

MAY 2011



VAN BUREN CHARTER TOWNSHIP, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

2011-2015 Parks and Recreation Plan

2011 – 2015
Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Van Buren Charter Township
Wayne County, Michigan

ADOPTED: May 17, 2011

Acknowledgements

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Introduction

The Van Buren Charter Township Parks and Recreation Department has undertaken the process to prepare this Parks and Recreation Master Plan. This plan is a road map for parks and recreation decisions made over the next five years as well the projected future needs. This plan also makes Van Buren Township eligible for funding through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). The process taken to prepare the plan has given the community a better understanding of their needs and wants for parks, recreation, land preservation, and trails facilities and programming in the Township. The plan contains the following components:

- Community Description
- Administrative Structure
- Parks and Recreation Inventory
- Basis for Action Plan
- Action Plan

Community Description

The Community Description provides a snapshot of the demographic, economic, and physical characteristics of Van Buren Township. This section identifies current trends and future community composition that affects parks and recreation decisions and is a factor in creating the goals and objectives.

Administrative Structure and Funding

The Administrative Structure and Funding contains a description and figure of the Township and Parks and Recreation Department administrative structure. The budgets, funding, and grant history of the Township are also discussed in this chapter.

Parks and Recreation Inventory

The Parks and Recreation Inventory is a compilation of all Township parks and facilities, schools, regional parks and facilities, trails and pathways, local parks and facilities, and quasi-public and private recreation facilities. The Township's and other recreation providers' programming are discussed in the section as well. It is important to understand what parks, facilities, and programs are available to Van Buren Township residents in order to assist in creating the Action Plan for future parks and recreation decisions. Some facilities included in the inventory are not open to the public or available without a fee, but they provide additional recreation opportunities for Township residents.

Basis for Action Plan

The Basis for Action Plan includes a discussion of the planning and public input process as well as an analysis of the park land, service areas, and facilities in the Township. The parks and recreation analysis uses several methods including comparing the community to national recreation guidelines for the size of the community, information gathered during the public input process, consultation with the Parks and Recreation Department and the Recreation Committee, and by reviewing current offerings and programming. The analysis reveals that both active and passive recreation facilities are needed and desired in the Township. The results presented in this section create the basis for the action plan.

Action Plan

The Action Plan is the culmination of the extensive information and analysis contained in the plan and presented in the goals and objectives and system wide recommendations. These describe recommendations for improvements and enhancement of the Van Buren Township parks and recreation facilities and programming, as well as identifying the tools needed for implementation of the plan components. The Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan is also contained in this section. The plan organizes projects that will require significant capital investment in order to better manage the budget and equally distribute funds over a five-year period. The timing of the projects is flexible and may be changed depending on the availability of funding.

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Chapter 1 – Community Description

The Community Description is a snapshot of the various physical and socioeconomic characteristics of Van Buren Township. This information provides valuable insight into determining future parks and recreation facility development and programming needs for the community. The Township takes great pride in being a community that provides a high quality of life for its residents and offers a diversity of values and experiences.

Regional Setting

Van Buren Township is located in the southwest portion of Wayne County adjacent to Washtenaw County. The Township is bordered by Canton Township to the north, the City of Romulus to the east, Sumpter Township to the south, and Ypsilanti Township and the City of Ypsilanti (Washtenaw County) to the west. In addition to the adjacent communities, the Township is conveniently located a short drive from Detroit to the east and Ann Arbor to the west. See Map 1 – Regional Location.

Demographic Characteristics

The following is a demographic report of Van Buren Township, which reveals some unique characteristics of the community. The demographic makeup of the community helps determine the quality and quantity of parks and recreation facilities and programs necessary to serve Van Buren Township residents.

Table 1.1
Change in Community Population, Van Buren Charter Township, 2000 – 2035

2000	2010*	Percent Change (2000 to 2010)	2035**	Percent Change (2000 to 2030)
23,559	27,377	+16.2%	38,680	+41.3%

Source: US Census Bureau, SEMCOG

*July 2010 SEMCOG estimate ** SEMCOG 2035 Forecast

Population

Recent projections indicate that the Township's population is expected to increase at a high rate through 2035. The population increased approximately 16.2% from 2000 to 2010, as indicated in Table 1.1. Based on SEMCOG estimates, the Township population is anticipated to increase to nearly 40,000 residents by 2035.

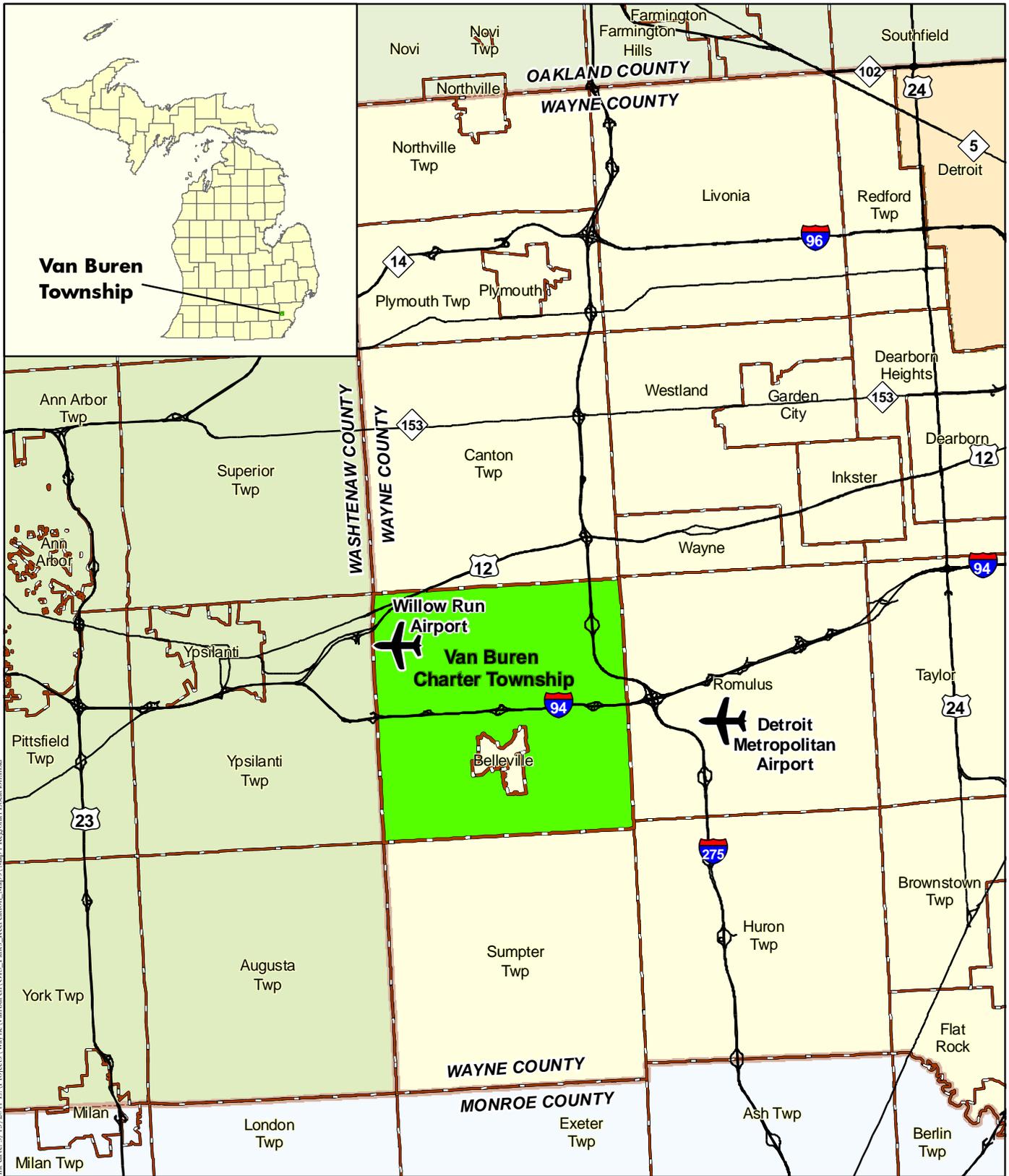
Population increase in the Township can be attributed to the continuous influx of residents who seek a community with a high quality of life. The Township offers a number of advantages to residents, particularly related to parks and recreation amenities. As shown in Table 1.2, a majority of the surrounding area has experienced population increase in the past ten years, with the exception of Sumpter Township, the City of Ypsilanti, Wayne County, and southeast Michigan as a whole. Van Buren Township is second only to Canton Township in population growth since 2000. Given the changing economic climate in both southeast Michigan and the rest of the state, the growth in many communities is anticipated to either slow or decline.

Table 1.2
Population Trends, Selected Communities, 2000 – 2010

Community	2000	2010*	Percent Change (2000 to 2010)
Van Buren Township	23,559	27,377	16.2%
City of Belleville	3,997	4,400	10.1%
Canton Township	76,366	89,727	17.5%
City of Romulus	22,979	25,374	10.4%
Sumpter Township	11,856	10,911	-8.0%
City of Ypsilanti	22,237	19,419	-12.7%
Ypsilanti Township	49,182	53,037	7.8%
Wayne County	2,061,162	1,897,499	-7.9%
Southeast Michigan	4,833,368	4,782,407	-1.1%

Source: US Census Bureau, SEMCOG

*July 2010 SEMCOG estimate



Map 1 Regional Location

**Van Buren Charter Township,
Wayne County, Michigan**

-  Major Roads
-  Van Buren Twp
-  Municipal Boundaries
-  City of Detroit
-  Monroe County
-  Oakland County
-  Washtenaw County
-  Wayne County

Data Source: Michigan Center
for Geographic Information, 2006



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ASSOCIATES



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Housing

Households are defined as a person or group of people occupying a housing unit. The number of households in Van Buren Township is expected to increase, as indicated in Table 1.3. Average household size, defined as the number of persons per household, has been declining and this trend is expected to continue with some fluctuations. However, it should be noted that the Township has a lower than average household size (Wayne County and southeast Michigan are 2.78 and 2.62, respectively in 2010). The Township's growth has increased over the past ten years and is anticipated to continue to increase as evidenced by the population projections. The increase in population and households will mean additional demands from the current and new residents for parks and recreation facilities and programs. The decline in household size will create a more dispersed population if housing densities do not increase accordingly. Correspondingly, future parks and facilities will thus need to be distributed throughout the community to meet the needs of residents.

Table 1.3
Community Population and Housing Statistics, Van Buren Charter Township, 2000 – 2035

	2000	2010*	2015	2025	2035
Population	23,559	27,377	28,368	31,231	38,680
Households	9,867	11,836	12,074	13,525	16,931
Household Size	2.38	2.31	2.35	2.31	2.28

Source: US Census Bureau, SEMCOG

*July 2010 SEMCOG estimate

Households are classified as Families with Children, Families without Children, and Non-Families, which include persons living alone and two or more non-related persons living in the same home. In Van Buren Township, 28.4% of households are classified as Families with Children, 31.7% as Families without Children, and 39.9% as Non-Families. The composition of households in Van Buren Township is important to help plan the desired parks and recreation facilities and programs in a manner that is consistent with and proportionate to these characteristics. There is a fairly equal distribution among the household types, thus a variety of offerings are necessary.

Age Distribution

An understanding of the age distribution in the Township is essential in planning for future parks and recreation needs. As we pass through the various stages of life, our activity requirements change resulting in the need for different facilities and programs. In Van Buren Township, the proportion of the population that is 65 years and older is forecast to grow significantly (229.3%) relative to the rest of the population. At the same time, the portion of the population between the ages of 0 to 4 (39.1%), 5 to 17 (39.9%), and 18 to 34 (24.4%) are anticipated to increase at a more moderate rate, with those 35 to 64 (1.0%) increasing only slightly.

The residents from 35 to 64 years of age make up the majority of the population, and there is a fairly equal distribution of those in the school age and young adult life stages. Each of these

groups requires different facilities and programs. The Township parks and recreation facilities and programs should change to address the different needs of an aging population while at the same time account for the youth and adults in the community. Healthy living, recreational, and cultural opportunities play a major role in where people choose to live, raise families, and retire.

Table 1.4
Community Age Distribution, Van Buren Charter Township, 2000 – 2035

Age Group	Life Phase	2000		2035	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0 – 4	Preschool	2,132	7.5%	2,966	7.7%
5 – 17	School Age	4,901	17.2%	6,856	17.7%
18 – 34	Young Adult	6,249	22.0%	7,776	20.1%
35 – 64	Adult	12,626	44.4%	12,753	33.0%
65 +	Retirement	2,529	8.9%	8,329	21.5%
Total		28,437	100.0%	38,680	100.0%

Source: US Census Bureau, SEMCOG

Education and Community Ethnicity

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 20.1% of Van Buren Township residents have a bachelor's degree or higher and 7.1% hold a graduate or professional degree. Compared to the surrounding communities, the education level of the Township is only exceeded by Canton Township and the City of Ypsilanti. The Township exceeds both Wayne County and the State of Michigan averages.

Overall the community is fairly diverse in race and ethnicity. In 2000, 81.2% of the population was white with 12.0% African American, 1.9% Asian, and 2.7% some other race. The diversity of the community is anticipated to continue to increase given the change from 1990 to 2000, thus parks and recreation activities and programs should be flexible to address the changing community composition.

Persons with Disabilities

Understanding the status of persons with disabilities will assist in planning future programs and appropriate locations for facilities and activities. The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) requires that all public services, including parks, recreation, and cultural facilities, be subject to barrier-free requirements. Public providers must eliminate any eligibility requirements for participation in programs, activities, and services. Disability data is collected for five age groups. As the population ages, the proportion with one or more disabilities steadily increases. This trend is consistent with the figures for Van Buren Township. Approximately 7.5% of the Township's population has one or more disability, with nearly one-fourth of the population 65 years and older having a disability. The Parks and Recreation Department must account for the needs of these residents and continually examine the existing inventory for compliance.

Table 1.5
Persons with a Disability, Van Buren Charter Township, 2000

Age Group	Total Persons	With a Disability	Percent
5 – 15	3,335	98	2.9%
16 – 20	1,442	70	4.9%
21 – 64	15,510	1,111	7.2%
65 +	1,545	365	23.6%
Total	21,852	1,644	7.5%

Source: US Census Bureau

Economic Characteristics

A variety of economic indicators suggest that Van Buren Township is well positioned economically. Residential construction had a large boom over the last 40 years since statistics were recorded, but has slowed drastically since 2006, according to recent data. The median household income of the Township's residents is higher than Wayne County and southeast Michigan, and Van Buren Township has fared better than some of the surrounding counties, region, and state in unemployment figures.

The relatively strong economic health of Van Buren Township suggests that residents will continue to demand high-quality services and facilities from the Parks and Recreation Department and that continued funding is necessary to help fund these activities.

Construction Activity

The number of local building permits issued fluctuates with market demands, paralleling national economic strength. According to SEMCOG figures, the largest residential construction boom over the past 40 years took place early on from 1969 and 1973 and again for a significant period of time from 1990 to 2006, when 24.6% and 56.6%, respectively, of the total building permits were issued. Residential construction has slowed significantly since 2006, particularly in the last four years where there has been a net gain of only 126 housing units and only 1.5% of the total building permits have been issued during this time. In 2010 only 8 building permits for new homes were issued. New parks and recreation facilities should be located appropriately to serve current Township residents, and areas of existing residential concentration are ideal locations for new facilities.

Income

Median household income is a broad measure of relative economic health. It is defined as the income level where half of all households earn more and half earn less. In 2000, the median household income in Van Buren Township (\$50,984) was higher than in Wayne County (\$40,7767) and all of Southeast Michigan (\$49,979) and similar to neighboring Washtenaw County (\$51,990). Despite having a higher median household income, from the 1990 Census to 2000, the Township's median household income increased at a rate of only 0.2% while Wayne County as a whole increased an average of 8.7%.

Employment

Employment in Van Buren Township is historically healthy and currently better in comparison to the region. According to the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth figures for October 2010 unemployment in the Township was 7.8%, which was lower than the City of Romulus (10.6%) and Ypsilanti Township (8.7%) but higher than Canton Township (4.5%). The Wayne County average was 14.4% with the State of Michigan coming in at 12.0%. The state saw a decrease from 12.0% in October 2010 to 11.3% in November, possibly indicating an economic upswing. Unemployment throughout the state and in the Detroit Metro area has increased over 300% in many places since 2000, but the Van Buren Township area remains relatively strong.

Physical Characteristics

The following is a description of the physical characteristics of Van Buren Township, including land use and natural features. This is important in understanding the potential for the type, location, and extent of parks and recreation improvements.

Land Use

Van Buren Township is approximately 75% developed while the remaining 25% is agriculture, parks and recreation, open space or water, as shown in Table 1.6 below. Single family residential (34.4%) is the highest single land use in Van Buren Township given that the community saw large residential growth over the past two decades. In addition to residential land uses, there are a variety of goods, services, and employment needs met within the Township, particularly with industrial land uses. Despite the majority of the Township being developed, the efforts of the Township Board and Planning Commission and support from the community has allowed the Township to maintain its rural character and preserved areas.

Table 1.6
Land Use Types, Charter Township of Van Buren, 2000

Land Use	Percentage
Single Family Residential	34.4%
Industrial	15.3%
Agriculture	12.9%
Transportation/ Communication/Utility	9.5%
Airport	7.9%
Water	6.7%
Parks/Recreation/Open Space	4.2%
Government/Institutional	3.9%
Commercial	3.9%
Multiple Family	1.3%
Total	100.0%

Source: SEMCOG, 2008

Transportation and Access

The current transportation system in and around Van Buren Township is predominately oriented toward the automobile. This can limit access to recreation facilities for certain segments of the population, namely children, young adults, and seniors who may not have access to transportation.

Road System. I-94, I-275 and US-12 are located nearby and allow quick access to other locations in the Detroit Metro area. I-94 cuts the Township in half east to west, I-275 serves the northeast corner of the community, and US-12 connects the Township to areas to the northwest. Within Van Buren Township, Rawsonville, Beck, Belleville, Morton-Taylor and Haggerty Roads serve the main north/south corridors, and Van Born, Ecorse, Bemis, and Tyler Roads and Huron River Drive are the major east/west connections.

Non-Motorized Pathways. Non-motorized pathways provide physical fitness, recreation, and transportation opportunities for pedestrians, runners, bikers, and other similar users. The Township completed a Greenways and Trails Master Plan in 2002 in response to the residential growth and economic development of the Township. The plan established a framework for connections and greater non-motorized access to nearby destinations including parks, schools, shopping areas, community facilities, cultural amenities, and natural areas. Some areas of the Greenways and Trails Master Plan have been implanted as of the date of this plan. The Township's Greenways and Trails map is included in Chapter 3.

Environmental and Natural Features

Environmental features, such as climate, hydrology, soils, and vegetation are important to planning for the Parks and Recreation Department. Natural features are not easily restored after they are impaired. These natural features provide numerous existing and potential parks, recreation, and cultural opportunities.

Climate. There are no unusual climatic conditions that severely impede outdoor recreational activities in the Township. The climate is humid continental modified by the Great Lakes. Temperature data obtained from the National Weather Service at the Detroit weather station in 2009 revealed an average annual temperature of 49.3 degrees (averages of 17.3 degrees for low in January and 71.2 degrees for high in August). The average annual precipitation was 34.2 inches with an annual snowfall of 65.7 inches, one of the snowiest winters on record. Due to the variations in the weather patterns in Southeast Michigan, local residents have the opportunity to enjoy many seasonal recreational activities.

Surface Water and Watershed Districts. Surface water resources are among the Township's most valuable natural resources. Belleville Lake provides recreational opportunities such as boating, fishing, and swimming for area residents. Also, a portion of the Huron River flows across the southeast section of the Township down through Lower Huron Metropolitan Park.

Van Buren Township is located in both the Rouge (majority of the northern half of the Township) and Huron River Watersheds (remained part of the Township and Belleville Lake). The Rouge River Watershed covers 400 square miles and all or part of 48 communities and three counties. The Rouge River does not travel through the Township, but the community is connected to the Rouge through the storm drain

system. The Huron River Watershed covers more than 900 square miles and all or part of 63 communities and seven counties, flowing more than 125 miles. As noted above, the Huron River runs through the southeast section of the Township.

Wetlands. Van Buren Township contains many wetlands areas scattered throughout the Township. These wetlands are transitional areas between aquatic ecosystems and the surrounding uplands. They serve to filter stormwater runoff, help control flooding and erosion, and are home to many different types of wildlife. These features are important to preserve and are valuable educational resources for residents.

Soils. Soil features affect the cost of development and are a basis for determining the presence of a regulated wetland. According to the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Web Soil Survey, the soils in the Township are mainly Wesepi loamy, Thetford loamy, Blount loam, and Boyer loamy sand. These soils types range in 0-6% grade and are well to somewhat poorly drained. The soils as a whole throughout the Township range from having moderate to severe limitations for cultivation without irrigation and require thoughtful selection of plants and careful management. Further, the soils along the lake can be limited due to the soil being shallow, droughty, and/or stony and other soils throughout the Township can be limited by their propensity for erosion and/or water in or on the surface can interfere with plant growth.

Vegetation. The topography, soils, and climate in the Township create conditions that support a variety of indigenous Michigan animal and plant species as well as natural communities. According to the Michigan Natural Features Inventory for Wayne County, the following are animals, plants, and natural communities potentially present in the Township:

- Lake sturgeon
- Climbing fumitory
- Elktoe
- Smallmouth salamander
- Eastern sand darter
- Henslow's sparrow
- Grasshopper sparrow
- Hairy angelica
- Missouri rock-cress
- Three-awned grass
- Virginia snakeroot
- Tall green milkweed
- Sullivant's milkweed
- Gray birch
- Swamp metalmark
- Water willow
- Woodland lettuce
- Alkaline Wet Prairie, Midwest Type
- Alkaline Tallgrass Prairie, Midwest Type
- Wavyrayed lampmussel
- Conobea
- Plains blazing star
- Eastern pondmussel
- Purple twayblade
- Northern appressed clubmoss
- Virginia water-horehound
- Swamp candles
- Silver chub
- Moist Sand Prairie, Midwest Type
- Rich Forest, Central Midwest Type

- Wild hyacinth
- Sedge
- American chestnut
- Spotted turtle
- Redside dace
- Purple wartyback
- Mullein-foxtail
- Beak grass
- Engelmann's spike rush
- White catspaw
- Northern riffleshell
- Snuffbox
- Small love grass
- Wahoo
- Tinted spurge
- Dukes' skipper
- Peregrine falcon
- Pumpkin ash
- Showy orchid
- Common moorhen
- Stiff gentian
- Pale avens
- Great Blue Heron Rookery
- Bald eagle
- Green violet
- Goldenseal
- Gentian-leaved St. John's-wort
- Least bittern
- Twinleaf
- Short-fruited rush
- Vasey's rush
- Hairy wild petunia
- Arrowhead
- Sauger
- Canadian burnet
- Compass plant
- Cup plant
- Salamander mussel
- Eastern massasauga
- Winged monkey flower
- Red mulberry
- River redhorse
- Indiana bat
- American lotus
- Pugnose shiner
- Brindled madtom
- Northern madtom
- Black-crowned night-heron
- Threehorn wartyback
- Hickorynut
- Round hickorynut
- Pugnose minnow
- Ginseng
- Eastern fox snake
- Pale beard tongue
- Channel darter
- River darter
- Wild bean
- Prairie white-fringed orchid
- Round pigtoe
- Cross-leaved milkwort
- Brown walker
- Sand cinquefoil
- Nodding rattlesnake-root
- Nodding mandarin
- Prothonotary warbler
- Kidney shell
- Shumard's oak
- King rail
- Meadow beauty
- Clinton's bulrush
- Few-flowered nut rush
- Tall nut rush
- Fire pink
- Blue-eyed-grass
- Smooth carrion-flower
- Regal fritillary
- Dickcissel

- Forster's tern
- Common tern
- Trailing wild Bean
- Western meadowlark
- Prairie trillium
- Fawnsfoot
- Rayed bean
- Laura's snaketail
- Elusive snaketail
- Russet-tipped clubtail
- Lilliput
- Rainbow
- Wisteria
- Wild rice



Chapter 2 – Administrative Structure and Funding

The Van Buren Township Parks and Recreation Department provides a wealth of parks, recreation, and cultural facilities and programming. The department collaborates with a variety of commissions, agencies, and groups to provide the high quality parks and recreation facilities present in the Township. The administrative structure and budget analysis for parks and recreation are reviewed in this section.

Administration

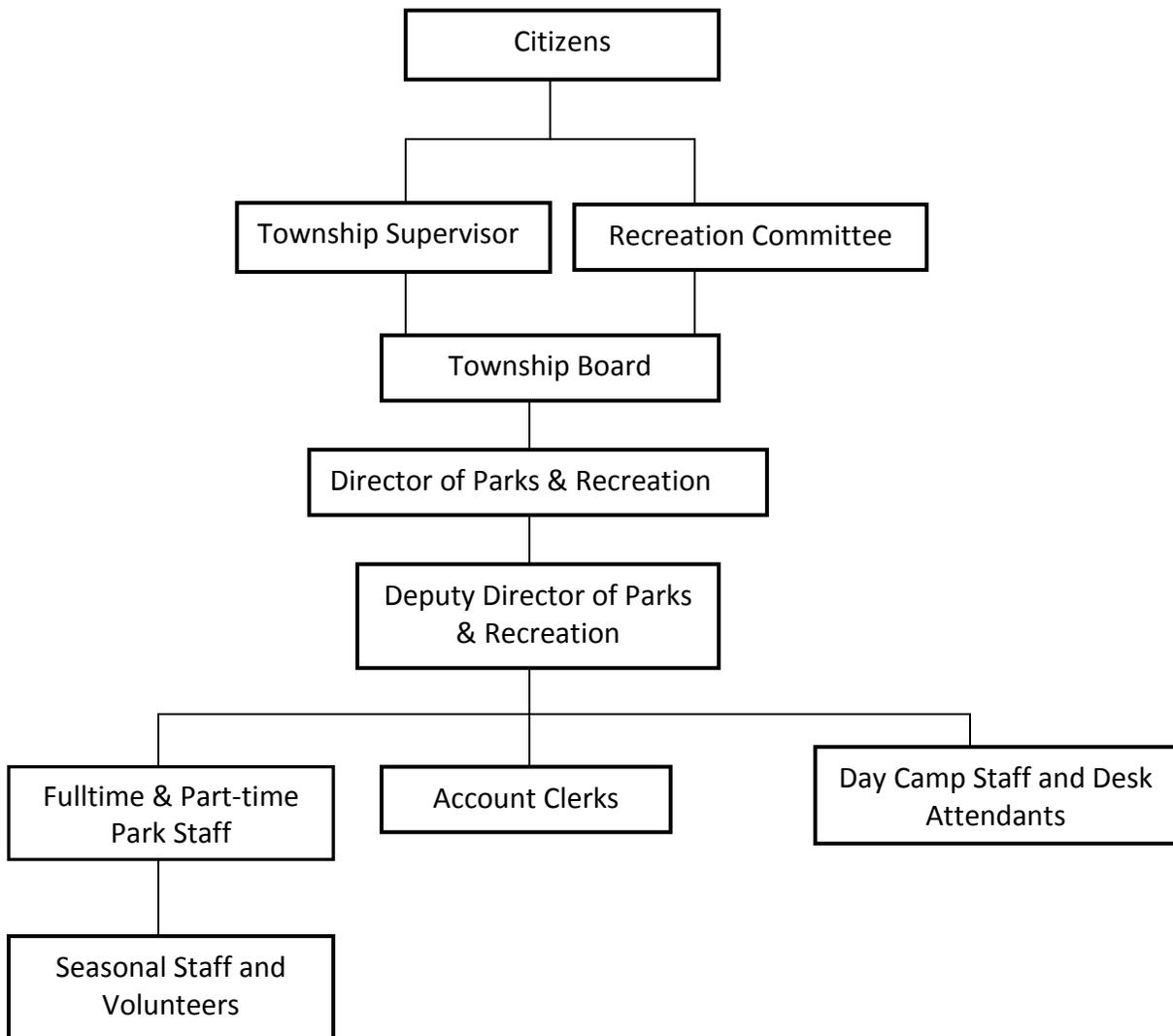
Parks and Recreation Department

The Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the facilities and programs. A Director heads the department and reports to the Township Supervisor and Township Board. The Department also includes additional full time staff, including the Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation. See Figure 2.1, which illustrates the administrative structure of the Department.

Recreation Committee

The Township Board of Trustees created the Recreation Committee in 1989, with the aim of advising the Board of Trustees on issues relating to recreation in the Township. The Recreation Committee was established under the Michigan enabling Act 157 of 1905, Township Parks and Places of Recreation. The Recreation Committee is comprised of a Chair and Co-Chair, four members, one Township Board representative, and one non-voting student representative.

Figure 2.1
Administrative Structure, Van Buren Charter Township



Source: Van Buren Charter Township

Volunteers and Other Relationships

Volunteers

In addition to the full and part time staff, and the seasonal employees, the Parks and Recreation Department also coordinates a group of over 100 volunteers who help with special event programs throughout the year.

Relationship with Other Agencies/Organizations

The Parks and Recreation Department has seen a continual increase in participation in its programs over the years. The department works in close cooperation with the school district to develop community recreation programs and coordinate facility use. The department has continued to build a strong relationship with the Huron Clinton Metro Parks. The following are other agencies and organizations that the department currently works with:

- American Cancer Society
- Belleville Area Council for the Arts
- Belleville Area Little League
- Belleville Area Museum
- Belleville Cougars
- Belleville Garden Club
- Boy Scouts
- Coca-Cola Bottling Company
- Detroit Red Wings
- Detroit Tigers
- Fred C. Fisher Library
- Healthy Lifestyles Coalition
- Michigan Department of Natural Resources
- Michigan Recreation and Park Association
- National Recreation and Parks Association
- Relay for Life
- Southeast Michigan Community Alliance (SEMCA) and Michigan Works
- Van Buren Civic Fund
- Van Buren Downtown Development Authority
- Van Buren Fire Department
- Van Buren Police Department
- Van Buren Public Schools
- Van Buren Soccer Association
- Wal-Mart Foundation
- Wayne County
- Wayne County Community College District
- Wayne Parks and Recreation
- Western Wayne County Senior Olympics
- Western Wayne County Therapeutic Recreation (WWCTR)
- Westland Parks and Recreation

The Township hopes to develop a relationship with the Yankee Air Museum and other agencies during the five-year period of this Parks and Recreation Master Plan and beyond.

Parks and Recreation Funding and Grant History

The funding for operating the Township's Parks and Recreation system comes from the Township's general fund appropriation. The general fund is the basic operating fund for Van Buren Township as a whole. General fund revenues are derived from property taxes, state-shared revenues, federal grants, license and permit fees, charges for services, interest on investments, and court fines or forfeitures. Recreation program user fees are channeled through the general fund as well. There are also several existing or potential funding sources available for parks and recreation facility improvements.

Table 2.1 summarizes the Van Buren Township Parks and Recreation budgets for 2009, 2010 and 2011. The budgets are divided among the Recreation Department, Park and Lake Department, and Community Services Department. Between the three departments, the 2011 budget is \$673,759, demonstrating a 14% reduction from the year before.

Table 2.1
Park and Recreation Budgets, 2009 – 2010

Recreation Department	2009 Actual	2010 Amended	2011 Budget
Salary – Recreation and Facilities	\$66,885	\$67,702	\$67,952
Salary – Recreation Manager	\$46,070	\$50,697	\$51,197
Recreation Wages	\$57,322	\$44,000	\$45,000
Allocated Fringes	\$63,800	\$60,500	\$63,000
Operating Supplies	\$2,540	\$1,800	\$2,000
Program Expense	\$60,241	\$37,000	\$37,550
Program Expense – Summer Camp	\$60,650	\$30,000	\$40,000
Membership and Dues	\$365	\$700	\$600
Recreation Commission	\$224	\$525	\$525
Transportation	\$1,074	\$1,000	\$1,000
Training	\$1,941	\$1,640	\$1,700
Printing and Publishing	\$196	\$0	\$0
Utilities	\$1,883	\$2,000	\$2,000
Equipment Maintenance	\$1,194	\$500	\$500
Other	\$1,164	\$1,000	\$1,000
TOTAL	\$365,549	\$299,314	\$314,024
Park and Lake Department			
Salary – Park Manager	\$37,046	\$39,500	\$39,750
Park and Lake Wages	\$151,748	\$139,500	\$95,754
Allocated Fringes	\$66,083	\$66,000	\$54,497
Operating Supplies	\$17,393	\$9,500	\$9,000
Membership and Dues	\$80	\$300	\$300

Contracted Services	\$16,357	\$14,000	\$10,000
Telephone	\$1,709	\$2,000	\$1,500
Transportation	\$11,701	\$17,000	\$10,000
Training	\$1,520	\$590	\$1,000
Printing and Publishing	\$1,157	\$1,200	\$1,200
Utilities	\$21,088	\$11,000	\$21,000
Building Maintenance	\$3,853	\$2,000	\$2,000
Equipment Maintenance	\$3,120	\$1,000	\$1,000
Rentals	\$250	\$500	\$0
Other	\$1,103	\$1,000	\$550
Capital Outlay	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$334,208	\$294,090	\$241,551
Community Services Department			
Employee Wages	\$84,548	\$88,000	\$69,890
Allocated Fringes	\$46,390	\$47,800	\$41,294
Office Supplies	\$3,596	\$2,200	\$2,200
Transportation	\$3,030	\$1,000	\$1,000
Training	\$162	\$0	\$0
Printing and Publishing	\$15,707	\$3,800	\$3,800
Other	\$2,059	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$155,492	\$142,800	\$118,184

Source: Van Buren Charter Township

Van Buren Township has also received one state grant for the Quirk Park development project that is summarized in Table 2.2, below.

In addition to the state grant, the Township has received a variety of grants over the years including a \$2 million grant in Fall 2004 from Wayne County for recreation improvements. In 2010, the Township received \$6,000 from the MDNRE for the Youth Tree Learning Program, \$3,000 from DTE for a tree project, \$2,000 from the Van Buren Civic Fund for an ADA swing set, \$40,000 from the NRPA ACHIEVE program for healthy lifestyle promotion, \$12,000, \$13,500, and \$6,700 in Community Development Block Grant funding for ADA swings, youth programming, and update to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, respectively. Most recently in the winter of 2011 the Township was awarded \$60,000 from the Wayne County Parks Millage for the Community Center gym rehabilitation project.

Table 2.2
Recreation Grant History, Van Buren Charter Township

Funding Source	Project Name	Grant Amount	Project Results*
Clean Michigan Initiative	CM00-294 Quirk Park	\$293,300	Development of Quirk Park

Source: Michigan Department of Natural Resources

**See Chapter 3 for a description and photo of each park and the related grant scope items.*

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Chapter 3 – Parks and Recreation Inventory

Developing a complete inventory of the parks and recreation facilities and programs is an essential component of a five year Parks and Recreation Master Plan as it provides a base of information to use in developing the Action Plan. Understanding what parks, facilities, and programs are available to Van Buren Township residents will assist decision-making in the future. It should be noted that not all facilities listed in this chapter are available to the public, but they provide additional recreation opportunities for Township residents. The inventory covers the following components:

- Township Parks and Facilities
- Barrier Free Accessibility
- Public School Facilities
- Regional Parks and Facilities
- Local Greenways and Trails
- Local Parks and Facilities

- Quasi-Public and Private Recreation Facilities
- Programming

Township Parks and Facilities

Van Buren Township contains eight parks and facilities, one of which is privately owned. An inventory of the parks and facilities is described below and shown on Map 2 – Existing Parks and Recreation Facilities. These parks and facilities are broken into categories based on size and function. These categories are suggested by the National Recreation and Parks Association and meant to aid in determining the primary purposes and uses of existing facilities in the Township.

Mini Parks

Mini parks are categorized as small, specialized parks that are usually less than one acre in size and serve the needs of the residents in the immediate area, approximately less than one-quarter mile away. These parks usually serve a limited, isolated, or unique population. Residential open space areas generally serve as mini parks as well. The Township owns one mini park.

Haggerty Neighborhood Park. Haggerty Neighborhood Park, located west of Haggerty Road and south of Tyler Road on both Hamilton and Jackson Streets, is part of the Haggerty Subdivision. The 2-acre park contains recently upgraded play structure, swings, pavilion, picnic tables and grills for the adjacent neighborhood. (*Accessibility assessment – 2*)

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks are typically multi-purpose facilities that serve as the recreational and social focus of a neighborhood. They provide areas for both passive and active recreation activities such as fields, playgrounds, picnicking, and trails. These parks are typically between five and ten acres in size and serve residents within one-half mile. Van Buren Township does not own any parks that can be classified as Neighborhood Parks. A number of public school facilities and private open space meet this need by providing playgrounds and fields for Township residents and function as mini or neighborhood parks.

Community Parks and Facilities

Community parks typically contain a wide variety of recreation facilities to meet the diverse needs of residents in the Township. Community parks may include areas for intense active recreation as well as passive recreation opportunities not commonly found in mini or neighborhood parks. The focus of these parks is to meet community-based recreation needs, as well as preserve unique landscapes and open spaces. Community parks are generally between 30 and 50 acres in size and serve residents within one-half to three miles of the park. Community parks may also include smaller parks that are more specialized in nature and are

meant to serve the entire community. Van Buren Township has four parks and facilities that can be classified as Community Parks, one of which is a private facility.

Little League Park. Little League Park, located west of Beck Road and south of Willow Run Airport, is a 20.5-acre park dedicated to baseball and is a private park. The park contains baseball facilities as well as concessions, restrooms, storage, announcer's booth and seating. Landscaping, paved parking, new walking paths, and other improvements are planned to be completed by EQ, under its host community agreement with Van Buren. (*Accessibility assessment – 2*)

Quirk Park and Senior Activity Garden. Quirk Park, located south of Tyler Road and behind Township Hall, is a 5-acre park with a variety of amenities. The park contains soccer facilities as well as walking paths, vita course, pavilion, picnic areas, seating, a softball field, and play equipment. The park is also home to the Senior Activity Garden, which was completed in 2005 and contains numerous amenities for seniors including shuffleboard, checkers and chess tables. The garden is also home to the Western Wayne County Senior Olympics shuffleboard competition. (*Accessibility assessment – 5*)

Van Buren Community Center. The Van Buren Community Center, located south of Tyler Road and connected to Township Hall, the center contains a multi-purpose room and gymnasium that can be rented, as well as instruction space and the Parks and Recreation Department offices. (*Accessibility assessment – 5*)

Van Buren Park. Van Buren Park, located on the S. I-94 Service Drive between Belleville and Rawsonville Roads, is a 101-acre park. The park contains recently upgraded restrooms, storage, basketball court, benches, hiking trails, pavilions, picnic areas, stage/band shelter, football, sand volleyball, play equipment, sledding hill, overlook, horse shoe pits, community garden, concession stand, and beach. The University of Michigan boathouse is also located at the park. The front entrance to the park was recently renovated along with an ADA accessible pathway provided to the lake (2005), ADA parking and signage (2009), and new sand added to the beach. The Township has plans to upgrade the stairway and handrails to compliment the ADA beach ramp already in place as well as upgrade the access road and install safety split rail fencing along the side. (*Accessibility assessment – 4*)

Natural Resource Areas

Natural Resource Areas are generally lands set aside for the preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space, and visual aesthetics/buffering. The location of these areas is based on resource availability and opportunity, thus the size varies depending on the property. Van Buren Township has three properties that can be classified as Natural Resource Areas.

French Landing Park. French Landing, located on the west side of Haggerty Road just south of the S. I-94 Service Drive, is a 6-acre park. The park contains a fishing pier,

restrooms, picnic area, play equipment, and scenic views of both Belleville Lake and the Huron River. *(Accessibility assessment – 1)*

Riggs Heritage Park. Riggs Park, located on Martinsville Road off of Huron River Drive, is a 30-acre park. The park contains a pavilion, restrooms, trails, and scenic views. *(Accessibility assessment – 4)*

Visteon Woods Park. Visteon Woods, located at the southeast corner of the I-275/Ecorse Road interchange, is a 40-acre park and natural area. *(Accessibility assessment – 1)*

Barrier Free Accessibility

The passage of the American Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) requires all areas of public service, including parks and other recreation facilities, to have barrier-free accessibility. An evaluation of Van Buren Township parks and recreation facilities has been conducted as part of the inventory. In accordance with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment (MDNRE) standards, facilities were evaluated to determine if a person with any of the following criteria can safely and independently access and use the park or facility:

- Has limited sight or is blind
- Uses a wheelchair
- Has a hearing impairment or is deaf
- Uses a walking aid
- Has a mental impairment

A five-point evaluation system was used to rank each facility's accessibility. The system is described below and the accessibility rankings can be found following the description of each park and facility owned by the Township.

Level 1. The park is not accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. The site includes few paved areas and the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are not easily accessible.

Level 2. The park is somewhat accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Either the parking area or pathways are paved, but not both. Many of the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are not easily accessible.

Level 3. The park is mostly accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Most of the parking areas and pathways are paved, and some of the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are accessible but may be completely barrier-free. This level of accessibility includes parks adjacent to Belleville Lake from

which viewing and interpretive activities can take place for those need barrier-free facilities.

Level 4. The park is completely accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Parking areas and pathways area paved, and most of the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas area easily accessible.

Level 5. The entire park was developed or renovated using the principles of universal design, a design approach which enables all environments to be usable by everyone, to the greatest extent possible, regardless of age, ability, or situation.

Public School Facilities

Van Buren Township residents also use recreation facilities at the schools in the community. The Township is served by Van Buren Public Schools. The district includes six elementary schools, two middle schools, one high school, and one early childhood development center. The public school facilities located in the Township are the following:

Belleville High School. The Belleville High School is currently being renovated and expanded and is set to open in fall of 2012. The school construction project includes new athletic facilities and parking, among other things. This could provide an opportunity for an expanded partnership between the Township and the Van Buren Public Schools.

Haggerty Elementary School. Haggerty Elementary is located west of Haggerty Road in the southeast corner quarter of the Township on 20 acres. The school has an indoor gymnasium and outdoor facilities including one playground.

Savage Elementary School. Savage Elementary is located on the south side of Savage Road east of the City of Belleville on 15 acres. The school has an indoor gymnasium and outdoor facilities including two basketball courts, one ball field, two playgrounds and one soccer field.

Tyler Elementary School. Tyler Elementary is located north of Tyler Road between Morton-Taylor and Haggerty Roads on 15 acres. The school has an indoor gymnasium and outdoor facilities including one playground and one soccer field.

North Middle School. North Middle School is located east of Beck Road between Tyler Road and I-94 on 40 acres. The school has an indoor gymnasium and outdoor facilities including two ball fields, a multi-purpose field, two soccer fields and a play area.

Regional Parks and Facilities

Regional parks offer unique natural features that are particularly suited for outdoor recreation, such as viewing and studying nature, fishing, boating, hiking, and trail use. Many also include active play areas such as ball fields or courts. While Van Buren Township does not use these parks for formal programming, they provide active and passive recreational opportunities for the residents of the community. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority, and the surrounding counties provide regional facilities. The regional parks and recreation facility located in the Township, the Lower Huron Metropark, is shown on Map 2 – Existing Parks and Recreation Facilities, and those within an hour drive of the Township are shown on Map 3 – Regional Parks and Recreation Facilities.

Michigan State Parks

There are a number of Michigan State Parks that provide recreational opportunities to Van Buren Township residents. These state facilities provide a variety of activities including camping, picnicking, swimming, hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, hiking, cross-county skiing, mountain biking, and horseback riding. There are no state parks located in the Township.

County Parks

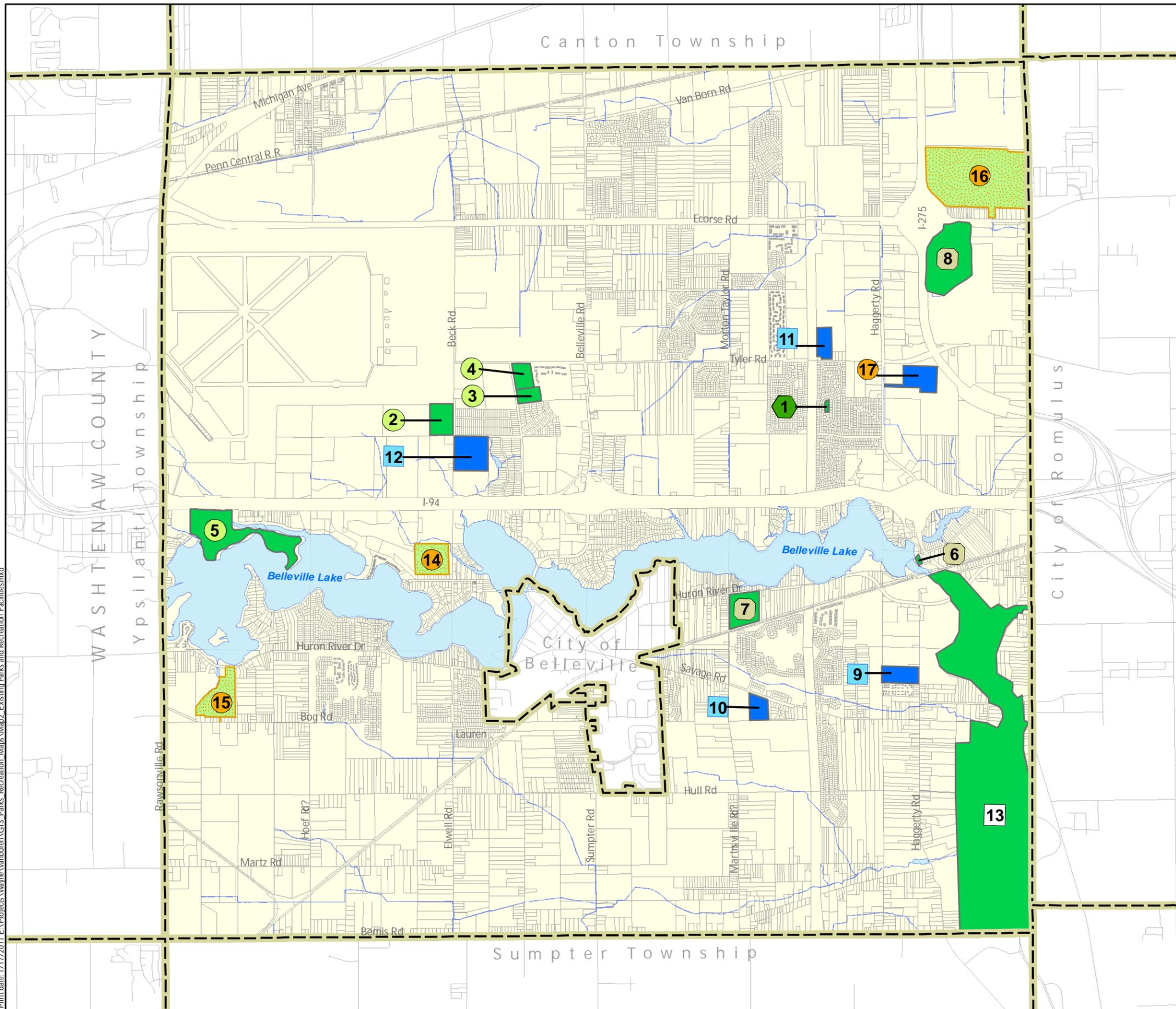
The Wayne County park system consists of 12 parks including the extensive Hines Park, which runs through the communities of Dearborn Heights, Livonia, Northville Township, Plymouth Township, and Westland. The county parks offer year-round recreational opportunities including ball diamonds, soccer fields, play equipment, nature and walking trails, picnic areas and shelters, marinas, golf courses, restaurants, disc golf, sledding hills, volley ball courts, ice skating, fishing. There are no county parks located in the Township.

Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority

The Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA) is a regional park district that encompasses the counties of Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Washtenaw and Livingston. Since its inception in 1940, the HCMA has obtained over 20,000 acres of parkland, all located in the metro Detroit region. The parks provide a variety of outdoor recreation and educational activities including picnicking, hiking, golf, biking, winter sports, golf, water-related activities, horseback riding, and special programs. There is one Metropark located in Van Buren Township.

Lower Huron Metropark. This 1,258-acre regional park is located in the southeast corner of the Township. Owned by the HCMA, the park features a scenic view of the Huron River, woodlands, grassy meadows and offers a variety of year-round recreational activities such as a paved, hike-bike trails, fishing, canoeing, Turtle Cove Family Aquatic Center, ice skating, picnic areas, basketball, volleyball, and tennis courts. The park also features an 18-hole, par-3 golf course.

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Map 2 Existing Parks and Recreation Facilities

Van Buren Charter Township,
Wayne County, Michigan

-  **Mini Parks**
 - 1. Haggerty Subdivision Park
-  **Community Parks and Facilities**
 - 2. Little League Park
 - 3. Quirk Park
 - 4. Van Buren Community Center
 - 5. Van Buren Park
-  **Natural Resource Area**
 - 6. French Landing Park
 - 7. Riggs Heritage Park
 - 8. Visteon Woods Park
-  **Public School Facilities**
 - 9. Haggerty Elementary School
 - 10. Savage Elementary School
 - 11. Tyler Elementary School
 - 12. North Middle School
-  **Regional Parks and Facilities**
 - 13. Lower Huron Metropark
-  **Quasi-Public and Private Recreation Facilities**
 - 14. Harbour Club Golf Course
 - 15. Pine Creek Golf Club
 - 16. Woodlands of Van Buren Golf Club
 - 17. Wayne County Community College - Western Campus

-  Parks
-  School Facilities
-  Golf Courses

Data Source: McKenna Associates, 2006.
Base Map Source: Wayne County GIS, 2004
and Van Buren Township, 2006.



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Map 3 Regional Parks and Recreation Facilities

Van Buren Charter Township Wayne County, Michigan

● Regional Parks and Recreation Facilities

- 1 Metamora-Hadley Recreation Area
- 2 Ortonville State Recreation Area
- 3 Holly Recreation Area
- 4 Seven Lakes State Park
- 5 Oak Grove State Game Area
- 6 Springfield Oaks County Park
- 7 Indian Springs Metropark
- 8 Pontiac Lake State Recreation Area
- 9 White Lake Oaks County Park
- 10 Highland State Recreation Area
- 11 Dodge Brother State Park #4
- 12 Waterford Oaks County Park
- 13 Orion Oaks County Park
- 14 Bald Mountain State Recreation Area
- 15 Stony Creek Metropark
- 16 Wolcott Mill Metropark
- 17 Wetzel State Park
- 18 St. Johns Marshland Recreational Area
- 19 Algonac State Park
- 20 St. Clair Flats State Wildlife Area
- 21 Metrobeach Metropark
- 22 Freedom Hill County Park
- 23 Rochester-Utica State Recreation Area
- 24 Red Oaks County Park
- 25 Detroit Zoological Park
- 26 Glen Oaks County Park
- 27 Proud Lake State Recreation Area
- 28 Lyon Oaks County Park
- 29 Kensington Metropark
- 30 Island Lake State Recreation Area
- 31 Huron Meadows Metro Park
- 32 Brighton Recreation Area
- 33 Gregory State Game Area
- 34 Waterloo State Recreation Area
- 35 Pinckney State Recreation Area
- 36 Hudson Mills Metro
- 37 Dexter-Huron Metropark
- 38 Delhi Metropark
- 39 Maybury State Park
- 40 Ford Motor Company's MI. Arboretum
- 41 Belle Isle Fishing Pier
- 42 Whitecomb Conservatory
- 43 Belle Isle Bench
- 44 East River Front Loop Bikeway
- 45 Detroit Garden Center
- 46 Belleville Lake Boat Launch
- 47 Lower Huron Metropark
- 48 Willow Metropark
- 49 Oakwood Metropark
- 50 Lake Erie Metropark
- 51 Elizabeth Park Boat Launch
- 52 Pointe Mouillee State Game Area
- 53 Plum Creek Bay Wildlife Area
- 54 Woodtick Peninsula Park
- 55 Erie Marsh Game Area
- 56 Cedar Point National Wildlife Refuge
- 57 Crane State Park
- 58 Magee Marsh State Wildlife Area
- 59 Put-In-Bay
- 60 Catawba Island State Park
- 61 Cedar Point Amusement Park
- 62 Maumee State Forest
- 63 Michigan International Speedway

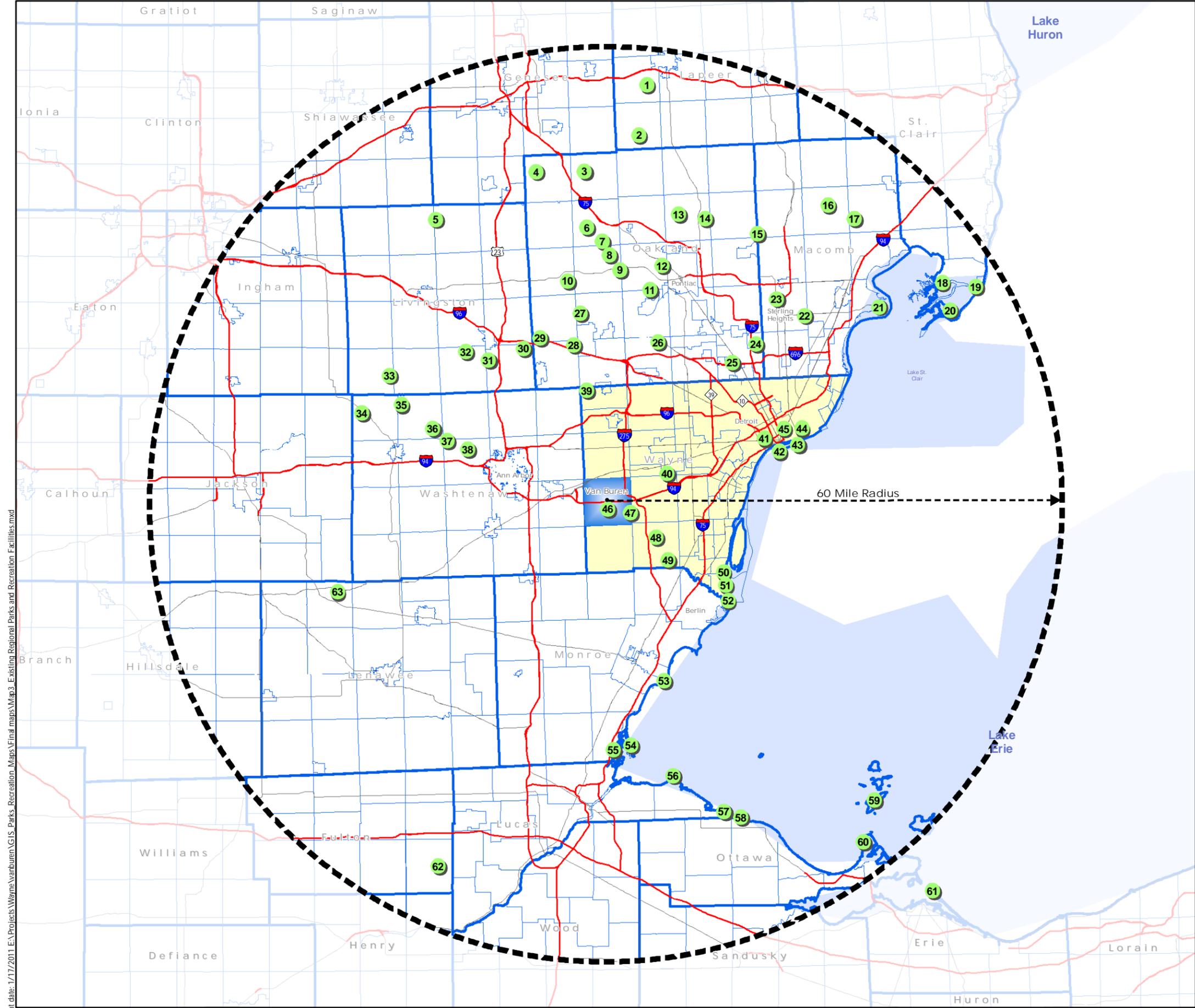
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Miles

Data Source: Michigan Geographic Framework, Michigan Center for Geographic Information, v9a. and Mckenna Associates, Inc., 2010

MCKenna
ASSOCIATES



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Local Greenways and Trails

The Township completed a Greenways and Trails Master Plan in 2002 in response to the residential growth and economic development of the Township (see Map 4- Greenways and Trails). The plan established a framework for connections and greater non-motorized access to nearby destinations including parks, schools, shopping areas, community facilities, cultural amenities, and natural areas.

The plan articulates that greenways and trails not only provide recreation and non-motorized transportation opportunities, but also have a positive impact on economic and community development. Ultimately, they contribute to the quality of life of the Township as a whole in the following ways:

- Make communities better places to live by preserving and creating open space;
- Encourage exercise, physical fitness, and healthy lifestyles;
- Create new opportunities for outdoor and close-to-home recreation;
- Provide options for non-motorized transportation;
- Strengthen local economies through tourism, recreation expenditures, and increased property values;
- Protect the environment through habitat preservation, improving air and water quality, and preventing soil erosion;
- Offer education opportunities;
- Preserve cultural and historic areas by connecting us to our heritage and providing access to them; and
- Connect to regional and local parks.

The creation of a linked pedestrian pathway system throughout Van Buren Township has been a continuing community objective as demonstrated in the Township's Premier Community Amenities Plan, previous Parks and Recreation Master Plans, and other community master plans. Additionally, the Visteon Woods Recreational Trails resulted due to a collaborative effort between Van Buren Township and the Visteon Corporation to provide passive recreational opportunities as well as natural resources protection in the Township. The trails are in a 40-acre woodland located in the northwest corner of the Visteon property, just southwest of the Ecorse Road and 1-275 interchange.

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Map 4 Greenways and Trails

Van Buren Charter Township,
Wayne County, Michigan

- Funded/ Developed Greenway Trail
- Future Trails
- Class I Bicycle/ Pedestrian
- Class II Bicycle Lanes
- Class III Bicycle Routes
- Crushed Stone & Boardwalk Path
- Local and Regional Parks
- Schools
- Residential Developments
- Detroit Edison Easement
- Van Buren Regulated Woodlands
- Michigan Regulated Wetlands
- Trail Connection/Gateway
- Existing Railroad Crossing
- Pedestrian Bridge
- Visteon Woods Trail
- Municipal Boundary

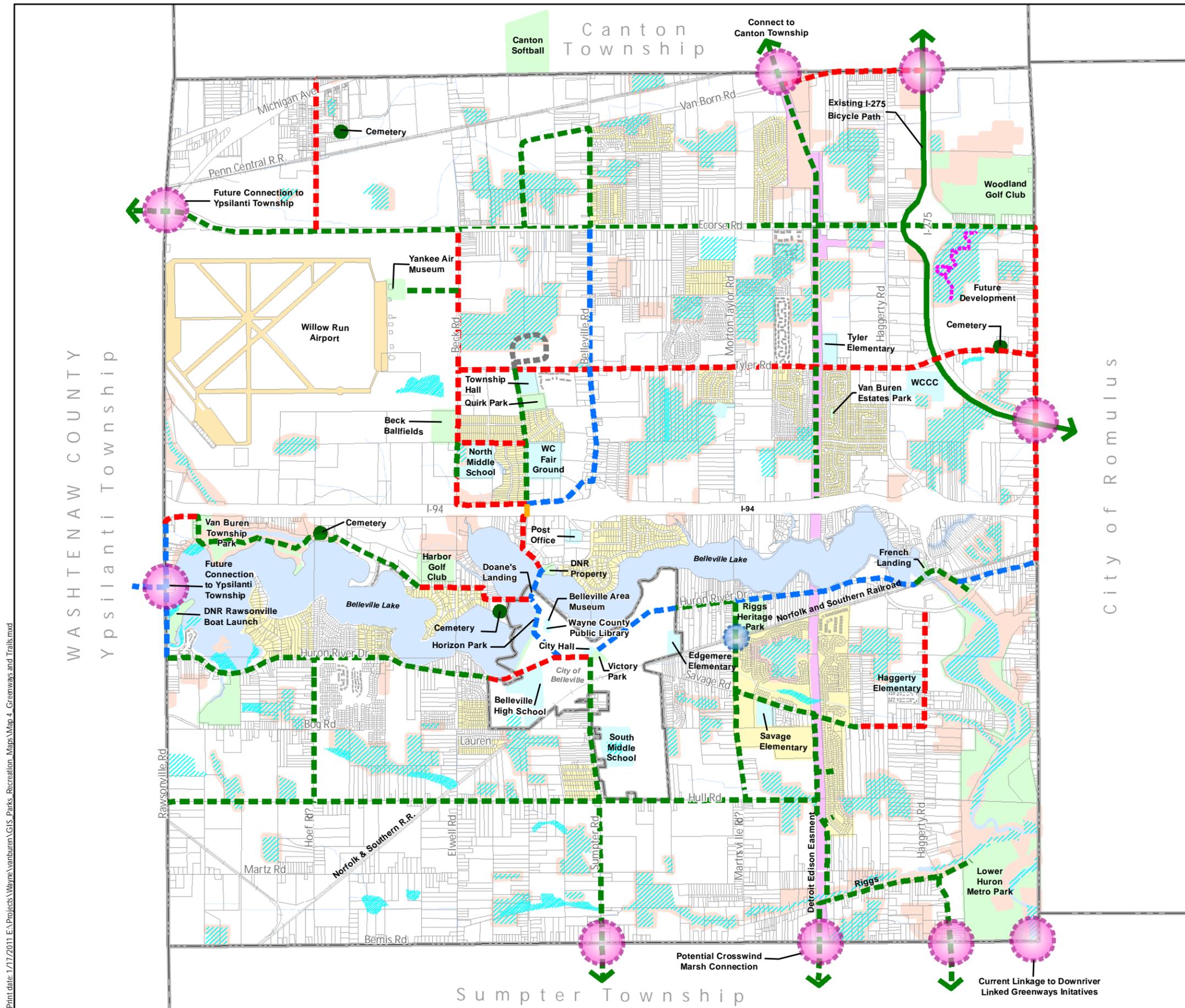
Proposed Trail Segments

- A
- B
- C
- D

Base Map Source: Wayne County GIS
 Data Source: McKenna Associates, Inc. 2/2002,
 Michigan Department of Natural Resources Van Buren Township



1/17/11



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Local Parks and Facilities

Surrounded by Canton Township, City of Belleville, City of Romulus, Sumpter Township, Ypsilanti Township, and the City of Ypsilanti, Van Buren Township residents benefit from the proximity of six neighboring communities' parks and recreation facilities. These parks and facilities supplement those located in the Township with offerings such as active recreation, athletic fields, educational programs, golf, nature centers, playgrounds, and swimming. The following local parks and facilities are located within a short distance of the Township:

Canton Township

- Barchester Park
- Canton Sports Center at Victory Park
- Fellows Creek Golf Club
- Flodin Park
- Freedom Park
- Griffin Park
- Heritage Park
- Independence Park
- Morton Taylor Woods
- Old Tree Farm Parcel
- Patriot Park
- Pheasant Run Golf Club
- Summit on the Park Community Center
- The BLOCK Youth and Teen Center
- The Village Theater at Cherry Hill
- Warren Wetland

City of Belleville

- Belleville Skate Park
- Doane's Landing
- Horizon Park
- Victory Park
- Village Park

City of Romulus

- Beverly McAnally Park
- Boice Park
- Cypress Park
- Elmer Johnson Park
- Fernandez Park
- Historical Park

- Mary Ann Banks Park
- Merriman Park
- Park #1

Sumpter Township

- Banotai Park
- Community Center
- Graham Park
- Polish National Allegiance Hall

Ypsilanti Township

- Appleridge Park
- Big Island Park
- Bud and Blossom Park
- Burns Park
- Clubview Park
- Community Center Park
- Fairway Hills Park
- Ford Heritage Park
- Ford Lake Park
- Grove Road Overlooks
- Harris Park
- Hewen's Creek Park
- Huron River Park
- Lakeside Park
- Lakeview Park
- Loonfeather Point Park
- Nancy Park
- North Bay Park
- North Hydro Park
- Pines Park
- Rambling Road Park
- South Hydro Park
- Sugarbrook Park
- Tot Lot Park
- Watertower Park
- Wendell Holmes Park
- West Willow Park

City of Ypsilanti

- Candy Cane Park
- Carrie R. Mattingly Tot Lot
- Charles Street Tot Lot
- Edith Hefley Tot Lot

- Farmer’s Market
- Freighthouse
- Frog Island Park
- Parkridge Park and Community Center
- Peninsular Park
- Prospect Park
- Recreation Park
- Riverside Park
- Rutherford Municipal Pool
- Senior Center
- Waterworks Park

Quasi-Public and Private Recreation Facilities

The recreation needs of some residents in Van Buren Township are provided by quasi-public and privately owned facilities in and surrounding the Township. These facilities range from private swim clubs to bowling establishments. Many of these facilities charge a membership or user fee. Significant quasi-public and private recreation facilities located in the Township and shown on Map 2 – Existing Parks and Recreation Facilities are the following:

Harbour Club Golf Course. Harbour Club Golf Course is located off Denton Road in the southwest portion of the Township. The 9-hole course is open to the public as well as members and includes a practice facility with a driving range and putting green.

Pine Creek Golf Club. Pine Creek Golf Club is located off West Huron River Drive in the southwest part of the Township. The 18-hole, par 3 course is open to the public.

Woodlands of Van Buren Golf Club. Woodlands of Van Buren Golf Club is located off Ecorse Road on the northeast side of the Township. The 18-hole course is open to the public and includes a practice facility with a 35-station driving range and putting green, a club house and golf shop, restaurant, banquet rooms, and outdoor patio. The club is available to be rented for events such as weddings and corporate outings.

Wayne County Community College – Western Campus. Wayne County Community College--Western Campus is located off Haggerty Road in the northeast part of the Township. The college offers a variety of educational and career classes and assistance.

Programming

Van Buren Township residents have access to a large range of programs offered by the Parks and Recreation Department as well as special events throughout the year. The programs and events offered include:

Programs

- Adult fitness
- Ballroom dance
- Baseball camp
- Basketball camp
- Boaters safety
- Cheerleading
- Day camps
- Domestic violence and anger management
- Football camp
- Gymnastics
- K-9 obedience
- Pet first aid
- Senior fitness
- Social dance
- Softball
- Specialty classes
- Tae kwon do
- Tai chi/meditation
- Urban ballroom
- Volleyball camp
- Walking
- Yoga
- Youth dance classes
- Youth floor hockey

Special Events

- Area Talent Competition
- Bark for Life
- Brunch with Santa
- Concert Series
- Daddy Daughter Dance
- Get Up and Get Active
- Halloween Family Movie Night
- Holiday Arts and Crafts Show
- Mother Son Bowl
- Relay for Life
- Takin it to the Streets
- Tea Party
- Wayne County Senior Olympics



Chapter 4 – Basis for Action Plan

An essential task in the recreation planning process is to determine the needs of the community. The needs are a basis for the development of the Action Plan. This task is accomplished using several methods, including comparing the community to national recreation guidelines for the size of the community, information gathered during the public input process, consultation with the Parks and Recreation Department and the Recreation Committee, and by reviewing current offerings and programming.

Planning and Public Input Process

Planning Process

The Parks and Recreation Department and Recreation Committee directed the update of the Van Buren Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Citizen and Township input played a critical role in the development of the plan. As a result, recommendations described within the

action plan reflect the needs and ideas of those who use the Township’s parks and recreation facilities. The plan process included seven tasks that are discussed below.

Task One: Community Description. The first task was to obtain a description of Van Buren Township’s physical and social features. These features include location, land use, environmental and natural features, as well as population features including age distribution, people with physical disabilities, household types, employment, and income.

Task Two: Administrative Structure and Funding. The second task was to obtain and review the administrative structure of the Township, the Parks and Recreation Department, the Recreation Committee, and the various other recreation providers associated with the Township. This analysis also includes a review of the current and projected revenues and expenditures for the Township as well as the grant history of funding received from the MDNRE and other sources.

Task Three: Parks and Recreation Inventory. The parks and recreation inventory included site visits by McKenna Associates (McKenna) and written descriptions of facilities in Van Buren Township including Township parks and facilities, schools, regional parks and facilities, greenways and trails, local parks and facilities, and quasi-public and private recreation facilities. The information includes the acreage, barrier-free accessibility, types of recreation facilities, and other descriptions of the physical attributes of the area’s facilities. The Township’s and other recreation providers’ programming are discussed in that section as well.

Task Four: Public Participation. The following public participation methods and events were conducted throughout the process of preparing the plan:

Public Workshop – On January 18, 2011 McKenna and the Parks and Recreation Department conducted a public workshop to gather input on the current and future parks and recreation facilities and offerings. The full results of the workshop can be found in Appendix A.

30-Day Review Period – The draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan was available for the 30-day public review starting March 24, 2011 until April 23, 2011. A notice was published in the Eagle/Belleville Enterprise on March 24, 2011.

Task Five: Analysis. Based on the data collected in tasks one through four, the information was analyzed in accordance with national and state guidelines, local needs, the experience of the Parks and Recreation Department and consultants, the desires of the residents, and potential funding sources.

Task Six: Action Plan. Upon completion of the analysis, goals and objectives, public input results, and the specific needs of the Township was conducted. This resulted in the creation of the five-year plan and provides the Township a checklist of what action is to be accomplished, when and where it will occur, who will accomplish it, how much it will cost, and potential funding sources.

Task Seven: Plan Completion and Adoption. Once consensus was reached among the Parks and Recreation Department and Parks and Recreation Committee, the plan was presented to the Township Planning Commission, a public hearing was held on April 27, 2011, and the Commission recommended adoption of the plan. Finally, on May 17, 2011, the Township Board reviewed and formally adopted the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. See Appendices A for meeting minutes, B for meeting notices, and C for adoption documentation.

Park Land Analysis and Service Areas

Approximately 1,494.5 acres of parks and facilities, with 204.0 acres owned by the Township and managed by the Parks and Recreation Department. The public schools, Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA), and private entities own the remaining 1,290.5 acres.

As required by the MDNRE, the Van Buren Township park land and facilities were compared to the minimum guidelines set forth by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA, 1983, 1995). Although the NRPA's updated guidelines were set more than 16 years ago, the MDNRE still recommends their use as standards to establish minimum community needs in terms of land area and number of facilities.

Caution must be exercised in the interpretation of these results given that these guidelines were set over a decade ago and may not represent current popular activities and trends. Each community, based on its own particular resources and resident preferences and demands, is encouraged to establish its needs and requirements so that the plan best suits the community's desires for recreation. Recreation needs are often better documented through public input rather than relying only on the national guidelines. The NRPA guidelines and the MDNRE standards were considered in the development of the Action Plan but not weighted heavily.

Table 4.1 – Park Land Acreage Analysis and the following discussion compares the amount of park land as it relates to the conditions of the Township and the MDNRE standards based on the July 2010 SEMCOG population estimate of 27,377. Park classifications used by the MDNRE are defined as follows:

Mini Parks. Neighborhood parks serve the needs of the residents in the immediate area, approximately less than one-quarter mile away and are typically less than one acre in size. Van Buren Township has one neighborhood park, Haggerty Neighborhood Park totaling 2.0 acres, but there is a deficiency of 4.84 acres based on the recommended

acreage of 6.84. In order to better meet this need, the Township should look for opportunities to develop smaller parks in areas of high residential concentration.

Neighborhood Parks. Neighborhood parks serve an area up to a one-half mile distance and are typically less than 10 acres in size. Van Buren Township does not own any parks that can be classified as neighborhood parks given their current function. However, though not counted in this category, school facilities, private neighborhood parks and some condominium open spaces generally help to fulfill the need for neighborhood parks (see School Facilities discussion below).

Community Parks. Community parks typically serve an area within one-half to three miles and are between 30 to 50 acres in size. The Township owns 126.50 acres of community park land in eight parks, thus just missing the recommended 136.89 acres by 10.39 acres. Despite not exceeding the recommended park land, the distribution and quality of the parks in the Township is exceptional.

Natural Resource Areas. Natural resource areas are lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space, and visual aesthetics/buffering. Three parks/areas meet this requirement in the Township for a total of 76.0 acres. There is no requirement for this type of park land, but this is a significant asset to the community. The natural resource areas not only further the goals of the Township to protect such lands, but also provide residents with unique natural areas throughout the Township. The Township should explore acquiring natural resource areas as they become available.

School Facilities. School properties can fulfill the requirements for other classes of parks such as neighborhood, community, sports complex, and special use. For the purposes of this analysis, the three elementary schools and one middle school located in the Township were included. They provide a total of 90.0 acres, thus complementing the Township facilities and providing more active recreation facilities.

Regional Parks. Regional facilities offer a variety of active and passive recreational opportunities which help in meeting the need for local park land and help balance the deficiencies in facilities. Van Buren Township is fortunate to have one regional park within its borders – Lower Huron Metropark (HCMA). This park accounts for 1,200 acres of park land, thus exceeding the recommended acreage by 926.23 acres. This park is a valuable resource to Township residents, and offers a variety of recreational opportunities within a short distance from home.

According to the above guidelines, Van Buren Township exhibits an overall surplus but is slightly deficient in all park categories with the exception of regional parks. Overall, the Township is providing a good amount of park land for its residents, although there is an identified need to expand the current facilities if the population continues to grow.

Table 4.1
Park Land Acreage Analysis

Park Classification	NRPA Guideline ¹	Recommended Acreage ²	Existing Acreage	Surplus (Deficiency)
Mini Parks	0.25	6.84	2.0	(4.84)
Neighborhood Parks	2.0	54.75	0.0	(54.75)
Community Parks	5.0	136.89	126.50	(10.39)
Natural Resource Areas	Variable.		76.0	N/A
Public School Facilities	Variable – depends on function.		90.0	N/A
Regional Parks	10.0	273.77	1,200.0	+ 926.23
TOTAL	—	472.25	1,494.50	+ 856.25

¹ Source: Lancaster, R. A., Ed. Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines. Alexandria, VA: NRPA, 1983; Mertes, J.D. and J. R. Hall. Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines. Alexandria, VA: NRPA, 1995. Based on minimum acres/1,000 residents.

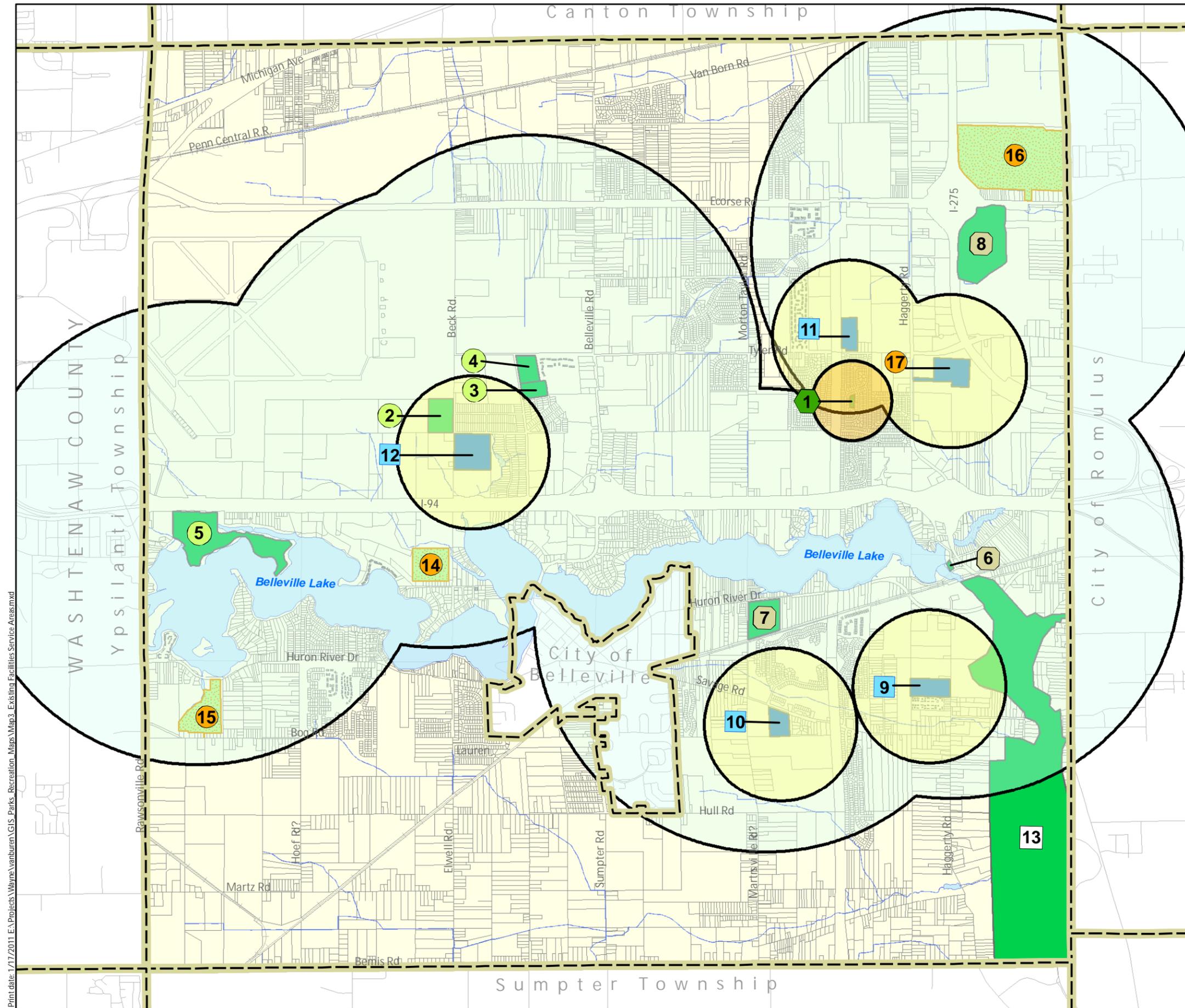
² Based on July 2010 SEMCOG population projection of 27,377.

Although it is important to consider the overall amount of park land in the Township, it is also essential to consider the type of parks, their location, and their disbursement throughout the Township. When evaluating parks and recreation service areas it is important to closely consider where the residents in the Township live. The MDNRE establishes a recommended service area for each park classification to determine the areas in Van Buren Township that are lacking easy access to parks and facilities. The service area boundary for each type of park is as follows:

- Mini Parks 0.25 miles
- Community Parks 0.5 – 3.0 miles
- Regional Parks 30 minute driving time

The parks and recreation service areas are shown on Map 5 – Existing Facilities Service Areas. For the purposes of measuring the service area, a radius of 0.25 was used for mini-parks and 1.5 miles for community parks. The service boundary of the natural resources areas, public school facilities, and regional parks were not included. The majority of the Township is well-served by community parks, with the exception of the far north and south areas of the Township.

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Print date: 1/17/2011 E:\Projects\Wayne\vanburen\GIS Parks Recreation_Maps\Map3_Existing Facilities Service Areas.mxd

Map 5 Existing Facilities Service Areas

Van Buren Charter Township,
Wayne County, Michigan

- ◆ **Mini Parks**
 - 1. Haggerty Subdivision Park
- **Community Parks and Facilities**
 - 2. Little League Park
 - 3. Quirk Park
 - 4. Van Buren Community Center
 - 5. Van Buren Park
- **Natural Resource Area**
 - 6. French Landing Park
 - 7. Riggs Heritage Park
 - 8. Visteon Woods Park
- **Public School Facilities**
 - 9. Haggerty Elementary School
 - 10. Savage Elementary School
 - 11. Tyler Elementary School
 - 12. North Middle School
- Regional Parks and Facilities**
 - 13. Lower Huron Metropark
- **Quasi-Public and Private Recreation Facilities**
 - 14. Harbour Club Golf Course
 - 15. Pine Creek Golf Club
 - 16. Woodlands of Van Buren Golf Club
 - 17. Wayne County Community College - Western Campus

- Parks
- School Facilities
- Golf Courses
- Mini-Park Service Area (1/4 Mile Radius)
- Neighborhood Park Service Area (1/2 Mile Radius)
- Community Park Service Area (1.5 Mile Radius)

Data Source: McKenna Associates, 2006.
Base Map Source: Wayne County GIS, 2004
and Van Buren Township, 2006.



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Facilities Analysis

In addition to park land, existing facilities were compared against the recommended guidelines set by the NRPA and the MDNRE to determine if they are adequate to meet the needs of residents based on national averages. The analysis takes into account a variety of factors including specific needs and existing conditions in Van Buren Township, information obtained during the public input opportunities, programming needs, site conditions, as well as national averages. Table 4.2 indicates the recommended guideline and facilities, the number of facilities in the Township, and the surplus or deficiency of facilities.

Table 4.2
Park Facility Analysis

Park Classification	NRPA Guideline ¹	Recommended Facilities ²	Existing Facilities	Surplus (Deficiency)
Baseball/ Softball	1/5,000	6	21	+ 15
Basketball	1/5,000	6	6	0
Football	1/20,000	1	2	+1
Golf Driving Range	1/50,000	1	1	0
Golf Course (9-Hole)	1/25,000	1	1	0
Golf Course (18-Hole)	1/50,000	1	2	+1
Ice Rink	Indoor – 1/100,000 Outdoor – depends on climate	Indoor – 1 Outdoor – depends on climate	Indoor – 0 Outdoor – 1	Indoor – (1) Outdoor – N/A
Playground	1/3,000	9	10	+ 1
Running Track	1/20,000	1	0	(1)
Soccer	1/10,000	3	5	+ 2
Swimming Pool	1/20,000	1	0	(1)
Tennis	1/2,000	14	2	(12)
Volleyball	1/5,000	6	2	(4)

¹Source: Lancaster, R. A., Ed. Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines. Alexandria, VA: NRPA, 1983; Mertes, J.D. and J. R. Hall. Park, Recreation, Open Space and

Greenway Guidelines. Alexandria, VA: NRPA, 1995. Based on minimum acres/1,000 residents.

²Based on July 2010 SEMCOG population projection of 27,377.

The Township meets or exceeds the facilities standards in most areas. However, as funding allows and needs arise, based on the deficiencies above, the following facilities should be continually evaluated on a long-term basis:

- **Swimming Pools.** Given that a traditional swimming pool is very costly and draining on the limited resources of the Township, the Township should continue to look at the need for a swimming pool and make sure the budget can support the project in the future before proceeding with any pool project. The Township may work with the school district to collaborate on the new pool at the High School. The Township is fortunate to have the new wave and splash park at the Lower Huron Metropark in close proximity.
- **Tennis Courts.** The Township should consider constructing some additional tennis courts at existing parks or include them in future park developments. The Township also collaborates with Van Buren Public Schools to utilize their tennis courts.
- **Volleyball Courts.** The Township should consider including outdoor volleyball courts in future park developments.
- **Other Facilities.** Other facilities noted during the public input process include, but were not limited to, a multi-use indoor facility, biking trails/greenways, more lake access, basketball hoops, and a dog park. These facilities should be evaluated for inclusion in future park developments in the Township as they are deemed appropriate.



Chapter 5 – Action Plan

By using the comprehensive planning process of trend identification and public meetings, the Van Buren Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan has effectively established a framework for the Action Plan. The Action Plan describes recommendations for improvements and enhancement of the Van Buren Township parks and recreation facilities and programming, as well as identifying the tools needed for implementation of the plan components.

A complementary component of the Action Plan is the Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Action strategies that may require significant capital investment from the community have been organized into the five-year plan. The specific projects have been prioritized in the CIP in order to better manage the Parks and Recreation Department's budget and equally distribute the projects over a five-year cycle. The timing of these projects may be influenced, moved, or eliminated depending upon economic conditions, available funding, and/or grant awards. However, the spirit and intent of the project priorities are well defined in the CIP.

The Action Plan is organized into three sections:

- Vision, Mission and Special Delivery Values
- Township Goals and Strategies
- Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan

Vision, Mission and Special Delivery Values

Vision

The following is the Vision of the Van Buren Township Community Services Division:

“Creating Community through People, Parks and Programs.”

Mission

The following is the Mission of the Van Buren Township Community Services Division:

“Van Buren Township Community Services will work with all citizens to be good stewards of our environment and to provide safe and welcoming cultural opportunities to play, learn, contemplate and build community.”

Special Delivery Values

The community values that were brought forward during the community input process of the strategic plan included:

People

- Deliver outstanding customer service.
- Provide accessible, safe and welcoming spaces to all residents.
- Strengthen relationships and the sense of community.

Parks

- Provide quality parks for residents.
- Encourage resident usage of parks.

Programs

- Encourage health and fitness for individuals and families.
- Provide opportunities for lifelong play, creativity, learning and discover for individuals and families.
- Strengthen accountability for projects and programs.

Goals and Strategies

To provide a guideline for decision-making, the Parks and Recreation Department, with the assistance of McKenna, has developed a set of comprehensive goals and strategies. Also included are the goals and objectives from the Township's 2002 Greenways and Trails Master Plan and VIP Action Plan Program. The Township is continually focused on creating an extensive network of greenways and trails throughout the Township.

The following goals and strategies are intended to provide an operational framework for future decisions related to the provision of parks and recreation for the Van Buren Township. These goals and strategies should be reviewed continually and modified as necessary.

Parks and Recreation

Goal: Provide a variety of parks and recreation experiences that are desired by the community for passive and active recreation that supports the community values of people, parks and programs.

Strategy 1.1: Meet the land and facility standards (as applicable) as outlined in Chapter 4 of this plan.

- Meet the land and facility standards over a ten-year period in existing and future parks to meet the community's unmet need for parks and recreation pursuits.
- Develop design principles and standards for parks to support appropriate recreational needs and available operational money available.
- Develop a way finding system for parks with a signage program, including historical interpretative signage, which informs the community of the parks that are available for their use and how to access them in the Township.

Strategy 1.2: Continue to develop greenways and trails throughout the Township to promote a pedestrian-friendly environment and increase access to parks.

- Acquire land for greenways and trails throughout the Township where necessary.
- Pursue Rails-to-Trails funding for developing trails along power line rights-of-way.
- Require developers to provide paths and connections, in addition to sidewalks, in new residential developments.
- Work with the Planning Department to acquire land and easements for trails leading to existing parks.

Strategy 1.3: Seek and/or explore alternatives for funding the developing and operational costs of greenways and trails.

- Sell development rights below the greenways and trails for capital and operational costs.
- Develop greenway and trail sponsorships to help support the operational costs of the greenways and trails.
- Develop partnership agreements with local park and recreation systems to help develop greenways and trails that can connect to their parks and create a non-motorized system for the Township.

Strategy 1.4: Create greenway and trail standards with various surfaces based on operational costs and in meeting user desires for a quality experience.

- Implement greenway and trail design and maintenance standards for based on the type of surface and location.
- Develop a greenway and trail signage program and way finding system to access greenways and trails within the Township.
- Develop partnerships with neighboring parks and recreation departments, schools, utilities and other agencies to develop a regional approach to greenway and trail connectivity.

Strategy 1.5: Develop maintenance standards for developed park areas and the cost to maintain the standard on a yearly basis by acre and type of amenity.

- Seek to share operational costs with permitted users for access to the developed park areas where appropriate.
- Incorporate maintenance costs into program fees where appropriate.
- Establish an environmental sustainability strategy into the daily operations of the Department.

Strategy 1.6: Enhance and utilize existing parks and facilities based on particular needs and amenities.

- Ensure Van Buren Park is staffed year round, weather permitting, and during University of Michigan regattas.
- Promote the existing lake and water resources in the Township, and offer recreation programming based around Belleville Lake, such as water skiing, boating and fishing clubs.
- Complete the development of French Landing Park as a historic area.
- Continue to utilize the existing barn at Riggs Heritage Park as a cultural facility and ensure its continued preservation in the future.
- Continue to improve ADA accessibility in all Township parks.

Strategy 1.7: Acquire additional land throughout the Township as needed or where residents are lacking access to parks and recreation facilities and/or to preserve natural features and open spaces.

- Continually evaluate where new facilities are needed throughout the Township.
- Work with the Planning Department to acquire land from developers.
- Work with the Planning Department to identify valuable open space and natural areas.
- Work with the Planning Department to create zoning for open space and natural areas.
- Utilize the PRD (Planned Residential District) Ordinance to provide for preservation of open space and private maintenance of matured features.

Strategy 1.8: Pursue providing a multi-purpose recreation center and a pool.

- Prepare a need assessment and feasibility study.
- Work with the Planning Department to identify potential sites.
- Visit existing centers and pools in other communities to gain insight on design and operations.

Programs

Goal: Develop core recreation services to maximize the Township resources and support other service providers in the region by working together to serve people of all ages to enjoy recreation opportunities both passive and active.

Strategy 2.1: Confirm core recreation services the Township will be maintaining and developing over the next ten years i.e. adult fitness and wellness, special events, 50+ adult programs, nature and environmental programs, and special interest clubs.

- Develop a business plan for each core service to determine its overall direction, cost and operational impact.
- Develop social networking opportunities as a way of increasing park and program awareness to users in the Township.
- Develop online registration capabilities.
- Develop performance measures for each program and service to determine the outcomes achieved.

Strategy 2.2: Develop new policies for pricing of services, partnership development and earned income development as it applies to recreation programs and services.

- Increase partnerships particularly with the schools and sports groups.
- Involve similar providers in a roundtable programming discussion on a regular basis to limit duplication and raise awareness on how each agency operates.

Strategy 2.3: Evaluate staff hours dedicated toward managing recreation programs that promote Van Buren Township Parks.

- Establish a plan for what programs require what type of person to lead the program as it applies to part time, seasonal, or contracted instructor.
- Establish a working arrangement with other service providers and the school districts to help deliver programs where appropriate.
- Price services effectively to create revenue to help support increasing recreation program offerings along with a pricing policy is in place.
- Tie staff hours to core services to build strong support for each program being developed.

Strategy 2.4: Develop a strong volunteer program to help staff in managing events, programs and parks.

- Develop a volunteer training and recruitment program for volunteers.
- Establish job descriptions and duties in the park system for volunteers to help deliver services and support staff work in the Township.
- Develop a volunteer recognition program to recognize volunteer efforts in the Township parks and programs.

Strategy 2.5: Create a stronger awareness program for the program services offered through Van Buren Township.

- Develop a stronger more viable website to inform the community of activities and events upcoming.
- Improve the marketing efforts to reach various age groups and user groups through various media methods.
- Improve awareness and branding of programs for the Park and Recreation Department to build recognition, advocacy to energize the community to spend time in the parks and enroll in the programs.
- Enhance the existing recreation program to be more focused on program opportunities to build a stronger program base and awareness with the residents in the Township.
- Develop an annual program event schedule that is published monthly to build strong awareness of upcoming programs and events and post on the Department's website.

Strategy 2.6: Continue to foster relationships with Van Buren Public Schools, private schools and charter schools to use their existing facilities, thus offering more programs.

- Consider and implement programs using Van Buren Township Public School facilities.
- Consider and implement programs using private and charter facilities.

- Invite public school officials to Recreation Committee meetings to discuss the issues and needs.
- Provide therapeutic recreation in schools.

Strategy 2.7: Develop program standards and performance measures for recreation programs to demonstrate consistency and value on the delivery of services to the community.

- Develop five performance indicators for each core program area.
- Teach and train staff how to track and evaluate these performance indicators.
- Use additional customer feedback methods beyond post evaluations that include non-user intercept surveys to meet their needs and expectations.

Finance

Goal: Prioritize funding streams to create options for the Township to access and meet the unmet needs of the community for parks, recreation and facilities for the future.

Objective 3.1: Develop and implement financial tools to ensure financial performance and sustainability through cost of service analysis for significant operations of the Department such as maintenance management.

- Track how the Township will spend its money in the future on parks, recreation facilities and programs.
- Inform the public on the resources available and how the Township will spend its money in the future on parks, recreation facilities and programs.

Objective 3.2: Develop a capital improvement program for the Township that follows what the community desires in the most cost effective manner as possible.

- Prioritize the capital improvements based on cost benefit, greatest impact and operational costs.

Objective 3.3: Develop earned income policy to leverage opportunities to increase resources to develop the parks and recreation system to its highest capability.

- Develop a pricing policy and earned income policy.
- Develop a partnership and sponsorship policy.

Objective 3.4: Move from a traditional parks and recreation management model to a business management model for managing parks and recreation for the future.

- Teach and train staff how to manage in the business context while managing a social product to achieve financial sustainability.

- Seek “seed” money from a foundation to help support the goals and vision of the Master Plan’s capital and operational costs.
- Develop a greenways and trails foundation to help raise dollars for needed capital and operational projects.

Strategy 3.5: Develop a pricing policy for how to incorporate appropriate fees to help offset operational costs.

- Develop criteria for core and non-core services.
- Establish what is a public, merit, and private service and the level of benefit a user receives over a general taxpayer.

Strategy 3.6: Develop a business plan for the Park and Recreation System in the Township each year on how the Department will manage itself through cost of services and appropriate pricing, with measurable outcomes for parks, recreation amenities and program services.

- Align the business plan to the strategic master plan to ensure operational and capital dollars are in place to support the programs or facilities being developed.
- Develop a pro-forma on the cash flow of the system to manage to sustainability.
- Develop efficiency practices throughout the system to maximize the Parks and Recreation resources.

Greenways and Trails (from the 2002 Greenways and Trails Master Plan)

Goal 1: Create a system of linked greenways and trails throughout Van Buren Township.

Strategy 1.1: Prepare and adopt a comprehensive master plan.

Strategy 1.2: Establish strong public and private partnerships.

Strategy 1.3: Solicit community input.

Strategy 1.4: Foster community ownership.

Goal 2: Connect current trails and sidewalks where reasonable and rank the connections in order of importance or priority.

Strategy 2.1: Establish a priority system for implementation.

Strategy 2.2: Utilize private development, through Planned Residential Development (PRD’s), to construct portions of the trail.

Strategy 2.3: Utilization of the Community’s Amenities plan and Zoning Ordinances.

Goal 3: Provide a plan for future bicycle and pedestrian ways in the Township connecting parks, open spaces, wildlife corridors, community centers, schools, business districts, and the City of Belleville.

Strategy 3.1: Utilize utility corridors easements (e.g. Detroit Edison) to help implement the plan.

Strategy 3.2: Identify unique and valuable open space properties (e.g. along drainage corridors).

Goal 4: Connect the Township greenway network with regional greenway networks, including the Downriver Linked Greenways Initiative and Washtenaw County Border to Border Trail, in adjacent jurisdictions.

Strategy 4.1: Attend and support regional greenway meetings, sessions, and workshops.

Strategy 4.2: Establish and maintain good relationships with adjacent communities and regional agencies.

Goal 5: Identify federal, state and local applications for funding of the construction of bicycle and pedestrian trails.

Strategy 5.1: Apply for federal, state and local grants to plan and implement a Township wide system.

Goal 6: Develop design guidelines for bicycle and pedestrian ways.

Strategy 6.1: Adopt and amend local ordinances to support greenway development.

Goal 7: Prepare an implementation strategy for each of the greenway routes with an estimated cost associated with each project.

VIP Action Plan Program

In 1999, the California Parks and Recreation Society created the “VIP Action Plan” (VIP) Program at a time when the Parks and Recreation departments in many municipalities were facing severe budget cuts. VIP stands for “Visioning, Insight, and Planning.” The VIP program aims to promote the substantial benefits and value to individuals, communities, the environment and the economy through Parks and Recreation. The VIP program recognizes parks and recreation as an essential service by demonstrating its overall impact on the community. It also stresses the importance of building collaborative partnerships towards a common vision and purpose that will have a greater overall impact.

The VIP Action Plan Program outlines nine main goals that were utilized in accessing the Parks and Recreation in Van Buren Township and are used by the Parks and Recreation Department on regular basis. The nine goals are as follows:

- 1. Strengthen Community Image and Sense of Place**
- 2. Protect Environmental Resources**
- 3. Foster Human Development**
- 4. Strengthen Safety and Security**
- 5. Support Economic Development**
- 6. Provide Recreational Experiences**
- 7. Increase Cultural Unity**
- 8. Promote Health and Wellness**
- 9. Facilitate Community Problem-Solving**

Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan

This section summarizes the overall system recommendations as well as specific improvements to individual parks. Some are multi-year efforts that will involve time and coordination, while others are park improvements that require largely monetary investment. Table 5.1 – Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan incorporates the top recommendations that require capital improvement in the next five years for planning purposes.

Priorities should be reviewed on an annual basis and adjusted to respond to updated findings and identification of funding opportunities. In particular, costs should be closely monitored, as the proposed plan estimates are in 2011 dollars and are strictly preliminary. Actual costs for each project will be more specifically determined as site surveys, programming elements, and engineering plans are developed if applicable, as well as further analysis of the proposed improvement. If funding levels are lower than required to implement the Plan based on the schedule provided, the implementation could be stretched over additional years.

It should be noted that the CIP is based on the existing financial resources of the Township. This helps to ensure that the projects are aligned with the operational and financial realities of the Township's resources and are not simply a pure reflection of community desires. The Township has taken a comprehensive approach of preparing the Master Plan to fully evaluate and prioritize projects based on the cost benefit, impact to the community, and operational costs.

Table 5.1
Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan

Year	Project	Estimated Cost	Funding Source
Year 1 - 2011	Van Buren Park Beach Access – Reinforce concrete stairway with steel handrails	\$100,000	MDNR
	Van Buren Park Beach Access Road – Road enhancement, safety and side split rail	\$20,000	MDNR
	Community Center Gym Floor Rehabilitation – Replace gym floor	\$60,000	Wayne County Parks Millage
Year 2 - 2012	Van Buren Park Basketball Courts – Renovate with full court basketball courts	\$150,000	MDNR
	Parks and Community Center – Provide location signage	\$5,000	MDOT/Van Buren Civic Fund
	Van Buren Park – Construct floating swimming docks	\$5,000-\$10,000	MDNR
Year 3 - 2013	Van Buren Park – Restore access to road to back of Van Buren Park	\$500,000	MDOT/MDNR
	Van Buren Park – Enlarge beach area at Van Buren Park	\$200,000	LWCF
	French Landing Park – Construct a new fishing pier	\$175,000	LWCF
Year 4 - 2014	Riggs Heritage Park – Complete Phase II (Restoring Historical Homestead)	\$600,000	LWCF
Year 5 - 2015	Non-Motorized Pathways System – Riggs Park/Lower Huron Metropark Greenways Phase I Non-Motorized Trail System (trails, boardwalks, trailhead, amenities)	\$1,500,500	MDNR/MDOT/Community Foundation/Private
	Van Buren Park – Provide park access for boaters	\$300,000	LWCF
	Van Buren Community Center – Renovate existing community center	\$1,500,000	LWCF/MDNR/Private

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Appendix A – Public Input Results

Public Workshop January 18, 2011

Charter Township of Van Buren
Recreation Committee Special Meeting
Parks & Recreation Master Plan – Public Workshop
January 18, 2011 7:30 p.m.

Call to Order:

Roll Call:

_____ Speed Gant, Chair	_____ Darris Meredith, Student Rep.
_____ Charles Coleman, Co-Chair	_____ Clerk Leon Wright
_____ Ken Askew	_____ Director Ross
_____ Joy Ann Ferris	_____ Deputy Director Wright
_____ Ralph Nodwell	_____ Parks Manager Burns
_____ Mark Duff	_____ Recording Secretary Harman

Approval of Agenda:

Approval of Minutes: October 26, 2010 Approved _____ Corrected

Public Workshop: Parks and Recreation Master Plan

1. **Introductions**
2. **Background and Purpose of the Meeting**
 - a. Why are we here?
 - b. What is the Township's Parks and Recreation Master Plan?
3. **Workshop Exercises**
 - a. What group do you most identify with –
Young Children? Teens? Adults? Seniors? Other?
 - b. From the perspective of the group you most identify with:
 1. What do you like the **most** about the current parks and recreation offerings in the Township?
 2. What do you like the **least** about the current parks and recreation offerings in the Township?
 3. What do you think the Township **needs to add** to the current parks and recreation offerings in the Township?
 - c. Of the things that you identified as a parks and recreation need for the Township, which of those are you willing to pay for?
4. **Questions and Closing Remarks: *Thank you so much for you participation!***

Adjournment:

****If you are unable to attend this meeting, please contact Christina Harman at (734) 699-8926 prior to 12:00 noon, Monday, January 17, 2011****

Top 3**Marketing/Communication 31 votes****Multi-Purpose Facilities 25 votes****Bike Trails 21 votes****Young Children - LIKES**

Variety of programs
 Offered year round
 Reasonable fees
 Advertising
 Variable length
 Activities for all ages

Teens - LIKES

Variety of sports
 Sled run
 Ice Rink
 Beach

Adults - LIKES

Yoga – Tai Chi
 Marshmallow Drop
 Concert Series
 Riggs Heritage Park

Seniors - LIKES

Beach well used
 Bathrooms
 Rustic look

Others- LIKES

Van Buren Park
 Cleanliness

Young Children - DISLIKES

Lack of equipment storage
 Lack of indoor space
 Lack of online registration
 Lack of maintenance
 Poor signage – finding parks
 Funding distribution
 Lack of winter programs
 Lack of lake programs

Teens - DISLIKES

Limited free activities
 Limited lake activities
 Lack of career building activities

- Lifeguards

 Lack of cultural activities

Adults - DISLIKES

Trails not maintained in winter
 No access to I-275 bike trail
 Need more bike trails
 No marketing
 Non-children programming
 Need dog areas
 Need more consistent event schedule

Seniors - DISLIKES

Beach is too small
 Riggs park solar panels were a waste

Others- DISLIKES

Lack of non-organized sports facilities

- Basketball courts

 Lack of lake access
 Mix generations – partnerships
 Little league affiliation – get it back
 Need one source of information

	<u>VOTES</u>
Young Children - NEED	
Multi-use indoor facility	
Field house	15
Large scale soccer/lacrosse	1
Storage	2
Township publication – marketing	15
Volunteers to organize events	
Teens – NEED	
Recreation/Aquatic Center	7
Mountain Bike Trails	12
Greenway trails connecting parks	3
Free athletics	0
Lake events	9
• Sailing	
• Lifeguards	
Wi-Fi	3
Adults - NEED	
Community Center	
More teen/young adult programming	5
More support for arts	4
Stronger marketing plan	6
Seniors - NEED	
Handicapped access to picnic areas	4
Bike trails	6
Others- NEEDS	
Improved communication	10
• Links to other communities	
Environment committee	
List of different events	
Basketball hoops	5
Obstacle course	2
Dog park	4

30-Day Review Period Comments March 24 – April 23, 2011

The plan was displayed at both the Township Hall and Library for the 30 days between March 24 and April 23, 2011. No public comments were received.

Planning Commission Public Hearing Minutes April 27, 2011

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES APRIL 27, 2011

Chairperson Thompson called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. Present: Johnson, Boynton, McKenna, Budd, Guenther and Thompson. Excused: Kelley. Staff Present: Director Terry Carroll and Secretary Harman. McKenna Associates present: Sally Hodges, Wade-Trim representative present: David Nummer. There were 6 people in the audience.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion Budd, Johnson second to approve the agenda of April 27, 2011 as presented.

Motion carried.

MINUTES:

Motion McKenna, Johnson second to approve the minutes from March 9, 2011 as presented.

Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

ITEM #1

TITLE: PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING PROPOSED PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

Motion Boynton, Johnson second to open the public hearing.

Motion Carried.

Sally Hodges of McKenna Associates gave a presentation of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The Master Plan was previously presented to the Planning Commission in a joint meeting with the Recreation Committee and a 30 day comment period commenced. Hodges discussed the reasons for the master plan and highlighted several priority areas. If the plan is adopted it will be shared with SEMCOG, Wayne County and the State. Capital improvements priority projects were laid out on a year by year basis. The 2011 gym floor renovation and beach area improvements are currently in the works per Director Wright. Projects can be advanced if funding becomes available.

The Planning Commission is to consider the adoption of a resolution and send to the Township Board for approval. Upon adoption by the Township Board McKenna Associates will circulate the master plan to the State and other entities.

Hodges received a list of changes from the Parks and Recreation Department after the draft plan was presented. She read the list of changes to the commission members and the audience. Several of the changes had already been made to the plan and the rest will be included.

Commissioner McKenna commented that if the resolution is adopted the final plan should include the corrections noted.

Commissioner Johnson inquired as to clarification on funding for years 3, 4 and 5. Hodges stated this would be done through a local budget process. The master plan is to be used as a guide and to be updated every 5 years.

Director Carroll provided a sample resolution and will amend to include corrections noted.

Motion Budd, Boynton second to close the public hearing.

Motion Carried.

ITEM #2

TITLE: CONSIDER RECOMMENDATION TO THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGARDING THE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

Chairperson Thompson notified the Commission members and audience that it was not a normal practice to hold a public hearing and take action in the same meeting. The public hearing date was set at the previous meeting with the Recreation Committee to keep the process moving.

The following Resolution was made by Commissioner McKenna and seconded by Commissioner Boynton.

WHEREAS, the Charter Township of Van Buren has undertaken a Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan which describes the physical and social features, existing parks and recreation facilities, and the desired actions to be taken to improve and maintain recreation facilities during the period between 2011 and 2015; and

WHEREAS, public comment which was incorporated into the master plan was obtained through a variety of methods and events including a public Parks and Recreation Master Plan Workshop held on January 18, 2011, a joint public meeting between the Planning Commission and Parks and Recreation Committee at which public input was heard, and comments that were sought during the 30-day public review period from March 24, 2011 to April 23, 2011; and

WHEREAS, this plan meets the requirements of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources as the document must be filed with that agency if the Township is to be eligible for state and federal recreation grants; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Committee of Van Buren Charter Township has reviewed the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and recommended it to the Planning Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission of Van Buren Charter Township has held a public hearing on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, considered the comments received and the Planning Commission finds that it supports the basic plans and strategies outlined in the proposed Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2011 – 2015.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Van Buren Charter Township Planning Commission recommends that the Van Buren Charter Township Board adopt the 2011 – 2015 Parks and Recreation Master Plan as amended by the additions read into the record by the Planning Consultant.

ADOPTED:

YEAS: Thompson, Budd, Guenther, Johnson, Boynton, McKenna,

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Kelley

NEW BUSINESS:**ITEM #1**

TITLE: VICTORY PRE-OWNED REQUEST FOR FINAL SITE PLAN APPROVAL FOR OUTDOOR SALES SPACE AND BUILDING RENOVATIONS FOR EXCLUSIVE SALE OF USED, SECOND HAND AUTOMOBILES

LOCATION: PARCEL NUMBER V125-83-061-0004-701 ALSO KNOWN AS 9700 BELLEVILLE ROAD BETWEEN TYLER ROAD AND NORTH I-94 SERVICE DRIVE

The Applicant has met the final recommendations from both planning and engineering and is ready to move forward and secure final site plan approval.

The requirement of regularly scheduled maintenance of landscaping has been added to the site plan. McKenna Associates is prepared to recommend final site plan approval.

Engineer David Nummer of Wade-Trim looked into drainage at the existing site and noted with changes made the drainage onsite will be improved from what it is today and Wade-Trim recommends approval.

Director Carroll thanked McKenna Associates and Wade-Trim for expediting the review process. He also thanked the applicant for considering and implementing the changes to drainage along the property line.

Motion Budd, Boynton second to approve the final site plan approval for outdoor sales space and building renovations for the exclusive sale of used, second hand automobiles at parcel number V125-83-061-0004-701 also know as 9700 Belleville Road noting the letters from McKenna Associates dated April 22, 2011 and Wade-Trim dated April 25, 2011. Motion Carried.

**Motion McKenna, Johnson second to adjourn at 7:58 p.m.
Motion carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Christina Harman,
Recording Secretary

Township Board Meeting Minutes May 17, 2011

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES May 17, 2011

Supervisor White called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Supervisor White, Clerk Wright, Treasurer Budd, Trustee Hart, Trustee Jahr and Trustee Partridge. Absent: Trustee Ostrowski (excused). Others in attendance: Planning and Economic Development Services Director Carroll, Public Safety Director McClanahan, Parks and Recreation Director Wright, Chief Loyer, Executive Assistant Ireland, Secretary Cline and an audience of twenty-four (24).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Wright moved, Partridge seconded to approve the revised agenda removing Unfinished Business Item #1 "Consider adoption of Resolution 2011-15, Van Buren Township Video Recorded Meeting Retention Policy." Carried.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: Hart moved, Partridge seconded to approve the Consent Agenda [Work Study Session Minutes April 18, 2011; Regular Board Meeting Minutes April 19, 2011.] as presented. Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: None.

CORRESPONDENCE: Director MacDonald gave an update on the Water Tower project stating there had been delays in the project and anticipated the Water Tower being operational mid to late June.

Charles Tackett, resident thanked everyone for their support they had given him during the recent loss of his mother.

Trustee Partridge announced the Belleville Area Council is sponsoring a Victorian Tea and Model T's car show on Friday, May 20th at Victory Park, in the City of Belleville.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Jahr moved, Partridge seconded to disapprove the transfer of ownership of a 2010 Class C Licensed Business with Dance permit and request for a new Entertainment permit [Resolution 2011-16] for 50521 Huron River Drive (Pine Creek Management, Inc. to PBR Ventures, LLC). Carried.

Hart moved, Wright seconded to approve Resolution 2011-17 the Parks and Recreation 2011-2015 Master Plan. Carried.

Budd moved, Hart seconded to approve the training for the members of the Zoning Board of Appeals from McKenna Associates. Carried.

Wright moved, Partridge seconded to approve the request of Township Supervisor to approve changes to the Salaried Employees Benefits Manual. Carried.

Wright moved, White seconded to approve the adoption of the Van Buren Township Cultural Advisory Committee in accordance with the proposed By-Laws. Carried.

VOUCHER LIST: Wright moved, Partridge seconded to approve the May 17, 2011 voucher list as presented. Carried.

Regular Board Meeting Minutes
May 17, 2011-Page 2

REPORTS: Supervisor White received and filed the February 2011 and March 2011 Budgetary Reports.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Treasurer Budd reported there were 124 dogs that were licensed during the recent Drive-In Dog Clinic and reminded residents that current dog licenses expire at the end of May.

Director Wright made the following announcements: A Babysitter/CPR Certification class will be held on Saturday, May 21st. Also, there are still available openings for the second session for Summer Camp. Van Buren Park Entry Fees are as follows: \$4 daily pass, \$15 Van Buren/Belleville Resident Annual Pass, \$20 Non-Resident Annual Pass and \$8 Senior's (55 and older) Annual Pass. For more information contact the Recreation Department at 734-699-8921 or online at www.vanburen-mi.org.

Clerk Wright announced Van Buren Township and Recall Corporation will host a free "Shred Day" on Saturday, August 13th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Residents may drop off at the township front parking lot a maximum of five cartons or medium size bags of documents per vehicle to be shredded. No three ring binders or metal of any kind please. A list of acceptable documents is posted at Van Buren website www.vanburen-mi.org and cable channel 12.

Trustee Partridge reminded residents if they would like to serve on a commission or committee applications are available at Township Hall (Supervisor's Office) or online at www.vanburen-mi.org.

AUDIENCE (Non-Agenda Items): Comments were made from 8:12 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. by the Board and audience regarding the following topics: Board Meeting Rules of Conduct three minute rule, Trustee Ostrowski, Public Safety Meeting (reports and briefings), Public Safety budget, positive aspects of Van Buren Township, Roberts Rules of Order, Landfill funds, budget, sump pump discharging into road, local ordinance regarding State of Michigan Ethics Act, Nixle system, Video Policy, Fire Department blended rate, recent robberies in Township, May is Motorcycle Awareness month and Trustee Hart.

CLOSED SESSION: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Wright moved, Partridge seconded to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Leon Wright
Township Clerk

Date: June 7, 2011.

Paul D. White
Township Supervisor

Approved: As corrected.

CORRECTION: Under "Correspondence" the third paragraph "Belleville Area Council" should read "Belleville Area Council for the Arts".

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Appendix B – Meeting Notices



Van Buren Charter Township
Parks and Recreation Department
invites you to attend the

Parks and Recreation Master Plan Workshop

**Wednesday, January 18, 2011
7:00-8:30 PM**

**Van Buren Township Hall
46425 Tyler Road**

Van Buren Township is currently updating its Parks and Recreation Master Plan to plan for the future of recreation in the Township.

The Workshop will be focused on learning on what **you** envision **your** Parks and Recreation Department focusing its efforts over the next 5 years.

Please bring your neighbors, friends, and family to this exciting event where we want to learn how we can better serve **you**.

For additional information please contact the Van Buren Township
Parks and Recreation Department at **734-699-8926**

C BELLEVILLE LAKE CURRENT



Tuesday, January 18

Parks & Recreation Master Plan Workshop 7:30 - 9:30pm

Van Buren Township is currently updating its Parks and Recreation Master Plan to plan for the future of recreation in the Township. The Workshop to be held at 46425 Tyler Rd, will be focused on learning what you envision your Parks and Recreation Department focusing its efforts on over the next 5 years. Please bring your neighbors, friends, and family to this exciting event where we want to learn how we can better serve you. For additional information, please contact the Van Buren Township Parks and Recreation Department at (734) 699-8921 or visit the Township website at www.vanburen-mi.org

Belleville-Area Independent

VBT to hold Master Plan Parks & Rec. workshop Jan. 18

By Bob Mytych
Independent Sports Editor

The Van Buren Township Parks & Recreation Department will be holding a public Master Plan workshop on Tuesday, Jan. 18, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at Township Hall.

The township is currently in the process of updating its Parks & Recreation Master Plan, which is required every five years in order to qualify for grants.

The workshop will focus on what the residents would envision for the park and recreation department for the next five years.

Workshop exercises include the likes and dislikes of the current parks and recreation offerings, what residents would like to see added, and if there are activities of interest to the point where residents would be willing to pay for them.

Those unable to attend the meeting may provide their comments and suggestions in writing by Jan. 17 to Christina Harman at township hall or call (734) 699-8962.

Notice that Draft Plan is Available for Public Review and Comment and Notice of Public Hearing on Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Notice of a 30-Day Public Review Period and Public Hearing Proposed Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2011 - 2015 Van Buren Township Planning Commission

Notice is hereby given to any and all interested parties that the draft Van Buren Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2011 – 2015 will be available for public review and comment for 30 days beginning March 24, 2011 at the Van Buren Township Clerk's office Van Buren Township Hall, and at the Belleville Area District Library during regular business hours or online at http://www.vanburen-mi.org/PDF_files/Rec-Master-Plan.pdf.

The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday April 27, 2011 at 7:30 pm** in the Board of Trustees Room, Van Buren Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road, Charter Township of Van Buren, County of Wayne, Michigan, 48111, to hear comments on the proposed Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2011 - 2015.

Van Buren Township is preparing a five-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan in accordance with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources requirements. When completed, the plan will serve as a guide for the acquisition and development of Parks and Recreation Department facilities and programs over the next five (5) years.

All interested parties may submit comments in person or in writing to the Parks and Recreation Department, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111. Please contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 734-699-8926 with questions or comments.

In the spirit of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should feel free to contact the Department of Developmental Services at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

Published: March 24, 2011

Posted March 24, 2011

Please send an affidavit of
Publication to:

Charter Township of Van Buren
Developmental Services
46425 Tyler Road
Van Buren Township, MI 48111

Appendix C – Adoption Documentation

Van Buren Township Board of Trustees Adoption Resolution May 17, 2011

STATE OF MICHIGAN

COUNTY OF WAYNE

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN

RESOLUTION FOR ADOPTION OF CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN 2011-2015 MASTER PLAN FOR PARKS AND RECREATION

RESOLUTION 2011-17

At a regular meeting of the Charter Township of Van Buren Board of Trustees held on Tuesday, May 17, 2011, the following Resolution was moved by Trustee Hart and seconded by Clerk Wright:

Whereas, the Charter Township of Van Buren has undertaken a Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan which describes the physical and social features, existing parks, existing recreation facilities and the desired actions to be taken to improve and maintain parks and recreation facilities during the period between 2011 and 2015, and

Whereas, public comment which was incorporated into the master plan was obtained through a variety of methods and events including a public visioning workshop January 18, 2011; and the 30-day public review period from March 24, 2011 – April 23, 2011; and

Whereas, a public comment session was held at a joint meeting of the Parks and Recreation Committee and the Planning Commission on March 9, 2011 at Township Hall to provide an opportunity for citizens to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the Parks and Recreation Plan, and

Whereas, the Charter Township of Van Buren has developed the plan for the benefit of the entire community and to adopt the plan as a document to assist in meeting the parks, recreation, land preservation, and trail needs of the community, and

Whereas, the Parks and Recreation Committee has reviewed the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and finds itself in accord with the basic plans and strategies outlined in this document, and

Whereas, after the public hearing and meeting on March 9, 2011, the Parks and Recreation Commission recommended adoption of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, and

Now, therefore, let it be resolved the Charter Township of Van Buren Board of Trustees hereby adopts the Charter Township of Van Buren 2011-2015 Parks and Recreation

Master Plan as a guide for improving parks and recreation for the residents of the Charter Township of Van Buren.

Ayes: White, Wright, Budd, Hart, Jahr and Partridge.

Nays: None.

Absent: Ostrowski (excused).

CERTIFICATION

I, Leon Wright, the duly authorized clerk of the Charter Township of Van Buren, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Resolution 2011-17, adopted by the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees of Wayne County, Michigan, at a meeting of the Board duly called on the 17th day of May, 2011.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN



Leon Wright, Township Clerk

MOTION

Hart moved, Wright seconded to approve Resolution 2011-17 the Parks and Recreation 2011-2015 Master Plan. Carried.

Yeas: White, Wright, Budd, Hart, Jahr and Partridge.

Nays: None.

Absent: Ostrowski (excused).

I hereby certify the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a motion adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Van Buren at a regular meeting held May 17, 2011.


Leon Wright
Township Clerk

**Van Buren Township Planning Commission Recommending Resolution
April 27, 2011**

RESOLUTION

**TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE VAN BUREN CHARTER TOWNSHIP
2011 – 2015 PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN**

At a meeting of the Van Buren Charter Township Planning Commission, Wayne County, Michigan, held at the Van Buren Township Hall on the April 27, 2011, at 7:30 p.m.

The following Resolution was made by Commissioner McKenna
and seconded by Commissioner Boynton.

WHEREAS, the Charter Township of Van Buren has undertaken a Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan which describes the physical and social features, existing parks and recreation facilities, and the desired actions to be taken to improve and maintain recreation facilities during the period between 2011 and 2015; and

WHEREAS, public comment which was incorporated into the master plan was obtained through a variety of methods and events including a public Parks and Recreation Master Plan Workshop held on January 18, 2011, a joint public meeting between the Planning Commission and Parks and Recreation Committee at which public input was heard, and comments that were sought during the 30-day public review period from March 24, 2011 to April 23, 2011; and

WHEREAS, this plan meets the requirements of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources as the document must be filed with that agency if the Township is to be eligible for state and federal recreation grants; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Committee of Van Buren Charter Township has reviewed the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and recommended it to the Planning Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission of Van Buren Charter Township has held a public hearing on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, considered the comments received and the Planning Commission finds that it supports the basic plans and strategies outlined in the proposed Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2011 – 2015.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Van Buren Charter Township Planning Commission recommends that the Van Buren Charter Township Board adopt the 2011 – 2015 Parks and Recreation Master Plan as amended by the additions read into the record by the Planning Consultant.

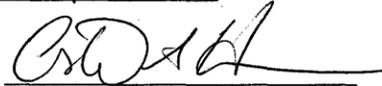
ADOPTED:

YEAS: Thompson, Budd, Guenther, Johnson, Boynton, McKenna,

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Kelley

I, Christina Harman, recording secretary of the Charter Township of Van Buren Planning Commission, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Charter Township of Van Buren Planning Commission at a regular meeting held on April 27, 2011.



MOTION EXTRACT

Motion McKenna, Boynton second to approve the 2011-2015 proposed Parks and Recreation Master Plan and submit to the Township Board with the corrections pointed out by Sally Hodges of McKenna Associates.

Roll Call:

Yeas: Guenther, Johnson, Boynton, McKenna, Budd and Thompson.

Nays: None.

Absent: Kelley.

Motion carried.

I hereby certify the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a motion adopted by the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Van Buren at the regularly scheduled meeting of April 27, 2011.



Christina Harman
Recording Secretary

Van Buren Township Recreation Committee Recommending Motion March 9, 2011

Charter Township of Van Buren Recreation Committee Special Meeting Minutes Joint Meeting with the Planning Commission March 9, 2011

Planning Commission meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Members Present: Donald Boynton, Bryon Kelley, Robert McKenna, Sharry Budd, Ken Guenther, Carl Johnson and Chairperson Carol Thompson. Staff Present: Interim Director Terry Carroll.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by Chairperson Gant.

Members Present: Speed Gant, Charles Coleman, Ken Askew, Clerk Wright, Deputy Director Wright, and Recording Secretary Harman.

Absent:

Excused: Joy Ann Ferris, Mark Duff, Ralph Nodwell and Darris Meredith.

Members of the Audience: Sally Hodges, Heather McPhail and Christohper Khorey of McKenna & Associates and an audience of three (3).

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Motion Askew, Wright second to approve the agenda of March 9, 2011 as presented. Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion Askew, Coleman second to approve the meeting minutes of January 18, 2011 as presented. Motion Carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Parks and Recreation Master Plan Review

Heather McPhail of McKenna Associates gave an overview of the Draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan. She explained the results from the Public Workshop held on January 18, 2011 and the adoption process of the Master Plan to both Committee and Commission members. She focused the presentation discussion on Chapter 5 – Action Plan and went over the goals and strategies of each section. McPhail also explained the VIP Action plan and Capital Improvement Plan for the next five years. Sally Hodges passed out a schedule to Committee and Commission members of the approval process for the Master Plan.

Chairperson Gant requested to have the Willow Run Airport added to final maps.

Planning Commissioner Budd would like to see more current financial information on page 16, Table 2.1 than what is currently reflected. Budd will forward on the correct information to Sally Hodges of McKenna Associates. The Parks Manager position also needs to be removed from the flow chart on page 14.

Committee member Wright inquired about the possibility of swapping 2011 projects for 2012 projects. He would like to see more for teens, the Basketball Courts at Van Buren Park would give the teens something to do. Hodges of McKenna Associates stated it would be hard to move a \$150,000 project a year early. McPhail asked Deputy Director Wright if there were any concerns at Van Buren Park right now that the switch would impact. Commissioner Budd had spoken with Director Ross and the 2011 projects needed to be done for the ADA walkway and she doesn't believe that we can move them. Hodges stated that projects can happen in different years when funding is located.

Motion Coleman, Wright second to authorize Parks and Recreation Master Plan to be placed on file for the 30 day public comment period, and ask the Planning Commission to hold a public hearing. Motion Carried.

Planning Commission: Chairperson Thompson confirmed with Director Carroll the proposed public hearing date for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan to be held at the regular meeting of the Planning Commission on Wednesday, April 27, 2011 and notification of the public hearing will be published on March 24th giving sufficient time for the 30 day comment period.

Motion Boynton, McKenna second to approve a public hearing date of April 27, 2011. Motion Carried.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion Askew, Coleman second to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. Motion Carried.

Planning Commission members adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christina Harman, Recording Secretary

Appendix D – Funding Sources

There are several potential funding sources currently being utilized and many that are available for parks and recreation projects such as parkland improvements and facility upgrades as described below.

General Funding Sources

Millage

A property tax millage can be used to finance specific parks and recreation projects or to operate recreation facilities. A millage is an effective way to divide costs over time among all of the taxpayers in the Township to provide matching grant funds or finance entire projects. A millage allows more flexibility with how the money is allocated than with a bond. Voter approval is required to put a millage in place.

User Fees

The Township can charge reasonable fees to the users of specific recreation facilities and for enrollment in recreation programs. User fees can provide substantial support for park and recreation facilities and programs. Other Michigan communities have established user fees for the use of swimming pools, tennis courts, lighted athletic fields, and indoor facilities. The Township is a position to begin considering the implementation of user fees with their new active recreation facilities coming on-line soon.

Recreation Bonds

A number of bond programs can be used to finance construction of parks and recreation facilities. *General Obligation Bonds* are issued for specific community projects and may not be used for other purposes. These bonds are usually paid for with property tax revenues. *Revenue Bonds* are issued for construction of public projects that generate revenue. The bonds are then retired by using income generated by the project.

Conservation Easements

A conservation easement is a method of preserving open space that is guaranteed through formal documentation. This technique can also be used to preserve open space if it is not feasible or practical for the Township to acquire the land. Rather than obtaining fee simple, or complete ownership, an organization or community can purchase or acquire by gift an easement to the property.

Public-Private or Public-Public Partnerships

Reduced funding for the public and private sector has created a need for various partnerships between public and private entities as well as between two or more public entities to

accommodate specialized large-scale recreation demands. The Township should seek partnerships where available and beneficial.

Donations

Businesses, corporations, private clubs, community organizations, and individuals will often contribute to recreation and other improvement programs to benefit communities in which they are located. Private sector contributions may be in the form of monetary contributions, the donation of land, the provision of volunteer services, or the contribution of equipment or facilities.

Foundations

A foundation is a special non-profit legal entity that is established as a mechanism through which land, cash, and securities can be donated for the benefit of parks and recreation services. The assets are disbursed by the foundation board of directors according to a predetermined plan.

Specific Funding Programs

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF)

MNRTF provides funding assistance for the purchase and development of land for public outdoor recreation and natural resource protection. This fund is directed at creating and improving outdoor recreational opportunities and providing protection to valuable natural resources. The available development grants are between \$15,000 and \$500,000 and there is no limit on the amount for acquisition projects because they depend upon the value of the property. A local minimum match of 25% is required for all projects. Applications must be postmarked by April 1st for both acquisition and development projects and August 1st for acquisition projects only.

Each year the Trust Fund Board of Trustees decides on priority project types on which proposals will receive special attention. The special initiatives for 2010 included:

1. Trails.
2. Wildlife/ecological corridors and winter deeryard acquisition.
3. Projects within urban areas.
4. Outdoor, community- based recreation - playgrounds, community parks, green spaces, and sports fields.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). LWCF provides funding assistance for communities to acquire and develop land for public outdoor recreation. This fund is directed at community recreation and trailway improvements that preserve natural resources. A local match of 50% required for all projects, and the minimum request amount is \$30,000 and the maximum is \$75,000. Projects are evaluated based on project need, applicant history, site and project quality, and alignment with the state's recreation plan (2008-2012 Michigan Statewide

Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan). The fourth criterion is determined to be primarily trails, community outdoor recreation, green technology in outdoor recreation, universal access, and coordination and cooperation among recreation providers. The MDNR makes recommendations to the National Park Service (NPS) on which applications to fund, and the NPS grants the final approval. Applications are due March 1st for grants.

Transportation Enhancement (TE) Program. The TE program was originally established with the passage of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) in 1991, the reauthorization of the TEA-21 program in 1998, and finally the authorization of SAFETEA-LU in 2005 authorizing highway safety, transit and other surface transportation programs, including regional pathways and trailway systems. The TE program is a 10 percent set-aside of Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds that are administered by the MDOT Office of Economic Development. Eligible activities include those related to non-motorized transportation, transportation aesthetics, historic preservation, and water quality and wildlife. TE funding requires matching funds of at least 20% of the project cost and must be related to surface transportation.

Urban and Community Forestry Program – Community Forestry Grants. This program provides funds for projects that address the urban forestry needs of municipal governments, schools, nonprofit organizations, and volunteer groups throughout Michigan. These projects may include tree inventories, management plans, tree planting educational workshops and trailing materials, and other maintenance activities. Projects that develop or enhance urban and community forestry resources, such as management and planning, education and training, tree planting, and library resources, are looked upon highly. Applications are due each summer with maximum grant requests of \$20,000.

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Acknowledgments



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www.mcka.com

- Phillip C. McKenna, PCP, AICP..... President
- Sara J. Hodges, AICP, IAP2 Project Director
- Heather L. McPhail..... Project Manager
- Sabah Aboody-Keer..... GIS Mapping
- Carrie A. Wakulat Graphic Support and Cover Design
- Kacy Smith..... Administrative Support

