

Charter Township of Milford Recreation Master Plan 2019-2023



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Community Description

Milford Township is located in the southwest portion of Oakland County and is bordered by four Oakland County Communities, Lyon Township, the City of Wixom, Commerce Township and Highland Township and one Livingston County community to the west, Brighton Township. Within the Township borders is the Village of Milford. The Village of Milford is an established, urban village approximately 2.5 square miles in area. Milford Township is approximately 32.5 square miles in area and, according to the 2012-2016 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates, contained 9,960 people, or 306 people per square mile.

The 2019-2023 Charter Township of Milford Parks and Recreation Master Plan has been prepared by the Township Parks and Recreation Commission and adopted by the Milford Township Board to serve as a guide and decision making document for future recreation facilities and programs. The Plan presents an inventory of existing recreation facilities, recreation programs, and environmentally significant open spaces within the Township as well as an evaluation of opportunities and needs. The Plan considers the existing facilities in and around the Township, as well as the anticipated demand for additional or improved facilities and programs. The Plan also includes goals, guidelines and a 5-Year Action Plan. The jurisdiction of this Master Plan includes only Milford Township.

The Plan is also intended to enable the Township to continue to apply for funding assistance from various agencies and work toward implementing the documented recommendations. This Plan provides for five years of grant eligibility with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

A predominantly residential community, Milford Township relies on the Village of Milford for its urban amenities such as local shopping and entertainment. The Township is home to the largest recreation area owned and managed by the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority, Kensington Metropark, as well as Camp Dearborn and sections of the Proud Lake and Highland State Recreation Areas. The Township also contains a large portion of the General Motors Proving Grounds. Milford Township provides a desirable setting and some of the most notable topography in the region.

The Township is made easily accessible to the region by its close proximity to Interstate 96 along its southern border, M-59 to its north, and is serviced by both County and local roads. Milford Township is situated in a growth area at the western edge of the Detroit Metropolitan Area and is located approximately 40 miles from downtown Detroit, 25 miles from Ann Arbor, 30 miles from Flint, and 30 to 35 miles from Detroit Wayne County Metropolitan Airport and the Flint Bishop International Airport.



REGIONAL LOCATION MAP

Legend

-  State or U.S. Highways
-  Village of Milford
-  Milford Township
-  Municipal Boundaries
-  County Boundaries

Source: Michigan Geographic Data Library.





Planning & Public
Input Process

The Parks and Recreation Commission prepared the 2019-2023 Charter Township of Milford Recreation Master Plan to serve as a guide and decision making document for future recreation facilities and programs. The Plan presents an inventory of existing facilities and programs within the Township and an evaluation of opportunities and needs. The Plan considers the existing facilities in and around the Township, the anticipated demand for additional or improved facilities and the means for providing those facilities over the upcoming five year period.

Milford Township adopted their first Recreation Master Plan in 2002. Since the adoption of the plan, there have been several accomplishments in relation to parks and recreation including:

- Development and adoption of Parks and Recreation By-Laws
- Passed millage for construction of Milford to Kensington Trail
- Completed funding and planning for the Milford to Kensington Trail
- Started and organized bi-annual community picnics
- Provided initial and ongoing support for the development of the Milford skate park
- Created Parks and Recreation web page on Township website
- Created contact list of related organizations
- Participation in support of other entities/activities such as 30K Race and Village Trail project
- Adopted the 2008-2012 Recreation Master Plan
- Completion and oversight of Milford to Kensington Trail
- Purchased an outdoor movie screen with 5 other communities
- Established the "Movies in the Park" series and Drive-in
- Adopted and hosted the Summer Concert Series in Central Park
- Established and organized the annual "Winterfest", formerly known as "Milford Snow Days"
- Continued organization of the bi-annual Community Picnics
- Continue annual Adopt-A-Road cleanups
- Maintained Parks & Recreation webpage on Milford Township website
- Promoted and supported recreation opportunities with other community entities
- Adopted the 2013-2017 addendum to the 2008-2012 Recreation Master Plan

Plan Development Process

The Parks and Recreation Commission reviewed the previous Recreation Master Plan and Addendum during a series of Commission meetings in 2018 discussing updates and noting desired modifications. A consulting firm was hired in the fall of 2018 to assist Milford Township and the Commission in updating and developing the 5-year plan for 2019-2023.

Background Studies

The necessary data to begin the formulation of the background studies for the plan was collected from various sources including: Milford Township, Oakland County, SEMCOG, US Census Bureau, the Huron Valley School District, Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority, Department of Natural Resources, YMCA, Dearborn, Trailway Management Council, field observations and various other sources.

The Community Description section includes a brief introduction to Milford Township, the jurisdiction of the Master Plan and the focus of the Plan.

The Administrative Structure chapter of the Plan describes how recreation is governed and operated within the Township. In addition to the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Township has a small staff with the Township Supervisor responsible for parks and recreation related issues. The function and responsibilities of the Parks and Recreation Commission is included as well as a fiscal analysis of the overall Township revenues and expenditures.

The Township itself currently only owns and operates the Milford-Kensington Trail that was completed in 2009. The location of the recreation facilities operated by a variety of other entities was mapped utilizing Oakland County GIS data. Significant information was collected via the Internet, phone interviews and field observations to complete the inventory. The Recreation Inventory portion of the plan also discusses the various programs, activities, and events offered in the Milford area.

The Community Description (social and physical characteristics), Recreation Inventory, and Administrative Structure were presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission at their December 3, 2018 meeting for review and revisions.

Basis For Action

The Basis For Action portion of the document analyzes factors inside and outside of the Township that may have an affect on the direction of recreation over the next five years. This portion of the plan provides the rationale for the goals, guidelines and recommended capital improvements. Several factors are analyzed including current recreation trends (on both national and state levels), comparison of facilities within the Township to acreage and facility standards, service area gaps, existing plans and reports, and results of the public workshop, hearing and staff and Commission input. The draft Basis For Action was presented to the Parks Commission for their review and discussion at their December 3, 2018 meeting. At this meeting, the Parks and Recreation Commission also brainstormed language for the goals and guidelines sections of the plan.

Action Program

At their December 3, 2018 meeting, the Parks and Recreation Commission also focused on reviewing the results of the public

input session and worked on the goals, guidelines, and capital improvements schedule. The capital improvement priorities were revisited and a final review of the draft document was conducted prior to the draft plan being made available for public review.

Public Input

Public input into the development of a Parks and Recreation Plan is an important component of the recreation planning process, and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (M-DNR) recreation plan approval process mandates a minimum of public input. By hosting two public hearings and collection of information at several open meetings, this 2019 revision to the Township's Recreation Master Plan significantly exceeds the M-DNR's minimum standards.

Public input provides guidance into the development of the goals and objectives that the community desires for itself, and this input assists the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Board of Trustees in developing the implementation portion. The input ensures that the plan is reflective of the interests of the community.

In preparation for the Recreation Master Plan update, the Township mailed a form to its residents in late 2017 requesting that they provide input and comments relative parks and recreational activities within the Township. Twenty written responses were received.

On February 12, 2018, the Parks and Recreation Commission hosted a **public hearing** to gain additional input relative recreational activities within the Township. Several residents provided comments to the Parks and Recreation Commission at this meeting. The Commission members also discussed their goals and ideas.

The questionnaire and public hearing results ranked the development of bike trails as the most discussed with ten people mentioning it in some form. Creation of a dog park and development of a youth/community center were each mentioned three times while kayak parking in Central Park and adding pickleball courts both received two votes. A summary of these efforts is included in **Appendix A**.

On Monday November 19, 2018, the Milford Township Parks and Recreation Commission hosted a **public forum**. In addition to the Commission members themselves, approximately twenty individuals attended this forum. Three different exercises were conducted during the course of the evening.

The first exercise was a survey to test the results that were obtained from the public workshop that was held at the Milford Senior Center on September 10, 2007, during the creation of the Township's 2008-2012 plan. At that workshop, the attendees were asked to identify ideas, issues, concerns, or desires for recreation within the Township. Nine different goals/ideas/concepts had received four or more votes from the attendees. The 2018 activity asked how important is the goal/idea/concept is to the attendee today –

Very Important, Important, Somewhat Important, Not Important, or No Opinion. Develop Trails ranked the highest with Make Milford Township More Bicycle Friendly as the second highest priority. Other high ranking priorities included Connecting Existing State Recreation Areas to Downtown Milford and Acquire Active Park Land. One priority, Installing A Hand-Activated Crossing Button at Milford Road and Huron River Parkway, has been completed since 2007. The table **Public Input Priorities Exercise** displays the importance of various priorities to residents, and a summary of the first exercise is included in **Appendix A**.

The second exercise was designed to engage the attendees in an effort to learn about the diversity of recreational options that may be provided by a community. The attendees were divided into four groups. Each person was first tasked with developing a fictional \$100 budget where \$100 would be spent in one of six recreational categories.

Each individual developed their own budget in \$5 increments, and then the table was tasked with developing a \$100 budget for each group. Significant discussion ensued within the groups discussing what recreational activities are important to them. The results are shown in the table **Public Input Budget Exercise**.

Public Input Budget Exercise

Recreational Activity	Table 1	Table 2	Table 3	Table 4	Total
Active sports programming	\$10	\$0	\$9	\$0	\$19
Non-sports recreational activities	\$15	\$10	\$18	\$15	\$58
Facilities operations	\$10	\$10	\$15	\$0	\$35
Parkland purchase	\$20	\$30	\$10	\$5	\$65
Parks facilities development	\$15	\$40	\$18	\$10	\$83
Trail and pathway development	\$30	\$10	\$30	\$70	\$140
Total	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$400

The third exercise was a group mapping exercise to ascertain sites, nodes, and places of interest that should be connected by intra Milford Township non-motorized pathways.

Public Input Priorities Exercise

2007 Highest Ranking Priorities	Very Important	Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important	No Opinion
Complete development of a skate park	1	5	8	5	3
Build a youth center	3	6	3	10	1
Acquire active park land	5	6	9	1	1
Develop trails	11	7	3	1	1
Make Milford Township equestrian friendly and develop horseback riding trails	1	6	7	6	3
Make Milford Township more bicycle friendly	7	9	5	2	0
Connect existing State Recreation Areas to Downtown Milford	7	6	7	2	1
Install a hand-activated crossing button at Milford Road and Huron River Parkway for pedestrians and horseback riders	4	4	4	2	2
Improve directional signage and wayfinding to and along pathways	4	7	8	2	2

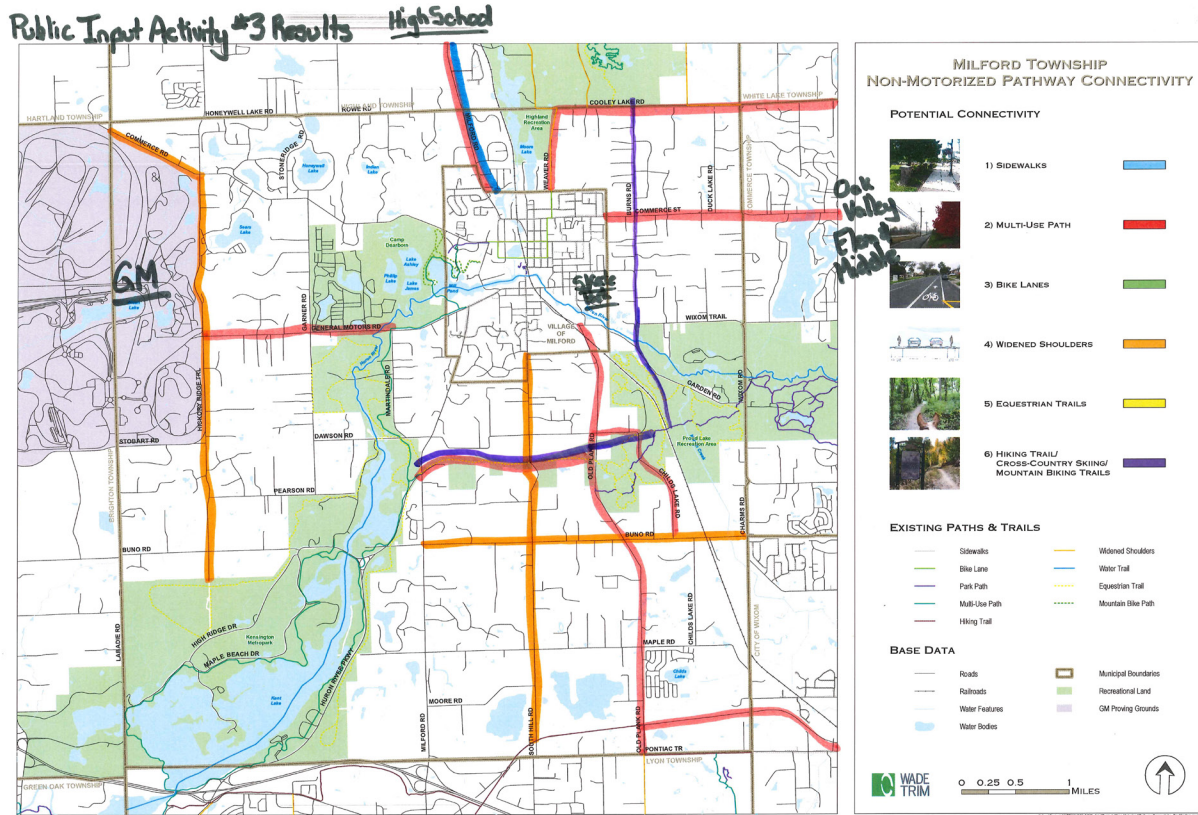
Regional railway planning began in earnest in Southeastern Michigan in the late 1990s. Oakland County adopted its Oakland County Trails Master Plan in 2008 which developed out of regional efforts in the early 2000s including the Southeast Michigan Greenways Vision (2006). In 2012, the Oakland County trails and natural areas preservation efforts were joined together. The Oakland Trails Advisory Council and Natural Area Advisory Group merged into the Oakland County Trail, Water, and Land Alliance group. A Plan for SEMCOG and MDOTs Southeast Michigan Regions was produced in October 2014. These plans illustrate a proposed regional trail network that connects communities and major regional destinations together. These regional efforts do not include local connections that are needed between trip generators like schools, shopping districts, parks, and other local destinations within the individual communities.

The attendees stayed in their groups and were asked to identify destinations and nodes that should be connected together by various non-motorized connections. They were then asked to identify how to connect the nodes with six standard non-motorized connections. The identified options included: 1) sidewalks; 2) multi-use paths; 3) bike lanes; 4) widened shoulders; 5) equestrian trails, and 6) hiking/cross-country skiing/mountain biking trails. Attendees identified important destinations to be connected included GM Proving Grounds, Camp Dearborn, Milford High School, Country Oaks Elementary School, and Oak Valley Middle School. Additional connections included routes along Buno Road, Burns Road, Childs Lake Road, Garner Road, Milford Road, Old Plank Road, and South Hill Road. The results are shown in the Figure **Public Input Connections Map**.

The results will be combined with the Trail and Recreation Network Plan from the Township's Master Plan that will develop an updated non-motorized vision plan for Milford Township.

A Public Notice ran in The Spinal Column newspaper on December 12, 2018 and January 2, 2019 announcing that the draft plan was available during a public 30 day comment period.

Public Input Connections Map



The same notice also announced that a formal Public Hearing was held by the Parks and Recreation Commission on Monday January 14, 2018 at 7 PM. During the public hearing, two individuals spoke in support of the plan.

After the Public Hearing, the Parks and Recreation Commission discussed the draft Milford Township Recreation Master Plan. They identified a few minor edits to be made to the plan, and the consultant agreed to make these changes prior to adoption by the Township Board of Trustees.

Adoption

The final draft plan with the requested amendments from the Parks and Recreation Commission was presented to the Charter Township Milford Board of Trustees for consideration at its Wednesday January 16, 2019 meeting. After discussion, the Charter Township Board of Trustees adopted the Charter Township of Milford Recreation Master Plan 2019-2023 by resolution. A copy of this final plan was submitted to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources prior to February 1, 2019 plan deadline for 2019-2023 plans.



This section of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan describes the administrative hierarchy within the Township as it relates to parks and recreation decision-making and governance. Additionally, Township expenditures and revenues are described as well as relationships the Township has with other agencies such as the Village, schools, Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority, or Oakland County.

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

The Charter Township of Milford is a traditional Township organizational structure with a Township Supervisor, Treasurer, Clerk and a Township Board consisting of four trustees. Township staff is relatively small with seven full-time employees. Police service is contracted to the Township from the Village of Milford. The Milford Fire Department is also a jointly-operated service, contracted to the Village from the Township, and includes a paid-on-call fire department with a full time chief.

Parks and Recreation Commission

On September 19, 2001, the Milford Township Board of Trustees appointed a five member Parks and Recreation Commission for the first time to serve in an advisory role to the Township Board and Supervisor in regards to recreation within the Township. Since that time, the Commission has developed and adopted bylaws to provide procedural guidelines for the Parks and Recreation Commission. The bylaws dictate that the Commission shall not exceed 9 voting members. A Commission members terms is for three years and they serve at the pleasure of the Township Board. A Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Secretary are elected at the first meeting of each year. The Parks and Recreation Commission holds regular meetings on the 3rd Monday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Township Hall.

In September 2006, the Parks and Recreation Commission adopted a Mission Statement to guide their progress and direction as follows:

The mission of the Milford Township Parks and Recreation Commission is to work with public and private partners to provide recreational facilities and activities to its residents and visitors.

Village of Milford

The Village and Township work closely together on many governmental and civic issues. Major cooperative efforts include the shared administrative offices, as well as police and fire services. In terms of the provision of recreation, the Village and Township interact on a project-by-project basis to provide support, share resources, plan events, etc. In the past, the Township has provided financial assistance for summer entertainment programs, the playscape, tennis courts, basketball courts, various improvements at Central Park including restroom facilities and amphitheater and the restoration efforts at the Ford Powerhouse.

Milford Township

Fiscal Analysis

The annual budget is prepared by the Township Supervisor and adopted by the Township Board with subsequent amendments approved by the Township Board. The majority of the Township's expenditures consist of police, fire, and general governance with the largest revenues coming from the police and fire millages as well as property taxes.

The Milford Township Parks & Recreation expenses are divided between two accounts (Dept. 751 and Dept. 752). Account 751 is expenses associated with operations of the Parks & Recreation Commission and event expenses related to hosting special events like the summer concert series. Account 752 is related to bond payments associated with the Kensington-Milford Trail.

Milford Township Budget and Expenditures, 2017 - 2019

	2017			2018			2019
	Budgeted	Expended	Balance	Budgeted	Expended	Balance	Budgeted
Account 751*	\$ 31,543.00	\$ 26,159.00	\$ 5,384.00	\$ 31,393.00	\$ 25,549.00	\$ 5,844.00	\$ 34,553.00
Account 752**	\$ 168,900.00	\$ 149,066.00	\$ 19,834.00	\$ 171,830.00	\$ 147,073.00	\$ 24,757.00	\$ 184,580.00

*Account 751 includes operational expenses of the Parks & Recreation Commission & Hosted Event Expenses

**Account 752 relates to bond payments associated with the Kensington-Milford Trail.



Recreation Inventory

An inventory of recreation facilities, programs and events is an essential component of a Recreation Master Plan. The inventory provides a base of information to use in developing the goals, guidelines and capital priorities as well as assists in the future decision-making process. This section of the plan includes several components, including a recreation inventory map and table, which provides a general overview of all facilities found within the Township including those operated by the schools, Village, County, State, HCMA, and various regional entities. Another component of this chapter is a description of the recreation programs and events available to Township residents, offered by a variety of entities. To aid in identifying potential open space areas for preservation, an inventory of existing open spaces and potential natural areas (as identified by Oakland County) within the Township is also provided.

Milford Township is home to an exceptional network of state and regional parks and recreation facilities. In and around Milford Township there are thousands of acres of developed and undeveloped recreation space under the administration of Oakland County, the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority, the Village of Milford, two school districts, the City of Dearborn and the State of Michigan. In Milford (Township and Village), there are approximately 4,420 acres of land that are parks under various ownership (excluding water). Parkland comprises nearly 20% of the total area of the community (Township and Village). Currently, Milford Township itself only owns the Milford-Kensington Trail Connector that opened in 2009.

The primary recreation facilities in Milford Township serve to not only provide recreation opportunities, but also to conserve and protect one of the most integral natural features of the Township, the Huron River. The Huron flows east to west through Milford Township, meets and crosses the Village of Milford, and then turns southwest as it flows into Green Oak in Livingston County. With the exception of a few hundred feet of river frontage, the entire length of the Huron River within the Township resides in public land. This rare amenity sets Milford Township "ahead of the curve" with regard to recreation facilities.

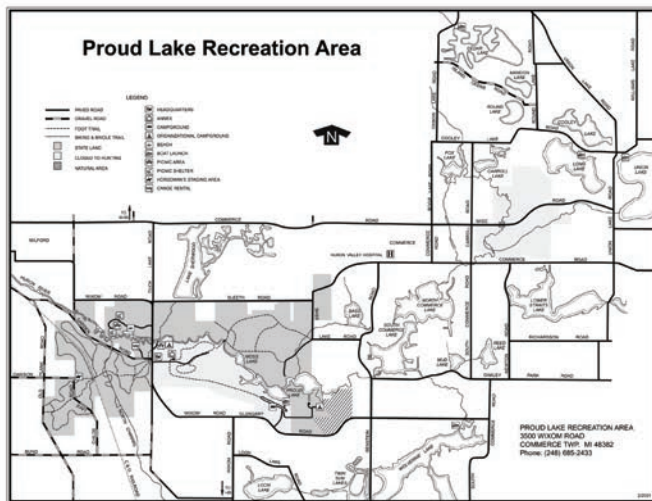
In addition to those amenities associated with the Huron River, the Township benefits from a series of other significant local and regional facilities. These, in combination with the Huron River and its amenities, provide an established base upon which the Township will be able to focus future recreation facility development. The following section describes the existing facilities serving the residents of and visitors to Milford Township.

State Parks and Recreation Areas

Milford Township contains portions of two significant State Recreation Areas within its boundaries: Proud Lake and Highland Recreation Areas. In addition, Island Lake State Recreation Area is located just south of the Township. These facilities are owned, operated and maintained by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. A Michigan State Park motor vehicle permit is required at all State Parks.

Proud Lake State Recreation Area

The Proud Lake State Recreation Area, located in Milford and Commerce Townships, provides over 1,100 acres of outdoor recreation area within Milford Township, and more than 4,700 acres overall. This State Recreation Area benefits from a full compliment of passive and active recreation opportunities and has a comprehensive list of amenities for its visitors. Perched along the banks of the Huron River at its confluence with Norton Creek and Proud Lake, this park's programming and attractions are primarily structured around its natural features. The park also contains the ancient Chief Pontiac Trail as well as many other rustic trails and approximately 20 miles of shared trails, used primarily by the mountain bikers,

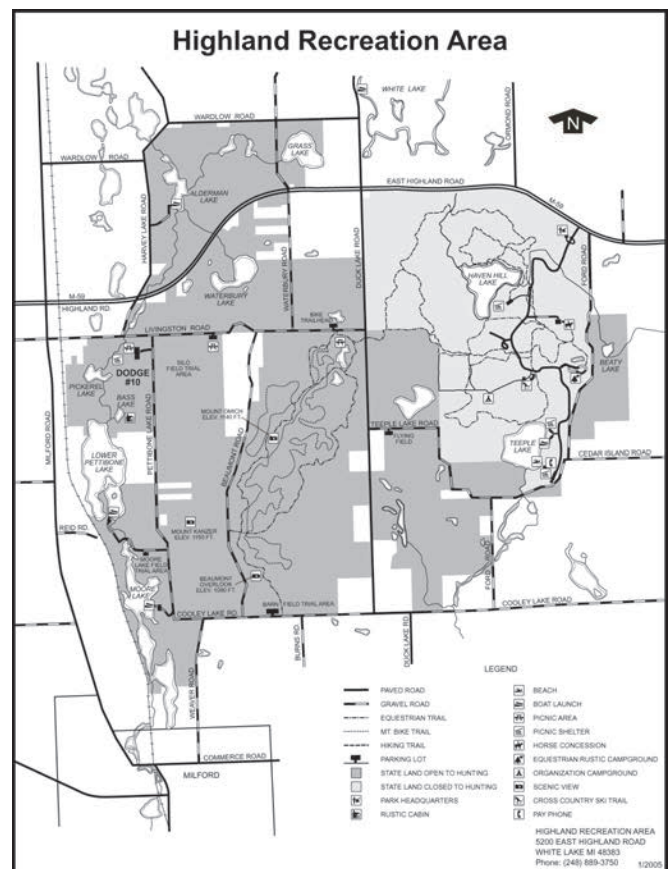


hikers, and the equestrian community. Camping, hunting, boating, horse back riding, swimming, hiking, mountain biking, snowmobiling, cross country skiing, and fishing are the most popular draws of the park. Its strategic location in Milford and Commerce Townships allows it to cater to the residents of Wayne, Washtenaw, Oakland and Livingston Counties, all within a short drive. Due to the efforts of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the Proud Lake State Recreation Area boasts a significant trout fishery in Southeast Michigan, has stocked rainbow and brown trout, and has a variety of warm water sport fishing species. The park is notable amongst Southeast Michigan anglers for its special early trout season, which allows the opportunity to fish, observing catch-and-release regulations, for a month prior to the state-wide trout season opening day.

Organizational camping on two rustic campgrounds, public camping on 130 modern family campsites, canoeing and beach activities also make the Recreation Area a popular place for overnight stays as well as day visits. Interpretive walks and other guided nature activities and outdoor education events are scheduled throughout the season here. The park also includes an area dedicated to horse staging as well as an extensive network of equestrian and hiking trails that lead directly to Kensington Metropark. Seasonal hunting is also allowed in specified areas. Finally, this park contains the Michigan Civilian Conservation Corps Proud Lake administrative office and a residential camp.¹

Highland Recreation Area

The Highland Recreation Area is an approximately 5,900 acre State Park which lies almost entirely within Highland and White Lake Townships, with the exception of a small portion of the park containing the southern half of Moore Lake, which lies in Milford Township. The Highland Recreation Area is a primarily unimproved natural area in which seasonal hunting, fishing, boating, mountain biking, cross country skiing, swimming, boating, snowmobiling,



¹ Michigan Department of Natural Resources website.

rustic camping, equestrian activities, and field dog trial areas are supported.

The Recreation Area is most notable for its 17 miles of trails for hiking and cross-country skiing, 16 miles of trails dedicated to mountain biking and 12 miles of bridle trails for horse riding. In addition, a horse stable is available with a staging area and horse camping is permitted at the rustic campsites. The predominant character of this park is undisturbed open space, wetlands, marshes and wooded areas, compromised only by minor gravel roads and trails.²

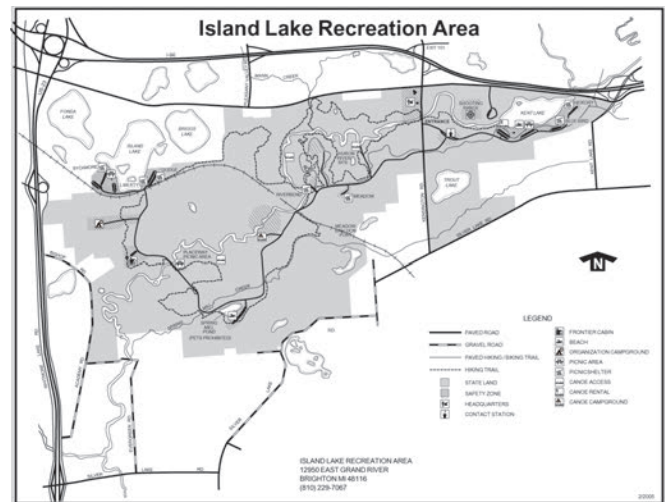
Island Lake Recreation Area

Located at the southwest corner of Milford Township is the Island Lake State Recreation Area. Abutting Kensington Metropark, this State Recreation Area contains over 4,000 acres of space, primarily in Livingston County. The park serves to continue the substantial natural area surrounding the Huron River begun upstream by Proud Lake State Recreation Area and Kensington Metropark. This area completes a chain of parks that essentially provide public access and conservation and recreation area on the banks of the Huron River for the entirety of its flow through Milford Township.

Touted by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources as providing an “up north” experience in Southeast Michigan, Island Lake does not have any modern camping sites or significant man-made facilities. A small playground, restrooms and some athletic fields supported by a concession stand comprise most of the limited improvements. However, the beaches, hiking (18 miles), biking (4 miles paved), mountain biking (14 miles), hunting and fishing opportunities (including a universally accessible fishing pier) make this a valuable resource. The park also includes an archery range, cross country skiing and snowmobiling on unpaved portions of the trails. Island Lake is the only balloon port in the state park system. Balloons usually take off in early morning or late evening, depending on weather. The most significant facility built in the park is the Island Lake Shooting Range, considered one of the most safe and modern in the United States. This shooting range was developed with sound abatement technologies that keep outside disturbance at a minimum. In addition, the quiet, natural feel of the Recreation Area is further enhanced by a year-round ban on off-road vehicles.³

Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority

The Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA) is an organization serving the counties of Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Washtenaw and Livingston. Created in 1940 and funded by taxpayers and access fees, the HCMA has developed 13 Metroparks in Southeast Michigan that combine to cover over 24,000 acres and serve approximately 7.3 million people annually. The HCMA is named after the Huron and Clinton Rivers, around which their facilities are structured. The network of Metroparks around Southeast Michigan provides a unique set of public, natural conservation areas that



stretch almost continuously across the region. Significant efforts have been made by the Metroparks and the communities in which they are located to develop an interconnected non-motorized trail network connecting the Metroparks to one another and to State, County and city, village or township parks.⁴

Kensington Metropark

Consisting of 4,486 acres, Kensington Metropark serves as the HCMA Headquarters and is second in size only to Stony Creek Metropark of all 13 of the system's parks. Due to the large area, extensive programming and long list of amenities, Kensington Metropark, located almost entirely within Milford Township, is a major recreation destination for the entire southeast Michigan region and serves over 2.5 million visitors a year.

Kensington Metropark surrounds Kent Lake and takes full advantage of this amenity by providing two beaches with swimming, and two launching ramps and a boat concession, offering paddleboats, rowboats, canoes, and kayaks for visitors. The Island Queen II is a 37 passenger pontoon boat offering excursions during the summer months. Picnic shelters for large events, group camping facilities, an 18-hole golf course, a 27-hole disc golf course, a wide variety of pier and boat fishing opportunities, horse and hiking trails and cross country skiing and tobogganing in winter months are all located within the park. There are 11.9 miles of paved trails, a 20 station fitness trail, 19 miles of marked equestrian trails and 7 miles of unpaved hiking trails near the Nature Center (mountain biking is prohibited). The Nature Program includes wildlife exhibits, ranger-lead educational trips, and self-guided nature walks on exclusive nature trails. A staff Park Naturalist at the Nature Center Building is a valuable asset and will provide guidance and information for day trips for families, individuals or group events.⁵ The park also includes the Farm Learning Center, offering interpretive displays, a petting farm, and group hay/sleigh rides. Ice skating with a heated building, fireplace, and food bar is offered during the winter months

^{2,3} Ibid., www.michigan.gov/dnr

⁴ Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority Website www.metroparks.com

⁵ Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority Web Site www.metroparks.com



along with ice fishing and cross-country skiing. Splash 'n' Blast is the most recent addition to Kensington with two, 250-foot twisted waterslides and a water spray area with cannons, palm trees and serpents that spray water.

The HCMA-owned property between Milford Road and the Proud Lake Recreation Area (also referred to as the Sidney Waldon Parkway) is also part of Kensington Metropark and includes the Chief Pontiac Trail for hiking (although others utilize the trail as well including equestrians). The Chief Pontiac Trail connects Proud Lake State Recreation Area and Kensington Metropark.

Oakland County Parks

By virtue of Milford Township's location within Oakland County, the residents of the Township have access to the Oakland County Parks System. Oakland County Parks encompass over 6,000 acres of recreation area, and its 13 sites include parks and golf courses providing a wide range of services and programs. Attention to special needs residents, seniors and children alike have positioned the Oakland County Parks as essential community amenities.⁶

⁶ Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission, website, www.oakgov.com/parks/pages/default.aspx

Lyon Oaks

Lyon Oaks County Park, the closest county park to Milford in the Oakland system, is owned and operated by the Oakland County Parks Department and is located along Pontiac Trail, adjacent to Milford Township on its southern border immediately east of Old Plank Road. Located within Lyon Township, Lyon Oaks Park is 1,041 acres in area, and contains a 800-acre wetland preserve and an 18-hole Arthur Hills-designed golf course.

Dog owners may take advantage of a 13 acre fenced in Dog Park in which they may run dogs without a leash. Sports fields, including a cricket pitch that shares the soccer fields, are available along with restrooms, picnic areas, hiking trails and a nature interpretation center. The Lyon Oaks Golf Course offers banquet and meeting facilities as well as a clubhouse and driving range. The course has been designed to be friendly to beginners, with 5 tee sets of yard-age tees, but long and complex enough to challenge experienced golfers, which make it a unique and ideal course for groups varying in ability or experience.

Camp Dearborn and Mystic Creek Golf Club

Camp Dearborn is a 626 acre park located immediately west of the Village of Milford between Commerce Road and General Motors Road. Camp Dearborn was originally founded in the 1940's as a rustic vacation space for the residents of Dearborn, Michigan, located approximately 30 miles southeast of Milford Township. While the Township has seen a great deal of development since that time, Camp Dearborn has remained relatively intact and continues to be owned and operated by the City of Dearborn. The City also leases approximately 260 acres of the property to the Mystic Creek Golf Club. The course has 27 championship holes, driving range, putting green, adventure golf, and clubhouse/banquet center.

Camp Dearborn is open to the general public, although rates are reduced for use of the park, camping facilities and golf for residents of Dearborn, Milford Township, and the Village of Milford. A variety of sports fields and courts, fishing ponds and picnic facilities are popular in the camp. RV camp sites are available along with restroom/shower facilities and a selection of sites are pet-friendly. In recent years Resort Cabins have been constructed and are available to rent.⁷

Atchison Memorial Park

The James F. Atchison Memorial Park (formerly Lyon Township Community Park) is a 120-acre park located in Lyon Township along Grand River Avenue, just south of Milford and I-96. The park includes several soccer fields, tennis courts, baseball fields, playground, basketball court, open space, and a paved trail.

⁷ Camp Dearborn Website www.campdearborn.com

Non-Motorized Systems

A widespread effort has been emerging in the State of Michigan to identify opportunities and develop non-motorized trails and trail networks throughout and between communities and various destinations. Partnerships between individual cities, village and townships, county governments, regional entities, and non-profit regional trail development organizations have produced comprehensive trail networks in many areas throughout Michigan including the Milford community. Oakland County has led the way for this growing movement by providing planning services, funding and County resources toward the construction of a trail network within its boundaries, taking advantage of the lakes and rivers of the county and connecting to those networks present or under consideration in adjacent counties.

Western Oakland Trailway Management Council

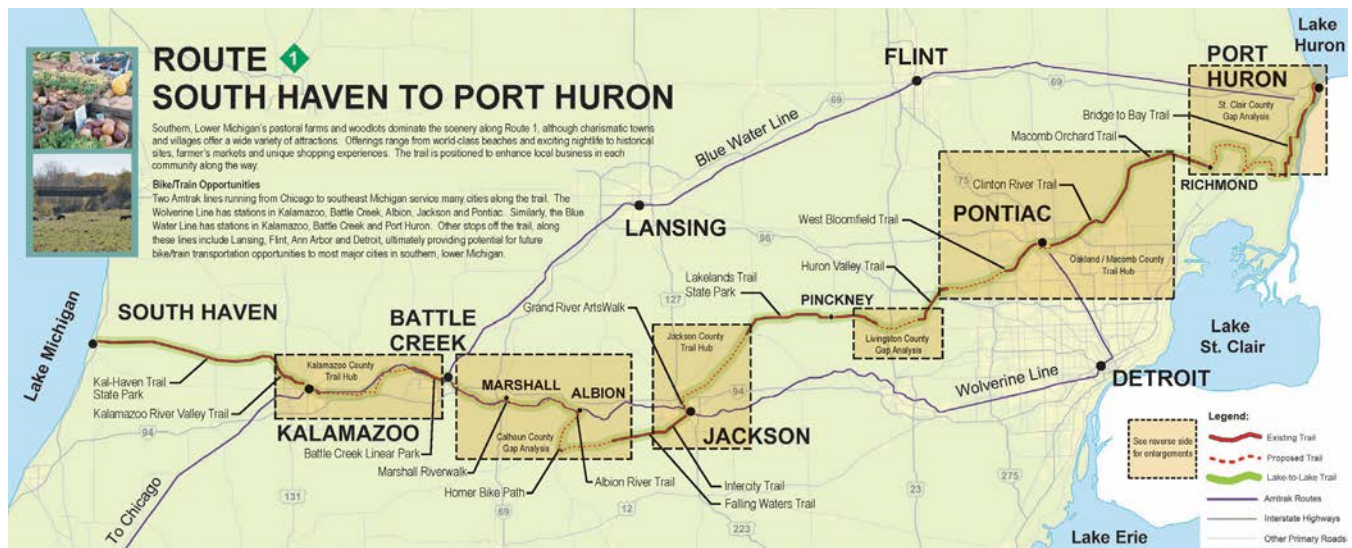
Milford Township is a participant with the Western Oakland County Trailway Management Council (formerly the Southwest Oakland County Trailway Management Council). The Council, formed in 1997, is an organization consisting of representatives from the City of South Lyon, Lyon Township, Milford Township and the Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority. Several members of the Council were the founding members of a larger entity which was called the Southwest Oakland County Trailway Management Council and began in the early 1990's. The SW Oakland County Trailway Management Council was the driving force behind the planning for the Huron Valley Trail. Once implementation on the Huron Valley Trail moved forward, a new group called the Western Oakland Trailway Management Council formed and consisted of only those communities prepared and able to move forward.

The Western Oakland Trailway Management Council is dedicated to developing and maintaining trail networks within its member communities to connect their neighborhoods and town centers as well as link to the regional trail networks. The Western Oakland County Trailway Management Council works closely with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Michigan Department of Transportation and the Road Commission for Oakland County to maintain the Huron Valley Trail and other trail efforts within the communities.

Huron Valley Trail

In 2011, the Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance identified five Great Lake to Lake Trail (GLTLT) routes that will eventually traverse the State of Michigan. The GLTLT #1 traverses from Port Huron to South Haven. It utilizes several segments that had already been completed including the Huron Valley Trail that connects Lyon Oaks County Park with South Lyon. This route traverses the former Michigan Air Line Railroad route and the Huron Valley Trail was formally dedicated in 2002. The current trail begins at Lyon Oaks County Park following widened sidewalks along Pontiac Trail and Old Plank Road. From the Old Plank Road intersection with the former railbed, the trail follows the railbed alignment southwesterly into South Lyon where the trail currently ends.

The trail segment to the east of Milford Township is currently under development by the Commerce, Walled Lake and Wixom Trailway Management Council. The council has received funding to purchase the trail in 2017 and a non-motorized bridge was constructed over M-5 Expressway in 2018. Efforts are underway to complete the trail eastward by 2020 to Haggerty Road where it will connect into the existing West Bloomfield Trail. Besides a missing link near Downtown Pontiac, this work will complete the GLTLT #1 trail all the way into Richmond in northeastern Macomb County.



Source: The Great Lake-To-Lake Trails

OKLAND COUNTY PATHWAY CONCEPT



	Trail		Municipal Boundary
	County Trail Concept* Complete		County Parks
	Design/Development		HCMA Recreation Land
	Under Consideration		State Recreation Land
	Under Review		

*The county pathways system is comprised of a vision to link pathways and greenways throughout Oakland County and Southeastern Michigan. The county concept envisions a hierarchy of pathways consisting of primary and secondary pathways.

June 2008

0 1 2 3 4 5 Miles

Sources
 Roads: Oakland County GIS, 2008
 Trail Network: Oakland County GIS, 2008
 Recreation Lands: Oakland County GIS, 2008

Oakland County Trails Water and Land Alliance

Oakland County Trails, Water, and Land Alliance formed out of the merger of the Oakland Trails Advisory Council and Oakland County's Natural Area Advisory Group. OCTWLA works to develop trails and protect natural areas within Oakland County. The initiative has evolved from local visions and applied countywide. OTAC originally envisioned an interconnected trail system throughout the region. As of 2018, 131 miles of trails in Oakland County have been completed, 24 miles are in detailed planning/design/development stage, 135 miles are under consideration, and 106 miles of trails are under review/study.

To assist in the planning efforts of creating a connected system, OCTWLA has developed a map that is continuously updated to illustrate the vision and to depict completed and planned segments. In 2008, Oakland County adopted its Oakland County Trails Master Plan. A number of corridor opportunities have been identified in and around the Milford community.

To the east of Milford Township, the trail system is planned to traverse Wixom, Commerce Township, Wolverine Lake and into Orchard Lake, West Bloomfield Township, and Keego Harbor leading into Pontiac and then the Clinton River Trail and Paint Creek Trail. Once fully completed, this comprehensive trail network will be a model of trail development and planning within the State of Michigan and for urban counties nationwide.

Milford-Kensington Non-Motorized Connector

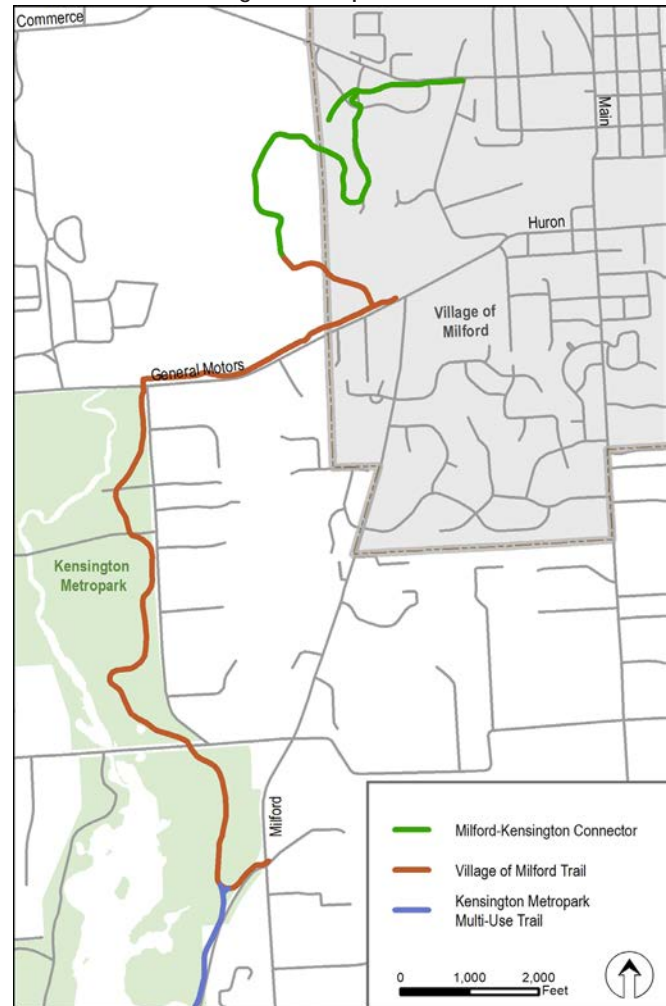
Milford Township adopted its first Recreation Plan in 2002, identifying the design and construction of a non-motorized trail from the Milford dam to Kensington Metropark as a top priority. Following the adoption of the Recreation Master Plan, the Township secured over \$2.6 million in funding and passed a millage to fund a significant portion of the construction costs of the project. The Township was successful in obtaining funding assistance from the Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan, MDOT, and MDNR.

The trail was completed in 2009. The 10-foot wide trail traverses HCMA property and connects Kensington Metropark to the Milford Dam. To minimize wetland impact, the trail features five timber boardwalks over three separate wetland areas.

Village of Milford Trail

The Milford Trail was finished in 2009 with the completion of the Milford-Kensington Connector to downtown Milford. The Village section of the trail connects the Milford Dam north around Hubbell Pond Park through a densely wooded area to the YMCA, Commerce Road, and the Milford Library.

Milford-Kensington Connector and Village of Milford Trail Connection to Kensington Metropark





YMCA

The Carls Family YMCA was constructed in 2002 as part of the YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit. Located in the Village of Milford the “Y” attracts a high membership base and provides exercise, pool, instructional and other health facilities for the residents of the community.

The building contains a series of pools including a shallow, warm water children’s pool, a lap and diving pool, a two-story waterslide, and another general activity area. A large gymnasium, with dividers and striping for volleyball, basketball and other indoor sports as well as an activity room with wood floors and wall-to-wall mirrors for dance and aerobic instruction. The YMCA also brings to the Township an array of summer, recreational and educational programs for member families. Day camps, sports leagues, classes on many different activities and exercise and sports clinics are available for members.⁸

Huron Valley School District⁹

The Huron Valley School District encompasses eight elementary schools, three middle schools, two high schools and one alternative high school and services Highland, Milford, White Lake and Commerce. The majority of Milford Township lies within the Huron Valley School District boundaries. There are 3 schools within Milford with Milford High School located just north of the Township on Milford Road.

Huron Valley Recreation and Community Education

The Recreation and Community Education department strives to offer life long learning opportunities to meet the needs of Huron Valley Schools’ residents and neighbors. Program staff include teachers, professionals and instructors who are specialists in their chosen field. Annually, 125 part time instructors lead over 500 youth and 1200 adults in various classes / workshops. Each season, a variety of classes for youth through adult including computers, fitness, arts and crafts, enrichment and more, are offered.

⁸ YMCA promotional materials

⁹ Huron Valley School District Website.

Milford High School

Located on S. Milford Road in Highland Township, school enrollment is approximately 1,393 students (‘17-’18). Milford High School has 9 acres of outdoor active recreation area which contain sports fields for baseball, softball, tennis, football, track and soccer. In addition, the high school has a full gymnasium and associated parking. These facilities are used by high school league play for students and for general community use. Milford High School also contains a state-of-the-art theater. The theater, known as the Milford High School Center for the Performing Arts, holds approximately 650 people. The school also includes a competitive pool, community/family pool with water slide and spray area as well as a fitness center and indoor track. The pool and fitness facilities were constructed with bond funds approved in 2001. It is operated by the School District. Various memberships are available with reduced fees for Huron Valley School District residents.

Muir Middle School

Muir Middle School is located on George Street in the Village of Milford and includes approximately 759 students (‘17-’18). Muir Middle School (16.3 acres) includes a general play area is supported by two ball fields, a soccer field and gymnasium.

Johnson Elementary School

Johnson Elementary School is located on General Motors Road and has an enrollment of approximately 386 students (‘17-’18). The school (14.7 acres) includes a baseball field, basketball and soccer fields or courts, as well as general outdoor play area and various play equipment. This school also has a gymnasium for indoor activities.

Kurtz Elementary School

Kurtz Elementary School is located on Kurtz Drive and has a student enrollment of approximately 412 students (‘17-’18). Kurtz School (12.6 acres) includes area for baseball, basketball and soccer. Like the other Milford area schools, Kurtz also has a gymnasium and a general outdoor play area with playground equipment.



In addition to the schools located in Milford, Milford students also attend Lakeland High School, Oak Valley Middle School and Country Oaks Elementary, depending on where they live in the community. Oak Valley Middle School and Country Oaks Elementary School are located just east of Milford Township in Commerce Township on a shared complex. These facilities should be connected via non-motorized trails west into the Village of Milford.

South Lyon School District

Located in the extreme southwest corner of Oakland County, and partially in Livingston and Washtenaw Counties, the South Lyon School District covers about 83 square miles. The District serves South Lyon, New Hudson, the hamlet of Salem, and parts of the Townships of Lyon, Salem, Northfield, Green Oak, Wixom and Novi. Additionally, the district serves a very small section of land at the extreme southeast corner of Milford Township.

The South Lyon School District has two high schools, two middle schools, eight elementary schools, and an early childhood center. Located in the City of South Lyon, the administrative offices for the School District share a facility with the City of South Lyon Municipal Offices, the first such partnership in the State of Michigan.

South Lyon Schools also offer a comprehensive adult program named the Center for Active Adults. The Center serves as a community center for ages 50 and older and offers classes in exercise, art, financial management, crafts and many other topics. The program also offers health screenings, sponsors volunteer events and support groups.¹⁰

Village of Milford

The Village of Milford operates and maintains six parks within the municipal boundaries including:¹¹

- **Hubbell Pond Park** (150 acres) (leased for 99 years from the HCMA and overlaps to the west into Milford Township). The Hubbell Pond Park site, located on the north side of the Mill Pond in the western portion of the Village, is largely undeveloped, but does feature walking trails, mountain bike trails, 4 ballfields, and a picnic shelter. The site is also home to the Milford Public Library and Carls Family YMCA. The Milford Trail connector was completed in 2009 and connects the Milford Dam and Kensington Metropark to Hubbell Pond Park, the YMCA, Library and downtown Milford.
- **Central Park** (12 acres)
Central Park is located on the north side of the Mill Pond/Huron River in the center of the Village, within walking distance of the downtown district. The park includes a community built playscape, a tennis court, two basketball courts, canoe launch



area, sand volleyball court, and special event pavilion, picnic areas and restrooms. The LaFontaine Family Amphitheater, built in 2015, is used for the Village's summer concert series and a Veterans' Memorial is also located in the park. In 2015 the Village Council adopted the Central Park Plan which aims to guide development over the next 10-20 years.

- **Southside Park** (5 acres)
This park is located between Huron Street and Washington Street, east of Main Street, south of the downtown area. The park features play equipment, horse shoe pits, remote control race car track, picnic tables, and an authentic log cabin.
- **Fairgrounds Park** (3 acres)
Fairgrounds Park is located adjacent to the Milford Senior Center and municipal complex, south of Atlantic Street. The park is mainly an undeveloped natural area but does feature shuffleboard courts and a picnic area. In 2017 the eastern portion of the park was approved as the future location of the Milford Skatepark. A groundbreaking is targeted for spring 2019 with 9,150 square feet of hardscaped features and 1,350 square feet of landscaping.

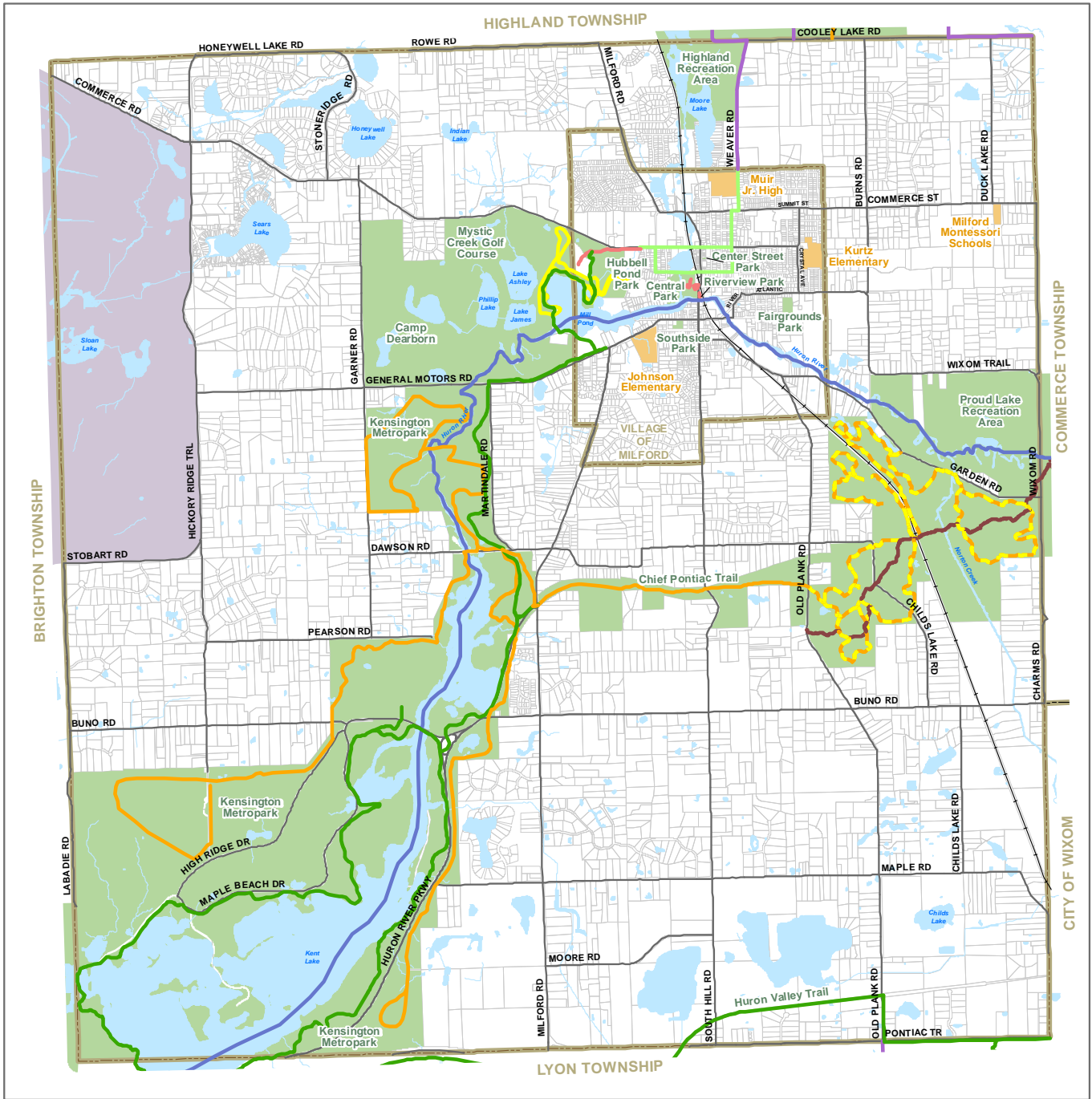
¹⁰ South Lyon School District Website www.southlyon.k12.mi.us

¹¹ Master Plan for Parks and Recreation. Village of Milford 1998.

MILFORD RECREATION FACILITIES INVENTORY

Name	Type	Acres	Parking Area	Restroom	Open Space	Fencing	Hunting	Shooting Range	Camping	Canoe/Kayaking	Equestrian Stabling	Soccer Field	Ball Diamond	Regulation Ball Diamond	Football Field	Track	Tennis Court	Play Equipment	Basketball Hoop	Volleyball Court	Pond, Shelter	Pond, Tables/Benches	Golf Course	Golf Course	Outdoor Ice Skating	Unpaved Trails	Paved Trails	Equestrian Trails	Mountain Bike Trails	Spray Park/Water Park	Gymnasium	Swimming Pool	Nature Center	Dog Park				
Village of Milford Facilities																																						
Hubbell Pond Park	CP	150.0	Y	Y	Y								4							1	Y				Y													
Central Park	CP	16.5	Y	Y	Y			Y			1					1	Y	4	1	1	Y				Y													
South Side Park	MP	1.6	Y																																			
Fairgrounds Park	MP	4.3	Y	Y																																		
Riverview Park	MP	0.2	Y																																			
Center Street Park	MP	0.1	Y																																			
TOTALS		172.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	1	4	0	0	1	-	-	1	2	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Huron Valley School District Facilities																																						
Milford High School	CP		Y	Y							2	2	2	1	1	8																						Y
Muir Middle School	NP	16.3	Y	Y							1	2																										Y
Johnson Elementary School	NP	14.7	Y	Y							1	1					Y	6																			Y	
Kurtz Elementary School	NP	12.6	Y	Y							1	1					Y	2																			Y	
TOTALS		43.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	6	2	1	1	8	-	8	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
State Parks and Recreation Areas																																						
Proud Lake State Recreation Area	LUP	4700.0	Y	Y	Y			Y	Y	Y									Y	Y				Y		Y		Y	Y									
Highland Recreation Area	LUP	5900.0	Y	Y	Y			Y	Y	Y									Y	Y				Y		Y		Y	Y									
Lakelands Trail State Park	LP	13 miles	Y																																			
Island Lake Recreation Area	LUP	4000.0	Y	Y	Y			Y	Y								Y							Y		Y		Y	Y									
TOTALS		14600.0																																				
Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority																																						
Kensington Metropark	LUP	4481.0	Y	Y	Y			Y	Y	Y	2	5					Y	4	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y									Y	
TOTALS		4481.0									2	5							4																			
Oakland County Parks																																						
Lyon Oaks Park	LUP	1043.0	Y	Y	Y												Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y									Y	
TOTALS		1043.0																																				
City of Dearborn																																						
Camp Dearborn	LUP	626.0	Y	Y	Y			Y									Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y									Y	
Mystic Creek Golf Club																																						
TOTALS		626.0																																				
YMCA																																						
William & Marie Carls Family YMCA			Y	Y	Y																																Y	Y
TOTALS		0.0																																				

Legend: MP = Mini-Park; NP = Neighborhood Park; CP = Community Park; LUP = Large Urban Park; LP = Linear Park
 Recreation Inventory Source: Wade Trim field survey, August 2007.



MILFORD TOWNSHIP RECREATION INVENTORY MAP

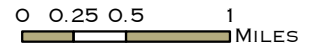
LEGEND

Non-Motorized System

- Bike / Ped (Paved) Trail
- Equestrian Trail
- Mountain Bike Trail
- Equestrian/Mountain Bike Trail
- Park Path
- Bike Lane
- Hiking Trail
- Widened Shoulder
- Water Trail

- Parks Facilities
- Educational Facilities
- GM Proving Grounds
- Parcel Lines
- Municipal Boundaries

- Water Bodies
- Water Features
- Roads
- Railroads



Source: Wade Trim 2018

- **Arthur's Park** (0.15 acre)
This small park is located along Main Street, on the north side of the Huron River, across from Central Park. Although no active recreational facilities are present, the park features a butterfly garden and offers a walkway, benches and picnic table for visitors to enjoy the views of the river.
- **Center Street** (0.1 acre)
This small urban park is located on the east side of Main Street in the downtown area. The park has a courtyard feel and features benches, a gazebo, and water fountain.

Programs and Clubs

There are a variety of programs and clubs available to Milford area residents including:

- The Huron Valley Soccer Club offers organized soccer for girls, boys, and adults. The club utilizes fields at the Highland Township Community Park and also practices at Kensington Metropark.
- The Huron Valley Youth Baseball & Softball League is active within the community and offers instructional/recreational baseball and softball to Milford area youth. It is a volunteer-run organization and utilizes Janowski and Jay Cee Park Ballfields in the Village of Milford.
- The Milford Athletic Club is a swim club in Milford that runs programming for adults from Huron Valley Pools and Milford High School.
- The Huron Valley Schools Community Education Department organizes and offers a number of recreation-related programs throughout the year such as Counselor In Training, Outdoor Adventure Camp, Safety Camps, Tennis, Horseback Riding, gymnastics, cheerleading, flag football, swim classes, water aerobics, yoga, pilates, gardening, etc.

Additional opportunities include:

- Huron Valley Community Chorus
- Huron Valley Council for the Arts
- Friends of the Milford Library
- Huron Valley Moms' Club
- Village Fine Arts Association
- Girl/Boy Scouts
- Milford Garden Club
- Milford Historical Society
- Proud Lake Trails Riders Association (Equestrian)
- Highland Trail Riders Association (Equestrian)
- Kensington Trail Riders Association (Equestrian)
- Huron Valley Equestrian Committee
- Beautification Committee
- Milford Amateur Radio Club

- Milford Masonic Lodge
- Rotary Club of Milford
- Zonta Club of Milford
- Huron Valley Running Club
- Huron Valley Mountain Bike Club
- Huron River Watershed Council
- Wolverine Sports Club
- Friends of Proud Lake
- Heavner Canoe & Kayak Rental
- Village Canoe Rental

Milford Senior Center

The Milford Township Senior Center is located on the Civic Center grounds, adjacent to the Village/Township offices. Its location makes it easy and accessible for area Senior Citizens. The Center has a Director and Activity Director who plan many outings and activities for older (50+) adults. Lunch is served daily, and a schedule of events can be mailed or picked up at the Center. The Highland/Milford Transportation Program owns two vehicles to take area Seniors to doctors appointments as well as shopping trips.

Programs and Events

There are several programs and events sponsored and organized by various agencies and held in the community throughout the year.

Milford Winterfest

The Milford Township Parks and Recreation Commission hosts Winterfest every year at Downtown Milford's Central Park. The winter festival features a variety of events for all ages, including winter crafts, ice skating, winter games, and available snacks and hot cocoa.

Milford Memories Summer Festival

The Milford Memories Summer Festival is a three day event held in August in downtown Milford. It includes an art fair with over 300 artists from around the country. The festival also includes music, events for all ages, a 5K & 10K Race, Pancake breakfast, food and beverages.

Milford Summer Concerts in the Park

A summer concert series is held Thursday evenings in Central Park's LaFontaine Family Amphitheater in downtown Milford. From June through August, community members can enjoy a variety of musical genres: from blues and swing music to bluegrass, big band, jazz, and rock and roll.

Milford Community Picnic

The Milford Township Parks and Recreation Commission jointly holds a Community Picnic with the DDA and the Village of Milford in the Spring of each year at Central Park. Food is available as well as various games, crafts, face painting, moon bounce and a movie in the park.

Labor Day 30K

The Labor Day 30K takes place every Labor Day Weekend, starting from Bakers of Milford Restaurant. Run by a Nonprofit Organization, the race offers a 30K Bike, 30K Run, 10K Run, 6K Run/Walk and a 1/2 Mile Kids Run.

Past Grants

When preparing a Recreation Plan, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources requires that information be provided concerning grants that have been received in the past for acquisition or development of recreation facilities. In the past, Milford Township has received 1 grant for recreation facility development.

In 2006 Milford Township was granted \$400,000 from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, TF06-074, the Milford to Kensington Metropark Trail. The project developed an approximately 2.9-mile non-motorized trail through Kensington Metropark to Milford Dam. In addition to the trail, the grant also supported construction of elevated boardwalks over wetlands and supported site restoration. The trail is in good condition and well-maintained. The trail is heavily used and is an asset to the community.



Basis For
Action

There are several factors that affect and impact the provision of parks and recreation facilities. The Basis For Action section analyzes and reviews the primary factors that have the potential to impact recreation planning within the Township over the next 5 years. The goals, objectives, and priority improvements are the result of the analysis presented here. A number of important factors contribute to the development of the Basis For Action section, including current trends, future planned improvements to facilities in the community, a comparison of existing facilities to acreage and facility standards, gaps in service areas, participation data in community recreation programs and the results of staff and community input. The Basis For Action contains several pieces of information and analysis, and when put together as a whole, begins to establish the need for various facilities within the Township over the next 5 years.

National Recreation Trends

Recreation trends occurring nationally provide insight into activities that can be expected to draw a large number of participants and how different age groups vary in the way they use recreation areas. The Physical Activity Council (PAC) released a 2018 Participation Report that tracked annual recreation participation data in the United States. The report found that fitness sports and outdoor recreation have garnered the greatest amount of interest in recent years. The top aspirational activity for all age segments occurs outdoors, ranging from camping, to biking, to birdwatching. Interest levels do vary by age groups. Kids, ages 6-17, have a high interest in team sports and outdoor activities, while the Boomer generation participates heavily in low impact fitness activities, like aquatic exercise, cycling, and walking. The figure "Aspirational" Sports Participation displays "aspirational" sports participation for ages 6 and older. Camping, fishing, and biking are found near the top of nearly every age segment, and although the level of interest does vary, swimming for fitness is an interest across all age groups.

The PAC 2018 Participation Report also found that there is a trend towards less frequent activity among the U.S. population. 82.4 million people, or 72% of the population over age 6 was active in 2017. The rate of inactivity has remained steady over the past five years, but the number of inactive individuals has risen due to population increase. Two million more people were inactive in 2017 than the number inactive in 2012. Non-participants provided various responses to what would help them to get involved with recreational activity (See figure Ways to get Non-Participants Involved).

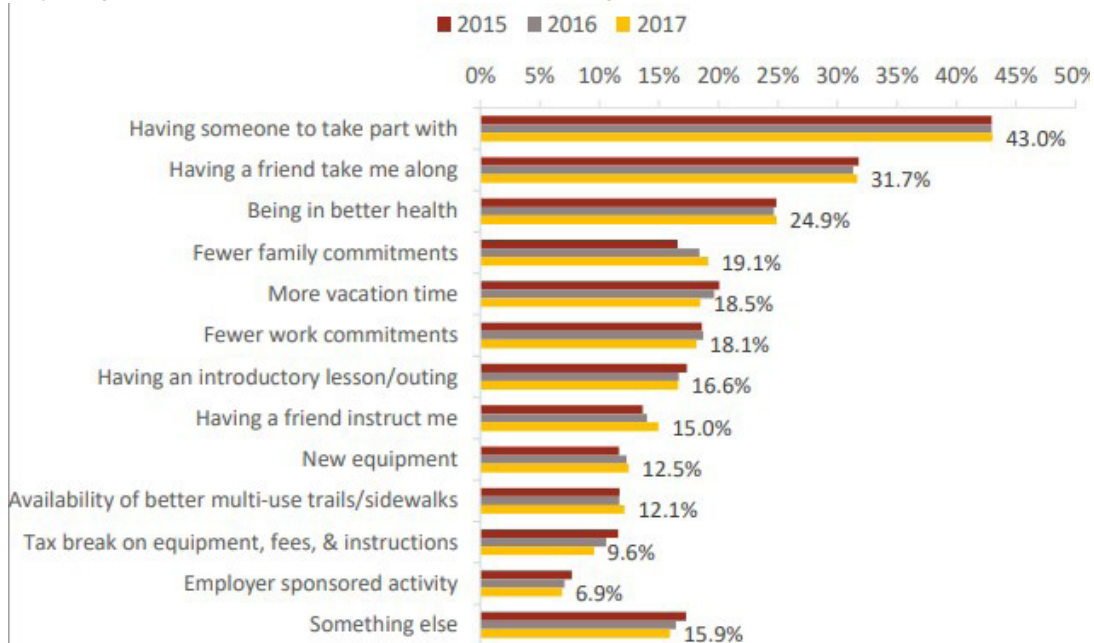
"Aspirational" Sports Participation (U.S. Population Ages 6+)

Interest Level	Interest Level			
	Ages 6~12	Ages 13~17	Ages 18~24	Ages 25~34
1	Camping	Camping	Camping	Camping
2	Fishing	Fishing	Bicycling	Swimming For Fitness
3	Soccer	Swimming For Fitness	Martial Arts	Bicycling
4	Basketball	Running/Jogging	Backpacking	Fishing
5	Bicycling	Working out using machines	Fishing	Canoeing
6	Martial Arts	Bicycling	Working out with weights	Hiking
7	Swimming for Fitness	Working out with weights	Working out using machines,	Backpacking
8	Football	Basketball	Canoeing	Working out with weights
9	Swimming on a Team	Football	Kayaking	Running/Jogging
10	Volleyball	Volleyball	Swimming For Fitness	Working out using machines

Interest Level	Interest Level			
	Ages 35~44	Ages 45~54	Ages 55~64	Ages 65+
1	Camping	Camping	Bicycling	Birdwatching/Wildlife Viewing
2	Swimming For Fitness	Fishing	Camping	Fishing
3	Bicycling	Bicycling	Birdwatching/Wildlife Viewing	Working out using machines
4	Fishing	Swimming For Fitness	Swimming For Fitness	Swimming For Fitness
5	Working out with weights	Hiking	Fishing	Bicycling
6	Hiking	Working out with weights	Working out using machines	Hiking
7	Working out using machines	Canoeing	Hiking	Camping
8	Running/Jogging	Working out using machines	Working out with weights	Working out with weights
9	Canoeing	Birdwatching/Wildlife Viewing	Canoeing	Fitness classes
10	Basketball	Backpacking	Kayaking	Shooting

Source: The Physical Activity Council, 2018 Participation Report

Ways to get Non-Participants Involved (U.S. Population Ages 6+)



Source: The Physical Activity Council, 2018 Participation Report

National Planning Standards

In the process of determining and prioritizing needs, it is not only important to understand the national and local trends in terms of participation levels and popularity, but it is also imperative to compare the provision of local recreation facilities to published standards. This comparison of existing facilities to standard acreage and facility recommendations is another tool to determine needs within Milford Township. However, it should be noted that the latest available national standards were developed in the 1980's and 1990's and may not fully reflect today's needs and trends.

Acreage Standards

The National Recreation and Park Association provides a recommended park classification system which recognizes that open space has various functions. The system categorizes open space into various park classifications (see the table **Recreation Classification System**). The desirable characteristics relative to size, function, amenities and acreage provisions per 1,000 people (where available) are identified in the table.

Recreation Classification System

(National Recreation and Park Association)

	General Description	Location Criteria	Size Criteria	Acres/1,000 Population
Mini-Park	Used to address limited, isolated or unique recreational needs.	Less than a 1/4 mile distance in residential setting.	Between 2500 sq. ft. and one acre in size.	0.25 to 0.5A
Neighborhood Park	Remains the basic unit of the park system and serves as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood. Focus is on informal active and passive recreation.	1/4 to 1/2 mile distance and uninterrupted by non-residential roads & physical barriers	5 acres is considered min. size. 5 to 10 ac. is optimal.	1.0 to 2.0A
Community Park	Serves broader purpose than neighborhood park. Focus is on meeting community-based recreation needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.	Determined by the quality and suitability of the site. Usually serves two or more neighborhoods and 1/2 to 3 mile distance.	As needed to accommodate desired uses. Between 30 and 50 acres.	5.0 to 8.0A
Large Urban Park/ Regional Metropolitan Park/ Natural Resource Area	Serves broader purpose than community parks. Focus is on meeting community-based recreational needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.	Determined by quality and suitability of site. Serves entire community.	As needed to accommodate desired uses. Minimum of 50 acres. 75 or more acres optimal for Urban Parks, over 200 + for Regional/ Metro Parks	5.0 to 10.0A

The Table **Classification of Milford Area Recreation Facilities** displays which parks fall into each classification system, along with its acreage. These classifications are helpful in determining service areas for members of the community. As the table illustrates, there is a significant amount of acreage within the Township and immediate surroundings that can be considered "Large Urban Park/Regional/Metropolitan Park/Natural Resource Area" land. This includes Camp Dearborn, the HCMA properties, Lyon Oaks (just outside of Township), and State Recreation Areas. There is a significant amount of passive recreation areas, camping, fishing, hiking, wildlife viewing, etc. available within the majority of these large regional parks.

For each park classification, the Table **Existing Recreation vs Public Standards** compares the area's existing park acreage against the recommended standard. The Township and Village rely heavily on one another for the provision of recreation and open space, thus the table includes an analysis of acreage needed based on a combined 2016 population of 16,394. Utilizing all of the acreage within the Township and Village, regardless of owner, it appears the Township contains sufficient recreation acreage. It should be noted however, that with the exception of maintaining the Milford-Kensington Metropark Trail, the Township owns and controls no recreation properties. The Township relies primarily on the Village and School District to provide residents with active recreation areas. This becomes problematic when dealing with access, maintenance, scheduling, etc.

Accessibility Assessment

Per MDNR recreation planning requirements, each park and recreation facility owned and operated by the community must be evaluated regarding its accessibility for individuals with disabilities. This review is to ensure that the community is aware and striving to ensure that all its facilities are fully accessible.

Each facility must be compared to the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design. A ranking of 1-5 must be applied where: 1=

Classification of Milford Area Recreation Facilities

	Acres
Large Urban Parks	
Regional/ Metro Park/ Natural Resources Area	
Camp Dearborn	626
Lyon Oaks County Park	1,043
Kensington Metropark	4,481
Proud Lake State Recreation Area	4,700
Highland State Recreation Area	5,900
Island Lake Recreation Area	4,000
Community Parks	
Hubbell Pond Park	150
Central Park	16.5
Milford High School	56.1
Neighborhood Parks	
Muir Middle School	16.3
Johnson Elementary	14.7
Kurtz Elementary	12.6
Mini Parks	
Southside	1.6
Fairgrounds	4.3
Riverview	0.2
Center Street	0.1

None of the site elements meet 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design, 2=Some, 3=Most, 4=All, and 5=The facility meets the Principals of Universal Design.

Milford Township only owns the Milford to Kensington Metropark Trail. The trail ranks as a 4 on the accessibility ranking scale.

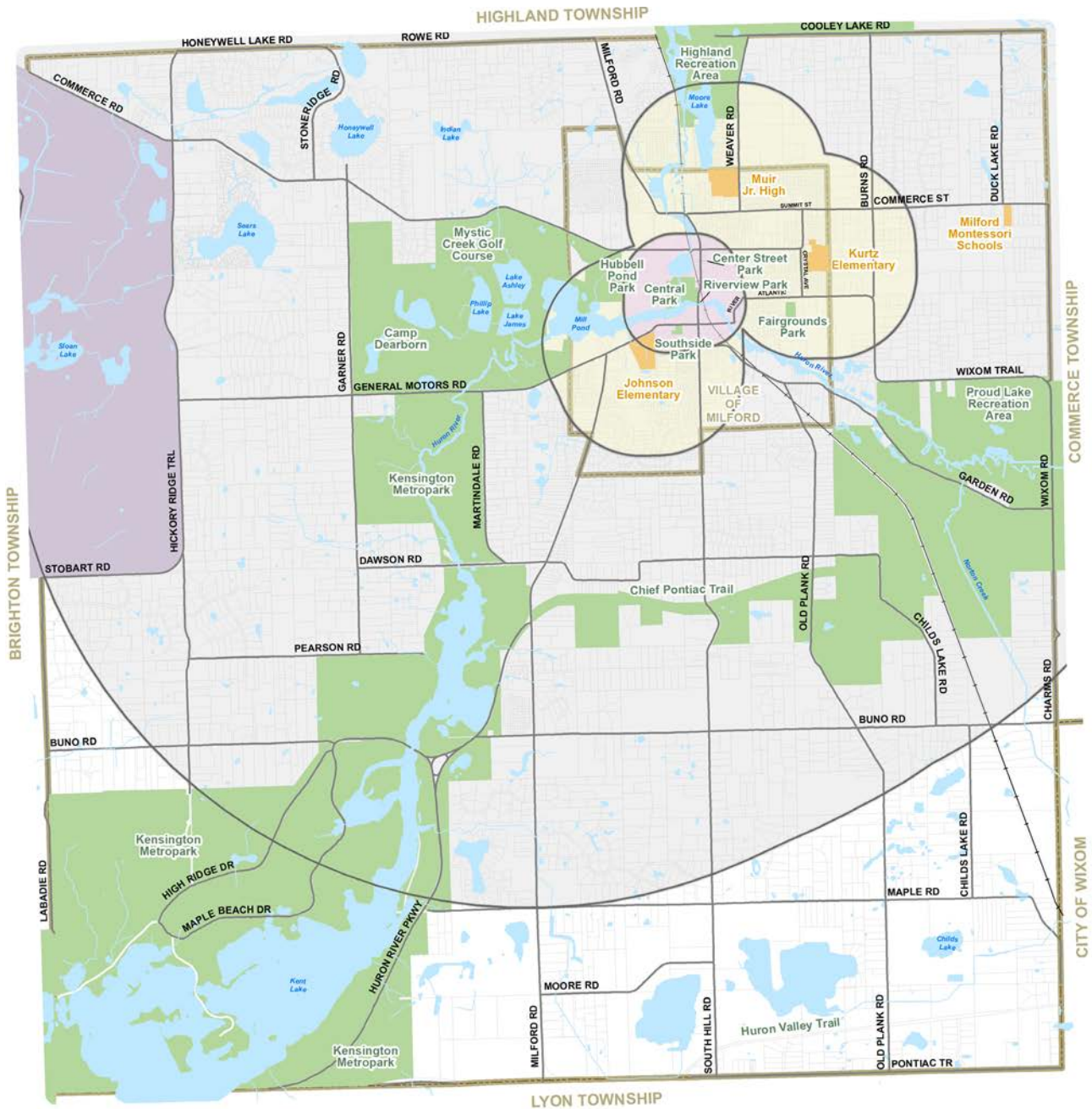
Existing Recreation vs. Published Standards

Facility	Standard: Acreage per 1,000 Population	Standard Acreage Twp Only (2016)*	Standard Acreage Twp & Village (2016)**	Existing Acres							Total
				Township	Village	Huron Valley Schools	Dearborn	Oakland County	HCMA	State of Michigan	
Mini Park	0.25 to 0.5	2.5 to 5.0	4.1 to 8.2	0.0	6.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.2
Neighborhood Park	1.0 to 2.0	10.0 to 19.9	16.4 to 32.8	0.0	0.0	43.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	43.6
Community Park	5.0 to 8.0	49.8 to 79.7	82.0 to 131.2	0.0	166.5	56.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	222.6
Large Urban Park/ Regional/ Metropolitan Park/ Natural Resource Area	5.0 to 10.0	49.8 to 99.6	82.0 to 163.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	626.0	1043.0	4481.0	14600.0	20750.0

Recreation Inventory Source: Wade Trim Research 2018.

*Based on the 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate of 9,960 for the population of Milford Township.

**Based on the 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate of 16,394 for the combined population of Milford Township and the Village of Milford.



MILFORD TOWNSHIP SERVICE AREAS MAP

LEGEND

- Mini Park 1/4 Mile Service Radius
Southside
Fairgrounds
Riverview
Center Street
 - Neighborhood Park 1/2 Mile Service Radius
Muir Middle School
Johnson Elementary
Kurtz Elementary
 - Community Park 3 Mile Service Radius
Hubbell Pond Park
Central Park
Milford High School
 - Parks Facilities
 - Educational Facilities
 - GM Proving Grounds
 - Roads
 - Railroads
 - Parcel Lines
 - Municipal Boundaries
 - Water Bodies
 - Water Features
- Source: Wade Trim 2018

Park Service Areas

As has been referenced, each type of recreation facility (community, neighborhood, and mini) has varying service areas due to their size and amenities offered. According to the NRPA, community parks serve an area within a 1/2 to three mile radius, neighborhood parks serve an area between 1/4 mile to 1/2 mile radius and mini parks serve a population within 1/4 mile. To illustrate the proximity of recreation areas to residents, a service area map has been created. If considering Hubbell Pond Park, Central Park and Milford High School as "community parks", nearly every resident of the Township is within 3 miles from one of these facilities, with the exception of those in the southern portion of the Township. Those facilities considered "neighborhood" or "mini parks" are all

located within the Village boundaries. As the map illustrates, very few Township residents have one of these facilities within a 1/2-mile or 1/4-mile of their home. For Large Urban Parks, Regional/Metropolitan Parks/Natural Resource Areas they either serve the entire community (Large Urban Parks) or service beyond the municipalities boundaries.

In evaluating the results from classifying Milford Area Recreational Facilities by park type (found on page 34), Milford Township has sufficient park land of the various types of parks to meet the standards for amount of parks by acreage; however, the Milford Township Service Area Map on page 35, illustrates that significant portions of the Township are not served by Mini-Parks or Neigh-

Recreation Facility Standards

Activity/ Facility	Minimum Space Requirements	Units Per Population	Service Radius	Location Notes
Basketball Court Youth High School	2400-3036 sq.ft. 5040-7280 sq.ft.	1 per 5,000	¼ - ½ mile	Outdoor courts in neighborhood and community parks, plus active recreation areas in other park settings.
Ice Hockey	22,000 sq.ft. including support area	1 per 100,000	½ hour to 1 hour travel time	Climate important consideration affecting number of units.
Tennis Court	7200 sq.ft./court 2 acres/complex	1 per 2,000	¼ - ½ mile	Best in batteries of 2-4. Located in neighborhood/community park or adjacent to school site.
Volleyball Court	4000 sq.ft.	1 per 5,000	½ - 1 mile	Same as basketball court
Ballfields Baseball Little League Softball	3-3.85 acres 1.2 acre 1.5-2 acres	1 per 5,000 1 per 30,000 (lighted)	¼ - ½ mile	Part of neighborhood complex. Lighted fields part of community complex. Softball fields may also be used for youth baseball.
Football Field	1.5 acre	1 per 20,000	15-30 min.	Usually part of baseball, football, travel time soccer complex in community park or adjacent to high school.
Soccer Field	1.7-2.1 acres	1 per 10,000	1-2 miles	Number of units depends on popularity. Youth soccer on smaller fields adjacent to schools or neighborhood parks.
Swimming Pool	½ to 2-acre site	1 per 20,000	15-30 min. travel time	Located in community park or school site.
Data from Roger A Lancaster, Ed., <u>Recreation Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines</u> , Alexandria, Virginia: National Recreation and Park Association, 1983, pages 60-61.				

Recreation Facility Deficiency

Facility	Standard per Population	Existing Township Facilities	Existing Village Facilities	Existing School Facilities	Existing County Facilities	Existing HCMA Facilities	Total Existing Facilities	Need Based on Standard (a)	Surplus or Deficiency
Basketball Court (Outdoor)	1 per 5,000	0	2	4	0	0	6	3.3	2.7
Ice Hockey	1 per 100,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Tennis Court	1 per 2,000	0	1	8	0	0	9	8.2	0.7
Volleyball Court (Outdoor)	1 per 5,000	0	1	0	0	4	5	3.3	1.7
Baseball/Softball Field	1 per 5,000	0	5	8	0	5	18	3.3	14.7
Baseball/Softball Field (Lighted)	1 per 30,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.5	(0.5)
Football Field	1 per 20,000	0	0	1	0	0	1	0.8	0.2
Soccer Field	1 per 10,000	0	0	5	0	2	7	1.6	5.4
Swimming Pool	1 per 20,000	0	0	2	0	0	2	0.8	1.2

Recreation Inventory Source: Wade Trim Research 2018.

* The County and State do not have any of these specific facilities on site. County does have multi-purpose recreational fields.

(a) Based on the 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate of 16,394 for the combined population of Milford Township and the Village of Milford.

borhood Parks. To address this issue, Milford Township should consider identifying prospective park land in the northwestern and southeastern quadrants of the Township for Neighborhood or Community Parks that would address this deficiency. A well-positioned park in the southeastern quadrant of the Township could also serve as a hub to the intra-Township non-motorized trail network in this part of the Township.

Facility Standards

The NRPA also publishes typical recreation facility standards that specify service area, the number of facilities needed to service the population, and the land area needed for such facilities. Standards for facilities typically located within neighborhood and community parks are provided in the table below. These standards, used in conjunction with the needed acreage, facilitate further understanding of Milford Township's recreation needs. Data in the facility deficiencies table compares the existing community recreation facilities within Milford, to the NRPA published standards.

When compared to the published standards, Milford Township is deficient in the provision of a lighted ballfield. Again, as the Township currently only owns two trails, the facilities provided by the Village, local schools, Oakland County, HCMA and the State of Michigan help to offset *some* of the facility deficiencies. **It should be noted, however, that the Township does not have direct control over operation, maintenance, availability, etc. of any of these facilities.** For example, while the standards indicate that the community is not short in soccer fields, all soccer fields are located on school or HCMA properties.

The facility standards should also be considered in light of the national recreation activity trends previously noted as well as the input received from staff, the Commission and from the public forum. Of the facilities listed in the standards, national participation over the past 10 years has only increased in ice hockey, football and soccer.

Community Demographics

The socioeconomic characteristics of a community play a role in the demand for certain types of recreation facilities. By examining socioeconomic characteristics such as population, density, age, and household size, municipalities can identify trends and opportunities that may influence future land use and recreation decisions and/or policy choices. This section provides a brief summary of the socioeconomic characteristics of Milford Township that may influence parks and recreation planning decisions.

The US Census Bureau and American Community Survey (ACS) serve as the primary source of data for this demographics section. Census statistics are presented for Milford Township as a whole, but are also illustrated for the 7 block groups that comprise the Township. Additionally, census statistics for the 4 block groups in the Village are presented. A series of maps are included that illustrate the relevant Census data by block group within the Milford community.

Population Trends and Forecast

Between 1970 and 2016, Milford Township has experienced significant population growth. The total growth rate over the approximately 45 year span was 331.5%. Since the year 2000, the Township population has grown 10.6%, and the population is forecasted to continue to increase by another 10.7% over the next 30 years. The Township is expected to reach an estimated population of 11,034 by the year 2045. This continuing growth is a clear indication that the Township will need to consider the provision of additional park

Year	Milford Twp	Village of Milford	Combined
1970	2,557	4,699	7,256
1980	5,146	5,041	10,187
1990	6,610	5,511	12,121
2000	8,999	6,272	15,271
2010	9,561	6,175	15,736
2016	9,960	6,434	16,394
2045 Estimate	11,034	7,004	18,038

Source: U.S. Census Bureau and 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates
2045 Estimate - SEMCOG 2045 Regional Development Forecast

facilities and services to accommodate the growing population.

Population By Block Group

Where people are living within the community can have an influence on recreation planning. There will likely be a greater need for park facilities where the greatest number of people are residing. Conversely, it may not be as practical or economical to locate park facilities within sparsely populated areas.

The Population by Block Group Map shows where the largest numbers of people are residing within the Milford community. The least amount of people (822) are in the Block Group in the south-west corner of the Township. This area includes the main portion of Kensington Metropark. The northwest section of the Township contains the largest number of people at 2,095. In the Village of Milford, the greatest number of people reside in the northeast and southwest sections of town.

Median Age

Knowledge of a community's age distribution plays a crucial role in the planning of recreation facilities and programs. Whether an area is comprised of older or younger citizens will greatly influence such things as the facilities that are most desired within parks. The Median Age by Block Group Map shows the median age for the block groups within Milford Township and the Village of Milford.

The block group in the Township with the highest median age is located in the southern-central portion of the Township with a median age of 51.3 years. The block group in the Township with the lowest median age is located directly north of the block group with the highest median age. 41.7 years is the lowest median age in the Township. The remaining block groups in the Township range in median age from 45.5 to 49.4 years.

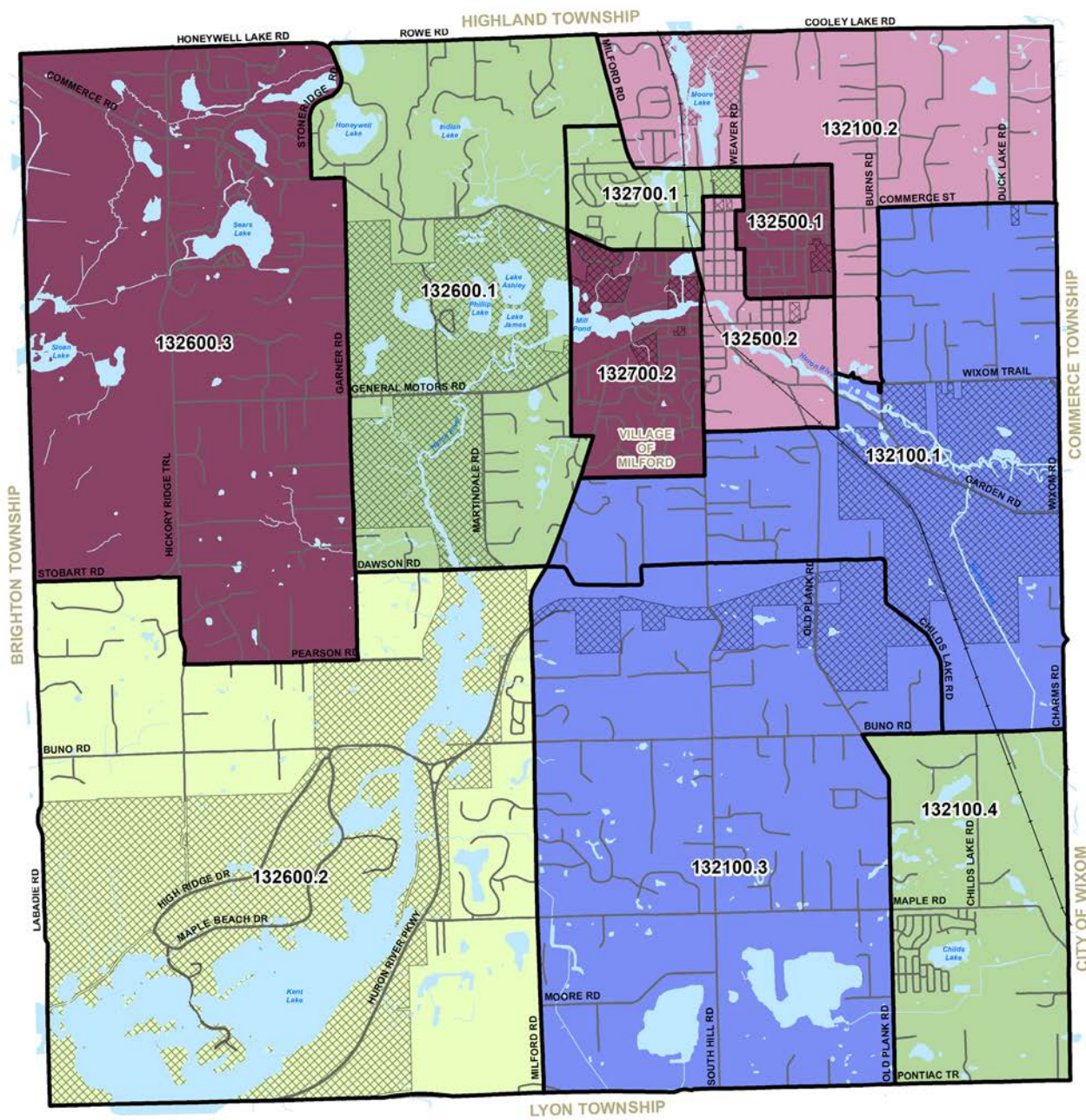
The median age within the Village is generally lower than that of the Township residents. The lowest median age within the Village is in the southeast (31.2) section of the community with a median age of 36.5 years.

According to SEMCOG's Regional Development Forecast for Milford Township, the percentage of citizens older than 65 years is expected to increase from 17.8 percent of the total population (as of 2015) to 29.3 percent of the total population by 2045. When making future recreation facility decisions, the Township must be aware of the needs of this growing age group.

Household Size

A household, as defined by the US Census, is all persons who occupy the same housing unit. A housing unit can be described as a house, apartment, mobile home, a group of rooms, or a single room used as a separate living quarters.

A trend occurring nationwide and characteristic of today's population is the declining size of households. There are several factors that demographers have linked to the declining size. People are marrying later, postponing having children, and having fewer children. Nationwide, married couple families still comprise the largest and economically most powerful household. However, the number of single parent households is increasing, thus contributing to the decline in average household size.








MILFORD TOWNSHIP POPULATION MAP

LEGEND

-  Census 2010 Block Groups
- 132100.3** Block Group ID Number

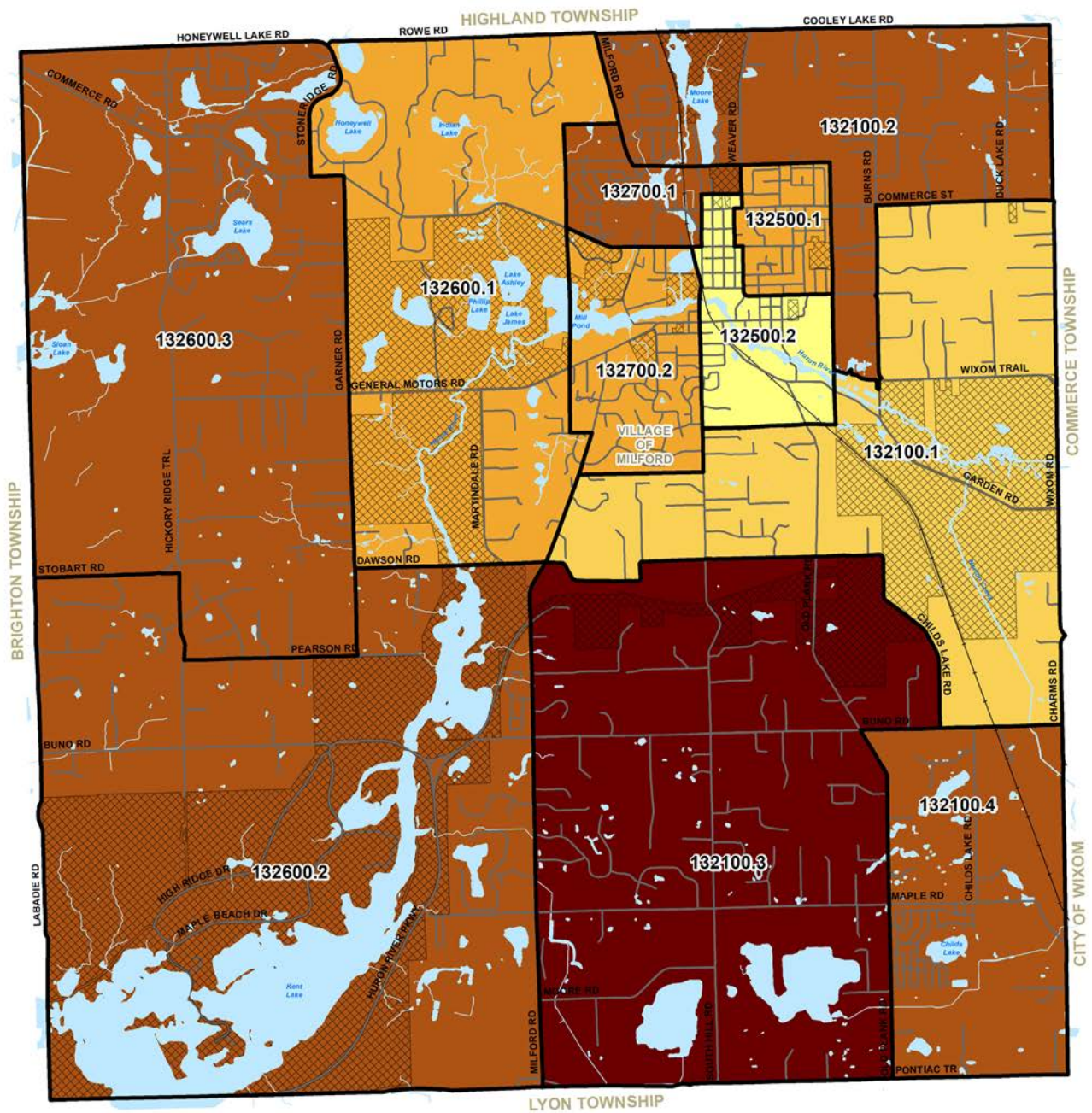
Population by Block Group

-  Fewer than 900
-  900 - 1199
-  1200 - 1499
-  1500 - 1799
-  1,800 and Greater

-  Parks & Schools
-  Roads
-  Railroads
-  Water Bodies
-  Water Features

Source: 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates





MILFORD TOWNSHIP MEDIAN AGE MAP

LEGEND

- Census 2010 Block Groups
- 132100.3 Block Group ID Number

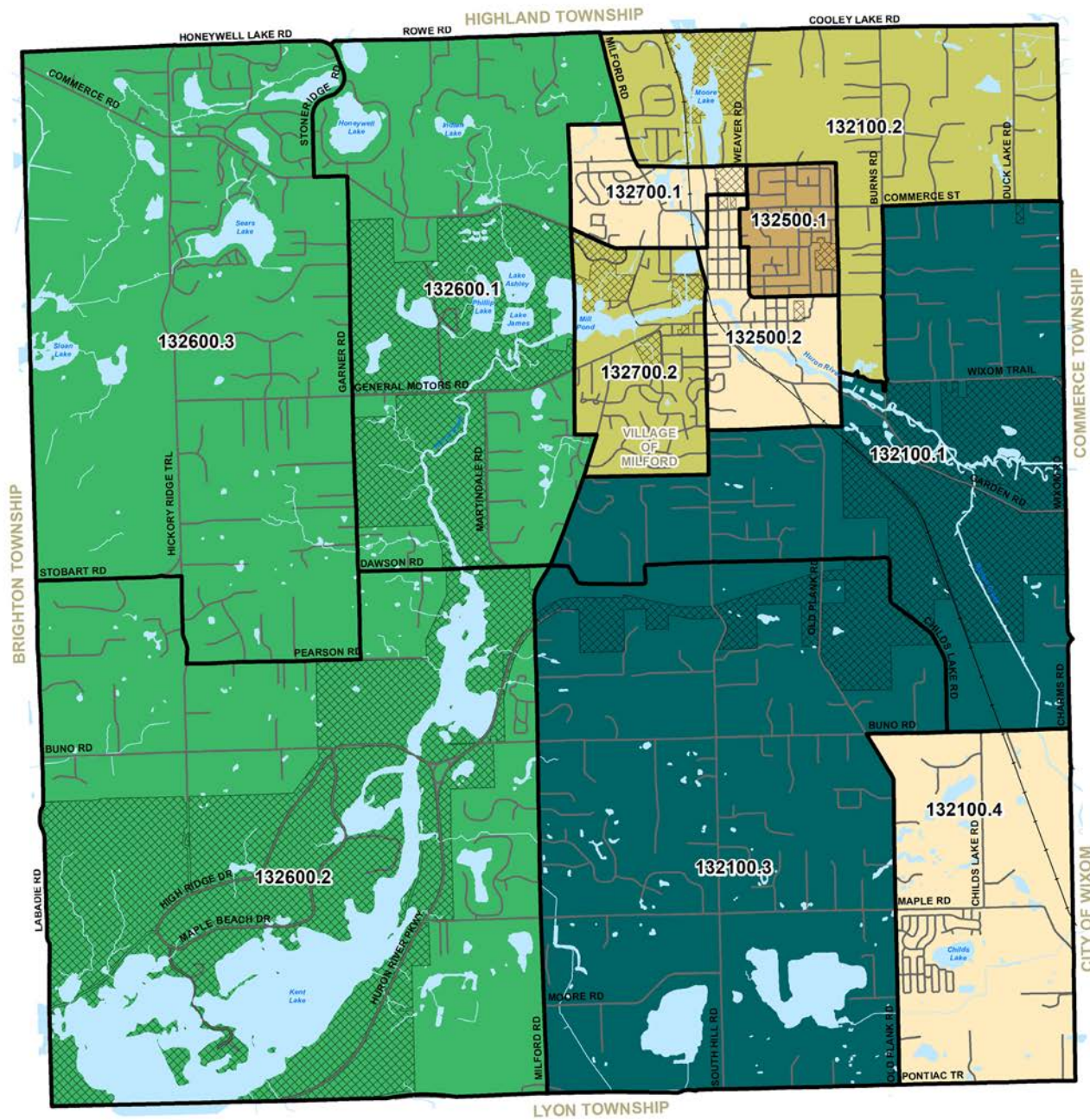
Median Age by Block Group

- 37.99 and Younger
- 38 - 41.99
- 42 - 45.99
- 46 - 49.99
- 50 and Older

- Parks & Schools
- Roads
- Railroads
- Water Bodies
- Water Features

Source: 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates





LEGEND

Census 2010 Block Groups

132100.3 Block Group ID Number

Household Size by Block Group

- Fewer than 2.20
- 2.20 - 2.49
- 2.50 - 2.79
- 2.8 - 3.09
- 3.10 and Greater

Parks & Schools

Roads

Railroads

Water Bodies

Water Features

Source: 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates



0 0.25 0.5 1 MILES

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Household size is an important factor when making recreation facility and program decisions. A high person per household figure can be an indication that an area is comprised of families with children and thus could justify family or youth oriented recreation facilities. Conversely, an area with a low person per household figure may require recreation facilities more favorable to singles, adults or the elderly.

The geographic distribution of household size in Milford is portrayed on the Average Household Size by Block Group Map. Block groups with a high persons per household average are found in the central-eastern portion of the Township, with 3.18 and 3.29 people per household. The lowest average household size is in the southeast section of the Township with 1.94 people per household.

Within the Village of Milford, the average household size tends to be smaller. The block groups with the lowest average household size are located in the southeast and northwest sections of the Village, with 2.12 and 2.15 people per household. In the Village, the largest average households are located in the northeast block group with 2.38 people per household.

Related Planning Efforts

Understanding planning efforts that have occurred or are occurring in the area is essential when planning for recreation improvements within the Township. This is especially true in Milford where multiple entities are in control of recreation land and facilities. A brief description of these efforts, studies, and plans is provided.

Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Currently, there are significant budget constraints within the State Park systems that have had considerable impacts upon the State's capital improvements within its State Park system. The MDNR has been able to add restroom facilities to Proud Lake State Recreation Area. No significant improvements are planned for the Highland State Recreation Area.

Camp Dearborn

Camp Dearborn is a family-orientated recreational facility, owned and operated by the City of Dearborn Recreation & Parks Department. The Camp is located in picturesque Milford, approximately 35 miles northwest of Dearborn City Hall and conveniently located near many of southeastern Michigan's main attractions. New resort cabins featuring complete bathrooms and kitchenettes with garbage disposals have been added to facility. These cabins overlook Padleboat Lake. A zip line has also been added as a possible activity for visitors.

Village of Milford

The current Recreation Master Plan for the Village of Milford includes a description of several desired improvements to the Village park properties. For Central Park a plan was prepared in November 2015. Since the plan was adopted, a new restroom structure has been built. The plan includes a proposed connection at Liberty Street under the existing railroad bridge to form a non-motorized, continuous path from Downtown Milford to Central Park. A canoe launch and landing are a potential addition to the park as well as improved drainage, landscaping, boardwalk along the river, pavilion, water spray park, improved parking, bandshell, and picnic areas.

At Hubbell Pond Park, the Village has completed a non-motorized trail from the Milford Dam, north to Commerce Road. The Village has long-term plans to continue the trail system throughout the Village to forge a continuous path into the downtown and into Milford Township to the north and south. Ultimately, the path would connect north into Highland Township. Additionally, an access road and handicap parking at the picnic area, scenic overlook, restored beach, fishing pier, and canoe launch.

At the smaller Village park properties, improvements include landscaping, signage, historic renovations, and improved picnic areas.

Shiawassee and Huron Headwaters Resource Preservation Project

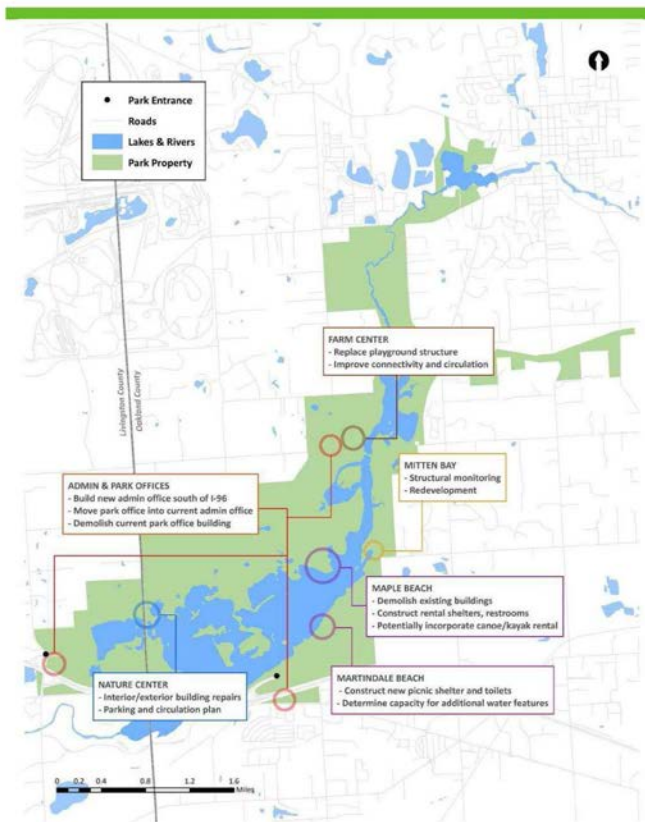
Spearheaded by Oakland County, the S&H Project involved six communities and approximately 180 square miles: Highland, Milford, Rose, Springfield, White Lake and the Village of Milford. The project provides a model that communities can use in order to balance development with resource preservation. The plan serves as a guide for communities, property owners, developers and conservancies on how to cooperatively work together in order to identify, rank, and preserve natural resources.

Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority

The Huron Clinton Metroparks staff a team of planning professionals that facilitate public input, data collection and analysis, and park master planning. The Kensington Metropark Master Plan was completed in February 2017 and outlines a short-term action plan for 2017-2021 and a long-term action plan for 2022-2026.

Key projects include updates to Maple Beach, the Farm Center, the Nature Center, Martindale Beach, the Park Office & HCMA Administrative Office, and the Mitten Bay boat docking facility. Overall, the Master Plan focuses on addressing aging infrastructure and outdated signage; drawing visitors to the park and better public outreach; and diversifying revenue sources for sustainability. Many of the master plan initiatives focus on maintaining and improving existing infrastructure over developing new facilities or trails.

Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority
Kensington Park Master Plan Map



Milford Open Space Team

Milford is recognized for its beautiful parks, wetlands, wildlife, and a multitude of recreational activities. In continuance of Milford's natural legacy, the Milford Open Space Team (MOST) was created to help preserve Milford's rural charm and country-like atmosphere. The team's primary purpose was to establish guidelines for the identification, location, and acquisition of unique pieces of property that will help Milford maintain its community character.

The Milford Open Space Team (MOST) was formed to explore the viability of a program to acquire and preserve open space within the Milford community boundaries. The MOST consisted of 7 residents that met on a monthly basis for nearly two years (December 2004 – November 2006) to develop a report and recommendations.

The MOST recommended that property acquisitions should be predominantly open lands and in an undeveloped condition that is suitable for or as any of the following:

- natural areas;
- wildlife and native plant habitat;
- important wetlands or watershed lands;
- stream, creek and river corridors;
- passive, low-impact activities;
- little or no land disturbance; and/or
- trails for non-motorized activities.

The MOST outlined a recommended process and procedures to evaluate potential properties for purchase and preservation. A point system was developed to establish an objective way to identify the best projects for acquisition/protection and to gain the greatest benefit with Township funds. Criteria include:

- Parcel Size
- Proximity to Other Protected Land or Surface Water Bodies
- Scenic Quality
- Ecosystem Value
- Public Access
- Heritage/Cultural Value
- Strategic Purchases Consistent with Objectives of Master Plan

The MOST group is no longer active, but its goals to preserve open space remain. The current Milford Township Future Land Use Map illustrates a Conservation Overlay district that was selected based upon the existing interconnected green infrastructure system. The overlay district utilizes design controls to limit the negative impacts upon valuable natural assets.

**Milford Community
Joint Master Plan**

The Village of Milford and Charter Township of Milford are unique yet interdependent and, over the years, have developed a strong and mutually beneficial relationship. In many respects, particularly in the provision of public services and facilities, each community relies on the other for mutual assistance and support. It is through this cooperation and collaboration that the citizens of the community as a whole are able to experience a higher quality of life that could not be achieved by the efforts of either of the communities alone. In much the same manner, the Village and Township have begun working on a cooperative master planning process that will result in a more relevant and efficient Master Plan document that maximizes the benefits to each community.

Originally adopted in 2009, an addendum to the plan was adopted by the Milford Township Planning Commission in 2017 to address changes pertinent to land use planning policies within Milford Township. The addendum embraced smart growth planning principles, which includes working towards walkable communities and preserving open space and natural areas.

The addendum introduced a new future land use map for the Township, and the map included three distinct recreation land use categories: Recreation/Conservation, Regional Recreational, and Specialized Recreational.

Complete Streets Policy

Non-Motorized transportation is a key component of a community's recreational infrastructure. A robust non-motorized network allows for easy use of walking, biking and other non-motorized transportation, improves non-motorized transit safety, encourages more non-motorized trips, and enables residents to connect with each other along these routes. The recognized role that a non-motorized transportation network can play in supporting recreational activities in a community is increasing, and non-motorized transportation goals should be included in today's recreation plans.

A major component of non-motorized plan is ensuring that all streets within a community are "complete" whereby they are safe, accessible, and convenient for all users (pedestrians, bicyclists, drivers, truckers, and public transportation riders) regardless of their age or physical ability.

In 2010, the State of Michigan became the 14th state to adopt Complete Streets legislation by amending PA 51 of 1951 (the State law that governs the distribution money to local jurisdictions within Michigan). The Milford Township Board of Trustees followed up this action in July 2013 when it adopted a Complete Streets resolution, which requires the Oakland County Road Commission to consult with the Township whenever it is making changes to the road network within Milford Township.



As a part of the adoption of the Complete Streets policy, the Milford Township Planning Commission adopted a Complete Streets Policy Plan map at its meeting on January 31, 2013. The plan illustrates Desired Complete Streets Improvements crisscrossing much of the community so that most every resident would be within one mile of a non-motorized route of some manner. See the attached **Complete Streets Policy Plan Map**. Two additional routes were identified during this recreation planning process that would ensure that most of the Township's residents are served by non-motorized trails within one mile of their homes:

- 1) Bike Path - Continue the existing bike path west along General Motors Road from Martindale Road to Hickory Ridge Trail;

- 2) Desired Complete Streets Improvement – Install non-motorized segment along Hickory Ridge Trail south to Kensington Metropark.

Completing a non-motorized network can take up to twenty years. This time period is based upon how often a road is significantly repaired or rebuilt and how much effort is made to implement the plan. Limited community effort may extend this period even longer, but it is important to develop the policy plan so that it may be implemented when opportunities become available.

Oakland County Natural Areas Program

In 1988, Oakland County had a Natural Features Inventory conducted for the entire county. These results have served as the basis for natural areas planning within the county. This effort was advanced in 2002 when the Oakland county Potential Conservation/Natural Areas Report was completed. This report has been updated several times including 2004 and 2017.

The report breaks down the county into areas for possible conservation and then ranks them by level of importance. The report states the following:

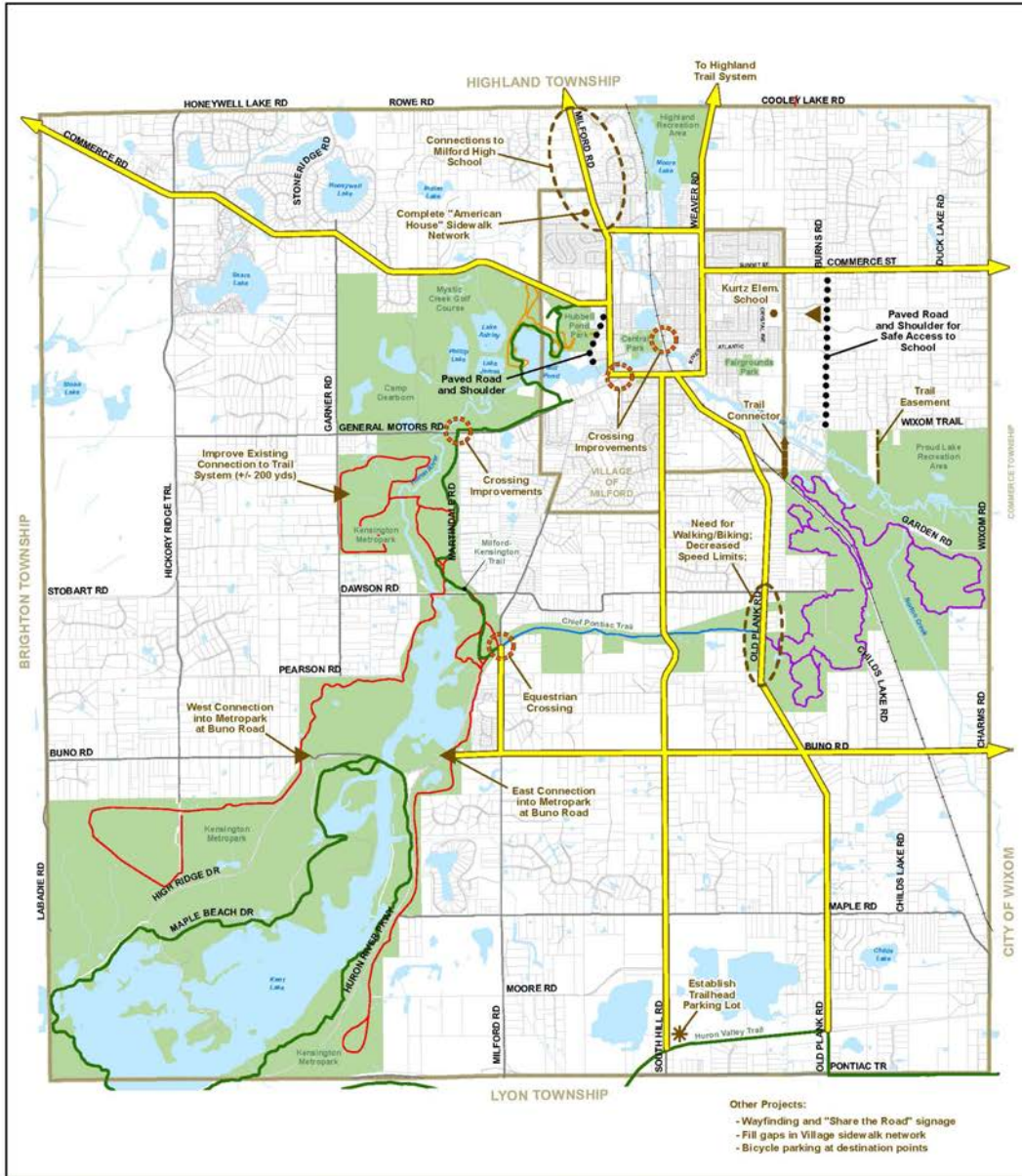
"Potential Conservation Areas are defined as places on the landscape dominated by native vegetation that have various levels of potential for harboring high quality natural areas and unique natural features. In addition, these areas may provide critical ecological services such as maintaining water quality and quantity, soil development and stabilization, pollination of cropland, wildlife travel corridors, stopover sites for migratory birds, sources of genetic diversity, and floodwater retention.

The County utilized GIS to develop a map illustrating potential conservation sites. Emphasis was specifically places on the intactness of the potential conservation area, wetlands and wetlands complexes, riparian corridors, and forested tracts. Sites under 20 acres are excluded. Potential areas were then classified as Priority One, Two, or Three. The **Potential Conservation/Natural Areas Map** identifies those areas within Milford Township.

In 2012, the Oakland Trails Advisory Council and the Natural Area Advisory Group were merged into the Oakland County Trail, Water, and Land Alliance group with responsibility to implement non-motorized trails, blueways, and land and water conservation efforts within the County.

2009, a Green Infrastructure Vision was developed for Oakland County to identify areas in the landscape that are in need of local protection and to link the remaining valuable ecological lands. These lands include large natural areas, important wildlife habitats, wetlands, riparian corridors, and areas that reflect key elements of Oakland County's biological diversity. Green infrastructure is the

Complete Streets Policy Plan Map



Complete Streets Policy Plan

Milford Charter Township Oakland County, Michigan

Proposed Facilities

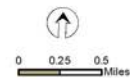
- Desired Complete Streets Improvements
- Paved Road/Shoulder
- Trail Connector
- Trail Easement
- Connections
- Crossing Improvements
- Trailhead Parking

Existing Facilities

- Existing Bike / Ped (Paved) Trail
- Existing Equestrian / Mountain Bike / Hike Trail
- Existing Equestrian Trail
- Existing Mountain Bike Trail
- Existing Hike Trail

Parks Facilities

- Parks Facilities
- Parcel Lines
- Municipal Boundaries
- Water Bodies
- Water Features
- Major Roads
- Other Roads
- Railroads



WADETRIM
500 Griswold, Suite 2500
Detroit, MI 48226
www.WadeTrim.com

Public Open House:
Non-Motorized Planning Session
March 10, 2012
Milford Senior Center

Recommended for approval by the
Charter Township of Milford Planning
Commission at a regular meeting held
on January 31, 2013

Approved by the Charter Township of
Milford Board at a regular meeting held
on _____, 2013

interconnected network of open spaces, natural areas, and waterways. This network supports native species, maintains natural ecological processes, sustains air and water resources and contributes to health and quality of life. It also focuses on conservation values and the services provided by natural systems in concert with, instead of in opposition to, land development.

- Green infrastructure provides a mechanism to identify and blend environmental and economic factors creating a multitude of social, economic, cultural and environmental benefits.
- Provides a sense of place and a unique identity
- Decreases cost of public infrastructure (i.e. stormwater management & water treatment systems)
- Increases both active and passive recreational opportunities
- Increases property values
- Helps preserve the unique quality of life
- Maintains the naturally functioning ecosystems
- Helps to attract new businesses and well qualified workers



Green Infrastructure Components

- *Hubs*
Hubs anchor the network and provide an origin or destination for wildlife. Hubs range in size from large conservation areas to smaller parks and preserves. Hubs provide habitat for native wildlife and help maintain natural ecological processes.
- *Sites*
Smaller ecological landscape features that can serve as a point of origin or destination or include less extensive ecological important areas.
- *Links*
The connections that hold the network together and enable it to function. Links facilitate movement from one hub to another.

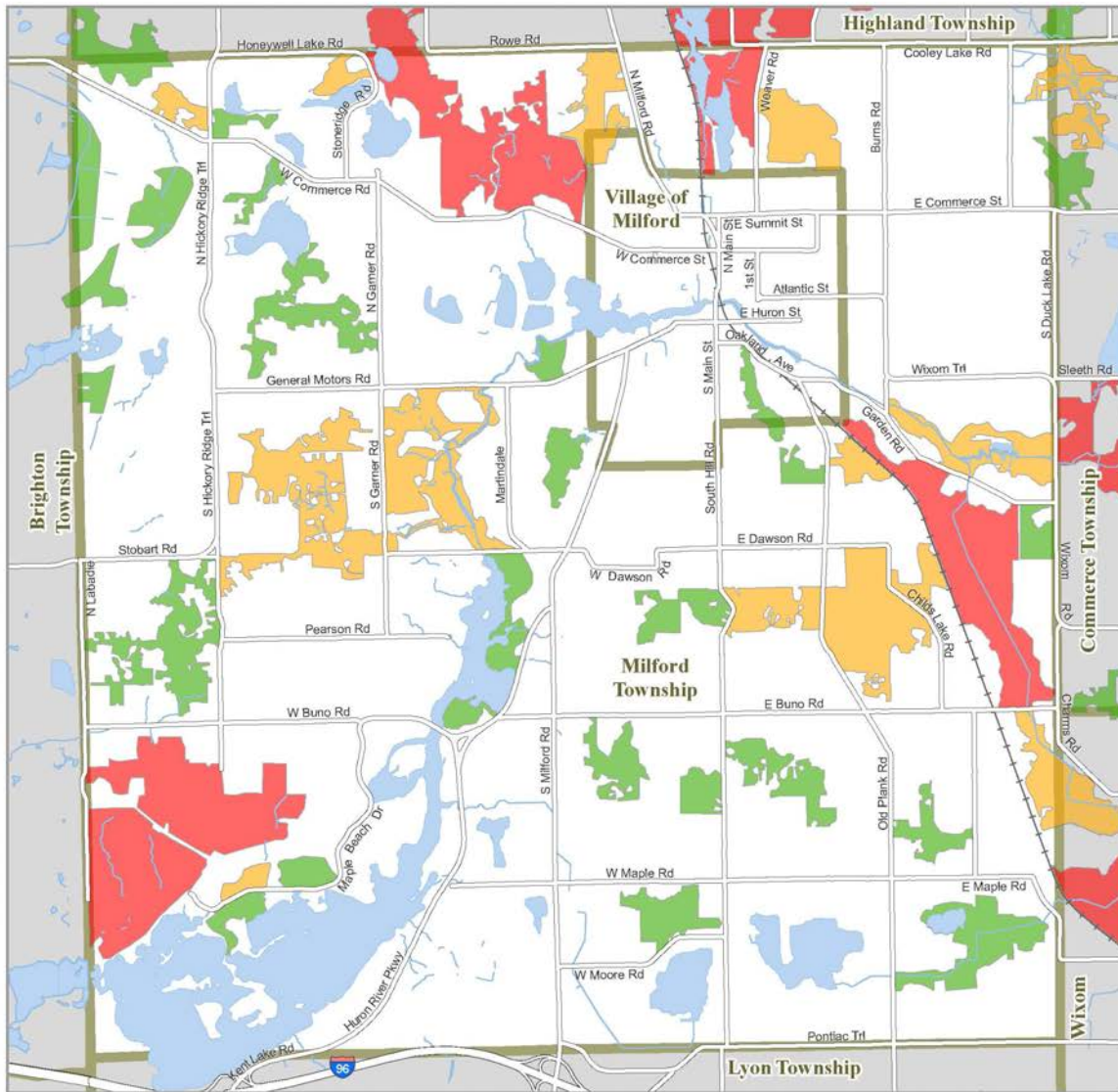
See the **Green Infrastructure Map** for Hub, Site, and Links within Milford Township.

Parks and Recreation Commission/Staff Input

The Parks and Recreation Commission met several times during the planning process. These meetings not only included review of draft materials and information but, more importantly included discussions and brainstorming sessions that ultimately led to the development of the goals, guidelines and capital improvements schedule. The majority of discussions focused on a few primary topics including:

- completion and connection of trails within the community and connecting to adjacent communities
- desire to be an equestrian- and bicycle-friendly community
- acquisition of property for active recreation purposes
- establishment of a Youth Center

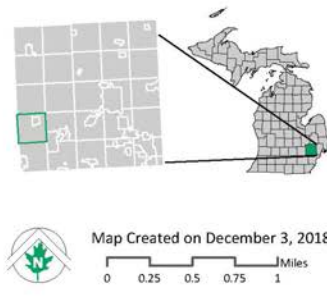
Potential Conservation/Natural Areas Map



The information provided herewith has been compiled from recorded deeds, plats, tax maps, surveys and other public records. It is not a legally recorded map or survey and is not intended to be used as one. Users should consult the information sources mentioned above when questions arise.

2017 MNFI Potential Natural Areas

Milford Township

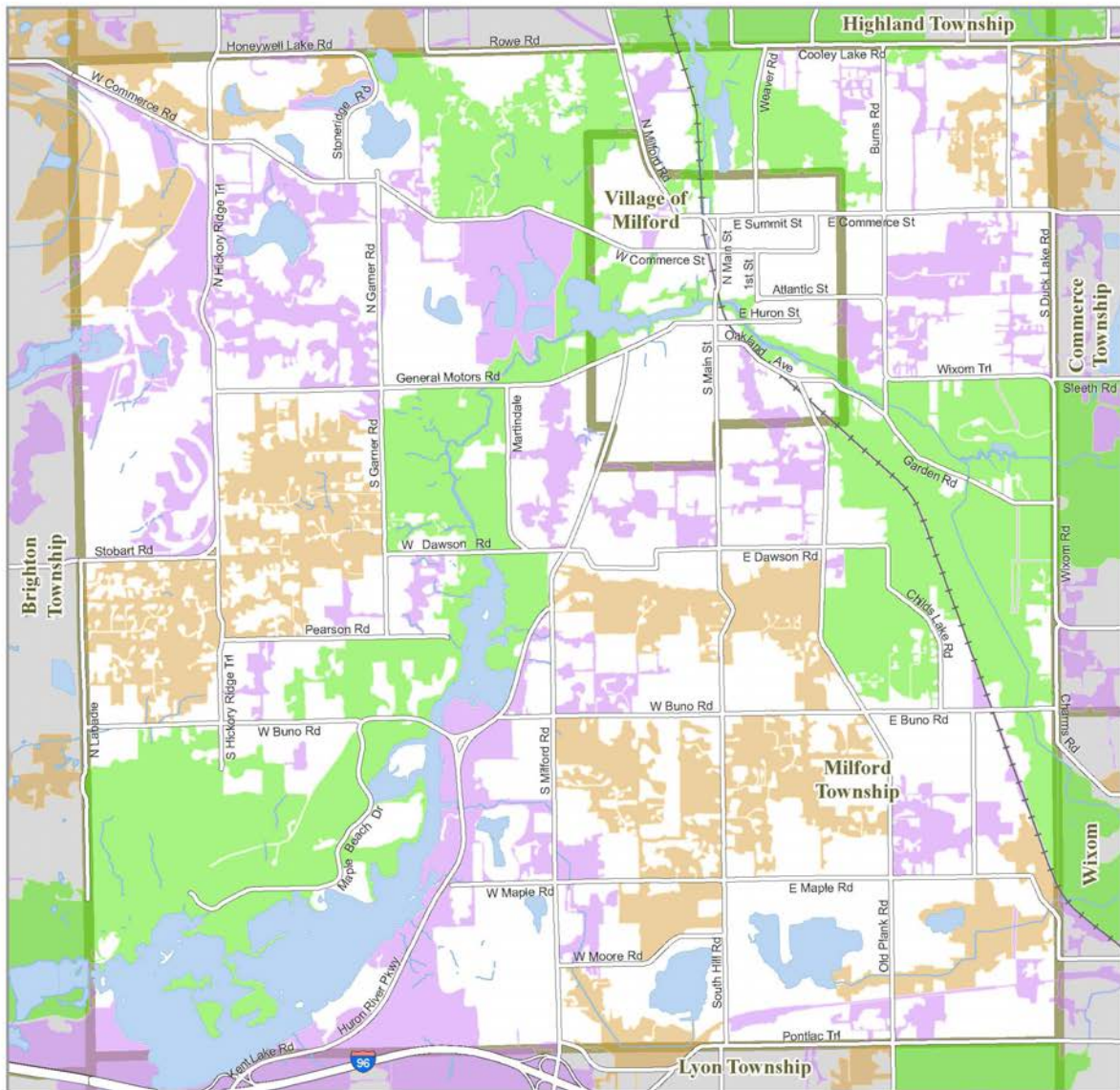


- Municipal Boundary
 - Railroad
 - Major Roads
 - Lake or Pond
 - River or Stream
- MNFI Potential Natural Areas**
- Priority One
 - Priority Two
 - Priority Three

OAKLAND
 COUNTY MICHIGAN
 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
 & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Executive Office Building
 L. Brooks Patterson County Executive
 2100 Pontiac Lake Road, Bldg. 41W
 Waterford, MI 48328-0412
 248.858.0721
www.AdvantageOakland.com

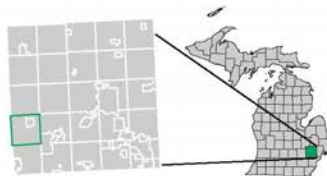
Green Infrastructure Map



The information provided herewith has been compiled from recorded deeds, plats, tax maps, surveys and other public records. It is not a legally recorded map or survey and is not intended to be used as one. Users should consult the information sources mentioned above when questions arise.

Green Infrastructure

Milford Township



Map Created on December 3, 2018
 0 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Miles

- Municipal Boundary
 - Railroad
 - Lake or Pond
 - Major Road
 - River or Stream
- Green Infrastructure Network**
- Hub
 - Site
 - Link

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Action Program

The Action Program is intended to detail the direction that the Township wishes to take over the next five years in order to improve recreation opportunities within the community. This includes the establishment of goals and guidelines to direct recreation operation and policies as well as capital improvements to implement the Master Plan. As is detailed in the Basis For Action section, Milford is basing recreation improvement and service decisions on recreational trends, national standards, existing facilities, community opinion, needs identified and observed by staff, the Commission, and Board, as well as demographic trends, the capability of the land and its surroundings, and funding sources and availability.

As was previously noted, the Parks and Recreation Commission adopted a Mission Statement to guide their overall progress and direction as follows:

The mission of the Milford Township Parks and Recreation Commission is to work with public and private partners to provide recreational facilities and activities to its residents and visitors.

Goals and Guidelines

Goals are statements that describe how the Township views its own future. They are the long-term ideal or end product that is desired. Goals should meet the following guidelines:

- Provide guidance, but not be too detailed;
- Be realistic and achievable; and,
- Inspire people to action.

Statements of specific goals and more detailed guidelines are intended to guide the formulation and implementation of the Recreation Master Plan. The following goals and guidelines have been established to assist in implementing the Master Plan. The goals and guidelines are intended to be as significant as the capital improvements schedule and serve to provide further guidance and direction to the Township over the next five years. It is envisioned that these guidelines will be reviewed on a regular basis and be utilized during the regular decision making process. The guidelines have been placed into one of seven categories relating to communication and awareness, land acquisition, habitat protection, partnerships, connectivity, facility development and operations, and programming.

Communication and Awareness

Goal:

Continue to raise the level of awareness of the availability, importance, and benefits of parks and recreation within the community.

Guidelines:

- Incorporate recreation goals, guidelines, plans, maps, etc. onto the Township website.
- Prepare informational brochures, flyers, announcements, social media messaging, etc. regarding existing and proposed recreation opportunities for distribution to the general public.
- Actively seek public input on proposed projects and project details.
- Maintain a high level of communication and awareness with Village and Township staff, boards and commissions.
- Continue to build electronic distribution list of parks and recreation stakeholders and utilize to increase communication, awareness, and participation.

Land Acquisition

Goal:

Pursue the acquisition of property(ies) that will provide for active recreation opportunities and/or the preservation of open space in the community.

As has been detailed in the previous sections of this plan, the Township has an abundance of recreation lands within its boundaries. However, only the bike path is under the direct control of the Township in terms of ownership, operation, maintenance and scheduling. In addition, the vast majority of recreation acreage within the Township boundaries is large-scale, regional facilities with a generally passive, resource-based nature. While resource-based, passive areas are outstanding facilities located in close proximity to Township residents, the Township is severely deficient in accessible, active recreation opportunities.

Guidelines:

- Acquire property for the provision of active recreation facilities such as athletic fields, splash park, dog park, picnicking, etc.
- Acquire property that will assist in providing connections between existing and planned recreation areas.
- Acquire property(ies) that may become available from other recreation providers within the community.

Habitat Protection and Restoration

Goal:

Seek to preserve and protect natural resources, environmentally sensitive lands, and wildlife corridors.

Guidelines:

- Work closely with the Planning Commission in the implementation of the Township Zoning Ordinance regarding the preservation of environmental quality and open space preservation.
- Assist in and encourage the maintenance of habitat along stream corridors.
- Support and when possible design, fund and implement streambank restoration and erosion control measures utilizing soft shoreline techniques.
- Coordinate with Planning Commission to protect Natural Beauty Roads and Scenic Vistas as identified in the Milford Community Master Plan.
- Assist the Planning Commission in protecting Quality Natural Areas and habitat linkages as identified in the Milford Community Master Plan.

Partnerships

Goal:

Coordinate and communicate with other agencies and entities in order to provide comprehensive, high quality parks and recreation opportunities for the Milford community.

Guidelines:

- Continue to work closely with various public and private entities to ensure effective, efficient and diverse recreation opportunities are available in the Milford area. These include, but are not limited to:
 - Village of Milford and DDA
 - Oakland County
 - School Districts
 - HCMA
 - MDNR
 - City of Dearborn
 - Neighboring communities
 - Road Commission for Oakland County
 - YMCA
 - Milford Library
 - General Motors
 - Athletic Organizations/Associations
 - Huron Valley Lacrosse
 - Huron Valley Soccer Club
 - Milford Youth Baseball Association
 - Police Athletic League (PAL)
 - Huron Valley Running & Athletic Club
 - Friends of Milford Skate Park
 - Milford Trail Committee
 - Kensington Trail Riders Association
 - Proud Lake Trail Riders Association
 - Highland Trail Riders Association

- Highland Equestrian Conservancy
- Oakland Equestrian Coalition
- The Equestrian Land Conservation Coalition
- Rose Center Trail Riders Association
- Pontiac Lake Trail Riders Association
- Mayberry Trail Riders Association
- Walled Lake Equestrian Teams
- Milford-Highland 4H Trailblazers
- Huron Valley Equestrian Teams (Highland, Milford & Juniors)
- Michigan Mountain Bike Association
- Milford Historic Society
- Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance
- League of Michigan Bicyclists
- Hiking Michigan
- Other groups/organizations
- Engage the youth of the community in the development of recreation facilities and programs.
- Collaborate and coordinate efforts with the various departments, staff, boards and commissions within the Township to ensure awareness of recreation issues and effective and efficient solutions to Township needs.
- Encourage the involvement of private agencies and corporations in the provision of recreation within the community.

Connectivity

Goal:

Continue to support and encourage the development and maintenance of the local and regional non-motorized systems.

Guidelines:

- Continue to focus on the implementation and maintenance of non-motorized trail systems that will contribute to the developing Oakland County regional and local trail system (hike, bike, equestrian, pedestrian).
- Work with Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA) and the MDNR and support the development of multi-use hike, bike, pedestrian, and equestrian trails between Kensington Metropark and Proud Lake and Highland State Recreation Areas.
- Encourage the school district to begin "Safe Routes to Schools" programs in order to ensure the ability to safely walk, ride, or skateboard to school.
- Support community efforts to establish Milford as an equestrian-friendly and bicycle-friendly community.
- Continue to encourage the Road Commission, Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority, and the Village of Milford to provide safe crossings that are pedestrian-, bicycle-, and equestrian-friendly where trails cross roads within the community.
- Where possible, and to ensure safety, provide separate trails for equestrians, mountain bikes, and pedestrians and include signage that raises awareness of different trail users needs.
- Advocate with Oakland County Roads Commission to implement the Township's Complete Streets Policy Plan and compliance with the Township's Complete Streets resolution.

Facility Development and Operations

Goal:

Provide the community with high quality, diverse recreation opportunities by expanding parks and recreation offerings.

Guidelines:

- When the Township is able to acquire property and/or easements for the development of recreation facilities they will be:
 - well-designed and of a high quality
 - designed with maintenance costs at the forefront
 - built to comply with existing barrier-free standards (minimum)
 - built to be universally accessible
- Seek opportunities to construct multi-use fields (i.e. soccer and baseball).
- Support Project Spark and the Village of Milford in the design, funding, and construction of a skate park within the Milford community.
- Aggressively seek and pursue alternative funding opportunities to assist in the implementation of the Recreation Master Plan.
- Evaluate the need to increase Township staffing for maintenance, operations, etc.
- Continue to seek inter-agency opportunities to share financial, personnel, and equipment needs with various public and private entities.
- Continue the planning process through periodic review of the Recreation Master Plan and necessary updates.
- Engage various community groups such as garden clubs, scouts, etc. to assist in maintenance and beautification projects.
- Evaluate the establishment of a youth and/or community center.

Programming

Goal:

In conjunction with other parks and recreation providers, make available high quality, comprehensive, and diverse recreation programs that meet the needs of the community.

Guidelines:

- Work closely with other providers (see Partnerships) to offer a variety of recreation programs.
- Continue to offer, sponsor, support, and/or coordinate community events such as the Community Picnic, Concerts-in-the-Park, Milford Memories, etc.
- Seek opportunities and gauge interest in additional events/activities such as charity bike rides, runs, pool party, equestrian days, adventure races, etc.

Capital Improvement Priorities

Just as essential as the goals and guidelines are to the development of parks and recreation opportunities within the Township, so is the establishment of capital improvement priorities for the next five years. The programming of capital improvements for this Recreation Plan have been established to:

- provide a framework for decision makers during the annual budgeting process.
- serve as a guide for the Parks and Recreation Commission
- enable the Township to apply for grant funding for proposed projects.

The capital improvement schedule is not a fixed element and is neither all inclusive or exclusive. The schedule merely reflects the results of the Parks and Recreation Commission's research, brainstorming and data gathering in conjunction with input from staff and the general public. While priorities have been identified, it's likely that over the next five years, priorities may shift due to unanticipated circumstances such as private donations, changing recreation trends, community opinion and/or available funding. The Parks and Recreation Commission anticipates reviewing the plan on an annual basis to ensure its appropriateness and relevancy to the current Township views, finances, strategies, etc. As much as is possible, it is the Township's intent to develop and implement the guidelines and capital improvements identified in this plan with existing Township funds and grant resources.

Capital Improvement Priorities

	Magnitude of Cost	Timeline				Potential Funding Sources
		Short-Term (1-2 yrs)	Mid-Term (3-5 yrs)	Long-Term (5+ yrs)	On-Going	
Active Township Park						
Develop Master Plan for Township Park	\$10,000 - \$20,000	X				General Fund
Design and Construct Township Park	To Be Determined		X	X		Donations, Grants, General Fund
Non-Motorized Trails						
Complete Huron Valley/Michigan Air Line Trail within Milford Township	\$300,000 - \$400,000	X				Grant, MNRTF, MDOT TE
Develop and distribute/post maps that identify recreation opportunities, amenities and trail systems within the community	\$3,000 - \$10,000	X				General Fund, Donations
Become more active in advocating for funding, design and construct multi-purpose trail systems (bike, ped, equine) that connect destinations within the community and region	To Be Determined	X	X	X		General Fund, Millage, Bond, MNRTF, MDOT TE, Donations
Land Acquisition						
Acquire Property for Township Park (Active)	To Be Determined	X				General Fund, Donations, Millage, Bond
Seek Opportunities to Utilize, Protect, and/or Acquire Land That:	To Be Determined				X	General Fund, Donations, MNRTF, Milford Open Space Program
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∞ Protects/Restores Environmental Features ∞ Conserves Open Space ∞ Is Adjacent to or near Existing Parks ∞ Provides Linkages Between Destinations ∞ Could Provide Increased and Enhanced Recreation Opportunities 						
Youth Center/Community Center						
Investigate feasibility of establishing Youth Center and/or Community Center within/near downtown	To Be Determined		X			General Fund, Donations
Programs/Events						
Organize and support the Milford Community Picnic (twice/year)	\$4,000 - \$6,000				X	General Fund, Donations
Support the creation of additional, recreation-related community-wide events	\$3,000 - \$7,000				X	General Fund, Donations
General						
Prepare New 5-Year Master Plan	\$10,000 - \$15,000		X			General Fund

Costs are derived from a variety of sources and illustrate magnitude of costs for the purpose of capital expenditure planning. Estimates are based off of conceptual level planning only. Detailed site specific surveys and design are needed to obtain more accurate estimates of construction.

MNRTF = Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund LWCF = Land and Water Conservation Fund MDOT TE = Department of Transportation Enhancement Fund

Possible Funding Sources

The following pages describe possible funding sources that may be available for various recreation-related projects. Funding sources change on a continual basis and therefore consistent time and resources are necessary to ensure complete awareness of opportunities.

Transportation Alternatives Program (MDOT)

Transportation Enhancements (TE) activities are federally funded, community-based projects that expand the intermodal transportation system and enhance the transportation experience by improving the cultural, historic, aesthetic and environmental aspects of the transportation infrastructure. To be eligible, a project must fall into one of the 12 TE activities and relate to surface transportation. Activities that relate to the implementation of this Master Plan include:

- *Facilities for pedestrians and bicycles.*
Includes new or reconstructed sidewalks, walkways, curb ramps, bike lane striping, wide paved shoulders, bike parking, bus racks, off-road trails, bike and pedestrian bridges and underpasses.
 - Paved shoulders four or more feet wide
 - Curb lane width greater than 12 feet
 - Bike lanes
 - Pedestrian crosswalks, sidewalks
 - Shared use paths 10 feet wide or greater
 - Path/trail user amenities
 - Grade separations
 - Bicycle parking facilities
 - Bicycle accommodations on public transportation
 - Streetscape improvements
- *Turnouts, Overlooks, and Viewing Areas*
Projects that provide views of the Great Lakes or highly unique scenic and scenic areas
- *Historic Preservation and Repair of Transportation Facilities*
Projects that enhance National Register listed historic districts, locally designated districts, or National Heritage Areas. Preservation of original properties and promotion of cultural tourism.
- *Environmental Mitigation Activities*
Water quality projects that have positive effects on watersheds and water bodies and drafting of watershed management plans.

A minimum 20% local match is required for proposed projects and applications are accepted on an on-going basis.

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund

The MNRTF provides funding for both the purchase of land (or interests in land) for recreation or protection of land because of its environmental importance or scenic beauty and the appropriate development of land for public outdoor recreation use. Goals of the program are to: 1) protect Michigan's natural resources and provide for their access, public use and enjoyment; 2) provide public access to Michigan's water bodies, particularly the Great Lakes, and facilitate their recreation use; 3) meet regional, county and community needs for outdoor recreation opportunities; 4) improve the opportunities for outdoor recreation in Michigan's urban areas; and, 5) stimulate Michigan's economy through recreation-related tourism and community revitalization.

Any individual, group, organization, or unit of government may submit a land acquisition proposal. However, only state and local units of government can submit development proposals. All proposals for grants must include a local match of at least 25% of the total project cost. There is no minimum or maximum for acquisition projects. For development projects, the minimum funding request is \$15,000 and the maximum is \$500,000. Applications are due in April and August for acquisition projects and April (only) for development projects.

Land and Water Conservation Fund

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is a federal appropriation to the National Park Service who distributes funds to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for development of outdoor recreation facilities. Minimum grant requests were \$30,000 and maximum grant requests were \$300,000. The match percentage must be 50% of the total project cost. Applications are due April 1st.

Recreation Passport Grants

The Recreation Passport program is to provide funding to local units of government for the development of public recreation facilities. These funds may be for new facilities or rehabilitation of older facilities. A 25 percent local match is required, and grants range from \$7,500 to \$150,000. Applications are due April 1st.

People for Bikes

The Bikes Belong Coalition is sponsored by members of the American Bicycle Industry. Their mission is to put more people on bikes more often. The program funds projects in three categories:

- Facility
- Education
- Capacity Building

Requests for funding can be up to \$10,000 for projects such as bike paths, trails, lanes, parking, and transit, and safe routes to school. Applications are reviewed on a quarterly basis. More information can be found at <https://peopleforbikes.org>.

Safe Routes To School Program

The Safe Routes To School Program is a national movement to make it safe, convenient and fun for children to bicycle and walk to school. When routes are safe, walking or biking to and from school is an easy way to get the regular physical activity children need to succeed. In Michigan, the program is sponsored by the Michigan Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and has gained momentum over the past few years. The purpose of the program as defined in the federal legislation is:

- (1) to enable and encourage children, including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school;
- (2) to make bicycling and walking to school a safer and more appealing transportation alternative, thereby encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle from an early age; and
- (3) to facilitate the planning, development, and implementation of projects and activities that will improve safety and reduce traffic, fuel consumption, and air pollution in the vicinity of schools.

Applications for the Safe Routes To School Program major grant program are quarterly and \$200,000 is available per school in infrastructure funds while \$8,000 is available per school in programming funds. To be eligible to apply, you must complete a pre-application process.

Mini-grants have \$5,000 available per school with a max of \$25,000 per district. Mini-grants have some criteria as non-infrastructure projects that include a variety of educational efforts and enforcement activities.

Recreational Trails Program / Recreation Improvement Fund

The Recreational Trails Program/Recreation Improvement Fund is administered by the MDNR for trails on DNR land or linked to a trail on DNR land. The DNR division must always be the applicant, but can be developed as a joint application with a local unit of government. Applications are typically due in June of each year. Additional information can be found on the MDNR-Grants website.



Appendix A

Public Input



Resolutions
Transmittals
Certification Checklist