

MARATHON TOWNSHIP



2019 Five Year

Parks and Recreation Plan

Draft: December 2018

PREPARED FOR

Marathon Township

4575 Pine Street
Columbiaville, MI 48421

Township Board

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Clerk	Dawn Johnson
Treasurer	Lori Hollis
Trustee	Sandi Glesenkamp
Trustee	Dale Fuller

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Park and Recreation Board

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Plan prepared with assistance from:

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1) INTRODUCTION

A comprehensive and sustainable parks and recreation system is vital to a community's physical and mental health, social interaction, protection of natural resources, and economic growth. Marathon Township has recognized a need for developing a community parks and recreation system and promoting their Township as a quality, sustainable place to live and play. This stems from the growing trends in recreation and the desire to be active, healthy and conscious of the environment.

As an initial step, Marathon Township has chosen to develop a new Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan. This document is intended to serve as a planning tool over the next 5 years for township officials to make decisions related to future park and recreation amenities and improvements. It identifies attainable goals and objectives as well as an action plan that can then be used to focus on key areas for more specific design and budgetary purposes. It has been created under the guidelines established by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Grants Management.

This plan begins with a **community description** to better understand the landscape and demographics of the township. The **administrative structure** is then outlined which describes the governmental and jurisdictional methods by which future decisions will be made. The existing **recreation inventory** describes current resources available to the community and followed by a description of the **planning and public input process** which was used in assembling the goals and objectives. This is followed with a series of **goals and objectives** that were established using recommended planning methods. The goals and objectives are followed by an **action program** describing future projects and funding options. And lastly, the **local adoption** includes the resolution by The Marathon Township Board and Parks and Recreation Board.

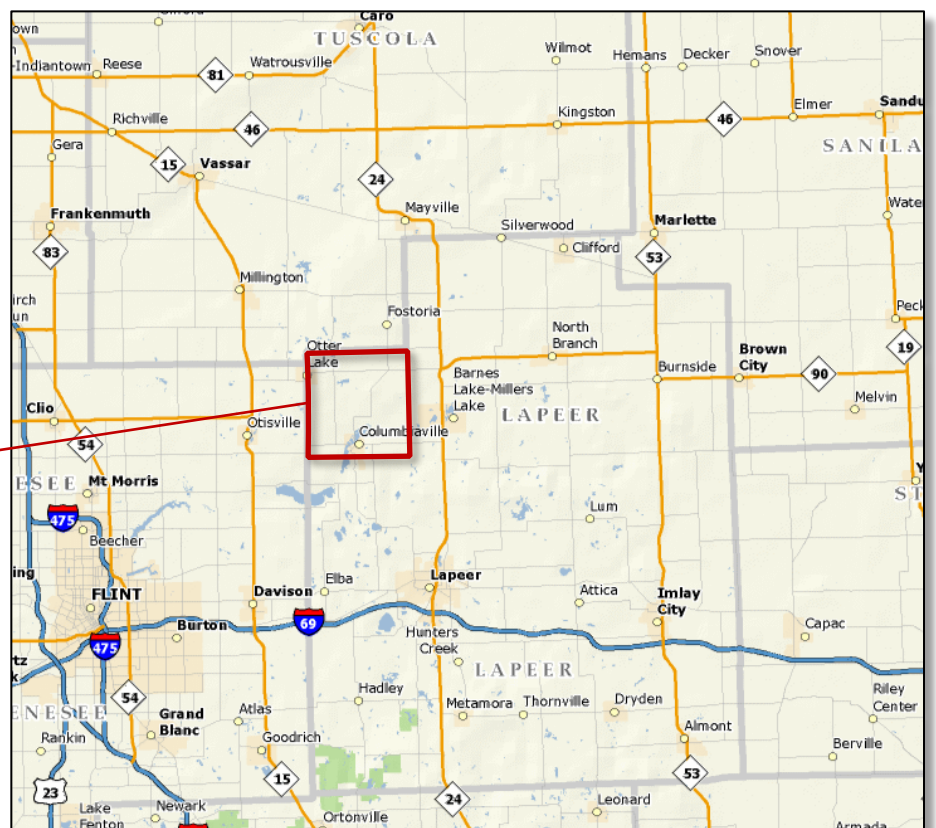


2) COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Location and History

Marathon Township is located in the most northwestern corner of Lapeer County Michigan. It is bounded to the west by Genesee County and the north by Tuscola County. Within Lapeer County, Deerfield and Oregon Townships are located to the east and south of Marathon, respectively. There are two villages located partly within the township: The Village of Columbiaville which is located at the south end of the township and makes up about 1.15 square miles of area. And about 0.4 square miles of the Village of Otter Lake is located in the northwest portion of Marathon Township. The remaining portion of Otter Lake is located in Forrest Township, Genesee County to the west. This leaves the jurisdictional boundary of Marathon Township at approximately 34.4 total square miles; 33.4 square miles of land area and 1.0 square mile of water area.

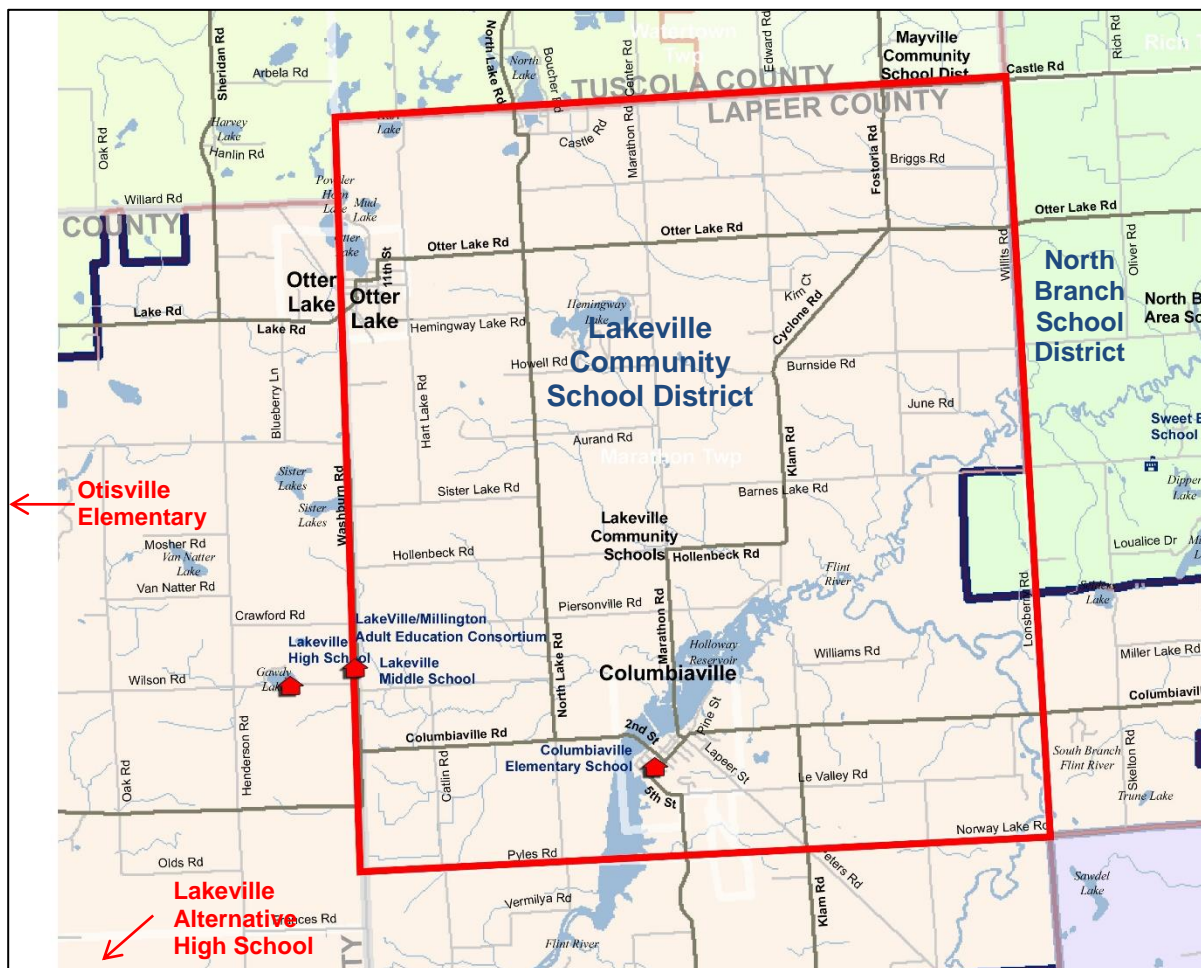
The township was organized in 1839 and at the time, included adjoining Oregon and Deerfield Townships. Silas D. McKeen who ran a sawmill and was the first township clerk named the town Marathon after the famous Greek battlefield. In the early settlement years the town had a great deal of pine and was for years more of a lumbering than farming community using the Flint River to carry lumber. Later the railroad was established through the township connecting the Villages of Columbiaville and Otter Lake. Now known as a 'rails to trails" pathway (Southern Links Trailway), this historic corridor still connects these communities to this day.



Source: MDEQ Geo Webpage Website

Schools

Marathon Township falls within Lakeville Community School District. This is a sub district of the Genesee Intermediate School district which is located partly in Genesee and Lapeer Counties. Public schools in and near the township serve K through 12th grades and include 2 elementary schools, one middle school and 2 high schools in locations shown on the map below. Otisville Elementary is located about 3.5 miles west of the township and Lakeville Alternative High School is located about 5 miles to the southwest. A small portion of the North Branch Area School District (about ¼ square mile) is located on the east Township Boundary south of Barnes Lake Road. There are no Private schools located in the Township



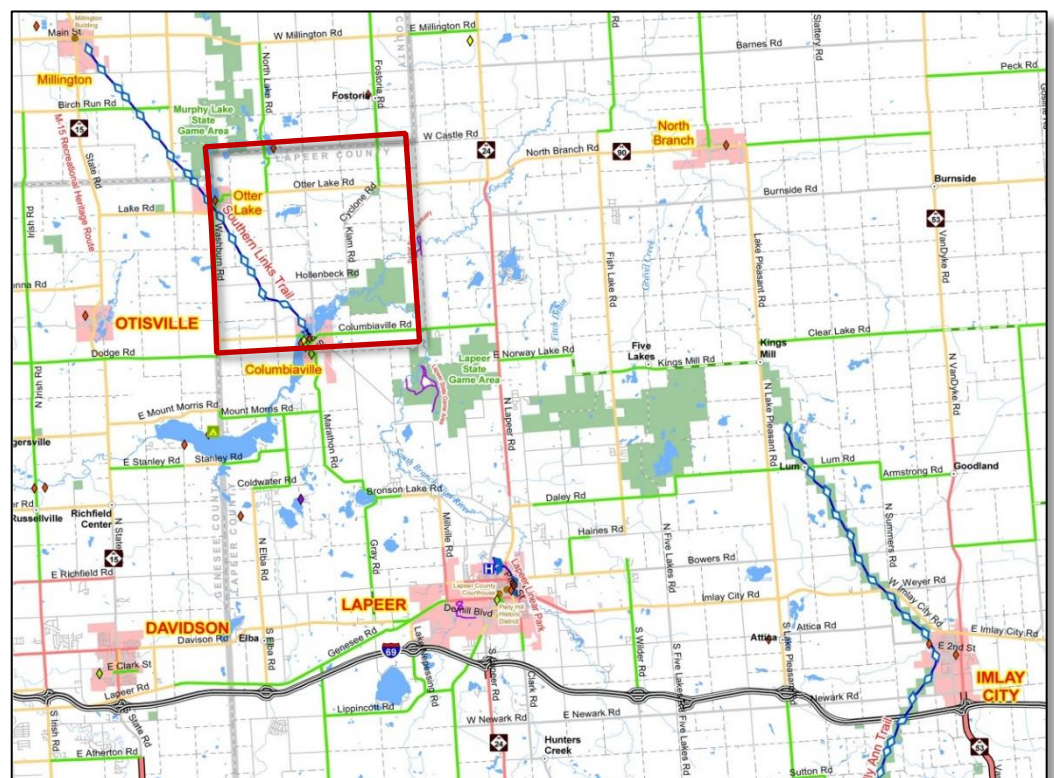
Source: Genesee Intermediate School District Website

Transportation

Marathon Township is somewhat isolated as it has no major federal or state highways within its limits. Its transportation system is made up of mainly county owned primary and local roadways. I-69 is the major east-west federal highway that runs through Lapeer County and is located approximately 8 miles south of Marathon Township. M-15 (about 3 miles west of the Township) and M-24 (about 2 miles east of the Township), are both state highway systems running north-south with access to I-69. According to the Lapeer County Road Commission the highest daily traffic counts are along Columbiaville Road and Otter Lake Road at 2,500 to 5,000 daily trips. A few other sections of road such as North Lake Road carry 1,000 to 2,500 daily trips. The remaining roadways are at 500 or less daily trips.

Because of its indirect access to major highway corridors park development should focus on local community needs as opposed to a large regional facility that would need the support of major highway thoroughfares.

The Southern Links Trailway is a 10.2 mile paved pathway running from Millington (to the north in Tuscola County) south to Columbiaville. Approximately 4 miles runs through Marathon Township along the abandoned railroad corridor. This highly used trailway provides a non-motorized transportation option with plans in the near future to connect Columbiaville to Imlay City were the trail currently continues south to Detroit. In a larger state wide initiative spearheaded by the Governor of Michigan, this trailway is planned to someday be part of the Iron Belle Trail, an extensive trail system that runs from Detroit through the lower and upper peninsulas to Wisconsin. Approximately 1.5 miles of this trail falls within the southern portion of Marathon Township. Besides the recreational benefits, this trailway offers tremendous social and economic growth opportunities to the community.



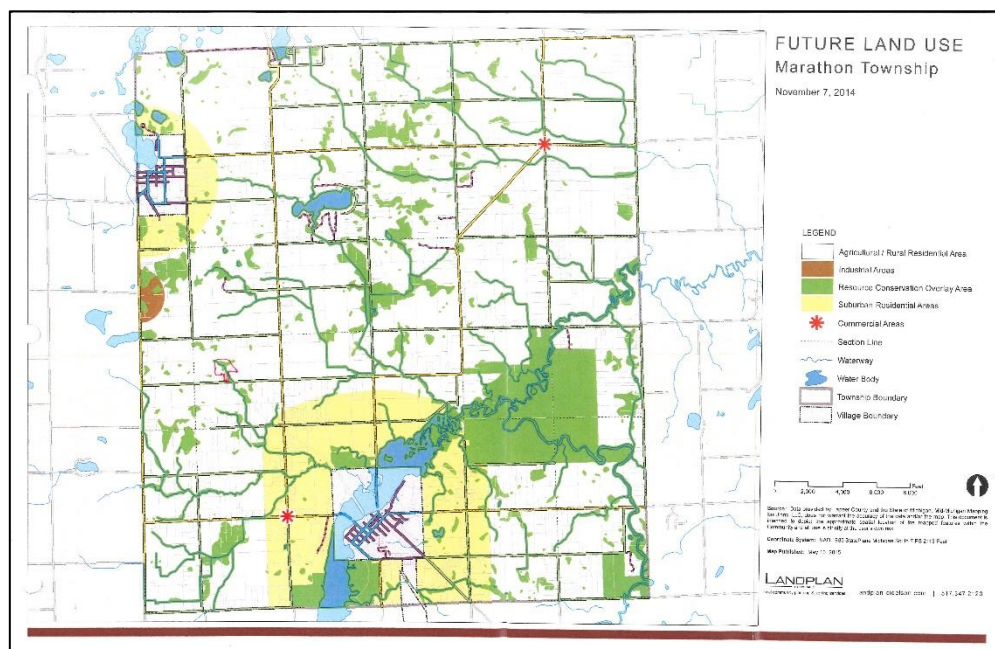
Source: MDOT Bay Region Road and Trail Map

Utilities

There are no public water or sewer systems in Marathon Township. Public water and sewer are available in Columbiaville and sewer is available in Otter Lake. Both communities may have the capacity to extend these services. However, political and financial implications make this opportunity very unlikely. Generally Marathon Township properties are served by private, on-site sewer disposal systems (septic tanks and fields) and private on site wells. As the Township looks to develop their newly acquired park, the feasibility for septic system and well placement should be considered. Private septic systems can vary significantly in size and cost based on various factors related to soils, natural features, and elevation relationships. Another option very common to park development is the placement of vault style restrooms. These can be more cost effective in their initial placement but do carry a long term maintenance cost that the township needs to consider. Private wells are typically more flexible in regards to their placement but both septic systems and wells require minimum isolation distances, per the county health department, that must be complied with.

Land Use

The future land use map below is taken from the 2014 Township Master Plan and shows that the township is predominately agricultural and rural residential. Higher populated areas are planned in the township around the outskirts of Columbiaville and Otter Lake. An industrial area is located south of Otter Lake, off Washburn Road. A commercial area is located west of Columbiaville and another centered in the northeast quadrant of the Township.



Population History and Projections

Marathon Township's 2017 population was 4,532. This includes those areas of Columbiaville and Otter Lake located within the township's perimeter. Historically, the township's population increased significantly between 1960 to 1990 but then remains fairly steady up to 2017 according to the US Census Bureau shown in Table 1. In comparison to Lapeer County, however, the township doesn't show the same extent of growth pattern. This is probably due to its rural character and lack of urbanized neighborhood development that can be found in other areas of the county. Since 2000, the Township population has had a slight decline. This is most likely due to the economic downturn in 2008 causing many Michigan residents to move to other states for employment.

TABLE 1 Historical Population Growth, 1960-2016				
Year	Township Population*	% Change	Lapeer County Population	% Change
1960	2,788	-	41,926	-
1970	3,513	+26.0%	52,361	+24.9%
1980	4,336	+23.4%	70,038	+33.8%
1990	4,286	-1.2%	74,768	+6.8%
2000	4,701	+9.6%	89,600	+19.8%
2010	4,685	-0.3%	89,944	-0.4%
2017	4,532	-3.3%	88,205	-1.9%

* Includes Villages of Columbiaville and Otter Lake areas within Township

Source: US Census Bureau

With a stable economy the Township may anticipate a small amount of growth (1 to 3%) over the next decade. Currently there are no known major factors that would contribute to a significant change in the township population. Examples of this would be a major industrial or manufacturing project or large residential development planned in the area. Therefore, as Michigan and the nation continues to recover from the 2008 recession the township population can be expected to remain reasonably the same over the next five years.

Population Age

Table 2 shows the age and life stage characteristics of Marathon Township’s population by comparison between the years 2010 and 2017. According to the 2017 Census figures, 23.1% of the population is pre-school and school aged (under age 19). This represents a decrease in pre-school and school aged persons from 29.8% in 2010.

The college/pre-career ages (20-24 years) remain relatively the same, while persons in their early career age (25 to 44 years) comprise of 22.9% of the population, a 2.5% decrease from 35.4% in 2010. Those in the late career age group (45-64 years) account for 32.1% which represents a slight increase from 29.1% in 2010. Persons age 65 or over make up 16.6% of the population, a increase of 5.6% from 2010.

TABLE 2 Life Stage Comparisons, 2010 - 20170				
Age Group	Group Characteristics	% of 2010 population	% of 2017 population	% of change
Under 5	Preschool	6.9%	5.1%	-1.8
5-19	School-aged	22.9%	18.0%	-4.9
20-24	College/pre career	4.7%	5.3%	+0.6
25-44	Early Career age	25.4%	22.9%	-2.5
45-64	Late Career age	29.1%	32.1%	+3.0
65+	Retirement Age	11.0%	16.6%	+5.6
Total Population		4685	4532	-3.3

The overall population stayed relatively the same over the past seven years. While the pre-school and school aged groups showed a decrease in population the age group of 45 on up is showing a significant increase as middle aged adults have placed permanent roots in the community. This shows that as the population is aging people are remaining in the area and will likely cause a further increase in those of retirement age in years to come. Recreational needs of this increasingly active age group will need to be met. At the same time, a stable population of the more acitve school aged and younger adult populations concludes that the needs of a wide range of age groups must be considered for the Township.

Median Household Income

According to the US Census Bureau (American Fact Finder) the estimated median household income for Marathon Township was \$51,959 in 2017. This is a 5% decrease from the 2015 median household income of \$54,710. Due to the population increase in those of retirement age its important to also note the mean retirement income in 2017 was \$18,259 and the mean social security income was \$20,371. The American Fact Finder estimated Median Household incomes are shown below in Table 4.

TABLE 4 Marathon Township Median Household Income from 2010 to 2017	
Year	Estimated MHI
2010	\$52,850
2013	\$54,728
2015	\$54,710
2017	\$51,959

Disabilities

The American Community Survey produces various disability demographic estimates based on the Census Bureau’s Population Estimates program. This annual data is available for Marathon Township from 2010 to 2017 and provides the overall disability and breakdowns by gender, age, race and ethnicity, type of disability, family income, employment status, etc... The table below represents the 2017 age group populations first) in total and second) in the number that are physically, mentally, or emotionally disabled but able to “go-outside” the home with assistance. Because it is a household survey, people living in institutions such as nursing homes are not included. The column to the far right shows the percent of increase (or decrease) between the 2015 to 2017 populations.

TABLE 5 DISABILITY OF CIVILIAN NON-INSTITUTIONALIZED PERSONS FOR MARATHON TONWSHIP				
Age Group (b)	2017 Population	With disability	percentage (a)	change since 2015
Under 5 years	229	0	0.0%	0.0
5 - 17 years	671	54	8.0%	+1.5%
18 - 34 years	892	132	14.8%	+3.3%
35 – 64 years	1,988	299	15.0%	-0.2%
65 – 74 years	514	158	30.7%	+5.3%
75 years +	238	129	54.2%	-15.6%
Total Population	4532	772	17.0%	+0.9%

- a) Percentage is based on the total population for that particular age group
- b) The U.S. Census break down of age groups for this demographic are different than the age groups shown for life stage populations under Table 2.

Overall the population of those with disabilities has increased in Marathon Township. These figures will likely continue to increase as life expectancy rises and modern medicine continues to improve the survival rate of those with significant injuries, illnesses, and birth defects. With this in mind, as well as Michigan’s building code requirements and the requirements of the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act, all development, including recreational and park improvements, must provide reasonable access for those with disabilities. To take that one step further, the most effective approach is to reach an overall community demographic through “universal design.” Universal Design is a fairly new concept that emerged from “barrier free” or “accessible design.” It can be defined as the design of products and environments to be usable by *all* people, to the greatest extent possible regardless of ability or disability. The principals of Universal Design are encouraged in new projects whenever feasible.

Water Resources

Marathon Township falls within the upper reaches of the Flint River Watershed which is part of the larger Saginaw Bay Watershed that flows into Lake Huron. There are several rivers, streams, and drainage tributaries meandering throughout the township. The most significant being the Flint River which flows from the southeast corner of the township northwest over 3 miles before entering Holloway reservoir just north of Columbiaville. The North branch of the Flint River flows from the east (north of Barnes Lake Road) to the west about 2.5 miles where it merges with the Flint River before entering the reservoir. The Holloway reservoir (aka: Holloway Lake) is also a significant water resource. Although much of it is located in Columbiaville the reservoir stretches north and south of the village limits into the township making it a notable recreational amenity for the township's consideration.

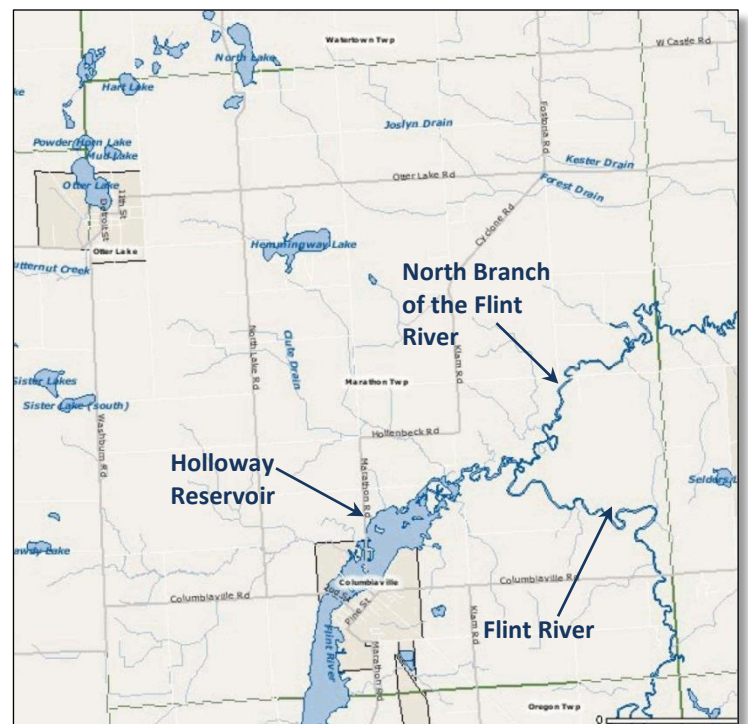
Holloway Reservoir Background:

Source: Holloway Lake Association Website

Earl L. Holloway, the longtime head of the Flint Water Plant during the 1940s held what his critics called a “wild dream,” the creation of a huge reservoir on the Flint River to meet the growing demand for drinking water by residential and industrial users in the City of Flint. In 1955, after years of debate and water restrictions, a dam costing \$1 Million dollars was placed on the Flint River and the reservoir area was prepared. Water was backed up 8 miles, 2000 acres of land was flooded, and numerous bridges and roads located. In 1968, the City switched to the City of Detroit water system as its source.

Today, local residents and many from afar enjoy this lake for a variety of recreational uses including fishing, canoeing, kayaking, and ice staking. In the village, the lake is surrounded by several residential homes with a few public parks and access points. In the township, larger tracks of land, abutting the lake, are privately owned or owned by the Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission (GCPRC). The popularity of this lake has warranted the creation of the Holloway Lake Association who are stewards of preserving the lake and organizing lake events. The GCPRC, lake association, and village are all partners the township can collaborate with regarding recreation opportunities involving the lake.

There are several other county drainage tributaries that convey surface water across the township and ultimately outlet to the Holloway Reservoir, Flint River, and North Branch of the Flint River. Hemmingway Lake, located entirely in the township is roughly 90



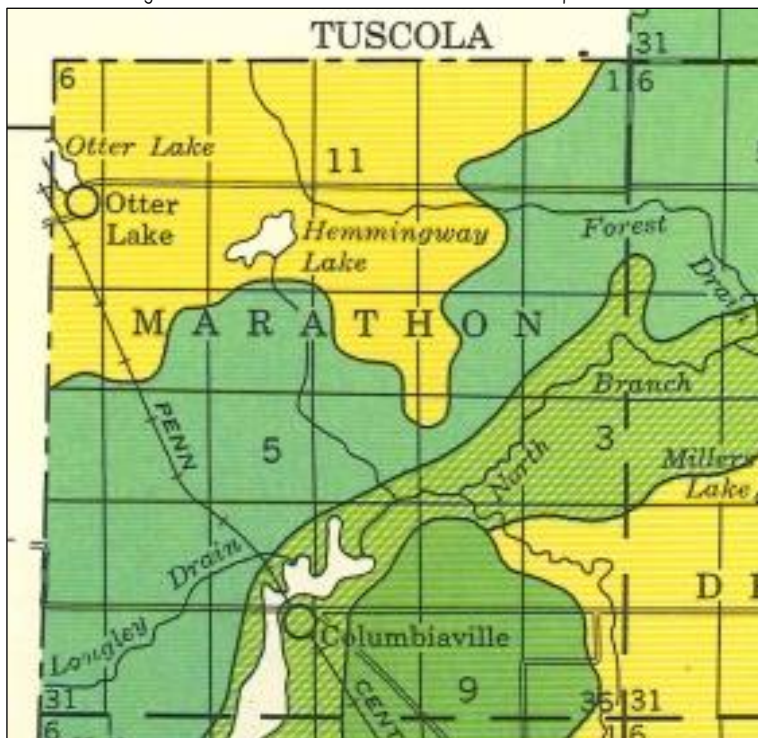
acres and surrounded by platted subdivisions with residential homes.

Most water resources in the township are under jurisdiction of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality or Lapeer County Drain Commissioner. Any park improvements made near or within these jurisdictions must be coordinated with the appropriate agency.

Soils

The 1972 soil survey for Lapeer County, completed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, shows 4 types of general soil classifications within Marathon Township.

Generally, the northwesterly portion of the township is described as gently sloping to very steep well drained soils of loamy sand to sandy clay subsoils. The middle portion of the township north of and parallel to Holloway reservoir and the river is described as gently sloping somewhat poorly drained clay to silt loam sub soils. The southern portion is described as gently sloping to strongly sloping well drained and moderately drained soils of loam and clay loam. There is also a well-defined strip of land area running along the Reservoir and River that is described as level to undulating with well drained soils of sand and loamy sand on outwash plains and level and poorly drained soils on bottom lands typical of river beds with floodplain. Having an understanding of the communities' soil characteristics can be useful to evaluate the development potential of a particular site and the efforts to manage natural resources and open green space in conjunction with recreational development.



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
MICHIGAN AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
GENERAL SOIL MAP
LAPEER COUNTY, MICHIGAN

- 1 Roselms-Paulding association: Level to undulating, somewhat poorly drained to very poorly drained soils that have a clay subsoil; on lake plains
- 2 Carlisle-Lupton-Tawas association: Level, very poorly drained, peat and muck soils; on plains and in depressions
- 3 Chelsea-Sloan-Cohoctah association: Level to undulating, well-drained soils that have a sand and loamy sand subsoil, on outwash plains; and level, poorly drained soils that have a silt loam to fine sandy loam subsoil, on flood plains
- 4 Copac-Belding-Brookston association: Level to gently sloping, somewhat poorly drained and poorly drained soils that have a sandy loam to clay loam subsoil; on till plains
- 5 Copac-Blount-Kibbie association: Level to gently sloping, somewhat poorly drained soils that have a dominantly clay loam to silt loam subsoil; on till plains, outwash plains, and lake plains
- 6 Conover-Blount-Brookston association: Level to gently sloping, somewhat poorly drained and poorly drained soils that have a dominantly clay loam subsoil; on till plains
- 7 Fabius-Wasepi-Mussey-Gilford association: Level to gently sloping, somewhat poorly drained and poorly drained soils that have a sandy loam to gravelly clay loam subsoil; on outwash plains and lake plains
- 8 McBride-Marlette association: Gently sloping to strongly sloping, well drained and moderately well drained soils that have a sandy loam to clay loam subsoil; on till plains and moraines
- 9 Lapeer-Miami-Celina association: Gently sloping to strongly sloping, well drained and moderately well drained soils that have a dominantly loam to clay loam subsoil; on till plains and moraines
- 10 Miami-Celina-Morley association: Gently sloping to strongly sloping, well drained and moderately well drained soils that have a clay loam and clay subsoil; on till plains and moraines
- 11 Boyer-Montclam-McBride association: Gently sloping to very steep, dominantly well-drained soils that have a loamy sand to sandy clay loam subsoil; on outwash plains, till plains, and moraines
- 12 Boyer-Miami-Lapeer association: Gently sloping to very steep, well-drained soils that have a sandy loam to clay loam subsoil; on outwash plains, till plains, and moraines

Potential Natural Features and Conservation Areas

Developed by U of M – Flint, Center for Applied and Environmental Research (CAER)

Saginaw Bay Watershed





Map Legend


Potential Conservation Areas	
■	Priority One
■	Priority Two
■	Priority Three

Existing Green Infrastructure	
■	Federal
■	State
■	Regional
■	County
■	City, Township, or Village
■	Non-Governmental Organization
■	Private Conservation/Recreation Land

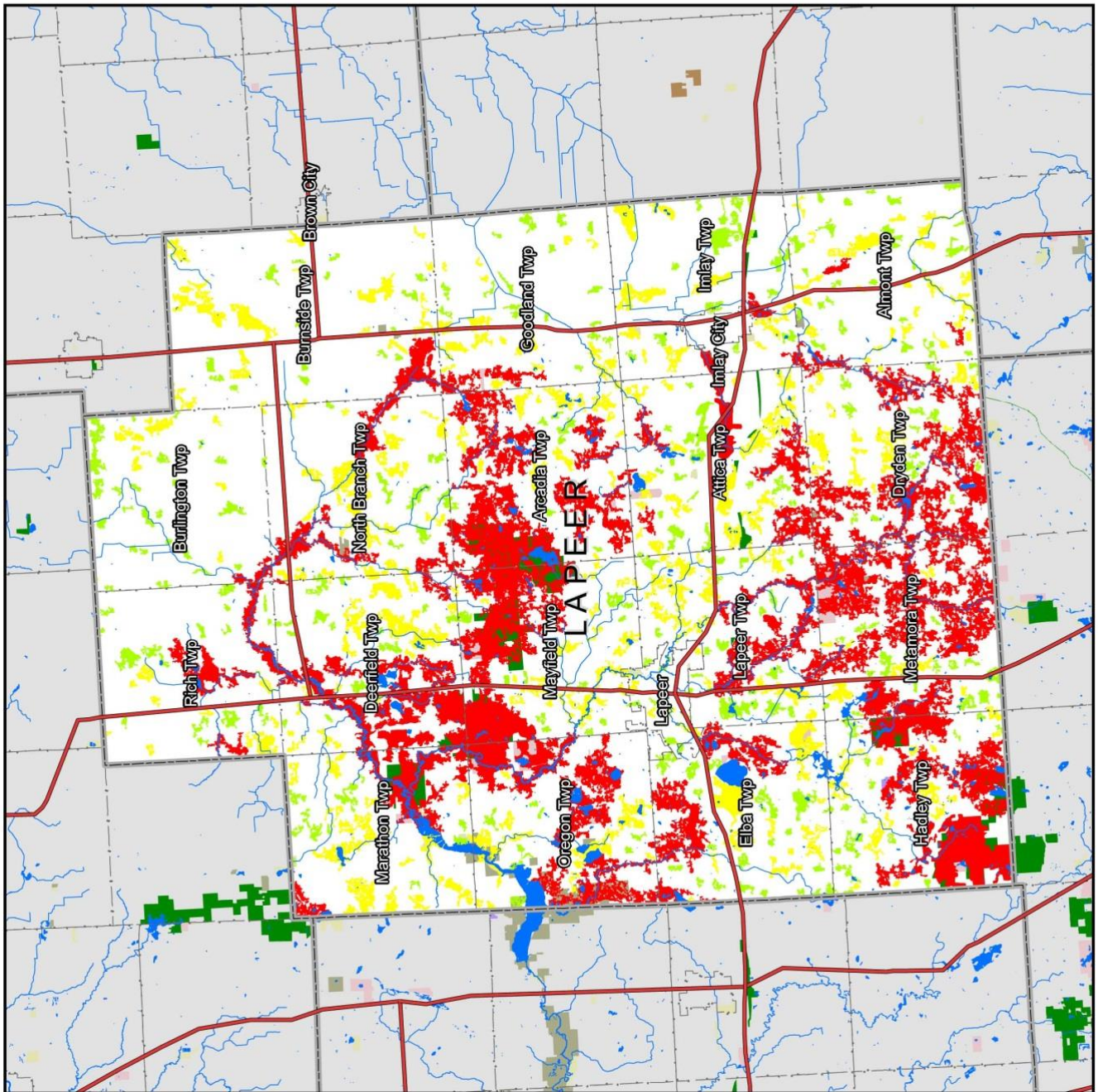
	County Boundaries
	Municipal Boundaries
	Major Roadways
	Rivers and Streams
	Lakes

1:310,000





GLS GreenLinks
Connecting Communities, Planning Growth.
A Green Network for the Genesee, Lapeer and St. Clair Region



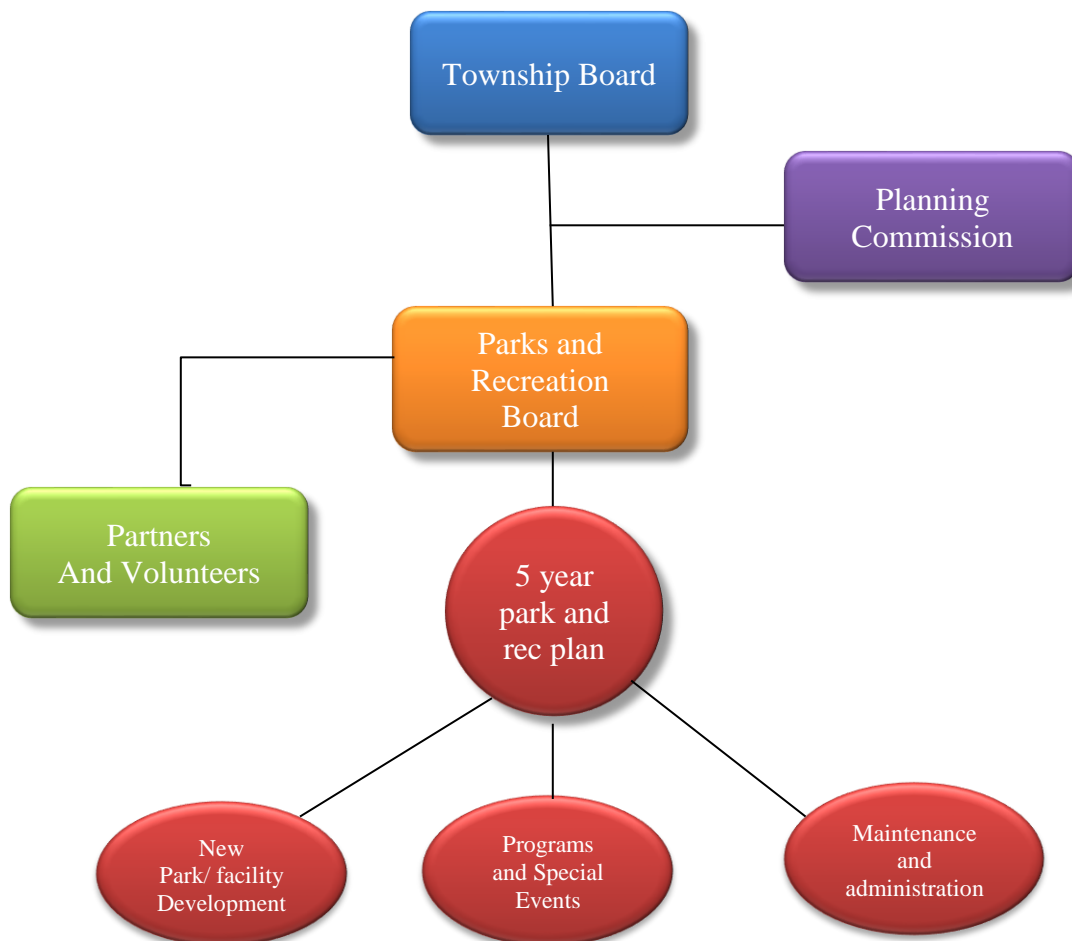
3) ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE, FUNDING, & PARTNERSHIPS

Township Administration

The Marathon Township Parks and Recreation Board was established in November of 2012 under Public Act 156 Of 1917. The Park and Rec. Board is comprised of 5 members; a chairman, vice chairman, secretary, and 2 additional residents of the township. One member of each the Township Board and Planning Commission sit on the Park and Rec Board as liaisons.

The Park and Rec Board coordinates and oversees park events, programming, projects, administrative duties, etc. The township has, over the past several years, set aside funds to establish a working park and recreation budget. The Park and Rec Board oversees and coordinates various park projects and objectives of this Plan working with community partners and volunteers as appropriate. They make recommendations to the Township Board related to all development, maintenance and planning expenses, however, the Township Board has final approval of distribution of any township funds.

Below is a graphical representation of the Township’s administrative structure related to parks and recreation.



Funding and Budgets

Currently, 2.0% of the Township's general fund is allocated toward Parks and Recreation projects. This excludes general maintenance which is paid for out of the general fund to cover all township facilities. The Township's fiscal year runs from April 1 to March 31. The Treasurer presents the yearly annual budget for allocation of funds to the Township Board for approval. This provides the main source, within the township's budget, for funding recreational projects and can be used for local matches and to fund smaller projects. For fiscal year 2018-2019 the Township has budgeted \$17,000.00 for parks and recreation projects and hopes to keep next year's budget at the current level. Information regarding other sources of funding is described under the Action Program section of this plan.

Volunteers and Partnerships

Community partners provide support, insight, technical, and "hands on" assistance for future planning and implementation. The Parks and Recreation Board recognizes the valuable resources these groups are to the community. They are committed to building on existing relationships and cultivating new ones so that a sustainable parks system can be developed. This is also an important component toward building positive social interactions and economic growth within the community and on a regional scale as well.

Currently the Township plays an active role in the Southern Links Trailway Group in that members from the Township administration hold positions on both the Management Council and Friends Group that make up the SLT Group. The Management Council serves in an advisory capacity to oversee trail matters such as maintenance and operations. The Friends Group plays an advocacy role, organizing events, fund raising, and promoting the trail. They each include one member of the following communities: Millington Township, Village of Millington, Marathon Township, Village of Columbiaville, Village of Otter Lake, and Forest Township. Their operating budget is established by way of contributions from these communities and fund raising.

Present and Future Partnerships include:

- Southern Links Trailway Group
- Otter Lake VFW
- Otter Lake Lions Club
- Columbiaville Rotary Club
- Holloway Lake Association
- Genesee County Parks and Recreation
- Genesee County Metro. Planning Comm.
- Deerfield Recycling
- MSU Lapeer County Master Gardeners
- GLTA (Lapeer County Bus Transportation)
- Lapeer County Planning Commission
- Lakeville Schools
- Columbiaville Sportsman's Club
- Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance
- Michigan Nature Association
- The Disability Network
- Local Boy Scout Clubs
- Great Lakes Bioregional Land Conservancy
- Lapeer County Community Foundation
- League of Michigan Bicyclists

4) RECREATION INVENTORY

Existing Facilities

Marathon Township currently owns and maintains one park facility in their community. Along with this Township park, the following recreation inventory lists public and private recreation areas and facilities in and around Marathon Township under control of other entities. The Township can use this inventory as a basis for determining new and/or specific recreational amenities needed in the Township.

As in many communities in Michigan, the local school districts provide a valuable resource of facilities and programs for local community recreation. For this reason, facilities provided by school districts have been included in the Recreation Inventory.

Private recreation developments are important because they can relieve the demand and use pressures on public facilities. These facilities can address a wide range of interests, including golf courses, sports fields, camp grounds, bowling centers, rifle ranges, batting cages, etc. Private recreational amenities located within apartment complexes and/or condominiums have not been included. Thriving local businesses that cater to recreational uses can also be a telling indicator of demands by locals and non-locals. Good examples of this are the private campground in the township and the bike and canoe rental shop in Columbiaville. If these businesses are thriving it indicates a heavy non-local recreational demand in the areas of camping, biking, and canoeing/kayaking.

Over the years Marathon Township has been able to lean on its sister communities of Otter Lake and Columbiaville as well as the nearby Genesee County Parks system to provide parks and programming for its residents. As the Park and Recreation Board contemplates new opportunities the following inventory will assist them in developing facilities and programs that compliment, rather than duplicate (unless warranted), those services already being offered.

DNR Grant History

In 2013 the Township received an **MDNR-Trust Fund Grant (TF-13-028)** in the amount of \$98,625 for the acquisition of 23 acres of vacant land adjacent to the Southern Links Trailway (aka: Iron Belle Trail), in order to create the Township's first community park. The acquisition was finalized in 2014. The Township looks forward to implementing various park amenities at this beautiful community asset for the enjoyment of its residents and visitors for years to come.

MARATHON TOWNSHIP PARK

Location: Hollenbeck Road
west of N. Lake Road

Size: 23 acres

Ownership: Marathon Township

Type: Community Park
along the Southern Links Trailway.

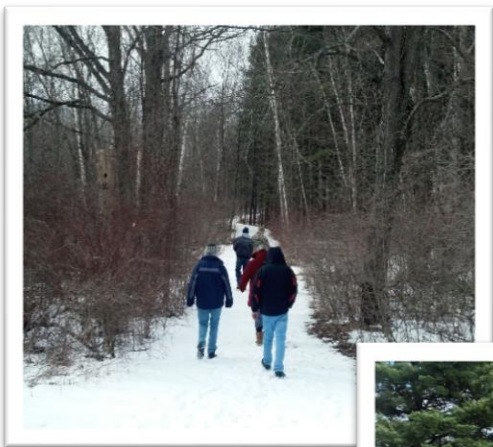
Service Area: Marathon Township,
Columbiaville, Otter Lake, and Forrest
Township

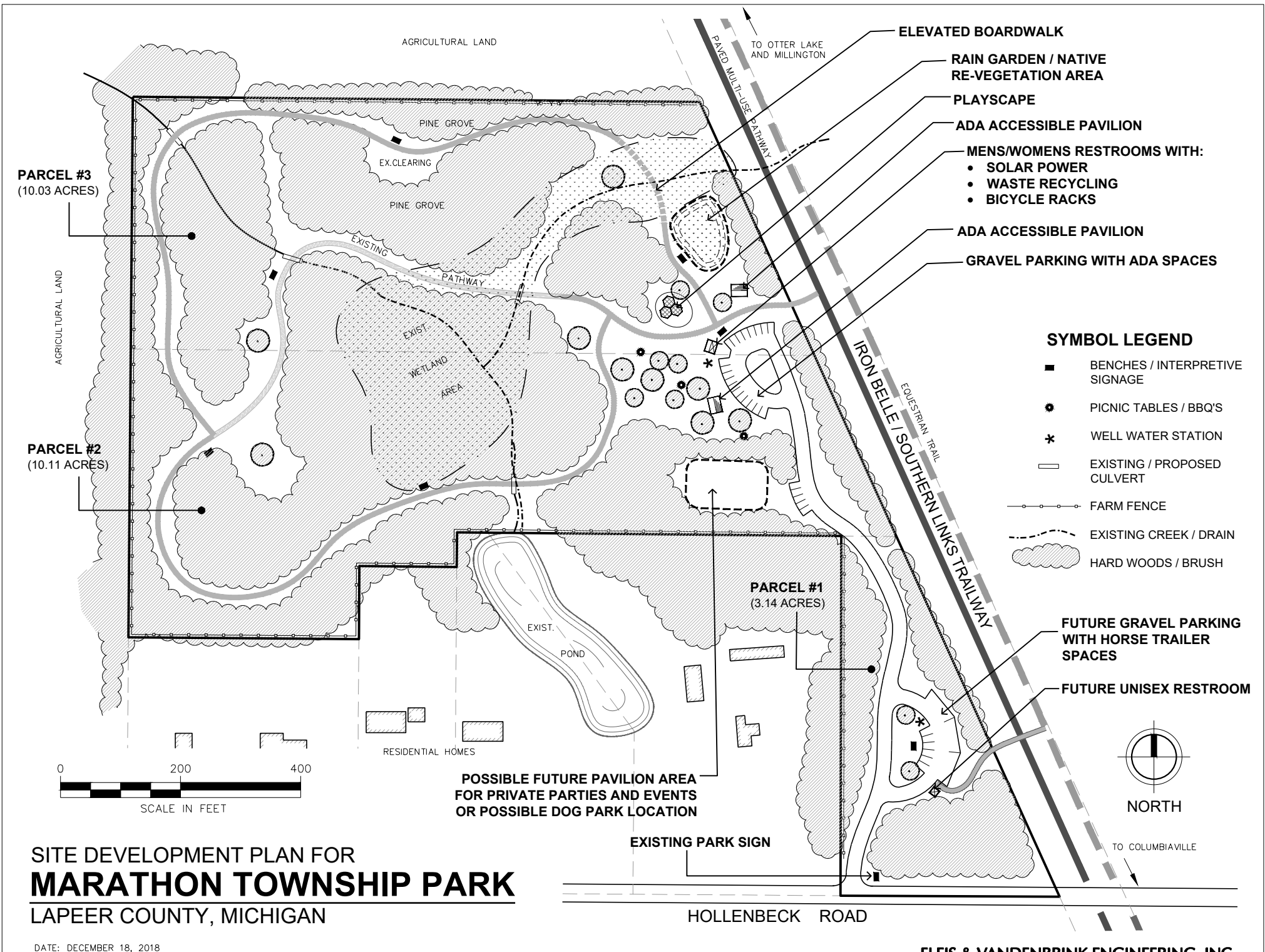
Accessibility Rating: 1 (see the following for description)

Current Recreational Amenities: gravel drive, bench,
some picnic tables and signage, walking trails and nature viewing.

Potential Amenities: Parking, restrooms, Pavilion, SLT trail connection, improved walking
trails and overlooks, ADA accessibility, playscape, water fountain, lighting, interpretive
signage

MDNR Grant Received: MDNR-Trust Fund Grant (TF-13-028) for acquisition. see page 15





AGRICULTURAL LAND

PARCEL #3
(10.03 ACRES)

PARCEL #2
(10.11 ACRES)

AGRICULTURAL LAND

PINE GROVE

EX. CLEARING

PINE GROVE

EXISTING
PATHWAY

EXIST.
WETLAND
AREA

EXIST.
POND

RESIDENTIAL HOMES

POSSIBLE FUTURE PAVILION AREA
FOR PRIVATE PARTIES AND EVENTS
OR POSSIBLE DOG PARK LOCATION

EXISTING PARK SIGN

HOLLENBECK ROAD

PAVED MULTI-USE PATHWAY
TO OTTER LAKE
AND MILLINGTON

ELEVATED BOARDWALK

RAIN GARDEN / NATIVE
RE-VEGETATION AREA

PLAYSCAPE

ADA ACCESSIBLE PAVILION

MENS/WOMENS RESTROOMS WITH:
• SOLAR POWER
• WASTE RECYCLING
• BICYCLE RACKS

ADA ACCESSIBLE PAVILION

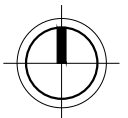
GRAVEL PARKING WITH ADA SPACES

SYMBOL LEGEND

- BENCHES / INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE
- PICNIC TABLES / BBQ'S
- * WELL WATER STATION
- ▭ EXISTING / PROPOSED CULVERT
- FARM FENCE
- - - EXISTING CREEK / DRAIN
- ☁ HARD WOODS / BRUSH

FUTURE GRAVEL PARKING
WITH HORSE TRAILER
SPACES

FUTURE UNISEX RESTROOM



NORTH

TO COLUMBIAVILLE

IRON BELLE / SOUTHERN LINKS TRAILWAY
EQUESTRIAN TRAIL

SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR
MARATHON TOWNSHIP PARK
LAPEER COUNTY, MICHIGAN

DATE: DECEMBER 18, 2018

FLEIS & VANDENBRINK ENGINEERING, INC.

Accessibility Assessment

Many communities are becoming more aware of the greater numbers of persons with disabilities and the challenges they face on a daily basis. This growing population is due in part as life expectancy increases and modern medicine continues to increase the survival rate of those with significant injuries, illnesses, and birth defects. It is essential for social structure, awareness, and economic growth, that communities recognize this growing population and make a commitment to provide safe and accessible recreation to residents of all ages and abilities.

Generally, disabilities include mobility impairments, cognitive impairments, hearing impairments, and visual impairments. But recreation should not be limited to a certain group. The most effective approach to reach an overall community demographic is through universal design. Universal design is a fairly new concept that emerged from “barrier free” or “accessible design”. It can be defined as the design of products and environments to be useable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, regardless of ability or disability.

The MDNR has established a ranking system to determine the accessibility status for parks and recreation planning. This ranking system uses points 1 through 5 to rate a facility based on the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG). A visual inspection was conducted of the park to determine compliance with ADAAG standards and using following the MDNR rating system below.

Accessibility Rating	Definition
1	None of the facilities/ park areas meet accessibility guidelines
2	Some of the facilities/ park areas meet accessibility guidelines
3	Most of the facilities/ park areas meet accessibility guidelines
4	The entire facility/ park area meets accessibility guidelines
5	The entire facility/park was developed/renovated using the principle of Universal Design

Currently, this park is undeveloped therefore, the Township will make a valid effort toward implementing accessibility in all future projects and will strongly consider the concepts of Universal Design whenever feasible.

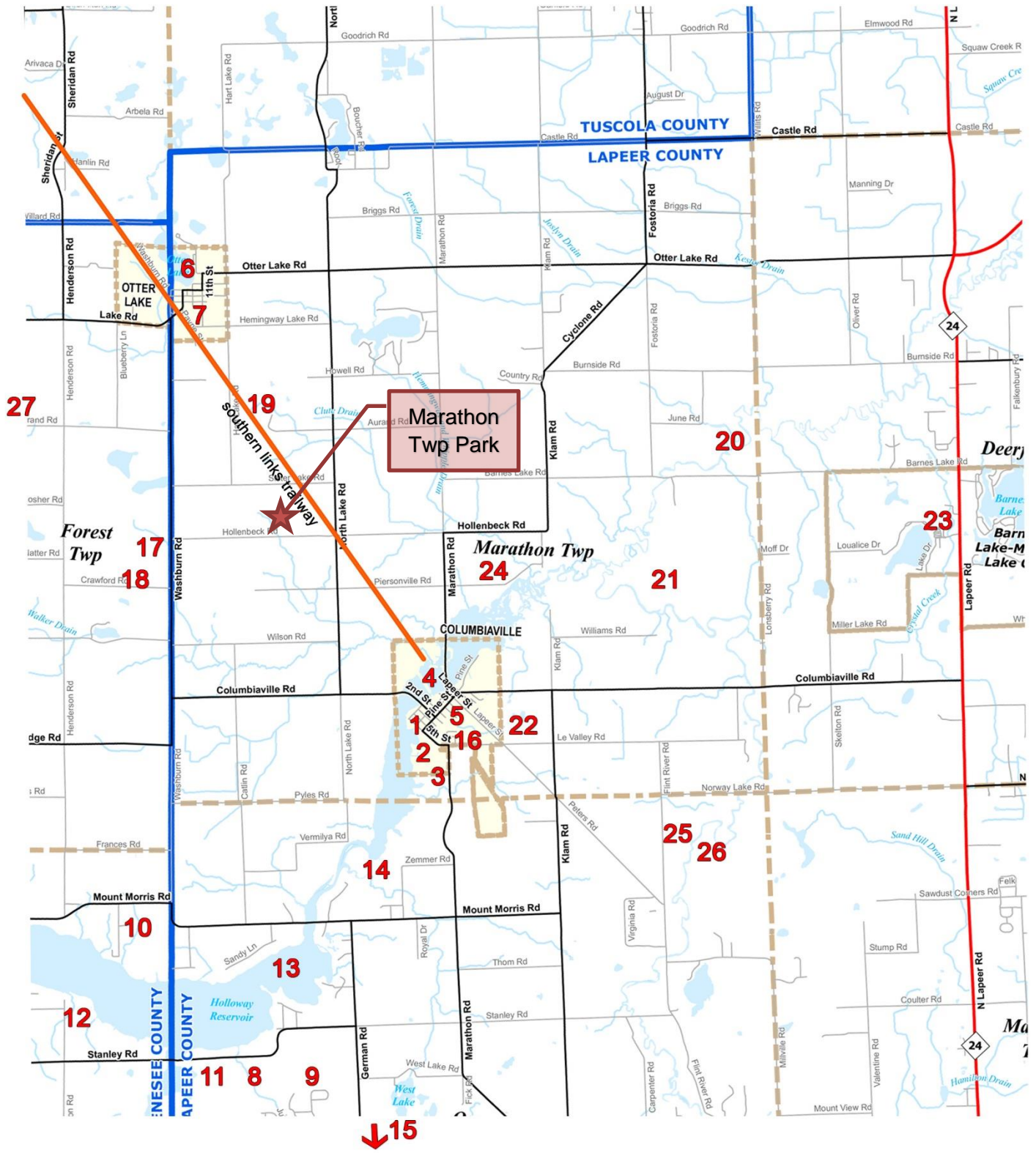
Existing Facilities Inventory

Each facility is numbered below and its location corresponds to the Facilities Map on page 18.

Owned by Village of Columbiaville		
1	Marina Park	Boat docking area with picnic amenities for users of the Holloway Reservoir,
2	Levi Cutting Park	Boat launch and picnic amenities
3	Sports Park	Various Sports fields including disc golf and ball tournaments
4	Veterans Memorial Park	picnic areas with pavilion. Future plans call for a boardwalk and fishing dock
5	Bert Vermilya Park	Pavilion, band shell, basketball and roller hockey courts. This park is used for Columbiaville Days activities
Owned by Village of Otter Lake		
6	Otter Lake Campground	Village Campground, Boat Launch, Pavilion, Beach, Tennis, basketball courts,
7	Village Skate Park	Skate Park
Owned by Genesee County Parks and Recreation		
8	Hogbacks Recreation Area	Cross country skiing, fishing, restrooms, trails, wildlife areas
9	Elba Equestrian Complex	Camping, picnic areas, restrooms, hiking and equestrian trails, wildlife areas
10	Wolverine Campground	Ball fields, beach, boat launch, camping, fishing, picnic areas, playground, restrooms, trails
11	Toboggan Hill	Restrooms and sledding hill
12	Walleye and Pike Boat Launch	Boat launch, fishing, picnic areas, restroom, snowmobile area
13	Holloway Reservoir Regional Park	Land encompassing reservoir, under control of GCP&R
14	Zemmer Park	Boat Launch, fishing, picnic areas, restrooms, wildlife areas
Owned by Lapeer County		
15	Torzewski Park	Water Park, 2 pavilions, nature trails, fishing on Pero Lake
Nearby Public Schools		
16	Columbiaville Elementary School	Playground w/ equipment. For public use
17	Lakeville Middle School	Shared with high school
18	Lakeville High School	3 Ball fields, 1 soccer field, football field and outdoor track, 1 playscape. For public use

Nearby Public or Semi-public, or Private Facilities (not under jurisdiction of the Township)		
19	Southern Link Trailway	10.2 mile non-motorize pathway from Columbiaville north to Millington Part of Iron Belle Trail from Southeast Michigan to the Upper Peninsula
20	Michigan Nature Assoc. Sanctuary	Myron and Isabel Zucker Memorial, 70 acres of preserved land with nature trails
21	Michigan State Game Area	hunting, fishing, canoeing, etc... in southeast portion of township and beyond
22	Great lakes Bioregional Land Conservancy	109 acre private facility offering nature educational programs on pre schedule basis
23	Kings Landing Campground	Privately owned Campground for public use
24	Camp Taha	Privately organized religious Youth Camp
25	Wolverine Christian Camp	Privately organized religious Youth Camp
26	Oxbow Campground	Privately owned
27	Covenant Hills Camp & Retreat	Privately owned religious Camp

Existing Recreation Facilities Map



5) PLANNING AND PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

Planning Methods and Public Input

Providing community recreational facilities most effectively cannot be done without some basis from which the type, quantity, location, need, and priority have been determined. Several methods for determining a community's recreation needs and priorities have been identified. These include, but are not limited to; observed use levels for existing facilities, comparisons of recreational facilities between similar communities, unique opportunities for certain types of facilities, guidelines or standards based on quantity per population, and projected population growth.

Citizen opinion on recreation priorities is a key consideration in plan development. It is important to involve the public early in the process through public meetings, surveys, or other means. Early citizen involvement not only helps in defining needs and priorities, it also keeps the public informed about what is going on. This in turn helps to build support and to avoid unnecessary controversy as well as eliminating unnecessary or poorly planned expenditures.

For this recreation plan the Park and Rec Board offered five opportunities for public participation prior to adoption of this plan. **First**, a public **survey** was developed that consisted of 10 questions related to parks, programs, and new facilities. **Second**, a **public workshop** was held to inform the public and gather their comments by way of planning activities. **Third**, the draft plan was presented at a regular public meeting of the Park and Recreation Board which was advertised in the local paper. **Fourth**, the public was notified of the 30-day draft plan review period in which they could review the plan and make comments prior to adoption. A copy of the draft plan was posted on the Township's website and was available at the Township Hall. **Lastly**, a public hearing was held at a Township Board meeting prior to final adoption.

Survey Questionnaire:

A survey questionnaire was developed to gain the public's thoughts related to current recreation and new facilities they would like to see. The survey also included questions related to where they live in the community, what type of activities they participate in, and what type of amenities they would like to have. The Park and Rec Board reviewed and commented on the questionnaire before making it available to the public. A link to the survey was posted on the Township's website and paper copies of the survey were also available at the Township Hall and public workshop. Results of the survey are shown in the Appendix.

The key points of the survey results can be summarized as follows.

- About 83% of those that participated in the survey use the Southern Links Trailway and 50% use the new Township Community Park
- Most survey participants were between 55 to 64 years of age
- Highest rated amenities for the new Township Park are: Trails and pathways (nature walking trails), benches and water fountain, picnic areas and pavilion, and restrooms
- Nature/Environmental learning programs rated highest program type desired
- 92% support further development of the new Township Park

Public Workshop:

On November 19, 2018 a public workshop took place at the Township Hall. An announcement of the workshop (and survey) was printed in the local newspaper and a flyer was posted on the Township's website, on their public announcement board. See the following page for public announcements.

Informational displays were setup and a presentation was made to inform the attendees of the purpose for this project and the process involved. The workshop consisted of four group planning activities to engage public participation:

- **Activity 1) Understanding what we have:** Attendees were asked to review a list of existing facilities in the area to familiarize themselves with what recreation options they currently have and update the list with any new ones.
- **Activity 2) Strengths and Weaknesses:** Using the information gleaned from Activity 1, Each group was asked to identify the strengths and weakness of the new Township Park and Parks and Recreation in the Township in general. Some of the strengths of the new park include: Adjacent to SLT / Iron Belle Trail, wooded, natural terrain, wildlife viewing, and stream. Weakness include: no good access to SLT / Iron Belle Trail and lack of utilities. A dedicated Park and Recreation Board was noted as a strength in general and lack of funding as a weakness.
- **Activity 3) Park Wish List:** Using information gathered from Activities 1 and 2, each group was asked to discuss and list what amenities they would like at the new Township Park. Top items include: improved driveway and parking, a Pavilion, access to the SLT / Iron Belle Trail, restrooms, water and electricity, lighting, bike rack, benches, improve/expand nature trails, picnic tables and grills, playscape, interpretive signage.
- **Activity 4) Goals and Objectives:** based on information gathered throughout the evening, attendees were asked to review and discussed the goals and objectives. This was done in an open discussion format. The outcome of this activity is reflected in the Goals and Objectives Section of this plan.
- Lastly, participants were then given the opportunity to complete the survey and speak publicly regarding their thoughts about parks and recreation in the community.

Comparison to Recommended Standards

The MDNR recommended park classification system identifies 6 types of parks that apply to Marathon Township. **Mini Parks** are generally 2500 square feet to 1 acre in size and serve a quarter mile radius in residential settings. **Community Parks** serve a broader purpose. They are usually 30 to 50 acres and serve multiple neighborhoods in a 1/2 mile to 3 mile radius. **Special Use** facilities vary in size and type and are oriented toward a single purpose (i.e.: Senior Centers, Community Centers). **School Parks** vary in size and can fulfill the space requirement for other classes of parks. **Natural Resource Areas** are lands set aside for preservation and natural open space. And lastly, the **Private Park/Recreation Facility** class consists of facilities that are privately owned yet contribute in some form to the public recreation system.

Typically, the recommended standard ratio of park land to population is 10 acres per 1,000 population (derived from "Recreation, Park, and Open Space Standards and Guidelines", R.A. Lancaster, 1983). This equates to roughly 46 acres of designated park land needed for Marathon Township to meet this standard. Currently, the Township owns 23 acres of park land but also relies on other resources (i.e.: county land, semi private and private ownerships, and adjoining communities) to diversify and compliment the newly acquired park under Township control. Township officials want to continue to encourage healthy lifestyles, physical and mental fitness, education and protection of natural resources, and economic growth and understands they are better positioned to accomplish through facilities under their control. It is imperative that the Parks and Rec Board continue to oversee development of their new park and work in a cooperative effort with adjoining communities, schools, and other recreation providers to see that the needs of the community are being met.

Public Notices and Announcements:

Insert public notice of workshop



**Monday
November 19 th
2018**

**6:00pm to
8:00pm**

**Location:
Township Hall
4575 Pine St
Columbiaville**

Light refreshments
will be provided

**MARATHON TOWNSHIP
PARKS & REC.
PLANNING
WORKSHOP**

Hosted by the Township Parks & Recreation Board

What park and recreation amenities would you like to see in Marathon Township? Your input is very important so please join us and share your thoughts while we prepare our 2019 Parks and Recreation Plan. Let's plan the future of our Township together!

**CAN'T MAKE IT?
No problem!**
Please take our on-line
survey at
www.marathontwp.com
paper copies are also available
at the Township Hall.

Survey will run until
November 30th
Please don't miss out!

Insert public notice of draft plan

Insert notice of public hearing

—

6) GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The goals and objectives represent the purposes for a community's role in providing recreation to its residents as well as outlining the direction that the community's effort should take in the long term. The Goals are the general targets for which a community aims, while objectives are the specific steps that can be taken towards reaching that goal.

The following goals and objectives were developed by the Parks and Recreation board through careful review and analysis of various sources of data. These sources of data included **community characteristics**, **future land use** and **demographics**, results of the **community survey** and **public workshop activities**, a comparison of the **national standard for parks**, **existing local facilities**, and **local group initiatives**. The goals and objectives outlined below were largely, yet not entirely, based on comments from the public. Other factors such as available funding for projects, particularly those most desired by the community and projects already set into motion in adjoining communities were also highly considered. There was also discussion of how the Parks and Recreation Board can collaborate with schools, local groups, and private providers to meet the recreation demands of the community. These goals and objectives are not listed in any particular order of hierarchy or importance.

Goal #1)

Develop, maintain and preserve sufficient open space to create recreational park facilities that serve the needs of the township's present and anticipated population.

Objectives:

- A. Peruse funding options that will help further develop the new Township Park with amenities identified in this plan and that will compliment other recreational opportunities in the area.
- B. Development should focus on the health and wellness of our residents but also encourage and accommodate visitors to the area to help promote economic growth.
- C. Develop a volunteer base (or friends' group) to help offset maintenance costs, build public awareness, and develop social interaction amongst our residents.

Goal #2)

Continue our partnership with Southern Links Trailway Group and strive for a network of non-motorized connecting routes that link areas of the community with key destinations and the Southern Links Trailway (SLT) which is planned to someday be part of the overall trail system, known as the Iron Belle Trail (IBT), connecting Southeast Michigan to the Upper Peninsula and Wisconsin.

Objectives:

- A. Continue to support having a representative of the Parks and Recreation Board attend regular SLT Group meetings as a liaison and provide regular updates on new developments to the Parks and Rec Board.
- B. Insure that future development of the new Township Park incorporates amenities that will serve ALL types of users of the SLT / IBT for a more enjoyable and safer trail experience.
- C. Review options to provide potential pathways throughout the township specifically links from the township park and SLT / IBT to local destinations, business, schools, and residential areas.

Goal #3)

Continue our current partnerships and build on new ones to create parks, trails, and programs that are cohesive to and satisfy the needs of the community and surrounding communities.

Objectives:

- A. Establish a method of ongoing communication with our partners in adjoining villages and other private and public recreational providers, including the Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission.
- B. Foster these partnerships to remain up to date on new projects and recreational opportunities order to collaborate resources and effectively address the needs of the community.

Goal #4)

Incorporate universal design concepts, when feasible, at any and all township park locations in accordance with ADA and MDNR standards for accessible recreation facilities.

Objectives:

- A. Investigate opportunities for universal design concepts during the planning of all new park projects, not after the fact.
- B. Research other recreational facilities that have incorporated universal design into their parks system as a “learn by example” approach.

Goal #5)

Improve the quality of life and the opportunities for recreation in the township by continually re-assessing community recreation needs, trends, and characteristics through public outreach.

Objectives:

- A. Conduct future surveys of the community to help determine their desires with respect to park and recreation opportunities.
- B. Create a Parks & Recreation link on the Marathon Township Facebook Page and Website and continually include updates in Township newsletters to increase public awareness and outreach.

7) ACTION PROGRAM

Rationale:

A variety of factors, including community characteristics, population trends, existing recreation facilities, and identified recreation needs contribute to the formulation of specific recommendations for plan implementation. These specific recommendations represent the actions that can be undertaken to achieve the objectives that have been directed towards a community's recreation goals. These recommended actions also represent the substance and purpose of a recreation plan - the development of a strategy for effectively closing the gap between existing recreation opportunities and recreation needs. Three general statements can be made related to Marathon Township 1) Address the rising demand for recreation by developing the recently acquired Township park 2) Continue to assist with the expansion of the Southern Links Trailway and connecting residents to the pathway and local commerce and 3) Passive recreation that protects natural resources and provides recreation to those of all ages groups and abilities.

The following recommendations and capital improvement schedule outlines and assigns relative priorities to activities and projects that can be implemented in both the short-term and long-range future to improve recreational opportunities in the community. Those activities and projects that can be undertaken during the five-year planning period (2019-2024) have been summarized in the following Capital Improvement Program Schedule. This schedule includes projected costs as well as possible funding sources for each suggested project.

While these projects are recommended for implementation during the planning period, they are highly dependent upon financial and administrative feasibility. It is also suggested that the township take advantage of any unscheduled opportunities that may arise. (i.e.: unexpected funding or acquisition, donations, neighboring community projects, etc.). Such opportunities can be evaluated and included in this plan as an amendment to the schedule, if necessary.

Capital Improvement Schedule

The following schedule is a 5-year guide of various projects for planning, funding, and budgetary projections. The figures given are approximate and must be re-evaluated as projects progress into design and development stages.

Year	Project / Task	Est. Cost	Justification	Funding Source / Comments
2019	Meet with potential funding agencies and community resources to collaborate funding program for Phase I Park Development	n/a	Goals 1	Completed by Board member and/or Twp staff
	Apply for MDNRTF development grant for Phase I park improvements	\$3,500±	Goals 1, 2 & 4	Township General Fund LC Community Fund
	Update Parks and Rec link on township website and Facebook page	n/a	Goal 5	Completed by Twp staff
	Partnership collaboration and attend regular SLT meetings and report to P&R Board	n/a	Goals 2, 3 & 5	Completed by Board members
	General park maintenance	\$1,000±	Goal 1	Township General Fund
2020	Design, bidding and start Phase I Township Park construction	\$250,000± Depending on project scope	Goals 1, 2 & 4	<u>Sources may include or be a combination of:</u> MDNR Trust Fund or Recreation Passport Grant LC Community Fund Frankenmuth Credit Union Iron Belle Trail Mini Grant Eagle Scouts project In-kind Donations
	Update Parks and Rec info on township website and Facebook Page. Volunteer coordination	n/a	Goals 1 & 5	Completed by Twp staff
	Partnership collaboration and attend regular SLT meetings and report to P&R Board	n/a	Goals 2, 3 & 5	Completed by Board members
	General park maintenance	\$1,500±	Goal 1	Township General Fund

2021	Complete Phase I Township Park construction – Ribbon Cutting	See 2020	Goals 1, 2 & 4	<u>Sources may include or be a combination of:</u> MDNR Trust Fund or Recreation Passport Grant LC Community Fund Frankenmuth Credit Union Iron Belle Trail Mini Grant Eagle Scouts project In-kind Donations
	Update Parks and Rec info on township website and Facebook Page. Volunteer coordination	n/a	Goals 1 & 5	Completed by Twp staff
	Partnership collaboration and attend regular SLT meetings and report to P&R Board	n/a	Goals 2, 3 & 5	Completed by Board members
	General park maintenance	\$3,000±	Goal 1	Township General Fund
2022	Coordinate educational programs and events at Township Park with schools and other organizations.	TBD	Goal 1,3 & 5	TBD
	Prepare a non-motorized transportation study	\$6,000±	Goal 2,4	<u>Sources may include or be a combination of:</u> LC Community Fund Frankenmuth Credit Union Iron Belle Trail Mini Grant In-kind Donations
	Update Parks and Rec info on township website and Facebook Page. Volunteer coordination.	n/a	Goals 1 & 5	Completed by Twp staff
	Partnership collaboration and attend regular SLT meetings and report to P&R Board	n/a	Goals 2, 3 & 5	Completed by Board members
	General park maintenance	\$3,000±	Goal 1	Township General Fund
2023	Update Parks and Rec info on township website and Facebook Page. Volunteer coordination.	n/a	Goals 1 & 5	Completed by Twp staff
	Partnership collaboration and attend regular SLT meetings and report to P&R Board	n/a	Goals 2, 3 & 5	Completed by Board members
	General park maintenance	\$3,000±	Goal 1	Township General Fund

Financing Mechanisms

The following paragraphs briefly outline existing sources of funds for financing future recreational improvements in the Marathon Township.

1. General Funds

The Township's general fund has been the primary source of funds for operating and maintaining its current facilities. Future site improvements, acquisition, and development will remain dependent on these tax-supported funds, as will the continued operation and maintenance of these facilities. Consequently, recreation planning must be coordinated with the yearly budgeting process for the Township's general funds.

2. Donations and Gifts

The availability of donated land, labor, equipment, and funds from individuals and organizations is an attractive and effective way to improve recreational opportunities. Over the past few years, several groups and individuals have contributed significantly. Such support should be encouraged to continue.

3. Millage

In an effort to raise matching funds or fund projects with local money, many community leaders have placed ballot proposals before their residents for a dedicated increase in their existing mill property tax to fund park maintenance and repair, including care for new parks and newly acquired parks, compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), as well as safety and security improvements. Establishment of a Park Improvement/Development, Maintenance and Repair Millage will assure that parks and facilities will be maintained at the level of quality expected by park users and that parkland will have adequate amenities. 67% of the survey participants voted in support of a millage to maintain the Township Park.

4. Local Philanthropic Groups:

The **Lapeer County Community Foundation** is a tax-exempt public charity created by and for the people of Lapeer County. It enables the people in Lapeer County with philanthropic interests to easily and effectively support the issues they care about the most. The Foundation builds and manages permanent endowment funds from a wide variety of donors to provide grants that enhance the quality of life in Lapeer County, now and for future generations. Eligible groups the foundation supports are those in and/or serving Lapeer County having recognition under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, educational institutions, and governmental entities.

Grant applications are due by 5:00pm on the 15th of each month.

The **Frankenmuth Credit Union – Foundation for Our Communities** is a source of grants to promote the betterment of all of communities within their member service area. They help provide funding for local projects of all types and sizes. Of the funds dispersed 30% are for youth-related projects, 40% are for community related purposes, with the remaining 30% to other projects. Consideration is given to requests with an established relationship with FCU. **Applications are accepted by the 15th of March, June, September, and December of each year.** Funds cannot be used for operating or maintenance expenses, political parties, or religions. Grant amounts range greatly depending on the project.

5. Multi-jurisdictional Funding

One of the primary goals of establishing a trail authority that would include representatives from adjacent communities would be to establish a joint source of funding for acquisition, development and maintenance of multi-jurisdictional trail projects. It is too premature to discuss levels or formulas for financial participation/contribution, but by forming such a coalition such as the Southern Links Trailway Group, the individual communities will collectively be in a stronger position in seeking future matching grants than if pursuing projects individually.

6. Non-local Financial Assistance

Many communities seek outside sources of funds to supplement their local sources when providing recreational improvements. There are several programs administered by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) that can provide some financial assistance to local recreation projects. Funding amounts available to communities vary from year to year depending on Federal support and State legislative agendas.

In July of 2012 MDOT's Enhancement Program and the Safe Routes to School Programs, that historically funded non-motorized transportation projects (pedestrian and bicycle), were combined into MDOT's **Transportation Alternatives Programs (TAP)**. This is a competitive grant program that uses federal transportation funds designated by congress for specific activities that enhance the intermodal transportation system and provide safe alternative transportation options.

Approximately \$23 million is available annually. Of that approximately \$16.5 million is available through a competitive grant process administered by MDOT and \$6.5 million is available through a competitive grant process administered by MPO's in urban areas with populations greater than 200,000. Activities eligible for TAP funding include:

- Facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists, including non-motorized paths.
- Conversion and use of abandoned railroad corridors for trails
- Turnouts, overlooks, and viewing areas
- Safe routes for non-drivers
- Environmental mitigation activities/water quality projects
- Historic preservation and rehabilitation of transportation facilities
- Non-motorized amenities that increase usability of non-motorized facilities
- Streetscape improvements in traditional downtowns or historic districts

Eligible applicants include county road commissions, cities, villages, regional transportation authorities, transit agencies, state and federal natural resource or public land agencies, and tribal governments. MDOT may partner with a local agency to apply for funding and implement the project. Other organizations such as townships or trail groups, may work with an eligible agency to apply. Currently, TAP funding requires matching funds of at least 20% of the project cost with higher consideration to projects whose match exceeds the minimum.

The **Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF)** is administered by the MDNR. The MNRTF program utilizes the royalties from oil, gas, and other mineral developments on state-owned lands to help finance the acquisition and the development of outdoor recreation facilities. The CMI program is the result of the passage of Proposal C of 1998.

At the time of this plan any unit of government, including school districts, may apply for grants to develop or acquire land(s) for public recreation or resource protection purposes. Application forms are available on February 1 of each year. The application deadlines are April 1 and September 1, of each year. The MDNR submits a list of recommended projects to the legislature the following January and funds are available after legislative appropriation, usually the following fall.

All local units of government must provide a local match of at least 25 percent of total project costs. For MNRTF **development projects**, the minimum funding request is \$15,000, and the maximum is \$300,000. Proposals must be for outdoor recreation or resource protection purposes. Outdoor recreation support buildings and other facilities are eligible for development funding, as is the renovation of existing recreation facilities.

All applicants must have a current DNR-approved community recreation plan, documenting the need for project proposal.

In addition, any private individual may nominate land for **public acquisition** under this program. All nominations are reviewed by the MDNR for possible acquisition and the landowner is not required to be the person nominating a parcel of land for public acquisition. Nomination forms are available at any time from the DNR Recreation Division and may be submitted to the Department year round.

The **Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)** program makes money available to the States for land acquisition and development of outdoor recreation facilities. The objective is to provide grants to local units of government and to the State to acquire and develop land for outdoor recreation.

Applications, which are due no later than April 1 of each year, are evaluated on established criteria including project need, capability of applicant, and site and project quality. At least 50 percent match on either acquisition or development projects is required from local government applicants with a \$30,000 minimum and \$300,000 maximum funding limit. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) makes recommendations to the National Park Service (NPS), which grants final approval. Criteria are spelled out in the "Recreation Grants Selection Process" booklet given to all applicants.

PA 32 of 2010 created the Local Public Recreation Facilities Fund to be used for the development of public recreation facilities for local units of government. Money for this fund is derived from the sale of the **Recreation Passport** which replaces the resident Motor Vehicle Permit (MVP) — or window sticker — for state park entrance. The passport will be required for entry to state parks, recreation areas and boating access sites. Ten percent of remaining revenue will be used to fund the Recreation Passport local grant program. A 25% minimum local match is required for the Passport grant program with a maximum grant amount of \$150,000 as of 2019 (may increase in the future).

The grant program may only be used for local development projects. The program is focused on renovating and improving existing parks, but the development of new parks is eligible. Grant applications are due no later than April 1st of each year.

Organizations with an interest in developing fishing conditions in their areas may be able to get financial assistance from a program established through the **State Game and Fish Protection Fund**.

This fishing development grant is offered through the MDNR and can be as much as \$200,000 annually, in cash or in-kind services. Projects eligible for funding include: culvert modifications for

improved stream flow; livestock or sheet erosion control projects; the development of spawning riffles, fish cover structures, or spawning reefs; and the construction of fishing piers and rough fish barriers.

The MDNR accepts grant proposals from organized fishing groups and local units of government. In all cases, projects can approach other sources such as the federal government for additional matching funds.

The **Inland Fisheries Grant Program** offers grants up to \$30,000 for projects that enhance the state's aquatic resources. This program may be applicable to the scenic overlook fishing platforms and educational kiosks.

Waterways Program Grants are funded through the Michigan State Waterways Fund from state marine fuel tax and water craft registrations. By law, administration of the Waterways Program is through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and overseen by the Department's Parks and Recreation Division.

Grants provide funding assistance for design/engineering and construction of public recreational harbor/marina and boating access site/launch facilities throughout the State. Only local units of government (city, village, township, or county) and public universities are eligible. Applicants may collaborate with community/sports organizations in the implementation of projects. On-site investigation by DNR, Parks and Recreation Division staff may be required to determine suitability of proposed work. Applicant may also be required to document area boating demand. Greater priority may be given to projects for which a local applicant documents match capabilities equal to or greater than the percentage of project cost they are required to provide. The local match can include in-kind expenses as long as they are well-documented.

Applications, and all required information, must be received no later than 5:00 p.m., April 1st of each year. If April 1st falls on a weekend, the deadline would be the last State working day prior to April 1st. The application review and funding process for projects is from April 1st until an appropriation is approved by the Legislature. This can take up to 18 to 24 months. Notification of approval for engineering and smaller sized construction projects may occur within six months after completed application form and proper documentation are received. Funding for construction is not released until permits are secured.

The **Historic Preservation Grant Program** is administered by the Department of State with funds made available through the National Park Service of the Department of Interior. The intent of the program is to conduct surveys of architectural, engineering, archaeological, and historic resources, to identify and nominate eligible properties to the National Register of Historic Places, and to plan for the protection of those cultural/recreational resources.

The funds for this program are apportioned by the National Park Service directly to the State, which, in turn, allocates funds on a project-by-project basis to certified local governments, organizations, and individuals.

Marathon Township is committed to review all available funding sources and prepare the necessary plans, reports, cost estimates, and funding applications, to achieve the goals of this recreation plan.

8) LOCAL ADOPTION

- 1) Park and Rec Board Resolution and meeting minutes
- 2) Township Board Resolution and meeting minutes
- 3) Correspondence to County and Regional planning agencies

Insert Park and Rec Board Meeting Minutes and Resolution

Insert Township Board Meeting Minutes and Resolution



December 19, 2018

Ms. Cheryl Clark
Lapeer County Board of Commissioners
255 Clay Street
Suite 301
Lapeer, MI 48446

RE: Draft 2019 Marathon Township Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan

Dear Cheryl:

On behalf of the Marathon Township Parks and Recreation Board, we are pleased to provide you with a draft copy of the 2019 Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan for your review and comment.

A presentation will be made at a special Township Board Meeting on January 23, 2019 at the Township Hall in which you are welcome to attend. Comments may be made directly to the office of Fleis & VandenBrink Engineering, Inc., under the attention of Lisa M. Easterwood, Project Manager, at (810) 743-9120 or leasterwood@fveng.com.

Please note all comments must be received by January 21, 2019. Once officially adopted a copy of the final plan will be provided to you for your files.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation. Should you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

FLEIS & VANDENBRINK ENGINEERING, INC.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lisa M. Easterwood".

Lisa M. Easterwood, ASLA, CST
Project Manager

Enclosure (1) Draft 2019 Marathon Township Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan on disc

9475 Holly Road, Suite 201
Grand Blanc, MI 48439
P: 810.743.9120
F: 810.771.7860
www.fveng.com



December 19, 2018

Derek Bradshaw
GLS Region 5 Planning and Development Commission
1102 Beach Street, Room 223
Flint, MI 48502

RE: Draft 2019 Marathon Township Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan

Dear Derrek:

On behalf of the Marathon Township Parks and Recreation Board, we are pleased to provide you with a draft copy of the 2019 Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan for your review and comment.

A presentation will be made at a special Township Board Meeting on January 23, 2019 at the Township Hall in which you are welcome to attend. Comments may be made directly to the office of Fleis & VandenBrink Engineering, Inc., under the attention of Lisa M. Easterwood, Project Manager, at (810) 743-9120 or leasterwood@fveng.com.

Please note all comments must be received by January 21, 2019. Once officially adopted a copy of the final plan will be provided to you for your files.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation. Should you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

FLEIS & VANDENBRINK ENGINEERING, INC.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "LISA M. EASTERWOOD".

Lisa M. Easterwood, ASLA, CST
Project Manager

Enclosure (1) Draft 2019 Marathon Township Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan on disc

APPENDIX

- MDNR POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT – MARATHON TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY PARK ACQUISITION GRANT
- COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS
- ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT

This information required under authority of Part 19, PA 451 of 1994, as amended; the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, 78 Stat. 897 (1964); and Part 715, of PA 451 of 1994, as amended.

GRANT TYPE: [X] MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND [] CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE
(Please select one) [] LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND [] RECREATION PASSPORT [] BOND FUND

GRANTEE: Marathon Tomwship

PROJECT NUMBER: TF12-060

PROJECT TYPE: Park Improvements

PROJECT TITLE: marathon Tomwhsip Community park

PROJECT SCOPE: land acquisition for new park property

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Table with 3 columns: Name of Agency (Grantee), Contact Person, Title, Address, Telephone, City, State, ZIP, Email. Contains information for Marathon Township, Fred Moorhouse, Supervisor, 4575 Pine Street, Columbiaville, MI 48421, supervisor@marathontwp.com.

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided? If yes, please describe change(s). [] Yes [X] No

Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.) [] Yes [X] No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. [] Yes [X] No

SITE QUALITY

Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area? If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain. [X] Yes [] No

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain. [X] Yes [] No

Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism. [] Yes [X] No

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain. Yes No

Trash receptacles are attended to twice per week. Lawn is mowed once a week.

GENERAL

Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants) Yes No N/A

Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain. Yes No

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure. Yes No

Entrance to the park and facilities are free.

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?

Open daily year round from dawn to dusk

COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.

Please print

Grantee Authorized Signature

Date

Please print

Witness Signature

Date

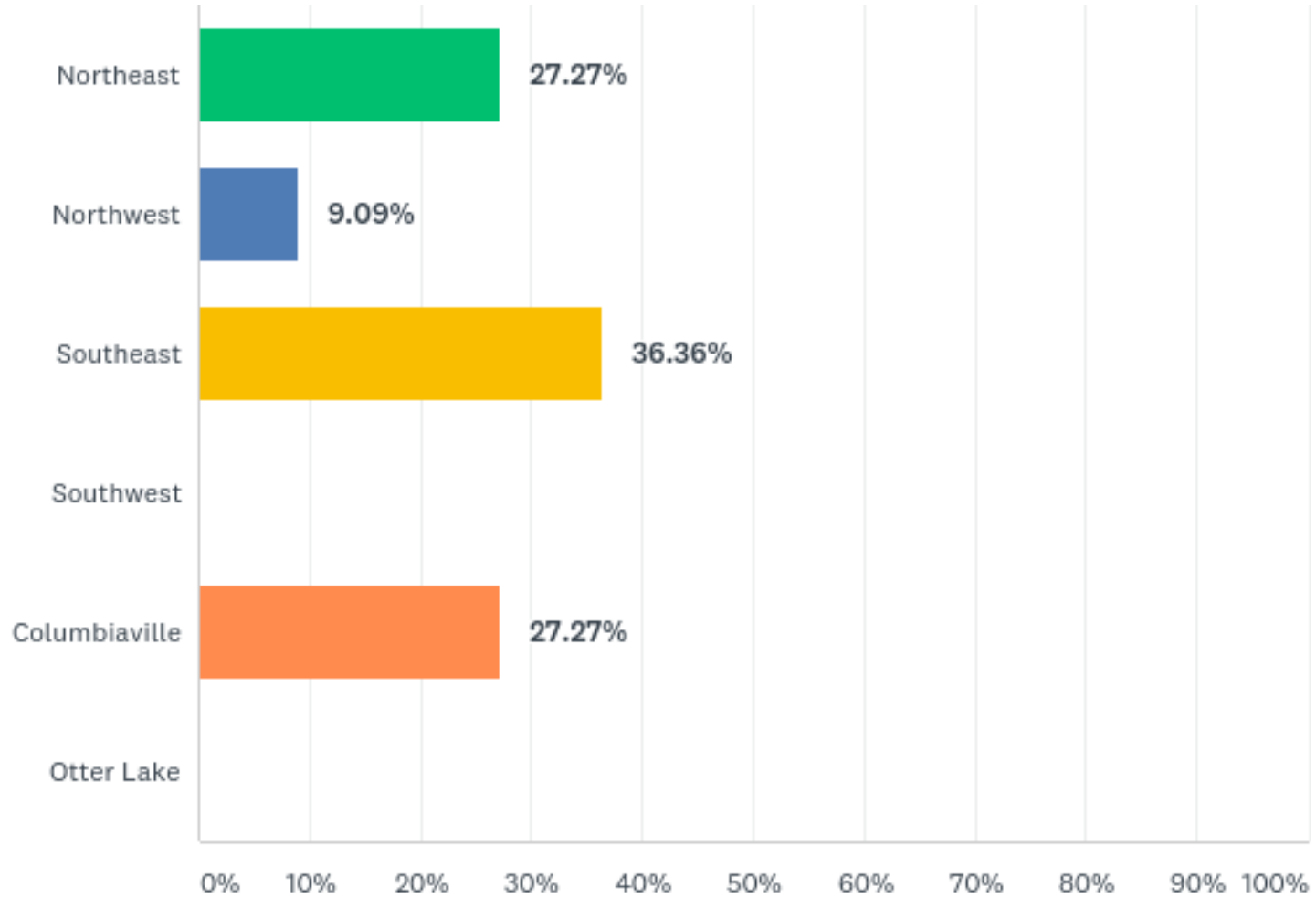
Send completed report to: **POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS**
GRANTS MANAGEMENT
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PO BOX 30425
LANSING MI 48909-7925

Marathon Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan Public Survey Results

Wednesday, December 12,
2018

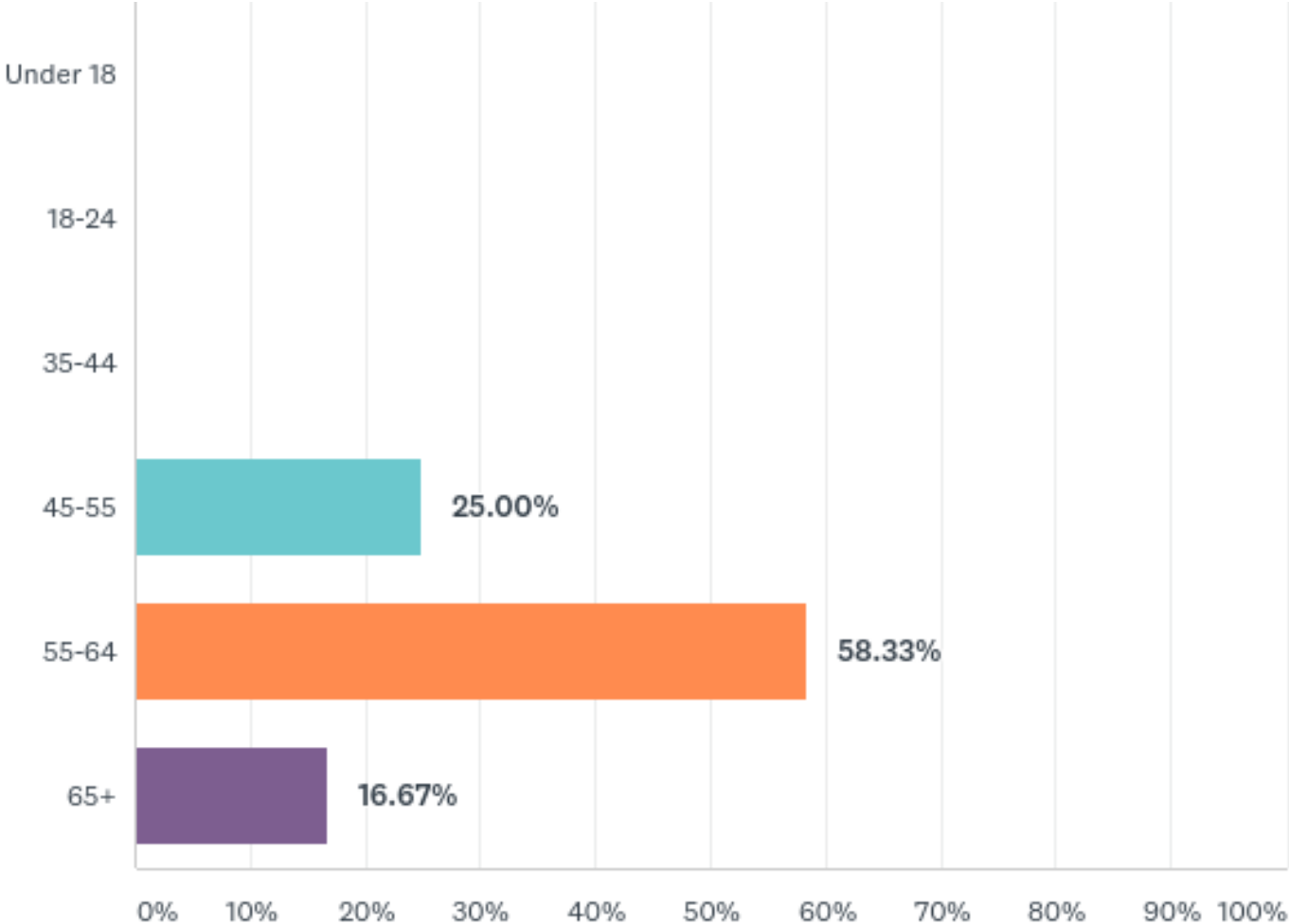
Q1: In what part of the Township do you live?

Answered: 11 Skipped: 2



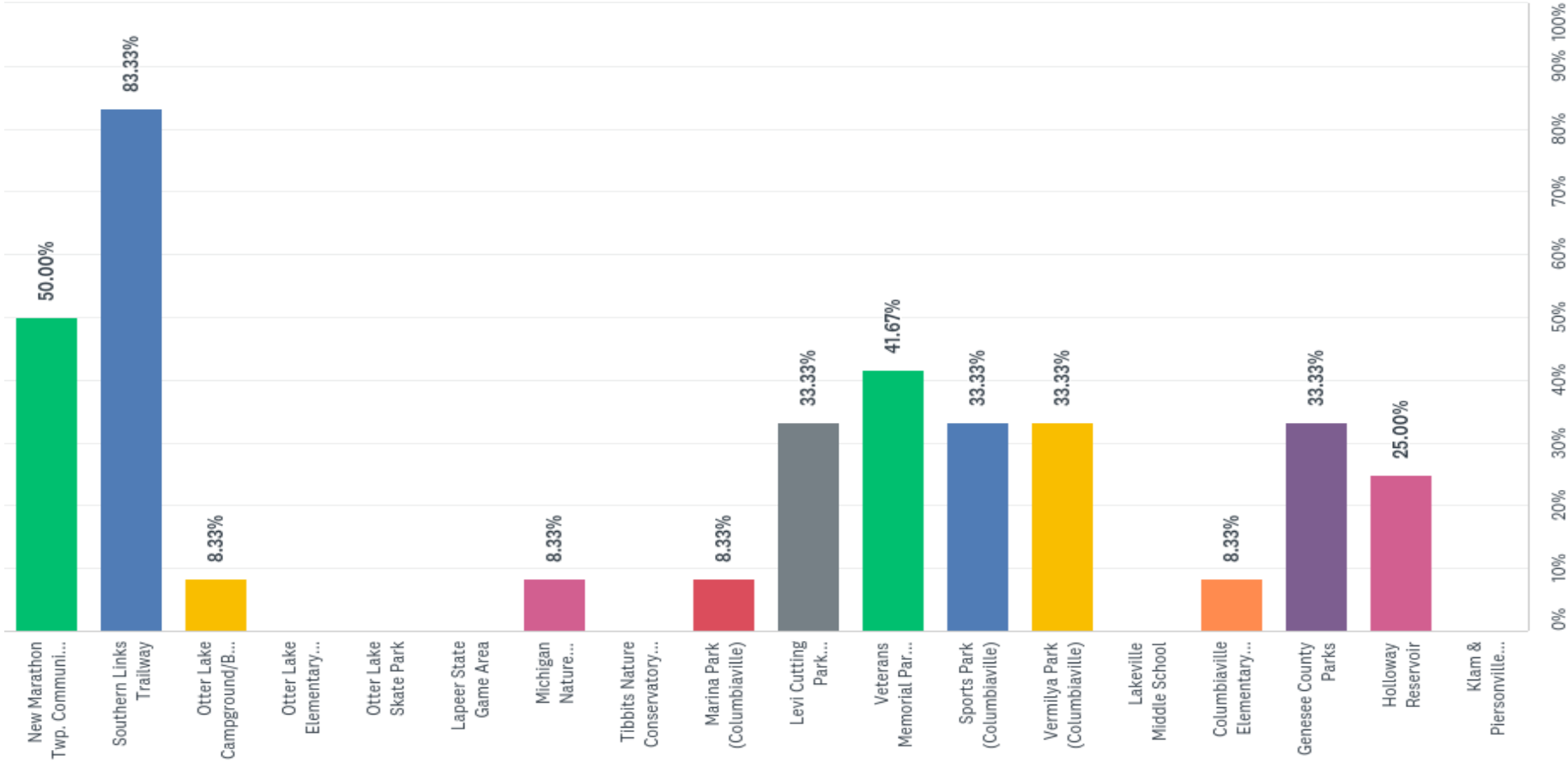
Q2: In what age group do you fall?

Answered: 12 Skipped: 1



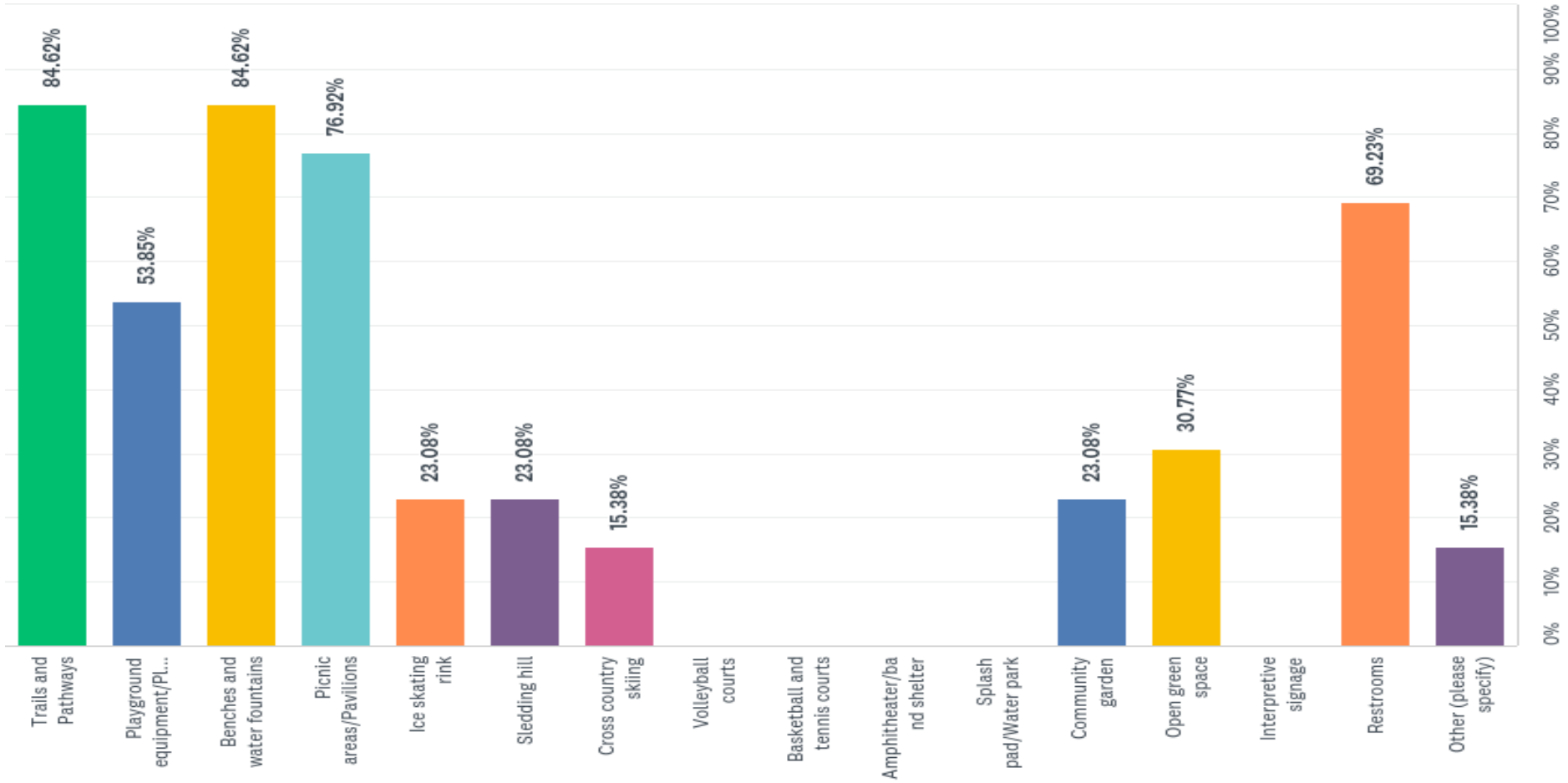
Q3: Which local recreational facilities do you currently visit?

Answered: 12 Skipped: 1



Q4: What types of recreation amenities would you like to see at the new Marathon Township Park? Please select your top five (5).

Answered: 13 Skipped: 0

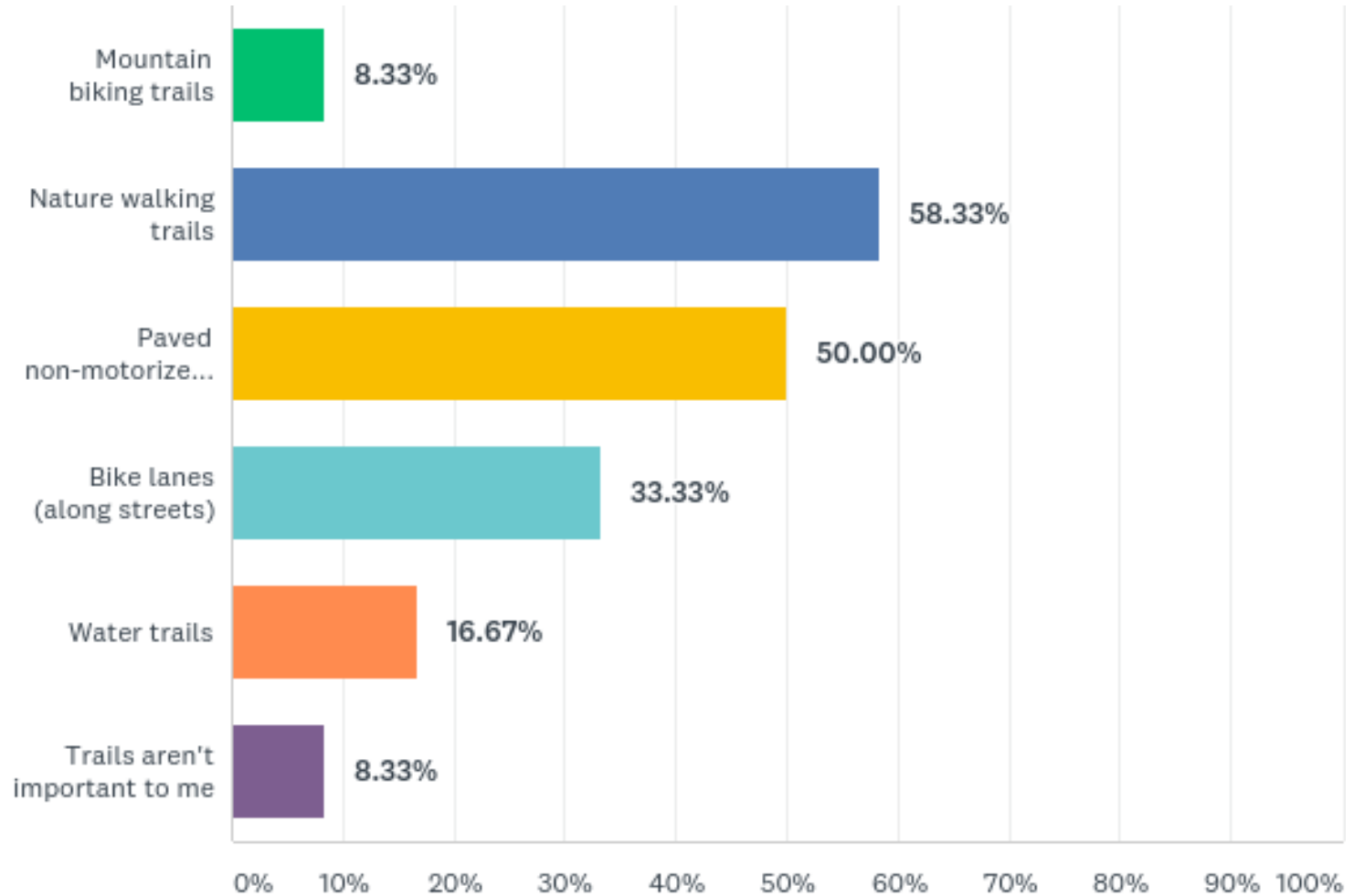


Responses to Other:

- 1)None of the above - made me pick some to move on.
- 2) see above

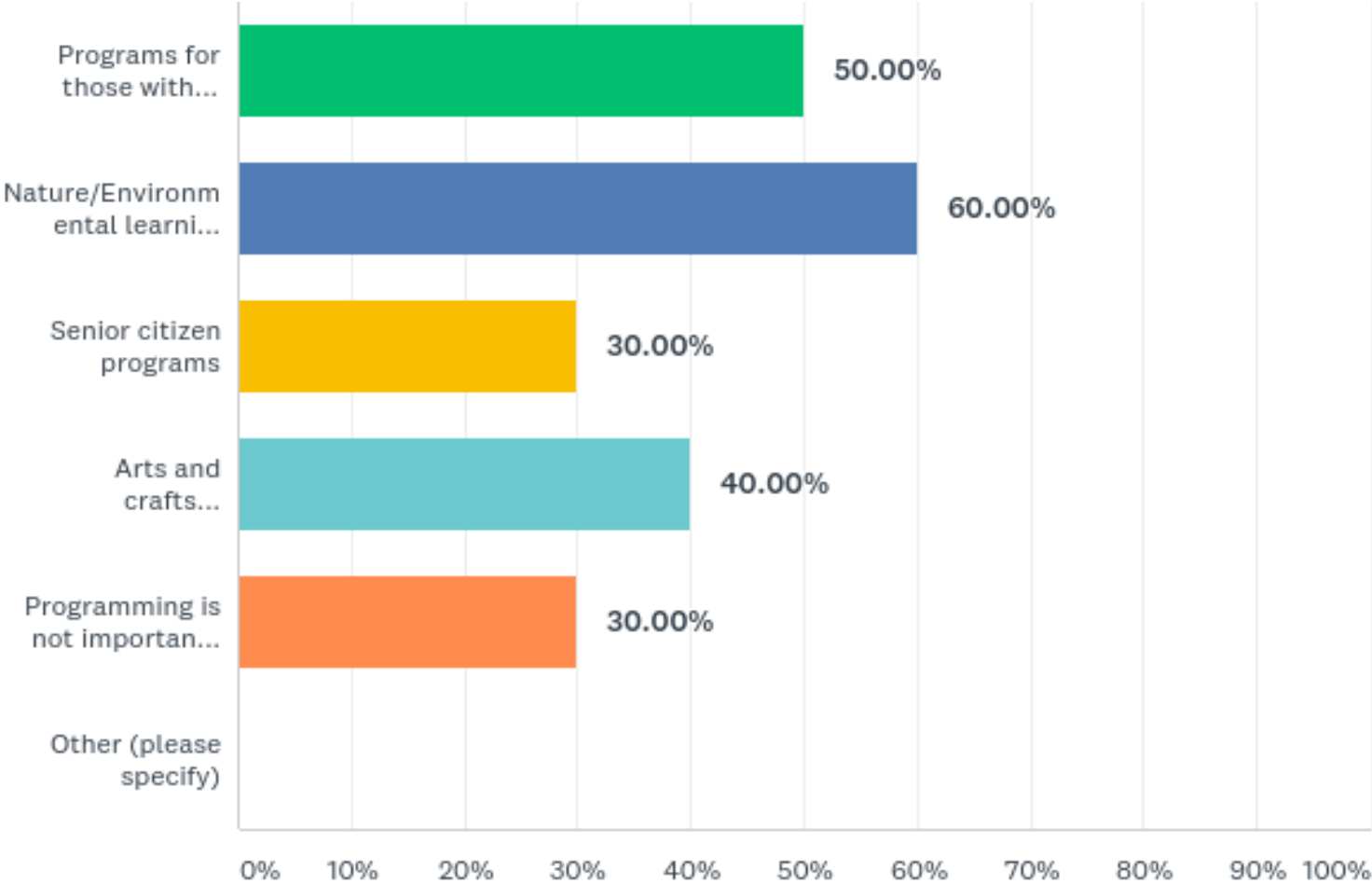
Q5: If trails and pathways are important to you, what types would you like to see developed in the Township?

Answered: 12 Skipped: 1



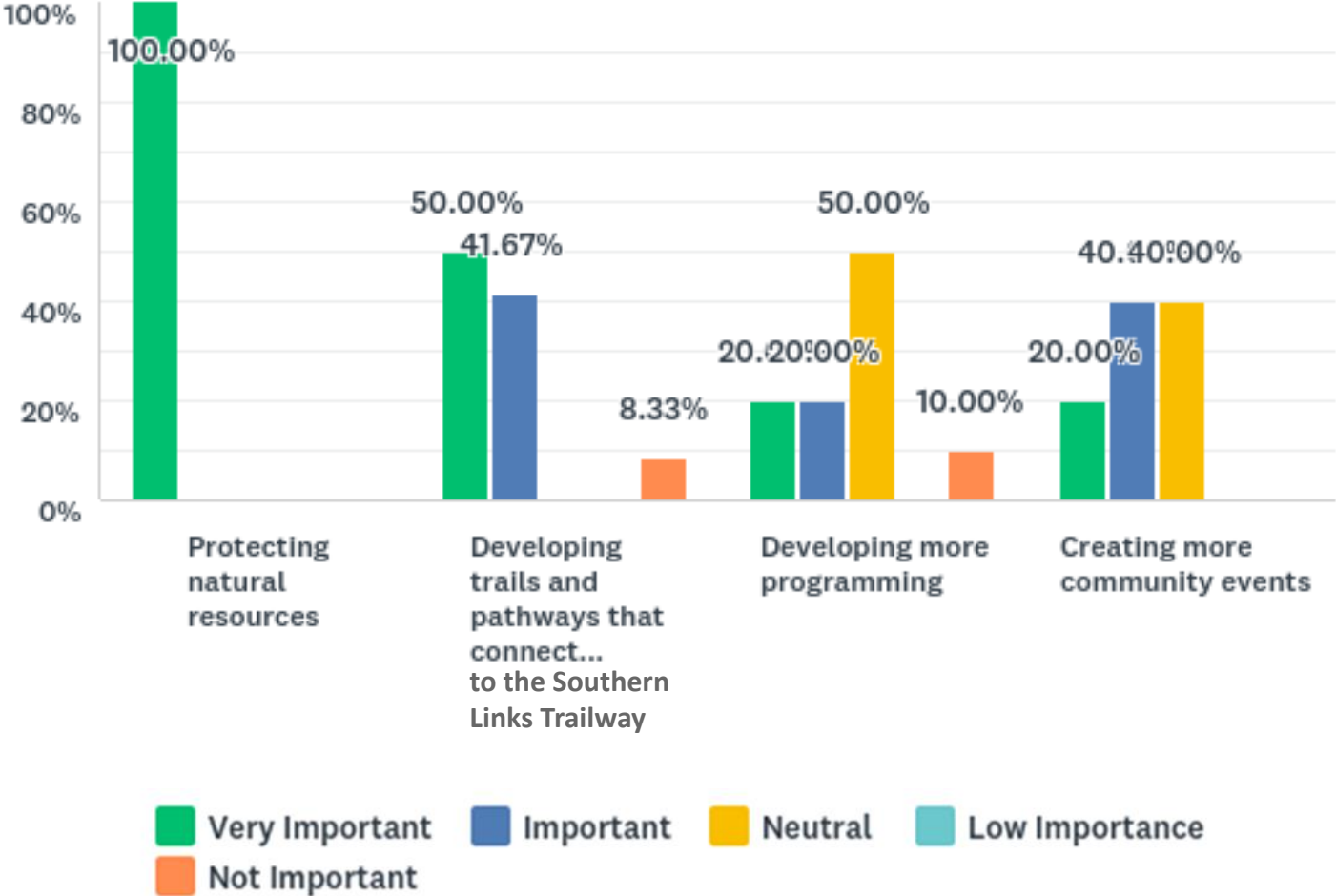
Q6: If programming is important to you, what types of recreational programming would you like to see available to Township residents?

Answered: 10 Skipped: 3



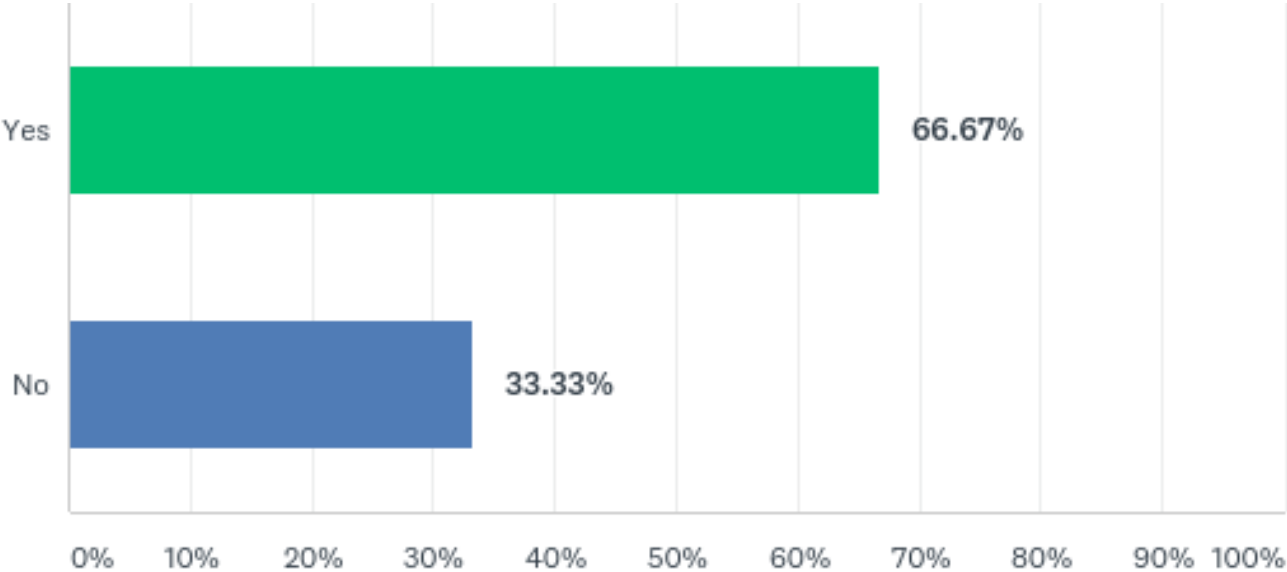
Q7: Please rate the importance of the following:

Answered: 12 Skipped: 1



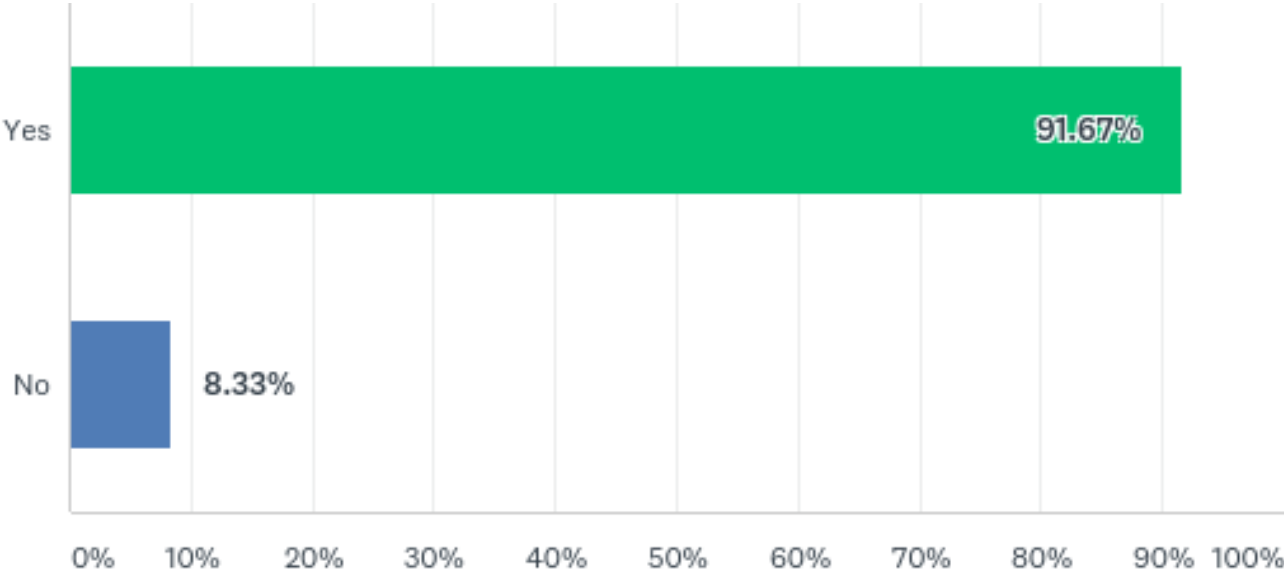
Q8: Would you support a millage to maintain the Township's Park

Answered: 12 Skipped: 1



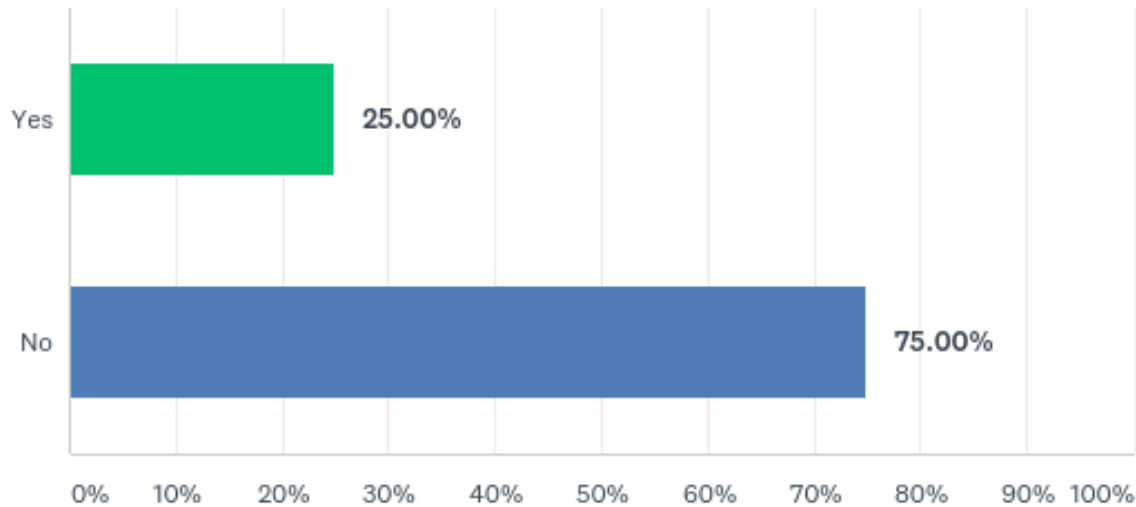
Q9: Do you support the Township's ongoing effort for further development of the new Community Park?

Answered: 12 Skipped: 1



Q10: Would you be interested in volunteering your time to help with projects at the Community Park?

Answered: 8 Skipped: 5



Please state any other comments, suggestions, or ideas you would like to share with the Parks and Recreation Board.

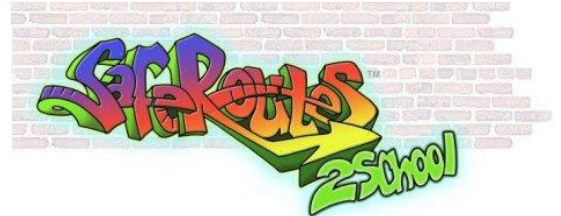
Answered: 4 Skipped: 9

- 1) I would like to see the Township use available grants whenever possible rather than spending township funds.
- 2) Need better road into park and designated parking areas
- 3) na
- 4) I see no reason for the Township to bear the burden of the expense of developing such facilities mentioned above. Search for a developer to provide the above and then sell membership to those seeking described activities, or the developer could charge admission to participate (as the developer). Who rescinded the motion made, supported, and passed at an early 2000's board meeting that the Township supported the idea of a trail as long as the Township bore no expense for its development and maintenance? Are these board members paid for meetings attended?

Additional Resources

Safe Routes to School "SR2S" www.saferoutesmichigan.org

Safe Routes to School (SR2S) is a federal program to make it safe, convenient and fun for children to bicycle and walk to school. A federal Safe Routes to School program was authorized as part of the surface transportation bill signed into law in August 2005. As a result, every state now has dedicated dollars to help with infrastructure improvements (e.g. new sidewalks and traffic calming projects) and non-infrastructure activities to encourage and enable students to walk and bicycle to school. Michigan's Safe Routes to School program is managed by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), with training, logistical, administrative, and technical support from the Michigan Fitness Foundation.



Safe and Active Genesee for Everyone (SAGE) www.crim.org/activeliving/Sage/

SAGE is a collaborative of local advocates, non-profit, private and government organizations working together to advocate for and support active living initiatives that promote safe opportunities for people to be physically active throughout Genesee County. They provide expertise in Active Living to help you create change in your community, connect communities with other partners and organizations leading Active Living initiatives across the county, provide use of "Share the Road" (sharrow) pavement marking stencils, and help with advocacy efforts for complete streets in your community.

Michigan Recreation and Parks Association www.mrpaonline.org

Founded in 1935, the Michigan Recreation and Park Association (MRPA) is a statewide non-profit association representing the parks and recreation industry. MRPA represents the interest of recreation professionals and citizen advocates throughout Michigan, providing advocacy, knowledge, and programs to enhance the parks and recreation field, as well as the skills of our individual members.

Transportation Improvement Program www.michigan.gov/mdot

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), administered by Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission is funding mechanism on a three-year schedule and budget for proposed federally funded and regionally significant transportation improvements within Genesee County. The TIP is typically updated as needed through a multi-step process in association with the Transportation System Management (TSM) Committee, Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), and final approval by the Metropolitan Alliance. The TIP addresses transportation projects and programs to include: federal, state and local highways, transit, ride sharing, bike paths, and pedestrian facilities.

Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) www.michigan.gov/mdot

The Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) is a competitive grant program that uses federal transportation funds designated by Congress for specific activities that enhance the intermodal transportation system and provide safe alternative transportation options.



MDOT - Bicycle and Pedestrian Program www.michigan.gov/mdot

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Program of the Michigan Department of Transportation provides assistance with various grant programs, as well as resources and maps related to non-motorized transportation. Contact: Joshua DeBruyn, AICP, Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator, Bureau of Transportation Planning at (517) 335-2918 or DeBruynJ@michigan.gov to learn more.

American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities, 3rd Edition, 1999 www.bookstore.transportation.org/home.aspx

This is the primary design manual used for project funded through federal, state, and many local agencies. It provides specifications related to the development of facilities to enhance and encourage safe bicycle travel.

Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance www.michigantrails.org

MTGA is a non-profit organization that fosters and facilitates the creation of an interconnected statewide system of trails and greenways for recreation, health, transportation, economic development, and environmental/cultural preservation purposes. MTGA works at both the state and local levels by assisting public and private interest in trail and greenway planning, funding, development, and maintenance. MTGA builds public support for trail and greenway development through events, membership, education, information, and advocacy activities.



Michigan Complete Streets www.michigancompletestreets.wordpress.com

Michigan Complete Streets is a coalition of individuals and organizations working toward the development of complete streets policies throughout Michigan. Local communities such as Lansing and Flint are actively working to make our roadways safer for *all users that move people not just automobiles*. Instituting a complete streets policy ensures that transportation planners and engineers design *entire* roadways with *all users* in mind – including bicyclists, public transportation vehicles and riders, and pedestrians of *all ages and abilities*. In addition to local policies making efforts, twenty jurisdictions nationwide adopted policies in 2008 and 12 have done so in 2009.

United States Access Board: A Federal Agency Committed to Accessible Design

<http://www.access-board.gov/prowac/index.htm>

Sidewalks, street crossings, and other elements of the public rights-of-ways present unique challenges to accessibility for which specific guidance is considered essential. The Board is developing new guidelines for public rights-of-way that will address various issues, including access for blind pedestrians at street crossings, wheelchair access to on-street parking, and various constraints posed by space limitations, roadway design practices, slope, and terrain. The draft guidelines are being revised based on the input received from the public and will be available for public comment once published.