

Watertown Charter Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan: 2008-2013





Acknowledgements

The Watertown Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan was a community effort by the Watertown Township Board of Trustees, Township Administration, Parks and Recreation Committee, Planning Commission, Township Staff, Clinton County Officials, and the Citizens of Watertown Township. A special thanks for the continued support of the Watertown Township Parks and Recreation Committee for their visioning in creating this document, as well as the Michigan State University Urban and Regional Planning Practicum Team as primary authors for the Plan.

Board of Trustees

Deborah Adams, Supervisor
Jean Husby, Clerk
Janice Thelen, Treasurer
John Maahs
Kenneth B. Mitchell
George Weitzel
Daniel Zay

Township Administration

Jennifer Tubbs, Township Manager
Donna Case, Administrative Assistant
Mary Jo Kelley, Bookkeeper

Parks and Recreation Committee 2007/2008

Jack Huntoon
Troy Font
Dale Westrick
Nancy Noyola

MSU Faculty and Staff

Zenia Kotval
Jim Van Ravensway
Dawn Brown

Planning Commission

Ronald Overton, Chairman
Richard Turcotte, ZBA Representative
John Maahs, Board Representative
Ulrika Zay
Charles Openlander
Craig Landes
Donald Hartwick
Andrea Zeeb Polverento,
Director of Planning and Zoning

Key Staff

Amy Kinney, Planning and Zoning Assistant
Carol S. Brown, Deputy Clerk

Data Contributors

Erin Wyrick,
GIS Coordinator, Clinton County

MSU Practicum Team

Scott Pitera
Ann Ruggiero
Neil Henne
Stacey Fedewa
Patrick Andrews
Christopher Andrews



Table of Contents

Executive Summary.....	6
Chapter 1 - Introduction	7
1.1: Purpose of the Parks and Recreation Plan	7
1.2: Benefits of Parks and Recreation	8
1.3: Description of Planning Process.....	10
Chapter 2 – Goals and Objectives.....	12
Chapter 3 - Action Program.....	15
3.1: Introduction.....	15
3.2: Short Term Actions	16
- 3.21: Barrier Free Accessibility	
- 3.22: Maximize Potential of Existing Facilities	
- 3.23: Community Involvement and Knowledge	
- 3.24: Meeting Township’s Recreation Needs	
3.3: Long Term Actions	19
- 3.31: Non- Motorized Connectivity	
- 3.32: Future Land Possibilities and Acquisitions	
Conclusion.....	30

Supporting Material

Section 1 - Public Input Process.....	32
Section 2 - Community Profile.....	33
2.1: Capital Improvements	33
2.2: Recreation Grant History	33
2.3: Administrative Structure	34
2.4: Location	35
2.5: Demographics	37
2.6: Physical Characteristics	41
2.7: Regional Collaboration	51



Section 3 – Recreational Facilities Inventory.....52
 3.1: Public Facilities53
 3.2: School Facilities56

Section 4 – Parks and Recreation Standards.....57

Appendices

A - Dog Park Off-Leash Area62

B - Grant Application Materials70

C - Source Materials and Documents73



Executive Summary

Watertown Township, working with a group of six Michigan State University students, drafted this Parks and Recreation Plan. It is intended to serve as a guide for parkland development over the next five years and beyond. Several steps were followed in order to create this plan. First, a public input process was conducted by engaging Township residents in a visioning session, as well as referencing a previously conducted survey. From this input process, goals and objectives were formulated, which represent the recreational needs and wants of the Township. Finally, these goals and objectives were used to create an Action Program.

An Action Program outlines the proposed methods to be used to reach the goals. The Action Program in the Plan has been divided into two portions, the short-term and the long-term recommendations. The short-term recommendations could possibly be accomplished in the five year life span of the Plan. They include, but are not limited to:

- Facility accessibility
- Community awareness initiatives
- Facility maintenance

The long-term recommendations are more future oriented, and their implementation may occur after the five year life of the Plan. These recommendations include:

- Suggestions for future recreational land uses
- Plans for pedestrian connectivity

It should be noted that the two portions of the Action Program serve as recommendations and can be altered to fit the circumstances and needs of the Township at the time of implementation.

The creation of this Plan was in keeping with the *Michigan Department of Natural Resources Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans*. These guidelines outline the preferred methods and industry standards, which can be found in the Supporting Materials section. They help to create a successful parks and recreation plan; one that achieves the goals set by the Township. It is anticipated that this Plan will serve as a useful tool in the development of park and recreation facilities.



Chapter 1: Introduction

1.1: Purpose of the Parks and Recreation Plan

Watertown Township adopted a *Community Recreation Plan* in 2000 to guide the Township's development of recreational facilities and programs for its residents. This new Parks and Recreation Plan updates the 2000 document and takes it a step forward by laying out a detailed plan of how facilities can be updated and added in a manner consistent with the goals and aspirations of the residents. A parks and recreation plan is important for several reasons, including the following:

- Allows for regional partners to have an understanding of the community's desires when constructing relevant policy
- Provides the Township Board of Trustees with a list of recreational priorities and lays out a platform for their implementation
- Gives residents a picture of what the community desires and a guideline for future design



1.2: Benefits of Parks and Recreation

The following section outlines the possible personal, social, environmental, and economic benefits of parks and recreation. These benefits should be kept in mind when implementing the Goals and Objectives (Chapter 2) set forth in this Plan.

Personal Health Benefits

- Studies indicate that a strong relationship exists between the use of public recreation facilities and the overall length of an individual's life, even when considering other relevant factors. (American Planning Association, 2003)
- Prevention of a sedentary lifestyle is both a societal and economic concern. The large external cost of this increasing trend is one that can serve as a distinct rationale for the promotion of a healthy leisure lifestyle. (Iso-Ahola, et al., 2001)
- Evidence taken from psychological and physiological studies suggests that natural settings often have a therapeutic effect on their users. (Crompton, 2003)
- Interaction with natural environments may lead to an improvement in the conditions of children and teens with behavioral disorders. (American Planning Association, 2003)
- The benefits of play are often maximized by access to stimulating equipment and materials. (Sawyers, 1994)

Social Benefits

- Residents who live near natural spaces are more likely to interact with their neighbors on a regular basis, thereby experiencing a greater connection to the community around them. (American Planning Association, 2003)
- Access to public recreational facilities has been linked to reduced juvenile crimes. (Sherer, 2004)

Environmental Benefits

- The presence of leisure activities generally tends to reflect positively on the overall quality of life in the community. (Freysinger, 2001)



Economic Benefits

- Investment in parks and open space does not typically carry the additional costs associated with the expansion of commercial and residential development. Traffic congestion, noise, crime, pollution, and changes in community character are not seen due to parks and recreation development. (Crompton, 2003).
- In deciding on a location, businesses and people often focus on factors directly related to the benefits of parks and recreation. (Crompton, 2003).
- There exists a strong correlation between park proximity and property values when such areas are well maintained and are deemed sufficiently safe and secure for public use. (Crompton, 2003).
- It has been demonstrated that the average net cost of maintaining parks and open space is less than the average net cost of providing services and maintenance to areas of residential development. (Crompton, 2003)

This Plan is a guide for the preservation and future development of the recreational facilities of Watertown Township. While this document serves a specific purpose, it is anticipated that it can be used in combination with other plans to ensure a high standard of living for both current and future residents.



Slide at Heritage Park



1.3: Description of the Planning Process

Watertown Township contracted with the Michigan State University Urban and Regional Planning Practicum Team to analyze the Township's parks and recreation system and conduct an update of the parks and recreation plan. Below is a summary of the process through which this Plan was created.

1: Community Profile- In the early stages of the planning process, a community profile was created to ensure that the available facilities match the needs of Watertown Township residents. The analysis is based on a socioeconomic profile, as well as the physical characteristics of the Township.

2: Recreation Inventory- An extensive inventory was taken of the existing parks and recreation facilities, including factors such as condition, accessibility, and overall aesthetics. Looking Glass Valley Park, Heritage Park, and the Wallace F. Watt Community Center were closely examined and documented with photographs. Recommendations will be made based partly on this inventory.

3: Public Participation- One of the main goals of Watertown Township is the creation of recreation facilities that will be utilized by its residents. Keeping this in mind, an extensive public input process was carried out. A survey was conducted in October 2007, and feedback was received from 458 residents. Valuable information regarding the perception of the parks and recreation system was gained. The Watertown Township Parks and Recreation Committee was a valuable consultation resource; many of the committee members have lived in the community for 30 years or more. Open dialogue with this committee was maintained throughout the draft process, as well as a visioning session on January 22, 2008, and an additional update on March 10, 2008. Additional input was received from the Board of Trustees. Once the draft copy of this Plan was complete, it was made available for both public comment and input.

4: Goals and Objectives- Based on the input received from the Township, a detailed list of goals and objectives was assembled. It serves as an outline of resident priorities, as well as broad methods of reaching them. The Goals and Objectives serve as a guideline for the Plan, specifically, the recommendations contained in the Action Program (Chapter 3).



5: Action Program- The recommendations received from residents are organized into short-term and long-term phases for which to complete park and facility updates and additions. Examples of these include Barrier-Free Accessibility, Township Awareness, and Future Land Possibilities and Acquisitions.

6: Plan Adoption- In order for the Plan to be adopted, it was approved by the Township Board of Trustees. A public hearing was held to present the Plan to Watertown Township residents and receive any additional feedback. The Plan was made available for public review one month prior to adoption.



Parks and Recreation Committee and MSU Practicum Team meeting, March 10th, 2008. From left to right, Front row: Janice Thelen (Treasurer), Ann Ruggiero, Stacey Fedewa, Jack Huntoon (PR), Neil Henne. Back row: Christopher Andrews, Scott Pitera, Patrick Andrews, Troy Font (PR), Dale Westrick (PR).



Chapter 2: Goals and Objectives

This chapter serves as the basis for this Plan, in particular the Action Program (Chapter 3). The goals and objectives set forth in this Plan are based on input from the Watertown Township Parks and Recreation Committee and resident input received from a survey conducted in October 2007. Additionally, consideration was given to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources *Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans*.

1. **Goal:** Develop local knowledge of existing park facilities that will promote the Watertown Township Parks and Recreation program, increasing Township involvement and interaction while also providing knowledge about healthy activity options.

Objectives:

- Create an awareness program using the Township newsletter to promote the Watertown Township Parks and Recreation system
- Improve signage for existing parks, including wayfinding and informational signs
- Improve entryway aesthetics for existing parks, thereby making drivers aware of them
- Create parks and recreation information sign at Township Hall

2. **Goal:** Update and expand existing facilities to ensure a more desirable and accessible park system, increasing the overall use of Watertown Township parks, while also promoting safety and minimal maintenance.

Objectives:

- Install adequate lighting to ensure security and safety of park users, including children and aging adults
- Build feasible, low-maintenance playground equipment that is durable and resistant to vandalism
- Install active outdoor facilities directed towards seniors
- Renovate, maintain, and improve existing facilities



3. Goal: Utilize Township owned parcels to meet recreational needs, attracting local and regional residents to the area and increasing recreational activity, which may add to the quality of life of Watertown Township.

Objectives:

- Development of 125.5 acre area near Interstate-69 into a recreational facility providing conceptual plans for future facilities
- Development of a small parcel into a mini-park
- Emphasize low-maintenance, multi-use, year-round facilities
- Create “Parkland” zoning

4. Goal: Make parks ADA-compliant and more accessible for those with disabilities to allow increased access to Township parks.

Objectives:

- Build wheelchair accessible pathways throughout Heritage Park, Looking Glass Valley Park and any other new park facilities
- Place adequate benches, drinking fountains, and lighting along new pathways
- Renovate outdated restroom facility in Heritage Park, located directly behind the Watertown Township Hall
- Create and maintain dialogue with disabled or special needs residents to better understand their recreational needs

5. Goal: Create a walkable network between existing parks, school, and the Wacousta area, allowing residents to access a variety of recreational opportunities.

Objectives:

- Create network of sidewalk improvements and multi-use trails between Heritage Park, Looking Glass Valley Park, the Wacousta area and Wacousta Elementary School
- Create or update trails within parks to promote jogging and other trail activities in accordance with draft of the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan



6. **Goal:** Acquire land through grants, donations or public purchase that has natural characteristics which lend themselves to valuable parkland, and enhance the recreational experience for Watertown Township residents.

Objectives:

- Explore opportunities to acquire land that has high recreational value to further expand the Township recreational system
- Focus on high-growth areas that lack recreational opportunities
- Preserve natural habitat

7. **Goal:** Take into consideration the demographics of the Township and provide opportunities that allow the aging population to engage in social and physical activities and utilize senior-friendly facilities.

Objective:

- Invest in recreational opportunities that promote a healthy senior lifestyle in order to meet the needs of the Township's aging population

8. **Goal:** Establish and maintain an ongoing evaluation process to further improve the parks and recreation system in Watertown Township and make sure that the Parks and Recreation Plan is consistent with the Watertown Township Master Plan, as well as other governmental plans.

Objective:

- Create a plan review committee to continually evaluate whether the Township is following the guidelines set forth by the Action Program



Chapter 3: Action Program

3.1: Introduction

Watertown Township is able to apply for grant funding to improve their parks and recreation system. To be eligible for application, this Plan must be in compliance with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) *Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans*, as revised January, 27, 2006. This Plan will have a five-year life span, addressing short-term and long-term possibilities and recommendations.

A compliant parks and recreation plan contains an inventory and evaluation of current park facilities to establish a baseline for which to build off. Through community input and recommendations from the Parks and Recreation Committee, an assessment of additional needs and improvements was completed, tailored to national recreation standards, suggested standards from the *MDNR Guidelines*, and the specialized needs of Watertown Township (see Section 3 of Supporting Material).

The following section details the findings and recommendations for both the short-term and long-term goals for the future of Watertown Township Parks and Recreation.



3.2: Short-Term Actions

The short-term recommendations are those that may be implemented within the five year duration of this Plan.

3.21: Barrier-Free Accessibility

It is important to understand the recreational needs of all residents, including those with disabilities, special needs, and trouble with mobility. This Plan calls for barrier-free improvements to existing facilities and suggests that new projects will meet barrier-free standards as explained on page 22 of the *MDNR Guidelines*.

The following improvements and additions are recommended for implementation:

- Build wheelchair accessible pathways throughout Heritage Park, Looking Glass Valley Park, and any other new recreational land to be developed
- Replace the non-compliant restroom at Heritage Park with an ADA-compliant facility
- Connect existing park facilities and the Wacousta area with a network of walkable pathways (A long-term goal which is discussed in Chapter 3)



Play Structure at Wacousta Elementary



3.22: Maximize Potential of Existing Facilities

A priority of the Township is to maximize limited resources through minimal maintenance to uphold the integrity and safety of existing facilities. These short-term actions should be completed within the five-year duration of this Plan.

Projects that may maximize the potential of existing facilities are listed below:

Heritage Park

- Resurfacing of tennis courts
- Renovating of shuffleboard court
- Clearing brush at the entrance to improve safety and security
- Installing additional lighting, benches, and drinking fountains through the trail system
- Adding low-maintenance playground equipment to existing parks
- Screening to conceal the recycling center
- Improving existing electrical infrastructure

Looking Glass Valley Park

- Renovating pavilion roof
- Replacing drinking fountain
- Pursuing a mural painting to add aesthetic value to “warming-house”
- Adding low-maintenance playground equipment to existing parks
- Improving existing electrical infrastructure

Other

- Renovating or replacing kitchen equipment and electrical outlets at Wallace F. Watt Community Center
- Installing active outdoor multi-use facilities directed toward a healthy senior lifestyle
- Proposing an off-leash Dog Park with three recommended locations (More information in Appendix A)



3.23: Resident Awareness and Involvement

Utilizing a method to increase resident involvement and awareness of the parks and recreation facilities will benefit the parks and recreation system. Recently the highest population growth has occurred in the eastern corridor of the Township, however, existing Township parks are located along the western side. With an increase in participation, the Township's parks and recreation facilities will grow in popularity and in turn increase the social fabric of the Township. To increase residents' knowledge and use of the existing parks and their healthy activity options, there are a few approaches the Township may pursue.

Throughout the public input process it has been noted by residents that many people are unaware of the available parks and facilities that Watertown Township offers. With this information, it is recommended that the Township include a Park Awareness section in their monthly newsletter that is distributed to all residents.

1. The initial campaign should include basic amenity and location information so citizens know what the Township offers. In subsequent newsletters, the Township may want to include upcoming sponsored activities to increase citizen involvement.
2. In addition to the Township newsletter, an informational sign could be developed for the Township Hall; for example a marquee sign or a kiosk. It would be a source of park information which could increase resident participation in sponsored activities. A brochure or flyer could also be created and be made available at popular locations throughout the Township.
3. Increased signage is also an avenue that Watertown Township could pursue. To direct residents and visitors to attractive places within the Township, strategically located wayfinding signs could be installed. Large and aesthetically pleasing entrance signs may visually enhance the parks and appear more inviting to park patrons.

3.24: Meet the Township's Recreational Needs

Watertown Township has a large "baby-boomer" population, some of which have voiced their interest to engage in social and physical activities. It has been established that existing and future parks could promote a healthy lifestyle in order to meet the needs of the Township's aging population. In the event a new parks and recreation opportunity presents itself, care should be taken to ensure both active and passive recreation opportunities.



3.3: Long Term Actions

Long-term recommendations are those that may be implemented after the five year duration of this plan. The incorporation of these long-term actions may provide new opportunities that can be used throughout the year.

According to the standards established by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA), an exemplary parks and recreation system contains between 6.25 to 10.5 acres of developed park land per 1,000 persons. Given Watertown Township's projected 2010 population of 4,422, the Township is deficient by 15.8 to 34.96 acres according to the standard. This deficiency is based on acres of "developed park land," a term that varies by community. At the very least, policy makers would have to designate open space as public park land, and provide basic amenities such as access, signage, and restroom facilities. Furthermore, it is important to consider that the deficiency is based off of a national standard. The standards should be coupled with specific local needs, and judgement relating to particular situations in order to meet Township needs.

Table 1: Existing Park Acreages

Name	Acreage
Heritage Park	9.3
Looking Glass Valley Park	3.0
Total	12.3



3.31: *Non-Motorized Connectivity*

The previous goals stated in this Plan lend themselves to the creation of a more walkable area, which encompasses important Township locations, as well as Heritage and Looking Glass Valley Park. Specifically, the following goals, as stated previously in this plan, should be considered:

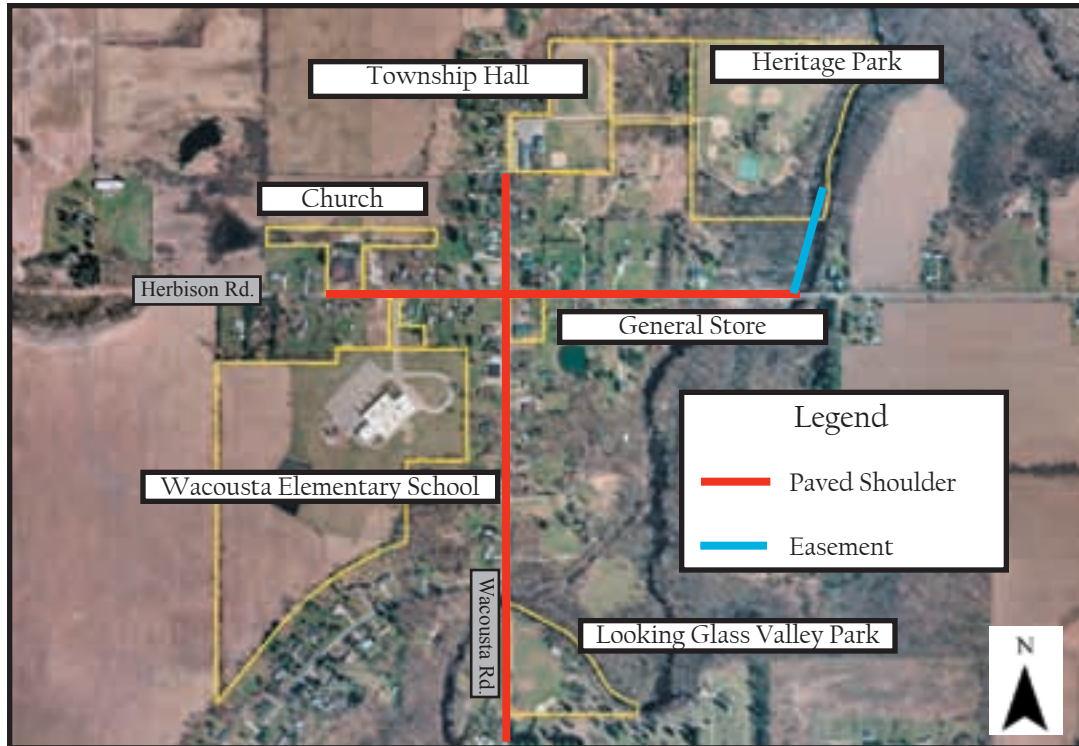
1. Improve the health and well-being of the community
2. Increase awareness and usage of park system
3. Increase access to recreation

Watertown Township has been in the process of drafting a Non-Motorized Transportation Plan which will state numerous goals, objectives and implementation strategies which may also increase park accessibility and use. One probable designation would be the Wacousta area, which suggests the inclusion of Township Hall, the Library, General Store, Heritage Park and Looking Glass Valley Park along Wacousta Road. Additionally, a church and Wacousta Elementary School located along Herbison Road may be included in the area. All locations fall approximately within one square-mile of each other, which presents the possibility of creating a walkable and bikeable area of the Township.

The non-motorized plan is expected to suggest that the most affordable way to implement a pathway system in the Wacousta area would call for paved shoulders versus traditional sidewalks. This could provide for safe pedestrian circulation in the Wacousta area and would require the least amount of construction disturbance. The draft implementation plan suggests paved shoulders on road sides, designated by the county road commission with appropriate striping. The plan is also expected to recommend that the paved shoulders extend along Wacousta Road from the driveway of Township Hall, south to Clark Road, and along Herbison Road, from the church east to the first bridge over the Looking Glass River. The proposed paved shoulders are displayed in Figure 1.



Figure 1: Connectivity Map



In addition to the paved shoulders, the designation of pedestrian easements might further benefit a circulation pattern, increasing access to the Wacousta area, as well as the nearby developed parkland. One possible recommendation would be for an easement to begin from the Heritage Park canoe launch and follow the Looking Glass River to Herbison Road. The addition of an easement, in combination with the proposed paved shoulders along Wacousta Road, could create additional access to Heritage and Looking Glass Valley Parks, a goal of the Parks and Recreation Plan.

With the addition of a non-motorized circulation network, which may be comprised of paved shoulders and easements, it is advisable to include additional street lights and pedestrian cross walks as the routes become well traveled. There are no crosswalks marked along the stretch of roads designated for the Wacousta area non-motorized network. There are street lights in the area, but gaps have been identified, specifically along Wacousta Road from the Township Hall to Clark Road. In order for the walkable network to be well utilized, an overall feeling of safety by users is inherently important.

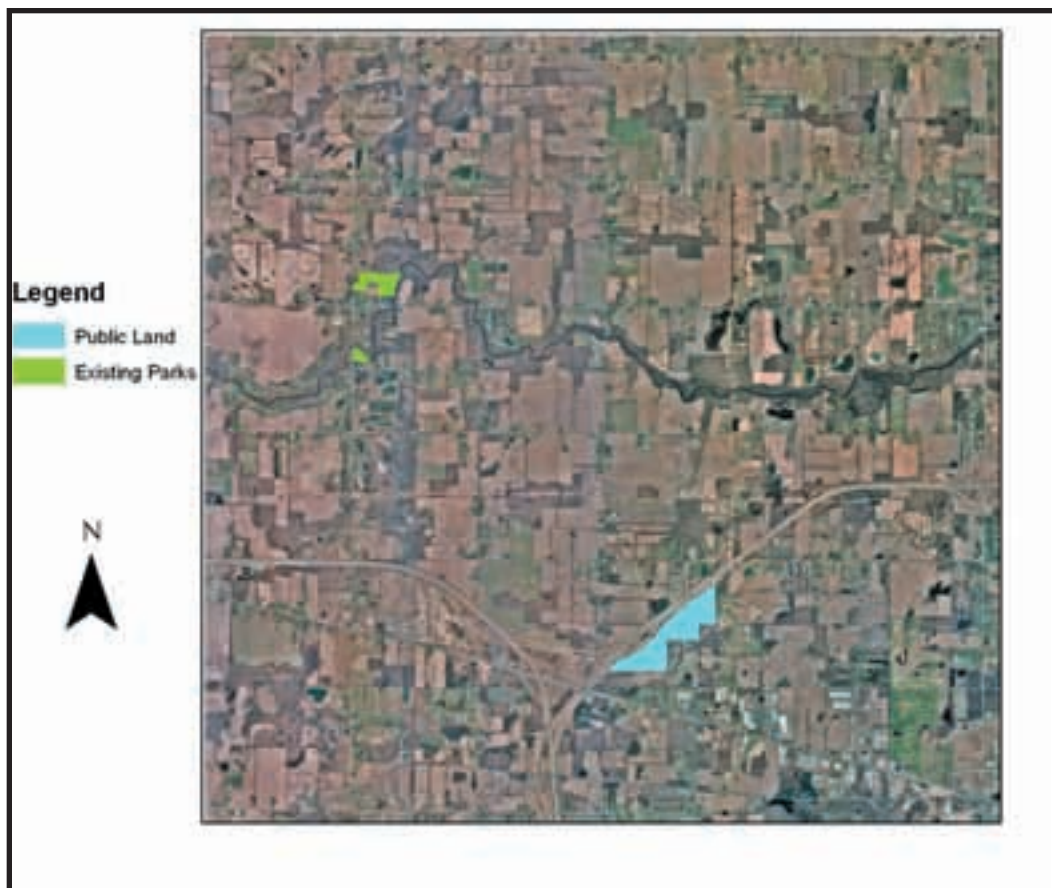


3.32: Future Land Possibilities and Acquisitions

The Watertown Township Board of Trustees recognizes the importance of outdoor activities available to their residents, and looks to meet the needs of a changing population. This recognition is reflected in projects such as the pursuance of additional land and recreation opportunities to be found within the Township.

- Give special attention to the high population areas along the eastern corridor of the Township
- Develop advantageous recreation opportunities within the 125.5 acre area
- Nominate the Looking Glass River for the Natural Rivers Program, which has the potential to become a regional effort with other municipalities through which the river passes

Figure 2: Aerial View of Watertown Township



Neighborhood Mini-Park

On the southwest corner of Airport Road and Driftwood Drive at the entrance of Westwinds Subdivision, there is a 0.25 acre parcel containing a small pump station. Although the pump station takes up a small portion of the site, open grass surrounding it could serve as a location for a small recreation facility. If developed into a park it would serve Westwinds Subdivision and the large number of residents that reside within a close proximity. Therefore, parking could be an additional consideration. The following figures are conceptual and should not be considered as final designs.

Gazebo: A more passive type of recreation that may be the ideal usage for an aging population. Given that it is also visually appealing, this option might also be used to add a distinction to the neighborhood.

Figure 3: Gazebo

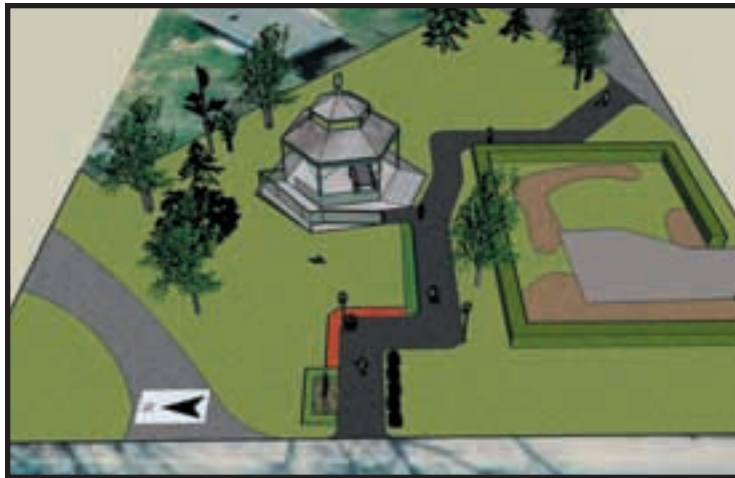


Figure 4: Gazebo with Parking



Small Tot Structure: Generally regarded as a more active recreational feature, such a structure is best suited for an environment in which a large number of younger children are present.

Figure 5: Tot Structure 1



Figure 6: Tot Structure 2



Regardless of the final decision rendered for the usage of this parcel, it is important that an emphasis be placed on the creation of a low-maintenance facility. Given the nature of the two proposed structures, both of them would achieve this goal.



125.5 Acre Section of Public Land

In the year 1983, Watertown Township purchased 125.5 acres of undeveloped land from the State of Michigan. The State previously purchased this land from private owners because of the construction of the I-69 expressway. The Township owns this section of land, which is located just east of the I-96 / I-69 interchange. The land is zoned as Public/ Semi-Public, and consists of 4 separate parcels which are currently all undeveloped, except for a vacant house in the southwest corner of the site. Many citizens, along with Township officials and staff, have been interested in developing this section of land.

Figure 7: 125.5 Acres



A visioning session was conducted on January 22, 2008 with the Watertown Township Parks and Recreation Committee. At that meeting, committee members voiced their ideas and opinions on future possibilities for the large section of land. For most comments offered at the meeting, the emphasis was put on multi-use facilities that can be used year round. A mountain biking / cross country skiing path and an ATV / snowmobile trail were mentioned specifically. However, the idea of a disc golf course came up multiple times, and seemed to be the most popular possibility amongst committee members. (According to the Professional Disc Golf Association, a large course requires only 1 acre per hole.) Active types of recreation like the ones mentioned above seem to be more suitable to the site than more passive alternatives, especially when considering the noise from the adjacent expressway.



OPTION 1: Develop only the southern portion of the site as a public park

The southern portion of the site (highlighted in Figure 8) consists of 80.5 acres. This is more than adequate for a large 18 hole disc golf course, multi-use trail, and adequate parking lot. Developing these 80.5 acres as park space would be enough for the Township to meet the National Recreation and Park Association standard for park acreage, while at the same time leave 45 acres undeveloped and available for future development opportunities. Access to the site is provided by an already existing drive off of Watertown Parkway.

Figure 8: Southern Portion



OPTION 2: Develop only the northern portion of the site as a public park

The northern portion of the site (highlighted in Figure 9) consists of 45 acres. This portion is almost half the size of the southern section in Option 1. However, it still provides ample room for a large 18 hole disc golf course, multi-use trail, and adequate parking lot. Despite its smaller comparative size, developing this section would still allow for Watertown Township to meet and exceed the National Recreation and Park Association standards for acreage. One issue with this portion is that it does not have direct access. Negotiating with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and private parcel owners along Lowell Road to acquire a right-of-way would provide the most direct access to this section of the site. This site also has a large drainage ditch running from the I-69 expressway, along the eastern edge of the site, which acts as a second site constraint.

Figure 9: Northern Portion



Figure 10: Proposed Lowell Road Access



Figure 11: Drainage Ditch



OPTION 3: Develop the entire site as a public park

Developing the entire 125.5 acres as a public park would provide ample space for a large 18 hole disc-golf course, multi-use trail, and parking lot, with many additional acres for other recreation facilities. Existing access could be used off of Watertown Parkway as in Option 1, with the possibility of acquiring a public right-of-way off of Lowell Road as in Option 2. Developing the entire site would far exceed the acreage standards set forth by the National Recreation and Park Association. If this option is chosen, a phased development process would most likely be used due to the large size of the site. It is also important to consider that unlike Options 1 and 2, developing the entire site would not allow any undeveloped land on the site to be available in the event of a future economic development opportunity.

Summary:

If the Township decides to pursue any of the three options mentioned, the resulting increase in recreational acreage would allow for Watertown Township to exceed the National Recreation and Park Association acreage standard. This would allow the Township to meet the recreational needs of its current population, while at the same time ensuring adequate recreational space in the event of future population growth.



Conclusion

This Plan serves as a guide to improve or create personal, environmental, social, and economic benefits from parks and recreation facilities. The creation of this Plan is formed around the Goals and Objectives based on public input. Other contributing information includes: the Community Profile and Recreational Facilities Inventory, which can be found in the Supporting Material section. All of this information was used to formulate the detailed Action Program (Chapter 3).

Highlights of the Action Program are listed below:

- Park and Recreation Goals and Objectives were formulated at the beginning of the update process. They were created based on public input, and have been followed closely when the Action Program was compiled. It is felt that this plan is in accordance with public goals and objectives.
- Throughout the plan update, it was determined that the population of Watertown Township had an increasing senior population. Based on this finding, it is important that facilities address the needs of this age group. For this reason, ADA compliancy has been stressed throughout this plan.
- Watertown Township has public land that is undeveloped and can be designated as public parkland. Recommendations have been made for long-term practical uses of this land.
- Resident awareness of existing parks should be a priority of the Township. It is important to consider that the higher population in the eastern corridor is located miles away from Heritage and Looking Glass Valley Parks, which may have contributed to their lack of knowledge.

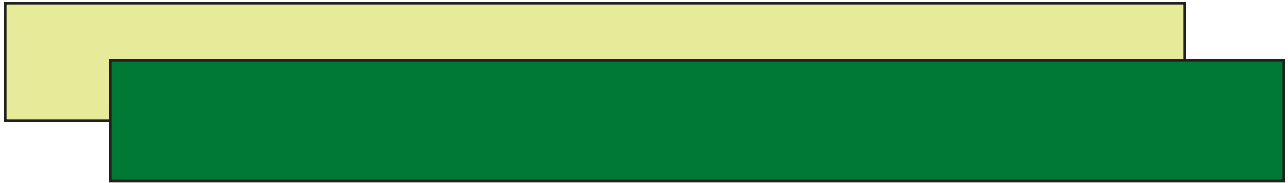
This document serves as a comprehensive guide for decisions regarding parks and recreation facilities in Watertown Township. Although this plan is based on extensive research and Township input, it is important to treat it as an adaptable document that can be adjusted as the Township changes.



Supporting Material



Wooden Play Structure at Wacousta Elementary



Section 1:

Public Input Process

In October of 2007 a mail survey was sent to the residents of Watertown Township. The survey was intended to gain information for the update of the Master Plan and parks and recreation was a top covered. The goal of the survey was to reach out to as many citizens as possible. It was conducted before the 2008 Parks and Recreation Plan process, which began in January of 2008. All of the Township's residents had an equal opportunity to voice concerns about parks and recreation through this mailed survey.

On January 21, 2008 the MSU Practicum team met with the Board of Trustees to present the "Scope of Services," the expectations of the Plan. On January 22, 2008 a visioning session was held with the Parks and Recreation Committee. The meeting served two main purposes; (1) to review the Township's recreation priorities and (2) to discuss future recreational possibilities. The main outcome was questioning how to bring the Township together in using parks and recreation facilities. The goals that were reviewed and prioritized after the initial input session and survey are as follows:

1. Create community facilities that lay the foundation for increased community involvement
2. Improve the health and well being of the community, especially children and aging adults
3. Engage the citizens of the Township, involving them in any parks or recreation decision making, including their own neighborhoods, in order to build a stronger sense of ownership
4. Increase awareness and usage of park system
5. Make the most efficient use of park system
6. Use parks to preserve natural land

The 2008 Parks and Recreation Plan was mentioned in the Spring 2008 Watertown Township Newsletter (Volume 20, Issue 1). This newsletter announced that the Parks and Recreation Plan was being updated and the opportunity for public comment would begin at a meeting held on April 21, 2008. At this meeting the Plan would be presented to the Township's Board of Trustees. After the meeting the Plan was on display at the Township Hall for one month of public review and comment before adoption by the Board of Trustees.



Section 2: Community Profile

2.1: Capital Improvements

Watertown Township invested \$18,000 of improvements to their park facilities in 2007. Within the last five years the Township has made significant ADA compliancy upgrades and capital improvements, including those in 2007.

In general, parks and recreation only generates enough money for low-maintenance programs and facilities. Each year general fund monies are transferred to this budget for other expenses. This Plan is being created to apply for grant assistance to help offset the costs for current parks and proposed future recreational facilities; thus the reasoning for this Parks and Recreation Plan to be compliant with *Michigan Department of Natural Resources Guidelines*.

2.2: Recreation Grant History

Watertown Township has previously received two grants, both from the Land and Water Conservation Fund program, for parks and recreation:

Table 2: Previously Acquired Grants

Park	ID	Year	Amount
Heritage	26-01023B4	1977	\$7,708.60
Looking Glass Valley	26-01409	1985	\$40,807.00

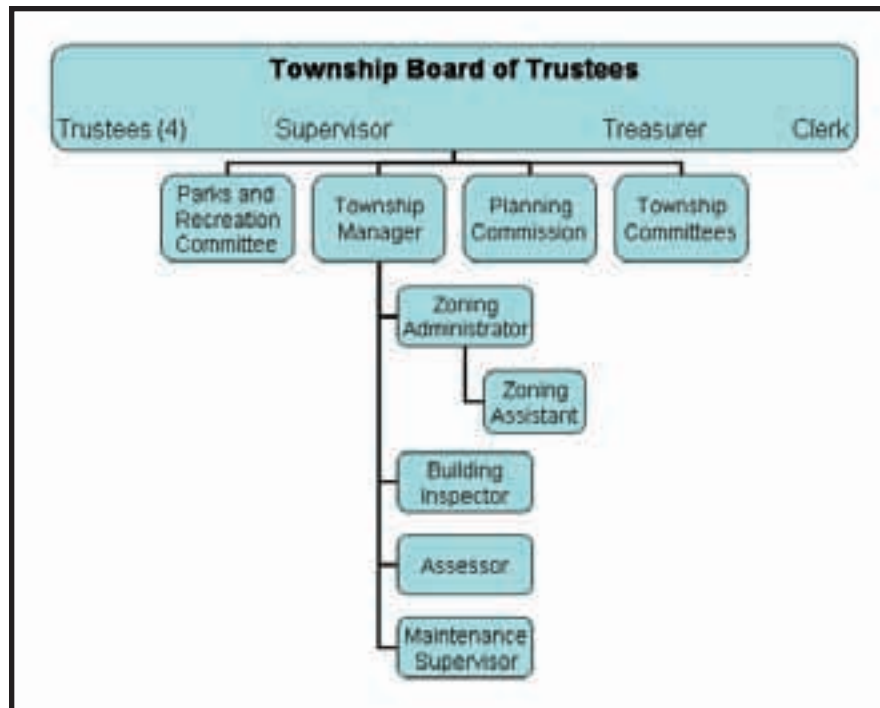


2.3 Administrative Structure

The following description is a required section of the *MDNR Guidelines*.

The Watertown Township Board of Trustees is the primary decision making body for the Township. There are several established committees within the Township, including the Parks and Recreation Committee, Non-Motorized Circulation Plan Committee, and Environmental Affairs Committee. This document is meant to help the Parks and Recreation Committee, Board of Trustees, other committees and the public, to understand the requirements of this document. Figure 12 is a diagram showing Township representatives and staff.

Figure 12: Administrative Structure



2.4 Location

Watertown Township is located in southwestern Clinton County and is northwest of the City of Lansing. As a part of Clinton County, Watertown Township is also part of the Tri-County region, which is comprised of Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham Counties. The Township is a traditional six mile by six mile square, and covers 36 square miles.

Figure 13: Map of Tri-County Region

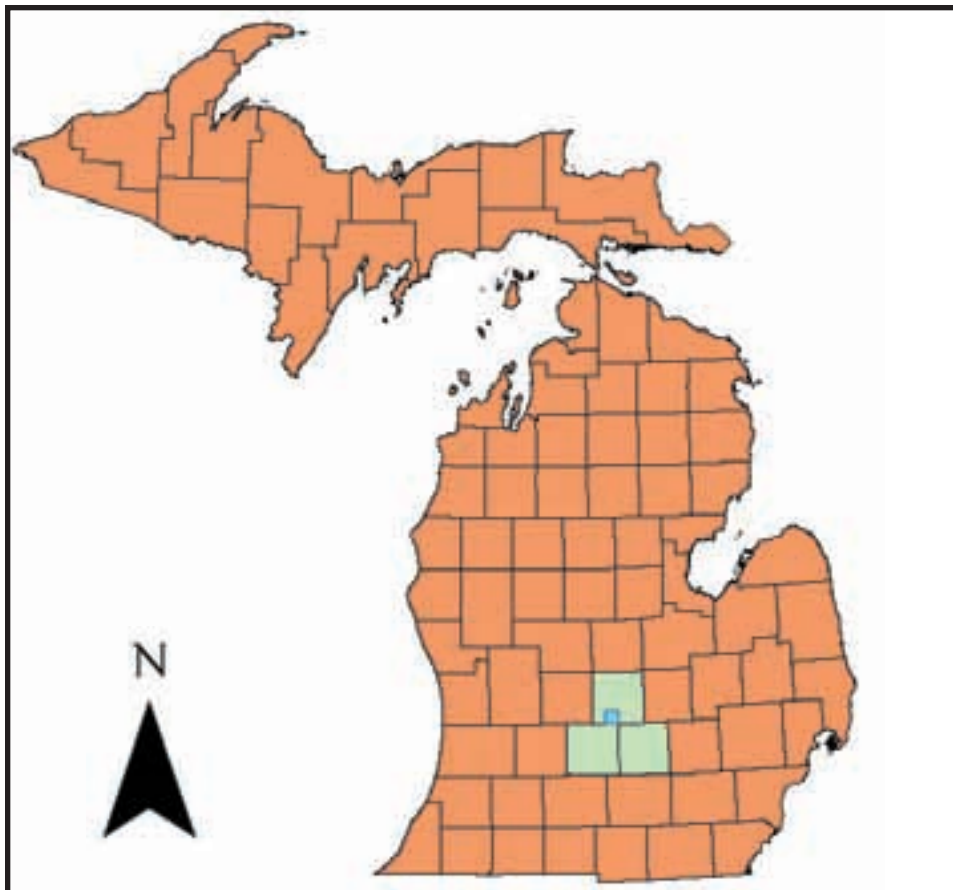


Figure 14: Township location



2.5 Demographics

Demographic information is an essential component in a parks and recreation plan. A comprehensive socio-economic profile gives policy makers an idea of community needs for parks and recreation facilities, and how those needs may change over time. This section contains information for Watertown Township, and when possible, comparative information on Clinton County. This information is useful in determining the potential demand for parks and recreation facilities in the Township, and provides information as to which social groups those facilities serve best.

2.51 Total Population

The following section describes and analyzes the demographic and social characteristics and forecasts population change in Watertown Township.

Table 3: Population			
Community	1990 Population	2000 Population	Percent Change
Watertown Township	3,731	4,162	11.6%
Clinton County	57,883	64,753	11.9%

Source: U.S. Census

Table 3 provides a breakdown of population numbers for the 1990 and 2000 Census. Between 1990 and 2000, the population of Watertown Township increased by 11.6%, which is consistent with regional trends. Clinton County increased by 11.9% during the same period. While these increases were occurring, the nearby City of Lansing, Michigan decreased in population by 6.4%. Taking this into account, one could suggest that the greater Lansing region is following the national phenomenon of out migration from central cities to surrounding suburban areas.



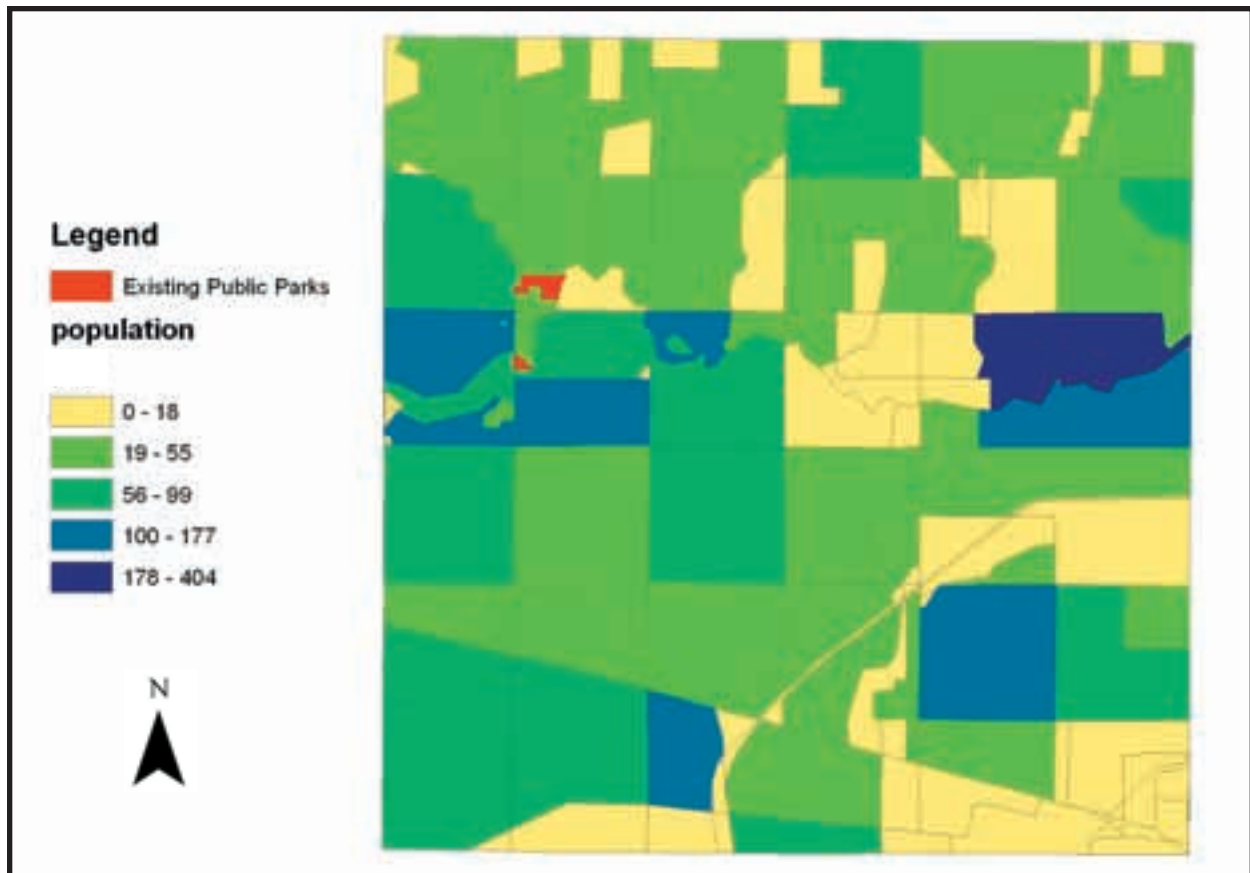
Table 4: Forecast

			Projection	Projection
Community	1990	2000	2010	2020
Watertown Township	3,731	4,162	4,422	4,682
Clinton County	57,883	64,753	65,600	66,300

Source: U.S. Census & Woods and Poole Economics, Inc. (Michigan State Profile)

The following map shows how the population of Watertown Township is distributed. It shows population by census block and indicates existing public parkland. Notice that the existing parkland is concentrated in the northwest section of the Township, located miles away from high population census blocks to the east and south.

Figure 15: Existing Park Space and Population By Census Block



2.52: Population Distribution by Age

The following section provides detail on the distribution of population by age group. For the purpose of analysis, the age categories have been grouped ranging from pre-school to retirement years. By organizing age demographics in this manner, policy makers will be able to tailor parks and recreation initiatives to specific age groups.

**Table 5:
Age Groups**

	1990	Percent (1990)	2000	Percent (2000)	Percent Change
Under 5 yrs	285	7.6%	233	5.6%	[- 18.2%]
5 to 19	924	24.8%	1,047	25.1%	13.3%
20 to 44	1,439	38.6%	1,278	30.7%	[-11.2%]
45 to 64	820	22.0%	1,264	30.3%	54.1%
65 to 74	177	4.7%	215	5.2%	21.5%
Over 75	86	2.3%	125	3.0%	45.3%
TOTAL	3,731	100%	4,162	100%	11.6%

Source: U.S. Census

**Table 6:
County Comparison**

	Watertown Township	Percent (2000)	Clinton County	Percent (2000)
Under 5 yrs	233	5.6%	4,455	6.9%
5 to 19	1,047	25.1%	15,404	23.7%
20 to 44	1,278	30.7%	21,971	33.9%
45 to 64	1,264	30.3%	15,889	24.6%
65 to 74	215	5.2%	3,853	6.0%
Over 75	125	3.0%	3,181	4.9%
TOTAL	4,162	100%	64,753	100%

Source: U.S. Census

The largest age group in Watertown Township is made up of people who are 20 to 44 years old. However, that group had an 11.2% decrease between 1990 and 2000. The group made up of young children under 5 years old also had a major decrease during the 1990's (-18.2%). While these two groups decreased, the senior demographic increased. People aged 45 to 64 had a 54.1% rise in population, and people over 75 increased by 45.3%. These figures clearly show Watertown Township to be an aging community. Policy makers should keep the notable aging demographic in mind when implementing changes to the parks and recreation system.



2.53: Population with a Disability

The following information is a breakdown of demographic data for people with disabilities in Watertown Township and Clinton County. The U.S. Census considers people with a disability status as being those who experience physical, mental, or emotional conditions or limitations that affect their ability to perform normal life activities. In 2000, roughly 19% of the U.S. population was characterized as having some form of disability. The occurrence of disabilities among the local population is slightly below national averages for both Watertown Township and Clinton County.

The following tables provide detail on the number of persons with disabilities for select age groupings. A notable 12.9% of the total population of Watertown Township has a disability status. However, a sizable 42.2% of people over the age of 65 are considered by the U.S. Census to have some sort of disability. These figures point out the importance of ensuring that parks and recreation facilities are accessible to the disabled population, and also that the disabled demographic is considered when making any decisions affecting the parks and recreation system.

Table 7: Disabled Persons				
Community	Ages 5-20	Ages 21-64	Over 65	Percent of Total
Watertown Township	104	313	119	12.9%
Clinton County	1,254	5,433	2,584	14.3%

Source: U.S. Census

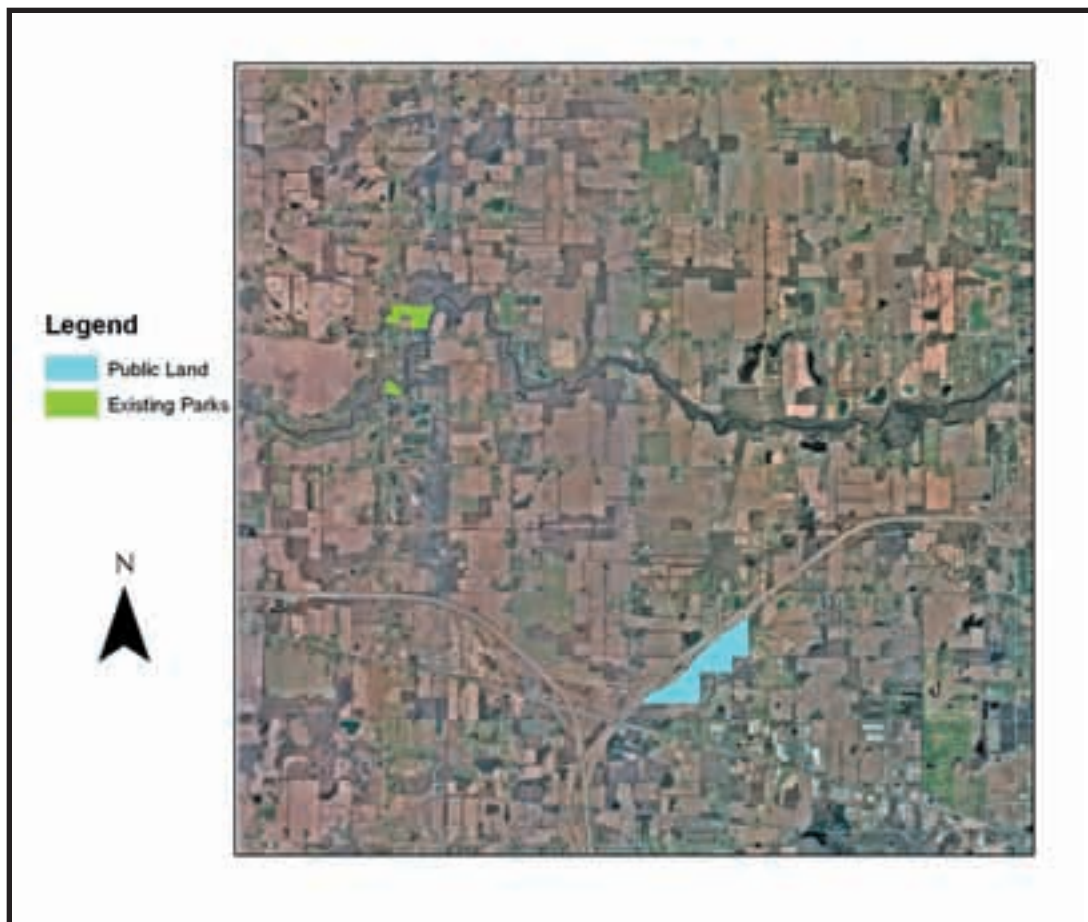
Table 8: Disabled Persons		
Community	Over 65	Percent of Total
Watertown Township	119	42.6%
Clinton County	2,584	39.8%



2.6: Physical Characteristics

Watertown Township is a predominantly rural area. Most of the township is covered in farmland, and nestled between gently rolling hills. The Looking Glass River flows through the Township from east to west, and is a tributary to the Grand River. Looking Glass Valley Park and Heritage Park are both located on the river, which allows residents to utilize this resource for recreation.

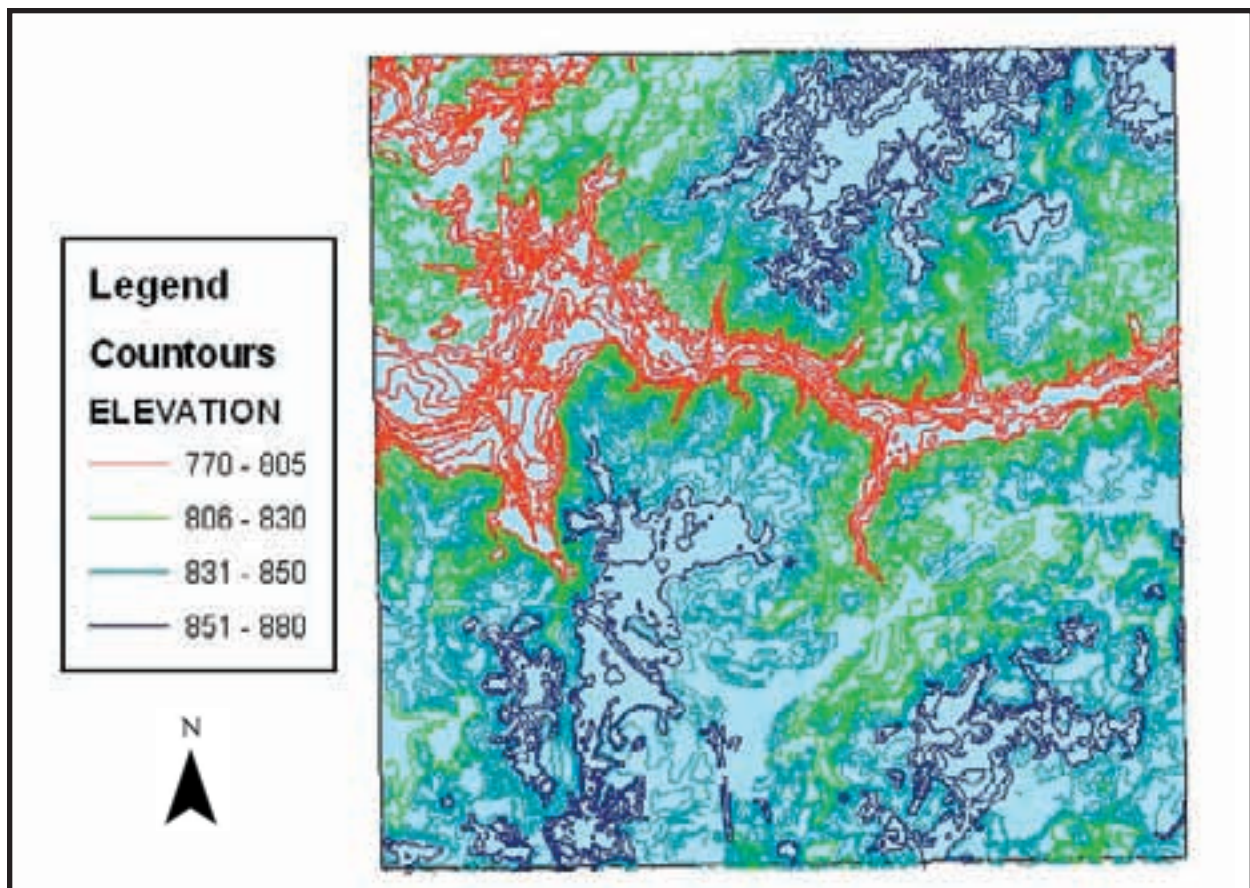
Figure 16: Aerial View of Watertown Township



2.61: Topography

The highest elevation of Watertown Township is located at 880 feet above sea level. The lowest elevation is next to the Looking Glass River, at approximately 780 feet above sea level, according to the United States Geological Survey. Much of the Township is covered with rolling hills at a grade not exceeding 10%, and not exceeding 12% through the river corridor.

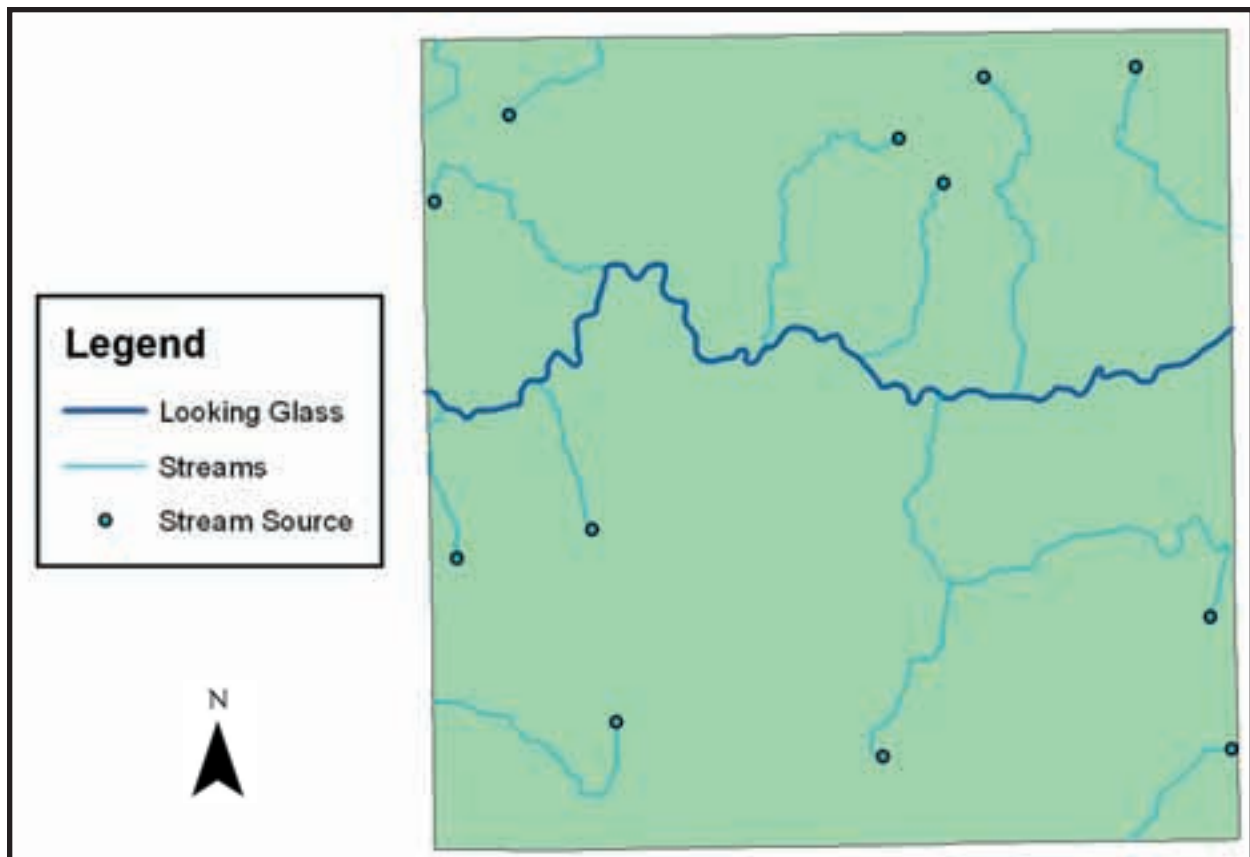
Figure 17: Township Elevation Map



2.62: Hydrology

Watertown Township's main surface water feature is the Looking Glass River which flows from east to west. The river and surrounding wetlands provide a diverse habitat for native species of songbirds, waterfowl, and aquatic animals. Public access points to the river are located in both Heritage Park and Looking Glass Valley Park. These access points include launching area platforms for canoes and kayaks.

Figure 18: Hydrology

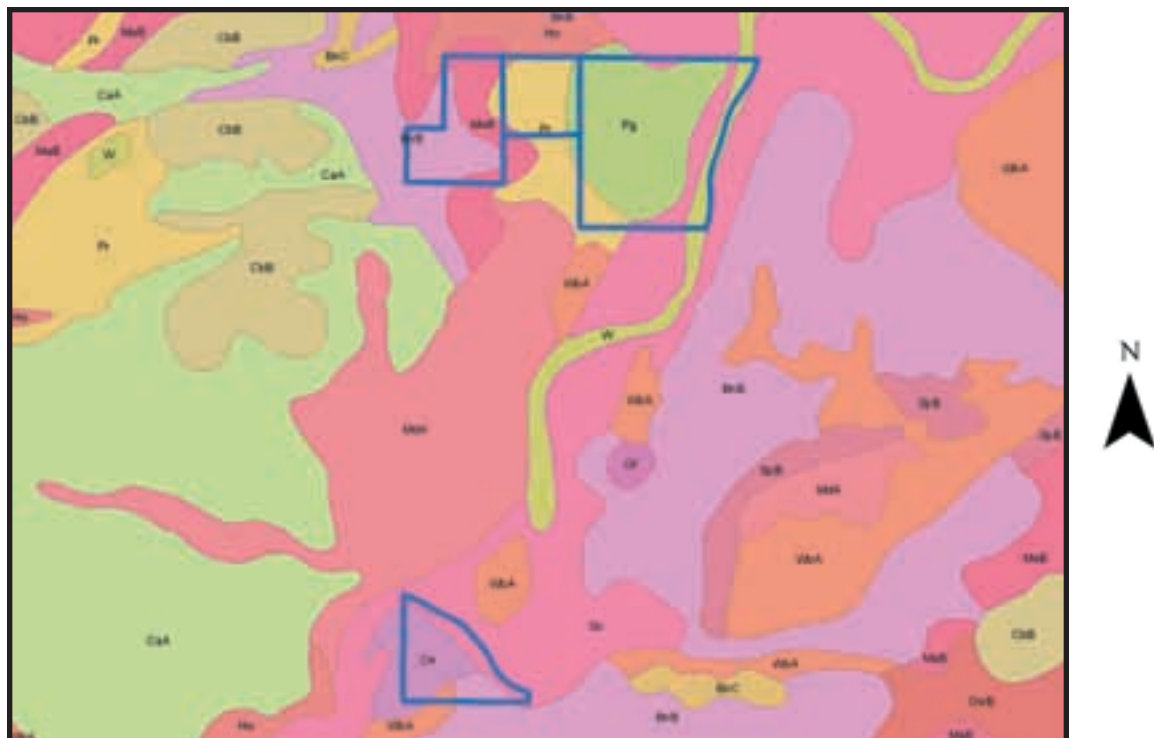


2.63: Soils

Watertown Township's soils are those of the Marlette-Capac-Parkhill association. Marlette soils are sandy and drain well. Capac soils drain moderately well. Parkhill soils do not drain well and stay saturated for long periods of time, making them difficult to build upon.

Figure 19 is a map of the soil types contained in and around Heritage Park and Looking Glass Valley Park which are outlined in blue.

Figure 19: Soil Types for Existing Park Facilities



Map Symbol	Soil Name	Building Site Development Limitations	Hydric Soils
BnB	Boyer Sandy Loam	Slight	No
Pr	Parkhill Loam	Severe	Yes
Pg	Palms Muck	Severe	Yes
Ce	Ceresco Fine Sandy Loam	Severe	Yes
MaB	Marlette Loam	Slight/Moderate	No

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service



2.64: Vegetation

According to the *2002 Update of the Watertown Township Comprehensive Plan*, 11% of the Township is covered in hardwood forests. The Looking Glass River's green infrastructure makes up the majority of the forested area, which follows the river corridor. Other wooded areas are scattered throughout the Township. Farms in the Township grow primarily corn and soybeans, making up the majority of vegetation in the area.

2.65: Land Use Patterns

Watertown Township covers 22,864.6 acres of land. The dominate land use is agricultural with more than 50% of the total land classified as such. Residential land covers 1,823.5 acres of land. Single family dwellings dominate the residential land use pattern with a mixture of farmsteads, large lot home sites, residential subdivisions, and a 14.5 acre mobile home park containing approximately 75 units.

The total land designated as commercial amounts to 53.8 acres. These lands are concentrated in the southern part of the Township along Grand River Avenue, with another pocket of commercial land in the Wacousta area.

Watertown Township has 239.9 acres of land classified as industrial. All industrial land uses are concentrated in the southeast corner of the Township along Grand River Avenue.

Land classified as Recreation / Open Space amounts to 122.7 acres. The largest chunk of this land is a golf course east of Grove Road, between Grand River Avenue and State Road. Other areas of importance are Heritage Park, Looking Glass Valley Park, and the recreation infrastructure around Wacousta Elementary. Semi-public land adds up to 184.5 acres, and includes a small piece of the Capital City Airport, Girl Scout facilities, utility sites, Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens, Wacousta Cemetery, United Methodist Church, Township Hall, and Wacousta Elementary.



Watertown Township also has one landfill operated by Granger Waste Management Company. This landfill covers 128.9 acres of land. Surface mining and excavation also occur in Watertown Township, occupying 126.6 acres of township land.

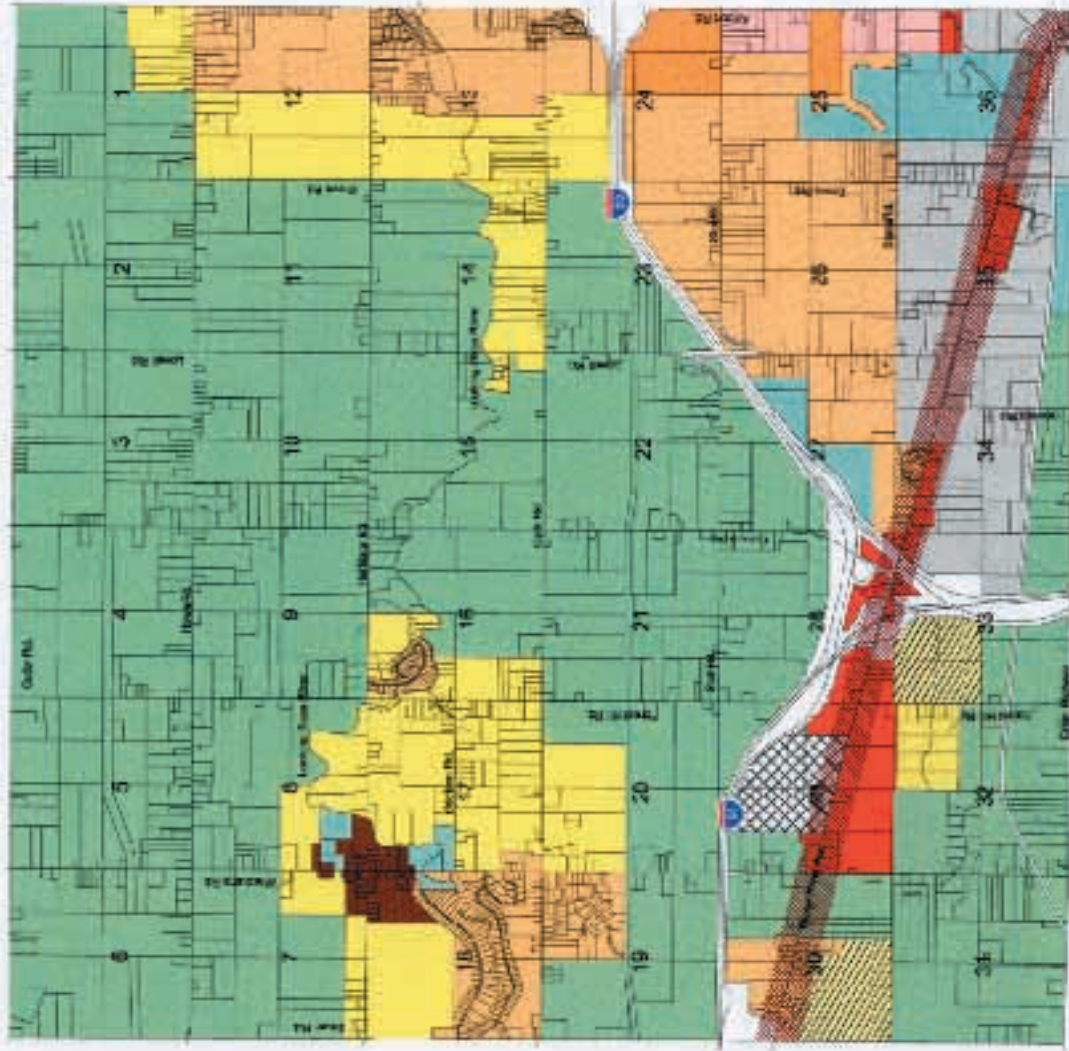
A total of 37.5% of Township lands are vacant. The vacant land is comprised of undeveloped property, woodlands, wetlands, and uncultivated farmland.

Table 9: Land Use by Acres and Percentage

Land Use	Acres		Percent	
	1997	2002	1997	2002
Agricultural	11,875.8	11,539.0	51.9%	50.5%
Single-Family Residential	1,505.6	1,823.5	6.4%	8.0%
Two-Family Residential	2.5	2.5	0.1%	0.1%
Mobile Home Park	14.5	14.5	0.1%	0.1%
Commerical/Office	37.2	53.8	0.2%	0.2%
Industrial	146.1	239.1	0.6%	1.0%
Recreation/Open Space	122.67	122.67	0.54%	0.54%
Public/Semi-Public	184.52	184.52	0.81%	0.81%
Landfill	178.86	178.86	0.78%	0.78%
Excavation	126.61	126.61	0.55%	0.6%
Vacant and Right-of-Way	8,669.65	8,578.44	37.92%	37.5%
Total	22,864.1	22,864.1	100%	100%
This information was gathered by Wade-Trim field data between 1995 and 2002.				

The Watertown Township Future Land Use map is located on page 47. The two developed parks, Heritage and Looking Glass Valley, are designated as Public/Semi-Public Land, which are located on the western side of the Township. The majority of the medium to high density residential zones are located on the eastern side. These two areas are divided by Agricultural land.





-  Agriculture
-  Low Density Residential
-  Medium Density Residential
-  High Density Residential
-  Local Business
-  General Business
-  Industrial
-  Manufactured Home Park
-  Village Service
-  Public/Semi-Public Lands
-  Land Fill
-  Grand River Avenue Overlay



MAP 2
FUTURE
LAND USE
 October 26, 2000

WATERTOWN CHARTER TOWNSHIP
 CLINTON COUNTY, MICHIGAN



DATE PUBLISHED: 10/26/00 BY: GIS/PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

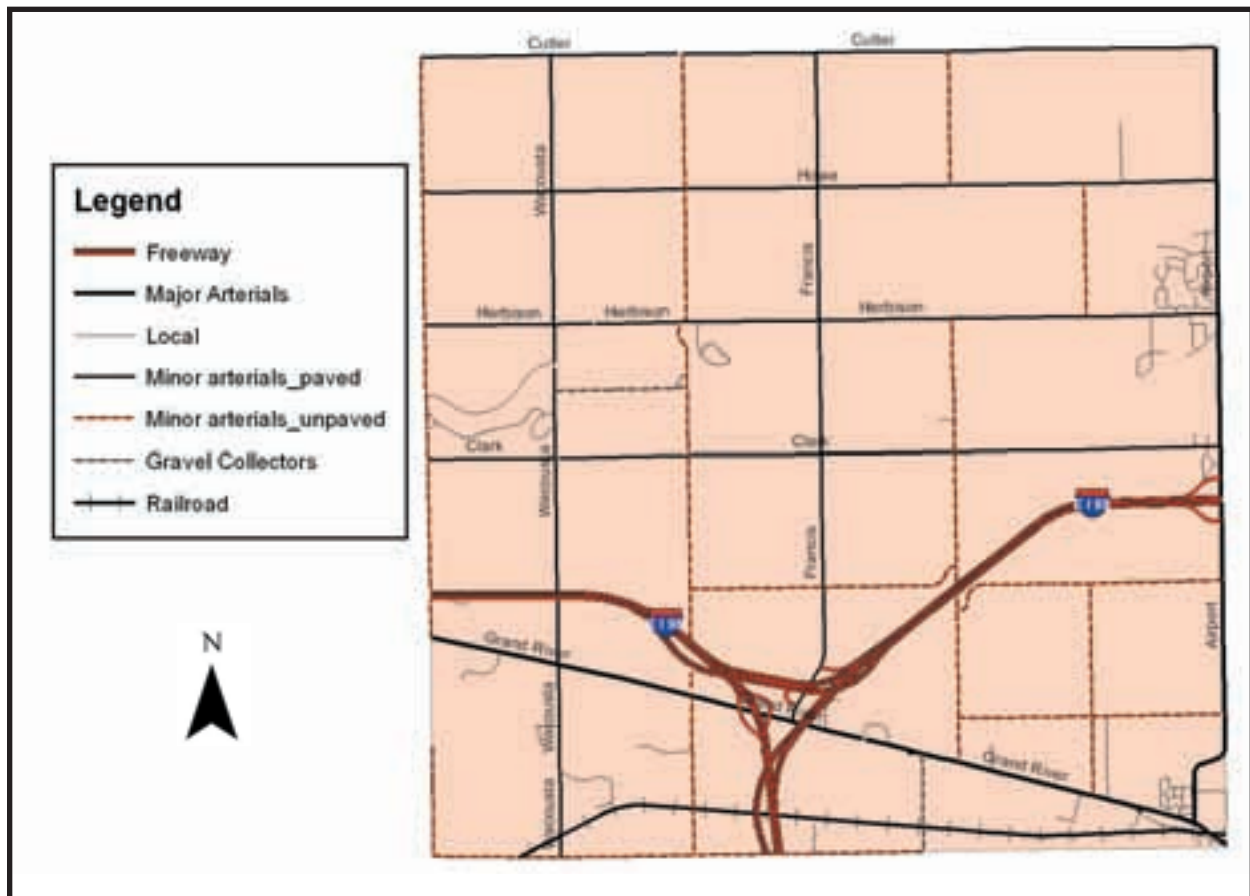
SOURCE: BASE MAP: CLINTON COUNTY GIS DEPARTMENT

2.66: Transportation

The road system of Watertown Township serves as the backbone for growth, economic development, and is an integral part of the Township's social and physical fabric. The Township's location utilizes the intersection of two major freeway systems: Interstate-69 and Interstate-96.

These freeways are an integral part of the Township's development of non-retail commercial and industrial activity, including the development of a Fortune 500 Company in the early 2000's.

Figure 20: Transportation



Street Classification

The street system serving Watertown Township can be classified as follows:

Freeways and Controlled Access Arterials: These facilities perform little or no land service function but instead are devoted entirely to the task of traffic movement by providing for large volumes of traffic at relatively high speeds. It is characterized by limited access, multi-lane, divided highways. These arterials include Interstate-96 and Interstate-69.

Major Arterials: This class of street serves major movements of traffic within or through the area. Mainly designed to move traffic, the secondary function is to provide access to abutting land. Grand River Avenue (Business Route 96) and Airport Road are the major arterials. The 2002 *Watertown Township Comprehensive Development Plan* indicated that residential development has pushed Airport Road to capacity. If additional housing units are added to the eastern side of the Township, there will be a need for additional roadwork. Considerations for pedestrians should also be factored into any future improvements. These improvements should include bike lanes, sidewalks, and pedestrian crossings.

Minor Arterials: This class of street serves primarily local or shorter distance traffic and provides a limited degree of continuity. Their principal function is moving traffic with a secondary purpose of providing local land access in connection with the collector and local street system. The paved minor arterials for Watertown Township are Cutler, Howe, Herbison (except at the far east it becomes unpaved), and Clark Roads running east-west. Gravel roads include east Herbison, Stoll, State, and Eaton Highway in the east-west direction. Paved roads running north-south are Wacousta, Francis and Ingersoll. Gravel north-south roads consist of Bauer, Forest Hill, Lowell, and Grove. Considerations for pedestrians are not present on the Minor Arterial Roads. Wide shoulders, cross-walks in heavy foot traffic areas, and appropriate signage should be implemented.

Collector Streets: These streets serve the internal traffic movement within specific areas and connect those areas with the major and minor arterial system. Generally, they are not continuous for any great length. The collector street is intended to supply abutting property with almost the same degree of access as a local street, while at the same time serving local traffic movement. Traffic control devices may be installed to protect and facilitate movement of traffic; however, these devices would not be as elaborate as those on arterial streets. There is one gravel collector street in Watertown Township: Corrison. To make amenities for recreation activities signage should be added to these collector streets to alert drivers of recreation activities.



Local Streets: The sole function of these streets is to provide access to immediately adjacent properties. There are a number of these roads in the Township, but they carry a small proportion of the vehicle-miles of travel. Local Streets in Watertown Township consist of private drives dedicated to housing subdivisions. Sidewalks are not present on the Township's local streets. The general lack of sidewalks discourages foot traffic. To make Watertown Township walkable sidewalks should be added to the Local Streets.

Railroad: The Chesapeake Railroad runs along the southern border of Watertown Township.

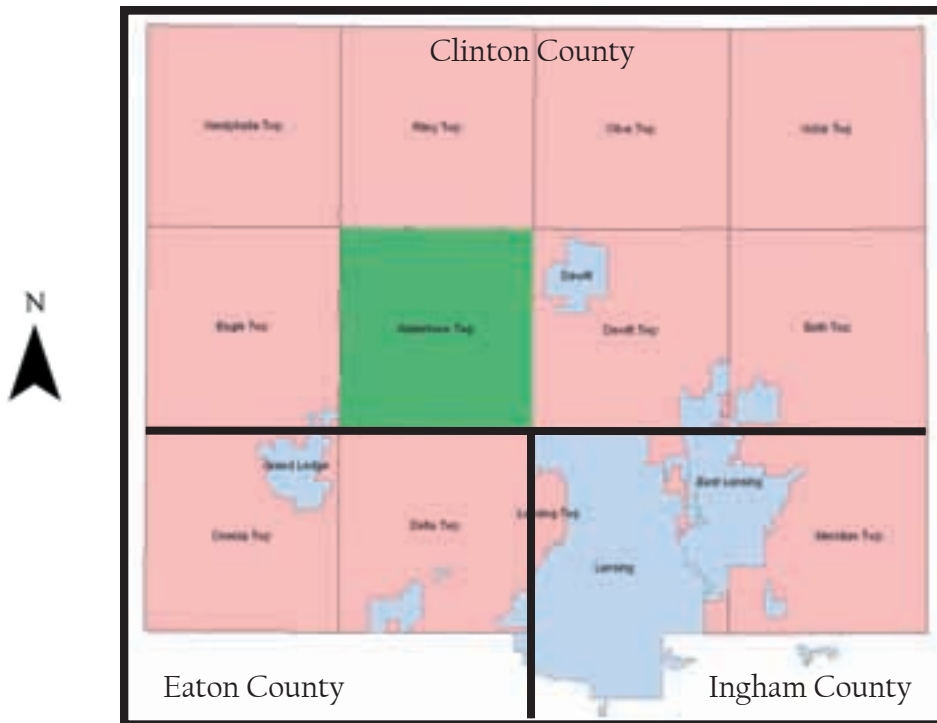
Airport: The Capital City Airport (the Greater Lansing Area's International Airport) is located north of Lansing. It is a full-service, all-weather, commercial airline airport. The airport also owns a small portion of fly-over property at the far southeastern quadrant of Watertown Township. Residents are notified of this anticipated noise issue with an informational move-in guide, upon initial purchase of their parcels.



2.7 Regional Collaboration

Fostering and continuing relationships with adjacent townships, as outlined in the Goals and Objectives chapter, is a priority of this document. Several Townships in Clinton County are taking the initiative to combine park resources. In DeWitt Township's Comprehensive Development Plan of 2005, (Chapter 2, Page 59) an effort to connect the park's systems is mentioned. Watertown Township and DeWitt Township seek to link trails and other greenspace elements, which offer opportunities for regional collaboration for recreation and open space amenities. Bath and DeWitt Townships share similar goals for the present and future: maintaining agricultural areas, low-density, rural residential character, the protection of sensitive environments, and the promotion of managed economic growth. In addition, the area around Airport Road between DeWitt and Watertown Townships is planned to be developed into medium to high density residential. This will add significant amounts of traffic to the Airport Road corridor and suggests an important need to coordinate future road improvements. Clinton County has jurisdiction over all roads in Watertown Township

Figure 21: Township Region Map



Section 3:

Recreation Facilities Inventory

For this plan to be compliant with Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) guidelines, a comprehensive inventory of Watertown Township's developed parks was taken to establish a baseline of facility conditions. The two parks are Heritage Park and Looking Glass Valley Park, which comprise 12.3 acres. The Future Land Use map designates these parks as Public/Semi-Public Land. To ensure the future of these parks a new classification of "Parkland" could be established for the Future Land Use map.

Barrier-free accessibility is important to Watertown Township to ensure equal access for everyone. This is also a goal of the MDNR, Federal, and State governments which can be noted in the Barrier Free Accessibility Requirements for Parks on page 19, Appendix B, of the *MDNR Guidelines*. The following scale created by MDNR was used to rank the Township's existing recreational facilities and accessibility.

- **One:** none of the parks/facilities have barrier free accessibility
- **Two:** some of the parks/facilities have barrier free accessibility
- **Three:** most of the parks/facilities have barrier free accessibility
- **Four:** the entire park meets barrier free accessibility guidelines
- **Five:** the entire park was developed/renovated using the principles of universal design



3.1: Public Facilities

Heritage Park

Heritage Park is a 9.3 acre area located behind the Township Hall adjacent to the Looking Glass River. The three parcels outlined in Figure 22 comprise Township Hall, Wallace F. Watt Community Center and Heritage Park. In reference to Appendix C of the *MDNR Guidelines*, this park has been classified as a neighborhood park. This park offers playground equipment, three baseball/softball fields, a soccer field, two tennis courts, two horse-shoe pits, one shuffleboard court, one sand volleyball court, access to a canoe launch, and short walking trails. There are opportunities to participate in more passive recreation by utilizing the two pavilions (large and small) and abundant open space.

Accessibility Assessment: 2- Limited pathways and access route. One ADA compliant bathroom and one non-compliant

Figure 22: Heritage Park



Looking Glass Valley Park

Looking Glass Valley Park, outlined in Figure 23, is classified by the *MDNR Guidelines* as a neighborhood park. It consists of three acres of land bordering the Looking Glass River, one-half mile south of Township Hall. Access to the river is provided by a canoe launch, as well as an adjacent pavilion and small dock. Active recreation facilities such as playground equipment, a baseball/softball diamond, youth-sized basketball court, and sand volleyball court are located in the park. A small building known as the “warming-house” is located next to the river, and is used as a warming room during cold seasons and provides extra storage space during warmer months.

Accessibility Assessment: 2- Limited access routes, 1 ADA compliant bathroom

Figure 23: Looking Glass Valley Park



Wallace F. Watt Community Center

The Wallace F. Watt Community Center is located directly behind the Township Hall. It consists of a 2,400 square foot gym with two basketball hoops and shuffleboard courts. A small kitchen located on the south end of the building is equipped with a refrigerator, stove, and sink. There is a barrier-free restroom which was recently renovated to meet requirements, which is noted in the Accessibility Assessment below. The Township supplies enough tables and chairs to seat approximately 125 people at the community center, as allowed under the local fire code. In 2007 there were 423 gym rentals. The most common uses are volleyball, aerobics, boys and men's basketball, shuffleboard sessions, soccer practice, and other Township sponsored events.

Accessibility Assessment: 4- Recently renovated for barrier-free accessibility

Figure 24: Wallace F. Watt Community Center



3.2: School Facilities

Wacousta Elementary School

The Wacousta Elementary School is located along Herbison Road and is operated by the Grand Ledge School District. The school offers many recreational facilities including two soccer fields, two playgrounds, and three basketball courts; two of which are contained within the schools' gymnasium. One of the playgrounds is made of wood and was hand-built by Watertown Township residents.

Figure 25: Wooden Play Structure at Wacousta Elementary School



Section 4: Park and Recreation Standards

Industry standards for open space and parkland create a simple guideline for a community's recreational goals. These standards set minimum requirements for recreation facilities and suggest acreage of open space. It is important to note that there is flexibility in the standards, due to the understanding that there are many factors related to an appropriate amount of a recreational opportunity. It is important to consider population demographics as well as usage rates.

This Plan includes two sets of standards. First, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) sets a "target of excellence" of 6.25 to 10.5 acres of developed park land per 1,000 population. According to the 2002 *Watertown Township Comprehensive Development Plan Amendment*, the population is projected to total 4,422 people in 2010. Based on the ratio set by the NRPA, this size population would require a minimum of 28.1 to 47.3 acres of parkland. Presently, there are 12.3 acres of developed parkland. Using this standard, Watertown Township may be considered to have a deficit of 15.8 to 34.9 acres of parkland. The recommendations for future parkland include the understanding of this deficit.

The second set of guidelines is provided by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), suggesting standards for recreation facility development. These suggestions include the number of facilities per population; recommended space and required dimensions. According to the *MDNR Guidelines*, Watertown Township's population requires them to adhere to the standards for municipalities with a population of 5,000 or smaller. Based on the findings, the Township meets all requirements set forth in terms of its population size, actually exceeding many, which is outlined in Table 10. All facilities listed in Table 10 are concentrated around the Township Hall, and Wacousta Elementary School grounds, which are both located on the western side of the Township. Since the Township is semi-rural, the current developed parkland is not easily accessible by those who reside in the eastern corridor, which has higher population concentrations.

In addition to population ratio guidelines, it is necessary to analyze Township characteristics to determine what recreational opportunities may be lacking. It is important to note that Watertown Township is experiencing growth in the baby-boomer population. As facilities are developed, it is essential to meet the needs of current and future demographics.



Development Standards

Table 10: Excerpt from DNR Suggested Facility Development Standards

Activity	Recommended Space Requirements and Dimensions	Number of Units per Population	DNR Location Notes	Existing Watertown Facility
Badminton	1620 sq. ft. Singles - 17'x 44' Doubles - 20'x 44' with 5' unobstructed area on all sides.	1 per 5,000	Usually in school, recreation center or church facility. Safe walking or biking access	None
Basketball 1. Youth 2. High School 3. Collegiate	1. 2400-3036 sq. ft. 46'-50' x 84' 2. 5040-7280 sq. ft. 50' x 84' 3. 5600-7980 sq. ft. 50' x 94'	1 court per 5,000	Same as badminton. Outdoor courts in neighborhood and community parks, plus active recreation areas in other park settings	2 Outdoor Courts -Looking Glass Valley Park -Wacousta Elementary 3 Indoor Courts -1 at Wallace Watt Community Center -2 at Wacousta Elementary
Tennis	Single court- minimum of 7,200 sq. ft. 36' x 78'. 12' clearance on both sides; 21' clearance on both ends.	1 court per 2,000	Best in batteries of 2-4. Located in neighborhood/ community park or near school site.	2 courts located in Heritage Park -poor condition; needs to be resurfaced.
Volleyball	Minimum of 4,000 sq. ft. 30' x 60'. Minimum 6' clearance on all sides.	1 court per 5,000	Same as other court activities e.g., badminton, basketball, etc.).	1 court at Heritage Park and 1 court at Looking Glass Valley Park
Soccer	1.7 to 2.1A 195' to 225' x 330' to 360' with a 10' minimum clearance on all sides.	1 per 10,000		One field at Heritage Park and two fields at Wacousta Elementary School



Baseball 1. Official	<u>Official</u> 3.0-3.85 A minimum Baselines-90' Pitching distance-60.5' Foul lines-min. 320' Center field-400'+	1 field per 5,000	Part of neighborhood complex. Lighted fields also part of community complex.	2 fields at Heritage Park and 1 field at Looking Glass Valley Park
2. Little League	<u>Little League</u> 1.2 A minimum Baselines-60' Pitching distance-46' Foul lines-200' Center field-200' - 250'	1 per 30,000		1 field behind Watertown Township Hall
Softball	1.5 to 2.0A Baselines-60' Pitching distance-45' (men) - 40' (women). Fast pitch field radius from plate-225' between foul lines. Slow pitch-275' (men) - 250' (women).	1 per 5,000 (if also used for youth baseball)		Little League field located behind Watertown Township Hall
Golf: (18-hole standard)	Average length 6,500 yards	1 per 50,000	18-hole course can accommodate 500-550 people a day. Course may be located in community, district, or regional/metro park.	Private Course Royal Scott: 27-hole
Proposed Facilities				
Trail System	Well defined head. Capacity- Rural trails 40 hikers/day/ mile. Urban trails-90 hikers/ day/mile.	1 system per region	N/A	Proposal for 125 acre parcel
Multi- purpose Court (Basketball, Volleyball, Tennis)	9,840 sq. ft. 120' x 80'	1 per 10,000	In neighborhood or community parks.	Proposal



Standards Summary: Compliance and Deficiencies

The information below is a summarization of the Inventory section on facilities development standards explaining what Watertown Township is adequate in, what it is lacking, and where there is a surplus.

Watertown Township has ample basketball courts. The indoor court at Wallace F. Watt Community Center combined with the youth-size outdoor court at Looking Glass Valley Park sufficiently meet the suggested standards as described earlier in Section 4. There are an additional three courts at Wacousta Elementary, one outdoor and two indoor.

The Township is exceeding the standard in baseball/softball fields. The *Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Guidelines* break fields down into two categories, official and little league. There is one little league field, and two official fields at Heritage Park and one official field at Looking Glass Valley Park. There are two tennis courts when only one is required. There are three soccer fields within the Township, there is one field at Heritage Park and two at Wacousta Elementary, only one is required per 5,000 people.

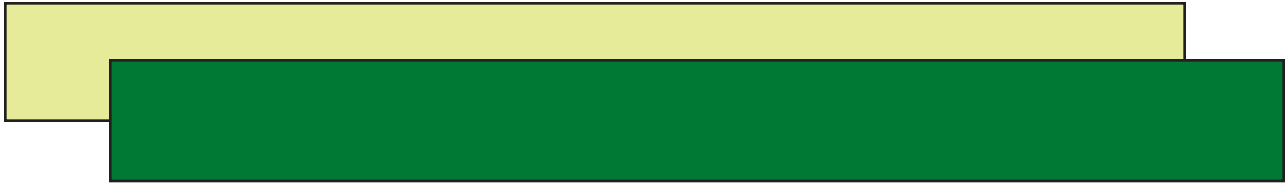
According to the standards set forth in Section 4, Watertown Township is only deficient in a badminton court. There is ample space at both parks to install a court, but it is only a suggested standard and throughout the public input process, badminton was never mentioned.

Watertown Township has one private 27-hole golf course. The MDNR Suggested Facility Development Standards, as shown in Table 10, recommend a golf course of 18-holes for a population of 50,000. Township exceeds recommendations in this respect.

The Township has one non-ADA compliant restroom at Heritage Park, but has three compliant restrooms, each at Heritage Park, Looking Glass Valley Park, and the Wallace F. Watt Community Center.



Appendices



- Appendix A: Dog Park Proposal
- Appendix B: Grant Application Materials
- Appendix C: Community Awareness Program
- Appendix D: Source Materials and Documents
- Appendix E: Michigan Department of Natural Resources Recreation Plan Guidelines
- Appendix F: Meeting Minutes and Agendas

Appendix A: Dog Park Off-Leash Area

Some Watertown Township residents have voiced a desire for a dog park. An off-leash park will allow dogs and their owners to socialize in a unique and safe setting which can help to increase the social fabric within the segment of the Township.

Example for Watertown Township:

4,422 (population) / 2.67= 1,656 (households)
1,656 (households)* 0.361= 598 (dog owning households)
598 * 1.6= 957 (estimated number of dogs in Watertown Township)

The Friends of Greater Lansing Dog Park Association (FGLDP) conducted a recent survey which found the Grand Ledge area has 50 people, or 25-percent of respondents, would like to see a dog park established in what FGLDP labeled the Northwest Ingham/ Northeast Eaton/ Southwest Clinton counties area. This non-profit organization incorporates the greater Lansing area, and are willing to participate in the development of the proposed project.

The American Kennel Club (AKC) created a manual entitled Establishing a Dog Park in Your Community that explains the following benefits a park can bring to a community:

Allows dogs to exercise and socialize safely. Puppies and adult dogs need room to run, and enclosed play areas permit them to do so while preventing them from endangering themselves and others (e.g. running into oncoming traffic). In addition, dogs who are accustomed to playing with animals and people other than their owners are more likely to be well-socialized and react well towards strangers.

Promotes responsible dog ownership. Dog parks prevent off-leash animals from infringing on the rights of other community residents and park users such as joggers, small children, and those who may be fearful of dogs. Parks also make it easier for a city to enforce its leash laws, as resident dog owners with park access have no reason to allow their canine companions off-leash when outside of the park.



Provides an outlet for dog owners to socialize. Dog parks are a great place for owners to meet other people with common interests. The love people share for their dogs reaches beyond economic and social barriers and helps foster a sense of community.

Makes for a better community by promoting public health and safety. Well-exercised dogs are better neighbors who are less likely to create a nuisance, bark excessively and destroy property. Their presence in the park, along with their owners, also may help deter crime.

The Association of Pet Dog Trainers (APDT) states several advantages of dog parks, including:

- Dog socialization
- People socialization
- Physical and mental stimulation
- Education opportunities

The disadvantages listed are:

- Potential danger for people from aggressive dogs, lawsuits arising from dog fights, and possible parasites
- Dogs can also be in danger of aggressive dogs, possible parasites and disease, potential lack of impulse control and over-excitement, potential for injury, and parks are not appropriate for small and large dogs to congregate, there must be a designated small dog area

Some of the community may not understand the park's concept and will abuse the park by not picking up after their dog, leaving them unattended, or allowing their dog to engage in inappropriate behavior. Others may not be educated enough about their dog to know if it is appropriate for the park, and there is also the potential for noise and liability issues.



The following tables demonstrate the pros and cons of the three possible locations for the dog park.

Figure 26: Heritage Park T-Ball Field



	Pros	Cons
T-ball Field	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Excellent location for passerbys to develop an interest. - Opportunity for local youth program (e.g. Boy/Girl Scouts), or community to plant trees in field. - Restroom availability, but must become ADA compliant. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No trees/shade.



Figure 27: The River at Heritage Park



	Pros	Cons
River at Heritage Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Abundant shade. - Simple waterline accessibility. - Location at back of park will decrease noise issues with nearby residents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Possible river contamination from pet waste, due to storm water runoff. - Lack of visibility. - Smallest plot proposed. - Large amount of insects.



Figure 28: Cemetery Lot



	Pros	Cons
Cemetery	- Largest proposed plot.	- Possible river contamination from pet waste. - Large amount of insects.



According to the Model Ordinances for Watershed and Natural Resource Protection composed by the Greater Lansing Regional Committee (GLRC) for Stormwater Management, written June 2007, pet waste is not the most toxic or even predominant pollutant in local waterways. However, it is still a source of pollution and can have health risks such as parasites, bacterial infections, and roundworms. Also, pet waste can release ammonia, phosphorus, and nitrogen which may cause aquatic life to die, encourage algae and weed growth (which can harm native species of plant and aquatic life), and may also cause the water to be unsafe for recreation or drinking.

Should a community choose to implement a Pet Waste Ordinance (examples can be found of page 17-8 of the GLRC manual) there are three variables to consider:

- Enforcement: who will enforce the ordinance, is there staff available for this, education may be a substitute for enforcement
- County Health Department should be supportive since pet waste can be a health risk
- The regulating body may need to provide materials for disposal on municipal parks and walking trails. These could include additional trash containers, disposal bags, pet waste signs, etc

The City of Austin, Texas conducted a case study entitled *Educating Pet Owners and Gardeners*, which began in 2000. Austin implemented a “Scoop the Poop” program which utilized informational signs to educate pet owners. The city also implemented Mutt Mitt dispensers with biodegradable bags within park areas to encourage compliance with the program. During the life of this program the Watershed Protection & Development Review (WPDR) and Parks & Recreation Departments found a 27-percent decrease in waste being deposited into local waterways. The effectiveness of the program can be measured by the increasing number of Mutt Mitt dispensers being distributed each year; the average between 2001 and 2006 was 472,833, or a 200-percent increase. The Greater Lansing Regional Committee concurs with the City of Austin’s education program.



The basic suggested dog park rules and regulations are:

- Dogs must be under owner's control at all times-leashed or unleashed
- Sign stating park hours
- All dogs must be licensed, inoculated, healthy and wear the license in the park
- Owners must pick up after their dogs
- Owners must always carry a leash
- Never leave dogs unattended
- Be respectful of others, especially during morning and evening hours
- Use of the dog park is at your own risk

Necessary and typical amenities, as described by the American Kennel Club and Kansas City, MO Parks and Recreation Off-leash Dog Area Guideline which was used by the Friends of Greater Lansing Dog Park Associations manual, includes:

- One or more acres surrounded by a four to six foot chain-link fence
- Double gated entryway to prevent escapes and facilitate wheelchair accessibility
- Parking close to the site
- Waterline accessibility
- Ability to capture stormwater runoff
- Ability to protect existing vegetation, eliminate erosion, maintain turf, and minimize mud areas
- Trash receptacles that are leak proof and covered
- Doggy bag dispensers and biodegradable bags
- Shade and water for both dogs and owners, along with benches and tables
- Signage with listed rules, regulations, and park hours

The Friends of Greater Lansing Dog Park Association (FGLDP) have a voluntary membership program which ranges in price from \$15 to \$1000. Membership privileges include voting rights, advanced notice of special events, monthly newsletter, merchandise discounts, and picture(s) of the member's dog in FGLDPs Pet Gallery on their website.

Other organizations such as the Oshawa Durham Area Walker's Group (ODAWG) has a voluntary \$10 annual fee for park usage. The Indianapolis Department of Parks and Recreation has dog owners pay \$3 per dog per weekday for access, and \$4 on weekends. Owners also have the option to purchase a yearly pass for \$25.



The Canine Good Citizen (CGC), which began in 1989, is a two-part certification program that stresses responsible pet ownership for owners and basic good manners for dogs. This program is in connection with the American Kennel Club, currently Watertown Township is not a participating member. CGC Neighborhood Models have been established and have police and animal control agencies using this program to deal with dog problems in communities. Some therapy dog groups use the CGC as a partial screening tool, and some 4-H groups around the country have been using the CGC as a beginning dog training program for children. Veterinarians have recognized the benefits of well-trained dogs and there are some CGC programs in place in veterinary hospitals. State legislatures began recognizing the CGC program as a means of advocating responsible dog ownership and 22 states now have Canine Good Citizen resolutions.

All dogs, including both purebred and mixed breed dogs are welcome to participate in the Canine Good Citizen (CGC) Program. There is no age limit for the test, but dogs must be old enough to have received necessary immunizations and vaccines. Owners who have trained their dogs themselves are also eligible to have their dogs tested.



Appendix B:

Grant Application Materials

This is a supplementary section with information about grant monies Watertown Township may be eligible to apply for. All the information about these grants was accessed from Michigan State University's Main Library. All credit for grant finding and grant information is given to Jon Harrison. If there are further questions about grants you may contact Jon Harrison, the Funding Center Supervisor at (517) 432-6123.

Michigan Department of Natural Resources Grant Programs

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

The Land and Water Conservation Fund program provides funds on a 50/50 reimbursable matching basis for the development of outdoor and limited indoor recreation facilities. Funds are awarded to local projects after all project applications submitted in a year have been evaluated. The local share of a project can be cash, approved donations of service and material, credit for locally assumed costs, and/or donated after project approval.

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF)

The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund utilizes royalties from oil, gas, and other mineral developments on state-owned lands to help finance the acquisition and development of outdoor recreation facilities. Matching local funds are required in the amount of at least 25% of the total project cost. Projects proposed under this program should be directed towards helping meet statewide goals, including natural resource protection, water access and urban recreation. A minimum of 75% of funds each year are designated for land acquisition.



Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act of 2003 (SAFTEA-21)

The SAFTEA program established a fund for Transportation Enhancement Activities with funds set aside for the provision of non-motorized transportation, transportation aesthetics, water quality and wildlife mortality, and historic preservation projects. The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) allocates this federal money on an annual basis through a revolving application process. The Office of Economic Development within MDOT provides administrative oversight for the program.

Grant Application Information

Grant Resources & Responsibilities for Townships

<http://www.michigantownships.org/downloads/october02.pdf>

A wide area of untapped funds is available to townships in the form of grants from the state and federal government, and also from private corporations. Although the grant writing process may seem daunting, this article shows you where to look for grants, what to include in a grant proposal and how to prepare yourself for grant writing success. The author of the article is Beverly A. Browning.

Grant Writing Tips

<http://www.mcrh.msu.edu/Grants/Grantwriting%20Tips.htm>

Grant Examples

Capital Region Community Foundation Patrons Fund

<http://www.crcfoundation.org>

The Capital Region Community Foundation is a local non-profit that serves the tri-county region of Clinton, Ingham, and Eaton Counties. This organization makes grants for community projects that reach a broad segment of the community and promote cooperation among organizations.



DALMAC Fund Application Form

<http://www.biketcba.org/dfund/DalMACFundApp.pdf>

The DALMAC fund was established to promote bicycling in Michigan. Programs that encourage bicycle use, teach bicycle safety, or develop bicycle routes or facilities are examples of eligible promotional activities. The Fund's revenue source is the DALMAC (Dick Allen Lansing to Mackinaw) bicycle tour. Since 1973, DALMAC has been sponsored by the Tri-County Bicycle Association (P. O. Box 22146, Lansing, MI 48909-2146). Grants for an organization's approved project are available beginning March 1. A project completion report will be required if your project is approved.

Bikes Belong Coalition Grants

<http://bikesbelong.org/site/page.cfm?PageID=21>

Bikes Belong Coalition, whose mission is putting more people on bicycles more often, accepts requests for funding of up to \$10,000 for facility, capacity, and education projects. Bikes Belong also accepts successor proposals from previously funded projects. Applications reviewed on quarterly basis.

Outdoor Recreation Acquisition, Development and Planning

Most federal grants make money available to state governments only. The Outdoor Recreation Acquisition, Development and Planning grant is an exception. The grant allots money to smaller political subdivisions, which may include townships. The proposal for the grant must be reviewed by an appointed State Liaison Officer. Decisions are made in consideration with the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and the Parks and Recreation Plan action program's priorities. Grant money can be used for a wide range of park projects including biking trails, supporting roads, and boat launches. Money cannot be used for maintenance and operation.

To find a copy of the grant go to: <http://12.46.245.173/cfda/cfda.html>. Click on the "Search for Assistance Programs," Search by Keyword, and type "Outdoor Recreation Acquisition, Development and Planning." A written example of this grant is included to give applicants an idea of grant application language and the overall application process.



Appendix C: Source Materials and Documents

Introduction Sources

- “How Cities Use Parks to Improve Public Health, Help Children Learn, Create Safer Neighborhoods.” City Parks Forum Briefing Papers, American Planning Association. 2003.
- “Measuring the Economic Impact of Visitors to Sports Tournaments and Special Events.” By Crompton, John L. The National Recreation and Parks Association. 1999.
- “Environmental Science: Working with the Earth.” By Miller, G. Tyler. Wadsworth Publishing Company. Seventh Edition. 1999.
- “Play: Essential for All Children.” By Isenberg, John Packer; Quisenberry, Nancy. Association for Childhood Education International. 2002.
- “Starting, Ceasing, and Replacing Leisure Activities Over the Life-Span.” By Iso-Ahola, Seppo E.; Jackson, Edgar. Journal of Leisure Research, Volume 26, No. 3. pp.227-249. 1994.
- “The Dialectics of Leisure and Development for Women and Men in Mid-Life: An Interpretive Study.” By Freysinger, Valeria. Journal of Leisure Research, Volume 27, No. 1. pp.61-84. 1995.
- “The Economic Benefits of Open Space.” By Miller, Stephen. The Islesboro Islands Trust. 1992.
- “The Impact of Parks and Open Space on Property Values and the Property Tax Base.” By Crompton, John L. 2003.
<http://www.rpts.tamu.edu/Faculty/PropertyValue.pdf>
- “The Preschool Playground.” By Sawyers, Janet K.. The Journal of Physical Education, Recreation & Dance, Volume 65, Issue 6. p.32-33. August 1994.
- “Why America Needs More City Parks and Open Space.” By Sherer, Paul M. The Trust for Public Land White Paper. 2003.



WATERTOWN CHARTER TOWNSHIP

Minutes of Board of Trustees Regular Meeting

January 21, 2008

7:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Supervisor Adams, Clerk Husby, Treasurer Thelen, and Trustees Maahs, Zay, and Weitzel. Absent: Trustee Mitchell with notice. Staff present: Tubbs. Other: Ron Overton

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- **Jack Enderle**, County Commissioner, reported on the election of officers and committee appointments of the Clinton County Board of Commissioners. They approved \$10,000.00 towards the Ingham County mortgage foreclosing counseling program. They also renewed an agreement with Ingham County for the Veterans Affairs program.
- **Sgt. Knight**, County Sheriff Dept., reported on the numbers concerning various types of crimes and incidents for 2007. He provided an update on the court case concerning speed limits. There have been a couple of B & E's. Public Act 85 concerning speed limits was explained.
- **Deanna Hanieski**, 8583 Eaton Hwy, is concerned about getting Eaton Hwy paved. She wants to know about the progress of the project.
- **Dale Westrick** is concerned about inspection fees.
- **Gene Adamezyk**, 8579 Eaton Hwy., is also concerned about the progress of the paving of Eaton Hwy. He wants to get it going. **Tubbs** reported that the Township has received petitions to not pave Eaton Hwy and she is concerned there is less than 51% support from residents of Watertown Charter Township. The project hasn't stopped. The Township is waiting for advice from their attorney. There was a question about sharing of the cost for the paving over the whole township. **Tubbs** explained that a petition for a ballot initiative could be submitted. However, a current survey indicates that it would not be supported.
- **John Hanieski**, 8583 Eaton Hwy, asked the Board of Trustees to proceed on the project and follow due process. **Tubbs** responded that what they are asking the Watertown Charter Township Board of Trustees to do is to support a project that less than 50% of the township residents want to do.
- **Kirk Myers**, 8580 Eaton Hwy., suggested that the opposition is caused by the unknown cost of the paving to the property owner. He wants answers about the funding.
- **Tubbs** replied that as soon as the Township hears from their attorney, there will be a letter sent out for another meeting. **John Maahs** explained that the Board of Trustees has no vested interest in pushing the project or stopping the project. The Township has to listen to both sides of the issue. **Tubbs** explained that one issue involves the taxing authority since this is a borderline road.
- **Tubbs** presented the Michigan State University student group that is working on the practicum project for a parks and recreation plan. They passed out a scope of services. The students have toured the township and the parks. They are working on a community profile, an inventory of the parks, and will use GIS mapping. A student will present a rationale for the program. They will complete their work by May.

Watertown Township Parks and Recreation Committee – Parks and Recreation Plan Update

1/22/08

Watertown Twp. Hall

I. Introductions

II. Overview of Scope of Services

- able to be legally adopted
- Follows DNR guidelines to insure that it can be used to obtain grant funding

III. Overall Goals and Objectives for Parks and Recreation

IV. Specific Q & A

-Community Descriptions

- Desired demographic data?
- Specific socio-economic group highlighted?

-Inventory

- Facilities that require improvements?

-Recommendations for future facilities

- Recreation Ideas for Township owned parcels?

V. Other Comments

WATERTOWN CHARTER TOWNSHIP

12803 S. Wacousta Road, Grand Ledge, MI 48837

PLANNING COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

7:00 P.M.

Agenda

- I. **Call to Order - Pledge of Allegiance - Roll Call**
- II. **Communications Received**
- III. **Agenda Approval**
- IV. **Public Comment - Non-Agenda Items**
- V. **Approval of Minutes - March 5, 2008 Regular Meeting**
- VI. **Public Hearings - Case # 07-16 TXT - Keeping of Animals - Wild/Exotic Animals and Commercial Game Breeding Operations**
- VII. **Unfinished Business**
 - A. Case # 07-16 TXT - Keeping of Animals - Wild/Exotic Animals and Commercial Game Breeding Operations
 - B. Case # 07-16 TXT - Keeping of Animals - Large Animals and Lot Size Requirements - Update
- VIII. **New Business**
 - A. Comprehensive Development Plan Update
 - B. Discuss Agricultural Buildings
 - C. Officer Elections and Committee Appointments
- IX. **Committee and Staff Reports**
 - A. Executive Committee Report - None
 - B. Ordinance Review Committee Report - None
 - C. Site Plan Review Committee Report - None
 - D. Board of Trustees Report - DRAFT Minutes (3/17/08)
 - E. Zoning Board of Appeals - DRAFT Minutes (3/12/08)
 - F. Non-Motorized Circulation Plan Committee Report - None
 - G. Environmental Affairs Committee Report - None
 - H. Capital Improvements Committee Report - None
 - I. Comprehensive Development Plan Update Committee - Report of meeting
 - J. Staff Report -
 1. Assistant's Report - March 2008
 2. Director's Report - March 2008, including recent seminar reports
- X. **Comments and Questions from Audience, Staff, and Commissioners**
- XI. **Adjournment**

Ronald Overton
Chair

If you cannot attend this meeting please contact the Planning & Zoning Department at (517) 626-5593. Individuals with disabilities needing special accommodations to fully participate in the meeting may contact the Clerk to request the necessary assistance. This request must be made at least two (2) business days prior to the meeting.

Posted:

Parks and Rec Plan!

One of the many benefits of having a world-class university in your backyard is the opportunity to work with students on real-world projects and provide them with practical experience. Watertown Township was fortunate to be accepted as a community partner by Urban Planning Partnerships, a program within the Urban and Regional Planning Department at Michigan State University. Urban Planning Partnerships (UPP) seeks to pair a group of students with a local community to work on a current project and conduct research, analyze data, develop recommendations and present this information to the community.

Watertown Township is pleased to announce that a talented group of students, Ann Ruggiero, Patrick Andrews, Chris Andrews, Scott Pitera, Neil Henne and Stacey Fedewa, are currently working to create a new Parks and Recreation Plan for the Township. The students, all senior undergraduates in the Urban and Regional Planning Program, are in the process of conducting an inventory of existing parks and recreation facilities, their structures and



uses, completing a demographic profile of the community to determine what type of facilities may be desired and meeting with members of the community to gain insight into the area.

They have met with the Township Board, the Parks and Recreation Committee, and expect to meet with the Planning Commission in April to discuss their progress and answer questions.

The students will complete this project in mid-April, and they will present their findings to the Township at the Board of Trustees meeting on April 21.

The public is encouraged to attend that meeting and meet the students, and talk with them about the experience. Left to Right: Treasurer Janice Thulun, MSU students Chris Andrews, Scott Pitera, Ann Ruggiero, Patrick Andrews, Stacey Fedewa, Parks and recreation committee members Troy Fort, Jack Huntoon, Dale Westrick, and student Neil Henne

Parade and Cemetery Service on May 24th

Please join friends, family and neighbors in celebrating the Memorial Day Holiday by participating in or attending the annual parade and memorial service on Saturday May 24th. The **parade will line up at the township hall** for an 11:00 a.m. kick off. The Wallace Watts Community Center will be open for the convenience of participants and parade goers. The Parks and Recreation Committee will host a hot dog roast immediately following the service at the pavilion in Looking Glass Valley Park.

Have you ever heard a favorite oldie song and felt like movin' to the music? Wish you were fit enough to do it again? Well, here is a place to get back in your 'groove' and do it again while improving your fitness.

You can get in your aerobic 'groove' for 45 minutes, or stay for another 24 minutes of toning and more stretching. We use golden oldies and country music. Sometimes we throw in a line dance or two. This is all done at a low to medium intensity and conforms to the American Council on Exercise (ACE) recommendations for group fitness aerobic classes. The emphasis is on having fun while improving or maintaining the cardiovascular system. Classes are held Mondays and Wednesdays at 6:15pm and Saturdays at 9am at the Watertown Township Gym. Try a week (or more) free. For more information call Jerry McNeilly at 627-9570.



The Township is accepting bids on a copier - Mita Point Source Ai 4040 with: 4 paper supply drawers, sort, punch, staple, zoom, and more. Purchased in 2000 with a copy count of 958,144. It may be seen at the township's office. Sealed bids must be presented to the Office of the Township Clerk by 4:00 p.m. on April 21st. Payment must be made on acceptance of the bid. Copier must be removed within 24 hours of payment. A maintenance contract may be available thru CBI Lansing Inc.

Great Lakes, Great Times, Great Outdoors

www.michigan.gov/dnr-grants



**GUIDELINES
FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF
COMMUNITY PARK,
RECREATION, OPEN SPACE,
AND
GREENWAY PLANS**

**Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Grants Management**

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (DNR) MISSION STATEMENT

"The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the State's natural resources for current and future generations."

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION (NRC) STATEMENT

The Natural Resources Commission, as the governing body for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, provides a strategic framework for the DNR to effectively manage our resources. The NRC holds monthly, public meetings throughout Michigan, working closely with its constituents in establishing and improving natural resources management policy.

DNR NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) provides equal opportunities for employment and access to Michigan's natural resources. Both State and Federal laws prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, disability, age, sex, height, weight or marital status under the U.S. Civil Rights Acts of 1964 as amended, 1975 MI PA 453, 1975 MI PA 220, Title V of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended, and the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended.

If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility, or if you desire additional information, please write: Human Resources, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, PO Box 30028, Lansing MI 48906-7028, or Michigan Department of Civil Rights, Cadillac Place, 3004 West Grand Ave., Suite 3000, Detroit MI 48202, or Division of Federal Assistance, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 North Falls Parkway, MSC 2600 MSP-4000, Arlington, VA 22203.

For information or assistance on this publication, contact Grants Management, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, PO Box 30424, Lansing MI 48904-6025.

This publication is available in alternative formats upon request.

This information is available in alternative formats.

Printed By Authority of: **The Michigan Department of Natural Resources**

Lot# Number Of Copies Printed 300 Total Cost: \$ 618.08 Cost Per Copy \$ 2.06



Grants Management staff is available to provide additional guidance to you as you prepare your recreation plan. We can be reached at the following addresses and telephone numbers:

**GRANTS MANAGEMENT
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PO BOX 30426
LANSING, MI 48909-7925**

On the web at

www.michigan.gov/dnr-grants

**24-Hour Voice Mail Information Request Line: 617-373-2724
Telephone: 517-373-9125
TTY/TDD: 711 [Michigan Relay Center]
Fax: 517-335-6813**

GUIDELINES
FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF
COMMUNITY PARK,
RECREATION,
OPEN SPACE, AND
GREENWAY PLANS

Prepared by
Grants Management
Michigan Department of Natural Resources

INTRODUCTION

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) provides financial assistance through its recreation grants program to communities within the State of Michigan that want to acquire land for parks and open spaces or that want to develop recreation facilities. Assistance is currently available from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund. To be eligible to apply for these grants, a community must have an approved, five-year recreation plan on file with Grants Management of the DNR. This booklet describes the information that is required if the plan is to be approved by Grants Management. Information contained in the plan will be used by Grants Management staff in scoring applications.

Hopefully, using this guidance and the resources provided within the booklet will assist you in preparing a recreation plan that is of use for your community, both in determining your recreation and open space needs and in integrating those needs into the larger framework of comprehensive planning. This booklet has been revised from previous versions. We recommend that you read it in its entirety before beginning the process of developing your plan.

The following is a list of terms and their definitions as used in this booklet.

Community is the entity that prepares the recreation plan, recognizing that the community may be, for example, a single local unit of government, a group of units of government that participate in a multi-jurisdictional plan, school district, regional recreation authority or trailway commission.

Recreation Plan is the document that is prepared to assist communities in developing recreation and resource conservation goals and objectives and to establish recreation grant eligibility.

Greenfield is a piece of usually semirural property that is undeveloped except for agricultural use, especially one considered as a site for expanding urban development.

Greenspace is used synonymously with open space.

Greenway is a continuous area of vegetation that may or may not be developed as a trailway for use by people. Greenways often connect open spaces.

Natural area is type of open space that has been minimally disturbed by humans so that native species of plants and animals are more prevalent than species introduced by people.

Open space is land that is undeveloped or minimally developed and includes farmland, wetlands, riparian lands, rangeland, forests and woodlands, parks, coastal lands, and undeveloped land in urban settings. It is also referred to as greenspace.

PDR stands for the purchase of development rights. PDR programs allow communities to tax themselves to provide the funding for purchase of development rights for farmland. The goal of PDR programs is to prevent development of land the community wishes to remain in farm production. All PDR programs in Michigan are voluntary on the part of the farmer.

ESTABLISHING ELIGIBILITY TO APPLY FOR RECREATION GRANTS

The Natural Resources Trust Fund Act (Part 19 of 1994 PA 451) states that local units of government are eligible to apply for grant assistance from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. The statute defines local units of government as: "...a county, city, township, village, school district, the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority, or any authority composed of counties, cities, townships, villages, or school districts, or any combination thereof, which authority is legally constituted to provide public recreation." The enabling legislation for providing public recreation in Michigan is listed in appendix A.

Under the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, recreation grants are also available to local units of government and other appropriate public agencies. However, only the state can apply directly to the National Park Service for these grant funds, therefore, all applications from local units of government must be sent to the DNR.

In addition to the above eligibility requirements, all applicants for an MNRTF or LWCF grant must submit a recreation plan to Grants Management. Upon approval of the recreation plan and in accordance with the following terms, the following entities become eligible to apply for recreation grants from the DNR.

Local Units of Government. Local units of government include cities, villages, townships, counties, and, for the LWCF program only, Native American Tribes.

Regional Recreation Authorities. Local units of government that may participate in a recreation authority include cities, villages, townships, and counties. Unless the recreation authority is clearly limited in its role in providing recreation for the participating communities (see "Trailway Commissions" below) those communities are not eligible to apply for recreation grants separately, and Grants Management will not accept or approve recreation plans from them.

Trailway Commissions. As the name implies, trailway commissions are limited to owning and managing a regional trail or trail system. Legally-established trailway commissions may submit recreation plans and establish eligibility to apply for recreation grants. In addition, participating communities that submit separate recreation plans that address their recreation needs exclusive of the trail are eligible to apply for recreation grants on their own.

Multi-Jurisdictional Parks and Recreation Committees or Commissions. In accordance with state law (see appendix A), some local units of government and, in some cases, school districts join together to form park and recreation committees or commissions, while retaining separate control of their park lands. The multi-jurisdictional committee or commission serves all of the participating communities, presumably with the goal of a better coordinated and more efficient recreation system. In this situation, it is logical that one recreation plan be developed for all of the participating communities.

When a multi-jurisdictional committee or commission does not independently own or control parkland, it cannot apply for recreation grants through the DNR. However, each unit of government included in the recreation plan is eligible, provided all of the participating communities adopt the plan. Once the multi-jurisdictional plan is approved by Grants Management, individual recreation plans from any of the participating communities will not be accepted. Unlike the procedure in past years, more than one of the participating communities may submit an application during a single grant cycle and will not be asked to prioritize among the applications submitted.

School Districts. School districts may submit a recreation plan to the DNR and establish grant eligibility if at least one of the following conditions applies. In all cases, submitting a school district recreation plan or including a school district's projects within a multi-jurisdictional plan establishes eligibility for grant funding only when the school district provides recreational services primarily to the general public, not just to the students within the district.

1. The school district is a participant in a multi-jurisdictional recreation plan.

2. The school district is the only provider of public recreation in the community. This means there is no recreation department and no parks owned or managed by the local unit of government. In this situation, any existing parks or recreation facilities would be owned and controlled by the school district. When the school district is the only recreation provider, the school district's plan would be the only plan for the community, i.e., there is no village, city, or township recreation plan.
3. The school district is the primary provider of a type of public recreation for the community. For example, the school district may be responsible for all softball-related facilities and programs, or may be responsible for the community's nature center. In this case, there may be a local parks and recreation department and there may be park and recreation facilities that are owned and managed by the unit of government.

Under conditions 2 and 3 above, a school district may or may not elect to participate in a multi-jurisdictional plan to establish grant eligibility.

COORDINATION OF PLANNING

The importance of coordinated planning within a community, at a regional level, and among government agencies, private organizations, businesses, and the public is becoming increasingly clear. The potential benefits include better environmental protection; greater efficiency in providing park and recreation opportunities; increased funding sources; greater potential for tapping into new, creative ways of accomplishing recreation goals; and enhancing public support for parks and their financing through millages and other taxing methods.

INTEGRATED COMMUNITY PLANNING

In contrast to the traditional manner of thinking about the management of parks within cities, the National Recreation and Park Association challenges recreation providers to think in terms of cities existing within parks.¹ People do not congregate, recreate, or simply enjoy the outdoors only in park land designated for recreation purposes. They use streets (preferably with sidewalks), greenways, town squares, plazas, marketplaces, conservation lands, and numerous other areas, both publicly and privately owned. Numerous indoor facilities, again both publicly and privately owned, also serve the public in their desire for recreation and social contact.

Taking this perspective requires thinking and planning beyond the borders of traditional parks to a park system connected by trails, greenways, and other publicly-used spaces. It may also require increased coordination with other public agencies, private businesses, and/or non-profit organizations.

For those communities that have developed or are in the process of developing a comprehensive plan, the creation of the recreation plan should be an integral part of that plan. The coordination of recreation planning with comprehensive planning allows a better understanding of current park and recreation needs by allowing them to be better understood within the current and future demographic and physical context of the community. For example, when park and trailway planning is integrated into the larger planning framework, it is possible to better plan non-motorized trails to provide alternate access routes to schools, residences, shops, libraries, and other destinations in addition to parks. Understanding how the community is zoned for future growth or redevelopment may assist in predicting what and where future recreation needs will arise. Coordinating park planning with street layout and design may lead to the development of landscaped boulevards leading to park entrances, and allow traffic engineers to anticipate the need for traffic calming structures and pedestrian bridges over roads near planned neighborhood parks.

There can also be environmental benefits from coordinated community planning. The location and development of parks and greenways can play an integral role in watershed protection and the development of a green infrastructure. These benefits are discussed in more detail below.

¹ Metzer, J. D. and J. R. Hill. Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines. Alexandria, VA: National Recreation and Park Association, 1995.

Local units of government are not required by state law to develop comprehensive plans. However, for those communities that develop comprehensive plans, it is strongly recommended that the recreation plan be developed as a part of the comprehensive plan. Organizations that can assist in developing a community comprehensive plan are listed in appendix D.

REGIONAL PLANNING

Coordinating planning at a regional level benefits participating communities and the environment and can have very practical benefits for the communities involved. For example, by planning on a regional rather than a community basis, parks and recreation staff can avoid duplicating expensive recreation facilities and give all communities involved a greater voice in planning these facilities to best serve the entire region. Planning on a regional basis gives the planners a larger area in which to determine the best location for the facility based on factors such as the ability to access the site by car, public transportation, and non-motorized means; the potential effects of the facility on surrounding land uses—both positive and negative; and the potential environmental effects of the facility—again, both positive and negative.

For example, one community planning alone for a large ice rink meant for regional use may determine that the only available land is greenfield on the outskirts of the developed area. This location will likely require most or all users to drive to the ice rink (possibly contributing to traffic congestion), and may require the extension of utility services, thereby providing the means and possibly the stimulus for increased development surrounding the facility on formerly open space lands. By planning on a regional basis, it may be possible to locate the ice rink in an already-developed area. When a facility is built in a developed area, the environmental effects of redevelopment of land surrounding the facility are decreased, as the infrastructure to support it is already in place. In addition, the facility may contribute to the revitalization of an area by drawing businesses that serve the facility patrons.

Similarly, the creation of parks with natural settings within urban areas (which may need to be accomplished through restoration) may lead to new residential development surrounding the park. Other types of active-recreation facilities may draw businesses into the area to serve park users.

Green Infrastructure. Along with the traditional "gray infrastructure" of roads, water lines, and sewers, a "green infrastructure" also improves the quality of life within a community. Green infrastructure has been defined as, "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."² Because the elements of a green infrastructure cross community boundaries, the development of a green infrastructure can only be accomplished effectively through regional planning.

The difference between green infrastructure and traditional conservation is that green infrastructure plans for conservation in relation to land development, growth management, and traditional gray infrastructure. Creating a green infrastructure is primarily accomplished by planning for the connection of natural areas and other open space lands through a network of greenways.

This system of connected greenspaces allows for the movement of wildlife, plants (through seed and vegetative propagation) and people throughout the region. These connections are vital to the survival of many plant and animal species, especially as natural land is increasingly fragmented through the development of land uses that are inhospitable to plant and wildlife movement. The benefits of a green infrastructure to humans, in terms of contributing to sustainable development and quality of life, are immeasurable.

Watershed Management. The protection of water resources can only be accomplished through management at a watershed level. Because watersheds cross jurisdictional boundaries, a regional approach is necessary.

² Randall M. and F. Melissa. Green Infrastructure: Great Conservation for the 21st Century. Rural Water Clearinghouse Monograph Series. Washington, D.C. Autumn, 2002.

Land use and water resource protection cannot be separated: how land is developed and managed within a watershed is the primary determinant of the health of the waterway. Planning for a green infrastructure contributes to the protection of both land and water resources. It is a common practice to develop trails and greenways alongside rivers and streams, thereby protecting riparian areas through limited streamside development. In fact, riparian woodlands along rivers and streams may provide the best basis for developing a green infrastructure. Other critical components of a healthy watershed—headwater wetlands, flood plains, groundwater recharge areas, and high quality feeder streams—can be protected through the acquisition and development of parks and other greenspaces.

Controlling Sprawl. In Michigan, land is being developed at a rate eight times that of population growth, primarily due to a development pattern known as sprawl.² Sprawl can be defined as low density development on the edges of cities that is poorly planned, land consumptive, and designed without regard to its surroundings. One of the most important benefits of comprehensive, regional planning is the enhanced ability to control sprawl.

The development and maintenance of park land can be a vital component to the revitalization of central cities. However, it is not always possible or even desirable to locate all park land within the developed areas of a city. While park land is not usually considered to be a component of sprawl, consumptive land use patterns may be encouraged by the location and development of parks. To prevent the sprawl that may occur as a result of the establishment of parks and protected open spaces outside of city boundaries, the following factors should be considered:

1. Parks and natural areas should be buffered by open space lands (such as farmland, forestland, etc.) that have been protected from more intense development through government or land conservancy ownership, PDR programs, conservation easements, or other means.
2. Similarly, land alongside roads leading to the park should be zoned to prevent dense commercial development.
3. Inholdings within park and forest lands are a form of sprawl. Inholdings fragment natural areas and in doing so may impact the environmental health of the park or forest land, interrupt wildlife movement, and lessen the amount of land available for recreational use out of proportion to their size. For example, due to the requirement for safety zones of at least 450 feet surrounding an area of human activity, a house built on land surrounded by public recreation land eliminates hunting on 14.8 acres of land. Eliminating inholdings and their impact through acquisition or other means of obtaining rights in land should be a high priority when deciding where to invest funds.
4. When other factors are equal, land accessible by existing roads should be acquired before those that would require the building of roads for public access.
5. Potential park land should be identified in comprehensive, regional planning documents. When land is desired primarily for community-based recreation, potential park land close to land zoned for future high-density residential use should be acquired over land near areas zoned for low-density use. When the land proposed for acquisition is to be kept in a natural state, it should preferentially be surrounded by land zoned for farming or other open space uses.

Means to accomplish regional planning. Regional planning is not a requirement when developing plans but is strongly recommended. There are a number of non-exclusive means by which regional planning may be accomplished:

² U.S. E Sector Consultants, Inc. Michigan Land Resources Project Lansing Michigan 2001.

1. Regional planning involving only the recreation departments and/or commissions of individual communities is described under the "Establishing Eligibility to Apply for Recreation Grants" section of this booklet.
2. Incorporating the recreation plan into the comprehensive plan. The enabling acts for planning at the city and village, township, and county levels (1931 Act 285 as amended, 1959 Act 168 as amended, and 1945 Act 282 as amended; respectively) were amended in 2002 to require planning commissions to consult with commissions of contiguous communities when developing comprehensive plans and to submit proposed plans to each contiguous community for review and comment before adoption.
3. With the passage of the Joint Municipal Planning Act (2003 Act 226), joint planning commissions may be formed by two or more communities (cities, villages, or townships; but not counties) to carry out comprehensive planning, including planning for recreation, on a regional basis.
4. Submitting plans to regional and county planning commissions (or in some areas to the local Chamber of Commerce), which review them to ensure that they do not conflict with regional or county plans.

PREPARING THE PLAN AND PLAN CONTENT

The plan ideally forms the road map for the decisions made in the next five years regarding the provision of park and recreation lands and other open space for the community. As with all planning efforts, planners must try to determine not only current, but also future community needs. As discussed above, the coordination of recreation planning with broader community and regional planning allows you to better understand how recreation and open space planning relates to other planning decisions and how better coordination will improve your ability to factor population growth, population demographics, planned transportation systems and land uses, among other variables, into your recreation plans.

This section describes what information you need to prepare your plan, and what your plan must contain to be approved by the DNR and to establish eligibility for applying for recreation grants during the five-year period of the recreation plan. These requirements establish minimum standards, but are not intended to limit what the plan can contain. The following sections of the plan are required and are described below:

- **Community Description**
- **Administrative Structure**
- **Recreation Inventory**
- **Resource Inventory (optional)**
- **Description of the Planning and Public Input Process**
- **Goals and Objectives**
- **Action Program**

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Describe the jurisdiction of your recreation plan. Was the plan prepared for a single township or village, or does it encompass a larger region? Also describe the extent of the plan focus. For example, recreation plans developed by trailway commissions would address the acquisition and development of the trail only, while plans developed by or for parks and recreation departments would probably include all aspects of recreation. Plans developed by a school district must describe the recreation opportunities they provide in relation to those provided by parks and recreation department or other entity serving the same area.

Unlike in the past, it is not required that the community description include a reporting of the social and physical characteristics of the community. It is preferred that the characteristics that influence your planning be discussed later in the plan, as they relate to the goals and objectives your community develops.

APPENDIX B. GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS THAT MAY BE OF ASSISTANCE IN PREPARING A PLAN

*(As provided by the agencies/organizations on their websites;
this should not be considered a complete list)*

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

MICHIGAN RECREATION AND PARK
ASSOCIATION
2465 WOODLAKE CIRCLE SUITE 180
OKEMOS MI 48864

517-485-6888
www.mrpanline.org

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING INFORMATION

MICHIGAN SOCIETY OF PLANNING
219 S. MAIN ST. SUITE 300
ANN ARBOR MICHIGAN 48104

734-913-2000
www.planningmi.org

SMART COMMUNITIES NETWORK
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

www.sustainable.doe.gov/welcome.shtml

LAND INFORMATION ACCESS ASSOCIATION
374 MUNSON AVENUE
TRAVERSE CITY MI 49686

231-929-3696
www.liaa.org/

RESOURCE INVENTORIES AND CONSERVATION PLANNING

LAND TRUST ALLIANCE
1331 H STREET NW, SUITE 400
WASHINGTON, DC 20005

202-638-4725
www.lta.org/
*(website provides
information on the regional land conservancy or
land trust in your area)*

MICHIGAN NATURAL FEATURES INVENTORY
PO BOX 30444
LANSING MI 48909-7944

517-373-1552
wcb4.mauc.msu.edu/mnfi/

PLANNING & ZONING CENTER, INC.
715 N. CEDAR STREET
LANSING MI 48906-5208

517-888-0555
www.pzcenter.com

CENTER FOR GIS AND REMOTE SENSING
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
ROOM 308 MANLY MILES BUILDING
1405 SOUTH HARRISON ROAD
EAST LANSING MI 48823

517-353-7185
www.rgis.msu.edu

BARRIER-FREE ACCESSIBILITY

NATIONAL CENTER ON ACCESSIBILITY
UNIVERSITY OF INDIANA
2805 E. 10TH STREET, SUITE 190
BLOOMINGTON IN 47408-2698

812-856-4422
www.ncaonline.org

THE ARCHITECTURAL AND TRANSPORTATION
BARRIERS COMPLIANCE BOARD (THE ACCESS
BOARD)
1331 F STREET NW, SUITE 1000
WASHINGTON DC 2004-1111

800-872-2253
www.access-board.gov

GREAT LAKES A.D.A. AND ACCESSIBLE I.T. CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO
INSTITUTE ON DISABILITY AND HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT (MC 720)
1640 ROOSEVELT ROAD
CHICAGO IL 60608

800-949-4232
www.adagreatlakes.org

UNIVERSAL DESIGN

THE CENTER FOR UNIVERSAL DESIGN
COLLEGE OF DESIGN
NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY
50 PULLEN ROAD, BROOKS HALL, ROOM 104
CAMPUS BOX 8613
RALEIGH NC. 27695-8613

800 647 6777
www.design.ncsu.edu/3120/cud/

ADAPTIVE ENVIRONMENTS
374 CONGRESS STREET, SUITE 30
BOSTON, MA 02210

617-695-1225 V/TTY
www.adsptenv.org

In addition to the agencies and organizations listed above, the **AREA-WIDE RECREATION AND PLANNING COOPERATING AGENCIES** listed in appendix G may also be of assistance in preparing your plan.

**APPENDIX C. A RECOMMENDED CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM FOR LOCAL AND REGIONAL RECREATION
OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS**

Classification	General Description	Location Criteria	Size Criteria
Mini-Park	Used to address limited, isolated or unique recreational needs.	Less than ¼ mile distance in residential setting.	Between 2500 sq. ft. and one acre in size.
Neighborhood Park	Neighborhood park remains the basic unit of the park system and serves as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood. Focus is on informal active and passive recreation.	¼- to ½-mile distance and uninterrupted by non-residential roads and other physical barriers.	5 acres is considered minimum size. 5 to 10 acres is optimal.
School-Park	Depending on circumstances, combining parks with school sites can fulfill the space requirements for other classes of parks, such as neighborhood, community, sports complex and special use.	Determined by location of school district property.	Variable—depends on function.
Community Park	Serves broader purpose than neighborhood park. Focus is on meeting community-based recreation needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.	Determined by the quality and suitability of the site. Usually serves two or more neighborhoods and ¼- to ½ mile distance.	As needed to accommodate desired uses. Usually between 30 and 50 acres.
Large Urban Park	Large urban parks serve a broader purpose than community parks and are used when community and neighborhood parks are not adequate to serve the needs of the community. Focus is on meeting community-based recreational needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.	Determined by the quality and suitability of the site. Usually serves the entire community.	As needed to accommodate desired uses. Usually a minimum of 50 acres, with 75 or more acres being optimal.
Natural Resource Areas	Lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space, and visual aesthetics/buffering.	Resource availability and opportunity.	Variable.
Greenways	Effectively tie park system components together to form a continuous park environment.	Resource availability and opportunity.	Variable.
Sports Complex	Consolidates heavily programmed athletic fields and associated facilities to larger and fewer sites strategically located throughout the community.	Strategically located community-wide facilities.	Determined by projected demand. Usually a minimum of 25 acres, with 40 to 60 acres being optimal.
Special Use	Covers a broad range of parks and recreation facilities oriented toward single- purpose use.	Variable—dependent on specific use.	Variable.

APPENDIX C. (continued)

Classification	General Description	Location Criteria	Size Criteria
Private Park/ Recreation Facility	Parks and recreation facilities that are privately owned yet contribute to the public park and recreation system.	Variable-dependent on specific use.	Variable.
Classification	General Description	Description of each type	
Park Trail	Multipurpose trails located within greenways, parks and natural resource areas. Focus is on recreational value and harmony with natural environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type I: Separate/single-purpose hard-surfaced trails for pedestrians or bicyclists / in-line skaters. • Type II: Multipurpose hard-surfaced trails for pedestrians and bicyclists/in-line skaters. • Type III: Nature trails for pedestrians. May be hard- or soft-surfaced. 	
Connector Trails	Multipurpose trails that emphasize safe travel for pedestrians to and from parks and around the community. Focus is as much on transportation as it is on recreation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type I: Separate/single-purpose hard-surfaced trails for pedestrians or bicyclists / in-line skaters <u>located in independent r.o.w. (e.g., old railroad r.o.w.)</u>. • Type II: Separate/single-purpose hard-surfaced trails for pedestrians or bicyclists/in-line skaters. <u>Typically located within road r.o.w.</u> 	
On-Street Bikeways	Paved segments of roadways that serve as a means to safely separate bicyclists from vehicular traffic.	<p>Bike Route: Designated portions of the roadway for the preferential or exclusive use of bicyclists.</p> <p>Bike Lane: Shared portions of the roadway that provide separation between motor vehicles and bicyclists, such as paved shoulders.</p>	
All-Terrain Bike Trail	Off-road trail for all-terrain (mountain) bikes.	Single-purpose loop trails usually located in larger parks and natural resource areas.	
Cross-Country Ski Trail	Trails developed for traditional and skate-style cross-country skiing.	Loop trails usually located in larger parks and natural resource areas.	
Equestrian Trail	Trails developed for horseback riding.	Loop trails usually located in larger parks and natural resource areas. Sometimes developed as multipurpose with hiking and all-terrain biking where conflicts can be controlled.	

Additional From:

Larocaster, R. A. Ed. Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines. Alexandria, VA, National Recreation and Park Association, 1993.
 Mervin, J.C. and J. R. Hill. Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines. Alexandria, VA, National Recreation and Park Association, 1995.

APPENDIX D. BARRIER FREE ACCESSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR PARKS

Recreational areas, facilities, and programs play an important role in the life of the community; therefore it is essential that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy these areas and any programs provided. Federal and state laws prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability, and these laws apply to parks and other recreation lands and programs controlled and operated by local units of government. The DNR has a strong commitment to barrier free recreational opportunities in our Department-managed programs and facilities. This commitment extends to those communities that receive recreation grants.

Under the state Utilization of Public Facilities by the Physically Limited Act (1968 PA 1, as amended) all public facilities, including improved areas used for recreation, must meet the barrier free design requirements contained in the state construction code. Under this act, the administration and enforcement related to barrier free design requirements are vested in the local or state government agency responsible for issuing a building permit. If the project does not require a building permit, administration and enforcement of barrier free design requirements are vested in the Department of Labor and Economic Growth.

Any request for an exception to the barrier free design requirements of the state construction code must be submitted to the Barrier Free Design Board, within the Department of Labor and Economic Growth (517-241-9300). The Barrier Free Design Board has the responsibility to receive, review, and process requests for exceptions to barrier free design specifications; require appropriate equivalent alternatives when exceptions are granted; and receive, process, and make recommendations for barrier free design rules.

Because the state construction code does not apply to many recreation facilities, it is essential that you also be aware of and understand the existing federal guidelines covering these types of facilities. In July 2004, the federal Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (known as the Access Board) issued updated guidelines, entitled the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG), for new or altered facilities covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-336) or the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (Public Law 90-480). These guidelines should eventually be adopted as enforceable standards. Until that occurs, the existing ADAAG standards must be followed when the two conflict.

Included in the updated ADAAG are technical provisions for a number of types of recreation facilities, including play areas, amusement rides, boating facilities, fishing piers and platforms, golf courses, miniature golf courses, shooting facilities, swimming and wading pools, and spas. Technical provisions for these recreation facilities do not exist in the current AADAG. The Access Board has also proposed guidelines for sports facilities, trails, beaches, and picnic and camping areas. While none of these guidelines has yet been adopted as federal standards, they represent the best information available on developing barrier free recreation facilities and may be upheld in a court of law. Therefore, they should be referred to when designing new or renovated recreation facilities.

A list of public agencies and organizations that can assist you with questions regarding barrier free accessibility and universal design is provided in appendix B.

APPENDIX E. SUGGESTED FACILITY DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

ACTIVITY/ FACILITY	RECOMMENDED SPACE REQUIREMENTS	RECOMMENDED SIZE AND DIMENSIONS	RECOMMENDED ORIENTATION	NO. OF UNITS PER POPULATION	SERVICE RADIUS	LOCATION NOTES
BADMINTON	625 sq. ft.	Example - 17' x 14' Truncated - 23' x 22' With 3' unobstructed over on all sides	Long axis north-south.	1 per 5000	¼ - ½ mile	Usually in school, recreation center or club facility. Safe walking or driving access.
BASKETBALL 1. YOUTH	2400-3000 sq. ft.	46' 6" x 84'	Long axis north-south.	1 per 2000	¼ - ½ mile	Same as badminton. Outdoor courts in neighborhood and community parks, playgrounds, outdoor areas in other park settings.
2. HIGH SCHOOL	5040-7260 sq. ft.	50' x 84'				
3. COLLEGIATE	5000-7950 sq. ft.	50' x 94' with 3' unobstructed space on all sides				
BANDBALL (3-4 WALL)	600 sq. ft. for 4-wall 1000 for 3-wall	20' x 27' - Minimum of 10' in center of 2 wall court. Minimum 20' over wall clearance.	Long axis north-south. Front wall at north end.	1 per 50,000	(5-30 minute travel time)	Best if usually indoor except in multi-use facility. Best usually outdoor in park or recreation setting.
Ice Hockey	22,000 sq. ft. including support area.	rink 85' x 200' Minimum 95' x 183' Additional 5000 sq. ft. support area.	Long axis north-south if outdoor.	Indoor 1 per 100,000 Outdoor- depends on climate	¾ - 1 mile travel time	Climate important consideration affecting number of units. Part as part of multi- purpose facility.
TENNIS	Minimum of 7200 sq. ft. single court (2 courts for complex)	36' x 78', 12' over court or 36' x 60', 12' over court or ball area.	Long axis north-south.	1 total per 2000	¼ - ½ mile	Best in facilities of 2-4. Locate in neighborhood/community park or near school site.
VOLLEYBALL	Minimum of 4000 sq. ft.	50' x 57', 6" minimum clearance on all sides	Long axis north-south.	1 court per 5000	¼ - 1 mile	Same as other court activities (e.g., soccer, basketball, etc.)
BASEBALL 1. OFFICIAL	6.34 - 6.4 acre minimum	• Diamond 32' Pitching distance 30.25' Foul lines min. 320' Center field 400'	Locate some place to obtain drinking water and shade not too hot. Use from home site through obstacles means to run back to front.	1 per 5000 Lighted 1 per 30,000	¼ - ½ mile	Part of neighborhood complex. Lighted as part of community complex.
2. LITTLE LEAGUE	1.2 - 1.4 acre minimum	• Diamond 32' Pitching distance 43' Foul lines 200' Center field 220' - 250'				

ACTIVITY/ FACILITY	RECOMMENDED SPACE REQUIREMENTS	RECOMMENDED SIZE AND DIMENSIONS	RECOMMENDED ORIENTATION	NO. OF UNITS PER POPULATION	SERVICE RADIUS	LOCATION NOTES
FIELD HOCKEY	Year and 1 SA	162 x 300' with a minimum of 3' clearance on all sides	Half person-long axis oriented to southeast. For larger periods, north-south.	1 per 25,000	10-30 minutes travel time	Usually part of baseball, football, or soccer complex in community park or adjacent to high school.
FOOTBALL	Year and 1 SA	162 x 360' with a minimum of 3' clearance on all sides	Same as field hockey.	1 per 20,000	10-30 minutes travel time	Same as field hockey.
SOCCER	1/2 to 2 SA	165 to 225 x 250 to 330 with a 10' minimum clear area on all sides	Same as field hockey.	1 per 10,000	1/2 mile	Number of units depends on popularity. Youth soccer on smaller fields adjacent to schools or neighborhood parks.
GOLF DRIVING RANGE	3 SA is minimum of 25 acres	200 x 500' wide. Add 17' width for each additional tee	Long axis is east-west oriented with clubhouse facing toward northwest	1 per 25,000	30 minutes travel time	Part of golf course complex or separate unit. May be privately operated.
STADIUM RUNNING TRACK	4 SA	Overall width 270' length 600' track width for 8 to 4 lanes is 32'	Long axis in section from north to south to north-south-east with finish line at north-south end	1 per 20,000	15-30 minutes travel time	Usually part of high school or community park complex in combination with football, soccer, etc.
SOFTBALL	1/2 to 2 SA	Base lines 30' Playing area (male) 110' (female) 110' (women) Field 108' (male) 108' (female) 108' (women) 270' (male) 270' (female) 270' (women)	Same as baseball	1 per 10,000 (if also used for youth baseball)	1/2 to 1/4 mile	Slight difference in dimensions for 10" ball play. May also be used as youth baseball.
MULTIPLE RECREATION COURT (BASKETBALL, VOLLEYBALL, TENNIS)	5-10 ac. ft.	125 x 90'	Long axis of courts with primary use north-south	1 per 10,000	1/2 mile	In neighborhood or community parks.
TRAILS	VA	Well defined road. Capacity Rural trails 40 feet/way/mile. Urban trails 90 feet/way/mile.	N/A	1 system per region	N/A	

ACTIVITY/FACILITY	RECOMMENDED SPACE REQUIREMENTS	RECOMMENDED SIZE AND DIMENSIONS	RECOMMENDED ORIENTATION	NO. OF UNITS PER POPULATION	SERVICE RADIUS	LOCATION NOTES
ARCHERY RANGE	Minimum 2,00A	500' long x minimum 12' between targets. Target clear space or sides 30 ft range. Minimum of 30' clear space behind targets. Minimum of 40' x 42' with buffer.	Archer facing north or east (any way)	1 per 50,000	30 minutes drive time	Part of a regional or multi-park complex
COMBINATION SKATE AND TRAMP FIELD (B-STATION)	Minimum 35A	All walls and structures occur within 2" area approximately 1" OC wide by 1" 12" deep. Minimum cleared area is contained within lot. Superimposed segments with 100-yard soil (4 ways). Shed full slope concrete curbs with 16" superimposed segments with 100-yard soil (35 ways)	Center line of length runs north-south with with shorter 'wing' on the east	1 per 50,000	30 minutes drive time	Part of a regional or multi-park complex
GOLF 1. PAR-3 (18-HOLE) 2. 9-HOLE STANDARD 3. 18-HOLE STANDARD	• 60-60A • Minimum 50A • Minimum 110A	• Average length of holes 600-2700 yards • Average length 2200 yards • Average length 6500 yards	Majority of holes on north-south ends	• • 1/25,000 • 1/30,000	15 to 1 hour drive time	9-hole course can accommodate 300 people/day. 18-hole course can accommodate 600-800 people a day. Course may be located in community, district or regional area or park.
SWIMMING POOLS	Value for size of pool and amenities. Usually 1 to 2A size	Swimming minimum of 25 yards x 40' even depth or 3 to 4 feet. Competitive minimum of 25m x 10m. Minimum of 27 square feet of water surface per swimmer. Ratio of 2' deck vs. water	None, although orientation must be taken in regard to location of building or building orientation	1 per 25,000 (Pools should accommodate 25% to 5% of the total population of a line)	45 to 30 minutes travel time	Pools for general community use should be planned for teaching, competitive, and recreational purposes with enough depth to accommodate 1m and 2m diving boards. Located in community park or school site.
BEACH AREA	NA	Beach area should provide 50 sq. ft. of land and 50 sq. ft. of water per user. Turnover ratio is 1. There should be 3'-6" deepening land side of beach.	NA	NA	15 to 1 hour drive time	Should have sand bottom with slope a maximum of 5% (not professional). Diving areas completely segregated from swimming areas. In regions that are parks.

Adapted From:

Lancaster, R. A., Ed. Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines, Alexandria, VA: National Recreation and Park Association, 1983.

Morris, J. D. and J. R. Hall. Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines, Alexandria, VA: National Recreation and Park Association, 1965.

APPENDIX I. COMMUNITY PARK, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE AND GREENWAY PLAN AMENDMENT CERTIFICATION CHECKLIST



Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Grant Management

COMMUNITY PARK, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE, AND GREENWAY PLAN CERTIFICATION CHECKLIST

AMENDMENT

To be used in conjunction with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Grant Management Manual, Appendix I, Section 1.0, and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Grant Management Manual, Appendix I, Section 1.0, and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Grant Management Manual, Appendix I, Section 1.0.

INSTRUCTIONS: Complete, obtain certification signatures and submit this checklist with a locally adopted recreation plan amendment.

All community recreation plan amendments are required to meet the content and local approval standards listed in this checklist and as outlined in the *Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans* provided by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). To be eligible for grant consideration, plan amendments must be submitted to the DNR prior to the grant application deadline **with** a completed checklist that has been signed by an authorized official(s) of the local unit of government(s) submitting the plan.

PLAN AMENDMENT FORMAT

Plan amendments **must** consist of either:

- 1.) A complete, revised plan with a letter of explanation that indicates what aspects of the original plan have been revised and how; or
- 2.) Revised or additional pages to the approved recreation plan, with an explanation of where the new pages fit within the original plan. If the amendment is to be inserted into the existing plan, it must be similar in format to the approved plan and indicate the location for insertion.

Name of Plan: _____

Date Current Plan Expires: _____

List the community names (including school districts) covered by the plan

County: _____

Month and year plan adopted by the community's governing body

PLAN AMENDMENT ELEMENT

INSTRUCTIONS: Please check each box to certify that the listed information is included in the plan amendment submittal.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS

DESCRIPTION OF THE PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

Description of the Method(s) Used to Solicit Public Input Before or During Preparation of the Plan, including a Copy of the Survey or Meeting Agenda and a Summary of the Responses Received

Copy of the Notice of the Availability of the Draft Plan for Public Review and Comment

Date of the Notice: _____

Type of Notice: _____

Plan Location: _____

Duration of Draft Plan Public Review Period (in Calendar or Two-Weeks): _____

Copy of the Notice for the Public Meeting Held after the Two-Week Public Review Period and Before the Plan's Adoption by the Governing Body(ies)

Date of Notice: _____

Name of Newspaper: _____

Date of Printing: _____

Copy of the Minutes from the Public Meeting

AMENDED GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

OTHER ELEMENTS: If the plan amendment includes other updated plan elements, list and briefly describe.

1.

2.

3.

PLAN AMENDMENT ADOPTION DOCUMENTATION

Plans **must** be accepted by the highest level governing body (i.e., city council, county commission, township board). If planning is the responsibility of a Planning Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission, Recreation Advisory Board or other local Board or Commission, the plan should **also** include a resolution from the Board or Commission recommending adoption of the plan by the governing body.

The local unit of government must submit the final plan to both the County and Regional Planning Agency for the information. Documentation that this was done must be submitted with the plan to the DNR.

Items 1, 3 and 4 below are **required** and must be included in the plan.

APPROVAL DOCUMENTATION: For multi-jurisdictional plans, each local unit of government must pass a resolution adopting the plan. Prepare and attach a separate page for each unit of government included in the plan.

- 5. Official resolution of adoption by the governing body dated
- 6. Official resolution of the _____ Commission or board, recommending adoption of the plan by the governing body, dated
- 7. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to County Planning Agency dated
- 8. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to Regional Planning Agency dated

NOTE: For multi-jurisdictional plans, Overall Certification must include the signature of each local unit of government. Prepare and attach a separate signature page for each unit of government included in the plan.

I hereby certify that the recreation plan for

_____ includes the required content, as indicated

_____ (Local Unit of Government)

above and as set forth by the DNR.

Authorized Official for the Local Unit of Government _____ Date _____

This completed checklist must be signed and submitted with a locally adopted resolution plan to:

**GRANTS MANAGEMENT
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL
RESOURCES
PO BOX 30425
LANSING, MI 48909-7925**

DNR USE ONLY - APPROVAL

This recreation plan is approved by the DNR and the community (as) covered by this plan, as noted on page 1 of this checklist. State eligible to apply for recreation grants if eligible.

By: _____ Date _____
Grants Management _____ Date _____

EPIC • MRA – Watertown Charter Township Survey – October/November 2007
[FREQUENCY REPORT of SURVEY RESPONSES – 458 SAMPLE – ERROR ±4.6%]
SEQUENCE # _____

Watertown Charter Township is conducting a survey of residents in order to help township officials better serve the citizens and to assist in planning for the future. This questionnaire has been sent to all households in the township in an effort to capture the widest possible expressions of opinion. Please take a few minutes to complete the questionnaire and return it in the supplied postage-paid envelope. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Are you currently registered to vote at the address to which this questionnaire was delivered?

N = 458

97% Yes

3% No

GO TO Q 2

_01. Voter turnout in elections when local offices or local ballot proposals such as bonding or tax related issues are on the ballot, have much lower turnout than elections when offices such as president or governor are on the ballot. Thinking about local elections in Watertown Charter Township -- would you say that you vote all the time, most of the time, only about half the time, seldom or never?

N = 443

24% All the time

46% Most of the time

16% About half of the time

10% Seldom

4% Never

_02. Overall, do you think Watertown Charter Township is headed in the right direction, or, do you think that things are pretty seriously off on the wrong track?

N = 388

80% Right direction

20% Wrong track

The following is a list of the services that communities provide for their residents to address common problems or issues. For each item, please indicate if you think Watertown Charter Township is doing enough in that area, if you think too much is being done or if more should be done to address a problem. If MORE needs to be done, please indicate if you think much more or somewhat more should be done in the area?

N		MUCH	MORE		Enough	Too Much	unde	
			SOME	Total				
432	20	Working with neighborhood groups	5%	12%	17%	37%	3%	43%
440	21	Providing public police protection	8%	23%	31%	58%	2%	9%
435	22	Attracting businesses to the area	12%	20%	32%	40%	11%	17%
442	23	Providing effective fire protection	4%	10%	14%	74%	5%	7%
439	24	Offering enough activities for young people	6%	14%	20%	44%	5%	31%
429	25	Providing clean, affordable drinking water	10%	12%	22%	39%	3%	36%
441	26	Maintaining township roads	12%	26%	38%	56%	2%	4%
436	27	Controlling population growth and development	19%	25%	44%	37%	6%	13%
436	28	Working cooperatively with other local units of government and county government	6%	12%	18%	47%	2%	33%
440	29	Maintaining parks and recreational facilities	3%	8%	11%	76%	4%	9%
441	30	Providing fair and accurate property tax assessments	14%	19%	33%	52%	7%	8%
436	31	Providing programs for senior citizens	4%	12%	16%	39%	4%	41%
434	32	Making emergency medical response available	4%	15%	19%	63%	3%	15%
428	33	Providing the right budget priorities	10%	18%	28%	38%	1%	33%
437	34	Keeping residents informed about problems, issues, programs and events	15%	24%	39%	54%	1%	6%
439	35	Protecting prime farmland and open space	22%	30%	52%	30%	6%	12%
435	36	Preserving natural vegetation in the township	16%	26%	42%	39%	5%	14%
439	37	Keeping as much of the rural character and historic township landscape as possible	18%	30%	48%	40%	5%	7%
439	38	Preserving as much wildlife habitat as possible	17%	28%	45%	42%	4%	9%
435	39	Preventing excessive soil erosion in the area	12%	19%	31%	46%	2%	21%
434	40	Protecting wetland areas in the township	13%	23%	36%	42%	6%	16%
435	41	Controlling the excessive use of pesticides, herbicides and other chemicals	14%	18%	32%	39%	2%	27%
436	42	Limiting leaf and rubbish burning	9%	10%	19%	57%	12%	12%
436	43	Offering enough recreational opportunities	4%	14%	18%	59%	5%	18%
438	44	Controlling speeding cars on township roads	21%	24%	45%	44%	4%	7%

Os 20-44 RANK ORDER: HIGHEST TO LOWEST "ENOUGH"

N		MUCH	SOME	MORE		Too Much	undec	
				Total	Enough			
440	29	Maintaining parks and recreational facilities	3%	8%	11%	76%	4%	9%
442	23	Providing effective fire protection	4%	10%	14%	74%	5%	7%
434	32	Making emergency medical response available	4%	15%	19%	63%	3%	15%
436	43	Offering enough recreational opportunities	4%	14%	18%	59%	5%	18%
440	21	Providing public police protection	8%	23%	31%	58%	2%	9%
436	42	Limiting leaf and rubbish burning	9%	10%	19%	57%	12%	12%
441	26	Maintaining township roads	12%	26%	38%	56%	2%	4%
437	34	Keeping residents informed about problems, issues, programs and events	15%	24%	39%	54%	1%	6%
441	30	Providing fair and accurate property tax assessments	14%	19%	33%	52%	7%	8%
436	28	Working cooperatively with other local units of government and county government	6%	12%	18%	47%	2%	33%
435	39	Preventing excessive soil erosion in the area	12%	19%	31%	46%	2%	21%
439	24	Offering enough activities for young people	6%	14%	20%	44%	5%	31%
438	44	Controlling speeding cars on township roads	21%	24%	45%	44%	4%	7%
439	38	Preserving as much wildlife habitat as possible	17%	28%	45%	42%	4%	9%
434	40	Protecting wetland areas in the township	13%	23%	36%	42%	6%	16%
433	22	Attracting businesses to the area	12%	20%	32%	40%	11%	17%
439	37	Keeping as much of the rural character and historic township landscape as possible	18%	30%	48%	40%	5%	7%
429	25	Providing clean, affordable drinking water	10%	12%	22%	39%	3%	36%
436	31	Providing programs for senior citizens	4%	12%	16%	39%	4%	41%
433	36	Preserving natural vegetation in the township	16%	26%	42%	39%	5%	14%
433	41	Controlling the excessive use of pesticides, herbicides and other chemicals	14%	18%	32%	39%	2%	27%
428	33	Providing the right budget priorities	10%	18%	28%	38%	1%	33%
432	20	Working with neighborhood groups	5%	12%	17%	37%	3%	43%
436	27	Controlling population growth and development	19%	25%	44%	37%	6%	13%
439	35	Protecting prime farmland and open space	22%	30%	52%	30%	6%	12%

The following is a list of some of the services available to Watertown Charter Township residents provided either by the Clinton County government or from the Township. For each one, please offer a rating for that service, by giving a **Positive Rating** of *excellent or pretty good*, OR a **Negative Rating** of *only fair or poor*. The first area is...

N		POSITIVE			NEGATIVE			unde	
		EXCEL	GOOD	Total	FAIR	POOR	Total		
444	_45	Police protection	8%	59%	67%	18%	6%	24%	9%
443	_46	Fire protection	24%	55%	79%	8%	3%	11%	10%
437	_47	Ambulance services	14%	49%	63%	8%	3%	11%	26%
437	_48	Zoning code enforcement	6%	38%	44%	17%	6%	23%	33%
442	_49	Street and road maintenance	4%	55%	59%	26%	11%	37%	4%
439	_50	Animal control	5%	43%	48%	16%	7%	23%	29%
438	_51	Snow and ice removal	8%	53%	61%	24%	9%	33%	6%
443	_52	Recycling	20%	44%	64%	15%	14%	29%	7%
439	_53	Cemetery upkeep & maintenance	22%	36%	58%	3%	1%	4%	38%
438	_54	Maintenance of township property	16%	55%	71%	6%	1%	7%	22%
439	_55	Building code enforcement	9%	38%	47%	11%	3%	14%	39%
438	_56	The quality of the park system	16%	55%	71%	7%	2%	9%	20%
439	_57	A quality library system	10%	33%	43%	14%	5%	19%	38%
440	_58	Recreational programs and activities	6%	40%	46%	12%	6%	18%	36%
440	_59	Senior citizen programs & services	3%	25%	28%	14%	5%	19%	53%
436	_60	Youth programs and services	4%	30%	34%	13%	6%	19%	47%
436	_61	Ditch cleaning	3%	29%	32%	20%	13%	33%	35%

Qs 45-61 RANK ORDER: HIGHEST TO LOWEST "POSITIVE"

<i>N</i>			POSITIVE			NEGATIVE			undec
			EXCEL	GOOD	Total	FAIR	POOR	Total	
443	_46	Fire protection	24%	55%	79%	8%	3%	11%	10%
438	_54	Maintenance of township property	16%	55%	71%	6%	1%	7%	22%
438	_56	The quality of the park system	16%	55%	71%	7%	2%	9%	20%
444	_45	Police protection	8%	59%	67%	18%	6%	24%	9%
443	_52	Recycling	20%	44%	64%	15%	14%	29%	7%
437	_47	Ambulance services	14%	49%	63%	8%	3%	11%	26%
438	_51	Snow and ice removal	8%	53%	61%	24%	9%	33%	6%
442	_49	Street and road maintenance	4%	55%	59%	26%	11%	37%	4%
439	_53	Cemetery upkeep & maintenance	22%	36%	58%	3%	1%	4%	38%
439	_50	Animal control	5%	43%	48%	16%	7%	23%	29%
439	_55	Building code enforcement	9%	38%	47%	11%	3%	14%	39%
440	_58	Recreational programs and activities	6%	40%	46%	12%	6%	18%	36%
437	_48	Zoning code enforcement	6%	38%	44%	17%	6%	23%	33%
439	_57	A quality library system	10%	33%	43%	14%	5%	19%	38%
436	_60	Youth programs and services	4%	30%	34%	13%	6%	19%	47%
436	_61	Ditch cleaning	3%	29%	32%	20%	13%	33%	35%
440	_59	Senior citizen programs & services	3%	25%	28%	14%	5%	19%	53%

_82. Regardless of how you indicated you would vote earlier, if up to a 3 mill increase used exclusively to fund the Looking Glass Regional Fire Authority AND establish an ambulance service were on the ballot, but the proposal also called for an equal reduction in the general fund millage, would that make you ...

N = 464

- 20% much more likely to vote for the proposal
- 33% somewhat more likely
- 53% **Total MORE LIKELY**
- 47% Would have no influence

_83. Currently, residents of Watertown Charter Township receive police protection as part of the Clinton County Sheriff's Department routine road patrol. Do you think that Watertown Charter Township should establish a police department of its own, or should the Township continue to receive police services from the Sheriff's Department?

N = 444

- 8% Should establish a police department of its own
- 92% Should continue to receive police services from the county sheriff's office

_84. Do you or anyone else in your household ever visit any of the parks or other recreation facilities maintained by the Township?

N = 449

- 18% Yes, respondent has
- 4% Yes, another in the household has
- 35% Yes, respondent and others in household have
- 43% No one has

PLEASE GO TO Q87

_85. Which park or other facility of the Watertown Township Recreation Department did you or another household member most recently use?

N = 255

- 47% Heritage Park
- 44% Looking Glass Park
- 2% The soccer fields
- 6% Wallace Watt Community Center ("the Gym")
- 1% The softball fields

_86. When you or another household member visits a park, what activity do you normally engage in the most?

N = 221

29%	Walking	5%	Canoeing
16%	Kids' playground	4%	Tennis
11%	Picnic	3%	Fishing
11%	Sports	2%	Biking
8%	Family gathering	1%	Aerobics
8%	Relaxing	1%	Festival/parade
		1%	Ice skating

_87 a-b. If Watertown Charter Township has to cut the township budget, what one or two programs or services do you think should be cut first to balance the budget?

N = 280

19%	Recreation	2%	Animal control
12%	Township staff	2%	Cemetery maintenance
5%	Office overhead	2%	Zoning
5%	Park maintenance	1%	Ambulance
5%	Senior programs	1%	Building code enforcement
4%	Recycling	1%	Business recruitment
4%	Trustee salaries	1%	Police
4%	Youth programs	1%	Road maintenance
3%	Ditch cleaning	1%	Roads
3%	Fire department	1%	Sewers
3%	Library	22%	Undecided/don't know

_88 a - b. What one or two programs or services would you want protected the most?

N = 284

30%	Fire department	2%	Environment
20%	Police	2%	Snow removal
9%	Road maintenance	2%	Zoning
6%	Park maintenance	1%	Cemetery maintenance
5%	Recycling	1%	Community center
4%	Roads	1%	Library
3%	Recreation	1%	Youth programs
		11%	Undecided/don't know

_89 a - b. If Watertown Charter Township had additional funding in the future from increased tax revenues from growth in the area, in what one or two new or existing program areas would you like to see any additional funding used for?

N = 289

15%	Pave/improve roads	2%	Water/sewer
12%	Emergency service	1%	Business recruitment
10%	Police	1%	Expand utilities
9%	Parks and recreation	1%	Library
8%	Curbside recycling	1%	More communication
8%	Tax refund	1%	Senior programs
6%	Protect environment	1%	Snow/ice removal
3%	Bike paths	1%	Township hall
3%	Land preservation	2%	Other
2%	Better cable/internet	11%	Undecided/don't know

On another topic...

_90. Would you favor or oppose the establishment of a program that would pay farmers to preserve prime farmland in the area and not to sell their land for development? **[IF FAVOR/OPPOSE]** Would that be strongly or somewhat?

N = 444

27%	strongly oppose
18%	somewhat oppose
45%	Total OPPOSE
29%	somewhat favor
26%	strongly favor
55%	Total FAVOR

_91. If Watertown Township places a tax increase on the ballot for 1 mill to provide funding for a farmland preservation program, which would raise \$240,000 per year to be used to purchase the development rights to prime farmland in the area – the tax increase would cost the owner of a home with a market value of \$100,000 or a taxable value of \$50,000, an additional \$50 per year in taxes. Knowing this, if the election were held today, would you vote yes in favor of the tax increase proposal or no to oppose it?

N = 444

13%	would definitely vote YES
25%	"lean" toward voting YES
38%	Total YES
43%	would definitely vote NO
19%	"lean" toward voting NO
62%	Total NO