

Ada Township Parks & Recreation  
7330 Thornapple River Drive  
Ada, Michigan 40301  
Site Accessibility Report

Prepared by Disability Advocates of Kent County



May 15, 2017



## **Introduction**

### **Background**

The Ada Township Parks & Recreation Department wishes to ensure a welcoming and inclusive environment for employees, residents, and visitors to the recreation facilities in Roselle Park (1010 Grand River Drive NE), Leonard Field Park (7490 Thornapple River Drive SE), and Ada Township Park (1180 Buttrick Avenue SE). To meet this goal, Mark Fitzpatrick, Director of Ada Township Parks & Recreation Department, sought an evaluation of the accessibility of the park facilities and what needed to be done to meet ADA Standards. This evaluation follows a similar audit that was performed in 2011. Mark Fitzpatrick enlisted Disability Advocates of Kent County to evaluate the sites, and report the findings.

Disability Advocates of Kent County has over thirty-three years of experience in working with local municipalities and businesses on improving accessibility in our community. Past projects include the review of construction plans for Gerald R. Ford International Airport, Rivertown Crossings Mall, John Ball Park Zoo, and The Van Andel Arena. Additionally, site assessments were conducted for the Kent County District Library, Grand Rapids ArtPrize 7 exhibition venues, the City of Walker, and the Kent County Health Department.

### **How to Use This Report**

The plan review and associated reports provide a snapshot in time of a facility. While some conditions such as restroom configuration, are unlikely to change without significant planning and preparation, other elements such as furniture placement, may have been altered since the time of the evaluation. This report provides a foundation on which to build. The evaluation of facilities should be an ongoing process.

This report is in no way intended to certify compliance or non-compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Many of the factors which can affect whether or not a facility is ADA Compliant are outside the scope of the evaluation performed by Disability Advocates of Kent County, and can include:

- What date was the last renovation to a particular area of the facility conducted?
- If there have been renovations, what was the cost of the accessibility improvements in proportion to the overall renovation budget?
- What is the cost of accessibility improvements in relation to the overall budget of the facility or its parent organization?
- Is it possible to meet ADA Guidelines given the physical constraints of the property?
- Would meeting the technical Guidelines of the ADA reduce the overall accessibility or usability of the facility?
- If it is infeasible to meet the ADA Guidelines, have alternate means of accessibility or accommodation been implemented?

In addition, compliance with ADA technical Guidelines does not guarantee that a facility is accessible to the maximum extent possible. The ADA is intended as a baseline standard that will result in minimum accessibility at a majority of facilities. Additions or improvements to a facility may be desired to improve facility functionality for the maximum number of users.

For the purpose of this report, each element on the sites was evaluated individually. Unless specifically required by the ADA Guidelines, elements were not evaluated in relation to another. This means that, for example, while the ADA Guidelines would require that a room have at least one accessible door that adjoins an accessible route, the Disability Advocates team evaluated all doors to the room, even after it was determined that an accessible route was present.

Recommendations are divided into three levels:

- **Level 1** modifications include moving furniture, staff training, minor modifications to existing equipment, etc.
- **Level 2** modifications include purchasing equipment, significant modifications to existing equipment, or significant research or planning.
- **Level 3** modifications likely require construction and/or significant expense.

Terminology:

Unless otherwise specified, the term “slope” is used to denote a continuous change of level in the direction of travel and the term “cross slope” is used to denote a continuous change of level counter to the direction of travel.

### Process:

Between March 14, 2017 and May 17, 2017, Disability Advocates of Kent County evaluated the Roselle Park, Leonard Field Park, and Ada Township Park. This evaluation was performed by Disability Advocates of Kent County Accessibility Specialist Jackson Botsford.

The Accessibility Specialist collected measurements on the elements located in the parking lots, recreational trails, play elements, park offices, including (but not limited to) the accessible routes connecting accessible elements, entry points to structures, and the presence of clear floors spaces in restrooms, and specifications of restroom fixtures. Each measurement was then recorded and compared to the ADA Guidelines, and was given a score from 0 – 3:

- **Rating 0** indicating that an element is not at all accessible.
- **Rating 1** indicating that an element is essentially functional for most people with disabilities, but does not meet ADA Guidelines.
- **Rating 2** indicating that an elements meets ADA Guidelines but there is still room for improvement
- **Rating 3** indicating that an element meets Universal Design<sup>1</sup> Principals.

These individual scores area averaged into two overall scores for each area or fixture. The first score is the ADA rating which takes into account only those elements which are required by the ADA Guidelines.

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<sup>1</sup> Universal Design: Universal Design involves designing products and spaces so that they can be used by the widest range of people possible. Universal design evolved from Accessible Design, a design process that addresses the needs of people with disabilities. Universal Design goes further by recognizing that there is a wide spectrum of human abilities. Everyone, even the most able-bodied person, passes through childhood, periods of temporary illness, injury and old age. By designing for this human diversity, we can create things that will be easier for **all people** to use. SOURCE: <http://www.universaldesign.com/about-universal-design.html>



## **Ada Township Parks & Recreation I      Park Site Accessibility Report**

The second score is the Universal Design rating, which takes into account all the elements required by the ADA Guidelines, along with elements of some areas and fixtures which are not required but can significantly impact accessibility. The intent for the second rating is to help establish a “best practice” approach to accessibility.

Please note that for many elements, such as a restroom mirror, the element must meet ADA Guidelines when it is provided even when that element is not required.

Recommendations for each fixture were determined based primarily on elements with a score indicating that it does not meet or exceeds the ADA Guidelines. In some instances, no recommendations for elements which do not meet ADA Guidelines were provided because it was judged likely that alterations were technically unfeasible or not worth the financial investment for a small gain. One example of this is where providing sufficient clear floor space outside of the door swing of a water closet door would involve moving the door.

In other instances, Universal Design recommendations were included despite an element meeting ADA Guidelines. One example of this is recommending the widening doorways to 36-inches.

### **Executive Summary**

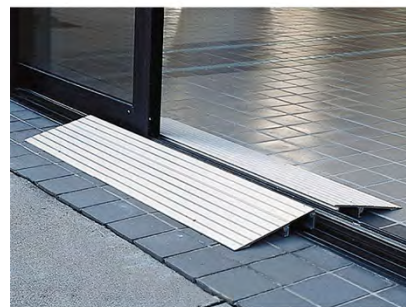
Roselle Park at 1010 Grand River Drive NE, Leonard Field Park at 7490 Thornapple River Drive SE, and Ada Township Park at 1180 Buttrick Avenue SE in Ada, were evaluated between March 14<sup>th</sup> 2017 and May 17<sup>th</sup> 2017. Existing conditions and recommendations do not encompass any alterations made after that date. Each of the sites have several barriers to accessibility with the accessible routes in the exterior spaces, primarily in sections of trails and walking paths that are adjacent to the park structures.

### **Ada Township Park**

The spaces and park structures at Ada Township Park at 1180 Buttrick Avenue SE that may be difficult to impossible to access by persons with mobility or coordination impairments include:

- **The Parking Lot by the Baseball Diamond:** The parking lot contains 65 total parking spaces. There are no designated accessible parking spaces present. Currently, if the spots near to the baseball diamond seating are occupied, a guest with a disability may need to park in the Ada Township Parks Office lot. This is a very long distance to travel for people with limited mobility, stamina or strength. Under the ADA Design Standards, for a lot of this size, at least Three (3) designated accessible parking spaces should be present nearest to the path to the baseball diamond seating area, with at least One (1) of the spaces being designated as being Van-Accessible **(Level 2 recommendation)**. The Curb Ramp that at the beginning of the path to the Baseball Diamond is damaged, with significant changes in level and fracturing. This may prevent guests with assistive technology such as walkers, wheelchairs, and scooters from passing the damaged sections of the accessible route to the Baseball Diamond, and should be repaired **(Level 2 recommendation)**.

- **The Ada Township Parks Office and Les Craig Learning Center:** The Office entrance threshold and the Learning Center threshold exceeds ½-inch. The concrete pads at these entrances have a minor slope to reduce the threshold from what would otherwise be in excess of 1-inch. At least once of these entrances should have a threshold that does not exceed ½-inch. This may be accomplished by constructing a wooden, metal, or concrete threshold ramp (**Level 2 recommendation, see right**). Another more permanent option is to plan to regrade the surface of the parking lot and concrete pad at the entrances so as to ensure that the current threshold does not exceed ½-inch. This may be done at the time when the parking lot surface is repaved (**Level 3 recommendation**). The entrance ramp in the Les Craig Learning Center has no handrails. Handrails allow people to have support while moving up the ramp, and provide indications that the ramp incline is ending or beginning. Handrails should be installed along both sides of the ramp length (**Level 2 recommendation**). The accessible restroom in the Ada Township Parks Office has a wall-mounted paper towel dispenser that protrudes far out from the wall next to the sink. This fixture is in compliance with the ADA, however the device placement obstructs the clear-space in front of sink, and may block the headspace for people using the sink. To comply with Universal Design principles, the paper towel dispenser should be moved away from the sink clear space (**Level 1 recommendation**). The Mirror in the accessible restroom is mounted at 51-inches above the floor. To comply with the ADA, the mirror should be lowered to be not higher than 40-inches above the floor (**Level 1 recommendation**).
- **The Maintenance Building/Garage:** The Service Garage entrance threshold exceeds 1-inch. As the sole entrance to the structure, this element should have threshold that does not exceed ½-inch. This may



be accomplished using the same techniques presented above for the Ada Township Parks Office thresholds **(Level 2 recommendation)**. The door at the entrance has a Knob-style handle. This may present a barrier to people with limited grip strength or manual dexterity from using the entrance. The door opening mechanism should be replaced with Lever-style handle, so as to enable the use of the door without twisting, grasping, or pinching **(Level 2 recommendation)**.

- **The Public Park Restroom and Shelter:** There is significant fracturing and separation between the concrete floor of the Shelter and surrounding pavement. There is no significant changes in level or settling between these surfaces. To comply with the ADA, the fractures and gaps should be filled to provide a firm stable surface to transition between the Shelter floor and pavement **(Level 3 recommendation)**. The Barbecue grill is located on a concrete and brick pad, which provides a stable and level surface and would be considered accessible. However the concrete and brick pad is surrounded by turf and soil. Some guest may not be able to cross over turf and soil in assistive devices such as wheelchairs and scooters. As the element is a major park structure and is a signature draw for guests, the barbecue and grill should be made accessible. This may be accomplished by connecting a firm and stable path from the existing paved routes to at least one side of the structure. This material may be concrete, asphalt, or a poured-in-place surface **(Level 3 recommendation)**. The public restrooms have sinks that lack insulated pipes and plumbing. This presents a hazard from contact with extreme temperatures and impacting sharp or hard surfaces. To comply with the ADA, the under-sink plumbing should be wrapped in a plastic or foam material to prevent direct contact **(Level 2 recommendation)**.

- **Play Elements:** The Play Elements for the recessed sand pit include sand shovels and a sand table. The sand shovels require repairs as the lever mechanisms are disconnected. The sand table is adjacent to the edge of the sand pit and the surrounding pavement, and would be considered accessible. However the edge of the pavement does not completely abut the table. The sand pit edge bows outward to table element. This creates significant gaps between the pavement and the table, with a drop in excess of 3-inches to the sand pit surface. Currently guests with assistive technology such as wheelchairs and scooters may have difficulty fully approaching the sand table, or potentially pass over the edge of the pavement into the sand pit. Ideally, pavement should extend at least 8-inches passed the front fascia under the sand table, under at least one (1) of the sand table stations (**Level 3 recommendation**).
- **Playground:** The playground is surfaced with compacted wood chips. This is acceptable, as long as the wood chips are routinely maintained to ensure that the surface is level and stable. Currently, the wood chips are not well maintained. There are frequent divots, and significant mounding can be found along the accessible routes through the playground area. To make the playground accessible, the surface should be raked to ensure that play area is level, and new wood chips be brought in to fill in the divots and holes (**Level 2 recommendation**). Ideally, the wood chips would be replaced with a poured-in-place surface. In addition to providing a very firm and stable surface, the costs associated with maintaining an accessible wood chip play surface, including cost for labor and purchasing of materials, would no longer be required (**Level 3 recommendation**). The woodchip surface is accessed by a protruding-style curb ramp near the sand pit element. This type of curb ram is acceptable. However the ramp is not very well maintained. There is a 1-inch high transition at the top of the ramp. This may prevent guests from crossing over the transition and accessing the playground surface level. This transition should be





ground do to be flush with the ramp surface (**Level 2 recommendation**). In addition, the base of the ramp abuts the wood chip surface of the playground. Care should be taken to ensure that the wood chips are well maintained and provide a level and stable space at the bottom of the ramp (**Level 1 recommendation**). The main play structure is equipped with a paved accessible ramp. Currently, the sides of the paved ramp are not protected at the top of the ramp near the transition to the play structure. At its most extreme, there is a 12-inch drop off the sides of the ramp. This may present the risk of guests rolling or falling off the sides of the ramp. Making this ramp accessible may be accomplished by either constructing a curb along the sides of the paved ramp that is not less than 4-inches high (**Level 3 recommendation**), or continuing the turf and soil so as to be flush with the edge of the paved ramp up to the existing retaining wall (**Level 2 recommendation**). There is an accessible swing set on the east side of the playground. The safety bar on one of the swings is not able to be secured and needs to be repaired (**Level 2 recommendation**). The playground has a second play structure without an access ramp. This element has a transfer platform instead. The transfer platform is has a slope that exceeds a 6.2% grade. This presents a hazard for guests who may fall off the platform. The transfer platform should be repaired so that the slope in any direction does not exceed 2.0% (**Level 3 recommendation**). The only accessible routes to the playground wood chip surface level are via the curb ramp near the sand pit, and the curb ramp near Public Restroom and Shelter. This is acceptable under the ADA. However, there is a significant distance between the ramps and the play elements on the other side of the playground, including the accessible swing set. By adding a third curb ramp near the swing set, the overall accessibility of the playground would be greatly improved (**Level 3 recommendation**).



- **Event Board by the Tennis Courts:** The board is located away from the paved path. The board is surrounded by turf and soil. This configuration may prevent people with assistive technology such as scooters and walkers from directly accessing the board. To make the event board accessible, the event board may either be moved and positioned so that it directly abuts the paved path (**Level 3 recommendation**), or have a concrete pad built at the base of the posting side of the event board with a concrete path that connects to the existing path (**Level 3 recommendation**).
- **The Tennis Courts:** The entrances to all the tennis courts are very narrow, at 30-inches wide. In addition, the points of egress require sharp turns while moving through the narrow spaces. These entrances should be reconfigured so that the route is at least 36-inches wide, and should the route make sharp turns there should be a 60-inch diameter turning space (**Level 3 recommendation**). The tennis courts south of the E.E. Locke Arboretum are surrounded by turf and soil, and as such there is no accessible route to this element from the nearest paved path. In addition to the above recommendation, there should be firm, stable, and level path from the paved route to the tennis court surface (**Level 3 recommendation**). The four tennis courts by the Ada Township Parks Office have a gate that provides an alternative means of access aside from the narrow winding main entrances. However the gate is not indicated and may be overlooked. In addition, the threshold at the opening in the chain-link fence between the paired courts is severely damaged with fracturing and pitting. This prevents access to the second tennis court from the accessible gate entrance. To make the tennis courts accessible, the gate should be marked with a sign, and the other entrances should indicate that there is an alternative accessible entrance on the east side of the court. These signs should have contrasting characters and display the Universal Symbol of Accessibility (**Level 1 recommendation**). Additionally, the threshold that separates the paired tennis courts should be repaired to provide a stable and level transition between the spaces (**Level 2 recommendation**).



- **Tennis Court Seating:** There is very few seating options surrounding the four Tennis Courts by the Ada Township Park Office. The memorial bench is located off the paved path and on a berm. As this is the only seating option, this may prevent guests with assistive technology such as wheelchairs, walkers, or scooters, from spectating tennis events. Guests who are not able to move up steep inclines may also be discouraged from using the memorial bench. To make this space accessible, the bench may be moved to be directly adjacent to the paved path **(Level 2 recommendation)**. Alternatively, a concrete Companion Pad may be constructed beside the existing bench.
- **The Southwest Parking Lot:** The lot contains sixty-seven (67) parking spaces. For a lot of this size, the ADA specifies at least three (3) designated accessible parking spaces. This lot contains 2 van-accessible parking spaces. At least one (1) accessible parking space should be created. This may be accomplished by marking a currently non-designated spaces and installing a sign with the Universal Symbol of Accessibility, and creating an access aisle along at least one (1) side of parking space. This aisle may be shared with another designated accessible parking space. This accessible space and aisle should be as near to the paved path to the park as possible. **(Level 1 recommendation)**. There is a designated parking space with an access aisle on both sides. The ADA requires that each access aisle connect to an accessible route that measures at least 36-inches wide. This is accomplished in this lot by passing the 36-inch wide route in front of the parking space. This is acceptable under the ADA. However, one concern is that if a vehicle pulls too far forward the accessible route will be obstructed. As a practical recommendation, and to prevent this happening, there should be a parking block or wheel stop at the front of parking space **(Level 2 recommendation)**.
- **The Southeast Parking Lot:** There are three (3) designated accessible parking spaces present in this lot. However, the spaces are not indicated with a sign depicting the Universal Symbol of Accessibility. Under the ADA, a painted symbol on the pavement is not adequate indication. All three spaces should have a sign with the Universal Symbol of Accessibility in contrasting colors. In addition, at least one of these designated accessible parking spaces should be

made van-accessible. The spaces nearest to the path to the park have dimensions that satisfy the criteria for van-accessible spaces. When the signage is installed, at least one should be marked in contrasting text: "Van-Accessible" **(Level 2 Recommendation)**.

- **The Ponds:** There are places at the fishing pier where the board surfaces are damaged. The damage is primarily found where the wooden planks meet the asphalt pavement. The broken boards should be replaced to prevent tripping while moving through this area **(Level 2 recommendation)**.
- **The Ponds, Bridges:** Each of the bridges share the same concerns. The handrails on each of the bridges are 31 ½- inches high. The handrails should be raised so as to be not less than 34-inches high and not more than 38-inches high. This may be accomplished by installing rails higher up on the balusters and posts, as these elements have sufficient height to accommodate higher railings, but were installed lower as a design choice **(Level 2 recommendation)**. The approach to the bridges also have concerning elements. These routes slope up to the bridge level from the path. The concern is that the sides of the path are unprotected, with a sharp drop off near the bridge retaining wall. This is compounded by the fact that the handrails on the bridge flair outwards. A guest that is using the handrails for direction and support may mistakenly continue in the direction of the handrails and fall off the path down a significant drop. This may lead to falling into the water. The sides of the path that lead bridges should be protected. This may be accomplished by continuing the rails down the full slope of the ramps that lead to the bridge **(Level 3 recommendation)**. Another option is to build up the landscape along the sides of the path up to the bridges. Planting tall, dense vegetation on this built-up landscape would provide adequate edge protection. The concern with this option is that erosion would likely occur without extending the bridge retaining walls **(Level 3 recommendation)**. The thresholds at each of the bridges also show signs of damage. These transitions between the wood planks and asphalt pavement have pitting, cracking, and changes in level in excess of ¾-inches. These pose a tripping hazard and should be repaired **(Level 2 recommendation)**.

- **Pond Overlook Deck:** The asphalt pavement that leads to the Overlook Deck is significantly damaged. The roots of the surrounding trees have caused extensive cracking of the surface. The ground of the overlook has also settled, creating a slope down to the water edge. This poses a tripping hazard and may make accessing the Overlook difficult to impossible for people with disabilities. These surfaces should be repaired to create a stable and level surface. The overlook itself should have a slope and cross slope that does not exceed a 2% grade **(Level 3 recommendation)**.
- **The Prairie/Fan Restoration:** The Kody Event Board is located more than 60-inches away from the side of the paved path. There is no stable or level clear-space in front of the board. This makes it difficult to impossible for people with assistive technology such as wheelchairs or walkers to get close to the display. The board should either be moved to be directly adjacent to the paved path, or a concrete or asphalt pad should be constructed in front of the event board that connects to the existing path **(Level 3 recommendation)**.
- **The E.E Locke Arboretum Gazebo & The Ponds Gazebo:** The Arboretum and Ponds Gazebo each have a grill station for guest's use. However the grill stations are located away from the stable and level surface of the Gazebo floor. The Gazebos are a main feature of the park and the adjacent grill should be made accessible. As the Gazebos are primarily wood, the grills cannot be moved to be directly adjacent to the structure. However a concrete or asphalt pad should be added that directly connects with the wooden floor of the Gazebo **(Level 3 recommendation)**. The grill station cooking surface is over 36-inches above the ground. This may be a barrier to guests who use assistive technology such as wheelchairs or scooters, and who may not be able to use a cooking surface that is so far off the ground, or who are unable to safely use the station with the flame element so close to the face. The grill station cooking surface should be lowered so that it not higher than 36-inches above the ground **(Level 2 recommendation)**.



- A final note regarding the Ada Township Park is that the waste receptacles that are spread throughout the park should be placed near the paved paths. If the receptacles placed on turf or soil away from the paths, this may prevent people with assistive technology such as wheelchairs, walkers, and scooters from accessing them. Management should make it general policy to place these elements adjacent to the paved routes throughout the park **(Level 1 recommendation)**.

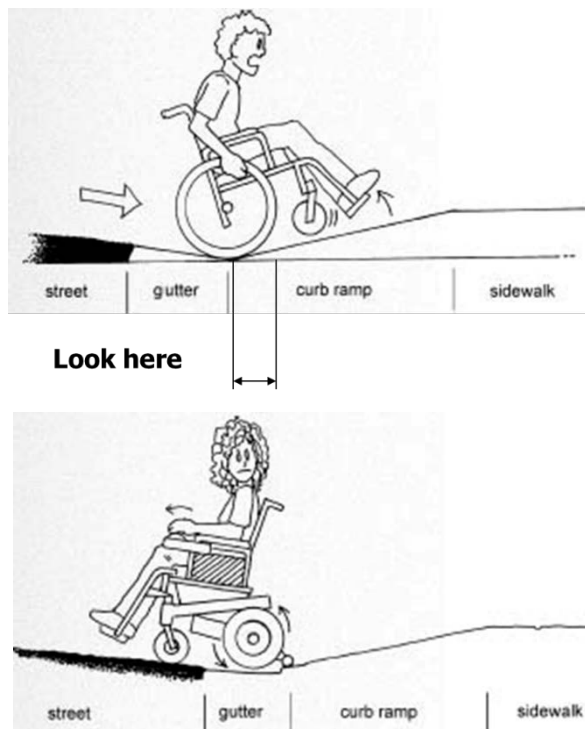
### **Leonard Field Park**

The spaces and park structures at Leonard Field Park at 7490 Thornapple River Drive SE that may be difficult to impossible to access by persons with mobility or coordination impairments include:

- **The Field Overlook:** The concrete pavers that compose of the surface of the overlook are uplifting due settling and erosion. In particular, the changes in level are most prominent by the picnic tables. These present a tripping hazard and should be made level. This may be accomplished by grinding down the uplifted areas to bevel the changes in level **(Level 2 recommendation)**.
- **The Baseball Diamond:** Due to surrounding terrain, there is no accessible path to the field from the surrounding sidewalks and routes. People with wheelchairs, walkers, and scooters will be unable to get onto the field. In order to comply with the ADA, there should be a stable, level path from the sidewalks to the ball diamond. As the route would be unable to connect to the sidewalks along the parking lot, the new route may connect to the back of the field near the river overlook. This route may be asphalt or concrete and should bet at least 36-inches wide, though a width of 60-inches is recommended **(Level 3 recommendation)**. A new gate should be provided at the back of the ball diamond that is at least 36-inches wide to provide access to the field **(Level 3 recommendation)**. To help direct guests, a sign should be placed near the sidewalk to indicate where the accessible entrance to the ball diamond is located. The text should be contrasting colors **(Level 2 recommendation)**.



- **The Parking Lot:** The parking lot is in excellent condition. However, the curb ramp located near the designated accessible parking spaces is a barrier. The ramp slope is ADA compliant. The Ramp-Gutter Transition, or the section of the ramp nearest the Gutter, is significantly steeper. This may make it difficult to impossible to use the ramp while using certain models of assistive technology. Requiring guests to use the curb ramps at the other ends of the parking lot is not acceptable. One way to comply with the ADA is to move the accessible parking spaces to a different curb ramp. However, the current placement of accessible parking spaces is optimal, and allows for people with mobility related disabilities to exit a vehicle and be near to many different park attractions. By moving the parking spaces to different locations, the access to some features may be reduced due to increased distances. For instance, if the two spaces were moved towards the Ball Diamond Overlook, people with limited stamina or mobility would be discouraged from visiting the Covered Bridge and River Overlooks. Alternatively, by moving the accessible parking spaces to the curb ramp nearest the Covered Bridge, these same guests would be discouraged from visiting the Ball Diamond Overlook. To comply with the ADA, the current curb ramp near the designated parking spaces should be renovated to have a shallower ramp-gutter transition.





This may be accomplished by grinding down the concrete transition to make the slope less steep (**Level 2 recommendation**). This may also be accomplished by adding concrete to the transition so that it extends into the gutter further than it currently does. By making the transition longer, the slope will be reduced (**Level 2 recommendation, see right**). The transition extension should be stable and no uplifting should be present. The ramp should smoothly connect to this extension.



- **The River Overlook:** The threshold between the wood deck material and the concrete sidewalk shows extensive damage. The wood material exhibits significant changes and in level and fracturing that exceeds 1-inch. In addition, significant erosion is evident, as the entire over is settling and sloping down towards the river edge. The high threshold may make it difficult to impossible for guests with assistive technology such as wheelchairs, scooters, and walkers to use the overlook. Making this space accessible and compliant with the ADA is difficult and the repairs may be costly. The Overlook floor should have a slope that does not exceed 2% grade in any direction. This may be difficult as the foundations will need to be repaired (**Level 3 recommendation**). The exact method for how this is accomplished goes beyond the scope of this audit. The threshold between the concrete path and the wood floor of the Overlook should be repaired so that any changes in level does not exceed ¼-inch. This can be accomplished by either beveling the surface of the wood down so as to be flush with the concrete. If it is not feasible to apply this treatment to the entire length of the Overlook, a section that measures not less than 36-inches wide should be placed nearest the parking lot and should be indicated. This indication may be colored or textured tape on the edge of the beveled section of the



wood floor. While 36-inches is permitted as the minimum wide under the ADA, it is recommended that the width of the beveled section be not less than 60-inches (**Level 2 recommendation**).

- **The Covered Bridge Path:** The ramp the leads up to the Covered Bridge has handrails along the sides of the slope length. However, the handrails have a significant opening that measure on average 8-inches from the concrete/brick floor and the lowest bar of the handrails. This presents the risk of objects rolling or falling through the gap. To make this compliant with the ADA, the lowest bar of the handrails should be lowered so that the opening at the base is not lower than 4-inches from the ground (**Level 2 recommendation**). Alternatively the edge of path may be protected with a raised curb that is at least 4-inches high (**Level 3 recommendation**). The Path to the Covered Bridge is paved with brick and concrete. This is a stable and firm surface and is compliant with the ADA. However, the brick is settling in places and the concrete is not, creating changes in level that exceeds ¼-inch high. To make the paths ADA compliant, the changes in level should be beveled smooth (**Level 2 recommendation**). This may be accomplished by grinding down the concrete where it abuts the brick sections. Alternatively, the settled substrate beneath the brickwork may be reinforced to remove the changes in level (**Level 3 recommendation**).
- **Bridge Picnic Area and Overlook:** The changes in level between the brick and concrete section of the floor are more prominent in this area, and the above recommendations for the brick and concrete paths can be applied here (**Level 2 recommendation for concrete grinding option or Level 3 recommendation for the substrate repairs**). The handrails around the Picnic Area are high, exceeding 38-inches. In addition, the handrails have a very thick upper bar. This bar is at eye level for people in a seated position and may prevent people from viewing the river which is a main attraction at Leonard Field Park. To make the Picnic Area more accessible, the handrails should be lowered to be not lower than 34-inches, and not higher than 38-inches (**Level 2 recommendation**). The handrails also have a significant opening that measure on average 8-inches from the concrete/brick floor and the lowest bar of the handrails. This presents the risk of objects rolling or falling through the gap, and should be addressed as

recommended for the handrails along the sides of the path to the Covered Bridge (***Level 2 recommendation for lowering the handrail bar, or Level 3 recommendation for constructing a new curb***).

- **The Covered Bridge:** The surface of this space is damaged along the thresholds at either ends of the bridge. The damage is primarily at the far end of the bridge across the river from the main park. The damage includes gaps in the floor that exceed 1-inch across. The wooden surface is also weakening around these openings. The damage floorboards should be repaired so that there are no gaps or openings. This may be accomplished by replacing the floorboards (***Level 2 recommendation***). The Covered Bridge does not extend the full width of the river, and the handrails and edge protection are present along the sides of the path with the intention to protect guests from falling over the sides into the river. Currently, there bar rail of the handrails are greater than 8-inches above the ground. This may be a danger to guests with assistive technology who may lose their equipment over the sides of the bridge without a form of edge guard . To make this connection to the Covered Bridge more accessible and comply with the ADA, care should be taken to ensure that the edge protection of the handrails is not higher than 4" from the ground (***Level 2 recommendation***).

## **Roselle Park**

The spaces and park structures at Roselle Park at 1010 Grand River Drive NE that may be difficult to impossible to access by persons with mobility or coordination impairments include:

- **The Resource Center:** There are two entrances to the building. The Main Entrance door requires 7-pounds of force to open. While the ADA does not place a limit to the amount of force required to open an *Exterior* door, the weight of the door may be a barrier for people with

limited strength or mobility. Making the door easier to operate may be accomplished in a couple of ways. The ideal option is for the entrance may be outfitted to open by a powered door. However, as installing a powered door is a significant investment this



may not be feasible in the near future. The other option is for the Main Entrance Door door-closer mechanism be re-tuned to require less force to open. The hydraulic device at the top of the door may be readjusted to make the door require not more than 5-pounds of force to open (**Level 1 recommendation**). 5-pounds of force is the standard limit for interior doors, and is supported by the ADA as being an operable door weight for people with limited stamina or strength. The Patio Entrance requires 6-pounds of force to open. If the Main Entrance Door is readjusted, the Patio Door does not need to be. Ideally though, the door closer mechanism may be re-tuned to require no more than 5-pounds of force to open (**Level 1 recommendation**). The Banquet Hall<sup>1</sup> Double-doors off the main hall require 8.6-pounds of force to open. This is a significant weight and is a barrier to people with limited strength and stamina. In order to make this means of egress into a main feature of Resource Center accessible, the door closing mechanism should be readjusted to require no more than 5-pounds of force to open (**Level 1 recommendation**). The Banquet Hall has two Climate Control panels. One of the panels has operable

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<sup>1</sup> "BANQUET HALL" is the term used as a placeholder, as the intended name for the room is unknown. All instances of "BANQUET HALL" in this report should be replaced with the actual designation as determined by Park Management.

parts that are 51 ¼-inches above the ground. People with limited reach may find this fixture difficult to impossible to use. In order to make this panel accessible, the control panel operable parts should not be higher than 48-inches above the ground (**Level 2 recommendation**). Under the ADA, all fixed rooms should be indicated with a sign. The Banquet Hall should have a sign at the door leading from the Main Entrance. The sign should be mounted on the Left Door to the Banquet Hall on the Main Entrance Hall side. This sign should be mounted so that the baseline of the lowest characters are not more than 48-inches from the ground and the baseline of the highest character are not more than 60-inches above the ground (**Level 2 recommendation**). The characters should be raised and contrast with the sign field. Braille is recommended.

- **The Resource Center Restrooms:** The Restroom doors require 9-pounds of force to operate. To make this space accessible, the door closer mechanism should be readjusted so that the door requires no more than 5-pounds of force to open (**Level 1 recommendation**). In the Accessible Stall, the Grab Bar along the back wall of the toilet measures 19 ¾-inches between the open end of the bar to the center line of the toilet. This may not provide enough support for people transferring on and off the toilet from assistive devices such as wheelchairs or scooters. To make this space accessible, the rear wall grab bar extend at least 24-inches from the centerline of the toilet to the open side of the toilet (**Level 2 recommendation**) (***To clarify, the open side of the toilet is the side of the toilet that is not next to a wall, and has space for an assistive device such as a wheel chair to pull over next to the toilet. The closed side of the toilet is the side of the toilet that faces the wall.***). The force required to operate the soap dispenser is 8-pounds. To make this device accessible, the force to operate should not exceed 5-pounds. This can be accomplished by oiling the lever on the dispenser (**Level 1 recommendation**).



- **Roselle Park Trails:** The Woodrick Memorial Wildlife Observation Deck is a wood bi-level platform with a ramp to the upper level. The upper level has a bench, while the lower level does not. While there is ample room on the lower level for assistive technology such as wheelchairs and scooters, people



who do not use these devices yet may not have the strength or stamina to stand for extended periods of time will be required to climb stairs to find a place to sit. In addition, ambulatory guests may wish to observe the surrounding grounds with their friends or family who require the use of assistive technology and have no seating options on the lower level. To make this space equally usable for people regardless of ability, there should be a bench on the lower level of the observation deck **(Level 2 recommendation)**. The Elevated Wetlands Observation Deck has a gently sloped wooden deck path up from the paved trail. The slope is shallow enough to not be considered a ramp. There is edge protection along both sides of the deck path. However the edge protection is not present on Northwest side of the observation platform by the seats. Edge protection prevents devices from rolling over the sides of an element, and provides warning that a drop-off is beyond that point. In order to make this space comply with the ADA, the edge protection should be continued along the Northwest side of the observation platform **(Level 2 recommendation)**. The Barrier-Free River Overlook is accessed by a paved path. However, the path is sharply narrows towards the threshold of the Deck. The complication is very similar to what is encountered at Ada Township Park the Ponds Bridges. There is a sharp drop off the side into the river that is not edge protected. To protect guests from moving off the edge of the path into the water, a form of edge protection should be installed along the drop-off near the river. This may be accomplished by constructing a curb that is not lower than 4-inches high **(Level 3 recommendation)**. Alternatively, the Overlook handrails may be extended along edge of



the drop-off (**Level 3 recommendation**). The Warren Eagle Troop Bench and Event Board is located over 48-inches from the side of the paved path on tall grass and soil. Guests with assistive technology may not be able to access these elements. To make this feature accessible, the bench and event board may be moved to be directly adjacent to the paved path (**Level 2 recommendation**). A final note regarding the Roselle Park Trails is that the entire length of trails is a considerable distance. There are benches present along the trails that can function as respite areas. However these fixtures are spaced far apart, particularly along the paths in the area north of the Wetlands Restoration. Additionally, many of the paths do not have companion pads at the sides of the benches. To comply with the ADA, these spaces should have a firm stable surface for an assistive device to pull off of the path that measures at least 32-inches wide by 48-inches long (**Level 3 recommendation**). The Prins Memorial Benches along the river are located over 60-inches from the paved path. This may be a barrier to guests with assistive technology that cannot cross turf and soil safely. To make the benches accessible, an asphalt or concrete path and pad should be constructed to connect the bench space and the paved paths (**Level 3 recommendation**), or the benches should be moved to be directly adjacent to the paved path (**Level 2 recommendation**).

- **The Silo Observation Tower:** Observation Tower has a live camera feed for people who may not be able to access the viewing platform of the structure by the stairs. The viewing monitor is on the ground level. However, the camera is currently disconnected due to maintenance difficulties. In the past, the camera on the viewing platform has experienced malfunctions due to weather and repairing device was costly. The park was unable to continue offering the use of the camera to the guests. To ensure that guests with assistive technology are able



to experience the parks attractions in an as equivalent a manner as possible, the camera functionality should be restored **(Level 2 recommendation)**. However, in order to avoid the difficulties that were encountered in the past, the camera may be moved so as to be sheltered from the elements and inclement weather. This may be accomplished by placing the camera under an overhang **(Level 2 recommendation)**. Alternatively, the camera may be placed in the Silo interior and face out the windows. Care should be taken to ensure that the images from the camera are clear if this option is pursued **(Level 2 recommendation)**. The camera may be configured to be only operable when needed, instead of being active all the time. If a guest would need the use of the camera, the guest may be able to turn on the device, and turn the camera and monitor off when finished **(Level 2 recommendation)**. The ground floor has poor illumination. Improved Lighting should be integrated to ensure that people with visual impairments are able to navigate the area **(Level 2 recommendation)**. There is currently no seating options on the ground floor. This may present a barrier for guests with limited stamina or strength, but do not use a wheelchair or scooter. At least one (1) seat should be placed on the ground floor for people who are using the viewing monitor **(Level 1 recommendation)**. There is an accessible-style picnic table located outside the silo entrance. However, this element is on turf and soil, which may be a barrier to people with assistive technology. The accessible-style picnic table should be moved so that the accessible station is directly adjacent to a stable, level floor surface.

- This may be accomplished by either moving the table to have the accessible station directly connect to the paved path **(Level 2 recommendation)**, or by extending a paved path and concrete pad to be under picnic table space **(Level 3 recommendation)**.

In the coming years, Disability Advocates of Kent County offers to continue advising and assisting the Ada Township Parks & Recreation with improving accessibility at Ada Township Park, Leonard Field Park, and Roselle Park. We offer our expertise in helping make future projects at these locations welcoming and inclusive spaces for all people, regardless of ability. If Ada Township Parks & Recreation has any questions or concerns, I am able to be reached at the phone number 616.949.1100 ext. 250, or by email at Jackson.B@DAKC.us. Thank you for inviting Disability Advocates of Kent County to participate in the vision for increasing accessibility at the parks in Ada Township.

Sincerely,

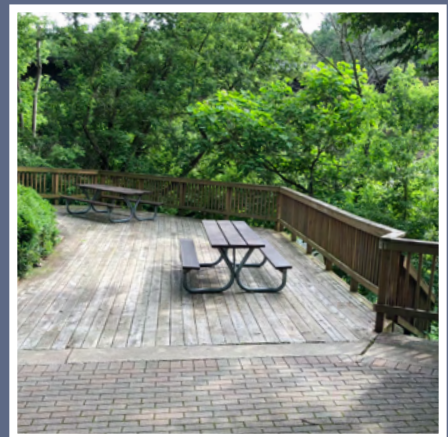
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jackson D. Botsford". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large "J" and "D" being prominent.

Jackson D. Botsford, Accessibility Specialist  
Disability Advocates of Kent County  
3600 Camelot Drive SE  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49546



# RECREATION FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS NEEDS ASSESSMENT

NOVEMBER 2018



## RJM DESIGN

Land Planning • Landscape Architecture

**Prepared By:**

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# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

## TOWNSHIP PARKS, RECREATION AND LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

### Township Board Members

George Haga, Township Supervisor  
Catherine Jacobs, Township Trustee  
Paul LeBlanc, Township Trustee

### Township Staff

James Ferro, Township Planning Director  
Mark Fitzpatrick, Township Parks & Recreation Director  
Rob McCormick, Recreation Director

### Citizen Members

Betty Jo Crosby  
Randy Damstra  
Wayne Nowak  
Elise Roe  
Kraig Schmottlach  
Rick Steketee  
Mike Terwilliger  
Jeff VandenBerge





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# 01 INTRODUCTION

## PURPOSE OF THE RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The Ada Township Recreation Needs Assessment incorporates an analysis of Township-owned and regional recreation facilities and recreation/education programs. The goal of the Assessment is to provide Ada Township with recommendations for the development of new parks, the addition of recreation amenities in existing Township parks, and a guide for planning future recreation programs and support services.

## ADA TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT MISSION

The mission of the Ada Township Parks & Recreation Department is to provide all community members with diverse recreational opportunities including access to premier natural, historical and cultural areas that enhance their quality of life and inspire the preservation of nature.

## ADA TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

The Parks & Recreation Department is responsible for managing operations of the Township's parks, preserves, trails, and recreation programs. This includes four community parks and eight preserves that comprise 500 acres of recreation opportunities. The location of these recreation facilities is shown in the **APPENDIX A: FACILITIES DISTRIBUTION MAP**.

## RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT APPROACH

The Assessment was guided by the RJM Design and MainStreet Planning Co consultant team in collaboration with the Township Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Advisory Board and community input. The Assessment included the following tasks:

### Review of Existing Plans, Studies, and Surveys

A review of existing plans, studies, and surveys relevant to the assessment including: Ada Township 2017 Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Community Recreation Plan; 2013 Envision Ada plans; recent community surveys, park master plans, and accessibility review; listings of current recreation programs and facilities; and Kent County Park, Trails and Natural Areas Master Plan 2019-2023 Draft. The above materials were reviewed to establish a baseline of current conditions and planning in place in Ada Township.

### Review of National Metrics, Standards, and Trends

A review of national recreation metrics and standards to develop a summary of case studies and best practices for recreation facilities, amenities, programs, and services.

### Review of Neighboring Communities

The Assessment includes a review of recreation facilities, amenities, programs, and services available in neighboring communities to establish a benchmark of regional standards and regional recreation offerings available to Ada residents.

### Stakeholder Engagement

The Assessment employed the following three forms of stakeholder engagement:

- Community Remarks®, a map-based public engagement portal that allows interested persons to submit comments related to specific sites or geographic areas, and to view and vote on other user-submitted comments.
- Leadership Workshop Café, an invitation-only event where community leaders were asked to provide comments on eight topics relating to parks and recreation programs and amenities in Ada Township; recreational facilities used outside the Township; and on roadblocks or problems in providing recreation or access to recreation in Ada Township.
- Workshop-in-a-Box, a self-guided input method completed by three civic groups representing a cross-section of the population of Ada Township.

## 02 REVIEW OF EXISTING MATERIALS

The assessment includes a review of relevant existing plans, studies and surveys to establish a baseline of current conditions and planning in place in the Township. Documents for this review were supplied by Ada Township Parks and Recreation department and included: **2017 Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Plan; the Envision Ada 2013 plans, recent community surveys, park master plans, recent accessibility review and listings of current recreation programs and facilities.**

**Based on the review of existing materials the following general comments were noted:**

- The Township has both urban and rural characteristics. Three-quarters of the Township north and east of the Grand River is still predominantly rural. This is reflected in the location of the Township's recreation properties and the amenities they offer.
- The Township offers a variety of recreation opportunities. Leonard Field Park, Ada Township Park, Roselle Park, and Settlers Grove Riverside Park are developed with facilities such as playgrounds, ballfields, and tennis courts that facilitate more structured recreation. Township open space and preserves are less developed with no improvements or minimal improvements such as trails or gravel paths.
- Attractive natural character remains a preeminent goal for the Township's future.
- Ada's population has a general aging trend. Median population age has increased from 23 to 40 from 1970 to 2010. Providing programs and facilities for seniors is a growing trend.
- Family friendly programs such as Beers at the Bridge, a partnership between the Township and Ada Historical Society, have been very popular.
- According to 2015 U.S. Census estimates, of a total of 13,807 persons in Ada Township, 4.2%, or 581 persons, have a disability. What facilities exist for differing abilities? Providing recreation facilities and programming for those with disabilities is a recreation trend. Of the surrounding communities, our research found that Kentwood was the only one to specifically include recreation activities for those with disabilities.

### ADA TOWNSHIP RECREATION PROPERTIES REVIEW

In reviewing the existing materials, the first step was to outline and update the inventory of recreation facilities located within Ada Township. The complete chart, found in **APPENDIX B: ADA TOWNSHIP RECREATION FACILITIES INVENTORY** lists recreation facilities in Ada Township and the associated amenities they offer. Programs offered at the properties, by Ada Township Parks and Recreation or Third-Parties, have been included to aid in cross-referencing. Third-Parties include all entities other than Ada Township that provide recreation programming.

The chart was compiled with information gathered from section "V. Inventory of Existing Parks, Natural Areas and Recreation Facilities" of the Township's **2017 Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Plan**, review of Kent County's Parks, Trails and Natural Areas Master Plan, review of the Township Parks & Recreation Department website and seasonal flier, and communication directly with the Township Parks & Recreation Department. The acreage for these parks was first gathered through the means listed above and confirmed or updated with Kent County Parcel Viewer and GIS mapping.

Ada Township Parks and Recreation Department owns and manages 4 parks and 8 open space preserves comprising 500 acres. Including schools, County, State, and Federal properties, the Township contains over 1,000 acres of public land offering residents a variety of recreation options.

## Property Review Highlights

The following are the major updates to park facilities within Ada Township that have occurred since the *2017 Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Plan* inventory of existing parks, natural areas and recreation facilities.

### Ada Township Park

During the spring and summer of 2018 the tennis courts at Ada Township Park were renovated. The front four tennis courts were renovated and remained as four tennis courts. The back two courts were converted into six pickle ball courts to meet community demand.

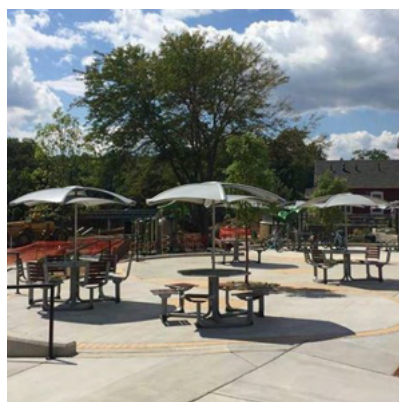
### Settlers Grove Riverside Park

Settlers Grove Riverside Park is located on the Thornapple River. In 2017 the 3-acre park site was combined with Thornapple Confluence Preserve expanding the park property to approximately 19 acres. Construction of Settlers Grove Riverside Park is anticipated to finish in the spring of 2019. Park amenities include a playground, restrooms, paved paths, benches and trees, a deck/stage and the privately operated Ada Village General Store. This park is a component of Envision Ada 2013. The Township plans to partner with the General Store for programs held in the park.

### Chief Hazy Cloud Park

In 2017 Kent County, with support from Ada Township, initiated the purchase of 125 acres adjoining Chief Hazy Cloud Park. This addition will increase the parks size to nearly 400 acres with over three miles of frontage on the Grand River. This expansion is across the river from Roselle Park, making a planned bridge and trail connection over the river, between the two parks possible. Kent County is in the process of updating their Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas Master Plan which includes a Preliminary Master Plan for the expanded Chief Hazy Cloud Park. Envisioned long-term improvements include development of trails and parking to improve park and river access. Trails include 12' wide multi-purpose, boardwalk, equestrian, and nature. A large part of the park is lowland with seasonal flooding which limits amenities that can be added to the park.

Pettis Avenue Parcel, owned by the Township, is surrounded by Chief Hazy Cloud Park. Consideration is being given to incorporate this 3-acre parcel into Chief Hazy Cloud Park.



Construction progress at Settlers Grove Riverside Park  
*Photo courtesy of Ada Village*



Newly constructed playground at Ada Settlers Grove Riverside Park.  
*Photo courtesy of Ada Village*



Newly constructed pickle ball courts at Ada Township Park.  
*Photo courtesy of Ada Village*

## ADA TOWNSHIP RECREATION PROGRAMS REVIEW

Recreation programs available to Ada Township residents include those administered and provided by Ada Township Parks & Recreation Department through career staff, seasonal staff, contract instructors, or trained volunteers; those administered by third-party organizations at Township facilities requiring Township facility rental and Township Parks and Recreation staff; and those administered by third-party organizations at private or school facilities. Third-Parties include all entities other than Ada Township that provide recreation programming. All programs are divided into the following seven (7) categories:

- 1) **Team Sports**
- 2) **Athletics and Fitness**
- 3) **Family Friendly**
- 4) **Youth Programs**
- 5) **Adult Programs**
- 6) **Themed Special Events**
- 7) **Volunteer**

These categories were developed by streamlining the Township Parks and Recreation Department's existing program categories. Organized by the categories listed above, the charts below outline all programs, regardless of provider, available to Ada residents. The list of programs was developed through the Township Parks & Recreation Department website and seasonal flier, communication directly with the Township Parks & Recreation Department, and third-party provider websites. Programs are identified as being provided:

- 1) **Solely by Ada Township Parks and Recreation Department**
- 2) **By a third-party using Ada Township facilities**
- 3) **Solely by a third-party at a private facility.**

This differentiation is made to gain an understanding of how the community's recreation programming needs are currently met. When cross-referenced with feedback received from stakeholder engagement, this provides the opportunity to see where gaps exist and how the demand can be met either by the Township Parks and Recreation Department or through partnership with third-party providers.

TEAM SPORTS PROGRAMS			
Program	Ada Township Parks and Recreation Dept.	Ada Township Facility/ Third-Party	Third-Party
High School Girls Fast Pitch	✓		
Men's Slow Pitch	✓		
Coed Softball	✓		
Men's Fast Pitch	✓		
Ultimate Frisbee		✓ Facility Rental	
AYSO Youth Soccer		✓ Facility Rental	
Instructional League Baseball			✓
Youth League Baseball			✓
Rookie League Baseball			✓
Minor League Baseball			✓
Major League Baseball			✓
Senior League Baseball (age 13-15)			✓
Shooting League			✓
Youth Football			✓



ATHLETICS AND FITNESS PROGRAMS			
Program	Ada Township Parks and Recreation Dept.	Ada Township Facility/ Third-Party	Third-Party
Grand Rapids Triathlon		✓ Facility Host	
Tennis		✓ Facility Rental & Instruction	
Pickle ball		✓ Facility Rental & Instruction	
Yoga		✓ Facility Rental & Instruction	
School-age kids shooting program			✓
Private Shooting Lessons			✓
Golf			✓
Horse Riding Lessons			✓
Equestrian Shows			✓
Forest Hills Aquatic Center Classes			✓
FAMILY FRIENDLY PROGRAMS			
Education	✓		
Adventure Outings	✓		
Kids' Garden	✓		
Tuesdays on the Lawn Concerts		✓ Ada Historical Society	
Beers at the Bridge Concerts		✓ Ada Historical Society	
YOUTH PROGRAMS			
Day Camps	✓		
½ Day Programs	✓		
Discovery Preschool	✓		
Adventure Outings	✓		
Kids' Garden	✓		
School Programs	✓		
Forest Hills Youth Enrichment Programs			✓
ADULT PROGRAMS			
Step It Up!	✓		
Community Education	✓	✓	
Forest Hills Adult Education Classes			✓
Forest Hills Senior Programs			✓
THEMED SPECIAL EVENTS PROGRAMS			
4 <sup>th</sup> of July Festival		✓ Township	
Ada Children's Fair		✓ Ada Business Association	
Santa Parade		✓ Ada Business Association	
VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS			
Boards & Committees	✓		
Stewardship Work Days	✓		
River Clean-Up Day	✓		
School & Scout Groups	✓		
Teen (Junior Counselor)	✓		

## Summary of Ada Township 2017 Programs

The chart below outlines programs offered by Ada Township during 2017. This information was received from the Ada Township Parks and Recreation Department. Because their budget is separate from the Township Parks and Recreation Department, Themed Special Events are not included in the table below.

2017 Ada Township Recreation Parks and Recreation Programs				
	# of Events	Total Participants	Total Teams	Total Revenue
Softball/Baseball Leagues	8	1,448	99	\$35,541
Softball/Baseball Tournaments	5	1,020	106	\$4,819
Youth Programs	24	365	NA	\$11,035
Adult/Family Programs	7	355	NA	\$1,201
School Groups	19	1370	NA	\$1,788
Stewardship (Volunteers)	20	336	NA	NA
<b>Program Totals</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>2,101</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>\$54,384</b>
<b>2017 Facility Rentals</b>	<b>116</b>			<b>\$6,740</b>
<b>2017 Totals</b>	<b>180</b>			<b>\$61,124</b>

Softball/baseball and Youth Programs are the major programs offered by the Township Parks and Recreation Department.

### Softball/Baseball

The softball/baseball season typically starts at the end of March and runs through the end of September. Over the last 10 years the number of softball/baseball games increased, with the highest number being in 2015. Over the last two years numbers have slightly decreased. It is not known why there has been a decrease, however, other regional agencies have noted a decline in softball. Softball/baseball did not feature in any stakeholder engagement comments, positive or negative.

### Youth Programs

During 2017 Ada Township Parks and Recreation Department held 24 youth programs with a total of 365 participants. Age specific programs included: Discovery Days (ages 3-5 w/parent), Young Explorers (ages 5-7), Junior Naturalists (ages 8-11), Outdoor Adventurers (ages 10-13), Summer Day Camps (ages 6-11). Open programs included Kids Garden and Bike Decorating. The table below outlines participation per program. Young Explorers, Summer Day Camps, and Bike Decorating were the most well attended.

2017 Ada Township Youth Programs			
Program	# of Events	Total Participants	Average # Participants/Event
Discovery Days (ages 3-5 w/parent)	9	78	9
Young Explorers (ages 5-7)	3	63	21
Junior Naturalist (ages 8-11)	3	28	9
Outdoor Adventurers (ages 10-13)	2	13	7
Summer Day Camps (ages 6-11)	5	121	24
Kids Garden	1	8	8
Bike Decorating	1	54	54

## Recreation Program Partnerships

The Township Parks and Recreation Department contracts organizations and resource specialists to enhance youth programs. Partner organizations include Blandford Nature Center, AAA Canoes, Averill Historical Museum staff and volunteers. Individual resource specialist partners include art teachers, soccer coaches, and naturalists. These partnerships are a valuable resource in both supplementing and enhancing what the Township offers its residents

## PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY - 2017 RESULTS REVIEW

The Review of Existing Plans, Studies, and Surveys included gaining an understanding of the *2017 Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Plan Public Opinion Survey*. This is the most recent recreation-focused survey completed for the Township and was conducted by Ada Township Parks and Recreation electronically through email and Township website and Facebook posts.

The results, included in the *2017 Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Plan* appendix, informed the development of goals, objectives, and action program included in the Plan. For this Recreation Needs Assessment, the *2017 Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Plan Public Opinion Survey* results were reviewed to inform questions posed during Stakeholder Engagement. The intention was to identify topic areas of stakeholder input not previously gathered by the Township and to identify topic areas that had been identified by the Township but needed further expansion. Review of the *2017 Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Plan Public Opinion Survey* results generated the following topic areas:

- Best use of public green space on north side of Headley Street
- Recreation Facilities and Programs used outside of Ada Township
- Dream Big-Desired Recreation Facilities inside Ada Township
- Quantity of green space in Ada Township
- New Park and Playground Needs
- Improvements to Existing Recreation Facilities in Ada Township
- Roadblocks/problems to Providing Recreation Opportunities in Ada Township
- Recreation Program Needs

Using the topic areas above, specific stakeholder questions were developed. This is further outlined in **SECTION 05 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT** of this report.

## ENVISION ADA 2013 REVIEW

### Headley Commons

Recommendations from Envision Ada 2013 resulted in a revised alignment of Headley Street delineating open space initially conceptualized as a formal green amenitized by a civic building. Ada Township's *2017 Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Plan* included concepts plans for the Headley Commons site with potential amenities including retention of the open area for large community activities, a facility to house a farmer's market, a community building, potential library, an ice rink, and a community and/or kids garden.

In October 2017, the Township Board decided to move forward locating a community center/library on the south side of Headley Street from Headley Commons. The Amy Van Andel Library and Community Center will be a new branch of the Kent District Library (KDL) system. In addition to the library component, the center will offer a variety of flexible multi-purpose spaces for community meetings including; small study rooms, conference rooms and meeting rooms for groups ranging from 2 persons to 160 persons.

The Concept Plan for Headley Commons should be updated based on the new location of the library/community center and public input received during this assessment. Public input regarding the Headley Street property is further outlined in the Stakeholder Engagement section of this report.

## 03 REVIEW OF NATIONAL METRICS

This assessment includes a review of national recreation metrics and standards as presented in the National Park and Recreation Association's (NRPA) *2018 NRPA Agency Performance Review*. This annual report seeks to provide park and recreation professionals with a benchmarking tool to assist with effective management of resources and facilities. The data and insights in the 2018 Review were collected through an NRPA Agency Performance Survey of 1,069 park and recreation agencies.

The following outlines how Ada Township compares with other similar-sized communities and provides a starting point for the development of recreation facility and program goals that meet the unique needs and demands of the Township's residents.

Comparisons were made using the United States Census Bureau's 2010 Population Census and 2017 Population Estimate for Ada Township. Inclusion of the 2017 Population Estimate provides a more accurate picture of current conditions with the 2010 Population Census as a known baseline.

### **Ada Township Population**

2010 Population Census: 13,142

2017 Population Estimate: 14,528

### **Ada Township Recreation Facilities**

The parks listed are facilities owned and operated by Ada Township. There are eleven (11) facilities in total comprising 500 acres. This information was gathered beginning with the "Recreation Inventory" component of the Township's *2017 Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Plan*. The list was updated through review of the Township Parks & Recreation Department website and seasonal flier, and communication directly with the Township Parks & Recreation Department.

#### **Township Parks and Preserves**

1. Ada Township Park
2. Leonard Field Park & Ada Covered Bridge
3. Roselle Park
4. Settlers Grove Riverfront Park
5. Carl Creek Crossings Preserve
6. Carl Creek Wetlands Preserve
7. Grand River Nature Area & Preserve
8. Grand River View Preserve
9. Knapp Corner Preserve
10. Grand River-Fulton Street Preserve
11. Pettis Avenue Parcel
12. Shady Drive Preserve

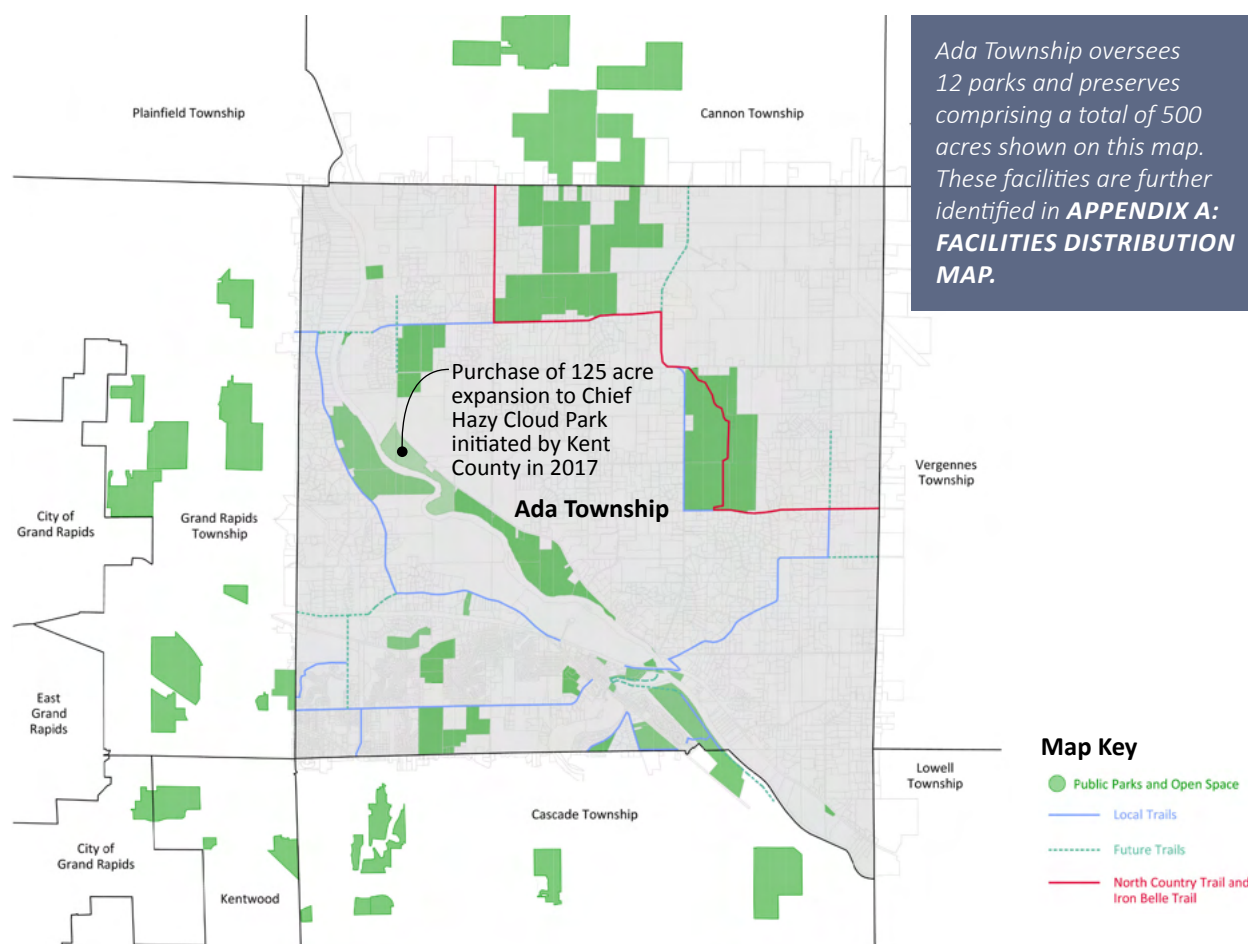
## RECREATION FACILITIES COMPARISON

The typical agency has 18 parks comprising a total of 413 acres under its watch. Ada Township oversees 12 parks and preserves comprising a total of 500 acres. While the number of parks under the Township ownership is less than the typical similar-sized agency, the total acreage of parks is well above the average. This indicates that the Township has sufficient acreage but it is concentrated in larger parks and may not be evenly distributed throughout the community. This is demonstrated in the Recreation Facilities Map below. The expansion of Chief Hazy Cloud Park and the expansion of existing trails will assist with even distribution and access throughout the Township.

Residents per Park (Ada Township Parks)		
NRPA Less than 20,000 Population	Ada Township 2010	Ada Township 2017 Estimate
1,318	1,195	1,321

According to the NRPA 2018 Agency Performance Review, the smallest agencies, those serving fewer than 20,000 residents, typically have 10.8 acres per 1,000 residents. Ada Township oversees 500 acres of park land or 38.8 acres per 1,000 residents. Ada Township exceeds the average for jurisdictions with fewer than 20,000 residents by approximately 28 acres per 1,000.

Acres of Park Land per 1,000 Residents (Ada Township Parks)		
NRPA Less than 20,000 Population	Ada Township 2010	Ada Township 2017 Estimate
10.8	38.5	35.7





## Recreation Agency Facility Amenities

The table below groups communities by density (residents per square mile). These groups are: less than 500; 500 to 1,500; 1,500 to 2,500; more than 2,500 residents per square mile. Per the United Census Bureau, Ada Township land area is 36 square miles and its population density is 365 people per square mile. This places the Township in the NRPA's comparative category of agencies with a population density of less than 500 people per square mile.

The facilities in the table are listed in descending order from most prevalently to least prevalently offered by park and recreation agencies. A majority of agencies provide playgrounds and basketball courts. Ada Township Parks and Recreation facilities largely feature passive recreation opportunities aside from Leonard Field Park, Ada Township Park, Roselle Park, and Settlers Grove Riverside Park. Recreation facilities managed by other entities generally make up the difference. This is demonstrated by the two right columns that include facilities within Ada Township managed by entities other than the Township. This includes Kent County, State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources, schools, and private providers.

Including all public and private facilities, Ada Township generally provides sufficient resident-to-facility ratio in comparison to similarly dense communities. A dog park is the only facility not found in Ada Township that is found in a majority (50% or more) of similarly dense communities. These comparisons in conjunction with stakeholder engagement informed recommendations found in the Recreation Facilities and Program Recommendations portion of this report. The complete matrix of facilities and their related amenities can be found in **APPENDIX C: RECREATION FACILITIES MATRIX**.

Outdoor Parks and Recreation Facilities - Number of Residents per Facility					
	% of Agencies	NRPA Less than 500	Ada Township 2010	Including Other Entities 2010	Including Other Entities 2017
Playgrounds	92	6,132	4,381	1,314	1,453
Basketball Courts	83	7,869	13,142	4,381	4,843
Tennis Courts (outdoor only)	77	5,462	3,286	526	581
Diamond fields: baseball- youth	75	6,628	4,381	1,643	1,816
Diamond fields: softball- adult	66	10,957	4,381	1,877	2,075
Rectangular fields: multi-purpose	63	9,043	6,571	2,628	2,906
Diamond fields: softball- youth	59	10,495	4,381	1,877	2,075
Diamond fields: baseball- adult	55	15,000	4,381	1,877	2,075
Dog Park	55	51,804	0	0	0
Swimming Pools (outdoor only)	52	42,344	0	13,142	14,528
Totlots	47	19,766	0	13,142	14,528
Rectangular fields: soccer field- youth	47	5,584	0	1,643	1,816
Community Garden	46	37,571	0	0	0
Rectangular fields: soccer field- adult	42	10,250	13,142	1,877	2,075
Multi-use courts- basketball, volleyball	38	12,757	13,142	1,877	2,075
Diamond fields: tee-ball	38	11,270	4,381	4,381	4,843
Rectangular fields: football field	38	21,750	0	6,571	7,264
Ice ring (outdoor only)	16	11,168	0	0	0
Multipurpose synthetic field	15	35,238	0	6,571	7,264
Skate park	14	27,375	0	0	0
Rectangular fields: lacrosse field	11	12,522	0	0	0
Rectangular fields: cricket field	9	199,889	0	0	0
Overlay field	6	10,820	0	6,571	7,264
Rectangular fields: field hockey field	4	20,893	0	0	0

## RECREATION PROGRAMMING COMPARISON

The core programs offered by Ada Township Parks and Recreation generally align with the top key programming offered by similar-sized Parks and Recreation agencies surveyed by NRPA.

NRPA Programming Offered by Park and Recreation Agencies (ranked by percentage from highest to lowest)	Programming Offered by Ada Township Parks and Recreation Department (ranked by percentage from highest to lowest)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Team Sports</li> <li>2. Theme Special Events</li> <li>3. Social Recreation Events</li> <li>4. Health and Wellness Education</li> <li>5. Safety Training</li> <li>6. Aquatics</li> <li>7. Individual Sports</li> <li>8. Trips and Tours</li> <li>9. Racquet Sports</li> <li>10. Performing Arts</li> <li>11. Martial Arts</li> <li>12. Cultural Crafts</li> <li>13. Virtual Arts</li> <li>14. Natural and Cultural History Activities</li> <li>15. Golf</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Team Sports (Softball/Baseball)</li> <li>2. Youth</li> <li>3. Adult/Family</li> <li>4. School Groups</li> <li>5. Volunteers</li> </ol>

## PARKS AND RECREATION AGENCY RESPONSIBILITY COMPARISON

Ada Township's Parks and Recreation Department's responsibilities are in line with the key responsibilities of park and recreation agencies. It is noted that these responsibilities extend beyond the traditional agency roles of operating parks/facilities and providing recreation programming services.

Key Responsibilities of Park and Recreation Agencies		
Responsibility	% of Agencies	Ada Township
Operate and Maintain Park Sites	95	✓
Provide Recreation Programming and Services	92	✓
Have Budgetary Responsibility for its Administrative Staff	89	✓
Operate and Maintain Indoor Facilities	88	✓
Operate, Maintain or Manage Trails, Greenways and/or Blueways	75	✓
Conduct Major Jurisdiction-wide Special Events	73	✓
Operate, Maintain, or Manage Special-Purpose Parks and Open Space	66	✓
Operate and Maintain Non-Park Sites	63	✓
Include in its Operating Budget the Funding for Planning and Development Functions	62	✓
Administer or Manage Tournament/Event Quality Outdoors Sports Complexes	55	

## PARKS AND RECREATION AGENCY STAFFING COMPARISON

Ada Township employs 5.5 full-time equivalent employees (FTEs). Agencies serving similar-sized communities have a median of 9.8 FTEs. The Township's Parks and Recreation Department FTEs are within the range of FTEs for similar-sized communities which is ranges from the lower quartile of 4.8 FTEs to the upper quartile of 18.1 FTEs.

It should also be noted that, in addition to its staff, the Township Parks and Recreation Department relies on volunteers to assist with running recreation programs and to supplement facility maintenance through Stewardship Days. In 2017, sixty-two individual volunteers provided 589 volunteer hours. Volunteers are a valuable resource but are not a sustainable way to meet agency staffing needs.

Stakeholder engagement indicated a need for additional employees. This is further outlined in the Recommendations section of this report.

Parks and Recreation Agency Staffing: Full-Time Equivalents (FTE)	
NRPA Less than 20,000 Population	Ada Township
9.8	5.5

### Ada Township Parks and Recreation Agency Staffing

1. Parks Director (full-time)
2. Maintenance Staff Person (full-time)
3. Maintenance Staff Person (full-time)
4. Maintenance Staff Person (full-time)
5. Park Worker, Gates (part-time)
6. Administrative Assistant (part-time)
7. Recreation Programmer Softball/Sports (seasonal, part-time)
8. Recreation Assistant Softball (part-time)
9. Recreation Assistant Softball (part-time)
10. Recreation /Education Programs Intern (seasonal, part-time)

## PARKS AND RECREATION AGENCY BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES COMPARISON

### Annual Operating Expenditures

The Township's annual operating expenditure is below the range of agencies serving a community with less than 500 residents per square mile. The range is \$545,254 to \$1,426,272 for total operating expenditures.

Annual Operating Expenditures (by population per square mile)	
NRPA Less than 500 Median	Ada Township 2012-2017 Average
\$1,426,272	\$398,321

### Annual Operating Expenditures Per Capita

The Township's operating expenditure per capita is within the range of agencies serving communities with a population density less than 500 residents per square mile. The range is \$16.01 to \$86.23 with a median of \$41.23.

Annual Operating Expenditures per Capita (by population per square mile)	
NRPA Less than 500 Median	Ada Township 2012-2017 Average
\$41.23	\$30.31

### Annual Operating Expenditures Per Employee

The Township's operating expenditures per employee is within the range for agencies serving similarly dense communities. The range is \$61,492 to \$121,312 of annual operating expenditures per full-time employee.

Annual Operating Expenditures per Employee (by population per square mile)	
NRPA Less than 500 Median	Ada Township 2012-2017 Average
\$85,694	\$72,422

### PARKS AND RECREATION AGENCY FUNDING

#### Park and Recreation Revenue Per Capita

On average, the Township generates \$51,500 per year through program fees and facility rentals. This equates to \$3.92 generated per Ada Township resident. This is within the range of agencies serving similar sized communities. The range is \$1.72 to \$27.56 revenue generated per capita.

Park and Recreation Revenue per Capita (by population per square mile)	
NRPA Less than 500 Median	Ada Township 2012-2017
\$7.27	\$3.92

#### Cost Recovery

On average, the Township spends \$398,321 on operating expenses. The \$51,500 in revenue generated annually through program fees and facility rentals represents a 13% cost recovery of operating expenses. This is within the range of agencies serving similarly dense communities. The range is 8.5% to 48.0% cost recovery.

Cost Recovery (by population per square mile)	
NRPA Less than 500 Median	Ada Township 2012-2017
20.9%	13%

#### Five-Year Capital Budget Spending

The Township's five-year capital budget spending for 2012-2017 falls within the typical range for communities with less than 500 residents per square mile. The range is \$250,000 to \$4,843,350.

Five-Year Capital Budget Spending (by population per square mile)	
NRPA Less than 500 Median	Ada Township 2012-2017
\$1,250,000	\$2,761,948

## NATIONAL PARKS AND RECREATION TRENDS

A 2018 survey in the June issue of *Recreation Management Magazine* article titled *A Look at Trends in Parks & Recreation* found that the following were the most commonly planned amenity additions for parks in 2018:

1. Splash play areas (planned by 31.4 percent of parks respondents who will be adding features)
2. Dog parks (20.8 percent)
3. Fitness trails and outdoor fitness equipment (20.6 percent)
4. Walking and hiking trails (17.8 percent)
5. Synthetic turf sports fields (16.9 percent)
6. Playgrounds (16.4 percent)
7. Disc golf courses (15.6 percent)
8. Park shelters (15.3 percent)
9. Park restroom structures (13.9 percent)
10. Bike trails (13.9 percent)

The article also noted that the percentage of survey respondents adding splash play areas, dog parks, walking and hiking trails, and disc golf courses showed an increase from 2017 to 2018. This indicates that national popularity of these amenities is a steady trend. These trends are very similar to public input received during this recreation needs assessment.

The same article found the following programs as the most commonly planned program additions for parks in 2018:

1. Environmental education programs (no change from 2017)
2. Fitness programs (up from No. 3 in 2017)
3. Teen programming (down from No. 2 in 2017)
4. Educational programs (up from No. 5 in 2017)
5. Mind-body balance programs such as yoga (down from No. 4 in 2017)
6. Day camps and summer camps (up from No. 8 in 2017)
7. Special needs programs (did not appear in 2017 in 2017)
8. Adult sports teams (did not appear in 2017)
9. Individual sports activities like running clubs (did not appear in 2017 in 2017)
10. Sport-specific training like tennis or golf lessons (did not appear in 2017)

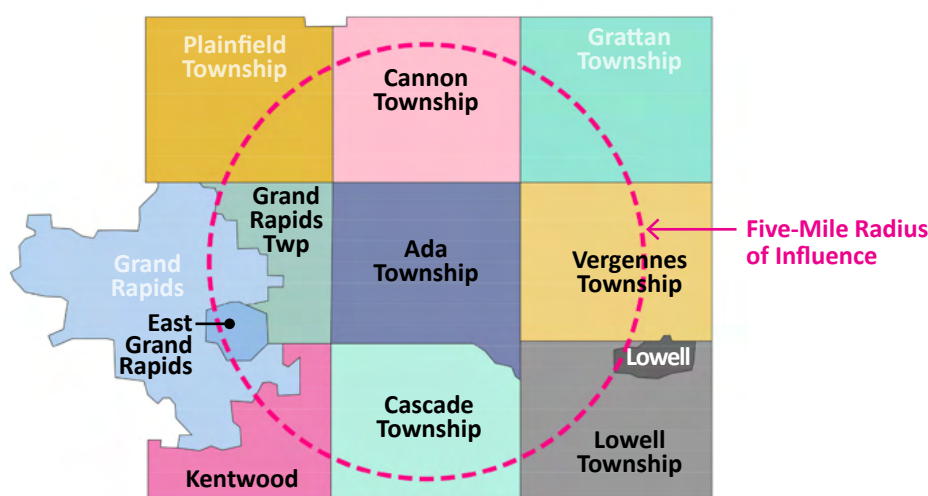
These program trends are also in line with comments received during the community engagement segment of this recreation needs assessment. Workshop-in-a-Box respondents indicated a desire for organized fitness programs as well as programs for all age groups and blended age groups.





## 04 REVIEW OF NEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES

This assessment included the development of a matrix of recreation facilities, amenities, programs, and services available in neighboring communities to establish a benchmark of regional standards and adjacent properties that are available to Ada Township Residents. The full matrix can be found in **Appendix D: Neighboring Community Recreation Facility and Program Inventory**. Facilities located within a five-mile radius of influence from the center of Ada Township were determined to be geographically close enough to be conveniently used by Township residents. The selection of adjacent communities to include was corroborated with input received through stakeholder engagement regarding recreational facilities and programs used outside of Ada Township. Some of the most frequently listed facilities included MVP in Grand Rapids Township and Kentwood, Cascade Library, Shaggy Pines Dog Park in Cascade Township, and Mary Free Bed YMCA in Cascade Township. The neighboring communities in this assessment include: Grand Rapids Charter Township, East Grand Rapids, Kentwood, Cascade Township, Lowell Charter Township, Vergennes Township, and Cannon Township.



To make accurate comparisons, the chart below lists each adjacent community's population, land area, and population density per the United State Census Bureau's 2010 census. Ada Township is most similar in population, land area, and population density to Cascade and Canon Townships. Although Grand Rapids Charter Township has a similar population, its density is three times greater than Ada Township.

Community	Population (2010)	Land Area mi <sup>2</sup>	Density person/ mi <sup>2</sup>
Ada Township	13,142	36.1	355.2
Grand Rapids Charter Township	16,661	15.4	1,081.8
East Grand Rapids	10,694	2.93	3,644.9
Kentwood	48,707	20.90	2,300
Cascade Township	17,134	33.9	492.4
Lowell Charter Township	5,949	32.6	178.6
Vergennes Township	4,189	34.7	118.3
Cannon Township	13,336	35.9	359.5

\* Communities highlighted in gray are most similar to Ada Township in population, land area, and population density.

## Recreation Facility Comparison

Ada Township owns and operates 11 parks, Cascade Township owns and operates 6 parks, Cannon Township owns and operates 2 parks. Compared to similar-sized adjacent communities, Ada Township owns and operates more recreation facilities. This is in keeping with similar-sized communities per the 2018 NRPA Agency Performance Review.

Residents per Park (Township Owned Parks)			
NRPA Less than 20,000 Population	Ada Township 2010	Cascade Township 2010	Cannon Township 2010
1,318	1,195	2,856	6,668

For similar-sized communities, Ada Township exceeds both adjacent communities and national median per the 2018 NRPA Agency Performance Review in the acres of park land per 1,000 residents.

Acres of Park Land per 1,000 Residents (Township Owned Parks)			
NRPA Less than 20,000 Population	Ada Township 2010	Cascade Township 2010	Cannon Township 2010
10.8	38.8	23.8	3.1

## Recreation Program Registration

Ada Township Parks and Recreation Department offers phone, email, walk-in, or mail-in registration for their recreation programs. Online registration is not currently available. Of the adjacent communities that offer recreation programs through their Parks and Recreation Department, both East Grand Rapids and Kentwood offer online registration.

Recreation Program Registration Method					
Community	Online	Phone	Walk-in	Mail-in	Email
Ada Township	-	✓	✓	✓	✓
East Grand Rapids	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
Kentwood	✓	✓	✓	✓	-

## REGIONAL PARKS AND RECREATION TRENDS

During a session titled “A Tale of Two Parks Departments: Kalamazoo and Portage,” at the 2018 Michigan American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) Annual Meeting, Sean Fletcher, Kalamazoo Parks and Recreation Director and Kathleen Hoyle, City of Portage Parks, Recreation and Senior Citizens Services Director both stated that the recreation trends in their communities include a demand for pickle ball, kayaking, outdoor gyms, and trails. Sean Fletcher stated that softball participation had declined and there is a increased demand for multi-use fields for lacrosse, rugby, and ultimate Frisbee.

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Relative to similar-sized neighboring communities, Ada Township is in keeping with providing a variety of recreation opportunities and programs. Kentwood’s population is nearly four times that of Ada Township; however, Kentwood Parks and Recreation provides a good regional example in terms of the diversity of facilities and programs. Additionally, of the neighboring communities, Kentwood is the only one to offer a broad range of programs and online registration.

## 05 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The Ada Township Recreation Needs Assessment included three primary forms of stakeholder engagement. These were: an online tool called **Community Remarks®**; a **Leadership Workshop Cafe**; and a self-guided input method called **Workshop in a Box**.

### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

Stakeholder engagement objectives were to:

1. Gain broader stakeholder input than achieved with previous surveys;
2. Provide for one-on-one consultation with individual stakeholders;
3. Interaction with stakeholder groups and the public;
4. Include the use of Ada Township's web presence and social media to communicate and facilitate an ongoing dialogue with the community.

### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT METHODS

#### Community Remarks® On-line Tool

Community Remarks® was launched on July 3, 2018, and was active through July 22, 2018. The tool interfaced with Google Maps, and participants were able to place comments within six topics on specific locations, and were able to leave general comments as well. Topics included:

- Existing Parks and Facilities
- Parks, Playgrounds, and Recreation Facilities-new locations and ideas
- Trails-new locations and connections
- Proposed Green space-large and small locations
- Headley Street Property
- Recreational Facilities Used Outside of Ada Township

A total of 350 comments were posted on the site; this number represents the original comments as well as the "likes" and "dislikes" that were posted on any individual comment. No comments were posted for the topic "Recreational Facilities Used Outside of Ada Township."

Included in the results of Community Remarks® is a document named Community Remarks® Complete List of Comments. The purpose of this document is to include an interactive web-based ID which links any comment to its location within Ada Township. When clicking on the link, the user is brought directly to a location on Google Maps where the original pin was dropped when the participant made a comment.

Detailed information regarding the topics and results are found in the Community Remarks® On-line Survey Summary found in the Appendix.

#### Leadership Workshop Cafe

A Leadership Workshop Cafe was held on August 22, 2018. Approximately 35 community leaders participated in this event, which was by invitation only. Representation included persons from Ada Township Board of Trustees; Ada Township Planning Commission; Ada Township Parks, Recreation, and Land Preservation Advisory Board; the Ada Downtown Development Authority and Citizens Council; Ada Business Association; Forest Hills Public Schools Community Services; Michigan Department of Natural Resources-Wildlife Division; Lowell Arts; Kent County Parks Department; Ada Historical Society; Ada Township Parks and Recreation staff; and youth representation from Forest Hills Public Schools.

The Leadership Workshop Cafe participants were asked to provide comments on eight topics relating to parks and recreation programs and amenities in Ada Township; recreational facilities used outside the Township; and on roadblocks or problems in providing recreation or access to recreation in Ada Township.

Results of the Leadership Workshop Cafe by topic, along with primary recommendations that emerged from each topic, are included in the Ada Township Recreation Needs Assessment Leadership Workshop Cafe Results and Primary Recommendations found in the Appendix.

### **Workshop in a Box**

The Workshop in a Box self-guided input method was completed by three civic groups: The Ada Rotary, the Adacraft Commons Association, and the O.W.L.S group (Older Wiser Lively Seniors) from St. Robert of Newminster Church. These three groups represented a cross-section of the population of Ada Township, including persons with business interests, a homeowners' association, and a senior group associated with a religious institution. A total of 31 persons were involved in the Workshop in a Box method.

Information sought from the participants of Workshop in a Box was similar to that sought from participants of the Leadership Workshop Cafe. Results obtained from the three groups were extensive; grouping of common ideas within groups was not practical, except in the case of information gathered for the Headley Street Property. However, the results from all three groups were combined, and this shows the common themes and ideas that emerged from the three groups when taken together as a whole.

The complete results of the Workshop in a Box method are included in the Ada Township Recreation Needs Assessment Workshop in a Box Results found in the Appendix.

## **SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

### ***Common Themes***

Input gained from the stakeholder engagement methods covers a broad range; to attempt to combine all the data from the three methods of input may result in a diminishing of the results; rather, Ada Township is encouraged to examine the results of each input method and to use the data to inform future decisions regarding parks, recreation facilities and amenities, and recreation programming.

Common themes are evident in the results of the stakeholder input, and in general some of these themes include, but are not limited to, the following:

- High value for water access and development of water trails
- High value for land-based trails, including bike paths, and a desire to expand and improve the trail system
- A strong desire for water access in the form of a splash pad or pool
- A desire for programs for all age groups and blended age groups
- High value for organized fitness programs and opportunities
- A desire for more green space, both large and small
- Continued discussion on use of the Headley Street Property is indicated
- A variety of recommendations, primarily public use, were given in regard to the best use for the Headley Street Property
- A recognition that some activities that are used outside the Township will continue to be used
- Moderately strong desire for a location for ice skating

Additionally, unique ideas were presented that may have been mentioned less often, but could be considered by Ada Township if a champion for a specific idea emerges or staff becomes available; one example is to provide a rink for Bicycle Polo; another is to offer a competition similar to Ninja Warrior.

## 06 RECOMMENDATIONS

The goal of the Recreation Needs Assessment was to provide recommendations for potential future recreation amenities in Township parks and to provide a guide for planning future recreation programs and support services.

The following list of recreation facility and program recommendations has been developed based on analysis of information gathered through the following methods:

1. Review of Existing Plans, Studies, and Surveys: **“What are current conditions in Ada Township?”**
2. Review of National Metrics, Standards, and Trends: **“How does Ada Township compare to similar sized communities on a National Level?”**
3. Review of Neighboring Communities: **“How does Ada Township compare to neighboring communities?”**
4. Stakeholder Engagement: **“How do residents, civic groups, and community leaders view Ada Township recreation program and facility offerings?”**

### RECOMMENDATION: TRAILS

Community engagement for this recreation needs assessment indicated a desire for new trail locations and connections. One of the top four high-energy ideas from the Leadership Cafe was, “connectivity to neighboring trails, more than currently available.” This echoes input received in the *2017 Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Plan Public Opinion Survey*, where respondents ranked non-motorized trails and bike paths as the most frequently used of all recreation options.

Aside from the recreation opportunity they provide, trails perform the key function of connecting recreation properties, thereby creating an accessible network that promotes the use of open space. Further development of the trail system will improve access for all Ada residents both within the Township and outside to regional recreation offerings.

A planned bridge between Chief Hazy Cloud and Roselle Park is an important part of this system, providing a connection across the Grand River.

It is recommended that the Township develop an overall strategy, building on the 2017 Trail System to establish an interconnected network of bike lanes, bike paths, pathways, hiking trails, water trails, and equestrian trails linking recreation facilities and trails systems within the Township and regionally.

### RECOMMENDATION: WATER ACCESS

The Grand and Thornapple Rivers are two of Ada’s greatest recreation assets and providing easy access to them is critical. Community engagement highlighted a strong demand for greater access to the rivers and development of water trails. The Kent County Water Trails System within Ada has boat launch locations at the Knapp Avenue and Fulton Street DNR Ramps. There are hand launch locations at Ada Dam and Chief Hazy Cloud Park. As it expands, it is anticipated that Chief Hazy Cloud Park amenities will include a focus river-based recreation. Additional locations for water access launches should be explored as the park is further developed.

It is recommended that a study be conducted to determine the best parks and open space for additional boat and hand launch locations to facilitate greater access to the river.



## RECOMMENDATION: **AMENITIES**

From community engagement, the primary recurring desired amenity additions were a splash pad, dog park, pickle ball, community garden, disc golf, and ice skating. Based on community input, these items can be added to existing properties where uses and user groups are compatible.

### **Splash Pad**

Community input and national trends indicate that a splash pad is a highly desired recreation facility. It is recommended that a study be conducted to determine the best location for a splash pad within the Township. Community input strongly favored public use as the best use for the Headley Street property. As such, this is a potential location for a splash pad in conjunction with other public amenities that could support and enhance the future adjacent Township Library.

### **Dog Park**

Community input expressed a desire for a dog park within the Township. Dog parks enable dogs to socialize and exercise off-leash. They can be urban or in a park setting and can vary in size and complexity. Cascade Township park is a good example of adding an off-leash dog area to an existing park. A 1-acre dog park with separate areas for smaller and larger dogs was added in 2016. Wags West Dog Park, a half-acre facility in Traverse City is a good example of a smaller dog park with areas for both large and small dogs.

It is recommended that dog park size and location within the Township be determined through a review of current park capacity and community input.

### **Pickle ball**

In the summer of 2018, two tennis courts at Ada Township Park were converted into six pickle ball courts. It is recommended that the Township assess the impact the new pickle ball courts have on demand before determining if additional courts are needed.

### **Community Garden**

Community input indicated a strong desire for a community garden at the Headley Street Property. This central location is appropriate and could be included as a program element for future development of the Headley Street site.

### **Disc Golf**

Across the community engagement methods, there was a repeated desire for a disc golf course. Disc golf courses are a relatively low-impact, low-cost amenity that can easily be added to under-utilized areas of existing parks such as floodplains. Local clubs hosting tournaments can be an additional source of parks and recreation revenue through facility rental and park-user fees. A good example is Burchfield Park in Holt, Michigan. The park hosts two 18-hole disc golf courses. A daily disc golf pass is \$4 per person for adults. Disc rental is available for an additional fee. Recently Burchfield Park hosted the 2018 Professional Disc Golf Association United States Women's Championships, a three-day event with 159 total professional and amateur players. With the expansion of Chief Hazy Cloud Park, this could be a good location for a disc golf course.

### **Ice Skating**

Both permanent and temporary ice skating rinks are costly to build and operate. It is recommended that a study be conducted to determine if an ice rink is logistically and financially feasible for the Township.

### **Outdoor Fitness Equipment**

On a national level, outdoor fitness equipment ranked as the third most commonly planned amenity addition for parks in 2018. Community input for this assessment indicated a strong desire for both fitness programs and fitness opportunities. A potential partnership for the Township is with the National Fitness Campaign (NFC). NFC partners with cities to secure funding for Fitness Courts, an outdoor bodyweight circuit training system designed for adults of all ages and abilities.

## RECOMMENDATION: RECREATION PROGRAMMING

Workshop-in-a-Box respondents indicated a desire for organized fitness programs as well as programs for all age groups and blended age groups. Fitness programs are a top national trend. Currently the Township does not provide targeted senior or teen programs. Further study of community recreation programming demands should be conducted to better determine additional age-specific programs that should be offered.

The future Amy Van Andel Library and Community Center will offer the Township partnership opportunities to help meet resident demand for additional recreation programming.

## RECOMMENDATION: TECHNOLOGY

Currently Ada Township Parks and Recreation Department requires residents to register and pay in person for recreation programs and sports leagues. Additionally, credit card payments for program registration are only possible in person at the Township Hall. The public opinion survey conducted as part of the *Ada Township 2017 Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Plan* had an overwhelming response in favor of online registration for recreation/education programs. Community engagement performed for this study echoed this response. It was noted that it is difficult to register for programs and rentals and there is no online registration process.

Additionally, the *Ada Township 2017 Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Plan* Action Plan included software and technology improvement goals of 1) adding an additional computer, 2) adding capacity for credit card payments and on-line registrations, 3) adding facility management and data base software, 4) increasing integration of Township software, data and GIS systems, and 5) increasing staff access to computers.

Manual processing is time-consuming for Parks and Recreation staff. Online registration and payment is more convenient and increases accessibility for residents. Increased accessibility promotes increased participation and revenue.

In addition to providing online registration and payment, parks and recreation software can provide extensive reporting and statistical data that can be used to increase efficiency and productivity as well as inform planning. Parks and recreation software can also assist with cost recovery analysis for programs, events, and rentals.



Example: Online Registration, Kentwood, Michigan

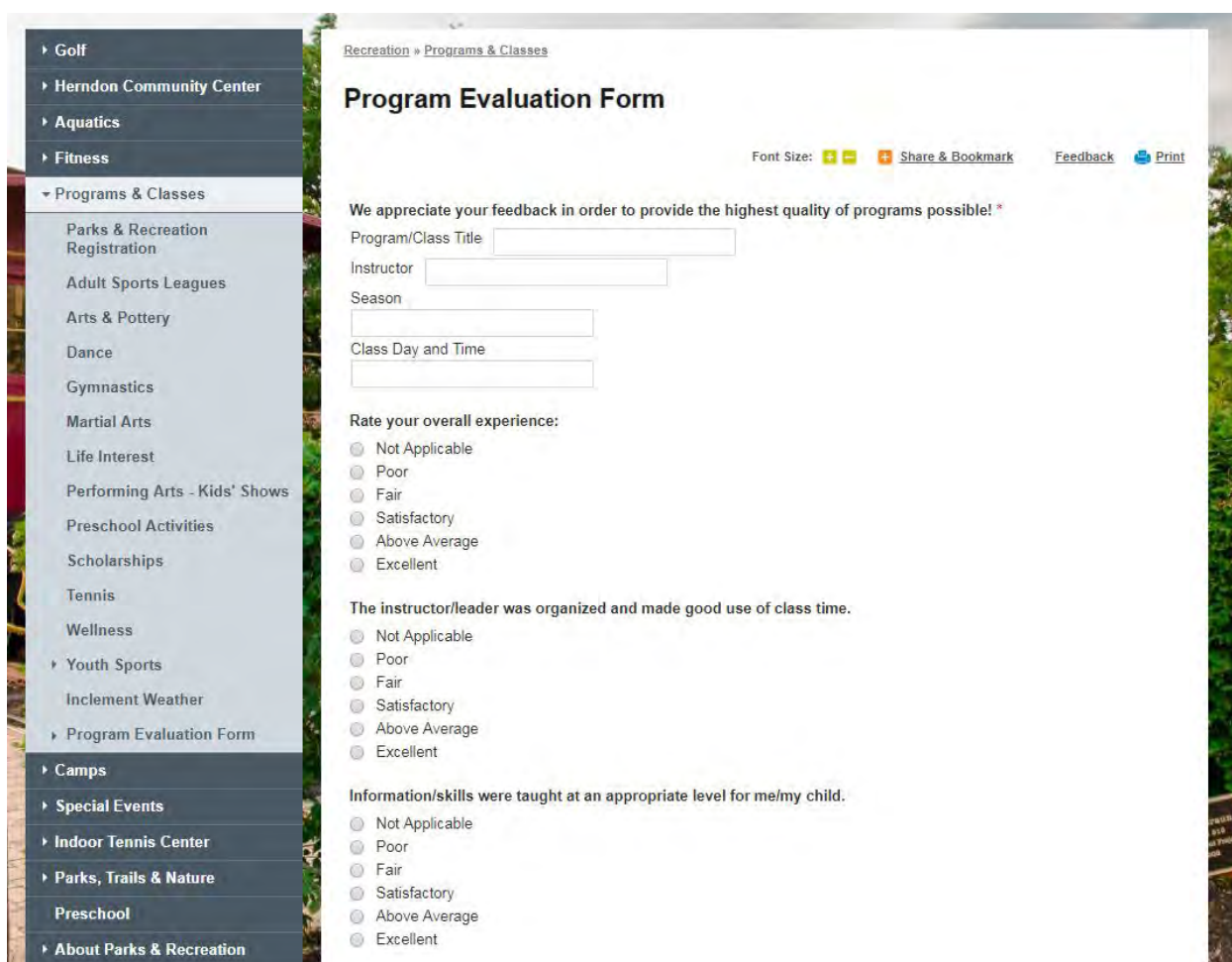
## RECOMMENDATION: HEADLEY STREET PROPERTY

The Advisory Board expressed a specific desire to seek public input on the best use of the Headley Street Property, a 3-acre piece of land located between Headley Street and Fulton Street (M-21). The overwhelming public response on to how to use this property was as public space. An additional study with community engagement specific to this property would assist in developing a plan best suited for the community.

## RECOMMENDATION: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In both the Ada Township 2017 Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Plan and this Recreation Needs Assessment, it was noted that community engagement participation was low. The Ada Township 2017 Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Plan had roughly 321 respondents. This Recreation Needs Assessment included 350 comments through Community Remarks®, 35 participants in the Leadership Workshop Cafe, and 31 participants in the Workshop in a Box.

Seeking more frequent feedback from facility and program users may help to achieve more community input. It would also allow for periodic micro adjustments to improve facility and program function. This could be achieved through an Online Program or Facility Evaluation Form.



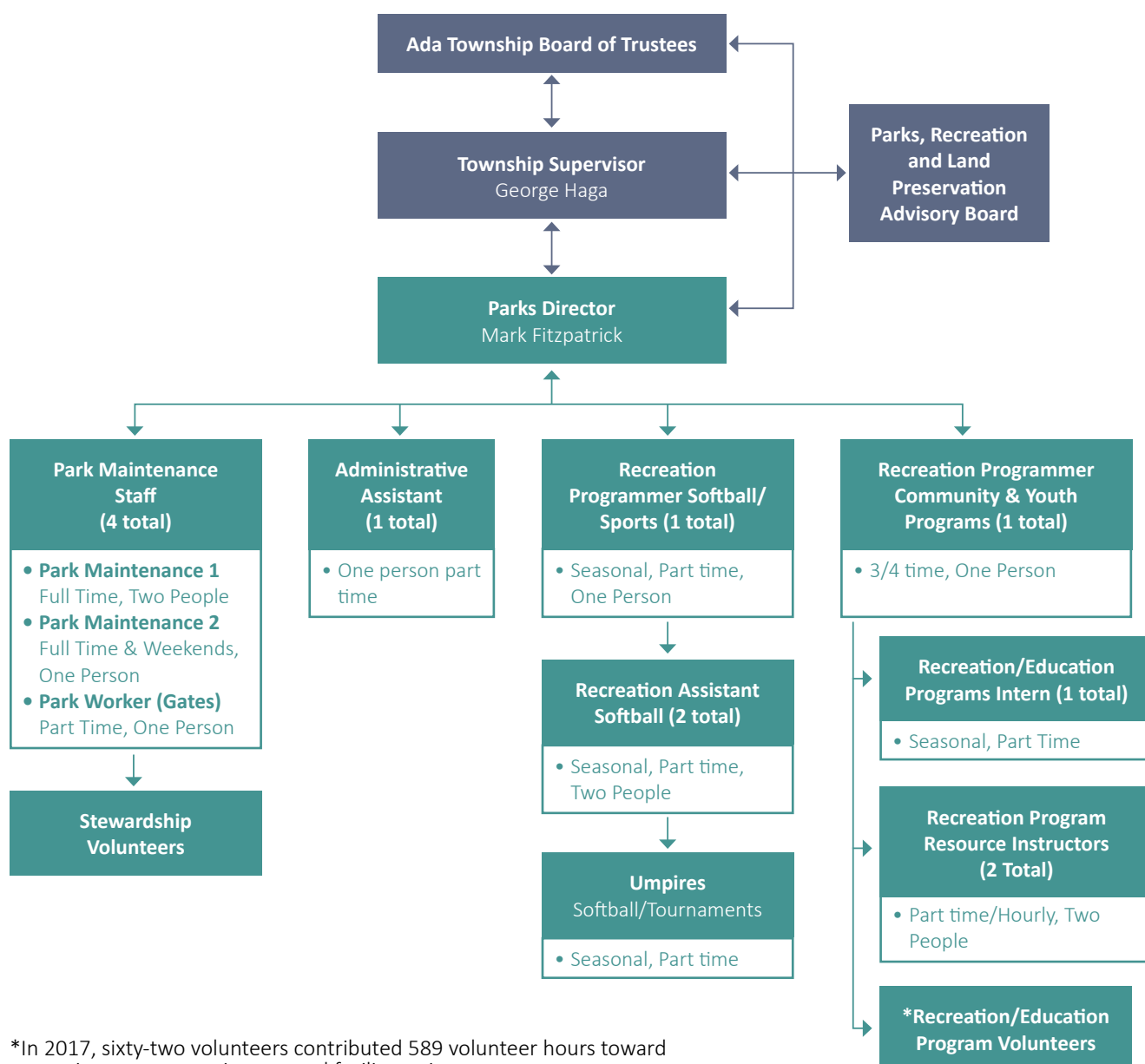
The screenshot displays the 'Program Evaluation Form' on a website. On the left is a vertical navigation menu with categories like Golf, Herndon Community Center, Aquatics, Fitness, Programs & Classes (expanded), Youth Sports, Inclement Weather, Camps, Special Events, Indoor Tennis Center, Parks, Trails & Nature, Preschool, and About Parks & Recreation. The main content area is titled 'Recreation » Programs & Classes' and 'Program Evaluation Form'. It includes a feedback statement, input fields for Program/Class Title, Instructor, Season, and Class Day and Time. Below these are three sections for rating experiences: 'Rate your overall experience', 'The instructor/leader was organized and made good use of class time', and 'Information/skills were taught at an appropriate level for me/my child.' Each section has radio button options: Not Applicable, Poor, Fair, Satisfactory, Above Average, and Excellent. Utility links for font size, share, bookmark, feedback, and print are also present.

**Example: Online Program Evaluation Form**

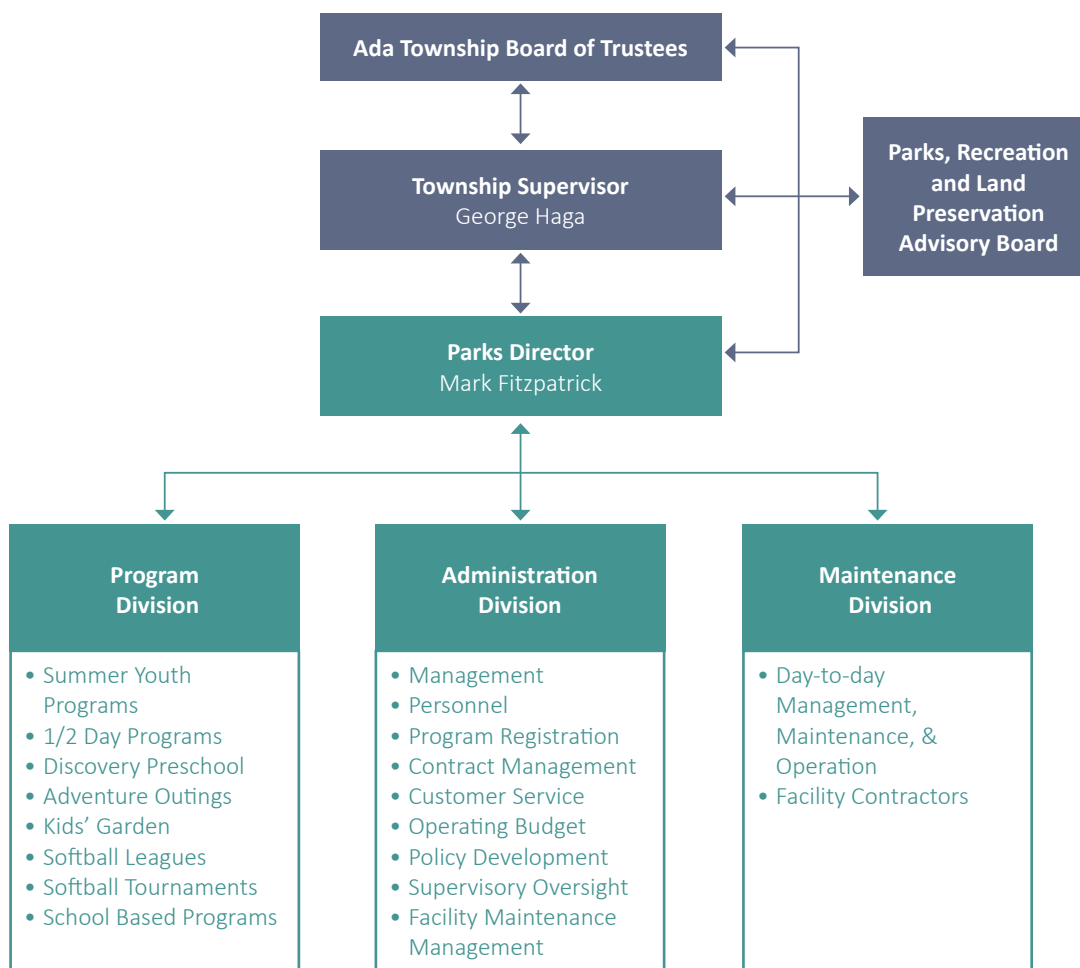
## RECOMMENDATION: PARKS AND RECREATION AGENCY STAFFING & STRUCTURE

According to the 2018 NRPA Agency Performance Review, with 8.5 Full Time Equivalent Employees (FTEs), Ada Township's Parks and Recreation Department falls just below the median of agencies serving communities of less than 20,000 population. The median number of FTEs for a community of 20,000 or less is 9.8 FTEs, the lower quartile is 4.8 FTEs and the upper quartile is 18.1 FTEs. A strategic plan for the Parks and Recreation Department should be conducted to clearly outline the focus and goals of the department as well as the overall structure and required number of FTEs to meet those goals. The charts below show the current Parks and Recreation organizational structure and on the following page, a potential new structure. There are a variety of organization structures, the development of a strategic plan will assist in determining the appropriate structure for Ada Township Parks and Recreation Department.

### Current Ada Township Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Program Organizational Chart



## Potential Ada Township Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Program Organizational Chart





## 07 SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

One of Ada Township's major strengths is the diversity of natural features and recreation opportunities it offers its residents. The Township is characterized by wooded, rolling hills, expansive meadows, farmland, streams, wetlands and the convergence of the Grand and Thornapple rivers. Over 1,000 acres of public land and parks within Ada Township provide residents an extensive variety of recreation facilities. Proper planning and utilization of resources is critical in meeting the current and future recreation facility and program demands of the Township's residents.

This Recreation Needs Assessment established a baseline of current conditions within the Township and recreation trends (regionally and nationally). The establishment of current conditions includes an update to the Township's recreation facility inventory. This includes the addition of Settlers Grove Riverside Park (to be completed Spring 2019) and the expansion of Kent County's Chief Hazy Cloud Park. Settlers Grove Riverside Park provides a new recreation opportunity within the Village. It is a component of *2013 Envision Ada* and includes a playground, restrooms, the Ada Village General Store (privately operated), paved paths, benches and trees, and a deck/stage. Chief Hazy Cloud Park will expand to nearly 400 acres with the acquisition of 125 acres adjacent to the existing park and across the Grand River from Roselle Park. Planned improvements for the expanded park include a pedestrian bridge over the Grand River between Roselle and Chief Hazy Cloud parks, increased river access, multi-purpose trail, boardwalk, and equestrian and nature trails. These improvements will provide additional recreation opportunities and facilitate the connection of existing trails and parks and open space within the Township.

Community engagement for this Assessment found that among residents there is a high value for water access and development of water trails; high value for land-based trails, including bike paths, and a desire to expand and improve the trail system; a strong desire for water access in the form of a splash pad or pool; a desire for programs for all age groups and blended age groups; high value for organized fitness programs and opportunities; a desire for more green space (both large and small); and a variety of recommendations (primarily public use) for the best use of the Headley Street Property.

Based on current conditions and trends and community engagement, recommendations in this assessment include:

1. Establishing a framework for an interconnected network of bike lanes, bike paths, pathways, hiking trails, water trails, and equestrian trails linking recreation facilities and trails systems within the Township and regionally;
2. Exploring locations for increased water access;
3. Adding amenities such as a dog park, splash pad, disc golf course, and community garden to existing parks;
4. Conducting a specific study with community engagement for the Headley Street property to assist in developing a plan best suited for the community;
5. Implementing parks and recreation software for online registration and payment, and for assistance with reporting and statistical data to be used to increase efficiency and productivity and inform recreation planning;
6. Providing an Online Program or Facility Evaluation Form to seek more frequent feedback from facility and program users; and
7. Conducting a strategic plan for the Parks and Recreation Department to clearly outline the focus and goals of the department.

These recommendations provide the Township with a guide for potential future recreation amenities in Township parks and a guide for planning future recreation programs and support services.





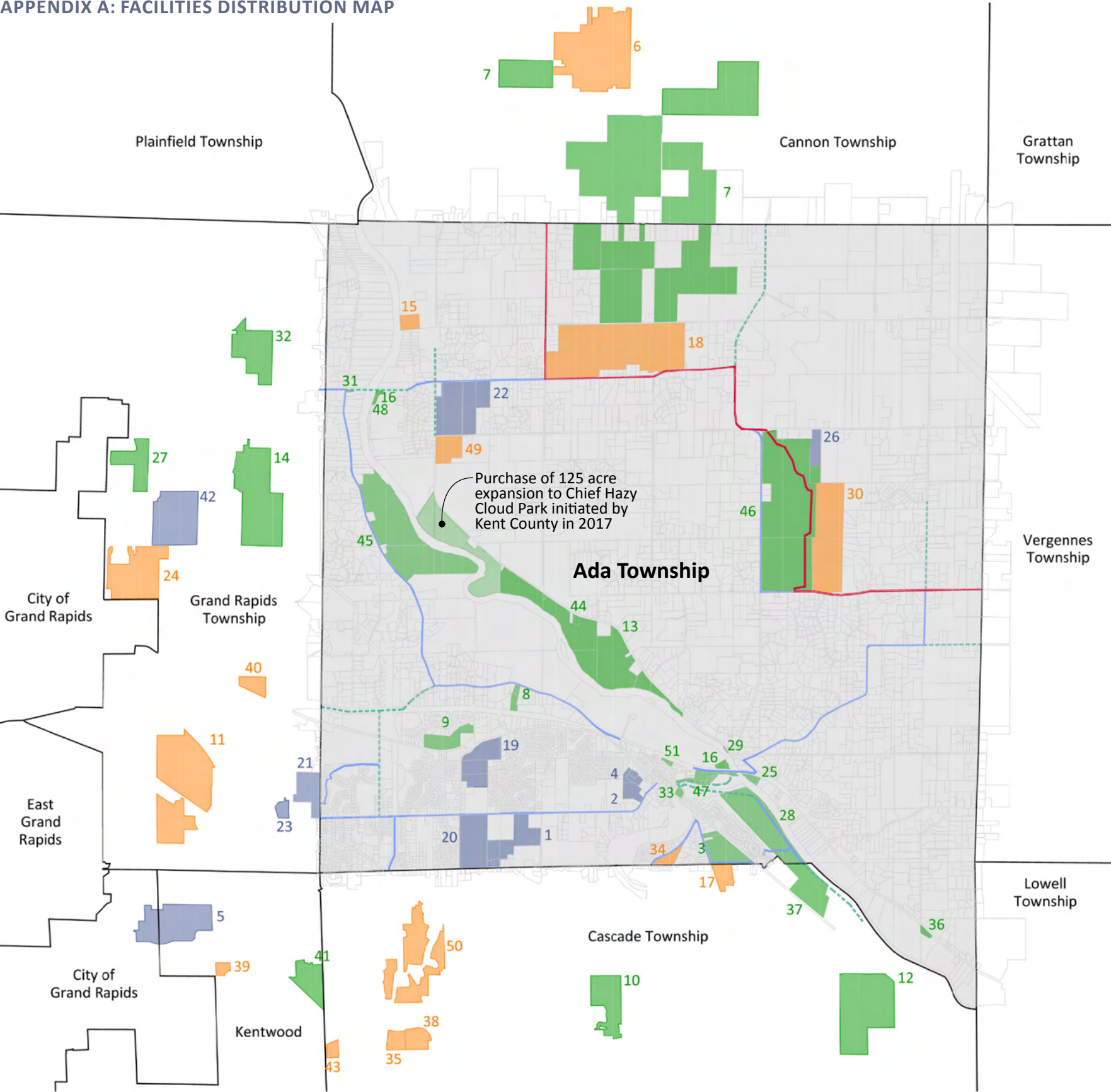
TOWNSHIP

# **RECREATION FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

## **APPENDIX**

**NOVEMBER 2018**

# APPENDIX A: FACILITIES DISTRIBUTION MAP



- Public Parks and Open Space

Schools

Private Recreation

Local Trails

Future Trails

North Country Trail and Iron Belle Trail
1. Ada Christian School \*
2. Ada Elementary School \*
3. Ada Township Park \*
4. Ada Vista Elementary \*
5. Calvin College Ecosystem Preserve
6. Cannonsburg Ski Area
7. Cannonsburg State Game Area \*
8. Carl Creek Crossing \*
9. Carl Creek Preserve \*
10. Cascade Burton Park
11. Cascade Hills Country Club
12. Cascade Peace Park
13. Chief Hazy Cloud Park \*
14. Crahen Valley Park
15. Creston Rod & Gun Club \*
16. DNR State Boat Launch (2 Locations) \*
17. Double C Ranch/Curtis Performance Horses
18. Egypt Valley Country Club \*
19. Forest Hills Central Woodlands 5/6 School \*
20. Forest Hills Central Middle and High School\*
21. Forest Hills Community & Aquatic Center
22. Forest Hills Eastern High School \*
23. Forest Hills Park Association
24. Frederik Meijer Gardens
25. Grand River Fulton Street Preserve \*
26. Goodwillie Environmental School \*
27. Grand Rapids Township Park
28. Grand River Nature Area and Preserve \*
29. Grand River View Preserve \*

30. Kent County Conservation League \*
31. Knapp Corner Preserve \*
32. Knapp Forest Preserve
33. Leonard Field Park \*
34. Lions Field (Thornapple Park) \*
35. Mary Free Bed YMCA
36. MDOT Roadside Park \*
37. Michael McGraw Park
38. MSA Fieldhouse
39. MVP Sportplex
40. MVP Athletic Club
41. Northeast Park
42. Northern High School
43. Patterson Ice Center
44. Pettis Avenue Reith Riley Parcel \*
45. Roselle Park \*
46. Seidman Park \*
47. Settler's Grove Park \*
48. Shady Drive Lot\*
49. Thomet Stables \*
50. Watermark Country Club
51. Headley Street Property - Potential Future Public Green Space \*
- \* Denotes Properties Located in Ada Township

## APPENDIX B: ADA TOWNSHIP RECREATION PROPERTIES INVENTORY

The following is an up-to-date inventory of recreation facilities within Ada Township. The facilities are color coded to denote ownership: **Township (black)**, **County (cyan)**, **State (green)**, **Federal (yellow)**, **School (light blue)**, and **Private (red)**. Within the Township there are eleven (11) Township-owned, two (2) County-owned, three (3) State-owned, one (1) Federally-owned, six (6) school-owned, and five (5) privately-owned recreation properties/facilities. In total, there are twenty-eight (28) recreation properties within Ada Township.

ADA TOWNSHIP RECREATION FACILITIES	
Source: Ada Township 2017 Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Plan, Township Parks & Recreation Department website and seasonal flier, communication directly with the Township Parks & Recreation Department, and Kent County Parcel and GIS mapping.	
Ada Township Park, 57 acres	
Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Park office building</li> <li>• Storage and maintenance building</li> <li>• Playground</li> <li>• 38 picnic tables</li> <li>• 4 connected gazebos</li> <li>• 2 open field areas</li> <li>• 6 picnic areas</li> <li>• 4 tennis courts</li> <li>• 6 pickle ball courts</li> <li>• 2 softball/baseball diamonds with bleachers</li> <li>• Half-court basketball court</li> <li>• Sand volleyball court</li> <li>• Soccer field</li> <li>• Shelter</li> <li>• Gazebo</li> <li>• Barrier-free restrooms</li> <li>• Grills</li> <li>• Paved paths</li> <li>• Nature trail</li> <li>• Bud Locke Arboretum</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summer Day Camp</li> <li>• Softball Leagues</li> <li>• School Programs</li> </ul> <p><b>Third Party</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forest Hills Girl Scout Day Camp</li> <li>• Grand Rapids Triathlon</li> <li>• August in Ada Children's Festival (Ada Business Association)</li> <li>• AYSO Soccer</li> </ul>
Leonard Field Park, 3 acres	
Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Softball field</li> <li>• Bike paths</li> <li>• Barrier-free river overlook</li> <li>• River observation deck</li> <li>• Barrier-free restroom</li> <li>• River access</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Softball Leagues</li> <li>• 5k and other Runs</li> <li>• Host site for Annual Bridge Ride</li> <li>• Christmas Bridge Lighting</li> </ul> <p><b>Third Party</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beers at the Bridge (Ada Historical Society)</li> <li>• Grand Rapids Triathlon</li> </ul>



Roselle Park, 250 acres	
Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paved trail system</li> <li>Non-paved trail system</li> <li>Observation decks</li> <li>Canoe landing</li> <li>Resource Building (restrooms, meeting room)</li> <li>Parking</li> <li>Playground</li> <li>Climbing wall</li> <li>Picnic tables</li> <li>Silo observation deck</li> <li>Cross-country skiing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Summer Day Camp</li> <li>Roselle Park River Festival</li> <li>Grand River-Run</li> <li>School Programs</li> <li>Family/Adult Programs</li> </ul> <p><b>Third Party</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Professional Development Programs</li> </ul>
Settlers Grove Riverside Park (under construction), 19 acres	
Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restrooms</li> <li>Walkway</li> <li>Picnic area</li> <li>Playground</li> <li>Stage</li> <li>Future non-motorized trail connection from riverfront park to the existing non-motorized trail on the M-21 bridge</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Programs to being in 2019</li> </ul>
Carl Creek Crossing Preserve, 8 acres	
Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gravel walking paths</li> <li>Boardwalks</li> <li>Sitting areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Day Camps</li> </ul>
Carl Creek Wetlands Preserve (unimproved), 34 acres	
Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Future: non-paved trail system, boardwalk</li> </ul>	
Grand River - Fulton Street Preserve (unimproved), 5 acres	
Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NA in flood plain</li> </ul>
Grand River Nature Area and Preserve (unimproved), 120 acres	
Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paved trail</li> <li>Natural trail</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NA in flood plain</li> </ul>
Grand River View Preserve (unimproved), 0.5 acres	
Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No future improvements planned</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NA in flood plain</li> </ul>

Knapp Corner Preserve, 1 acre	
Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Welcome to Ada Township” sign</li> <li>• Bench</li> <li>• Native plant landscaping</li> <li>• Bike Path</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NA</li> </ul>
Pettis Avenue Parcel (unimproved), 3 acres	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential future merge with Chief Hazy Cloud Park</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NA</li> </ul>
Shady Drive Preserve (unimproved), 0.15 acres	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NA</li> </ul>
Ada Township Bike Trails, approximately 19 miles existing (7.5 miles planned future)	
Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bike Path</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NA</li> </ul>
Seidman Park, 530 acres (Kent County)	
Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trail network</li> <li>• Cross-country skiing</li> <li>• Paved non-motorized trail network</li> <li>• Picnic shelters</li> <li>• Primitive/portable restroom facilities</li> <li>• Boardwalk</li> </ul>	
Chief Hazy Cloud Park, 261 acres (Kent County)	
Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parking</li> <li>• River access</li> <li>• Canoe/kayak launch</li> <li>• Picnic area</li> <li>• Future: trails</li> </ul>	
Cannonsburg State Game Area, 1,300 acres (State)	
Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hunting</li> <li>• Hiking</li> <li>• Mountain biking</li> <li>• Boardwalk</li> <li>• Parking</li> </ul>	
Michigan DNR Grand River Public Access Site at Knapp Ave, 1 acre (State)	
Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boat launch ramp</li> <li>• Gravel parking area</li> <li>• Pit-type restrooms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth canoe trip</li> </ul>

Michigan DNR Grand River Public Access Site at Fulton Ave, 4.7 acre (State)	
Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Boat launch ramp</li> <li>Gravel parking area</li> <li>Pit-type restrooms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth canoe trip</li> </ul>
MDOT Ada Roadside Park, 3.5 acres (State)	
Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Picnic tables</li> <li>Grills</li> <li>Restroom facilities</li> </ul>	
Iron Belle/North Country Trail 7.5 miles (State & Federal)	
Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hiking route</li> </ul>	
Ada Elementary School, 15 acres	
Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Play area</li> <li>Ball field (2)</li> <li>Youth soccer (2), one overlay (i.e. soccer field using softball outfield)</li> <li>Multi-Use Hard-court (basketball)</li> <li>Gymnasium</li> <li>Playground</li> <li>Tot lot</li> </ul>	<b>Third Party</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Little League</li> <li>AYSO youth soccer</li> <li>Youth football league</li> </ul>
Ada Vista Elementary	
Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Playground</li> <li>Basketball court</li> <li>Multi-Use Hard-courts (2, basketball)</li> <li>Youth soccer (2), one overlay</li> <li>Softball</li> <li>Gymnasium (not available to public)</li> <li>Track (not available to public)</li> <li>2 ball fields (not available to public)</li> </ul>	<b>Third Party</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AYSO youth soccer</li> </ul>
Ada Christian School	
Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Playground</li> <li>Softball field (adult)</li> <li>Softball field (youth)</li> <li>Hard-surface play area</li> <li>4 youth soccer fields</li> <li>Adult soccer field</li> </ul>	

Forest Hills Central Middle and High Schools, 53 acres	
Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 Gymnasiums</li> <li>• Tennis courts (8)</li> <li>• Baseball diamond</li> <li>• Softball (adult)</li> <li>• Softball (youth)</li> <li>• 2 Soccer fields (adult), one synthetic</li> <li>• Football field, synthetic, multi-use</li> <li>• Track</li> <li>• Open play-field</li> <li>• Auditorium (not available to public)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community education</li> </ul>
Forest Hills Central Woodlands School	
Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Playground</li> <li>• Softball Field (youth)</li> <li>• Soccer field (adult)</li> <li>• Multi-Use Hard-court (Basketball)</li> <li>• Volleyball</li> <li>• Trail</li> </ul>	
Forest Hills Eastern Middle and High Schools, 115 acres	
Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gymnasiums (2)</li> <li>• Tennis courts (8)</li> <li>• Soccer field</li> <li>• Baseball diamond</li> <li>• Softball diamond</li> <li>• Overlay Field (soccer, softball)</li> <li>• Football field (synthetic, multi-purpose)</li> <li>• Multi-purpose rectangular field (2)</li> <li>• Track and field facilities</li> <li>• Open play-fields</li> <li>• Performance theater</li> <li>• Auditorium.</li> <li>• Community garden</li> </ul>	
Ada Dance Academy (PRIVATE)	
Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dance studios (4)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dance lessons</li> <li>• Professional dance instruction</li> </ul>
Creston Rod and Gun Club (PRIVATE)	
Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skeet</li> <li>• Trap</li> <li>• Shooting range</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Winter and Summer League</li> </ul>

Egypt Valley Country Club (PRIVATE)	
Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 27-hole golf course</li> <li>• Tennis courts (4)</li> <li>• Outdoor swimming pool</li> <li>• Clubhouse</li> </ul>	
Kent County Conservation League (PRIVATE)	
Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clubhouse</li> <li>• Trap range</li> <li>• Skeet range</li> <li>• Sporting clays range</li> <li>• Rifle range</li> <li>• Pistol range</li> <li>• Archery range</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skeet, 5-stand, Trap, and Sporting Clays School-age kids shooting program</li> <li>• Group or private lessons</li> <li>• Corporate outings</li> <li>• Membership shooting</li> </ul>
Lions Field (Thornapple Valley Community Park) (PRIVATE)	
Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 Baseball diamonds (3 youth)</li> <li>• 12 Picnic tables</li> <li>• 2 Playgrounds</li> <li>• Batting cage</li> <li>• Restrooms</li> <li>• Concessions</li> <li>• Picnic Shelter</li> <li>• Grill</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thornapple Valley Baseball League</li> </ul>
Thomet Stables (PRIVATE)	
Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Box stalls</li> <li>• Indoor riding arena</li> <li>• 60' round pen</li> <li>• 125' x 225' lighted outdoor jump arena</li> <li>• Outdoor dressage arena</li> <li>• Riding fields with cross country jumps</li> <li>• Over 100 acres trail riding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Riding instruction</li> <li>• Horse shows</li> </ul>



### APPENDIX C: RECREATION FACILITIES MATRIX (FACILITIES OWNED BY ADA TOWNSHIP ONLY)

The facilities are color coded to denote ownership: Township (black), County (cyan), State (green), Federal (yellow), School (light blue), and Private (red). Facilities provided by other entities are outlined on the following page.

	% of Agencies Offering Facility	Leonard Field Park	Ada Township Park	Roselle Park	Settlers Grove Riverside Park	Grand River Nature Area & Preserve	Carl Creek Crossings Preserve	Carl Creek Wetlands Preserve	Knapp Corner Preserve	Thornapple Confluence Preserve	Grand River-Fulton Street Preserve	Pettis Avenue Parcel	Ada Township Total Facilities	Ada Township Residents per Facility 2010	Ada Township Residents per Facility 2017 Estimate
Playgrounds	92		1	1	1								3	4,381	4,843
Basketball Courts	83		1										1	13,142	14,528
Tennis Courts (outdoor only)	77		4										4	3,286	3,632
Diamond fields: baseball- youth	75	1	2										3	4,381	4,843
Diamond fields: softball- adult	66	1	2										3	4,381	4,843
Rectangular fields: multi-purpose	63		2										2	6,571	7,264
Diamond fields: softball- youth	59	1	2										3	4,381	4,843
Diamond fields: baseball- adult	55	1	2										3	4,381	4,843
Dog Park	55												0	0	0
Swimming Pools (outdoor only)	52												0	0	0
Totlots	47												0	0	0
Rectangular fields: soccer field- youth	47		1										1	13,142	14,528
Community Garden	46												0	0	0
Rectangular fields: soccer field - adult	42		1										1	13,142	14,528
Multiuse courts- basketball, volleyball	38		1										1	13,142	14,528
Diamond fields: tee-ball	38	1	2										3	4,381	4,843
Rectangular fields: football field	38												0	0	0
Ice ring (outdoor only)	16												0	0	0
Multipurpose synthetic field	15												0	0	0
Skate park	14												0	0	0
Rectangular fields: lacrosse field	11												0	0	0
Rectangular fields: cricket field	9												0	0	0
Overlay field	6												0	0	0
Rectangular fields: field hockey field	4												0	0	0

### APPENDIX C: RECREATION FACILITIES MATRIX (INCLUDING FACILITIES PROVIDED BY OTHER ENTITIES)

The facilities are color coded to denote ownership: Township (black), County (cyan), State (green), Federal (yellow), School (light blue), and Private (red).

	Seidman Park (Kent County)	Chief Hazy Cloud (Kent County)	Cannonsburg State Game Area (State)	MIDNR Grand River Public Access Sites (State)	Iron Belle Trail (State)	North County Trail (Nation)	Ada Elementary School	Ada Vista Elementary	Ada Christian	Forest Hills Central Middle and High Schools	Forst Hills Cnetral Woodlands School	Forest Hills Eastern Middle and High Schools	Ada Dance Academy	Creston Rod and Gun Club	Double C Ranch/Curtis Performance Horses (PRIVATE)	Egypt Valley Country Club	Kent County Conservation League	Lions Field (Thornapple Valley Community Park)	Thomet Stables	Other Entity Total Facilities	Ada Township All Total Facilities	Ada Township Residents per Facility 2010 US Census Estimate	Ada Township Residents per Facility 2017 US Census Estimate	NRPA Agencies Less than 500 People per Square Mile
Playgrounds							1	1	1	1	1							2		7	10	1,314	1,453	6,132
Basketball Courts								1		1										2	3	4,381	4,843	7,869
Tennis Courts (outdoor only)							1			8		8				4				21	25	526	581	5,462
Diamond fields: baseball- youth							2											3		5	8	1,643	1,816	6,628
Diamond fields: softball- adult								1	1	1		1								4	7	1,877	2,075	10,957
Rectangular fields: multi-purpose									1			2								3	5	2,628	2,906	9,043
Diamond fields: softball- youth									1	1	1	1								4	7	1,877	2,075	10,495
Diamond fields: baseball- adult										1		1						2		4	7	1,877	2,075	15,000
Dog Park																				0	0	0	0	51,804
Swimming Pools (outdoor only)																1				1	1	13,142	14,528	42,344
Totlots							1													1	1	13,142	14,528	19,766
Rectangular fields: soccer field- youth							2	2	4											8	9	1,460	1,614	5,584
Community Garden																				0	0	0	0	37,571
Rectangular fields: soccer field - adult									1	2	1	2								6	7	1,877	2,075	10,250
Multiuse courts- basketball, volleyball							1	2	1	1	1									6	7	1,877	2,075	12,757
Diamond fields: tee-ball																				0	3	4,381	4,843	11,270
Rectangular fields: football field										1		1								2	2	6,571	7,264	21,750
Ice ring (outdoor only)																				0	0	0	0	11,168
Multipurpose synthetic field										1		1								2	2	6,571	7,264	35,238
Skate park																				0	0	0	0	27,375
Rectangular fields: lacrosse field																				0	0	0	0	12,522
Rectangular fields: cricket field																				0	0	0	0	199,889
Overlay field									1			1								2	2	6,571	7,264	10,820
Rectangular fields: field hockey field																				0	0	0	0	20,893

## APPENDIX D: NEIGHBORING COMMUNITY RECREATION FACILITY AND PROGRAM INVENTORY

The matrices below outline properties and programs offered by neighboring communities. These include: Grand Rapids Charter Township, East Grand Rapids, Kentwood, Cascade Township, Lowell Charter Township, Vergennes Township, and Cannon Township. The facilities are color coded to denote ownership: **Township (black)**, **County (cyan)**, **State (green)**, **Federal (yellow)**, **School (light blue)**, and **Private (red)**. Additionally, it is noted with an asterisk if the facility falls within a five-mile radius of influence from Ada Township.

## GRAND RAPIDS CHARTER TOWNSHIP RECREATION FACILITIES

Source: Grand Rapids Charter Township Park and Recreation Five-Year Plan 2018-2022 DRAFT

### \*Grand Rapids Township Park, 57 acres

Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 Ball Diamonds</li> <li>• 4 Tennis Courts</li> <li>• Soccer Field</li> <li>• Playground</li> <li>• Nature Trails</li> <li>• Picnic Tables</li> <li>• Shelter</li> <li>• Restrooms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AYSO youth soccer</li> </ul>

### \*Crahen Valley Park, 200 acres

Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Walking/Bike Path</li> <li>• Open Field</li> <li>• Parking</li> <li>• Overlook</li> </ul>	

### \*Knapp Valley Forest County Park, 93 acres (Kent County)

Amenities	Programs
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### \*Forest Hills Northern Middle and High School, 140 acres

Amenities	Programs
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### \*Forest Hills Community and Aquatic Center

Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 lane, 25 yard standard "short course" instructional and competitive pool</li> <li>• 22' by 45' diving "L" providing 2 one meter diving boards and a 3 meter board for competition. This diving "L" also provides a 6 lane, 25 meter competitive course.</li> <li>• 1,200 square foot community meeting room and building administrative offices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preschool Aquatic Classes</li> <li>• American Red Cross Learn-to Swim Program</li> <li>• Adult Aquatic Exercise Classes</li> </ul>

### \*Forest Hills Parks Association

Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clubhouse</li> <li>• Outdoor Swimming Pool</li> <li>• 4 Tennis Courts</li> <li>• Playground</li> <li>• Baseball field</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Swim Lessons</li> <li>• Tennis Lessons</li> <li>• Swim Team</li> <li>• Clubhouse Rental</li> </ul>

### \*MVP Athletic Club

Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tennis Courts</li> <li>• Basketball Court</li> <li>• Volleyball</li> <li>• Playground</li> <li>• Outdoor Pool</li> <li>• Splash Pad</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fitness</li> <li>• Training</li> </ul>

GRAND RAPIDS CHARTER TOWNSHIP RECREATION FACILITIES (CONTINUED)	
<b>*Frederik Meijer Gardens, 158 acres</b>	
Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sculpture Garden</li> <li>• Exhibition Galleries</li> <li>• Conservatory</li> <li>• Botanical Gardens</li> <li>• Japanese Garden</li> <li>• Arid Garden</li> <li>• Greenhouse</li> <li>• Victorian Garden Parlor</li> <li>• Amphitheater</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adult Classes</li> <li>• Children Classes</li> <li>• Children Summer Camps</li> <li>• Master Lecture Series</li> </ul>
<b>*Cascade Hills Country Club, 241 acres</b>	
Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 27-Hole Golf Course</li> <li>• 4 Tennis Courts</li> <li>• Aquatics</li> <li>• Fitness</li> <li>• Spa</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth Tennis Clinics</li> <li>• Private Tennis Lessons</li> <li>• Swim Team</li> <li>• Dive Team</li> <li>• Swimming Lessons</li> </ul>
GRAND RAPIDS CHARTER TOWNSHIP RECREATION PROGRAMS	
Source: Grand Rapids Charter Township Park and Recreation Five-Year Plan 2018-2022 DRAFT	
Township	Third Party
None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aerobics</li> <li>• Jazzercise</li> <li>• Tumbling</li> <li>• Basketball</li> <li>• Indoor Soccer</li> <li>• Baseball</li> <li>• Slimnastics</li> <li>• Gymnastics</li> <li>• Yoga</li> <li>• Volleyball</li> <li>• Open Gym</li> <li>• Golf</li> <li>• Arthritis Exercise</li> <li>• Water Exercise</li> <li>• Spring Board</li> <li>• Diving</li> <li>• Swim Classes</li> <li>• Scuba</li> <li>• Life Saving</li> <li>• CPR</li> </ul> <p>*Programs are provided by Forest Hills School District through community education programs.</p>

EAST GRAND RAPIDS RECREATION FACILITIES	
Source: East Grand Rapids Parks and Recreation Website	
Reeds Lake Trail	
Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4.2 Mile Walking/Biking Path</li> </ul>	
John Collins Park	
Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Boat Launch</li> <li>Lakeshore Pathway, Overlooks and Benches</li> <li>Rain Gardens</li> <li>Picnic Areas</li> <li>Event Space/Plaza</li> <li>Restrooms</li> </ul>	
Manhattan Park	
Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shelter</li> <li>Picnic Area</li> <li>Playground</li> <li>Volleyball Courts</li> <li>Softball Diamonds</li> <li>Soccer Field</li> <li>Tennis Courts</li> <li>Nature Trails</li> <li>Sledding Hill</li> </ul>	
Waterfront Park	
Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accessible Walking Trails/Boardwalks</li> <li>Fishing Piers</li> </ul>	
Hodenpyl Woods	
Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plant Identification Trail</li> <li>Walking Trails/Boardwalks</li> </ul>	
Remington Park	
Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Baseball Field</li> <li>Restroom</li> <li>Nature Trails</li> </ul>	
Griffiths Park	
Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Walking Trail with Benches</li> </ul>	
Wealthy Pool	
Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indoor Pool</li> </ul>	



## EAST GRAND RAPIDS RECREATION PROGRAMS

Source: East Grand Rapids Parks and Recreation Website

City	Third Party
<p>Youth Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Art Classes</li> <li>• Music Classes</li> <li>• Babysitting</li> <li>• Fencing</li> <li>• Yoga</li> <li>• Youth Dance</li> <li>• Swim Classes</li> <li>• Sports Camps</li> <li>• Art Camps</li> </ul> <p>Adult Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Art Classes</li> <li>• Dance Classes</li> <li>• AARP Driving Safety</li> <li>• Bridge Classes</li> <li>• Dog Obedience</li> <li>• Aquatic Fitness Classes</li> <li>• Fitness Classes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coed Cross Country</li> <li>• Girls Volleyball</li> <li>• Boys Basketball</li> <li>• Boys Recreational Inter-squad League</li> <li>• Youth Football League</li> <li>• Field Hockey Camp</li> <li>• Pee Wee Soccer</li> <li>• Soccer Academy League</li> <li>• Coed Middle School League</li> <li>• Basketball Leagues</li> <li>• Youth Cheerleading</li> <li>• Bowling Club</li> <li>• Bricks 4 Kidz Educational Programs</li> </ul> <p>*Programs are provided by school districts through community education programs.</p>

<b>KENTWOOD RECREATION FACILITIES</b>	
Source: Kentwood Parks and Recreation Website	
<b>Bowen Station Park</b>	
<b>Amenities</b>	<b>Programs</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biking trails</li> <li>• Picnic Area</li> <li>• Playground</li> <li>• Restroom</li> <li>• Shelter</li> </ul>	
<b>Burgis Park</b>	
<b>Amenities</b>	<b>Programs</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basketball</li> <li>• Picnic Area</li> <li>• Playground</li> <li>• Tennis Courts</li> </ul>	
<b>East Paris Nature Park</b>	
<b>Amenities</b>	<b>Programs</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nature Trails</li> <li>• Picnic Area</li> <li>• Shelter</li> <li>• Restroom</li> </ul>	
<b>East West Trail</b>	
<b>Amenities</b>	<b>Programs</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3.6 Miles of Trail</li> </ul>	
<b>Home Acres Park</b>	
<b>Amenities</b>	<b>Programs</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skate Park</li> <li>• Gaga Ball</li> <li>• Playground</li> <li>• Bocce Ball</li> <li>• Baseball Field</li> <li>• Shelter</li> <li>• Picnic Area</li> <li>• Restroom</li> </ul>	
<b>Jaycee Park</b>	
<b>Amenities</b>	<b>Programs</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disc Golf</li> <li>• Basketball</li> <li>• Tennis Court</li> <li>• Biking &amp; Nature Trails</li> <li>• Picnic Area</li> <li>• Playgrounds</li> </ul>	R.E.A.C.H. Summer Program
<b>Kellogg Woods Park</b>	
<b>Amenities</b>	<b>Programs</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dog Park</li> <li>• Baseball Fields</li> <li>• Soccer Fields</li> <li>• Shelter</li> <li>• Playgrounds</li> <li>• Restrooms</li> </ul>	

**KENTWOOD RECREATION FACILITIES (CONTINUED)****\*Northeast Park, 100 acres**

<b>Amenities</b>	<b>Programs</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baseball &amp; Soccer Fields</li> <li>• Basketball</li> <li>• Biking &amp; Nature Trails</li> <li>• Playground</li> <li>• Shelter/Picnic Air</li> </ul>	
<b>Old Farm Park</b>	
<b>Amenities</b>	<b>Programs</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pickleball Courts</li> <li>• Disc Golf</li> <li>• Basketball</li> <li>• Picnic Areas and Grills</li> <li>• Playground</li> </ul>	
<b>Paris Park</b>	
<b>Amenities</b>	<b>Programs</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biking, Walking &amp; Nature Trails</li> </ul>	
<b>Paul Henry Trail</b>	
<b>Amenities</b>	<b>Programs</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2.7 Miles of Trail</li> </ul>	
<b>Pinewood Park</b>	
<b>Amenities</b>	<b>Programs</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Splash Pad</li> <li>• Skate Ramps</li> <li>• Baseball Field</li> <li>• Soccer Field</li> <li>• Basketball Courts</li> <li>• Tennis Courts</li> <li>• Playground</li> <li>• Gaga Ball</li> <li>• Shelter</li> <li>• Picnic Area</li> <li>• Restroom</li> </ul>	
<b>Rondo Street Station Park</b>	
<b>Amenities</b>	<b>Programs</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biking &amp; Walking Trails</li> <li>• Playground</li> </ul>	
<b>Stanaback Park</b>	
<b>Amenities</b>	<b>Programs</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basketball Courts</li> <li>• Biking, Walking &amp; Nature Trails</li> <li>• Picnic Area</li> <li>• Shelter</li> <li>• Playgrounds</li> <li>• Restroom</li> </ul>	

KENTWOOD RECREATION FACILITIES	
Source: Kentwood Parks and Recreation Website	
Bowen Station Park	
Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biking trails</li> <li>• Picnic Area</li> <li>• Playground</li> <li>• Restroom</li> <li>• Shelter</li> </ul>	
Burgis Park	
Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basketball</li> <li>• Picnic Area</li> <li>• Playground</li> <li>• Tennis Courts</li> </ul>	
East Paris Nature Park	
Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nature Trails</li> <li>• Picnic Area</li> <li>• Shelter</li> <li>• Restroom</li> </ul>	
East West Trail	
Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3.6 Miles of Trail</li> </ul>	
Home Acres Park	
Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skate Park</li> <li>• Gaga Ball</li> <li>• Playground</li> <li>• Bocce Ball</li> <li>• Baseball Field</li> <li>• Shelter</li> <li>• Picnic Area</li> <li>• Restroom</li> </ul>	
Jaycee Park	
Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disc Golf</li> <li>• Basketball</li> <li>• Tennis Court</li> <li>• Biking &amp; Nature Trails</li> <li>• Picnic Area</li> <li>• Playgrounds</li> </ul>	R.E.A.C.H. Summer Program
Kellogg Woods Park	
Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dog Park</li> <li>• Baseball Fields</li> <li>• Soccer Fields</li> <li>• Shelter</li> <li>• Playgrounds</li> <li>• Restrooms</li> </ul>	

**KENTWOOD RECREATION FACILITIES (CONTINUED)****\*Northeast Park, 100 acres**

<b>Amenities</b>	<b>Programs</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baseball &amp; Soccer Fields</li> <li>• Basketball</li> <li>• Biking &amp; Nature Trails</li> <li>• Playground</li> <li>• Shelter/Picnic Air</li> </ul>	
<b>Old Farm Park</b>	
<b>Amenities</b>	<b>Programs</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pickleball Courts</li> <li>• Disc Golf</li> <li>• Basketball</li> <li>• Picnic Areas and Grills</li> <li>• Playground</li> </ul>	
<b>Paris Park</b>	
<b>Amenities</b>	<b>Programs</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biking, Walking &amp; Nature Trails</li> </ul>	
<b>Paul Henry Trail</b>	
<b>Amenities</b>	<b>Programs</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2.7 Miles of Trail</li> </ul>	
<b>Pinewood Park</b>	
<b>Amenities</b>	<b>Programs</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Splash Pad</li> <li>• Skate Ramps</li> <li>• Baseball Field</li> <li>• Soccer Field</li> <li>• Basketball Courts</li> <li>• Tennis Courts</li> <li>• Playground</li> <li>• Gaga Ball</li> <li>• Shelter</li> <li>• Picnic Area</li> <li>• Restroom</li> </ul>	
<b>Rondo Street Station Park</b>	
<b>Amenities</b>	<b>Programs</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biking &amp; Walking Trails</li> <li>• Playground</li> </ul>	
<b>Stanaback Park</b>	
<b>Amenities</b>	<b>Programs</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basketball Courts</li> <li>• Biking, Walking &amp; Nature Trails</li> <li>• Picnic Area</li> <li>• Shelter</li> <li>• Playgrounds</li> <li>• Restroom</li> </ul>	

<b>KENTWOOD RECREATION FACILITIES (CONTINUED)</b>	
<b>Stauffer Station Park</b>	
<b>Amenities</b>	<b>Programs</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biking &amp; Walking Trails</li> <li>• Picnic Area</li> <li>• Restroom</li> </ul>	
<b>Summerwood Park</b>	
<b>Amenities</b>	<b>Programs</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Playground</li> <li>• Picnic Area</li> </ul>	
<b>Veterans Memorial Park</b>	
<b>Amenities</b>	<b>Programs</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basketball courts</li> <li>• Tennis Courts</li> <li>• Biking &amp; Nature Trails</li> <li>• Splash Pad</li> <li>• Playground</li> <li>• Climbing Wall</li> <li>• Shelter</li> <li>• Sand Volleyball</li> <li>• Restroom</li> </ul>	
<b>Wing Station</b>	
<b>Amenities</b>	<b>Programs</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biking &amp; Walking Trails</li> </ul>	
<b>*Calvin College Ecosystem Preserve, 130 acres</b>	
<b>Amenities</b>	<b>Programs</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Native Gardens</li> <li>• Trails</li> <li>• Interpretive Center</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early Childhood</li> <li>• Summer Camp</li> <li>• Family</li> <li>• Discovery Field Packs</li> <li>• Elementary School Groups</li> <li>• College</li> <li>• Adult</li> <li>• Native Plant Sale</li> </ul>
<b>MVP Sportsplex</b>	
<b>Amenities</b>	<b>Programs</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 group exercise studios</li> <li>• 6 indoor tennis courts</li> <li>• Large fitness</li> <li>• 25-meter, 5-lane indoor pool</li> <li>• Outdoor aquatic center with water slides and 0-depth entry pool</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group Fitness</li> <li>• Fitness &amp; Training</li> <li>• Aquatics</li> <li>• Tennis</li> <li>• Certification Courses</li> </ul>



## KENTWOOD RECREATION PROGRAMS

Source: Kentwood Parks and Recreation Website

Kentwood	Kentwood (Cont.)
<p><b>Adaptive Recreation Programs:</b>  <i>Adaptive recreation programs provide social, creative, educational opportunities for youth and adults with physical and developmental disabilities.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pickleball Clinic</li> <li>• Golf League</li> <li>• Whitecaps Night</li> <li>• Summer Bowling</li> <li>• Bocce Club</li> <li>• Water Ski/Lessons</li> <li>• Adapted Swim Summer</li> <li>• Leisure Club</li> </ul> <p><b>Adult Recreation Programs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Walking Club</li> <li>• Adult Pickleball Lessons</li> <li>• Rock Climbing</li> <li>• Cardio Drumming</li> <li>• Pickelball Ladder Leagues</li> <li>• Softball Spring/Summer</li> <li>• 50 and Better Softball League</li> <li>• Dodgeball Tournament Fundraiser</li> <li>• Adult Women Soccer Leagues</li> <li>• Adult Co-Ed Soccer Leagues</li> <li>• Sand Volleyball League</li> <li>• Adult Softball Leagues</li> </ul> <p><b>Senior Recreation Programs (membership option):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Connections</li> <li>• Greeting Card Making</li> <li>• Spring Pizza Potluck</li> <li>• Grandma and Me Tea</li> <li>• Pinsplitters Bowling League</li> <li>• Men's Chess and Checkers</li> <li>• Bridge Club</li> <li>• Knitting and Crochet</li> <li>• Euchre</li> </ul> <p><b>Swim Programs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parent and Child Swim Lessons</li> <li>• Adult Swim Lessons</li> <li>• Preschool Aquatics &amp; Learn to Swim</li> </ul>	<p><b>Youth Programs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pee Wee Basketball</li> <li>• Youth Soccer Clinic</li> <li>• T-Ball</li> <li>• Sports of All Sorts</li> <li>• Youth Soccer Programs</li> <li>• Introduction to Rugby</li> <li>• Flag Football</li> <li>• Youth Pickleball</li> <li>• Be a Babysitter</li> <li>• Karin's Horse Connection</li> <li>• Taekwondo</li> </ul> <p><b>Third Party</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SCOR Soccer</li> <li>• AYSO Soccer</li> <li>• Rocket Football/78ers</li> <li>• Rockford Little League</li> <li>• Rockford Hockey Association</li> <li>• Riptide Swimming Club</li> <li>• Wolverine Little League</li> <li>• Rockford Boys Lacrosse Club</li> <li>• Rockford Girls Lacrosse Club</li> </ul>

## CASCADE TOWNSHIP RECREATION FACILITIES

Source: Cascade Township Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan 2014-2019

### Cascade Township Park, 55 acres

Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Playground</li> <li>• 4 Tennis</li> <li>• 2 Softball</li> <li>• Volleyball</li> <li>• 4 Horseshoes</li> <li>• 2 Soccer</li> <li>• Restrooms</li> <li>• Picnic Shelter (150-200 people)</li> <li>• Picnic Shelter (24 people, playground)</li> <li>• Picnic Gazebo (30 people)</li> <li>• Walking Trail (2 mile)</li> <li>• Frisbee Golf (18 hole)</li> <li>• Dog Park (separate large and small dog)</li> <li>• Natural Area</li> </ul>	

### Leslie E. Tassell Park, 3.5 acres

Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restrooms</li> <li>• Picnic Shelter (30-45 people)</li> <li>• Picnic Gazebo (10-12 people)</li> <li>• Riverfront Fishing</li> <li>• Canoe/Kayak Access</li> <li>• Splash pad</li> <li>• Community fire ring</li> <li>• Parking</li> </ul>	

### Cascade Dam, 0.5 acres

Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fishing</li> <li>• Canoe portage</li> </ul>	

### Cascade Museum Garden, 0.4 acres

Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Garden setting</li> </ul>	

### \*Michael McGraw Park, 68.8 acres

Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• River frontage</li> <li>• Walking trails</li> </ul>	

### \*Cascade Peace Park, 198 acres

Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nature Trails (4 miles)</li> <li>• Port-A-John facility</li> </ul>	

### \*Cascade Burton Park, 79 acres

Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nature Trails (2.5 miles)</li> <li>• Bathrooms</li> <li>• Handicap accessible parking</li> </ul>	

Township Pathways	
Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 17 Miles Constructed</li> </ul>	
CASCADE TOWNSHIP RECREATION FACILITIES (CONTINUED)	
*Double C Ranch/Curtis Performance Horses	
Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Main Barn with box stalls (20) and riding arena</li> <li>• Little Barn with box stalls (4)</li> <li>• Outdoor arena</li> <li>• Firepit</li> <li>• Playset with Swingset</li> <li>• Large grass pasture (5)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adult riding instruction</li> <li>• Children riding instruction</li> <li>• Horse boarding</li> </ul>
*Watermark Country Club	
Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 18-hole Golf Course</li> <li>• Clubhouse</li> <li>• Outdoor Swimming Pool</li> <li>• Playground</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tennis Lessons</li> <li>• Golf League</li> </ul>
*Mary Free Bed YMCA	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapel</li> <li>• KidZone and Activity Center</li> <li>• Multi-Purpose Classrooms</li> <li>• Carol Van Andel Healthy Living Center</li> <li>• Greenhouse</li> <li>• Teaching Kitchen</li> <li>• Administrative Suite</li> <li>• Community Meeting Room</li> <li>• 2 Multi-Purpose Gymnasiums</li> <li>• 1 Sports Court</li> <li>• 8-Lane Lap Pool</li> <li>• Family Fun Pool</li> <li>• Health &amp; Fitness Center</li> <li>• 1/5 Mile Indoor Track</li> <li>• Group Fitness Studios</li> <li>• Indoor Cycling Studio</li> <li>• Climbing Wall</li> <li>• Men's and Women's Locker Rooms</li> <li>• Fully Accessible Family Locker Rooms</li> <li>• 2 Family Locker Rooms with Changing Mat</li> <li>• Men's and Women's Saunas</li> <li>• Learning Farm with Raised Bed Gardens</li> <li>• 1/2 Mile Loop Paved Trail</li> <li>• Soccer Fields</li> <li>• Baseball Fields</li> <li>• Wheelchair Softball Field</li> <li>• Accessible Playground</li> <li>• Outdoor Tennis Courts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adult Specialty Programs</li> <li>• Wellness and Prevention Program</li> <li>• Swim Lessons</li> <li>• Sports Classes &amp; Snow Sports</li> <li>• Seasonal Leagues</li> <li>• Music &amp; Dance</li> <li>• Date Nights &amp; parent's Morning Out</li> <li>• Active Programs</li> <li>• YMCA Camp Manitou-Lin Seasonal Activities</li> </ul>

<b>Patterson Ice Arena</b>	
<b>Amenities</b>	<b>Programs</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two, Fully Refurbished NHL Sheets Of Ice</li> <li>• Locker Rooms</li> <li>• Meeting Rooms</li> <li>• Lounge Areas</li> <li>• Game Machines</li> <li>• Pro Shop</li> <li>• Concession Stand</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skating Classes</li> <li>• Private Lessons</li> <li>• League Hockey</li> <li>• Open Hockey</li> <li>• Hockey Camps</li> <li>• Hockey Teams</li> </ul>
<b>*Shaggy Pines Dog Park, 20 acres</b>	
<b>Amenities</b>	<b>Programs</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15 acres fenced grounds</li> <li>• One-mile jogging/hiking trail</li> <li>• Lighted and plowed trails for evening and winter use</li> <li>• Two large 'dry' dog areas</li> <li>• Benches and tables</li> <li>• Large dedicated sand pile for climbing and digging</li> <li>• Dog swimming pond</li> <li>• 'Sunset Deck' with music and lounge chairs</li> <li>• Water stations</li> <li>• Dedicated, enclosed small dog area specifically for dogs under 30 pounds</li> <li>• Special events area for agility training, obedience classes and community events and birthday parties</li> <li>• Self-serve dog wash tubs and drying areas</li> <li>• Doggy store</li> <li>• Coffee bar and lounge area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Membership Facility</li> <li>• Dog Washes</li> <li>• Obedience and Agility Training</li> <li>• Sponsored Events and Parties</li> </ul>

<b>CASCADE TOWNSHIP RECREATION PROGRAMS</b>	
Source: Cascade Township Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan 2014-2019	
<b>Township</b>	<b>Third Party</b>
<b>None</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO), Ada-Cascade AYSO</li> <li>• YMCA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ swim team</li> <li>○ swimming lessons</li> <li>○ fitness and wellness</li> <li>○ youth sports programs in floor hockey, soccer, t-ball, baseball, flag football, basketball, tennis, soccer and gymnastics</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP RECREATION FACILITIES	
Source: Lowell Charter Township Website	
Grand River Riverfront Park, 80 acres	
Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Canoe/kayak Launch</li> <li>• 2 Softball Fields</li> <li>• Lacrosse Field</li> <li>• 8 Soccer Fields</li> <li>• Playground</li> <li>• Nature/walking Path</li> <li>• Scenic Overlook</li> <li>• Fishing Pier</li> <li>• Picnic Shelter with Restrooms</li> <li>• Picnic Shelter, Small</li> </ul>	
North Country Trail (Federal)	
Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hiking route</li> </ul>	
Bradford Dickinson White Nature Preserve, 45 acres	
Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trails</li> </ul>	
LOWELL TOWNSHIP RECREATION PROGRAMS	
Source: Lowell Charter Township Website	
Township	Third Party
None	None

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP RECREATION FACILITIES	
Source: Vergennes Township Master Plan, Updated April 9, 2018 & Internet Research	
<b>Wege Foundation Natural Area, 80 acres</b>	
Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wittenbach Agri Science Center</li> <li>• Hiking Trails</li> <li>• Cross Country Skiing</li> <li>• Parking</li> </ul>	
<b>Lowell High School, 98 acres</b>	
Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 Tennis Courts</li> <li>• 2 Soccer Fields</li> <li>• Baseball Diamond</li> <li>• Softball Diamond</li> <li>• Lowell Area Trailway</li> <li>• Football Field</li> <li>• Track &amp; Field</li> </ul>	
<b>Fallasburg Park</b>	
Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seven (7) group picnic areas</li> <li>• One open shelter</li> <li>• Historic enclosed shelter house with restrooms</li> <li>• Two (2) baseball diamonds</li> <li>• North Country Trail</li> <li>• Trail network</li> <li>• Covered bridge</li> <li>• Three (3) playgrounds</li> <li>• 18-hole disc golf course</li> <li>• Horseshoe pits</li> </ul>	
<b>North Country Trail (Federal)</b>	
Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hiking route</li> </ul>	

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP RECREATION PROGRAMS	
Source: Vergennes Township Master Plan, Updated April 9, 2018 & Internet Research	
Township	Third Party
None	None



## CANNON TOWNSHIP RECREATION FACILITIES

Source: Cannon Township Recreation Plan 2016-2021

### Township Center Park, 40.34 acres

Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tot Playground</li> <li>• Picnic Shelter</li> <li>• Parking</li> <li>• Paved Nature Trail</li> <li>• Open Play Area</li> <li>• Mountain Bike Trail</li> </ul>	

### Bostwick Lake Park, 0.1 acres

Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Swimming Area</li> <li>• Picnic Tables</li> <li>• Benches</li> <li>• Porta Jon</li> <li>• Parking</li> </ul>	

### Silver Lake Access, 0.04 acres

Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-motorized Boat Launch</li> <li>• Parking</li> </ul>	

### Non-Motorized Trails

Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5.25 miles of trails</li> </ul>	

### Townsend Park, 140 acres (Kent County)

Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 Playgrounds</li> <li>• 2 Ballfields</li> <li>• 2 Restrooms</li> <li>• Enclosed Picnic Shelter</li> <li>• Picnic Shelter</li> <li>• Picnic Areas</li> <li>• Grills</li> <li>• Natural Trails</li> <li>• Cross-country Skiing</li> </ul>	

### \*Cannonsburg Ski Area, 270 acres

Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Downhill skiing</li> <li>• Tubing</li> <li>• Convention Amenities</li> <li>• Softball Fields</li> <li>• Mountain Biking</li> <li>• Zipline</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grand Rapids Symphony summer concerts</li> <li>• Sanctioned Mountain Bike Races</li> </ul>

## CANNON TOWNSHIP RECREATION FACILITIES (CONTINUED)

### Camp Roger, 285 acres

Amenities	Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Event Facility</li> <li>• Lodge</li> <li>• Cabins</li> <li>• Beach</li> <li>• Dock</li> <li>• Chapel Grove</li> <li>• Hiking Trails</li> <li>• Gazebo</li> <li>• Picnic tables</li> <li>• Activity/Game Sandpit</li> <li>• Volleyball Court</li> <li>• Amphitheatre</li> <li>• Fire Ring</li> <li>• Treehouse</li> <li>• Central Area Gathering Space</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summer Camp</li> <li>• Outdoor Education</li> <li>• Retreats &amp; Rentals</li> </ul>

## CANNON TOWNSHIP RECREATION PROGRAMS

Source: Cannon Township Recreation Plan 2016-2021

Township	Third Party
None (no recreation department)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SCOR Soccer</li> <li>• AYSO Soccer</li> <li>• Rocket Football/78ers</li> <li>• Rockford Little League</li> <li>• Rockford Hockey Association</li> <li>• Riptide Swimming Club</li> <li>• Wolverine Little League</li> <li>• Rockford Boys Lacrosse Club</li> <li>• Rockford Girls Lacrosse Club</li> </ul>



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**ADA TOWNSHIP RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT  
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT  
Prepared by MainStreet Planning Company  
September 13, 2018**

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The Ada Township Recreation Needs Assessment included three primary forms of stakeholder engagement. These were: an online tool called Community Remarks®; a Leadership Workshop Café; and a self-guided input method called Workshop in a Box.

***Community Remarks® On-line Tool***

Community Remarks® was launched on July 3, 2018, and was active through July 22, 2018. The tool interfaced with Google Maps, and participants were able to place comments within six topics on specific locations, and were able to leave general comments as well. Topics included:

- Existing Parks and Facilities
- Parks, Playgrounds, and Recreation Facilities-new locations and ideas
- Trails-new locations and connections
- Proposed Green space-large and small locations
- Headley Street Property
- Recreational Facilities Used Outside of Ada Township

A total of **350** comments were posted on the site; this number represents the original comments as well as the “likes” and “dislikes” that were posted on any individual comment. No comments were posted for the topic “Recreational Facilities Used Outside of Ada Township.”

Included in the results of Community Remarks® is a document named *Community Remarks® Complete List of Comments*. The purpose of this document is to include an interactive web-based ID which links any comment to its location within Ada Township. When clicking on the link, the user is brought directly to a location on Google Maps where the original pin was dropped when the participant made a comment.

Detailed information regarding the topics and results are found in the Community Remarks® On-line Survey Summary.

***Leadership Workshop Café***

A Leadership Workshop Café was held on August 22, 2018. Approximately **35** community leaders participated in this event, which was by invitation only. Representation included persons from Ada Township Board of Trustees; Ada Township Planning Commission; Ada Township Parks, Recreation, and Land Preservation Advisory Board; the Ada Downtown Development Area Board and Citizens Council; Amway Corporation; Ada Business Association; Forest Hills Public Schools Community Services; DMC Design; Michigan Department of Natural Resources-Wildlife Division; Lowell Arts; Dixen Architecture;



Kent County Parks Department; Ada Historical Society; Ada Township Parks and Recreation staff; and youth representation from Forest Hills Public Schools.

The Leadership Workshop Café participants were asked to provide comments on eight topics relating to parks and recreation programs and amenities in Ada Township; recreational facilities used outside the Township; and on roadblocks or problems in providing recreation or access to recreation in Ada Township.

Results of the Leadership Workshop Café by topic, along with primary recommendations that emerged from each topic, are included in the Ada Township Recreation Needs Assessment Leadership Workshop Café Results and Primary Recommendations.

### ***Workshop in a Box***

The Workshop in a Box self-guided input method was complete by three civic groups: The Ada Rotary, the Adacraft Commons Association, and the O.W.L.S group (Older Wiser Lively Seniors) from St. Robert of Newminster Church. These three groups represented a cross-section of the population of Ada Township, including persons with business interests, a homeowners' association, and a senior group associated with a religious institution. A total **31** of persons were involved in the Workshop in a Box method.

Information sought from the participants of Workshop in a Box was similar to that sought from participants of the Leadership Workshop Café. Results obtained from the three groups was extensive; grouping of common ideas within groups was not practical, except in the case of information gathered for the Headley Street Property. However, the results from all three groups were combined, and this shows the common themes and ideas that emerged from the three groups when taken together as a whole.

The complete results of the Workshop in a Box method are included in the Ada Township Recreation Needs Assessment Workshop in a Box Results.

### ***Common Themes***

Input gained from the stakeholder engagement methods covers a broad range; to attempt to combine all the data from the three methods of input may result in a diminishing of the results; rather, Ada Township is encouraged to examine the results of each input method and to use the data to inform future decisions regarding parks, recreation facilities and amenities, and recreation programming.

Certainly, common themes are evident in the results of the stakeholder input, and in general some of these themes include (but are not limited to) the following:

- High value for water access and development of water trails
- High value for land-based trails, including bike paths, and a desire to expand and improve the system
- A strong desire for water access in the form of a splash pad or pool
- A desire for programs for all age groups and blended age groups
- High value for organized fitness programs and opportunities
- A desire for more green space, both large and small
- Continued discussion on use of the Headley Street Property is indicated



- A recognition that some activities that are used outside the Township will continue to be used
- A fairly strong desire for a location for ice skating

Additionally, unique ideas were presented that may have been mentioned less often, but could be considered by Ada Township if a champion for that ideas emerges, or staff becomes available; one example is to provide a rink for Bicycle Polo; another is to offer a competition similar to Ninja Warrior.

**ADA TOWNSHIP RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

**COMMUNITY REMARKS©  
RESULTS**

***Prepared by MainStreet Planning Company  
September 13, 2018***



# COMMUNITY REMARKS® ON-LINE SURVEY

## SUMMARY

*Prepared by MainStreet Planning Company  
September 13, 2018*

An important component of the Ada Township Recreational Needs Assessment was the Community Remarks® interactive on-line survey. The on-line survey format allowed participants to post comments on a map of the Township under certain topic areas. Others taking the survey could post their comments in response thus creating the opportunity for an on-line conversation with each other.

The Community Remarks® survey was available for use on the Township website from July 3<sup>rd</sup> through July 22<sup>nd</sup> of 2018. A total of 350 comments were posted which included the original comment plus the “like” and “dislike” responses. The topics, as they appeared on the survey, are:

### Existing Parks Facilities

### Parks, Playgrounds, and Recreation Facilities

New locations/ideas

### Trails

New locations, connections

### Proposed Green Space

Large and small locations

### Headley Street Property

One more topic was presented on the survey called “Recreational facilities used outside of Ada Township”. No responses were received for this topic, however.

The following pages contain a summary of the most frequent comments that were posted under each topic category. In summarizing the comments, efforts were made to group them by sub-topic according to their similarity to each other. For instance, in the category Trails, one sub-topic became “Trail connections to parks” as several respondents stated a need to construct trails to access several Township parks.

The summary includes the number of votes a particular comment received from others taking the survey which allows a reader to quickly determine those ideas that rose to the top.

Not all comments were easily grouped and many comments did not receive any votes. Other comments received did not pertain to the topic or were too vague to be grouped. A complete list of comments posted is found in the document entitled *Community Remarks® Complete List of Comments*.

## **COMMUNITY REMARKS® RESULTS**

### **EXISTING PARKS & FACILITIES**

#### **Most Frequent Comments**

	<u>Votes:</u>	<u>Like</u>	<u>Dislike</u>
<b>1. Roselle Park Improvements:</b>			
▪ Add a Disc Golf Course	6		1
▪ Wedding Chapel	1		
<b>2. Splash pad needed:</b>			
▪ Settlers Grove Park	13		2
▪ Leonard Field	2		1
▪ Downtown Ada	1		
▪ Ada Park	5		
<b>3. Kayak launch needed:</b>			
▪ Leonard Field	2		1
▪ Chief Hazy Cloud Park	2		
▪ DNR launch Fulton Street	2		
<b>4. Dog park needed:</b>			
▪ Settlers Grove Park	7		
<b>5. Bike path needed:</b>			
▪ Pettis Avenue to connect to Forest Hill Eastern High School	3		
▪ Continue to link Honey Creek Avenue to Cannon Twp. paths	4		
<b>6. Community garden needed:</b>			
▪ Settlers Grove Park	2		
▪ Headley Street Property	2		
<b>7. Beers at the Bridge</b>			
▪ Love it!	5		
<b>8. Keep the Headley Street property green; add more trees</b>	3		

The remaining responses for this topic were single comments that did not receive a response and are not reflected in the above summary. Other comments pertained to maintenance or non-recreation matters. A complete list of comments posted is found in the document entitled *Community Remarks® Complete List of Comments*.

## COMMUNITY REMARKS® RESULTS

### PARKS, PLAYGROUNDS & RECREATION FACILITIES

#### NEW LOCATIONS & IDEAS

##### Most Frequent Comments

	<u>Votes:</u>	<u>Like</u>	<u>Dislike</u>
<b>1. <i>Splash pad needed:</i></b>			
▪ A specific location for the splash pad was not provided with the original comment which noted that a splash pad would draw people to the stores and restaurants. Although the original comment pin was dropped north of the River along Bailey Street, 14 other people posted “likes.” It is assumed the originator of the comment meant the location to be in downtown Ada and not on Bailey Street.	15		1
▪ Settlers Grove Park	14		
▪ Ada Park	8		1
▪ Downtown Ada	2		
<b>2. <i>Disc golf course needed:</i></b>			
▪ Ada Park	5		1
<b>3. <i>Invasive species removal</i></b>			
▪ Seidman Park	3		
<b>4. <i>Amphitheater needed:</i></b>			
▪ Settlers Grove Park	2		

The remaining responses for this topic were single comments that did not receive a response and are not reflected in the above summary. Other comments pertained to maintenance issues or non -recreation matters. A complete list of comments posted is found in the document entitled *Community Remarks® Complete List of Comments*.

## COMMUNITY REMARKS® RESULTS

### TRAILS

#### NEW LOCATIONS & CONNECTIONS

##### Most Frequent Comments

	Votes:	Like	Dislike
1. <i>Trails within the village or leading to the downtown needed:</i>			
▪ Along Rix Street	42		2
▪ Thornapple Drive/ Fase Street intersection	9		
▪ Ada Drive through the downtown	18		
▪ Buttrick Avenue from Thornapple River Drive to Grand River Drive	5		
▪ Provide a crossing over the railroad tracks to connect Rix and Bronson	6		
2. <i>Trails from nearby neighborhoods north of Fulton to downtown Ada needed:</i>			
▪ Longleaf Subdivision to downtown	3		
▪ Vergennes Street to downtown	4		
3. <i>Trails in rural portions of Township needed:</i>			
▪ McCabe Avenue between 2 Mile Road and Conservation Street	6		
4. <i>Trail connections to parks needed:</i>			
▪ Chief Hazy Cloud Park	7		
▪ Honey Creek Avenue from Pettis to Seidman Park	6		
5. Provide a trail within the railroad right of way between Ada and Lowell and over the Thornapple River to provide a safer crossing over Thornapple River Drive and Fase Street into downtown Ada:	7		
6. Provide a pedestrian bridge over Fulton Street to connect the downtown to Amway:	7		

The remaining responses for this topic were single comments that did not receive a response and are not reflected in the above summary. Other comments pertained to trail maintenance issues or traffic and pedestrian safety issues. A complete list of comments posted is found in the document entitled *Community Remarks® Complete List of Comments*.

**COMMUNITY REMARKS® RESULTS**

**PROPOSED GREEN SPACE**

***LARGE & SMALL LOCATIONS***

**Most Frequent Comments**

	<u>Votes:</u>	<u>Like</u>	<u>Dislike</u>
1. Retain the green space between the Post Office and the State Farm Insurance office building:		4	
2. Keep the Headley Street Property green:		2	

A complete list of comments posted is found in the document entitled *Community Remarks® Complete List of Comments*.

## **COMMUNITY REMARKS® RESULTS**

### **HEADLEY STREET PROPERTY**

#### **Most Frequent Comments**

Votes: Like Dislike

1. This would be a terrific place for a splash pad as part of a larger park due to its library proximity. Maybe a well-maintained community garden where township residents could rent plots annually. Plant a variety of trees throughout the property to provide natural shade while still allowing kids to run around and play: 2

**NOTE:** This category received only the above comment. However, the Headley Street property received the following comments in several other categories:

2. Use as a community garden 2
3. Keep this area green 4
4. Provide more trees in this space. 3

A complete list of comments posted is found in the document entitled *Community Remarks® Complete List of Comments*.





# Ada Township Recreation Needs Assessment

Commenting is now closed.

Filter Map Comments

Map Layers

☐ Township Boundary

☒ Trails

☒ North County Trail

☐ Private Recreation Facilities

☒ Public Recreation Facilities

REMOVE ALL LAYERS

Comments

Existing Parks Facilities

Parks, Playgrounds, and Recreation Facilities

New locations/ideas

Trails

New locations, connections

Proposed Green Space

Large and small locations

Noelle Divozzo

4

2 months ago



ADA TOWNSHIP

Ada Township Recreation Needs Assessment

Commenting is now closed. Thank you for participating.

Existing Parks Facilities

ID	Name	Email	Votes	Dislikes	Description
<a href="#">56</a>	Anonymous		11		Install a "Hidden Drive" and/or "Slow Down" and/or "Speed Limit 15 mph" sign/s on Ada Dr just west of Bronson St at the Train Bridge because Rix St is hidden to westbound traffic travelling along Ada Dr and traffic turning off Rix St onto Ada Dr cannot see oncoming westbound traffic. Several accidents and many near misses have already occurred at this intersection and increased traffic will only increase the risk of more accidents if this is not addressed.
<a href="#">73</a>	Kristen Bennett	kristen.schlaff@gmail.com	6		Would love to see a dog park in Ada! Perhaps one with access to the River as well.
<a href="#">104</a>	Anonymous		6		A splash pad in the new settler grove park near the playground or maybe one on the headly street property would be a great addition for kids
<a href="#">44</a>	Anonymous		5	1	Install a kids Splashpad! See the revised Aberdeen park in Grand Rapids area for inspiration.
<a href="#">42</a>	Anonymous		4	1	Install a splash pad! See The revised Aberdeen park in Grand Rapids for inspiration.
<a href="#">38</a>	Robert		3	1	Could the township add a disc golf course at Roselle Park? Or somewhere else in the township?
<a href="#">43</a>	Anonymous		3		I am a KCCL Neighbor and have noted that they"fire" sometimes outside of their days / hours. Also, I have noted that some of the shots have gotten increasingly louder. Anything that can be done to "tone down" the noise pollution would be very much appreciated by the neighbors.
<a href="#">79</a>	Anonymous		3		continue to link Honey creek Rd with Cannon Twp bike paths.
<a href="#">41</a>	Anonymous		2		Make the lookout at the top of the silo accessible not locked all the time.
<a href="#">72</a>	Kristen Bennett	kristen.schlaff@gmail.com	2		Love Beers at the Bridge at Leonard park! We would love to see a fall event like this as well!
<a href="#">87</a>	Anonymous	sguitar721@gmail.com	2		Please keep this space green, however, please forest this property with a variety of trees to beautify the area. A heavily wooded area would beautify Headly/Fulton and screen Amway.
<a href="#">61</a>	Anonymous		1	1	Would love to see to see something besides a baseball/softball field at Leonard Field. It's a nice public gathering place for special events like Beers on the Bridge but the fence and dirt infield limit its use for other activities. This could be a good location for a kayak launch or splash pad although parking is limited.
<a href="#">110</a>	Anonymous		1	1	would like to see a trash barrel located at the boat launch site.
<a href="#">40</a>	Anonymous		1		A lovely, underutilized roadside park. A kayak/boat launch/fishing pier would be appreciated. A visible boardwalk w/launch would encourage boaters to put in here for trips to the Knapp bridge launch and beyond. The Ada launch is quite isolated behind Amway.
<a href="#">37</a>	Anonymous		1		Gorgeous resource building! And a huge fan of the silo climbing wall!
<a href="#">35</a>	Anonymous	khallgren@rjm-design.com	1		Love Beers at the Bridge!
<a href="#">47</a>	Anonymous		1		The nature trail adjacent to the school has not been well maintained. Overgrown. Expansion of it around the school property would be great.
<a href="#">48</a>	Anonymous		1		Please improve the fishing pond maintenance/stocking of fish, bridge repair. We sould spend a lot more time there if it was improved.
<a href="#">60</a>	Anonymous		1		Nice to keep this as green space or a public gathering venue for special events
<a href="#">65</a>	Margaret Idema	marg609@mail.com	1		I see the DNR boat ramp on the map...since I am a new kayak owner, I would like to see maps available for all the boat ramps. I have a map from the internet but it's hard to read. I'd like one that be easily read with distances, amenities where ramps exist, et.
<a href="#">67</a>	Anonymous		1		Open road north within park. Trim trees to enable fish casting from shore, Add a dock or 2 for fishing. Add a few picnic tables. Open restroom and service.
<a href="#">71</a>	Anonymous		1		Lack of non-motorized trail along Pettis severely limits access into Ada Village, especially from the High School. This section of road is especially dangerous with narrow shoulders and guardrails making

					it dicey for even pedestrians.
<a href="#">74</a>	Kristen Bennett	kristen.schlaff@gmail.com	1		Is there opportunity for a community vegetable garden? Perhaps this engages the school system by education young kids on the process of growing and eating healthy foods. It could also call on volunteers in the community to help with maintenance and planting. Community members could sign up purchase crops at a low price, which would help pay for the maintenance.
<a href="#">93</a>	Jenny Vell		1		Plans to add more areas for kayaks to enter the water systems would be greatly appreciated!
<a href="#">100</a>	Fiona Hert	fiona@olypen.com	1		Could doggie waste bags be installed and garbage cans?
<a href="#">114</a>	Anonymous		1		trail basically runs on the shoulder of the road. very poor design. not safe, particularly when there is trail traffic in both directions
<a href="#">115</a>	John		1		Roselle Park would be a great spot for a Disc Golf course. Disc Golf is an inexpensive outdoor recreational activity that can be played by all ages and by all socioeconomic levels.
<a href="#">117</a>	Warren		1		Would like to see an"accessible" kayak launch, like the one in Lowell.
<a href="#">119</a>	Anonymous	Stephaniejmathis@gmail.com	1		The speed limit on Ada drive needs to be 35mph instead of 45mph. People drive way too fast and with the addition of another school on that street, traffic will be increasing.
<a href="#">130</a>	Anonymous		1		Would love to see a splash pad somewhere in downtown ada!
<a href="#">70</a>	Anonymous		1		Ada Township needs more shooting ranges that are open during normal hours when people use them. This very short sighted policy just forces more people to target shoot at their homes (which is 100% legal anywhere in the state if not hunting) Remove restrictions on KCCL operating hours and the noise complaints would drop as most of the complainers are actually hearing private property shooting scattered all over the township and concentrate it back in one central location better equipped to facilitate it.
<a href="#">36</a>	Anonymous				Nice waterfront views, but not much else going on in this park.
<a href="#">59</a>	Anonymous				Stoney Lake in Lowell is a nice place to swim with the family. No motorized boats.
<a href="#">66</a>	Holly Cook	hollybergaz@yahoo.com			We love Seidman Park just as it is, please don't change anything.
<a href="#">75</a>	Anonymous				Downtown Ada needs a coffee shop/work cafe that supports local business persons. A place that offers that connections to down town, daylight access, power access and a variety of comfortable seating options and a simple breakfast & lunch menu. Jam N'Bean does none of these things. Such a missed opportunity.
<a href="#">78</a>	Anonymous				Maybe this is a good place for a community garden? It would be close to the future Community Center/Library.
<a href="#">85</a>	Anonymous	jgvahal@gmail.com			We love the expanded parking lot and the playground/climbing area!
<a href="#">94</a>	Anonymous				The parking and signage for the walking path along the Grand River needs to be improved. It is lovely walk, but I never know where to park.
<a href="#">95</a>	Anonymous				I love the Peace Park. Signage is very clear and the trails are great.
<a href="#">116</a>	John				Where does one park to explore Carl Creek Preserve?
<a href="#">118</a>	Warren				I'd love to see a "Town Square" somewhere near the center of Ada. A place for people to gather, perhaps with a fountain, public art, seating, etc. Could be situated along Ada Dr. between the new development east of Headley and the existing shops, etc. to the west, to tie together the old and new. (Get rid of the service station!!)
<a href="#">126</a>	Anonymous				I think a wedding chapel at Roselle Park would be a good addition.
<a href="#">127</a>	Anonymous				A bike path along Pettis is needed. Students and families cannot commute to FHS on bike or foot safely. Many families would prefer to walk or bike rather than drive to crowded events such as sporting events, musicals/concerts. Also, fans are parked along Pettis or 2 mile Rd during crowded sporting events and walking to the school. There are no street lights on Pettis and it dangerous for pedestrians to be parked alongside Pettis.
<a href="#">131</a>	Anonymous				We live very close to the KCCL and there are nights that people are shooting as late as 10:30pm. It's frustrating as a parent to be putting kids to sleep hearing the not-so-soothing sounds of gunshot that late at night. I also wish there was more consistency with hours overall so we could know when to expect a truly quiet time!
<a href="#">134</a>	Janet Sparks	janargos@comcast.net			I enjoy Roselle several days each week. This year, the "off-path" grassy paths are not being mowed as in the past. I'm a senior and I like to be able to see where I am stepping! Also, it would be nice to have a dog poop disposal can by the new parking lot.
<a href="#">136</a>	Ryan Formsma	rformsma@erhardtcc.com			I think there needs to be more maintenance to the bike/ped path. Often times there is debris from storms or just in general overgrowth on the paths. A few years ago they passed a millage to increase the parks and rec budget to address this but I really don't see any improvement/changes to the paths.

Headley Street Properties

ID	Name	Email	Votes	Dislikes	loc_desc
<a href="#">103</a>	Anonymous		1		This would be a terrific place for a splash pad as part of a larger park due to it's library proximity. Maybe a well-maintained community garden where township residents could rent plots annually. Plant a variety of trees throughout the property to provide natural shade while still allowing kids to run around and play.

Parks, Playgrounds, and Recreation Facilities

ID	Name	Email	Votes	Dislikes	Description	Features
<a href="#">39</a>	Anonymous		14	1	A Splash pad for kids would draw in a lot of people from surrounding areas. They would then more likely browse all the new stores and eat at some of our great restaurants!	
<a href="#">105</a>	Lucas Andrusiak	lucas.andrusiak@gmail.com	11		I am suggesting to install a splash pad near the river/community center. I think it would complement the plans for the canoe/kayak rental attraction. This way, the canoe/kayak can attract families with older children while the splash pad can attract those families who have younger children. Additionally, I believe this would be a nice way to cool off after a hot canoe/kayak trip.	
<a href="#">88</a>	Hans Whitmer	convertcorner@yahoo.com	7		Seeing the large cement slabs recently laid down at Ada Park made my wife and I think how great it would be to have a splash pad at the park. Has this idea ever been considered?	
<a href="#">132</a>	Anonymous	Travisspaman@gmail.com	5		We need a stop light at Rix and Adaway. When turning from Rix to adaway, you can see oncoming traffic from downtown Ada and they are going much faster than the speed limit.	
<a href="#">58</a>	Anonymous		4	1	We would like to see a disc golf course in Ada Township.	Disc Golf
<a href="#">112</a>	Anonymous	kendra.tabor@gmail.com	2		I would like to see more ways to get involved with invasive species removal. The oriental bittersweet and multiflora rose at Siedman Park is getting really bad.	
<a href="#">102</a>	Anonymous		1		Amphitheater	Provide an outdoor venue for music concerts or festivals such as Jazz.
<a href="#">124</a>	Anonymous		1		A space similar to Rosa Parks Circle in downtown Ada would be fantastic and would bring the community together. A splash pad that could double as an outdoor ice skating rink would be amazing!!!	
<a href="#">68</a>	Mitchell DeJong	mitchpdejong@gmail.com		1	I'd love to see a skate park. Young people that don't do organized sports like to do this activity.	It would be great to see a skate park as my friends and I participate in this sport.
<a href="#">84</a>	Anonymous	jgvanhal@gmail.com			Ada park has a lovely nature program for 3-5 year olds during the school year and some great camps during the summer. We would love to see some programming for school age kids during the school year in the evening or on the weekends. Programs that the entire family could enjoy together would be nice, as well.	
<a href="#">123</a>	Anonymous				A space similar to Rosa Parks Circle in downtown Ada would be fantastic and would bring the community together. A splash pad that could double as an outdoor ice skating rink would be amazing!!!	
<a href="#">125</a>	Anonymous			1	A space similar to Rosa Parks Circle in downtown Ada would be fantastic and would bring the community together. A splash pad that could double as an outdoor ice skating rink would be amazing!!!	
<a href="#">133</a>	Rikki				I'd love to have a dog park in the area. They are a nice way for people to get to know other members of their community as well as provide beneficial social interactions between dogs.  <a href="http://srpplayground.com/benefits-of-dog-parks-in-communities">http://srpplayground.com/benefits-of-dog-parks-in-communities</a>	Dog Park



Proposed Green Space

ID	Name	Email	Votes	Dislikes	Description
<a href="#">91</a>	Noelle Divozzo	ndivozzo@gmail.com	4		It would be wonderful to see this current green space between the post office and the State Farm building remain green rather than sold for office/retail as it's currently zoned. We don't need more businesses and it would help replace all the green space lost in the past 2 years including across the street from this site at the historical museum.
<a href="#">81</a>	Anonymous		1		Keep green space open please
<a href="#">121</a>	Michelle K.	michelle.eliza4@gmail.com			Safe crossing space for everyone.

Trails

ID	Name	Email	Votes	Dislikes	Description
<a href="#">50</a>	Steve Tanyko	steve.tanyko@wwwinc.com	32		My wife and I live off Adaside and enjoy walking our dog to Downtown Ada for events like Beers on the Bridge. Since there is no path, we end up walking along the street. Too many times over the two and a half years we've lived in our house have we seen cars going way to fast along Rix. Since we're on the street, it's dangerous. We'd really like to see a trail or sidewalk that connects downtown with the neighborhood. Without a path, we're concerned someone is going to get by a car one day.
<a href="#">63</a>	Ryan Falk		17		A bike line or connector of some kind for the non-motorized trail through the village on Ada Drive by the shopping and dining core would be a great way to increase traffic to the brewery, shops, etc.
<a href="#">83</a>	Anonymous	jgvanhal@gmail.com	8		Install convex mirrors so that traffic coming from Rix and the new housing development across the street can see cars coming from the downtown area. This intersection is very dangerous, particularly when it is icy and difficult to brake at the bottom of the hill.
<a href="#">62</a>	Anonymous		6		I would like to see a footbridge over Fulton to safely connect the two sides of the non-motorized trail.
<a href="#">90</a>	Anonymous		5		I would like to see a crossing over the tracks connecting Rix and Bronson. There is a path there now but you need to maneuver through weeds and railroad tracks. It would be nice to connect the Adatowne neighborhood with west side of Ada.
<a href="#">113</a>	Anonymous		5		I would love to see a walking path put in along Rix. This street is so dangerous for walkers and bikers.
<a href="#">45</a>	Anonymous		4		It would be great to complete the path along Buttrick from Grand River to Thornapple River and to fill in existing cracks and uneven surfaces on the path. My stroller completely flipped the other day when the front wheel hit one of the uneven surfaces on the path by the Ada Park ball fields!
<a href="#">77</a>	Kevin McAndrew	kpm1111@sbcglobal.net	4		Rails to Trails - what is the possibility of converting the rail line that runs from Ada to Lowell into a trail? Is the 'on demand' train service into Lowell critical for the businesses which utilize the service (which I would absolutely understand if it were) or is it a convenient form of transportation. This could also solve the issue of crossing Thornapple River Dr. at Fase St. (Georgie's - Leonard Field).
<a href="#">49</a>	Dan Hubers	dan.hubers@gmail.com	3		A path along Honey Creek Ave (connecting downtown to Seidman park) would be amazing. Honey Creek is pretty dangerous to walk / bike on with the hills and relatively narrow shoulder.
<a href="#">55</a>	Gordon Sible	grsible@gmail.com	3		The bike path needs to be extended along McCabe between Conservation and 2 Mile. This would significantly increase the access to the bike for approximately 80 homes, as well as reduce the likelihood of car/bike/pedestrian incidents.
<a href="#">76</a>	Anonymous		3		Please continue trail system to include Chief Hazy Cloud park
<a href="#">101</a>	Anonymous		3		A trail along vergennes to provide safer access to downtown ada for cyclists and potential walkers. Currently the road has no walking access and is extremely dangerous. It is disconnected with the ADA trail network access. This could also provide a connection between Lowell trails and increasing accessibility to Ada for other communities.
<a href="#">120</a>	Michelle K.	michelle.eliza4@gmail.com	3		Adding a sidewalk/trail into Ada to safely come from neighborhoods nearby
<a href="#">57</a>	Michael D Veldstra	michaeldavidveldstra@gmail.com	2		Please connect chief hazy cloud to trail system

<a href="#">69</a>	Anonymous		2		Trim low tree branches and shrub growth that conflict with bikers and walkers
<a href="#">86</a>	Anonymous	sguitar721@gmail.com	2		I would like to see the foot trail segment of the Grand River Trail paved. I would like to see it connected to the Ada Moorings trail or connected to Fase Street. I would like to see it also connected via bridge over the Thornapple River into downtown and the new riverside park.
<a href="#">92</a>	Anonymous		2		We love the bike trails and use them almost everyday but they really need some significant maintenance/repair. Many sections are in bad shape and present safety hazards to walkers, runner and bikers.
<a href="#">96</a>	Anonymous	Mambajahamba@gmail.com	2		Many small children and walkers in this area and the cars (Ada Vista and Ada woods people cutting through) come down this hill or around this corner ENTIRELY too fast, something needs to be done (speed bumps, stop sign, police enforcement).
<a href="#">97</a>	Trini Nichols	ada369@comcast.net	2		I live off Rix and the constant speeding up and down Rix is dangerous to all pedestrian, biking, dog-walking, etc., traffic. Controls need to be put in place before there's a fatal accident.
<a href="#">122</a>	Anonymous		2		A trail/sidewalk/footbridge connecting this side of town to Fase street would be nice so pedestrians don't need to cross the very dangerous spot at Thornapple River Drive at ball park and Fase street.
<a href="#">128</a>	Dawn Bebout	dhbebout@mac.com	2		A safer, better way to cross Thornapple River Rd from Fase Street is desperately needed. Please do not wait for a tragedy to occur before making a change. I live in Ada Moorings (along with 230+ other homeowners) and we love being able to walk and ride our bikes in to the Village but the intersection of Thornapple and Fase could and should be safer - all of the crosswalks in Ada Village could and should be safer.
<a href="#">129</a>	Anonymous		2		Would love to see a bridge from fase street to the downtown to avoid having to cross thorn apple.
<a href="#">51</a>	Gordon Sible	grsible@gmail.com	1		The bike path needs to be extended along McCabe between Conservation and 2 Mile. This would significantly increase the access to the bike for approximately 80 homes, as well as reduce the likelihood of car/bike/pedestrian incidents.
<a href="#">53</a>	Gordon Sible	grsible@gmail.com	1		The bike path needs to be extended along McCabe between Conservation and 2 Mile. This would significantly increase the access to the bike for approximately 80 homes, as well as reduce the likelihood of car/bike/pedestrian incidents.
<a href="#">80</a>	Paul Bonis	pbonis@gmail.com	1		A walkway/bike path from the Longleaf development into our beautiful new Ada downtown.
<a href="#">82</a>	Hanna Demerath	hannademerath@gmail.com	1		As a resident that lives on Spaulding AVE near Ada DR. I believe a sidewalk that runs down Spaulding Ave would be a great addition not only for safety but for access to the trail system that runs down Ada DR. Spaulding AVE is such a busy road especially near Ada DR. On top of that the speed limit is 45mph. I often see bikers and walkers passing by that have to use the shoulder or even the grass along the road, right alongside traffic that's speeding up or already going 45mph. Most of these travelers are trying to access the Ada Drive trail. I know that there is a road widening plan coming very soon, which will help with car congestion but a sidewalk would improve the safe for everyone.
<a href="#">98</a>	Anonymous		1		It would be wonderful to have a pedestrian bridge over Grand River. I see it's in the master plan but when will it happen?
<a href="#">106</a>	Sue Bakkila	Sue@bakkila.me	1		Long term plan with Kent County needs to address the lack of connection between trails on east and west side of the river. The Knapp bridge is a safety hazard for bikers and about impossible for a pedestrian. No family in their right mind would attempt crossing that bridge where people regularly drive 60 MPH. Students can't commute to Eastern or even Knapp Forest safely. No loop from Ada because if this missing trail segment. Pettis also needs dedicated bike lanes when next resurfaced.
<a href="#">111</a>	Anonymous	kendra.tabor@gmail.com	1		I would really love to see a non-motorized trail on Honey Creek from Conservation (Siedman Park) to Pettis.
<a href="#">46</a>	Anonymous			1	Expansion of trails to include more visible riverside access would be nice.
<a href="#">52</a>	Gordon Sible	grsible@gmail.com			The bike path needs to be extended along McCabe between Conservation and 2 Mile. This would significantly increase the access to the bike for approximately 80 homes, as well as reduce the likelihood of car/bike/pedestrian incidents.
<a href="#">64</a>	Anonymous				Trail extension on 28th Street east of Buttrick would allow a large population to access the Cascade trail system.
<a href="#">89</a>	Michelle Fox	mlynnfox@comcast.net			We are requesting a walk-way be built from Longleaf neighborhood into downtown Ada. We used to live in Longleaf - and are currently building a new home back in the Longleaf neighborhood -- and have a child in a wheelchair -- so, the path would make life much easier to go for walks and bike rides. Please consider this request from so many neighbors and work to make this a plan. Much appreciated!!
<a href="#">99</a>	Fiona Hert	fiona@olypen.com			At this intersection of the trail, outside of Amway, and across the street from Ada Drive, Amway employees smoke and leave their cigarette butts. Can an ashtray be installed that is impervious to weather and reduces the unsightliness of the cigarette butts?
<a href="#">107</a>	Sue Bakkila	Sue@bakkila.me			Long term plan with Kent County needs to address the lack of connection between trails on east and west side of the river. The Knapp bridge is a safety hazard for bikers and about impossible for a pedestrian. No family in their right mind would attempt crossing that bridge where people regularly drive 60 MPH. Students can't commute to Eastern or even Knapp Forest safely. No loop from Ada because if this missing trail segment. Pettis also needs dedicated bike lanes when next resurfaced.



<a href="#">108</a>	Sue Bakkila	Sue@bakkila.me			Four way stop needed at this intersection as well as traffic calming. Pedestrians cannot safely cross here anymore and difficult for drivers to see west up the road with cars parked at hardware, Nona's, etc. traffic calming needed on that whole stretch. Ada is friendly to cars, not necessarily people.
<a href="#">135</a>	Anonymous	goodknight2u@comcast.net			trail with access to river shore line for fishing .

**ADA TOWNSHIP RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT  
LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP CAFÉ  
RESULTS AND PRIMARY RECOMMENDATIONS**

*Prepared by MainStreet Planning Company  
September 13, 2018*

## Recreation Programming – What Do We Need?

List programs you use in Ada Township that could be expanded or improved and how.

	<u>Agree</u>
<b>1. Ice Skating Rink</b>	<b>10</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Find a permanent location for a rink, maybe Leonard Field</li> <li>Already existing concrete pad</li> <li>Offer skate rentals on site</li> <li>Skating and/or broom ball leagues at Leonard Field on the ice</li> </ul>	9
<b>2. Beers on the Bridge, Brats, and Bonfires</b>	<b>10</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage more volunteers</li> <li>Proper policing</li> <li>A larger space</li> </ul>	
<b>3. Family Programs</b>	<b>7</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More youth, family, and adult programming (nature hikes, wildflower walks, night hikes)</li> <li>Photo treasure hunt</li> <li>Geocaching</li> <li>Fountain where kids can play (Leslie Tassel)</li> </ul>	1 6 1
<b>4. Organized Fitness Programs: Cross country skiing, tennis, pickle ball, yoga, bike meet-ups and other leagues.</b>	<b>7</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consistent fitness program schedule at the park</li> <li>Events should be for children and adults</li> <li>Make park available for repeat programs that are free, such as yoga</li> <li>Instruction in pickle ball and tennis</li> <li>Incentive for riding or running all the trails; (e.g. a patch license for bike/kayak)</li> <li>Weekly fitness at the park classes and/or Roselle building for adults and kids</li> <li>Organized adult kayaking/canoeing trips</li> </ul>	4 8 3 9
<b>5. Fishing Tournament</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>6. Overnights at Roselle Park (for long range hikers and bikers)</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7. Encourage volunteering in parks like free programming for volunteers</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>8. Octoberfest with a bonfire</b>	<b>2</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Move to bigger location</li> </ul>	
<b>9. Farmers Market Expansion</b>	<b>1</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More advertising</li> </ul>	

## 10. Swing Dancing area - amphitheater

### Top four high energy ideas:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Skating and/or broom ball leagues at Leonard Field on the ice  | 9 |
| 2. Instruction in pickleball and tennis   | 8 |
| 3. Organized fitness programs for both kids and adults consistent with fitness at the park, (cross country skiing, tennis and pickle ball leagues, yoga, bike meet-ups, etc.) | 7 |
| 4. Kayak storage building with rentals like in East Grand Rapids  | 2 |

### *Primary Recommendations from this Topic:*

- Ice Skating activities are highly desired.
- Beers on the Bridge could be expanded and improved.
- Family programming is important; activities that involve a range of ages are highly desired; this is expressed in both items 3 and 4.
- Organized fitness programs are highly desired; pickle ball and tennis scored highly as did adult kayaking and canoeing.
- Desire for a fishing tournament scored fairly highly.
- Overnights at Roselle Park scored fairly highly.

## Dream Big - Proposed Recreation Facilities inside Ada Township

What do you wish could be built / provided in Ada Township?

Agree

1. Marina or dock for water access / Access to the river above or below the dam	23
2. Equestrian trail or a section of the existing trail system for equestrian trails	15
3. Linking all trails to achieve one big loop around the Township	14
4. Place to rent recreational equipment	12
5. Community Garden or Co-Op	11
6. Dog park	11
7. Art sculptures in park	10
8. Place to swim outdoors at either a beach on a lake. This could possibly be Reith Riley Pond	10
9. Consistent community recreational programs (Yoga in the park, organize runs)	10
10. Outdoor movie showings or a drive-in movie (3 additional votes for a drive-in movie)	9
11. Organizations that can organize events - Evolve Ada Business Association into Chamber of Commerce)	9
12. Ninja warriors	8
13. Bigger venue for events such as Beers at the Bridge. Possibly convert Leonard field to special event area.	7
14. Cross Country ski trails along the trails. Trails decided by community recreational organization.	6
15. Fireworks downtown Ada	5
16. Add open space by connecting corridors and pursuing critical connecting land parcels	5
17. Utilize and add bike trails more often	4
18. Skate park	3
19. Water park	2
20. Outdoor fire place	1
21. Pottery or canvas art studio for kids and families	0
22. Parking garage for easy access to park	0
23. Fitness trail	0
24. How do we do this? Staffing?	0

### Top five high energy ideas:

1. Having a section of the trails for equestrian use	15
2. Linking all trails to achieve one big loop around Ada Township	14
3. Consistent community recreational programs	10
4. Trails – ski, walking, <u>water</u> , equestrian (new high energy comment)	0
5. Land Acquisition for open spaces/improve access to the Grand River (new high energy comment)	0

***Primary Recommendations from this Topic:***

- Water access is of high importance.
- Equestrian trails are of high importance.
- Trails and linking of trails throughout the Township are of high importance; comments included all types of trails.
- Renting of recreational equipment scored fairly highly; the notes do not specify which type of equipment; but this could be discerned in a follow up survey by the Township.
- Comments 5-9 received ten or more “Agree” votes; these comments include a variety of facilities or programs; one comment favors art, which is a topic related to recreation under current trends.
- The remainder of ideas, while not receiving the greatest number of “Agree” votes, include unique ideas that the Township may wish to pursue, such as Ninja Warrior, a larger special events area, water park, etc.



## Do Roadblocks, Issues, and Problems Exist in Providing Recreation or Access to Recreation in Ada Township?

What is the issue or problem? What is something that may fix the problem?

	<u>Agree</u>
1. Investment in recreation registration software and establishment of a park office that is open evenings and weekends.*	
• Agree with software but not with keeping park office open evenings/weekends	17
2. Difficult to register for programs and rentals. There is no online registration process and limited office hours.*	16
3. There is a lack of indoor space to conduct programs. Most are outdoors.*	14
4. Lack of diversity in programs offered. Most are focused towards children.*	13
5. Lack of programs offered due to lack of staff. This may not be a focus of the department. Lack of commitment to increased programming through funding/staffing.	12
6. The Ada Township website is cumbersome to navigate; the location of minutes is difficult to find; it is difficult to find program lists; and info is not up to date.	10
7. Determine what programs the Township would like to offer and either have staff or contract employees lead them.*	8
8. Not being able to rent space online makes it inaccessible to provide rec programs.	7
9. Too much emphasis on programming and not enough on preserving and protecting open space.	6
10. Thornapple River Association. <i>(Small devil face included)</i>	6
11. Have access to a multipurpose facility in downtown Ada.	5
12. Hire volunteers to assist with operations. College age kids or internships; recreation therapy for example.	4
13. New green space and parks are valuable; “selling” the idea to residents who might not want increased taxes.	4

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 14. Finances and time are a problem. Are parks are appropriately funded? Money!  | 0 |
| 15. Land locked.   | 0 |
| 16. The Township is addressing some roadblocks to rec programs.  | 0 |
| 17. The Township needs to decide if the recreation program is a priority. If it is, then put the funding and staffing into it to do it right.* | 0 |

**\*This group did not highlight the ideas that generated high energy; but they did place an asterisk next to several ideas, which may indicate high energy; these ideas are shown with an asterisk.**

## Recreational Facilities We Use Located Outside Ada Township

What recreational facilities/programs outside Ada Township do you or your family use? Where is the facility located?

A) If Ada Township had this facility or program, would you use it?

B) Or, would you continue to use it the facility or program outside the Township?

	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>
1. Community swimming pool/ Forest Hills swimming pools & natatorium/ Orchard Hills and MVP swimming pools	16	16
2. Libraries in other towns (Cascade Library)	15	0
3. Kayaking and river activities	13	1
4. Dog / pet parks (Shaggy Pines)	10	1
5. Patterson Ice Arena/ Rosa Park ice rink/ Skate park/ice rink (artificial ice)	8	0
6. Cannonsburg Ski Area	8	0
7. Equestrian Trails	8	0
8. Reeds Lake / Lowell Stoney Creek	8	0
9. Turf fields (indoor)	6	0
10. Grand Haven volleyball courts	5	1
11. Outdoor movie theatre	5	0
12. Rockford / White Pines Trail bike path	5	10
13. State Parks	4	0
14. Historic Museums in other towns	4	6
15. Forest Hills Schools gyms and sports fields	3	2
16. Reeds Lake trail way	3	9
17. MSA basketball courts and indoor soccer fields	3	9
18. MVP Sportsplex/YMCA	2	10
19. Fishing opportunities	2	0
20. Mountain bike trails-none of	2	0
21. Indoor recreation facilities / turf field	0	0

### Top three high energy ideas:

1. Skate park/Ice rink (artificial ice)	0	0
2. Kayaking and river activities	13	1
3. Indoor recreation facilities / turf field	0	0

*(Note: At this table, some of the high energy items received no "Agree" votes; we believe this is due to the first group listing them as if they were titles under which other items could be listed; this could have been confusing to subsequent groups. In some cases, the title idea was listed later, and received several "Agree" votes, such as "turf fields" and "ice rink".)*

***Primary Recommendations from this Topic:***

- The top three facilities or programs that persons would use if they were located in Ada Township are: a pool (although just as many persons said they would continue using the pool the currently use); libraries; and kayaking and river activities.
- A fairly high number of persons desire a dog/pet park.
- A fairly high (and equal) number of participants expressed that they would use an ice rink, a ski area, equestrian trails, and a facility similar to Reeds Lake/Lowell Stoney Creek.
- Following the higher priority items, a mix of various recreation facilities and programs were identified as those which participants would utilize if a similar facility was located in Ada Township.
- The facilities that persons are most likely to use whether a similar facility was located in Ada Township or not are: The White Pine Trail in Rockford; The MVP Sportsplex and the YMCA; The Reeds lake trail way; and the MSA (Michigan Sports Academies) basketball courts and indoor soccer fields. These facilities involve either a unique setting (Rockford and Reeds Lake in East Grand Rapids); or an opportunity for specialty training, leagues, or teams with which persons and/or their family members have a personal investment or attachment.

## Green Space – What is it? Do we need more in Ada Township?

Do you think Ada Township needs more green space? If so where?

	<u>Agree</u>
1. Encourage or promote donations of property to Land Conservancy or similar entities.	14
2. Need more animal and plant corridors & connect them throughout the Township. The river is a natural corridor for many. Try to establish more corridors than we have at present.	12
3. Encourage clustered housing with bonuses for green spaces	10
4. Preserve existing green space in the village proper. Don't build any more greenspace.	9
5. Any river stream frontage	8
6. Preserve existing green space on the northeast part of the village - the farm land	7
7. Pocket parks- small green spaces in the midst of Ada Village development with rain gardens and benches	6
8. Need to continue working with the Fase family to acquire land on the southeast side of the Thornapple River	6
9. Protect green space on the north side of Fulton Street	5
10. We need to expand greenspace	3
11. Need more housing in the village with river trail.	2
12. Encourage smaller (3-acre) land parcels are encouraged if they're next to other green spaces or parks. This is especially important in heavily populated areas.	1

### **Top three high energy ideas (In no particular order):**

1. Encourage or promote donations of property to land conservancy or similar entities	14
2. Pocket parks- small green spaces in the midst of Ada Village development with rain gardens and benches	6
3. Continue working with the Fase family to acquire land on the southeast side of the Thornapple River	6

### ***Primary Recommendations from this Topic:***

- The top three recommendations for increasing greenspace in the Township are; encourage more donations; establish more connecting plant and animal corridors; and encourage clustered housing.
- The next highest-ranking comment after the top three was to preserve existing green space in the village proper, but do not build any more.
- The next group of fairly high-ranking ideas addressed a range of green space ideas including: any river stream frontage; preserving existing green space in the northeast part of the village – the farm land (the comment on farm land may have been intended to address the northeast part of the Township, rather than the village); small green spaces such as pocket parks, rain gardens, and benches in the village; and acquisition of land on the southeast side of the Thornapple River owned by the Fase family.

- The remainder of ideas addressed further preservation of green space in general, and in somewhat specific locations such as north of Fulton (we believe this to mean in general north of Fulton, and not just in the village area); and in the form of a river trail in the village.
- No one left a comment on the page which asked “If not, why not?” in terms of preserving green space. However, comment #4 included nine votes that agreed that more green space in the village is not needed.
- In general, participants at this table provided a blend of support for both large and small green spaces, consisting of both larger natural areas and smaller civic spaces.



## Enhancements to Existing Parks, Trails, and Recreational Facilities in Ada Township

Name the park or facility and suggest improvements or additions.

	<u>Agree</u>
1. Availability of kayak and paddle boards at parks to rent	19
2. Connectivity to neighboring trails, more than currently available	18
3. River trails: Connect parks by river trails	17
4. Available trail guides - add, perhaps, a map or an app that points out items of interest along the trail and the river. Better signage on the trail and possibly an online map.	16
5. Ice-skating rink or a multi-use area (Leonard, Headley), skating in winter; concerts; splash pad in summer	14
6. Splash pad	10
7. Openness to allowing individuals to use green space to offer free, fitness classes like yoga & boot camp/scheduled, consistent classes	9
8. More covered pavilions	8
9. Movies in the Park with a big screen	8
10. Boardwalks (i.e. Carl Creek Crossing Preserve)	6
11. Middle and high school aged programs	5
12. Skate park	5
13. Art classes in the park	4
14. Sculptures along trails (one person posted a "No!" follow up)	4
15. Ada park office - improvements and expansion	4
16. Dog park	4
17. Intentional/planned geocaching to draw families	3
18. Availability of fishing gear to rent	2
19. Improve river access boat ramp at Grand River east of Amway	2
20. Parking lot by bike trails	1
21. Festivals in the parks; rotating locations/venues (draw more people to parks they may not otherwise visit)	0

### Top four high energy ideas:

1. Connectivity to neighboring trails, more than currently available	18
2. River trails: connect parks by river trails	17
3. Kayak rentals at parks (scored apart from the four paddleboard comments)	15
4. Ice skating rink or a multi-use area (Leonard, Headley), skating in winter; concerts; splash pad in summer	14

***Primary Recommendations from this Topic:***

- Ability to rent both kayaks and paddle boards were of high importance.
- Connectivity of both river trails and land-based trails were of high importance; using web-based technology for trail guidance, as well as paper maps and physical signs, received strong support.
- The idea of an ice-skating rink was presented along with a multi-use area for special events as well as a splash pad; these ideas received strong support.
- Fairly strong support was shown for a splash pad alone.
- Several ideas with moderate support followed the highest-ranking ideas; these additional ideas included a mix of topics such as the ability to offer free classes such as yoga and boot camp in the parks on a regular basis; more covered pavilions, and movies in the park.
- The remaining comments include a broad range of ideas, and include items which the Township may wish to pursue, especially since many of these ideas are mentioned multiple times under different table topic categories. Of note is that when the two art related ideas (comments #13 and #14) are combined, they score a total of 8 “Agree” votes, which indicates fairly strong support for including art as a recreational component.

## New, Parks, Trails, and Amenities – Where?

Do you think Ada Township needs more parks, trails (Including water trails), and other amenities? If a park, what type of park? For any amenity, which location?

	<u>Agree</u>
1. Trails - Connect Hazy Cloud to existing trail system	16
1. Bicycle path all along Pettis - connect to Roselle Park - bridge across the river	12
2. Provide bathrooms and more (boat and canoe launch) at the Grand River boat launch and the DNR boat launch	11
3. Provide more poop bags & trash cans in the village, especially at the covered bridge	11
4. Connect Central Woodlands to trail system - Alta Dale Trail	7
5. Run trail down Spaulding	5
6. Enhance wildlife habitat along trails	5
7. Amenities to enhance water trails experience	2
8. Water access to/from village	2
9. Provide or improve water access from existing parks	2
10. Park - Vacant lots between Post Office & State Farm building in village	0
11. Provide crushed stone trails because they're easier to run on	0
12. Launch place on the east side of the river across from Roselle Park	0
13. Run trail up to Cannon Township	0
14. Marina/boat launch for water activities	0
15. Trails - Seek connectivity to trails outside township including water trails	0
16. Additional parks of open space land preservation type	0
17. Improve trail connectivity within the village	0
18. More covered pavilions and rental opportunities	0
<b>Top three high energy ideas:</b>	
1. Marina and boat launch for water activities	0
2. Improve trail connectivity within the village	0
3. More covered pavilions and rental opportunities	0

### ***Primary Recommendations from the Topic:***

- The top idea at this table was to connect Chief Hazy Cloud Park to the existing trail system.
- Another strongly supported idea is a bicycle path all along Pettis Avenue that connect to Roselle Park; and a bridge across the Grand River.
- Two high-ranking ideas were to provide restrooms at boat launches (to our knowledge the DNR boat launch at Knapp Street includes a restroom). An equally high-ranking comment is to provide more bags for pet waste as well as trash cans in the village area.

- Ideas which scored with moderately high support addressed trails: connecting Central Woodlands to the trail system (an Alta Dale Avenue trail); adding a trail down Spaulding Avenue; and enhancing wildlife habitat along trails.
- Additional comments at this table include ideas for enhancing and improving water trails and land-based trails; water access; additional park space; and park amenities such as additional pavilions and park rental opportunities.

## Use of Property on the North Side of Headley Street

What do you think is the best use of this property? Public/civic use? Private use? Specifically?

	<u>Agree</u>
1. Public use - green space, picnic tables, trails, covered pavilion (7 persons specifically noted "Don't Agree")	16
• Rain garden to help with surface runoff	8
2. Farmer's market permanent location (3 persons specifically noted "Don't Agree")	11
• Half parking (not certain if this received any "Agrees")	
3. Holiday carnival events	11
4. Mixed use - retail and parking	11
5. Design library/community center with public access restrooms	4
6. Ice skating rink	4
7. Head in parking off Headley	3
8. Band stand amphitheater	2
9. Outdoor fountain and lights	2
10. Community Garden/maybe half	0
11. Pretty/attractive parking garage with art on exposed walls like downtown Grand Rapids	0
12. Outdoor fountain without lights/different location	0

### What are the major assets of this property?

1. Close to new library	17
2. Greenspace near downtown Ada	15
3. Creates a buffer between busy Fulton St. and the rest of Ada	9
4. Provides a location for outdoor Township recreational programs or library programs	7
5. Access to bike trail	5
6. Could be buffer with trees and plantings	5
7. Wetlands create opportunity for educational programs	0
8. Visible corridor/welcome entrance	0

### What are the major challenges to this property?

- |   |    |
|---|----|
| 1. Close proximity to busy Fulton Street-create buffer with trees or berm   | 13 |
| 2. Wetlands must be taken into consideration in planning                    | 5  |
| 3. Community garden ( <i>Note: this was listed under major challenges</i> ) | 2  |
| 4. Close to the lift station (stinks!)                                      | 0  |

### Top four high energy ideas:

- |  |    |
|--|----|
| 1. Public use - green space, picnic tables, trails, covered pavilion | 16 |
| 2. Mixed use – retail and parking                                    | 11 |
| 3. Farmers market permanent location                                 | 11 |
| 4. Holiday carnival events   | 11 |

### Primary Recommendations from the Topic:

- The top supported item at this table was to use the Headley Street property as a green space with some civic amenities such as picnic table, trails, and a covered pavilion. The comments included opposition stated as “Don’t Agree”, which may mirror the discussion held on this property in the recent past.
- The next highly rated idea was that of a permanent location for the Farmer’s market; again, some participants specifically noted “Don’t Agree”, which may mirror the discussion held on this property in the recent past.
- Strong support was shown for using the property as a space for holiday carnival events; and for a mixed use consisting of retail uses and parking.
- A range of ideas received moderate support, including library/community center, ice skating rink, parking, amphitheater, fountains, and community garden.
- Major assets included location near the new library; additional greenspace; buffer from Fulton Street; activity space; wetlands; and visibility as a welcoming entrance to the village.
- Challenges include proximity to Fulton Street; wetlands; and proximity to the lift station resulting in odor.
- **The four high-energy ideas noted at this table, as well as the highest-ranking items, indicate that a clear consensus on the use of this property has not yet developed.**



**ADA TOWNSHIP RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

**WORKSHOP IN A BOX  
RESULTS**

*Prepared by MainStreet Planning Company  
September 13, 2018*

## ADA TOWNSHIP RECREATIONAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT 2018

### WORKSHOP IN A BOX

*Ada Rotary-9 Participants*

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- 1. What is the best use of the property on the north side of Headley Street, south of Fulton Street? List both public and private uses if you wish.**

**Garden, green space, park (7)**

**Retail (2)**

**Dog park (1)**

**Outdoor rec-fitness (1)**

**Public (1)**

1. Public garden with benches and a fitness trail with indigenous plants identified
  - Flower garden with benches
2. Sculpture park with benches
3. Victory garden
4. Rotary park
5. Natural space – more trees, benches, places to bring a book you just took out at the library
  - Green Space
  - Green Space
  - Green space with benches
6. DeVos and VanAndel memorial park
  - Memorial Park to founders of Ada and the Devos's & VanAndel's.
7. Retail Property
8. Dog park
9. Outdoor rec area – Group Fitness
  - Fitness circuit
10. Retail: Founders East location
11. How about an access point to the trails system with parking and maps, picnic pavilions, info on North Country Trail
  - Trail head
12. Public, but not sure what

- 2. What recreational facilities and programs outside of Ada Township do you use? Include the locations, and the name or type of facility or program. If Ada Township had this facility or program, would you utilize it? Or would you continue to use the facility or program outside the Township?**

1. Seidman Park
2. Blandford Nature Center
3. Howard Christianson Nature Center
4. YMCA – yes, I would prefer a work out facility closer to home (In Ada)
  - YMCA
  - YMCA – Mary Free Bed

5. Peace Park
6. Shaggy Pines Dog Park – Yes
7. Aberdeen Park, Creston Neighborhood, out of convenience – No
8. Golf Courses
9. Belknap Lookout
10. Bike Trails
  - Biking
11. Parks
12. Splash pads
13. Group fitness (boot camp)
14. MVP on Crahen
15. Orange Theory on Beltline
16. Boating on Spring Lake
17. Cascade Bike Trails
18. Riverwalk
19. Running / bike paths GR & Cascade
20. Hiking
21. Kayaking
22. Camping at State and National parks
23. Cross country ski

**3. Dream Big – What recreational facility do you wish could be built/provided here in Ada Township?**

1. Outdoor amphitheater
  - Outdoor Concert hall
  - Outdoor concert shell for summer concerts
2. Children’s motor skills rec facility
3. Ice Arena
4. Golf
5. Disk golf
6. Community pool
7. Indoor jump space
8. Offer to build a headquarters for North Country Trail and market it as the biggest unit in the National Park system and we are near its center
9. Cross country skiing trails – groomed

**4. Recreational Programming – Which programs do you use inside the Township, but wish could be expanded or improved how? Which programs not currently offered would use if they were offered in Ada Township?**

1. Parks program for kids (canoeing)
2. Roselle Trails

**ADA TOWNSHIP RECREATIONAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT 2018**  
**WORKSHOP IN A BOX**  
*Owls-11 Participants*

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**1. What is the best use of the property on the north side of Headley Street, south of Fulton Street?  
List both public and private uses if you wish.**

- **Gardening, green space, trails (9)**

1. Free parking – especially for handicapped
2. Movies in the lawn
  - Movies in the lawn
  - Movies in the lawn
3. Gardening program for children
4. Hands on learning events
5. Thai Chi or exercise for seniors
6. Leave as is (green area)
  - I think it would be good to leave the space as it is. That was it can be a place for all kinds of events. I wouldn't like to see more apartments or buildings there.
  - Perhaps green space for now, after 2-3 years pass, when there's a specific need for property, it could be considered.
  - Leave it as it is – no apartments or businesses – enough of those
7. Special activities – one or two day events
8. Gardens with seating to enjoy the gardens
9. Walk way / Trails for bikes
10. Maybe walking paths for now
  - Maybe a walkway, greenery, drinking fountains
11. Outdoor yoga ie “yoga Nidra “Meditation”
12. Tables with checkers and chess – if tournaments were held, it could help bring people here
  - Use historical background for programs for children (focus on children, many grandparents have grandchildren visiting for the summer)
  - Ada historical display on what was located in this “Historic District”
13. Display area of history – native people
14. Love the town square with a fountain, shops surrounding – European style
15. Sell it and add to another property
16. Village activities
17. Farmers market
18. Art gallery next to ice cream shop
19. Concerts
20. Restrooms
21. Small playground
22. Fountain or splash pad with park benches
23. More parking spaces

**2. What recreational facilities and programs outside of Ada Township do you use? Include the locations, and the name or type of facility or program. If Ada Township had this facility or program, would you utilize it? Or would you continue to use the facility or program outside the Township?**

1. Cascade park – personal use, not for programs
2. Cascade Township exercise group – I would like more programs north, where I live
3. Cascade – newsletter listening tours, special events, music, luncheon events
4. Cascade library
  - Cascade library
  - Cascade library
  - Cascade library
  - Library Cascade – will probably continue to use that location
  - Cascade library
5. Bridge group at church and the Village of Ada
6. Tennis
  - Tennis
7. Golf
  - Golf
8. Pickle ball
9. MVP
  - MVP – on Burton for classes, free exercise, pool – If Ada owned, possibly
  - MVP – yoga and workout facilities
  - MVP for exercise
  - I go to MVP to exercise
  - MVP at Burton and Breton
  - MVP – Crahen – not sure if I would use it in Ada vs. Crahen
10. Music in Lowell – Ada facility needs to be changed or improved
11. John Ball Park Zoo
12. Concerts downtown
13. Theatre – Civic Center at Aquinas – yes, I would use close to home
14. Stratford, other cities and communities – I would still attend
15. Trip of seniors
16. Senior center for Tai Chi. I heard about places that offer line dancing
17. Welcome/ Visitors center at the library

**3. Dream Big – What recreational facility do you wish could be built/provided here in Ada Township?**

1. Welcome / visitors center
  - Visitors center
  - Visitors center at the library
2. Amway tours or museum
3. “Bridge walk” at the covered bridge
4. Pickle ball court
5. Par 3/9 nine hole golf course

6. Miniature golf courses
7. We need some Frisbee golf courses
8. Dancing classes
  - I would love to have a place to go line dancing – a building with a wood floor
  - Ballroom type dancing for adults
9. A center that would attract teens
10. Exercise session
  - Exercise center
  - Outside exercise
11. Learning Café close to where I live
12. Craft Groups
13. Amway art gallery
14. Juried art shows
15. Lectures health classes
16. Train station
17. Trolley and bus service
18. Outdoor swimming pool
  - Splash pad for children
  - Swimming pool – outside & inside
19. Music amphitheater
20. Theatre for plays, musicals (outdoor – low amount of work)
21. Flat bike path along the river for senior biking
22. Senior walkway / trails
23. Expand area on aging
24. Life-long learning opportunities
25. Meeting spaces for seniors with programs, exercise classes. Remember seniors in planning please!

**4. Recreational Programming – Which programs do you use inside the Township, but wish could be expanded or improved how? Which programs not currently offered would use if they were offered in Ada Township?**

1. Beers on the Bridge
2. Community building where cards can be played every day
3. The trail needs to be connected and, for older people, avoidance of the big hills (eg. Coming into or out of Ada on Ada Drive)
4. Exercise facilities
5. Exercise classes
6. Tai Chi – yoga classes
7. Farmer's market
8. More programs, classes, meeting places for seniors needed in Ada
9. Exercise for seniors
10. Senior trips
11. Learning café
12. Welcome center on new park area



## ADA TOWNSHIP RECREATIONAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT 2018

### WORKSHOP IN A BOX

Adacraft Commons-11 Participants: (6 in Focus Group; 5 Individuals)

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*(high energy ideas are underlined)*

1. **What is the best use of the property on the north side of Headley Street, south of Fulton Street? List both public and private uses if you wish. *High Energy ideas are underlined.***

- **Gardens, green space park area, walking trail (7)**
- **Recreational facility: chess, ice rink, basketball courts, dog park, splash pad, mini golf, archery range (6)**
- **Cultural: children's museum, art gallery, sculptures, art fair, amphitheater, small theatre (6)**
- **Farmers' market (2)**
- **Other: Indoor/outdoor gathering space, food trucks**

1. Gardens, native plants, trees
2. Consider community garden or flower gardens & perhaps water features to draw out some of the traffic noise
3. Some shaded sitting benches beneath shaded trees
4. Chess tables
  - Solid table (cement) with benches for chess or checkers, shaded with the boards designed for 2-3 games
5. Green Space
  - Leave it alone
  - Green spaces with benches, reading spots, gatherings
  - I'd prefer to keep it green. There are enough buildings that exist and are being built in the area.
6. Something that brings coziness and conciseness. With all the change, a building seems a bit disjointed right now.
7. Children's Museum
8. Art gallery and/or consignment for local artist
9. Shops and stores – I feel it might be too close to Fulton to have any kind of outdoor recreation center for families with children.
10. Good question, I need to see if Ada Village redesign makes good use of frontage along Thornapple river
11. Perhaps an ice rink on the water w/ lighting and warming area
  - Public use – skating rink area
  - Transition to skate rink for summer for older kids – Or basketball courts
12. Dog park
  - Dog park
13. Splash Pad
  - Outdoor play fountain – Splash Pad
  - Splash pad for children or adults, sculptures with children with umbrellas (Gene Kelly type-singing in the rain) with water coming from umbrellas and bellow in basin

14. Art fair in summer or fall
15. Indoor / Outdoor gathering space
16. A park with ample space (flat grass area) for large community gatherings (4<sup>th</sup> of July events like beer @ the bridge).
17. Outdoor adult & children's classes – eg. yoga
18. Maybe add paths through it, but minimal permanent features
  - Walking loop for exercise or just strolling
19. Farmers market/artist market
  - Open air covered farmers market like Fulton Street market
20. An amphitheater somewhere in Downtown would be nice for music etc.
21. Small theatre for local plays
22. Putt- Putt golf (Mini golf)
23. Food trucks
24. Archery range

**2. What recreational facilities and programs outside of Ada Township do you use? Include the locations, and the name or type of facility or program. If Ada Township had this facility or program, would you utilize it? Or would you continue to use the facility or program outside the Township?**

1. Millennial Park –**no**
2. YMCA (STEM camp, soccer, tennis, acting, art)
  - YMCA – Mary Free Bed – **no**
  - YMCA – Downtown –**no**
  - Mary Free Bed YMCA – soccer
3. Cascade Peace park hiking trails
4. Riverside Park NE Grand Rapids – walking, biking, rollerblading
5. East Grand Rapids – Parks and Rec
6. Basketball courts
7. Bicycle polo rink
8. White Pine Trail – biking/rollerblading
9. Mountain biking trails – Cannonsburg, Rockford, Hastings – **yes**
10. Running/ bike paths
  - Biking
  - Bike path – Ada Dr. Thornapple River Dr. Cascade Rd.
11. Cascade Township Park – playground
12. Cascade library
  - Cascade library
  - Library (Cascade) – hope to use Ada library instead – ruff readers, magicians, hula hoopers, pet rock making, summer reading
  - Cascade Township library (Looking forward to Ada's new library)
13. Meijer Gardens
  - Meijer Gardens
14. Grand Rapids Township park
15. Parks and walkways Downtown – **no**

16. Creekside park in Lowell
17. Grand Rapids Gymnastics (GRG)
18. Yoga
  - Yoga at Terra Firma – **yes**
19. Gym at GVSU - no
20. MVP pool
21. Rock climbing gym at Terra firma - **yes**
22. Pickeral Lake hiking trails
23. Canoeing livery – **yes, I would use it**
24. Kayaking
25. Hiking trails
26. Cross country skiing house – pigeon creek – groomed and marked at Roselle or somewhere else  
– this could include internships for high school and middle school students and volunteer hours
27. Various parks: state, county, other townships. I would probably still use them
28. Kids summer camps – Forest Hills community ed
29. Forest Hills PS classes – community ed
30. Forest Hills Park Association swim lessons
31. Cooking classes – Downtown Market
32. Outdoor summer movies – (An-Nab-Awen Park)
33. Civic Theatre
34. Aquinas College – Grand river Dr.
35. Art, Ford, and other museums downtown
36. KCAD

**3. Dream Big – What recreational facility do you wish could be built/provided here in Ada Township?**

1. Outdoor shell for plays
  - Amphitheater
2. Movie theater
3. Ninja warrior type grown up playground
  - Obstacle course like American Ninja Warrior style
  - Ninja warrior course at Ada Township Park
  - Improved playground at Ada Park – American Ninja Warrior type climbing obstacle course
4. Ropes/ climbing course
5. Outdoor bouldering (rock climbing) with real boulders, keep area natural looking with native plants & flowers. It would be beautiful and unique to the area.
6. Kayak course on the Thornapple River – Olympic Style
  - Kayak/Canoeing site for joining rivers
  - Boat (canoe/kayak launch)
7. Archery
8. Ice rink
9. Chess table
10. Permanent cement ping pong table
11. An affordable dance studio that offers dance classes for young children

12. Exercise stations along a curved path in or out of park
13. Local Ada theatre class
14. Library is coming, right?
15. Community Center
16. Outside play fountain
  - Splash pad
  - Splash pad
  - Beach lake for swimming / Public pool
  - Splash pad
17. Children's museum
18. Parks located so every kid could walk to one from their home – preferably without crossing any roads
19. A heated dome – areas for soccer fields, track for running and walking, all kinds of sports opportunities for children with Ada Township paying for sports programs for residents to use for free.
20. Dog park
  - Dog park
21. More bike paths for walking, biking, rollerblading
  - More bike trails / maintain existing trails
22. Mountain bike trails through the woods
23. Bike lanes on all Township roads
  - Bike lanes on the road
  - Bike lanes (on the road)

**4. Recreational Programming – Which programs do you use inside the Township, but wish could be expanded or improved how? Which programs not currently offered would you use if they were offered in Ada Township?**

1. Concerts
2. Beer on the Bridge
3. Ice skating at Leonard field – would be great to have a better dedicated space for this with place to warm up and put on skates.
4. Exercise stations along bike paths
5. None – would love outdoor yoga
6. Ada Township Park – better playground!
7. Park trails – more is always better
8. Roselle Trails
  - Roselle Park – More signage regarding wildflowers and trees
  - Signage at Roselle
9. Seidman Park – hiking needs signs and information!!!
10. The library!!!
11. Theatre group
12. Service learning opportunities for youth
13. Tennis courts – lessons for teens

14. Pickle ball courts – park lessons, adults
15. Community ed. lessons in Ada for adults for tennis and pickle ball
16. Love the kids' camps at Ada! My kids have done most of them. We would love the one time drop in classes (like offered for preschoolers now) for school aged kids during summer or Saturdays, and for the summer camps to change every couple years.
17. Summer internships for high schoolers – earn volunteer hours by coaching / teaching basic skills
18. *Camps/ enrichment for kids and adults – more variety*
19. Adult hiking and community activities
20. Have a public open space within walking distance (4 blocks) of every kid, so they can go and do age appropriate stuff. Many parks vs. three large super parks.

**ADA TOWNSHIP RECREATIONAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT 2018**  
**WORKSHOP IN A BOX**  
**Combined Results with Common Ideas Grouped**

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*(High energy ideas are underlined)*

- **What is the best use of the property on the north side of Headley Street, south of Fulton Street? List both public and private uses if you wish.**
  - Public garden with benches and a fitness trail with indigenous plants identified
    - Flower garden with benches
    - Gardens with seating to enjoy the gardens
    - Gardens, native plants, trees
    - Consider community garden or flower gardens & perhaps water features to draw out some of the traffic noise
  - Some shaded sitting benches beneath shaded trees
  - Victory garden
  - Gardening program for children
  - Hands on learning events
  - Small playground
  - Tables with checkers and chess – if tournaments were held, it could help bring people here
    - Chess tables
    - Solid table (cement) with benches for chess or checkers, shaded with the boards designed for 2-3 games
  - Use historical background for programs for children (focus on children, many grandparents have grandchildren visiting for the summer)
  - Public, but not sure what
  - Rotary park
  - Natural space – more trees, benches, places to bring a book you just took out at the library (II)
    - Green space with benches
    - Green Space
    - Green Space
    - Green Space
    - Leave as green area
    - I think it would be good to leave the space as it is. That was it can be a place for all kinds of events. I wouldn't like to see more apartments or buildings there. Greenery
    - Leave it as it is – no apartments or businesses – enough of those
    - Leave it alone
    - Perhaps green space for now, after 2-3 years pass, when there's a specific need for property, it could be considered.
    - Green spaces with benches, reading spots, gatherings
    - I'd prefer to keep it green. There are enough buildings that exist and are being built in the area.
  - Something that brings coziness and conciseness. With all the change, a building seems a bit disjointed right now.

- Memorial Park to Founders of Ada and the Devos's & VanAndel's.
- DeVos and VanAndel memorial park
- Ada historical display on what was located in this "Historic District"
  - Display area of history – native people
- Childrens Museum
- Retail Property
  - Retail: Founders East location
  - Art gallery next to ice cream shop
  - Art gallery and/or consignment for local artist
  - Love the town square with a fountain, shops surrounding – European style
  - Shops and stores – I feel it might be too close to Fulton to have any kind of outdoor recreation center for families with children.
- Good question, I need to see if Ada Village redesign makes good use of frontage along Thornapple river
- Perhaps an ice rink on the water w/ lighting and warming area
- Public use – skating rink area
- Transition to skate rink for summer for older kids – Or basketball courts
- Dog park
  - Dog park
  - Dog park
- Sculpture park with benches
- Fountain or splash pad with park benches
  - Splash Pad
  - Outdoor play fountain – Splash Pad
  - Splash pad for children or adults, sculptures with children with umbrellas (Gene Kelly type-singing in the rain) with water coming from umbrellas and bellow in basin
- Drinking fountains
- Special activities – one or two day events
- Art fair in summer or fall
- Indoor / Outdoor gathering space
- A park with ample space (flat grass area) for large community gatherings (4<sup>th</sup> of July events like beer @ the bridge).
- Outdoor rec area – Group Fitness
  - Fitness circuit
  - Thai Chi or exercise for seniors
  - Outdoor yoga ie "yoga Nidra "Meditation"
  - Outdoor adult & children's classes – eg. yoga
- How about an access point to the trails system with parking and maps, picnic pavilions, info on North Country Trail?
  - Trail head
- Walk way / Trails for bikes
  - Maybe a walkway
  - Maybe walking paths for now



- Maybe add paths through it, but minimal permanent features
  - Walking loop for exercise or just strolling
- Free parking – especially for handicapped
- Farmers market
  - Farmers market/artist market
  - Open air covered farmers market like Fulton Street market
- Movies in the lawn
  - Movies in the lawn
  - Movies in the lawn
- Village activities
- Concerts
- An amphitheater somewhere in Downtown would be nice for music etc.
- Small theatre for local plays
- Restrooms
- Putt- Putt golf (Mini golf)
- Food trucks
- Archery range
- Sell it and add to another property
- More parking spaces
- **What recreational facilities and programs outside of Ada Township do you use? Include the locations, and the name or type of facility or program. If Ada Township had this facility or program, would you utilize it? Or would you continue to use the facility or program outside the Township?**
  - Seidman Park
  - Millennial Park –no
  - Blandford Nature Center
  - Howard Christianson Nature Center
  - YMCA – yes, I would prefer a work out facility closer to home (In Ada)
    - YMCA
    - YMCA (STEM camp, soccer, tennis, acting, art)
    - YMCA – Mary Free Bed
    - YMCA – Mary Free Bed – no
    - YMCA – Downtown –no
    - Mary Free Bed YMCA – soccer
  - Peace Park
    - Cascade Peace park hiking trails
  - Shaggy Pines Dog Park – Yes
  - Aberdeen Park, Creston Neighborhood, out of convenience – No
  - Riverside Park NE Grand Rapids – walking, biking, rollerblading
  - Belknap Lookout
  - East Grand Rapids – Parks and Rec
  - Basketball courts
  - Golf Courses
    - Golf

- Golf
- Tennis
  - Tennis
- Pickle ball
- Bicycle polo rink
- White Pine Trail – biking/rollerblading
- Mountain biking trails – Cannonsburg, Rockford, Hastings – yes
- Running/ bike paths – GR & Cascade
- Bike Trails
- Biking
- Biking
- Bike path – Ada Dr. Thornapple River Dr. Cascade Rd.
- Cascade Bike Trails
- Cascade – newsletter listening tours, special events, music, luncheon events
- Cascade park – personal use, not for programs
- Cascade Township Park – playground
- Cascade Township exercise group – I would like more programs north, where I live
- Cascade library
  - Cascade library
  - Cascade library
  - Cascade library
  - Cascade library
  - Cascade library
  - Library Cascade – will probably continue to use that location
  - Library (Cascade) – hope to use Ada library instead – ruff readers, magicians, hula hoopers, pet rock making, summer reading
  - Cascade Township library (Looking forward to Ada’s new library)
- Parks
- Meijer Gardens
  - Meijer Gardens
- Grand Rapids Township park
- Riverwalk
- Parks and walkways Downtown – no
- Creekside park in Lowell
- Splash pads
- Grand Rapids Gymnastics (GRG)
- Yoga
- Yoga at Terra Firma – yes
- Gym at GVSU - no
- Group fitness (boot camp)
- MVP on Crahen
  - MVP
  - MVP – yoga and workout facilities

- MVP for exercise
- MVP – on Burton for classes, free exercise, pool – If Ada owned, possibly
- I go to MVP to exercise
- MVP – Crahen
- MVP at Burton and Breton
- MVP pool
- Orange Theory on Beltline
- Rock climbing gym at Terra firma - yes
- Boating on Spring Lake
- Pickeral Lake hiking trails
- Canoeing livery – yes, I would use it
- Kayaking
- Kayaking
- Hiking
- Hiking trails
- Cross country ski
  - Cross country skiing house – pigeon creek – groomed and marked at Roselle or somewhere else – this could include internships for high school and middle school students and volunteer hours
- Camping at State and National parks
- Various parks: state, county, other townships. I would probably still use them
- Bridge group at church and the Village of Ada
- Kids summer camps – Forest Hills community ed
- Forest Hills PS classes – community ed
- Forest Hills Park Association swim lessons
- Trip of seniors
- Senior center for Tai Chi. I heard about places that offer line dancing
- Cooking classes – Downtown Market
- Outdoor summer movies – (An-Nab-Awen Park)
- Concerts downtown
- Civic Theatre
- Theatre – Civic Center at Aquinas – yes, I would use close to home
- Aquinas College – Grand river Dr.
- Music in Lowell – Ada facility needs to be changed or improved
- Art, Ford, and other museums downtown
- John Ball Park Zoo
- KCAD
- **Dream Big – What recreational facility do you wish could be built/provided here in Ada Township?**
  - Outdoor amphitheater
    - Outdoor Concert hall
    - Outdoor shell for summer concerts
    - Music amphitheater
    - Theatre for plays, musicals (outdoor – low amount of work)

- Community Theatre
- Outdoor shell for plays
- Amphitheater
- Theater
- Movie theater
- Ice Arena
  - Ice Rink
- Cross country skiing trails – groomed
- Walk way / trails
- “Bridge walk” at the covered bridge
- Flat bike path along the river for senior biking
- Ninja warrior type grown up playground
- Obstacle course like American Ninja Warrior style
- Ninja warrior course at Ada Township Park
- Ropes/ climbing course
- Outdoor bouldering (rock climbing) with real boulders, keep area natural looking with native plants & flowers. It would be beautiful and unique to the area.
- Kayak course on the Thornapple River – Olympic Style
- Kayak/Canoeing site for joining rivers
- Boat (canoe/kayak launch)
- Archery
- Pickle ball court
- Chess table
- Permanent cement ping pong table
- Golf
  - Par 3/9 nine hole golf course
  - Miniature golf course
- Disk golf
  - We need some Frisbee golf courses
- Dancing classes
  - I would love to have a place to go line dancing – a building with a wood floor
  - Ballroom type dancing for adults
  - An affordable dance studio that offers dance classes for young children
- Exercise session
  - Exercise programs
  - Exercise center
  - Outside exercise
  - Exercise stations along a curved path in or out of park
- Craft Groups
- Juried art shows
- Lecture health classes
- Classroom space for community ed
- Local Ada theatre class

- Learning Café close to where I live
- Life-long learning opportunities
- Expand area on aging
- Meeting spaces for seniors with programs, exercise classes. Remember seniors in planning please!
- Library is coming, right?
- Community Center
- Community pool
  - Outdoor swimming pool
  - Swimming pool – outside & inside
  - Splash pad for children
  - Outside play fountain
  - Splash pad
  - Splash pad
  - Beach lake for swimming / Public pool
  - Splash pad
- Children's motor skills rec facility
- Children's museum
- Improved playground at Ada Park – American Ninja Warrior type climbing obstacle course
- Parks located so every kid could walk to one from their home – preferably without crossing any roads
- Indoor jump space
- A center that would attract teens
- A heated dome – areas for soccer fields, track for running and walking, all kinds of sports opportunities for children with Ada Township paying for sports programs for residents to use for free.
- Dog park
  - Dog park
- Welcome / visitors center
  - Visitors center
  - Visitors center at the library
  - Welcome/ Visitors center at the library
- Offer to build a headquarters for North Country Trail and market it as the biggest unit in the National Park system and we are near its center
- Amway tours or museum
- Amway art gallery
- More bike paths for walking, biking, rollerblading
- More bike trails / maintain existing trails
- Mountain bike trails through the woods
- Bike lanes on all Township roads
- Bike lanes on the road
- Bike lanes (on the road)
- Trolley and bus service
- Train station

- **Recreational Programming – Which programs do you use inside the Township, but wish could be expanded or improved how? Which programs not currently offered would use if they were offered in Ada Township?**
  - Concerts
  - Beer on the Bridge
    - Beer on the Bridge
  - Ice skating at Leonard field – would be great to have a better dedicated space for this with place to warm up and put on skates.
  - Parks program for kids (canoeing)
  - Exercise stations along bike paths
  - Exercise facilities
  - Exercise programs
  - Exercise classes
  - Exercise for seniors
  - None – would love outdoor yoga
  - Tai Chi – yoga classes
  - Ada Township park – better playground!
  - Park trails – more is always better
  - Roselle Trails
  - Roselle Park – More signage regarding wildflowers and trees
  - Signage at Roselle
  - Seidman Park – hiking needs signs and information!!!
  - Farmer’s market
  - The library!!!
  - Community building where cards can be played every day
  - Learning café
  - Welcome center on new park area
  - Theatre group
  - Senior trips
  - More programs, classes, meeting places for seniors needed in Ada
  - Service learning opportunities for youth
  - Tennis courts – lessons for teens
  - Pickle ball courts – park lessons, adults
  - Community ed. lessons in Ada for adults for tennis and pickle ball
  - Love the kids’ camps at Ada! My kids have done most of them. We would love the one time drop in classes (like offered for preschoolers now) for school aged kids during summer or Saturdays, and for the summer camps to change every couple years.
  - Summer internships for high schoolers – earn volunteer hours by coaching / teaching basic skills
  - Camps/ enrichment for kids and adults – more variety
  - Adult hiking and community activities
  - The trail needs to be connected and, for older people, avoidance of the big hills (eg. Coming into or out of Ada on Ada Drive)

## REFERENCES

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# Ada Township Space Utilization Study

17 January 2020



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The following report was prepared by Integrated Architecture in response to the Ada Township Request for a Township Space Needs and Facilities Study.

The study focused on:

1. The Ada Township Hall
2. The Parks Office + Learning Center Building at Ada Park
3. The Facilities + Maintenance Building at Ada Park

Our team audited each building from an architectural and engineering perspective and assessed the internal uses and experiences.

The study was designed to be inclusive and to produce a report that allows the Township to make informed decisions regarding options and next steps in the space planning process. The intent was to combine a pragmatic investigation of Township building assets with the creative analysis of experiences by staff and community members in order to uncover options that are relevant and sustainable.

This investigation effort included:

- Multiple work sessions with the following Ada Township staff:

George Haga  
Jackie Smith  
Kevin Moran  
Jim Ferro  
Mark Fitzpatrick

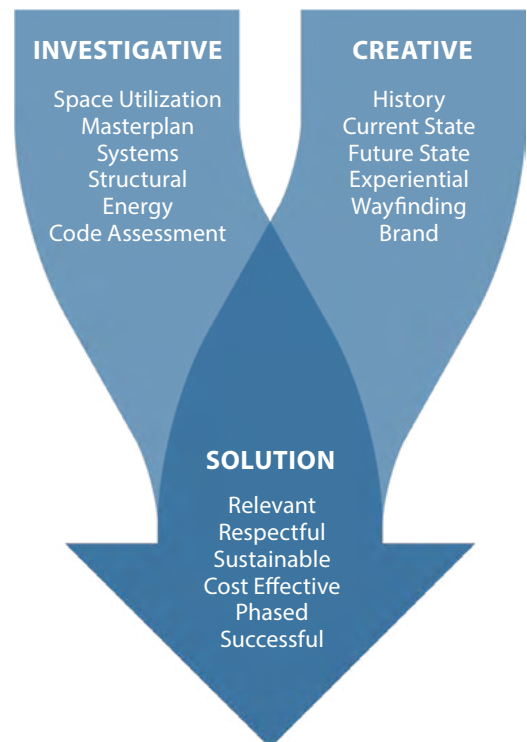
- Individual departmental interviews with:

Parks Department  
Building + Grounds  
Parks Maintenance  
Assessing Department  
Planning Department  
DDA  
Supervisor  
Treasurer  
Clerk  
Utility Department

- A mechanical, electrical, and plumbing assessment of each facility performed by E3M Solutions.

- A conceptual cost estimate performed by Journey Construction Group.

The report is organized in two sections. The first section contains a summary of findings related to the current state of each facility and suggested possibilities for future solutions with associated conceptual cost ranges. The second section (appendix) contains additional program analysis, departmental interview notes, engineering assessment and the conceptual cost estimate detail.







### **Ada Township Hall**

The Ada Township Hall is an 8,925 SF (+ basement) facility housing the offices of three elected positions: the Township Clerk, Treasurer and Supervisor. The facility also contains the Utilities Department, Assessing Department, Planning Department and office space for the DDA and Buildings and Grounds. Altogether, there are sixteen staff currently working in the Township Hall, providing services to the Township.

Community members visit the Township Hall on a daily basis and have four primary spaces in which staff interact with the public:

1. The entry lobby, which has window access to the Treasurer and Clerk staff.
2. The “RIX” conference room, which is a multipurpose space supporting elections as well as staff and community meetings.
3. The assembly hall, used primarily for Ada Township Planning Commission and Board Meetings.
4. Service windows directly into the Utility, Assessing and Planning departments.

The current staff, building program and functions fit within the building footprint, however there are many deficiencies with the layout, which negatively affect both the work of the staff and the service to the community. The study provides an initial test fit to improve workflow and overall user experience, which proved again that there is adequate space for the current staff and program. However, this study identified six potential new / future staff, as well as the possibility of relocating the Parks Department staff to the Township Hall. If all growth were realized the program requirements would exceed the available space. The study does not identify specific timeframes for the addition of new staff. Population and development growth and the associated services provided at the Township Hall will dictate the addition of future staff.

The site is restricted in terms of expansion by two access easements, shared parking and property lines. Expansion upwards (second story) is possible but not believed to be a viable solution due to cost and temporary relocation of current staff / services.

An assessment of the building systems found that two of the three mechanical units on the roof are 20 and 16 years old. While still functioning, they are beyond their expected life. The furnace / air conditioner and boiler are both 28 years old and have a high replacement priority. The water heater and third rooftop unit are newer and in good order. Independent of renovation or expansion, there are systems maintenance costs to be considered in the near future for the Township Hall. This report investigated two potential options:

1. Renovate the existing facility to maximize office space / functionality and community access / experience. The conceptual renovation maintained the existing footprint and assumed upgrades to the older building systems. This test fit proved, at a conceptual level, to address office and community issues and house current staff levels with some room for growth (approximately 4 additional staff), however the growth would be limited and would not satisfy the potential full growth projected. The study estimated the renovation to have a conceptual project cost between \$1,745,000 and \$2,164,000 (see detailed cost estimate within report).
2. Construct a new Township Hall on an undetermined site that would accommodate the full potential staff count at a conceptual project cost of \$3,796,000 to \$4,222,000 (see detailed cost estimate within report). This study does not make any assumptions regarding the specific location of a future site for the Township Hall, land acquisition costs or the future use of the current Township Hall building and site.



### **Park Office + Learning Center at Ada Park**

The Park Office + Learning Center is a 1,742 SF building located in the heart of Ada Park. The facility currently provides office space for the Parks Department and the Maintenance staff. There are 7 to 8 workstations shared among 10+ staff and 20-30 volunteers / part time workers. Also within the space is the Les Craig Learning Center. The learning center uses have adjusted over time to accommodate growing staff needs such as additional office, conference and break space in addition to the original multipurpose community use space.

The structure was originally designed as a simple garage so the slab is not insulated and the building skin and roof are under-insulated for regular occupancy. This, along with underperforming windows, seals, doors, mechanical system and a lack of a proper entry vestibule results in serious thermal discomfort for the occupants.

The investigation of this specific space use has proven to be complicated. The largest complication is that the internal space utilization must be assessed along with external space influences. The current building is not ideally located within Ada Park in terms of staff workflow, visitor experience and safety. There are numerous options to address the internal space needs but they are nearly impossible to evaluate without the larger context of a Park Master Plan. An overall master plan would ideally provide clarity to planning principles and township values so the Township can strategically orchestrate staff, equipment, services and ultimately physical space.

Without the umbrella of a Park Master Plan, this study identified a number of conceptual directions and assigned costs so that it can provide supporting information to a more comprehensive study.

This report investigated two potential options:

1. Renovate the existing Park Office + Learning Center to maximize office space / functionality and community access / experience. The conceptual renovation maintained the existing footprint and assumed upgrades to the thermal envelope and building systems. This test fit proved, at a conceptual level, to address some of the office and community issues and house current staff levels; however, the growth would be limited and would result in a reduction in size of the Learning Center. The study estimated the renovation to have a conceptual project cost between \$462,000 and \$555,000 (see detailed cost estimate within report).
2. With all future scenarios for the Park Office + Learning Center, it is clear that a short-term solution is critical. The shared office / desk situation and thermal comfort issues are immediate considerations. The study identified a smaller, immediate level of renovation to improve the ductwork, furnace, doors and power / data access on a short-term basis. This level of investment into a poor structure should only be viewed as a means to bridging the gap between the current state and a long-term plan. The study estimated this intermediate renovation to have a conceptual project cost between \$36,000 to \$43,500 (see detailed cost estimate within report).



### **Facilities + Maintenance Building at Ada Park**

The Facilities + Maintenance Building is a 3,125 SF building centrally located in Ada Park. The facility currently provides equipment and workspace space for the Maintenance Staff and the Building + Grounds staff. There is currently no office space at this facility.

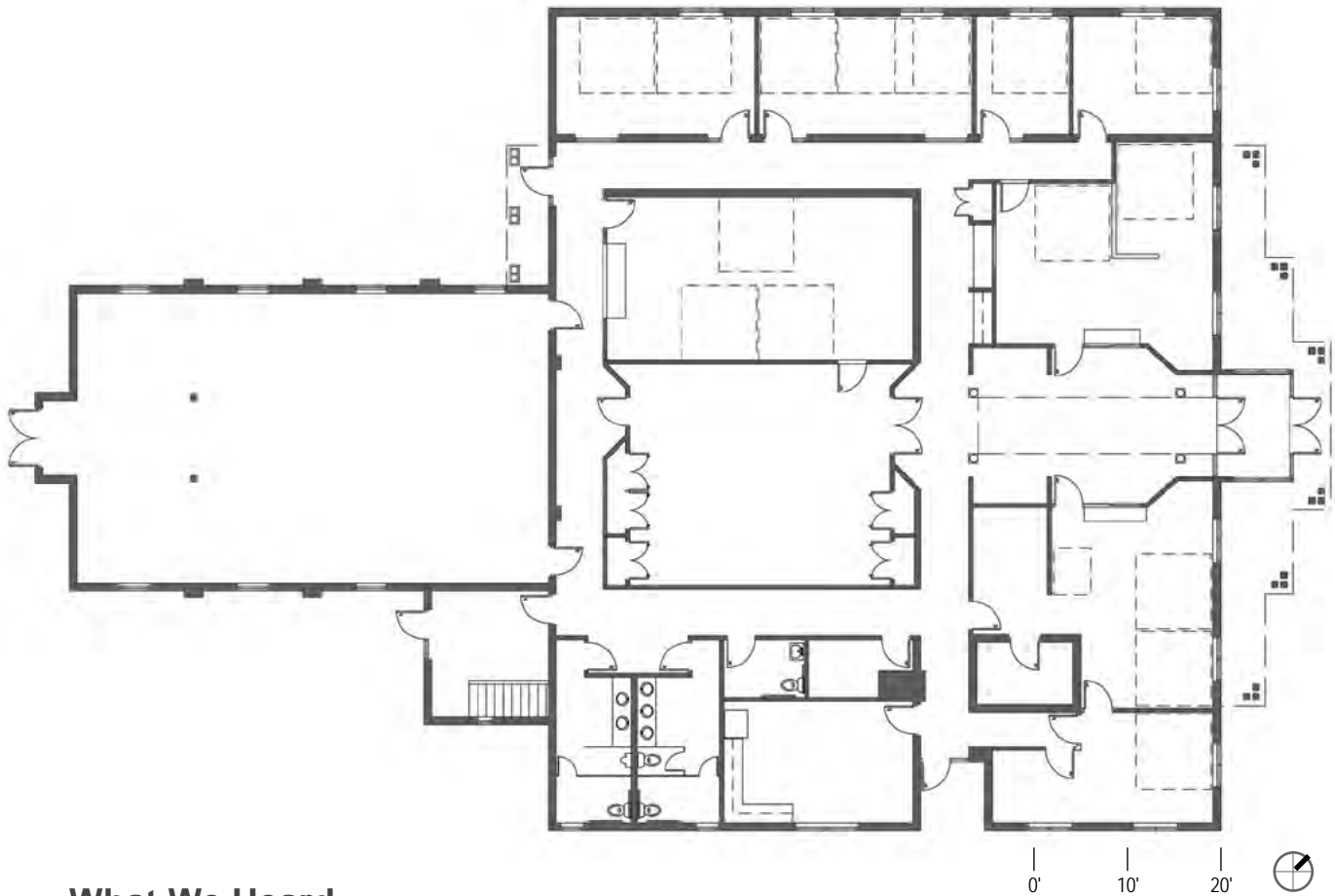
The structure was designed as a simple garage so the slab is not insulated and the building skin and roof are under-insulated for regular occupancy. There are a number of deficiencies with the current building summarized within this report. Most notably, there is insufficient space for the current and future equipment and supplies, there is a lack of utilities to properly support activities and there is a lack of proper office / work area.

As with the Parks Office + Learning Center, the investigation of this specific space has proven to be complicated. The largest complication is that the internal space utilization must be assessed along with external space influences. The current building is not ideally located within Ada Park in terms of staff/equipment workflow, safety and park user experience. There are numerous options to address the internal space needs, but they are nearly impossible to evaluate without the larger context of a Park Master Plan. An overall master plan would ideally provide clarity to planning principles and township values so the Township can strategically orchestrate staff, equipment, services and ultimately physical space.

Without the umbrella of a Park Master Plan, this study identified a number of conceptual directions and assigned costs so that it can provide supporting information to a more comprehensive study.

This report investigated multiple potential options:

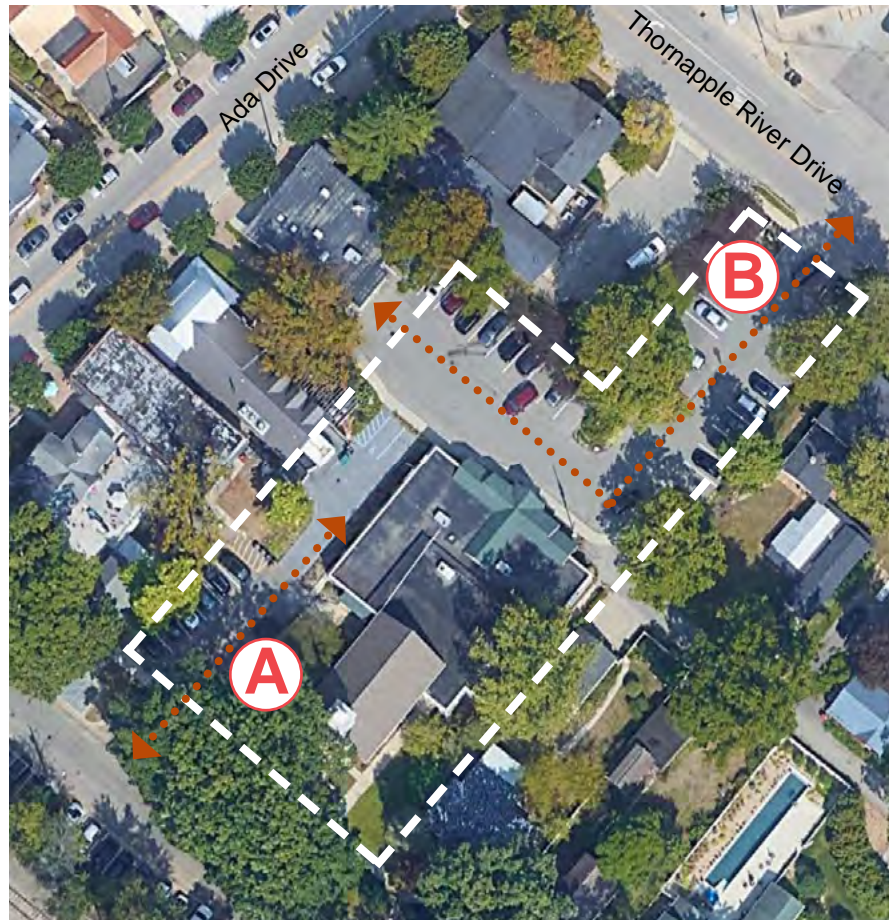
1. Add two additional bays to the existing structure to maximize storage / work space. This addition, at a conceptual level, addresses the space needs for equipment and work space; however, it would not address an office solution for the Maintenance staff or the current issues related to the location of the building. The study estimated the addition to have a conceptual project cost between \$436,000 and \$523,000 (see detailed cost estimate within report).
2. Add two additional bays and an office to the existing structure. This addition, at a conceptual level, addresses the space needs for equipment and work space and office needs of the Maintenance Staff; however, it would not address the current issues related to the location of the building. The study estimated the addition to have a conceptual project cost between \$777,000 and \$932,000 (see detailed cost estimate within report). The large increase from option one to two is due to the extension of utilities required to support an office environment.
3. Construct a new Facilities + Maintenance Building on an undetermined site that would house the full program at a conceptual project cost of \$902,000 to \$1,082,000 (see detailed cost estimate within report). This study does not make any assumptions regarding the specific location of a future site for the Facilities + Maintenance Building, land acquisition costs, utility upgrades or the future use of the current building and site.
4. Construct a new gravel service vehicle drive around the perimeter of the existing Facilities + Maintenance Building to provide more outdoor storage access at a conceptual project cost of \$80,000 to \$96,000 (see detailed cost estimate within report).



### What We Heard...

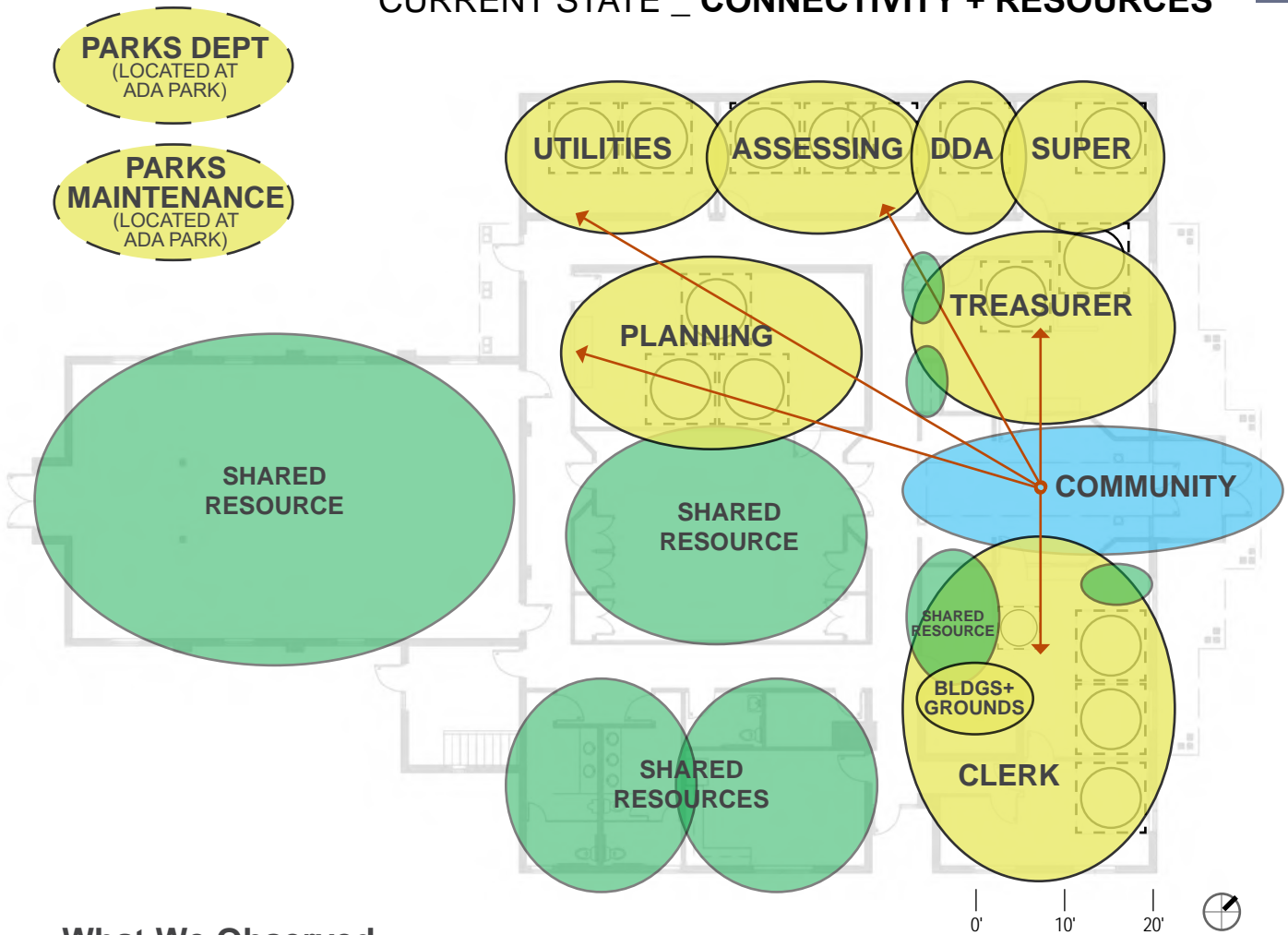
- The Community is growing and the spaces within Township Hall from which services are provided is in many ways not efficient.
- It is important to uncover sensible short term and long term solutions to address space utilization for the Township Hall.
- Signage and Wayfinding is not intuitive, welcoming or user friendly. The flow of office staff and community members is not intentionally planned or ideal.
- The large conference room (RIX) serves multiple needs but none in a functionally ideal way.
- Storage is a critical component to space use and the overall function of the services provided:
  - Storage and file access drive current personal office size
  - Location of some shared storage can create access issues
  - Basement storage is not ideal environmentally (water / dampness)
  - Off-site storage needs some review with ideally some reduction of current state
- Assembly hall (original church)
  - BD mtgs (x2/mo), PC mtgs (x1/mo), ZBA mtgs (x1/mo), DDA mtgs.
  - Election training for up to 100 (potential to be held elsewhere).
  - Uncomfortable and low flexibility results in low utilization.
  - New IT / AV system recently installed.
  - Door security is an issue.
- Office safety is an ongoing concern.
- Restrooms have poor ventilation, public / staff separation can be a challenge.





### What We Heard...

- Parking is generally working....
  - Shared public parking is directed by signage and believed to be understood.
  - Large events, at times, can be a challenge for parking.
  - Delivery truck drop-off to adjacent business can be an inconvenience.
  - There are eight spaces to the south and twenty seven spaces to the north however these spaces are often shared with adjacent businesses.
- There are two access easement in place for the site:
  - Access Easement **A** (see graphic above)
    - 20' wide access on NW side of Township hall providing access to businesses fronting on Ada Drive and access to shared parking
  - Access Easement **B** (see graphic above)
    - Access through parking area to businesses fronting on Ada Drive and access to shared parking
- The original church structure is not on the official Historic Registry however the exterior has been maintained and it is a contributing piece of architecture for the character of the Village.
- The building exterior, in general, appears to be in good condition (a full exterior assessment was not conducted as a part of this study).
- Roof replaced in 2018. Drain issue has been corrected.
- The Parks Department is currently located at Ada Park. The Buildings + Grounds staff is also located at Ada Park with one staff member using a small desk at the Township Hall.
- There is minimal site area for expansion to the Ada Township Hall due the historic nature of the original church to the South, a tight property line to the Southeast and the two easements to the Northwest and Northeast.



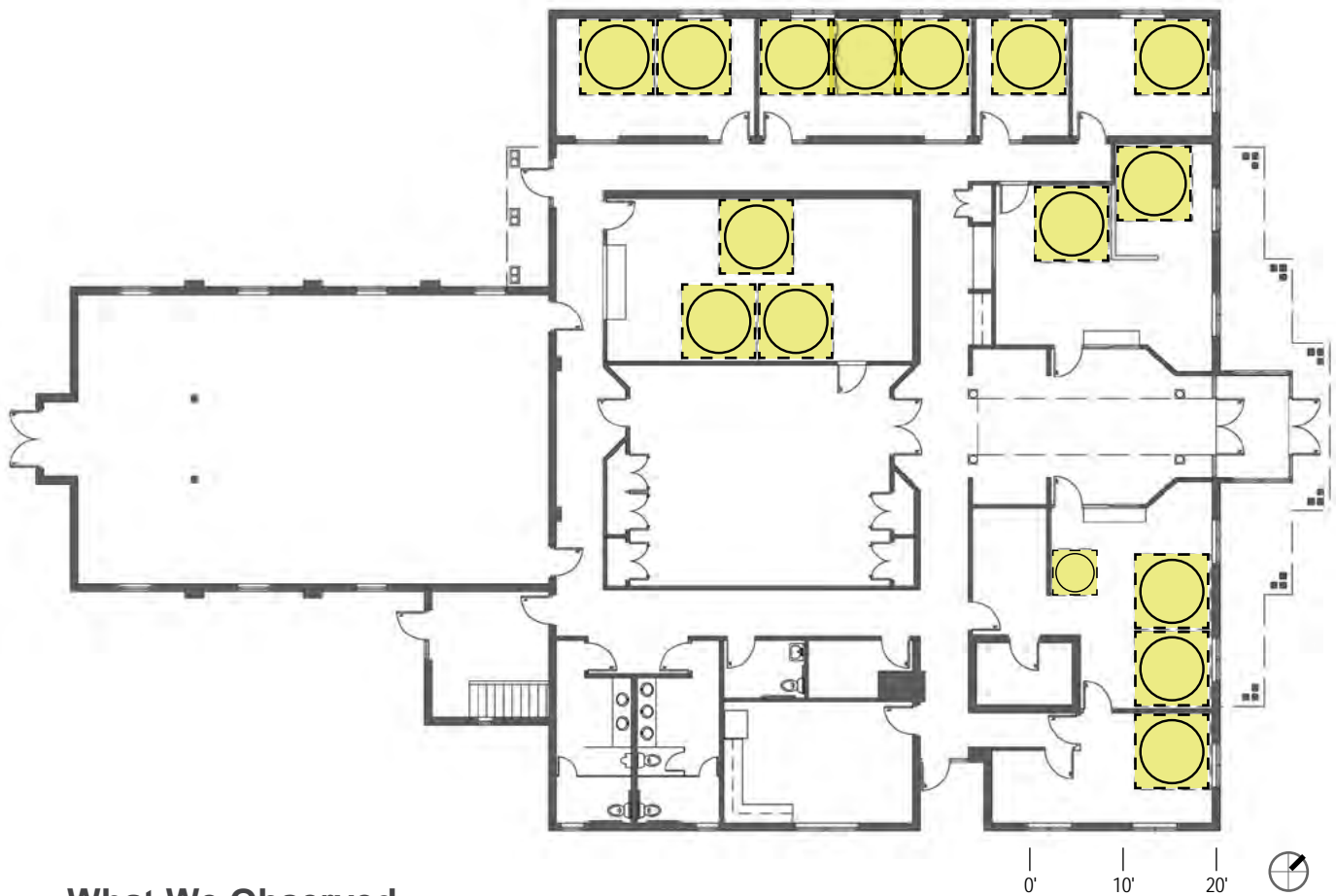
### What We Observed...

#### CONNECTIVITY

- The following departments require direct connections to the public within the building:  
Treasurer, Clerk, Planning, Assessing, Utilities
- The Supervisor and DDA also require connectivity to the community however it often occurs outside of the facility and is less dependent on the workspace.
- Very few, if any, staff meet with community members within their personal work space. Most interactions are over a transaction counter or within the RIX or Assembly Hall.
- Current access to the multiple transaction counters require the public and staff to mix circulation. Many of the transaction counters are not intentionally functional, ergonomic and / or barrier free.
- As the facility is not large, most departments have a frequent connectivity with each other. The Supervisor and Planning have frequent / daily interactions with most departments.
- The current department suites are not required. Shared space is possible with the appropriate support amenities and access to privacy when needed.

#### RESOURCES

- The RIX room accommodates election activities, most all conference needs, filing + storage. Most conferencing needs are for smaller groups (4-6) and occasionally larger groups (8-12).
- The Assembly Hall serves public meetings but due to fixed seating is inflexible and therefore under-utilized as a multi-purpose space.
- The mail room location also houses files, and its location forces staff and public movements to overlap.
- Restrooms are shared between staff and public which again causes overlap yet satisfies code requirements. The restrooms are in need of renovation.



### What We Observed...

- There are three full time elected staff along with an additional 13 full time staff who currently have a dedicated office within the building.
- Future staffing growth is connected to population growth and expanded township services, and therefore staffing growth is not specifically scheduled.
- As a part of this analysis each department was interviewed. In those discussions potential staffing that could be required to support growth and expanded services were forecasted.

The following potential staffing positions were identified:

- (1) Future Township Manager
  - (1) Future Operations Staff
  - (1) Future Township Planner
  - (1) Future Utility Director (if this position is someday separated from the Supervisor role)
  - (2) Future Summer Interns
- The diagram above shows the current locations of the 16 staff members who have dedicated workspace within the building. As a point of reference, the graphic square for each position is 8' x 8' with the exception of the Buildings + Grounds desk which is represented by a 5' x 5' square.



Represents one staffing position  
(dashed box is 8'x8')



**What We Observed...**

- In a number of instances, space is either underutilized, not efficient or it is used in ways that are not fully intentional.

**Under Utilized Space**

- Assembly hall

Due to fixed seating, this space is not able to flex for multiple uses.

- Breakroom is underutilized

One table is awkward and too exposed for dining / social. The location of this space does not promote impromptu / social interactions as it is remote from all works areas. While it is occasionally used for meetings due to lack of options it does not function well as a kitchen, break or social hub.

**Space Use is Not Intentional**

- The large conference RIX room accommodates election activities, most all conference needs, filing + storage. Most conferencing needs are for smaller groups (4-6) and occasionally larger groups (8-12). While this space is frequently used, at times causing scheduling issues, it does not adequately support the uses listed above. Over time it has accommodated most all activities which do not have an intentional space.

**Space Inefficiency**

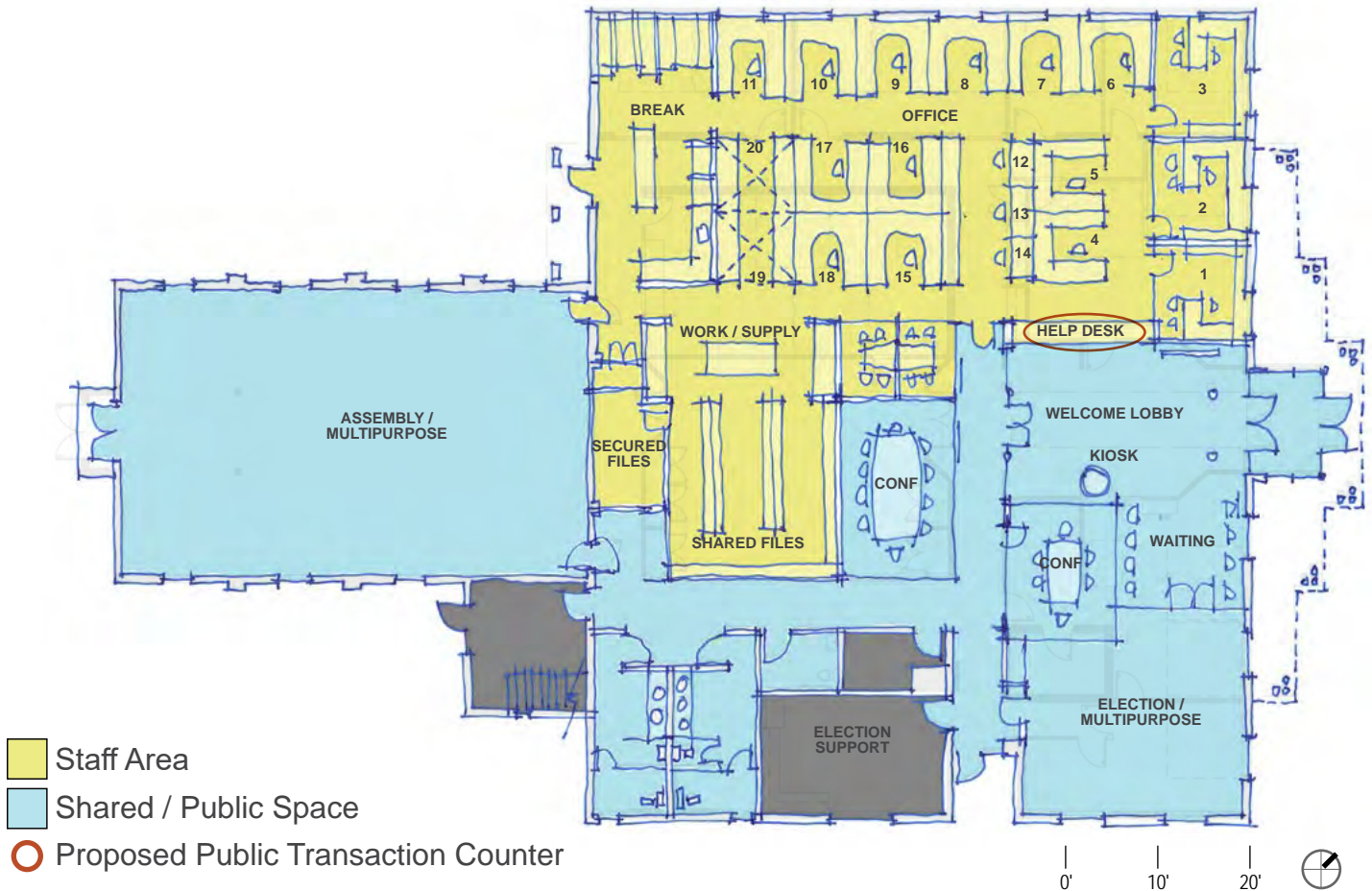
- Storage / Circulation within shared “suites” creates redundant space that could be leveraged for program. As an example, the circulation within the Assessing suite is redundant with the hallway circulation on the other side of the door, adjacent to the suite. Additionally, some individual office spaces are larger than average and could be reconfigured to smaller footprints with similar functionality.



### What We Observed...

- Signage and Wayfinding are not intuitive, welcoming or user friendly.
- The flow of office staff and community members is not intentionally planned or ideal. There are overlapping movements creating security issues and inefficiencies.
- Multiple transaction counters create extra steps for public access and require better wayfinding signage to function properly.
- A smaller 4-6 person conference room for meetings between staff and community would reduce the need for the public to enter the workspace and provide a quiet place for collaboration.
- The swing gate is a subtle queue for the public to stop and check in before entering but is less than ideal.
- Staff are not positioned in such a way that they can make eye contact with community members as they enter, creating confusion as to which window to approach and a poor start to the service experience.
- A kiosk for payment and potentially other community services could be placed in the lobby / waiting area to enhance the service offerings.
- Election booth locations have spread from within the RIX to hallway locations, which is not ideal.
- Assembly Hall has uncomfortable seating for public use.
- Restrooms have poor ventilation, public v staff use can be a challenge.
- Many of these issues contribute to office safety, which is an ongoing concern.

- Staff Area
- Shared / Public Space
- Current Public Transaction Windows

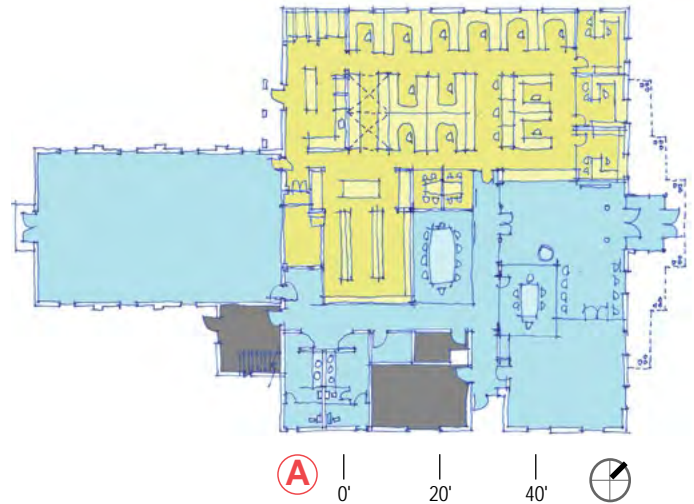


## DESIGN OBJECTIVES...

- Intuitive, welcoming and user friendly.
- Improve Community and Staff experience.
- Additional office space to accommodate potential staff growth.
- Clear definition of staff and public spaces to improve flow and security.
- Consolidate help desk to improve customer experience.
- Consolidate file storage into higher density shared space.
- Provide right sized, intentional collaboration spaces.
- Standardize individual office solutions for flexibility.
- Leverage break area as an important component of the workplace.
- Isolate election activities so as not to negatively impact office functions during elections.
- Improve comfort and flexibility of Assembly Hall.
- Improve functionality of restrooms.
- Maximize building reuse.

## NOTE

This conceptual investigation was completed to better understand how the projected future program might fit within the existing Township Hall footprint. There are multiple layout options to further study if renovation is selected however this initial test fit demonstrates the ability to satisfy many of the design objectives stated below creating a much improved situation from the current state.



### Ada Township Hall Space Use POTENTIAL OPTIONS

- A** Renovate existing 8,925 SF Township Hall + 700 SF Lower Level (see conceptual plan)

CONCEPTUAL COST RANGE: \$1,745,000 to \$2,164,000.  
(see cost estimate detail in appendix)

#### Assumptions:

The conceptual renovation plan in this study shows space for up to four additional staff office positions. These additional spaces would cover expected growth, however if the Parks Department were to relocate from Ada Park to the Township Hall, there would not be enough space to accommodate future staff.

- B** Construct a new Township Hall approximately 11,350 SF of new construction (9,400 SF per program spreadsheet + 700 SF current lower level + 250 SF to account for off site storage + 1,000 SF to accommodate the possibility of the Parks Department moving into this new facility)

CONCEPTUAL COST RANGE: \$3,796,000 to \$4,222,000.  
(see cost estimate detail in appendix)

#### Assumptions:

This study assumes if a new Township Hall were constructed that the Parks Department would relocate from Ada Park to the new Township Hall.

This study does not make any assumptions regarding the specific location of a future site for the Township Hall, land acquisition costs or the future use of the current Township Hall building and site.





### What We Heard...

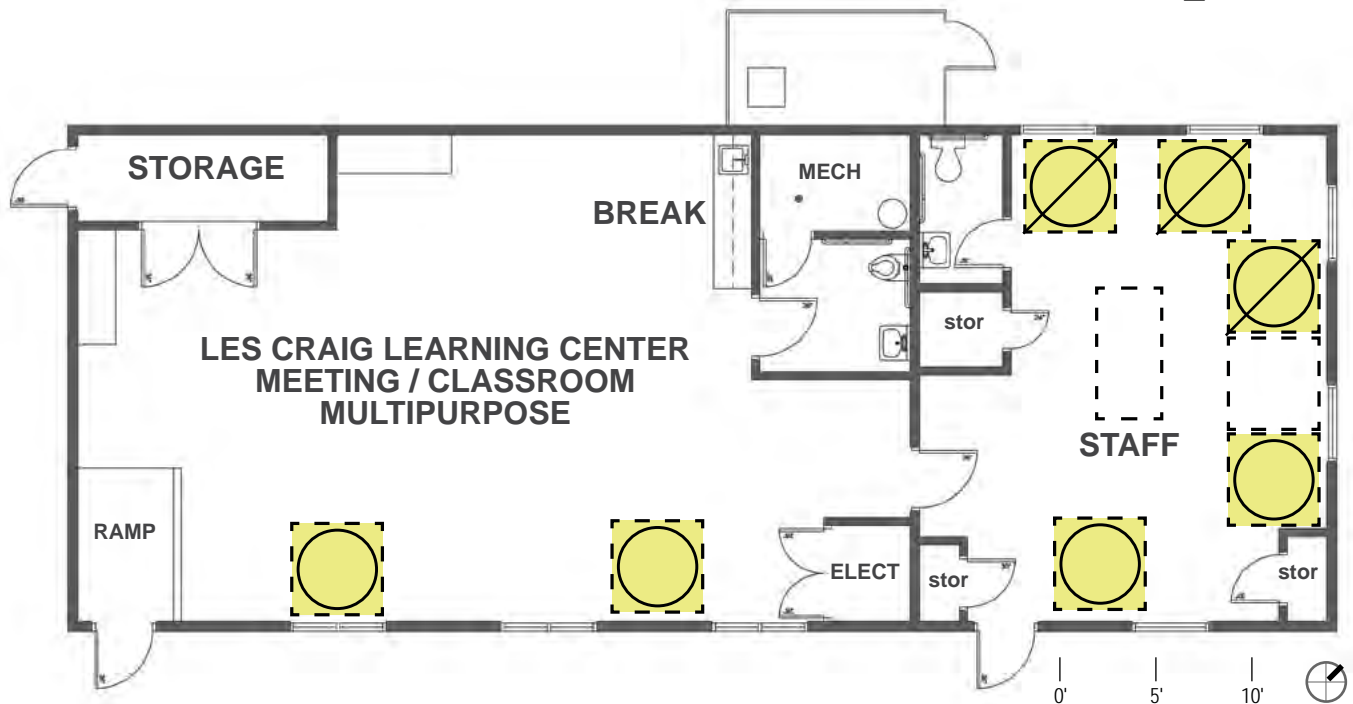
- While this study is primarily focused on interior space use it uncovered a number of planning issues at Ada Park that directly influence where township staff are located and how they best connect to and serve the community.

Area **A** in the graphic above is the main entrance to Ada Park off of Buttrick Avenue. It is the center of park activity and the current location of the Park Office + Learning Center. There is limited space between the tennis courts and the softball field for the building and narrow parking lot. This congested area creates safety concerns and a less than optimal entry experience. While parking is essential to the park, a new location for the building should be explored so that the drive lane, parking spaces and access to park amenities can all be improved.

Area **B** in the graphic above is a shared parking surface serving the community parking and the Facilities + Maintenance Building which housing Maintenance and Buildings + Grounds (equipment only). The multipurpose utilization of the lot saves space however it can be problematic during larger events and places this service building, which is a “back of house community service” in a highly visible location. Service traffic to and from the Facilities + Maintenance Building moves daily through the entry drive (area A) which is not ideal and potentially unsafe for pedestrians.

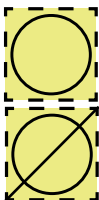
Preliminary discussions have been started on improved locations for the the buildings in Ada Park. One concept discussed considered relocating the Parks Department to the Township Hall and finding a less visible, less public location for Facilities + Maintenance Building.

Area **C** in the graphic above was conceptually discussed as a possible location for Facilities + Maintenance Building as it is less impactful to the park experience, however extending utilities to this location would be a cost consideration. If relocation is supported, further investigation to uncover possible sites will be required. While these issues are identified in this study, possible solutions should be further discovered and analyzed via a Parks Masterplan Study that looks strategically at all Park resources.



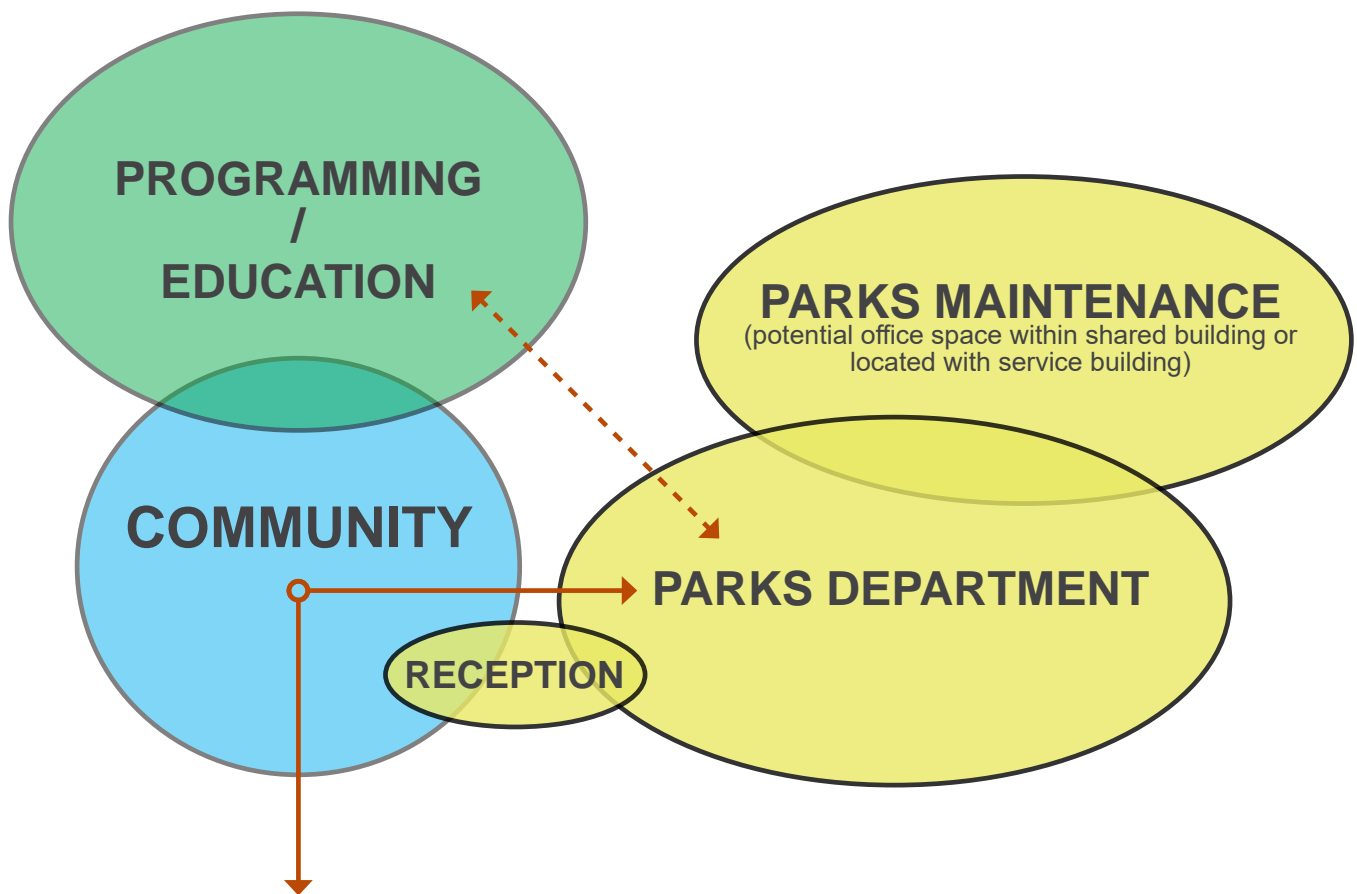
### What We Heard...

- The space was originally designed as a garage so the slab is not insulated and the building skin / roof are under-insulated for regular occupancy.
- Thermal comfort is a major concern.
- Entry into the facility is not intuitive, inviting, intentional or safe.
  - Without an entry vestibule, when a visitor enters the office cold air infiltrates the space.
  - Upon entry visitors are also immediately within the workspace creating distractions.
  - As one exits the building they are immediately into a vehicular parking / drive area.
  - Without an entry vestibule, dirt / leaves are easily tracked into the workspace.
- Two staff have dedicated work space, six staff have shared space and two have space in the multipurpose room. A center table and shared computer station help with flexibility, however the tight footprint does not allow for focused work and relies on staff to stagger uses.
- Continued park and trail growth triggers additional work effort and staffing needs.
- Proximity of staff restroom is awkward without adequate separation.
- Current uses for multipurpose / classroom:
  - Primary goal is for education - summer programs - more than just youth.
  - Staff use (office growth, meetings, lunch).
  - Indoor rental opportunities are limited and are more popular at Roselle Park.
  - Community partners and volunteers occasionally use the multipurpose room.
  - Park board meetings and sub committees (some meetings to be relocated to library).
  - Park activity support - safe zone for inclement weather / coach meetings.
- Access to parks and softball fields is important for program staff, specifically in the evenings when games are most commonly played.
- Staff make daily trips to Township Office for larger volume printing needs, rental checks, registration, office supplies, mail box.
- Some element of parks office / registration / program have potential to be relocated to the Township Office.
- Wall space should house both operational information and aspirational information.



Represents an office space dedicated to one staff  
(dashed box is 5'x5')

Represents an office space shared by two staff  
(dashed box is 5'x5')



### Planning Questions...WHAT WE HEARD

- Staffing for the Parks Department is fluid with many part-time individuals who do not require dedicated office space. Of the staff that do require space, what are the critical adjacencies that will ultimately drive their location? Access to the Park? To Equipment? To Twp Hall staff?

*It is beneficial for Maintenance and Operations staff to have an office space on site near or within the Facilities + Maintenance Building. It is important to have Parks Department staff on-site, at Ada Park, to support park users and events.*

- Assuming different Parks staff have different critical adjacencies, is there a case to disperse staff (some remain at Ada Park, some to Twp Hall, some to expanded service building)?

*Some Parks Department staff could be relocated to Twp Hall however it was discussed that co-locating Parks Department staff and M+O staff is preferable as there are synergies that have developed between the departments.*

- The current Parks Department office space is deficient (size, comfort, location...) and was not originally designed for office use. What options exist for relocation? On-site or off-site?

*The goal discussed is to centrally locate some, if not all, office space and multipurpose space within Ada Park.*

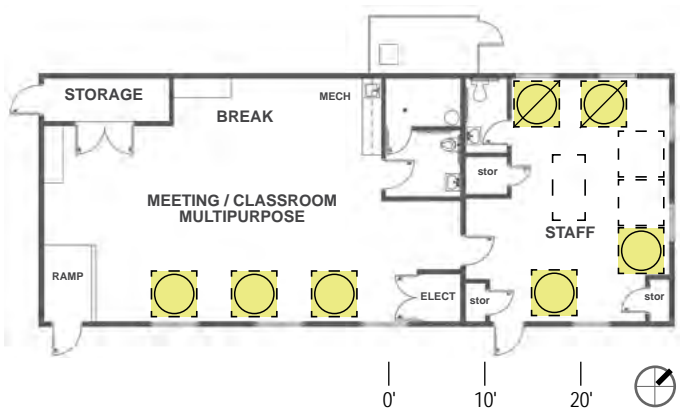
*The existing building envelope is not adequate from a thermal comfort perspective and will require some investment to improve. Any investment into the current facility should be evaluated with respect to short term and long term planning.*

*This study identifies multiple options for consideration.*

- What is the overall plan / vision for the Les Craig Learning Center?

*The goal is to retain multipurpose space at Ada Park to support park events and community education. Further program planning is required with regards to how other community spaces (Library) and parks (Roselle) may or may not influence Ada Park indoor program offerings.*





### (POTENTIAL) SHORT TERM CONCEPT plan

#### DESIGN OBJECTIVES...

- Locate all maintenance + operations staff office space inside the multipurpose room.
- Use the vacated desk space in the office area for interns and shared parks department office needs.
- Continue to use the Les Craig Learning Center as a multipurpose space.
- Make sensible thermal improvements to improve user comfort (new furness, ductwork, doors, seals)
- Minimize investment into existing structure with the goal of reaching a longer term solution as soon as possible.



### (POTENTIAL) LONGER TERM CONCEPT test fit

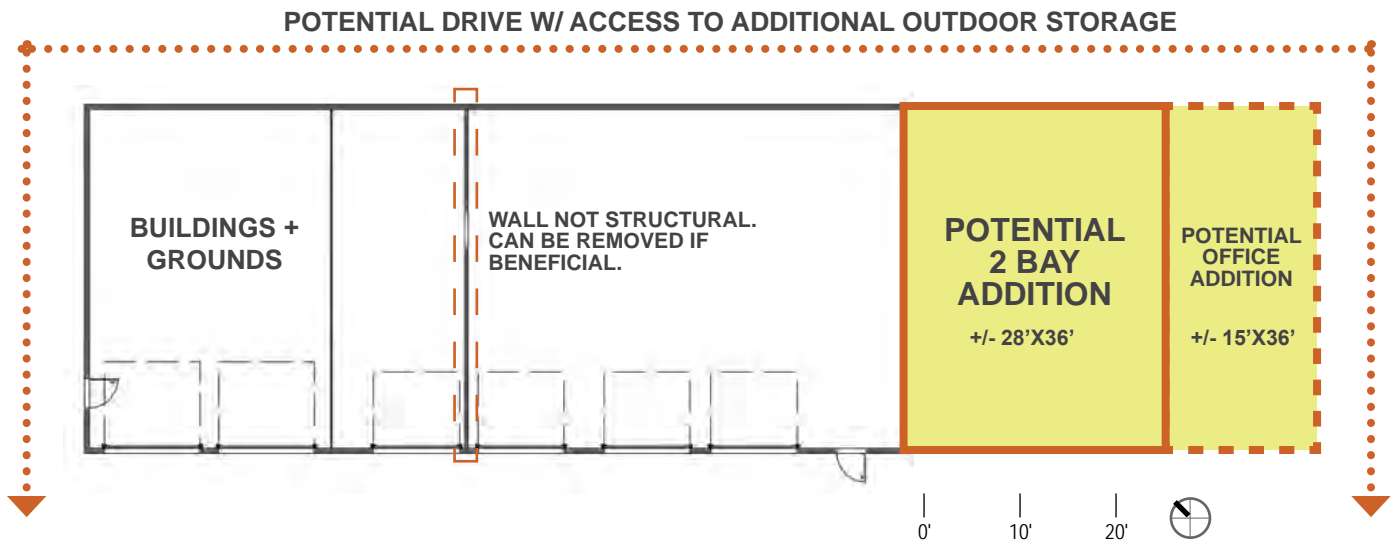
#### DESIGN OBJECTIVES...

- Enhance entry - intuitive, welcoming and user friendly.
- Improve Community and Staff experience.
- Clear definition of staff and public spaces.
- Improve thermal comfort.
- Increase office space while maintaining community support.
- Create vestibule / lobby for thermal break, safety, cleanliness.
- Provide some confidential spaces.
- Improve safety of entry / exit (site improvements).
- Allow for expansion if / when education program requires space.
- Improve access / separation / functionality of restroom.
- Maximize existing building.

- Staff Area
- Shared / Public Space
- Proposed Public Transaction Counter

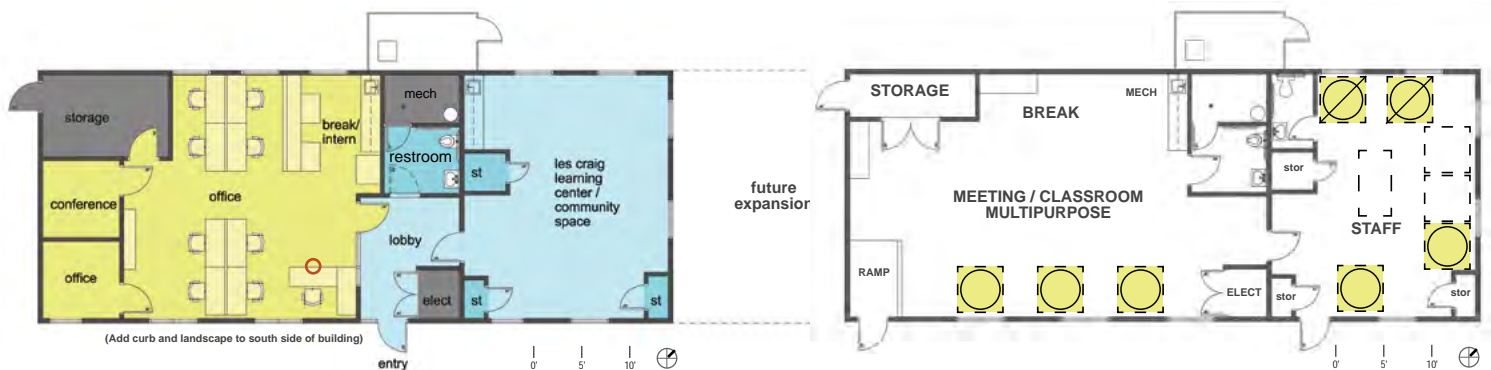
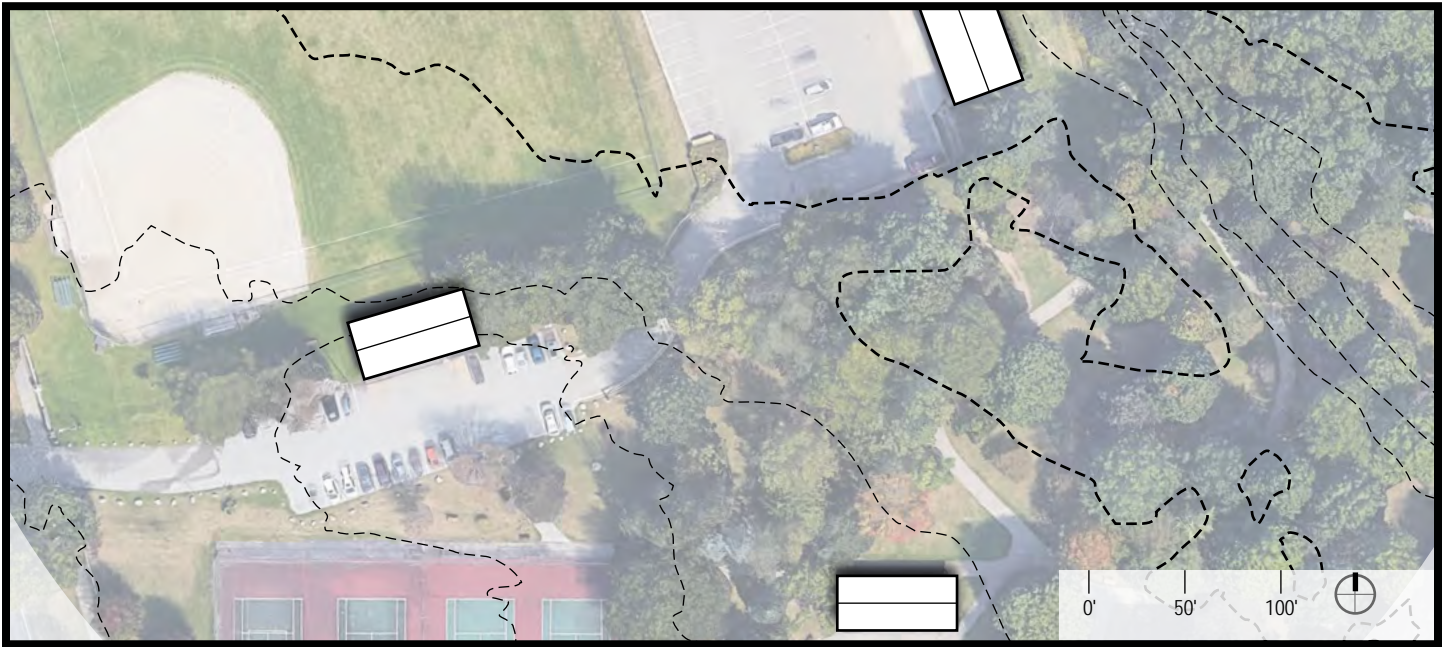
### NOTE

This long term conceptual investigation below was completed to better understand how the projected future program might fit within the existing Parks Office + Learning Center Building footprint. There are multiple layout options to further study if renovation is selected however this initial test fit demonstrates the ability to satisfy many of the design objectives stated below creating a much improved situation over the current state.



### What We Heard...

- The location of this facility is not ideal in that it shares a public parking lot and is very visible to the center of the Park.
- The current space heater does not adequately warm the space to allow for staff to work inside the facility during winter. There is insulation in only the 3 southern bays.
- Chemical storage solutions are lacking (storage / safety / mixing / cleaning).
- No water is available inside the facility. Outside hose bib is shut off during winter.
- Snow removal is a challenge.
- Winter storage and workbench are both a current space challenge.
- There are currently no floor drains.
- Public safety is an ongoing concern with shared parking area that can be congested during evening events. No reported issues with theft or security of equipment.
- Fourth (middle) bay is seasonal / program storage, park operations truck storage.
- Current height and width of garage doors is problematic.
- An additional vehicle was recently added to the department. It is believed by staff that the two bay addition will accommodate the storage and workbench needs, including this new vehicle.
- Locating office space for the Maintenance staff at the Facilities + Maintenance Building is ideal however utilities would be needed to support this new use. If the service building were to be relocated it would be preferable to build a new facility that houses the seven bays, work areas, storage and office space.



**A1** (POTENTIAL) **LONGER TERM**  
**CONCEPT test fit**

**A2** (POTENTIAL) **SHORT TERM**  
**CONCEPT plan**

## Parks Office + Learning Center at Ada Park POTENTIAL OPTIONS

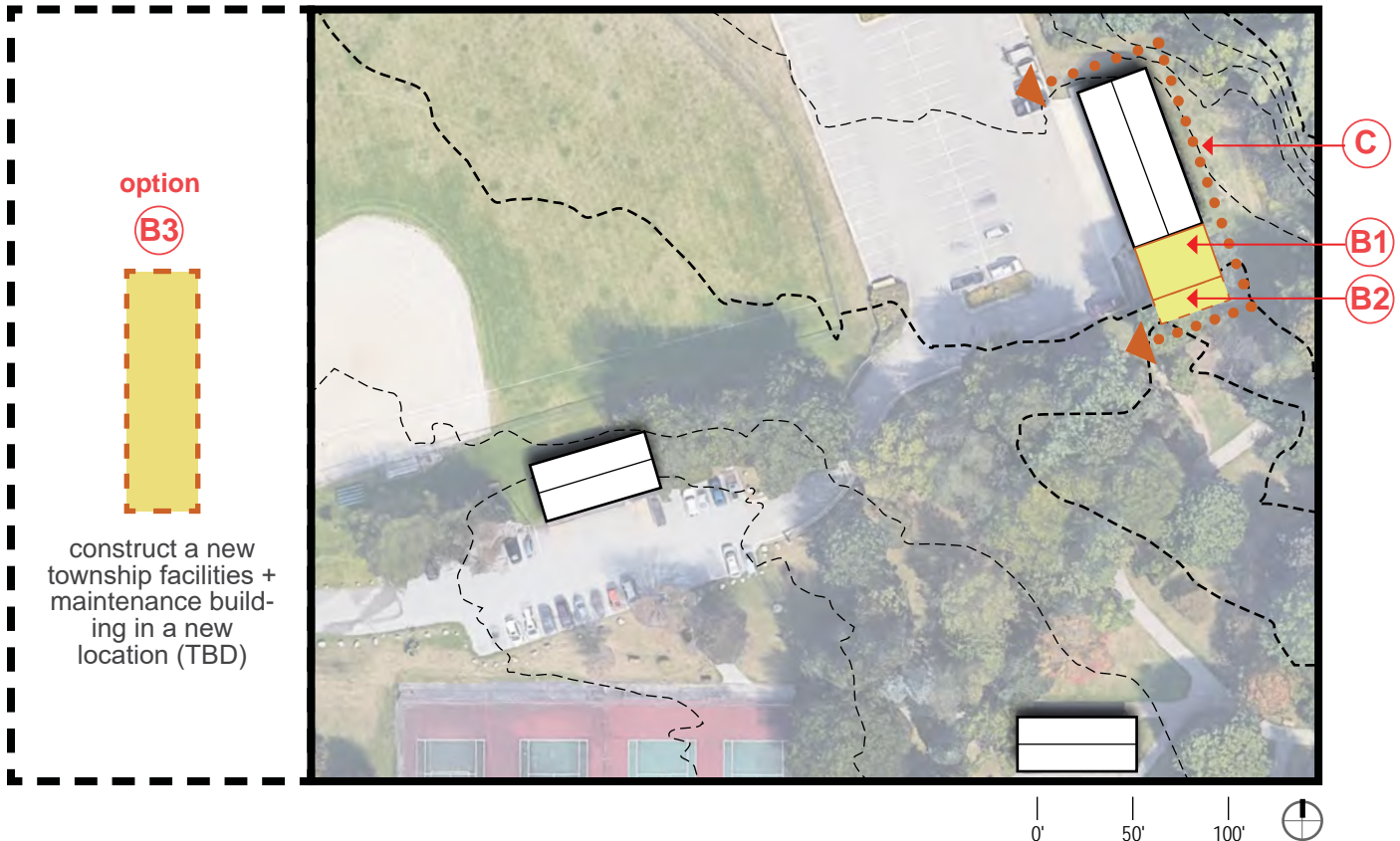
- A1** Long term renovation of existing 1,745 SF Parks Office + Learning Center. Reorganize internal uses including moving staff to current multipurpose room for additional space and moving the Les Craig Learning Center to the current office space. Improve thermal performance. Potential for future addition to east or west for expanded program.

CONCEPTUAL COST RANGE: \$462,000 to \$555,000.  
(see cost estimate detail in appendix)

- A2** Short term renovation of existing 1,745 SF Parks Office + Learning Center. Improve the duct-work, furnace, doors and power/data access on a short-term basis.

CONCEPTUAL COST RANGE: \$36,250 to \$43,500.  
(see cost estimate detail in appendix)





### Facilities + Maintenance Building at Ada Park POTENTIAL OPTIONS

- B1** 1000 SF addition of two bays to the existing Facilities + Maintenance Building to accommodate equipment and work area needs of Maintenance Staff.

CONCEPTUAL COST RANGE: \$436,000 to \$523,000.  
(see cost estimate detail in appendix)

- B2** 1000 SF addition of two bays to the existing Facilities + Maintenance Building AND a 540 SF addition to accommodate equipment and work area AND office needs of Maintenance Staff.

CONCEPTUAL COST RANGE: \$777,000 to \$933,000.  
(see cost estimate detail in appendix)

- B3** Construct a new 4,665 SF Facilities + Maintenance Building on an undetermined site that would house the full program.

CONCEPTUAL COST RANGE: \$902,000 to \$1,082,00.  
(see cost estimate detail in appendix. land acquisition + improvements, utility costs NIC)

- C** Construct a new gravel service vehicle drive around the perimeter of the existing Facilities + Maintenance Building to provide more outdoor storage access at a conceptual project cost of \$80,000 to \$96,000 (see detailed cost estimate within report).

**APPENDIX / Additional Information**

Page #	Content
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29	Township Treasurer Program Notes
30	Utility Department Program Notes
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38 - 39	Facilities + Maintenance Building _ Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing Assessment
40	Township Hall _ Conceptual Cost Estimate Backup
41	Park Office + Learning Center _ Conceptual Cost Estimate Backup
42	Facilities + Maintenance Building _ Conceptual Cost Estimate Backup

### What We Heard...

The following spreadsheet represent a summary of the Township Hall Program

TOWNSHIP HALL	CURRENT			PROPOSED				NOTES
	SIZE	QTY	TOTAL	SIZE	SF	QTY	TOTAL	
<b>Staff _ Township Hall</b>								
Township Clerk (Jackie Smith)		1	167	10 x 12	120	1	120	open office adjacent to clerk staff + customer window
Deputy Clerk		1	inc below	8 x 8	64	1	64	open office adjacent to customer window
Admin Assistant		1	inc below	8 x 8	64	1	64	open office adjacent to customer window
Buildings + Grounds		1	362	5 x 5	25	1	25	office at Twp Hall / equipment at Ada Park
Accountant		1	135	8 x 8	64	1	64	open office adjacent to customer window
Township Treasurer (Kevin Moran)		1	inc below	10 x 12	120	1	120	open office adjacent to deputy treasurer + customer window
Deputy Treasurer		1	460	8 x 8	64	1	64	open office adjacent to customer window
Township Supervisor (George Haga)		1	190	10 x 12	120	1	120	currently in private office and is also Utility Director
Future Township Manager				8 x 8	64	1	64	potential growth
Future Operations Staff				5 x 5	25	1	25	potential growth / office location TBD
Planning Director		1	inc below	8 x 10	80	1	80	open office adjacent to clerk staff + customer window
Future Planner				8 x 8	64	1	64	potential growth
Planner + Zoning Administrator		1	inc below	8 x 8	64	1	64	open office adjacent to customer window
Admin Assistant (for Planning + Supervisor)		1	573	8 x 8	64	1	64	open office adjacent to customer window
Utility Director		0 **		8 x 10	80	1	80	**currently is also Twp Supervisor
Utility Accountant		1	135	8 x 8	64	1	64	open office adjacent to customer window
Assessor		1	inc below	8 x 8	64	1	64	open office adjacent to customer window
Future Summer Intern				5 x 5	25	2	50	potential growth
Appraiser		1	inc below	8 x 8	64	1	64	open office adjacent to customer window
Assessing Support		1	290	8 x 8	64	1	64	open office adjacent to customer window
DDA		1	126	8 x 8	64	1	64	currently in private office
<b>CURRENT STAFF</b>		<b>16</b>	<b>2438</b>	<b>POTENTIAL STAFF</b>		<b>22</b>	<b>1,452</b>	sf NET AREA
				efficiency (net)	55%		799	sf GROSSING
							2,251	sf COMPARABLE TO CURRENT STAFFING TOTAL
<b>Support Spaces _ Township Hall</b>								
Vestibule	8 x 11	1	88	8 x 11	88	1	88	
Public lobby	16 x 25	1	400	16 x 25	400	1	400	
Public restrooms	18 x 19	1	342	18 x 19	342	1	342	
Unisex restroom	9 x 6	1	54	9 x 6	54	1	54	
IT Closet	11 x 6	1	66	11 x 6	66	1	66	
Breakroom	20 x 13	1	260	20 x 13	260	1	260	
Large Conference (RIX)	33 x 24		792					
Large Conference				12 x 16	192	1	192	8-12 person
Small Conference				10 x 12	120	2	240	4-6 person
Enclave / Phone Booth				5 x 6	30	2	60	1 person space for focus / privacy
Election Activity Room				28 x 18	504	1	504	support election process w/o disruption to office
Mail / copy / supply room	8 x 9	1	72	8 x 9	72	1	72	
Assembly Hall	50 x 31	1	1550	50 x 31	1,550	1	1550	
Supply room	12 x 10	1	120	12 x 10	120	1	120	
Storage _ Active Files	3 x 27	1	81	3 x 27	81	1	81	
Storage _ Active Vault	10 x 7	1	70	10 x 7	70	1	70	
Storage _ Active Election	3 x 38	1	114	3 x 38	114	1	114	Ideal to isolate election prep space from Clerk office
Storage _ Long term / On site	15 x 38	1	570	15 x 38	570	1	570	
Active Office File Storage / Access				16 x 18	288	1	288	consolidate files stored within individual spaces
Service Window _ Treasurer	2 x 6	1	12	2 x 6	12	1	12	(service windows could be combined)
Service Window _ Clerk	2 x 6	1	12	2 x 6	12	1	12	
Service Window _ Assessing	2 x 5	1	10	2 x 5	10	1	10	
Service Window _ Planning	2 x 8	1	16	2 x 8	16	1	16	
Service Window _ Utility	2 x 5	1	10	2 x 5	10	1	10	
<b>support spaces subtotal</b>			<b>4639</b> sf				<b>5,131</b> sf	
<b>staffing subtotal</b>			<b>2438</b> sf				<b>1,452</b> sf	
<b>building subtotal</b>			<b>7077</b> sf				<b>6,583</b> sf	
(of gross) 21%			1848 sf	(of gross) 30%			2,821 sf	
<b>CURRENT TOTAL AREA TOWNSHIP HALL</b>			<b>8925</b> sf	<b>POTENTIAL TOTAL AREA</b>			<b>9,404</b> sf	

### What We Heard...

The following spreadsheet represent a summary of the Park Office + Learning Center Program and the Facilities + Maintenance Program, both located at Ada Park.

PARK OFFICE + LEARNING CENTER			CURRENT			PROPOSED				NOTES
	SIZE	QTY	TOTAL	SIZE	SF	QTY	TOTAL			
Staff _ Ada Twp Park Dept + Maintenance										
Parks Director		1		8 x 8	64	1	64			
Part Time Staff		3		5 x 5	25	3	75		softball / program assistants, admin	
Intern		1		5 x 5	25	1	25			
Future Summer Intern				5 x 5	25	1	25		potential growth	
Parks Maintenance		3		5 x 5	25	3	75			
CURRENT STAFF*			8	345	POTENTIAL STAFF			9	264	sf
(there are 20 to 30 volunteers / seasonal workers)					efficiency (net)			45%	119	sf
									383	sf
Support Spaces _ Ada Twp Park Dept + Maintenance										
Unisex restroom _ Staff	4 x 8	1	32	5 x 8	40	1	40			
Unisex restroom _ Public	8 x 7	1	56	5 x 8	40	1	40			
Electrical Closet	4 x 5	1	20	4 x 5	20	1	20			
Breakroom	0 x 0	1	0	12 x 8	96	1	96		currently included within the meeting room	
Mechanical Room	8 x 5	1	40	8 x 10	80	1	80			
Large Program Closets	13 x 5	2	117	20 x 12	240	1	240			
Storage Closets	2 x 4	2	16	0 x 0	0	0	0			
Storage Closet	4 x 4	1	16	0 x 0	0	2	0			
MP Classroom	30 x 24	1	720	30 x 24	720	1	720		currently includes break area	
Future Conference Room			NIC	10 x 12	120	1	120		potential space for 4 to 6	
Future Vestibule / Public Entry			NIC	10 x 8	80	1	80		thermal lock / stop dirt + leaves	
Locker area for gear / boots			NIC	10 x 8	80	1	80			
Office work room / mail			NIC	8 x 8	64	1	64			
Housekeeping			NIC	6 x 6	36	1	36			
Phone booth			NIC	6 x 6	36	1	36			
support spaces subtotal			1017	sf				1,652	sf	
staffing subtotal			345	sf				264	sf	
building subtotal			1362	sf				1,916	sf	
22%			380	sf	30%			821	sf	
CURRENT TOTAL AREA TWP PARK BUILDING			1742	sf	POTENTIAL TOTAL AREA			2,737	sf	
(no office space current exists within the Facilities + Maintenance Building)										
Facilities + Maintenance Building										
Garage _ Park Operations	59 x 36	1	2124	59 x 36	2,124	1	2124		4 bays	
Garage Addition _ Park Operations				28 x 36	1,008	1	1008		2 bays	
Office Addition _ Park Operations				15 x 36	540	1	540		2 bays	
Garage _ Bldg + Grounds	25 x 36	1	900	25 x 36	900	1	900		2 bays, equipment + work space only. No of	
support spaces subtotal			3024	sf				4,572	sf	
3%			101	sf	3%			141	sf	
CURRENT TOTAL AREA TWP PARK SERVICE BLDG			3125	sf	POTENTIAL TOTAL AREA			4,713	sf	

# Ada Township Space Utilization Study

## APPENDIX \_ Assessing Department

25

2019 Oct

	current staff	projected growth	Notes
full time staff (private offices)	0	0	
full time staff (open office)	2	0	Assessor, Appraiser
part time staff (open office)	1	0	Admin 3 days / wk
volunteers / interns	0	1	potential summer intern position
remote office (no office space within facility)	0	0	
<b>Total Dept Staff (current / 2019)</b>	<b>3</b>		
<b>Total Dept Staff (projected growth / five years)</b>		<b>4</b>	

### Staffing

Physical location of staff: enclosed office suite with door and window, office systems furniture for workspaces. space includes ext windows

Identify influences on your projected staffing count: population growth

### Resources

Current dedicated resources: counter for interaction with public (current counter is not sufficient). printer/scanner, nearby file cabinets for daily access, watertower file storage

Potential / future dedicated resources: drawing layout space for assessment sketch input, large counter for application/forms for residents

Current shared resources: mailboxes, copy machine, stamp machine, breakroom, shared file storage (RIX) conference space (RIX) : mtgs for 6-12 people, 4x year, access to files

Potential / future shared resources: access to meeting space for small group work and privacy. mailboxes, copy machine, breakroom, shared file storage, small conference room, coat storage

### Connectivity

Critical connectivity / adjacencies: (to other departments, public...) public accessibility / visibility / interaction planning dept. - daily interaction

Preferable connectivity / adjacencies: treasury dept. - work together, both have public facing responsibility

Describe your department's connectivity to the community: important to be available and connected. Frequent walk-in visits (x12 wk ave), could be waiting during busy times of the year, safety and security is a consideration. Many visitors would be better served with an improved solution for filling out paperwork and interacting with staff. current counter space, bell, mirror set up is not ideal

### Experiential

Identify current challenges faced by your department: hard to find, inadequate interface for public, small counter for applications/forms, thermal comfort, inadequate waiting area for residents during busy times, file storage in RIX is remote and not always accessible (voting times, large meetings, audits, etc.). Shared thermostat can cause comfort issues.

Identify future challenges faced by your department: visible public interface, security, file access/storage

Describe your department's means of communicating  
to other departments: in-person with frequently connected departments  
to the community: in-person for walk-ins

What makes your department within Ada special:

How can your department improve its community support: adequate visibility and accommodations for walk-in resident needs (questions, forms, applications, etc)

### Additional comments

Please provide any additional insight you would like to share: open office works however access to privacy for conversations / mtgs would be helpful  
use cascade township for bldg permits  
office safety is an ongoing concern

Hours of operation: 8:00 - 5:00

2019 Oct

	current staff	projected growth	Notes
<b>full time staff</b> (private offices)	0	0	
<b>full time staff</b> (open office)	3	1	planning dir, planning/zoning administrator, admin assist potential for an additional staff member in future
<b>part time staff</b> (open office)	0	0	
<b>volunteers / interns</b>	0	0	no interns
<b>remote office</b> (no office space within facility)	0	0	
<hr/>			
<b>Total Dept Staff</b> (current / 2019)	3		
<b>Total Dept Staff</b> (projected growth / five years)		4	

### Staffing

Physical location of staff: enclosed office suite with doors and window, office systems furniture for workspaces. space does include include windows or access to daylight/views

Identify influences on your projected staffing count: building trends / community growth  
historic study / district could trigger additional work effort  
code enforcement is undermanaged and could trigger additional work effort

### Resources

Current dedicated resources: inkjet printer, plotter, file storage

Potential / future dedicated resources: copy machine, +/- 25% more file storage

Current shared resources: mailboxes, copy machine, breakroom, shared file storage  
conference room (RIX) : 2-12 person meetings for pre-const / pre-app, used monthly+

Potential / future shared resources: mailboxes, copy machine, breakroom, shared file storage, small conference room, large conference room, coat storage

### Connectivity

(to other departments, public...)  
Critical connectivity / adjacencies: public accessibility / visibility / interaction  
assessing dept, utilities, DDA, supervisor (admin assist supports planning and supervisor)

Preferable connectivity / adjacencies: treasury dept. - application fees walked to treasurer a few days per week

Describe your department's connectivity to the community: important to be available and connected. Frequent walk-in visits (5-10 visitors/day). waiting not an issue, occurs in lobby. safety and security is a consideration

### Experiential

Identify current challenges faced by your department: no daylight, thermal comfort, file storage in basement and RIX is remote and not always accessible (voting times, large meetings, audits, etc.), welcoming experience for public

Identify future challenges faced by your department: visible public interface, security, file access / storage

Describe your department's means of communicating  
to other departments: in-person with frequently connected departments  
to the community: in-person for walk-ins

What makes your department within Ada special:

How can your department improve its community support: adequate visibility for walk-in resident needs (questions, forms, applications, etc)

### Additional comments

Please provide any additional insight you would like to share: poor ventilation and sanitary issues in restrooms. public v staff use can be a challenge  
office safety is an ongoing concern

**Hours of operation:** 8:00 - 5:00



2019 Oct

	current staff	projected growth	Notes
<b>full time staff</b> (private offices)	1	0	DDA
<b>full time staff</b> (open office)	0	0	could be in open office, office was formerly sm conf rm
<b>part time staff</b> (open office)	0	0	
<b>volunteers / interns</b>	0	0	
<b>remote office</b> (no office space within facility)	0	0	

**Total Dept Staff** (current / 2019)

1

**Total Dept Staff** (projected growth / five years)

1

no future staffing assumed

### Staffing

Physical location of staff: private office with door and window, office systems furniture. exterior window

Identify influences on your projected staffing count: one staff current and in foreseen future

### Resources

Current dedicated resources: inkjet printer, file storage

Potential / future dedicated resources: no change

Current shared resources: mailboxes, copy machine, printer, breakroom, shared file storage  
conference room (RIX) : DDA Board - 9 members+public monthly  
4-12 person meetings held a few times per month

Potential / future shared resources: mailboxes, copy machine, breakroom, shared file storage, small conference room, large conference room, coat storage, DDA events material storage

### Connectivity

(to other departments, public...)  
Critical connectivity / adjacencies: none

Preferable connectivity / adjacencies: work closely with planning dir + supervisor. Summer interaction with treasurer

Describe your department's connectivity to the community: minimal public interface / walk-in appointments within office (1 / wk)

### Experiential

Identify current challenges faced by your department: physical storage space (large materials)

Identify future challenges faced by your department: physical storage space (large event materials)  
economic development/community and business outreach

Describe your department's means of communicating  
to other departments: in-person  
to the community: not important to be immediately visible to residents  
majority of community interaction takes place outside of office

What makes your department within Ada special: DDA funded community events (beers at the bridge)

How can your department improve its community support: ability to host small group meetings for economic development  
become more independent + sustainable

### Additional comments

Please provide any additional insight you would like to share: office safety is an ongoing concern  
some community meetings could potentially move to the new library in the future

**Hours of operation:** 8:00 - 5:00

2019 Oct

	current staff	projected growth	Notes
full time staff (private offices)	1	0	supervisor
full time staff (open office)	0	2	potential township manager in the future potential library operations staff in the future
part time staff (open office)	0	0	
volunteers / interns	0	0	
remote office (no office space within facility)	0	0	
<b>Total Dept Staff (current / 2019)</b>	<b>1</b>		
<b>Total Dept Staff (projected growth / five years)</b>		<b>3</b>	

### Staffing

Physical location of staff: private office, various furnishings, meeting table used for filing / projects, exterior window

Identify influences on your projected staffing count: One FTE currently splits supervisor and utility director roles 50% / 50%. future growth could result in split of responsibilities.

### Resources

Current dedicated resources: inkjet printer, meeting table (4), HR and project file storage

Potential / future dedicated resources: private office not utilized for meetings currently, could in the future

Current shared resources: mailboxes, copy machine, printer, breakroom, files often originate with supervisor and distribute to departments. HR/project/personnel files  
conference room (RIX) / assembly room use

Potential / future shared resources: mailboxes, copy machine, breakroom, shared file storage, small conference room, large conference room, coat storage, flexible twp assembly hall

### Connectivity

(to other departments, public...)  
Critical connectivity / adjacencies: equal to all departments

Preferable connectivity / adjacencies:

Describe your department's connectivity to the community: public visits and visibility to staff and community

### Experiential

Identify current challenges faced by your department: optimizing use of current office space

Identify future challenges faced by your department: file storage

Describe your department's means of communicating  
to other departments: in-person  
to the community: in-person

What makes your department within Ada special:

How can your department improve its community support: continue to be customer service

### Additional comments

Please provide any additional insight you would like to share: office safety is an ongoing concern

Hours of operation: 8:00 - 5:00

2019 Oct

	current staff	projected growth	Notes
<b>full time staff</b> (private offices)	0	0	
<b>full time staff</b> (open office)	2	0	township treasurer deputy treasurer
<b>part time staff</b> (open office)	0	0	
<b>volunteers / interns</b>	0	0	
<b>remote office</b> (no office space within facility)	0	0	
<hr/>			
<b>Total Dept Staff</b> (current / 2019)	2		
<b>Total Dept Staff</b> (projected growth / five year)		2	

### Staffing

Physical location of staff: enclosed office suite with two doors and walk-up window. includes exterior window

Identify influences on your projected staffing count: additional staff growth unlikely, would require a large increase in population

### Resources

Current dedicated resources: copier, printer, file storage (locked / secured), staging / typewriter space  
locked solution for cash deposits

Potential / future dedicated resources: copier, printer, file storage (locked/secured), staging/typewriter space  
basement storage has 7 years of files which cycle, so fairly constant total

Current shared resources: mailboxes, copy machine, printer, breakroom, shared file storage (RIX not used regularly)

Potential / future shared resources: mailboxes, copy machine, breakroom, shared file storage, coat storage, small conference  
room for private discussions

### Connectivity

(to other departments, public...)  
Critical connectivity / adjacencies: public for money collection  
daily connections to assessing and accounting tied to payments

Preferable connectivity / adjacencies: clerk, accounting

Describe your department's connectivity to the community: highly visible, hospitable connection to residents, customer-oriented  
98% of interactions are at window, minimal visitors come into the office  
high level of distractions and lobby activity / waiting during tax season resulting in staff  
spending much of their time at the counter.

### Experiential

Identify current challenges faced by your department: security, safety, thermal comfort, ergonomics for residents making payments, cash-counting  
space, preparing paperwork, etc.

Identify future challenges faced by your department: security/safety  
important to maintain positive connection with residents and provide good service

Describe your department's means of communicating  
to other departments: in-person  
to the community: in-person

What makes your department within Ada special: department has frequent in-person interface with residents

How can your department improve its community support: visibility to residents, adequate accommodation for transactions  
potential for increase electronic payments online and/or a kiosk  
face of township interaction - enhance the experience for payment / support  
safe, intuitive options

### Additional comments

Please provide any additional insight you would like to share: office safety is an ongoing concern  
public access to restrooms

**Hours of operation:** 8:00 - 5:00

# Ada Township Space Utilization Study

## APPENDIX \_ Utilities Department

30

2019 Oct

	current staff	projected growth	Notes
full time staff (private offices)	**	0	** director of utility (dual role of supervisor)
full time staff (open office)	1	0	utility assistant
part time staff (open office)	0	0	
volunteers / interns	0	0	
remote office (no office space within facility)	0	0	
<b>Total Dept Staff (current / 2019)</b>	<b>1</b>		
<b>Total Dept Staff (projected growth / five years)</b>		<b>1</b>	

### Staffing

Physical location of staff: within office suite shared with accounting. Systems furniture, door and walk-up window, space includes exterior windows

Identify influences on your projected staffing count:

### Resources

Current dedicated resources: transaction counter, personal printer, file storage, meter/water equipment

Potential / future dedicated resources: personal printer, file storage

Current shared resources: mailboxes, copy machine, breakroom, shared file storage, as built maps in RIX

Potential / future shared resources: mailboxes, copy machine, breakroom, shared file storage, small conference, coat storage

### Connectivity

(to other departments, public...)  
Critical connectivity / agencies: public / contractors seeking permit, water testing bottles. Typically one at a time

Preferable connectivity / agencies: accounting, planning, treasurer

Describe your department's connectivity to the community: visible and accessible to residents and contractors

### Experiential

Identify current challenges faced by your department: remoteness of file storage, meters, water test kits, inadequate counter space / sit-down space thermal comfort

Identify future challenges faced by your department: remain customer-oriented

Describe your department's means of communicating  
to other departments: in-person  
to the community: in-person

What makes your department within Ada special:

How can your department improve its community support: continued accessibility to residents and contractors

### Additional comments

Please provide any additional insight you would like to share: toilet and break room upgrades needed  
breakroom is not comfortable and odors spread through office  
office safety is an ongoing concern

Hours of operation: 8:00 - 5:00

# Ada Township Space Utilization Study

## APPENDIX \_ Township Clerk

31

2019 Oct

	current staff	projected growth	Notes
<b>full time staff</b> (private offices)	0	0	
<b>full time staff</b> (open office)	4	0	clerk, deputy clerk / elect / cemetery acctg / payroll / hr, ad assist
<b>part time staff</b> (open office)	0	1	potential new staff
<b>volunteers / interns</b>	2	0	seasonal support (elections)
<b>remote office</b> (no office space within facility)	0	0	

**Total Dept Staff** (current / 2019)

6

**Total Dept Staff** (projected growth / five years)

7

### Staffing

Physical location of staff: Clerk is currently in a private office with deputy clerk/elect/cemetery and admin assist in adjacent open office

If multiple locations, please identify: acctg / payroll / hr position is currently in a different space which is not ideal or intentional

Identify influences on your projected staffing count: population / election growth  
increase in absentee voters has increased paperwork

### Resources

Current dedicated resources: election materials, election printer, voting booths  
Election work room (currently apart of Twp Clerk office)

Potential / future dedicated resources: Isolated / securable election work room

Current shared resources: mailboxes, copy machine, printer, breakroom, shared file storage, outdoor picnic table (RIX) ELECTION PROCESS. 3-4 voting booths, absentee voting, 10 laptops, 8 cans set up two additional voting booths in hallways during elections  
current RIX size is adequate for election process but not simultaneous with other uses  
low use of RIX outside of elections. Occasional small meetings use + training / classes for 8  
watertower storage (30-40% capacity, space available) + fire station storage  
county holds election training for up to 100 in assembly, potential to be held elsewhere

Potential / future shared resources: mailboxes, copy machine, breakroom, shared file storage, small conference, coat storage (RIX) ELECTION PROCESS.

### Connectivity

(to other departments, public...)  
Critical connectivity / adjacencies: internal to department

Preferable connectivity / adjacencies: acctg / hr reports to clerk but is seated in different suite. Ideally adjacent.  
buildings + grounds staff has a desk in the suite for daily check in to clerk / cemetery

Describe your department's connectivity to the community: act as reception for most visitors. new residents, complaints, voting, permits, cemetery.  
30-40 visitors / day

### Experiential

Identify current challenges faced by your department: current space for election process is not ideal and takes priority over all other office activities  
elections can each take 4 weeks + 1 week for clean up, with up to 4 elections / year  
wayfinding / visibility / security for visitors is less than ideal

Identify future challenges faced by your department:

Describe your department's means of communicating  
to other departments:  
to the community:

What makes your department within Ada special:

How can your department improve its community support:

### Additional comments

Please provide any additional insight you would like to share: office safety is an ongoing concern

# Ada Township Space Utilization Study

## APPENDIX \_ Parks Department

32

2019 Oct

	current staff		projected growth	Notes
full time staff (private offices)	0		0	
full time staff (open office)	4		0	Parks Director, (3) maintenance staff
part time staff (open office)	3	*	0	shared work space with each other and seasonal workers
interns (multiple volunteers + umpires)	1		1	summer intern now, potential for additional summer intern
remote or no office (no office space within facility)	1	**	0	part time, remote maintenance

Total Dept Staff (current / 2019)	9	** 20-30 volunteers / seasonal support not requiring office space
Total Dept Staff (projected growth / five years)	10	* many of the part time positions are tied to community services these positions are reviewed often and adjusted

### Staffing

Physical location of staff: All currently located in the Park Office + Learning Center at Ada Park

If multiple locations, please identify:

Identify influences on your projected staffing count: community services + support

### Resources

Current dedicated resources: multiple closets for program storage, display cases for education

Potential / future dedicated resources: break area / multipurpose room

Current shared resources: break area / multipurpose room, restroom, copier

Potential / future shared resources: conference space, space for private phone calls / discussions, potential pvt office for director, locker area

### Connectivity

Critical connectivity / adjacencies: to Ada Park  
(to other departments, public...):

Preferable connectivity / adjacencies: to each other (parks department and maintenance), to buildings and grounds, to Township Hall and Fire Department  
Describe your department's connectivity to the community: provide a resource to park users and for park events, connected to all township properties for service needs

### Experiential

Identify current challenges faced by your department: adequate work space and dedicated storage, thermal comfort, distractions due to office size, restroom issues, lack of entry area, lack of wall space

Identify future challenges faced by your department: adequate office space for office

Describe your department's means of communicating to other departments: Parks Department and Operations + Maintenance have a synergy working in same space  
to the community: Parks Department is the reception / face / support for Ada Park

What makes your department within Ada special: Park and Trail system is a valued community amenity

How can your department improve its community support: Better space to manage and provide activities / services

### Additional comments

Please provide any additional insight you would like to share:

Hours of operation: 8:00 - 5:00 + extended hours for events + park activities, maintaining facility rentals (7 days dawn to dusk)



E3M Solutions is pleased to present the following report on the MEP conditions at the Ada Township Hall, the Park Office + Learning Center at Ada Park and the Facilities + Maintenance Building at Ada Park Ada. The information outlined in this report is based on E3M Solutions' review of the facility, our experience with system design, and conversations with Integrated Architecture, and Ada Township staff. Please see below for the results of the investigation.

## Township Hall

### Existing MEP Conditions

**HVAC:** The office area of the building is served by three natural gas fired rooftop units of varying ages with pneumatic controls. Supplemental perimeter heat is provided by an aged hydronic boiler and fin-tube radiant heaters. There is one common exhaust fan for the restrooms that doesn't appear to be working properly due to odor control issues. The sanctuary / meeting chamber is heated by a large, old ducted furnace and A/C condenser that is inadequate for the space in conjunction with a couple ceiling fans. Occupants have frequent comfort complaints due to poor temperature control and zoning.

**Water:** Plumbing fixtures are somewhat aged but in good working order. Floor drains in the restrooms are contributing to odor issues.

**Electric:** The electric panels are old but sufficiently functional.

- 208Y/120 3-Φ
- 400A Service

### Deficiencies

The HVAC has many issues at this site including very poor service for the sanctuary / meeting chambers, and many comfort complaints throughout the office area due to poor temperature control and zoning. Systems have a hard time keeping up, especially during seasonal temperature extremes. Restrooms do not have adequate ventilation and have frequent odor issues. Restroom floor drains are contributing to odor issues. Controls are old and marginally effective. Many pieces of equipment are at or beyond expected useful life.

### Expansion Possibilities

The current HVAC system cannot accept facility expansions in size or use. The town hall currently only uses approximately 30% of the available power, however, and this existing system could support any renovations or remodels to the space.

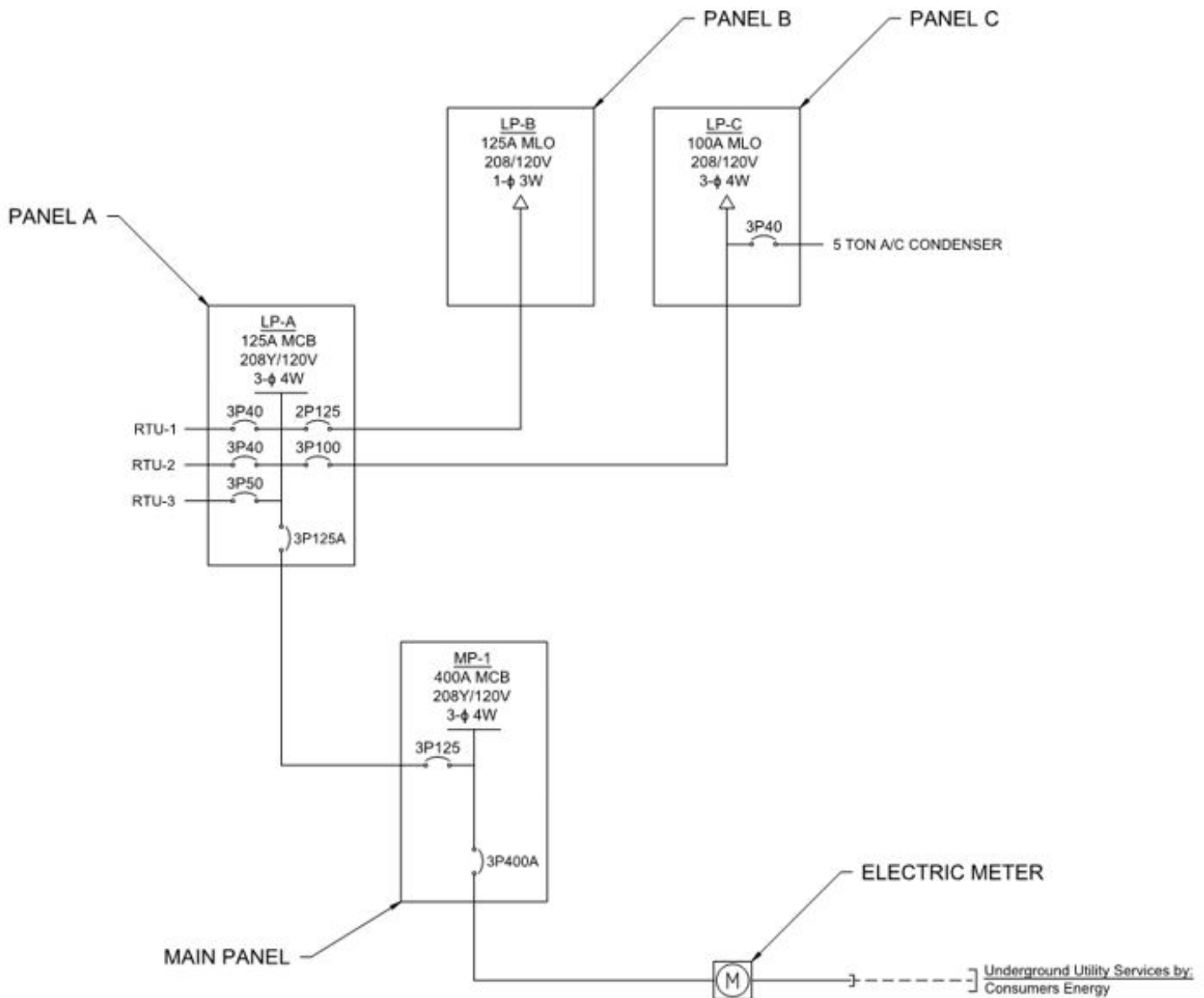
## EOL Analysis

End of Life Analysis					
Building	Equipment type	Make	Age (years)	Expected Life (years)	Replacement priority
Town Hall	RTU	Trane	20	15	high
Town Hall	RTU	Carrier	16	15	high
Town Hall	RTU	Carrier	8	15	moderate
Town Hall	Furnace + A/C	Bryant	28	18	very high
Town Hall	Heating Boiler	Utica Boiler	28	20	very high
Town Hall	Hot Water Heater	Bradford White	3	15	low

### Utility Infrastructure Availability / Expansion

The building is currently being served natural gas from DTE and water / sewer from the city. There are no concerns about expansion for these utilities. For the electric system, sufficient power is available for expansion. Upgrading the service would require an upgrade of the main panel, Panel MP-1 (See one-line diagram below), to one that is rated for the upgraded service size. Also, the conduit and conductors supplying the main feed would need to be upsized to support the increased amperage.

Town Hall Electric One-Line Diagram:



**Recommendations**

- Sanctuary furnace replacement with similar, condensing furnace and new A/C condenser
- New RTU for sanctuary space. Locate on roof, duct through NE wall, through attic, to ceiling of space
- Blown-in insulation in sanctuary attic will help temperature control in this space
- Re-duct sanctuary HVAC. Expect to see 2x 16" duct, doesn't appear to be that big which is limiting flow
- Consider expanding radiant fin-tube to sanctuary; would require upsizing boiler
- New boiler for hydronic fin-tube to replace end of life unit
- Mini-split for rear offices in sanctuary area
- HVAC alternate 1: One or two larger, centralized HVAC RTU/AHU for the rest of the building. VAV system. Needs structural analysis and clearance above ceiling. Maybe possible with renovation.
- HVAC alternate 2: 3 new rooftops, one-for-one replacement
  - This would also require a retrofit of or all new duct
- HVAC controls upgrade – remove pneumatic controls and replace with:
  - Building Automation System – 10 HVAC zones, front end (required for VAV system)
  - Networked thermostats
- Replace Exhaust Fan EF-1 for restrooms. Maintain 50cfm negative
- Restroom floor drain trap seals

**Report Provided By:**

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E3M Solutions is pleased to present the following report on the MEP conditions at the Ada Township Hall, the Park Office + Learning Center at Ada Park and the Facilities + Maintenance Building at Ada Park Ada. The information outlined in this report is based on E3M Solutions' review of the facilities, our experience with system design, and conversations with Integrated Architecture, and Ada Township staff. Please see below for the results of the investigation.

## **Parks Office + Learning Center**

### **Existing MEP Conditions**

**HVAC:** The building currently has a single residential-style furnace with a programmable thermostat in the office area and a remote thermostat for a second zone in the learning center area. The furnace is in the second half of its life, and the furthest reaches of the ducting are not receiving enough air flow. Occupants are using portable space heaters for comfort in cold seasons.

**Water:** The building is served by a dedicated 4-inch well, pump, and pressure tank system. It should be noted that this is a steel well with submersible pump at the bottom of the well. These types of wells are not used anymore because the age of the well is determined by the pump serviceability – when the pump fails and cannot be retrieved, a new well would need to be drilled. Two restrooms with a toilet and sink each are present in the building. The learning center restroom appears to have newer fixtures in good condition whereas the office area has older fixtures in fair condition. All fixtures are in working condition but the office area restroom toilet is missing a porcelain tank top. There is a small 30-gallon water heater that serves the two restroom sinks and appears to be in good working order.

**Electric:** The electrical system is adequate to serve the space.

- Electrical panel in electrical closet
- 100A rated panel
- 120/240V 1-Φ
- 100A service
- 10 Unused breaker positions

### **Deficiencies**

The furnace is not strong enough to provide airflow properly to the whole building, indicating the blower is undersized and/or ducting is poorly configured. Zoning could also be improved as the learning center is lightly- or un-occupied while the office area is being utilized more heavily. Building envelope is also fighting the HVAC system with excessive heat loss through the floor, walls, fenestrations, and roof. One set of plumbing fixtures, while working, is aging and could be replaced.

### **Expansion Possibilities**

HVAC is currently at capacity and any expansion would require additional equipment or upsizing. The water well, being a dedicated well for this building, would likely support any of the proposed additions to the site.

The existing electric panel has the capacity to support renovations made to the space. A significant addition of an electrical load on the current system would require a power use study to verify capacity.

### EOL Analysis

End of Life Analysis					
Building	Equipment type	Make	Age (years)	Expected Life (years)	Replacement priority
Parks Office	Furnace	Amana	10	18	low
Parks Office	Water Heater	A.O. Smith	20	15	high
Parks Office	Water Pressure Tank	Unknown	10	12	moderate
Parks Office	Water Well	Unknown	unknown	10	moderate

### Utility Infrastructure Availability / Expansion

The building is currently served natural gas from DTE energy which is great for any prospective expansions or renovations at this location. Water is served from a dedicated 4" well that is not currently at capacity, and it is drained via a city sewer connection.

The building electrical system is sub-fed from the electrical panel in the arboretum pavilion. Expanding the service size, if necessary, would require upsizing the conductors and conduit from the arboretum pavilion to the existing parks office, upsizing the circuit breaker in the arboretum electrical panel serving the parks office, and installing an electrical panel in the parks office that is rated for the upgraded service size. A power use study would also need to be performed to verify capacity of the electrical panel in the arboretum pavilion. If the arboretum panel is insufficient to support an added load at the parks office, Consumers Energy would need to provide a new, dedicated service to the parks office. The electrical contractor would then terminate and/or remove the existing feed from the arboretum pavilion electrical panel.

### Recommendations

- Reduct HVAC for optimized airflow
- Weather Stripping to better seal building envelope and prevent thermal loss
- Upgrade to a larger furnace for more heat and airflow capacity
- Add an additional furnace for the office area and keep the existing furnace for the learning center for a true two-zone system
- Note: Any expansion or new system needs to meet outside air code requirements
- Electric fin tube radiant heaters under the windows could provide enough supplemental heat to make the space more comfortable
- New system type for the whole building - heat pump or VRF with supplemental electric heat



E3M Solutions is pleased to present the following report on the MEP conditions at the Ada Township Hall, the Park Office + Learning Center at Ada Park and the Facilities + Maintenance Building at Ada Park Ada. The information outlined in this report is based on E3M Solutions' review of the facility, our experience with system design, and conversations with Integrated Architecture, and Ada Township staff. Please see below for the results of the investigation.

### Facilities + Maintenance Building at Ada Park

#### Existing MEP Conditions

**HVAC:** The building currently only has a single propane forced air unit heater in the corner of the workshop that serves a 3-bay garage area. The propane tank is about 15 feet outside the building to the southeast. There is no other HVAC equipment in this building.

**Water:** The building currently has water service from a 4-inch well that also serves the soccer fields, arboretum, and pavilion, and is currently at capacity.

**Electric:** The electrical system is adequate to serve the space.

- Electrical panel (load center) on SE wall inside garage
- 100A rated load center
- 120/240V 1-Φ
- 60A service
- 2 Unused breaker positions

#### Deficiencies

The building users intend to utilize the unit heater in the garage to melt snow and ice off of trucks in the winter, but it is undersized for the task. Additionally, the garage lacks floor drains for snow melt water run-off. Currently the only fuel source for heat is propane which is an expensive and inconvenient.

#### Expansion Possibilities

None of the current systems at this site are capable of supporting additional loads or occupancy without adding or expanding infrastructure.

#### EOL Analysis

End of Life Analysis					
Building	Equipment type	Make	Age (years)	Expected Life (years)	Replacement priority
Parks Garage	Unit Heater	Unknown	10	13	moderate
Parks Garage	Water Well	Carlson	unknown	10	moderate

#### Utility Infrastructure Availability / Expansion

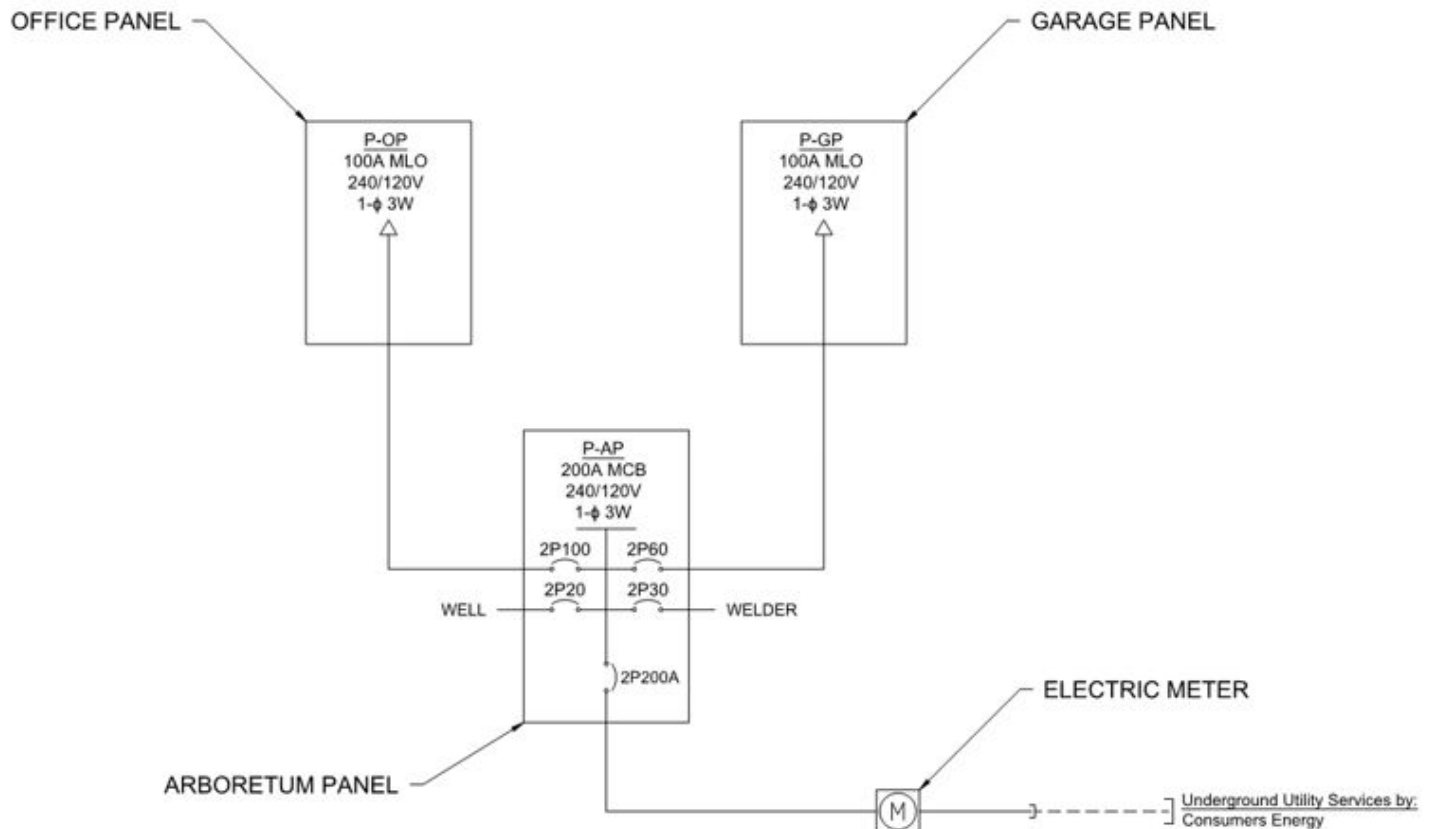
Propane is an expensive fuel source and is projected to continue increasing in cost; therefore any new heating sources would be preferred to be natural gas or electric sourced. Natural gas would be the first order of preference; however new service would need to be added. DTE energy may have concerns feeding this building from the Parks Office as they prefer a meter to serve a single building, though it may be possible. Alternatively, a new natural gas line would need to be run from the street, approximately 600 feet to the west.

Likewise, the building water service comes from a 4-inch well that is currently deemed at capacity due to the other three large areas it serves. A new well would need to be drilled for this site if additional water loads are added to the building. There is also no sewer service at this building, so a sewer line would need to be added to the nearest manhole at Buttrick Ave. It is uncertain whether a lift station would be needed as it is dependent on the depth of the city sewer line at this location.



The building electrical system is sub-fed from the electrical panel in the arboretum pavilion. Expanding the service size would require upsizing the conductors and conduit from the arboretum pavilion to the existing parks office, upsizing the circuit breaker in the arboretum electrical panel serving the parks garage, and installing an electrical panel in the parks garage that is rated for the upgraded service size. A power use study would also need to be performed to verify capacity of the electrical panel in the arboretum pavilion. If the arboretum panel is insufficient to support an added load at the parks garage, Consumers Energy would need to provide a new, dedicated service to the parks garage. The electrical contractor would then terminate and/or remove the existing feed from the arboretum pavilion electrical panel.

Parks Electric One-Line Diagram:



## Recommendations

- Radiant heat for garage heat and snow melt
- New natural gas service
  - Propane price is increasing and fuel is inconvenient, recommend avoiding additional propane service if possible
  - Note: possible issues with multiple buildings on one meter with DTE, may need to run a new connection from the street
- Snow melt necessitates floor drains which require a sanitary connection
  - Option 1: septic system
  - Option 2: city sewer connection ~600ft, lift station unknown
- Recommend furnace with A/C condenser for office addition
- Restroom required for office addition

### Township Hall

<b>Option A - Renovation</b>				<b>Total (Low)</b>	<b>Total (High)</b>
Low	9625	SF	125	\$ 1,203,125.00	---
High	9625	SF	155	---	\$ 1,491,875.00
Construction Contingency				10%	
Consultant Fees				12%	
FF&E				15%	
Add't Project Expenses				5%	
Escalation				3%	
<b>Grand Total</b>				<b>\$ 1,744,531.25</b>	<b>\$ 2,163,218.75</b>
<b>Cost / SF</b>				<b>\$ 181.25</b>	<b>\$ 224.75</b>

<b>Option B - New Construction</b>				<b>Total (Low)</b>	<b>Total (High)</b>
Low	11350	SF	210	\$ 2,383,500.00	---
High	11350	SF	235	---	\$ 2,667,250.00
Parking Lot	35	Spaces	4200	\$ 147,000.00	\$ 147,000.00
Construction Contingency				10%	
Consultant Fees				12%	
FF&E				20%	
Add't Project Expenses				5%	
Escalation				3%	
<b>Grand Total</b>				<b>\$ 3,795,750.00</b>	<b>\$ 4,221,375.00</b>
<b>Cost / SF</b>				<b>\$ 334.43</b>	<b>\$ 371.93</b>

does not include land acquisition costs or extension of public utilities

**Parks Office + Learning Center at Ada Park**

<b>Option A1 - Renovate Parks Building</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>\$/Unit</b>	<b>Total (Low)</b>	<b>Total (High)</b>
Roof - new blown insulation	1745	SF	4	\$ 6,980.00	
Walls - new blown insulation	2820	SF	7	\$ 19,740.00	
Floor - insulation & gypcrete	1745	SF	10	\$ 17,450.00	
Caulk/seal bldg perimeter	1745	SF	2	\$ 3,490.00	
Repair rotted sills	1	Isum	2000	\$ 2,000.00	
Repaint bldg exterior	1745	SF	5	\$ 8,725.00	
HVAC	1	Isum	60000	\$ 60,000.00	
Site Improvements	1	Isum	50000	\$ 50,000.00	
Other renovation requirements	1745	SF	65	\$ 113,425.00	
Construction Contingency			20%	\$ 56,362.00	
Consultant Fees			15%	\$ 42,271.50	
FF&E			20%	\$ 56,362.00	
Add't Project Expenses			6%	\$ 16,908.60	
Escalation			3%	\$ 8,454.30	
<b>Grand Total</b>				<b>\$ 462,168.40</b>	<b>\$ 554,602.08</b>
<b>Cost / SF</b>				<b>\$ 264.85</b>	<b>\$ 317.82</b>

<b>Option A2 - Renovate Parks Building</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>\$/Unit</b>	<b>Total (Low)</b>	<b>Total (High)</b>
<i>Short Term Renovation Option</i>					
HVAC Improvements (duct, furnace)	1	Isum	12000	\$ 12,000.00	
Envelope Improvements / Doors	1	Isum	8000	\$ 8,000.00	
Power/Data Allowance	1	Isum	5000	\$ 5,000.00	
Construction Contingency			20%	\$ 5,000.00	
Consultant Fees			20%	\$ 5,000.00	
Add't Project Expenses			5%	\$ 1,250.00	
<b>Grand Total</b>				<b>\$ 36,250.00</b>	<b>\$ 43,500.00</b>

**Facilities + Maintenance Building at Ada Park**

Option B1 - (2) Additional Bays	Quantity	Unit	\$/Unit	Total (Low)	Total (High)
Existing Space - renovate	3125	SF	45	\$ 140,625.00	
Garage Addition - new const.	1000	SF	125	\$ 125,000.00	
Construction Contingency			20%	\$ 53,125.00	
Consultant Fees			15%	\$ 39,843.75	
FF&E			20%	\$ 53,125.00	
Add't Project Expenses			6%	\$ 15,937.50	
Escalation			3%	\$ 7,968.75	
<b>Grand Total</b>				<b>\$ 435,625.00</b>	<b>\$ 522,750.00</b>
<b>Cost / SF</b>				<b>\$ 105.61</b>	<b>\$ 126.73</b>

Option B2 - (2) Additional Bays + Office	Quantity	Unit	\$/Unit	Total (Low)	Total (High)
Existing Space - renovate	3125	SF	45	\$ 140,625.00	
Garage Addition - new const.	1000	SF	125	\$ 125,000.00	
Utility Improvements	1	Isum	100000	\$ 100,000.00	
Office Addition	540	SF	200	\$ 108,000.00	
Construction Contingency			20%	\$ 94,725.00	
Consultant Fees			15%	\$ 71,043.75	
FF&E			20%	\$ 94,725.00	
Add't Project Expenses			6%	\$ 28,417.50	
Escalation			3%	\$ 14,208.75	
<b>Grand Total</b>				<b>\$ 776,745.00</b>	<b>\$ 932,094.00</b>
<b>Cost / SF</b>				<b>\$ 166.50</b>	<b>\$ 199.81</b>

Option B3 - New Construction	Quantity	Unit	\$/Unit	Total (Low)	Total (High)
New Construction - Pre-Engr. Metal	3125	SF	100	\$ 312,500.00	
Garage Addition - new const.	1000	SF	100	\$ 100,000.00	
Office Addition	540	SF	150	\$ 81,000.00	
Parking Lot	10	Spaces	4200	\$ 42,000.00	
Utilities	1	Isum	50000	\$ 50,000.00	
Construction Contingency			20%	\$ 98,700.00	
Consultant Fees			15%	\$ 74,025.00	
FF&E			20%	\$ 98,700.00	
Add't Project Expenses			6%	\$ 29,610.00	
Escalation			3%	\$ 14,805.00	
<b>Grand Total</b>				<b>\$ 901,340.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,081,608.00</b>
<b>Cost / SF</b>				<b>\$ 193.21</b>	<b>\$ 231.86</b>

does not include land acquisition costs or extension of public utilities

New Service Vehicle Drive	Quantity	Unit	\$/Unit	Total (Low)	Total (High)
Drive	200	LF	400	\$ 80,000.00	\$ 96,000.00