive aides or techniques used to accommodate people with various disabilities. Adequate staff training is needed to become familiar with the ways of accommodating different disabilities.

The OCPRC should review its program advertising and registration procedures to ensure that they do not discriminate against persons with disabilities. Training should be provided to educate staff regarding ways to accommodate various disabilities. As the Commission's program offerings are expanded, additional staff education should be provided to ensure that new program offerings are designed to be accessible to all people.

EMPLOYEE ACCOMMODATIONS

The OCPRC also understands that accessibility is required for its employees to fulfill their job responsibilities. Many areas of the parks, although fully accessible to the general public, may not have features that make them accessible to all employees in their "behind-the-scenes" service roles. Ottawa County Parks is prepared to make reasonable modifications and accommodations for these employees as needs become evident.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS & COSTS

Table 11.2 details modifications required throughout the Ottawa County park system to meet compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. In addition, cost estimates have been added for each modification required.

Table 11.2 only covers costs associated with facility modifications, and does not identify costs associated with staff training and related costs required to meet ADA program and administrative compliance. These costs will be absorbed in the Parks Commission's annual operating budget, which includes funds for employee training and conferences.

As stated previously, final guidelines for ADA accessibility relating to outdoor recreation areas and facilities have not yet been approved and adopted. The recommendations and costs outlined in this report are intended to bring the county park system into compliance with known ADA requirements. Additional review will be required following the release of new guidelines, which may identify further modifications and additional costs.

Table 11.2 - Accessibility Project List

Park Name (Developed Parks Only)	IMPROVEMENT PROJECT	REQUIRED	DESIRED	Year	Cost/Comments
Adams Street Landing	Add accessible walk connection to paved trail		X		
	Add alternate launch site sign in future		X		
Connor Bayou					No projects
Crockery Creek Natural Area					No projects
Deer Creek Park	Add accessible parking surface	X			With future improvements
	Add information about alternate launch site	X			With future improvements
	Add accessible walk to picnic tables	X			With future improvements
	Add accessible walk to restroom		X		With future improvements
Eastmanville Bayou	Add accessible picnic table, bench, Fishing		X		With future improvements
Eastmanville Farm	Add barrier-free picnic tables	X		2025	\$1,500
	Add barrier-free trail segment		X		With future improvements
Grand Ravines - North					No projects
Grand Ravines - South					No projects
Grand River Open Space	Add accessible parking surface and signs	X		2026	\$1,000
	Add accessible surface to site elements	X		2026	\$500
Grand River Park	Add accessible surface to picnic table	X		2022	With future improvements
	Upgrade playground		X		
Grose Park	Add accessible walks to sports activities	X		2025	\$2,000
	Upgrade playground to add accessible features		X		
Hager Park	Add accessible walks to various site elements	X		2023	\$7,500
	Modify bathrooms in rental buildings	X		2021	\$10,000
	Add accessible tables to patio space	X		2024	\$2,000
Crockery Creek Natural Area	Replace trail bridges		X		
	Upgrade play area		X		
Hemlock Crossing	Add accessibility information to trailhead	X		2024	\$200
	Add accessible walks to outdoor classrooms	X		2024	\$2,000
Historic Ottawa Beach Parks					
Kirk Park	Add accessible route to picnic tables	X		2021	\$1,000
	Add accessible pad for drinking fountain	X		2023	Part of future project
	Add accessible trail segment in backdune		X		
	Upgrade playground including accessible route	X		2023	Part of future project
	Provide accessible route to lodge	X		2023	Part of future project
North Beach Park	Upgrade restroom stalls and signage		X		

Table 11.2 - Accessibility Project List (continued)

North Ottawa Dunes	Add accessible trail segment		X		
	Add companion seating locations at benches	X		2022	\$200
	Add accessibility information to trailhead	X		2022	\$200
Olive Shores					No projects
Ottawa Sands					No projects
Paw Paw Park West					No projects
Paw Paw Park East					No projects
Pigeon Creek Park	Add accessibility information to trailhead	X			With sign upgrades
Pine Bend	Add accessible route to picnic tables	X			With future improvements
	Add accessibility information to trailhead	X			With sign upgrades
Riley Trails	Add accessible fishing location		X		
	Add accessibility information to trailhead	X		2021	\$200
Riverside Park	Add accessible walkway along riverfront		X		
	Add accessible route to picnic tables	X		2023	\$1,000
	Add accessible benches	X		2023	\$1,000
	Add accessibility information to trailhead	X		2023	\$200
Rosy Mound					No projects
Spring Grove Park	Add accessible walks to horseshoes, ball field		X		With Phase II Improvements
	Add accessible route to picnic tables	X		2020	\$1,000
Stearns Creek					No projects
Tunnel Park	Add accessible route to picnic tables	X		2023	\$2,000
	Add accessible walks to volleyball, horseshoe	X		2023	\$1,500
UMNA - 84th Ave.	Add accessibility information to trailhead	X			With sign upgrades
UMNA - 76th Ave.	Add accessibility information to trailhead	X			With sign upgrades
TOTAL					\$35,000

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SECTION 6

Action Program

CHAPTER 12 | MISSION, GOALS, & OBJECTIVES

CHAPTER 13 | RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

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CHAPTER 12 | MISSION, GOALS, & OBJECTIVES

The following mission statement was prepared to provide the Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission (OCPRC) with a long-term sense of purpose and direction. It has served the OCPRC well as the foundation for all of its activities. Although it is not expected to change dramatically, we know that Ottawa County has been the fastest growing county in the state over the past decade, and it would be appropriate to consider a department wide strategic master plan in the near future to ensure the department is best able to meet the growing needs for parks and open space identified in this document as well as in other critical areas including programming, communication, operations, and administration.

THE COMMISSION'S MISSION

The OCPRC enhances quality of life for residents and visitors, by preserving parks and open spaces and providing outdoor and natural resource-based recreation and education experiences.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

To carry out its mission, the OCPRC has identified four basic goals. For each goal, a series of objectives is outlined. The goals and objectives correspond to the recreation needs identified earlier in this plan and will provide solid direction for the following chapter, which identifies the Commission's specific action plan.

GOAL 1: Preserve and manage park and open space lands which protect and enhance significant landscapes and natural communities, to benefit both people and wildlife.

Objectives:

- Provide a high level of stewardship for natural lands.
- Identify high quality natural resource features in Ottawa County and seek to preserve key parcels and interconnected natural lands through establishment of new parks and open spaces.
- Advocate for improved water-quality levels for all regional waterways and water bodies.

GOAL 2: Provide high quality outdoor and natural-resource based recreation opportunities for residents and visitors of all levels of ability.

Objectives:

- Provide a wide range of outdoor and natural resource-based recreation opportunities and facilities to meet identified needs in the long-range parks and open space plan.
- Identify areas within Ottawa County not adequately served by county park lands and facilities, and expand recreation opportunities in these areas when natural resource features suitable for county park development are available.
- Maintain high standards for maintenance and operation of all park and open space lands and facilities.
- Provide lands and facilities which are accessible to individuals of all levels of ability (comply with and exceed standards established by the Americans with Disabilities Act, with a goal to achieve universal accessibility).

GOAL 3: Promote understanding and appreciation of the natural and cultural history of Ottawa County and awareness of Commission-operated facilities, programs, and services.

Objectives:

- Provide a wide range of educational and outdoor recreation programs and special events for people of all ages, interests, and abilities.
- Provide interpretive facilities for both natural and cultural history at park lands and open spaces. Promote good stewardship of county park lands and open spaces.
- Utilize programs and special events to promote awareness and use of the park and open space system.

GOAL 4: Ensure organizational sustainability.

Objectives:

- Continue to emphasize responsible financial management and transparency in all aspects of park system administration.
- Maintain and operate the park system in a cost-effective manner which minimizes environmental impacts and demonstrates organizational commitment to conservation values.
- Emphasize a strong communications and marketing program to make the public aware of the lands, facilities, and programs offered by the Parks Commission.
- Maintain a diversified financial base for both short- and long-term development, expansion, operation, and maintenance of the park system.
 - Leverage tax dollars whenever possible by maximizing grant funds and private donations.
 - Implement user fees where appropriate and consistent with Commission policies and in a socially responsible manner.
 - Expand partnerships to help achieve identified goals.
 - Sustain the dedicated parks millage as the base funding source for maintenance and operation.

CHAPTER 13 | RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

The following chapter details recommended actions for the Ottawa County park system as a whole and for each individual park or open space site. Actions that relate to the park system as a whole or to all individual sites in general are provided first, with more detailed information following. Where applicable, specific projects are identified and referenced to a master list of potential projects listed in Appendix M.

It is recognized that many of these recommendations will need to be prioritized as opportunities and funding issues become evident over time. Specifically, realistic projections of proposed funding will narrow the scope of efforts and improvements considered to be prudent and feasible. The Capital Improvement Schedule, provided at the end of this chapter, takes the financial projections developed in Chapter 6 and prioritizes proposed capital improvements for funding within those projections over the next five years.

Additionally, it should be noted that the Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission (OCPRC) seeks to be proactive in identifying new issues and concerns and to be responsive to those needs. Therefore, efforts of the OCPRC will go beyond the recommended actions identified herein to address new issues as they arise.

GENERAL LAND ACQUISITION GOALS AND STRATEGIES

As presented in Chapter 9, the OCPRC considers a number of factors in determining the need to acquire additional land for the park system. One of those factors is a guideline of 20 acres per 1,000 population, which the OCPRC adopted to provide an indicator of park and open space needs relative to the size of the Ottawa County's population. This guideline suggests the size of the park system (7,205 acres) is adequate to meet current needs (population 291,830) as well as the needs through the year 2030 (projected population 338,233). It should be noted that this metric is just a guideline, and many communities vary widely from it. Other factors the OCPRC considers are the acreage needed to accomplish established greenway goals and what is needed to optimize each site's habitat and recreation potential. There may also be a long term need to establish new park sites and facilities to geographically balance park services.

At this time it is estimated that completion of the Grand River Greenway, including land proposed to optimize the size of the Bend Area, will require acquisition of approximately 308 acres, and land required to complete the OCPRC's defined role in the Macatawa Greenway is estimated at 45 acres. Land required to maximize the size and scope of existing parks is estimated in the range of 284 to 3,684 acres with 128 acres currently expected to be feasible within the current millage period. Success in reaching this goal of 481 total acres detailed above for the next five year period will depend in large part on fundraising success plus the willingness of various landowners to work with the Parks Department on the land transactions. A file listing of these potential acquisitions by park site can be found in Appendix J.

Many of the properties included in the highest acreage estimate range are not likely to be available in the near future. However, if the opportunity to acquire any of these becomes available, the OCPRC will want to explore all possible means to add the lands to the park system as part of a long term view of the best interest of the County.

GENERAL PLANNING, DESIGN, & OPERATIONAL ISSUES

Although each park site and facility has its own unique set of concerns, several issues applicable to all county parks properties and activities will be addressed in the next few years and beyond. Following is a summary of these issues. It should be noted that several of these items have been studied and discussed in detail and results of these discussions formalized in their own planning and operational documents.

A. Strategic Planning

As mentioned above, the Ottawa County Parks Commission and staff need to address a broad range of concerns beyond the physical lands and facilities discussed in this plan. Therefore, a holistic and strategic multi-faceted approach is important for both short term and long term success. Both informal discussions and formal system-wide strategic planning should be undertaken as needed to meet the changing circumstances and demands facing the Ottawa County park system.

B. Maintain an Up-to-date Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plans

The OCPRC recognizes that the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan is an evolving document which must be updated on a regular basis to reflect changing needs, priorities, and opportunities. The Commission will monitor the plan and prepare updates as needed. In addition, individual parks may require specific detailed planning or even complete new master plans as use patterns and desires emerge and change over time.

C. High Quality Maintenance and Operations

The importance of providing the highest quality maintenance and operations has been a top goal of the Parks Commission since its establishment. The challenge to maintain high standards in an expanding park system is particularly difficult. Special funding sources available for capital outlay expenses are not usually available for operational costs, and the tendency is to fall behind in operational capacity. To address this, some funds are budgeted each year for specific renovation and repair items (Projects R01 – R05 as shown in Appendix K) that are regularly encountered. Through this strategy, the Parks Commission recognizes the difficulty in maintaining high operational standards and identifies the need to properly plan for operational support before proceeding with development. This emphasis is also seen in the gradual transition of funding to maintenance and operations from new development.

D. Security

Maintaining a safe, family atmosphere within the Ottawa County Park system is an important concern of the OCPRC. The OCPRC receives excellent support and cooperation from the Ottawa County Sheriff's Department on all issues related to enforcement in the county park system. Although park user surveys, comment cards, and records of incidents within the parks do not suggest a significant problem with security, the OCPRC would like to be proactive in addressing security-related issues.

Park rules and regulations were most recently updated in 2017, increasing the ability of law enforcement officials to address problems within the park system. Additional review should occur regularly to ensure that park rules and regulations provide the best tools possible for necessary enforcement activity in the park system. The OCPRC should continue to actively seek advice and input from the Ottawa County Sheriff's Department, the Ottawa County Prosecuting Attorney, and other law enforcement officials regarding methods for maintaining a high level of security.

E. Natural Resources Management and Land Management Planning

In order to be good stewards of parks-managed properties, the OCPRC, led by its Natural Resources Manager, is working toward the development and implementation of comprehensive land management plans over the next five years for each park property. These plans will be science-based and will be reviewed periodically by area resource people that are experts in different areas of land management. The land management plans will include, but are not limited to, the following strategies:

Forest Management: Along with district foresters, OCPRC has conducted forest inventories on several key properties. This inventory will be continued. The plans will make recommendations on various forest management options that focus on the protection and management of the diversity of flora and fauna in parks forests. Threats to the health of forest will be assessed and monitored, especially in situations that relate to park safety.

Wildlife Management: In addition to continuing the ongoing collection of data on the diversity and distribution of wildlife in the parks system, the plan will address any perceived wildlife problems and make recommendations to address these problems. The plan will also make recommendations on managing for specific species.

Invasive Species: Invasive plants and animals are a serious threat and problem for Ottawa County Parks. Parks staff have been managing invasive plants since 2000. Invasive populations are prioritized based on the threat level of the invasive species, the size of the population and the overall health of the surrounding landscape. These plans will address the growing list of invasive species and make recommendations on how best to control them. In addition to invasives that are already present, park staff keep abreast of new invasive species and continually survey for emerging threats.

Natural Feature Inventories: In order to provide meaningful management strategies, it is important to continue to conduct accurate natural feature inventories of parks properties, especially flora. All State or Federal listed threatened or endangered species should be protected and their habitats managed for maximum health and biodiversity.

Restoration: OCPRC has created numerous native landscapes to improve wildlife habitat and provide ecological services, such as the conversion of a golf course to wetlands at Paw Paw Park. Additionally, OCPRC focuses on restoring remnant ecosystems by removing invasive species and reinstating ecological processes such as prescribed fire. Funding for this work is identified in Project R65.

Monitoring: Necessary to evaluate the success of many land management requirements, when applicable, monitoring will be built into various projects and programs.

Partnering with local and regional partners is an important part of keeping abreast of current best management practices and related land management projects. When reasonable, Ottawa County Parks will work with local and regional partners to manage the natural resources at a landscape scale and to leverage resources.

F. Use of Volunteers

Ottawa County Parks is committed to the use of volunteers in managing the park system and has adopted the following philosophy:

Volunteers from across Ottawa County and West Michigan serve an important, integral role in helping the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission achieve its mission of enhancing the quality of life for County residents and visitors by working with staff to preserve parks and open spaces and provide natural resource based recreation and educational opportunities.

The Parks Commission is committed to investing in the volunteer program with the belief that volunteers will contribute time, talent, skills, and leadership to enhance the service level offered through the county park system. Continued growth of this program should be encouraged.

G. Regional Trails and Non-Motorized Pathways

As indicated in chapter 10, the OCPRC is committed to expanding regional trails and destination recreational trails within Ottawa County. There are many examples of recent projects that exhibit this commitment, including the extension of the Musketawa Trail into Kent County, ongoing management of the Ottawa County portion of the Musketawa Trail, investment in the Fred Meijer Kenowa Trail through Zeeland and Jamestown Townships, development of the Macatawa Greenway Trail segment through the Upper Macatawa Natural Area which links to the Fred Meijer Kenowa Trail, and development of the first segments of the Grand River Greenway Idema Explorers Trail.

Ottawa County Parks will remain committed to playing a lead role in the development of regional trails within Ottawa County, particularly when those trails link to OCPRC lands and facilities. The OCPRC is highly committed to the establishment of non-motorized trails along and within the greenway corridors, specifically for the Grand and Macatawa Rivers. It will continue to seek partnerships with local units of government and other groups in the development of these non-motorized greenway trails.

H. Low Environmental Impact and Sustainable Design

The OCPRC was founded with the goal of protecting and preserving significant natural lands in Ottawa County. This ideal has and will continue to guide all aspects of park planning including acquisition priorities, planning, and park facility implementation. Specifically, park facilities are to be constructed in ways that limit disturbance to natural features and, if possible, enhance or restore them. Park facilities and amenities will be implemented utilizing best practices and with a consideration for the long-term sustainability of the constructed element and its surrounding environment. Use of local, recycled, and renewable materials will be encouraged. Implementation of energy saving technology such as LED lighting has been and will continue to be a priority. Although LEED certification likely will not be sought for all future improvements, the completion of the Nature Center at Hemlock Crossing as LEED gold certified shows the OCPRC's commitment to this goal and serves as a model for future improvements. To further this goal, a formal Sustainability Plan was created in 2017 to address environmental, fiscal, and social elements of sustainability on a system-wide basis. Recent efforts as result of this plan include light pollution reduction and water conservation. Park operations will be continually evaluated to fully utilize the best environmentally sustainable products and practices so as to be a leader and example for Ottawa County.

I. Accessibility Improvements/Universal Design

Chapter 11 identifies accessibility improvements required within the county park system to comply with the Americans with Disabilities

Act and other desired improvements related to accessibility of park facilities. A comprehensive list of proposed improvements is shown in Figure 11.2. The OCPRC also recognizes the need to go beyond the minimum requirements of the law to seek what has been defined as “universal design” - the design of products and environments to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design. Although many sites within the park system create significant obstacles to meeting this goal (e.g., the steep and high slopes of dune environments), the OCPRC is committed to making a good-faith effort to serve users of all physical abilities at all park sites. Therefore, principles of universal design will be considered for all future construction and renovations.

J. Visibility, Communication, and Public Relations

Visibility, name recognition, and public awareness of county park facilities and programs is a critical aspect to the overall management and success of OCPRC.

While public recognition of county parks and differentiation between which unit of government manages specific properties has improved, there remains a lack of awareness of educational and recreational programming offered to the community. OCPRC will continue to focus efforts on promoting parks and programs to residents – both new and long-term in a variety of ways:

- Redesign old and outdated kiosk signage
- Expand use of county-wide email marketing software to deliver Parks’ news and press releases
- Further improvement to Parks’ website and search engine optimization
- More frequent community events
- Increase engagement with the general public using a variety of social media tools
- Frequent interaction with local media
- Identification and nurturing of key communications partners (e.g. local schools, bloggers, photographers, visitors’ bureaus, welcoming committees, etc.)
- Reaching out to underserved populations
- Improved customer database

Surveys have shown that many residents, including avid parks supporters, are unaware of the parks millage. With the millage as the primary source of park funding, there will be an ongoing effort to connect the lands and recreational experiences the public enjoys to that funding source.

Tourism is a major industry in West Michigan. OCPRC has primarily concentrated communications on county residents but can improve partnership and cross-communications with local and state-wide tourism organizations. Because of the very high quality and variety of its park lands, OCPRC has an opportunity to be a well-known park system in the state.

Improvements in communications since the 2016 plan include: active social media accounts and e-mail marketing, implementation of responsive website design and addition of a news blog, introduction of new events and programs aimed at the general public like Step it Up! and the Coffee with the Birds Mug Club, and more formalized partnerships with the Department of Public Health and the Ottawa Area Intermediate School District. In 2019 OCPRC launched a new customer database, which will continue to improve communications.

K. Four C’s Initiative

The Ottawa County Board of Commissioners, at the recommendation of the County Administrator, has established the Four C’s Initiative as key strategy for Ottawa County government. The Four C’s include: Customer Service, Cultural Intelligence, Communication, and Creativity. All Ottawa County employees have opportunities for training in these areas, with a goal to deliver government services in Ottawa County in the most effective, creative way possible, with outstanding customer service and a high level of cultural sensitivity. The OCPRC embraces this initiative and is committed to take the steps necessary to create the culture in the department that fully supports all aspects of this initiative.

L. Programming

As a natural resource-based park system, it is important that OCPRC educates park users and the general public on the natural features found in the parks—both to enhance the enjoyment of the park and to foster respect for and protection of the natural features. Nature interpretive programming is based at the Nature Education Center located at Hemlock Crossing but conducts programs throughout the park system. The following vision statement describes the OCPRC's commitment to interpretive programming:

“Through interpretive programming, we hope to provide people a positive experience interacting with nature in order to initiate and encourage further exploration, develop an emotional connection with nature that will lead to a wider perspective of their sense of place in the environment, and promote a greater understanding and attitude of responsible stewardship.”

M. Business Planning

Several sites and facilities within the park system provide opportunities to not only serve the public by selling desired products and services but offer the park system a chance to offset costs or even create a positive revenue stream. These opportunities should be studied to maximize these benefits in keeping with the goals of the Parks Commission.

N. Collaboration

Ottawa County Parks has enjoyed good relationships with a wide variety of public, non-profit, and private individuals and groups. Maintaining and expanding these relationships should continue to be pursued where mutual benefits and efficiencies can be obtained. At the same time OCPRC should be aware of the extra efforts needed to pursue these benefits, and continue to protect its long term interests by only participating in projects that meet the park system's mission, goals, and objectives.

O. Support Organizations

The formation of the Friends of Ottawa County Parks in 2005 and the Ottawa County Parks Foundation in 2016 as independent but closely affiliated non-profit organizations has resulted in great benefit to the Parks system in terms of public relations, volunteerism, and financial support. Ottawa County Parks must continue to nurture close and mutually beneficial relationships with these organizations and their individual members.

LAKE MICHIGAN COASTAL GREENWAY

A. General Greenway

Land Acquisition/Park Expansion Priorities: The OCPRC recognizes Lake Michigan beaches are the county's top recreation attraction, and the coastal dunes are one of its most unique natural resources. With the acquisition of the Olive Shores property in 2008, the Commission also realizes that the opportunities for acquisition of additional shoreline of sufficient size (recognizing a general guideline of 500 feet minimum frontage) are essentially non-existent outside of a unique and unforeseeable course of events. However, it will continue to seek opportunities to acquire additional Lake Michigan access as per OCPRC goals, through expansion of existing Lake Michigan park sites and by exploring other possible means of expanding lake access.

Planning Strategies: The OCPRC will continue efforts to study the coastal corridor to better identify opportunities for habitat protection, public access to shoreline, trail linkages and to achieve other greenway goals. Recent and potentially on-gong high water levels will also need to be considered in regard to planning, construction, maintenance, and operations.

Proposed Park and Open Space Improvements: The OCPRC will work with local governments, the Road Commission, and other entities to improve and expand trail connections between greenway park sites. Further expansion of a widened road shoulder along Lakeshore Drive similar to what was completed in 2004 and 2015 is in progress. Public transportation is another way to create access for more segments of the population and should be considered if and when regional public transit is initiated.

B. North Ottawa Dunes

Land Acquisition/Park Expansion Priorities: With acquisition of a key 80-acre inholding on the eastern edge of the property in 2016 through a land trade and donation from Spring Lake Township, additional opportunities for expansion are limited. However, the OCPRC should be open to expand the site into adjacent undeveloped, scenic lands to the east if private development plans are not realized (Project A35).

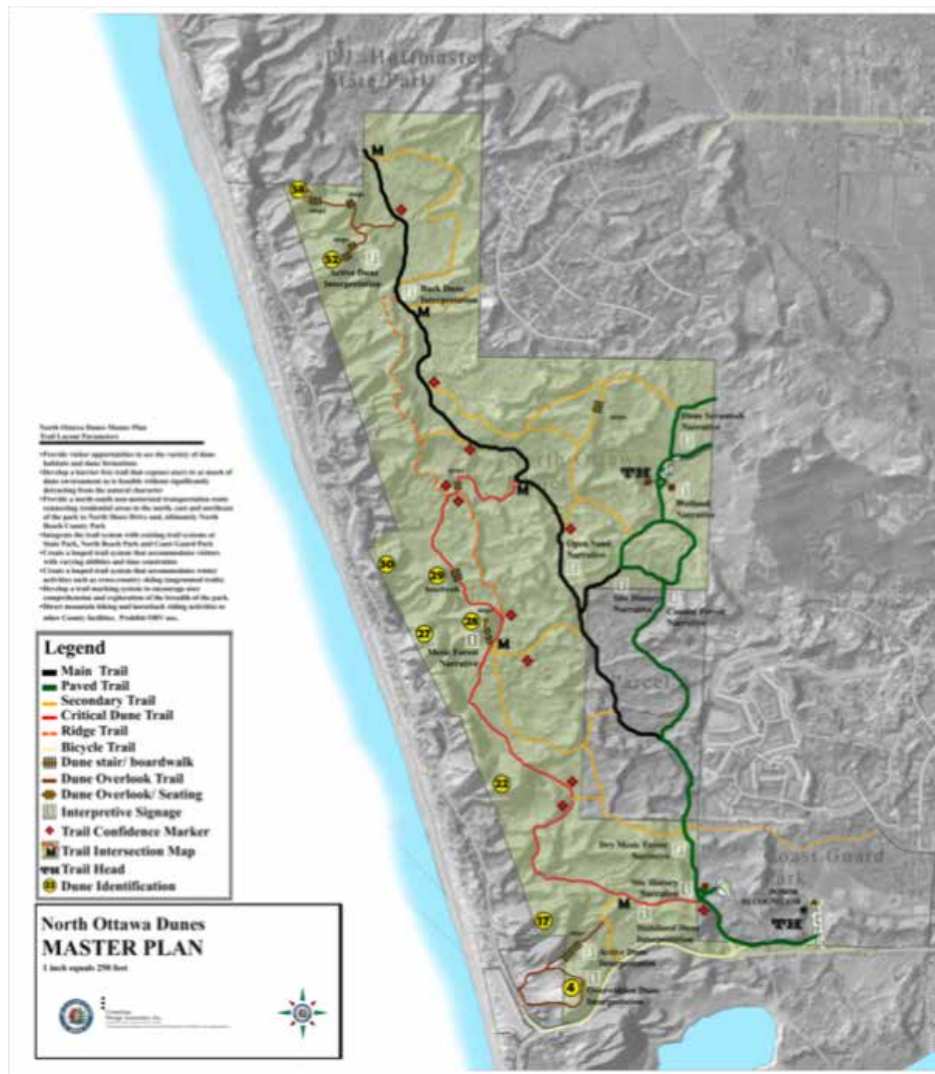
Planning Strategies: Funded with assistance from the Coastal Management Program through the MDNR, a comprehensive master plan process was completed for this site in 2007 (Figure 13.1). The process included extensive public input and resulted in a detailed plan that balances public use with natural resource preservation. Coordination with Hoffmaster State Park to the north, private residential property owners, and the private developer to the east will be key to developing and managing alternate access points to the site.

Given the purchase of the Ottawa Sands property to the south, planning for this site and the potential north/south greenway trail through it as well as larger scale landscape planning will be done in conjunction with planning for the Ottawa Sands project.

Proposed Park and Open Space Improvements: A comprehensive system of natural surface trails for hiking and cross-country skiing, was implemented in 2008, linking P.J. Hoffmaster State Park to North Beach Park, Coast Guard Park, and Spring Lake Township property. The project included trail signage, a trailhead constructed in cooperation with the city of Ferrysburg in Coast Guard Park, and an extensive system of stairs and boardwalks connecting to North Beach Park. Additional improvements, as called for in the master plan, including paved trails extending along the eastern border of the site as well as a new northern vehicle access point (Project D5), should be developed as the final disposition of additional park land is determined. Some renovations to existing facilities are also anticipated (Project R25).

Operational Issues: Management of the deer population in cooperation with adjacent landowners will continue to be an important strategy to improve native vegetation. Forest/tree pests are also an ongoing concern at this site.

Figure 13.1 - North Ottawa Dunes Master Plan



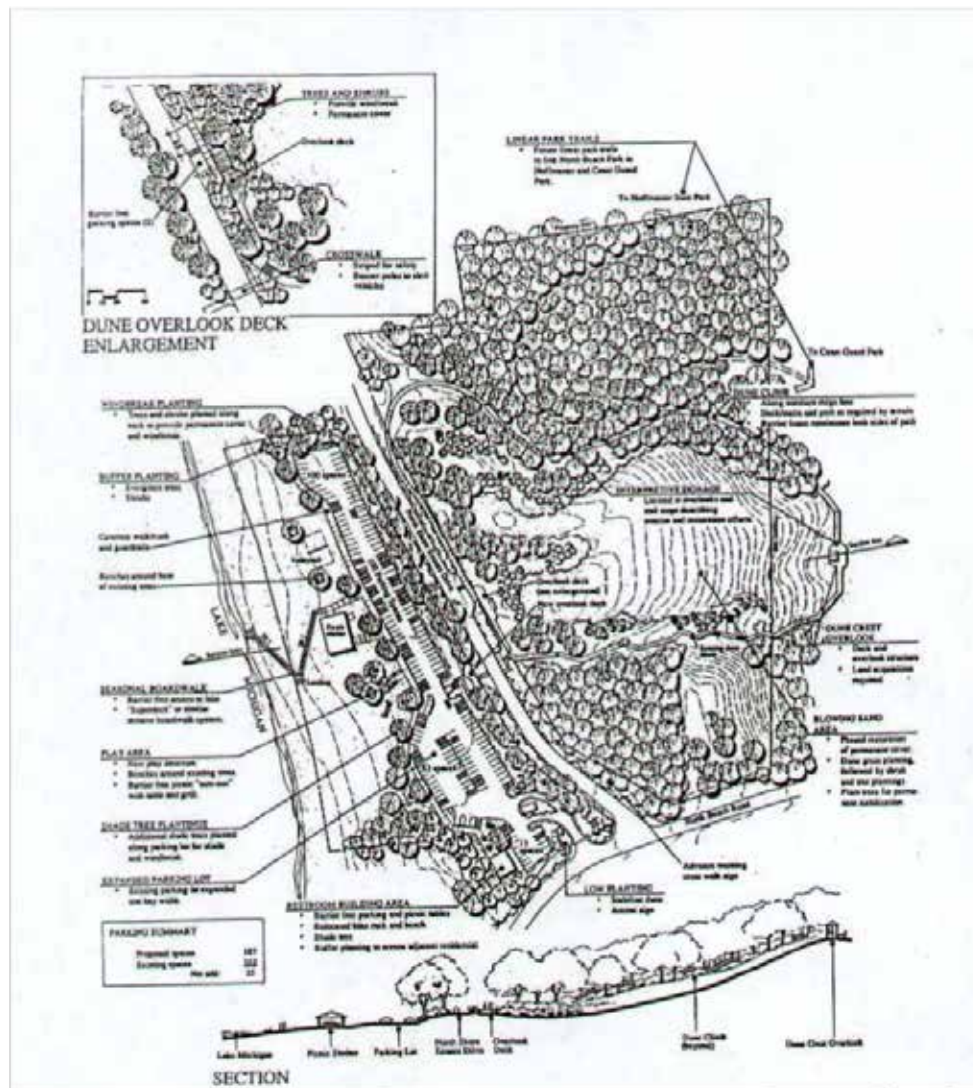
C. North Beach Park

Land Acquisition/Park Expansion Priorities: Although bordered by cottages and homes with limited and expensive expansion opportunities, the OCPRC will be alert for opportunities to add valuable lakefront and acreage to the park. With the addition of the adjacent North Ottawa Dunes property, North Beach Park has in essence been expanded substantially to include trails, boardwalks, and overlooks in the nearby dunes.

Planning Strategies: Improvements to North Beach Park, including those in the adjacent North Ottawa Dunes substantially completed the master plan for this park (Figure 13.2). Master Plan updates should be completed if and when conditions at the site require significant adjustments.

Proposed Park and Open Space Improvements: Major improvements have been completed. OCPRC should continue to evaluate use patterns and trends for possible desired or needed facilities. A retaining wall was installed along the road frontage in conjunction with the North Shore Drive reconstruction project in 2020 to help alleviate sand migration from the park on to the road. Minor renovations to existing facilities have been completed, and no major projects are expected in the next five years. Replacement of deteriorated wood stairs connecting the main parking area to the dune stairways east of North Shore Estates Road is needed (Project R27) Reconfiguration of the entrance boulevard and booth area would be desirable to better accommodate large vehicles (Project R64).

Figure 13.2 - North Beach Park Master Plan



D. Ottawa Sands

Land Acquisition/Park Expansion Priorities: Opportunities for expansion of this site are limited to the property located directly to the south owned by the City of Grand Haven. Ottawa County Parks should work with the City to establish management goals for the site in keeping with the Ottawa Sands master plan and potentially designation of the area as protected open space (Project A45).

Planning Strategies: A master plan for this site was completed in 2020 (Figure 13.3). Efforts to develop effective management and operational strategies for the entire lakeshore corridor in conjunction with neighboring landowners should be continued based on discussions initiated during the master planning process.

Proposed Park and Open Space Improvements: The first phase of improvements to this site will be initiated when a funding package can be put in place (Project D45).

Operational Issues: Wildlife and vegetation management in cooperation with adjacent landowners will continue to be an important strategy to improve the ecological value of this site.

Figure 13.3 - Ottawa Sands Master Plan



miOTTAWA SANDS PARK
DECEMBER 2, 2020

SITE MASTER PLAN



F. Kirk Park

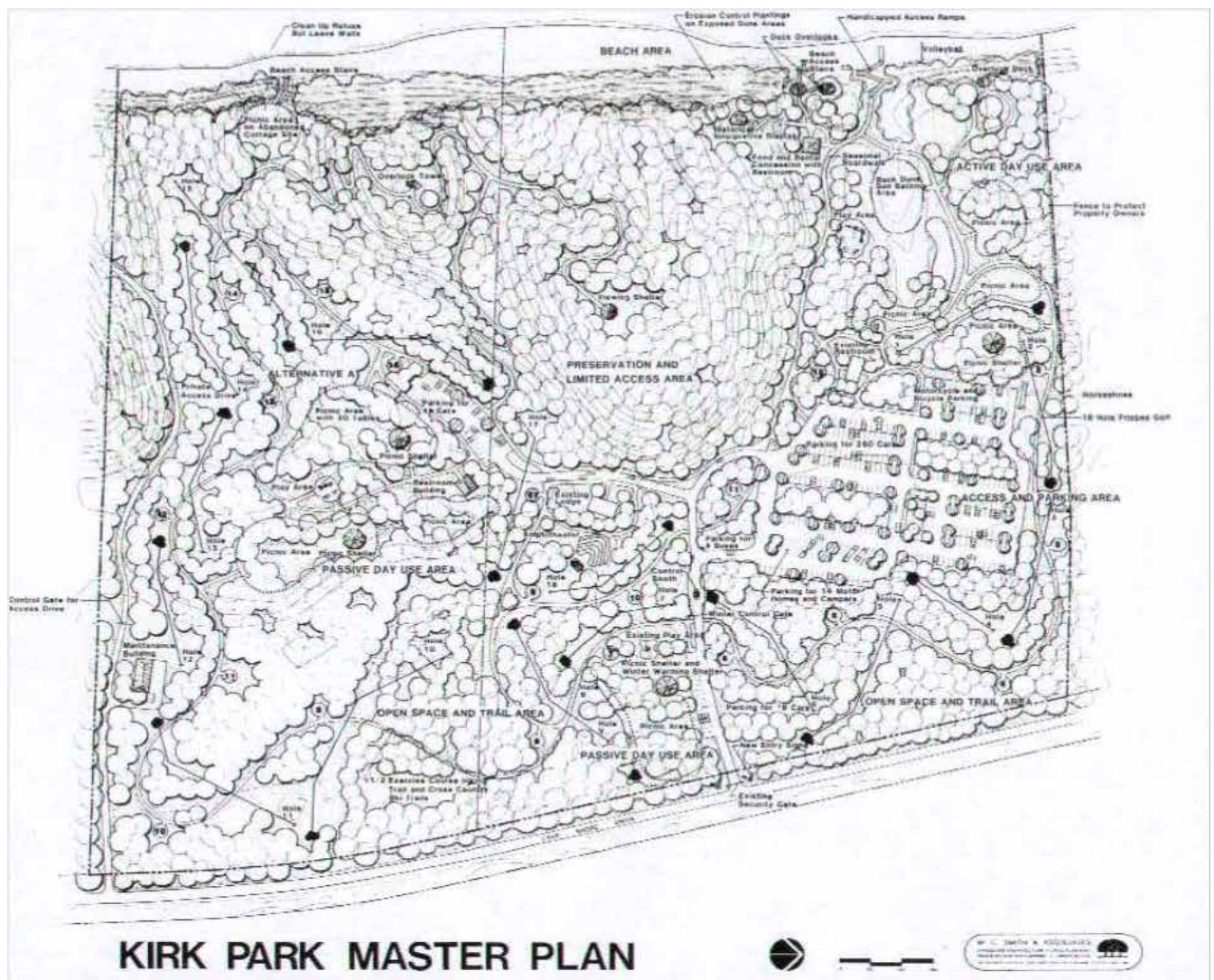
Land Acquisition/Park Expansion Priorities: Although bordered by cottages and homes with limited expansion opportunities, the OCPRC will be alert for opportunities to add valuable acreage to the park.

Planning Strategies: There is a need to update the Kirk Park master plan as shown in Figure 13.5, as several elements are no longer considered desirable (Project P04). Consideration should also be given to timeframes for improving an existing pedestrian easement linking Kirk Park to the Hiawatha Forest Open Space land, located east of the park.

Proposed Park and Open Space Improvements: Improvements to the trail system including the addition of on-grade stairs in steep portions of the dunes and a beach stairway at the southern boundary of the site, were added in 2006. The map system for the trails was also upgraded and modifications made to the Kirk Park Lodge to enhance accessibility. Many of the existing park facilities were developed in the early 1990's and are reaching the end of the useful lifespan. Several renovation projects are anticipated (Projects R20 - R24). Recent high lake levels have damaged stairs and boardwalks providing access to the beach and dune areas. Reconstruction and modification of these amenities will need to be planned in keeping with the current and anticipated conditions.

Operational Issues: An area of beach designated for off-leash dogs has been established. Rule enforcement issues as well as adjustments related to Lake Michigan water levels will need to be monitored.

Figure 13.5 - Kirk Park Master Plan



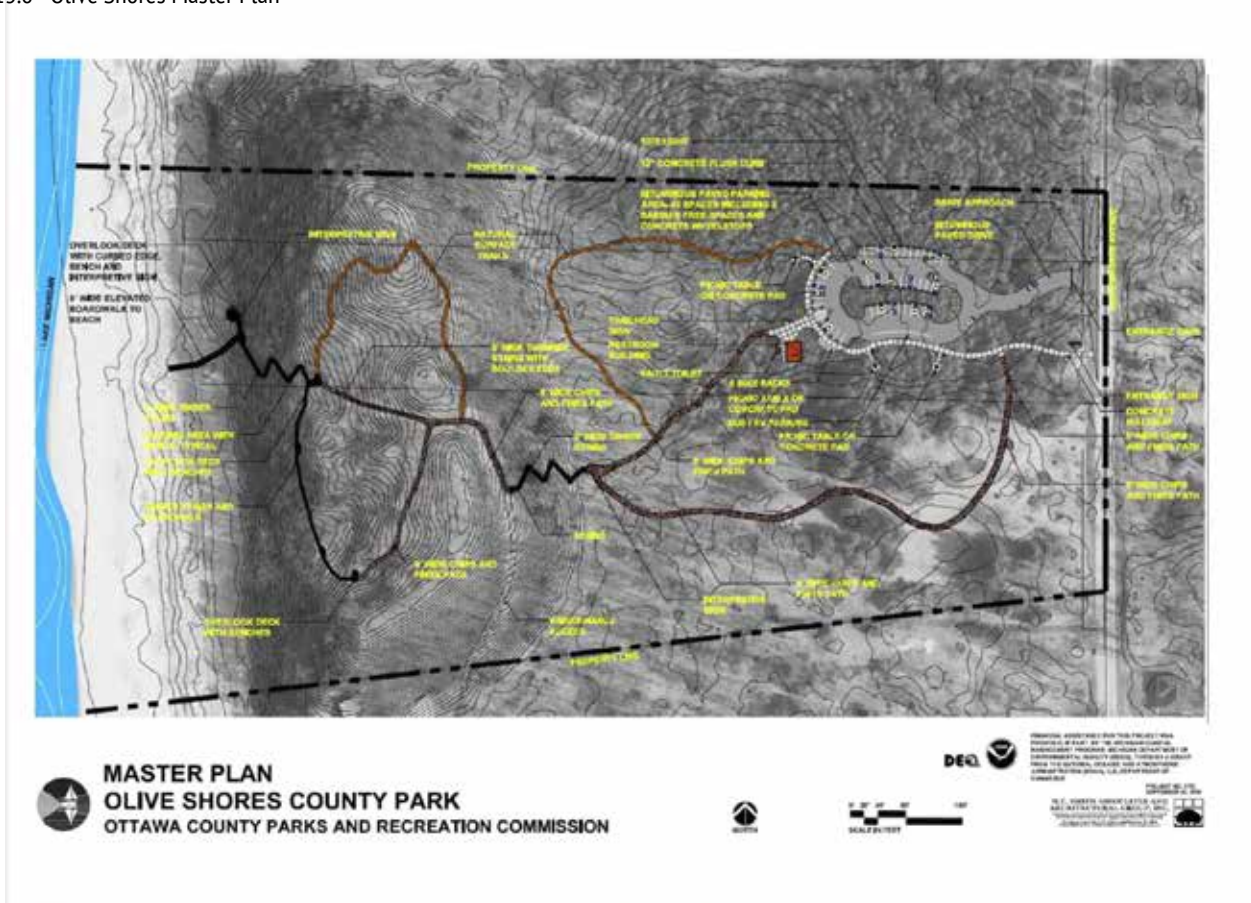
G. Olive Shores

Land Acquisition/Park Expansion Priorities: Although this site has limited expansion opportunities, the OCPRC will be alert for opportunities to add acreage to the park if it becomes available.

Planning Strategies: A master plan for the site was completed in 2009 (Figure 13.6) showing all proposed public-access improvements. Work to link the park site to the bike trail on Lakeshore Drive would be desirable.

Proposed Park and Open Space Improvements: Full park development in accordance with the master plan was completed in 2011. No major additional improvements are expected, although maintenance on the parking lot is anticipated (Project R29).

Figure 13.6 - Olive Shores Master Plan



H. Tunnel Park

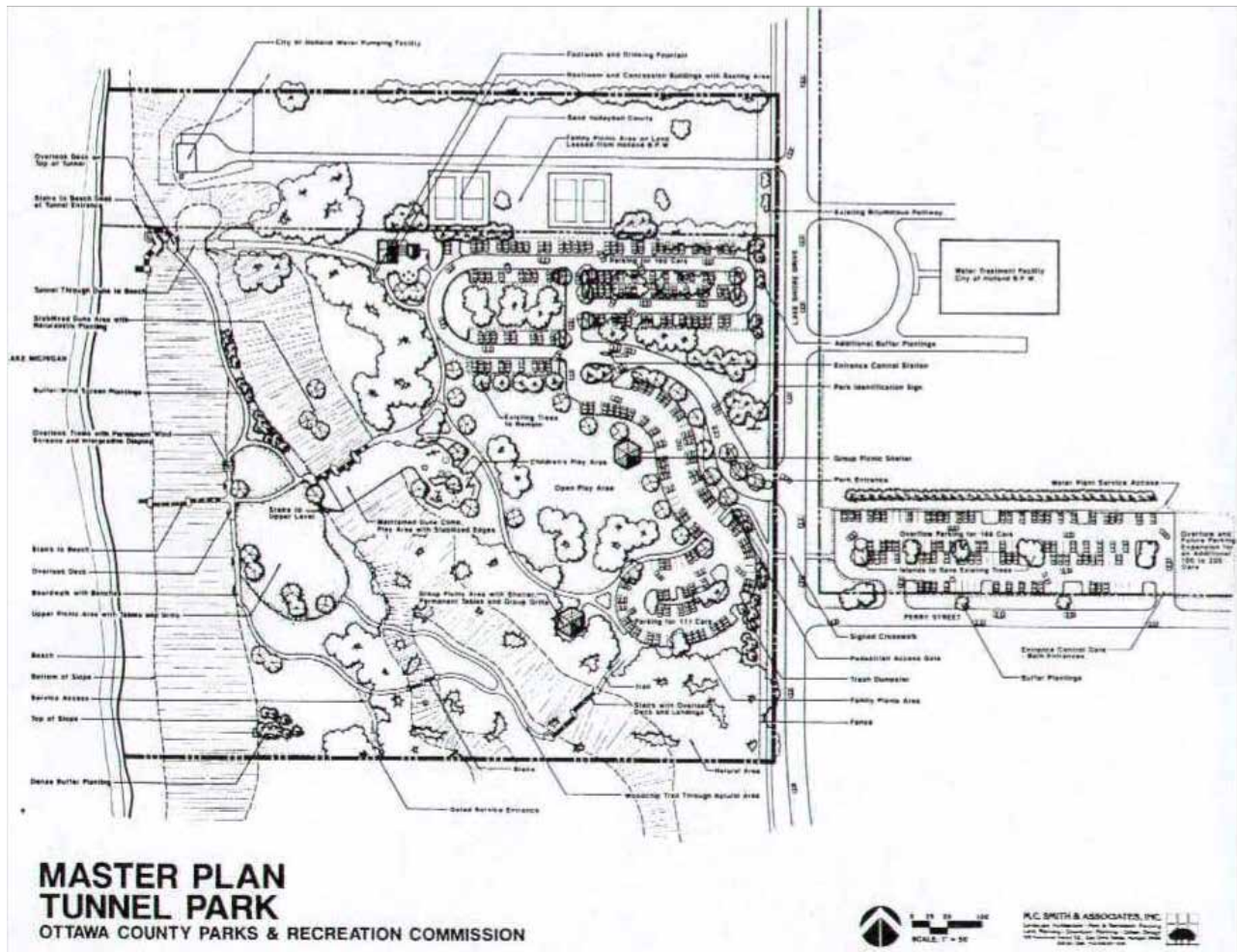
Land Acquisition/Park Expansion Priorities: This site is surrounded by residential development and the local water plant. Additions to the park are therefore unlikely. The OCPRC completed an extension of its lease agreement with Holland Board of Public Works for 200 feet of Lake Michigan frontage in 2014. This lease should be maintained as long as needed for park purposes.

Planning Strategies: The OCPRC should maintain an up-to-date master plan for the park. See current plan graphic in Figure 13.9.

Proposed Park and Open Space Improvements: Restroom improvements including the addition of changing rooms, were completed 2006. Both the playground (2013) and dune top decks and stairways (2015) have been renovated. Since most original improvements to this park are now almost 20 years old, renovations have been ongoing. Renovation of additional stairways and decks is anticipated (Projects R36). There is potential to further develop the dune top area to better facilitate picnicking and other group activities (Project D46).

Operational Issues: Facilities should continue to be carefully monitored for additional needed renovations.

Figure 13.7 - Tunnel Park Master Plan



I. Historic Ottawa Beach Parks (Park 12)

Land Acquisition/Park Expansion Priorities: Limited acquisition of small parcels may be desirable to maximize the potential of the park master plan, especially with regard to parking and vehicle circulation issues related to Mt. Pisgah and Holland State Park. It may also be desirable to seek the purchase of the remaining private parcel at the Parkside Marina (Project A22).

Planning Strategies: The current park master plan (Figures 13.8 and 13.9) was completed in March 2004, following extensive public review and comment. In August of 2005, the 20th Circuit Court approved an agreement (Stipulation and Order) between Ottawa County and the West Michigan Park Association (WMPA), which cleared the way for implementation of the master plan.

A feasibility study was also completed in 2011 for future improvements to the marina area on Lake Macatawa that was intentionally left open on the master plan pending further analysis.

Proposed Park and Open Space Improvements: With the completion of a restroom addition to the historic Pumphouse building and the redevelopment of the area previously leased to Parkside Marina to a new publicly operated marina with dedicated transient slips, all of the main components of the site master plan have been completed. The idea of providing full accessibility to the top of Mt. Pisgah, although not specifically in the master plan, is desirable (Project D31). Continued renovations of public walkways between the existing private cottages (Project R31) are also anticipated.

Operational Issues: Coordination with Holland State Park and the WMPA will continue to be critical to the overall success of this area.

Figure 13.8 - Historic Ottawa Beach Parks (all Park 12 parcels) Conceptual Master Plan



Figure 13.9 - Historic Ottawa Beach Parks (waterfront area) Conceptual Master Plan



GRAND RIVER GREENWAY

A. General Greenway

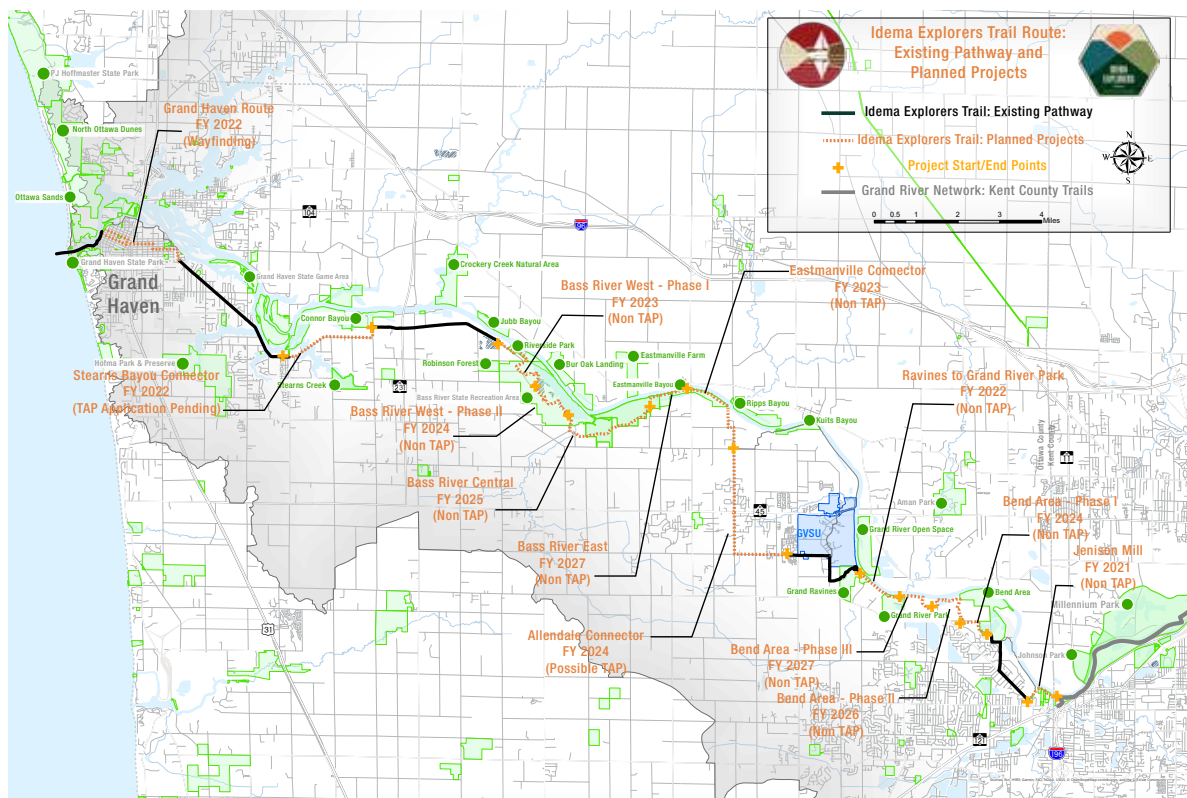
Land Acquisition/Park Expansion: As indicated in Chapter 9, acquisition of land and easements is vital to implementation of the Grand River Greenway. The OCPRC recognizes that the Grand River corridor is the largest greenway corridor in Ottawa County and has the greatest potential for land acquisition. In addition to expansion of parks along the greenway corridor described below, several properties or easements will need to be acquired to connect parks and provide a route for the Idema Explorers Trail (Projects A30, A33, A34, A37, and A42).

Planning Strategies: As land acquisition efforts have succeeded in establishing a solid base for the greenway, a more detailed Grand River Greenway plan (Figure 13.10) has been prepared that builds on the framework of the earlier concept plan. The plan identifies acquisition targets and trail linkages that unify the overall greenway corridor as well as short term and long term optional routes as required by current conditions and feasibility. As final acquisitions come into place, detailed plans will be produced to accurately locate the trail route and its relationship to adjacent public and private property. The final planning process will also incorporate the Grand River Heritage Water Trail, a system of canoe/kayak trails and access points within the river corridor.

Unlike the other greenways, one interesting feature of the Grand River Greenway is the existence of several areas of agricultural land along or near greenway properties. Some of these areas are quite scenic and would add to the appeal of a finished trail if integrated into the greenway and interpreted properly. They also highlight the heritage and ongoing importance of agriculture in Ottawa County. One potential avenue to help preserve the best of these areas would be the Purchase of Development Rights (PDR). A PDR program is run through the County's Planning Department, and opportunities to collaborate with this group should be pursued.

Park and Open Space Improvements: The concept for the Grand River Greenway calls for establishment of parking, picnic areas, trails (land and water), viewing decks, and other park facilities on county-owned lands acquired for the greenway. As importantly, a non-motorized paved pathway is envisioned, linking parks and open spaces located along the entire greenway. Portions of this pathway, recently named the Idema Explorers Trail, have already been completed along North Cedar Drive in Robinson Township, and along 42nd Ave., Cottonwood Drive, and 10th Ave. in Georgetown Township. Additional segments will be developed as land acquisitions are completed (Projects D47 - D55). In terms of water access, opportunities to provide public access to the Crockery Creek upstream of Crockery Creek Natural Area have great potential to add useful water for paddling (Project D58).

Figure 13.10 - Grand River Idema Explorers Trail Plan



B. Stearns Creek

Land Acquisition/Park Expansion Priorities: Exceptional opportunities exist for expansion of this site. Large, relatively undisturbed parcels along the creek corridor and uplands north of the creek have great potential to further secure this site's natural and scenic qualities (Project A36).

Planning Strategies: A preliminary concept plan for this site was completed in 2020. However, a comprehensive master plan for the site should be prepared as final land acquisitions, overall greenway plans, and analysis of future recreation and conservation needs are completed (Project P07).

Proposed Park and Open Space Improvements: Initial improvements to facilitate public access including a small parking area and marked trail system were installed when the site opened. Additional improvements to this site could be initiated after the master planning process determines suitable additional uses and priorities.

Operational Issues: Wildlife and vegetation management will be an important strategy to improve the ecological value of this site.

C. Connor Bayou

Land Acquisition/Park Expansion: The OCPRC will seek to expand the Connor Bayou site if opportunities arise to acquire high quality natural or other undeveloped land bordering the park (Project A9). Efforts to assist Robinson Township to purchase and remove flood-prone structures in the Van Lopik and Limberlost subdivisions east of Connor Bayou were unsuccessful when significant numbers of property owners were not willing to participate in the FEMA program; however, the OCPRC should be willing to consider future opportunities in this area if available.

Planning Strategies: A park master plan process was completed in 2010 (Figures 13.11 and 13.12).

Proposed Park and Open Space Improvements: Initial improvements to facilitate public access were completed 2011, including parking, trails, and renovations to the existing cabin to make it suitable for use by groups on a reservation basis. A universally accessible kayak launch dock was added in 2013. These improvements substantially complete the elements as called for in the master plan, although paving of the entrance drive (Project D35) should be pursued if North Cedar Drive, the public access road to the site, is paved. In addition, renovations to the existing cabin are anticipated as mechanical systems and other components age beyond expected lifespans (Project R6). A suggested extension of the existing cove area dock further out into the river would improve opportunities for fishing (Project D57).

Figure 13.11 - Connor Bayou - West Master Plan



Figure 13.12 - Connor Bayou - East Master Plan



D. Crockery Creek Natural Area

Land Acquisition/Park Expansion Priorities: A significant amount of prime natural land exists surrounding the 334-acre Crockery Creek site. Although past efforts have been unsuccessful, concerted efforts should continue to be made to acquire additional land to expand this outstanding natural area (Project A15). The Crockery Creek site is one of very few sites remaining in Ottawa County where lands adjacent to the existing park include high quality natural features combined with relatively large parcels.

Planning/Operational Strategies: Development of a park master plan for Crockery Creek Natural Area should be undertaken (Project P2) when acquisition efforts to expand the site have been completed or reasonable projections can be made. A copy of the current site concept plan is shown in Figure 13.13. A detailed natural features inventory was completed in 2003, which is an important first step in the planning process. As with all park master plans, strong emphasis should be placed on obtaining public input into the planning process. Preliminary plans identified when the property was acquired called for possible canoe/kayak access to the Crockery Creek, trails for hiking and cross-country skiing, fishing access, archery deer-hunting opportunities (currently being provided), picnicking, and historic interpretation.

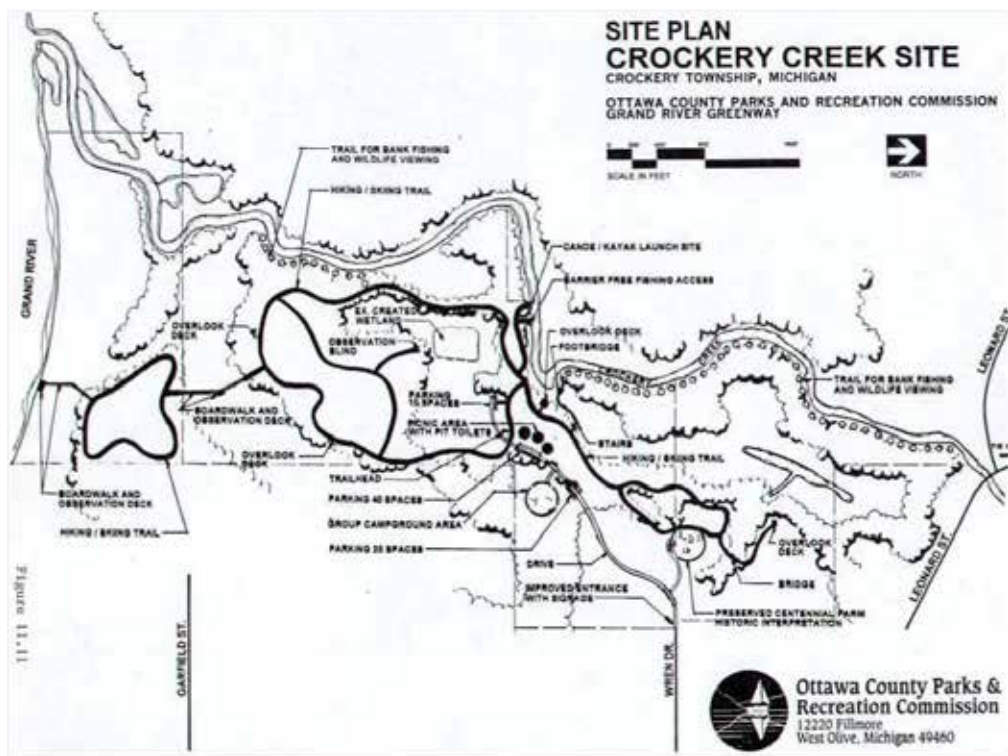
Park and Open Space Improvements: A basic trail system, consisting of two loops totaling 1.5 miles was implemented in 2006 and improved and expanded in 2016. The system originates at the existing road end and includes a trail head kiosk, thereby providing visitors a better chance to discover and enjoy the area prior to further improvements. The historic but badly deteriorated farmhouse and two small outbuildings have recently been removed, however the barn, and remaining outbuildings should be stabilized and preserved (roofs, paint, and basic repairs) at least until their value for historic interpretive use has been evaluated in the master planning process (Project R7). Major improvements to provide better visitor amenities and access, as well as improvements to the historic farmstead, will be considered when the master plan is completed (Projects D9 and D28).

E. Jubb Bayou Property

Land Acquisition/Park Expansion: The OCPRC should seek to expand the Jubb Bayou site if opportunities arise to acquire high quality natural land bordering the park, especially if a connection could be made to connect to the nearby Crockery Creek Natural Area (Project A19).

Planning Strategies: No long-range plans currently exist for the site. Plans will be developed as planning for the Grand River Greenway corridor moves forward.

Figure 13.13 - Crockery Creek Natural Area Master Plan



Proposed Park and Open Space Improvements: An existing house has been removed, and a small parking area and kiosk have been installed to provide basic access and information. After extensive unsuccessful efforts to find a party to relocate it, an existing barn was also removed in early 2020 because of ongoing vandalism and the realization that no long term use at this site was likely. Until greenway planning work is finalized, minimal additional improvements are scheduled. Marked trails could be considered in the near future to encourage more public use.

F. Riverside Park

Land Acquisition/Park Expansion Priorities: The OCPRC should seek to expand Riverside Park if opportunities arise to acquire contiguous lands. Although opportunities appear limited, adjacent land currently owned by the Ottawa County Road Commission, including the lowland northeast of North Cedar Drive and possibly even the road end itself, along with adjacent natural land, should be considered (Project A20). A long-term lease agreement with the State of Michigan is in effect to allow use and management of the riverfront peninsula extending east of the park in the Bass River Recreation Area, allowing public access from Riverside Park.

Planning Strategies: The master plan (Figure 13.14) for this site should be updated to include the trail system going onto State land and to reflect the decision by the OCPRC to continue a vehicular crossing of the wetland area to allow parking near the river (Project P5).

Proposed Park and Open Space Improvements: The park was connected at its western parking area to the first phase of the Idema Explorers Trail in 2018. Trailhead facilities including a restroom building should be considered if use supports it. Further development of this trail through the park and in to the Bass River State Recreation Area is anticipated in the next five years (Project D49) and additional improvements in keeping with the master plan and higher use could be considered. Renovations to the paving and other facilities at this park are also anticipated (Projects R16, R17, R18).

Operational Issues: Good communication with State Park officials regarding planning, operations, and future uses of the Bass River Recreation Area should be maintained.

G. Bur Oak Landing

Land Acquisition/Park Expansion Priorities: Parcels with natural features similar to existing property exist to the east of Bur Oak Landing and in between the east and west portions of this site. The Parks Commission should keep alert to opportunities for expansion in these areas (Project A8).

Planning Strategies: Further work to determine if additional designated trails should be developed and, if so, the optimal trail locations to provide better access to interior areas of the site. A conceptual plan (Figure 13.15) has been prepared showing trails and basic amenities. More detailed planning should be done when acquisitions are completed.

Proposed Park and Open Space Improvements: Gravel parking areas and information kiosks have been installed at three locations to provide access to this site. Trail improvements in the very northwest portion of the site were implemented in 2011. Additional trail improvements should be considered that are compatible with other current uses, especially hunting (Project D19).

H. Eastmanville Farm

Land Acquisition/Park Expansion Priorities: The OCPRC should remain open to possibilities of park expansion, especially if those acquisitions could expand and enhance the existing equestrian and hiking trail system (Project A3).

Planning Strategies: Parks staff conducted a park master planning process in 2007, including public input sessions resulting in a plan that shows the development of an educational farm, equestrian facilities, large-group picnic facilities, and other related activities. The current plan (Figure 13.16) is still conceptual in nature but provides a good basis for future, more detailed design decisions. Recent discussions in regard to a potential Farm Education Center may lead to some clarity about the scope of that project. Final determination of the long term use of the barn will also influence the planning process. Once these questions are settled, a revised master plan would be desirable (Project P06).

Proposed Park and Open Space Improvements: Improvements at the site include a designated entrance with signage, gravel parking, and equestrian trails and support facilities. In addition, the historic poor farm cemetery was restored and dedicated in 2010. The “Memory Grove,” an interpretive area highlighting the historic use of the site as a home for indigent county residents, was added in 2011. A new park operations building was also added in 2019. Additional improvements to be considered in the near future include improvements to the barn as required to facilitate more public use (Projects D10) and additional construction in conjunction with the

Figure 13.16 - Eastmanville Farm Master Plan

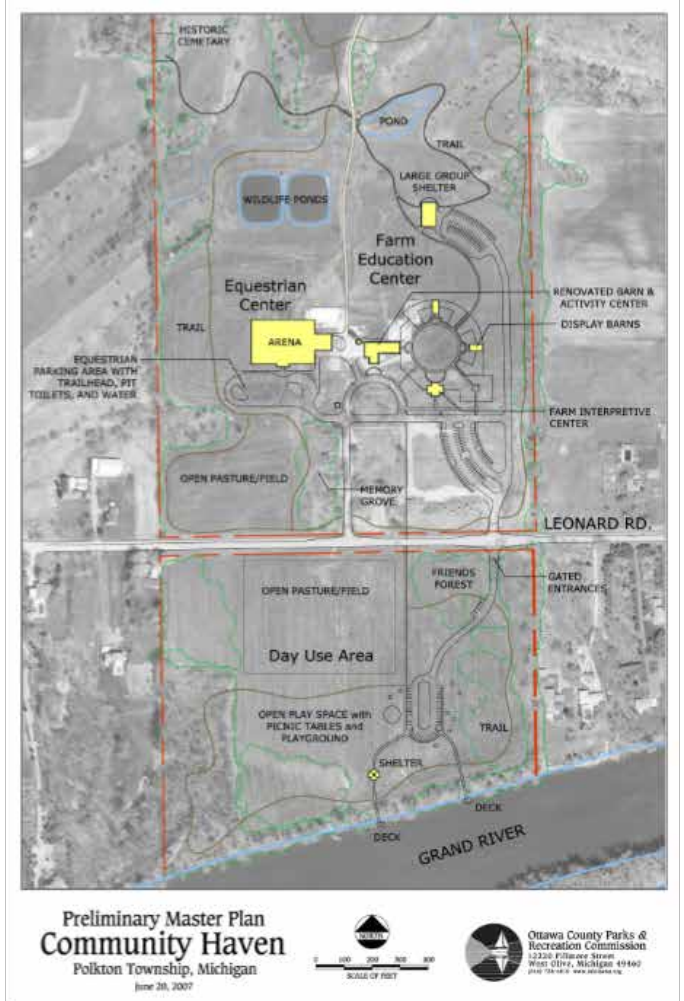
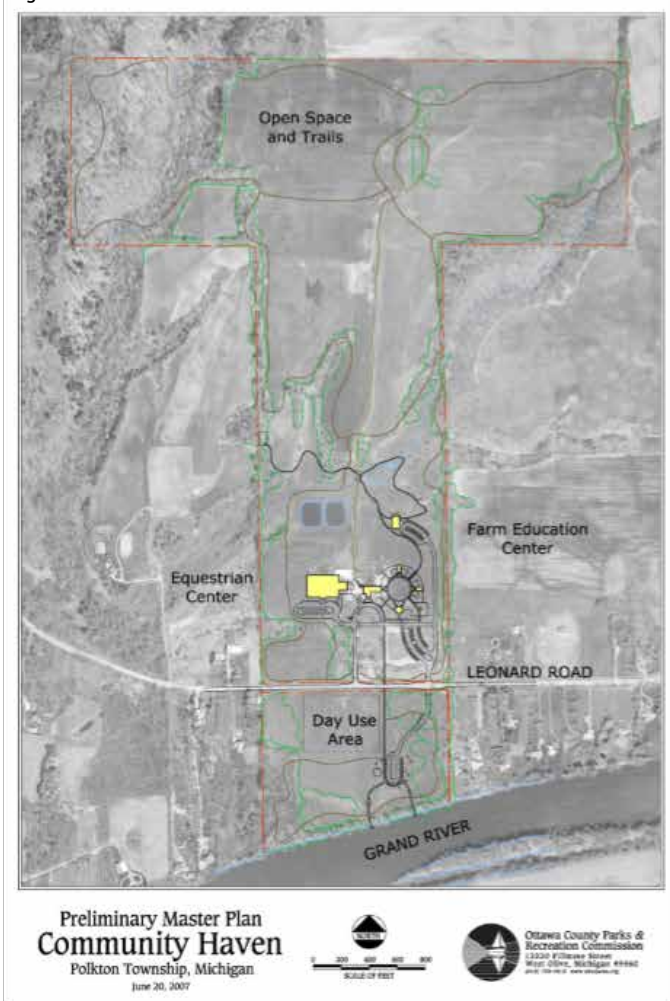
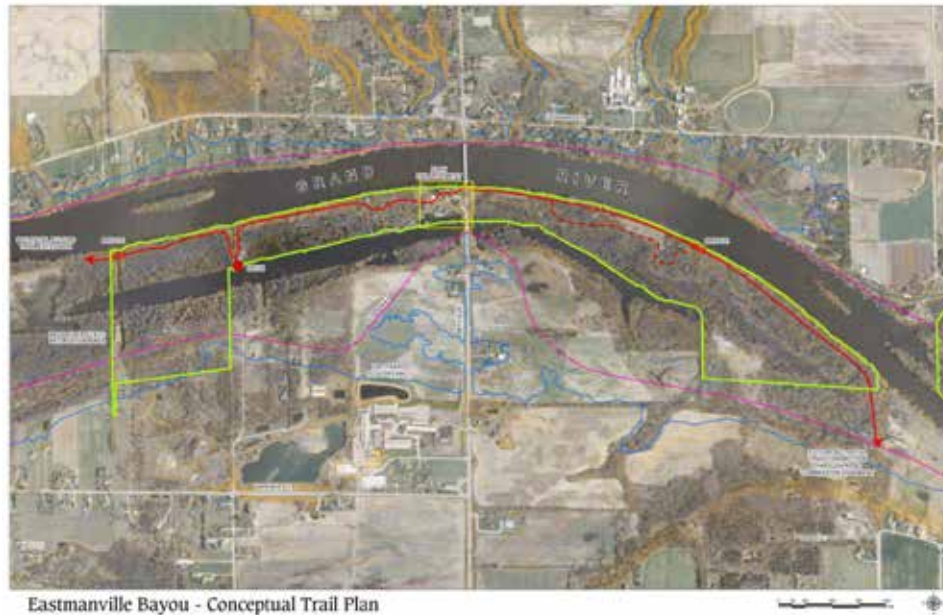


Figure 13.18 - Eastmanville Bayou Conceptual Trail Plan



J. Ripps Bayou / Deer Creek Park

Land Acquisition/Park Expansion Priorities: A land trade in 2008 achieved the long desired goal of connecting Ripps Bayou with Deer Creek Park and created a continuous 1.5-mile stretch of Grand River frontage. Opportunities to expand the parkland to the east appear feasible, as much of this riverfront land is natural and undeveloped (Project A06). Eastern expansion could also provide connections to the residential areas of Lamont to provide new recreational opportunities for local walkers and hikers. Acquisition of the upland north of the Deer Creek Park would also be desirable (Project A16).

Planning Strategies: Despite the land trade, pedestrian access from Deer Creek Park to the Ripps Bayou site is prohibited by the mouth of Deer Creek. An engineering study to determine the feasibility of crossing Deer Creek was completed in 2009. Although feasible, significant costs to implement the project appear to prohibit development at this time. Additional research should be conducted to see if other options (e.g. a ferry) might make this crossing economically viable. Formal master planning for the entire site will await completion of land acquisition efforts.

Proposed Park and Open Space Improvements: Short-term plans call for Ripps Bayou to remain unimproved, pending expanded access. Improvements to Deer Creek Park should await resolution of the Deer Creek crossing issue (Project D30).

Operational Issues: Ripps Bayou is currently only accessible via the Grand River. Current efforts will focus on property signing and management to ensure existing users, including anglers, kayakers and archery hunters, respect adjacent private properties, and do not negatively impact the natural features of the site.

K. Kuits Bayou

Land Acquisition/Park Expansion Priorities: Purchased in 2009, this 80-acre site, with almost 6,200 linear feet of Grand River frontage, offers a significant stretch of natural land along the Grand River and initiates efforts to secure land for the future Grand River Greenway Trail connections in Allendale Township. Efforts need to be made to evaluate additional properties on either side of Kuits Bayou to create necessary linkages for the trail (Project A37).

Planning Strategies: Although this site remains part of the preferred greenway trail route along the river in Allendale Township, current efforts have focused on a more feasible inland route that serves both the greenway and the local needs of Allendale Township. This should not preclude looking for opportunities with willing landowners to create the preferred connections along the Grand River

Proposed Park and Open Space Improvements: Public access is currently limited to visitors accessing the site by boat from the Grand River. Short-term plans call for the site to remain unimproved, pending expanded access.

Operational Issues: Current efforts will focus on property signing and management to ensure existing users, including anglers, kayakers, and archery hunters, respect adjacent private properties and do not negatively impact the natural features of the site.

L. Grand River Open Space

Land Acquisition/Park Expansion Priorities: Ottawa County purchased the initial 111- acre property in early 2010. Working with the property owner and the USDA, a conservation easement was placed on most of the property prior to its purchase. The OCPRC then acquired the remaining property rights. Two additional purchases of riverfront land and inland lake frontage have increased the size of the site to its current 269 acres. Further expansion along the riverfront is desirable (Project A17). Although the owners have been unwilling to consider offers to purchase their single lot inholding at a reasonable price, efforts should continue to secure this property and resolve this potentially adversarial relationship (Project A38).

Planning Strategies: Initial planning was completed to facilitate basic public access improvements, but additional detailed planning for the trail system or other improvements still needs to be completed. A natural features inventory for this site should also be considered, as well as a land and wildlife management plan.

Proposed Park and Open Space Improvements: Extensive floodplain forest restoration plantings were completed in early 2010, including 15,000 trees and shrubs. Short-term development plans call for the site to remain primarily unimproved; however, the existing gravel entrance drive was improved and a gravel parking area was installed, including a pit toilet and trailhead kiosk. A basic system of trails to access the riverfront is desirable (Project D11).

Operational Issues: Current efforts will focus on property signing and management to ensure existing users, including anglers, kayakers, and archery hunters respect adjacent private properties and do not negatively impact the natural features of the site. A good relationship with the current landowner of the inholding should be fostered to address management and operational issues as they arise.

M. Grand Ravines

Land Acquisition/Park Expansion: A 68-acre property previously known as Fillmore at the Bend was acquired in 1999, in anticipation of acquiring an adjoining approximate 100-acre property with Grand River frontage. This property, acquired in 2010, has dramatic ravines and high quality natural communities and was identified as one of Ottawa County's highest quality natural areas in the Natural Features Inventory of Ottawa County (1988). The property also links to an extensive natural ravine system owned by Grand Valley State University (GVSU). In late 2011, a third purchase of 19 acres, funded by a private donation, was added to the park and named the John J. Helstrom Natural Area. In 2018 another 15 acre parcel was added via donation from a neighbor to the east bringing total acreage to 202. Another small natural area to the southeast of the current site near the current eagle's nest would also be a desirable addition (Project A18), and two parcels on either side of the entrance drive would help to secure the upper ends of two ravines and control of the entrance drive corridor from development (Project A39). Although not contiguous, properties directly north of the GVSU campus and M-45 would be exceptional additions to an overall system of natural and recreational riverfront, woodlands, and ravines on both GVSU and Parks property (Project A40).

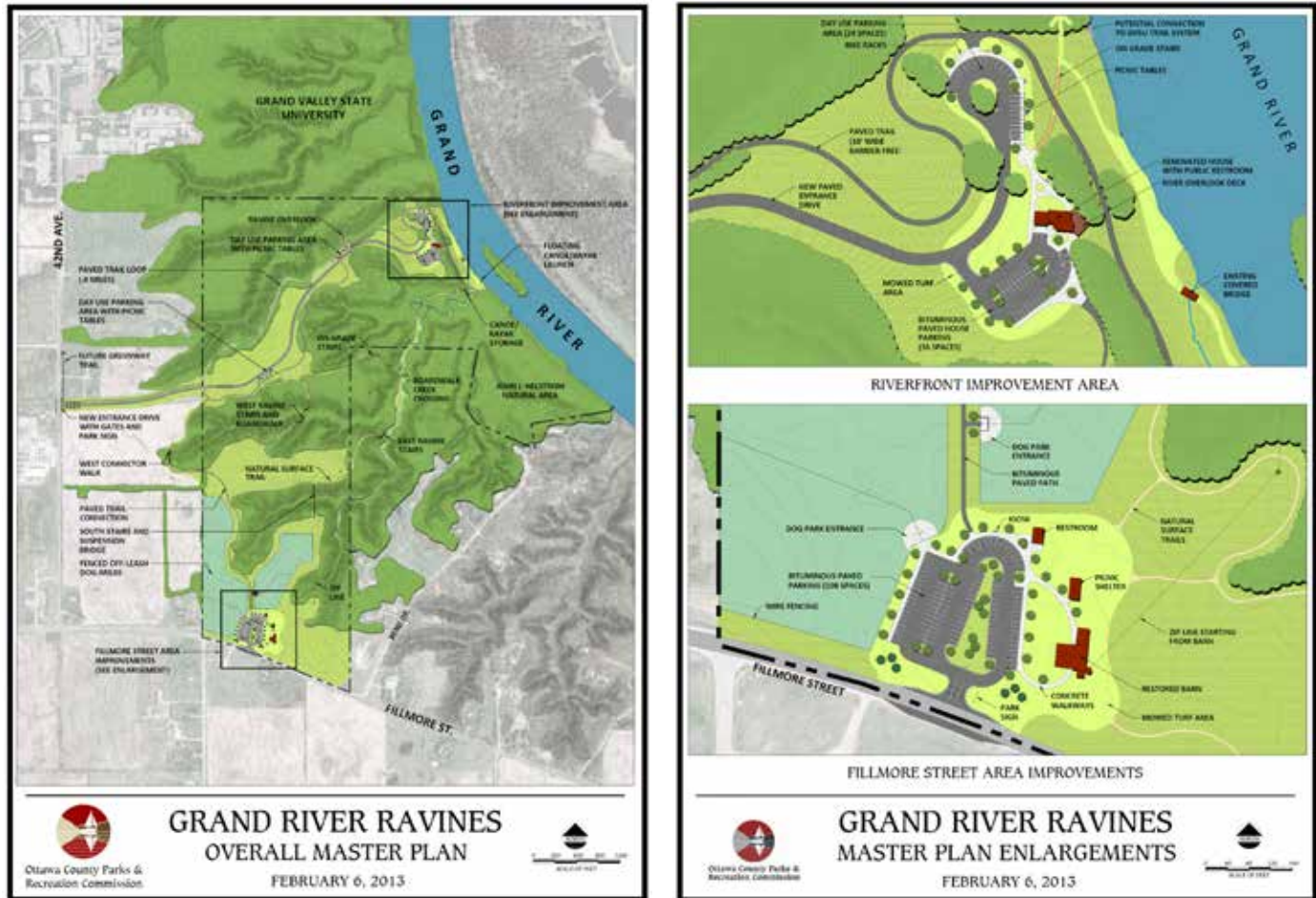
Planning Strategies: A formal master plan for the site was approved in 2013 (Figure 13.19). Continued collaboration with GVSU should be pursued with the goal of maximizing the benefit of the park and natural portions of GVSU property to the University, its students, and the public while conserving their natural features. The North GVSU properties also present opportunities for cooperation with the University and potentially Allendale Township.

Park and Open Space Improvements: Major improvements consistent with the master plan were completed in 2014 and 2015. These included improved entrances and parking at both the north and south portions of the site, construction of an off-leash dog park, ravine overlook deck, and new entrance road. The existing house overlooking the river was also renovated, and the historic barn along Fillmore Street was restored. Additional improvements including paved trails and a pedestrian suspension bridge were completed in 2017, although some items of the master plan including a zip line and additional wooden stairway await further consideration, planning, and funding. Heavy off-trail use of the waterfront area will require improvements to control circulation and potential erosion (Project D56). Experience has shown that this site is very desirable as a wedding venue. Electricity has been added to the

open grass area near the lodge, but additional improvements to facilitate this use should be considered (Project D21). Finally, the extraordinary success of the off-leash dog park has led to requests from users and park staff for various improvements including lighting, more paved space, and irrigation to make the area more useable year-round and less muddy (Project D63).

Operational Issues: Extremely heavy use at the dog park at times will need to be monitored and actions taken to maintain a high quality experience.

Figure 13.19 - Grand Ravines Master Plan



N. Grand River Park

Land Acquisition/Park Expansion: The potential exists to expand this 162-acre park to add high quality natural land, buffer existing natural features within the park, and link the park via easements or direct ownership upstream to the Bend Area or downstream to the Grand River Ravines site and GVSU (Projects A30, A33).

Planning/Operational Strategies: A full master plan has not been developed for Grand River Park since acquiring the park from Georgetown Township in 1999. At that time, consideration was given to improving the 12-acre water body within the park to offer swimming. Recognizing the greater potential of the Bend Area for large-scale water-based recreation activities, a decision was made to delay master planning for Grand River Park until the goals of the site are better defined. Considering that the park is functioning well as currently configured, this plan recommends, as in previous plans, to delay work on a full master plan (Project P3) until the OCPRC can progress further with the Bend Area Park and can better assess other nearby greenway opportunities.

Continued cooperation and communication with Georgetown Township should be pursued to maximize opportunities for connections to be considered in public planning and private development approvals.

Proposed Park and Open Space Improvements: The park functions well following basic site improvements completed in 1999. Path replacement and repairs, including the addition of barrier-free picnic sites, were completed in 2010, as well as significant renovations of the wet portions of the existing trail system. Renovation of the existing boat launch was completed 2011, and a universally

accessible kayak launch added soon after. The main fishing deck/boardwalk on the inland lake was renovated in 2019. Continued high quality maintenance and general site improvements should continue until further direction is obtained from a future park master plan. In particular, renovations to the existing drive and parking need to be considered (Project R12). Currently major pavement work is being delayed pending the reconstruction 28th Ave. This work is being done as part of the development of new housing east of the park and will require major reconfiguration of the main park and launch ramp entrance drives. This site also needs to support the greenway trail development with improvements to connect existing amenities and support facilities to the paved trail corridor (Project D4).

O. Bend Area

Land Acquisition/Park Expansion: Unique in its development, this project exists primarily as a master plan now, with Ottawa County completing its first 188-acre purchase in the master plan area in 2007. With assistance from the Ottawa County Parks Foundation, the Moss House, a historic farmhouse located along 12th Avenue was purchased in 2018 as a potential site for a unique rental facility similar to the Weaver House. The purchase also eliminated the potential for an undesirable private inholding in the final park boundary. An additional purchase of 149 acres of more natural land was completed in 2020. With a goal to provide swimming and other water-based recreation opportunities in eastern Ottawa County plus expand the greenway, OCPRC contacted the landowners, primarily gravel-mining operations, and obtained permission to work with them to develop a master plan for the site. The goal was to develop a plan which would result in a county park as the end use and serve as the mine reclamation plan for the entire site. Negotiations with the two main landholders in the master plan area, as well as with adjacent property owners should continue. Prime lands to make up the remaining contiguous area of the site have been identified (Projects A29, A31 and A41). A potential site for a main new entrance drive off from Cottonwood Drive would also be desirable (Project A32).

Planning/Operational Strategies: The Bend Area Master Plan was completed in September 2000, and that plan graphic is shown in Figure 13.20. Additional planning work was completed in 2010 to update the plan based on actual site conditions and a better understanding of the status and likely extent of mining operations. The conceptual plan produced by this process is shown in Figure 13.21. Following preliminary negotiations with the owner of the property east of 12th Avenue and west of the Jenison airport, further conceptual planning for an even larger area was completed (Figure 13.22). This latest plan should form the basis for a final master plan to be completed when final property boundaries are determined (Project P1).

Park and Open Space Improvements: Two old buildings were removed and a gravel parking area constructed at the end of 12th Avenue in 2009, providing access to the new park parcels which are currently designated as open space. As other properties are acquired or purchase agreements put in place, an early focus should be on site restoration and establishment of wetlands in previously mined areas as called for in the master plan (Project D7). In the short term, development of a marked system of trails would be desirable along with basic visitor access facilities (Project D8a). Major facility development will wait until the acquisition of key properties is completed and will be coordinated with development of the Grand River Greenway Trail (Project D8b).

Operational Issues: On-going oil extraction operations including wells, tanks, electrical lines, and piping will need special consideration as public use continues and increases with further development.

P. Jenison Mill Area

Land Acquisition/Park Expansion Priorities: This area of undeveloped floodplain along the Grand River and behind the main business district of Georgetown was acquired with a series of small purchases. Along with properties owned by Georgetown Township, the site encompasses 43 acres. No additional purchases are anticipated, although connection to the riverfront property to the north would be high priority if that property is acquired (Project A34)

Planning Strategies: A plan for the trail through the area was developed in 2020. Additional amenities including historic interpretation may also be possible.

Proposed Park and Open Space Improvements: The first phase of improvements to this site will be constructed in 2021 (Project D54).

Operational Issues: A formal agreement for use, management, or possible transfer of the existing Georgetown Township parcels will need to be put in place.

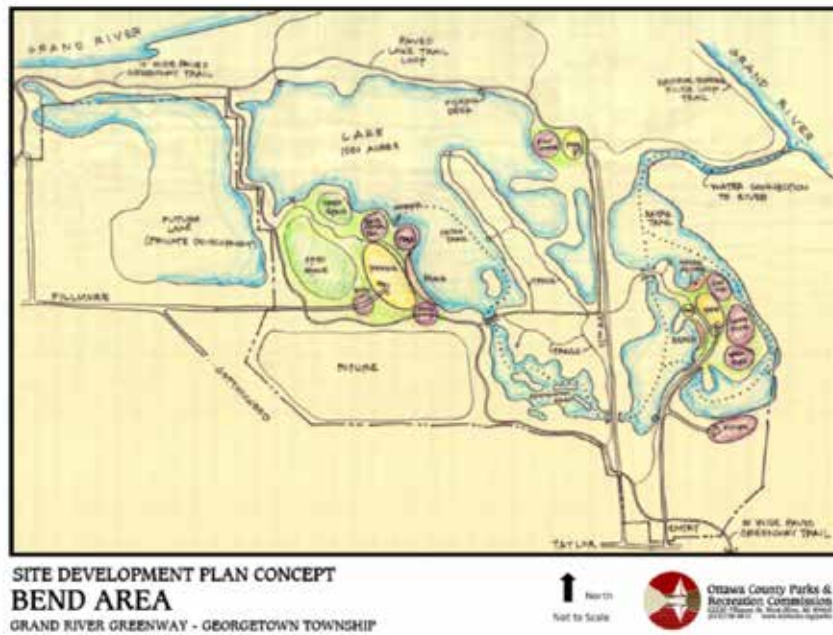
Figure 13.20 - Bend Area Master Plan



Figure 13.21 - Bend Area Preliminary Master Plan



Figure 13.22 - Bend Area Concept Plan



PIGEON RIVER GREENWAY

A. General Greenway

Land Acquisition/Park Expansion Priorities: The OCPRC should seek to expand the greenway through protection of key natural and recreational lands as identified in the greenway concept plan (Projects A25, A26). The Pigeon River is unique relative to the other greenway initiatives in that it is smaller in scope overall, and the majority of desirable greenway expansion property is held by just a couple of very large owners.

Consumers Energy owns nearly all riverfront land downstream of Pine Bend. Consumers currently cooperates with Ottawa County by leasing a small portion of its right-of-way to help facilitate trail connections at Pine Bend. Ottawa County should continue to seek further partnership opportunities with Consumers Energy. As described in the park master plan, the potential exists to provide trails along Consumers' 1.5-mile stretch of natural riverfront land located between Pine Bend and Lakeshore Drive. If successful with Consumers Energy, the OCPRC should also collaborate with Port Sheldon Township who currently leases the Sheldon Landing access site on Lakeshore Drive. Improvements to this area would be highly desirable (Project D18), for both land and water trail access. Even longer-range efforts to extend greenway public access beyond Lakeshore Drive to the Consumers Energy Pier Walkway is a goal that would provide a unique and highly attractive greenway trail experience of statewide significance.

Long-range potential also exists to work with the large landowner located upstream of Hemlock Crossing to provide a future greenway connection to Pigeon Creek Park. This tremendous expanse of natural land is being maintained in its natural state by current landowners, and Ottawa County should be ready to step forward to ensure long-range protection of the greenway corridor if the opportunity arises. Donation of a small (8-acre) parcel immediately upstream of Hemlock Crossing (east of US-31) occurred in early 2005, with an additional 22-acre donation completed in 2006. Additional acquisition should be considered to ensure the future opportunity to link to the larger landholdings, should the opportunity arise.

Planning Strategies: The existing master plan for the Pigeon River Greenway should be evaluated periodically and kept up-to-date. Control of many of Consumers Energy's right-of-ways has been transferred to ITC, a management company. OCPRC should pursue and develop a good working relationship with this new controlling company.

B. Pigeon Creek Park (and adjacent Open Space land)

Land Acquisition/Park Expansion Priorities: As identified in the greenway concept plan, Pigeon Creek Park should be expanded if adjacent high quality natural land becomes available. Although the park has more miles of trail (10) than any other county park, the addition of adjacent riverfront land to expand trail distance would be of great benefit to all key user groups including hikers, cross-country skiers, equestrians, and mountain bikers.

Planning Strategies: The current plan has been substantially completed. The OCPRC should maintain an up-to-date park master plan as new needs arise.

Proposed Park and Open Space Improvements: Expansion of the equestrian parking area was completed in 2008, and the main parking area expanded in 2012 to provide needed parking for busy winter recreation days. The lodge was also expanded in 2012 and lighting improved on one of the trail loops to improve winter activities. Paving of the existing main gravel parking lot would be desirable (Project D42) from a maintenance perspective, but would need to be balanced by the cost at a lot that is heavily used only when there is significant snow on the ground. No other immediate needs currently exist, although the OCPRC should continue to upgrade trails and facilities as necessary. This could include a small trail expansion into the area south of the Pigeon River (Project D27) and renovation of the Lodge mechanical systems (Project R61). The recently installed highway sign directing people to the Nature Education Center will also need to be updated (Project R62).

Operational Issues: Thinning of red pine areas of the park was completed in 2008, and damaged trails were re-established after this work was completed. Efforts to enhance the re-establishment of native vegetation is underway through tree planting projects by volunteer groups.

C. Hemlock Crossing/Pine Bend

Land Acquisition/Park Expansion: As indicated above, efforts to expand the greenway with additional riverfront both upstream and downstream via lease, easement, or acquisition should occur to maximize the potential of this unique natural resource area (Project A26).

Planning Strategies: The current master plan has been substantially completed. The OCPRC should maintain an up-to-date park master plan as new needs arise. Communication should be maintained with Consumers Energy and adjacent landowners.

Proposed Park and Open Space Improvements: Since the 2006 plan, two major capital improvement projects have been implemented. First, restoration and expansion of the historic Weaver House at Pine Bend was completed in 2006. The building is now suitable for a wide range of events including corporate retreats, family gatherings and other uses desiring a unique and attractive setting. Additional site work near the house, including renovation of an existing small building and development of a ceremonial trellis, platform, and garden area was also completed to enhance the site for weddings and other larger outdoor events. Second, a new Nature Center including parking and grassland restoration was completed in 2010. As use of this facility grows, modifications to existing facilities may be desirable to best facilitate use of the entire developed area of Hemlock Crossing. Two projects to improve nature programming have been suggested including a nature play area (Project D59) and a river edge boardwalk (Project D60). Projects at Pine Bend include some repairs to the Weaver House and potential improvements to facilitate weddings and large group events. (Projects R60, D62). Also, development of a kayak access point at Pine Bend would provide a desirable mid-paddle stopping point between Hemlock Crossing and Sheldon Landing (Project D61).

MACATAWA RIVER GREENWAY

A. General Greenway

Land Acquisition/Park Expansion: As indicated in Chapter 9, acquisition of land and easements is key to implementation of the Macatawa River Greenway. OCPRC will seek to further expand the greenway through protection of key natural and recreational lands as identified in the greenway concept plan (Figure 9.3).

Planning/Operational Strategies: OCPRC will continue to partner with the Outdoor Discovery Center Macatawa Greenway, the Macatawa Area Coordinating Council (MACC) and local units of government in the development of immediate and long-range greenway plans based on opportunities, feasibility, and funding.

Park and Open Space Improvements: The concept for the Macatawa River Greenway is to preserve key blocks of land and establish trails, picnic areas, and other park facilities to provide access to the river corridor. In addition, a greenway non-motorized paved pathway is envisioned, linking parks and open spaces within the greenway. In 2019, a marked bicycle and pedestrian route through the greenway including routes on the north and south sides of Lake Macatawa was installed. This route utilizes existing separated paved paths, road shoulders, and sidewalks to connect all greenway properties. It is hoped that this route will encourage exploration of the greenway and provide needed publicity to the greenway effort. Several obstacles including uncooperative land owners, difficult crossings of state highways, and an extremely costly tunnel under railroad tracks have recently influenced greenway partners to modify their shorter term goals to making some of the needed connections with non-paved hiking trails.

Note that the review and discussion of the Historic Ottawa Beach Parks county property, with frontage on both Lake Macatawa and Lake Michigan, is included under the Lake Michigan Coastal Greenway.

Operational Issues: Currently, greenway partners operate and maintain their respective sites independently. If and when a fully functioning paved greenway trail is completed, having a single entity responsible for the care and maintenance of that trail could be beneficial under an appropriate agreement.

B. Upper Macatawa Natural Area

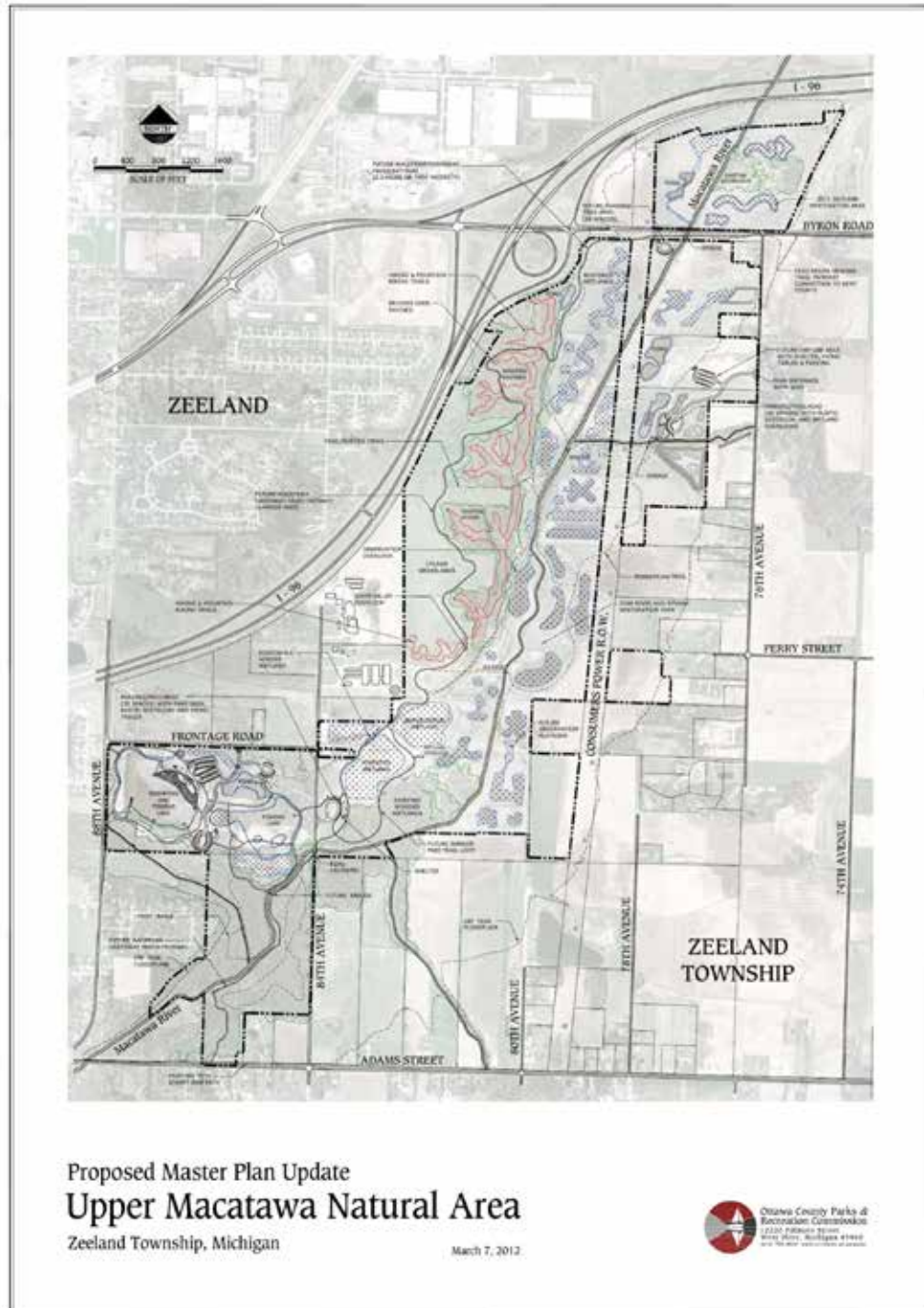
Land Acquisition/Park Expansion: The potential exists to expand the Upper Macatawa Natural Area from its existing 612 acres to over 700 acres (Project A11). The resulting park would be one of the largest in the county park system, offering valuable resource protection and public recreation benefits in a rapidly urbanizing area. Lands targeted for acquisition are shown on the greenway concept plan and include an approximate 80-acre Road Commission property (Project A24).

Planning/Operational Strategies: A comprehensive park master plan was completed in early 2006 and then updated in 2012 (Figure 13.23 and 13.24). The approved plan seeks to accomplish four basic goals, including: 1) expand park and open space land and outdoor recreation opportunities, 2) improve water quality, 3) expand flood storage, and 4) preserve, expand and enhance wildlife habitat. The updated plan specifically dealt with the addition of mountain bike trails to the wooded ravines. With development of the

paved greenway trail segment, master plan elements are substantially complete, except for a potential multipurpose rental building accessible from the 76th Avenue entrance (Project D32).

Park and Open Space Improvements: Significant restoration work was completed at the Upper Macatawa Natural Area from 2003-2010. Native grasslands and shallow water wetlands were installed in almost all areas of previously farmed floodplain. Initial public access improvements to the site in the form of parking areas and trails were completed in 2007. Recent additions include several miles of mountain bike trails, a 10-foot wide paved non-motorized trail that traverses the entire length of the park, and trailhead amenities at the 84th Avenue, entrance including paved parking, a shelter, water sources, and solar powered parking area lights. With the increased use at this location, the development of a modern restroom facility may be desirable (Project D15). The development of the west activity area (Project D38) would only occur with transfer of this property from the Road Commission.

Figure 13.23 - Upper Macatawa Natural Area Master Plan



C. Hawthorn Pond

Land Acquisition/Park Expansion Priorities: This property was purchased jointly with Holland Charter Township. An additional purchase of the undeveloped commercial property directly adjacent to the north would provide a great route for the greenway trail (avoiding the need for two bridges) and upland for additional park amenities such as a modern restroom (Project A44).

Planning strategies, proposed park and open space improvements, and operational issues are all the primary responsibility of the Township. Any larger goals tied to the greenway would be fully coordinated with their efforts.

D. Adams Street Landing

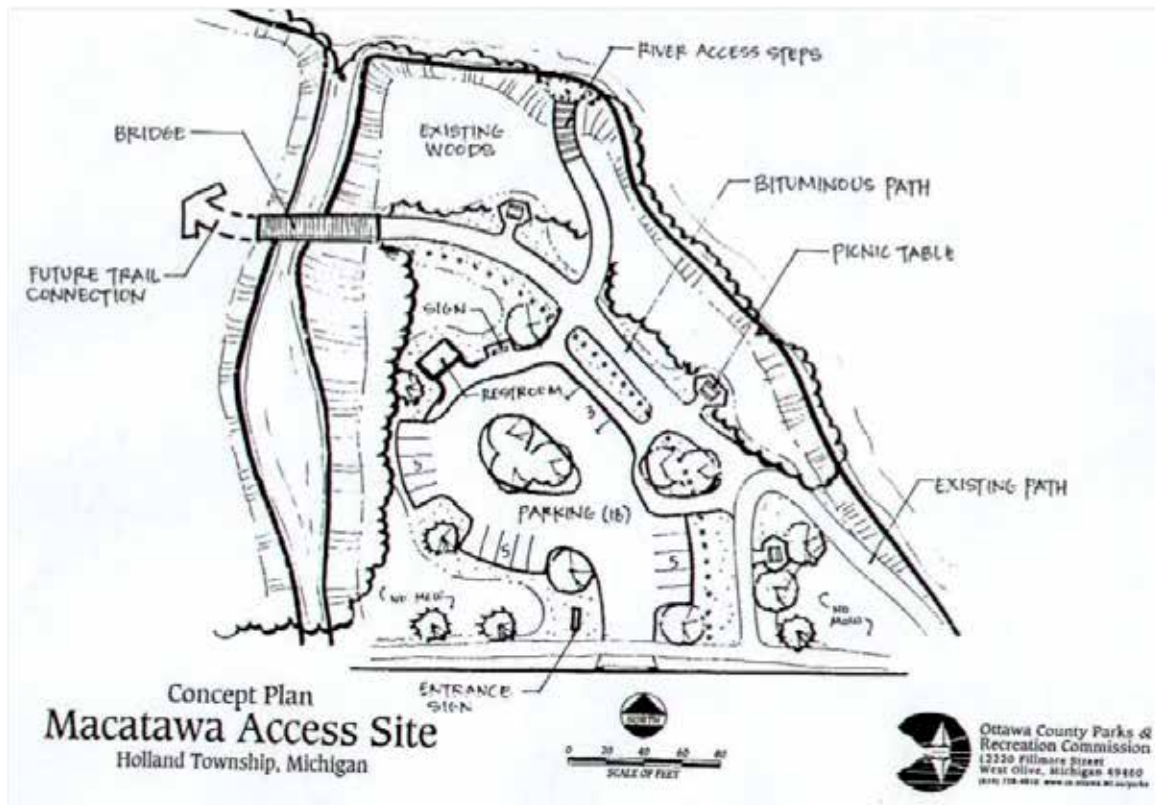
Land Acquisition/Park Expansion: The OCPRC will seek to expand this 10-acre site through the acquisition of adjacent natural riverfront land. Special emphasis should be placed on making a connection via purchase or easements to Paw Paw park to the northwest (Project A5).

Planning/Operational Strategies: A conceptual plan for the site was developed in 2005 (Figure 13.24). The site is envisioned as a river access point for anglers and kayakers and as a staging area for bicyclists riding the future greenway trail. Some limited opportunities for picnicking will also be provided. Additional planning will need to be undertaken when land acquisition and trail connections are completed. Other planning and development work in the greenway including work on the adjacent church property south of Adams Street and Paw Paw Park (see below) need to be considered to determine what future facilities best complement other projects and serve greenway users.

Proposed Park and Open Space Improvements: Development of a parking and river access point was completed in 2006. Additional improvements including a bridge, restrooms and information signage are also shown on the concept. These facilities would probably be developed in conjunction with construction of the greenway trail (Project D22).

Operational Issues: Frequent flooding with deposition of large amounts of silt have covered the kayak access point. Although still usable, the site will need redesign or substantial additional regular maintenance to make it fully functional.

Figure 13.24 - Macatawa River Adams Street Site Concept Plan



E. Paw Paw Park (former Macatawa Greenspace)

Land Acquisition/Park Expansion: This site is composed of the 122-acre former Holland Country Club property, purchased in 2010, and the former City of Holland's Paw Paw Park, located west of Paw Paw Drive, which was transferred for management purposes to the OCPRC via long-term lease in 2015. The OCPRC will seek to expand this site through the acquisition of adjacent natural or undeveloped riverfront land. Connections to Adams Street Landing and nearby neighborhoods should be priorities (Project A5).

Planning Strategies: A master plan was produced in early 2011. The plan has guided development to serve three main purposes. First, a large portion of the floodplain area has been restored to wetland and other native habitats. Second, the relatively higher northeast portion of the site provides space for more active recreational uses (a disc golf course and trail system, along with future play area and modern restrooms). Finally, all plans will facilitate the future development of the paved Macatawa Greenway trail traversing the length of the site from Paw Paw Drive to the south property line.

Proposed Park and Open Space Improvements: Restoration work started in 2010 on over 50 acres of floodplain. This work was made possible through an agreement with Request Foods, Inc. that allowed them to use 20 acres of this area as mitigation for wetlands destroyed as part of their plant expansion in Holland Township and a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant used to restore an additional 32 acres. User facilities were developed in conjunction with the restoration, including parking, a trail system, and the disc golf course. A paved trail connection between the east and west sections of the park was also completed in 2014. Other future improvements included in the master plan that should be considered as use patterns are established include a modern restroom and nature based play area at the east entrance (Project D23), a drinking fountain (Project D13) and a segment of paved non-motorized trail along the Macatawa River (Project D14). At Paw Paw Park West, several significant renovations have been completed including signing the trail system, repairing the existing picnic shelter, adding a new playground and repaving the main parking loop. Additional improvements including renovation of the riverfront and addition of boardwalks to wet areas of the trail system should continue to be pursued (Project R63).

Figure 13.25 - Paw Paw Park Conceptual Master Plan



GENERAL PARKS, OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS

A. General Parks and Open Space Lands

Land Acquisition/Park Expansion: In addition to its focus on the coastal and river-based greenways, the OCPRC is interested in acquiring additional land for park and open space purposes where suitable natural resource features exist in the county. Recent discussions about the need for additional mountain biking in northwest Ottawa County, for example, could lead to land analysis and possible acquisitions (Project D24). Concerns about geographic equity of park facilities could also lead to efforts to acquire and develop a new park site (Project A43).

Another example relates to a suggestion made to consider the potential for a collaboration with the Water Resources Commission,

Jamestown Township and possibly the City of Hudsonville on a park project in Jamestown Township. The Ottawa County Water Resources Commissioner owns a property in Jamestown Township that borders land owned by the Township. The Water Resources land, which is owned for its dam and retention area, has hilly terrain with a stream and is forested. Together the properties would exceed 100 acres plus they are across the highway from the Hudsonville Nature Center and a tunnel connection was suggested as a possibility.

Planning and Operational Strategies: Park master plans for non-greenway parks should be kept up to date as guides for expansion and improvements. Other studies (e.g., Natural Features Inventory of Ottawa County), as well as other sources of information, should be utilized to seek out properties with unique natural resource features suited for inclusion in the county park and open space system.

B. Grose Park

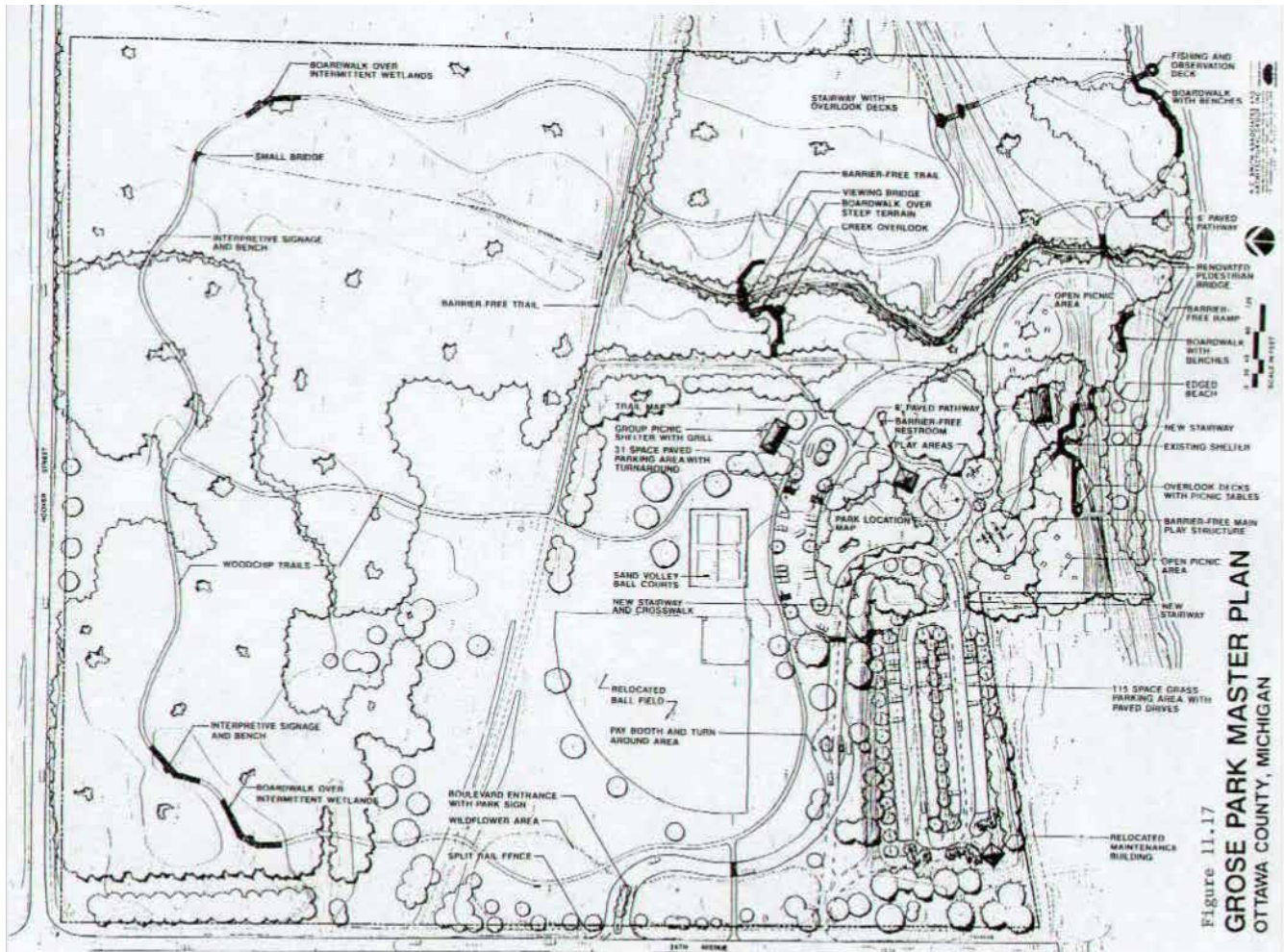
Land Acquisition/Park Expansion Priorities: Although opportunities have diminished due to development near the park’s easterly boundary, the expansion of Grose Park through the acquisition of adjacent natural land should continue to be explored (Project A12).

Planning Strategies: An up-to-date park master plan should be maintained for the park. The current park master plan was approved in 1994 (Figure 13.26).

Proposed Park and Open Space Improvements: Major park improvements as called for in the master plan have been completed. In addition, a major renovation to the beach area to make it more accessible and to address erosion issues was completed in 2007. Additional work to provide access and seating areas on the bluff overlooking the lake was also completed in late 2010. Renovations to some park elements due to age are anticipated (Projects R38, R39, R41, and R42).

Operational Issues: Sand movement along the beach continues to be a maintenance issue. Long-term management techniques should be investigated and implemented if possible. The existing stream corridor is also subject to flooding and bank erosion. Efforts to remedy this erosion should be explored (Project R40).

Figure 13.26 - Grose Park Master Plan



C. Musketawa Trail

Land Acquisition/Park Expansion Priorities: The approximate 10-mile segment of the Musketawa Trail located in Ottawa County is owned by the MDNR and managed by Ottawa County Parks through an operating agreement approved in 2002. OCPRC owns an 8-acre parcel, acquired via donation, located adjacent to the trail in Wright Township. Consideration should be given to purchase of other key parcels along the trail corridor, which would preserve key natural lands and enhance the experience of trail users. A good example is the Marne Bog (see following) which has potential to both preserve unique land and provide an interesting and educational outlet for users of the trail.

Planning Strategies: Spurred by federal funds secured by Kent County, an effort to complete a trail connection between the Musketawa Trail and the White Pines Trail in Comstock Park was successful. The Kent County Road Commission was responsible for implementing the trail, and OCPRC took a lead role in addressing concerns raised by adjacent landowners and the County Board of Commissioners about potential impacts to existing agricultural operations. The connection was successfully completed in 2016.

Operational Issues: An issue requiring further discussions with the State is the deterioration of the asphalt trail surface on the older portion of the Musketawa Trail. Currently the trail surface is being degraded by the carbide snowmobile studs used during periods of inadequate snow depths, growth of vegetation along the edges, and woodchucks undermining the rail bed in addition to the basic aging of the existing pavement. The damage to the trail surface will soon begin to limit use by rollerbladers, and eventually bikes. Efforts to restrict snowmobile use to periods with adequate snow base have had limited success. Regardless, resurfacing of the entire trail may be necessary in the relatively near future to ensure the popularity of the trail. Replacement of bridge decking and structural supports are also a maintenance concern.

D. Marne Bog

Land Acquisition/Park Expansion: The initial 40-acre bog property was acquired via donation and had no public access. In conjunction with the extension of the Musketawa Trail near the property, an additional parcel was acquired which protects more of the bog and provides a route from the Musketawa Trail. Efforts should continue to focus on acquisition of undeveloped buffer land around the bog (Project A13).

Planning/Operational Strategies: More detailed planning should be completed to determine the exact connecting route between the Musketawa Trail and the most interesting areas of the bog, as well as the type and extent of facilities that would be appropriate.

Park and Open Space Improvements: Any site improvements will follow the completion of land acquisition and site planning. The Parks Commission recognizes the key value of this site is to preserve it as a natural area and envisions future improvements to be limited to possible trail/boardwalk, viewing platform and interpretive displays (Project D25).

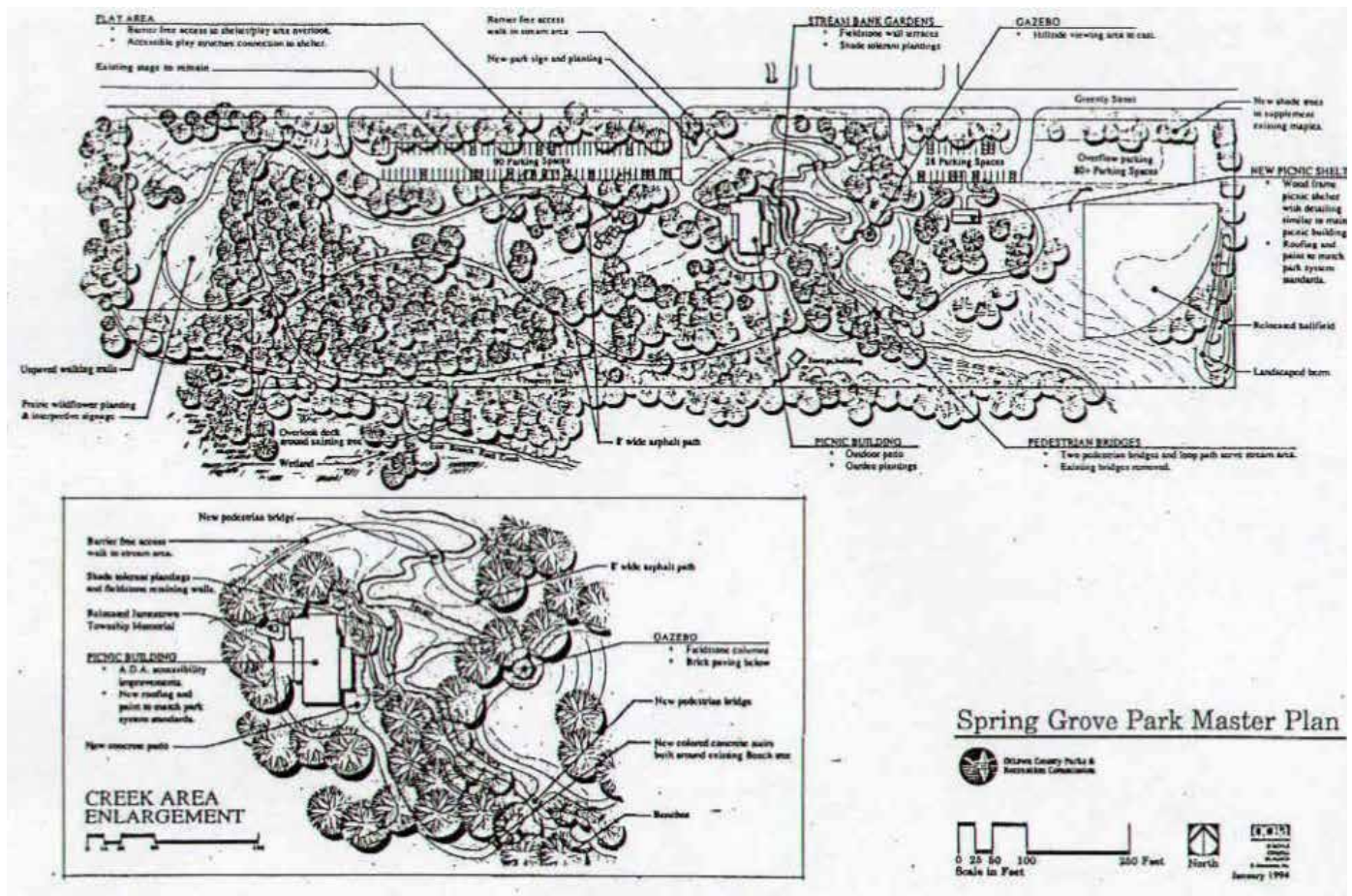
E. Spring Grove Park

Land Acquisition/Park Expansion: The area surrounding Spring Grove Park continues to suburbanize, and potential park expansion opportunities are diminishing. The Spring Grove Park master plan identifies the desirability of acquiring approximately 30 acres of wetlands and uplands adjacent to the park. The acquisition would protect the integrity of the wetlands as an important natural feature, expand open space land in Ottawa County, and permit interpretation of the resource to park visitors. Additional upstream lands should also be considered as required to implement a strategy to control storm water flows in the creek that often prove damaging to the water features in the park (Project A14).

Planning Strategies: An up-to-date park master plan should be maintained for the park (current park master plan approved in 1994). Evaluation of possible flood control measures should be initiated (Project D34).

Park and Open Space Improvements: The Spring Grove Park Phase II improvement project on the eastern portion of the site (Project D33) should continue to be evaluated as it relates to current uses and needs. This project would continue with development items identified in the 1994 park master plan, as shown in Figure 13.27. The focus of improvements would be expanded recreation opportunities in the east half of the park, which currently receives little use. A new parking lot would be constructed, along with a new picnic shelter. Other improvements would include ball-field improvements and development of trails and interpretive facilities. The project would significantly expand picnic opportunities in an area of high demand. The overwhelming success of Spring Grove as a wedding site has led to more recent discussions about using this eastern area to facilitate this use with parking and area for a reception tent or other venue. One of the oldest parks in the entire park system, Spring Grove will require some renovations in the near future (Projects R53 through R56).

Figure 13.27 - Spring Grove Master Plan



F. Hager Park

Land Acquisition/Park Expansion priorities: With subdivisions now nearly surrounding the park, opportunities for park expansion appear limited. The OCPRC should, however, remain alert to opportunities to expand the park boundaries, given the high use and popularity of Hager Park. Opportunities may still exist to provide a greenway linkage to the north connecting all the way to Grand River Park.

Planning Strategies: The current Hager Park Master Plan, updated in 2002, is included as Figure 13.28. The plan should be reviewed and updated periodically.

Proposed Park and Open Space Improvements: Improvements at Hager Park include renovation of the previous park visitor center into the DeVries and Vanderlaan Rooms, now a popular rental facility, and the installation of barrier fencing along the restored creek in areas of high public use. Trailhead signage has also been installed to better orient visitors to park trails. Future improvements should focus on projects identified in the park master plan, including establishment of a wedding gazebo with related hard-surface trails (Project D16), and other improvements identified in the plan. Much of this park was developed in the early 1990's, and several renovations have been completed since the last plan. Additional renovations and reconstruction are expected (Projects R45 through R51).

Operational Issues: Restoration measures installed at Hager Creek, a small stream running through the park, should also be monitored and evaluated on an ongoing basis to help ensure long-term success in controlling bank erosion and protecting water quality.

G. Riley Trails

Land Acquisition/Park Expansion Priorities: Riley Trails abuts roads and residential development on its north, west, and east boundaries. Therefore, few opportunities exist for expansion in those areas. The OCPRC should, however, remain alert to opportunities to expand the park boundaries to the south as opportunities to acquire undeveloped parcels become available (Project A7).

Planning Strategies: Following extensive construction work to recap the landfill (under management of the Ottawa County Road

Commission Utilities Engineers) including excavation of a two acre pond, a comprehensive master plan for the site was prepared in 2007. This plan recommended improvements both to the currently used areas of the site, as well as the portion of the site occupied by the former Southwest Ottawa County Landfill, which is currently closed to the public (Figure 13.29).

Park and Open Space Improvements: Initial improvements to the main access point on Riley Street were completed in 2008. These improvements included a bridge over the pond, renovated gravel parking, rustic toilets, information kiosk, and other amenities, including trail signage. Substantial additional trail improvements were completed in 2013. Soon after this, continued high use led to paving the main parking area in 2016. Based on current use, near future improvements could include a barrier-free fishing area on the existing pond (Project D17) and a modern restroom (Project D26). Further improvements, especially winter sports facilities (Project D39) as shown on the master plan, will be considered when the landfill area is opened to public use. Some minor renovations on the existing bridge are also anticipated (Project R52).

Figure 13.28 - Hager Park Master Plan

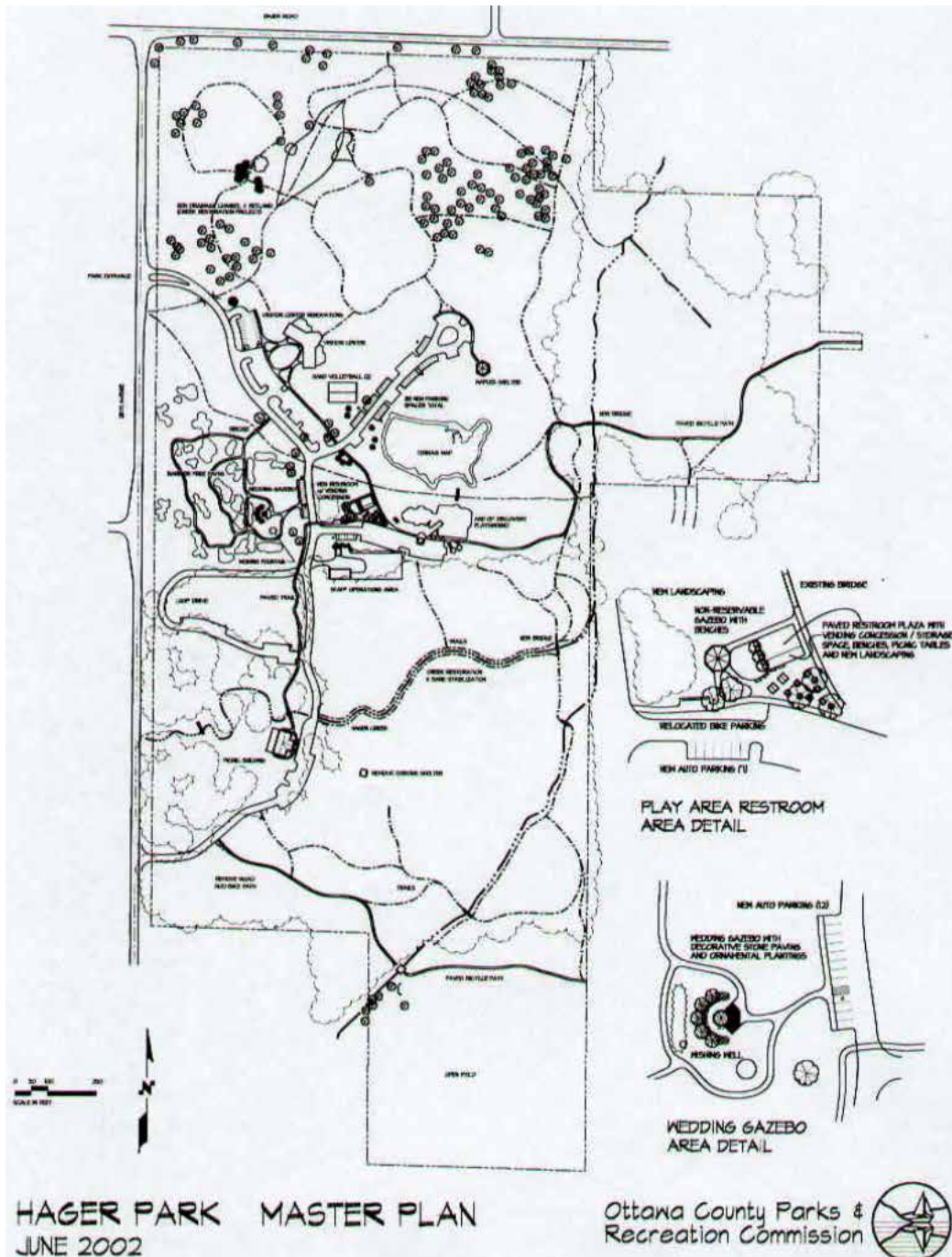
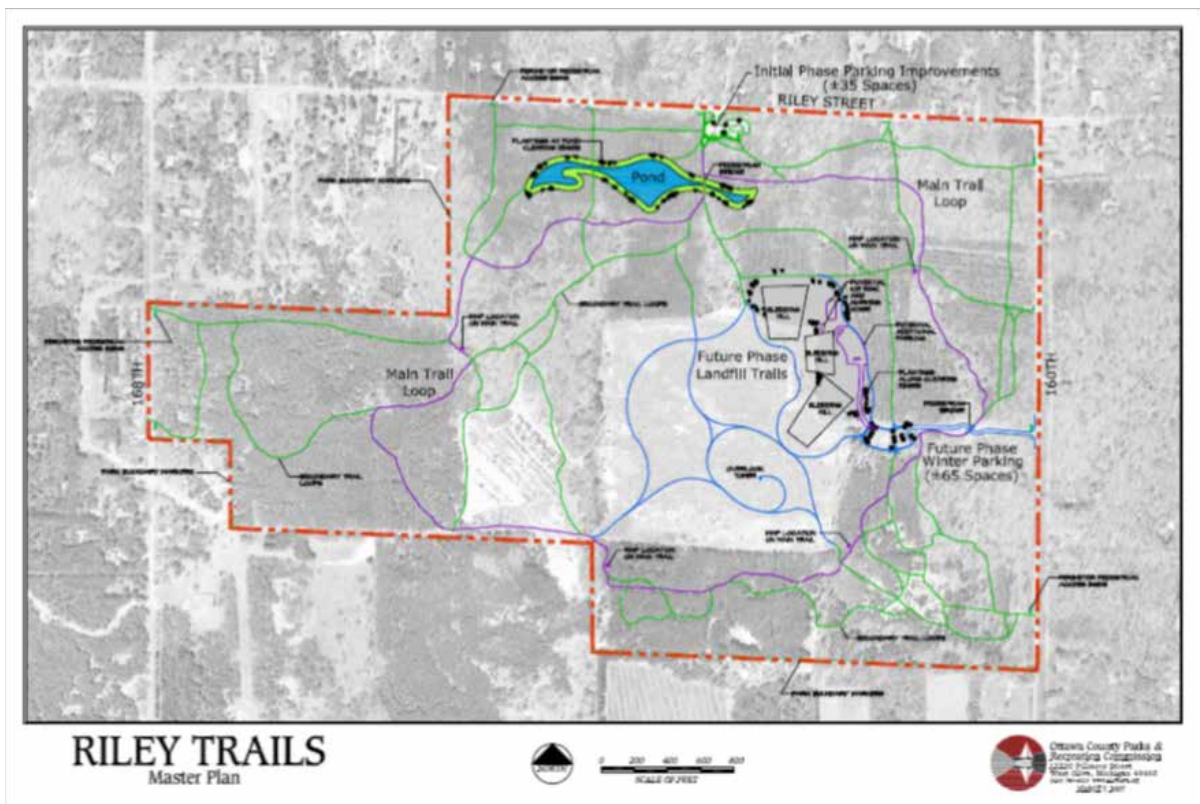


Figure 13.29 - Riley Trails Master Plan



H. Open Space Lands

In addition to Open Space Lands previously identified and discussed as part of the Grand River Greenway, OCPRC manages six additional inland sites not located within the identified greenway corridors. They are listed below and include a total of 1185 acres. Further information is available in the Chapter 7.

- Robinson Forest: 80 acres, Robinson Township
- Johnson Street Forest: 50 acres, Robinson Township
- Hiawatha Forest: 365 acres, Grand Haven Township
- Port Sheldon Natural Area: 440 acres, Port Sheldon Township
- Van Buren Street Dunes: 120 acres, Port Sheldon Township
- Pigeon Creek Forest: 130 acres, Olive Township

Land Acquisition/Park Expansion Priorities: Each site should be studied to determine if opportunities exist to acquire adjacent lands or inholdings consisting of good quality natural lands or connections to other resources. Port Sheldon Natural Area, in particular, has recently been surveyed and found to be highly diverse and ecologically valuable on a statewide basis. Efforts to expand this property to protect and buffer more resources should be pursued (Project A28).

Planning Strategies: Management of the extensive red pine plantations has been implemented at almost all open space sites. Because the OCPRC's overall goal is to promote the natural character and diversity of each site, the OCPRC should work to develop broader natural resource management plans for each property and take steps to enhance the habitat value of each site in accordance with these plans. Planning for trails and other low impact visitor facilities should continue to be evaluated as use patterns are better understood.

Proposed Park and Open Space Improvements: Relative to recreational use, the OCPRC's primary goal with these properties is to provide the public opportunity for access to less structured outdoor recreation environments. The Commission also recognizes that growth and development of lands surrounding Open Space Lands puts pressure on these sites to accommodate additional public use. Guidelines developed in the original Open Space Management Plan state that improvements should promote "safe, non-intensive recreation uses with an emphasis on activities that require minimal facility development and have limited impact on the natural character of the land."

Basic access improvements, including gravel roadside parking areas and information kiosks, were installed at each of these sites in 2006. Trail loops at Van Buren Dunes, Port Sheldon Natural Area, and Hiawatha Forest were implemented in late 2010. Trails at remaining sites should be installed, and additions to existing trails should be considered as the extent of use becomes known.

CAPITAL PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS

The following section lists the projects recommended for implementation during the next five year period which corresponds to the remainder of funding available from the parks millage approved in 2016. A capital improvement schedule is also included (Table 13.1), which outlines proposed projects for 2021 through 2027 with added detail about how funding these projects impacts the overall finances of the park system including the projected fund balance at the end of each year and at the end of this millage period. A list of these projects with summary descriptions is also found in Appendix K.

It should be noted that this capital improvement schedule includes only a small portion of all of the projects described in the preceding portions of this chapter. Instead, this group of projects is the culmination of the research, analysis, discussion, and thinking that were part of the planning process. More specifically, the list of all potential projects that might be helpful in meeting the Park Commissions goals was narrowed based on the following considerations and priorities:

Available Discretionary Funds and Fund Balance. As described in Chapter 6, current regular revenue sources are sufficient to meet the operating expenses of the park system with a significant amount of discretionary funds remaining that could be used for capital projects. At the same time, maintaining a sufficient fund balance to meet unforeseen needs is seen as financially prudent. This fund balance may, in fact, become critical if future millage renewal initiatives fail to pass, and the park system must fund its operations until a revised millage or other financing plan can be put in place. The current plan seeks to fully utilize available discretionary funds while building a fund balance of approximately one year of operational expenses by the time the current millage is expired.

Additional Available Funds. Grants, private donations, and other special sources of funds may be available for certain projects or activities. Needed projects with funding in place or a high probability of obtaining additional funding generally are more highly rated.

Needed Renovations. High quality maintenance includes larger projects to renovate, remodel, or replace deteriorated buildings, pavements, boardwalks, and other park structures. In fact, questions about the long term financial viability of new facilities are a common and reasonable inquiry from the public. The Parks Commission has made a conscious decision to resist the temptation to develop new facilities at the expense of caring for existing amenities. Therefore, most of the projects proposed for the next five years are renovations or repairs.

Current Initiatives. Projects or larger initiatives, such as the Grand River Greenway, that were in progress at the time of this plan have been chosen for continued funding unless significant reasons exist to change these priorities.

New Initiatives. Despite the above mentioned priorities, the Commission recognizes the need to expand park offerings to meet identified needs and opportunities and to meet expectations and interest by the public in Parks activities.

A master list of all known potential projects along with their relative priority rating is included in Appendix L. It should be noted that other projects identified in this chapter and in Appendix L may be reprioritized as conditions change, and other as yet undefined projects may also be pursued if they are thought to best meet the OCPRC's mission and goals

Table 13.1 - Capital Improvement Schedule

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE - BASED ON PROJECTED DISCRETIONARY FUNDS																	
Greenway	ID	Project Description	2021 Total Cost	2021 Grant/Donation	2022 Total Cost	2022 Grant/Donation	2023 Total Cost	2023 Grant/Donation	2024 Total Cost	2024 Grant/Donation	2025 Total Cost	2025 Grant/Donation	2026 Total Cost	2026 Grant/Donation	2027 Total Cost	2027 Grant/Donation	TOTAL
Lake Michigan Coastal	A04	Rosy Mound Expansion			\$ 1,250,000	\$ (1,000,000)											
	R27	North Beach parking connector stairs			\$ 46,000	\$ (23,000)											
	R20	Kirk Park Restroom Reconstruction			\$ 245,000	\$ (200,000)											
	R21	Kirk Park Play Improvements			\$ 122,000	\$ (70,000)											
	R22	Kirk Park Deck Reconstruction			\$ 140,000	\$ (70,000)											
	R36	Tunnel Deck & Stairway Reconstruction			\$ 112,000	\$ (55,000)											
	D45	Ottawa Sands Phase 1 Improvements			\$ 1,500,000	\$ (1,250,000)											
	R25	NOD Paving Crack Sealing			\$ 2,500	\$ (2,500)											
	R31	HOB Cottage Area Improvements			\$ 339,000												
	R23	Kirk Park Dune Stairs and Overlook															
	R29	Olive Shores Paving Crack Sealing															
	R24	Kirk Park Pavement reconstruction															
	Grand River	A31	Bend Area Phase 3 Acquisition	\$ 1,030,000	\$ (705,000)												
A36		Stearns Creek Expansion	\$ 225,000	\$ (195,000)													
D54		Idema Explorers Trail - Jenison Mill Segment	\$ 1,233,136	\$ (1,033,136)													
D47		Idema Explorers Trail - GH Segment			\$ 200,000	\$ (150,000)											
D48		Idema Explorers Trail - Stearns Connector			\$ 3,717,251	\$ (3,354,795)											
D52		Idema Explorers Trail - Ravines Connector			\$ 1,194,600	\$ (1,037,200)											
R18		Riverside Renovations			\$ 64,000												
A29		Bend Area Phase 4 Acq. (also ID's A32,A33)					\$ 597,800	\$ (345,300)									
D49		Idema Explorers Trail - Bass River West Ph 1			\$ 2,009,883	\$ (1,539,883)											
D50		Idema Explorers Trail - Eastmanville Connector			\$ 1,513,198	\$ (1,078,198)											
D53		Idema Explorers Trail - Bend Phase 1			\$ 484,932	\$ (363,848)											
D49		Idema Explorers Trail - Bass River West Ph 2			\$ 955,931	\$ (955,931)											
D49		Idema Explorers Trail - Alleendale Segment			\$ 1,967,052	\$ (1,937,052)											
D53	Idema Explorers Trail - Bend Phase 2					\$ 2,202,092	\$ (2,202,092)										
D88	Bend Area - Phase 1 Development			\$ 822,188	\$ (815,688)												
R09	Eastmanville Bayou Paving Crack Sealing			\$ 600,000	\$ (300,000)												
D49	Idema Explorers Trail - Bass River East					\$ 5,200											
D53	Idema Explorers Trail - Bend Phase 3																
D55	Idema Explorers Trail - Amenities																
Macatawa River	A44	Hawthorn Pond Expansion (5 acres)	\$ 125,000														
	D14	Adam Street Landing Linkage (40 acres)					\$ 100,000										
Pigeon River	R61	Paw Paw Macatawa Greenway Trail															
	R61	Pigeon Creek Lodge Renovations															
	R62	Highway Sign update	\$ 73,000														
	R60	Weaver House exterior repairs															
Other Sites	D18	Sheldon Landing Development															
	R52	Riley Trails Bridge renovations			\$ 6,300												
General	R66	Spring Grove Trails Upgrade			\$ 9,500												
	R55	Spring Grove Playground Upgrade			\$ 38,000												
	R51	Hager Park Age of Discovery Restroom							\$ 26,500								
	R41	Gosse Park Lake Shelter Renovations															
	R42	Gosse Park Playground Renovation															
	R05	Accessibility improvements			\$ 5,000		\$ 5,000		\$ 5,000		\$ 5,000		\$ 5,000		\$ 5,000		
	R01	Minor Renovations	\$ 5,000		\$ 20,000		\$ 20,000		\$ 20,000		\$ 20,000		\$ 20,000		\$ 20,000		
	R02	Pit Toilet Renovations	\$ 5,000		\$ 5,000		\$ 5,000		\$ 5,000		\$ 5,000		\$ 5,000		\$ 5,000		
R65	Native Lands cape Restoration	\$ 7,500		\$ 7,500		\$ 7,500		\$ 7,500		\$ 7,500		\$ 7,500		\$ 7,500			
R03	Trail Improvements	\$ 5,000		\$ 5,000		\$ 5,000		\$ 5,000		\$ 5,000		\$ 5,000		\$ 5,000			
R04	Tree Plantings	\$ 3,000		\$ 3,000		\$ 3,000		\$ 3,000		\$ 3,000		\$ 3,000		\$ 3,000			
Projected Capital expenditures:			\$ 2,731,636	\$ (1,933,136)	\$ 7,190,151	\$ (6,069,993)	\$ 6,280,313	\$ (4,577,229)	\$ 3,307,483	\$ (2,892,983)	\$ 4,949,630	\$ (4,187,780)	\$ 840,700	\$ (150,000)	\$ 2,146,172	\$ (2,100,672)	\$ 5,534,292
Projected Discretionary funds:			\$ 873,110		\$ 954,917		\$ 956,328		\$ 956,847		\$ 956,412		\$ 954,954		\$ 952,402		\$ 6,004,971
Net impact on fund balance:			\$ 74,610		\$ (165,241)		\$ (746,756)		\$ 542,347		\$ 194,562		\$ 264,254		\$ 906,902		\$ 1,070,679
Parks Fund Balance (assume \$2,148,874 after 2020)			\$ 2,223,484		\$ 2,058,243		\$ 1,311,487		\$ 1,853,834		\$ 2,049,396		\$ 2,312,650		\$ 3,219,552		

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SECTION 8

Appendices

- APPENDIX A MICHIGAN NATURAL FEATURES INVENTORY**
- APPENDIX B LOCAL PARK AND RECREATION INVENTORY**
- APPENDIX C 2020 COUNTY RESIDENT SURVEY RESULTS**
- APPENDIX D 2020 PARK USER SURVEY SUMMARY**
- APPENDIX E PARKS COMMISSION MINUTES & PUBLIC NOTICES**
- APPENDIX F OUTSTANDING MICHIGAN PARK SYSTEM COMPARISON**
- APPENDIX G COMMENT CARD**
- APPENDIX H NON-MOTORIZED PATHWAYS STUDY EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**
- APPENDIX I THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF UNIVERSAL DESIGN**
- APPENDIX J ACREAGE GOALS**
- APPENDIX K PROPOSED CAPITAL PROJECT LIST**
- APPENDIX L MASTER PROJECT LIST**
- APPENDIX M MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND GRANT HISTORY**

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MICHIGAN NATURAL FEATURES INVENTORY PROGRAM.
REVIEW OF SPECIAL SITES IN OTTAWA COUNTY

The following is a review of the 15 sites which were identified by the Michigan Natural Features Inventory Program for Ottawa County as being of particular significance. The site reviews, as described in the Program's findings, are numbered and refer to the identified sites in Figure 3.3.

Kitchel Dunes (PNA #5)

Sec. 19, T. 8N., R.16W., Spring Lake Township. This site lies just northwest of downtown Grand Haven, across the Grand River. It is situated south of North Shore Road and east of North Shore Drive. Kitchel Dunes was determined to have three notably significant natural community occurrences: Open Dunes, Interdunal Wetland and Great Lakes Barrens.

The 94 acre dunes are dominated by Sand Cherry (Prunus pumila) and a Dunegrass (Calamovilfa longifolia). A number of artificial disturbances degrade these dunes. A road on the lakeward side of the dunes has disrupted natural excavation and deposition of sand; a sand mine is present on the north side of the site; and the west half of the dunes were planted with pines in the 1940's.

Six Interdunal Wetlands totaling 16 acres are located within the dunes. They are dominated by Twig-rush (Cladium mariscoides) and Jack Pine (Pinus banksiana). Surrounding these wetlands in sand-filled interdunal troughs are Jack pine-dominated Great Lakes Barrens totaling 40 acres. In both of these natural communities, sand deposition is believed to be occurring faster than naturally.

One population of a state threatened plant and one population of a state threatened/proposed federally threatened plant occur at this site. Ownership is by the City of Ferrysburg, Central Michigan University, the City of Grand Haven and Construction Aggregates Corporation. The majority of the area is under the first two ownerships and is protected as a natural area.

Hoffmaster State Park (PNA #7)

Sec. 1, T.8N., R.17W. and w 1/2 sec 6, T.8N., R.16W., Spring Lake Township. This site is midway between Muskegon and Grand Haven, in both Ottawa and Muskegon Counties. It was determined to have two natural communities of exceptional significance: Dry-Mesic Southern Forest and Open Dunes. In addition, populations of a state threatened and a federally threatened/state threatened plant occurs within the Ottawa County acreage of this site.

The 256 acre mature Dry-mesic Southern Forest is dominated by

Northern Red Oak, Beech and Sugar Maple. It is transitional to Mesic Northern Forest and includes a dozen 5-10 acre stands of this community type. The 116 acre dunes rise in a series of blowouts 180' above Lake Michigan. They are dominated by a Dunegrass (Calamovilfa longifolia), with either Merram Grass or Little Bluestem (Andropogon scoparius) co-dominant. Some ORV use and locally heavy foot traffic are major artificial disturbances on the dunes.

One population of a state threatened plant and one population of a state threatened/proposed federally threatened plant occur here. Ownership (within Ottawa County) is nearly all in P. J. Hoffmaster State Park, with only a few acres owned by Construction Aggregates Corporation. The majority of the natural quality acreage in the park is designated as Hoffmaster Natural Area.

South Lloyd Island (PNA #10):

S 1/2, SE 1/4, sec. 22, N 1/2, NE 1/4, sec 27; and NW 1/4, NW 1/4, NW 1/4, sec. 26, T.8N., R.16W., Spring Lake Township. This 31 acre marsh is approximately one mile due south of Spring Lake and is one in a series of natural-quality marshes found on islands within the Grand River. Natural-quality marsh, in contrast to previously cultivated (or otherwise disturbed) land, occupies approximately one-half of the island which is owned by Twin Lakes Farms, Incorporated.

This island is a mosaic of Southern Wet Meadow and Emergent Marsh (including tall emergent, broad-leaved emergent, and floating-leaved zones), with Submergent Marsh (dominated by Coontail (Ceratophyllum demersum) and Water-milfoil (Myriophyllum sp.)) restricted to the small protected bayous. The meadow is dominated by Blue-joint (Calamagrostis canadensis) and Reed Canary-grass (Phalaris arundinacea), and occupies the south, southeast, southwest and west sides of the island. These areas appeared to be heavily disturbed in 1938 aerial photographs, perhaps the result of either agriculture and/or use as river dredging spoil sites. In addition to the meadows, Willows (Salix sp.) and Purple loosestrife are locally dominant here. The Emergent Marsh is of natural quality and was locally dominated by either Hybrid Cat-tail (Typha X glauca), Pickerel-weed or Arrow-arum. The substrate is a deep silt, generally under 1-2 feet of water in 1988.

This island is the site for one state threatened plant population. No other Special Plants or Special Animals are known from, or were encountered while surveying this marsh. This marsh was determined to be a notably significant Great Lakes Marsh occurrence.

Pottawattomie Bayou (PNA #11)

SW 1/4; W 1/4, SE 1/4; SW 1/4, NW 1/4; W 1/2, SE 1/4, NW 1/4, sec. 2; N 1/2, NW 1/4, W 1/2, NW 1/4, NE 1/4, sec. 11; NE 1/4, NE

1/4, NE 1/4, sec. 10; E 1/2, sec. 3, T.7N, R. 16W., Grand Haven Township; and SE 1/4, SE 1/4, sec. 34, T.8N., R.16W., Spring Lake Township. This 122 acre marsh lies approximately 3 miles south south-east of Grand Haven. It is locally known as Hofma Park and is accessible from a boardwalk near the east end of Sleeper Street, 0.75 miles east of 168th Avenue. The majority of the site is owned and protected by the Township of Grand Haven, with significant additional unprotected acreage in Pitcher Investment company, Ester D. Witteveen, McBeath & Kule, and Nicholas Wolf.

Highly diverse Emergent and Southern Wet Meadow communities dominate most of the area, with moderately diverse Submergent Marsh (dominated by Coontail and Greater Duckweed (Spirodelia polyrhiza)) restricted to the main channel and the deeper, northern portions of the marsh. The Emergent Marsh is dominated by Arrow-arum and Pond-lily and gradually grades into atypical Southern Wet Meadow community (dominated by either Sedge (Carex aquatilis) or Swamp Loosestrife (Decodon verticillata) and Beggar-ticks (Bidens cernua) as the floating peat mat becomes more stable. Meadows on unstable mats are rarely encountered in Great Lakes Marshes. A narrow zone of Southern Shrub-Carr (dominated by Red-osier (Cornus stolonifera), Speckled Alder (Alnus rugosa), and Rice Cut-Grass (Leersia oryzoides) occurs at the base of the uplands. The only major disturbance to this marsh is a former railroad right-of-way which crosses through the center of the site. It is now occupied by an elevated boardwalk which allows for a natural hydrologic regime.

This site was determined to be exceptionally significant as a Great Lakes Marsh. It is the highest quality estuary-type marsh in the southern half of Michigan's Lower Peninsula. In addition, it has a population of a state threatened plant species. No Special Animals are known from this marsh.

Dermo Island (PNA #14)

S 1/2, SE 1/4, NW 1/4; S 1/2, NE 1/4; NE 1/4, SE 1/4, sec. 26, T.8N., R.16W., Spring Lake township. This 88 acre marsh lies approximately two miles east of Grand Haven and is one in a series of natural marshes on islands within the Grand River. Approximately one-half of this island was determined to be natural quality Great Lakes marsh, with the remainder (at the north and south ends of the island) as former agricultural land and/or river dredge spoil sites. These latter areas are dominated by Hybrid Cat-tail, Willows, Reed Canary-grass and Purple Loosestrife. The island is owned by the State of Michigan and is part of the Grand Haven State Game Area.

The essentially undisturbed marsh, on the south and west sides of the island, consists of a mixture of Southern Wet Meadow, Emergent Marsh (including tall emergent, broad-leaved emergent, and floating-leaved zones), and Submergent Marsh. A Bulrush (Scirpus fluviatilis), locally dominant within the Emergent Marsh, is uncommon in other marshes along the Grand River.

A portion of this island was determined to be notably significant Great Lakes Marsh occurrence. No Special Plants or Special Animals are known from this island.

Indian Channel (PNA #15)

Sec. 36, T.8N., R.16W., Spring Lake Township; NE 1/4; NE 1/4, NE 1/4, NW 1/4 sec. 1, T.7N., R.16W. Spring Lake Township; NW 1/4, sec. 6, T.7N., R.15W., Robinson Township; and S 1/2, sec. 31, T.8N., R.15W., Robinson Township. This 503 acre marsh lies 3 miles southeast of Grand Haven and is situated alongside and within the Grand River. The site consists of three adjacent marshes including an island west and south of Indian Channel, the wetland portion of a peninsula immediately east of the channel, and marsh east of these areas and immediately south of the main channel of the Grand River. The entire wetland acreage north of the Grand River was determined to be a Great Lakes Marsh of natural quality. The site south of the river is natural quality except immediately alongside the river, where dredging spoils may have been deposited. The majority of the area is within Grand Haven State Game Area. Significant private tracts include Felix Pytlinske, Marc Leona Crum, and Walter Maciejewski.

The island west of Indian Channel consisted of either Hybrid Cat-tails on exposed, sandy ground, or Arrow-arum on deep, unstable muck. High recent water levels have significantly lowered plant diversity at this site. The area east of the channel was primarily Arrow-arum, with Coontail and Greater Duckweed in the Submergent Marsh. The marsh south of the Grand River is dominated by three floating-leaved Emergent Marsh species: Water Lily, Pond-lily, and a Pondweed (Potamogeton nodosus). This plant community exists where water depths exceed three feet. The emergent-leaved plant community of Hybrid Cat-tail, Bur-reed (Sparganium eurycarpum), and Softstem Bulrush (Scirpus validus) occurs on slightly more elevated sites (0.5 to 2.5 feet of water depth). In between these two zones (in depths from 2.5 to 3 feet) are Pickerel-weed and Arrow-arum. A submergent zone was found in deeper water throughout the area and is dominated by Star Duckweed (Lemna trisulca), Waterweed (Elodia nuttallii), and Coontail.

This site was determined to be a notably significant Great Lakes Marsh occurrence. One state threatened animal is known from the Indian Channel of the Grand River. While no other Special Animals or Special Plants are known from the area, there is a likelihood of a state threatened plant occurring here.

Millhouse Bayou (PNA #16)

SW 1/4, sec. 1 and W 1/2, NE 1/4; E 1/2, NE 1/4, NW 1/4, sec. 12, T.7N., R.16W., Grand Haven Township. This 57 acre marsh lies approximately four miles southeast of Grand Haven, on a tributary of the Grand River. The vegetation is similar to Potawattomie

Bayou (PNA #11) one mile west, but the zonation is much narrower due to the smaller size of the bayou. The exotic weed Purple Loosestrife is abundant in localized areas in this marsh, which makes this a lower quality community than Potawattomie Bayou, despite less artificial disturbance. This site is owned by Floyd Payne, Ruth Kube, George Unger, and Martin Zimonick.

This site was determined to be a notably significant Great Lakes Marsh occurrence. A population of a state threatened plant occurs here. No other Special Plants or Special Animals are known from this marsh.

Vincent Creek Woods (PNA #19)

N 1/2, NE 1/4, sec. 6, T.8N., R.15W., Crockery Township. This site miles 1.5 miles southeast of Fruitport. 0.25 miles due south of the I-96/Fruitport Road interchange. It is characterized by a 65 acre notably significant Mesic Northern Forest, locally dominated by either Hemlock with White and Black Oak or Northern Red Oak and Sugar Maple. It represents the only natural quality example of a Hemlock forest type that was once widespread in the western part of the county. While many Hemlock and White Pine stumps are present from logging in the 1890's, some remain and there is reproduction of these species.

The two tracts comprising this site are owned by C. Jesiek and Don Jablonski. Moderate to locally heavy logging took place in 1987 to a mature to old second growth White Oak stand immediately west of Vincent Creek Woods. There are no Special Animals or Special Plants known from this site.

Bruce Bayou (PNA #20)

N 1/4, sec. 32; N 1/4, sec. 33; S 1/2, SE 1/4, SW 1/4; S 1/4, SE 1/4, sec. 29; SW 1/4; SW 1/4, SE 1/4, sec. 28, T.8N., R. 15W., Crockery Township. This 379 acre marsh lies along the Grand River, 3.5 miles southwest of Nunica. The majority of the site is within the boundaries of the Grand Haven State Game Area, with private ownerships in Spoonville Gun Club, John Leavitt, Clinton Peterson, and Arn. Johnson.

This site is characterized by an extensive Emergent Marsh dominated by Arrow-arum and Water-lily on 3.5 to 6 feet of unstable muck. It is mostly undisturbed, with the exception of a long, shallow ditch through the northeast part of the site. Submergent Marsh is restricted to protected embayments and is dominated by Coontail. Southern Wet Meadow is found where muck depth is less than 3.5 feet and underlain by sand. These meadows are dominated by Reed Canary-grass and Willow-weed (Polygonum lapathifolium).

This site was determined to be a notably significant Great Lakes Marsh occurrence. A population of a state threatened plant was found here. No other Special Plants or Special Animals are known

to occur in this marsh.

Stearns Bayou (PNA #22)

S 1/2, Sw 1/4; W 1/2, SW 1/4, SE 1/4, sec. 5 and NE 1/4; E 1/2, NE 1/4, NW 1/4, sec. 8, T.7N., R.15W., Robinson Township. This site was determined to be non-qualifying as a Great Lakes Marsh based on a field evaluation. However, a state threatened plant population occurs here. Ownership of the threatened plant habitat is by Chester Stolarz.

Grand Valley Ravines (PNA #26)

W 1/2, sec. 29; E 1/2, SE 1/4; SE 1/4, NE 1/4, sec. 30; E 1/2, NE 1/4; NE 1/4; SE 1/4 sec. 31; and NW 1/4, sec. 32, T.7N., R.13W., Tallmadge Township. This site lies six miles north of Hudsonville, along the west banks of the Grand River at Grand Valley State college. It extends from 0.2 to 1.3 miles south of the M-45 bridge over the Grand River. The 170 acre Mesic Southern Forest was determined to be notably significant. It is a diverse mature to old-growth woods dominated by Sugar Maple, Beech and Northern Red Oak. Included in this acreage are small areas of Dry-Mesic Southern Forest (Oak-Maple) and a Red Ash-Sugar Maple Southern Floodplain Forest, neither of which are large enough to be recognized as element occurrences.

Grand Valley Ravines was a historic locality for a state threatened plant, as well as being adjacent to more recent occurrences for a state threatened plant and a special concern plant. Ownership is by Grand Valley State College, Grand Valley State College Faculty Club and Calvin Aldrink.

Aman Park (PNA #31)

Sec. 22, T.7N., R.13W., Tallmadge Township. This site is located about six miles northwest of Grandville, two miles east of Grand Valley on M-45. It lies in the northwest part of a park owned by the City of Grand Rapids. This 23 acre Dry-Mesic Southern Forest was determined to be notably significant. It lies atop a 40-50' escarpment and is dominated by Northern Red Oak and White Oak. Historic fires probably maintained on Oak Opening natural community in presettlement times. Presently, the forest canopy has closed in and the woods are undergoing succession to a Beech-Sugar Maple stand due to lack of fire.

No Special Plants or Special Animals are known from within the natural community, although two plants inhabit the floodplain forest downslope.

South Grand Valley Ravine (PNA #32)

SE 1/4, sec. 32, T.7N., R.13W., Tallmadge Township and sec. 5, T.6N., R.13W., Georgetown Township. This site lies five miles north of Hudsonville, on the south bank of the Grand River. It

was determined to be a notably significant Mesic Southern Forest dominated by Sugar Maple and Beech. While old growth trees still remain, many of the oaks and beech were cut 20-24 years ago. This 47 acre forest contains small acreages of Dry-Mesic Southern Forest and Southern Floodplain Forest, which individually do not qualify as natural community occurrences. The site is owned by Ricardo Meana. There are Special Plants or Special Animals reported from the site.

Marne Bog (PNA #33)

E 1/2, sec. 36, T.8N., R.13W., Wright Township. This site lies 1.5 miles east of Marne, between Garfield and Hayes Streets. It was determined to be a notably significant, 25 acre Bog dominated by Cat-tails, Sphagnum and a Sedge (Carex stricta). The Bog lies in the center of a shallow depression on glacial outwash, surrounded by Relict Conifer Swamp and Southern Swamp. While the former is of high natural quality, it is not large enough to be a natural community occurrence.

This site is owned by Henry Kaptein. There are no Special Plants or Special Animals reported from here.

Stafford Lake (PNA #36)

Sec. 25 and 36, T.N., R.13W., Tallmadge Township. This site lies approximately four miles north of Grandville, 0.2 miles northwest of the junction of Fennessy Drive and 2nd Avenue. It was determined to be a notably significant Bog (11 acres) and Emergent Marsh (22 acres). The Bog is locally dominated by Cat-tails and a Spike-rush (Eleocharis sp.) and is essentially undisturbed. The Emergent Marsh is dominated by Water Lily and is also essentially undisturbed. However, both of these communities are of rather low diversity.

A historical record for a population of a state threatened/federal candidate plant is known from this site. It was not possible to verify the occurrence of this species at the site since permission for access to its appropriate habitat was denied by the landowner. The site is under multiple ownership, including: Jack Goodale, Ruth Densel, Teresa Kasperlik, Richard Bjork and Consumers Power Company.

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APPENDIX B | LOCAL PARK & RECREATION INVENTORY

STATE & COUNTY PARK FACILITY INVENTORY 2015																						
Park Location and Name	Total Acres	Natural Resource (River, Dune, etc.)	PICNIC AREA	PICNIC SHELTER	REC BUILDING	RESTROOMS	CONCESSION	PLAYGROUND	BALLFIELD	BASKETBALL	TENNIS	SOCCER	VOLLEYBALL	X-COUNTRY SKIING	SWIMMING BEACH	FISHING	LAUNCH RAMP	NATURAL AREAS	HIKING TRAILS	BIKE PATH	Comments	
STATE OF MICHIGAN																						
Hoffmaster State Park	1100 (± 300 in Ott. Co.)	Lake Michigan, Dunes	X	X	X	X	X	X							X	X	X	X	X		Nature Center, Camping	
Grand Haven State Park	48	Lake Michigan	X	X	X	X	X	X					X		X			X	X	X		Pier fishing, camping, walk connections to downtown G.H.
Holland State Park	142	Lake Michigan, Dunes	X	X	X	X	X	X							X		X	X	X	X		Camping
Bass River State Recreation Area	1665	Grand River													X	X	X	X	X			
Grand Haven State Game Area	1139	Grand River															X	X	X			
Ottawa Mini Game Areas (6)	425	n/a															X	X	X			
Petty's Bayou Boat Launch	1.45	Spring Lake															X	X	X			
Lloyds Bayou Launch	4.55	Grand River															X	X	X			
Robinson Township Boat Launch	5.04	Grand River															X	X	X			
Musketawa Trail		n/a																				Regional Bike Path
State Total 3730																						
OTTAWA COUNTY																						
Grand River Greenway																						
Stearns Creek	118	Inland Bayou	X												X	X	X	X	X			
Connor Bayou	142	Grand River, Inland Bayou	X	X	X	X									X	X	X	X	X			Accessible Kayak Launch
Crockery Creek Natural Area	334	Grand River, Crockery Creek	X			X								X			X	X	X			Open Space
Jubb Bayou	97	Grand River, Inland Bayou													X	X	X	X	X			Open Space
Riverside Park	95	Grand River	X	X	X	X									X	X	X	X	X			
Bur Oak Landing	263	Grand River													X	X	X	X	X			
Eastmanville Farm	229	Grand River	X			X											X	X	X			Equestrian trails
Eastmanville Bayou	157	Grand River, Inland Bayou	X	X	X	X									X	X	X	X	X			Accessible Kayak Launch
Deer Creek Park	2	Grand River, small stream	X			X											X	X	X			

STATE & COUNTY PARK FACILITY INVENTORY 2015

Park Location and Name	Total Acres	Natural Resource (River, Dune, etc.)	PICNIC AREA	PICNIC SHELTER	REC BUILDING	RESTROOMS	CONCESSION	PLAYGROUND	BALLFIELD	BASKETBALL	TENNIS	SOCCER	VOLLEYBALL	X-COUNTRY SKIING	SWIMMING BEACH	FISHING	LAUNCH RAMP	NATURAL AREAS	HIKING TRAILS	BIKE PATH	Comments
OTTAWA COUNTY (cont'd)																					
Ripps Bayou	173	Grand River, Inland Bayou														X		X			limited access
Kultis Bayou	80	Grand River, Inland Bayou																X			limited access
Grand River Open Space	279	Grand River				X										X		X	X		Open space, hunting
Grand Ravines Park	202	Grand River/Ravines	X	X	X											X		X	X	X	Off Leash Dog Park
Grand River Park	162	Grand River, Inland Pond	X	X	X			X								X		X	X		Accessible Kayak Launch
Bend Area (Open Space)	407	Grand River, Inland Lake														X		X	X		shore fishing
Un-named Site - Georgetown Twp.	31	Forested Wetland																			
Pigeon River Greenway																					
Hemlock Crossing/Pine Bend	239	Pigeon River	X	X	X											X		X	X	X	kayak, canoe launch
Pigeon River Open Space	46	Pigeon River																X			
Pigeon Creek Park	282	Pigeon River	X	X	X											X		X	X	X	groomed ski trails
Pigeon Creek Forest	130	Pigeon River	X															X	X	X	groomed ski trails
Macatawa River Greenway																					
Paw Paw Park	172	Macatawa River	X	X	X			X								X		X	X	X	18-hole disc golf
Adams Street Landing	10	Macatawa River	X														X	X			kayak, canoe launch
Hawthorne Pond Natural Area	45	Macatawa River																X			joint ownership with Holland Twp. currently undeveloped
Upper Macatawa Natural Area	612	Macatawa River	X	X	X													X	X	X	mountain bike trails
Lake Michigan Coastal Greenway																					
North Ottawa Dunes	593	Dunes	X			X												X			
North Beach Park	7	Lake Michigan	X	X	X			X													
Ottawa Sands	345	Dunes																			

STATE & COUNTY PARK FACILITY INVENTORY 2015																						
Park Location and Name	Total Acres	Natural Resource (River, Dune, etc.)	PICNIC AREA	PICNIC SHELTER	REC BUILDING	RESTROOMS	CONCESSION	PLAYGROUND	BALLFIELD	BASKETBALL	TENNIS	SOCCER	VOLLEYBALL	X-COUNTRY SKIING	SWIMMING BEACH	FISHING	LAUNCH RAMP	NATURAL AREAS	HIKING TRAILS	BIKE PATH	Comments	
Rosy Mound Natural Area	164	Lake Michigan, Dunes	X	X		X												X	X			
Kirk Park	68	Lake Michigan, Dunes	X	X	X	X	X							X	X			X	X			dog beach
OTTAWA COUNTY (cont'd)																						
Olive Shores	21	Lake Michigan, Dunes	X			X												X	X			currently undeveloped
Tunnel Park	23	Lake Michigan, Dunes	X	X	X	X	X						X		X			X	X			
Historic Ottawa Beach Parks	58	Lake Michigan, Lake Macatawa, Dunes	X												X	X		X	X			
General Parks, Open Space and Trails																						
Musketawa Trail			X																			X
Un-named Site - Wright Township	8	Forested Wetland																X				
Grose Park	40	Crockery Lake	X	X		X								X	X	X		X	X			
Marne Bog	83	Bog, wetland																X				
Robinson Forest (Open Space)	80	Forest																X				
Johnson Street Forest (Open Space)	50	Forest																X				
Hiawatha Forest (Open Space)	365	Forest																X	X			
Hager Park	104	Forest	X	X	X	X	X							X				X	X			
Port Sheldon Natural Area (Open Space)	440	TenHagen Creek																X	X			
VanBuren Street Dunes (Open Space)	120	Dunes																X	X			
Spring Grove Park	16	Artesian Spring	X		X													X				
Riley Trails	300	Forest, pond				X								X				X	X			
County Total	7192																					

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT PARK FACILITY INVENTORY																						
Park Location and Name	Total Acres	Natural Resource (River, Dune, etc.)	PICNIC AREA	PICNIC SHELTER	REG BUILDING	RESTROOMS	CONCESSION	PLAYGROUND	BALLFIELD	BASKETBALL	TENNIS	HORSESHOES	SOCCER	VOLLEYBALL	X-COUNTRY SKIING	SWIMMING BEACH	FISHING	LAUNCH RAMP	NATURAL AREAS	HIKING TRAILS	Comments	
CITY OF COOPERSVILLE																						
Coopersville Community Park	10	3 acre pond	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					X						
Grove Street Park	4.83	Deer Creek	X		X	X	X	X	X		X											
Main Street Park	4	Deer Creek	X														X					
Veteran's Memorial Park	1.28		X	X																		
City Sports Complex	10.9		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X									3 ballfields + lights	
Total	31.01																					
CITY OF FERRYSBURG																						
William Ferry Park	1.8	Grand River	X	X	X	X	X	X	X							X					400 ft. boardwalk	
Coast Guard Park	80	Forest, dunes	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X							Dog Park
Fire Barn Park	5		X		X			X	X	X	X											Ice Skating
Kitchell/Lindquist Dunes Preserve	112	Grand River												X	X				X	X		
Natural Preserve	40.2																		X		No parking / improvements	
Sunnyside Park	0.5		X		X	X	X	X	X													
Mike Herman Field	1.75				X	X			X													
Total	241.25																					
CITY OF GRAND HAVEN																						
City Beach	19.6	Lake Michigan	X			X	X	X	X							X						Boardwalk
Bicentennial Park	1	Grand River	X			X	X	X	X										X			
Bolt Park	0.9		X																			Greenspace
Central Park	2.4		X																			Fountain, benches

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PARK FACILITY INVENTORY																					
Park Location and Name	Total Acres	Natural Resource (River, Dune, etc.)	PICNIC AREA	PICNIC SHELTER	REC BUILDING	RESTROOMS	CONCESSION	PLAYGROUND	BALLFIELD	BASKETBALL	TENNIS	HORSESHOES	SOCCER	VOLLEYBALL	X-COUNTRY SKIING	SWIMMING BEACH	FISHING	LAUNCH RAMP	NATURAL AREAS	HIKING TRAILS	Comments
CITY OF GRAND HAVEN (con't)																					
Chinook Pier Park	1	Grand River	X		X			X													Grills
Duncan Woods Park	37.8	Forest	X												X				X	X	Seeding
East Grand River Park	5.5	Grand River	X	X	X			X	X				X		X			X	X	X	Grills, Dog Park
Escanaba Park	0.9	Grand River	X																X	X	Escanaba mast, boardwalk
Harbor Island	23	Grand River	X		X								X					X	X		
Harbor Island Linear Park	5.5	Grand River	X	X											X						
Johnston Park	0.1		X																		Greenspace
Klaver Park	0.2		X																		Greenspace
Klempe Park	0.2		X																		Greenspace
Lighthouse Connector Park	4	Grand River	X				X										X			X	Boardwalk
Mulligan's Hollow	80.5	Dunes	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X	Shuffleboard
Municipal Marina	2	Grand River	X	X	X												X	X			
Musical Fountain and North Shore Open Space	142.28	Grand River, Dewey Hill Dune																		X	Fountain area is 3.7 acres
North Shore Fisherman's Lot	1.7	Lake Michigan			X												X				
Rix Robinson Park	6.3		X														X				Grills
Suka Field	5.5		X		X			X	X				X								Outdoor ice rink
William Hatton Park	0.9		X																		
Veterans Memorial Park	1.14		X																		
Willow Park	0.02		X																		
Total	341.28																				

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PARK FACILITY INVENTORY		PICNIC AREA	PICNIC SHELTER	REC BUILDING	RESTROOMS	CONCESSION	PLAYGROUND	BALLFIELD	BASKETBALL	TENNIS	HORSESHOES	SOCCER	VOLLEYBALL	X-COUNTRY SKIING	SWIMMING BEACH	FISHING	LAUNCH RAMP	NATURAL AREAS	HIKING TRAILS	Comments
Park Location and Name	Total Acres	Natural Resource (River, Dune, etc.)																		
CITY OF HOLLAND																				
Lakeview City Park	2.8		X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X					X	X	
Centennial Park	5.6		X	X	X													X	X	Historic park
Smallenburg Park	10.6		X	X	X	X	X	X			X		X							Ice skating, stadium, Bouws Pool
Matt Urban Sports and Recreation Complex	23		X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X							
Window on the Waterfront	30	Macatawa River	X	X		X	X	X				X					X	X	X	
Kollen Park	17	Lake Macatawa	X	X	X	X	X									X	X	X	X	Boardwalk
Holland Heights Park	1		X	X		X	X	X	X											Totlot
Holland Heights School Park	6		X	X	X	X	X		X			X	X						X	
VanBragt Park	3.4	Macatawa River	X												X	X	X	X		
Prospect Park	7.5		X			X												X	X	
Rosa Green (College Avenue) Park	3.2		X	X		X	X	X	X											
DeGraaf Nature Center	18	Forest, wetlands	X	X	X	X	X					X						X	X	Educational facility
Windmill Island	49	Macatawa River	X	X	X	X	X	X				X						X		Historic windmill, fee area
Moran Park	4.2		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X							Shuffleboard, fitness stations
Van Raalte Farm	160	Forest, stream	X	X	X	X	X							X				X	X	Sledding
Macatawa Marsh	109	Macatawa River														X		X	X	Wildlife observation
37th Street Preserve	4																	X	X	Wooded open space

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PARK FACILITY INVENTORY			PICNIC AREA	PICNIC SHELTER	REC BUILDING	RESTROOMS	CONCESSION	PLAYGROUND	BALLFIELD	BASKETBALL	TENNIS	HORSESHOES	SOCCER	VOLLEYBALL	X-COUNTRY SKIING	SWIMMING BEACH	FISHING	LAUNCH RAMP	NATURAL AREAS	HIKING TRAILS	Comments	
Park Location and Name	Total Acres	Natural Resource (River, Dune, etc.)																				
CITY OF HOLLAND (con't)																						
Columbia Avenue Tennis Courts	1.4										X											
Water Tower Park	0.3		X					X												X	wellness trail	
Maplewood Youth Complex	10.5		X			X	X	X	X	X			X									
Total	466.5																					
CITY OF HUDSONVILLE																						
Veteran's Park	1		X																			
Sunrise Park	12.6	Rush Creek	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					X					X	X		Formerly Northeast Park
Hudsonville Nature Center	74	DeWeerd Drain	X	X	X	X	X	X											X	X		Boardwalk, scenic overlook
Hughes Park	19.2		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X												Disc golf
Hillside Park	3.7		X	X	X	X	X	X	X					X								
Total	110.5																					

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PARK FACILITY INVENTORY																					
Park Location and Name	Total Acres	Natural Resource (River, Dune, etc.)	PICNIC AREA	PICNIC SHELTER	REC BUILDING	RESTROOMS	CONCESSION	PLAYGROUND	BALLFIELD	BASKETBALL	TENNIS	HORSESHOES	SOCCER	VOLLEBALL	X-COUNTRY SKIING	SWIMMING BEACH	FISHING	LAUNCH RAMP	NATURAL AREAS	HIKING TRAILS	Comments
VILLAGE OF SPRING LAKE																					
Central Park	8.4		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X					X		Shuffleboard
Mill Point Park	4.5	Grand River	X		X	X	X	X		X				X			X	X	X		Bandshell
Lakeside Beach	1	Spring Lake	X	X	X										X	X	X				Overlook
Jackson Street Dock		Spring Lake	X												X	X	X				Fishing Deck
Linear Park	1.75 miles		X	X				X													Whistle Stop play area
Alden Street End Park		Spring Lake													X						Benches, Overlook
Total	13.9																				
CITY OF ZEELAND																					
Lawrence Street Park	4.9		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X										Outdoor stage
Michigan Street Tot Lot	0.2		X	X			X	X													
Huizenga Park	24	Huizenga Pond	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X			X	X	X		Skateboard Park
Hoogland Park	0.5		X	X	X	X	X	X	X												
Three Corner Park	0.89		X																		Gazebo, fountain, benches
Northside Pathway	1.2 miles																				Lighted boardwalks, gazebo
Paw Paw Footbridge Greenway		Macatawa River	X																		Bike path, bridge
Total	30.49																				

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PARK FACILITY INVENTORY		PICNIC AREA	PICNIC SHELTER	REC BUILDING	RESTROOMS	CONCESSION	PLAYGROUND	BALLFIELD	BASKETBALL	TENNIS	HORSESHOES	SOCCER	VOLLEYBALL	X-COUNTRY SKIING	SWIMMING BEACH	FISHING	LAUNCH RAMP	NATURAL AREAS	HIKING TRAILS	Comments	
Park Location and Name	Total Acres	Natural Resource (River, Dune, etc.)																			
ALLENDALE TOWNSHIP																					
Allendale Recreation Park	41.86		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X							X	X	Shuffleboard, veterans & memorial gardens, splash pads, pickle ball	
Total	41.86																				
CHESTER TOWNSHIP																					
Chester Park	15.76		X	X	X	X	X	X	X									X		Township Hall	
Total	15.76																				
CROCKERY TOWNSHIP																					
Crockery Township Recreational Facility	20		X	X	X	X	X	X	X					X				X	X		
Total	20																				
GEORGETOWN TOWNSHIP																					
8th Avenue Community Park	55		X	X	X	X	X	X	X						X			X	X	Non resident entrance fee	
Dale E. Wagner Little League Complex	27.9				X	X	X	X													
Georgetown Ice Arena																					
Woodcrest Park	10.9						X					X								Pond	

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PARK FACILITY INVENTORY										Comments											
Park Location and Name	Total Acres	Natural Resource (River, Dune, etc.)	PICNIC AREA	PICNIC SHELTER	REC BUILDING	RESTROOMS	CONCESSION	PLAYGROUND	BALLFIELD	BASKETBALL	TENNIS	HORSESHOES	SOCCER	VOLLEYBALL	X-COUNTRY SKIING	SWIMMING BEACH	FISHING	LAUNCH RAMP	NATURAL AREAS	HIKING TRAILS	
GEORGETOWN TOWNSHIP (con't)																					
Rosewood Park	17.3		X					X				X	X						X	X	Stedding
Maplewood Park	22.3	Maplewood Lake	X			X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X				Grills
Pioneer Park	5.7		X										X								
Port Sheldon Sports Complex	28.9							X	X				X								On County-owned land
Rush Creek Park	40	Rush Creek	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X								Grills
Total	208																				
GRAND HAVEN TOWNSHIP																					
Bignell Park	0.5	Millhouse Bayou	X														X		X		Undeveloped bayou access
Brucker Street Beach Access	0.2	Lake Michigan														X					Street end ROW
Buchanan Street Beach Access	0.2	Pottawattomie Bayou	X													X					Street end ROW
Hofma Park & Preserve	566	Millhouse Bayou	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X			X	X		X	X	Boardwalk
Mercury Drive Park	6.71		X	X	X	X	X	X	X										X		In-line & ice skate rink
Millhouse Park	0.46	Millhouse Bayou																			informal access to bayou
Odawa / Battle Pont Launch	2.17	Grand River				X												X			Permit required
Pottawattomie Park	20.83	Pottawattomie Bayou	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X					X	X	Boardwalk, wading beach, non-motorized path access, bayou fishing
Total	597.07																				

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PARK FACILITY INVENTORY																						
Park Location and Name	Total Acres	Natural Resource (River, Dune, etc.)	PICNIC AREA	PICNIC SHELTER	REC BUILDING	RESTROOMS	CONCESSION	PLAYGROUND	BALLFIELD	BASKETBALL	TENNIS	HORSESHOES	SOCCER	VOLLEYBALL	X-COUNTRY SKIING	SWIMMING BEACH	FISHING	LAUNCH RAMP	NATURAL AREAS	HIKING TRAILS	Comments	
HOLLAND TOWNSHIP																						
Beechwood Park	4.5		X	X		X		X		X	X								X			Lighted shuffleboard & tennis
Brookwood Park	1		X	X				X		X												
Howard B. Dunton Park	21	Lake Macatawa	X	X		X		X									X	X	X	X		Boardwalks, viewing shelters
Helder Park	159		X	X		X		X		X	X			X					X			Boardwalks
Quincy Street Park	133		X	X		X		X		X	X		X						X			
Hawthorn Pond Natural Area	40	Pond, forest															X	X				Kayak Launch Ramp
Total	318.5																					
PARK TOWNSHIP																						
Ashwood Reserve	0.6	Lake Macatawa																	X	X		Kayak & canoeing, natural beach
Brookside Bicycle Park	8.56		X																X			Bike route
Chief Waukazoo Park	0.75		X																X			
Cooper - Van Wieren Park	66																		X	X		Horseback riding
Virginia Park / Maatman Center	6		X	X		X		X		X	X		X						X	X		Shuffleboard, lighted tennis
Park Twp. Comm. Center / Park (Fairgrounds)	68.25		X	X		X		X		X	X		X						X	X		Lighted tennis, dog & skateboard parks, indoor & outdoor basketball
Stu Visser Trails	37	Pine Creek	X																X			Boardwalk, pond, wetlands
Ransom Park	20		X	X				X		X			X						X	X		Open sports field, Disc Golf
Wendt Park	24		X	X		X		X		X	X		X						X	X		Fitness trail

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PARK FACILITY INVENTORY		PICNIC AREA	REC BUILDING	RESTROOMS	CONCESSION	PLAYGROUND	BALLFIELD	BASKETBALL	TENNIS	HORSESHOES	SOCCER	VOLLEBALL	X-COUNTRY SKIING	SWIMMING BEACH	FISHING	LAUNCH RAMP	NATURAL AREAS	HIKING TRAILS	Comments
Park Location and Name	Total Acres	Natural Resource (River, Dune, etc.)																	
PARK TOWNSHIP (con't.)																			
Winstrom Park / Preserve	72			X		X	X	X	X		X	X					X	X	Disc golf, boardwalk, bike trail, wetland interpretation.
Total	303.16																		
POLKTON TOWNSHIP																			
Sheridan Park	56	Deer Creek, Beaver Creek		X									X				X	X	Open Space
Total	56																		
PORT SHELDON TOWNSHIP																			
Port Sheldon Twp. Hall Park	40		X	X		X	X	X	X	X							X		Shuffleboard, Community Center
Kouw Park	3.7	Lake Michigan	X	X		X								X			X		Grills
Sheldon Landing	6	Pigeon River	X												X	X	X		Non motorized river access
Windsnest Park	4	Lake Michigan	X			X								X			X		
Zwerner Park	3.2	Lake Michigan												X			X		Beach access from Stanton St.
Total	56.9																		

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PARK FACILITY INVENTORY		Total Acres	Natural Resource (River, Dune, etc.)	PICNIC AREA	PICNIC SHELTER	REC BUILDING	RESTROOMS	CONCESSION	PLAYGROUND	BALLFIELD	BASKETBALL	TENNIS	HORSESHOES	SOCCER	VOLLEYBALL	X-COUNTRY SKIING	SWIMMING BEACH	FISHING	LAUNCH RAMP	NATURAL AREAS	HIKING TRAILS	Comments	
ROBINSON TOWNSHIP																							
	Robinson Township Park	42		X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X					X			
	Total	42																					
SPRING LAKE TOWNSHIP																							
	Black Lake Park	80		X																			kayak launch
	Dewitt School Historic Facilities	2		X			X																
	Disc Golf Course	40																					
	Water Tower Park	4.25		X					X	X	X	X		X									
	River Run Park	2.76		X	X																		Bike path
	Rycenga Park	80		X	X		X		X	X	X			X	X						X		Disc golf, boardwalks
	Total	209.01																					
TALLMADGE TOWNSHIP																							
	Aman Park (Owned by the City of Grand Rapids)	331	Sand Creek													X				X			Indian Trails Camp (private)
	Township Community Park	27		X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X						X		Pond w/ dock
	Total	358																					
WRIGHT TOWNSHIP																							
	Cole Memorial Park	3	Sand Creek	X																	X		Footbridge & viewing deck
	Veterans Park	0.5		X																			
	Total	3																					

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ADJACENT COUNTY PARK FACILITIES			PICNIC AREA	PICNIC SHELTER	REC BUILDING	RESTROOMS	CONCESSION	PLAYGROUND	BALLFIELD	BASKETBALL	TENNIS	SOCCER	VOLLEYBALL	X-COUNTRY SKIING	SWIMMING BEACH	FISHING	LAUNCH RAMP	NATURAL AREAS	HIKING TRAILS	BIKE PATH	Comments	
Park Location and Name	Total Acres/Miles	Natural Resource (River, Dune, etc.)																				
KENT COUNTY																						
Bettes Memorial Park	3 acres																					open space preservation
Earl Brewer Park	95 acres		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X									disc golf
Caledonia Lakeside Park	43 acres	Emmons Lake	X	X											X	X			X			
Chief Hazy Cloud Park	120 acres	Grand River	X		X	X												X	X			
Coldwater River Park	6 acres	Coldwater River	X		X	X									X	X			X			
Cooper Creek Park	6 acres	Cooper Creek	X		X	X										X			X			bridal trails
Creekside Park	32 acres		X	X	X	X		X	X			X							X	X		exercise station
Douglas Walker Park	81 acres	Buck Creek	X	X	X	X		X	X										X	X		Kent Trails staging area, rugby, winter sports, horseshoes
Dutton Shady-side Park	18 acres	Plaster Creek	X	X	X	X		X	X		X								X			
Dwight Lydell Park	39 acres	Mill Creek, ponds	X	X	X	X		X	X							X						
Fallasburg Park	324 acres	Flat River, Page Creek	X	X	X	X		X	X							X			X			shelter house, winter sports
Fisk Knob Park	4 acres		X																			highest geographic point in County
Gordon Park	28 acres		X	X	X	X		X	X									X	X			
Johnson Park	258 acres	Grand River	X	X	X	X		X	X							X			X	X		disc golf, exercise station, shelter house, winter sports, scenic drive
Kent Trails	15 miles	Grand River												X		X			X	X		
Knapp Valley Forest	104 acres																	X	X			
Kroes Park	31 acres																					open space preservation
Lamoreaux Park	263 acres	Grand River, ponds							X							X			X			winter sports
Lamoreaux Memorial Park	2 acres																		X	X		staging for White Pine Trail

ADJACENT COUNTY PARK FACILITIES			PICNIC AREA	PICNIC SHELTER	REC BUILDING	RESTROOMS	CONCESSION	PLAYGROUND	BALLFIELD	BASKETBALL	TENNIS	SOCCER	VOLLEYBALL	X-COUNTRY SKIING	SWIMMING BEACH	FISHING	LAUNCH RAMP	NATURAL AREAS	HIKING TRAILS	BIKE PATH	Comments	
Park Location and Name	Total Acres/Miles	Natural Resource (River, Dune, etc.)																				
KENT COUNTY, (cont.)																						
Leopard Preserve	52 acres																X	X	X			preserve
Long Lake Park	231 acres	Long Lake	X	X	X			X	X						X	X	X					non motorized watercraft, shelter house
Lowell Regional Park	484 acres																X	X	X			preserved open space
Luton Park	264 acres												X					X	X	X		
Millennium Park	1,465 acres	Grand River, lake	X	X	X			X	X	X					X	X	X	X	X	X		beach house, splash park
M-6 Trail	8.5 miles																			X		non motorized use, passes Butler & Creekside parks
Myers Lake Park	6 acres	Big & Little Myers Lakes	X			X		X							X			X				changing area
Palmer Park	335 acres	Buck Creek	X	X	X			X	X					X		X	X	X	X	X		18 hole golf course
Paris Park	70 acres													X				X	X	X		
Paul Henry Thornapple Trail	4.8 miles													X		X				X		non motorized use
Pickrel Lake Park (Fred Meijer Nature Preserve)	310 acres	Pickrel Lake			X									X		X		X	X			boardwalks
Provin Trails Park	45 acres				X									X				X	X			winter sports
Rogue River Park	79 acres	Rogue River	X	X	X			X	X		X			X		X		X	X	X		
Ruehs Park	5 acres	Thornapple River	X		X			X								X						winter sports
Siedman Park	422 acres	ponds			X									X		X		X	X			winter sports
Spencer Forest	550 acres													X				X	X			bridle trails, winter sports
Thornapple Riverbend Park	209 acres	Thornapple River																X	X			preserved open space
Townsend Park	144 acres	Bear Creek	X	X	X			X	X					X		X		X	X			preserved green space, winter sports, shelter house
Two Rivers Park	91 acres	Thornapple & Coldwater Rivers																				preserved open space

ADJACENT COUNTY PARK FACILITIES			PICNIC AREA	PICNIC SHELTER	REC BUILDING	RESTROOMS	CONCESSION	PLAYGROUND	BALLFIELD	BASKETBALL	TENNIS	SOCCER	VOLLEYBALL	X-COUNTRY SKIING	SWIMMING BEACH	FISHING	LAUNCH RAMP	NATURAL AREAS	HIKING TRAILS	BIKE PATH	Comments	
Park Location and Name	Total Acres/Miles	Natural Resource (River, Dune, etc.)																				
KENT COUNTY, (cont.)																						
Wabasis Lake Park	104 acres	Wabasis Lake	X	X	X	X		X	X				X		X	X	X	X	X	X		campground, beach house, shelter house, winter sports
Whalfield Park	265 acres		X	X	X			X						X				X	X	X		winter sports
White Pine Park	60 acres		X		X													X	X			preserved open space
MUSKEGON COUNTY																						
Blue Lake Park	25 acres	Big Blue Lake	X											X	X							campground
Derremo Access Site		Big Blue Lake													X							
Meinert Park	88 acres	Lake Michigan, Dunes	X	X											X			X	X			campground, rental cottage
Moore Park	36 acres	Half Moon Lake	X	X	X										X			X	X			
Patterson Park	28 acres	Little Rio Grande Creek	X	X	X																	
Pioneer Park	145 acres	Lake Michigan, Dunes	X	X	X				X	X			X		X			X	X			campground
Twin Lake Park	15 acres	Twin Lake	X	X				X			X		X		X			X	X			
Duck Lake State Park	728 acres	Lake Michigan, Duck Lake, sand dunes	X	X											X			X	X			hunting, snowmobiling, beach house
Muskegon State Park	1,165 acres	Lake Michigan, Muskegon Lake, forested dunes	X	X				X						X	X			X	X			luge, beach bath house
P.J. Hoffmaster State Park	1,200 acres	Lake Michigan, Dunes	X	X	X									X	X			X	X			Gillette Visitor Center, camping
Hart-Montague Trail State Park	22 miles		X																			snowmobiling

ADJACENT COUNTY PARK FACILITIES																							
Park Location and Name	Total Acres/Miles	Natural Resource (River, Dune, etc.)	PICNIC AREA	PICNIC SHELTER	REC BUILDING	RESTROOMS	CONCESSION	PLAYGROUND	BALLFIELD	BASKETBALL	TENNIS	SOCCER	VOLLEYBALL	X-COUNTRY SKIING	SWIMMING BEACH	FISHING	LAUNCH RAMP	NATURAL AREAS	HIKING TRAILS	BIKE PATH	Comments		
ALLEGAN COUNTY																							
Bysterfeld Park	70 acres															X		X					
Dumont Lake Park	186 acres	Dumont Lake	X			X		X							X	X							
Dumont Lake boat launch	3 acres	Dumont Lake															X					vault toilets	
Ely Lake Campground	90 acres	Ely Lake	X			X									X	x	X						non motorized watercraft, vault toilets
Gun Lake Park & launch	4 acres	Gun Lake	X			X		X		X					X		X						modern restrooms, ADA dock
Littlejohn Lake Park	113 acres	Littlejohn Lake	X			X		X		X					X								ADA beach walkway, horseshoes
New Richmond Bridge Park	80 acres	Kalamazoo River	X			X										X		X					restored 400' swing bridge, boardwalk
Pine Point Campground & Equestrian Park	80 acres	Swan Creek Pond				X									X	X	X						camping, equestrian camping & trails, vault toilets
Silver Creek Park & Campground	320 acres	Silver Creek	X			X																	trout stream, camping, equestrian camping & trails, vault toilets
West Side Park	11 acres	Lake Michigan, dunes	X			X		X															dune stairways, modern restrooms
Allegan State Game Area	50,000 acres		X			X										X	X						hunting, mountain bike trails
Saugatuck Dunes State Park	1,000 acres	Lake Michigan, dunes	X												X			X					
NEWAYGO COUNTY																							
Diamond Lake County Park	156 acres	Diamond Lake, Manistee National Forest	X			X		X							X	X	X						camping w/ bathhouses, sanitation station, horseshoes, boat rental
Sandy Beach County Park	129 acres	Hardy Pond	X			X		X							X	X	X						camping w/ bathhouses, sanitation station, boat & dock rental at Hardy Dam County Marina
Ed H. Henning County Park	82 acres	Muskegon River	X												X	X	X						camping w/ bathhouses, sanitation station
Pettibone Lake County Park	3 acres	Pettibone Lake													X	X	X						camping, vault toilets
Newaygo State Park	257 acres	Hardy Dam Pond, Muskegon River	X					X							X	X	X						rustic camping, disc golf



Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission
2020 Resident Survey Report



Table of Contents

Page:

3. Introduction & Methodology

4. Survey Results

4. Demographics of Respondents

7. Park Usage and Recreation Data

10. Survey Goal 1: Gauge residents' perception and satisfaction with the overall parks system

11. Survey Goal 2: Ensure long-term goals of the Plan reflect the desire of the community

16. Survey Goal 3: Gauge residents' support for the County Parks' funding model/millage

18. Summary of Survey Results

19. Appendix: Open-ended survey responses



Introduction

This survey of Ottawa County residents was conducted to help build and guide the Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission's five-year Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan that will be released in 2021. The goals of the survey include:

- Gauge residents' perception and satisfaction with the overall parks system.
- Ensure long-term goals of the Plan reflect the desire of the community.
- Gauge residents' support for the County Parks' funding model/millage.

This collaborative project between the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Department and the Ottawa County Planning and Performance Improvement Department resulted in 4,471 survey responses from Ottawa County residents.

Methodology

Survey responses were collected electronically from March 10 through June 30, 2020 using Qualtrics. The survey was promoted to county residents through a number of channels including the Ottawa County Parks newsletter, Ottawa County website, GovDelivery, press releases, Facebook and Instagram posts, and through partner organization promotions. After identifying the need to diversify demographics of participants, special attention was given to promotion through partner organizations. Despite this, the demographics of survey respondents are not representative of Ottawa County's population demographics.

The survey results were obtained using a non-probability convenience sample of Ottawa County residents. As a result, the results of the survey represent the perceptions of the Ottawa County residents who opted to participate. The survey results may not be representative of all county residents.

A resident survey was also conducted in 2015 as part of the five-year Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan that was released in 2016. However, comparability between 2015 survey results and this survey are limited for two reasons. The first limitation is that the phrasing of some questions and answer options changed from 2015 to 2020. The second limitation is that both surveys involved a convenience sample design which is not representative of the Ottawa County resident population. Regardless, 2015 survey comparisons and any notable changes in respondent feedback that occurred between the 2015 and 2020 surveys are included throughout the report. Notable changes are defined as a 10 percentage point increase or decrease in the percent of respondents who answered "Strongly agree"/"Somewhat agree" or "Much more needed"/"More needed."

Survey responses were exported from Qualtrics into Excel and SPSS for cleaning, coding, and analysis purposes. Survey data was cross tabulated with demographic and recreation data from survey respondents and any notable findings are included throughout the report. Notable findings are defined as a 10 percentage point deviation from the response provided by all respondents.



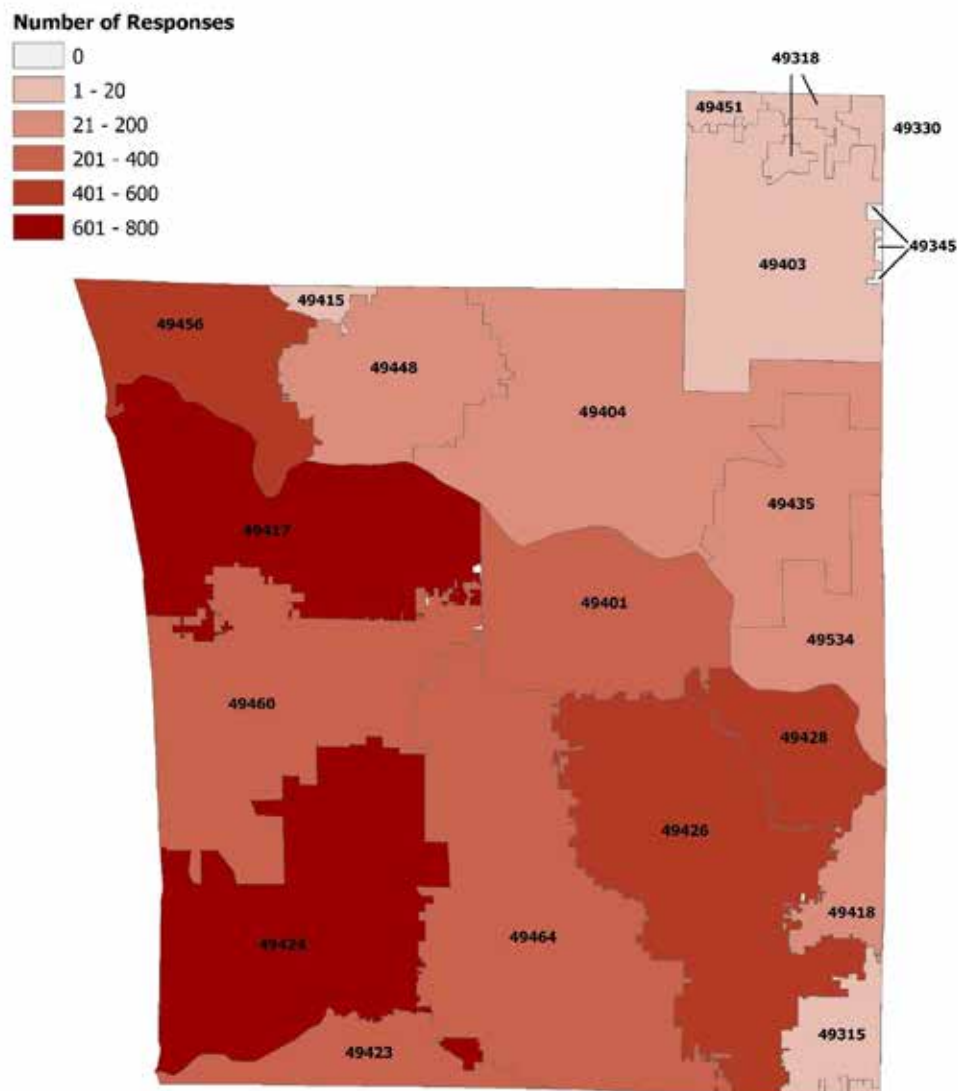
Survey Results

Demographics of respondents

To summarize the demographics of survey respondents:

- 61% identify as female
- 96% identify as white/Caucasian
- 94% own their own home
- 67% have a Bachelor's degree or higher level of education
- 42% have an annual household income of \$100,000+
- 38% live in a two-person household with no children
- 71% use social media websites everyday or most days

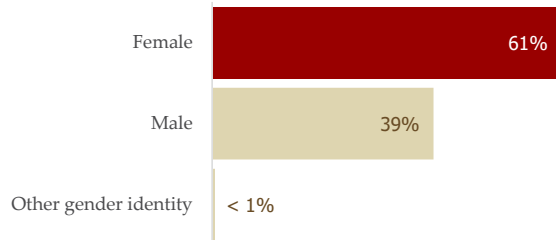
Over 600 respondents live in the **49417** or **49424** zip codes.



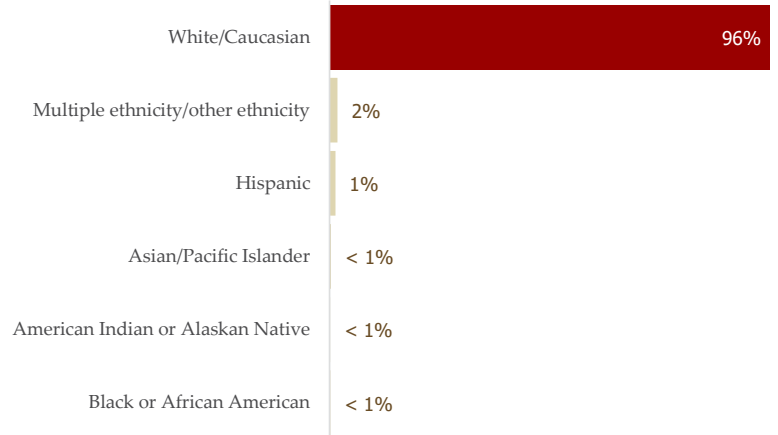


Demographics of respondents

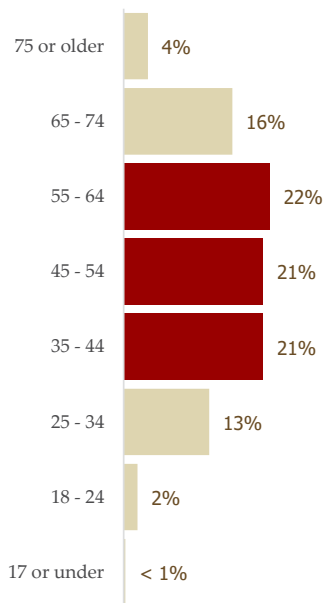
61% of respondents identify as female.
In 2015, 54% of respondents identified as female.



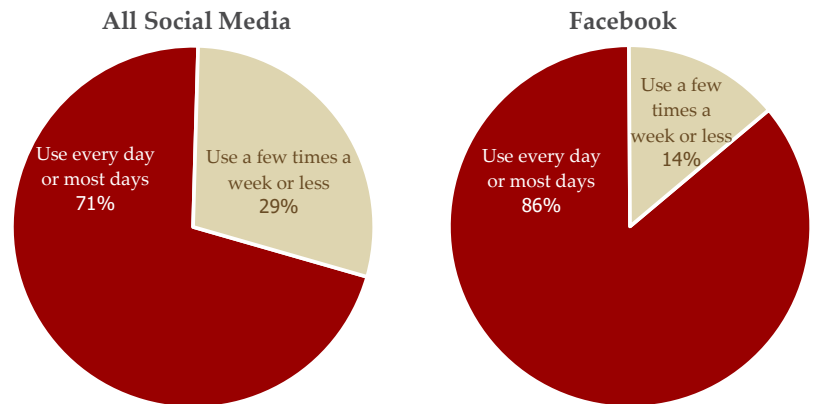
96% of respondents identify as white or Caucasian.
In 2015, 95% of respondents identified as white or Caucasian.



64% of respondents are between 35 and 64 years of age.
In 2015, 65% of respondents were in this same age range.



71% of respondents use some form of social media every day or most days, with Facebook being the most frequently used social media site. **86% of respondents who use Facebook report using it every day or most days.** In 2015, 57% of respondents reported using Facebook every day or most days.



Notes:

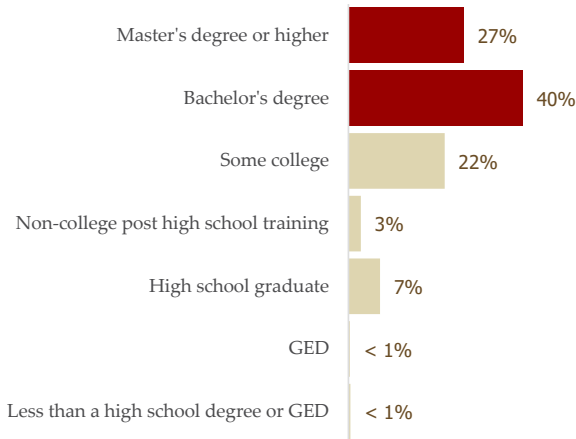
1. Total responses by question: 3,845 – gender and age; 3,784 – race/ethnicity; 3,876 – social media usage; 2,965 – Facebook usage.

2. The social media graphs were created by combining the responses from 2 questions. Prepared by: Ottawa County Planning & Performance Improvement (July 2020)

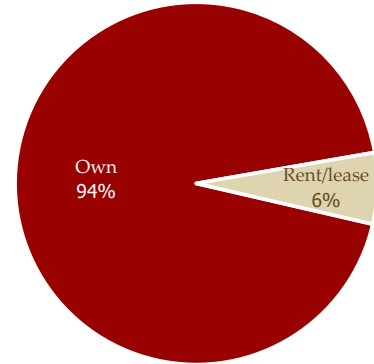


Demographics of respondents

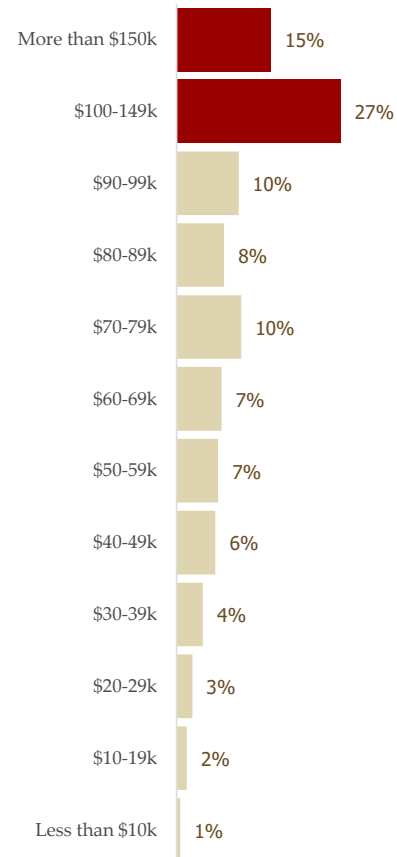
67% of respondents have a **Bachelor's degree or higher**.



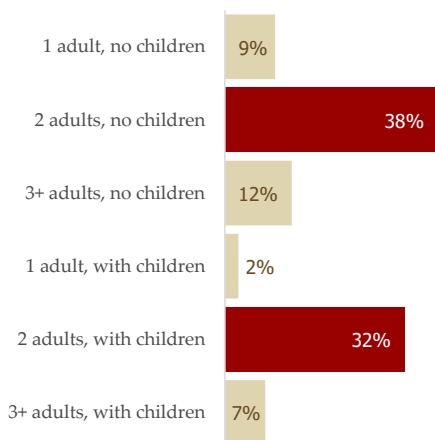
94% of respondents **own their home**. In 2015, 92% of respondents owned their home.



42% of respondents have an annual household income of **\$100,000 or more**. In 2015, 26% of respondents had an annual household income of \$100,000 or more.



70% of respondents live in a household with **2 adults**. 59% of respondents live in a household with no children. In 2015, 67% of respondents lived in a household with no children.



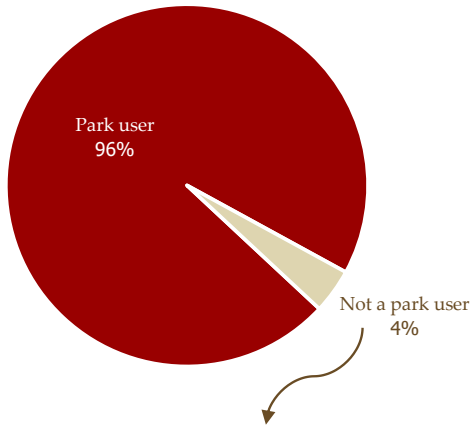
Notes:

1. Total responses by question: 3,794 – educational attainment; 3,810 – home ownership; 3,661 – household composition; 3,495 – household income.
2. The household composition graph was created by combining the responses from 2 questions.

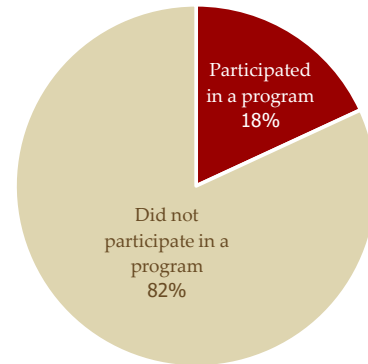


Parks Usage and Recreation Data

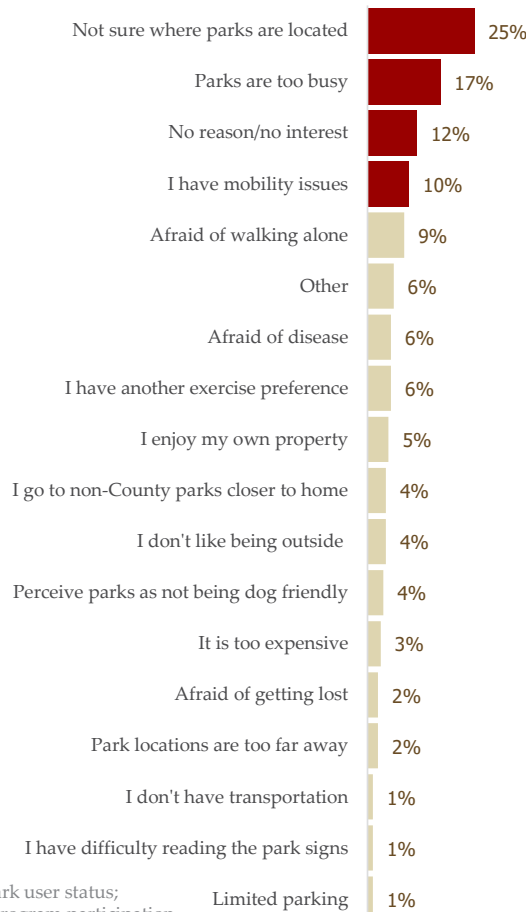
96% of respondents consider themselves to be a **park user**.



18% of respondents reported they or their children have **participated in a program** at the nature center or other park site in the past year.



10% or more of respondents who do not consider themselves to be a park user cite the reasons as **unsure of park locations, parks being too busy, lack of interest, or mobility issues.**



Notes:

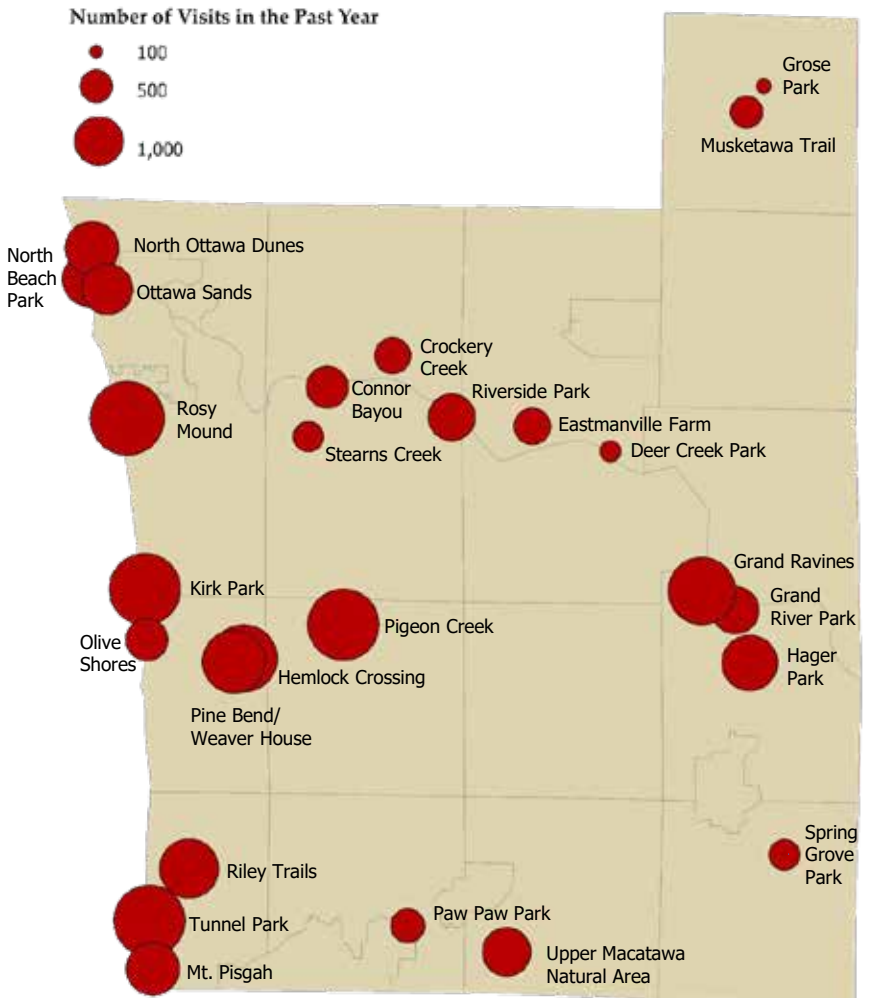
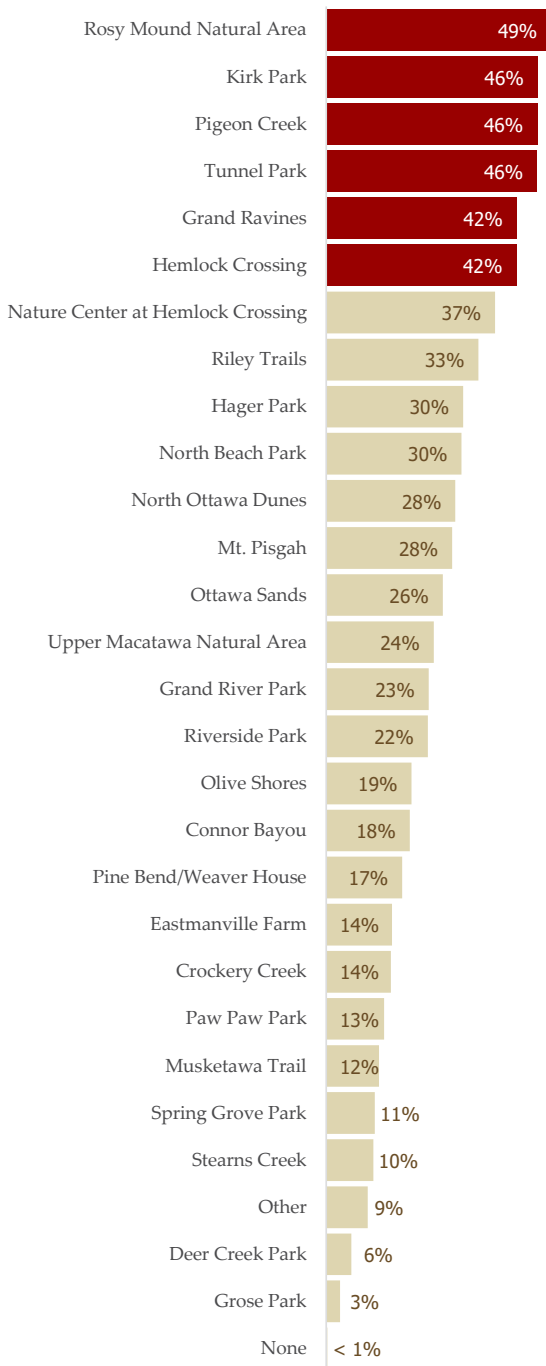
- Total responses by question: 4,471 – park user status; 161 – reasons not a park user; 4,302 – program participation.
- Respondents could select multiple reasons for not being a park user as well as write in their own reason. Open-ended responses were reviewed and categorized. “Other” responses are included in the Appendix.

2020 Resident Survey Report



Parks Usage and Recreation Data

The **five most visited parks** during the last year remained the same as in the 2015 survey, with Grand Ravines being a new addition (tied for 5th).



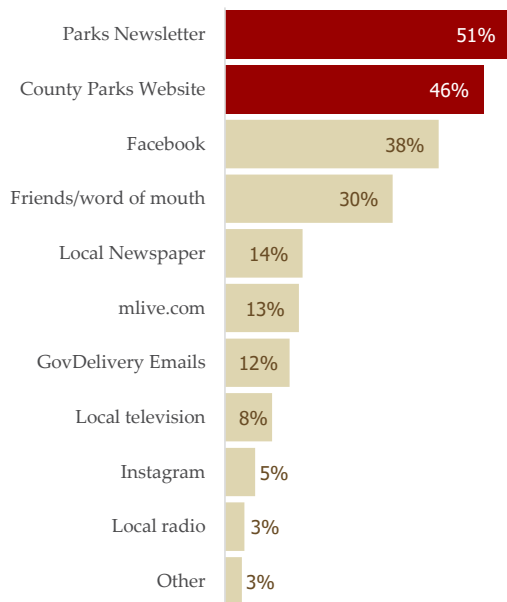
Notes:

1. Total responses by question: 4,198 – parks visited.
2. Respondents could select multiple parks and write in other parks. Open-ended responses were reviewed and categorized; they are included in the Appendix.

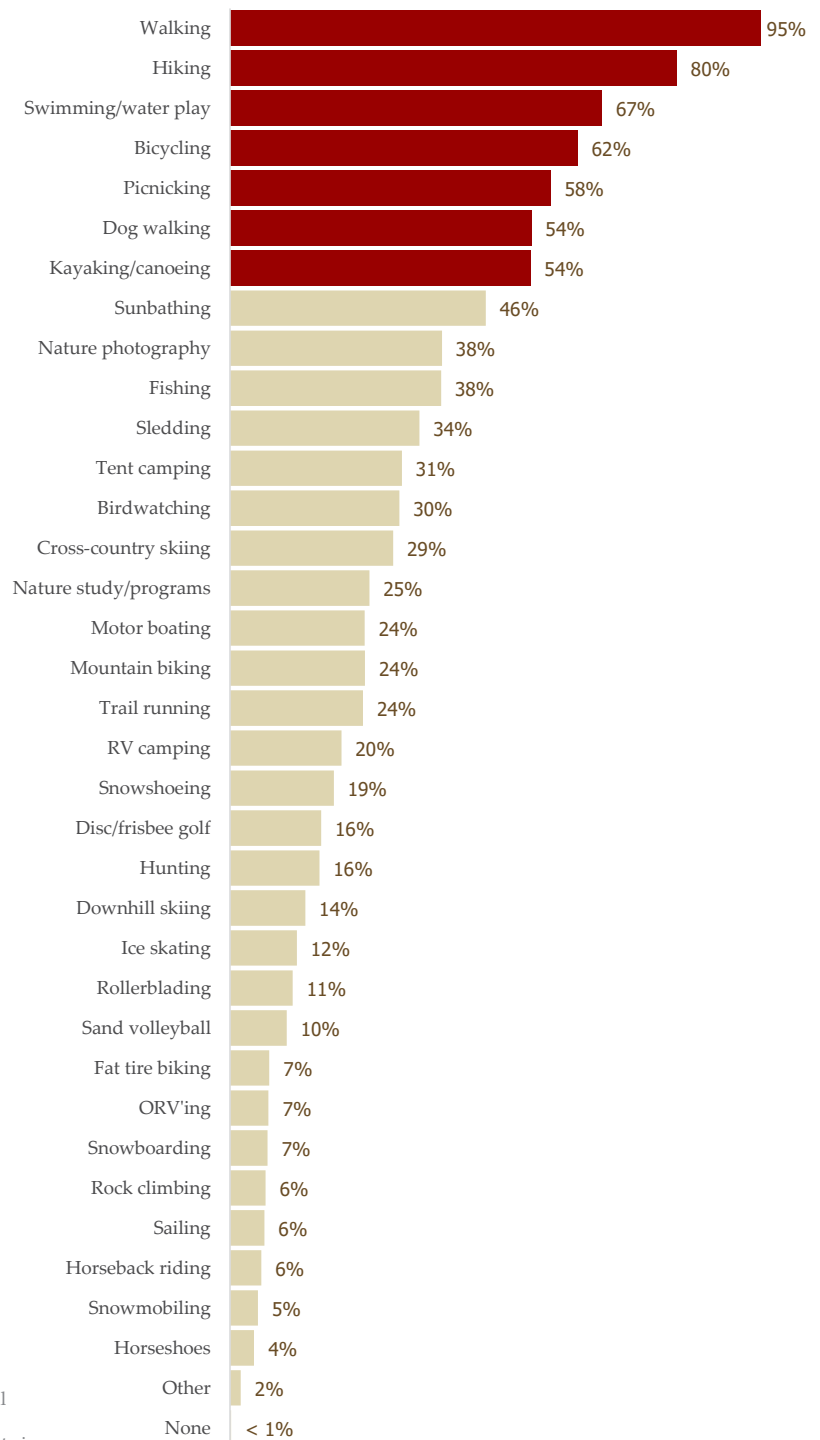


Parks Usage and Recreation Data

Around 50% of respondents report getting most of their information about the activities of Ottawa County Parks & Recreation from the **Parks Newsletter** or the **County Parks Website**.



Respondents report participating in a wide array of natural resource-based activities, whether they participate in them at an Ottawa County Park or elsewhere.



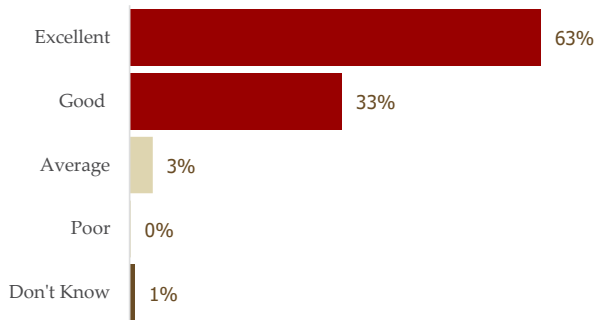
Notes:

1. Total responses by question: 3,840 – information source; 3,915 – natural resource based activities.
2. Respondents could select multiple sources and activities as well as write in other sources or activities. Open-ended responses were reviewed and categorized. “Other” responses are included in the Appendix.

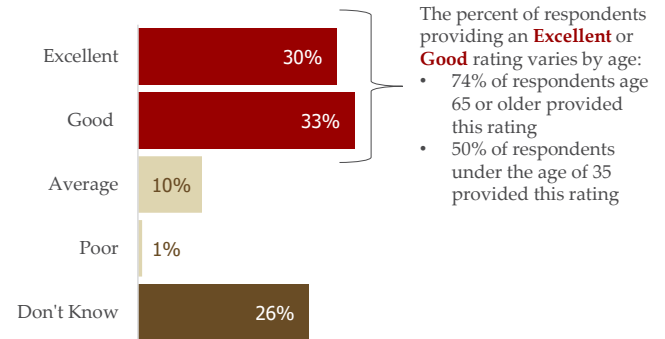


Survey Goal 1: Gauge residents' perception and satisfaction with the overall parks system

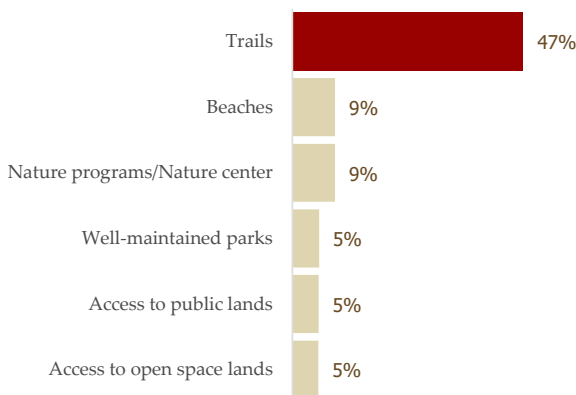
96% of respondents rate the job being done by Ottawa County Parks & Recreation in providing recreational spaces to citizens of Ottawa County as **Excellent** or **Good**.



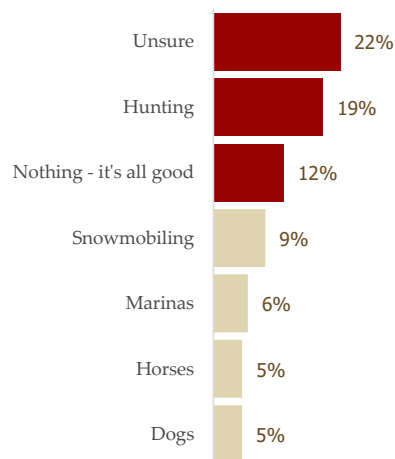
63% of respondents rate the job being done by Ottawa County Parks & Recreation in providing educational programs to citizens of Ottawa County as **Excellent** or **Good**. 26% of respondents indicated that they **Don't Know**.



47% of respondents report the **most valuable** service/program offered by Ottawa County Parks & Recreation as **Trails**.



12% or more of respondents report the **least valuable** service/program offered by Ottawa County Parks & Recreation as **Unsure, Hunting or Nothing – it's all good**.



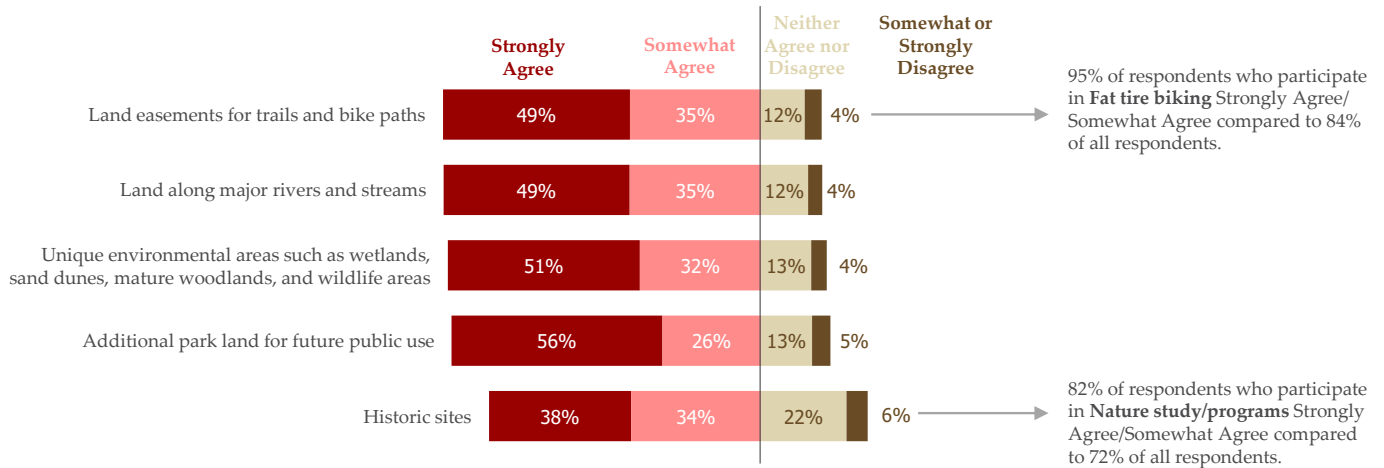
Notes:

1. Total responses by question: 4,304 – recreational spaces rating and educational programs rating; 2,749 – most valuable service/program; 2,169 – least valuable service/program.
2. The most valuable and least valuable service/program were open-ended questions. Responses were reviewed and categorized; they are included in the Appendix. The graphs reflect responses provided by 100 or more people.

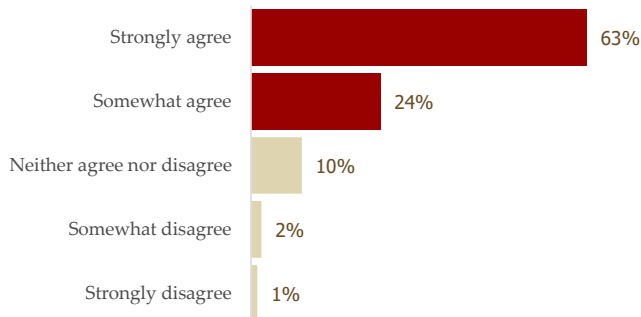


Survey Goal 2: Ensure long-term goals of the Plan reflect the desire of the community

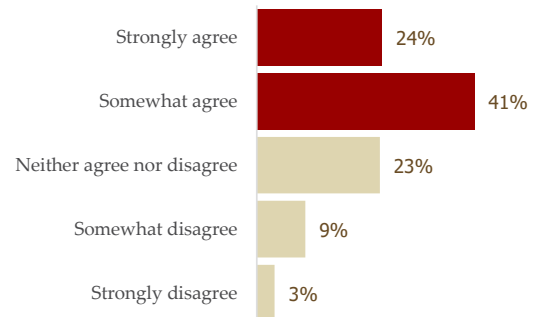
Respondent feedback regarding whether Ottawa County Parks & Recreation should **acquire the following types of land**.



87% of respondents **Strongly agree** or **Somewhat agree** that Ottawa County Parks & Recreation should **support a regional trail system** linking different communities for walkers, bicyclists, and rollerbladers.



65% of respondents **Strongly agree** or **Somewhat agree** that Ottawa County Parks & Recreation should **consider the needs of tourists** when planning future park facilities.



Notes:

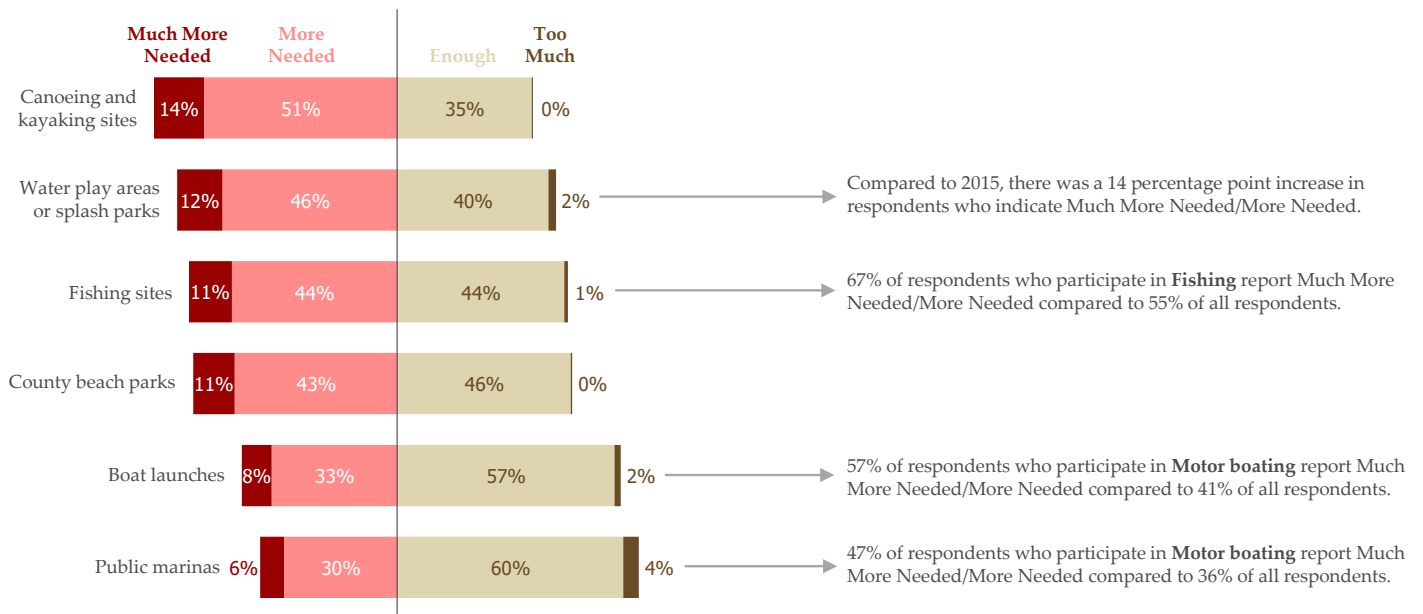
1. Total responses by question: between 3,955 & 4,168 – land acquisition; 4,185 – regional trail system; 4,174 – consider needs of tourists.

2020 Resident Survey Report

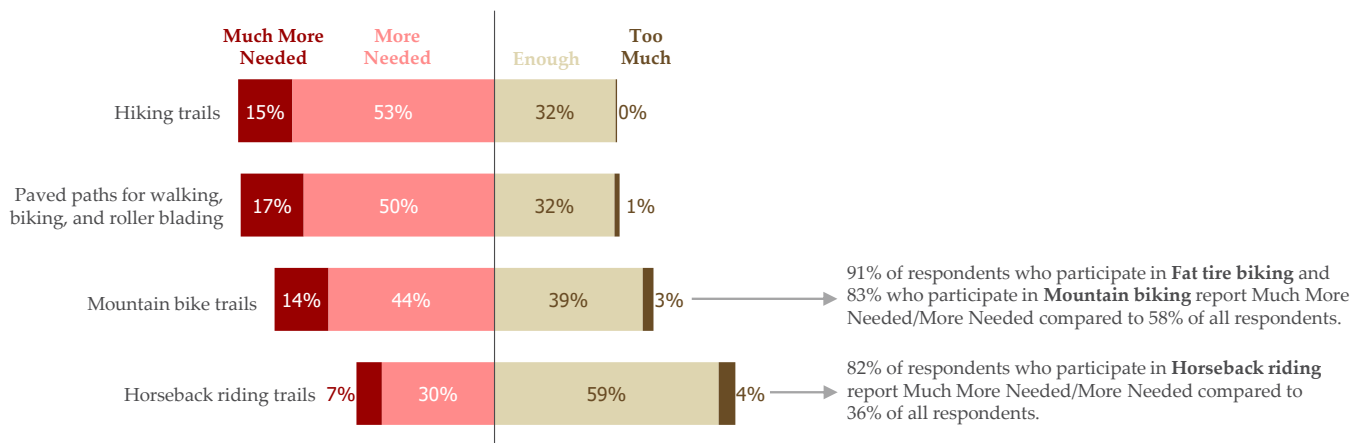


Survey Goal 2: Ensure long-term goals of the Plan reflect the desire of the community

Respondent feedback regarding the need for more of the following types of **water facilities** in Ottawa County.



Respondent feedback regarding the need for more of the following types of **trails** in Ottawa County.



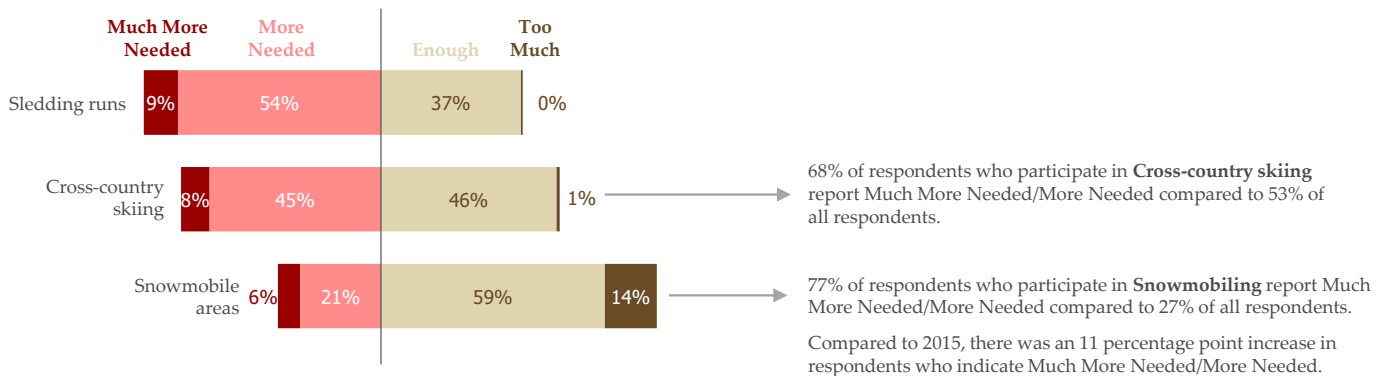
Notes:

1. Total responses by question: between 4,082 & 4,102 – water facilities; between 4,082 & 4,096 – trails.
2. Respondents could select “Undecided/Don’t Know” as an option. These responses were omitted from the analysis and graphs.

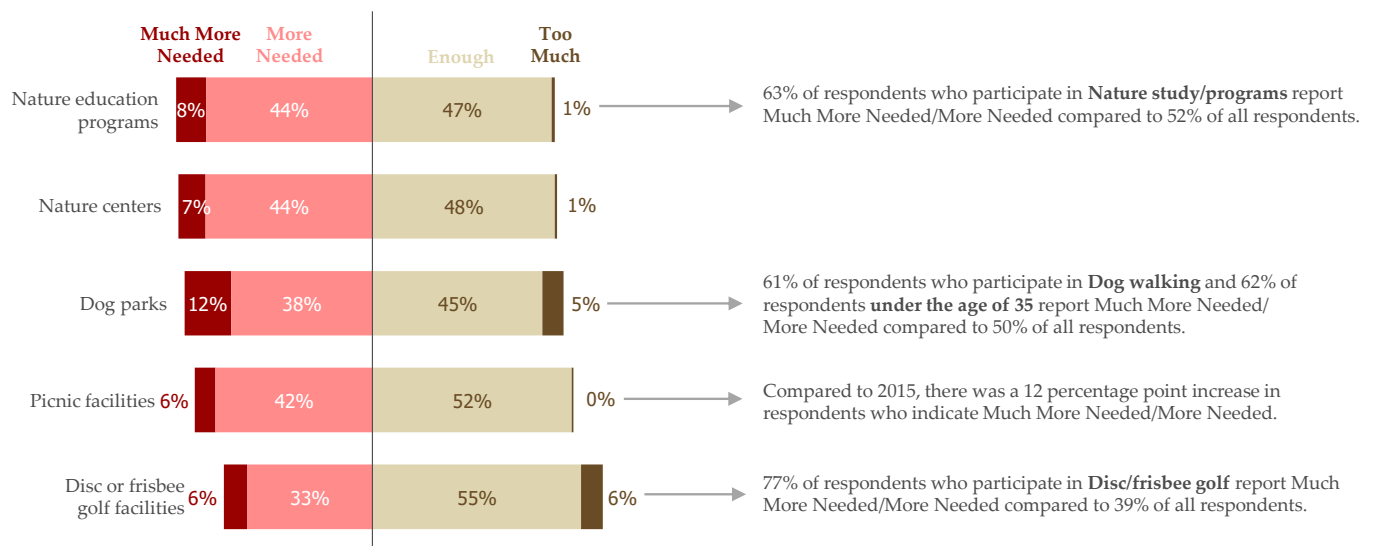


Survey Goal 2: Ensure long-term goals of the Plan reflect the desire of the community

Respondent feedback regarding the need for more of the following types of **winter sports activities** in Ottawa County.



Respondent feedback regarding the need for more of the following types of **other park activities/facilities** in Ottawa County.



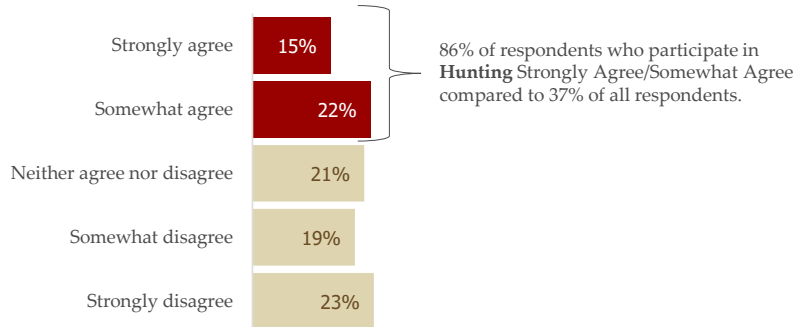
Notes:

1. Total responses by question: between 4,084 & 4,094 – winter sports activities; between 4,084 & 4,091 – other park activities/facilities.
2. Respondents could select “Undecided/Don’t Know” as an option. These responses were omitted from the analysis and graphs.

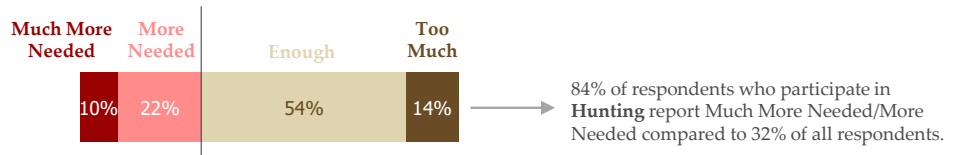


Survey Goal 2: Ensure long-term goals of the Plan reflect the desire of the community

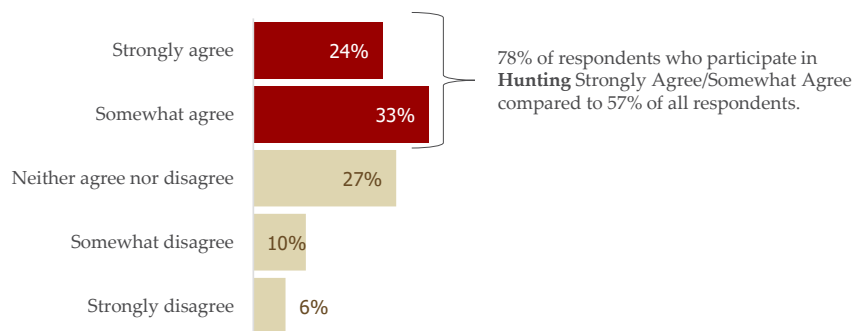
37% of respondents **Strongly agree** or **Somewhat agree** that hunting should be allowed in unimproved portions of county parks and open space lands.



Respondent feedback regarding the need for more **hunting areas** in Ottawa County.



57% of respondents **Strongly agree** or **Somewhat agree** that deer numbers should be reduced as necessary to protect vegetation in high quality natural areas.



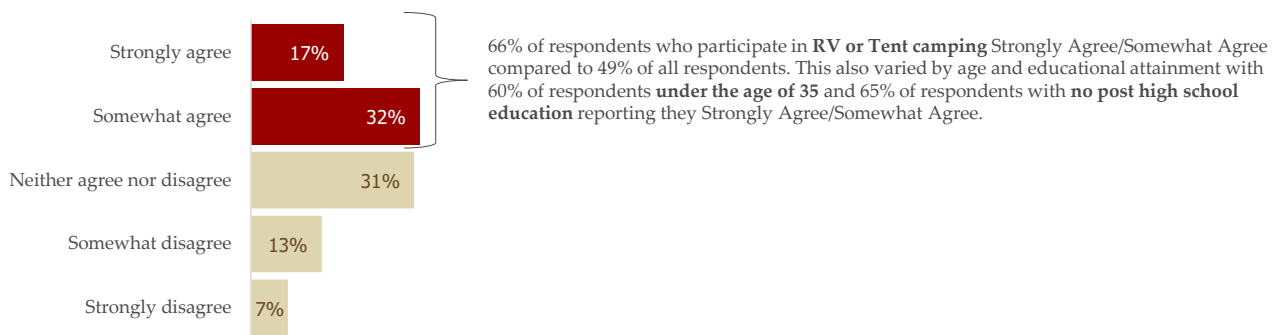
Notes:

1. Total responses by question: 4,185 – hunting allowed; 4,083 – hunting areas need; 4,187 – deer number reduction.
2. Respondents could select “Undecided/Don’t Know” as an option for the “more hunting areas needed” question. These responses were omitted from the analysis and graphs.

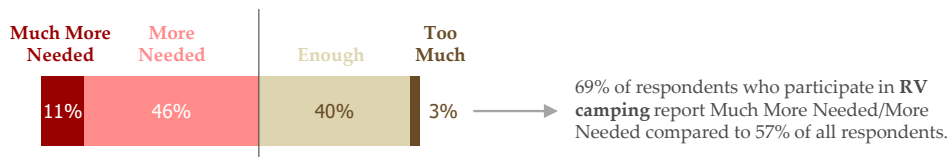


Survey Goal 2: Ensure long-term goals of the Plan reflect the desire of the community

49% of respondents **Strongly agree** or **Somewhat agree** that **overnight camping** opportunities should be provided at properties managed by Ottawa County Parks & Recreation.



Respondent feedback regarding the need for more **camping facilities** in Ottawa County.



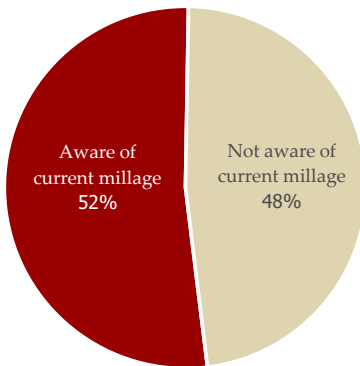
Notes:

1. Total responses by question: 4,180 – overnight camping opportunities; 4,086 – need for camping facilities.
2. Respondents could select “Undecided/Don’t Know” as an option for the “more camping facilities needed” question. These responses were omitted from the analysis and graph.



Survey Goal 3: Gauge residents' support for the County Parks' funding model/millage

52% of respondents are **aware that there is currently a special 10-year millage** that is dedicated specifically to help fund Ottawa County Parks & Recreation. In 2015, 59% of respondents were aware of the millage.

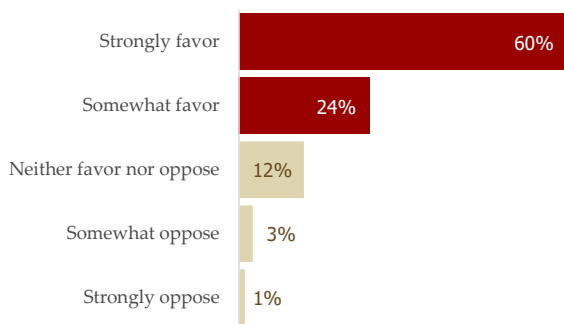


The percent of respondents who are **aware of the current millage** varies by age, educational attainment, and home ownership:

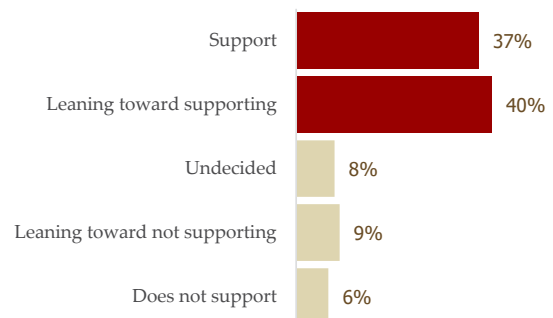
- 63% of respondents **age 55 or older** are aware
- 33% of respondents **under the age of 35** are aware
- 40% of respondents with **no post high school education** are aware
- 35% of respondents who **rent/lease** their primary residence are aware

Age and home ownership are correlated with a larger percent of respondents under the age of 35 renting/leasing their primary residence.

84% of respondents **Strongly favor** or **Somewhat favor** the current parks millage. In 2015, 87% of respondents strongly favored or somewhat favored the millage.



77% of respondents indicate they would **Support** or are **Leaning toward supporting** an increased millage that would assure continued expansion and new development of the Ottawa County Parks system.



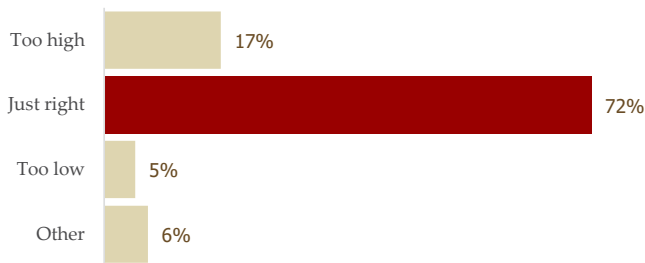
Notes:

1. Total responses by question: 3,863 – millage awareness; 3,974 – millage favor; 3,958 – millage support.



Survey Goal 3: Gauge residents' support for the County Parks' funding model/millage

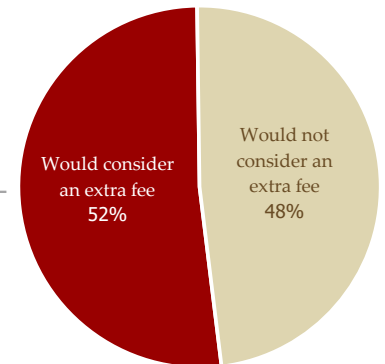
72% of respondents describe the annual pass cost for county residents to enter lakeshore parks and to use the boat launch at Riverside Park in the summer months as **just right**.



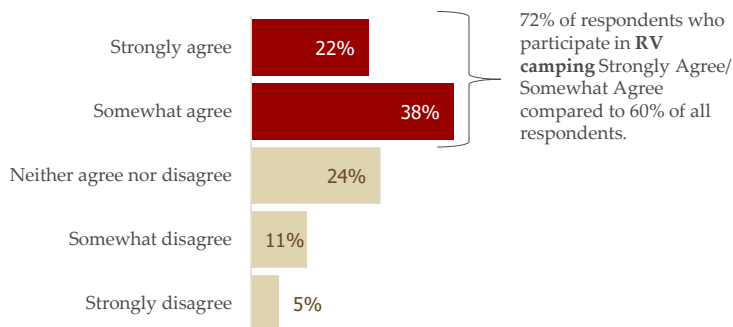
52% of respondents would **consider paying an extra fee** to use special facilities offered at the park that cost more to operate, such as groomed cross-country ski trails, dog parks, or single-track mountain biking trails.

The percent of respondents who would **consider paying an extra fee** varies by whether they would support an increased millage:

- 63% of respondents who support an increased millage provided this response
- 35% of respondents who do not support an increased millage provided this response



60% of respondents **Strongly agree** or **Somewhat agree** that revenue-producing facilities such as campgrounds or marinas should be developed to help finance the Ottawa County Parks & Recreation system.



Notes:

1. Total responses by question: 3,921 – existing fees; 3,872 – extra fees; 4,180 – develop revenue-producing facilities.
2. Respondents could write in other thoughts about the annual pass cost. Open-ended responses were reviewed and categorized; they are included in the Appendix.



Summary of Survey Results

Parks Usage and Recreation Data

3 of the 6 most visited parks are **located along the Lake Michigan shoreline**.



80% or more of respondents **walk** or **hike**.

The **Parks newsletter** and **website** are the most frequently reported channels for obtaining information about the activities of Ottawa County Parks & Recreation.

Survey Goal 1: Gauge residents' perception and satisfaction with the overall parks system



96% of respondents rate the job being done by Ottawa County Parks & Recreation in providing recreational spaces to citizens of Ottawa County as **Excellent** or **Good**.

Trails are identified by respondents as the **most valuable service/program offered**.

Survey Goal 2: Ensure long-term goals of the Plan reflect the desire of the community



87% of respondents **Strongly agree** or **Somewhat agree** that Ottawa County Parks & Recreation should **support a regional trail system** linking different communities.

Less than 50% of respondents **Strongly agree** or **Somewhat agree** that **hunting** should be allowed in unimproved portions of county parks and open space lands or that **overnight camping** should be provided at properties managed by Ottawa County Parks & Recreation.

Over 60% of respondents report that **Much More** or **More** of the following **activities/facilities** are needed in Ottawa County:



- Hiking Trails

- Paved Paths



- Canoeing/Kayaking Sites



- Sledding Runs

Survey Goal 3: Gauge residents' support for the County Parks' funding model/millage

52% of respondents are **aware of the current Parks millage**.



84% of respondents **Strongly Favor** or **Somewhat Favor** the current Parks millage.

72% of respondents think the **annual pass cost** is **Just Right**.

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Main Report



2020 Ottawa County Park User Survey

This survey of Ottawa County Park Users was conducted to inform the 2020 Ottawa County Parks, Recreation, & Open Space Plan. The goals of this survey include:

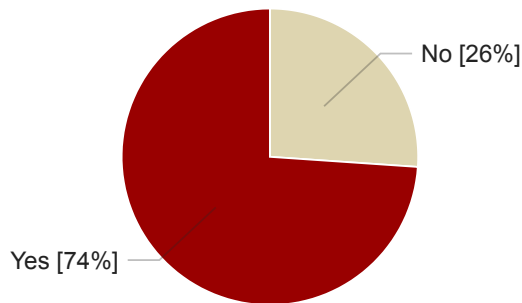
- To learn where park visitors live
 - Are they residents or non-residents?
 - How far do they travel within the region to visit parks?
- To receive feedback about each park directly from the people who are using them

Total Survey
Responses:
162

Respondents were able to provide open-ended responses for certain questions, which are included below each applicable question.

Survey Goal 1: To learn where park visitors live

Are you an Ottawa County resident?

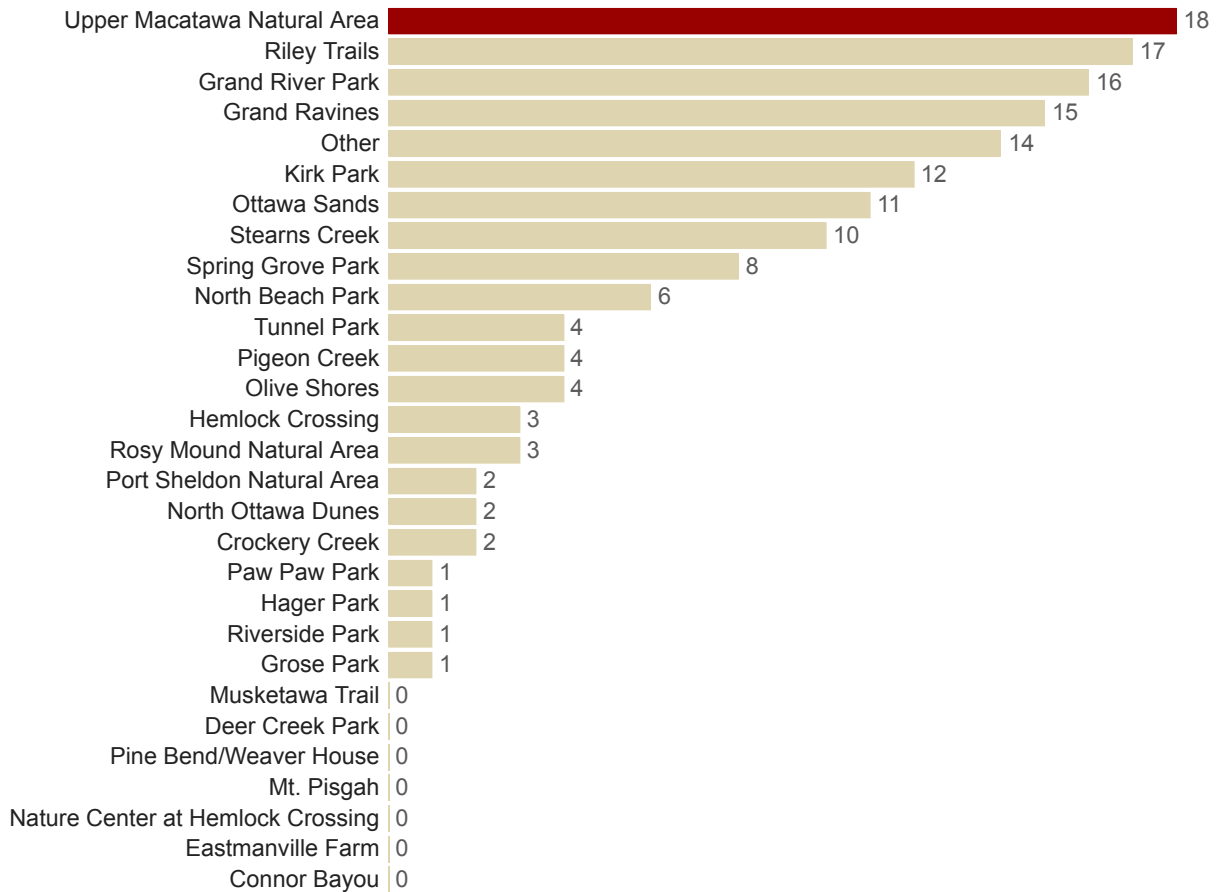


What is your home zip code?

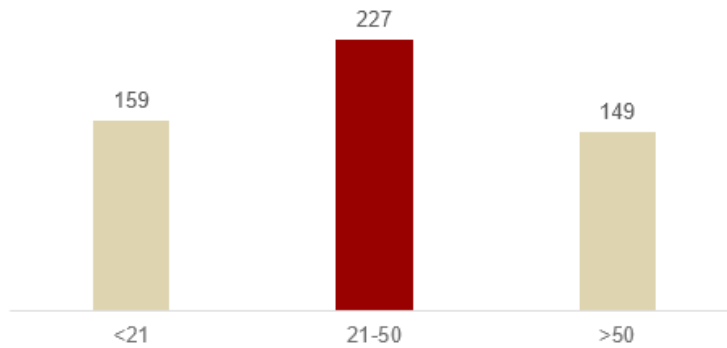
Location	Response Count
Michigan - Ottawa County	118
Michigan - Outside Ottawa County	37
Illinois	5
Idaho	1
Utah	1

Survey Goal 2: To receive feedback about each park directly from the people who are using them

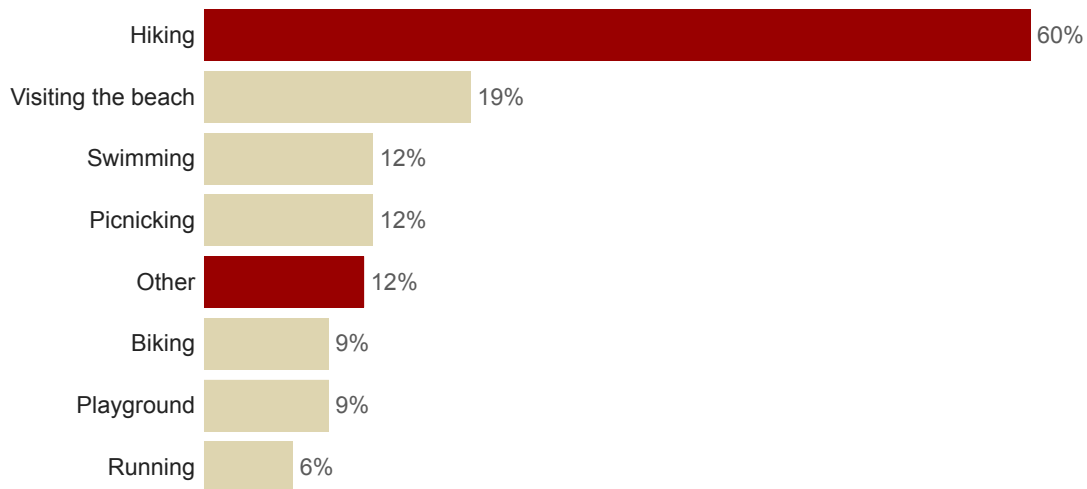
Which Ottawa County park are you visiting today?



How many people in each age group, including you, came in your group today? (Total reported count of visitors by age group)



What activity/activities did you come for today?



'Other' Responses:

"Dog Walking" (3 similar comments)

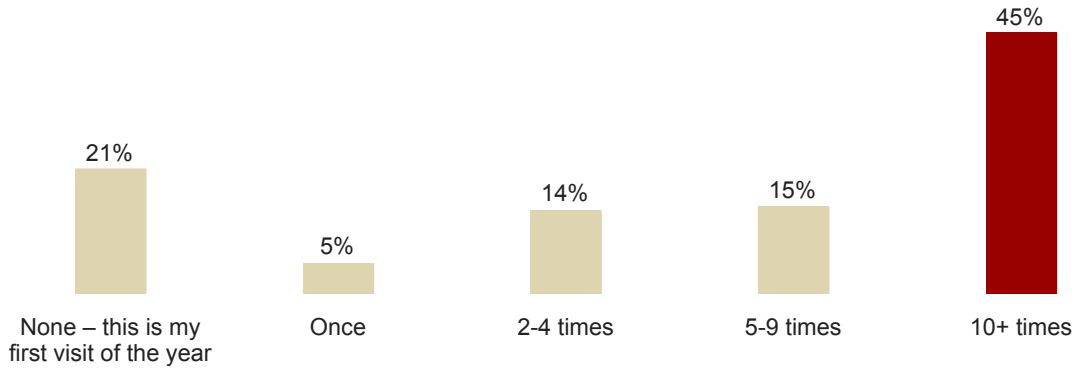
"Fishing" (2 similar comments)

"Kayaking"

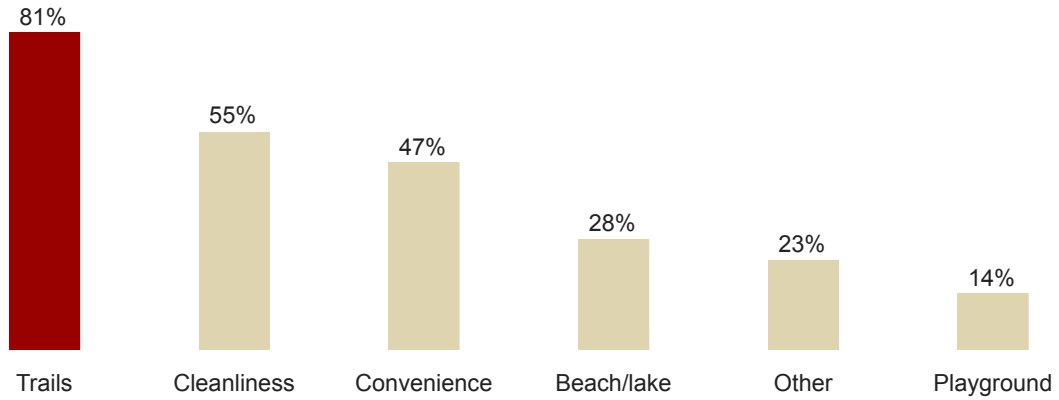
"Mountain Biking"

"Birding"

Not counting today's visit, how many times have you visited this park in the last year?



What facilities or other features do you like about this park?

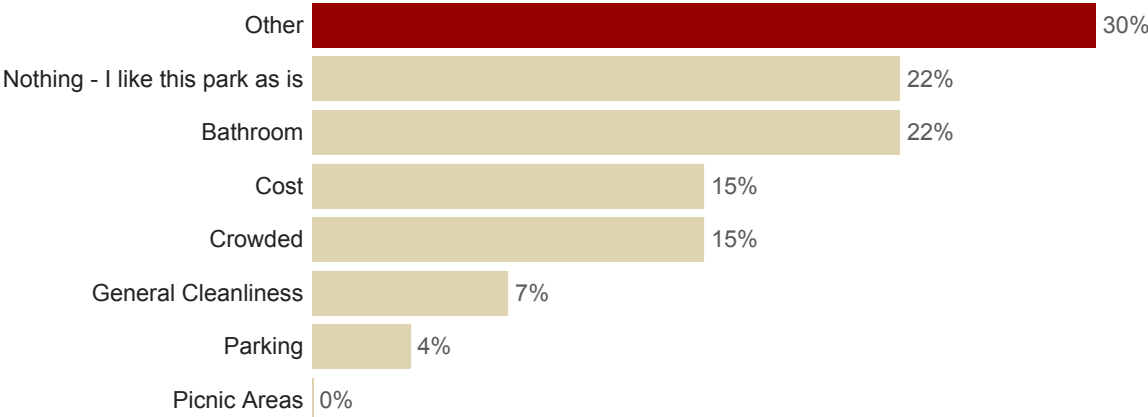


'Other' Responses:

- “Off leash dog walking” (6 similar comments)
- “Friendly park staff” (2 similar comments)
- “Dog park” (1 similar comment)
- “That Grand River Open Space is barely developed.”
- “Fishing and grilling”
- “No motorized vehicles”
- “Picnic tables in the shade”
- “Trail signage is clear and helpful”
- “Very few people. We didn't see anyone at all”
- “Trees!!”
- “Access to Grand River”
- “Variety of places to hike”
- “Close to home”
- “Pretty trails”
- “Undeveloped”
- “Scenery and wildlife”
- “Peacefulness”
- “I LOVE the oak savannah restoration. Excellent job!”
- “Wild”
- “Vistas of the water”
- “One way paths during COVID”
- “Views”
- “Rustic/natural”

Besides beach erosion, which is out of the control of the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Department, what do you dislike or think should be improved about this park?

Responses only from lakeshore park users

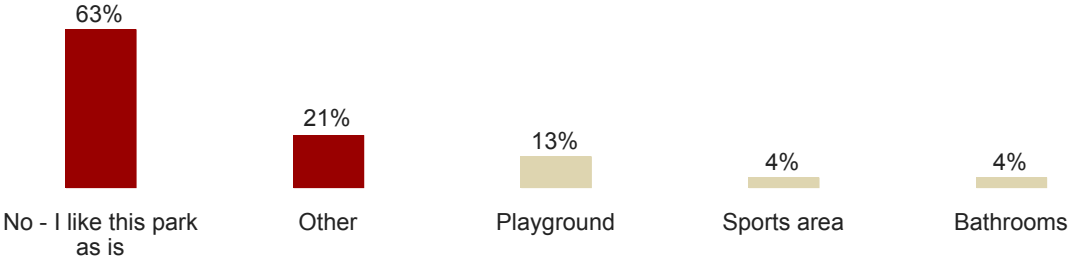


'Other' Responses:

- “Make it a dog beach again!”
- “Old bathroom building”
- “Beach area needs to be picked up”
- “Could be more clear about permits”
- “It is a little hard to get up after being at the beach all day. The ropes are useful but the sand feels like quick sand sometime and it is difficult to climb back up once I am done swimming.”
- “Get rid of bugs”
- “Steps down to the beach”
- “They gave people tickets because they thought a state park pass would cover them.”

Are there any facilities or other features that should be added to make this park better?

Responses only from lakeshore park users

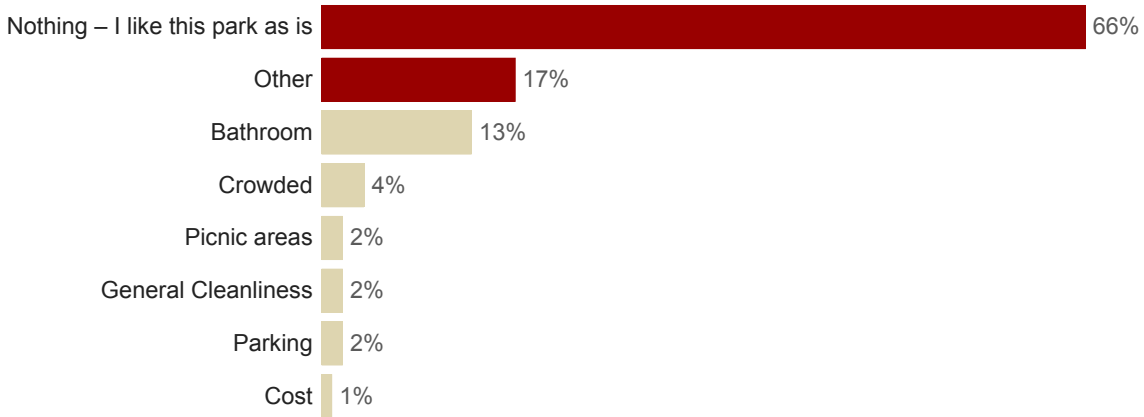


'Other' Responses:

- “Beach tiki bar”
- “Stairs to the lake for the elderly”
- “Pool”
- “Steps down to the beach”
- “Plant more trees. More might be lost!”

What do you dislike or think should be improved about this park?

Responses only from non-lakeshore park users



'Other' Responses:

“You cut all the trees. There are entire sections that are open areas with stumps and dirt. It was beautiful before and I'm very disappointed. It seems like a waste of county money, and unnecessary.” (2 similar comments)

“There is a very old bench just south of the playground that is entrusted with lichens and need to be replaced. Also, you might post some educational signs showing what poison ivy looks like.”

“Dogs should be allowed”

“I don't think it is safe to allow children in the no-leash dog park area”

“More patrolling- I pick up garbage every day”

“Dogs off leash!!”

“Poison ivy”

“People not cleaning up after their dogs.”

“That it's not closer to Spring Lake, please duplicate this in North Ottawa Dunes”

“You need more trail marking I kept getting super lost. Everyone in my party agreed that your trails should be better marked”

“Bikes are a negative. Too fast and obnoxious, dangerous.”

“Sand trail difficult to walk on.”

“We like the water fountain and are glad there is a bathroom at all, it's usually fairly clean for an outhouse, but can't help being a little stinky.”

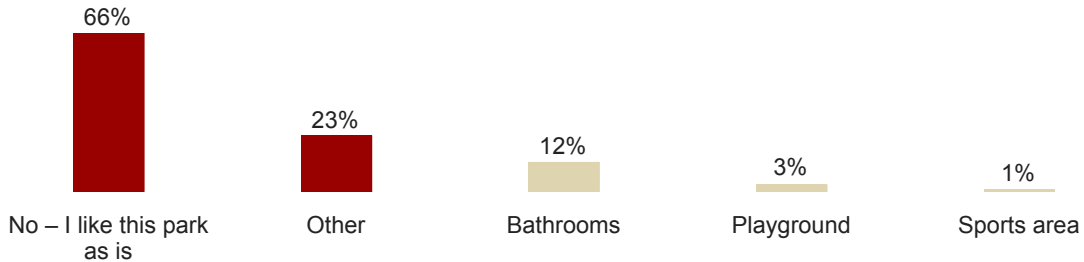
“We get what you're doing but it's a mess right now.”

“Move parking area to former barn site.”

“Maybe bathroom”

Are there any facilities or other features that should be added to make this park better?

Responses only from non-lakeshore park users



'Other' Responses:

"I would like more maps - especially near the river."

"Ramps and agility things in dog parks"

"Hand washing station"

"It would be nice to have a water area for dogs within the unleashed area of the dog park."

"Replace the aforementioned bench."

"More paved trails"

"I'd love to see the trails improved so bicycle riding the east end would be a possibility."

"Changing rooms, more mtb trails!"

"Another bridge on the bike trail in a certain area that I can't recall but someone else thought the same and stated they wouldn't be surprised to see one added in the future."

"A bench in the meadows area and along the paved trail in the woods."

"The current porta-potty is tipped over on its side"

"More signs showing where your going in the park"

"More dog friendly - don't need the threatening warning signs"

"A canoe launch on the Byron road side of the park would allow people to explore when the water is high."

"Limit or do not allow bikes."

"Perhaps another water fountain by the east entrance"

"Disc golf"

"More nice views would be nice"

"Creek access (for fishing or boat docking), better maintenance to the trails and more trails."

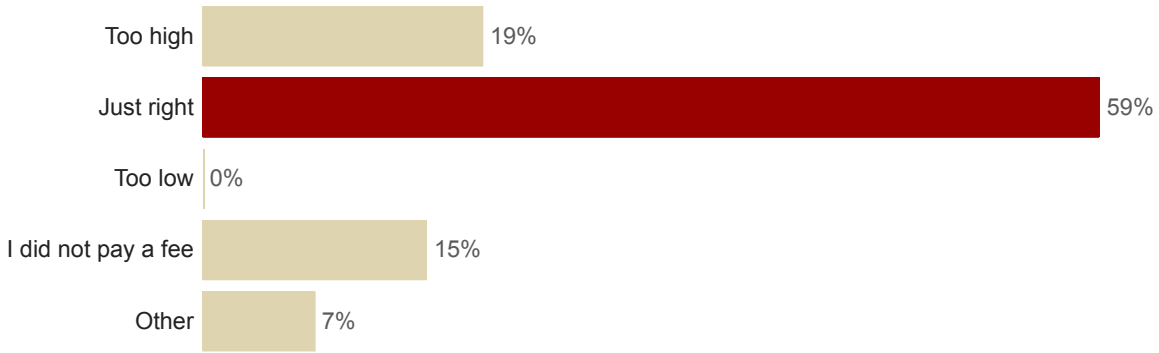
"Replace trees"

"When the trail gets close to the highway, a sound barrier with lots of screening trees would make the trail even more enjoyable and a peaceful area to ride."

"More trees!"

How would you describe the fee to use this park?

Responses only from lakeshore park users

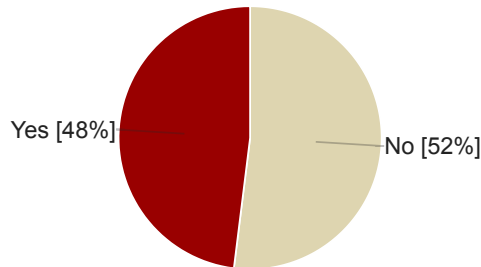


'Other' Responses:

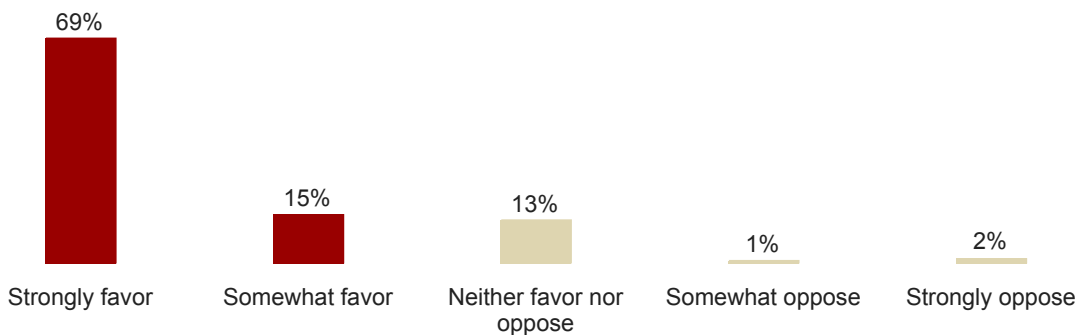
“Ok for me but maybe not for young families”

“The fee is fine but I think if you have a state park sticker on your vehicle and you make a mistake believing it should cover it you should at least have the option to pay the eight dollars afterwards”

Are you aware that there is currently a 10-year millage, passed in 2016, that is dedicated specifically to help fund Ottawa County Parks?



This 1/3 of a mill amounts to \$25.00 per year for a house valued at \$150,000 with a taxable value of \$75,000. Generally speaking, do you favor or oppose the current parks millage?



Do you have any other comments or feedback regarding Ottawa County Parks & Recreation facilities, programs, and/or activities?

“This park is a gem!”

“Keep up the good job”

“I have seen many people confused with the self service permit machine. I think there should be a sign explaining why the permit needs to be bought”

“More off leash, please, that is huge. Don't change what we have, it's great!”

“I'm at Johnson st open space. You need more trails here. Or keep the current trail clear. It gets so grown in and the ticks are just awful.”

“Ottawa County has many beautiful parks. Keep up the good work!”

“Don't you guys get enough revenue through messing up people lives with DUIs?”

“I am very grateful to be staying near the Grand Ravines park. We are working here from out of town and I travel with my two dogs and they wait for me all day to come home. The dog park is the safest place for me to take them by myself and let them run and play.”

“I appreciate the Spaces in the county to be able to take my dog somewhere”

“Just that it is difficult to climb back up the sand after I am done swimming. Besides that it is an amazing beach.”

“Get rid of the bugs and make a pool”

“I wish I knew about more of them sooner! Love the parks”

“This is a beautiful quiet park close to the Grand River. There is a boat launch not far from the picnic area, the trails are nice, lots of grills and picnic tables, a boardwalk where the grand children could fish from, nice play area and very clean and quiet. We really love this park and will visit again.”

“I visited Van Buran Natural area today - it's not on the list. I use the park system 5-6 times per week all year long. I love the access to non-developed walking areas and off leash areas with my dog. Please don't add more "improved" parks to the system.”

“Friendly park attendants but bathrooms need to be updated”

“Being from Utah, there aren't many opportunities to go to a beach, I was pleasantly surprised at this one.”

“Love the parks”

“I love the work you have done with all the parks - amazing. Personally I prefer less developed options with trails and less crowds.”

“Love them all”

“Your website does a nice job helping new visitors understand facilities and trails. I'm excited about your work on the Grand River Greenway too.”

“We wish there was a way to enforce the leash law at all parks. Too many people let the dogs run off leash and we strongly dislike their dogs running up to us, sniffing us, jumping on us. Always they say, “S/he won't hurt you.” That's what a dog owner said seconds before their dog tore off my four year old grandson's face and ripped open his throat to the base of his tongue. He survived but will be forever scarred. We don't care for dogs and wish people would respect that and keep the dogs leashed.”

"We walk our dog at this open space frequently and value being outdoors in nature and a place our dog can be off leash. She loves the woods also."

"You guys rock. Great job and thank you"

"I love 'em!"

"Bur Oak could be a nice picnic area but it doesn't look like it's maintained. Some tree clean up, A couple picnic tables, and mowing would make this a nice place to relax. The ticks and mosquitoes in the tall grass make it hard to stay. I have been to other open space properties that could easily be made more user friendly."

"We have been trying to get to 1 new to us park each Sunday and have been loving it!"

"These parks are nice, but I feel they would be safer if the poison ivy could be reduced."

"Good job!"

"Thanks for mowing the trails. I enjoy walking there with my dogs"

"Would love more MTB and hiking trails! Our whole family loves to mountain bike and hike and variety is nice!"

"Grateful for our parks and staff!"

"I like disc golf, basketball, and pickle ball"

"Except for some cyclists almost running walkers down on the main trail, it's a great place to enjoy."

"Thank you for all your work on the parks to improve habitat."

"Need more mountain bike trails and open space for dogs."

"Very nice park but very crowded and not enough parking."

"Just that there is opportunity to make west Michigan a destination for mountain bikers."

"You NEED more signs showing where to go at this specific location. I cannot stress how much you need this. The trails are pretty yet VERY confusing."

"It has been great to see the parks expand. I think they are good for the communities and it very farsighted to preserve the open land."

"Love all the parks in Ottawa Co. anything you want to do is available in these parks. Visit many of them each year. Very close for any of them."

"This is a great park."

"Park program is commendable"

"Very clean and the staff are always nice"

"Ottawa County Parks are beautiful, true treasures. We are fortunate to have them so close to home in Grand Rapids. Immense thanks for preserving these places of nature, of joy, of solitude, and solace!!"

Ottawa Co. has great parks, and the county does a good job keeping them up

"I think that Ottawa County has amazing parks and I like to visit them as much as I can! Very grateful for the county's dedication to perserving land and would be happy to pay lots more in millage cost!"

"Parks are a great part of Ottawa County. I support more and better parks. Outdoor recreation is essential."

"Visit many of the Ottawa County Parks. Can't wait for the end of this Covid pandemic so that I can kayak at Hemlock Crossing again."

"The parks department is doing a great job. We would appreciate more restroom facilities (real ones, not pit toilets)."

"No, this park was awesome. I would be nice to be able to swim, but I like how pristine and uncrowded it is currently"

"I love the trails at the parks. Especially with it being so hot this year, it's an opportunity to exercise in the woods."

"My son thinks a ropes course or zip line would be fun. I've heard people love the mountain bike trails there, though I've never used it myself. We like how wide the paved trail is for family walks and bike rides. The natural paths from the east entrance are a fun choice for something different. Some seasons those are quite impassable though. The kids really feel like we are exploring when we go on those. The multiple bridges are beautiful and fun."

"We are blessed with beautiful county parks!!!"

"All Ottawa County parks are great and we enjoy visiting many frequently for hikes and bike riding. We would love to see more mountain bike trails like Riley."

"The parks have been continuously improving over the past several years. We recommend them regularly to friends and associates. Strict enforcement of dogs being on leashes outside of the dog park area is vital. We've had a number of close calls over the past few years with dogs."

"You guys do a great job, our parks are awesome"

"Thank-you so much for providing these wonderful places for us to enjoy!"

Include more campgrounds and more hiking availability"

"Open parks earlier in the morning, and have restrooms open."

"Open restrooms by 8:00AM. Our middle school and high school kids use this park for cross country practices, and adults walk and early in the morning. It is crazy that the restrooms are locked even after 9:00AM. Please open the restrooms by 8:00, so kids aren't urinating in the bushes!"

"Why are the trees being cut down at Stearns?! This is terrible!"

"The trail at JSF was a little hard to follow."

"I hope you leave a few red pines for instructional purposes."

"I'm constantly impressed with our county's parks and programs. The signage exceeds much of what I see in other areas of the state and even in out of state parks. I was recently at IN's Pokagon State Park and couldn't find even the trail heads to the trails I wanted to hike. I love our parks."

"We love the mt biking trails here - one of our favorites."

"If you think that your state park sticker covers the admission and you get a ticket you should be allowed to just correct it by paying the eight dollars"

"The Van Buren Street Dunes are absolutely beautiful. We will be stopping by to walk the dunes each time we visit the area."

"We have a great park system which contributes to the high quality of life we enjoy"

"You cut all the trees. There are entire sections that are open areas with stumps and dirt. It was beautiful before and I'm very disappointed. It seems like a waste of county money, and unnecessary."

"We live part time in Indiana and part time in Holland. We very much appreciate the thought, care, money, time, and maintenance put into the extensive park system in Ottawa County. It definitely contributes to quality of life here and is a big factor in our decision to retire here."

"Do not cut down the trees in the park"

"Wonderful county park system."

"Great! Thank you"

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Annual Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission

Approved Minutes

- Date:** December 2, 2020
- Time:** 3:00 p.m.
- Place:** Online Meeting via Zoom
- Present:** Joe Bush, Greg DeJong, Lukas Hill, James Holtvluwer, Phil Kuyers, Jane Longstreet, Linda McAffrey, Kelly Rice, and Tom Werkman
- Absent:** Tom Elhart
- Staff:** Jason Shamblin, Director; Kyle Roffey, Administrative Assistant; Jason Boerger, Coordinator of Park Maintenance and Operations; Curt TerHaar, Coordinator of Park Planning and Development; Jessica VanGinhoven, Communications Specialist
- Guests:** Trevor Bosworth, Patrick Garrett, Susan Hansen, Troy VanderPloeg, and Roger Jonas

Motions

Approval of Minutes

- PR 20-72 Motion: To approve the minutes of the Commission’s November 4, 2020 meeting.
Moved by: Holtvluwer Supported by: Kuyers Unanimous

Ottawa Sands Master Plan

- PR 20-73 Motion: To accept the revised preferred plan as the park master plan for the Ottawa Sands County Park property and authorize the completion of the final master plan report.
Moved by: McAffrey Supported by: Kuyers Unanimous

Public Hearing for the

2021 Ottawa County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan

- PR 20-74 Motion: To go into Public Hearing for the 2021 Ottawa County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan and accept public comments.
Moved by: Longstreet Supported by: McAffrey Unanimous

To Rise from Public Hearing for the

2021 Ottawa County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan

- PR 20-75 Motion: To rise from Public Hearing.
Moved by: Holtvluwer Supported by: Kuyers Unanimous

Idema Explorers Trail – Allendale Segment – 11822 60th Ave. Easement

PR 20-76 Motion: To accept the trail easement from Thomas and Dora Runyon at 11822 60th Ave. at a cost of \$2,258 and forward to the County Board of Commissioners for final approval.
Moved by: Kuyers Supported by: Holtvluwer Unanimous

Pigeon Creek Park Hours Change

PR 20-77 Motion: To approve changing the open hours at Pigeon Creek Park to 7 am to 10 pm year-round.
Moved by: Kuyers Supported by: Longstreet Unanimous

Ottawa County Parks Foundation support for Grand River Greenway Outfitted Camping at Ottawa Sands

PR 20-78 Motion: To authorize the Ottawa County Parks Foundation to solicit financial support for the Grand River Greenway Outfitted Camping Yurt Village at Ottawa Sands.
Moved by: Werkman Supported by: Kuyers Unanimous

2021 Coastal Zone Management Grant Application

PR 20-79 Motion: To recommend application to the Michigan Coastal Zone Management program for funding assistance to replace, repair, and construct wood stairs and boardwalk at North Beach Park and North Ottawa Dunes.
Moved by: Longstreet Supported by: Holtvluwer Unanimous

Go into Closed Session

PR 20-80 Motion: To go into Closed Session
Moved by: Bush Supported by: Holtvluwer Unanimous

Rise from Closed Session

PR 20-81 Motion: To rise from Closed Session
Moved by: Holtvluwer Supported by: Bush Unanimous

Other Items Discussed

4. Additions/Deletions to Agenda

None

5. Approval of Minutes

a) The minutes of the Commission’s December 2, 2020 regular meeting were approved.

6. Communications

a) Commission members reviewed the comment cards and emails received.

Boerger provided an update regarding a resident near Historic Ottawa Beach (HOB) that expressed concern about additional trees on Parks property with the potential of falling onto his home after one tree had already fallen and damaged his home. Staff evaluated the situation and decided to remove two additional trees.

b) Ottawa Sands Master Plan Public comments and emails received.

7. Public Comments

Garrett proposed two changes to Parks rules: first, to allow the gates at Ravines North to be opened earlier to allow hunters to use the kayak launch to cross the river for earlier access to Grand River Open Space; second, to allow firearm hunting at the Bend Area Open Space until the site becomes a park.

VanderPloeg stated he is the landowner at Historic Ottawa Beach whose home was damaged by a tree falling from park property. VanderPloeg requested additional trees on park property in around his home be removed at the Parks expense, or if that is not feasible, that he be allowed to remove trees that staff feel are not at risk.

8. Staff Reports

a) Director

Shamblin reported that staff attended the virtual Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board meeting, where acquisition and development grant applications were reviewed for funding in 2021. Shamblin was excited to report that the Bend Area Expansion project and the Stearn's Creek expansion project were both recommended.

Shamblin stated that staff met with representatives of the West Michigan Agricultural Education Center (WMAEC) concerning their two leases at Eastmanville Farm. WMAEC renewed the smaller parcel for one year, and they chose not to renew the lease for the larger area after 2021. Staff will work on restoration of that parcel, leaving a portion available for agricultural use.

Shamblin reported that the North Shore Drain project is unlikely to proceed, as the expense for the project is cost prohibitive and landowners are not willing to provide an easement needed for the project.

Shamblin reported that engineers working on the N. Holiday Hills drain are evaluating alternate drainage solutions, one of which is developing an interdunal wetland in NOD that could accommodate the water discharge for the drainage district. The hydrological study will determine if this is a feasible solution. This may be an alternative solution, if EGLE will not permit pumping into Black Lake.

b) Operations and Maintenance

Boerger noted the following highlights from his report:

- Funding has been secured for preparing engineering documents for repairs to the Musketawa Trail in 2021.
- Staff have a COVID-19 plan in place for ski and snowshoe rentals at Pigeon Creek, which will allow winter operations to be open.
- On November 3, 35 volunteers from Herman Miller planted trees at several locations and removed debris from the Bend Area.
- A record high of 47 deer taken in the Deer Management Program at North Ottawa Dunes and Ottawa Sands this year.

c) Planning and Development

TerHaar stated that he has request an engineer analyzed the erosion in front of the pavilion at North Beach and the engineer determined if the pavilion will be damaged if not shored up this winter. TerHaar has reached out to several vendors that engage in erosion control for quotes on the project. The engineers have given two options for armoring the pavilion.

TerHaar stated that the parking lot repairs at North Beach have been completed. These were needed due to contractors using the parking lot for staging of neighbor's erosion repairs. Repairs to concrete are still outstanding.

d) Interpretive Services

Hintz stated the Lakeshore Little Big Read program reached out to over 2,300 visitors during the 4 program days at Rosy Mound, Paw Paw East, Grand Ravines, and Hemlock Crossing.

e) Communications

The Commission accepted the report as written.

9. Committee Reports

a) Planning Committee – Special Meeting – November 10, 2020

The Commission accepted the report as written.

b) Planning Committee – November 17, 2020

The Commission accepted the report as written.

c) Friends of Ottawa County Parks

McAffrey stated the board will not meet until January.

d) Ottawa County Parks Foundation

Longstreet stated that the Foundation board did not meet in November, but they will be interviewing for a Financial Advisor for investments next week.

e) Nominations Committee for 2021 Ottawa County Parks Commission Officers.

Rice assigned Bush and DeJong to the committee to prepare the recommendations for President, Vice-President, and Secretary for the next commission meeting.

f) 2021 Ottawa County Parks Committee organization

Rice will establish the committee appointments for presentation at the January 2021 Commission meeting. Rice asked commissioners to contact her if they have any preferences.

10. Old Business

- a) TerHaar summarized the changes to the Ottawa Sands Master Plan. The Commission approved the motion.

- b) Public Hearing of the 2021 Ottawa County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan was held.

Bob Garlinghouse was glad to see that Historic Ottawa Beach was included in the needs analysis.

Patrick Garrett asked to revisit the hunting plan at Bend Area Open Space to include more hunting options until it becomes a Park.

- c) TerHaar provided background on the Idema Explorers Trail – Allendale Segment 11822 60th Ave. easement. The motion carried.

11. New Business

- a) Boerger provided additional information on the request to change the hours at Pigeon Creek Park. The motion carried.

- b) Shamblin provided background on the request to the Ottawa County Parks Foundation for funding support of an outfitted camping area at Ottawa Sands. The motion carried.

- c) TerHaar reviewed the 2021 Coastal Zone Management Grant Application. The motion carried.

12. Public Heard

Bob Garlinghouse commented on the letter from WMPA in response to Shamblin's letter and is looking forward to collaborating with the team concerning the winter needs of the HOB boardwalk.

13. Commissioners Heard

Werkman stated this was his last commission meeting after 9 years. He stated it has been an honor to be on the board, and it was the best he has had the privilege to be on.

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Next meeting: January 6, 2021

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Location: Online via Zoom

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Open Public Hearing for the proposed 2021-2022 Michigan State University budget. The hearing will be held on Monday, December 7, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. in the Michigan State University Student Center, Room 1000, East Lansing, Michigan. For more information, please contact the Michigan State University Office of the State Auditor at (517) 487-2000.

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2021 Ottawa County Parks, Recreation, & Open Space Plan now available for public comment

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October 21, 2020 - For immediate release
Press contact: [Jessica VanGinhoven](#), (616) 738-4810

2021 Ottawa County Parks, Recreation, & Open Space Plan now available for public comment

A draft of the 2021 long-range parks plan is ready for review. A public meeting is planned for the December 2 Parks Commission meeting (approximate time TBA; meeting begins at 3 pm). Public comment will be available via Zoom; a link to the meeting will be available on the day of the meeting at miOttawa.org/parks. Comments may also be sent via [email](#) or mailed to the Parks administrative office: 12220 Fillmore St., West Olive, MI 49460. Please submit all comments by November 20, 2020.

Public Input

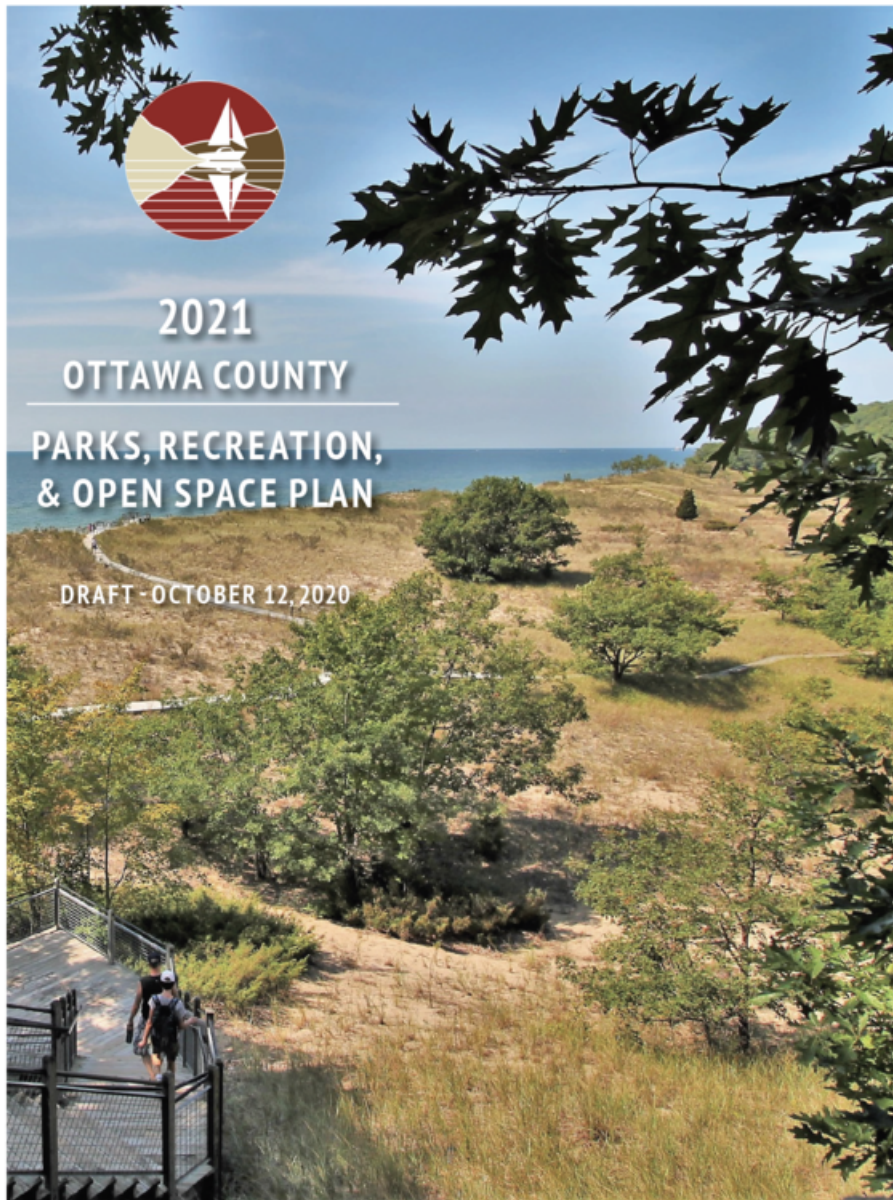
Ottawa county residents and park visitors helped build and guide this plan by completing surveys, comment cards, and directing comments and suggestions to the Parks Commission.

Parks Plan Overview

- Continues emphasis on high quality maintenance and operations with projections of long-term capital renovation needs. Over one-third of discretionary (non-operating) millage funds are dedicated to renovations of current park facilities.
- Identifies key property acquisitions and funding to enhance and expand park properties.
- Calls for efforts to improve and develop the Macatawa and Pigeon River Greenways, Ottawa Sands, the Bend Area, and to complete the Idema Explorers Trail along the Grand River Greenway.
- Continues efforts to meet and exceed ADA accessibility guidelines at all lands and facilities.
- Provides flexibility to consider other unexpected opportunities and expand existing park properties.
- Continues focus on providing quality nature education programs throughout the park system.
- Expands emphasis on communications to residents of available opportunities for optimal park use.

Project Funding

The parks plan also includes detailed budget projections and a capital improvement schedule. The plan notes that the current dedicated park millage combined with grant funds has allowed the Parks Commission to provide a large and high-quality park system to serve residents and visitors. However, with continued park expansion, a higher percentage of millage funds are now devoted to operations and maintenance creating greater reliance on other funding for new initiatives.



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Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission | 12220 Fillmore Street, West Olive, Michigan 49460 | 616-738-4810

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Subject: 2021 Ottawa County Parks, Recreation, & Open Space Plan now available for public comment
 Sent: 10/21/2020 05:09 PM EDT
 Sent By: jvanginhoven@miottawa.org
 Sent To: Subscribers of Ottawa Sands Master Planning Alerts, Parks - Outdoors Ottawa County Quarterly Newsletter, or Parks Press Releases,

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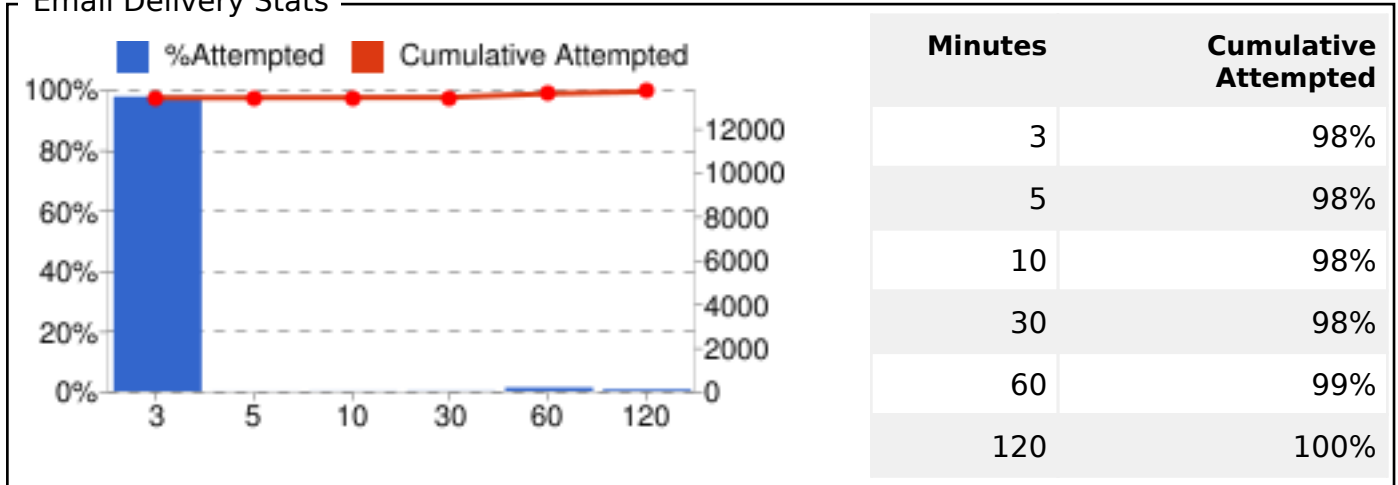
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15 # of Links

Delivery and performance

These figures represent all data since the bulletin was first sent to present time.

	Progress	% Delivered	Recipients	# Delivered	Opened Unique	Bounced/Failed	Unsubscribes
Email Bulletin	Delivered	98.1%	12,938	12,688	3992 / 31.5%	250	5
Digest	n/a	n/a	841	841	0 / 0.0%	0	0
SMS Message	Delivered	0.0%	0	0	n/a	0	n/a



Ottawa County Parks and Recreation

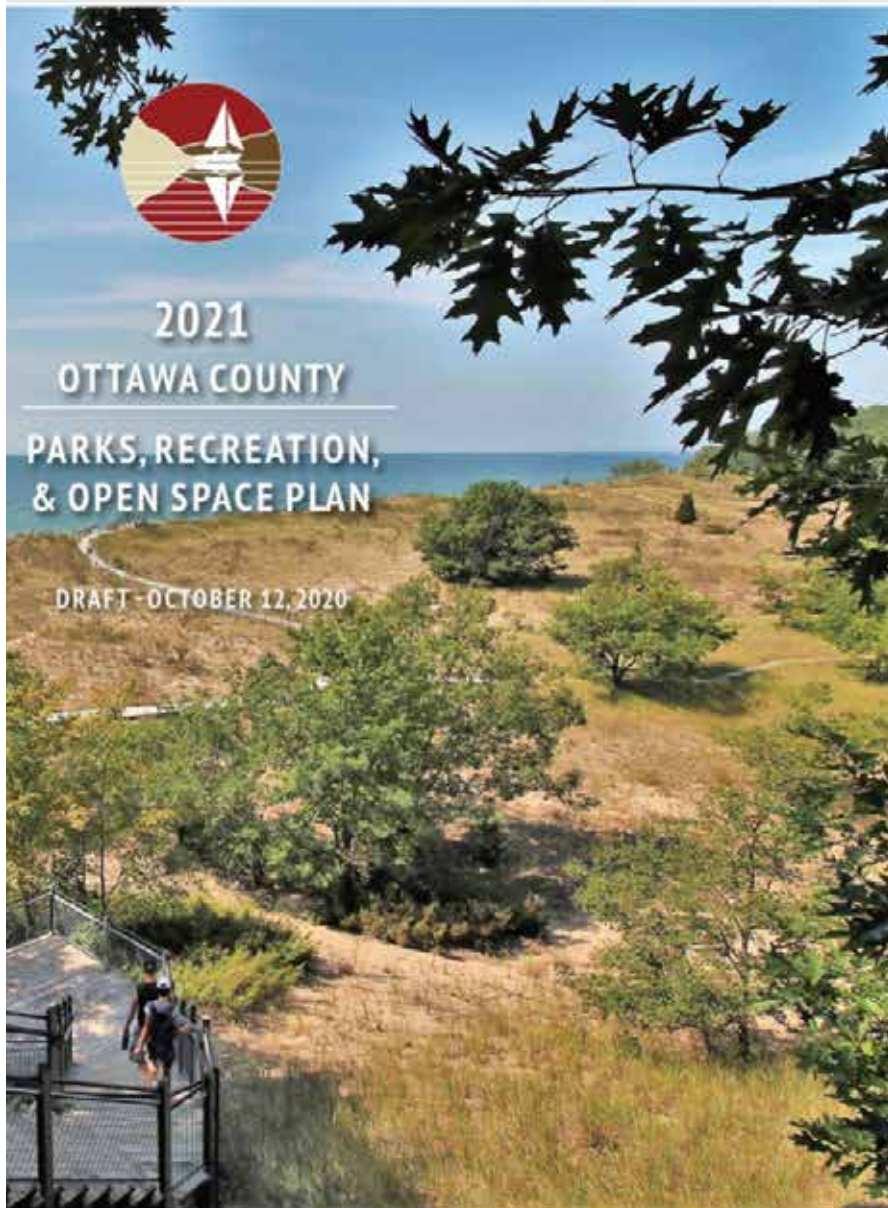
Published by Jessica VanGinhoven · October 21 ·



A draft of the 2021 Ottawa County Parks, Recreation, & Open Space Plan is ready for review (not to be confused with the Ottawa Sands Master Plan): <https://miottawa.org/Parks/park-plan.htm>

Comments (or questions!) will be accepted through November 20, 2020 and can be emailed to: ocparks@miottawa.org

A public meeting is planned for the December 2 Parks Commission meeting (approximate time TBA; meeting begins at 3 pm). Public comment will be available via Zoom; a link to the meeting will be available on the day of the meeting at miottawa.org/parks



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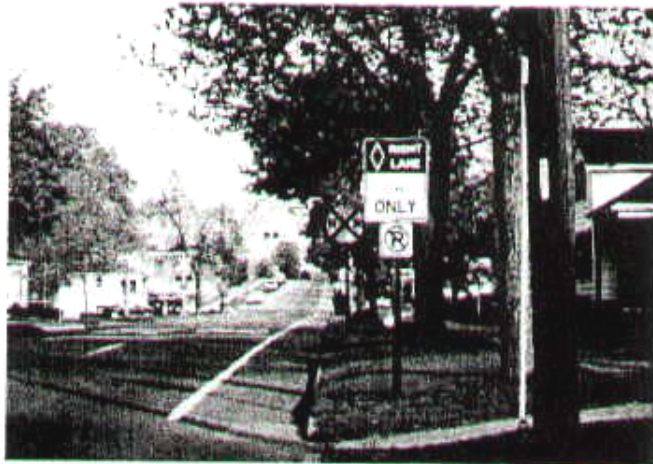
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Executive Summary

Ottawa County is growing fast. From 1990, the county's population grew from 187,000 to 238,000, making it the fourth fastest-growing county in the state in terms of population. Much of the development is suburban expansion of the Grand Rapids area. An important asset in any community is recreational opportunities, including bicycle and walking paths. Recreational opportunities are equally important in Ottawa County because of tourism, which generates nearly \$80 million annually. As the county expands and there is increased pressure to improve roads to carry more traffic, and as residences and businesses develop in rural areas, the ability to develop safe bicycle and walking paths will be constrained. The Ottawa County Non-Motorized Pathways Plan has been developed to provide a vision for a countywide non-motorized pathway system that will benefit residents, tourists, and the businesses in this community.

If this non-motorized pathway system was in place, Ottawa County would have one of the most sophisticated non-motorized pathway networks in the state. This system, combined with Lake Michigan, can make Ottawa County a "destination location."

The goal of the Ottawa County Non-Motorized Pathways Study is to provide information that will assist local units of government to develop an interconnected non-motorized transportation network throughout the county. This network will be accessed and used by children on bicycles, recreational and family-oriented users, walkers and joggers, rollerbladers, and more serious touring and competitive cyclists. People will use the network for work and recreation. The network will support people wanting to commute to work and help reduce dependence on an use of the automobile. Ultimately, the vision can help realize an enhanced quality of life for residents of Ottawa County and visitors to the county.



Local units of government in Ottawa County have developed bike lanes and separated pathways in communities such as Grand Haven (above), Spring Lake, Coopersville, Allendale, Hudsonville, Georgetown Township, and Holland.



As people move outside the towns and cities, the shoulders of county roads become recreational pathways. Many of the road shoulders are not paved and are not suitable for bicycling.

Non-motorized pathways (also commonly referred to as bikepaths, trails, and rail-trails) generally refer to a physical facility such as a separated path that can be used by pedestrians, cyclists, joggers, and rollerbladers; widened road shoulders for use by cyclists; and, greenway trails along natural features such as rivers.

Currently, separated pathways along roadways are the most common types of non-motorized pathways in Ottawa County. These can be found in Holland, Grand Haven, Spring Lake, Coopersville, Allendale, Georgetown Township, and Hudsonville. The Musketawa Rail-Trail in the northern part of the county is a rail trail that was developed in the late 1990s by the State of Michigan along an abandoned railroad line. There are also signed bike lanes, which can be found in Grand Haven and a limited number of paved road shoulders.

A key reason for conducting this study is the strong support expressed by the public for bicycle and non-motorized trails in surveys conducted by the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission. In a 1999 County Resident Survey conducted by Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission, "paths for biking and rollerblading" were identified as one of the most desirable of a range of recreational resources and opportunities trailing only picnicking and beaches and "tied" with nature centers and programs and hiking. At a general level, the demand for these facilities can be assessed by observing high levels of use on existing trails and summer events in the county focusing on bicycling, rollerblading, and other trail activities. Meeting the demand for expansion and development of new trails must address three particular user groups:

- Those persons who use the trails as functional linkages between two points
- Those persons who use the trails for fitness, health and general enjoyment reasons
- Those persons who may use the trails as a recreation destination

Each user group has its own needs, but the non-motorized pathway concept can support the demands and needs of the people in all three groups. In addition, the development of an enhanced non-motorized network can increase the county's attractiveness for tourism and provide additional opportunities for tourists already coming to the area for its beaches and parks.

Improving development of non-motorized pathways in Ottawa County will best be accomplished by a cooperative effort involving all levels of government. Most trails in existence today have been initiated by local units of government and funded primarily by local millages. Ottawa County can provide support to the local units of government by providing leadership, expertise, and coordination in the development and expansion of the non-motorized pathway network.



The Musketawa Rail-Trail in northeastern Ottawa County was developed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and is maintained by Ottawa County.

The conceptual non-motorized pathway system identified in this report (Figure S-1) focuses primarily on development of regional linkages in Ottawa County that connect the existing pathways. The conceptual network includes paved road shoulders and off-street pathways, representing 178 miles of new facilities. Paved road shoulders identified as part of the network will be a minimum four-foot width consistent with nationally accepted standards while separated pathways are recommended to be from eight- to 14- feet wide, depending on anticipated usage. The widened paved road shoulders identified in the plan should be considered for signing and striping as bike lanes.



Bicycling in Ottawa County provides opportunities for recreation and exercise for residents and tourists.

The Conceptual Network

Tables S-1 and S-2 present the conceptual pathway system. Table S-1 presents the conceptual improvements suggested for each area of the county as well as the cost and priority as defined in this plan. Table S-2 separates the new pathways by local unit of government.

The total construction cost for the Ottawa County non-motorized pathway network is approximately \$23 million. Engineering costs, including contingency, are typically 15 to 20 percent over and above the total project construction cost. Right-of-way acquisition can range from 0 percent to 10 percent over and above the total project construction cost.

As noted above, Table S-1 identifies a prioritization for each conceptual pathway. This prioritization was based on:

- Connections to activity centers
- Scenic/recreational opportunities
- Provides linkage to a gap in the network
- Capacity
- Cost/ease of implementation

The intent of prioritizing each conceptual pathway is to identify those paths whose completion would provide immediate community benefits. A local unit of government can certainly elevate a "long-range" priority project in its jurisdiction to a higher priority.

Table S-1
Ottawa County Non-Motorized Pathway Study
Conceptual Pathway Summary

Pathway Description	Length (miles)	Construction Cost ¹	Priority ²
Lakeshore Avenue Paved Shoulder	19.05	\$ 1,042,500	Mid-range
Riley Street Paved Shoulder	11.5	\$ 1,150,000	Long-range
Chicago Drive Paved Shoulder	7.75	\$ 775,000	Mid-range
Macatawa River Greenway/ Byron Road Connector	18.5	\$ 2,930,400	Short-range
Stanton/Taylor/Bauer Separated Pathway	18.75	\$ 2,970,000	Short-range
96th Avenue Separated Pathway	15	\$ 2,376,000	Mid-range
Grand River Greenway	26.3	\$ 4,165,920	Short-range
Luce Street Separated Pathway	5	\$ 792,000	Mid-range
Leonard/Cleveland Street East-West Separated Pathway	14.75	\$ 2,336,400	Mid-range
Leonard Street Paved Shoulder	25.35	\$ 2,535,000	Short-range
Segment 1 - Grand Haven Trail Linkage	0.4	\$ 63,360	Short-range
Segment 2 - Mercury Drive Connector	1.6	\$ 253,440	Mid-range
Segment 3 - Olive Shore Avenue Paved Shoulder	1	\$ 100,000	Long-range
Segment 4 - Greenly Street Separated Pathway	0.5	\$ 79,200	Mid-range
Segment 5 - Angling Road/ Barry Street Connector Separated Pathway	3.5	\$ 554,400	Long-range
Segment 6 - Lake Michigan Drive Paved Shoulder	2	\$ 200,000	Short-range
Segment 7 - 120th Avenue Connector	1	\$ 158,400	Long-range
Segment 8 - Musketawa Rail-Trail Connector	1.75	\$ 277,200	Short-range
Segment 9 - Tyler Street Connector Paved Shoulder	0.25	\$ 25,000	Mid-range
Segment 10 - 32nd Street Paved Shoulder	2	\$ 200,000	Mid-range
Segment 11 - Port Sheldon Street/ 28th Avenue Separated Pathway	2	\$ 316,800	Mid-range
TOTAL	177.95	\$ 23,301,020	

¹ Engineering and contingency costs typically range from 15 percent to 20 percent over and above construction costs. Right-of-way acquisition can range from 0 percent to 10 percent over and above total construction costs.

² Short-range projects would be programmed and/or built in the first five years of the plan; mid-range projects in years 5-10; and long-range projects in 10+ years.

Source: The Corradino Group

Table S-2
Ottawa County Non-Motorized Pathway Study
Conceptual Pathway System By Local Unit of Government

Unit of Government	Length of Pathway (miles)		Construction Cost ²
	4-Foot Paved Shoulder	Multi-Use Separated	
Chester Township			\$ -
Ferrysburg			\$ -
Spring Lake Village	1.6		\$ 160,000
Spring Lake Township	2.5		\$ 250,000
Crockery Township	7		\$ 700,000
Crockery Township		8	\$ 1,267,200
Palkton Township	7		\$ 700,000
Palkton Township		3.5	\$ 554,400
Coopersville		0.75	\$ 118,800
Wright Township		5	\$ 792,000
City of Grand Haven		2	\$ 316,800
Grand Haven Charter Township	9		\$ 375,000
Robinson Township		12.8	\$ 2,027,520
Allendale Township		11.5	\$ 1,821,600
Tallmadge Township	7.25		\$ 725,000
Tallmadge Township		5.25	\$ 831,600
Port Sheldon Township	7.75		\$ 437,500
Port Sheldon Township		4	\$ 633,600
Olive Township		6	\$ 950,400
Blendon Township		12.5	\$ 1,980,000
Georgetown Township	1		\$ 100,000
Georgetown Township		15	\$ 2,376,000
City of Hudsonville	2		\$ 200,000
City of Hudsonville		0.25	\$ 39,600
Jamestown Township		5	\$ 792,000
Jamestown Township	0.75		\$ 75,000
Subtotal	45.85	91.55	\$ 18,224,020
MACC¹			
Park Township	8.8		\$ 880,000
Holland Charter Township		5.5	\$ 871,200
Holland Charter Township	6		\$ 600,000
City of Holland		1	\$ 158,400
City of Zeeland	0.25		\$ 25,000
Zeeland Charter Township	8		\$ 800,000
Zeeland Charter Township		11	\$ 1,742,400
Subtotal	23.05	17.5	\$ 5,077,000
TOTAL	68.9	109.05	\$ 23,301,020

¹ The Macatawa Area Coordinating Council (MACC) is conducting its own non-motorized pathways study. The information presented in this report is intended only to provide a vision for the entire county.

² Engineering and contingency costs typically range from 15 percent to 20 percent over and above construction costs. Right-of-way acquisition can range from 0 percent to 10 percent over and above total construction costs.

Source: The Corradino Group

Implementation

The goal of this plan is to provide an interconnected non-motorized network in Ottawa County. Coordinating the efforts of local units of government will be key. A countywide committee such as “Friends of Ottawa County Bikepaths” or a more formal entity such as an authority are options. A funding base that can be used by local units of government to build and maintain regional pathways and leverage additional grant funds should be identified. One option would be a countywide millage with funds appropriated to building and maintaining the regional network.

Economic Benefit

The economic effects of a comprehensive non-motorized pathway system will principally be associated with expenditures by residents and tourists connected to their use of the system. And, while, admittedly, the data available upon which to measure these economic effects are limited, indications are that the trail/pathway system that currently exists in Ottawa County, is generating \$1.7 to \$6.8 million per year in direct, indirect and induced economic effects. Today, the amount of economic stimulus of tourists’ use of the current trail system is considered quite limited. However, if the system as now proposed is completed, the additional annual economic effect associated with it could range from \$2 million to \$4 million per year (direct, indirect and induced effects). The latter could stimulate 20 to 40 net new jobs in the economy. And, while the tax revenues generated locally from these tourist-related activities are unknown, it is clear that generating \$2 million to \$4 million per year in new economic activity over the life of the trailway system (10 years before major rebuilding) would be a boost that allows the trailway system to be recognized as not only a quality-of-life enhancer but an economically viable public works project.

Recommendations of the Ottawa County Non-Motorized Pathways Study

The following initial recommendations have been developed to support the realization of the Non-Motorized Pathways Plan.

- An organizational mechanism should be formed. This should be developed as a “Friends” group to work with local government.
- Coordination with bicycle store owners, bicycle and jogging clubs, tourist organizations, etc. should be facilitated to generate support for the plan.
- A countywide non-motorized millage should be considered to create a funding base that can be used to build, maintain, and replace regional pathways and also to leverage government grants and funds from foundations.
- The non-motorized plan being developed by the Macatawa Area Coordination Council (MACC) for the Holland-Zeeland area should be incorporated into the County plan.
- The Ottawa County Road Commission and County Transportation Planner should be encouraged to add paved shoulders on all new construction in the county.
- The Ottawa County Non-Motorized Pathway Plan and the existing and future network should be considered as an integral element of the county transportation network. The transit systems in Holland and Grand Haven should be encouraged to explore acquisition of bike racks for their buses. Grants should be sought on the basis of the non-motorized network to have congestion-mitigation and air quality benefits. As the non-motorized network is developed and marketed, its applicability as a commuter system as well as a recreational system should be emphasized.

- All local, county and state projects, particularly those on roads identified in this plan as having four-foot paved shoulders, should be reviewed for the possibility of including non-motorized considerations.
- It is important that as the non-motorized network is developed, the following issues are addressed:
 - Connecting the urbanized areas in the western part of the county with the urbanized areas in the east, including Grand Valley State University;
 - Developing where possible in natural commuter corridors (for example, along Chicago Drive from Hudsonville to the Holland/Zealand area).
 - Working to make Ottawa County a showplace for bicycle and pedestrian activity.
- Minimum design standards should be established. These include:
 - Paved shoulders should be a minimum of four feet in width if they are designated as pathways in the conceptual plan. Those shoulders identified as pathways in the plan should be considered for signing and striping as bike lanes.
 - Separated pathways should be designed to range from 8 to 12 or even 14 feet in width depending on the project use, available right-of-way, and the design of connecting trails.
- Staging areas should be identified as the non-motorized system is developed. Formal staging areas would be developed at major trailheads on the major separated pathways. Along the separated pathways, particularly destination facilities such as the Musketawa Trail, there should be restrooms and drinking water every three to five miles, parking and information every five to ten miles, signage from the roadway network to the staging areas, and telephone, covered shelters, benches and other amenities where desirable.
- Signage for the non-motorized pathway system should be consistent with the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices Guidance for bicycle operation on roadways and shared use paths. In addition, it is important that signage directing people to major destination trails be placed on major entry points into Ottawa County.
- Maintenance activities will typically be the responsibility of the local unit of government. As the countywide multi-jurisdictional network expands, it will be important to develop a coordinated approach to maintaining, repaving and replacement of the pathway network. This would be a good focal point for the "Friends" organization in the near-term.
- Local units of government should be encouraged to consider development of separated pathways and/or paved shoulders as opposed to sidewalks in ordinances regarding new development in suburban areas. Sidewalks would be appropriate for areas that are primarily residential but non-motorized pathways would be better suited for commercial and retail areas.

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The Seven Principals of Universal Design

Principle 1: Equitable Use

The design is useful and marketable to people with diverse abilities.

Guidelines:

- 1a. Provide the same means of use for all users: identical whenever possible; equivalent when not.
- 1b. Avoid segregating or stigmatizing any users.
- 1c. Provisions for privacy, security, and safety should be equally available to all users.
- 1d. Make the design appealing to all users.

Principle 2: Flexibility in Use

The design accommodates a wide range of individual preferences and abilities.

Guidelines:

- 2a. Provide choice in methods of use.
- 2b. Accommodate right- or left-handed access and use.
- 2c. Facilitate the user's accuracy and precision.
- 2d. Provide adaptability to the user's pace.

Principle 3: Simple and Intuitive Use

Use of the design is easy to understand, regardless of the user's experience, knowledge, language skills, or current concentration level.

Guidelines:

- 3a. Eliminate unnecessary complexity.
- 3b. Be consistent with user expectations and intuition.
- 3c. Accommodate a wide range of literacy and language skills.
- 3d. Arrange information consistent with its importance.
- 3e. Provide effective prompting and feedback during and after task completion.

Principle 4: Perceptible Information

The design communicates necessary information effectively to the user, regardless of ambient conditions or the user's sensory abilities.

Guidelines:

- 4a. Use different modes (pictorial, verbal, tactile) for redundant presentation of essential information.
- 4b. Provide adequate contrast between essential information and its surroundings.
- 4c. Maximize "legibility" of essential information.
- 4d. Differentiate elements in ways that can be described (i.e., make it easy to give instructions or directions).
- 4e. Provide compatibility with a variety of techniques or devices used by people with sensory limitations.

Principle 5: Tolerance for Error

The design minimizes hazards and the adverse consequences of accidental or unintended actions.

Guidelines:

- 5a. Arrange elements to minimize hazards and errors: most used elements, most accessible; hazardous elements eliminated, isolated, or shielded.
- 5b. Provide warnings of hazards and errors.
- 5c. Provide fail safe features.
- 5d. Discourage unconscious action in tasks that require vigilance.

Principle 6: Low Physical Effort

The design can be used efficiently and comfortably and with a minimum of fatigue.

Guidelines:

- 6a. Allow user to maintain a neutral body position.
- 6b. Use reasonable operating forces.
- 6c. Minimize repetitive actions.
- 6d. Minimize sustained physical effort.

Principle 7: Size and Space for Approach and Use

Appropriate size and space is provided for approach, reach, manipulation, and use regardless of user's body size, posture, or mobility.

Guidelines:

- 7a. Provide a clear line of sight to important elements for any seated or standing user.
- 7b. Make reach to all components comfortable for any seated or standing user.
- 7c. Accommodate variations in hand and grip size.
- 7d. Provide adequate space for the use of assistive devices or personal assistance.

Ottawa County Parks and Open Spaces					
Acreage Acquisition Goals					
Budgeted 2021-27		Parks and Open Spaces	Potential Additions		
Base	Linkage		Planned	Desirable	Possible?
		Grand River Greenway			
28		Stearns Creek (Project A36)		64	
		Connor Bayou (Project A09)		60	
		Crockery Creek Natural Area (Project A15)		311	32
		Jubb Bayou (Project A19)			40
		Riverside Park (Project A20)		13	31
		Bur Oak Landing (Project A08)		23	20
		Eastmanville Farm (Project A03)		40	
		Eastmanville Bayou (Project A10)			168
		Deer Creek Park (Project A16)		3	
		Ripps Bayou (Project A06)		20	
		Kuits Bayou (Project A37)		214	
		Grand River Open Space (Project A17)		11	45
		Grand Ravines (Projects A18, A39, A40)		42	221
	25	Grand River Park (Project A30, A33)			
255		Bend Area (Projects A29, A31, A32, A34, A41)	76	69	
		Jenison Mill area			
283	25		76	870	557
		Pigeon River Greenway			
		Hemlock Crossing/Pine Bend (Project A26)			160
		Pigeon River Open Space			
		Pigeon Creek Park (Project A25)			1100
		Pigeon Creek Forest			
0	0		0	0	1260
		Macatawa River Greenway			
		Paw Paw Park			
	40	Adams Street Landing (Project A05)			
	5	Hawthorn Pond (Project A44)			
		Upper Macatawa Natural Area (Projects A11, A24)	80	50	
0	45		80	50	0
		Lake Michigan Coastal Greenway			
		North Ottawa Dunes (Project A35)			120
		North Beach Park			
		Ottawa Sands (Project A45)		120	
128		Rosy Mound Natural Area (Projects A04, A23)			52
		Kirk Park			
		Olive Shores			
		Tunnel Park			
		Historic Ottawa Beach Parks (Project A22)			1
128	0		0	120	173
		General Parks, Open Space and Trails			
		Musketawa Trail			
		Un-named Site - Wright Township			
		Grose Park (Project A12)		30	
		Mame Bog (Project A13)		32	
		Robinson Forest			
		Johnson Street Forest			
		Hiawatha Forest			
		Hager Park			
		Port Sheldon Natural Area (Project A28)		100	52
		VanBuren Street Dunes			
		Spring Grove Park (Project A14)		12	
		Riley Trails (Project A07)			66
		New Undetermined Park Site (Project A43)		200	
0	0		0	374	118
411	70	SUBTOTAL	156	1414	2108
481		GRAND TOTAL		3678	

APPENDIX K | PROPOSED CAPITAL PROJECT LIST

ID	Greenway	Park	Project Type	Project Description	Priority	Year	TOTAL	Parks Fund Amount	Other Funds (additional)	Source
R01	General	All	Renovation	Minor Renovations. Misc. minor renovations to existing facilities (\$20,000/year)	0	2021-27	\$140,000	\$140,000		
R02	General	All	Renovation	Pit Toilet Renovations. Misc. minor renovations to existing facilities (\$5,000/year)	0	2021-27	\$35,000	\$35,000		
R03	General	All	Renovation	Trail Improvements. Misc. repairs, gravel, etc. (\$5,000/year)	0	2021-27	\$35,000	\$35,000		
R04	General	All	Renovation	Tree Plantings. Misc. replacements, etc. (\$3,000/year)	0	2021-27	\$21,000	\$21,000		
R05	General	All	Renovation	Accessibility improvements. Misc. renovations and improvements (\$5,000/year)	0	2021-27	\$35,000	\$35,000		
R09	Grand	Eastmanville Bayou	Renovation	Eastmanville Bayou Paving Crack Sealing. This project consists of sealing cracks in the existing bituminous paving on the entrance drive and parking areas.	0	2026	\$5,200	\$5,200		
R16	Grand	Riverside	Renovation	Riverside Renovations. Includes entrance sign and fishing deck, and pavement renovation.	0	2022	\$64,000	\$64,000		
R20	Lake Michigan	Kirk Park	Renovation	2021 Restroom Reconstruction (\$245,000).	0	2022	\$245,000	\$45,000	\$200,000	MNRIF Grant
R21	Lake Michigan	Kirk Park	Renovation	Kirk Park Play Improvements. This project consists of the renovation or relocation of the existing aging play equipment in the picnic area.	0	2022	\$122,000	\$122,000		
R22	Lake Michigan	Kirk Park	Renovation	Deck Reconstruction. This project consists of the renovation/reconstruction of the existing interpretive deck overlooking Lake Michigan, north stairway and dune stairs with overlook	0	2022	\$140,000	\$70,000	\$70,000	CZM Grant
R23	Lake Michigan	Kirk Park	Renovation	Dune Stairs and Overlook reconstruction. Major renovation of raised stairs and boardwalk along dune bluff.	0	2025	\$140,000	\$70,000	\$70,000	CZM Grant
R24	Lake Michigan	Kirk Park	Renovation	Pavement reconstruction.	0	2026	\$490,000	\$490,000		
R25	Lake Michigan	NOD	Renovation	Paving Crack Sealing. This project consists sealing cracks in the existing bituminous paving at the Coast Grand Park parking area access.	0	2023	\$2,500	\$2,500		
R27	Lake Michigan	North Beach	Renovation	North Beach parking connector stairs. This project would reconstruct the deteriorating wooden stairways connecting the parking area to the dune climb trail to the east across North Shore Estates Drive.	0	2019	\$46,000	\$23,000	\$23,000	CZM Grant Carry Over
R29	Lake Michigan	Olive Shores	Renovation	Paving Crack Sealing. This project consists of sealing cracks in the existing bituminous paving on the entrance drive and parking areas.	0	2025	\$7,100	\$7,100		
R31	Lake Michigan	Ottawa Beach	Renovation	Cottage Area Improvements. Walls, concrete walks, and boardwalks in ROWs.	0	2024	\$339,000	\$339,000		
R36	Lake Michigan	Tunnel Park	Renovation	Tunnel Deck & Stairway Reconstruction. This project consists of the renovation of the tunnel deck and south stairways and other general improvements.	0	2022	\$112,000	\$57,000	\$55,000	CZM Grant
R41	Other	Grose Park	Renovation	Lake Shelter Renovations. New roof.	0	2025	\$8,500	\$8,500		
R42	Other	Grose Park	Renovation	Playground renovation. General improvements.	0	2025	\$107,000	\$107,000		
R51	Other	Hager Park	Renovation	Age of Discovery Restroom Renovation.	0	2023	\$26,500	\$26,500		
R52	Other	Riley Trails	Renovation	Bridge renovations. Minor repairs and redecking	0	2022	\$6,300	\$6,300		
R55	Other	Spring Grove	Renovation	Playground Upgrade.	0	2022	\$38,000	\$38,000		
R56	Other	Spring Grove	Renovation	Trellis Upgrade.	0	2022	\$9,500	\$9,500		
R60	Pigeon	Hemlock Crossing	Renovation	Weaver House exterior repairs. Siding, etc.	0	2025	\$14,250	\$14,250		
R61	Pigeon	Pigeon Creek	Renovation	Lodge Renovations. Mechanicals, roof.	0	2021	\$73,000	\$73,000		
R62	Pigeon	PR Open Space	Renovation	Highway Sign Update. New graphics on existing sign base and panel.	0	2025	\$3,000	\$3,000		
R65	General	All	Renovation	Native Landscape Restoration. Misc. restorations as determined by natural resource manager. (\$7,500/year)	0	2021-27	\$52,500	\$52,500		
						Renovation SubTotal	\$2,317,350	\$1,899,350	\$418,000	
A04	Lake Michigan	Rosy Mound	Acquisition	Rosy Mound Addition (128 acres). Acquisition of this recently closed sand-mining property directly adjacent to existing property would be very desirable.	1	2022	\$1,250,000	\$250,000	\$1,000,000	MNRIF Grant Private Donations
A05	Macatawa	Adams Street	Acquisition	Adams Street Landing Linkage (40 acres). Purchase of this mostly natural riverfront land would connect Adams Street Landing with Macatawa Greenspace and provide a route for greenway trail.	1	2023	\$100,000	\$100,000		
A29	Grand	Bend Area	Acquisition	Bend Area West Connector - Phase 4 (65 acres). Acquisition of portion of Huizenga Gravel property required for trail connection	1	2022	\$330,000	\$110,000	\$220,000	Foundation Greenway Fund
A31	Grand	Bend Area	Acquisition	Bend Area Phase 3 Expansion (194 acres). Acquisition of Grand Rapids Gravel properties	1	2021	\$1,030,000	\$325,000	\$705,000	Foundation Greenway Fund MNRIF Grant
A32	Grand	Bend Area	Acquisition	Bend Area Entrance (6 acres). Acquisition of property along Cottonwood Drive for potential new entrance and driveway into park.	1	2023	\$77,800	\$52,500	\$25,300	Foundation Greenway Fund Grants
A33	Grand	General	Acquisition	Bend to Grand River Park Connection (25 acres). Acquisition of property or easements as required for trail construction between Grand River Park and the Bend Area	1	2023	\$190,000	\$90,000	\$100,000	Foundation Greenway Fund Grants

A36	Grand	Stearns Creek	Acquisition			1	2021	\$225,000	\$30,000	\$195,000	MNRTF Grant Donation
A44	Macatawa	Hawthorn Pond	Acquisition	North Expansion (26/22/42). Several properties along the north side of the creek corridor would be very desirable for their natural and scenic qualities North Expansion (5 acres). Acquisition of the adjacent undeveloped commercial site would provide a route for the greenway trail and upland for additional amenities such as a modern restroom.		1		\$125,000	\$125,000		
						Acquisition SubTotal		\$3,327,800	\$1,082,500	\$2,245,300	
D8a	Grand	Bend Area	Development	Bend Area (Phase 1). After necessary acquisitions, this project would implement initial portions of the park master plan including parking, trails, and other amenities.		1	2025	\$600,000	\$300,000	\$300,000	Grant
D14	Macatawa	Paw Paw	Development	Macatawa Greenway Trail. This project involves the construction of a paved non-motorized greenway trail (approx. 2 miles) from Adams Street Landing through the Macatawa Greenspace including two large bridges over the Macatawa River.		1	2025	\$1,000,000	\$200,000	\$800,000	MNRTF Grant
D18	Pigeon	General	Development	Sheldon Landing Development. The possibility exists to take over management of this area from Port Sheldon Township and to develop new facilities.		1	2026	\$300,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	Grant Port Sheldon Township
D45	Lake Michigan	Ottawa Sands	Development	Ottawa Sands Phase 1. Construction of initial large scale visitor amenities at this site as recommended in the park master plan.		1	2022	\$1,500,000	\$250,000	\$1,250,000	MNRTF Grant Private Donations
D47	Grand	General	Development	Idema Explorers Trail - Grand Haven Segment. Implementation of marked route through the City of Grand Haven to the south pierhead.		1	2022	\$200,000	\$50,000	\$150,000	Foundation Greenway Fund Grants
D48	Grand	General	Development	Idema Explorers Trail - Stearns Connector Segment. Construction of paved trail from 144th Ave east to Connor Bayou		1	2022	\$3,717,251	\$182,458	\$3,534,793	Foundation Greenway Fund Grants
D49	Grand	General	Development	Idema Explorers Trail - Bass River West Segment Phase 1. Construction of paved trail through the Bass River State Recreation Area including connections to Riverside Park and Eastmanville Bayou		1	2023	\$2,009,883	\$470,000	\$1,539,883	Foundation Greenway Fund Grants
D49	Grand	General	Development	Idema Explorers Trail - Bass River West Segment Phase 2		1	2024	\$955,931		\$955,931	Foundation Greenway Fund Grants
D49	Grand	General	Development	Idema Explorers Trail - Bass River Central Segment		1	2025	\$2,202,092		\$2,202,092	Foundation Greenway Fund Grants & New Funds
D49	Grand	General	Development	Idema Explorers Trail - Bass River East Segment		1	2027	\$1,193,942		\$1,193,942	Foundation Greenway Fund Grants & New Funds
D50	Grand	General	Development	Idema Explorers Trail - Eastmanville Connector Segment. Construction of paved trail from Eastmanville Bayou along the riverfront and along 60th Ave. to Warner		1	2023	\$1,513,198	\$435,000	\$1,078,198	Foundation Greenway Fund Grants
D51	Grand	General	Development	Idema Explorers Trail - Altendale Segment. Construction of paved trail through the developed area of Altendale from approximately Warner Drive in the north, south along 60th Ave., and then east along Pierce to existing trail at 48th Ave.		1	2024	\$1,967,052	\$30,000	\$1,937,052	Foundation Greenway Fund Grants
D52	Grand	General	Development	Idema Explorers Trail - Grand Ravines Connector Segment. Construction of paved trail from existing trail at the Grand Ravines park site along the riverfront to facilities at Grand River Park.		1	2022	\$1,194,600	\$157,400	\$1,037,200	Foundation Greenway Fund Grants
D53	Grand	General	Development	Idema Explorers Trail - Bend Area Segment Phase 1. Construction of paved trail from Grand River Park through the Bend Area properties to the newly construction trail head at 12th Ave.		1	2023-24	\$484,932	\$121,084	\$363,848	Foundation Greenway Fund Grants
D53	Grand	General	Development	Idema Explorers Trail - Bend Area Segment Phase 2.		1	2025-26	\$922,188	\$6,500	\$915,688	Foundation Greenway Fund Grants
D53	Grand	General	Development	Idema Explorers Trail - Bend Area Segment Phase 3.		1	2027	\$596,730		\$596,730	Foundation Greenway Fund Grants & New Funds
D54	Grand	General	Development	Idema Explorers Trail - Jensen Mill Segment. Construction of paved trail from existing trail along Cotwood Drive along the riverfront to existing trail just across the Kent County border.		1	2021	\$1,233,136	\$200,000	\$1,033,136	Foundation Greenway Fund Grants
D55	Grand	General	Development	Idema Explorers Trail - Amenities. Construction and installation of trail amenities including signage, donor recognition, benches and interpretive features		1	2027	\$310,000		\$310,000	Foundation Greenway Fund Grants & New Funds
						Development SubTotal		\$21,800,935	\$2,552,442	\$19,248,493	
						GRAND TOTAL		\$27,446,085	\$5,534,292	\$21,911,793	

APPENDIX L | MASTER PROJECT LIST

ID	Greenway	Park	Project Type	Project Description	Priority	Year	TOTAL	Parks Fund Amount	Other Funds (additional)	Source
A01	Grand	General	Acquisition	Grand River Greenway Bend Area Acquisitions. This item includes purchase of all lands identified for the Bend Area including Boynton and Grand Rapids Gravel properties.	Partially Completed. Remaining project details summarized in A29.31.32.41	2020	\$0			MNRTF Grant
A02	Lake Michigan	NOD	Acquisition	NOD Addition (80 acres). This wooded property was planned as part of the park master planning process. Acquisition is contingent on property trade with Spring Lake Township and proposed private development.	Completed	2017	\$0			
A03	Grand	Eastmanville Farm	Acquisition	Eastmanville Farm (40 acres). Two additions of mostly natural land would allow for expansion of the equestrian trail system.	2a		\$0			
A04	Lake Michigan	Rosy Mound	Acquisition	Rosy Mound Addition (128 acres). Acquisition of this recently closed sand-mining property directly adjacent to existing property would be very desirable.	1	2022	\$1,400,000	\$400,000	\$1,000,000	MNRTF Grant Private Donations
A05	Macatawa	Adams Street	Acquisition	Adams Street Landing Linkage (40 acres). Purchase of this mostly natural riverfront land would connect Adams Street Landing with Macatawa Greenspace and provide a route for greenway trail.	1	2023	\$100,000	\$100,000		
A06	Grand	Ripps Bayou	Acquisition	Ripps Bayou Linkage (20 acres). Purchase of adjacent natural riverfront land could provide pedestrian access from the Village of Lamont.	3		\$0			
A07	Other	Riley Trails	Acquisition	Riley Addition (66 acres). This site is currently listed as contaminated, but pending delisting would add a significant amount of desirable natural land to the site.	3		\$0			
A08	Grand	Bur Oak	Acquisition	Bur Oak Landings Additions (23/20 acres). Riverfront expansion would secure the end of an inland bayou and allow a trail loop (23 acres). Possible purchase of 20 acres including several homes along the Grand River would remove inholdings from center of site.	4		\$0			
A09	Grand	Connor	Acquisition	Connor Bayou Addition (60 acres). Park expansion including undeveloped upland and additional frontage on the south side of the bayou is possible. A large portion of upland is pine and Christmas tree plantation.	4		\$0			
A10	Grand	Eastmanville Bayou	Acquisition	Eastmanville Bayou Additions (110/58 acres). Main acquisition of 110 acres would be of quality natural land along the south side of the bayou. An addition 58 acres may be required as an alternate route around hunting lands of the Bass River Recreation Area if proposed trail route is not approved by the State.	4		\$0			
A11	Macatawa	UMNA	Acquisition	UMNA additions (50 acres). Several smaller purchases of adjacent property would be desirable.	4		\$0			
A12	Other	Giose Park	Acquisition	Giose Park Addition (30 acres). Adjacent natural land acquisition would be desirable including the east end of Crockery Lake.	4		\$0			
A13	Other	Marne Bog	Acquisition	Marne Bog Addition (32 acres). Additions to this property would secure the entire bog feature.	4		\$0			
A14	Other	Spring Grove	Acquisition	Spring Grove Park Addition (12 acres). This purchase would buffer the park from future development and provide space for flood control structures	4		\$0			
A15	Grand	Crockery Creek	Acquisition	Crockery Creek Additions (140/203 acres). Outstanding natural feature land in single ownership (140 acres) would be very desirable to expand the park, although recent negotiations were unsuccessful. Other smaller parcels totaling 203 acres from multiple owners on park perimeter are also desirable for their natural features.	5*		\$0			
A16	Grand	Deer Creek	Acquisition	Deer Creek Park Addition (3 acres). Purchase of an adjacent home would provide upland for park development. Past negotiation for a portion of this property was unsuccessful.	5		\$0			
A17	Grand	GR Open Space	Acquisition	Grand River Open Space Additions (170/45 acres). Recent negotiation for an in-holding with residence was unsuccessful (1 acre). Upland access route to proposed purchase (10 acres) is very desirable. Additional natural land riverfront (45 acres) purchase is possible.	5		\$0			
A18	Grand	Grand Ravines	Acquisition	Grand Ravines SE Addition (7 acres). Additional adjacent high quality natural land is desirable.	5		\$0			
A19	Grand	Jubb Bayou	Acquisition	Jubb Bayou Linkage (40 acres). Riverfront property expansion would connect Jubb Bayou to the Crockery Creek Natural Area.	4		\$0			
A20	Grand	Riverside	Acquisition	Riverside Park Addition (1331 acres). Acquisition of adjacent lowland and wooded upland owned by the Ottawa County Road Commission would secure both sides of roadway and cut-de-sac overlook of the Bass River Recreation Area. A separate private residence purchase would also be needed to maximize the potential of this addition.	5*		\$0			
A21	Lake Michigan	NOD	Acquisition	NOD South Connector (105 acres). This property would connect North Ottawa Dunes south across North Shore Drive to public property to the south including the Kiechel Lindquist Dunes Preserve.	Completed	2019	\$0			
A22	Lake Michigan	Ottawa Beach	Acquisition	Parkside Marina (0.12 acres). Acquisition of this small waterfront lot with a two-unit residence would open this area for marina improvements and public access.	5		\$0			

A23	Lake Michigan	Rosy Mound	Acquisition	Rosy Mound Additions (52 acres). Several smaller parcels of adjacent natural land would also be desirable additions.	5	\$0				
A24	Macatawa	UMNA	Acquisition	UMNA Road Commission addition (80 acres). This property was included as part of the park master planning process. Acquisition would occur after aggregate mining is completed by the Road Commission.	5	\$0				
A25	Pigeon	General	Acquisition	Pigeon River Addition (1100 acres). Large areas of undeveloped and high quality natural land along the Pigeon River would connect Pigeon Creek Park with Hemlock Crossing. Much of this land is in single ownership.	5	\$0				
A26	Pigeon	Hemlock Crossing	Acquisition	Hemlock Crossing West Linkage (160 acres). Current Consumers Energy and Township property would link current park to Lakeshore Drive.	5	\$0				
A27	Macatawa	General	Acquisition	Middle Macatawa Purchase. Collaboration purchase of DeLong property adjacent to Hawthorne Pond from ODCMG	Completed	\$0				
A28	Other	Port Sheldon Natural Area	Acquisition	Port Sheldon Natural Area Addition (152 acres). Acquisition of adjacent prime natural areas and buffers	2	\$0				
A29	Grand	Bend Area	Acquisition	Bend Area West Connector - Phase 4 (55 acres). Acquisition of portion of Hurzenga Gravel property required for trail connection	1	\$330,000	\$110,000	\$220,000		Foundation Greenway Fund
A30	Grand	General	Acquisition	Georgetown Ravines Connector (23 acres). Acquisition of property or easements as required for trail construction between Grand Ravines and Grand River Park	Completed					
A31	Grand	Bend Area	Acquisition	Bend Area Phase 3 Expansion (194 acres). Acquisition of Grand Rapids Gravel properties	1	\$1,030,000	\$525,300	\$504,700		MNRTF Grant
A32	Grand	Bend Area	Acquisition	Bend Area Entrance (6 acres). Acquisition of property along Cottonwood Drive for potential new entrance and driveway into park.	1	\$77,800	\$52,500	\$25,300		Foundation Greenway Fund Grants
A33	Grand	General	Acquisition	Bend to Grand River Park Connection (25 acres). Acquisition of property or easements as required for trail construction between Grand River Park and the Bend Area	1	\$190,000	\$90,000	\$100,000		Foundation Greenway Fund Grants
A34	Grand	General	Acquisition	Bend to Jenison Mill Riverfront Connection (09 acres). Acquisition of current Wallinwood golf course lowland property for conservation and recreational purposes including a desired trail route along the Grand River	5	\$0				
A35	Lake Michigan	NOD	Acquisition	NOD Addition (120+ acres). Undeveloped scenic land to the east including road frontage on 150th Avenue would be desirable if development plans for that property fail to be implemented.	5	\$0				
A36	Grand	Stearns Creek	Acquisition	North Expansion (28/22/42). Several properties along the north side of the creek corridor would be very desirable for their natural and scenic qualities	1	\$225,000	\$30,000	\$195,000		MNRTF Grant Donation
A37	Grand	General	Acquisition	Allendale Riverfront (214 acres). Several properties along the Grand River on either side of Kuis Bayou should be pursued to expand the park site and provide for the preferred waterfront route of the greenway trail.	5	\$1,522,800				
A38	Grand	GR Open Space	Acquisition	Inholding Purchase (0.8 acres). Acquisition of this single lot property in the middle of the site would be desirable.	5					
A39	Grand	Grand Ravines	Acquisition	Grand Ravines Entrance (35 acres). Parcels on either side of the entrance drive with frontage on 48th Ave. would protect the upper ends of two ravines and conserve the entrance drive corridor from development.	2	\$0				
A40	Grand	Grand Ravines	Acquisition	GVSI North Properties (221 acres). Several parcels north of M-45 hold potential for recreation and conservation including riverfront, ravines, and old farm field suitable for park development.	5	\$0				
A41	Grand	Bend Area	Acquisition	OCRC Property (76 acres). Acquisition of property currently used for gravel processing with potential for further gravel extraction by the Road Commission would be desirable once operations are completed.	5	\$0				
A42	Grand	General	Acquisition	Bass River Property. Acquisition of property or easements at several locations are needed for the proposed trail route in the Bass River area. Some of these are required and others would be desirable to help lower the cost of this segment.	1		2020			
A43	Other	General	Acquisition	New Park Site (100-200+ acres). To meet goals for equitable geographic distribution of park sites, a new site could be pursued in a specific geographic area unrelated to existing greenway or other park development efforts	5	\$0				
A44	Macatawa	Hawthorn Pond	Acquisition	North Expansion (5 acres). Acquisition of the adjacent undeveloped commercial site would provide a route for the greenway trail and upland for additional amenities such as a modern restroom.	1	\$125,000	\$125,000			
A45	Lake Michigan	Ottawa Sands	Acquisition	South Addition. Portions of two large undeveloped parcels owned by the City of Grand Haven would be optimal additions through acquisition or formal designation as protected open space to secure the lakeshore corridor.	5	\$0				
D01	Grand	General	Development	Grand River Greenway Trail - Phase 1. This project would be the first segment of trail constructed as part of the greenway initiative composed of a trail segment through Robinson Township between Connor Bayou and Riverside Park including connection to the new M-231 by-pass.	Completed	\$1,761,000	\$0	\$1,761,000		TAP Grant 2016 Budgeted funds Robinson Township
D02	Grand	General	Development	Grand River Greenway (Phases 1 through 4). Completion of the Phase 1 segment and construction of the three remaining segments of the Grand River Greenway (dema Explorers Trail front Grand Haven to the Kent County Line	Partially Completed. Remaining project details summarized in D47 - D55	\$12,950,000	\$1,600,000	\$11,350,000		Georgetown Township Private Donations Misc. Grants State of Michigan
D03	Grand	Grand Ravines	Development	Grand River Ravines Phase 2. Additional improvements beyond 2015 budget including modern restrooms, expanded and paved parking areas, and additional dog park amenities.	Completed	\$700,000		\$700,000		2016 Budget Funds

ID	Greenway	Park	Project Type	Project Description	Priority	Year	TOTAL	Parks Fund Amount	Other Funds (additional)	Source
D04	Grand	Grand River Park	Development	Grand River Park Greenway Support facilities. Assuming development of the Grand River Greenway trail along the Grand River shoreline, this project would improve and connect existing park facilities to the new trail.	Completed	2020	\$150,000	\$150,000		
D05	Lake Michigan	NOD	Development	NOD Northeast access and trail connection. In accordance with the park master plan, this project would provide parking and visitor amenities. The project is dependent on property acquisition or residential development on the east to provide access to the edge of the park property.	5		\$0			
D06	Lake Michigan	Ottawa Beach	Development	HOB Marina Development. Improvements to the existing marina including new docks and extensive public access improvements on the shoreline are included in this work. Funding would come from county sources and/or a private marina operator lease.	Completed	2019	\$2,952,000	\$528,000	\$2,424,000	BIG grant MMRTF Grant CZM Grant Park Township
D07	Grand	Bend Area	Development	Bend Area Restoration. Significant areas of current Bend Area properties would benefit from work to improve habitat. This work could include earthwork, plantings, and other improvements to create a more diverse and healthy ecosystem.	2a		\$100,000	\$100,000		
D8a	Grand	Bend Area	Development	Bend Area (Phase 1). After necessary acquisitions, this project would implement initial portions of the park master plan including parking, trails, and other amenities.	1	2025	\$600,000	\$300,000	\$300,000	Grant
D8b	Grand	Bend Area	Development	Bend Area Beach (Phase 2). This project would complete remaining major portions of the park master plan including a new public beach on the lake, parking, boating facilities, rental facilities and other amenities.	5		\$0			
D09	Grand	Cockery Creek	Development	Cockery Creek Day Use. After completion of the park master plan, this project would construct visitor amenities including parking, restrooms, trails, bridges, boardwalks, and other support facilities.	1	2022	\$500,000	\$300,000	\$200,000	MMRTF Grant Private Donations
D10	Grand	Eastmanville Farm	Development	Eastmanville Farm barn and site. Renovation of the large historic barn is required to make it suitable as a venue for public events. Issues such as fire-suppression, barrier-free access, restrooms, and parking would be addressed.	2a		\$750,000	\$500,000	\$250,000	Private Donations
D11	Grand	GR Open Space	Development	Grand River Open Space Trails. This project would connect the new access improvements to the riverfront.	2a		\$25,000	\$25,000		
D12	Lake Michigan	Ottawa Beach	Development	Pumphouse - Phase 2. Add modern restroom and finish floor in building	Completed		\$0			
D13	Macatawa	Paw Paw	Development	Paw Paw Park (east) - Drinking Fountain. Add drinking fountain at east parking area to serve disc golfers, walkers, and others.	2a		\$10,000	\$10,000		
D14	Macatawa	Paw Paw	Development	Macatawa Greenway Trail. This project involves the construction of a paved non-motorized greenway trail (approx. 2 miles) from Adams Street Landing through the Macatawa Greenspace including two large bridges over the Macatawa River.	1	2025	\$1,000,000	\$200,000	\$800,000	MMRTF Grant
D15	Macatawa	UMNA	Development	UMNA 84 th Ave. Modern Restroom. This project would construct a new modern restroom at this popular access point. Special consideration will be needed to address floodplain issues.	4		\$175,000	\$175,000		
D16	Other	Hager Park	Development	Hager Park Wedding Area. Some relatively minor improvements could create a very desirable venue for outdoor weddings. The existing DeVries and Vanderlian rooms provide reception space so that we could offer "full service" wedding accommodations.	2a		\$60,000		\$60,000	Future Budget
D17	Other	Riley Trails	Development	Riley Lake Fishing Pier. Construction of fishing dock into lake including accessible connecting walk.	2a		\$25,000	\$25,000		
D18	Pigeon	General	Development	Sheldon Landing Development. The possibility exists to take over management of this area from Port Sheldon Township and to develop new facilities.	1	2026	\$300,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	Grant Port Sheldon Township
D19	Grand	Bur Oak	Development	Bur Oak Landing Improvements (trails). These funds will be used to construct trails and boardwalks through the low areas of this site.	3			\$25,000		
D20	Grand	Grand Ravines	Development	Grand River Ravines Phase 3 - Suspension Bridge and other minor improvements	Completed	2017		\$75,000	\$400,000	Private Donations
D20a	Grand	Grand Ravines	Development	Grand River Ravines Phase 4 - Completion of remaining master plan elements including additional stairways	4					
D21	Grand	Grand Ravines	Development	Outdoor Wedding Facilities. Includes electrical and expanded parking.	3			\$50,000		
D22	Macatawa	Adams Street	Development	Adams Street Landing Improvements. This small project would pave the existing gravel parking area and add amenities such as a vault toilet.	3			\$100,000		
D23	Macatawa	Paw Paw	Development	Paw Paw Park (east) - Phase 2. Work for this project includes completion of the park master plan with additional parking, a modern restroom, and nature play area.	3			\$125,000	\$125,000	MMRTF Grant
D24	Other	General	Development	NW Ottawa County Mountain Biking Facility	3					
D25	Other	Mame Bog	Development	Mame Bog Access Walk. Public access to this interesting natural feature requires development of boardwalks and an observation deck connecting from the Musketawa Trail.	3			\$250,000		
D26	Other	Riley Trails	Development	Modern Restroom. At 84th St. Entrance	3			\$150,000		
D27	Pigeon	Pigeon Creek	Development	Pigeon Creek South Trail Expansion. This project extends trails for hiking and skiing south across the Pigeon River on previously underutilized land. A large boardwalk will be required to traverse significant wetlands.	3			\$75,000		Future Budget
D28	Grand	Cockery Creek	Development	Cockery Creek Farm Improvements. This project involves the restoration and upgrading of the historic Kirby farm.	4					Donations
D29	Grand	Eastmanville Farm	Development	Eastmanville Farm Riverfront. Improvements in this area would include parking, river access, shelters, and a playground in accordance with the park master plan.	4					

D30	Grand	Ripps Bayou	Development	Ripps Bayou/Deer Creek Improvements. This project includes the construction of a stream crossing or bridge over Deer Creek to connect these two park sites.	4							
D31	Lake Michigan	Ottawa Beach	Development	Mr. Pisgah Stairs. Add inclinator to provide barrier free access	4							
D32	Macatawa	UMNA	Development	UMNA Multipurpose Building. As per the master plan, this project would construct a building and parking area off from the 7/6 th Ave. park entrance drive. The building would be suitable for group rentals.	4							
D33	Other	Spring Grove	Development	Spring Grove East Side Improvements. In accordance with the master plan, this project would add parking and a shelter to the less developed eastern portion of the park.	4							
D34	Other	Spring Grove	Development	Spring Grove Flood Control. Responding to damage to the stream and waterfall features at the core of the park caused by flood waters, this project would develop detention and diversion structures to protect these elements. Land acquisition would be required.	4							
D35	Grand	Connor	Development	Connor Bayou - Phase 2. In anticipation of the paving of North Cedar Drive at the front entry to the park, this project would pave the long park entrance drive and add a barrier free walk loop.	5							
D36	Grand	Eastmanville Farm	Development	Farm Education Center. In cooperation with a non-profit group, this project would develop major interpretive facilities.	5							
D37	Lake Michigan	Rosy Mound	Development	NE Rosy Mound Development. Pending acquisition of the former sand mining property, development of a campground, large group reservation facility, or other uses should be explored.	5							
D38	Macatawa	UMNA	Development	UMNA West Activity Area. After acquisition of the 80 acres currently owned by the Ottawa County Road Commission, this large project would develop this site in accordance with the park master plan including a new inland swimming area, support facilities, and trails.	5							
D39	Other	Riley Trails	Development	Riley Trails Landfill Area Improvements. Pending opening of the landfill top, this project would develop facilities utilizing the landfill for winter activities including skiing, sledding, tubing, and ice-skating. Parking and a lodge would be included.	5							
D40	Lake Michigan	Rosy Mound	Development	NW Trails. Development of trails, boardwalks, stairs, and overlooks to access this portion of the site.	4							
D41	Lake Michigan	Ottawa Beach	Development	Accessible Kayak Launch. Installation of new floating launch as part of Macatawa and Lake Michigan water trails	Completed							
D42	Pigeon	Pigeon Creek	Development	Parking Lot Paving. Pave main Stanton parking area	5							
D43	Grand	Eastmanville Farm	Development	Equestrian Trail Expansion. Development additional trails on northwest wooded area of site	4							
D44	Grand	Grand Ravines	Development	Grand Ravines Phase 3. Additional improvements behind 2016 budget including modern restrooms, expanded an paved parking areas, and additional dog park amenities	Completed							
D45	Lake Michigan	Ottawa Sands	Development	Ottawa Sands Phase 1. Construction of initial large scale visitor amenities at this site as recommended in the park master plan.	1	\$250,000	\$1,500,000	\$250,000	\$1,500,000	\$250,000	\$1,250,000	MNRFT Grant Private Donations
D46	Lake Michigan	Tunnel Park	Development	Dune Top Development. Development of additional facilities including walkways, picnicking and/or a vermonial area are possible along with some type of shade structure.	4							
D47	Grand	General	Development	Idema Explorers Trail - Grand Haven Segment. Implementation of marked route through the City of Grand Haven to the south pierhead.	1	\$50,000	\$200,000	\$50,000	\$200,000	\$50,000	\$150,000	Foundation Greenway Fund Grants
D48	Grand	General	Development	Idema Explorers Trail - Stearns Connector Segment. Construction of paved trail from 144th Ave. east to Connor Bayou	1	\$182,458	\$3,717,251	\$182,458	\$3,717,251	\$182,458	\$3,534,793	Foundation Greenway Fund Grants
D49	Grand	General	Development	Idema Explorers Trail - Bass River West Segment Phase 1. Construction of paved trail through the Bass River State Recreation Area including connections to Riverside Park and Eastmanville Bayou	1	\$470,000	\$2,009,883	\$470,000	\$2,009,883	\$470,000	\$1,539,883	Foundation Greenway Fund Grants
D49	Grand	General	Development	Idema Explorers Trail - Bass River West Segment Phase 2	1	\$955,931	\$955,931	\$955,931	\$955,931	\$955,931	\$955,931	Foundation Greenway Fund Grants
D49	Grand	General	Development	Idema Explorers Trail - Bass River Central Segment	1	\$2,202,092	\$2,202,092	\$2,202,092	\$2,202,092	\$2,202,092	\$2,202,092	Foundation Greenway Fund Grants & New Funds
D49	Grand	General	Development	Idema Explorers Trail - Bass River East Segment	1	\$1,193,942	\$1,193,942	\$1,193,942	\$1,193,942	\$1,193,942	\$1,193,942	Foundation Greenway Fund Grants & New Funds
D50	Grand	General	Development	Idema Explorers Trail - Eastmanville Connector Segment. Construction of paved trail from Eastmanville Bayou along the riverfront and along 60th Ave. to Warner	1	\$435,000	\$1,513,198	\$435,000	\$1,513,198	\$435,000	\$1,078,198	Foundation Greenway Fund Grants
D51	Grand	General	Development	Idema Explorers Trail - Allendale Segment. Construction of paved trail through the developed area of Allendale from approximately Warner Drive in the north, south along 60th Ave., and then east along Pierce to existing trail at 48th Ave.	1	\$30,000	\$1,967,052	\$30,000	\$1,967,052	\$30,000	\$1,937,052	Foundation Greenway Fund Grants
D52	Grand	General	Development	Idema Explorers Trail - Grand Ravines Connector Segment. Construction of paved trail from existing trail at the Grand Ravines park site along the riverfront to facilities at Grand River Park.	1	\$157,400	\$1,194,600	\$157,400	\$1,194,600	\$157,400	\$1,037,200	Foundation Greenway Fund Grants
D53	Grand	General	Development	Idema Explorers Trail - Bend Area Segment Phase 1. Construction of paved trail from Grand River Park through the Bend Area properties to the newly construction trail head at 12th Ave.	1	\$121,084	\$484,932	\$121,084	\$484,932	\$121,084	\$363,848	Foundation Greenway Fund Grants
D53	Grand	General	Development	Idema Explorers Trail - Bend Area Segment Phase 2.	1	\$6,500	\$822,188	\$6,500	\$822,188	\$6,500	\$815,688	Foundation Greenway Fund Grants

ID	Greenway	Park	Project Type	Project Description	Priority	Year	TOTAL	Parks Fund Amount	Other Funds (additional)	Source
D53	Grand	General	Development	Idema Explorers Trail - Bend Area Segment Phase 3.	1	2027	\$596,730		\$596,730	Foundation Greenway Fund Grants & New Funds
D54	Grand	General	Development	Idema Explorers Trail - Jensen Mill Segment. Construction of paved trail from existing trail along Cortwood Drive along the riverfront to existing trail just across the Kent County border.	1	2021	\$1,233,136	\$200,000	\$1,033,136	Foundation Greenway Fund Grants
D55	Grand	General	Development	Idema Explorers Trail - Amenities. Construction and installation of trail amenities including signage, donor recognition, benches and interpretive features including additional stairways and trail improvements at the waterfront	1	2027	\$310,000		\$310,000	Foundation Greenway Fund Grants & New Funds
D56	Grand	Grand Ravines	Development	Grand River Ravines Phase 4. Completion of remaining master plan elements including additional stairways and trail improvements at the waterfront	2		\$0			
D57	Grand	Connor Bayou	Development	Fishing Dock Extension. This project would allow fishermen to access open water outside of the weedy cove area.	3		\$0			
D58	Grand	General	Development	Crockery Creek Kayak Access. This project would develop a new kayak access point on the upper reaches of the Crockery Creek to open addition waters to paddling.	2		\$0			
D59	Pigeon	Hemlock Crossing	Development	Nature Play Area. This project would provide an activity area for unstructured play utilizing natural materials.	3		\$0			
D60	Pigeon	Hemlock Crossing	Development	River Edge Boardwalk. This project would facilitate access and programming for the habitat along the Pigeon River	3		\$0			
D61	Pigeon	Pine Bend	Development	Kayak Access. This project would add a mid-paddle stopping point between Hemlock Crossing and Sheldon Landing	3		\$0			
D62	Pigeon	Pine Bend	Development	Wedding Area Improvements. This project could include a paved pod for large reception tents or a permanent structure to facilitate weddings and other large group activities	3		\$0			
D63	Grand	Grand Ravines	Development	Dog Park Improvements. Includes lighting, additional paved space, irrigation, and benches under the shelters	3		\$50,000	\$50,000		
P01	Grand	Bend Area	Planning	Bend Area Master Plan update. This project would update and revise the existing plan to reflect current conditions and thinking based on final land acquisition.	1	2024	\$50,000	\$50,000		
P02	Grand	Crockery Creek	Planning	Crockery Creek Master Plan. Crockery Creek is our only large park site without a master plan.	2		\$0	\$0		In-house
P03	Grand	Grand River Park	Planning	Grand River Park Master Plan update. This project would update and revise the existing plan to reflect current conditions.	3		\$0	\$0		In-house
P04	Lake Michigan	Kirk Park	Planning	Kirk Park Master Plan update. This project would update and revise the existing plan prepared in 1986 to reflect current conditions and thinking about renovations and improvements.	2		\$0	\$0		In-house
P05	Grand	Riverside	Planning	Riverside Park Master Plan. Update to show current configurations and plans for greenway trail connections	2		\$0	\$0		In-house
P06	Grand	Eastmanville Farm	Planning	Eastmanville Farm Master Plan. Update to show expected relationship with Farm Education Group	1	2021	\$0	\$0		In-house
P07	Grand	Stearns Creek	Planning	Stearns Creek Master Plan. Comprehensive planning should be completed when potential acquisitions are completed.	3		\$0			
R01	General	All	Renovation	Minor Renovations. Misc. minor renovations to existing facilities (\$20,000/year)	Partially Completed	2017-26	\$100,000	\$100,000		
R02	General	All	Renovation	Pit Toilet Renovations. Misc. minor renovations to existing facilities (\$5,000/year)	Partially Completed	2017-26	\$25,000	\$25,000		
R03	General	All	Renovation	Trail Improvements. Misc. repairs, gravel, etc. (\$5,000/year)	Partially Completed	2017-26	\$25,000	\$25,000		
R04	General	All	Renovation	Tree Plantings. Misc. replacements, etc. (\$5,000/year)	Partially Completed	2017-26	\$15,000	\$15,000		
R05	General	All	Renovation	Accessibility improvements. Misc. renovations and improvements (\$5,000/year)	Partially Completed	2017-26	\$25,000	\$25,000		
R06	Grand	Connor	Renovation	Cabin Renovation. Windows, furnaces, water heater, gas fire place, and misc.	Completed	2020	\$53,000	\$53,000		
R07	Grand	Crockery Creek	Renovation	Minor Renovations. Miscellaneous structural repairs	0	2020	\$47,000	\$47,000		
R08	Grand	Deer Creek	Renovation	Bar Renovation. Replace entry sign and wood wall a launch	Completed	2020	\$13,000	\$13,000		
R09	Grand	Eastmanville Bayou	Renovation	Eastmanville Bayou Paving Crack Sealing. This project consists of sealing cracks in the existing bituminous paving on the entrance drive and parking areas.	0	2026	\$5,200	\$5,200		
R10	Grand	Eastmanville Farm	Renovation	North Operations Shop. Construct new operations workshop.	Completed	2019	\$0			
R11	Grand	Eastmanville Farm	Renovation	Barn Repairs. Roof, doors, gutters, debris.	Completed	2019	\$0			
R12	Grand	Grand River Park	Renovation	Grand River Renovation. This project consists of reconstructing existing bituminous paving on the entrance drive and parking areas and miscellaneous other improvements.	0	2017	\$110,000	\$110,000		Carry Over
R13	Grand	Grand River Park	Renovation	Fishing Deck Renovations. This project would upgrade the existing boardwalk with new decking and railings.	Completed	2019	\$0			
R14	Grand	Grand River Park	Renovation	Picnic Building Renovation. This project general improvements to the building including restrooms, heating, etc.	Completed	2020	\$47,000	\$47,000		
R15	Grand	Grand River Park	Renovation	Play Area Update. General improvements to the existing play area.	Completed	2020	\$35,000	\$35,000		
R16	Grand	Riverside	Renovation	Shelter Renovation. This project consists of the renovation of the existing wood shelter including roof, woodpecker damage, and rotted posts. Includes repair of concrete around edge.	0	2017	\$12,500	\$12,500		Carry Over

Item ID	Location	Project Description	Start Year	End Year	Current Status	Estimated Cost	Funding Source
R17	Grand	Riverside Paving Reconstruction. This project consists of the renovation and reconstruction of the existing bituminous paving on the entrance drive and parking areas. Includes re-establishing barrier free connection to fishing boardwalk/deck.	2021	In progress	\$171,000	\$171,000	
R18	Grand	Riverside Renovations. Includes entrance sign and fishing deck, and pavement renovation.	2022	0	\$64,000	\$64,000	
R19	Lake Michigan	Kirk Park Lodge Roof. This project consists of the renovation or relocation of the existing aging play equipment in the picnic area.	2018	Completed	\$0	\$0	
R20	Lake Michigan	2021 Restroom Reconstruction (\$245,000).	2022	0	\$245,000	\$45,000	MINRTF Grant
R21	Lake Michigan	Kirk Park Play Improvements. This project consists of the renovation or relocation of the existing aging play equipment in the picnic area.	2022	0	\$122,000	\$122,000	
R22	Lake Michigan	Deck Reconstruction. This project consists of the renovation/reconstruction of the existing interpretive deck overlooking Lake Michigan, north stairway and dune stairs with overlook.	2022	0	\$140,000	\$70,000	CZM Grant
R23	Lake Michigan	Dune Stairs and Overlook reconstruction. Major renovation of raised stairs and boardwalk along dune bluff.	2025	0	\$140,000	\$70,000	CZM Grant
R24	Lake Michigan	Pavement reconstruction.	2026	0	\$490,000	\$490,000	
R25	Lake Michigan	Paving Crack Sealing. This project consists sealing cracks in the existing bituminous paving at the Coast Guard Park parking area access.	2023	0	\$2,500	\$2,500	
R26	Lake Michigan	North Beach Paving Renovation. This project consists of crack sealing and minor repairs of the existing bituminous paving on the entrance drive and parking areas and replacing broken concrete walkways.	2017	Completed	\$0	\$0	
R27	Lake Michigan	North Beach parking connector stairs. This project would reconstruct the deteriorating wooden stairways connecting the parking area to the dune climb trail to the east across North Shore Estates Drive.	2019	0	\$46,000	\$23,000	CZM Grant Carry Over
R28	Lake Michigan	North Beach Restroom Renovation. Plumbing, floor, general.	2020	Completed	\$18,750	\$18,750	
R29	Lake Michigan	Paving Crack Sealing. This project consists of sealing cracks in the existing bituminous paving on the entrance drive and parking areas.	2025	0	\$7,100	\$7,100	
R30	Lake Michigan	Black Lake West Paving Crack Sealing. This project consists sealing cracks in the existing bituminous paved parking area.	2019	Completed	\$3,000	\$3,000	
R31	Lake Michigan	Cottage Area Improvements. Walls, concrete walks, and boardwalks in ROWs.	2024	0	\$339,000	\$339,000	
R32	Lake Michigan	Rosy Mound Paving Renovation. This project consists of crack sealing and minor repairs of the existing bituminous paving on the entrance drive and parking areas.	2018	Completed	\$0	\$0	
R33	Lake Michigan	Tunnel Park Shelter Roof.	2017	Completed	\$6,250	\$6,250	
R34	Lake Michigan	Restroom Renovation. Plumbing in old portion of building.	2017	Completed	\$0	\$0	
R35	Lake Michigan	Parking Paving Renovation. This project consists of the renovation of the existing bituminous paving on the entrance drive, parking areas, and walkways at Tunnel Park.	2017	Completed	\$13,600	\$13,600	
R36	Lake Michigan	Tunnel Deck & Stairway Reconstruction. This project consists of the renovation of the tunnel deck and south stairways and other general improvements.	2022	0	\$112,000	\$57,000	CZM Grant
R37	Macatawa	Paw Paw West Paving Renovation. This project consists of crack sealing and repairs of the existing bituminous paving on the entrance drive and parking areas.	2018	Completed	\$50,000	\$50,000	
R38	Other	Restroom Renovations. General.	2018	Completed	\$10,800	\$10,800	
R39	Other	Grose Park Paving Renovation. This project consists of crack sealing and minor repairs of the existing bituminous paving on the entrance drive and parking areas. It also includes reconstruction of the existing bituminous trail paving near the beach damaged by roots.	2018	In progress	\$17,000	\$17,000	
R40	Other	Grose Park Stream Bank Restoration. Repair and stabilization of stream banks. This project will proceed after upstream improvements on private property in conjunction with the Water Resources Commissioner are completed.	2020	0	\$17,500	\$17,500	Carry Over
R41	Other	Lake Shelter Renovations. New roof.	2025	0	\$8,500	\$8,500	
R42	Other	Playground renovation. General improvements.	2025	0	\$107,000	\$107,000	
R43	Other	Storm Overflow structure modifications.	2017	Completed	\$0	\$0	
R44	Other	East Stream erosion control project. In conjunction with replacement of bridges.	2017	Completed	\$0	\$0	
R45	Other	DeVries/Vanderlaan roof structure.	2019	Completed	\$0	\$0	
R46	Other	2018 Hager Paving Reconstruction and general improvements. This project consists of the renovation of the existing bituminous paving on the entrance drive and parking areas. Also repair of uneven concrete.	2018	0	\$147,000	\$147,000	Carry Over
R47	Other	Picnic Building Renovation. Plumbing, sinks, countertops.	2018	Completed	\$5,400	\$5,400	
R48	Other	Operations Building Addition/Renovation.	2019	Completed	\$108,000	\$108,000	moved to north POC
R49	Other	Hager Park Age of Discover Updates. Improvements and renovations to the existing large wood playground structure.	2019	Completed	\$11,250	\$11,250	
R50	Other	Hager Park South Play Equipment. Replacement of old play equipment and installation of new surfacing to meet current standards.	2020	Completed	\$83,740	\$83,740	Carry Over
R51	Other	Age of Discovery Restroom Renovation.	2023	0	\$26,500	\$26,500	
R52	Other	Bridge renovations. Minor repairs and re-decking.	2022	0	\$6,300	\$6,300	
R53	Other	Spring Grove Paving Reconstruction. This project consists of reconstructing the existing bituminous paving on the parking areas.	2018	0	\$77,000	\$77,000	Carry Over

ID	Greenway	Park	Project Type	Project Description	Priority	Year	TOTAL	Parks Fund Amount	Other Funds (additional)	Source
R54	Other	Spring Grove	Renovation	Spring Grove Park Picnic Building Renovation. Air-conditioning?	0	2020	\$11,700	\$11,700		Carry Over
R55	Other	Spring Grove	Renovation	Playground Upgrade.	0	2022	\$38,000	\$38,000		
R56	Other	Spring Grove	Renovation	Trellis Upgrade.	0	2022	\$9,500	\$9,500		
R57	Pigeon	Hemlock Crossing	Renovation	NEC Wildlife Viewing Area improvements.	Completed	2017	\$5,200	\$5,200		
R58	Pigeon	Hemlock Crossing	Renovation	Hemlock Paving Renovation. This project consists of sealing cracks in the existing bituminous paving on the entrance drive and parking areas.	Completed	2018	\$26,000	\$26,000		
R59	Pigeon	Hemlock Crossing	Renovation	Restroom Renovation. General.	Completed	2018	\$16,200	\$16,200		
R60	Pigeon	Hemlock Crossing	Renovation	Weaver House exterior repairs, Siding, etc.	0	2025	\$14,250	\$14,250		
R61	Pigeon	Pigeon Creek	Renovation	Lodge Renovations. Mechanical, roof.	0	2021	\$73,000	\$73,000		
R62	Pigeon	PR Open Space	Renovation	Highway Sign update. New graphics on existing sign base and panel.	0	2025	\$3,000	\$3,000		
R63	Macatawa	Paw Paw	Renovation	Paw Paw Park improvements. Renovations to existing park facilities to improve function and raise it to County standards.	Partially Completed	2016	\$108,499	\$108,499		Carry Over
R64	Lake Michigan	North Beach	Renovation	North Beach Entrance Reconfiguration This project would revise the existing vehicular entrance to better handle large vehicles.	3		\$50,000	\$50,000		Carry Over
R65	General	All	Renovation	Native Landscape Restoration. Misc. restorations as determined by natural resource manager (\$7,500/year)	Partially Completed	2017-26	\$37,500	\$37,500		
R66	Grand	Cockery Creek	Renovation	Trail Improvements. Misc. repairs, improvements, and expansions	Completed	2017	\$0	\$0		
R67	Lake Michigan	All	Renovation	Erosion Repairs. Repairs of stairs and boardwalks damaged from high lake water levels	0	2021	\$85,000	\$85,000		
				PRIORITY RATING DESCRIPTIONS						
				Needed Renovation Projects	0					
				Projects already planned with commitment to complete	1					
				Intentional priorities for next mileage period	2					
				Desired projects for future - some effort by parks staff appropriate	3					
				Valuable but currently not likely to be economically feasible with current mileage level	4					
				Projects that depend primarily on factors outside of OCFRC	5*					
				Although highly unlikely, projects rated 5 would become high priorities if opportunities became available and would require special funding and implementation efforts						



Grant History

Grantee

Ottawa County - Ottawa County

Project No. 26-01468

Project County: Ottawa

Project Year: 1986

Project Title: Kirk Park

Project Status: Grant Closed

Grant Amount: \$99,783.00

Scope Item:

Picnic equipment
Picnic shelter
Roads and parking
Site preparation and landscaping
Trail
Wire burial

Project Description: site prep. & landscaping, roads, parking, wire burial, fitness trail, picnic shelter & equip , LWCF sign.

Project No. TF87-229

Project County: Ottawa

Project Year: 1987

Project Title: Grand River Park

Project Status: Grant Closed

Grant Amount: \$120,000.00

Project Description: To develop a 162 acre site adjacent to the Grand River which will include a multi-purpose shelter, fitness trail, nature study area, dock and pier, and multi-use trail.

Project No. 26-01474

Project County: Ottawa

Project Year: 1988

Project Title: Tunnel Park

Project Status: Grant Closed

Grant Amount: \$103,260.00

Scope Item:

2 Volleyball courts
Ballfield
Deck
Entrance drive
Parking
Picnic equipment
Shelter/picnic area
Signs
Stairway
Tot lot/dime climb
Walkways

Project Description: Develop: parking, tot lot/dime climb, stairway, deck, shelter-picnic area, ballfield, volleyball courts, walkways, signs, picnic equipment, landscaping



Grant History

Grantee

Ottawa County - Ottawa County

Project No. 26-01482

Project County: Ottawa

Project Year: 1989

Project Title: Kirk Park

Project Status: Grant Closed

Grant Amount: \$72,933.00

Scope Item:

- Active day use area
- Concession/restroom building
- Dune grass and tree planting
- Trails

Project Description: trails, active day use area, dune grass and tree plantings, concession/restroom building, interpretive panels, picnic deck on lodge

Project No. BF89-474

Project County: Ottawa

Project Year: 1989

Project Title: Hager Park - Phase I

Project Status: Grant Closed

Grant Amount: \$225,000.00

Scope Item:

- Entrance Signs
- Gates, Bollards
- Landscaping
- Lighting
- Paved Parking Lot
- Picnic Shelter
- Plaque Pedestal/Drinking Fountain
- Play Area
- Relocate Sawmill
- Site Furniture
- Site Preparation and Grading
- Visitor Center Renovations
- Walks & Paths
- Well

Project Description: Construct park entrance, drives, parking areas. Convert existing museum to visitor center w/restrooms & multi-purpose room. Construct children's play area, group picnic area and trail loop.

Project No. TF89-232

Project County: Ottawa

Project Year: 1989

Project Title: Pigeon Creek Expansion

Project Status: Grant Closed

Grant Amount: \$107,300.00

Project Description: To acquire 2 parcels of land totaling 170 acres of land adjacent to existing park 230-acre park, with 3,000 feet of frontage on the Pigeon River.



Grant History

Grantee
Ottawa County - Ottawa County

Project No. TF93-106	Project County: Ottawa	Project Year: 1993
Project Title: Pigeon Creek Park		
Project Status: Grant Closed		Grant Amount: \$315,000.00

- Scope Item:**
- Barrier-Free Loop
 - Building and Walks
 - Group Camping Area Dev.
 - Interpr./Educ. Display
 - Lodge Access Drive
 - Park Entrance/Supp. Fac.
 - Professional Fees
 - Sledding Hill
 - Topographic Survey
 - Trail Development

Project Description: Development of Pigeon Creek as a regional trail center in Otawas County with horseback riding and cross-country skiing. Additional facilities would be developed for group camping, sledding and picnicking.

Project No. TF95-208	Project County: Ottawa	Project Year: 1995
Project Title: North Beach Improvements		
Project Status: Grant Closed		Grant Amount: \$150,000.00

- Scope Item:**
- 2 Tree Benches
 - Asphalt Parking Lot
 - Barrier-Free Picnic Areas
 - Beach Ramp
 - Concrete Walks
 - Earthwork
 - Furniture
 - Landscaping
 - Overlook Deck
 - Parking Guardrails
 - Play Equipment
 - Resurface Existing Lot
 - Site Preparation

Project Description: Improvements to popular Lake Michigan beach park including parking expansion and resurfacing, walkways to improve pedestrian access, new play area and accessible picnic sites.

Project No. TF96-238	Project County: Ottawa	Project Year: 1996
Project Title: Camp Blodgett Acquisition		
Project Status: Withdrawn		Grant Amount: \$1,400,000.00

Project Description: Acquisition of 13.4 acres of camp property with approximately 700 feet Lake Michigan frontage for development as a County Park featuring swimming, picnicking, and nature study.



Grant History

Grantee
Ottawa County - Ottawa County

Project No. TF97-242 **Project County: Ottawa** **Project Year: 1997**
Project Title: Pigeon River Greenway Acquisition
Project Status: Grant Closed **Grant Amount:** \$397,500.00
Project Description: Acquire approximately 86 acres of prime natural land with Pigeon River frontage for greenway park with trails, fishing, canoe access, natural and historical interpretation.

Project No. TF98-052 **Project County: Ottawa** **Project Year: 1998**
Project Title: Grose Park Improvements
Project Status: Grant Closed **Grant Amount:** \$410,000.00

- Scope Item:**
- Boardwalk, Ramp and Stairs
 - Fishing Access
 - Improve Beach Area with H.C. Access
 - Landscaping and Lawn Improvements
 - Nature Trail Improvements
 - New Entrance Drive, Sign and Gate
 - New Parking Area and Drop Off
 - New Picnic Shelter and Grill Area
 - New Play Area
 - New Restroom Building
 - Renovate Existing Parking and Access Walks
 - Renovate Softball Field
 - Sand Volleyball
 - Topographic Survey

Project Description: Major improvements to an inland lakefront park to include new entrance, parking expansion, beach improvements, picnic shelter, play area, trails, and fishing access. The site has frontage on both Crockery Lake and Lange Creek.

Project No. TF98-285 **Project County: Ottawa** **Project Year: 1998**
Project Title: Pigeon River Greenway Addition
Project Status: Grant Closed **Grant Amount:** \$390,000.00

Project Description: Acquisition in fee simple terms of approximately 61 acres of natural area with 1,600 feet of Pigeon River frontage for a greenway park with trails, fishing, canoe access, and nature interpretation.

Project No. TF99-235 **Project County: Ottawa** **Project Year: 1999**
Project Title: Crockery Creek Site Acquisition
Project Status: Grant Closed **Grant Amount:** \$805,000.00

Project Description: Acquire in fee simple an estimated 268 acres of high quality wetlands and woodlands including 1.7 miles of frontage on the Crockery Creek and is adjacent to County-owned acreage on the Grand River, for resource protection and public outdoor recreation.



Grant History

Grantee
Ottawa County - Ottawa County

Project No. TF09-075	Project County: Ottawa	Project Year: 2009
Project Title: Grand River Ravines Acquisition		
Project Status: Grant Closed		Grant Amount: \$720,000.00

Project Description: Acquisition of approximately 100 acres of high quality natural land including huge ravines, mature forest and rolling meadow, with approximately 1100 feet of frontage on the Grand River for County Park greenway purposes.

Project No. TF10-101	Project County: Ottawa	Project Year: 2010
Project Title: Olive Shores Park Improvement		
Project Status: Grant Closed		Grant Amount: \$365,000.00

Scope Item:
Landscaping
MNRTF sign
Parking and vehicle control
Permit fees
Restrooms and utilities
Signage
Site amenities and furniture
Site preparation and grading
Trail and beach access stairs

Project Description: Development to include parking, restrooms, picnic areas, trails, boardwalks and dune climb stairs.

Project No. TF11-106	Project County: Ottawa	Project Year: 2011
Project Title: Ottawa Beach Waterfront Walkway Development		
Project Status: Grant Closed		Grant Amount: \$300,000.00

Scope Item:
Amenities (benches, tables, etc.)
Covered wildlife viewing deck
Interpretive features
MNRTF sign
Permit fees
Restoration and landscaping
Shoreline stabilization
Site preparation and grading
Walkway paving
Wood decks and boardwalks

Project Description: Development to include construction of waterfront walkway along 1300 feet of Lake Macatawa shoreline to include paved walkways, boardwalks, overlooks and interpretive displays.



Grant History

Grantee

Ottawa County - Ottawa County

Project No. TF16-0129

Project County: Ottawa

Project Year: 2016

Project Title: Spoonville Trail North Segment to the Village of Nunica

Project Status: PA Executed

Grant Amount: \$1,873,800.00

Scope Item:

- Bench
- Boardwalk
- Landscaping
- Signage
- Trail 6' wide or more

Project Description:

Development of approximately 2 miles of the Spoonville Trail from 120th Avenue and Leonard Street to the Village of Nunica via 112th Street. The Spoonville Trail is part of a network of non-motorized pathways that connect the Grand Rapids region to Lake Michigan. This pathway network is referred to as the "Grand Connection" and is comprised of three different trails; the North Bank Trail, Grand River Greenway and the Spoonville Trail. The next closest non-motorized connection across the Grand River is nearly 20 miles away in the City of Grand Haven. Without the Spoonville Trail the trails on either side of the Grand River would be isolated resulting in the inability for users to fully benefit from the extensive pathway network.

Project No. TF17-0073

Project County: Ottawa

Project Year: 2017

Project Title: Stearns Creek Acquisition

Project Status: Grant Closed

Grant Amount: \$1,150,000.00

Project Description:

Acquisition of 117 acres with 6,000 feet of frontage along Stearns Creek. The property is located at the Creek's entry into Stearns Bayou, which is a 100-acre water body that feeds into the Grand River. The creek is situated within a 450' wide floodplain area surrounded by high quality and largely undisturbed Great Lakes marshland where a State Threatened Species has been observed. The site features eroded bluff ravines, old growth woodlands and pine plantations that would be converted into oak savanna. The site will be used for hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, wildlife viewing, canoeing and kayaking, archery hunting and fishing.



Grant History

Grantee
Ottawa County - Ottawa County

Project No. TF17-0076	Project County: Ottawa	Project Year: 2017
Project Title: Historic Ottawa Beach Waterfront Improvements		
Project Status: Grant Closed		Grant Amount: \$1,165,000.00

Scope Item:
 Bench
 Canoe/Kayak Launch or ramp
 Landscaping
 Paved Parking Lot
 Recycle Bin(s)
 Restroom Building
 Seawall or Shoreline Stabilization
 Signage
 Trail 6' wide or more

Project Description: Development to construct an accessible canoe/kayak launch, waterfront trail, restroom, paved parking lot and natural stormwater drainage. The project will complete a long-term effort to expand waterfront access along Lake Macatawa, complete a pathway connection to Holland State Park Pier, add a key access point to the Lake Michigan Water Trail and support the first dedicated Lake Michigan transient boating facility in the Holland area.

Project No. TF17-0250	Project County: Ottawa	Project Year: 2017
Project Title: Ottawa Sand Acquisition		
Project Status: Grant Closed		Grant Amount: \$5,663,900.00

Project Description: The Ottawa Sand Acquisition Project involves the purchase of 353 acres of land located between the Grand River and Lake Michigan Barrier Dunes. Approximately 219 acres of the site is designated as Critical Dune Area (CDA). The CDA includes an 80-acre man made inland lake. Landward of the inland lake the site enjoys over a mile of Grand River frontage.
 A number of other high quality park sites surround the property , including the 593-acre North Ottawa Dunes Park to the north operated by Ottawa County Parks (OCP). Access to the Lake Michigan beach from North Ottawa Dunes is currently provided through the North Beach Park. Acquisition of the property will complete the final link between the adjacent parks to the north and south creating nearly six miles of public access to a contiguous green infrastructure and wildlife corridor. This total area will encompass nearly 2,400 acres and extend from nearly the Grand Haven North Pier to Hoffmaster State Park.

Project No. TF18-0161	Project County: Ottawa	Project Year: 2018
Project Title: Ottawa Sand - Phase 2		
Project Status: Grant Closed		Grant Amount: \$3,817,200.00

Project Description: Acquisition of nearly 160 acres which is the second phase of a 353-acre property that includes extensive Critical Dune, an 80-acre man-made lake and Grand River frontage. This site along with adjacent protected properties will complete the final link in a nearly six-mile stretch of green infrastructure and wildlife corridor that will encompass nearly 2,400 acres and extend from near Grand Haven's North Pier to Hoffmaster State Park. The site will be developed for day use, swimming, fishing, hiking, and camping.



Grant History

Grantee

Ottawa County - Ottawa County

Project No. TF19-0117

Project County: Ottawa

Project Year: 2019

Project Title: Idema Explorers Trail - Jenison Mill Segment

Project Status: PA In Process

Grant Amount: \$300,000.00

Project Description: Development to connect the Greenway lands together with a 10-foot wide multi-use regional pathway. This pathway (the Idema Explorers Trail) will also provide the first bike/pedestrian connection between Grand Rapids and Grand Haven. So far, nearly 6 miles of the 27-mile future route are constructed or under construction. This includes a segment that is being constructed in the Jenison area along a main traffic collector - Cottonwood Drive. This new section will end near the Ottawa/Kent County border. Just across the border is the start of Kent Trails which provides a trail connection to Millennium Park, downtown Grand Rapids, and other regional destinations. Additionally, this trail will open access to scenic areas of the Grand River corridor.

Total Number of Projects: 43
Total Amount of Grant Given: \$31,575,971.10