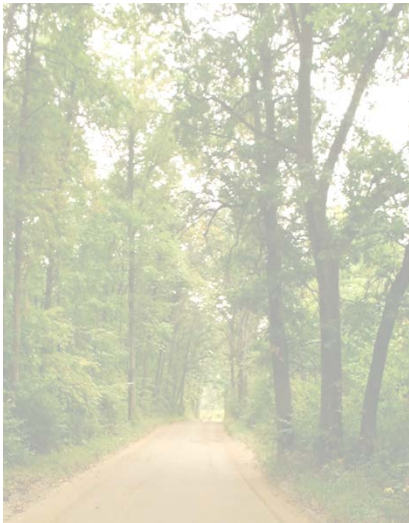


---

# *Grosse Ile Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan*

**2016-2020**

(DRAFT- February 2016)



baseball basketball soccer football trails parks slide playground recreation tennis boating  
fishing nature bike path hiking picnics neighborhoods equestrian farm garden camping dog  
park open space conservancy baseball basketball soccer football trails parks slide  
playground recreation tennis boating fishing nature bike path hiking picnics neighborhoods  
equestrian farm garden camping dog park open space conservancy baseball basketball  
soccer football trails parks slide playground recreation tennis boating fishing nature bike  
path hiking picnics neighborhoods equestrian farm garden camping dog park open space  
conservancy baseball basketball soccer football trails parks slide playground recreation  
tennis boating fishing nature bike path hiking picnics neighborhoods equestrian farm  
garden camping dog park open space conservancy baseball basketball soccer football trails  
parks slide playground recreation tennis boating an





*Community Recreation Commission Endorsement: 3/24/16*

*Township Board Adoption: 4/11/16*

**Community Recreation Commission**

Walter Kacher, Chairman  
Bill Morreau, Vice Chairman  
Tom Malvesto, Board Liaison  
E. Lea Schelke, Secretary  
John Conroy  
Ann Haener-Maghran  
Greg Meyring  
Michael Swales  
Helena Woodward-Ryan  
Ethel Yops  
Natalie Snider, Student Liaison

**Township Staff**

Brandy K Boyd, Recreation Director  
Dale L. Reaume, Township Manager

**Township Board of Trustees**

Brian Loftus, Supervisor  
Erik Ranka, Clerk  
Ted Van Os, Treasurer  
James Budny  
Tom Malvesto  
Walter Pociask  
Lauren Smith

**Planning Consultants**

LSL Planning, Inc.



Russell Design





# Table of Contents

## ***1 Introduction***

## ***2 Planning and Administration***

- 2.1. Planning Process
- 2.2. Administrative Structure
- 2.3. Budget and Funding

## ***3 Recreation and Resource***

### ***Inventory***

- 3.1. Public Parks and Facilities
  - Map One Public Parks and Open Space*
- 3.2. Semi-Public Parks and Facilities
- 3.3. Public School Parks and Facilities
- 3.4. Private Parks and Facilities
- 3.5. Regional Parks and Facilities
  - Map Two Regional Parks*
- 3.6. Township Recreation Programs
- 3.7. Volunteer Organizations and Service Clubs

## ***4 Basis for Action Program***

- 4.1. Public Input
- 4.2. Parkland Analysis
- 4.3. Facilities Analysis
- 4.4. Programming Analysis
- 4.5. Other Planning Resources

## ***5 Action Program***

- 5.1. Action Plan Framework
- 5.2. Guidelines
- 5.3. Bike Path and Trail Plan
  - Map Three Bike Path and Trail Plan*
- 5.4. Park Specific Recommendations
  - Airport Recreation Area Concept Plan*
  - Centennial Farm Concept Plan*
  - Water's Edge Recreation Area Concept Plan*
- 5.5. Programming Recommendations
- 5.6. Five Year Action Program



***Appendix A Community Description***

Regional Setting ..... A-1  
Historical Overview ..... A-2  
Socioeconomic Characteristics ..... A-3  
Physical Characteristics ..... A-6

***B Public Involvement & Adoption Information B-1***

Focus Groups ..... B-2  
Park Workshops ..... B-2  
Public Review ..... B-2  
Public Hearing ..... B-2  
Community Recreation Commission Resolution of Adoption ..... B-3  
Township Board Resolution of Adoption ..... B-4  
Transmittal Letters ..... following B-4

***C Funding Sources C-1***





Grosse Ile is a unique island community within the Detroit River in Wayne County. The Township has much to offer residents including high quality neighborhoods and significant natural features. Parks and recreation services enhance a community's quality of life. With the Grosse Ile Township Parks and Recreation system, residents enjoy the benefits of a local park system coupled with diverse recreational programming. Schools, private businesses, and County, State and regional parks all add to the parks and recreation choices available to residents. In order to maintain and improve the quality of life for its residents, the Township takes an active role in the delivery of recreation opportunities.

This Master Plan discusses recreation facilities throughout the community, including private and quasi-public facilities, but analyzes only those under control of the Township. The purpose of the Plan is to guide Township officials when making decisions about future development and improvement of the Township's facilities and programs.



The previous Recreation Master Plan was adopted in 2011, and formed the basis of the current Plan. The 2016 update includes an evaluation of parks, facilities and programming to update the Township's action plan and determine where future improvements should be made.

Consideration is given to the State of Michigan's Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) guidelines for development of parks and recreation master plans, which requires a five-year cycle for recreation planning.

The Plan is divided into separate sections that represent the planning process used in its development. In addition to this Introduction the Plan contains:

- **Planning and Administration.** Identifies the planning process, recreation budget and grant history, and the entities responsible for administration of the park and recreation programs and facilities.
- **Recreation and Resource Inventory.** Describes the specific parks, facilities and programs provided in and around the Township.
- **Basis for Action Program.** Analyzes the programs and facility needs for Grosse Ile.
- **Action Program.** Identifies the Plan's goals, objectives, recommendations and a 5 year plan for investment.
- **Appendices.** Four appendices are included to supplement the Plan including:
  - **Community Description.** An overview of the Township's current and projected social, physical and economic characteristics.
  - **Public Involvement.** A summary of comments heard at public meetings and documentation of those meetings, review period, and public hearing.
  - **Funding Sources.** A summary of potential funding options to pursue implementation of the Action Program.
  - **Adoption and Transmittal Information.** Documentation of the Plan's adoption and submission to required agencies.

This document creates a solid foundation for future park and recreation improvements, investments, and policies that support a healthy, desirable quality of life for Grosse Ile residents.





The process of planning and accommodating parks and recreation in Grosse Ile involves several aspects. First, the Township emphasizes a consistent planning process in order to solicit ideas and public comments. This process was followed in preparing this plan and is used on a regular basis in order to monitor programs and facility needs. The Township also has an administrative structure that establishes the roles of staff and the Township's appointed and elected bodies to ensure an organized hierarchy is utilized during planning and implementation. Finally, Grosse Ile has a separate budget for parks and recreation to allocate money from the general fund to manage parks and recreation spending.

## *2.1. Planning Process*

The Township's Community Recreation Commission (CRC) directed the update of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The participatory process resulted in a Plan that reflects the needs and ideas of those who make use of the Township's parks and recreation facilities. The planning process is discussed below.

### **Task One: Community Description**

The process began with an update to the Township's physical and social characteristics. These features include location, land use, natural features, and a description of the transportation network as well as population features including the age/sex distribution, people with physical disabilities, types of households, employment and income.



### **Task Two: Recreation Inventory**

The recreation inventory included site visits and written descriptions of recreation facilities in the Township including public parks, schools, and private facilities. The information included acreage, barrier-free accessibility, types of equipment and other descriptions of physical attributes. A list of State Parks, Wayne County Parks, Huron-Clinton Metroparks, and private businesses within a short distance of Grosse Ile was also included.

### **Task Three: Public Participation**

The CRC hosted a series of focus group meetings and two general public input meetings to gain input from the community at large. In addition to the focus groups and general meetings, the Community Recreation Commission also conducted a community survey.

A list of comments received is included in Chapter 4, Basis for Action Plan. A public hearing was held by the Township Board before adoption, details of which are contained in Appendix B Public Involvement.

At the request of the Community Recreation Commission, the Recreation Department created a link to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan on the Township web site. This link provided an immediate source to the public for updates on the planning process, the opportunity to contribute and to review the draft plan prior to adoption.

### **Task Four: Analysis**

Based on the data collected from tasks 1 through 3, information was analyzed in accordance with national and state standards and guidelines, local needs, the experience of commissioners, staff and consultants, the desires of the residents, and potential funding sources.

### **Task Five: Action Program**

Upon completion of the analysis, goals and objectives were determined to provide guidance for the development of the Action Program. This created the five-year plan and offers 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 Six: Plan Completion and Adoption**

Once consensus was reached amongst Township officials, a public hearing was held to present the plan and to solicit public input prior to adoption. The Plan was available for public review for one



month prior to adoption. Based on public comments, the Plan was revised and the document was endorsed by the CRC, Planning Commission and adopted by the Township Board. See Appendix D Adoption and Transmittal Information for adoption documentation.

## ***2.2. Administrative Structure***

### **2.2.1. Community Recreation Commission**

The first Grosse Ile Recreation Commission was created under Ordinance 163 in 1987. In 2005, the Township Board voted to reorganize and consolidate the Recreation Department and the Water's Edge Golf and Country Club and their respective Commissions. As a result, the Township Board disbanded the former Recreation Commission and the former Water's Edge Commission to create one merged Community Recreation Commission (CRC).

The CRC is comprised of nine individuals appointed by the Township Board, in addition to a Board member who acts as a liaison and the Recreation Director, who is a non-voting member. In October 2010, the CRC invited a local high school student to serve on the commission as a youth representative in a non-voting capacity. The Student Liaison will provide input and advice from a wide and diverse spectrum of youth on issues affecting and concerning the teen population of the Township. The CRC will explore options for how the youth leadership experience might be enhanced through the Student Liaison position by elevating the youth voice to a more formal level that would include voting. General duties of the CRC are as follows:

- Act as an advisory commission to the Township Board.
- Consider, study, and make recommendations relative to the development of new programs and for improvements to existing programs.
- Recommend proposals for the use and/or improvement of the properties within its charge.
- Collaborate with other Township commissions and committees, community groups and organizations, and the general public toward achieving community recreation goals.
- Perform such other acts and duties in connection with the operation of its programs as authorized or directed by the Township Board.

### **2.2.2. Recreation Department**

The Community Recreation Department for Grosse Ile Township employs three full-time positions and several seasonal part time positions. The Department also employs approximately 30 contract workers to help in the delivery of recreational programs.



The Recreation Director is a full-time position under the general supervision of the township manager, but is ultimately accountable to the Township Board. The Director, with the advice and input of the CRC, is responsible for assessing, developing, implementing and coordinating all aspects of the community-wide recreation program. This includes budgeting, program development, public relations, promotion, facility and equipment needs and staff management. The Director also works closely with many outside departments, organizations and volunteer groups to encourage a wide variety of recreational opportunities for the Township. The Director supervises the following staff members:

**Regular Staff - Year Round**

Enrichment Coordinator	Full Time
Golf Course Maintenance Lead/Mechanic	Full Time

**Part Time - Year Round**

Support Staff Person (Programs & Services)	Part Time
Support Staff Person (Programs & Services)	Part Time
Support Staff Person (Maintenance)	Part Time
Support Staff Person (Maintenance)	Part Time

**Part Time - Seasonal**

Golf Course Maintenance Grounds	Part Time
Aquatic Coordinator and Supervisor	Part Time
Lifeguards	Part Time
Pool and Pro Shop Attendants	Part Time
General Facility Maintenance	Part Time

**2.2.3. Department of Public Services (DPS) & Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)**

In 2005, the Township Board merged the Road Committee with the Department of Public Works Commission, resulting in the Public Services Commission. In the spring of 2010, the Township Board created a Bike Path Sub-Committee under the direction of the Department of Public Services. A member of the Community Recreation Commission was appointed to serve on the committee. In the fall of 2011, an ordinance was passed by the Township Board to create the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC). By the fall of 2012, the committee had created goals and objectives, a mission statement and their bylaws, all of which were approved by the Township Board in August of 2012. BPAC responsibilities include; review and make recommendations regarding the Township's Capital Improvement Plan, Township ordinances, and other planning documents and policies based on bicycle and pedestrian issues; evaluate and make



recommendations for an action plan for biking and walking facilities (on-street and off-street bikeways, shared-use paths, sidewalks, bike racks, crossings, signage and signalization); coordinate with internal and external agencies on maps and regional connections; develop education and public outreach programs on bicycle and pedestrian issues; and assist the Township in the development and maintenance of bicycle and pedestrian systems within the community.

Throughout the year, the DPS provides staff and equipment in support for special recreation maintenance projects and community-wide events. DPS support during the annual IslandFest and at the Centennial Farm compliments the operations of the Recreation Department.

#### **2.2.4. Public School District**

The Recreation Department has a strong partnership with the Grosse Ile Public School District. The Department works closely with the Superintendent's and Business Manager's Office, as well as the Grounds and Maintenance Staff. The Department relies heavily on the school facilities to conduct many of the Townships active recreation programs. When public school facilities are not being used by the Educational Program or for other school activities, the School Board gives consideration to the Township Recreation Department. The Department coordinates with other youth and sports associations to promote the maximum use of these facilities. The Department also provides liability insurance for the school properties during Recreation Department activities/events. This established arrangement provides a solid working relationship between the Recreation Department, public schools and outside associations.

#### **2.2.5. Other Committees, Commissions and Groups**

In addition to the groups and departments listed above, a number of other Township departments and groups cooperate to aid in the delivery of activities and management of parks and programming. Groups that coordinate to provide recreation in Grosse Ile include:

- **Planning Commission.** The Planning Commission plays a limited role in recreation planning and development. The Commission is the avenue for the Township to rezone property for recreation purposes and the Planning Commission reviews site plans for new recreation facilities or significant improvements to existing facilities.
- **Festival Commission.** The Festival Commission, established in 1998, consists of nine members including a Township Board Liaison. The Recreation Director serves the Commission by coordinating administrative support and assistance from other Township departments. This Commission is responsible for establishing an annual event promoting the economic, social,



cultural and recreational welfare of Grosse Ile Township. They provide coordination, direction and oversight of annual Township-sponsored festivals and any other special events approved by the Township Board.

- **Open Space/Greenways Committee.** The mission of the Committee is to protect the quality of life for the residents of Grosse Ile by maintaining the natural beauty and semi-rural ambience of the community. The Committee provides recommendations on possible land acquisitions to the Township Board. In 1999, the Committee compiled a Greenway Management Plan and an Open Space Inventory for the Township. The Plan gives recommendations on the proper care and maintenance of the acquired open space. The Committee is composed of representatives from the Township Board, Grosse Ile Nature and Land Conservancy, Beautification Committee, Planning Commission and residents at large. In 2009, a member of the Community Recreation Commission was appointed to this committee as a permanent liaison.
- **Island Beautification Committee.** The Island Beautification Committee was established in 1975 as an arm of the Grosse Ile Board of Trustees to help promote beautification and litter abatement in the Township. The Committee is a hands-on, low budget group whose primary goal is to make a noticeable difference. The Committee focuses on programs, projects and activities that help enhance the beauty of the community. The Committee cooperates with other Township committees and commissions and accepts functions and responsibilities as requested by the Township Board.
- **Grosse Ile Nature and Land Conservancy.** The Grosse Ile Nature and Land Conservancy is non-profit organization established by island residents in 1993. Its mission is to preserve significant land and water resources in perpetuity. Through direct purchase or donations, the Conservancy has acquired ownership or assumed stewardship of several environmentally significant properties including Hennepin Marsh, 40 acres on Gibraltar Bay (owned by the EPA), and Stony Island. The Conservancy works closely with the Recreation Department to coordinate and promote outdoor education programs, summer camps and land resources. The Conservancy also makes their significant properties available to youth groups for educational outings. The Conservancy's administrative office is located at Centennial Farm Park.
- **Grosse Ile Alliance for the Arts.** The Alliance's mission is to create opportunities for experiencing the arts, support scholarships for second-year college students studying the arts and cooperate with other Grosse Ile and Downriver groups in the promotion of the arts. The Alliance also supports the Macomb Street Business District by coordinating art related activities throughout the year. The Alliance's Sunday Concert Series has been a major



attraction to the Macomb Street area during the summer months. They also hold a major fundraising event during the community's annual festival each June.

- **Grosse Ile Educational Foundation.** The Grosse Ile Educational Foundation is a volunteer, non-profit organization committed to funding life-long educational experiences for students and families on Grosse Ile. The Foundation does this by providing financial support to creative and exemplary educational opportunities through the school district and the community. In addition to school programs and facilities, the foundation is extremely generous in supporting community organizations. A foundation grant was a major source of funding for the development of the children's garden at the Centennial Farm. The Foundation was also a major contributor towards the renovation of the community auditorium located at the high school, which is used throughout the year by many community groups in addition to traditional school activities.
- **Grosse Ile Airport Commerce Park & Airfield Commission.** The Grosse Ile Airport Commission provides facilities for a variety of community events throughout the year, including the community's annual IslandFest, which is a three-day festival held at both indoor and outdoor facilities. Airport personnel are very supportive in the overall coordination of the festival and other community oriented activities held at the airport.
- **The Grosse Ile Youth Recreation Association (GIYRA), Grosse Ile Soccer Association (GISA) and Grosse Ile Hockey Association (GIHA).** The Grosse Ile Youth Recreation Association (GIYRA) and the Grosse Ile Soccer Association (GISA) are two volunteer groups that provide quality recreational sports and programming for the youth of Grosse Ile Township. The Recreation Department assists GIYRA and GISA with items such as meetings, maintenance of facilities, promotion and fundraising events. GISA offers spring and fall soccer programs for both boys and girls ages 5 to 14 years (approximately 400 to 500 youth per season). GIYRA offers additional recreation activities by providing baseball, softball, football, basketball and cheerleading programs. These programs cater to different skill levels and age groups varying from 5 to 17 years old. The Grosse Ile Hockey Association (GIHA) provides hockey opportunities for Township youth from ages 3 through 16.
- **Grosse Ile Garden Club (GIGC).** Organized in 1927, the GIGC is one of the oldest volunteer community groups in the Township. The goal of the Club is to foster individual and community interest in gardening and to protect, conserve and beautify Grosse Ile Township. They have a wide variety of activities, continuing projects, and programs including plantings at the Free Bridge, 4 Corners, and the Customs House, the Wildlife Sanctuary Garden Tour, the Biannual



Flower Show, the Annual Festival and educational speakers and programs to enhance gardening knowledge.

- **Herb Society.** The Grosse Ile Herb Society’s purpose is to help the community learn and experience the value of nature and herbs. The Herb Society maintains gardens at the Historical Museum and Centennial Farm. Each May, the Society hosts the annual Herb Fest at the Centennial Farm. The festival features a giant plant sale, a marketplace, herbal tastings, garden gifts, exhibitors and children’s activities. This event attracts visitors from all across the region. The Society also provides garden tours to school groups, scouts and community organizations and participates in other island festivals such as IslandFest and Harvest Fest.
- **Volunteer Participation.** Grosse Ile Township Recreation Department encourages the participation of volunteers in the recreation program. In the past, it has been noted that volunteer involvement greatly enhances the quality of the Township’s recreation programs. Former volunteers have shown a sincere interest in the successful operation of the leisure time facilities and programs of the community.
- **Grosse Ile Downtown Development Authority.** The Township’s Downtown Development Authority (DDA) has also provided assistance to help fund certain recreation projects. It has been working with the Recreation Department on a plan for the Macomb Pocket Park, and participates in the IslandFest and other activities.

### ***2.3. Budget and Funding***

Budget expenditures and revenues for the Recreation Department were collected for the current and past three fiscal years. The Recreation Fund and Historical Farm Fund are the two main sources of monies utilized for the Department budget. The following information outlines the revenues and expenditures for the Township Recreation Department.

The Recreation Department manages four separate funds, each having their own source of revenue and their own expenditures. The past years’ budget and planned budget for each are described below. The total budget for 2015-2016 is \$1,253,504, which is divided amongst the four funds as follows:

- Recreation Fund 2015-2016 Budget: \$624,147
- Water’s Edge Fund 2015-2016 Budget: \$405,153
- Historical Farm Fund 2015-2016 Budget: \$155,029
- Festival Commission Fund 2015-2016 Budget: \$69,175



Other millages for recreation-related items such as open space and bike paths are managed by the Township Board.

### 2.3.1. Recreation Fund

Table 2-1 Recreation Fund Budget outlines actual revenues and expenditures for the past three fiscal years and those projected for the current fiscal year (2015-2016). The Recreation Fund receives revenues from four major funding sources for the Recreation Fund: Recreation Millage, charges for services, interest revenue, and other. The first recreation millage passed at 0.5 mill in 1986 to be assessed over a five-year period and has been renewed every five years since its inception. The millage will be placed on the ballot in the fall of 2016 for another renewal. A new Recreation Operations Millage was passed in the fall of 2013. The new millage is assessed at .375 mil over a five-year period. Both millages are essential to the financial stability of the department.

Expenditures include items such as salaries and benefits, operation, maintenance, events, programs, promotion, conferences and training, and equipment purchases.

<b>Table 2-1</b>				
<b>Recreation Fund Budget</b>				
	<b>12-13 Actual</b>	<b>13-14 Actual</b>	<b>14-15 Actual</b>	<b>15-16 Budgeted</b>
<b>Revenues</b>				
<b>Recreation Millage</b>	\$271,954	\$474,919	\$481,807	\$501,963
<b>Charges for Services</b>	\$102,219	\$97,536	\$92,555	\$98,184
<b>Interest Revenue</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Other Revenue</b>	\$32,000	\$50,000	\$0	\$0
<b>Total Revenues</b>	\$406,173	\$622,455	\$574,362	\$600,147
<b>Expenditures</b>				
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	\$376,506	\$441,095	\$376,593	\$447,666
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$29,668</b>	<b>\$181,360</b>	<b>\$197,769</b>	<b>\$152,481</b>

Source: Grosse Ile Township

### 2.3.2. Water's Edge Fund

Table 2-2 Water's Edge Fund Budget outlines actual revenues and expenditures for the past three fiscal years and those projected for the current fiscal year (2015-16). Prior to 2009, the Water's Edge Fund received revenues from membership fees for the golf course and pro shop. On December 14, 2009, with Community Recreation Commission support, the Township Board took final action in placing a public designation on the entire Water's Edge facility. In summary, by deciding to write off the Water's Edge debt (since 2000) to the general fund and combining and



transferring the balance sheet amounts to the Recreation Fund, the Township Board immediately eliminated the long standing deficit. This action simplified the reporting and budgeting as a combined entity consistent with all other government funds. This action also eliminated the annual depreciation cost of approximately \$70,000 under the enterprise system, thus eliminating the negative impact on the net income reported on the individual balance sheet. The combining of financial activities comes after a five year effort to open the Water’s Edge facility to the general public and eliminate the membership (private) restrictions on the facility. Shortly after approving the plan to eliminate the deficit, the State of Michigan, Department of Treasury accepted and approved the Deficit Reduction Plan submitted by the Township Board in 2010.

	<b>12-13 Actual</b>	<b>13-14 Actual</b>	<b>14-15 Actual</b>	<b>15-16 Budgeted</b>
<b>Balance Forward</b>	\$(80,590)	\$(110,535)	\$(271,816)	\$(233,799)
<b>Revenues</b>				
<b>Golf</b>	\$119,294	\$112,011	\$114,750	\$136,840
<b>Pro Shop</b>	\$1,377	\$1,559	\$2,142	\$0
<b>Marina</b>	\$113,900	\$122,711	\$102,815	\$112,850
<b>Pool</b>	\$53,648	\$36,185	\$31,517	\$38,000
<b>Restaurant</b>	\$39,000	\$42,024	\$39,612	\$40,500
<b>Bond Proceeds</b>	\$0	\$0	\$187,899	\$0
<b>Transfer in-Restaurant</b>	\$120,114	\$0	\$0	\$76,963
<b>Total Revenues</b>	\$447,333	\$314,489	\$478,730	\$405,153
<b>Expenditures</b>				
<b>Pro Shop</b>	\$78,134	\$75,090	\$74,770	\$0
<b>Golf</b>	\$147,914	\$149,342	\$246,806	\$213,331
<b>Marina</b>	\$73,791	\$85,954	\$81,993	\$84,473
<b>Pool</b>	\$67,543	\$57,454	\$62,097	\$68,100
<b>Water’s Edge Complex</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$116,450
<b>Restaurant Loan</b>	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$215,000	\$75,000
<b>Interest</b>	\$34,896	\$32,930	\$31,868	\$24,279
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	\$477,278	\$475,770	\$713,534	\$581,633
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$(29,954)</b>	<b>\$(161,281)</b>	<b>\$(233,799)</b>	<b>\$(176,480)</b>
Source: Grosse Ile Township				

### 2.3.3. Centennial Farm Fund

Table 2-3 Centennial Farm Fund Budget outlines actual revenues and expenditures for the past three fiscal years and those projected for the current fiscal year (2015-16). Revenues for the Farm generally come from charges for services and facility use, donations, and a cell tower lease. A special millage of 0.65 mils was passed in 1996 to be assessed over a four-year period for the acquisition of and capital improvements to Centennial Farm.



Expenditures generally include maintenance, utilities, equipment purchases, and administrative fees. In past years, a reduction in expenses can be attributed to the reduction of capital improvement projects that were necessary when the Township first took ownership of the farm.

<b>Table 2-3</b>				
<b>Centennial Farm Fund Budget</b>				
	<b>12-13 Actual</b>	<b>13-14 Actual</b>	<b>14-15 Actual</b>	<b>15-16 Budget</b>
<b>Balance Forward</b>	\$50,402	\$35,392	\$67,185	\$27,620
<b>Revenues</b>				
<b>Other Revenue</b>	\$85,579	\$90,764	\$90,548	\$155,029
<b>Total Revenues</b>	\$85,579	\$90,764	\$90,548	\$155,029
<b>Expenditures</b>				
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	\$100,589	\$58,970	\$130,113	\$155,029
<b>Balance</b>	<b>(\$15,010)</b>	<b>\$31,794</b>	<b>(\$39,565)</b>	<b>\$0</b>

Source: Grosse Ile Township

### 2.3.4. Festival Commission Fund

Table 2-4 Festival Commission Fund Budget outlines actual revenues and expenditures for the past three fiscal years and those projected for the current fiscal year (2015-16). The Festival Commission Fund generates revenues from sponsorships, organizations, events, food concession and fundraisers, as well as service charges. Expenditures include supplies, entertainment, shuttle service, and promotions for the event. Revenues have remained steady over the past few years. A balanced budget is proposed at \$69,175 for the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

<b>Table 2-4</b>				
<b>Festival Commission Fund Budget</b>				
	<b>12-13 Actual</b>	<b>13-14 Actual</b>	<b>14-15 Actual</b>	<b>15-16 Budget</b>
<b>Revenues</b>				
<b>Contributions</b>	\$26,219	\$30,450	\$42,448	\$46,300
<b>Concessions</b>	\$4,277	\$3,158	\$4,115	\$4,640
<b>Charges for Services</b>	\$39,359	\$33,542	\$23,769	\$18,235
<b>Total Revenues</b>	\$69,855	\$67,150	\$70,332	\$69,175
<b>Expenditures</b>				
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	\$69,525	\$55,830	\$65,929	\$69,175
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$300</b>	<b>\$11,320</b>	<b>\$4,403</b>	<b>\$0</b>

Source: Grosse Ile Township

### 2.3.5. Other Recreation Related Millages



The Township has experienced a great deal of success in passing recreation and open space-related millages for the improvement of Township facilities and programs. The millage history is outlined in the *Table 2-5 Other Recreation Related Millages* for three additional recreation related funding sources. As the need for the millages ceased, renewals were not pursued.

- **Open Space Millage.** A 1.0 millage for the purchase of open space in the Township was first approved in 1990 and was renewed in November 2005. The Township did not seek renewal; the last funds were collected in 2010.
- **Open Space Maintenance Millage.** A 0.25 millage for the maintenance of open space areas was established in 1997 and expired in 2002.
- **Bike Path Maintenance Millage.** From 1993-1995, the Township residents approved a 1.0 millage for the construction of a bike path system on the island. In 1996, residents approved a 0.1 millage for funding to maintain the constructed bike path system. This millage was renewed in November 2005. The millage expired in 2010, no renewals were proposed.

Millage	2010	2011						
Open Space	.9999	0						
Open Space Maintenance	.0	0						
Bike Path Maintenance	.9999	0						

Source: Grosse Ile Township

### 2.3.6. Grant Inventory

Grosse Ile has received state grants for various projects in addition several CDBG grants in the past which supplement local capital project expenditures. *Table 2-6 Recreation Grant History* summarizes the state recreation grants awarded to the Township, and *Table 2-7 Other Grant History*, specifies those projects funded through Community Development Block Grant funds and other sources.

Grant Number	Grant Amount	Year Received	Project	Current Inventory
1989 Tourism	\$120,000	1989	Meridian Road Bike Path	Manchester to Lowrie: Phase One of 7 mile system
BF-105	\$90,000	1993	High School Athletic Fields	Developed 2 softball fields
TF96-210	\$100,000	1996	Frenchman's Creek Greenway and Preserve Land Acquisition	7.16 acres of natural land for the purposes of a nature preserve, greenway, drainage way, preservation and passive recreation
BF98-104	\$28,050	1998	Airport Recreation Area Athletic Fields	3 soccer fields and a gravel parking lot



**Table 2-7  
Other Grant History**

Project	Grant Amount	Year Received	Park
<b>Community Development Block Grants</b>			
Purchase Senior Van	\$13,300	1995	Community-wide use
ADA Play Equipment	\$57,271	1996	Meridian/Park Lane Schools
ADA Pathways	\$15,903	1997	Athletic Field Connector
Blight Removal/Restoration	\$11,316	1997	Airport Recreation Area
Play Equipment/Ground Cover	\$19,000	1998	Centennial Farm
ADA Pathway	\$35,027	2000	East River to Middle School
Removal/Restoration of Play Area	\$15,794	2002	East River School
Play Equipment	\$21,000	2002	East River School
ADA Pathway	\$1,990	2003	Township Hall/Festival Area
ADA Playground Surfacing	\$12,215	2003	Meridian/Parke Lane
Senior Van (with Wheelchair Lift)	\$46,991	2004	Community-wide use
ADA Pathways/Hard Play Surfaces	\$90,000	2005	Meridian/Parke Lane
ADA Pathway	\$54,983	2008	Water's Edge
Planning – Recreation Master Plan	\$14,100	2010	Community-wide use
Planning – Recreation Master Plan	\$10,161	2011	Community-wide use
ADA – Parking Lot	\$41,072	2013	Water's Edge
ADA – Kayak Launch and Parking Lot	\$65,000	2012-2014	Water's Edge
ADA – Pool Lift	\$31,000	2013-2014	Water's Edge
Senior Van	\$26,000	2014-2015	Community-wide use
<b>Other Grants</b>			
Water's Edge Basketball Court (Wayne County Grant)	\$50,000	2008	Water's Edge
Safe Routes to School (SAFETEA-LU)	\$494,000	2008	Various sidewalks

Source: Wayne County and Grosse Ile Township





# 3: Recreation and Resource Inventory

A complete inventory of recreation facilities, programs, and events 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 Plan's Action Program. Understanding what facilities, programs, and events are available to Grosse Ile residents will assist decision-making in the future. The inventory covers the following listed components:

- Public Parks and Facilities
- Semi-Public Parks and Facilities
- Public School Parks and Facilities
- Private Parks and Facilities
- Regional Parks and Facilities
- Township Recreation Programs
- Volunteer Organizations and Service Clubs



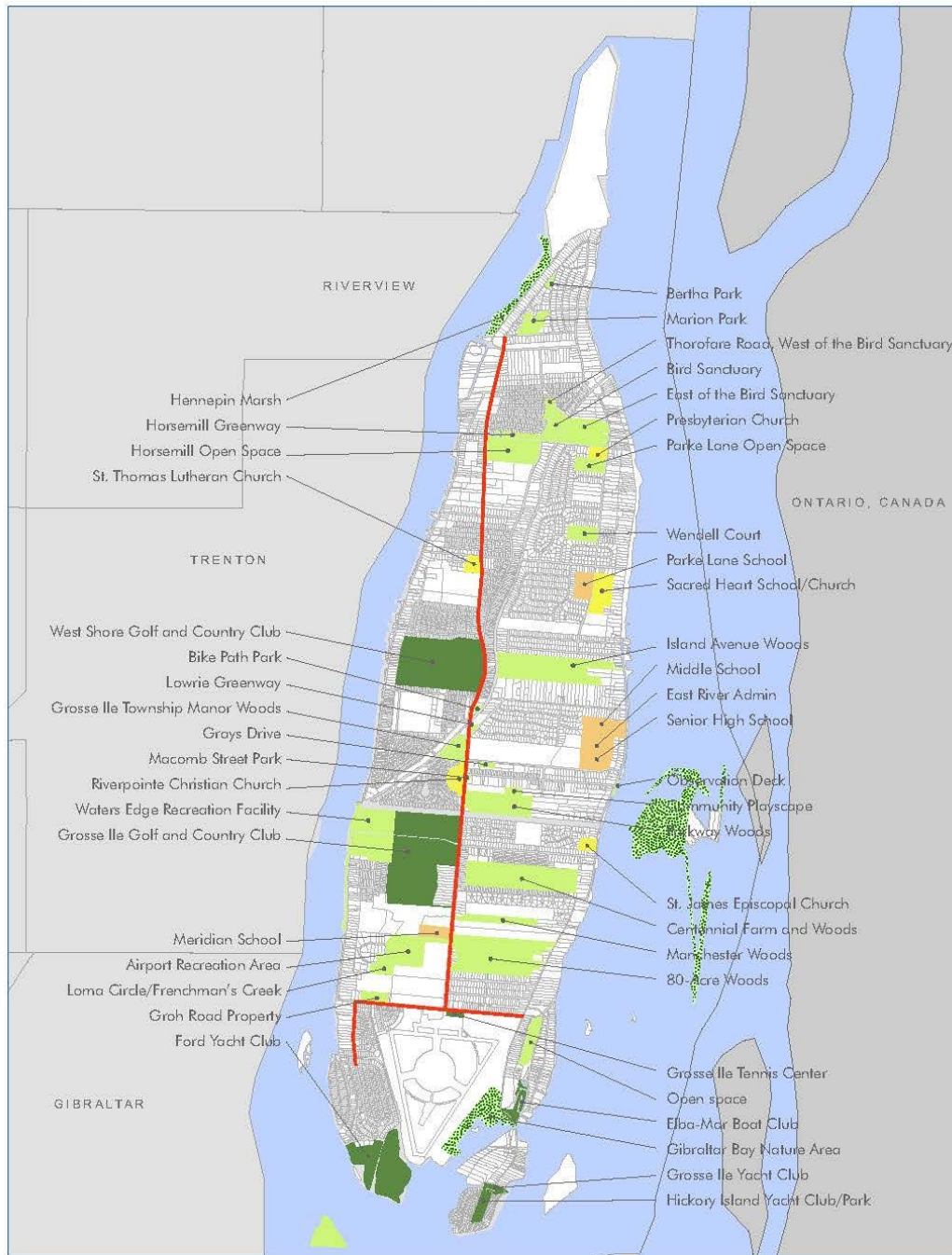
### 3.1. Public Parks and Facilities

Grosse Ile Township contains a variety of well-maintained public parks and recreation facilities. As part of this plan update, park facilities throughout the township, and some not owned by the township were reviewed and inventoried. More than 1,074 acres of land were inventoried, which includes both active parkland and protected open space. This inventory is shown below in *Table 3-1 Parks and Facilities Inventory* and is depicted on *Map One Public Parks and Open Space*.

Park	Acres	Barrier Free Accessibility	Baseball Fields	Softball Fields	Soccer Fields	Football Fields/Track	Basketball Court	Multi-Purpose/Practice	Tennis Courts	Gymnasiums	Playgrounds	Picnic Facilities	Sledding Hills	Golf Courses	Swimming Pools	Marinas	Paths/Trails	Dog Parks
<b>Public Parks and Facilities</b>																		
Airport Recreation Area	29.6	1			7	1		2					1				Y	
Bertha Park	1.1	0																
Bird Sanctuary	12.7	0															Y	
Centennial Farm	32.0	2									1	Y					Y	1
Community Playscape	.28	1									1						Y	
Macomb Street Observation Deck	.5	2																
Marion Park	10.9	0																
Manchester Woods Trail	1.1	0															Y	
Sunrise Park	.31	0										Y						
Water's Edge Recreation Area	75	2				1	1					Y		1	2	1		
Undeveloped Open Space	552	0																
<b>Public Subtotal</b>	<b>715.5</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Semi-Public Parks and Facilities</b>																		
Gibraltar Bay Nature Area	40	-															Y	
Hennepin Marsh	121	-																
Stony Island	240	-																
<b>Semi-Public Subtotal</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Public School Parks and Facilities</b>																		
Meridian Elementary	10	-		1	1		1			1	1						Y	
Parke Lane Elementary	12	-	2				1			1	2							
Senior High, Middle School & East River Admin. Building	52	-	3	3	3	1		1	8	1	1				1			
<b>Public School Subtotal</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,190.5</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>

Source: Grosse Ile Township; LSL Planning





Map One  
**Public Parks & Open Space**  
 Grosse Ile, MI Parks and Recreation

- Trail System
- Public
- Private
- Public School
- Private School/Church
- Nature Conservancy

February 2016  
 Source: MCGI; Grosse Ile Township

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

LSI Planning, Inc.  
 University of Michigan



### 3.1.1. Airport Recreation Area

The Township acquired 29.61 acres of parkland located within the Airport Industrial Park from the Michigan Department of Transportation, Bureau of Aeronautics. The Grosse Ile Recreation Department along with our community sport groups developed one full-sized, five intermediate-sized and three peewee-sized soccer fields and a sledding hill at the Airport Recreation Area, with a portion of the funding coming from a grant from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The property also has three 60-yard practice football fields (located on Airport Commence Park property, adjacent to the Airport Recreation Area).



### 3.1.2. Bertha and Marion Parks

Bertha and Marion Parks are located in the northern portion of the Township and remain undeveloped with no constructed recreation amenities.

### 3.1.3. Bird Sanctuary

The Bird Sanctuary is a 12.7-acre parcel of land bordered by the Thorofare Canal on the east, Horsemill Road on the south, and Thorofare Road on the west. The area remains undeveloped, and is being preserved in its natural wooded state as a bird and wildlife habitat with access provided by a wood-chip walking trail.



### 3.1.4. Centennial Farm

Centennial Farm is a 32-acre parcel of land housing a wide-variety of uses. The property was purchased in 1996 through passage of a three year millage.

- **Recreation Building.** A 4,800 square foot converted pole barn houses two meeting/activity rooms for community use or rental, a kitchen, storage area,



restrooms, additional office space that opens directly to the outside, and a 24-hour accessible restroom. A large paved parking lot is available which provides ample parking for a variety of special events.

- **Equestrian Center.** The farm consists of the Township Equestrian Center managed by Luton Riding Academy. The riding facilities include indoor stalls for horse boarding, indoor and outdoor arenas, outdoor exercise areas, and a bridle trail. Residents can use the facility to board their horses or use the horses owned by the Academy as part of their training and lessons. While horses are the predominant animal on-site, there is also a building that can house other types of animals.
- **Outdoor Activity Areas.** In addition to the outdoor horse riding areas the property also features a barrier-free playground, picnic pavilion, a dog park, children’s garden, a nature pond, and trails. These areas are open for all types of activities such as special events, educational programs, picnics, and boy scout camping.
- **Community Animal Shelter.** The community animal shelter is located near the recreation building for boarding, adopting and managing animals sent to the shelter.



### 3.1.5. Community Playscape

In April 1990, a group of residents formed the Grosse Ile Community Playground Committee. The purpose of this non-profit group was to secure necessary funding, materials, land and volunteers needed to construct the Township’s first public, community playground. The Township Board granted the group approval to construct a multilevel play structure and picnic area on 0.28-acres of Township owned property on the south side of Macomb Street. By October 1991, the committee had raised \$50,000 and organized hundreds of volunteers to construct the playscape. Before dissolving, the committee transferred control of the playscape to the Township and established a “Friends of the Playscape” group to remain active in the maintenance and use of the facility. The area now contains a parking lot with a connecting, barrier-free, asphalt pathway.



### 3.1.6. Macomb Pocket Park

This small site was acquired by the township and Downtown Development Authority for the purpose of a future pocket park. It is undeveloped, but the township has plans to develop it as a mini-park for neighborhood residents. One of the Township's goals in this plan is to develop a final plan for this park.

### 3.1.7. Macomb Street Observation Deck

An observation deck was constructed along the east shoreline at the foot of Macomb Street in September 1991. The deck consists of three basic parts: an octagonal shaped floor measuring approximately 15.5 feet in diameter; a 20-foot long, 5-foot wide extension plank; and an entrance ramp providing access from East River Road. The public is able to use the deck as a lookout point from which to enjoy a view of the Detroit River as well as Stony Island. The observation deck is in need of major repairs or total replacement.

### 3.1.8. Water's Edge Recreation Facility

Located on approximately 75 acres at the intersection of Bellevue and West River Roads, this unique facility provides golfing, swimming, and boating. It includes a regulation nine-hole golf course, a footgolf course, a driving range and a putting green. The course is maintained for golfing enjoyment seven days a week. Water's Edge employs a golf professional who offers golf lessons at all levels of play, and coordinates a Junior Golf program.



Water's Edge offers the use of two swimming pools. The larger pool measures 30 X 75 feet, has five lanes, and a three- to five-foot depth range. The smaller, or training, pool measures 20 X 40 feet, and has a maximum depth of three feet. Adjacent to the pool area is a sand volleyball court and an outdoor basketball court. A picnic pavilion is also available for use during community special events, private rentals and fundraisers.



In 2014, a multi-seasonal outdoor rink was constructed with the help of numerous volunteers and funding from a MDNR grant, the Horton Foundation and the Recreation Department.

The marina at Water's Edge provides summer dockage for 56 boats and winter storage for approximately 80 boats. Launches, haul outs, and emergency services are provided by a marina lift operator. The marina currently occupies 800 feet of waterfront property, with roughly 920 feet of waterfront property available for future marina expansion. In 2009, a 300-foot long seawall and boardwalk was installed to enhance this recreation area amenity. In 2015, a universally-accessible kayak launch was installed at the south end of the marina.

### **3.1.9. Bike Paths**

A millage was passed in 1993 for the construction of a paved, non-motorized trail network within the Township. A bike path maintenance millage was passed in 1997. To date, nearly eight miles of the trail system have been constructed with some assistance from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Michigan Department of Transportation. The trail system was planned and has been constructed in multiple segments over the past decade. Future plans for the bike path are detailed in the Action Program.

The Township currently has an established bike path system with plans for further expansion in the coming years. The CRC supports the development of this system and is committed to ensuring that bike path routes connect residents with park and recreation facilities.

### **3.1.10. Undeveloped Open Space**



The Township owns approximately 600 acres of dedicated open space. Over several years and through multiple millages, the Open Space Committee and Township have purchased this land for the purpose of preservation, with the intention that they remain as natural woodlands and wetlands, habitats for both fauna and flora, and free from the impacts of intruding development. Uses at these sites are limited to extremely passive recreation. The Grosse Ile Township Open Space and Nature Trail Guides contain detailed information on each open space area and trails including location and tree and wildlife species, and are available at Township Hall and the township's webpage ([www.grosseile.com](http://www.grosseile.com)). The following is a list of the individual open spaces and their respective sizes.

- Bike Path Park (1.9 acres)
- Centennial Farm Open Space (84 acres)
- East of the Bird Sanctuary (40 acres)
- Grays Drive Open Space (2 acres)
- Grosse Ile Township Manor Woods (9.33 acres)
- Groh Road Property (7 acres)
- Horsemill Greenway (5 acres)
- Horsemill Open Space (34 acres)
- Island Avenue Woods (73 acres)
- Loma Circle/Frenchman's Creek (14.8 acres)
- Lowrie Greenway (0.6 acres)
- Manchester Woods (153 acres)
- Parklane Open space (10 acres)
- Parkway Woods (32 acres)
- Recreation Area Trail (14 acres)
- Thorofare Road (3 acres)
- Wendell Court (12 acres)

### **3.1.11. Barrier Free Accessibility**

The passage of the American Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) required all areas of public service to have barrier-free accessibility, including parks and recreation parks and facilities. Since then, the Community Recreation Commission has taken action to provide barrier-free access at public school and Township facilities, including the recently installed kayak launch at Water's Edge Marina.

Example projects include providing access to parking areas, playgrounds, athletic facilities and community gathering areas. The Township continues to utilize Community Development Block Grant funding to improve access throughout the community. An evaluation of Grosse Ile Township's parks and facilities has been conducted as part of the inventory. In accordance with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) 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

An evaluation system was used to rank each park's accessibility. The system is described below and the accessibility rankings can be found in *Table 3-1 Public Parks and Facilities Inventory*.

- **Accessibility Level 0.** The park is completely undeveloped and left in a natural state with no paved surfaces.
- **Accessibility Level 1.** The park is not accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. This site includes little paved areas and the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are not easily accessible.
- **Accessibility Level 2.** The park is somewhat accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Either the parking or pathways are paved, but not both. Many of the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are not easily accessible.
- **Accessibility Level 3.** The park is mostly accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Most of the parking and pathways are paved, some of the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are accessible but may not be completely barrier-free.
- **Accessibility Level 4.** The park is completely accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Parking areas and pathways are paved, and most of the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are easily accessible.
- **Accessibility Level 5.** The entire park was designed using the principles of universal design, enabling all environments to be usable by everyone, regardless of age, ability, or situation.

### ***3.2. Semi-Public Parks and Facilities***

The properties currently under the stewardship of the Grosse Ile Nature and Land Conservancy have been characterized as semi-public properties for the purposes of this Plan. The Nature and Land Conservancy and Township work closely with one another to protect environmentally sensitive areas of the Township, while providing access to these sites for passive recreational enjoyment and educational benefit. The Conservancy has stewardship of three primary properties in the Township.

#### **3.2.1. Gibraltar Bay Nature Area**



The Gibraltar Bay Unit is accessed from E. River Road and is adjacent to the Grosse Ile Township Airport. Much of the land of the Gibraltar Bay Unit was once used as a former D-51 Nike Missile site. The site was home to 30 anti-aircraft Nike Ajax missiles, 12 launchers, and two radar towers between 1955 and 1963. The embankment to Gibraltar Bay continues to protect the former launcher area. After the site clean-up was complete in 1998, the unit was planted to grassland habitat. The U.S. Department of Defense turned the site over to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which partnered with the GINLC to restore the area's habitat and provide public access. A shoreline habitat project completed in the mid-2000s introduced a number of native plants. Water flows through the embayment from the east side of Grosse Ile, and its aquatic plant community is diverse. Emergent species are threesquare, arrowhead, pickerelweed, flowering rush, and American lotus and emergent species include pondweeds, wild celery, muskgrass, and others. This bay is important for bass, pike, and long-nose gar.

With the establishment of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) took possession of the site from the EPA. The GINLC continues to have a presence at the Gibraltar Bay Unit, partnering with FWS, volunteering on habitat restoration projects and conducting Sunday Open House events and nature programs on a semi-regular basis May through October.

### **3.2.2. Stony Island**

In August 2011, the 29-acre Sugar Island was purchased by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service with federal Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding for inclusion in the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. The western beach is open to the public for day use by boating access from Memorial Day to Labor Day. There are no restrooms and alcohol, camping and campfires are prohibited. The rest of the island is closed except to licensed hunters in season. Research and environmental education is allowed on the island under special-use permits.

### **3.2.3. Hennepin Marsh**

The Hennepin Marsh is a 121-acre shallow water wetland bordering the Detroit River Trenton Channel, stretching north from the Toll Bridge on the west side of Grosse Ile. Viewing access is available through Hennepin Marsh Gateway Preserve.

### **3.2.4. Calf Island**



A naturally formed island in the lower Trenton Channel, the 11-acre Calf Island provides important stopover habitat for migratory songbirds. Each end of the island is flanked by high quality wild celery beds important for fish and waterfowl. The forest is reflective of intensive farming and development with ruins of old structures, lilac bushes, and decades-old debris. On the north side of the island, an emergent wetland is present, surrounded by willows. A number of mature red and swamp white oaks also exist on the island. With the exception of hunting in season, public use activity on the island is prohibited at this time. Calf Island was included in the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge in 2002.

### ***3.3. Public School Parks and Facilities***

The children of Grosse Ile Township are served by the Grosse Ile school district. A total of five public schools contain various types of facilities that are used by school teams, Township programs, and athletic organizations.

Traditionally, a spirit of cooperation has existed between the school district and the Township and facilities are shared whenever possible. Township recreation programs receive secondary use of school facilities. School open space, gymnasiums, meeting rooms, athletic fields, and playgrounds all contribute toward meeting local recreation needs. A current inventory of school facilities located within the Township is included in *Map One Public Parks and Open Space*.

#### **3.3.1. Senior High School, Middle School and East River Administration Building**

The Grosse Ile High School and Middle School complex is located along Grays Drive, west of East River Road. The schools are located on approximately fifty-two acres of land. Outdoor recreation facilities include soccer fields, baseball fields, softball fields, a football field and track, eight (unlit) tennis courts, multi-purpose/practice fields and open space.



#### **3.3.2. Parke Lane Elementary**



The Parke Lane Elementary School is located on approximately twelve acres along Parke Lane, across from Sacred Heart on the east side of the island. Primary facilities include baseball fields, outdoor basketball court, play areas and open space.

### **3.3.3. Meridian Elementary**

The Meridian Elementary School is located on approximately ten acres of land along Meridian Road, just north of the Airport Recreation Area. Facilities include a soccer field, softball field, outdoor basketball court, play area and open space, all surrounded by a paved walking path.

## ***3.4. Private Parks and Facilities***

Grosse Ile contains eight primary private recreation facilities that provide recreational opportunities that complement those provided by the Township. Although these facilities are privately operated and often charge a user fee or require membership, they are considered in the plan analysis because they meet specific recreation needs. Private facilities that serve area residents include:

### **3.4.1. Elba-Mar Boat Club**

The Elba-Mar Boat Club is a private club founded in 1955. It is located on the southeastern portion of the island and provides 250 wells for power boats as well as a clubhouse with dining and drinking facilities.

### **3.4.2. Ford Yacht Club**

The Ford Yacht Club is a family-oriented organization located at the southwestern tip of Grosse Ile. The complex includes a complete marina facility and a clubhouse. The building facilities include a clubhouse, library, dining room, lounge, and game room. The marina offers 275 boat wells ranging in length from 25 to 45 feet and is equipped with electricity and water. The marina is able to move and launch sail and powerboats up to fifteen tons. Winter storage is available for approximately 500 boats. The grounds, including Round Island, have areas for picnics and a small basketball court. Round Island is an undeveloped, significantly wooded area that provides privacy for the club complex.

### **3.4.3. Grosse Ile Golf and Country Club**



The Grosse Ile Golf and Country Club is a private club located on the west side of Grosse Ile. The Club was incorporated in 1919, and has been a long standing Island tradition. With a strong and dedicated membership, the Club has progressed over the years to become a premier country club facility. The club includes an 18-hole, Donald Ross golf course that provides challenging golf in a beautiful setting in the finest tradition of the game. Other amenities include a clubhouse, banquet facilities, regulation swimming pool, four clay tennis courts, professional golf shop, swimming programs, and exercise rooms.

#### **3.4.4. Grosse Ile Yacht Club**

The Grosse Ile Yacht Club is a private facility located on the southeastern tip of Grosse Ile along East River Road. It is located on approximately four acres of land and includes a club house. The club has many boating and non-boating activities.

#### **3.4.5. Hickory Island Park and Yacht Club**

The Hickory Island Park and Yacht Club is located in the center of Hickory Island and is available to residents of Hickory Island. It contains open space, a baseball/softball field, two tennis courts, a basketball court, playground, gazebo and three Par-3 golf holes.

#### **3.4.6. Sacred Heart Church**

Sacred Heart is located on approximately twenty acres on the east side of the island, along Parke Lane, across from Parke Elementary School. Sacred Heart has a soccer field, baseball field, sand volleyball court and open space.

#### **3.4.7. West Shore Golf and Country Club**

The club was originally designed in 1908 and was the first private club on Grosse Ile. West Shore Golf and Country Club is an 18-hole course that has been selected to host several Golf Association of Michigan and United States Golf Association qualifying events over the past several years. The recently expanded club house provides dining, card room, television viewing, private parties, showers, birthday celebrations, etc.

#### **3.4.8. Other Churches**



There are five churches on the island that don't contain schools. These include St. Thomas Lutheran Church, Northridge Church, St. James Episcopal Church, Sacred Heart and Grosse Ile Presbyterian Church. These parishes have the potential to enter into a mutually beneficial partnership with the Township if land or facility space is needed by either party, so an open dialogue should be maintained.

### ***3.5. Regional Parks and Facilities***

Regional parks offer unique natural features that are particularly suited for outdoor recreation, such as viewing and studying nature, wildlife habitats, fishing, boating, hiking, and trail use. Many also include active play areas such as ball fields or courts. While these parks are not used for formal programming by the Grosse Ile Township, they provide opportunities for relaxed family activities. Regional Parks are depicted on *Map Two Regional Parks*.

There are several recreational opportunities located in relatively close proximity to Grosse Ile. These facilities range from State Parks, parks under the authority of the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority, Wayne County Parks, to regional pathways as part of the Downriver Linked Greenways Initiative and local facilities of nearby communities.

#### **3.5.1. Michigan State Parks**

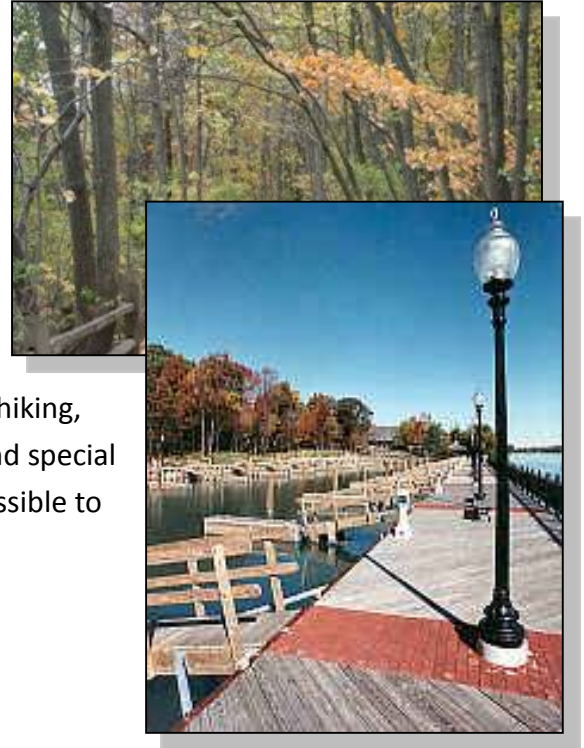
There are twenty-one State Parks in southeast Michigan that provide recreational opportunities to residents of Grosse Ile and the region. Sterling State Park, located north of Monroe, is the closest to Grosse Ile Township. It is the only state park on Lake Erie and it provides swimming, boating, fishing and year-round camping. There are also acres of lagoons and marshes for wildlife viewing. Tri-Centennial State Park and Harbor in Detroit is the first urban park in Michigan, with thirty-one acres located along the banks of the Detroit River. Tri-Centennial Park offers several covered picnic areas, shoreline fishing and a 52-slip harbor.



### 3.5.2. Huron-Clinton Metro Parks

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 park land, 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, and special programs. There are four Metroparks that are easily accessible to Grosse Ile Township residents, including:

- Lake Erie (Brownstown)
- Lower Huron (Belleville)
- Oakwoods (Belleville)
- Willow (Belleville)



### 3.5.3. Wayne County Parks

The mission of the Wayne County Parks and Recreation Department is “to provide stewardship for the unique natural and historic resources that make up Wayne County Parks and to improve the quality of life for our citizens by providing recreational opportunities to enhance access and enjoyment of these resources.” There are two Wayne County Parks, Elizabeth Park and Elizabeth Park Marina, in the City of Trenton that are in close proximity to Grosse Ile and are accessible to its residents. These parks offer a riverwalk, fishing, picnic/event shelters, boat wells, and parking.

### 3.5.4. Neighboring Community Parks

In cooperation with the City of Wyandotte and the Wyandotte Boat Club (WBC), the residents of Grosse Ile Township are offered a unique recreational opportunity. The WBC is the largest rowing facility in the United States holding over 100 shells in its storage bays. The 36,000 square foot complex was designed to meet all the rowing needs of the local community as well as featuring a bar, dance floor and meeting room for club members. The WBC was established in 1875 and is a non-profit organization that has been dedicated to promoting amateur rowing for the past 125 years. The WBC is home to five local high school crews one of which is Grosse Ile High School. In



addition, nearly 300 clubs, junior high crews and recreational rowers utilize the facility. The Club also offers programs for anyone interested in learning the sport of rowing or becoming part of a rowing crew.

As part of the Grosse Ile-Trenton Utilities Authority agreement in 1980 with the City of Trenton, the two communities also agreed to extend resident rates and privileges to each other’s residents at the Water’s Edge Recreation Facility and Trenton’s Boat Launch at Rotary Park. The City’s Kennedy Ice Arena also offers skating classes, adult figure skating, open skating and hockey programs for all age groups.

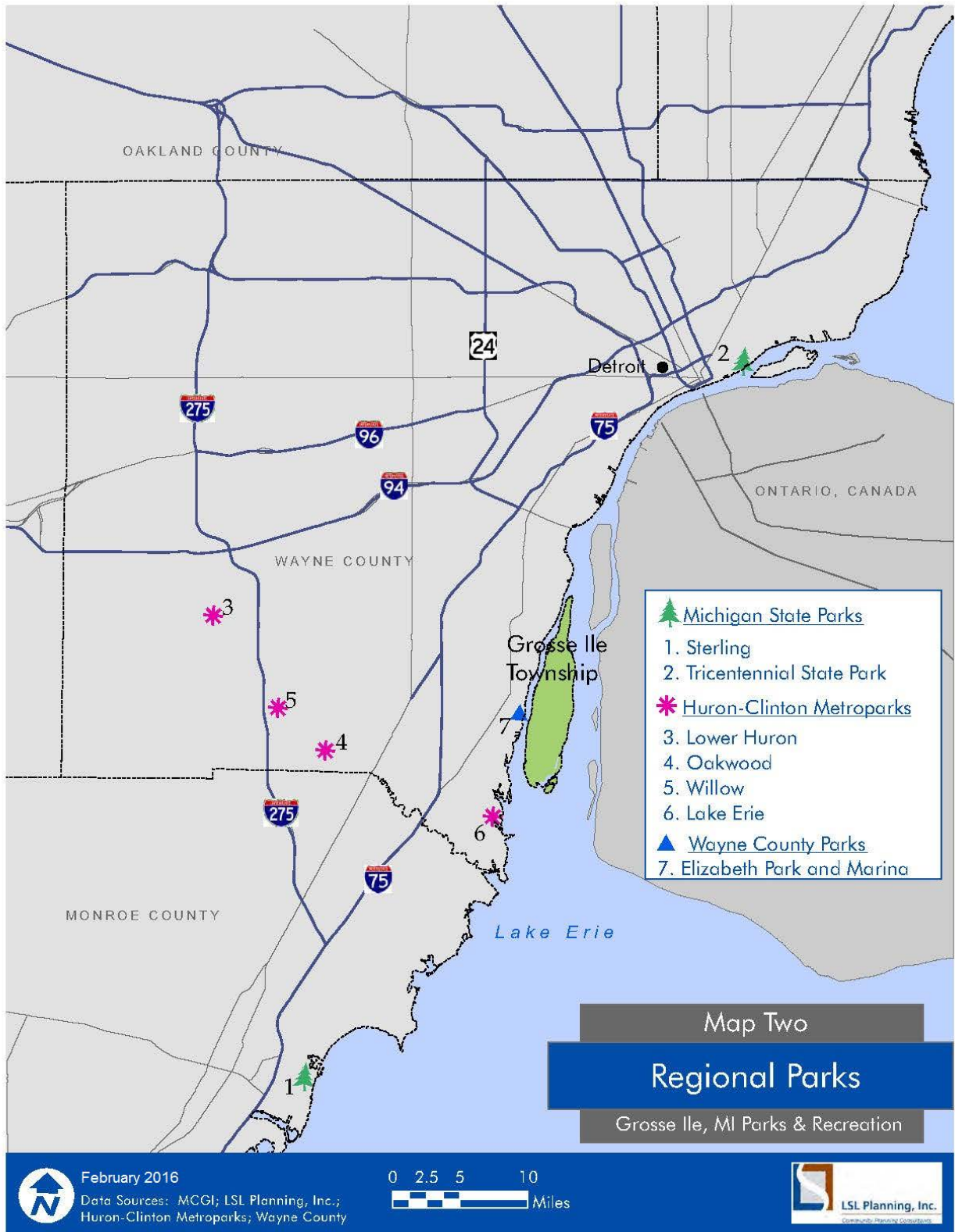
### 3.5.5. Downriver Linked Greenways Initiative

The Downriver Linked Greenways Initiative is a regional non-motorized pathway vision for the downriver region. It is envisioned that this regional pathway system will connect the seventeen downriver communities and Wayne County through a network of trails and greenways, and will link into a regional and statewide system of greenways. The effort to produce a coordinated, functioning, non-motorized system is an essential factor in the quality of life for the downriver communities. The Downriver Linked Greenways system consists of four primary segments:

- Hines Drive/Rouge Gateway
- I-275 corridor
- Metroparks/Flat Rock/Grosse Ile
- I-75/Detroit River

In addition to these four primary segments, the Downriver Linked Greenways will continue north through the city of Detroit along the Detroit River, south to Monroe and Toledo, and west leading to Ann Arbor, thereby connecting the local parks to the emerging regional and statewide network.





## ***3.6. Township Recreation Programs***

Numerous recreation programs and activities are offered through the Grosse Ile Township Recreation Department. An understanding of these activities and events currently offered by the Township will help in identifying unmet programming needs. The program year is divided into three sessions: Winter/Spring, Summer, and Fall. Within these sessions the programs are further broken down into Youth, Adult, Senior, Special Events, Travel, Fitness and Sports, Aquatic, Golf, Marina and Equestrian activities. The Recreation Department produces the Channels Program Guide that outlines the available activities through the Department as well as programs offered by other sports and leisure providers. Programs and services are continually updated and promoted on the Township website, the Grosse Ile Television (GITV) channel, Facebook, Twitter and email.

### **3.6.1. Adult Programs**

The programs offered to the adult residents of Grosse Ile Township through the Recreation Department are designed to provide continuing education, teach new skills and are just for fun. Computers, the arts, culinary arts, gardening, dance and other miscellaneous classes are outlined in the Channels Program Guide. Many programs and classes are offered on a seasonal basis for example, during the Fall session many culinary art classes like Thanksgiving Dinner, Party Foods and Appetizers are offered. The Winter/Spring session offers educational opportunities in boating, gardening and travel classes to prepare for the summer months. The following is a summarized list of programs offered to adults in the Township:

- Art/Painting
- Boating Safety
- Dance (Social & Line)
- Dog Obedience
- Gardening
- Knitting
- Crochet
- Scrapbooks
- Singles Activities
- Entertaining
- Technology
- Travelogue
- Self Defense
- Volleyball Leagues
- Tri-City Softball League



### 3.6.2. Youth Programs

Youth programs are designed for children ranging from preschool age through teenagers. A wide variety of activities are offered to interest this diverse age group. With the renovations to school facilities, Centennial Farm, Water’s Edge and the Airport Recreation Area, the Recreation Department is better able to coordinate Youth Programs and is looking to expand program activities in the future. Each season, the Recreation Department designs special activities through the Youth Program. During the summer months, everything from camps, sports, theater, nature and science classes are offered ranging from one-day events up to six-week courses. Periodically during designated days off from school, students can sign up for activities and day trips.

The following is a summarized list of many of the available Youth Programs offered each year by the Recreation Department:

General Programs	Summer Camps	Preschool Programs	After School Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Babysitting</li> <li>▪ Cooking</li> <li>▪ Family Fun Series</li> <li>▪ Basketball</li> <li>▪ Improvisation</li> <li>▪ Music</li> <li>▪ Tae Kwon Do</li> <li>▪ Art Classes</li> <li>▪ Robotics</li> <li>▪ Lifeguarding</li> <li>▪ Basic Water Rescue</li> <li>▪ Marine Safety</li> <li>▪ Children’s Choir</li> <li>▪ Running Programs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Art</li> <li>▪ Jr. Powerboat</li> <li>▪ Fitness</li> <li>▪ Language</li> <li>▪ Nature</li> <li>▪ Science</li> <li>▪ Fun in the Sun</li> <li>▪ Sports (variety of camps)</li> <li>▪ Cheerleading</li> <li>▪ Theatre</li> <li>▪ Video</li> <li>▪ Young Writer’s Workshop</li> <li>▪ Camera Camp</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Garden/Nature</li> <li>▪ Math</li> <li>▪ Music</li> <li>▪ Art Activities</li> <li>▪ Play Activities</li> <li>▪ Sports (variety of programs)</li> <li>▪ Parent &amp; Tot Swim</li> <li>▪ Science</li> <li>▪ Gardening</li> <li>▪ Safety Town</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Art</li> <li>▪ Computers</li> <li>▪ Cooking</li> <li>▪ Crafts</li> <li>▪ Hobbies/Crafts</li> <li>▪ Language</li> <li>▪ Rocketry</li> <li>▪ Science</li> <li>▪ Sports</li> <li>▪ Theater</li> <li>▪ Video Production</li> <li>▪ Photography</li> <li>▪ Babysitting Clinics</li> </ul>

### 3.6.3. Senior Programs

The Recreation Department provides continual programs specifically designed to serve the senior citizens of Grosse Ile Township. The Grosse Ile Senior Citizens Club meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at the recreation building at Centennial Farm. Regular card parties and drop-in programs are offered at the Center. The “Morning Walk” activity offered under the Sports and Fitness program is also a favored interest with the senior residents of the Township. Other individual programs and activities for seniors are scheduled throughout the year. A Pinochle Tournament is generally offered nine times each year, holiday events like Christmas, Valentine’s



and St. Patrick's Day celebrations are regularly scheduled, and fitness programs are periodically offered. Specific trips offered just to seniors are also planned.

### 3.6.4. Sports and Fitness

The Recreation Department offers sports and fitness classes throughout the year. League play for sports like basketball, softball, and volleyball are available throughout the year to differing age groups. In addition a junior golf program, individual and group golf lessons, league play, golf tournaments, a swim lesson program, sand volleyball and special events are provided at Water's Edge. The following is a summarized list of the program types offered:

- Aerobics
- Basketball
- Senior Olympics
- Kickboxing
- Pilates
- Zumba
- Cardio Dance
- FootGolf
- Modern Line Dance
- Golf Leagues (Junior, Adult & Senior)
- Golf Lessons (Pre School, Junior & Adult)
- Senior Fitness
- Softball
- Competitive Swim Program (Youth)
- Swim Lesson Program
- Aqua Zumba
- Kayaking
- Tae Kwon Do
- Table Tennis
- Pickleball
- Little Chippers Golf
- Tai Chi
- Volleyball
- Walking Program
- Yoga
- Pre-K Sports
  - Basketball
  - T-Ball
  - Soccer
  - FootGolf
  - Sports for Squirts

### 3.6.5. Travel Programs

Each session the Recreation Department outlines in the Channels Program Guide different "Travel Adventures" that are planned for that season. The adventures range from local trips in the Metro Detroit area to weekend and week-long stays in other states and Canada. The outings vary from family oriented trips like "Disney on Ice" to adult focused excursions similar to the Motor City Casino tour. Below is a list of the types of destinations planned:

- Casinos
- Detroit Highlights
- Hiawatha Horse Park
- Overnight Trips - Mackinac Island, Ohio, Washington D.C, Gettysburg
- Sporting Events
- Theaters - The Gem Theater, Fox Theater, The Purple Rose Theater



### 3.6.6. Special Events

The Recreation Department sponsors special events throughout the year that often relate to a season or holiday. The events are always outlined in the Channel's Program Guide. The following is a list of many of the events planned all through the year:



- Brunch with Santa
- Daddy-Daughter Dance (music, dancing and refreshments)
- Easter Event (a visit from the Easter Bunny, egg hunt, wagon rides and refreshments)
- Harvest Day (includes a petting farm, hayrides, pony rides, children's crafts, entertainment and refreshments)
- Hurray for Halloween (includes a costume parade and trick or treating on Macomb Street)
- IslandFest (a three day summer event that includes arts and crafts, entertainment, carnival, food vendors, historic and nature tours of the island, parade and many more events)
- Island Glow Township Tree Lighting
- Mother and Son Night (music, dancing and refreshments)
- Daddy-Daughter Hawaiian Party
- Outdoor Movie Night
- Last of School Pool Party
- Family Pool Party
- Riverfront Concert Series
- Inside/Out Program

### 3.6.7. Equestrian Programs

The Equestrian Center at Centennial Farm is a 32-acre facility designed to offer riding lessons, boarding of horses, riding clinics and special events. The facility includes a 13,600 square foot indoor arena, a 12-stall barn attached to the arena, eight grass paddocks, round pen, outdoor arena and a riding path, and includes the six-stall historic Centennial Barn. Luton Riding Academy, in cooperation with the Grosse Ile Township Recreation Department, manages the Equestrian Center at Centennial Farm. The facility is owned by the Township but is leased to the Luton Riding Academy for equestrian services. They are responsible for acquiring and training horses that are either owned or leased by the academy, stable management, barn maintenance, horse health and horses boarded by Township residents. They also coordinate equestrian programs, classes and clinics and camps.



Luton Riding Academy and the Grosse Ile Recreation Department will be working cooperatively with a newly created volunteer group (Grosse Ile Equestrian Club) to achieve the following mission:

- Provide equestrian-themed community recreation and education opportunities for area residents
- Support GI competitive equestrians
- Increase awareness of and participation in local equestrian programs
- Work in cooperation with the Centennial Farm Equestrian Center operator and Grosse Ile Recreation Department to facilitate stewardship of the equestrian facilities
- Raise awareness and assist with equine charities including horse rescue operations and/or therapeutic riding programs

### **3.6.8. Support Services**

The Recreation Department offers community outreach programs to help Township residents in need, including:

- American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) Senior Tax Service - The AARP volunteers their services to help Township seniors file their taxes each year
- Meals on Wheels - This program is offered through the Wayne County Office of Nutrition and the Recreation Department. The purpose of the program is to provide nutritional meals to homebound seniors and the disabled.
- Van Transportation - The van service is available to senior citizens, low-income residents and disabled individuals that are either unable to drive or do not own a vehicle.

## ***3.7. Volunteer Organizations and Service Clubs***

In addition to the above listed recreation programs, many other clubs and groups offer social, competitive, and child-oriented recreation activities. Many of these groups are volunteer organizations requiring payment of annual or monthly dues to support activities. These groups serve an integral role in recreation planning because they offer programs for residents that may not be offered by the Township. Examples of volunteer organizations and service clubs that serve the Township include:



- Boy Scouts
- Dance Grosse Ile
- Girl Scouts
- Grosse Ile Alliance for the Arts
- Grosse Ile Educational Foundation
- Grosse Ile Garden Clubs
- Grosse Ile Goodfellows
- Grosse Ile Herb Society
- Grosse Ile Historical Society
- Grosse Ile Hockey Association
- Grosse Ile Lions Club
- Grosse Ile Rotary Club
- Grosse Ile Rowing (CREW)
- Grosse Ile Senior Club
- Grosse Ile Youth Recreation Association
- Grosse Ile Soccer Association
- Kiwanis Club of Grosse Ile
- T.A.I.L.S. Grosse Ile Animal Shelter
- VFW Post 7310
- West River Yacht & Cruising Club





# 4: Basis for Action Program

An essential task in the recreation planning process is to determine the needs of the Township. The previous sections of the plan provide valuable insight into all aspects of parks and recreation system in Grosse Ile. This section of the plan evaluates the information to best understand the needs and priorities for parkland, recreation facilities and programs in the community.

There were several resources incorporated into the analysis. To begin, public input was important in order to understand what residents and those actively involved in recreation considered important priorities and preferences. Next, existing parkland was evaluated in terms its size, location and function. This was followed by an analysis of recreation facilities such as athletic fields, playgrounds and trails. Current recreation programs were then evaluated to best understand future programming needs and opportunities. Finally, to ensure that all perspectives were considered, a number of existing planning documents were reviewed to ensure that the Park and Recreation Action Plan corresponded with the current vision and goals of other related community development efforts.

## ***4.1. Public Input***

As part of the effort to encourage public participation, multiple opportunities for input were offered. Below is a summary of the comments and suggestions received during the public involvement stage of the plan. Additional information about the focus group meetings and public workshops held are found in *Appendix B: Public Involvement & Adoption Information*. Many common ideas were discussed and the comments listed below encompass the general sentiment of the opinions provided, but do not represent any preferences or prioritization.



#### **4.1.1. Water's Edge Recreation Facility:**

- Collaborate with school (and others) on improving or remodeling the pool so it could be used for competitive youth swimming. Expand hours at pool for after-work use
- More kayak launch sites around the island
- More transient boat docks will be needed as a result of increased demand at Smokie's On the Water
- General golf course maintenance is needed
- Marina:
  - new transient docks
  - marina pilings
  - identify non-motorized watercraft launch
  - extend marina boardwalk
  - Wi-Fi
  - repair docks
  - expand travel lift size
  - washroom/showers on site
  - electrical hookup for RVs on east side
  - pump out unit at travel lift
  - more signage indicating that docks are for boater and guests only

#### **4.1.2. Centennial Farm:**

- Maintain agricultural structures (coop, barn, silo) and honor their historic significance
- Develop a community garden
- More trails and access to nearby residential areas are needed
- Provide a pool in the Dog Park area
- There is a replacement program for lost trees
- Landscaping needs improvement; address the rocks and berms in the parking lot
- Increase the number of horse stalls at the farm
- Consider cabins for rental
- The root cellar needs to be cleaned up; a sign of its historical value
- Wi-Fi at the farm
- Increase security, lighting and cameras
- Change the lights in the riding arena to energy efficient lights
- More environmentally sensitive maintenance practices
- Advertise in Channels newsletter
- TAILS and the animal shelter increased size



- Level bridle path around the farm
- Provide dog bags on the perimeter of the farm
- Perimeter gate on the north side of the park
- Increased focus on facility maintenance
- Flooring needs to be replaced at the rec building
- Improvement/ restoration of pond and drainage in the area
- Drainage issues around dog park and paddocks
- Playground equipment for dogs at dog park
- Coordinate with groups at farm to help out on maintenance projects
- Maintain fencing
- Better parent waiting area at the Rec facility
- Better maintenance for gravel parking area
- More parking by recreational facility
- Painting and new windows at the Centennial Barn
- Recreation activities building; make more aesthetically pleasing
- Use for senior center during the day
- New tables and chairs that are comfortable for seniors
- Consider relocating rec offices from activities area to Centennial Farm activity center

**4.1.3. Airport Recreation Area:**

- Bathroom/ concessions stand is needed
- Lack of soccer fields and need for maintenance – expanded facilities needed to accommodate larger tournaments or invitational events
- Consolidated group feedback from GIYRA baseball, GIRYA football and GISA rank their needs, including: bathrooms/concessions, expanded parking, storage, lighting, irrigation, pavilion and playscape, drainage by football fields
- Grading of gravel areas near football fields
- Consider moving sled hill to accommodate new fields
- Both soccer and baseball would be able to hold tournaments if more facilities were available
- Look into electric at current GIYRA clubhouse
- Look at fencing on the west side of the park

**4.1.4. Other General Comments:**

- Provide dedicated bike paths v. sidewalks



- More canoe/kayak launch areas are needed – launch site on township owned property between Elba Drive and East River could be used as a launch and storage site
- Seniors want facilities with cozy, comfortable places to gather, socialize and eat together
- Transportation for seniors has improved, but could see more improvement
- Need more frequent, shorter day trips for seniors
- Improve communication with residents on recreation issues. Increase use of website and Channels newsletter
- A recreation calendar should be kept separate from the community events calendar
- Utilize cable access station for recreational promotions
- Look into other promotional opportunities, such as a promotional flyer for open space trails
- Utilize Facebook, GITV, GI App channels, website and newspaper to advertise recreational opportunities
- Create recreation TV show
- Accessibility (universal design for all residents)
- Advertising of all recreational opportunities, including bikeways and walking trails
- Increased focus on facility maintenance
- Theater opportunity for children
- Bike path or sidewalks along East River
- Develop park concept plan for Sunrise Park; needs to identify accessibility, parking constraints and kayak access
- Developing other road and pocket parks
- Connect with Iron Belle Trail; Horsemill/Macomb/East River
- Kayak rentals
- Develop park along Thoroughfare Canal where Township owns property
- Figure out ways to expand Water's Edge activities beyond golf
- Shorten distance for walking and biking between open space and downtown area; additional and improved trails through open space and link trails to bike pass
- Formalize more neighborhood green spaces on less used roads
- Indoor swimming pool (competitive)
- Public access for fishing
- Public boat access
- Look into environmentally-friendly maintenance practices
- Coordinate with DDA on programs
- Move playscape to Macomb Street
- Utilize Macomb Commons



- ❑ Drop-in programs at playscape
- ❑ Communication and videos, pamphlets, park locations
- ❑ Putting gravel for sunrise park on GI parkway for parking
- ❑ Additional define and develop public access to the water
- ❑ Rentals for Cross-country skiing, snowshoes, paddle boats
- ❑ Proper lawn and turf on municipal property
- ❑ Archery range
- ❑ Mountain bike trails
- ❑ Market the national water trails
- ❑ Considering annual and long-term maintenance on buildings and future facilities
- ❑ Consider best practices for maintaining recreational property
- ❑ Recreation center/ after school hangout area for students
- ❑ Path inside fenced area by Gibraltar Bay connecting to nature areas
- ❑ Trails on the south end of the island
- ❑ Electronic community bulletin board
- ❑ A plan to access all rec facilities via cart and bike paths
- ❑ Work with West Shore and GICC, a special round for first time visitors
- ❑ More senior programming, such as card parties, fashion shows and trivia; investigate need for part-time staffing specific to senior programming

#### **4.1.5. BPAC**

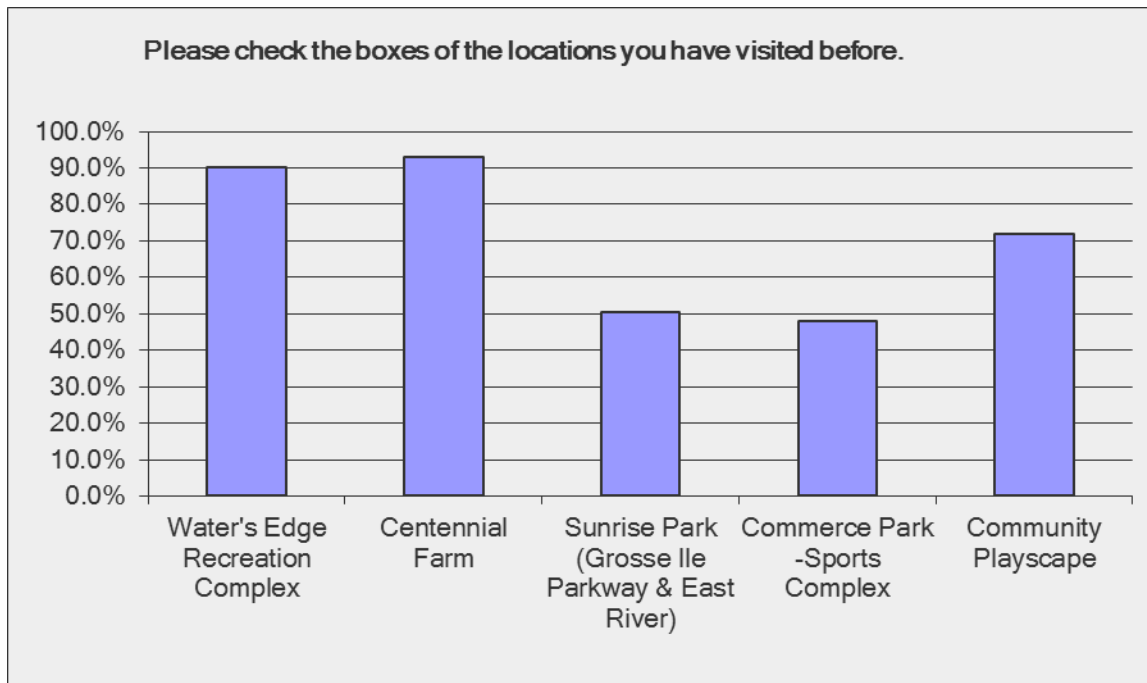
- ❑ Maintenance of existing system (mowing, edging, sweeping, snow removal, sealcoats, crack-sealing, bridge work and repairs)
- ❑ Safety improvements and enhancements of existing system (signage, pavement markings, street crossings and trailhead improvements)
- ❑ Work with other Commissions:
  - DPS – using the roads
  - Open Space – using soft trails
  - Recreation – for parks
  - Way-finding signage between all facility types to activity centers
- ❑ Desired corridors:
  - Iron Belle Trail
  - Parke Lane Greenway
  - Anderson Cut
  - Church Road sidewalks



## 4.2. Community Survey results

The Recreation Department also conducted an online community survey as part of this planning process. A total of 316 responses provided input into which park facilities visitors frequented most often. The two charts below summarize the main findings of the survey. Additional graphics can be found in Appendix B.

Please check the boxes of the locations you have visited before.		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Water's Edge Recreation Complex	90.2%	285
Centennial Farm	93.0%	294
Sunrise Park (Grosse Ile Parkway & East River)	50.3%	159
Commerce Park -Sports Complex	48.1%	152
Community Playscape	71.8%	227
	<i>answered question</i>	<b>316</b>
	<i>skipped question</i>	<b>0</b>



## 4.3. Parkland Analysis

The National Recreation and Park Association provides a recommended park classification system. The recommendations for Grosse Ile Township are summarized in *Table 4-1, Public Parkland Acreage Analysis*. The system categorizes park land as either mini-parks, neighborhood parks, or



community parks. Each category has its own set of size requirements, service area, and function as follows:

Grosse Ile Township & School Park Classifications	NRPA Guideline for Acres <sup>1, 2</sup>	Existing Acres for Grosse Ile <sup>3</sup>				Recommended Acres for Grosse Ile <sup>4</sup>
		Twp. Parks	Semi-Public	School	Total	
<b>Mini Parks</b>	.375	.28	0	0	.28	3.78
<b>Neighborhood Parks</b>	1.75	25.2	0	22	33.97	17.65
<b>Community Parks</b>	6.5	574.7	40	52	224.66	65.57
<b>Regional Parks</b>	7.5	0	360	0	360	75.66
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>149.58</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>618.91</b>	<b>162.66</b>

<sup>1</sup> Per 1,000 Residents  
<sup>2</sup> Source of Standard: Lancaster, Roger A., Ed. 1983. Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines. Alexandria, VA:NRPA  
<sup>3</sup> Acreage includes facilities listed in *Table 3-1 Parks and Facilities Inventory*  
<sup>4</sup> Based on July 2015 SEMCOG estimate of 10,089 people

- **Mini Parks.** The primary purpose of mini parks is to provide local playground and open space for residential neighborhoods. They are generally under one acre in size, with a service area of less than ¼ mile radius. For this plan, only the Community Playscape was designated a mini park.
  
- **Neighborhood Parks.** Neighborhood parks are typically multi-purpose facilities that serve as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood are generally at least fifteen acres in size. They provide areas for both passive and active recreation activities and have a service area of ¼ to ½ mile in radius. The standard is to have one to two acres of neighborhood parks per 1,000 people. Bertha Park, the Bird Sanctuary, Macomb Street Observation Deck, and Marion Park are designated as neighborhood parks.
  
- **Community Parks.** Community parks, which are typically at least twenty-five acres in size, contain a wide variety of recreation facilities to meet the diverse needs of Township residents and may include areas for intense active recreation as well as passive recreation opportunities not commonly found in neighborhood parks. Many of these parks serve the immediate neighborhoods around them, serving as both a neighborhood park in addition to a community-wide park. Their service area is one to two miles in radius and the standard is to have five to eight acres per 1,000 people. The Township’s three most developed parks: Airport Recreation Area, Centennial Farm and Water’s Edge Recreation Area, which are used by the entire community, were designated as community parks, as were the numerous undeveloped open spaces (comprising 552 acres) that are available to all residents.



In general, the amount of public open space and parkland on the island is impressive and a true source of pride for the community. In comparison to the total population of the community (10,089 people as of July 2015 as estimated by SEMCOG), a total of 162.66 acres of park land is required to adequately serve residents. The Township provides over 700 acres, far exceeding the requirement. However, in terms of this analysis it is important to note that while the acreage far exceeds national and state standards, much of this land is undeveloped and unusable for active recreation.

Analysis of the service area for community parks reveals that geographically, the Township is well served by parks. A closer look at the use of the different park and open space areas indicates that improved park land such as Centennial Farm and the Community Playscape are located in the central and southern areas of the Township. As a result, residents in the northern side of the island are further removed from recreation areas. In addition, the bike path does not extend north of Bridge Road, nor is there an east-west connection, further isolating residents. Since there is publicly-owned park land in these underserved areas, such as Bertha or Marion Park, opportunities should be explored for recreation facilities at these locations.

Areas purchased for open space preserve valuable resources such as marsh areas, woodlands, wetlands, and wildlife. Therefore, an emphasis should be placed on adding value to these important public open space areas in the coming years through very simple, non-intrusive methods such as nature trails, interpretive signage, and additional educational programs. Furthermore, increasing public awareness about these areas will increase enjoyment and appreciation by more residents.

#### ***4.4. Facilities Analysis***

Existing facilities were also analyzed to determine if the current facilities are adequate to meet the needs of residents. The results of the analysis can be seen in *Table 4-2 Public Park Facility Analysis*. The analysis takes into account a variety of factors, including existing conditions within the Township, information obtained from the focus group sessions and public workshop, the character of the community, programming needs and site conditions.



Grosse Ile and School Park Facility	NRPA Guideline for Facilities <sup>1</sup>	Existing Facilities for Grosse Ile <sup>2</sup>				Recommended Facilities for Grosse Ile <sup>3</sup>
		Twp. Park	Quasi-Public	School	Total	
Tennis	1/2,000	0	0	8	8	5.0
Playground	1/3,000	2	0	4	6	3.3
Baseball/ Softball	1/5,000	0	0	9	9	2.0
Basketball	1/5,000	1	0	2	3	2.0
Volleyball	1/5,000	1	0	0	1	2.0
Soccer	1/10,000	5	0	4	9	1.0
Football	1/20,000	0	0	1	1	.5
Running Track	1/20,000	0	0	1	1	.5
Swimming Pool	1/20,000	1	0	1	2	.5
Golf Course - 9 Hole	1/25,000	1	0	0	1	.4
Golf Course - 18 Hole	1/50,000	0	0	0	0	.2
Ice Rink	1/50,000	1	0	0	0	.2

<sup>1</sup> Source of Standard: Lancaster, Roger A., Ed. 1983. Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines. Alexandria, VA:NRPA  
<sup>2</sup> Includes facilities listed in *Table 2-1 Public Parks and Facilities Inventory* and *Table 2-2 School Parks and Facilities Inventory*  
<sup>3</sup> Based on July 2015 SEMCOG estimate of 10,089 people

#### 4.4.1. Court Sports

Outdoor basketball courts are primarily available at the schools, in addition to the outdoor basketball court constructed at Water’s Edge in 2009. There are four gymnasiums at the public school facilities along with the tennis courts provided at the Senior High School. Privately-owned facilities provide additional outdoor courts, such as the tennis courts at the Grosse Ile Golf and Country Club and gymnasium at Sacred Heart. In total, eight tennis courts are open to the public, all of which are located at the Senior High School. The number of available courts was not identified as a major concern during the public involvement process; however, the table above suggests that additional volleyball courts are needed. The Township should consider providing multi-use court facilities within one of the park areas that can accommodate a variety of activities such as volleyball, basketball and tennis. This is an easy, low maintenance and cost-effective solution for diversifying the types of facilities offered to residents.

#### 4.4.2. Athletic Fields

The majority of athletic fields available in the Township are located at the schools. The Senior High School provides fields for baseball, softball and football, while the Middle School also provides for



softball and soccer. Public soccer fields are also available at the Airport Recreation Area. Additional soccer and baseball fields are available at Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

During the focus group sessions, discussion of athletic fields centered on the need for new fields and bathroom facilities. Improvements needed for safety, such as providing accessible parking areas or shelter from inclement weather, should be made a priority.

#### **4.4.3. Playgrounds**

Public play areas are provided at Centennial Farm, the Community Playscape, as well as the Elementary and Middle Schools, and a private play area is provided at the Ford Yacht Club. Public comments indicate a desire for additional play areas and general maintenance. As noted in the park land analysis, the parcel on Macomb Street could provide an opportune location that is easier to locate and more visible for safety concerns.

#### **4.4.4. Golf Courses**

There are three golf courses on the island, one of which is owned by the Township at Water's Edge. The two private courses are the West Shore Golf and Country Club and the Grosse Ile Golf and Country Club. As noted during the public involvement process, golfing is an important activity for island residents of all ages. While there does not appear to be a need to develop additional courses, there is a strong desire to maintain the existing public course at Water's Edge. Stagnant ponds need to be maintained and certain sloping tees graded. Of continued concern is the need to stay financially successful, so the Township should consider ways to increase business to the golf course and adjoining Smokey's On the Water Restaurant. Some suggested upgrades to the golf course and marina would help attract boat clubs, and others felt that providing pathway connections to Water's Edge would increase general business. Other ideas included making the course more challenging, organizing additional leagues, and improving the driving range with lights. Hole sponsorships could also be explored.

#### **4.4.5. Swimming Pools**

A public pool is available at the Water's Edge Recreation Area. The Grosse Ile Golf and Country Club maintains a privately-owned pool. The need for a larger pool capable of accommodating school swim meets, or to provide therapeutic exercise for seniors, was identified during the focus group sessions. Because of this shared need, the Township should discuss future planning of an



indoor, competition grade swimming pool with the School, as it would be an ideal partner in this effort. However, due to development and maintenance costs, a new pool will continue to be a long range planning goal.

#### 4.4.6. Marinas

While a majority of the marina space on the island is provided by private boat and yacht clubs, the Water's Edge Recreation Facility provides the only publicly-owned marina. It is located on West River Road across from the golf course and pro shop.

Additional transient docks were suggested at the Water's Edge workshop, as more demand is anticipated due to the new restaurant going in at Water's Edge.

A need for additional public access to water was identified during focus group sessions, specifically for smaller motorized boats and non-motorized craft such as kayaks and canoes. Due to the increasing cost of waterfront property in the Township, the existing marina may be the most feasible and efficient location to meet this demand. However, some at the focus group meetings suggested an additional access could be provided to the East River at the open space between East River Road and Elba Drive.

#### 4.4.7. Bike Paths

The Township provides nearly nine miles of paved bike paths, primarily running north to south along Meridian Road. Providing a logical, interconnected system in the community is crucial to providing all residents with non-motorized access to key destinations. A paved bike path system serves residents of all ages and abilities and will continue to be a high priority. In previous plan updates and during the focus group meetings resident comments revealed that the following objectives should be met in the coming years:

- **East River Road Pathways:** Pathways on East River Road between Manchester and Horsemill are important to provide north/south connections. Links to the Gibraltar Bay Nature Area and South Pointe Road should be provided to connect with Round Island and nearby neighborhoods.
- **West River Road Pathways:** Secondary to the East River pathways, residents did express a desire for additional north/south connections along West River Road.
- **East/West Pathways:** Once additional north/south pathways are provided, more cross-connections will be needed to help create a loop. Paths along Bellevue Road, Grosse Ile



Parkway and Horsemill Road were suggested. Paths along Grosse Ile Parkway should be extended across the Channel to link to the regional bike path network planned by The Downriver Linked Greenways Plan.

#### **4.4.8. Nature Trails**

Both the Bird Sanctuary and open space at Centennial Farm offer nature trails for walking and wildlife observation. These are important resources for the community and offer passive recreation for residents of all ages. There is a need for greater public awareness of these facilities as well as the need for an informational kiosk to increase their value. Information about trail locations was improved with the development of the Nature Trail Guide by the Open Space Committee in 2009. Improved access to these facilities from the bike path is needed, and is addressed in the above listed objectives.

In the coming years, the Township should build on the success of these facilities and explore opportunities for additional nature trails within the open space areas. Currently, residents are welcome on all public open space land; however, most sites do not have a defined entrance point or trail to follow. An overarching goal for trails should be to develop a consistent signage theme for use at all Township parks. Distinct but similar signs for trails should be developed to notify residents of trail heads and entry points. Public comment during the focus group meetings indicated a need for amenities like trash receptacles and signage that incorporates educational data and user guidelines. While trails at all of the open space areas are not ideal, the Township should consider several sites that would offer the greatest benefit. Some examples include:

- A trail at the Horsemill Open Space (on either side of Horsemill Road) would greatly enhance the existing Sanctuary and offer a great trail system for residents on the north side of the island. This can also link with the existing bike path along Meridian Road.
- A short trail at the Parkway Woods Open Space would create a loop from Macomb Street, the Community Playscape, and the bike path along Meridian Road.
- A trail extension from the Centennial Farm Open Space to the bike path on Meridian Road could offer a convenient alternate access to the park.
- A trail extending through the 80-acre Woods Open Space area could create a link between the Airport Recreation Area and East River Road.

#### **4.4.9. Observation/Overlook Decks**



The Township provides an observation deck as an overlook to the water at the end of Macomb Street along East River Road. The overlook is a valuable facility, but desperately needs to be replaced due to declining conditions.

#### **4.4.10. Centennial Farm**

As described in the inventory, the Farm provides a variety of facilities, public comment focused on the need to increase the maintenance overall at the park and increase general use and senior programming of the park. Of particular interest to the focus group sessions was the dog park, which has been highly used since its construction. Other additions like a community garden, dog playground equipment, dog park pool, upgrades to the activity center, pond clean up and sitting areas will help draw additional residents and improve the overall experience for users.

### ***4.5. Programming Analysis***

Each year, the Recreation Department along with other groups offering activities and programs, analyze participation trends for all of the programs offered. Based on the participation data gathered, popular programs are expanded where feasible and less popular programs are reduced or eliminated. While interests and trends change, each year overall participation in programs increases at a steady rate. When planning for Grosse Ile's future, there are several main components worth considering that contribute to the success of recreation programming.

#### **4.5.1. Diversity of Services**

Programs offered to Township residents offer a diverse range of activities, events, programs, and educational experiences for all ages, abilities, and interests. This diversity of offerings is a valuable quality that must be supported in the future. Ongoing analysis is a high priority to ensure that programming keeps pace with trends, technology, community demographics, the economy, and physical conditions and resources within the Township.

#### **4.5.2. Cooperation/Communication**

As discussed with focus group participants, greater coordination is needed to ensure that all programs thrive. The focus group session was a successful kick off point for collaboration between facilities and programs. As noted above, new facilities can initiate new programming opportunities for all groups. More can be accomplished through combining efforts with other



compatible programs.

Investments to improve cooperation and communication are a high priority, because meeting the park and recreation needs of the community is crucial. Ideas discussed as part of the focus group meetings included a consolidated calendar of activities and improved use of the internet, Township website, and cable channel to increase access to such information.

#### **4.5.3. Community-Wide Events**

The Recreation Department continues to play an active role in planning community-wide special events. These events are historically popular and should remain as a priority in the coming years. As park and open space is improved, the Township should ensure that events and activities take advantage of various public recreation areas. This increases residents' exposure to areas of the Township and public land of which they may not be aware or may not routinely visit.

#### **4.5.4. Accessibility**

A crucial link to program participation is accessibility. The existing Township van service is available to seniors, low-income residents and disabled individuals. As the population ages, demand for this service will continue to increase. Investments and improvements will be needed in the future to keep pace with this growing demand. There is also an expanded need for transportation for youth involved in after school programs. Many households have either two working parents or are single-headed households who are not home in time for their children after school. A van service that transports children to after school programs and events would greatly assist all parents in the community, especially in single-headed households.

#### **4.5.5. New Facility Opportunities**

One main reason for the success of the programs is that as new facilities become available, so do new opportunities for programs. For example, expansion of the bike path system creates new opportunities for longer walking programs and new nature trails can expand educational opportunities and nature observation. As new facilities become available and as existing facilities are improved, it will be important for the Recreation Department to consider programming opportunities that should be pursued to maximize the use of new recreation resources.

During the master plan process, major interest from the community was expressed for an indoor



sports facility (field sports), inline/outdoor hockey rink, a football/cheerleading practice area and a non-motorized boat launch.

## ***4.6. Other Planning Resources***

### **4.6.1. Airport Recreation Area Plan**

In 2000, the Township acquired this 29-acre site, which sits across Groh Road from Grosse Ile Township Hall and the Grosse Ile Municipal Airport. Prior to acquiring the property, the Township heavily engaged the public, and developed a plan for the site that includes soccer fields, restrooms, shelters, nature trails, parking, playground equipment, etc. To date, some soccer and football fields, a sledding hill and pathways have already been installed, but additional fields, paved parking, picnic/lighting shelter, concessions building, Playscape and trail extensions have yet to be developed.

### **4.6.2. Grosse Ile Schools**

Discussions with representatives of Grosse Ile Township Schools indicate that many of their past planning efforts have been implemented; however, the plan for a nature area/center and a community pool remain. Short term priorities include improved coordination between the schools and Recreation Department for better scheduling and public awareness of activities and events.

### **4.6.3. Grosse Ile Nature Conservancy**

The Grosse Ile Nature Conservancy plans to continue and expand their relationship with the Recreation Department as well as the local schools. In conjunction with the Township, the Conservancy is looking to gain outside funding support for improvements at the Gibraltar Bay Nature Center including trails, parking improvements and scenic outlooks. The Conservancy is also going to work closely with the Township in terms of man power, in the attempt to open the nature area more often to the general public.

A large focus of the Conservancy is on education. They intend to work closely with the schools in the development of “outdoor classrooms” and utilizing the properties currently under their stewardship, including Hennepin Marsh, Stony Island and the Gibraltar Bay Nature Center.





Grosse Ile Township offers a high quality of life for its residents including strong neighborhoods, significant natural features, and a variety of community facilities and services. The Park and Recreation Master Plan will match community assets to future recreational needs.

This final portion of the plan is the culmination of a comprehensive planning effort that began with public involvement and the analysis of existing community conditions. An assessment of need was developed based on the evaluation of existing parks, recreation facilities, and programs. The findings of this analysis are in this chapter and translated into recommendations in this section. The Action Program provides the following components:

- **5.1. Action Plan Framework.** This includes the overall guiding mission statement for the Plan, as well as general goals, as established by the Community Recreation Commission.
- **5.2. Guidelines.** This section provides more detailed guidelines, or objectives to carry out the goals of the Plan.
- **5.3. Bike Path and Trail Plan.** These are specific recommendations that meet the overall goals and guidelines of the Plan as they relate to bike paths and trails.
- **5.4. Park Specific Recommendations.** These are specific recommendations for Township parks and facilities that meet the overall goals and guidelines of the Plan.
- **5.5. Programming Recommendations.** An important aspect of the planning process was the desire to maintain and expand programming. The plan provides specific programming recommendations in accordance with the goals and guidelines of the Plan.
- **5.6. Five Year Capital Improvement Plan.** The final component of the Plan is a 5-year outline of prioritized projects and their potential funding sources.

This format provides a systematic approach to implementing this Plan and ensures that realistic and feasible strategies are a top priority for the Community Recreation Commission.



## ***5.1. Action Plan Framework***

### **5.1.1. Mission Statement**

To contribute to the social, physical, educational, cultural, and general well-being of the Grosse Ile community and to preserve the natural landscape and environment.

### **5.1.2. Goals**

- Meet the recreation needs of all segments of the Grosse Ile population, including preschool and elementary school children, teens, adults, seniors, persons with disabilities, families and single adults and seniors.
- Design recreation facilities that not only provide recreational opportunities, but also contribute to the aesthetic quality and ecological balance of the Township.
- Foster new relationships and encourage continued cooperation with community groups, volunteers, and specific organizations, including but not limited to the Grosse Ile Township Public School District, the Grosse Ile Nature and Land Conservancy, the Greenways and Open Space Committee, private recreation providers, other Township departments and surrounding communities.
- Protect and enhance the value of natural resources within the community for their environmental, educational and recreational benefits.
- Use recreation as a catalyst to bring people together and promote a sense of community pride, health and wellness, and a high quality of life for residents.

## ***5.2. Guidelines***

The following guidelines assist in implementing the Plan goals. These guidelines are more specific, but can be flexible to accommodate future tasks. The guidelines relate to programming, facility development, land acquisition, communication, and staffing and operations.

### **5.2.1. Programming**

- Expand programming opportunities for Township residents as new and different facilities become available that will serve residents of all ages, interests, and abilities.
- Work cooperatively with neighboring communities in expanding programming opportunities for residents.
- Further investigate and develop programming that will capitalize on the unique environment



of the island through natural resources/environmental classes such as summer day camps, community gardening, interpretive information areas, and outdoor classrooms.

- Continue to work cooperatively with school staff and administration to develop year-round programs for students and to offer opportunities outside of school hours.
- Work cooperatively with the equestrian center operators to further develop and provide community-oriented equestrian activities such as single-day events, lessons, shows, and boarding.
- Expand senior programs and services and improve access to technology and transportation.
- Share the uniqueness of Grosse Ile with surrounding communities by advertising and opening programs to both residents and non-residents.

### **5.2.2. Facility Development**

- Ensure that equipment, facilities and amenities are of durable materials that require minimal maintenance.
- Continue to implement solutions to provide for barrier-free access to public recreation facilities.
- Maintain high quality, informative and land-interpretive signage at the parks.
- Prepare for necessary maintenance activities at existing parks and facilities and incorporate proper maintenance planning in conjunction with the establishment of new facilities.
- Expand the diversity of facilities offered at active park areas to maximize the benefits of existing sites.
- Enhance the value of open space areas through nature trail development and educational opportunities.
- Expand the bike path system to improve non-motorized accessibility to the park and recreation system.
- Fully explore projects that can improve access to waterfront views and activities for the public.
- Offer open play areas within the parks for informal, active recreation.

### **5.2.3. Land Acquisition**

- Protect natural resources through continued support of the Township open space program.
- Identify properties that would provide a unique conservation or recreational opportunity for the residents of Grosse Ile.

### **5.2.4. Communication**



- Raise community awareness of the Recreation Department offerings, staff, opportunities, and facilities by seeking alternate communication opportunities. These should include use of the Township website, Township App, provision of guides and maps at Township Hall, and through use of emerging technologies, such as social networking websites or cable television.
- Implement an organizational system to ensure accurate, timely and comprehensive recognition of organizations, volunteers, and staff.
- Further develop online services to incorporate facility maps/inventory, program registration, and an interactive community events/activities calendar to assist in facility use and scheduling.
- Develop and implement a marketing campaign for the Recreation Department that highlights the resources and quality programming and services provided to residents and non-residents.

### **5.2.5. Staffing and Operations**

- Continue to provide staff members with educational and training opportunities to meet the needs of the Grosse Ile Recreation Department.
- Strive to be aware of and be a resource for the latest park and recreation trends, events and happenings concerning recreation law, facility development, programming, funding, and other important recreation-related topics.
- Provide necessary training for staff concerning customer service and other important procedural items to ensure efficiency and to offer residents the highest quality service.
- Evaluate and monitor staffing needs that will assist in administering and coordinating programs, facility use, and other tasks that are consistent with the Mission Statement, Goals, Guidelines, and recommendations of this Plan.
- Continue to identify creative opportunities and partnerships for staffing within the Recreation Department, continue to cooperate with local schools, volunteers, teens, seniors, and contract employees, and reach out to any other groups interested in providing recreational facilities, such as local churches and philanthropic organizations.
- Evaluate the need to expand office hours to better serve park and recreation users.
- Continue to foster and further develop a partnering and cooperative relationship with the Grosse Ile Township Public School District and neighboring communities.
- Coordinate and cooperate with Township departments such as the Department of Public Works, Community Development Department and the Grosse Ile Nature & Land Conservation, Greenways/Open Space Committee and Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) to streamline maintenance activities and expenditures.
- Continue to provide administrative and clerical support to the Festival Commission to ensure



events are successfully coordinated and beneficial to the community.

- Review the Park and Recreation Master Plan each year to develop an action item list to ensure continual implementation of the goals, guidelines, and improvement recommendations.
- Continue to actively and aggressively pursue all funding sources, including but not limited to grants for the provision of high-quality recreation facilities.
- Continue to position the Recreation Department to accept public contributions, donations, volunteers, and other creative financing resources.

### ***5.3. Bike Path and Trail Plan***

The following bike path and trail projects implement the guidelines described in this section. They are intended to help meet the goals established by the Community Recreation Commission.

#### **5.3.1. Bike Paths**

The existing pathway system is comprised of paved trails that are 8 to 10 feet in width. Given the improvements that have been made, the Township should focus on closing pathway gaps, making critical connections, and extending the paths to all areas of the island. Pathway widths shall be decided based on right-of-way limitations and actual field conditions. Specifically, the following bike path extensions are recommended, in no particular order:

- Douglas Drive from Meridian to Waterway to Grosse Ile Parkway
- Parke Lane from Horsemill to O'Donnell (connecting to the sidewalk or Bike Path extension)
- Anderson Drive west of Thorofare
- East River Road from Groh to Nature Conservancy
- Meridian Road from Macomb to Douglas
- East River Road from Ferry to Horsemill (east side of road) \*
- East River Road from Ferry to Horsemill (west side of road)\*

\*(Paved Shoulder may only be possible, due to right of way limitations)

- Grosse Ile Parkway from Meridian to Parke Lane
- East River Road from Ferry to Manchester (Paved Shoulder Exists)
- SouthPointe from Elbamar to the end

A Bike Path Subcommittee was created by the Township and charged with developing priorities for use of the dedicated bike path millage funds. The subcommittee was formalized as the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC). BPAC's priorities for new bike paths include:



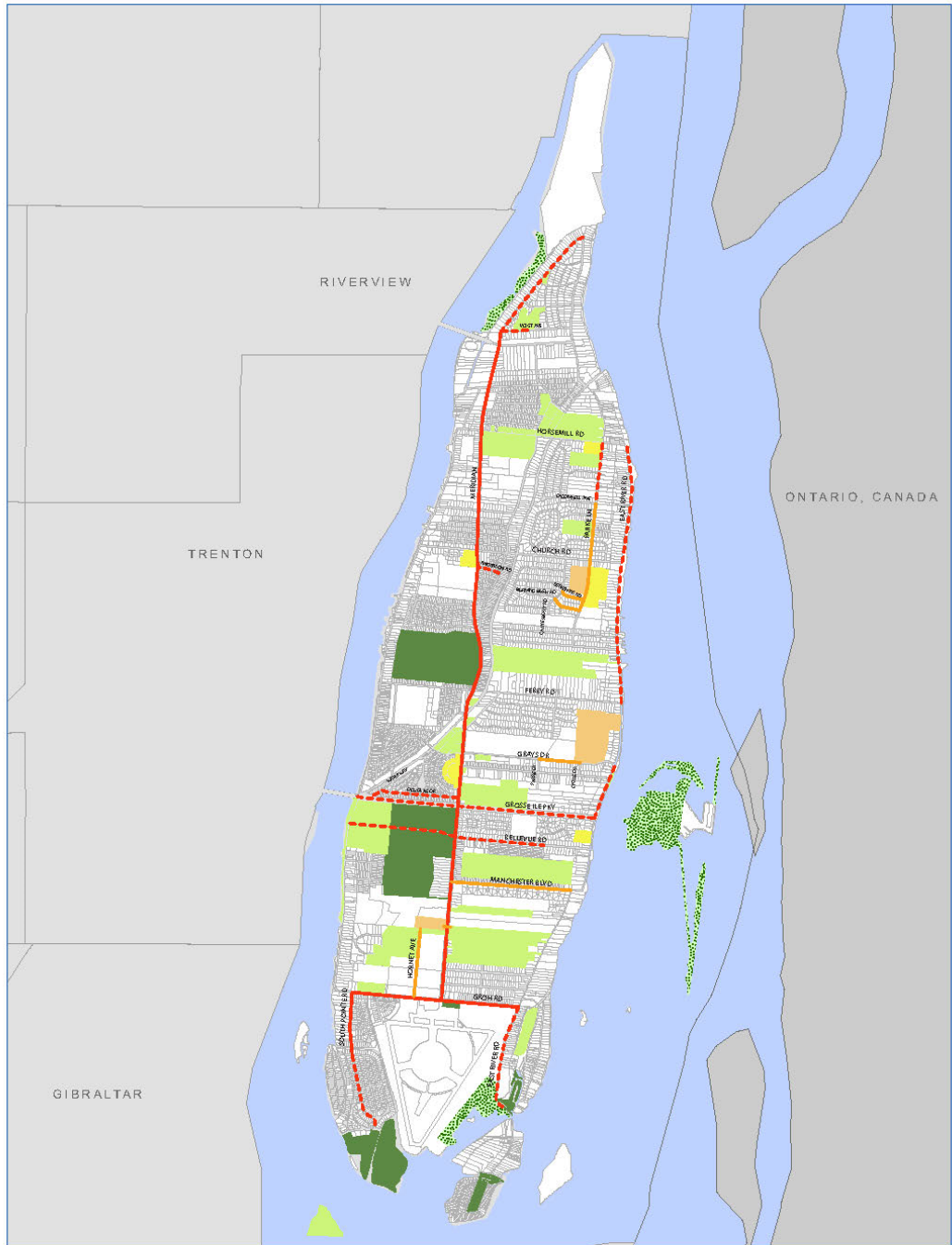
1. Iron Belle Trail
  - a. Connect Bridge to the end of Macomb Street
    - i. Grosse Ile Parkway
    - ii. Douglass Road –Chicory to Hickory
  - b. East River & West River
    - i. West River (Grosse Ile Parkway to Groh)
    - ii. East River (Macomb to Horsemill)
2. Parke Lane Greenway
  - a. Connect Centennial Farm to Bird Sanctuary
    - i. Connect Macomb Street to the schools (High School, Middle School and Parke Lane), two churches and the most densely populated neighborhoods on the island.
    - ii. Use a combination of sidewalks, way-finding signage to fill the gaps.
3. Anderson Cut – Formalize existing connection between Anderson and Thorofare
4. Church Rd Sidewalks – Connect sidewalks between Meridian and Thorofare
5. Others – Identified in the Non-motorized Plan

### 5.3.2. Off-Street Trails

Off-street trails are an excellent resource for passive recreation activities such as hiking, jogging, and nature observation. Off-street trails can be paved or unpaved depending on the intended use, character, and impacts to natural features. As noted previously in the analysis, off-street trails are an excellent way to maximize the benefits of the Township’s open space areas in a manner that is compatible with the land and potential nearby residents. Specifically, the recommended trail projects are:

- Trail at Parkway Woods Open Space- Create a loop from Macomb Street, the Community Playscape, and the bike path along Meridian Road
- Trail at Centennial Farm and Woods- Install a trail extension from the Centennial Farm Open Space to the bike path on Meridian Road
- Install other trails in existing open space that will link to bike paths, parks, schools, neighborhoods and maximize benefit and enjoyment of open space areas





Map Three

## Bike Path & Trail Plan

Grosse Ile, MI Parks and Recreation

### Township Trails

- Completed Trail System
- - - Planned Trail Extensions
- Completed Safe Routes to School Projects

### Public Parks & Open Space

- Public
- Private
- Public School
- Private School/Church
- Nature Conservancy



February 2016

Source: MCGI; Grosse Ile Township



## ***5.4. Park Specific Recommendations***

Upgrades and improvements to the current park system are a high priority to ensure their long-term viability and to meet the goals and guidelines of this Plan. The current section contains specific projects for each Township park and recreation facility, based on the goals and guidelines of this Plan.

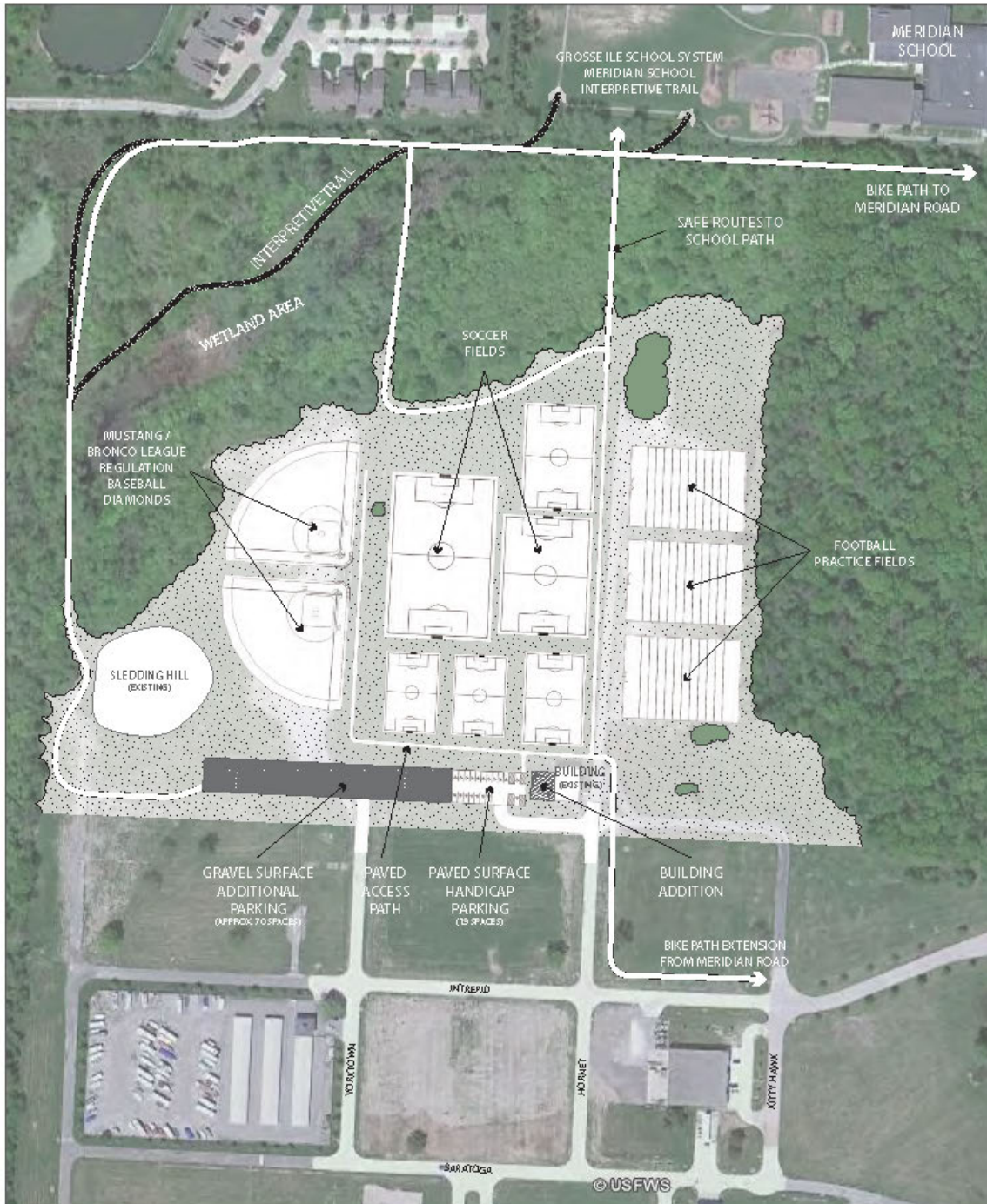
### **5.4.1. Airport Recreation Area**

The Airport Recreation Area is an active park where many improvements have been made since the 2010-2015 Master Plan. The park now contains 7 soccer fields (for various levels of play) and a sledding hill. Needed improvements include the following:

- Update existing layout plan
- Installation of additional soccer field(s)
- Installation of two baseball/softball fields
- Parking lot/drainage/irrigation improvements
- Walkways – both internal and connection to non-motorized system
- Picnic shelter
- Building extension for Concession/Storage/Bathrooms
- Additional protective fencing for fields
- Playscape
- Nature trails
- Lighting (possibly one field that will also light sled hill)



# conceptual master plan



DECEMBER 2010



## AIRPORT PARK

GROSSE ILE COMMUNITY RECREATION COMMISSION

GROSSE ILE, MICHIGAN

### 5.4.2. Centennial Farm Park

A number of projects were identified for Centennial Farm. The park's unique nature makes it ideal for passive recreation activities that are compatible with the area's farm and equestrian character. Residents expressed a variety of desires for Centennial Farm, many of which emphasized the need to maximize use of the park for all residents. The challenge will be to balance the community's desire to see full utilization of the park against the practical considerations needed to ensure longevity of the existing equestrian center. After careful consideration, the CRC prepared a concept plan for Centennial Farm that incorporates the key improvements that should be made in the next five years. Plans for Centennial Farm may change over time, depending on needs of the current equestrian center and the general public, but the following are the key projects deemed necessary at this time:

- Improve stability of overflow parking area to accommodate vehicles during special events.
- Consider creation of a community garden.
- Improve trail head with trash bins and informative signage that encourages proper park maintenance and stewardship.
- Maintain agricultural structures (coop, barn, silo).
- Continue to research safety upgrades to protect existing structures.
- Improve accessibility at the park, especially for seniors and those visiting the equestrian center for therapeutic purposes.
- Improvements to the Activity Center; flooring, atmosphere and parking
- General overall maintenance to the Farm – lights, security, fencing, and out buildings

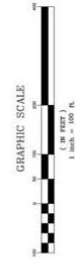
### 5.4.3. Community Playscape

The playscape was a priority project under the previous Recreation Master Plan. The area is in need of new ground cover and a new slide, as well as general maintenance that will upgrade the overall appearance of the site. The Recreation Department should continue to evaluate the idea/opportunity of re-locating the community playscape to a more visible and accessible location.



conceptual master plan - option 'b'

- LEGEND:**
- 1) EXISTING COMMUNITY BUILDINGS
  - 2) EXISTING INDOOR ARENA AND STABLES
  - 3) EXISTING ANIMAL SHELTER
  - 4) EXISTING BARN
  - 5) EXISTING SHED
  - 6) EXISTING STORAGE
  - 7) EXISTING RYMLION
  - 8) EXISTING BARDOCK
  - 9) EXISTING RUBING PEN
  - 10) EXISTING FEED STATION
  - 11) EXISTING PLAY GROUND
  - 12) EXISTING RICE PIT
  - 13) EXISTING AND PROPOSED SHIPSTERS WITH ENCLOSURES
  - 14) EXISTING POND
  - 15) EXISTING PARKING
  - 16) PROPOSED PARKING
  - 17) GREEN SPACE
  - 18) PROPOSED GAZON
  - 19) ACCESSIBLE PATH SYSTEM
  - 20) OUTDOOR TERRACE
  - 21) CONTROLLED DOG PARK ENTRY
  - 22) SMALL DOG PARK
  - 23) LARGE DOG PARK
  - 24) GREEN SPACE
  - 25) EXISTING BARDOCK
  - 26) PROPOSED RAIN EQUIPMENT DISPLAY AREA
  - 27) EXISTING REB GARDEN AREAS TO BE EXTERMINATED
  - 28) PROPOSED FISHING DOCK
  - 29) PROPOSED WAREHALL
  - 30) EXISTING OUTDOOR BIRING AREA
  - 31) EXISTING ROSE GARDEN AND SUTTERBY GARDEN
  - 32) PROPOSED BICO-SWALE
  - 33) PROPOSED RECREOUS CANOPY TREE
  - 34) PROPOSED TRAIL HEAD WITH SHADE STRUCTURE
  - 35) ENHANCED ENTRY
  - 36) PROPOSED RAIN WATER CAPTUREMENT CISTERN, TYPICAL FIVE (5) LOCATIONS
  - 37) ENTRY BRINK AND VERTICAL CIRCULATION SYSTEM WITH ACCESSIBLE SURFACE



**CENTENNIAL FARM**  
 GROSE ILE COMMUNITY RECREATION COMMISSION    GROSE ILE, MICHIGAN



#### **5.4.4. Gibraltar Bay Nature Area**

The Gibraltar Bay Nature Area is comprised of land owned by the U.S. Wildlife Services and the Grosse Ile Municipal Airport. The complex is open during scheduled times and for special events. The Township has completed a number of projects at the nature center area since the last Recreation Master Plan. The Grosse Ile Nature and Land Conservancy have installed observation decks at key locations around the nature center. The decks help take full advantage of the site's unique environment, waterfront views and help to promote environmental education opportunities.

#### **5.4.5. Boat Launch**

In response to strong input requesting additional water access for non-motorized boats, the Township maintains a commitment to providing such access. In addition, the public involvement process indicated a need for a public water access for small fishing/motorized boats.

Specific locations and design must still be evaluated, but the Community Recreation Commission has already begun research into the issue, identifying several possible locations and the barriers and opportunities available at each location. Once the CRC and Township Board have agreed on a preferred location, it will begin the process of planning, designing, funding, acquiring and construction.

#### **5.4.6. Water's Edge Recreation Complex**

Throughout the planning process the Water's Edge Recreation Complex was identified as an integral component to the overall Grosse Ile Parks and Recreation program. The facility currently offers a wide variety of amenities, so it is important to maintain them. The Township developed a conceptual plan for future improvements to the entire Water's Edge Recreation Complex to address its expanding use, and the action plan gives a timeframe for certain projects. However, in general, Water's Edge Recreation Complex needs to be maintained and upgraded as opportunities arise.

Because Water's Edge is one of the Township's larger parks, the CRC maintains a commitment to fully utilizing the amenities there. Resources should be focused on facilities that can be used for dual or seasonal purposes. Planned maintenance and upgrades include those listed in the table below:



Priorities for Water's Edge Recreation Area Improvements			
	Safety & Infrastructure Upgrades	Customer Service Upgrades	Enhancement Upgrades
<b>Golf</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Drainage improvements</li> <li>▪ Remove dead trees &amp; brush</li> <li>▪ Slag for cart paths</li> <li>▪ Replace water line to pond on #9</li> <li>▪ Ongoing maintenance &amp; safety upgrades</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Lighting</li> <li>▪ Level tees</li> <li>▪ Improve putting green</li> <li>▪ Plug greens</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Tree pruning &amp; replacement program</li> </ul>
<b>Marina</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Electrical upgrades</li> <li>▪ Cement decking &amp; replacement of pilings</li> <li>▪ Develop phasing program for new transient docks</li> <li>▪ Extend marina boardwalk</li> <li>▪ Waterfront pocket park</li> <li>▪ Ongoing maintenance &amp; safety upgrades (includes water, sewer &amp; electrical)</li> <li>▪ Painting program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Pocket park (picnic tables, benches, waste containers and water supply)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Landscape enhancements</li> </ul>
<b>Pool</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bath house renovation (all season)</li> <li>▪ Separate chemical storage</li> <li>▪ Improve accessibility into pools</li> <li>▪ Paint pool bath house</li> <li>▪ Ongoing maintenance and safety upgrades</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Pool house and shower room improvements</li> <li>▪ Upgrade shade canopies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Landscape enhancements</li> </ul>
<b>General</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Upgrade existing gravel area</li> <li>▪ Restaurant building (staining project-outer walls)</li> <li>▪ Restaurant building (rock &amp; mortar repair)</li> <li>▪ Lighting of new ADA parking area</li> <li>▪ Ongoing maintenance &amp; safety upgrades</li> <li>▪ New signage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Brand new experience aesthetically visiting the recreation complex</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Improve aesthetics at Bellevue crossing</li> <li>▪ Landscape enhancements</li> <li>▪ Pathway improvements</li> </ul>



conceptual master plan



GRAPHIC SCALE  
 0' 10' 20' 30' 40' 50' 60' 70' 80' 90' 100'  
 09 FEBRUARY 2010  
 12 DECEMBER 2010  
 23 JANUARY 2011



**WATER'S EDGE PARK**  
 GROSSE ILE COMMUNITY RECREATION COMMISSION GROSSE ILE, MICHIGAN



## 5.5. Programming Recommendations

A major focus of the public involvement process was the need for increased public awareness of park and recreation facilities and programs. In addition, recreation providers such as the Recreation Department, Grosse Ile Twp Schools, community groups, and volunteer organizations need to improve collaboration and communication to ensure an efficient use of time and resources. Another important component to successful programming is providing adequate accessibility and transportation for both senior and youth programming and events. The Township continues to improve accessibility to park facilities through incorporation of universal design in park plans, and through completion of the Township’s bike path system, which will provide non-motorized travel options for those unable to drive.

While the Township will continue making physical improvements to its parks, another critical component of community recreation is the programming provided. The following programming recommendations should help complete the Township’s existing roster of programs and services provided to the community:

All	Seniors	Adult	Youth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Expand Programs for Individuals with Disabilities</li> <li>▪ Expand Environmental Education Programs</li> <li>▪ Expand Aquatic Programs (All Age Groups)</li> <li>▪ Expand Sports, Health &amp; Fitness Programs (All Age Groups)</li> <li>▪ Expand Art, Music and Theatre Programs</li> <li>▪ Expand Safety Courses (RV, Boating, First Aid)</li> <li>▪ Friends of the Barn or Farm</li> <li>▪ Part-time Coordinator to provided additional programming opportunities to the community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Expand Golf Tournaments</li> <li>▪ Expand Senior Programs</li> <li>▪ Continue to Promote Senior Activities and Travel Program</li> <li>▪ Continue the Development of Speaker Series for Seniors</li> <li>▪ Provide Senior Drop Center (Daily Programs)</li> <li>▪ Expand Senior Van program</li> <li>▪ Expand van service to full day</li> <li>▪ Offer affordable travel events</li> <li>▪ Expand morning walk &amp; daily drop-in programs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Expand Programming for Single Adults</li> <li>▪ Continue and Expand Evening Enrichment Activities</li> <li>▪ Open and Help Maintain School Fitness Room for Community Use</li> <li>▪ Expand Winter Sports Activities (Example: Cross Country Ski Club)</li> <li>▪ Expand lifelong learning opportunities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Develop Student Recreation Advisory Committee</li> <li>▪ Expand Golf Tournaments</li> <li>▪ Expand After School Activities</li> <li>▪ Implement after school transportation program</li> <li>▪ Part-time Coordinator to work with associations &amp; groups</li> </ul>



## 5.6. Five Year Action Program

The previous section provided a complete listing of all park recommendations. This Five Year Capital Improvement Plan incorporates the top priority recommendations that require financial investment from the Township in the next five years. Priorities should be reviewed on an annual basis and adjusted to respond to updated findings and identification of funding opportunities. Potential funding sources are listed and described in *Appendix C*.

The list of actions is ambitious for two primary reasons. First, the success of the previous five year program has highly motivated the Township to maintain parks and recreation as a funding priority. Secondly, this gives the CRC flexibility to respond to new opportunities. If funding levels are lower than necessary to implement the plan based on the schedule provided, the implementation could be broken into phases and completed over multiple years.

<b>Table 5-1</b>	
<b>Five Year Action Program</b>	
<b>2016 Projects</b>	
<b>Water's Edge Improvements:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Landscaping (maintenance Building and Proshop)</li> <li>▪ Restaurant building (staining project-outer walls)</li> <li>▪ Restaurant building (rock and mortar repair)</li> <li>▪ Signage</li> <li>▪ Develop phasing program for new transient docks</li> <li>▪ Ongoing safety upgrades</li> <li>▪ Marina pilings (replacement and driving)</li> <li>▪ Wi-Fi</li> <li>▪ Pool Fence</li> <li>▪ Pool – chairs and shade structures</li> </ul>
<b>Centennial Farm Improvements:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Maintain structures (barns, silo, root cellar &amp; landscaping)</li> <li>▪ Wi-Fi</li> <li>▪ Phase 1 Fence Project</li> <li>▪ Address safety concerns – lighting and security issues</li> <li>▪ Flooring in the Activity Center</li> <li>▪ ADA Access at the Activity Center</li> </ul>
<b>Airport Recreation Area Improvements:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Park Plan – Accommodate new fields, bathroom/concessions building, best utilizing space</li> <li>▪ ADA parking lot/drainage</li> <li>▪ Develop trail layout, educational program &amp; stewardship plan</li> </ul>
<b>Other Activities:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identify motorized watercraft launch site</li> <li>▪ Macomb pocket park development</li> <li>▪ Sunrise Park Plan</li> <li>▪ Continue Program Development</li> <li>▪ Identify Waterfront Pocket Parks</li> </ul>



**Table 5-1  
Five Year Action Program**

<b>2017 Projects</b>
<p><b>Water's Edge Improvements:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Waterfront pocket park</li> <li>▪ Upgrade drainage (entire course including ponds)</li> <li>▪ Ongoing safety upgrades</li> <li>▪ Transient Docks</li> <li>▪ Extend Boardwalk</li> <li>▪ Repair Docks and Gang Planks</li> <li>▪ Electrical Upgrades</li> <li>▪ Pool Enhancement – Structure</li> <li>▪ Tree Clean Up and Planting Program</li> </ul>
<p><b>Centennial Farm Improvements:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Walkway and trails projects (accessibility to activity areas)</li> <li>▪ Continue to maintain structures, including inside of red barn</li> <li>▪ Phase 2 of Fencing</li> <li>▪ Renovate Activity Center to accommodate Senior Programming</li> <li>▪ Ongoing safety upgrades</li> </ul>
<p><b>Airport Recreation Area Improvements:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Install 2 baseball fields</li> <li>▪ Paved, ADA compliant walkways</li> <li>▪ Improve layout of soccer fields</li> <li>▪ Concession, storage and bathroom improvements</li> <li>▪ Trail development w/the GI Nature &amp; Land Conservancy &amp; Greenways/Open Space</li> </ul>
<p><b>Other Activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Develop motorized watercraft launch site plan</li> <li>▪ Macomb pocket park development</li> <li>▪ Sunrise Park Development</li> <li>▪ Identify &amp; Secure Waterfront Pocket Parks</li> <li>▪ Expand open space trails</li> </ul>
<b>2018 Projects</b>
<p><b>Water's Edge Improvements:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Install final transient dock phase</li> <li>▪ Continue to extend Boardwalk</li> <li>▪ Repair Docks and Gang planks</li> <li>▪ Complete drainage upgrades</li> <li>▪ Pool bath house (Multi Seasonal)</li> <li>▪ Marina pilings (replacement and driving)</li> <li>▪ Ongoing maintenance and safety upgrades</li> </ul>
<p><b>Centennial Farm Improvements:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Phase 3 of Fencing</li> <li>▪ Dog Park Play Area upgrades</li> <li>▪ Ongoing structure maintenance and safety upgrades</li> </ul>
<p><b>Airport Recreation Area Improvements:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ New playscape</li> <li>▪ Lighting and Fencing</li> <li>▪ Trail development w/the GI Nature &amp; Land Conservancy &amp; Greenways/Open Space</li> </ul>



**Table 5-1  
Five Year Action Program**

<p><b>Other Activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Macomb pocket park development</li> <li>▪ Sunrise Park Development</li> <li>▪ Identify &amp; Secure Waterfront Pocket Parks</li> <li>▪ Expand open space trails</li> </ul>
<b>2019 Projects</b>
<p><b>Water’s Edge Improvements:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Extend marina boardwalk</li> <li>▪ Marina pilings (Replacement and Driving)</li> <li>▪ Pump Out at Travel Lift</li> <li>▪ Tree Clean Up and Planting Program</li> <li>▪ Marina Mobile Washroom/Shower</li> <li>▪ Ongoing safety upgrades</li> </ul>
<p><b>Centennial Farm Improvements:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Install turf paver in overflow parking area</li> <li>▪ Ongoing structure maintenance and safety upgrades</li> <li>▪ Final Phase of Fence Plan</li> <li>▪ Ongoing safety upgrades</li> </ul>
<p><b>Airport Recreation Area Improvements:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Trail development w/the GI Nature &amp; Land Conservancy &amp; Greenways/Open Space</li> <li>▪ Ongoing safety upgrades</li> </ul>
<p><b>Other Activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identify and Secure Waterfront Pocket Parks</li> <li>▪ Expand open space trails</li> </ul>
<b>2020 Projects</b>
<p><b>Water’s Edge Improvements:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ongoing safety upgrades</li> <li>▪ Irrigation repairs and upgrades</li> <li>▪ Tree Clean Up and Planting</li> <li>▪ Pool Marcite and upgrades</li> </ul>
<p><b>Centennial Farm Improvements:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ongoing structure maintenance and safety upgrades</li> <li>▪ Parking Lot Improvement and Repairs</li> </ul>
<p><b>Airport Recreation Improvements:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Trail development w/the GI Nature &amp; Land Conservancy &amp; Greenways/Open Space</li> </ul>
<p><b>Other Activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Continue development of motorized boat launch facility</li> <li>▪ Expand open space trails</li> </ul>
<b>Longer Term Projects – 2020 and beyond</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Construct boat launch</li> <li>▪ Expand Open Space Trails</li> <li>▪ Expand Biking Paths</li> <li>▪ Continual Upgrade and Safety Upgrades to all facilities</li> <li>▪ Community Center</li> <li>▪ Indoor Pool</li> </ul>
Source: Grosse Ile Township





# Appendix A: Community Description

It is important to understand the Township's existing conditions in order to establish realistic park and recreation goals and objectives. By understanding the regional context of the community and regional facilities provided, the Township can avoid costly and duplicated recreation efforts, and better understand where additional facilities are needed. Knowledge of local history can reveal park themes or interesting park amenities. Socioeconomic trends can identify service needs of the community, and the physical realm shapes the entire system. When considered in their entirety, these factors ultimately serve as a guide for the community in its decision making process. The following description is intended to provide an understanding of the various socioeconomic characteristics, community history, land use, natural features, and transportation systems in Grosse Ile.

## *Regional Setting*

Grosse Ile Township is a 10.44 square mile island community that is located in southeast Michigan, twelve miles south of Detroit, in Wayne County. The Township consists of many islands positioned at the terminus of the Detroit River and the mouth of Lake Erie. The Detroit River surrounds the Township, forming the Trenton Channel on the west side of the island and an international border with Canada on the east. This location - surrounded by the Detroit River, and proximate to



Lakes Erie and St. Clair - have helped to solidify the element of community, as it influenced the type of development and residents that have evolved over time.

Grosse Ile consists of fifteen islands including Grosse Ile, Hennepin, Calf, Celeron, Swan, Round, Upper Hickory, Lower Hickory, Sugar, Elba, Fox, Mama Juda, Stony and Dynamite. Grosse Ile is the main island, which is actually split in two by the prominent Thorofare Canal that runs in a diagonal east/west direction (see aerial photograph, right). Other inhabited islands include Elba, Swan, and Upper and Lower Hickory.



## *Historical Overview*

Grosse Ile is a distinctive island with a rich history. William and Alexander Macomb, prominent Detroit merchants, purchased the island from the Potawatomi Indians on July 6, 1776. The original deed can still be found in the Burton collection at the Detroit Public Library. Early settlers to the island were primarily farmers with agriculture, fishing and quarry stone as the principal industries. In the early part of the 20th century, Grosse Ile became quite popular as a summer resort for Detroit families. Several prominent automotive pioneers including, R.E. Olds (Oldsmobile), Charles and William Fisher (Fisher Body) and William Knudsen (General Motors) developed large estates on the island. The U.S. Naval Air Station opened on the island in 1929. It was used as a training school, seaplane base and hangar. The Navy kept the base operating until 1967. At that time, the Air Station was closed and turned over to Grosse Ile Township. It now



operates as the Grosse Ile Municipal Airport.

Grosse Ile Township has maintained a distinguished and unique charm created in part by its physical characteristics and natural features, which have provided a niche market for its inhabitants. Island living of this caliber can be found nowhere else in Wayne County. Presence of the Detroit River, one of the busiest waterways in the world, has helped shape the social conditions and recreational opportunities present today that only Grosse Ile provides.

## Socioeconomic Characteristics

The following is a demographic report provides an understanding of the unique qualities of the local population. Included is an analysis of the age, disability, income and employment characteristics together with household trends of Township residents. These factors help identify current and future needs, allowing the Township to assess whether existing facilities are adequate or need additional amenities and improvements for underserved residents.

### Population and Housing Trends and Projections

Like many Michigan suburbs, Grosse Ile Township began as a small community but experienced steady growth until the early 2000's, where populations began a slight decline, in part due to a downturn in the economy. Population and housing trends are summarized in *Table A-1 Population and Housing Trends*.

<b>Table A-1</b>						
<b>Population and Housing Trends</b>						
Grosse Ile	2000	2010	% Change 2000-2010	July 2015 Estimate	% Change 2010-2015	2040
<b>Population</b>	10,894	10,371	-4.8%	10,089	-2.7%	9,483
<b>Housing Units</b>	4,335	4,465	3%	4,496	0.7%	n/a
<b>Household Size</b>	2.64	2.50	-0.5%	2.43	-0.03%	2.34
Sources: Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) 2040 Forecast, 2000 & 2010 US Census						

The most current population estimate is provided by the Southeast Michigan Council of Government (SEMCOG), which estimates that as of July 2015 there were 10,089 people living in Grosse Ile Township. This is a slight decrease from 2010 figures, while the population is projected to slightly decrease over the next 20+ years.



The average household size can be an important factor in determining how parks and recreation facilities and programming are provided, as smaller household sizes will disburse residents and thus their need for parks. The average size of Grosse Ile households has steadily decreased over the past, which is consistent with both local and national trends as people are having fewer children and living longer.

### Age Distribution

As we age our recreational requirements change, resulting in different facility and programming requirements. *Table A-2 Age Distribution* shows the age distribution of the Township in 2010 and projected for 2040.

<b>Table A-2 Age Distribution</b>			
Age Group	# Persons in 2010	# of Persons in 2040	% Change 2010-2040
<b>Under 5</b>	318	302	-5.0%
<b>5-17</b>	1,924	1,409	-27%
<b>18-34</b>	1,140	1,291	13%
<b>35-64</b>	4,993	3,717	-26%
<b>65+</b>	1,996	2,774	39%

Sources: Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG), 2010 US Census Bureau

The most significant change will be in the increase of residents 65 years and older, more than doubling by then. This indicates a strong need to plan recreation for seniors as the baby boomer generation matures and improvements in medical technology help people live longer.

### Persons with Disabilities

The proportion of the population with some type of disability should be considered when planning parks and recreational facilities and programs as they may have difficulty gaining access and participating in many recreational activities. The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 mandates that all public services, including park facilities, be barrier-free. As the population ages, the proportion of those with disabilities generally increases, and this trend is consistent for Grosse Ile. Disabilities include sensory, physical, mental, self-care, go-outside-home, and employment disabilities.

<b>Table A-3 Non-Institutionalized Persons 5 Years and Older with a Disability</b>	
Age Range	2010 Population
<b>Age 5-20</b>	4.4%
<b>Age 21-64</b>	10.6%
<b>Age 65+</b>	34.2%

Source: 2010 US Census Bureau

*Table A-3 Non-Institutionalized Persons 5 Years and Older with a Disability* shows, for various age categories, the proportion of the non-institutionalized population older than 5 years with one or more disability. In 2000, 12% or 1,261 persons aged 5 years or older were classified as having a disability



in Grosse Ile Township. The largest percentage of the disabled population is those people over the age of 65.

## Income

A successful parks and recreation program requires providing affordable recreational opportunities to the community. As incomes vary within a community and a region, so too does the notion of affordability and availability of disposable income for recreation. *Table A-4 Median Household Income* shows that residents of the Township earn significantly more than county and state residents overall. In fact, the median household income of Grosse Ile is more than twice that of Wayne County.

Area	Income
<b>Grosse Ile Twp.</b>	\$87,062
<b>Wayne County</b>	\$40,776
<b>State of Michigan</b>	\$44,667
Source: 2010 US Census Bureau	

## Employment

Residents of Grosse Ile are employed in a range of employment categories. Per the U.S. Census Bureau, nearly half of the Township’s employed population is in management or professional jobs and almost another quarter are in sales or office occupations. The strength of the employment picture in Grosse Ile suggests that residents should be able to continue to fund the parks and recreation budget.

## *Physical Characteristics*

Understanding the physical characteristics of Grosse Ile Township, including land use, natural features, and the transportation network is important when identifying potential park and recreation improvements. The placement of parks should consider adjacent land use to avoid conflicts with neighboring residential uses and impacts from nearby industrial or commercial uses. Their placement should respect existing natural features, and incorporate them into a theme or educational opportunity where appropriate. Transportation systems are critical to providing access for nearby residents. Access routes, whether motorized or non-motorized, will help shape the type of residents that will use the park, as well as necessary improvements needed to serve them.



## Land Use

The land use distribution and development pattern of a community is important when considering the geographic distribution of parks and recreational facilities, because placement should be prioritized where there are concentrations of residents and associated places of public gathering.

Grosse Ile is predominantly a residential community with significant amounts of open space, woodland and wetland areas. There is limited office and commercial development, most of which is primarily located on Macomb Street. A large portion of the southern side of the Township is occupied by the Grosse Ile Municipal Airport and the adjoining industrial park. According to SEMCOG, the Township consists of approximately 6,500 total acres. As noted above, the predominant land uses are single family residential, which accounts for approximately 52% and open space, woodland and wetland areas, which account for approximately 34% of land uses. Park and recreation uses comprise approximately 7% of the Township's acreage, while institutional land uses, including public and semi-public, comprise approximately 4%.

## Natural Features

Wetlands, woodlands, and water bodies in the Township, described below, provide substantial park and recreational opportunities.

**Wetlands.** Grosse Ile Township contains significant wetland areas due to its location on the Detroit River. Over 300 acres of the Township are considered wetland areas. Some of the more notable wetland areas include Gibraltar Bay, Thorofare Canal, shoreline areas, Celeron Island, Stony Island and Sugar Island. Three types of wetlands are predominate in Grosse Ile Township that are of significant importance to recreation planning due to their size and location:



- **Emergent Wetlands.** Found along the shoreline and sheltered waterways. Rooted cattails, bulrushes and sedge grasses are predominate in the emergent areas.
- **Forested Wetlands.** Found near emergent wetlands and dominated by swamp oak, red ash, silver and red maple and black willow trees with an understory of shrubs.
- **Submersed Aquatic Beds.** This type of wetland can be found near shorelines and in sheltered bays around the Township and support fish and waterfowl.



**Woodlands.** Recreation planning could serve as a tool for management and preservation in woodland areas. One of the most important woodland sites in the Township is Round Island. The Ford Yacht Company owns Round Island and placed it on the Natural Features Registry of the Michigan Nature Conservancy. However, the Registry is voluntary and offers no real protection or legal obligations.

Over several years and multiple millages, the Township has acquired several hundred acres of wooded, undeveloped land that is open and accessible to the public. These open space properties were acquired for the purpose of preservation and with the intent to remain as natural woodlands and wetlands, habitats for both native fauna and flora, and free from the impacts of intruding development. These sites were not acquired for recreational parkland except for the most passive of uses.

### Transportation

Grosse Ile's transportation system affects the accessibility of parks and recreational facilities. The Township is accessible by two bridges that cross the Trenton Channel, the Grosse Ile Toll Bridge (Bridge Road) at the north end of the island and the Wayne County Free Bridge (Grosse Ile Parkway) to the south. The Grosse Ile Toll Bridge is a privately-owned and operated bridge to the island. Meridian Road is the main north/south route through the center of the Township. Grosse Ile Parkway is the key east/west road that is centrally located on the island. Two other important streets, West and East River Roads, encircle the outside border of the island. Macomb Street, which is an east/west street just north of Grosse Ile Parkway, maintains the majority of the local businesses.



There are two possible access points to I-75, which is the main north/south expressway for the Detroit area. Both bridges to the Township connect with Jefferson Avenue, a major north/south thoroughfare along the shore of the Detroit River. From Jefferson Avenue, I-75 can be accessed from West Road or Eureka Road.

Alternative methods of travel are available for Grosse Ile residents. A van program is available for seniors, low-income and disabled residents that is administered by Grosse Ile Township Recreation Department. The services, which are offered Monday through Friday, provide transportation to



and from the community center, Township offices, medical and dental appointments, hair appointments, pharmacy, banking, and shopping. In addition, the development of a comprehensive non-motorized pathway system has begun and is a priority for future investments within the Township. Future plans must continue to focus on safe pedestrian access, and improving transportation options.





The process to develop the Grosse Ile Parks and Recreation Master Plan involved a series of public meetings for the purpose of obtaining comments on needed and desired park and programming improvements; discussion of comments received is included throughout the Plan. The community of Grosse Ile has many organized groups and clubs that provided input into this process. In total, the following groups were represented at the meetings held:

- Senior Citizens Club
- Grosse Ile Animal Shelter
- TAILS
- Grosse Ile Historic Society
- Boy Scouts
- Ice Rink
- Water's Edge Golf Sub-Committee
- Grosse Ile Soccer Association
- Grosse Ile Township Board
- WRYCC
- Grosse Ile Fire Department
- Grosse Ile Natural and Land Conservancy
- Open Space
- Student Council
- Grosse Ile Alliance for the Arts
- Grosse Ile PC
- Community Recreation Commission
- GITS
- Girl Scouts
- Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge
- GI Equestrian Club
- Luton Riding Academy
- GIYRA football and cheer
- GIYRA baseball
- Beautification Committee
- Kiwanis Club
- BPAC
- IWRA (International Wildlife Refuge Alliance)
- Islandfest Commission



## *Focus Groups*

The public involvement began with focus group meetings held the evening of January 21, 2016. The Community Recreation Commission, along with Recreation Department staff and planning consultants met with a number of pre-selected groups to gain a better understanding of the recreational needs of the Township. Three sets of groups attended: 1) General Community groups; 2) Centennial Farm groups; and 3) Sport groups.

## *Public Workshops*

Two additional evening workshops were conducted, one on January 26, 2016, and another on January 28, 2016, to collect input from members of the community and community groups not represented during the focus group sessions. The workshops were advertised to the general public through various sources within the Township, and invitations were sent to key stakeholder groups throughout the community.

## *Community Survey*

A community-wide survey was conducted utilizing social media and contacts with Grosse Ile School. Throughout the planning process over 300 surveys were completed. A summary of responses is included following the Public Hearing Minutes on the next page.

## *Public Review Period*

The draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan was available for public review at the Grosse Ile Township Hall, the Recreation Department offices and on the Township website, beginning on February 24, 2016. Notification of the review period was



### **Notice of Public Review and Public Hearing Grosse Ile Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2011-2015**

Notice is hereby given that the Grosse Ile Township Community Recreation Commission will hold a public hearing on Thursday, January 27, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. in the Board Room (second floor) located at Grosse Ile Township Hall, 9601 Groh Road, Grosse Ile, MI 48138.

The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments on the proposed Grosse Ile Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2011-2015. A parks and recreation master plan assists the Township and specifically the Recreation Department in identifying recreation needs within the community. The plan ultimately determines the most effective and efficient methods of improving the existing facilities, programs and properties as well as providing facilities, programs and properties beyond those that currently exist. While a Parks and Recreation Master Plan assists the community in determining its long-range goals and needs, if approved by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources & Environment (MDNRE), it also qualifies the community for recreation grants which are administered through the MDNRE. The proposed Parks and Recreation Master Plan includes a community description, an overview of the administrative structure of the Recreation Department, an inventory and analysis of the existing recreation facilities, and finally recommended goals, guidelines and projects proposed to be funded for the next five years.

The hearing is intended to provide an opportunity for interested citizens to express their opinions regarding the proposed Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Copies of the proposed Grosse Ile Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan will be available for review at the Grosse Ile Township Hall, 9601 Groh Road and Community Recreation Department, 25215 West River Road, during normal office hours as of Monday, December 27, 2010. The proposed Parks and Recreation Master Plan will be available through the Township website at [www.grosseile.com](http://www.grosseile.com) no later than Friday, December 24, 2010

Those unable to attend the public hearing are invited to submit written comments to the attention of the Chairperson of the Community Recreation Commission at the Township Hall address cited above.

Grosse Ile Township will provide necessary, reasonable auxiliary aids and services at the public hearing to individuals with disabilities. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Grosse Ile Township Clerk at least two days prior to the hearing.

**Ute O'Connor  
Clerk**

Publish December 24, 2010

published in the *News Herald* on February 17, 2016. Notification was also posted on the Township website.

## *Public Hearing*

The Community Recreation Commission held a public hearing on March 24, 2016. Notification of the review period was published in the *News Herald* on February 17, 2016. Minutes from the meeting are included on the following page.

**Insert Public Hearing Minutes**



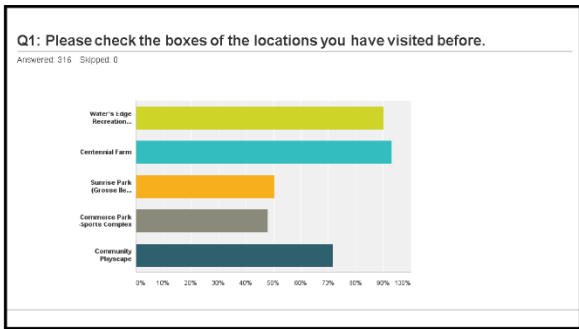
## Grosse Ile Recreation

Friday, February 05, 2016

# 316

Total Responses

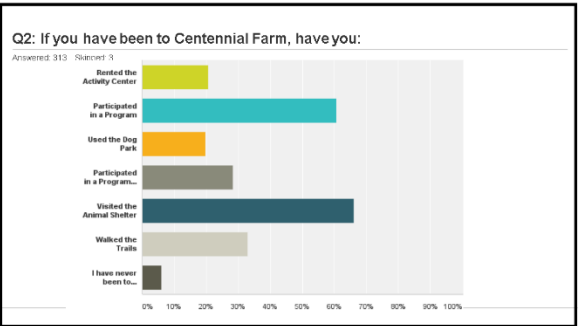
Date Created: Wednesday, September 23, 2015  
Complete Responses: 264



**Q1: Please check the boxes of the locations you have visited before.**

Answered: 316 Skipped: 0

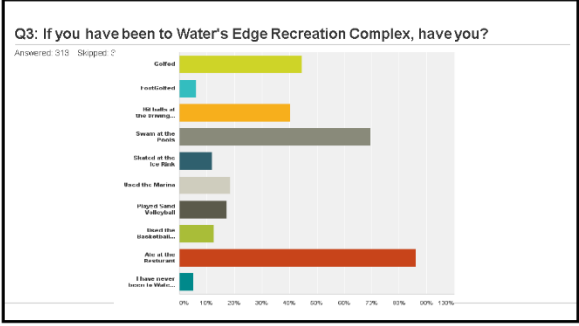
Answer Choices	Responses
Water's Edge Recreation Complex	90.19% 265
Centennial Farm	93.04% 294
Sunrise Park (Grosse Ile Parkway & East River)	50.32% 159
Commerce Park -Sports Complex	48.10% 152
Community Playscape	71.84% 227
<b>Total Respondents: 316</b>	



**Q2: If you have been to Centennial Farm, have you:**

Answered: 313 Skipped: 3

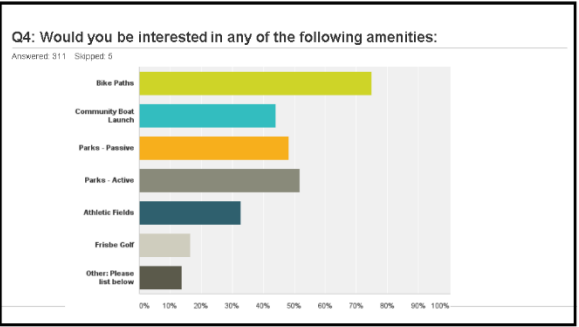
Answer Choices	Responses
Rented the Activity Center	20.77% 65
Participated in a Program	60.70% 190
Used the Dog Park	19.81% 62
Participated in a Program or used the Equestrian Center	28.43% 89
Visited the Animal Shelter	66.13% 207
Walked the Trails	32.91% 103
I have never been to Centennial Farm	6.07% 19
<b>Total Respondents: 313</b>	



**Q3: If you have been to Water's Edge Recreation Complex, have you?**

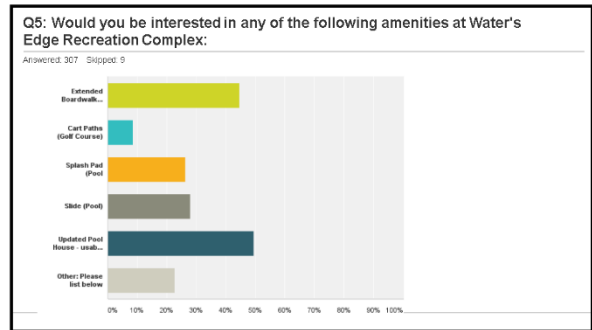
Answered: 313 Skipped: 3

Answer Choices	Responses
Golfed	44.73% 140
FootGolfed	6.07% 19
Hit balls at the Driving Range	40.26% 126
Swam at the Pools	69.65% 218
Skated at the Ice Rink	11.82% 37
Used the Marina	18.53% 58
Played Sand Volleyball	17.25% 54
Used the Basketball Court	12.46% 39
Ate at the Restaurant	85.94% 269
I have never been to Water's Edge Recreation Complex	5.11% 16
<b>Total Respondents: 313</b>	



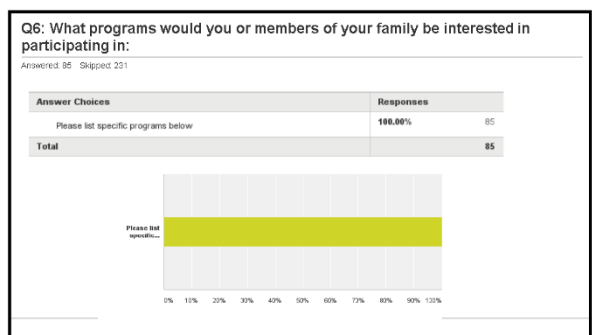
**Q4: Would you be interested in any of the following amenities:**  
 Answered: 311 Skipped: 6

Answer Choices	Responses	
Bike Paths	74.92%	233
Community Boat Launch	44.05%	137
Parks - Passive	48.23%	150
Parks - Active	51.77%	161
Athletic Fields	32.80%	102
Frisbee Golf	16.40%	51
Other: Please list below	13.83%	43
<b>Total Respondents: 311</b>		



**Q5: Would you be interested in any of the following amenities at Water's Edge Recreation Complex:**  
 Answered: 307 Skipped: 9

Answer Choices	Responses	
Extended Boardwalk (Marina)	44.63%	137
Cart Paths (Golf Course)	8.47%	26
Splash Pad (Pool)	26.38%	81
Slide (Pool)	28.01%	86
Updated Pool House - usable year round for the pool and rink	48.51%	152
Other: Please list below	22.80%	70
<b>Total Respondents: 307</b>		



**Grosse Ile Township  
Community Recreation Commission  
Resolution of Endorsement  
for the  
Parks and Recreation Master Plan**

**March 24, 2016**

**WHEREAS**, development of adequate parks and recreation facilities requires a pro-active plan based on a combination of community input, analysis of existing conditions, analysis of the basic needs for current and future residents, parks and recreation planning expertise, as well as prioritized improvements programs and potential funding opportunities; and

**WHEREAS**, the foundation of the plan is established with the Action Program consisting of overall goals and supporting objectives and specific Action Program for the next five years; and

**WHEREAS**, the plan provides recommendations for park and recreation facilities, and recreation programming with a prioritized list of capital improvements for the next five years; and

**WHEREAS**, the Grosse Ile Township Community Recreation Commission and Township staff along with the assistance of LSL Planning, Inc. has prepared the Grosse Ile Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan which includes all the above elements; and

**WHEREAS**, said plan is represented to meet the requirements of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, thereby making the Township eligible for State and Federal grants administered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources; and

**WHEREAS**, Grosse Ile followed a planning process that contained public involvement, including focus group meetings and public workshops with stakeholders and recreation providers for the purpose of soliciting community input on said plan; and

**WHEREAS**, a public hearing was held by the Community Recreation Commission on the final draft March 24, 2016.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Grosse Ile Township Community Recreation Commission hereby endorses and recommends to the Township Board adoption of the Grosse Ile Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan.



**Grosse Ile Township  
Township Board  
Resolution of Adoption  
for the  
Parks and Recreation Master Plan**

**April 11, 2016**

**WHEREAS**, development of adequate parks and recreation facilities requires a pro-active plan based on a combination of community input, analysis of existing conditions, analysis of the basic needs for current and future residents, parks and recreation planning expertise, as well as prioritized improvements programs and potential funding opportunities; and

**WHEREAS**, the foundation of the plan is established with the Action Program consisting of overall goals and supporting objectives and specific Action Program for the next five years; and

**WHEREAS**, the plan provides recommendations for park and recreation facilities, and recreation programming with a prioritized list of capital improvements for the next five years; and

**WHEREAS**, the Grosse Ile Township Community Recreation Commission and Township staff along with the assistance of LSL Planning, Inc. has prepared the Grosse Ile Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan which includes all the above elements; and

**WHEREAS**, said plan is represented to meet the requirements of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, thereby making the Township eligible for State and Federal grants administered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources; and

**WHEREAS**, Grosse Ile followed a planning process that contained public involvement, including focus group meetings and public workshops with stakeholders and recreation providers for the purpose of soliciting community input on said plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the Community Recreation Commission and Planning Commission adopted a resolution to endorse and recommend adoption of said plan; and

**WHEREAS**, a public hearing was held by the Community Recreation Commission on March 24, 2016

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Grosse Ile Township Board of Trustees hereby adopts the Grosse Ile Parks and Recreation Master Plan as a guideline for improving recreation for the residents of Grosse Ile Township.





The scope of recreation improvements proposed for the Five Year Action Program can be financed through a combination of resources. Aside from the general fund, these potential sources are described below.

### **Bikes Belong Coalition**

The Bikes Belong Grants Program strives to put more people on bicycles more often by funding important and influential projects that leverage federal funding and build momentum for bicycling in communities across the U.S. They seek to assist local organizations, agencies, and citizens in developing bicycle facilities projects. Bikes Belong Coalition accepts applications for grants quarterly for up to \$10,000 each, and will consider successor grants for continuing projects. For more information, visit their website at [www.bikesbelong.org/grants](http://www.bikesbelong.org/grants)

### **Coastal Zone Management**

The Coastal Management Program is administered through the Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and provides grants and technical assistance to coastal communities to promote effective coastal management. Applications are due each year in April with a \$50,000 maximum and a 100% local match. For more information, visit their website at [www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135-3313\\_3677\\_3696---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135-3313_3677_3696---,00.html)



### **Great Lakes Fishery Trust (GLFT)**

GLFT provides grant funds to nonprofit organizations and government entities for the following purposes:

- Research projects that benefit Great Lakes fishery resources
- Rehabilitation of lake trout, lake sturgeon and other Great Lakes fish species
- Protection and enhancement of Great Lakes fisheries habitat
- Public education about the Great Lakes fishery
- Property acquisition for the above purposes or to provide access to the Great Lakes

Grant award amounts and deadlines vary by project. For more information, visit their website at [www.gift.org](http://www.gift.org)

### **Inland Fisheries Grant Program**

The primary objectives of this MDNR program is to protect, maintain and/or enhance inland aquatic environments that support (or are capable of supporting) a significant public fishery; to rehabilitate degraded inland fish communities on waters that support (or are capable of supporting) a significant public fishery; to provide additional or more diverse fishing opportunities on inland waters that support (or are capable of supporting) a significant public fishery; to foster educational and interpretive communications and interest in inland fish, fishing, and fisheries management when those communications and interests serve to protect, maintain, enhance, or rehabilitate the populations and habitat of fish and other forms of aquatic life. Projects that are beneficial to the people of Michigan, inland fisheries resources, and meet one or more of the program objectives are eligible for funding. Maintenance activities and operational costs are not fundable. The maximum available is \$30,000 per project. Applicants must demonstrate they can contribute at least 50% of the project's cost as a match of the State grant. Applications are due in March. For more information, visit their website at [http://michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10371\\_10402-186539--,00.html](http://michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10371_10402-186539--,00.html)

### **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)**

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) provides funding assistance for communities to acquire and develop land for outdoor recreation. The minimum award is \$15,000 and the maximum of \$500,000 with a 50% local match. The eligibility criterion emphasizes preservation of



natural resources such as waterways. This grant is ideal for land acquisition that is intended for passive recreation and open space in the future. Applications are due in April of each year. For more information, visit their website at [www.nps.gov/lwcf](http://www.nps.gov/lwcf)

### **Michigan Natural Resources Tree Planting Grants**

Through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), there are two tree planting grant programs that will assist in funding landscape enhancements at the parks and re-forestation projects. Applicants must provide at least 50% of the total project cost.

- **Urban Community Forestry Program- Arbor Day Mini-Grants.** This mini-grant program is designed to provide information and technical assistance to municipal governments and volunteer groups for urban and community forest activities related to Arbor Day. Applications are due in July with maximum grant requests of \$20,000. For more information, visit their website at [www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10366\\_37984\\_38165-128813--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10366_37984_38165-128813--,00.html)
- **Urban Community Forestry Program.** This program provides the same services as above plus management plans, inventories and maintenance activities. These activities do not have to be related to Arbor Day. Applications are due in July with maximum grant requests of \$20,000. For more information, visit their website at [www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10366\\_37984\\_38165-126153--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10366_37984_38165-126153--,00.html)

### **Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF)**

MNRTF provides funding assistance for the purchase of land (or interests in land) for recreation or protection of land because of its environmental importance or scenic beauty, and the development of recreation facilities. This assistance is directed at creating and improving outdoor recreational opportunities and providing protection to valuable natural resources. The improvement grants are between \$15,000 and \$500,000 with a required minimum local match of 25%. Acquisition grants vary depending upon the value of property and local match amount; therefore there is not a minimum or maximum amount. This grant is ideal for implementing park plans and for land acquisition. Applications are due in April and September of each year for acquisition projects and April of each year for development projects. For more information, visit their website at [http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-58225\\_58301-257945--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-58225_58301-257945--,00.html)



### **Waterways Program Grant**

The Waterways Program Grant is administered through the Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) from the Michigan State Waterways Fund to provide for design and construction of recreational boating facilities. Application deadline is April of each year with funding policy to grant up to 50% of the project cost with equal local match. For more information, visit their website at [www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10366\\_37984\\_37985-124962--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10366_37984_37985-124962--,00.html)

### **Wetland Program Development**

The goals of the Environmental Protection Agency's wetland program and the Clean Water Action Plan are to increase the quantity and quality of wetlands in the U.S. by conserving and increasing wetland acreage, and improving wetland health. State, tribal, and local governmental agencies, interstate, intertribal, and local government associations are eligible to receive grant funds. Applications are due in the fall with a required 25% minimum local match. For more information, visit their website at [www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/grantguidelines](http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/grantguidelines)

### **Arbor Day Foundation**

Becoming a member of the Arbor Day Foundation will provide the Township with additional resources related to tree planting and maintenance. Grosse Ile should investigate becoming a designated Tree-City USA, which provides additional advantages towards park enhancement projects. For more information, visit their website at [www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org)

### **Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control**

The Basin Program seeks to improve Great Lakes water quality by promoting erosion and sediment control and sound land-use practices through information/education, demonstration grants, technical assistance and coalition building in the Great Lakes states. Applications are due in January with maximum grant requests of approximately \$25,000. For more information, visit their website at [www.glc.org/basin](http://www.glc.org/basin)



## **User Fees**

Grosse Ile must continue to charge reasonable fees to participants of recreation programs. The Township should evaluate the fees annually to ensure they are providing the appropriate amount of funding to allow the programs to continue.

## **Recreation Bond**

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, such as park improvements and park land acquisition, 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 revenues. The bonds are then retired using income generated by the project.

## **Special Millage**

A property tax millage can be used to finance specific park and recreation projects such as park development, pathway improvements and facility upgrades. A millage is an effective method to divide costs over time amongst all the taxpayers in the community to provide matching grant funds or finance projects out-right. A millage allows more flexibility in how the money is used than a bond.

## **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 Grosse Ile 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 at 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.



## **Donations**

Businesses, corporations, private clubs, community organizations, and individuals will often contribute to recreation and other improvement programs to benefit the 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.

