

HURON CHARTER TOWNSHIP

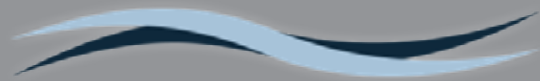
WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN



2024 - 2028

PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN

Huron



CHARTER TOWNSHIP

ADOPTED DECEMBER 13, 2023

ON THE COVER:

Huron River, Ian Bost / Flickr

Cyclist, Tim Campbell / Flickr

Huron Invitational at Willow Metropark, Millsklan / Flickr

Lower Huron Metropark, Chris Ottenbreit / Flickr



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

RECREATION MASTER PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE

Michael Cady
John Chont
David Haener

TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

David A. Glaab, Supervisor
Jeremy Cady, Clerk
Colleen Lazere, Treasurer
Angie Cady
John Chont
Michael Glaab
David Patterson

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Lindsey DeLoye
Patrick Coll
Will Hilliker
David Haener
Blair Stamper
Ashley Carr
Michael Cady
John Chont, Board of Trustees Representative

With Assistance Provided By:



Carlisle | Wortman
ASSOCIATES, INC.

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	1
What this Plan Contains	3
Planning Process.....	3
COMMUNITY BACKGROUND	5
Community Description	6
Population Growth and Characteristics	6
Children and Seniors.....	8
Diversity	8
Education	8
Income	8
Employment.....	8
Housing Characteristics	9
Land Use Patterns and Development Trends.....	10
Natural Features.....	13
Geology, Topography and Soils.....	13
Woodlands.....	13
Water Resources	13
Planning Initiatives	14
ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE	21
Administration.....	22
Funding and Budget	23
Volunteers and Partnerships	23
PARKS AND RECREATION RESOURCES	25
Township Parks and Facilities.....	26
Other Township-Owned Recreation Facilities.....	32
School and Private Facilities	33
Regional Facilities.....	34
Recreation Programs.....	39
Accessibility Assessment	39
Grant Assisted Projects.....	40
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT.....	41
Comparison to National Standards.....	42
National and State Recreation Trends.....	43
Public Input	44
Public Review and Public Hearing.....	46



GOALS AND OBJECTIVES	47
Goals	48
Objectives	48

ACTION PROGRAM	51
Action Plan.....	52
Project Schedule.....	61
Implementation Strategies.....	62

APPENDICES

A. Notices.....	64
B. Minutes of Public Hearing.....	67
C. Board of Trustees Resolution.....	74
D. Letters of Transmittal.....	76
E. Public Input	78

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1. Historical Population Counts - Huron Township Region.....	6
Table 2. Population Projections - Huron Township Region	7
Table 3. Forecasted Jobs by Industry Sector.....	9
Table 4. 2024 Recreation Commission Budget.....	24
Table 5. Regional Recreation Facility Amenities	36
Table 6. Accessibility Assessment	40
Table 7. Grant Assisted Projects.....	40
Table 8. Park Comparison to National Standards.....	42
Table 9. National Sports Participation	43
Table 10. Top Ten Outdoor Recreation Activities in Michigan	43
Table 11. Project Schedule.....	61

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1. Wayne County	6
Figure 2. SEMCOG Region.....	6
Figure 3. State of Michigan	6
Figure 4. Population Trends - Wayne County & Southeast Michigan.....	7
Figure 5. Population Trends - Huron Township.....	7
Figure 6. Age Distribution Comparison, 2010-21.....	7
Figure 7. Children & Senior Populations.....	8
Figure 8. Racial Distribution 2020.....	8
Figure 9. Education Levels 2010 & 2021	8
Figure 10. Household Income 2020.....	8
Figure 11. Housing Stock 2020.....	9
Figure 12. Land Use Percentages.....	10

Figure 13. DLGI East-West Trail 14

Figure 14. SEMGIV Wayne County Vision Map..... 15

Figure 15. SEMCOG 2040 Regional Non-Motorized Study - Wayne County.. 16

Figure 16. Iron Belle Trail Alignmet & Wayne County Area Detail Map..... 17

Figure 17. North Country National Scenic Trail 18

Figure 18. Iron Bell Van Buren Township Project Map 18

Figure 19. Bluewater Trail Options in S.E. Michigan..... 19

Figure 20. Organizational Structure 22

Figure 21. HCMA Properties in Huron Township 35

Figure 22. Lajko Park Concept Plan 54

Figure 23. Berlinn Memorial Park Concept Plan..... 55

Figure 24. Riverside Park Concept Plan 56

Figure 25. Recreation Facilities & Non-motorized Plan 58

LIST OF MAPS

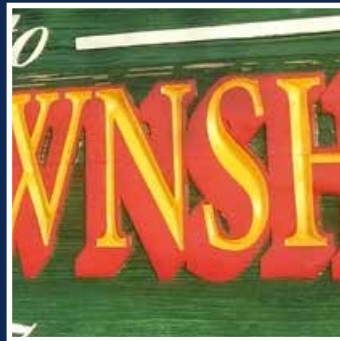
Map 1. Existing Land Use 11

Map 2. Natural Features..... 12

Map 3. Huron Township Recreation Facilities 27

Map 4. Regional Recreation Facilities 38

INTRODUCTION



THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK



INTRODUCTION

The Huron Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan articulates a vision for the Township’s parks and recreation. The plan will guide the community’s park planning and development efforts over the next five years, through 2028. The plan is also intended to meet state standards for community recreation planning that are necessary to remain eligible for grant programs.

WHAT THIS PLAN CONTAINS

The Huron Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan follows the format suggested by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources in the Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans (2021). It begins with a brief overview of the plan as well as a description of the Planning Process which was used to develop the plan. The plan then presents a **Community Description**, providing information on both the social and physical characteristics of the community. The Township's **Administrative Structure** is next described, including information on budget and funding. A detailed description of parks and recreation resources is provided in the **Recreation Inventory** and presents the recreational resources located both in and around the Township. The **Public Participation and Needs Assessment** section presents the input received from Township officials and residents, which helped in formulating the plan’s **Goals and Objectives**. The **Action Program** then provides an action plan and strategies for implementation. Finally, the **Appendices** include the resolutions and notices documenting the plan's adoption by the Huron Charter Township Board of Trustees.

PLANNING PROCESS

The process used to generate the plan consisted of three phases: background studies, evaluation, and plan development:

1. **Background Studies.** This phase involved gathering and updating information from census data, existing documents, plans, and from field observations. The information is organized into three main categories: community description, administrative structure, and parks and recreation resources.
2. **Evaluation.** The second phase in the planning process consisted of an analysis of the information compiled to determine parks and recreation deficiencies and needs. Public input to assess needs was sought at this level. An online survey was used to receive residents’ opinions and ideas. Input from the members of the Parks and Recreation Commission was also gathered.
3. **Plan Development.** Finally, the last phase in the process involved plan development and adoption. Goals and objectives were formulated and a specific action plan developed including strategies and recommendations for the implementation of the plan.

The following diagram illustrates the planning process and how it corresponds to the MDNR suggested format.



COMMUNITY BACKGROUND



COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Located in southern Wayne County, Huron Charter Township is the planning area and jurisdiction covered by this plan. The Township is approximately 36 square miles in size and is bisected by Interstate I-275, which connects with I-75 and I-94, and provides access to the greater region.

The Township is located approximately 25 miles southwest of downtown Detroit, 50 miles north of downtown Toledo, and 30 miles southeast of downtown Ann Arbor. Three unincorporated villages are located within the Township: New Boston, Waltz, and Willow. Waltz and New Boston both contain small downtown business areas and a concentrated residential pattern.

Huron Charter Township is bordered by Sumpter Township to the West, Van Buren Township and Romulus to the north, Brownstown Township and Flat Rock to the East, and Ash Township, Monroe County, to the south.

Wayne County is located in the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) region. SEMCOG is the regional planning agency that conducts planning studies and maintains a comprehensive database of information about the following seven counties: St. Clair, Macomb, Oakland, Livingston, Washtenaw, Wayne, and Monroe.

POPULATION GROWTH AND CHARACTERISTICS

Huron Township saw a 6.71% increase in population from 2010 to 2020, with the 2020 population estimated at 16,944. SEMCOG predicts an additional 13% growth through 2050, with the total forecasted population surpassing 19,000 residents. Tables 1 & 2 compare the population of Huron Township

TABLE 1: HISTORICAL POPULATION COUNTS - HURON TOWNSHIP REGION

	1990	2000	2010	2020	2010-2020 % Change
Huron Township	10,447	13,737	15,879	16,944	6.71%
Belleville	3,270	3,997	3,991	4,008	0.43%
Brownstown Twp.	18,811	22,989	30,627	33,194	8.38%
Flat Rock	7,290	8,488	9,878	10,541	6.71%
Romulus	22,897	22,979	23,989	25,178	4.96%
Sumpter Township	10,891	11,856	9,549	9,660	1.16%
Taylor	70,811	65,868	63,131	63,409	0.44%
Van Buren Township	21,010	23,559	28,821	30,375	5.39%
Ash Township	4,710	5,048	5,438	5,534	1.77%
Berlin Township	4,635	5,154	7,206	7,900	9.63%
Exeter Township	2,753	3,222	3,406	3,382	-0.70%
Wayne County	2,111,687	2,061,162	1,820,650	1,793,561	-1.49%
Southeast Michigan	4,590,468	4,833,368	4,704,809	4,830,489	2.67%

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, SEMCOG

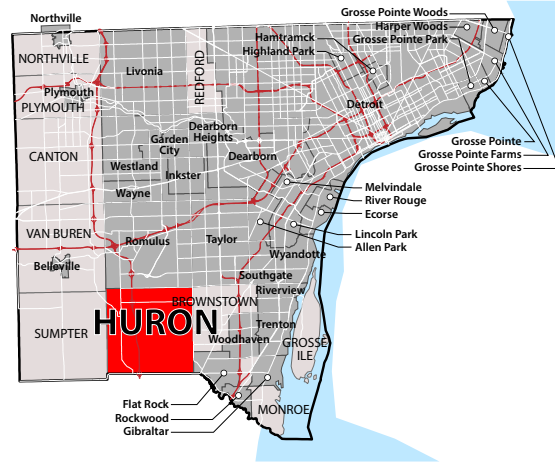


FIGURE 1: WAYNE COUNTY



FIGURE 2: SEMCOG REGION

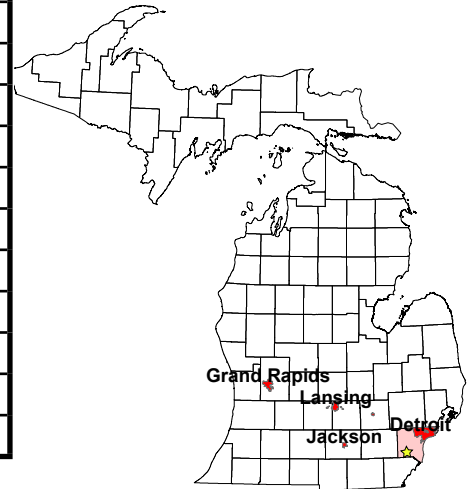


FIGURE 3: STATE OF MICHIGAN



with communities in the immediate area. Between 2010 and 2020, Huron Township's 6.7% growth rate was tied for the third highest in the region along with Flat Rock. Berlin Township saw the highest growth percentage at 9.6%, while Exeter Township lost nearly 1% of its population. Overall, Wayne County's population declined by almost 1.5% during this time.

The number of households increased from 5,781 in 2010 to an estimated 6,191 in July 2022, a 7.1% increase. SEMCOG forecasts a 16% household growth rate in the coming years, with the Township reaching 7,200 households by 2050.

TABLE 2: POPULATION PROJECTIONS - HURON TOWNSHIP REGION

	2010	2020	SEMCOG estimate 2050	2010-2020 % Change	% Change 2020 - 2050
Huron Township	15,879	16,944	19,075	6.7%	12.6%
Belleville	3,991	4,008	3,776	0.4%	-5.8%
Brownstown Twp.	30,627	33,194	36,099	8.4%	8.8%
Flat Rock	9,878	10,541	10,548	6.7%	0.1%
Romulus	23,989	25,178	25,508	5.0%	1.3%
Sumpter Township	9,549	9,660	10,032	1.2%	3.9%
Taylor	63,131	63,409	62,963	0.4%	-0.7%
Van Buren Twp.	28,821	30,375	32,409	5.4%	6.7%
Ash Township	5,438	5,534	5,598	1.8%	1.2%
Berlin Township	7,206	7,900	8,780	9.6%	11.1%
Exeter Township	3,406	3,382	3,481	-0.7%	2.9%
Wayne County	1,820,650	1,793,561	1,804,908	-1.5%	0.6%
Southeast Michigan	4,704,809	4,830,489	5,138,535	2.7%	6.4%

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, SEMCOG

FIGURE 4: POPULATION TRENDS - WAYNE COUNTY & SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

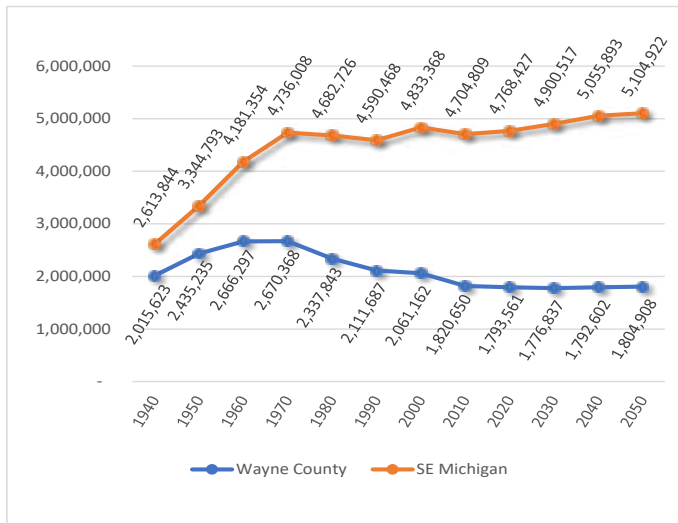
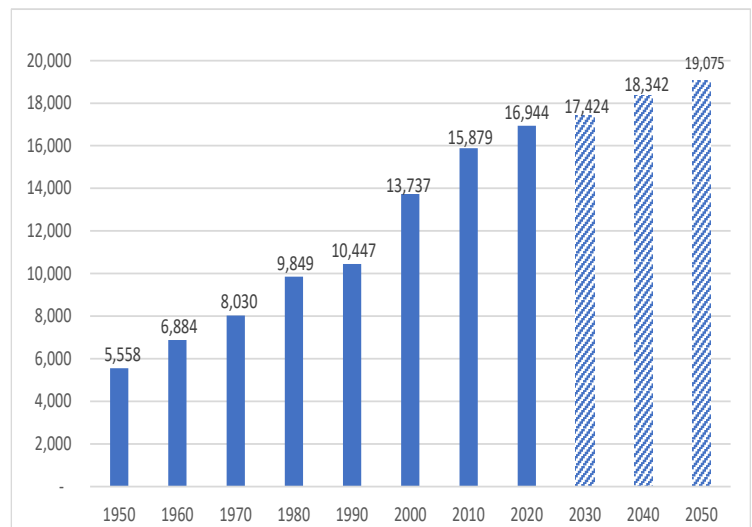
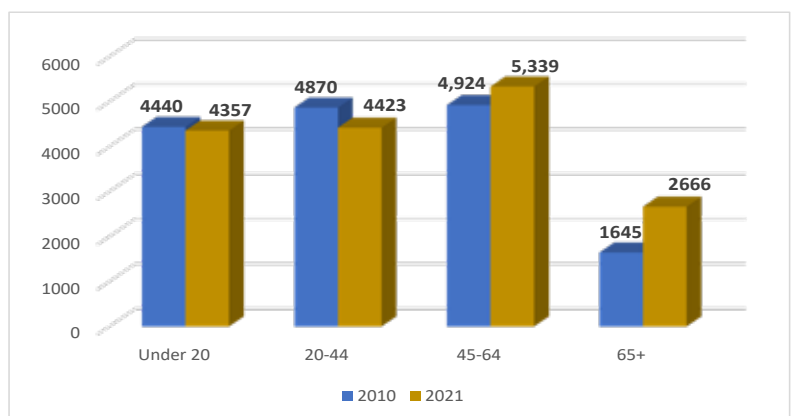


FIGURE 5: POPULATION TRENDS - HURON TOWNSHIP



While both the population and number of households will increase, the average size of those households is expected to decrease. The average household size fell from 2.73 to 2.68 between 2010 and 2022, and is forecasted to fall to 2.64 by 2050. At the same time, the median age is rising; the median for Huron Township rose from 39.4 in 2010 to 43.2 in 2021, according to ACS. These household trends are consistent with those seen across Michigan and the country as a whole; Michigan's median age increased from 38.1 to 40.2, while the US increased from 36.9 to 38.4. These trends are affected by a variety of factors including families with fewer children, an aging population, and changes in the mix of households.

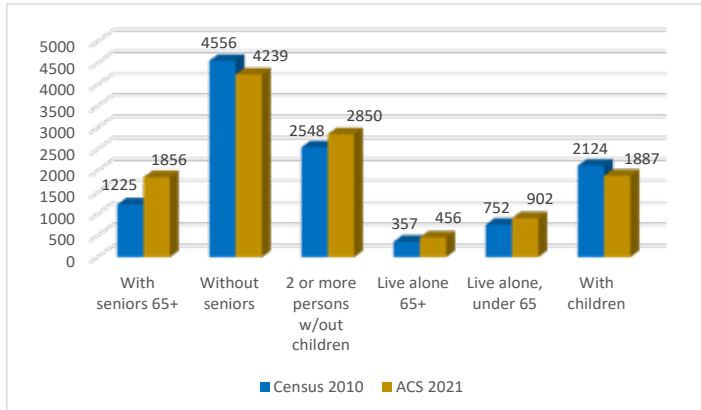
FIGURE 6: AGE DISTRIBUTION COMPARISON, 2010-2021



CHILDREN AND SENIORS

The number of households with children declined from 2010 to 2021. The number of households with seniors increased by 51.5% during that time period, however, and is expected to increase dramatically in the coming decades.

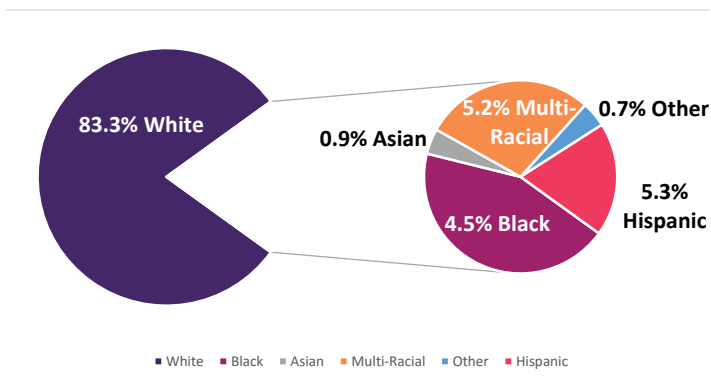
FIGURE 7: CHILDREN & SENIOR POPULATIONS



DIVERSITY

Huron Charter Township became more diverse in recent years. The white population decreased from 90.8% of the total population in 2010 to 83.3% in 2020, while persons of other racial and ethnic origins increased slightly. Black, Asian, multi-racial, and other races make up approximately 11.3% of the total population. Hispanic residents of any race comprise about 5.3% of the Township's population, an increase from 3.2% in 2010.

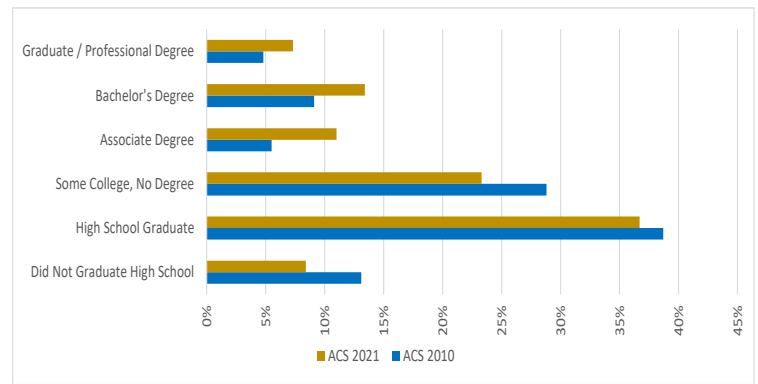
FIGURE 8: RACIAL DISTRIBUTION 2020



EDUCATION

According to the American Community Survey, 20.7% of the Township's population above age 25 held a bachelor's or higher degree in 2021. This represents a 6.8% increase from 2010 levels. This is lower than the average education levels reported for the entire SEMCOG area (34.5%) as well as Wayne County (25.8%). Notably, an additional 11% of the Township's population hold an associate degree, which is higher than both the SEMCOG area and Wayne County.

FIGURE 9: EDUCATION LEVELS 2010 & 2021

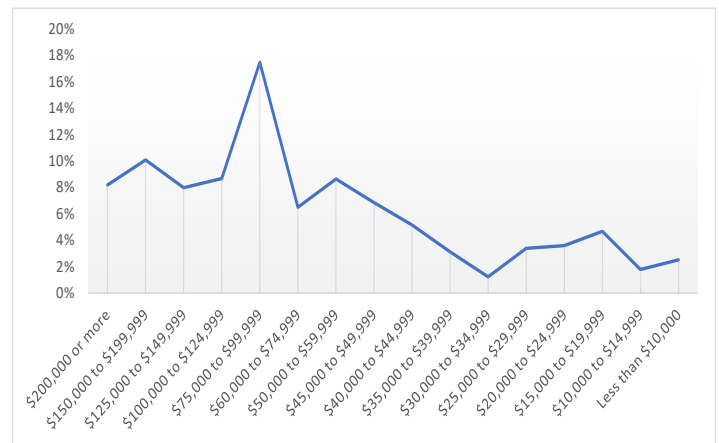


INCOME

The median household income showed a strong 10% increase, rising from \$70,254 in 2010 to \$77,366 in 2021. The per capita income rose at an even more impressive 16.8% rate, from \$32,164 to \$37,570. The American Community Survey reports a decrease in the number of persons in poverty from 10.8% to 7.6%, and a similar decrease in the number of households in poverty from 10.9% to 7.9%.

Roughly 50% of households earn between \$50,000 - \$150,000 annually. 18% earn more than \$150,000, while 12.6% earn less than \$25,000 per year.

FIGURE 10: HOUSEHOLD INCOME 2020



EMPLOYMENT

According to the American Community Survey, the strongest employment sectors in the Township in 2020 were:

- Manufacturing,
- Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities, and
- Natural Resources, Mining, & Construction.

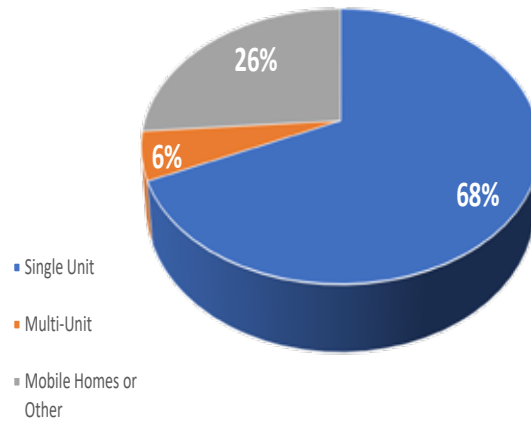
These numbers are expected to change significantly by 2050. Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities is forecasted to become the top industry sector in the Township with 241% employment growth by 2050. Retail trade jobs are expected to decline by over 22% and healthcare service jobs are expected to growth by over 113% during this same time period.



TABLE 3: FORECASTED JOBS BY INDUSTRY SECTOR

Forecasted Jobs By Industry Sector	2020	2050	% Change 2020-2050
Natural Resources, Mining, & Construction	465	542	16.60%
Manufacturing	796	745	-6.40%
Wholesale Trade	253	272	7.50%
Retail Trade	230	178	-22.60%
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	556	1,898	241.40%
Information & Financial Activities	361	473	31.00%
Professional and Technical Services & Corporate HQ	327	437	33.60%
Administrative, Support, & Waste Services	330	477	44.50%
Education Services	293	351	19.80%
Healthcare Services	196	237	113.80%
Leisure & Hospitality	296	504	70.30%
Other Services	347	407	17.30%
Public Administration	168	195	16.10%
Total Employment Numbers	4618	6716	45.43%

FIGURE 11: HOUSING STOCK 2020



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Growth in the local housing stock has begun to rebound from the 2008 Recession and are more on par with anticipated population growth. The average number of new building permits issued annually between 2011 and 2022 was nearly 28. The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic limited the number of new building permits issued in 2020 through 2023, but the total annual permit numbers are still higher than the period from 2009 through 2012, reaching a 21st century peak of 61 building permits issued in 2018.

While single-family detached homes are predominant (68%), mobile/ manufactured housing account for 26% of the housing stock. Multi-family units account for less than 6% of Huron Township’s housing stock. Of the new building permits issued between 2010 and 2021, all have been for single-family detached units.

While the number of renter-occupied units continues to increase, most housing units (83.6%) in 2021 were still owner-occupied. Only 9.6% of units were renter-occupied. The number of vacant units rose from 4.9% in 2010 to 6.8% in 2021.

According to the American Community Survey, the Township’s median housing value in 2021 was \$221,900, a drop of \$11,367 (4.9%) from 2010. The median gross rent increased to \$1,247/month, a \$92 increase from 2010.

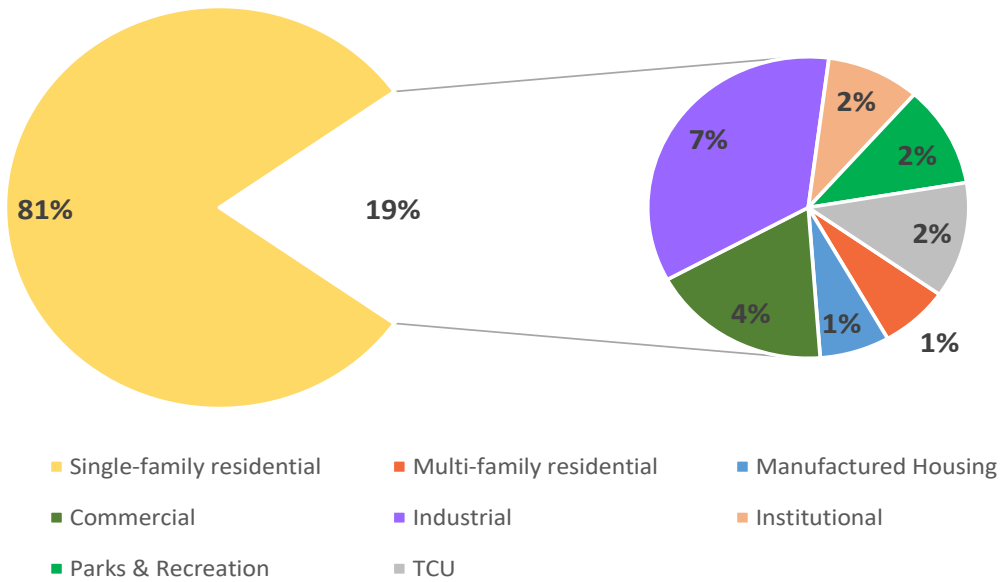


LAND USE PATTERNS AND DEVELOPMENT TRENDS

The presence of I-275 and the close proximity of Detroit Metropolitan Airport have made Huron Charter Township a great location for industrial and commercial parks. The industrial lots tend to lie along I-275, while commercial is more scattered around the Township with a hub in New Boston. Most residential developments that have occurred in the Township have resulted in varied lot sizes where 40-acre parcels are adjacent to 1-acre suburban lots and 10-acre rural lots. Map 1 illustrates existing land uses in Huron Township while Table 8 presents their extent .

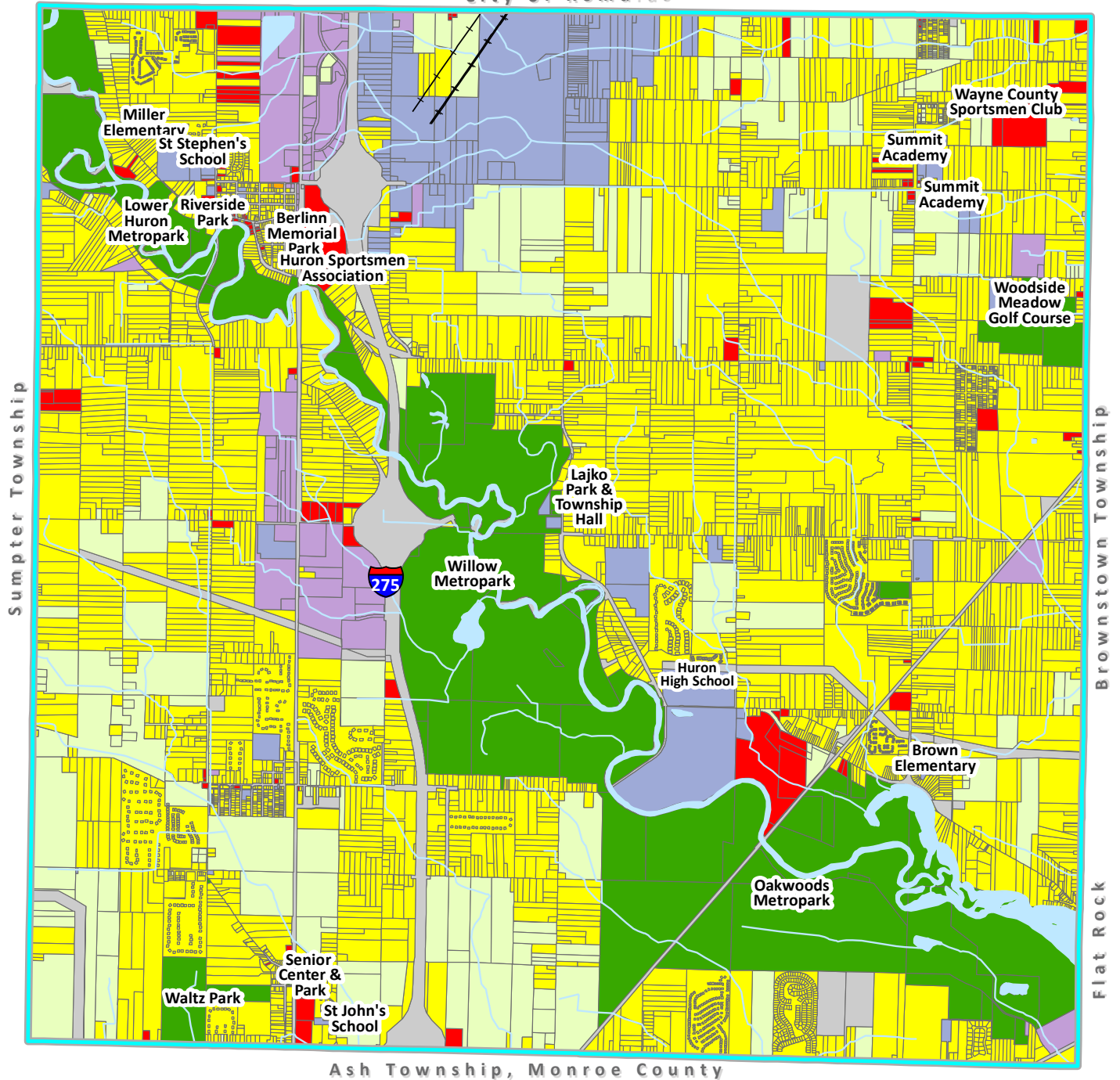
A substantial amount of land, 3,643 acres or 16 percent, is classified as park, recreation, and open space. This is due in large part to the more than 3,000 acres of land owned by the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA, also known as Huron-Clinton Metroparks) along the Huron River corridor.

FIGURE 12: LAND USE PERCENTAGES





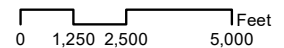
City of Romulus



- Agricultural
- Single-family residential
- Multiple-family residential
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Parks, Recreation, and Open Space
- Governmental / Institutional
- TCU
- Water

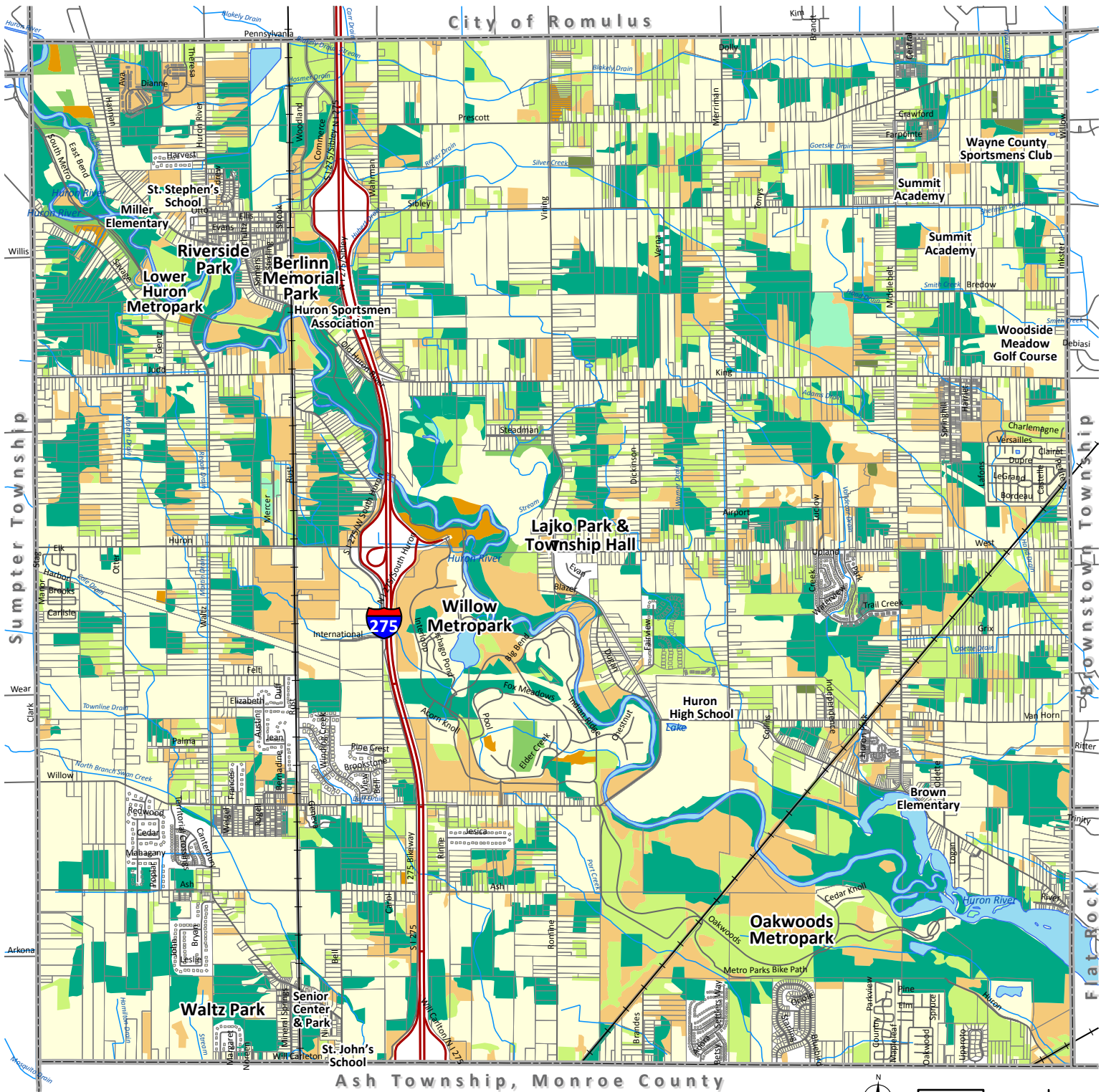
EXISTING LAND USE

Huron Charter Township, Wayne County



Source: SEMCOG, MiGDL, Ypsilanti Township
 Carlisle/Wortman Associates
 October, 2018





- Herbaceous Areas
- Shrub Land
- Broadleaved Forest
- Coniferous Forest
- Shrub/Scrub Wetland
- Forested Wetland
- Emergent Wetland

NATURAL FEATURES

Huron Charter Township, Wayne County



Source: SEMCOG, MiGDL, Ypsilanti Township
 Carlisle/Wortman Associates
 October, 2018





NATURAL FEATURES

The Huron River is the most important natural feature of the Township. It is a critical part of the Township's ecosystem and natural heritage. It also represents enormous potential as a recreation amenity.

Huron Township contains significant areas of woodlands, wetlands, and open spaces. Map 2 illustrates the natural features of the Township. Woodlands tend to be located in the areas where the soils are generally less well-suited for farmland. They are scattered throughout the Township and located along the river corridor within the HCMA properties. Wetlands also tend to be located in the low-lying areas associated with the Huron River.

GEOLOGY, TOPOGRAPHY AND SOILS

As the glaciers melted and receded to the north, they deposited soils sediment and rocks in the form of till and moraines. Till was typically deposited in a uniform manner as the glacier receded, while moraines were created when the glacier essentially "dumped" its debris in one particular location. The topography and drainage of the area have, therefore, been determined by where and how much glacial debris were deposited in particular areas.

Huron Township is characterized by flat topography and fertile soils. According to the Soil Survey of Wayne County, Michigan, the predominant soil associations in Huron Township are the Pewamo-Selfridge-Corunna Association located in the southern half of the Township. Other associations include the Thetford-Granby-Tedrow Association, Belleville-Selfridge-Tedrow Association, and the Wasepi-Gilford-Boyer Association. These soils are generally suitable for farming and development. However, the high water table and the slow and ponded storm water runoff can result in limitations to septic systems, and may present challenges for recreation development. According to the USDA Soil Survey, roughly 56% of the Township has very limited potential for trail and picnic area development due to the high depth to saturated zone and potential flooding issues. The Survey considers playground development to be somewhat limited.

WOODLANDS

The majority of trees and vegetation that existed in Huron Township prior to agricultural development were cleared. Throughout the Township are parcels of land with smaller isolated pockets of trees, located in the areas where the soils were generally less well-suited for farming. The largest concentration of significant woodlands is located within the Huron Clinton Metroparks.

WATER RESOURCES

Huron Township is bisected by the Huron River and its associated low-lying wetland and floodplain areas.

According to data gathered from SEMCOG, wetlands amount to about 7,000 acres, or about a third of the Township's area. These wetlands include emergent, forested, and scrub-shrub wetlands and can be found scattered throughout the Township and along the Huron River corridor.

PLANNING INITIATIVES

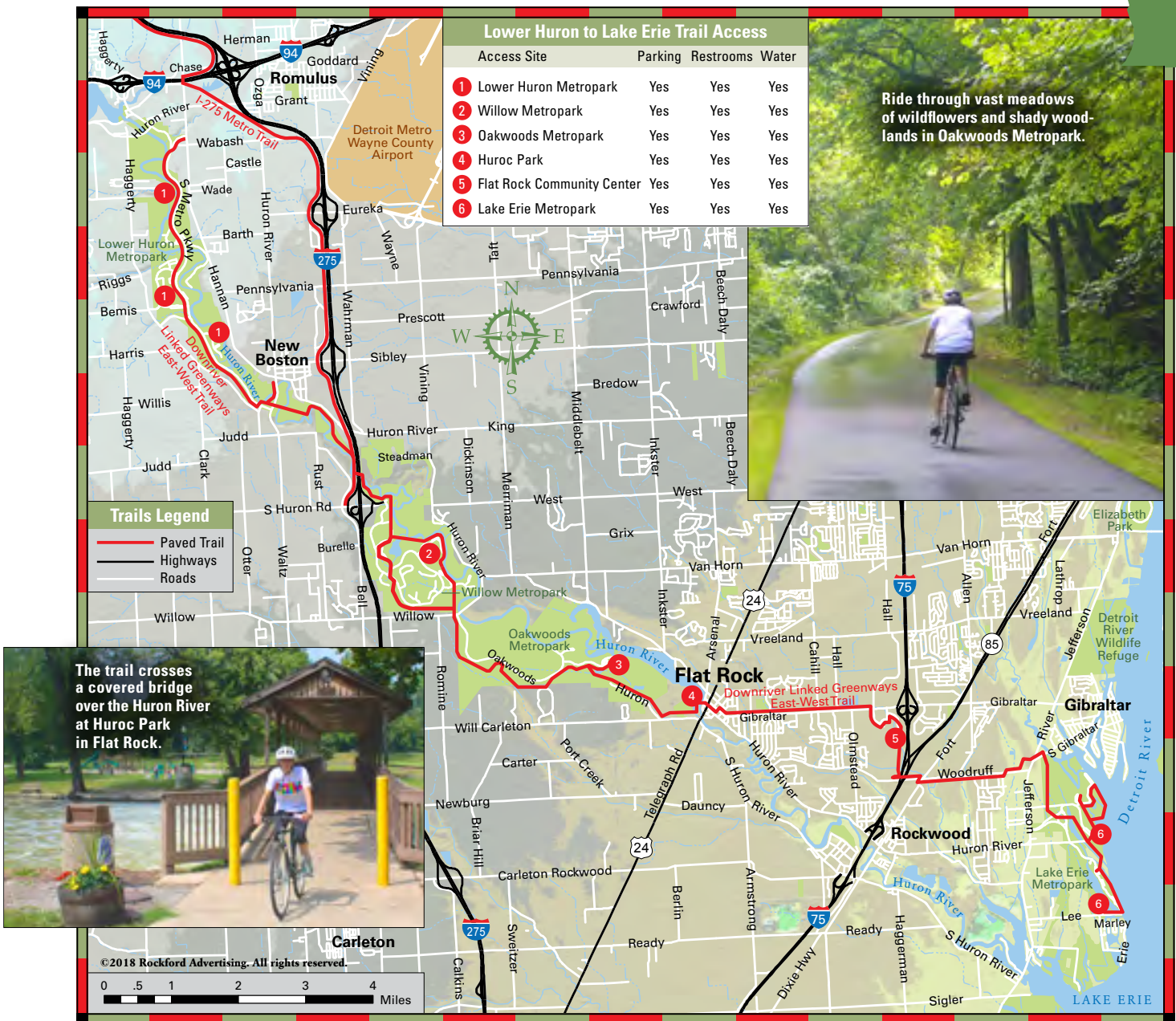
While change is inevitable and growth will occur, Huron Township is committed to managing that growth to enhance economic benefit, recreational activities, and overall quality of life for all residents. A number of planning initiatives related to non-motorized pathway planning and development took place in the region which includes Huron Township.

DOWNRIVER LINKED GREENWAY INITIATIVE

Formed in 1999, the Downriver Linked Greenway Initiative (DLGI) brought together 21 communities along with many business partners to develop an interconnected system of trails for bicycling and walking in the Detroit Downriver area. The network consists of a north-south connector, two Huron-Clinton Metropark east-west connectors, the I-275 trail, and the Monroe-Lake Erie trail. Construction on a number of projects was completed in 2018, providing Huron Township residents new non-motorized access to the Detroit International Wildlife Refuge and the Lake Erie Metropark.

FIGURE 13: DLGI EAST-WEST TRAIL

East Michigan Trails





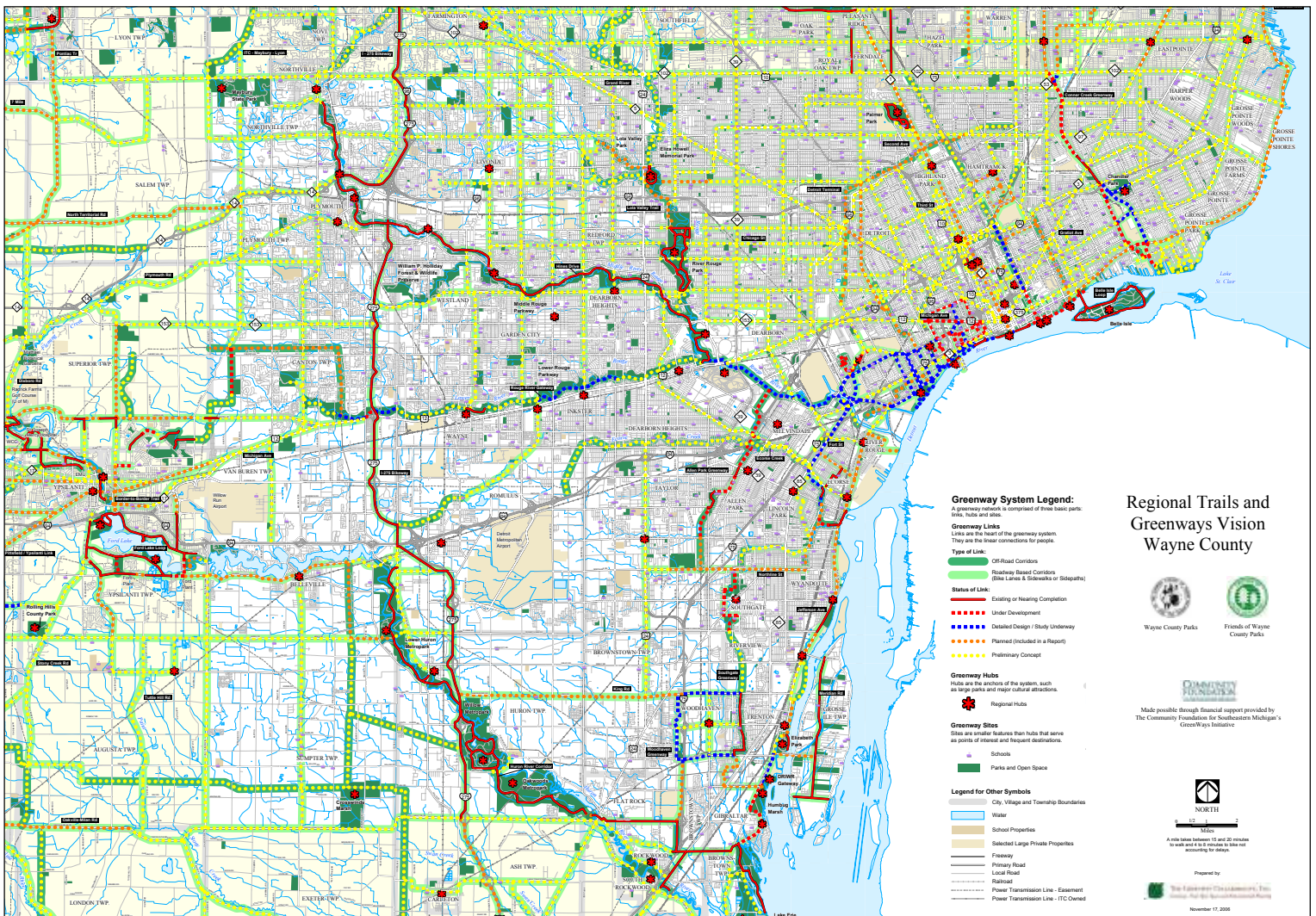
SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN GREENWAYS VISION

In 2006, the seven-county region of southeast Michigan updated the Southeast Michigan Greenways Vision (SEMIGV) to reflect the desired non-motorized connections in the region. This initiative was facilitated by the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan. Counties worked together with local municipalities and community interest groups to develop a long-term vision for a connected system of greenways and trails. Figure 14 depicts the vision for Wayne County, identifying the regional framework in which Huron Township belongs.

Blueways are an outgrowth of the land-based greenways concept—connecting the region by way of the watercourses that knit communities together. Increasingly, blueways are becoming an important recreational component to the region, and more importantly, emphasizing the importance of our water resources.

The Detroit Heritage River Water Trail goes through the Detroit, Huron, Rouge and Raisin Rivers and offers many opportunities for canoeing and kayaking in the region. As depicted on the map in Figure 7, the water trail follows the Huron River up to Belleville through Huron Township with river access and canoe/kayak launches at all three metroparks.

FIGURE 14: SEMIGV WAYNE COUNTY VISION MAP

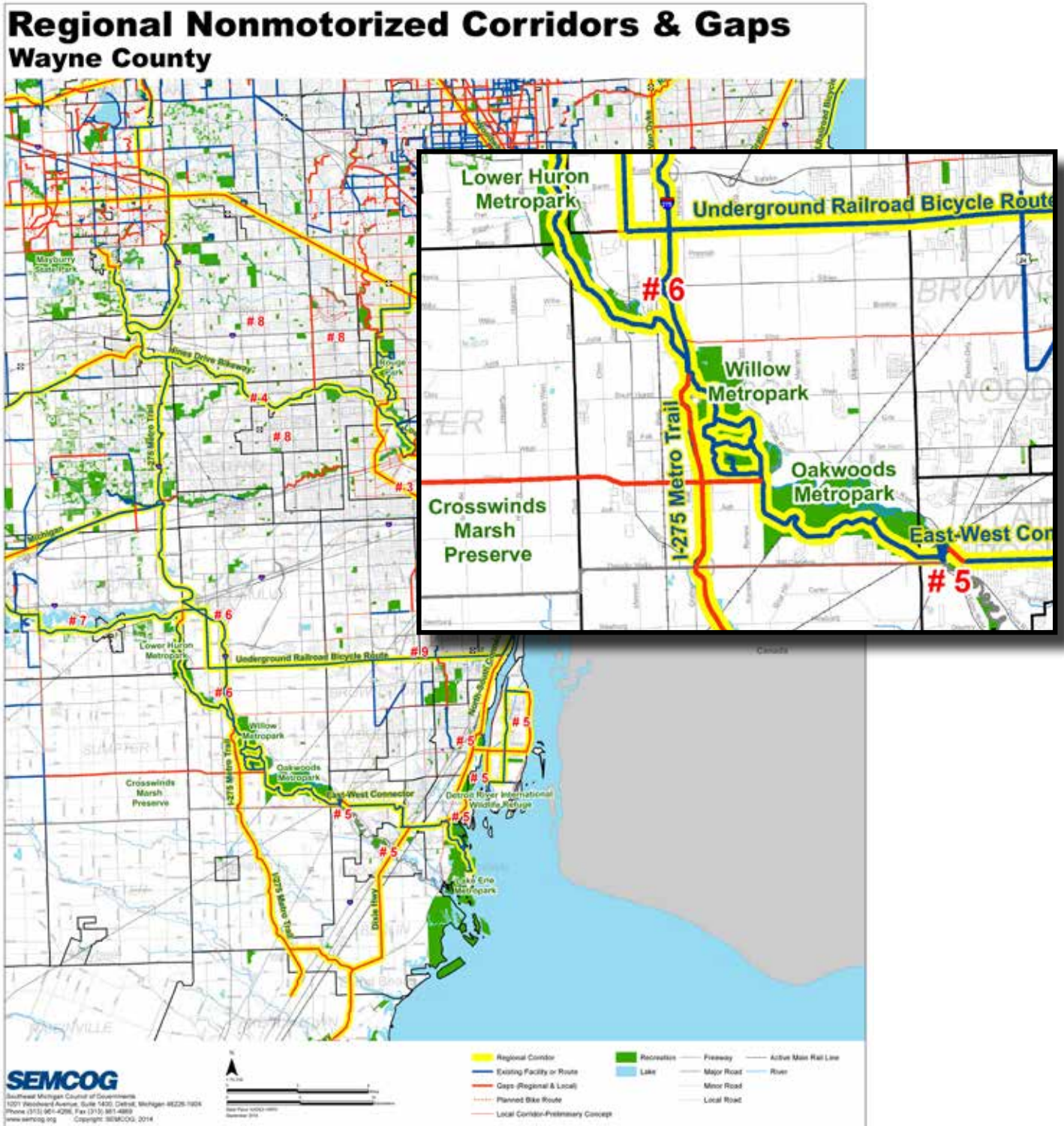


SEMCOG 2040 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN FOR SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

The SEMCOG plan is a joint effort between Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) and the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). The plan provides recommendations for bicycle and pedestrian facilities across 10 regions and incorporating 60 different action items. SEMCOG's larger regional focus places more emphasis on existing non-motorized transportation options. The 2045 Plan is currently being developed and is scheduled for adoption in the spring of 2019.

The 2040 Plan identifies completed trails through the Metroparks and a potential connection between Willow Metropark and the Crosswinds Marsh Preserve utilizing Willow Road. The Plan incorrectly shows I-275 Metro Trail is shown as incomplete; rehab and construction of the trail was completed in 2015.

FIGURE 15: SEMCOG 2040 REGIONAL NON-MOTORIZED STUDY - WAYNE COUNTY





STATE OF MICHIGAN IRON BELLE TRAIL

The ambitious project by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) would connect a series of trails from Detroit's Belle Isle to Ironwood in the far west of the Upper Peninsula. The Iron Belle Trail (IBT) includes a 1,273 mile long hiking route which winds along the west side of the Lower Peninsula and borders Lake Superior in the Upper Peninsula. The 791 mile long biking trail uses existing multi-use trails on the east side of the state and follows US-2 in the Upper Peninsula. The IBT has had a tremendous impact on trail development in Michigan in recent years; since 2012, over \$68 million in grant and local funds and \$155 million in private donations have been collected. Over 200 miles of trails are scheduled to be completed in the next few years.

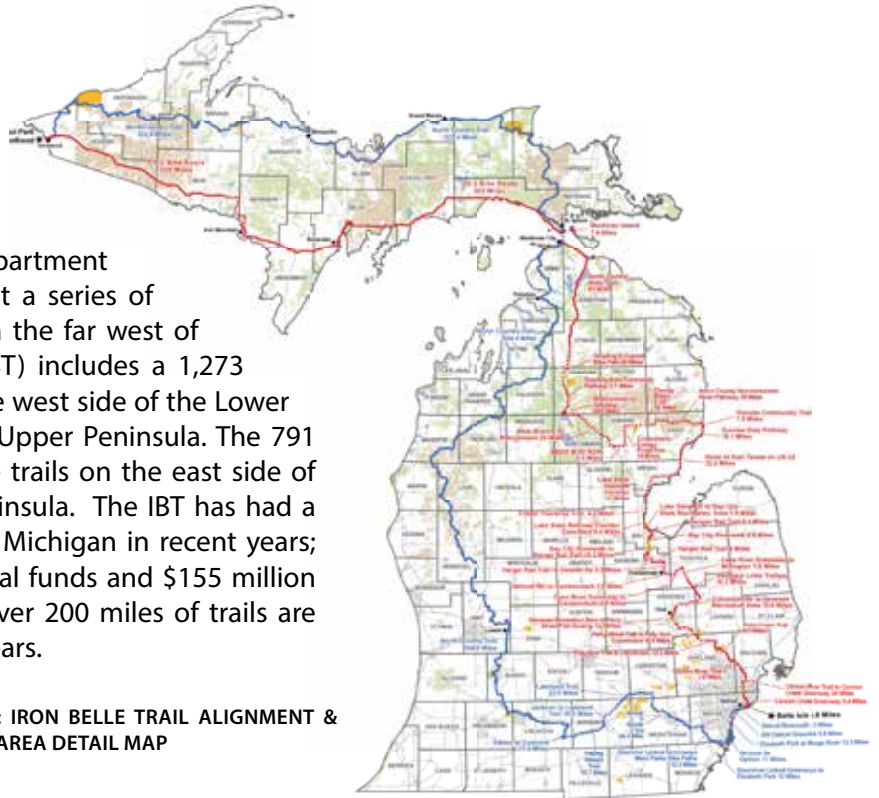


FIGURE 16A & B: IRON BELLE TRAIL ALIGNMENT & WAYNE COUNTY AREA DETAIL MAP

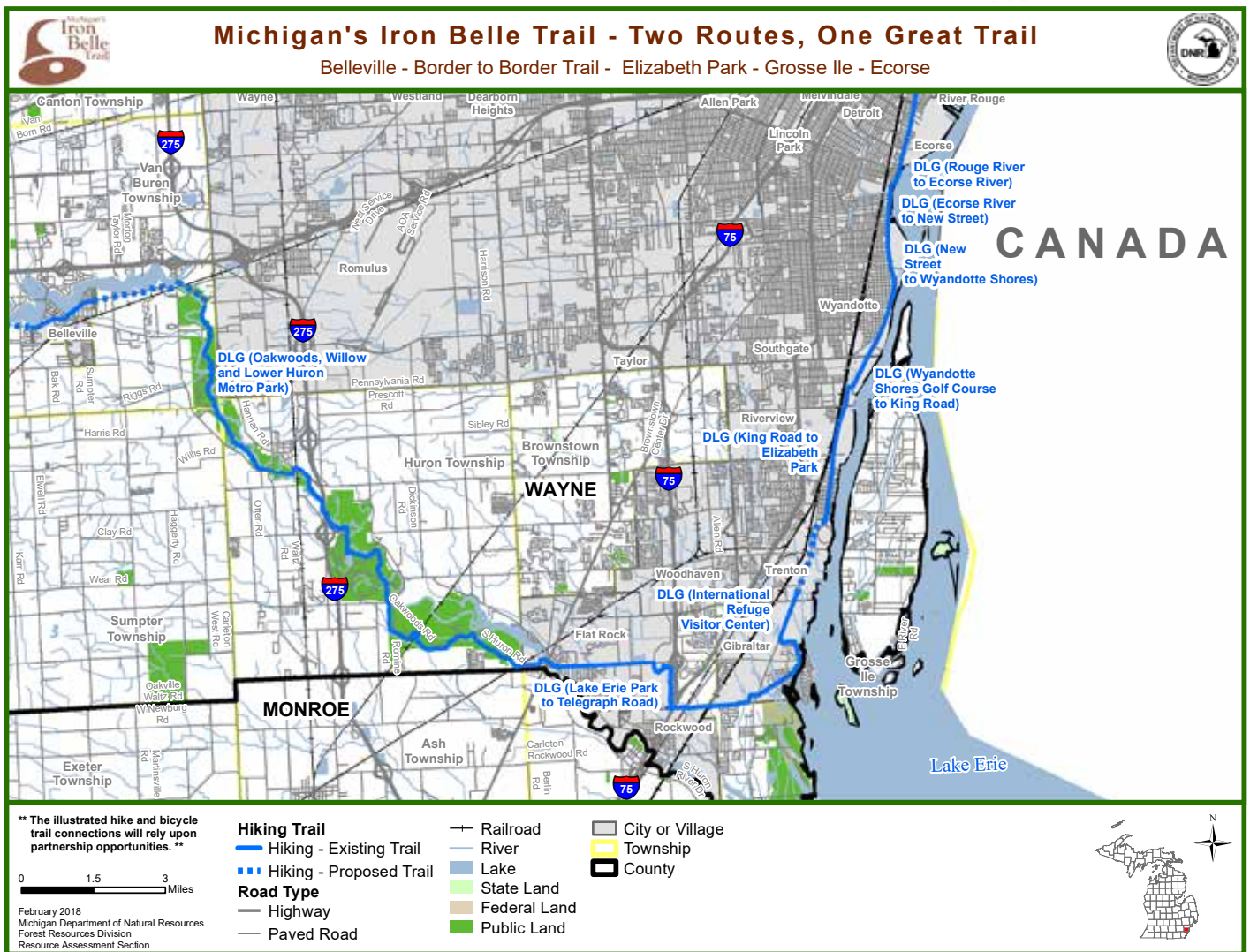
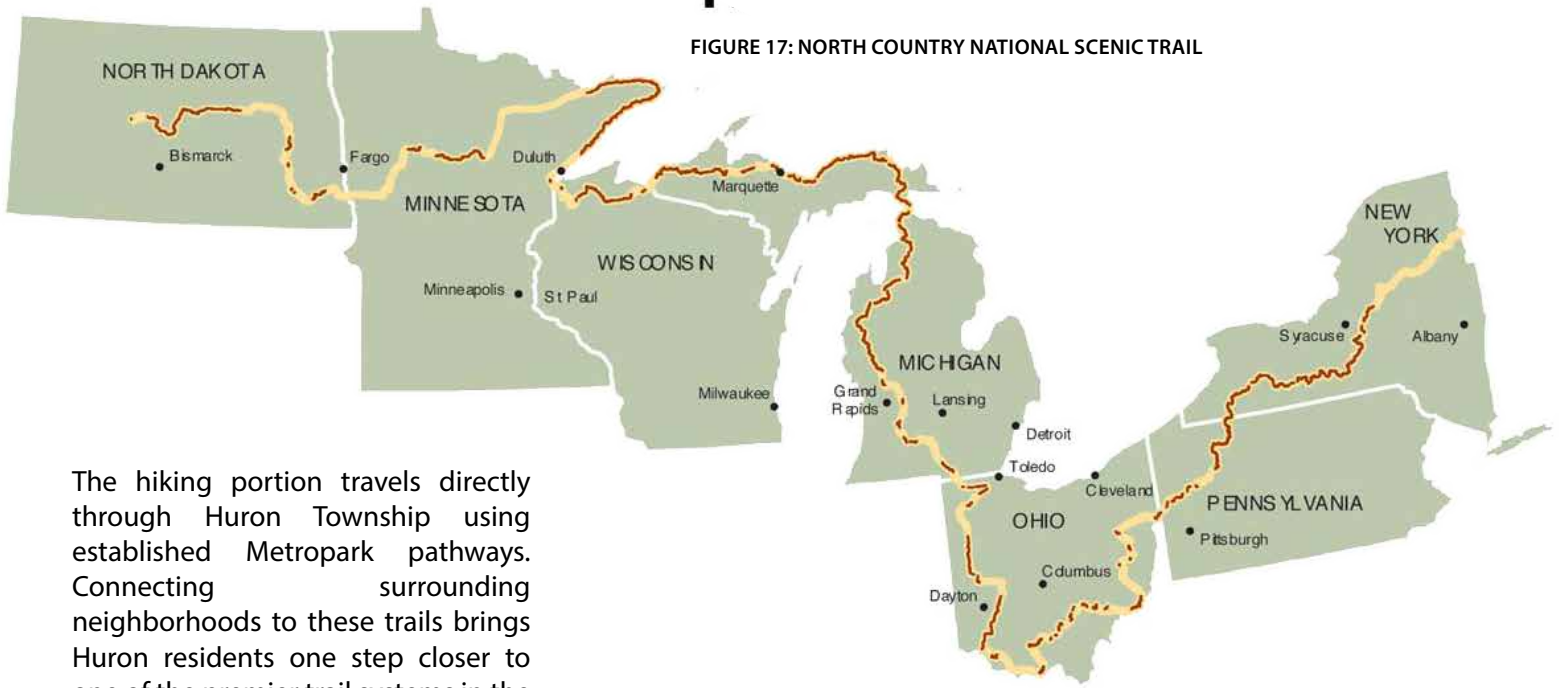


FIGURE 17: NORTH COUNTRY NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL



The hiking portion travels directly through Huron Township using established Metropark pathways. Connecting surrounding neighborhoods to these trails brings Huron residents one step closer to one of the premier trail systems in the country.

Van Buren Township Iron Bell Trail Gap

FIGURE 18: IRON BELL VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP PROJECT MAP



Section #	Length	Description	Section #	Length	Description
A	0.6 Miles	Begins in Hyatt Park and heads north to Grove Street. Route goes along the north side of Grove Street and ends at Rawsonville Road. Completed in 2021.	G	1.4 Miles	Picks up after the Denton Rd bridge on Main St in Belleville using existing sidewalks and adding sharrow markings. Turns south on High Street, then southeast on Church St, connecting to W Columbia Ave, turning onto E Huron River Dr, going by Victory Park, and ending at Edgemont St. Proposed construction 2023-24.
B	1.25 Miles	8-10' Asphalt path starting at the intersection of Rawsonville and Grove Street. Turns northeast on the I-94 Service Drive, curving east and picking up several commercial establishments, restaurants and the bus stop before entering Van Buren Park, ending at the saddle. Currently Under Construction.	H	0.5 Miles	Funded section of the trail. Sidewalk along the south side of E Huron River Dr from Edgemont St to Martinsville Rd. Currently Under Construction.
C	0.3 Miles	A combination of 10' pathway and sidewalk and on-road biking that connects the east side and west side of the park. Completed in 2022.	I	1.1 Miles	A sidewalk continues through Riggs Heritage Park, heading east down Huron River Drive from Edison Lake Road to Haggerty Road on the south side of the right of way. Proposed construction 2023-24.
D	1.0 Miles	A 10' pathway of the east end of Van Buren Township Park that connects up to Old Denton Road and Denton Road. The project includes a 14' wide pedestrian bridge over Willow Run Creek. Requesting \$1.85 million in funding.	J	0.5 Miles	Continues down Huron River Drive from Haggerty to Haggerty on the north side of the right of way. Proposed construction 2023-24.
E	0.4 Miles	A 5' sidewalk and sharrow down Denton Rd from golf course to bridge into Belleville. Future phase beyond 2025.	K	0.4 Miles	Continues down Huron River Drive from Haggerty to Haggerty on the north side of the right of way. Proposed construction 2023-24.
F	0.2 Miles	Denton Rd bridge is in need of improvements to safely accommodate pedestrians and bikers. Currently funded for 2025 construction.	L	0.5 Miles	Begins at the entrance of Lower Huron Metropark and terminating at the existing trail. Completed in 2022.

KEY

- Built Trail
- - - Under Construction
- - - Funding Requested
- - - 2023-24 Construction Opportunities
- - - 2025 Construction Opportunities
- - - Beyond 2025
- Segment Beginning/End Point



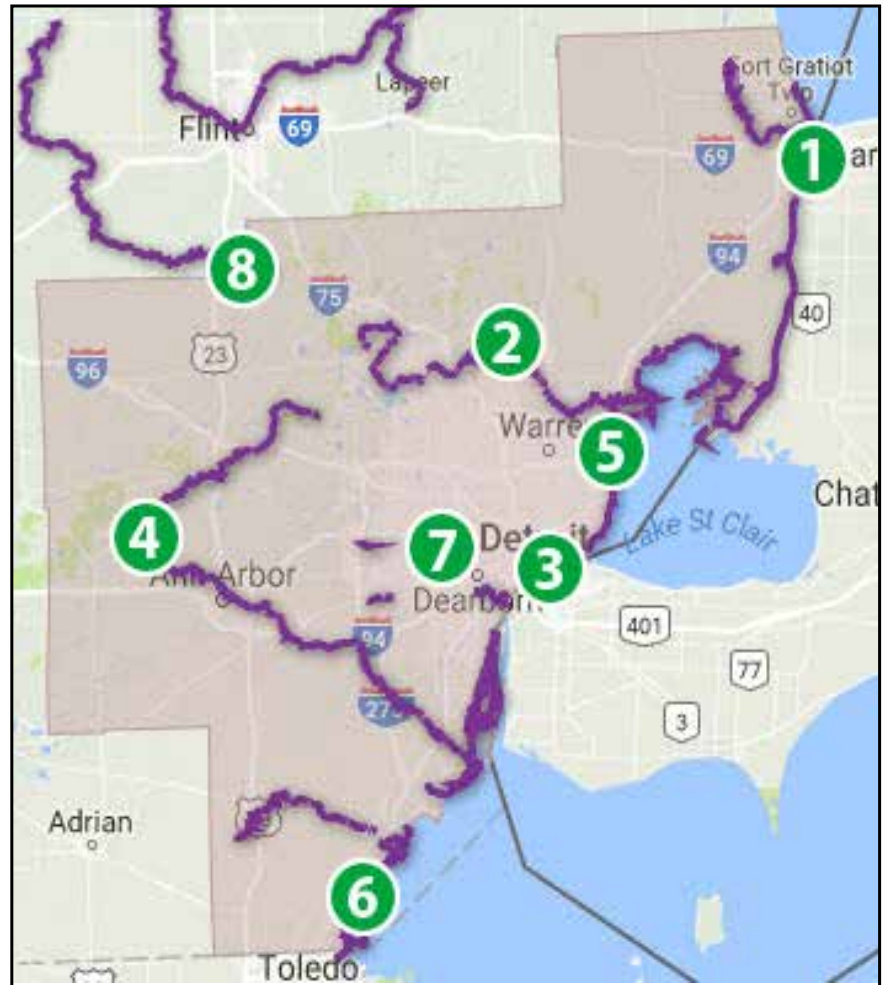


MICHIGAN BLUEWAYS & WATER TRAILS

The State of Michigan currently boasts of more than 3,000 miles of water trails along the Great Lakes and inland lakes and rivers. Like traditional land-based trails, water trails bring visitors to the community and offer recreational and educational opportunities for residents. By improving the overall quality of life for residents, these trails make the community more desirable place to live, work, and play.

The **Huron River Water Trail** offers some of the best kayaking and canoeing opportunities in the state of Michigan. Traveling over 104 miles, the trail provides challenges for users of all abilities and passes through a wide variety of environments. Locally, the river winds through the three Metroparks, with a boat launch found in Oakwoods Metropark. Providing additional launch points and rental opportunities outside of the Metroparks would greatly increase the visibility of the Township and could attract visitors to New Boston.

FIGURE 19: BLUEWATER TRAIL OPTIONS IN S.E. MICHIGAN



ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE



ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

The administration of parks and recreation services in Huron Charter Township is the responsibility of the Township Board. Huron Township residents are represented by a seven member board consisting of three officers and four trustees all of which are elected at large every four years. Limited by law in the amount of taxes that can be levied without voter approval, Township officials must be creative in delivering quality services with the least possible burden to taxpayers.

ADMINISTRATION

A Parks and Recreation Commission was established in 1979 under Public Act 156 of 1917, Recreation and Playgrounds. Commission members are appointed by the Board of Trustees. The Commission's responsibilities include overseeing the programming, development, implementation, and maintenance of recreation facilities and programs in Huron Township. Maintenance duties are completed by the Department of Public Works. Huron Township currently does not have staff assigned to parks and recreation services.

The Parks and Recreation Commission meets on a bi-monthly basis and has overseen the development of this Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

FIGURE 20: ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE





FUNDING AND BUDGET

Funding for parks and recreation is appropriated from the Township’s general fund. Revenues also come from grants and donations.

Park development and maintenance accounted for the majority of the parks and recreation expenses in Huron Township in the last five years. A portion of the parks and recreation fund is allocated to the Department of Public Works for the maintenance of parks. A budget summary is presented in Table 4.

VOLUNTEERS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Volunteers, service clubs, community groups, and private businesses play an active role in supporting parks and recreation in Huron Township.

Huron Township maintains a relationship with the Huron Public School District, which owns and maintains various recreational facilities and sports fields. The Parks and Recreation Commission, assisted by the YWCA Downriver Outreach, offers many programs taking place at the school facilities.

Other organizations run various athletic recreation programs independently from the Township. They include:

- The Huron Little League, which offers T-ball, softball, and baseball programs in the Spring for children ages 5 to 18 using the fields at Huron High School;
- The Huron Youth Soccer, which offers programs in the Fall and Spring taking place at Huron High School and at Willow Metropark;
- The Huron Chief Junior Football, which offers programs for kids from 1st grade to 6 grade in the Fall with practices and games taking place at Huron High School;
- The Huron Youth Basketball Association (HYBA), which offers a Fall girls’ basketball program and a Winter boys’ basketball program, with practices taking place at the elementary schools and games at Huron High School;
- The New Boston Braves, a running team/club based out of New Boston.

Service clubs and community groups also play a significant role in providing volunteer labor and financial support for the area’s park facilities and recreation programs. Some of the service clubs and community groups in Huron Township which actively partner with Township Parks & Recreation include:

Local service clubs:

- Rotary

Fraternal organizations:

- Kiwanis Club

Scouting Groups:

- Boy Scouts of America
- Huron Valley Girl Scouts

Other Organizations:

- Madonna University
- National Honors Society, Huron Schools

TABLE 4: 2024 Recreation Commission Budget

Project Description	Allocated Budget
Wages - DPW Services	\$ 11,139
Supplies	\$ 1,000
Repair and Maintenance Supplies	\$ 2,000
Professional & Contractual SR	\$ 3,000
Special Programs (Holidays)	\$ 2,800
Christmas Programs	\$1,500
Public Utilities	\$ 800
Repairs and Maintenance	\$ 7,700
Land Improvements	\$ 19,308
Total	\$ 49,247

RECREATION INVENTORY



RECREATION INVENTORY

Developing a complete inventory of the parks and recreation facilities and programs is an essential component of a five year Parks and Recreation Master Plan as it provides a base of information to use in developing the Action Plan. Understanding what parks, facilities, and programs are available to Springfield Township residents will assist decision-making in the future. It should be noted that some facilities listed in this chapter, specifically the privately operated golf courses, require entrance fees or even memberships, but they do provide additional recreation opportunities for Township residents. The inventory covers the following components:

- Township Parks and Facilities
- County/Regional Parks and Facilities
- Facilities in Neighboring Communities
- Quasi-Public and Private Recreation Facilities
- Programming
- Comparison to Recreation Standards
- Barrier Free Accessibility

TOWNSHIP PARKS AND FACILITIES

Huron Charter Township owns and operates four parks. A profile of each Township park is provided on the following pages. These parks and facilities can be loosely broken into categories based on size and function; the categories are suggested by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA). The categories are meant to aid in determining the primary purpose and uses for each facility.

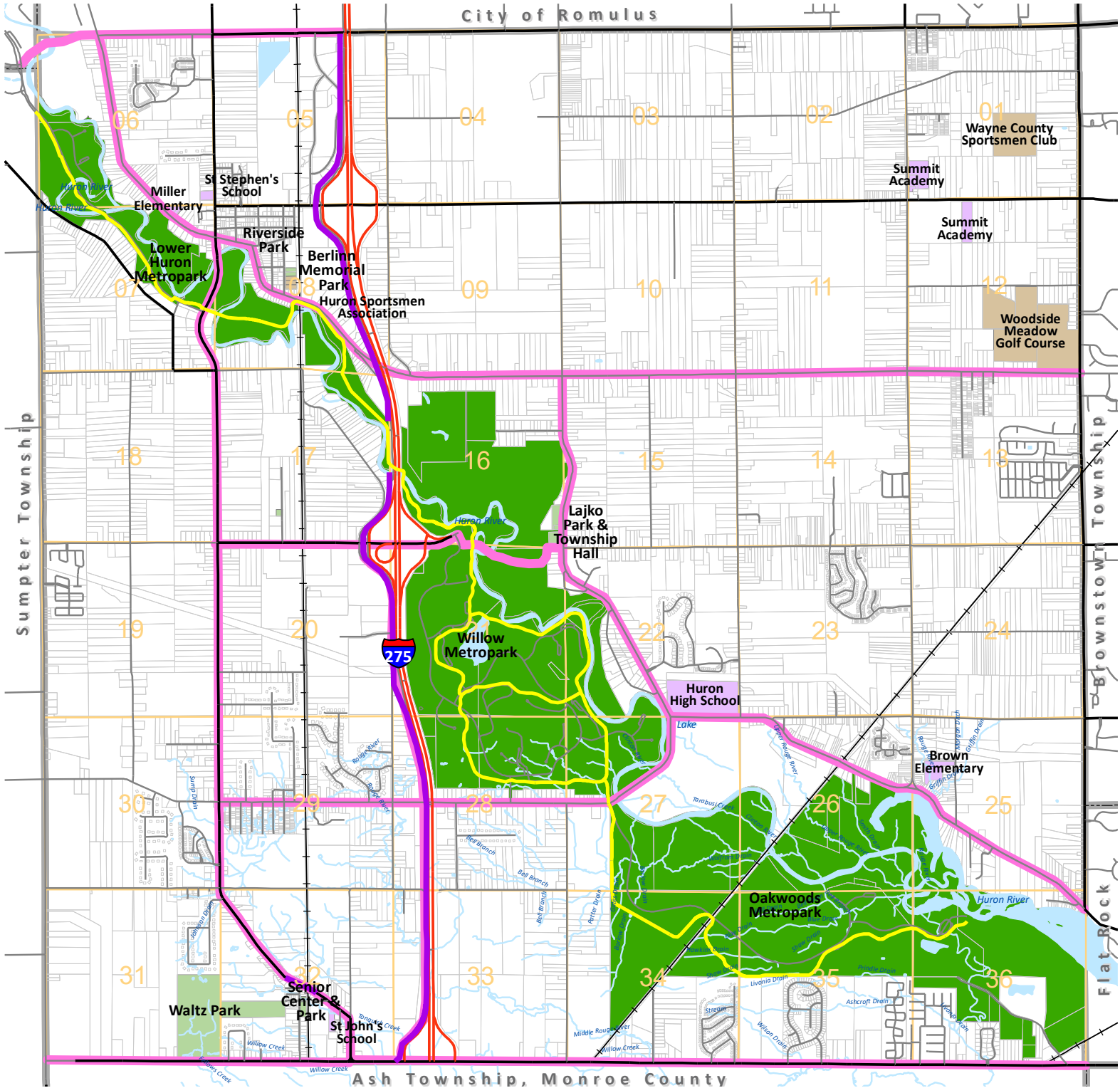
MINI PARKS: Mini parks serve the needs of the residents in the immediate area, approximately less than one-quarter mile away and are typically less than one acre in size. Kenneth E. Berlin Memorial Park and Riverside Park would be categorized as mini parks. There are also a few mini-parks scattered throughout the Township within private developments.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS: Neighborhood parks are typically multi-purpose facilities that serve as the recreational and social focus of a neighborhood. They provide areas for both passive and active recreation activities such as fields, playgrounds, picnicking, and trails. These parks are typically between five and ten acres in size and serve residents within one-half mile. The Township does not currently operate any neighborhood parks.

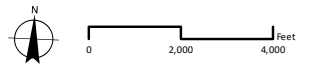
COMMUNITY PARKS AND FACILITIES: Community parks typically contain a wide variety of recreation facilities to meet the diverse needs of residents in the Township. Community parks may include areas for intense active recreation as well as passive recreation opportunities not commonly found in mini or neighborhood parks. The focus of these parks is to meet community-based recreation needs, as well as preserve unique landscapes and open spaces. Community parks are generally between 30 and 50 acres in size and serve residents within one-half to three miles of the park. Based on its size, Waltz Park would be considered a community park, but it currently lacks the diversity of programming that would typically qualify it as a true community park. Lejko Park, while somewhat small, would also fall in this category due to its role as a central gathering point for the community.

NATURE PRESERVES & SPECIALTY PARKS: Specialty parks provide a unique service and are generally intended to serve the entire community. Preserves, stand-alone splash pads or community centers, and dog parks could fall into this category. The Township does not currently operate any specialty parks.

REGIONAL PARKS: Regional Parks may be 200 acres or more in size, and service an area up to one hour's drive away (typically 45 or 60 miles). These types of parks are usually operated by a larger governmental body, such as the county or state, or by another recreation authority. The Huron-Clinton Metropark Authority (HCMA) operates three regional parks within the Township borders.



- HCMA Shared-Use Path
- I-275 Shared-Use Path
- Potential Future Path Routes
- Township Facilities
- Schools
- Private Facilities
- HCMA Metroparks



RECREATION FACILITIES

Huron Charter Township, Wayne County

Source: SEMCOG, MiGDL, Ypsilanti Township
 Carlisle/Wortman Associates
 October, 2023



KENNETH E. BERLINN MEMORIAL PARK

Address: Intersection of
Sterling & Kass Streets

Type: Mini Park

Passive Use

Size: 1 acre

ADA Assessment: 2

Amenities:

- Swingset
- Slide / Climbing Structure
- Rockers / Play Equipment
- Benches
- Covered Picnic Tables
- Public library stand

Berlinn Memorial Park

Located on Sterling Street in New Boston, Berlinn Memorial Park sits on one acre of land adjacent to the Department of Public Works yard. It incorporates a variety of play equipment including a play structure, swing set, merry-go-round, a sign, and landscaping. The park was upgraded in 2018 with new ADA compliant play equipment. Additional ADA compliant parking spaces and paths have also been added.



LAJKO PARK

Address: Immediately north of
Huron Township Hall (22950
Huron River Drive)

Type: Community Park
Active Use

Size: 8.9 acres

ADA Assessment: 2

Amenities:

- 1 baseball field,
- 1 youth ball field,
- Bleachers,
- Play structures and play equipment,
- Picnic pavilion with picnic tables and fireplace,
- Drinking fountain and bike rack,
- Gravel parking area, and
- Portable restroom.
- Basketball court



Lajko Park

Located on Huron River Drive, adjacent to Willow Metropark Golf and the Huron Township Hall, Lajko Park is the Township's main community park and covers 8.9 acres. The Township has recently added a new basketball court, and is considering adding new facilities such as community gardens and pickleball courts.



WALTZ PARK

Address: Bismark Street

Type: Community Park

Active & Passive Use

Size: 102 acres

ADA Assessment: 1

Amenities:

- Restrooms
- Concession Stand
- Picnic Pavilion
- Lighted ball field
- Rustic trails

Waltz Park and New Township Park Property

With access from Bismark Street in Waltz, and Will Carlton from the south, this property is now the largest park in the Township. Largely undeveloped, it includes the old Waltz Improvement Association Park facilities and a baseball field in the eastern portion, and an 80-acre natural area to the west.

A county drain bisects the natural area, and the ground contains a number of species indicative of a wet prairie. While the overall quality of the vegetation is high, a number of invasive species have begun to take hold, and will need to be addressed.

The Township is currently pursuing funding to expand the active-use facilities in the eastern portion of the park. Trail development in the western half is also being investigated. The park's location between the Metroparks and the I-275 Trail to the east and Crosswinds Marsh to the west makes it ideally suited to act as a trailhead.





RIVERSIDE PARK

Address: 37000 block of Huron River Drive

Type: Mini Park

Passive Use

Size: 0.25 acre

ADA Assessment: 1

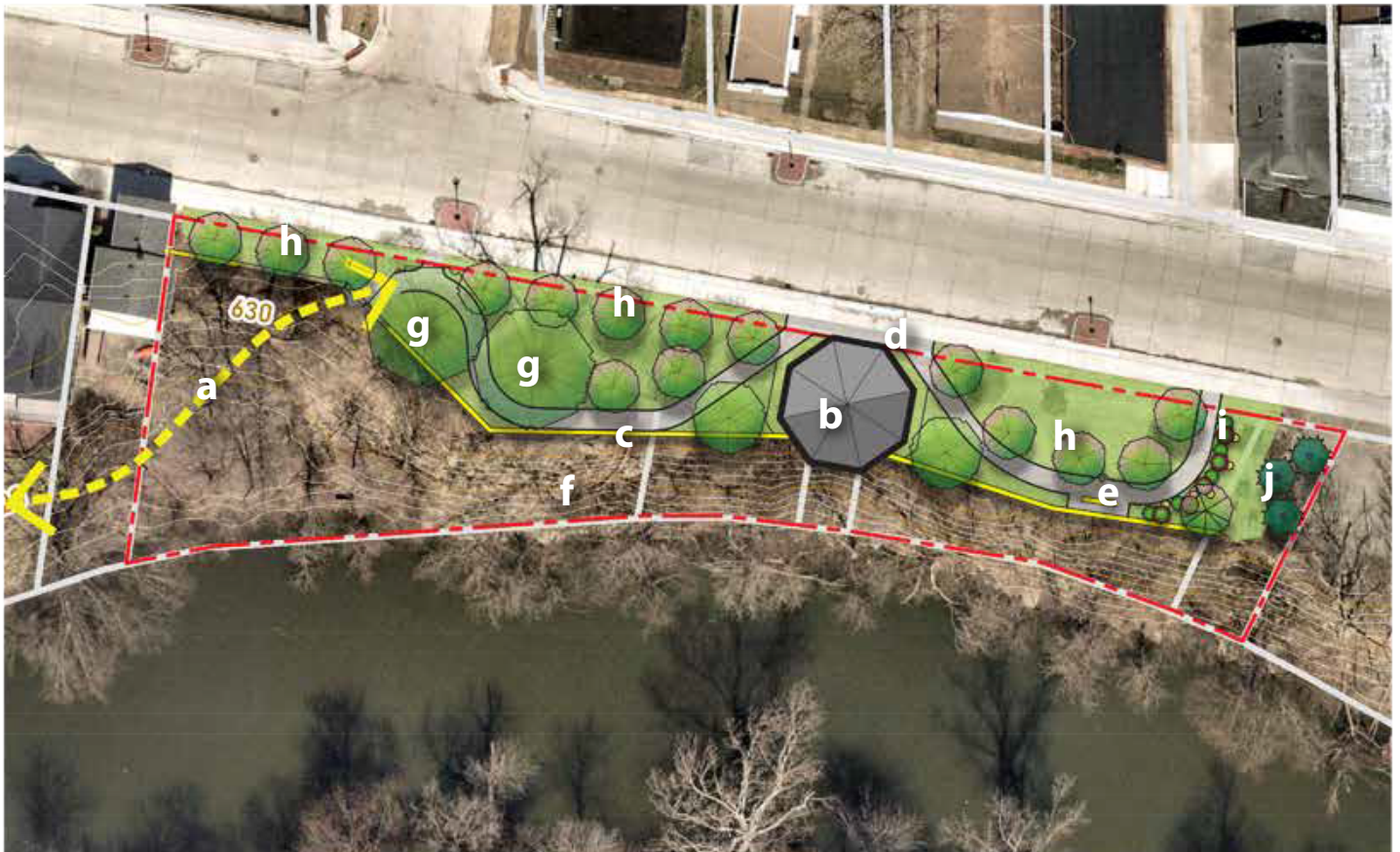
Amenities:

- Undeveloped



Riverside Park

Located on Huron River Drive in New Boston, this new 0.25-acre riverfront Township Property is planned for development. When complete, the park will include a pathway, seating area, and landscaping. The design for the park also incorporates an overlook over the river. A boardwalk connecting the upper park area has also recently been proposed. A concept plan is provided below.



Riverside Park Concept Plan

Huron Charter Township, Michigan

- a. Work with property owners to evaluate potential for boardwalk connecting upper park area to a proposed eastern park and canoe livery
- b. Gazebo / pavilion
- c. 3-foot high knee wall w/protective ornamental fencing
- d. Concrete walkway
- e. Drinking fountain, bench & overlook
- f. Restore & stabilize bank w/native plants. Remove scrub trees to improve viewshed.
- g. Preserve large existing trees where practical
- h. Flowering ornamental trees
- i. Large screening shrubs
- j. Relocated existing conifers
- k. Asphalt walkway
- l. Canoe/kayak livery with accessible launch

OTHER TOWNSHIP-OWNED RECREATION FACILITIES

Kryske Senior Center and Senior Park

Huron Township's Senior Citizens Recreation Department (SCRD) operates independently and is not a part of the Parks & Recreation Department. SCRD operates the Kryske Senior Center, located on Mineral Springs Road in Waltz. The facility offers a number of programming options for citizens aged 50 and over, including cards, billiards, day trips, and other social activities.

Adjacent to the center is the two acre Senior Park. Developed in 2009, Senior Park includes:

- 2 bocce ball courts
- Picnic pavilion with picnic tables, grill, and drinking fountain
- Walking paths
- Landscaped areas



SCHOOL AND PRIVATE RECREATION FACILITIES

In addition to the Township park facilities, there are school and private recreation facilities located in Huron Township which offer recreation opportunities for residents. These are shown on Map 3 and are briefly described as follows.



School Facilities

The Huron Public Schools operate four schools within Huron Township. These school facilities play a role in providing recreation opportunities.

- Miller Elementary, located on Hannan Road in New Boston, contains 30 acres of land with a soccer field, a variety of play equipments, and an indoor gymnasium;
- Brown Elementary, located on Middlebelt Road, contains 11 acres with a soccer field, play structures and other play equipment, and an indoor gymnasium; and
- Renton Junior High and Huron High School, located on Huron River Drive on a 52-acre property, incorporates a football field and running track, concession building and grand stand, 4 baseball fields, practice fields, 4 tennis courts, an indoor gymnasium and swimming pool. There are also 3 to 5 soccer fields located on a nearby property.



Private Facilities

There are a number of private schools and commercial recreation facilities in Huron Township which include recreation amenities. While they do not provide public access, they are important in providing recreation opportunities. Some of these facilities are listed below.

- St. Johns School, located on Waltz Road on 4 acres, includes a ball field, soccer field, playground, and an indoor gymnasium;
- St. Stephen School, located in New Boston on Huron River Drive, includes 10 acres of land with two ball fields, one soccer field, a playground, and an indoor multi-purpose room and activity center;
- Summit Academy, located on Middlebelt Road on a 19-acre property, includes basketball hoops, play structure, other play equipment, and an indoor gymnasium;
- Summit Academy, located on Sibley Road on a 14-acre property includes a basketball court and soccer field.
- Huron Sportsman Association, located in New Boston adjacent to Berllinn Memorial Park, includes 1.6 acres with a baseball field;
- Kentuckians of Michigan Park, located on Bredow Avenue adjacent to Woodside Meadow Golf Course, incorporates an activity building with modern facilities on 25 acres;
- Wayne County Sportsman's Club, located in the northeast corner of the Township, includes 51 acres of land with an archery and skeet range; and
- Woodside Meadow Golf Course, located on King Road, is an 18-hole golf course with a bar/restaurant on a 41-acre property.



REGIONAL FACILITIES

There are over 3,000 acres of park land owned by the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA) in Huron Township. In addition, there are nearly 60,000 acres of federal and state-owned parks and recreation areas, 15,000 acres of Metroparks, and almost 11,000 acres of Wayne County parks and greenways within an hour's drive of Township. These parks are considered regional recreational facilities.

These regional facilities incorporate large areas and provide recreation opportunities such as swimming, boating, hiking, hunting, camping, and golfing, which are typically beyond the ability of a local municipality to provide. Figure 8 depicts the location of the regional parks around Huron Township and Table 4 lists the recreational activities they offer. A detailed description of the Huron-Clinton Metroparks located within Huron Township follows.

LOWER HURON METROPARK

The park covers 1,258 acres along the Huron River, the southern part of which is located in Huron Township, and includes mature woodlands and grassy meadows. Access and parking are from Waltz Road. It offers scenic picnic areas, basketball, volleyball, tennis courts, 18-hole par-3 golf course, canoeing, hike-bike trails, and two self-guided nature trails. In the winter, the park has ice skating ponds and cross-country skiing. The park features Turtle Cove Aquatic Center, a water park with water slides, sprayscape, endless lazy river and zero-depth entry pool with lap lanes. There is also a recently developed 27-site campground, a group campground, and canoe camping.

OAKWOODS METROPARK

With access from Willow Road, 1,756-acre Oakwoods Metropark features equestrian, hike-bike, and nature trails. The park includes a nature center and 400 acres set aside as a nature study area.

WILLOW METROPARK

This 1,700-acre Metropark is accessible from South Huron and Willow roads. It has scenic drives, several picnic areas and shelters, bike and boat rental, a 24-hole disc golf course, a skate park, fishing areas, and play equipment. The park includes a large Olympic-sized swimming pool, splash pad, basketball, tennis, and shuffleboard courts. Winter activities consist of ice skating, sledding, and cross country skiing. A 4.5 mile hike-bike trail circles the park and is connected to Lower Huron and Oakwoods metroparks for a 30-mile round-trip trail. The 18-hole Willow Golf Course is accessible from Huron River Drive, immediately adjacent to Huron Township Hall.

CROSSWINDS MARSH

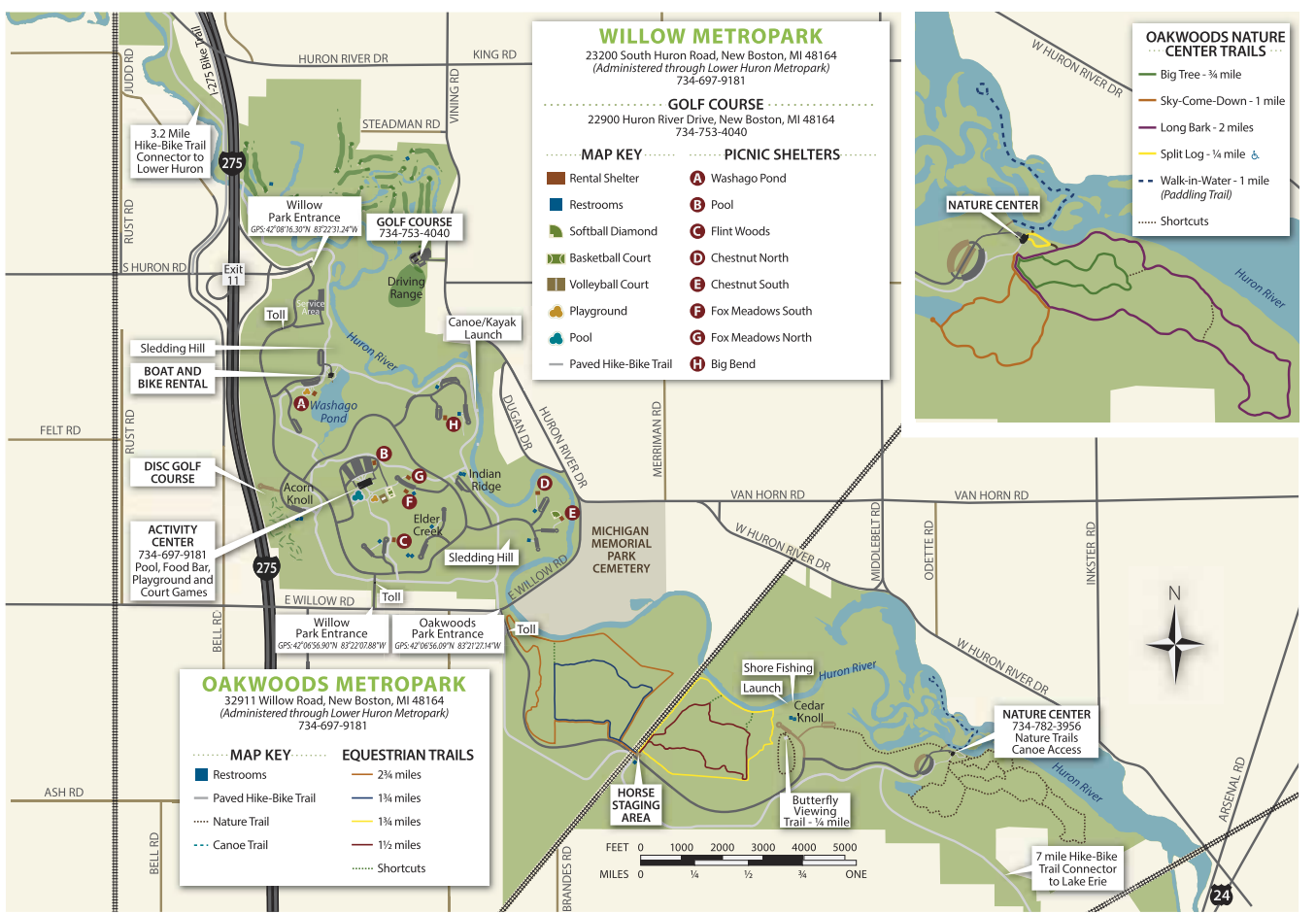
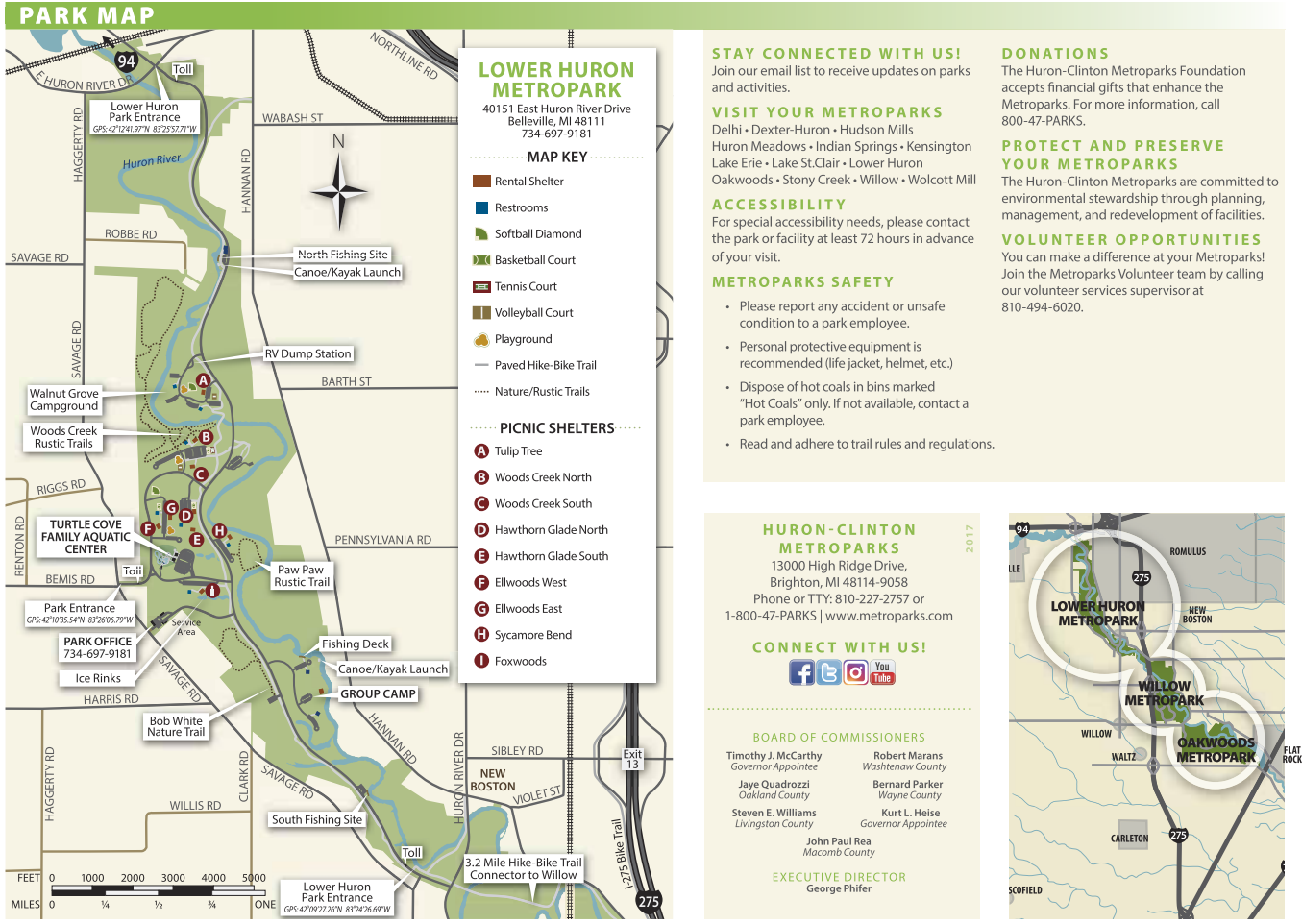
Operated by Wayne County in neighboring Sumpter Township, Crosswinds provides passive use recreation opportunities including hiking, horseback riding, and cross-country skiing. The 1,050-acre preserve offers interpretive and natural science programming for schools and other groups. Fishing is available on site, but personal watercraft are not allowed.

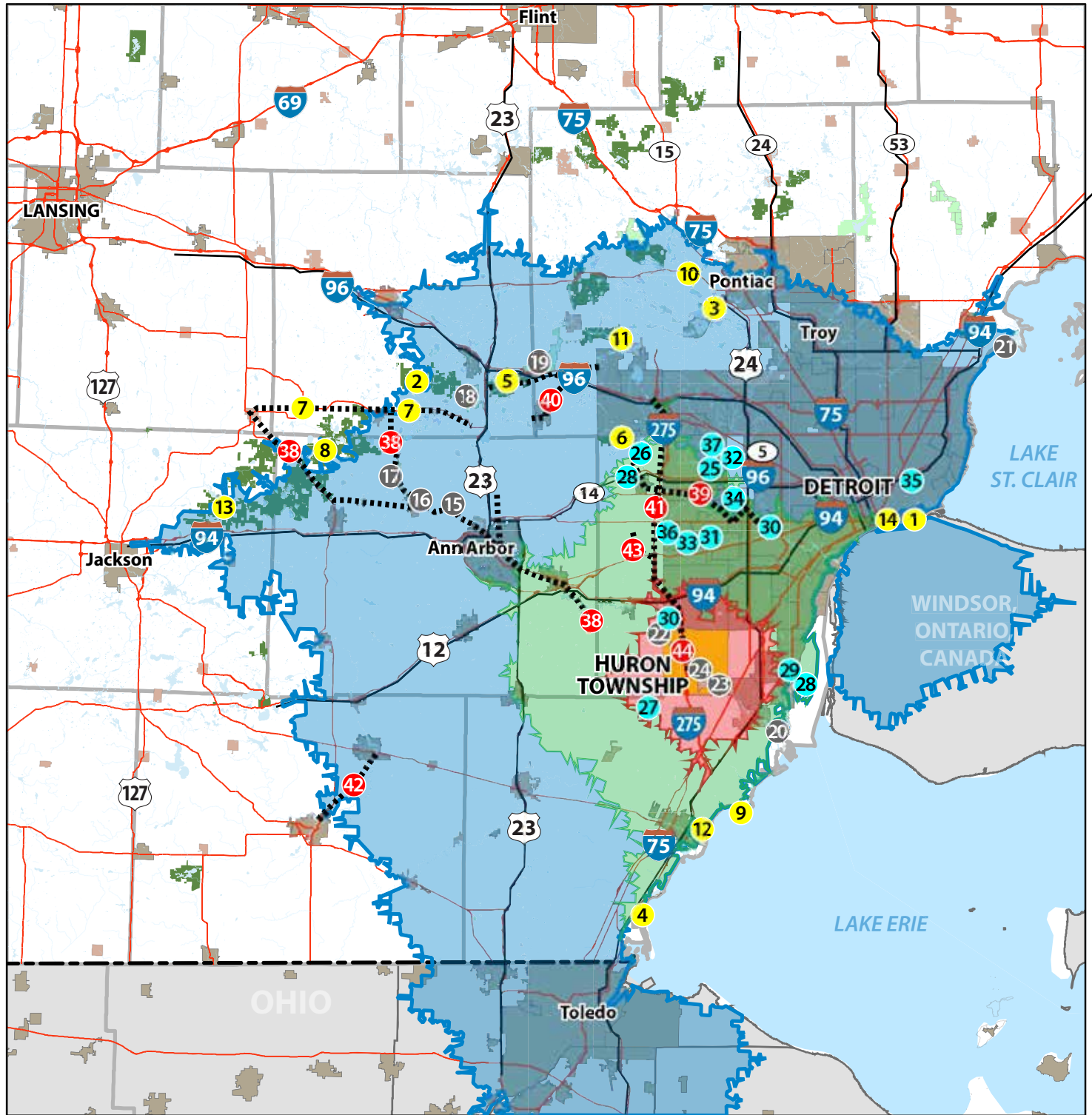
HINES PARK

This 17-mile long greenway incorporates twenty five parks across six different communities, and offers a wide variety of passive and active-use facilities. Operated by Wayne County, all told the park encompasses well over 2,300 acres of woodland and riverine property.



FIGURE 21: HCMA PROPERTIES IN HURON TOWNSHIP





- STATE PARKS**
1. Belle Isle State Park
 2. Brighton Rec Area
 3. Dodge #4 State Park
 4. Erie State Game Area
 5. Island Lake Rec Area
 6. Maybury State Park
 7. M. Levine Lakelands Trail
 8. Pinckney Rec Area
 9. Pointe Mouillee Game Area
 10. Pontiac Lake State Rec Area
 11. Proud Lake Rec Area
 12. Sterling State Park
 13. Waterloo Recreation Area
 14. WG Milliken State Park

- METROPARKS**
15. Delhi
 16. Dexter-Huron
 17. Hudson Mills
 18. Huron Meadows
 19. Kensington
 20. Lake Erie
 21. Lake St. Clair
 22. Lower Huron
 23. Oakwoods
 24. Willow

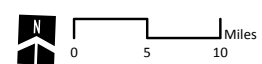
- COUNTY PARKS**
25. Bell Creek
 26. Bennett Arboretum
 27. Crosswinds Marsh
 28. Detroit Int'l Wildlife Refuge
 29. Elizabeth Park
 30. Hines Park
 31. Inkster Valley Golf Course
 32. Lola Valley Park
 33. Lower Rouge Parkway
 34. Warren Valley Golf Course
 35. Wayne County Aquatic Center
 36. WP Holliday Forest & Preserve
 37. Kinloch Park

- MAJOR TRAILS**
38. Border-to-Border
 39. Hines Park Greenway
 40. Huron Valley Trail
 41. I-275 Metro Trail
 42. Kiwanis Trail
 43. Lower Rouge River Trail
 44. Metroparks Trail

- DRIVE TIMES**
- 15 minutes or less
 - 30 minutes or less
 - 60 minutes or less

Regional Recreation Opportunities

Huron Charter Township



Source: Washtenaw County GIS
ESRI Business Analyst
Carlisle/Wortman Associates
October 2018



RECREATION PROGRAMS

Huron Township historically provided recreation programming through the YWCA Downriver Outreach. The Township is working to restore some of these programming options in the near future, although none are available at this time. The Township does still sponsor a number of special events, including those listed below:

- Trick or Treat Event
- Pumpkin Carving
- Christmas Tree Lighting
- Easter Bunny Pancake Breakfast/ East Egg Hunt
- Farmers & Vintage Market
- Community Movie Night (August)
- Applefest

In addition, sports programming is offered by the organizations mentioned on page 21, providing youth sport programs to Huron Township residents.

ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT

A critical component in planning for recreation facilities is providing access to accommodate the needs of all people, including those with disabilities. The American Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) requires all areas of public service, including parks and other recreation facilities, to have barrier-free accessibility. Huron Township strives to ensure that its facilities comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements and continues to work towards bringing all facilities into compliance. A five-point evaluation system was used to rank each facility's accessibility. The system used to evaluate the facilities was developed using New England ADA Center and Michigan Recreation and Parks Association guidelines, and the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design. Facilities are assigned a score from 1 to 5, where 1 = none of the elements meet 2010 ADA Standards, and 5 = the facility meets universal design principals.

- Level 1. The park is not accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. The site includes few paved areas and facilities, such as play equipment or picnic areas, are not easily accessible.
- Level 2. The park is somewhat accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Either the parking area or pathways are paved, but not both. Many of the facilities, such as play equipment or picnic areas, are not easily accessible.
- Level 3. The park is mostly accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Most of the parking areas and pathways are paved, and some facilities, such as play equipment or picnic areas, are accessible but may not be completely barrier free.
- Level 4. The park is completely accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Parking areas and pathways are paved, and most facilities, such as play equipment or picnic areas, are easily accessible.
- Level 5. The entire park was developed or renovated using the principles of universal design, a design approach which enables all environments to be usable by everyone, to the greatest extent possible, regardless of age, ability, or situation. All new park construction projects in the Huron Township will be designed to meet or exceed the most recent requirements of the ADA while existing facilities will be brought into compliance as repair and update work are carried out.

TABLE 6: ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT

Park	Score	Description/Recommendations
Berlin Memorial Park	2	New play equipment, parking, and picnic pavilion are all ADA compliant, but the individual amenities are separated by turf grass. Accessible routes should be provided to the park's activity areas including the play structures, equipment, benches, and picnic tables. Surfacing under play equipment should be engineered wood fiber (EWF), poured in place rubber, or other compliant surfacing.
Lajko Park	2	Accessible routes should be provided to the park's activity areas including the play structures, pavilion, sports fields, benches, and picnic tables. Surfacing under play equipment should be engineered wood fiber (EWF), poured in place rubber, or other compliant surfacing. Accessible parking spots with compliant surfacing and required signage should be added to the parking area.
Riverside Park	1	Currently undeveloped.
Waltz Park	1	Existing facilities are not compliant. Accessible routes must be provided to the ball fields, pavilion, restrooms, and other structures. Accessible parking spots with compliant surfacing and required signage should be created as the parking area is developed.

GRANT-ASSISTED PROJECTS

Huron Charter Township was awarded MDNR grants in 1980 and 1992. Grant funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Recreation Bond fund has been instrumental in developing recreation facilities for Huron Township residents. Table 6 presents a description of the MDNR grants received including the current use and condition of the grant-assisted park facilities.

TABLE 7: GRANT ASSISTED PROJECTS

Grant Number	Description	Grant Amount	Scope and Current Use/Condition
26-01104 N1 1980 LWCF	Lajko Park	\$ 8,045	Development of a ball diamond, backstop and fence, parking lot, and park shelter. The park is heavily used and remains in fair to good condition.
BF92-102 1992 BF	Berlin & Lajko Parks	\$ 24,000	Development of play structures at Lajko and Berlin Parks and installation of a drinking fountain and electricity to Lajko Park shelter. The parks are heavily used. Playground equipment at Berlin was replaced in 2018. The playground equipment at Lajko is reaching the end of its useful life.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION & NEEDS ASSESSMENT



PUBLIC PARTICIPATION & NEEDS ASSESSMENT

An essential task in the recreation planning process is to determine the needs of the community to formulate an action plan for parks and recreation improvement. Needs provide the rationale for goals and objectives and identify areas for capital improvements. To assess needs, consideration was given to current recreation trends and an online survey was conducted to receive opinions and desires from residents. In addition, several input sessions took place to allow Township officials, community stakeholders, staff, and residents to come together on the issues and arrive at strategic solutions to meet the Township recreation needs.

COMPARISON TO NATIONAL STANDARDS

According to the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA), parks and open spaces are categorized as mini-parks, neighborhood parks, community parks, regional parks, and preserves. The mini, neighborhood, and community parks are the close-to-home parks, designed to satisfy the recreational needs of local communities within a service radius of up to two miles. All of Huron Township’s parks are considered close-to-home parks. According to NRPA standards, the amount of recommended close-to-home park land is 6.25 to 10.5 acres for every 1,000 residents.

Regional parks are parks that serve a broader area (one hour drive or about a 45 mile radius) than community parks and focus on meeting the recreation needs of the region as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces. In Huron Township, they include county, state, and HCMA-owned parks and recreation areas described in the preceding pages. The NRPA standard for regional parks is 15 to 20 acres of park land per 1,000 people.

According to these standards, local parks fall within the range for recommended acreage for close-to-home park land. Using numbers based on population estimates for 2050, the amount of existing parkland should continue to be adequate to meet the Township’s recreation needs. Acreage provided by schools and private facilities further help meet resident recreation requirements. Township residents are especially well-served by regional park facilities provided by the state and other recreation providers, in particular the HCMA facilities within the Township borders.

TABLE 8: PARK COMPARISON TO NATIONAL STANDARDS

Type of Park	NRPA Standard Acres / 1000 Population	Suggested Acres based on 2020 Population (16,944)	Existing Acreage
Close-to-home parkland	6.25 - 10.5	100 - 168	112
Regional Parks	15 - 20	240 - 320	85,000+
Huron School District Facilities	-	-	~100



NATIONAL RECREATION TRENDS

Recreation trends on a national and regional level provide insights into activities that show the greatest growth in popularity and may affect the future direction of parks and recreation. The National Sporting Goods Association (NSGA) regularly conducts national surveys to measure participation in physical activities and track changes from previous years. Table 8 lists the top seven outdoor activities persons aged seven years and older participated in at least once in 2020.

TABLE 9: TOP OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES - 2020

Activity	Participation (National)	Overall Rank	Participation (East North Central Region)	Overall Rank
Exercise walking	106.1 million	1	16.4 million	1
Exercise w/ Equipment	56.5 million	2	8.1 million	2
Hiking	46.4 million	3	6.2 million	6
Swimming	47.1 million	4	6.4 million	5
Aerobic Exercising	46.2 million	5	7.3 million	3
Running / jogging	44.2 million	6	6.0 million	7
Camping	40.7 million	7	5.9 million	9

SOURCE: NSGA SPORTS PARTICIPATION IN THE UNITED STATES 2020

The 2016 study shows a continued trend towards individual-based outdoor activities, with open water sports, outdoor activities, and snow sports all showing increases in participation. Team related sports, with the exception of soccer and lacrosse, have showed a steady decline in popularity in recent years, while trail related sports continue to grow in popularity.

These trends are consistent with those observed in Michigan. According to a survey of Michigan residents conducted as part of the 2018-2022 Michigan Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, walking outdoors was identified as the most important outdoor activity by 26 percent of users statewide. A list of participation rates for the most popular activities is listed in Table 10 below.

Monitoring parks and recreation trends is important in determining how parks and recreation services should evolve. The implication of the trends noted above along with the demographic and physical characteristics of the area can be summarized as follows:

TABLE 10: TOP TEN OUTDOOR RECREATION ACTIVITIES IN MICHIGAN

Activity	% Participating	Activity	% Participating
Relaxing outdoors	75	Swimming outdoors	54
walking outdoors	74	Picknicking	53
Visit parks	67	Fishing	41
Sightseeing	64	Biking	40
Visiting Nature centers	56	Camping	39

SOURCE: MICHIGAN COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN

- While future recreation facility development should respond to the expected increase in seniors, developments should be designed to accommodate a variety of abilities and interests. Meeting or exceeding ADA standards for recreation uses will be critical.
- There is a need for more walk/bike ways to accommodate bicycle and pedestrian recreation use and to contribute to a healthy and walkable environment. Huron Township should focus on making connections with the existing regional hike/bike system found in the Metroparks, and look for connections with surrounding communities and facilities.
- The Huron River is a great natural asset for Huron Township. Increasing access to the river for recreation purposes while striving to maintain its ecological functions should be a priority for the community.

"I would like to see more recreational options on the river."

-Survey participant

"More soccer fields, more baseball fields, sidewalks to actually get to our parks. The streets are too busy for families to ride on bikes."

-Survey participant

PUBLIC INPUT

RESIDENT SURVEY

An online survey was made available to residents from July 18, 2023 to August 13, 2023. Hard copies of the survey were available at Township Hall. Over 150 responses were collected during that time, providing valuable insight into residents' views on a variety of recreation-related topics. A complete set of responses is provided in Appendix F.

Percentage of "Very important" responses to, "How important are the following items to you and your family?"

- **Maintain existing recreation facilities - 69%**
- **Protect natural resources - 66%**
- **Access to paths & trails - 53%**
- **Access to passive-use facilities - 49%**
- **Access to active-use facilities - 38%**
- **Access to recreation programming - 35%**
- **Acquiring & developing new facilities - 32%**

Survey participants were virtually unanimous desire to see existing facilities maintained to a high standard, with 94% of respondents indicating maintenance was either "important" or "very important". While further development of existing facilities, especially Waltz and Riverside Parks, was mentioned throughout the survey, somewhat fewer residents showed an interest in having access to active-use facilities. A little more than half of residents (53%) felt that the Township had "the right amount" of parks, and acquisition of new parks facilities scored fairly low (59%) in comparison to other alternatives.

Respondents showed a desire to expand trail systems in the Township. 83% indicated that trail access was "important" or "very important", and 63% expressed interest in seeing non-motorized transportation options expanded. 66% of respondents indicate that they walk, run, or hike at least once a week for exercise or recreation, while 37% bike at least once a week.



"We need more activities for kids and families. We need more programs, family nights. Would love to see a community space brought to downtown. For family movie nights, music nights, etc."

-Survey participant

"More protected biking and walking paths along Willow, Waltz, and Huron River Roads."

-Survey participant

Participants also have a clear desire to interact with nature and preserve the natural features in the area. 89% considered protecting natural resources to be "important" or "very important". Water activities, such as swimming, water skiing, canoeing, and kayaking, were among activities participants regularly participated in. Better access to the river for fishing and kayaking was mentioned by several respondents.

Top five activities regularly participated in by respondents:

- Walking and Trail Sports - 78%
- Nature Activities - 66%
- Water activities (swimming, skiing, etc.) - 56%
- Boating - 53%
- Farmer's Market - 52%

Top five park amenities requested by respondents:

- Multi-use walking/biking paths - 51%
- Rustic Walking Paths - 49%
- Bathrooms - 47%
- Fitness / Exercise Trails - 42%
- Wildlife Observation Sites - 39%

61% of residents indicated that they take advantage of programming options provided by the Township or other communities. Respondents suggested a wide variety of possible programming options, from live music events to a 5k run, but no particular category stood out as preferable over the others.

Respondents recognized the importance of providing adequate funding to support parks and recreation activities. 75% indicated that they would support a millage that would allow "...further acquisition, development, and maintenance of recreation facilities." The majority of those in favor of a millage indicated that they would support up to 0.25 mill.

"Would you support a millage to allow further acquisition, development, and maintenance of recreation facilities?"

- Yes, up to 0.25 mill - 31%
- Yes, up to 0.5 mill - 19%
- Yes, up to 1.0 mill - 15%
- Would not support a millage - 25%

PUBLIC REVIEW AND PUBLIC HEARING

After the Parks and Recreation Commission members considered the input received and reviewed the recreation trends, deficiencies, and other background information, they established the goals, objectives, and an action program for the implementation of this plan. A draft plan was then prepared which was made available for public review beginning on November 1, 2023. Copies were available for review at the Township Hall, the Police Department, and on the Township's website. The plan's availability for public review was posted at the Township Hall and in the Downriver News Herald.

Following the 30-day public review, the Parks and Recreation Commission approved the plan and recommended adoption of the plan by the Township Board of Trustees. The public input into the plan culminated in an advertised public hearing held on December 13, 2023. After the hearing, the Township Board adopted the plan.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES



GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Huron Township Parks and Recreation Commission has formulated goals and objectives for the next five years. They are broad enough to encompass the suggestions expressed from the public and Township officials as well as to meet the observed deficiencies in the parks and recreation resources of the area. They also consider demographic changes, current and anticipated growth and development, the area's physical resources, and recreation trends.

GOALS

- Huron Charter Township should provide outdoor recreational opportunities for persons of all ages and abilities.
- Huron Charter Township should provide clean, safe, and healthy environments for outdoor recreation.
- Huron Charter Township should consider the future needs of the community and take actions to dedicate park land in order to meet current and future recreation needs and enhance the character of the community.

OBJECTIVES

1. CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE EXISTING PARK FACILITIES

Maintaining and improving existing park facilities is a top priority for Huron Township. This entails ensuring park facilities and equipment are clean, safe, accessible, functional, and well-maintained.

More specifically, it includes replacing and upgrading aging park equipment and furnishings, ensuring safety surfaces under playground equipment meet regulated depth and fall zones, ensuring that facilities comply with or exceed ADA requirements, maintaining and upgrading parking surfaces, athletic field and equipment care, and general park upkeep.

This objective also includes improving and developing currently undeveloped Township properties and existing parks in response to the changing needs of Township residents.

2. REESTABLISH RECREATION PROGRAMMING AND EXPAND SPECIAL EVENT PROGRAMMING

Huron Township recognizes the health and social benefits of providing recreation programming opportunities for residents. The Township is actively evaluating opportunities to provide educational, physical fitness, and social programs which enrich the lives of residents.

The Township must continue to coordinate with the Huron School District, the Huron Clinton Metropark Authority, and other local athletic groups and recreation providers to avoid duplication of efforts, to ensure public meeting facilities are available for use, and to provide the highest quality programming possible.



3. ESTABLISH IMPORTANT LINKAGES AND A CONTINUOUS PATHWAY SYSTEM

While the Township has a significant wealth of walk/bike ways with the Metropark's hike/bike pathway and the I-275 Metro Trail, there is a strong need and desire for linkages to these systems with a Township-wide non-motorized system that would connect parks, community facilities, schools, businesses, and neighborhoods. The establishment of an interconnected, multi-modal, easily accessible, and safe walk/bike way system is also recognized as a priority for Huron Township.

Coordination with the Township Board of Trustees, Planning Commission, the Downtown Development Authority, the Huron-Clinton Metroparks, and other groups will be necessary to realize a Township-wide system.

4. DEVELOP EXISTING PARK LAND

It is critical that the Township actively work to develop underutilized facilities and turn them into valued community assets. Development should reflect the desire of the community, and provide a mix of passive- and active-use amenities.

The level of development required for each park varies, ranging from relatively simple ADA-related enhancements at Berlinn Park to full rehabilitation and redevelopment of Waltz Park. As the parks are developed, it will be important to consider connectivity and accessibility for all users.

5. ENHANCE PARTNERSHIPS WITH OTHER RECREATION PROVIDERS

The Huron Township Parks and Recreation Commission strives to provide exceptional services that are financially sustainable and respond to residents' desires and interests. Demographic and recreation trends indicate an increase in the number of active mature adults as well as an increase in the popularity of exercise and fitness-related activities.

The Township must develop partnerships with the various area public and private recreation providers including the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority, Wayne County, Huron Township's public and private schools, Madonna University, the YWCA & YMCA, sport organizations, the Downtown Development Authority, and others to get the most out of the area's recreation potential.

6. ACQUIRE AND DEDICATE NEW PARK LAND

Potential park land acquisition should focus on land adjacent to existing parks, on land with the necessary size and soil characteristics to accommodate sports fields, and on land presenting walk/bike way development and linkage opportunities.

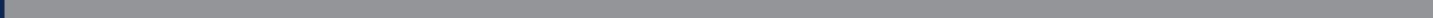
While sidewalks are already required in new developments, dedicating open spaces, bike ways, and close-to-home parks should also be encouraged and promoted. Desired recreation facilities may include a variety of recreation activities such as walking, bicycling, picnicking, and playground.

Coordination with the Township Board, Planning Commission, and the Downtown Development Authority will be necessary to acquire land for the development of parks and walk/bike ways.

7. PROVIDE FOR THE EFFICIENT ADMINISTRATION OF PARKS AND RECREATION SERVICES

A quality park, recreation, greenway, and open space system is dependent on the prudent use of available funds. A means of generating revenues through grants, sponsorships, donations, or user fees should be a priority to provide park development and capital improvement projects in Huron Township.

ACTION PROGRAM



ACTION PROGRAM

The action program details the manner in which the goals and objectives will be met. It includes a list of specific projects to be accomplished over the next five years, as well as a suggested project schedule, timing, and strategies for implementation. These actions are generally grouped by park or facility and address the issues identified through the survey of residents, at the public meeting, current national, state, and regional recreation trends, park acreage standards, and the maintenance needs of the Township parks.

ACTION PLAN

The following outlines the specific projects and actions which are recommended to be accomplished during the planning period. Illustrations showing the proposed park improvements and actions are also included to depict the proposed actions.

1. MAINTAIN AND UPGRADE EXISTING PARK FACILITIES (ALL PARKS)

This action includes replacing or repairing old equipment and facilities which are in a state of disrepair, are outdated, or dangerous. It also includes improving the appearance of the Township parks through appropriate landscaping and maintenance. All upgrades must meet safety and accessibility standards. Proposed actions include:

- Maintain safety surfaces under play structures utilizing engineered wood fiber (EWF), poured in place rubber, or other ADA approved surfacing to a regulated depth and fall zone;
- Refurbish athletic field surfaces as needed;
- Refurbish parking areas, walkways, and court game pavement surfaces as needed;
- Replace/add park furnishings such as benches, trash receptacles, and signs;
- Maintain structures and picnic shelters in good condition with roof repair, exterior painting, and other; and
- Work with the Downtown Development Authority and other civic groups to add attractive landscaping by park signs, park entries, and at other locations.
- Actively seek out areas where additional sports fields and facilities can be developed



2. MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE WALTZ PARK

As the largest community park, Waltz Park offers the most opportunities for active-use recreation development, while also containing environmentally sensitive wetlands and natural areas. Waltz Park also provides opportunities for a launching point for trails in the community. Proposed improvements include:

- Prepare a master plan for the park to guide future development which considers the unique cultural and natural features of the property, lays a foundation for funding activities, and ensures that resident desires are addressed; and
- Create rustic walking paths through natural areas while ensuring protection and preservation of existing wetland areas

3. MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE LAJKO PARK

As Huron Township's central community park, Lajko Park serves as a focal point for the community. It is important that this property in particular be designed to meet the needs of community members and that it be accessible to all users. Proposed improvements include:

- Upgrade playground equipment and surfacing to meet universal design standards;
- Develop pickleball courts;
- Improve parking area surface and implement storm water run-off control measures;
- Add accessible paths to connect to the park's activity areas, around the property, and to connect to the Township Hall property; and
- Consider making the ball field regulation size.

FIGURE 22: LAJKO PARK CONCEPT PLAN

1/4 MILE WALKING PATH

DECORATIVE FENCING W/ COLUMN PIERS ALONG HURON RIVER DRIVE

BLEACHERS W/ ADA ACCESSIBLE SIDEWALKS

LADDERBALL, CORNHOLE & TETHERBALL GAMES

ACCESSIBLE PORTA JOHNS & DRINKING FOUNTAIN

NEW PLAYGROUND W/ ENLARGED AREA PARK

ASPHALT PARKING LOT W/ STRIPING (97 SPACES) ORIGINAL PARKING ESTIMATED TO BE 55 SPACES

**ENTRANCE ARCHWAY
ADDITIONAL PARKING ALONG ENTRANCE ROAD**

ACCESSIBLE PORTA JOHNS & DRINKING FOUNTAIN

**DRAINAGE SWALES
FLAG POLE MEMORIAL SPACE**

BLEACHERS & TABLES WITH SUNSHADES

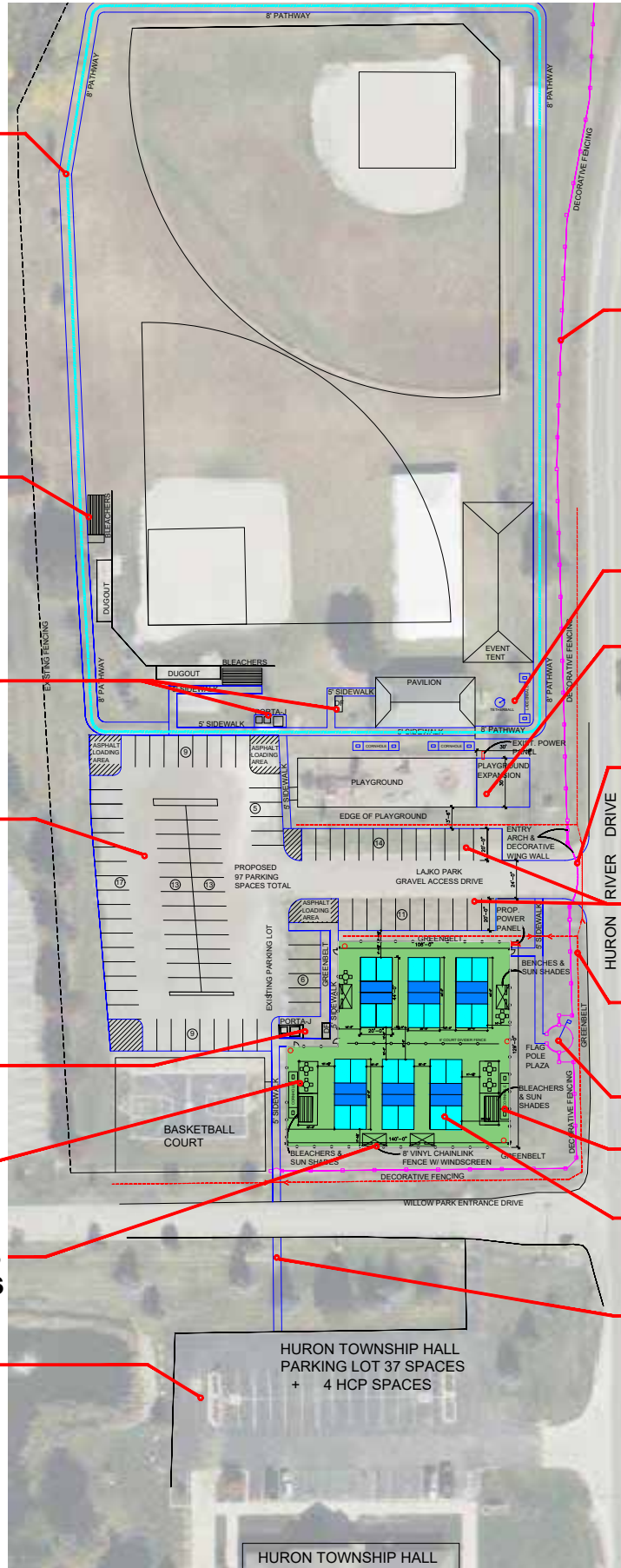
CORNHOLE GAMES

PLAYER BENCHES WITH SUNSHADES

6 PICKLEBALL COURTS

OVERFLOW PARKING LOT W/ 41 SPACES

SIDEWALK EXTENSION TO TOWNSHIP HALL PARKING LOT



LAJKO PARK - MASTERPLAN CONCEPT

SCALE: 1" = 30'-0"

4. MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE BERLINN MEMORIAL PARK

Proposed improvements to Berlinn Park include:

- Add accessible routes to the park's activity areas;
- Repair or remove existing drinking fountain;
- Add permanent picnic table with shade umbrella;
- Add accessible swings and upgrade play equipment as necessary; and
- Add accessible seating area(s) adjacent to benches.

FIGURE 23: BERLINN MEMORIAL PARK CONCEPT PLAN



5. DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN RIVERSIDE PARK

Proposed improvements to other small Township properties include:

- Prepare engineering drawings and plans based on preliminary concept plan;
- Evaluate opportunities to better connect with Huron River; and
- Develop overlook, pathway, and landscaping.

FIGURE 24: RIVERSIDE PARK CONCEPT PLAN



Riverside Park Concept Plan

Huron Charter Township, Michigan

- a. Work with property owners to evaluate potential for boardwalk connecting upper park area to a proposed eastern park and canoe livery
- b. Gazebo / pavilion
- c. 3-foot high knee wall w/protective ornamental fencing

- d. Concrete walkway
- e. Drinking fountain, bench & overlook
- f. Restore & stabilize bank w/native plants. Remove scrub trees to improve viewshed.

- g. Preserve large existing trees where practical
- h. Flowering ornamental trees
- i. Large screening shrubs
- j. Relocated existing conifers
- k. Asphalt walkway
- l. Canoe/kayak livery with accessible launch





6. IMPLEMENT A TOWNSHIP-WIDE CONTINUOUS WALK/BIKE WAY SYSTEM

There is a strong need for the development of walk/bike ways in the Township. This would include not only greenways but also blueways, in particular access to the Huron River for paddlers. Proposed actions include:

- Develop a Township-wide non-motorized transportation plan which would identify priority segments for development, establish an implementation program, and identify funding strategies;
- Coordinate non-motorized greenway/blueway development with the Downriver Linked Greenway Initiative, the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority, the Huron River Watershed Council, and the Michigan Department of Transportation;
- Work with Township Board and Planning Commission in the review of development proposals to ensure walk/bike ways are built in conjunction with new developments and provide connectivity.
- Install pedestrian and bicycle amenities including benches, trash receptacle, bike racks, mile markers, dog waste bag dispensers, and warning/directional signs along walk/bike ways;
- Install canoe/kayak launches as feasible along the River to provide access to the Huron River; and
- Establish a marketing strategy for the walk/bike way system to attract support and sponsors including the development and refinement of a brochure and map.
- Incorporate effective maintenance strategies to preserve the appeal and usability of pathways.

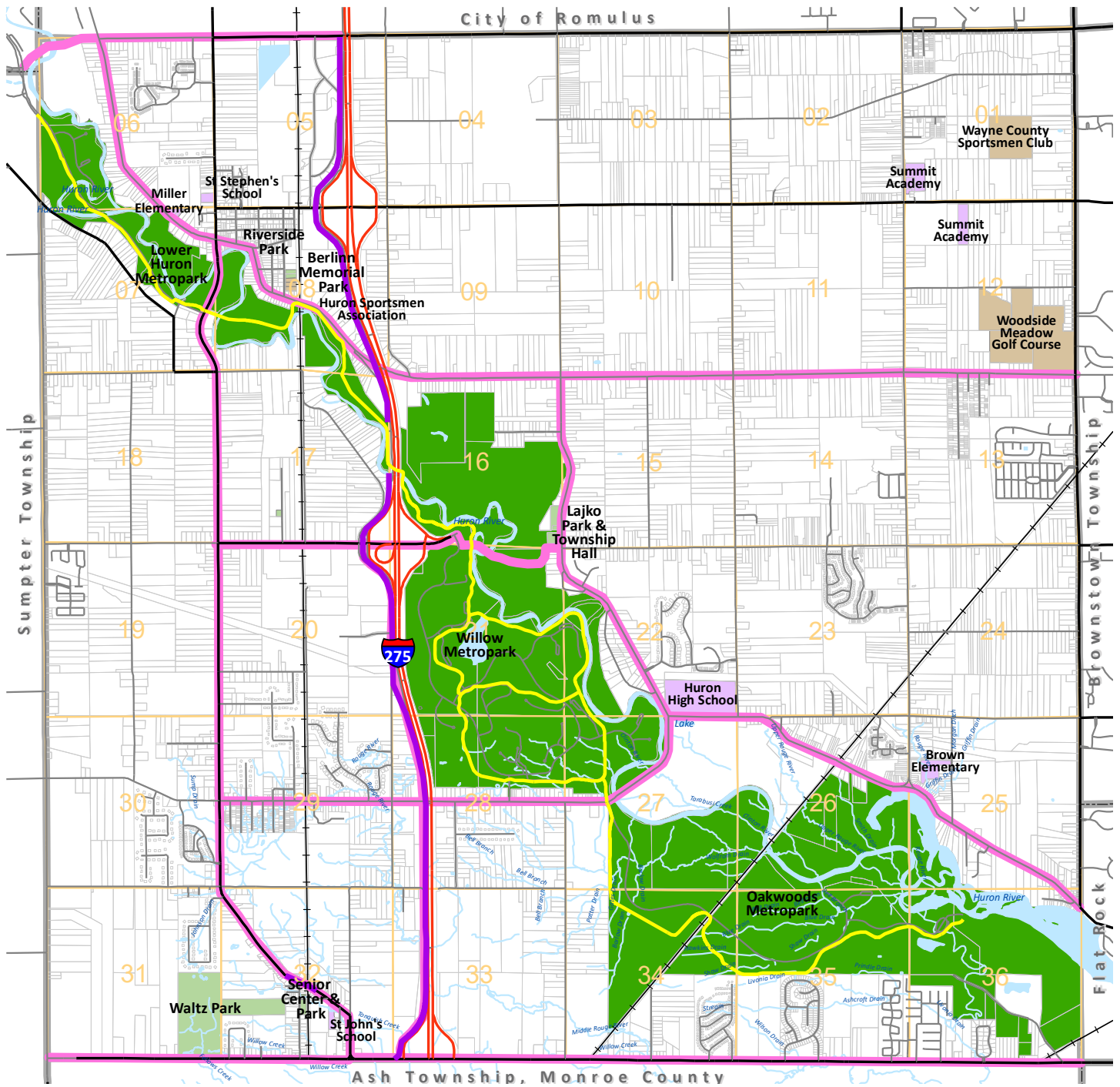
7. ACQUIRE AND DEVELOP FUTURE PARK LAND

- Consider park land acquisition along the Huron River, adjacent to existing parks, and land providing linkages and opportunities for greenway/blueway development;
- Seek properties of adequate size and appropriate soils and topography to accommodate playing field development; and
- Work with the Township Board and the Planning Commission to ensure park land and open space dedication is considered in future development projects.

8. COLLABORATE AND COORDINATE WITH OTHER AREA PARKS AND RECREATION PROVIDERS AND PROVIDE FOR THE EFFICIENT ADMINISTRATION PARKS AND RECREATION SERVICES

- Coordinate with the Huron Township area schools, the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority, the sports leagues and organizations and other groups and clubs to maintain and provide recreation programs;
- Continue to actively seek sources of funding for park and pathway development through public and private grants, donations, and other fundraising activities;
- Communicate information regarding Huron Township recreation facilities and the Parks and Recreation Master Plan to Huron Township residents through the Township's website and other means; and
- Advocate the goals and objectives adopted in the current Parks and Recreation Master Plan to the Township Board, Planning Commission, and the Downtown Development Authority to ensure parks, trails, and recreation needs are considered in the Township's planning initiatives.

FIGURE 25: RECREATION FACILITIES & NON-MOTORIZED PLAN



- HCMA Shared-Use Path
- I-275 Shared-Use Path
- Potential Future Path Routes
- Township Facilities
- Schools
- Private Facilities
- HCMA Metroparks



RECREATION FACILITIES

Huron Charter Township, Wayne County

Source: SEMCOG, MiGDL, Ypsilanti Township
 Carlisle/Wortman Associates
 October, 2023





PROJECT SCHEDULE

Table 10 lists individual capital improvement projects along with the project objective reference, a cost estimate, and potential funding sources. In addition, a time frame for completion has been assigned. Short-term projects (ST) are recommended for completion within one to two years, medium-term (MT) within two to five years while long-term projects (LT) may take longer to complete, within five to six years. There are also tasks that are on-going (OG). Costs are for budgetary purposes only. Further investigations may be necessary to determine engineers probable cost opinions.

TABLE 11: PROJECT SCHEDULE

Project / Location	Cost Estimate	Funding Source	Time Frame
Waltz Park			
Develop park master plan	\$ 15,000 - \$20,000	LF	ST
Create rustic walking paths in natural area	\$ 15,000 - 20,000	LF, G, D	ST - LT
Lajko Park			
Upgrade playground equipment & surfacing	\$ 120,000 - 180,000	LF, G, D	MT - LT
Upgrade parking area	\$230,000 - 275,000	LF, G, D	MT - LT
Add pickleball courts	\$ 60,000 - 80,000	LF, G, D	ST
Add tables & sun shades	\$ 30,000 - 40,000	LF, G, D	ST
Add benches with sun shades	\$ 5,000 - 8,000	LF, G, D	ST
Add drinking fountains	\$ 10,000 - 13,000	LF, G, D	ST
Add cornhole, tetherball	\$ 5,000 - \$ 8,000	LF, G, D	MT
Add sidewalk to Township Hall parking	\$12,000 - 16,000	LF	ST
Add bleachers	\$ 80,000 - 100,000	LF, G, D	MT - LT
Add picnic table & umbrella	\$9,000 - 18,000	LF	ST - MT
Add accessible routes to park amenities	\$8,000 - 12,000	LF	ST - MT
Add accessible swing seats	\$1,500 - 3,000	LF, G, D	ST - MT
Add landscaping	\$1,500 - 2,000	LF, G, D	MT - LT
Riverside Park			
Add concrete walkway	\$20,000 - 25,000	LF, G, D	ST - MT
Develop overlook	\$30,000 - 50,000	LF, G, D	ST - MT
Add landscaping	\$10,000 - 20,000	LF, G, D	MT - LT
Add knee wall	\$ 100,000 - 150,000	LF, G, D	MT - LT
Add drinking fountain	\$ 10,000 - \$12,000	LF, G, D	ST - MT

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

In order to accomplish the recommended actions during the next five years, it will be necessary to secure adequate funding. The current budget provides only a limited amount of funds for park development and improvements. The amount is well short of the projected expenses involved in the project schedule. Therefore, the following strategies are recommended to proceed as planned.

APPLY FOR FEDERAL FUNDING

At the federal level, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) funds Transportation Enhancements (TE) activities for community-based projects that expand travel choices and enhance the transportation experience by improving the cultural, historic, aesthetic, and environmental aspects of the transportation infrastructure. To be eligible, a project must fall into one of the TE activities. Activities which may apply to the Huron Township include:

- Provision of facilities for pedestrians and bicycles such as walkways, curb ramps, bike parking, off-road trails, bike and pedestrian bridges and underpasses;
- Educational programs for pedestrians and bicyclists designed to encourage walking and bicycling by providing potential users with education and safety instruction through classes, pamphlets, and signage; and
- Preservation, conversion, and use of abandoned railway corridors for acquisition, development, planning, design, and construction of multi-use trails, as well as purchasing unused railroad property for reuse.
- A minimum 20 percent local match is required for proposed projects and applications are accepted online on an on-going basis.

The **Safe Routes to School (SR2S)** program is a national movement to make it safe, convenient, and fun for children to bicycle and walk to school. When routes are safe, walking or biking to and from school is an easy way to get the regular physical activity children need for a healthy lifestyle. In Michigan, the program is sponsored by the Michigan Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and has gained momentum over the past few years. With the passage of the federal transportation legislation in 2005, Michigan's Safe Routes to School program made schools eligible for transportation enhancement funds, providing for infrastructure improvements and education campaigns. The purpose of the program, as defined in the federal legislation, is to:

- Enable and encourage children, including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school;
- Make bicycling and walking to school a safer and more appealing transportation alternative, thereby encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle from an early age; and
- Facilitate the planning, development, and implementation of projects and activities that will improve safety and reduce traffic, fuel consumption, and air pollution in schools' areas.

The program authorizes \$612 million over the five fiscal years which began in 2005. The Michigan Department of Transportation estimates that Michigan's total apportionment over the five years will be roughly \$19 million. Schools must be registered, attend a day-long training session and develop a Walking Audit in order to be eligible to apply. SR2S funding is 100 percent federal; no match is required. Seventy percent of the funding must be used for infrastructure projects, 10 percent for non-infrastructure projects, and 20 percent for either.



APPLY FOR STATE FUNDING

At the state level, the **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)** and the **Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF)** continue to be the primary funding sources for parkland acquisition and development.

The MNRTF provides funding for the purchase and development of parkland for natural resource based preservation and recreation. Goals of the program are to:

- Protect natural resources and provide for their access, public use and enjoyment;
- Provide public access to Michigan's water bodies, particularly the Great Lakes and facilitate their recreation use;
- Meet regional, county and community needs for outdoor recreation opportunities;
- Improve the opportunities for outdoor recreation in urban areas; and
- Stimulate Michigan's economy through recreation related tourism and community revitalization.

Grant proposals must include a local match of at least 25 percent of the total project cost. There is no minimum or maximum for acquisition projects. For development projects, the minimum funding request is \$15,000 and the maximum is \$300,000. Applications are due in April and August for acquisition projects and April (only) for development projects.

The LWCF is a federal appropriation to the National Park Service, who distributes funds to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment for development of outdoor recreation facilities. The focus of the program has been on trailway systems and other community recreation needs such as playgrounds, picnic areas, skate parks, ball fields, soccer fields and walking paths. Minimum grant requests are \$30,000 and maximum grant requests are \$500,000. The match percentage must be 50 percent of the total project cost. Applications are accepted throughout the year, but must be in by April 1 to be considered for the following years grant funds.

The **Recreation Passport** grant program offers funding for the development of public recreation facilities for local units of government. Minimum grant requests are \$7,500 and maximum requests are \$150,000. The local match obligation is 25 percent of the total project cost. Application are typically due on April 1st.

Local units of government may use the Forest Stewardship program to develop a management plan for a municipal forest which would include a component targeting outreach to private landowners. A total of \$2,000 may be granted with a 50 percent local match. Applications are due in September. Non-game Wildlife Fund Grants have also been offered in the past to identify, protect, manage, and restore native plant and animal species, natural communities, and other natural features.

The Detroit Edison Tree Planting program began as DTE joined the US Department of Energy's voluntary Climate Challenge Program to address greenhouse gas emissions. Cost-share funds are available to municipalities in the Detroit Edison's service area on a competitive basis for tree planting projects. A total of up to \$4,000 may be granted to eligible tree planting projects on public and school property with a 50 percent local match. Applications are typically due in June.

APPLY FOR OTHER GRANT FUNDING

There are also a variety of smaller grant programs available for the establishment of greenways/pathways or greenway-related facilities such as **People for Bikes** (formerly known as Bikes Belong Coalition). People for Bikes is sponsored by members of the American Bicycle Industry. Their mission is to put more people on bikes more often. The program funds projects in three categories: Facility, Education and Capacity Building. Requests for funding can be anywhere from \$5,000 to \$10,000 for projects such as bike paths, trails, lanes, parking, and safe routes to school. Applications are reviewed on a quarterly basis.

Access to Recreation is a grant program available for universal access of people of all abilities to a wide variety of recreation opportunities, such as nature viewing and photography areas, hiking trails, scenic outlooks, waterfalls and water activities of all kinds, beaches, fishing and boating, playgrounds, picnic areas, campgrounds, and much more. There are two primary grant programs under this source of funding:

Recreation Access Matching Grant provides up to 50 percent matching funds (up to \$10,000) for the purchase of universally accessible recreation equipment and materials such as all terrain hiking wheelchairs, pool lifts, accessible playground surface, transfer systems, beach access mats, trail surface enhancements, and accessible picnic tables that enhance recreation participation by people with disabilities; and

Accessible by Design Awards is designed to stimulate the development of creative universally designed recreation experiences that invite, welcome, and support the inclusion of people of all abilities. Winning designs demonstrate how going above and beyond the minimum requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act can create greater access and usability for people of all abilities in the community. Winning designs are awarded cash prizes to build the projects up to \$250,000 with 25 percent minimum match.

INCREASE SUPPORT FOR PARKS

Public support for parks and recreation will be crucial in determining the level of services the Township will be able to provide in the future. A specific park or project millage over a limited period could be considered in the future for particular projects such as park or trail acquisition, development, or maintenance.

It is also crucial to increase the visibility of the Parks system through periodic notices to residents. E-mails and social media are commonly used platforms to reach interested constituents, but periodic newsletters delivered with tax bills or other official Township documents can reach those who might not be technologically inclined.

SEEK OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDING

Huron Township should continue to search for additional sources of funding. Seeking donations, attracting sponsors, holding fund-raising events and seeking out other revenue sources are methods that should be pursued aggressively to raise funding for park acquisition and development.

APPENDICES





APPENDIX A: NOTICES



MICHIGAN GROUP

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION
2125 Butterfield Dr, Suite 102N • Troy MI 48084

HURON CHARTER TOWNSHIP
22950 HURON RIVER DR

NEW BOSTON, MI 48164-9791
Attention:

STATE OF MICHIGAN,
COUNTY OF WAYNE

The undersigned Cindy Slater *Cindy Slater*, being duly sworn the he/she is the principal clerk of The News-Herald, thenewsherald.com, thenewsherald.com2, published in the English language for the dissemination of local or transmitted news and intelligence of a general character, which are duly qualified newspapers, and the annexed hereto is a copy of certain order, notice, publication or advertisement of:

HURON CHARTER TOWNSHIP

Published in the following edition(s):

The News-Herald	10/29/23
thenewsherald.com	10/29/23
thenewsherald.com2	10/29/23

VICKI ARSENAULT
 NOTARY PUBLIC - STATE OF MICHIGAN
 COUNTY OF OAKLAND
 My Commission Expires May 11, 2026
 Acting in the County of _____

Sworn to the subscribed before me this 3 Nov, 2023.

Vicki Arsenault
Notary Public, State of Michigan
Acting in Oakland County

Advertisement Information

Client Id: 640964 **Ad Id:** 2531395 **PO:**

November 1, 2023
Huron Charter Township
NOTICE OF PLAN
AVAILABILITY FOR REVIEW

Huron Charter Township is seeking public input regarding the Huron Township 2024 – 2028 Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources requires a minimum 30-day public review process as part of the master planning process. A formal public hearing for adoption of the Plan will be held on December 13 as part of the regularly scheduled Township Board meeting.

A hard copy of the draft master plan is available for review at the following locations:

- Huron Charter Township Hall, 22950 Huron River Drive
- The draft plan is also available online on the Township's website www.hurontownship-mi.gov
- For questions or comments, please call (734) 753-4466.

Sales Person: 207108



MICHIGAN GROUP

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION
2125 Butterfield Dr, Suite 102N • Troy MI 48084

HURON CHARTER TOWNSHIP
22950 HURON RIVER DR

NEW BOSTON, MI 48164-9791
Attention:

STATE OF MICHIGAN,
COUNTY OF WAYNE

The undersigned Cindy Slater *Cindy Slater*, being duly sworn the he/she is the principal clerk of The News-Herald, thenewsherald.com, thenewsherald.com2, published in the English language for the dissemination of local or transmitted news and intelligence of a general character, which are duly qualified newspapers, and the annexed hereto is a copy of certain order, notice, publication or advertisement of:

HURON CHARTER TOWNSHIP

Published in the following edition(s):

The News-Herald	11/29/23
thenewsherald.com	11/29/23
thenewsherald.com2	11/29/23

VICKI ARSENAULT
 OTARY PUBLIC - STATE OF MICHIGAN
 COUNTY OF OAKLAND
 My Commission Expires May 11, 2028
 in the County of _____

Sworn to the subscribed before me this 30 Nov, 2023

Vicki Arsenault
Notary Public, State of Michigan
Acting in Oakland County

Advertisement Information

Client Id: 640964 **Ad Id:** 2531430 **PO:**

November 29, 2023

Huron Charter Township
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Huron Charter Township is seeking public input regarding the Huron Township 2024 – 2028 Parks and Recreation Master Plan. A Public Hearing will take place as part of the regularly scheduled Township Board meeting at 6:30 PM on December 13th, at the Township Hall, located at 22950 Huron River Drive.

A draft copy of the plan has been available for review since Wednesday, November 1st and will remain available through the date of the hearing. The plan can be viewed at the following locations:

- Huron Charter Township Hall, 22950 Huron River Drive
- The draft plan is also available online on the Township's website www.hurontownship-mi.gov
- For questions or comments, please call (734) 753-4466.

Sales Person: 207108

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF HURON
22950 Huron River Drive
New Boston, MI 48164
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
Wednesday, December 13, 2023



Supervisor Glaab called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Members Present: David A. Glaab
Colleen Lazere
Jeremy R. Cady
Angela Cady
John Chont
Michael Glaab
David Patterson

Absent:

Others Present: 10 Members of the Public
Kevin Foley, Township Attorney
Everette Robbins, Director of Public Safety
Jamie Hinojosa, Fire Chief
Eric Scanland, DPW Director
John Enos, Community Development Director

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

a. Regular Meeting - Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Motion by Michael Glaab, seconded by Jeremy R. Cady to approve the Agenda for the Wednesday, December 13, 2023 Board of Trustee Meeting with the omission of Item 101. Ayes all, Motion carried.

PRESENTATIONS

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

a) **Approval of Minutes:**

Regular Meeting – Wednesday, November 8, 2023

b) **Acceptance of Resignations:**

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF HURON
 22950 Huron River Drive
 New Boston, MI 48164
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES
 Wednesday, December, 13, 2023



Resignation of Part-Time Firefighter/Paramedic Tim Webb

c) Acceptance of Communications, Resolutions, Reports:

Storm Water Management Agreement Brown Elementary School

d) Approval of Township Bills:

		Year 2023
General Fund	(101)	\$219,781.91
Fire Fund	(206)	\$55,781.37
Police Fund	(207)	\$169,328.94
Cable P.E.G. Fund	(232)	\$1,302.18
Building Department Fund	(249)	\$22,498.30
Capital Improvement	(245)	\$1,744.00
Drug Law Enforcement Fund	(265)	\$5,000.00
Fire Improvement	(496)	\$172,608.17
Water and Sewer Fund	(592)	\$661,520.10
Belden Drain Construction Fund	(801)	\$500.00
Total:		\$1,310,064.97

Motion by John Chont, seconded by Michael Glaab to approve the Consent Agenda for the December 13, 2023 Board of Trustee Meeting.

David A. Glaab	For
Colleen Lazere	For
Jeremy R. Cady	For
Angela Cady	For
John Chont	For
Michael Glaab	For
David Patterson	For

Motion Carried.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

a. One resident recommended improvements from the DDA budget.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF HURON
22950 Huron River Drive
New Boston, MI 48164
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES
 Wednesday, December, 13, 2023



7. PUBLIC HEARING

- a. Parks & Recreation Master Plan 2024 - 2028
 Resolution Number 23-12-13-7a
 Public Hearing opened at 6:34 PM
 No Public Comments
 Overview given by Community Development Director, John Enos
 Public Hearing closed at 6:40 PM

Motion by Michael Glaab, seconded by Angela Cady to adopt the Huron Charter Township 2024 - 2028 Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

David A. Glaab	For
Colleen Lazere	For
Jeremy R. Cady	For
Angela Cady	For
John Chont	For
Michael Glaab	For
David Patterson	For

Motion Carried.

8. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

9. OLD BUSINESS

10. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Extension of Police Liaison Agreement

Motion by Michael Glaab, seconded by David Patterson to approve the extension of the Police Liaison Agreement effective January 8, 2024 through January 7, 2028.
 Ayes all, Motion carried.

- b. Retirement of Lieutenant Leo Girard

Motion by Michael Glaab, seconded by Colleen Lazere to accept the intent to retire in good standing effective January 13, 2024, and to thank Lt. Girard for his dedicated service.
 Ayes all, Motion carried.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF HURON
22950 Huron River Drive
New Boston, MI 48164
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES
Wednesday, December, 13, 2023



- c. Request to Promote Thomas Smith to Rank of Lieutenant and Alexis Powell to Rank of Sergeant

Motion by David Patterson, seconded by John Chont to approve both promotions as presented, effective January 21, 2024. Promotional process, if approved, will take place at upcoming January Board Meeting.
Ayes all, Motion carried.

- d. Request to Hire Part-Time Police Officer Edward Hindley

Motion by Colleen Lazere, seconded by David Patterson to approve the hiring of Edward Hindley as presented, with a start date of November 14, 2023.
Ayes all, Motion carried.

- e. Sale of Out of Service Patrol Vehicles 16-1 and 18-2

Motion by Michael Glaab, seconded by John Chont to approve sales of out of service vehicles as presented
Ayes all, Motion carried.

- f. Fire Department Purchase Request for 2 LIFEPAK

Motion by Michael Glaab, seconded by Jeremy R. Cady to approve purchase as presented
Ayes all, Motion carried.

- g. MERS Retirees Healthcare Funding Vehicle (RHFV) Trust - 2023 Disbursement Request #2

Motion by Colleen Lazere, seconded by John Chont to approve the distributions request from the MERS Retirees Healthcare Funding Vehicle (RHFV) in the amount of \$201,260.55 to reimburse the retirees benefits paid 7/1/2023 to 12/31/2023 from General Fund \$27,418.94, from Police Fund \$90,563.28, and from Water & Sewer Fund \$28,631.55.
Ayes all, Motion carried.

- h. 2024 Budget for Local Development Finance Authority (LDFA) Fund

Motion by Michael Glaab, seconded by Jeremy R. Cady to approve the 2024 budget for the Local Development Finance Authority (LDFA) Fund as presented.
Ayes all, Motion carried.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF HURON
 22950 Huron River Drive
 New Boston, MI 48164
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES
 Wednesday, December, 13, 2023



i. 2024 Budget for Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Fund

Motion by Jeremy R. Cady, seconded by Angela Cady to approve the 2024 budget for the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Fund as presented.
 Ayes all, Motion carried.

j. Intergovernmental Amended Agreement for Improvements to Lajko Park
 Resolution Number 23-12-13-10j

Motion by Colleen Lazere, seconded by David Patterson to approve the Amended Agreement for yr. 2022-2023 between The Charter County of Wayne and Huron Charter Township for improvements to Lajko Park, including pavilion maintenance, picnic tables and trash cans.

David A. Glaab	For
Colleen Lazere	For
Jeremy R. Cady	For
Angela Cady	For
John Chont	For
Michael Glaab	For
David Patterson	For

Motion Carried.

k. Appointments to the Local Development Finance Authority Board (LDFA)

Motion by David Patterson, seconded by Michael Glaab to approve the Supervisor's appointments of John Golovich, Talese Yensch, and Donna Mendrysa to the Local Development Finance Authority with terms to expire 12/31/2027
 Ayes all, Motion carried.

~~l. Appointments to the Downtown Development Authority Board (DDA)~~

m. Appointments to the Planning Commission

Motion by Michael Glaab, seconded by Jeremy R. Cady to approve the Supervisor's appointments to the Planning Commission of John Tarr with term ending 12/31/2025 and Craig James and Pete Weisman with terms ending 12/31/2026.
 Ayes all, Motion carried.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF HURON
22950 Huron River Drive
New Boston, MI 48164
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES



Wednesday, December, 13, 2023

11. DEPARTMENT PRESENTATIONS

- a. Director Robbins reviewed homicide statistics in Huron Township to counter concerns addressed at previous board meeting.

12. BOARD OF TRUSTEES COMMENTS

- a. Trustee Chont highlighted the Christmas events in Waltz and New Boston as well as the Goodfellows recent event, thanking everyone involved in making all events successful with a special mention and thank you to Melanie Shepler, also reported that there is an open seat on the Parks & Rec Commission and applications are now being accepted, wished everyone a Merry Christmas; Trustee Glaab thanked Walt Irodenko for his continuing contributions to the community; Treasurer Lazere thanked Ruth Cady for the beautiful Veteran's Memorial, inquired about paving some of the county roads, and wished all a Merry Christmas; Trustee Cady congratulated all for a successful Christmas event and thanked those who filled out the Parks & Rec survey.

13. CLOSED SESSION

- a. Closed Session to discuss Collective Bargaining Agreements between DPW, General Office Employees, and Directors Unions. This is a permissible purpose under the Michigan's Open Meeting Act, Public Act No. 267, Article 15.268, Section 8, paragraph (c).

Motion by Michael Glaab, seconded by Angela Cady to move into Closed Session at 6:57 PM.

David A. Glaab	For
Colleen Lazere	For
Jeremy R. Cady	For
Angela Cady	For
John Chont	For
Michael Glaab	For
David Patterson	For

Motion Carried.

- b. Return to Open Session

Motion by Jeremy R. Cady, seconded by Angela Cady to return to Open Session at 7:07 PM.

David A. Glaab	For
----------------	-----

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF HURON
 22950 Huron River Drive
 New Boston, MI 48164
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES
 Wednesday, December, 13, 2023




Colleen Lazere	For
Jeremy R. Cady	For
Angela Cady	For
John Chont	For
Michael Glaab	For
David Patterson	For
Motion Carried.	

Motion by David Patterson, seconded by Michael Glaab to authorize the Board to approve the Tentative Agreements as presented in Closed Session, and to authorize the Township Labor Attorney, Clerk and Supervisor to sign the fully executed Collective Bargaining Agreements. Ayes all, Motion carried.


14. ADJOURNMENT

a. Adjourned at 7:08 PM

Motion by Michael Glaab, seconded by John Chont to adjourn the December 13, 2023 Board of Trustee Meeting.
 Ayes all, Motion carried.



 David A. Glaab
 Township Supervisor



 Jeremy R. Cady
 Township Clerk

PLEASE TAKE NOTE: The Charter Township of Huron will provide reasonable and necessary auxiliary aids and services to those individuals requiring such upon two weeks prior notice to the Charter Township of Huron Clerk's Office. Phone number (734) 753-4466 ext. 131. TDD units: (800) 649-3777 (Michigan Relay Services).

APPENDIX C: TOWNSHIP BOARD RESOLUTION

STATE OF MICHIGAN COUNTY OF WAYNE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF HURON

RESOLUTION NUMBER 23-12-13-7a

RESOLUTION TO A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE HURON TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN

At a regular meeting of the Charter Township of Huron Board of Trustees, Wayne County, Michigan, held at the Township Hall located at 22950 Huron River Drive, New Boston, Michigan on December 13, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

WHEREAS, the Huron Charter Township Parks & Recreation Commission has undertaken a planning process to determine the recreation needs and desires of its residents during a five-year period covering the years 2024 to 2028; and

WHEREAS, the Parks & Recreation Commission began the process of developing a Parks & Recreation Plan in accordance with the most recent guidelines developed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and made available to local communities; and

WHEREAS, the Parks & Recreation Commission has developed the plan as a guideline for improving recreation opportunities for Huron Charter Township; and

WHEREAS, residents of Huron Charter Township were provided with a well-advertised opportunity during the development of the draft plan to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the Plan; and

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

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on December 13, 2023, at the Huron Township Offices to provide an opportunity for all residents of the Township to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the Huron Township 2024 – 2028 Parks & Recreation Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, after the public hearing, the Township Board of Trustees voted to adopt said Huron Township 2024 – 2028 Parks & Recreation Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the plan serves as a guideline for park land, open space, and recreation planning by the Parks & Recreation Commission; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of a five-year plan is mandated by the Department of Natural Resources for eligibility for DNR-administered grants;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Huron Township Board of Trustees hereby adopts the Huron Township Parks & Recreation Master Plan for the years 2024 – 2028.



Present: David A. Glaab, Jeremy R. Cady, Colleen Lazere, Angela Cady, John Chont, Michael Glaab, David Patterson

Absent: None

Moved by: Michael Glaab

Supported by: Angela Cady

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Adopted: December 13, 2023

Certification

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
)
COUNTY OF WAYNE)

I, Jeremy R. Cady, the duly qualified Clerk of the Huron Charter Township, Wayne County, Michigan, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the Huron Charter Township Board of Trustees held on December 13, 2023, and that public notices of said meeting were given pursuant to Act No. 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, as amended.

Jeremy R. Cady
Township Clerk

APPENDIX D: LETTERS OF TRANSMITTAL



Carlisle | Wortman
ASSOCIATES, INC.

117 NORTH FIRST STREET SUITE 70 ANN ARBOR, MI 48104 734.662.2200 734.662.1935 FAX

January 12, 2024

Alicia C. Bradford, MSA, CPRP
Director
Wayne County Parks & Recreation
33175 Ann Arbor Trail
Westland, Michigan 48185

Dear Ms. Bradford:

The Huron Township Board of Trustees adopted the 2024 – 2028 Parks & Recreation Master Plan at a meeting held on December 13, 2023. The plan has been uploaded to the MDNR website for their review and approval. The plan will be subject to future review and updates as deemed necessary by the Board.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any comments regarding this plan.

Thank you for your consideration,

CARLISLE/WORTMAN ASSOC., INC.

Chris Nordstrom, PLA, ASLA

Landscape Architect

cc. Bryce Kelley, Township Supervisor
Hob Calhoun, Parks Advisory Board Chair

*Benjamin R. Carlisle, President John L. Enos, Vice President Douglas J. Lewan, Principal
David Scurto, Principal Sally M. Elmiger, Principal R. Donald Wortman, Principal Craig Strong, Principal
Paul Montagno, Principal, Megan Masson-Minock, Principal, Laura Kreps, Principal
Richard K. Carlisle, Past President/Senior Principal*



Carlisle | Wortman
ASSOCIATES, INC.

117 NORTH FIRST STREET SUITE 70 ANN ARBOR, MI 48104 734.662.2200 734.662.1935 FAX

January 12, 2024

Jaylyn King
Regional Review Office
Southeast Michigan Council of Governments
1001 Woodward Avenue, Suite 1400
Detroit, Michigan 48226

Dear Mr. King:

The Huron Township Board of Trustees adopted the 2024 – 2028 Parks & Recreation Master Plan at a meeting held on December 13, 2023. The plan has been uploaded to the MDNR website for their review and approval. The plan will be subject to future review and updates as deemed necessary by the Board.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any comments regarding this plan.

Thank you for your consideration,

CARLISLE/WORTMAN ASSOC., INC.
Chris Nordstrom, PLA, ASLA
Landscape Architect

*Benjamin R. Carlisle, President John L. Enos, Vice President Douglas J. Lewan, Principal
David Scurto, Principal Sally M. Elmiger, Principal R. Donald Wortman, Principal Craig Strong, Principal
Paul Montagno, Principal, Megan Masson-Minock, Principal, Laura Kreps, Principal
Richard K. Carlisle, Past President/Senior Principal*

APPENDIX E: PUBLIC INPUT SUMMARY



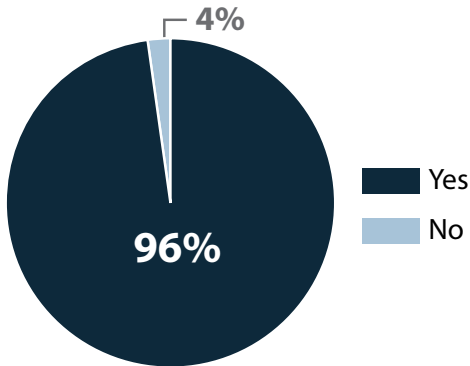
Parks & Recreation Master Plan Community Survey Results

Huron Charter Township made an online survey available to residents from July 18 to August 13, 2023, as part of the outreach program for the recreation plan update. The survey was advertised on the Township’s website and on social media. 152 unique responses were received.

Responses were analyzed to determine if entries were human generated, i.e. not bots. Where duplicate IP addresses were found, all appeared to be either the result of two people from one household entering their opinions.

The following pages provide a summary of the results. For open-ended questions, responses are provided verbatim; no edits have been made for grammar or spelling errors. The top result for each question is highlighted in yellow.

Q1: Are you a Huron Township resident?



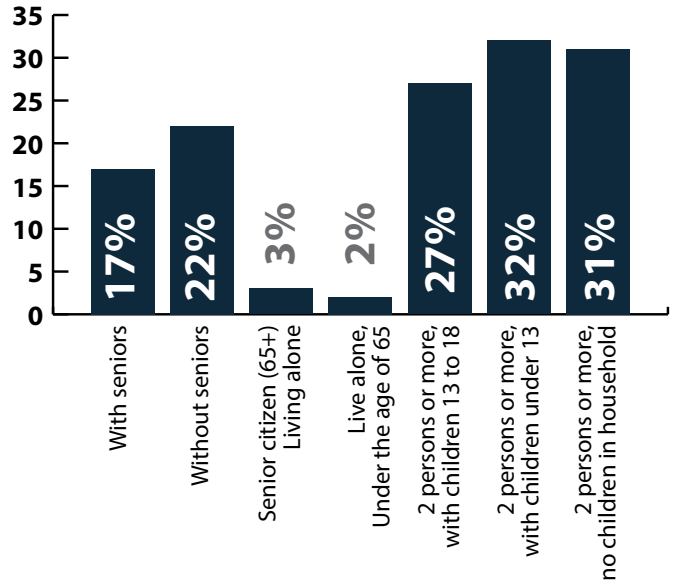
Response	Number	Percent
Yes	149	98.0%
No	3	2.0%
Total Responses	152	

Q2: If no, please tell us where you currently reside.

Q2 - OTHER RESPONSES

- (REDACTED SPECIFIC ADDRESS) Flat Rock
- Claremont
- Florida
- Huron River Dr
- Sumpter Twp
- Village of Willow

Q3: Which of the following categories best describe your household? *Choose all that apply.*

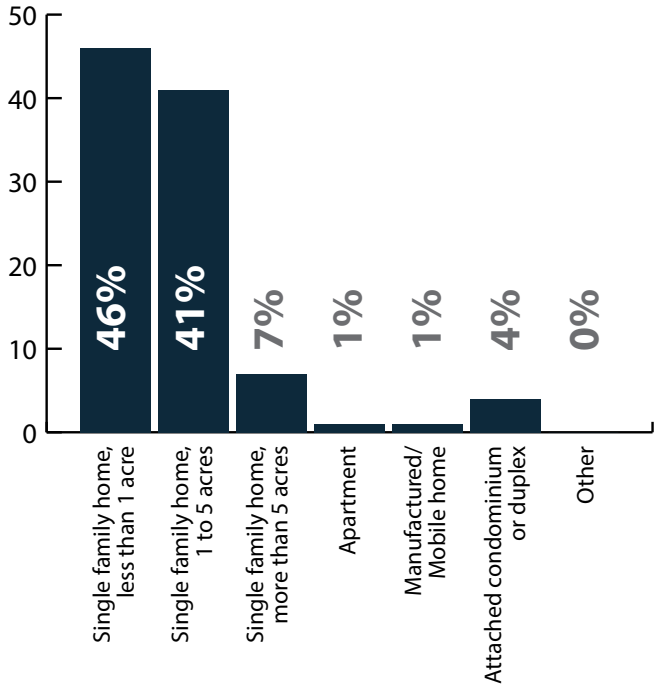


Response	Number	Percent
With seniors (65+)	26	17.2%
Without seniors (65+)	33	21.9%
Senior citizen (65+) living alone	4	2.6%
Live alone, under the age of 65	3	2.0%
2 persons or more, with children 13 to 18 years	40	26.5%
2 persons or more, with children under 13 years	48	31.8%
2 persons or more, no children in the household	46	30.5%
Total Unique Responses	151	
Total Responses	200	

Note: Because multiple answers per participant are possible, the total percentage may exceed 100%



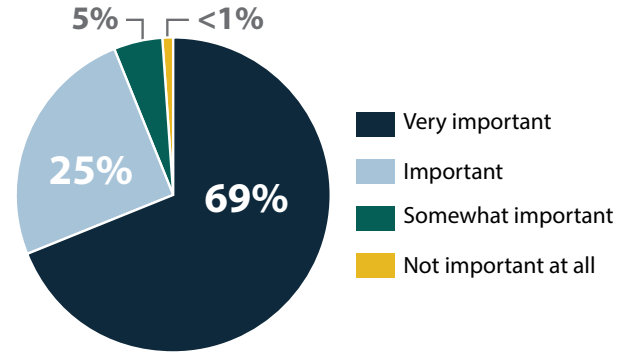
Q4: Please describe your current living situation.



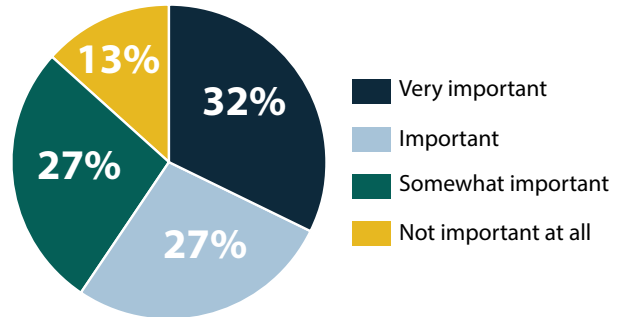
Response	Number	Percent
Single family home, less than 1 acre	70	46.0%
Single family home, 1 to 5 acres	62	40.8%
Single family home, 5+ acres	11	7.2%
Apartment	1	0.7%
Manufactured / mobile home	2	1.3%
Attached condominium or duplex	6	4.0%
Other (Please specify)	0	0.0%
Total Responses	152	

Q5: How important are the following items to you and your family?

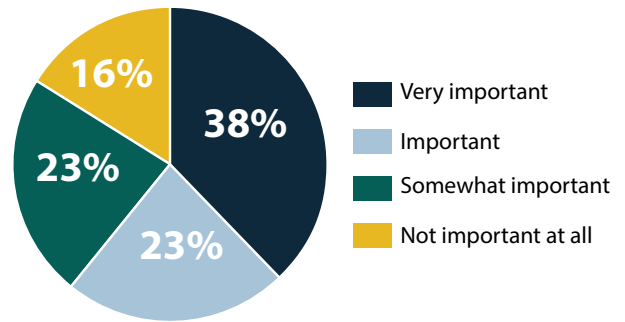
A. MAINTAINING EXISTING PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES



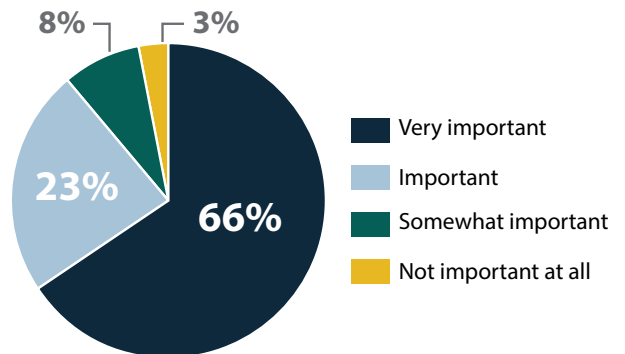
B. ACQUIRING AND DEVELOPING NEW PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES



C. ACCESS TO ACTIVE USE FACILITIES (E.G. SOCCER, FOOTBALL, BASEBALL, TENNIS, ETC.)

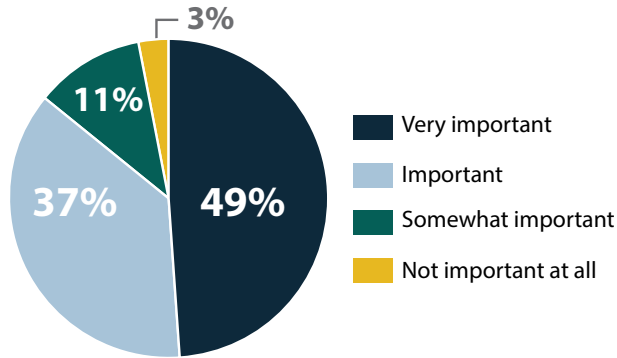


D. PROTECTING NATURAL RESOURCES

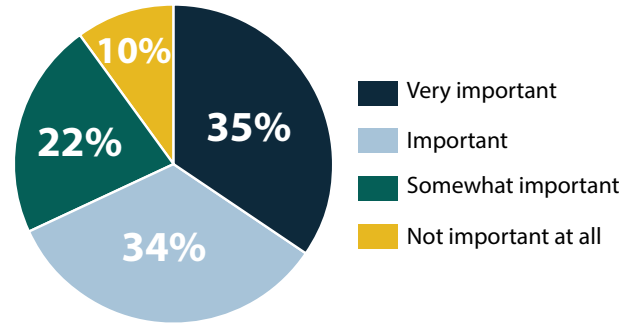


QUESTION 5 - CONTINUED

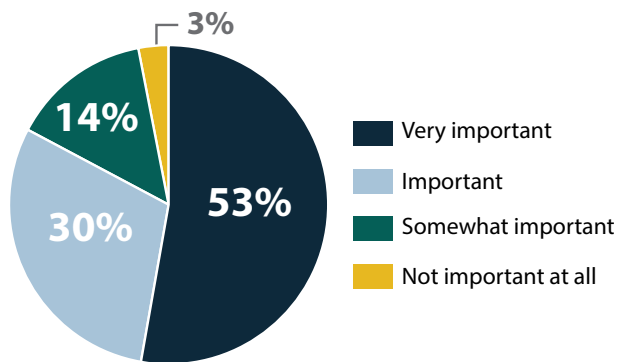
E. ACCESS TO PASSIVE USE FACILITIES (E.G. PLAYGROUNDS, PICNIC SHELTERS, PATHS, ETC.)



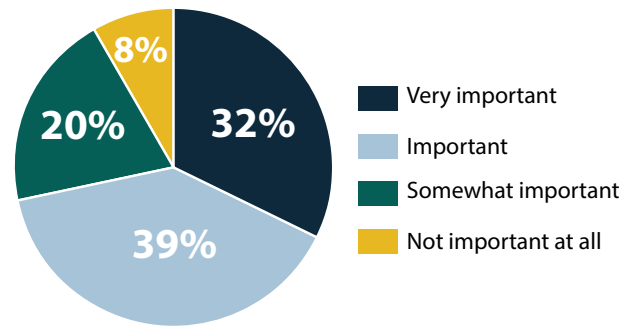
G. ACCESS TO RECREATION PROGRAMMING (E.G. SPECIAL EVENTS, CLASSES, SPORTS LEAGUES, ETC.)



F. ACCESS TO PATHS AND TRAILS



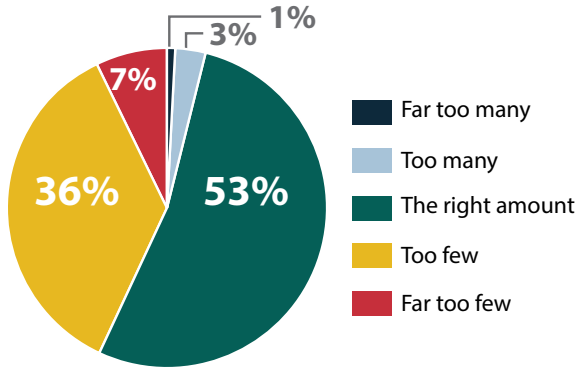
H. IMPROVING FACILITY ACCESSIBILITY (I.E. ADA COMPLIANCE, HANDICAP AMENITIES)



Response	# of responses	Very Important		Important		Somewhat Important		Not Important At All	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Maintaining existing parks and recreation facilities	150	104	69.30%	37	24.70%	8	5.30%	1	0.70%
Acquiring and developing new parks and recreation facilities	150	48	32.00%	41	27.30%	41	27.30%	20	13.30%
Access to active use facilities (e.g. soccer, football, baseball, tennis, etc.)	150	57	38.00%	34	22.70%	35	23.30%	24	16.00%
Protecting natural resources	150	98	65.30%	35	23.30%	12	8.00%	5	3.30%
Access to passive use facilities (e.g. playgrounds, picnic shelters, paths, etc.)	149	73	49.00%	55	36.90%	16	10.70%	5	3.40%
Access to paths and trails	148	78	52.70%	45	30.40%	20	13.50%	5	3.40%
Access to recreation programming (e.g. special events, classes, sports leagues, etc.)	148	52	35.10%	50	33.80%	32	21.60%	14	9.50%
Improving facility accessibility (i.e. ADA compliance, handicap amenities)	150	48	32.40%	58	39.20%	30	20.30%	12	8.10%

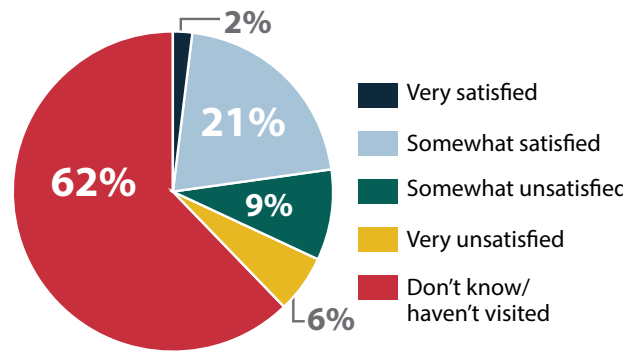


Q6: Does Huron Township have too few, too many, or the right amount of recreation properties?

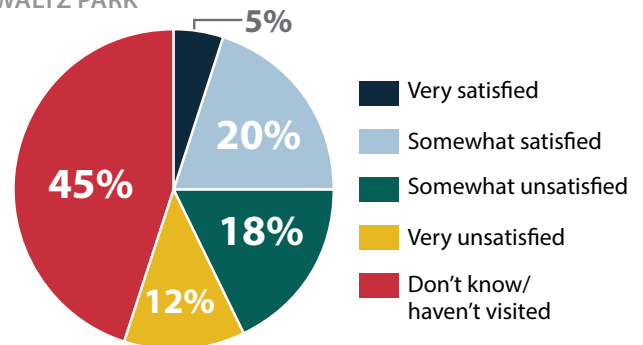


Response	Number	Percent
Far too many	2	1.3%
Too many	5	3.4%
The right amount	79	53.0%
Too few	53	35.6%
Far too few	10	6.7%
Total Responses	149	

C. RIVERSIDE PARK

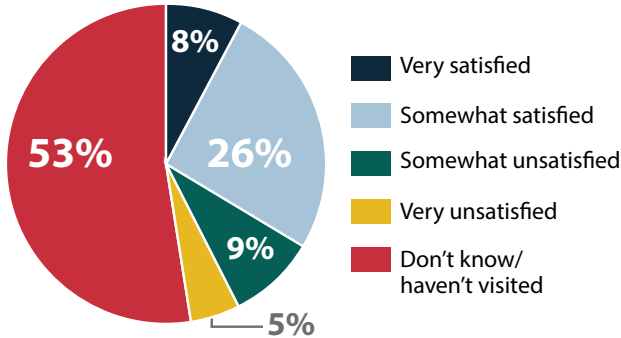


D. WALTZ PARK

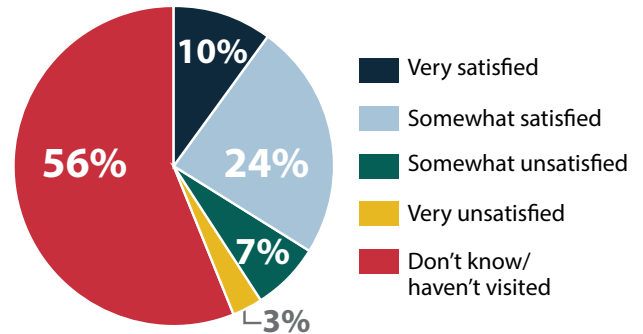


Q7: How satisfied are you with Huron Township's recreation facilities?

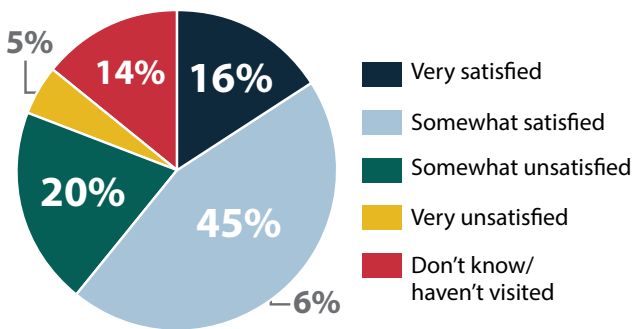
A. KENNETH E. BERLINN MEMORIAL PARK



E. KRZYSKE SENIOR CENTER & PARK



B. LAJKO PARK



Only Responses by Facility Visitors				
	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Somewhat Unsatisfied	Very Unsatisfied
Berlinn Park	17.14%	54.29%	18.57%	10.00%
Lajko Park	18.11%	52.76%	22.83%	6.30%
Riverside Park	5.36%	55.36%	23.21%	16.07%
Waltz Park	9.76%	36.59%	31.71%	21.95%
Krzyske Senior Center & Park	21.54%	55.38%	16.92%	6.15%

QUESTION 7 - CONTINUED

Facility Name	Number of Responses	All Responses (including "Haven't Visited")									
		Very Satisfied		Somewhat Satisfied		Somewhat Unsatisfied		Very Unsatisfied		Haven't Visited	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Berlinn Park	148	12	8.10%	38	25.70%	13	8.80%	7	4.70%	78	52.70%
Lajko Park	148	23	15.50%	67	45.30%	29	19.60%	8	5.40%	21	14.20%
Riverside Park	147	3	2.00%	31	21.10%	13	8.80%	9	6.10%	91	61.90%
Waltz Park	148	8	5.40%	30	20.30%	26	17.60%	18	12.20%	66	44.60%
Krzske Senior Center & Park	148	14	9.50%	36	24.30%	11	7.40%	4	2.70%	83	56.10%

Q8: What can Huron Township do to better meet your recreation needs?

- | | | |
|---|-----|--|
| 1. A fitness center, activities for adults other than seniors | 20. | Dog park |
| 2. A rec center with a fitness facility would be wonderful. | 21. | Educate the community to further improve river water quality. |
| 3. Add a walk path around perimeter of senior park. Add a shade cover over bouchée ball seat benches. Benches are in direct sun therefore not used as is. | 22. | Events like TOUCH A TRUCK, maybe an explorers program with guided hikes, mommy and me group walks |
| 4. Add more ball fields & an indoor recreation facility with pool & exercise opportunities | 23. | Formally tell the community what Riverside Park is. Most citizens have no idea where this is going to be nor do they know it exists. |
| 5. Add more Baseball Diamonds for the High School to have a freshman baseball team!! | 24. | Get new management |
| 6. Add more walking/cycling friendly paths thru the area. | 25. | Have a community gym pool indoor walking area |
| 7. Add pickle ball courts. An activity for active older individuals. | 26. | Have an actual recreation center building for events and clubs. |
| 8. Ball fields are desperately needed | 27. | Have more bike paths (true mountain bike paths would be the best!). Make sure the Huron River is navigable for kayaking. (Remove downed trees etc). Also would be neat to have a summer motorcycle dirt bike area/trail that could be a snowmobile tail in the winter. |
| 9. Bathrooms | 28. | Have more paths for biking from waltz and Willow villages to parks |
| 10. Begin to focus more of current facilities and maintenance of them | 29. | Huron needs a recreation center that has indoor amenities, similar to the Romulus RAC center. Huron does not have any indoor basketball gyms, workout facilities, or indoor banquet halls. We're having to seek these amenities elsewhere, in other townships/ciities |
| 11. Better awareness of the parks and amenities would be key. More sports sign ups etc. As a newer member (less than 5 years) im not even aware of all that is being offered. | 30. | I believe that all tax paying township residents should get at least 1 free metro park pass. The township parks are run down and out dated, there is nothing to do. The metro park are in our township, we should reap some benefits of that. |
| 12. Better Bathrooms, more handicap accessible attractions, an indoor gym | 31. | I feel in the summer most other cities have more activities for kids through the summer. sports complex would be amazing |
| 13. Better soccer facilities. Indoor athletic facilities | 32. | I miss the 3 par golf very badly that lower huron park had |
| 14. between the Metroparks and township parks we have more than most communities | | |
| 15. Bike lanes on all roads, especially on Williw going from schol towards metroparks | | |
| 16. Bike path throughout township | | |
| 17. Build a sports complex for baseball/softball/soccer-hold tournaments in major leagues and it'll attract new business and organically grow the community | | |
| 18. Clean up the river of weeds and lily pads | | |
| 19. Develop and implement a plan to expand riverside and waltz parks. Both have been talked about for the past several years and there has been virtually no improvement. | | |



QUESTION 8 - CONTINUED

- 33. I moved here almost 2 years ago now, and I know little about parks and rec in this city/town. I would love to learn more or know where to go to learn more
- 34. i would like to see a bike lane put in on the bridge on huron river drive so we can ride our bikes to metro park
- 35. I would like to see more recreational options on the river.
- 36. I would love to see more parks and toddler friendly programming.
- 37. Improve downtown area and provide new opportunities for new types of recreation
- 38. Improve the areas we currently have.
- 39. Improve Waltz Park, develop Riverside Park
- 40. it would be nice to have a pool
- 41. Line dance classes
- 42. Local parks that are well maintained, adequate light, something residents can rent out for get together. Accessible for seniors. Items for handicapped children and can be used for seniors. Restrooms, water, trash cans. Riverside Park plans - show to residents BEFORE built. Safety water concerns
- 43. Maintain the parks, treat for ticks and mosquitoes, and improve the sport areas
- 44. Make it safe for women and young girls.
- 45. Make more community areas for the kids. A sports complex would be amazing.
- 46. Make sure everything is up to date and safe for use
- 47. More active senior center
- 48. More activities to draw people in. Keeping community in the loop via social media
- 49. More bathroom facilities lights at the baseball field
- 50. More classes
- 51. More community events for children and do a better job advertising the events
- 52. More events that cater to athletes
- 53. more fishing access from shore
- 54. More free sports fields(i.e.soccer)
- 55. More handicap accessibility Offer free swim lessons for children like they used to do at Lower Huron or Willow
- 56. More options
- 57. More protected biking and walking paths along Willow, Waltz, and Huron River Roads
- 58. more soccer fields, more baseball fields, sidewalks to actually get to our parks. The streets are too busy for families to ride on bikes.
- 59. Need more soccer and baseball/softball fields. Also need them to be better maintained.
- 60. need senior or over 50 drop in activities like volleyball ,pickleball, etc. dont know what these facilities offer. they must not offer what i'm interested in or i would have heard or seen that. thanks
- 61. Not so much my needs but the township needs more baseball fields
- 62. Nothing.
- 63. offer more walking/bike paths
- 64. Parking was taken out at Lajko for the basketball courts. During large events the parking lot fills up. And folks park along HRD. This is dangerous and the folks running the events need to make the attendees that there is overflow parking at Twp. hall
- 65. Provide information identifying current recreation facilities and programs
- 66. Put in a park like Brownstown at Telegraph and King. This could go near Lajko park
- 67. Put in pathways to access the parks from home. So along busy corridors like Waltz and S. Huron that have small shoulders and guardrails. They are scary to walk or bike in now.
- 68. Recreational classes
- 69. Senior area is never used, could be something better usefull
- 70. Softball leagues for adults, recreation opportunities for teenagers, low cost classes for adults
- 71. Specify where Riverside Park is. I live downtown New Boston and have no idea what this is, and cannot find this park on Google Maps. There should be more access to the river outside of the paid membership of the metro parks. More effort should be made to cleanup areas outside of the funded metropark
- 72. Start a library
- 73. Summer program for kids
- 74. The township must have better soccer fields. With the growth of the Huron Soccer Association, the association has outgrown the current facilities.
- 75. The township should pay more attention to this park. It is very nice and could be nicer! The township could actually make some revenue by renting it out for family reunions etc. It needs electrical and Water improvements.
- 76. There needs to be community classes like crafts or skills in community buildings. There also needs to be a place where local people can year around sell hand-made products similar to Town Peddler in Livonia. The classes can even be nature based themed if that helps have them.
- 77. Update broken playground equipment and things that are rusted out.
- 78. Water park/splash park for residents
- 79. We have quite a few outdoor options. I think we need some sort of multiuse indoor facility. Like a ymca
- 80. We need an athletic center

QUESTION 8 - CONTINUED

- 81. We need more activities for kids and families. We need more programs, family nights. Would love to see a community space brought to downtown. For family movie nights, music nights, etc
- 82. We really enjoy the book nook and baseball field in the sterling st. Park. I would also recommended a "blessing box" filled with non perishable food and toiletry items our community could refill together as needed
- 83. What is riverside park? Never heard of it

General Topics with three (3) or more mentions	# of mentions
Specific Park Mentions	
Riverside Park	6
Waltz Park	3
Lajko Park	2
Willow Metropark	1
General Topics	
Indoor fitness & Rec center/classes	13
Sports courts/fields (new)	12
Walking/biking paths	11
Maintenance/upkeep/improvements	10
News/outreach	7
Community interaction/events	7
Recreation opportunities/new types	5
Restrooms	4
Senior activities	4
Accessibility	3
ADA accessibility	3

Q9: What do you like or dislike about these parks?

- 1. Bathrooms
- 2. Because the metroparks are so convenient, those are the ones we utilize.
- 3. could use more picnic areas; possibly permanent bathroom facilities
- 4. dont know anything about them
- 5. Few things to do in winter at these parks. Need restrooms, benches, etc. at parks.
- 6. Forget putting so much money into the Glaab "River" park. A few seating benches then be done with it.
- 7. Have not been to them.
- 8. I like parks having restrooms & shaded seating. I dislike overgrown wasted space & flooded low areas.
- 9. I think overall they're fine
- 10. I think the township residents should be offered a discount pass to the Metroparks
- 11. I'd like to see lighting at the baseball fields to attract organized ball teams outside of huron township.
- 12. Joseph Waltz Park has been neglected for years! It needs Water accessibility as well as Electrical upgrades.
- 13. Lack restrooms
- 14. Lajko is the only one that is decent. All of the others are poorly maintained and inadequate for what he community needs.
- 15. Love all the parks.
- 16. Love how convenient the three metroparks are
- 17. Love the proximity!
- 18. Lower the speed limit to 25
- 19. More pavilions for covered picnicking
- 20. N/A (4 duplicate responses)
- 21. Need better signage.
- 22. Needs more art and education. There are so many kids and adults that don't know basic wildlife information. Othe parks also have murals or sculptures.
- 23. Not a high quality playground at any of them really
- 24. Not big enough
- 25. not close to where i live
- 26. Not enough for the 8 to 12 year olds
- 27. Not enough restroom facilities
- 28. Not enough trash receptacles. Not enough signs directing us to the parks
- 29. not very impressive
- 30. Not well maintained. Old benches, sitting areas.
- 31. Nothing
- 32. Nothing there. Looks like just an open area with a table.
- 33. People like beauty. Landscaping, new amenities, urban/ modern designed (the new spaceship playground at the metropark is a great example)
- 34. Poor upkeep within the facilities and not enough baseball diamonds to play higher level baseball.



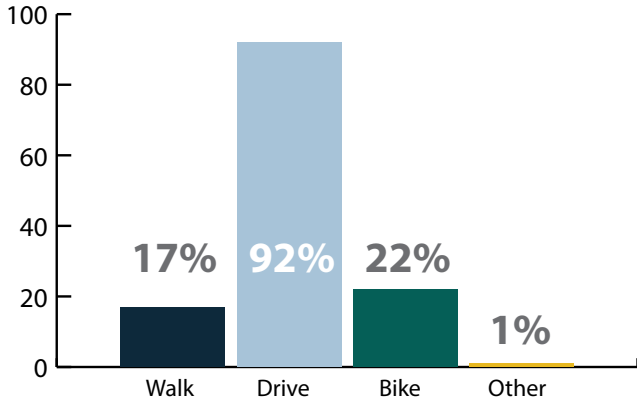
QUESTION 9 - CONTINUED

- 35. Run down and/or nothing to do there.
- 36. See the above question.
- 37. Seem like works in progress but nothing more being done.
- 38. Small uninviting
- 39. Small, easy access. Water and bathroom options where applicable.
- 40. Smaller city parks feel like they work well for younger kids
- 41. Some could be nicer and cleaner, more maintained.
- 42. Sparce need more shettlers and restrooms
- 43. The metro parks are decent. Berlinn park needs more play equipment for multiple ages and a working water fountain. More flowers/native plants should be planted to help the eco system.
- 44. The metro parks have came a long way. But the sports facilities/ land is below par for sure. Almost every city downriver has had complexes built. We just need to be theme based and attractive.
- 45. The ones I've seen seem nice
- 46. There's no buildings for year around use like a community center.
- 47. These parks are fine if you like baseball and basketball but not much for other kinds of sports
- 48. They all end better acces to them via a bike lane. Roads to get there without a car are so dangerous for families with little ones
- 49. They are all great and the metro parks are beautiful.
- 50. They are old, run down, boring, out dated.
- 51. To fee are to high
- 52. Too many middle-aged men drive or park. I dislike being approached especially after telling them to move on.
- 53. Too small compared to metro parks. Don't visit with metro park access.
- 54. Too small.
- 55. Trails
- 56. Unknown
- 57. Untapped features. For example, riverside park should offer canoe and kayak access to the river. How is it possible that our township has no river access except through the metroparks?
- 58. Very little to do at the parks unless you have playground aged children
- 59. Waltz Park is a gem but so under cared for and poorly maintained
- 60. Waltz Park is unusable and unknown. Riverside Park will be beautiful if developed properly.
- 61. Waltz park is useless.
- 62. Waltz Park is very under used. Was fun when it had more activities like haunted house etc.

- 63. We do not have enough facilities for sports, and there is no good way to access the parks without driving
- 64. Why does the community not have use of the barn in Waltz? Why is the Waltz park not utilized for anything prior to the recent fair?

General Topics with three (3) or more mentions	# of mentions
Specific Park Mentions	
Waltz Park	6
Riverside Park	3
Berlinn Park	1
Lajko Park	1
General Topics	
Poor maintenance	9
Lack of amenities	7
Not enough restrooms	6
Not enough sports facilities/upgrades	5
Lack of activities	5
Lack of information	4
Underutilization	4
Satisfied	3
Need more landscaping	3

Q10: How do you typically travel to Huron Township's recreation properties?



Response	Number	Percent
Walk	25	16.8%
Drive	137	92.0%
Bike	32	21.5%
Other (Please specify)	2	1.3%
Total Unique Responses	149	
Total Responses	196	

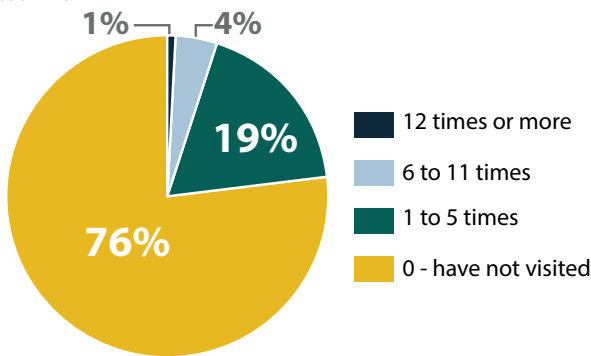
Note: Because multiple answers per participant are possible, the total percentage may exceed 100%

Q10 - OTHER RESPONSES

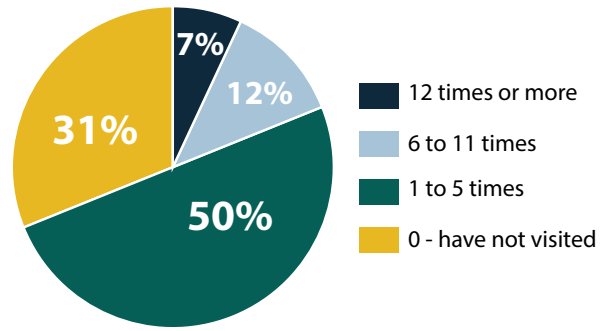
- I do not go to them
- unknown facilities

Q11: In the past twelve months, how many times have you visited Huron Township's recreation properties?

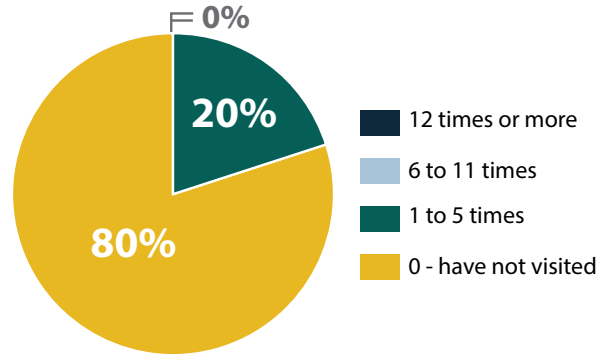
A. KENNETH E. BERLINN MEMORIAL PARK



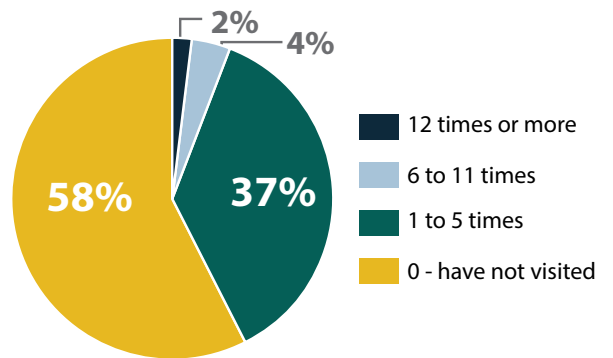
B. LAJKO PARK



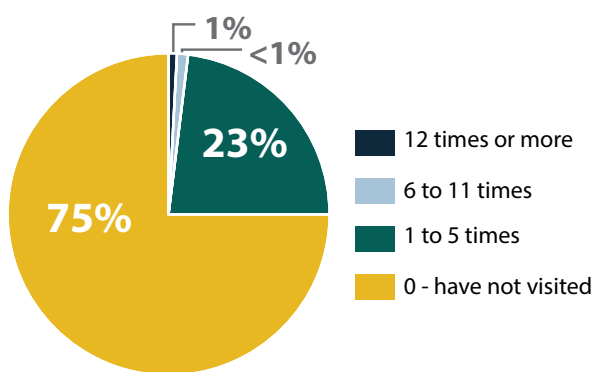
C. RIVERSIDE PARK



D. WALTZ PARK

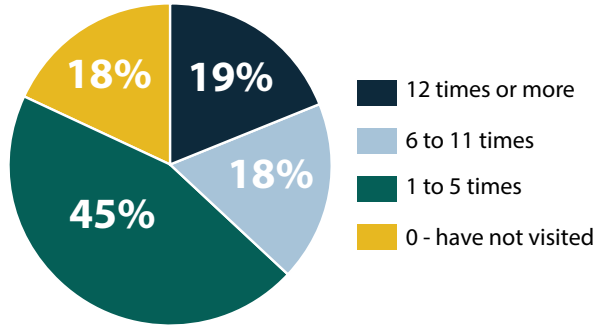


E. KRZYSKE SENIOR CENTER & PARK

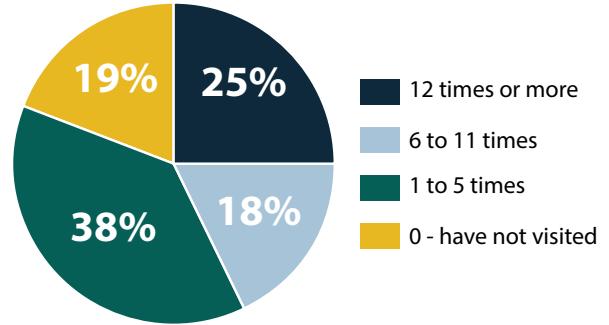




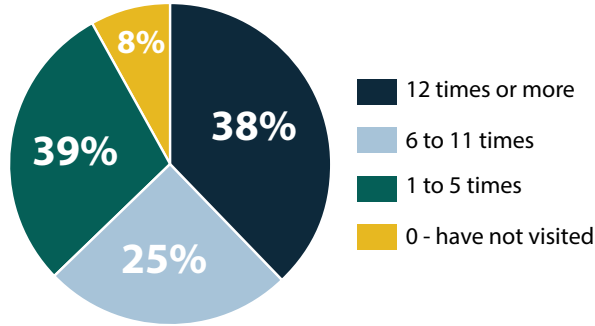
QUESTION 11 - CONTINUED
F. OAKWOODS METROPARK



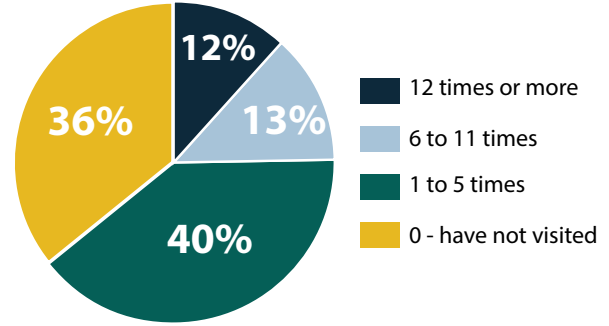
H. LOWER HURON METROPARK



G. WILLOW METROPARK

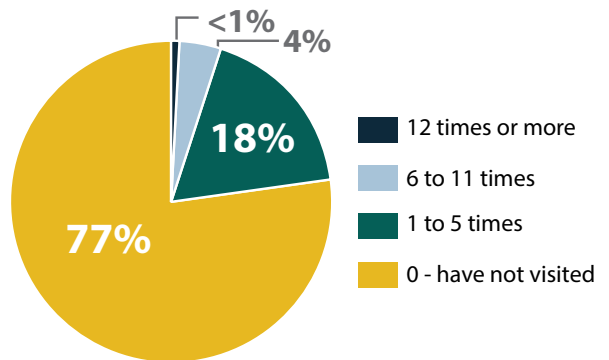


I. CROSSWINDS MARSH



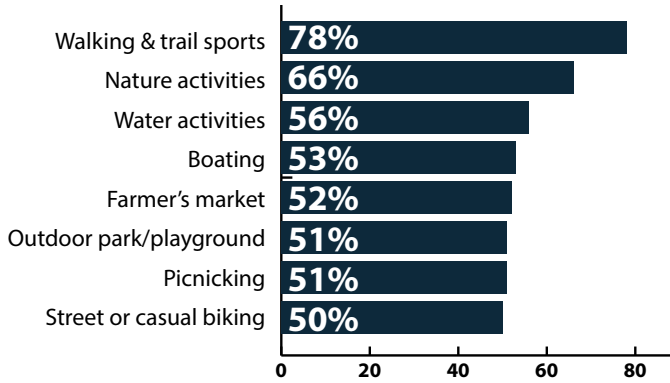
Only Responses by Facility Visitors			
	12 x or more	6 to 11 times	1 to 5 times
Berlinn Park	5.88%	17.65%	76.47%
Lajko Park	10.10%	17.17%	72.73%
Riverside Park	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Waltz Park	5.00%	8.33%	86.67%
Krzyske Senior Ctr.	5.56%	2.78%	91.67%
Oakwoods Metro	22.88%	22.03%	55.08%
Willow Metropark	41.04%	26.87%	32.09%
Lower Huron Metro	30.25%	22.69%	47.06%
Crosswinds Marsh	18.48%	19.57%	61.96%
Hines Park	3.03%	18.18%	78.79%

J. HINES PARK



Facility Name	Number of Responses	All Responses (including "Haven't Visited")							
		12 times or more		6 to 11 times		1 to 5 times		0 - have not visited	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Berlinn Park	140	2	1.40%	6	4.30%	26	18.60%	106	75.70%
Lajko Park	144	10	6.90%	17	11.80%	72	50.00%	45	31.30%
Riverside Park	140	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	28	20.00%	112	80.00%
Waltz Park	144	3	2.10%	5	3.50%	52	36.90%	81	57.50%
Krzyske Senior Ctr. & Park	141	2	1.40%	1	0.70%	33	23.40%	105	74.50%
Oakwoods Metropark	144	27	18.80%	26	18.10%	65	45.10%	26	18.10%
Willow Metropark	146	55	37.70%	36	24.70%	43	29.40%	12	8.20%
Lower Huron Metropark	147	36	24.50%	27	18.40%	56	38.10%	28	19.10%
Crosswinds Marsh	144	17	11.80%	18	12.50%	57	39.60%	52	36.10%
Hines Park	142	1	0.70%	6	4.20%	26	18.30%	109	76.80%

Q12: What types of activities do you or your family members participate in? Note that this can include any facility, not just Huron Township's. *Choose all that apply.*



Note: Because multiple answers per participant are possible, the total percentage may exceed 100%

Q12 - OTHER RESPONSES

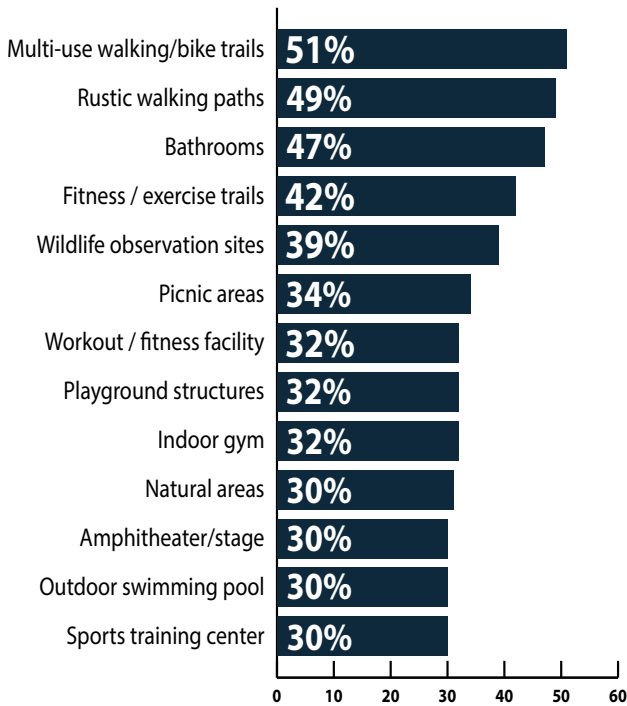
- indoor volleyball and pickleball
- Live music nights in the parks. Holiday events. Street fairs. Food truck events.
- low cost classes: cooking for teens, sewing, wreath making
- Running long distance I named the Willow Loop on Map My Run

Response	Number	Percent
Walking & trail sports (e.g. walking, jogging, rollerblading, etc.)	118	78.2%
Nature activities (e.g. nature walks, bird watching, stargazing, etc.)	100	66.2%
Water Activities (e.g. swimming, splash pad)	84	55.6%
Boating (kayak, canoe, or other form)	80	53.0%
Farmer's market	78	51.7%
Outdoor park activities / playground	77	51.0%
Picnicking	77	51.0%
Street or casual biking	75	49.7%
Dog park / dog walking	74	49.0%
Movie nights / concerts in the park	67	44.4%
Golf	65	43.0%
Field sports (e.g. football, baseball, soccer, etc.)	63	41.7%
Hunting / fishing	50	33.1%
Camping	50	33.1%
Court sports (e.g. tennis, basketball, pickleball, volleyball, etc.)	49	32.5%
Off-trail / rustic hiking	40	26.5%
Sledding	39	25.8%
Enrichment programming (e.g. skills workshops, nature ID, etc.)	35	23.2%
Sports Camps	30	19.9%
Mountain biking	30	19.9%
Summer Camps	28	18.5%
Painting / photography / sculpture	26	17.2%
Disc golf	24	15.9%
Skateboarding or Rollerblading	23	15.2%
Horseback riding	19	12.6%
Community gardening	19	12.6%
Senior programs	18	11.9%
Geocaching	17	11.3%
Figure skating / hockey	16	10.6%
Skiing (cross country or alpine)	15	9.9%
Kite flying	14	9.3%
Snowmobiling	10	6.6%
Paint ball	6	4.0%
Other (Please specify)	4	2.6%
Total Unique Responses	151	
Total Responses	1,520	



Q13: Which of the following amenities would you like to see more of or improved in Huron Township's parks?

Choose all that apply.



Note: Because multiple answers per participant are possible, the total percentage may exceed 100%

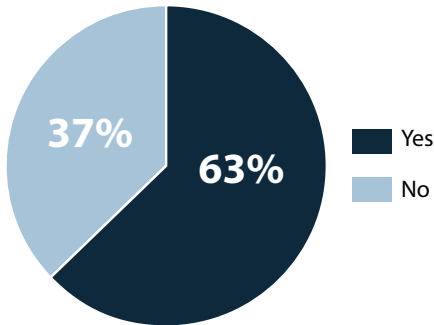
Q13 - OTHER RESPONSES

- Build your own and stop burdening the schools. You need a full time Rec Director and the facilities to go with it. Little League parents are completely irresponsible during the season not only children vandalizing parks but the School playground equipment etc. No respect for other peoples property at all.
- Building structure with indoor swimming pool
- Huron River
- indoor all season swimming pool
- Indoor banquet halls
- More Races And Run Programs water fountains that invite Marathons connecting multiple parks
- Reusable water bottle fill up stations.
- senior softball league
- shore fishing on lakes/rivers

Response	Number	Percent
Multi-use walking/biking paths (i.e. 10'-wide paved pathways)	75	50.7%
Rustic walking paths (i.e. 6 to 8' crushed limestone or wood chip paths)	73	49.3%
Bathrooms	69	46.6%
Fitness / exercise trails	62	41.9%
Wildlife observation viewing sites	57	38.5%
Picnic areas and pavilions	50	33.8%
Workout rooms & fitness facility	48	32.4%
Playground structures	48	32.4%
Indoor gym	47	31.8%
Natural areas	46	31.1%
Amphitheater / stage	44	29.7%
Outdoor swimming pool	44	29.7%
Sports training center (batting cages, indoor track, etc.)	44	29.7%
Nature centers	42	28.4%
Splash pad	41	27.7%
Fitness trails	39	26.4%
Drinking fountains	39	26.4%
Dog parks	39	26.4%
Interpretive nature trails	39	26.4%
Sled Hills	36	24.3%
Pickleball courts	33	22.3%

Response	Number	Percent
Community gardens	32	21.6%
Baseball/Softball fields	32	21.6%
Ice skating rink (outdoor)	31	20.9%
Indoor theater / Event space	30	20.3%
Mountain biking trails	29	19.6%
Boat rental	28	18.9%
Driving range	27	18.2%
Golf courses	27	18.2%
Bike racks	26	17.6%
Soccer fields	25	16.9%
Outdoor fitness stations	21	14.2%
Basketball courts	21	14.2%
Demonstration gardens	20	13.5%
Sand volleyball courts	20	13.5%
Field house/sports dome with turf	16	10.8%
Tennis courts	12	8.1%
Horse trails	10	6.8%
Disc golf	10	6.8%
Other (Please specify)	9	6.1%
Skate park	9	6.1%
Cross-country ski trails	9	6.1%
Total Unique Responses	148	
Total Responses	1,459	

Q14: Would you like to see Huron Township's non-motorized system expanded?

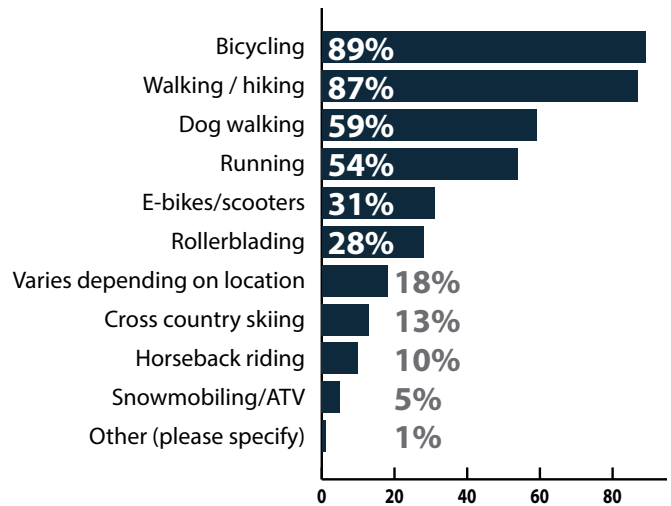


Response	Number	Percent
Yes	93	62.8%
No	55	37.2%
Total Responses	148	

Q16: If yes, are there any routes you'd like to see developed?

1. 4 (2 duplicate responses)
2. 5
3. 275 bike trail
4. 275 to the metro parks
5. Actual bike lanes in roads to get to metroparks
6. bike path by cemetery on Huron River Drive at bridge
7. Connecting the downtown to the metro parks
8. From Willow Village to Willow Metropark and to lower Huron Metropark
9. I would like to see the 275 trail in optimal condition.
10. I-275 shared use path
11. More rural routes away from the freeway.
12. Near schools should be first. There is no safe way to walk to Miller or Huron High School
13. S. Huron, Waltz and Willow to connect parks. 275 trail is also no longer maintained south of S. Huron
14. Sidewalks to the parks and to the schools
15. South from South Huron Rd to Will Carleton along 275...complete the restoration efforts
16. South of South Huron is currently closed, would like it reopened
17. The Iron Belle trail provides great southeast to northwest trail opportunities. It would be nice to see something the opposite direction - say from the northeast down towards Crosswinds Marsh
18. Trails for biking and running along Willow and Waltz road
19. Waltz park- add ball and soccer fields
20. Will Carleton road connected somehow to the rest of the community.
21. Willow Metro Routes into Oakwood an overpass connecting or a light that assist runners and bikes
22. Willow Rd, Huron River, Waltz Rd

Q15: If yes, what types of activities should be accommodated on the network?
Choose all that apply.



Note: Because multiple answers per participant are possible, the total percentage may exceed 100%

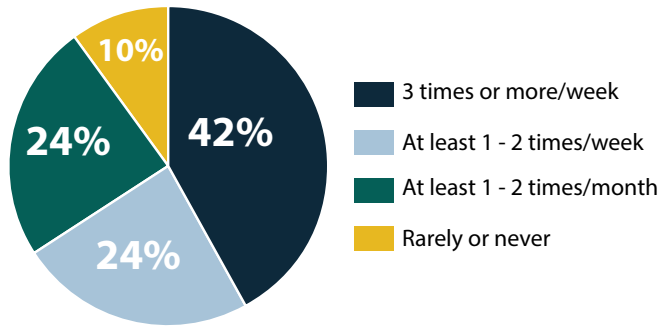
Response	Number	Percent
Bicycling	83	89.3%
Walking / hiking	81	87.1%
Dog walking	55	59.1%
Running	50	53.8%
Electric bicycles or scooters	29	31.2%
Rollerblading	26	28.0%
Varies depending on location	17	18.3%
Cross country skiing	12	12.9%
Horseback riding	9	9.7%
Snowmobiling / ATV	5	5.4%
Other (Please specify)	1	1.1%
Total Unique Responses	93	
Total Responses	368	

Q14 - OTHER RESPONSES

- Dirt bike/motorcycle

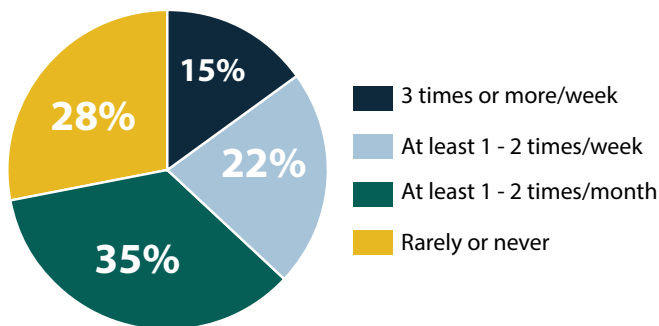


Q17: How frequently do you walk, jog, or hike for exercise or recreation?



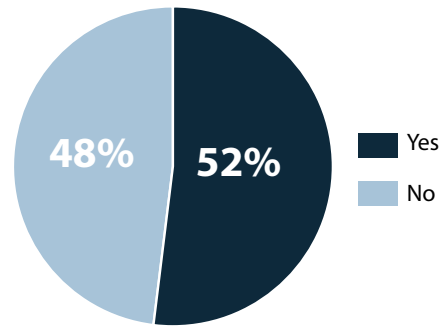
Response	Number	Percent
Three or more times per week	63	42.0%
At least once or twice per week	36	24.0%
At least once or twice per month	36	24.0%
Rarely or never	15	10.0%
Total Responses	150	

Q18: How frequently do you bicycle for exercise or recreation?



Response	Number	Percent
Three or more times per week	22	14.7%
At least once or twice per week	33	22.0%
At least once or twice per month	53	35.3%
Rarely or never	42	28.0%
Total Responses	150	

Q19: Do you use regional trails or trails in neighboring communities?



Response	Number	Percent
Yes	76	52.0%
No	70	48.0%
Total Responses	146	

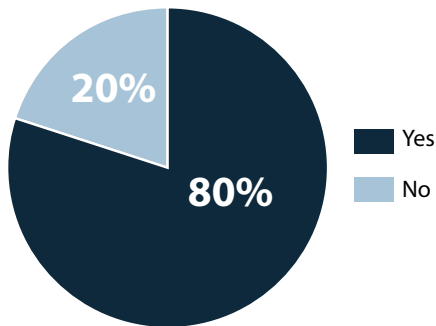
Q20: If yes, which trails do you use and what do you like or dislike about them?

- All the metro park and connector trails - use for both recreation and commuting to stores and restau
- Belleville Riggs Park and Lowe Huron metropark
- Easy to locate, clean, nature options available, near water
- Flat rovk and carleton
- Gladwin Loop
- Hall Road Woodhaven. Safe area near police station
- Hines / olander parks lots to do for kids
- Huroc , downriver marsh, wyandotte
- Huron metro
- Huron Park to Metro. parks
- I use the trails along 275 and throughout the Metro parks.
- Iron Bell trail thru Flat Rock. I like the signage to guide along the path.
- Iron bell trail. Pros long and scenic, cons not enough water refill locations
- Lower Huron all the way to HuRoc. Would love to get access to Lake Erie Meteopark in an easier way
- Lower Huron, Willow and Oakwood Metro Parks hiking trails
- Marsh nature trails with a lot of wildlife views.
- Metro park
- metro park trails
- metropark trails
- Metropark trails
- Michigan memorial cemetery
- no bike path over bridge on huron river drive
- Oakwoods to Flat Rock. Love the maintained trail but it can be desolate for people going alone
- oakwoods, too many people/electric bikes
- Other metro parks

QUESTION 20 - CONTINUED

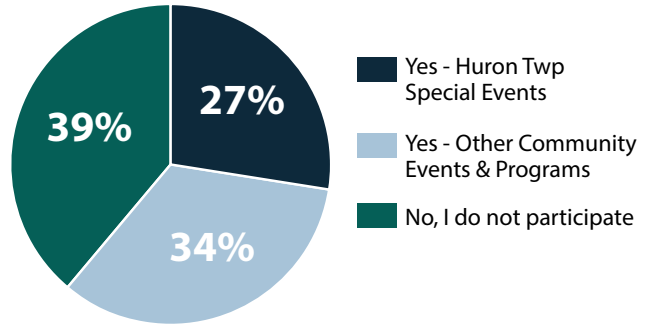
- 26. Short trails in the metroparks.
- 27. Strange men
- 28. Trails in Willow Metropark and Oakwoods, love that they are paved and offer different scenic routes.
- 29. Unity Park trail is around the pond and you can do laps
- 30. We use the downriver linked greenway and bike/mountain bike long distances.
- 31. We walk all over Ann Arbor and Novi, from the park to the library to a nice lunch spot!
- 32. Well marked, with interpretive signs, trash cans, benches, etc
- 33. Willow and oakwoods
- 34. Willow park
- 35. Willow to Lower Huron because it's a safe way to bike into downtown New Boston.
- 36. Woodhaven, Civic Center Park - wide path; nature

Q21: The Huron River Water Trail is one of the state's first designated water trails. The 104-mile trail runs from Proud Lake in Commerce Township to Lake Erie, and runs through Huron Township in the three Metroparks. Would you be interested in seeing a downtown canoe/kayak livery developed to improve access to the river?



Response	Number	Percent
Yes	120	79.5%
No	31	20.5%
Total Responses	151	

Q22: Do you take advantage of programs provided by Huron Township or neighboring communities?



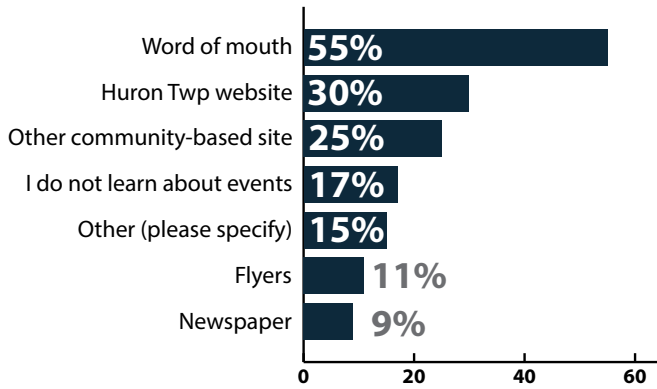
Response	Number	Percent
Yes - Huron Township Special Events	41	27.5%
Yes - Other Community Events & Programs (Huron Little League, Youth Soccer, etc.)	50	33.6%
No, I do not participate in program offerings	58	38.9%
Total Responses	149	

Q23: If you take advantage of Huron Township programming, which programs or events do you participate in?

1. Any run events 5 k 10k Marathon I would love yo see a marathon introduced as a yearly event the trails are perfect for that
2. Apple Fest (four duplicate responses)
3. Baseball
4. Baseball anything for kids
5. Christmas downtown
6. Christmas events, Vintage Markets, Rotary programs, Halloween
7. Concerts
8. Easter egg hunt
9. Festivals etc
10. Historic society, AppleFest
11. In the past classes at Oakwood nature center and swim classes for kids at Lower Huron and Applefest library
12. Oakwood metropark and crosswinds marsh programs
13. parades, Applefest, Christmas events
14. Parks and Rec Programs
15. Sportsmans Club, Rotary events, American legion, Twp recreation planned events, church events
16. Waltz Christmas



Q24: How do you learn about recreation events and opportunities in Huron Township?



Response	Number	Percent
Word of mouth	83	55.3%
Huron Township website	45	30.0%
Other community-based website	38	25.3%
I do not learn about recreation events and opportunities in Huron Township	25	16.7%
Other (Please specify)	22	14.7%
Flyers	17	11.3%
Newspaper or regional publication	13	8.7%
Total Unique Responses	150	
Total Responses	243	

Note: Because multiple answers per participant are possible, the total percentage may exceed 100%

Q24 - OTHER RESPONSES

- Cable tv meetings
- Community Facebook group
- Computer
- Facebook (8 duplicate responses)
- Facebook community groups
- Facebook shares
- FB local pages
- I can't honestly say that I have really heard of any activities outside of youth sports leagues.
- I don't know how to learn about them - I would consider it though!
- Social media (5 duplicate responses)
- There is not enough information shared. Would like more visibility in social media. Thanks for the survey! I only wish the Township officials could put together a good thoughtful survey such as this one. There is literally zero communication from our officials.

Q25: If you take advantage of programming in another community, who offers the activity and which programs or events do you participate in?

1. Brownstown
2. Canton travel baseball, dance, sports lessons, library
3. Canton, Romulus
4. Flat Rock- All of it.
5. Flat Rock Library and Flat Rock Community center
6. Flat Rock, Woodhaven
7. FULL DAY summer children's camps (Ann Arbor Parks and Rec)
8. Hockey, summer programs, afterschool programs
9. Kayaking, Running, hiking, little league baseball and football, gyms, splash pads, pools, indoor tracks, basketball courts, and nature areas
10. Library or Parks and Rec Center
11. Plymouth Twp, Canton Twp.
12. Romulus RAC center, brownstown township parks and indoor banquet facility rental, Westland park and splash pad, turtle cove in Belleville
13. Soccer Ann Arbor, lacrosse in Trenton, farmers markets, library story time
14. Softball and soccer
15. Taylor or Canton Figure Skating; Flat Rock Fall Softball
16. We go all over downriver and even to canton. Flat rock mostly.
17. Woodhaven; Playground Program; youth programs - a few weeks in dance, a few weeks in science programs

Q26: Please tell us any thoughts you have about these events.

1. Although I appreciate the effort, the events don't seem to have much behind them. Everything seems to be run by other organizations, too.
2. Better advertising needed
3. Events should be posted in local businesses. Not just in township website.
4. Exercise, drumming
5. Generally glad to see community events around the parks if it doesn't divert money away from building the necessary infrastructure such as expanded walking/biking/hiking trails and the repair of any poor conditions
6. great time for family and friends
7. Huron Township Needs a Community Center. In Waltz you can't even rent the Senior Center like you used to and the kids aren't allowed to play in that park.
8. I am not on social media so a mailer would be nice.
9. I do t k ow where to find information about such events
10. I have none.
11. I participate in running races. (5k, 10k, half and full marathons)

QUESTION 26 - CONTINUED

12. I very much appreciate opportunities for kids/families to be active in cooler weather
13. I want more actual Farmer Markets, with Vegetables and food
14. I would like to know more about what is available
15. it would be nice to know how to get information on these programs
16. Love music in the park. Would like to see it here. We go to Southgate, Monroe and Riverview. Would like to see it here.
17. Need better communication for gaining event details in a timely manner. A couple large marquees in Waltz and New Boston and perhaps in front of all fire stations would benefit many people.
18. Need better facilities
19. need information
20. Need to be bigger, more to do
21. Need to post the events on the Township website calendar
22. Need to publicize more.
23. never heard of any
24. Sounds like fun! This survey opened my eyes to so many new things, thank you!
25. The township should have a Facebook page to announce events. Need to add events to Waltz and Willow.
26. They are fine. Always small, always looks a little cheap. It's hard paying for events but Huron could use better sponsors
27. They need to be marketed better. I am on several Huron based social media and rarely hear about them or see any signage out.
28. They need to be promoted more by the township.
29. Township does nothing to promote awareness for these activities. Time for a leadership change..
30. Township website is extremely lacking. Rarely anything under Community events. Township definitely needs a much better website. Create an official township FB with a way to communicate to officials and get responses. All other downriver communities have one.
31. We enjoy the metropark events when we sign up. We also enjoyed the egg hunt at the high school, and Christmas at the senior center.
32. We have been attending the playground program for 9 years, it is an amazing program for the kids during the summer. I would love to have a program for our community.
33. We love movie nights, farmers markets, live music nights, food truck nights.
34. We need to have a summer program for kids
35. Wish we had more
36. Working parents need full day camps!
37. Would love to see toddler friendly programming

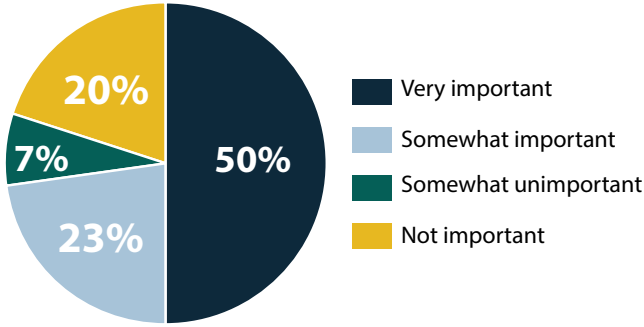
Q27: Are there any other special events the Township should host?

1. A community clean-up would be nice fr downtown
2. Better apple fest
3. Car shows
4. Car shows concerts parades for holidays.
5. Car shows, music downtown
6. Car shows, outdoor summer concerts. It's amazing what our neighboring communities offer for outside events. Unfortunately there is not much downtown to draw people. The businesses and restaurants that we have in downtown NB are awesome...we just need more
7. Community events that hosts a type of career exploration in which many professionals of various fields participate in educating our children about the field they work in and if possible and safe, maybe a demonstration that makes them feel they are a part of it. Also, something with legos in parks
8. Concert in the parks (2 duplicate responses)
9. Events such as the apple festival again
10. Farmers market (5 duplicate responses)
11. Fun runs and other running events
12. I don't know.
13. library
14. listed above
15. Live music, movies, etc. for all ages.
16. make and take craft sessions, and interesting local history, and ghost stories
17. Marathons Iron man for sure! Make that happen and make this community a health focused one our kids will strive to be a part of
18. Movie night, nice ball fields to host tournaments
19. Music in the park.
20. No
21. None that I haven't already mentioned
22. Pickle ball
23. Playground Camps for kids
24. Seasonal craft shows, classes, movies and concerts in parks.
25. Summer program for kids that is full-time on the weekdays
26. Sure: meet each board member publicly ((restaurant) at least once a month for info on their thoughts along w/ question & answers from residents
27. They should hold more types of community events and allow more progressive businesses in downtown New Boston
28. We need a library
29. Yes! National Trail Day is the first Saturday in June and with the river trail and the Iron Belle trail we have two premiere resources in our township yet do nothing to promote them. Have an event similar to Canton's where organizations are invited to promote their outdoor hobbies/offersings
30. Yes,

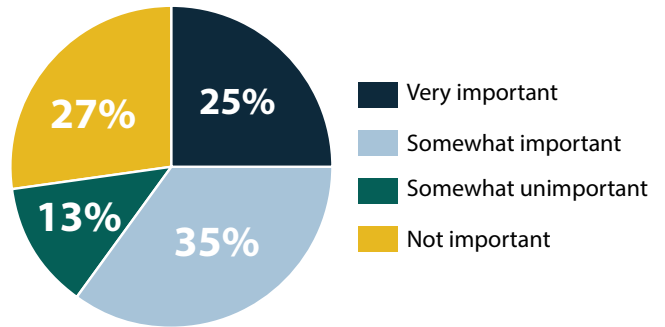


Q28: How important are the following recreation programs to you and your family?

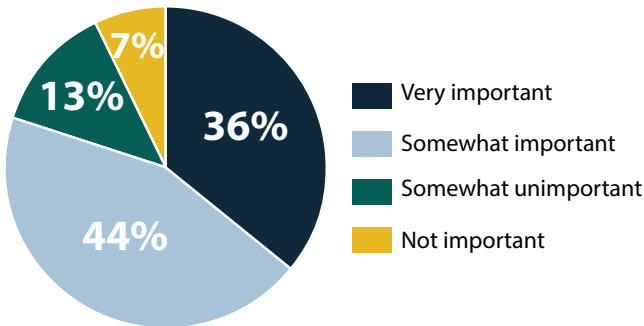
A. YOUTH SPORTS & FITNESS



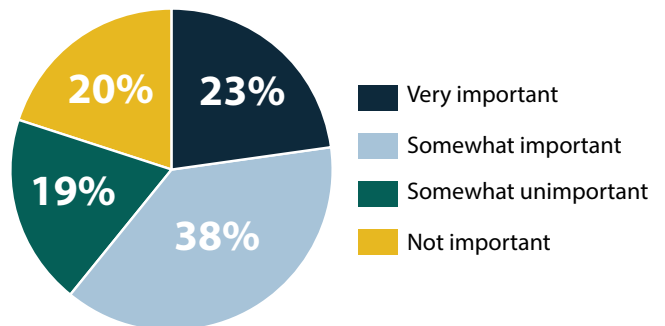
E. SUMMER CAMPS



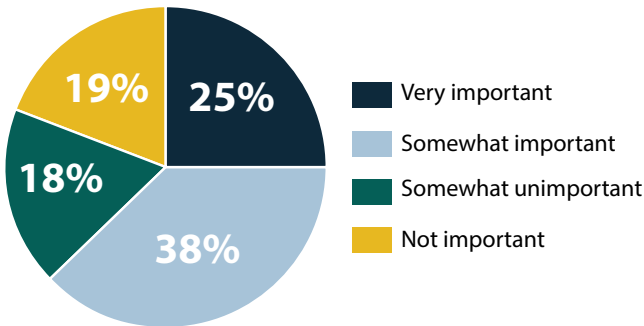
B. ADULT SPORTS & FITNESS



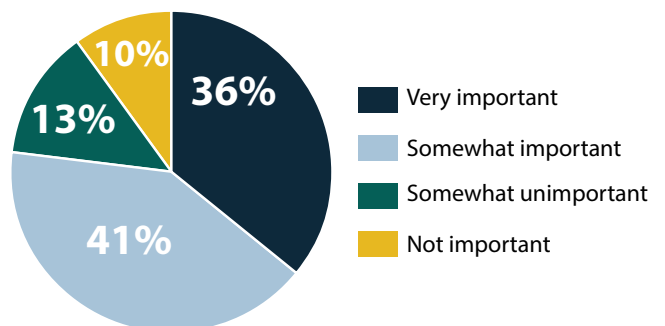
F. SKILLS WORKSHOPS (E.G. COMPUTER EDUCATION, ACCOUNTING, ETC.)



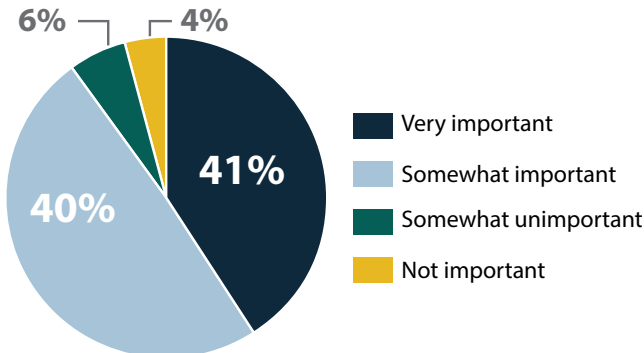
C. SENIOR (50+) PROGRAMS & TRIPS



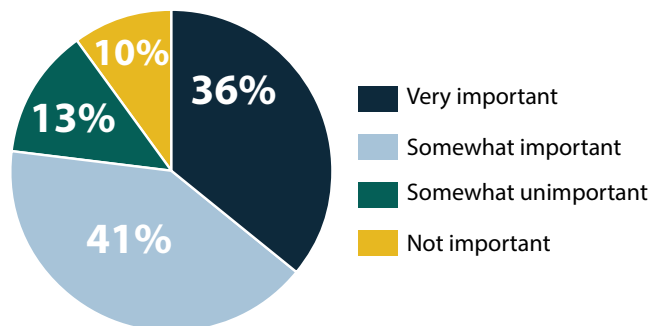
G. NATURE EDUCATION (E.G. STARGAZING, BIRD WATCHING, PLANT IDENTIFICATION, ETC.)



D. SPECIAL EVENTS & FESTIVALS



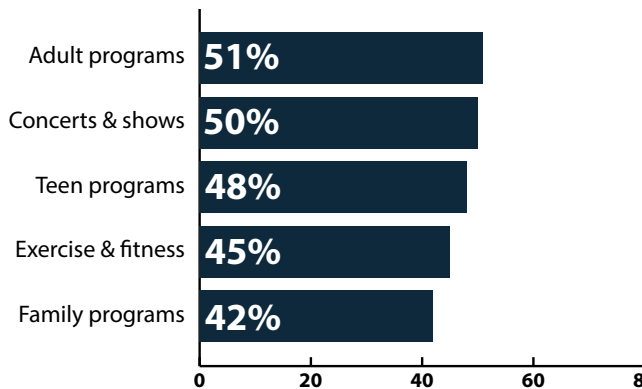
H. AQUATICS (E.G. SWIMMING LESSONS, EXERCISE, ETC.)



QUESTION 28 - CONTINUED

Program	Total Responses	Very Important		Somewhat Important		Somewhat Unimportant		Not Important	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
		Youth sports & Fitness	144	72	50.00%	33	22.90%	10	6.90%
Adult sports & Fitness	144	52	36.10%	64	44.40%	18	12.50%	10	6.90%
Senior (50+) Programs & Trips	141	35	24.80%	54	38.30%	25	17.70%	27	19.10%
Special events & Festivals	145	59	40.70%	71	49.00%	9	6.20%	6	4.10%
Summer camps	144	36	25.00%	51	35.40%	18	12.50%	39	27.10%
Skills workshops (e.g. computer education, accounting, etc.)	142	32	22.50%	54	38.00%	27	19.00%	29	20.40%
Nature education (e.g. stargazing, bird watching, plant identification, etc.)	143	52	36.40%	58	40.60%	19	13.30%	14	9.80%
Aquatics (e.g. swimming lessons, exercise, etc.)	145	48	33.10%	66	45.50%	15	10.30%	16	11.00%

Q29: Which of the following recreational programs would you like to see more of? *Check all that apply.*



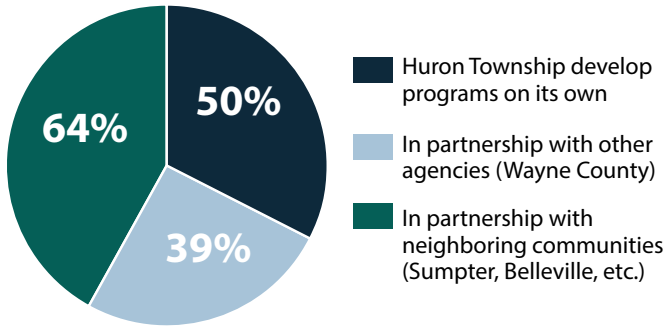
Note: Because multiple answers per participant are possible, the total percentage may exceed 100%

Response	Number	Percent
Safety classes	41	29.1%
Crafts	40	28.4%
Summer camps	38	26.9%
After-school programs	38	26.9%
Travel & Excursions	36	25.5%
Therapeutic recreation	34	24.1%
Preschool programs	34	24.1%
Golf	33	23.4%
Baseball / Softball	32	22.7%
Basketball	30	21.3%
Youth sports - preschool age level	28	19.9%
Dance	27	19.1%
Soccer	26	18.4%
Bowling	25	17.7%
Volleyball	25	17.7%
Babysitting	24	17.0%
Horseback riding	24	17.0%
Ice skating	24	17.0%
Gymnastics	21	14.9%
Football	21	14.9%
Homeschooler programs	18	12.8%
Skiing (Alpine & Cross Country)	16	11.3%
Karate	16	11.3%
Tennis	14	9.9%
Language arts	7	5.0%
Other (Please specify)	6	4.3%
Fencing	6	4.3%
Total Unique Responses	141	
Total Responses	1,536	

Response	Number	Percent
Adult programs	72	51.1%
Concerts & Shows	70	49.6%
Teen programs	67	47.5%
Exercise & Fitness	64	45.4%
Family programs	59	41.8%
Programs for adults 50 and over	55	39.0%
Swimming	54	38.3%
Special Events	53	37.6%
Music	50	35.5%
Youth sports - middle school level	48	34.0%
Art Programs	46	32.6%
Youth sports - high school level	45	31.9%
Cooking	43	30.5%
Gardening	42	29.8%
Adult sports programs	42	29.8%
Youth sports - elementary school	42	29.8%



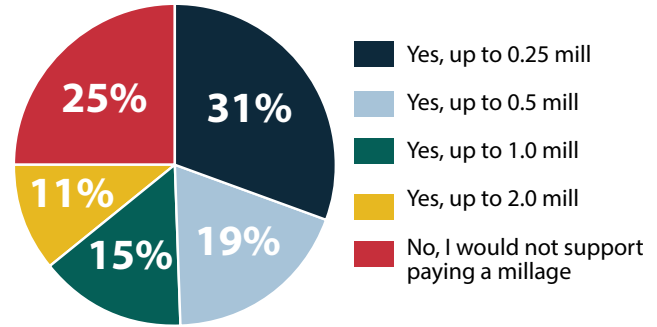
Q30: If Huron Township were to develop more programs to meet the growing needs of our community, how should those programs be developed?



Response	Number	Percent
Huron Township should develop, implement, and evaluate the programs on its own	72	50.4%
Huron Township should develop, implement, and evaluate programs in partnership with other community agencies and groups (e.g. Oakland County Parks & Recreation)	56	39.2%
Huron Township should develop, implement, and evaluate programs in partnership with neighboring communities	91	63.6%
Total Unique Responses	143	
Total Responses	219	

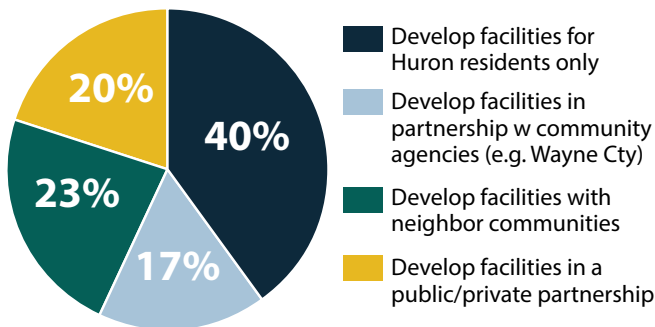
Note: Because multiple answers per participant are possible, the total percentage may exceed 100%

Q31: Would you support a millage to further develop parks and recreation opportunities in Huron Township?



Response	Number	Percent
Yes, up to 0.25 mill (\$25.00 annually for a \$100,000 property)	46	30.7%
Yes, up to 0.5 mill (\$50.00 annually for a \$100,000 property)	28	18.7%
Yes, up to 1.0 mill (\$100.00 annually for a \$100,000 property)	22	14.7%
Yes, up to 2.0 mill (\$200.00 annually for a \$100,000 property)	17	11.3%
I would not support paying a millage	37	24.7%
Total Responses	150	

Q32: Which of the following statements is most appropriate?



Response	Number	Percent
Huron Township should consider developing new facilities for Huron Township residents only	56	39.7%
Huron Township should consider developing new facilities in partnership with other community agencies and groups, e.g. Wayne County Parks & Recreation	24	17.0%
Huron Township should consider developing new facilities with neighboring communities	33	23.4%
Huron Township should consider developing new facilities using a public/private arrangement	28	19.9%
Total Responses	141	

Q33: Are there any other recreation-related items we should be aware of?

1. A Montessori place for children to learn. Also, a zip line place
2. Cleaning up Huron River backwater between Middlebelt and Odette Road
3. Community center
4. Create a dog park divided by small and large dogs. Need park benches for owners
5. Dog parks are needed
6. Fix the pond offer incentives to huron residents who are content creators artists athletes mentors assisting the disabled elderly and children who need us. Thank you feel free to contact me 7347758403 Adam Tabor
7. hct needs a large dog park and romine rd. paved so the residents of will carleton rd. can access hct in a timely matter, traveling to the other side of hct takes to long and romine rd. is always in a disastrous condition
8. I hope you will give some thought to promoting the river like Ann Arbor does with Huron River Day or the Iron Belle Trail on National Trail day. An additional thought... the township seems to be buying a lot of property these days, maybe something should be bought in Willow for a playground.
9. I love the idea of an outdoor ice rink. I think it would help keep kids active in the winter. Also in the end we could revitalize a hockey program here!!!
10. I would like to participate in programs with my family that lives outside of the township
11. Learn from other communities in what makes them successful. Dont recreate the wheel.
12. library
13. Lower Huron metropark and willow metropark should get better marked Mike markers for the pathways. Trail running paths would be great as well. Also, more restrictions on bikers, there have been too many times where my family and I have almost been hit by speeding bikers on the paths.
14. Metroparks take care of many recreation needs. Do the things they don't do well and what the township lacks. Put in very nice baseball, softball, and soccer fields.
15. No
16. PLEASE a recreation center would be SO beneficial to our community
17. Please consider teens and things for families as a WHOLE
18. Rec center would be nice
19. Splash pad with new playground should be the first thing. A LIBRARY (community center) should be the second thing. The Huron river is disgusting. I would never kayak or canoe on the river. I would like to but the water needs to be cleaned up somehow. A livery wouldn't work here. Just a thought.
20. the river front in the township should be developed; adding a launch site for the public and not just in the metro parks
21. We moved here because of all of our parks. Thank you for making them an on going priority.
22. We need a community center similar to the RAC in Romulus or the Flat Rock Rec Center with indoor facilities and senior programs for our community.
23. We need indoor sports facilities
24. Would like to see yoga, tai-chi, cardio drumming classes offered.
25. Would love to see an athletic center like Romulus. They no longer offer near resident rates. Huron should have one and charge for those joining it.
26. Years ago, the township had a low cost day camp program that was wonderful. It would be neat to see something like that come back.