The Charter
Township of York
Parks & Recreation Master Plan
2003-2008
Acknowledgments

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Chapter 1: Community Description
**Introduction**

This plan is the first Parks and Recreation Master Plan for York Township. Spanning from 2003-2008, it presents the vision of the community concerning parks and recreation and how we plan to fulfill that vision, and a thorough description of the township including cultural, physical, economic, and political features, as well as natural systems and regional park descriptions.

**Regional Context**

York Township is located in Southeastern Washtenaw County (Map 1-1). It is bordered by Saline Township to the West, Pittsfield Township to the North, Augusta Township to the East, and Monroe County to the South. The township is at the southern edge of a development boom from the Ann Arbor metropolitan area. Much of Pittsfield Township has been converted from mostly agricultural lands to sprawling housing development, some of which has begun to spring up in northern York Township.

Map 1-1: Context Map
York Township
York Township is serviced by Interstate 23 (Map 1-2), which provides connections to Ann Arbor to the north and Toledo and Monroe to the South. Highway access is located at Willis road near the intersection of Platt road, and Carpenter road near Milan. The main North-South thoroughfares through the township include Saline-Milan road, which connects the two cities, and Moon road, which provides access to the Ann Arbor metropolitan area. The main East-West thoroughfares are Willis Road and Stony-Creek Road. The only major waterway through the township is the Saline River, which flows south from the City of Saline to the city of Milan and beyond.

Map 1-2: York Roads

York Township Roads
Created at the University of Michigan
Data supplied by Washtenaw County
Extent of the Township and Land Holdings
Like many townships in Southeastern Michigan, York has relinquished some of its Jurisdiction to other governing bodies. As show in map 1-3, the cities of Saline and Milan have Jurisdiction over a small portion of what once was York Township. York Township’s land holdings include two park properties, a small parcel that houses the township hall located on Stony Creek road, and a small parcel to the Southeast of Saline.

Map 1-3: Jurisdiction

York-Township Jurisdiction
Created at the University of Michigan
Data supplied by Washtenaw County
Township History

The Township of York, Washtenaw County, was created by the Michigan Territorial Legislature in 1834 from lands that had previously been divided between the townships of Saline and Ypsilanti. The area had begun to experience growth in settlers due to the completion of the Erie Canal in 1825. By the time of Michigan statehood in 1837, the township's population had grown to 1,197. The principal settlements at that time consisted of the hamlets of Saline, Milan and Mooreville.

Plat map of York Township, 1874.
Courtesy of the Saline Area Historical Society

Soon a few stores and mills came to the three hamlets, primarily to serve the farms that began to occupy the township. In the early years, Mooreville was the township's major trading, civic and social center. Saline, in the northwestern corner of the township, continued to grow due to its location on the Detroit-Chicago Road. The hamlets of Mooreville and Milan began to vie for prominence in the southern portion of the township. When the railroad chose to pass through Milan instead of Mooreville in 1878, Milan’s prominence was assured. By 1906, Milan had grown to become the second
largest village in Washtenaw County, and had replaced Mooreville as the seat of the Township government.

Throughout the early part of the twentieth century, agriculture continued to be dominant throughout the Township. But, by the 1930s, the State and Federal governments began to look at locating facilities in the Township. When the Federal Prison and State Hospitals opened workers began to move to York Township. The township’s population surged from 1,104 in 1930, to 5,268 by 1940. (This number included the several thousand institutional residents of the two facilities.) By 1970, the cities of Saline and Milan had both incorporated, causing the Township’s population to drop from 7,006 in 1960 to 6,217 by 1970.

Throughout the later part of the twentieth century, agriculture and rural residential continued to be the principal uses of the land in the township. There was little commercial development, as those activities stayed within the cities of Milan and Saline, where municipal services were provided. During the 1990s and continuing today, rapid residential development has occurred in the northern part of the township along the Willis Road corridor. The southern area of the township, however, has continued to remain primarily agricultural.
Social Characteristics
York Township is in transition from an agrarian community to one with many different types of residents and interests. The Township has experienced increased growth over the past several decades due to pressures from surrounding communities and has attracted a wide array of new residents with differing ideas of what the township’s future should hold. York Township has retained its rural character despite the moderate amount of growth and most of the residents, new and old, feel it is important to preserve that character. The Township parks and recreational facilities should provide adequate service to the expanding and diversifying population as well as provide important cultural clues to the township’s heritage.

Population
Table 1-1 gives specific population information from the 2000 Census. It is interesting to note that although the raw population total doesn’t appear to have grown significantly during the past thirty years, the population actually has changed significantly. During previous censuses, the population of the Ypsilanti State Mental Hospital located within the township was reported in the population total. The hospital began downsizing during the 1970’s and 1980’s and thousands of patients were released and were no longer counted in the population totals for York Township. These persons were replaced during the 80’s and 90’s by newcomers, who settled mainly in the northern third of the township, which is zoned Transitional Agricultural and Residential.

According to the 2000 census, 84% of the total population of 7,392 are Caucasian. The median age is 37.4, with 74.7% of the population being age 21 or older. Although males make up 61.6% of the population, there is a much more even split of male/female when you remove the 23.8% of the township population that still reside in either the State facilities or in the Federal Correction Institution located within the township. These facilities predominantly house males. Of the remaining population, 84.6% live in households, most often being described as “family households”.

York Township’s population is typical of most townships in the area that are in the process of changing from being predominantly rural to becoming more suburban in nature. The majority of (non-institutionalized) minorities living within the township reside in the newer subdivisions that were built during the past 10-15 years. It is expected that this growth will continue in the foreseeable future as the township continues to develop and diversify.

According to population forecasts done by South Eastern Metropolitan Council of Governments (SEMCOG), York Township experienced a 18.7% growth in total population from 1990-2000 and can expect a 43.3% increase in population by the year 2030.
Table 1-1: Population Statistics
2000 Census Figures
Source: SEMCOG

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1990 Census</th>
<th>2000 Census</th>
<th>Feb 2003</th>
<th>2030 Forecast</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Household Population</td>
<td>4,237</td>
<td>5,639</td>
<td>6,341</td>
<td>8,837</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Population</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,225</strong></td>
<td><strong>7,392</strong></td>
<td><strong>8,206</strong></td>
<td><strong>10,590</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households</td>
<td>1,416</td>
<td>1,901</td>
<td>2,139</td>
<td>3,238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing Units</td>
<td>1,467</td>
<td>1,936</td>
<td>2,179</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household Size</td>
<td>2.99</td>
<td>2.97</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>2.73</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Population by Age**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>1990 Census</th>
<th>2000 Census</th>
<th>2030 Forecast</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age 0-4</td>
<td>283 (5%)</td>
<td>358 (5%)</td>
<td>568 (5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 5-17</td>
<td>935 (15%)</td>
<td>1,308 (18%)</td>
<td>1,708 (16%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 18-34</td>
<td>1,755 (28%)</td>
<td>1,664 (23%)</td>
<td>2,199 (21%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 35-64</td>
<td>2,905 (47%)</td>
<td>3,621 (49%)</td>
<td>4,419 (42%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 65+</td>
<td>347 (6%)</td>
<td>441 (6%)</td>
<td>1,696 (16%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Population by Race and Hispanic Origin**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>1990 Census</th>
<th>2000 Census</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>5,196 (83%)</td>
<td>6,191 (84%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>753 (12%)</td>
<td>940 (13%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian</td>
<td>64 (1%)</td>
<td>19 (0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>41 (1%)</td>
<td>77 (1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Islander</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
<td>1 (0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Race</td>
<td>171 (3%)</td>
<td>62 (1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-Racial</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>102 (1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic Origin</td>
<td>464 (7%)</td>
<td>300 (4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not of Hispanic Origin</td>
<td>5,761 (93%)</td>
<td>7,092 (96%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Economic Factors
The economic health of York Township residents was improved for the period of 1990-2000. In general, the percentage of lower income households fell as well as some of the moderate-income ranges, while the moderate to high-income brackets increased. Households considered in poverty, however, increased over the time period and total employment in the township slipped by 45%, mostly attributable to the closing of the Ypsilanti State Hospital. According to SEMCOG, York Township should experience a 233% increase in job growth by the year 2030.

Table 1-2: Economic Statistics
2000 Census Figures
Source: SEMCOG

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household Income</th>
<th>1990 Census</th>
<th>2000 Census</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than $10,000</td>
<td>38 (3%)</td>
<td>45 (2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$10,000 to $14,999</td>
<td>28 (2%)</td>
<td>51 (3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$15,000 to $24,999</td>
<td>96 (7%)</td>
<td>89 (5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$25,000 to $34,999</td>
<td>131 (9%)</td>
<td>71 (4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$35,000 to $49,999</td>
<td>256 (18%)</td>
<td>187 (10%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$50,000 to $74,999</td>
<td>492 (35%)</td>
<td>346 (18%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$75,000 to $99,999</td>
<td>224 (16%)</td>
<td>383 (20%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$100,000 to $149,999</td>
<td>121 (9%)</td>
<td>567 (30%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$150,000 or more</td>
<td>26 (2%)</td>
<td>169 (9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Households</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,416</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,901</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Median Household Income $75,043 $84,232
Households in Poverty 25 (2%) 68 (4%)
Persons in Poverty 82 (1%) 214 (3%)

Employment by Industrial Class

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industrial Class</th>
<th>1990</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2030 Forecast</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ag, Mining/ Nat. Res.</td>
<td>167 (7%)</td>
<td>106 (8%)</td>
<td>572 (13%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport, Communication</td>
<td>15 (1%)</td>
<td>27 (2%)</td>
<td>60 (1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wholesale Trade</td>
<td>65 (3%)</td>
<td>72 (5%)</td>
<td>215 (5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail Trade</td>
<td>27 (1%)</td>
<td>46 (3%)</td>
<td>219 (5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance, Ins., and Real Est.</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Administration</td>
<td>404 (17%)</td>
<td>494 (37%)</td>
<td>880 (20%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Employment</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,364</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,333</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,433</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Housing
Most of the housing stock in York Township is single family detached (96%), owner occupied homes (91%). The median housing value in the township is $214,600, an increase from 1990 statistics of 36%. York Township experienced 34.3% increase in total households in the 1990’s and can expect household increase of 70.4% by 2030.

Table 1-3: Housing Statistics
2000 Census Figures
Source: SEMCOG

Housing Tenure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tenure</th>
<th>1990 Census</th>
<th>2000 Census</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Owner Occupied Units</td>
<td>1,268 (86%)</td>
<td>1,771 (91%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median Housing Value</td>
<td>$156,984</td>
<td>$214,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renter Occupied Units</td>
<td>148 (10%)</td>
<td>130 (7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median Contract Rent</td>
<td>$564</td>
<td>$694</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacant Units</td>
<td>51 (3%)</td>
<td>35 (2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Housing Units</td>
<td>1,467</td>
<td>1,936</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Housing Units by Structure Type

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1990 Census</th>
<th>2000 Census</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One-Family Detached</td>
<td>1,358 (93%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One-Family Attached</td>
<td>11 (1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two-Family / Duplex</td>
<td>44 (3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-Unit Apartments</td>
<td>23 (2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile Homes</td>
<td>6 (0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Units</td>
<td>25 (2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Housing Units</td>
<td>1,467</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Residential Building Permits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single Family</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Townhouse</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two-Family / Duplex</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-Family / Apartments</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total New Units</strong></td>
<td><strong>64</strong></td>
<td><strong>91</strong></td>
<td><strong>62</strong></td>
<td><strong>5</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Units Demolished</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>63</strong></td>
<td><strong>89</strong></td>
<td><strong>60</strong></td>
<td><strong>5</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Current Land use

The primary land use in York Township is classified as agriculture, comprising 16,955 acres on 810 parcels. Other major land uses include single family residential (2,578 on 3278 parcels) and a landuse classified as open space that includes a broad range of land types including forest and wetland (968 parcels comprising of 2190 acres). All land uses are included in Table 1-4 and on Map 1-4. The township has experienced a sharp increase in housing development over the past several years and it is expected that landuse figures will continue to shift toward increased residential areas and decreased farmland. It is currently unclear what will happen with the remaining property of the Ypsilanti State Hospital located north of Willis road and west of interstate US 23. The site, however, is in a prime location due to easy access to US 23, close proximity to new housing developments along Willis road, and proximity to the two township park properties. Almost all of the residents of York Township lack sewer and water services. As a result, York Township had the greatest number of septic and water (well) systems constructed during the 1990’s in Washtenaw county. This condition has been, and to a certain degree will continue to be, a limiting factor on housing development in the township.

Table 1-4: Landuse Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Landuse Type</th>
<th>1990 Acres</th>
<th>1995 Acres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single-Family Residential</td>
<td>2,183 (10%)</td>
<td>2,578 (11%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial and Office</td>
<td>8 (0%)</td>
<td>9 (0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional</td>
<td>286 (1%)</td>
<td>224 (1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial</td>
<td>12 (0%)</td>
<td>12 (0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation, Communication and Utility</td>
<td>289 (1%)</td>
<td>289 (1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural, Outdoor Recreation and Cemetery</td>
<td>46 (0%)</td>
<td>46 (0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultivated, Grassland, and Shrub</td>
<td>17,289 (77%)</td>
<td>16,955 (76%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodland and Wetland</td>
<td>2,218 (10%)</td>
<td>2,190 (10%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extractive</td>
<td>23 (0%)</td>
<td>50 (0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td>82 (0%)</td>
<td>81 (0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Acres</td>
<td>22,436</td>
<td>22,434</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Map 1-4: Current Landuse

York Township Current Landuse Map
Created at the University of Michigan
Data supplied by Washtenaw County, Mich.
Zoning
The majority of the Northern portions of the township are zoned R-1 (Single Family Suburban Residential), A-2 and A-3 (Interim Agricultural) (Map 1-5). The R-1 zoning supports existing residential while the A-1 and A-2 zoning areas are potential residential areas. There is a small area zoned C-3 (Commercial) around the interchange of US-23 and Willis Road. The majority of the land to the South of Judd road is zoned A-1 (Primary Agriculture) and C-P (Conservation-Preservation) along the Saline River corridor.

Map 1-5: Zoning
School Districts
Currently, York Township is served by three school districts (Map 1-6): Saline, Milan and Lincoln. The Saline school district comprises of eight schools with 5,167 enrolled students. The Lincoln school system comprises of six schools housing 4,519 students. Milan houses 2,200 students in three schools.

Map 1-6: School Districts

York Township School Districts
Created at the University of Michigan
Data supplied by Washtenaw County
Chapter 2: Natural Features
Introduction
Outdoor recreation, in general, relies heavily upon the natural features of an area. The characteristics of these features significantly affect the prevalent forms of recreation most likely to occur in any one area. Regions with extended winters will typically develop more winter-oriented recreational facilities than regions with warmer climates. To the extent that the township's park system tends to be resource based, the township of York offers a balanced climate with diverse natural resources giving the Parks and Recreation committee a substantial recreation reserve with which to work.

Overview
York Township is home to a variety of ecosystems and interesting landscape features. The southern portion of the township is considered part of the Maumee Lake Plain that stretches northeast through Detroit and along lake Erie. Formed by the Wisconsin glacier this extensive lake bed region has the longest growing season in Michigan, ranging from approximately 150 to 180 days depending on how close to lakes Erie and St. Claire the site is. Extreme minimum temperatures in this area reach -26½°F. Total annual precipitation averages between 28 and 36 inches, and total snowfall averages 30 to 50 inches. The area consists mostly of clay soils. The northern reaches of the township are marked with moraine topography left by the Wisconsin glacier event some 10,000 years ago. This portion of the township has not been extensively farmed in the past due to the lack of high quality agricultural soils. As a result, in the north there is a diverse set of ground cover and land uses. Although most if not all of the macro-climatic conditions are identical to the south, the micro-climatic conditions vary extensively in the north.

Pre-settlement Land Cover

Saline River at Saline Valley farms
Courtesy of the Saline Area Historical Society
The pre-settlement land cover in the southern portion of the township surrounding what is now the town of Milan, was primarily mixed hardwood-swamp forest. A band of Beech-Sugar Maple forest stretched across the middle portion of the township along the northern boundaries of the Maumee Lake plain. The Northern portion of the township supported dryer plant communities due to the moraine topography and geology. The Northeastern portion of the township consisted of mainly mixed Oak forest. The area surrounding what is now the city of Saline was Oak barrens and a small pocket of wet prairie.

Map 2-1: Pre-settlement Land Cover

Pre-settlement Land Cover

Created at the University of Michigan
Data supplied by Washtenaw County
Forest
Much of the remaining forestland in York Township is reflective of pre-settlement conditions with dry condition trees in the northern portions of the township and mesic forests in the south. There are, however, exceptions to the general pattern due to soil hydrology modifications as a result of farming practices and housing developments. Aside from the relatively contiguous forest canopy along the Saline river, there is extensive fragmentation of woodlands in the township. Forest cover in the township comprises less than 10% of the total area.

Map 2-2: Forest Cover

Existing Forest
Created at the University of Michigan
Data supplied by Washtenaw County
Groundwater Recharge Areas
Areas of groundwater recharge are typically those areas that exhibit high soil permeability and groundwater elevations that are not at (or very near) the surface. It is critical that areas of high recharge probability be protected from development that includes the creation of large impervious areas. Urbanization and its associated decrease in infiltration can greatly diminish groundwater recharge and thus baseflows in nearby streams. It is critical that existing and proposed land uses be contrasted with recharge areas to ensure the protection of the associated riparian ecosystems. Currently in York Township there are 11 designated groundwater recharge areas which are relatively evenly distributed throughout the township (Map 2-3).

FloodPlains
Floodplains form along the banks of mid-order streams and larger rivers. These are low-lying areas along the sides of a river channel that have regular times of heavy water flow to cause the river to spill over and flood the land. This usually occurs in early spring when the snow is melting or during times when there is an unusually large amount of rainfall concentrated in a matter of a few hours or days. The Saline river running northwest to southeast has a designated 100 year floodplain which varies in its extent depending on topography surrounding the river (Map 2-3).

Wetlands
Wetlands are lands where saturation with water is the dominant factor determining the nature of soil development and the types of plant and animal communities living in the soil and on its surface. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs and similar areas. These areas provide several key environmental functions for the community including flood control, water banks, water filtration, nurseries for many types of fish and animals, habitat resources including food and shelter, and recreational opportunities. Many migrating birds stopover in wetlands each spring and fall to rest and feed before continuing their trip, and some will spend the winter in the wetlands. Wetlands provide us with places to watch birds and animals, and to fish, boat, and hunt.

York township’s pre-settlement landscape analysis (Map 2-1) shows that the southern half of the township was mixed oak swamp prior to 1830’s. The settlers quickly converted these areas into farmland and much of the one time swampland continues to yield some of the best crops in Michigan. Currently, most wetlands in the township are limited to small pockets surrounding watercourses and smaller manmade detention/retention areas. There are, however, several large wetland areas indicated on the aquatic systems map (Map 2-3).
Map 2-3: Aquatic Systems

York Township Aquatic Systems
Created at the University of Michigan
Data supplied by Washtenaw County
**Bedrock Geology**
Most bedrock in Michigan is deeply buried beneath glacial material. Southwest Michigan is located on the southwestern flank of the geological feature called the Michigan Basin. A bedrock feature centered on Gratiot County, this structural depression resembles a gigantic set of nested bowls. Everywhere in southwest Michigan bedrock units slope gently to the center of the Basin.

**Map 2-4: Bedrock Geology**

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**York Township Bedrock Geology**
Created at the University of Michigan
Data supplied by Washtenaw County
Summary
York Township’s agricultural heritage has left many of its natural areas heavily impacted and degraded. The remaining forests, wetlands, prairies, and groundwater recharge areas are for the most part fragmented and in need of protection from further degradation. The most significant natural resource in the township is the Saline River corridor. The corridor is the largest contiguous habitat for many plant and animal species and the river itself is vital to the environmental health of the township.
Chapter 3: Administrative Structure
Township Government
York Township, like other Charter Townships, is governed by a seven member elected board comprised of a Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer, and four Trustees. The Board has final oversight responsibility for all township government activities. The township supervisor serves as chief operating officer for the township. It is his/her responsibility to ensure that the business of the township is carried out, according to the policies set by the board. The township clerk is primarily responsible for processing the business of the township and conducting elections. The treasurer’s primary responsibility is to handle the finances of the township and to collect taxes. The township trustees serve as voting board members as well as liaisons between the various committees and boards. Members of statutory township boards are township citizens appointed by the board of trustees. They are paid a small per diem for their services. Members of other township committees are also appointed by the board and serve on a volunteer basis.

The township has several part-time employees that serve in various clerical capacities. The township also employs a part-time building inspector, assessor and ordinance officer. It contracts on an hourly basis with an engineer, planner and an attorney as needed. The Township offices are open Mondays through Fridays, except recognized holidays, from 9:00 am until 12:00 noon.

Services
There are no Public Works or Parks and Recreation departments in York Township. Functions usually carried out by those types of departments are done most often by volunteers or occasionally by contract. Police services in York Township are contracted to the Washtenaw County Sheriff’s Department. The Milan Area and Saline Area Fire Departments provide fire protection, depending on which part of the township the service is required. The township provides no water or sewer services, except for a limited sewer line from the Hamlet of Mooreville to the City of Milan. This was recently installed using Federal monies to alleviate a long-standing pollution problem in the Mooreville area of the township. Residents contract privately for trash collection, although the township sponsors two clean-up days per year and offers monthly recycling at the township Hall.
**Township Resources**
York Township levies the statutory 1 mill, which due to Headlee Amendment rollbacks is actually collected at .92 mills. Approximately a third of the township’s revenue comes from property taxes. The balance comes from State revenue sharing and local fees. The township owns no vehicles or equipment other than that used in the township offices. The assets of the township include the Township Hall, and the two park parcels. These properties are all owned free and clear. The township also has approximately $250,000 on deposit in its reserve fund. The annual budget is approximately $1,200,000.
Figure 3-1: Administrative Structure
Chapter 4:
Parks and Recreation Facilities, History, and the Planning Process
Existing York Township Parklands

Currently, York Township has ownership of two designated park sites. Both are in the beginning stages of development which commenced in 2002. The larger of the two parks, Sandra Richardson, is a 115 acre site located at the south east corner of Willis Road and Platt Road (Map 4-1). It is partially wooded, partially open with about 12 acres converted to Soccer playing fields. The smaller site, named Mary McCann Park, is a 37 acre site located on Warner Road between Willis Road and Bemis Roads. It also is partially wooded. These sites were deeded to the Township by the State of Michigan as they were surplus state land. In 2002, the Township began actively undertaking the planning and execution of activities to develop the two sites into community parklands. The major theme throughout the planning is conservation and preservation of the natural features and as far as possible the protection of the wildlife and flora dwelling there.

Map 4-1: Township Park Locations

York Township Park Locations
Created at the University of Michigan
Data supplied by Washtenaw County, Mich.
Sandra Richardson Park

Location and Area

The Sandra Richardson Park comprises 115.03 acres of land that once was included within the grounds of the State of Michigan’s Ypsilanti State Hospital, until its transfer to York Township in 1995. The park is located in the northwest quarter or York Township’s Section 11. It is bounded by Platt Road on the west, private and state properties that front to Willis Road on the north, commercial and private properties that extend to US-23 on the east, and private properties that front to Lutz Drive on the south. An aerial map of the park is provide in Figure 4-1.

Public Access

Access to the park is currently off Platt Road into the extreme southwest corner of the property. That entrance is through a two-part lockable gate. The gate opens into a 80-space, berm-enclosed parking lot surfaced with crushed limestone. That lot serves general park users as well as members and visitors to a concession currently maintained by the Saline Area Soccer Association (SASA).

Barrier free status

None of the facilities at the park meet the American with Disability Act (ADA) standards for barrier-free access. Existing barriers include insufficient ground surface for wheelchair access and excessive slope conditions at entrance points to pathways and play fields.

Elevation, Drainage, and Landforms

Sandra Richardson Park spans nearly 35 feet in elevation. From high points roughly 825 feet above sea level near both the park’s center and again at the parking lot in the southwest corner, the land drops away in two separate watersheds. The Saline River/Raisin River system and the Stony Creek watershed empty separately into Lake Erie - the former at Monroe Harbor in the heart of Monroe, Michigan, and the latter some four miles to the northeast at Woodland Beach.

The Saline River/Raisin River watershed serves mainly the northwest half of the park, as well as the Ypsilanti State Hospital grounds on both sides of Willis Road to the north. Runoff in that sector moves along a seasonal waterway that crosses diagonally from the park’s north center to the center of its west boundary. That water drains southwestward to a point of confluence with the Saline River on the historic Saline Valley Farms property in section 18. It reaches its lowest point on park property at approximately 800 feet above sea level, where it crosses beneath Platt Road in a culvert located one-third mile south of Willis Road. Running generally parallel to this natural drain is a buried 30” sewer line that once served the state hospital.
The remainder of rain falling on the park flows through a series of small, generally southeastward running cuts that drain Buck Creek, one of several small tributaries of the Stony Creek watershed. Flow from the park in this direction is so light and the soils so absorbent that there are no clearly-defined streambeds until the headwaters of Buck Creek are reached a quarter mile south and a half mile east of the park.

**Vegetation and Land Use**

Nearly half of the park's area is forested. A 79 acre, square parcel of mature woods covers the entire southeast quarter of the park and extends about two-thirds of the way to the north and west boundaries. The woods show little evidence of use for purposes other than hunting and the light removal of firewood.

![Figure 4-1: AerialPhotograph of Richardson Park](image)
Prehistorically, up to the time of settlement in the early 1800’s, the entire area now occupied by Sandra Richardson Park and the land for miles around was forested. The region’s combination of soils and climate had covered the northern portion of the Township with an oak-hickory climax forest. The remaining woodland is of that type.

The dominant trees in the canopy of an Oak-Hickory forest are Oaks - White (*Quercus alba*), Black (*Quercus velutina*), Red (*Quercus rubra*), and Pin (*Quercus palustris*), and Hickories - mainly Shagbark (*Carya ovata*), Bitternut (*Carya cordiformis*), and Pignut (*Carya glabra*). In addition, the canopy includes Maples - Sugar (*Acer saccharum*), Silver (*Acer saccharinum*), and Red (*Acer rubrum*); Walnut (*Juglans spp.*); Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*); Ash (*Fraxinus spp.*); and an occasional Elm (*Ulmus spp.*), Cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*), and Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*).

The understory consists mainly of saplings and replacement trees of the species mentioned, but also includes such smaller trees and shrubs as Ironwood (*Carpinus caroliniana*), Choke Cherry (*Prunus Serotina*), Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*), Gooseberry (*Ribes cynosbati*), and escaped domestics such as Cherry (*Prunus spp.*), Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*), and horticultural varieties of Honeysuckle (*Lonicera spp.*) and Barberry (*Berberis spp.*). Along the woods’ borders, where direct sunlight is available for part of the day are found the expected thickets of native Blackberry (*Rubus spp.*), Sumac (*Rhus spp.*), Prickly Ash (*Zabthoxylum americanum*), and escaped Black Raspberry (*Rubus occidentalis*), Multiflora Rose (*Rosa spp.*), and Autumn Olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*). These plants provide cover and habitat for mammals and birds while serving to restrict human entry to a few open corridors.

Because of the heavy canopy, little light reaches the forest floor during the growing season. That scarcity of light has precluded an invasion by most open-area plants such as grasses and weed species introduced onto the continent from Europe and Asia. However, there is sufficient light to support a variety of spring wildflowers that includes a sizeable area of the protected Large-flowered Trillium (*Trillium grandifolum*) in the southeastern part of the woods.
The older trees and much of the forest floor provide support for a mix of vines that characteristically climb skyward for light. These include Wild Grape (*Vitis riparia*), Virginia Creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*), and Poison Ivy (*Rhus radicans*). They provide cover and winter food for many species of Bird and Mammal. A few conifers, mainly White Pines (*Pinus strobus*), have also seeded into the west central part of the woods from nearby yard plantings.

**Ten Acre Parcel**
The feature labeled “10 acre parcel” in figure 4-1 refers to a piece of the State Hospital property that is in the process of being deeded to the township for recreational pursuits. This addition to Sandra Richardson Park will provide access to the park off Willis Road as well as a future connection to Mary McCann Park to the Northwest.

**Old Field Area**
The second largest type of vegetative cover is found in the western one-third of the park. This parcel of 35 acres was farmed as recently as the 1980’s. It is now well into the stage of ecological succession known as old field. Its main ground cover is a mixture of native, agricultural, and invasive grasses and herbaceous plants. Two or three acres along the southern edge of the area retain a significant representation of prairie plants that remain from plantings made by Pheasants Forever in the late 1980’s.

Woody plants include Blackberry (*Rubus spp.*), Cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*), Box Elder (*Acer nugundo*), Black Cherry (*Prunus spp.*), Staghorn Sumac (*Rhus typina*), and Poison Ivy- all native species that typically initiate the reversion to woodland during normal succession in southeast Michigan. Also present are notable numbers of Autumn Olive and Multiflora Rose - both alien species with a high potential for disruption of the indigenous flora of the region.
Wetland

Bisecting the Old Field area is the seasonal waterway, which leads to the Saline River. In its upper reaches, abutting the northwest corner of the woods, this waterway is a swampy wetland of about 1 1/2 acres. This swamp holds standing water in the spring and after heavy rains and contains small pools of open water during much of the year.

The 2 1/2-acre lower portion of the waterway is more heavily covered with trees than are the drier parts of the fields. The density of this tree cover and the resulting bare ground beneath them makes this water course a natural corridor for wildlife movement to and from the Saline River Valley.

Old Orchard

An old apple orchard occupies the twelve acres of land that reach from the park’s east boundary to the marsh described above and from the north boundary to the woods. The trees were planted in the late 1930’s. Now, some 60 years later, many of the trees have died, some have been removed, many more are broken down, and all that remain are in the throes of old age. Even so, these trees and their dwindling, gnarly fruit provide valuable habitat for wildlife. Since the orchard was allowed to fall into disuse sometime in the 1970’s, it has been heavily invaded by Blackberry and Raspberry brambles, Multiflora Rose, and Autumn Olive. These plants have turned the one-time orchard into a thicket that is nearly impenetrable to the would-be human visitor.

Trail

A five foot wide long trail runs from the northwest corner of the parking lot diagonally to an entry into the woods near the middle of its western edge. The trail then describes a winding, counter-clockwise loop that keeps it within 200-300 feet of the woods’ edge and passes near several points of biological and geological interest. Its course was chosen to provide the user with ever-changing vistas and frequent changes in elevation. Its exit from the forest lies a short distance north of the entrance, and the loop closes to rejoin the parking lot access shortly beyond that point.

In the summer of 2002 three rustic resting benches were constructed along the wooded portion of the trail. The trail head was marked by the erection of two lengths of cedar fence and a sign to highlight the trail’s start and its purpose. Additional signs were positioned at salient points along the trail to suggest traffic flow to the user. Total length of the trail is 1.4 miles.
Parking Lot and Soccer Fields

In 1995, The Saline Area Soccer Association (SASA) leased for 20 years a 20-acre parcel in the extreme southwestern corner of the park. SASA has since constructed a parking lot and three adjacent playing fields immediately east of that lot along the park’s south boundary. By mutual agreement, the fields are maintained by SASA and the parking lot by the Township. Currently, approximately eight acres at the north end of the leased area remain undeveloped and available to the general park user as the southern portion of the old field area described above.

Soils

Five soil types are found within the park. Half of the park’s area is underlain by Seward loamy fine sand with slopes of 2-6 percent. This soil type lies beneath the soccer fields, the parking lot, the southern two-thirds of the old field area, the northwestern third of the woods, and the western half of the old orchard. These soils are generally considered poor for playground and picnic areas because of slow percolation and unacceptable for heavy trail use because of their sandiness.

Morley loam with 2-6 percent slopes is the soil of the extreme northeastern, upland, portion of the old field area; the eastern half of the old orchard; and the northeastern corner of the woods. Morley loam with low slopes is moderately suitable for picnic areas and playgrounds and poorly suited for paths and trails because it erodes easily.

Spinks loamy sand with 2-6 percent slopes covers the valley-cut region in the southeastern corner of the woods and most of the northern one-third of the old field area, excluding the small patch of Morley loams described above. This soil type is moderately suited for picnicking, playgrounds, paths, and trails, although its sandiness argues against heavy uses of those types of recreation.

Wauseon fine sandy loam lies in a wishbone-shaped area in the middle of the forested tract. That thick wishbone or lower case “u” is tilted along an axis angled about 45° toward the northeast. This soil is considered very poor for most recreational uses because of its tendency to hold water and produce seasonal ponding.

Metamora sandy loam with 2-4 percent slopes is the underlying soil in the marshy area at the park’s north center. This soil’s best potential is as habitat for wetland wildlife.
Mary McCann Park

Mary McCann Park being much smaller than Sandra Richardson Park is less accommodating for a diversified recreational development. The park is approximately half wooded and half open field.

Location and Area

Like Richardson Park, the Mary McCann Park was also cut from State lands. This park measures 37.56 acres. It occupies roughly the west three-fourths of the south one-third of Section 3. Its boundaries are Warner Road on the west, private properties on the north and south, and the Ann Arbor Railroad’s right-of-way on the east. It is the eastern boundary’s slight tilt to the northwest (approximately 5.5°) that deviates from the parcel’s otherwise rectangular shape.

Public Access

As of late summer in 2002, there is no dedicated parking area for users of McCann Park. Rather, the occasional non-pedestrian visitor must park his/her vehicle as far off the road as possible, while leaving at least two wheels in the roadway. Despite the presence of numerous residential properties off Warner Road between Bemis and Willis Roads, there is currently little through traffic on that one-mile stretch. The park’s location near the midpoint of that mile has not interfered with the light use the park has received.

Figure 4-2: Aerial Photograph of McCann Park
to date. However, as the township’s population grows and more residents seek solace within its boundaries, some provision will be needed to accommodate them.

Elevation, Drainage, and Landforms

The park is essentially flat. Most of its land lies only slightly higher or lower than the 830 feet above sea level of an elevation line that wends its way east to west across the park. The exception to this flat landform is a man-made ditch that follows a lazy “S”-shaped course from the park’s south west corner at Warner road to the railroad right-of-way near the northeast corner. That ditch drops perhaps 10 feet along its length as it drains seasonal water toward sod-covered waterway east of the Ann Arbor Railroad. Once in that watercourse, surface drainage from the park is destined to join the shallow valley that crosses the Sandra Richardson Park and leads ultimately to the Saline River in section 18.

Forest

The western three-fifths (approximately 21 acres) of the park is forested. Most of the trees are typical of the Oak-Hickory climax forest described in Sandra Richardson Park. However, a greater degree of soil moisture has encouraged a greater number of water tolerant trees such as Cottonwood, Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*), Soft (Red and Silver) Maple, and Elm than would be expected on more well-drained lands. With that slight difference, the remainder of the vegetation in the woodland is quite similar to that in Richardson Park, and the reader is referred to that section for details.

Old Field

The eastern two-fifths (roughly 14.5 acres) of the park was farmed until the late 1980’s. It is now undergoing ecological succession as a ground cover of largely European weeds is gradually giving way to an invasion similar to that occurring in the Old Field area of Richardson Park.

Wetlands

A well-contoured ditch approximately 30 feet in width was constructed across the park to enhance drainage from the vicinity of Warner Road at the park’s south and east boundaries. Since construction, the initially naked cut has been undergoing natural revegetation at a slow rate. Currently, the western portion, running through the woods, has become well-covered with a variety of wetland species that includes sedges and other wet prairie and marsh plants. This woodland ditch serves as habitat and a watering place for many types of wetland wildlife, as well.

Currently, that part of the ditch that crosses the old field is dry and devoid of vegetation for much of the year, except in its lowest reaches as it approaches the east property line. At that point, another damp area is establishing itself as a seasonal wetland. It is to be expected that the ditch will continue to carry seasonal water, and will thus require bridging if a trail is to join the north and south halves of the park.
Trail

A rudimentary trail joins the northeast corner of the park at Warner Road with the ditch near its exit from the woods into the old field. This trail is the remnant of an access trail to the back field that continued as a Lover’s Lane after that land was allowed to go fallow. An earth berm and a chain barrier were installed in the early 1990’s to deny access to automobile traffic. Those measures have proven effective for that purpose, but have not completely excluded ORV’s of several kinds. It is the occasional passage of such vehicles that continues to keep the trail marked and open, although windfalls dictate small changes in course from time to time.

Soils

Since soils in the Mary McCann Park are arranged largely as a series of north-south bands, those bands will be described west to east, as one would pass over them in a walk from Warner Road to the Ann Arbor Railroad.

After leaving the roadside ditch, one would soon cross a narrow stretch - 60 to 80 feet wide - of Morley loam with 2-6 percent slopes. This is a slow percolating soil that is suited to woodland use. Next is a band of Hoytville silty clay loam that is the park’s main soil type. Its width varies from around 400 feet in the north to nearly 1000 feet (or half the length of the south boundary) in the south. This soil drains extremely poorly and tends to collect water because of its flat contours.

Blount loam with 2-6 percent slopes is found in the entire eastern third of the woods and varies in width from around 100 feet in the south to nearly 400 feet near the place where the ditch crosses it. It also holds water and experiences slow runoff. Nappanee silty clay loam with 2-6 percent slopes is encountered next and is the soil of the western two-thirds of the field. It lies in a band of fairly uniform width except for a 50-foot wide toe of Blount loam extending eastward several hundred feet along the park’s south boundary. Because of its small particles, this soil holds little water, but it gives up that small amount of moisture very slowly for the same reason. St. Clair clay loam with 2-6 percent slopes completes the series and brings the traveler to the Ann Arbor Railroad. Water runs off it only slightly better than off Napanee silty clay loam, and it also shows very slow permeability. The sole exception to the banded pattern of soils in this park is a blunt wedge of St. Clair clay loam with 2-6 percent slopes that lies between the Hoytville silty clay loam and the Blount loam bands in the northern part of the woods.
Parks Committee History

Before Milan became a city in the early 1960s, the York Township Hall was located in Milan. The parks within Milan were considered to be for the use of all area residents. With the incorporation of the City of Milan, the township was forced to move its offices and found itself with no parklands within the township. Approximately ten years later, the State began to downsize and eventually close the Ypsilanti Regional Psychiatric Hospital. Some undeveloped State land around the hospital was eventually given to the township in the early 1980’s to be used as parks.

During the 1990’s, the character of the township began to change. Rapid housing development occurred in the northern third of the township. In 1995 the Saline Area Soccer Association approached the township Board and requested that the board consider leasing them a part of Richardson Park for the development of youth soccer fields. After conducting public hearings on this request, the board voted to allow the SASA to lease up to 20 acres for soccer fields. The township agreed to construct a gravel parking lot and entrance drive to the park off Platt road. The SASA secured a special grant from the Kellogg Foundation and constructed three fields covering approximately 12 acres. Nothing else was done to either park property other than the posting of signs at each park. At this time, it is not anticipated that the SASA will exercise its option on any more land within the park due to high cost of field development and maintenance.

In 2000, several new members were elected to the Township Board. One new member in particular, Trustee John Bulmer, was concerned with the lack of recreational opportunities within the township. After doing groundwork with members of the Township Environmental Advisory Committee, Mr. Bulmer presented a plan for the formation of a new Parks Committee to the Township Board. In April 2002, the township board approved the organization of an ad hoc Parks Committee. This new committee was charged with developing a long term and short term park usage and development plan as well as creating an organizational plan for a permanent Parks and Recreation Committee.

Several concerned citizens joined the new Committee. Mr. Frank Stukenborg was elected chairperson. His experience and leadership has proved invaluable in achieving the Committee’s goals. Others serving on the Committee include; Mr. John Farmer, Forrest and Joan Black, Norm and Kathy Fischer, Mr. Fred Schettenhelm, Mr. Wayne Meier, and Trustee John Bulmer, Board Representative.

The first major project undertaken by this committee was the creation of a 1.4 mile walking trail through a meadow and wooded section of the Richardson park property. This trail was officially dedicated in September of 2002. It is currently being used during the winter months for cross-country skiing. The committee also began developing plans for other park
improvements and began to explore options for securing other park properties and preserving Greenways within the township. An ongoing project has been the creation of a Master Plan. During the spring of 2002, several members of the ad hoc Parks Committee contacted the University of Michigan School of Natural Resources and Environment. The committee entered into a relationship with a Graduate student of Landscape Architecture, Mr. Joshua Keys, to help the Committee in their development of this Master Plan. Mr. Keys became an integral part of the ad hoc Parks Committee. Upon the adoption of this Master Plan, a permanent Parks and Recreation Committee will be created to continue the mission of improving recreational opportunities and preserving green space within our Township.

The Planning Process
The township of York Parks and Recreation committee initiated the 5-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan in order to ensure that it would provide optimum service to the township’s residents and visitors. The committee worked with a student from the graduate Landscape Architecture Program at the University of Michigan as their intern for the preparation of this master plan. The 2003-2008 Master Plan was developed using a planning team approach. The planning team included the park and recreation ad hoc committee and the intern. The planning process divided tasks into three main categories to help organize information into a proper sequence for problem solving. These categories include inventory, analysis, plan development and implementation.

In the inventory stage of the planning process, data relevant to recreation planning was collected and compiled. This information included but was not limited to natural and environmental features, demographic and economic data, cultural and man-made influences, existing park and recreation opportunities, and local attitudes concerning recreation. The latter was determined through questionnaires and public meetings that were designed by the University of Michigan intern.

Once compiled, these pieces of information were analyzed to determine influences on the public’s demand for public recreation. This analysis, in conjunction with a review of the existing recreation supply within the township, indicated what the townships of York’s future recreational needs were. The final step in the planning process is development of the plan and steps for its implementation. The last section of this document contains the actual action plan. Goals for recreation development were set and recommendations on how to achieve these goals were made based on identified recreational needs and deficiencies. Needs and deficiencies were initially identified by comparison of current recreation facilities with state and national standards.
Park Inventory

York Township residents have access to multiple regional, county and local recreational facilities. Below is a description of many of regional and county recreational resources and resources within the cities of Ann Arbor, Saline, Milan, the townships of Saline, Lodi, Ypsilanti, and Augusta. Parks that were listed on the York Township Parks & Recreation Survey as “parks you frequent” by two or more respondents are written in green (Figure A-1).

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Park Name</th>
<th>Size-Acres</th>
<th>Facilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sandra Richardson Park.....</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>Soccer Fields, Nature Trail, and parking lot.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary McCain Park............</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>Undeveloped.</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Regional and County Resources

Washtenaw County has many large tracks of land, with multiple recreational uses that are available to residents. The Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA) provides six parks that are also accessible.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Park Name</th>
<th>Size-Acres</th>
<th>Facilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Waterloo Rec. Area.........</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>Camping, picnic area, playground, boat launch, fishing, swimming, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, horseback riding, nature center, hunting, and rustic cabins.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pinkney Rec. Area ..........</td>
<td>11,000</td>
<td>Camping, picnic area, playground, boat launch, fishing, swimming, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, horseback riding, and hunting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chelsea St. Wildlife Area..</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>Fishing, hiking, and hunting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharonville St. Wildlife Area</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>Fishing, hiking, hunting, and targeting.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total State Parks Acreage 31,425
## Selected Huron-Clinton Metro Parks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park Name</th>
<th>Size-Acres</th>
<th>Facilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Delhi</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>Picnic areas and shelters, playgrounds, boar/canoe rental, fishing, hiking trails, and cross-country skiing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dexter-Huron</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>Picnic areas and shelters, playgrounds, canoeing, fishing, hiking trails, cross-country ski rental, and snack bar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hudson Mills</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>Picnic areas and shelters, playgrounds, tot lot, bathhouse, food service, canoeing, group rental facility, fishing, golf, outdoor dance, court games, canoe camp, bike/hike trails, nature trails, interpretive program, and cross-country skiing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kensington</td>
<td>4,300</td>
<td>Picnic areas and shelters, playgrounds, swimming beach, bathhouse, food service, boat launch, boat/canoe rental, boat docks, excursion boat, farm center, fishing, golf, canoe camp, bike/hike trails, fitness trails, nature trails, nature center, interpretive program, cross-country ski rentals, food service, ice skating, and sledding.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Huron</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>Picnic areas and shelters, playgrounds, tot lot, swimming pool, bathhouse, food service, canoeing, fishing, golf (Par 3), court games, canoe camp, bike/hike trails, nature trails, cross-country skiing, and ice skating.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Willow</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>Picnic areas and shelters, playgrounds, tot lot, swimming pool, bathhouse, food service, boat canoe rental, fishing, golf course and driving range, court games, bike/hike trails, cross-country ski rentals, food service, ice skating, sledding, and outdoor dance.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total HCMP Acreage 7,160
## Selected Washtenaw County Parks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park Names</th>
<th>Size-Acres</th>
<th>Facilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Obsorne Mill Preserve</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>Fishing and nature preserve.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County Farm Rec Center</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>Picnic area and shelters, exercise and nature trails, cross-country skiing, community gardens, park commission offices and public recreation building with 1 swimming pool, 2 basketball courts, aerobics room, walking/running track, weight room, and parking.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rolling Hills</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>Picnic areas and playground, swimming, water slides, wave pool, nature trail, cross-country skiing, tobogganing, park office, and volleyball.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parker Mill</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>Historic Parker Mills (19th Century grist and cider mill), log cabin, observation deck, wood boardwalk, and nature trail.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Washtenaw Parks Acreage**  3,440

## Selected City of Ann Arbor Parks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park</th>
<th>Size-Acres</th>
<th>Facilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brown Park</td>
<td>57.3</td>
<td>Paved game courts, 2 basketball courts, 2 neighborhood ball fields, field game areas, lay equipment, sledding and tobogganinig, nature area, and walking tails with handicap accessibility.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buhr Park</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>6 tennis courts (2 lighted), 2 softball fields, 2 baseball fields, field game areas, play equipment, picnic tables, restrooms, sledding and tobogganinig, outdoor swimming pool, artificial ice rink.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinton Park</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>Paved game courts, 2 basketball courts, volleyball court, 2 tennis courts, 2 softball fields, play equipment, drinking fountain, picnic tables, BBQ grills, and parking.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cobblestone Farm</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Historical attractions, banquet hall barn and parking.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ellsworth Park</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Paved game court, 2 basketball courts, volleyball court, field game areas, play equipment, drinking fountain, natural ice rink, and walkways and trails with handicap accessibility.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park</td>
<td>Size-Acres</td>
<td>Facilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gallup Park</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>2 playgrounds, a canoe livery, picnic areas and grills scattered throughout the park, two picnic shelters, open field for play, and over three miles of asphalt trails that for biking, rollerblading, walking and running. Two drinking fountains and many benches and four parking areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pilgrim Park</td>
<td>1.36</td>
<td>Neighborhood ball field, play equipment and drinking fountain.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scarlet Mitchell Park</td>
<td>25.2</td>
<td>Nature area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scheffler Park</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Paved game court, 2 basketball courts, softball field, field game areas, play area, shelter, drinking fountain, picnic tables, BBQ grills, restrooms, walks and trails with handicap accessibility, special features, and parking.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stoneybrook Park</td>
<td>3.06</td>
<td>Paved game court, 2 basketball courts, neighborhood ball field, field game areas, play equipment, drinking fountain, and walks and trails with handicap accessibility.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southeast Area Park</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>Play areas, basketball court, two softball fields, two soccer fields, walks, trails, picnic tables, shelter, restrooms, drinking fountain, natural areas, and parking.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total City of Ann Arbor Park Acreage**: 173.62

---

**City of Saline Facilities in Pittsfield Township**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park</th>
<th>Size-Acres</th>
<th>Facilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saline Recreation Complex and Teft Park</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>Indoor Recreational facility, softball, soccer, tennis, picnic area, swimming basketball aerobics and fitness center.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### City of Saline Parks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park</th>
<th>Size-Acres</th>
<th>Facilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mill Pond</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>Boat/canoe launch, fishing, water resources, shelter, picnic areas, soccer fields, sledding, cross-country skiing, trails, open and wooded areas, and ROMP play structure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curtiss</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Tennis courts, baseball fields, river-related activities (fishing, wading, viewing), playground equipment, picnic areas, pavilion, natural interpretive areas, and cross-country skiing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilderness</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Trail system, natural interpretive areas and cross-country skiing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saline Recreation Center</td>
<td></td>
<td>Indoor recreation center gymnasium, basketball, softball.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brecon</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Basketball court, baseball field, tennis courts, play equipment, shuffleboard and paved trail.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total City of Saline Parks Acreage** 132

### City of Milan Parks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parks</th>
<th>Size-Acres</th>
<th>Facilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sandford Road</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>Facilities include: radio-controlled model airplane flying field, horse show arena, jogging trail.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilson</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>Features a picnic area (shelter, tables &amp; grills), playground &amp; tot-lot area, basketball courts, sand volleyball court, walk/bike path and softball.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Facilities include: softball diamond, picnic area (shelter, table &amp; grills), playground area &amp; horseshoe pits.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>A 9 acre park featuring ball diamonds &amp; walk/bike path.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle School Playfield</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Facilities include: tennis courts, softball diamond &amp; baseball fields.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total City of Milan Parks Acreage** 198
## Pittsfield Township Parks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parks</th>
<th>Size-Acres</th>
<th>Facilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Montibeller</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>1 baseball field, 1 softball field, 4 tennis courts, accessible path to 1 ball field and 2 tennis courts, 2 bleachers, 1 pavilion, restrooms with storage building, accessible path to restrooms from parking, accessible play structure, swings, slides, large sandbox, playground center, whirl, jungle bars, 20 picnic tables, 4 outdoor grills, sledding area, 17-acre wood with 1-1/4 mile nature trail, stream, scenic area, general open space, and 2 parking lots (180 cars). In Spring, 2000, an accessible trail will be installed from the parking to the play structure, and pavilion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twp Community Center</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>pavilion and restroom served by an accessible path from the parking lot, 1 softball field, 3 T-ball fields, 3 bleachers, playground center, 4 swings, jungle bars, large sandbox, 18 picnic tables, 2 outdoor grills, and general open area. An accessible path will be added from the pavilion to the play structure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lillie</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>2.5 miles of nature trails, fishing dock, picnicking, observation area, pavilion, parking lot, portable restrooms, benches, wildlife observation, 2 lakes, a bog, woodland areas, and exploration.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firehall</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Currently under development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P.G. Palmer</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>16 acres of woodland, swamp, currently undeveloped.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Area Rural Preserve</td>
<td>535</td>
<td>Currently undeveloped.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Pittsfield Township Parks Acreage** 745
## Ypsilanti Township Parks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parks</th>
<th>Size-Acres</th>
<th>Facilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Big Island</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>Small passive open space area, accessible only by boat; part of the Ford Lake Park System.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ford Heritage</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>Large site with a mixture of open space and woodlands; currently only offers a non-motorized pathway; construction is underway for the soccer fields and parking.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ford Lake</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>Active park on Ford Lake; includes a boat launch; offers ample picnic area; includes playground equipment; and hosts a variety of athletic fields such as tennis courts, soccer field, ball diamond, basketball court, trails and sand volleyball; includes an office for park staff.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hewens Cree</td>
<td>190.64</td>
<td>Passive open space area that is currently used mostly for fishing; recent land acquisition by the township; offers a variety of natural features including woodlands, water and open fields.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Huron River</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>Undeveloped land located across from the Civic Center complex; has frontage on Ford Lake; steep slopes limit development potential; includes woodlands.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lakeside</td>
<td>20.9</td>
<td>Offers active play areas, picnic areas, shelter and fishing on Ford Lake; portion of park is undeveloped.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loonfeather Point</td>
<td>11.2</td>
<td>Includes two uniquely designed picnic pavilions, parking, restrooms, barbecues and sports field on the high ground; steep slope down to Ford Lake that includes playground, open space and spacious pier.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Bay</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>Nestled into the north side of Ford Lake; offers extensive trail/boardwalk system, picnic areas, play ground and open space; access to Ford Lake is provided for site seeing and fishing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park</td>
<td>Size-Acres</td>
<td>Facilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Hydro</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Undeveloped park in an extremely natural setting with preserved riverbank and woodlands; set back from Bridge Road; prime fishing location; adjacent to Ford Lake hydro dam.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Hydro</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>Undeveloped park with secluded and natural setting; prime fishing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Center</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Offers a playground, tennis courts, ball fields, parking, restrooms and picnic areas; undeveloped woodland area; hosts many sporting events for community.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wendell Holmes</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>Smaller facility than Community Center Park; offers a baseball field and soccer field.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harris Road</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Secluded park with two ball fields, picnic areas and restrooms; limited parking; hosts sporting events.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appleridge</td>
<td>42.1</td>
<td>Active park currently undergoing improvements of parking, picnic areas and play equipment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bud &amp; Blossom</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>Extension of Appleridge Park, wooded area buffers the two parks, offers playground, ball field and picnic areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clubview</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Large open space area with future development potential; has a playground, fitness trail, basketball tennis, volleyball and picnic areas; secluded setting with 3 access points.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairway Hills</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>Provides a trail adjacent to a multiple family neighborhood; undeveloped.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lakeview</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>Includes playground, picnic areas, pathway, ball field and an open play field.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nancy</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>Features play equipment, picnic area and open space; pathway connections to link abutting neighborhoods and school.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugarbrook</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Features playground and picnic areas.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Ypsilanti Township Parks Acreage** 734.09

**Total Acreage included in this survey** 43,925.71 Acres
School Properties/Facilities in York Township

There are three public school districts within York Township, Lincoln, Milan, and Saline (Map1-6). Students enrolled in Lincoln schools are offered athletic programs by the Association for Youth Athletics (LAYA). The program offers basketball, soccer, football, baseball, softball, t-ball, cheerleading, volleyball and tennis. Milan schools offer girls and boy’s basketball, volleyball, track, and swimming; also, boy’s football and wrestling. Both Milan and Lincoln are planning increased use of their recreational assets to accommodate increasing demand. The Saline district has a highly organized recreation system that is well used and coordinated with the City of Saline Parks and Recreation Department. Saline has few facilities available for use by non-profit groups. All three districts estimate that by the end of the 2003-2004 school year their facilities will be fully subscribed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lincoln Schools</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Park</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All facilities are located.......Unknown.......</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in a single complex: Elementary School, Middle School, and High School.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milan School District</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Park</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paddock Elementary..........4..................Tennis courts, softball field, baseball field &amp; play areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milan Middle School..........Unknown.......Play areas, fields.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milan High School..........Unknown......Pool, auditorium, intramural athletic field.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New High School.............Unknown.....Pool, auditorium, football field, baseball field, Soccer field, tennis courts.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Saline School District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park</th>
<th>Size-Acres</th>
<th>Facilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Middle &amp; High Schools</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>2 softball fields, 1 baseball field, football stadium, practice field, track, and tennis courts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodland Meadows</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Share recreational facilities with the High School &amp; Heritage Elementary. Woodland Meadows has 1 ball field, Heritage has 2 ball fields.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harvest Elementary School</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Ball field and play field.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union Administration Building</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>Henne Field, including baseball and soccer fields.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pleasant Ridge Elementary</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Basketball courts, playground equipment, and open space.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Houghton Elementary School</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Basketball courts and 2 small (T-ball) fields.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saline Christian</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Playground equipment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New High School</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>2 softball fields, 2 baseball fields, football stadium, practice field, 8 tennis courts, 50 meter pool, 4 mile cross country course, indoor track, fitness center, 2 gymnasiums, and 2 multipurpose fields.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chapter 5: Citizen Involvement
Public Participation Efforts
There are three components to the public participation aspect of this project including two public information events and a survey given to over 2000 residents. This chapter describes each event chronologically. The first public event was a path dedication day held at Sandra Richardson park, after this initial meeting a parks and recreation survey was sent to township residents, and finally a public information and input meeting was held the York Township Hall.

Path Dedication Day at Sandra Richardson Park
October 8th, 2002, the parks planning committee held its first public forum at Sandra Richardson park. The event was advertised in the Milan, Saline, and Ann Arbor news as a “path dedication day”. The event drew over 40 participants as well as township officials and a news reporter from the Saline press (See “Nature Trail Opens In York” Appendix 1). Area naturalists held guided tours of the park; a parks and recreation information booth was displayed, and participants were asked to complete a parks and recreation survey (Appendix 4) and to join the Friends of the Park- a citizens organization dedicated to park issues. Parks and Recreation committee members as well as the University of Michigan intern were on hand to meet and engage the participants. Thirty five surveys were completed at the event. The intent of surveying participants of this dedication day event was to get input of park issues from this highly involved subset of York’s population and to test the survey. The survey collected relevant data on the respondents demographic make-up and asked four basic groups of questions:

• What are current recreational habits?
• Do park facilities in York Township meet residents expectations?
• What would residents like to see the township improve?
• How should the township pay for improved park and recreational facilities?
Survey Results for the Path Dedication Day Participants

The results include only a select set of data due to the very small sample size (n=32) and the “test” nature of this initial survey. The selected results include participants’ age, level of satisfaction with township recreational opportunities, preference for park funding source, and preference for park amenities.

Age Of Respondents

The majority of the path day participants were between the ages of 36-65 totaling twenty three. The other age groups were less represented and all together only constituted nine individuals (Figure 5-1).

![Age Distribution Pie Chart]

Figure 5-1: Age of Respondents at the Path Dedication Day

Attitudes towards Township Recreational Opportunities

Survey participants were asked to rate York Township’s recreational facilities on a scale of one to five, one being “very inadequate” and five being “Very Adequate”. Respondents’ attitudes toward their townships recreational amenities were varied. The mean response was 2.68, which is slightly below neutral on the inadequate side.
Funding
The last question on the survey was asked to gage the respondents preference for funding any park and recreation improvement or acquisition. The question asked the respondents to rate each of five funding options including millage, bond issue, user fees, donations, and grants, on a scale of one to five. Grants were rated most favorable among the five funding methods (4.6) followed by fund raisers (4.1), bond issues and millage (3.1), and lastly user fees (Figure 5-2).

![Figure 5-2: Funding](image)

Park Amenities
Respondents were asked to rate twenty different park amenities on a scale of one to five, five being very important to them, one being not important. Passive recreational amenities received a higher rating then active recreation. Amenities such as nature trails, wildlife areas, forest, and restrooms rated the highest in preference among the list (Figure 5-3).

![Figure 5-3: Preference for Park Amenities](image)
Mail-Out Survey

In late December of 2002 a revised parks and recreation survey was sent to 2,000 property owners in York Township (Appendix 2). Along with the survey, an announcement was sent of a public meeting on January 16, 2003 concerning parks and recreation issues including master plan information, grant applications, and public input. Out of the 2000 surveys sent, 98 were returned to the township hall representing a response rate of approximately 5%. The revisions to the initial survey included the addition of several demographic questions, the ordering of questions, and changes to the language of the survey. The results of the survey are summarized below.

Survey Results

Demographic Information

Of the respondents who gave household information, 64% are considered to be a “family” household (> than 3 persons/house), 30.8% are considered couples (2 persons/house), and 8.8% are single (Figure 5-4). Age of the respondents was grouped into five categories: under 13 years old (1.6%), 13-18 years old (3.2%), 19-35 years old (18.5%), 36-65 years old (65.3%), and over 65 years old (11.3%) (Figure 5-5).

![Figure 5-4: Type of Household](image1)

![Figure 5-5: Age of Respondents](image2)
Existing Facilities
Survey participants were asked to rate York Township’s recreational facilities on a scale of one to five, one being “very inadequate” and five being “Very Adequate”. Respondents’ attitudes toward their township’s recreational amenities were varied. The mean response for all respondents was 2.54 representing a general unfavorable opinion of parks and recreational facilities in the township (Table 5-1). The lowest rating came from respondents ranging in age from 19-35 years of age (2.25) (Table 5-2), from respondents with children (2.14) (Table 5-1), from those who reported spending over 10 hours a week recreating (1.9) (Table 5-3), and respondents who travel between 5-15 miles to recreational facilities. Respondents who reported that they had been to either of the township parks showed more disfavor toward township recreational opportunities (2.17-2.40) than those who had not been to the parks (2.68).

Table 5-1: Attitude Towards Park Facilities by Different Household Types

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FAMILY</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Mean</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>single</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>couple</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>family</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>2.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>2.49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Variable: Type of Household

Table 5-2: Attitude Towards Park Facilities by Age Groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Respondent's Age</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Mean</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13-18 Years</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19-35 Years</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>2.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36-65 Years</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>2.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 65</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>2.54</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Variable: Respondents Age
Table 5-3: Attitude Towards Park Facilities by Time Spent Recreating

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Recreating</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Mean</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>less than one hour</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-5 hours</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>2.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-10 hours</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>2.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>more than 10 hours</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>2.47</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Variable: Time Spent Recreating

A follow-up question to the rating of township facilities asked respondents to provide a factor influencing their rating. The complete list of comments is located in Appendix 2. In general, there were several different types of responses to this question. Many residents did not know the township parks existed, while many others felt that the existing facilities lacked diversity in the types of activities they offered. Other responses included issues such as lack of water access (lakes and rivers), underrepresented portions of the township (south/southwest), lack of variety in parks and park facilities, and a few sentiments expressing concerns over the cost of park development and tax increases.

Judging by these responses there seems to be a lack of community awareness regarding the parks themselves and a lack of satisfaction with the recreational opportunities offered at the parks. These findings are reinforced by the 67% of respondents who had reported that they had never been to either park and the lower rating given to York Township recreational opportunities by those who had reported visiting the parks (mean rating of 2.17 on a scale of one to five, one being very inadequate and five being very adequate) then those who reported they had not (mean rating of 2.7).
Funding
The last question on the survey asked how respondents would prefer to fund any park and recreation improvement or acquisition. The question asked the respondents to rate each of five funding options including millage, bond issue, user fees, donations, and grants, on a scale of one to five, with five indicating most preferred. Attitudes towards using a millage to pay for park activities depended on a variety of factors. However, overall respondents rated funding options that required no tax support more preferred than options such as millage or bond issues (Figure 5-6).

Grants were rated most favorable among the five funding methods (4.5) for the mail out group, followed by fund raisers (3.51), user fees (3.1), bond issues (2.6), and millage (2.32). In general, participants of the path dedication day event rated the use of a millage higher than participants in the mail-out group (Table 5-4).

Among the different household compositions, respondents in the “family” group (3 or more persons in a household) rated the funding methods of millage (2.34) and bond issue (2.79) higher than the respondents considered “single” (2.00) or in a “couple” (2.05).

Respondents who rated the township recreational opportunities as very inadequate were most favorable toward passing a millage (2.81 out of a scale of 1-5, 5 being most favorable) while respondents who were very satisfied with township facilities were most unfavorable toward the millage (1.0, representing the lowest rating). There was a general gradient between the two extremes. In general, the attitude toward the millage was unfavorable (2.23). Of the other methods of funding recreation in the township, there were no other obvious patterns in the data using attitudes toward parks as a variable.

![Figure 5-6: Preference for Different Park Funding Options](image-url)
Table 5-4: Household Structure and Parks Funding Preference.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Family</th>
<th>Millage</th>
<th>Bond</th>
<th>User Fees</th>
<th>Fund Raisers</th>
<th>Grants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>single N</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>1.83</td>
<td>1.33</td>
<td>3.75</td>
<td>3.71</td>
<td>4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>couple N</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>2.05</td>
<td>2.55</td>
<td>2.78</td>
<td>3.32</td>
<td>4.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>family N</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>2.38</td>
<td>2.79</td>
<td>3.38</td>
<td>3.55</td>
<td>4.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total N</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>2.24</td>
<td>2.60</td>
<td>3.25</td>
<td>3.50</td>
<td>4.42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 5-5: How Attitudes About York Parks Facilities Affect Preference for Funding Options.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMM/REC</th>
<th>MILLAGE</th>
<th>BOND</th>
<th>USER</th>
<th>FUNDRAIS</th>
<th>GRANTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very Inadequate</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>2.81</td>
<td>3.07</td>
<td>3.21</td>
<td>3.07</td>
<td>4.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inadequate</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>2.48</td>
<td>3.05</td>
<td>3.04</td>
<td>4.08</td>
<td>4.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>2.15</td>
<td>2.45</td>
<td>3.14</td>
<td>3.57</td>
<td>4.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adequate</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>1.67</td>
<td>2.86</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>3.57</td>
<td>4.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very Adequate</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>3.13</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>3.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>2.33</td>
<td>2.75</td>
<td>3.12</td>
<td>3.59</td>
<td>4.43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Variable: Level of Satisfaction with York Recreation
Park Amenities
Of all respondents in the mail out group, nature trails, forests, wildlife, and restrooms rated the highest in preference among the list of park amenities (Figure 5-4). These were followed by picnic areas, bike paths, park-to-park connections, playgrounds, gathering areas, covered shelters, sledding hills, and cross-country skiing areas. The next grouping consisted of mown grass areas, gardens, prairies, soccer, and baseball fields. The lowest grouping included tennis courts, volleyball, basketball, skate parks, and horseback riding areas. Respondents were given the opportunity to write in park amenities they would like to see the township develop but were not included in the survey. Age of respondents seemed to influence preference for park amenities. Respondents over the age of 65 rated passive activities as very important to them while respondents between the ages of 19-35 years rated amenities such as bike paths, playgrounds, and sledding hills as important.

Figure 5-7: Level of Preference for Park Amenities
A blank space was provided for respondents to suggest other park amenities not included on survey. The complete list of respondent’s comments is located in Appendix 4. The additional amenities respondents listed were varied ranging from active recreational pursuits such as ice skating rinks and golf courses, to more passive amenities such as bike paths and a dog park. There was no one amenity that was listed by more than a few residents.

Respondents also were given space to write any comments they had regarding park issues. The complete list of respondents comments are located in Appendix 5. Open notes to the committee reflected the full range of attitudes towards park issues. There where respondents who were very positive regarding the planned improvement of York parks and a few who disfavored any township activity that could raise taxes. Overall, the comments were very helpful to the committee in planning the park improvements.

Respondents were asked to list two park facilities that they frequent. The park facilities listed most frequently were Mill pond, Gallup, and the Saline Recreation Center. The Saline Recreation Center, located in the City of Saline, offers mainly active recreational opportunities many of which could not be develop in York Township in the near future. Mill Pond, located in the City of Saline, and Gallop park, located in the City of Ann Arbor, offer similar recreational opportunities including large wooden areas, children’s play structures, picnic areas with pavilions, soccer fields, a dog park, natural areas and walking trails. During winter, Mill Pond park offers a picturesque cross-country ski area and each summer the park hosts the annual Saline Celtic Festival. Gallup Park offers miles of shoreline along the Huron River and pedestrian connections to other area park facilities. Both parks offer primarily passive recreation opportunities featuring water amenities. The following list includes the names of the parks and the frequency to which they were listed.

### Park Facilities Respondents Frequent
- Adrian
- Ann Arbor parks 5
- At home
- Bally’s
- Bike trails
- Bremen, Brewed
- Chipema club
- County farm
- Curtis park 6
- Curves for women 2
- Delhi
- EMU rec., 16
- Gallup park
- Georgetown c.c.
- Gym.
- Hill pond 2
- Hines drive
- Hudson mills metro park 6
- Huron metro park
- Independence
- Kensington metropark
- Lere,
- Lillie,
- Mary McCann 3
- Mayberry state
- Metro park 3
- Metro-Dexter
- Milan 4
- Mill pond 21
- Montibellar 2
- Morenci
- Mulberry state
- Polo fields golf
- Rec. center 3
- Rolling hills 7
- Saline dog park
- Saline elementary school
- Saline rec. 16
- Saline school gym
- Saline
- Sandra Richardson 10
- Silver Lake State
- Sports academy
- State parks-Metro Park
- Taylor Ridge
- Travis point 3
- Trestle park
- Van's state park
- Various soccer fields
- Veteran park
- Wash county rec. center 3
- Wilderness park saline 2
- Willow 2
- Wilson
Public Meeting

On January 16 2003, a public meeting was held at the York Township hall. The agenda (Appendix 6) of the meeting included welcoming remarks and introductions, a summary of work done to date by the parks committee, an interactive visioning session concerning the future of the township parks, a power point presentation covering the existing township park facilities, description of what a Parks and Recreation Master Plan is and why it is necessary, as well as grant application issues. The meeting focused on informing York Township citizens on park and recreation issues including current park conditions, park improvements, rapid residential development, land acquisition for public use, grant applications for park use, and master plan development. In addition, participants were asked to envision what they would like to see improved in the township concerning recreational opportunities. Results of participants’ input are included below.

The meeting drew twenty residents from all reaches of the township and of differing interests. Many of the comments made by participants expressed a desire to preserve natural lands in the township and the development of nature paths for the citizen enjoyment. In addition, there were individuals who commented on the lack of opportunities for bike riders and roller bladers to experience area parks. Areas for community gathering was also a concern of many of the participants as well as a few active recreational pursuits such as sand volley ball and horseshoe pits. There was no desire on behalf of the participants for organized sports activities such as softball or basketball.

Issues discussed by meeting participants:

- All terrain vehicles observed in both parks. Difficulty in identifying them as they do not have license plates.

Park amenities meeting participants stated they would like to see:

- Non-motorized bike paths, similar to rails to trails
- Bike path around soccer field
- Sledding hills
- Cross country skiing trails
- Horseback riding areas
- Wildlife viewing
- Roller blade paths
- Sand Volleyball
- Horseshoe pit
- Mountain Biking
- Picnic areas- concern about trash pickup
- Pavilion- Consider leasing out to groups and money from the soccer group, recommend using port potties rather than restrooms

Ideas for acquisition of new park properties

- Inventory places with unique features and learn what can be done to protect them
- Protect and maintain the saline river corridor
· Encourage park development in new housing developments - set the tone that this is a expectation, not a request
· Create linear parks similar to Hines Drive that can be very beautiful if planned properly.
· Lock in land now and preserved green space

Marketing Ideas
· Hold an Open House
· Create a township web site with parks section
· Feature on the parks in the saline reporter.

Summary

A majority of York Township residents seem to be unaware that the township offers two parks for their use. In addition, many of the residents that are aware of the facilities feel that they do not fulfill their recreation needs and that they are lacking in any real recreational opportunity.

The input from township residents has reflected a general desire to preserve land, create opportunities to hike, ski, ride bikes, walk, gather with family and friends, view nature, and exercise.

Positive feedback and encouragement from residents has been frequent. Some residents who have walked the new forest trail constructed in Sandra Richardson Park have expressed gratitude for the opportunity to experience the forest and have encouraged more path development. In addition, those who have become involved in the planning process are in general very enthusiastic about the future of park development in the township and are eager to help the committee in this endeavor. More public involvement is needed to foster this growing cooperation and awareness among the township residents and the parks committee is in the process of planning future events and meetings with area residents.
Chapter 6: Master Plan & Capital Improvement Schedule
Introduction
The two main goals for parks and recreation improvement over the next five years are improvements to the existing two park properties and park acquisition. This chapter will present what will be developed in the two existing township park properties and will identify which areas the township is interested in acquiring. A phased schedule and budget for park development is presented, and possible funding sources are identified. Lastly, recommendations for planning purposes are given. This chapter will first present the master plans and park improvements for the two existing parks and outline possible funding sources for park development. Second, suitable land for acquisition is identified, basic criteria for the selection of property is outlined, and funding sources are identified. Lastly, the capital improvement schedule is presented.

Five Year Vision
Development plans for both parks emphasize passive activities over active ones. As the public input survey shows, the preservation and enjoyment of the forests and wildlife habitats are of prime importance to the community. Many of the desires expressed at the public meeting and in the survey demonstrate that the community is mainly interested in preserving natural areas for passive uses, in gathering areas, and trial systems. In response to the communities input, limited township resources, and the park and recreation committee’s recommendations, the five-year focus is on ecologically sensitive trail development through natural areas in the township, land preservation, and basic use improvements such as parking and seating areas. Consideration was also made for residents who may have been underrepresented in the public outreach efforts including children and physically challenged citizens. These considerations resulted in the inclusion of park features such as playground areas and a handicapped accessible nature trail.

The following five year plan is broken into three sections, Sandra Richardson Park Improvements, Mary McCann Park Improvements, and Land Acquisition goals. Below is an outline of each section and its reference number used throughout this chapter

Park Improvement Goals
100. Improvements to Sandra Richardson Park
   110. Path system
   120. Information kiosk
   130. Picnic/gathering areas
   140. New parking lot off Willis Road
   150. Shelter
   160. Playground
   170. Play field
200. Improvement to Mary McCann Park
   210. Loop path
   220. Parking area

300. Land Acquisition Goals:
   310. Pedestrian connection between existing parks
   320. Land in identified priority areas

100. Sandra Richardson Park
There is ample land available in the northwest quadrant of Richardson Park for more active recreation such as various sporting playing fields, however development of this land and for these activities is not foreseen within the next five years. With three school systems providing competitive sports and two adjacent highly populated townships providing the same, York Township should have a span of at least ten years before active sports need to be seriously considered in specific planning detail.

The five year goal of Sandra Richardson Park includes the development of an extensive walk/skiing trail system throughout the park, new park access off of Willis Road, two picnic gathering areas located near the existing parking area off Platt road and near the new parking area of Willis Road. The plan integrates the existing forest path with three additional paths and offers gathering spaces, a play field, additional parking, and multiple park access points (Figure 6-1).

110. Path System
   a. The “stream” trail will lead from the existing parking area due north to the stream bed, along the stream bed bearing north-east to a park information kiosk and path node. This trail offers a relatively easy walk, approximately ½ mile through a riparian setting.
   b. The “Orchard-Forest” trail will be an ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant trail and will offer every park goer the opportunity to experience each of the four different ecosystems of the park as well as a beautiful walk. The trail will require a boardwalk at the stream bed. The trail will lead from the new parking and gathering area off Willis road through the old-orchard using an existing access road bearing south. The trail will link to the northern portion of the existing forest trail and follow for approximately ¼ of a mile to the park information kiosk and path node; from the path node the path will bear north back to the new parking area and gathering spot.
c. The “Prairie” path along the West portion of the park will follow Platt Road and offer bike riders, runners, and walkers the opportunity experience a part of the park seldom seen. The trail will curve in and out of the vegetated edge along Platt road offering views of the path to the community. At the north-west corner of the park, the trail will split and head due east and link to the new gathering area.

120. Information Kiosk
   a. An Informational Kiosk will be located at the convergence of the four paths and will include resting benches, natural features information, and trail maps.

130. Gathering Areas
   a. The picnic and gathering area to the north will include a covered pavilion, picnic tables, trail map, open space, and play equipment.
   b. The picnic and gathering space near the existing parking lot will provide picnic tables and a trail map.

140. Willis Road Access and Parking Lot
   a. The new Willis Road entrance and parking lot will provide access to the northern reaches of the park and allow visitors to explore a diverse natural setting and to socialize in small gathering areas. The entrance road will follow the existing access road and should bring the user well within the park, no less than 50 feet. Parking should accommodate no less than 10 cars, and 2 accessible spots.

150. Pavilion
   a. Any shelter or pavilion should be sited so that its use is accessible by physically challenged residents, and maintenance workers. Shelters should be sited where they would enhance view sheds.

160. Play Area
   a. Childrens play area consisting of play equipment, landscaping, fencing, concrete pad for portable restroom placement and safety features in the play area.

170. Play field
   a. Play field development near the North park entrance and parking lot. Field should be large enough to support a variety of activities including informal sports.
Figure 6-1: Sandra Richardson Park Master Plan
Figure 6-2: Mary McCann Park Master Plan
200. Mary McCann Park
Mary McCann park will experience limited development in the next five years due to the lack of township resources and development limitations imposed by the site itself. The plan for the park includes the creation of a loop path that will offer the user an enjoyable walk through the oak-hickory forest and the old-field prairie to the rear of the property. The ten year macro development plan suggests planning for more passive activities such as nature trails, limited picnicking and wildlife observation. The first walking/nature trail should be completed in 2004 and will be about a mile in length. An observation platform is planned for construction on a small knoll in the open field area. There is a rather pleasant panoramic view of the surrounding areas which are undeveloped at this time. The planting of prairie grassland is planned for the open area within the first five years. The open area is too far from the road to be of practical use as a playing field. Cutting a roadway through the forest to the open area would be detrimental to the forest and the wildlife. Consideration is being given to providing a semi permanent campsite for local Boy Scout troops and others to use on a limited basis for overnight camping experiences. This plan is currently being worked out with the local scout leadership (Figure 6-2).

210. Looping Path
   a. The looping path should initially follow the existing road which runs to the rear of the property. After which, the path will return to Warner Road via the southern portion of the property.

220. Parking Areas
   a. A small parking area may be needed to serve users of the park. This area would require tree clearing and grading.

230. Beautification
   a. Beautification of Mary McCann park will be limited to the Warner Road frontage.
Funding Resources for Park Improvements

Volunteer Work
One of the resources of York Township is the will and know-how of township residents. Their experience shaping and cultivating the land and their strong community spirit make them the most important resource to park development in the next five years. Volunteer workers will be sought out on many of the improvement projects. Volunteers can range from Boy Scout troops to private landowners, business owners, organizations, trades, and civic groups.

Donations
The majority of the 2002 park budget was from a donation by a local land developer. This resource should not be overlooked and efforts need to continue to solicit money from local citizens, developers, and companies. The process for making a donation should be made as simple as possible.

Millage
The parks survey results showed that in general, respondents were somewhat unfavorable of using a millage to fund park development. It is recommended that this issue be further investigated by the parks committee and efforts should be made to acquire a millage or a portion of one.

Township Budget
The township government in the general Master Plan has recognized the importance of public open space. The board should be encouraged to allocate more financial resources behind this parks endeavor.

State, federal, and Private Grant Opportunities
There are many grant opportunities available to York Township for park development the largest of which is the Michigan Natural Resource Trust fund administered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR). A park development project minimum/maximum grant amount: $15,000 to $500,000. A grant overview is provided under the Land Acquisition Resources heading in this chapter.
Land Acquisition

300. Land Acquisition

As more and more land is converted into housing development, the opportunities for the township to acquire and protect natural lands is dwindling. Factors affecting York Township’s ability to acquire and protect park land include a lack of finances and rapid housing development.

310. Park-to-Park Connection

A park-to-park connection is a goal of the parks committee. The connection would most likely require a small easement across what is currently state property or along Warner and Willis roads. This connection would offer users of each park three to six additional miles of trails to explore. This trail system could also become a key component of a township pedestrian byway.

320. Areas of Interest

Currently, the Townships Park’s Committee is actively pursuing three properties in the township for park development. Two of the properties will add additional acres to the existing parks, the remaining parcel is located near the Saline river and is composed of naturally sensitive land. Other areas that are of interest to the township for park development include properties adjacent the Saline River and parcels within the floodplain, and properties with significant natural features.

A land acquisition map created using a spatial analysis tool which rates and overlays selected natural features is provided in figure 6-3. Properties were identified by selecting important natural features and identifying parcels that contain them. Properties that contain more of the selected natural features are considered more desirable. The selection map is only considered an initial step in the acquisition process and further investigation will be required before any action on acquisition is made.
Suitable areas for land acquisition
The areas shaded in orange were identified using natural feature criteria. These parcels all have moderate to significant natural features including wetlands, rivers, forests, and floodplains, and are considered suitable for mainly passive recreational pursuits. There may exist other properties the township should consider for acquisition not included on this map.

Figure 6-3: Land Acquisition
Acquisition Resources

Land acquisition can be accomplished through direct township purchase, donation, land use policies, or third party acquisition. Land acquisition should initially fall under the advisement of the Park and Recreation committee. An in-depth process for accepting land, or rights in land, will be developed. Initial factors are:

1. The parcel contains environmentally sensitive areas.
2. Opportunities for recreational activities including passive and active pursuits can be met.
3. The parcel contains important cultural features.
4. The parcel contains important view sheds.
5. The parcel would serve as a link in a greenway system.
6. The parcel's location would serve an underrepresented portion of the township.

Direct Purchase

Direct purchase by the township may be limited due to the lack of resources. However, this method should not be disregarded because there are a number of lands within the township that would be relatively inexpensive due to environmental conditions which limit uses such as residential, commercial, or cultivation on the site. These sites are often very suitable for passive recreation and conversion to public space.

Purchase can be used as a sole means of acquisition or in tandem with a partial donation, with various grant opportunities, or with the help of non-profit organizations such as the Washtenaw Land Trust.

Donation of Land

The township should actively pursue voluntary donation of park lands from property owners, developers, and civic groups. The process of donation should be made relatively simple for the donating party. The Washtenaw Land Trust is one organization that offers assistance in this process.

It is possible to donate property during one’s lifetime but reserve the right to live on the property. These arrangements are called “reserved life estates” in which a “remainder interest” is donated to a land trust. This type of donation may also be tax deductible at the time the gift is made.

Planning Measures

Planning measures are strongly recommended to ensure that new developments in York Township are required to provide support to the recreational opportunities of township residence. Currently, developers in the township are encouraged to set aside land in the development for small open space, sometimes usable by residents of the development. Developers should be able to choose among several support options including donation to a general parks budget. There are many examples of communities using this technique in order to provide recreational resources. Some communities require the developer to provide park space within the...
development or allocate a certain amount of financial support to a general park found in lieu of using their property.

**Washtenaw Land Trust**
Organizations other than the township that offer land preservation services include the Washtenaw Land Trust. This organization has established 125 acres of nature preserves in Washtenaw county that are open to the public for quiet recreational uses such as hiking, bird watching, cross-country skiing and nature study. These preserves were all donated to the land trust, but WLT also considers the purchase of land for nature preserves. WLT has assisted in acquiring a property desired by a public agency for parkland. WLT can also secure property until funds or approvals are obtained by the interested agency. This is critical if an agency does not have the funds at hand or needs to seek approval from its managing body and the property is for sale and could be lost.

**Washtenaw County Natural Areas Preservation Program**
The washtenaw County Natural Areas Preservation Program (NAPP) was created with the purpose of protecting natural areas in the county. The county has approximately $30 million available purchase land for preservation. The program is operated by the county Parks and Recreation Department and focuses on lands with one or more of the following features: public water resources; special plants, animals and plant communities; recreational and scientific values; and proximity to protected land.

The ordinance enabling the NAPP provided for the formation of a group of citizens/experts to advise the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission. County residents with expertise in land conservation, wildlife management, environmental education, real estate, land use planning, botany/forestry and fisheries/aquatic ecology comprise the Natural Areas Technical Advisory Committee (NATAC).

The goal of the NATAC is to identify parcels of land which, through long-term preservation, will contribute to:

- Preservation of the natural, ecological diversity/heritage of Washtenaw County
- Complement the existing network of publicly and privately protected lands.
- Maximize the public benefit

The Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission, the Washtenaw County Department of Planning and Development and the Local Unit of Government review properties that are recommended by NATAC where the property is located. If the decision of the Parks and Recreation Commission is to proceed, the landowner will be made an offer to purchase the property at its fair market value, as established by a certified appraisal. The Parks and Recreation Commission will maintain any land purchased for passive recreation uses. As such, any land purchased will not be developed intensively but depending on its characteristics and location may have some ancillary improvements to facilitate access.
The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund
The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) provides a substantial amount (up to 75% of the purchase cost) of financial assistance to local governments for purchase of lands for outdoor recreation and/or the protection of natural resources and open space. It also assists in the appropriate development of land for public outdoor recreation. Other DNR Grant opportunities include the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Applications for grant money are evaluated on established criteria such as resource protection, water access, and project need. At least 25 percent match on either acquisition or development projects is required from local government applicants. The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board (members are appointed by the Governor) makes recommendations to the State Legislature for final approval. There are eleven evaluation criteria:

1. Protection and use of significant natural resources.
2. Use of inland waters.
4. Economic benefits.
5. Hunting, fishing and other wildlife-related values.
7. Applicant history.
8. Site and project quality.
9. Special Initiatives of the MNRTF Board.
10. Financial need of the applicant.
11. Local match contribution.

The 2003 Special Initiatives of the Board are:

1. Acquisition or development of trailways that contribute to an overall State trail system.
2. Acquisitions of land open to hunting or development of hunting-related facilities, such as shooting ranges.
3. Acquisition of lands that provide for deer habitat with thermal cover.
4. Local shooting ranges or State/local shooting range partnerships.
5. Acquisition projects that create, establish and protect wildlife/ecological corridors by connecting to and/or buffering existing protected and managed State or local natural areas, forests or game areas.

Capital Improvements Schedule
The following capital improvement schedule is tentative and subject to change. The resources available to township park development are projected based on the township’s financial situation, past volunteer help, donations, and grant opportunities.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year/Priority</th>
<th>Tasks</th>
<th>Year/San Francisco</th>
<th>Goal #</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Proposed Funding/Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2003-2008</td>
<td><strong>Land Acquisition</strong>- Properties adjacent to existing park properties, and/or the Saline river. Properties that meet established criteria for park acquisitions</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Sandra Richardson Improvements</strong>- Picnic area development &amp; stream path Construction.</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>110a 130b</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>$5,000 Local</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>140a 130a</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
<td>$2,000 Local</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Initial phase of site preparation for ten acre parcel.</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>$1,000 Local</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Existing path improvements.</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>$1,000 Local</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Mary McCann improvements</strong>- Loop path construction.</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>210a</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>$1,000 Local</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>150a</td>
<td>$14,000</td>
<td>$4,000 Local</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Second phase of ten-acre parcel Development including grading, paving, and signage.</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>130a</td>
<td>$7,000</td>
<td>$2,500 Local</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Park beautification-split-rail fence construction at entrances to parks, signage. flower garden displays</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>110b</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>$2,000 Local</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Sandra Richardson improvements</strong>- Construction of the forest-prairie path.</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>160a</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>$6,000 Local</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Playground development near Willis road entrance.</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>210a</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
<td>$1,000 Local</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Mary McCann improvements</strong>- Foot bridge construction.</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>170a</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>$1,000 Local</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Play field development near the north park entrance and parking.</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>110b</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
<td>$2,000 Local</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Mary McCann improvements</strong>- Observation/seating area</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>110b</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
<td>$2,000 Grant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Trail paving for physical accessibility</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>110b</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>$6,000 Local</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kiosk and seating area construction</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>$1,000 Local</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$4,000 Grant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendices
Appendix 1: York Township Parks and Recreation Community Input Survey

The newly formed York Township Park Planning Committee is in the process of creating the township’s first parks and recreation master plan. The plan will guide the community in park and recreation development over the next five years and will enable the township to apply for state and federal grant money dedicated to recreational opportunities. The township needs your help planning for our future. Your advice, through completing this survey, will help us establish goals and objectives for future planning of park and recreational facilities in York Township.

1. Are you a resident of York Township?  
   Yes___ No___
   If you answered NO, then where do you live? ______________________
   If you answered YES, then how long have you lived in York the township? _____ years.

2. How old are you? (Please circle one response)
   a. Under 13 years
   b. 13-18 years
   c. 19-35 years
   d. 36-65 years...
   e. Over 65 years

4. On average, how much time do you spend a week doing some form of recreational?  
   a. Less than 1-hour
   b. 1-5 hours
   c. 5-10 hours
   d. 10-15 hours
   e. More than 15 hours

5. On average, how far do you commute to recreational facilities and/or parks.  
   a. Less than 1-mile
   b. 1-5 miles
   c. 5-10 miles
   d. 10-15 miles
   e. Over 15 miles

   Please list two or three of the facilities/parks that you frequent:
   1.__________________________________________
   2.__________________________________________
   3.__________________________________________

6. In your opinion, are the recreational opportunities in York Township adequate? On a scale of 1 to 5, 1 being very inadequate, 5 being very adequate, please rate the Township in terms of your level of satisfaction with the parks and recreational opportunities.

   Very Inadequate 1 2 3 4 5 Very Adequate

7. The development and maintenance of recreational facilities will require a certain amount of investment. On a scale of one to five, 1 being least favorable, 5 being most favorable, please indicate how the township should raise funds for new park development and possible land acquisition.

   Least favorable Most favorable
   Millage 1 2 3 4 5
   Bond issue 1 2 3 4 5
   User fees 1 2 3 4 5
   Fund raising events 1 2 3 4 5
   State and Federal grants 1 2 3 4 5
8. On a scale on 1-5, 1 being not important, 5 being very important, please rate each of the following park amenities according to your preference for each. For each, please circle one number.

| Park Amenities                      | Not Important | | | | Very Important | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|---|---|---|----------------|
| Forested areas                      | 1             | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5              |
| Playground equipment                | 1             | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5              |
| Nature trails                       | 1             | 2 | 2 | 4 | 5              |
| Baseball fields                     | 1             | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5              |
| Soccer fields                       | 1             | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5              |
| Wildlife preservation areas         | 1             | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5              |
| Gathering areas                     | 1             | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5              |
| Mown grass fields                   | 1             | 2 | 2 | 4 | 5              |
| Gardens                             | 1             | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5              |
| Prairies                            | 1             | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5              |
| Tennis courts                       | 1             | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5              |
| Bike paths                          | 1             | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5              |
| Covered shelters (pavilions)        | 1             | 2 | 2 | 4 | 5              |
| Restroom facilities                 | 1             | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5              |
| Sledding hills                      | 1             | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5              |
| Volleyball court                    | 1             | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5              |
| Park-to-park trails                 | 1             | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5              |
| Basketball court                    | 1             | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5              |
| Cross Country Skiing Trails         | 1             | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5              |
| Picnic areas                        | 1             | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5              |
| Other (write-in)                    |               |   |   |   |                |

We would like to thank you for your help in this process and would like to encourage you and your family/friends to continue your civic involvement in this endeavor. We will be holding community meetings, workshops, and other events in order to further assess the communities’ desires. If you would like more information please contact the York Township Planning Commission or write your name and mailing address below.

Further comments on parks and recreation issues:

Comments concerning this questionnaire:
Appendix 2: Revised York Township Parks and Recreation Community Input Survey

Please
Join us for a Parks and Recreation Community Input Meeting
January 16th, 2003 at 7:30 PM
York Township Hall

York Township Parks and Recreation Community Input Questionnaire

The newly formed York Township ad hoc Park Planning Committee is in the process of creating the township’s first parks and recreation master plan. The plan will guide the community in park and recreation development over the next five years and will enable the township to apply for state and federal grant money dedicated to recreational opportunities. The township needs your help planning for our future. Your advice, through completing this survey, will help us establish goals and objectives for future planning of park and recreational facilities in York Township.

1. Are you a resident of York Township? (Please check one)  
   Yes ___ No ___
   If you answered NO, then where do you live? __________________________
   If you answered YES, then how long have you lived in York township? _____ years.

2. How old are the members of your household? (Please write in the spaces provided below)
   Yourself____ Others____ _____ _____ _____

3. Which school district do you live in? (Please check one)  
   Lincoln___ Milan___ Saline___

4. On average, how much time do you spend a week doing some form of recreation? (Please circle one)
   a. Less than 1-hour  c. 5-10 hours
   b. 1-5 hours  d. More than 10 hours

5. On average, how far do you commute to recreational facilities and/or parks.
   a. Less than 1-mile  b. 1-5 miles
   c. 5—15 miles  d. Over 15 miles

   Please list two of the facilities/parks that you frequent:
   1. ____________________________
   2. ____________________________

6. In your opinion, are the recreational facilities in York Township adequate? On a scale of 1 to 5, 1 being very inadequate, 5 being very adequate, please rate the Township in terms of your level of satisfaction with the parks and recreational facilities.

   Very Inadequate  1  2  3  4  5  Very Adequate

   Please list one or two factors that influenced your rating:
8. On a scale on 1-5, 1 being not important, 5 being very important, please rate each of the following park amenities according to your preference for each. For each, please circle one number.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amenities</th>
<th>Not Important</th>
<th>Very Important</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Forested areas</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playground equipment</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature trails</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseball fields</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer fields</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wildlife preservation areas</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gathering areas</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mown grass fields</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gardens</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prairies</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis courts</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bike paths</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Covered shelters (pavilions)</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restroom facilities</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sledding hills</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volleyball court</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park-to-park trails</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball court</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross country skiing trails</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnic areas</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horseback riding areas</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skate Park</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (write-in)</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. Considering some of the choices you made on the previous question, please indicate how the township should pay for recreation improvements by rating each funding options on a scale on 1-5, 1 being least favorable, 5 being most favorable.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Least favorable</th>
<th>Most favorable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Millage</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bond issue</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>User fees</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fund raising events</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State and Federal grants</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We would like to thank you for your help in this process and would like to encourage you and your family/friends to continue your civic involvement in this endeavor. We are holding a community meeting January 16th, 7:30 PM at the Township Hall concerning Park & Rec. issues. If you would like more information please contact the York Township ad hoc Parks Committee at the York Township hall.
Comments:
Appendices 3-5: Written Responses Included on the Community Input Survey

Appendix 3: Factors Affecting Attitudes toward Township Park

• Actually, I am unaware of any recreational facility, beyond outdoor parks
• Can’t find them, never received any information on them
• Choice or variety of parks (esp. for children) and trails for biking/running
• Closeness of rec. center
• Didn’t know we had any to use
• Do not know of any new park on Platt road
• Don’t need any facilities
• Exercising, resting and restroom facilities
• Few walking paths, no bike paths, too many trucks on the road
• Getting better, the addition of Sandra Richardson park is a big plus
• Government should not be in the business of providing recreation
• Haven’t used York parks
• I’ve never visited any of the parks and didn’t know the twp had any.
• I am not aware of anything other than Sandra Richardson Park
• I don’t know about any parks
• I don’t know where the parks are
• I like trails and “natural” areas, I wish there were a park I could walk to and through with my dog. Lets try to get more land near the western part of the twp
• Lack of building/facilities, lack of programs, lack of dept
• Lacking
• Like to see park with bike trail close to saline
• More park with diverse activities are needed
• Need walking and biking paths next to roads
• Newest park
• No access to river or lake
• No availability to train, no outdoor walk or indoor track
• No beach or lake
• No facilities
• No facilities except parks
• No facilities, nothing to do there
• No ice rink
• No trails, dangerous for riding bikes and jogging (have to use roads), cars drive too fast
• No walking trails of playground eq. for kids
• Not acquainted with township facilities
• Not aware of any parks, just unrestricted growth of development
• Not aware of any playgrounds or pools in the two
• Not aware of locations. Too many city county parks, costs to maintain are typ. • unplanned and requested later. Poor management.
• Not even aware of them
• Nothing in the area that I am aware of
• Number available
• Ok
• Old and unclean
• Our family is not interested in a rec. center in York Township
• Seem to be no effort to have local park/playgrounds for children. More rails-to trails
• Size, location
• Taxes are too high
• The cities of Milan and saline have very good rec. facilities, York twp. if anything could donate what we already have.
• There are facilities within easy driving range
• There are none provided except walking trail
• There is no funding available. We need a park millage
• Too high taxes now
• Until 2002, no attempt to improve or protect these parks
• Walking trails
• We are senior citizens- wish there had been parks when our family was growing up
• We do not use the parks
• We don’t have one I our township
• We don’t know of any good rec. facilities in York two
• We don’t need to waste money on parks, more sewers
• We have open gyms, pools, and trails
• We need more parks before the township is totally built up
• Would like more natural parks like Sandra Richardson Park?

Appendix 4: Suggestions for Park Amenities

• Bike route
• Biking and walking trails (5)
• Bird sanctuary
• Dog park
• Dog parks, outdoor pool
• Don’t cut down any more trees or build more houses
• Exercise equipment
• Free entrance
• Golf course
• Hockey
• I believe individuals that want to play athletic sports should pay for them themselves.
• Ice skating rink
• Interpretive nature center
• Jogging trail
• Monitoring gates and posted hours
• Outdoor community gathering area for special events, i.e. plays, music & topical events
• Paved trails like Kensington
• Paved walking/roller blade paths, 1 mile
• Rollerblading trails
• Skate park 4
• Skate parks, with ramps 5
• Small areas
• Swinging
• Walking trail
Appendix 5: Open Notes to the Committee

•annual fee
•bike paths are needed, even gravel would be fine
•Bill Dean, nice start on parks & rec. in 2002. look at parkland expansion now. The reward will be seen down the road. Acquire land, facilities can wait.
•Could the Milan soccer association use Richardson Park?
Enjoyed the walk with John. Guided tours or educational markers along the trails would be great.
•Focus on reducing taxes not spending more
•Great idea. Keep up good work.
•I am unable to attend the meeting, please send the location of the parks
•I hope that the present township officials will recognize the benefits of a township park system and will take steps in the near future to take. Care of parks and establish a funded park commission, if not there is always Nov. 2004
•If you were to put in flowers, Milan garden club would plant and water flowers
•Left mailing address
•More walking trails, cross-country skiing trails
•No tax increase
•Please take into consideration what folks who live in saline pay in taxes per year.
•Sandra Richardson trail need small stumps removed
•Thank you for seeking community input!
•Thanks for asking. Good survey.
•Volunteers to help build a dog park would cut costs, left name and phone number
•We are rapidly losing wildlife habitat areas and native trees/plants in the township. We would be short sighted and indeed negligent as caretakers of this land to convert it to sports areas of any kind
•We already pay $150/year for a millage. That should be enough to pay for adequate parks
•We need to acquire land for parks while we still can
•Would really like to see bike trails along Willis, moon, etc. there are increasing subdivisions, mostly families with children, and it is only a matter of time before a child is killed on these roads!
•Wrote in “Dog Park” and Play equipment. “ It would be nice to have a dog park with dog play equipment fenced in so a dog could play off leash in a safe environment while socializing with other dogs
•You did a fantastic job on the nature trail. Hope it stays that way forever.
Total
Appendix 6: Public Meeting Agenda

Public Information and Input Meeting

As part of the

York Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan Project

The newly formed York Township Parks and Recreation ad hoc Planning Committee has arranged this meeting with you, the residents of York Township, to ask for your help in shaping our township's park and recreational future. At this meeting we will present some of our ideas and goals as well as providing you with important information concerning our park resources. We are most concerned with what you, the experts on township issues, have to say about your parks and recreation needs and we look forward to taking your direction.

Meeting Agenda:

1. Welcome ................................................................. John Bulmer
   Township Trustee

2. What is a Park a Recreation Master Plan .................. Joshua Keys
   University of Michigan Landscape Architecture

3. What We Will Be Doing, How Long Will It Take, and How You Can Become Part of the Park Planning Process ........................................... Frank Stukenborg
   York Township ad hoc Parks Committee Chair

4. Interactive Visioning with Meeting Attendees ........ Joshua Keys

5. Closing Comments and Adjourn
Appendix 7: Park Ordinance

Ordinance #

AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A PARKLAND DEVELOPMENT AND RECREATION BOARD FOR THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF YORK

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF YORK ORDAINS:

Section 1 INTENT

A. To develop a system of parklands, playgrounds and recreation.

B. To acquire, develop, equip and maintain parkland, playgrounds, buildings and other recreational facilities within the township.

C. To seek, vote and expend funds for development and operation of parks and a recreation system.

Section 2 PARKS and RECREATION BOARD MEMBERS

A. The Township Supervisor, subject to the approval and confirmation by a majority of the Township Board, shall appoint a Parks and Recreation Board to carry out the intent of this ordinance. The Board will consist of nine [9] members and will hold office until their successors are appointed. Present members will continue until January 1, 2004. At that time, by a draw of names, three members shall serve a 1- year term, three members a 2- year term and 3 members serve a 3- year term or until successors are appointed.

B. One Township Board Member shall serve as the official liaison to the Parks and Recreation Board. At no time may more than one member of the Parks and Recreation Board be a member of the governing body of the township.

C. Regular appointed Parks and Recreation Board members will receive no compensation.

D. The Township Supervisor may, with the approval of the Township Board, and upon recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Board, remove any member who fails to fulfill the duties of his or her office under the provisions of this ordinance. Any recommendation for removal of a member will be made in writing the Township Supervisor and shall state the reason for the recommendation. The member recommended for removal shall be given ten days advance notice prior to a hearing with the Township Supervisor. Such notice shall include a copy of the charges made by the Parks and Recreation Board.

E. Vacancies created by resignation or other reasons shall be filled by appointment of the Supervisor with approval and confirmation by a majority vote of the Township Board in the same manner as the original appointment and shall be for the remainder of the unexpired term of the member being replaced.

Section 3 BOARD ORGANIZATION

A. The Parks and Recreation Board shall annually elect a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and a Recording Secretary. The Chairperson will be the presiding officer of the Parks and Recreation Board. He/she may appoint committees as are deemed necessary or advisable to carry out the spirit and intent of this ordinance and perform other duties as may be established by the Parks and Recreation Board or the Township Board.

B. The Vice-Chairperson shall perform the duties of the Chairperson in his or her absence.
C. The Secretary shall keep a true and complete record of all actions of the Parks and Recreation Board and minutes of the meetings of the Board and committees as requested. Minutes of the meetings will be presented to the Township Board prior to the monthly regular meeting and a copy given to the Township Clerk after any corrections made by the Parks and Recreation Board.

D. Five members of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of business. All business, prepared statements and recommendations shall have the support of not less than a simple majority of the members present.

E. Regular meeting shall be held monthly. Special meeting may be called as deemed necessary by the Chairperson of the Board at times agreeable to the membership.

F. Committees may include other citizens not on the nine-member Board. At least one Parks and Recreation Board member shall actively serve on any committee established by the Parks and Recreation Board and shall report to the Board, the business and proceedings of the committee. Committees shall not publish statements and recommendations without the Parks and Recreation Board’s expressed approval. Committees shall advise the Board of the affairs of business conducted in a timely manner.

G. Only Board members may vote on issues before it.

H. The Parks and Recreation Board is directly responsible to the Township Board.

Section 4 DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The duties of the Parks and Recreation Board shall be:

A. To advise the Township Board in matters relating to a Parks and Recreation development program for the township.

B. To develop and update, as needed, a comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

C. To recommend to the Township Board the acquisition of lands for future park development.

D. To plan and recommend improvements in existing parklands including but not limited to purchasing or otherwise providing play and recreation facilities, park and equipment maintenance and health and safety concerns within the parks.

E. To solicit public opinion on parks and recreation through surveys and public forums.

F. Prepare an annual budget in cooperation with the Township Supervisor to be approved by the Township Board.

G. To coordinate the supervision, care and custody of the parklands, playgrounds and recreational facilities.

H. To keep a record of all proceedings of the Parks and Recreation Board and committees and file them in the township office.

I. To periodically communicate and present to the public, newsworthy and topical information concerning township parks and recreation.

J. To expend monies as approved by the Township Board.

K. To publish, set forth, and uphold the park rules and restrictions as ordained in Ordinance #64 of the Charter Township of York effective February 19, 1997.

L. To report to the proper authorities violations of the above rules and restrictions.
M. To carry out the spirit and intent of this ordinance.

Section 4   PUBLIC USE OF PARKS

A. Use of the parkland, playgrounds and recreational facilities shall be free to all persons subject to the rules and regulations adopted by the Township.

B. Except where prohibited by deed restriction or law, groups occupying Twp. parklands, playgrounds or recreational facilities may be assessed a reasonable charge or fee in connection with special maintenance services, utilities, clean-up or use of special equipment that they may require.

C. The Parks and Recreation Board may exclude from use of the parklands, playgrounds and related facilities all persons or groups who willfully violate the rules and regulations as set forth in Ordinance #64 of the Township of York or subsequent changes or additions to the Ordinance.
Appendix 8: Nature Trail Article

Saline Reporter 20021010
FRONT
Nature Trail Opens In York
By Connie Makled, Staff Writer
York Township officials and residents celebrated the grand opening of the new nature trail at the 110-acre Sandra Richardson Park on Platt Road Sunday with soda pop, hot dogs and guided tours by some of the area's leading biologists.
Max Adler, retired Eastern Michigan University biologist and past president of the Sauk Trail Audubon Society, led a group of nature lovers through the wild trail, explaining much of the plant life as they walked along. John Farmer, former biology teacher and current vice president of the Sauk Trail Society, also led groups through the myriad of wildlife that grows there.
The vision for the natural trail took root in April when the Environmental Committee of the township splintered off a bit from its core group to create a new ad hoc parks committee. The two committees work together to ensure that the parks will conform to the environmental standards of the board.
The winding, mile-long trail was recently carved through the woods and meadow by York Township Parks Commission member Fred Schettenhelm.
“It’s so important to preserve what we have in our community,” said York Trustee Jane Kartje. “In the future, we hope to preserve the natural features with a greenway from Saline to Milan along the river. Once people realize what we want to accomplish, I think more will get involved. It’s really just the beginning.”
Supervisor Bill Dean was smiling with pride during the event.
“It’s a great day for York Township and its residents,” said Dean. “It’s wonderful to see the park come to life like this. I want to thank all the volunteers and those who donated funds to make this possible.”
Josh Keys is an intern from University of Michigan School of Natural Resources and Environment (SNRE). He has been instrumental in helping the Parks Commission develop a master plan for the parks.
“The master plan is still in the process of being developed,” said Keys. “We hope that the community will become more involved in the planning process. It is interesting to look at what happens to townships like York that are growing exponentially and how parks preserve open space. We hope to schedule more public meetings soon and invite the community to fill out the survey that is available at the township hall.”
On the nature trail, the lush greenery pervades the scenes with its brilliant colors and smells. Wildlife abounds and the sounds of nature are all around. Several large rocks reach out from the ground. Some walkers took advantage of the pinewood benches placed strategically along the way.
Appendix 9: Public Meeting Article

Saline Reporter 2003,01,09
INSIDE
York Township parks meeting planned
By Connie Makled, Staff Writer
Thursday evening, Jan. 16 is the date for a special meeting regarding the York Township parks. The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. at the York Township Hall and will provide an opportunity for community residents to give input to the township’s Ad Hoc Parks Committee regarding future park development in the township.
According to meeting chairman and York Trustee John Bulmer, the meeting has three purposes.
“First, members of the Ad Hoc Parks Committee, led by Frank Stukenborg, will give a brief overview of progress to date regarding development in the parks. Next, Josh Keys, of the University of Michigan, will join the meeting. Keys, who has been consulting with the committee, will outline the results of the recent parks survey sent to township residents and briefly outline the progress made so far on the township parks master plan. Then, the floor will be opened to the citizens in attendance for their comments and suggestions regarding the parks. We are hoping that many citizens will come and share their ideas that night.”
The meeting is one of a series of events and activities that have occurred during the past two years highlighting park development.
“I suspect that there are many township residents who are unaware of what has been done in the parks during the last year,” said Bulmer. “This meeting is designed to inform the public as well as to solicit citizen input.
“Development of a master plan, which includes broad community input, is crucial for obtaining grant monies for our parks. The recent decreases in revenue sharing from the state, combined with the increases in police and fire protection costs being borne by the township, have required that the township budget be pared down to bare bones,” Bulmer explained. “Grant monies will absolutely be necessary for future park development. I also am hopeful that new ideas will be generated at the meeting for ways to improve the usability of our parks at as low a cost as possible.”
All those interested in the township’s parks are welcome to attend the Jan. 16 meeting.
Appendix 10: DNR Community Recreation Checklist

**COMMUNITY RECREATION PLAN CERTIFICATION CHECKLIST**

**FOR PLAN AMENDMENTS ONLY**

*Instructions:* Complete, obtain certification signatures, and submit this checklist with a locally-adopted Community Recreation Plan Amendment.

All community recreation plans are required to meet the content and local approval standards listed in this checklist and outlined in the Community Recreation Plan Guidelines provided by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). To be eligible for grant consideration, plan amendments must be submitted to the DNR with a completed checklist that has been signed by an authorized official of the local unit of government submitting the plan amendment.

**PLAN AMENDMENT FORMAT**

Plan amendments must consist of either:

1. A complete, revised plan with a letter of explanation that indicates what aspects of the original plan have been revised and how, or
2. Revised or additional pages to the approved recreation plan, with an explanation of where the new pages fit within the original plan. Each page should explain the changes and the reasons why the changes were made. If the amendment is to be inserted into the existing plan, it must be in a similar format to the approved plan and indicate the precise location for insertion.

*Amendments submitted in a format significantly different than that of the approved plan will not be approved.*

**PLAN AMENDMENT INFORMATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Recreation Plan being Amended:</th>
<th>Date Current Plan Expires:</th>
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<th>List the Community Names (including School Districts) covered by the Recreation Plan (Attach additional sheets if necessary)</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Month and Year Plan was Adopted by the Community’s Governing Body</th>
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*Please Note:* Do not submit any plan amendments that have not been adopted by the highest level governing body for each community.

**PLAN AMENDMENT ELEMENT**

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

**A. DESCRIPTION OF PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS USED IN DEVELOPMENT OF THE PLAN AMENDMENT:**

- [ ] 1. Overall Description of Public Input Process
  - [ ] 2. Description of the Method Used (Indicate the types and dates of the methods used below):
    - [ ] a. Public Meeting(s)
    - [ ] b. Survey(s)
    - [ ] c. Workshops/Informational Meetings
    - [ ] d. Informational Letters
    - [ ] e. Informational Flyers
    - [ ] f. Telephone Calls

**B. AMENDED ACTION PROGRAM, CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE AND RATIONALE:**

- [ ] 1. Amended Capital Improvement Schedule
  - [ ] a. Estimated Costs for actions/ projects and total by year
  - [ ] b. Funding Sources for each Action
C. OTHER ELEMENTS: If the plan amendment includes other updated plan elements, list and briefly describe them below. In the "Comments" column, indicate the page numbers of the original plan that the amendment information replaces.

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<tr>
<th>PLAN AMENDMENT ELEMENT</th>
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**PLAN AMENDMENT APPROVAL DOCUMENTATION**

Recreation plan amendments must be adopted by the highest level governing body (i.e., city council, county commission, township board). If planning is the responsibility of a Planning Commission, Park and Recreation Commission, Recreation Advisory Board or other local Board or Commission, the amendment must also include a resolution from the Board or Commission recommending adoption of the plan by the governing body. For area-wide plans, resolutions are required for each community. Prepare and attach a separate page certifying that resolutions are included for each local unit of government.

- [ ] I. Official Resolution of Adoption by Governing Body dated: 
- [ ] II. Official Resolution of the ________________________ Commission or Board, recommending Adoption of the Amendment by the Governing Body, dated: 

**OVERALL CERTIFICATION:** For area-wide plans, Overall Certification must include the signature of each local unit of government. Prepare and attach a separate signature page.

I hereby certify that the content of the recreation plan for ___________________________ (Local Unit of Government) includes the required contents, as indicated above, and as set forth by the Department of Natural Resources and that the recreation plan was adopted by resolution of the governing body on ___________________________ (Date)

Authorized Official for the Local Unit of Government ___________________________ Date ___________________________

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

GRANTS ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PO BOX 30126
LANSING MI 48909-7925

**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES APPROVAL**

Based solely on the certifications provided above, the ___________________________ (Name or Plan) community recreation plan is approved by the Department of Natural Resources and the community(ies) covered by the plan, for which the amendment was made as listed on page 1 of this checklist, is/are eligible to apply for recreation grants through ___________________________ (Date)

Authorized Official for the Local Unit of Government ___________________________ Date ___________________________