

HEATH TOWNSHIP 2019 COMMUNITY PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN UPDATE



Landscape Architects and Architects
EAST GRAND RAPIDS • MICHIGAN



**HEATH TOWNSHIP
PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN**

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Heath Township 2018 Community Parks and Recreation Plan Update

1. Introduction



SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

Parks, Recreation and Open Space are important elements of all communities and reflect positively on the quality of life for residents. In recent years, a more holistic approach to recreational planning has been encouraged, stretching beyond the boundaries of traditional parks to include sidewalks, linear trails, greenways, town squares, plazas and other publicly and privately owned lands. A variety of indoor facilities also serve the recreational and social needs of the public. In addition to the human benefits of recreation and open space, there are also important environmental benefits such as water resource protection, reduced vehicular traffic and plant and wildlife protection.

PLAN PURPOSE

This 2018 Heath Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan is a guide for the future development of recreation opportunities for the residents and visitors of the Township. The plan addresses current recreation issues and identifies future needs of the community and the means for meeting those needs over the up-coming five-year period. It addresses both short and long-range goals and objectives and identifies an action program by which these goals and objectives can be accomplished. In addition, the plan serves as an educational tool to acquaint local officials and residents of the need for a sound and balanced recreation program.

This Plan has been developed both to reflect the needs and goals of the community and to meet the Michigan Department of Natural Resources requirements for qualifying for Federal and State funding assistance. These funds are available for land acquisition, facility development, and improvements to new and existing parklands.

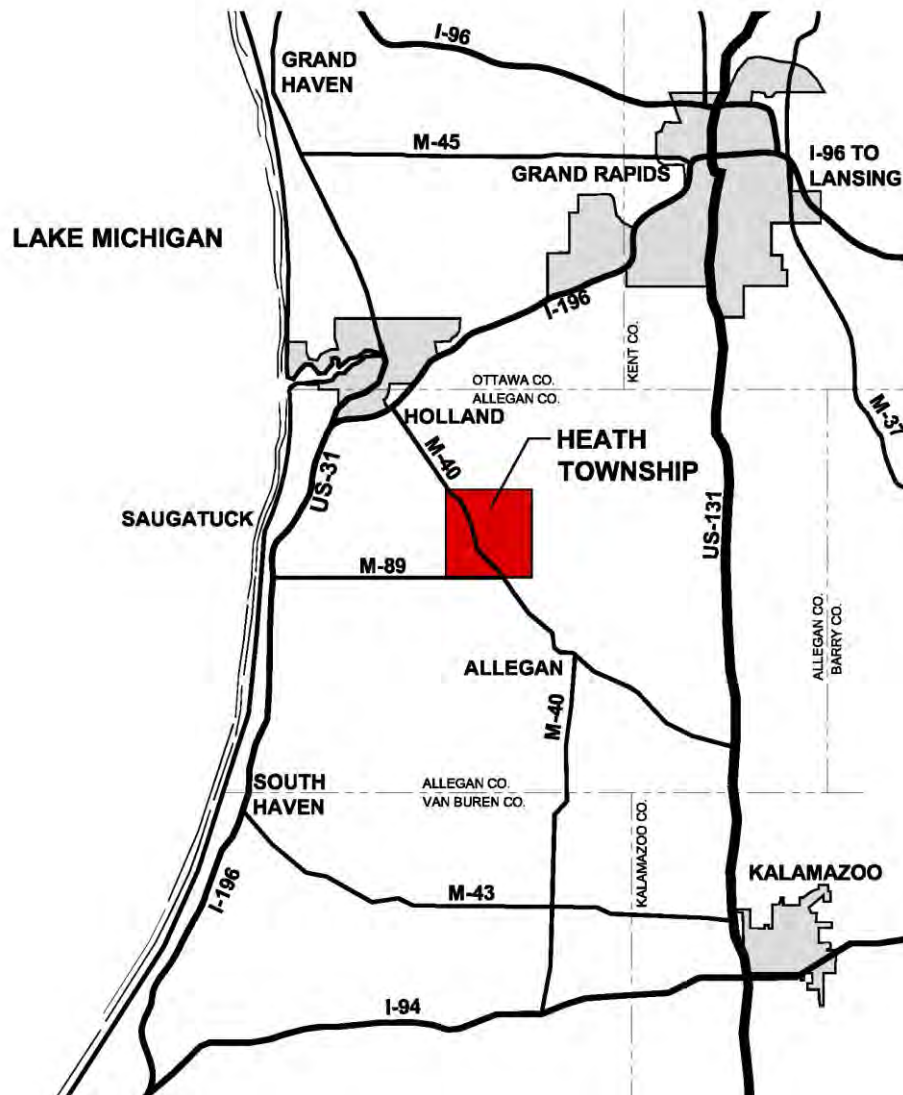
PLAN SCOPE

The scope of this plan includes the Township's active and passive recreation facilities, undeveloped open space and linear "green" corridors. Recreational programming is also an important consideration. The area of the plan is

essentially limited to the Township boundaries. However, consideration is also made of neighboring municipal and regional facilities and school districts that influence use patterns. Heath Township is continuing to grow and this plan takes into account the changes that can be expected in the future and their impact on the recreation facilities the Township provides.

In terms of time, the Capital Improvement Schedule of this document covers development over the next five years. The Goals and Objectives developed to guide recreation planning may continue to be relevant for many more years to come.

Location Map



Heath Township 2018 Community Parks and Recreation Plan Update

2. Community Description



SECTION 2

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

INTRODUCTION

Heath Township is located in southwest lower Michigan in Allegan County (see Map 1) and encompasses 36 square miles of land area. It is approximately 6 miles southeast of the City of Holland and approximately 25 miles to the south west of Grand Rapids metropolitan area. The Township is eleven miles east of Lake Michigan and the City of Allegan is 6 miles to the southeast. The village of Hamilton is the unincorporated population center of the Township and is located in its extreme northwest corner.

The Township is traversed diagonally from northwest to southeast by M-40, a two lane state highway that connects directly to I-196 at the Holland exit. Highway M-89 crosses the area from east to west and forms the southern boundary of the Township. It connects the region to US-131 via the Otsego exit and with I-196 at the Fennville exit.

The Kalamazoo River flows northwesterly through the southwest corner of the Township to Lake Michigan.

SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

HISTORY

Heath Township, once part of Allegan Township, was made independent in 1851. Early residents were attracted to the township by the white pine forests and available power sites along the Rabbit River, Sliver Creek and Bear Creek. The first township meeting was held in 1851 in the home of James M. Heath after whom the township is named.

Early settlers were concentrated along the Rabbit River, the present day Villages of Hamilton, Dunningville, Gilchrist Station and Sawyerville. These places were lumber towns. Dunningville was once a platted village listing dealers of various goods in the 1870's. The Township is now characterized by a mix of the state game area, residential neighborhoods, light industrial, commercial and agricultural land uses.

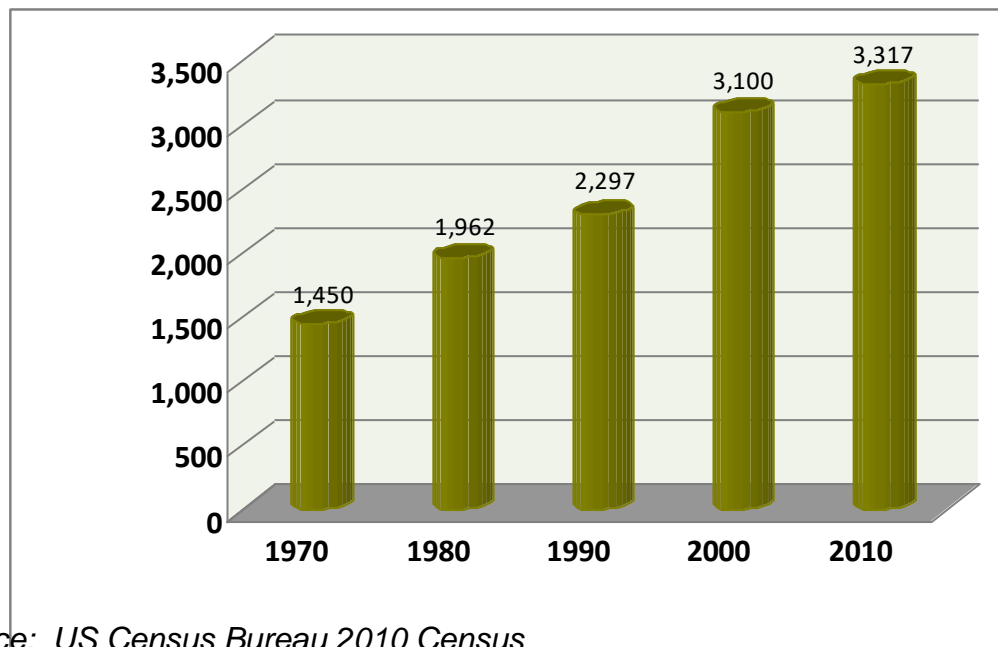
POPULATION

The study of population growth trends and changing indicators such as age, education, income and employment are important to developing a basic understanding of the recreational needs for Heath Township residents. An assessment of the impact of changing conditions will play an important role in recreation planning for the future.

Heath Township experienced a steady population growth from 1970 to 2000, according to U.S. Census data.

The U.S. Census Bureau 2010 population of Heath Township is 3,317. This reflects a generally slower growth rate between 2000 and 2010, which is in line with regional trends and a reflection of the downturn in the economy. It is expected that as the economy improves, the Township will continue to see a growth in population.

Table 1: Heath Township Population Growth, 1970-2010

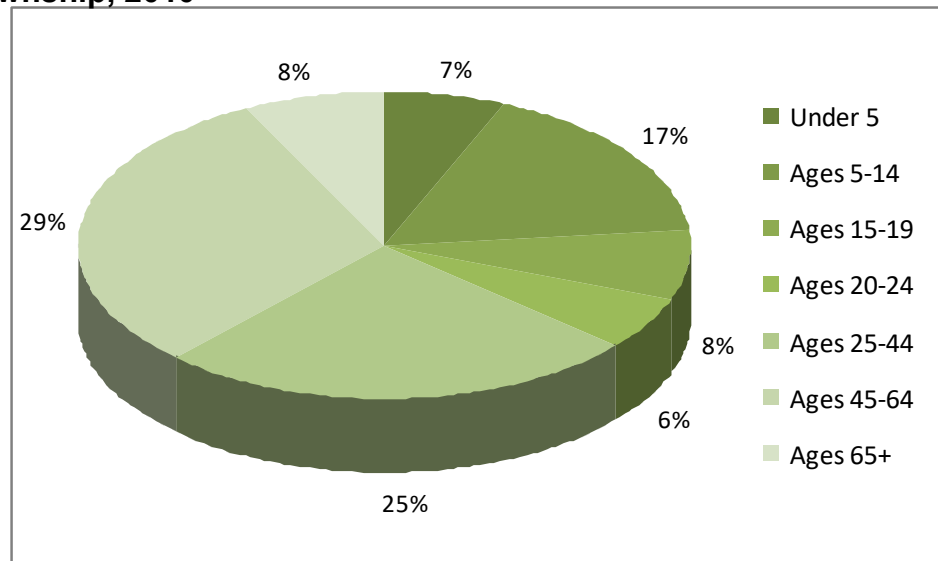


Population Distribution

Age analysis is an important consideration in identifying the recreation needs of a community and also provides some indication of population migration. The composition of the population of Heath Township, as determined by the

2010 U.S. Census, indicates that the age distribution is generally consistent with that of Allegan County and the State of Michigan. Similar to national and state trends, the population is aging. The relatively high number of people in the 45-64 age category, results in a median age of 37.8.

**Table 2: Percent of Residents in Key Age Categories
Heath Township, 2010**



Source: US Census Bureau 2010 Census

Population by Race

Heath Township's population is predominantly Caucasian (97.3%), with .1% of the population black or African American and .3% American Indian or Native Alaskan. Persons of Asian origin make up .7% of the population. This is similar to the Allegan County average, which records 95.6% of the population as being white.

Household Income

Household incomes for Heath Township provide insight into the amount of leisure time and disposable income available for different types of recreation. The median household income for Heath Township in 2010 was estimated to be \$53,936, slightly above the State average of \$48,432. The percent of families below poverty level is 11.9%, compared to the State average of 14.8%.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS/RESOURCE INVENTORY

Understanding the physical features and natural resources of the Township helps to explain its historical development and guide future development to ensure important natural resources are preserved and protected for future generations.

TOPOGRAPHY

The topography of Heath Township ranges from gently rolling to hilly. In general terms, the flattest terrain occurs in the central and south central portions and the steepest terrain exists in the southeast and east central sections of the Township. Heath Township's relatively minor topographic changes occur within a general range of between about 800 feet above sea level (in the southeast along 124th Ave, east of M-40) in Section 36) to just below 600 feet above sea level in Section 30 where the Kalamazoo River exits the southwest corner of the Township. The east central and southeast one third of the Township contains numerous ridgelines, woodlands, lakes and wetlands and is the most topographically diverse area.

WATER RESOURCES

Heath Township lies within the Kalamazoo Watershed. The southern half of the township flows into the Kalamazoo River and the northern half flows into the Rabbit River. Rabbit River joins the Kalamazoo River west of the Township and continues on to Lake Michigan. Bear Creek and Sand Creek are streams located within the Township that flow into the Kalamazoo River. Silver Creek flows into the Rabbit River. A significant number of wetlands exist in the township, many of which are directly linked to the rivers and streams.

The Hamilton dam impoundment was created in the Rabbit River in Hamilton in the 1850's and is the largest body of water in the township. Sink Lake, near Hamilton, is the only significant standing water body within the township. The lake is approximately 70 acres in size and is surrounded by low density residential development.

SOILS

The soils survey of Allegan County, Michigan of 1987 provides soil classifications that are grouped into various associations, each of which has a distinctive pattern or soil type relief and drainage. These associations can be used to help determine suitability for development and agricultural productivity.

The soils in Heath Township range from predominately sandy soils to scattered areas of heavy loams, clays and mucks. The following soil associations are found within the Township:

Chelsea – Ockley – Oshtemo

Marlette – Capac – Metea

Morocco – Newton – Oakville

Oakville

Glendora – Adrian – Granby

The Oakville association covers approximately 65 percent of the Township. Soils are sandy and are either moderately well drained to well drained. It consists of topography ranging from nearly level to steep.

LAND USE

The Allegan State Game Area covers approximately 10,000 acres, roughly 43% of the Township and is the single most dominant land use. The land is developed and maintained by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and is used for recreational activities such as camping, boating, canoeing, hunting, fishing, equestrian riding, skiing and snow shoeing. Combined with privately owned woodlots and wooded wetlands; woodlands cover well over two thirds of the township.

Farmland is concentrated in the northwest quadrant of the township with scattered tracts in the southeast corner. Residential land use is focused in the Hamilton city center area in the extreme northwest corner of the township and extends along M-40 and 132nd Avenue.

The Heath Township Zoning Map follows this section.

TRANSPORTATION

The Township has excellent transportation links. Highway M-40 traverses the township from the northeast to the southwest connecting to I-196 near Holland. Highway M-89 forms the southern boundary of the Township and creates a connection from US-131 to I-196.

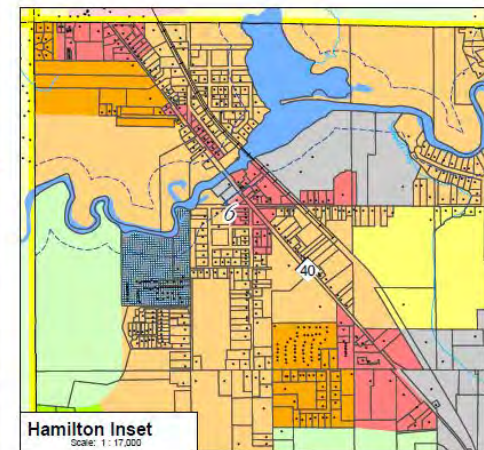
Heath Township

Future Land Use Map

0 1,300 2,600 3,900 5,200 6,500 7,800 Feet

Map Legend

- AG - Agricultural
- C - Commercial
- I - Industrial
- R-1 - Residential 1
- R-1A - Residential 1A
- R-2 - Residential 2
- R-3 - Multiple-Family Residential
- R-4 - Mobile Home Park
- SGA - State Game Area
- W - Water

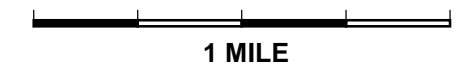


Heath Township

Official ZONING MAP

As amended through 7/1/2007

ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN



All Zoning Maps are subject to change.
Check with local unit for updates.

Zoning Legend

LABEL	ZONING DISTRICT	ACREAGE	% AREA
AG	Agricultural District	4,783.2	21.2
C-1	General Business District	154.3	.7
I-1	Industrial District	214.5	1.0
R-1	Residential 1 District	6,345.3	28.2
R-1A	Residential 1 A District	286.6	1.3
R-2	Residential 2 District	450.6	2.0
R-3	Multiple Family Residential District	12.7	.1
R-4	Mobile Home Park District	59.3	.3
SGA	State Game Area	10,205.5	45.3
		22,512.0	

Generalized Zoning Legend for Adjacent Jurisdictions

- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Government
- Industrial
- Open Space
- Residential
- Right of Way
- Rural
- Water

Planned Unit Developments (PUD's)

- A - Woodridge
- B - Riverwalk Meadows
- C - Riverwalk Preserve

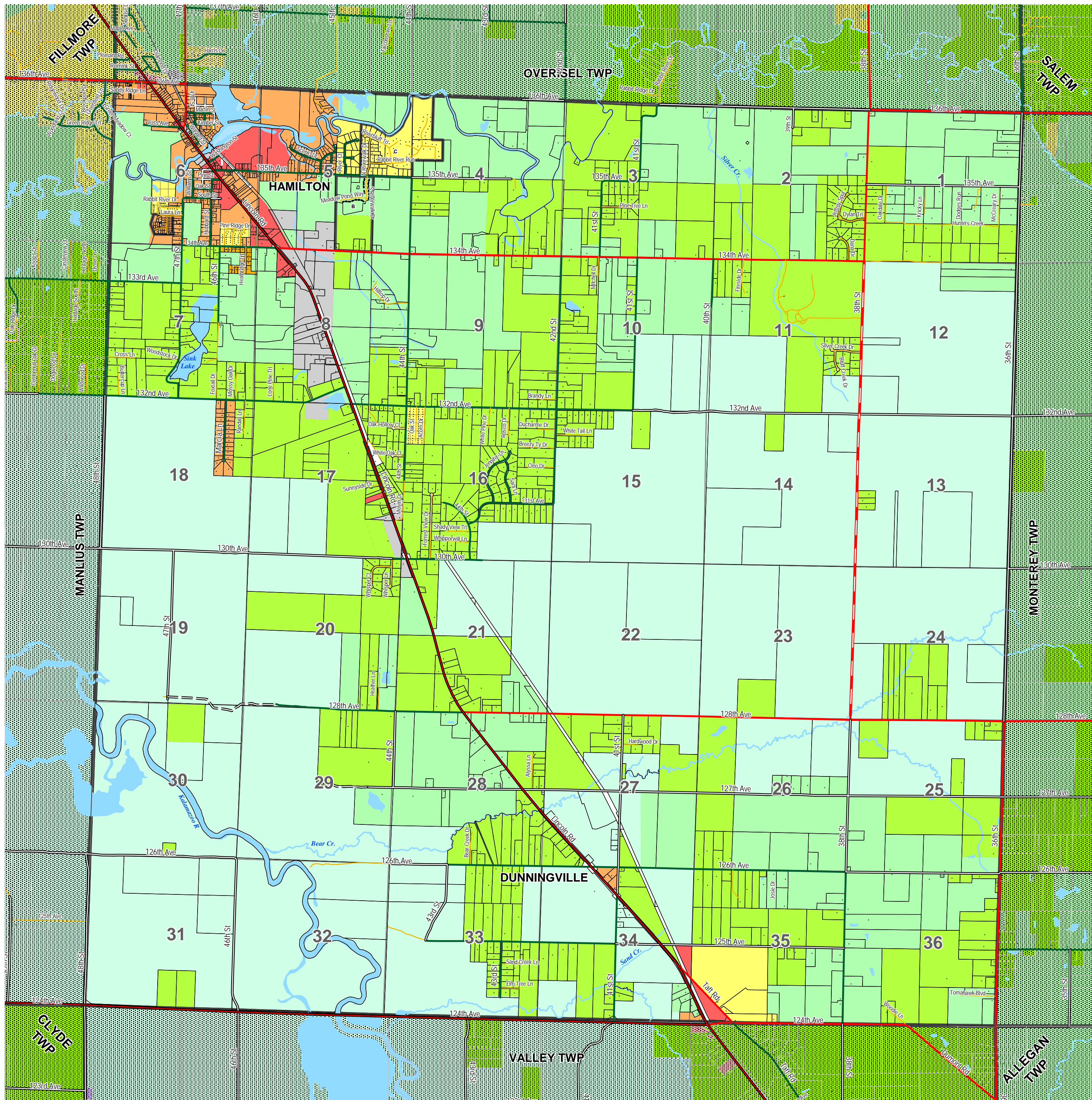
This is to certify the Zoning Map dated 7/1/2007 to which the signature is attached is the official Heath Township Zoning Map developed pursuant to the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act, being Act 110 of the Public Acts of 2006 as amended and as approved by the Heath Township Board, with the following revisions:

REF. #	SEC. #	FROM ZONE	TO ZONE	REVISION DATE

Certified by: _____, Heath Township Clerk



Allegan County Land Information Services assumes no liability
for results or conclusions drawn from the use of this data.
Map Printed: 07/25/2012



Heath Township 2018 Community Parks and Recreation Plan Update

3. Administrative Structure



SECTION 3 ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

The Township Board is the legislative body for Heath Township. The Board is comprised of five members; Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer and two Trustees. These are all elected positions. The Supervisor serves as Board Chairman and the Clerk serves as Recording Secretary. All other officials are voting members of the Board. The Township Board sets the millage rate for Township operations, approves spending, adopts a Budget, adopts Resolutions and Ordinances and votes on other matters that come before the Board. The Township does not have a Recreation Commission. The Supervisor presents proposals to the board that have been received from the community or other board members.

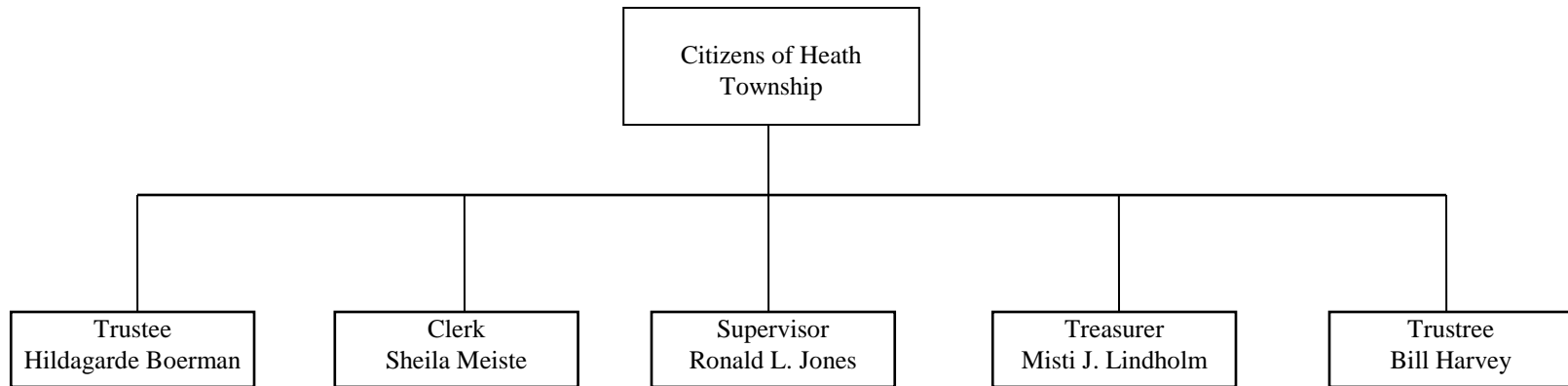
RECREATION PROGRAMMING

The Superintendent of Hamilton Public Schools manages the Heath Township Recreation Program. Hamilton Recreation offers a full range of sports programs for the youth of Hamilton including; baseball, basketball, cheerleading, football, soccer, softball and volleyball. A schedule of athletic programs is submitted annually by the school to the township for approval. The Township Hall Park ball fields are leased and maintained by the township and marked and prepared by the school. The school obtains a Heath Township permit to access the concession building.

BUDGET

A copy of the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 Township budget follows. The source of funding is the general fund.

Heath Township Organizational Chart



GL Number	Description	2017-18 Original Budget	06/30/2018 Amended Budget	YTD As Of 06/30/2018	2018-19 Approved
--- Estimated Revenue ---					
101-000-403.000	CURRENT PROPERTY TAX	115,000.00	117,000.00	116,278.96	117,000.00
101-000-404.000	INTEREST-TAXES	0.00	0.00	566.17	600.00
101-000-405.000	FIRE MILLAGE	236,000.00	242,000.00	241,393.32	242,000.00
101-000-406.000	ROAD MILLAGE	295,000.00	302,000.00	301,734.83	302,000.00
101-000-410.000	TAXES SPECIAL ASSEME	6,000.00	14,000.00	13,529.20	14,000.00
101-000-456.000	TRAILER FEES	900.00	900.00	637.00	900.00
101-000-477.000	BUILDING PERMITS	70,000.00	72,000.00	78,722.00	80,000.00
101-000-574.000	STATE REVENUE SHARIN	270,000.00	272,000.00	271,131.00	272,000.00
101-000-579.000	SWAMPLAND TAX	18,000.00	18,000.00	17,555.71	18,000.00
101-000-608.000	BOARD OF APPEALS	500.00	500.00	0.00	500.00
101-000-609.000	PLANNING COMMISSION	3,000.00	3,000.00	950.00	2,000.00
101-000-618.000	ADMINISTRATION FEES	47,000.00	40,000.00	39,986.87	40,000.00
101-000-643.000	SALE OF CEMETERY LOT	5,000.00	2,000.00	1,850.00	2,000.00
101-000-644.000	PERPETUAL CARE	200.00	200.00	250.00	300.00
101-000-667.000	HALL RENT	1,200.00	1,200.00	525.00	1,000.00
101-000-677.000	CABLE TV FRANCHISE	30,000.00	30,000.00	30,052.46	32,000.00
101-000-693.000	MISCELLANEOUS OTHER	5,000.00	5,000.00	4,725.67	5,000.00
101-000-699.000	INTEREST-CHECK. & ACCT.	500.00	500.00	862.81	900.00
Total Estimated Revenue:		1,103,300.00	1,120,300.00	1,120,751.00	1,130,200.00
GOVERNING BODY					
101-101-702.000	OFFICE SALARY	10,000.00	10,000.00	8,650.02	11,000.00
101-101-715.000	EMPLOYERS SOCIAL SEC	900.00	900.00	839.43	900.00
101-101-726.000	SUPPLIES	2,000.00	2,000.00	1,034.26	2,000.00
101-101-802.000	PROFESSIONAL SERVICE	80,000.00	85,000.00	84,815.68	85,000.00
101-101-808.000	AUDIT	3,600.00	3,600.00	3,600.00	3,600.00
101-101-818.000	CONTRACTURAL SERVICE	26,000.00	24,000.00	22,186.89	23,000.00
101-101-826.000	LEGAL FEES	8,000.00	3,000.00	2,012.79	3,000.00
101-101-828.000	MEMBERSHIP DUES	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,381.74	3,000.00
101-101-854.000	CABLE SERVICE	3,200.00	3,300.00	3,289.16	3,300.00

101-101-874.000	PENSION PLAN	1,500.00	600.00	508.00	500.00
101-101-900.000	PRINTING & PUBLISHIN	6,000.00	7,000.00	6,993.10	7,000.00
101-101-910.000	INSURANCE & BONDS	7,000.00	12,000.00	11,097.00	12,000.00
101-101-956.000	MISCELLANEOUS	2,000.00	1,000.00	743.90	1,000.00
101-101-962.000	CLEANING SERVICE	2,000.00	2,400.00	2,323.00	3,000.00
SUPERVISOR					
101-171-702.000	SUPERVISOR SALARY	18,820.00	18,820.00	18,819.96	19,197.00
101-171-715.000	EMPLOYERS SOCIAL SEC	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,439.73	1,500.00
101-171-721.000	EDUCATION & TRAINING	200.00	200.00	0.00	200.00
101-171-726.000	SUPPLIES	200.00	200.00	0.00	200.00
101-171-860.000	TRANSPORTATION	400.00	400.00	109.68	400.00
101-171-874.000	PENSION PLAN	2,825.00	2,825.00	2,823.00	2,880.00
101-171-956.000	MISCELLANEOUS	50.00	50.00	0.00	50.00
101-171-980.000	OFFICE EQUIPMENT	200.00	200.00	0.00	200.00
TRUSTEE					
101-180-702.000	TRUSTEE SALARY	8,887.00	8,887.00	8,886.96	9,155.00
101-180-715.000	EMPLOYERS SOCIAL SEC	800.00	800.00	679.86	800.00
101-180-721.000	EDUCATION & TRAINING	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
101-180-860.000	TRANSPORTATION	100.00	100.00	16.05	50.00
101-180-874.000	PENSION PLAN	1,350.00	1,350.00	1,332.96	1,375.00
ELECTIONS					
101-191-702.000	ELECTION SALARY	3,000.00	600.00	548.46	2,000.00
101-191-726.000	SUPPLIES	2,000.00	500.00	418.96	1,000.00
101-191-860.000	TRANSPORTATION	200.00	200.00	0.00	200.00
101-191-900.000	PRINTING & PUBLISHIN	2,000.00	100.00	50.00	500.00
101-191-956.000	MISCELLANEOUS	500.00	500.00	0.00	500.00
ASSESSOR					
101-209-702.000	ASSESSOR SALARY	25,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	25,000.00
101-209-715.000	EMPLOYERS SOCIAL SEC	1,800.00	400.00	306.00	2,200.00
101-209-726.000	SUPPLIES	200.00	1,000.00	972.02	1,000.00
101-209-860.000	TRANSPORTATION	400.00	100.00	0.00	600.00
101-209-956.000	MISCELLANEOUS	200.00	50.00	45.67	400.00
101-209-980.000	OFFICE EQUIPMENT	1,010.00	50.00	45.67	1,100.00
CLERK					

101-215-702.000	CLERK SALARY	20,388.00	20,388.00	20,388.00	21,000.00
101-215-715.000	EMPLOYERS SOCIAL SEC	1,600.00	1,600.00	1,559.68	1,600.00
101-215-721.000	EDUCATION & TRAINING	800.00	800.00	459.48	800.00
101-215-726.000	SUPPLIES	200.00	200.00	29.99	100.00
101-215-828.000	MEMBERSHIP DUES	100.00	100.00	60.00	100.00
101-215-860.000	TRANSPORTATION	500.00	500.00	347.22	500.00
101-215-874.000	PENSION PLAN	3,060.00	3,060.00	3,058.20	3,150.00
101-215-956.000	MISCELLANEOUS	50.00	50.00	0.00	50.00
101-215-980.000	OFFICE EQUIPMENT	300.00	300.00	0.00	300.00
BOARD OF REVIEW					
101-247-702.000	BOARD OF REVIEW SALARY	2,000.00	2,000.00	1,379.00	2,000.00
101-247-715.000	EMPLOYERS SOCIAL SEC	100.00	110.00	105.50	110.00
101-247-900.000	PRINTING & PUBLISHIN	500.00	100.00	0.00	200.00
TREASURER					
101-253-702.000	TREASURER SALARY	20,388.00	20,388.00	20,388.00	21,000.00
101-253-715.000	EMPLOYERS SOCIAL SEC	1,600.00	1,600.00	1,559.70	1,600.00
101-253-721.000	EDUCATION & TRAINING	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
101-253-726.000	SUPPLIES	200.00	800.00	707.34	800.00
101-253-828.000	MEMBERSHIP DUES	50.00	50.00	10.00	50.00
101-253-860.000	TRANSPORTATION	200.00	200.00	136.43	200.00
101-253-874.000	PENSION PLAN	3,060.00	3,060.00	3,058.20	3,150.00
101-253-956.000	MISCELLANEOUS	200.00	200.00	59.71	100.00
101-253-980.000	OFFICE EQUIPMENT	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00
DEPUTY ASSESSOR					
101-257-702.000	DEPUTY SALARY	11,000.00	27,000.00	26,511.50	6,000.00
101-257-715.000	EMPLOYERS SOCIAL SEC	100.00	2,100.00	2,028.13	400.00
101-257-860.000	TRANSPORTATION	0.00	600.00	508.26	100.00
101-257-956.000	MISCELLANEOUS	0.00	350.00	300.67	100.00
101-257-980.000	OFFICE EQUIPMENT	500.00	200.00	131.19	200.00
BUILDING AND GROUNDS					
101-265-726.000	SUPPLIES	1,200.00	300.00	270.53	300.00
101-265-853.000	TELEPHONE	0.00	4,000.00	3,928.07	4,000.00
101-265-920.000	UTILITIES	4,500.00	4,500.00	2,183.83	4,500.00
101-265-930.000	REPAIRS & MAINTENANC	30,000.00	30,000.00	21,929.52	30,000.00

101-265-956.000	MISCELLANEOUS	500.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
101-265-960.000	SANITATION SERVICE	200.00	300.00	232.10	300.00
101-265-965.000	LEAF COLL. & CLEANUP	20,000.00	20,000.00	6,515.00	20,000.00
101-265-975.000	IMPROVEMENTS & ADDIT	1,000.00	5,000.00	4,928.00	5,000.00
CEMETERY					
101-276-702.000	CEMETERY SALARY	1,000.00	500.00	0.00	500.00
101-276-715.000	EMPLOYERS SOCIAL SEC	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
101-276-726.000	SUPPLIES	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
101-276-860.000	TRANSPORTATION	50.00	50.00	0.00	50.00
101-276-920.000	UTILITIES	1,800.00	1,800.00	1,739.73	2,000.00
101-276-930.000	REPAIRS & MAINTENANC	20,000.00	8,000.00	7,182.20	20,000.00
101-276-956.000	MISCELLANEOUS	1,000.00	100.00	0.00	500.00
SEXTON					
101-279-702.000	SEXTON SALARY	3,000.00	2,000.00	1,600.00	2,000.00
101-279-715.000	EMPLOYERS SOCIAL SEC	200.00	200.00	55.08	100.00
FIRE DEPARTMENT					
101-339-800.000	SERVICES	266,000.00	266,000.00	266,000.00	203,000.00
PLANNING COMMISSION					
101-400-702.000	PLANNING COMMISSION SALARY	6,000.00	2,000.00	1,869.00	3,000.00
101-400-715.000	EMPLOYERS SOCIAL SEC	500.00	250.00	143.00	250.00
101-400-721.000	EDUCATION & TRAINING	200.00	200.00	0.00	100.00
101-400-828.000	MEMBERSHIP DUES	750.00	750.00	650.00	750.00
101-400-860.000	TRANSPORTATION	50.00	50.00	0.00	50.00
101-400-900.000	PRINTING & PUBLISHIN	1,200.00	300.00	0.00	300.00
101-400-956.000	MISCELLANEOUS	100.00	100.00	21.00	100.00
BOARD OF APPEALS					
101-402-702.000	CONSTRUCTION B.O.A. SALARY	0.00	0.00	0.00	600.00
101-405-702.000	BOARD OF APPEALS SALARY	1,200.00	600.00	488.00	100.00
101-405-715.000	EMPLOYERS SOCIAL SEC	100.00	100.00	37.31	100.00
101-405-900.000	PRINTING & PUBLISHIN	500.00	200.00	0.00	50.00
HIGHWAYS, STREETS, BRIDGES					
101-446-920.000	UTILITIES	17,000.00	17,000.00	16,279.27	18,000.00
101-448-920.000	UTILITIES	2,500.00	2,700.00	2,641.21	3,000.00
101-449-930.000	REPAIRS & MAINTENANC	250,000.00	200,000.00	191,644.89	300,000.00

PARKS					
101-751-702.000	PARKS AND RECREATION SALARY	5,000.00	3,000.00	1,845.75	3,000.00
101-751-715.000	EMPLOYERS SOCIAL SEC	400.00	200.00	127.77	200.00
101-751-726.000	SUPPLIES	400.00	100.00	50.00	100.00
101-751-920.000	UTILITIES	2,000.00	2,000.00	1,593.28	2,000.00
101-751-930.000	REPAIRS & MAINTENANC	40,000.00	10,000.00	8,487.18	40,000.00
101-751-956.000	MISCELLANEOUS	200.00	5,000.00	4,754.75	5,000.00
101-751-960.000	SANITATION SERVICE	5,000.00	3,000.00	2,971.68	4,000.00
Total Appropriations:		977,488.00	876,988.00	824,224.30	966,167.00

Heath Township 2018 Community Parks and Recreation Plan Update

4. Recreation Inventory



SECTION 4

EXISTING RECREATION FACILITIES

In order to determine the recreational needs for Heath Township, an analysis of the existing facilities was undertaken. The intent of the analysis is to provide a clear evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of the existing recreational opportunities the Township has to offer its citizens. The inventory is based on information provided by Township staff and site inspections carried out by MCSA Group, Inc. as part of the planning process.

TOWNSHIP PARK AND OPEN SPACE FACILITIES

Heath Township owns and operates two (2) Township Parks, for a total of 15.38 acres of recreational land. In addition, one (1) State Game Area, one (1) County park, and one (1) public school site provide public or quasi-public recreational facilities in the township.

The Township properties can be classified as two community parks. This classification is adapted from “Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines,” J. D. Mertes and J. R. Hall, 1995, as recommended by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. A more detailed description and photographic inventory of each site follows. An Existing Recreation Facilities map at the end of this section illustrates the location of public park/recreation areas within the Township, and an Existing Recreation Facilities matrix provides a summary of the facilities provided at each location.

An Accessibility Assessment of each site was undertaken using the following ranking system:

- 1 = none of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 2 = some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 3 = most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 4 = the entire park meets accessibility guidelines
- 5 = the entire park was developed/renovated using the principals of universal design

COMMUNITY PARKS

Community-wide parks serve a broader purpose than neighborhood parks and provide a range of facilities and areas capable of supporting structured and unstructured community participation. These areas are typically between 30 and 50 acres in size and serve two or more neighborhoods and ½ to 3 mile distance. Facilities may include wooded or natural areas, picnic shelters and grills, bike or hiking trails and other semi-active and passive uses for large groups of people. They may also contain specialized recreational facilities such as swimming pools, community centers and ball diamonds. Community Parks should be easily accessible from throughout their service area.

Heath Township has two (2) parks classified within this category: Schutmaat Park and Township Hall Park.

Schutmaat Park
Willyard Street
1.42 Acres

Schutmaat Park is located along the Rabbit River at the Lincoln Road (M-40) bridge. The park provides impressive views of the wooden railroad trestle and adjacent dam. This park is generally a passive park featuring an accessible ramp from M-40, a picnic shelter, boat launch, barrier free fishing access and benches.

Accessibility Rating: 5

This park was renovated in 2015 using the universal design principals.

Condition: The park has been well maintained and all elements remain barrier-free.

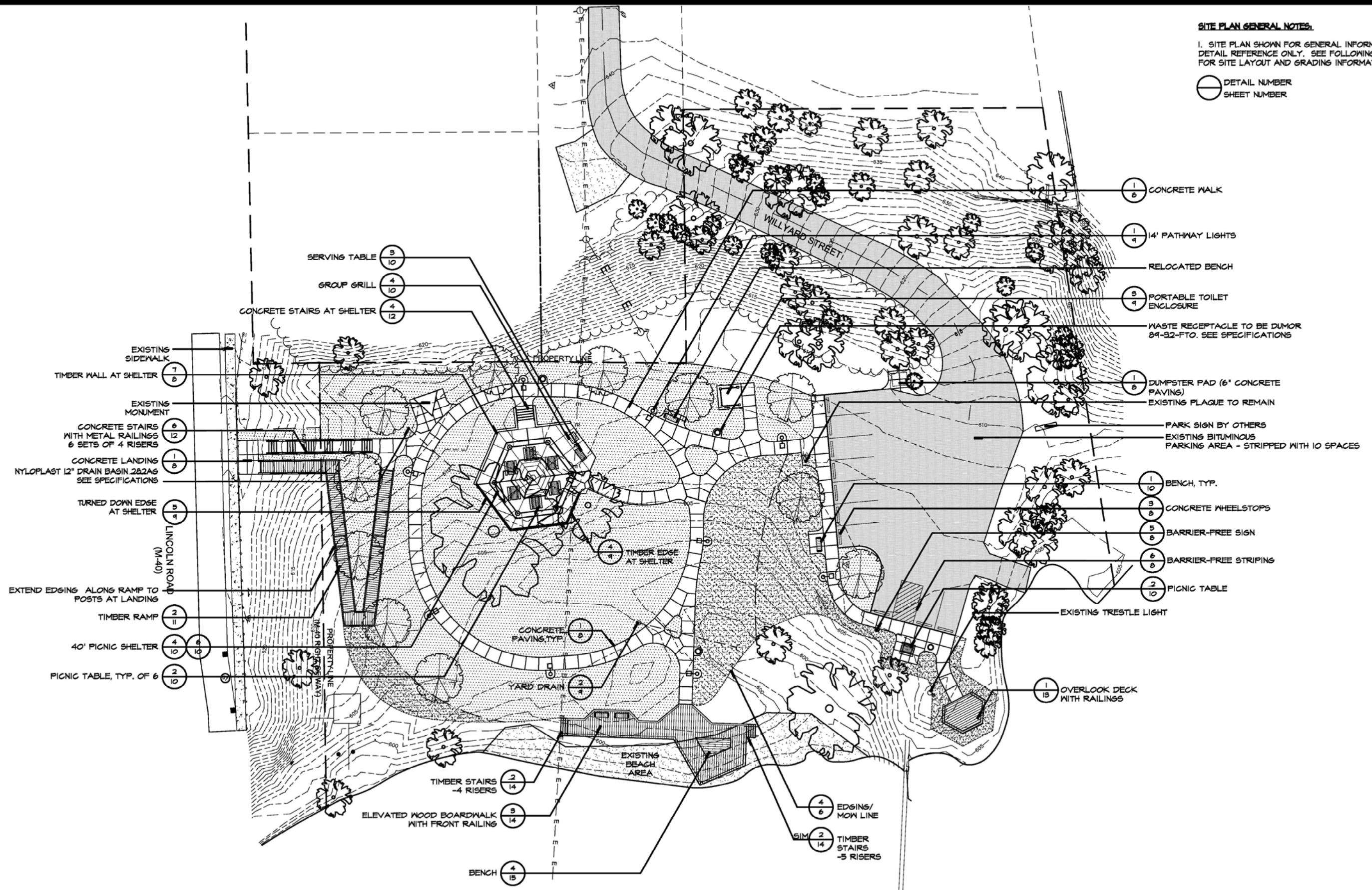
Trestle Park



SITE PLAN GENERAL NOTES:

1. SITE PLAN SHOWN FOR GENERAL INFORMATION AND
DETAIL REFERENCE ONLY. SEE FOLLOWING PLAN SHEETS
FOR SITE LAYOUT AND GRADING INFORMATION.

○ DETAIL NUMBER
○ SHEET NUMBER



PRIVACY FENCE

VEHICULAR ENTRANCE
(with gate for seasonal closure)

TRAILER PARKING SPACES
WITH POROUS PAVING
(5 Spaces)

LED LIGHTING

STANDARD PARKING SPACES
WITH POROUS PAVING
(39 spaces)

VEHICULAR ENTRANCE
(with gate for seasonal closure)

BARRIER FREE PARKING

SCREENED ENCLOSURE FOR
PORTA POTTY

LITTER AND RECYCLING
RECEPTACLES

PICNIC SHELTER
(with permanent tables
and light)

OVERLOOK DECK
(with interpretative signage)

BOARDWALK AND STEPS

CONCRETE PATHWAY TO
BOAT LAUNCH

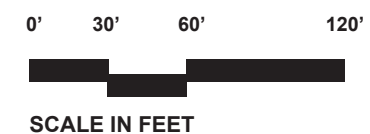
EXISTING TRESTLE BRIDGE

EXISTING BOAT LAUNCH

EXISTING DAM

EXISTING SCHUTMAAT PARK

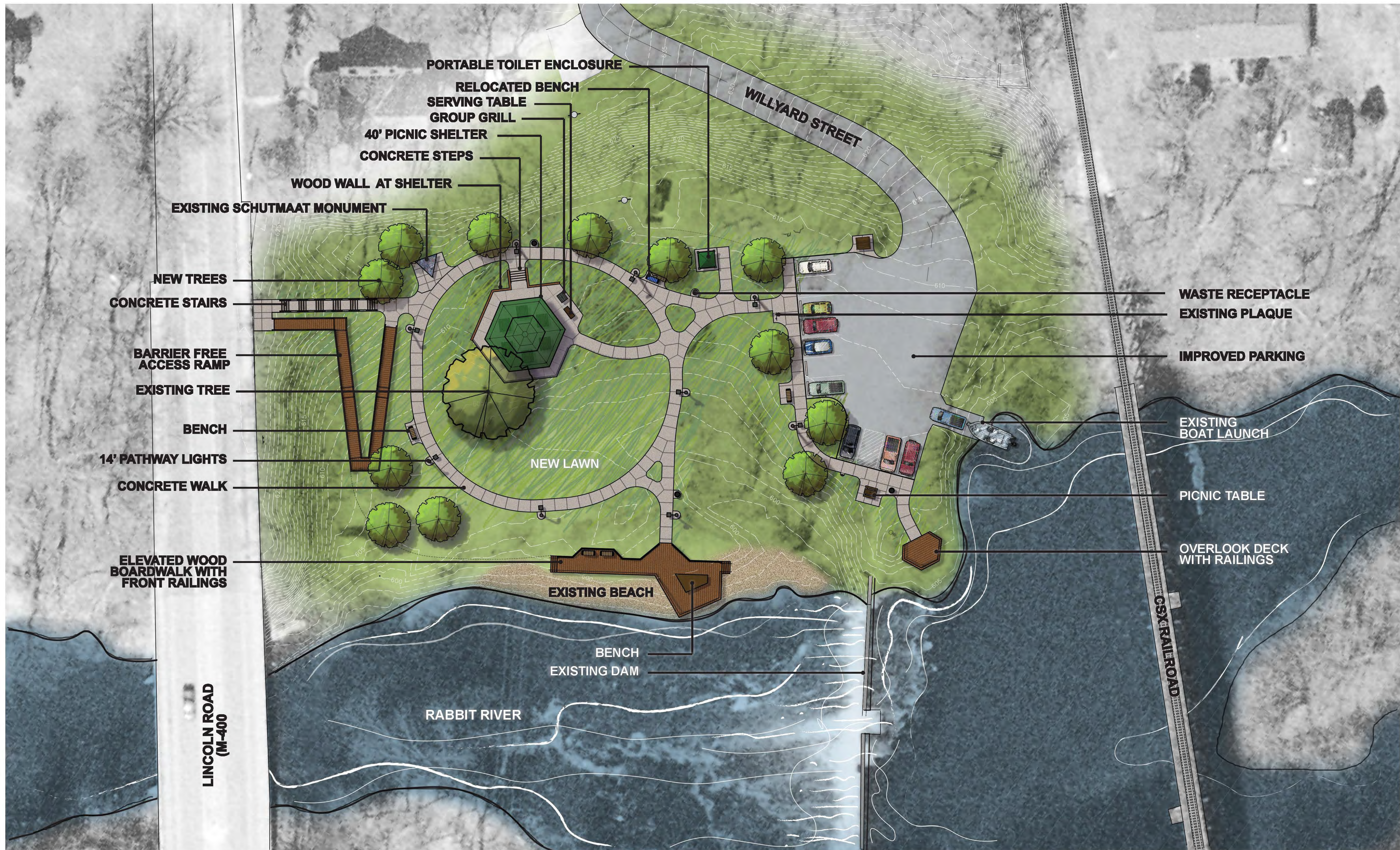
MASTER PLAN SCHUTMAAT PARK EXPANSION HEATH TOWNSHIP, MICHIGAN



DATE
3.14.2018
PROJECT NO.
2037

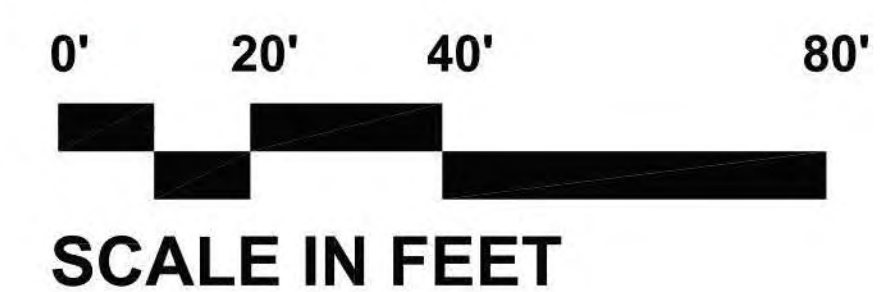
**M.C. SMITH ASSOCIATES AND
ARCHITECTURAL GROUP, INC.**
Landscape Architecture • Park & Recreation Planning • Architecture
Downtown Planning • Interior Design • Sports Facility Planning
529 Greenwood Avenue S.E. • East Grand Rapids, MI 49506
616-491-5546 • FAX: 616-451-1955 • mcsagroup.com





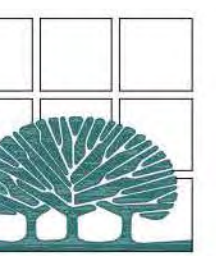
Schutmaat Park Master Plan

Heath Township, Michigan



DATE
4.4.16
PROJECT NO.
1958

M.C. SMITH ASSOCIATES AND ARCHITECTURAL GROUP, INC.
Landscape Architecture • Park & Recreation Planning • Architecture
Downtown Planning • Interior Design • Sports Facility Planning
529 Greenwood Avenue S.E. • East Grand Rapids, MI 49506
616-451-3346 • FAX: 616-451-1935 • EMAIL: la@mcsagroup.com



Township Hall Park

3440 M-40

13.96 Acres

Township Hall Park is located between Heath Township Hall and Hamilton Elementary School. Park facilities include two multipurpose ball fields, a multi purpose field, restroom/concession building, shelter, playground, and bar-b-que pit, skate park and walking trails.

Accessibility Rating: 2

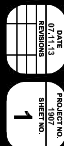
The park was renovated in 2013 using the universal design principals.

Condition: Park has been well maintained and all elements remain barrier free.

Township Hall Park

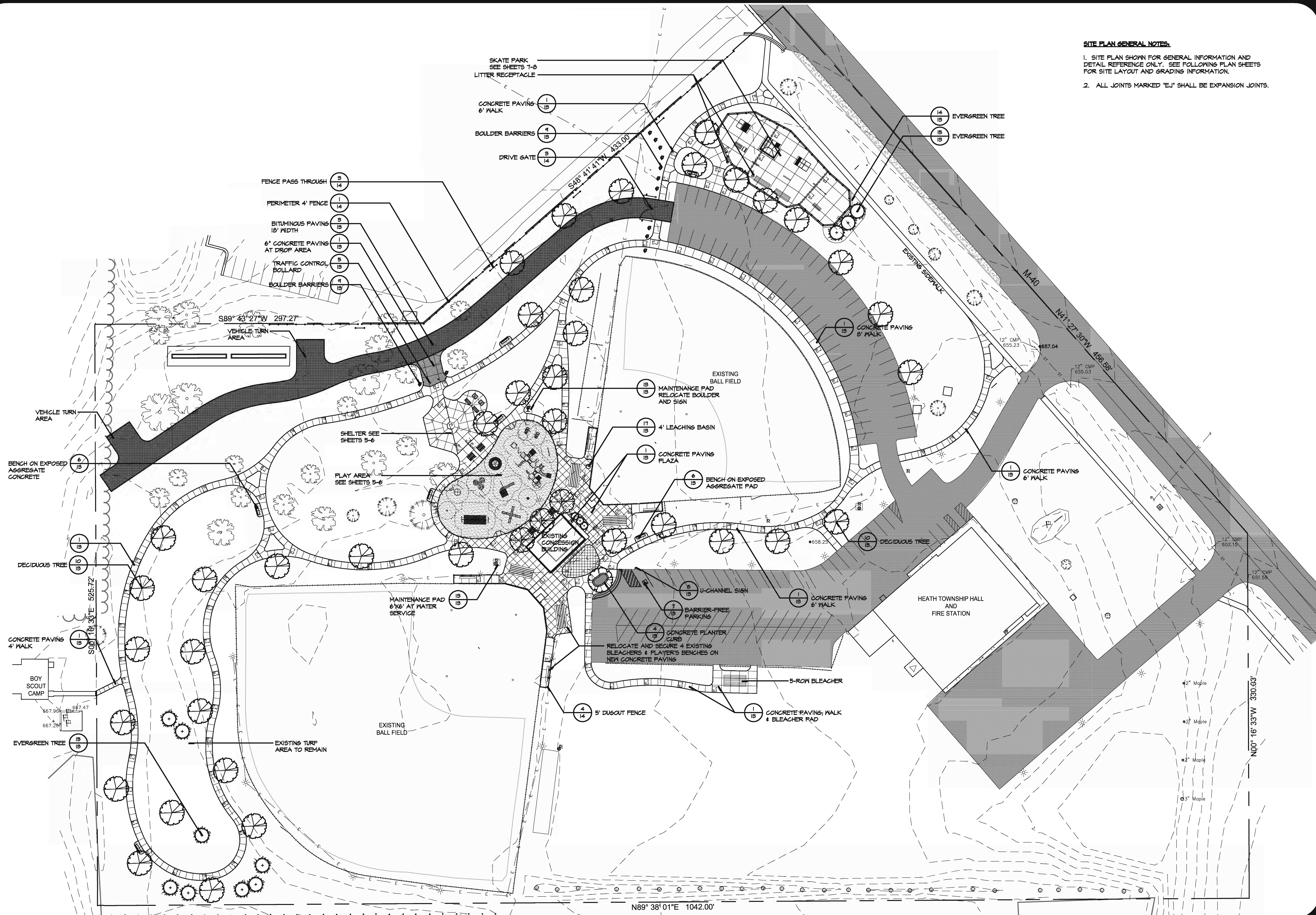


2013 Improvements - Site Plan



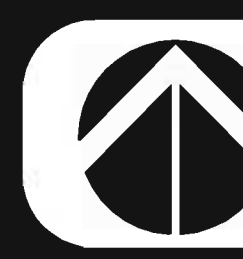
SITE PLAN GENERAL NOTES:

1. SITE PLAN SHOWN FOR GENERAL INFORMATION AND DETAIL REFERENCE ONLY. SEE FOLLOWING PLAN SHEETS FOR SITE LAYOUT AND GRADING INFORMATION.
2. ALL JOINTS MARKED "EJ" SHALL BE EXPANSION JOINTS.



Township Hall Park Improvements Heath Township, Michigan

**M.C. SMITH ASSOCIATES AND
ARCHITECTURAL GROUP, INC.**
Landscape Architecture • Park & Recreation Planning • Architecture
Downtown Planning • Interior Design • Sports Facility Planning
829 Greenwood Avenue S.E. • East Grand Rapids, MI 49506
616-451-3346 • FAX: 616-451-1955 • EMAIL: info@mcsgroup.com



SCALE:
1"=30'

Site Plan

DATE
07.11.13
REVISIONS

PROJECT NO.
1907
SHEET NO.
2

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OTHER RECREATION FACILITIES

Allegan State Game Area

The Allegan State Game Area covers 50,000 acres, a portion of which is located in Heath Township. The State Game Area occupies 43% of the townships total area. Oak-pine barrens / savanna communities exist in this area creating an ideal wildlife viewing opportunity. The DNR manages the habitat of various species. Land in the game area is generally available to residents for recreational purposes. A large portion of the land within Heath Township is designated as a Special Use Area open to horseback riding and dog sled use.

Silver Creek County Park

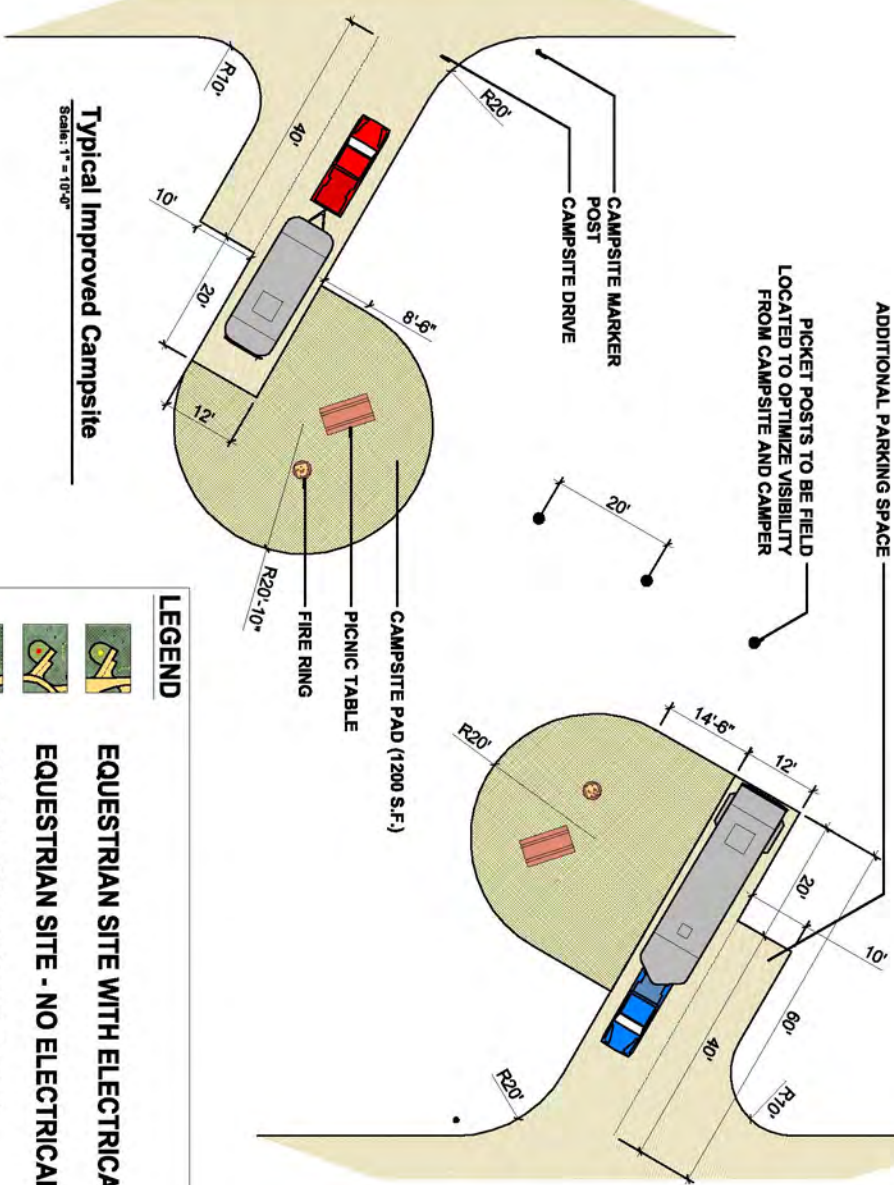
Silver Creek County Park is a 320 acre Allegan County Park located on 134th Street, west of 38th Street. It is primarily an equestrian park linking to 25 miles of horseback riding trails. There are 75 campsites in the park, 65 of which are available for horse camping. The park also has 450 feet of frontage on Silver Creek which is a spring fed trout stream. Picnic tables and grills are available in the day use area along with hand well pumps and vault toilets.

Riverside and Brookside Cemetery

Heath Township currently operates and maintains two cemeteries. Riverside Cemetery is located in Hamilton on 47th Street and Brookside Cemetery is located near Dunningville on M-40. Both greenspace areas provide day use recreation opportunities.

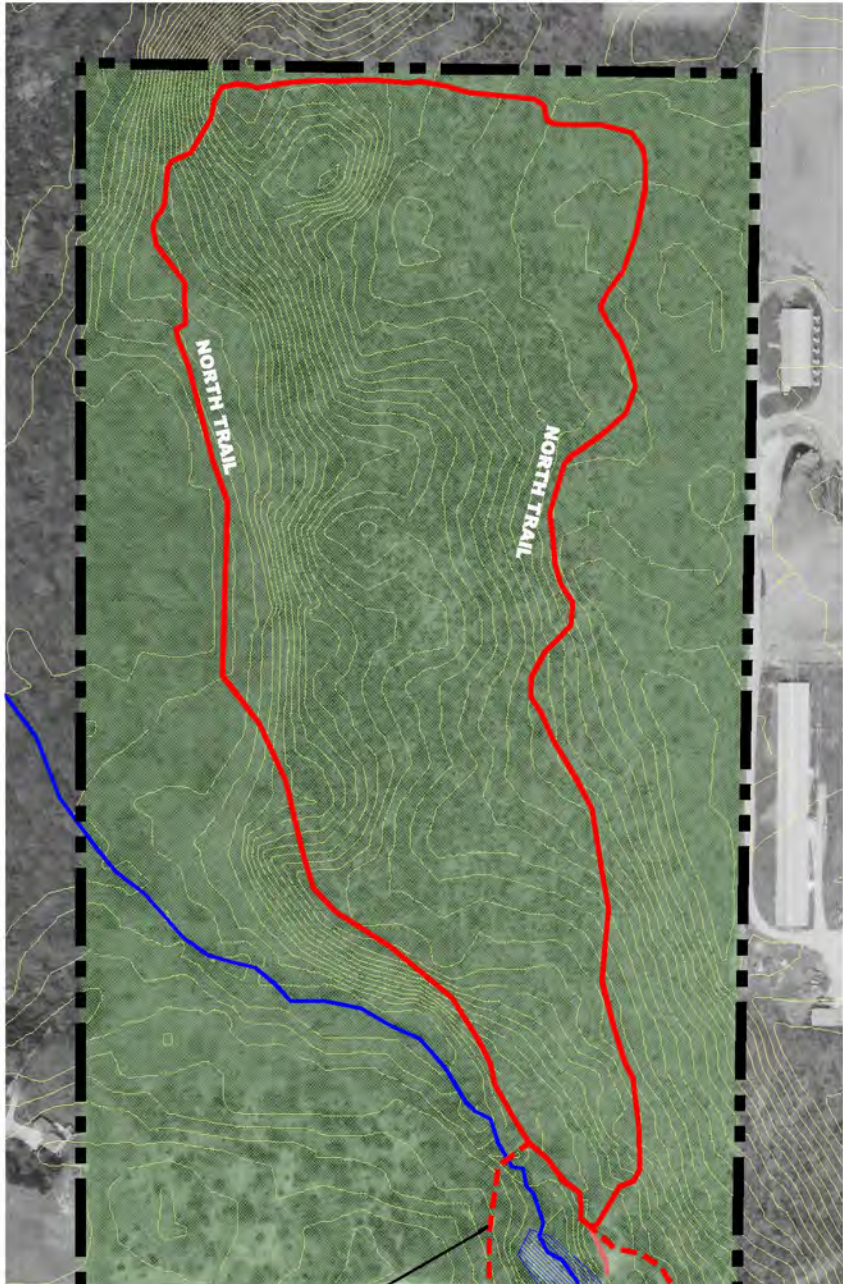
Typical Improved Equestrian Campsite

Scale: 1" = 10'-0"



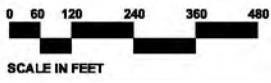
LEGEND

- EQUESTRIAN SITE WITH ELECTRICAL
- EQUESTRIAN SITE - NO ELECTRICAL
- NON-EQUESTRIAN CAMPSITE
- PROPOSED TRAIL
- ABANDONED TRAIL



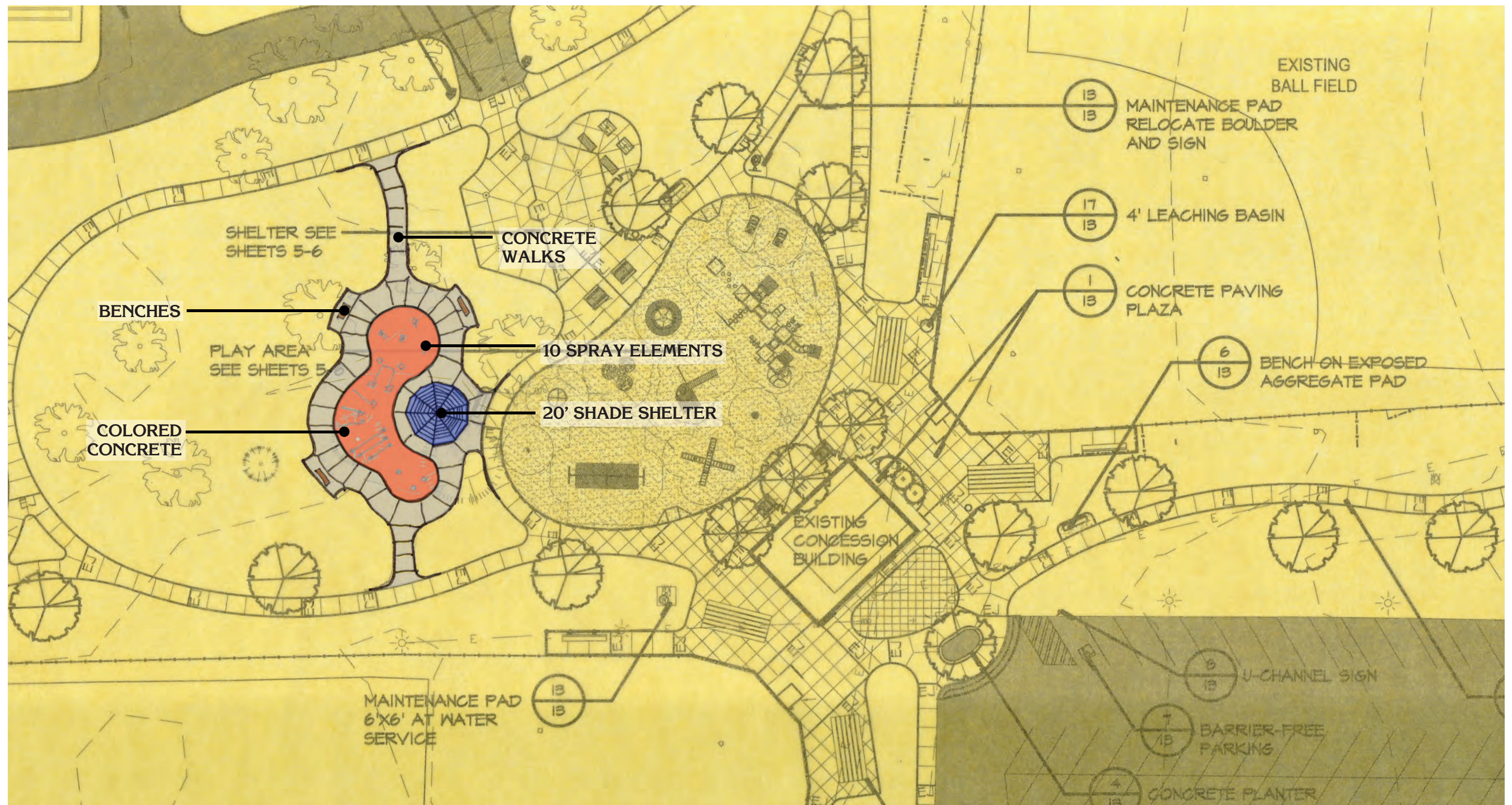
- LINK TO STATE GAME AREA TRAILS
- PARK ENTRANCE WITH STONE COLUMNS, WOOD FENCE AND SIGN
- PROPOSED TRAIL
- SANITATION STATION
- ABANDONED TRAIL
- EQUESTRIAN CAMPSITE - NO ELECTRICAL (49)
- EQUESTRIAN CAMPSITE WITH ELECTRICAL (26)
- EQUESTRIAN PULL THROUGH SITE (3)
- RESTROOM AND SHOWER BUILDING WITH GROUP GRILL
- HITCHING POSTS, 9
- WATERING ACCESS TO SILVER CREEK
- LINK TO STATE GAME AREA TRAILS
- DAY USE PARKING AREA
- NON-EQUESTRIAN CAMPSITES (10)
- NEW MAINTENANCE BUILDING
- GATED EMERGENCY ENTRANCE/EXIT
- PROPOSED TRAIL LINK WITH NEW EQUESTRIAN BRIDGE

MASTER PLAN
SILVER CREEK COUNTY PARK AND CAMPGROUND



M.C. SMITH ASSOCIATES AND ARCHITECTURAL GROUP, INC.
Landscape Architecture • Park & Recreation Planning • Architecture
Downtown Planning • Interior Design • Sports Facility Planning
200 Government Avenue, S.E. • Fort Lauderdale, FL 33305
954-461-3540 • FAX: 954-461-1385 • EMAIL: info@mcsmith.com







SPLASHPAD ELEMENTS
Splashpad
 HEATH TOWNSHIP, MICHIGAN

DATE
 12.18.2018
 PROJECT NO.
 2051





SPLASHPAD ELEMENTS

Splashpad

HEATH TOWNSHIP, MICHIGAN

DATE
12.18.2018

PROJECT NO.
2051



HAMILTON PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES

The Hamilton Public School District has one Elementary School located within the Township. In addition, Hamilton High School and Middle School are located in neighboring Fillmore Township. And Bentheim Elementary is located in neighboring Salem Township. These school sites provide a range of recreation facilities to serve a student population of approximately 2,600 students. These facilities are used to a varying degree by Township residents.

The facilities provided are summarized in the following Recreation Facilities Matrix and Recreation Facilities Map included in this section of the plan.

Hamilton Elementary School

Hamilton Elementary School is located on M-40 adjacent to the Township Hall. Facilities include a playground, track and multi-use field.

REGIONAL FACILITIES

Diamond Springs Golf Course on 34th Street northeast of Heath Township, features an 18 hole course, clubhouse and pro shop.

There are also a number of State Parks within easy reach of Heath Township residents, with those along the shore of Lake Michigan at Holland, Saugatuck and Grand Haven among the most popular.



HEATH TOWNSHIP 2018 EXISTING RECREATION FACILITIES

	Address	Acres/Miles	Active Recreation													Amenities					Trails/ Natural Area			Other
			Playground	Baseball Fields	Softball Fields	Soccer	Football	Rugby Field	Volleyball	Basketball	Tennis Court	Track	Open Play Field	Shuffleboard	Skate Park	Parking	Restroom	Concession Building	Picnic Shelter/ Pavilion	Picnic Tables/Grills	Natural Area	Natural Trail	Paved Walking/ Multi-Purpose Trail	
TOWNSHIP PARKS																								
Schutmaat Park		1.42														1	1		1	4			X	Life exercise trail
Township Hall Park		13.96	1	1	1	1							1		1	2	1	1	2	10+			X	Connection to M6 trail
ALLEGAN COUNTY PARKS																								
Allegan State Gaming Area		50,000.00	2	1		10							1			3	1		1	10+	X	X	X	Kent trails trailhead
Silver Creek County Park		320														X							X	Trailhead at Douglas Walker
																1							X	Trailhead at Division and M6
PUBLIC SCHOOLS *																								
Hamilton Elementary			1										1			1								
Total		50335.4	4	2	1	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	8	3	1	4	4	0	0	0	

* Percentage of land estimated for recreational use

Heath Township 2018 Community Parks and Recreation Plan Update

5. Planning & Public Input Process



SECTION 5 – PLANNING AND PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

RECREATION PLANNING

Recreation planning plays an important role in maintaining the quality of life in a community. If a community is to provide effective recreational opportunities, it needs a way of identifying and solving current problems and anticipating future needs. Recreation planning is one means of obtaining a perspective on these problems; developing realistic alternatives; formulating goals, policies, and recommendations for public and private decisions; developing criteria to measure change; and involving people in the planning, design and decision processes.

This Parks and Recreation Plan presents an evaluation of the Township's recreational needs and opportunities. It considers the existing amenities in and around the Township, the current and anticipated demand for additional or improved facilities, and the means for providing those facilities.

This plan is to serve as a guideline for directing the Township in the operation and maintenance of existing and future facilities and programs to meet the recreational needs of its citizens. The plan summarizes long-term recommendations intended to guide the development of recreation opportunities, and describes an action and capital improvement program for implementation over the next five years.

PLAN PROCESS AND DEVELOPMENT

This Parks and Recreation Plan was developed by Heath Township, with the assistance of M. C. Smith Associates, Inc., a park and recreation planning consultant. Township staff met regularly with representatives of M.C. Smith Associates, between July 2018 and January 2019 for the development of this Plan.

Criteria considered and evaluated for plan development evolved from the examination of goals and recreation standards determined through a wide variety of input sources. This information was collected from the inventory and review of existing facilities; the identification of recreation needs and deficiencies; public opinion; current recreation issues and priorities; and future expectations.

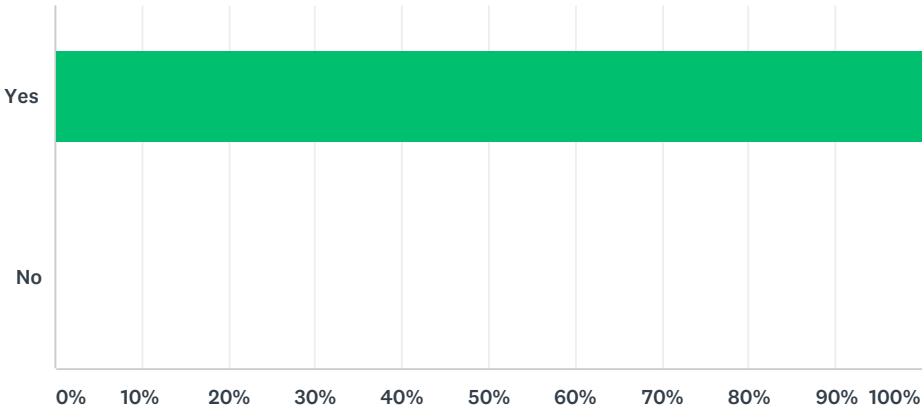
Public input was sought throughout the process by means of two open Public Meetings held to solicit public desires and concerns regarding parks and recreation. The first public meeting took place on Monday, October 8, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. and the second public meeting was held on Monday, November 12, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. Both meetings took place at the Heath Township Hall, 3440 M-40, Hamilton and were advertised in local media. The advertisement and agenda for each meeting summarizing comments and discussion are included in the appendices.

Comments from the public meetings were incorporated into a final draft of the Plan, which was made available to the public for one month commencing on TBD to solicit further comments prior to a public hearing and plan adoption. Minor comments from Township staff and representatives were incorporated into the final plan.

Following the one month review period, the final plan was presented during a public hearing to the Township Board on TBD. The Resolution to formally adopt this plan can be found in Section 8.

Q1 Do you live in Heath Township?

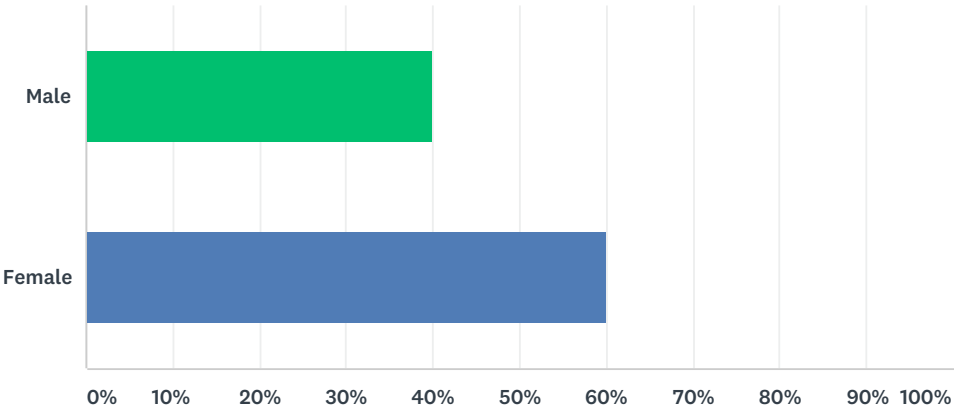
Answered: 10 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Yes		100.00%	10
No		0.00%	0
TOTAL			10

Q2 Are You:

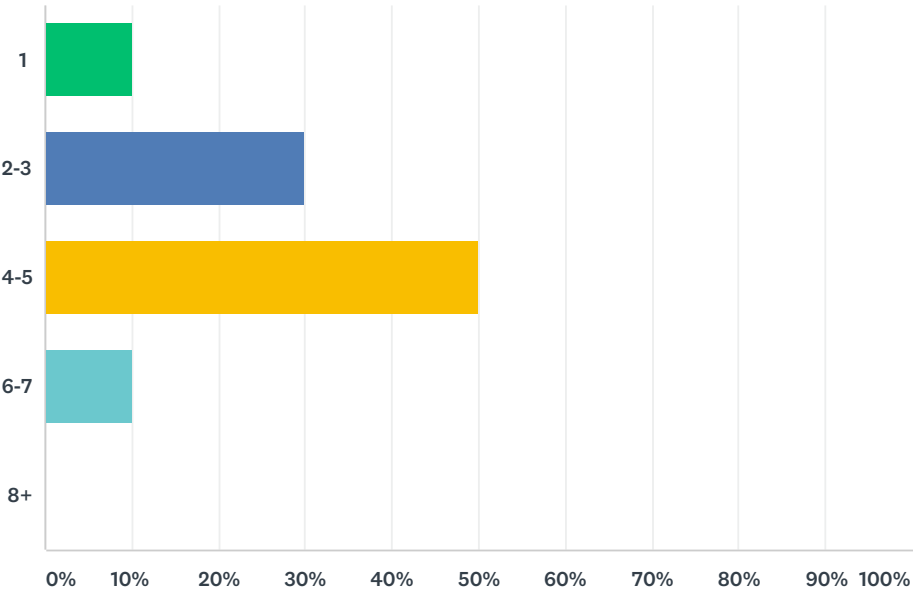
Answered: 10 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Male	40.00%	4
Female	60.00%	6
Total Respondents: 10		

Q3 How many people currently live in your household?

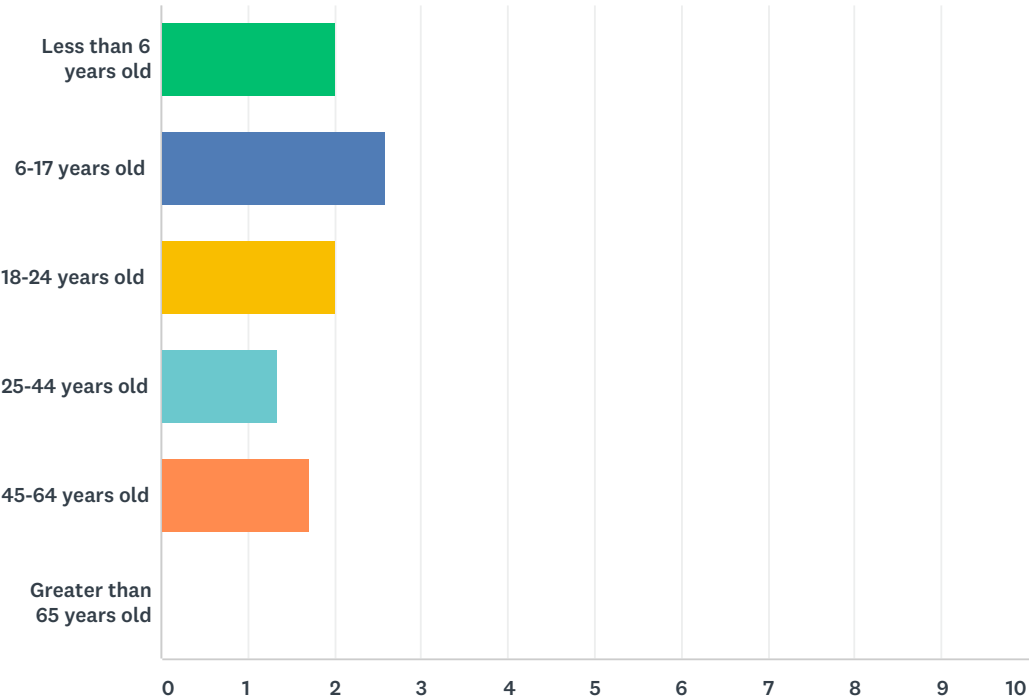
Answered: 10 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1	10.00%	1
2-3	30.00%	3
4-5	50.00%	5
6-7	10.00%	1
8+	0.00%	0
TOTAL		10

Q4 How many people in your household are:

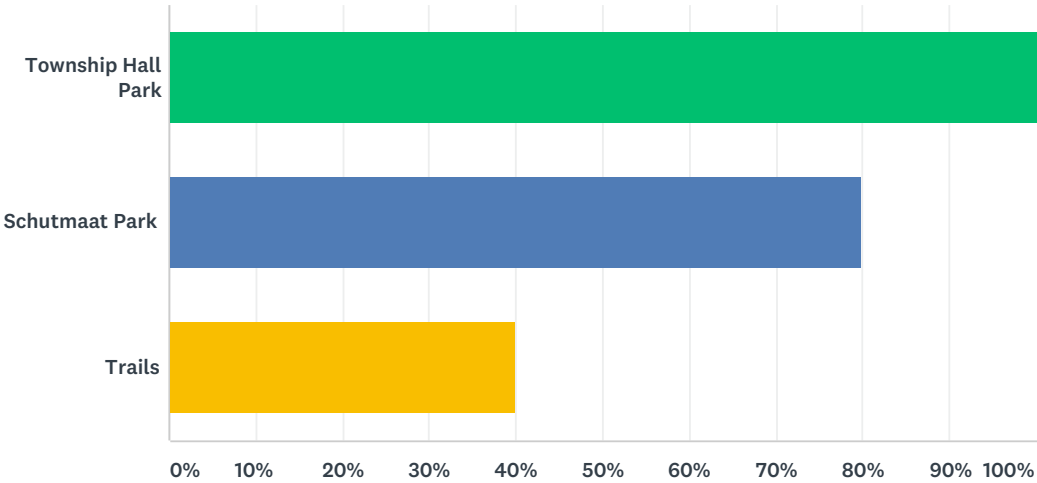
Answered: 10 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	AVERAGE NUMBER	TOTAL NUMBER	RESPONSES
Less than 6 years old	2	2	1
6-17 years old	3	13	5
18-24 years old	2	2	1
25-44 years old	1	8	6
45-64 years old	2	12	7
Greater than 65 years old	0	0	0
Total Respondents: 10			

Q5 Which of the Township's parks and facilities have you or members of your household utilized in the last 12 months?

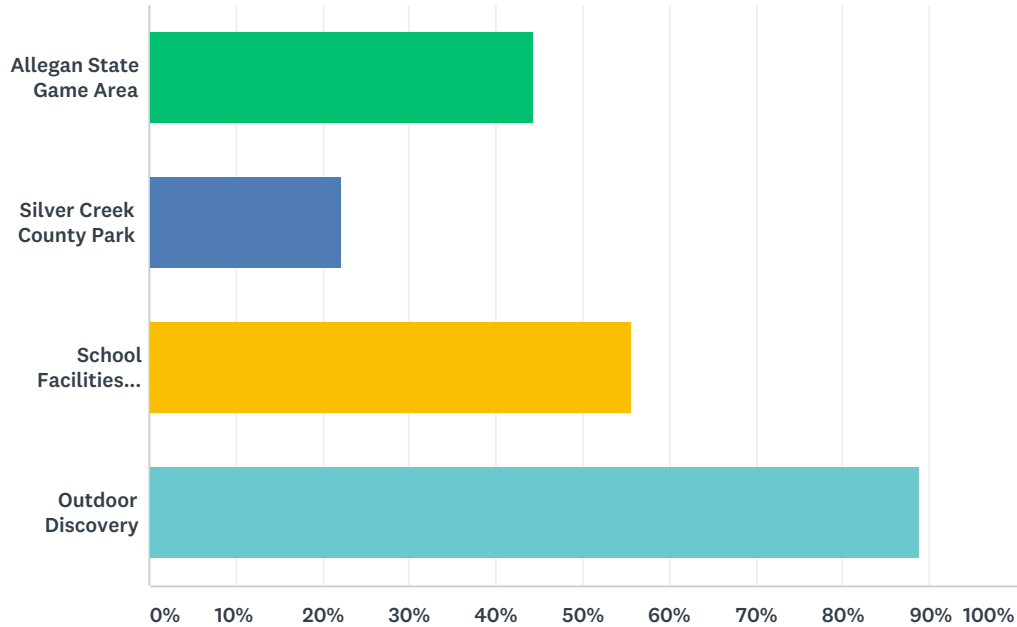
Answered: 10 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Township Hall Park	100.00%	10
Schutmaat Park	80.00%	8
Trails	40.00%	4
Total Respondents: 10		

Q6 Check any of these Parks and Recreation Facilities you or members of your household have utilized in the last 12 months.

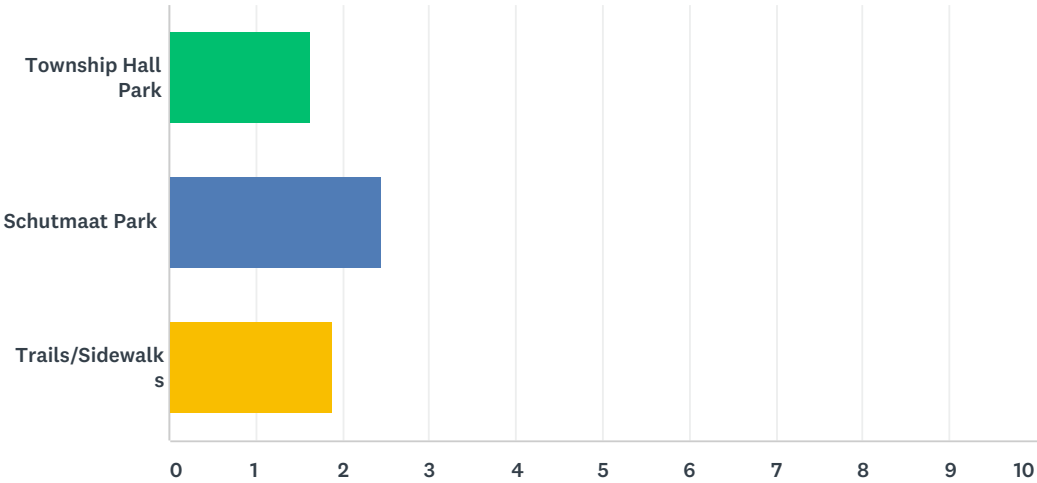
Answered: 9 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Allegan State Game Area	44.44%	4
Silver Creek County Park	22.22%	2
School Facilities after hours	55.56%	5
Outdoor Discovery	88.89%	8
Total Respondents: 9		

Q7 Please rank the Township's facilities you would like to see improved or expanded. 1=High Priority, 4=Low Priority

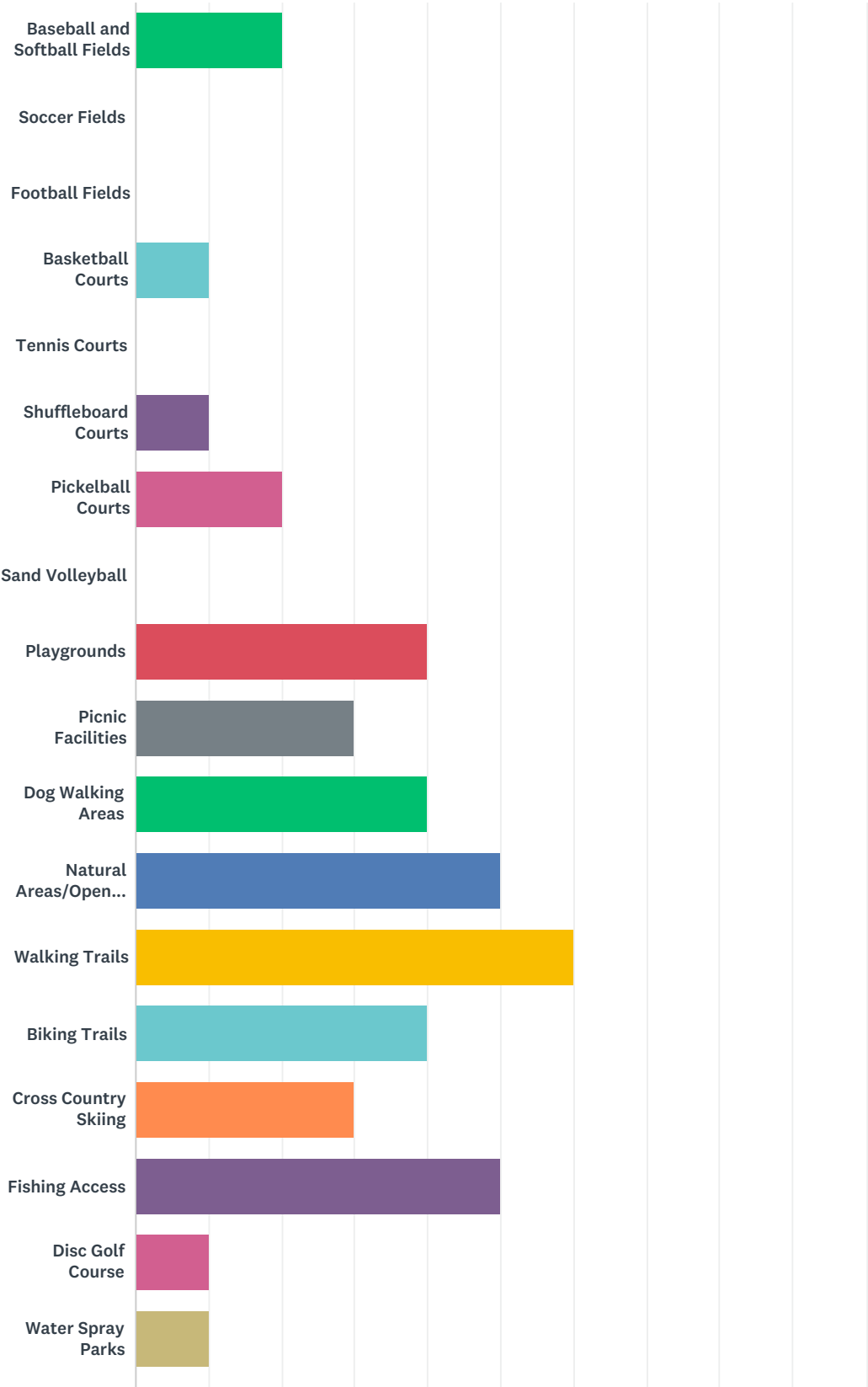
Answered: 10 Skipped: 0

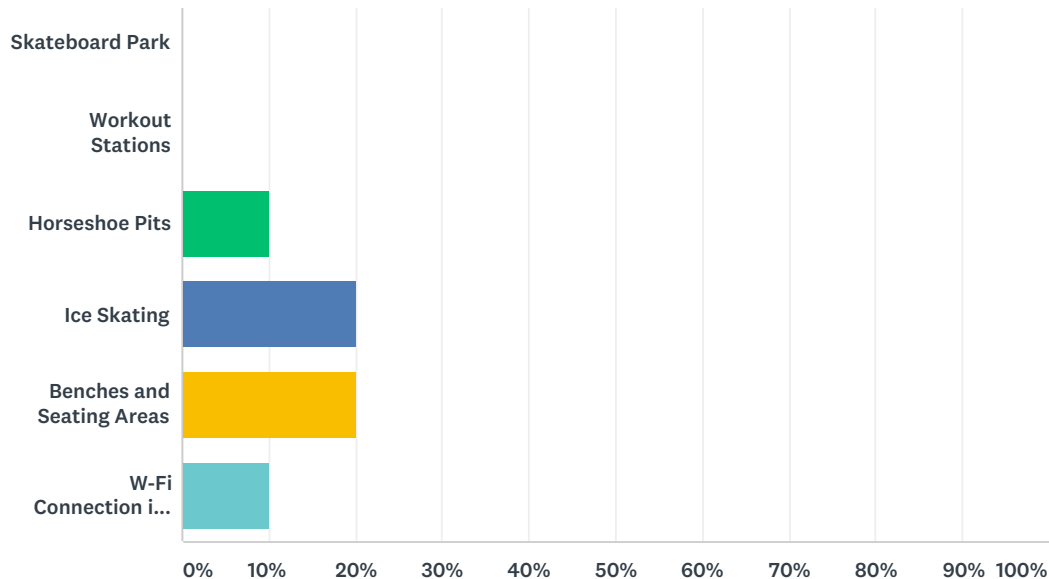


	1	2	3	TOTAL	SCORE
Township Hall Park	25.00% 2	12.50% 1	62.50% 5	8	1.63
Schutmaat Park	44.44% 4	55.56% 5	0.00% 0	9	2.44
Trails/Sidewalks	33.33% 3	22.22% 2	44.44% 4	9	1.89

Q8 Which of the following activities/facilities would you most like to see expanded in the Township?

Answered: 10 Skipped: 0



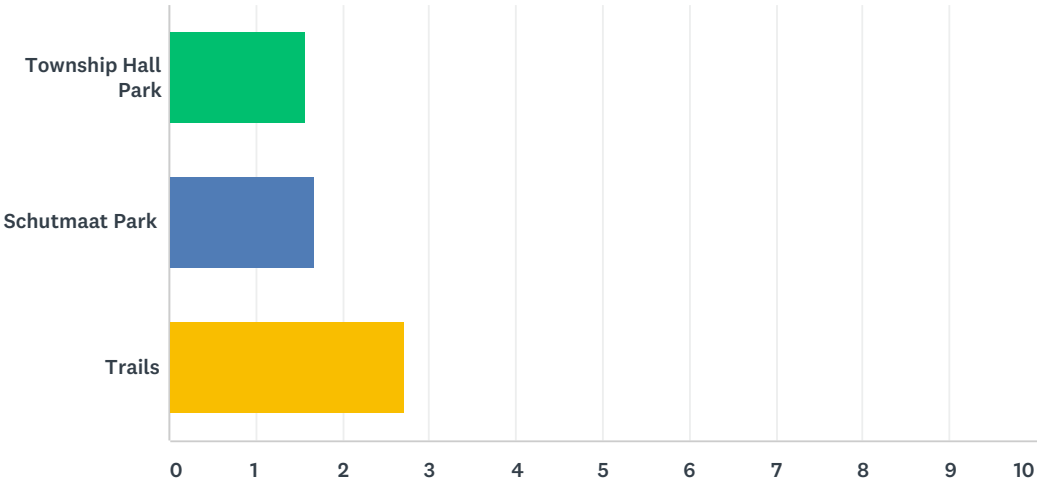


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Baseball and Softball Fields	20.00%	2
Soccer Fields	0.00%	0
Football Fields	0.00%	0
Basketball Courts	10.00%	1
Tennis Courts	0.00%	0
Shuffleboard Courts	10.00%	1
Pickelball Courts	20.00%	2
Sand Volleyball	0.00%	0
Playgrounds	40.00%	4
Picnic Facilities	30.00%	3
Dog Walking Areas	40.00%	4
Natural Areas/Open Space	50.00%	5
Walking Trails	60.00%	6
Biking Trails	40.00%	4
Cross Country Skiing	30.00%	3
Fishing Access	50.00%	5
Disc Golf Course	10.00%	1
Water Spray Parks	10.00%	1
Skateboard Park	0.00%	0
Workout Stations	0.00%	0
Horseshoe Pits	10.00%	1
Ice Skating	20.00%	2

Benches and Seating Areas	20.00%	2
W-Fi Connection in Parks	10.00%	1
Total Respondents: 10		

Q9 How would you rate the maintenance of Heath Township Parks you have visited?

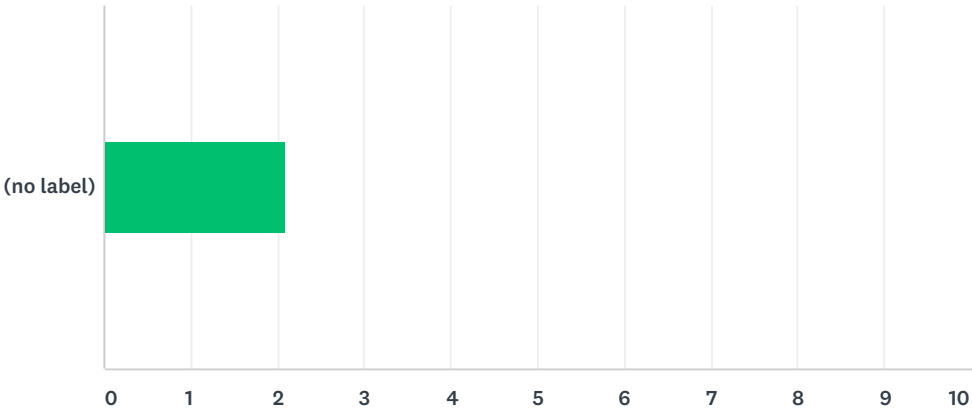
Answered: 10 Skipped: 0



	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Township Hall Park	66.67% 6	11.11% 1	22.22% 2	0.00% 0	9	1.56
Schutmaat Park	55.56% 5	22.22% 2	22.22% 2	0.00% 0	9	1.67
Trails	0.00% 0	42.86% 3	42.86% 3	14.29% 1	7	2.71

Q10 The Recreation Department is considering ways to implement sustainable/green initiatives in Township Parks. How important do you consider this issue?

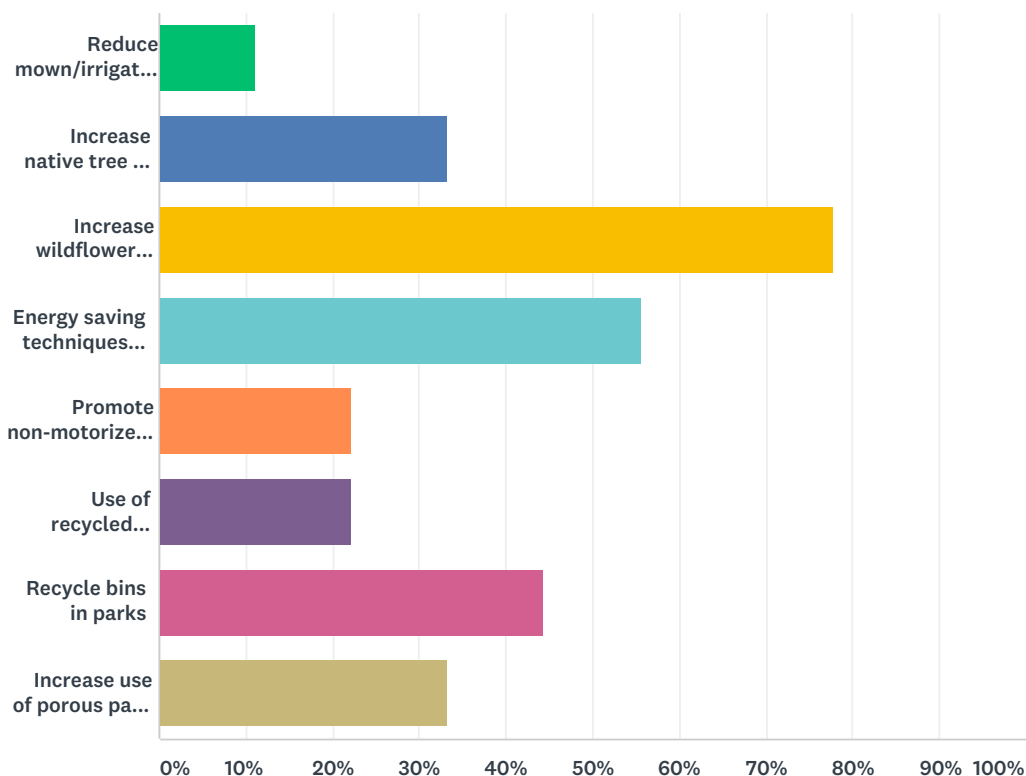
Answered: 10 Skipped: 0



	VERY IMPORTANT	IMPORTANT	NOT IMPORTANT	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	20.00%	50.00%	30.00%	10	2.10
	2	5	3		

Q11 Please indicate which green initiatives you think would be most effective.

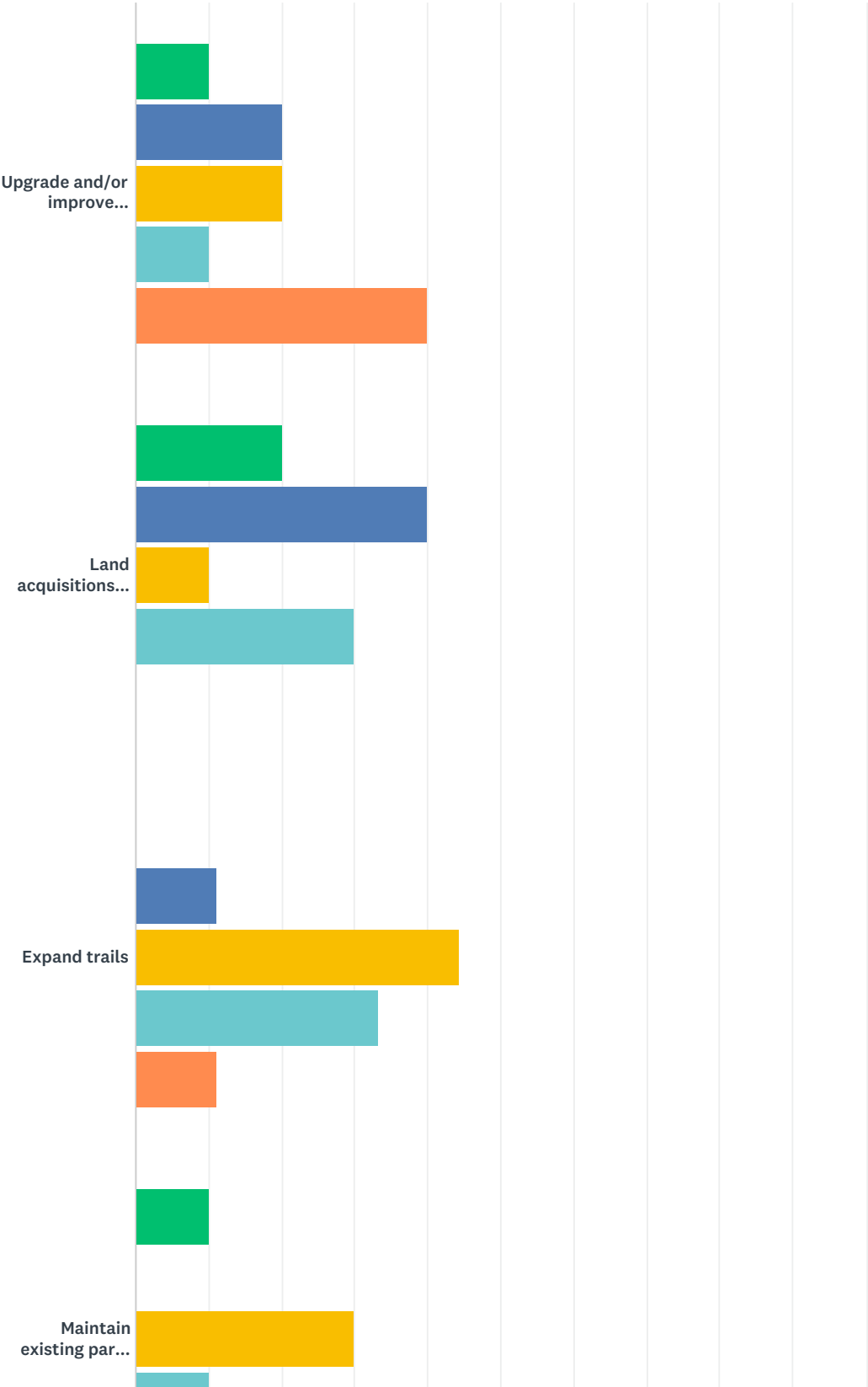
Answered: 9 Skipped: 1

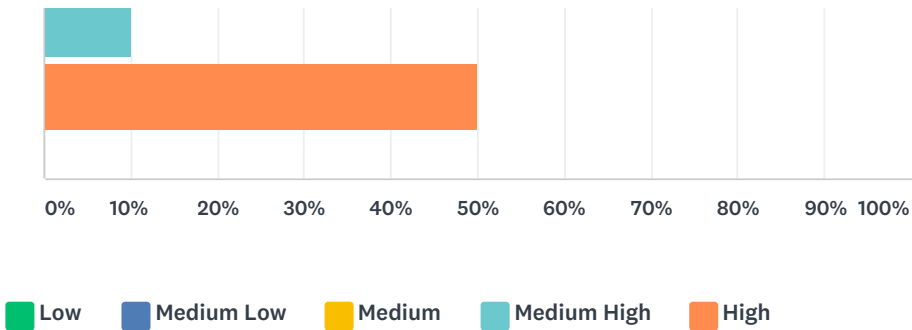


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Reduce mown/irrigated lawn areas	11.11%	1
Increase native tree and shrub planting	33.33%	3
Increase wildflower areas	77.78%	7
Energy saving techniques (solar power, LED lights, timers, etc)	55.56%	5
Promote non-motorized transportation to parks	22.22%	2
Use of recycled products and materials	22.22%	2
Recycle bins in parks	44.44%	4
Increase use of porous paved surfaces for natural drainage (parking areas)	33.33%	3
Total Respondents: 9		

Q12 Please rate, in order of priority, how you feel park and recreation funding should be spent.

Answered: 10 Skipped: 0

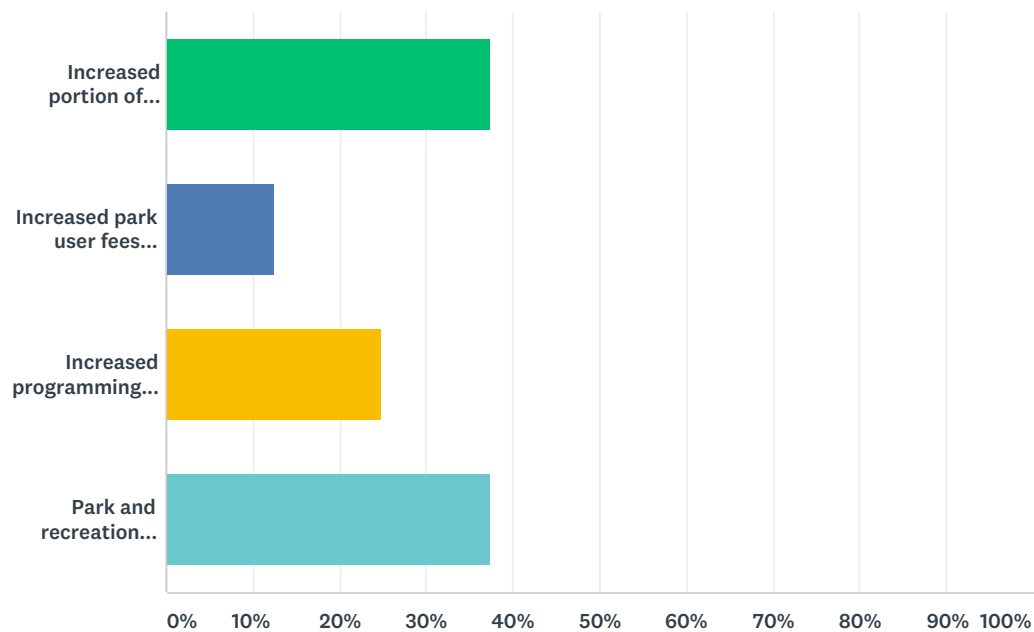




	LOW	MEDIUM LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM HIGH	HIGH	TOTAL
Upgrade and/or improve existing park facilities	10.00% 1	20.00% 2	20.00% 2	10.00% 1	40.00% 4	10
Land acquisitions for new parks/open space	20.00% 2	40.00% 4	10.00% 1	30.00% 3	0.00% 0	10
Expand trails	0.00% 0	11.11% 1	44.44% 4	33.33% 3	11.11% 1	9
Maintain existing park facilities	10.00% 1	0.00% 0	30.00% 3	10.00% 1	50.00% 5	10

Q13 The Township will continue to solicit state and federal grant funding and private donations/fund raising for recreation facility maintenance improvements. What other funding options should be considered?

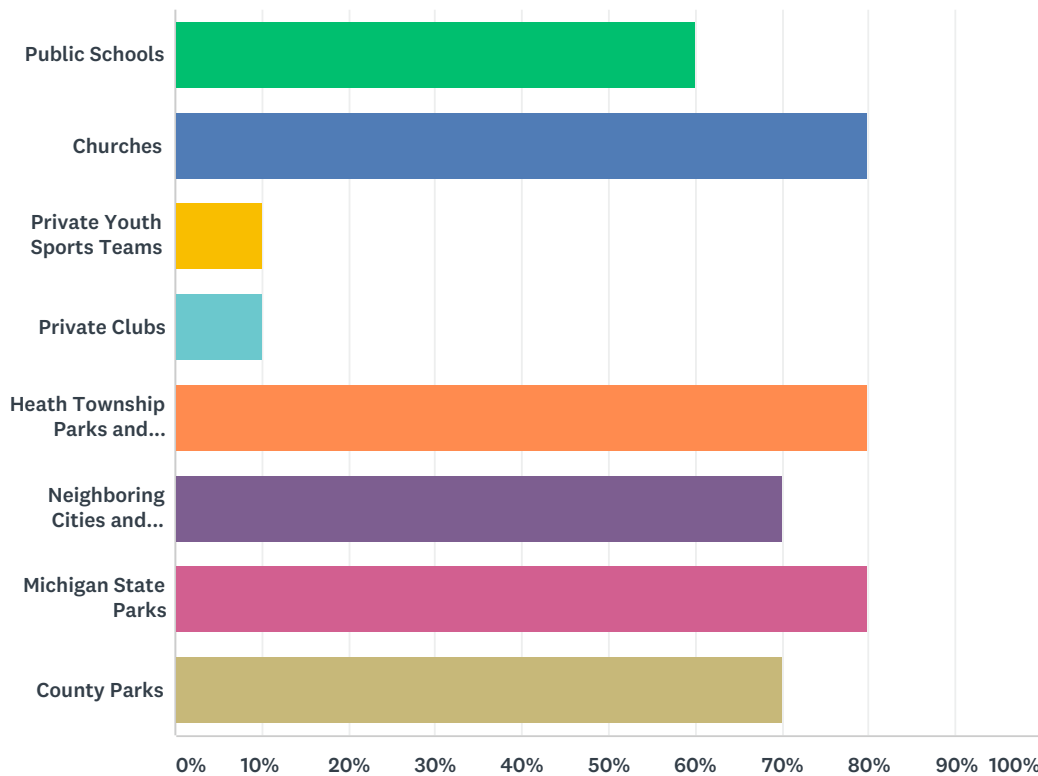
Answered: 8 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Increased portion of Heath Township general tax dollars	37.50%	3
Increased park user fees (rental facilities, etc.)	12.50%	1
Increased programming fees	25.00%	2
Park and recreation mileage	37.50%	3
Total Respondents: 8		

Q14 Check all of the organizations that you or members of your household have used for indoor and outdoor recreation activities during the last 12 months.

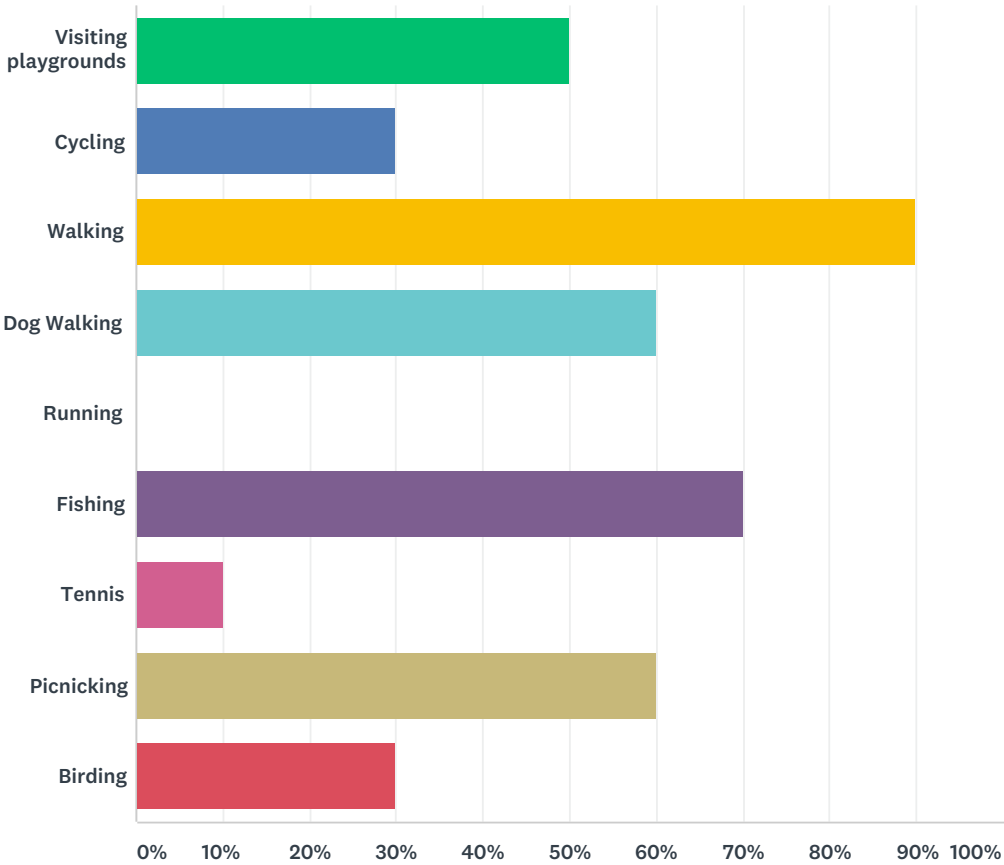
Answered: 10 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Public Schools	60.00%	6
Churches	80.00%	8
Private Youth Sports Teams	10.00%	1
Private Clubs	10.00%	1
Heath Township Parks and Recreation	80.00%	8
Neighboring Cities and Townships	70.00%	7
Michigan State Parks	80.00%	8
County Parks	70.00%	7
Total Respondents: 10		

Q15 Please indicate activities you enjoy:

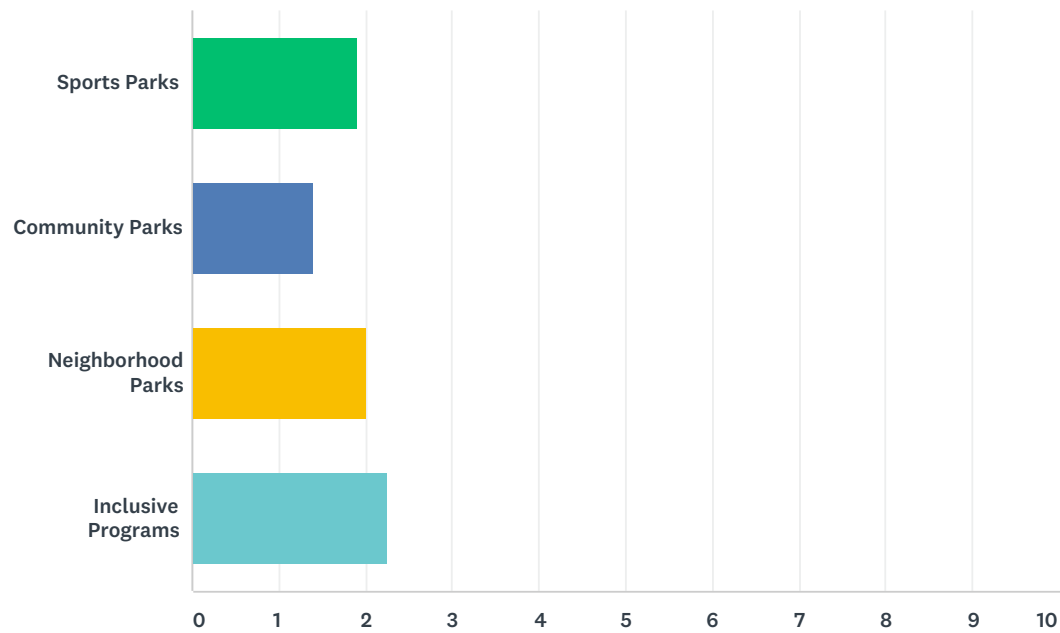
Answered: 10 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Visiting playgrounds	50.00%	5
Cycling	30.00%	3
Walking	90.00%	9
Dog Walking	60.00%	6
Running	0.00%	0
Fishing	70.00%	7
Tennis	10.00%	1
Picnicking	60.00%	6
Birding	30.00%	3
Total Respondents: 10		

Q16 How important is it to have the following in Heath Township:

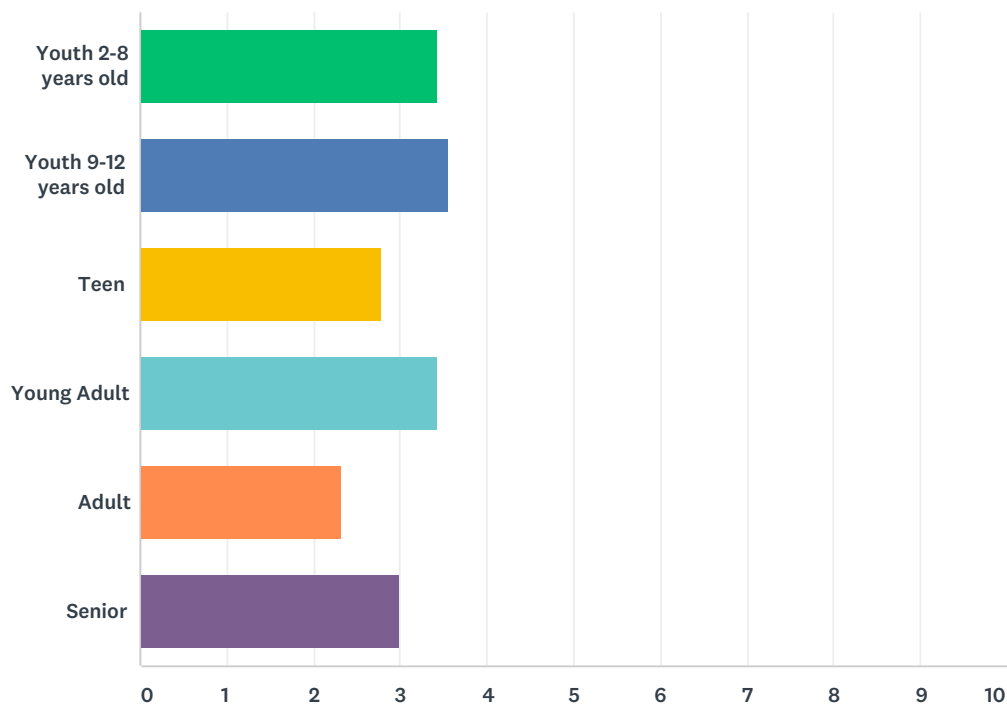
Answered: 10 Skipped: 0



	VERY IMPORTANT	IMPORTANT	NOT IMPORTANT	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Sports Parks	30.00% 3	50.00% 5	20.00% 2	10	1.90
Community Parks	60.00% 6	40.00% 4	0.00% 0	10	1.40
Neighborhood Parks	33.33% 3	33.33% 3	33.33% 3	9	2.00
Inclusive Programs	12.50% 1	50.00% 4	37.50% 3	8	2.25

Q17 There is a need for more programs for the following ages:

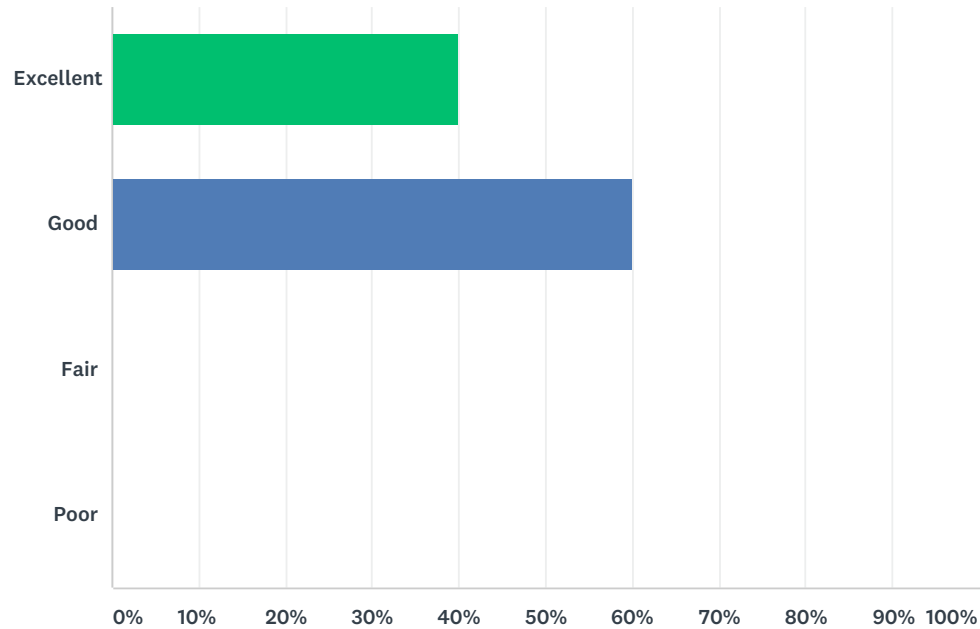
Answered: 9 Skipped: 1



	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DON'T KNOW	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Youth 2-8 years old	22.22% 2	11.11% 1	11.11% 1	11.11% 1	44.44% 4	9	3.44
Youth 9-12 years old	11.11% 1	22.22% 2	11.11% 1	11.11% 1	44.44% 4	9	3.56
Teen	11.11% 1	44.44% 4	22.22% 2	0.00% 0	22.22% 2	9	2.78
Young Adult	0.00% 0	22.22% 2	44.44% 4	0.00% 0	33.33% 3	9	3.44
Adult	11.11% 1	44.44% 4	44.44% 4	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	9	2.33
Senior	11.11% 1	22.22% 2	44.44% 4	0.00% 0	22.22% 2	9	3.00

Q18 How would you rate the overall Parks and Recreation Facilities provided by Heath Township?

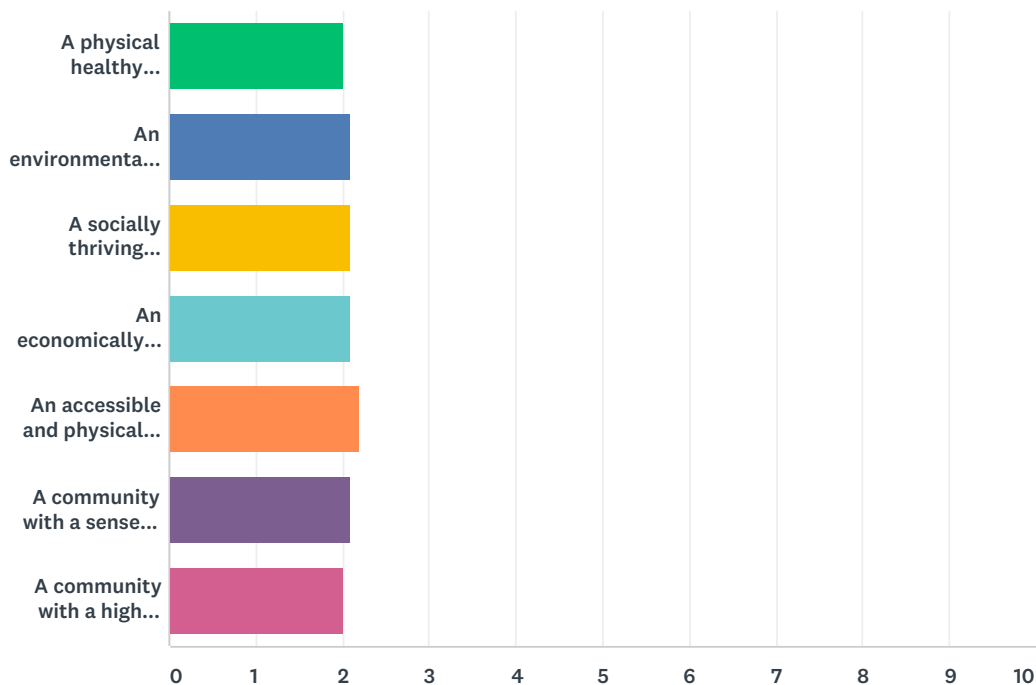
Answered: 10 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Excellent	40.00%	4
Good	60.00%	6
Fair	0.00%	0
Poor	0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 10		

Q19 To what degree do you think Parks and Recreation contribute to HeathTownship being....

Answered: 10 Skipped: 0



	GREATLY CONTRIBUTES	SOMEWHAT CONTRIBUTES	DOES NOT CONTRIBUTE	NO OPINION	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
A physical healthy community	30.00% 3	50.00% 5	10.00% 1	10.00% 1	10	2.00
An environmentally sustainable community	30.00% 3	40.00% 4	20.00% 2	10.00% 1	10	2.10
A socially thriving community	20.00% 2	60.00% 6	10.00% 1	10.00% 1	10	2.10
An economically thriving community	20.00% 2	60.00% 6	10.00% 1	10.00% 1	10	2.10
An accessible and physically connected community	10.00% 1	70.00% 7	10.00% 1	10.00% 1	10	2.20
A community with a sense of place	20.00% 2	60.00% 6	10.00% 1	10.00% 1	10	2.10
A community with a high quality of life	30.00% 3	50.00% 5	10.00% 1	10.00% 1	10	2.00

Q20 Thank you for your participation. If you have additional comments or suggestions please feel free to use the space below.

Answered: 2 Skipped: 8

Heath Township 2018 Community Parks and Recreation Plan Update

6. Recreation Needs and Deficiencies



SECTION 6 RECREATION NEEDS AND DEFICIENCIES

This section of the Plan identifies recreation deficiencies determined through a variety of means. Study methods include comparison to recreational standards for acreage and facilities, geographic distribution of existing facilities, direct input from Township staff and representatives and public input and participation. While each of these methods has its limitations, using a combination of methods will yield a more accurate assessment of recreational needs and deficiencies. The following is a brief description of each of the methods used.

RECREATION STANDARDS

While only a guide, recreation standards provide a benchmark for evaluating the relative adequacy or inadequacy of the Township's recreation system. This Plan has used as a guide the 1983 Recreation, Park, and Open Space, Standards and Guidelines and 1995 Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines published by the National Recreation and Park Association.

Typical recreation standards establish a certain number of activity-specific recreational facilities per 1,000 of population (e.g. 1 tennis court per 2,000 persons). Other standards establish a certain number of acres per 1,000 of population for different types of park facilities, such as neighborhood, community and regional parks. These standards are adapted to reflect the Township's character and compared with the Township's existing and projected population. This Plan will combine both approaches to ascertain deficiencies in recreational facilities and acreage. The 2010 U.S. Census population data were used for the purposes of this study.

There are two basic types of recreational experiences: "active" and "passive." "Active" recreation requires space and facilities capable of accommodating exertive activities. Such facilities include: sports fields, play apparatus areas, open areas, special facilities, such as pools and court areas, and areas for organized activities. On the other hand, "passive" recreation requires little more than space and furniture for quiet, non-exertive activities for a limited number of users. Recreation areas must provide for both types of use and preferably include a variety of opportunities for each to

respond adequately to a wide range of interests and age groups. Parks are generally classified by purpose and area per population served. They range in type from mini-playlots and green areas to large regional and national parks.

The categories used for this plan will be as follows:

1. Neighborhood Parks
2. Community Parks
3. Special Use Facilities
4. Natural Resource Areas
5. Trails

RECREATION STANDARDS FOR ACREAGE

1. Neighborhood Parks

Description - Neighborhood parks serve individual neighborhood populations as determined by the distance that can easily be traveled by local users for relatively short periods of recreation. Facilities provided in these parks are generally active in nature and include multipurpose open play areas for pick-up games, play apparatus, court areas, landscaping, site furnishings and possibly a shelter. Special areas for bike riding or specific court games may also be provided. Activities for all seasons should also be included.

Service Areas - The area served by neighborhood parks is generally considered to be a one quarter (1/4) mile to one half (1/2) mile radius in size and should be uninterrupted by non-residential roads or other physical barriers.

Neighborhood Park Acreage Standards - Nationally accepted standards for neighborhood parks recommend one or two (1-2) acres per 1,000 of population with five (5) acres as a minimum size and five to ten (5-10) acres optimal. It is recommended that the minimum of two (2) acres per 1,000 population be used as a guide for site selection.

It is also recommended that neighborhood facilities be combined with elementary schools. In such cases, the minimum site size should be five to seven (5-7) acres.

Existing Neighborhood School Recreation Acreage:

(Estimated area of school property available for recreation)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Existing Site Acreage</u>
Hamilton Elementary School	<u>2.15</u>
Total	2.15

Needs and Deficiencies: The table below compares the 2010 Township population to the recreation standard of two (2) acres per 1,000 persons.

<u>2010 Population</u>	<u>Neighborhood Rec. Acreage Required</u>	<u>Neighborhood Rec. Acreage Available</u>	<u>Deficiency/ Surplus</u>
3,317	6.63	2.15	-4.48

This comparison indicates a deficiency in neighborhood recreation acreage. It should also be noted that the land is made up of school property which is outside of the control of the Township and not available for public use at all times. If the school sites were not counted, there would be no neighborhood park acreage. However, community parks, such as Trestle Park and Township Hall Park also provide some of the same functions as neighborhood parks and therefore help to offset this deficiency.

The distribution, location, and accessibility of the recreational acreage within the park system service area should also be considered. Ideally, the parks should be centrally located and parks and schools should be adjacent to each other to provide the fullest complement of neighborhood recreation developments. Additionally, the parks should be accessible on foot without having to cross busy streets or negotiate physical barriers.

When evaluating the geographical distribution of neighborhood parks, it is noted that the neighborhood park / school site is in the northwest corner of the Township. However, since this is the most densely populated part of the Township it is appropriate. Attention should be given to the areas of the Township where residential development is occurring or expected to occur in the future. Pedestrian access to neighborhood recreation sites is not always safe and convenient, with sidewalks absent from many of the main thoroughfares.

Hamilton Elementary School is below the recommended minimum size of 5 acres and has limited activities. Hamilton middle and high school provide active recreation opportunities.

2. Community Parks

Description - Community-wide parks provide a range of facilities and areas capable of supporting organized community participation programs that would not be appropriate in neighborhood parks because of their average size or traffic volume generated. Facilities should be centrally located, diverse enough to accommodate all age groups for both active and passive experiences, and organized so that compatible uses relate to one another. Adequate parking and vehicular circulation is also important, since park users will generally arrive at these parks by vehicle. Lighted use areas significantly increase the recreational value of parks of this type. Typical facilities recommended for community parks include ball fields, open use areas, tennis courts, picnic areas, play apparatus areas, restrooms and shelters. Additional special facilities could include band shells, amphitheaters, swimming pools, splash pads, community-meeting buildings, skating facilities, bicycle trails and nature study areas.

As with neighborhood parks, it is often beneficial to develop community parks in conjunction with junior or senior high schools where practical because of the athletic fields and courts potentially available for public use. This arrangement assures the maximum level of use as well as the most practical expenditure of development funds.

Service Area - The area served by community-wide parks varies significantly from one municipality to another because of the distribution of population and related factors. However, a community park usually serves two or more neighborhoods and ½ to 3 mile distance.

Community Park Acreage Standards – The size of a community park varies according to the desired uses, but is usually between 30 and 50 acres. It is recommended that a range of five (5) to eight (8) acres per 1,000 population be used as a standard basis for development.

Existing Community Recreation Acreage – Heath Township currently has the following community parks:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Existing Site Acreage</u>
Trestle Park	1.42
Township Hall Park	<u>13.96</u>
Total	15.38

Needs and Deficiencies - The following table compares the 2017 Township population to the recreation standard of eight (8) acres per 1,000 persons.

<u>2017 Population</u>	<u>Community Rec. Acreage Required</u>	<u>Community Rec. Acreage Available</u>	<u>Deficiency/ Surplus</u>
3,317	26.5	15.38	-11.12

Special Use Facilities

Description - Special use parks are areas for specialized or single purpose recreational activities. The specialized recreational activities may include boat launches, swimming beaches, plazas or squares, historic sites, stadiums, urban greenspaces, community centers and nature centers. There are no generally accepted standards for the size or service areas of these parks.

Existing Facilities – Cub Scout Pack 3033 is chartered by the Hamilton Lions Club and is based in the Scout Cabin located next to Heath Township Hall in Hamilton. All four Elementary Schools are represented by the pack.

3. Natural Resource Areas/Open Space

Description - Natural Resource Areas are lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space and visual/aesthetic buffering. These sites are typically unsuitable for development but offer natural resource potential and can support recreational activities at a level that preserves the integrity of the natural resource. The location and size of these parks are largely governed by availability.

Existing Natural Resource Area Acreage – The Allegan State Game Area covers approximately 10,000 acres or 43% of Heath Township. Oak-pine barrens / savanna communities are present and habitat of various species. The DNR is responsible for the habitat management.

Needs and Deficiencies - There are no recognized acreage standards for natural resource areas.

As the Township continues to develop it is important that key natural resource areas are identified and protected for wildlife preservation and quiet enjoyment by Township residents.

4. Trails

Description – There are a number of different types of trails that can provide both transportation and recreation opportunities. Trails may be located within parks, on an independent right-of-way, or within the road right-of-way. Connector Trails are defined as “multi-purpose trails that emphasize safe travel for pedestrians to and from parks and around the Community” (J.D. Mertes and J.R. Hall, Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines, 1995). These trails are generally located within the road right-of-way and can be divided into two types. Type I has separate paths for different user types, such as pedestrians and bicyclists. Type II has mixed uses and is suited to lighter use patterns.

Existing Facilities – A portion of a DNR designated snowmobile trail exists in the State Game Area of Heath Township.

Needs and Deficiencies - There have been no deficiencies determined for this category and needs vary depending on the community. Trail improvements should be integrated with other regional trail networks to create an interconnected trail system.

RECREATION STANDARDS FOR ACTIVITIES/FACILITIES

A comparison of activity-specific recreational facilities within Heath Township to recreation standards indicates that the Township contains many of the recreational facilities desirable for the current population. However, deficiencies are identified.

Heath Township 2018 Community Parks and Recreation Plan Update

7. Goals and Objectives



SECTION 7

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

In order to stay on a logical, programmed course of action during the next five years, Heath Township has developed the following goals and objectives. These goals and objectives are based upon the recreation inventory and needs assessment, and direct input from citizens, Township officials and staff. The goals are long-range in nature and intended to be broad in scope and flexible enough to accommodate future change. The objectives are short-range in nature and intended to direct specific program and development decisions to be made in the next five years. Goals and objectives are meant to guide the intent of the actions to be taken but be flexible enough to reflect changing attitudes and opportunities as may present themselves in order for the Township to be responsive to its citizens.

Goal No. 1

Strive towards providing universal accessibility to recreational facilities and institute a transition plan to update existing amenities to meet or exceed barrier-free accessibility standards.

Objectives

- Bring all developed park properties in line with ADA guidelines by implementing improvements as identified in the accessibility assessment for each facility
- Design park improvements using the principals of universal accessibility
- Renovate existing playgrounds to keep them in line with current safety and accessibility standards

Goal No. 2

Strive to connect recreational facilities to schools, residential areas and to one another with non-motorized trails.

Objectives

- Maintain and continue to expand existing bike path and sidewalk system
- Construct additional non-motorized trail segments from existing system to all future acquisitions
- Work with Allegan County and neighboring townships to link walkways and trails together



Goal No. 3

Acquire property as it becomes available to ensure recreational opportunities keep pace with the needs of the community.

Objectives

- Target location specific acquisition of land to ensure a good geographical distribution of recreation facilities
- Acquire land adjacent to existing park property to further increase the recreational facilities offered
- Acquire land across the river and downstream from Scutmaat Park

Goal No. 4

Provide a variety of year-round recreational facilities that will meet the present and future needs of all age groups and abilities.

Objectives

- Develop a water spray park to expand summer water-based recreation opportunities
- Address needs and desires as communicated from citizens

Goal No. 5

Promote and maintain strong working relationships based on coordination and support with the schools, surrounding communities and bodies of government, and public and private organizations

Objectives

- Work with, encourage and support all community, school system and municipal groups, organizations and agencies to promote and expand recreational opportunities and programs for all age groups in all areas of the Township in an efficient and coordinated manner
- Mutually utilize recreation facilities and resources to minimize deficiencies
- Encourage the expansion of private recreational development to supplement public development programs

Heath Township 2018 Community Parks and Recreation Plan Update

8. Action Program and Capital Improvement Schedule



SECTION 8

ACTION PROGRAM AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE

ACTION PROGRAM

The Action Program and Capital Improvement Schedule of Heath Township's Park and Recreation Plan states the proposed course of development or improvement that will be taken over the next five years. The Goals and Objectives, from the previous section, serve as guidelines for the development of the Action Program. The Capital Improvement Schedule which follows will focus on the needs identified in the Action Program and will project potential expenditures for the five-year action period on a year-by-year basis. The five-year period will begin in 2019 and extend through 2023. This time period may not be sufficient to accomplish all of the goals and objectives but begins to prioritize those projects that may be achievable within the initial five years.

The Action Program focuses on reduction of deficiencies and expansion and improvements of facilities in a manner that not only meets current needs, but also diversifies the type and quality of recreational opportunities within the Township. The Parks and Recreation Plan identifies these needs in general terms in the Recreation Needs and Deficiencies section; the Action Plan describes specific actions to be taken to address these needs; and the Capital Improvement Schedule specifically itemizes those projects which will be most feasible during the next five years. The proposed schedule will allow for flexibility as funds become available and as opportunities are presented. The following actions are comprehensive and may require more than five years to complete.

Township Hall Park

The Township will add a splashpad and pickleball courts to the park.

Trestle Park



Trestle Park received an acquisition grant in 2018 to expand the property to the North. Improvements to this acquired property include: picnic shelter, overlook deck, boardwalk and step connection to existing park, additional porous parking and lot lighting.

Land Acquisition

The Township will work to purchase land for recreational purposes or natural resource value as it becomes available. This could include land cross the river and downstream from Trestle Park. The Needs and Deficiencies section of this plan shows a deficit in both neighborhood and community recreation space compared to national standards. While improvements to existing park sites is a priority, the Township will also look to acquire additional park land as appropriate pieces of property are identified. The public land available within the Allegan State Game Area does offset any deficiencies in natural land and open space.

Sidewalk / Bike Path Development

The Township will continue to develop the Township's sidewalk / bike path system to expand the recreation and transport network within the Township. Such facilities greatly impact the quality of life of the community. Paved bicycling/walking trails were identified as a priority during the planning process. The Township's goal is to link the Hamilton school sites, Trestle Park, Township Hall Park, and residential areas of highest population density with a paved sidewalk/bike path system. In 2018 the Outdoor Discovery Center purchased and developed a nature preserve (Rabbit river Preserve). A non-motorized link on 135th Ave from the property west to M-40 is a high priority for the township. Linking routes along 135th Avenue, 134th Avenue and 44th Avenue with existing walkways along and west of M-40 are also priorities.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE

As stated in the Action Program, improvements and development will occur as funds and opportunities evolve. Assistance will be solicited from all available sources and will include both physical and financial support. Local businesses, service organizations, land developers, governmental agencies and the school district will be solicited for monetary and material support. The Township will also seek funding assistance from all available sources such as trusts, charitable foundations, and all Federal and State funding programs.



The following schedule is a breakdown of the anticipated projects and projected funding for the next five years. A range of prices is given for a number of items as the scope of work is yet to be determined. Changes in the program may occur if projected funding levels increase or decrease, but it is anticipated that the changes would be related more to adjustments in the time schedule rather than specific projects.

Other Funds (*) as indicated in the following table include:

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF);

Michigan Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF);

MDOT Transportation Enhancement Program;

Other State or Federal funding sources;

Foundation grants; private contributions and others.

All projections are based upon year 2019 costs and will be refined as the program progresses.



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE

<u>Year</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Township</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Project Costs</u>
2019	TOWNSHIP HALL PARK Veterans Memorial	\$100,000		
2020	NON-MOTORIZED TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS Grant Application for 134 th and 135 th Avenue Sidewalk Improvements	\$6,000		
	TOWNSHIP HALL PARK 10 Element Splashpad and Shelter	\$240,000		
2021	NON-MOTORIZED TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS Sidewalk Improvements along 134 th Avenue and 135 th Avenue to Connect to the Rabbit River Preserve.	TBD		
	TOWNSHIP HALL PARK Grant Application for 4 Pickleball Courts	\$5,000		
2022	TOWNSHIP HALL PARK 4 Pickleball Courts	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$300,000
2023	SCHUTMAAT PARK IMPROVEMENTS Improvements to Willard Street Property including: shade shelter, overlook deck, boardwalk and steps, Permeable Parking and LED Lighting	\$400,000		

The following projects have been scheduled between 2019 and 2023 as opportunities / funds allow.		
2019-2023	PROPERTY ACQUISITION Acquisition of additional park property as it becomes available, especially land across the river and downstream from Trestle Park	Costs and Funding to be Determined



SIDEWALK / BIKE PATH DEVELOPEMENT
Continue to develop non-motorized trail connections within the Township and to regional trail networks

Costs and Funding to be Determined

Heath Township 2018 Community Parks and Recreation Plan Update

9. Local Adoption and Certification Plan

Heath Township 2018 Community Parks and Recreation Plan Update

10. Appendices