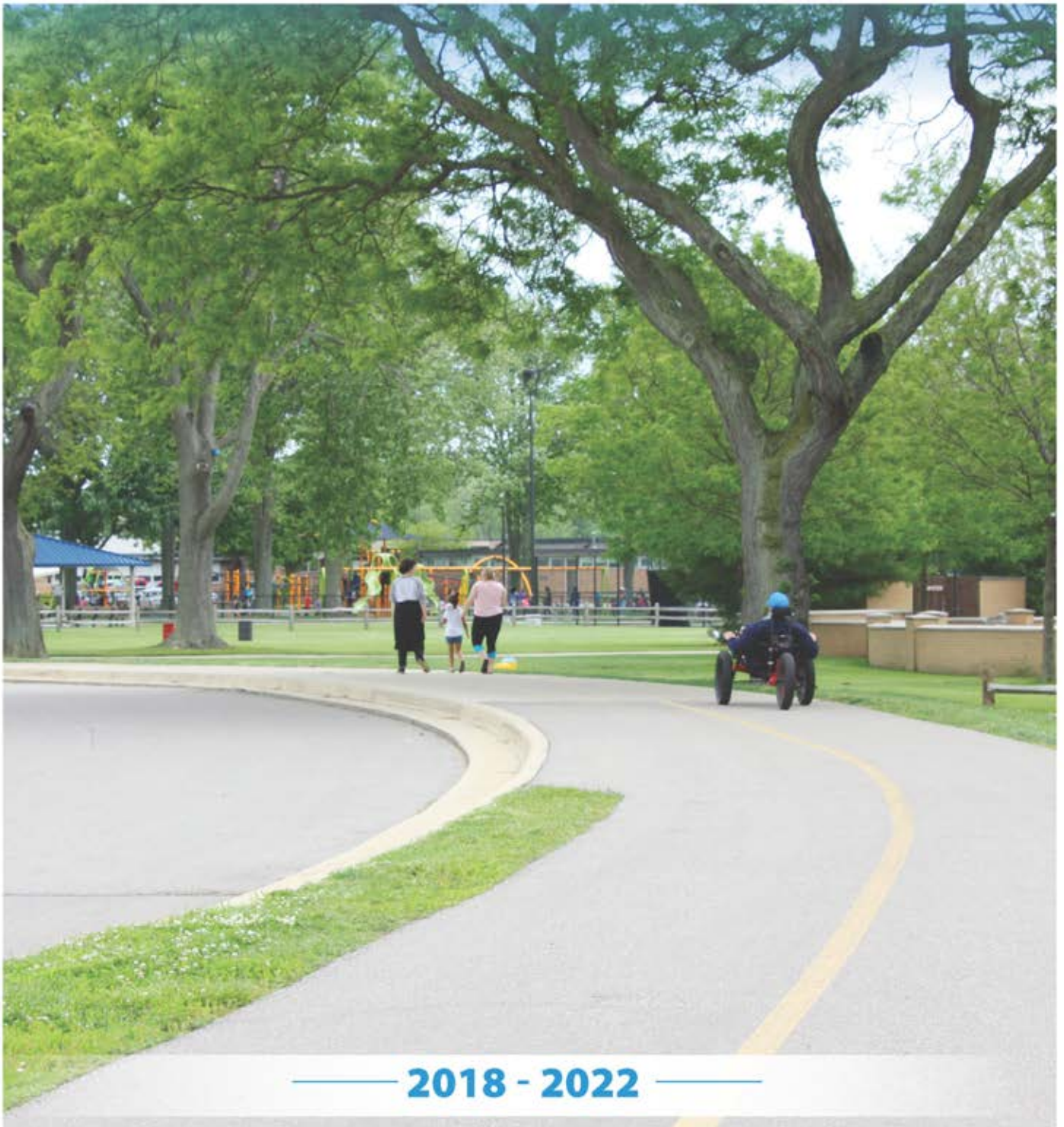




HURON-CLINTON **metroparks**

# COMMUNITY RECREATION PLAN



— 2018 - 2022 —

**HURON-CLINTON METROPARKS  
RECREATION PLAN  
2018-2022**

SUBMITTED BY:  
HURON-CLINTON METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY  
13000 HIGH RIDGE DRIVE  
BRIGHTON | MICHIGAN | 48114  
810-227-2757

PREPARED FOR:  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
GRANTS MANAGEMENT  
PO BOX 30425  
LANSING | MICHIGAN | 48909

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1   Executive Summary</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6   Planning Process</b>	<b>104</b>
<b>2   Introduction</b>	<b>9</b>	<i>Master Plans</i>	105
<i>The Metroparks System</i>	10	<i>Recreation Plan</i>	111
<i>Mission, Vision, Core Values</i>	12	<i>Public Input</i>	113
<b>3   Community Description</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>7   Goals and Objectives</b>	<b>119</b>
<i>Regional Service Area</i>	14	<i>Regional Demographics</i>	121
<i>Counties</i>	15	<i>Regional Plans</i>	124
<b>4   Administrative Structure</b>	<b>17</b>	<i>Fiscal Outlook</i>	125
<i>Board of Commissioners</i>	18	<i>Regulatory Obligations</i>	127
<i>Organizational Charts</i>	19	<i>Goals and Objectives</i>	130
<i>Funding</i>	22	<b>8   Action Program</b>	<b>133</b>
<i>2017 Budget</i>	23	<i>Five-year Project List</i>	134
<i>Volunteers</i>	24	<b>9   Recreation Programming Plan (RPP)</b>	<b>151</b>
<i>Other Recreation Departments</i>	25	<b>10   Appendices</b>	<b>162</b>
<i>Partnerships</i>	26	<i>Appendix A: Accessibility Evaluation</i>	163
<i>Enabling Act</i>	27	<i>Appendix B: Survey Instrument</i>	179
<b>5   Recreation Inventory</b>	<b>30</b>	<i>Appendix C: Future Projects</i>	184
<i>Introduction</i>	31	<i>Appendix D Grants</i>	186
<i>Biodiversity</i>	32	<i>Appendix E Public Notices</i>	189
<i>Accessibility</i>	33	<i>Appendix F Public Comments</i>	190
<i>Infrastructure Analysis</i>	34	<i>Appendix G Resolution of Adoption</i>	191
<i>Lake St. Clair Metropark</i>	35	<i>Appendix H Public Meeting Minutes</i>	192
<i>Kensington Metropark</i>	40	<i>Appendix I Public Input (RPP)</i>	193
<i>Dexter-Huron/Delhi Metropark</i>	45	<i>Appendix J Forms (RPP)</i>	194
<i>Lower Huron Metropark</i>	48	<i>Appendix K Programs and Services</i>	195
<i>Hudson Mills Metropark</i>	53		
<i>Stony Creek Metropark</i>	58		
<i>Willow Metropark</i>	63		
<i>Oakwoods Metropark</i>	68		
<i>Lake Erie Metropark</i>	71		
<i>Wolcott Mill Metropark</i>	76		
<i>Indian Springs Metropark</i>	81		
<i>Huron Meadows Metropark</i>	86		
<i>Regional Recreation Analysis</i>	92		









# 1 | EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



## 1 | EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

---

The *2018-2022 Huron-Clinton Metroparks Recreation Plan* was approved by the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA) Board of Commissioners by resolution on September 14, 2017. [The Plan was amended and approved by the Board by resolution on January 9, 2020.](#) The purpose of the recreation planning process is to develop recreation and resource conservation goals and objectives, and to establish recreation grant eligibility through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The following is a summary of the plan contents.

### Community Description

The Metroparks serve the residents of Macomb, Oakland, Livingston, Wayne, and Washtenaw counties in Southeast Michigan. Since the creation of the Authority through Public Act 147, the system has developed into 13 Metroparks containing approximately 25,000 acres of land for public use. Detailed information is presented on each of the five counties within the HCMA service area, including economic trends that are relevant to the planning process.

### Administrative Structure

This section includes details on the HCMA Board of Commissioners and staff, including organizational charts. The 2017 HCMA budget follows, identifying anticipated revenues and expenditures. Major redevelopment projects are highlighted, and the Capital Improvements, Major Maintenance, and Capital Equipment budget categories are described.

Volunteers contributed more than 3,000 hours to natural resources projects alone in the past year, and several partner organizations help HCMA provide the region with high-quality and innovative recreation.

### Recreation Inventory

This section of the plan features an inventory of the recreation assets available at each of the 13 Metroparks. The inventory includes information on the general location, function, and history of the park, statistics, a park map, a biodiversity map outlining the location of critical natural resources, a list of grants received and map of corresponding encumbered land, and the findings of staff's Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) evaluation for facilities at each park.

The inventory then identifies all Metro, state, and county parks in the five HCMA counties and enumerates the recreational facilities available in each.

### Planning Process

Although not directly involved in the recreation planning process, public participation from the individual park master plans is summarized here to provide context. This section then describes the planning timeline and the various factors that informed the plan.

The *2018-2022 Huron-Clinton Metroparks Recreation Plan* utilized several strategies to solicit public input. A stakeholder meeting was held in each HCMA district (Western, Eastern, and Southern) to gather input from important partners. A representative survey of the five-county region was conducted by a contractor to determine recreational needs and interests. The results of this survey are summarized below. Finally, a public review period for 43 days followed by a public hearing was held at the September 2017 board meeting. [Amendments to the plan ensured a variety of public input that included a survey, two-week review of the plan and public hearing.](#)

#### 2017 HCMA Community Needs Assessment Survey

- Usage of Huron-Clinton Metropark facilities is high
- There is support for funding renovations throughout the system
- The 5 highest priorities for system-wide facilities include:
  - Beaches
  - Trails-paved, multi-use
  - Trails-unpaved, hiking
  - Nature centers
  - Picnic areas
- The 5 highest priorities for system-wide recreation programs include:
  - Farmers market
  - Concerts
  - Movies in the park
  - Pet-friendly programs
  - Bird/wildlife watching programs

### Goals and Objectives

This section begins with an overview of demographic and economic trends in the region at large and each HCMA district, as well as access to recreational resources. The regional plans referenced in developing goals and objectives are listed, followed by an analysis of the HCMA fiscal outlook for the next five years. Regulatory issues taken into account for planning purposes are also described. The following goals were identified for the *2018-2022 Huron-Clinton Metroparks Recreation Plan*:



1. INNOVATION | Modernize the Metroparks and develop new revenue streams.

2. MAINTENANCE & INFRASTRUCTURE | Repair, maintain, and improve core park infrastructure.

3. EDUCATION & AWARENESS | Develop and enhance programming, communication, and outreach efforts.

4. STEWARDSHIP | Protect and restore natural biodiversity while balancing resource management with recreational activities.

5. SUSTAINABILITY | Prioritize employee development, environmental health improvements, and financial stability.

**Action Plan**

In light of the public input and priorities identified by staff, this last section turns the goals and objectives listed previously into specific action items for the next five-years, both system-wide and park-specific. Each item includes a summary and cost estimate and references the goal and objective it supports.

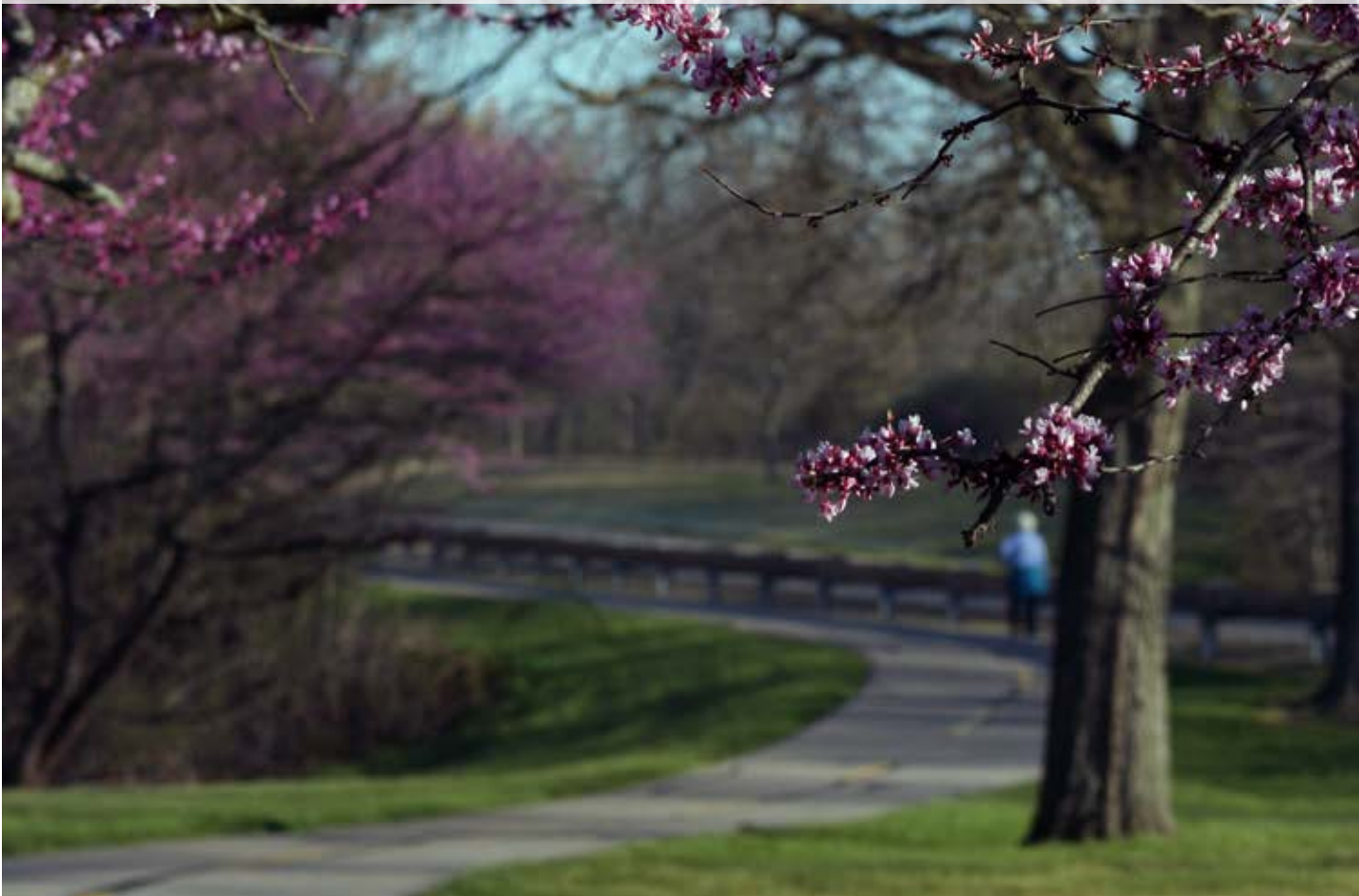








## 2 | INTRODUCTION





**THE METROPARKS SYSTEM**

**History**

The Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority was sanctioned by the Michigan State Legislature in Act No. 147 of the Public Acts of 1939. Named after the two longest rivers within its boundaries, the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority is a regional park agency consisting of 13 Metroparks encompassing approximately 25,000 acres of land within a five county area in Southeast Michigan.

Much credit can be given to Henry S. Curtis and Harlow O. Whittemore for making the Metroparks a reality. Their 1937 vision proposed a series of parks connected by a long parkway extending from Lake St. Clair, along the Clinton and Huron rivers to Lake Erie, below the mouth of the Detroit River.

The first acquisition took place in 1944. when a 385-acre parcel of land formed the beginning of Lake St. Clair Metropark. In 1945, 2,600 acres were acquired to form Kensington Metropark. The land for Lower Huron was secured with the help of a \$1,000,000 grant from the State Legislature in 1946. Only eight years after the Authority was established, land acquisition reached 6,300 acres.

Funding of the parks began in 1942 with a property tax levy, limited to one-quarter of one mill. The rate today has been adjusted to .2146 mills.



**Land**

Over their history the Metroparks have received several grants from the DNR for land acquisition and development of recreational facilities.<sup>1</sup> The land specified as the project area of those grants was encumbered in perpetuity, meaning it may never be converted into a private or non-recreational use. The grants from the DNR and other sources have allowed the Metroparks to develop high-quality recreational facilities.

**Trails**

Trails have become increasingly popular and contribute to the character of the Huron-Clinton Metroparks. The extent and diversity of trails mean that residents have numerous opportunities to get out and enjoy the natural areas of the Metroparks.

**Infrastructure**

The Metroparks contain a number of buildings, surfaces, and utilities. Many of these were constructed years or decades ago, and require maintenance to serve the recreational needs of park visitors.

Facilities	
Golf Courses	8
Disc Golf Courses	5
Playgrounds	78
Picnic Shelters	87
Picnic Areas	57
Tennis Courts	8
Pickleball Courts	3
Basketball Courts	15
Sand Volleyball Courts	38
Baseball Fields	28



<sup>1</sup> Grants received are listed for each park in Chapter 7 | Recreation Inventory



**Facilities and Centers**

The Metroparks feature a number of facilities that define their character and enhance the recreational experience of visitors. Some of these either require an admission fee, are available for rentals, or sell concessions, supplementing park revenue. As with all park infrastructure, it is a priority to keep the facilities well-maintained and replace them when no longer functional.

**Seasonal Activities**

The Huron-Clinton Metroparks offer a variety of recreational activities available year-round. During the warmer months, aquatic facilities such as pools are open to the public. Visitors can also take advantage of lakes through boat rentals, boat fishing, and swimming.

During the colder months, visitors can enjoy winter recreation activities. Sledding and cross-county skiing are popular, and some parks also offer ice fishing, snowboarding hills, and ice skating rinks.

**Water Features**

The Huron-Clinton Metroparks were established along two major waterways in Southeast Michigan: the Clinton River and the Huron River. The park system also features 14 miles of Great Lakes shoreline and 3,634 acres of inland lakes.



Land	
All land (acres)	~25,000
Encumbered for recreation	14,761
Leased for farming	595
Leased for recreation	450
Leased for utilities	24

Trails	
Nature/hiking	58
Paved/shared use	84
Equestrian	36
Snowshoeing	1
Cross country ski (traditional/skate)	64
Mountain biking	19
Maintenance path	81
Total (miles)	343

Aquatic Facilities	
Pools	4
Beaches	5
Spray pads	4
Boat launches	50
Canoe/Kayak launches	27
Boat rental facilities	6
Fishing platforms	12

Winter Facilities	
Ice skating areas	4
Sledding areas	6
Cross country skiing	10
Snowboarding	2

Infrastructure	
Buildings	489
Roads (miles)	68
Parking Spaces	20,480





### **MISSION**

The Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority, a regional park system created in 1940 by the citizens of Southeast Michigan, provides excellent recreational and educational opportunities while serving as stewards of its natural resources. Our efforts are guided by the belief that the use of parks and exposure to natural environments enhance society's health and quality of life.

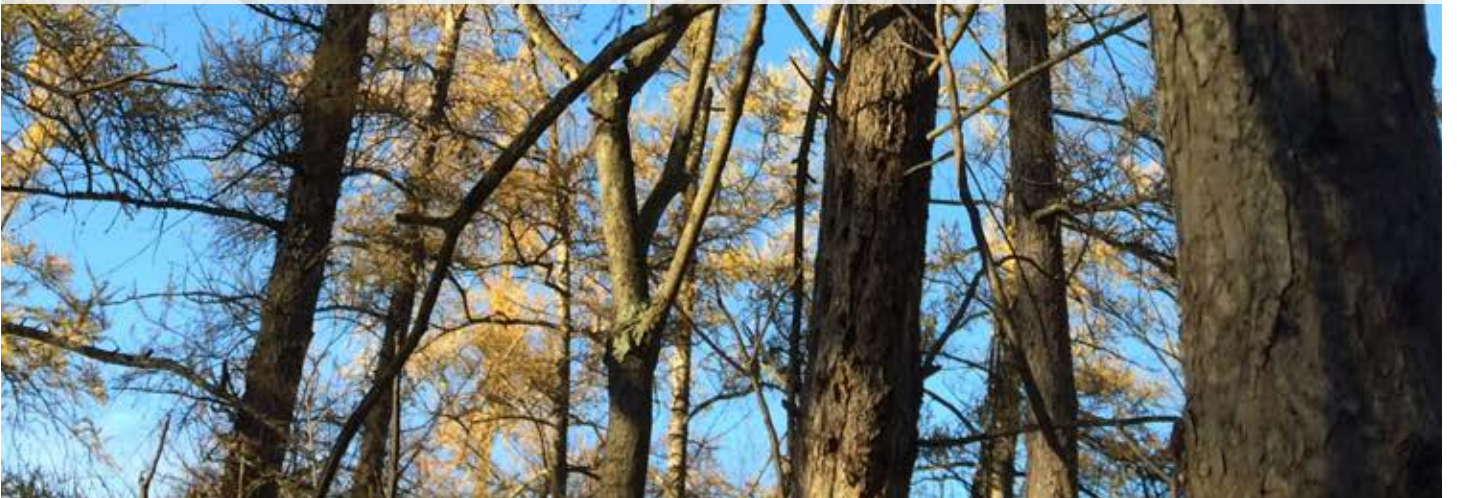
### **VISION**

The Metroparks offer 365-day access to open space, outdoor experiences, and abundant resources for the communities of Southeast Michigan now and into the future.

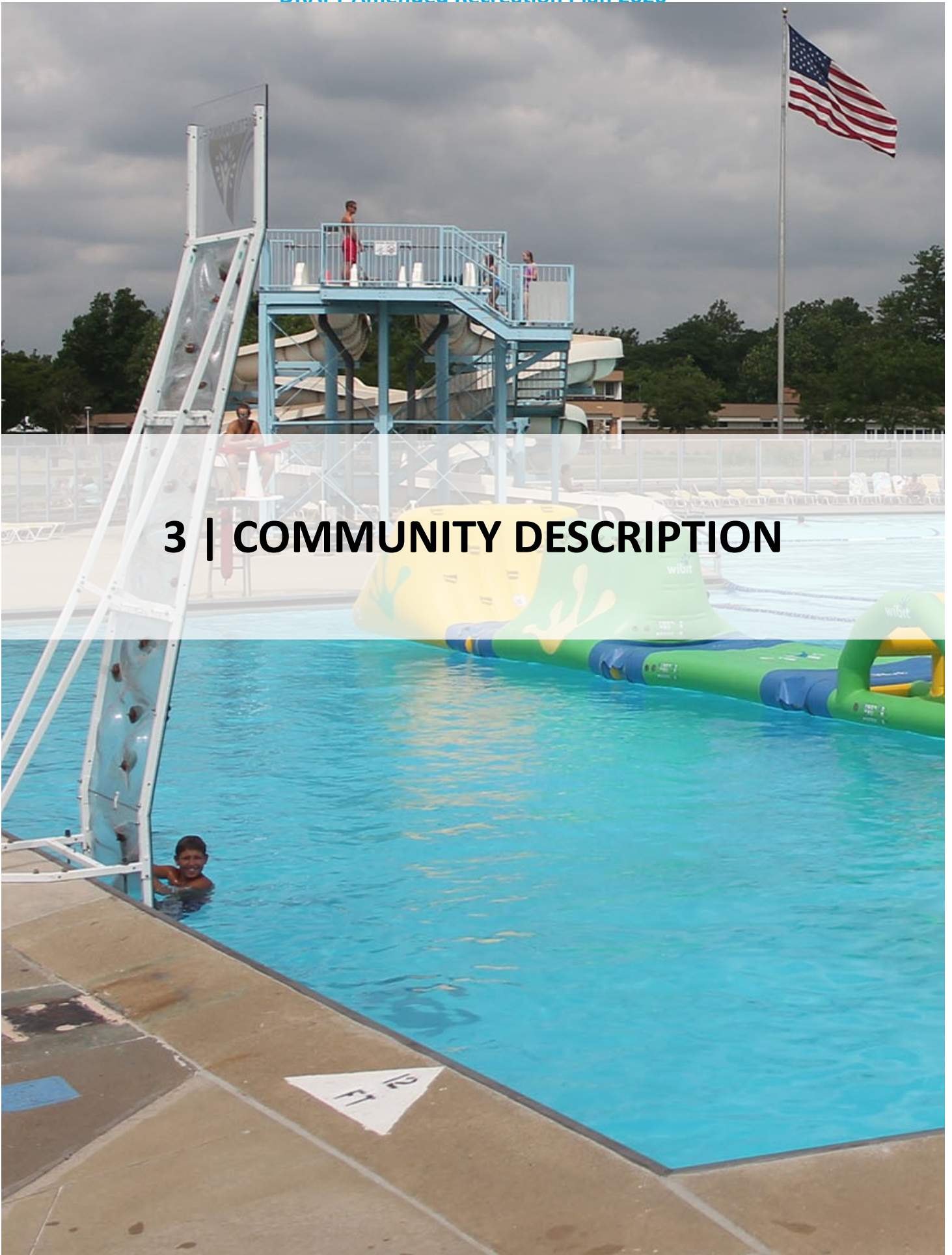
### **CORE VALUES**

The Metroparks provide unique quality-of-life amenities to Southeast Michigan through our commitment to:

- Excellence in public service, stewardship, and programming;
- Sustainability in balancing the environmental, social, and economic impacts of the Metroparks;
- Responsibility in planning, development, and maintenance; and
- Connectivity to the places and people we serve.







3 | COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Regional Service Area

REGIONAL SERVICE AREA

The Metroparks are geared towards visitors from across the region enjoying a day trip, usually arriving in a vehicle. For this reason, the service area of the parks is considered to be a 30-mile radius (approximately 45-minute drive). As shown in the figure below, this encompasses all five HCMA counties as well as segments of several others.

This plan focuses on all aspects of recreation provided by the 13 Metroparks to the citizens of this five-county area, as well as current and future recreational needs that have not been met and that the Metroparks may consider addressing.

For some local residents, the Metroparks act as an everyday source of recreation, especially if few community parks exist nearby. A quarter-mile is the distance residents are likely to walk to each park, however, pedestrian access is generally limited to designated points on the park boundaries.

As trail connections in Southeast Michigan grow, an increasing number of visitors will arrive at the parks by bicycle. The service area of the parks for attracting different types of cyclists may be studied in the future.



Figure 3.1 | 30-mile service area | Sources: MIGDL, HCMA



**COUNTIES**

The Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority serves the residents of Macomb, Oakland, Livingston, Washtenaw, and Wayne counties in Southeast Michigan. This five-county region includes the City of Detroit and its suburbs, as well as other cities such as Ann Arbor, Pontiac, and Mt. Clemens. The area hosts a high concentration of the state’s businesses and industries and is home to over half the state’s population.

**Livingston County**

Livingston County is located halfway between Detroit and the state’s capitol of Lansing, in the western part of Southeast Michigan. It encompasses 574 square miles and contains 20 municipalities. As of 2016, the county population is 188,806, an increase of 4.3% from 2010. A large portion of the population, 57.1%, works outside the county. The current leading job industry is *Knowledge-Based Services*, which is projected to continue to grow through 2030, followed by *Services to Households & Firms*.<sup>1</sup> Livingston County contains Huron Meadows Metropark in Green Oak Township and a portion of Kensington Metropark in Brighton Township.

**Macomb County**

Macomb County is the ninth-smallest of Michigan’s 83 counties at 482 square miles, yet it ranks third in population, with 868,144 residents in 2016. Of the county’s 27 municipalities three are among the ten largest communities in Michigan: Warren (3rd), Sterling Heights (6th), and Clinton Township (10th). Manufacturing was at one point the leading industry, employing roughly one-third of the workforce. Currently the leading industry is *Knowledge-Based Services*, which is projected to continue to grow through 2030. Located within Macomb County are three Metroparks: Wolcott Mill Metropark in Ray Township, Lake St. Clair Metropark in Harrison Township, and part of Stony Creek Metropark, most of which is located within Washington Township.

**Wayne County**

Wayne County is the nation’s eighth-largest county and the most populous in the state with 1,754,591 residents. Its 43 local communities include smaller cities like Plymouth and Northville, as well as the City of Detroit. The auto industry was replaced in 2010 by *Knowledge-Based Services* as the leading work industry. After 2020, *Private Education & Healthcare* is projected to transition into the leading industry through 2030. Wayne County contains four Metroparks. Lower Huron, Willow, and Oakwoods Metroparks are all connected via parkland and trails within Van Buren Township and Huron Township. Lake Erie Metropark connected to Oakwoods Metropark by the Iron Belle Trail is located further south in Brownstown Township, near the border with Monroe County.



<sup>1</sup>SEMCOG 2040 Forecast, <http://semcog.org/plans-for-the-region/regional-forecast>

3 | COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Regional Municipalities

**Washtenaw County**

Washtenaw County contains 33 municipalities, including Ypsilanti, Chelsea, and Ann Arbor. Covering 706 square miles, Washtenaw County is home to three Metroparks: Hudson Mills Metropark in Webster and Dexter Townships, and Dexter-Huron and Delhi Metroparks in Scio Township. The county’s population is projected to increase throughout 2030, from 360,609 in 2016. Growing job industries include *Knowledge-Based Services* and *Private Education & Healthcare*.

**Oakland County**

Oakland County covers 868 square miles and contains 61 municipalities, making it the largest by size of the five HCMA counties. Nearly 70% of residents work within the county and 13.4% of all people employed in Michigan work in Oakland County. Oakland County had a population of 1,202,362 as of July 2016, which is projected to increase through 2030. During this period, Oakland County will begin to see a decline in *Retail Trade and Manufacturing*, and growth in *Knowledge-Based Services*. The county contains Indian Springs Metropark in Springfield and White Lake townships, part of Stony Creek Metropark in Oakland Township, and a portion of Kensington Metropark in Milford and Lyon townships.

Municipality Type	Wayne	Oakland	Macomb	Washtenaw	Livingston
Cities	34	30	13	6	2
Villages	0	10	3	2	2
Charter Townships	7	15	5	6	3
General law Townships	2	6	6	19	13
Unincorporated Communities	0	45	25	11	28
<b>Total</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>48</b>

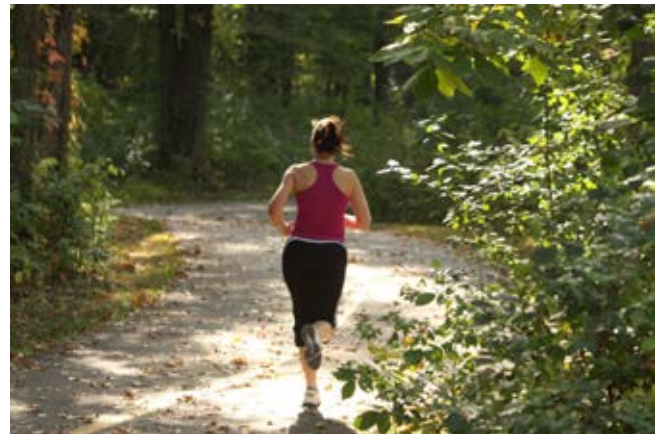
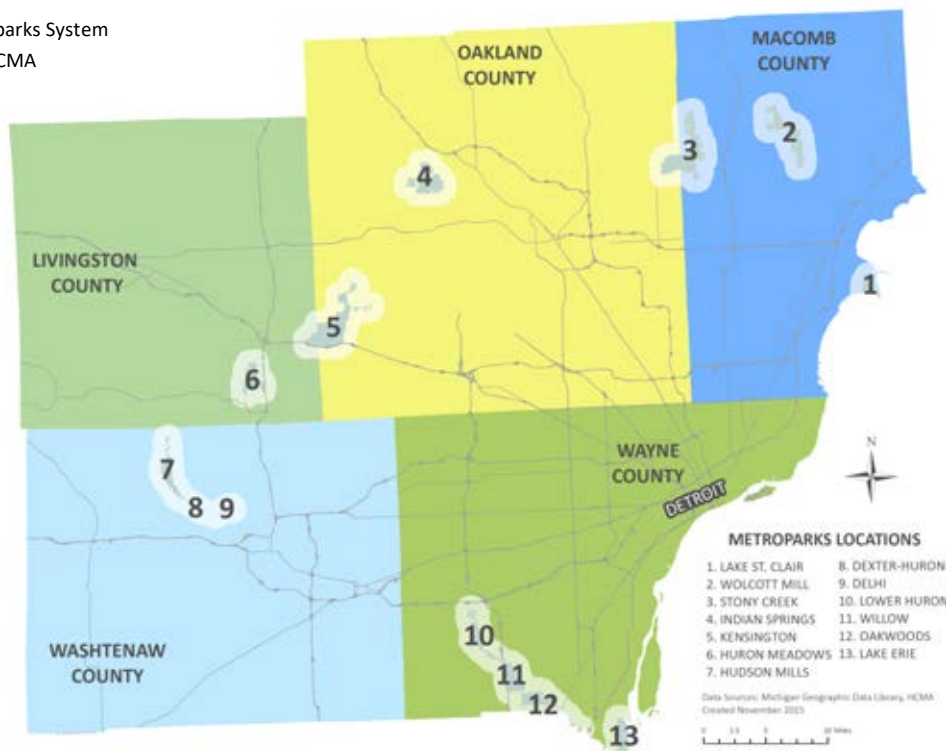


Figure 3.2 | Metroparks System  
Sources: MiGDL, HCMA







# 4 | ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE



LEADERSHIP

A seven-member Board of Commissioners governs the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority. The Board of Commissioners meets the second Thursday of each month, where they make policy decisions for the Authority, including approving expenditures, acquiring land, planning of new parks and facilities, approving fees and charges, awarding contracts through competitive bidding, and other matters necessary to provide regional recreation. The Board appoints staff officers for the Metroparks.

Two commissioners, appointed by the Governor of Michigan for a term of four years, serve as representatives at large. Five commissioners, one each to represent the counties of Wayne, Macomb, Oakland, Livingston, and Washtenaw, are appointed for a term of six years by the board of commissioners of the above-named counties.

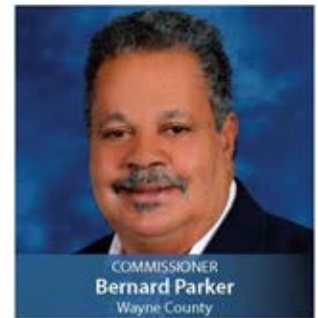
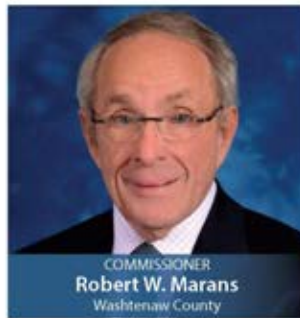
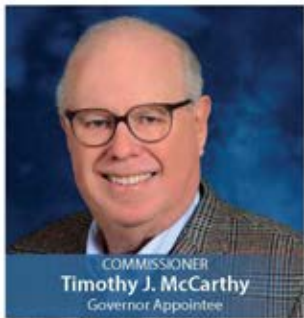
**Director** is the Chief Executive Office of the Metroparks, provides leadership and executive oversight of all administrative and operational activities.

**Administrative Departments** provide administrative support to operations, and guide the organization towards its mission.

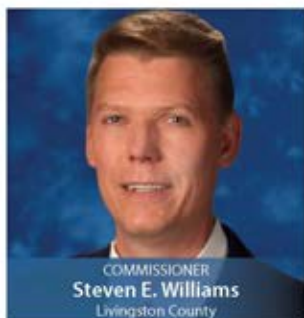
**Operational Departments** facilitate the day-to-day operations of the parks, making sure patrons have enjoyable and educational visits. They include Maintenance and Interpretive Services.

The **Metroparks Police** is an Operational Department tasked with ensuring that everyone can enjoy the parks in a safe and secure environment.

2017 Board of Commissioners

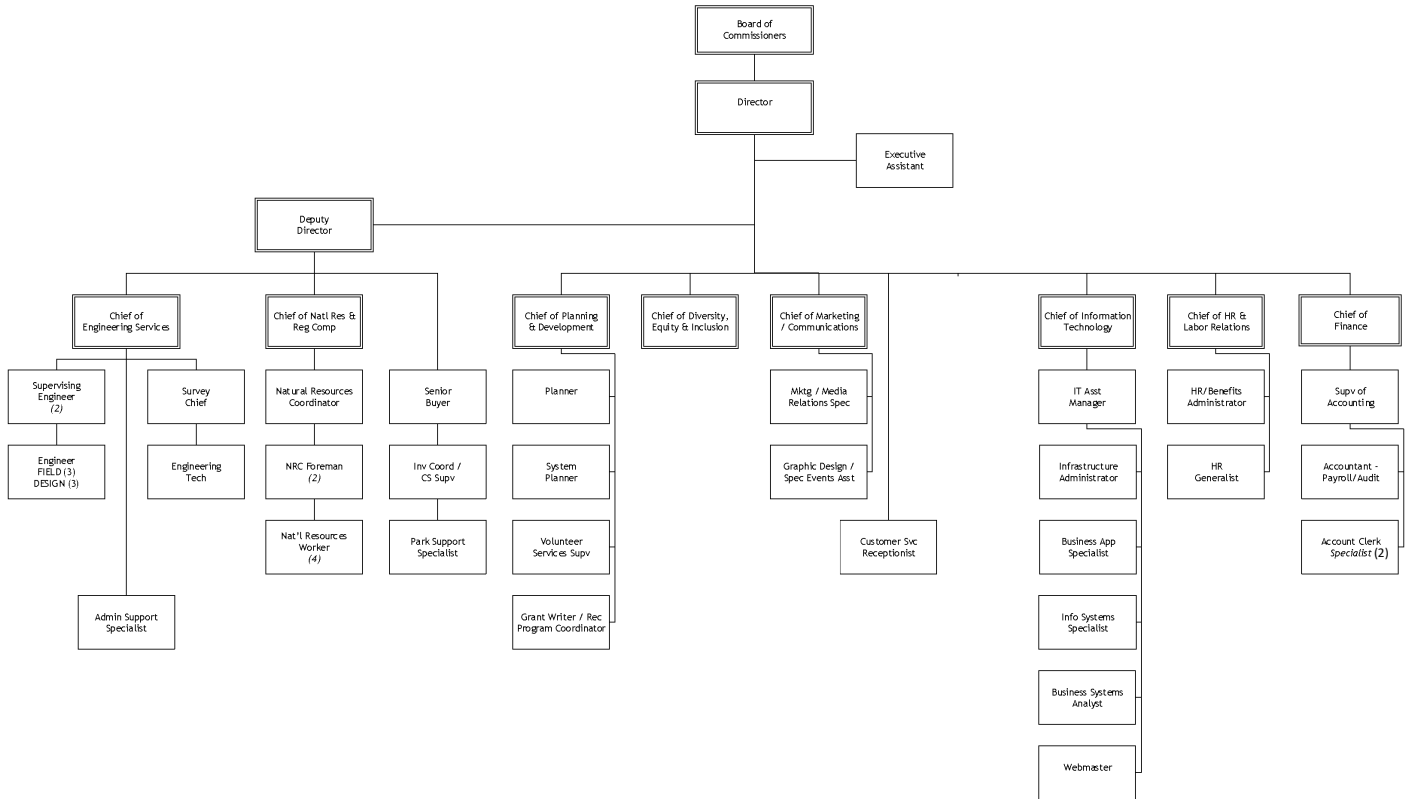


HURON-CLINTON METROPARKS

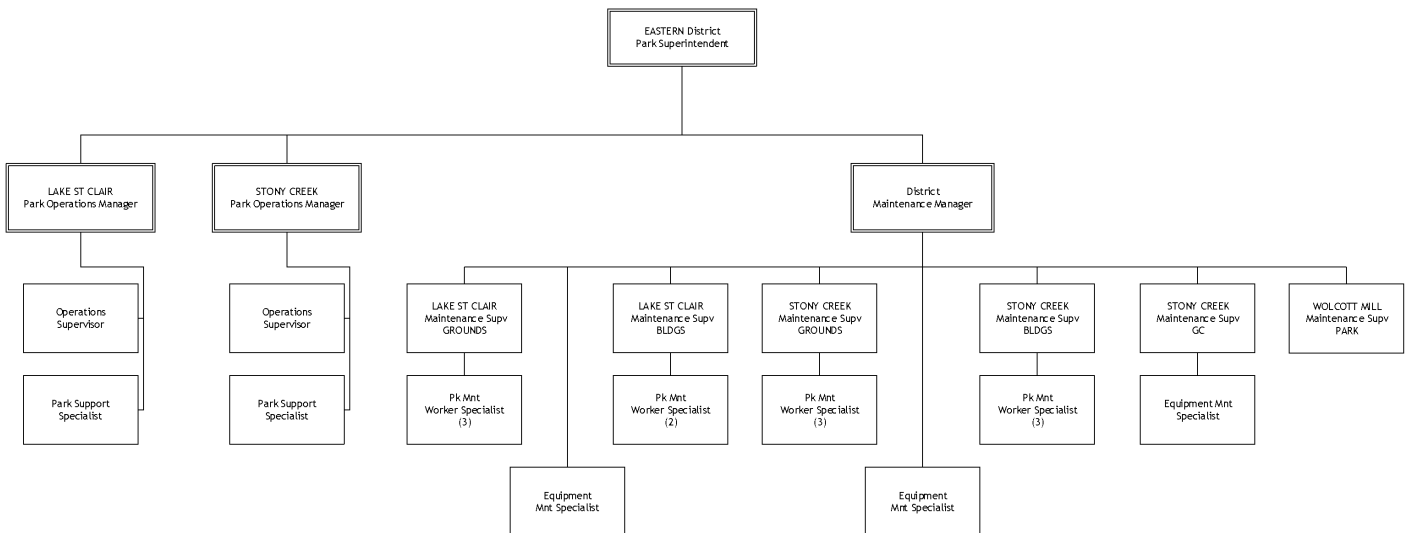


ORGANIZATIONAL CHARTS

Huron-Clinton Metroparks  
Administrative Office

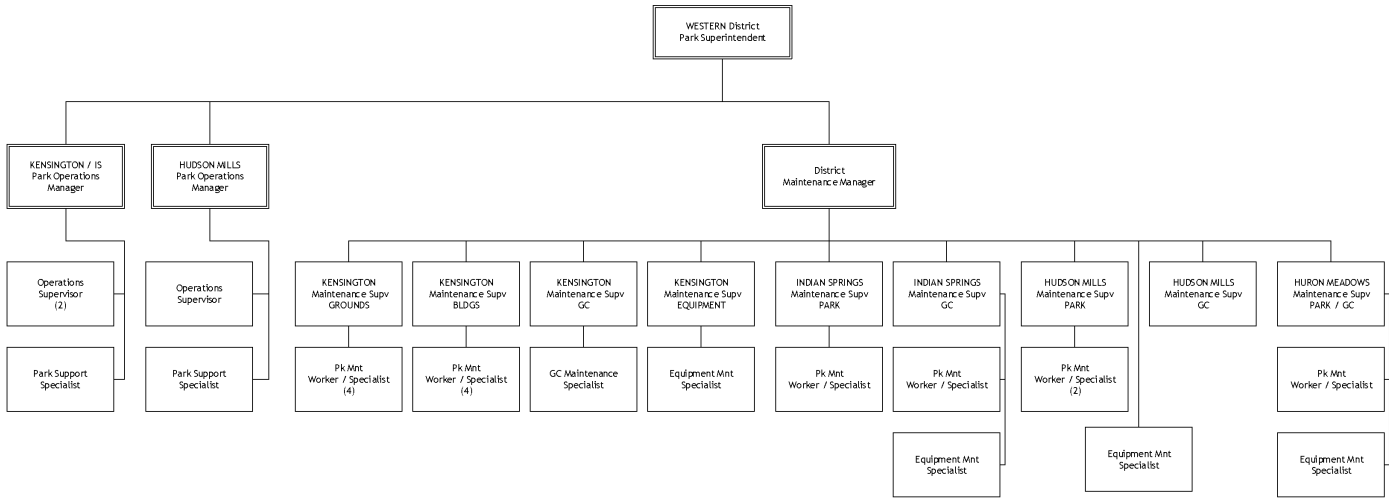


Huron-Clinton Metroparks  
Eastern District

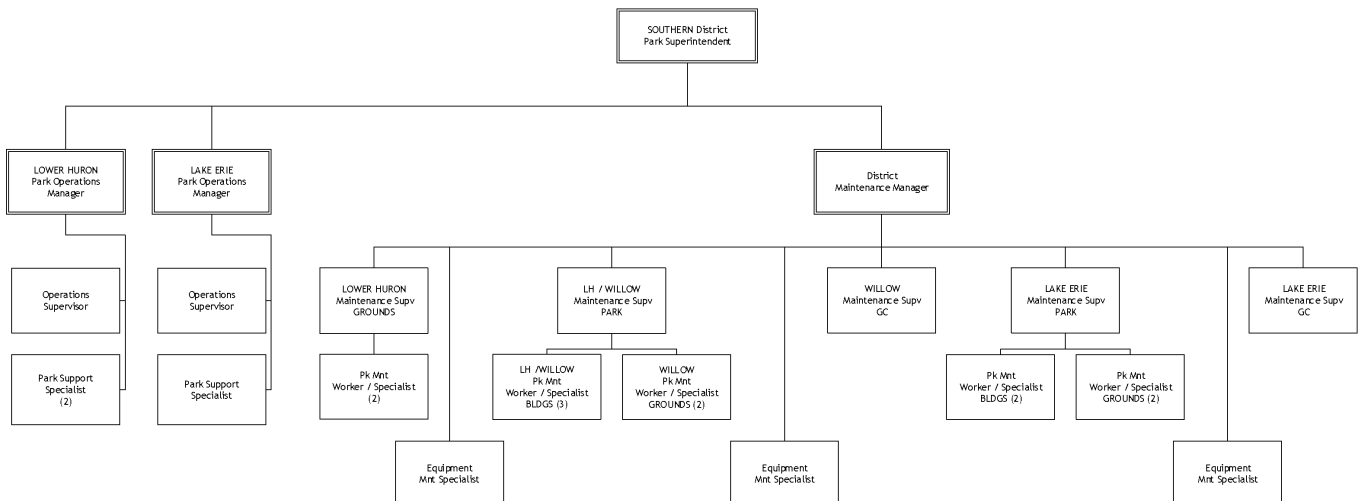




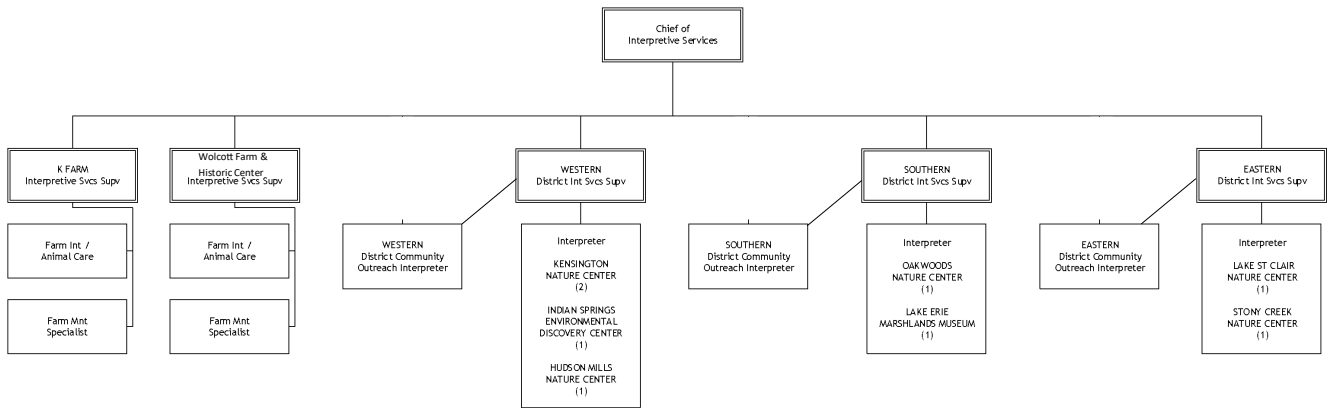
### Huron-Clinton Metroparks Western District



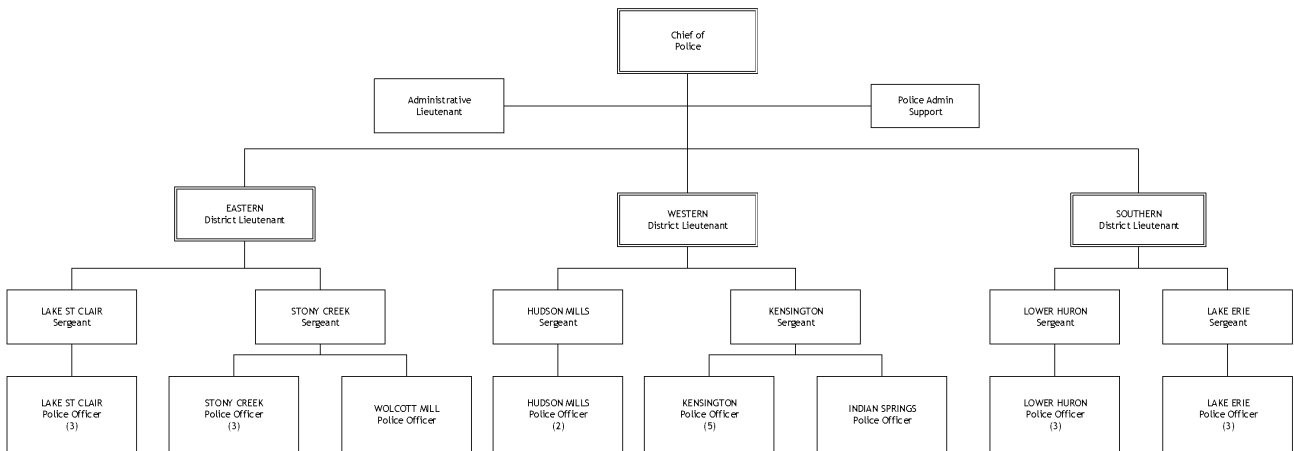
### Huron-Clinton Metroparks Southern District



### Huron-Clinton Metroparks Interpretive Services & Community Outreach



### Huron-Clinton Metroparks Police Department



4 | ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

**FUNDING**

The Huron-Clinton Metroparks receive revenue from seven main sources, listed below from greatest to least.

**Property Taxes**

The single largest source of revenue for the Authority is derived from the ad valorem property tax levy within the five-county park district. The Board of Commissioners approved the 2017 tax rate of .2140 mills (reduced by Headlee override) upon each dollar of state taxable valuation. This rate was formerly .2500 mills. The Authority will not recover (increase) this millage rate due to Proposal A, which caps future taxable growth to the lower of the rate of inflation or 5%. The inflation factor for 2017 taxable values was 1.009%.

County	2017 Estimated Tax Levy
Livingston	\$1,728,341
Macomb	\$5,396,668
Oakland	\$11,010,893
Washtenaw	\$3,203,075
Wayne	\$7,893,747
Total Service Area	\$29,232,724

**Park Operations**

Examples of park activities that generate revenue are golf, tolling, aquatics, interpretive programs, boat rental, and many others.

**Grants**

This revenue category includes money the Authority will be receiving from an outside agency to help fund specific projects within the parks.

**Donations/Foundation Support**

The three major categories set up by the foundation are Annual Campaign, Grant Funding, and Major Gifts. The Annual Campaign includes memberships and general donations from patrons. Grant Funding includes grants applied for and given to the Foundation, and Major Gifts include large amounts of money presented to the Foundation for a restricted use within the Metroparks.

**Interest**

This category includes interest income derived from investments in Certificates of Deposit and U.S. Agency issues.

**Sale of Capital Assets**

The Authority has an annual auction in an effort to liquidate obsolete or unneeded equipment.

**Other**

This revenue source represents one-time or unusual payments. Past examples include insurance settlements, rate stabilization payments, and other minor items.

Revenue Source	2017 Budget
Property Taxes	\$29,932,724
Park Operations	\$19,809,193
Grants	\$802,990
Foundation Support	\$200,000
Interest	\$250,000
Sale of Capital Assets	\$270,000
Other	\$23,375
Total	\$51,287,282



**2017 EXPENDITURES**

**Capital Improvement Projects**

This covers construction projects that exceed the Authority’s \$10,000 capitalization limit and enhance the recreational facilities such as park roads, trails, buildings, utilities, and other improvements.

**Capital Equipment**

This category includes any equipment having an individual value over \$5,000, such as staff vehicles, tractors, mowers, and other machinery necessary for staff to maintain and operate the parks.

**Major Maintenance**

The Authority classifies all non-recurring repair/maintenance projects that exceed \$10,000 as Major Maintenance expenses. These projects do not substantially improve or alter an existing facility, and therefore are not capitalized.

**Operations**

Expenditures within park operations can be classified as either personnel services or contractual services. Personnel services include wages and other related fringe benefits. Contractual services include all other types of expenditures.

**Administrative**

General administration expenses reflect the cost of running the Authority’s centralized Administrative Office (AO), which covers full and part time employees, retirement group benefit participants, materials, supplies, and outside consultants utilized in managing the entire Metroparks system.

Expenditure Category	2017 Budget
Capital Improvements	\$10,334,336
Capital Equipment	\$3,414,100
Major Maintenance	\$4,082,813
Operations	\$44,266,829
Total	\$62,098,078

The Metroparks 2017 General Fund Budget<sup>1</sup> includes the strategic use of over \$10 million (25%) of Fund Balance to counteract many years of deferral of investment in and maintenance of aging facilities, infrastructure, and equipment. Metroparks staff have prepared the 2017 Budget with the following points in mind:

- 1) Address a backlog of deferred capital equipment replacements
- 2) Improve the image/quality of Metroparks facilities to a standard of excellence
- 3) Provide for a consistent level of support for natural areas throughout the Metroparks
- 4) Develop additional revenue through new and existing programs and fee structures.

The Metroparks Board of Commissioners and staff face the challenge of diversifying sources of revenue to a sufficient extent to cover not just operating costs, but also the needed capital maintenance and development. The use of fund balance in 2017 enables the Metroparks to “catch up,” and buy time to develop a more fiscally sustainable model.



<sup>1</sup>The Metroparks 2017 General Fund Budget can be found at <http://www.metroparks.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/2017-Budget-Document-Final.pdf>



4 | ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

**VOLUNTEERS**

Volunteers support the Metroparks in a variety of activities ranging from protecting natural resources to creating a more welcoming environment in recreational areas. Some of the activities involving volunteers include park and river clean-ups, removal of invasive species, garden and trail maintenance around nature centers, and animal helpers at the farm centers. Volunteers have also helped at golf courses and special events such as Heritage Holidays at Wolcott Mill.

All ages are welcome to volunteer at the Metroparks, as individuals or in groups. One-time and long-term volunteer opportunities are available. School groups, college classes, scout groups, corporations, and individuals help out as volunteers, as well as special interest groups such as CRAMBA-IMBA (the Clinton River Area Mountain Bike Association, part of the International Mountain Bicycling Association), Beyond the Seed, Audubon Society, Hawkwatch, and the Huron and Clinton River Watershed Councils.

In 2016, volunteers helped complete many projects: building new picnic tables with ADA accessibility at the Kensington Farm Center (with funding and volunteers from Ford Motor Company), trail maintenance at Kensington Nature Center (with funding and volunteers from REI), and planting thousands of trees at Wolcott Mill Metropark (with volunteers from Romeo High School National Honor Society). Individuals and groups also helped the Natural Resources Department by donating 3,158 hours of their time to improving the environment.





4 | ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

STATE/COUNTY/MUNICIPAL/OTHER  
RECREATIONAL DEPARTMENTS

The Metroparks are part of a broader system of recreation and green space that includes local, county, and state parks, greenways, and blueways. Integrating planning and development efforts with the local community is encouraged for enhancing connections between communities and their recreational assets to strengthen the regional identity. Besides recreational opportunities, the Metroparks play an important role in the region for economic development, natural resources protection, and education.

In order to best serve the residents of southeast Michigan and use resources wisely, the goal for future development in any particular Metropark is to offer unique facilities that fill recreation voids in the geographic area where the park is located. This is achieved by maintaining positive working relationships with the surrounding communities. Examples of such efforts include leasing Metroparks owned land for local recreation, partnering with both the Huron River Watershed Council and Clinton River Watershed Council, offering opportunities for review and comment on Master Plan updates, local site plan review and permitting of eligible projects implemented throughout the park system, and coordination of trail development and maintenance.



**PARTNERSHIPS**

*Regional*

- 3M
- Allstate Insurance
- Central Michigan University
- Clinton River Watershed Council
- Detroit Audubon Society
- Ducks Unlimited
- Ford Motor Company
- General Motors
- Honda
- Huron River Watershed Council
- Metro/University Region Nonmotorized Advisory Committee
- Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR)
- Michigan Recreation and Park Association (MParks)
- Michigan Sea Grant
- Michigan State University Extension
- Michigan United Conservation Clubs
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)
- Recreational Equipment Inc. (REI)
- Six Rivers Regional Land Conservancy
- Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG)
- Stewardship Network
- The Nature Conservancy
- Toyota
- Trail Life USA
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- University of Michigan Dearborn

*Macomb County*

- American Sailing Institute (ASI)
- Armada National Honor Society
- Clinton River Mountain Biking Association, a chapter of the International Mountain Bicycling Association (CRAMBA-IMBA)
- HEART Lab
- Macomb Audubon Society
- Macomb Community College
- Macomb County 4-H
- Macomb County Blue Economy initiative
- Macomb County Health Department – Healthy Kids Healthy Futures Coalition
- Macomb County Trailways

- Macomb County Water Resources Advisory Council
- Macomb Master Gardner
- Macomb Orchard Trail Commission
- Macomb Parks and Recreation
- Michigan Sea Grant
- Motor City Chain Gang
- Simple Adventures Paddlesport Rental and Delivery
- Creekfleet Sailing
- Stony Creek Disc Golf League
- UHY Advisors Inc.
- Wild Birds Unlimited
- Wolcott Mill Trail Riders Association

*Oakland County*

- American Sailing Institute (ASI)
- Chief Pontiac Programs
- Heavener Canoe Rental
- Huron Valley Audubon Society
- Huron Valley Trail Council
- Kensington Trail Riders Association
- Lake Orion High School
- Oakland Audubon Society
- Oakland County Parks and Recreation
- Oakland County Trail, Water & Land Alliance (TWLA)
- Oakland University
- Western Oakland County Trailway Management Council

*Livingston County*

- Southeastern Livingston County Recreation Authority

*Washtenaw County*

- Skip’s Canoe Rental
- University of Michigan
- Washtenaw Area Transportation Study (WATS)
- Washtenaw County Greenways Advisory Committee (GAC)
- Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

*Wayne County*

- Detroit Audubon Society
- Detroit River Western Lake Erie Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA)
- Downriver Linked Greenways
- Huron River Fishing Association
- International Wildlife Refuge
- Wayne County Parks and Recreation
- Wayne State University

**HURON-CLINTON METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY****Act 147 of 1939**

AN ACT to provide for the incorporation of the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority; to permit the counties of Wayne, Washtenaw, Livingston, Oakland, and Macomb, or certain of such counties, to join in a metropolitan district for planning or promoting or for acquiring, constructing, owning, developing, maintaining and operating, either within or without their limits, parks, connecting drives, or limited access highways, or any combination of these activities; to provide for the assessment, levy, collection and return of taxes therefor; to provide for the issuance of revenue bonds; to authorize condemnation proceedings; to provide a referendum thereon; and to prescribe penalties and provide remedies.

History: 1939, Act 147, Eff. Jan. 10, 1942 ;-- Am. 1998, Act 170, Eff. Mar. 23, 1999

119.51 Huron-Clinton metropolitan authority; incorporation, counties.

Sec. 1. As may hereinafter be provided in this act, the counties of Wayne, Washtenaw, Livingston, Oakland, and Macomb, or certain of such counties, may by vote of the electorate thereof, join to form a metropolitan district as a body corporate, to be known as the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority, for the purpose of planning, promoting, and/or for acquiring, constructing, owning, developing, maintaining and operating, either within or without their limits, parks and/or limited access highways, as well as such connecting drives as may be deemed necessary or convenient to provide access to and between the same.

History: 1939, Act 147, Eff. Jan. 10, 1942 ;-- CL 1948, 119.51  
Compiler's Notes: This act has been adopted by the counties enumerated in this section.

119.52 Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority; definitions.

Sec. 2. As used in this act, parks shall be defined as areas of land, with or without water, developed and used for public recreational purposes, including landscaped tracts, picnic grounds, playgrounds, athletic fields, camps, foot, bicycle and bridle paths, motor vehicle drives, wildlife sanctuaries, museums, zoological and botanical gardens, facilities for bathing, boating, hunting and fishing, as well as other recreational facilities for the use and benefit of the public.

Limited access highways shall be defined as highways especially designed for through traffic, over which owners or occupants of abutting land have no easement or right of light, air or access by reason of the fact that their property abuts on the highway. Such highways may be parkways, with or without landscaped roadsides, from which trucks, busses and other commercial vehicles are excluded, or they may be freeways open to use by all common forms of highway traffic.

Connecting drives shall be defined as boulevards, or free access roads, with or without parklike features, leading to or connecting parks and/or limited access highways.

History: 1939, Act 147, Eff. Jan. 10, 1942 ;-- CL 1948, 119.52  
119.53 Powers; co-operation; charges; succession to rights; vote.

Sec. 3. The Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority, either acting alone or in cooperation with the department of conservation, the state highway department, any board of county road commissioners, or any federal or other state or local body having authority to construct and maintain parks or highways, shall have the power to make plans for and promote, and/or to acquire, construct, own, operate and maintain, within or without the limits of the metropolitan district, parks, connecting drives, and/or limited access highways. Said authority may fix and collect fees and charges for use of facilities under its control, and, for its uses, may sell or purchase lands and may acquire and succeed to any or all the rights, obligations, and property pertaining to parks or highways of the state or of any county, city, village, or township comprising territory within the limits of the said metropolitan district: Provided, That no county, city, village, or township shall surrender any such rights, obligations, or property without the approval thereof by a majority vote of the electors of any such county, city, village or township, voting on such proposition.

History: 1939, Act 147, Eff. Jan. 10, 1942 ;-- CL 1948, 119.53  
119.54 Board of commissioners; election and appointment, term.

Sec. 4. The Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority shall be directed and governed by a board of commissioners, 1 to be elected from each county of the metropolitan district by the boards of supervisors of the respective counties, and 2 to be appointed by the governor of Michigan. The elected commissioners shall be electors of their respective counties, and the appointed commissioners shall be electors of the



metropolitan district. The appointed commissioners shall serve for 4 year terms or until their successors are appointed, except that for the first board 1 shall be appointed for a 2 year term. The terms of the elected commissioners shall be staggered so that not more than 1 term shall expire in any 1 year, and after the first board no terms shall be less than 6 years. For the first board the terms of the elected commissioners shall be in the order of the populations of the several counties, the commissioner from the most populous county having the longest term.

History: 1939, Act 147, Eff. Jan. 10, 1942 ;-- CL 1948, 119.54

119.55 Board of commissioners; meetings; organization; employees.

Sec. 5. The commissioners shall hold a meeting within 1 month after their selection, on the call of the chairman of the board of supervisors of the most populous county of the metropolitan district, at such time and place as he may designate. Such meeting shall elect a chairman, who must be a member of the board of commissioners, and a secretary and a treasurer, who need not be members. The board shall also, from time to time, select and employ such other officers and employees and engage such services as shall be deemed necessary to effectuate its purposes.

History: 1939, Act 147, Eff. Jan. 10, 1942 ;-- CL 1948, 119.55

119.56 Board of commissioners; records; accounts; treasurer's bond.

Sec. 6. The commissioners shall cause to be kept a written or printed record of every session of the board, which record shall be public. They shall also provide for a system of accounts to conform to any uniform system required by law, and for the auditing at least once yearly of the accounts of the treasurer by a competent certified public accountant or by the auditor general of the state. The board shall require of the treasurer a suitable bond by a responsible bonding company, such bond to be paid for by the board.

History: 1939, Act 147, Eff. Jan. 10, 1942 ;-- CL 1948, 119.56

119.57 Board of commissioners; levy of tax, procedure.

Sec. 7. The commissioners may levy for the purposes of the authority a tax of not more than 1/4 mill upon each dollar of the assessed value of the property of the district. The board shall ascertain the total taxes or appropriation required for any year and shall thereupon certify to the board of

supervisors of each county comprising the district the necessary tax rate to raise such amount, which shall be uniform in the district, and shall take into consideration the ratio that the total assessed valuation of each respective county bears to the total assessed value of all property, real and personal in said entire district according to the last assessment in each of said respective counties. All taxes shall be assessed, levied, collected and returned as county taxes under the general property tax law. All moneys collected by any tax collecting officer from the tax levied under the provisions of this section shall be transmitted to the authority to be disbursed as provided in this act.

The subjects of taxation for the district purposes shall be the same as for state, county, and school purposes under the general law.

History: 1939, Act 147, Eff. Jan. 10, 1942 ;-- CL 1948, 119.57

119.58 Revenue bonds; issuance; lien.

Sec. 8. For the purposes of acquiring, purchasing, constructing, improving, enlarging, extending, or repairing any revenue-producing recreational facilities, the commissioners may issue self-liquidating bonds in accordance with the provisions of Act No. 94 of the Public Acts of 1933, as amended. Such bonds shall not impose any liability upon the district but shall be secured only by the property and revenues of the facilities for the purchase and construction of which they were issued. Such bonds shall not be sold for less than par, and shall bear interest at a rate not in excess of 6 per cent. The commissioners shall have power to create a lien on such facilities as security for the payment of the bonds.

History: 1939, Act 147, Eff. Jan. 10, 1942 ;-- CL 1948, 119.58

Compiler's Notes: For provisions of Act 94 of 1933, referred to in this section, see MCL 141.101 et seq.

119.59 Property, purchase, gift or devise; condemnation, procedure.

Sec. 9. For the purposes of the authority as herein defined, the commissioners may purchase, accept by gift or devise or condemn private property. If by condemnation, the provisions of Act No. 149 of the Public Acts of 1911, as amended, being sections 3763 to 3783, inclusive, of the Compiled Laws of 1929, or such other appropriate provisions therefor as exist or shall be made by law, may

4 | ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

Enabling Act

be adopted and used for the purpose of instituting and prosecuting such condemnation proceedings.

History: 1939, Act 147, Eff. Jan. 10, 1942 ;-- CL 1948, 119.59  
 Compiler's Notes: For provisions of Act 149 of 1911, referred to in this section, see MCL 213.21 et seq.

119.60 Referendum.

Sec. 10. The foregoing local act shall be submitted to the electors of the counties of Wayne, Washtenaw, Livingston, Oakland, and Macomb at the regular election in November, 1940. The secretary of state is hereby required to certify the said local act to the various clerks of the several counties named in the manner required by law. It shall be the duty of the board of election commissioners of each county above named to prepare ballots for the use of electors in all precincts in the counties of Wayne, Washtenaw, Livingston, Oakland, and Macomb, in the manner required by law, which ballots, after setting forth the foregoing local act in full, shall be in substantially the following form:

"Vote on local act incorporating into the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority the metropolitan district including the counties of Wayne, Washtenaw, Livingston, Oakland, and Macomb.

"Shall the above local act be approved and adopted?

"Yes ( )

"No ( )."

It shall be the duty of the board of election commissioners in each above named county to deliver the ballots so prepared to the inspectors under the general election law. All votes cast upon said local act shall be counted, canvassed, and returned in the same manner as is provided by law for counting, canvassing, and returning votes cast for state officers.

History: 1939, Act 147, Eff. Jan. 10, 1942 ;-- CL 1948, 119.60

119.61 Referendum; approval by two or more counties; resubmission; governing body.

Sec. 11. If a majority of the electors voting thereon at any election in 2 or more of the above named counties, which are contiguous, shall vote "yes" on the proposal, then all the counties so approving shall constitute a metropolitan district, and the Huron-Clinton metropolitan authority shall be a corporation having all the powers, duties and obligations provided for in this act.

The governing board shall consist of the 2 commissioners appointed by the governor and of the elected commissioners from the counties so approving.

If a majority of the electors in any county should vote "no" on the approval of a Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority, the project may again be submitted to the electors in such county or counties, by their respective boards of supervisors or by petitions signed by at least 10 per cent of the electors therein. Such county or counties shall become part of the metropolitan district whenever at a later election a majority of the electors in such county or counties shall vote "yes".

History: 1939, Act 147, Eff. Jan. 10, 1942 ;-- CL 1948, 119.61  
 Compiler's Notes: This act has been adopted by the counties enumerated in MCL 119.60.

119.62 Violation of MCL 168.1 to 168.992 applicable to petitions; penalties.

Sec. 12. A petition under section 11, including the circulation and signing of the petition, is subject to section 488 of the Michigan election law, 1954 PA 116, MCL 168.488. A person who violates a provision of the Michigan election law, 1954 PA 116, MCL 168.1 to 168.992, applicable to a petition described in this section is subject to the penalties prescribed for that violation in the Michigan election law, 1954 PA 116, MCL 168.1 to 168.992.

History: Add. 1998, Act 170, Eff. Mar. 23, 1999







## 5 | RECREATION INVENTORY



### 5 | RECREATION INVENTORY

This chapter includes a recreation inventory for each of the 13 individual parks comprising the Metroparks system. In order to complete the inventory of park infrastructure, natural areas, facilities, programs, and cultural histories, the Planning Department collaborated with staff in the Operations, Interpretive Services, Natural Resources, and Engineering departments. Working with staff at the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), the Planning Department recently reviewed and confirmed the boundaries of encumbered land within each park. Accessibility evaluations for park facilities were conducted by Planning staff through field work using resources suggested in the MDNR Guidelines and tools purchased for that specific purpose.

The following items are provided for each Metropark:

- Park information page explaining the general location, classification, size, function, and history of the park, along with tables detailing trail miles, facility counts, and neighboring municipality master plans.
- Park map showing the land, water resources, and major facilities in the park.
- Biodiversity map outlining the location of critical natural resources, explained on the following page.
- Map of land encumbered by various grants, including the Land & Water Conservation Fund and the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund.
- Table showing grant details and current conditions.
- Broad findings of staff's Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) evaluation for facilities at each park (detailed assessments are provided in an Appendix).

Finally, the Planning Department conducted an analysis of state and county parks and recreation facilities. A location

map and chart identifying specific facilities and activities within each park is included for each of the five counties within the Metroparks service area. The location map also highlights other selected private and public recreational facilities in context of the state, county, and Metroparks resources.



**BIODIVERSITY**

Biodiversity refers to the variety of life present in a given area, often measured by number and distribution of species. It is important to preserve because it provides humans with ecological services such as clean water and oxygen, leads to greater resistance and resilience during natural and human-caused disturbances, and reduces the risk of disease.

Identifying biodiversity areas can help inform the development of current and future park amenities, allowing the Metroparks to fulfill its mandate and mission statement of protecting the natural resources of the communities it serves. Development within biodiversity areas is carefully reviewed to minimize unnecessary disruption.

The following criteria for determining biodiversity areas were adapted from a matrix that the Natural Resources Department uses to determine work priorities throughout the park system.



Metric	What	Why	Metric	What	Why
<b>Elemental Occurrence</b>	the presence of a species under legal protection, or of a complete system recognized as in condition similar to pre-settlement	statutory, occurrences protected by law from intentional take	<b>Percent Invasive Species Cover</b>	percentage of total acreage with invasive plant coverage	areas with few invasive species require less work, have greater return on investment
<b>FQA (Floristic Quality Assessment)</b>	presence of plant species likely to occur in conditions similar to pre-settlement	determines the ecological value of a system based on its floral assemblage	<b>Community Ranking</b>	rank assigned by the state due to natural community rarity or rate of decline	assesses the vulnerability of each natural community within the state
<b>FQI Connectivity</b>	the presence of a quality habitat (greater than 35 FQI) within 100 feet of another	connected habitats provide diverse resources and facilitate migration, increase species fitness	<b>Wetlands</b>	the presence of wetlands	wetlands tend to have greatest diversity, and are also critical to promote healthy water resources
<b>Size</b>	acreage of the habitat in question	large habitats provide more diverse resources and facilitate migration, increase species fitness, resilience	<b>Habitat Connectivity</b>	the presence of a complementary habitat within 100 feet of another	connected wetlands promote genetic diversity conservation and water quality



## ACCESSIBILITY

A limited accessibility evaluation was conducted by planning and operations staff to determine the state of the system as a whole and inform goals for the future. The evaluation was based on the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design<sup>1</sup> and focused on accessible parking, pathways, and the recreational facilities highlighted in the 2010 Standards: boat launches, fishing piers, playgrounds, golf courses, and pools. More detailed analyses of the facilities and the interior of buildings may be conducted at a later date.

For a general sense of the accessibility of recreation throughout the system, each park was analyzed and mapped using Google Earth for the existence of paved routes leading from accessible parking to the area(s) of use. The existence of pavement alone does not constitute an accessible route, as slope, width, and evenness requirements must also be met. However, this allowed for identification of areas where no paved route was present. These are presented on maps for each park. In order to achieve compliance, pavement would have to be added or the area would have to be otherwise redesigned.

Next, checklists from the New England ADA Center<sup>2</sup> were adapted and used in field evaluations of specific facilities in the parks. The checklist results were used to develop a rating for each facility, shown in a table for each park. The rating system is as follows:

- 1 — no elements are accessible
- 2 — some elements are accessible
- 3 — most elements are accessible
- 4 — all elements are accessible
- 5 — facility follows Universal Design<sup>3</sup> principles

Finally, all the results were consolidated and used to form goals for the park system's future accessibility. These are described in the Goals and Objectives section of the plan. The full park facility checklists and accessibility maps can be found in the appendix.



<sup>1</sup> United States Access Board, <https://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/buildings-and-sites/about-the-ada-standards/ada-standards>

<sup>2</sup> ADA Checklist for Existing Facilities, <http://www.adachecklist.org/checklist.html#rec>

<sup>3</sup> From the Centre for Excellence in Universal Design ([www.universaldesign.ie](http://www.universaldesign.ie)): "Universal Design is the design and composition of an environment so that it can be accessed, understood and used to the greatest extent possible by all people regardless of their age, size, ability or disability. An environment (or any building, product, or service in that environment) should be designed to meet the needs of all people who wish to use it. This is not a special requirement, for the benefit of only a minority of the population. It is a fundamental condition of good design. If an environment is accessible, usable, convenient and a pleasure to use, everyone benefits. By considering the diverse needs and abilities of all throughout the design process, universal design creates products, services and environments that meet peoples' needs. Simply put, universal design is good design."



## INFRASTRUCTURE ANALYSIS

Historically, the Metroparks took a reactionary approach to infrastructure management, making repairs and improvements to buildings, roads, and other systems only when issues arose. When it became evident that this method had become ineffective, HCMA staff initiated a more proactive approach. In 2010, the Engineering Department began utilizing roadway asset management software (Roadsoft) to prioritize transportation-related projects based on age and wear-and-tear.<sup>1</sup> To build upon this effort, a roof management program was established in 2013, and a picnic shelter assessment was conducted in 2014. A Geographic Information System (GIS) database was developed, enabling engineering and planning staff to map property lines, natural features, built features, and utilities, among other assets.

At present, there exists a fair amount of knowledge about the roofs, buildings, roads, trails, and park structures (e.g. picnic shelters, boat launches) throughout the Metroparks. These assets have been determined by the Engineering Department to be in good condition, save for the known replacements needed (e.g. Lower Huron park office, Kensington park office). Assets requiring further investigation to determine condition include the various boardwalks and all underground infrastructure throughout the park system.

In late 2016, HCMA was awarded over \$1.9M in Stormwater, Asset Management, and Wastewater (SAW) Program grant funding. Per the grant requirements, this funding is to be expended over three years, and it will be used to conduct an inventory and conditions assessment of the Metroparks sanitary infrastructure (e.g. pump systems, septic systems, pipes, manholes) for the purpose of building an asset management database. Consultants will be hired to conduct the inventory and assessment and to recommend a software system for housing the acquired data. By implementing this project, HCMA has an opportunity to begin taking a more comprehensive approach to asset management by incorporating asset classes into the newly-developed database over time. Asset classes relevant to the Metroparks would include:

- Sanitary
- Buildings (envelope, electric, plumbing)
- Roads
- Parking lots
- Trails (by type)
- Bridges (by type)
- Electrical supply/grid
- Communication (fiber optic, copper)
- Park structures (e.g. picnic shelters, playgrounds, boardwalks, tollbooths)
- Water (including wells)
- Dams
- Shoreline protection (e.g. seawalls, riprap areas)
- Natural features (Michigan Natural Features Inventory categories)
- Stormwater systems

As indicated in the *21<sup>st</sup> Century Infrastructure Commission Report*<sup>2</sup> released in late 2016 by the Michigan Infrastructure Commission, “strategic investments in preventative maintenance, repair, and rehabilitation of infrastructure assets is much more cost-effective than reconstructing the ‘worst first.’” Once inventories are completed for each asset class, it will be possible for HCMA staff to more fully comprehend the system-wide deferred infrastructure maintenance burden and prioritize projects accordingly, based on available resources.



<sup>1</sup> Initially, only roads were included in the Roadsoft system. As of 2017, the system will be expanded to include paved, shared-use trails throughout the Metroparks system.

<sup>2</sup> State of Michigan Governor’s website, [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/snyder/21st\\_Century\\_Infrastructure\\_Commission\\_Report\\_555079\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/snyder/21st_Century_Infrastructure_Commission_Report_555079_7.pdf)

**LAKE ST. CLAIR METROPARK**

Lake St. Clair Metropark is located on the eastern edge of Macomb County, just south of Anchor Bay. All of the park is within Harrison Township.

At its northernmost extent, Lake St. Clair Metropark nearly reaches South River Road. To the east it runs along the Black Creek, to the west it extends to Jefferson, and its southern boundary is Lake St. Clair. The park is situated on the mouth of the Clinton River.

Lake St. Clair hosts several activities, especially water recreation, boating, birdwatching, and picnics. The park’s scenic Huron Point extending into the lake makes it unique, along with the 50-meter swimming pool, splash pad, and beautiful nature trails.

**Cultural History**

The majority of Lake St. Clair Metropark property was a Great Lakes Coastal marsh. It was used by Native Americans and early settlers for fishing, hunting, and trapping. Because the soil was mostly wetland within the boundaries of the park, there were no permanent homesteads. The sandy ridge naturally created a beach that was an important resting place for travelers in canoes and for migrating birds. Various rare species of birds such as the now-endangered Piping Plover and now-threatened Common Tern nested on the point and the island.

Journals and records remain from Henry Schoolcraft and David Bates Douglas from a stop at Huron Point during their Voyageur Canoe expedition to the upper Great Lakes.

**Activities**

- Swimming in the pool or lake
- Relaxing on the beach
- Splashing in the Squirt Zone
- Birdwatching
- Boating and fishing
- Skiing, sledding, ice skating, and ice fishing in the winter
- Observing nature on the trails
- Enjoying a round of golf, foot golf, or adventure golf
- Kiteboarding and windsurfing

**Statistics**

Park Classification	
Park Type	Regional/Metropolitan
Park Size (Acres)	789
Infrastructure	
Public bldgs / avg age	8 / 43
Service bldgs / avg age	13 / 46
Comfort stations <sup>1</sup> / avg age	6 / 35
Road miles	5.08
Parking lot acreage	36.54
Playgrounds	2
Percent of park mowed	20
Picnic shelters	12
Sand volleyball courts	10
Baseball fields	1
Fishing platforms	2
Tennis courts	4
Ice skating rinks	2
Basketball courts	4
Public canoe/kayak launches	1

Path & Trail Miles	
Hike-Bike Trails	3.74
Nature Trails	2.14
Rustic Hiking Trails	0
Equestrian Trails	0
Cross Country Ski Trails	1.85
Mountain Bike Trails	0
Other Paths	5.77
Total	13.5

**Community Plans**

Harrison Township	
Waterfront Redevelopment Plan	2015
DDA Development Plan and Tax Increment Finance Plan	2015
Community Park, Recreation, Open Space & Greenway plan	2012
Master Plan	2010



<sup>1</sup>A comfort station is a detached restroom building equipped with plumbing. The number does not include restrooms incorporated into other buildings or pit toilets without plumbing.

Lake St. Clair

Park Overview

Figure 5.1 | General Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA





5 | RECREATION INVENTORY

Lake St. Clair

Biodiversity

Figure 5.2 | Biodiversity Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA



**Encumbered Land**

Figure 5.3 | Encumbered Land Map | Sources: MIGDL, HCMA, MDNR





**Grant History**

Number	Name—Grants	Year	Type	Status	Amount	Current Condition
TF87-085	Metro Beach Nature Center	1987	Development	Closed	\$ 225,000.00	Nature Center plans renovations/facility standardization
CM00-067	Metro Beach Pointe Shoreline Trail	2000	Development	Closed	\$ 450,000.00	General maintenance to railing/benches
TF12-057	Lake St. Clair Metropark Land Acquisition	2012	Acquisition	Closed	\$ 94,000.00	No conversion, boundary maintained within park

**Accessibility**

Facility	Accessibility ranking
Fishing Pier - Point	4
Boat Launch	2
Daysail	3
Shore Marina	2
South Marina	3
Golf Course	4
Pool	4





## KENSINGTON METROPARK

Kensington Metropark is located on the border of Livingston and Oakland counties in Southeast Michigan. The park sits in the southern portion of both counties. Most of the park is located within Milford Township, but Brighton and Lyon Townships also contain portions of the park, and Green Oak Township contains less than an acre.

At its northernmost extent, Kensington reaches Mill Pond. To the east it reaches beyond Old Plank Road, its western boundary is Kensington Road, and to the south it extends just past I-96 to Grand River. The park is situated on the Upper Huron River and contains most of the dammed, 1,200-acre Kent Lake. A trail connects the park to Island Lake State Recreation Area to the south and Proud Lake Recreation Area to the east, along with Camp Dearborn to the north.

Kensington is the largest Metropark, with a wide variety of recreational activities available. Its long hike-bike trails, sprawling forests, Kent Lake, and facilities such as the Farm Center and Nature Center make it extremely popular.

### Cultural History

The park is named after the town of Kensington, which was founded in 1832 and located on the Huron River at the Detroit-Lansing toll road (later Grand River). It was once a bustling settlement, serving travelers with a bank, hotels, and taverns. The bank is known for producing its own independent notes in 1838. The fallout from this, along with the lack of a railroad stop, contributed to the town’s decline. By the 1930s it was a ghost town.

The Labadie brothers of Detroit spent several years in the area surrounding Kensington. Jo Labadie, an early labor leader, spent his summers here from 1912 to 1933. The remains of his summer home can be seen along the Aspen Trail. Jo’s brothers, Oliver and Hubert, ran a fishing lodge and filmed several silent movies. The most notorious residents of the area were the Purple Gang, prohibition era gangsters.

### Activities

- Swimming and splashing at Martindale Beach
- Biking or strolling the paved trails, equestrian trails
- Skiing, ice skating, sledding, and tobogganing in winter
- Golfing and disc golfing
- Walking the nature and hiking trails
- Fireworks, maple sugaring, horse drawn wagon rides
- Paddling, boating and Island Queen ferry on Kent Lake

- Farm Center and Nature Center

### Statistics

Park Classification	
Park Type	Regional/Metropolitan
Park Size (Acres)	4486

Infrastructure	
Public bldgs / avg age	12 / 26
Service bldgs / avg age	16 / 42
Comfort stations / avg age	9 / 28
Road miles	14.9
Parking lot acreage	37.83
Playgrounds	20
Percent of park mowed	8.8
Picnic shelters	18
Sand volleyball courts	8
Baseball fields	7
Fishing platforms	5
Tennis courts	0
Ice skating rinks	2
Basketball courts	0
Public canoe/kayak launches	3

Trail Miles	
Hike-Bike Trails	13.55
Nature Trails	7.09
Rustic Hiking Trails	6.19
Equestrian Trails	17.4
Cross Country Ski Trails	11.09
Mountain Bike Trails	2.09
Other Paths	17.4
Total	74.81

### Community Plans

Milford Township	
Recreation Master Plan	2012
Milford Community Master Plan	2009

Brighton Township	
Master Plan	2014
East Grand River Corridor Plan	2006
Pathways Plan	2006

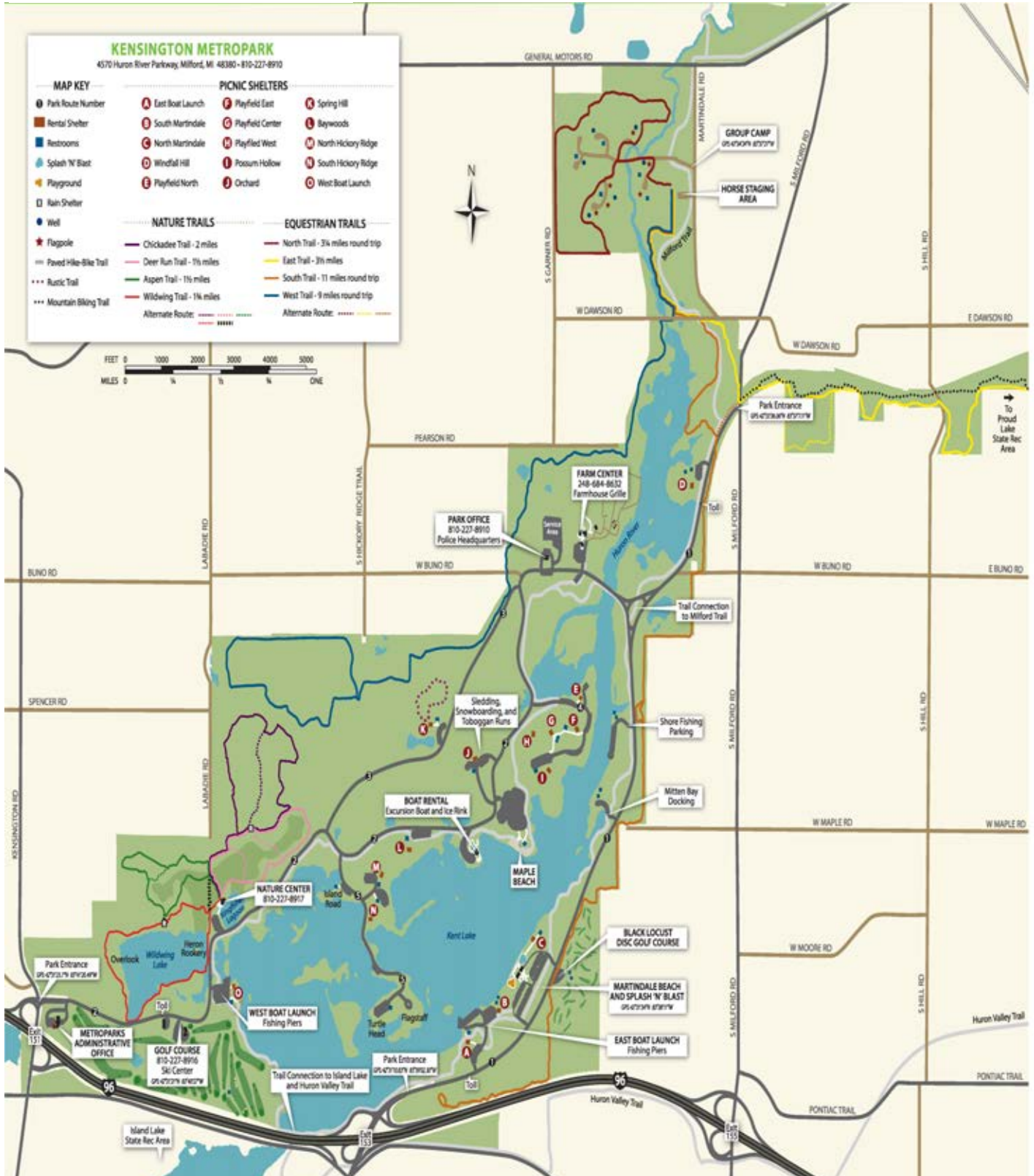
Lyon Township	
Parks and Recreation Master Plan	2014
Master Plan	2012
Lyon Center Vision Plan	2009

Green Oak Township	
Parks and Recreation Master Plan	2015
Master Plan	2014

5 | RECREATION INVENTORY

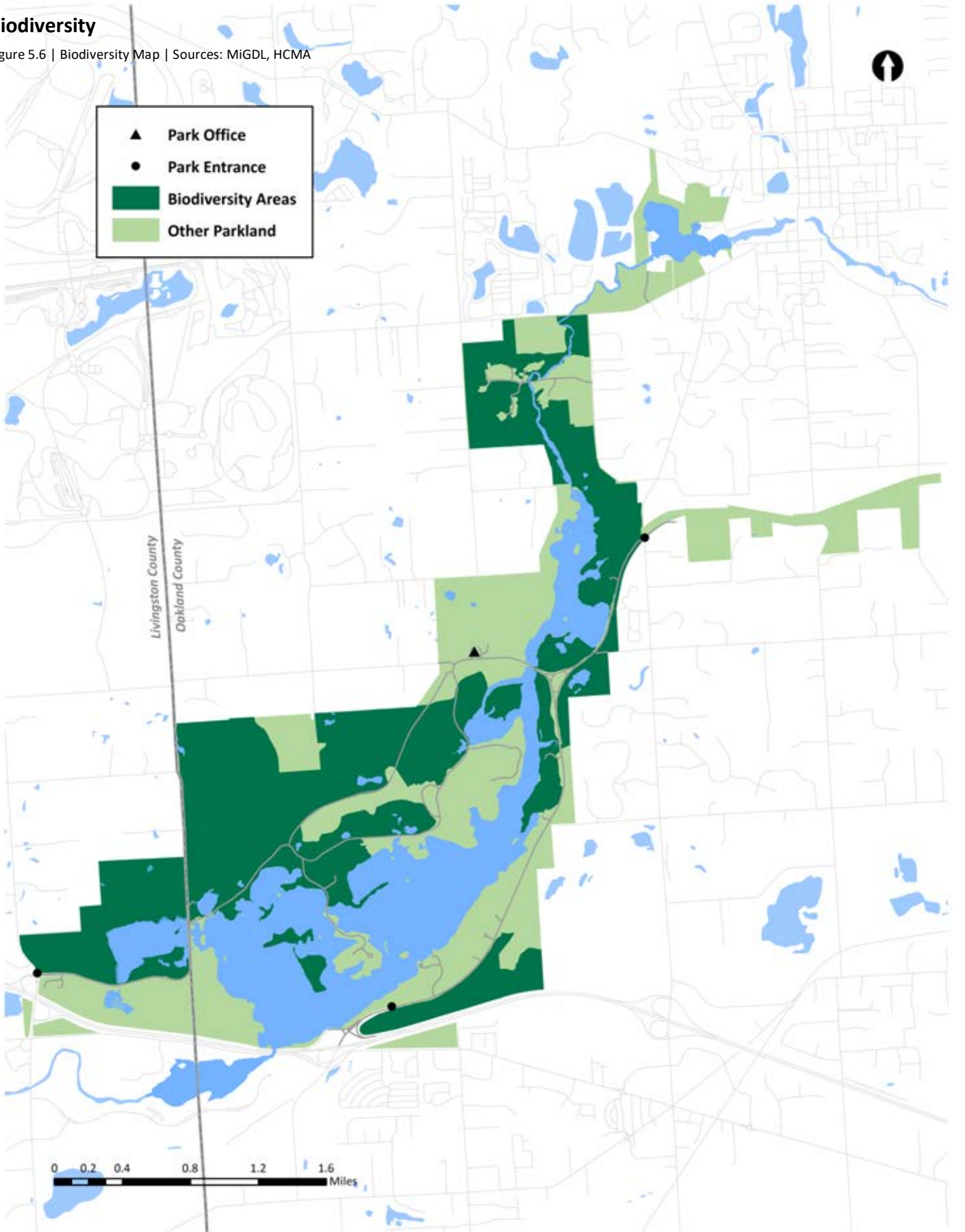
Park Overview

Figure 5.5 | General Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA



**Biodiversity**

Figure 5.6 | Biodiversity Map | Sources: MIGDL, HCMA

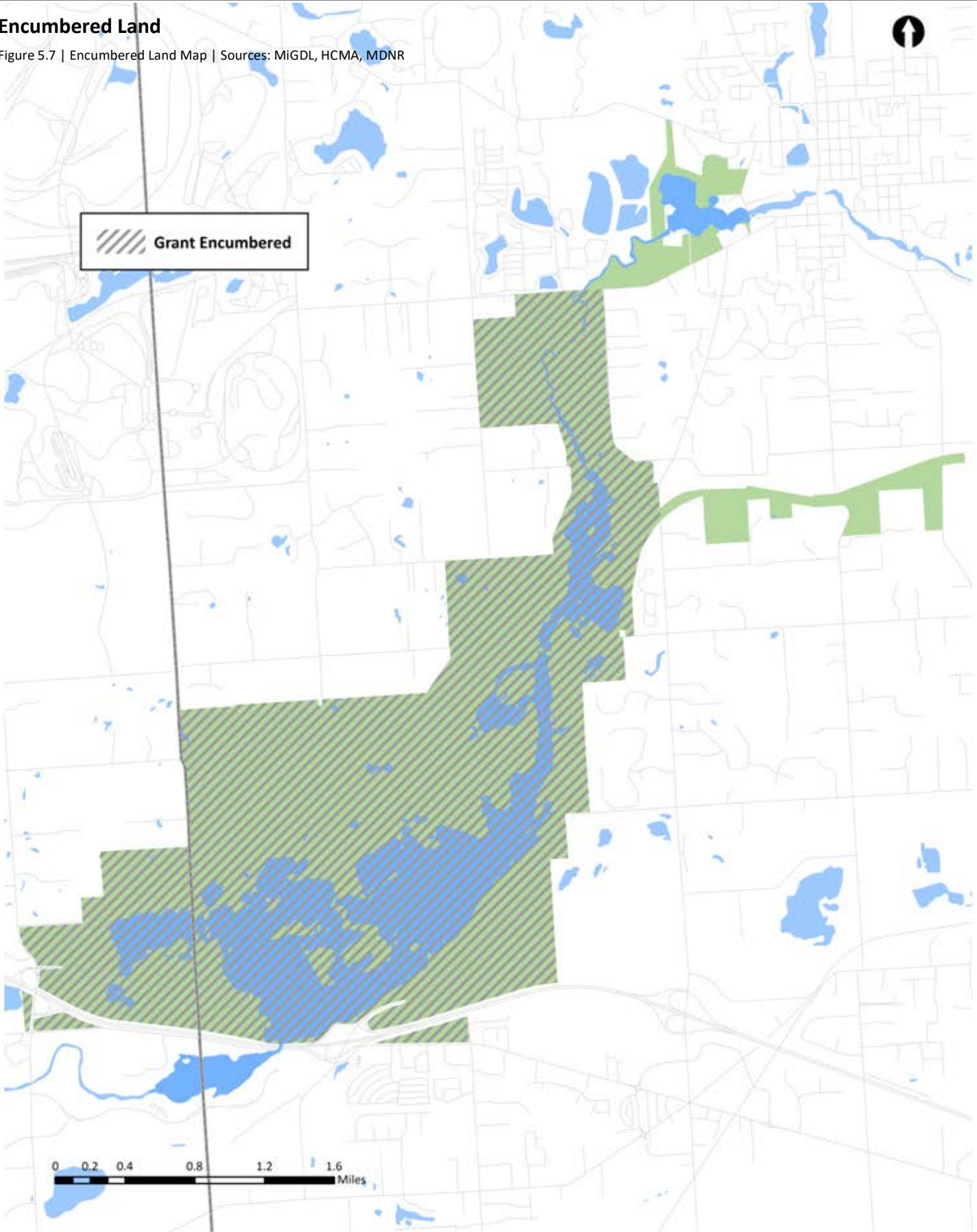




5 | RECREATION INVENTORY

Encumbered Land

Figure 5.7 | Encumbered Land Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA, MDNR



**Grant History**

Number	Name	Year	Type	Status	Amount	Current Condition
26-00169	Kensington Metropark #2	1969	Acquisition	Closed	\$ 45,937.50	Still maintained as park
26-00146	Kensington Metropolitan Park	1969	Acquisition	Closed	\$ 42,000.00	Still maintained as park
26-00617	Kensington Hike-Bike Trail	1975	Development	Closed	\$ 50,000.00	General maintenance
26-00856	Kensington Hike/Bike Trail	1977	Development	Closed	\$ 50,000.00	General maintenance
26-01319	Kensington Hike-Bike Trail	1984	Development	Closed	\$ 127,500.00	General maintenance
BF89-614	Nature Center Kensington	1989	Development	Closed	\$ 300,000.00	Facility upgrades
TF08-033	Kensington Metropark - Milford Trail Connector	2008	Development	Closed	\$ 315,000.00	General maintenance
TF11-018	Kensington Metropark Nature Center Pond Overlook	2011	Development	Closed	\$ 94,000.00	Additional amenities added to support grant

**Accessibility**

Facility	Accessibility ranking
Fishing Pier—W Boat Launch Main	2
Fishing Piers—W Boat Launch Small	3
West Boat Launch	1
East Boat Launch	1
Boat Rental	2
Mitten Bay	1
Golf Course	3



5 | RECREATION INVENTORY

Dexter-Huron/Delhi

**DEXTER-HURON AND DELHI METROPARKS**

Dexter-Huron and Delhi Metroparks are located in north central Washtenaw County. Both parks are within the boundaries of Scio Township. Dexter-Huron is partially within the City of Dexter.

At their northernmost extent, Dexter-Huron reaches Mast Road, and to the east Delhi runs to Huron River Drive. Their western boundary is Central Street, and to the south they extend to the railroad tracks. The parks are situated on the Upper Middle Huron River and are in a designated Natural Rivers district. A portion of the Border-to-Border trail runs through Dexter-Huron and is planned to later connect through Delhi to the City of Ann Arbor.

Delhi and Dexter-Huron are, respectively, the smallest and second-smallest parks in the Metroparks system. Distinct from the large regional parks, they are valued for quick escapes into nature and for the land and water trails running through them. They contain far fewer facilities than other parks, and are administered out of Hudson Mills Metropark. These two parks are primarily used for biking and hiking, paddling, picnicking, and passive recreation.

**Cultural History**

**Delhi** — In 1831 Jacob Doremus came from New York and set up a sawmill on the banks of the Huron River. He later founded the Michigan Village, which residents renamed Delhi (pronounced Del-hi, not Deli), likely after a New York town.

At its peak Delhi was host to four different mills, two on each side of the river. The town met its demise in 1917 when a tornado struck and Delhi was leveled, with the exception of a few houses. In 1957 the former village of Delhi became Delhi Metropark. The only remains are a few houses outside the park, and the park name itself.

**Dexter-Huron** — With an intention to harvest the water power of the Huron, railroads and other companies bought land along the river in the late 1800s. Soon after the purchases, steam power made water power obsolete, and no confirmed mills or dams were built at this location. Risk of flooding prevented other types of development.

Dexter-Huron Metropark was previously owned by Ford Motor Company and operated by the Washtenaw County Road Commission as a roadside picnic area. The Metroparks assumed control of the 180 acres in 1952.

**Activities**

- Biking, rollerblading, or walking the paved trail
- Strolling the rustic trail
- Picnicking with family and friends
- Canoeing and kayaking
- Enjoying a softball game
- Taking a calming walk on the labyrinth

**Statistics**

Park Classification		
	Dexter-Huron	Delhi
Park Type	Region/Metro	Region/Metro
Park Size (Acres)	120	52

Infrastructure		
	Dexter-Huron	Delhi
Public bldgs / avg age	0	0
Service bldgs / avg age	0	0
Comfort stations / age	1 / 26	1 / 16
Road miles	0.41	0.22
Parking lot acreage	1.6	0.13
Playgrounds	2	3
Percent of park mowed	9.9	58.4
Picnic shelters	3	1
Sand volleyball courts	0	0
Baseball fields	0	2
Fishing platforms	0	0
Tennis courts	0	0
Ice skating rinks	0	0
Basketball courts	0	0
Public canoe/kayak launches	1	2

Trail Miles		
	Dexter-Huron	Delhi
Hike-Bike Trails	1.42	0
Nature Trails	0	0
Rustic Hiking Trails	0.16	0
Equestrian Trails	0	0
Cross Country Ski Trails	0	0
Mountain Bike Trails	0	0
Other Paths	0.07	0.13
Total	1.65	0.13

**Community Plans**

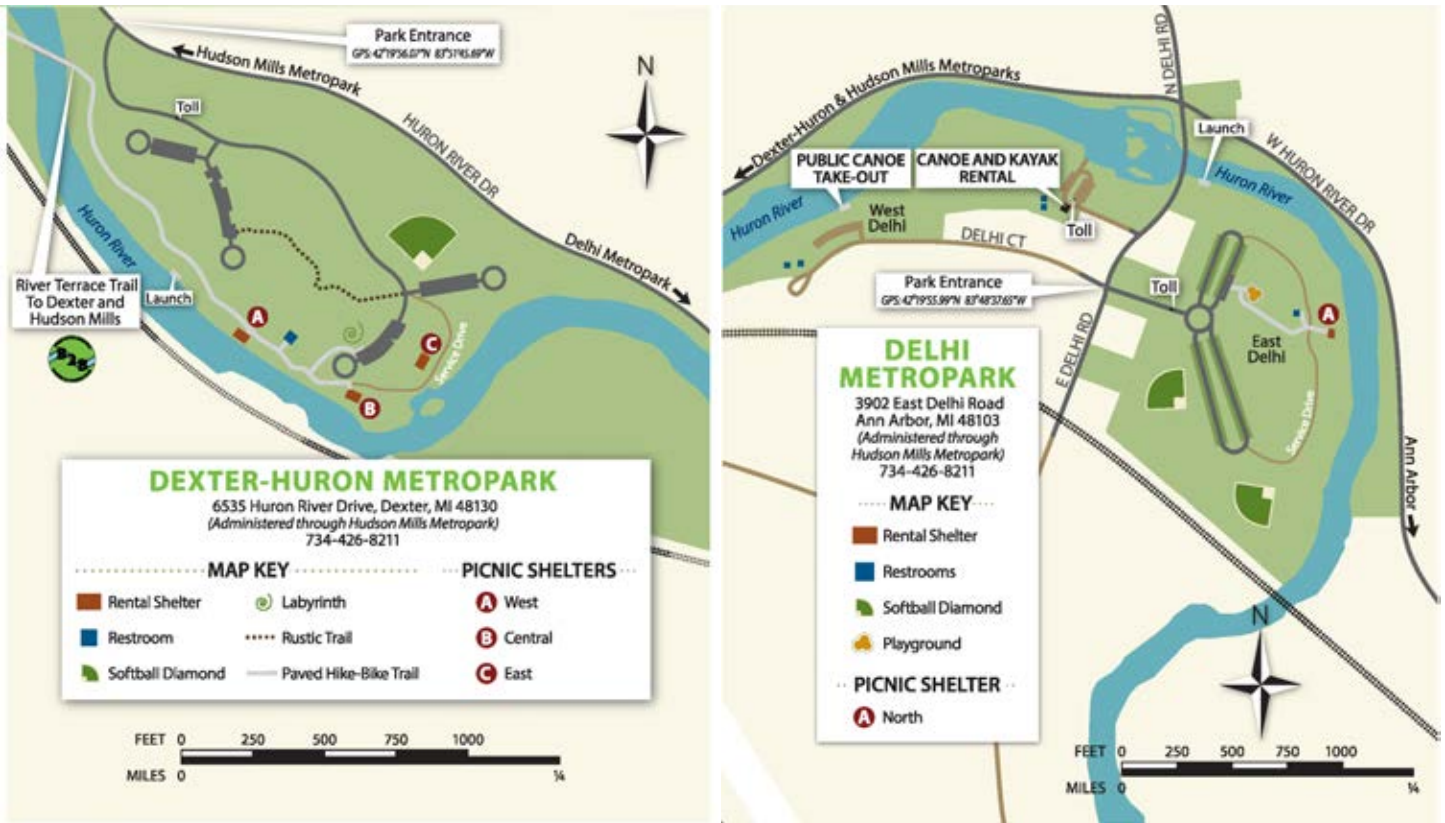
Scio Township	
Master Land Use Plan	2015
Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan	2013

City of Dexter	
Master Plan, Amended	2016
Parks and Recreation Master Plan	2016
Capital Improvements Plan	2015
Mill Creek Park Recreation Master Plan	2009



Park Overview

Figure 5.9 | General Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA



Biodiversity

Figure 5.10 | Biodiversity Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA



5 | RECREATION INVENTORY

Dexter-Huron/Delhi

Encumbered Land

Figure 5.11 | Encumbered Land Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA, MDNR



Grant History

Number	Name—Grant	Year	Type	Status	Amount	Current Condition
BF98-088	Delhi Metropark Children's Play Area	1998	Development	Closed	\$ 36,400.00	General upkeep, ADA parking improvements



**LOWER HURON METROPARK**

Lower Huron Metropark is located in the southwest section of Wayne County in Southeast Michigan. Four municipalities include portions of Lower Huron: Van Buren, Sumpter, and Huron townships, and the City of Romulus.

At its northernmost extent Lower Huron reaches Huron River Drive. Its eastern boundary is Waltz Road/Huron River Drive, to the west it reaches Haggerty Road, and to the south it extends to Savage Road. The park sits on the Huron River.

A paved hike-bike trail runs the length of the park and connects it with Willow and Oakwoods Metroparks, then continues all the way to Lake Erie Metropark. It is also a segment of the statewide Iron Belle Trail.

Lower Huron is popular for picnicking and fishing, and its Turtle Cove Family Aquatic Center. Along with launches for paddlers on the popular Huron River Water Trail, a National Park Service-designated National Water Trail, these elements make up the primary recreational infrastructure of the park.

**Cultural History**

Several archaeological studies have been conducted at Lower Huron in the past decades, resulting in the discovery of artifacts from both Native American and European settlements. Sites identified include burial grounds, campsites, dwellings, kilns, commercial structures, tool manufacture areas, and farmsteads.

The Schulz Mill Dam is no longer standing, but the pilings can be seen within the park. The mill is still in operation just outside the park and sells feed and other grain products. Other mills that once stood on current park property but no longer exist include Johnson Mill and Otis/Stewart Mill.

Founded during the first half of the 1800s, Mt. Pleasant Village no longer existed by the time of the Civil War. It can still be seen on historical maps, marked at the edge of current Lower Huron boundaries.

**Activities**

- Swimming and splashing at Turtle Cove
- Biking the paved trail
- Ice skating in winter
- Walking the nature and hiking trails
- Fishing, picnicking, and paddling down the Huron River
- Camping at the rustic and group campgrounds
- Enjoying a game of tennis or basketball

**Statistics**

Park Classification	
Park Type	Regional/Metropolitan
Park Size (Acres)	1256

Infrastructure	
Public bldgs / avg age	3 / 25
Service bldgs / avg age	3 / 20
Comfort stations / avg age	9 / 30
Road miles	8.66
Parking lot acreage	20.09
Playgrounds	10
Percent of park mowed	22.6
Picnic shelters	10
Sand volleyball courts	3
Baseball fields	2
Fishing platforms	2
Tennis courts	1
Ice skating rinks	2
Basketball courts	4
Public canoe/kayak launches	2

Trail Miles	
Hike-Bike Trails	4.94
Nature Trails	0.82
Rustic Hiking Trails	3.38
Equestrian Trails	0
Cross Country Ski Trails	0
Mountain Bike Trails	0
Other Paths	1.98
Total	11.12

**Community Plans**

Van Buren Township	
Parks and Recreation Plan	2011
South Side Master Plan	2007
Master Plan	1989

Sumpter Township	
Parks and Recreation Master Plan	2010
Master Land Use Plan	2005

Huron Township	
Parks and Recreation Master Plan	2013
Master Plan	2004

City of Romulus	
Parks and Recreation Master Plan	2014
Capital Improvements Plan	2010
Master Plan	2009



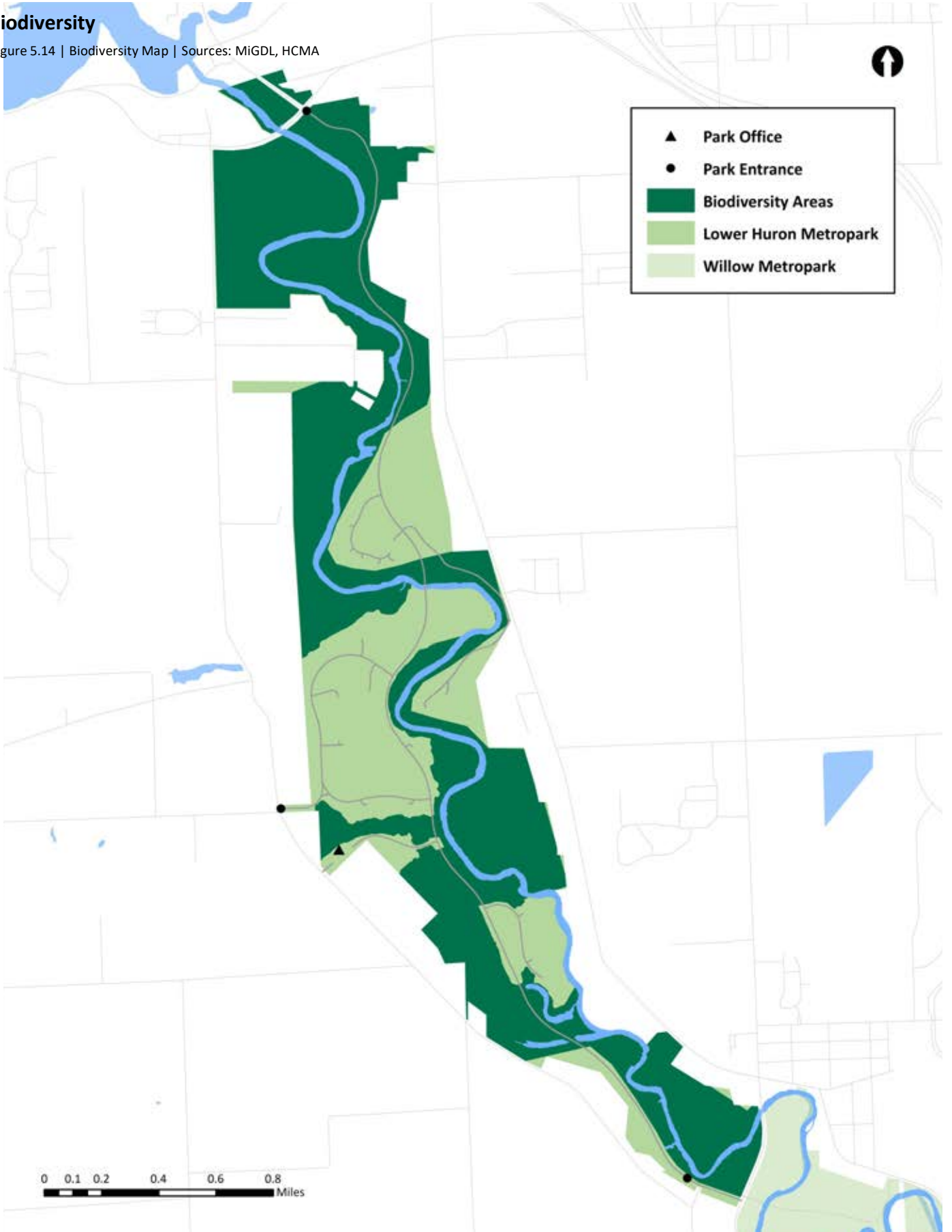
Park Overview

Figure 5.13 | General Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA



### Biodiversity

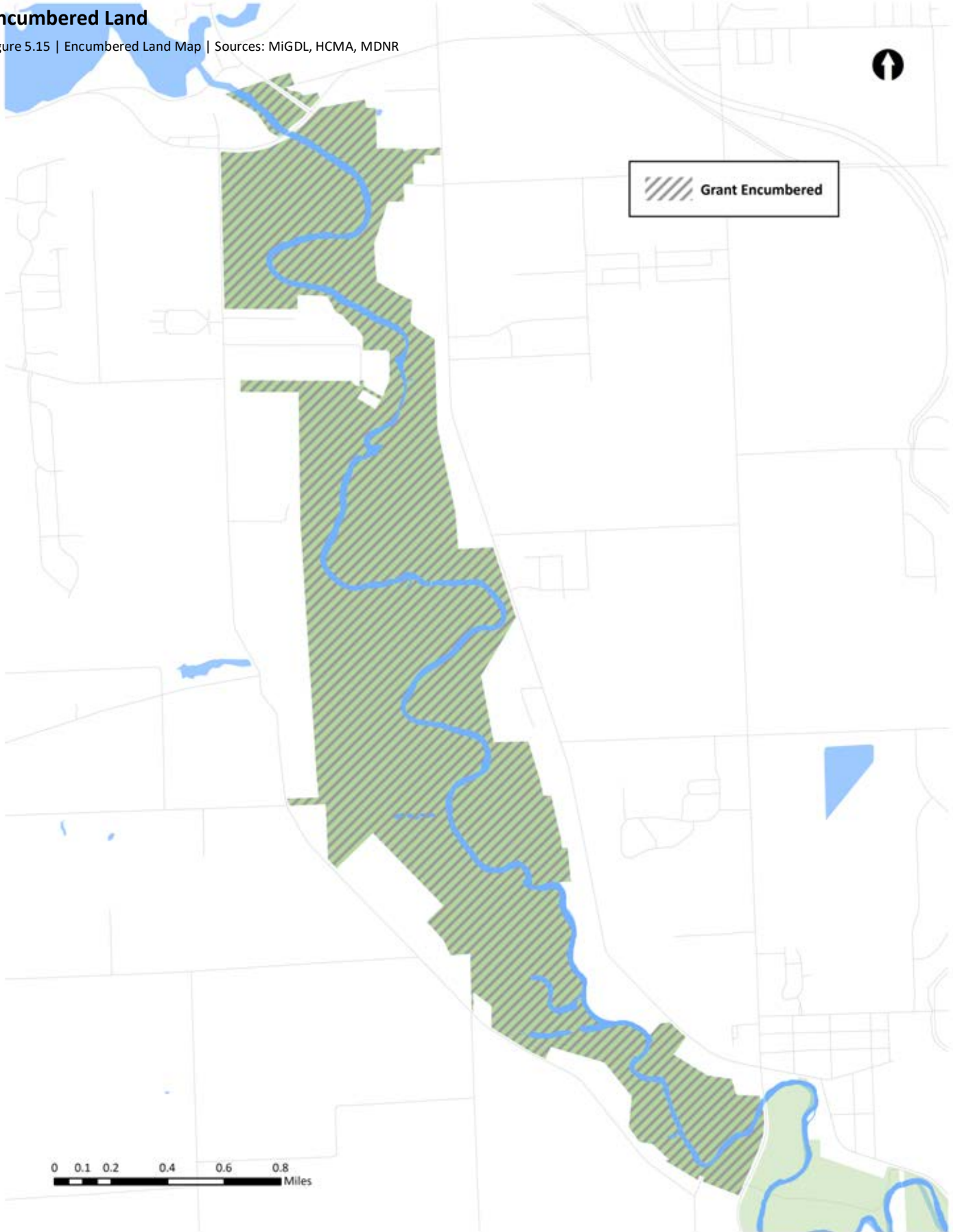
Figure 5.14 | Biodiversity Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA



5 | RECREATION INVENTORY

Encumbered Land

Figure 5.15 | Encumbered Land Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA, MDNR





**Grant History**

Number	Name	Year	Type	Status	Amount	Current Condition
26-00025	Lower Huron Metropark Woods Creek Picnic Area	1965	Development	Closed	\$ 18,700.00	General maintenance, no conversion
BF93-153	Lower Huron and Willow Metroparks	1993	Development	Closed	\$ 170,000.00	General maintenance, no conversion
TF00-069	Lower Huron Metropark Fishing Access Boardwalks	2000	Development	Closed	\$ 180,000.00	General maintenance, no conversion

**Accessibility**

Facility	Accessibility ranking
Fishing Pier - North Site	3
Fishing Pier - East Bend	3
Fishing Pier - South Site	3
Turtle Cove	3



**HUDSON MILLS METROPARK**

Hudson Mills Metropark is located in Washtenaw County, near its northern border with Livingston County. Most of the park is in Dexter Township, with a small amount extending into Webster Township. The park abuts the City of Dexter.

At its northernmost extent, Hudson Mills reaches McGregor Road. To the east it runs along Dexter-Pinckney, its western boundary is Huron River Drive, and to the south it extends nearly to Central Street. The park is situated on the Upper Middle Huron River and is in a Natural Rivers district.

Hudson Mills is primarily used for biking and hiking, picnicking, paddling, and disc golf. A portion of the Border-to-Border trail runs through Hudson Mills and connects with the City of Dexter, attracting cyclists and runners. It is also a segment of the statewide Iron Belle Trail. The maple sugaring event is a popular draw in the spring, and hayrides through the forest bring out families in the fall.

**Cultural History**

The boundaries of Washtenaw County were established in 1822, and a settlement called Hudson Mills grew near the intersection of North Territorial Road and Dexter-Pinckney Road.

The settlers utilized the great water power of the Huron River. In 1827, Cornelius Osterhaut built a sawmill, which cut the lumber for the settlers’ homes, shops and barns. In 1846, a gristmill was located on the river at this site, followed by a cider mill and a plaster mill. The gristmill was known as Hudson Mill, and primarily processed wheat and corn. A general store, hotel, and pulp mill were later established.

The hamlet of Hudson was prosperous as long as the mills were running. However, in 1903, the pulp mill was sold and relocated to the new owner’s farm in Webster Township.

**Activities**

- Biking, rollerblading, or walking the paved trail
- Strolling the nature trail
- Cross country skiing in winter
- Picnicking with family and friends
- Canoeing and kayaking the National Water Trail
- Taking on both disc golf courses
- Enjoying a round of golf
- Playing tennis, volleyball, and more

**Statistics**

Park Classification	
Park Type	Regional/Metropolitan
Park Size (Acres)	1573

Infrastructure	
Public bldgs / avg age	2 / 30
Service bldgs / avg age	4 / 30
Comfort stations / avg age	3 / 29
Road miles	3.22
Parking lot acreage	5.77
Playgrounds	4
Percent of park mowed	9.5
Picnic shelters	3
Sand volleyball courts	6
Baseball fields	4
Fishing platforms	0
Tennis courts	2
Ice skating rinks	0
Basketball courts	0
Public canoe/kayak launches	1

Trail Miles	
Hike-Bike Trails	7.28
Nature Trails	1.9
Rustic Hiking Trails	0.16
Equestrian Trails	0
Cross Country Ski Trails	3.79
Mountain Bike Trails	0
Other Paths	5.93
Total	19.06

**Community Plans**

Dexter Township	
Draft Work Plan	2016
Master Plan	2011

Webster Township	
Master Plan Revision Draft	2015

City of Dexter	
Master Plan, Amended	2016
Parks and Recreation Master Plan	2016
Capital Improvements Plan	2015
Mill Creek Park Recreation Master Plan	2009



Park Overview

Figure 5.17 | General Map | Sources: MIGDL, HCMA

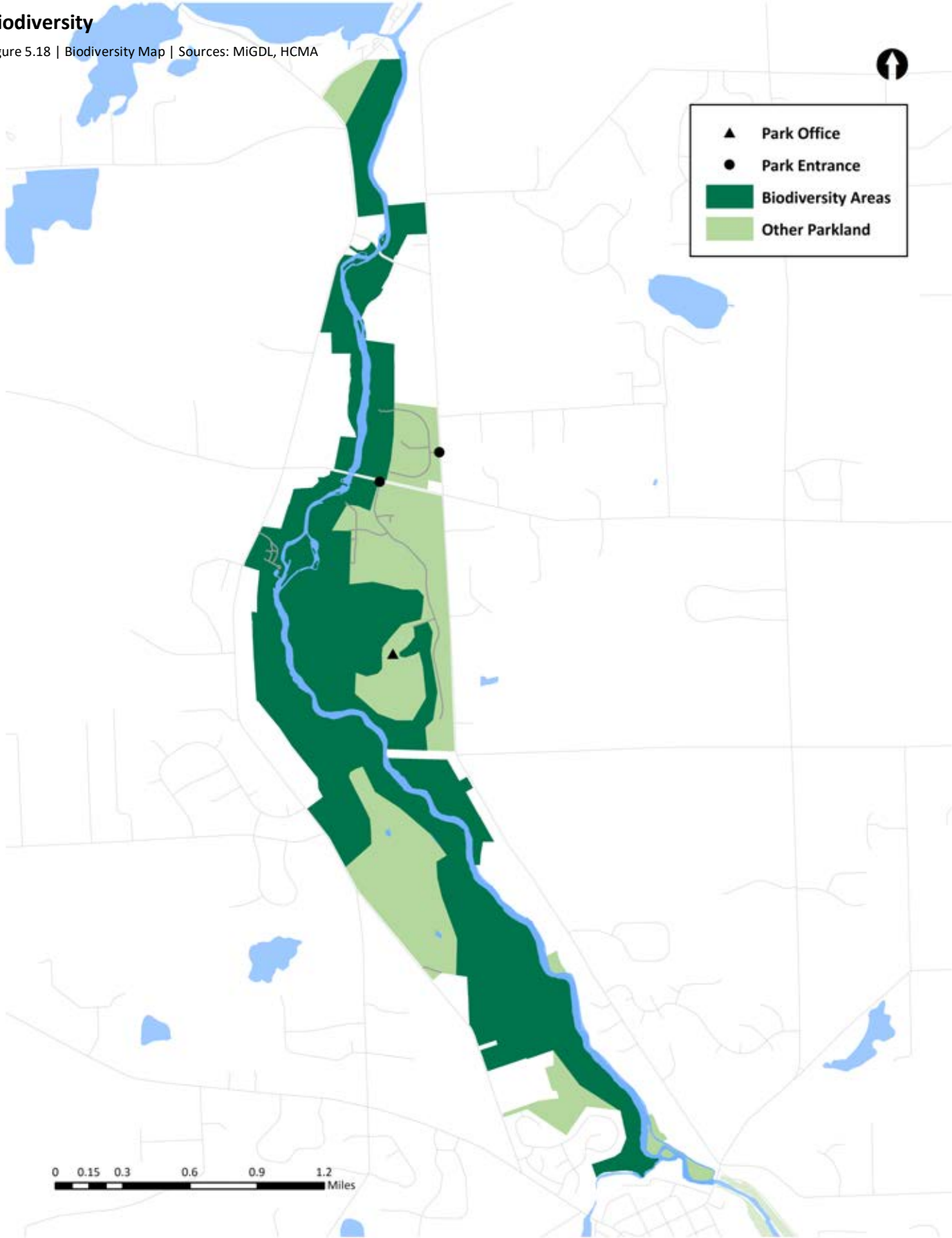




5 | RECREATION INVENTORY

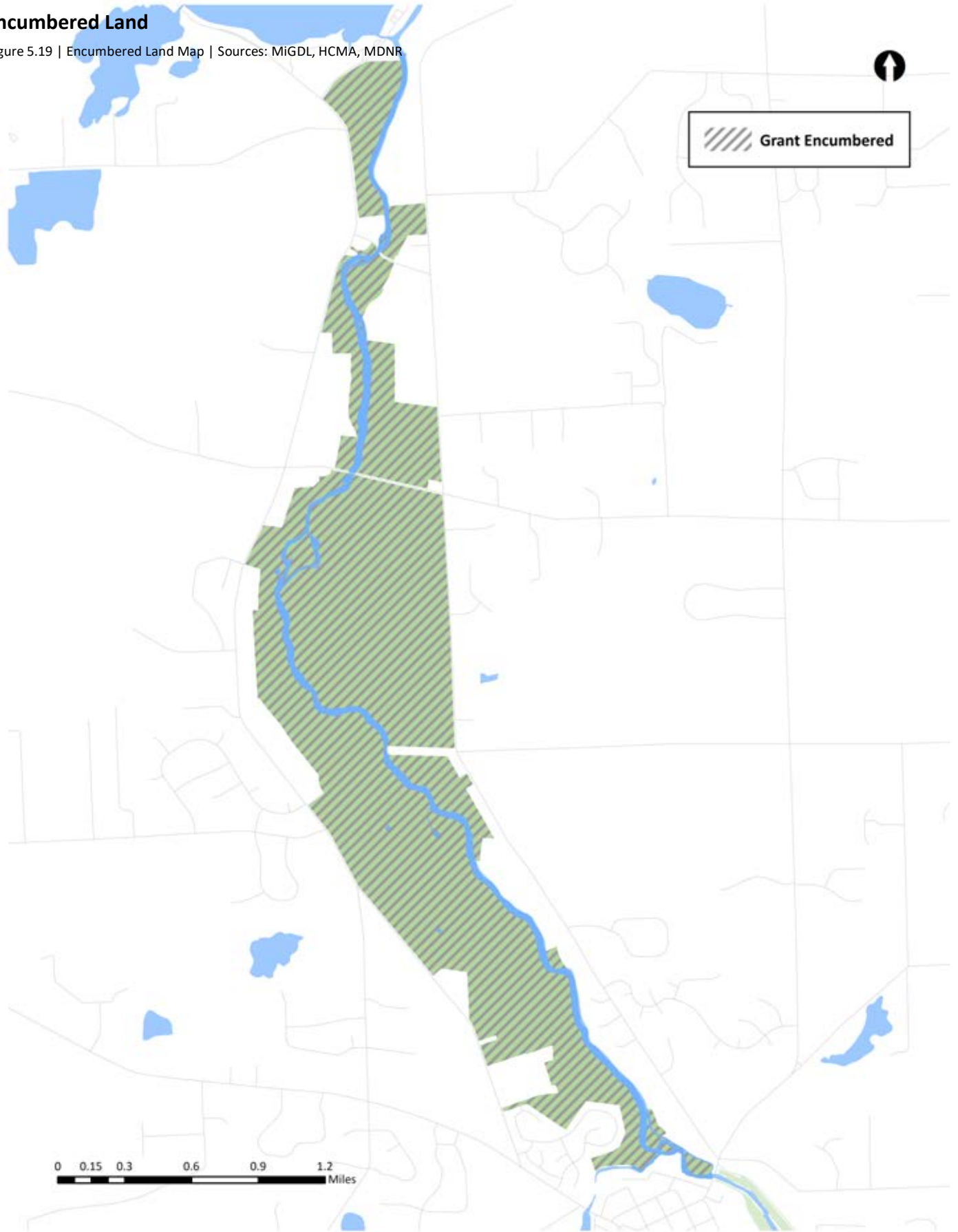
Biodiversity

Figure 5.18 | Biodiversity Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA



**Encumbered Land**

Figure 5.19 | Encumbered Land Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA, MDNR



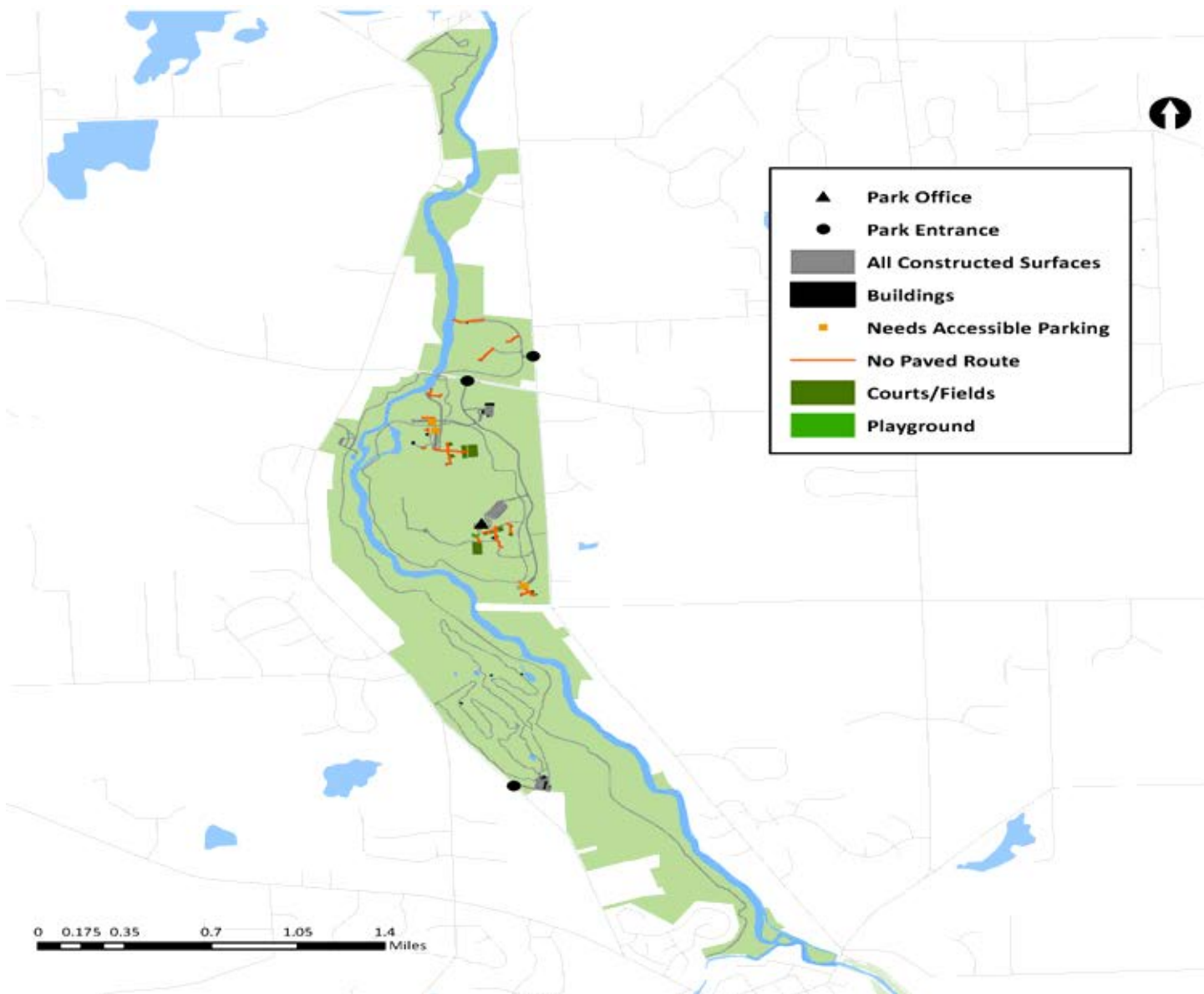
**Grant History**

Number	Name	Year	Type	Status	Amount	Current Condition
26-01146	Hudson Mills Hike-Bike Trail	1980	Development	Closed	\$ 78,500.00	General maintenance
TF03-023	Hudson Mills Metropark Hike/Bike Trail	2003	Development	Closed	\$ 361,000.00	General maintenance
TF10-040	Hudson Mills Hike/Bike Trail Development	2010	Development	Closed	\$ 500,000.00	General maintenance
TF14-0129	Hudson Mills Metropark Property Acquisition	2014	Acquisition	Active	\$75,000.00	Appraisal Needed

**Accessibility**

Facility	Accessibility ranking
Golf Course	3

Figure 5.20 | Accessibility Map | Sources: Google, HCMA





Stony Creek

**STONY CREEK METROPARK**

Stony Creek Metropark is located on the border of Oakland and Macomb counties in Southeast Michigan. It is approximately halfway between M-59 and the Lapeer County border. Three municipalities contain portions of the park: Oakland, Washington, and Shelby townships. The park also borders the City of Rochester Hills.

At its northernmost extent, Stony Creek reaches 31 Mile. To the east it reaches Mound Road, its western boundary is Sheldon Road, and to the south it extends between 25 and 26 Mile. The park is situated on the North Branch of the Clinton River.

Stony Creek features a wide variety of recreational activities, including mountain biking trails, a public campsite, and a beach with a large, modern playground. In spring 2017 the GoApe ropes course opened, allowing visitors to experience treetop adventures. Passive recreation is also an important aspect of the park, and the Inwood trails to the north of the park provide miles of gorgeous rustic hiking for those in search of an escape. Similar to Kensington, Stony Creek Lake was created through damming the Clinton River.

**Cultural History**

Stony Creek includes several interesting cultural and historical sites, such as the remains of the grand Shelden family estate. The Buckhorn Disc Golf Course sits on the site of the old Buckhorn Tavern that served residents and travelers in the 1800s, and the Inwood Trails cross the area where William Inwood Sr. discovered Native American artifacts.

The Detroit and Lake Orion Railway ran between the two cities starting in 1899, changing to Detroit United Railway after track extension to Flint and consolidation. The line was later extended all the way to Imlay City, but went out of business in 1934. Today, a line of raised ground near the Boat Launch is all that remains of the railway.

**Activities**

- Boating and fishing on 500-acre Stony Creek Lake
- Swimming at one of two beaches, inflatable water slide
- Hiking, mountain and road biking, running, inline skating
- Cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and high ropes course
- Snowboarding, sledding, and ice fishing
- Golfing at the 18-hole regulation golf course
- Playgrounds and court games (volleyball, basketball, etc.)
- Picnicking and camping with family

**Statistics**

Park Classification	
Park Type	Regional/Metropolitan
Park Size (Acres)	4435

Infrastructure	
Public bldgs / avg age	8 / 47
Service bldgs / avg age	8 / 43
Comfort stations / avg age	8 / 34
Road miles	14.32
Parking lot acreage	38.31
Playgrounds	14
Percent of park mowed	10.5
Picnic shelters	15
Sand volleyball courts	3
Baseball fields	2
Fishing platforms	1
Tennis courts	0
Ice skating rinks	2
Basketball courts	4
Public canoe/kayak launches	2

Trail Miles	
Hike-Bike Trails	7.66
Nature Trails	3.97
Rustic Hiking Trails	15.62
Equestrian Trails	0
Cross Country Ski Trails	14.71
Mountain Bike Trails	16.8
Other Paths	9.27
Total	68.03

**Community Plans**

Washington Township	
Romeo-Washington-Bruce Parks, Greenways and Open Space Plan	2011

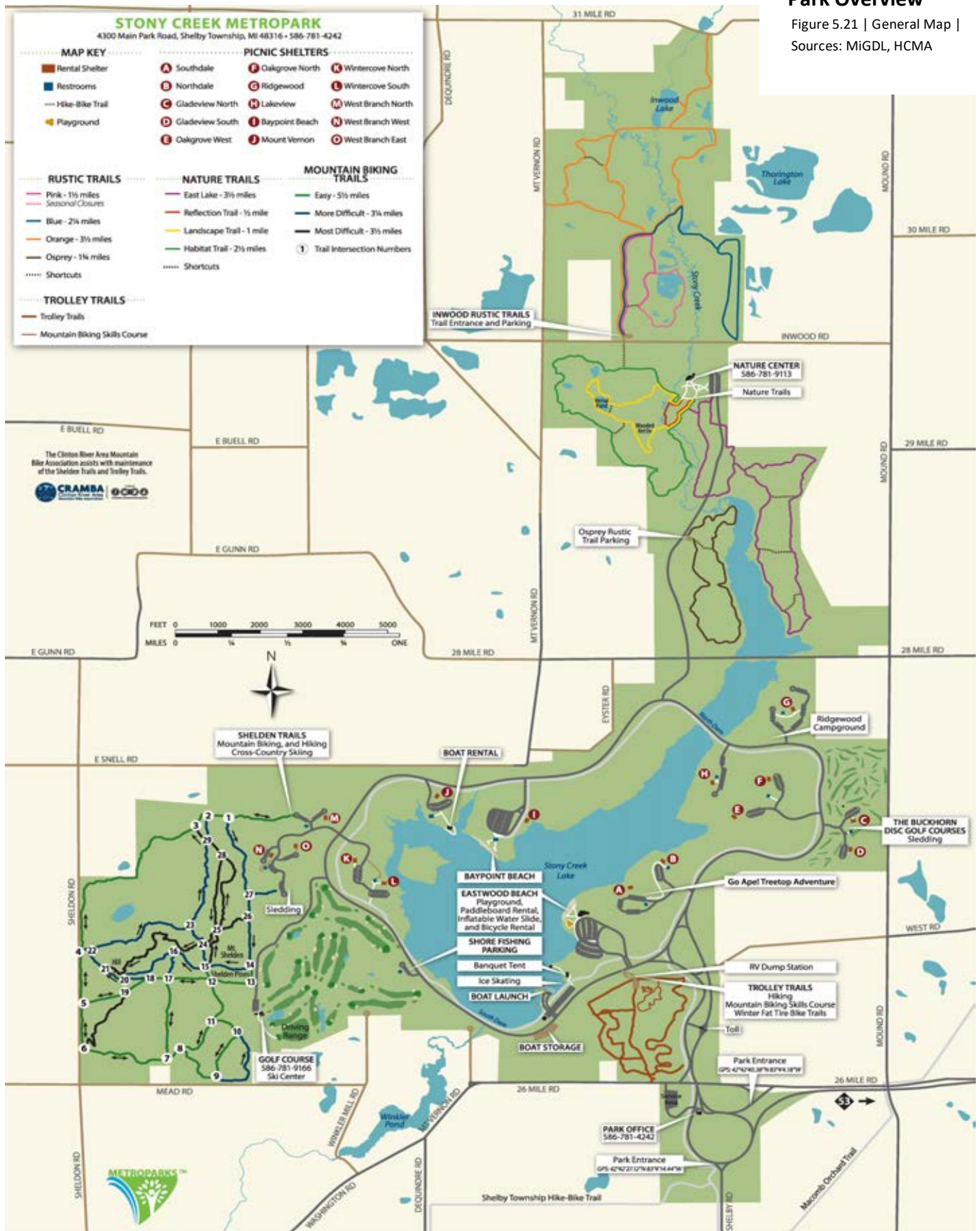
Oakland Township	
Master Plan for Parks, Recreation, Land Preservation and Trails	2009
A Community Master Plan	2005

City of Rochester Hills	
Riverbend Park Draft Master Plan Report	2013
Capital Improvement Plan	2013
Master Land Use Plan	2012
Master Thoroughfare Plan Update	2008

Shelby Township	
Capital Improvement Plan	2014
Recreation Plan	2012
Master Plan	2009

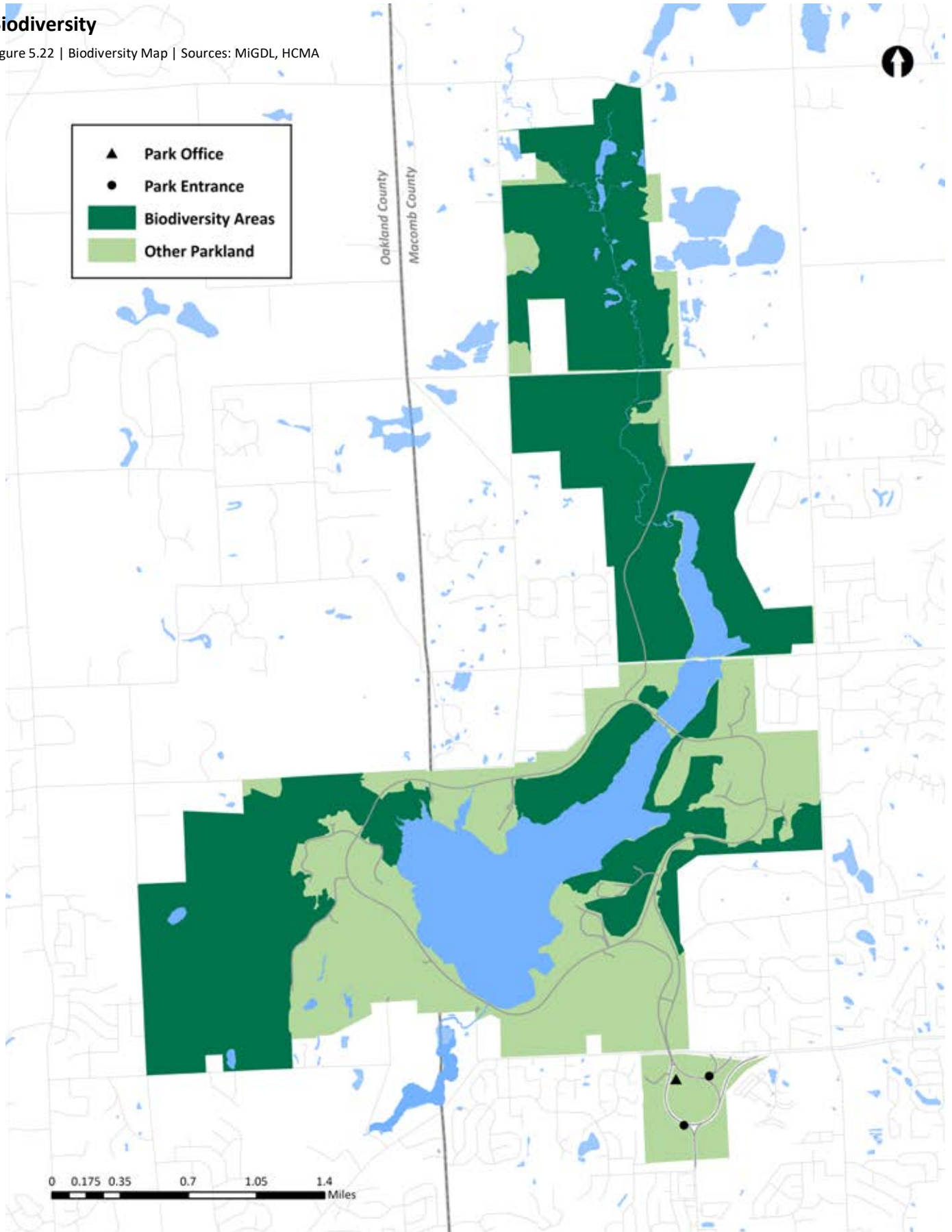
Park Overview

Figure 5.21 | General Map | Sources: MIGDL, HCMA



### Biodiversity

Figure 5.22 | Biodiversity Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA

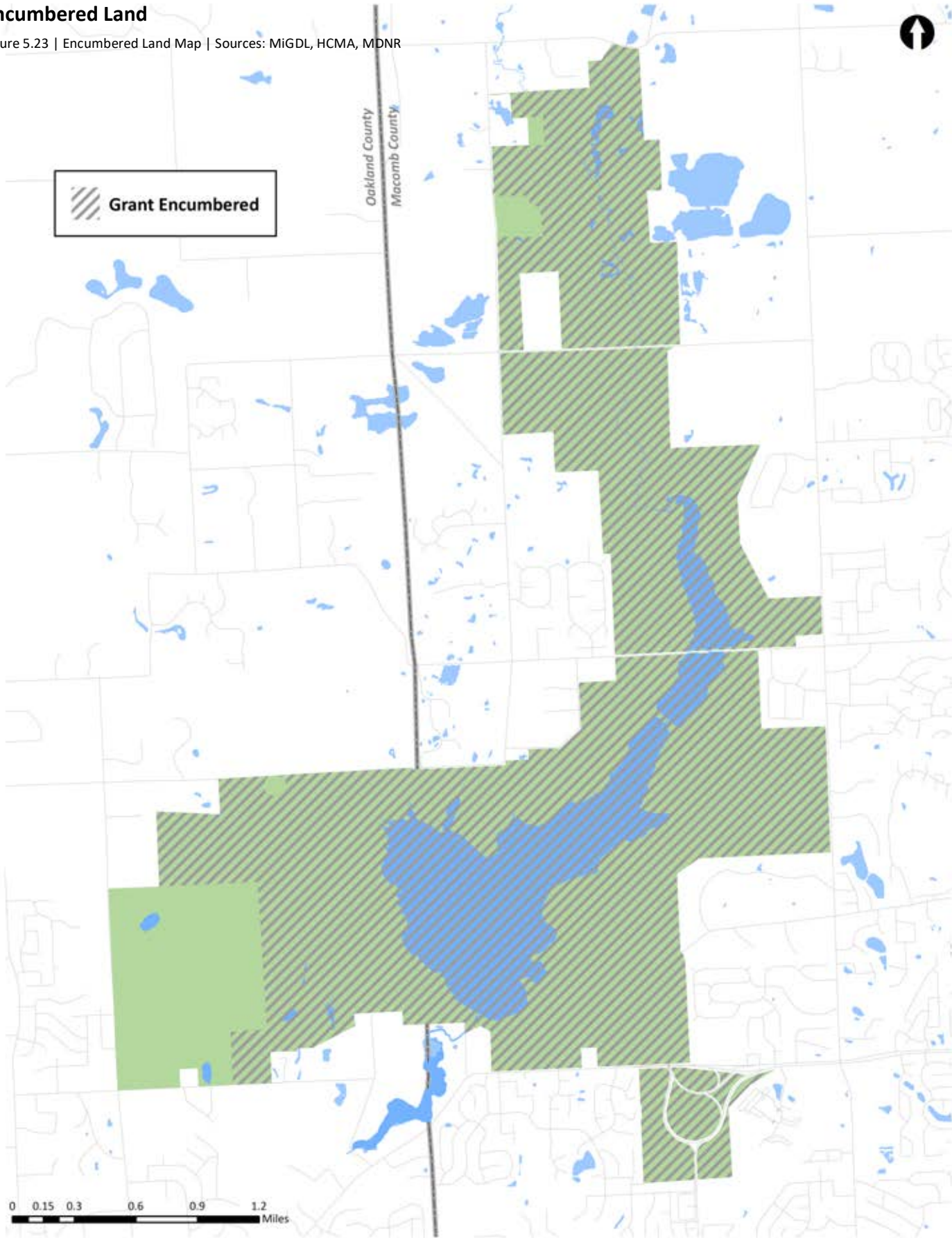




5 | RECREATION INVENTORY

Encumbered Land

Figure 5.23 | Encumbered Land Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA, MDNR



**Grant History**

Number	Name	Year	Type	Status	Amount	Current Condition
26-00022	Stony Creek West Branch - Winter Cove	1965	Development	Mitigation Com	\$ 198,050.00	Structure renovations to meet standards, additional trail facilities, basketball court
26-00059	Stony Creek Enlargement #1	1967	Acquisition	Mitigation Com	\$ 144,049.00	DEQ conservation easement remains public recreation
26-00070	Stony Creek Metropolitan Park #2	1967	Development	Mitigation Com	\$ 142,230.00	Upgraded boat launch complex per modern standards, additional beach amenities added
26-00618	Stony Creek Hike-Bike Trail	1975	Development	Mitigation Com	\$ 50,000.00	General maintenance
26-00857	Stony Creek Hike/Bike Trail	1977	Development	Mitigation Com	\$ 50,000.00	General maintenance

**Accessibility**

Facility	Accessibility ranking
Fishing Pier - Boat Rental	2
Boat Launch	2
Boat Rental	2
Golf Course	3





5 | RECREATION INVENTORY

Willow

**WILLOW METROPARK**

Willow Metropark is located in Wayne County, near its southern border with Monroe County. All of the park is within Huron Township.

At its northernmost extent, Willow nearly reaches Huron River Drive. To the east it runs along Willow Road, its western boundary is Waltz Road, and to the south it extends to Willow Road. All the active recreation in the park is located east of I-275. The park is situated on the Lower Huron River, and contains part of the trail running from Lower Huron Metropark to Lake Erie Metropark, a segment of the Iron Belle Trail.

Willow is primarily used for swimming, biking and hiking, picnicking, paddling, fishing, sledding, and disc golf. This is one of the most densely developed parks, featuring a number of recreational facilities in a relatively small land area. Some facilities, surrounding the Willow Pool, were built for a different era and different recreational trends and will need to be reimagined through the planning process. The access it provides to both the I-275 trail and the Lower Huron to Lake Erie trail make it an important non-motorized crossroads.

**Cultural History**

The portion of the park near the north entrance was part of the Wyandot Reservation from 1818-1842. A cabin once stood here where Mary McKee, granddaughter of a Wyandot chief, was born in 1838. She would remain here until 1843, when her family was relocated to Kansas. Later, she would return to the Midwest and share her knowledge of Wyandot culture and history with an anthropologist.

Willow Metropark contains a historic cemetery, known as the Huron Township Cemetery or “Fay and Smith Cemetery.” It is located between Big Bend and Indian Ridge.

**Activities**

- Biking, rollerblading, or walking the paved trail
- Swimming in zero-depth entry pool with water slide, basketball, and spray features
- Taking family to the lit sledding hills
- Cross country skiing
- Canoeing and kayaking
- Playing disc golf, basketball, volleyball, and more
- Enjoying a round of golf
- Sledding and ice fishing in winter

**Statistics**

Park Classification	
Park Type	Regional/Metropolitan
Park Size (Acres)	1532

Infrastructure	
Public bldgs / avg age	6 / 37
Service bldgs / avg age	8 / 34
Comfort stations / avg age	7 / 34
Road miles	6.08
Parking lot acreage	16.91
Playgrounds	10
Percent of park mowed	21
Picnic shelters	8
Sand volleyball courts	2
Baseball fields	1
Fishing platforms	1
Tennis courts	0
Ice skating rinks	0
Basketball courts	2
Public canoe/kayak launches	1

Trail Miles	
Hike-Bike Trails	7.7
Nature Trails	0
Rustic Hiking Trails	0
Equestrian Trails	0
Cross Country Ski Trails	3.85
Mountain Bike Trails	0
Other Paths	8.59
Total	20.14

**Community Plans**

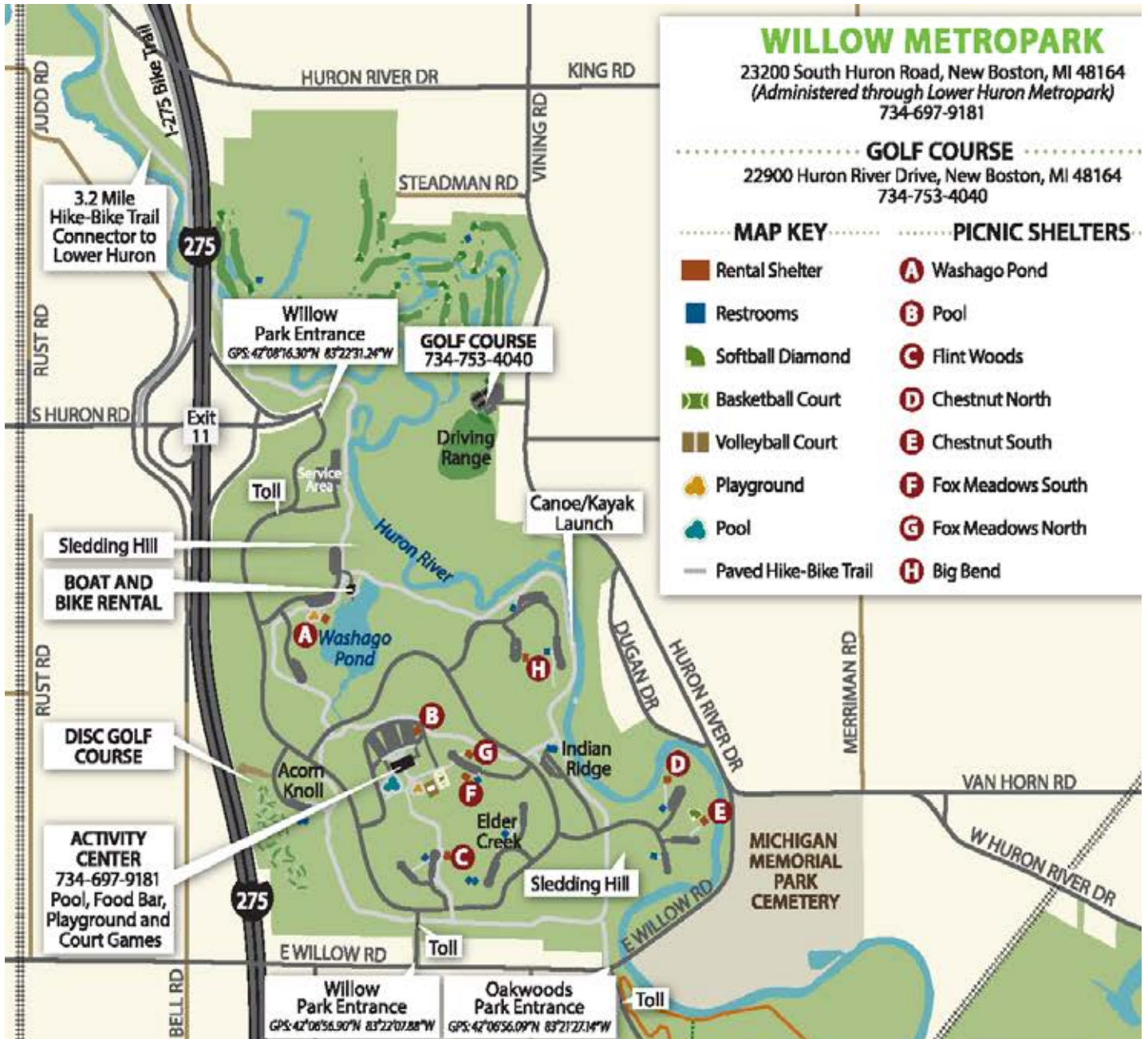
Huron Township	
Parks and Recreation Master Plan	2013
Master Plan	2004





Park Overview

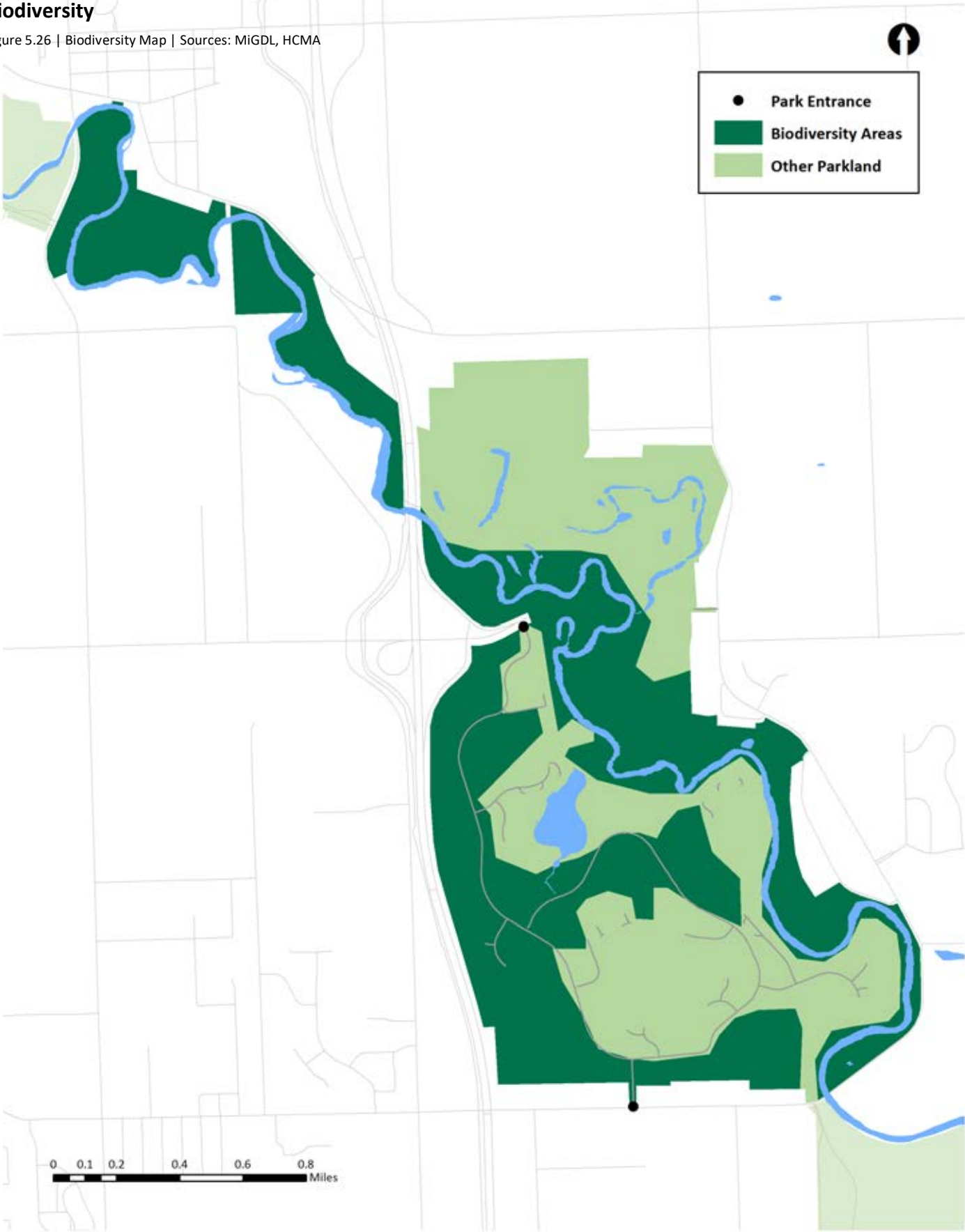
Figure 5.25 | General Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA



5 | RECREATION INVENTORY

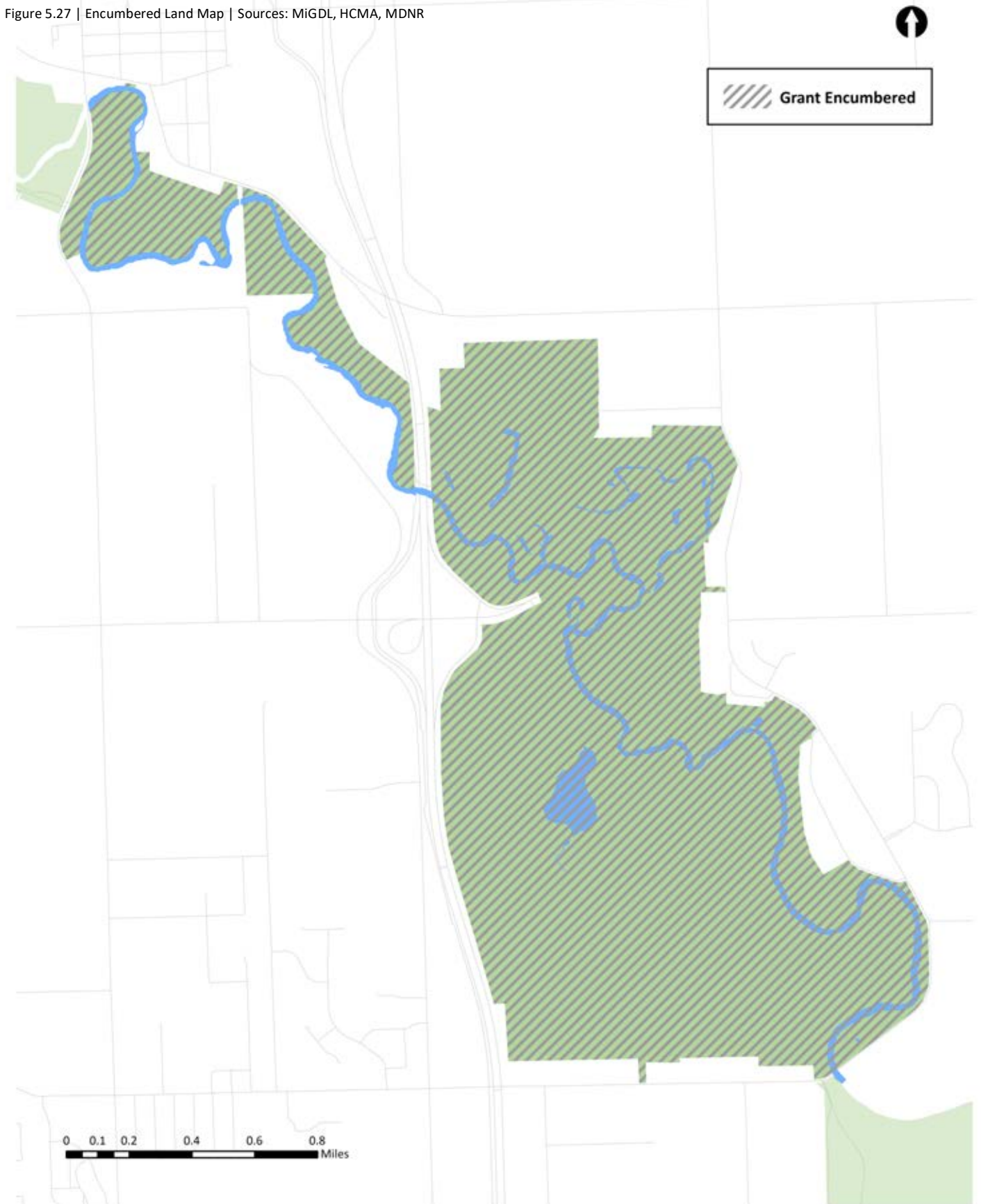
Biodiversity

Figure 5.26 | Biodiversity Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA



**Encumbered Land**

Figure 5.27 | Encumbered Land Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA, MDNR





5 | RECREATION INVENTORY

Willow

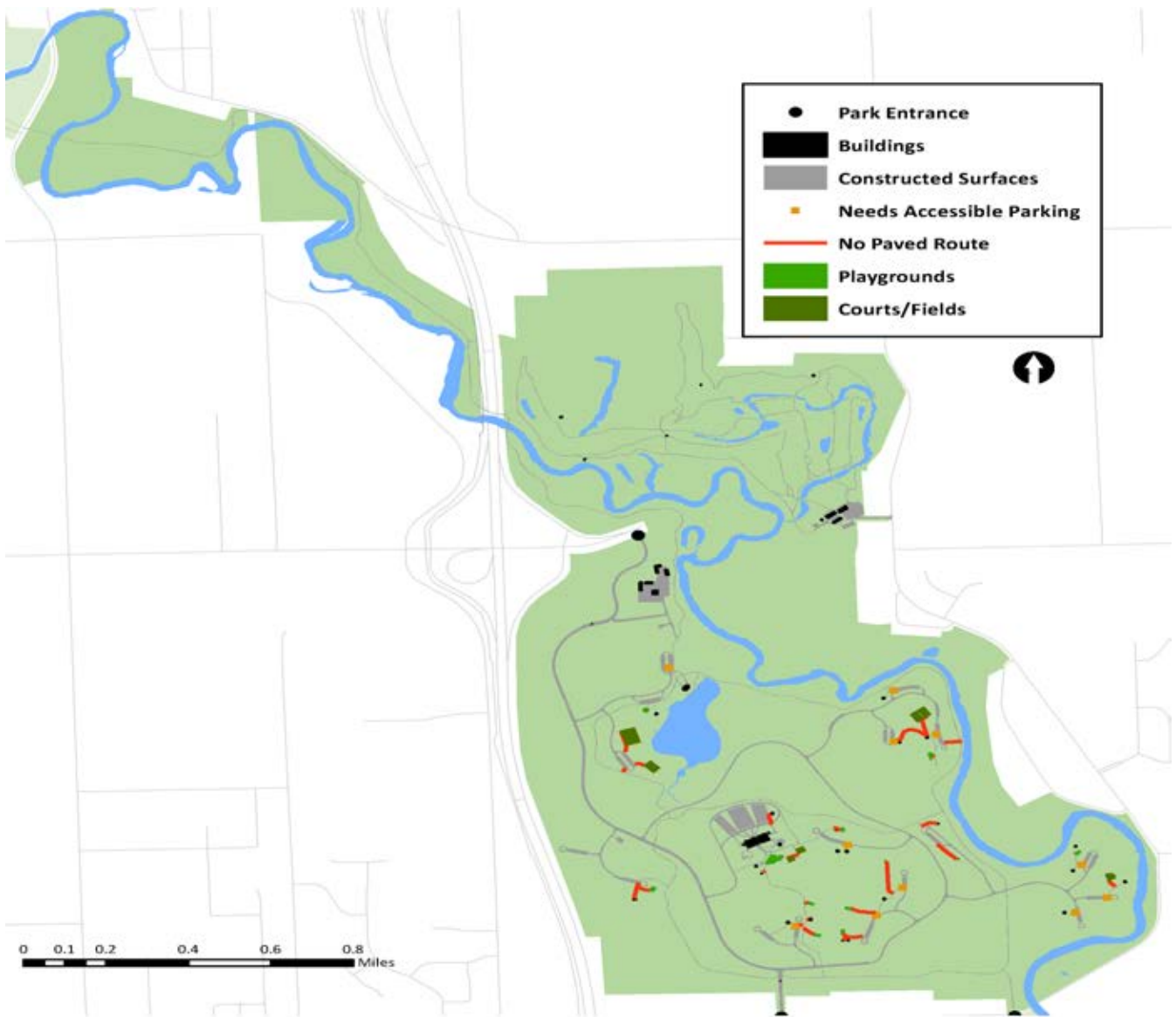
Grant History

Number	Name	Year	Type	Status	Amount	Current Conditions
BF89-196	Willow Metropark - Wayne County	1989	Development	Closed	\$ 225,000.00	Renovations and repurposing of buildings being planned, no conversion will take place
BF90-170	Willow Metropark Hike/Bike Trail	1990	Development	Closed	\$ 225,000.00	General maintenance

Accessibility

Facility	Accessibility ranking
Fishing Pier - Washago Pond	1
Golf Course	3
Pool	3

Figure 5.28 | Accessibility Map | Sources: Google, HCMA



Oakwoods

**OAKWOODS METROPARK**

Oakwoods Metropark is located in southern Wayne County, near the border of Monroe County. The park is mostly within Huron Township, with a small section extending into the City of Flat Rock.

At its northernmost extent, Oakwoods reaches Huron River Drive. To the east it abuts the Huron River, it extends to the west near Romine Road, and to the south it reaches the county line. The park is situated on the Lower Huron River, and includes a portion of the trail running from Lower Huron Metropark to Lake Erie Metropark, a segment of the Iron Belle Trail.

Oakwoods is one of the least-developed parks in the Metroparks system. It focuses on passive recreation, trails, and protection of natural resources. It contains far fewer facilities than other parks, and is administered out of Lower Huron Metropark.

This park is primarily used for biking and hiking, paddling, picnicking, shore fishing, and horseback riding. The Nature Center is another important component of Oakwoods, providing interpretive programs for visitors. Oakwoods plays a unique role in the string of southern Metroparks due to its natural character. Keeping the park largely preserved and undeveloped is a priority.

**Cultural History**

The vast majority of the park was part of the Wyandot Reservation from 1818-1842 under the Treaty of St. Mary's. Numerous archaeological digs have been performed within the park by staff and other experts. These digs have revealed both historic and prehistoric artifacts, showing that the Native Americans have been utilizing this site for thousands of years.

The center of the park is the former site of a meat packing plant. This area contains a wealth of historical artifacts, many dating back 50-100 years, when there were houses located along the Old South Huron Rd.

**Activities**

- Biking, rollerblading, or walking the paved trail
- Enjoying nature and birdwatching
- Picnicking with family and friends
- Canoeing and kayaking
- Shorefishing and Voyageur canoe outings
- Visiting with Hawkeye the Hawk
- Equestrian trails

**Statistics**

Park Classification	
Park Type	Regional/Metropolitan
Park Size (Acres)	1715

Infrastructure	
Public bldgs / age	1 / 43
Service bldgs / avg age	1
Comfort stations / avg age	0
Road miles	3.04
Parking lot acreage	4.05
Playgrounds	0
Percent of park mowed	3.5
Picnic shelters	0
Sand volleyball courts	0
Baseball fields	0
Fishing platforms	0
Tennis courts	0
Ice skating rinks	0
Basketball courts	0
Public canoe/kayak launches	2

Trail Miles	
Hike-Bike Trails	3.88
Nature Trails	4.69
Rustic Hiking Trails	0
Equestrian Trails	6.82
Cross Country Ski Trails	2.89
Mountain Bike Trails	0
Other Paths	0.59
Total	18.87

**Community Plans**

Huron Township	
Parks and Recreation Master Plan	2013
Master Plan	2004

City of Flat Rock	
Master Plan	2007



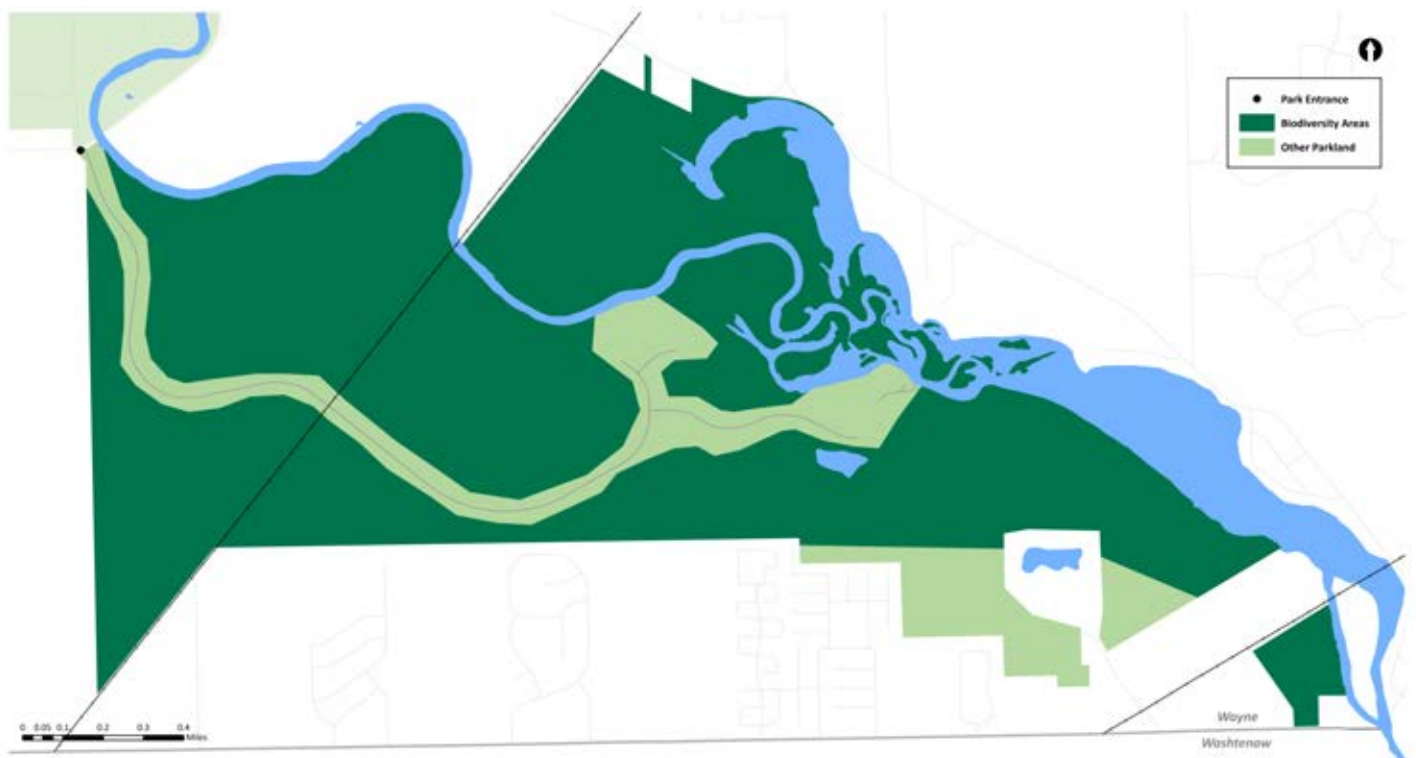
Park Overview

Figure 5.29 | General Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA



Biodiversity

Figure 5.30 | Biodiversity Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA





**Encumbered Land**

No land is encumbered in this park.

**Grant History**

No grants have been received for this park.



5 | RECREATION INVENTORY

**LAKE ERIE METROPARK**

Lake Erie Metropark is located in Wayne County, on its southern border with Monroe County. Most of the park is within Brownstown Township, with the northern section extending into the City of Gibraltar.

At its northernmost extent, Lake Erie reaches South Gibraltar Road. To the east is Lake Erie’s shoreline, its western boundary is Jefferson Road, and to the south it abuts Pointe Mouillee State Game Area. The park is situated at the mouth of the Huron River.

A wide variety of recreational activities are available at Lake Erie Metropark. The park is notable for its expanse of beautiful shoreline, much of which can be enjoyed on the hike-bike trail, nature trails, or boardwalks. It is a nationally recognized birding area with high-quality habitat. At the north end of the park, the Great Wave Pool and Food Bar has been drawing families to enjoy summer fun for decades.

**Cultural History**

The village of Brownstown moved locations several times during its history, but prior to the War of 1812 it was located partially with the northern border of the park. Various projectile points have been found along the shoreline, suggesting a former Native American presence.

French Long Lots, also known as ribbon farms, can be seen along the southern portion of the park. These properties are long and narrow, with the short border along a waterfront. Consequently, all properties had water access, a valuable commodity for the newly arrived.

The cannon monument located at the north end of the park is directly related to the efforts of Dr. Hal C. Wyman. A prominent physician in late 19<sup>th</sup> century Detroit, he was also a history buff. Using his own funding, he secured the cannons for a monument honoring soldiers from the War of 1812.

**Activities**

- Biking, rollerblading, or walking
- Exploring the Marshlands Museum and nature trails
- Spending a day at the wave pool and picnicking
- Boating and kayaking
- Cross country skiing in winter
- Birdwatching and shore fishing
- Playing tennis, volleyball, basketball, and more
- Enjoying a round of golf

**Statistics**

Park Classification	
Park Type	Regional/Metropolitan
Park Size (Acres)	1607

Infrastructure	
Public bldgs / avg age	8 / 29
Service bldgs / avg age	9 / 24
Comfort stations / avg age	2 / 5
Road miles	4.95
Parking lot acreage	21.79
Playgrounds	3
Percent of park mowed	12
Picnic shelters	5
Sand volleyball courts	2
Baseball fields	1
Fishing platforms	1
Tennis courts	2
Ice skating rinks	0
Basketball courts	2
Public canoe/kayak launches	1

Trail Miles	
Hike-Bike Trails	3
Nature Trails	3.93
Rustic Hiking Trails	0
Equestrian Trails	0
Cross Country Ski Trails	3.85
Mountain Bike Trails	0
Other Paths	8.85
Total	19.63

**Community Plans**

City of Gibraltar	
Parks and Recreation Master Plan	2013
Master Plan	2002

Brownstown Township	
Recreation Campus Master Plan	2010
Master Plan	2008





Park Overview

Figure 5.33 | General Map | Sources: MIGDL, HCMA

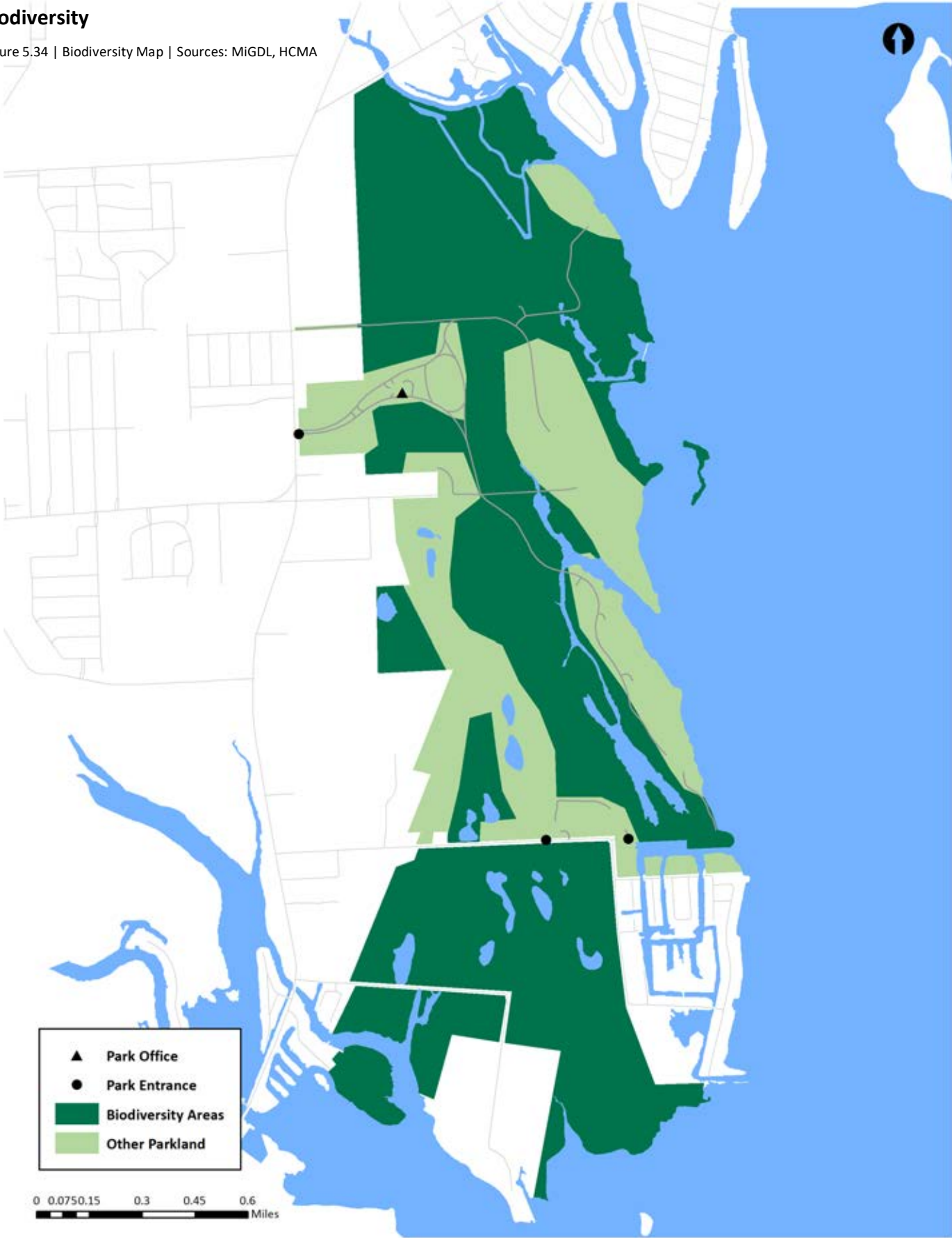




5 | RECREATION INVENTORY

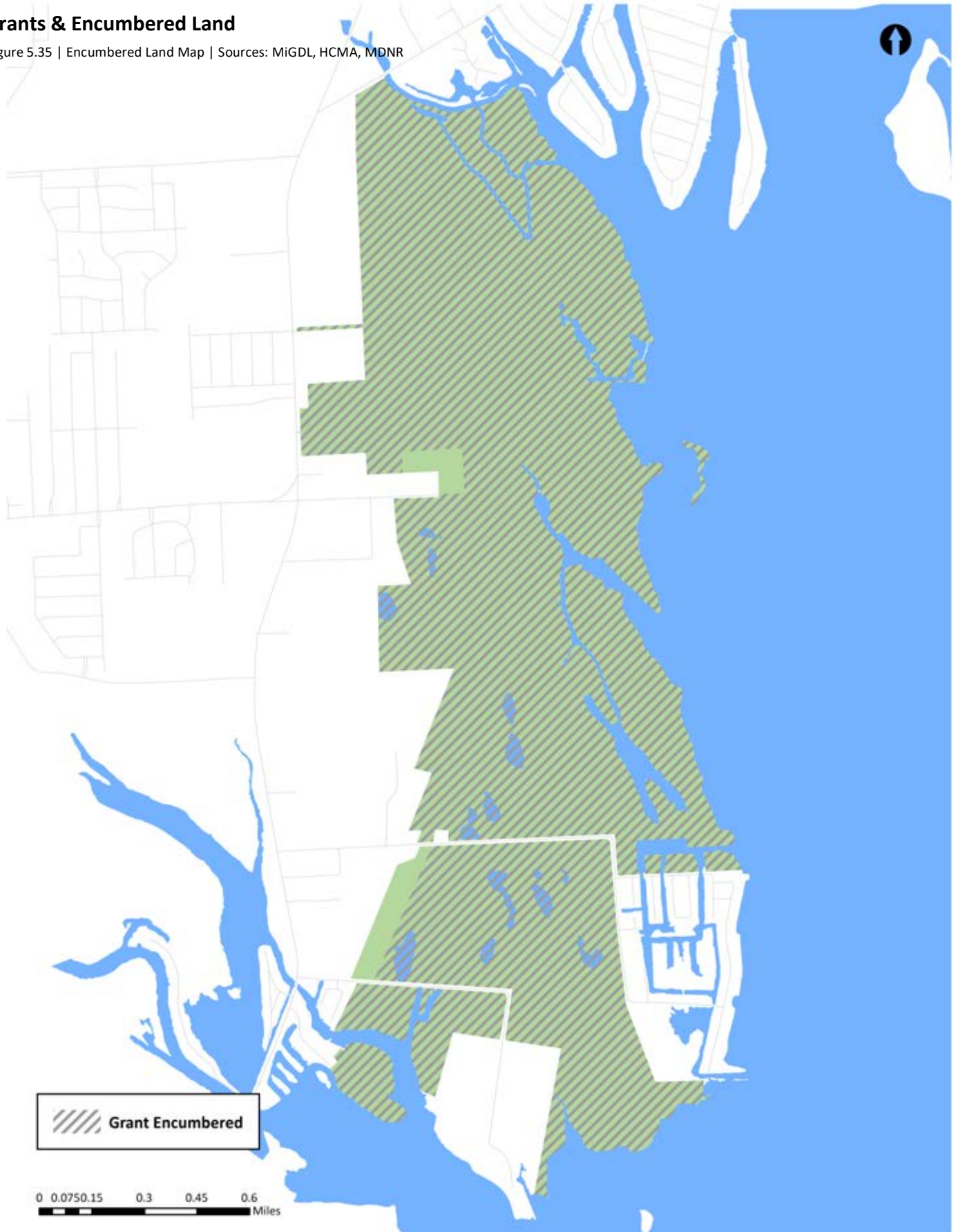
Biodiversity

Figure 5.34 | Biodiversity Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA



### Grants & Encumbered Land

Figure 5.35 | Encumbered Land Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA, MDNR





5 | RECREATION INVENTORY

Lake Erie

Grant History

Number	Name	Year	Type	Status	Amount	Current Condition
26-01383	Lake Erie Metropark Play Area	1985	Development	Closed	\$ 175,000.00	Renovated playground and additional amenities added to wave pool along with minor upgrades to pool facility
BF90-197	Lake Erie Metropark Wildfowlers Museum - Ph. 2	1990	Development	Closed	\$ 750,000.00	Continued use as museum/nature center
BF93-152	Lake Erie MP - Trail	1993	Development	Closed	\$ 115,500.00	General maintenance –no conversion
TF95-088	Shoreline Trail	1995	Development	Closed	\$ 375,000.00	General maintenance—no conversion
TF99-117	Lake Erie Metropark Marina Point Fishing Site	1999	Development	Closed	\$ 180,000.00	Continued use –no conversion
TF01-041	Lake Erie Metropark Hike-Bike/Shoreline Trail	2001	Development	Closed	\$ 199,800.00	General maintenance– no conversion

Accessibility

Facility	Accessibility ranking
Fishing Pier - Marina Point	3
Boat Launch	3
Marina	2
Golf Course	3
Wave Pool	4





**WOLCOTT MILL METROPARK**

Wolcott Mill Metropark is located in Macomb County in Southeast Michigan. It is approximately halfway between M-59 and the Lapeer County border. This is the largest Metropark in the system to be located solely within one municipality, in this case Ray Township.

At its northernmost extent Wolcott Mill reaches 31 Mile. Its eastern boundary is Ray Center Road, to the west it nearly reaches Romeo Plank, and to the south it extends to 26 Mile. The park is situated on the North Branch of the Clinton River.

Unlike other Metroparks, the nodes of activity in Wolcott Mill are not connected by roads. Each one is accessible through a separate park entrance, and to drive from one to another requires exiting the park. Although these nodes will likely remain separated for vehicular traffic in the near future, plans are underway to improve non-motorized connections among the various centers of activity.

The historic nature of the park means that the average building age is much higher than that of other parks in the system. Several date back to the mid-1800s. Preservation of these structures is important and pose special maintenance challenges.

**Cultural History**

The gristmill that gives this park its name dates back to the mid -1800s, when milling was an essential industry in Michigan and Macomb County. The mill was built in 1845 by one of the important early families in the county, the Freemans, and passed through several other hands before being sold to Frederick Beech Wolcott in 1878.

After Wolcott’s death in 1921, his children continued operation of the mill, converting to electrical power and selling flour to bakeries in Detroit. The mill closed in 1968, was briefly planned as an agricultural campus for Macomb Community College, suffered vandalism and the removal of the house structure, and was transferred to HCMA ownership in 1979.

**Activities**

- Hiking
- Horseback riding
- Camping
- Learning about farm animals and history
- Picnicking
- Photography

**Statistics**

Park Classification	
Park Type	Regional/Metropolitan
Park Size (Acres)	2850

Infrastructure	
Public bldgs / avg age	10 / 91
Service bldgs / avg age	4 / 72
Comfort stations / avg age	2 / 114
Road miles	1.82
Parking lot acreage	4.53
Playgrounds	1
Percent of park mowed	2.1
Picnic shelters	3
Sand volleyball courts	1
Baseball fields	0
Fishing platforms	1
Ice skating rinks	0
Basketball courts	0
Public canoe/kayak launches	0

Trail Miles	
Hike-Bike Trails	0
Nature Trails	0
Rustic Hiking Trails	3.03
Equestrian Trails	8.63
Cross Country Ski Trails	0
Mountain Bike Trails	0
Other Paths	5.33
Total	16.99

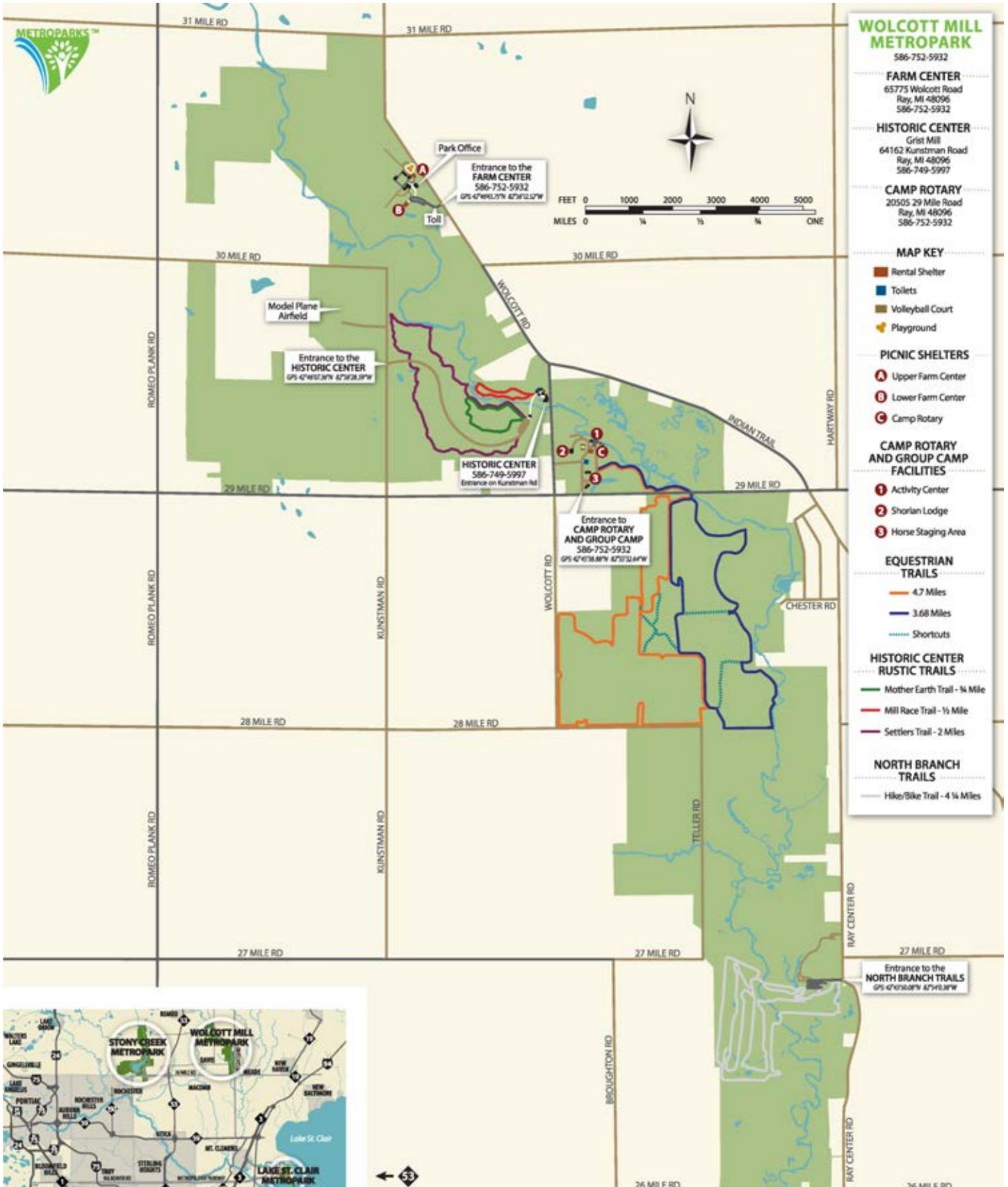
**Community Plans**

Ray Township	
Master Plan Update Working Paper	2016



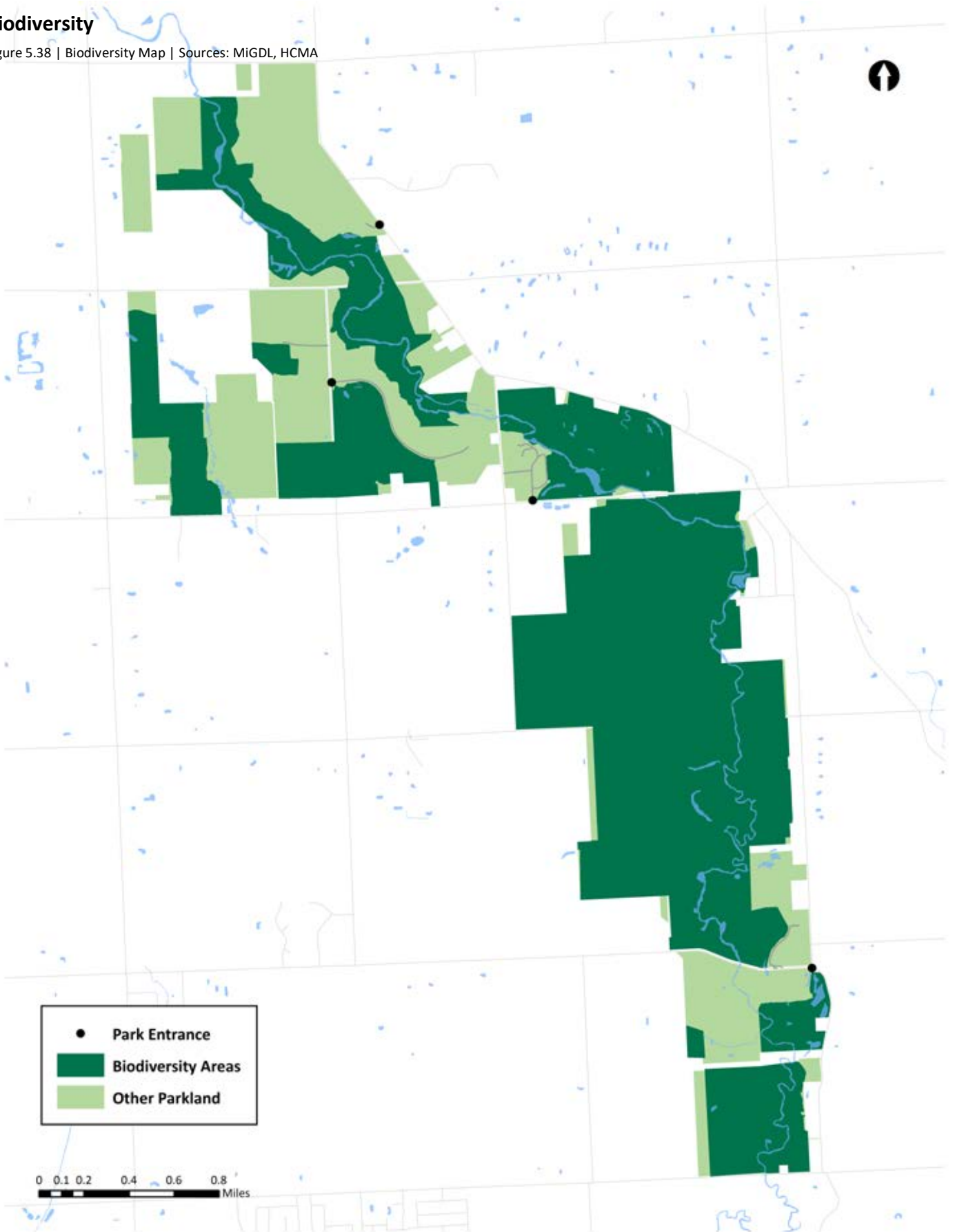
Park Overview

Figure 5.37 | General Map | Sources: MIGDL, HCMA



### Biodiversity

Figure 5.38 | Biodiversity Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA



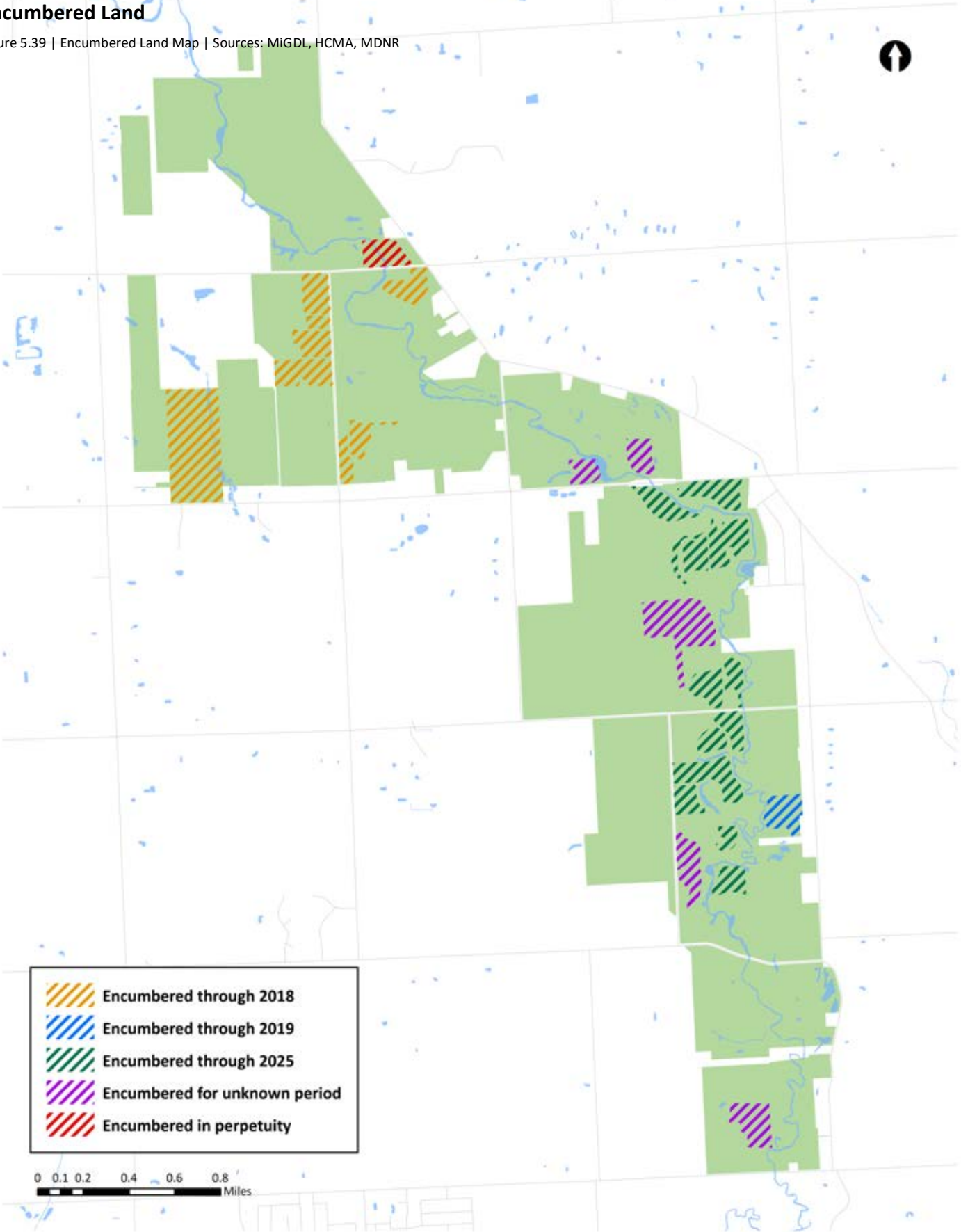


5 | RECREATION INVENTORY

Wolcott Mill

Encumbered Land

Figure 5.39 | Encumbered Land Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA, MDNR



**Grant History**

Number	Name	Year	Encumbered through	Type	Amount	Current Condition
26-00857	Conversion Mitigation—Stony Creek	2012	Perpetuity	Mitigation	-	No conversion of use
-	USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Native Prairie Restoration*	2008	2018	Restoration	\$16,653	Maintained
-	EPA GLRI Floodplain Restoration*	2016	unknown	Restoration	\$352,147	Ongoing, maintained
-	DEQ Section 9 Grant /USFWS Floodplain Restoration*	2015-16	2025	Restoration	\$290,960	Ongoing, maintained
-	DTE Community Forests Grant Forest Restoration*	2016	2019	Restoration	\$6,186	Maintained

\*These grants were not awarded through the LWCF, Trust Fund, Clean Michigan, or Recreation Bond programs.

**Accessibility**

Facility	Accessibility ranking
Fishing Pier - Farm Center	3

Figure 5.40 | Accessibility Map | Sources: Google, HCMA



**INDIAN SPRINGS METROPARK**

Indian Springs Metropark is located in the western half of Oakland County. Most of the park is within Springfield Township, but the southern portion extends into White Lake Township.

At its northernmost extent, Indian Springs nearly reaches Big Lake Road. To the east it runs along the railroad line and reaches Crosby lake, to the west it extends beyond Hillsboro Road, and its southern boundary is White Lake Road and Pontiac Lake State Recreation Area. The park is situated on the Upper Huron watershed, at the headwaters of the river.

Indian Springs is primarily used for hiking, golf, cross country skiing, and family outings. The Spray 'n' Play has several children's attractions for family enjoyment, such as a maze, playground, and splash pad. The Environmental Discovery Center features an underwater pond viewing room and helps visitors of all ages learn about the high-quality habitat preserved through this park. It also provides a beautiful rental space for special events.

**Cultural History**

About 12,000 years ago, Native Americans were the first to walk the land around Indian Springs Metropark, creating foot trails through what is now Oakland County. During the 1800s, European settlers arrived to find land rich with rivers, lakes, prairies, and dense white pine forests – perfect for farms, new homes and settlements. The foot trails became roads while prairies became farms. Pine forests were cut and non-native plants and animals were introduced, changing the character of the land.

In 1833, the Garner brothers from New York traveled the foot trails from Pontiac, slept outside overnight, and likely built a temporary shelter on the way to their new property. They were one of the first families to settle in this area.

**Activities**

- Cross country skiing in winter
- Exploring the Environmental Discovery Center
- Strolling the nature trails and native plant garden
- Picnicking with family and friends
- Horseback riding
- Spending time at the Spray 'n' Play
- Enjoying a round of golf
- Holding weddings and events at the banquet facility

**Statistics**

Park Classification	
Park Type	Regional/Metropolitan
Park Size (Acres)	2509
Infrastructure	
Public bldgs / avg age	3 / 24
Service bldgs / avg age	5 / 32
Comfort stations / age	1 / 21
Road miles	3.44
Parking lot acreage	4.73
Playgrounds	2
Percent of park mowed	2.7
Picnic shelters	5
Sand volleyball courts	2
Baseball fields	1
Fishing platforms	0
Tennis courts	0
Ice skating rinks	0
Basketball courts	0
Public canoe/kayak launches	0
Trail Miles	
Hike-Bike Trails	5.08
Nature Trails	7.27
Rustic Hiking Trails	0
Equestrian Trails	2.81
Cross Country Ski Trails	11.49
Mountain Bike Trails	0
Other Paths	6.98
Total	33.63

**Community Plans**

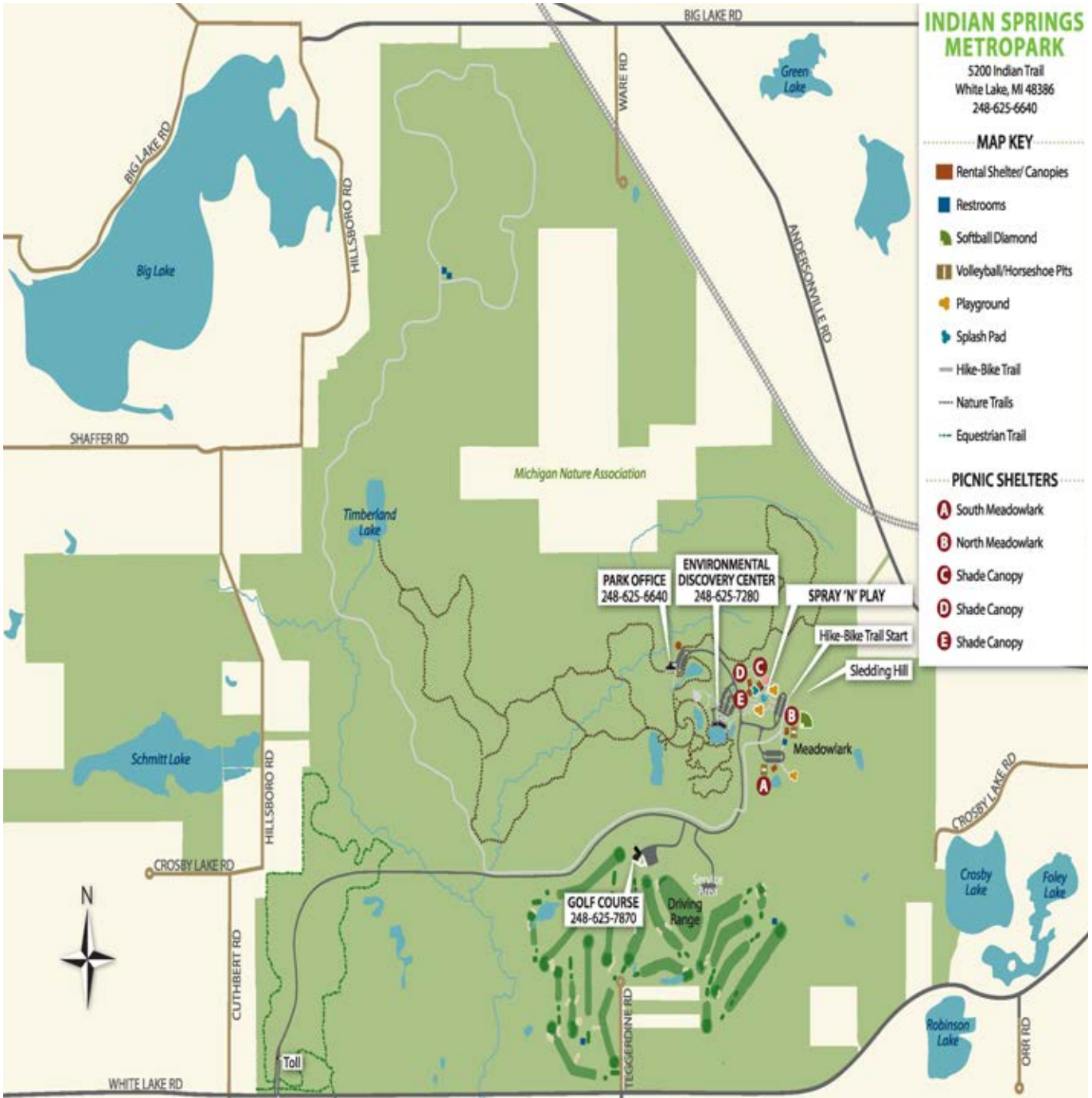
Springfield Township	
Parks and Recreation Plan	2013
Master Plan	2009
Shiawassee Basin Preserve Master Plan	2003
White Lake Township	
Capital Improvements Plan	2015
Recreation Plan	2013
Master Plan for Land Use	2010





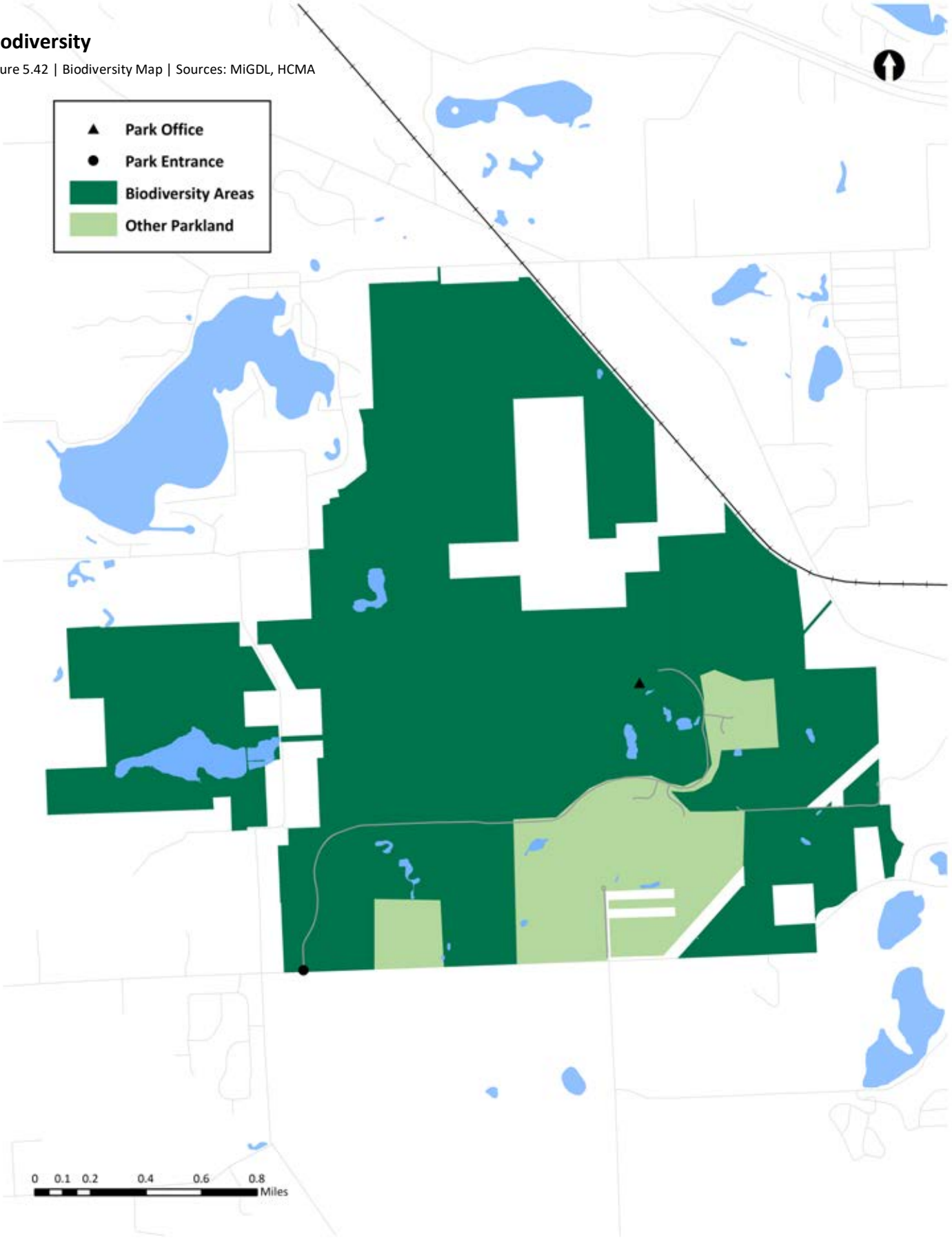
**Park Overview**

Figure 5.41 | General Map | Sources: MIGDL, HCMA



**Biodiversity**

Figure 5.42 | Biodiversity Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA



**Encumbered Land**

Figure 5.43 | Encumbered Land Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA, MDNR



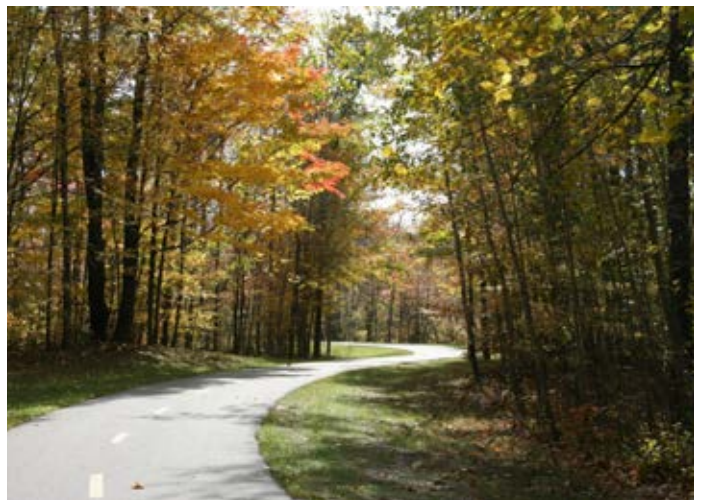


**Grant History**

Number	Name	Year	Type	Status	Amount	Current Conditions
26-01490	Indian Springs Nature Trail	1992	Development	Closed	\$ 65,000.00	Amenities added
TF07-028	Indian Springs Metropark Land Acquisition	2007	Acquisition	Closed	\$ 1,426,000.00	Continued use for hiking and nature observation

**Accessibility**

Facility	Accessibility ranking
Golf Course	3



**HURON MEADOWS METROPARK**

Huron Meadows Metropark is located in Livingston County, near its southern border with Washtenaw County. All of the park is within Greek Oak Township, and it abuts Hamburg Township.

At its northernmost extent, Huron Meadows reaches Maltby Road. To the east it borders Whitmore Lake Road and US-23, to the west it extends about halfway between Rickett and Hamburg Roads, and its southern boundary is Winans Lake Road. The park is situated on the Chain of Lakes creekshed within the Huron River watershed.

Huron Meadows is primarily used for hiking, fishing, paddling, skiing, picnic outings, and golf. Cross-country skiing has become an extremely popular activity at this park due to the extensive, well-maintained trails. This requires trail maintenance and grooming, as well as snow-making in dry periods.

**Cultural History**

The area enclosed by Huron Meadows Metropark was the first land to be tilled by settlers in Livingston County. Stephen Lee and Almon Maltby arrived in Michigan from New York to take advantage of the fertile soils. Lee built a saw mill on Ore Creek, north of the park, in what is now Downtown Brighton. Their children, Hannibal Lee and Henry Maltby, purchased more land in the area for agriculture and grazing. Other land holders purchased land south of where Hammel road is now, but the 1832 Black Hawk War in Illinois and Wisconsin stirred fears, and the land changed hands several times.

The land that is now the golf course and Maltby Lake area was acquired in 1977, completing Huron Meadows Metropark. The herd of cattle and bison that grazed here are gone, replaced by white-tailed deer and Canada geese. Because the land was never heavily developed, many portions of the park are rich in biodiversity.

**Activities**

- Exploring the rustic hiking trails
- Cross country skiing in winter
- Canoeing and kayaking on the Huron
- Picnicking with family and friends
- Fishing on the pier
- Playing volleyball, baseball, soccer, and more
- Enjoying a round of golf

**Statistics**

Park Classification	
Park Type	Regional/Metropolitan
Park Size (Acres)	1573

Infrastructure	
Public bldgs / age	1 / 15
Service bldgs / avg age	6 / 50
Comfort stations / avg age	2 / 13
Road miles	2.12
Parking lot acreage	2.36
Playgrounds	2
Percent of park mowed	2.8
Picnic shelters	3
Sand volleyball courts	2
Baseball fields	1
Fishing platforms	2
Tennis courts	0
Ice skating rinks	0
Basketball courts	0
Public canoe/kayak launches	1

Trail Miles	
Hike-Bike Trails	0
Nature Trails	0
Rustic Hiking Trails	9.45
Equestrian Trails	0
Cross Country Ski Trails	12.67
Mountain Bike Trails	0
Other Paths	5.12
Total	27.24

**Community Plans**

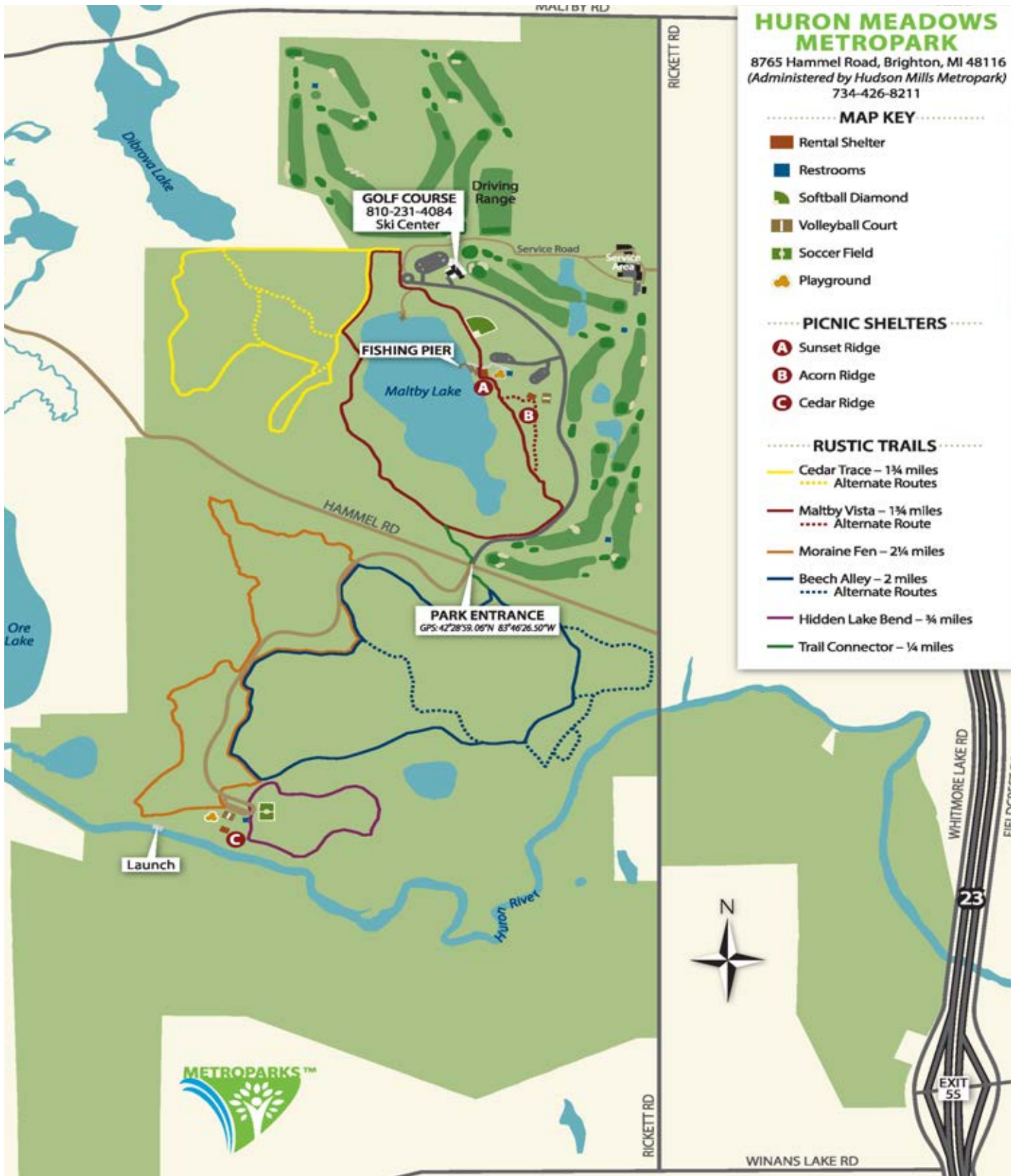
Green Oak Township	
Parks and Recreation Master Plan	2015
Master Plan	2014





Park Overview

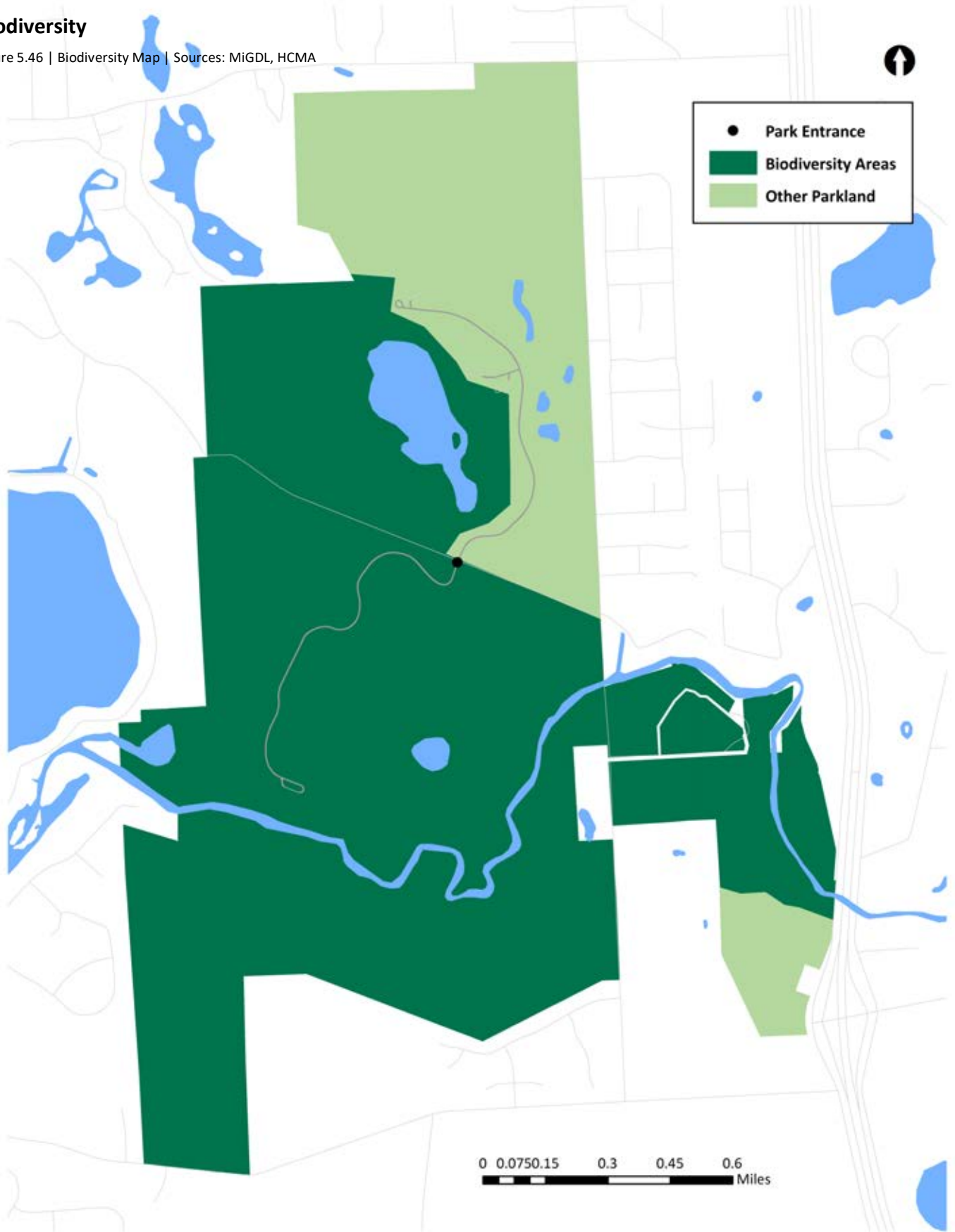
Figure 5.45 | General Map | Sources: MIGDL, HCMA





**Biodiversity**

Figure 5.46 | Biodiversity Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA



Encumbered Land

Figure 5.47 | Encumbered Land Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA, MDNR



**Grant History**

Number	Name	Year	Type	Status	Amount	Current Conditions
26-00201	South Metropolitan Parkway (Huron Meadows)	1970	Acquisition	Closed	\$ 7,000.00	Maintained within park boundary—no conversion
TF99-118	Maltby Lake Access and Play Area	1999	Development	Closed	\$ 180,000.00	General maintenance

**Accessibility**

Facility	Accessibility ranking
Fishing Pier—Sunset Ridge	3
Golf Course	3





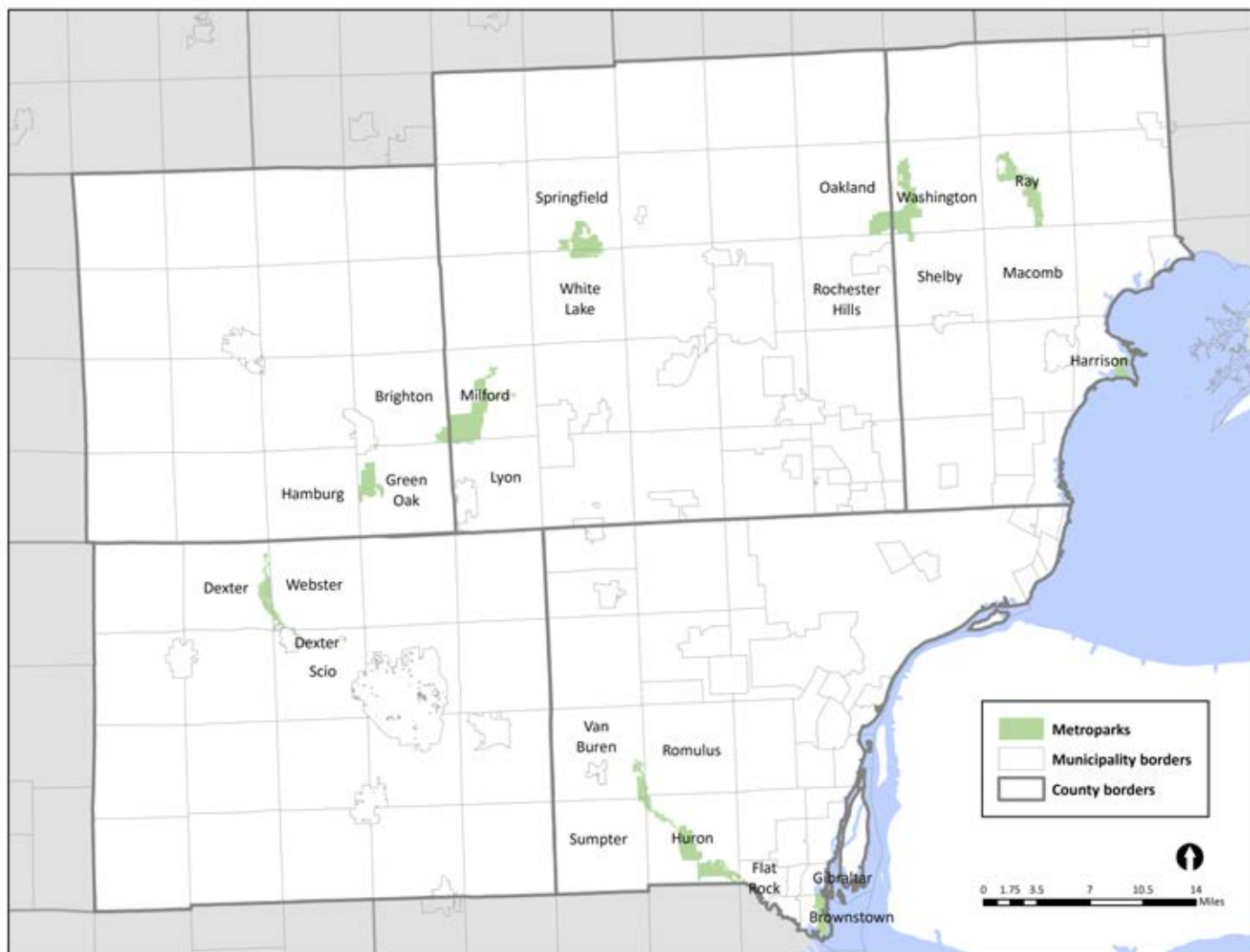


Figure 5.49 | Municipality Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA

The above map identifies all municipalities that either contain or border a Metropark. Although the Metroparks serve residents from across the five-county area, these municipalities are particularly relevant to the planning process. HCMA staff work with municipal staff to request building and signage permits, to develop trail connections, to address encroachments, and much more. The residents of these cities and townships benefit from extraordinary natural and recreation resources so close to their homes. In a region that suffers from excessive sprawl, the parks protect undeveloped land and make Southeast Michigan more beautiful.

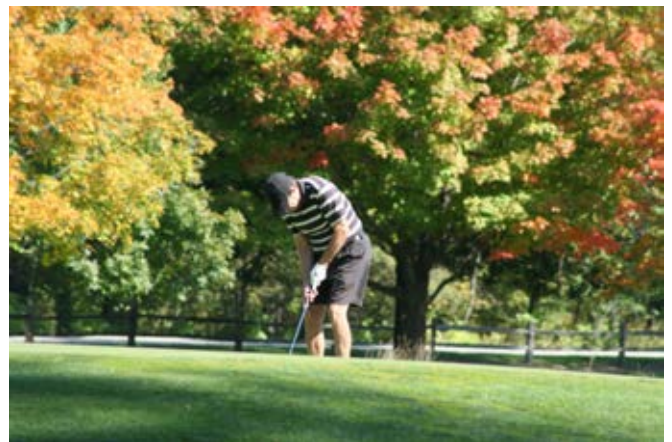


**REGIONAL RECREATION ANALYSIS**

The five counties served by the Metroparks contain a wide array of recreational facilities operated by state, county, and local governments. Understanding what activities and amenities are offered at each helps the Metroparks create unique attractions that fill recreational gaps and complement existing facilities. The Metroparks welcome collaboration with other providers of recreation, as evidenced by regional trail linkages, reciprocal waterpark overflow agreements, invasive species management cooperation, and other partnerships.

Due to the large land area covered by these five counties, the following charts and maps identify only state and county recreation. The local parks throughout this region are too numerous to include, but remain important locations for daily recreational activities.

The chart for each county notes the activities and facilities available in each park as a means of comparison. These are accurate to the best knowledge of Metroparks staff, but may contain errors or omissions. The numbers at the top of each park column correspond to that park’s location on the county map. These maps also highlight the distribution of select recreational facilities: public beaches, pools, golf courses, disc golf courses, campgrounds, boat launches and rental sites.

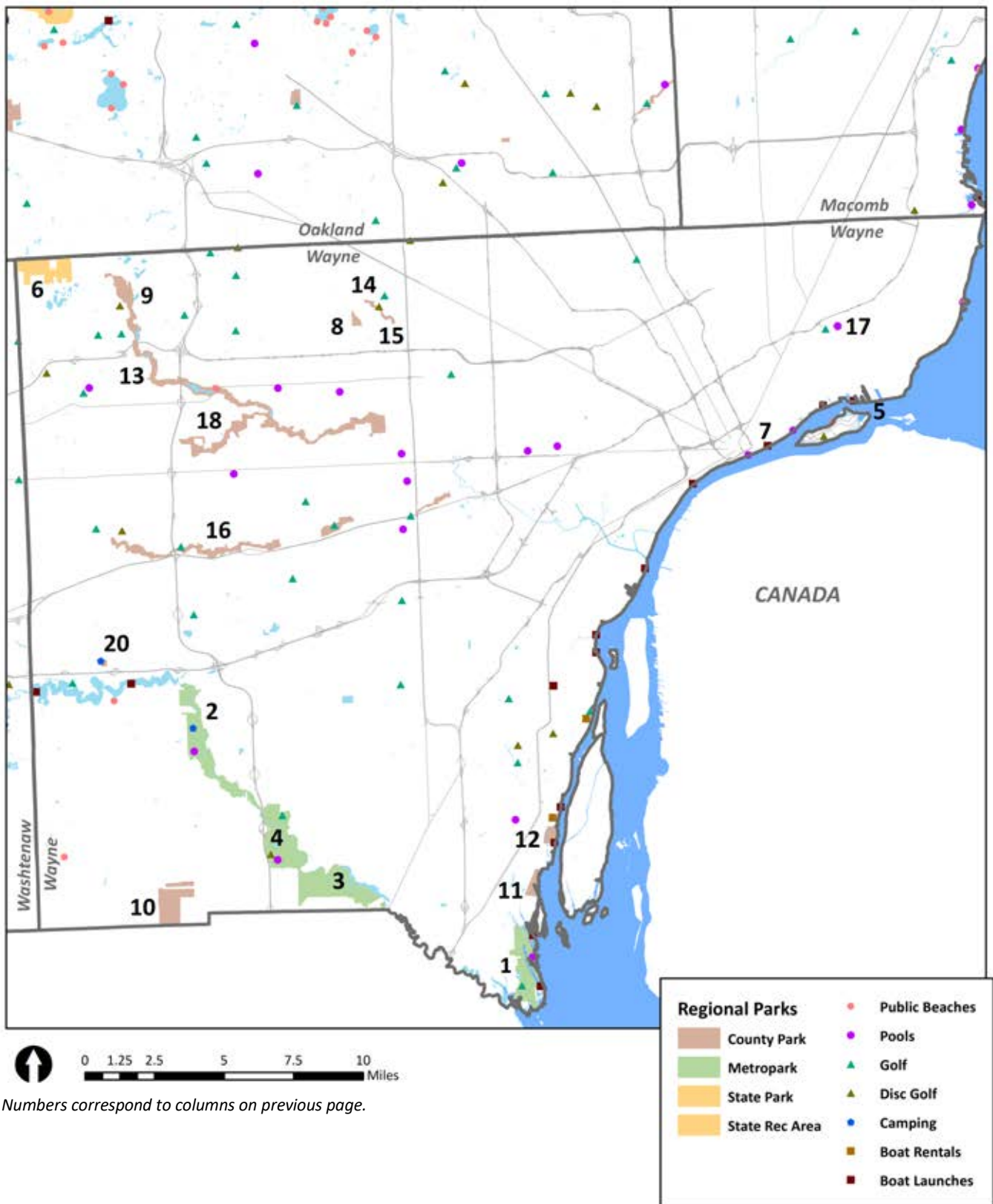


Wayne County

WAYNE COUNTY COMMUNITY RECREATION INVENTORY	HCMA	1	2	3	4	5	MIDNR	6	7	8	COUNTY	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	TOTAL ACREAGE	ACRES
		Lake Erie Metropark	Lower Huron Metropark	Oakwoods Metropark	Willow Metropark	6110		Belle Isle State Park	Maybury State Park	William G. Milliken St.		Bell Creek	Bennett Arboretum	Crosswinds Marsh	Det. Inter. Wildlife	Elizabeth Park	Hines Park	Kinloch Park	Lola Valley Park	Lower Rouge Parkway	Wayne Family Aquatic	William P Holiday	10210	
ACREAGE	ACRES	1607	1256	1715	1532	6110	ACRES	985	944	31	ACRES	78	N/A	758	6000	193	1607	N/A	110	826	35	603	10210	28490
PICNICKING																								
PLAYGROUNDS																								
MARKED HIKING TRAILS																								
MOUNTAIN BIKING TRAILS																								
SHARED-USE PATH (HIKE-BIKE)																								
NATURE TRAILS																								
EQUESTRIAN TRAILS																								
CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING																								
SNOWMOBILING																								
SWIMMING BEACH																								
SWIMMING POOL																								
SPRAY PAD																								
INFLATABLE SLIDES/OBSTACLES																								
BOAT RENTAL																								
BOAT LAUNCH																								
MARINA																								
CANOEING / KAYAKING																								
SHORE FISHING																								
DOCK FISHING																								
BOAT FISHING																								
ICE FISHING																								
ICE SKATING																								
ICE SAILING																								
SLEDDING																								
TOBOGGANING																								
HUNTING																								
NATURE STUDY AREA																								
NATURE CENTER																								
FARM																								
GARDENS																								
HISTORICAL BUILDINGS																								
MUSEUM																								
TENNIS																								
BASKETBALL																								
SHUFFLEBOARD																								
IN-LINE HOCKEY																								
SKATE PARK																								
SOCCER																								
SOFTBALL / BASEBALL FIELD																								
GOLF COURSE																								
FOOT GOLF																								
DISC GOLF																								
SHOOTING RANGE																								
BMX BIKE TRACK																								
EVENT FACILITIES																								
COMMUNITY FACILITY																								
RUSTIC CAMPSITES																								
MODERN CAMPSITES																								
CABIN RENTAL																								
GROUP CAMPING																								
CANOE CAMP																								



Figure 5.50 | Wayne County Recreation Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA, Wayne County website



Numbers correspond to columns on previous page.

## DRAFT Amended Recreation Plan 2020

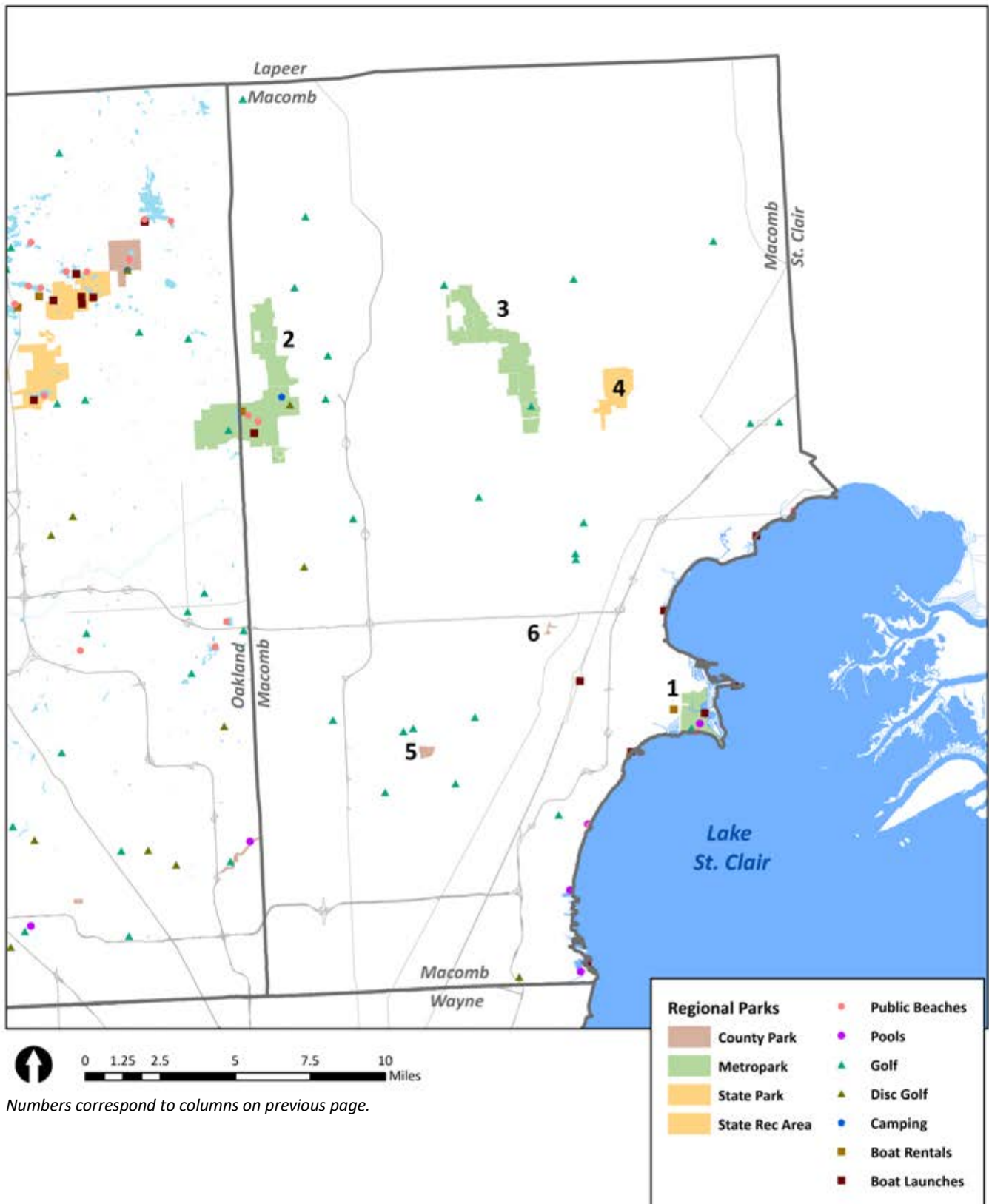
### 5 | RECREATION INVENTORY

Regional Recreation Analysis

#### Macomb County

	1	2	3		4		5	6			
<b>MACOMB COUNTY COMMUNITY RECREATION INVENTORY</b>	HCMA	Lake St. Clair Metropark	Stony Creek Metropark	Wolcott Mill Metropark	MDNR	Wetzel State Park	COUNTY	Nicholson Nature Center		TOTAL ACREAGE	9174
<b>PARK ACREAGE</b>	<b>ACRES</b>	789	4435	2850	<b>ACRES</b>	900	<b>ACRES</b>	100	N/A	<b>100</b>	
PICNICKING											
PLAYGROUNDS											
MARKED HIKING TRAILS											TRAILS
MOUNTAIN BIKING TRAILS											
SHARED-USE PATH (HIKE-BIKE)											
NATURE TRAILS											
EQUESTRIAN TRAILS											
CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING											
SNOWMOBILING											
SWIMMING BEACH											WATER ACTIVITIES
SWIMMING POOL											
SPRAY PAD											
INFLATABLE SLIDES/OBSTACLES											
BOAT RENTAL											BOATING & FISHING
BOAT LAUNCH											
MARINA											
CANOEING / KAYAKING											
SHORE FISHING											
DOCK FISHING											
BOAT FISHING											
ICE FISHING											SEASONAL ACTIVITIES
ICE SKATING											
ICE SAILING											
SLEDDING											
TOBOGGANING											
HUNTING											
NATURE STUDY AREA											INTERPRETIVE FACILITIES
NATURE CENTER											
FARM											
GARDENS											
HISTORICAL BUILDINGS											
MUSEUM											
TENNIS											COURT AND TURF GAMES
BASKETBALL											
SHUFFLEBOARD											
IN-LINE HOCKEY											
SKATE PARK											
SOCCER											
SOFTBALL / BASEBALL FIELD											
GOLF COURSE											
FOOT GOLF											
DISC GOLF											
SHOOTING RANGE											
BMX BIKE TRACK											MISC.
EVENT FACILITIES											
COMMUNITY FACILITY											
RUSTIC CAMPSITES											OVERNIGHT USE
MODERN CAMPSITES											
CABIN RENTAL											
GROUP CAMPING											
CANOE CAMP											

Figure 5.51 | Macomb County Recreation Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA, Macomb County website



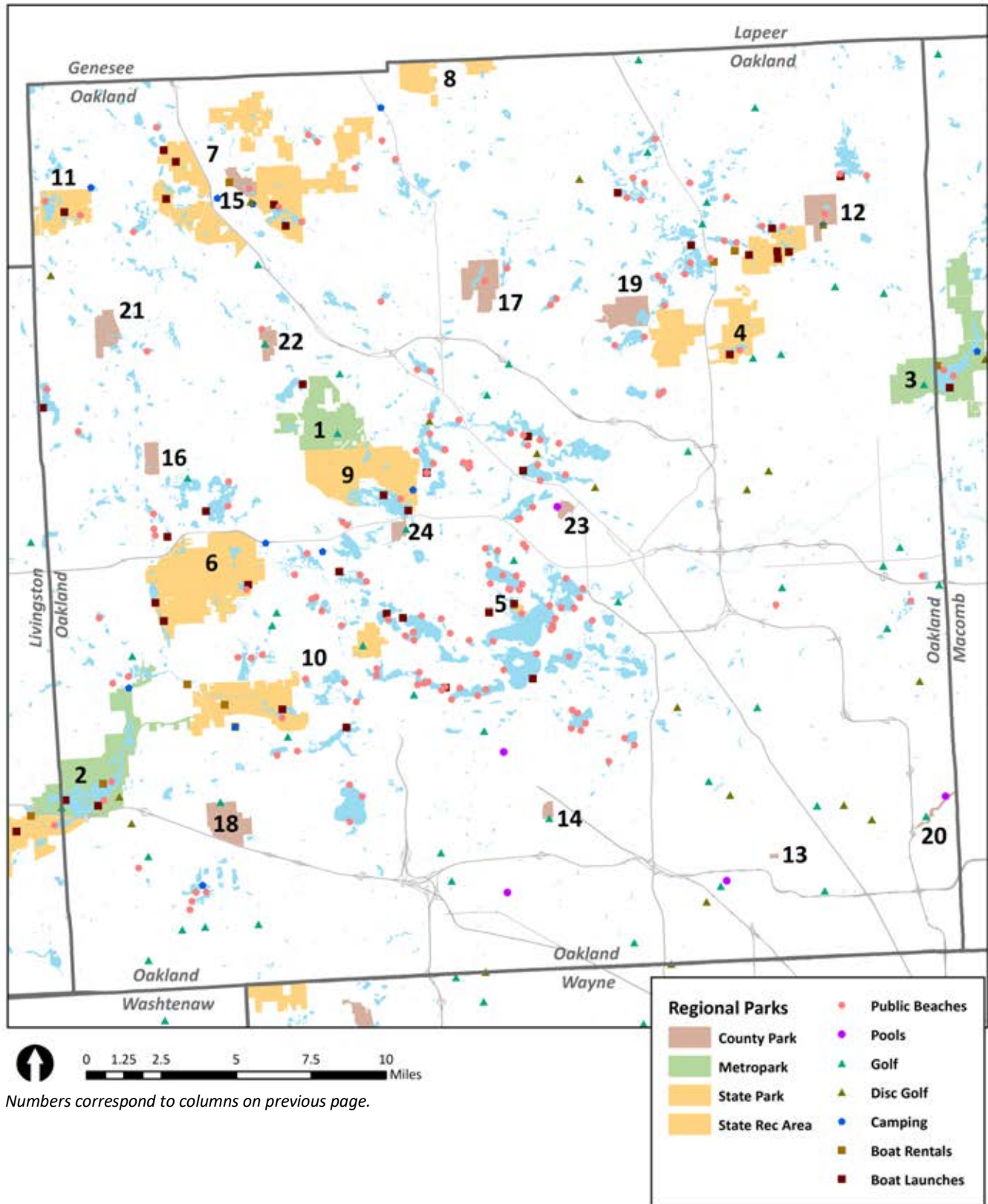


5 | RECREATION INVENTORY

Oakland County

	1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24				
<b>OAKLAND COUNTY COMMUNITY RECREATION INVENTORY</b>	Indian Springs	Kensington Metropark	Stony Creek Metropark		Bald Mountain	Dodge Park No.4	Highland Recreation	Holly Recreation Area	Ortonville Recreation	Pontac Recreation	Proud Lake Recreation	Seven Lakes State Park		Addison Oaks	Catalpa Oaks	Glen Oaks	Groveland Oaks	Highland Oaks	Independence Oaks	Lyon Oaks	Orion Oaks	Red Oaks	Rose Oaks	Springfield Oaks	Waterford Oaks	White Lake Oaks	<b>TOTAL ACREAGE</b>	<b>58636</b>		
<b>ACREAGE</b>	<b>ACRES</b>	2509	4486	4435	<b>ACRES</b>	4637	139	5903	7817	5431	3745	4700	1434	1140	24	122	361	302	1286	1041	916	141	640	333	199	195	<b>6700</b>			
PICNICKING																														
PLAYGROUNDS																														
RUSTIC TRAILS																														
MOUNTAIN BIKING TRAILS																														
SHARED-USE PATH (HIKE-BIKE)																														
NATURE TRAILS																														
EQUESTRIAN TRAILS																														
CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING																														
SNOWMOBILING																														
SWIMMING BEACH																														
SWIMMING POOL																														
SPRAY PAD																														
INFLATABLE SLIDES/ OBSTACLES																														
BOAT RENTAL																														
BOAT LAUNCH																														
MARINA																														
CANOING / KAYKING																														
SHORE FISHING																														
DOCK FISHING																														
BOAT FISHING																														
ICE FISHING																														
ICE SKATING																														
ICE SAILING																														
SLEDDING																														
TOBOGGANING																														
HUNTING																														
NATURE STUDY AREA																														
NATURE CENTER																														
FARM																														
GARDENS																														
HISTORICAL BUILDINGS																														
MUSEUM																														
TENNIS																														
BASKETBALL																														
SHUFFLEBOARD																														
IN-LINE HOCKEY																														
SKATE PARK																														
SOCCER																														
SOFTBALL / BASEBALL FIELD																														
GOLF COURSE																														
FOOT GOLF																														
DISC GOLF																														
SHOOTING RANGE																														
BMX BIKE TRACK																														
EVENT FACILITIES																														
COMMUNITY FACILITY																														
RUSTIC CAMPSITES																														
MODERN CAMPSITES																														
CABIN RENTAL																														
GROUP CAMPING																														
CANOE CAMP																														

Figure 5.52 | Oakland County Recreation Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA, Oakland County website



0 1.25 2.5 5 7.5 10 Miles

Numbers correspond to columns on previous page.

DRAFT Amended Recreation Plan 2020

5 | RECREATION INVENTORY

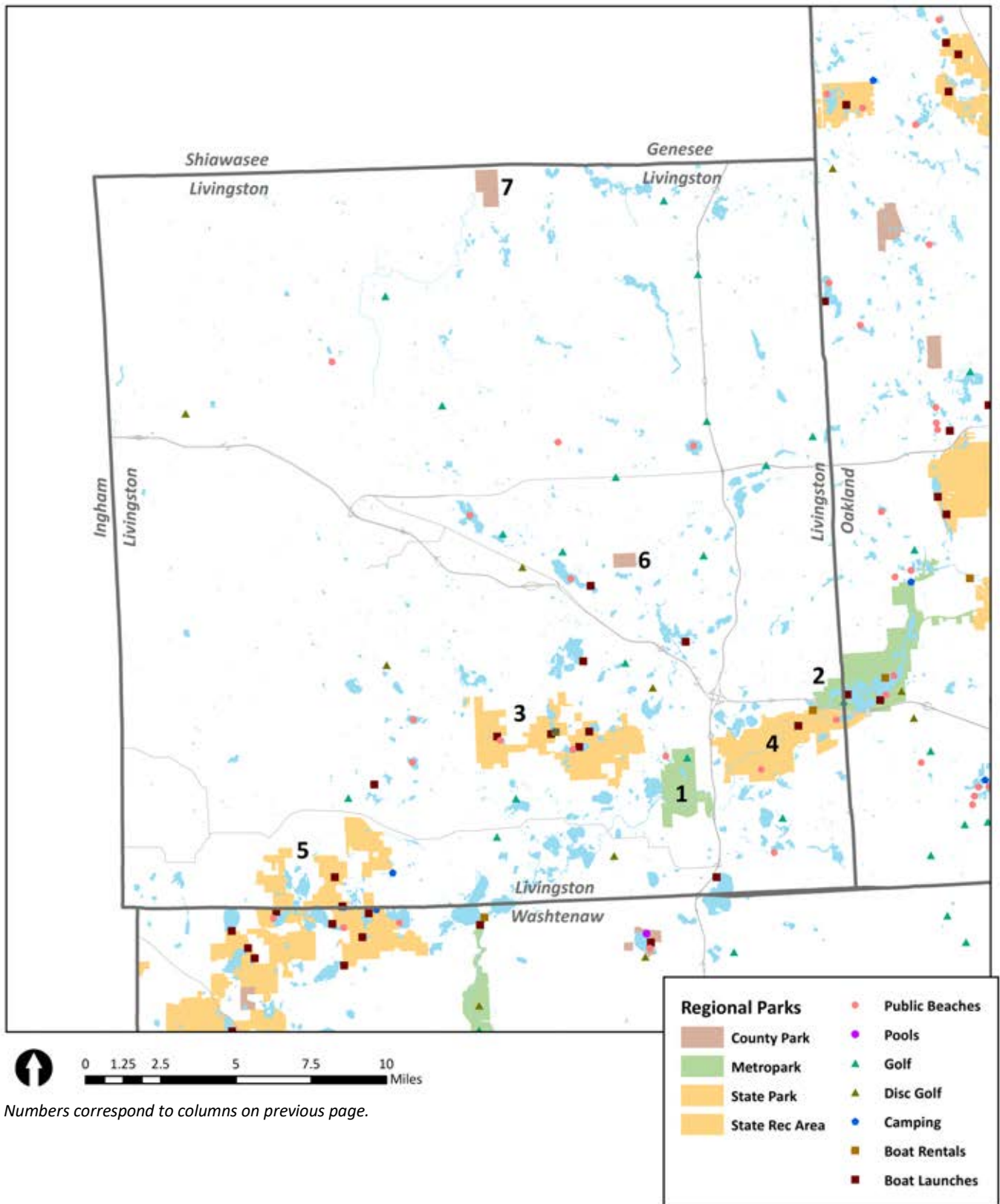
Regional Recreation Analysis

Livingston County

		1	2		3	4	5		6	7			
LIVINGSTON COUNTY COMMUNITY RECREATION INVENTORY	HCMA	Huron Meadows	Kensington Metropark		Brighton Rec. Area	Island Lake Rec. Area	Pinckney Rec. Area		Fillmore Park (2017)	Lutz Park		TOTAL ACREAGE	
ACREAGE	ACRES	1573	4486	6059	4947	3466	3245	11658	198	300	498	18713	
PICNICKING													
PLAYGROUNDS													
RUSTIC TRAILS													
MOUNTAIN BIKING TRAILS													
SHARED-USE PATH (HIKE-BIKE)													
NATURE TRAILS													
EQUESTRIAN TRAILS													
CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING													
SNOWMOBILING													
SWIMMING BEACH													
SWIMMING POOL													
SPRAY PAD													
INFLATABLE SLIDES/OBSTACLES													
BOAT RENTAL													
BOAT LAUNCH													
MARINA													
CANOEING / KAYKING													
SHORE FISHING													
DOCK FISHING													
BOAT FISHING													
ICE FISHING													
ICE SKATING													
ICE SAILING													
SLEDDING													
TOBOGGANING													
HUNTING													
NATURE STUDY AREA													
NATURE CENTER													
FARM													
GARDENS													
HISTORICAL BUILDINGS													
MUSEUM													
TENNIS													
BASKETBALL													
SHUFFLEBOARD													
IN-LINE HOCKEY													
SKATE PARK													
SOCCER													
SOFTBALL / BASEBALL FIELD													
GOLF COURSE													
FOOT GOLF													
DISC GOLF													
SHOOTING RANGE													
BMX BIKE TRACK													
EVENT FACILITIES													
COMMUNITY FACILITY													
RUSTIC CAMPSITES													
MODERN CAMPSITES													
CABIN RENTAL													
GROUP CAMPING													
CANOE CAMP													



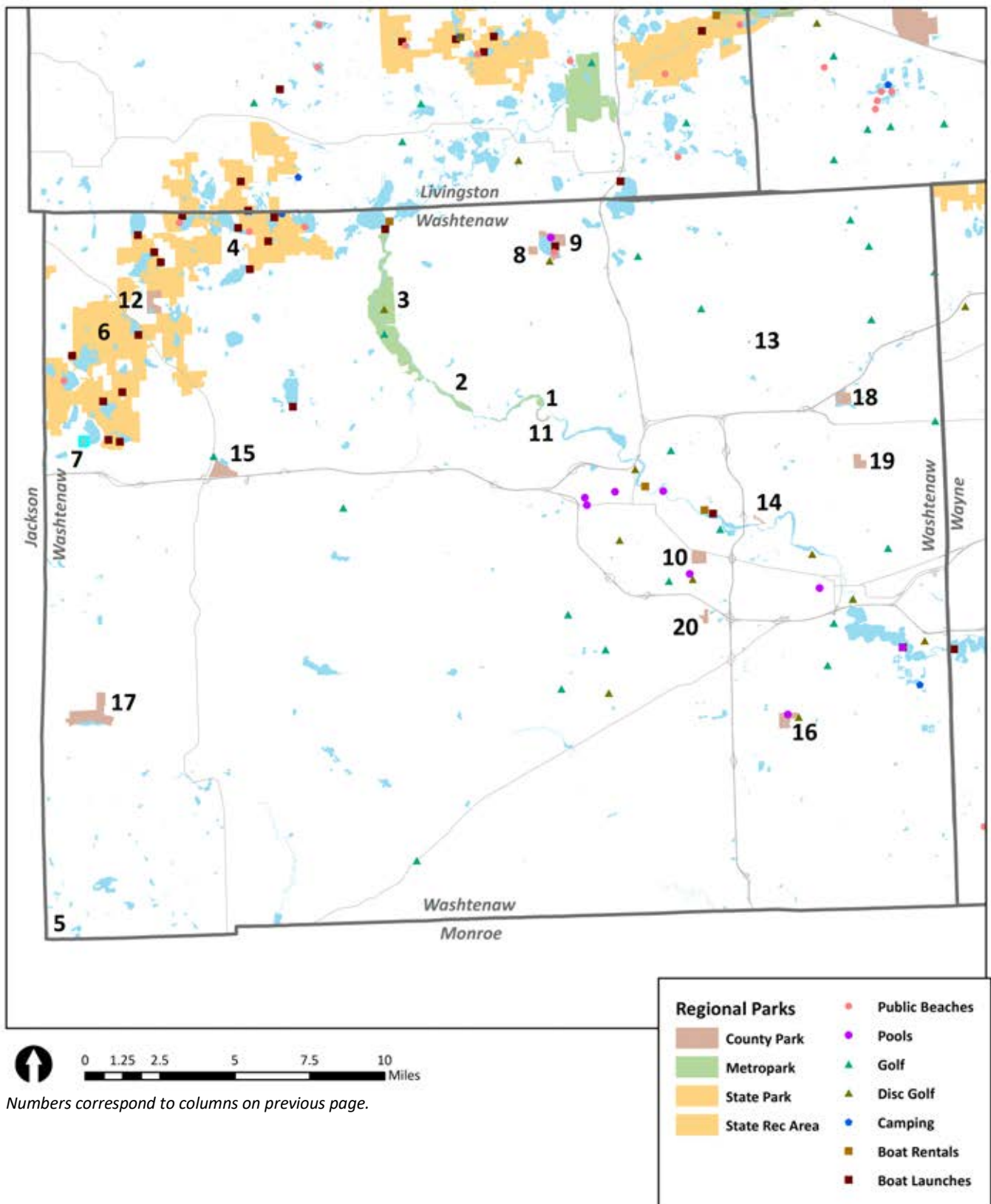
Figure 5.53 | Livingston County Recreation Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA, Livingston County website



Washtenaw County

WASHTENAW COUNTY COMMUNITY RECREATION INVENTORY	ACREAGE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	TOTAL ACREAGE
		ACRES	ACRES	ACRES																		ACRES
Delhi Metropark	52																					1978
Dexter-Huron	120																					37855
Hudson Mills Metropark	1573																					
Pinckney Recreation	11000																					
Waterloo Recreation	20500																					
Walter J. Hayes St. Park	654																					
Cavanaugh County Park	59																					
Gosline Preserve	40																					
Independence Lake	426																					
Nelson Meade Farm	141																					
Osborne Mill Preserve	39																					
Park Lyndon County	340																					
Park Northfield	12																					
Parker Mill County Park	44																					
Pierce Lake Golf & Park	232																					
Rolling Hills	363																					
Sharon Mills	170																					
Staebler Farm County	98																					
Superior Center Park	1																					
Swift Run Dog Park	13																					
TOTAL ACREAGE																						37855
PICNICKING																						
PLAYGROUNDS																						
MARKED HIKING TRAILS																						
MOUNTAIN BIKING TRAILS																						
SHARED-USE PATH (HIKE-BIKE)																						
NATURE TRAILS																						
EQUESTRIAN TRAILS																						
CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING																						
SNOWMOBILING																						
SWIMMING BEACH																						
SWIMMING POOL																						
SPRAY PAD																						
INFLATABLE SLIDES/OBSTACLES																						
BOAT RENTAL																						
BOAT LAUNCH																						
MARINA																						
CANOEING / KAYAKING																						
SHORE FISHING																						
DOCK FISHING																						
BOAT FISHING																						
ICE FISHING																						
ICE SKATING																						
ICE SAILING																						
SLEDDING																						
TOBOGGANING																						
HUNTING																						
NATURE STUDY AREA																						
NATURE CENTER																						
FARM																						
GARDENS																						
HISTORICAL BUILDINGS																						
MUSEUM																						
TENNIS																						
BASKETBALL																						
SHUFFLEBOARD																						
IN-LINE HOCKEY																						
SKATE PARK																						
SOCCER																						
SOFTBALL / BASEBALL FIELD																						
GOLF COURSE																						
FOOT GOLF																						
DISC GOLF																						
SHOOTING RANGE																						
BMX BIKE TRACK																						
EVENT FACILITIES																						
COMMUNITY FACILITY																						
RUSTIC CAMPSITES																						
MODERN CAMPSITES																						
CABIN RENTAL																						
GROUP CAMPING																						
CANOE CAMP																						

Figure 5.54 | Washtenaw County Recreation Map | Sources: MiGDL, HCMA, Washtenaw County website







## 6 | PLANNING PROCESS



7 | PLANNING PROCESS

MASTER PLANS

Concurrent with this update to the system-wide Five-Year Recreation Plan, the Planning Department is in the midst of an aggressive timeline for creating master plans for each of the 13 Metroparks by 2019. Each park has been given a planning window of six months, with overlap between parks. The process for each park is guided by a steering committee including park employees with exceptional knowledge of the park and surrounding community, who, along with the experienced Metroparks department heads, provide their professional opinions.

The Planning Department collects demographic and spatial data to inform master plan recommendations. Demographic data looks at the density, age, mobility, language, and other factors of the regional population. Spatial data, usually analyzed through Geographic Information System software, looks at the physical location of the parks in relation to other recreation opportunities, transportation facilities, population centers, important natural resources, and more. Finally, the Planning Department conducts a review of park conditions to identify areas needing improvement and areas experiencing success.

One of the most important factors in each master plan is public input. At the beginning of each planning process the steering committee identifies organizations and individuals with significant investment in the park for targeted invitations to the public meetings. The committee also develops a strategy for soliciting general participation at those meetings. A general park feedback questionnaire is posted online and advertised by Metroparks social media, stakeholder emails, and flyer distribution. A draft plan is posted online near the end of the planning process for additional public comment, which influences the final Master Plan sent to the Board of Commissioners for approval.

The master plans are intended to be living documents, modified as needed to reflect changing conditions in the parks. However, they focus on park developments over the following ten years, and will be updated every decade through a formal planning process similar to the current one.



2016

2017

2018

2019



Figure 6.1  
Master Plan Timeline



The questionnaire administered during each master planning process provides an easy way for the general public to offer opinions on the park in question. The short form includes the following multiple choice and open-ended questions:

- What is your age?
- In what zip code is your home located?
- Approximately how many times do you visit the park in a year?
- If you are not a frequent visitor to the park, please let us know why.
- In the past year, have you visited any other Metroparks?
- What is your favorite part of the park or activity within the park?
- What can be done to improve your favorite area or facilities for your favorite activity?
- What would make your visit to the park more enjoyable overall?
- Any additional comments?

In addition to the online version, a modified hard copy questionnaire is made available at each public meeting and at park offices for those who prefer to submit their opinions in writing.

Themes that arose from questionnaire respondents are listed below for each park master plan completed to date. Common general themes include:

- Preservation of natural resources, native plants, and undeveloped areas
- Interest in more and improved trails of all types, concern over user conflict on trails and roads
- Desire for greater variety of activities and programming
- Greater access to park amenities for all types of people



## Stony Creek

### Mountain Biking

- Increased, more varied, more connected mountain biking trails
- Opportunities for all ages and skill levels
- Year-round drinking water access

### Access

- Keep parks accessible to all income levels
- Year-round access to all park areas, more events
- More park access points and non-motorized trail connections
- Parking more strategically located near trailheads and launches
- Clearer, better-placed, more universal wayfinding signage
- Annual pass holder lane during peak hours
- Shared pass for Metroparks and DNR
- Better access for older adults and people with disabilities
- Greater diversity of food offered

### Trails and Use Conflict

- Greater separation of uses and more enforcement of use restrictions
- Additional dedicated infrastructure for dirt running, skate skiing, rustic trail use, etc.
- Dog park or other designated off-leash areas
- Better maintenance of trails and roads

### Health/Safety

- Increased enforcement of speed limits and smoking ban
- More visible security
- Seaweed removal from boating areas
- Increased maintenance and improvement of bathrooms and playgrounds

### Water Sports

- Low cost watercraft storage
- Additional and better-maintained launches
- Management of fish populations
- Handicap access to water
- More swimming opportunities, sandy beach

### Natural Resources

- Protection of natural areas amid population growth
- Undeveloped areas and passive recreation
- More interpretation
- Invasive species management
- Recycling
- Photographer accommodations and observation areas
- Additional and better maintained picnic areas
- More camping opportunities

**Wolcott Mill**

*Access*

- Better signage on trails
- Trails and/or roads connecting areas of park
- Keep parks accessible to all income levels
- Closer handicapped parking
- Extend hours past 5pm
- Stay open 7 days a week
- Create entrance to Mill off Wolcott Rd

*Facilities*

- More hiking trails and scenic vistas
- More equestrian trails
- More/improved playgrounds
- Food service area
- Updated restrooms
- More animals
- More picnic areas and shelters
- More benches
- Dog-friendly spaces

*Programming*

- More fishing opportunities
- More activities for children
- Running and biking opportunities
- More activities in general
- Make disc golf available
- Greater Car Club involvement
- More equestrian activities

**Lower Huron**

*Water*

- Canoe/kayak rental
- Addition of Turtle Cove features
- Vehicle paths to launches
- Addition of kayak launches
- Improved launch signage
- Picnic tables near water
- River clean up

*Children*

- Addition of new kinds of play areas
- Increased children's activities
- More shade in play area
- Safety and security for children
- Addition of bounce house

*General*

- Entrance fee
- Website improvement
- Land acquisition

*Camp/Picnic*

- Improved campground
- Allow picnicking at East Bend
- Reopened group camp
- Vehicle access to picnic shelters
- Barbecue pits

*User Experience*

- Trees and natural landscapes
- Disability/senior access
- Transportation to park
- Annual pass entrance lane
- Restroom quality/quantity
- Frequency of park patrol
- Road repair and user conflict
- Scenic overlooks

*Programming*

- Advertisement of activities
- Improve band selection
- Horse and buggy rides
- Increased activity programming
- Choice of caterer

*Trails*

- Increased trail programming
- Better trail maintenance
- Addition of walking trails
- Addition of biking trails
- Winter trail plowing
- Addition of mountain bike trails
- Improved trail signage
- Improved no dog signage
- Potable water access
- Increased shade and amenities
- Improved nature trails
- Add bike rental
- Allow segways on trails

*Golf/Sports*

- Addition of sports courts
- Close of golf course
- Improved ice rinks
- Add disc golf course
- Rental fishing poles

**Kensington**

*Access*

- Reduce cost
- Improved path connectivity
- Improved parking at Nature Center, Maple Beach
- Add annual pass entry lane
- Improve ease of access for photographers

**Amenities**

- Add more drinking fountains, water for horses
- Improve/add bathrooms
- Add benches
- Add vending machines
- Increase food options
- Add more trash cans

**Trails**

- Add dirt running trails
- Add more hiking trails
- Add mountain and fat tire biking trails
- Add more bike paths

**Maintenance**

- Improve trail maintenance
- Keep trash cleared
- Remove water obstructions
- Keep bathrooms clean
- Improve disc golf course maintenance
- Improve equestrian trail maintenance
- Improve road pavement

**Programming**

- Relax geocaching rules
- Publicize activities
- Have older children activities
- Add cross country ski events
- Add more historical events
- Relax insurance requirements for events
- Host native planting, naturalist events

**Environment**

- Reduce and better time mowing
- Remove invasives and plant natives
- Reduce paving
- Stop culling animals

**Facilities**

- Expand watercraft rentals
- Improve nature center and increase staffing
- Improve sand on beaches
- Add bike rentals
- Update aged buildings
- Improve canoe campground
- Add public campground
- Add tennis courts

**Safety/Signage**

- Address trail and road user conflict
- Better enforce speeding and traffic rules
- Provide more signage explaining rules
- Provide better wayfinding signage and trail maps
- Patrol nature trails
- Enforce ban on smoking

**Hudson Mills****Trails**

- Plow path to Dexter in winter
- Repave paths
- Reduce user conflicts on trails
- Improve signage and maps
- Provide bike sharing/storage
- Extend paved trails
- Improve restrooms
- Groom and extend ski trails
- Add bike lanes
- No smoking near trails
- Improve Border-to-Border connection
- Add mountain bike trails
- Add bicycle repair station
- Continue to provide safe edges

**Golf**

- Keep golf course open
- Cut rough lower
- Turn into trails area
- More sand, larger greens
- Design for beginners
- Add benches
- Replace carts
- Convert into urban bike park
- Too much space used for course

**Maintenance**

- Purchase new equipment
- Add more pet waste receptacles
- Improve road plowing
- Update infrastructure
- Eliminate smoking at facility
- Better enforcement of rules

**Amenities**

- Improve restrooms
- Add water bottle refill stations
- Enhance picnic areas/shelters
- Add improved and healthier snacks

**Environment**

- Plant more trees
- Less cutting and mowing
- Protect native plants/wildlife
- Leave areas undeveloped
- Control invasives
- Restore eroded areas
- Reduce impervious surfaces
- Develop volunteer groups
- Protect Huron River
- Protect eastern massasauga



*Programming*

- Offer archery programs
- More homeschooling programs
- Promote stargazing nights
- Increase nature walks
- More programming for kids
- More concerts and shows
- More races
- Improve interpretive exhibits

*River*

- Add white water play area
- Add canoe/kayak/tube rental
- Add accessible launch
- Increase parking
- Develop water park using the river

*Disc Golf*

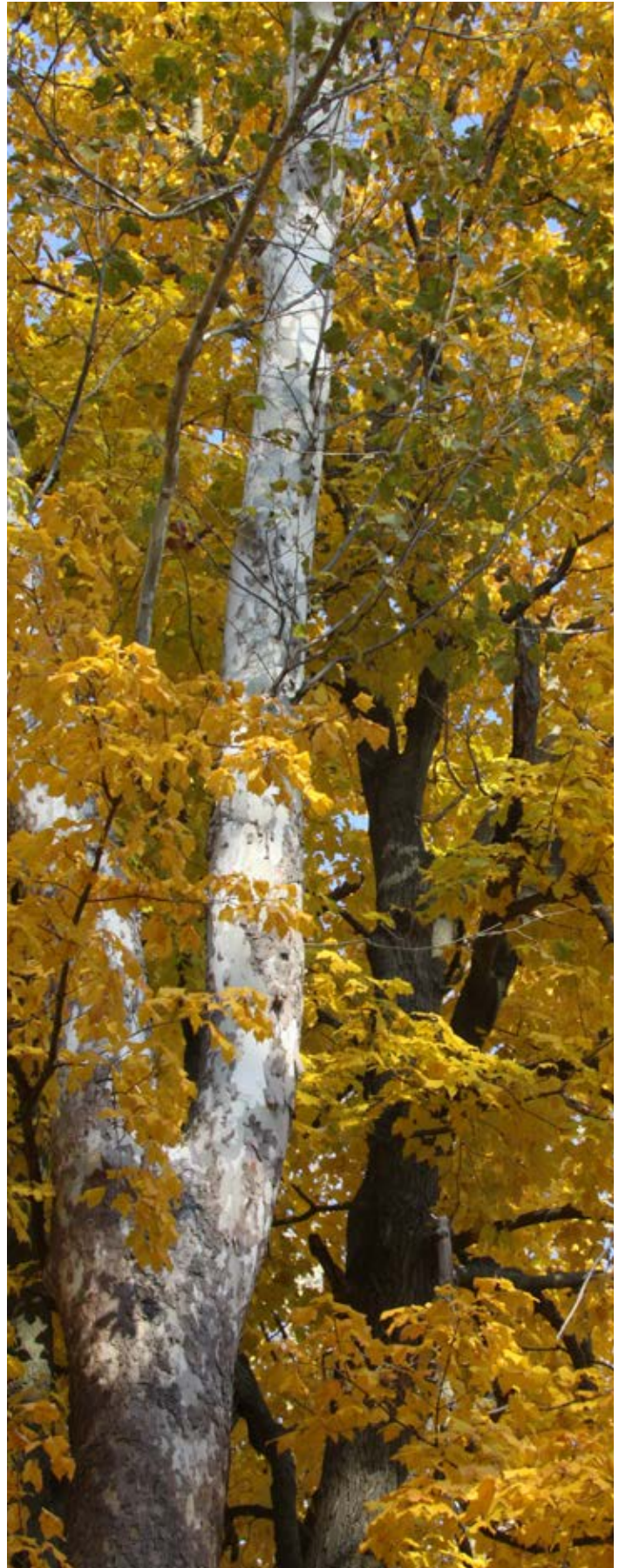
- Offer more variety, larger holes
- Design a more difficult layout
- Maintain course better all seasons
- Improve signage and maps
- Replace baskets (in progress)
- Include options for disabled
- Add benches, restrooms, trash cans
- Lower fees
- Improve runoff situation
- Increase respect for sport
- Clear invasives on course
- Separate course from trails
- Offer more events and leagues
- Offer free disc golf for children

*Facilities*

- Improve sports fields
- Reopen tennis courts
- Add dog-friendly areas
- Promote park as dark sky area
- Add pickleball courts
- Add a nature center
- Add splash pad instead of a slide
- Add a playground in south of park

*Access*

- Extend longer park hours
- Reduce pass expense
- Add annual pass vehicle lane
- Add a military discount
- Reduce senior price
- Create a multi vehicle discount for families



**Lake St. Clair**

*Park User Conflicts*

- Consideration for dog park
- Dog rule enforcement on trails and beach
- Eliminate or move basketball courts next to Nature Center and nature trails
- Additional rule signs
- Lower concert noise levels

*Environment*

- Protection of wildlife and habitat from disturbance
- Increase natural areas
- Restoration of habitat
- Increase biodiversity
- Continue invasive species management
- Clean up lake
- Tree preservation/additional native plantings
- Reduce impervious pavement for water quality

*Access*

- Provide more birding access areas
- Construct additional trails
- Express entry to park for season pass holders
- Bike rentals for park users
- Kayak/boat rentals for access to waterways
- Improve trail conditions (nature trails)
- Waterfront management ( beach area)
- Transportation from parking lot to beach
- Boardwalk needs attention

*Amenities*

- Explore camping opportunities in park
- Provide better concession menu and experience
- Offer additional drinking fountains
- Improve wayfinding within park
- Continue shoreline improvements
- Consider improvements to Nature Center
- Parking lot improvements
- Add more benches near ponds
- Improved picnic tables
- Incentives to rent picnic shelters
- Trail markers

*Programming*

- Provide additional activities and special events
- Address interpretive programs targeting teenagers and young adults
- Schedule year round events
- Support park volunteers

**RECREATION PLAN**

The Five-year Recreation Plan process takes into account not only accepted recreation standards, but the diverse demographics, opportunities, and interests of the broad population the Metroparks serve. Preparation for the plan began in fall 2016, when the planning department worked to consolidate system-wide and regional information. The Demographic Analysis section provides a context for planning efforts, detailing the economic and social landscape of Southeast Michigan. During this time the department also conducted the accessibility analysis on important park facilities to gauge compliance with ADA standards.

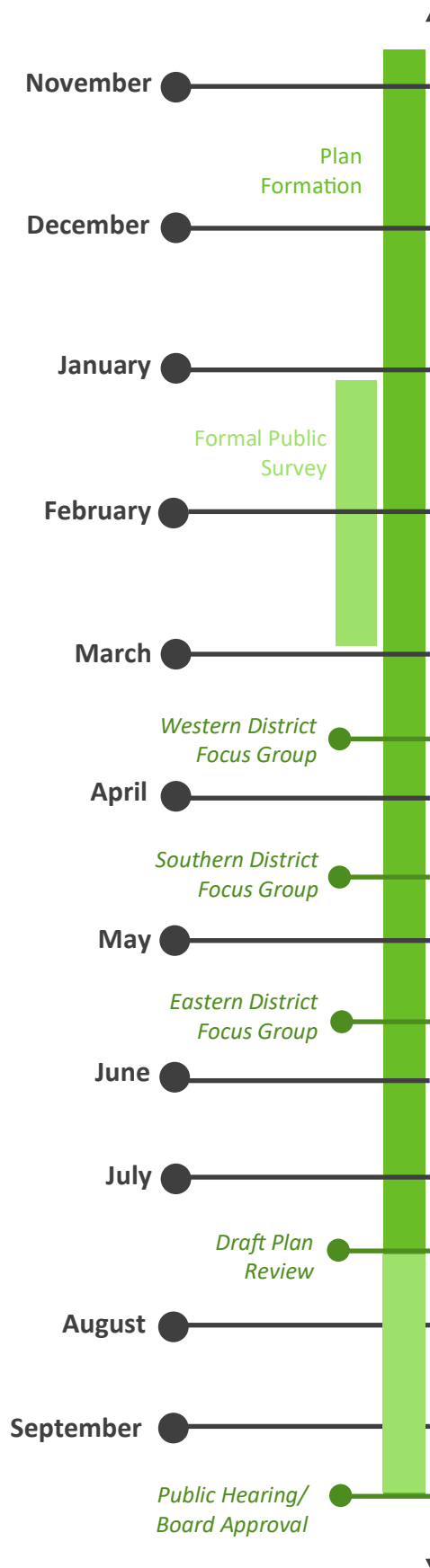
By the end of the year, a comprehensive description of each park, with maps and facility lists, was complete. At the beginning of 2017, the department worked to inventory all major parks in the five-county area and provide location maps. The regional recreation inventory in the preceding chapter identifies other recreational facilities available to residents. An infrastructure analysis was also conducted on Metroparks facilities to determine the overall state of roads, utilities, buildings, and more.

The population of the five-county HCMA service area is approximately 4.4 million people. Given that the Metroparks encompass nearly 25,000 acres, the system meets the NRPA minimum recommendation of five acres of regional park per 1,000 people (see following page). It does not meet the maximum recommendation of 10 acres per 1,000 people, but state parks and large county parks provide additional space serving similar recreation needs in the area.

In 2017, the public outreach process for the Recreation Plan began. The planning department identified municipal leaders and recreational partners whose voices were important to include in district-wide stakeholder meetings. The company selected to conduct a region-wide survey, ETC Institute, sent mailings to a representative sample of Southeast Michigan residents, followed up with phone calls, and provided an online link that HCMA advertised. Results from the meetings and survey were incorporated into the draft document.

The draft plan was posted on the Metroparks website with a notice of availability on July 14, 2017 following a presentation to the Board of Commissioners on July 13, 2017. The public hearing was held on September 14, 2017 followed by the Board approval at the same meeting. The notice, meeting resolution and minutes are found in the appendix.

Figure 6.2 | Recreation Plan Timeline





National Recreation and Parks Association Guidelines for Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenways<sup>1</sup>

Classification	General Description	Location Criteria	Size Criteria	Acres / 1,000 Population
<b>Mini-Park</b>	Used to address limited, isolated or unique recreational needs.	Less than ¼ mile distance in residential setting.	Between 2500 sq. ft. and one acre in size.	0.25 to 0.5 A
<b>Neighborhood Park</b>	Neighborhood park remains the basic unit of the park system and serves as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood. Focus is on informal active and passive recreation.	¼- to ½-mile distance and uninterrupted by non-residential roads and other physical barriers.	5 acres is considered minimum size. 5 to 10 acres is optimal.	1.0 to 2.0 A
<b>School-Park</b>	Depending on circumstances, combining parks with school sites can fulfill the space requirements for other classes of parks, such as neighborhood, community, sports complex and special use.	Determined by location of school district property.	Variable-depends on function.	Variable
<b>Community Park</b>	Serves broader purpose than neighborhood park. Focus is on meeting community-based recreation needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.	Determined by the quality and suitability of the site. Usually serves two or more neighborhoods and ½ to 3 mile distance.	As needed to accommodate desired uses. Usually between 30 and 50 acres.	5.0 to 8.0 A
<b>Large Urban Park</b>	Large urban parks serve a broader purpose than community parks and are used when community and neighborhood parks are not adequate to serve the needs of the community. Focus is on meeting community-based recreational needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.	Determined by the quality and suitability of the site. Usually serves the entire community.	As needed to accommodate desired uses. Usually a minimum of 50 acres, with 75 or more acres being optimal.	Variable.
<b>Natural Resource Areas</b>	Lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space, and visual aesthetics/buffering.	Resource availability and opportunity.	Variable.	Variable.
<b>Regional / Metropolitan Park</b>	Land set aside for preservation of natural beauty or environmental significance, recreation use or historic or cultural interest use.	Located to serve several communities within 1 hour driving time.	Optimal size is 200+ acres, but size varies based on accommodating the desired uses.	5.0 to 10.0 A
<b>Greenways</b>	Effectively tie park system components together to form a continuous park environment.	Resource availability and opportunity.	Variable.	Variable.
<b>Sports Complex</b>	Consolidates heavily programmed athletic fields and associated facilities to larger and fewer sites strategically located throughout the community.	Strategically located community-wide facilities.	Determined by projected demand. Usually a minimum of 25 acres, with 40 to 80 acres being optimal.	Variable.
<b>Special Use</b>	Covers a broad range of parks and recreation facilities oriented toward single- purpose use.	Variable-dependent on specific use.	Variable.	Variable.
<b>Private Park/ Recreation Facility</b>	Parks and recreation facilities that are privately owned yet contribute to the public park and recreation system.	Variable-dependent on specific use.	Variable.	Variable.

<sup>1</sup> MDNR Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans

## Public Input

The process of creating the Recreation Plan involved three different methods of public input, designed to reach distinct segments of the population and together form a holistic image of the recreation needs in the Metroparks service area. In addition to these methods, the feedback from individual park master plans was taken into account.

### *Stakeholder Meetings*

Supplemental stakeholder meetings were held to ensure that the voices of those user groups and partners already invested in and contributing to the Metroparks would be heard, in addition to the representative sample of the region.

One meeting was held for each of the three Districts of HCMA management: Eastern, Western, and Southern. Representatives from all municipalities and counties surrounding the parks were invited. Other participants were chosen based on their organization's role in maintaining or programming some recreational element within the Metroparks, with the intent to keep the groups small and manageable.

Attendees at the stakeholder meetings expressed a desire to work more closely with the Metroparks in the future. They saw trails, open space, and green infrastructure as priorities in their communities or organizations and identified ways in which the Metroparks could assist them in meeting growing recreation needs.

Organizations whose representatives attended the stakeholder meetings or provided their input include:

- Michigan DNR
- Washtenaw County Parks
- Milford Township
- Motor City Mountain Biking Association
- Brighton Township
- SEMCOG
- Van Buren Township
- Clinton River Area Mountain Bike Association
- Harrison Township
- Washington Township

Attendees at the **Western District stakeholder meeting** listed trails, canoeing and kayaking, and nature observation as popular recreation activities for their constituents, with connectivity as a key component. A few municipal representatives expected increased residential growth in

their communities, leading to increased demand as well as need for greater accessibility. Partnership with the Metroparks was seen as valuable for Huron River access and enhanced trail systems, and participants generally expressed a desire for more extensive collaboration.

Attendees at the **Southern District stakeholder meeting** were also very interested in trail connections and coordination among park agencies. They further noted the importance of water facilities such as Turtle Cove to their residents. Municipalities expect to see residential growth in the areas near the Metroparks, and emphasized the desire for close relationships with Metroparks to meet recreational needs.

Attendees at the **Eastern District stakeholder meeting** provided input on partnerships with surrounding communities and businesses for new development and additional revenue sources in the parks. Specifically, creative collaboration on initiatives for trails, signage opportunities, and emergency facilities were suggested to foster creative long term solutions for both Metroparks and community needs.

### *Public Review and Public Hearing*

The draft Recreation Plan was posted to the Metroparks website planning page along with hard copies made available at each of the 13 Metroparks for public review and comment. A summary of the public comments received during the public review can be found in the appendix. The public hearing on the Draft Recreation Plan document was held at the regular monthly Board of Commissioners meeting on September 14, 2017. It was advertised on the Huron-Clinton Metroparks website home page, event page, and planning page, as well as in an email to stakeholders and a notice in local newspapers (see appendix).

### *Representative Regional Survey*

The Metroparks worked with a consultant to conduct a formal survey targeting a representative sample of the Southeast Michigan community. It was geared toward both individuals who currently use the parks, and those who do not use the parks but may have unmet recreational needs. The consultant utilized advanced statistical methods to ensure that underrepresented groups were reached, and offered survey participation in Spanish, Arabic, and other languages.

Results from this survey can be found below and on the following pages. This summary was prepared by the consultant who conducted the survey, ETC Institute. A copy of the survey instrument can be found in the appendix.

**Survey Results Summary**  
Prepared by ETC Institute

*Park, Facility, and Trail Use*

Eighty percent (80%) of households surveyed indicated they had visited parks and facilities operated by Huron-Clinton Metroparks during the past year. Of those who have visited a park or facility during the past year 21% have made one or two visits, 21% have made three to six visits, and 39% have made six or more visits during the past year.

A majority of respondents (60%) who indicated they had visited a park or facility operated by Huron-Clinton Metroparks purchased an annual permit, 26% purchased a daily permit, and 14% either did not remember the type of permit purchased or did not purchase a vehicle permit.

Respondents were asked to indicate all of the parks and facilities members of their household have visited during the past year. The most visited facilities were: Kensington Metropark (58%) followed by Stony Creek Metropark (32%), Kensington Nature Center (26%), and Hudson Mills Metropark (23%). Based on the sum of respondents' top four choices, the three facilities respondents use most often were: Kensington Metropark (40%), Stony Creek Metropark (20%), and Hudson Mills Metropark (13%).

Prior to receiving this survey 60% of respondents were aware of the difference between the Huron-Clinton Metroparks system and other park systems operated by the State of Michigan, counties, and cities in Southeast Michigan.

Fifty-eight percent (58%) of respondents indicated their household has used trails operated by Huron-Clinton Metroparks during the past year. Of those who indicated they had used the trails 77% walked on nature trails, 69% walked on paved trails, 50% cycled on paved trails, and 38% hiked on rustic trails.

Forty-seven percent (47%) of respondents indicated they learn about Huron-Clinton Metroparks facilities, programs, and services from friends and neighbors or the Metroparks website.

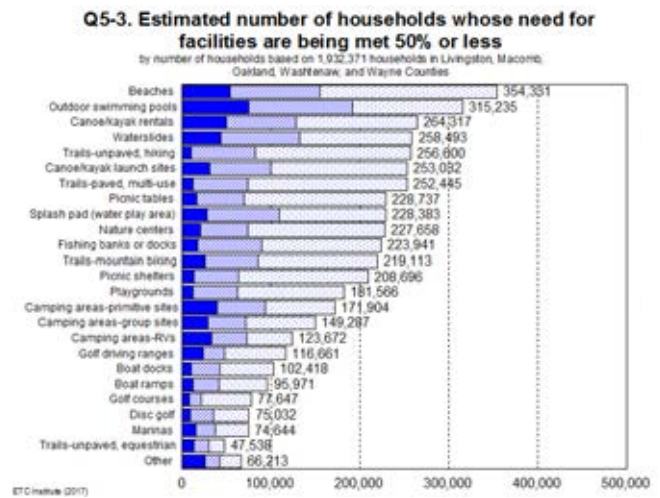
*Barriers to Park, Facility, and Program Usage*

Respondents were asked from a list of 20 potential reasons to identify what prevents them from using outdoor parks, indoor recreation centers, and programs offered by Huron-Clinton Metroparks more often. The top four reasons selected were: not knowing what is being offered (46%), no time to visit parks (29%), locations are not convenient (28%), and not knowing the locations of facilities (22%).

*Facility Needs and Priorities*

**Facility Needs:** Respondents were asked to identify if their household had a need for 24 recreation facilities and amenities and rate how well their needs for each were currently being met. Based on this analysis, ETC Institute was able to estimate the number of households in the community that had the greatest "unmet" need for various facilities.

The three recreation facilities with the highest percentage of households that indicated a need for the facility were: trails-paved, multi-use (57%), picnic tables (56%), and beaches (55%). When ETC Institute analyzed the needs in the community, four facilities had a need that affected more than

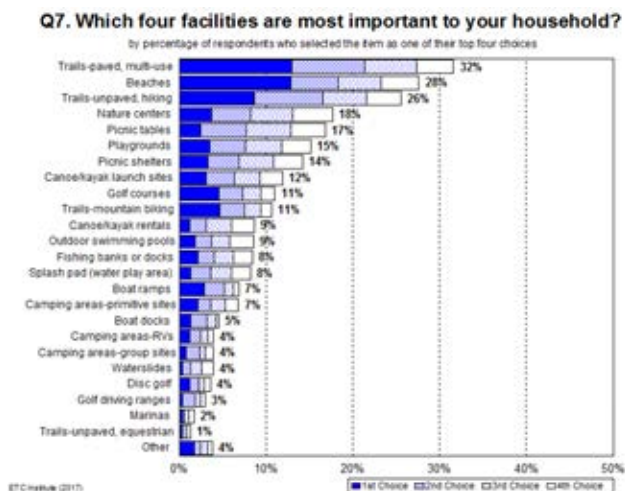


1,000,000 households: trails-paved, multi-use; picnic tables; beaches; and nature centers.

ETC Institute estimates a total of 354,331 of the 1,932,371 households in the Huron-Clinton Metroparks five-county region have unmet needs for beaches.

**Facility Importance and Use:** In addition to assessing the needs for each facility, ETC Institute also assessed the importance that residents placed on each facility. Based on the sum of respondents' top four choices, the three most important facilities to residents were: trails-paved, multi-use





(32%), beaches (28%), and trails-unpaved, hiking (26%). Based on the sum of respondents’ top four choices, the three most used facilities include: trails-paved, multi-use (31%), beaches (25%), and trails-unpaved, hiking (24%).

**Priorities for Facility Investments:** The Priority Investment Rating (PIR) was developed by ETC Institute to provide organizations with an objective tool for evaluating the priority that should be placed on parks and recreation investments. The Priority Investment Rating (PIR) equally weights (1) the importance that residents place on facilities and (2) how many residents have unmet needs for the facility.

Based the Priority Investment Rating (PIR), the following three facilities were rated as high priorities for investment:

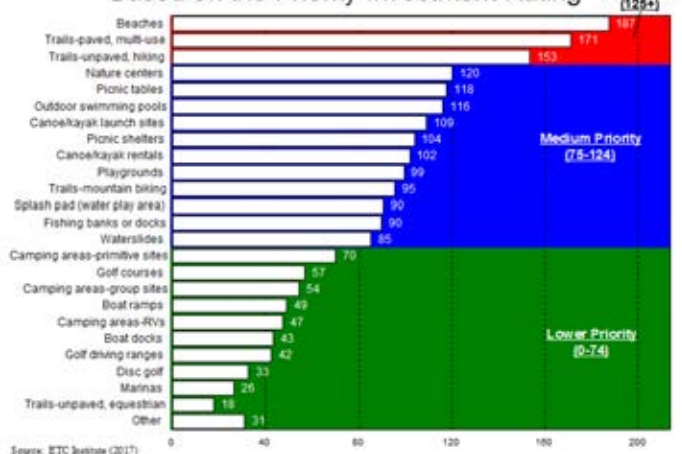
- Beaches (PIR=187)
- Trails-paved, multi-use (PIR=171)
- Trails-unpaved, hiking (PIR=153)

*Programming Needs and Priorities*

**Programming Needs:** Respondents were also asked to identify if their household had a need for 22 recreational programs and rate how well their needs for each program were currently being met. Based on this analysis, ETC Institute was able to estimate the number of households in the community that had “unmet” needs for each program.

The three programs with the highest percentage of households that had needs were: a farmers market (42%), concerts (41%), and bird/wildlife watching programs (30%). In addition to having the highest total need, the top two programs also have the highest unmet need among the 22

Top Priorities for Investment for Recreation Facilities Based on the Priority Investment Rating



Source: ETC Institute (2017)

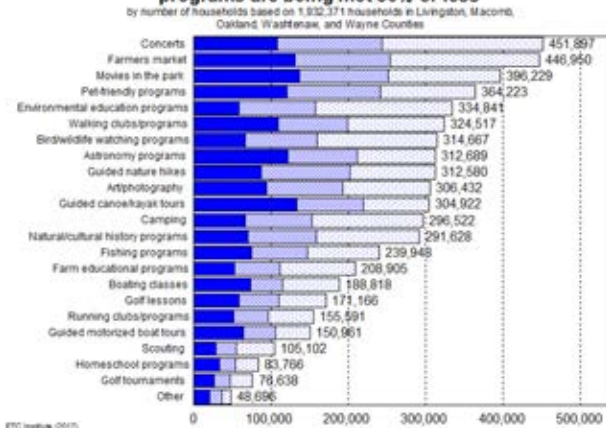
programming-related areas that were assessed. ETC Institute estimates a total of 451,897 households have unmet needs for concerts and 446,950 households have unmet needs for a farmers market.

**Program Importance and Use:** In addition to assessing the needs for each program, ETC Institute also assessed the importance that residents place on each program. Based on the sum of respondents’ top four choices, the three most important programs to residents were: a farmers market (22%), concerts (19%), and bird/wildlife watching programs (13%). Based on the sum of respondents’ top four choices, the three most used facilities include: farmers market (15%), concerts (14%), and bird/wildlife watching programs (10%).

**Priorities for Programming Investments:** Based the priority investment rating (PIR), the following six programs were rated as “high priorities” for investment:

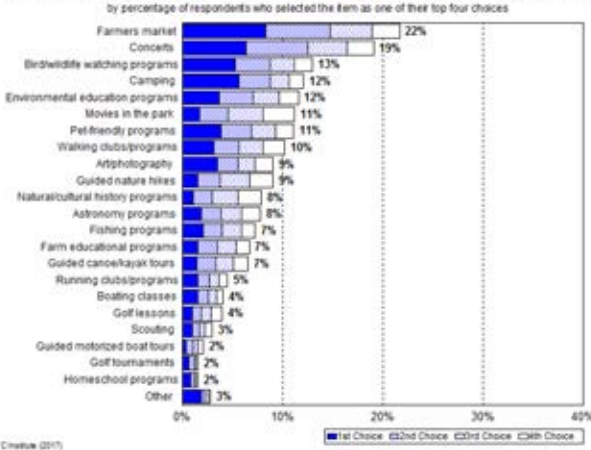
- Farmers market (PIR=199)
- Concerts (PIR=188)

Q8-3. Estimated number of households whose need for programs are being met 50% or less



ETC Institute (2017)

**Q10. Which four programs are most important to your household?**



- Movies in the park (PIR=139)
- Pet-friendly market programs (PIR=132)
- Bird/wildlife watching programs (PIR=130)
- Environmental education programs (PIR=128)

**Trends**

ETC Institute utilized the 2012 Huron-Clinton Metroparks telephone survey to compare the use of Metropark facilities to the 2017 survey results. For the 2017 and 2012 results, Visitors were defined as those who indicated they had visited a Metropark facility during the past year, and Non-Visitors were those who had not visited any Metropark facilities during the past year.

The number of respondents who visited any of the parks and facilities operated by Huron-Clinton Metroparks more than six times during the past year increased 18% (21% in 2012 vs. 39% in 2017). There was a minimal decrease in the number of respondents who visited parks and facilities between three

and six times (25% in 2012 vs. 21% in 2017). There was a 4% decrease from 2012 in the number of respondents who did not visit any parks and facilities operated by Huron-Clinton Metroparks during the past year.

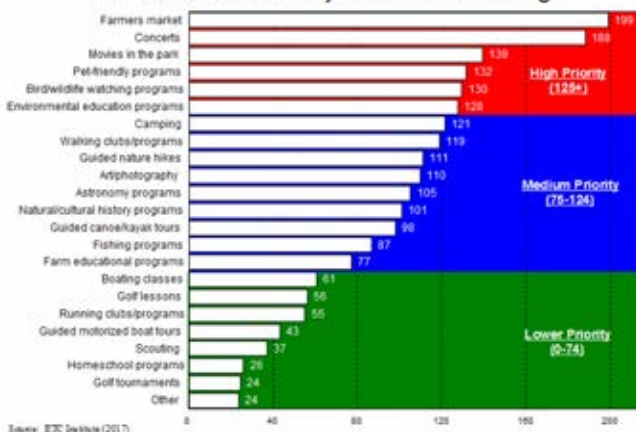
There was a small increase (3%) in the number of respondents who visited trails operated by Huron-Clinton Metroparks during the past year. In 2012 3% of those who visited trails indicated they run on paved trails operated by Huron-Clinton Metropark, and in 2017 22% of respondents indicated they run on paved trails, constituting a 19% increase. There was a 25% decrease in the number of respondents who indicated they hike on rustic trails (63% in 2012 vs. 38% in 2017).

In 2012 the number one reason that prevented respondents from using parks and facilities operated by Huron-Clinton Metroparks more often was time (18%). Although the number of respondents who indicated time was the reason they do not use parks and facilities more often increased to 31% in 2017, 32% of respondents indicated the location is not

**Trends 2012 v. 2017 Survey**

	2017	2012	Difference
<b>Number of times respondents visited parks and facilities operated by Huron-Clinton Metroparks during the past year</b>			
6+ Times	39%	21%	18%
3-6 Times	21%	25%	-4%
<b>Percentage of respondents who did not visit parks and facilities operated by Huron-Clinton Metroparks during the past year</b>			
Non-Visitors	20%	24%	-4%
<b>Percentage of respondents who visited trails operated by Huron-Clinton Metroparks during the past year</b>			
Visitors	70%	67%	3%
<b>Activities respondents participated in on trails operated by Huron-Clinton Metroparks during the past year (Visitors Only)</b>			
Run paved trails	22%	3%	19%
Cycle on paved trails	50%	50%	0%
Horseback riding	2%	9%	-7%
Cycle on mountain bike trails	21%	31%	-10%
Walk/run dog on paved trails	26%	37%	-11%
Cycle on roadways	18%	29%	-11%
Walk paved trails	70%	82%	-12%
Walk nature trails	77%	90%	-13%
In-line skate on paved trails	7%	22%	-15%
Hike on rustic trails	38%	63%	-25%
<b>Reasons that prevent respondents from using parks and facilities operated by Huron-Clinton Metroparks more often (Non-Visitors Only)</b>			
Location not convenient	32%	14%	18%
Time	31%	18%	13%
Cost	13%	4%	9%
Don't visit parks of any kind	14%	9%	5%
Transportation	9%	8%	1%
Use other parks or recreation facilities	7%	7%	0%
Not interested in Metroarks activities/amenities	13%	13%	0%

**Top Priorities for Investment for Recreation Programs Based on the Priority Investment Rating**





convenient. There was an 18% increase, from 14% in 2012, in the number of respondents who indicated the location of parks and facilities were not convenient.

**Conclusions and Recommendations**

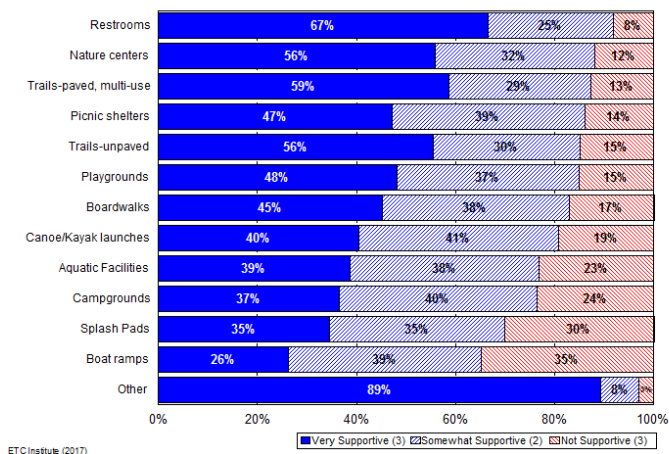
When analyzing the programs offered by the Huron-Clinton Metroparks, the same two items were the most important to respondent’s households and had the highest level of unmet need. Focusing on adding concerts and farmers markets would provide the greatest benefit for the largest number of residents within the region. Huron-Clinton Metroparks could also ensure they are reaching the greatest number of households in the region by focusing resources on beaches. Over 1 million households have a need for beaches in the region, of those who have a need an estimated 354,000 households have an unmet need, and 28% of respondents indicated this was the most important facility to their household.

Respondents were given a list of 12 different facilities and were asked to indicate how supportive they would be of the Metroparks using their tax dollars to fund renovations for each. Based on the sum of very supportive and somewhat supportive responses the three facilities that received the highest levels of support are: restrooms (92%), nature centers (88%), and trails-paved, multiuse (87%).

In order to ensure that the Huron-Clinton Metroparks continue to meet the needs and expectations of the community, ETC Institute recommends that they sustain and/or improve the



**Q13. Level of support of having Metroparks use tax dollars to fund each of the following renovations**  
by percentage of respondents (excluding "don't know")



performance in areas that were identified as “high priorities” by the Priority Investment Rating (PIR). The facilities and programs with the highest PIR ratings are listed.

**Facility Priorities**

- Beaches (PIR=187)
- Trails-paved, multi-use (PIR=171)
- Trails-unpaved, hiking (PIR=153)

**Programming Priorities**

- Farmers market (PIR=199)
- Concerts (PIR=188)
- Movies in the park (PIR=139)
- Pet-friendly programs (PIR=132)
- Bird/wildlife watching programs (PIR=130)
- Environmental education programs (PIR=128)





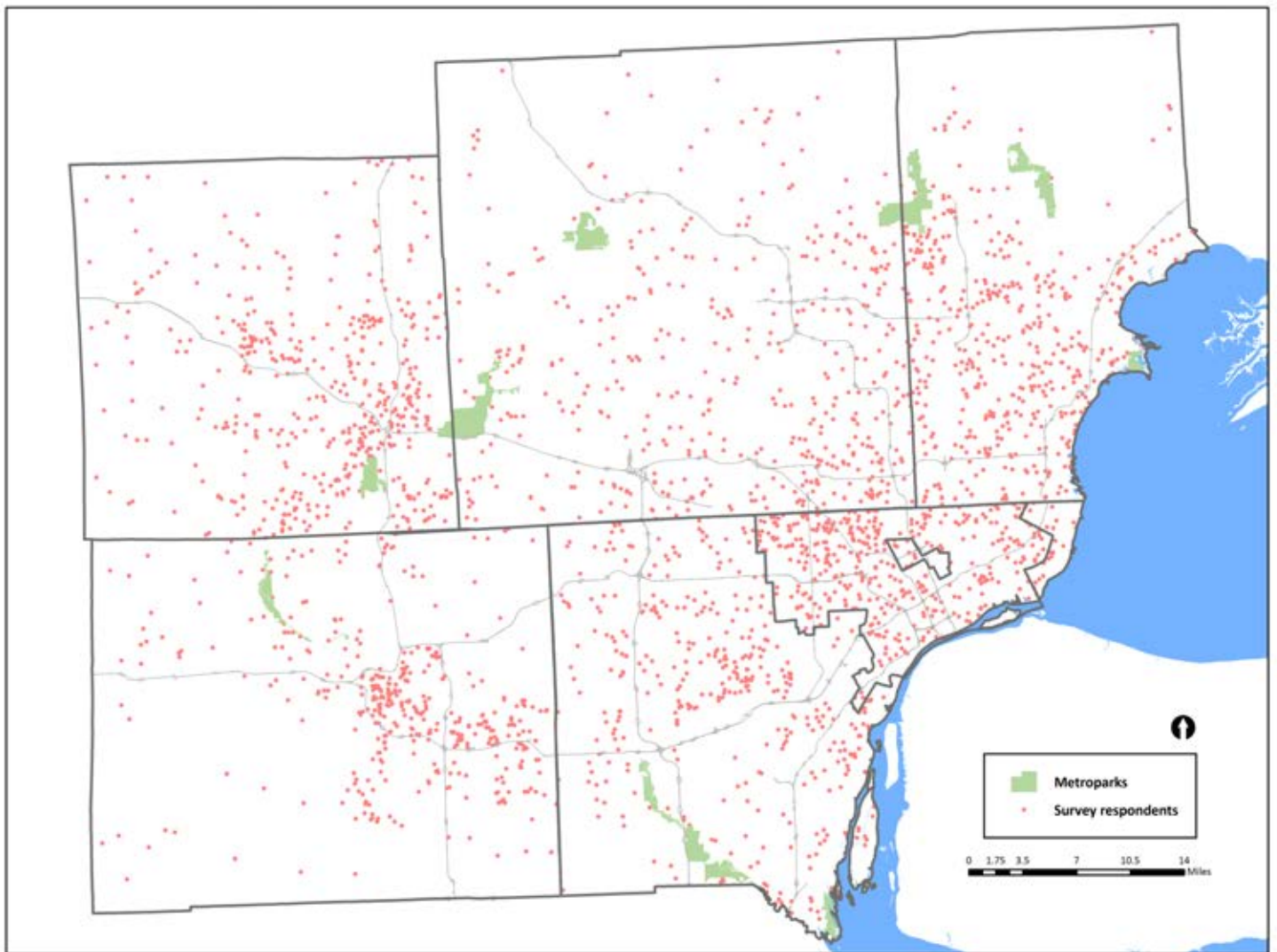
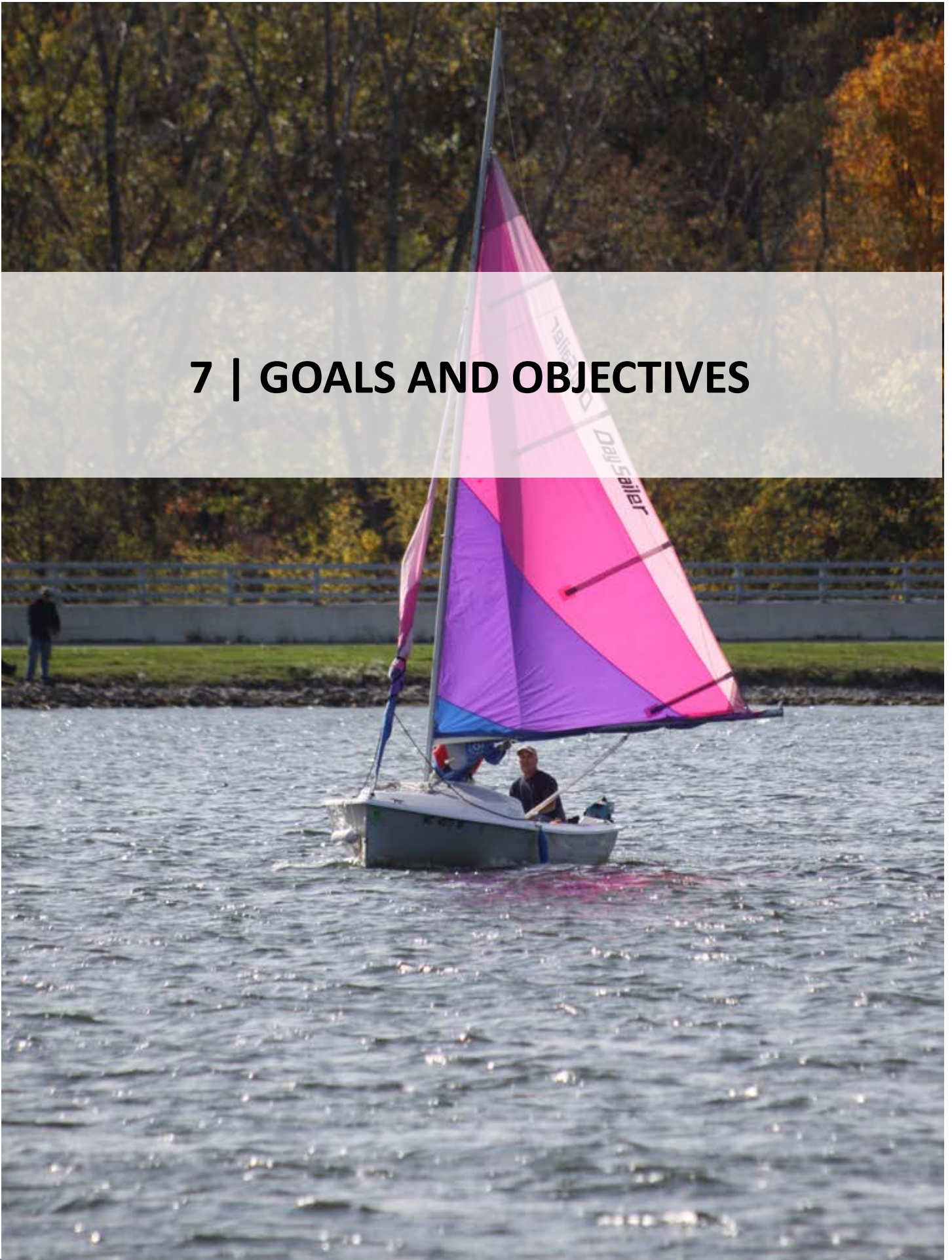


Figure 6.3 | Survey Respondent Map | Sources: MiGDL, ETC Institute



## 7 | GOALS AND OBJECTIVES





### 8 | GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The goals and objectives listed in this plan stem from the Metroparks mission statement, vision statement, and core values, and build upon the goals defined in the 2013-2017 Recreation Plan. The following factors highlighted previously in this plan contributed to formulation of the updated goals and objectives:

- **Infrastructure age and condition**—aging infrastructure has been managed on an inconsistent basis for years, and requires a comprehensive management plan.
- **ADA compliance**—improvements needed throughout the park system, especially in parking lots, launches, and sports facilities.
- **Biodiversity areas**—large swaths of undeveloped areas in the parks are high-quality habitats for a variety of species and should be protected.
- **Regional recreation facilities**— most Metroparks are in close proximity to at least one state or county park, necessitating complementary recreation offerings.
- **Public input process**—feedback gained through a representative regional survey, three district stakeholder meetings, comments received, public review period and a public hearing.

The following were additional major factors in determining goals and objectives, and are considered in detail in this chapter:

- **Demographic information**—an aging population with a fluctuating economic outlook requires innovative recreation approaches.
- **Regional plans**—most planning documents show a desire for environmental protection, non-motorized connections, and regional collaboration.
- **Regulatory obligations**—various regulations limit the ability of the Metroparks to develop certain areas, among other restrictions.





**REGIONAL DEMOGRAPHICS**

The Huron-Clinton Metroparks serve five counties, nearly 300 municipalities, and a collective population of 4.4 million. Accurate demographic and consumer spending data is necessary to understand population trends and ongoing socioeconomic changes, which are included in the formulation of the Recreation Plan goals and objectives. The data in the following sections come from the U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics (BLS), the U.S. Census Bureau, and the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG).

**Consumer Expenditures**

The Bureau of Labor & Statistics (BLS) produces annual surveys of consumer spending habits for residents of various regions throughout the country. *The Consumer Expenditures Survey*<sup>1</sup> characterizes consumer spending habits in a variety of categories, some of which are relevant to the Metroparks.

*Income Trends*

In the Midwest region, consumer units<sup>2</sup> have an average income of \$66,754 before taxes, trailing the West and Northeast regions. Consumer units with reference persons<sup>3</sup> between the ages of 45 and 54 earn the highest nationwide, an average of \$95,248 before taxes in 2015. Those with reference persons under 25 and older than 75 have similar pre-tax incomes: \$31,606 and \$36,408, respectively.

*Spending Trends*

According to the BLS *Consumer Expenditures 2015*<sup>4</sup> report, national spending has increased across all income brackets as personal income has risen. From 2014 to 2015, the average spending per consumer unit increased by 4.6%, or \$55,978. In this time period, average pre-tax income similarly increased by 4.1%. Married consumer units with an oldest child over 18 years old participate in the most spending, averaging \$82,782 for 2015.

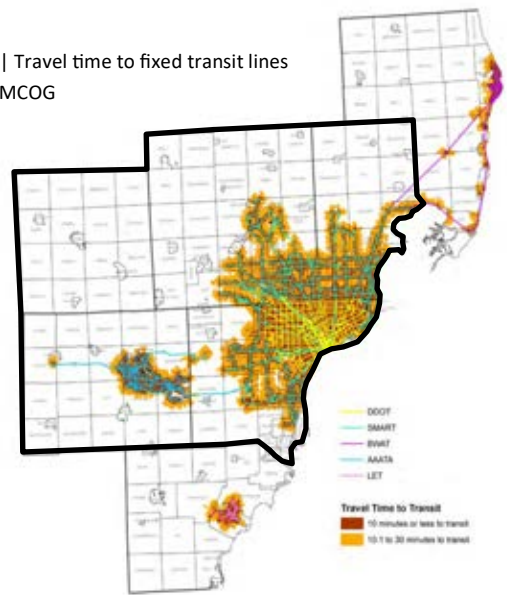
Consumer units with an oldest child aged 6-17 spend the most on the *Fees & Admissions*<sup>5</sup> category, but consumer units nationwide tend to spend less than 1% of their income on this category. Income and spending on entertainment and admission fees may serve as an indicator of spending habits on park programs.

From 2014 to 2015, spending on transportation has increased, reaching an average of \$9,503. While spending on vehicle purchases increased by more than \$700 (21.1%), spending on gasoline and motor oil decreased 15.3% in this time period. These trends impact accessibility to the Metroparks through personal transportation.

**Access to Parks**

The *Access to Core Services*<sup>6</sup> report generated by SEMCOG analyzes accessibility of core services to various segments of the population. SEMCOG highlights seven core services, which are major daily destinations for households and are important for improving resident quality of life: Jobs, Supermarkets, Health Care Facilities, Schools, Libraries, Fixed-Route Transit, and Parks.

Figure 7.1 | Travel time to fixed transit lines  
Source: SEMCOG



<sup>1</sup>Consumer Expenditures Survey, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. <https://www.bls.gov/cex/>

<sup>2</sup> According to the BLS: “Consumer units include families, single persons living alone or sharing a household with others but who are financially independent, or two or more persons living together who share expenses.” The average number of people in a consumer unit is around 2.5.

<sup>3</sup> According to the BLS a Reference Person is: “The first member mentioned by the respondent when asked to ‘Start with the name of the person or one of the persons who owns or rents the home.’ It is with respect to this person that the relationship of the other consumer unit members is determined.”

<sup>4</sup> Consumer Expenditures - 2015, Bureau Of Labor & Statistics. <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/cesan.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> Includes fees for participant sports; admissions to sporting events, movies, concerts, and plays; health, swimming, tennis and country club memberships; fees for other social, recreational, and fraternal organizations; recreational lessons or instruction; rental of movies, and recreation expenses on trips.

<sup>6</sup> Access to Core Services in Southeast Michigan, Southeast Michigan Council of Governments. <http://semcog.org/Plans-for-the-Region/Transportation/Access>

Currently, households within Southeast Michigan have access to five fixed-route transit systems: Ann Arbor Area Transit Authority (AAATA), Blue Water Area Transit (BWAT), Detroit Department of Transportation (DDOT), Lake Erie Transit (LET), and Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation (SMART). Residents face low levels of walkability to and from bus stops, and are bound by limited travel distances based on fixed routes. Figure 7.1 on the previous page shows the travel time to these routes.

The Metroparks serve a large regional land area, and access to transportation impacts access to the parks. Figure 7.2 (below) shows the drive times from Southeast Michigan households to regional parks, defined as parks larger than 200 acres. Although 75% of households in the region are within a 10-minute drive to a large regional park, less than 15% of households are within a 30-minute transit trip to a regional park. Gaps in access to large parks by automobile may be mitigated by pedestrian access to local parks and schools.

Metroparks to better plan and organize outreach to these communities.

Overall 12.5% of households in the region are **Transit-dependent households**, which either do not have access to an automobile or have fewer cars than workers. Fixed-route transit service is more than a 10-minute walk away for 35% of these households, and more than a 30-minute walk away for 20% of these households. This reduces the ability of residents in those households to take advantage of important resources such as regional parks. Residents are faced with limited transit operating hours, long travel distances, high rates, and limited walkability to core services such as parks.

**Households below the poverty threshold**, defined as an annual income of less than \$20,090 for 3 people, make up 13% of all households in Southeast Michigan. The walking access to fixed-route transit for households in poverty mirrors that of transit-dependent households, and the two categories overlap.

**Households with older adults** are becoming more numerous as communities in Southeast Michigan age. Generally located in less centralized areas, this population is expected to grow 37.2% through 2040. Such an increase will generate demand for transportation and services that cater to older adults. This segment of the population faces exceptional barriers to access, with over 50% of households outside a 10-minute walk from fixed-route transit.

**HCMA District Demographic Shifts<sup>1</sup>**

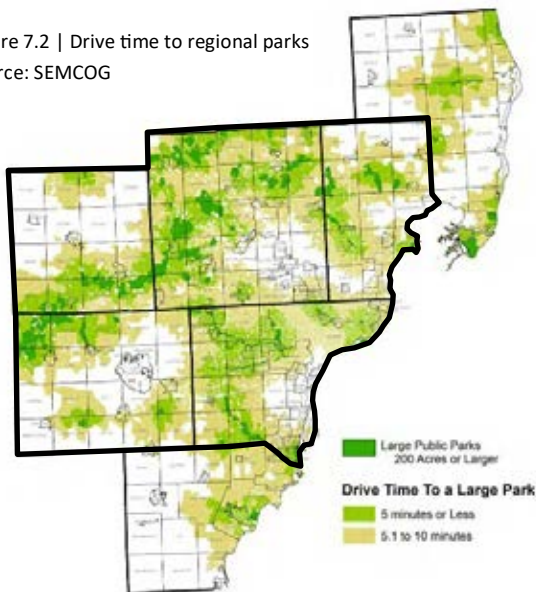
*Eastern District*

The HCMA Eastern District is primarily in Macomb County and contains three Metroparks: Wolcott Mill, Lake St. Clair, and Stony Creek.

Macomb County will experience a significant demographic shift through 2040: the 35-59 age group will see a 13.7% decrease, although it will remain the largest age group. The senior population (over 65 years old) will increase 90% to 228,895 residents, becoming the second-largest age group.

From 2014 to 2015, the annual income of households in the county increased 1% to \$68,599, which corresponds to the increase in national household income. The largest income bracket in the county is \$50,000—\$74,999, representing 19%

Figure 7.2 | Drive time to regional parks  
Source: SEMCOG



**Focus Populations**

SEMCOG outlines accessibility issues for *Transit-dependent Households*, *Households in Poverty*, and *Senior Households*. These groups have been identified as the most affected by low access to automobiles, and are more likely to use and rely on alternative forms of transportation. An understanding of how transportation options impact these populations allows the

<sup>1</sup>SEMCOG 2040 Regional Forecast, <http://semcog.org/plans-for-the-region/regional-forecast>

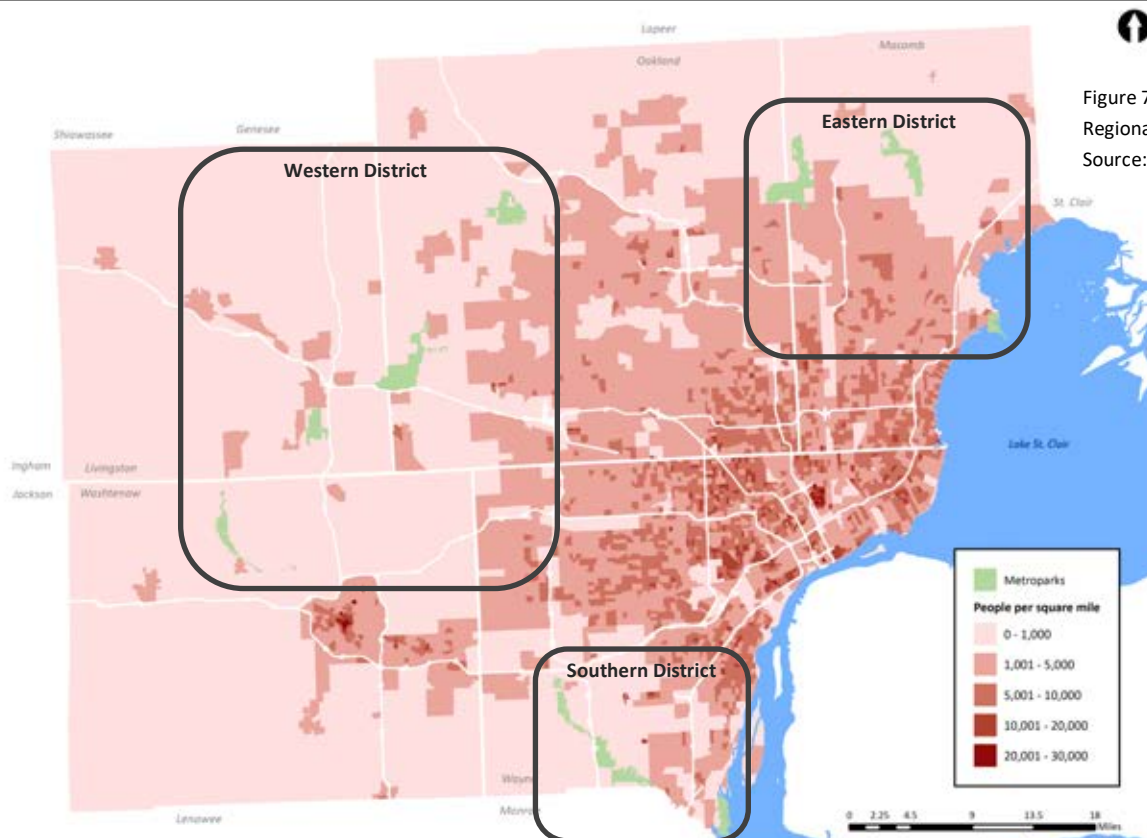


Figure 7.3  
Regional population density  
Source: U.S. Census, MiGDL

of households. Households below the poverty line represent 12.8% of the population.

Macomb County is also changing racially. Between 2000 and 2010 the African-American population increased 5.9%, and other groups increased slightly. While the largest racial group in the county is still white, this group has decreased 7.7%.

**Southern District**

The HCMA Southern District includes four Metroparks, all located in Wayne County: Lower Huron, Willow, Oakwoods, and Lake Erie.

Wayne County is projected to decrease in population across most age groups through 2040. Only the senior population, (over 65 years old) will increase, as seen in other counties. Despite the senior growth, in 2040 the largest groups will be residents under 25 years of age, which will constitute 28% of the population, and residents ages 35-59, representing 32% of the population.

Just as national income has increased, so has the average income of households within Wayne County. From 2014 to 2015, the average annual income increased 1%, to \$58,406. Similar to the Eastern District, the largest income bracket is

\$50,000-\$74,999, representing 16% of households. In 2014, 25% of the population was below the poverty line.

**Western District**

The HCMA Western District contains six Metroparks: Indian Springs, Kensington, Huron Meadows, Hudson Mills, Dexter-Huron, and Delhi. The district is comprised of Oakland County, Livingston County, and Washtenaw County, so the data for this district is an average of the three counties.

Similar to other districts, the Western District will see a shift in demographics through 2040. While the number of residents ages 35-59 will decline, the senior population is projected to increase 173%, to 447,775. By 2040, residents under the age of 25 will make up the majority of the district’s population, mostly consisting of children ages 5-7.

Among the Western District counties, households with annual incomes of \$50,000-\$74,999 make up 17% of the population, and those with incomes of \$100,000-\$149,999 constitute another 17%. Within Oakland, Livingston, and Washtenaw counties, 11% of the households are in poverty. Of the three, Washtenaw County has the highest percentage of households in poverty.



**REGIONAL PLANS**

The following plans were consulted to understand the challenges facing and the resources available to the region at large. With a good grasp of the intentions of other regional agencies, the Metroparks can focus on complementary goals and objectives and more efficiently serve the region’s citizens.

SEMCOG	
The Economic and Demographic Outlook for Southeast Michigan through 2045	2017
Access to Core Services in Southeast Michigan	2016
Bicycle and Pedestrian Travel Plan for Southeast Michigan	2014
Green Infrastructure Vision for Southeast Michigan	2014
2040 Regional Transportation Plan for Southeast Michigan	2013
2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program	2013
The Economic and Demographic Outlook for Southeast Michigan through 2040	2012
Improving Transit in Southeast Michigan: A Framework for Action	2001
Governor	
21st Century Infrastructure Commission Report	2016
The Future of Michigan’s Parks and Outdoor Recreation	2012
Watershed Councils	
Huron Chain of Lakes Watershed Management Plan	2005
Lake St. Clair subwatershed management plan	2006
Mill Creek Subwatershed Management Plan	2006
Clinton River East Watershed (CREW) subwatershed management plan	2006
Portage Creek Watershed Plan and Project	2010
Kent Lake Subwatershed Management Plan	2002
Stony Creek and Paint Creek Subwatershed Plan	2006
MDOT	
2015-2019 Five-Year Transportation Program	2015
2035 State Long-Range Transportation Plan	2012
DNR	
Michigan’s Iron Belle Trail Map	2015
State Trails Implementation Plan	2014
Michigan Comprehensive Trail Plan	2013
Parks and Recreation Division 2009-2019 Strategic Plan	2009
Counties	
Macomb County Blue Economy Strategic Development Plan	2012
Macomb County Parks and Recreation Master Plan	2014
Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission Master Plan	2014
Oakland County Parks Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan	2013
SELCRA Brighton Area Multi-Jurisdictional Parks and Recreation Master Plan	2011



**FISCAL OUTLOOK**

The Metroparks finance and accounting staff compiled the 2018 to 2022 projected general revenue and expense assumptions for operations, maintenance, and capital improvements found below. (The definitions for these categories are found in the funding section of Chapter 4, Administrative Structure.) Anticipated revenues are based on “net” tax levy with captured taxes due to tax abatements and tax increment financing initiatives. No projected growth or decline in toll charges or permit fees over the five years is assumed. Expenditures for personnel costs for both park operations and the administrative office reflects the HCMA Employee Association contract increases. Potential major maintenance repairs are included to keep up with an ever-increasing level of aging infrastructure. Capital improvements are projected based on staffs recommended schedule of projects. Similarly, equipment is projected based on recommended replacement cycles for major equipment.

Revenue										
	2018	Change	2019	Change	2020	Change	2021	Change	2022	Change
Property Tax	31,375,000	102%	31,845,000	102%	32,325,000	102%	32,970,000	102%	33,600,000	102%
Operating Tolls	9,000,000	100%	9,000,000	100%	9,000,000	100%	9,000,000	100%	9,000,000	100%
Operating Golf	5,400,000	100%	5,400,000	100%	5,400,000	100%	5,400,000	100%	5,400,000	100%
Operating Aquatics	2,000,000	100%	2,000,000	100%	2,000,000	100%	2,000,000	100%	2,000,000	100%
Other/Possible Donation (small growth)	4,000,000	1.013	4,050,000	1.013	4,100,000	1.012	4,150,000	1.012	4,200,000	1.012
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>51,775,000</b>		<b>52,275,000</b>		<b>52,725,000</b>		<b>53,370,000</b>		<b>54,000,000</b>	



Expenses										
	2018	Change	2019	Change	2020	Change	2021	Change	2022	Change
Admin Office	9,560,000	102%	9,900,000	102%	10,240,000	102%	10,610,000	102%	11,000,000	102%
Park Operations	34,600,000	102%	35,870,000	102%	37,180,000	103%	38,560,000	103%	40,020,000	103%
Major Maintenance	2,400,000	32%	1,122,500	70%	1,147,500	102%	1,000,000	87%	1,000,000	100%
Total Operating Expenses	46,560,000	92%	46,892,500	102%	48,567,500	103%	50,170,000	103%	51,021,000	103%
Operating Surplus	0		0		0		0		0	
Land Acquisition	0		0		0		0		0	
Capital Need	5,080,000		1,710,000		2,910,000		3,000,000		3,000,000	
Total Capital Improvement	5,250,000		1,710,000		2,910,000		3,000,000		3,000,000	
Capital Equipment	1,800,000		1,500,000		1,500,000		1,500,000		1,500,000	
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>58,690,000</b>		<b>51,820,000</b>		<b>55,890,000</b>		<b>57,670,000</b>		<b>59,520,000</b>	



## REGULATORY OBLIGATIONS

The constraints placed on the Metroparks by various agencies must be taken into account in the formulation of goals and objectives, to ensure safety, equality, and sound environmental stewardship in addition to engaging recreation.

### Americans with Disabilities Act

The 2010 *Americans with Disabilities Act Standards for Accessible Design*<sup>1</sup> regulates any new or modified facilities in the park, including boating facilities, fishing piers, golf courses, playgrounds, pools, and sports areas. Government agencies are also required to develop a transition plan to remove barriers to access from current facilities. The Metroparks are committed to achieving compliance with ADA and will work towards the higher standard of Universal Design wherever feasible.

Compliance projects that can be addressed immediately include parking space signing and striping and small-scale paving. When a large amount of paving is necessary to make all facilities on a site accessible, it is more effective long-term to wait until redevelopment of the site is appropriate and arrange facilities in an accessible design. Since many of the Metroparks were designed and built decades ago, the current arrangement of facilities is sprawling and does not take into account varying levels of ability. Clustering new development into accessible nodes of activity will not only allow more people to enjoy the facilities, but will also decrease impervious surfaces and preserve open space.

When sites are redesigned or newly constructed, attention will be given to appropriate measurements and design criteria at recreational facilities noted in ADA 2010. In the future it may be necessary to hire a consultant to survey the accessibility of building interiors and make recommendations for improvements.

### Occupational Safety and Health Act

This act provides standards for design and procedure in facilities or areas where individuals are employed.<sup>2</sup> The regulations cover exit routes, noise exposure, hazardous materials, environmental controls, fire protection, heavy machinery, and more. The Metroparks are committed to maintaining a safe and healthy workplace for all employees.

## Natural Rivers District

Four of the Metroparks are subject to regulations for the Natural River-designated segment of the Huron River: Huron Meadows, Hudson Mills, Dexter-Huron, and Delhi. The Huron is the only river in Southeast Michigan with Natural River designation.

Additional requirements must be followed for development near the river in these parks, which guide the plans for each facility's future. The Michigan Natural Rivers Act,<sup>3</sup> passed in 1994, gave power to both state and local agencies to protect rivers of uniquely pristine nature that must be protected from detrimental development. Local governments are encouraged to create zoning guidelines regarding use of the river frontage; otherwise the state zoning regulations apply. These rules usually cover allowable development types, setbacks, and dimensions within the land 50-200 feet from the river on each side.

The Metroparks are committed to working within the Natural Rivers District zoning to develop park amenities sensibly in the four parks noted above. The goal is to maintain the integrity of the river and frontage while still providing recreational resources that serve all users.

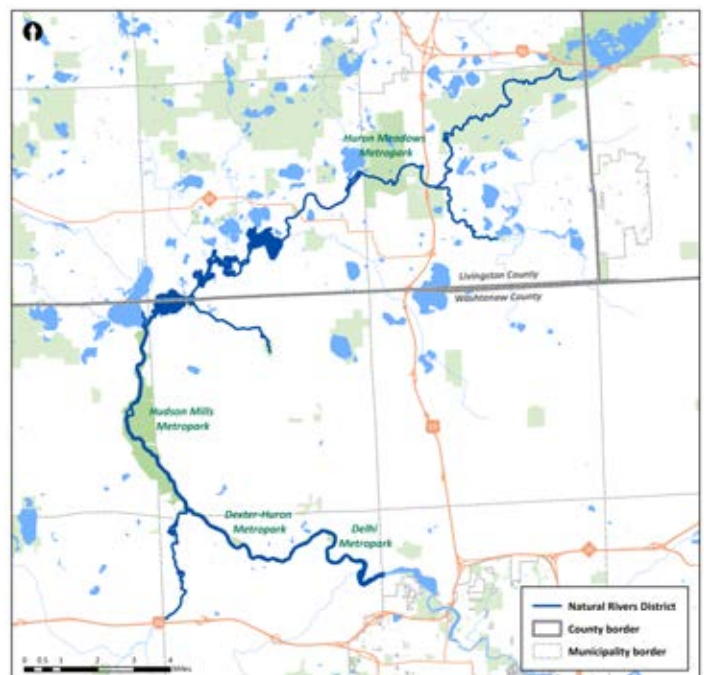


Figure 7.5 | Huron River Natural River System | Source: MDNR

<sup>1</sup> United States Access Board, <https://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/buildings-and-sites/about-the-ada-standards/ada-standards>

<sup>2</sup> United State Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Act, <https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/>

<sup>3</sup> MDNR, Citizen Tools for Natural Rivers, [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/CitizenTools\\_NR\\_320951\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/CitizenTools_NR_320951_7.pdf)

**Clean Water Act**

The Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA) has implemented a storm water management program to reduce the discharge of pollutants to the Waters of the State within its jurisdiction. This plan has been developed to fulfill the requirements for Part I, Section B of the State of Michigan’s National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit (MIS049000) for Storm Water Discharges from Separate Storm Water Drainage Systems (MS4s).<sup>1</sup> Although it operates under a Jurisdictional Permit, HCMA has been participating in the watershed planning process with the Stony/Paint Creek, Lower Huron, and Kent Lake Sub-watershed Groups. HCMA has property within both the Huron and Clinton River Watersheds, and a Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP) has been implemented within the requested area of coverage as determined by the urbanized areas outlined in the General Permit.

The purpose of the SWMP is to develop a program to implement the six minimum measures as required by the General Permit, which include:

- Public Education Plan (PEP)
- Public Involvement and Participation Plan (PIP)
- Illicit Discharge Elimination Plan (IDEP)
- Post Construction Storm Water Management Program for New Development and Redevelopment Projects
- Construction Storm Water Runoff Control
- Pollution Prevention / Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations

These six minimum measures are designed to minimize the negative impacts or reduce discharge of pollutants within the storm water conveyances of the Metroparks to the Maximum Extent Possible (MEP). The MEP requirement will be met by:

- Educating the public, HCMA employees, and vendors on potential negative impacts of storm water discharge on receiving waters.
- Training appropriate HCMA staff on the investigation of illicit connections and discharges, including those from on-site disposal systems (OSDS), with emphasis on outfall observations/screenings, safety issues, and naturally occurring phenomena.
- Implementing a system for identifying and eliminating

illicit discharges and connections to the MS4s, including outfall observations and follow-up sampling.

- Locating and accurately mapping the storm water conveyances and outfalls owned and operated by the HCMA within the requested area of coverage.
- Determining the ownership of other significant storm water conveyances in the HCMA and initiating a process to bring any “orphan” drains under proper jurisdiction.
- Working with the Drain Commissioner and County Department of Public Health in their efforts to develop and implement an OSDS inspection program.
- Coordinating HCMA IDEP efforts with other local communities and impacted County agencies.
- The identification and implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) to comply with the minimum measures of Part I, including cooperation with other permittees as necessary to assure compliance.
- The identification and implementation of BMPs to comply with storm water related requirements established in a corrective action plan, to meet TMDLs as applicable.
- Demonstration of effectiveness or environmental benefit of the program.



<sup>1</sup>US EPA National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, <https://www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater-discharges-municipal-sources>

### **Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA)**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) listed the eastern massasauga rattlesnake (EMR) as Federally Threatened under the Endangered Species Act on Sept. 29, 2016.<sup>1</sup> EMR populations have substantially decreased due to many issues including habitat loss and fragmentation, human persecution, and disease. EMR are known to occur at four Metroparks (Stony Creek, Kensington, Indian Springs, and Hudson Mills), and have been the focus of past research and study at all of these locations.

HCMA has obtained protection for management activities that may cause incidental harm to individual snakes or their habitat by signing the Certificate of Inclusion to the MDNR's CCAA. The purpose of the CCAA is to conserve and enhance habitat that will maintain viable EMR populations, while reducing uncertainty that landowners face in managing lands with federally listed species.

Management activities covered by the CCAA include: wetland protection, cultivation, mowing and hydro-axing, chemical controls, trail/pathway management, prescribed burns, forest management including brush removal and invasive species control, and water level manipulations. Previous habitat management has led to the persistence of EMR populations on HCMA property. The CCAA does not require significant changes to current management activities.

To be considered for the CCAA the Natural Resources Department submitted a draft EMR Implementation Plan (EMRIP) to the MDNR. This plan highlights which areas are considered Managed Lands and Unmanaged Lands.

#### *Unmanaged Land*

These are lands that are enrolled in the CCAA but are not considered important to the long-term sustainability of EMR and may be incompatible with EMR management, such as campgrounds or golf courses. Managers do not need to implement conservation strategies on these lands and may actively discourage massasauga use. Landowners are still covered for incidental take. HCMA has identified roughly 21,000 acres of Unmanaged Land throughout the park system.

#### *Managed Land*

This land is considered most important to the long-term sustainability of EMR and has been identified as holding EMR. HCMA has identified 3,554 acres of Managed Lands in the four parks known to have EMR populations.



<sup>1</sup> US Fish & Wildlife Service Endangered Species, <https://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/reptiles/eama/eama-fct-sht.html>



## 8 | GOALS & OBJECTIVES

After considering all of the factors presented in the previous pages, HCMA staff developed the following five goals and corresponding objectives. The goals are meant to be broad, comprehensive categories that each encompass aspects of the vision to which the Metroparks aspire. The objectives are intended to describe a path forward for meeting the goals, moving into greater specificity. Finally, in the next chapter, these objectives will be broken down into actionable tasks with timelines and cost estimates.



# 1 INNOVATION

*Modernize the Metroparks and develop new revenue streams.*

- 1.1 Use new technology to increase connectivity and efficient communication throughout the system.
- 1.2 Construct and repurpose buildings to provide administrative and operations staff with workspaces that maximize employee productivity and wellness.
- 1.3 Redevelop targeted areas with innovative takes on current recreation trends to attract and retain a strong user base.



## 2 MAINTENANCE & INFRASTRUCTURE

*Repair, maintain, and improve core park infrastructure.*

- 2.1 Adopt a comprehensive and preventative approach to infrastructure management, maintaining an accurate inventory and investing in updates.
- 2.2 Continue to present visitors with a clean, functional, and pleasant park experience with excellent maintenance standards.
- 2.3 Plan for transition to ADA accessibility in all park system facilities, with an eye towards universal design.



## 3 EDUCATION & AWARENESS

*Develop and enhance programming, communication, and outreach efforts.*

- 3.1 Enhance visitors' understanding of and appreciation for Metroparks natural features and cultural history through updated interpretive exhibits, programs, and signage.
- 3.2 Ensure ease of navigation and safety through clear, simple, and strategically placed wayfinding signage.
- 3.3 Develop new visitor feedback opportunities to foster a greater sense of accountability in staff and ownership in the public.





8 | GOALS & OBJECTIVES

## 4 STEWARDSHIP

*Protect and restore natural biodiversity while balancing resource management with recreational activities.*

- 4.1 Maintain clean, fresh water resources that facilitate both extraordinary recreation and healthy ecosystems.
- 4.2 Develop natural areas in the Metroparks to be exemplary metropolitan habitats for a wide range of flora and fauna.
- 4.3 Use early detection and rapid response to prevent disease and invasive species from damaging natural areas in the parks.



## 5 SUSTAINABILITY

*Prioritize employee development, environmental health improvements, and financial stability. Become a leader for the region in sustainable practices.*

- 5.1 Increase focus on environmental sustainability throughout the Metroparks system, especially by expanding recycling opportunities, reducing waste, and through education.
- 5.2 Invest in the valuable human resources of the park system through staff education and enrichment.
- 5.3 Implement a diverse funding strategy to ensure financial resilience into the future.







## 8 | ACTION PROGRAM



## DRAFT Amended Recreation Plan 2020

### 8 | ACTION PROGRAM

This chart provides planned projects for the next five years, listed by park. Descriptions and financial estimates are provided for each, in addition to goal identification and a timeline following the key below:

- **Now** | 2018
- **Soon** | 2019-2020
- **Later** | 2021-2022
- **Ongoing/As Needed**

Projects identified beyond five years will be evaluated for incorporation into the individual 10 year Master Plans and will also be considered in the next Recreation Plan 2023-2027. A list of projects beyond five years are listed in the Appendices.

#### SYSTEM-WIDE

Project	Description	Cost	Funding Source	Timeframe	Goals / Objectives
Fiber optic cable connectivity	Park wide initiative to upgrade and improve communications with fiber optic cable infrastructure	TBD	General Fund	Now	1.1
Increase attendance	Increase attendance counts by providing programming that fits the needs of residents in service area	TBD	General Fund/ Grants	Now	1.5,3.4,3.5
Provide accessibility updates on webpage	Provide information on accessibility of park facilities and programs	-	Staff time	Now	3.4,3.5
Develop staff wellness program	Continue investing in staff education and skills in meeting sustainable goals	TBD	General Fund	Now	5.2
Enhance Friends of the Metroparks program	Identify project programs, and partnerships through the Metroparks Foundation	TBD	Partnerships	Now	5.3
Improve inclusivity and diversity	Develop, partner or promote programming opportunities that reflect service areas cultural and ability diversity	TBD	Partnerships/staff time	Ongoing	2.3,3.4,3.5
Provide adaptive and sensory-friendly programming	Ensure there is a variety of educational and recreational opportunities available throughout the year	-	Partnerships/staff time	Ongoing	2.3,3.4,3.5
Formalize partnerships	Develop MOUs as necessary with partners	-	Staff time	Ongoing	1.4,5.4
Provide swimming lessons	Use pools throughout the system to provide and/or host swimming lessons	TBD	General Fund/ Grants	Ongoing	1.4,2.4,3.5
Develop off-leash dog area in each District	Develop conceptual plan and implement	TBD	General Fund/ Grants	Soon/Later	2.4

## DRAFT Amended Recreation Plan 2020

### 8 | ACTION PROGRAM

#### SYSTEM-WIDE, cont.

Project	Description	Cost	Funding Source	Timeframe	Goals / Objectives
Develop standard operating procedures for programs and special events	Establish tools and protocols for developing planning, executing, and evaluating	NA	Staff time	Now	5.4
Develop signature events	Plan signature events for each district and/or Metroparks that are unique to that park's character	TBD	Operations/ Recreation programming	Ongoing	1.3,2.4,3.1,4.1
Improve fishing access and quality	Evaluate fishing access and quality throughout park system	TBD	General Fund/ Partnerships/ Grant	Ongoing/As Needed	4.1
Habitat restorations/ enhancements	Continued efforts based on short term priority project areas identified by Natural Resources department	TBD	General Fund/ Partnerships/ Grant	Ongoing/As Needed	4.2
Monitoring/surveying flora and fauna	Continued efforts based on short term priority project areas identified by Natural Resources department	TBD	General Fund/ Partnerships/ Grant	Ongoing/As Needed	4.2
Detection/prevention of oak wilt	Continued efforts based on short term priority project areas identified by Natural Resources department	TBD	General Fund/ Partnerships	Ongoing/As Needed	4.3
Invasive species mitigation efforts focusing on emerging threats	Continue to implement land and water based invasive species control (e.g. frog bit)	TBD	General Fund	Ongoing/As Needed	4.3
Expanding recycling opportunities	Continue to assess the need for improved and sustainable recycling initiatives	TBD	General Fund	Ongoing/As Needed	5.1
Reducing waste at park events	Continue to assess the need for improved and sustainable recycling initiatives	TBD	General Fund	Ongoing/As Needed	5.1
Develop and enhance staff training programs	Continue investing in staff education and skills in meeting sustainable goals	TBD	General Fund	Ongoing/As Needed	5.2
Build and implement a Metroparks asset inventory and management system	Utilize SAW grant for sanitary system as starting point, build with additional asset classes over time.	TBD	General Fund/SAW Grant	Ongoing/As Needed	1.1 2.1



SYSTEM-WIDE, cont.

Project	Description	Cost	Funding Source	Timeframe	Goals/ Objectives
Staff attendance at appropriate parks/ recreation conferences	Continue investing in staff education and skills in meeting sustainable goals	TBD	General Fund	Ongoing/As Needed	5.2
Assessments of nature trail boardwalks, bridges, and other built	Inspections and maintenance checks on built infrastructure	TBD	Staff	Ongoing/As Needed	2.1
Accessibility improvements	Continued implementation of accessible facilities per ADA standards	TBD	General Fund/ Grant	Ongoing/As Needed	2.3
Develop fundraising campaigns	Identify projects and programs for partnerships with fundraising campaigns	TBD	Partnerships	Ongoing/As Needed	5.3
Seek sponsorships for large events	Identify projects and programs for partnerships with sponsors	TBD	Partnerships	Ongoing/As Needed	5.3
Utility line replacements	Implement GIS asset management and replace utilities if required for site improvements	TBD	General Fund	Ongoing/As Needed	2.2
Feasibility studies for mountain bike trail facilities	Continue to work with partners on development of mountain bike trails	TBD	General Fund/ Partnerships	Ongoing/As Needed	1.3
Provide trail connectivity to surrounding communities	Continue partnership with local communities and other agencies on trail development	TBD	General Fund/ Partnerships/ Grant	Ongoing/As Needed	2.3, 5.3
Dam studies (Stony Creek, Kensington, Oakwoods)	Assess needs for repair and maintenance of dam infrastructure	TBD	General Fund	Soon	2.1
Road, lot, and hike-bike trail paving projects over 5 -year period	Maintenance of existing infrastructure requiring paving	TBD	General Fund/ Grant	Ongoing/As Needed	2.2
Roof replacements	Maintain existing structures requiring roof replacement	TBD	General Fund	Ongoing/As Needed	2.2
Develop natural surface hiking trails within each District	Evaluate suitable sites for pedestrian use	TBD	General Fund/ Partnerships/ Grant	Ongoing/As Needed	2.3

## DRAFT Amended Recreation Plan 2020

### 8 | ACTION PROGRAM

#### SYSTEM WIDE, contd.

Project	Description	Cost	Funding Source	Timeframe	Goals/Objectives
Interpretive exhibit updates	Continued programming improvements with educational/interpretive exhibit updates	TBD	General Fund/Grant	Ongoing/As Needed	3.1
Park visitor feedback opportunities	Facilitate public input opportunities with each development project	N/A	General Fund	Ongoing/As Needed	1.1 3.3
Annual Programming Work Plan	Address what will be done during a given year, progress	N/A	General Fund	Ongoing/As Needed	1.3 , 3.1 3.3

#### LAKE ST. CLAIR

Project	Description	Cost	Funding Source	Timeframe	Goals/Objectives
Replace Pump Station #1	Part of SAW grant to be completed by 2020	\$28,000	General Fund/SAW Grant	Now	2.1, 4.1
Maintenance Area redevelopment	Replace multiple structures with one large maintenance building. Improve stormwater drainage from site (part of SAW grant to be completed by 2020). Include screening from park exit road	\$1,500,000	General Fund/SAW Grant	Now/Soon	1.2, 2.2, 4.1, 5.1
North Marina improvements	Replace seawall and building. Determine future use of area	\$1,000,000	General Fund/Grant	Soon	1.3, 2.2
Nature Center redevelopment and renovation	Building renovations for improved accessibility and interpretive opportunities. Incorporate nature playscape	\$500,000	General Fund/Grant	Soon	1.2, 1.3, 2.3, 3.1
Repair east and west boardwalks		\$430,000	General Fund	Soon	2.2, 2.3
Replace underground power line		\$800,000	General Fund	Soon	1.1, 2.1
Seek acquisition of property to reconnect the Black Creek Marsh to the Clinton River	Review and perform due diligence for consideration in purchasing	N/A	General Fund/Grant	Soon	2.1,3.5

## DRAFT Amended Recreation Plan 2020

### 8 | ACTION PROGRAM

#### LAKE ST. CLAIR, cont.

Project	Description	Cost	Funding Source	Timeframe	Goals/ Objectives
Rebuild nature trail bridges (2)	Modify aging bridges for ADA access	\$160,000	General Fund	Soon	2.2
Trail wayfinding and interpretive signage updates	Nature trails, hike-bike trail, stormwater, marsh	\$10,000	General Fund	Ongoing/As Needed	3.1, 3.2
Hike-bike trail connectors from Daysail to Tot Lot and to West Playfield	Develop approximately 2,800 lf of new hike-bike trail to connect multiple park facilities	\$150,000	General Fund/ Grant	Later	1.3
Park Office and Food Bar redevelopment	Redevelop and possibly separate the Park Office and Food Bar (Beachside Grill)	\$3,000,000	General Fund	Later	1.3, 2.3
Redevelop West Playfield area	Redevelop comfort station to incorporate a warming area for winter activities. Develop lighting for skating rinks	\$500,000	General Fund	Later	1.3, 2.3
Pool/Bathhouse improvements	Determine future use of area. Redevelop with modern water feature(s) based on demand	\$1,000,000	General Fund/ Grant	Later	1.3, 2.3
North Marsh recreation access improvements	Improve accessibility for fishing and canoeing/kayaking	TBD	General Fund	Later	2.3, 3.1
Parking lot redevelopment Phase 3 & 4 (completion)	Complete redevelopment project from first phases completed in 2014	\$2,500,000	General Fund	Later	2.2
Install comfort station at former roller rink site	Improve service to visitors renting picnic shelters on the Point road	\$350,000	General Fund	Later	1.3, 2.2, 2.3
Pursue beach redevelopment to improve water quality	Install plantings and acoustic deterrents to prevent geese and gulls from negatively affecting beach and lake	TBD	General Fund/ Grant	Soon	2.2



**KENSINGTON**

Project	Description	Cost	Funding Source	Timeframe	Goals/ Objectives
Maple Beach redevelopment	Develop comfort station. Replace the existing play structures with a new small playground. Incorporate space for food truck parking. Incorporate accessible	\$ 500,000.00	General Fund	Now/Soon	1.3
Hike-bike trail redevelopment (loop)	Complete redevelopment of paved trail surrounding Kent Lake.	\$2,000,000	General Fund	Soon	2.2
Boat Rental selective redevelopment	Renovate building. Replace guard boathouse and fuel tank.	\$150,000	General Fund/ Grant	Soon	2.2
Park office redevelopment	Redevelop existing park office facility	TBD	General Fund	Soon	1.2
Farm Center selective redevelopment	Incorporate a larger play area for visitors. Improve accessibility to the Living History Village and rental fire pits. Improve conditions for farm animals. Develop greenhouse for educational and revenue-generating opportunities	TBD	General Fund/ Grant	Soon/Later	1.3 3.1
Nature Center parking and circulation improvements	Reconstruct parking lot, improve circulation and stormwater management. Renovate building/site to increase usability and accessibility	\$1,000,000	General Fund/SAW Grant	Soon/Later	2.2

**KENSINGTON, cont.**

Project	Description	Cost	Funding Source	Timeframe	Goals/ Objectives
Restroom addition at Equestrian Staging Area/ Milford Connector Trail	Explore partnership involvement with Milford to develop concept	TBD	General Fund/ Grant/Village of Milford	Soon	2.1,,2.3
East Boat Launch parking and circulation improvements	Redevelop parking lot to account for boat trailer length. Improve	\$500,000	General Fund/ Grant	Later	2.2
Splash 'n' Blast improvements	Evaluate capacity of existing filtration system. Develop new slide feature to enhance the existing water park.	\$2,000,000	General Fund	Later	1.3
West Boat Launch pier replacement	Replace dilapidated piers. Improve lake accessibility	\$260,000	General Fund	Later	1.3,2.3
Install CXT units at Black Locust Disc Golf and Group Camp	Replace vault latrines and port-a-johns with permanent structures.	\$600,000	General Fund	Soon	2.2
Orchard Picnic Area selective redevelopment	Enhance winter activity amenities	TBD	General Fund	Later	1.3
Playfield Picnic Area selective redevelopment	Remove dilapidated fitness trail stations. Develop large playground and associated parking lot to support higher intensity of use.	\$1,000,000	General Fund	Soon/Later	1.3
Trail wayfinding and interpretive signage updates	Hike-bike trail, equestrian trails, x-country ski trails, mtb trails, Farm Center	\$10,000	General Fund	Ongoing/As Needed	3.1,3.2

## DRAFT Amended Recreation Plan 2020

### 8 | ACTION PROGRAM

#### DEXTER-HURON/DELHI

Project	Description	Cost	Funding Source	Timeframe	Goals/ Objectives
Border-to-Border trail extension	Southern extension through from Dexter-Huron through Delhi to Ann Arbor (Washtenaw County PARC as project lead)	TBD	General Fund/ Partnership/Grant	Now/Soon	1.3
Parking lot redevelopment	Expand existing lot to account additional capacity anticipated with Border-to-Border Trail extension.	TBD	General Fund	Soon	1.3,2.2
River recreation access improvements	Improve accessibility for fishing and canoeing/ kayaking.	TBD	General Fund/ Huron River Watershed Council	Soon	1.3,4.1
Redevelop playground	Replace playground equipment at Delhi	TBD	General Fund	Later	1.3
Address safety issues at Mast Rd./Huron River Dr. for paddling access	Collaborate with local community stakeholders	TBD	General Fund/ Partnership/Grant	Later	2.2,2.3
Relocate canoe livery to East Delhi	Work in partnership with concessionaire to move operations	TBD	General Fund/ Partnership/Grant	Soon	2.2,2.3

#### LOWER HURON

Project	Description	Cost	Funding Source	Timeframe	Goals/ Objectives
Woods Creek rustic trail safety improvements		TBD	General Fund	Now	2.2
Replace Bemis Road tollbooth		\$140,000	General Fund	Soon	2.2
Park office redevelopment	Replace and relocate dilapidated park office	\$2,000,000	General Fund	Soon	1.2
Hike-bike trail reconstruction	Accessibility improvements to hike-bike trail and better connection to recreation activities	\$600,000	General Fund	Soon	1.3, 2.3
North fishing site improvements	Improve accessibility for canoeing/kayaking. Expand parking lot capacity.	\$200,000	General Fund/ MNRTF Grant	Soon	1.3



8 | ACTION PROGRAM

LOWER HURON, cont.

Project	Description	Cost	Funding Source	Timeframe	Goals/ Objectives
Develop Iron Belle Trail connector to north park entrance	Collaborate with local communities and other agencies	TBD	General Fund/ Partners/Grants	Later	2.2,2.3
Turtle Cove renovations	Develop new slide feature to enhance the existing water park. Incorporate additional shade structures and rental shelters.	\$3,000,000	General Fund	Later	1.3
Redevelop comfort station at Walnut Grove Campground	Include shower facility for campers.	\$400,000	General Fund	Later	1.3,2.3
Provide electric service to Walnut Grove Campground	Bring electricity to some or all campsites.	\$150,000	General Fund	Later	1.3
Former par 3 area redevelopment	Transition former golf course to picnic area. Develop rustic trail system and CXT unit.	\$100,000	General Fund	Later	3.1,4.1,4.2
Trail wayfinding and interpretive signage updates	Nature trails, hike-bike trail	\$10,000	General Fund	Ongoing/As Needed	3.1,3.2

**HUDSON MILLS**

Project	Description	Cost	Funding Source	Timeframe	Goals/ Objectives
Replace tollbooth		\$300,000	General Fund	Now	2.2
Improve stormwater management at Golf	Part of SAW grant to be completed by 2020	\$200,000	General Fund/SAW Grant	Now/Soon	2.2,4.1,5.1
Golf course improvements	Make enhancements to increase revenues	TBD	General Fund	Soon	1.3
Develop Border-to-Border Trail connector to Golf Course building and lot	Area to serve as a new trailhead for the Border-to-Border Trail.	\$100,000	General Fund	Soon	1.3
Hike-bike trail reconstruction (loop)	Complete replacement of pavement on loop trail. Develop connector from loop trail to Activity Center	\$400,000	General Fund	Soon	2.1
Replace pedestrian bridges on hike-bike trail		\$350,000	General Fund	Soon	2.1
Rapids View improvements for canoeing/kayaking	Develop an accessible launch, expand parking lot capacity, develop a comfort station, and trailhead for B2B	TBD	General Fund/Grant	Soon	1.3
Install CXT units at Group Camp/Canoe Camp	Improve restroom amenities for groups and individuals using camping facilities	\$100,000	General Fund	Later	2.2
Develop playground at Oak Meadows	Replace individual playground components with a small playground structure	\$80,000	General Fund	Later	1.3

**HUDSON MILLS, cont.**

Project	Description	Cost	Funding Source	Timeframe	Goals/ Objectives
Border-to-Border trail extension	Northern extension out of Hudson Mills to the Lakelands Trail in Livingston County (Washtenaw County PARC as project lead). Specific route to be determined.	TBD	General Fund/ Partnership/Grant	Later	1.3
Implement Activity Center selective redevelopment plan	Evaluate outdoor space for opportunities. Make accessibility improvements to restrooms. Incorporate additional revenue-generating opportunities.	TBD	General Fund	Later	1.3,2.2
Trail wayfinding and interpretive signage updates	Nature trails, hike-bike trail, x-country ski trails	\$10,000	General Fund	Ongoing/As Needed	3.1,3.2



## DRAFT Amended Recreation Plan 2020

### 8 | ACTION PROGRAM

#### STONY CREEK

Project	Description	Cost	Funding Source	Timeframe	Goals/ Objectives
Redevelop boat launch restroom/warming area	Replace building, redevelop parking lot, install shade structure	\$2,750,000	General Fund	Soon	1.3
Water and gas line improvements	Bring gas line into park to serve Stony Creek Landing and Eastwood Beach	\$150,000	General Fund	Now	2.1
Baypoint Beach redevelopment	Develop comfort station. Incorporate space for food truck parking. Incorporate accessible beach access.	\$500,000	General Fund/ Grant	Now/Soon	1.3
Golf course irrigation and pump house replacement		\$2,300,000	General Fund	Soon	2.2
Eastwood Beach selective redevelopment	Renovate building/site for operational efficiency.	TBD	General Fund	Soon/Later	1.3
Trail wayfinding and interpretive signage updates	Nature trails, hike-bike trails, mtb trails	\$10,000	General Fund	Ongoing, As needed	3.1,3.2
Accessible nature trail development	Identify opportunity to develop an existing trail to comply with ADA	TBD	General Fund/ MNTF Grant	Soon/Later	1.3

**WILLOW**

Project	Description	Cost	Funding Source	Timeframe	Goals/ Objectives
Replace salt storage building at Service Yard	Contributes to stormwater management improvements to be made through SAW grant implementation	\$100,000	General Fund/SAW Grant	Now	2.1, 4.1
Improve stormwater management at Service Yard	Drainage improvements part of SAW grant to be completed by 2020	\$320,000	General Fund/SAW Grant	Soon	2.1, 4.1
Food bar and bathhouse redevelopment	Determine future use of the area and building(s) based on demand. Evaluate parking need	TBD	General Fund	Later	1.3
Trail wayfinding and interpretive signage updates	Nature trails, hike-bike trail	TBD	General Fund	Ongoing, as needed	3.1, 3.2
Disc golf improvements at Acorn Knoll	Partially relocate disc golf course	TBD	General Fund	Later	3.1, 3.2

**OAKWOODS**

Project	Description	Cost	Funding Source	Timeframe	Goals/ Objectives
Nature Center redevelopment and renovation	Replace exhibits. Renovate building as necessary, to include lighting replacements. Redevelop parking lot.	TBD	General Fund/Grant	Now/Soon	1.3, 2.3, 3.1
Develop playground near Nature Center	Develop accessible playground highlighting new nature center exhibit theme	TBD	General Fund/Grant	Now/Soon	2.2, 2.3
Flat Rock dam removal	Investigate feasibility of removing the Flat Rock dam	TBD	General Fund	Later	2.1
River recreation access improvements	Improve accessibility for canoeing/kayaking	\$50,000	General Fund	Later	2.3, 3.1
Trail wayfinding and interpretive signage updates	Nature trails, hike-bike trail, equestrian trails	TBD	General Fund	Ongoing, as needed	3.1, 3.2

LAKE ERIE

Project	Description	Cost	Funding Source	Timeframe	Goals/ Objectives
Golf course pump house replacement		\$800,000	General Fund	Soon	2.2
Carpenter shop redevelopment	Replace carpenter shop to account for needed additional space	\$800,000	General Fund	Later	1.2
Marshlands Museum renovations	Replace exhibits. Renovate building interior and exterior	TBD	General Fund/ Grant	Later	1.3, 2.3, 3.1
Trail wayfinding and interpretive signage updates	Nature trails, hike-bike trail, x-country ski trails	\$10,000	General Fund	Ongoing, as needed	3.1, 3.2
Install fish cleaning station	Develop fish cleaning station at boat launch	TBD	General Fund	Now	2.2, 2.3
Implement Marina selective redevelopment strategy	Develop conceptual plan for future of the facility	TBD	General Fund/ Grant	Later	2.2, 2.3
Hike-bike trail connectors to park office, marina	Longer looped trail connectivity improvements	TBD	General Fund/ Grant	Soon	2.2, 2.3



WOLCOTT MILL

Project	Description	Cost	Funding Source	Timeframe	Goals/ Objectives
Replace Little Mac bridge at Camp Rotary	Existing suspension bridge closed due to safety concerns. Replace bridge to access rustic trail system	\$300,000	General Fund	Soon	2.2 , 2.3
Develop wagon trail between Farm Center & Historic Center	Connect the two facilities by crossing the river and utilizing part of an existing trail system	\$600,000	General Fund	Later	1.3 , 3.1
Historic Center selective redevelopment	Develop event facility for groups larger than what is allowable at Camp Rotary, incorporating classroom and office space. Replace comfort station. Develop and implement interpretive signage plan. Replace exhibits in the mill.	TBD	General Fund/ Grant	Soon/Later	1.3 3.1
Farm Center selective redevelopment	Redevelop select buildings to improve animal facilities. Replace playground equipment. Incorporate additional classroom, office, and storage space. Develop and implement interpretive signage plan.	TBD	General Fund/ Grant	Soon/Later	1.3 3.1
Trail wayfinding and interpretive signage updates	Nature trails, wagon trail	\$10,000	General Fund	Ongoing, as needed	3.1 , 3.2

**INDIAN SPRINGS**

Project	Description	Cost	Funding Source	Timeframe	Goals/ Objectives
Replace bridges on nature trails		\$200,000	General Fund	Soon	2.1
Golf course pump house replacement		\$800,000	General Fund	Soon	2.2
Pursue acquisition of properties near golf course	Parkland gap strategy	TBD	General Fund/ Grant	Ongoing	2.2, 2.3
Adventure Playground redevelopment	Remove maze. Add play structure for 5-12 year olds.	TBD	General Fund	Later	1.3
Schmitt Lake trail amenities development	Develop parking and trailhead off of Crosby Lake Road for access to rustic trails.	\$85,000	General Fund	Later	1.3
Meadowlark Playground redevelopment	Replace aging equipment and reorganize play areas. Relocate playground nearer to existing comfort station.	\$200,000	General Fund	Later	1.3
EDC selective redevelopment	Evaluate building space use and make renovations to ensure balance of use as an event and educational facility.	TBD	General Fund	Later	2.2
Expand the hike-bike trail into a loop	Develop extension of existing trail to enable visitors to enhance experience for visitors and encourage increased trail usage.	TBD	General Fund	Later	1.3
Trail wayfinding and interpretive signage updates	Nature trails, hike-bike trail	\$10,000	General Fund	Ongoing, as needed	3.1, 3.2

**HURON MEADOWS**

Project	Description	Cost	Funding Source	Timeframe	Goals/ Objectives
Demolish quonset huts (5 buildings)	Improve aesthetics of park maintenance area from nearby road	\$80,000	General Fund	Now	2.2
Develop tollbooth at Golf Course	Park is lacking tollbooth currently	\$140,000	General Fund	Soon	5.3
River recreation access improvements	Improve accessibility for fishing and canoeing/kayaking	TBD	General Fund	Later	1.3, 4.1
Maltby Lake recreation access improvements	Improve accessibility for fishing and canoeing/kayaking. Incorporate parking, comfort station	TBD	General Fund/ Grant	Later	1.3, 4.1
Trail wayfinding and interpretive signage updates	rustic trails, x-country ski trails	\$10,000	General Fund	Ongoing, as needed	3.1, 3.2

The following action items were removed with this amendment to the plan:

- Administrative Office redevelopment (System-Wide)
- Sanitary sewer rehabilitation project (Lake St. Clair)
- Develop high ropes course (Kensington)
- Sanitary sewer improvement/connectivity project (Kensington)
- Complete Stony Creek Landing redevelopment (Stony Creek)



# RECREATION PROGRAMMING PLAN 2020-2022



**PLAN OVERVIEW**

The primary purpose of the Recreation Programming Plan is to provide the Huron-Clinton Metroparks with an overview of all programs and services. The plan addresses all of the Metroparks programming functions, including activity selection, type and scope of programs and outreach initiatives. This Recreation Programming Plan is intended to be concurrent with an amendment to the Community Recreation Plan and the recent completion of master plans for each of the 13 Metroparks, all of which are located on the Planning and Development Department website at the following link: [www.metroparks.com/about-us/planning-department-2/](http://www.metroparks.com/about-us/planning-department-2/) . The amendment and creation of these long-range planning documents concurrently promotes and strengthens the Metropark system-wide assets in a way that illustrates how these assets are interrelated.

**CONTENTS**

- Supporting Plans and Reports
- Program Objectives
- Demographic Information and Public Input
- Recreation & Leisure Trend Analysis
- Community Inventory
- Program and Service Determinants
- Program and Service Statistics



**SUPPORTING PLANS AND REPORTS**

**Community Recreation Plan**

The Recreation Programming Plan is aligned with the Metroparks Community Recreation Plan 2018-2022 that creates an inventory of existing facilities and resources, identifies community and recreation and open space needs and sets a plan of action for a 5-year period. To be eligible to apply for Land and Water Conservation Fund, Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, and Waterways grants, a community must have an approved 5-Year Plan on file with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) by February 1 of the year they intend to apply.

**Huron-Clinton Metroparks Individual Master Plans**

The Recreation Programming Plan follows the recent completion of individual master plans created for each of the 13 Metroparks. Between 2016 and 2018, each park was given a planning window of six months, with overlap between parks. Each master plan includes a list of projects, plans, and studies to serve as a blueprint for the future of the parks over the subsequent ten years.

**Marketing Plan**

Realizing the importance of marketing and communication, the Recreation Programming Plan will coincide with updates to the Marketing Plan 2019 Goals and Strategies, developed annually by the Marketing and Communications Department. Both are live documents that will closely follow both present and future marketing trends and work in collaboration amongst various departments.

**ADA Transition Plan**

The Metroparks Board of Commissioners approved the updated Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan in November 2019. The transition plan is a living document and will integrate the programming actions identified in the Recreation Programming Plan action plan. Staff will engage in a self-evaluation of all Metroparks programming and services offered by Interpretive Services, Operations, Natural Resources, Golf, Police and Marketing. Each department will categorize its programming into groups of similar types of activities (eg. programs, events, activities) and then analyze each activity in terms of vision, hearing, and mobility barriers that may exist.

**Interpretive Services Reports**

The Interpretive Services Department develops monthly and annual reports to inform the Board of Commissioners and other stakeholders of the progress made by the Interpretive Services staff. The formation of the report provides leadership an opportunity to reflect on prior year’s performance and make recommendations moving forward.

**Staff Organizational Chart**

The Community Recreation Plan includes an amended organizational chart including administrative structure for the Administrative Office and the Eastern, Western, and Southern Districts. The Interpretive Department’s staff have a minimum qualification for Interpreters to have an Associate Degree or Bachelor’s Degree in nature interpretation, environmental education, biology or natural resources management or a related field. The Metroparks also recognizes years of experience in related service in lieu of a degree. For Interpreters that work in the Farm Centers, a background or education in agriculture, animal science, or horticulture can also be recognized towards minimum qualifications. Experience is required in interpretive, education or a related field for all positions. All Interpretive staff must complete Certified Interpretive Guide (CIG) certification within a year of hire. Most positions also require knowledge and ability to design science education programs that support the NGSS and Michigan Science Standards set by the Michigan Department of Education.





**PROGRAMMING OBJECTIVES**

The goals and objectives listed in the Community Recreation Plan stem from the Metroparks mission statement, vision statement, and core values. In order to ensure recreation programming aligns with the same overall five goals, specific and measurable objectives were created for this Recreation Programming Plan.

**1 INNOVATION**

Goal	Objective	Measurable Indicator	Current Status
Modernize the Metroparks and develop new revenue streams	Create and strengthen partnerships to enhance recreational opportunities and to build a greater park visitor base that reflects the demographics of Southeast Michigan.	Partnerships/Visitor Counts annual growth by 1%	Annual monitoring to be performed
	Collect and utilize data: Evaluate recreational programming based on survey data, resources, and whether the program meets the stated goals.	Evaluation tool collects positive feedback on programs growth rate by 1%	Annual monitoring to be performed



## 2 MAINTENANCE & INFRASTRUCTURE

Goal	Objective	Measurable Indicator	Current Status
Repair, maintain, and improve core park infrastructure.	Ensure that the necessary infrastructure is in place to provide programming services to cater to a variety of needs.	Actual cost spent annually on improvements.	2020 Budgeted Projects amount of \$_____  (Add capital improvements and major maint projects after budget approved in Dec)

## 3 EDUCATION & AWARENESS

Goal	Objective	Measurable Indicator	Current Status
Develop and enhance programming, communication, and outreach efforts.	Use marketing as a tool to reach new audiences, build relationships, and reinforce communications with current park users.	Annual marketing statistics compiled by social media (ie. reach and likes)	Annual monitoring to be performed
	Support equitable access to the parks, and remove barriers to park use.	ADA and universally accessible improvements/ barrier removals (total actual cost)	Budgeted amount of \$25,000 per park in 2019 and 2020



## 4 STEWARDSHIP

Goal	Objective	Measurable Indicator	Current Status
Protect and restore natural biodiversity while balancing resource management with	Create comfort level of outdoors for all participants with focus on outreach to diverse and underserved populations	Number of visitors from diverse and underserved populations based on number of groups and	Annual monitoring to be performed





**5** MANAGEMENT & SUSTAINABILITY

Goal	Objective	Measurable Indicator	Current Status
Streamline organizational management to improve recreational offerings. Prioritize employee development, environmental health improvements, and financial stability. Become a leader for the region in sustainable practices	Develop standard operating procedures and define responsibilities for recreational programming and events to manage capacity and resources.	Evaluation tool generates positive feedback from respondents (qualitative assessment)	Annual monitoring will be performed.



**DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION AND PUBLIC INPUT**

The Community Recreation Plan provides regional demographics and socioeconomic data to understand population trends and consumer spending trends. Recent demographic profiles specific for each park is also provided in the individual master plans. One of the most important factors contributing to the Recreation Programming Plan is the public input collected through meetings, questionnaires, and online comments (see appendix I. Public Input Summary).

**RECREATION AND LEISURE TRENDS ANALYSIS**

The Metroparks conduct trends analyses in a variety of ways within the system. As it relates to recreational and leisure trends, analyses include park visitation counts, budget forecasting, and the application of Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

Park visitation counts over the past 10 years are available for review on the Metroparks website and have been based on an assumption of average passengers per vehicle, and also non-motorized visitation (people using bikes, or walking into the parks). More recently, the Metroparks are moving towards a more data-driven approach to programming efforts. During the summer of 2018, three data collection days were set up at designated data collection sites at each of the 13 Metroparks. Each visitor entering the Metroparks on those days using a motor vehicle was stopped and asked to provide their ZIP code, the number of persons per vehicle (PPV), whether the car used an annual pass and whether the visitor had a dog with them on their visit. At the same time, an online questionnaire was developed to gather visitor information on demographics, user experiences, and recommendations for park improvements. Most recently in 2019, the Metroparks began scanning annual and daily passes at toolbooths with a bar code on the pass that park staff scans when visitors enter. Monthly reports are created to analyze the data gathered. The scanning of park passes will continue in an effort to gain a better understanding of its visitors and how it can better meet their needs as they use the Metroparks.

Budget forecasting is a process that has been recently refined by our finance department to include broad input and participation from staff. Every line item in the budget is reviewed for the previous three years and then analyzed by

staff on whether it's expected to follow the previous years' trends or shift due to one or several factors.

This Plan and complimentary plans utilize GIS for analyzing and displaying the extensive amount of data that was collected to develop sound plan recommendations. The GIS enables demographic and spatial data to guide programming efforts. Demographic data looks at the density, age, race, income, language, and other factors of the regional population that the Metroparks serve. Spatial data, usually analyzed through GIS software, looks at the physical location of the parks in relation to other recreation opportunities, transportation facilities, population centers, important natural resources, and more.

Park policies and rules are also evaluated as needed with recreation and leisure trends. Relatively recent trends include drones, e-bikes, and segways, and how they are used in public parks. The Metroparks consider these trends and make a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners, who will vote on the ruling or policy. The first and foremost consideration is the safety of all park patrons. Park and administrative staff work together to recommend policies that consider the highest and best experience for all park users and nearby residents.



**COMMUNITY INVENTORY**

As part of the recently completed Metroparks master planning processes, which takes place every 10 years, the Metroparks performs an inventory of the facilities, programs and services. In order to best serve the residents of southeast Michigan and use resources wisely, the Planning and Development Department has also identified the location of similar facilities and programs within a 5-mile radius of each park. Additionally, as part of the Community Recreation Plan, which is updated every 5 years, an inventory of programs and activities, facilities and trails is developed for each of the 13 Metroparks.

**PROGRAM AND SERVICE DETERMINANTS**

A systematic and studied approach is taken by the Metroparks to determine what programs and services are provided. The Metroparks use the six program and service determinants in providing programs and services, which include:

- Conceptual foundations of play, recreation, and leisure;
- Organizational agency philosophy, mission, and vision, and goals and objectives;
- Constituent interests and desired needs;
- Creation of a constituent-centered culture;
- Experiences desirable for clientele; and
- Community opportunities.

The Metroparks Recreation Programming Plan brings recreational and educational opportunities to the community using determinants from the Metroparks Community Recreation Plan, master plans for each park, constituent interest and needs, survey data, and availability of similar programs from other agencies. The plan also provides an overview of regional demographics, consumer expenditures, access to parks, and demographic shifts within each district’s region. This, coupled with input gathered from public meetings and public surveys, provides a guide of community interest and needs. The goals of the Community Recreation Plan were amended to include specific goals for the Recreation Programming Plan.

Standard Operating Procedures for programs and special events were developed to streamline planning and staffing while ensuring that a given program or event is meeting it’s

intended goals. Standard Operating Procedures guide staff through the required documentation and planning steps via a special event form. This form identifies a person in charge and which recreation programming plan goals will be addressed. After an event or program, an evaluation process asks if the intended goals were met, which will help inform the event or program if held again in the future.

Standard Operating Procedures also involve administrative staff to support events and programs as needed. The procedures provide guidelines on how surveys are conducted to evaluate a programs or event’s success. In the flow chart below it directs Metroparks staff on the steps to take in order to execute a program or event. If the event is external, held by a third party, staff must first make sure that the third party has all the appropriate insurance requirements and revenue sharing agreements signed. If the event is internal, held by the Metroparks, staff can start with the next step, which is to fill out the form for Planning and Marketing for Events and Programming. This form is sent to both the Recreation Programs Coordinator and the Marketing Department at the Administrative Office. This step in the process allows for administrative office to start building graphics as needed, start marketing the event, and also help plan and/or identify ways to help make the event or program more successful. After the program or event takes place, evaluation forms are due one week after the event to the Recreation Programs Coordinator. Evaluation forms will be reviewed to understand if the programs and events are meeting their intended goals, and how to address any issues when planning for the future. The forms used can be found in the Appendix J. Forms.





**MEASUREMENT, EVALUATION WITH DATA COLLECTION**

Interpretive programs have collected evaluations since 2013, and a standardized evaluation method is being developed collaboratively across several Metroparks departments. Current and past evaluations look at the demographics of who is attending, how attendees found out about the program, opinions on program satisfaction, and an area for open comments or feedback. The Metroparks goal for evaluations is to standardize them in terms of questions asked, method of collection, and consistency in analysis. Evaluation is the final step in the planning process for programs and special events.

**OUTREACH TO UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS**

The interpretive department has been doing outreach programming for over 40 years. Within the past three years, the outreach program has expanded in many ways. The Metroparks now have three educational outreach vehicles that provide programming opportunities to communities, schools, and various groups. They bring aspects of Michigan’s natural and cultural heritage to those who don’t have the ability to get out to their Metroparks as well as raise public awareness of the opportunities to enjoy their Metroparks.



Since 2016, the Metroparks has offered “Summer Fun”, which just finished its fourth season. This is an opportunity for religious institutions, non-profits, and governmental agencies to provide their members a full day of enjoyment at the Metroparks for free. Transportation to the parks, entry into the park, facilities and programming are fully covered.

Another program that targets diverse and underserved populations is the Get Out and Learn scholarship (G.O.A.L.). This scholarship is available for teachers at schools with at least 50 percent of the students enrolled in the federal reduced/free lunch program. G.O.A.L. targets low-income schools that have difficulty finding off-site educational trips for their students in support of their curriculum goals. It overcomes the barriers of financing transportation and program fees by covering 100 percent of these expenses.

The Marketing Department works with the Metroparks Chief of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion to ensure Metroparks messaging is representative and understood by all audiences in the diverse region the Metroparks serve. Additionally, the Marketing Department utilizes zip code data to identify areas of Metro-Detroit to target for programs and outreach, and the Marketing Plan includes a section on outreach and relationship building with community organizations and groups that operate in and serve underserved populations as well as niche groups. In regards to accessibility, programs are evaluated in terms of physical infrastructure. In addition, more care is being taken to better suit the needs of families’ with sensory-friendly activities.

**HEALTH AND WELLNESS PROMOTION**

The Metroparks Interpretive Department has offered several programs focusing around physical health, for example, disc golf camp, stand-up paddle boarding, and kayaking. Other wellness programs such as yoga have been offered. The Metroparks Foundation has offered a “Good form walking” clinic in conjunction with AAA. The Metroparks typically looks to partner with organizations that focus on a particular aspect of health and wellness to offer park patrons.

Marketing and promotion for programs and events is determined and set on a per program/event basis. Programs and events are evaluate based on staff’s goals for the event to determine to correct target audience and most effective marketing channels. The revenue and attendance goals are then compared to budget constraints to determined how

much to spend on marketing and promotion for each program or event. The marketing department then uses an integrated marketing mix of the proper channels to promote the program or event within that budget, making sure that it fits into the overall organizational marketing plan and meets the goals of the program or event. Results of marketing and promotion are evaluated based on ad engagement, conversions and actual attendance at the event or program.

### PROGRAM AND SERVICE STATISTICS

The Metroparks provides a variety of programs and services (see Appendix K. Program and Services Management Matrix). These can be categorized as followed:

- Self-Directed Programs and Services
- Leader-Directed Programs and Services
- Facilitated Programs and Services
- Cooperative Programming

The Metroparks tracks data on participation of programs and park visitation, which is collected on a monthly basis and aggregated into a report. The results are shared at Board of Commissioner meetings in the board packet. This information is also put into an annual summary and posted on our website. Program participation is also tracked for revenue-producing facilities and programs, grant-funded programs and some signature programs at the park level.

Tracking progress toward meeting overall plan goals and objectives is included earlier in this plan. In addition, the Programs and Services Matrix contains specific objectives developed for the program areas offered by the Metroparks. The recreation programming staff reviews programs and service statistics on an ongoing basis. A report for the Board of Commissioners will be updated at the end of each calendar year with the annual results of each action program and relation to goals and objectives.







## 10 | APPENDICES





**ACCESSIBILITY EVALUATION**

**Sports Facilities**

Most sports areas in the park are not accessible. In some cases, this can be solved by adding an accessible walkway. In other cases it may be preferable to wait for reconstruction of the area in question and then relocate the sports areas in accessible clusters.

**Play Areas**

Most play areas in the park are not accessible, but the large areas with quantity and variety of play elements typically are. The goal will be to ensure full accessibility at these large play areas and to ensure that like play experiences are provided for children with disabilities. In some cases it may be feasible to either add an accessible walkway to small play areas or relocate them in accessible clusters.

**Golf**

The primary obstacle to accessibility in Metroparks golf courses is procedural rather than design-related. At the moment, all courses follow a policy of not allowing golf carts onto the greens or teeing grounds. Changing the policy to allow individuals with disabilities to drive carts onto these spaces would remove a barrier to their participation. Each course should also purchase 1-2 accessible golf carts, which feature swiveling seats to allow all players to reach the tee. Some courses have additional design barriers to participation that must be addressed.

**Miniature Golf**

The one miniature golf course in the system is at Lake St. Clair, and the first nine holes are accessible.

Park name	Miles needed for accessibility
Kensington	1.98
Stony Creek	1.54
Hudson Mills	1.16
Lower Huron	0.90
Willow	0.89
Huron Meadows	0.46
Lake St. Clair	0.43
Delhi	0.42
Oakwoods	0.28
Indian Springs	0.26
Wolcott Mill	0.22
Lake Erie	0.18
Dexter-Huron	0.18
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8.89</b>

Park name	Fishing piers	Paved route	Percent
Lake St. Clair	2	2	100%
Kensington	4	4	100%
Lower Huron	2	2	100%
Stony Creek	1	1	100%
Willow	1	1	100%
Lake Erie	1	1	100%
Wolcott Mill	1	0	0%
Huron Meadows	1	1	100%

Park name	Boating areas	Paved route	Percent
Lake St. Clair	4	3	75%
Kensington	4	2	50%
Stony Creek	2	1	50%
Lake Erie	2	2	100%

Park name	Pool areas	Paved route	Percent
Lake St. Clair	1	1	100%
Lower Huron	1	1	100%
Willow	1	1	100%
Lake Erie	1	1	100%

Park name	Play areas	Paved route	Percent
Lake St. Clair	2	1	50%
Kensington	23	6	26%
Dexter-Huron	3	0	0%
Delhi	5	1	20%
Lower Huron	12	3	25%
Hudson Mills	7	1	14%
Stony Creek	14	1	7%
Willow	11	2	18%
Lake Erie	3	2	66%
Wolcott Mill	1	0	0%
Indian Springs	5	5	100%
Huron Meadows	2	1	50%

Park name	Sports areas	Paved route	Percent
Lake St. Clair	17	9	69%
Kensington	15	0	0%
Dexter-Huron	1	0	0%
Delhi	2	1	33%
Lower Huron	8	6	50%
Hudson Mills	15	0	0%
Stony Creek	8	0	0%
Willow	7	1	9%
Lake Erie	7	2	40%
Wolcott Mill	3	0	0%
Indian Springs	3	0	0%
Huron Meadows	5	0	0%

Field Analysis—Fishing, Boating, Golf, Pools, Playgrounds

Fishing Piers	Lake St. Clair		Kensington		Lower Huron			Stony Creek	Willow	Lake Erie	Wolcott Mill	Huron Meadows
	W Launch Large	W Launch Small	North Site	East Bend	South Site	Boat Rental	Washago Pond	Marina Point	Farm Center	Sunset Ridge		
Accessible route to entrance?	yes	no	-	-	-	no	no	yes	no	no	no	no
Accessible route to fishing area?	yes	no	no	no	no	no	no	yes	yes	no	no	yes
Landing for transition plate?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	no	-
25% of railings no more than 34in above?	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	no	yes	yes	yes
Dispersed throughout platform?	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	no	yes	yes	yes
Clear floor space at railing?	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	no	yes	yes	yes
Curb or barrier 2in min?	yes	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	yes	no
Clear floor space w/no railings?	-	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no	no	no	yes	yes	yes
Clear floor space for turning?	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no	no	no	yes	yes	yes
Rank	4	2	3	3	3	2	1	3	3	3	3	3

Boat Launches	Lake St. Clair			Kensington			Stony Creek			Lake Erie		
	Shore Marina	South Marina	Boat Launch	Daysail	Mitten Bay	W Launch	E Launch	Boat Rental	Boat Launch	Boat Rental	Boat Launch	Marina
Accessible route to facility entrance?	yes	yes	no	yes	no	no	no	yes	yes	no	yes	yes
Proper # of accessible slips?	no	no	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	no
Dispersed among types?	-	no	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	no
Accessible route to the slips?	yes	yes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	yes
Transition plate slope 1:20 or landing?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Clear pier space 60in?	no	yes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	yes
Every 120in clear opening 60in?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5% and at least 1 pier accessible?	no	yes	no	yes	-	no	no	no	no	no	yes	no
Controls/operating mechanisms accessible?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cleats/securements accessible?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Accessible route connecting accessible piers?	-	-	-	-	-	no	no	no	-	no	no	-
Clear pier space 60in?	no	yes	yes	yes	-	no	no	no	no	yes	no	-
Every 120in clear opening 60in?	-	yes	-	-	-	no	no	no	-	yes	yes	yes
Controls/operating mechanisms accessible?	-	-	-	-	-	-	no	-	-	no	-	-
Cleats/securements accessible?	-	-	-	-	-	-	no	-	-	no	-	-
Rank	2	3	2	3	1	1	1	2	2	2	3	2

Golf Courses	Lake St.	Kensington	Lower	Hudson	Stony	Willow	Lake Erie	Wolcott	Indian	Huron
Accessible route to entrance?	yes	yes	no	no	no	no	yes	no	no	no
Route to golf car rental?	yes	no	-	no	yes	yes	-	no	yes	yes
Route to bag drop?	yes	yes	-	no	yes	no	no	no	no	no
Route to weather shelter?	yes	-	no	-	yes	-	-	no	no	-
Route to toilet?	yes	-	no	no	yes	no	no	no	no	no
Route to practice putting green?	yes	yes	-	yes	yes	yes	-	no	yes	yes
Route to practice teeing ground?	yes	yes	-	yes	yes	yes	-	no	yes	yes
Route to teeing ground?	yes	no	-	yes	yes	yes	-	no	yes	yes
Route to driving range?	yes	no	-	yes	yes	yes	-	no	yes	yes
Accessible route 48in or 60in w/handrails?	yes	no	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes
Clear width of golf car passage 48in?	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
If curb, 60in opening ever 75 yards?	yes	-	-	yes	yes	-	-	no	yes	yes
If one teeing ground, can golf car enter?	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes
If two teeing grounds, can golf car enter one?	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	-	no	yes	yes
If three teeing grounds, can golf car enter two?	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	-	no	yes	yes
Can golf car enter putting green?	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes
Can golf car enter 5% and at least 1 practice/driving?	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes
Can golf car enter shelter/clear floor space?	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	-	yes	no	yes	yes
Rank	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	3

Pools	Lake St.	Lower	Willow	Lake Erie
Accessible route to entrance?	yes	yes	yes	-
Accessible route from entrance to pool?	yes	yes	yes	yes
300 ft or more: sloped entry/lift + lift/stairs?	yes	-	yes	-
Less than 300 ft: sloped entry/lift?	-	yes	-	-
Wave pool/lazy river: sloped entry/lift/transfer?	-	yes	-	yes
Wading pool: sloped entry?	-	-	-	-
Spa: lift/transfer?	-	-	-	-
Catch pool: accessible route to edge?	yes	yes	yes	-
Sloped entry at least 36in wide?	yes	yes	yes	yes
Surface stable and firm?	yes	yes	yes	yes
Sloped entry depth 24-30in?	yes	yes	yes	yes
Running slope no more than 1:12?	yes	no	yes	yes
If not, landings?	-	-	-	-
Handrails on both sides of steps?	yes	yes	yes	-
Width 20-24in?	yes	no	no	-
Rank	4	3	3	4





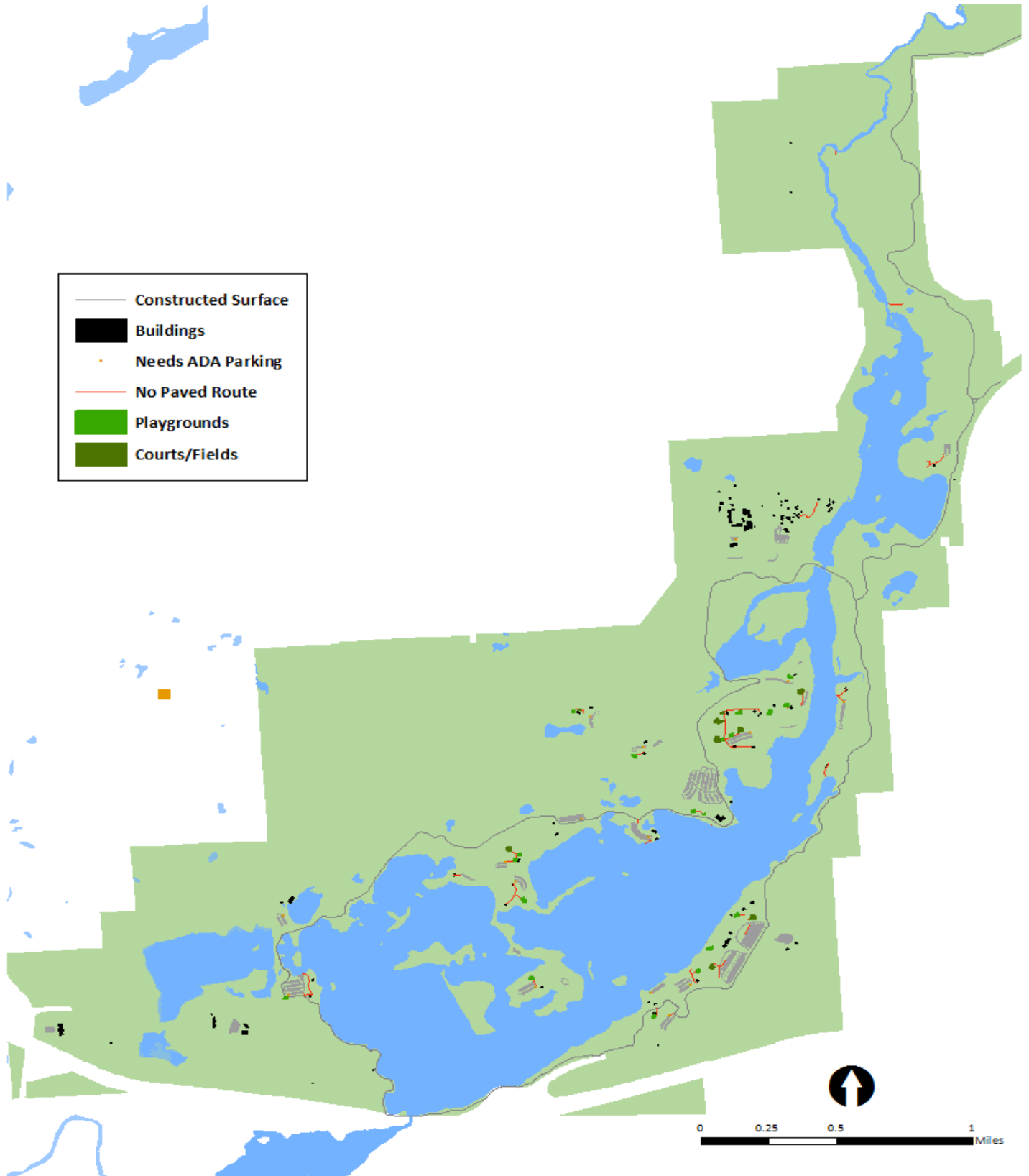
Large Play Areas	Kensington		Hudson Mills		Indian Springs			Huron Meadows
	Matindale Beach	Maple Beach	Activity Center 2-5	Activity Center 5-12	Meadow lark	Adventure Climbing	Adventure Play	Sunset Ridge
Is there a handicap van accessible parking space nearby, with sign?	yes	no	no	no	yes	no	no	no
Is there an accessible route to the playground?	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Does the play surface comply with standards, including being maintained and even?	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Is there a ramped transition from accessible route into the mulch play area?	no	no	yes	yes	no	no	no	yes
Does the play structure have a transfer station or ramp to allow access onto the structure?	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	no	-	yes
Does it appear the structure was designed for accessibility? Accessible elements must be dispersed at upper and lower levels.	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes
Rank	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	3

Large Play Areas	Lower Huron	Willow	Lake Erie		Stony Creek	Wolcott Mill	Lake St. Clair
	Ellwoods	Tot Lot	Great Wave	Cove Point	Eastwood Beach	Farm Center	Tot Lot
Is there a handicap van accessible parking space nearby, with sign?	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes
Is there an accessible route to the playground?	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Does the play surface comply with standards, including being maintained and even?	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Is there a ramped transition from accessible route into the mulch play area?	no	yes	no	no	yes	yes	no
Does the play structure have a transfer station or ramp to allow access onto the structure?	no	no	yes	yes	yes	no	no
Does it appear the structure was designed for accessibility? Accessible elements must be dispersed at upper and lower levels.	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no
Rank	2	3	3	3	4	2	2

Lake St. Clair



Kensington

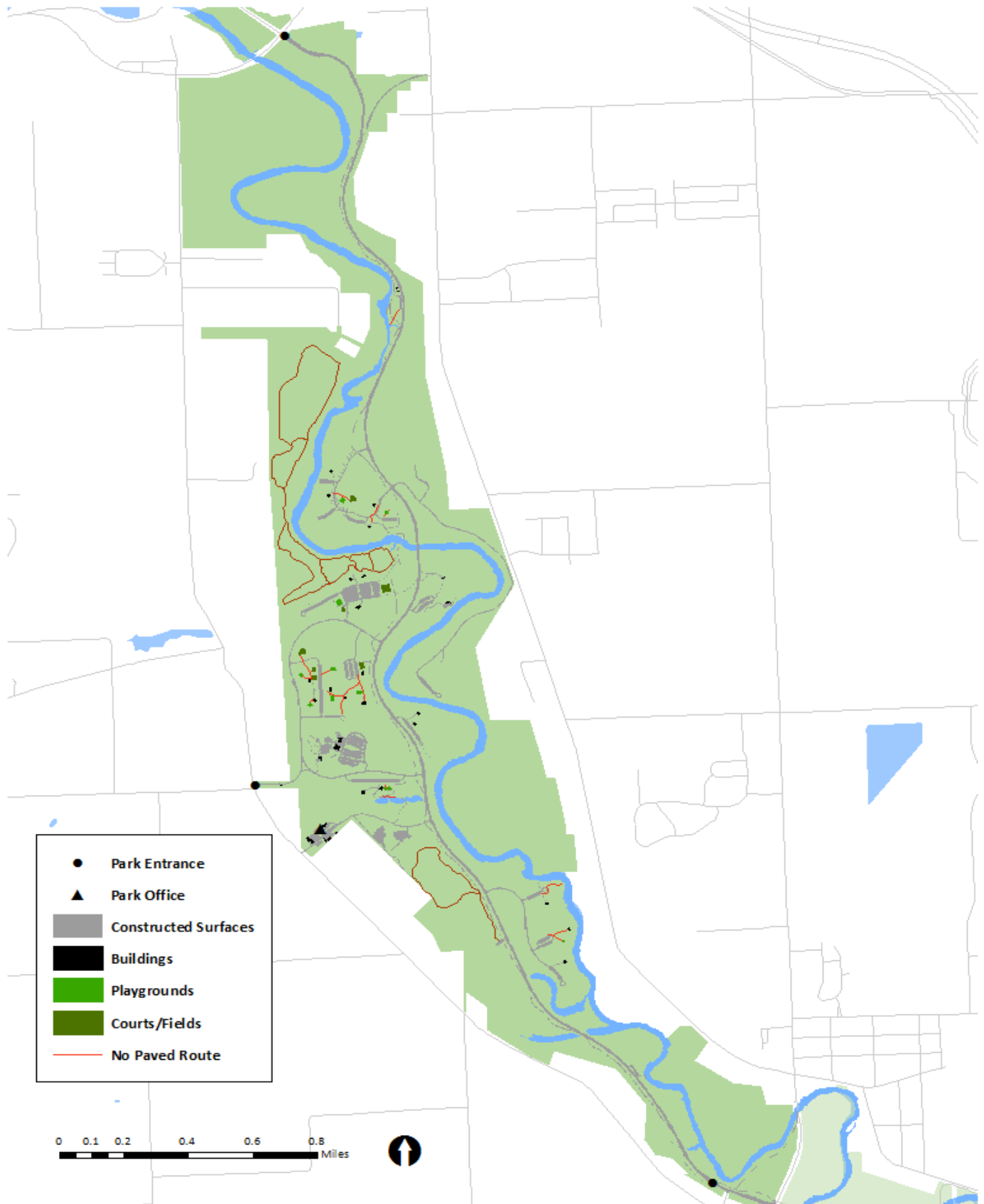




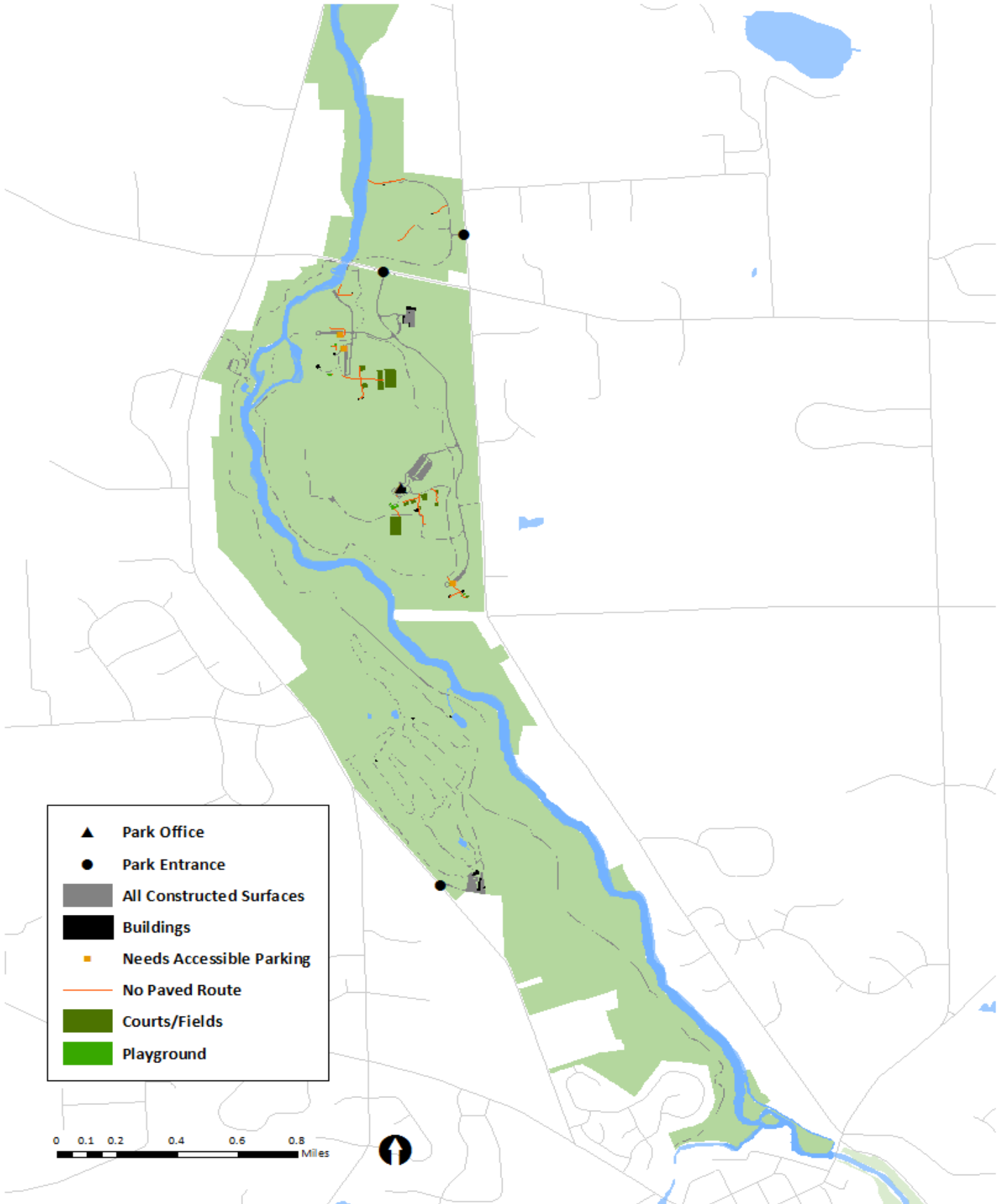
Dexter-Huron/Delhi



Lower Huron

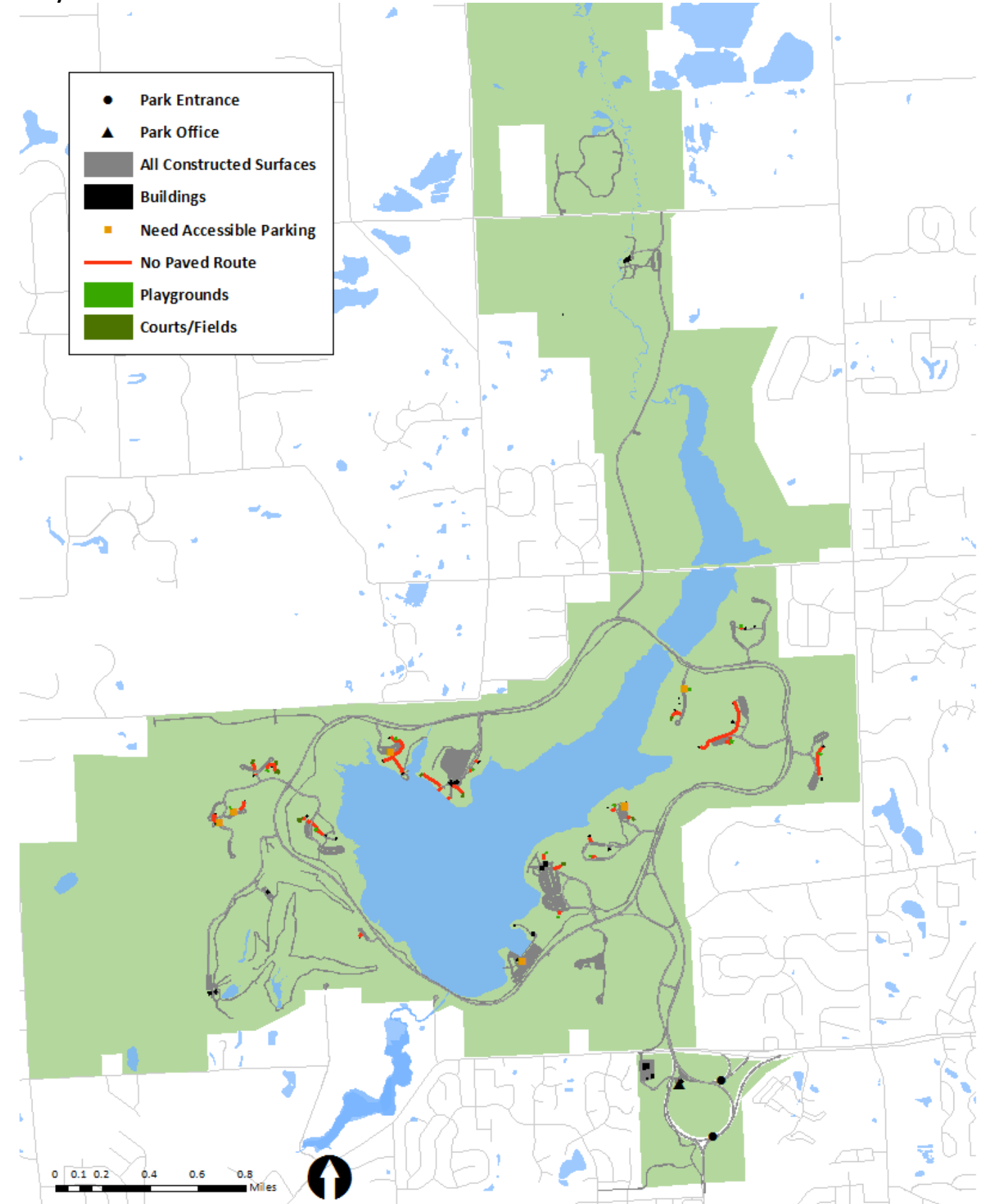


Hudson Mills

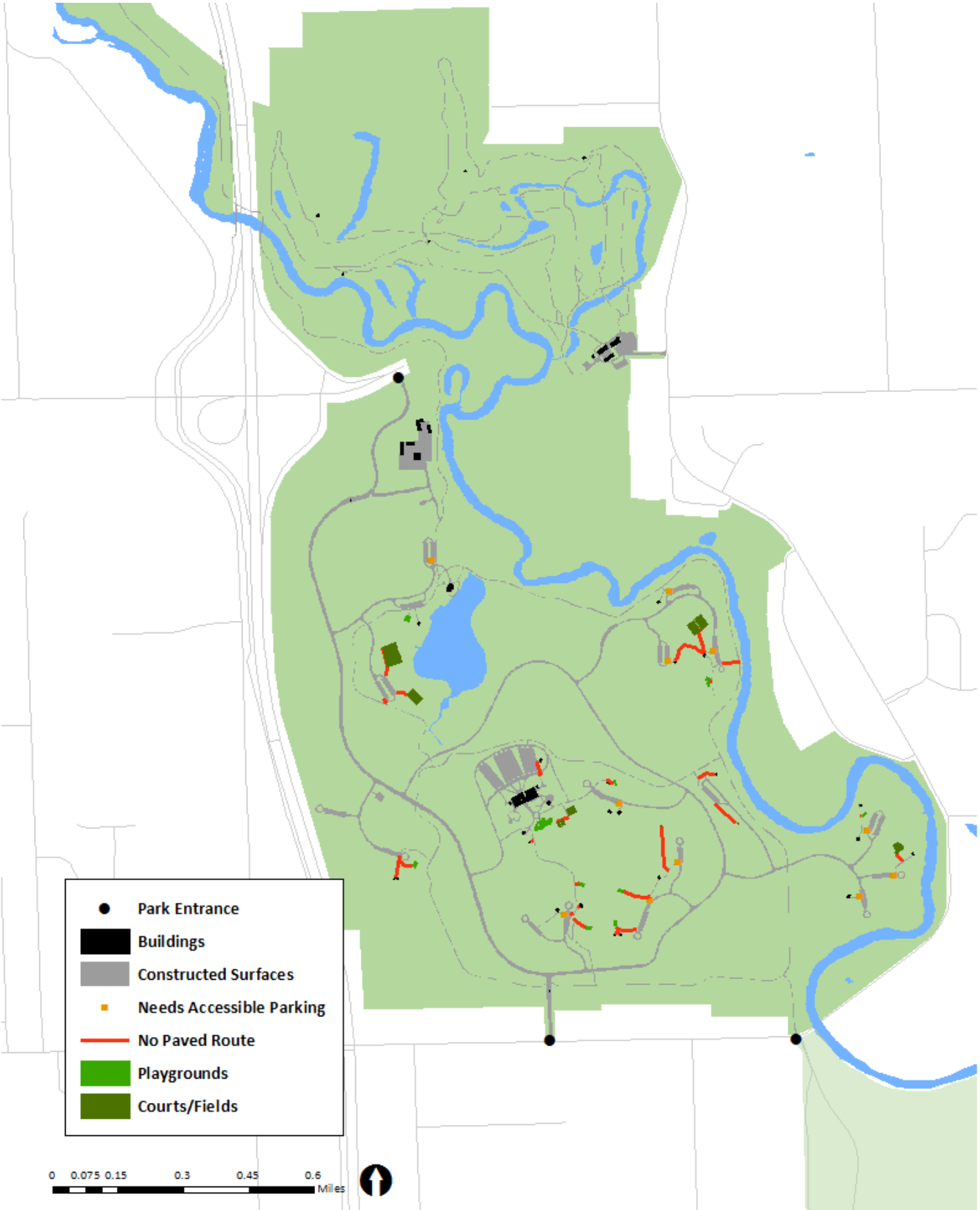




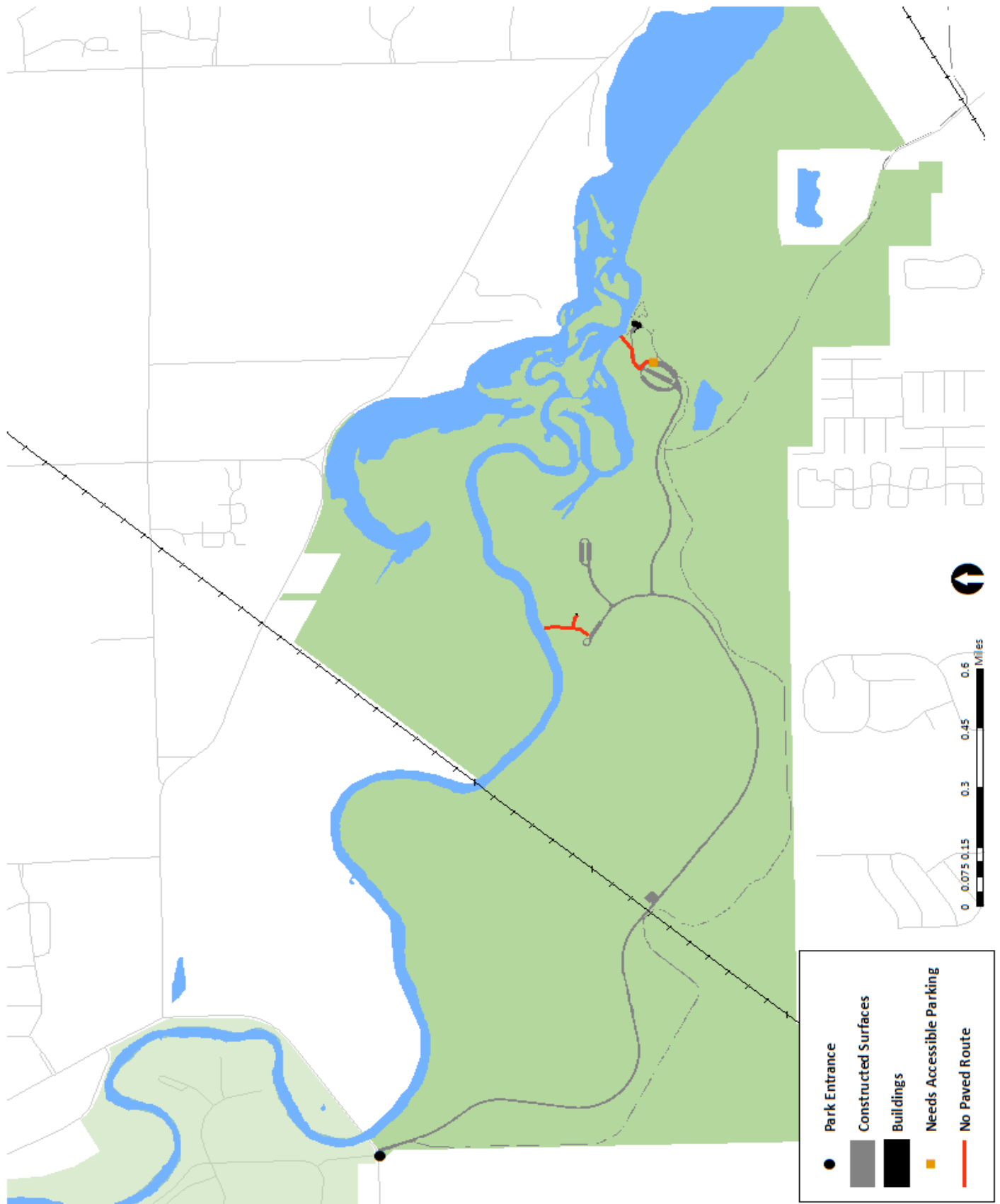
### Stony Creek



Willow

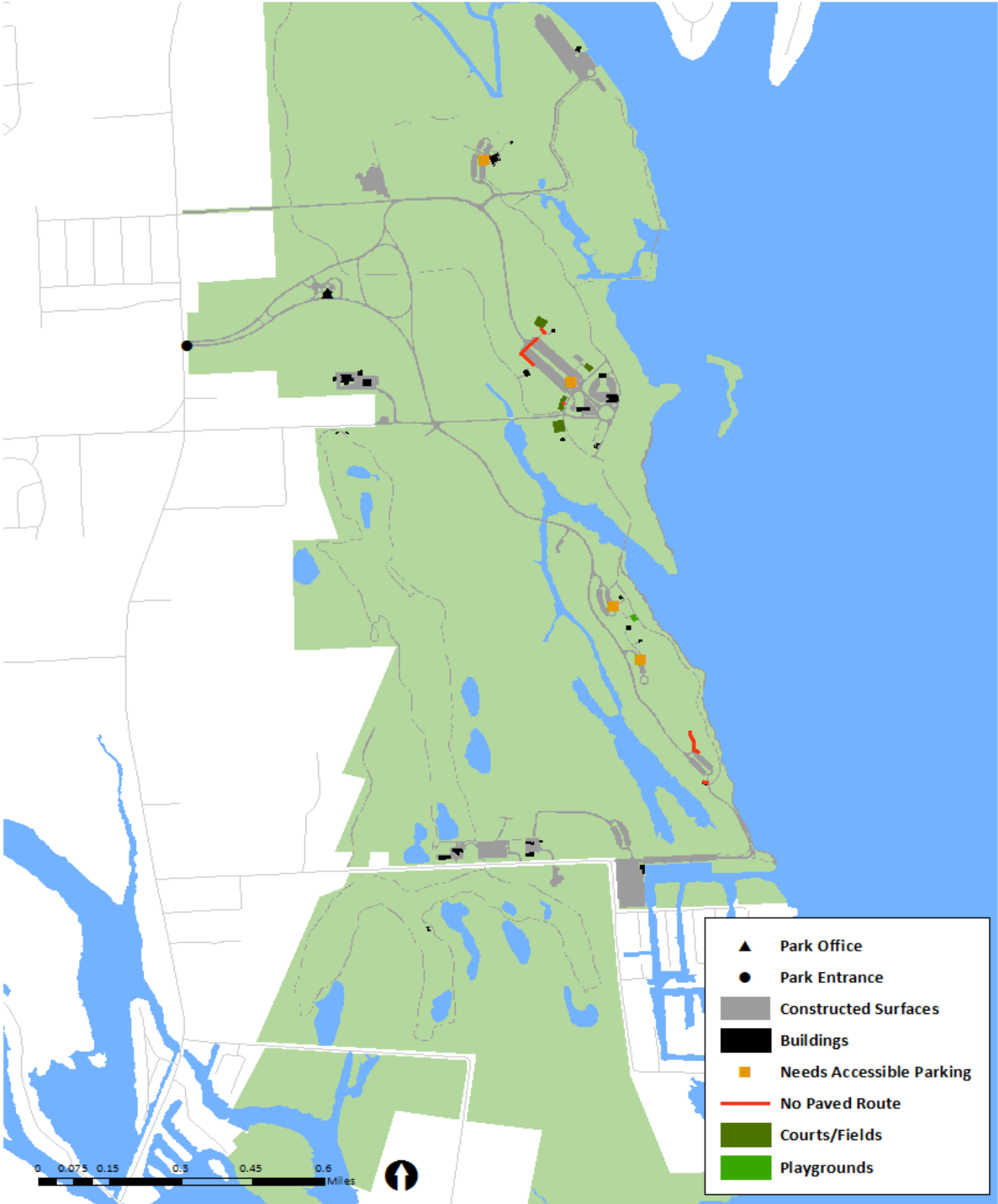


Oakwoods

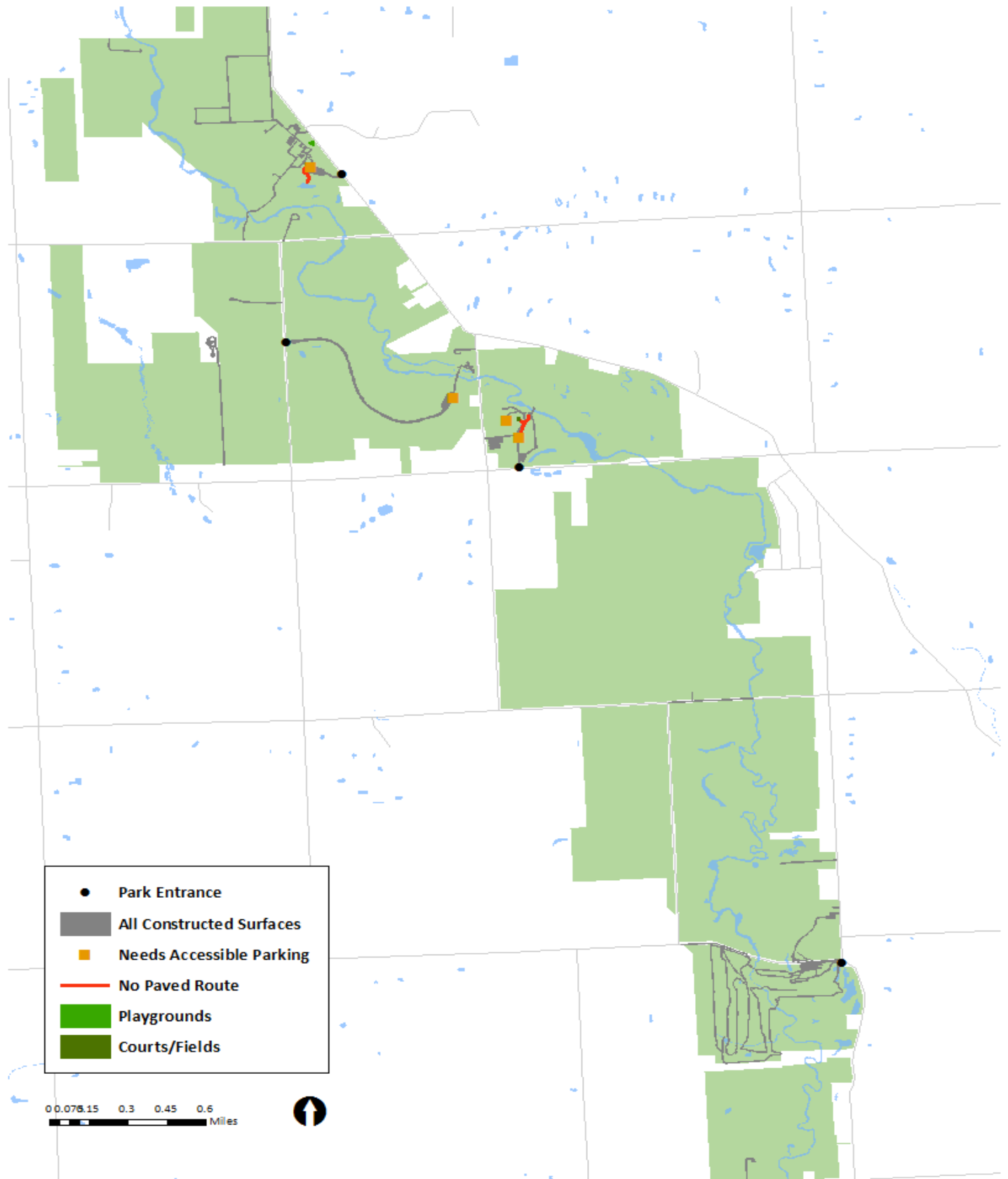




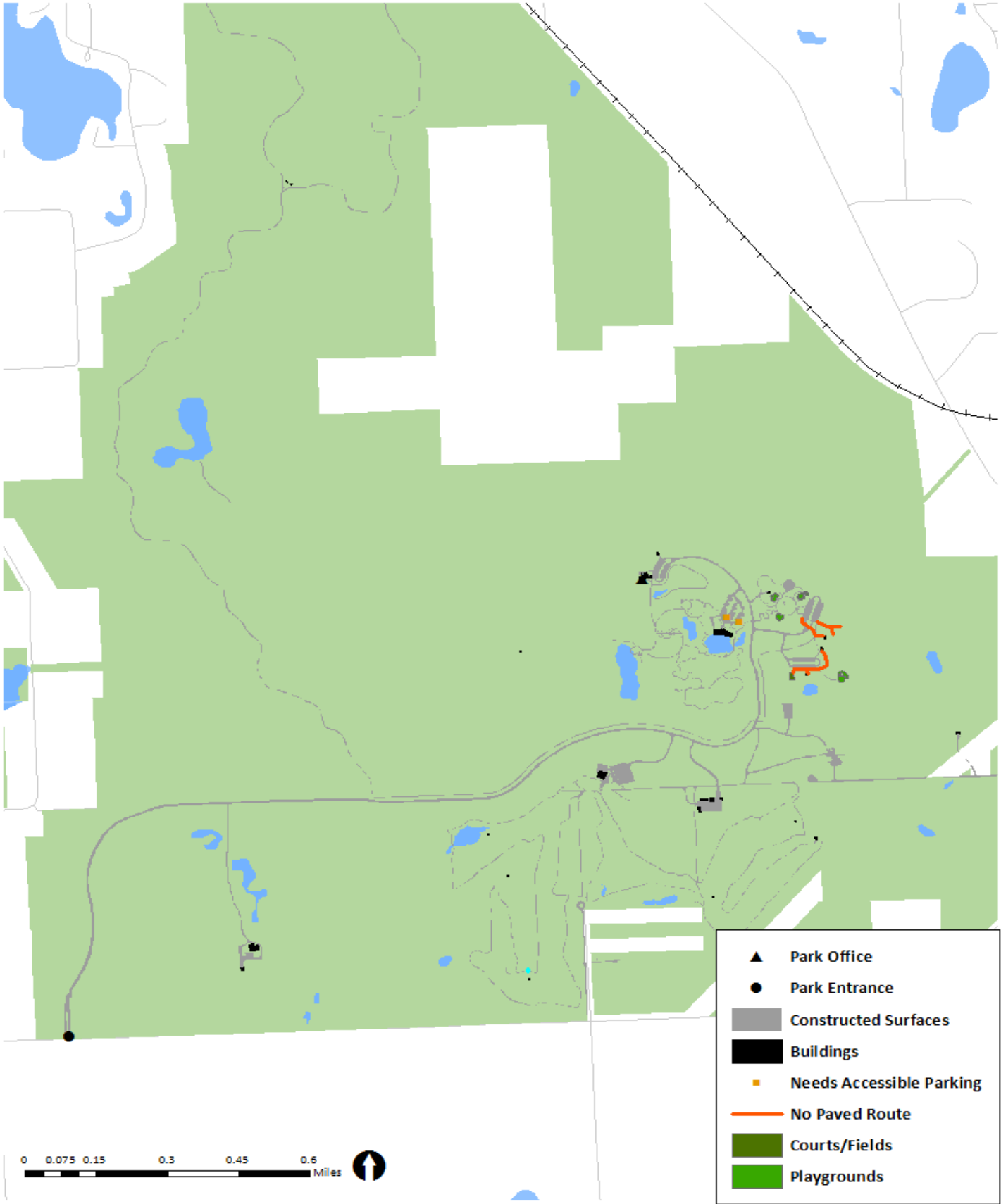
Lake Erie



Wolcott Mill



Indian Springs





### Huron Meadows





## Community Needs Assessment Survey

Your input is an important part of Huron-Clinton Metroparks ongoing efforts to provide quality parks, recreation, and other services for residents of southeast Michigan. This survey will take only 10-15 minutes to complete. When you are finished, please return your survey in the enclosed postage-paid, return-reply envelope. You may also complete the survey on-line at [www.HCMetroparks.org](http://www.HCMetroparks.org).

1. How many times have you or other members of your household visited parks and facilities that are operated by Huron-Clinton Metroparks during the past year?

- (1) More than 6 times       (3) Once or twice  
 (2) 3-6 times               (4) None - have not visited in the past year *[Skip to Question 2.]*

1a. Which of the following best describes the type of vehicle permit you purchased?

- (1) Daily permit               (3) Did not purchase a vehicle permit  
 (2) Annual permit             (9) Don't remember

2. Parks and facilities that are operated by Huron-Clinton Metroparks are listed below. Please check ALL of the parks and facilities that you and other members of your household have visited during the past year. *[Check all that apply.]*

**PARKS**

- (01) Delhi Metropark
- (02) Dexter-Huron Metropark
- (03) Hudson Mills Metropark
- (04) Huron Meadows Metropark
- (05) Indian Springs Metropark
- (06) Kensington Metropark
- (07) Lake Erie Metropark
- (08) Lake St. Clair Metropark
- (09) Lower Huron Metropark
- (10) Oakwoods Metropark
- (11) Stony Creek Metropark
- (12) Willow Metropark
- (13) Wolcott Mill Metropark

**GOLF COURSES**

- (14) Hudson Mills Golf Course
- (15) Huron Meadows Golf Course
- (16) Indian Springs Golf Course
- (17) Kensington Golf Course
- (18) Lake Erie Golf Course
- (19) Stony Creek Golf Course
- (20) Willow Golf Course
- (21) Wolcott Mill Golf Course

**EDUCATIONAL/HISTORIC FACILITIES**

- (22) Hudson Mills Activity Center
- (23) Indian Springs Environmental Discovery Center
- (24) Kensington Farm Center
- (25) Kensington Nature Center
- (26) Lake Erie Marshlands Museum
- (27) Lake St. Clair Nature Center
- (28) Oakwoods Nature Center
- (29) Stony Creek Nature Center
- (30) Wolcott Mill Farm Center
- (31) Wolcott Mill Historic Center

**WATER FACILITIES**

- (32) Lower Huron Turtle Cove
- (33) Kensington Splash 'n Blast
- (34) Indian Springs Spray Pad
- (35) Lake St. Clair Squir Zone
- (36) Lake St. Clair Pool
- (37) Stony Creek water slide
- (38) Willow Pool
- (39) Lake Erie Wave Pool

**OTHER**

- (40) Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- (41) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Which of the parks and facilities from the list in Question 2 does your household use MOST OFTEN? *[Write-in your answers below using the numbers from the list in Question 2, or circle "NONE".]*

1st: \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd: \_\_\_\_\_ 3rd: \_\_\_\_\_ 4th: \_\_\_\_\_ NONE

4. Prior to receiving this survey, were you aware of the difference between the Huron-Clinton Metroparks system (which consists of the 13 parks listed in Question 2, covering over 25,000 acres in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Livingston, and Washtenaw counties) and other park systems operated by the State of Michigan, counties, and cities in Southeast Michigan?

- (1) Yes       (2) No

5. **FACILITY NEEDS.** Please indicate if you or other members of your HOUSEHOLD have a need for each of the facilities listed below by circling either "YES" or "NO".

If "YES", please rate how well the needs of your household are currently being met in Southeast Michigan using a scale of 1 to 5, where "5" means ALL (100%) of your needs are being met and "1" means NONE (0%) of your needs are being met.

Facility	Do You Have a Need for this Facility?		If YES, how well are your needs being met in Southeast Michigan?				
	Yes	No	100% Met	75% Met	50% Met	25% Met	0% Met
01. Beaches	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
02. Boat Docks	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
03. Boat Ramps	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
04. Camping Areas - RVs	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
05. Camping Areas - Group Sites	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
06. Camping Areas - Primitive Sites	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
07. Canoe/Kayak Launch Sites	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
08. Canoe/Kayak Rentals	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
09. Disc Golf	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
10. Fishing Banks or Docks	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
11. Golf courses	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
12. Golf driving ranges	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
13. Marinas	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
14. Nature Centers	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
15. Picnic Shelters	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
16. Picnic Tables	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
17. Playgrounds	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
18. Splash Pad (water play area)	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
19. Outdoor swimming pools	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
20. Waterslides	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
21. Trails – Mountain biking	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
22. Trails - Paved, Multi-use	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
23. Trails - Unpaved, Hiking	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
24. Trails - Unpaved, Equestrian	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
25. Other (specify): _____	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
26. Other (specify): _____	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1

6. Which FOUR of the Metropark facilities listed in Question 5 do you and other members of your household currently USE MOST? [Write-in your answers below using the numbers from the list in Question 5, or circle "NONE".]

1st: \_\_\_\_ 2nd: \_\_\_\_ 3rd: \_\_\_\_ 4th: \_\_\_\_ NONE

7. Regardless of their current availability in Southeast Michigan, which FOUR of the facilities from the list in Question 5 are MOST IMPORTANT to your household? [Write-in your answers below using the numbers from the list in Question 5, or circle "NONE".]

1st: \_\_\_\_ 2nd: \_\_\_\_ 3rd: \_\_\_\_ 4th: \_\_\_\_ NONE



8. **PROGRAM NEEDS.** Please indicate if you or other members of your HOUSEHOLD have a need for each of the programs listed below by circling either "YES" or "NO".

If "YES", please rate how well the needs of your household are currently being met by existing programs/activities in Southeast Michigan using a scale of 1 to 5, where "5" means ALL (100%) of your needs are being met and "1" means NONE (0%) of your needs are being met.

Programs/Activities	Do You Have a Need for this Program?		If YES, how well are your needs being met in Southeast Michigan?				
	Yes	No	100% Met	75% Met	50% Met	25% Met	0% Met
01. Art/photography	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
02. Astronomy programs	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
03. Bird/wildlife watching programs	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
04. Boating classes	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
05. Camping	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
06. Concerts	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
07. Environmental education programs	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
08. Farm educational programs	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
09. Farmers market	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
10. Fishing programs	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
11. Golf lessons	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
12. Golf tournaments	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
13. Guided motorized boat tours	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
14. Guided canoe/kayak tours	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
15. Guided nature hikes	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
16. Homeschool programs	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
17. Movies in the park	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
18. Natural/cultural history programs	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
19. Pet-friendly programs	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
20. Running clubs/programs	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
21. Scouting	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
22. Walking clubs/programs	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
23. Other (specify): _____	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
24. Other (specify): _____	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1

9. In which FOUR of the programs listed in Question 8 do you and other members of your household currently participate MOST that are offered by Huron-Clinton Metroparks? [Write-in your answers below using the numbers from the list in Question 8, or circle "NONE".]

1st: \_\_\_\_ 2nd: \_\_\_\_ 3rd: \_\_\_\_ 4th: \_\_\_\_ NONE

10. Regardless of their current availability in Southeast Michigan, which FOUR of the programs from the list in Question 8 are MOST IMPORTANT to your household? [Write-in your answers below using the numbers from the list in Question 8, or circle "NONE".]

1st: \_\_\_\_ 2nd: \_\_\_\_ 3rd: \_\_\_\_ 4th: \_\_\_\_ NONE

11. Have you or other members of your household used any of the trails operated by Huron-Clinton Metroparks during the past year?

\_\_\_(1) Yes      \_\_\_(2) No [Skip to Question 12.]      \_\_\_(9) Don't remember [Skip to Question 12.]

11a. Which of the following activities did you or other members of your household participate in on trails operated by Huron-Clinton Metroparks during the past year? [Check all that apply.]

- \_\_\_(01) Walk on nature trails
- \_\_\_(02) Walk on paved trails
- \_\_\_(03) Walk/run dog on paved trails
- \_\_\_(04) Run on paved trails
- \_\_\_(05) Hike on rustic trails
- \_\_\_(06) Cycle on paved trails
- \_\_\_(07) Cycle on mountain bike trails
- \_\_\_(08) Cycle on roadways
- \_\_\_(09) In-line skate on paved trails
- \_\_\_(10) Go horseback riding

12. Please CHECK ALL the reasons that prevent you or other members of your household from using parks and facilities operated by Huron-Clinton Metroparks more often. [Check all that apply.]

- \_\_\_(01) Facilities are not well maintained
- \_\_\_(02) Not interested in the program/facilities offered
- \_\_\_(03) Facilities lack the right equipment
- \_\_\_(04) Security is insufficient
- \_\_\_(05) Lack of quality programs
- \_\_\_(06) Location is not convenient
- \_\_\_(07) Class full
- \_\_\_(08) Program times are not convenient
- \_\_\_(09) Use services/facilities provided by other organizations
- \_\_\_(10) Cost/fees are too high
- \_\_\_(11) Poor customer service by staff
- \_\_\_(12) I do not know locations of facilities
- \_\_\_(13) Not accessible for people with disabilities
- \_\_\_(14) I do not know what is being offered
- \_\_\_(15) Facility operating hours not convenient
- \_\_\_(16) Registration for programs is difficult
- \_\_\_(17) Lack of parking by facilities and parks
- \_\_\_(18) Lack of transportation
- \_\_\_(19) No time to visit parks
- \_\_\_(20) Don't visit parks of any kind
- \_\_\_(21) Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_(99) None

13. Please indicate how supportive you would be of having Metroparks use your tax dollars to fund renovations to each of the following.

How supportive would you be of funding:	Very Supportive	Somewhat Supportive	Not Supportive	Don't Know
01. Aquatic Facilities (Swimming Pools, Wave Pools, Lazy Rivers)	3	2	1	9
02. Boardwalks	3	2	1	9
03. Boat Ramps	3	2	1	9
04. Campgrounds	3	2	1	9
05. Canoe/Kayak Launches	3	2	1	9
06. Nature Centers	3	2	1	9
07. Picnic Shelters	3	2	1	9
08. Playgrounds	3	2	1	9
09. Restrooms	3	2	1	9
10. Splash Pads (Water Playground)	3	2	1	9
11. Trails - Paved, Multi-use	3	2	1	9
12. Trails - Unpaved	3	2	1	9
13. Other (specify): _____	3	2	1	9

14. Please CHECK ALL the ways you learn about Huron-Clinton Metroparks facilities, programs, and services. [Check all that apply.]

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> (01) Program guides published by Metroparks | <input type="checkbox"/> (07) School flyers/newsletter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (02) Metroparks website                     | <input type="checkbox"/> (08) E-mail blasts            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (03) Banners posted at Metroparks           | <input type="checkbox"/> (09) Newspaper articles       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (04) Social media                           | <input type="checkbox"/> (10) Mailings                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (05) Flyers at facilities                   | <input type="checkbox"/> (11) Other: _____             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (06) From friends and neighbors             |  |

15. What is your age? \_\_\_\_\_ years old

16. Counting yourself, how many people in your household are:

- |                    |                   |                   |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Under age 5: _____ | Ages 15-19: _____ | Ages 35-44: _____ | Ages 65-74: _____ |
| Ages 5-9: _____    | Ages 20-24: _____ | Ages 45-54: _____ | Ages 75+: _____   |
| Ages 10-14: _____  | Ages 25-34: _____ | Ages 55-64: _____ |                   |

17. What is your home zip code? \_\_\_\_\_

18. Your gender:  (1) Male  (2) Female

19. Are you or any member of your household of Hispanic/Latino ancestry?  (1) Yes  (2) No

20. Which of the following best describes your race? [Check all that apply.]

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> (1) African American/Black         | <input type="checkbox"/> (4) Caucasian/White |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (2) American Indian/Alaskan Native | <input type="checkbox"/> (5) Other: _____    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (3) Asian/Pacific Islander         |  |

21. How long have you lived in Southeast Michigan? \_\_\_\_\_ years

22. What is your household income?

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> (1) Under \$25,000    | <input type="checkbox"/> (3) \$50,000-\$99,999   | <input type="checkbox"/> (5) \$150,00 or more |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (2) \$25,000-\$49,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> (4) \$100,000-\$149,999 |   |

23. In which county do you live?

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> (1) Livingston | <input type="checkbox"/> (4) Washtenaw                           | <input type="checkbox"/> (7) Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (2) Macomb     | <input type="checkbox"/> (5) Wayne – inside the City of Detroit  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (3) Oakland    | <input type="checkbox"/> (6) Wayne – outside the City of Detroit |   |

24. Do you have any other comments or suggestions for improving programs and/or facilities operated by Metroparks in Southeast Michigan? If so, please write them in the space below.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

This concludes the survey – Thank you for your time!

Please return your completed survey in the enclosed return-reply envelope addressed to:  
ETC Institute, 725 W. Frontier Circle, Olathe, KS 66061

Your responses will remain completely confidential. The address information to the right will ONLY be used to help identify areas with special interests. Thank you!



## DRAFT Amended Recreation Plan 2020

List of Future Projects to be Considered in 2023-2027

10 | APPENDIX C

### Stony Creek

Project	Description	Cost	Funding Source	Timeframe	Goals / Objectives
Park Office redevelopment	Redevelop Park Office. Determine feasibility of relocating to main park and removing existing bridge. Combine with tollbooths if possible.	TBD	General Fund	2023-2027 Rec Plan	1.2, 1.3, 3.1
Ridgewood Campground improvements	Determine feasibility of developing yurts for rent. Consider relocation to another area of the park to take advantage of municipal water access to develop comfort station with shower facilities.	TBD	General Fund	2023-2027 Rec Plan	1.3

### Lake St. Clair

Project	Description	Cost	Funding Source	Timeframe	Goals / Objectives
Park Office and Food Bar redevelopment	Redevelop and possibly separate the Park Office and Food Bar (Beachside Grill).	\$3,000,000	General Fund	2023-2027 Rec Plan	1.3, 2.3

### Lower Huron

Project	Description	Cost	Funding Source	Timeframe	Goals / Objectives
Turtle Cove renovations	Develop new slide feature to enhance the existing water park. Incorporate additional shade structures and rental shelters.	\$3,000,000	General Fund	2023-2027 Rec Plan	1.3
Install comfort station at Walnut Grove Campground	Develop comfort station to include shower facility for campers.	\$400,000	General Fund	2023-2027 Rec Plan	1.3, 2.3
Provide electric service to Walnut Grove Campground	Bring electricity to some or all campsites.	\$150,000	General Fund	2023-2027 Rec Plan	1.3

**Lake Erie**

Project	Description	Cost	Funding Source	Timeframe	Goals / Objectives
Marina redevelopment	Determine future use of area and demand for the facility.	TBD	General Fund	2023-2027 Rec Plan	1.3
Wave Pool and Food Bar redevelopment	Determine future use of area. Redevelop with modern water feature(s) based on demand.	TBD	General Fund	2023-2027 Rec Plan	1.3

**Hudson Mills**

Project	Description	Cost	Funding Source	Timeframe	Goals / Objectives
Implement Activity Center selective redevelopment plan	Evaluate outdoor space for opportunities. Develop water feature to replace former inflatable water slide. Determine need for tennis court and replace with another amenity if necessary. Make accessibility improvements to restrooms. Incorporate additional revenue-generating opportunities such as event space rentals	TBD	General Fund	2023-2027 Rec Plan	1.3, 2.2

**Huron Meadows**

Project	Description	Cost	Funding Source	Timeframe	Goals / Objectives
Develop paved hike-bike trail around Maltby Lake	Park currently lacking any paved trails.	TBD	General Fund	2023-2027 Rec Plan	1.3, 2.3

**Lake St. Clair**

Number	Name—Grants	Year	Type	Status	Amount	Current Condition
TF87-085	Metro Beach Nature Center	1987	Development	Closed	\$ 225,000.00	Nature Center plans renovations to updated standards
CM00-067	Metro Beach Pointe Shoreline Trail	2000	Development	Closed	\$ 450,000.00	General maintenance to railing/benches
TF12-057	Lake St. Clair Metropark Land Acquisition	2012	Acquisition	Closed	\$ 94,000.00	No conversion, boundary maintained within park

**Kensington**

Number	Name	Year	Type	Status	Amount	Current Condition
26-00169	Kensington Metropark #2	1969	Acquisition	Closed	\$ 45,937.50	Still maintained as park
26-00146	Kensington Metropolitan Park	1969	Acquisition	Closed	\$ 42,000.00	Still maintained as park
26-00617	Kensington Hike-Bike Trail	1975	Development	Closed	\$ 50,000.00	General maintenance
26-00856	Kensington Hike/Bike Trail	1977	Development	Closed	\$ 50,000.00	General maintenance
26-01319	Kensington Hike-Bike Trail	1984	Development	Closed	\$ 127,500.00	General maintenance
BF89-614	Nature Center Kensington	1989	Development	Closed	\$ 300,000.00	Facility upgrades to meet standards
TF08-033	Kensington Metropark - Milford Trail Connector	2008	Development	Closed	\$ 315,000.00	General maintenance
TF11-018	Kensington Metropark Nature Center Pond Overlook	2011	Development	Closed	\$ 94,000.00	Additional amenities added to support grant

**Delhi**

Number	Name—Grant	Year	Type	Status	Amount	Current Condition
BF98-088	Delhi Metropark Children's Play Area	1998	Development	Closed	\$ 36,400.00	General upkeep, ADA parking improvements

**Lower Huron**

Number	Name	Year	Type	Status	Amount	Current Condition
26-00025	Lower Huron Metropark Woods Creek Picnic Area	1965	Development	Closed	\$ 18,700.00	General maintenance, no conversion
BF93-153	Lower Huron and Willow Metroparks	1993	Development	Closed	\$ 170,000.00	General maintenance, no conversion
TF00-069	Lower Huron Metropark Fishing Access Boardwalks	2000	Development	Closed	\$ 180,000.00	General maintenance, no conversion



**Hudson Mills**

Number	Name	Year	Type	Status	Amount	Current Condition
26-01146	Hudson Mills Hike-Bike Trail	1980	Development	Closed	\$ 78,500.00	General maintenance
TF03-023	Hudson Mills Metropark Hike/Bike Trail	2003	Development	Closed	\$ 361,000.00	General maintenance
TF10-040	Hudson Mills Hike/Bike Trail Development	2010	Development	Closed	\$ 500,000.00	General maintenance
TF14-0129	Hudson Mills Metropark Property	2014	Acquisition	Active	\$75,000.00	Appraisal Needed

**Stony Creek**

Number	Name	Year	Type	Status	Amount	Current Condition
26-00022	Stony Creek West Branch - Winter Cove	1965	Development	Mitigation Com	\$ 198,050.00	Structure renovations to meet standards, additional trail facilities, basketball court
26-00059	Stony Creek Enlargement #1	1967	Acquisition	Mitigation Com	\$ 144,049.00	DEQ conservation easement remains public recreation
26-00070	Stony Creek Metropolitan Park #2	1967	Development	Mitigation Com	\$ 142,230.00	Upgraded boat launch complex per modern standards, additional
26-00618	Stony Creek Hike-Bike Trail	1975	Development	Mitigation Com	\$ 50,000.00	General maintenance
26-00857	Stony Creek Hike/Bike Trail	1977	Development	Mitigation Com	\$ 50,000.00	General maintenance

**Willow**

Number	Name	Year	Type	Status	Amount	Current Conditions
BF89-196	Willow Metropark - Wayne County	1989	Development	Closed	\$ 225,000.00	Renovations and repurposing of buildings being planned, no conversion will take place
BF90-170	Willow Metropark Hike/Bike Trail	1990	Development	Closed	\$ 225,000.00	General maintenance

**Lake Erie**

Number	Name	Year	Type	Status	Amount	Current Condition
26-01383	Lake Erie Metropark Play Area	1985	Development	Closed	\$ 175,000.00	Renovated tot lot playground and additional amenities added to wave pool along with minor upgrades to pool
BF90-197	Lake Erie Metropark Wildfowlers Museum - Ph. 2	1990	Development	Closed	\$ 750,000.00	Continued use as museum/nature center
BF93-152	Lake Erie MP - Trail	1993	Development	Closed	\$ 115,500.00	General maintenance –no conversion
TF95-088	Shoreline Trail	1995	Development	Closed	\$ 375,000.00	General maintenance—no conversion
TF99-117	Lake Erie Metropark Marina Point Fishing Site	1999	Development	Closed	\$ 180,000.00	Continued use –no conversion
TF01-041	Lake Erie Metropark Hike-Bike/Shoreline Trail	2001	Development	Closed	\$ 199,800.00	General maintenance– no conversion

**Wolcott Mill**

Number	Name	Year	Encumbered through	Type	Amount	Current Condition
26-00857	Conversion Mitigation—Stony Creek	2012	Perpetuity	Mitigation	-	No conversion of use
-	USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Native Prairie Restoration*	2008	2018	Restoration	\$16,653	Maintained
-	EPA GLRI Floodplain Restoration*	2016	unknown	Restoration	\$352,147	Ongoing, maintained
-	DEQ Section 9 Grant /USFWS Floodplain Restoration*	2015-16	2025	Restoration	\$290,960	Ongoing, maintained
-	DTE Community Forests Grant Forest Restoration*	2016	2019	Restoration	\$6,186	Maintained

\*These grants were not awarded through the LWCF, Trust Fund, Clean Michigan, or Recreation Bond programs.

**Indian Springs**

Number	Name	Year	Type	Status	Amount	Current Conditions
26-01490	Indian Springs Nature Trail	1992		Closed	\$ 65,000.00	Amenities added
TF07-028	Indian Springs Metropark Land Acquisition	2007	Acquisition	Closed	\$ 1,426,000.00	Continued use for hiking and nature observation

**Huron Meadows**

Number	Name	Year	Type	Status	Amount	Current Conditions
26-00201	South Metropolitan Parkway (Huron Meadows)	1970	Acquisition	Closed	\$ 7,000.00	Maintained within park boundary—no conversion
TF99-118	Maltby Lake Access and Play Area	1999	Development	Closed	\$ 180,000.00	General maintenance

**Public Notices**



RECEIPT



PRESS & ARGUS  
A GANNETT COMPANY

Classified Advertising  
160 W Fort Street  
Detroit, MI 48226

SHAWN ATHAYDE  
13000 HIGH RIDGE DRIVE  
BRIGHTON MI 48114-

PO#:

Account	AD#	Ordered By	Tax Amount	Total Amount	Payment Method	Payment Amount	Amount Due
8104946033ATH/	0002389258	Shawn Athayde	\$0.00	\$452.00	Credit Card	\$452.00	\$0.00

Sales Rep: web

Order Taker: web

Order Created 09/06/2017

Product	Placement	Class	# Ins	Start Date	End Date
DET-DET-Michigan.com DFP DN	DETW-Biz and Service	Attorney-Legal Serv	7	09/06/2017	09/12/2017
DET-DFP-Detroit Free Press	DET-Biz and Services	Attorney-Legal Serv	2	09/07/2017	09/08/2017
DET-DN-Detroit News	DET-Biz and Services	Attorney-Legal Serv	2	09/07/2017	09/08/2017

\* ALL TRANSACTIONS CONSIDERED PAID IN FULL UPON CLEARANCE OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTION

Text of Ad: 09/06/2017

HURON-CLINTON METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
Counties of Livingston, Macomb, Oakland, Washtenaw and Wayne. The residents of the Counties of Livingston, Macomb, Oakland, Washtenaw and Wayne.  
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: The Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority will hold a Public Hearing on the proposed Community Recreation Plan of the Authority for the years 2018 through 2022 at Lake Erie Metropark, 32481 West Jefferson, Brownstown, MI 48173 on Thursday, Sept. 14, 2017. The Public Hearing will be at 10:30 am, EST. The Purpose of the Public Hearing is for the Authority to receive input and comment on the proposed Community Recreation Plan for consideration in the final Community Recreation Plan. A copy of the proposed Community Recreation Plan will be available for public review at the Authority's offices, 13000 High Ridge Drive, Brighton, MI 48114, during normal business hours 8am-4pm prior to the date of the hearing. After the public hearing, the Authority may vote to consider adopting the 2018-2022 Community Recreation Plan at the same meeting on Sept. 14, 2017.

**Draft Community Recreation Plan 2018-2022 Public Review and Comment Summary**

The draft Community Recreation Plan was presented to the Board of Commissioners at the July 13, 2017 meeting. Following that meeting, the draft was posted to the planning department web page of the Metroparks website from July 14 – August 25, 2017 for public review and comment. A total of 2,112 website users who visited the planning department web page during this time period had the opportunity to review the plan online. Specific chapters downloaded by website visitors ranged between 224 to 275 downloads. Hard copies of the draft Community Recreation Plan were also made available for public review at each of the thirteen metroparks and administration office.

Comments received during the public review period included representatives from the Motor City Mountain Bike Association (MCMBA) recommending the development of mountain bike trails at Kensington Metropark. The MCMBA expressed the desire for progress on developing mountain bike trails based on the positive response for mountain biking throughout the planning process. In addition, proximity of Kensington to existing mountain bike trail systems would provide the opportunity for it to become a local hub. Following the benchmark of mountain bike facilities at Stony Creek, a similar model at Kensington could create a revenue generator with low cost improvements performed in partnership with the MCMBA.

In addition, representatives from the Huron River Watershed Council (HRWC) had written comments on the Plan to include the existence of water trail facilities and future development taking into account the Natural River designation and universal design for accessibility. The HRWC were also interested in water quality initiatives, specifically in the reduction of PAH sealants for paving projects and supporting the HCMA on future dam related studies planned along the Huron River.

Upon compiling the input, the Planning staff discussed with staff management and refined the plan as appropriate.

**Resolution of Adoption**





## HURON-CLINTON METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY

### RESOLUTION

---

2018 – 2022 Community Recreation Plan  
For the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority  
Livingston, Macomb, Oakland, Washtenaw and Wayne counties

Upon motion made by Commissioner Marans

Supported by Commissioner Williams

**At a meeting of the Board of Commissioner of the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority held on September 14, 2017, the Board adopted Resolution 2017-08:**

**WHEREAS**, the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority (“Authority”) has undertaken a planning process to determine the recreation and natural resource conservation needs and desires of its residents during a five-year period covering the years 2018 through 2022, and

**WHEREAS**, the Authority is made up of representatives from Livingston, Macomb, Oakland, Washtenaw, and Wayne counties, and

**WHEREAS**, the Authority began the process of developing a Community Recreation Plan in accordance with the most recent guidelines developed by the Department of Natural Resources and made available to local communities, and

**WHEREAS**, residents of Livingston, Macomb, Oakland, Washtenaw, and Wayne counties were provided with a well-advertised opportunity during the development of the draft plan to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the recreation and natural resource conservation plan, and

**WHEREAS**, the public was given a well-advertised opportunity and reasonable accommodations to review the draft plan for a period of at least 30 days, and

**WHEREAS**, a public hearing was held on September 13, 2017 at Lake Erie Metropark in Brownstown Township, Michigan to provide an opportunity for all residents of the planning area to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the 2018-2022 Community Recreation Plan, and

**WHEREAS**, the Authority has developed the plan as a guideline for improving recreation and enhancing natural resource conservation for the Huron-Clinton Metroparks, and

**WHEREAS**, after the public hearing, the Authority voted to adopt said 2018-2022 Community Recreation Plan.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority hereby adopts the 2018-2022 Community Recreation Plan.

AYES: Commissioners: Quadrozzi, Marans, Williams, Rea, Heise, McCarthy

ABSTAIN: Commissioners: \_\_\_\_\_

NAYS: Commissioners: \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT: Commissioners: Parker (absent from vote)

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the Resolution adopted by the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority on September 14, 2017.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bernard Parker, Secretary

**Public Meeting Minutes**



**Minutes**  
**PUBLIC HEARING**  
**2018-2022 Community Recreation Plan**  
**Board of Commissioners**  
**Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority**  
**Thursday, September 14, 2017**

---

A Public Hearing for the 2018-2022 Community Recreation Plan for the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority's Board of Commissioners was on Thursday, Sept. 14, 2017 at the Pool Area Food Bar at the Lake Erie Metropark. The hearing convened in pursuance to a legal notice placed in the Detroit Free Press and Detroit News.

Commissioners Present:	Timothy J. McCarthy Robert W. Marans Kurt L. Heise John Paul Rea Steve Williams Jaye Quadrozzi
------------------------	---

Staff Officers:	
Acting Director/Chief of Police	Michael Reese
Deputy Director	David Kirbach

Absent:	
Commissioner	Bernard Parker
Chief Financial Officer	Michelle Cole

Motion by Commissioner Williams, support from Commissioner Heise that the Board of Commissioners open the Public Hearing for the 2018-2022 Community Recreation Plan.

Chairman McCarthy requested a roll call vote.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

Voting yes: Commissioners' Quadrozzi, Marans, Williams, Rea, Heise, McCarthy  
Voting no: None  
Absent: Commissioner Parker

Motion carried unanimously.

**1. Chairman's Statement**

None.

**2. Review of 2018-2022 Community Recreation Plan**

Manager of Planning Nina Kelly reviewed the process involved in developing the Community Recreation Plan including staff and public input, reviewed the required segments from the DNR and said that it was properly advertised in the Detroit News and Free Press. Ms. Kelly also said there were 2,000 visits to the Planning page on the Metroparks website, that staff also received general comments and that the Plan is essentially the same as the one presented to the Board at the July 13, 2017 Board meeting.

**3. Public Participation**

Toni Spear, Dexter, thanked staff that took part in putting together the Recreation Plan. She said there were a lot of public comments about trails and the importance of trails to communities and financing for trails. Ms. Spears said people from all over the area visit Hudson Mills and not just people from Washtenaw County and the Dexter area. She said stewardship and rapid response is also an important aspect in the Recreation Plan.

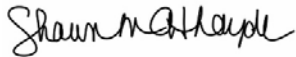
**4. Motion to Close Public Hearing**

Motion by Commissioner Heise, support from Commissioner Rea that the Board of Commissioners' close the public hearing.

Motion carried unanimously.

The public hearing on the 2018-2022 Community Recreation Plan adjourned at 10:38 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Shawn Athayde  
Recording Secretary

**Recreation Programming Plan  
Public Input**



# Public Input Summary

Over the duration of the Recreation Programming Plan planning process, the Metroparks Planning Department ensured a variety of opportunities for public input and feedback. The process could be followed at meetings and input on questionnaires, comment cards, and online comments based on the draft plan posted on the Huron-Clinton Metroparks Planning Department Website:

## **Overview of Input Opportunities**

**Public Survey Movie Nights (August 10, 17, 24)** – located at the Willow, Kensington and Stony Creek. Stakeholders and members of the public had the opportunity to provide input on programming and activities in the parks. The public from all areas strongly preferred Hiking/Running/Walking (ie. Walking Groups, Marathons) and Special Events (ie. Fireworks, Movies in the Park, Summer Concert Series) as their favorite types of programming within the Metroparks.

**Huron Clinton Metroparks Planning Department Website** – the public could email comments on the website, which also included additional resources about the Amended Community Recreation Plan. <https://www.metroparks.com/about-us/planning-department/>

**Public Input Surveys** – online surveys were developed to gather information to consider opportunities to grow and improve recreation programming:. The surveys were made available for the duration of the planning process. The public could find the surveys on links located on hard copy flyers, social media blasts, metroparks website, as well as hard copy questionnaires made available by community partners (libraries, local government offices, and community recreational resource partners).

**Recreation Programming Plan  
Forms**

### Fees and charges policy and schedules (5.1.1)

The Huron-Clinton Metroparks require vehicle passes for vehicular entry at each Metropark. Rates for annual and daily vehicle passes, boat passes, and combo passes are set by the Metroparks Board of Commissioners. Annual passes are valid from the time of purchase through December 31<sup>st</sup> of that year, and all passes allow access to all 13 Metroparks. There are discounts for seniors age 62+ and Disabled Veterans have free park entry with a state-issued Disabled Veteran license plate. Entry for pedestrians, inline skaters, and bicyclists is free of charge.

There are numerous free activities at each Metropark and there are activities, rentals, and interpretive programs available for a fee. Fees sorted by activity are on the Metroparks website at <https://www.metroparks.com/activities/> where users can find pricing and reservation information at the Metropark of their choice. Alternatively, users can find which park they are planning to visit and click on the activity they are planning to do to see fees.

The Metroparks has Revenue Policies which are part of the Financial Policies and are approved by the Board of Commissioners. The Revenue Policies are as follows:

The Metroparks will strive to develop and maintain a diversified and reliable revenue stream to avoid becoming overly dependent on any single type of revenue. Efforts will be directed to optimize existing revenue sources while periodically reviewing potential new revenue sources.

Budgeted revenues will be estimated conservatively based on historical trends and other trends specific to a provided activity. The Metroparks will avoid using temporary/one-time revenues to fund ongoing expenditures.

The Metroparks will impose user fees whenever appropriate. User fees will be based on a survey of comparable fees charged by other public agencies and private enterprise and on market conditions. All Metropark fees and charges will be reviewed and approved by the Board of Commissioners on an annual basis.

## **Participant and Spectator Code of Conduct**

The Huron-Clinton Metroparks are home to many sporting facilities in our 13 Metroparks across Macomb, Oakland, Livingston, Washtenaw, and Wayne Counties. The Metroparks maintain these facilities but do not run or manage any sporting leagues. Therefore, the following code of conduct shall be followed by all users of sporting facilities in addition to their league's code of conduct.

### **Participants are expected to:**

1. Take direction from their coach, officials, and other league staff.
2. Act respectfully towards others before, during, and after practices or games.
3. Follow all Huron-Clinton Metroparks Rules and Regulations in addition to their team's or league's rules.
4. Notify Metroparks Police or 911 in case of emergency.

### **Spectators, including parents, are expected to:**

1. Be a role model for their child and other players by demonstrating positive support for everyone.
2. Support the decisions of the coach, officials, and other league staff.
3. Act respectfully towards others before, during, and after practices or games.
4. Notify Metroparks Police or 911 in case of emergency.

### **Infractions of the Code of Conduct may include, but are not limited to the following:**

- Unsportsmanlike conduct
- Offensive or negative language
- Disrespectful behavior
- Fighting or deliberate roughness
- Repeated delay of game or practice
- Damage to Metroparks property

### **Penalties for infractions are as follows:**

If Metroparks Police respond to a situation, warnings, tickets, and/or arrests will be made as necessary. No refunds will be given to players, spectators, or parents ejected due to poor behavior.



# Event/Program Development Form

## *FOR METROPARKS EVENTS*

### **Step 1: Marketing Needs**

***Program/Event Title:***

*Date:*

*Description:*

*Ages:*

*Time:*

*Cost:*

*Location:*

*Pre-registration requirement:*

*Pre-registration details:*

Contact:

- Phone:
- Email:

*Min number of participants: (please designate if there is a difference between min number of adults or children)*

*Max number of participants: (please designate if there is a difference between max number of adults or children)*

*Additional Notes:*

### **Step 2: Why is this a great idea and who's in charge?**

Person in charge:

Does someone else offer this idea within a 20 mile radius? Y or N

If yes, is there enough demand? Or will we offer this idea in a new/different way?

What goals does it meet from our Community Recreation Plan?

1.3 Redevelop targeted areas with innovative takes on current recreation trends to attract and retain a strong user base	
1.4 Create and strengthen partnerships to enhance recreational opportunities and to build a greater park visitor base that reflects the demographics of Southeast Michigan	
3.1 Enhance visitors' understanding of and appreciation for Metroparks natural features and cultural history through updated exhibits, programs, and signage.	
3.5 Support equitable access to the parks, and remove barriers to park use	
5.1 Increase focus on environmental sustainability throughout the Metroparks system, especially by expanding recycling waste, and through education	

### Step 3: Is it feasible?

What are your needs?

- Operations staff
- Planning and development staff
- Budget
- Marketing
- Survey needs
- Interpretive staff
- Police
- Maintenance

Is there a good fit for a sponsorship?

Identify areas in need of improvement to ensure the event or program is accessible to people of all abilities. (Parking, restrooms, physical access, etc) Is it possible to add a sensory-friendly element?

What metrics and methods would you use to evaluate the program's success?

# Event and Programming Evaluation

*{{Due one week after program/event to planning or interpretive}}*

**Did the program/event achieve the goals it was set out to do?**

**Participation:**

- Last three years participation
- Max capacity for program

**Cost:** What metrics do we use to determine cost recovery? (total costs, increased concessions, tolling)

**Staff time:** How many hours to plan, implement, recover, and evaluate? Include admin and maintenance

**Sponsors and Partners:** Revenue from sponsors? Partnership history to consider?

**Public support:**

- Social media presence?
- Elected officials?
- Does the public know that we manage this event?

**Other considerations:**

Were there any accessibility issues? Please specify those activities in terms of vision, hearing, and mobility barriers that may exist.

**Survey data from the public:**

**Feedback from staff:**

**Recreation Programming Plan  
Programs and Services Management  
Matrix**





















## BOARD MEMBERS

**Timothy J. McCarthy**  
Governor Appointee

**Robert W. Marans**  
Washtenaw County

**Jaye Quadrozzi**  
Oakland County

**Bernard Parker**  
Wayne County

**Steven E. Williams**  
Livingston County

**Kurt L. Helse**  
Governor Appointee

**John Paul Rea**  
Macomb County