

7

2018-2022 PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN FOR FORT GRATIOT TOWNSHIP



ADOPTED: FEBRUARY 21, 2018

IN THIS CHAPTER:

- ▶ COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION
- ▶ ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE
- ▶ RECREATION INVENTORY
- ▶ PLANNING PROCESS AND PUBLIC INPUT
- ▶ GOALS AND STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN



COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

INTRODUCTION

The availability of diversified recreation facilities and programs is an important component in evaluating the quality of life in a community. Those communities that have recreation facilities and programs available for residents are often perceived to be the most desirable in which to live and work. This perception will continue to be reinforced in the future as the leisure time for individuals and families increases. In recognition of this trend and the traditional role played by local governments in meeting the recreation needs of their residents, this Parks and Recreation Plan has been developed to help Fort Gratiot Township provide for the recreation needs of its residents, both now and in the future.

The Parks and Recreation Plan must be submitted to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) to be eligible for new grant funding. The preparation of a recreation plan provides Fort Gratiot Township with an opportunity to consider the recreation needs of its residents. It also qualifies the Township for possible State funding for expanding and/or improving the existing recreational areas within the community.

REGIONAL SETTING

Fort Gratiot Township is situated in northeastern St. Clair County, one of the seven counties making up the Southeast Michigan region, which is the most heavily populated region of the State. The Township is located on the shores of Lake Huron and the Black River, adjacent to the north of the City of Port Huron (the county seat), and is located approximately 60 miles east of Flint and approximately 60 miles northeast of downtown Detroit. The Township is bordered by Burtchville Township to the north, Clyde Township to the west, and Port Huron Township and the City of Port Huron to the south. The Black River, running west from the City of Port Huron along the Township's southern border, forms the common boundary between the Township and Port Huron Township.

Other nearby communities include the unincorporated Village of Lakeport, located about 2 miles north of the Township, the Village of Lexington, located about 13 miles to the north, and the City of Marysville, approximately five miles south of the Township. Fort Gratiot Township can be reached from the north and south via State Trunkline

M-25, which runs completely through the Township along the east side of the Township. M-25 also connects the community to the eastern termini of Interstate 94 (the expressway link between Detroit and the Port Huron/Sarnia area) and Interstate 69 (the expressway link between Flint and the Port Huron/Sarnia area). State Trunkline M-136, which follows portions of Pine Grove Avenue and Keewahdin Road, provides access to the Township from the northern and western parts of St. Clair County, connecting with M-19, which runs in a north-south direction.

PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN: JURISDICTION AND FOCUS

This 2018-2022 Parks and Recreation Plan covers all parks and recreation facilities and programs owned and operated by Fort Gratiot Township, spanning all of the community and serving both Township residents and non-residents from neighboring communities.

Fort Gratiot Township has the responsibility to review and update the Parks and Recreation Plan every five years and to consider the conditions and trends affecting recreation. With each new update of the Fort Gratiot Township Parks and Recreation Plan comes an opportunity to proactively improve the quality of life for Township citizens.

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

To analyze the types of recreation facilities and amenities that are needed within the Township, it is important to have a thorough description of the community's demographic features. Differences in demographic characteristics may indicate issues or areas in recreation planning; may identify strengths or assets that can be further developed; or may identify weaknesses or problems that need to be addressed.

POPULATION

The population of Fort Gratiot Township was 11,075 according to the 2015 U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey. Since the 2010 U.S. Census, the population has decreased by 1.1%, or 127 people. The Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) estimates the Township's population will be 12,807 by 2040. This projection is a 15.9% increase from the current population.

Another important consideration in planning for future parks and recreation needs is the age of residents. The median age of Fort Gratiot Township's population is 44.9 years, which has stayed level since the 2010 Census. Almost half of the residents of Fort Gratiot Township are 45 years or older (48.7%). Since 2000, the population that is at least 45 years old has increased while the population of those under 45 years has decreased.

HOUSEHOLDS

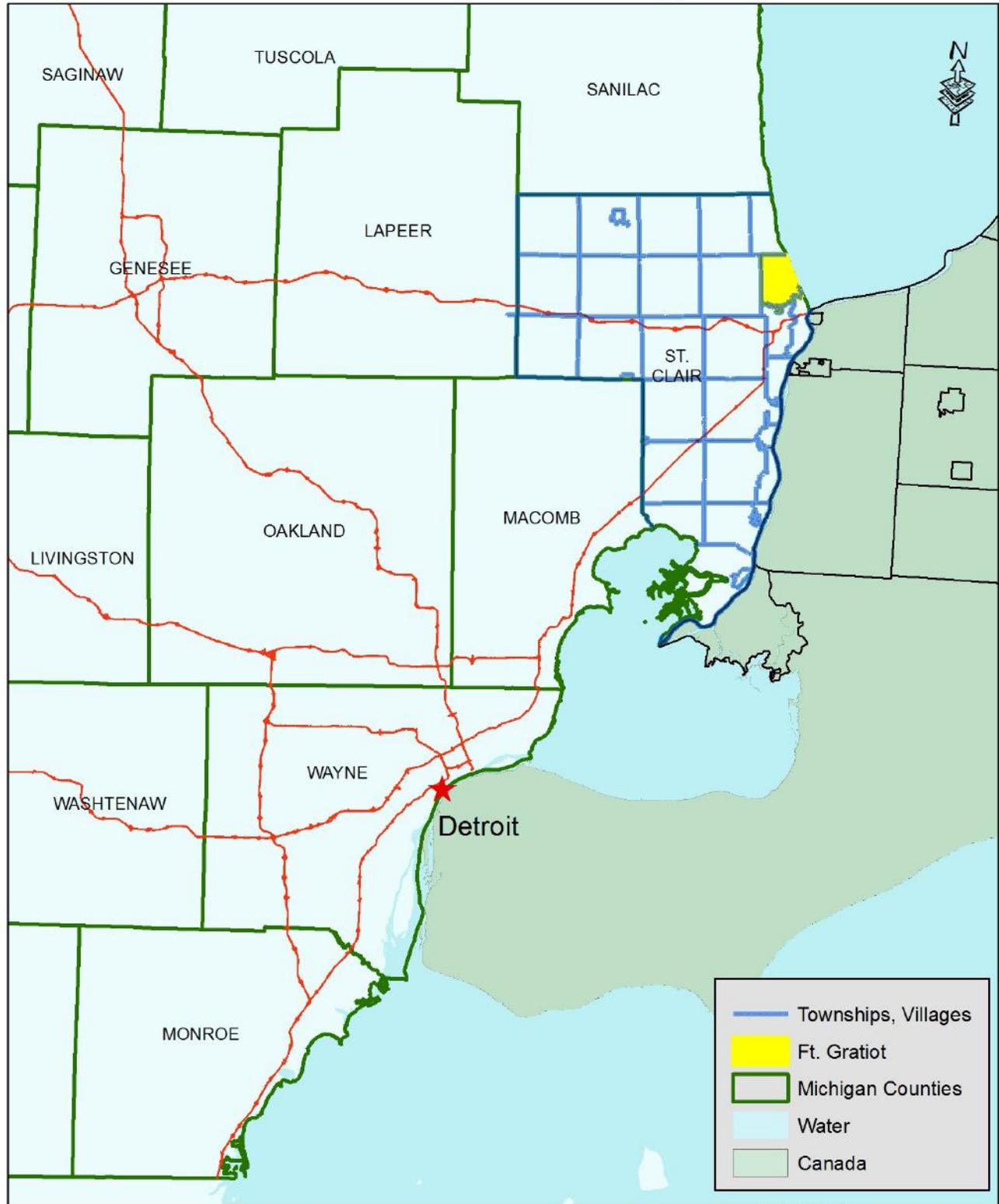
A household is defined as a person or group of people occupying a housing unit. The rate of increase in households is not equal to the rate of increase of housing units.

The average household in Fort Gratiot Township was 2.42 persons in 2015, a slight increase from 2010 when it was 2.39 persons per household. Over the same time period the number of households went from 4,563 to 4,479, a decrease of 1.8%. SEMCOG forecasts that by 2040, both Fort Gratiot Township and St. Clair County will be made up of smaller households. The average family size in the Township was 2.93 people in 2015.

INCOME

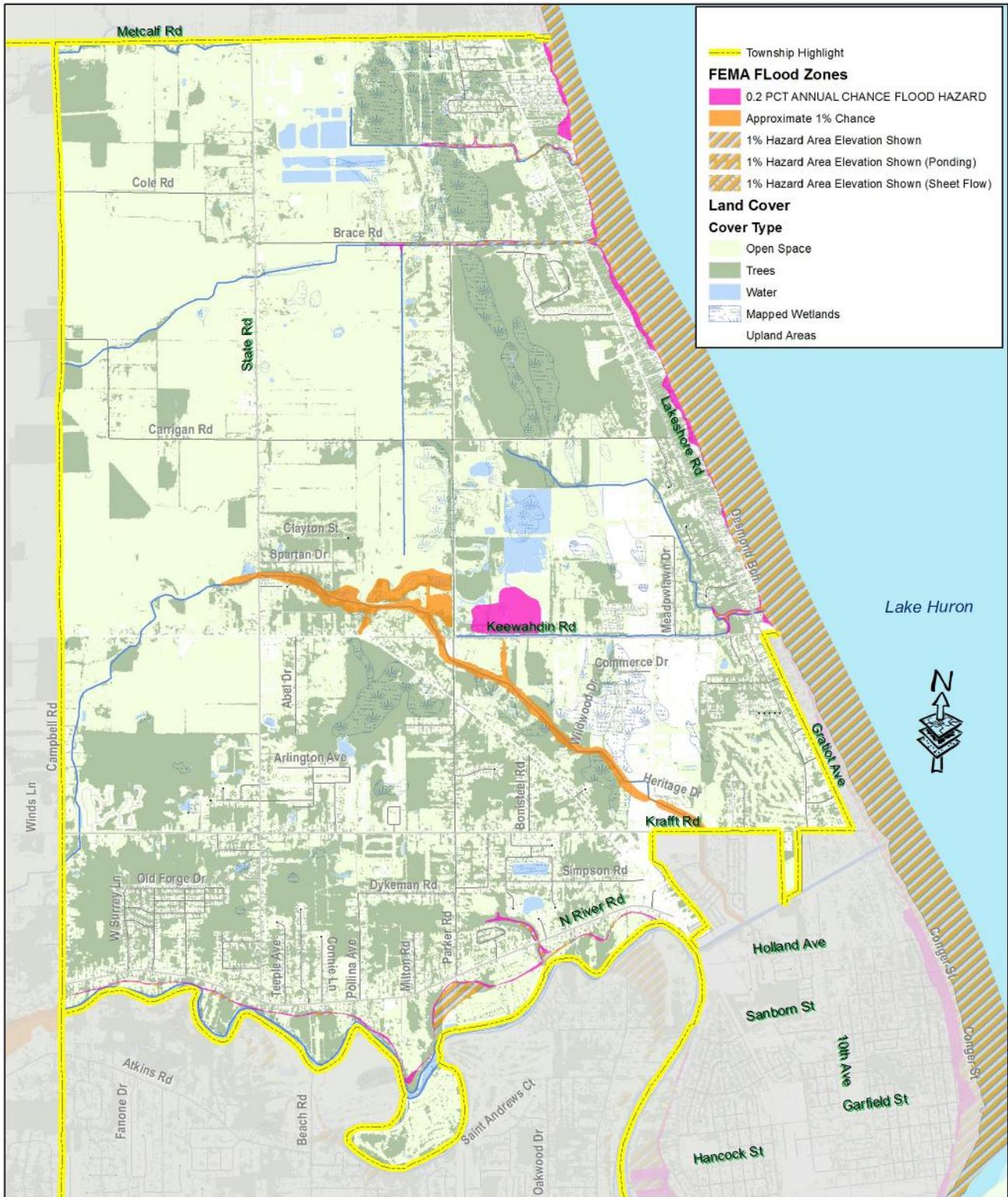
The median household income for Fort Gratiot was \$51,216 in 2015, which was higher than the median household income for St. Clair County of \$49,730. Out of the population of 11,075, a total of 1,424 people, or 13.1%, live

Regional Area



Template Provided by:
Metropolitan Planning Commission
200 Grand River, STE 202
Port Huron, MI
COUNTY OF ST. CLAIR

Natural Features



Map Source: SEMCOG LiDAR Project,
St. Clair County Master Plan



below the poverty level. This number includes 478 children under the age of 18 that live below the poverty level. Compared to St. Clair County, Fort Gratiot Township has a lower percentage of the population that lives below the poverty level and a lower number of children under the age of 18 living below the poverty level.

NATURAL RESOURCES

All development of recreational facilities in Fort Gratiot Township should be coordinated with the natural environment with the objectives of conserving natural resources whenever possible. A broad understanding of the natural resources of the Township permits an estimate of the future potential of the land for recreational use and promotes a well-balanced utilization of Township resources.

TOPOGRAPHY

The topography of Fort Gratiot Township is a level to gently rolling plain sloping from west to east. This topography is modified by the shoreline along Lake Huron and by the stream channel and floodplain of the Black River.

SOILS

There are twelve major soil associations found in St. Clair County, five of which can be found in Fort Gratiot Township and they are as follows:

Lando-Avoca Association

The most prominent soils in this association are somewhat poorly drained and have high water tables that require drainage prior to development. These soils occur in areas that are largely cleared and cultivated. They are further characterized by low natural fertility and may be droughty in mid-summer. These soils are mainly concentrated in the northwest portion of the Township.

Wainola-Deford Association

The soils that constitute the major portions of this association are somewhat poorly drained. Some areas within this association have been cleared and cultivated, while others are either urbanized or are idle. These soils are confined to the southwest portion of the Township, south of Keewahdin and west of Pine Grove Roads. Generally, these soils have low fertility and low available water capacity.

Eastport-Wainola-Tobico Association

This association occurs on glacial-like beaches along the shoreline of Lake Huron in a landscape characterized by a pattern of ridges and troughs. The prominent soils in this association range from well-drained to poorly-drained soils. Most of the area occupied by these soils were either cleared or cut over. In many cases, the soils have been developed for summer cottages or more fully urbanized uses. They occur along the Lake Huron shoreline, extending west to a depth of approximately one mile.

Bach Association

Soils in this association occur in glacial drainage ways and on lake plains. The landscape is nearly level, but has broad, slightly depressed areas. In general, these soils are poorly drained and are characterized by a high water table and are subject to periodic flooding. A relatively small area of the Township is covered by these soils—mainly located parallel to the Lake Huron shoreline.

Alluvial Land-Rough Broken Land Association

This association occurs on the floodplains and steep bluffs of the major rivers and streams throughout St. Clair County. More particularly in Fort Gratiot Township, these soils occur along the Black River - the southern boundary



of the Township. The general landscape is broad to narrow, generally deeply incised valleys. Most areas of this association are pastured, forested, or idle and covered with brush. Alluvial land has a seasonal high water table and Rough Broken land is subject to severe erosion and is too steep and rough for most uses.

WATER

Fort Gratiot Township is located on the shores of Lake Huron, which forms the eastern border of the Township, and the Black River, which forms the southern border of the Township. There are several county drains established in the Township, which provide for the orderly discharge of storm water into Lake Huron.

FLOODPLAINS

Floodplains are areas where floodwaters spread when the natural stream or river channel overflows its banks because it cannot accommodate runoff from storms or melting snow. Dissipation of flood waters into the floodplain helps reduce the amount of damage incurred by flooding. In addition to providing natural buffers for floods, floodplains provide critical functions as groundwater recharge areas and wildlife habitat.

According to the National Flood Insurance Program rate map for the Township, the Special Flood Hazard Areas are located in the following areas:

- ▶ Along the Black River, south of North River Road;
- ▶ Along the Brandymore-Howe Drain in Sections 17, 18, 20, 21, and 22;
- ▶ Along the Brace Drain in Section 9;
- ▶ Along the Galbraith Drain in Section 4; and
- ▶ Within a narrow strip along the Lake Huron shoreline.

WETLANDS

Wetlands serve a number of important environmental functions that need to be considered during the community planning process. The most important functions of a wetland are to serve as a natural filtration device, by trapping and storing nutrients from upland runoff in plant tissue and to serve as a settling basin for silt generated from upland erosion.

According to the National Wetlands Inventory map of Fort Gratiot Township, there are approximately 743 acres of wetlands in the Township. Most of these are found in Sections 4, 5, 9, 16, 17, 20, and 21. NOTE: Actual on-site inspection of these areas by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources is necessary to precisely determine the characteristics and extent of these wetlands.



WOODLANDS

Fort Gratiot Township is fortunate to have extensive portions of the community occupied by large, woodland areas. These are located throughout the community. The most extensive wooded areas are located in the southwestern and eastern portions of the Township. While the variety and quality of existing trees vary from location to location, the extent of this woodland coverage offers ample opportunities to incorporate existing vegetation into future development activities. Woodlands add aesthetic value and provide attractive sites for recreational activities such as hiking, camping, and other passive recreational pursuits.

CLIMATE

The climate conditions in Fort Gratiot are typical of most Southeast Michigan communities. Average yearly precipitation is approximately 30 inches of rain and 42 inches of snow. The coldest month of the year is January when temperatures average 31°F and the hottest month is July when temperatures average 83°F.

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

INTRODUCTION

In Fort Gratiot Township, the Township staff is responsible for the operation and maintenance of parks and recreation facilities and the provision of recreation programs. Generally, these duties are carried out by the Township Supervisor, Clerk, and Treasurer, as well as DPW staff. However, it is the Township Board that has the authority to commit funds for parks and recreation, accept grants, and purchase land on behalf of the Township. The Parks Commission was established by ordinance. Members of the Commission are elected by Township voters every four years.

The current membership of the Parks Commission includes:

- ▶ Bob Zauner, first elected in 2004
- ▶ Kristen Clifton, first elected in 2012
- ▶ Mike Vanover, first appointed in 2012
- ▶ Teresa Jex, first elected in 2016
- ▶ Kim Kestner, first elected in 2016

The Fort Gratiot Township Parks Commission meets the 3rd Monday of each month at the Fort Gratiot Municipal Center in the Gardendale Meeting Room at 7:00 p.m.

The Parks and Field Maintenance Director is responsible for day-to-day operations of the Recreation Department and reports to the Township Supervisor. The Recreation Department, in cooperation with the Department of Public

TABLE 7-1: RECREATION REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES, 2013-2017					
Expenditures	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Parks & Recreation	33,868	25,779	19,380	12,612	13,901
Parks/Bike Path/Ball Fields	85,920	467,318	173,341	238,074	181,783
Total	121,801	495,111	194,736	252,702	197,701
Receipts					
PARC Millage	47,020	50,386	46,142	47,626	48,589
General Fund	121,801	208,436	194,736	220,102	197,506
Other		0		32,600	195
Total	168,821	258,822	240,878	300,328	246,290
Surplus (Deficit)	47,020	(236,289)	46,142	47,626	48,589

TABLE 7-2: PROJECTED RECREATION EXPENDITURES, 2018-2022					
Expenditures	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Parks & Recreation	66,000	150,000	50,000	50,000	50,000

Works, is responsible for the provision, operation, and maintenance of parks and recreation facilities. Recreation programs are presently provided on a fee per participant basis through an agreement with the City of Port Huron Recreation Department or through other arrangements on a case-by-case basis depending upon the program or activity involved.

RECREATION BUDGETS

Table 7-1 highlights the revenues and expenditures associated with parks and recreation in Fort Gratiot Township from 2013 to 2017. Table 7-2 shows the budget projections for the township over the next five years. In 2019, the large increase in expenditures is tied to sewer improvements on Parker Road for the multi-sport facility. Expenditures in 2020, 2021, and 2022 are associated with additional infrastructure improvements at the sports park, trail expansion, and general maintenance and improvements at Township parks.

ST. CLAIR COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION MILLAGE

The St. Clair County Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) has a countywide millage for parks and recreation in St. Clair County. PARC dedicates 75% of the millage revenues to parks and recreation facilities that serve a countywide audience. PARC distributes the remaining 25% of the County Parks and Recreation Millage revenues to local units of government to enhance or expand local parks and recreation programs and facilities. Since 1994, the amount of money distributed to local communities has totaled more than \$12.6 million. This distribution has had a positive impact on the delivery of local parks and recreation services in every community in St. Clair County. The amount of local distribution is based on the number of residents living in each municipality or township. From 1994 to 2016, a total of \$824,296.20 has been distributed to Fort Gratiot Township for parks and recreation activities.

In order to receive these funds, communities must submit an annual report and show evidence of “maintenance of effort” to assure the funding is used to expand opportunities rather than to supplant existing local funding. In effect, local units of government must document that they have maintained their local financial support for parks and recreation services at a level equal to or greater than the amount they spent prior to the 1994 millage election.

TABLE 7-3: MDNR GRANT ASSISTED PROJECTS IN FORT GRATIOT TOWNSHIP			
Grant Number	Description	Grant Amount	Status
2009 MNRTF TF09-167	Parker Road Park Expansion	\$100,000	Grant was withdrawn
1991 BF91-180	Riverfront Park Improvement	\$47,360	Renovated tennis courts, ballfield and basketball court and construct boat ramp, picnic area and pond
1984 MNRTF TF879	Lake Huron Swimming Beach	\$225,000	Grant was withdrawn
1972 MDNR Project 26-00350	North River Road Park	\$29,209.95	Develop 3 acres to include 2 tennis courts, 1 basketball court, fencing, lighting, landscaping, site improvement, retaining wall, and pave road

STATE AND FEDERAL GRANTS

Since 1972, Fort Gratiot Township has been awarded four Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) grants, two of which were ultimately withdrawn. Grant funding from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) has been instrumental in assisting the Township make recreation investments. Table 7-3 presents a description of all MDNR grants received.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COLLABORATION

Fort Gratiot Township has a long-running collaboration with the City of Port Huron that allows Township residents to participate in City recreation programs at City of Port Huron resident rates. Fort Gratiot residents also get the resident rate for Lakeside Beach passes through the City of Port Huron. Township residents must show proof of residency when registering for recreation programs. Depending on the season, the Port Huron Recreation Department offers a variety of youth and adult recreation programs, such as karate, fencing, yoga, ice skating/hockey, art programs, science programs, cooking, chess, senior card groups, sports programs, and a number of special events. To learn more about the City of Port Huron's recreation programs, visit www.porthuronrec.com.

VOLUNTEERS AND PARTNERSHIPS

The Township makes use of volunteers to a significant extent in the provision of programs and for the development and maintenance of facilities. For example, volunteers provided labor to construct a floating observation platform at the east end of the pond at the wetland park. At North River Road Park, volunteers have provided labor to construct and install a handicapped accessible dock at the kayak and canoe launch area.



The Township Supervisor, Clerk, and Treasurer, along with DPW employees, spend substantial time in inspecting the condition of facilities, getting cost estimates from vendors, and arranging for maintenance and improvements. Volunteers have also been used in trail cleanup work, in the development of the PetSafe Canine Commons, and in putting on the “Scarecrow Saturday” event each fall. Additionally, grounds keeping staff regularly make use of free labor provided by non-violent offenders provided through the St. Clair County Sheriff Department.

The Fort Gratiot RC Yacht Club (FGRCYC) sails on Fort Gratiot Pond on Parker Road and has open sailing on Sunday afternoons. Other sailings are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Each year, the FGRCYC hosts the Mini Mack Regatta that coincides with the Port Huron to Mackinac Island sailboat race. Annual sailing regattas have hosted people from as far as Arkansas, New York, Ohio, and Canada. It is the only designated radio controlled sailing site in Southeast Michigan on a public pond.

RECREATION INVENTORY

INTRODUCTION

The residents of Fort Gratiot Township are able to take advantage of a variety of recreational resources at the regional, county, and local levels, as well as through privately-owned facilities. This section describes those resources.

LOCAL PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

FORT GRATIOT TOWNSHIP PARKS AND FACILITIES

The Township owns and operates just over 259 acres of parkland, including the Robert E. Crawford Little League Park, North River Road Park, Fort Gratiot Park, and McIntyre Park which features the PetSafe Canine Commons. The following pages include a profile of each park in Fort Gratiot Township.

Accessibility Evaluation

In accordance with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Guidelines for Recreation Plans, an accessibility evaluation was completed for each park within the Township. The evaluation was conducted by planners from the St. Clair County Metropolitan Planning Commission.

Each facility was compared to the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design and given a ranking from 1-5, where:

- 1=none of the site elements meet 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design
- 2=some site elements meet 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design
- 3=most site elements meet 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design
- 4=all site elements meet 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design, and
- 5=the facility meets the Principles of Universal Design

Parks & Community Facilities



Map Source: St. Clair County Master Plan

Template Produced by:
 Metropolitan Planning Commission
 200 Grand River, STE 202
 Port Huron, MI
 COUNTY OF ST. CLAIR

NORTH RIVER ROAD PARK 3055 NORTH RIVER ROAD



HIGHLIGHTS:

- ▶ 6.8 ACRES
- ▶ BLACK RIVER ACCESS
- ▶ ADA-ACCESSIBLE KAYAK LAUNCH
- ▶ PLAYGROUND
- ▶ BALL FIELD/BLEACHERS
- ▶ TENNIS COURTS
- ▶ BASKETBALL COURT
- ▶ HORSESHOE PITS
- ▶ BICYCLE RACK
- ▶ PICNIC AREA/PAVILION
- ▶ PORTABLE RESTROOMS

ACCESSIBILITY RATING: 2

ROBERT E. CRAWFORD PARK

4392 STATE ROAD

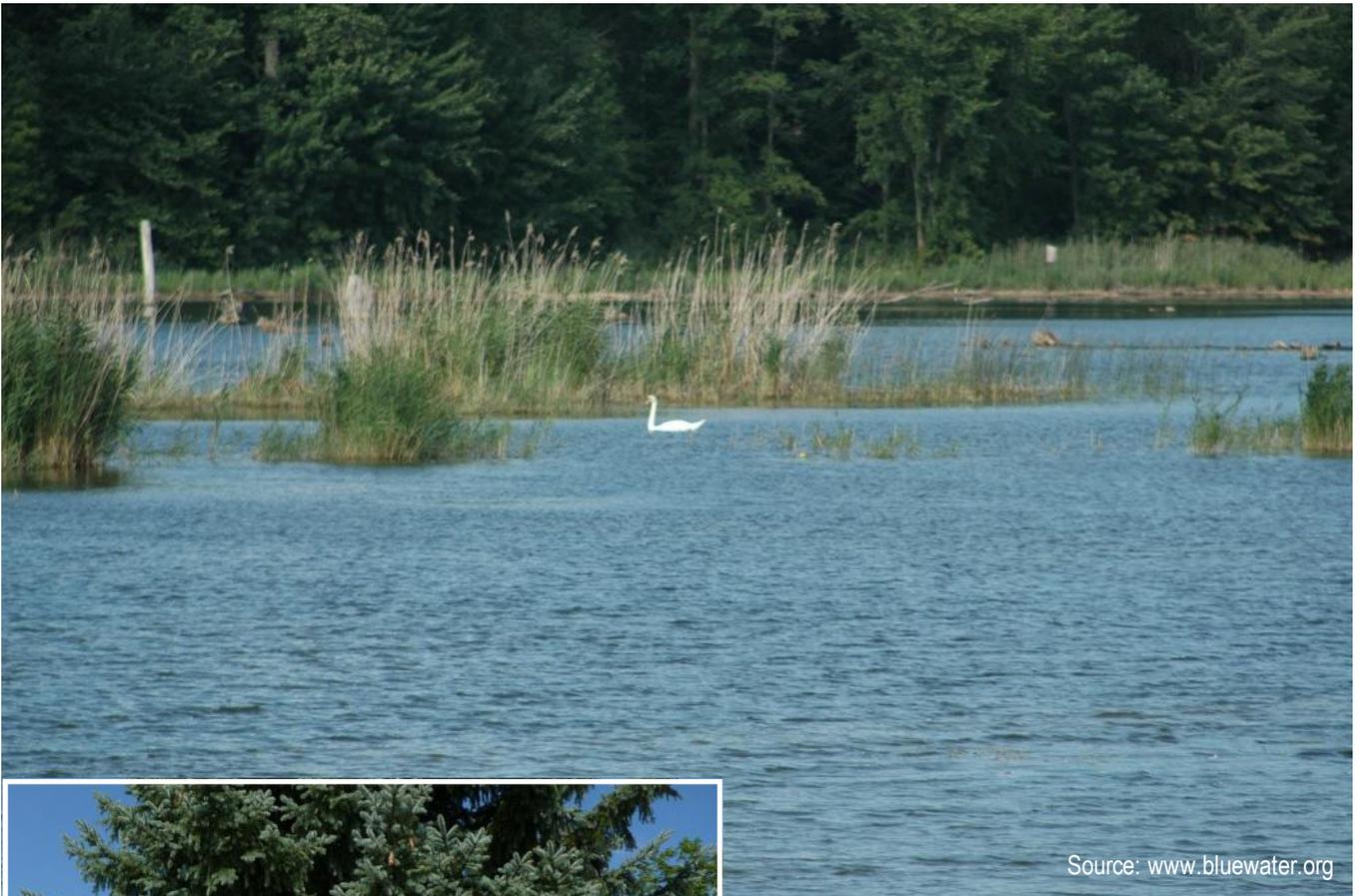


HIGHLIGHTS:

- ▶ 18 ACRES ON FORT GRATIOT MS PROPERTY
- ▶ SIX BALL FIELDS/LIGHTED SCOREBOARDS
- ▶ BLEACHERS/ANNOUNCERS BOOTH
- ▶ EQUIPMENT STORAGE BUILDING
- ▶ CONCESSION STAND
- ▶ PICNIC PAVILION
- ▶ PLAY AREA/SWINGS/SLIDES
- ▶ SANDBOX
- ▶ PORTABLE RESTROOMS

ACCESSIBILITY RATING: 2

PARKER ROAD NATURE/WETLAND PRESERVE V/L PARKER ROAD



Source: www.bluewater.org



HIGHLIGHTS:

- ▶ 53.7 ACRES
- ▶ NATURE TRAILS
- ▶ BIRDING OPPORTUNITIES

ACCESSIBILITY RATING: 3

MCINTYRE PARK/PETSAFE CANINE COMMONS

4788 PARKER ROAD



HIGHLIGHTS:

- ▶ 29 ACRES
- ▶ 2-ACRE DOG PARK WITH TWO FENCED COMMONS

ACCESSIBILITY RATING: 2



KETTLEWELL POND/NATURE TRAIL

V/L PARKER ROAD



HIGHLIGHTS:

- ▶ 40 ACRES
- ▶ ONE-MILE HIKE/BIKE TRAIL
- ▶ KETTLEWELL POND
- ▶ PICNIC TABLES
- ▶ BENCHES
- ▶ OBSERVATION DOCK
- ▶ FISHING ACCESS

ACCESSIBILITY RATING: 2

FORT GRATIOT POND

4888 PARKER ROAD



HIGHLIGHTS:

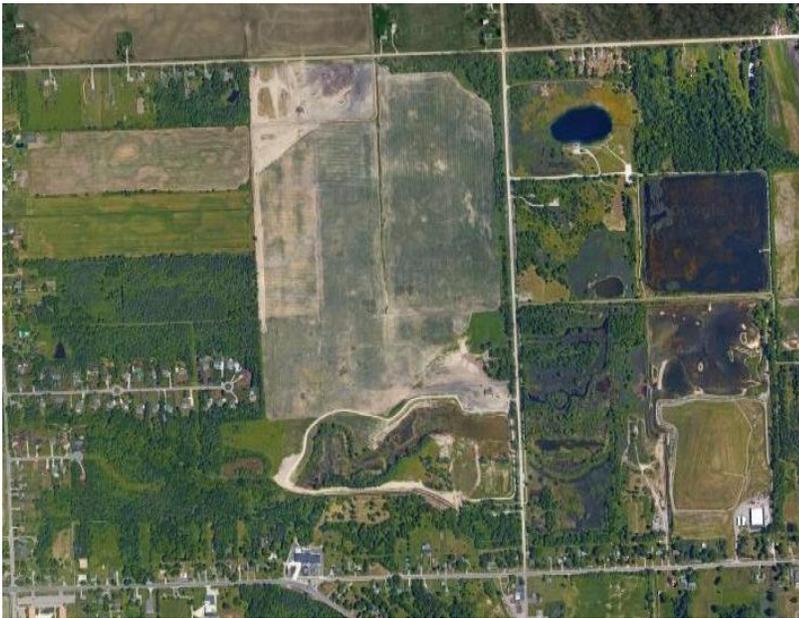
- ▶ 9 ACRES
- ▶ FORT GRATIOT POND
- ▶ RC SAILING & ANNUAL REGATTAS
- ▶ TWO PAVILIONS
- ▶ OPEN PICNIC AREA
- ▶ GRILLS
- ▶ TWO DOCKS
- ▶ PLAYGROUND
- ▶ PARKING
- ▶ FORT GRATIOT BIKE PATH ACCESS

ACCESSIBILITY RATING: 2



PROPOSED MULTI-SPORT FACILITY

V/L PARKER ROAD



HIGHLIGHTS:

- ▶ 101 ACRES
- ▶ UNDEVELOPED

ACCESSIBILITY RATING: 1

KEEWAHDIN ROAD BEACH

END OF KEEWAHDIN ROAD



HIGHLIGHTS:

- ▶ BEACH WITH 66 FEET OF LAKE FRONTAGE ON LAKE HURON

ACCESSIBILITY RATING: 1



BICYCLE PATH TRAILHEAD

3932 KEWAHDIN ROAD

HIGHLIGHTS:

- ▶ 1.4 ACRES
- ▶ ENTRANCE TO FIVE-MILE HIKE/BIKE/CROSS COUNTRY SKI TRAIL
- ▶ WINTER ICE RINK
- ▶ PARKING

ACCESSIBILITY RATING: 3

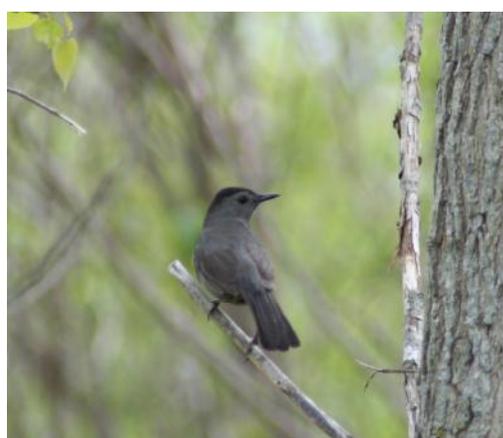
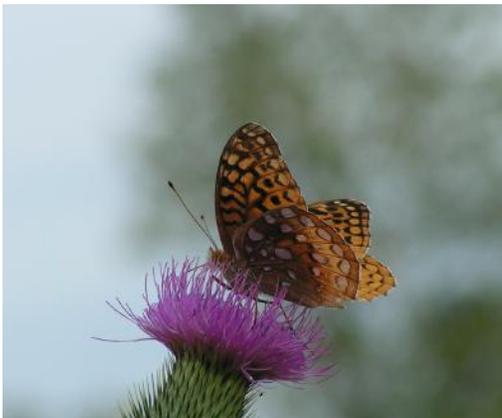


FORT GRATIOT NATURE PRESERVE - FEATURES SURVEY

The Fort Gratiot Nature Preserve is accessible from M-25 (24th Avenue) through the Fort Gratiot Meijer store south end parking lot along a terrain of sand dunes shaded by trees and native grasses. Other access can be made from the Parker Road entrances and parking areas north of Keewahdin Road. The nature preserve is made up of several natural areas that provide many recreational options and that benefit many diverse groups. A wide paved pathway circles the Kettlewell Pond which provides access for biking, walking, running, fishing, and wildlife viewing. A fishing platform provides ADA accessibility to the water's edge. Families on bicycle rides, joggers, bird watchers, and dog walkers are seen daily on this well-maintained pathway.

The Kettlewell Pond in the center of the trail is excellent habitat for many species of waterfowl, birds of prey, and migrating birds in spring and fall, making this location one of the best birding spots in the Blue Water Area. The shoreline growth provides ample nesting habitat for many waterfowl, along with protection for local fish and amphibian species that live and spawn in the waters. Native tree plantings and control of non-native plants are important steps being taken around the preserve to maintain a natural habitat.

Connected to the main nature trail is a pathway leading to the parking area for McIntyre Park and Fort Gratiot Pond. McIntyre Park features sheltered picnic tables, benches, and playground equipment. The wetland area south of the path area, left in its natural state, provides a buffer zone for the Nature Preserve. The native habitat is teeming with amphibians, mammals, and avian life. Many migrating birds are seen throughout this area during spring and fall and occasionally a rare bird sighting is reported.



PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES IN NEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES

There are numerous parks and recreation facilities in neighboring communities including Burtchville Township, Clyde Township, Port Huron Township, and the City of Port Huron. The tables below contain an inventory of facilities located within these communities.

TABLE 7-4: BURTCHVILLE TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Park	Acres	Amenities
Burtchville Township Park	18	Playground, ballfields, basketball courts, lake access, bathing beach, fishing access, skate park, trails, tennis courts, picnic areas, restrooms, freighter watching

TABLE 7-5: CLYDE TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Park	Acres	Amenities
Bill Bearss Park	20.0	Playgrounds, ballfields, soccer fields, tennis courts, picnic areas, pavilion, basketball court, concessions, restrooms
Firefighters Park	1.0	Playground, basketball court, picnic facilities, ice skating
Clyde Township Hall Park	1.0	Playground, tennis courts, picnic areas, pavilion, restrooms
Jake Simpson Wilderness Park	17.0	Basketball courts, inline skating, playground, pickle ball court
Riverfront Park	1.8	Undeveloped

TABLE 7-6: PORT HURON TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Park	Acres	Amenities
Township Park #1 – Lions Club	10.0	Playground, river access, boat ramps, fishing access, picnic areas, sledding hill, restrooms
Township Park #2 – Port Huron Township RV Campground	18.4	Playground, basketball courts, river access, fishing access, ice skating/inline skating, camping, picnic areas, restrooms
Township Park #3 – Memorial Park	58.0	Playground, ballfields, soccer fields, basketball courts, river access, fishing access, camping, picnic areas, restrooms
Township Park #4 – 40 th Street Pond	65.0	Playground, pond access, ADA-accessible fishing piers, trails, picnic areas, restrooms, ADA-accessible kayak launch, boat launch
Township Park #5	56.0	Undeveloped
Township Park #6 – Hoover School	1.5	Playground, basketball courts, picnic areas, restrooms
Baker’s Field Park	61.5	River access, boat ramps, fishing pier access, trails, pavilion, restrooms, ADA-accessible kaya launch
Michigan Road Little League Park	10.6	Playground, ballfields, soccer fields, river access, restrooms, concessions
Water Street Property	32.6	Undeveloped

TABLE 7-7: CITY OF PORT HURON PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Park	Acres	Amenities
Lakeside Park	17.7	Playgrounds, volleyball courts, lake access, concessions, bathing beach, restrooms, splash pad, freighter watching
Lighthouse Park	7.9	Playgrounds, lake access, bathing beach, restrooms, freighter watching
Blue Water Bridge Park	3.7	River access, fishing access, trail, freighter watching
Thomas Edison Park	9.0	River access, fishing access, trail, freighter watching
Pine Grove Park	13.7	Playground, ballfields, river access, fishing access, rails, picnic areas, restrooms, concessions, pavilion, freighter watching
Lincoln Avenue Turnout	0.5	River access, fishing access, freighter watching
Keifer Park	0.9	River access, fishing access, trail, freighter watching
Municipal Office Grounds	1.8	River access, fishing access, trail, freighter watching
Wastewater Treatment Plant	1.1	River access, fishing access, trail, freighter watching
Lincoln Park Turnout	0.6	River access, fishing access, trail, freighter watching
Fort Street Dock	0.8	River access, marina, fishing access, trail, restrooms
Quay Street Dock	1.0	River access, marina, fishing access, ADA-accessible kayak launch, restrooms
Southside Dock & Park	1.25	River access, fishing access
River Street Dock	9.1	River access, marina, fishing access, restrooms
12 th Street Dock	1.8	River access, boat ramps, fishing access, restrooms
Riverside Boat Ramp	5.7	River access, boat ramps, fishing access, restrooms
Sanborn Park	41.7	Playground, ballfield, basketball court, swimming pool, trails, tennis courts, restrooms
Palmer Park	7.8	Playground, ice skating, trails, community center, restrooms
Gratiot Park	1.8	Playground, basketball courts
Mansfield Park	0.8	Playground
Optimist Park	3.2	Playground, ballfields, basketball courts, ice skating, picnic areas
White Park	3.4	Playground, ballfields, basketball courts, ice skating
20 th & Court Street Park	2.5	Swimming pool, restrooms
11 th & Division Tot Park	1.0	Playground
19 th & Division Tot Park	0.5	Playground
Knox Field	6.5	Ballfields, basketball courts, restrooms
Lincoln Park	9.8	Playground, ballfields, basketball courts, ice skating, picnic areas, freighter watching
16 th & Dove Park	14.5	Playground, ballfields, basketball courts, restrooms
Haynes Park	1.17	Playground, ice skating
12 th & Jenks Tot Park	0.44	Playground
Heritage Park on the Quay	0.21	River access, marina, fishing access

TABLE 7-7: CITY OF PORT HURON PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES (CONTINUED)

Park	Acres	Amenities
Flag Plaza Park	1.20	River access, fishing access, freighter watching
McMorran Place		Special events, performances, concessions, restrooms
Renaissance Tot Park	0.47	Playground

TABLE 7-8: STATE OF MICHIGAN PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Park	Acres	Location
Algonac State Park	1,450	Cottrellville & Clay Townships
Lakeport State Park	1,215	Burtchville Township
Port Huron State Game Area	6,627	Grant, Clyde, & Kimball Townships
St. Clair Flats State Wildlife Area	10,300	Clay Township
St. Johns Marsh Recreation Area	2,477	Clay & Ira Townships
Mini Game Area	109	St. Clair Township

STATE OF MICHIGAN PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

The State of Michigan owns and manages 22,178 acres of resource-based facilities in St. Clair County, including Algonac State Park, Lakeport State Park, the Port Huron State Game Area, the St. Clair Flats State Wildlife Refuge, the St. John’s Marsh Recreation Area, and a mini-game area in St. Clair Township. See Table 7-8.

SCHOOL FACILITIES

The Port Huron Area School District operates three school sites in Fort Gratiot Township. Numerous recreation facilities are available at these sites. Both elementary schools include a full range of playground equipment, small baseball diamonds, and large open play areas. The middle school site includes an exercise station, basketball court, baseball diamond, practice football field, and open play area.

ST. CLAIR COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

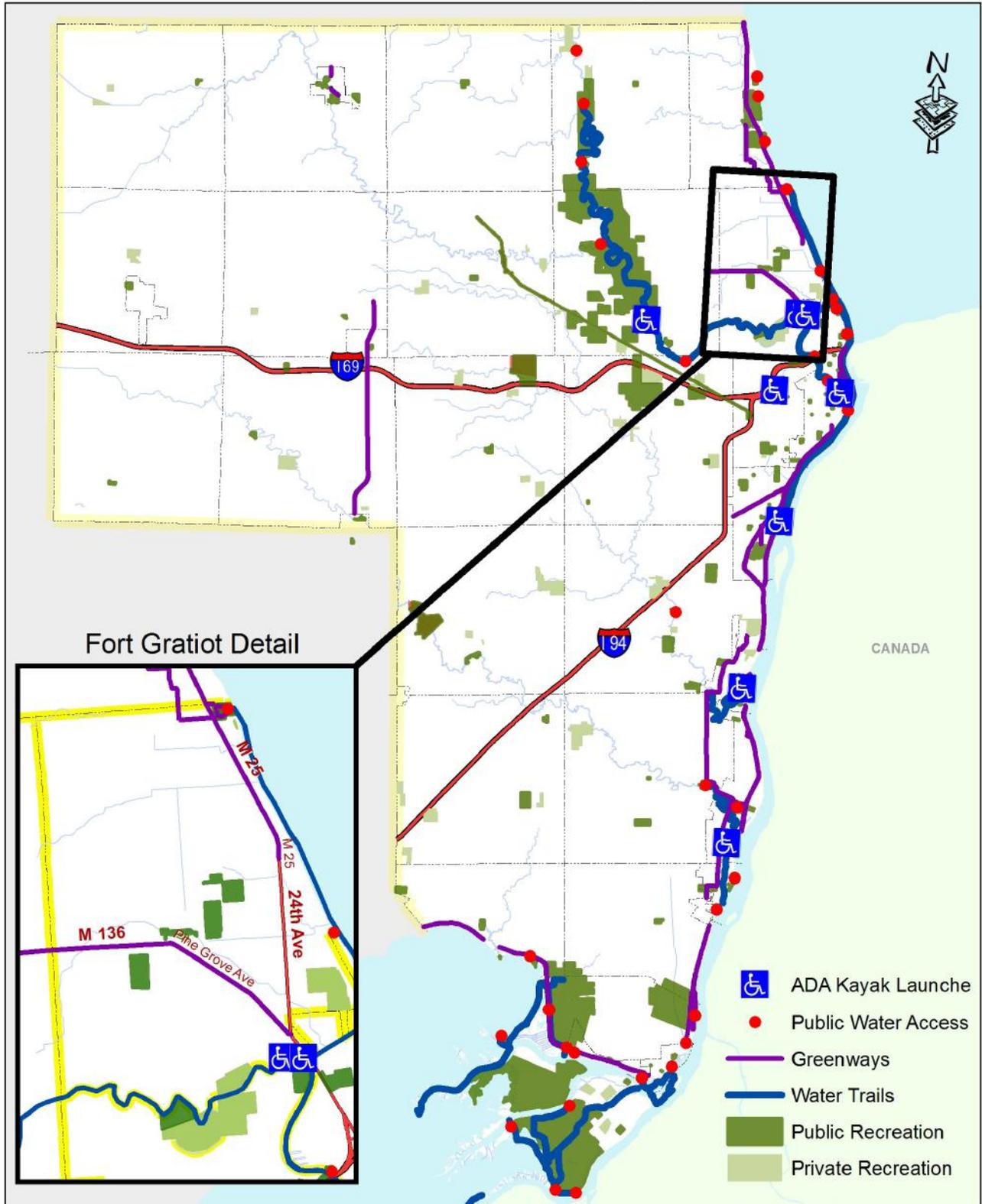
St. Clair County currently owns eight properties devoted to parks and recreation activities that total 1,010 acres. These are:

- ▶ Goodells County Park 366 acres
- ▶ Columbus County Park 411 acres
- ▶ Fort Gratiot County Park 30 acres
- ▶ Woodsong County Park 33 acres
- ▶ Fort Gratiot Light Station 5 acres
- ▶ Wetlands County Park 5 acres
- ▶ Marine City Dredge Cut Access .34 acre
- ▶ Wadhams to Avoca Trail 160 acres (12 miles long)

GOODELLS COUNTY PARK

Facilities at the park include the Visitors Center, two playgrounds, river and fishing access, a seasonal ice skating

St. Clair County Recreation



Map Source: St. Clair County Master Plan

Metropolitan Planning Commission
 200 Grand River, STE 202
 Port Huron, MI
 COUNTY OF ST. CLAIR



rink, trails, four picnic shelters, a community center, historic buildings, a BMX track, a radio-controlled model airplane airfield and truck track, a butterfly garden, five special events buildings, the "Splashpad," equestrian facilities, and areas for outdoor events.

The "Splashpad" has 11 spray features that include two water cannons, five dumping buckets, ground geysers, and a rainbow water tunnel. The "Splashpad" is open daily from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and admission is free. In February 2006, the County received a Facility Design Award from the Michigan Recreation and Parks Association (MRPA) for the Goodells County Park Splashpad. This award recognized the Splashpad as the first water play facility in the state that uses and recycles water that is supplied by a well rather than a municipal water system.

The Historic Village at Goodells County Park contains the Lynn Township Schoolhouse (1885), and the C.C Peck and Company Bank (1908). Visitors will also see the Columbus Bible Church (1860), the Murphy/Ryan Farmhouse (1872) and the Mudge Log Cabin (1863). The latest addition to the Historic Village is the Columbus Bible Church. The Church was moved to the park and restored, complete with its twelve-foot tall windows and spectacular bell tower.

COLUMBUS COUNTY PARK

Through five separate transactions, the St. Clair County Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) owns 411 acres of property in Columbus Township. PARC used a \$65,800 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) grant in 2016, to secure the final 26 acres. In 2007, PARC used a \$1.4 million MNRTF grant to secure 291 acres for the park.

Phase 1 construction at Columbus County Park was completed in early 2010. Phase 1 included constructing the main entrance on Bauman Road, a park roadway, a 100-car parking lot, erosion control and drainage improvements, underground utilities, a water well and development of a lighted sledding hill.

Other facilities at the park include mountain biking trails, walking trails, horse trails, fishing access, and permit-only hunting. The Belle River runs through the park, totaling 1.6 miles of frontage. A historic gambrel roof barn is located at Columbus County Park near Bauman Road and is used for maintenance and storage. The barn was restored by Columbus Township.

Construction of an energy efficient park lodge with modern restroom facilities, a picnic pavilion, offices and storage rooms was completed in 2012. Activities at the park include picnics, weddings, educational programs, and meetings.

FORT GRATIOT COUNTY PARK

Fort Gratiot County Park is located in the northeast part of St. Clair County, just off M-25 on Metcalf Road. This 30-acre park offers breathtaking views of Lake Huron and 852 feet of shoreline and beach. It also includes picnic areas, restrooms, a children's playground, and paved walking trails.

Fort Gratiot County Park is also home to the 1971 Tunnel Explosion Memorial which commemorates the construction accident that took the lives of 22 men working on the water intake tunnel located beneath the park. The 1971 Water Tunnel Explosion committee raised funds for the memorial which was erected in 2007. The Michigan Historic Commission dedicated a State Historical Marker at the site to mark the 40th anniversary of the tragedy.

Other improvements at the park include ADA-accessible restrooms and a playscape in 2007, as well as an overflow parking area in 2008. In early 2009, two picnic pavilions were completed and additional sections of boardwalk were installed on the beach.

WOODSONG COUNTY PARK

On December 30, 2008, St. Clair County purchased the 33-acre Camp Woodsong site from the Michigan Waterways Council of the Girl Scouts of America. The property is located off of Abbottsford Road, at the east end of Rynn Road, in Clyde Township. St. Clair County purchased the property for \$400,000 using a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant. The western half of the property features existing buildings that include a garage, pavilion, two vault toilets and group camping areas. The eastern half of the property has scenic, steep slopes that travel down to 2,800 feet of Black River shoreline. The site also has a rustic parking lot, and an ADA trail and kayak launch on the Black River is planned for the future.

FORT GRATIOT LIGHT STATION

The Fort Gratiot Light Station is the oldest lighthouse in Michigan. As the shipping needs on the Great Lakes



increased in the 1820's, so did the need for a navigational aid at the mouth of the St. Clair River. In August of 1825 the first lighthouse in Michigan was built at Port Huron. The original tower was located near the base of the present day second span of the Blue Water Bridge. It was 32 feet high above ground level, 18 feet in diameter at the base, and tapered to nine feet across at the top.

The Coast Guard maintained the Fort Gratiot Light Station from the 1930's until they moved next door into the new station that was built in 2004. The property was officially transferred to St. Clair County in 2010. Restoration of the lighthouse was completed in 2013, and other property repairs and additions have been made using Michigan Coastal Zone Management Grant funding. The restoration of the tower was made possible by the "Save America's Treasures" grant program and a match from the City of Port Huron. The tower reopened for tours in the summer of 2012. The Port Huron Museum serves as a partner in leading tours of the site, programming, and private reservations. Friends of the Fort Gratiot Light Station raise funds for building restoration projects and provides volunteers.

BLUE WATER RIVER WALK AND WETLANDS COUNTY PARK

The Blue Water River Walk is almost one mile long and runs along the St. Clair River shoreline immediately south of the mouth of the Black River in Port Huron. It is less than a mile downriver from the Blue Water Bridge to Sarnia and the southern end of Lake Huron. Owned by the Community Foundation of St. Clair County, the Blue Water River Walk is open to the public year-round. The river walk features an observation deck, a pedestrian trail, an outdoor classroom, shoreline and habitat restoration, a fishing pier, and public art.

The St. Clair County Parks and Recreation Commission purchased 4.85 acres of land using two MNRTF grants and received a \$1,039,500 grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to develop a 2.75-acre wetland on the very southern end of the river walk.

PINE RIVER NATURE CENTER

The St. Clair County Regional Educational Service Agency's Pine River Nature Center is an educational facility whose mission is to promote the awareness, understanding and stewardship of the Blue Water Area's natural and cultural heritage. The center provides programs for local schools to enhance their science and mathematics curricula with outdoor-based field studies correlated with the Michigan Curriculum Framework and offers outdoor recreation and environmental education opportunities for area residents.

The Pine River Nature Center opened to the public in May of 2003. The Nature Center sits on 111 acres of property, with over 4,800 feet of the Pine River meandering through it. Since opening, over 21,900 students from around St. Clair County have visited the center for programs. Activities and events at the center include the following:

- ▶ Opportunities to hike over two miles of trails (open daily from dawn to dark).
- ▶ Browse the indoor displays and live animals.
- ▶ Read about nature or do research in the library.
- ▶ Attend public programs, including star gazing parties and nature walks.
- ▶ Volunteer to help with special events and school programs.
- ▶ Adopt-a-Trail.
- ▶ Visit the universally-accessible (ADA) tree house.

GREENWAYS AND TRAILS

Greenways are corridors of land recognized for their ability to connect people and places together. According to the EPA, greenways promote outdoor recreation, catalyze economic development, increase adjacent property values, celebrate historical and cultural assets, promote conservation and environmental education and improve quality of life.

Greenways have multiple purposes, but from a recreation perspective they have two major functions:

1. To link and facilitate hiking and biking access between residential areas and parks.
2. To provide opportunities for the linear forms of outdoor recreation (i.e. hiking, jogging, bicycling, equestrian riding, and walking) in which many St. Clair County residents engage today. These recreation activities require the development of trails along the greenways.

There are two primary trail systems within St. Clair County: the Wadhams to Avoca Trail and the Bridge to Bay Trail.

WADHAMS TO AVOCA TRAIL

In 1999, St. Clair County PARC purchased the surface rights to 9.82 miles (100 acres) of right-of-way from CSX Railroad and began developing it as the Wadhams to Avoca Trail. In 2001 and 2004, PARC purchased two additional properties totaling 17.65 acres adjacent to the trail north of Imlay City Road for a trailhead and parking. In 2003, PARC purchased the surface rights to an additional two and a half miles of CSX Railroad right-of-way totaling 17.66 acres from Wadhams Road to Griswold Road. The trail is over 12.4 miles long and contains 160 acres.

To date, the 640-foot Mill Creek Trestle has been decked and railed for pedestrians and bike riders. Three acres of land southeast of the Trestle was purchased to create a horse crossing at Mill Creek.

At the south end of the trail in Kimball Township, over five miles of trail have been paved starting at McLain Road running southeast to Griswold Road. The paved section of the trail passes through a developing residential area and is heavily used by residents.

In a joint effort with the St. Clair County Road Commission, a hybrid pedestrian signal was installed in 2010 where the trail crosses Wadhams Road. It was the first time this type of signal has been used for a trail crossing in Michigan. The signal prompts flashing lights to stop traffic when a pedestrian wishes to cross the road.

Designated parking areas are located at the Wadhams Road, Imlay City Road, Lapeer Road, and Avoca Road trailheads. The non-motorized trail is open to walkers, bicyclists and equestrians.



BRIDGE TO BAY TRAIL

The St. Clair County Parks and Recreation Commission is working in conjunction with 13 local units of government to develop a 54-mile paved trail from Lakeport State Park to New Baltimore. St. Clair County helps to plan and promote the trail while each local unit of government is responsible for constructing their section of the trail. Even though PARC plays an instrumental coordinating role in the development of the Bridge to Bay Trail, the property that makes up that trail is owned by various municipalities and townships. Most trail construction projects are funded by grants. PARC usually helps to fund the local match required for trail construction grants.

The Bridge to Bay Trail extends from St. Clair County's northern border; under the Blue Water Bridge; through Port Huron, Marysville, St. Clair, Marine City, and Algonac; and past state and municipal parks, museums, gazebos, and lighthouses. Sometimes the trail is within reach of the water's edge and sometimes a few miles inland. It connects communities together for walkers, joggers, strollers, and bicyclists of all ages. The trail varies from a ten-foot wide separated paved pathway in the right of way along a road, or a five-foot wide dedicated bike lane.

The trail can potentially link to the Wadhams to Avoca Trail within St. Clair County, the Discover Michigan Trail, the Macomb Orchard Trail, and the St. Clair Parkway Trail in Lambton, Ontario, Canada via ferry. As of 2017, roughly 25 miles of the 54-mile Bridge to Bay Trail is complete.

Funding for the Bridge to Bay Trail comes from the St. Clair County Parks and Recreation Millage, local government funds, and grants. Grant money for the trail has been provided by the United States government through federal transportation grants, and by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), and the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF).

U.S. BIKE ROUTE 20

US Bike Route 20 is an established bicycle route in Michigan from the Marine City/Sombra Ferry (in southern St. Clair County), where it connects to the Trans-Canada Trail via local trails, to Ludington, Michigan, where the route continues across the car ferry S.S. Badger to Manitowoc, Wisconsin. The Michigan segment operates on bicycle paths, county roads and state roads, favoring paved roads that have either low to moderate traffic or paved shoulders. Bicyclists on the route will encounter historic small towns like Marine City and Vassar, the old-world Bavarian charm of Frankenmuth, and the Manistee National Forest.

TOWNSHIP BIKEWAY/OPEN SPACE NETWORK

The Township's proposed open space network plan would include about 20 miles of bike path, connecting residential areas, schools, businesses, and a number of recreation areas. The network includes the existing bike path, as well as a portion of the Bridge to Bay Trail, which runs along the west side of M-25 south from Keewahdin Road to the Howe Drain, then crosses M-25 into the Mercy Health Center property, then runs southeast to Krafft Road, east of M-25. The bike path should be extended in front of Birchwood Mall and ultimately connect with Burtchville Township.

THE BLUEWAYS OF ST. CLAIR

In 2009, the St. Clair County Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC), in partnership with PARC, applied for and was granted a Michigan Coastal Zone Management Grant to create a 'Blueways vision' website for the shoreline of St. Clair County.

Research began in 2009 to find all the public access points along waterways in the County. Next, public input was gathered for popular paddling routes and put-ins. The website was built up with paddling routes, access pictures,

information on restaurants, motels, museums, and other points of interest. One will find information on the major rivers in the County, including the Black River, Belle River, Pine River, Lake Huron, St. Clair River, and the St. Clair River delta, which is the largest freshwater delta in North America.

The Blueways website lists 17 different paddling routes, totaling 151 miles, in nine unique bodies of water and lots of valuable information related to paddling and shoreline recreation. The website is dynamic, with driving directions



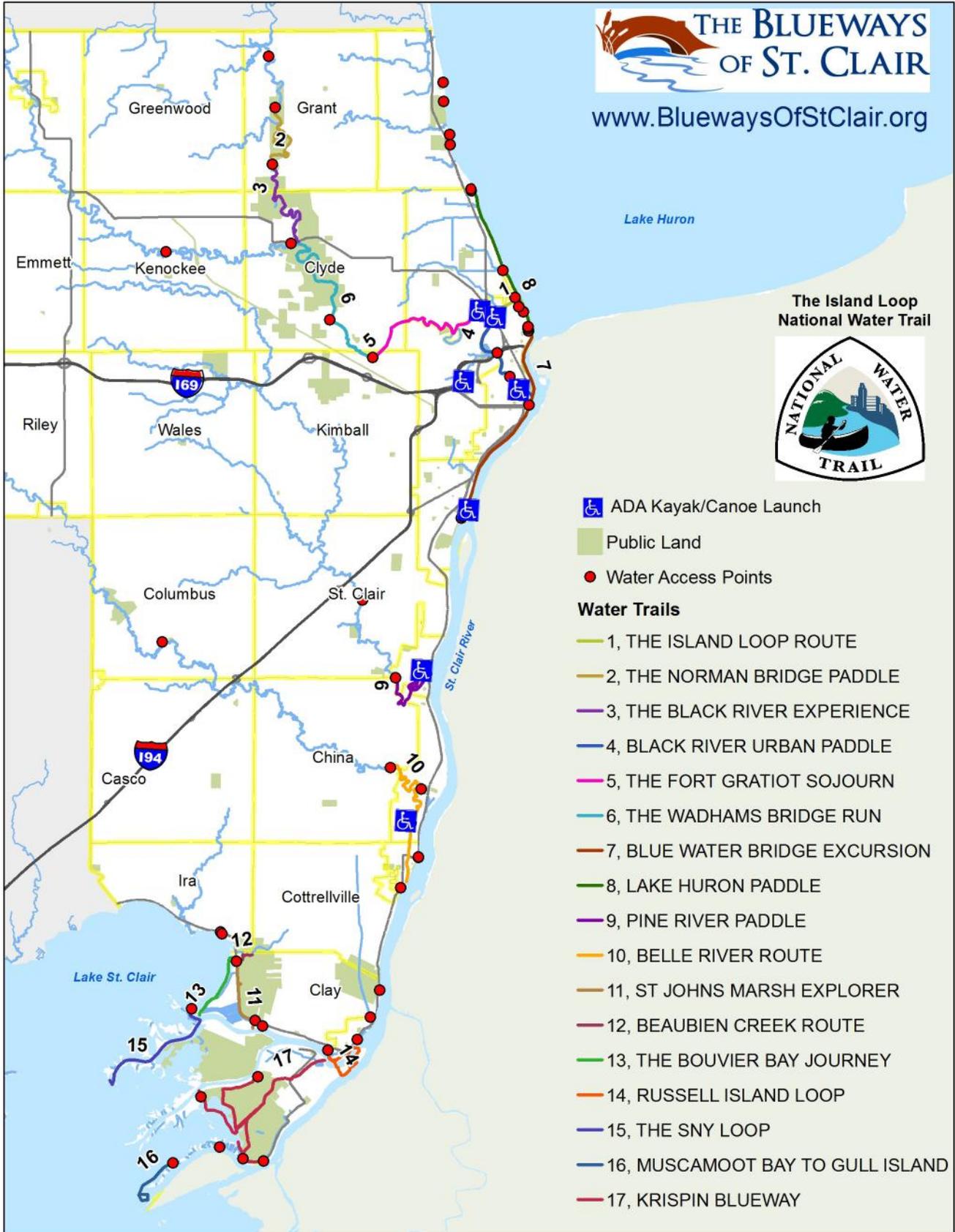
Paddlers enjoy an October paddle along the Fort Gratiot Sojourn Blueway Route



The Island Loop National Water Trail in Port Huron



The western shoreline of Lake Huron



between favorite points, aerial imagery maps, weather report links, and a “Birds Along the Blueway” section for birding enthusiasts. Check out St. Clair County’s Blueways website at www.BluewaysOfStClair.org.

There are three Blueway routes that run within or along the Township border: The Island Loop National Water Trail, the Fort Gratiot Sojourn, which is a leisurely paddle up the Black River to the Wadhams Bridge and back, the Lake Huron Paddle, which is a leisurely paddle along the western shore of Lake Huron.

ISLAND LOOP NATIONAL WATER TRAIL

The 10.2-mile Island Loop National Water Trail was the first national water trail to be designated in Michigan and the 14th in the United States. The trail makes a loop from the Black River, to the Black River Canal, to Lake Huron, into the St. Clair River and back to the Black River. It also passes the oldest lighthouse in Michigan, the Thomas Edison Museum, the Huron Lightship Museum, and the Acheson Maritime Center. It also navigates between the United States and Canada for 2.5 miles and meanders through Fort Gratiot Township, Port Huron Township, and the City of Port Huron.

PRIVATE RECREATION FACILITIES

Port Huron Golf Club contains an 18-hole championship golf course and clubhouse. The course is open to members and their guests. It is located on a 120-acre site on Krafft Road in Section 22.

Willow Ridge Golf Club contains a 9-hole, par 36 golf course, a clubhouse, and a restaurant. The course and restaurant are open to the general public. The course is located on North River Road (along the Black River) just east of Parker Road in Section 28.

PUBLIC INPUT AND PLANNING PROCESS

THE PLANNING PROCESS

The success of any planning process is reliant upon stakeholder involvement. Fort Gratiot Township has committed itself to pursue a proactive public outreach effort throughout the development of this plan. Efforts focused on soliciting community involvement to maximize awareness of the recreation planning process.

2018-2022 Parks and Recreation Plan Development

The process that led to the development of this five-year Parks and Recreation Plan included:

- ◆ A decision by Fort Gratiot Township officials to update the Township Master Plan and the five-year Recreation Plan.
- ◆ Contracting the services of the St. Clair County Metropolitan Planning Commission to manage the project and develop an updated, combined Master Plan/Recreation Plan.
- ◆ A review of existing Township planning documents by the St. Clair County Metropolitan Planning Commission.
- ◆ An online leadership survey distributed in June 2017 to members of the Fort Gratiot Board of Trustees, the Township Parks Commission, the Township Planning Commission, and other key stakeholders in the community.
- ◆ A Community Visioning meeting held on October 2, 2017 at the Fort Gratiot Municipal Center to get input from residents and Township officials about the future of the community.

- ◆ Drafting of the Parks and Recreation Plan.
- ◆ Review of the Parks and Recreation Plan document by the Parks Commission and the Township Board.
- ◆ A 30-day public review and comment period that began on January 10, 2018 and ended on February 9, 2018. The 30-day public review and comment period is required by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources in order for a community to be in compliance for grant applications.
- ◆ A public hearing held on February 21, 2018 to receive additional citizen comments.
- ◆ Adoption of the Parks and Recreation Plan by the Township Board of Trustees at its February 21, 2018 meeting.
- ◆ Transmission of the 2018-2022 Parks and Recreation Plan to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR).
- ◆ Transmission of the adopted Parks and Recreation Plan to the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) and the St. Clair County Metropolitan Planning Commission.

OVERVIEW OF PUBLIC INPUT

Input from citizens and local leaders was essential for the development of the Parks and Recreation Plan for Fort Gratiot Township

LOCAL LEADERSHIP SURVEY

At the start of this planning process in 2017, members of the Township Board of Trustees, Parks Commission, Planning Commission, and other members of Township boards and commissions were given an online survey to establish a framework on the key planning issues related to the update both the Township Master Plan and the Township's Recreation Plan. A summary of input from the leadership surveys can be found below.

Summary of input on parks and recreation issues from June 2017 Leadership Survey

- ▶ Need more pedestrian/bike support.
- ▶ Serving both young and old residents evenly.
- ▶ Ensuring there is adequate funding for park maintenance and updates.
- ▶ A lack of family activities in the Township
- ▶ New development at existing parks and acquiring additional parkland to develop.
- ▶ Continued support and development of the PetSafe Canine Commons.
- ▶ The future of Birchwood Mall may include mixed-use development, including recreation amenities.

Summary of what Local Leaders like best about parks and recreation in Fort Gratiot Township

- ▶ Access to the Great Lakes water area/Proximity to Lake Huron.
- ▶ Access to the river, Lake Huron, and ponds.
- ▶ Natural resources in the Township.
- ▶ Great location of the existing Fort Gratiot Bike Trail.
- ▶ Well-maintained bike and walking trails.
- ▶ Access to recreational amenities within the Township and in surrounding area.
- ▶ Attracting outsiders to the community.
- ▶ The PetSafe Canine Commons dog park has been a great addition to the community.
- ▶ Fishing opportunities.

Summary of improvements Local Leaders would like to see with Parks and Recreation in Fort Gratiot Township

- ▶ Perhaps a splash pad for summer time.
- ▶ Enhanced development of the PetSafe Canine Commons.
- ▶ More bike lanes/Safe walking path or sidewalk on Lakeshore between Keewahdin and Carrigan.
- ▶ New ADA-accessible equipment for people of all ages.
- ▶ Tennis courts on North River need work.
- ▶ Expanding the baseball fields.
- ▶ Winter time activities - ice skating/hockey/outdoor ice rinks.
- ▶ Improving Keewahdin Beach - increasing accessibility.
- ▶ Look into additional soccer fields.
- ▶ Improve boat launch at North River Road Park.
- ▶ Improve parking.
- ▶ Long-term plan for bike paths that connect residential to commercial and recreational areas.
- ▶ Review the need for senior activities.
- ▶ Community needs more family-friendly activities besides the movie theater and mall.
- ▶ Some sort of recreational area by Lake Huron would be perfect... a tourist attraction.

COMMUNITY VISIONING MEETING - OCTOBER 2, 2017

On Monday, October 2, 2017, a community visioning meeting was held at the Fort Gratiot Municipal Center. During the meeting, county planners gave a background presentation highlighting Township growth trends, demographic and economic information, and parks and recreation trends. Planners then facilitated a discussion with attendees centered around specific questions pertaining to key issues in the Township. Attendees were asked to brainstorm together in response to the guided visioning questions. Following is a summary of the input received during the public visioning meeting relevant to parks and recreation issues.

Community Visioning Meeting - Parks and Recreation Issues and Ideas Summary:

- ▶ The community needs a year-round sports and recreation complex that offers indoor and outdoor activities.
- ▶ The aging population is a challenge - community needs an activity center for the older population.
- ▶ Is there potential for a bike share program along the trail?
- ▶ Opportunities for kayak/pontoon rentals.
- ▶ In order to attract young professionals, the Township needs things to do. People want experiences.
- ▶ The Township should explore developing additional trails.
- ▶ Fort Gratiot residents benefit from the partnership with the City of Port Huron and its recreation programs.
- ▶ Need to explore opportunities for improving barrier-free access at parks/facilities.
- ▶ Are there opportunities for sailboats at Fort Gratiot Pond?
- ▶ The Township should look into green infrastructure opportunities - sustainability, solar/wind energy, etc.
- ▶ Strengthen partnership with Blue Water Transit.
- ▶ Look into Wi-Fi and charging stations for Township parks/facilities.
- ▶ The Township needs venues that draw people - amphitheater, casino, concert venue.
- ▶ Redevelop North River Road Park - water sports, splash pad, fishing pier, accessibility.
- ▶ Explore walking/dog walking programs.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND FACILITY COMPARISON

An essential task in the recreation planning process is to determine the needs of the community as a basis for an action plan. This task can be accomplished not only by asking people what they desire, but also by comparing the Township to established recreation standards based on the size of the community and its service area. In addition, the Parks Commission can simply make observations of what is needed to improve the community's park system.

TABLE 7-9: PARK LAND ACREAGE AND FACILITY ANALYSIS

Park/Activity	Standard	Population (2015)	Population (2040)	Recommended Size/Population 2010	Recommended Size/Population 2040	Existing Acreage/Facilities
Community Park	5-8 acres per 1,000 acres	11,075	12,807	55-88 acres	64-103 acres	259 acres
Children's Play lot	1 lot per 3,000 residents	11,075	12,807	4	5	3
Basketball Court	1 court per 10,000 residents	11,075	12,807	2	2	1
Softball/Baseball Diamond	1 diamond per 5,000 residents	11,075	12,807	3	3	7
Nature Trails	1 trail per 20,000 residents	11,075	12,807	1	1	1
Golf Course	1 course per 25,000 residents	11,075	12,807	0	0	2
Tennis Court	1 court per 2,000 residents	11,075	12,807	6	7	2
Soccer Field	1 field per 10,000 residents	11,075	12,807	1	2	-
Ice Rink (Outdoor)	1 per 20,000 residents	11,075	12,807	0	0	1
Volleyball Court	1 court per 5,000 residents	11,075	12,807	3	3	-

Source: Lancaster, R.A., Ed. *Recreation Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines*. Alexandria, VA: NRPA, 1983; Mertes, J.D. and J.R. Hall. *Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines*. Alexandria, VA: NRPA, 1995.

PARK ACREAGE AND FACILITY COMPARISON

The existing recreation facilities were compared against the guidelines set by the NRPA and MDNR to determine if the existing facilities are adequate to meet the needs of residents in comparison to national standards. The analysis takes into account a variety of factors including existing conditions, information obtained from public input, programming desires, and site conditions. Table 7-9 identifies the NRPA guideline for each facility type, the recommended number of facilities and the existing number of facilities, and the surplus or deficiency.

As Table 7-8 shows, there are currently deficiencies in children's playgrounds, basketball courts, tennis courts, and a soccer field based on recommended standards. It is important to note that while recreation planning standards are generally constructive, they must also be used intelligently in concert with other information because they tend to either understate or overstate actual citizen needs due to regional interests, demographics, citizen mobility, unique natural areas, and the impact of tourism. For that reason, the list of recreation uses in Table 7-8 is not exhaustive. It is also important to consider what other amenities are available in neighboring communities, as well as the trends affecting parks and recreation on an annual or bi-annual basis. Addressing these issues with recommended standards is generally mitigated due to the fact that the Township updates the Recreation Plan every five years, which allows officials to garner new citizen input and assess current trends.

GOALS AND STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN

OVERVIEW

The Action Program details the manner in which the goals and objectives will be met. It includes a list of specific improvement projects, as well as strategies for implementation.

The following outlines a list of projects and strategic actions which are recommended for accomplishment during the five-year planning period. They are based on the needs identified local leaders survey, the community visioning meeting, and input from Township staff officials.

GENERAL RECREATION GOALS

GOAL 1: FORT GRATIOT TOWNSHIP PROVIDES HIGH QUALITY PARKS AND RECREATION EXPERIENCES FOR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS OF ALL AGES AND ABILITIES.

Strategic Actions:

- ▶ Enhance and increase the quality of life of Township residents and provide opportunities for social interaction by providing a full range of recreation programs and facilities to meet the needs of the residents, including the prevention and reduction of obesity in children and adults through active sports opportunities.
- ▶ Relate recreation programs and facilities to the demographic character of the township population.
- ▶ Encourage continued and expanded cooperation with the City of Port Huron Recreation Department in providing recreation programming and the Port Huron Area School District in providing recreation facilities.
- ▶ Establish a working relationship with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and the St. Clair County Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) for the purpose of obtaining assistance in the acquisition and development of recreational facilities within the Township.
- ▶ Avoid duplicating recreation facilities and programs that are already being provided by other levels of government or by the private sector.
- ▶ Provide open space and recreation opportunities through a combination of community-wide and neighborhood facilities that are easily accessible to the population that they are intended to serve, including the economically disadvantaged, minorities, and persons with disabilities.

RECREATION FACILITIES GOALS

GOAL 2: THE TOWNSHIP WILL CONTINUE TO WORK WITH COMMUNITY PARTNERS TO MAINTAIN AND UPGRADE EXISTING PARK FACILITIES.

GOAL 3: NEW PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES WILL BE ACQUIRED AND/OR DEVELOPED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TOWNSHIP MASTER PLAN, COMMUNITY INPUT, AND THE AVAILABILITY OF SUPPORTING RESOURCES.

Strategic Actions:

- ▶ Set aside sufficient land area to meet the recreation needs of existing and future potential users.
- ▶ Incorporate neighborhood recreation facilities in to plans for future residential development areas.
- ▶ Utilize appropriate planning and zoning techniques encouraging developers to incorporate more open space into new residential developments.
- ▶ Encourage the preservation of open space along the Black River, Lake Huron, and along existing drainage and utility corridors where feasible, and the protection of environmental biodiversity and water resources of the area.
- ▶ Seek and provide meaningful access, where possible, to the Black River, Lake Huron, and the woodlands, wetlands, and floodplains that adjoin them.
- ▶ Encourage the development of a linear, passive recreation facility along the Black River.
- ▶ Use public right-of-way along streets, roads, abandoned railroads, or along drain easements for non-motorized, pedestrian and bicycle paths where possible and where needed.
- ▶ Extend the bike path in front of Birchwood Mall and complete connections to Township recreational facilities, as well as Burtchville Township to the north.
- ▶ Continue to work with adjoining communities and other partners in expanding the non-motorized path network.
- ▶ Continue to use existing school sites to meet neighborhood and community-wide recreation needs.
- ▶ Design future recreation facilities to minimize maintenance expenses.
- ▶ Install necessary infrastructure, such as water, sewer, and power along Parker Road for Township parks.
- ▶ Incorporate unique natural features (woodlands, wetlands, floodplains and rivers) into future recreation planning whenever feasible.
- ▶ Coordinate the development of indoor and outdoor recreation facilities so that they serve as a major community focal point.
- ▶ Provide both “passive” and “active” types of recreational facilities. Provide a mix of developed recreational areas and natural open space areas.
- ▶ Acquire recreation sites, especially areas containing unique natural resources, well in advance of actual need, before rising land prices and development make acquisition more difficult.
- ▶ Acquire the land on the north side of the Fort Gratiot Pond.
- ▶ Encourage and support improved access to Lake Huron through the Black River Canal.

- ▶ Improve the North River Road Park shoreline by improving fishing amenities and constructing a seawall.
- ▶ Investigate the feasibility of developing a splash pad at North River Road Park.
- ▶ Implement Phase II of the PetSafe Canine Commons, including the addition of water features.
- ▶ Develop the Gardendale Marketplace with a farmers market and park adjacent to the Fort Gratiot Municipal Center.

RECREATION ADMINISTRATION GOALS

GOAL 4: FORT GRATIOT TOWNSHIP PROVIDES EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE ADMINISTRATION OF PARKS AND RECREATION AMENITIES AND PROGRAMS.

GOAL 5: THE TOWNSHIP CONTINUES TO COLLABORATE AND PARTNER WITH NEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES AND REGIONAL AND STATE AGENCIES.

Strategic Actions:

- ▶ Plan recreation programs to meet the needs of all age groups in the Township.
- ▶ Coordinate existing and anticipated recreation programs with those offered by other public and private recreation providers.
- ▶ Relate recreational program offerings to the availability of facilities.
- ▶ As more recreation facilities and programs are developed, provide necessary staffing and an administrative infrastructure and operating budget to support the expansion of recreation opportunities.
- ▶ Make sure that recreation acquisition and development projects are included in the Township's capital improvement program.
- ▶ Prepare and adopt master development plans for all park sites acquired or owned by the Township.
- ▶ Prepare and adopt a master plan for developing the multi-sport facility.
- ▶ Engage the services of a barrier-free accessibility consultant to conduct a thorough and complete audit of all Township-owned facilities and provide a detailed report and prioritized list of required and recommended accessibility improvements.

2018-2022

**PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN
FOR FORT GRATIOT TOWNSHIP**

APPENDIX: PLAN DOCUMENTATION



COMMUNITY PARK, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE, AND GREENWAY PLAN CERTIFICATION CHECKLIST

By Authority of Parts 19, 703 and 716 of Act 451, P.A. 1994, as amended, submission of this information is required for eligibility to apply for grants

INSTRUCTIONS: Complete, obtain certification signatures and submit this checklist with a locally adopted recreation plan.

All recreation plans are required to meet the content and local approval standards listed in this checklist and as outlined in the *Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans* provided by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Plans must be submitted to the DNR **with** a completed checklist that has been signed by an authorized official(s) of the local unit of government(s) submitting the plan. Plans may be submitted at any time of the year, but no later than March 1 of the year the local unit of government is applying for grants.

PLAN INFORMATION

Name of Plan:

2018-2022 PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN FOR FORT GRATIOT TOWNSHIP

List the community names (including school districts) that are covered under the plan and have passed a resolution adopting the plan.	County	Month and year plan adopted by the community's governing body
Fort Gratiot Charter Township	St. Clair	02/2018

PLAN CONTENT

INSTRUCTIONS: Please check each box to certify that the listed information is included in the final plan.

1. COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

2. ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

- Roles of Commission(s) or Advisory Board(s)
- Department, Authority and/or Staff Description and Organizational Chart
- Annual and Projected Budgets for Operations, Maintenance, Capital Improvements and Recreation Programming
- Current Funding Sources
- Role of Volunteers
- Relationship(s) with School Districts, Other Public Agencies or Private Organizations

Regional Authorities or Trailway Commissions Only:

- Description of the Relationship between the Authority or Commission and the Recreation Departments of Participating Communities
- Articles of Incorporation

3. RECREATION INVENTORY

- Description of Methods Used to Conduct the Inventory
- Inventory of all Community Owned Parks and Recreation Facilities
- Location Maps (site development plans recommended but not required)
- Accessibility Assessment
- Status Report for all Grant-Assisted Parks and Recreation Facilities
- Waterways Inventory (if applicable)

4. RESOURCE INVENTORY (OPTIONAL)

5. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS

6. DESCRIPTION OF THE PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

- Description of the Method(s) Used to Solicit Public Input Before or During Preparation of the Plan, Including a Copy of the Survey or Meeting Agenda and a Summary of the Responses Received
- Copy of the Notice of the Availability of the Draft Plan for Public Review and Comment
 - Date of the Notice 01/10/2018
 - Type of Notice Newspaper Public Notice
 - Plan Location Fort Gratiot Municipal Center
 - Duration of Draft Plan Public Review Period (Must be at Least 30 Days) 43 days
- Copy of the Notice for the Public Meeting Held after the One Month Public Review Period and Before the Plan's Adoption by the Governing Body(ies)
 - Date of Notice 01/10/2018
 - Name of Newspaper Port Huron Times Herald
 - Date of Meeting 02/21/2018
- Copy of the Minutes from the Public Meeting

7. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

8. ACTION PROGRAM

9. POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT(S)

PLAN ADOPTION DOCUMENTATION

APPROVAL DOCUMENTATION: For multi-jurisdictional plans, **each** local unit of government must pass a resolution adopting the plan. Prepare and attach a separate page for each unit of government included in the plan.

- 1. Official resolution of adoption by the governing body dated: 02/21/2018
- 2. Official resolution of the _____ Commission or Board, recommending adoption of the plan by the governing body. dated: _____
- 3. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to County Planning Agency dated: 02/23/2018
- 4. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to Regional Planning Agency dated: 02/23/2018

OVERALL CERTIFICATION

NOTE: For multi-jurisdictional plans, Overall Certification must include the signature of each local unit of government. Prepare and attach a separate signature page for each unit of government included in the plan.

I hereby certify that the recreation plan for

FORT GRATIOT CHARTER TOWNSHIP
(Local Unit of Government)

includes the required content, as indicated

above and as set forth by the DNR.

Authorized Official for the Local Unit of Government

02/23/2018
Date

This completed checklist must be uploaded in MiRecGrants.

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION
TIMES HERALD MEDIA
911 Military, Port Huron 48060
State of Michigan, County of St. Clair

IN THE MATTER OF: RFP-PTH-2655028

FORT GRATIOT TOWNSHIP

FORT GRATIOT TOWNSHIP
3720 KEEWAHDIN RD

FORT GRATIOT, MI 48059

Public Notice - 30-Day Review Period for Fort Gratiot
Township Parks and Recreation Plan 2018-2022

Notice is hereby given to any and all interested parties that the Fort Gratiot Township Parks & Recreation Plan 2018-2022 will be available for public review/comment for 30 days beginning January 10, 2018 at the Fort Gratiot Municipal Center (FGMC) 3720 Keewahdin Road, Fort Gratiot, MI, 48059, M-F, 8A to 4:30P and at fortgratiotwp.org. The Fort Gratiot Board of Trustees will hold a public hearing on February 21, 2018 at 7:00 P at the FGMC, 3720 Keewahdin Rd, Fort Gratiot, MI 48059 to hear comments on the proposed Parks & Recreation Plan 2018-2022. The Township is preparing an updated 5 year Parks & Recreation Plan in accordance with MDNR guidelines. When completed, the plan will be integrated into the updated Township Master Plan and serve as a guide for the acquisition & development of parks & recreation facilities over the next 5 years. All interested parties may submit comments in person or in writing to Jerja Baldwin, Supervisor, 3720 Keewahdin Rd, Fort Gratiot, MI 48059, jrbaldwin@fortgratiotwp.org. Questions or comments, contact 810-385-4489.

PTH-2655028

1/10/18

Being duly sworn, says that he/she is authorized by the publisher of The Times-Herald, to swear that a certain notice, a copy of which is annexed here to, was published in the following publication:

1. Published in the English language for the dissemination of general and/or legal news, and
2. Has a bonfide list of paying customers or has been published at least once a week in the same community without interruption for at least 2 years, and
3. Has been established, published and circulated at least once a week without interruption for at least one (1) year in the community where the publication is to occur.

The Times-Herald, 01/10/18

Kathleen Kelly Dickinson

Kathleen Kelly Dickinson

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME THIS 13th DAY
OF February, 2018.

[Signature]

SHELLI ADAMS, NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF MICHIGAN,
COUNTY OF IONIA, MY COMMISSION EXPIRES MARCH 12TH,
2022, ACTING IN THE County of St. Clair

0002655028, LSJ-134201PT

LSJ-PTH-The Times-Herald

RECEIVED
FEB 22 2018
TOWNSHIP OF
FORT GRATIOT

MEMBERS PRESENT: REYNOLDS, CRAWFORD, BRADLEY AND MONTGOMERY
 MEMBERS ABSENT: KISH, BRUCKNER AND BALDWIN
 ALSO PRESENT: PAT SMITH, FIRE CHIEF
 LISA SHAGENA, ASSESSOR
 WILLIAM SHAGENA, FIRE DEPARTMENT

Motion by Reynolds, seconded by Montgomery, to appoint Clerk Crawford Acting Chairperson in the absence of Supervisor Baldwin. Vote, Unanimous. **MOTION PASSED.**

7:00 O'CLOCK P.M. - OPEN PUBLIC HEARING FOR FORT GRATIOT TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION PLAN 2018-2022; and continued with the Regular Agenda, at this time.

Motion by Montgomery, seconded by Bradley, to approve the Minutes of the **REGULAR MEETING** of February 7, 2018, as printed and posted. Vote, Unanimous. **MOTION PASSED.**

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD: * NONE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Crawford, seconded by Reynolds, to approve the Agenda, as printed and posted. Vote, Unanimous. **MOTION PASSED.**

TREASURER'S REPORT:

GENERAL FUND	\$	<u>1,317,807.23</u>
FIRE DEPARTMENT FUND	\$	<u>234,916.89</u>
POLICE PROTECTION FUND	\$	<u>297,556.96</u>
TRASH / RECYCLING FUND	\$	<u>211,123.35</u>
BUILDING DEPARTMENT FUND	\$	<u>47,824.06</u>
UTILITY RECEIVING FUND	\$	<u>1,755,618.70</u>
TOTAL	\$	<u>3,864,847.19</u>
MISCELLANEOUS PROJECTS	\$	<u>1,637,661.97</u>
UTILITY BOND MONEY MARKET	\$	<u>42,846.42</u>
GRAND TOTAL	\$	<u>5,545,355.58</u>

Motion by Montgomery, seconded by Bradley, to receive the Treasurer's Report, as given. Roll Call Vote, 4/0. **MOTION PASSED. TOTAL TREASURER'S REPORT APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 5,545,355.58.**

BILLS PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL:

GENERAL FUND	\$	<u>17,791.51</u>
FIRE DEPARTMENT FUND	\$	<u>11,915.47</u>
POLICE PROTECTION FUND	\$	<u>61,165.42</u>
TRASH / RECYCLING FUND	\$	<u>0.00</u>
BUILDING DEPARTMENT FUND	\$	<u>1,000.00</u>
UTILITY RECEIVING FUND	\$	<u>18,487.98</u>
GRAND TOTAL	\$	<u>110,360.38</u>

Motion by Bradley, seconded by Montgomery, to pay bills, as presented. Roll Call Vote, 4/0. **MOTION PASSED. BILLS APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 110,360.38.**

* According to Section 6 of the Charter Township of Fort Gratiot By-Laws adopted 02/20/2003.

SHERIFF DEPARTMENT REPORT: Given by representative of Sheriff Department: Captain King

Total Calls for Service for the month of January, 2018, (349). Number of Patrol Hours, (930). 6 Animal Complaint; 30 Assist Other Depts.; 50 Assist Public; 2 B&E of Building/Vehicle; 49 B&E/Alarm; 1 Child Abuse/Neglect; 3 Disorderly Persons; 12 Domestic Assault; 4 Fraud; 4 Harassment & Threats; 2 Juvenile Matter; 12 Larceny; 2 PI Traffic Crash; 51 PD Traffic Crash; 15 Retail Fraud; 2 Stolen Vehicle; 21 Suspicious Incidents; 1 Trespasser; 82 Misc. Warrant Arrests/Follow-up/BOL, 911 Hang-ups, etc.; 91 Traffic Stops; 29 Tickets Issued.

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE SHERIFF: * NONE

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Total runs for the month of January, 2018, (134). Fort Gratiot Township: 2 Alarm/CO; 11 Alarm/Fire; 14 Fire/Misc.; 78 Medical Emergencies; 2 Mutual Aid; 2 PI Accidents; 11 Overtime; 3 Wire Down/Arcing. Clyde Township: 1 Alarm/CO; 1 Fire/Structure; 5 Medical Emergencies; 4 PI Accidents. Total Personnel, 1,097. Total Cost, \$20,645.50.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT REPORT: Total permits issued for the month of January, 2018, (9). 1 New Home (Val. 110,000); 4 Residential Addition/Alteration/Repair (Val. 18,000); 1 Commercial Addition/Alteration/Repair (Val. 140,000); 2 Signs (Val. 16,308); 1 Commercial Compliance (Val. 30,653) Total Valuation, \$314,961.00. Total Fees, \$ 2,696.50.

PLUMBING/MECHANICAL INSPECTOR'S REPORT: Total permits issued for the month of January, 2018, (18). 14 Mechanical (\$2,155.00); 4 Plumbing (\$757.00). Total Fees, \$ 2,912.00.

ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENT REPORT: Total permits issued for the month of January, 2018, (8). Total Fees, \$ 1,661.00.

ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER REPORT: Total complaints in the month of January, 2018, (9). 3 Blight; 1 RV Storage/Parking; 2 Snow Removal; 1 Unlicensed Vehicle; 2 Misc. Ord. Violations.

CORRESPONDENCE: NONE

Motion by Bradley, seconded by Montgomery, to accept the reports, as given. Vote, Unanimous. **MOTION PASSED.**

PUBLIC HEARING, CONTINUED:

1. FORT GRATIOT TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION PLAN 2018-2022:

Acting Chairperson Crawford asked for citizen comments, questions and/or objections to the Proposed Fort Gratiot Township Parks & Recreation Plan 2018-2022. Not one was heard.

After hearing no citizen comments, questions and/or objections, a Motion was made by Montgomery, seconded by Reynolds, to close the Public Hearing to hear citizen comments, questions and/or objections to the Fort Gratiot Township Parks & Recreation Plan 2018-2022. Time, 7:18 o'clock p.m. Vote, Unanimous. **MOTION PASSED. PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED.**

Lori Eschenburg, St. Clair County Planning Commission quickly summarized the Recreation Plan, which will become an official part of the Township Master Plan; and explained that the updated plan will be submitted to the DNR online; and Grant Application will be submitted by April 1, 2018.

No public comments were received during the 30 day review period.

The Township Parks Commission adopted the Proposed Parks & Recreation Plan on Monday, February 19th, 2018.

Motion by Montgomery, seconded by Bradley, to adopt the Resolution to approve Fort Gratiot Township Parks & Recreation Plan 2018-2022. Roll Call Vote, 4/0. **MOTION PASSED.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Motion by Crawford, seconded by Reynolds, to accept the Tentative Agreement between International Union of Operating Engineers Local 324 and the Charter Township of Fort Gratiot. Roll Call Vote, 4/0. **MOTION PASSED.**

BOARD DISCUSSION:

- Clerk was in Lansing, today, learning about proposed election changes and new computer software.
- 02/28/2018 is the last day to pay property taxes at the Township; and last day to purchase dog licenses at the Township.
- Parker Road Sports Park - Proposed Lease from Fort Gratiot Little League, being reviewed by Attorney prior to being presented to Board. Also discussed necessary utilities.
- Review of employee salaries, wages and benefits.
- St. Clair County Chapter MTA 2018 Annual Dinner Meeting on February 28th.

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD:

Lisa Shagena, Township Assessor, stated that Assessment Change Notices are being sent out. Approximate 2% increase, as a whole. She gave an overview of the Assessing Department. She noted a no fee class being held for local officials at the St. Clair County Dodge Auditorium on June 8th, 2018, from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Motion by Reynolds, seconded by Bradley, to adjourn. Time, 7:46 o'clock p.m. Vote, Unanimous. **MOTION PASSED. MEETING ADJOURNED.**

ROBERT C. CRAWFORD, CMC/CMMC
FORT GRATIOT CHARTER TOWNSHIP

JORJA BALDWIN, SUPERVISOR
FORT GRATIOT CHARTER TOWNSHIP

RCC/JB/vo

The Charter Township of Fort Gratiot complies with the "Americans with Disabilities Act" and if auxiliary aids or services are required at the meeting for individuals with disabilities, please contact Clerk, Robert C. Crawford, 3720 Keewahdin Road, Fort Gratiot MI 48059, (810)385.4489, three days prior to said meeting.

RESOLUTION
FORT GRATIOT CHARTER TOWNSHIP
ADOPTION OF 2018-2022 PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Fort Gratiot, County of St. Clair, Michigan, held at 7:00 o'clock p.m. on the 21st day of February, 2018, Prevailing Eastern Time.

MEMBERS PRESENT: REYNOLDS, CRAWFORD, BRADLEY AND MONTGOMERY

MEMBERS ABSENT: BALDWIN, BRUCKNER AND KISH

The following Preamble and Resolution were offered by Member Montgomery and supported by Member Bradley:

WHEREAS, the Charter Township of Fort Gratiot 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 2018-2022; and

WHEREAS, the Charter Township of Fort Gratiot began the process of developing a Parks & Recreation Master 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 the Charter Township of Fort Gratiot 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 Final Draft Plan for a period of at least 30 days for plan; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on February 21, 2018 at the Fort Gratiot Municipal Center, 3720 Keewahdin Road, to provide an opportunity for all residents of the planning area to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the Charter Township of Fort Gratiot Parks & Recreation Master Plan 2018-2022; and

WHEREAS, the Charter Township of Fort Gratiot has developed the plan as a guideline for improving recreation and enhancing natural resource conservation for the Charter Township of Fort Gratiot; and

WHEREAS, after the public hearing, the Charter Township of Fort Gratiot Board of Trustees voted to adopt said Charter Township of Fort Gratiot Parks & Recreation Master Plan 2018-2022.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Charter Township of Fort Gratiot, hereby, adopts the Charter Township of Fort Gratiot Parks & Recreation Master Plan 2018-2022.

AYES: REYNOLDS, CRAWFORD, BRADLEY AND MONTGOMERY

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: BALDWIN, BRUCKNER AND KISH

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.



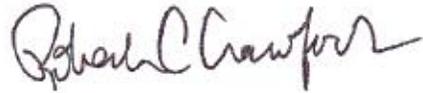
ROBERT C. CRAWFORD, CLERK
FORT GRATIOT CHARTER TOWNSHIP

CERTIFICATION

I, ROBERT C. CRAWFORD, Clerk, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and original copy of a Resolution adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Fort Gratiot at their Regular Meeting held on the 21st day of February, 2018 at 7:00 o'clock p.m., Prevailing Eastern Time.

FEB 22 2018

DATE



ROBERT C. CRAWFORD, CLERK
FORT GRATIOT CHARTER TOWNSHIP

*Jorja Baldwin, Supervisor
Robert C. Crawford, Clerk
Judi Reynolds, Treasurer*



*Scott Bradley, Trustee
Linda Bruckner, Trustee
George Kish, Trustee
Robert Montgomery, Trustee*

February 23, 2018

David Struck, Planning Director
St. Clair County Metropolitan Planning Commission
200 Grand River Avenue, Suite 202
Port Huron, MI 48060

Dear Mr. Struck:

Enclosed please find the updated 2018-2022 Fort Gratiot Township Parks and Recreation Plan, pursuant to Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) recreation plan guidelines.

The 2018-2022 Master Parks and Recreation Plan was approved by the Fort Gratiot Township Board of Trustees on February 21, 2018.

If you have any questions or concerns about the plan, or if you would like an electronic copy of the plan, please feel free to contact me at 810-385-4489 or via email at jbaldwin@fortgratiottwp.org.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Jorja Baldwin', written in a cursive style.

Jorja Baldwin, Supervisor
Fort Gratiot Charter Township

*Jorja Baldwin, Supervisor
Robert C. Crawford, Clerk
Judi Reynolds, Treasurer*



*Scott Bradley, Trustee
Linda Bruckner, Trustee
George Kish, Trustee
Robert Montgomery, Trustee*

February 23, 2018

Kathleen Lomako, Executive Director
Southeast Michigan Council of Governments
1001 Woodward Avenue, Suite 1400
Detroit, MI 48226-1904

Dear Ms. Lomako:

Enclosed please find the updated 2018-2022 Fort Gratiot Township Parks and Recreation Plan, pursuant to Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) recreation plan guidelines.

The 2018-2022 Master Parks and Recreation Plan was approved by the Fort Gratiot Township Board of Trustees on February 21, 2018.

If you have any questions or concerns about the plan, or if you would like an electronic copy of the plan, please feel free to contact me at 810-385-4489 or via email at jbaldwin@fortgratiottwp.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Jorja Baldwin', written over a horizontal line.

Jorja Baldwin
Township Supervisor