

# Heath Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2013



Prepared by:  
**M.C. Smith Associates  
and Architectural Group, Inc.**



**HEATH TOWNSHIP  
PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN**

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SECTION 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 2013 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.

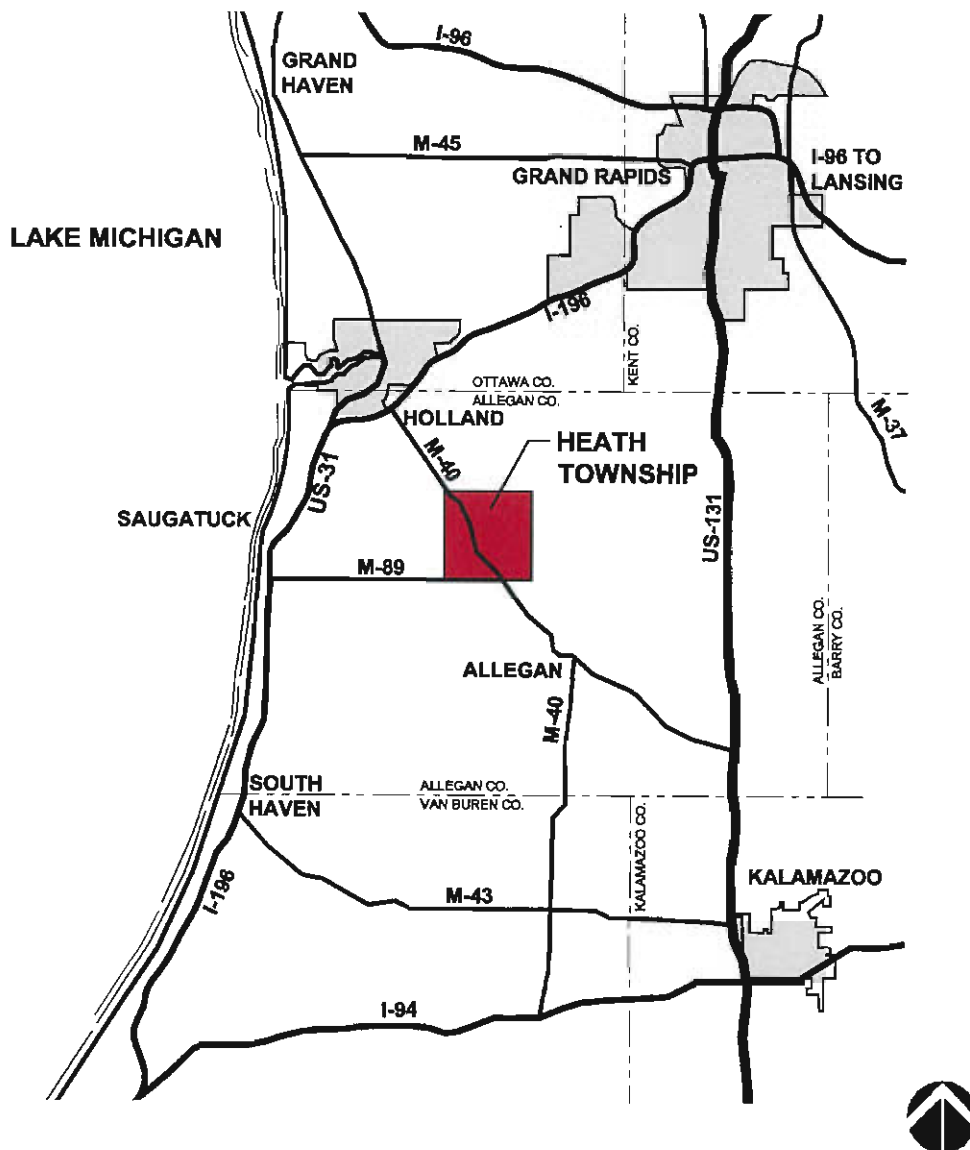
### **PLAN SCOPE**

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



SECTION 2

COMMUNITY  
DESCRIPTION

## **SECTION 2**

### **COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Heath Township is located in central Allegan County in Michigan's lower peninsula, approximately 6 miles southeast of the City of Holland and 25 miles southwest of the Grand Rapids metropolitan area. The approximately 36 square mile Township includes a portion of the Allegan State Game Area, agricultural land, suburban, neighborhoods, commercial and industrial land. The Township is bounded by Oversiel Township to the north, Monterey Township to the east, Valley Township to the south, and Manlius Township to the west. The location map indicates the relationship of Heath Township to neighboring communities.

#### **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.



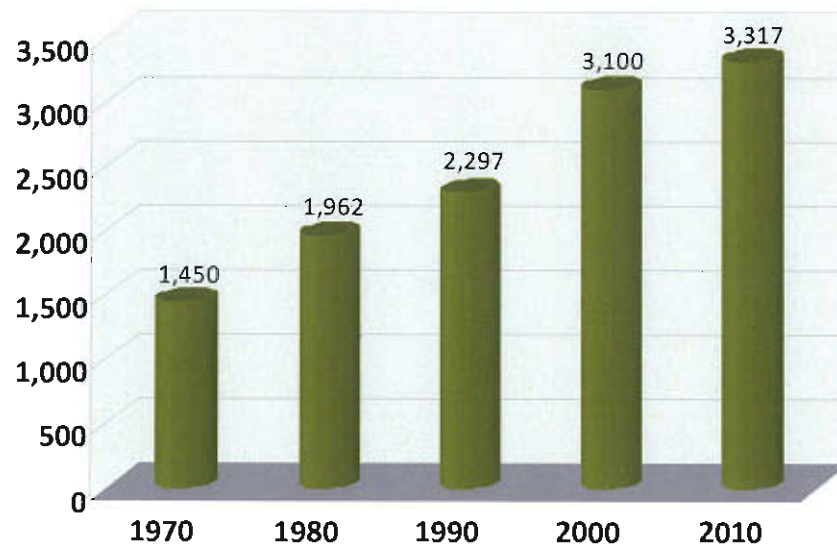
## POPULATION

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**

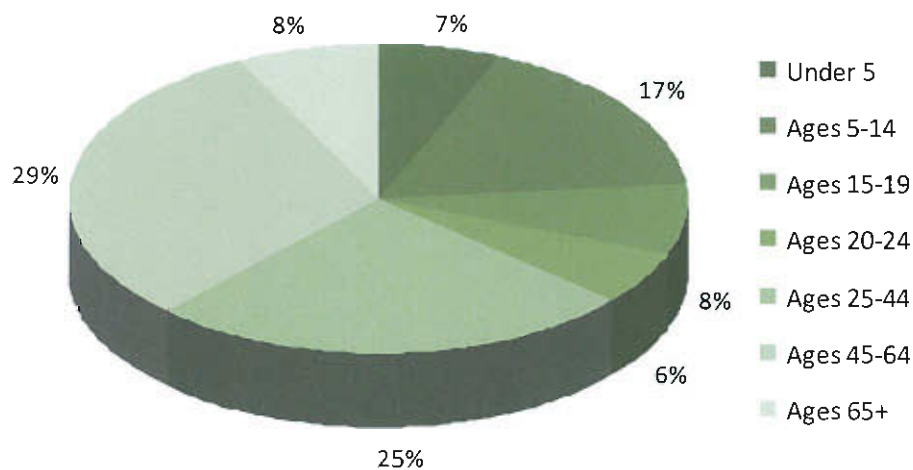


*Source: US Census Bureau 2010 Census*

### 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**

Relief of Heath Township varies from gently rolling to hilly. The flattest terrain occurs in the central and south central portions of the township and the steepest terrain exists in the southeast and east central sections. Elevations generally range between 600 and 800 feet above sea level.

### **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.

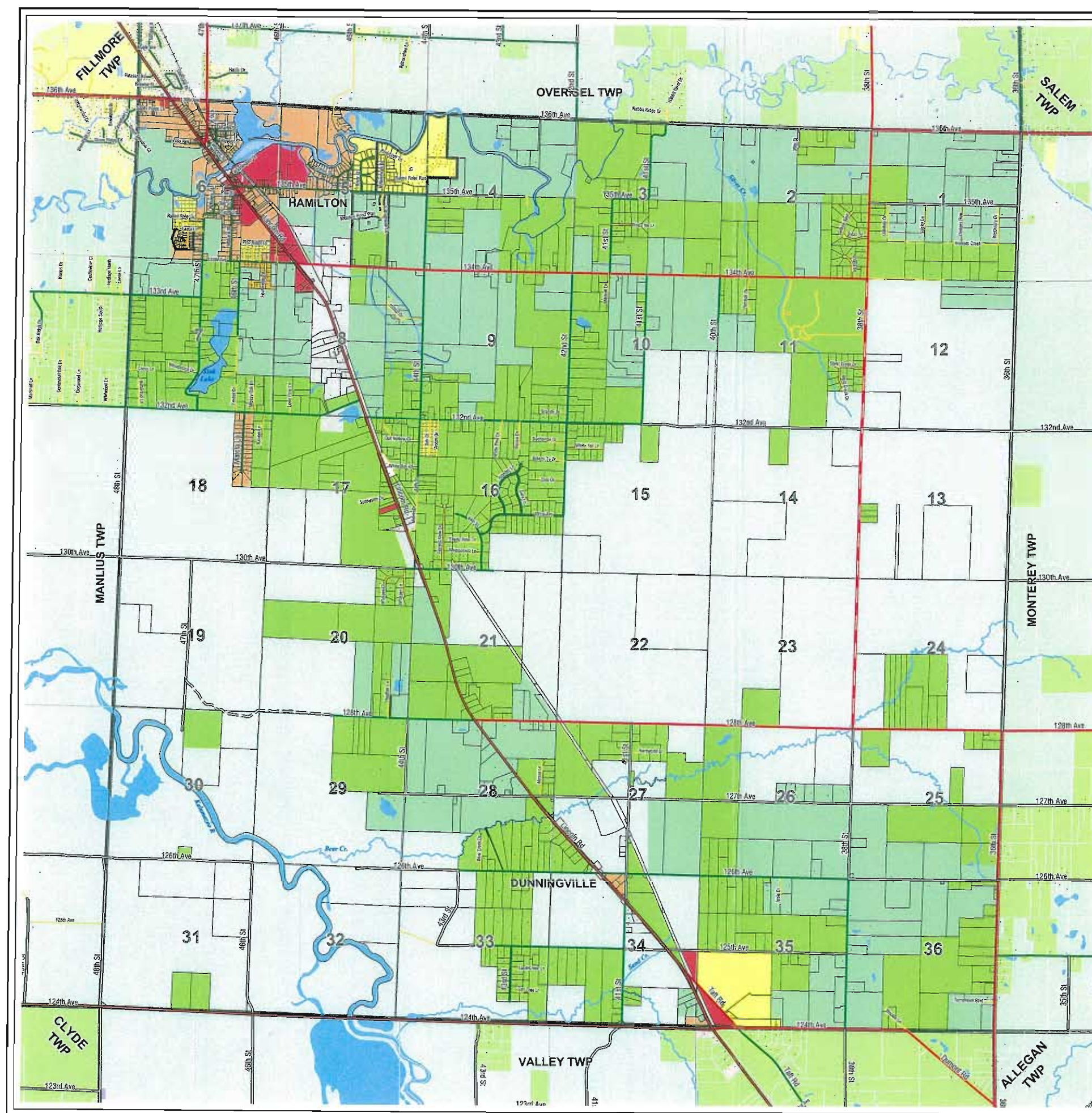
Farmland is concentrated in the northwest quadrant of the township with scattered tracts in the southeast corner. Residential land use is focused in the Hamilton city center area in the extreme northwest corner of the township and extends along M-40 and 132<sup>nd</sup> Avenue.

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.



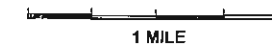


# Heath Township

## 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: 09/09/2011



**HEATH TOWNSHIP FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND BUDGET  
2011-2012**

<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
<b>ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>2011-12 BUDGET</b>	<b>2012-13 BUDGET</b>
Current Property Taxes	\$126,265.09	\$99,000.00	\$128,000.00
Interest - Taxes	\$774.06	\$3,000.00	\$1,000.00
Fire Millage	\$197,487.30	\$218,000.00	\$198,000.00
Road Millage	\$246,858.23	\$275,000.00	\$250,000.00
Taxes Special Assessment-Lights	\$3,036.02	\$2,600.00	\$3,100.00
Trailer Park Fees	\$757.00	\$850.00	\$800.00
Building Permits	\$18,530.00	\$16,000.00	\$20,000.00
State Revenue Sharing	\$247,646.00	\$208,000.00	\$250,000.00
Swampland Tax	\$6,380.20	\$7,500.00	\$7,000.00
Board of Appeals	\$400.00	\$100.00	\$400.00
Planning Commission	\$1,350.00	\$2,900.00	\$1,500.00
Administration Fees	\$31,849.85	\$36,000.00	\$32,000.00
Sale of Cemetery Lots	\$4,031.00	\$15,000.00	\$5,000.00
Perpetual Care Fund	\$245.00	\$500.00	\$250.00
Rent on Township Hall	\$1,085.00	\$800.00	\$1,200.00
Cable TV Franchise	\$25,092.21	\$38,000.00	\$26,000.00
Miscellaneous Other Revenue	\$17,901.45	\$9,000.00	\$18,000.00
Interest-Checking Account	\$2,356.20	\$5,000.00	\$3,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$932,044.61</b>	<b>\$937,250.00</b>	<b>\$945,250.00</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
<b>ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>2011-12 BUDGET</b>	<b>2012-13 BUDGET</b>
Township Board	\$107,045.13	\$127,400.00	\$124,500.00
Supervisor Salary	\$16,250.04	\$16,250.00	\$16,250.00
Expenses	\$151.54	\$1,250.00	\$1,150.00
Trustees Salaries	\$7,550.00	\$7,550.00	\$7,550.00
Expenses	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
Elections	\$2,859.25	\$10,500.00	\$8,000.00
Assesor Salary	\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00
Expenses	\$851.29	\$1,300.00	\$1,100.00
Clerk Salary	\$15,730.08	\$15,730.00	\$16,230.00
Expenses	\$1,321.41	\$2,700.00	\$2,050.00
State Withholding	\$4,356.47	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00
Federal Withholding	\$3,781.58	\$2,500.00	\$4,500.00
FICA Tax	\$5,194.41	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
Board of Review Salaries	\$900.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Expenses	\$319.75	\$200.00	\$400.00
Treasurer Salary	\$15,730.08	\$15,730.00	\$16,230.00
Expenses	\$907.40	\$2,500.00	\$1,600.00



**HEATH TOWNSHIP FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND BUDGET  
2011-2012**

<b>ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>2011-12 BUDGET</b>	<b>2012-13 BUDGET</b>
Building and Grounds	\$83,511.24	\$160,200.00	\$95,200.00
Cemetery Salary	\$518.75	\$2,000.00	\$1,000.00
Expenses	\$52,405.52	\$28,400.00	\$28,400.00
Sexton Salary	\$1,450.00	\$4,500.00	\$3,000.00
Fire Fighting Services	\$197,455.28	\$200,000.00	\$200,000.00
Planning Commission Salaries	\$3,480.00	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00
Expenses	\$3,138.42	\$4,250.00	\$4,050.00
Construction Board of Appeals	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
Board of Appeals Salaries	\$475.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Expenses	\$663.33	\$500.00	\$700.00
Highways and Streets-Utilities	\$18,581.17	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00
Special Assessment Lighting	\$1,192.25	\$2,800.00	\$2,000.00
Road Commission Repairs	\$246,517.65	\$275,000.00	\$275,000.00
Park Department Salaries	\$931.25	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Expenses	\$12,333.30	\$33,600.00	\$33,700.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$814,601.59</b>	<b>\$967,560.00</b>	<b>\$895,510.00</b>

## SECTION 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**

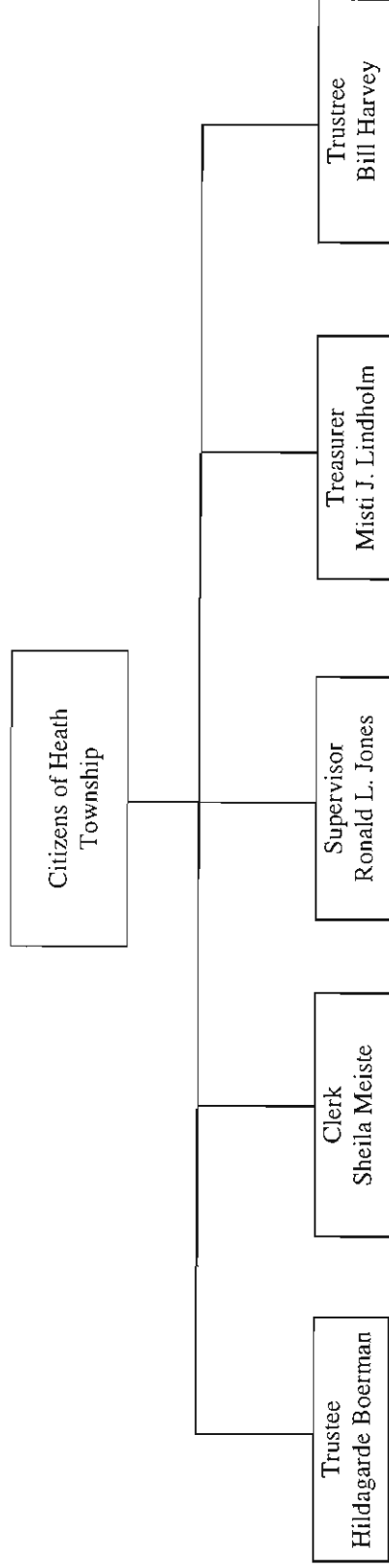
The Superintendent of Hamilton Public Schools manages the Heath Township Recreation Program. Hamilton Recreation offers a full range of sports programs for the youth of Hamilton including; baseball, basketball, cheerleading, football, soccer, softball and volleyball. A schedule of athletic programs is 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 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 Township budget follows. The source of funding is the general fund.



# Heath Township Organizational Chart



SECTION 4

**EXISTING RECREATION  
FACILITIES**

## **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 M.C. Smith and Associates 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: Trestle Park and Township Hall Park.

***Trestle Park***  
***Willyard Street***  
***1.42 Acres***

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Trestle 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 a small picnic shelter, boat launch, restroom building (currently not in use), fishing access and benches.

***Accessibility Rating: 1***

This is an older park with no connecting walkways within the park.

Accessibility Improvements:

- Provide designated barrier-free parking
- Provide paved walkways through the park
- Provide companion seating at benches
- Provide neighborhood connections

***Condition:*** This is an older park that is in need of substantial improvements to maximize its potential.

## *Trestle Park*







**TRESTLE PARK**  
HEATH TOWNSHIP

**M.C. SMITH ASSOCIATES AND  
ARCHITECTURAL GROUP, INC.**  
Landscape Architecture • Parks & Recreation Planning • Urban Planning  
Development Planning • Interior Design • Historic Facility Planning  
1411 University Avenue, Suite 200 • East Grand Rapids, MI 49505  
616-941-3818 • FAX 616-941-1187 • info@mcsa-inc.com



0 15 30 60 90 150  
SCALE IN FEET



### ***Township Hall Park***

***3440 M-40***

***13.96 Acres***

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

#### ***Accessibility Rating: 2***

Paved trails connect the parking area with the restroom/concession building and the ball fields.

#### **Accessibility Improvements:**

- Provide sufficient designated barrier-free parking spaces in both parking areas
- Provide accessible route to all park facilities
- Provide barrier free picnic tables
- Provide companion seating at benches
- Provide accessible spectator area at ball fields
- Replace outdated play equipment
- Provide neighborhood connections

***Condition:*** Improvements are needed to make the park accessible to all users.

## ***Township Hall Park***







**TOWNSHIP HALL PARK**  
HEATH TOWNSHIP

**M.C. SMITH ASSOCIATES AND  
ARCHITECTURAL GROUP, INC.**  
Landscape Architecture • Park & Recreation Planning • Architecture  
Interiors • Planning • Structural Design • Sports Facility Developer  
180 Devonwood Avenue S.E. • East Grand Rapids, MI 49828  
616-951-4213 • FAX: 616-951-1971 • [info@mcsmithgroup.com](mailto:info@mcsmithgroup.com)



0 30 60 120 180 300  
SCALE IN FEET



## **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 134<sup>th</sup> Street, west of 38<sup>th</sup> 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 47<sup>th</sup> Street and Brookside Cemetery is located near Dunningville on M-40. Both greenspace areas provide day use recreation opportunities.



## 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 34<sup>th</sup> 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 2013 EXISTING RECREATION FACILITIES

	Acres	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																						
Trestle Park	1.4													1	1		1					
Township Hall Park	14.0	1	1	1	1									2	1	1	1					
ALLEGAN COUNTY PARKS																						
Silver Creek County Park	320.0													2								
PUBLIC SCHOOLS *																						
Hamilton Elementary School	2.2	1									1	1		2								
Total	337.5	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	7	2	1	2				

\* Percentage of land estimated for recreational use





STATE OF MICHIGAN - DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
**ALLEGAN STATE GAME AREA**  
OVERVIEW OF GAME AREA (11"x17" MAP)  
- General Map -  
ALLEGAN COUNTY

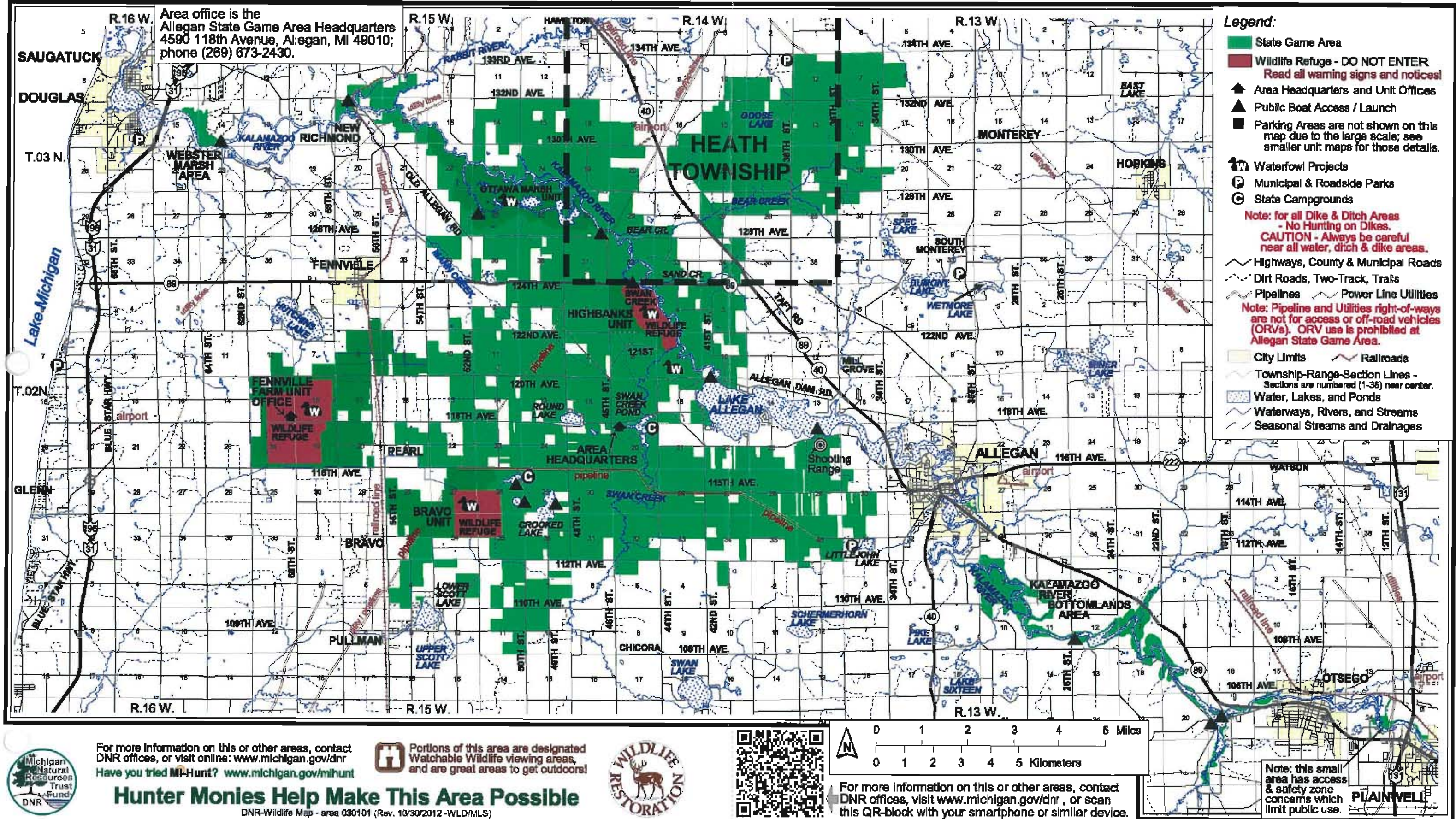


**Important Information:**  
Off-road vehicle use  
is unlawful at  
Allegan State Game Area

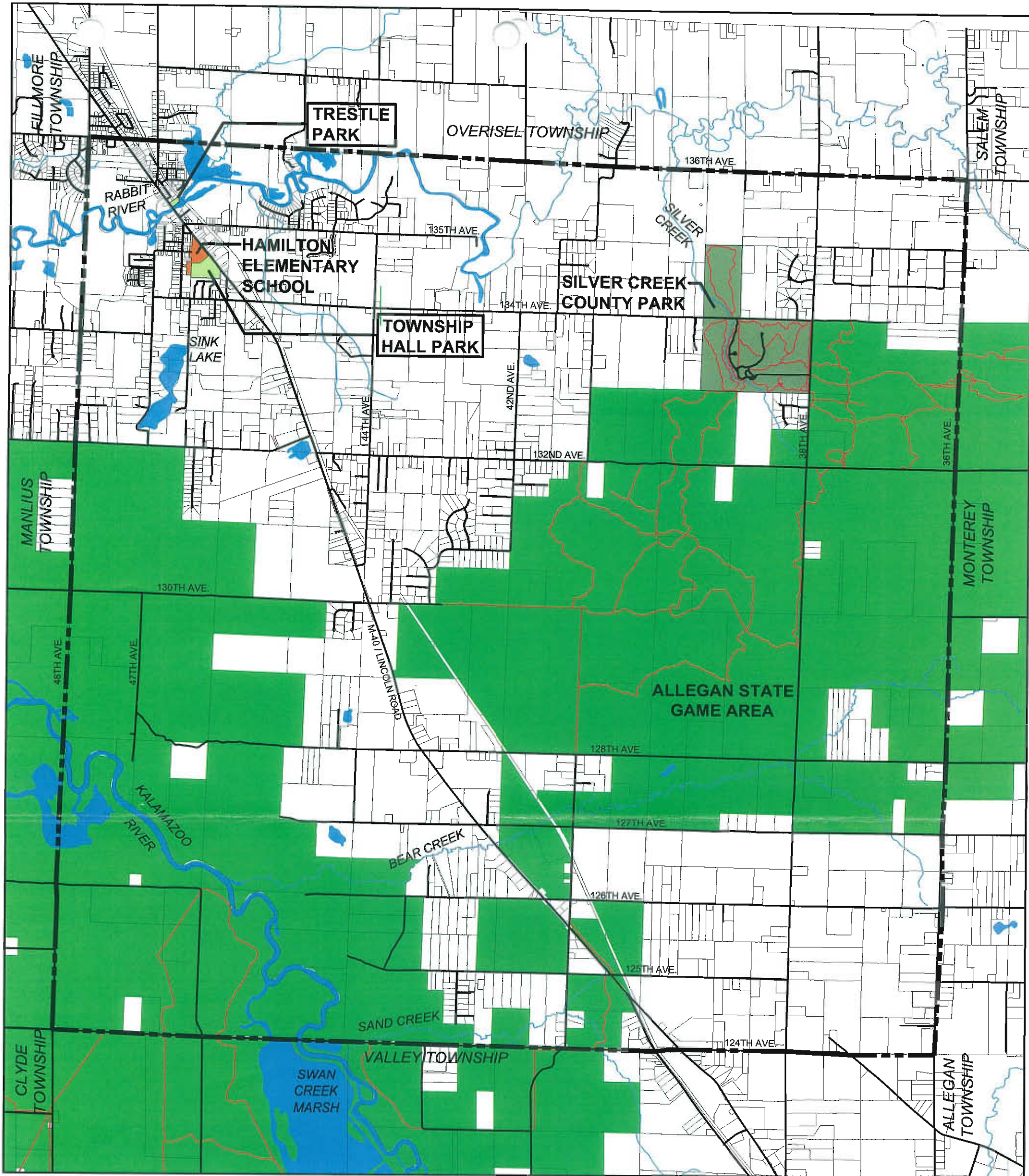
This area has several unit maps with additional details.

*Always use care when near  
all water areas - water levels  
can vary with season & rainfall.*

Horses are prohibited off of marked  
equestrian trail system; See equestrian  
trail system map for details or contact  
the Allegan State Game Area Headquarters.







**LEGEND**

--- TOWNSHIP BOUNDARY



HEATH TOWNSHIP RECREATION FACILITY



ALLEGAN COUNTY PARK



STATE GAME AREA



PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
HAMILTON  
HAMILTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



EXISTING TRAILS

**EXISTING RECREATION FACILITIES**  
**PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN**  
**HEATH TOWNSHIP**  
**ALLEGAN COUNTY, MI**



**M.C. SMITH ASSOCIATES AND ARCHITECTURAL GROUP, INC.**  
Landscape Architecture • Park & Recreation Planning • Architecture  
Downtown Planning • Interior Design • Sports Facility Planning  
629 Greenwood Avenue S.E. • East Grand Rapids, MI 49506  
616-451-3846 • FAX: 616-451-1935 • EMAIL: mesa\_group@aol.com







MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

# ALLEGAN STATE GAME AREA SPECIAL USE AREAS

Great Lakes,  
Great Times,  
Great Resources!  
[www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr)

ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Off-road vehicle use  
is unlawful at Allegan  
State Game Area

scale  
0 1 2 miles



## Legend

- Hard surfaced road
- - - Gravel road
- - - Dirt road
- - - Pipeline
- STATE GAME AREA
- WILDLIFE REFUGE -  
Unlawful to enter
- Natural resources  
department units
- Waterfowl projects
- Public access sites
- Municipal &  
roadside parks
- State campgrounds
- Parking Area

\*\*\* NOTE: \*\*\*

**SPECIAL USE AREAS**

OPEN TO HORSEBACK RIDING AND DOG SLEDS -  
APPLIES ONLY TO STATE-OWNED LAND WITHIN  
BOUNDARIES

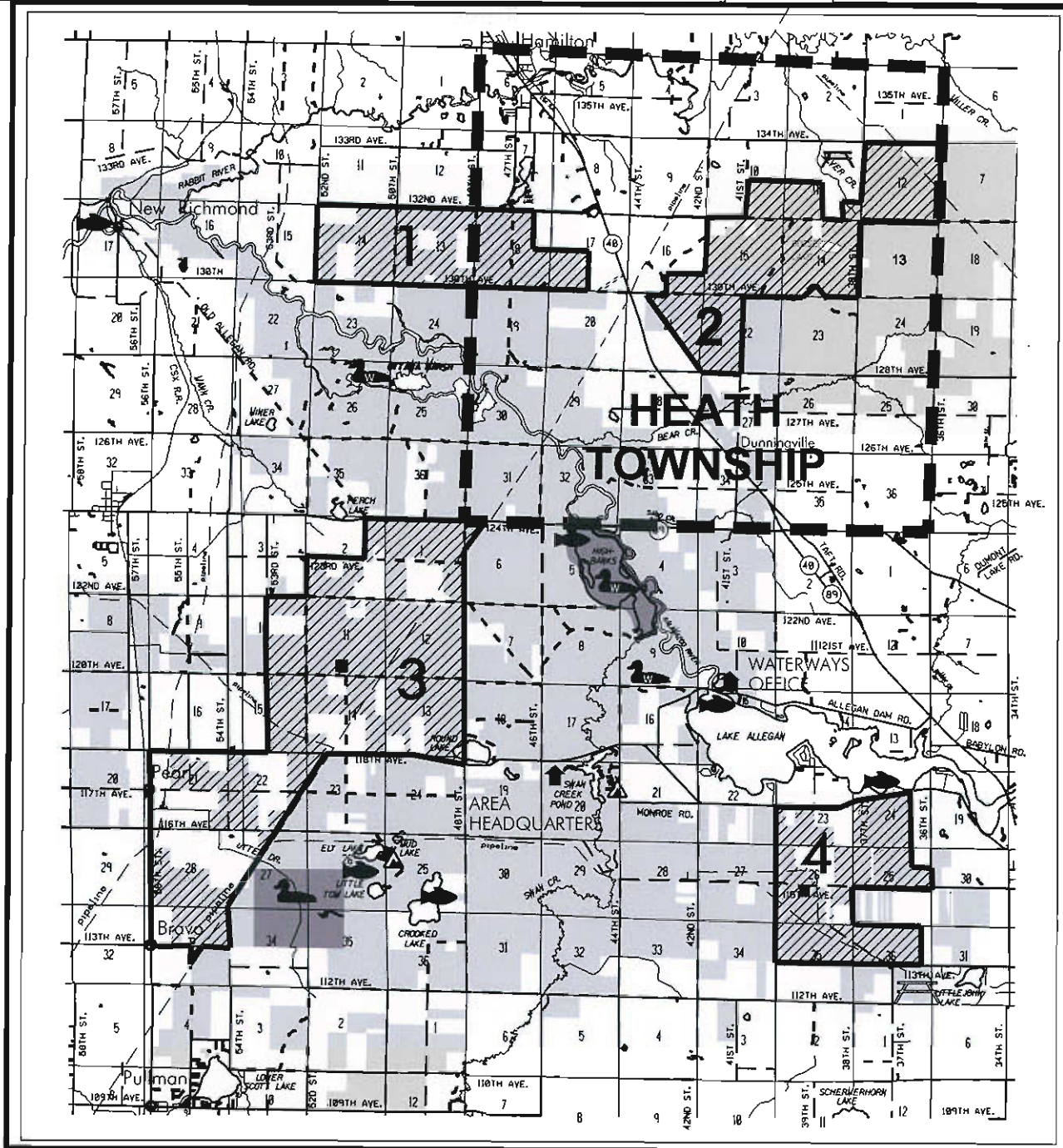
CLOSED from Nov 15 - Nov 30

T. 3 N.

T. 3 N.

T. 2 N.

T. 2 N.



R. 15 W.

R. 14 W.

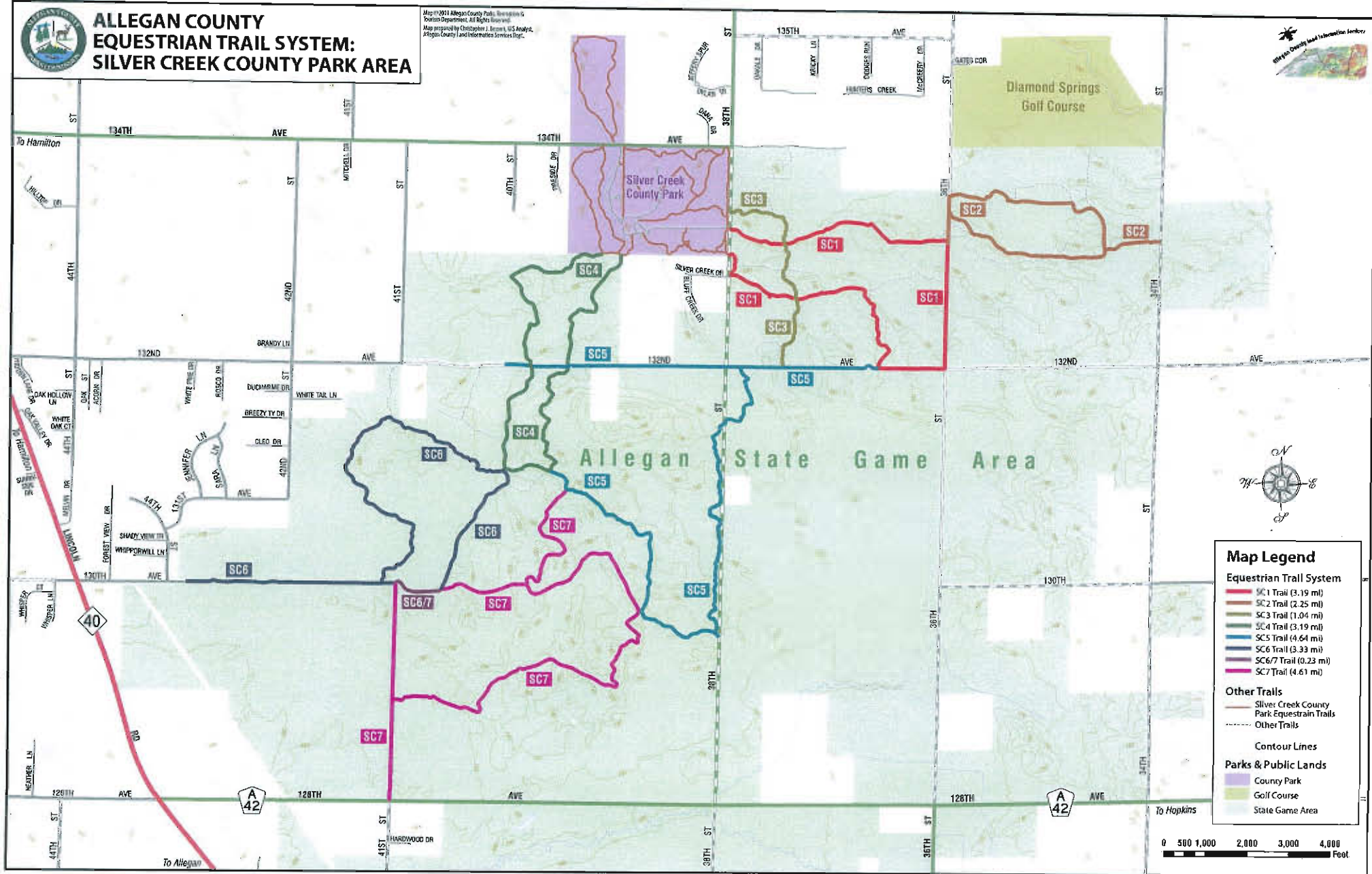
## This Game Area is Managed with Hunter Monies

DNR-Wildlife Map - area 030116 (was 1216), Rev. 9/22/2004 -MLS





Map © 2011 Allegan County Parks, Recreation & Tourism Department. All Rights Reserved.  
Map prepared by Christopher J. Izzoni, GIS Analyst,  
Allegan County Land Information Services Dept.







# Silver Creek County Park

## MAP LEGEND

- |                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Campsites:        | Picnic Area      |
| Horses Allowed    | Trash (Dumpster) |
| Horses Prohibited | Vault Toilets    |
| Fee Deposit Pipe  | Water Pump       |
| Parking Area      | Equestrian Trail |
| Park Boundary     | Hiking Trail     |
| Swamp/Wetland     | Paved Road       |
|                   | Gravel Road      |

Map by Christopher J. Bessert (262) 671-0516  
Allegan County Land Information Services Dept.  
1255 112nd Ave., Suite 102, Allegan, Michigan 49010  
©2011 Allegan County and Christopher J. Bessert

Map Scale: 1:7,200  
One inch = 600 feet

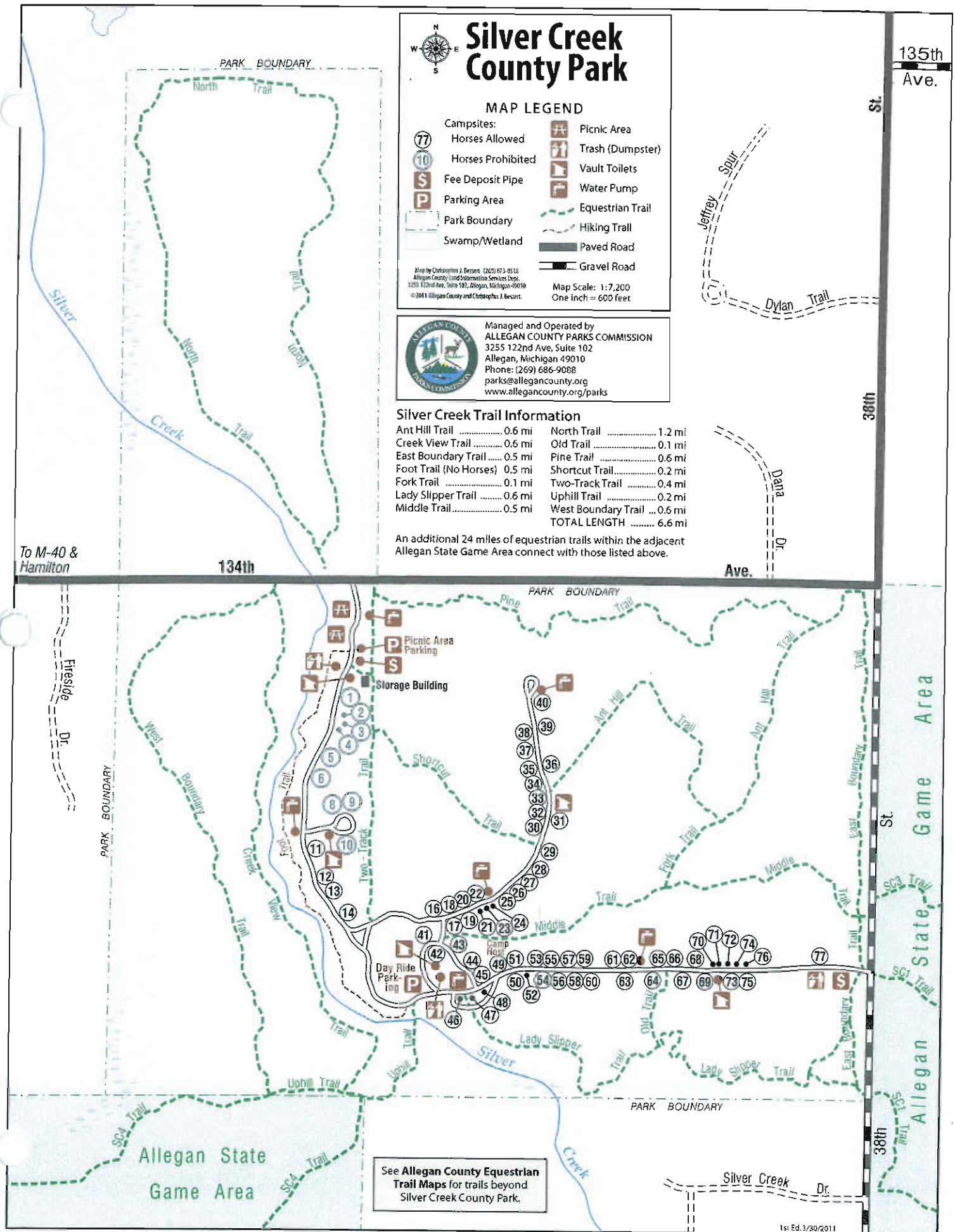


Managed and Operated by  
**ALLEGAN COUNTY PARKS COMMISSION**  
3255 122nd Ave., Suite 102  
Allegan, Michigan 49010  
Phone: (269) 686-9088  
parks@allegancounty.org  
www.allegancounty.org/parks

## Silver Creek Trail Information

Ant Hill Trail .....	0.6 mi	North Trail .....	1.2 mi
Creek View Trail .....	0.6 mi	Old Trail .....	0.1 mi
East Boundary Trail .....	0.5 mi	Pine Trail .....	0.6 mi
Foot Trail (No Horses) .....	0.5 mi	Shortcut Trail .....	0.2 mi
Fork Trail .....	0.1 mi	Two-Track Trail .....	0.4 mi
Lady Slipper Trail .....	0.6 mi	Uphill Trail .....	0.2 mi
Middle Trail .....	0.5 mi	West Boundary Trail .....	0.6 mi
		<b>TOTAL LENGTH .....</b>	<b>6.6 mi</b>

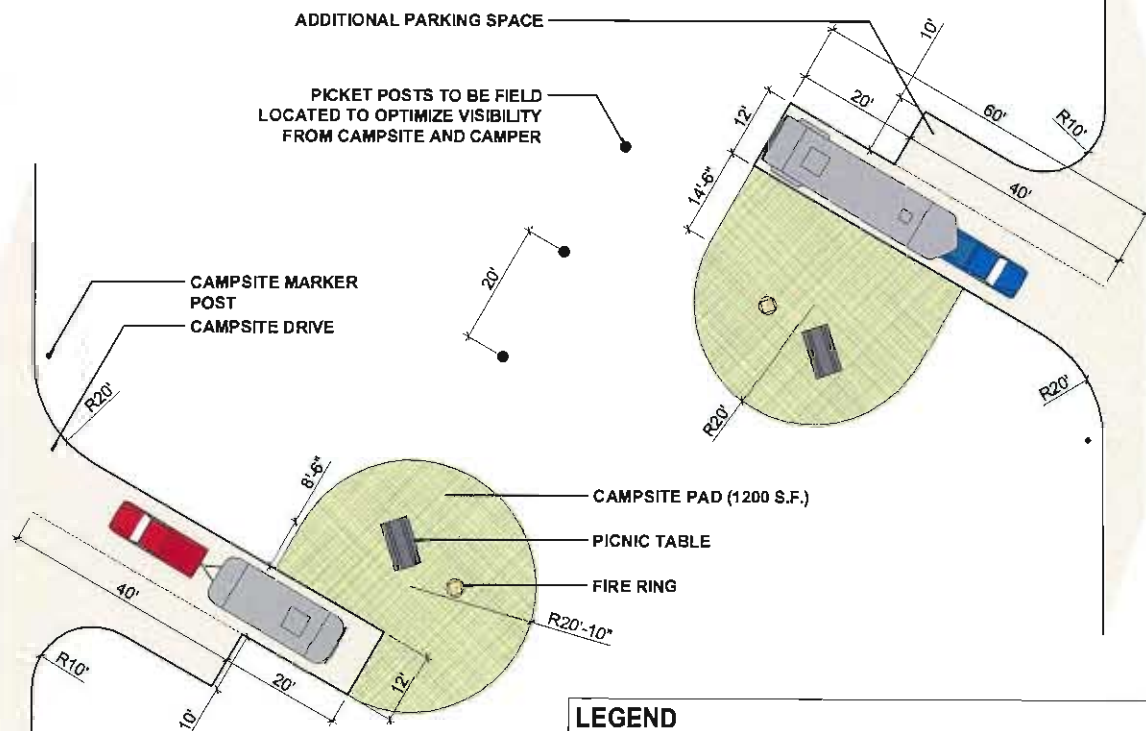
An additional 24 miles of equestrian trails within the adjacent Allegan State Game Area connect with those listed above.





# Typical Improved Equestrian Campsite

Scale: 1" = 10'-0"

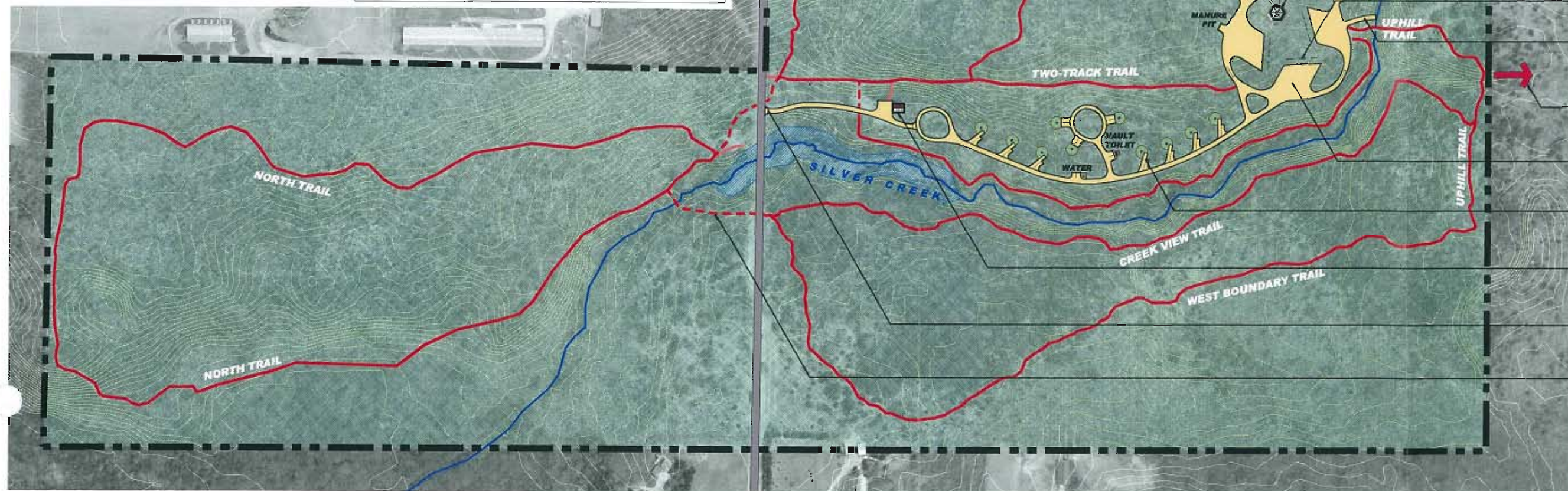


## Typical Improved Campsite

Scale: 1" = 10'-0"

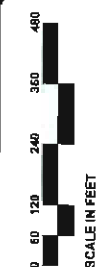
### LEGEND

- 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
- PICNIC SHELTER 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

M.C. SMITH ASSOCIATES AND ARCHITECTURAL GROUP, INC.  
 Landscape Architecture, Park & Recreation Planning, Architecture  
 128 Orono Avenue S.E., 4th Floor, Grand Rapids, MI 49506  
 616-451-3444 • FAX 616-451-1841 • mcsa@mcsmith.com



## MASTER PLAN SILVER CREEK COUNTY PARK AND CAMPGROUND





# Department of Natural Resources Designated Snowmobile Trails Allegan County, Michigan

## Legend

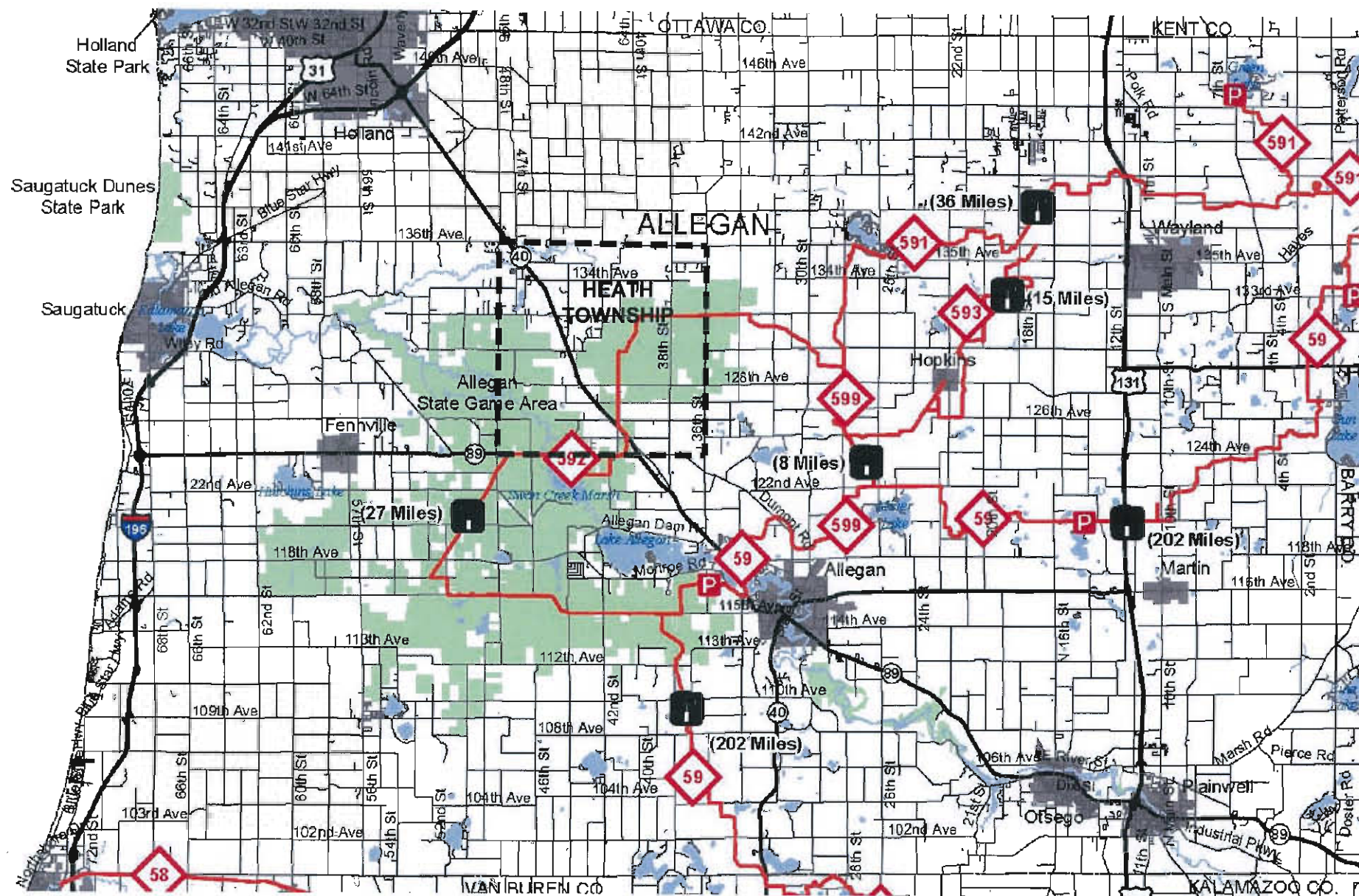
-  Parking Lot
-  Link to Download GPS file
-  Snowmobile Trail
-  Highway
-  Paved or Gravel Road
-  Poor Dirt Road
-  Lakes and Rivers
-  Cities
-  State Land
-  County Boundaries



GPS Data Disclaimer: Locational accuracy +/- 300 feet. Please use the GPS coordinate data as a general guide for trail location. It is not to be used as an exact location reference.

0 1 2 4 6 8 Miles

Updated 8/10/2011



SECTION 5

PLANNING AND 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 October 2012 and July 2013 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, February 11, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. and the second public meeting was held on Monday, March 11, 2013 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 (Date) 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 (Day) (Date) at (Time). The Resolution to formally adopt this plan can be found in Section 8.

SECTION 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>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.15</b>

***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.

## **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>
<b>Total</b>	<b>15.38</b>

**Needs and Deficiencies** - The following table compares the 2010 Township population to the recreation standard of eight (8) acres per 1,000 persons.

<u>2010 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.

The following tables compare the recommended number of facilities per population for Heath Township with the existing facilities available and illustrates any current or projected deficiencies.

**2013 RECREATION STANDARDS AND DEFICIENCIES**  
**HEATH TOWNSHIP**  
**2010 Population: 3,317**

FACILITY	STANDARD	RECOMMENDED FACILITIES	EXISTING* FACILITIES	FACILITY DEFICIENCIES
Softball	1:5,000	1	1	OK
Baseball	1:5,000	1	0	-1
Little League	1:5,000	1	1	OK
Soccer	1:10,000	1	1	OK
Basketball (outdoor)	1:5,000	1	0	-1
Football	1:20,000	1	0	-1
Tennis	1:2,000	2	0	-2
Playground Equipment	1:3,000	1	1	OK
Volleyball	1:5,000	1	0	-1
Running Track	1:20,000	1	0	-1
Swimming Pool (Indoor)	1:20,000	1	0	-1
Picnic Shelters	1:2,000	2	2	OK
Boat Ramp	As available	--	1	OK
Trails	1 system per region	--	0	OK

\*as of 2013 total existing facilities at Township, County Park and Public School properties within the Township.

**SECTION 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 Trestle 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
- Develop a skate park to meet demand
- 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

**SECTION 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 2013 and extend through 2018. 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 upgrade Township Hall Park and develop increased recreational opportunities on currently developed acreage. Proposed improvements include a group picnic shelter with grilling area, play area improvements, skate park, barrier-free loop walking trail and connecting walks, ball field and soccer field spectator area improvements, lighting, bituminous driveway to the bar-b-que pit and boy scout building and landscape plantings. Improvements are needed to comply with current accessibility guidelines and are in response to community needs and desires. The Township currently lacks a skate park. This along with the new open picnic shelter with grilling area, improved play area and accessible spectator seating would benefit a wider variety of users. Accessibility improvements are needed including paved walkways connecting park features, play area improvements and accessible site furniture.

### **Trestle Park**

Trestle Park is a popular park and fishing destination for township residents and beyond. The Township desires to upgrade and continue to develop Trestle Park to realize its full potential. Proposed improvements include a new picnic shelter with permanent tables and lighting, revised parking layout, two accessible viewing/fishing decks, steps and accessible ramp to adjacent street, and porta-john enclosure. Accessibility improvements are needed including barrier-free parking spaces, accessible picnicking opportunities, accessible fishing access and accessible walkways into and throughout the park.

### **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. Linking routes along 135<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 134<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 44<sup>th</sup> Avenue with existing walkways along and west of M-40 are top priority as listed.



## **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 2013 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>
<b>2013</b>	<b>TOWNSHIP HALL PARK</b> Group Picnic Shelter with Grilling Area, Skate Park, Play Area Improvements, Accessible Spectator Areas, Concrete Walkways, Bituminous Drive along north edge of park, Site Furniture and Landscaping	\$500,000		\$500,000
<b>2014</b>	<b>TRESTLE PARK</b> Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant Application			
<b>2015-2016</b>	<b>TRESTLE PARK</b> Picnic Shelter, Walkways, Accessible Ramp, Viewing / Fishing Deck, Overlook Deck, Site Furniture and Landscaping	\$150,000	MNRTF \$150,000	\$300,000
<b>2016</b>	Sidewalk Improvements along 135 <sup>th</sup> Avenue	TBD	TBD	TBD
<b>2018</b>	Sidewalk Improvements along 134 <sup>th</sup> Avenue	TBD	TBD	TBD
<b>The following projects have been scheduled between 2013 and 2018 as opportunities / funds allow.</b>				
<b>2013-2018</b>	<b>PROPERTY ACQUISITION</b> 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		
	<b>SIDEWALK / BIKE PATH DEVELOPEMENT</b> Continue to develop non-motorized trail connections within the Township and to regional trail networks	Costs and Funding to be Determined		



# MASTER PLAN TRESTLE PARK HEATH TOWNSHIP, MICHIGAN



DATE  
3.11.13



M.C. SMITH ASSOCIATES AND  
ARCHITECTURAL GROUP, INC.  
Landscape Architecture • Park & Recreation Planning • Architecture  
Development Planning • Interior Design • Sports Facility Planning  
635 Greenwood Avenue, S.E. • Kent Grand Rapids, MI 49508  
616-461-9315 • FAX: 616-461-1958 • EMAIL: mcsa@mcsmith.com







**Trestle Park - Master Plan  
Heath Township  
Preliminary Cost Estimate  
March 19, 2013**

Description	Unit	No. of Units	Price	Extension
<b>Site Construction</b>				
Site Preparation and Grading	LS	1	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
Remove Picnic Shelter	LS	1	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Miscellaneous Removals	LS	1	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Concrete Paving	SF	6,790	\$3.00	\$20,370.00
Concrete Stairs	SF	170	\$20.00	\$3,400.00
Stair Railings	LF	72	\$30.00	\$2,160.00
Picnic Shelter	LS	1	\$24,000.00	\$24,000.00
Parking Area Striping	LS	1	\$500.00	\$500.00
<b>Subtotal</b>				<b>\$73,930.00</b>

**Wood Structures**

Ramp and Overlook Deck	SF	990	\$45.00	\$44,550.00
Boardwalk and Deck Below Dam	SF	780	\$40.00	\$31,200.00
Deck Above Dam	SF	720	\$50.00	\$36,000.00
Porta John Enclosure	LF	24	\$30.00	\$720.00
<b>Subtotal</b>				<b>\$112,470.00</b>

**Site Amenities**

Benches	EA	7	\$1,200.00	\$8,400.00
Relocate Existing Benches	EA	1	\$300.00	\$300.00
Tackle Box Stand	EA	2	\$500.00	\$1,000.00
Picnic Tables	EA	6	\$1,100.00	\$6,600.00
Group Grill	EA	1	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00
Serving Table	EA	1	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Concrete Wheelstops	EA	11	\$80.00	\$880.00
Park Sign	LS	1	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
Barrier-Free Sign	EA	1	\$300.00	\$300.00
Relocate Plaque	LS	1	\$200.00	\$200.00
Site Lighting & Electrical Service	EA	3	\$3,500.00	\$10,500.00
Uplights on Trestle	EA	2	\$3,000.00	\$6,000.00
<b>Subtotal</b>				<b>\$38,880.00</b>



#### Landscape and Restoration

Deciduous Trees	EA	4	\$350.00	\$1,400.00
Bank Plantings	LS	1	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Seeding and Topsoil	SY	3,500	\$1.50	\$5,250.00
<b>Subtotal</b>				<b>\$8,150.00</b>

<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$233,430.00</b>
<b>Contingencies @ 10%</b>	<b>\$23,343.00</b>
<b>Professional Fees 8%</b>	<b>\$20,541.84</b>
<b>Topographic Survey &amp; Soil Borings</b>	<b>\$6,000.00</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$283,314.84</u></b>

Evaluations of the Project Budget and Estimates of Construction Cost prepared by M.C. Smith Associates represents their judgement as design professionals. It is recognized, however, M.C. Smith Associates has no control over the cost of labor, materials or equipment, nor a contractor's methods of determining bid prices, or over competitive bidding, or market conditions. Accordingly, M.C. Smith Associates cannot and does not warrant or represent that bids or negotiated prices will not vary from the Project Budget or from any estimate of construction cost or evaluation prepared by M.C. Smith Associates.



**MASTER PLAN**  
**TOWNSHIP HALL PARK**  
 HEATH TOWNSHIP, MICHIGAN



DATE  
 3.11.13



**M.C. SMITH ASSOCIATES AND  
 ARCHITECTURAL GROUP, INC.**  
 Landscape Architecture • Park & Recreation Planning • Architecture  
 Surveying Planning • Interior Design • Sports Facility Planning  
 139 Greenwood Avenue S.E. • East Grand Rapids, MI 49506  
 616-431-3344 • FAX 616-431-1801 • EMAIL: mcsa@mcsgroup.com







**Township Hall Park - Master Plan**  
**Heath Township**  
**Preliminary Cost Estimate**  
**March 19, 2013**

Description	Unit	No. of Units	Price	Extension
<b>Site Construction</b>				
Site Preparation and Grading	LS	1	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00
Remove Picnic Shelter	LS	1	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Miscellaneous Removals	LS	1	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
Concrete Walks	SF	24,000	\$3.00	\$72,000.00
Soccer Field Bleacher Pad	SF	950	\$3.00	\$2,850.00
Ballfield Player/Spectator Paving	SF	5,150	\$3.00	\$15,450.00
Bituminous Paving	SY	1,350	\$18.00	\$24,300.00
Fence Along School Property	LF	370	\$20.00	\$7,400.00
<b>Subtotal</b>				<b>\$152,500.00</b>

**Park Features**

Picnic Shelter and Slab	LS	1	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Shade Structure and Slab	LS	1	\$27,300.00	\$27,300.00
Play Area Renovation	LS	1	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00
Water Spray Area	LS	1	\$90,000.00	\$90,000.00
Basketball Court	LS	1	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
Skate Park	LS	1	\$80,000.00	\$80,000.00
<b>Subtotal</b>				<b>\$307,300.00</b>

**Site Amenities**

Benches	EA	8	\$1,200.00	\$9,600.00
Picnic Tables	EA	14	\$1,100.00	\$15,400.00
Group Grill	EA	2	\$1,200.00	\$2,400.00
Serving Table	EA	2	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00
Soccer Bleacher	EA	1	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
Site Lighting & Electrical Service	LS	1	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Gate	EA	1	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
<b>Subtotal</b>				<b>\$44,900.00</b>

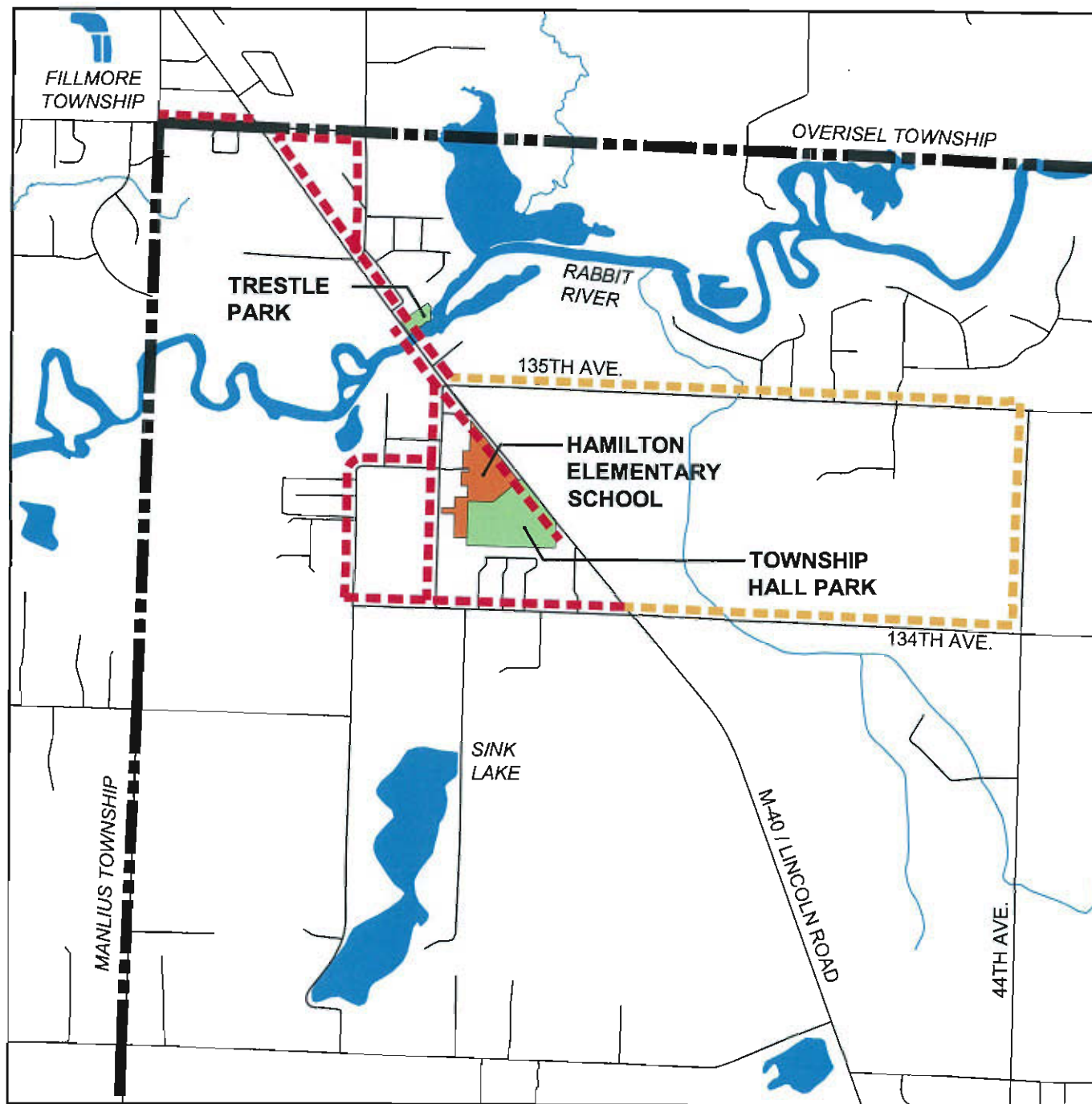


### Landscape and Restoration

Deciduous Trees	EA	43	\$325.00	\$13,975.00
Evergreen Trees	EA	11	\$200.00	\$2,200.00
Seeding and Topsoil	SY	10,500	\$1.75	\$18,375.00
Irrigation	LS	1	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00
<b>Subtotal</b>				<b>\$46,550.00</b>

<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$551,250.00</b>
<b>Contingencies @ 10%</b>	<b>\$55,125.00</b>
<b>Professional Fees 8%</b>	<b>\$48,510.00</b>
<b>Topographic Survey &amp; Soil Borings</b>	<b>\$6,500.00</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$661,385.00</u></b>

Evaluations of the Project Budget and Estimates of Construction Cost prepared by M.C. Smith Associates represents their judgement as design professionals. It is recognized, however, M.C. Smith Associates has no control over the cost of labor, materials or equipment, nor a contractor's methods of determining bid prices, or over competitive bidding, or market conditions. Accordingly, M.C. Smith Associates cannot and does not warrant or represent that bids or negotiated prices will not vary from the Project Budget or from any estimate of construction cost or evaluation prepared by M.C. Smith Associates.



## LEGEND

- EXISTING SIDEWALK
- PROPOSED SIDEWALK



# SIDEWALK IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN  
HEATH TOWNSHIP  
ALLEGAN COUNTY, MI

M.C. SMITH ASSOCIATES AND  
ARCHITECTURAL GROUP, INC.  
Landscape Architecture • Park & Recreation Planning • Architecture  
Downsizing Planning • Interior Design • Sports Facility Planning  
133 Greenwood Avenue S.E. • Tallahassee, Florida 32309-0998  
813-461-5515 FAX: 813-461-1925 • EMAIL: mcsa\_group@aol.com





**SECTION 9**

**LOCAL ADOPTION AND  
CERTIFICATION PLAN**

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

By Authority of Parts 19, 703 and 716 of Act 451, P.A. 1994, as amended, submission of this  
information is required for eligibility to apply for grants

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

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

**PLAN INFORMATION**

Name of Plan:

Heath Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2013

List the community names (including school districts) covered by the plan	County	Month and year plan adopted by the community's governing body
Heath Township	Allegan	

**PLAN CONTENT**

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

☒ **1. COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION**☒ **2. ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE**

- ☒ Roles of Commission(s) or Advisory Board(s)
- ☒ Department, Authority and/or Staff Description and Organizational Chart
- ☒ Annual and Projected Budgets for Operations, Maintenance, Capital Improvements and Recreation
- ☒ Programming
- ☒ Current Funding Sources
- ☐ Role of Volunteers
- ☒ Relationship(s) with School Districts, Other Public Agencies or Private Organizations

**Regional Authorities or Trailway Commissions Only**

- ☐ Description of the Relationship between the Authority or Commission and the Recreation Departments of Participating Communities
- ☐ Articles of Incorporation

☒ **3. RECREATION INVENTORY**

- ☒ Description of Methods Used to Conduct the Inventory
- ☒ Inventory of all Community Owned Parks and Recreation Facilities
- ☒ Location Maps (site development plans recommended but not required)
- ☒ Accessibility Assessment
- ☐ Status Report for all Grant-Assisted Parks and Recreation Facilities

☐ **4. RESOURCE INVENTORY (OPTIONAL)**☒ **5. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS**



☒ **6. DESCRIPTION OF THE PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS**

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

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

Date of the Notice \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Notice \_\_\_\_\_

Plan Location \_\_\_\_\_

Duration of Draft Plan Public Review Period (Must be at Least 30 Days) \_\_\_\_\_

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

Date of Notice \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Newspaper \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Meeting \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Copy of the Minutes from the Public Meeting

☒ **7. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

☒ **8. ACTION PROGRAM**

☒ **9. POST-COMPLETION SELF-INSPECTION REPORT**

**PLAN ADOPTION DOCUMENTATION**

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

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

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

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

- ☐ 1. Official resolution of adoption by the governing body dated: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ 2. Official resolution of the \_\_\_\_\_ Commission or Board, recommending adoption of the plan by the governing body, dated: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☒ 3. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to County Planning Agency dated: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☒ 4. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to Regional Planning Agency dated: \_\_\_\_\_

**OVERALL CERTIFICATION**

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

*I hereby certify that the recreation plan for*

\_\_\_\_\_ *includes the required content, as indicated*  
(Local Unit of Government)  
*above and as set forth by the DNR.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Official for the Local Unit of Government      Date

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

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

**DNR USE ONLY - APPROVAL**

The recreation plan is approved by the DNR and the community (ies) covered by the plan, as listed on page 1 of this checklist is/are eligible to apply for recreation grants through

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

By: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Grants Management      Date



**Heath Township  
Parks and Recreation Plan  
Resolution of Adoption**

WHEREAS Heath Township has undertaken a five year Park and Recreation Plan which describes the physical features, existing recreation facilities and the desired actions to be taken to improve and maintain recreation facilities within the Township during the period between 2013 and 2018; and

WHEREAS two public comment sessions were held on Monday, February 11, and Monday, March 11, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. at regularly scheduled Township Board Meetings held at the Township Hall on M-40 / Lincoln Road to provide opportunities for citizens to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the Recreation Plan; and

WHEREAS Heath Township has developed the plan for the benefit of the entire community and to adopt the plan as a document to assist in meeting the recreation needs of the community; and

WHEREAS a Public Hearing was held at the regularly scheduled Township Board Meeting on (Day) (Date) at (Time) to take further public comment; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Heath Township Board of Trustees hereby adopts the Heath Township Park and Recreation Plan as a guideline for improving recreation for the residents of the Township.

The foregoing resolution was offered by \_\_\_\_\_, supported by \_\_\_\_\_, with the vote being as follows:

YEAS:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and original copy of a resolution adopted by the Heath Township Board of Trustees at a regular meeting thereof held on the day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2013.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



Landscape Architecture  
Park & Recreation Planning  
Architecture • Urban Design  
Sports Facility Planning

August 2013

Mr. Dan Wedge  
Allegan County Parks, Recreation and Tourism  
750 Airway Dr.  
Allegan, MI 49010

Dear Mr. Wedge:

Enclosed for your review is a copy of the Heath Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan adopted by the Township Board on (Date). We are submitting this Plan in accordance with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' guidelines for preparing a community recreation plan.

If you need additional information, please feel free to call.

Sincerely,

Tiffany Smith  
Vice President

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Ronald Jones, Township Supervisor  
Ms. Hilda Boerman, Township Trustee  
Mr. Michael C. Smith



Landscape Architecture  
Park & Recreation Planning  
Architecture • Urban Design  
Sports Facility Planning

August, 2013

Mr. Dave Bee  
West Michigan Regional Planning Commission  
820 Monroe Avenue N.W.  
Suite 214  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

Dear Mr. Bee:

Enclosed for your review is a copy of the Heath Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan adopted by the Township Board on (Date). We are submitting this Plan in accordance with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' guidelines for preparing a community recreation plan.

If you need additional information, please feel free to call.

Sincerely,

Tiffany Smith  
Vice President

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Ronald Jones, Township Supervisor  
Ms. Hilda Boerman, Township Trustee  
Mr. Michael C. Smith



SECTION 10  
APPENDICES



54 W. 8th Street, Holland, Michigan 49423  
(616) 392-2311. Fax (616) 392-3526

Heath Township  
Attn: Sheila Meiste  
P.O. Box 241  
Hamilton, MI 49419

# Affidavit of Publication

Account Number 21622

Copy of Invoice Dated 2/7/2013

Date	Product Description	Columns	Depth	Total Linage	Gross Rate	Gross Amount
2/3/2012	Notice of Public Input Meeting	4	3.01	12.04	\$13.29	\$160.05

## HEATH TOWNSHIP, MICHIGAN NOTICE OF PUBLIC INPUT MEETING

The Heath Township Board will hold a Public Input Meeting as part of its regular scheduled meeting on February 11, 2013 at 7:00 pm. at Heath Township Hall, 3 M-40 in Hamilton, to receive comments and input on the new Heath Township Parks and Recreation Plan. The Board will also receive comments and input for improvements to Township Hall Park and Trestle Park.

The Parks and Recreation Plan is a guide to recreation development over the next five years. It addresses both current recreation facilities and future needs within the Township. The plan is required by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to allow the Township to apply for State and Federal grant funding for parks and recreation improvements.

Heath Township  
P. O. Box 241  
Hamilton, MI 49419  
269-751-2403

Sheila Meiste,  
Clerk

State of Michigan } SS.  
County of Ottawa }

Shawn Winter, of said county, being duly sworn, deposes and says that the notice, a printed copy of which is hereto attached, was published in THE HOLLAND SENTINEL, a newspaper which has general circulation in the City of Holland, Counties of Ottawa, Allegan and other counties in the State of Michigan, on the above listed dates, and the affiant further says that is the of said newspaper, and knowing to the facts above stated.

Subscribed and sworn to before me

this 15 day

of Feb A.D., 2013

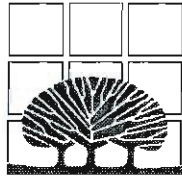
THERESA L. DONLIN  
Notary Public, State Of Michigan  
County Of Ottawa  
My Commission Expires Nov. 23, 2016  
Active in the County of Ottawa

Shawn Winter

Theresa L. Donlin  
Notary Public in and for Ottawa County,  
Michigan

**THIS IS AN AFFIDAVIT, NOT AN INVOICE.**

If you need further assistance, please call Deborah Hogenmiller at (616) 546-4235



**M.C. SMITH  
ASSOCIATES AND  
ARCHITECTURAL GROUP**

Landscape Architecture  
Park & Recreation Planning  
Architecture • Urban Design  
Sports Facility Planning

**Heath Township Parks and Recreation  
Master Plan - 2013  
**PUBLIC INPUT MEETING****

Time: 7:00 PM

Date: 2.11.2013

Location: Heath Township Hall  
3440 M-40, Hamilton, MI

---

**Meeting Attendees:**

Heath Township Officials

Ron Jones, Supervisor

Sheila Meiste, Clerk

Misti Lindholm, Treasurer

Hilda Boerman, Trustee

Bill Harvey, Trustee

James DeWilde - M.C. Smith Associates

Members of the public

**M.C. Smith Presentation:**

1. Introduction
2. Overview of Community Parks and Recreation Plan Process
3. Presentation Included:
  - Air photographs of Existing Park Properties
  - Existing Recreation Facilities Map





Landscape Architecture  
Park & Recreation Planning  
Architecture • Urban Design  
Sports Facility Planning

#### 4. Discussion

An open discussion was held at the end of the presentation and a wide range of comments and suggestions were received. Comments raised at the meeting include suggestions for potential improvement projects and specific improvements at Township Hall Park and Trestle Park. An emphasis was also placed on the importance of non-motorized trails and the need to connect to parks.

Discussion items for the possible improvements to the parks included:

- Township Hall Park
  - Skate Park
  - Ice Rink
  - Picnic Tables (in ground)
  - Grilling Areas for Picnic Shelter
  - Lighting
  - Play Area Upgrade
  - Ball Field Seating/Spectator Area Improvements
  - New Picnic Shelter
  - Loop Trail/Walking Path
  - Drive Access to Lions Club BBQ Building and Boy Scout Building
- Trestle Park
  - Lighting
  - New Picnic Shelter with Tables
  - Fishing Decks with ADA Access
  - Access into park from sidewalk along M-40
  - Walkways
  - Consider property to south and downstream if available

The Holland Sentinel  
3/5/13

HEATH TOWNSHIP, MICHIGAN  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC INPUT MEETING

The Heath Township Board will hold a Public Input Meeting as part of its regularly scheduled meeting on March 11, 2013 at 7:00 pm. at Heath Township Hall, 3440 M-40 in Hamilton. The purpose of this meeting will be to review the concept plans for the Heath Township Hall Park and Trestle Park and the overall Parks and Recreation Plan. The Board will also receive comments and input for the improvements to Township Hall Park and Trestle Park.

The Parks and Recreation Plan is a guide to recreation development over the next five years. It addresses both current recreation facilities and future needs within the Township. The plan is required by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to allow the Township to apply for State and Federal grant funding for parks and recreation improvements.

Heath Township  
P. O. Box 241  
Hamilton, MI 49419  
269-751-2403

Sheila Meiste,  
Clerk



Landscape Architecture  
Park & Recreation Planning  
Architecture • Urban Design  
Sports Facility Planning

**Heath Township Parks and Recreation**  
**Master Plan - 2013**  
**PUBLIC INPUT MEETING**

Time: 7:00 PM

Date: 3.11.2013

Location: Heath Township Hall  
3440 M-40, Hamilton, MI

---

**Meeting Attendees:**

Heath Township Officials

Ron Jones, Supervisor

Sheila Meiste, Clerk

Misti Lindholm, Treasurer

Hilda Boerman, Trustee

Bill Harvey, Trustee

James DeWilde - M.C. Smith Associates

Members of the public

**M.C. Smith Presentation:**

1. Introduction
2. Overview of Community Parks and Recreation Plan Process
3. Presentation of Township Hall Park Master Plan
4. Presentation of Trestle Park Master Plan





Landscape Architecture  
Park & Recreation Planning  
Architecture • Urban Design  
Sports Facility Planning

## 5. Discussion

An open discussion was held at the end of the presentation and a wide range of comments and suggestions were received. In general, it was agreed that improvements to the existing two parks are necessary. Comments are listed below.

### Township Hall Park:

- Move skate park to the northeast corner of park closer to M-40 and existing parking area
- Liked proposed location of group picnic shelter closer to play area
- Liked loop walkways and hard surface spectator areas
- Discussed possible phasing of project into two phases
- Need to limit access to Lions Club bar-b-que and Boy Scout building with gate on access drive

### Trestle Park:

- Liked fishing / viewing decks above and below dam
- Handicapped hard surface paths to park features was needed
- Liked pedestrian access off of sidewalk along M-40
- Design park features to withstand pressures of river during high water and flooding
- Security is an issue at this park
- Pump house building is no longer in use
- Consider Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant to develop park