Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission
Five Year Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan
Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission Five Year Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan 2019 - 2024

Prepared for:

Michigan Department of Natural Resources

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
MICHIGAN
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      o Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission Park Lands Inventory
      o Genesee County Regional Trail Plan 2007
      o City of Flint Comprehensive Master Plan 2013
      o EA Cummings Event Center Master Plan (draft) 2014
1. Introduction

The Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission has created the “Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission Five Year Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan” as a tool to guide the development and preservation of the Genesee County Parks system in a manner that is consistent with its mission of "providing affordable, quality recreational facilities and programs to all citizens of Genesee County, and to act as a conservator of publicly-held recreational lands and facilities, historical structures, and educational facilities". This plan will also make the Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission eligible for grants from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to assist the county in reaching its goals.

Access to recreation is universally recognized as one of the basic needs of modern society. It is the Commission’s goal to provide a variety of outdoor experiences for all segments of the population of Genesee County, including services and facilities to directly meet the needs of urban neighborhoods.

In an effort to leverage existing resources to provide park and recreation services to county residents, the Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission extended an offer to municipalities within the county to collaborate directly with the development of the Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission Five Year Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan. Action plan items are included from several communities that chose to participate. The intent is to allow for future partnerships in pursuing funding opportunities or other efforts to provide and sustain parks and recreation facilities or programs. This would not displace or limit the actions or function of current planning documents in place with each community.

Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission was represented as part of the Blue Ribbon Panel that generated “The Future of Michigan’s Parks and Outdoor Recreation: A Report to Governor Rick Snyder” (The Michigan State Parks and Outdoor Recreation Blue Ribbon Panel, 2012). The goals and objectives within the Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission Five Year Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan support the recommendations identified by the Blue Ribbon Panel including:

- Resource Protection and Stewardship
- Targeted Investments and Measuring Impacts
- Trail Network Development
- Regional Identity and Connection
- Signature Urban Parks
- Integrated Marketing and Promotion
- Safety, Maintenance and Access

Genesee, Lapeer, Shiawassee, and St. Clair counties cooperate as part of the I-69 International Trade Corridor as a Next Michigan Development Corporation (NMDC). There are various Regional Prosperity Plan Initiatives that reflect a broad coordinated effort in the region to attract and maintain talent, achieve place making objectives and increase tourism. An example of the tourism impact of parks is included in the Appendix section of the plan.
Community Description

A. Introduction to the Social Characteristics

1. Site Description
Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission has more than 11,000 acres of property located within Genesee and Lapeer Counties. The Commission’s boundary is depicted within the Appendix. The Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission’s property is located in the southeastern portion of Michigan’s Lower Peninsula, approximately 70 miles northwest of Detroit. See Appendix A for boundary map and Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission owned land.

2. Population Characteristics
When beginning the planning process, it is important to examine the population characteristics of a community. The characteristics and trends of a community provide important indicators as to what future recreation needs should be planned to accommodate. These factors include a variety of social and physical factors. Examinations of these factors provide a firm rationale upon which to base future recreation. Recent census figures show a slight increase in the state's overall population. Michigan saw population declines over a seven-year period between 2005 and 2011 before finally seeing a net gain in 2012. The new U.S. Census Bureau data released December, 2013 show the state’s population rose 0.1%.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE 1</th>
<th>POPULATION GROWTH 1970 – 2017</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Genesee Co.</td>
<td>445,589</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State of Michigan</td>
<td>8,875,083</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source: US Census</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Table 1 presents an interesting view of population trends over the last 47 years for Genesee County and the State of Michigan. The recession of the 80's, coupled with people moving to more rural areas, caused the population in Genesee County to decline (The pattern within the county of a population shift indicates a decline in population in the central city, followed by a similar drop in the first “ring” of municipalities ten years later, while outlying areas continued to experience growth.). The state of Michigan, for the first time in state history, displayed a loss of residents in the 2010 U.S. Census.

Michigan saw population declines over a seven-year period between 2005 and 2011 before finally seeing a net gain in 2012. The new U.S. Census Bureau data released December, 2013 show the state’s population rose 0.1%.
Table 2 provides the population characteristic for 2017. The data shows the population density, net change in per capita income, unemployment rate, households without cars, households below 150% of poverty line, and persons with disability for Genesee County, Flint, and Genesee Township. The data is sourced from the U.S. Census, 2010.

Table 3 above depicts an area’s unemployment and poverty characteristics. The City of Flint and Genesee Township qualify as the region with the highest concentration of unemployment and poverty, and are used in comparison to the State of Michigan and Genesee County to depict how Genesee County Park and Recreation Commission’s improvements will directly serve a community in need. These communities have higher unemployment rates, more households without motor vehicles, a greater percentage of population below the poverty line, and have a higher percentage of people with disabilities compared to the state and county. The park system provides a critical means of transportation modes via connecting trail systems and free recreational opportunities, and the Commission’s action plan recognizes these needs.

3. Transportation

a. Automobile
The main mode of transportation in Genesee County is the personal automobile. The county has a system of freeways and principal and minor arterials which connect it with the rest of the state.

1) I-75 southbound connects Genesee County to Detroit and to the southern United States. Northbound I-75 joins Flint to Saginaw, Midland, and Bay Counties, to northern recreational areas, and extends past the Mackinaw Bridge.

2) I-69 eastbound connects to Ontario, Canada. West and south I-69 connects to Lansing in less than an hour and to Indianapolis and Chicago in several hours.

3) I-475 provides a north-south route through the City of Flint and connects to south I-75 in Grand Blanc Township, it continues north to Mt. Morris Township and then west to connect with north I-75.

4) US-23 south provides access to Ann Arbor and further south to Toledo, Ohio and the Ohio Turnpike. US-23 north continues to Saginaw, Bay City, and along the Lake Huron coast to other northern recreational areas.

5) Other major highways located in Genesee County include M-21, M-54, M-57 and M-15.

b. Mass Transit

1) Primary, Secondary and Suburban Fixed Routes
The Flint Mass Transportation Authority (MTA) currently operates 13 primary fixed routes seven days a week, except national holidays. Monday through Friday, service operates from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., on one-half hour headways, and from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. on one-hour headways. On Saturdays, the 13 primary routes operate from 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., on one-hour headways. Sunday hours of services are 9:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., with buses operating on one-hour headways. In addition to the primary routes, the MTA operates secondary and suburban routes. These routes provide peak service, mornings and afternoons, five days a week. They are designed to serve passengers requiring transportation that cannot be accommodated by the traditional fixed routes.

2) Curb-to-Curb Service

The MTA operates a curb-to-curb service known as “Your Ride” through Genesee County, seven days a week. The service hours of operation are the same as the fixed routes. The county-wide service is operated through Your Ride centers located in the City of Flint, Davison, Grand Blanc, Fenton, Swartz Creek, Flushing, Clio and Otisville. Vehicles circulate within the eight service areas, and passengers can travel outside of their service area by taking a shuttle. In areas where the curb-to-curb service overlaps with the fixed route service, eligibility criteria have been established for the curb-to-curb service, in order that passengers who most need this personalized level of service have access, primarily reserved for senior citizens and those with disabilities. Outside of the fixed route service area, curb-to-curb service is available to any person who wants to schedule a trip.

3) Regional Transportation

The MTA provides regional transportation service outside of Genesee County. The initial purpose of this transportation is to assist people moving off of welfare and into the work force by providing transportation to jobs. Due to high employment levels, many employers outside of Genesee County are having difficulty filling positions. The regional transportation service is an attractive benefit that they can offer employees as a means of regular transportation to work. In future years, it is anticipated that the amount of service provided will continue to expand as the service becomes more established. The regional transportation service departs from the Downtown Flint Transportation Center and is provided seven days a week to Saginaw, Oakland, Livingston, Washtenaw, Lapeer and Shiawassee Counties.

c. Para-Transit
As of October 2012, there were ten taxicab companies operating in Genesee County.

d. Non-Motorized Routes
Two classes of trail systems operate within Genesee County: 1) multi-use, non-motorized trails; and 2) signed bike paths shared with street traffic, such as dedicated bike lanes or Share the Road (sharrow) pavement markings. Separate routes account for over 21 miles of bike paths. Eleven of these miles are in the City of Flint River System; five miles are in the City of Clio; three miles are in the Genesee County Recreation Area; plus one and one-half miles in the City of Burton. The City of Flint has several additional miles of shared street and multi-use trails. Several municipalities throughout Genesee County plan to build more multi-use, non-motorized trails in the future that will add to the regional system. Connections along the M-15 and M-21 corridors provide opportunities for statewide trail connections.

e. Airports
Bishop International Airport offers daily jet service to cities such as Atlanta, Las Vegas and Baltimore; with daily commuter flights to Detroit Metropolitan Airport. Many charter flights originate out of Bishop Airport to other popular locations. Regional aircraft commuter flights are
available daily to Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Chicago, Atlanta and Milwaukee, with continuing
cnational and international transfers.

Bishop International Airport is an international Port of Entry. Freight makes up a large portion of
the daily flights, and Federal Express provides package and delivery services out of Bishop
Airport.

f. Railway Facilities

1) The Amtrak Train terminal for passenger service is located in the City of Flint. Trains depart
daily for Toronto and Chicago, with connections to Midwest cities within the State of
Michigan.

2) Genesee County has two Class A railroad lines: 1) CSX Transportation line for north-south
service; and 2) CN North America/Grand Trunk for east-west freight.

g. I-69 International Trade Corridor
Genesee County plays a central role in coordinating regional economic development with the
Next Michigan Development Corporation and member communities in Shiawassee, Genesee,
Lapeer, and St. Clair counties.

4. Quality of Life

Beyond the despairing statistic depicted in Table 3, there is also a concern for the health and
fitness of Genesee County residents. Recent health statistics indicate that Genesee County is
one of the lowest ranking in this category.

The Greater Flint Health Coalition recently released their 10-year strategic plan for healthier
living in Genesee County. Their findings were that to successfully address issues of safety,
public transit and blight throughout the community, they must find ways to create safe,
comfortable places to live and play, then the residents will be provided more opportunities to
make healthy choices about their physical activity and diet.

This is a clear indicator that Genesee County needs to devote its efforts to lowering these rates. It is widely known
that exposure to fresh air, the environment, and regular exercise will promote a healthier lifestyle for residents. As
Genesee County continues to promote the development of park activities, park programming and non-motorized
pathway facilities that will increase connections to cultural, social, recreational and educational facilities and activities,
the level of health for the entire county can be positively influenced. Recreational activities are also imperative for
children and adults and give a positive outlet to those who may be in danger of getting involved in crime.

B. Introduction to the Physical Characteristics

1. Natural Resources

Natural resources are perhaps the most important factors influencing the initial settlement of an
area. They influence type, amount, and quality of development. In parks and recreation planning,
natural resources are often the basis for the various forms of recreation activity.
a. Climate
Genesee County is located in southeastern Michigan, where the "lake effect" is not as great as it is in many other areas of the state. The main effect noticed in Genesee County is increased cloudiness late in fall and early in winter, when the prevailing wind moves cold air across the warmer lake water. About 5 to 10 percent more sunshine falls on Genesee County than on similar areas in western Michigan.

The average annual precipitation is 31 inches, with an average annual snowfall of 45 inches. The average seasonal Fahrenheit temperatures are 21° in the winter, 45° in the spring, 71° in the summer and 53° in the autumn. The average number of days per year under zero degrees is ten and the average number of days over 90° is 32.

b. Physiography
The landscape of Genesee County is characterized as relatively flat to gently rolling. Low rolling hills border Genesee County on the north, east and south, leaving the central portions relatively flat, except for a ridge running from the center of the City of Flint north to Thetford Township.

Generally, the region slopes down from the southeast to the northwest. The highest elevation, 1,030 feet above sea level, is located on the southwestern border of the City of Fenton. The lowest elevation, 600 feet above sea level, is located on the banks of the Flint River in Montrose Township.

The soils for the region Genesee County Parks and Recreation serves can be viewed in the Appendix.

Five distinctive bedrock formations are found beneath the soils of Genesee County.

1) Saginaw Formation
This is the youngest, most prevalent bedrock formation, which occupies the northwestern two-thirds of Genesee County and consists of sandstone and shale, with occasional thin coal seams and limestone.

2) Michigan Formation
This is the second youngest bedrock formation and it lies to the south and east of the Saginaw Formation. This formation is comprised primarily of shale, with occasional deposits of sandstone, gypsum and anhydrite.

3) Marshall Sandstone Formation
This is found in portions of Argentine, Fenton, Atlas and Davison Townships. This formation is a potential producer of oil and natural gas.

4) Napoleon Sandstone Formation
This is found in the extreme eastern portions of Davison and Atlas Townships. This formation is very similar to the Saginaw Formation with respect to groundwater quality, quantity and availability.

5) Coldwater Shale Formation
This is the oldest and least common bedrock formation beneath Genesee County. It occupies the extreme southwestern corner of Argentine Township.

The bedrock formations below Genesee County are all located a considerable distance below the surface of the ground and is all stable. As a result, they provide no serious limitations to parks and recreation development.
c. Hydrology
There are over 94 lakes in Genesee County, most of which are located in the southern portion. These lakes offer approximately 5,000 acres of water surface. In Genesee County, a lake or stream is never more than six miles away from any location.

Most of Genesee County’s lakes and streams are the result of glacial action. The northwestern portion of Genesee County is part of the bed of an ancient glacial lake. The remainder of the area is a collage of moraines, till plains and out-wash plains.

Approximately 355 lineal miles of streams run throughout Genesee County, a majority of which are tributaries of the Flint and Shiawassee Rivers.

Genesee County lands are drained by three major drainage basins: 1) Shiawassee River Drainage Basin; 2) Cass River Drainage Basin; and 3) Flint River Drainage Basin. The Flint River Basin drains over 6,200 square miles. These drainage basins, in turn, are drained by the Saginaw Drainage Basin which embraces a multi-county area. Within each of the three major drainage basins serving Genesee County are 13 minor watersheds (creeks): 1) Armstrong; 2) Brent; 3) Brent Run; 4) Butternut; 5) Cole; 6) Gibson; 7) Gilkey; 8) Kearsley; 9) Messmore; 10) Swartz Creek; 11) Swartz Creek West Branch; 12) Thread River; and 13) Pine Run.

The development of open space parks and recreation in close proximity to streams and lakes can capitalize on the recreational potential of the water frontage, as well as provide a buffer zone to potentially damaging flooding.

The Flint River provides a major corridor for water habitat and recreation that provides a region-wide opportunity that ranges from secluded ‘up north’ experiences to a thriving urban waterfront. Many existing parks, greenspace and trails are located along waterfront areas that can be improved to capitalize on this resource.

d. Vegetation
Many varieties of vegetation can be found in Genesee County. Tree types include elm, oak (red, bur and swamp white), hickory, cedar, willow, alder, maple (soft, red and sugar), cottonwood, cherry, aspen, basswood, shagbark hickory, sycamore, yellow birch, beech, hemlock and pine (red and white). Genesee County also has plentiful fruits, including blackberries, raspberries, strawberries, mulberries, grapes and wild black cherries. Wildflowers, such as clover, goldenrod, ragweed, bluegrass, crabgrass and curled dock are found in Genesee County, as are marsh and aquatic plants, such as cattails, pondweeds, wild rice, water lilies and wild millet. Cultivated plants, such as wheat, barley, oats, corn, apples and cherries are grown.

Wooded areas present valuable recreational resources, provide natural functions which can be valuable to human settlement and are aesthetic assets to a region. The preservation of these lands becomes more difficult as the urbanization process increases. It is important in the urbanization process to either avoid wooded lands or take precautions to preserve the existing vegetation during the construction process.

e. Wildlife
The various types of wildlife that inhabits Genesee County provide recreational activities in the form of wildlife watching, studying and hunting. During the summer, many types of birds are found in Genesee County including mallard, black and wood ducks, blue-winged teal, the sora, Wilson snipe, ruffed grouse, prairie chicken, Bobwhite quail, ring-necked pheasant, mourning dove, various woodpeckers, blue jay, chickadee, wood thrush, cardinal, robin and bluebird. Fur and game mammals found include raccoon, weasel, otter, skunk, red fox, woodchuck, squirrel,
cottontail rabbit and white tail deer. Area lakes contain a variety of fish, amphibians and reptiles.

f. Hunting
The Parks Commission permits a controlled bow hunting of deer at the Cummings Event Center for a limited time in November; 80 hunters, selected by lottery have the opportunity to hunt in the park. Each hunter had to demonstrate proficiency to be entered into the lottery.

Those eight days of hunting keep the number of deer in check in that region and preserve the delicate balance of flora and fauna. And it’s a bonus for hunters to be able to bow hunt locally, given that there is no state land available to hunt on in Genesee County.

Hunting for waterfowl is also permitted in specific areas in the County Parks. The season parallels that set by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. There is a lottery, and there are rules for each area regarding things such as the use of blinds and permanent structures.

The absence of state-owned land within Genesee County limits the opportunities for hunting.

g. Air Quality
The information provided in this section was obtained from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality’s (DEQ) 1996 Annual Air Quality Report for Michigan.

The Federal Clean Air Act of 1963, as amended in 1970, 1977, and 1990, requires the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to establish National Ambient Air Quality Standards which define the maximum permissible concentrations for the following pollutants: particulate matter consisting of fine particulates with diameters less than ten microns (PM_{10}), particulate matter consisting of fine particulates with diameters less than 2.5 microns (PM_{2.5}), sulfur dioxide (SO_{2}), nitrogen dioxide (NO_{2}), carbon monoxide (CO), lead (Pb) and Ozone (O_{3}).

There are two types of air quality standards. The primary standard is designed to protect the public health of the most susceptible individuals in a population (children, elderly and those with chronic respiratory ailments). The secondary standard is designed to protect public health and welfare or ensure quality of life. Many secondary standards are the same as the primary standard.

The Michigan Air Sampling Network (MASN) is designed to measure air quality throughout the state and consists of over 200 monitoring sensors in 29 counties. As of 1996, there were seven monitoring sensors located within Genesee County.

An area is considered to be in compliance with SO_{2}, NO_{2}, or CO if both the applicable annual standard is met and no more than one one-hour, three-hour, eight-hour, or 24-hour measurement is collected per year that is greater than the concentration specified in the standard. To determine primary and secondary compliance for Pb, values are collected for three consecutive months and are averaged and compared to the standard. PM_{10} compliance is determined by comparing the concentrations of samples collected over a 24-hour period with the 24-hour standard of 150 g/m^3, and a similar method is used to determine compliance of PM_{2.5}. The number of accidents is used to determine compliance with the ozone standard, according to an established formula.

According to the DEQ, there were no accidents of SO_{2}, NO_{2}, CO, Pb, or PM_{10} or PM_{2.5} in Genesee County for the time period of 1989 through 1996. In Flint, all of the reduced air quality has been due to ozone levels. The last occurrences of unhealthful ozone levels in Flint were one day each in 1992 and 1993. There were no such events in 1994, 1995 or 1996.
II. Administrative Structure

A. Role of Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission

Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission is responsible for the operations and maintenance of park property that is owned by the Genesee County Board of Commissioners. From its yearly budget, the Park Commission manages and finances its own maintenance, law enforcement and park enhancements. They do get assistance on special projects from the Sheriff's Work Release program, and there are mutual agreements with local law enforcement units where each individual park is located.

The Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission reports to the Board of Commissioners. It consists of ten members and meets an average of twice a month. As required by Public Act 261 of the Public Acts of Michigan, 1965, members of the Commission include a designated representative of the Genesee County Road Commission, a designated representative of the Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission, the Genesee County Drain Commissioner, and seven appointed members (three of whom may be members of the Genesee County Board of Commissioners). The Commission elects officers, including president, vice-president and secretary.

Current members of the Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission are Cloyce Dickerson, Ted Henry, Michael J. Keeler, Joe Krapohl, Michael Lynch, David Martin, Gloria Nealy, Bryant Nolden, James Washington, and Jeffrey Wright.

Commissioners Henry, Martin, and Nolden also serve as Genesee County Commissioners.

The Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission is directed by the Genesee County Board of Commissioners.

B. Staff Description and Organizational Chart

The Parks and Recreation Commission directs the staff in their duties. The Commission establishes policies, develops programs and plans and makes financial decisions.

A full-time director is responsible for coordinating the directives of the Commission, as well as performing a liaison function between the staff and the Commission. In addition, the Commission employs a permanent, full-time staff of 31 operations employees which includes eight maintenance employees.

No change is expected in these staffing levels. A seasonal staff of approximately 300 is employed, primarily during the summer months.
C. Annual Budget
The projected budget for the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 is indicated below at a total of $6,056,312.

D. Current Funding Sources
The Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission’s operating budget is derived primarily from a (.75) Genesee County Park millage and from user fees. The Commission also receives a $340,000 fixed Genesee County’s accommodations (hotel/motel) tax that is collected, a small amount of interest from two trust funds, and on occasion, various public and private grant funds. In the past five years, the county has sustained its operations through significant private grant funding.

Capital development funds are not included in the operating budget due to lack of financial resources. All capital projects undertaken in the past five years have been funded by one of the following sources: 1) state grants, with matching funds, when required, drawn from the Board of Commissioner revenue; 2) private grants or donations; and 3) revenue bonds.
The project budget for the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 INCLUDING grants is indicated below at a total of $23,916,597.

E. Role of Volunteers
The Commission also utilizes over 200 volunteers who perform tasks such as historical interpretation, trail maintenance, operation of amusement rides, office work and gardening. The volunteers average 18,000 hours of time annually at a value of over $400,000.

F. Relationship with School Districts, Other Public Agencies and Private Organizations
Due to the locations of the parks within local municipalities, Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission has established a partnership with these local agencies to promote community involvement and ownership of the parks. The remainder of this section explains the local community’s involvement with the county park system and describes how Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission continues to work with them.

1. Local Minor Civil Division Role in Genesee County
Municipalities (cities, villages and townships) have the responsibility of acquisition, development, operation and programming of public recreational facilities and services for the frequent short-term use of local residents.
Municipalities can establish Recreation and Park Departments or Commissions with full or part-time staff to provide programs and operate facilities for both the community and neighborhood levels to make maximum use of existing school district facilities.

There is an increasing financial burden on many municipalities, especially in Genesee County, based on the decreasing population, housing and revenue sharing combined with sustaining infrastructure and services. This creates a need and opportunity to leverage regional services through collaboration. There is no state recreation opportunities within Genesee County, placing an increased burden on local and county facilities to meet this need.

2. School District Role
School districts make available to the local units of government land and facilities at each school site for the purpose of recreational programming when not in use for school programs.

3. Cooperative Projects with Schools and Other Agencies
The Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission continues to work with area schools and recreational agencies on the development of facilities and programs. For example, in-school and on-site outdoor education programs are provided for schools throughout Genesee County. The Commission, in conjunction with the City of Flint and several other agencies, also has been an active participant in the “Music in the Parks” summer concert series for many years.

The Adopt-a-Park program is an on-going relationship between a county park and individuals or volunteers from organizations, schools, youth groups and businesses. This program is designed to help keep county parks attractive and safe, with the ultimate goal to encourage people to enjoy the benefits of the parks. The purpose of this program is to enhance the beauty of the park and to increase community pride, awareness, and involvement in the Genesee County Parks and its facilities.

Past cooperative efforts include the development of a world-class BMX track at Richfield Park, in conjunction with the BMX Parents Association; the development of American Youth Soccer Organization fields, in conjunction with school districts; the development of an equestrian trail system, in conjunction with local equestrian groups; provision of sites for Girl Scout and Boy Scout activities, and participation with MSU Cooperative Extension, 4-H activities and master gardener program.

It is the Commission’s intent to continue to work cooperatively with other agencies on projects that are beneficial to the community and to actively seek out programs that will expand the recreational opportunities for the citizens of Genesee County.

4. County Role
County government has a responsibility to provide recreational facilities and programs which, because of size, scope or other unique characteristics, cannot be realistically developed or funded at a local level. Thus, county facilities serve as a supplement to local facilities where the need exists, and should be easily accessible to the county population concentrations.

The objective of a county Parks and Recreation Commission is to acquire recreation lands and establish intensive day use and overnight recreation areas for year-round use. Parks are to be developed in a manner which conserves land and water resources and makes these resources attractive and desirable for recreational use. Fully developed parks that provide active recreational opportunities is the goal.
The county also has a responsibility to assist and cooperate with local agencies and provide consultant services upon request involving coordination between the county and local communities.

5. Lack of a State Recreation Role in Genesee County

State government has recreation responsibilities in the southeastern Michigan region in six program areas: 1) development of a state-wide recreation plan; 2) provision of large-scale recreation lands, facilities and programs to serve the recreation needs of people on an inter-county, regional and state-wide basis; 3) acquisition of management and open space and natural lands; 4) protection of certain natural resource areas and wildlife for conservation purposes; 5) provision of assistance to lower levels of government in the development of recreation facilities and programs; and 6) provision and operation of special purpose facilities, such as fishing access sites, boating sites and other suitable water activity sites.

   a. The State has acquired and developed land in southeastern Michigan for large-scale or special park and recreation areas, water access and boating sites. The recreation areas provide high volume or intensive recreational facilities and programs within each site. Sites near and within urban areas are desirable because they can take advantage of unique natural resources and serve high-density populations.

   These recreation areas also retain extensive natural areas where development and use are minor, to be held for their aesthetic, scenic, and open space values and as buffers to the intensive recreation facilities. **However, the State does not fulfill this role within Genesee County.**

   b. The State plays a role in protecting certain natural resource lands necessary for the conservation of fish and wildlife, water bodies and forests, through acquisition and various management and regulation means.

   c. Assistance is provided to local, county and regional recreation agencies relative to the application and allocation of state grants or financial assistance.

   d. Currently, there are no major state-owned facilities in Genesee County, although some state facilities border the county.

   e. The lack of state owned recreation opportunities leaves a void in Genesee County compared to other Pure Michigan partnerships across the state that generate tourism, meet the needs for hunting opportunities, wildlife / habitat management, and other investments.

6. Federal Role in Genesee County

In the past, the federal government has provided funds to assist and encourage operating agencies to acquire, develop and maintain recreation facilities and programs in Genesee County. This role has been voided, but the county is optimistic that the government will re-prioritize and create a positive impact to the county parks once more.

In the past 20 years, many local units of government have used federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to develop small neighborhood parks and to construct and service senior citizen centers.

The federal government should also acquire and develop significant natural resource areas for recreation and conservation purposes, which are a multi-state interest and are too large for one
state or county to acquire and operate alone.

7. Methods and Procedures
Not all levels of government within Genesee County maintain parks and recreation programs. However, the City of Flint Parks and Recreation Department, Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission, and local school districts maintain extensive recreation facilities and programs. Several local units of government have developed their own Parks and Recreation Advisory Boards, including the Grand Blanc Area Parks and Recreation, Davison Area Parks and Recreation, Clio City Parks and Recreation, Fenton Parks and Recreation, Burton Parks and Recreation, Southern Links Parks and Recreation and other local units of government engage in the development of community parks and park programs.
III. Recreation Inventory

a. Inventory of Genesee County Park Facilities

County-owned parks are located in Atlas, Fenton, Flushing, Genesee, Richfield and Thetford Townships and the City of Burton. Their relationship to the larger park system can be viewed in the Appendix. Several of the local units of government within Genesee County contain park land owned and operated by Genesee County. The Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission guides the development and management of the following land. Details for each of these facilities are discussed in the following section titled Public Resources. Maps and Post Completion reports are also included in the Appendix.

1. Major Parks (Boundary Maps are found within the Appendix)

   ✓ Atlas County Park
   ✓ Bluebell Beach and Flint River Trail Bike Path - Genesee Township
   ✓ Linden County Park - Fenton Township
   ✓ Flushing County Park - Flushing Township
   ✓ Buell Lake County Park - Thetford Township
   ✓ For-Mar Nature Preserve and Arboretum - City of Burton
   ✓ Richfield County Park - Richfield Township
   ✓ Davison Roadside County Park - City of Burton

   a. Atlas County Park

      Size: 155 acres, bordered by Atlas Mill Pond (north)
      Age Groups Served: All ages
      Location: Excellent – Access across from Goodrich High School and the Iron Belle Trail, and residential areas surround the East, West, and South areas of the property
      Accessibility: Accessibility ranking – 2. Parking lot is barrier free. With upcoming future updates, the county would like to provide barrier free restrooms, water fountains and picnic areas.

      DNR Recreation Grants:
      Contract # TF16-0101
      Scope Items $540,200.00 for acquisition
      Condition Active and in use

   b. Bluebell Beach and Flint River Trail Bike Path - Genesee Township

      Size: 350 acres, including 2,000 feet of frontage on Mott Lake.
      Age Groups Served: All ages
      Location: Excellent - Bray Road or Carpenter Road via the Flint River Trail. Facilities: Splash park, swimming beach, pavilions, playground, aquatic feature, play equipment, and .8 miles of paved trail linking Carpenter Road and Bluebell Beach.
      Accessibility: Accessibility ranking – 3. Trails, playground, parking lot, restrooms and boat launch are all considered barrier free. With upcoming future updates, the county would like to provide barrier free restrooms, water fountains and picnic areas.

      DNR Recreation Grants:
      Contract # RP15-0084
      Scope Items Barrier Free Access
c. Linden County Park - Fenton Township

Size: 234 acres, including 1,200 feet of frontage on Byram Lake.

Age Groups Served: All ages.

Location: Excellent - Access adjacent to the Village of Linden.

Facilities: Swimming beach, play fields, tennis and multi-purpose courts, trails, play equipment areas, picnic areas, restrooms and shelters.

Accessibility: Accessibility ranking – 4. Barrier free parking and trails have been provided in the park, which allows full access through the site and to the pavilion and beach area. The park also provides barrier free picnic pads, a handicap accessible water fountain and barrier free restroom facilities.

DNR Recreation Grants:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contract #</th>
<th>Scope Items</th>
<th>Condition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TF 707</td>
<td>$200,000 grant for acquisition of 107 acres (1983)</td>
<td>Completed and in use</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DOT Grants:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contract #</th>
<th>Scope Items</th>
<th>Condition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENH 200300227</td>
<td>$383,541 grant for trail (2007)</td>
<td>Completed and in use</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

d. Flushing County Park - Flushing Township

Size: 105 acres, with 2,080 feet of frontage on the Flint River.

Age Groups Served: All ages.
e. Buell Lake County Park - Thetford Township

Size: 241 acres of land, 3,600 feet of frontage on Buell Lake.

Age Groups Served: All ages.

Location: Good - Lake and Genesee Roads, relates well to Clio and Otisville. Barrier free boat launch, trail system and boardwalk allow for excellent access once in the park. Safe play zones need to be incorporated into a transitional plan.

Facilities: Play fields, play equipment areas, picnic areas, fishing, shelters and model airplane flying field.

Accessibility: Accessibility ranking – 3. Barrier free boat launch, trail system and boardwalk allow for excellent access once in the park. Safe play zones need to be incorporated into a transitional plan.

DNR Recreation Grants: Contract # BF 89-381
Scope Items $21,375 to resurface tennis and basketball courts
Condition Completed and in use

f. For-Mar Nature Preserve and Arboretum - City of Burton

Size: 384 acres of land; two acres of water.

Age Groups Served: All ages.

Location: Good - Access via Genesee Road and Davison Road, relates well to the City of Flint.

Facilities: Nature trails, interpretive buildings, and indoor and outdoor exhibits.

Accessibility: Accessibility ranking – 3. All buildings are barrier free, however, this is a nature preserve and trails are rustic and natural. An accessible pedestrian bridge was added in 2011 for a portion of the trail system.

DNR Recreation Grants: Contract # TF-01-040 (MNRTF)
Scope Items $152,529 for Buell Park improvements, boat launch, fishing dock, parking lot and play equipment (2001)
Condition Completed and in use

Richfield County Park - Richfield Township

Size: 345 acres, with 3120 feet of frontage on the Flint River.

Age Groups Served: All ages.
Genevieve County Parks and Recreation Commission
Five Year Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

Location:
Facilities:
Good - Access via Irish Road.
Play fields, shelters, picnic areas, tennis courts and canoe launch site

Accessibility:
Accessibility ranking – 2. Barrier free parking with some barrier free paths is provided. The Commission will transition the designing for barrier free picnic areas, barrier free water fountain and trails to allow access.

DNR Recreation Grants:
Contract # TF 93-122
Scope Items Acquisition, 26 acres, $155,000 (1993)
Condition Completed and in use

h. Davison Roadside County Park - City of Burton
Size: 9 acres.
Age Groups Served: All ages.
Accessibility and Location: Good - Access via Davison and Belsay Roads.
Facilities:
Picnic area, beginners' sledding hill, pavilion, and playground.

Accessibility: Accessibility ranking – 2. Parking lot provides barrier free parking. Picnic areas need to become barrier free. Pavilion and playground are barrier free.

Genevieve County Parks and Recreation Commission is always striving to improve accessibility to and through its parks. Every time the Commission makes physical improvements to its parks, this goal is considered and accomplished. The Commission is also planning for barrier free access to its parks with a complex trail system. Only Bluebell can be accessed with non-motorized transportation.

2. Regional Recreational Facilities/Attractions
   - Holloway Reservoir Regional Park
   - Genesee Recreation Area
   - Mounds ORV Area - Genesee Township
   - Crossroads Village and the Huckleberry Railroad
   - Stepping Stone Falls
   - Everett A. Cummings Center - Genesee Township
   - Wolverine Campground and Buttercup Beach - Columbiaville

   a. Holloway Reservoir Regional Park

   The Holloway Reservoir Regional Park in Genesee and Lapeer Counties encompasses 5,500 acres of land, including 1,975 acres of water (Holloway Reservoir). The park provides open space for a variety of educational and recreational activities, including swimming, boating, picnicking, camping and fishing. Recent shoreline stabilization efforts have been added along the Wolverine Shoreline to minimize loss of campground area due to erosion. Additional activities have been designed to increase interest in the park on both the local and regional level. Located in Richfield Township and Lapeer County, the following summarizes the area:

   Size: 5,860 acres
   Age Groups Served: All ages
   Accessibility and Location: Approximately 15 miles northeast of the City of Flint.
   Facilities:
   Holloway Reservoir; Buttercup Beach; Walleye Pike
Accessibility:
Accessibility ranking – 2. All of these facilities require barrier free improvements. These include barrier free parking, paths, fishing access, water fountains. A barrier free restroom was added in 2013 at Buttercup Beach. However, it is critical to the Commission that the natural integrity of these sites be maintained and the improvements work within the natural systems and programmed elements.

DNR Recreation Grants:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contract #</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BF 93-127</td>
<td>Restroom and concessions building at Walleye Boat Launch. $125,200 (1993)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BF 89-418</td>
<td>Wolverine Campground shower buildings and 2 restrooms, $236,250 (1989)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BF 26-00199</td>
<td>Land acquisition, 402 acres, $134,750 (1970)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BF 26-00291</td>
<td>Land acquisition, 734 acres, $319,019 (1972)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BF 26-00940</td>
<td>Land acquisition, 83.5 acres, $67,740 (1977)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BF 26-01060</td>
<td>Land acquisition, 171 acres, $122,533 (1981)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BF 26-01194</td>
<td>Land acquisition, 50 acres, $135,000 (1982)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BF 90-225</td>
<td>Vault toilet, $86,250 (1990)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26-01104N2</td>
<td>Land acquisition, 140 acres, 3 parcels $101,696.90 (1980)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nature Conservancy:
b. Genesee Recreation Area

The Genesee Recreation area consists of 4,460 acres of scenic land in Richfield and Genesee Townships. Like the Holloway Reservoir Park, traditional recreational activities such as swimming, picnicking, bicycling, hiking, boating, and fishing are provided. Activities and attractions such as Stepping Stone Falls, Crossroads Village and the Huckleberry Railroad, create a greater regional appeal, as well as add to the tourism industry of the area. Located in Genesee and Richfield Townships, the following summarizes the area:

Size: 4,460 acres
Age Groups Served: All ages.
Location: Excellent access and relationship to the City of Flint. Safe play zones need to be implemented at the older playground sites.

Facilities: Stepping Stone Falls; C.S. Mott Lake; Bluebell Beach; Historical Crossroads Village and the Huckleberry Railroad; Bluegill Boat Launch; Everett A. Cummings Center; Goldenrod Beach Disc Golf; Richfield Park; Timber Wolf Fishing Site; Equestrian Trails; Snowmobile Trails; Richfield Park BMX Course.

Accessibility: Accessibility ranking – 2. All of these facilities require barrier free improvements. These include barrier free parking, paths, fishing access, water fountains and toilet facilities. However, it is critical to the Commission that the natural integrity of these sites be maintained and the improvements work within the natural systems and programmed elements.

DNR Recreation Grants:

Contract # TF16-102
Scope Items Iron Belle Trail extension from Genesee Rd to Vassar Rd
Condition Active and in use

Contract # TF17-132
Scope Items Iron Belle Trail extension from Vassar Rd to Irish Rd
Condition In process - Engineering

Contract # BF 89-382
Scope Items Fishing docks and road, $30,000 (1989)
Condition Active and in use

Contract # TF 97-045
Scope Items Bike path extension, $75,000 (1997)
Condition Active and in use

Contract # CMI 99-075
Scope Items Replace parking lot, lighting, restroom, $185,000 (1999)
Condition Active and in use

Contract # Waterways (Grant-in-aid Program)
c. Mounds ORV Area - Genesee Township

Size: 370 acres, with 240 acres open to ORV use.
Age Groups Served: All ages.
Location: Good - Access via E. Mt. Morris Road. Genesee County Road Commission has begun the process of developing a master plan.
Facilities: For motorcycles, mini-bikes, dune buggies, four-wheel drive vehicles and all-terrain vehicles.
Accessibility: Accessibility ranking – N/A. Accessibility within the park plan will be addressed in this plan.
DNR Recreation Grants: Contract # ORV 311024-94
Scope Items Mounds Park Development
Condition Completed
Contract # (multiple) Off-Road Vehicle Trail Improvement Fund
Scope Items Mounds Park Development
Condition Active and in use


d. Crossroads Village and the Huckleberry Railroad

Size: Approximately 80 acres, 4 miles of track.
Age and Groups Served: All ages
Location: Bray Road and Stanley Road to I-475
Facilities: Crossroads Village, a bicentennial project, offers a glimpse of a Michigan village in the 1860 to 1880 historical period. Over 30 structures serve as a background for this “living village” concept with crafters at work. The buildings are the Atlas Grist Mill; the Stanley School; the Horton-Colwell Building; the Billy Durant Barn; the Flint Township Hall; the Fox House; Crossroads Lumber Company (saw mill); Masters’ Cider Mill; Judge Wisner’s Carriage Barn; Clayton Township Hall; the Buzzell House; Davison Railroad Depot; the Eldridge House; the Attica Hotel; Coldwater Road Chapel; Calkins Barn; Durand Law Office; Salter Log House; Fowler Barber Shop; Manwaring Building (print shop); North & Son Bank; Fenton Carriage Barn; an ice house; carousel building; Victorian gazebo; blacksmith shop; the Pere’ Marquette Caboose A621; and the Mill Street Warehouse and Dining Room. Also featured are several vintage amusement rides—the Charles W. Parker Ferris Wheel; Charles W. Parker Carousel;
Venetian Swing; pony cart ride and Patriot "Flyer" miniature train ride. The Genesee Belle at the village also provides rides on C.S. Mott Lake. Events include "Ghost and Goodies" at Halloween and "Christmas at Crossroads".

The Huckleberry Railroad is located within Crossroads Village and follows an eight-mile loop through the Genesee Recreation Area on a narrow gauge rail. The train equipment is steam-powered and restored to 1800's vintage.

Accessibility: Accessibility ranking – 3.
All the shops, events and boat and train rides are completely accessible. Future renovations will provide accessible water fountains and parking.

DNR Recreation Grants:
State
Contract # Direct appropriation from
Scope Items Huckleberry Railroad, $300,000
Condition Active and in use

E. Stepping Stone Falls
Size: Approximately 30 acres.
Age Groups Served: All ages.
Location: Stepping Stone Falls is part of the dam which forms Mott Lake.
The height on the main fall is 11.5 feet and is lighted from sunset to midnight with changing colored lights.

Facilities: Accessibility ranking – 3.
Barrier free parking, restrooms and paths are provided. The county will transition barrier free picnic areas, seating areas and water fountains.

DNR Recreation Grants:
Contract # TF 94-177 (MNRTF)
Scope Items Stepping Stone path, $75,000 (1994)
Condition Completed

Other Grants:
Contract # ENH 20030020 (TIP)
Scope Items Stepping Stone Trail, $624,250 (2005)
Condition Completed

F. Everett A. Cummings Center - Genesee Township
Size: Approximately 1740 acres from Genesee Rd to Irish Rd, over 300 acres accessed from Mt Morris Rd.
Age Groups Served: All ages.
Location: Good - Access via Mt Morris Road and Irish Road.
Facilities: Trails for hiking, horses, and snowmobiles. Fishing and water access to Flint River. Duck Hunting islands location along the Flint River. Location of major events such as Genesee County Fair, Warrior Dash, Color Vibe and other functions. 18 hole Goldenrod
**Accessibility:**

Disc golf course.

Accessibility ranking – 3. County will implement accessible parking with future renovations.

**g. Wolverine Campground and Buttercup Beach - Columbiaville**

**Size:**
195 campsites available.

**Age Groups Served:**
All ages.

**Location:**
Good - Access via Baxter Road.

**Facilities:**
Campsites, beach, swimming, playground and boat launch.

**Accessibility:**
Accessibility ranking – 1. Boat launching and fishing access require barrier free designs. Playground is barrier free. A pre-cast barrier free restroom was added in 2013. A recent accessible improvement was made by the Village of Columbiaville on leased property with access to Holloway. Shoreline stability project in-progress.

**DNR Recreation Grants:**
Contract # BF 26-00222

Scope Items: Buttercup beach improvements, $36,500 (1970)

Condition: Completed

There are no registered historical sites within the Genesee County Parks and Recreation boundaries.

**b. Public Resources and Accessibility**

The physical location of Genesee County places the Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission in a unique position. Genesee County is within one hour’s driving time from the Detroit area, a national major metropolitan area. The county is also part of a Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (SMSA) anchored by the City of Flint, which is within the county’s boundaries. The pressure and growth away from the inner urban centers make the county’s waterways and scenic areas valuable as public recreational areas. However, the public development of these resources is in competition with private developments, particularly of year-round lakefront homes. In several projects, the Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission attempts to balance the public interest with private development by providing recreational facilities in scenic areas, which enhance the tourism industry and increase the quality of life in the county.

The major parks and regional recreational facilities listed here differ from the local parks in size and in the variety of recreational opportunities available and are intended to serve the diverse needs of Genesee County residents. These attractions, while geared to local needs and desires, may also add to the tourism industry in Genesee County.

In recognition of the inevitable transfer of recreation users among park facilities in this region, the Genesee County Parks system has established certain fees and charges to assist in supporting the facilities used by non-residents. A listing of the same is supplied in the Appendix section of this document.

**No entrance fees are required for these parks.** Completed self-evaluations of all MDNR grant assisted park locations are included in the Appendix.

Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission is always striving to improve accessibility.
to and through its parks. Every time the Commission makes physical improvements to its parks, this goal is considered and accomplished. The Commission is also planning for barrier free access to its parks with a complex trail system. Only Bluebell can be accessed with non-motorized transportation.

There are no registered historical sites within the Genesee County Parks and Recreation boundaries.

c. Inventory of Private Resources

1. Private Parks
There are two public parks, which receive private funding within the City of Flint, Flint Memorial Park and Ballenger Park.

Memorial Park and Ballenger Park were built by the Ballenger family and are maintained by funding provided by the Ballenger Trust Fund.

Memorial Park, located west of the Genesee County Administration Complex, has three tennis courts, a basketball court, a multiple-use paved area, an ice rink, a park warming house/storage building, a small ball field, and a passive park area with nature trees. This park receives considerable use by both area children and adults who drive to the park.

Ballenger Park has three tennis courts, two handball courts, a stage/amphitheater, a playground, an ice rink and warming house, and a passive area with mature trees. This park has been a perennial favorite due to its proximity to Kettering University, its nearby fraternities, and the adjacent neighborhood which are not served by a city neighborhood park.

2. College Facilities

   a. University of Michigan–Flint Campus
   The university has the following recreation facilities, which are available not only to its students, university personnel and alumni, but also to the public for nominal fees: indoor swimming pool, gymnasium, running track, fencing room, weight room and handball/racquetball court facilities.

   b. Kettering University
   The school maintains the following recreation facilities for its students: games room, weight room, gym, four ball fields, three football fields, two soccer fields and recently acquired Atwood Stadium, outdoor football stadium.

   c. C.S. Mott Community College
   The campus has an indoor swimming pool and six tennis courts.

1. Hurley Health and Fitness Center
An open-membership health/fitness center opened in 1990 in the former Great Lakes Technology Center complex, now Genesee Business Center. It has an indoor pool, running track and weightlifting/aerobics center.

2. Genesys Health and Fitness Center
An open-membership health/fitness center opened in 1997 at the Genesys Hospital complex. It has an indoor pool, running track, tennis courts, racquetball courts and
3. Commercial Facilities

Commercial facilities assist in alleviating some of the demand from public facilities. Flint area residents have many types of fine commercial recreational facilities available to them including bowling alleys, fitness and health clubs, movie theaters (inside cinemas and drive-ins), miniature golf, indoor and outdoor golf driving ranges, roller skating rinks, indoor ice skating rinks, public golf courses, video game shops and various entertainment at the Perani Arena and Event Center (up to 6,500 person capacity).

In addition,Mt. Holly Ski Resort in Holly is within driving range.

d. Relationship of Parks and Recreation to Other Functions

Many special events occur within Genesee County Parks through special use permits. Events such as Warrior Dash adventure run brings over 50,000 people to the county, generating investment of over $4 million dollars into the local economy.

e. Unique Recreation and Preservation Space

These areas differ from other community and regional facilities in that the space provided usually contains a single activity, recreational function, or special land area to be preserved. However, the special use area may accommodate other closely related activities or supporting facilities. These areas serve various age groups, depending on the type of activity, and are located to provide recreation on a community-wide basis similar to that of the community park and the major park. Adequate, well-designed parking facilities are essential to the feasibility of most special use functions.

Among the more common uses and types of activities developed as unique attractions include the golf course, swimming and sunbathing areas, marina and boat facilities, arboretum or botanical garden, zoological garden, and major sports stadium. Other functions of these areas may include adequate right-of-way for use as trails, naturalistic greenways linking the various park units and continuous landscaped boulevards, roadways and scenic routes.

Through Ligon Outdoor Center, Genesee Intermediate School District is the primary provider of public outdoor/environmental educational offerings for the section of Genesee County north of Pierson Road. For-Mar Nature Preserve and Arboretum, owned by Genesee County and operated by the Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission, is the primary provider of public outdoor/environmental educational offerings for the section of Genesee County south of Pierson Road.

Ligon Nature Outdoor Center is located in northeastern Genesee County in Section 11 of Thetford Township. It is bounded by Buell Lake County Park on the north, Farrand Road on the south, Genesee Road on the west and several private parcels of property fronting on Belsay Road on the east. The nearly pristine 268 acres are replete with native forests, a 10-acre wetland, meadow, 3 ½ miles of hiking/cross country trails and a five acre spring fed glacial lake. This parcel was deeded to the Genesee Intermediate School District in 1975 by the James Ligon family. The outdoor education center is a 15 minute drive from Flint.

The property is served by highways M-57 (east/west), M-15 (north/south), and I-75. The overarching goal of proposed development is to increase and improve public recreation activities and outdoor/environmental educational offerings to all residents of Genesee County, particularly those living in the section of Genesee County north of Pierson Road. Expansion of existing facilities and programs would make Ligon visitor-friendly to seniors, tourists, handicapped, disadvantaged youth and bikers/joggers.

2. Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy (SMLC) and Six Rivers Land Conservancy (SRLC) Lost Lake Property

In August 2013, the Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy (SMLC) and Six Rivers Land Conservancy (SRLC) announced that the 538 acre Lost Lake property, located in Holly Township, Oakland County and Grand Blanc Township, Genesee County, has been acquired by Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy for natural areas preservation and public recreation.

The Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy purchased the property from the Nyland family who had owned the land since the 1950s, with the assistance of an anonymous donor (who provided the $1.1 million purchase funding) and Six Rivers Land Conservancy (which now holds a conservation easement on the property).

**Conservation Values**

The property’s most important feature is that it contains two freshwater lakes, Slack Lake (50 acres) and Bloat Lake (8 acres). The latter is undeveloped and is in pristine natural condition. The property is located entirely within the Flint Watershed and is part of both the Swartz Creek Subwatershed and Thread Creek Subwatershed. The Swartz Creek Subwatershed is comprised of over 82,000 acres and is one of the headwaters for the Flint River which flows into the Saginaw River, a Michigan Area of Concern.

The property is integral to preserving the natural character of Oakland and Genesee County. It is comprised of approximately 50% wetlands, 40% woods, and 10% open meadows.
Wildlife habitat includes the two lakes, wetlands, emergent marshlands, ponds, streams, open meadows and oak woodlands. The property contains old fields with possible remnant Oak Savanna - a locally rare and critically imperiled ecosystem in the State of Michigan.

Sandhill Cranes and Great Blue Herons frequent the property along with a variety of other wildlife.

**Partnership Arrangement**
Six Rivers Land Conservancy acquired a conservation easement on the property at the same time the property was purchased by SMLC. This arrangement provides two layers of land protection and ensures that the property will always remain a natural area open to the public.

**Future Goals**
Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy plans to establish the property as a nature preserve open to the public for passive recreation and on-site education. Hiking trails, scenic overlooks and demonstration sites will provide visitors with opportunities to enjoy a beautiful landscape while also learning about natural areas restoration.

**Partner Information**
Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy, a 501(c)3 nonprofit and qualified conservation organization established 25 years ago, has protected approximately 3,400 acres across southeast Michigan through the conservation of natural lands and open space to provide wildlife habitat and to enrich the lives of people. SMLC has a history of conserving land in partnership with Federal, State, and local governments and other conservation organizations. www.smlcland.org

Six Rivers Land Conservancy works to preserve natural, agricultural and important community lands in the region. It works in the watersheds of the Belle, Clinton, Flint, Huron, Rouge and Shiawassee rivers in Oakland, Macomb, Lapeer, Genesee and St. Clair counties.

f. **Major Recreational Areas near Genesee County**

In addition to the Genesee County parks system, there are more than 20 major public recreation areas (state and county) within one hour’s drive from the Central Business District (CBD) of the City of Flint. Most of these are located on the southern and eastern borders of Genesee County, in Oakland County and Lapeer County, respectively.

State of Michigan parks located approximately five to six miles from the southern Genesee County border include the Holly Recreation Area (6,943 acres), Seven Lakes State Recreation Area (1,378 acres), Ortonville State Park (3,996 acres), and the Metamora-Hadley State Park (693 acres). These four areas all have excellent recreation facilities. The Oakland County parks system also has a wide variety of excellent facilities.

In addition to these major parks, many major recreational sports and cultural facilities are available within an hour’s drive of the City of Flint. These include Ford Field, home of the Detroit Lions National Football League team and host to many other recreational events; the Joe Louis Arena, home of Detroit Red Wings National Hockey League team, and host to many other cultural and civic events; the Palace of Auburn Hills, home of the Detroit Pistons National Basketball Association, host to many concerts, circuses, and other cultural or recreational events; Comerica Park, home of the Detroit Tigers American League Baseball team, and
several major theaters, including the Fox Theater and the Masonic Temple, which host concerts and major Broadway plays.

IV. Description of the Planning Process

The first step in the development of the plan involved gathering and updating information about Genesee County. Physical characteristics of the area, demographic information about the community and an inventory of existing facilities helped provide the base from which future recreation decisions are made.

An analysis of information gathered determined where the community is deficient in providing recreational facilities or is providing a surplus of various recreation facilities and programs in comparison to national standards as well as level of service. The Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission worked diligently to acquire citizens’ opinions for this plan.

A. Public Engagement

This plan has been developed by the staff of the Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission along with assistance by consultants. Several community resources were asked for technical information. The following considerations were used in developing the plan:

1. Citizen opinion was solicited in the form of volunteer groups, which meet on a regular basis, and advise staff regarding what is needed in the parks and how to best fulfill those needs.

2. Comment cards and surveys of park users are collected by staff as part of a continuous quality improvement process.

3. A Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system is utilized by the Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission for both notification of various programs and soliciting continuous feedback.

4. The Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission meets on a regular basis, the meetings are open to the public, and the public is invited to address the meetings to voice any concerns they may have regarding the parks.

5. User survey was conducted at Cross Roads Village/Huckleberry Railroad in late summer 2018. These results are found within the Appendix.

6. User survey was conducted at For-Mar Nature Center in late summer 2018. These results are found within the Appendix.

7. User survey was conducted placed on-line and conducted at the major parks in late summer 2018. These results are found within the Appendix.

B. Park Master Plans

Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission is committed to facilitating public forums in order to obtain crucial feedback from the community regarding the planning and designing of their parks. Below is a typical strategic planning process that the county employs, and has successfully lead to the development of the Bluebell Beach, Flushing, Linden, Buell and Richfield Site Master Plans.

1. Professionally perform a site inventory and analysis of the park.
2. Using the information from the site inventory and analysis, the county facilitates a design charrette in order to publically generate distinct site master plan concepts.

3. Have a professional design consultant integrate concepts into a preferred option.

4. Plans were available at libraries throughout the County including:
   - Fenton - Winegarden
   - Flushing
   - Grand Blanc - McFarlen
   - Swartz Creek - Perkins
   - Genesee District Library Headquarters

   And the County Administration building downtown

5. Return to the community for final input on the unified design concept.

6. Implement site master plan.

This effort was recently completed for the EA Cummings Event Center site. This provided opportunity to collect information from residents for both the individual site as well as general county park needs.

C. Additional Local Government Collaboration

In an effort to leverage existing resources to provide park and recreation services to county residents, the Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission extended an offer to municipalities within the county to collaborate directly with the development of the Genesee County Parks and Recreation Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan. A copy of the letter is included with the Appendix for approval and documentation. This was issued in October and the deadline was extended past the end of November due to the amount of favorable responses. The ability for additional units of government to participate in the plan was approved previously with MDNR grant administration leadership, without jeopardy to their existing independent 5-Year Recreation Plans. Participating communities include the City of Montrose, Flint Township, City of Fenton, City of Davison, Atlas Township, City of Grand Blanc and City of Flint. Copies of each unit’s resolution of support to participate in the plan is included in the Appendix.

D. Approval Process

Based on the information gathered from the methods described above, a draft plan document was prepared. The draft plan was presented to the Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission on for comment on October 25, 2018; meetings are open to the public. Minutes from this meeting and the public comment is found within the Appendix.

A draft of the plan was posted for a thirty day public review at the County facilities mentioned above in Section B., 4. This was advertised in the Flint Journal, which is circulated throughout Genesee County on _______________ and was made available on-line through Genesee County Parks and Recreation website.

A public hearing was held by the Genesee County Parks and Recreation on December 13, 2018. This was advertised in the Flint Journal, which is circulated throughout Genesee County on ____________.
This plan reflects a prioritized list of maintenance items to existing facilities and the development of new facilities that best address the needs and desires of the citizens of Genesee County.

V. Five Year Park and Recreation Goals and Objectives

The overall theme for improving recreation will be to maximize on current facilities first, prior to developing new elements. The following goals and objectives support this (not listed in any order of priority).

Goal 1: Operate Parks in a Sustainable Manner.

a. Seek multiple sources of revenue to support long-term programming, staffing and development of the park system.
b. Prioritize investment in staffing, training and improvements to maximize safety, efficient maintenance and universal accessibility within park facilities.
c. Integrate tourism and economic development marketing to leverage the benefits of park facilities and programs.
d. Clarify opportunities for stakeholders and volunteers to partner with maintenance and improvement of facilities.
e. Continue to provide leadership in resource protection, stewardship and education throughout park facilities and programs.

Goal 2: Development of strategic park facilities

a. Target investments based on defined business plans and measurable impacts.
b. Develop leveraging multiple grants and funding sources.
c. Create and reinforce regional identity and community connections through park facilities and program development.
d. Support the development of signature urban parks and regional trail networks.
e. Capitalize on recreation opportunities along the Flint River corridor and other water resources.

VI. Action Program

A. Action Plan for Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission

The Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission is financed primarily from a one-half mil (.48625) tax levy, operational revenue, grants and donations. This tax levy is subject to rollback and changes annually. Funds are used for professional staff, operations, maintenance, facility development, supervision and planning. Reliance on grant funding for operations must be reduced and replaced ultimately.

Major expenditures for land acquisition and capital development over the next five years are estimated and explained in detail below.

1. Five Year Financial Plan

a. Organizational - The Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission intends to concentrate on maintaining its approximate existing 11,500 acres of park lands and facilities, while maximizing its revenue producing potential, where possible.

b. Staffing - Currently, the Park Commission is understaffed. The table below depicts the
staff/acre ratio for counties similar to Genesee County for comparison. The addition of staff needs to be addressed to meet the current needs of the park. Any additional programs or facilities will require even more staff.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Staff Comparison</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Full-Time Park Maintenance Employees</th>
<th>Seasonal Park Maintenance Employees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Genesee County Parks</td>
<td>11,000 +</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kent County Parks</td>
<td>5,300</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oakland County Parks</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>176</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

c. **Programming** - The outdoor education programs will continue to increase with the use of the For-Mar Nature Visitor Center and day-use parks.

d. **Operation** - The park system operates seven days a week, 52 weeks per year and relies heavily on seasonal employees and volunteers.

e. **Maintenance** - The Park Commission has its own maintenance staff. Supervision is provided by the park superintendent, who is a professional staff member. The maintenance staff will increase as new revenue sources are secured. Currently this department is critically understaffed. The Crossroads Village maintenance is partly raised from the Genesee County’s accommodations (hotel/motel) tax and will increase as tourism at Crossroads Village increases and/or as revenue projects expand.

2. **Land Acquisition**
The Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission will consider acquisition of land within the County as donations and grants become available. Decisions will be based on a business model for the property as well as stewardship value. Acquisition of any land in the form of gifts, trust and outright donations will be given consideration as to the benefit to the total Genesee County park system.

3. **Capital Development**
The capital development program for the next five years is based on the availability of funds derived from grants, gifts, donations or through the use of the revenue bond program. In the event that funds are received before the anticipated schedule, certain projects could be advanced accordingly. The capital improvement budget will be concentrated in strategic locations that provide the best sustainable benefit for the entire Genesee County park system.

4. **Collaboration**
Opportunities for partnerships with other communities and park and recreation providers will be explored as appropriate, considering the benefit to the total Genesee County park system.

B. **Priority Projects for Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission**
The following project lists are grouped by location. Items are listed by priority for each site.

a. **Bluebell Beach**
   1) Restore and redesign current pathway system at Bluebell Beach.
      Funding: TAP, MNRTF
      Estimated Cost: $220,000
      Responsibility: Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission

   2) Provide drinking fountains by tapping into the existing water main at the
street.
Funding: Donations
Estimated Cost: $40,000
Responsibility: Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission

3) Renovate bathhouse to meet visitor needs and site management.
Funding: Private, Donations, MNRTF*
Estimated Cost: $750,000
Responsibility: Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission

4) Improve entrance images including signage.
Funding: Private, Donations, Passport
Estimated Cost: $100,000
Responsibility: Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission

5) Restore the entry drive into Bluebell Beach.
Funding: MNRTF*, Passport
Estimated Cost: $300,000
Responsibility: Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission

6) Restore the parking lot into Bluebell Beach.
Funding: Private, Donations, Local, MNRTF*
Estimated Cost: $1,000,000
Responsibility: Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission

7) Replace North and South Bathroom.
Funding: Local, MNRTF*
Estimated Cost: $300,000
Responsibility: Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission

b. Crossroads Village
1) Parking lot lighting.
Funding: MNRTF*, Local
Estimated Cost: $225,000
Responsibility: Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission

2) Pave parking lot.
Funding: Private, Local
Estimated Cost: $650,000
Responsibility: Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission

3) Add/upgrade utilities.
Funding: Private
Estimated Cost: $1,500,000
Responsibility: Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission

4) Orientation building.
Funding: Private
Estimated Cost: $3,000,000
Responsibility: Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission

5) Kitchen improvements to Mill Street Warehouse.
Funding: Private
Estimated Cost: $180,000
Responsibility: Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission

6) Pave entrance road with storm drains
Funding: Private, Local
Estimated Cost: $1,500,000
Responsibility: Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission

7) Bathroom improvements to Café and Depot
Funding: Private
Estimated Cost: $350,000
Responsibility: Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission

c. *Huckleberry Railroad*
1) Reconstruct culverts 1 per year.
Funding: Private, Local
Estimated Cost: $50,000/year
Responsibility: Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission

2) Mainline tie replacement program
Funding: Private, Local
Estimated Cost: $1,000,000
Responsibility: Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission

3) Build new accessible passenger car
Funding: Private, Local
Estimated Cost: $350,000
Responsibility: Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission

4) Build new passenger car trucks.
Funding: Private, Local
Estimated Cost: $900,000
Responsibility: Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission

d. *Mounds ORV Area*
1) Maintenance of trails, parking expansion, develop event areas.
Funding: ORV* grant
Estimated Cost: $100,000
Responsibility: Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission

2) Develop quad challenge course
Funding: ORV* grant
Estimated Cost: $300,000
Responsibility: Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission

e. *Flushing Park*
1) Splash Pad.
Funding: MNRTF*
Estimated Cost: $750,000
Responsibility: Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission

2) Apply for funding and complete Phase I improvements to park based on site plan. Including:
   1. Demolition of unsafe, outdated equipment and amenities;
f. Richfield Park
   1) Apply for funding to complete renovation of park based on site master plan. Including:
      1. Demolition of unsafe and/or outdated equipment and facilities;
      2. Development of athletic/sports fields, including baseball, tennis, soccer and basketball;
      3. Development of adequate restroom facilities;
      4. Renovation/restoration of picnic areas, including picnic shelters, pavilions and site amenities;
      5. Redevelopment of active play areas;
      6. Initiate process for historical designation of CCC/WPA facilities;
      7. Phase I lighting plan;
      8. Phase I entrance improvements, including signage and roads;
   Funding: MNRTF*, LWCF*, Local Funds
   Estimated Cost: Phase I - $1,250,000
   Responsibility: Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission

h. Walleye Pike Boat Launch
   1) Repave entrance road
      Funding: MNRTF*, Local
      Estimated Cost: $100,000
      Responsibility: Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission

   2) Rebuild and enlarge parking lot
      Funding: MNRTF*, Local
      Estimated Cost: $500,000
      Responsibility: Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission

   3) Replace docks to meet ADA compliance
i. **Linden Park**
   1) Phase II Improvements
      1. Develop sports area, including grading, utilities, sports fields, sports courts, parking, sidewalk, road, landscaping, restrooms and signage;
      2. Develop events area, including utilities, grading, roads, parking, paths, landscaping and fencing;
      3. Improve park entrance, including signage, landscaping and fencing.
      
      **Funding:** MNRTF*, LWCF*, Local Funds
      **Estimated Cost:** $3,250,000
      **Responsibility:** Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission

j. **E.A. Cummings Event Center**
   1) Apply for funding to complete Phase I renovations. Including:
      1. Required infrastructure updates (mechanical, electrical, etc.);
      2. Construction of adequate restroom facilities;
      3. Development of multi-use pathways;
      4. Improve camping sites;
      5. Develop separate equestrian arena footing.
      
      **Funding:** Public/Private Partnerships, MNRTF*, Local
      **Estimated Cost:** $3,000,000
      **Responsibility:** Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission

k. **Wolverine Campground**
   1) Apply for funding to improve utilities.
      
      **Funding:** MNRTF*, Local
      **Estimated Cost:** $300,000
      **Responsibility:** Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission

   2) Add water and sewer to primitive campsites
      
      **Funding:** Private, Local
      **Estimated Cost:** $500,000
      **Responsibility:** Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission

   3) Sports & Activity Facility (trails, basketball courts, activity building)
      
      **Funding:** Passport*, MNRTF*, Local
      **Estimated Cost:** $1,000,000
      **Responsibility:** Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission

l. **Elba Equestrian Center**
   1) Develop master site plan utilizing local input.
   2) Apply for funding to improve arena(s), camping facilities and facility entrances.
      
      **Funding:** Public/Private Partnerships, LWCF*, Local Funds, MNRTF*
      **Estimated Cost:** $1,000,000
      **Responsibility:** Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission

   3) Trails / Pathways (establish horse trail maps and maintenance program)
Funding: Local, Private, MNRTF*
Estimated Cost: $1,000,000
Responsibility: Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission

m. Trails/Pathways
1) Development of Genesee County Regional Trail Plan initiatives.
   Funding: MNRTF, Passport, TAP, Local, Public/Private Partnerships
   Estimated Cost: T.B.D.
   Responsibility: T.B.D.

2) Accreditation of Water Trail route(s) along the Flint River
   Funding: AHGP, Private Partnerships
   Estimated Cost: T.B.D.
   Responsibility: T.B.D.

n. Davison Roadside Park
1) Park entrance
   Funding: MNRTF*, Local, Passport
   Estimated Cost: $50,000
   Responsibility: Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission

o. Toboggan Hill
1) Toboggan runs, add welcome facilities, lighting and restrooms
   Funding: MNRTF*, Local, Passport
   Estimated Cost: $1,000,000
   Responsibility: Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission

Department of Natural Resource Funding Source Abbreviations

- MNRTF: Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund
- ORV: Off-Road Vehicle Grants
- LWCF: Land and Water Conservation Fund
- PASSPORT: Recreation Passport Fund
- AHGP: Aquatic Habitat Grant Program
- TAP: Transportation Alternatives Program (through MDOT)
C. Priority Projects for the City of Swartz Creek

The following is Capital Improvement Plan listed in the Swartz Creek Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2017-2022. The Swartz Creek City Council supported inclusion in the Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission Parks and Recreation Plan through resolution on October 3, 2018.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tree replacement</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>CE, Private GF, Passport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Annual maintenance ($40,000 per year x 5)</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Renovate restroom floor, add exercise station</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Refurbish basketball courts</td>
<td>$65,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$290,000</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years 0-5</td>
<td>Replace backstops</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>GF, Passport, Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Drainage improvements, extend internal path</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dog park</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Annual maintenance ($50,000 per year x 5)</td>
<td>$250,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reclaim East-side of Elms Park</td>
<td>T.B.D</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$300,000</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Construct Phase 1 of regional trail system</td>
<td>$150,000</td>
<td>TAP, MNRTF, GF, PRIVATE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total for 0-5 Years</strong></td>
<td><strong>$740,000</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years 5-10</td>
<td>New internal path</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>Private, GF, Passport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Annual maintenance ($50,000 per year x 5)</td>
<td>$250,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Refurbish or repurpose tennis courts</td>
<td>$125,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Disc golf (9 holes)</td>
<td>$4,500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$479,000</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Drainage</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>GF, Passport, Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Annual maintenance ($60,000 per year x 5)</td>
<td>$300,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$310,000</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Remove or enhance pavilion with new features</td>
<td>$150,000</td>
<td>MNRTF, GF, Private DDA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>New benches</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$153,000</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Construct Phase 2 and 3 of regional trail system</td>
<td>$350,000</td>
<td>TAP, MNRTF, GF, Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total for 5-10 Years</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,292,000</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
D. Priority Projects for Atlas Township

The following projects are as listed in the Township of Atlas Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2015-2020. The Atlas Township Board supported inclusion in the Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission Parks and Recreation Plan through resolution on August 20, 2018. Atlas supports improvements to the Atlas County Park and will continue to investigate land acquisitions for park land designation and development.

E. Priority Projects for the City of Flushing

The following is Action Plan listed in the City of Flushing Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2020-2025. The Flushing City Council supported inclusion in the Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission Parks and Recreation Plan through a resolution on September 10, 2018.

**ACTION PLAN**
The following are specific action plan items that will address the goals and objective statements listed earlier.

**All Agencies**

- Coordinate and maintain quarterly communication with Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission, Flint River Watershed Coalition, Crim and other stakeholders regarding programming and use of facilities.
- Promote Complete Streets features in future projects through discussions with discussions with Genesee County Road Commission and local projects.
- Seek endowments for perpetual maintenance and programs for facilities.
- Develop volunteer adopt-a-park efforts to address litter in parks and along trail.
- Involve youth in liaison or intern positions on committees, special projects, etc.
- Engage existing service clubs with opportunities for maintenance and development within park facilities.

**City of Flushing**

- Develop Riverview Park per Master Plan Concepts; coordinate with Rotary Club of Flushing.
- Participate in Safe Routes to Schools and Crim programs.
- Conduct a study to re-purpose Tucker Pool facility (Splash pad, etc.)
- Relocate sled hill in Riverfront Park to treatment plant area. Allow for alternate use.
- Pursue Rivertrail extension along the Seymour Road corridor.
- Update Riverview Park playscape.
- Resurface basketball court at Riverview Park and Bonnie View Park.
- Rehabilitate pavilion at Eastview Park.
- Replace overlook at Riverview Park.
- Maintain public access and requirements of DNR funded facilities.
- Eastview Park expansion into recently acquired Woodland Ponds property if city designates it as park property.
- Demolish utility building at Waterworks Park.

**Flushing Township**

- Participate in Safe Routes to Schools and Crim programs.
- Maintain trail system through the Township Nature Park.
• Maintain a part-time employee for maintenance of the Township Nature Park.
• Maintain security of Township Nature Park of Township police department.
• Maintain public access and requirements of DNNR funded facilities.
• Seek additional hosting opportunities for events/revenue generation at the Township Nature Park.

Flushing Community Schools
• Provide sidewalk connection between high school and middle school.
• Participate in Safe Routes to Schools and Crim programs.
• Pursue Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative for place based education, training, programs, grants and park improvements www.glstewards.org

F. Priority Projects for Charter Township of Fenton

The following Action Plan as listed in the Township of Fenton Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The Fenton Township Board supported inclusion in the Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission Parks and Recreation Plan through resolution on September 17, 2018.

ACTION PLAN

Basis for Action Plan
The basis for this action plan is the Park Committee’s review of its goals and objectives, their evaluation of existing facilities and improvements proposed by recreation providers and the general public.

Action Plan
A. Develop proposed Phase I of Fenton Township Community Park.
The initial development of this 34.6 acre site owned by the Township on Thompson Road is proposed to include soccer fields, baseball/softball fields and parking.
• Development of Phase I is supported by Objectives 1A, and 2A of this plan.
B. Develop proposed Phase II of Fenton Township Community Park.
The second phase would build on the first, increasing the range of uses available by adding a sledding hill, nature center, picnic pavilions a basketball court, splash pad and dog park.
• Improve the Township’s ability to program and maintain recreational facilities. Expand the Recreation Committee to include representatives of the recreational groups in the community and work to develop programming for the Township Park.

Development of the trails is supported by Objectives 2B, 2C and 2D of this plan.
D. Establish permanent Joint Parks and Recreation Committee (Township and School). To help coordinate future efforts by the township and the school district the Joint Parks and Recreation Committee would be made a permanent joint committee reporting to both jurisdictions. The committee would have the responsibility of identifying and recruiting other organizations to work with the committee on coordinating recreation programming and facilities.

Expansion of the township’s ability to maintain and program the park is supported by Objectives 1B and 2B of the plan.
E. Support the development of pathways as outlined in the Proposed Regional Trail Alignment Plan as identified in Objective 4A.
F. Support the development of the National Heritage Water Trail designation for the Shiawassee River as identified in Objective 4B.
VII. GCPRC Strategies to Address Local, State or National Concerns

a. Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission works diligently with the surrounding communities to combine efforts in all aspects of this plan. The City of Flint acknowledges the Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission within its Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan, and supports the efforts of the county for its improvement plans for Bluebell Beach.

b. The improvements to Bluebell Beach are directed at citizens who reside in economically distressed areas, and will improve or create access to Bluebell Beach for the minority groups and the low income population.

c. By providing greater access to its parks and their natural resources, this plan addresses the need for human/environment interaction. The Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission is dedicated to enhancing and protecting the environment with all its endeavors, and this includes environmentally considerate design and construction at Bluebell Beach.

d. Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission understands the importance of community volunteers, and has an established volunteer program in order to continue with this endeavor. The park will also continue its efforts to seek additional sources in grant funding.

e. The Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission does not foresee the funds to purchase additional land for recreation, and thus is not a significant component within this plan.

f. Bluebell Beach resides on Mott Lake, and any improvements to this facility will ultimately improve access to the waterfront. Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission maintains its high standards of environment quality, and those standards have established and guide the current design and construction practices for the park system.

g. Additional marketing to make participants aware of the extent of the Genesee County Park system and what activities the different locations offer.
VIII. Conclusions and Implications

The Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission is an important and vital part of the quality of life for the residents of Genesee County. In fact, the mission of the Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission is to provide affordable, quality recreational facilities and programs to all the citizens of Genesee County, and to act as a conservator of publicly-held recreational lands and facilities, historical structures and educational facilities. The purpose of this five-year plan is to provide direction for the park system to meet both its mission and its vision of providing quality recreational opportunities for all.
Major Parks and Regional Recreational Facilities/Attractions Location Map

Major Parks

A. Atlas County Park
B. Bluebell Beach
C. Linden County Park
D. Flushing County Park
E. Buell Lake County Park
F. For-Mar Nature Preserve
G. Richfield County Park
H. Wolverine Campground and Buttercup Beach
I. Davidson Roadside County Park
J. Flint Park Lake Park
K. Max Brandon Park
L. McKinley Park
M. Thread Lake Park
N. Zimmer Park
O. Toboggan Hill

Regional Recreation Facilities/Attractions

P. Holloway Reservoir Regional Park
Q. Genesee Recreation Area
R. Mounds ORV Area
S. Crossroads Village and the Huckleberry Railroad
T. Stepping Stone Falls (a part of Bluebell Beach)
U. Everett A Cummings Center
V. Goldenrod Disc Golf and Bettercup Beach
W. Bluegill Boat Launch
X. Elba Equestrian Complex
Y. Hogsback Area
## Major Parks and Regional Recreational Facilities/Attractions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility/Attraction</th>
<th>Address 1</th>
<th>Address 2</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Accessibility</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>A. Atlas County</strong></td>
<td>9139 Hegel Road, Goodrich, 48438</td>
<td>8 am - Sunset Daily</td>
<td>Accessibility - 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>B. BlueBell Beach</strong></td>
<td>5500 Bray Road</td>
<td>Flint, MI 48505</td>
<td>8 am - Sunset Daily</td>
<td>Accessibility - 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>C. Linden County Park</strong></td>
<td>15349 S. Linden Road</td>
<td>Linden, MI 48451-9038</td>
<td>8 am - Sunset Daily</td>
<td>Accessibility - 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>D. Flushing County Park</strong></td>
<td>4417 N. McKinley Road</td>
<td>Flushing, MI 48433</td>
<td>8 am - Sunset Daily</td>
<td>Accessibility - 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>E. Buell Lake County Park</strong></td>
<td>14098 N. Genesee Road</td>
<td>Clio, MI 48420-9122</td>
<td>8 am - Sunset Daily</td>
<td>Accessibility - 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>F. For-Mar Nature Preserve</strong></td>
<td>2142 N. Genesee Road</td>
<td>Burton, MI 48509</td>
<td>8 am - Sunset Daily</td>
<td>Accessibility - 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>G. Richfield County Park</strong></td>
<td>6322 N. Irish Road</td>
<td>Davison, MI 48423</td>
<td>8 am - Sunset Daily</td>
<td>Accessibility - 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>H. Wolverine Campground</strong></td>
<td>7698 N. Baxter Rd.</td>
<td>Columbiaville, MI 48421</td>
<td>Registration Hours: 8am - 10pm</td>
<td>Accessibility - 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>I. Davidson Roadside Park</strong></td>
<td>6160 Davison Road at N. Belsay Road</td>
<td>Burton, MI 48509</td>
<td>8 am - Sunset Daily</td>
<td>Accessibility - 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>J. Flint Park Lake Park</strong></td>
<td>1100 Block of Stewart off Dupont. Flint, MI 48505</td>
<td>8 am - Sunset Daily</td>
<td>Accessibility - 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>K. Max Brandon</strong></td>
<td>3606 Dupont Street, Flint, MI 48504</td>
<td>8 am - Sunset Daily</td>
<td>Accessibility - 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>L. Mckinley</strong></td>
<td>3102 Collingwood Parkway</td>
<td>Flint, MI 48503</td>
<td>8 am - Sunset Daily</td>
<td>Accessibility - 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>M. Thread Lake Park</strong></td>
<td>Lakeside Ave between Howard Ave and Crocker Ave</td>
<td>8 am - Sunset Daily</td>
<td>Accessibility - 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>N. Zimmer Park</strong></td>
<td>Marathon Rd. north to Zemmer Rd</td>
<td>Lapeer, MI 48446</td>
<td>8 am - Sunset Daily</td>
<td>Accessibility - 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>O. Toboggan Hill</strong></td>
<td>Washburn Rd., North of Carpenter Rd.</td>
<td>Lapeer, MI 48446</td>
<td>8 am - Sunset Daily</td>
<td>(Winter Varries) Accessibility - 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>P. Holloway Reservoir</strong></td>
<td>n/a 7240 N. Henderson Road</td>
<td>Davison, MI 48423</td>
<td>8 am - Sunset Daily</td>
<td>Accessibility - 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Q. Genesee Recreation Area</strong></td>
<td>n/a Branch Rd, Flint, MI 48506</td>
<td>8 am - Sunset Daily</td>
<td>Accessibility - 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>R. Mounds ORV Area</strong></td>
<td>6145 E. Mt. Morris Road</td>
<td>Mt. Morris, MI 48458</td>
<td>Varries</td>
<td>Accessibility - 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>S. Crossroads Village/Huckleberry Railroad</strong></td>
<td>6140 Bray Road</td>
<td>Flint, MI 48505</td>
<td>Varries</td>
<td>Accessibility - 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>T. Stepping Stone Falls</strong></td>
<td>5161 Branch Road</td>
<td>Flint, MI 48506</td>
<td>Varries</td>
<td>Accessibility - 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>U. Everett A. Cummings</strong></td>
<td>6130 E. Mt. Morris Road</td>
<td>Mt. Morris, MI 48458</td>
<td>8 am - Sunset Daily</td>
<td>Accessibility - 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>V. Goldenrod Disc Golf/Buttercup Beach</strong></td>
<td>6405 Irish Road</td>
<td>Davison, MI 48423</td>
<td>8 am - Sunset Daily</td>
<td>Accessibility - 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>W. Bluegill Boat Launch</strong></td>
<td>4045 Coldwater Road</td>
<td>Flint, MI 48506-1363</td>
<td>24 Hours, All Year</td>
<td>Accessibility - 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>X. Elba Equestrian Complex</strong></td>
<td>1875 N. Elba Road</td>
<td>Lapeer, MI 48446</td>
<td>8 am - Sunset Daily</td>
<td>Accessibility - 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Y. Hogsback Area</strong></td>
<td>Genesee &amp; Lapee County line, bordered by Elba, Washburn, McDowell and Stanley Rds.</td>
<td>8 am - Sunset Daily</td>
<td>Accessibility - 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Major Parks and Regional Recreational Facilities/Attractions KEY

GENESEE COUNTY PARKS
Get away. Right away.

Accessibility Key:
1. None of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
2. Some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
3. Most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
4. Entire of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
5. Universally Designed

Program Key:

- Picnic Tables/Area
- Shelter/Pavilion
- Camping
- Boat/Kayak Launch
- Water Access
- Fishing
- Swim/Beach
- Motor Vehicle
- Equestrian
- Recreation
- Ball Field
- Walking
- Biking
- Hiking
- Dog access
- Snowmobile
- Snowshoe
- Cross Country Ski
- Sled/Toboggan
Size: 150 acres

Age Groups Served: All Ages

Location: 9139 Hegel Road, Goodrich, 48438

Facilities: Parking, walking trails, water and seasonal activities

Accessibility: 3- Most of the facilities/areas meet accessibility guidelines
Size: 85 acres

Age Groups Served: All Ages

Location: 5500 Bray Road Flint, MI 48505

Facilities: Parking, Restrooms, walking trails, water activities

Accessibility: 4 - Entirety of the facilities/areas meet accessibility guidelines
**Buell Lake Park**

**Size:** 213 acres

**Age Groups Served:** All Ages

**Location:** 14098 N. Genesee Road Clio, MI 48420-9122

**Facilities:** Pavilions, picnic areas, baseball, fishing, walking trails, parking

**Accessibility:** 4 - Most of the facilities/areas meet accessibility guidelines
Size: 5 acres

Age Groups Served: All Ages

Location: 6160 Davison Road at N. Belsay Road
Burton, MI 48509

Facilities: Parking, Restrooms, walking trails, seasonal activities

Accessibility: 3- Most of the facilities/areas meet accessibility guidelines
For Mar Nature Preserve

Size: 383 acres

Age Groups Served: All Ages

Location: 2142 N. Genesee Road Burton, MI 48509

Facilities: Parking, walking trails, seasonal activities

Accessibility: 3- Most of the facilities/areas meet accessibility guidelines
E.A. Cummings Center

Size: 690 acres

Age Groups Served: All Ages

Location: 6130 E. Mt. Morris Road Mt. Morris, MI 48458

Facilities: Parking, Restrooms, trails, seasonal activities

Accessibility: 3 - Most of the facilities/areas meet accessibility guidelines
Size: 105 acres

Age Groups Served: All Ages

Location: 4417 N. McKinley Road Flushing, MI 48433

Facilities: Parking, walking trails, water and seasonal activities

Accessibility: 4 - Entirety of the facilities/areas meet accessibility guidelines
Size: 150 acres

Age Groups Served: All Ages

Location: Branch Rd, Flint, MI 48506

Facilities: Parking, walking trails, water activities

Accessibility: 3 - Most of the facilities/areas meet accessibility guidelines
Size: 164 acres

Age Groups Served: All Ages

Location: 7240 N. Henderson Road Davison, MI 48423

Facilities: Parking, walking trails, water and seasonal activities

Accessibility: 3 - Most of the facilities/areas meet accessibility guidelines
Size: 144 acres

Age Groups Served: All Ages

Location: 15349 S. Linden Road Linden, MI 48451-9038

Facilities: Parking, Restrooms, walking trails, water, and seasonal activities

Accessibility: 4 - Entirety of the facilities/areas meet accessibility guidelines
Size: 345 acres

Age Groups Served: All Ages

Location: 6322 N. Irish Road Davison, MI 48423

Facilities: Parking, Restrooms, walking trails, water and seasonal activities

Accessibility: 3 - Most of the facilities/areas meet accessibility guidelines
APPENDIX C

APPROVALS
APPENDIX D

POST COMPLETION SELF EVALUATIONS
APPENDIX E

PUBLIC SURVEYS