

WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP TOWNSHIP BOARD

REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

TO: Township Board

FROM: Justin Quagliata, Staff Planner

DATE: January 6, 2023

RE: Adoption of Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2023-2027

The State of Michigan requires municipalities maintain a current 5-Year Recreation Plan and file the Plan with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) in order to qualify for grant funding. The current plan expired December 31, 2022.

It is anticipated on January 11, 2023 the Parks and Recreation Committee will pass a resolution recommending the Township Board adopt the Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2023-2027. A resolution of adoption has been provided to the Board for consideration (Resolution No. 23-001). The deadline for submitting the Plan to the MDNR to retain grant eligibility this year is February 1, 2023.

Attachments

1. Resolution No. 23-001.
2. Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2023-2027.
3. Parks and Recreation Committee draft meeting minutes of January 11, 2023 (to be provided upon availability).

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF WHITE LAKE
ADOPTION OF PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2023-2027
RESOLUTION NO. 23-001**

At a regular meeting of the Township Board of the Charter Township of White Lake, Oakland County, Michigan, held in Township Annex, 7527 Highland Road, White Lake, Michigan, on the 17th day of January 2023, at 7:00 p.m. with those present and absent being:

PRESENT: _____

ABSENT: _____

The following preamble and resolution was offered by _____ and seconded by _____.

WHEREAS, a Parks and Recreation Master Plan is essential for the development of a comprehensive and effective parks and recreation program in White Lake Township; and

WHEREAS, such a plan is required by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources in order to qualify White Lake Township for State and Federal grant funding; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to update the Parks and Recreation Master Plan every five years in order to retain eligibility for grant funding; and

WHEREAS, a Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the years 2023-2027 has been developed by the Parks and Recreation Committee after having received the input of citizens through public surveys and workshops; and

WHEREAS, the public was invited to review the proposed Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2023-2027, which was on file at the Community Development Department and on the Township website; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Committee held a public hearing and then recommended adoption of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2023-2027 to the Township Board by resolution on January 11, 2023.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Township Board hereby adopts the Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2023-2027 to serve as a guide for the development and operation of park facilities under the jurisdiction of White Lake Township for the years cited.

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

I, Anthony L. Noble, the duly elected and acting Clerk of the Charter Township of White Lake, hereby certify this to be a true and complete copy of Resolution No. 23-001, adopted at a regular meeting of the Township Board held on the 17th day of January 2023.

Anthony L. Noble, Clerk
Charter Township of White Lake

DRAFT FOR PUBLIC REVIEW
12-1-2022

WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN

2023-2027



Adopted By Township Board:

_____, 2023

Recommended for Adoption By Parks Committee:

_____, 2023

Rik Kowall, Supervisor
Anthony L Noble, Clerk
Mike Roman, Treasurer
Scott Ruggles, Trustee
Liz Fessler Smith, Trustee
Andrea Voorheis, Trustee
Mike Powell, Trustee

Parks and Recreation Committee:
Merrie Carlock, Chair
Deb Deren, Vice-Chair
Andrea Voorheis, Township Board Liaison
Rhonda Grubb
Kathleen Aseltyne

White Lake Township Staff:
Sean O'Neil, Community Development Director
Justin Quagliata, Staff Planner

Assistance Provided By:
Leah Groya, Consultant
Jason MacDonald, Consultant



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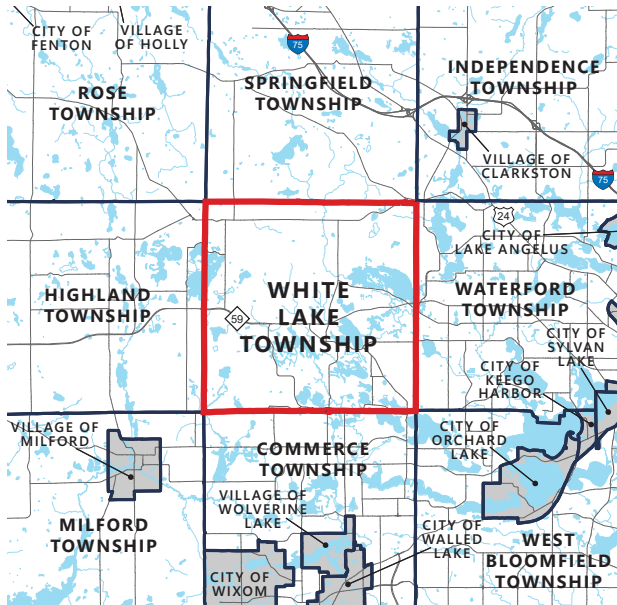
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COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

The jurisdiction of this Parks & Recreation Master Plan includes all parks and recreation facilities and properties owned by White Lake Township. The 2023-2027 White Lake Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan was adopted by the Township Board to serve as a guide and decision making document for future park and recreation facilities. The Plan includes an inventory of existing facilities and programs within White Lake Township as well as an analysis of opportunities and needs. It also includes goals, objectives and a 5-year capital improvement plan. The Master Plan is intended to enable the Township to apply for funding assistance from various agencies and work toward implementing elements that make progress toward achieving the outlined goals. This Plan specifically provides for 5 years of grant eligibility with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

White Lake Township is located in west/central Oakland County, along the M-59 corridor between Lansing and Pontiac. The Township is bordered by Springfield Township to the north, Waterford Township to the east, Commerce Township to the south, and Highland Township to the west. White Lake Township is approximately 30 miles northwest of Detroit, 40 miles east of Lansing, 30 miles south of Flint, and 30 miles north of Ann Arbor.



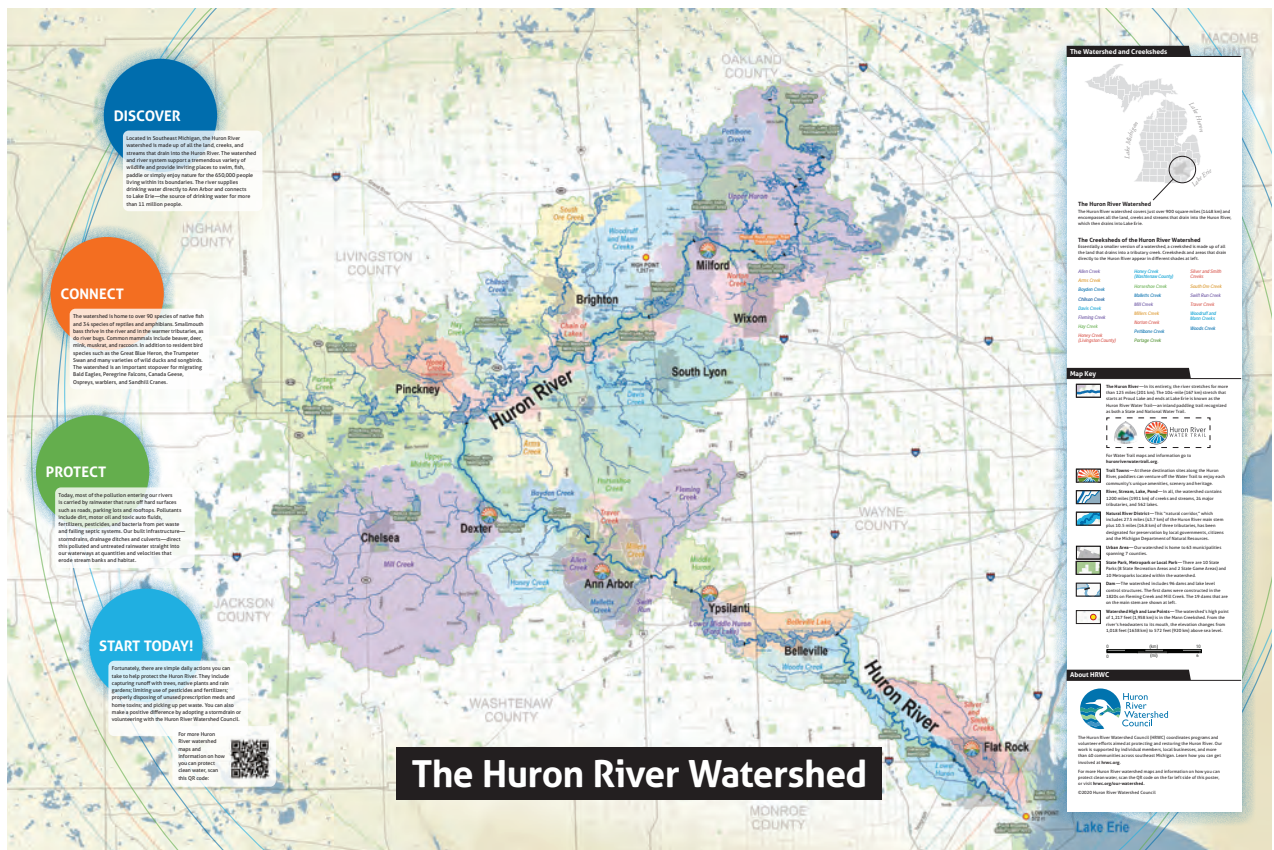
White Lake Township had a total population of 30,950 residents as of the 2020 United States Census, a 3.1% increase from 2010 (30,109). Township staff believes the population is several thousand more than reported by the Census due to large residential developments that have been built in recent years. These figures represent a stable population with modest growth over the past 10 years. The southeast Michigan region as a whole (the 7 County SEMCOG area), also rebounded in population to 4.83 million people, an increase of 2.7% from 2010.

White Lake Township owns 6 park properties in the community including:

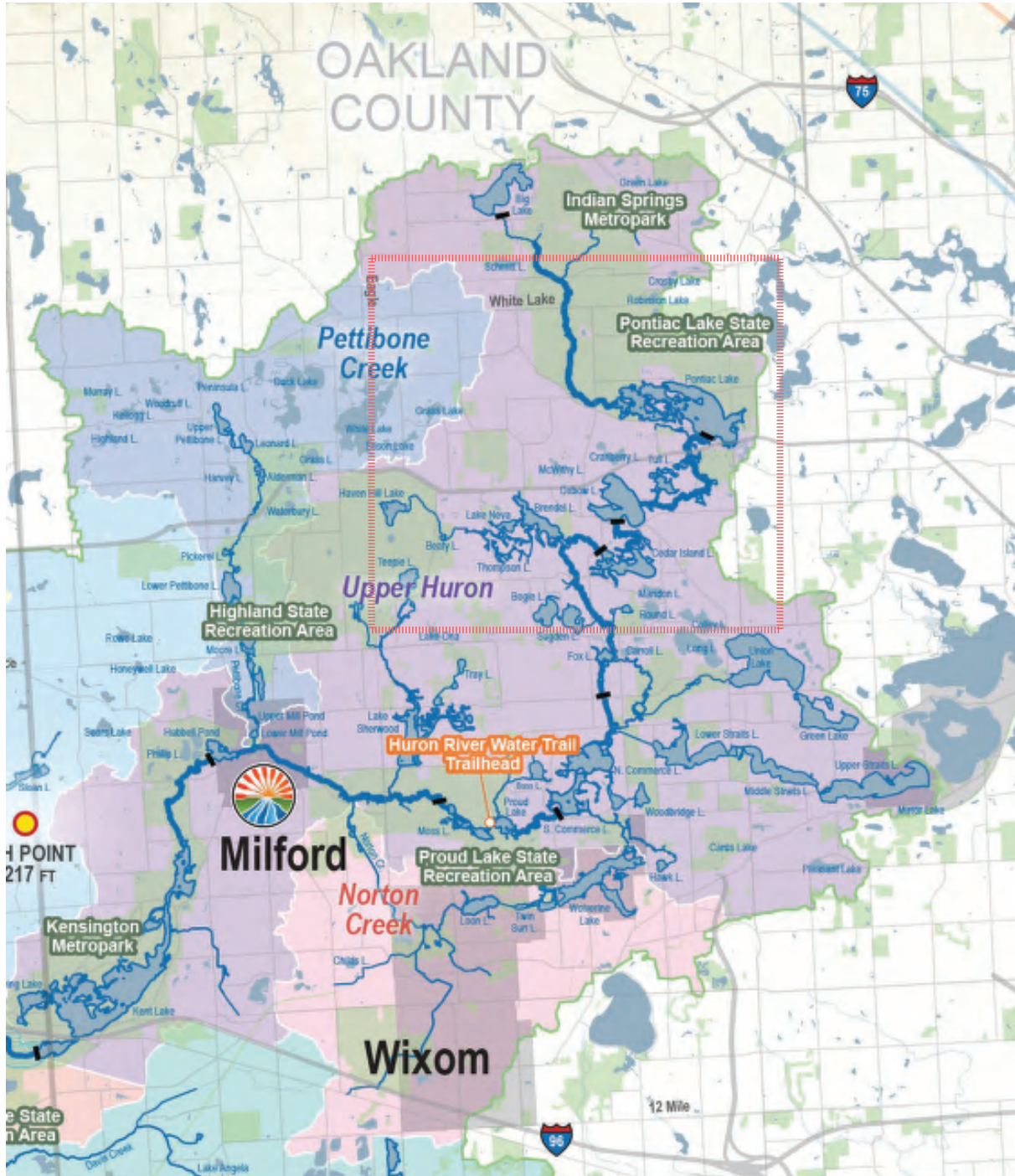
Bloomer Park	28.7 acres
Judy Hawley Park	7.6 acres
Vetter Park +	
Dublin Senior Center	5.9 acres
Hidden Pines Park	9.3 acres
Kelley Fisk Farm	5.0 acres
Stanley Park	57.4 acres

White Lake Township was significantly impacted by the last Ice Age with much of the Township classified as glacial outwash sand and gravel. Moraines composed of sand and gravel were deposited as retreating glaciers melted in place (especially north of M-59). The Township is characterized by rolling terrain and varies by approximately 211 feet from the lowest point to the highest point. In general, the lowest elevations occur in the south central portion of the Township and rises to the north. Brendel Lake is the lowest elevation (933 feet) with the highest (1144 feet) being in the northwest portion of the Township.

The majority of White Lake Township is within the headwaters of the Huron River Watershed with small sections in the northeast and eastern edge in the Clinton River Watershed. The Huron River flows 125 miles from its headwaters at Big Lake just west of Indian Springs Metropark, to its mouth at Lake Erie in Monroe County. Within the Huron River Watershed, there are 3 subwatersheds. Runoff from the northwest section of White Lake Township flows into Pettibone Creek, then into the Huron River; water from the southeast section of the Township flows into Hayes Creek, then into the Huron River; and water from the central portion of the Township flows directly into the Huron River.



THE HURON RIVER WATERSHED + WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP





PLANNING PROCESS

This plan was developed utilizing the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plan Guidelines. Following the MDNR Guidelines and filing this adopted plan with the MDNR allows the Township to be eligible to apply for MDNR-administered parks and recreation related grant funds. The 5-Year Plan was prepared over an approximately six-month period. This section documents the process used to develop the Plan.

BACKGROUND STUDIES

The background studies for this master plan include data and information for the Community Description, Administrative Structure, Recreation Inventory, and Basis For Action sections. Data collection and field work for the background studies took place in the summer and fall of 2022. Various sources were used to gather the most up-to-date information, including the previous 5-year plan, Oakland County and SEMCOG Geographic Information System (GIS) data, Township staff, United States Census, and field observations.

PLAN INPUT

The White Lake Township Parks and Recreation Committee engages the community to ensure awareness and gather input on desired projects and priorities. The Committee and Township Board will continue to seek input from residents as they move forward with implementation of the plan over the next 5 years. Below is a summary of input methods used during the development of this plan. Additional details can be found in the Basis For Action section.

Survey

The Township developed a survey to gather input on parks and recreation related topics. The survey was completed by 443 people and the results (along with all of the other data collected during the process) were used by the Parks Committee to establish the Action Plan. Paper copies were available at the Dublin Senior Center as well as during the Fisk Farm Festival.

Fisk Farm Festival

Staff and consultants manned a tent set up at the annual Fisk Farm Festival in September 2022 in order to gather input regarding parks and recreation in White Lake Township. In addition to a map of parks in the Township, people were encouraged to complete hard copies of the survey.

Committee Meetings

All Committee meetings are open to the public. The Parks and Recreation Committee held a Special Meeting on October 5, 2022 to discuss the 5-Year Plan. The Plan was also discussed at the November 2022 meeting.

ACTION PLAN

The Action Plan section of the report outlines the direction the Committee and Township Board would like to take over the next 5 years in order to maintain and improve parks and recreation opportunities within the community. The Action Plan includes goals and guidelines as well as a capital improvement schedule, and was developed with input from the Committee, staff, and residents.

PUBLIC HEARING + ADOPTION

A draft Master Plan was reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Committee in November 2022. The draft Plan was made available for public review on _____, 2022 via the Township website and at Township Hall. A notice was published in the Spinal Column on _____, 2022, making people aware of the draft plan and public hearing. The Township also posted to social media.

A public hearing was held by the Parks and Recreation Committee on _____. A presentation of the Plan was provided after which the Committee discussed the plan and invited public comment.

ADOPTION

The White Lake Township Parks and Recreation Committee passed a resolution recommending the Township Board adopt the Parks and Recreation Master Plan on _____.

The White Lake Township Board adopted the Parks and Recreation Master Plan by Resolution on _____. The Plan was approved by the MDNR in _____ 2023.



ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

This section of the Plan describes how parks and recreation is administered in White Lake Township. Included is a description of the overall administration as well as expenditures and revenues for the past three years.

Public Act 156 of 1917 authorizes cities, villages, counties, townships, and school districts to operate local recreation facilities and recreation systems. The Act states a city, village, county or township may operate a system of public recreation and playgrounds, acquire, equip and maintain land, buildings or other recreation facilities, employ a superintendent of recreation and assistants, and vote and expend funds for the operation of systems.

TOWNSHIP BOARD

The ultimate responsibility for the provision of recreation in the Township is held by the Township Board including the Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer, and Trustees. The Township Board approves the budget, appoints the Parks and Recreation Committee members, and oversees the staff. Additionally, the Township Board oversees the long-term vision for the Township through adoption of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

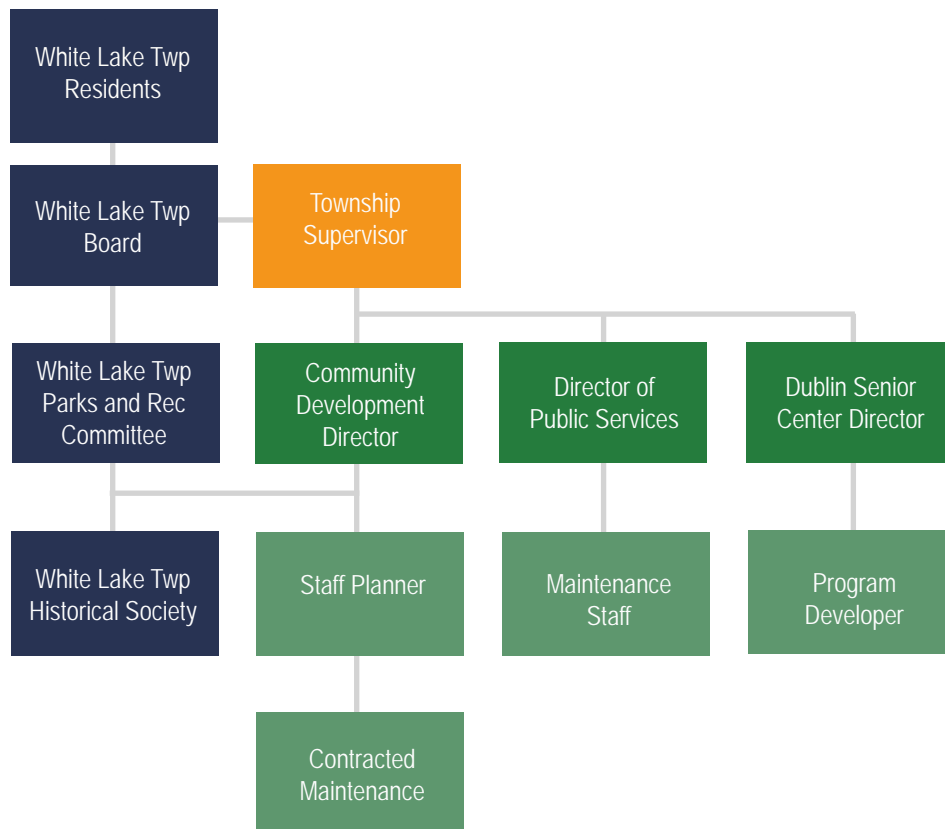
The Township Board created a Parks and Recreation Committee in 1997 which is charged with determining public need for recreational facilities and developing plans for their development and operation. The Committee oversees the development of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and provides recommendations for adoption to the Township Board. Members are appointed by the Supervisor and confirmed by vote

of the full Township Board. The 5-member Committee meets on the second Wednesday of each month.

TOWNSHIP STAFF

Day-to-day parks and recreation activities are managed by the Staff Planner and Community Development Director. The Staff Planner submits requests for maintenance, oversees contracted maintenance items, manages field and pavilion rentals, and monitors and manages the Township’s Parks and Recreation Fund. In addition, the Staff Planner serves as technical staff to the Parks and Recreation Committee.

The maintenance staff are managed by the Director of Public Services, and the Dublin Senior Center is managed by the Dublin Senior Center Director.



RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER PROVIDERS

White Lake Township has relationships with other local agencies including the White Lake Historical Society, the White Lake Library, the Township Police/Fire Departments, and Oakland County Parks to coordinate events and offerings. Additional agencies and providers White Lake partners with include the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority (Indian Springs Metropark) and the MDNR (State Recreation Areas).

FISCAL ANALYSIS

Parks and Recreation is primarily funded through a voter-approved millage. Park projects have also been supported by grants obtained by staff. In 2018, White Lake Township residents passed a 6-year, 0.3 mill parks and recreation millage (expiring in 2023). The millage collected approximately \$364,000 in 2021. The millage can be used for all park and recreational uses permitted by law, including but not limited to maintaining, improving, purchasing, constructing or acquiring property, property interests, trails, pathways and facilities for park and recreational purposes. The millage is also used for programming special events.

The Revenues and Expenditures table illustrates patterns over the past 3 years (2020-2022). For the 2020-2022 fiscal years, the millage resulted in revenues between \$352,000 and \$372,000 each year. Interest, field rentals, and other miscellaneous items have supplemented the total millage revenues, as has a \$50,000 grant awarded to design the remaining segment of the "Triangle Trail." In 2020 and 2021, the Township expended \$155,000 and \$108,000, respectively, on Parks and Recreation with the largest expenses being Grounds Maintenance, Park Improvement Projects, and Professional Services. In 2022, expenditures were budgeted to increase significantly reflecting the planned Phase I improvements at Stanley Park as well as the construction of the Triangle Trail. In actuality, the majority of these funds will not be expended until 2023/2024.

WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION BUDGET (2020-2022)				
Revenues	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Budgeted	Percent Change
Property Taxes 0.3 Mil	\$ 352,095	\$ 364,263	\$ 372,611	5.8%
Grants	\$ -	\$ 50,000	\$ 20	
Field Rental	\$ 3,340	\$ 6,630	\$ 6,000	79.6%
Interest Income	\$ 6,867	\$ 2,769	\$ 3,500	-49.0%
Insurance Rebates	\$ 1,502	\$ -	\$ -	-100.0%
Misc. Revenue	\$ 1,444	\$ 2,720	\$ 500	-65.4%
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 365,248	\$ 426,382	\$ 382,631	4.8%
Expenditures	2020	2021	2022	Percent Change
Fees & Per Diem	\$ 2,515	\$ 2,486	\$ 2,250	-10.5%
Soc Sec, Medicare, Unemployment	\$ 146	\$ 143	\$ 300	105.5%
Insurance	\$ 4,159	\$ 4,168	\$ 5,000	20.2%
Professional Services	\$ 11,970	\$ 15,010	\$ 35,000	192.4%
Dues, Publications, Misc	\$ 2,111	\$ 858	\$ 4,050	91.9%
Grounds Maintenance	\$ 39,978	\$ 44,035	\$ 60,000	50.1%
Utilities & Electricity	\$ 5,015	\$ 4,551	\$ 5,400	7.7%
Park Equipment	\$ 402	\$ 7,946	\$ 25,000	6118.9%
Events	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,000	
Park Improvements	\$ 89,347	\$ 10,314	\$ 550,000	515.6%
Pathway Projects	\$ -	\$ 19,109	\$ 600,000	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 155,643	\$ 108,620	\$ 1,290,000	728.8%



INVENTORY

Developing an inventory of facilities and programs is an essential component of a Parks and Recreation Master Plan. A wide variety of facilities are provided by several different agencies and organizations in White Lake Township. This section of the Plan provides a foundation of information to use in developing the Action Plan.

WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP PARKS

White Lake Township owns and manages six parks totaling approximately 114 acres of property including the 5-acre Historic Fisk Farm property. In the summer of 2022, an inventory of each of the properties was completed and is summarized on the Inventory Map and Table. Following the map and table are one page summaries of each park.

MDNR GRANTS

White Lake Township has been the recipient of four grants from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. When preparing a 5-Year Master Plan, the MDNR requires information be provided regarding the status of all past grants received. The grant history report was obtained from the MDNR MiGrants website. It is important to understand which properties have received MDNR funding as they remain encumbered by the executed grant agreements in perpetuity. Since 1999, the Township has secured \$2,273,365 in grants from the MDNR.

Vetter Park (CM99-049)

White Lake Township received \$50,965 in 1999 for the development of two ballfields, playground equipment, improved picnic area, and expansion of a walking trail. A ballfield, picnic area, walking trail, and playground continue to exist at Vetter Park. At 20+ years old, the playground equipment is showing its age.

Bloomer Park (TF09-103)

In 2009, the Township received a \$350,000 grant for improvements at Bloomer Park including parking, observation deck overlooking Grass Lake, boardwalk, trails, picnic shelter, signage, furnishings, and landscaping. All of these elements continue to be publicly accessible and in relatively good condition.

Stanley Park (TF18-0110 & 26-01868)

The Township received \$1,372,400 in 2018 toward the purchase of the 57-acre former Brendel Lake Campground in order to develop it as a public park. In 2021, the Township was awarded \$500,000 via the Land and Water Conservation Fund to make improvements at Stanley Park slated for construction in 2023 and include an entrance drive, crushed stone parking lot, fishing pier/dock, pathways, signage, exercise stations, benches, sled hill, and related amenities.

BARRIER FREE STATUS (MDNR RATING)

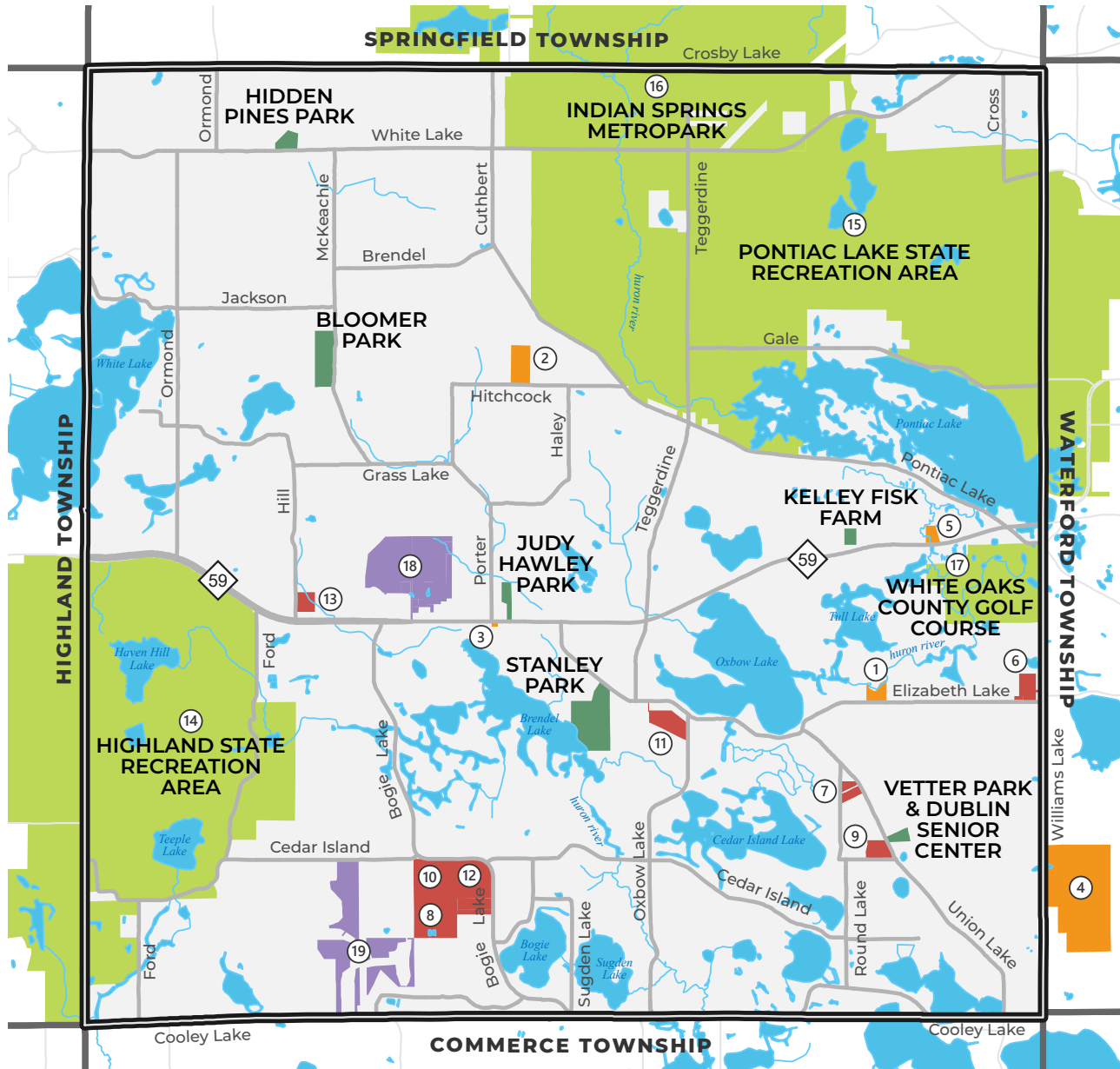
With the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), all areas of public service and accommodation became subject to barrier free requirements, including parks and recreation facilities. Each park summary sheet on the following pages notes a current accessibility rating as defined by the MDNR for planning purposes only. Each facility was given a rating of 1 through 5 (MDNR Rating System) with the following definitions:

1. None of the facilities/park areas meet guidelines
2. Some of the facilities/park areas meet guidelines
3. Most of the facilities/park areas meet guidelines
4. Entire park meets guidelines
5. Entire park was developed/renovated using principals of universal design.

ID	Name	Acres	Parking	Porta John	Restroom Building	Concession Building	Historic Buildings	Storage / Equipment Facility	Picnic Areas	Shelter/Pavilion	Ball Diamond	Tennis Court	Play Equipment Areas	Multi-Purpose Field	Soccer Field	Track	Basketball Hoop	Volleyball Court (Sand)	Walking/jogging/Bike Path	Nature Trail	Beach	Dog Waste Station	Bike Rack	Drinking Fountain	Meeting Space
WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP PARK PROPERTIES																									
	Bloomer Park	28.70	X						X	1								1	X			1	X		
	Judy Hawley Park	7.62	X	X				X	X	1			1		3		4	1	X	X		1			
	Ferdinand C Vetter Park + Dublin Senior Center	5.90	X	X		X		X	X	1	1		1				1		X		2			X	
	Hidden Pines Park	9.29	X	X							1									X		1			
	Stanley Park	57.37	X						X	X										X	X	3			X
	Historic Kelley Fisk Farm	5.02	X				X		X	X	2				3		5	1				8			
	Total Acreage and Facilities	113.90								3	2		2		3		5	1				8			
OTHER PUBLIC PROPERTIES																									
1	Elizabeth Lake Road Property (undeveloped)	8.68																							
2	Hitchcock Road Property (undeveloped)	19.46					X																	X	
3	Old Community Hall	0.46			X			X	X	3	1	1						2						X	
4	Hess Hathaway Park (in Waterford)	167.34	X	X	X																			X	
5	M59/Huron River Property (undeveloped)	6.00																							
	Total Acreage and Facilities	201.94								6	3	3	3		5+		5	3							
SCHOOL PROPERTIES																									
5	Houghton Elementary School (Waterford)	13.17	X							2	2	2	2				2								
6	Dublin Elementary School (Walled Lake)	7.91	X							1	1	3	3	1			4								
7	Lakewood Elementary School (Huron Valley)	46.29	X										1				4								
8	St. Patrick Catholic School	11.25	X										1				2								
9	White Lake Middle School (Huron Valley)	46.29	X							2	2	1	1				1								
10	Oxbow Elementary School (Huron Valley)	19.13	X							2	2	2	2				3								
11	Lakeland High School (Huron Valley)	46.29	X							5	8	8	1	1			1								
12	Huron Valley Schools Property (Harbor Alt)	9.95	X							3	1	1	3	1			2								
	Total Acreage and Facilities	200.28								12	8	13	1	3	1	18									

**White Lake Township
Park Inventory
5 Year Master Plan
2023-2027**

Received State Grant in Past



WHITE LAKE TWP. PARKS

OTHER PUBLIC PROPERTIES

- ① Elizabeth Lake Road Property
- ② Hitchcock Road Property
- ③ Old Community Hall
- ④ Hess Hathaway Park (in Waterford)
- ⑤ M-59/Huron River Property

SCHOOL PROPERTIES

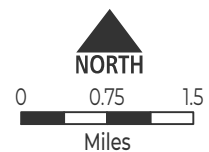
- ⑥ Houghton Elementary School
- ⑦ Dublin Elementary School
- ⑧ Lakewood Elementary School
- ⑨ St. Patrick Catholic School
- ⑩ White Lake Middle School
- ⑪ Oxbow Elementary School
- ⑫ Lakeland High School
- ⑬ Huron Valley Schools Property

STATE | METROPARK | COUNTY PROPERTIES

- ⑭ Highland State Recreation Area
- ⑮ Pontiac Lake State Recreation Area
- ⑯ Indian Springs Metropark
- ⑰ White Oaks County Golf Course

PRIVATE PROPERTIES

- ⑱ Alpine Valley Ski
- ⑲ Brentwood Golf Club and Banquet Center



PARK INVENTORY MAP

WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP

5-YEAR PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2023 - 2027

BLOOMER PARK

3889 McKeachie Road

Size: 28.7 acres

ADA Rating: 3

MDNR Grant: TF09-103

Bloomer Park is a 28+ acre wooded park on the eastern shore of Grass Lake in the northwest portion of the Township. Originally donated to the State by Mr. and Mrs. Howard Bloomer in the 1920s, White Lake Township acquired the property in 2009 and began implementing public access improvements in 2012.

The park includes a parking area, nature trails, pavilion, overlook/boardwalk on Grass Lake, signs interpreting the history of the property and various environmental features, benches and bike racks. The approximately 1/3-mile trail loop takes visitors through a native second growth of Maples, Oaks, Hickories, Serviceberries and Dogwoods. Native woodland flowers such as Trillium, May Apple, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, Wild Geranium, and Skunk Cabbage can also be found.



JUDY HAWLEY PARK

7525 Highland Road

Size: 7.6 acres

ADA Rating: 2

Judy Hawley Park is 7.6-acres of an approximately 13-acre property that also includes Township Hall and Police Station on the north side of Highland Road. The park is at the rear of the property and includes 2 half-sized basketball courts, a full-size irrigated soccer field, 2 irrigated half-sized soccer fields, a pavilion, play structure, swing set, a 'little library' box, sand volleyball court, 0.4-mile-long asphalt trail around the perimeter, a small maintenance building, and porta john. Hawley Park was the location of the first Family Fun Day event held in June 2022.



WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION

FAMILY FUN DAY

FREE ENTRY

JUDY HAWLEY PARK
7525 HIGHLAND ROAD

HAPPY THE CLOWN
GUY LOUIS' FAMILY FUN CONCERT
ICE CREAM CART & HOT DOGS
MOBILE LEARNING CENTER
PROVIDED BY HURON-CLINTON
METROPARKS
CLIMBING WALL AND GO GOLF
PROVIDED BY OAKLAND COUNTY
SOUNDSTATION- CLASSIC ROCK
COVER BAND

**SATURDAY
JUNE 25
3 P.M. TO 8 P.M.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT
[FACEBOOK.COM/WLTPARKSANDREC](https://www.facebook.com/wltparksandrec)

Made with PosterMyWise.com

FERDINAND C VETTER PARK + DUBLIN SENIOR CENTER

685 Union Lake Road

Size: 5.9 acres

ADA Rating: 3

MDNR Grant: CM99-049

Ferdinand C Vetter Park is on a 5.9-acre property along with the Dublin Senior Center on the east side of Union Lake Road. The park includes a parking lot, baseball/softball field with covered dugouts, a play structure, shelter with picnic tables, concession/storage building, a basketball hoop, and 0.25-mile asphalt walking path around the park. The Dublin Senior Center offers programs and services for adults 50 years or older.

The Senior Center offers a variety of educational and health programs such as Balance and Core Strengthening, Guided Imagery, Yoga, Line Dancing, Painting, Crafts, Lectures, Book Club, Cards, Quilting, a Walking Club, Day Trips, etc. A Meals on Wheels program is hosted at the Center as is the West Oakland Transportation Authority - a collaboration between White Lake, Highland, Waterford, and Walled Lake that offers residents (55+) and disabled adults transportation to



HIDDEN PINES PARK

5455 White Lake Road

Size: 9.29 acres

ADA Rating: 2

Hidden Pines Park was developed in 2012 and is located on the north side of White Lake Road. The 9+ acre park includes a baseball/softball field with covered dugouts, a gravel parking lot, open space, and a 'little library' box.



STANLEY PARK

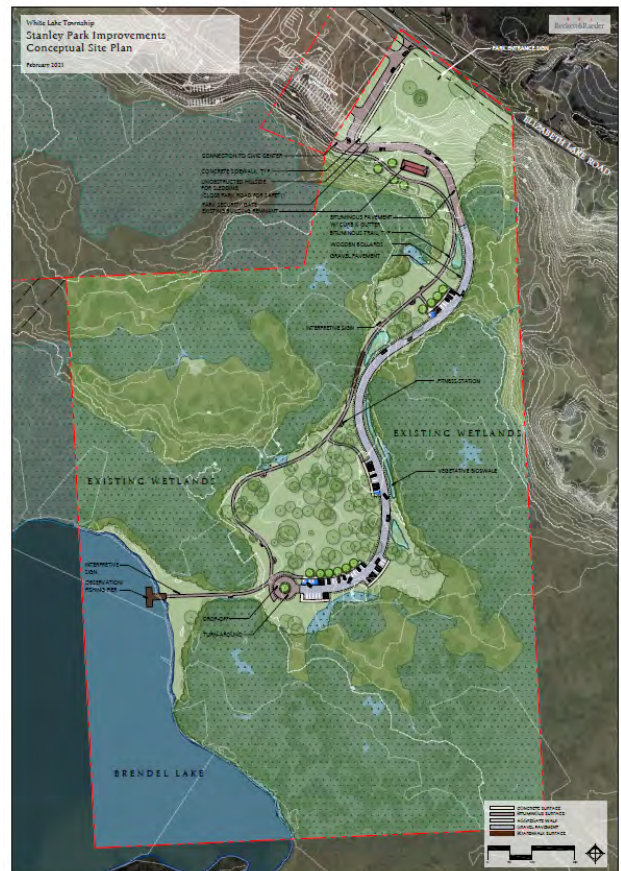
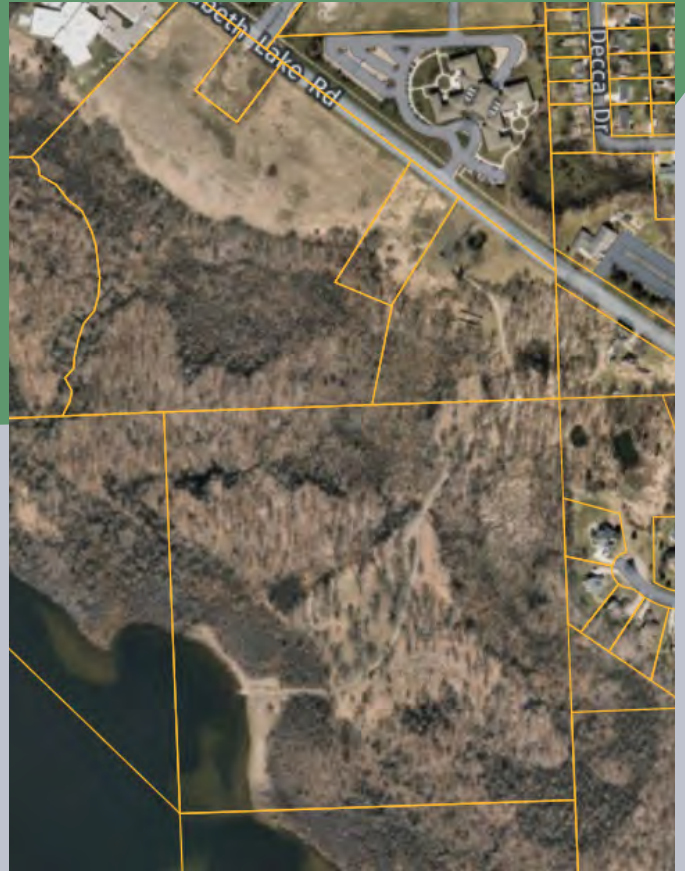
10785 Elizabeth Lake Road

Size: 57.37 acres

ADA Rating: 1

MDNR Grants: TF18-0110 &
26-01868

Stanley Park is the newest park in White Lake Township and is located on the southwest side of Elizabeth Lake Road with 500+ feet of frontage along Brendel Lake. The site is adjacent to undeveloped land planned to become the White Lake Township Civic Center including a new Township Hall. The 57+ acre Stanley Park parcel was a former private campground the Township purchased with assistance from a MDNR Trust Fund grant. The Township has developed a master plan for the property, cleaned up the site, and opened it for public use with a gravel parking lot along Elizabeth Lake Road and the ability to walk the property to the lakefront. The Township was awarded grant funds via the MDNR/LWCF program to make Phase I improvements slated for construction in 2023. Phase I improvements include an entrance drive, accessible pathway, fishing dock, rain garden, exercise stations, boardwalk, sled hill, landscaping, and signage.



KELLEY FISK FARM

9180 Highland Road

Size: 5.02 acres

ADA Rating: 3

The Kelley Fisk Farm is a 5-acre property on the north side of Highland Road owned by White Lake Township and currently leased by the White Lake Historical Society. The property includes a number of historic buildings. The Historical Society operates Fisk Farm as a community educational experience including fields trips where students learn how life was on a farm in the 1800s. Several community events are also held at Fisk Farm each year including the Fisk Farm Festival and Craft Show (September), Community Yard Sale (August), Comedy Show, Tree Lighting, etc.



OTHER PUBLIC PROPERTIES

In addition to the actively managed park properties, the Township also owns four additional properties: the Old Community Hall building site, the Hitchcock Road Property, and the Elizabeth Lake Road Property. Also, Hess-Hathaway Park, located in Waterford just outside of White Lake Township, is available for White Lake resident use as further described below.

Old Township Hall

The Old Township Hall building is located on a 0.5-acre property on the south side of Highland Road, across from the current Township Hall. The building is primarily used for storage but is available for rent for small gatherings.

Hitchcock Road Property

The Township owns 19.46- acres of undeveloped property on the north side of Hitchcock Road.



Elizabeth Lake Road Property

This 9-acre parcel is located on the north side of Elizabeth Lake Road, with frontage along the Huron River, just east of Oxbow Lake. There has been some initial discussions about potentially creating a small parking area and canoe/kayak launch at this location in conjunction with Oakland County Parks.



Highland Road (M-59) Property

The Township accepted a donation of approximately 6 acres of property on the north side of M-59 along the Huron River. There has been some initial discussions about potentially creating a small parking area and canoe/kayak launch at this location.

Hess-Hathaway Park (in Waterford Township)

The 167+ acre Hess-Hathaway Park is located on the east side of Williams Lake Road, on the Waterford Township/White Lake Township border. The property and historic farm house was bequeathed to Waterford Township in 1985. While the park is owned and maintained by Waterford Township, it is operated by a 15-member park committee with 3 designated positions for White Lake Township residents (as required by the Hess-Hathaway families). White Lake Township residents have access to the park facilities for the same cost as Waterford residents. The park includes a historic farm house, barn, farm animals, pavilions, community building, playground, hiking trails, softball field, sand volleyball, etc.

STATE/METROPARK/COUNTY PROPERTIES

There are nearly 5,750 acres of recreation property located in White Lake Township that are owned and operated by the State of Michigan, the Huron-Clinton Metroparks Authority, or Oakland County.

Highland State Recreation Area

The 5,900-acre Highland Recreation Area (1,647 acres in White Lake) is owned and managed by the MDNR and is located in White Lake and Milford Townships. The recreation area includes forests, marshes, lakes and rolling hills with trails for equestrians, hikers, skiers, and mountain bikers. There are also three day-use areas with picnicking, swimming, horseshoes, and volleyball. Camping, fishing, and recreational boating are also offered.

The Recreation Area also includes the historic, 721-acre Haven Hill property which was formerly Edsel and Eleanor Ford's family estate until it was sold to the State in 1946. It a designated state Natural Area and a National Landmark.

Pontiac Lake State Recreation Area

Pontiac Lake State Recreation Area is a 3,745-acre park (3,257 acres in White Lake) owned and managed by the MDNR and located in White Lake and Waterford. The recreation area includes forests, marshes, ponds, old farm fields and lakes with activities such as hunting, birding, picnicking, a 1/2 mile long beach, swimming, fishing, mountain bike trails, hiking, cross country skiing, camping, recreational boating, equestrian trails, shooting/archery range, remote control airfield, and off-leash dog park.

Indian Springs Metropark

The 2,547-acre (641 acres in White Lake Township) Indian Springs Metropark is located in the northeast corner of White Lake Township, just north of Pontiac Lake State Recreation Area. The Metropark includes the Environmental Discovery Center, a golf course and driving range, sled hill, volleyball courts, shelters and picnic areas, splash pad, and playgrounds. Indian Springs Metropark also includes miles of paved hiking/biking trails, hiking and cross country ski trails, as well as equestrian trails.

White Lake Oaks Golf Course

White Lake Oaks Golf Course is on 202 acres on the east side of the Township. It is owned and operated by Oakland County and includes a pro shop, club room, and garden patio.

various times throughout the year include lunch and bingo, tax assistance, support groups, book club, line dancing, yoga, massage therapy, walking club, painting, and crafts. The Dublin Senior Center produces a newsletter every other month to advertise offerings.

The White Lake Historical Society manages and programs the 5 acre Fisk Farm property. The Historical Society operates Fisk Farm as a community educational experience including fields trips where students learn how life was on a farm in the 1800s. Several community events are also held at Fisk Farm each year including the Fisk Farm Festival and Craft Show (September), Community Yard Sale (August), Comedy Show, Tree Lighting, etc.

EXISTING NONMOTORIZED SYSTEM

Over the past 10-20 years, there has been a concerted effort in the state, region, and county to identify opportunities to connect communities to one another via a network of nonmotorized facilities. The following text and maps describes the existing systems within White Lake Township as well as conditions that can directly influence connectivity and comfort for walking and bicycling. Awareness of these conditions will assist in the development of nonmotorized goals and recommendations.

Facility Types and Terminology

The Michigan Department of Transportation utilizes terms and definitions that are used by the Federal Highway Administration as it relates to the various types of non-motorized facilities. The following page illustrates the most common “facility types” and are based on the AASHTO: Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities 2012. These are brief introductions to the common non-motorized facility types. Some of the facilities are for both pedestrians and cyclists such as Shared Use Paths and in some cases Wide Paved Shoulder and Side Paths. On-street bike lanes are facilities for cycling.

Ped/Bike Crash Locations

Pedestrians and cyclists are the most vulnerable roadway users. Incorporating well-designed pedestrian and bicycle facilities encourages predictable behavior and alerts motorists to their presence, thus improving safety for all roadway users. Mapping data (2016-2021) of accident locations that involved a pedestrian or a bicyclist can assist in understanding where there may be higher rates of pedestrian and bike activity in the Township. The Ped/Bike Crash Map indicates that people are walking and biking along the major corridors, but encountering safety issues (regardless of fault) particularly along M-59, Elizabeth Lake Road, Williams Lake Road, and Union Lake Road.

Speed Limits and Traffic Volumes

The perception of risk is strongly considered when people are making decisions about whether or not to walk or bike to a destination. Traffic speeds and volumes are one factor people may use to assess that risk and many times can be correlated to levels of walking and bicycling. It should be noted studies show traffic volumes appear to have greater impact on leisure cycling as opposed to commuter cycling. SEMCOG data was used to map existing posted speed limits and traffic volumes in White Lake Township. Generally speaking, the higher speed roads and sometimes the higher volume roads will result in a less encouraging environment, or lower level of comfort, for walking and biking.

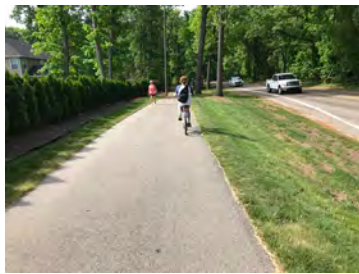
Facility Types and Terminology

Based on AASHTO: Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities 2012



Shared Use Path/Trail

- ▶ For use by pedestrians, bicyclists and other nonmotorized users
- ▶ Physically separated from motor vehicle traffic
- ▶ Two-way travel
- ▶ Examples include rail trails and river trails



Sidepath

- ▶ Specific type of Shared Use Path that run adjacent to a roadway
- ▶ Set back from edge of roadway or has physical barrier between path and roadway
- ▶ Depending on frequency of curb cuts, may not be safe for bicyclists due to intersection conflicts



Bike Lane

- ▶ On-street
- ▶ Designated and marked for use by bicyclists
- ▶ Typically one-way travel in same direction as motor traffic
- ▶ Can be buffered, protected/separated



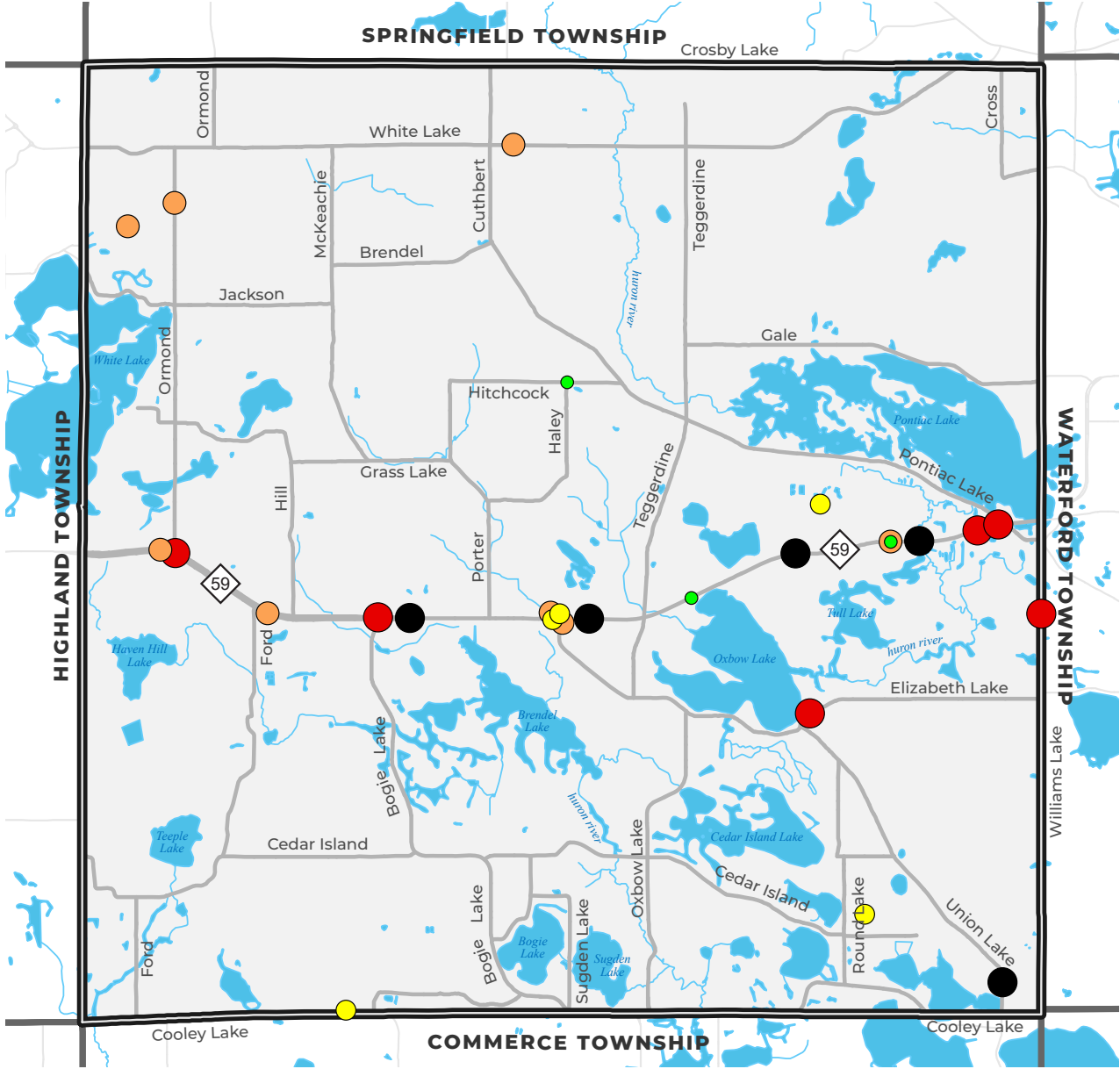
Sidewalk

- ▶ Separated from roadway by a curb or unpaved buffer space
- ▶ Dedicated space intended for use by pedestrians



Paved Shoulder

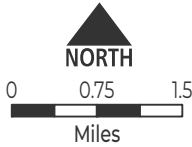
- ▶ 4+ feet wide
- ▶ Provides space for pedestrians/bicyclists but not marked as a bike lane
- ▶ Occasional use by disabled vehicles and mail delivery vehicles



**BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN
CRASHES 2016 - 2021
(worst injury in crash)**

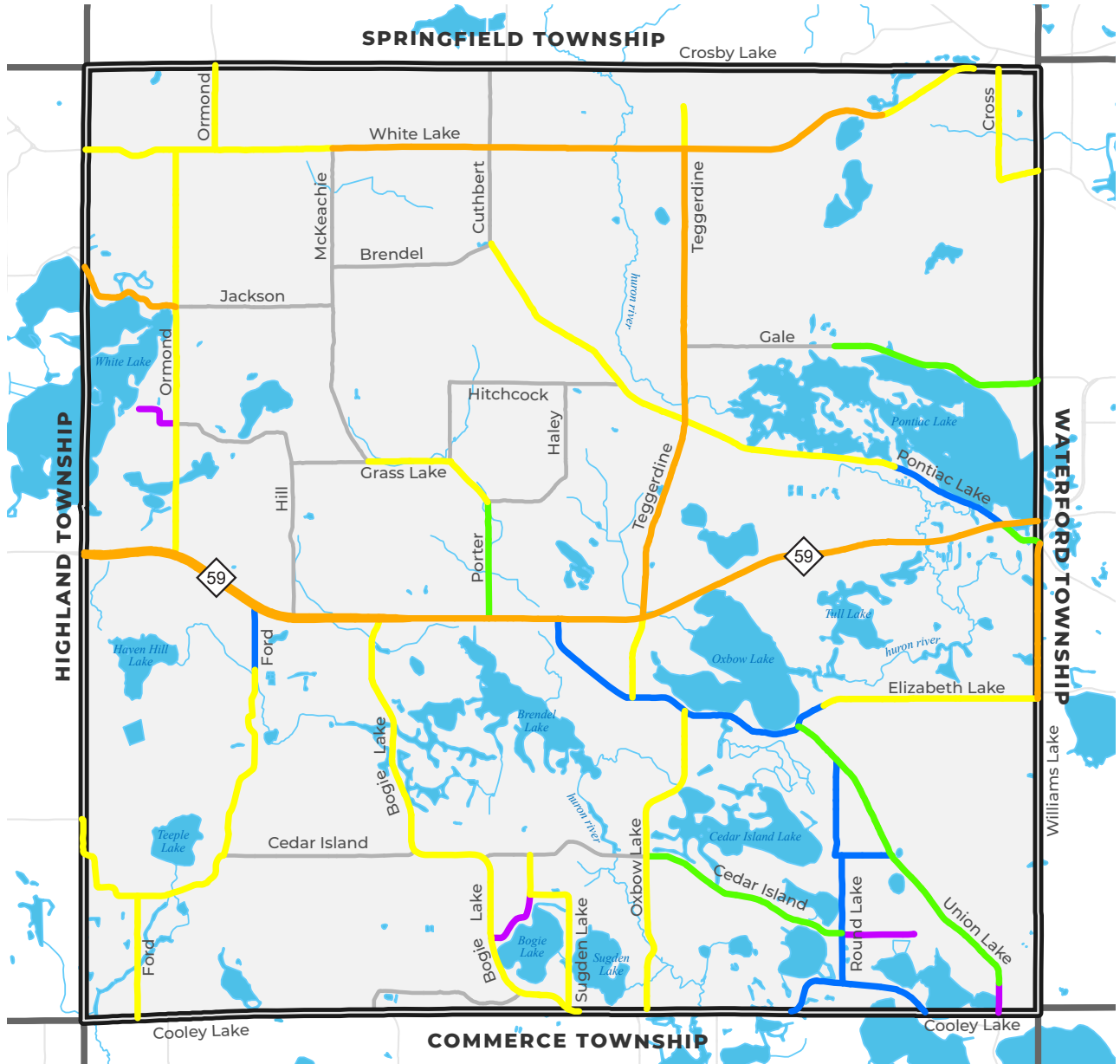
- Fatal (5)
- Serious Injury (6)
- Minor Injury (8)
- Possible Injury (5)
- No Injury (3)

Data Source: SEMCOG Transportation Data, 2022



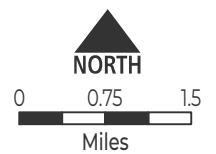
**BICYCLE AND
PEDESTRIAN
CRASH DATA MAP**

**WHITE LAKE
TOWNSHIP**
5-YEAR PARKS &
RECREATION
MASTER PLAN
2023 - 2027



POSTED SPEED LIMIT

- 30 mph and lower
- 35 mph
- 40 mph
- 45 mph
- 50 mph

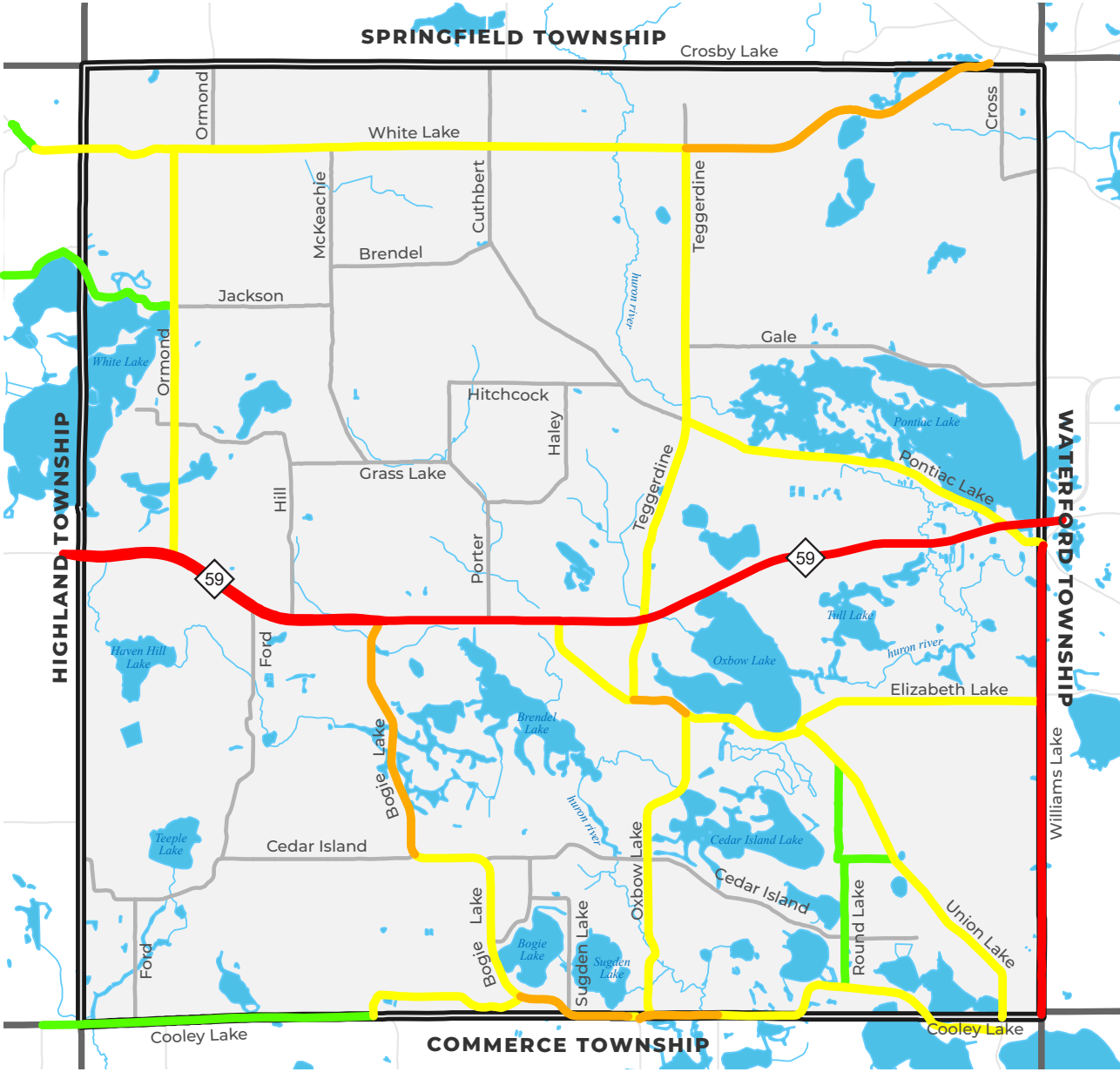


POSTED SPEED LIMIT MAP

WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP

5-YEAR PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2023 - 2027

Data Source: Oakland County GIS
Data, OC Roads feature class, updated 10/14/2020



ESTIMATED TRAFFIC VOLUME - ANNUAL AVERAGE DAILY TRAFFIC (AADT)

- Less than 5,000
- 5,000 - 9,999
- 10,000 - 14,999
- 15,000 or Higher

Data Source: SEMCOG Transportation Data, 2022



ESTIMATED TRAFFIC VOLUME MAP

WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP

5-YEAR PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2023 - 2027

STRAVA HeatMap

While not specifically created for transportation planning, STRAVA is a mobile app used to track physical activity such as walking, running, and biking. While it captures a limited number of users, national studies have shown it to be generally representative of the overall population, and helpful to understand route preferences. The STRAVA heatmap for White Lake illustrates the popularity (brighter colors) of the trails in the Pontiac Lake State Recreation Area, Highland State Recreation Area, as well as Indian Springs Metropark. In addition, the STRAVA heatmap highlights various roads and sidewalks are frequently used for walking and biking including Teggerdine, Pontiac Lake, Gale, and Cedar Island Roads.

Existing Facilities

The Existing Nonmotorized Facilities Map illustrates the location of major trails as well as sidewalks and safety paths along major road corridors. Sidewalks interior to neighborhoods/developments, dirt/woodchip, mountain bike, and equestrian trails and paths were not inventoried as part of this exercise.

Sidepath/Safety Path/Sidewalk System

There are approximately 8.05 miles of sidepaths/safety paths/sidewalks along the primary roads in White Lake Township as is illustrated on the Existing Nonmotorized Facilities Map. These facilities are located adjacent to and parallel to the major roads, generally within the road right-of-way. These facilities have been constructed over time in the Township and are built at varying widths - typically between 5 to 10 feet wide. The majority are asphalt construction, however, some are concrete. Many of these sections have been built by developers as required by the Township Zoning Ordinance. Development and redevelopment projects are required to include a 6-foot-wide concrete or asphalt sidewalk along the major street frontage of their property; or 8-foot-wide if along M-59.

A strip of aging asphalt can be found in numerous locations along M-59 directly adjacent to the curb. This was constructed 20+ years ago and in the majority of locations is deteriorating and unkempt. When immediately adjacent to the curb, this extra pavement was not inventoried as 'existing' side path.

Depending on land use patterns and frequency of curb cuts, side paths may not be safe for bicyclists, who are typically not safer on a sidewalk because they become almost invisible to a motorist. When a driver turns, either left or right, or into a driveway, they are not looking for, or expecting to encounter a bicyclist. If they do look and see a bicyclist they may still underestimate the speed a rider is traveling on the sidewalk - because it will likely be much faster than a pedestrian.

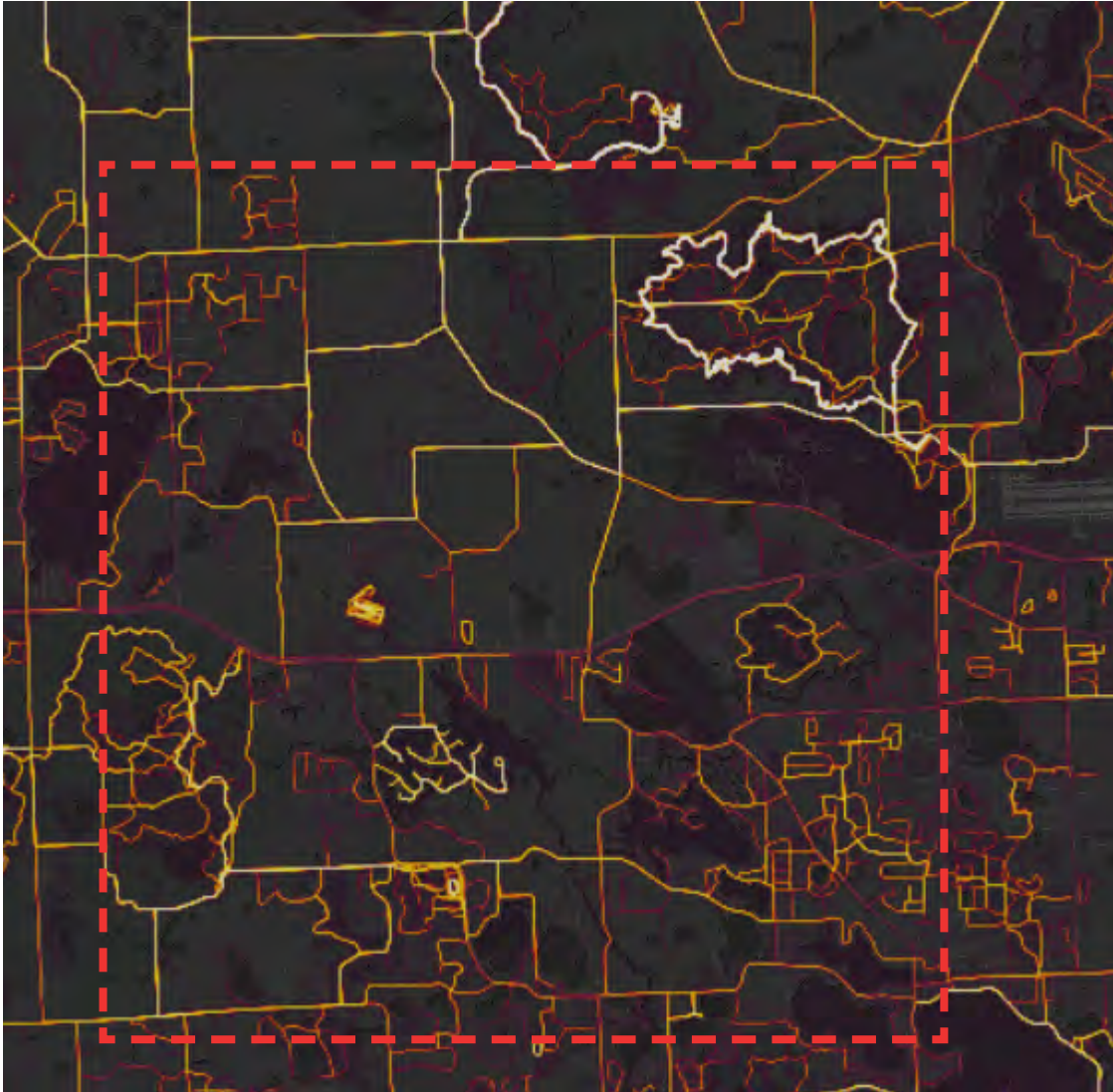
Planned/Under Design

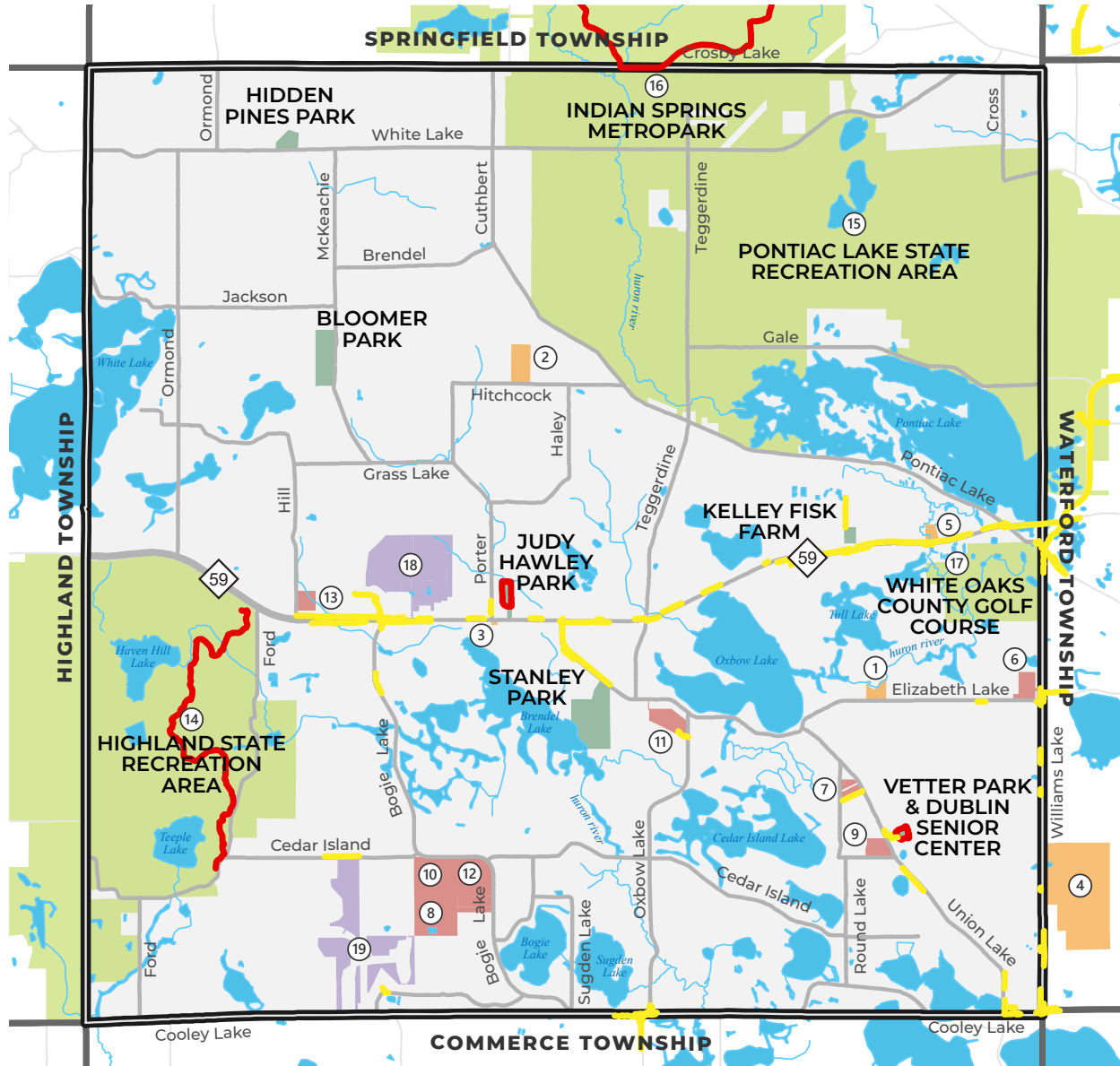
In 2021, White Lake Township received a \$50,000 grant from the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Legacy Funds via the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan toward design of the "Triangle Trail," an approximately 2-mile continuous path along Highland Road, Elizabeth Lake Road, and Teggerdine Road. Design of the final sections was completed in 2022, and in 2023 funding will be sought for construction.

In addition, White Lake Township has secured a \$1.6 million federal grant and has developed a concept plan for the reconstruction of Elizabeth Lake Road from Teggerdine Road through the northern extent of the White Lake Library. The conceptual cross-section includes 2 lanes of vehicular traffic, on-street parking, mid-block crossings, and sidewalks on both sides of Elizabeth Lake Road. This is further support for the development of an overall 'civic center' district via potential public-private partnerships in this area of the Township.

WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP | STRAVA APP HEATMAP

The 'brighter' the color, the more biking/walking activity (i.e. Pontiac Lake Recreation Area and Indian Springs Metropark Trails)





WHITE LAKE TWP. PARKS

OTHER PUBLIC PROPERTIES

- ① Elizabeth Lake Road Property
- ② Hitchcock Road Property
- ③ Old Community Hall
- ④ Hess Hathaway Park (in Waterford)
- ⑤ M-59/Huron River Property

SCHOOL PROPERTIES

- ⑥ Houghton Elementary School
- ⑦ Dublin Elementary School
- ⑧ Lakewood Elementary School
- ⑨ St. Patrick Catholic School
- ⑩ White Lake Middle School
- ⑪ Oxbow Elementary School
- ⑫ Lakeland High School
- ⑬ Huron Valley Schools Property

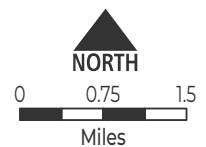
STATE | METROPARK | COUNTY PROPERTIES

- ⑭ Highland State Recreation Area
- ⑮ Pontiac Lake State Recreation Area
- ⑯ Indian Springs Metropark
- ⑰ White Oaks County Golf Course

PRIVATE PROPERTIES

- ⑱ Alpine Valley Ski
- ⑲ Brentwood Golf Club and Banquet Center

- Existing Shared Use Trail (3.34 miles)
- Existing Sidepath/Sidewalk (8.05 miles)



**EXISTING
NONMOTORIZED
FACILITIES MAP**

**WHITE LAKE
TOWNSHIP**

5-YEAR PARKS &
RECREATION
MASTER PLAN
2023 - 2027

EXAMPLE EXISTING NONMOTORIZED CONDITIONS

Aging and unkempt asphalt along edges of M-59



Sidewalks/sidepaths are required for new developments





BASIS FOR ACTION

This section of the Plan is intended to further analyze a variety of factors within and outside of White Lake Township that may have an affect on recreation trends and/or planned improvements over the next five years. The Basis For Action provides the rationale for the goals, objectives, and desired capital improvements. This rationale is based on analysis and consideration of many elements, including: current national trends and benchmarks, demographics, existing Township and other agency plans, as well as the results of community, Committee, and staff input. It should be noted each piece of information and analysis contained within this section should be considered as one piece of the puzzle and as one piece of the bigger picture - each contributing to the development of the Action Plan.

The data on the following page highlights metrics for the typical park and recreation agency with a population of 20,000 to 49,000 (as is the case for White Lake Township). A comparison of White Lake Township (using 2020 census) data is provided based on the most recent inventory and latest expenditure and revenue data. The national median for communities with a population between 20,000-49,999 is 10.6 park acres per 1,000 people. The Southeast Michigan region median is 17.3 park acres per 1,000 people. White Lake has 188 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents (including the state recreation areas, metropark, and Hess-Hathaway Park).

This data and comparison is intended to continue to inform the Action Plan and discussions over the next 5 years. Every agency and community needs are different.

10-MINUTE WALK

A parks advocacy campaign was launched by The Trust for Public Land, National Recreation and Park Association, Urban Land Institute, and supported by the U.S. Conference of Mayors, establishing a goal that all Americans should live within a 10-minute walk (half-mile) of a high-quality park or green space. As noted in the campaign, studies show high-quality parks provide a wide range of benefits to residents and communities. These include:

- physical and mental health benefits, by providing opportunities to be physically active and to interact with nature
- economic benefits by boosting business and helping to revitalize neighborhoods
- community-building benefits by providing opportunities for neighbors to interact with each other and work together to improve their surroundings
- environmental benefits by cleaning and cooling the air and providing opportunities for environmental education

While the 10-minute walk initiative has a particular focus on areas that are more urban than White Lake, it can still be a helpful exercise to illustrate in more suburban communities. It can also assist in considering where to focus resources to improve walking and biking facilities. The Park Service Area Map on the following page illustrates those areas of the Township where residents live within a half-mile (a 10-minute walk if safe/comfortable facilities exist) to a Township Park, or a school property.

In addition, SEMCOG has developed interactive mapping to visualize access to parks via various modes of travel, including walking. Two SEMCOG maps have been included as another tool to support decisions related to goals and priorities in the Action Plan. One SEMCOG map illustrates how many minutes it takes to walk to parks in the Township. The second map illustrates how many minutes it takes to walk to playgrounds in the Township.





**The Typical
Park + Recreation
Agency**
(population 20,000 - 49,999)

**White Lake
Township**
(population 30,950)

**Residents
per Park**
(median)

1,941

3,095

5,158 if excluding State Areas,
Metropark, Hess-Hathaway

**Acres of Parkland
per 1,000 Residents**
(median)

10.6

188

3.68 if excluding State Areas,
Metropark, Hess-Hathaway

**Annual Operating
Expenditures**
(median)

\$3.5M

\$132k

2020/2021 Median

**Operating
Expenditures
per Capita**
(median)

\$110

\$4.26

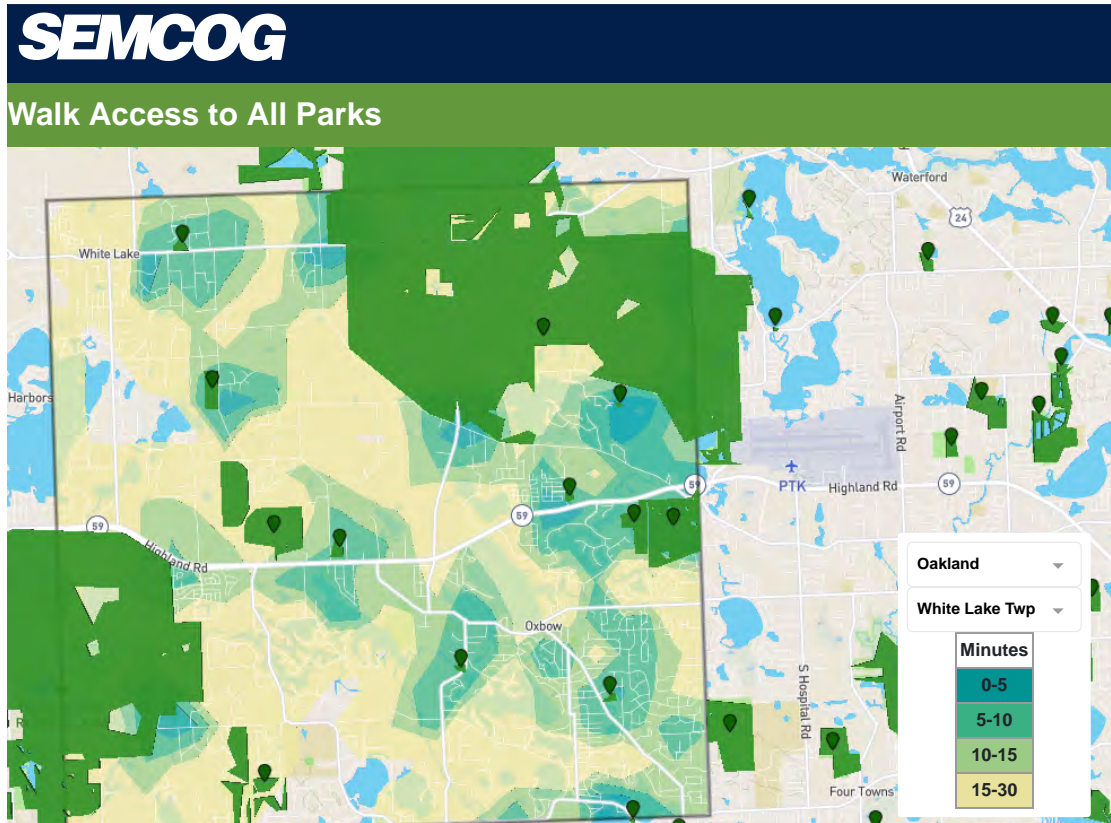
**5 Year Budget
for Capital Projects**
(median)

\$3.7M

\$9.9M

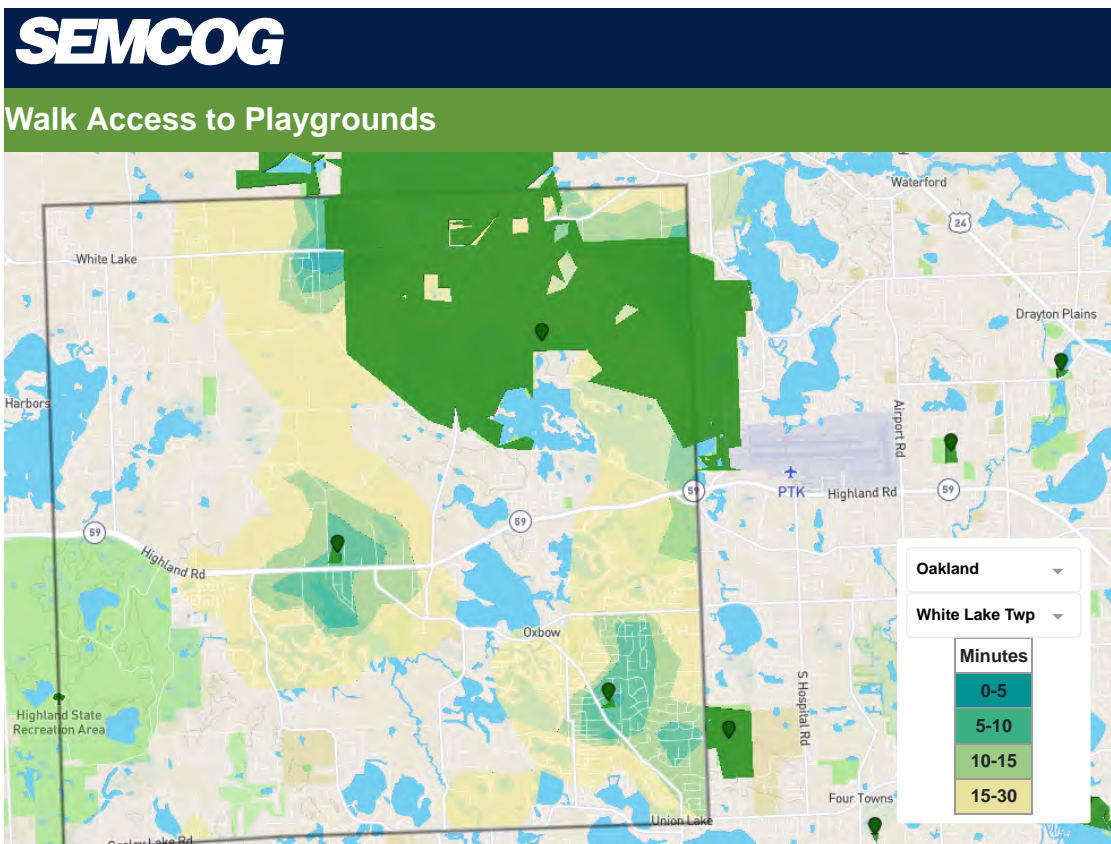
Based on 2023-2028 Township
Capital Improvement Plan
(Excluding 2028)

Source: 2022 NRPA Agency Performance Review



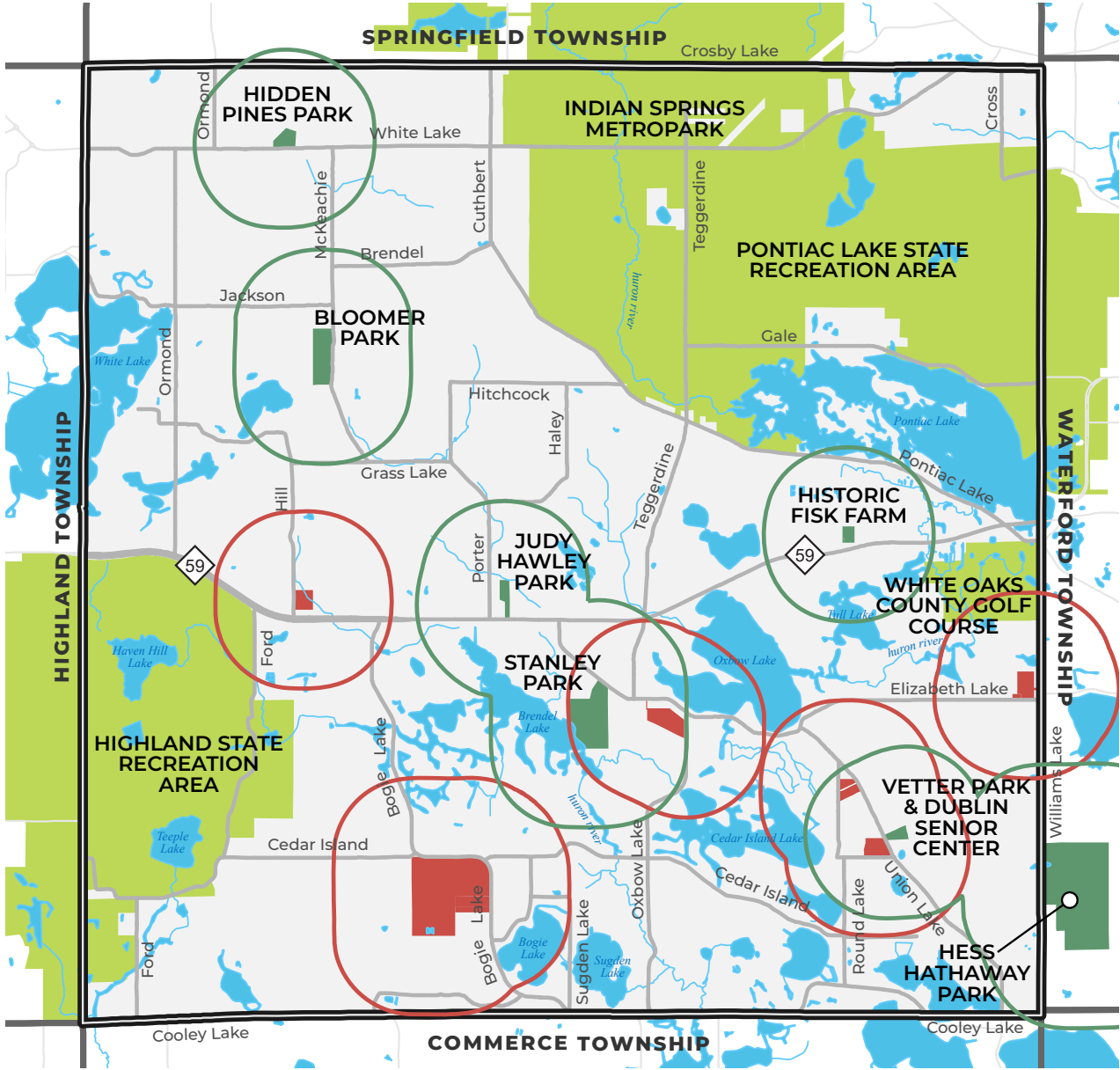
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SEMCOG Access to Parks



https://maps.semco.org/accessparks/?amenity=Playgrounds&mode=walk_amenity_access&mcd=2290&print=true&county=125

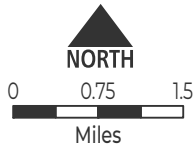
1/1



SERVICE AREA

- 1/2 Mile (10 minute walk) - Park
- 1/2 Mile (10 minute walk) - School
- Park Property
- School Property

This doesn't imply people can walk to these properties, rather, if safe facilities are available, they're more likely to walk to them



SERVICE AREA MAP

WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP
5-YEAR PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN
2023 - 2027

COMMUNITY DEMOGRAPHICS

The socioeconomic characteristics of a community can play a role in the demand for certain types of recreation facilities and programs. By examining socioeconomic characteristics such as population density, age, and household size, municipalities can identify trends and opportunities that may influence future land use and recreation decisions and/or policy choices. This section provides a brief summary of a handful of socioeconomic characteristics of White Lake Township that may (along with a number of other pieces of data and information) influence parks and recreation planning decisions.

The U.S. Census Bureau and SEMCOG served as the primary sources of data for this demographics section. Census statistics are presented for the Township in comparison to the County and State. In addition, a series of maps are included that illustrate relevant (and available) pieces of Census data by block group within the Township.

As of the 2020 Census, White Lake Township had 30,950 residents, an increase of 931 residents (+3.1%), from 2010. The southeast Michigan region as a whole grew by 2.7%, with Oakland County growing by 6% over the same 10-year period. Township staff believes the population is several thousand more than reported by the Census due to large residential developments that have been built in recent years. Average household size was greater in the Township at 2.55 in 2020, when compared to Oakland County, 2.4%, and the southeast Michigan region as a whole at 2.46. The average household size in White Lake decreased from 2010 to 2020 from 2.66 down to 2.55.

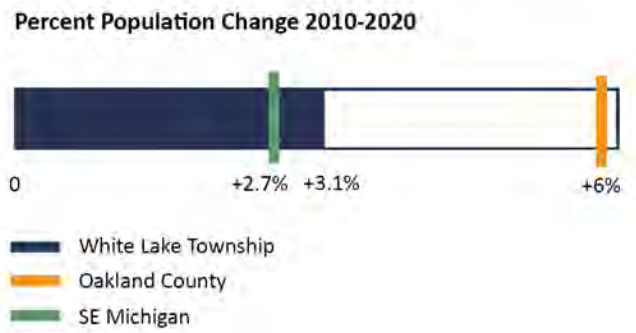
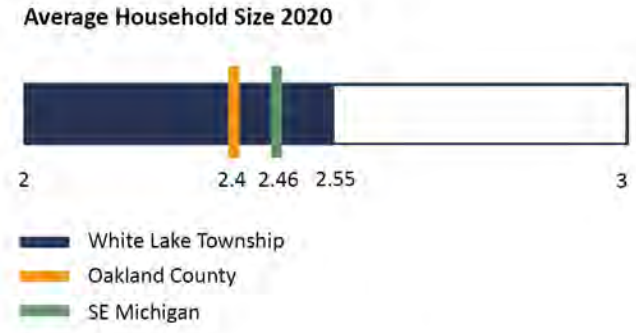
Population by Block Group

Population and population density characteristics can have a significant influence on parks and recreation planning. Where population is most dense, there is typically a greater need for park facilities. Conversely, it may not be as practical or economical to locate

park facilities within sparsely populated areas. The Population Density by Block Group Map illustrates the number of people living within the Township by block group (as defined by the U.S. Census).

Household Size

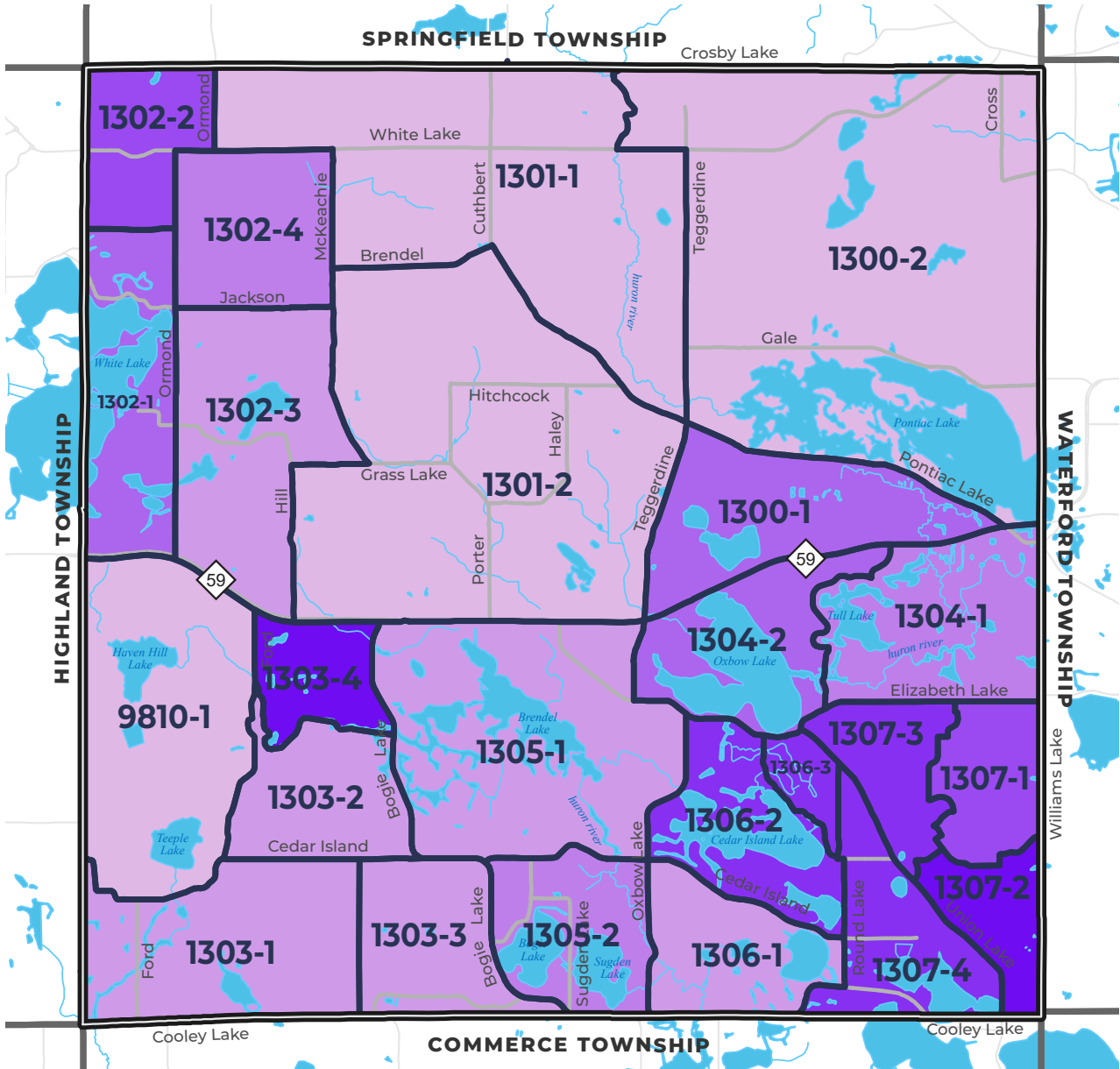
A household, as defined by the U.S. Census, is all persons who occupy the same housing unit. A housing unit can be described as a house, apartment, mobile home, a group of rooms, or a single room used as a separate living quarters. A trend occurring nation-wide is the declining size of households. There are several factors that demographers have linked to the declining size. People are marrying later, postponing having children, and having fewer children. The number of single-parent households is increasing, thus contributing to the decline in average household size.



Household size is an important factor when making park facility and program decisions. A high person per household figure can be an indication an area is comprised of families with children or multi-generational households. Conversely, an area with a low person per household figure may require recreation facilities more favorable to singles, adults, or the elderly. The geographic distribution of household size in White Lake Township is illustrated on the Average Household Size by Block Group Map.

Race and Hispanic Origin

In 2020, White Lake Township was comprised of 96.4% Non-Hispanic and 3.6% Hispanic residents. Of the Non-Hispanic residents, 88.5% were White (i.e. European, Middle East or North Africa), 1.6% Black, 1.2% Asian, 4.5% Multi-Racial, and 0.6% Other. The Township and the southeast Michigan region as a whole have become more diverse over the last 10-year period.



POPULATION DENSITY BY BLOCK GROUP (people / sq. mi)

- 0 - 500
- 501 - 1000
- 1001 - 1500
- 1501 - 2000
- 2001 - 2500
- 2501 - 3000
- 3001 - 3500

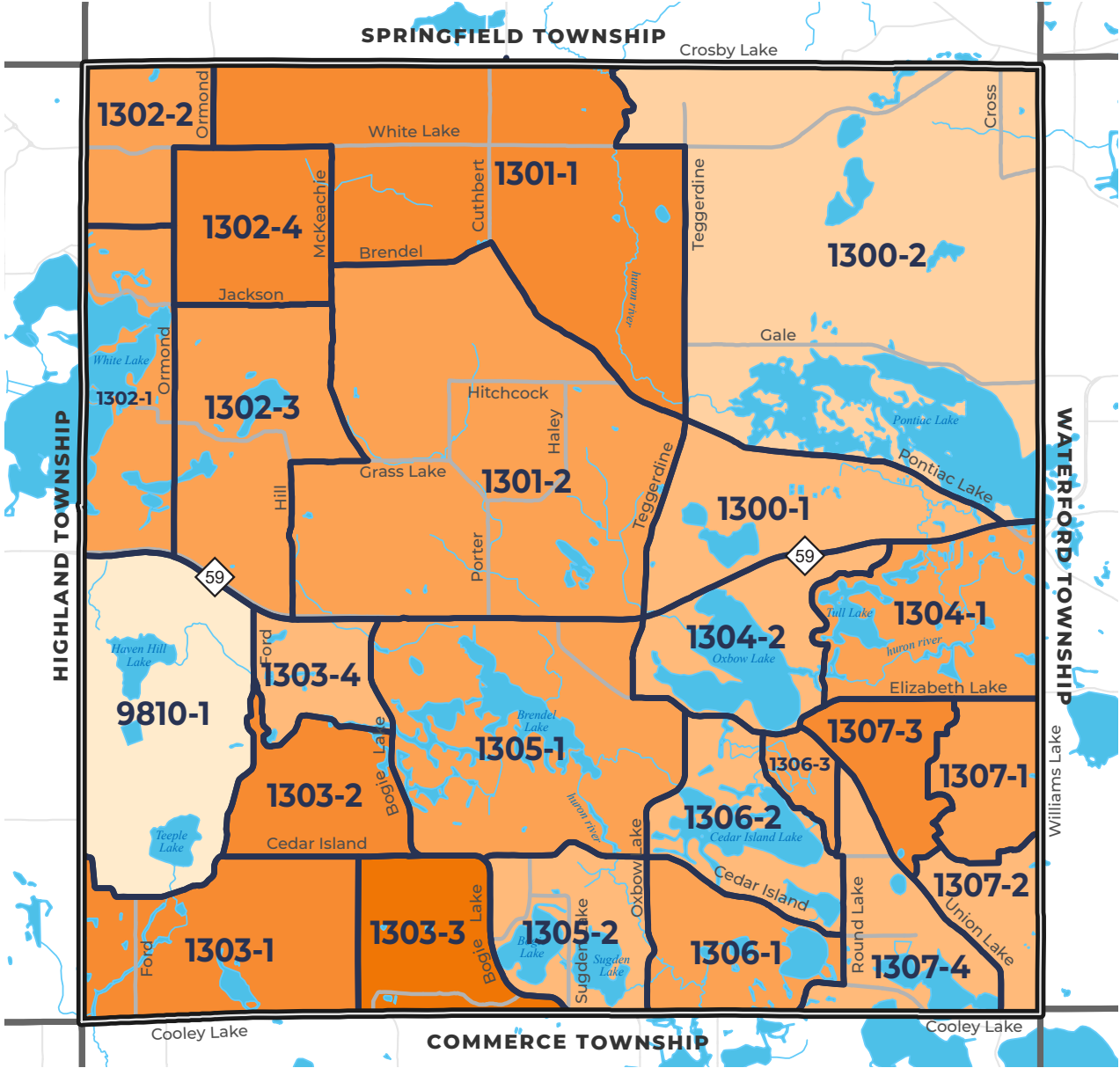


POPULATION DENSITY MAP

WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP

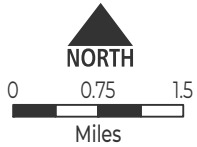
5-YEAR PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN
2023 - 2027

A Block Group is a geographical unit used by the U.S. Census Bureau. It is the smallest geographical unit for which the bureau publishes sample data. Each Block Group has a unique Block Group number.



AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE BY BLOCK GROUP

- 0.00 - 2.00
- 2.01 - 2.25
- 2.26 - 2.50
- 2.51 - 2.75
- 2.76 - 3.00
- 3.01 - 3.25



HOUSEHOLD SIZE MAP

WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP

**5-YEAR PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN
2023 - 2027**

A Block Group is a geographical unit used by the U.S. Census Bureau. It is the smallest geographical unit for which the bureau publishes sample data. Each Block Group has a unique Block Group number.

INFLUENCING PLANNING INITIATIVES

There are several related planning initiatives that are significant in terms of their relevance to the provision of recreation within White Lake Township. Each initiative is described in greater detail on the following pages.

SEMCOG Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2019)

The SEMCOG Parks and Recreation Master Plan focuses on enhancing the region’s recreation system and builds on recommendations from other existing regional plans and policies. The Plan contains the following six regional policies:

- Integrate **community health and wellness** initiatives with outdoor recreation opportunities
- Ensure **equitable access** to recreation opportunities for people of all backgrounds, ages, and abilities in southeast Michigan
- Promote the **economic value** of parks and recreation
- Support **conservation and stewardship** in balance with recreation opportunities
- **Raise awareness** among residents and visitors
- Foster **collaboration** among stakeholders

Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan for Southeast Michigan (SEMCOG 2020)

SEMCOG and MDOT worked together to develop a Bicycle and Pedestrian Mobility Plan for the southeast Michigan region to establish a common vision for bicycling and walking, and provide guidance on how to increase the connectivity, use, and safety of the system for all residents. To continue enhancing the system and meet the needs of the region, the plan recommends the following regional policies:

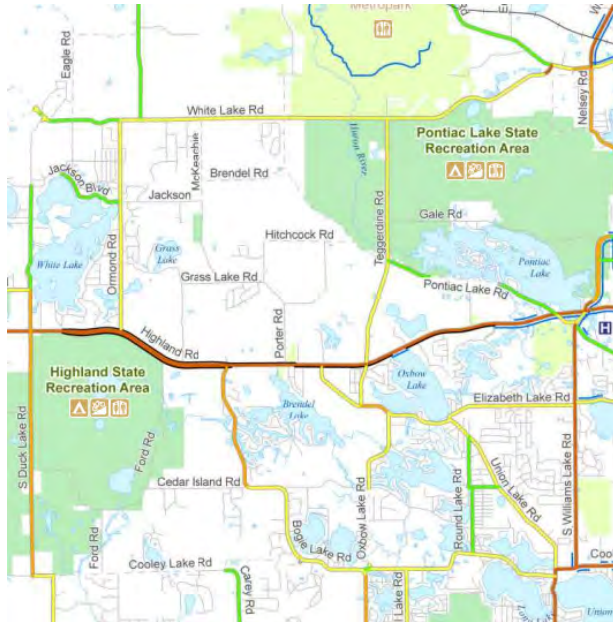
- Connect and expand the network
- Ensure equitable access
- Increase safety
- Promote healthy lifestyles and vibrant communities
- Provide education
- Ensure sustainability



Walking and Biking Trip Purposes in Southeast Michigan (SEMCOG)



MDOT Metro Region North Bike Map (2018)



MDOT Metro Region North Bike Map (2018)

The Michigan Department of Transportation publishes a road and trail bicycling guide map for each MDOT region. The Metro Region map was updated in 2018. In addition to existing trail networks, the maps illustrate roads with heavier (oranges and reds) and lighter (greens and yellows) traffic volumes to assist in route planning.

Metroparks Trail Gap Feasibility Study (2023)

In 2022, the Huron-Clinton Metroparks issued a Request for Proposals for consulting assistance in the development of Feasibility Studies focused on connecting its various properties via nonmotorized trails. One of the ‘gaps’ of particular interest to White Lake Township is a potential alignment to connect Kensington Metropark with Indian Springs Metropark. The Township met with the MDNR and Metroparks for an initial discussion and anticipates remaining involved as a key stakeholder. The Study is expected to be completed in 2023.

MDOT M-59 Mill and Resurface Project (2026)

The SEMCOG Transportation Improvement Project highlights a \$54M mill and resurface project along M-59 from Milford Road to Pontiac Lake Road. Township involvement/input in the design process and cross-section will be important to look for opportunities to improve conditions for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Huron River Watershed Council

The Huron River Watershed is 908 square miles and home to more than 650,000 people, including the majority of White Lake Township. The watershed’s forests, wetlands, and grasslands soak up rainwater and runoff, filter pollutants from runoff, and provide wildlife habitat and beautiful places for all to enjoy. In the section of watershed that includes White Lake, about 29% remains as intact natural areas. 60% of these areas are protected from development (in Proud Lake State Park, Highland Recreation Area, and Kensington and Indian Springs metroparks). A substantial percentage of land on the edge of the Huron River is in protected lands, which keeps the riparian land undeveloped. The Watershed Council develops a number of resources and support materials. The Council is also the lead agency for the Huron River Water Trail (a National Water Trail) which currently begins in Proud Lake, just south of White Lake Township and continues 104-miles to Lake Erie.



It will be important to continue to collaborate with the Watershed Council to educate the community, protect the riparian corridor, monitor water quality, offer paddling opportunities for residents, and incorporate sustainable design features within Township parks.

Oakland County Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2023-2027)

The Oakland County Plan is a guide for staff and the Parks and Recreation Committee to use over the 5-year period. It outlines 6 major goals:

- Offer Experiences and Places that make a Difference
- Operate Clean, Safe, and Welcoming Parks
- Sustainably Invest in Assets and Infrastructure
- Contribute to Thriving and Resilient Communities
- Care for the Land and Environment
- Engage the Entire Organization in the Aspiration of our Vision

The White Lake Oaks County Golf Course is an 18-hole course located on the eastern edge of the Township, just south of M-59. The Plan supports invasive species management as well as access, recreational use, and water trail connectivity at the adjacent, former Girl Scout property (West Park).



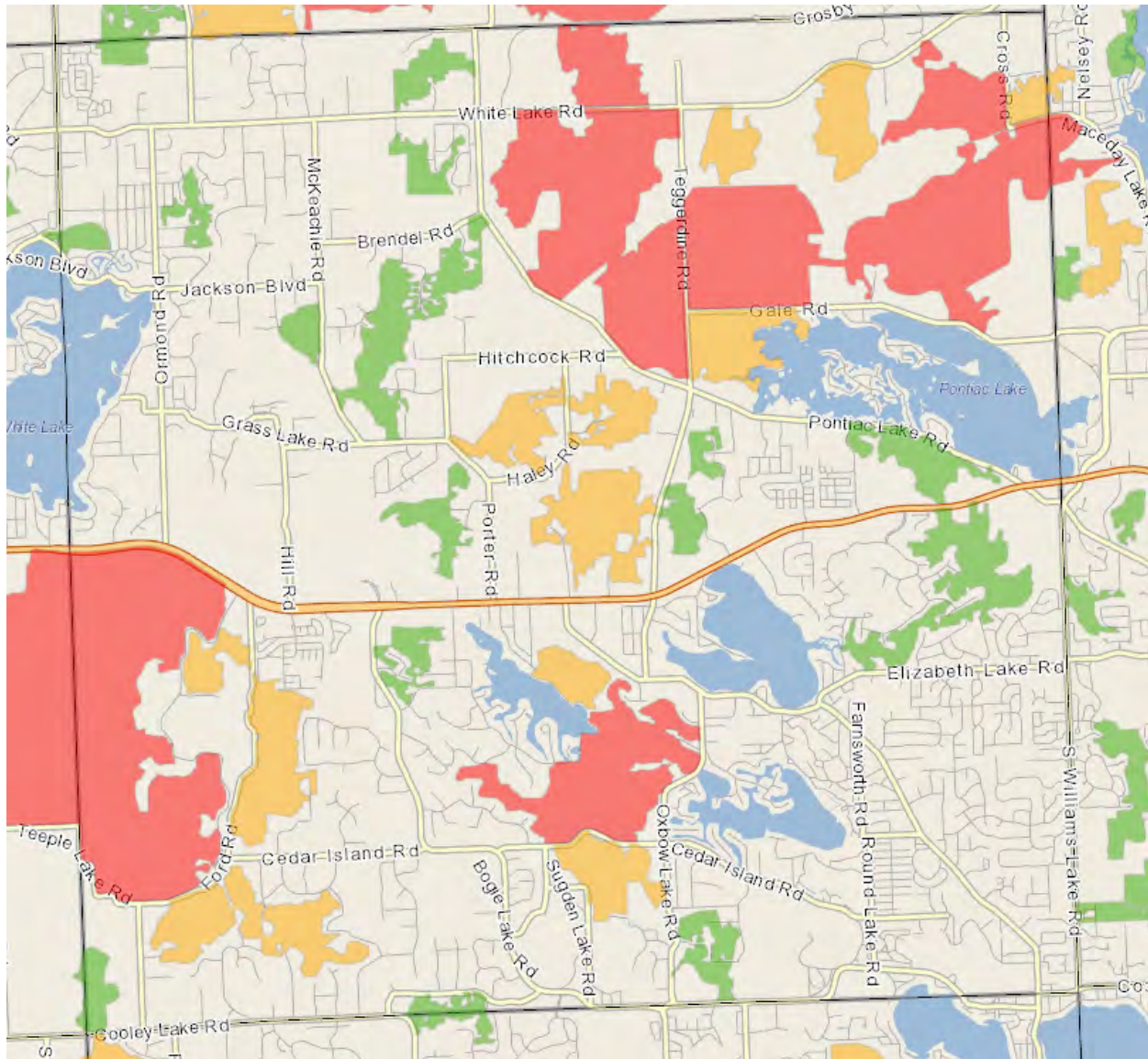
Oakland County Potential Natural Areas

In 2017, Oakland County worked with the Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI) staff at MSU Extension to update the County's Potential Natural Areas Map. Potential Natural Areas are defined as places dominated by vegetation that have various levels of potential for harboring high-quality natural areas and unique natural features. The map below highlights areas in White Lake that have the highest probability of having high ecological health and value.

2017 MNFI Potential Natural Areas

- Priority One
- Priority Two
- Priority Three

Oakland County Potential Natural Areas Map (2017 MNFI)



Township Capital Improvement Plan (2023-2028)

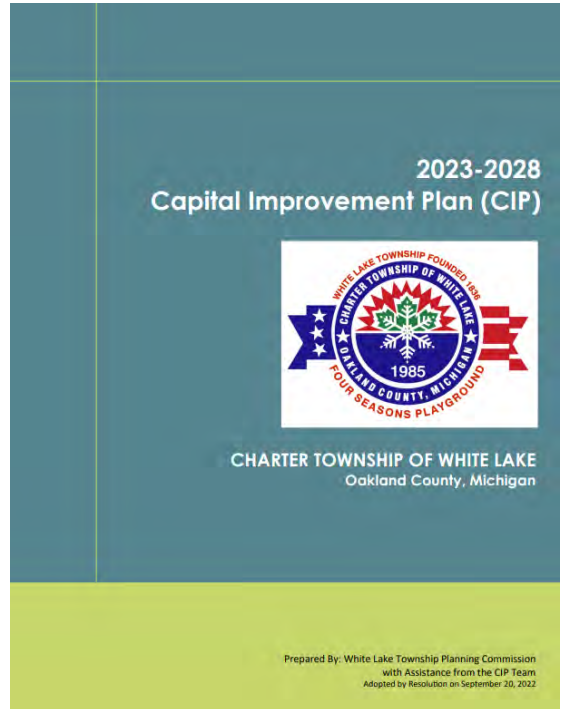
The White Lake Township Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for 2023-2028 was accepted by the Township Board via resolution on September 20, 2022. The 6-year Plan is a guide for the Supervisor and Board during decision making regarding improvement projects in the community that cover multiple departments and project types. Parks and Recreation facilities and nonmotorized pathways are included in the CIP. The CIP will be updated in 2023 to reflect the results of this 5-Year Parks and Recreation Plan. Currently, the CIP includes projects such as trail extensions along Union Lake Road, Bogie Lake Road, and M-59; construction of a trail to connect Highland State Recreation Area and Pontiac Lake State Recreation Area, as well as projects such as further development of Hidden Pines Park, Stanley Park, and Bloomer Park.

Bloomer Park Concept Plan (2011)

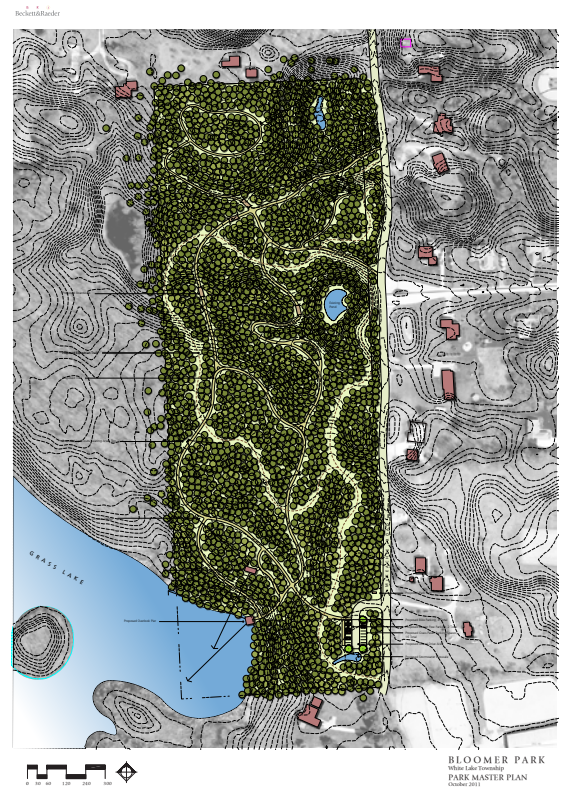
A concept plan was complete for Bloomer Park in 2011 that was the basis for the initial improvements that exist today and were partially funded via a 2009 MDNR Trust Fund grant. The overall concept/vision for Bloomer Park includes additional trails throughout the property.

Hidden Pines Concept Plan (2012)

A concept plan was developed for Hidden Pines Park in 2012. In addition to the ballfield and open space currently at the park, the concept included a walking trail, playground, picnic shelter/tables, rain gardens and revised parking.



White Lake Township
Hidden Pines Park Master Plan
April 2012



Kelley Fisk Farm Concept Plan (2016)

White Lake Township and the Historic Fisk Farm Park Steering Committee worked together to develop a set of goals and objectives as well as a concept plan for future improvements. The concept included potential locations for the old town hall, parking, walkways, shelter renovations, etc.

Stanley Park Concept Plan (2021)

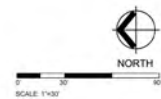
A concept plan for White Lake Township's newest park property, Stanley Park, was developed in 2021 and was the basis for a grant application that will partially fund the first phase of improvements that are slated for construction in 2023. The concept plan includes a road and pathways leading to the future Civic Center development, trails through the park, picnic shelters, playground, pickleball courts, kayak launch, beach, etc.



White Lake Township FISK FARM Master Plan

The Johnson Hill Land Ethics Studio

March 2, 2016





5-YEAR PLAN INPUT

During the development of the White Lake Township 5-Year Parks + Recreation Master Plan, the Township gathered stakeholder input via several methods. Each of these resulted in input that was relied upon in order to develop the goals, objectives, and action plan for the next 5 years. A summary of the effort and results is summarized here with additional details in the Appendix.

Public Online Survey

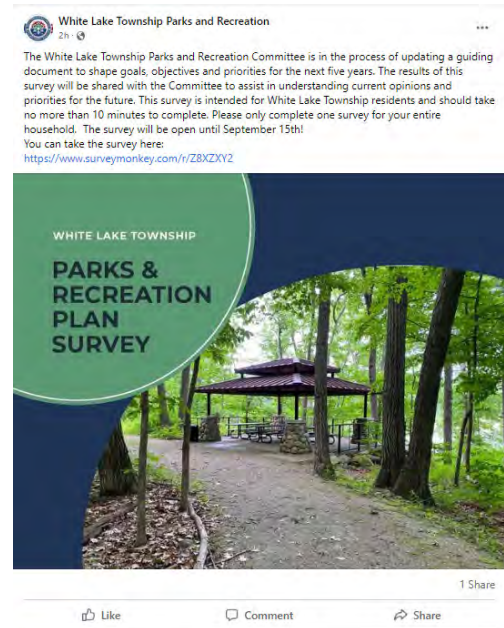
The White Lake Township Parks and Recreation Survey was an online survey conducted August 15, 2022 through September 15, 2022. The purpose of the survey was to gather input related to current use and future priorities of the park system in the Township. The survey was published on the Township website, distributed via email, and posted to the various Township Facebook pages. In addition, signs on easels with QR codes were placed at Township Hall and the Senior Center. Hard copies of the survey were also available at the Senior Center and at the Fisk Farm Festival Event in September 2022. In total, 443 people responded to the survey including a good cross-section of ages, and 57% living south of M-59. A summary of the results is presented here and a detailed summary is provided in the Appendix.

When asked **why respondents don't use White Lake Township parks and facilities more often**, the top 4 responses were:

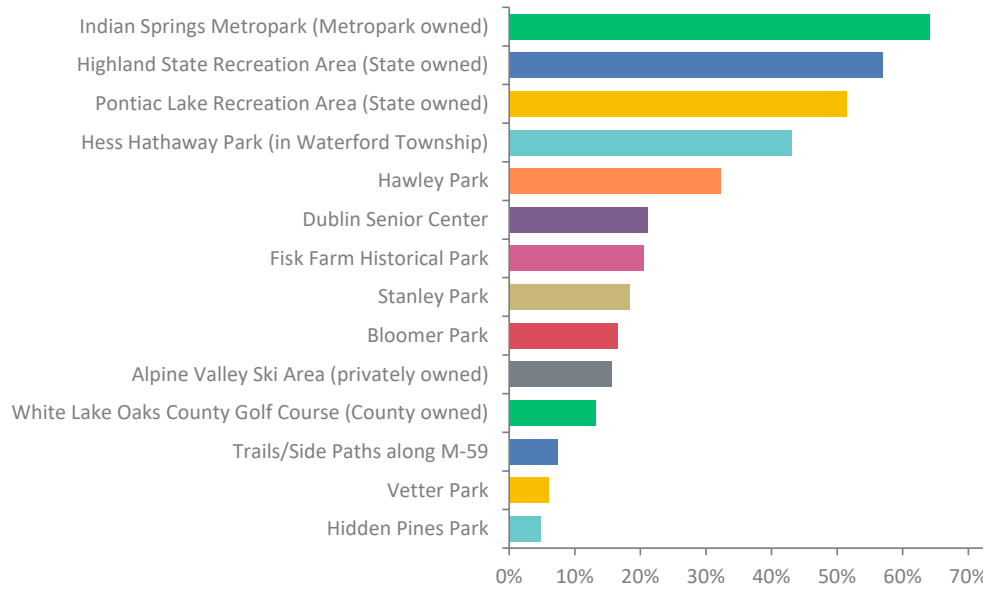
- Not enough time/too busy (38.8%)
- Use other communities' park, facilities, programs (33.4%)
- I do not know where the Township parks are (21.4%)
- Parks do not contain the facilities we need/enjoy (21.1%)

The **top 6 amenities** people indicated were most important to them or their household were:

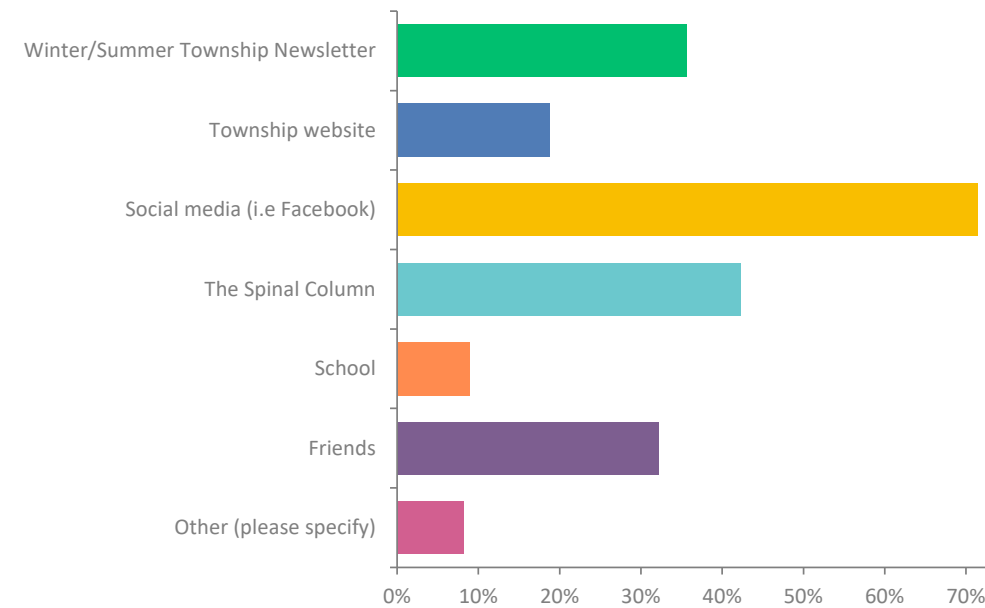
- Walking/running/biking trails (68.9%)
- Open space/natural areas (36.6%)
- Playgrounds (33.6%)
- Canoeing/kayaking (25.2%)
- Sledding hills (15.8%)
- Picnic shelters (15.6%)



Which park/facility has your household used over the past year?



Where does your household find out about things going on in the Township?



Fisk Farm Festival Outreach

White Lake Township Parks and Recreation set up a tent/station at the Annual Fisk Farm Festival September 10, 2022 at the Historic Fisk Farm property. The annual event brings several hundred people to the Farm for music, food, arts and craft show, etc. The Parks and Recreation tent included a sign about the online survey, hard copies of the survey, a map of the parks, as well as a blank sheet of paper where people could write/draw ideas of things they'd like to do/have in White Lake Township parks. Some of the ideas mentioned included:

- Ziplines and Rock Wall
- Ice rink
- Stargazing night to watch sunsets. And food!
- Trees, wildlife, open spaces, passive rec, natural noise
- Water Day – sprinklers, squirt guns, water balloons,
- I love the walking paths!
- Signs along trails that tell about plant/animal species
- Fitness court/workout stations
- Porta jon at Bloomer Park – can't use pavilion if no restroom
- Kayaking and canoeing opportunities
- Love walking path at Hawley
- All inclusive playground like in Commerce Twp
- Sidewalks along Elizabeth Lake and Union Lake Roads
- Place to take out kayak where Huron River crosses Oxbow Lake Rd

Committee Meeting Input

In addition to filling out the online survey, the Parks and Recreation Committee (at its October 5, 2022 Special Meeting) discussed what they love about White Lake Parks and Recreation and what they think are some of the challenges. Residents that attended the meeting also participated. This input, along with other pieces of information documented in the Inventory and Basis For Action sections, were used to develop the Action Plan.



Things We Like/Love

- The parks offer a balance of activities between them including walking, basketball, baseball, soccer, hiking, playgrounds, and pavilions.
- Open Spaces
- Huron River flowing through Township
- Hawley Park is the best athletic field park
- Kelley Fisk Farm best event venue
- Dublin Center is the best Activity Center
- community sport areas with soccer and baseball
- hiking trails
- historic Township
- Fisk Farm Festival
- community activities
- good fresh air, walking paths, nature
- Stanley Park acquisition and planned development
- natural beauty within the parks including Stanley
- historic sites

- water access for swimming and kayaking
- tree lighting
- parks are available for picnicking and games
- special events at Fisk Farm

Our Challenges or Things We'd Like To See

- need to make residents aware of where Township parks are located
- money is a challenge
- we are not a walkable community - we need pathways along major roads
- difficult to maintain current facilities
- not enough funding now - this will hold us back going forward
- vast area to try to connect with trails
- we are limited in funding and walkable/bikeable trails
- funding
- more funding needed
- benches are needed at more frequent intervals
- skating and snowshoeing
- mountain biking
- not enough connectivity or trails and paths to schools and neighborhoods
- would like more citizens to use our parks and be aware of what's available
- we need more concern for environmental challenges and issues such as herbicides and pesticides as well as impacts of climate changes
- I live rurally and don't need a park
- no higher taxes
- natural wooded areas with trails
- getting voter support for millages could be a challenge
- more horse trails

MDNR/Metroparks Input

Township staff met virtually with representatives from Highland State Recreation Area, Pontiac Lake State Recreation Area, as well as Huron Clinton Metroparks staff on September 9, 2022. The purpose of the discussion was to raise awareness of the Township's schedule and process for updating its Parks and Recreation Master Plan and to hear from the various agencies their plans over the next several years to ensure coordination and avoid duplication of efforts.

Public Hearing

A full draft of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan was presented to the Parks and Recreation Committee for review and discussion at its November 2022 meeting. The draft Plan was then made available for public review on _____, 2022. Hard copies of the draft Plan were available at the Township Hall. A digital copy was posted to the Township website. A notice was published in the Spinal Column on _____, and posted on the Township website and Facebook page.

A public hearing on the draft Plan was held by the Parks and Recreation Committee on _____ at the Township Annex. Minutes from the public hearing are included in the Appendix.

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ACTION PLAN

The Action Plan details the direction the Township would like to take over the next five years in order to maintain, improve, and expand parks, recreation and nonmotorized connectivity opportunities within the community. The findings and results summarized in the Basis For Action section of this Plan were utilized to develop the goals, objectives, and capital improvement priorities detailed on the following pages. This section also includes planning recommendations related to expansion of a nonmotorized network and improvement of pedestrian/bicycle connectivity within the Township and to adjacent communities. The Plan is intended to serve as a guide for decision-making relative to future park facilities and programs. The Plan is not intended to solve all of the issues, concerns and desires related to parks and recreation, but rather to identify and document them so they can be addressed and focused on in the upcoming months and years. Goals are desired long-term ideals or end products. Objectives are more detailed statements that have been developed to outline more specific actions that will assist in meeting the goals. The Goals and Objectives are intended to be as important as the capital improvement priorities and are listed in no particular order of importance or priority.

WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP PARKS + RECREATION GOALS 2023-2027

-  Improve walking and biking **connectivity** in the community
-  Be leaders in the **stewardship** of the Huron River Watershed
-  Secure additional **funding** for parks and recreation
-  **Raise awareness** of parks and recreation offerings in the Township
-  Develop and promote **canoe and kayak** opportunities in the Township
-  **Partner** with others to provide parks and recreation in the Township
-  As appropriate, seek strategic properties to **expand** the Township park system to support existing and future needs
-  **Update** aging park amenities, increase level of **maintenance**, and **construct/install** additional amenities at Township parks



Improve walking and biking **connectivity** in the community

OBJECTIVES

- Encourage and support the Township in developing a '**Complete Streets**' policy, ordinance, resolution, and/or plan in order to advocate for roads that are 'planned, designed, and constructed to provide appropriate access to all users...whether by car, truck, assistive device, foot or bicycle.'
- Coordinate with the **Road Commission for Oakland County** to improve non-motorized access and use along County roads (i.e. widen paved shoulders, improved pedestrian crossings, etc.)
- Prioritize **gaps and connections** to parks, schools, employment areas, and civic destinations.
- Utilize the Township **Sidewalk/Pathway Fund** (developers contribute to at approval of Township Board) to construct gaps in high priority areas and corridors.
- Coordinate with MDOT regarding design and construction of a consistent, 8-10-foot wide Side Path along the north and south side of **M-59** that is setback from the curb with green space between the curb and Side Path.
- Coordinate with the **Metroparks and MDNR** to connect Highland State Recreation Area, Pontiac Lake State Recreation Area, and Indian Springs Metropark through the Township via a regional trail system that considers accessibility for pedestrians, bicyclists, and equestrians.
- Coordinate with **SEMCOG** to get the White Lake Township planned/proposed nonmotorized network incorporated into the SEMCOG Regional Planned Corridors Maps and associated documentation.
- Continue to focus on improving barrier-free and **universal accessibility** at all Township facilities and parks including access to picnic tables, benches, paths, playing fields, parking areas, restrooms, play equipment, etc.
- Use materials from SEMCOG's **Walk Bike Drive Safe campaign** to encourage safe practices by all modes.
- Consider and investigate a **special millage** for design, construction and maintenance of nonmotorized connections per the Township Nonmotorized System Plan.



Be leaders in the **stewardship** of the Huron River Watershed

OBJECTIVES

- Continue to raise awareness, promote, and educate the community about the Huron River Watershed and the role we all play in protecting and improving the environment for generations to come.
- Increase awareness and appreciation of our natural resources by increasing access to the river and waterbodies.
- Incorporate applicable sustainable design elements into all park projects such as green stormwater management practices, solar power, products made from recycled materials, native plantings, etc.
- Include signage at parks that helps to interpret the natural resources as well as showcase sustainable design elements.



Secure additional **funding** for parks and recreation

OBJECTIVES

- Continue the commitment to fiscal responsibility by exploring and seeking avenues to generate alternative revenue sources through grants, donations, foundations, partnerships, etc. to fund park, recreation, and trail/sidepath projects.
- The existing 0.3 parks and recreation millage expires in 2023. Consider a renewal or increase in 2023 in order to implement the priorities outlined in this plan and make progress toward the goals and objectives.



Raise awareness of parks and recreation offerings in the Township

OBJECTIVES

- Coordinate with school district, library, lake boards, historical society, chamber of commerce, realtors, and other parks and recreation providers to distribute parks and recreation information and “cross advertise” offerings.
- Publish the new inventory map on the Township website, Facebook pages, display at Township Hall, etc.
- Print hard copies of the inventory map and have available at Senior Center, Township Hall, Library, Metropark, and State Recreation Areas.
- Post monthly on social media highlighting pictures, activities, and facilities available at Township parks.
- Include parks and recreation information in the Township Newsletter.



Develop and promote **canoe and kayak** opportunities in the Township

OBJECTIVES

- Develop canoe/kayak launches with associated small parking lots on Huron River properties including at M-59, at Elizabeth Lake Road, at Stanley Park, and around/near Oxbow Lake Road.
- Coordinate with Huron River Watershed Council and Oakland County Parks to develop Water Trail marketing/mapping/signage.



Partner with others to provide parks and recreation in the Township

OBJECTIVES

- In support of the Township being a '4 Seasons Playground', organize and hold one Special Event per season (i.e. Tree Lighting, Fall Festival, etc)
- Continue to partner with other parks and recreation providers within and around the community to improve connectivity, as well as strengthen and cross promote special events and offerings including:
 - Dublin Senior Center
 - Kelley Fisk Farm and the White Lake Historical Society
 - Oakland County Parks
 - Huron River Watershed Council
 - Huron-Clinton Metroparks
 - MDNR State Recreation Areas
 - Friends of Highland State Recreation Area
 - Waterford Township and Hess-Hathaway Park Committee
 - Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce
 - Public and private schools in the Township



Update aging park amenities, increase level of **maintenance**, and **construct/install** additional amenities at Township parks.

OBJECTIVES

- Make planned improvements to Stanley Park and support the development of the Civic Center area as a central gathering space and destination within the community.
- Continue to work to improve the ADA accessibility at all parks by providing elements such as accessible play equipment, pathways to and from facilities, bleachers, benches, playground surfacing, etc.
- Anticipate the need to increase staffing levels as additional parks, programs, and amenities are offered.
- Include long-term maintenance funding requirements when implementing new or expanded facilities and programs.
- When developing park and recreation facilities and connections, do so in a manner that protects and celebrates the natural look and feel of the White Lake community.



As appropriate, seek strategic properties to **expand** the Township park system to support existing and future needs.

OBJECTIVE

- Remain aware of potential properties to purchase for conservation and/or recreation purposes that:
 - adjoin an existing conservation/recreation property;
 - are adjacent to a water body, river, or creek;
 - improve walking/biking conditions;
 - and/or are environmentally sensitive.

Nonmotorized Network Plan

One of the top priorities in White Lake Township is to improve connectivity, mobility and safety within the Township in order to provide transportation choices, recreation, contribute to placemaking, economic development, and the health of residents. This Plan includes a long-term vision for nonmotorized connectivity as well as a number of initial priorities and recommendations related to nonmotorized improvements.

This section of the document also details general design considerations, resources, and characteristics related to the accommodation of bicycles and pedestrians within road rights-of-way and off-road corridors. This is not intended to replace the wealth of manuals and design guidance documents that exist. There are a number of design manuals and other guidance that should and/or must be used by agencies, designers, landscape architects, and engineers on how to best accommodate bicycles and pedestrians.

Challenges

Implementation of the Long-Term Nonmotorized System Plan and construction of sections of sidewalk, sidepath, shared use trail and/or enhanced shoulders will be a considerable financial investment with a number of design challenges and constraints in a variety of locations. Conditions that exist in White Lake Township that will add to cost and implementation challenges include (but are not limited to):

- open drainage swales along roads that may need to be enclosed
- removal and replacement of mature trees and vegetation
- removal and/or relocation of resident installed landscaping and neighborhood entrances
- wetlands, lakes, rivers and creeks that will require boardwalks and bridges in order to traverse
- the potential need for easements in some locations to ensure connectivity

The Nonmotorized System Plan Map illustrates the long-term vision for White Lake Township. The Plan proposes and identifies a number of new sidewalks/sidepaths, shared use trails, and enhanced paved shoulders. Lines on the map represent a general vision for connectivity for planning purposes only. As conditions are analyzed in more detail, some segments are anticipated to be modified due to existing conditions, development patterns, cost, permitting, etc. In some cases, the type of nonmotorized facility provided (i.e. sidewalk, wide paved shoulders, sidepath, etc.) will need to be determined during design.

Road Commission for Oakland County

With the exception of M-59, all of the major roads and associated rights-of-way are under the jurisdiction of the Road Commission for Oakland County. Therefore, a majority of the elements discussed and illustrated in the Nonmotorized System Plan will require coordination with the Road Commission. When road improvements are being considered in the Township, the intent is that consideration for Complete Streets be given during the design process including the provision of facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists.



Shared Use Trails

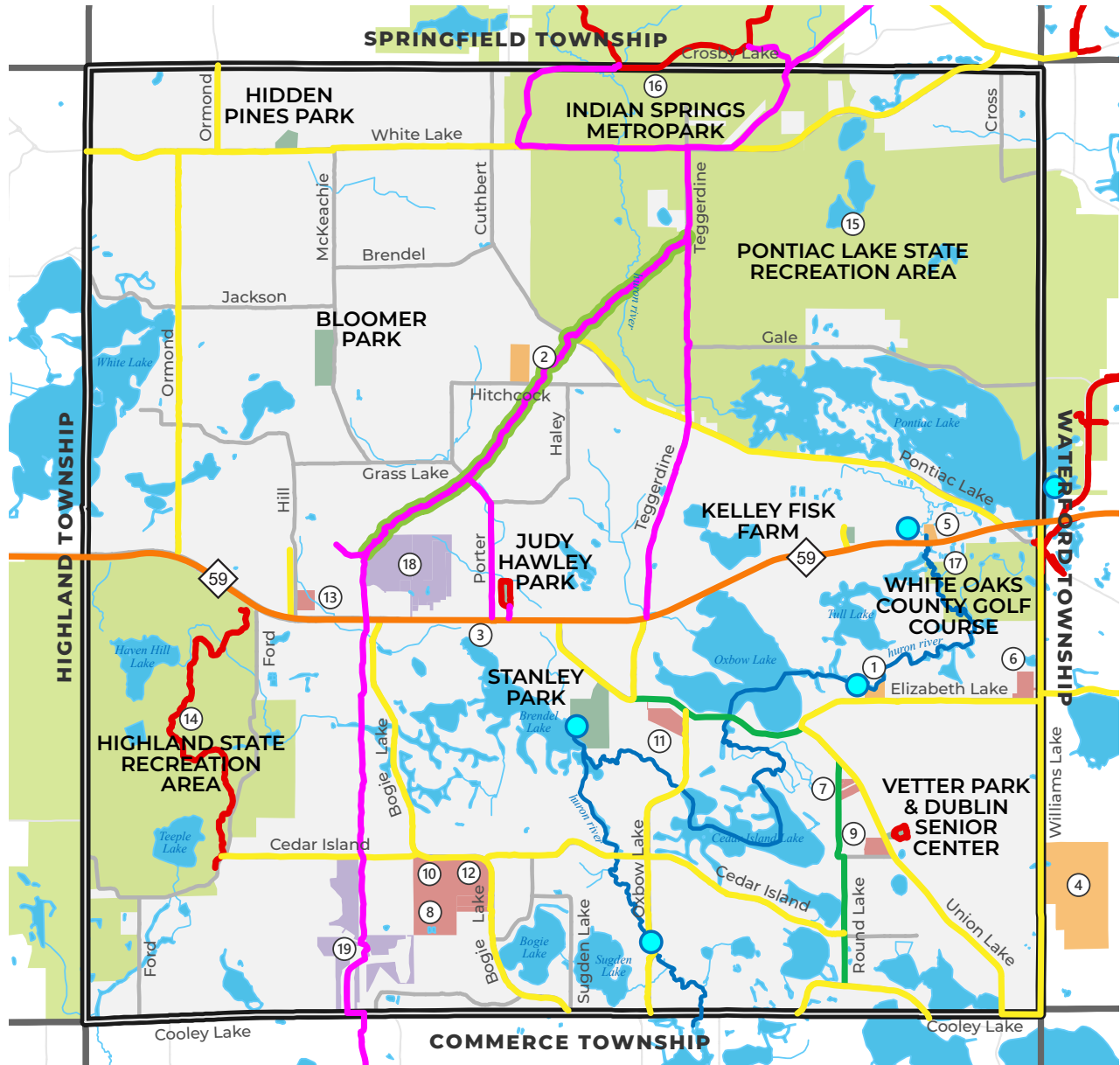
Shared Use Trails provide a travel area separate from motorized traffic for bicyclists, pedestrians, joggers, wheelchair users, etc. They are constructed outside of a road corridor and offer a low-stress experience away from motor vehicles. Examples in White Lake Township include the Cedar Creek Trail in Highland Recreation Area and the paved trail in Indian Springs Metropark. **Shared Use Trails are typically 10-12' wide** (per AASHTO depending on user volumes) with an additional 2' clearance on both sides. Where paths intersect roads, enhancements should prioritize the nonmotorized user. A number of locations and corridors are proposed for additional Shared Use Trails in White Lake Township to increase connectivity including:

- the proposed Four Seasons, cross-town shared use trail to **connect Highland State Recreation Area, Pontiac Lake State Recreation Area, and Indian Springs Metropark** to one another and beyond. The connection (the majority within ITC utility corridor and/or on state property) is anticipated to be a focal point of a feasibility study being led by HCMA as they work toward their goal of connecting Kensington Metropark and Indian Springs Metropark to one another. Walking, biking, and equestrian users should be considered in the connection between Highland and Pontiac Lake State Recreation Areas. The potential exists to provide a 'trailhead' location at Township-owned property on the north side of Hitchcock Road.
- along the **Teggerdine Road corridor** between M-59 and White Lake Road, much of which has wooded State property on either side.
- further study and discussion to determine long-term feasibility of a **north/south shared use trail within the ITC utility** corridor to connect into Commerce Township to the south and the proposed Four Seasons, cross-town trail between the State Recreation Areas.

Complete Streets

There is no one design prescription for complete streets. Ingredients that may be found on a complete street include: sidewalks, bike lanes (or wide paved shoulders), special bus lanes, comfortable and accessible public transportation stops, frequent crossing opportunities, median islands, accessible pedestrian signals, curb extensions, and more. A complete street in a rural area will look quite different from a complete street in a highly urban area. But both are designed to balance safety and convenience for everyone using the road.

---National Complete Streets Coalition



- WHITE LAKE TWP. PARKS**
- OTHER PUBLIC PROPERTIES**
- ① Elizabeth Lake Road Property
- ② Hitchcock Road Property
- ③ Old Community Hall
- ④ Hess Hathaway Park (in Waterford)
- ⑤ M-59/Huron River Property
- SCHOOL PROPERTIES**
- ⑥ Houghton Elementary School
- ⑦ Dublin Elementary School
- ⑧ Lakewood Elementary School
- ⑨ St. Patrick Catholic School
- ⑩ White Lake Middle School
- ⑪ Oxbow Elementary School
- ⑫ Lakeland High School
- ⑬ Huron Valley Schools Property

- STATE | METROPARK | COUNTY PROPERTIES**
- ⑭ Highland State Recreation Area
- ⑮ Pontiac Lake State Recreation Area
- ⑯ Indian Springs Metropark
- ⑰ White Oaks County Golf Course
- PRIVATE PROPERTIES**
- ⑱ Alpine Valley Ski
- ⑲ Brentwood Golf Club

- Existing Trail/Sidepath Connections
- Proposed Shared Use Trail (10'-12' Wide)
- Proposed Sidepath/Sidewalk (10'-12' Wide)
- Proposed Sidepath/Sidewalk (6'-8' Wide)
- Proposed Paved Shoulder (4'-5' Wide)
- Proposed Shared Use Trail + Equestrian
- Proposed Huron River Water Trail
- Proposed Canoe/Kayak Launch



**LONG TERM
NONMOTORIZED
SYSTEM PLAN**

**WHITE LAKE
TOWNSHIP**
5-YEAR PARKS &
RECREATION
MASTER PLAN
2023 - 2027

Sidewalks and Sidepaths

A high priority element for enhancing connectivity and walkability within the Township is to systematically complete gaps in the **sidewalk/sidepath** system along the major road corridors. A number of priority sidewalk/sidepath gaps are identified on the Nonmotorized System Priorities Map and focus on:

- the north and south sides of the **M-59 corridor** to provide safe and comfortable connectivity to adjacent communities and along the Township's most developed retail/commercial/employment corridor. The Township is proposing a 10'-12' wide (8' when necessary) network along the M-59 corridor due to regional, cross-county significance and number of destinations. A minimum 5' separation from the road is desired.
- gaps near Township parks, schools, and destinations such as the library, Dublin Senior Center, and future Civic Center development
- short segments that, when completed, will connect into a large network of completed sidewalks, sidepaths and/or trails
- gaps in high density areas of the Township
- segments that can be constructed by private entities as they develop or redevelop property in the Township

In terms of preferred design, corridor analysis and judgment will need to be made when design of various segments begins. In general, and where possible, the desire is to have 6-8' wide paved sidepaths installed within the Township (with the exception of 10'-12' along M-59). It is recognized that, in some areas of the community, it may make most sense to fill gaps with sidewalks or sidepaths that match width or material of existing infrastructure. It is also recognized that a variety of conditions exist in the Township, and, for short segments, a narrower sidewalk may need to be installed. A detailed analysis of the corridor will assist in determining the achievable sidepath/sidewalk width.

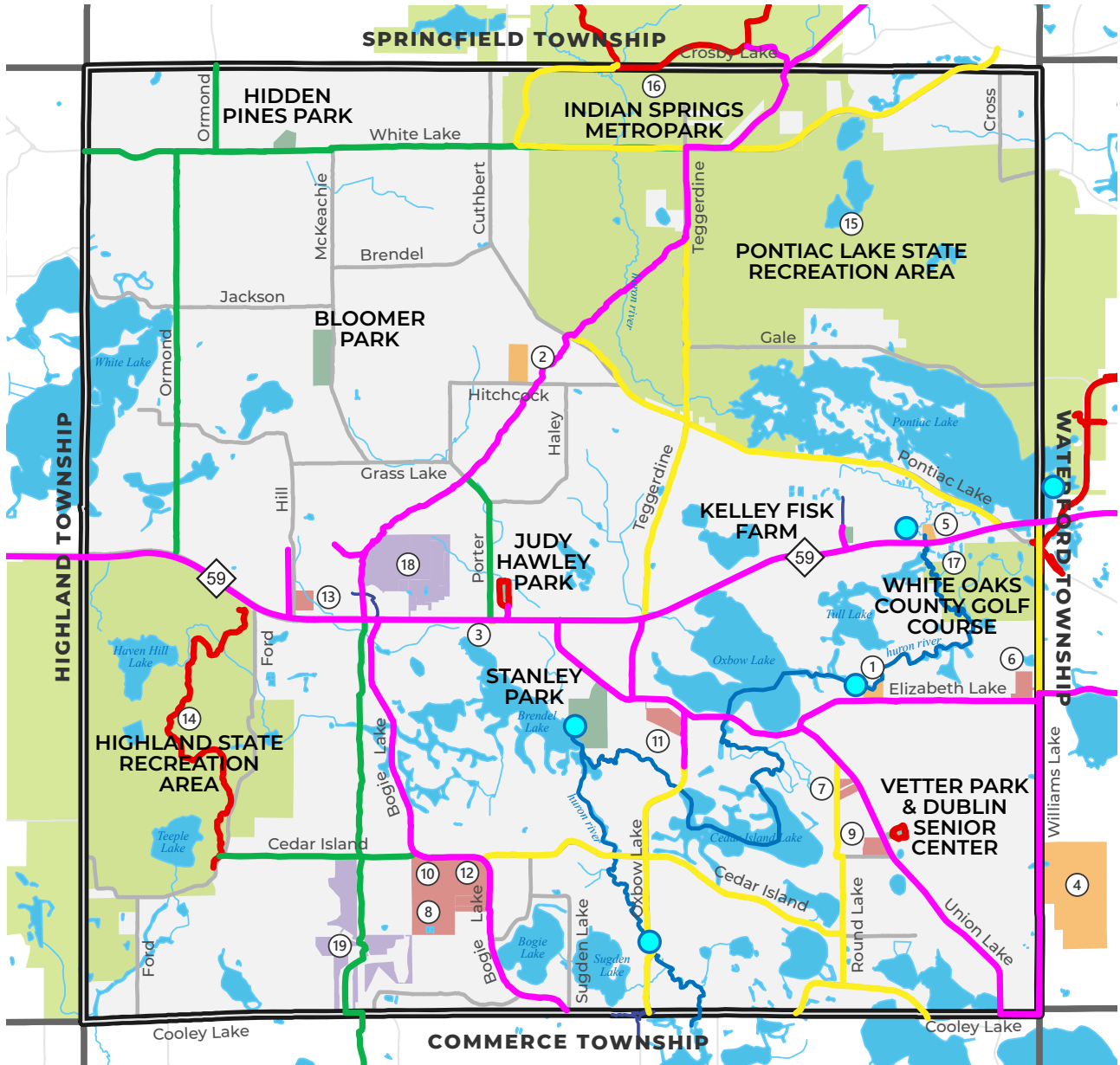
In general, sidepaths are preferred to accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists in the Township due to the landuse pattern, right-of-way widths, and because of the relatively low rate of curb cuts along many of the major corridors. Sidepaths and sidewalks are not typically a safe facility for bicyclists where numerous curb cuts exist with high volumes of vehicular turning movements as is the case along more developed corridors such as M-59. Sidepath Design guidance published by MDOT (2018) as well as the FHWA Small Town and Rural Multimodal Networks guidebook should be referenced to assist with signage, crossings, sidepath user visibility, speed reduction, etc.

Pedestrian Bridges and Boardwalks

White Lake Township enjoys extensive natural resources including numerous lakes, rivers, creeks, streams and acres of wetlands. These natural features also dictate the location of many of the road corridors in the community. In order to implement the Nonmotorized System Plan, a number of pedestrian bridges and/or sections of elevated boardwalk will be needed. These elements add to the design, permitting and cost of the system. Where a boardwalk and/or pedestrian bridge is needed, the bridge/boardwalk should be 4' wider than the joining trail/sidepath to incorporate the 2' of desired clearance on either side.

Enhanced/Paved Shoulders

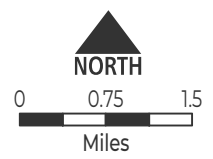
While separation of pedestrian/bicycle traffic from motor vehicles is desirable, there may be corridors and locations that prove the construction of sidepaths are not feasible due to width of right-of-way, significant natural features, proximity of homes/buildings, etc. Paved shoulders on the edge of roadways can be enhanced to serve as a functional space for bicyclists and pedestrians to travel in the absence of other facilities with more separation. Volumes and speeds on roads dictate the paved shoulder width needed



- WHITE LAKE TWP. PARKS**
- OTHER PUBLIC PROPERTIES**
- ① Elizabeth Lake Road Property
- ② Hitchcock Road Property
- ③ Old Community Hall
- ④ Hess Hathaway Park (in Waterford)
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- SCHOOL PROPERTIES**
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- ⑨ St. Patrick Catholic School
- ⑩ White Lake Middle School
- ⑪ Oxbow Elementary School
- ⑫ Lakeland High School
- ⑬ Huron Valley Schools Property

- STATE | METROPARK | COUNTY PROPERTIES**
- ⑭ Highland State Recreation Area
- ⑮ Pontiac Lake State Recreation Area
- ⑯ Indian Springs Metropark
- ⑰ White Oaks County Golf Course
- PRIVATE PROPERTIES**
- ⑱ Alpine Valley Ski
- ⑲ Brentwood Golf Club

- Priority #1
- Priority #2
- Priority #3
- Proposed Huron River Water Trail
- Proposed Canoe/Kayak Launch
- Existing Trail/Sidepath Connections



**LONG TERM
NONMOTORIZED
SYSTEM
PRIORITIES MAP**

**WHITE LAKE
TOWNSHIP**

5-YEAR PARKS &
RECREATION
MASTER PLAN

to provide a safe space for pedestrians and bicyclists (typically 4'-8'). Paved shoulders provide a stable surface off of the roadway for pedestrians and bicyclists to use when sidepaths/sidewalks are not provided. They have shown to reduce pedestrian "walking along roadway" crashes as well as "bicyclist struck from behind" crashes (as noted in the FHWA Small Town/Rural Guide). Paved shoulders are advantageous for all roadway users and can also reduce shoulder maintenance requirements.

Mid-Block Crossings

Implementing a number of the segments of the proposed nonmotorized network will require the creation of safe mid-block crossings (as opposed to crossings at signalized intersections) in order to facilitate predictable crossings for pedestrians and bicyclists.

As detailed in the MDOT Sidepath Study (2018), the primary goals of crossings are to:

- reduce pedestrian/cyclist exposure to traffic and crossing distance
- increase mutual awareness and visibility
- manage traffic speed and flow

Treatment details will be unique to each location and will be determined during design but could include pavement markings, signage, pedestrian islands, curb extensions, stop and yield lines, lighting, rapid flash beacons, HAWK signals, ADA ramps, etc. Several of the

more significant crossings may need traffic studies to understand traffic patterns and ensure appropriate and safe treatments are designed and implemented.

Wayfinding/Signage

A coordinated wayfinding/signage system along the various trails is desired that would include confidence markers along the way, emergency markers and signage and maps that encourages exploration of nearby amenities and destinations. Signage packages should adhere to MUTCD standards.

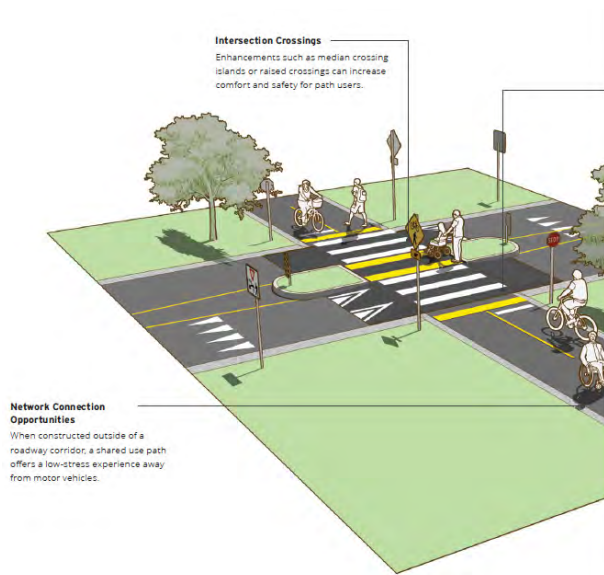
Bike Parking

Secure and convenient bike parking at public parks, public buildings, schools, retail destinations, places of employment, and multi-family residential developments will assist in encouraging and supporting use. It is recommended to review options to include bike parking (covered and/or uncovered) provisions in areas of the Township including multi-unit residential, office, retail, restaurant, hotels, theaters, fitness centers, etc. Additional incentives can be put into place to allow the provision of bike parking to substitute for a car stall.

Promote Education + Awareness

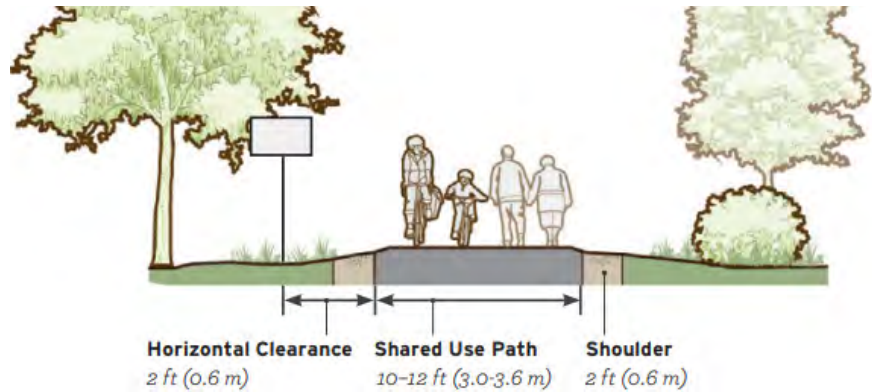
There is a need for education of cyclists, pedestrians and motorists in the region and state using a consistent message and terminology. A number of resources exist that work to help people understand the "rules of the road" while fostering respect between motorists, pedestrians, and bicycles to make everyone safer. It is recommended that White Lake Township utilize existing materials to promote awareness and education within the community. These messages and materials can be shared within the Township via social media, newsletters, on the electronic sign, email, etc.

In addition, MDOT's Sidepath Safety research project (2018) resulted in educational materials with specific messages related to bicyclists and drivers and sidepaths that can be referenced and utilized as appropriate.



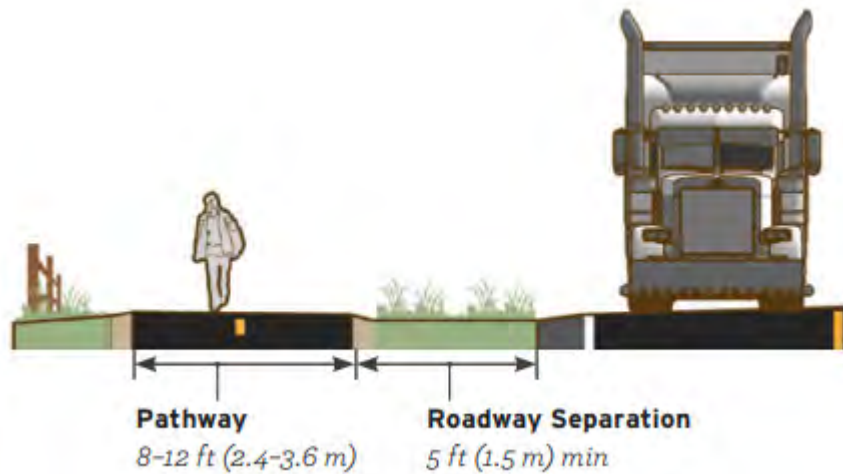
Shared Use Trail (FHWA)

Shared Use Trails offer network connectivity opportunities beyond that of the roadway network. These facilities are often located in parks along rivers, beaches, and in greenbelts or utility corridors where there are few conflicts with motorized vehicles.



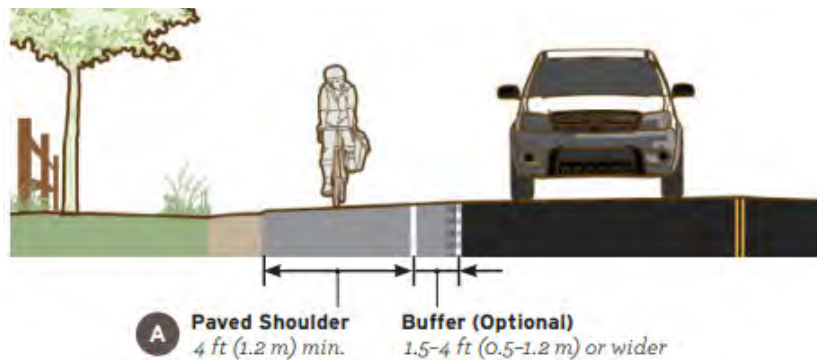
Sidepath (FHWA)

Sidepaths offer a low-stress experience for bicyclists and pedestrians on network routes otherwise inhospitable to walking and bicycling due to high-speed or high-volume traffic.



Paved Shoulder (FHWA)

Shoulders can improve bicyclist comfort and safety when traveling in higher speed and/or volume situations but only when adequate width is provided. If used, locate rumble strips on the edge line or within a buffer area that will not reduce usable space for bicyclists.



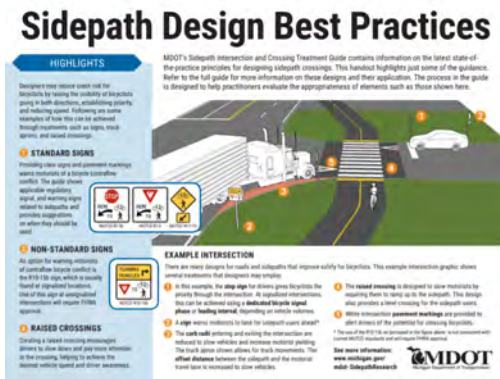
Highlighted Design Resources



FHWA Small Town and Rural Multimodal Networks (2016)

Resource and idea book intended to help small towns and rural communities support safe, accessible, comfortable and active travel for people of all ages and abilities. It provides a bridge between existing guidance on bicycle and pedestrian design and rural practice, encourages innovation in the development of safe and appealing networks for bicycling and walking in small towns and rural areas, and shows examples of peer communities and implementation.

A .pdf of the document can be accessed at the FHWA website fhwa.dot.gov.



MDOT Sidepath Application Criteria Development for Bicycle Use (2018)

Explores Michigan residents' bicycle facility preferences and attitudes and behaviors toward bicycling, and research to understand bicycle crash characteristics along sidepaths in the service of better sidepath design guidance. Includes design guidance and considerations for Sidepaths in Michigan.

A .pdf of the document can be accessed at the MDOT website.

Capital Improvement Priorities

The capital improvement priorities for this Parks and Recreation Plan have been established for two primary reasons:

- to function as a planning framework and guide for the Township Board, Parks Committee, staff; and,
- to enable the Township to apply for grant funding for proposed projects.

The capital improvement priorities table is not a fixed element and is neither all inclusive or exclusive. The table reflects the results of brainstorming, data gathering, analysis and input from a variety of sources gathered during the planning process. It is likely that the priorities and plan may change at some point during the next five years due to unanticipated circumstances such as private donations, changing recreation trends, funding alternatives, community opinion and/or available grants. Funding availability is a key factor in the Township's ability to implement the proposed capital improvement priorities.

The capital improvement priorities table details the desired improvements for the years 2023-2027. The priorities are listed by short-term (1-2 yrs), mid-term (3-5 yrs), long-term (greater than 5 yrs), as well as on-going priorities for those items that should be revisited/evaluated each year. It is difficult to predict desires, funding availability, etc., in the years to come. However, it is important to note that parks and recreation capital projects undertaken by the Township should address the goals set forth in this Plan.

Millage = White Lake Township Park Millage

MNRTF = Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund

LWCF = Land and Water Conservation Fund

RPGP = Recreation Passport Grant Program

SPARK = MDNR Spark Grant (2023)

RWJF = Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation

TAP = MDOT TAP Program

Current funding and staffing levels at the Township are not sufficient for all of the ideas and desires documented in this Action Plan to be implemented – rather, this plan documents opportunities, desires and priorities to consider moving forward.

**White Lake Township
Parks + Recreation
Capital Improvement Priorities 2023-2027**

General Items	Magnitude of Cost				Potential Funding Sources		
	Short-Term (1-2 yrs)	Mid-Term (3-5 yrs)	Long-Term (5+yrs)	On-Going	Private donations, millage, MNRTF	Millage, LWCF, RPGP	Millage
<p>General Items</p> <p>Be Aware of Opportunities to Lease, Utilize, and/or Acquire Land That:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protects Environmental Features Conserves Open Space Is Adjacent to or near Existing Parks Provides Linkages Between Destinations Could Provide Increased and Enhanced Recreation Opportunities 				X			
Pickleball Courts (location to be determined)		X				Millage, LWCF, RPGP	
Park Entrance Signs			X			Millage	
Stanley Park							
Construct Phase I Improvements (Already Funded/Designed)	X				Millage, LWCF		
Construct Additional Phases of Improvements Per Concept Plan		X			Millage, MNRTF, SPARK, RPGP		
Bloomer Park							
Add Porta John at Park Entrance	X				Millage		
Regrade and resurface pathways	X				Millage		
Extend Trail network per Concept Plan				X	Millage, RPGP		
Judy Hawley Park							
Install additional benches along path	X				Millage		
Replace playground equipment and improve barrier free access	X				Millage, LWCF, MNRTF, RPGP		
Basketball Courts - repair drain, concrete repairs, and restripe	X				Millage, LWCF, MNRTF, RPGP		
Improve barrier free parking spaces including paths to pavilion	X				Millage, LWCF, MNRTF, RPGP		
Build pathway connecting park to M-59	X				Millage, LWCF, MNRTF, RPGP		
Resurface pathway loop as needed				X	Millage		
Ferdinand C Vetter Park							
Install benches along path	X				Millage		
Replace playground equipment		X			Millage, LWCF, MNRTF, RPGP		
Resurface pathway loop as needed				X	Millage		
Canoe/Kayak/Water Trail Projects							
Develop canoe/kayak launch with small parking lot on M-59 parcel		X			Millage, LWCF, MNRTF, RPGP		
Partner with HRWC on water trail signs, maps, and promotions		X			Millage, LWCF, MNRTF, RPGP		
Acquire property near Huron River/Oxbow Lake Road for a launch location			X		Millage, LWCF, MNRTF, RPGP		
Develop canoe/kayak launch with small parking lot near Huron River/Oxbow Lake Road			X		Millage, MNRTF		
Hitchcock Property							
Consider for development as a trailhead for 4 Seasons, cross-Township regional trail			X		Millage, MNRTF		
Nonmotorized Projects							
Construct Triangle Trail	X				Millage, TAP, RWJF		
White Lake 4 Seasons Trail (Cross Town ITC Corridor Trail)		X			Millage, TAP, RWJF, MNRTF, HCMA + STATE		
See Nonmotorized Plan and Priorities					Millage, TAP, RWJF, MNRTF, HCMA + STATE, Developers		



APPENDIX

Public Engagement Results

Survey Results

Public Hearing Meeting Minutes

Resolutions of Adoption

**White Lake Township
Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting Input
October 5, 2022**

'Wind in Our Sails' - Things we love

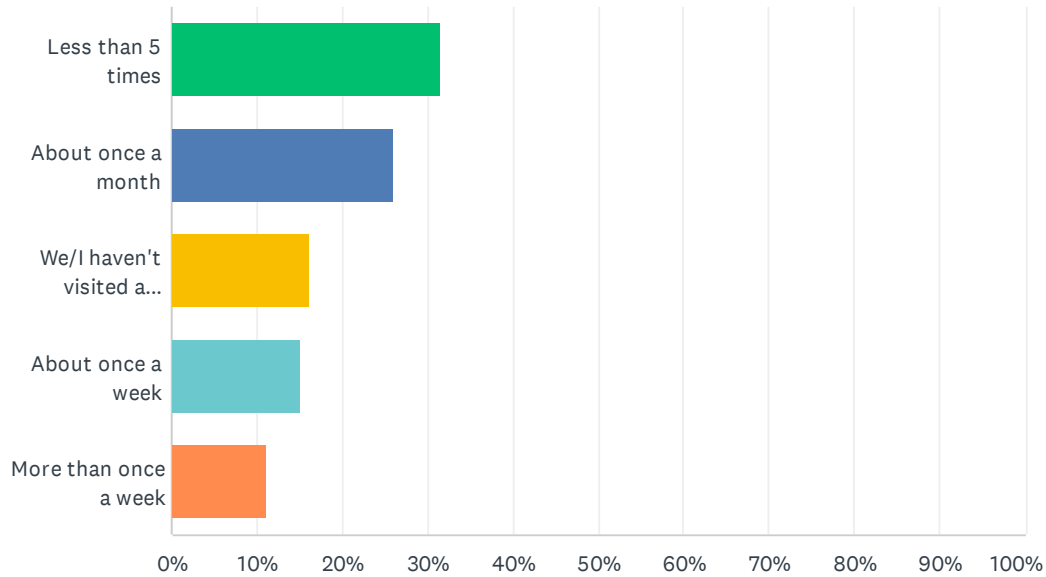
- The parks offer a balance of activities between them including walking, basketball, baseball, soccer, hiking, playgrounds, and Pavilions.
- Open Spaces
- Huron River flowing through Township
- Hawley Park is the best athletic field park
- Kelley Fisk Farm best event venue
- Dublin Center is the best Activity Center
- community sport areas with soccer and baseball
- hiking trails
- historic Township
- Fisk Farm Festival
- community activities
- good fresh air, walking paths, nature
- Stanley Park acquisition and planned development
- natural beauty within the parks including Stanley and bloomer
- historic sites
- water access for swimming and kayaking
- tree lighting
- parks are available for picnicking and games
- special events at Fisk Farm

Our challenges or things we would like to see

- Need to make residents aware of where Township parks are located
- money is a challenge
- we are not a walkable community - we need pathways along major roads.
- Difficult to maintain current facilities
- not enough funding now - this will hold us back going forward
- vast area to try to connect with trails
- we are limited in funding and walkable/bikeable trails
- funding
- more funding needed
- benches are needed at more frequent intervals
- skating and snowshoeing
- mountain biking
- not enough connectivity or trails and paths to schools and neighborhoods
- would like more citizens to use our parks and be aware of what's available
- we need more concern for environmental challenges and issues such as herbicides and pesticides as well as impacts of climate changes
- I live rurally and don't need a park
- no higher taxes
- natural wooded areas with trails
- getting voter support for millages could be a challenge
- more horse trails

Q1 Within the past year, how many times have you or a member of your household visited a White Lake Township park facility or trail?

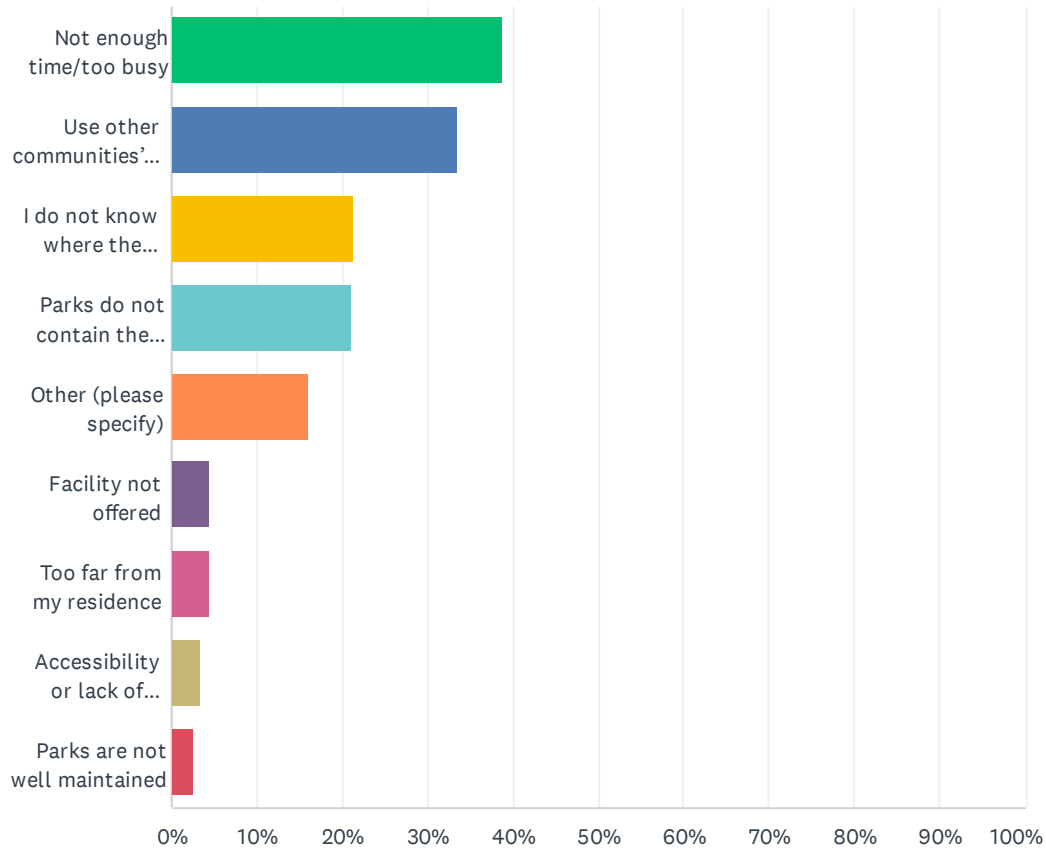
Answered: 441 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Less than 5 times	31.52%	139
About once a month	26.08%	115
We/I haven't visited a Township Park or Trail in the past year	16.10%	71
About once a week	15.19%	67
More than once a week	11.11%	49
TOTAL		441

Q2 What reasons prevent your household from using White Lake Township parks and facilities more often? Check all that apply.

Answered: 407 Skipped: 36



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Not enough time/too busy	38.82%	158
Use other communities' parks, facilities or programs	33.42%	136
I do not know where the Township parks are	21.38%	87
Parks do not contain the facilities we need/enjoy	21.13%	86
Other (please specify)	15.97%	65
Facility not offered	4.42%	18
Too far from my residence	4.42%	18
Accessibility or lack of transportation	3.44%	14
Parks are not well maintained	2.46%	10
Total Respondents: 407		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
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White Lake Township Parks and Recreation Survey (2022)

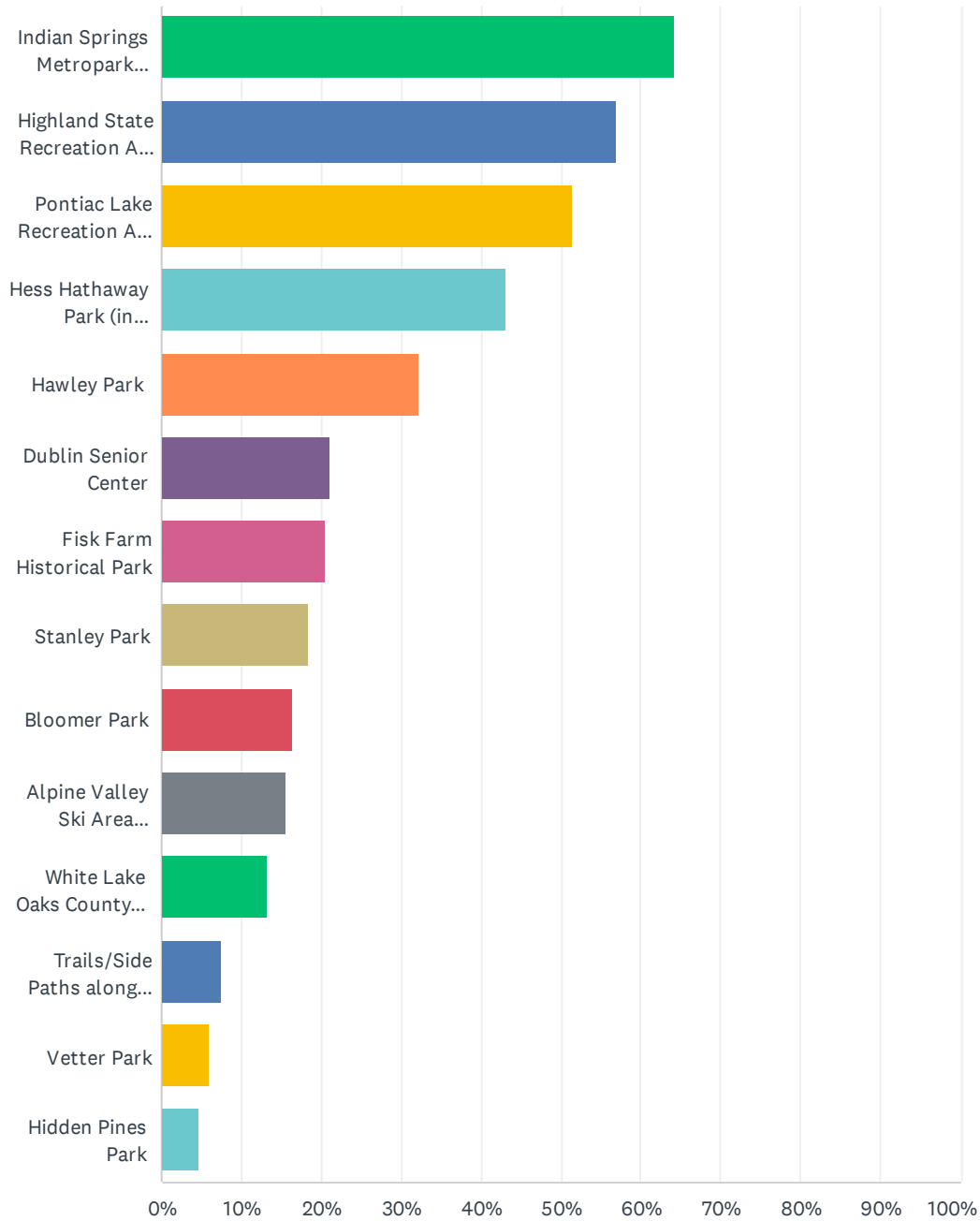
1	Lack of sidewalks leading up to the park	9/14/2022 5:46 PM
2	not interested	9/14/2022 4:13 PM
3	Personal mobility problems	9/13/2022 8:25 PM
4	I live on brendel across from Stanley	9/13/2022 10:00 AM
5	Not interested in using baseball fields or children's playgrounds.	9/13/2022 9:39 AM
6	organized activities to draw me out to experience new things and introduce me to to the amenities of the various parks.	9/12/2022 6:59 PM
7	Knee replaced- can't walk to good.	9/12/2022 6:45 PM
8	I love the parks and hikes with friends.	9/12/2022 6:42 PM
9	I'm happy with Vetter park, but the trees are over growing the walk path and the baseball diamond are in sad condition.	9/12/2022 6:37 PM
10	Need to finish Stanley park with bench.	9/12/2022 5:44 PM
11	Have no desire	9/1/2022 4:40 PM
12	with 3 small children, I need restrooms available	8/24/2022 9:21 AM
13	I prefer my backyard	8/23/2022 4:33 PM
14	Just moved here	8/23/2022 4:28 PM
15	More splash pads	8/23/2022 2:27 PM
16	Fear of bikes on horse trails	8/20/2022 8:48 AM
17	Family gone...we live on the lake.	8/18/2022 10:41 PM
18	We use a white lake parks all the time!	8/18/2022 7:32 PM
19	No dog park	8/18/2022 10:28 AM
20	Take my Grandchildren often to Scralets Park	8/17/2022 8:40 AM
21	Just not a thing we do anymore since our kids are older now	8/17/2022 8:15 AM
22	No need. Live on a lake, with a private park.	8/17/2022 8:04 AM
23	we go every day	8/17/2022 7:28 AM
24	We use State Parks.	8/17/2022 6:41 AM
25	cost of gas	8/16/2022 11:19 PM
26	Nothing prevents me from using white lake township parks	8/16/2022 10:27 PM
27	No bike paths for those close to us	8/16/2022 9:25 PM
28	We need access to family friendly outdoor scapes. Playgrounds, parks, etc. We love the trails.	8/16/2022 8:39 PM
29	Equine parking is too small for horse trailers if you want to do a group ride. Also asphalt for Equine parking?? Not fond of going here because of parking issues	8/16/2022 8:20 PM
30	I don't want to buy stickers for all my cars - should have a card or app instead	8/16/2022 5:17 PM
31	Live in the rural part of the township. That is my park.	8/16/2022 5:05 PM
32	I as often as I like which is often.	8/16/2022 2:44 PM
33	Personal safety at nature parks	8/16/2022 1:43 PM
34	I go every day, actually.	8/16/2022 1:32 PM
35	We use often.	8/16/2022 1:10 PM
36	Not interested	8/16/2022 12:31 PM

White Lake Township Parks and Recreation Survey (2022)

37	No contiguous sidewalks to ride/get there	8/16/2022 12:00 PM
38	i work	8/16/2022 11:57 AM
39	I use the parks often	8/16/2022 11:04 AM
40	Would like Scarlett's park set up at one of our parks	8/16/2022 10:53 AM
41	Need more walkways in general around white lake	8/16/2022 10:17 AM
42	Don't want to	8/16/2022 9:27 AM
43	Retired	8/16/2022 9:13 AM
44	Horse staging area too small	8/16/2022 9:03 AM
45	More areas and events for kids	8/16/2022 8:52 AM
46	No large dog park areas	8/16/2022 8:20 AM
47	I use only state parks, metro parks and side paths for cycling	8/16/2022 7:52 AM
48	Use State parks	8/15/2022 11:42 PM
49	Need a local dog park	8/15/2022 10:55 PM
50	I use the state parks nearby to ride in	8/15/2022 10:02 PM
51	Lack of sidewalks down major roads	8/15/2022 7:55 PM
52	Beach	8/15/2022 7:03 PM
53	We visit the local state park, Highland Rec., because of the vast hiking trail network.	8/15/2022 6:40 PM
54	Pontiac state rec area is closer	8/15/2022 5:51 PM
55	Would enjoy a dog park! Need more activities. No more "minimalist" mentality for our parks.	8/15/2022 5:36 PM
56	Lack of paths/ trails to the parks and in the parks	8/15/2022 5:22 PM
57	Seniors need a good area to walk need an indoor walking track since we lost access to high school	8/15/2022 5:06 PM
58	Just moved here	8/15/2022 4:59 PM
59	Not interested.	8/15/2022 4:55 PM
60	Other facilities are more on route from other places	8/15/2022 4:31 PM
61	Tics during summer months	8/15/2022 4:29 PM
62	Currently the only park I use is the Pontiac Lake State Park. Would be very helpful if only connected all the parks.	8/15/2022 2:34 PM
63	Waiting on the park to open off of Elizabeth lk rd to kayak. It sucks to have to walk down to the water instead of drive	8/15/2022 1:10 PM
64	State & Metro Parks have more to offer but I do like community parks such as Scarlet' Place in Commerce	8/15/2022 12:41 PM
65	Live on a lake and use the lake more often for recreation.	8/15/2022 10:34 AM

Q3 Which park/facility has your household used over the past year? Choose all that apply.

Answered: 418 Skipped: 25



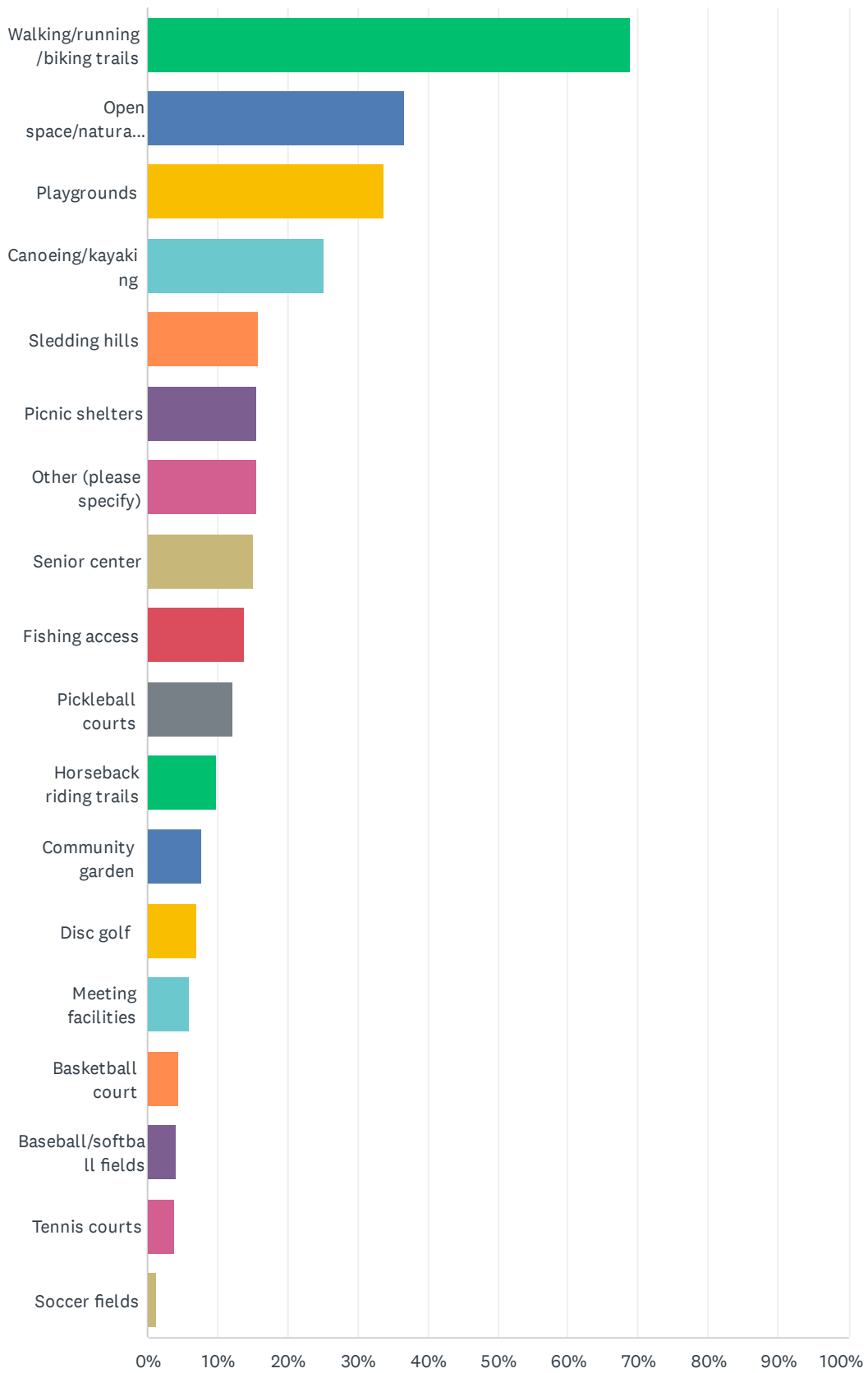
White Lake Township Parks and Recreation Survey (2022)

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Indian Springs Metropark (Metropark owned)	64.11%	268
Highland State Recreation Area (State owned)	56.94%	238
Pontiac Lake Recreation Area (State owned)	51.44%	215
Hess Hathaway Park (in Waterford Township)	43.06%	180
Hawley Park	32.30%	135
Dublin Senior Center	21.05%	88
Fisk Farm Historical Park	20.57%	86
Stanley Park	18.42%	77
Bloomer Park	16.51%	69
Alpine Valley Ski Area (privately owned)	15.55%	65
White Lake Oaks County Golf Course (County owned)	13.16%	55
Trails/Side Paths along M-59	7.42%	31
Vetter Park	5.98%	25
Hidden Pines Park	4.78%	20
Total Respondents: 418		

Q4 Which (3) amenities from the list below (some of which we offer and some of which we don't currently offer) are most important for you or your household? Please select only 3 amenities.

Answered: 437 Skipped: 6

White Lake Township Parks and Recreation Survey (2022)



White Lake Township Parks and Recreation Survey (2022)

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Walking/running/biking trails	68.88%	301
Open space/natural areas	36.61%	160
Playgrounds	33.64%	147
Canoeing/kayaking	25.17%	110
Sledding hills	15.79%	69
Picnic shelters	15.56%	68
Other (please specify)	15.56%	68
Senior center	15.10%	66
Fishing access	13.96%	61
Pickleball courts	12.13%	53
Horseback riding trails	9.84%	43
Community garden	7.78%	34
Disc golf	7.09%	31
Meeting facilities	5.95%	26
Basketball court	4.58%	20
Baseball/softball fields	4.12%	18
Tennis courts	3.89%	17
Soccer fields	1.37%	6
Total Respondents: 437		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Dog friendly paths	9/14/2022 4:38 PM
2	Dog access	9/14/2022 4:24 PM
3	there is enough	9/14/2022 4:13 PM
4	Roller/Ice rink	9/14/2022 2:15 PM
5	restaurants	9/12/2022 7:13 PM
6	organized activities(crafts, trips, etc....)	9/12/2022 6:59 PM
7	Golf	9/12/2022 6:46 PM
8	Mountain bike	9/12/2022 5:46 PM
9	Golf Course	9/5/2022 11:36 AM
10	We need Pickle Ball Courts	8/29/2022 12:49 PM
11	Dog park	8/26/2022 12:52 PM
12	Benches along walking trails and edges of open natural spaces	8/26/2022 12:48 AM
13	restrooms	8/25/2022 12:56 PM
14	Splash pad	8/24/2022 11:38 PM

White Lake Township Parks and Recreation Survey (2022)

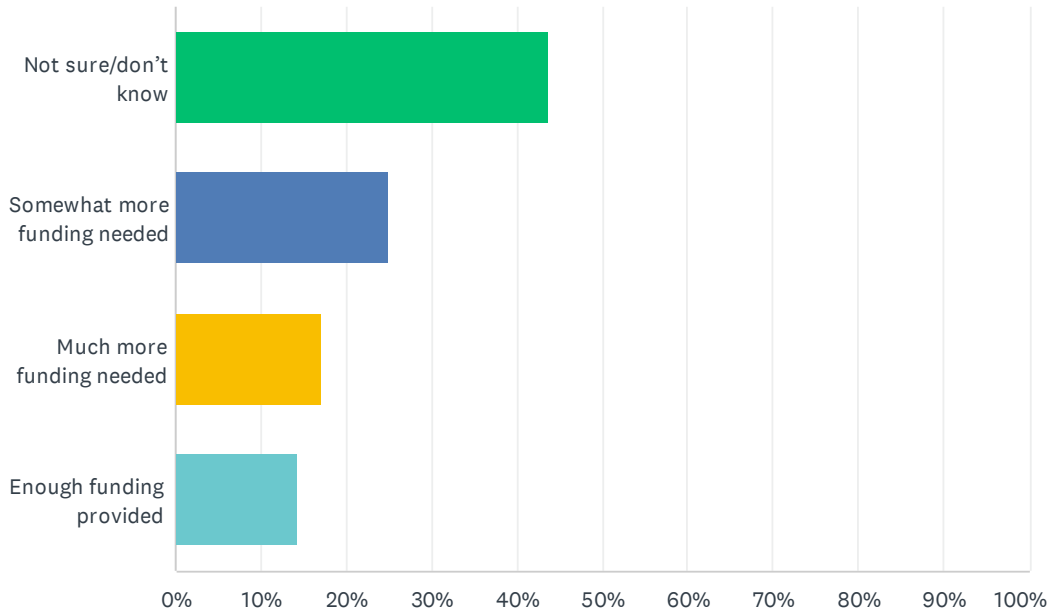
15	Splash pads/water parks for the kids.	8/23/2022 3:55 PM
16	Dog park	8/23/2022 3:52 PM
17	Community concerts	8/23/2022 3:41 PM
18	Dog park please!!!!!!	8/23/2022 2:30 PM
19	Pool	8/23/2022 2:17 PM
20	Dog parks	8/23/2022 1:57 PM
21	Wooded trails/Birdwatching	8/18/2022 12:15 PM
22	Dog park area	8/18/2022 10:28 AM
23	Dog Park	8/17/2022 8:40 AM
24	Gun Range	8/17/2022 6:41 AM
25	B	8/16/2022 10:08 PM
26	Golf driving range	8/16/2022 5:34 PM
27	Golf course	8/16/2022 3:18 PM
28	I don't have any issue with the way the parks are. Let's not over-develop them.	8/16/2022 2:44 PM
29	Beach facilities	8/16/2022 1:43 PM
30	Beach	8/16/2022 12:31 PM
31	Sidewalks along all roads to make the township walkable	8/16/2022 12:00 PM
32	golf	8/16/2022 11:57 AM
33	Baach, Fishing	8/16/2022 11:30 AM
34	Things for my grandkids to enjoy	8/16/2022 9:13 AM
35	Mountain biking single track	8/16/2022 9:07 AM
36	Dog park with large open area	8/16/2022 8:20 AM
37	Dog parks	8/16/2022 8:09 AM
38	Equine Staging Area and camping	8/16/2022 7:47 AM
39	Beach, gaga pits, modern clean restrooms	8/16/2022 7:27 AM
40	Sand volleyball courts	8/16/2022 6:30 AM
41	Safe connector trails/paths that connect to other parks	8/15/2022 11:51 PM
42	Camping	8/15/2022 11:42 PM
43	Sidewalks especially along main roads to and from the high schools	8/15/2022 11:22 PM
44	Community pool	8/15/2022 10:56 PM
45	Dog park	8/15/2022 10:55 PM
46	Nature Centers	8/15/2022 10:33 PM
47	Dog park	8/15/2022 9:16 PM
48	Swimming	8/15/2022 9:02 PM
49	Public beach	8/15/2022 8:50 PM
50	We need a disc golf course ☺	8/15/2022 8:43 PM
51	Camping	8/15/2022 7:39 PM
52	Beach	8/15/2022 7:03 PM

White Lake Township Parks and Recreation Survey (2022)

53	Water feature	8/15/2022 6:52 PM
54	Snowmobile atv trails	8/15/2022 5:49 PM
55	DOG PARK!!! (Disipointed this is not even a option on the list?? When this has been in the top 5 during the last two Parks & Rec. public workshops.	8/15/2022 5:36 PM
56	Dog park	8/15/2022 5:32 PM
57	Restrooms	8/15/2022 5:27 PM
58	Golf	8/15/2022 4:53 PM
59	Splash pad	8/15/2022 4:52 PM
60	Dog park	8/15/2022 4:49 PM
61	Splash pad	8/15/2022 4:46 PM
62	Dog park	8/15/2022 4:41 PM
63	Dog run	8/15/2022 4:41 PM
64	Dog park	8/15/2022 4:33 PM
65	restrooms	8/15/2022 4:32 PM
66	Drove down access for Stanley Park. Having knee issues it's not handicap accessible	8/15/2022 1:10 PM
67	Mountain bike specifically	8/15/2022 11:53 AM
68	Porta Jon at Bloomer!	8/15/2022 11:51 AM

Q5 Do you think that current park facilities and programs in the Township have enough funding, or, do you think that more funding is needed?

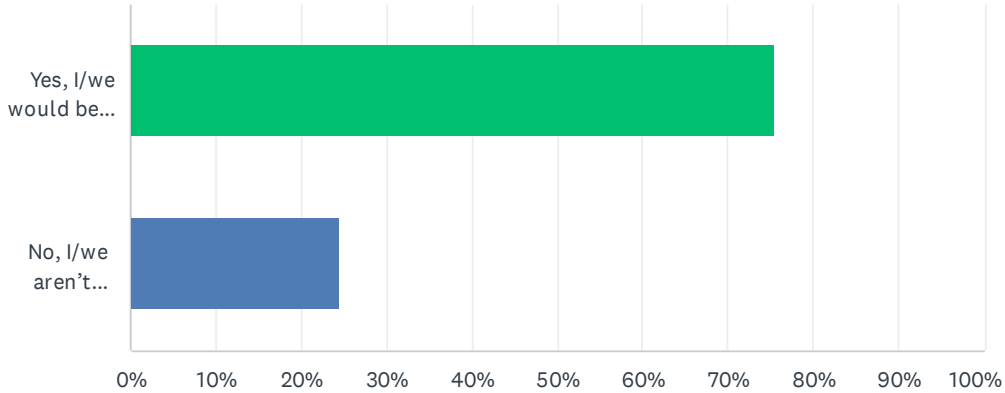
Answered: 436 Skipped: 7



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Not sure/don't know	43.81%	191
Somewhat more funding needed	25.00%	109
Much more funding needed	16.97%	74
Enough funding provided	14.22%	62
TOTAL		436

Q6 White Lake Township has held a few Special Events every year such as concerts, Family Fun Day, Fisk Farm Festival, Trunk-or-Treat, Tree Lighting, etc. Are these types of events of interest to you/your household?

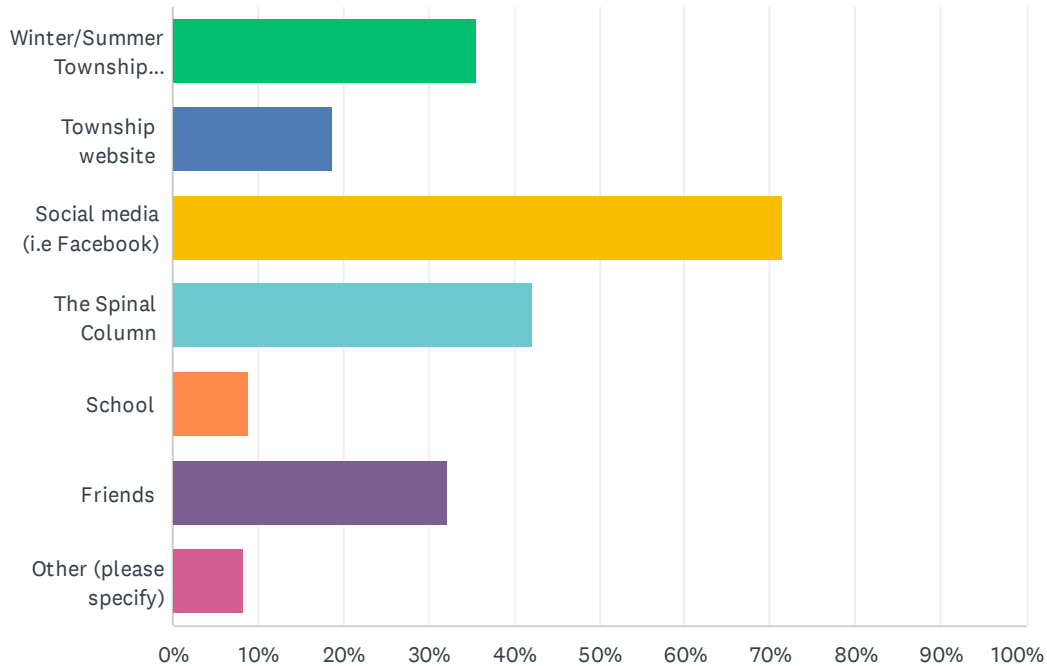
Answered: 431 Skipped: 12



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes, I/we would be interested in attending Special Events	75.41%	325
No, I/we aren't interested in attending Special Events	24.59%	106
TOTAL		431

Q7 Where does your household find out about things going on in the Township? Check all that apply

Answered: 438 Skipped: 5



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Winter/Summer Township Newsletter	35.62% 156
Township website	18.72% 82
Social media (i.e Facebook)	71.46% 313
The Spinal Column	42.24% 185
School	8.90% 39
Friends	32.19% 141
Other (please specify)	8.22% 36
Total Respondents: 438	

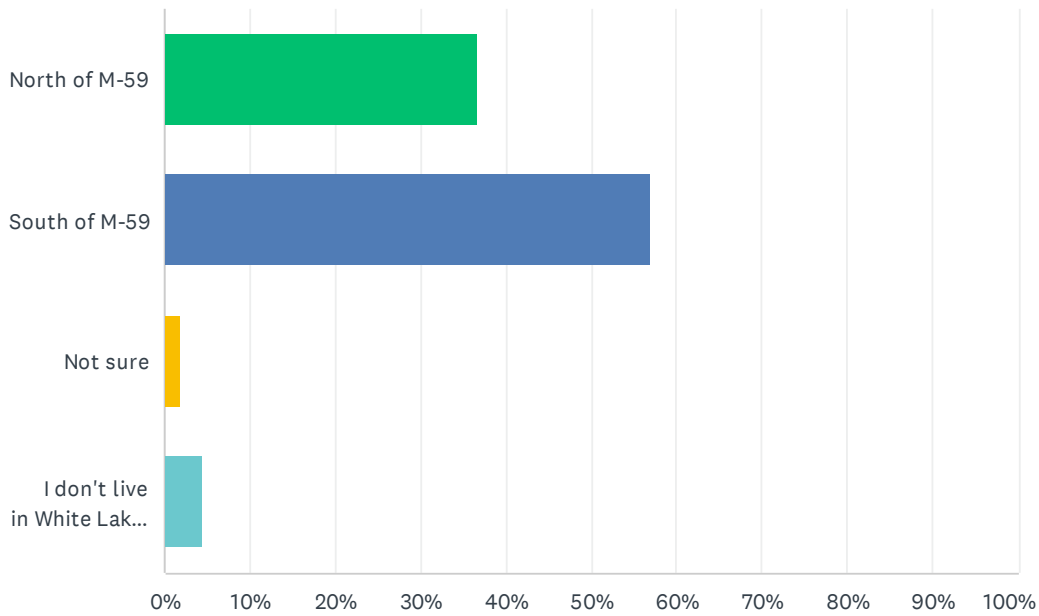
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	I am a member of the WLHS and we host many of events you mention, therefore I'm helping promote them.	9/14/2022 8:26 PM
2	Monthly Parks & Rec meetings; WLTwp monthly meetings	9/13/2022 8:25 PM
3	the Senior center	9/12/2022 7:06 PM
4	flyers at the Senior center.	9/12/2022 6:59 PM
5	at the senior center	9/12/2022 6:51 PM

White Lake Township Parks and Recreation Survey (2022)

6	the Senior center	9/12/2022 6:37 PM
7	classes at the Dublin Senior center- we talk	9/12/2022 6:31 PM
8	flyers at the Senior center.	9/12/2022 6:24 PM
9	I work for the TWP.	9/12/2022 5:54 PM
10	We do not know what is happening in White Lake.	9/6/2022 9:10 PM
11	Local equestrian club	8/26/2022 2:19 PM
12	From Homeonwers Assocaition	8/20/2022 8:57 AM
13	radio	8/19/2022 11:14 AM
14	Email	8/17/2022 9:37 PM
15	We don't really see news.	8/17/2022 8:42 AM
16	neighbors website	8/17/2022 7:28 AM
17	Library	8/17/2022 5:48 AM
18	BMX bike area	8/16/2022 10:08 PM
19	Signs	8/16/2022 12:31 PM
20	facebook	8/16/2022 11:52 AM
21	Facebook	8/16/2022 11:19 AM
22	Library	8/16/2022 10:58 AM
23	We need more info, newsletter....	8/16/2022 9:27 AM
24	Library	8/16/2022 9:12 AM
25	Posted signs on M59	8/16/2022 8:52 AM
26	Township sign in front of two office	8/16/2022 7:32 AM
27	Library	8/15/2022 10:45 PM
28	Sign in front of township offices	8/15/2022 10:02 PM
29	Library newsletter	8/15/2022 7:55 PM
30	Sign in front of police station	8/15/2022 7:39 PM
31	Twp. newsletter is nothing more than a free mailing for the elected officials.	8/15/2022 5:36 PM
32	Facebook	8/15/2022 5:08 PM
33	The library	8/15/2022 5:03 PM
34	Not enough communication is sent out!	8/15/2022 1:10 PM
35	Haven't heard of them	8/15/2022 11:53 AM
36	Email from Township, and Township meeting attendance	8/15/2022 10:34 AM

Q8 Do you live north of M-59 or south of M-59 in White Lake Township?

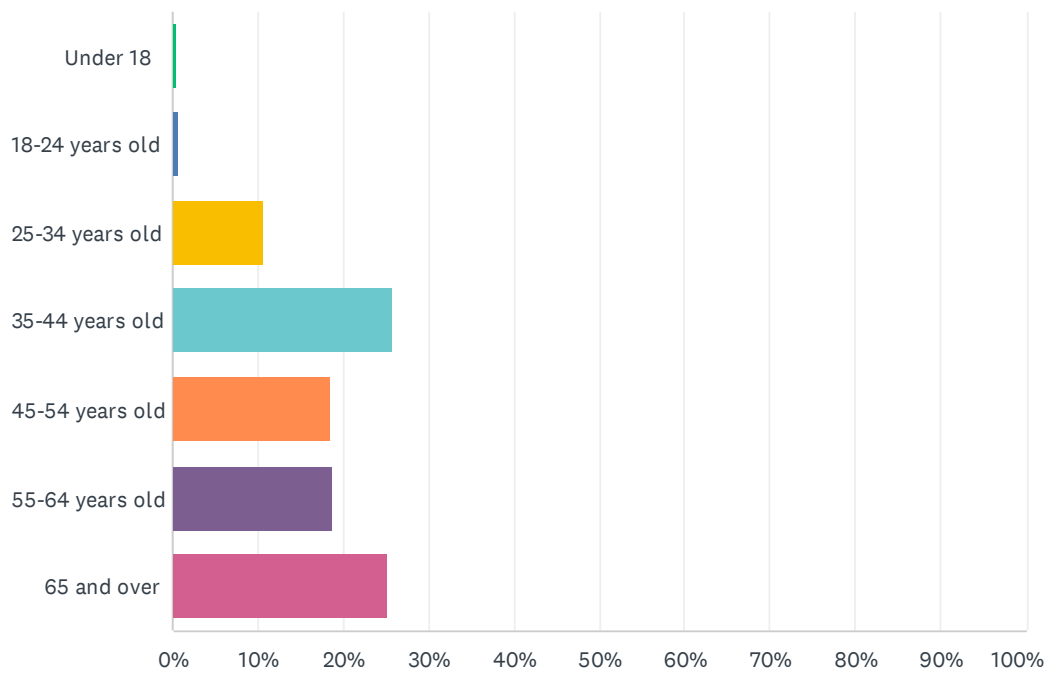
Answered: 439 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
North of M-59	36.67%	161
South of M-59	56.95%	250
Not sure	1.82%	8
I don't live in White Lake Township	4.56%	20
TOTAL		439

Q9 What is your age?

Answered: 442 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under 18	0.45%	2
18-24 years old	0.68%	3
25-34 years old	10.63%	47
35-44 years old	25.79%	114
45-54 years old	18.55%	82
55-64 years old	18.78%	83
65 and over	25.11%	111
TOTAL		442

Q10 Please make any additional comments that you think would be helpful.

Answered: 142 Skipped: 301

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Don't charge for the Metroparks.	9/15/2022 10:43 AM
2	Keep as many green spaces as possible. Getting too many strip malls that are now empty. White Lake is losing its rural feel.	9/15/2022 6:45 AM
3	Need better sidewalk solutions so that the family can ride their bikes to/from the park. Parks are great, but we have to drive to/from because of lack of sidewalks or lack of properly maintained sidewalks (i.e. bridge between Sunset & Firestation.	9/14/2022 5:46 PM
4	Safe walking/running paths would be nice, a roller hockey rink that is kept up would be great since there are a lot of local kids who play, and things geared towards tween/teens instead of focusing on playgrounds, older kids need something to do in this area.	9/14/2022 2:15 PM
5	Better bathroom facilities (Hide the port-a-potty) and hand cleaning would be nice.	9/13/2022 8:25 PM
6	More activities, restaurants, shopping, etc.	9/12/2022 7:13 PM
7	there should be welcome packets to new residents with all this in it.	9/12/2022 7:06 PM
8	programs at the Dublin center are great, love to see more	9/12/2022 6:59 PM
9	park for handy capped people	9/12/2022 6:45 PM
10	I have been to White Lake, living and visiting for two years and I am enjoying the parks and the general.	9/12/2022 6:42 PM
11	Dublin Community Senior center is an excellent center full of great people and activities! Love the trail around in the back of the center as well.	9/12/2022 6:31 PM
12	We need a larger senior center	9/12/2022 6:24 PM
13	Get with Alpine and create bike/hike trail system in that area	9/12/2022 5:41 PM
14	Many of my neighbors do not know about this survey or what the plan (or even what) for Stanley Park is.	9/9/2022 3:26 PM
15	Mailing on what events are happening in the area would be great. Not much of a newspaper reader if it is in the newspaper.	9/9/2022 7:25 AM
16	Some of the areas in Hawley park are not well maintained since the new landscaping company took over. Flower area around the flag is completely overgrown.	8/29/2022 8:55 AM
17	It would be wonderful to have sidewalks along Bogie Lake road.	8/28/2022 3:18 PM
18	We love the natural feel of the parks in White Lake. We love the walking trails and views of the lakes.	8/27/2022 8:00 AM
19	Moved to White Lake for equestrian property and available trail options, would like to see safe riding options preserved for the next generation.	8/26/2022 2:19 PM
20	A pamphlet with park locations, description of activities, trail map, facilities, and hours of operations would be nice	8/26/2022 12:48 AM
21	Clean restrooms	8/25/2022 12:56 PM
22	Single track mountain bike trails in addition to paved/limestone trails would be nice	8/23/2022 8:41 PM
23	Most White Lake staff members are helpful and pleasant. The parks need more staffing and programming. More access to bodies of water too. I like the pet waste stations.	8/23/2022 4:36 PM

White Lake Township Parks and Recreation Survey (2022)

24	Excited to check out the parks now that i live here.	8/23/2022 4:28 PM
25	I love the current situation in White lake, my children and I frequently visit the white lake parks. Indian springs being our favorite.	8/23/2022 3:55 PM
26	We would visit the township parks a lot more if we had walking/biking trails along major roadways to get to the parks (ie. Bogie Lake Road, Elizabeth Lake Road, Oxbow Lake Road, etc.)	8/23/2022 2:27 PM
27	Would love to have a lazy river/water slides or toboggan run added locally. Also some fun playground equipment like at Scarlett's playground in commerce.	8/23/2022 1:50 PM
28	Just moved to White Lake from West Bloomfield and we're still using park facilities in other municipalities to entertain our 2 year old son. I wish there were more kid friendly spaces in White Lake. Scarlett's Park, Hess Hathaway and even the play area next to the Commerce Library are lovely.	8/22/2022 12:02 PM
29	With grandkids, a nice playground closer by would be nice. Unfortunately Hawley and Indian Springs need to be updated.	8/19/2022 7:09 AM
30	More playgrounds	8/18/2022 8:20 PM
31	I do not feel the township needs to offer anymore amenities. I enjoy the state parks that We are lucky to have and already pay taxes on. All residents already have plenty of amenities	8/18/2022 8:11 PM
32	We use many white lake parks on literally a daily basis!	8/18/2022 7:32 PM
33	I just believe we need a dog park in this area.	8/18/2022 10:28 AM
34	Highland camp needs the pavilion finished. The lumber has been sitting in the field for years. That has to be a lot of money being wasted if not assembled.	8/17/2022 10:23 PM
35	Highland Rec needs a bigger horse staging area	8/17/2022 4:30 PM
36	The Township does not enforce park rules and allows dogs to run at large in the parks. The Township receives more than enough funding for parks and recreation. Taxpayers should not be burdened with more taxes for government provided recreation. If a resident wants "recreation", they should pay for it themselves.	8/17/2022 2:59 PM
37	The Sidewalks that run along side of M59 are atrocious, unkept, and dangerous. Waterford, Highland, Hartland all have better sidewalks along M59.	8/17/2022 2:23 PM
38	Bike / walking trails throughout the township would be greatly appreciated. Would be nice to be able to walk or ride without having to ride on the roads.	8/17/2022 12:49 PM
39	Thank you for all you do!	8/17/2022 8:42 AM
40	When I lived in Waukesha County near Milwaukee, dog parks where everywhere. I had two less then 8 miles from where I lived.	8/17/2022 8:40 AM
41	drive down kayak launches where available.....some kayaks are heavy and its not easy to carry or wheel to launch areas	8/17/2022 8:30 AM
42	The parks give us the opportunity to refresh our state of mind to realize the important part nature plays in our day to day lives.	8/17/2022 7:28 AM
43	Need more horse safety signs. Too many of us are getting hurt. Thank you	8/17/2022 7:15 AM
44	Would love to see facilities programs of interest to teens. We use Huron valley parks/rec for their great programs, but would love to stay closer to WL if decent options offered.	8/17/2022 5:48 AM
45	Have been taking care of my mom in Royal Oak for the last 3 years, so I don't get to spend much time at home, enjoying the parks	8/17/2022 12:30 AM
46	White Lake offers the best parks for horseback riding, I sure hope WhiteLake considers the needs of the people who live in the area with horses.	8/16/2022 10:27 PM
47	We need bike paths in this township- we live close to the library, Stanley park, etc. but my kids are not safe to bike or walk there. It's a huge miss for White Lake!	8/16/2022 9:25 PM
48	play structure needed at Hidden Pines Park	8/16/2022 9:17 PM

White Lake Township Parks and Recreation Survey (2022)

49	need more horse back riding trails and equestrian camping facilities should be open for camping later in the year	8/16/2022 9:15 PM
50	Please don't over build natural areas of White Lake. It's ok to have some area undeveloped to keep the natural beauty of the township.	8/16/2022 8:33 PM
51	Pontiac equine parking is very hard to see from road and very small area for parking	8/16/2022 8:20 PM
52	Would love to see sidewalks on cedar island rd	8/16/2022 7:43 PM
53	I think Stanley Park has a lot of potential and look forward to it's development.	8/16/2022 7:08 PM
54	Please keep horse trails!! So important to many	8/16/2022 6:25 PM
55	We notice that White Lake Parks have LOTS of room for pickleball courts!	8/16/2022 6:20 PM
56	Never put Basketball courts in /around people's home. I am sick and tired of the noise of the balls behind my home. I used to enjoy my backyard. Not any more. Please move the courts out of Hawley park. It's right behind our home. Whoever thought that was a good idea should have their heads examined.	8/16/2022 5:58 PM
57	There should be a trail/bike path along White Lake Rd in the utility easement to get to the parks and for bikes to safely travel	8/16/2022 5:17 PM
58	Walking paths needed to and from school complex	8/16/2022 5:02 PM
59	I welcome the idea of new township parks/facilities. However, I do not like the idea of destroying or rezoning of current natural areas to create additional housing areas or homes. I like the idea of creating additional hiking/bike trails, or smaller recreational areas such as sports fields/courts. I do not think White Lake Township should look to remove natural areas for additional housing.	8/16/2022 4:20 PM
60	I would most love to see sidewalks/bike paths along Elizabeth Lake Road and Union Lake Road. I would love to be able to bike from my house to the library area.	8/16/2022 2:23 PM
61	Please post No Camping/No Long Term Parking signage and enforce.	8/16/2022 1:32 PM
62	Need new horse staging area and campground in Highland Recreation area.	8/16/2022 12:34 PM
63	Don't raise tax	8/16/2022 12:31 PM
64	The township is being overdeveloped regarding housing. Every piece of land is turning into some type of housing. We need sewers wherever possible. Septic tanks are failing all around me.	8/16/2022 12:27 PM
65	It's an embarrassment that our k-12 schools do not have potable water. Amazing anyone would move here given that fact.	8/16/2022 12:00 PM
66	Horse trails are a priority. We need more before the land is designated for other uses.	8/16/2022 11:52 AM
67	Curious about the trails/side paths along M59. Are you talking about the overgrown, crumbly, dangerous (from the high-speed drivers) 'bike paths' along M59?	8/16/2022 11:25 AM
68	We need to keep green space and stop developing every free piece of land. People live here for a more rural feel, not a big busy city. And please, noose fast food, if anything it would be nice to have a nicer restaurant or a Trader Joe's or specialty grocery store.	8/16/2022 11:04 AM
69	Highland recreation needs its own equestrian staging area, and campground... its dangerous for horses camping during nonhorse events with regular campers. And the staging area needs more room	8/16/2022 10:42 AM
70	Looking forward to our civic center development and all the activities that will bring for residents	8/16/2022 10:37 AM
71	I think I'm general more walking/biking paths around white lake. Elizabeth Lake Road near library and down oxbow and down bogey lake road would be beneficial.	8/16/2022 10:17 AM
72	Protect Horse trails and enlarge staging area	8/16/2022 9:03 AM
73	I wish there was more that involved families with children I find we often go to commerce/novi/Livonia for fun events. White lake puts on great events when we have them we just don't have them often enough. It's great to be able to meet other local families and	8/16/2022 8:52 AM

White Lake Township Parks and Recreation Survey (2022)

connect with our community. I wish we had better play areas for kids now and as they grow with actives to do to keep them out of trouble and keep the community clean. Basketball courts, canoeing, tennis would be great if they were not all additional cost like they are more thru programs & school.

74	Better staging areas for horse riders, easier access for trailers, more water stations for day time riders who don't have the means to transport large amounts of water.	8/16/2022 8:39 AM
75	A new staging area at highland recreation with no asphalt	8/16/2022 8:24 AM
76	Need large dog park similar to Orion Oaks	8/16/2022 8:20 AM
77	More sidewalks in white lake	8/16/2022 8:12 AM
78	Sidewalks would be great. Especially by Lakeland HS for safety and running/walking. Concerts in the park would be fun but with more lively bands like Milford. What we have at Hess seems like it is geared for little kids or seniors.	8/16/2022 8:09 AM
79	Mountain biking and gravel/road cycling is very important to our family. We use the parks which have cycling trails and paths multiple times a week. A safe path from Highland State Rec to Pontiac Lake State Rec is very important and is helpful to all those who even just walk along the highway. A sidewalk full of road debris literally next to the highway with no barriers is not a safe path. Connecting communities and neighborhoods with safe paths is vital to the health and growth of a town. Please look at the Bentonville to Fayetteville, Arkansas greenway as an example. Besides their hundreds miles of mountain bike trails, their communities are connected safely and their home values have tripled in the last decade.	8/16/2022 7:52 AM
80	Our family are avid Mt bikers. I think developing more parks and trails in white lake is very important.	8/16/2022 7:48 AM
81	Safe passage between parks would be great.	8/16/2022 7:32 AM
82	More parks with updated playgrounds would be great. Hawley play structure is near unusable. It needs updated very badly.	8/16/2022 7:16 AM
83	For safety reasons the Highland rec needs a new staging area for the horses	8/16/2022 7:07 AM
84	Family of 5 with 3 kids. Love to see more from the parks BUT not sure we can afford to at this time. Times are tight and our home taxes are high (for the area as we've been told more than a few times by tax professionals).	8/16/2022 6:30 AM
85	We live between two very well know mountain bike trails (Pontiac Lake & Highland Rec) and the fact that you cannot safely ride from one to the other is doing our community a disservice. Teggerdine is far to dangerous for a hiker/biker to travel on. Imagine if walking/biking trails connected us to Clarkston, Commerce (Hickory Glenn) & to Milford. Now that would be amazing! I love seeing all of the people walking along Commerce Rd by the library or in Milford but we are unable to do that here in WLT. The paths along side M59 are embarrassing and have never used them. They are overgrown with vegetation, covered with debris & beyond neglected. It doesn't exactly project a good first impression of our community.	8/15/2022 11:51 PM
86	Sidewalks are important To my family as we would like to walk, run and bike to other locations from our house. I also have 3 kids who will be able to walk to their high school but there are currently not side walks. This is not safe and needs to be addressed with the growing community!	8/15/2022 11:22 PM
87	White Lake needs a community pool, not another spray n play!	8/15/2022 10:56 PM
88	I think sidewalks on Bogie Lake Road, especially between Lakeland high school and Walled Lake northern high school, would be very beneficial. The high school kids use that road for running cross country and track all the time. The sidewalks would make it much safer for them.	8/15/2022 10:55 PM
89	Would love a local dog park- would be willing to pay extra (yearly fee?) to be able to access a dog park. Not sure I am aware of the White Lake parks and what is offered . Always aware of what the Library offers - maybe piggyback with their communication ?	8/15/2022 10:55 PM
90	I didn't know of half of the township parks, let alone where they are located. I will check for a map on the township website.	8/15/2022 10:45 PM
91	Please don't over-develop any of them.	8/15/2022 10:41 PM

White Lake Township Parks and Recreation Survey (2022)

92	I think our parks are well maintained and beautiful places to visit.	8/15/2022 10:33 PM
93	We de	8/15/2022 10:02 PM
94	Please consider sidewalks on Bogie Lake Road. It would be great to connect all the way to Lakeland. We are a big running, walking, biking community and sidewalks for all of these neighborhoods to access seems like a safe idea. I live off of Bogie Lake and Cedar Island and I hate that kids are walking a narrow dirt road to and from school. Sidewalks are a safer option for all.	8/15/2022 9:41 PM
95	Definitely need a playground and skate park for these kids	8/15/2022 9:24 PM
96	None	8/15/2022 9:16 PM
97	We really enjoy the parks that offer playgrounds and have been really happy with our experiences!	8/15/2022 8:58 PM
98	Please please please let's get a disc golf course! I have so much help for free! Loryn Fabrck 2488964045	8/15/2022 8:43 PM
99	I think the addition of sidewalks along Bogie Lake Rd would be wonderful. My children attend the schools at the Lakeland campus.	8/15/2022 8:19 PM
100	We love our local parks ... it was what made us build in this area 14 years ago.	8/15/2022 8:11 PM
101	Would love to see swings at Vetter park	8/15/2022 8:09 PM
102	I'm not sure what my age has to do with the survey bc my whole family's ages is why we do many events etc. sidewalks down Boogie lk would be the best to connect near by subdivisions and schools.	8/15/2022 7:55 PM
103	My family really enjoys attending community events. We use to live in Oakland Township and miss the events they would hold.	8/15/2022 7:51 PM
104	We love to see natural spaces preserved and utilized by residents.	8/15/2022 7:49 PM
105	Please don't over build White Lake. One of the reasons we love living here is because it is not built up like neighboring communities.	8/15/2022 7:48 PM
106	White lake doesn't seem to have very many kid/family friendly parks. We use other community parks for hiking, fishing, biking, and playgrounds, splash pads. It would be nice to have something in our own community.	8/15/2022 7:41 PM
107	A dog park would be awesome too!!	8/15/2022 7:39 PM
108	We would love more sidewalks on our streets to be able to walk and ride our bikes to mire places. Especially along Bogie and sidewalks all the way down 59.	8/15/2022 7:22 PM
109	Four season, well marked trails in natural forests are our favorites, as well as playgrounds with danger elements (12 and 5 year old in the house).	8/15/2022 7:20 PM
110	We need more sidewalks	8/15/2022 7:11 PM
111	Please fix Stanley park with swimmable beach, trails	8/15/2022 7:03 PM
112	We desperately need connecting sidewalks! We live in Autumn Glen and would love to bike or walk to school, stores, library etc but cannot bc we have no connecting sidewalks. This is an outdoor community we should not build business and neighborhoods with sidewalks leading in or out that do not connect to other things. Union lake and Williams lake are a death trap without sidewalks!!	8/15/2022 7:03 PM
113	Would like running and biking paths along Bogie and Cooley.	8/15/2022 7:02 PM
114	We would really like to see a developed parks and rec program with offerings similar to Waterford Township.	8/15/2022 6:52 PM
115	We would love to have a dog park space with natural shade, water, and swimming access. Orion Oaks Dog Park is a grand space our community could take ideas from. Do not copy Milford Dog Park.	8/15/2022 6:40 PM
116	Side walks and street lights	8/15/2022 6:23 PM

White Lake Township Parks and Recreation Survey (2022)

117	We work in White Lake and live JUST south of the white lake/Commerce border. Commerce has so many trail options for biking and running. I would love to see White Lake add some options. A sidewalk connecting Lakeland and Northern would be a dream.	8/15/2022 6:21 PM
118	I think it would be really important for there to be a sidewalk down bogie lake road. There are many students between Lakeland and northern. I have see a lot of kids walking the road and they need a space to walk. A few years back a Cc runner from Lakeland was hit by a car right outside Lakeland. This community needs to suppprt being a biking/running:walking community	8/15/2022 5:57 PM
119	Would be nice to have a snowmobile/atv seasonal trail system	8/15/2022 5:49 PM
120	Website is dated and hard to use when the township website is actually up and working. (I haven't been able to access it for months)	8/15/2022 5:46 PM
121	Parks & Rec committee needs "new blood!" They're super boring! Township shouldn't perpetrate that they are hosting events that actually hardworking volunteers/residents are doing. For example the Historical Society events or the tree lighting (residents want to do that without the Supervisor pretending he did it). Parks & Rec should host their own original new events.	8/15/2022 5:36 PM
122	Should have bathrooms at all the parks, need to promote the events and parks more/ better - need paths to get to the parks and in the area	8/15/2022 5:22 PM
123	They have restricted hours for using indoor walking track at Lakeland. Seniors need this especially in the winter. It was a God send to us. So many people our age used that.	8/15/2022 5:06 PM
124	I would love more walking/biking trails throughout the township	8/15/2022 5:02 PM
125	If I had to choose between more commercial development and houses and more parks, I would pick parks. We don't have the street infrastructure to support more houses! Traffic is terrible and the grocery stores can't keep up! You should have plenty of millage money to support parks, fire/police, library and etc with all these new developments. You are turning the White Lake M59 corridor into Waterford and it needs to stop!	8/15/2022 4:55 PM
126	I use Highland Rec, most days, love nature.	8/15/2022 4:53 PM
127	Would love to see more family friendly events	8/15/2022 4:52 PM
128	People gather in dog parks	8/15/2022 4:49 PM
129	Would love to see the township look into adding disc golf to some of the parks. It's great exercise and something all ages can do. Even 9-hole courses would get use (like Gilbert Willis Park in Wixom)	8/15/2022 4:46 PM
130	Would love to see dedicated bike paths that possibly connect the State Parks and Indian Springs...keeping bikers off the roadways would be so much safer! Would ultimately love to see some way to connect White Lake to the amazing trail system in Commerce, Milford! Check out the Paint Creek trail that runs from Rochester to Lake Orion, it would be a model I would definitely follow!	8/15/2022 4:37 PM
131	Bigger playgrounds with more climbing structures for older kids.	8/15/2022 4:36 PM
132	Please try to keep more natural beauty instead of chopping a bunch of trees down for an underutilized area.	8/15/2022 4:35 PM
133	We need a good dog park	8/15/2022 4:33 PM
134	Love Teeple Lake Beach!!	8/15/2022 4:29 PM
135	Our family would like to see more family gathering events, updated playground equipment, and open areas for dog runs would be nice.	8/15/2022 4:27 PM
136	We really appreciate the picnic tables in Stanley Park and hope your he kayak/canoe launch and a small playground could be placed there soon. Can more sand please be added to the sandbox at Harley Park—it has been very low for the last 3 years.	8/15/2022 3:53 PM
137	I think that a major way that White Lake could improve its recreational offerings is to connect recreation areas with safe sidewalks and bike paths. For example, hawley Park has a nice path, but it;s so small. But building safe connections between Hawley Park, Highland Rec., the new park by the library, etc. would be a major benefit for community members to make the most of hte recreational spaces. Just making the current parks more safely accessible from	8/15/2022 2:31 PM

White Lake Township Parks and Recreation Survey (2022)

many locations in the area would be a huge improvement since we lack safe sidewalks in most of the area.

138	We really need to connect our parks. For example, those of us south of 59 have no safe way to get to Pontiac Lake and/or Indian Springs by bike. Because of the lack of sidewalks in White Lake, some other type of safe connect path is needed.	8/15/2022 1:38 PM
139	See above! Please open the drive down access for kayaking at Stanley Park.	8/15/2022 1:10 PM
140	Interest in parks is welcoming.	8/15/2022 12:41 PM
141	Restroom/ porta Jon facilities	8/15/2022 11:51 AM
142	There needs to be more entertaining playground features. Also, maintained clean bathroom facilities that are located near a play area instead of dirty portable bathrooms with no way to clean hands are definitely needed.	8/15/2022 10:46 AM



WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP
PARKS & RECREATION
MASTER PLAN
2023-2027

**WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**

White Lake Township Hall, 7525 Highland, White Lake, MI 48383
January 11, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m.

Vice-Chairperson Deren called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll was called.

ROLL CALL: Andrea Voorheis, Township Board Liaison
 Kathleen Aseltyne
 Rhonda Grubb
 Deb Deren, Vice-Chair

Absent: Merrie Carlock, Chair

Also Present: Justin Quagliata, Staff Planner
 Sherri Barber, Recording Secretary

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Member Aseltyne moved to approve the agenda as presented. Trustee Voorheis supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a voice vote, 4 yes votes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Member Grubb moved to approve the minutes of December 14, 2022 as presented. Member Aseltyne supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a voice vote, 4 yes votes.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Randee Kushner (46 Croutty) noted she had conversations with Supervisor Kowall and Member Aseltyne. She had walked her dog for 19 years, and the last time she walked at Vetter Park, the fertilizer used smelled so strong she did not walk that day. She wanted to know if there was an organic treatment. She asked if grass was needed everywhere. She worried about chemicals reaching the Huron River watershed. Member Aseltyne noted the Committee had discussed this in the past.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Public Hearing - 5-Year Recreation Plan 2023-2027

Staff Planner Quagliata noted there would be a brief presentation before the public hearing. The 5-Year Plan was a great tool to guide parks and recreation decision-making. The Plan followed the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) guidelines. When approved, it would allow the Township to be eligible for grant funding from the State. The Plan could be amended during the 5-year timeframe.

Leah Groya (L. Groya Consulting) discussed the public input and planning processes. She stated if the Committee recommended approval, the Plan would be forwarded to the January 17 Township Board meeting for adoption.

Vice-Chair Deren opened the public hearing at 7:24 p.m.

Randee Kushner (46 Croutty) said she reviewed the plan and it was beautiful. She suggested for Stanley Park signage providing information on the first settlers in the area. She also noted the proposed parking lot at Stanley Park was too far from the lake for carrying canoes and kayaks.

Steve Woodard (953 Schuyler) said the change regarding the route into Stanley Park was an excellent preservation of the nature in the park. He said it was prudent to save the existing structure at Stanley Park.

The Earleys (5925 Pine Ridge Court) appreciated the survey input for the 5-Year Plan.

Vice-Chair Deren closed the public hearing at 7:28 p.m.

B. Recommendation to Township Board - 5-Year Recreation Plan 2023-2027

Trustee Voorheis motioned to recommended the White Lake Township Board approve the adoption of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2023-2027. Seconded by Member Aseltyne and the MOTION CARRIED with a voice vote, 4 yes votes.

OTHER BUSINESS:

A. Election of Officers

Staff Planner Quagliata stated the bylaws required a chair and vice-chair be elected at the first meeting of the year.

Motion by Member Grubb, seconded by Member Aseltyne to nominate Merrie Carlock as the Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Committee. The MOTION CARRIED with a voice vote, 4 yes votes.

Motion by Member Aseltyne, seconded by Member Grubb to nominate Deb Deren as the Vice-Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Committee. The MOTION CARRIED with a voice vote, 4 yes votes.

COMMUNICATIONS:

a. Staff Report

Staff Planner Quagliata reported once the 5-Year Recreation Plan was adopted it would be submitted to the State by February 1st. The Stanley Park Phase 1 site plan would be on the January 17 Township Board agenda. The proposed additions to the prohibited hunting areas (Township properties) would also be on the Township Board agenda. He was working on the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation grant for the Triangle Trail.

b. Member Comments

Trustee Voorheis noted Nashville Detroit and the third Taco Bell were now open. She thanked Deb, Rhonda, and Kathy for continuing on the Committee; they were very appreciated.

Member Aselyne reported Kris Olsen from the Huron River Watershed Council contacted her about being available for the February meeting. Staff Planner Quagliata stated the meeting would be in person at the Annex, but Kris Olsen would be presenting via Zoom. Staff Planner Quagliata would try to make the Zoom available for residents not in attendance.

Member Grubb wished everyone a happy new year.

Member Deren thanked everyone who helped accomplish the 5-Year Recreation Plan update.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

The next meeting is Wednesday, February 8, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.