



2017 Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Plan



Adopted by the Ada Township Board

February 27, 2017

Ada Township

2017 Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Plan

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Township greatly appreciates the participation of the following members of the Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Advisory Board who devoted their time and efforts into the preparation of this Plan:

Township Board Members

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

Citizen Members

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

Township Staff

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

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2017 Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Plan

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I. INTRODUCTION

The 2017 Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Plan has been prepared by the Ada Township Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Advisory Board along with input from the community. In 2016, the Advisory Board was established by merging the previous Parks Committee and Open Space Preservation Advisory Board which consolidated the leadership for these initiatives and provided the oversight of this Plan. At the same time the Township merged two previous voter-approved millages into one to support the newly titled Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Program.

The 2017 Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Plan will serve as a guide for the Township's goals and expenditures on park facilities, recreation programs and services, operations and land preservation initiatives for the coming years. It serves as an integrated guide for Township decision-making in the areas of park and recreation land and facility development, non-motorized trail development, as well as the development of a network of integrated open space lands in the Township.

The Plan considers existing park, recreation and open space lands and facilities in and around the Township (public and private), the need for additional or improved facilities, and the means for providing those facilities during the five-year planning horizon. The Plan also considers the existing land resource base in the community, and the many important values and functions that are served by having a significant base of natural lands in the community.

With the establishment of this Plan, the Township has a clearer guide for financial planning and coordination of fundraising support. It also enables the Township to apply for Federal and State grant funds for acquisition and development of park, recreation and open space land and facilities, most of which are administered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

II. COMMUNITY PROFILE AND RESOURCE INVENTORY

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Overview

In the last 40 years, the character of Ada Township has changed dramatically in many ways. The community has evolved from a sparsely populated, predominantly rural and agricultural community to a highly-diverse community containing both urban and rural characteristics. This transformation is due in large part to the Township's location at the perimeter of the Grand Rapids urbanized area, about 10 miles from Downtown Grand Rapids. Figure 1 identifies the location of Ada Township in Kent County, in relation to surrounding municipalities. The international growth of the Amway Corporation has provided the benefits of a generous industrial tax base to the Township, as well as a major source of local employment. A variety of smaller employers contribute to the Township's tax base. The southeast quadrant of the Township, which is served by public sewer and water and is near urban employment and service centers, has been the focus of a significant amount of suburban residential development over the last 30 years. This urbanization has placed new demands on public services in the Township, such as increased traffic on Township roads and the need for additional parks and recreation facilities.

Much of the three-quarters of the Township north and east of the Grand River is still predominantly rural, even though this area has experienced significant development in the last 20 years. The opening of the Forest Hills Eastern Middle and High School campus within the last 10 years has contributed to northern Ada Township's attractiveness for residential development.

One characteristic of the Township has remained largely unchanged. The Township has an abundance of natural features which contribute to its scenic beauty and its attractiveness as a living place. These include wooded, rolling hills, spacious meadows, active and fallow farmland, the Grand and Thornapple Rivers, smaller streams and wetlands. Unlike many other highway corridors in the metropolitan area, the Fulton St. (M-21) corridor has, by the Township's intention, remained largely free of linear-patterned commercial development and its resulting negative impacts on traffic congestion and safety and community aesthetics. The preservation of this attractive natural character remains a preeminent goal for the Township's future, while accommodating quality growth and development.

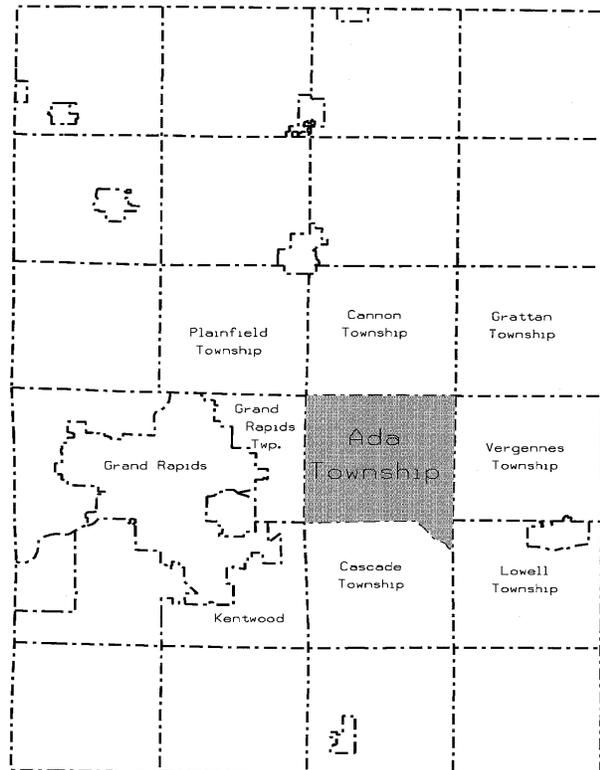


Figure 1 - Location of Ada Township in Kent County

Historical Population Growth:

The Township's population growth rate has accelerated in each of the last two decades. Table 1 summarizes population growth since 1990 in Ada Township and surrounding communities, based on US Census data. Figure 2 graphically depicts the Township's population growth over the last 40 years. The Township population increased by over 30% in both the 1990's and in the first decade of the new century. Since 2007, however, the rate of growth has slowed markedly, in the face of a nationwide housing slump, reflected in a dramatic decline in new housing construction, stagnating housing values, declining tax base and increased

rates of foreclosure on residential mortgages. Though not experienced as severely as in other West Michigan communities, Ada Township has not escaped the effects of these national trends.

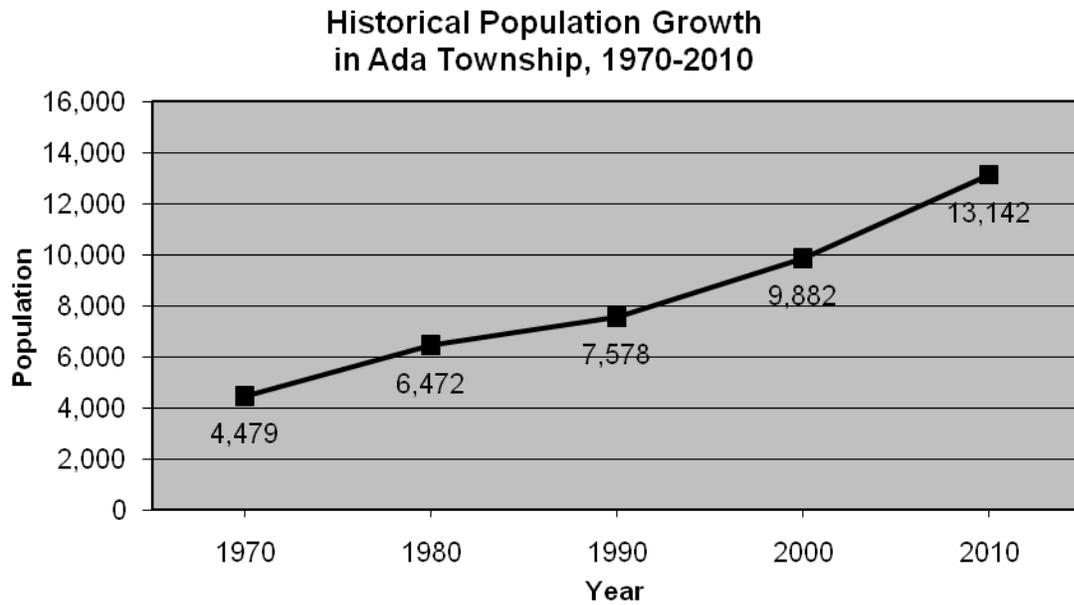


Figure 2

**Table 1
Historical Population
Ada Township and Surrounding Communities, 1990-2015**

Community	1990 Census	2000 Census	2010 Census	% Change 2000-10	2015 Estimate	% Change 2010-15
ADA TOWNSHIP	7,578	9,882	13,142	33.0%	14,344	9.1%
Cannon Township	7,928	12,075	13,336	10.4%	14,401	8.0%
Cascade Charter Township	12,829	15,107	17,134	13.4%	18,715	9.2%
Grand Rapids Charter Township	10,760	14,056	16,661	18.5%	18,151	8.9%
Lowell Township	4,774	5,219	5,949	14.0%	6,450	8.4%
Vergennes Township	2,492	3,611	4,189	16.0%	4,567	9.0%
Kent County	500,631	574,335	602,622	4.9%	636,369	5.6%
Michigan	9,295,297	9,938,444	9,883,640	-0.6%	9,922,576	0.4%

Source: 1990, 2000, 2010 U.S. Census, 2015 American Community Survey, US Census Bureau

Building Permit Data:

Table 2 summarizes residential building permit data for Ada Township, from the early 1980's through 2016. In the period from 1996 to 2006, average annual new single family housing starts were 125 per year. Between 2002 and 2008, the median value of new home construction more than doubled, from \$168,500 per home to \$362,500 per home. Beginning in 2007, however, new home construction drastically declined in the Township, to an average of only about 25 homes per year between 2008 and 2013, or 1/5 the volume experienced from the mid-90's to the mid-2000's.

Beginning in 2014, the Township has experienced a modest but steady recovery in new residential construction, following the major downturn that occurred during the “Great Recession”. The median value of new homes constructed declined from its peak in 2008, but has gradually since increased.

The slowdown in home construction can be attributed to several factors, including nationwide housing trends, recent Michigan employment trends, the recent build out of several large residential developments in the Township, and the lack of available land for residential development in the portions of the Township that are served by urban infrastructure.

To some degree, the drastic slowdown in single family home construction has been offset by recent increases in the construction of multiple-family housing in the community, which heretofore was very limited. In 2008, 210 apartment units were constructed and quickly occupied in the Stone Falls of Ada community on Spaulding Ave., south of M-21. In addition, nearly 130 attached condominium units have been constructed in the Villas of Ada development located between Ada Drive and Hall St., west of Paradise Lake Dr.

Household and Family Size Trends:

Average household size in Ada Township has steadily declined since 1980. Historical data and 2010 Census comparison data for the County and State are shown in Table 3. The Township’s average household size of 2.95 persons remains well above the State and County averages. The Township has a high percentage of its households that are family (2 or more related persons who reside together) households (83.9%), compared to Kent County overall (67%) This indicates that the Township has relatively few single person households and/or few households with only unrelated persons living together. The average family size in the Township, at 3.26 persons per family is only slightly larger than the overall Kent County average of 3.16 persons per family. In summary, families in the Township are not particularly larger than families in the County overall, but Ada Township has a higher than average proportion of its total households that consist of families.

Racial Makeup:

In 2010, 93.3 percent of Ada Township residents were white, 1.0 percent black, 3.6 percent Asian or Pacific Islander, and 1.7 percent of Hispanic origin, according to the 2010 Census. While the non-white proportions of the Township’s population grew significantly from 2000 to 2010, the Township population remains relatively non-diverse, with the percentage of the population that is white decreasing from 95.6% to 93.3% between 2000 and 2010.

Age Distribution:

Data in Table 4 illustrate the general aging of the Township’s population that has occurred over the last 40 years. The median age of the population has increased significantly, from 23 years in 1970 to nearly 40 years in 2010. The Township in 2010 had a significantly lower percentage of its population less than 18 years old and a higher percentage age 65 or over than was the case in 1970. Even so, the Township has a lower percentage of its population age 65 or over than is the case for Kent County or the State overall, and a higher percentage of children, compared to the County and State overall.

Tables 5 and 6 provide more detailed information regarding the age distribution of the Township’s population in 2010 compared to 1990, and compared to the State and County distributions.

Table 2
Residential Construction History and Trends
Ada Township, 1981-2016

Year	Single Family Dwellings	Total Valuation (\$ Million)	Average Value per Single Family Dwelling	Median Value per Single Family Dwelling	Attached Condo and Apartment Units
1981	25	Not Avail. (NA)	NA		-
1982	20	NA	NA		-
1983	38	NA	NA		-
1984	48	\$3.54	\$73,750		-
1985	61	\$5.21	\$85,410		-
1986	65	\$6.31	\$97,077		-
1987	91	\$10.51	\$115,495		-
1988	104	\$13.77	\$132,404		-
1989	88	\$11.45	\$130,114		13
1990	50	\$8.46	\$169,200		-
1991	53	\$9.43	\$177,925		-
1992	65	\$11.46	\$176,308		6
1993	72	\$13.92	\$193,319		7
1994	87	\$15.92	\$182,989		?
1995	63	\$11.82	\$187,573		0
1996	113	\$24.61	\$217,816		42
1997	86	\$23.64	\$274,894		4
1998	123	\$27.65	\$224,823		0
1999	152	\$33.62	\$221,180		15
2000	175	\$38.48	\$219,878		19
2001	123	\$34.87	\$283,531		39
2002	150	\$34.57	\$230,453	\$168,500	8
2003	146	\$45.42	\$311,067	\$189,000	4
2004	106	\$34.04	\$321,169	\$288,000	0
2005	95	\$31.35	\$330,024	\$300,000	0
2006	106	\$37.68	\$355,472	\$310,000	0
2007	65	\$29.25	\$449,974	\$350,000	0
2008	27	\$11.97	\$443,256	\$362,500	228
2009	23	\$7.24	\$314,298	\$308,672	28
2010	24	\$8.04	\$334,875	\$325,000	31
2011	23	\$9.59	\$416,957	\$350,000	26
2012	24	\$12.81	\$533,583	\$355,000	24
2013	25	\$10.30	\$411,992	\$375,000	0
2014	34	\$18.30	\$538,325	\$500,000	0
2015	52	\$24.13	\$464,084	\$383,644	2
2016	51	\$23.24	\$455,616	\$366,106	0

Source: Ada Township Planning Dept.

The age distribution data in Table 6 shows that Ada Township has a very strong representation of the 45-54 age group in its population, compared to the age distribution in the County and State overall. This would seem to indicate that the Township has a high proportion of its residents who are: 1) in their peak earning years, and 2) several years from now, may be looking to transition to smaller homes and/or housing having less of a maintenance burden. The percentage of the Township's population in this age group remained nearly constant between 2000 and 2010.

Table 3
Household Size Trends in Ada Township, 1980-2010

	Ada Township				Kent County 2010	Michigan 2010
	1980	1990	2000	2010		
Persons Per Household	3.32	3.10	3.03	2.95	2.60	2.49

Source: U.S. Census, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010

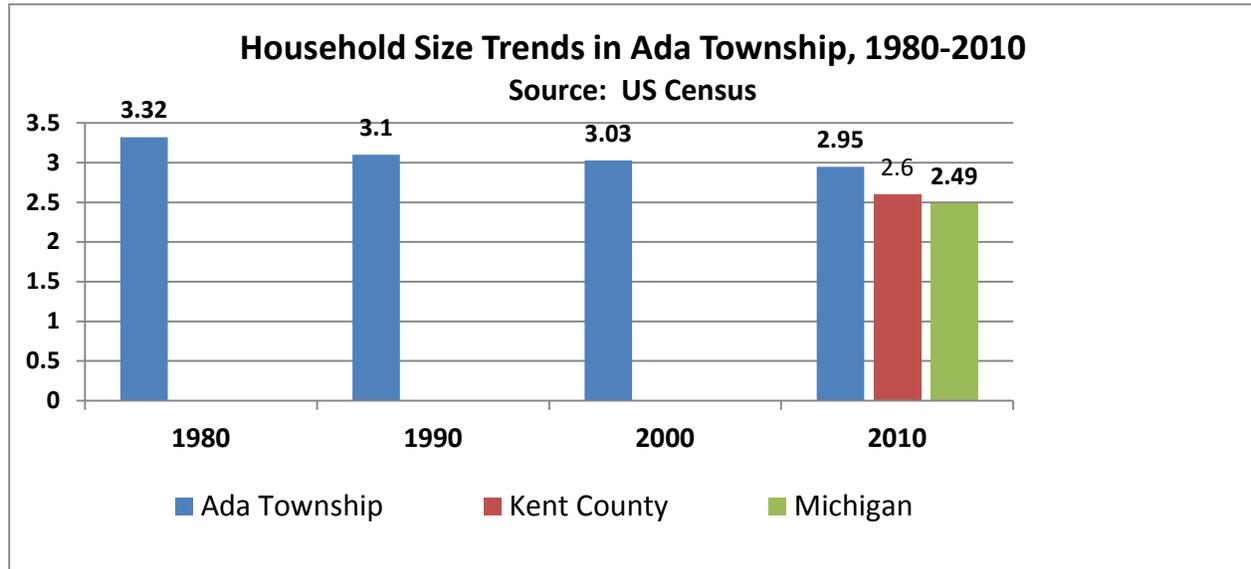
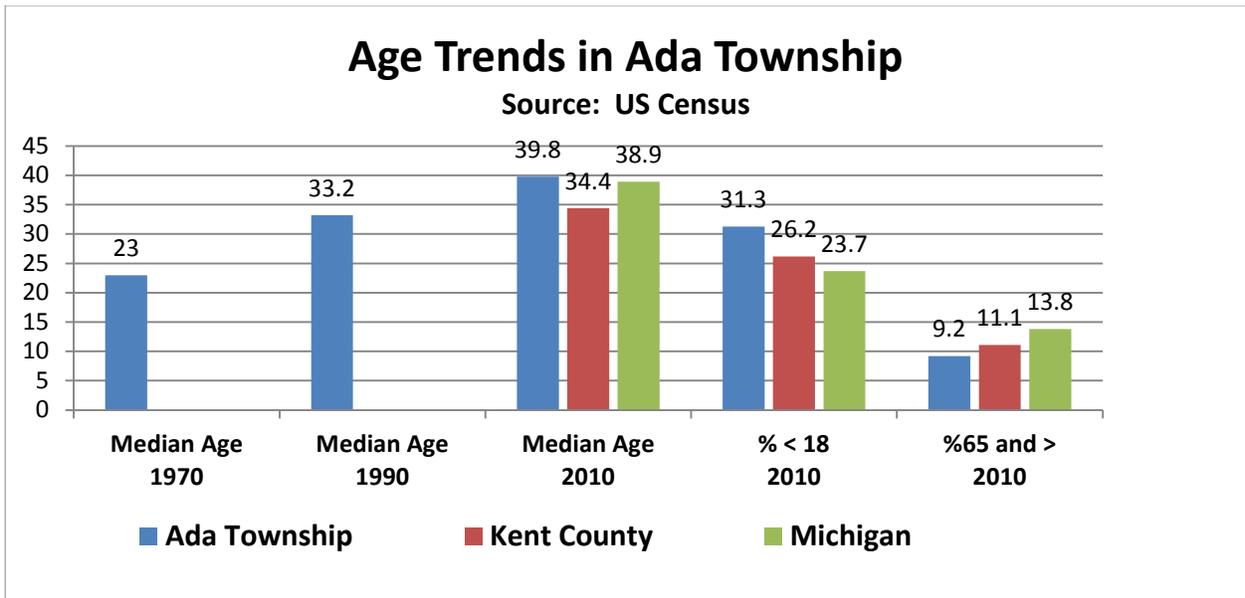


Figure 3

Table 4
Median Age Trends in Ada Township, 1970-2010

	Ada Township			Kent County 2010	State of Michigan 2010
	1970	1990	2010		
Median Age	23	33.2	39.8	34.4	38.9
% under 18	41.3%	32.3%	31.3%	26.2%	23.7%
65 and over	5.6%	6.2%	9.2%	11.1%	13.8%

Source: U.S. Census



The data in Table 6 also show that the 20-24 age group is under weighted in the Township, compared to the State and County percentages. In addition, this age group declined as a percentage of the Township's population from 3.1% in 2000 to only 1.8% in 2010. This may be a reflection of the relative lack of housing stock in Ada Township that would be affordable for young, first-time home buyers.

The most significant changes in the age makeup of the Township population over the last decade appears to be a significant reduction in the proportion of the population 25-44 years old, and an increase in the percentage age 55 or over, from 16.1% in 2000 to 23.0% in 2010.

Table 5
Population Age Distribution
Ada Township, 1990-2010

Age Groups	2010 Number of Persons	2010 % of Total	2000 Number of Persons	2000 % of Total	1990 % of Total
Under 5	855	6.5%	760	7.7%	8.7%
5-17	3,257	24.8%	2,465	24.9%	23.6%
18-24	713	5.4%	530	5.4%	6.6%
25-44	2,925	22.3%	2,728	27.6%	35.2%
45-54	2,363	18.0%	1,811	18.3%	12.4%
55-64	1,814	13.8%	886	9.0%	7.3%
65+	1,215	9.2%	702	7.1%	6.2%

Source: U.S. Census: 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010

Disabled Population:

According to the 2015 estimates, of a total of 13,807 persons in Ada Township, 4.2%, or 581 persons, have a disability. This percentage is significantly lower than the estimated 11.3% disabled adult population in Kent County overall.

Education Levels:

As shown in Table 7, per 2014 estimates, only East Grand Rapids ranks higher than Ada Township among nearby Kent County Communities in the percentage of its population having high school diplomas. Ada Township also ranks high among communities in Kent County in the percentage of its residents having college degrees.

Income:

Ada Township has a relatively affluent population when its median household income is compared to that of other communities in Kent County. The Township ranks highest in household income per 2015 estimates. Ada’s median household income of \$121,439 is 129 percent greater than Kent County’s median level of 53,063.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015

**Table 6
2010 Age Distribution
Ada Township, Kent County and Michigan**

Age Group	Percentage of 2010 Population		
	Ada Twp.	Kent County	Michigan
Under 5	6.5%	7.3%	6.0%
5-19	13.5%	21.9%	20.8%
20-24	1.8%	7.6%	6.8%
25-44	22.3%	26.7%	24.7%
45-54	18.0%	14.5%	15.2%
55-64	13.8%	10.9%	12.7%
65+	9.2%	11.1%	13.8%

Source: U.S. Census, 2010

Ada Township also had the third highest 1999 per capita income among all Kent County communities, at \$37,840, again exceeded only by that of East Grand Rapids and Cascade Township, according to the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Employment:

Occupational characteristics of Ada Township residents in 2010 are given in Table 8. In 2000, white collar occupations (managerial and professional specialty; and technical, sales and administration) accounted for 79% of the Township’s employed persons. This percentage increased to 89.9% by 2010. The percentage of employed persons in blue collar occupations (production, transportation, material moving, construction, extraction and maintenance) decreased from 13.4% in 2000 to 10.1% in 2010.

The numerical increase in the numbers of higher-paying white collar professions is concomitant with the Township's strong ranking among Kent County communities in housing values, education, and income levels.

The industries employing Ada Township residents in 2010 are shown in Table 9. The industry groups employing the largest numbers of Ada Township residents include education, health and social services, responsible for 27.1% of employed residents, and manufacturing, at 16.7%. Industry groups that are more heavily represented in Ada Township residents' employment compared to Kent County overall include the professional, scientific, management and administrative category, and finance, insurance and real estate.

Table 7
Education Attainment of Persons 25 Years and Older
Ada Township and Surrounding Communities, 2014

Community	Percentage of Persons 25 Years & Older		
	High School Graduate or Higher	Bachelor's Degree or Higher	Graduate or Professional Degree
Ada Township	98.0%	62.4%	27.1%
Cannon Township	96.8%	45.9%	17.3%
Cascade Township	97.4%	64.9%	28.8%
East Grand Rapids	98.3%	76.4%	34.9%
G.R. Township	97.3%	56.3%	21.7%
Vergennes Township	96.6%	40.2%	10.1%
Kent County	89.3%	32.6%	11.3%
Michigan	89.3%	26.4%	10.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014

Table 8
Estimates of Occupation of Employed Persons Age 16 Years and Over, 2010
Ada Township, Kent County and Michigan

OCCUPATION	Ada Township		Kent County	Michigan
	Estimated Number of Persons	Percent	Percent	Percent
Management, business, science, and arts occupations	3,524	57.10%	33.70%	33.60%
Service occupations	624	10.10%	16.40%	18.00%
Sales and office occupations	1,403	22.70%	26.00%	25.10%
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	260	4.20%	7.70%	8.30%
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	362	5.90%	16.30%	15.10%
Total civilian employed population 16 years and over	6,173	100.0%	100.1%	100.1%

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey

Housing Stock

Per 2015 estimates, the housing stock in Ada Township is composed predominantly of single-family detached units. Table 10 compares the distribution of housing units by number of units in the structure for the Township, Kent County and the State.

The 2015 estimates show a significant increase in the proportion of the Township’s housing stock that is attached single family units and multiple family units. In 2008 and 2009, 210 multiple family units were constructed in the Stone Falls of Ada apartment community. In addition, approximately 40 attached condominium units were constructed in the Villas of Ada development in the same time period.

Table 11 compares the estimated median value of owner-occupied housing in Ada Township estimated in 2015 with that of neighboring townships, the City of East Grand Rapids, Kent County and the State. Cascade Township, East Grand Rapids and Ada Township had the highest median housing values in Kent County.

Table 10
Distribution of Housing Units by Number of Units in Structure, 2015
Ada Township, Kent County and Michigan

Units in Structure	Ada Township		Kent County		Michigan	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1, detached	4,340	90.6%	162,015	65.3%	3,272,125	72.1%
1, attached	195	4.1%	16,072	6.5%	2211,330	4.7%
2	0	0.0%	11,123	4.5%	113,297	2.5%
3 or 4	71	1.5%	8,745	3.5%	116,812	2.6%
5 to 9	60	1.3%	9,488	3.8%	192,278	4.2%
10 to 19	104	2.2%	15,565	6.3%	163,002	3.6%
20 or more	21	0.4%	15,581	6.3%	226,576	5.0%
Mobile home	0	0.0%	9,580	3.9%	243,416	5.4%
Boat, RV, van, etc.	0	0.0%	55	0.0%	1,002	0.0%
Total:	3,384	100.0%	248,224	100.0%	4,539,838	100.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015

Table 11
Median Value of Owner-Occupied Housing, 2015
Ada Township and Surrounding Communities

Community	Median Value
ADA TOWNSHIP	\$276,200
Cannon Township	\$226,200
Cascade Township	\$270,500
Grand Rapids Township	\$211,600
Vergennes Township	\$187,900
East Grand Rapids	\$270,100
Kent County	\$139,300
Michigan	\$122,400

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015

RESOURCE INVENTORY

Climate:

Recreational opportunities in Ada Township benefit from the temperature-moderating and snowfall-enhancing influences of Lake Michigan. The average daily high temperature during July is about 83° F in Kent County. Average January low temperature is about 15° F. Average annual rainfall is 34 inches, with an annual snowfall of 78 inches. The growing season averages 154 days.

Topography:

The topography of much of Ada Township is characterized by hilly, undulating terrain formed by glacial activity. The Township's relief is an important natural feature, providing visual interest and privacy. In addition, these conditions can be utilized in recreational facility planning to provide challenging hills for activities such as cross-country skiing. This terrain makes planning of bicycling facilities more difficult. While the Township's hills seem to be particularly attractive to those aggressive cyclists who seek out difficult terrain for training purposes, the steep hills can be a daunting challenge to more casual cyclists. Care should be taken to ensure that facilities limited to advanced skiers and cyclists are balanced with facilities for those with limitations such as beginners, children, and the elderly. In much of the Township, the terrain makes design of non-motorized trails in conformance with AASHTO design guidelines difficult to achieve.

Other areas of the Township are of relatively moderate terrain, providing suitable areas for recreational fields for organized sports activity.

Soils:

Deep dry sands predominate in Ada Township. These sandy soils are found primarily on the hilly moraines on either side of the Grand River through most of the Township. These soils are generally well-suited for construction of building foundations, septic disposal fields, and facilities for active recreational opportunities.

Other soils in the Township generally present limitations to development. Heavy clay loam soils, found in the southwestern and northeastern parts of the Township, are not suited to on-site disposal of sewage effluent. Potential for residential development is limited in these areas, some of which may never be serviced by public water or sewer. Areas with limitations on development in some cases may be suitable for public ownership for provision of passive recreational facilities.

Organic soils are found along the rivers, streams, and drainage courses throughout Ada Township. There also is a concentration of organic peat and muck around the lakes in the northeastern portion of the township. These soils can pose severe limitations on development; floodplains and wetlands associated with these soil types can serve as important habitat for plants and animals and form greenways that can be utilized for their recreational values. Public or private trust acquisition can protect some environmentally sensitive areas.

Vegetative Cover:

Woodlands are a prominent natural feature in Ada Township. Riparian forest cover is concentrated along the banks of the Grand River and in ravines associated with drainageways. The dry oak-hickory forests in the northeastern part of the Township are typical of the forest cover that once occupied most of the Township area with sandy soils. Scattered stands of northern hardwoods (maple, hickory, and beech) are located in the southwestern corner of the Township.

Water Resources:

The Grand and Thornapple Rivers are the major water features in Ada Township. Approximately 10.5 miles of the Grand River lie within Ada Township. The Thornapple River is also an important resource in the community. The river's Ada dam creates a backwater area that has limited recreational use by river frontage property owners. There is no public boating access to the Ada dam backwater area. Public boat access to the Grand River is available at two locations in the Township, at Fulton St. and Knapp St. These two public access sites are well-used for recreational access to the Grand River, primarily for sport fishing and for recreational paddlecraft. The Grand River upstream of Fulton St. is used by the Forest Hills Public Schools crew teams for training.

There are a few small lakes and many small ponds in Ada Township. Chase Lake, about 50 acres in surface area, is the largest lake in the Township. It is surrounded by extensive wetlands. The lake is shallow and is in an advanced state of eutrophication. Although not well suited for intense water sports use (power boating or waterskiing), the lake is a very attractive setting for quiet enjoyment of nature. The lake and surrounding wetland contains habitat for some species considered endangered by the Michigan DNR. There is no public access to Chase Lake.

Floodplain:

Floodplains in Ada Township are associated with the Grand and Thornapple Rivers. The Grand River floodplain in some places is almost 4,000 feet wide. Extensive development has occurred in some portions of the Grand River floodplain, such as most of the Alticor Corp. complex, but most of the floodplain is undeveloped. The approximate boundary of the 100-year floodplain on the Grand and Thornapple rivers is shown on the Natural Features map.

Wetlands:

The term "wetland" includes marshes, swamps, bogs, and similar areas that are often found between open water and upland land. Many, but not all of these areas are subject to State regulation under the Goemaere-Anderson Wetland Protection Act of 1979.

Wetland inventory mapping contained in the Appendix was prepared by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. Areas mapped as potential wetland are an overlay of the following sources of information:

1. The National Wetland Inventory (NWI), conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service through interpretation of topographic data and aerial photographs.
2. Land Cover, as mapped by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' Michigan Resource Inventory System (MIRIS), through interpretation of aerial photographs.
3. Hydric soils, as mapped by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service. These are soils that are saturated with water, flooded or ponded long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions in the upper part of the soil profile.

The inventories represent existing information that suggests the probability that a wetland may or may not exist in a given area. Areas shown as wetlands, wetland soils, or open water on the map are potential wetlands, and deserve further site investigation to verify if wetlands are actually present. The map may not identify all potential wetlands in the Township. It may show wetlands that are not actually present and it may not show wetlands which are actually present.

An extensive area of wetlands is found in a very large area surrounding Chase Lake, near 3 Mile Rd. and Honey Creek Ave. Other extensive wetland areas are found along the major and minor streams in the Township. Examples include land along Carl Creek, the Strawberry Creek corridor north of St. Roberts Church and east of Adacroft Commons, and the extensive wetlands found along Honey Creek and its tributaries in Seidman Park.

In the past, wetlands were often regarded as wastelands--sources of mosquitoes, flies, and unpleasant odors. Most people felt that they were places to be avoided, or better yet, eliminated. This negative view, combined with the demand for more developable land, has resulted in the destruction of some of the township's poorly drained lands. These areas have been drained and converted to farmland, industrial use, or filled for housing development. Of the estimated 11 million acres of wetlands that stood in Michigan 150 years ago, 3 million acres remain. Since there is little historical data on wetland identification, it is not possible to estimate the total loss of wetlands within Ada Township.

Because they occur where the dry land meets the water, wetlands play a critical role in the management of the township's water-based resources. Acre for acre, wetlands produce more wildlife and plants than any other Michigan habitat type. Michigan boasts about 2,300 native plant species; 50 percent of these are wetland species and over 25 percent of the wetland species are threatened or endangered.

Other benefits of wetlands include the following:

- They help reduce the extent of flooding by absorbing runoff from rain and melting snow and slowly releasing excess water into rivers and lakes. (A one-acre swamp, when flooded to a depth of one foot, contains 325,851 gallons of water.)
- They filter pollutants from surface runoff, trapping fertilizers, pesticides, sediment and other potential contaminants, and help to break them down into less harmful substances.
- They contribute to recharge of groundwater supplies when connected to underground aquifers.
- They form part of the natural nutrient and water cycles, and produce vital atmospheric gases, including oxygen.
- They provide commercial and recreational value to the economy, by producing plants, game birds and fur-bearing mammals. Survival of many varieties of fish are directly connected to wetlands, as they require shallow water areas for breeding, feeding and escape from predators.

- Wetlands also contribute to the open, natural character of Ada Township, by providing natural areas of open space interspersed with developed land. Wetland areas can provide a valuable site design element in residential development, providing separation between neighboring properties and attractive natural areas which serve as a property value-enhancing amenity.

In Michigan, the Goemaere-Anderson Wetland Protection Act (Act 203 of the Public Acts of 1979) provides for the statewide preservation, management, protection, and use of wetland areas. Wetlands having an area of at least five acres in size, or those that are contiguous with a lake or stream are subject to State regulation. The Act requires a permit from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for activities such as filling, dredging and draining.

High Quality Natural Communities:

In 1992, the Michigan Natural Features Inventory program of the Michigan DNR Wildlife Division conducted an inventory of natural areas in Kent County. This inventory identified a total of 25 high quality natural area sites in the County. Three of the 25 sites are located in Ada Township. They include natural prairie fen and inundated shrub swamp adjacent to Chase Lake, a small (3-acre) hillside prairie on a steep hillside west of Grand River Dr., and a southern mesic forest containing red, white and black oak, as well as sugar maple and American beech located between Pettis Ave. and the Grand River, north of Knapp St. There are several other areas of mature forest with high species diversity in the Township, that were not included as part of this inventory.

Historic Resources:

Historic sites often are associated with recreational facilities and activities. While there are a variety of historic resources located in Ada Township, ranging from historic homesteads to turn-of-the-century commercial buildings, official designation of these resources is limited. There is only one site listed on the National and State registers of historic places, the Ada Covered Bridge site, at Leonard Field Park in the Ada Village area.

Perhaps the most significant of the Township's un-designated historic sites is the site along the south bank of the Grand River, west of Alticor Corp., which was the location of Rix Robinson's trading post. Robinson was one of the first European settlers in all of West Michigan, and is regarded as the original founder of the Ada community.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCING STRUCTURE

Organizational Structure

Ada Township's park, recreation and land preservation program is administered by the Township Supervisor with oversight from the Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Advisory Board and the Township's Board of Trustees. The Township Supervisor implements recreational policies and budgets established by the Township Board of Trustees, administers the township parks, recreation and open space protections budgets, submits grant applications, and oversees completion of park improvement projects and acquisition of park and open space lands. The Township Board adopts park rules and regulations, which address such matters as hours of operation, alcoholic beverage prohibition, animal control rules and other operating matters. The adopted Park rules are available for inspection at the Park Office, in the Township Clerk's office and on the Township web site.

The Township Supervisor also appoints, subject to Township Board approval, representatives to the 11-member Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Advisory Board, which advises the Supervisor and Township Board on matters relating to the development, improvement, operation and maintenance of the Townships parks and land preserves, as well as recreation and educational programs offered by the Parks and Recreation Department. The Advisory Board advises the Supervisor and Township Board regarding major park operating policies, establishment and adjustment of user fees, and planned capital improvement projects. The Advisory Board is also charged with responsibility for preparation of the Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Plan and keeping it updated.

The Parks Director is responsible for the management and operation of the Township's park facilities, preserves and recreation programs, including recruitment and supervision of seasonal employees. Park programs include a variety of outdoor recreation and environmental education programs. The Township organizes and manages a summer softball league that is one of the largest such leagues in the area, managed by seasonal staff.

Daily park maintenance functions are carried out by a full-time staff of 2 persons. Services that are contracted out include mowing of softball and soccer fields and the Arboretum, solid waste disposal and periodic inspection/treatment of tree specimens in the Ada Township Park Arboretum.

Figure 2 is an organizational chart that illustrates the administrative structure of Ada Township's parks, recreation and land preservation program.

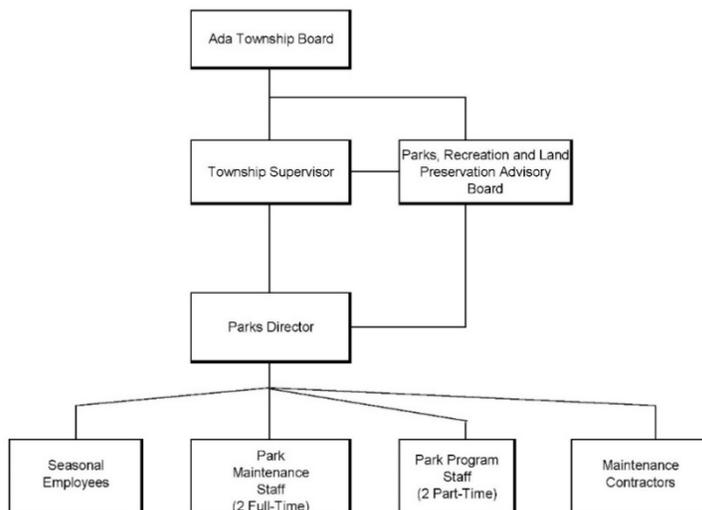


Figure 2 – Organizational Chart for Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Program

Financing Structure

Ada Township funds park, recreation and land preservation initiatives, programs, operations and maintenance through several revenue sources. These include but are not limited to voter-approved Township millages, general funds, user fees, local, State and Federal grant funding, business donations and private contributions.

- A dedicated millage of .25 mills for “parks and recreation” purposes was originally approved by the voters for 5 years in 1996. This millage was renewed by voters at 5 year increments until 2016.
- A separate dedicated millage of .40 mills for 15 years for “parks and land preservation” purposes was approved by voters in November, 2002. On an annual basis, 42% of the revenues generated by this millage were transferred to the Parks and Recreation Fund, to supplement revenues from the .25 mill “parks and recreation” millage. The remaining 58% of the parks and land preservation purpose was targeted for use in acquiring and making public access improvements to land for preservation as permanent open space.
- With the expiration of both of these millages at the end of 2016, a ballot proposal was presented to voters and approved in the August, 2016 primary election to replace the former separate millages with a single millage of .65 mills for 10 years, for “parks, recreation and land preservation.” This millage will be the primary support for the Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation program for the next 10 years.
- In November, 2006 Township voters authorized a 15-year property tax of .5 mills to finance the construction, operation and maintenance of an expanded non-motorized trail system in the Township. A \$4.6 million bond issue in 2007 provided financing for major expansion of the Township trail network between 2007 and 2010. Annual revenues from the trail millage have been used to pay bond principal and interest and for maintenance and repair of the trail network. The Township is in the process of re-financing the remaining debt from the 2007 bond issue. The 15-year millage authorization will expire in December, 2020, coinciding with the complete retirement of the bonded debt.
- Fees charged to participants in the Township’s recreation programs, including adult softball leagues, family events, youth day camps and school programs generate about \$55,000 per year.
- Fees charged to participants for rental and use for Township facilities such as the shelter in Ada Park have been generating about \$37,500 per year. The new building at Roselle Park is at the early stages of rental income with growth anticipated over the next few years.
- Interest income of about \$14,000 per year also supports park and recreation programs.
- State Grants have been utilized in the past to support land acquisition and more park improvement initiatives. Smaller local grants have been used to support recreation and education programs.
- Private contributions by local business and individuals have supported program supplies and major capital projects.
- The balance of the Township’s park and recreation operating budget is funded from general revenues. In recent years, the Township has allocated rental income from leases with wireless communications providers for wireless antenna installations on Township facilities to parks and recreation programs.

With regards to projected expenditures for the future, it is likely that expenditures for the recreation programs

will grow at a modest rate in future years, in proportion to Township population growth and as influenced by general inflation rates. The softball program added a fall season two years ago, creating an increase in participation which is expected to remain stable for the next few years.

Future operating expenses for the Parks and Arboretum budget will be greatly influenced by the Township's improvement programs for parks and trails. For planning purposes, recreation program expenditures are projected to grow at a 3%/year rate as shown below for the following five years. The projected expenses for the parks and arboretum fund include park operating funds (which are projected to grow at 5%/year rate) and funds for projects listed in the action plan.

The following is a summary of Ada Township expenditures for the past four completed fiscal years, as well as budgeted expenditures for the current fiscal year ending March 31, 2017 and projected operating expenditures for the next five years. Projections for the next 5 years, including Capital Improvements, are included in a table at the end of the "Action Program" in Section 7.

**HISTORICAL REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES
PARKS AND RECREATION, LAND PRESERVATION AND NON-MOTORIZED
TRAILS**

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17 Estimated
TOTAL REVENUES	\$1,518,088	\$1,598,563	\$1,214,368	\$1,443,471	\$1,193,217
EXPENDITURES					
Operating Expenses	\$349,573	\$364,094	\$413,979	\$406,833	\$457,126
Debt Service	\$414,983	\$428,605	\$441,628	\$453,200	\$463,848
Capital expenditures	\$265,976	\$777,225	\$68,861	\$1,420,171	\$229,715
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$1,030,532	\$1,569,924	\$924,468	\$2,280,204	\$1,150,689
Net change in fund balances:	\$487,556	\$28,639	\$289,900	-\$836,733	\$42,529
Re-statement of Prior Year	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Beginning fund balance:	\$2,076,506	\$2,564,062	\$2,592,701	\$2,882,601	\$2,045,868
Ending fund balance:	\$2,564,062	\$2,592,701	\$2,882,601	\$2,045,868	\$2,088,397

Role of Volunteers

Volunteerism within the Parks and Recreation Department has been key to its operations and continues to grow as an integral part of community engagement. A core group of stewardship volunteers, including members of the MSU Extension's Master Naturalist and Master Gardener programs, the West Michigan Cluster of the Stewardship Network and the River City Wild Ones assisted in managing the natural areas by establishing native plants, removing invasive plants and conducting work on the non-paved trails. Over the past five years, an average of 40 volunteers completed 270 hours annually.

Both adult and student volunteers assist with the recreation programs by providing presentations, supervision and instruction of youth groups and assistance with special events. This group averaged 70 volunteers completing 557 hours annually over the past five years.

In addition, local businesses, some in coordination with the United Way Day of Caring, provide volunteer service days in the parks assisting with maintenance and stewardship. They averaged 47 workers

completing 397 hours annually.

Relationships with Other Public Agencies

Ada Township has maintained a long term relationship with the Kent County Road Commission and the Kent County Parks Department. Both of these County agencies provide substantial support for the design, development and maintenance of the roads and non-motorized trails in the Township. In addition, the Township works closely with the County on long term preservation and park development goals within the Township and adjoining communities.

The Township Parks and Recreation Department has been working closely with local school districts and universities to plan, coordinate and help fund education programs. The programs ranged from field trips by school groups to the parks, teacher development workshops held in Ada Township Parks and facilities owned by partnering agencies and stewardship training workshops. The Forest Hills Public School District's Community Services Department plays a key role in coordinating school groups while the Kent Intermediate School District assists in regional coordination and facility use for teacher development workshops. Grand Valley State University has assisted with coordination of county wide education initiatives as well as facilitator for grants.

The Township also works with the Michigan Departments of Natural Resources and Environmental Quality on a number of items. Two boat launches are located in the Township as well as the Canonsburg State Game Area, all under supervision of the Michigan Departments of Natural Resources. The MI DEQ assist with planning and permitting for properties, wetlands and streams plus a grant for school programs.

IV. PLANNING AND PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

Description of Planning Process

The preparation of this Plan was led by the Ada Township Planning Director and the Parks and Recreation Director. They were assisted and supported by the Township Supervisor and the Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Advisory Board. Throughout the process, consulting engineers and architects assisted with site plans along with feedback from the public through input sessions and surveys.

An initial phase of the planning process involved the decision to merge the former Parks Committee and Open Space Advisory Board into a single entity called the Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Advisory Board. The new Advisory Board was established by ordinance adoption in 2016. At that time, the decision was also made to combine the 5-year Parks millage and 15-year Parks and Open Space Preservation millage, both of which were to set to expire. With support of the community, a new 10-year Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation millage was approved by voters in 2016. These two actions set the foundation for financial planning and oversight of the Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Program and this Plan.

Overlapping the work of the Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Advisory Board has been the development and implementation of plans for significant redevelopment in the Village. In 2013 the Ada Township Downtown Development Authority (DDA) conducted the Envision Ada planning process, which involved residents of the community in developing a Plan for redevelopment in the Village, including significant investment in new public infrastructure and public amenities in the Village. The Envision Ada Plan calls for the development of two new park facilities in the Village, one of which will front on the Thornapple River. This new park will provide new opportunities for the public to engage the riverfront, a long-neglected natural feature in the community.

A series of public input opportunities regarding parks and recreation needs were conducted throughout the planning process. The Township publishes a quarterly newsletter called the *Adaview*. This publication is mailed out to over 6,000 households and businesses in the community and includes updates on park activities and announcements for public input. A series of surveys were completed by citizens at public input sessions and community events such as the Fourth of July celebration. Electronic surveys were also sent out via emails and posts on the Township website and Facebook page. A copy of the most recent survey (2017) is included in the Appendix. Two public input sessions were held recently. One was conducted by the DDA in 2016 and focused on the two new parks proposed in the Village. A second input session was held on December 1, 2016 and focused on the draft of the overall Plan with details for each park and preserve available for feedback. Comments and data received in the surveys and open house events were analyzed and considered in setting the goals, objectives and action program of the Plan.

Several community partners were also a part of the planning process. Both the Kent County Parks Department and the Land Conservancy of West Michigan coordinated mutual land preservation and public park access goals in the region along with review of the means to finance them. The Disability Advocates of Kent County conducted evaluations of the parks to assist with site improvement goals and provide representation of the disabled community.

From the analysis of data, public input and site reviews, a process was initiated to first identify our key Goals. These were next subdivided into reachable Objectives, from which we defined the Action Program for the Plan. With completion of final draft of the Plan, a copy of the draft was made available on line via the Township website and with printed copies at the Township Hall and Park Office over a thirty day period. The Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Advisory Board recommended approval of the proposed Ada Township Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Plan at a meeting on February 9, 2017.

A Township Board public hearing to solicit additional public input on the Ada Township Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Plan was held on February 27, 2017, prior to adoption of the Plan by the Board.

V. INVENTORY OF EXISTING PARKS, NATURAL AREAS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Ada Township contains over 1,000 acres of public land available for both active and passive recreational pursuits. The community's outstanding natural features have resulted in a number of regional recreational facilities being located in the area, including a large County park and extensive State Game Area lands. In addition, Ada Township currently has three community parks and several open space preserves operated by the township government and several school facilities available to the public. There are numerous private recreational facilities as well.

Inventory information for Township-owned parks and natural areas is maintained on an ongoing basis by the Parks Department. Information regarding Federal, State, county and school lands and facilities was obtained through communication with agency representatives and from web sites. Mapping of existing parks and natural areas was prepared using the regional geographic information system (REGIS) operated and maintained by the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council. Private recreation facility inventory data was collected primarily through web site sources.

A summary of facilities and sites ranging from national and state to county and Township are listed below.

National

North Country Trail

A part of the National Park Service, this national trail has been recently re-routed through Ada Township. It incorporates previously established trails into its plan and passes through county and state-owned properties within the Township.

State

Cannonsburg State Game Area:

Cannonsburg State Game Area is a natural area used for hunting, hiking, mountain biking and cross-country skiing. It is in the north end of the Township, between 3 Mile and 4 Mile Roads. Nearly 500 acres of the game area are located within northern Ada Township, with a larger area of the park located in adjacent Cannon Township. This site attracts users from throughout the metropolitan area.

Michigan DNR Grand River Public Access Sites:

There are two public access boat launch sites on the Grand River, under the jurisdiction of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Waterways Division. The Knapp St. Bridge Public Access Site is located south of the Knapp Street Bridge on the east side of the river. The site contains 14 parking spaces. The Ada Grand River Public Access Site is located just north of Fulton Street (M-21), on the river's west bank. Each site contains a boat launch ramp, gravel parking area and pit-type restrooms.

MDOT Roadside Rest Area Park:

This MDOT roadside rest area is on a three-acre site along M-21 near the extreme southeast corner of the Township. Picnic tables, grills and restroom facilities are available at the park.

Iron Belle Trail:

The Iron Belle Trail is a statewide trail network designated by the State of Michigan. It is composed of two

segments, both extending from the “downriver” area south of Detroit to the western edge of the Upper Peninsula. The eastern segment is designated as a bicycling route and the western segment, which runs through Ada Township, is designated as a hiking route. Much of the western segment, including the portion through Ada Township, follows the route of the nationally-designated North Country Trail, as shown on the Existing Parks and Recreational Facilities inventory map in the Appendix. The route of the Iron Belle Trail is coordinated with existing trails developed by counties and municipalities throughout the state. Grant applications for trail projects that are on the designated Iron Belle Trail route receive priority for State grants.

County

Seidman Park:

Seidman Park is owned and operated by the Kent County Parks Department and located within Ada Township. It is a regional park that attracts users from both the local area and broader region. With 530 acres, Seidman Park is one of Kent County’s largest parks. The heavily wooded site contains a trail network used for hiking and cross-country skiing. Horses, motorized vehicles and bicycles are prohibited in the park, except for bicycle use permitted on the portion of the Township’s paved non-motorized trail network that is located on an easement within the park. Parking, small picnic shelters with tables and primitive/portable restroom facilities are located at both the northern and southern ends of the park. The trail network includes a boardwalk extending through one of the several wetlands which occur within the park. Ada Township continues to work with Kent County on stewardship initiatives in this park, focusing on invasive plant species control.

Chief Hazy Cloud Park:

Chief Hazy Cloud Park, one of the two Kent County parks in Ada Township, is located along the Grand River near the Village of Ada. Established in 1928 as a 22.4 acre park, it has a rich history of activity in the community. In 2008 Kent County added 95 acres to make the 118 acre park it is today. The Kent County Parks Department has been working to acquire parcels of land along the river that were previously owned by gravel mining companies and are located adjacent to the park. In 2017, acquisition of an adjacent 143 parcel will be completed, supported by DNR Natural Resources Trust Fund grant fund, with the goal of acquiring additional adjacent land to the northwest in the future. That will make Chief Hazy Cloud a significant sized park within the Township. The Kent County Parks Department currently provides maintenance to the park and will continue to do so in the future. Ada Township Parks Department works in partnership with Kent County Parks Department on stewardship of the Chief Hazy Cloud Park.

Township Facilities

Leonard Field Park:

The oldest of Ada Township Parks, established in the 1940’s, is a small two acre parcel adjacent to the Thornapple River within the Ada Village area. The park's unique asset is a replica of a historic covered bridge which spans the Thornapple River and links the park with the village business district. This bridge is a focal point for the entire community. The park is also known for a long history of hosting softball league and tournament play, since it has the only lighted softball diamond in the area. This is a popular site including the softball field, bike paths, period lighting and a barrier-free river overlook, river observation deck. A barrier-free restroom and drinking fountain were constructed in 2007. We have recently increased the number of student and public programs on site.

Ada Township Park:

Established in 1976, this is the most utilized of the Township-owned parks. The 57-acre site is located on the southern border of the Township, southeast of the Village, at Buttrick Ave. and Grand River Dr. This

park has become popular with persons and groups from throughout the Grand Rapids metro area, not only for its many recreational opportunities but for its barrier-free design and complete access.

Highlights of the site include the natural areas of a small woodlot, prairie fen and wetlands, with an arboretum containing many specimen trees in the upland portions of the park. Improvements include a pond that is accessible for fishing, a picnic shelter with seasonal restrooms, two picnic gazebos, paved and non-paved trails, a playground, picnic areas, softball fields, soccer and multi-use fields, tennis courts, a volleyball court and parking areas. There are two buildings on site. One is divided into the main park office and a learning center for meetings and education programs. The other building is a large garage that houses maintenance supplies and equipment for all the parks, preserves and trails. In 2015, an adjoining lot was purchased and added to the park expanding its natural area.

The children's playground and one full-size soccer field were improved in the early 1990's, with the assistance of grant funds provided by the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. The playground facilities were recently upgraded with new structures and universal design components.

The former garage was converted in 1997 to the Park office and 1,060 square foot multi-purpose classroom/meeting room called the Les Craig Learning Center. The office space remains as the administrative center for the parks and recreation programs. The Learning Center is used throughout the year for education programs and meetings. The Learning Center room had a few upgrades in 2014. The entire building is currently under review to improve energy conservation, accessibility and efficiency in the office space. A 2,175 square foot garage and storage building was constructed in the park when the former garage was converted to meeting space. The new garage is the center of operations for maintenance of all the parks, preserves, trails, and other Township properties, and houses all of the Parks and Recreation Department maintenance vehicles and equipment. This facility is also under review to improve efficiency of space, energy use and accessibility.

The restrooms in the main Park shelter were renovated in 2001 and made barrier-free, with funding assistance from the Community Development Block Grant program. Parking area paving, landscaping, lighting and storm water management improvements were completed, with funding assistance from the CMI (Clean Michigan Initiative) Recreation Bond program. In addition, the paved pathway system through the park was resurfaced with an asphalt overlay.

Several areas of natural area remain in the park. These include a woodlot, meadow, wetlands and a remnant prairie. Stewardship work on these areas is continuous with efforts by staff, volunteers and school groups.

Existing facilities at the park include:

- 1 Park office building, containing Park Director's office, with adjacent classroom/meeting room with natural history displays, and a barrier-free, unisex restroom.
- Storage and maintenance building,
- 1 half-court basketball court
- 1 volleyball court
- 6 tennis courts
- 2 softball diamonds with bleachers
- 1 designated soccer field
- 2 open field areas for sporting activities such as soccer, Lacrosse and Frisbee.
- 6 picnic areas, each with a grill and picnic tables (18 tables total)
- 1 shelter with grill, electric service, water, 12 picnic tables and barrier-free restrooms
- 3 connected gazebos, near ponds, with grill, electric service and 6 picnic tables
- 1 stand-alone gazebo in arboretum, with grill and 2 picnic tables
- Paved paths and nature trail (barrier free)

- Fishing pond with barrier free fishing deck
- 1 children's' playground with barrier-free play structures
- Arboretum
- 3 paved parking lots
- Natural areas including wetlands, a wood and a small remnant prairie-fen

Roselle Park:

Ada Township's parklands more than doubled in size in 2002 with the purchase of the former Ada Beef property located on Grand River Drive NE. The original 230-acre property was purchased in 2002. Donated funding for acquisition of the park site included a \$500,000 gift from Ryven "Carl" Ezinga in memory of his late wife, Roselle, for whom the park is named. In 2006, an additional 17-acres along the Grand River and adjacent to Roselle Park were purchased from neighboring property owners with funds from the dedicated millage for parks and open space. Roselle Park now totals 247-acres with 1.75 miles of frontage on the Grand River. The park draws visitors from a wide area in eastern Kent County.

The Township completed a master plan for Roselle Park in 2004. Through a 2005 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant, construction of a paved trail system, observation decks, and a canoe landing made the park accessible for public use. In 2006, enhancement of existing prairies, meadows and wetlands was accomplished with funding from the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Ducks Unlimited, West MI Wetlands Foundation, Macatawa Bay Waterfowlers and Pheasants Forever. Later improvements included an additional boardwalk, daylighting a formerly-piped stream and establishing a non-paved trail system.

The most recent phase included construction of a new building which houses year-round bathrooms and a large meeting room for programs and community groups plus the development of a new main driveway entrance and parking area. The building opened in May 2016.

Stewardship work for restoring the abandoned farm fields into more natural river floodplain landscape has been ongoing since the acquisition.

Grand River Nature Area & Preserve:

A major addition to the Township's park lands took place at the end of 2001, with the donation by Eastbrook Homes of approximately 120 acres of natural land along the Grand River to Ada Township, for use as public park land. The largely wooded land is located in the Grand River floodplain between the Ada Moorings development and the river. It extends east to the boundary with Cascade Township, where an adjacent 70 acres was donated by Eastbrook Homes to Cascade Township, as well as a 4-acre parcel donated to Forest Hills Public Schools for development of a crew boat launch, boat storage facility and parking. The total 194 acres donated for public use includes over 1 mile of river frontage.

This preserve will remain in a largely natural condition, with facility improvements limited to non-motorized trails to facilitate public access to and enjoyment of this natural site. A paved trail connection from Ada Township Park to the entry to the Ada Moorings development was completed in 2002 adjacent to Grand River Drive, as well as a paved trail from one of the streets in Ada Moorings to the natural area, and extending through the natural area to connect to the Forest Hills Public Schools crew facility in Cascade Township. Other trails in the natural area are to be limited to a mowed grass surface. Directional signs to get visitors from the parking area to the trail head have been installed. Interpretive signs that will educate the public on habitats, cultural history and the flora and fauna of the preserve will be installed along the paved trail.

Carl Creek Crossings Preserve

The Carl Creek Crossings Preserve was established in 2011 with the goals of preserving natural land along Carl Creek, a Grand River tributary, and providing public access to the site. A site master plan for the 8-acre preserve was developed in 2014 with improvements completed in 2016. Those improvements included a small parking area, gravel walking paths, boardwalks and sitting areas. In addition, considerable amounts of invasive plant species have been removed and native plants introduced.

Carl Creek Wetlands Preserve

The Carl Creek Wetlands Preserve site is also a recent acquisition. A community supported initiative allowed for the purchase of this 34 acre parcel 2008. Site maintenance and stewardship work to remove invasive plant species have been conducted while a master plan is being drawn up. Initial site concept drawings and development cost projections were done in 2013. In 2017 the site master plan will be reviewed and finalized with site development projected for 2018. Development concepts include establishment of a non-paved trail system through the preserve, a boardwalk for the trail in a wetland area and a small parking area. Identification of invasive plants and stewardship work to minimize them is also in the plan.

Knapp Corner Preserve

This preserve is a 1.06 acre site acquired in 2012 in partnership with the Kent County Road Commission. It had been in private ownership and had fallen into poor condition. Acquisition of the site became an opportunity to clean up the location making it an attractive “gateway” view into the village and restoring a disturbed site into a more natural landscape. The site adjoins the Township’s non-motorized trail system adjacent to Grand River Drive.

Site maintenance and stewardship, including removal of trash and invasive species, are part of future plans. A site master plan was developed in 2016 outlining a “Welcome to Ada Township” sign, landscape improvements focusing on native plants and a trail-side bench. In 2017 the site development including the sign, landscaping and bench will be completed, making the site attractive and accessible to visitors.

Thornapple Confluence Preserve

The Township owns a total of 26.9 acres of undeveloped floodplain land on the south side of M-21, at the confluence of the Grand and Thornapple rivers. The property includes three adjacent parcels, one of which was donated to the Township, with the remaining two parcels being purchased by the Township from a private owner and from the Michigan Department of Transportation. A portion of the property is subject to a conservation easement held by the Michigan DEQ.

This preserve provides an open space corridor between the future Settlers’ Grove Riverfront Park in the Village and the M-21 bridge over the Grand River, and has potential to be the route of a non-motorized trail connection extending from the riverfront park to the existing non-motorized trail on the M-21 bridge, via routing of a trail underneath bridge adjacent to the west bridge abutment.

Grand River – Fulton Street Preserve

This 5.4 acre parcel was acquired in 2007. It is located on the east side of the Grand River across from the confluence with the Thornapple River and adjacent to the Fulton Street (M-21) bridge. The site is river flood plain with no development plans.

Pettis Avenue Parcel

A 4 acre unimproved parcel located between Pettis Ave. and the Grand River, northwest of the Conservation

Street intersection, was donated to the Township as part of a litigation settlement with the former property owner. A pedestrian access easement between this parcel and the Grand River shoreline was conveyed to the Township at the same time, on land that is soon to be acquired by the Kent County Parks Department for expansion of Chief Hazy Cloud Park. This site has potential to be merged into the Kent County Chief Hazy Cloud Park in the future.

Barrier-Free Status of Township Facilities:

Public access to outdoor recreation areas has been a key goal for Ada Township Parks over the years. From designing parks with accessible amenities to trail systems throughout the community, there is a wide range of opportunity for recreation. Despite good efforts to include accessibility in the planning and development of park sites, there are always ways to improve access to amenities that would create more opportunities for visitors.

In 2011 the *Disability Advocates of Kent County* conducted an evaluation of Ada, Leonard and Roselle Parks. A copy of that report is in our Accessibility Transition Plan. Since that time we have made several improvements in the parks addressing some of the barriers identified in the evaluation. The highlight of recent improvements is the construction and 2016 opening of a new building in Roselle Park. This facility has fully accessible restrooms and meeting room. That improvement brought the park up to a much higher level of accessibility. In 2011 we also had one nature preserve property identified in the accessibility evaluation process, the Grand River Natural Area. Based on the 2011 evaluations, the three core parks and one preserve in the Township received the following ratings:

Park Name:	Assessment Rating:
Ada Township Park:	3
Grand River Nature Trail and Preserve:	3
Leonard Field:	4
Roselle Park:	4

“Much of what I saw in the parks was excellent in terms of accessibility. In particular, there are accessible toilets available at all parks, even when the toilets are temporary. In addition, more than ¾ of the walking paths are paved, allowing people with disabilities access to the full scope of the parks.”

*Kim Menninga, Access Specialist, 2011
Disability Advocates of Kent County*

Since 2011, we have made several improvements in terms of accessibility. In addition to the new building at Roselle Park, we also added a new playground, parking areas, and section of paved pathway. For Ada Township Park, the playground was completely updated and the two parking areas were paved. The old gravel parking lots were also recently paved. In addition to paving the lot, two paved trail connections were installed allowing better access into the center of the park and to the main amenities.

We have also added new nature preserve properties to our inventory. The “Carl Creek Crossings Preserve” opened in 2015. That site was designed with some access to the parking area trails within the preserve. The Knapp Corners Preserve will be finished in 2017 and will contain an accessible path through it and a bench.

Plans are underway to design improvements for an additional preserve, the “Carl Creek Wetlands Preserve” and the two park areas of “Settlers Grove” and “Headley Commons.” As those sites are being planned, accessibility evaluations will be part of the planning process.

We are currently undergoing a new accessibility assessment of the parks including an updated review by the Disability Advocates of Kent County. After their preliminary visit and our own evaluations, we have identified a series of improvements to each site that would increase accessibility. These have been identified

in our Accessibility Transition Plan along with a schedule for implementation. When the new report from the Disability Advocates of Kent County is received, we will amend our Transition Plan and the ratings in this document.

School Facilities

Ada Elementary School:

The Township's public elementary school provides some neighborhood recreational opportunities. The portion of the site not occupied by buildings or parking is about 15 acres. Recreational facilities include a hard-surfaced play area, one children's ball field, an open playfield, a gymnasium, and a playground. The ball field is used by the Little League, and the open playfield is used for practice by the AYSO youth soccer league and the area youth football league. Playground equipment is used by neighborhood children.

Ada Vista Elementary:

The Spanish Immersion magnet school for elementary grades K – 6 is located in the former Ada Christian School building. The school is located on Bradfield Street between Ada Elementary and the village and is home to 550 students.

The playground, basketball courts and two soccer fields are available for use by residents of the surrounding neighborhood. The AYSO league uses the soccer fields for practices and games. The school also has a gym, an outdoor track and two ball fields.

Ada Christian School:

Completed in 2002, Ada Christian School's 36-acre campus is located southwest of the Ada Congregational Church at Ada Drive and Fox Hollow Avenue. The building has a gymnasium, while the outdoor recreation facilities include a large playground, an irrigated turf softball field, a hard-surface play area and a multi-purpose athletic field with irrigated turf.

Forest Hills Central Middle and High Schools:

These two schools are located on a single 80-acre site in the southwest corner of Ada Township between Hall Street and Ada Drive. Excluding the area devoted to buildings and parking, approximately 53-acres are devoted to or available for recreational pursuits. Existing recreation facilities include tennis courts, baseball diamonds, softball diamonds, soccer field, football field surrounded by a track, open playfield, 2 gymnasiums, and an auditorium.

It should be noted that classrooms, auditoriums, and other indoor school facilities are generally unavailable for public use. However, gymnasium facilities are open to the public through the Community Education Program. The school district's gyms are "booked solid" with community activities. The community track is used by non-students for walking and jogging activities.

Forest Hills Central Woodlands School:

This building houses about 600 students in grades 5 and 6. The indoor facilities include a gymnasium and cafeteria. Outdoor facilities include a playground tailored to the older age group attending this school, a baseball field, a soccer field, 6 basketball hoops and a volleyball court. A sidewalk links this school site to the nearby Clements Mill neighborhood to the west, and an asphalt trail connects the school campus to Adacroft Commons to the east.

Goodwillie Environmental School

Opened in 2001, the Environmental School offers Forest Hills Public School fifth and sixth graders the unique opportunity to use the outdoors as a “living classroom.” Enrollment is limited to 97 students that are selected to attend through a 5-step evaluation process. The school sits on a 28-acre parcel on Two Mile Road in the Northeastern section of the Township, adjacent to the 530-acre Seidman Park.

Forest Hills Eastern Middle and High Schools

These two schools are located on 115-acres in the Northwest quadrant of the Township, at Pettis Avenue and Knapp Street. Existing recreation facilities include tennis courts, soccer field, baseball diamond, softball diamond, football field, track and field facilities, open playfields, two gymnasiums, performance theater and auditorium.

Community Education:

The Forest Hills School District offers a variety of community education programs, a number of which are recreation or fitness oriented. These programs are generally conducted at school sites.

Forest Hills Community and Aquatic Center:

This indoor pool facility, completed in 1990, is owned and managed by Forest Hills Public Schools. It is located adjacent to the Township boundary, northeast of Ada Drive and Forest Hills Avenue. This quality facility receives heavy usage and is open to the public six days a week. This facility, along with the Mary Free Bed YMCA pools, satisfies Ada Township's demand for indoor swimming facilities. A walking/biking path to the facilities along Ada Drive from Spaulding Avenue was completed in 2005.

Private Recreational Facilities

Lions Field:

Lions Field is a privately-owned facility that contains four baseball diamonds. The ball fields are used primarily by over 20 area Little League baseball teams. The ball fields were recently improved with irrigation, new backstops, dugouts and a batting cage. A new building was constructed in 2005 that contains restroom facilities, a concession stand and an indoor batting area. The park also has a picnic shelter, 12 picnic tables, a grill and 2 children's playground areas.

Kent County Conservation League:

The Kent County Conservation League is a private sportsman's organization with trap, skeet, sporting clays, rifle, pistol and archery ranges on its 171 acres immediately east of Seidman Park. The clubhouse building has kitchen facilities, and is rented out for private receptions.

Creston Rod and Gun Club:

A small rod and gun club with outdoor shooting facilities is located in northern Ada Township, adjacent to the Grand River on Pettis Ave. north of Knapp St.

Egypt Valley Country Club:

Egypt Valley Country Club, located in the northern portion of Ada Township, is a private club with a 27-hole golf course, tennis courts, outdoor swimming pool and large clubhouse. Until 2006, the course had been the site of a Senior PGA tournament. After 15 years the tournament was cancelled due to the loss of corporate

sponsorship. As a private facility, the club has very little impact on public recreation opportunities in the Township.

Alticor Corp. Employee Softball Field:

Alticor has a softball field for use by its employees. It is located on the north side of Grand River Dr., at the west end of the Alticor manufacturing facilities.

Alticor Corp. Employee Fitness Center:

Alticor Corporation has an employee wellness and fitness center on its corporate headquarters site on M-21 at Ada Drive. As one of the largest employers in Kent County, this facility serves over 3,000 people, many of whom live within the Township. The facility includes a weight room, a cardio fitness room and a group fitness center that includes a variety of top-of-the-line exercise equipment.

Adacraft Commons Association:

Some limited private facilities are located south of M-21 in the Adacraft Commons subdivision. In addition to several "commons" areas consisting of wooded ravines throughout the development, the Adacraft Commons Association maintains a small pond and surrounding lawn area that can be used for picnicking. The pond is not of sufficient size or quality for any water-based recreational activities.

Boarding Stables:

The rural areas of Ada Township offer an excellent setting for horseback riding. A couple of the Township's boarding stables have closed in recent years, including the Open Ridge stables on 2 Mile Rd. and the Willow Creek stables on Pettis Ave., near Conservation St. The Township's remaining equestrian facilities include a large boarding facility and arena, Thomet Stables, located on Pettis Ave. at 2 Mile Rd., and the Kentree Riding Stables, on Michigan St.

Mary Free Bed YMCA:

Built in 2016 to replace the old Southeast YMCA and located south of Ada Township on Burton St. between Kraft Ave. and Spaulding Ave., this membership facility has full fitness facilities including an indoor track. The facility was designed to be universally-accessible.

MVP Athletic Club:

Located at 115 Crahen, this private membership facility is also located outside Ada Township, but near enough (4 miles from Ada Village) to serve many Township residents. It is part of the MVP network of recreation/fitness facilities. It is located on Crahen Avenue, north of Fulton St. Indoor facilities include eight hard tennis courts and six racquetball courts. The outdoor, summer club has a zero depth–entry pool with a water slide and kids play features, a sand play area for kids, a soccer and softball field, a sand volleyball court, running track, an outdoor cafe, 4 clay tennis courts and four hard tennis courts and locker room facilities. The summer facility has a wide variety of camp and sports programs for members and guests.

MVP Sportsplex:

The MVP Sportsplex is another private, membership-based, full-service fitness and recreation center, located at the corner of East Paris Ave. and Burton St., 6 miles from Ada Village. The facility has 3 group exercise studios, 6 indoor tennis courts, a large fitness floor with 300 pieces of cardio-vascular and strength training equipment, a 25-meter, 5-lane indoor pool, and an outdoor aquatic center with water slides and 0-depth entry pool.

Patterson Ice Arena

Located within two miles of the Township border with Cascade Township, this is the only local indoor ice arena. This facility provides skating lessons, adult league and open hockey.

Private Passive Open Space

A significant acreage of open space land has been permanently protected in Ada Township, through conservation easements that are held by either Ada Township or the Land Conservancy of West Michigan, as well as land that is designated through zoning approvals as permanent common open space in residential developments approved under the Township's Planned Unit Development (PUD) zoning regulations. Over 350 acres of land is protected in the Township as permanent open space, using one or both of these two mechanisms. These lands are identified in the "Private" open space category on the map in the Appendix titled "Inventory of Existing Open Space Lands." Examples of open space in new development include the following:

- Common areas in Adacroft Commons Subdivision protect the steep, wooded hillsides in the subdivision from disturbance, and provide physical separation between abutting lots. Adacroft Commons, which was developed in the 1970's, was the first open space development in the Township.
- A large wetland area, as well as floodplain land along the Grand River, are protected open space in Egypt Creek Estates, located on the west side of Pettis Ave., north of Knapp St. The open space in this development provides over 800 feet of separation between the homes and Pettis Ave., and provides a recreational trail corridor along the Grand River.
- Over 30 acres of permanent open space are part of The Conservancy Subdivision, on the west side of McCabe Ave., north of Conservation St. A 200-foot wide open space buffer separates the home sites from McCabe Ave., to maintain the rural character of the road frontage. A 33-acre open space area at the west end of the development includes rugged, wooded hills of maple, beech and oak stands with a variety of wildlife.

Other residential developments with protected open space include Brookside, Catamount, Copper Valley, Darby Farms, East River Ridge, Egypt Creek Estates, Grand Valley Estates, Longleaf, Montreux, The Preserve, The Sanctuary, Treebrook Estates, Valley Ridge Country Club Estates, Wedgefield and West Village.

Five properties within the Township have land that is permanently protected by recorded conservation easements held by the Land Conservancy of West Michigan. The largest of the properties subject to LCWM conservation easements is on 110 acres of Grand River floodplain on Grand River Drive, west of the Amway corporate complex. The property owner has also granted a pedestrian access easement to Ada Township within the boundary of the conservation easement, which extends from the Township's existing non-motorized trail on Grand River Drive, extending north to the shoreline of the Grand River, and to the northwest corner of the property. With acquisition of additional easements, this public access through natural riverfront land has potential to be extended to the north across adjacent properties to connect to Roselle Park.

While not publicly-accessible (aside from the trail easement noted above), this private protected open space in the Township is a valuable natural and recreational resource, which will be increasingly appreciated by Township residents in the future. This private open space is an important supplement to public lands in providing wildlife habitat, protecting river and stream corridors and protecting natural plant communities. It is also becoming an important tool in helping to preserve the rural, open and natural

character of Ada Township, characteristics which are highly valued by its residents.

Township Recreation and Education Programs

Ada Township Park:

The great majority of Ada Township's recreation programming occurs at Ada Township Park. This park contains softball fields, soccer fields, tennis courts, a basketball court and a volleyball court. These facilities are used continually by individuals as well as organized groups. The Parks and Recreation Department coordinates recreation programs in the park in addition to renting out the facilities. School field trips, Scout programs and summer day camps are held at the park. The Les Craig Learning Center is used to host youth, family and adult recreation and education programs as well as teacher workshops and training seminars for conservation groups. Large community events such as the Grand Rapids Triathlon and the "August in Ada" children's festival are annual events held at the park.

Leonard Field Park

This park is traditionally known for its annual spring, summer and fall softball games and tournaments. Over the past few years programs at the park have increased. School field trips, family friendly outdoor concerts, the annual Covered Bridge Bike Tour, Grand Rapids Triathlon and Run-4a-Cause all take place at the park.

Roselle Park:

As this park develops, the level of organized programs has increased annually. Well known for the annual Roselle Park River Festival and the Grand River-Run, the park has become a destination site for both families and individual walkers and runners. Guided walks and instructional outdoor recreation programs are held seasonally in addition to spring and summer school field trips and summer youth programs.

The newly-completed Roselle Park building, which opened in May of 2016, now hosts a variety of community based presentations, school field trips, youth programs, instructional outdoor recreation programs and training workshops. The facility is also currently rented to non-profit organizations and local businesses to engage their members and the community.

Softball Program:

By far the largest Township-sponsored recreation activity is the softball league program with games at both Ada Township Park (two diamonds) and Leonard Field Park (one diamond). In the past ten years this program has grown from 460 games a year to over 640 games a year. A significant part of this increase has come from offering a late season/fall adult league and adding additional tournaments.

Listed below is a breakdown of the various annual leagues and tournaments recently played in Ada Township Park and Leonard Field Park.

Leagues:

- Middle School Baseball League: spring, 18 teams, 36 regular games, 12 tournament games
- Monday TVBL Instructional Baseball League: spring, 15 teams, 22 games
- Middle School Girls Fast Pitch League: spring, 10 teams, 20 games
- Monday Girls High School Fast Pitch League: summer, 4 teams, 24 league games
- Tuesday Men's Slow Pitch League: summer, 15 adult teams, 85 league games, 27 tournament games
- Wednesday COED League, summer, 11 adult teams, 51 league games and 20 tournament games
- Thursday Men's Slow Pitch League: summer, 8 adult teams, 36 league games, 14 tournament games
- Thursday Men's Fast Pitch League: summer, 15 adult teams, 16 league games

Tuesday Fall Men's Slow Pitch League: fall, 17 adult teams, 51 league games and 25 tournament games
Wednesday Fall Coed League: fall, 5 adult teams, 15 league games and 6 tournament games
10U and 12U Boys Travel Team League: summer, 6 teams, 12 games

Tournaments:

Middle school baseball tournament in May
Girl's fast pitch softball tournament in May
Boy's baseball tournament in June
Boy's baseball tournament in July
Adult coed softball tournament in August

Day Camps

The summer day camp program started in 2010 with activities in Ada township Park. It has since expanded to include activities at Roselle Park, the Carl Creek Crossing Preserve and off site adventures to Kent County parks and river trips. Age of participants ranges from 6 to 13 years, with high school and college students assisting as volunteers. Weekly participation ranges from 15 to 30 youth with an average 175 youth served each summer. Weekly themes range from sports to arts and nature study. This is structured as a 3-day per week program with hours similar to school days.

Day programs are also offered each month of the year, typically for ½ day durations. These are under different age groups and thematic titles with activities based on nature study and outdoor recreation. Participant levels vary with the seasons but range from 5 youth per event up to 40, with over 150 served per year. These are held at both Ada Park and Roselle Park. The Outdoor adventure group incorporates off-site locations as well.

These half-day programs include:

Discovery Days, ages 3-5
Young Explorers, ages 5-7
Junior Naturalist, ages 7-11
Outdoor Adventure, ages 10-13

The Forest Hills Girl Scout Day Camp has been held annually at Ada Park for a number of years. This is a 4 day event that serves close to 150 girls from the region.

School Programs

Field trip opportunities for pre-schools have been growing over the years with 2-3 local schools participating each season. Traditionally these have been held at Ada Park, and are now also offered at Roselle Park. Discovery based themes get pre-schoolers introduced to nature and exploring outdoors.

Elementary and middle school programs include field trips to the parks and outreach to schools. Field trips are correlated with school curriculums and are held at Ada, Roselle and Leonard Field Parks. Themes range from habitats and adaptations to watersheds and aquatic investigations. School field trips typically occur in the spring and fall. Winter field trips will be offered in 2017 for the first time. Outreach programs are conducted at schools when the school cannot afford bussing or as a pre-visit experience prior to coming out to one of the parks. Students also engage in stewardship initiatives on their school grounds and at the parks.

High school and college student programs primarily focus on volunteer opportunities and internships. A few field trips are conducted each year for classes seeking an in-depth field study experience.

Family and Adult Programs

Family based events are held once or twice a month, typically as one weekend and one evening program. Weekend programs are experiential with a theme and activity based on the theme; such as blue birds and making a bluebird nest box. Evening programs are usually presentation style, often with live animal shows such as raptors or bats. Attendance ranges from 10 to 85 for these events. Prior to 2016 these were held at Ada Park, but are now being held at Roselle Park.

Programs that target adults include lectures, training workshops on land and water management topics, and teacher trainings. These have been held at Ada Park and are now being offered at Roselle Park. The teacher workshops are coordinated with local school districts while the management topics are coordinated with regional conservation organizations.

Special Events

These range from events produced by Township staff to activities coordinated with community groups. The annual River Festival at Roselle Park has been a favorite for families for a number of years. The Parks and Recreation Department also facilitates the annual Grand River-Run which has 8k, 5k and 2k run components. This event attracts about 1,200 participants each year.

“August in Ada” is a Children’s Festival sponsored by the Ada Business Association. It has been held in Downtown Ada in the past and is was recently moved to Ada Township Park. It hosts nearly 500 visitors.

New last year, and to be run again this summer, is an outdoor concert series coordinated with the Ada Historical Society. This is held one Friday evening a month in June, July and August at Leonard Field Park. Dubbed “Beers at the Bridge,” it draws a family crowd of about 1,500 for live music, food and refreshments.

For several years the Parks Department has hosted a 5k fund raiser for the DeVos Children’s Hospital at Leonard Field Park called the “Run-4a-Cause”. Ada Township is also the host community for the annual Grand Rapids Triathlon, a nationally sanctioned event, utilizing both Ada and Leonard Field Parks. The GR Tri attracts several thousand participants and many guests.

Additional Recreation Programming

American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO):

When the Ada-Cascade area AYSO program was established, all games were played at Ada Township Park. Since then, the dramatic growth of the league has outgrown the capacity of the available space at the park. The AYSO league now schedules games at several locations in Ada and Cascade Townships, including a full schedule at Ada Township Park. Other locations used by the league include Cascade Township Park, Grand Rapids Township Park, Ada Vista School, Pine Ridge Elementary School and Forest Hills Northern High School. Games are played at Ada Township Park on Saturdays for 8 weeks in the fall and 8 weeks in the spring. Practices are held at Ada Township Park weekdays during the league's soccer seasons. Over 1000 youth, ages 4 ½ to 18 years, participate in this program each spring and fall. AYSO relies totally on volunteer parents for coaching, game officiating and equipment and field management.

Thornapple Valley Baseball League:

In 1954, Raymond and Bertha Brach willed the property now known as Lions Park to the Lions Club for the sole purpose of youth recreation. For the past 52 years the Thornapple Valley Baseball League has offered children ages 6–14 the opportunity to learn and play baseball. With over 600 children in five different age divisions, the TVBL is one of the largest youth baseball leagues in Michigan.

Recreation Grant Inventory:

Ada Township has received five grants from the MI DNR since 1977. These have been applied to two parks within the Township: Ada Township Park at 1180 Buttrick Dr., Ada, MI 49301 and Roselle Park at 1010 Grand River, Ada, MI 49301. A summary of the grant history is included in the Appendix.

The following table summarizes the DNR grants that have been received by the Township since 1977.

Recreation Grant Project History and Status

Grant No. / Date	Park Name	Scope Items	Condition
TF 05-106 2005	Roselle Park	Asphalt Trail, River Overlook, Benches, Parking Lot Striping, Modular Toilet \$122,000	Grant funded facilities still in good condition. Additional developments in the park since including a second parking lot and new building with restrooms.
CM 99-438 1999	Ada Township Park	Parking Lot Paving, Curbing, Lighting and Landscaping	Asphalt paved lots still in Good Condition, as is lighting and landscaping. Additional paved lot added since.
		Storm Drainage System	In good condition
		Trail Resurfacing \$210,000	Section improved and added on to since then. Other sections planned for maintenance upgrades.
BF 90-266 1990	Ada Township Park	Re-Constructed Playground Area Surface	Surface area and mulch re done with new playground equipment. Mulch upgraded annually.
		New Playground Equipment	Several play structures replaced or added to in 2012 to update and allow for better accessibility.
		Landscaping – Soccer field \$38,000	Good condition. Soccer field still in use.
26-01399 1985	Ada Township Park	Erection of picnic shelter and gazebos. \$15,300	Good condition. Improvements made to shelter and restroom in 2001 to improved accessibility.
26-01123 D 1977	Ada Township Park	Enhancements of pond are for accessible fishing; paved trail, deck; hard surface accessible trail, bridges; softball fields upgrades, tennis courts; picnic area tables and grills; parking improvements \$101,050	Still in good condition. Sections of trails upgrades and added on to since. Other sections of trails to be upgraded soon. Tennis courts patched in the past and up for upgrades this year. Some grills targeted for replacement and upgrades to accessibility.

VI. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

GOAL I. PROTECT SENSITIVE ENVIRONMENTAL AREAS AND THOSE WHICH SERVE IMPORTANT ECOLOGICAL FUNCTIONS IN ADA TOWNSHIP.

OBJECTIVE A: Permanently protect and enhance natural open lands and restorable properties along the Grand River and Thornapple River corridors and their tributaries including Honey Creek, Egypt Creek, Carl Creek and in the Chase Lake area.

ACTION STEPS:

1. Identify priority properties along the Grand River and Thornapple River corridors that can potentially be protected through acquisition of land or conservation easements on land, or through other means.
2. Permanently protect natural open lands and major streams through acquisition of land, obtaining conservation easements on land, and other means.
3. Conduct educational efforts to inform property owners along the Grand River and Thornapple River and their tributaries of the benefits, issues and best practices of land and stream preservation and natural riparian buffers along stream corridors
4. Conduct stewardship efforts along the Grand River and Thornapple River and their tributaries to reduce the impacts of invasive plants, aquatic animals, trash, point and non-point source pollution.

OBJECTIVE B: Preserve the Open Space qualities of Ada Township which contributes to its character and attractiveness.

ACTION STEPS:

1. Identify and target for acquisition or protection through other means, high priority open space lands that contribute to the character and attractiveness of Ada Township.
2. Conduct public information efforts to increase public awareness of tools available for land protection and educate residents of Ada Township about funds available for open space acquisition.
3. Promote and provide educational opportunities for citizens to become more aware of and skilled in habitat protection and conservation on their own properties (ex: backyard habitat programs, use of native landscaping...). Encourage voluntary stewardship actions by property owners to maintain and enhance the natural character and qualities of their property
4. Identify modifications to zoning and other growth management regulations that will encourage open space preservation and protection of important natural features as part of new development design.
5. Complete an assessment of the riparian protection regulations enacted in 2005, and adopt modifications to the regulations as deemed necessary to achieve the objectives of the regulations.

OBJECTIVE C: Encourage the protection of agricultural lands and the viability of agricultural land use in Ada Township.

ACTION STEPS:

1. Encourage property owners to participate in the Kent County Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) Program.
2. Use Land Preservation Funds as matching funds to supplement available County funds and Federal

grant funding for acquisition of farmland preservation easements on selective properties for the Kent County PDR Program.

GOAL II. PROVIDE A SYSTEM OF PUBLIC PARKS AND NATURAL AREAS THAT PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR BOTH ACTIVE AND PASSIVE RECREATIONAL USE.

OBJECTIVE A: Improve existing parks and open space preserves to provide opportunities for a diverse range of active and passive recreational use, increased accessibility and preservation of natural systems.

ACTION STEPS:

1. Develop or update site master plans, management plans and stewardship plans for each park and open space preserve, to provide appropriate and safe public access and provide guidance for maintenance and stewardship activities.

2. Make necessary improvements to, and plans for, current preserves.

a. Grand River Natural Area

1. Coordinate with Cascade Township on the bank erosion issues effecting the paved trail along the river. Establish a plan for stabilizing the bank or moving sections of the trail.
2. Upgrade signage indicating access to the park and routes to the trail heads, navigational signs with maps and interpretive signage.
3. Further develop and mark the non-paved trail through the property.
4. Establish a long range plan that incorporates acquisition of adjoining property and trail system to Thornapple River Drive or to a planned pedestrian bridge across the Thornapple River.

b. Carl Creek Wetland Preserve (Alta Dale Ave.)

1. Complete master plan and improvements for the public access and vegetation restoration.

c. Carl Creek Crossing Preserve (Grand River-Fulton)

1. Continue improvements for trails and vegetation restoration.
2. Improve and maintain the property according to the site master plan.

d. Knapp Corner (Knapp and Grand River Dr.)

1. Continue site improvements as to new master plan including native vegetation restoration, community entry sign and bench.

e. Grand River View (Pettis Ave)

1. Establish a site master plan and programs for maintenance and stewardship.

f. Thornapple Confluence Preserve (Fulton Dr.)

1. Establish site maintenance and stewardship programs. Coordinate with upcoming river walk and trail plans.

g. Shady Dr. Lot – adjacent to DNR boat launch on Grand River at Knapp St.

1. Establish site master plan, maintenance and stewardship programs.

3. Make necessary improvements to current parks.

a. Improve Ada Township Park to have quality natural areas, a diverse arboretum, recreational facilities and support amenities.

1. Improve the quality and ecology of the natural areas (woodlot, prairie fen, pond) in Ada Park through best management practices and increased stewardship.
2. Maintain the health of the trees in the Bud Locke Arboretum through closer monitoring, pruning, treatment programs and establishing a data base. Increase diversity of species displayed in the arboretum as possible. Increase interpretation of the Arboretum through specimen identification tags, plaques and a display map/sign with specimen types, locations, donors, and natural history.
3. Improve the safety and quality of recreation facilities by upgrading the playground, renovating the tennis courts, irrigating the soccer field, improving the athletic fields and installing lights on the softball fields.
4. Improve the bathroom, pavilion, office and learning center so they better serve users and provide year round services.
5. Increase the accessibility to park facilities, buildings, trails and resources.

b. Continue the development of Roselle Park by updating the Master Plan, improved maintenance and stewardship.

1. Update park master plan to meet current goals, site capabilities and funding opportunities.
2. Continue development of the Roselle Park Building and adjacent grounds in accordance with the design plans.
3. Evaluate and improve water flow and trail system in northern section of the park.
4. Review and set plans and designs for a planned large-group picnic area and associated parking area.
5. Complete remediation of the former waste disposal lagoons and develop a plan for re-use/redevelopment of this area.
6. Enhance the playground and silo area to meet the needs of the community and park design goals.
7. Continue the ecological and habitat restoration efforts on site through best management practices to enhance opportunities for wildlife and minimize the effects and threats of invasive species.
8. Develop an interpretive plan for the site and construct/install interpretive signs and other communication tools to enrich the visitor experience.
9. Establish and implement a management plan to stabilize sections of the bank and trail along the river shore to minimize erosion of the banks.
10. Design and construct a maintenance building to meet needs of the park and trails.
11. Evaluate the feasibility of adding a trail and bridge system across the Grand River.

c. Prepare an updated site master plan for Leonard Field Park as a guide for future facility improvements and development.

1. Upgrade the electric fixtures for the field lighting so they are safe and protected.
2. Upgrade the scoreboard and announcement systems so they are safer and more functional.

3. Manage the vegetation along the river bank and railroad grade to be free of invasive plants and enhanced with native plants.
4. Install informational signage about activities in the park and use of the river.
5. Upgrade the observation decks at the river bank.
6. Improve and the access slope down to the river for public use.

OBJECTIVE B: Develop additional public park space and community facilities as proposed in the Envision Ada redevelopment plan for the Village, in partnership with the Downtown Development Authority and other community partners.

ACTION STEPS:

1. Acquire land for and develop a public riverfront corridor and outdoor performance space along the west bank of the Thornapple River in the Village, as proposed in the Envision Ada Plan.
2. Acquire land for and develop outdoor public gathering space and an integrated civic building/farmers' market pavilion on the north side of Headley Street, as proposed in the Envision Ada Plan. Assess the potential for incorporating an outdoor ice rink and re-located *Children's' Garden* into the Commons Area.
3. Acquire land for and develop a central Village Green in the planned triangular area enclosed by Ada Drive, Thornapple River Dr. and the extension of Headley Street as proposed in the Envision Ada Plan.
4. Acquire land along the east side of the Thornapple River to preserve natural floodplain habitat and provide a public trail connection between the Ada Village area and the Grand River Natural Area. Construct a pedestrian bridge across the Thornapple River, downstream of the existing Thornapple River Dr. bridge.
5. Provide for the involvement of community stakeholders and the general public in the design of new park and civic facilities in Ada Village.
6. Develop a framework for potential recreational and educational programs and services to be affiliated with the new facilities.
7. Work in partnership with the DDA to develop a funding package for the above facilities, including grant funding and funds from a community capital campaign to supplement funds from the Parks Fund and the Parks and Land Preservation Fund.

OBJECTIVE C: Increase parkland and preserve areas via acquisition of properties/titles; access privileges; and/or partnerships with regional organizations.

ACTION STEPS:

1. Obtain privately held properties adjacent to or within the boundaries of current parks.
2. Establish first right of refusal to purchase agreements with current land owners.
3. Continue work with Kent County Parks Department to identify and acquire additional park land in Ada Township.

4. Review the potential for a small community park in the northern section of Ada Township.
5. Establish a pocket park along the Ada Drive corridor.
6. Advocate for the inclusion of parks in Planned Unit Developments, local subdivisions and businesses.
7. Coordinate with Forest Hills School District to identify and establish School District properties usable for public access or preserves.

GOAL III. DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN A NETWORK OF NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS IN THE TOWNSHIP, COORDINATED AND INTERCONNECTED WITH TRAIL NETWORKS IN ADJACENT COMMUNITIES AND THE REGION.

OBJECTIVE A: Complete development of non-motorized trail segments identified on the updated plans presented to the public at the time of the 2006 millage ballot proposal.

ACTION STEPS:

1. Install non-motorized trails for pedestrians and bicycles on the following routes:
 - a. Spaulding Ave., from Ada Dr. to Fulton St. (M-21).
 - b. Fulton St. and Carl Dr., from Spaulding Ave. to Grand River Dr.
 - c. Pettis Ave., from Knapp St. to 2 Mile Rd.
2. Apply for MDOT Transportation Enhancement grant funding to retrofit the Knapp St. bridge over the Grand River with a pedestrian/bicycle lane.

OBJECTIVE B: Develop additional non-motorized trails extending from the Ada Village area along the Grand and Thornapple river corridors, to provide greater access to these natural amenities.

ACTION STEPS:

1. Develop a non-motorized trail along the Thornapple River frontage, from the Ada Village area extending underneath the M-21 bridge and up to the pedestrian/bicycle lane on the north side of the M-21 bridge, including acquisition of needed land or easements.
2. Construct a pedestrian/bicycle bridge over the Thornapple River, from the planned Settlers' Grove Riverfront Park in the Village to land planned for permanent open space preservation on the opposite side of the river, including acquisition of needed land on the south bank of the river.
3. Develop a non-motorized trail along the Thornapple and Grand Rivers, extending from the aforementioned pedestrian bridge across the Thornapple River to the Grand River Nature Trail and Preserve, including acquisition of needed land or easements.
4. Develop a non-motorized trail along the Grand River corridor from Grand River Drive on the private property subject to the recorded Land Conservancy of West Michigan (LCWM) conservation easement extending northwest along the river corridor to connect to Roselle Park, including acquisition of necessary easements on the two private properties located between the LCWM conservation easement and the park.

OBJECTIVE C: Establish inter-connections between Ada Township's trail network and trail networks in Cannon Township, Grand Rapids Charter Township and the Lowell area.

ACTION STEPS:

1. Develop a trail connection between Ada Township’s trail network and the trails of Cannon Township, extending from Knapp St. north on Honey Creek Ave.
2. Complete a trail connection along Fulton Street between Ada Township’s trail network and Grand Rapids Township’s trail system at Forest Hills Avenue and Fulton ST.
3. Develop a trail connection from Ada Township’s trail network to trails being developed by the Lowell Area Recreation Authority, with consideration of the following alternatives:
 - a. The corridor between Grand River Dr. and the Grand River, from Ada Township Park to the Lowell Township Park.
 - b. In the corridor between Bailey Dr. and Two Mile Rd. from McCabe Ave. to the east Township boundary.
4. Initiate discussion with Cannon Township representatives and Lowell Area Recreation Authority (LARA) representatives regarding alternative connection routes.

OBJECTIVE D: Obtain grant funding from available governmental and private non-profit sources to supplement Ada Township funds for completion of additional trails in the community.

ACTION STEPS:

1. Pursue grant funding from one or more of the following sources: 1) West Michigan Trails & Greenways Coalition; 2) Michigan Department of Transportation and Grand Valley Metro Council “Transportation Alternatives” program grant funding; 3) Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources Recreational Trails grant program.

OBJECTIVE E: Coordinate with other organizations to establish non-paved trail systems in Ada Township.

ACTION STEPS:

1. Coordinate with the North Country Trail Association (National Park Service) to facilitate the trail routed through Ada Township.
2. Coordinate with the MI DNR and other organization in the Grand River watershed to establish a “Blue Trail” (river) trail system in Ada Township.

GOAL IV. INCREASE RECREATIONAL, EDUCATIONAL AND LEISURE PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES AND SERVICES FOR ADA TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS.

OBJECTIVE A: Assess the current needs and future trends in the region for recreational and outdoor environmental educations programs and services.

ACTION STEPS:

1. Conduct a community assessment of recreational needs.
2. Develop a strategic plan identifying program goals, opportunities and target markets for a diversity of age groups, interests and schedules and a framework for implementation.

OBJECTIVE B: Increase the diversity and quantity of passive recreation opportunities by improving or adding recreational facilities in Ada Township.

ACTION STEPS:

1. Increase the capacity and/or upgrade facilities at current parks and preserves to provide better opportunities for year round use.
2. Continue to develop the non-motorized paved trails and non-paved trail systems in Ada Township, including in the parks, and connections to adjoining communities.
3. Increase accessibility along the Grand River and Thornapple Rivers.
4. Coordinate with regional initiatives to establish a water (blue) trail through the Township on the Grand River and Thornapple River.

OBJECTIVE C: Increase diversity and quantity of recreation and educational opportunities by offering a broader spectrum of guided and instructional activities throughout the year.

ACTION STEPS:

1. Coordinate with Forest Hills School District, the Kent Intermediate School District, local private schools and home school associations to identify and establish outreach and field trip programs for students and workshops for teachers.
2. Increase the capacity of park recreational and education staff and resource people to facilitate and instruct programs.
3. Enhance the Parks & Recreation Department's administrative capabilities for marketing programs and registering participants.
4. Increase partnerships with regional organizations and businesses to offer program services and share facilities.
5. Identify potential private properties within the Township desirable for public access and use for guided program and seek access agreements (gratis, lease, easements) with property owners.

OBJECTIVE D: Increase collaboration with regional parks, recreation departments, nature centers, schools and land preservation organizations/agencies in order to provide additional programs and to increased awareness of recreational programs and facilities for Ada Township residents' use.

ACTION STEPS:

1. Maintain cooperative relationships with the Kent County Parks Department, The MI Department of Natural Resources, adjoining townships, the Land Conservancy of West Michigan and other agencies with publicly accessible properties.
2. Coordinate with Forest Hills School District and private schools to identify school properties and indoor facilities usable for public access or to host program offering
3. Regularly publish resources, listings and contacts that reflect regional recreation and educational opportunities.
4. Continue collaborating with the Ada Historical Society on program services, events, marketing and further development of the Averill Museum.

OBJECTIVE E: Increase participation of Ada Township residents in recreation and education programs.

ACTION STEPS:

1. Increase promotion of programs via local printed media, electronic media, social networking, email, web site, e-news, township publications, direct mail, non-township publications, park postings and business partnerships.
2. Utilize surveys, evaluations and other tools to determine resident interest in programs.
3. Establish co-sponsorship of recreation and education opportunities with area businesses for support and promotions.

GOAL V. ENHANCE / IMPROVE THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATIONAL CAPABILITIES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT TO OPERATE MORE EFFICIENTLY AND HAVE THE CAPACITY TO MEET RECREATIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL GOALS.

OBJECTIVE A: Increase the capacity of the Parks and Recreation Department by the addition of personnel and resources.

ACTION STEPS:

1. Update departmental personnel structure and job descriptions to meet current and future needs.
2. Establish a staff transition plan to increase and fund future staff and contractual instructors.
3. Assess and update contracts used for program instructors and services.

OBJECTIVE B: In coordination with Ada Township's strategic plan, improve and enhance administrative facilities and infrastructure.

ACTION STEPS:

1. Establish better data management systems (databases) for program registrations, tracking of program participants, facility use and communications.
2. Upgrade IT and communication systems and services within the Parks office and related Township operations.
3. Assess operational needs, functions and layout of maintenance and administrative work areas.

OBJECTIVE C: Evaluate and further develop funding structures and opportunities for program services and operations.

ACTION STEPS:

1. Increase use of grant funding, donations and business sponsorships to supplement Ada Township funding and fees for facilities, staffing and program operations.
2. Assess and refine user fees and revenue goals for program participation and facility use.
3. Work with the DDA to develop a funding package for park amenities in the Village, including grant funding and a community capital campaign to supplement Township funds.

VII. ACTION PLAN

Overview

The planned initiatives identified in the Action Plan are intended to achieve the overall goals set forth in the Plan. The initiatives have been consolidated into three areas of focus. They include:

- 1) Land preservation, acquisition, and facility development.**
- 2) Recreational and educational programs and services.**
- 3) Administrative and operational capacity building.**

In the following text, key action items are highlighted for each of these three focus areas. This is followed with a spreadsheet identifying the major initiatives to be undertaken in the next five years and financial projections for that period.

Park and Preserve site maps and master plans are included in Section 8 of the plan, Appendix.

Land Preservation, Acquisition, and Facility Development

A. Preserves

1. Preservation initiatives along Carl Creek, a tributary of the Grand River.

Through the development of two preserves and a conservation easement, a substantial component of Carl Creek is now under protection. Our education objectives include assisting private land owners and other community members on how to use water conservation and land stewardship practices within the watershed. Plans are also underway to pursue a grant for funding to prepare a stream restoration plan.

a. Carl Creek Crossings Preserve

A site master plan was developed in 2014 with improvements completed in 2016. With the site now established, ongoing work includes continuing removal of invasive plants and establishment of a “native plant meadow” on the Highway M-21 hillside. Maintenance and stewardship will be ongoing.

b. Carl Creek Wetlands Preserve

In 2017 the site master plan will be reviewed and finalized with site development projected for 2018. Development concepts include establishment of a non-paved trail and wetland boardwalk system and a small parking area. Identification of invasive plants and stewardship work to minimize them is also in the plan. The site will be accessible to the public in late 2018 to early 2019. Guided educational and recreational programs are targeted to begin in 2019. Site maintenance and stewardship will be ongoing in the future.

2. The Grand River Natural Area Preserve

Erosion along the river bank has threatened sections of the bike path. River bank stabilization and trail re-routing assessments are underway as part of the next phase of improvement for of this site.

In the near future, plans call for connecting the trail head of the bike path to the trail at Ada Park, and adding interpretive and directional signs. Long term vision includes coordination with other Townships along the Grand River to protect the shoreline where possible and to acquire an adjacent parcel of land to the north. That acquisition would incorporate land where the Thornapple River flows into the Grand River. It would also enable the construction of a pedestrian/bike bridge and path over the Thornapple River, to provide

access to the preserve from the future Settlers' Grove Riverfront Park in the Village.

3. Knapp Corner Preserve

In 2017 the site development including community entry sign, native plant landscaping and an accessible bench adjacent to the non-motorized trail will be completed, making the site attractive and accessible to visitors. Ongoing site maintenance and stewardship will continue into the future.

4. Other Non-Improved Preserves and Conservation Easements

The Township holds several other small preserves along the Grand River and Thornapple River corridors. These have been acquired over time to help in protecting the river shores and ecological functions of the area. Some long range development ideas for some of these sites area under review, otherwise general maintenance and stewardship is the current care plan. They include:

Thornapple Confluence Preserve: The 26.9 acre preserve is targeted to merge into the newly proposed river shore park (Settlers Grove) in the Village and then extend a section of bike path through it.

Grand River View Preserve: No future improvements are planned. Property maintenance and stewardship work will be ongoing.

Shady Drive Preserve: No future improvements are planned. Property maintenance and stewardship work will be ongoing.

Grand River – Fulton Street Preserve: No future improvements are planned. Property maintenance and stewardship work will be ongoing.

Pettis Drive -Reith Riley – Parcel: A 4 acre parcel on Pettis drive 655 Pettis, with an easement down to the Grand River. This site may eventually be merged into the adjacent Kent County Chief Hazy Cloud Park.

Gilmore Conservation Easement: Based on timing acceptable to the property owner, develop a non-motorized trail on the easement property, as provided in the terms of the conservation easement held by the Land Conservancy of West Michigan. Pursue additional easements to extend the trail to Roselle Park.

5. Other Conservation Initiatives

Other strategies include the acquisition of additional land for purposes of protecting important natural open space land in the Township, including continues protection of a Greenway corridor along the of the Grand River through the Township.

B. Parks

1. Leonard Field Park

As an older park, several of the amenities are worn and need attention. Initial improvements are based on safety priorities such as repairs to observation decks and softball field fences. Accessibility improvements include re-setting brick and concrete pathways, adding an extended picnic table, adding extended pads to benches and developing access to the softball field.

Future initiatives will include upgrading the electric lighting and scoreboard systems. As an active park, this location requires daily maintenance and ongoing stewardship.

2. Ada Township Park

As an older park, some of the facilities are worn so our first priorities are to improve current amenities as needed. Highlights of the initial projects include resurfacing the tennis courts, repairing the paved trail system and upgrades to the office, learning center and maintenance building. A series of steps will also be conducted to improve accessibility to the building and site amenities including improving thresholds, adding extended pads to benches, creating more accessible picnic areas with grills and extended picnic tables, and extend sections of the pike path to reach the tennis court and basketball court. This is to be complemented with stewardship work in the natural areas.

Following phases focus on renovating the main entrance and front parking lot, building bike path connectors along Grand River Drive and north of softball field 2, and improving the ball field scoreboard and lighting. Long term goals include acquiring a house and property currently located adjacent to the park boundaries.

3. Roselle Park

The most recent development phase of this park included construction of a new building which houses year-round bathrooms and a large meeting room for programs and community groups. The scope of the building project also included the development of a new driveway entrance and parking area, extending paved path connections within the park and adding more benches, all making the site more accessible. The building opened in May 2016.

The master plan for the park was last updated in 2013. Plans are underway to review and revise the master plan in 2017. Focus areas for review include a hydrology assessment in the north section of the property, a review of the non-paved trail system, location for a gazebo picnic shelter, improved parking, and installation of a maintenance facility. Future improvements will be phased between 2018 and 2021.

4. Proposed Settlers' Grove Riverfront Park

This riverfront park is planned as a component of the Envision Ada Plan for redevelopment in the Ada Village area. An agreement has been entered into between Ada Township and the current owner of the park site, providing for donation of the park site to the Township. Design development work for the park is being completed in spring, 2017. It is anticipated that the park improvements will be completed in two phases over the next two years.

The first phase of improvements, planned for 2017, includes pedestrian plazas adjacent to the new street which will be constructed this year at the park perimeter. One of these plazas will be the new site for the former Carl School which is currently located in the Thornapple Village Shopping Center. The original school house is being considered for possible reuse to include restroom facilities and/or an information center. A second phase of construction in 2018 will include the balance of the park improvements, including walkways, an outdoor amphitheater and a playground. Beyond the initial development of the park site, future plans include completing trail connections between the park and the non-motorized path on the north side of Fulton St. (M-21), and a pedestrian bridge across the Thornapple River to provide a trail connection to an expanded Grand River Natural Area and the adjoining Ada Moorings residential neighborhood.

5. Proposed Headley Commons Riverfront Park

Located between newly-reconstructed Headley Street and Fulton Street, this location is targeted to be a future additional park site in the Village. Donation of the land for this park has also been committed by the current property owner. An initial concept plan has been drafted and costs estimated. Over the next two years the plans and estimated costs will be refined. Potential amenities considered for that site

include 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.

6. Kent County Parks Department Initiatives in Ada Township

There are two Kent County Parks located in Ada Township. These include Chief Hazy Cloud Park and Seidman Park. These parks are the result of an ongoing partnership between the Township and the County for planning land preservation and park amenities.

a. Chief Hazy Cloud Park

The Kent County Parks Department is in the process of acquiring additional parcels of land along the river that were previously owned by gravel mining companies and are located adjacent to the park. In 2017 a 143-acre parcel will be acquired and plans are underway to potentially acquire additional land to the north in 2019. That will make Chief Hazy Cloud a significant sized park within the Township. Ada Township is working in partnership with Kent County Parks Department to help facilitate and support these additions and provide stewardship along the river shores.

b. Seidman Park

Ada Township continues to work with Kent County on stewardship initiatives in this park. Our non-motorized trail system also has a section that goes along and/or through Seidman Park. No new improvements are underway at this time.

C. Trail Systems - Linear Parks

1. Paved Non-Motorized Trail System

A non-motorized trail system was established in 2006 with the passage of a 15-year trail millage. Substantial trails have been installed since then as identified in a map in the appendix.

This year's focus is to do site assessments and set plans for improvements to current trails – maintenance repairs (2017). As funding allows, we will be adding new trails as shown on the Non-Motorized Trail System Plan map in the Appendix.

Long term visions include connections to trail systems in all adjacent communities and networks. In addition, there is a vision to have an extended trail along the shore of the Grand River north of the Village.

2. Non-Paved Trails

Work on non-paved trail systems is planned for most of the parks and preserves in the Township. Unique partnerships that have been recently developed in the region, the most important of which is an initiative with the North Country Trail, a part of the National Park System. The North Country Trail was recently re-routed to pass through the northeast portion of Ada Township, along a portion of the Township's non-motorized trail network and through existing parks and public land in the Township.

Also underway is the planning and development of a multi-jurisdictional "Water Trail" along the entire Grand River. Water trail systems are designed to assist paddlers and other boaters to plan and navigate use on the rivers. Part of this has been completed with Ottawa County and other communities along the Grand River. Ada Township is working with Kent County on the section of the river in Ada. The entire project is also under an initiative with the Michigan DNR to have coordinated communications and logistics for all water trails in the state.

Recreational and Educational Programs and Services

Our current objectives aim for increasing the quantity and diversity of recreational programs as well as adding additional access for outdoor recreation. This includes providing space and facilities for self-guided recreation activities and guided or instructional recreation programs. Steps to implement these objectives over the next 5 years include:

A. Community Recreation Assessment

To gain a better idea of what is available in the region of eastern Kent County, an assessment of recreational programs and facility is planned to be for conducted in 2017. The results will be used as one of several tools on which to base future program growth as well as facility growth and staff development.

B. Increase the diversity and range of programs

The above assessment will assist in identifying target markets we may not be serving yet. Additional research is needed in this area. We are also working to expand our marketing and promotional tools to be able to reach people in multiple ways (ex. social media). Our strategic structures looks at incremental increases over the next few years, based on the foundation we have now and growing our capacity to provide more. Examples include increasing the number of school programs, hosting workshop for teachers, sports clinics, summer and weekend youth program, family friendly presentations and hosting community wide events.

C. Improving facilities to enhance program services and support Passive/Self-guided activities

Initial priorities are to upgrade our current facilities to improve accessibility and enhance safety. An accessibility assessment is scheduled for early 2017. The assessment will encompass needs for directional signs, interpretive signs and information kiosks to assist visitors of all abilities in self-guided activities. We also plan to improve our support technologies to allow on-line registration and credit card payment for program participation.

Administrative and Operational Capacity Building

Daily management of the parks, preserves and trails, as well as many development projects, are conducted by Township staff. These are overseen by the Township Administration, the Township Board of Trustees and the Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Advisory Board. The Park and Recreation Department staff is housed in an office located in Ada Township Park. They coordinate daily with other Township personnel located in the office at the Township Hall. As the number of facilities and programs continue to grow, the staffing and administrative structures need review and adjustments to meet current and future operational needs. Following are highlights focusing on areas of growth:

A. Staff Transition Plan

As the Township population has grown and the Township's park and preserve system has grown, there has been a gradual increase in staff time and cost dedicated to the operation of the parks, preserves, trails and recreation programs. These may have been small increments each year, but have become significant increases over time. With the recent addition of new properties, a new building, more amenities and trail responsibilities, and two more sites anticipated in the near future, staffing needs are projected to continue to grow for a few more years. This growth will not only require a gradual increase in personnel, but also requires enabling staff to work more effectively and efficiently.

Staffing Reviews: Steps to be taken include assessing the current staff through evaluations and adjustments to job descriptions, reviewing the organizational and staffing structure and making adjustment. To achieve our goals, we need to add a part time clerical position and a dedicated trail maintenance position. As current

staff members transition out of the organization through retirement or other means, opportunities will arise to adjust position descriptions and bring in new skill sets.

Increasing Staff Capabilities: needs include more staff training on best management practices and use of available technologies and software. This includes better access to computers for management documents, software, emails, GIS and other needs.

B. Office Facilities and Technologies

In 1997 the Park Office was established with the renovation of the old maintenance garage. The garage was renovated into two rooms, one for the park office and one for the Les Craig Leaning Center, a space for educational programs. Both areas are used extensively and taking on more functions over time. The office area is limited in size and structure, limiting the capacity for staff and administrative operations. In addition, our use of technology and software to facilitate good management of facilities and programs is outdated.

Facility improvements include: addressing accessibility issues at the entrances, improving energy efficiency of the building, new carpet, adding a new work station and upgrading storage and filings systems.

Software and technology improvement goals include: adding an additional computer; adding capacity for credit card payments and on-line registrations; adding facility management and data base software; and increasing integration of Township software, data and GIS systems and increasing staff access to computers.

C. Maintenance Facilities and Technologies

The maintenance operations are facilitated through a large garage located in Ada Township Park. This building serves all the parks, preserves and trails as well as functions with the Township streetscapes, municipal buildings, and cemeteries. With the addition of Roselle Park and the new building, there has been a significant increase to maintenance services at that property. In addition, we have added care for new preserves and anticipate care of two new properties coming on line in the next several years.

a) Ada Township Park

This site has become the central maintenance for the Township. Improvement needs for the maintenance building include addressing accessibility issues at entrances; energy efficiency of lighting and heating; storage systems with better shelving and cabinets; waste disposal and water access. Needs for the area outside the building include adjusting the grade around the building so it is accessible for maintenance vehicles and creating a better layout and system for storage of woody debris, landscaping supplies and maintenance equipment.

As more properties and programs come on line, there is also the need to increase maintenance equipment and tools, (hand tools, power tools, wood chippers and groomer for cross-country ski trails, for example).

b) Roselle Park

As the master plan revision process takes place we will be evaluating the location and type of maintenance garage needs at the site. In the short term, we are using some storage areas inside building and a large, non-insulated shed on site for storage. Short term goals include relocating the large shed to the potential garage location and insulating it. Eventually this shed is to be removed from the site. We will continue to improve the office space and storage areas inside the building to meet current and future needs (printer, copier, cabinets, storage bins ...)

For the long term, we will need to define, design, locate and construct a maintenance “garage/facility”.

Implementation and Funding Strategies

This Plan outlines an ambitious program of recreation improvements for the Township over the next 5 years. Completion of these improvements will make the recreation facilities of the Township an even greater source of enjoyment and pride for Township residents. Realization of the improvements called for in the Plan would require a significant financial expenditure by the Township, even with significant grant assistance for some projects. This section of the Plan identifies projected financing sources and a suggested organizational framework to accomplish the projects identified in the Plan.

Completion of the 5-year Action Plan contained in this Plan is based upon use of a variety of funding sources, including remaining fund balance in the Parks and Recreation Fund, the Parks and Land Preservation Fund, the newly-approved Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Fund, Township general funds, State and Federal grant funding, contributions of a portion of property value by property owners, private contributions and County Parks participation in several projects.

It is unlikely that the voter-approved millage for non-motorized trails, which expires at the end of 2020, will produce revenues sufficient to finance expansion of the non-motorized trail network. Due to the significant decrease in the growth rate of the Township's property tax base that occurred following the 2008 national economic recession, the trail millage generates very little revenue over and above that needed to pay for annual debt service and trail maintenance costs. Prior to expiration of the current millage, an analysis will be completed of funding needs for future trail system expansion and major rehabilitation to the existing trail network, in anticipation of a possible millage renewal ballot proposal.

Grants

It is anticipated the Township will seek grant support from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for selected high-priority park projects in the future. Park development projects that have the greatest potential for grant awards include those that provide or enhance access to water features in the Township, and projects that are well-integrated into the regional system of greenways and trail corridors.

Private sources

The Township's parks, natural areas and recreation system has benefitted greatly from generous private financial support from members of the community and from a number of philanthropic organizations. It is anticipated that this support will continue in the future.

The following table provides a framework for future project implementation and financing.

PARKS, RECREATION AND LAND PRESERVATION ACTION PLAN										
PROPOSED CAPITAL PROJECTS AND ESTIMATED COSTS (X \$1000)										
PROJECT TYPE AND TITLE	FY	FY	FY	FY	FY	FY	Long-	FUNDING SOURCES		
	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	Term	TWP.	GRANTS	OTHER
IMPROVEMENTS TO PRESERVES										
Grand River Natural Area										
Assess erosion and trail alternative; patch holes and cracks	\$10.0	\$80.0						\$70.0		\$20.0
Connect paved trail to Ada Moorings trail head				\$70.0				\$50.0	\$20.0	
Acquire adjacent property							\$300.0	\$150.0	\$150.0	
Connection trail - boardwalk - to bridge							\$250.0	\$200.0	\$50.0	
Carl Creek Crossings Preserve										
Roadside ditch/driveway culvert	\$10.0							\$10.0		
Carl Creek Wetlands Preserve										
Complete site master plan project bid	\$20.0							\$20.0		
Construct site improvements - trail, boardwalks, lot, signs		\$160.0						\$160.0		
Knapp Corner Preserve										
Welcome sign, bench, landscaping	\$25.0							\$25.0		
River Overlook on Petis										
Maintenance and Stewardship										
Thornapple Confluence Preserve										
Trail connector: Settlers Grove to M21			\$350.0					\$250.0	\$100.0	
Unspecified Open Space Acquisitions										
IMPROVEMENTS TO PARKS										
Ada Township Park										
Tennis Courts renovations	\$100.0							\$100.0		
Upgrade paved trails in Arboretum	\$20.0							\$20.0		
Upgrade Gates		\$20.0						\$20.0		
Upgrade entrance and front parking				\$60.0				\$50.0	\$10.0	
Bike path connectors: along Grand River drive; to tennis court, to basketball court				\$80.0				\$60.0	\$20.0	
Lighting for softball fields					\$30.0			\$15.0	\$15.0	
Scoreboard for softball fields					\$20.0			\$10.0	\$10.0	
Adjacent property - house acquisition							\$300.0	\$150.0	\$150.0	
Roselle Park										
Improve north section hydrology and trail system		\$15.0						\$15.0		
Building renovations - wall partition, acoustics, kitchen amenities	\$25.0							\$25.0		
Patch and seal paved trails	\$15.0							\$15.0		
River bank stabilization or trail change		\$75.0						\$50.0	\$25.0	
Construct picnic area w/ Gazebo, improve parking area			\$350.0					\$200.0	\$100.0	\$50.0
Construct Maintenance Bldg.				\$80.0				\$60.0	\$20.0	
Improve lagoon area				\$30.0				\$30.0		
Construct bridge across river					\$1,000.0			\$500.0		\$500.0
Acquire adjacent properties							\$300.0	\$150.0	\$150.0	
Leonard Field										
Upgrade decks, level sidewalks, bricks	\$15.0							\$15.0		
Upgrade fencing	\$10.0							\$10.0		
Improve access to river		\$10.0						\$10.0		
Patch and top coat parking lot	\$15.0							\$15.0		
Upgrade electrical system for lighting			\$50.0					\$40.0	\$10.0	
Upgrade scoreboard			\$15.0					\$10.0	\$5.0	
NEW PARKS										
Settlers' Grove Riverfront Park										
Land acquisition										
Phase 1	\$250.0							\$250.0		
Phase 2		\$1,250.0						\$475.0	\$300.0	\$475.0
Bridge over Thornapple River							\$800.0	\$400.0	\$200.0	\$200.0

PROJECT TYPE AND TITLE	FY	FY	FY	FY	FY	FY	Long-Term	FUNDING SOURCES		
	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23		TWP.	GRANTS	OTHER
Headley Commons Park										
Site Improvements				\$1,980.0				\$1,080.0		\$900.0
Civic Building (14,000 SF).					\$5,100.0			\$2,090.0		\$3,010.0
COOPERATIVE LAND ACQUISITIONS										
Kent County Parks Initiatives										
Chief Hazy Cloud Park acquisition - matching funds - Phase 1	\$300.0							\$300.0		
Chief Hazy Cloud Park acquisition - matching funds - Phase 2		\$400.0						\$335.0		\$65.0
NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS										
Pavement Condition Assessment	\$10.0							\$10.0		
Pavement repairs/rehabilitation	\$40.0	\$40.0	\$40.0	\$40.0	\$40.0	\$40.0		\$240.0		
Spaulding Ave., from Ada Dr. to Fulton St. (M-21).							\$500.0	\$500.0		
Fulton St. (M-21), from Spaulding Ave. to west Twp. line							\$300.0	\$300.0		
Fulton St. and Carl Dr., from Spaulding Ave. to Grand River Dr.							\$300.0	\$300.0		
Pettis Ave., from Knapp St. to 2 Mile Rd							\$265.0	\$265.0		
Pettis Ave., from Knapp St. to 3 Mile Rd.							\$265.0	\$265.0		
McCabe Ave., Conservation St. to Conservancy Dr.							\$430.0	\$430.0		
Honey Creek Ave., Conservation St. to Crancreek Dr.							\$400.0	\$400.0		
Honey Creek Ave., Knapp to 4 Mile							\$500.0	\$500.0		
Bailey Dr., McCabe Ave to Boynton							\$280.0	\$280.0		
Knapp street bridge pedestrian lane							\$1,000.0	\$200.0	\$800.0	
Totals	\$865.0	\$2,050.0	\$805.0	\$2,340.0	\$6,190.0	\$40.0	\$6,190.0	\$11,125.0	\$2,120.0	\$5,235.0

APPENDIX

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Master Plan Ada Township Park & E.E. Locke Arboretum

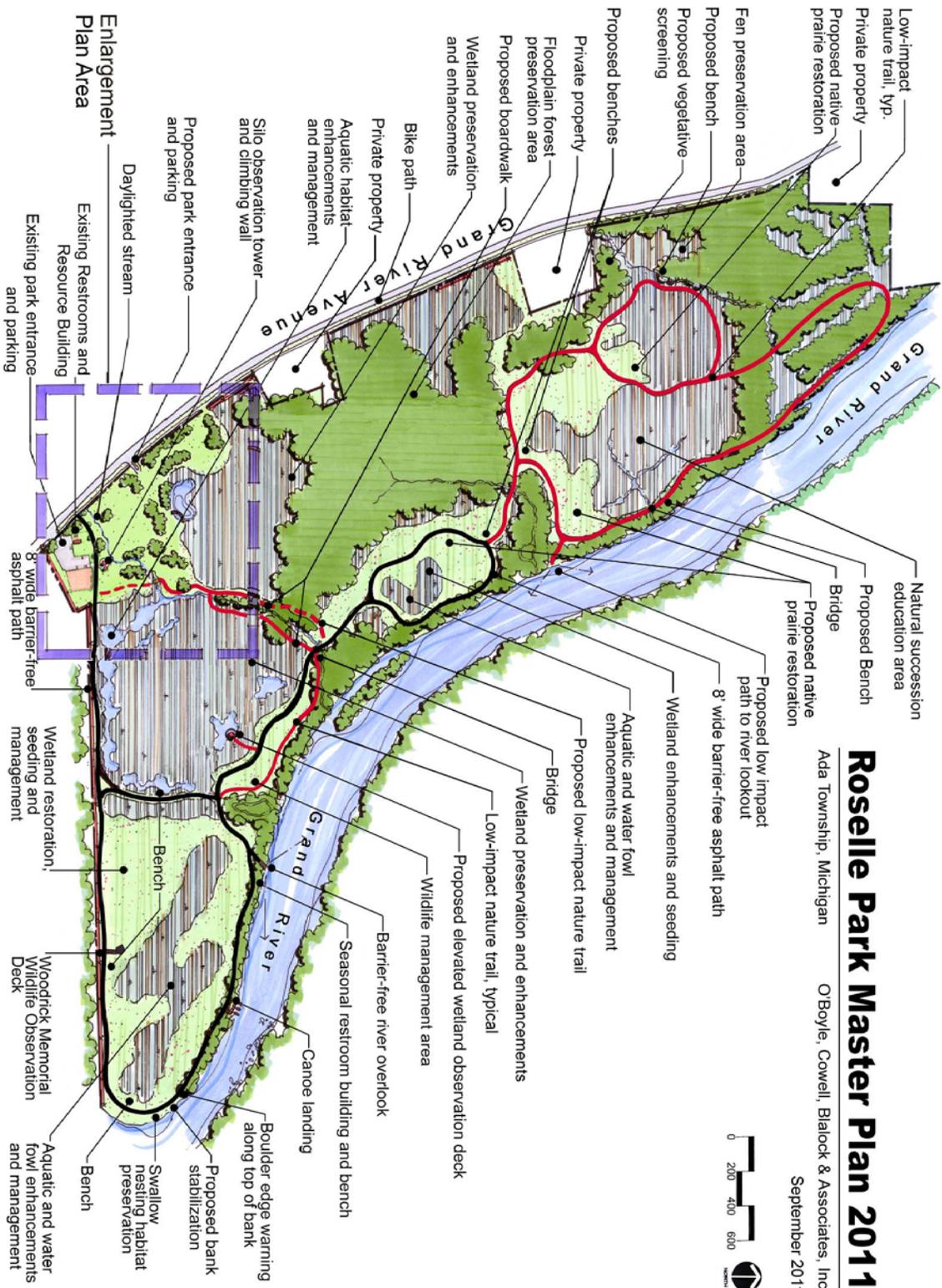
Ada Township, Michigan
December 2013



LEGEND:

	THE PONDS
	EX. PAVED TRAILS
	PROPOSED PAVED TRAILS
	EX. NATURAL TRAILS
	PROPOSED NATURAL TRAILS







Roselle Park Enlargement Plan

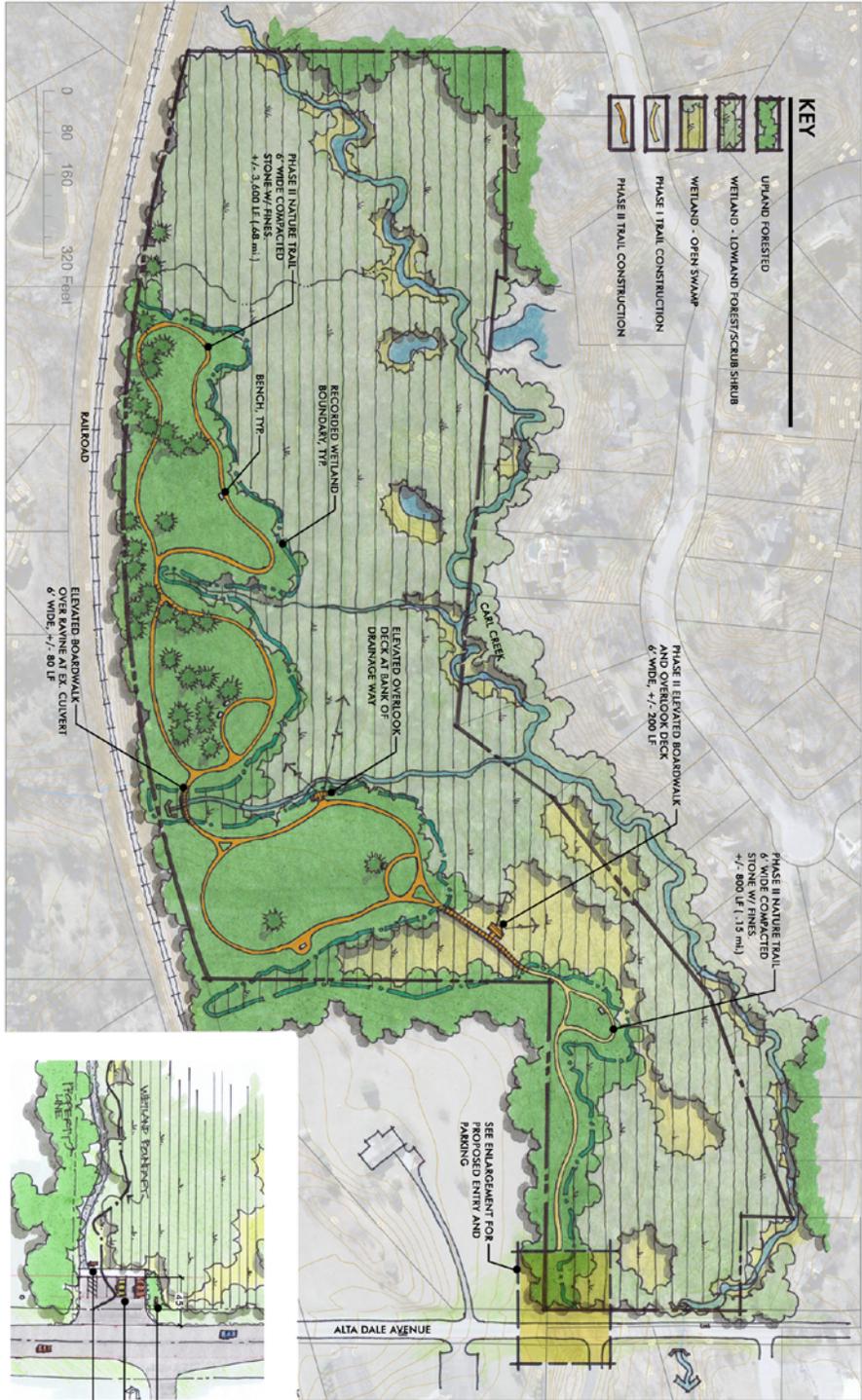
Ada Township, Michigan

O'Boyle, Cowell, Blalock & Associates, Inc.
January 2014

Master Plan
CARL CREEK CROSSING PRESERVE
 Ada Township, Michigan
 July 2012



Master Plan
CARL CREEK WETLAND PRESERVE
 Ada Township, Michigan
 July 2012



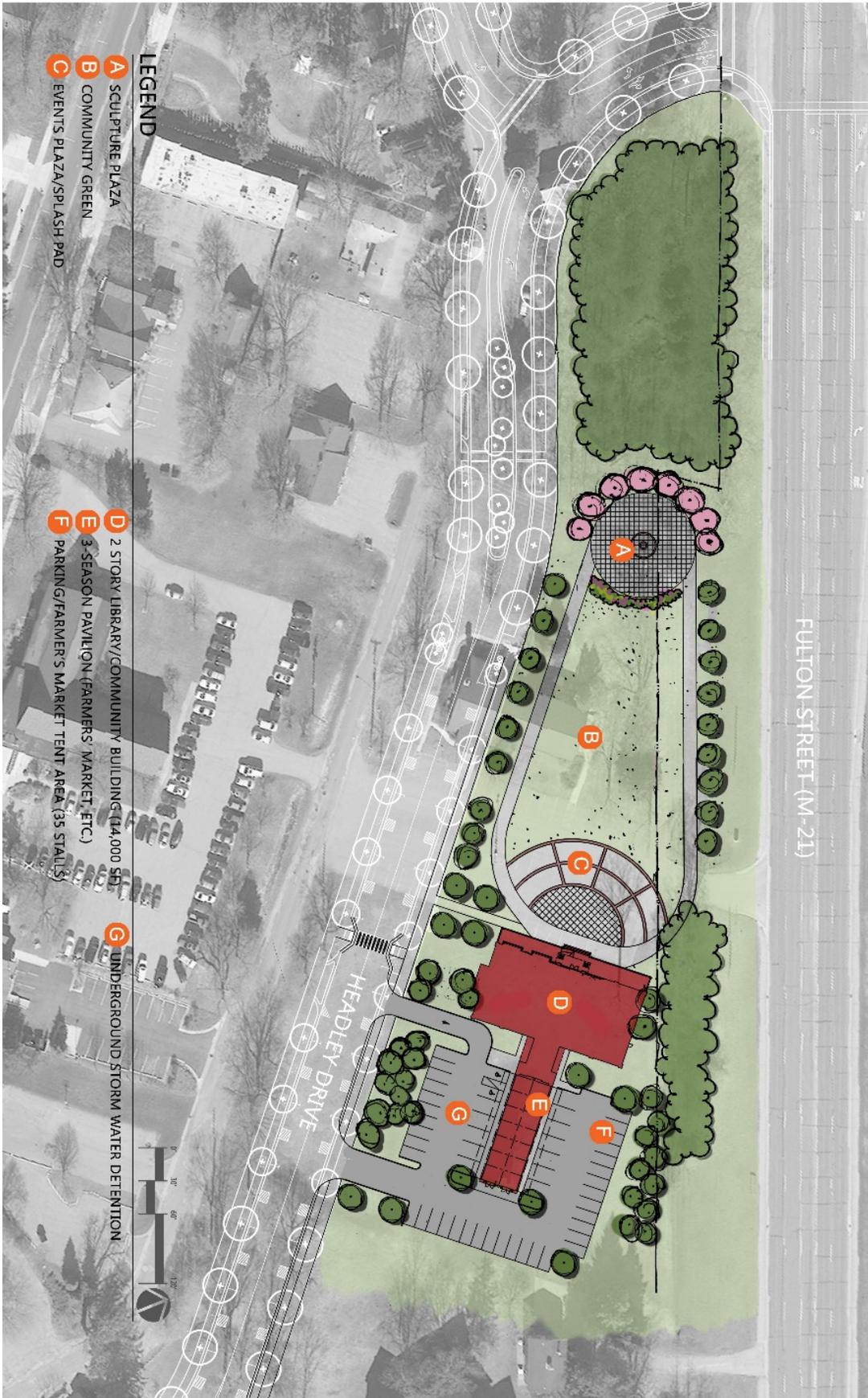


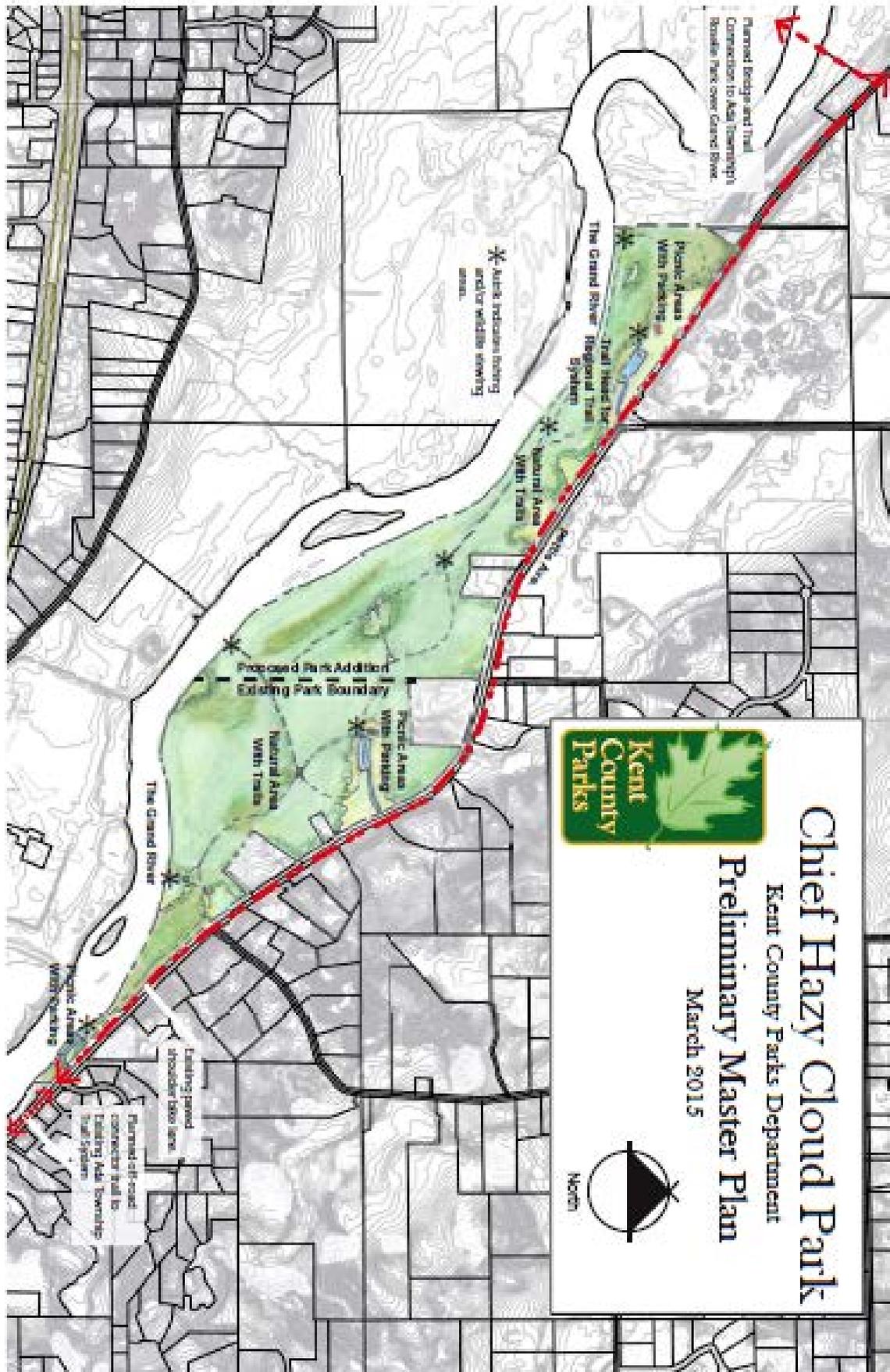
- LEGEND**
- A** SCULPTURE PLAZA OVERLOOK
 - B** BARRIER FREE PATH TO RIVERWALK
 - C** RIVERWALK WITH OVERLOOKS
 - D** KAYAK LAUNCH
 - E** KAYAK LOADING/UNLOADING ZONE
 - F** OLD SCHOOLHOUSE PLAZA WITH RESTROOMS
 - G** RIVER OVERLOOK PLAZA WITH TABLES
 - H** PLAY AREA
 - I** NATURAL STONE AMPHITHEATER
 - J** DECK/STAGE
 - K** FOUNTAIN

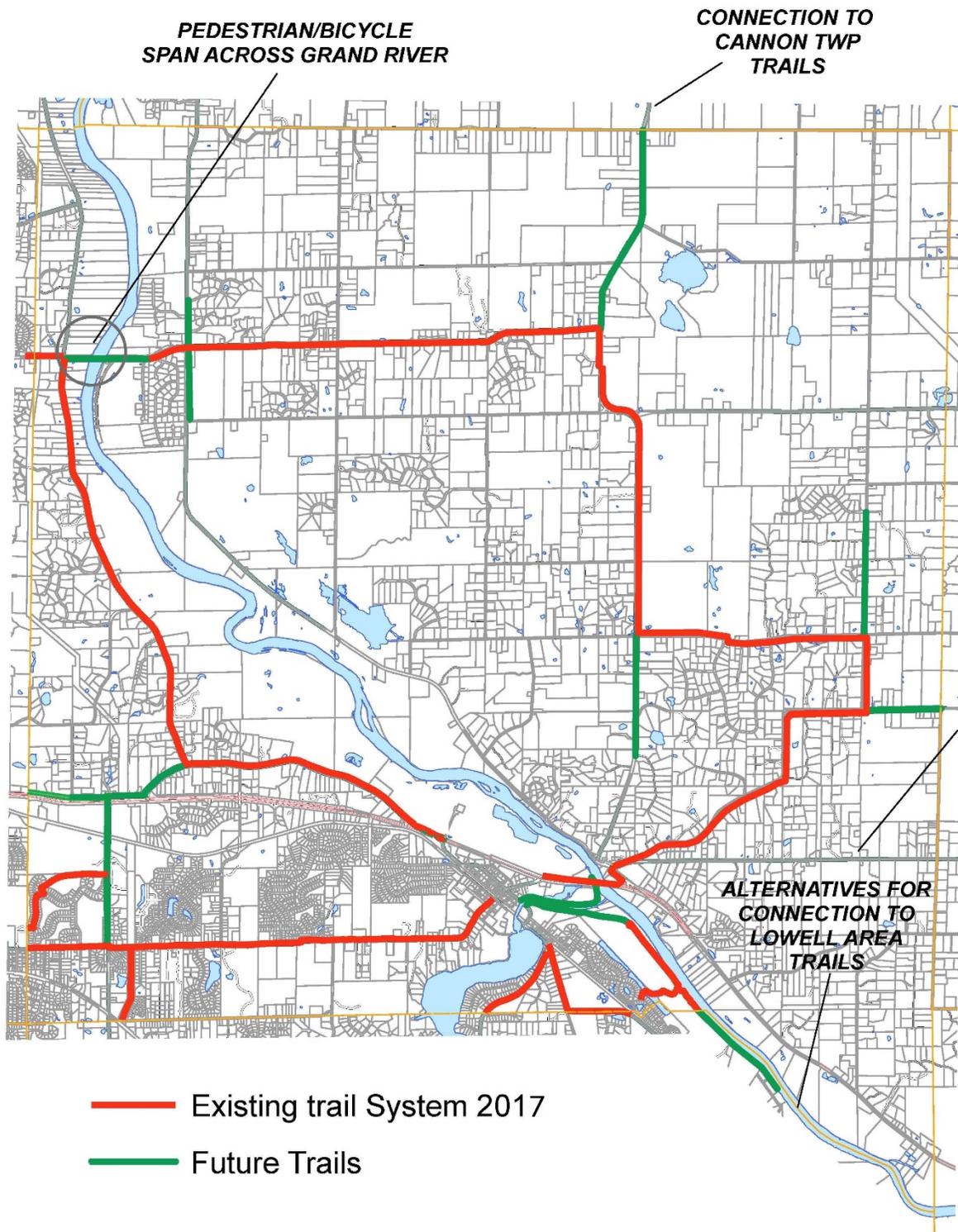


Concept Plan For Headley Commons

progressive | ar

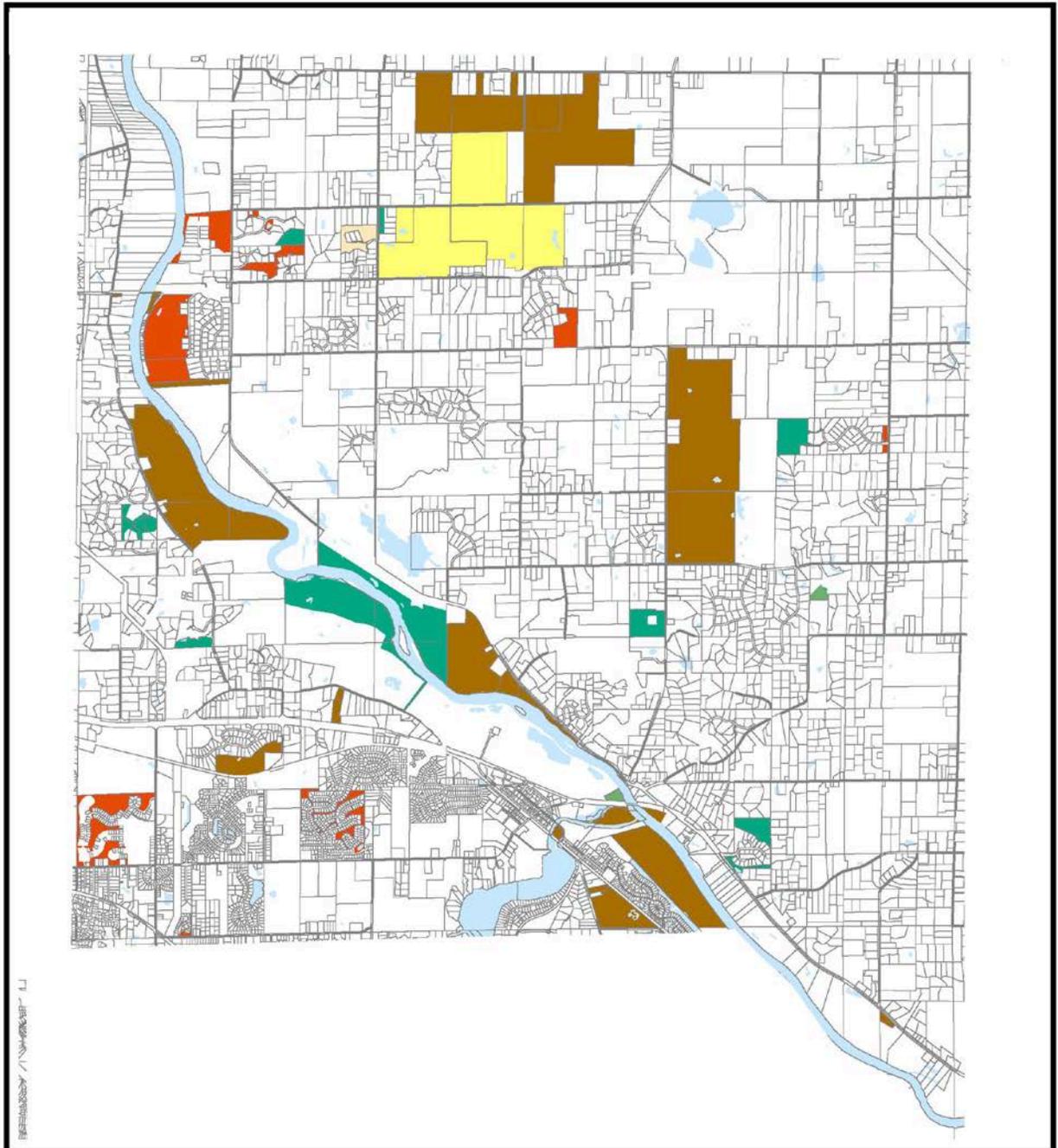






Ada Township Non-Motorized Trail Plan - 2017



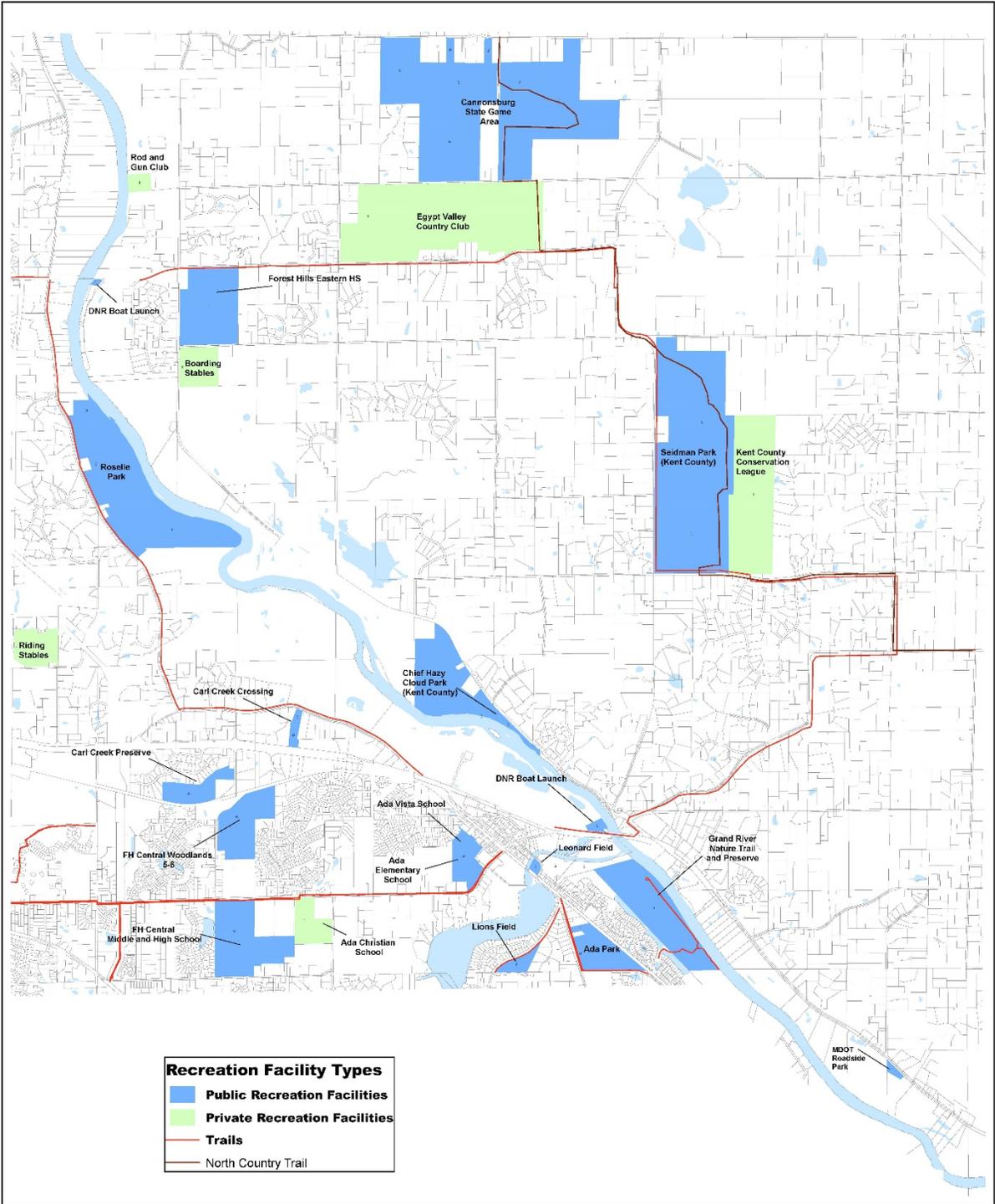


ADA TOWNSHIP
2017 PARKS, RECREATION AND LAND PRESERVATION PLAN
INVENTORY OF EXISTING OPEN SPACE



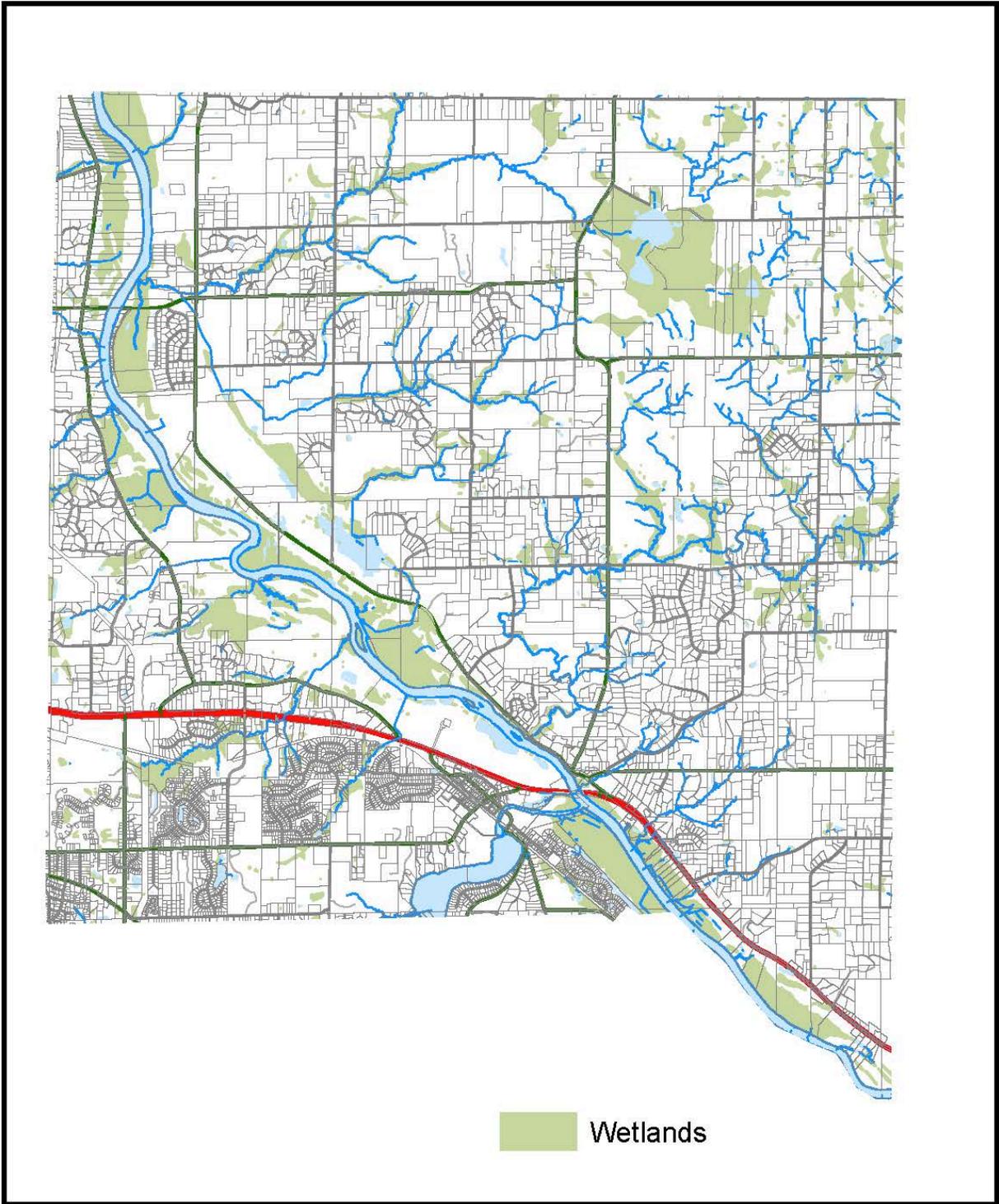
Open Space Categories	
	Conservation Easement
	Private
	Private Common Areas
	Private Conservation
	Public
	Quasi-Public





**ADA TOWNSHIP
2017 RECREATION FACILITIES INVENTORY**





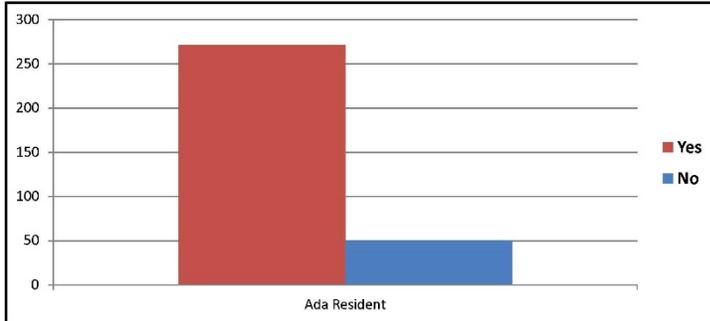
**ADA TOWNSHIP
2017 PARKS, RECREATION AND LAND PRESERVATION PLAN
WETLAND INVENTORY MAP**



ADA TOWNSHIP PARKS, RECREATION AND LAND PRESERVATION PLAN
PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY – 2017
SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS

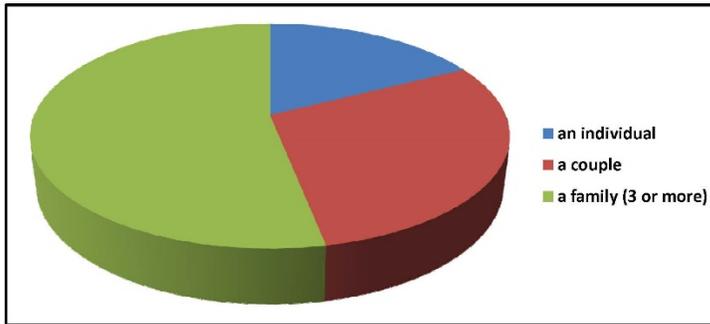
1. Are you an Ada Township resident?

Yes	271
No	50



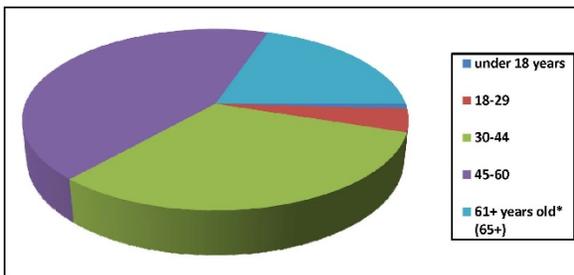
2. Do you represent:

an individual	59
a couple	99
a family (3 or more)	179

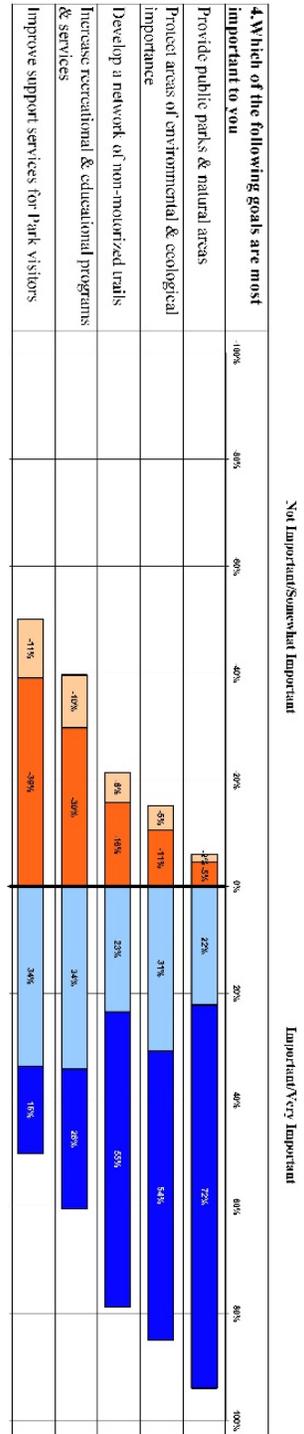


3. What is your age group?

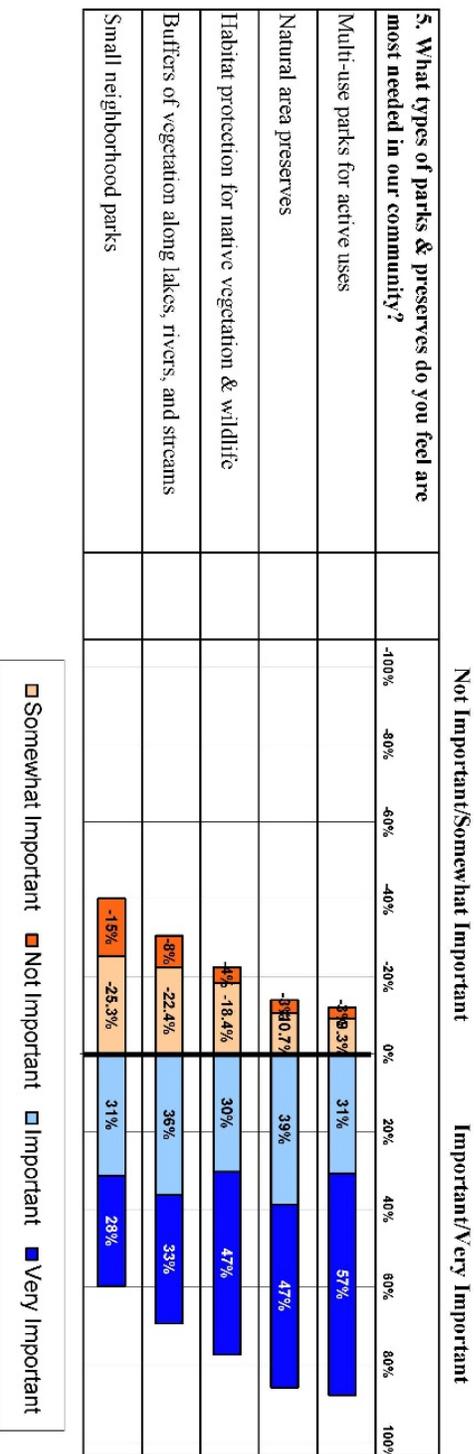
under 18 years	3
18-29	14
30-44	107
45-60	148
61+ years old* (65+)	67



ADA TOWNSHIP PARKS, RECREATION AND LAND PRESERVATION PLAN
 PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY - 2017
 SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS



ADA TOWNSHIP PARKS, RECREATION AND LAND PRESERVATION PLAN
 PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY - 2017
 SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS



**ADA TOWNSHIP PARKS, RECREATION AND LAND PRESERVATION PLAN
PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY - 2017
SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS**

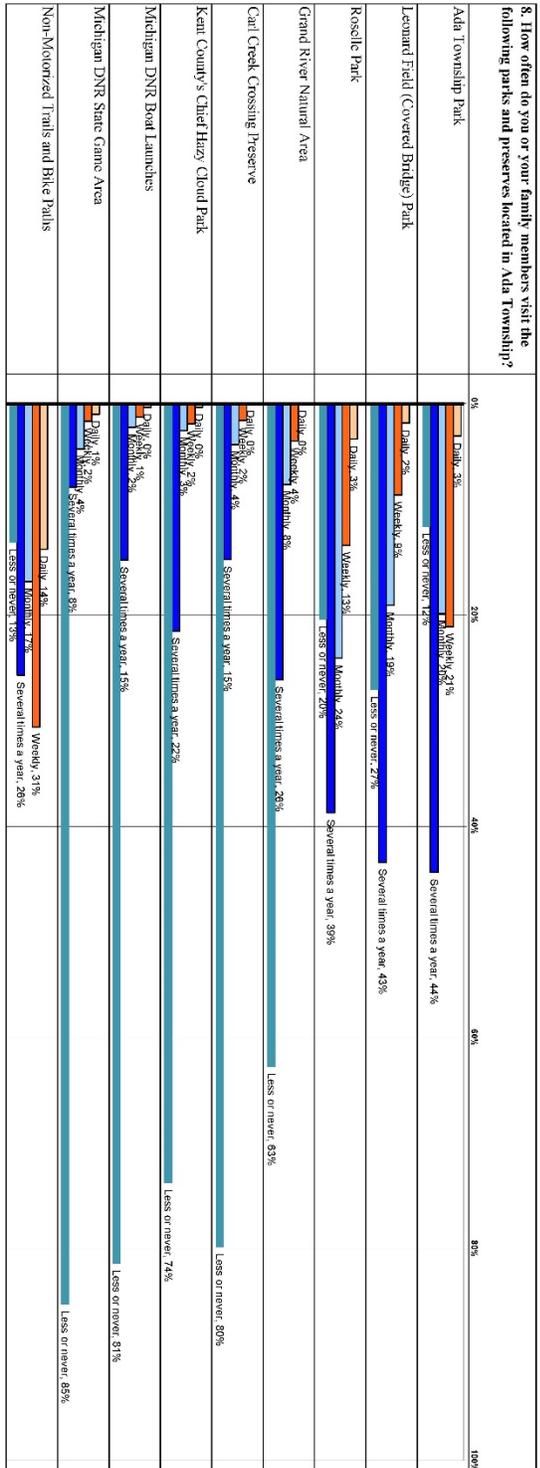
6. Why do you visit Ada Township parks or preserves? Please, mark your top 3 reasons.

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Total	333	100%
Exercise	201	60.3%
Bring children	170	51.0%
Time with family/friends	156	46.8%
Relax	153	45.9%
Biking	113	33.9%
Walking dog	107	32.1%
Sightsee	59	17.7%
Play sports	57	17.1%
Other	22	6.6%
Volunteer	15	4.5%

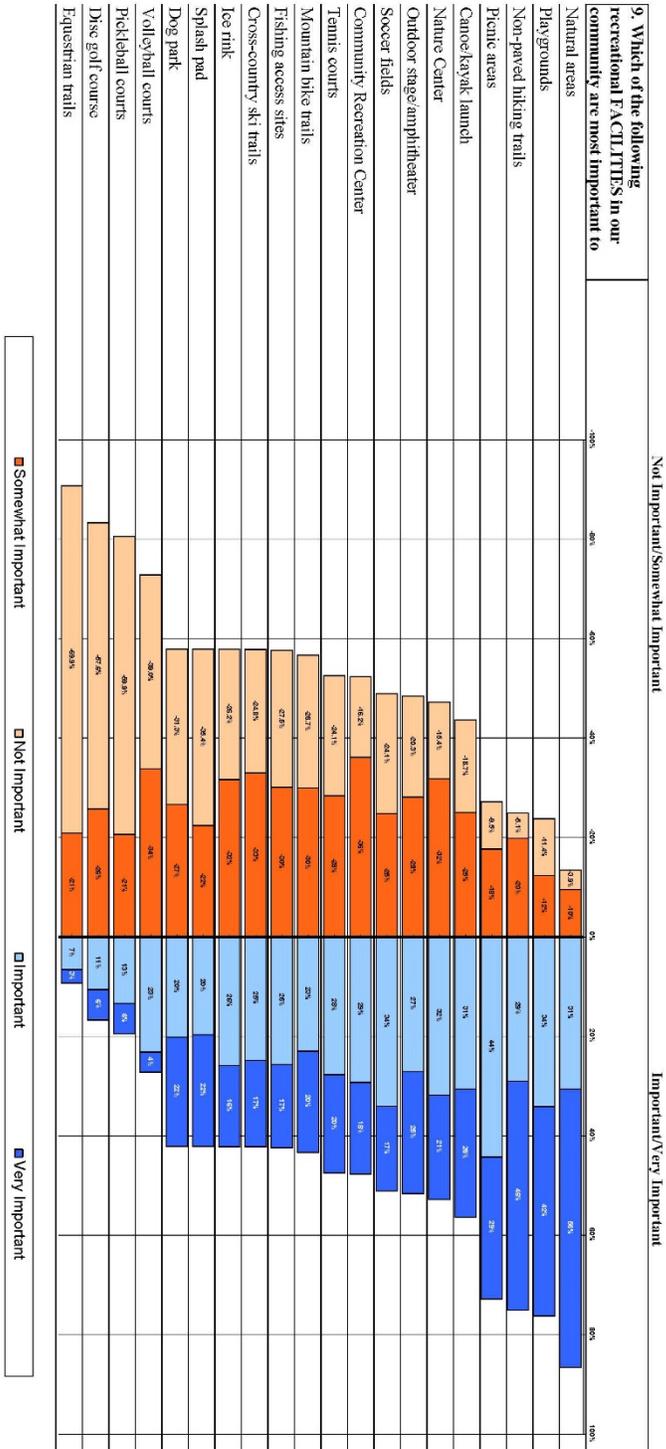
7. Would you like to see more parks or natural preserves in Ada

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes	267	78.0%
No	59	17.2%
No Responses	16	4.6%
Total	342	100%
86 Comment(s)		

ADA TOWNSHIP PARKS, RECREATION AND LAND PRESERVATION PLAN
PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY - 2017
SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS



ADA TOWNSHIP PARKS, RECREATION AND LAND PRESERVATION PLAN
 PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY - 2017
 SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS

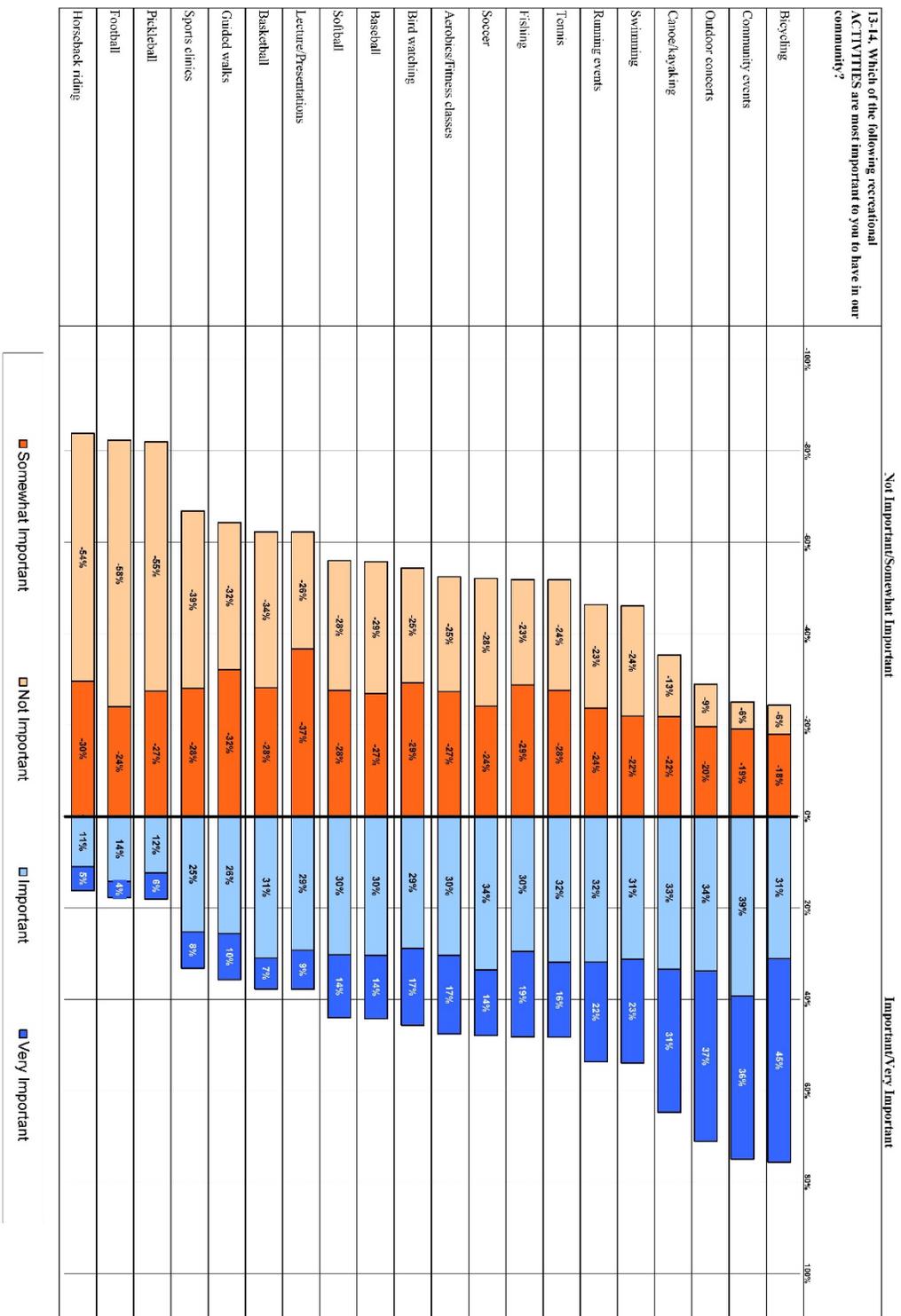


**ADA TOWNSHIP PARKS, RECREATION AND LAND PRESERVATION PLAN
PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY - 2017
SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS**

11. Would you like to have these options for FACILITY rental reservations?		
	Number of Responses	Response Ratio
On-line registration	287	97.9%
Credit card payment	222	75.7%
Total	293	100%

12. Please rank the types of events that you feel community rental facilities should be used for:						
Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total					Total Responses	Weighted Ave.
	Least	2	3	Most		
	1	2	3	4		
Private family events	69 23%	75 25%	57 19%	100 33%	301	2.6
Local business meetings	154 51%	49 16%	25 8%	73 24%	301	2.1
Community groups	43 14%	110 37%	114 38%	34 11%	301	2.5
Schools/non-profit organizations	35 12%	67 22%	105 35%	94 31%	301	2.9

ADA TOWNSHIP PARKS, RECREATION AND LAND PRESERVATION PLAN
PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY - 2017
SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS



**ADA TOWNSHIP PARKS, RECREATION AND LAND PRESERVATION PLAN
PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY - 2017
SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS**

16. Would you like to have these options for recreation/education programs?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Online registration	267	99.6%
Pay with credit card	200	74.6%
Total	268	100%

17. Would you like to see additional recreation/education programs for any of these age groups?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Families	168	64.1%
Adults	141	53.8%
Elementary school age	133	50.7%
Seniors	118	45.0%
Preschool	105	40.0%
Middle school	91	34.7%
High school	75	28.6%
Total	262	100%

18. How do you find out about programs, activities, and events in Ada Township? Please mark your top 3 sources.

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Ada View newsletter	197	64.3%
E-mail	123	40.1%
Cadence newspaper	122	39.8%
Ada Township Website	106	34.6%
Social media	100	32.6%
Friends/family	82	26.7%
Fliers	39	12.7%
MLIVE	34	11.1%
GR Press newspaper	23	7.5%
Bulletin boards	20	6.5%
Other	10	3.2%
Total	306	100%

Ada seeks feedback on parks plan

Jan Holst jholst@mlive.com

Ada Township is encouraging residents to comment on what they would like to see in the township's Community Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Plan.

The Ada Parks Department and the township's Land Preservation Advisory Board has been working to update a 2007 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan, which serves as a guide for park master plans, land preservation and acquisition, as well as recreation programs. The plan, after final approvals, will serve as a guide for the next five years. The draft plan will be edited throughout the process.

The draft is available on the Ada Township website at adatownshipmi.com from Jan. 27 to Feb. 27. Hard copies also are available for review at the Ada Township Park office, 1180 Barrick Drive.

Comments should be submitted to the parks director at mhzpatrick@adatownshipmi.com or 616-676-0520, or to the township planning director at jferro@adatownshipmi.com or 616-676-9191, ext. 31.

Comments also will be taken at the Ada Township Board meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 27. Meetings are held at Township Hall, 7330 Thornapple River Drive.

FHE takes 'Cinderella' to the stage

Jan Holst jholst@mlive.com

Forest Hill's Eastern High School will present "Cinderella" at 7 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, Feb. 2-4, and at 3 p.m. Feb. 4 at the Forest Hills Fine Arts Center, 600 Forest Hill Ave.

Rodgers & Hammerstein's "Cinderella" is the new Broadway adaptation of the classic musical. The contemporary take on the classic tale features some of Rodgers & Hammerstein's most beloved songs, including "In My Own Little Corner," "Impossible/It's Possible" and "Ten Minutes Ago."

More than 100 Eastern High students make up the cast and crew for this production designed to entertain the whole family.

Tickets can be purchased at the Fine Arts Center box office, by calling 616-493-8966 or online at theatreare.com.

CASCADE TOWNSHIP Michigan Ballet Academy to host auction fundraiser

The Michigan Ballet Academy will host a benefit auction 6-10 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 18, at 1395 Galvatin Ave. SE.

The evening — "A Night in Venice" — will feature live instrumental music; a student performance; hors d'oeuvres and desserts; beer, wine and nonalcoholic beverages; as well as both a silent and live auction.

Tickets for the event are \$40 per person or \$300 per table. For additional information, call 616-710-1666 or email info@michiganballet.org.

Tickets and tables can be reserved online at the Michigan Ballet Academy website, michiganballet.org.

GRAND RAPIDS

Grand Rapids Harmonica Club aims to attract players of all skill levels

Each month, a group of area residents gets together to play musical melodies on the harmonica.

The Grand Rapids Harmonica Club has been meeting for 25 years and gets together 1:30 p.m. the third Thursday of each month at the Salvation Army Fulton Heights Chapel at 1235 E. Fulton St.

Member Fred Roether said the club currently has about five members, but is hoping to grow to at least 20 members. For more information on the Grand Rapids Harmonica Club, contact Roether at froether@yahoo.com or call 616-561-3902.

Your local news source
▶ mlive.com/advancenewspapers





Recreation Grant History

Applicant

Ada Township

Project No. 26-01023 D

Project Year: 1977

Project Title: Ada Township Park

Project Status: Closed

Grant Amount: \$101,050.85

Project Description: Lagoons and ponds, hard surface nature trail, foot bridges, hard surface pathways, hard surface fishing dock, 2 softball fields, 1 football field, 2 tennis courts, entrance road and parking, archeological survey, tables, grills, map case, bike racks, etc

Project No. TF1058

Project Year: 1985

Project Title: Ada Community Center Park

Project Status: Withdrawn

Grant Amount: \$38,500.00

Project Description: Acquisition of approximately 37 acres with Grand and Thornapple River frontage.

Project No. 26-01399

Project Year: 1985

Project Title: Ada Township Park Shelter-Gazebo

Project Status: Closed

Grant Amount: \$15,300.35

Element

Shelter

Gazebo

Project Description: Erection of a shelter in the lagoon area of Ada twp. Park, and a Gazbo in the Arboretum section of the park

Project No. BF90-266

Project Year: 1990

Project Title: Ada Park Improvement Project

Project Status: Closed

Grant Amount: \$38,000.00

Element

Timber wall

Concrete walk

Concrete border

Mulch bed play surface

Berm earthwork

Plant materials & seeding

Element

Benches

Excavation

Topsoil replacement

Seeding

Relocate boulders

Project Description: Replace hazardous children's playground structures with safe, accessible playground area; enlarge, regrade, reseed playfield used for 3 soccer fields.



Recreation Grant History

Applicant

Ada Township

Project No. TF95-223

Project Year: 1995

Project Title: Eastbrook Park Site Acquisition

Project Status: Withdrawn

Grant Amount: \$168,100.00

Project Description: Acquisition of 24-acre site for neighborhood park/natural area/outdoor environmental study area.

Project No. CM99-438

Project Year: 1999

Project Title: Ada Park

Project Status: Closed

Grant Amount: \$210,000.00

Element

Paved Parking Lot-2

Parking Lot Lighting

Storm Drainage

Resurface Trail

Restoration/Landscaping

Project Description: Improvements to an existing Township park built specifically for persons with disabilities to include paving of gravel parking lots, lighting, storm drainage improvements, new paved walkways and resurfacing of existing trail.

Project No. TF05-106

Project Year: 2005

Project Title: Roselle Park Trail Improvements

Project Status: Closed

Grant Amount: \$122,200.00

Element

Asphalt striping

Boulder barrier

Asphalt Trail

Removable restroom (changed from Vault toilet)

Canoe landing

Boardwalk

Element

Benches

Trash receptacles

Trailhead Security Gate

River overlook

Project Description: Development of a trail with a river overlook, vault toilet, canoe landing, boardwalk, and site amenities, which will provide access to the Grand River at Roselle Park.

STATE OF MICHIGAN)

County of Kent

ss Dawn Sutton

Being duly sworn deposes and say he/she is Principal Clerk of



Advance Newspapers Cadence

a newspaper published and circulated in the County of Kent and otherwise qualified according to Supreme Court Rule; and that the annexed notice, taken from said paper, has been duly published in said paper on the following day(days) _____

February 19 A.D. 20 17

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 22nd day of February 20 17

Janice M. DeGraaf
JANICE M. DEGRAAF
NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF MI
COUNTY OF KENT
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES Oct 3, 2020
ACTING IN COUNTY OF Kent



ADA TOWNSHIP
2017 PARKS,
RECREATION AND LAND
PRESERVATION PLAN
NOTICE OF PUBLIC
HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Ada Township has prepared a proposed 2017 Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Plan that will be the subject of a public hearing held by the Ada Township Board on Monday, February 27, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. at the Ada Township Offices, 7330 Thornapple River Dr. SE, Ada, Michigan. The proposed Plan is available for review at the Township Offices, 7330 Thornapple River Dr. SE, at the office of the Parks Director in the Les Craig Learning Center, Ada Township Park, 1160 Buttrick Ave. SE, Ada, MI 49301, and on the Ada Township web site, at <http://adamichigan.org/township/departments/parks-recreation>.

The Plan identifies the Township's goals and objectives for the acquisition, development and improvement of the Township's parks, recreation facilities, non-motorized trails and network of open space lands and greenways. It also identifies the projects the Township plans to undertake within the next 5 years to meet these goals and objectives and the estimated cost of these projects.

Members of the public are invited to review and comment on the proposed Plan. Comments will be received and considered by the Township Board up to and during the February 26, 2017 Township Board public hearing. Written comments may be mailed to the Township, directed to the attention of: Mark Fitzpatrick, Ada Township Parks Director, PO Box 370, 7330 Thornapple River Dr. SE, Ada, MI 49301. Comments may also be sent by E-Mail to the Parks Director at: mfitzpatrick@adalowshipmi.com. 616-676-9191

Notice complies with MCL 141.436 & MCL 211.24 e

RECEIVED
FEB 23 2017
ADA TOWNSHIP CLERK



RESOLUTION OF THE ADA TOWNSHIP PARKS, RECREATION AND LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

A Resolution to recommend approval of the 2017 Ada Township Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Plan.

At a Meeting of the Ada Township Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Advisory Board held in said Township on Thursday, February 9, 2017, 4:00 p.m., there were:

Present: Crosby, Haga, Nowak, Roe, Schmottlach and Terwilliger

Absent: Damstra, Jacobs, LeBlanc, Steketee and VandenBerge

The following resolution was offered by Member Haga, and supported by Member Crosby:

WHEREAS, the Advisory Board has worked with Township staff in the development of the proposed 2017 Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Plan, and

WHEREAS, the Advisory Board has solicited and considered public input in the identification of park, recreation and land preservation needs in the community using a variety of public involvement methods, including an Open House event held on December 1, 2016 and an online public survey conducted in January, 2017.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,

1. That the Ada Township Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Advisory Board hereby recommends that the Township Board adopt the 2017 Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Plan.

Upon a vote for the adoption of said resolution, the vote was:

AYES: 6 - Crosby, Haga, Nowak, Roe, Schmottlach and Terwilliger

NAYES: 0

ABSENT: 5

The resolution was thereupon declared adopted.

Elise Roe, Chairperson



ADA TOWNSHIP RESOLUTION R- 022717-1

A Resolution to approve the 2017 Ada Township Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Plan.

At a Regular Meeting of the Township Board of Ada, Kent County, Michigan, held in said Township on Monday, February 27, 2017, at 7:00 p.m., there were:

PRESENT: Haga, Smith, Moran, LeBlanc, Proos

ABSENT: Hurwitz, Jacobs

The following Resolution was offered by LeBlanc and supported by Smith

WHEREAS, the Ada Township Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Advisory Board has conducted a comprehensive examination of the community's park, recreation and land preservation needs, including the soliciting of public involvement in the planning process, and has prepared the proposed 2017 Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Plan, and

WHEREAS, the Advisory Board, on February 9, 2017, recommended that the proposed Plan be approved by the Township Board, and

WHEREAS, the Township Board has held a public hearing on the proposed Plan and has obtained and considered comment and input from the public;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,

1. That the Ada Township Board hereby adopts the 2017 Ada Township Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Plan, and authorizes the Supervisor to submit the Plan to the Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources for approval.

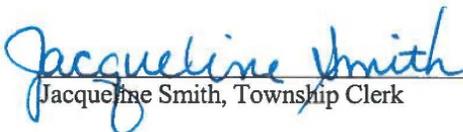
Upon a vote for the adoption of said resolution, the vote was:

AYES: Proos, LeBlanc, Moran, Smith, Haga

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Hurwitz, Jacobs

The resolution was thereupon declared adopted.


Jacqueline Smith, Township Clerk


Date



February 28, 2017

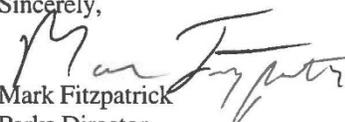
Mr. Dave Bee, Executive Director
West Michigan Regional Planning Commission
1345 Monroe Avenue, NW, Suite 255
Grand Rapids, MI 49505

Dear Mr. Bee:

Enclosed for your use is a copy of the adopted 2017 Ada Township Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Plan. The Ada Township Board adopted the plan on February 27, 2017.

If you have any questions or would like additional copies, please give me a call at 676-9191, Ext. 71.

Sincerely,


Mark Fitzpatrick
Parks Director