

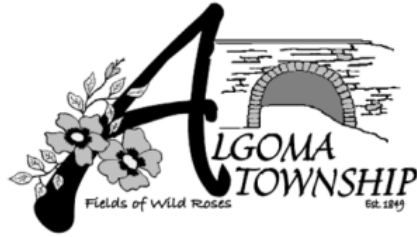
An aerial photograph of a park facility, featuring several baseball fields with white bases and green grass, a large parking lot, and surrounding greenery. The image is semi-transparent, allowing the text to be overlaid.

Algoma Township

Fields of Wild Roses

Parks and Recreation Plan 2024-2028

Adopted February 13, 2024



Algoma Township Kent County, Michigan Parks and Recreation Plan 2024-2028

Adopted February 13, 2024

Township Board:

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Algoma Township Parks and Recreation Plan 2024-2028

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Introduction & Community Description

Introduction

The 2024-2028 Algoma Township Parks and Recreation Plan was prepared under the direction of the township’s Parks and Recreation Committee and was adopted by the Algoma Township Board to serve as a guide and decision-making document for future recreation facilities and programs. The plan presents an inventory of existing facilities and programs within the township and an evaluation of opportunities and needs. The plan considers the existing facilities in and around the township, the anticipated demand for additional or improved facilities, and the means for providing those facilities over the upcoming five-year period.

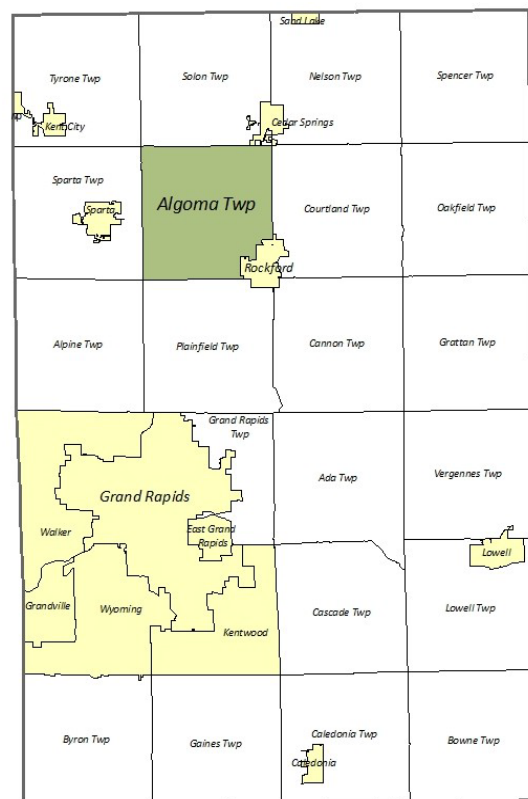
The plan is also intended to enable the township to continue to apply for funding assistance from various agencies to work toward implementing the documented recommendations. This plan provides for five years of grant eligibility with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. It is recommended, however, that the plan be reviewed on an annual basis and amended, if necessary, to ensure it is reflective of the needs of the community.

Community Description

Algoma Township is located in the northern portion of Kent County approximately 45 miles due east from Lake Michigan. The township is bordered by Alpine Charter Township (to the southwest), Plainfield Charter Township (to the south), the City of Rockford (to the southeast), Courtland Township (to the east), the City of Cedar Springs (to the northeast), Solon Township (to the north), Tyrone Township (to the northwest), and Sparta Township (to the west). This region of Kent County is primarily rural and agricultural with sparse development.

The township has seen an influx of commercial and residential development lining its interior lakes and along corridors with access to US-131 which runs in the south and eastern portions of the township near the City of Rockford. Grand Rapids, as the economic hub of the region, is a mere 20-minute drive from the center of Algoma Township, which is becoming an increasingly attractive place for residential and commercial development.

As Algoma Township continues to grow, residents have come to realize the high quality of life the community offers. The community has placed great importance on providing quality parks, open spaces, and recreational opportunities. These investments are integral to the health and vibrancy of the township.



Plan Organization

The Parks and Recreation Plan is divided into separate sections that represent the planning process used in its conception. In addition to this introduction, the plan contains:

- **Planning and Administration.** Identifies the planning process, recreation budget and grant history, and the entities responsible for administration of the park and recreation programs and facilities
- **Inventory.** Describes the specific parks, facilities, and programs provided in and around Algoma Township
- **Analysis.** Analyzes recreational programming and facility needs, based on national trends, parks and recreation planning standards, an analysis of demographic trends and public input
- **Action Program.** Identifies the plan's goals, objectives, and recommendations for recreational facility improvements over the next five years
- **Appendices.** Includes the following supplemental information:
 - Funding Sources
 - Public Engagement Results
 - Adoption and Transmittal Documentation

Chapter 1

Planning & Administration

Administrative Structure

Algoma Township is categorized as a General Law Township under State of Michigan law and has a Township Board form of government. A Parks and Recreation Committee oversees the parks and recreation program as well as maintenance and general upkeep of the township's six parks. The Parks and Recreation Committee consists of five Algoma Township citizens appointed by the Township Board at the recommendation of the Township Supervisor. The Township Supervisor oversees the implementation of the budget and policies through the Township Board. Terms are held for three years with elections for officers held in September.

The Parks and Recreation Committee was established in 1994 with the first application for a State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant. The role of the Committee is to participate in the developing and planning of parks in Algoma Township. The Parks and Recreation Committee provides recommendations for all issues involving parks within the township's jurisdictional boundaries with formal approval from the Board.

The Township Board members are elected officials who include the Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer and four Trustees. The Township Supervisor administers the staff, excluding the Deputy Treasurer and Deputy Clerk, in day-to-day operations for the township. Outside of the elected officials, the township employs seven staff persons, ranging from full-time to part-time. Positions include the Deputy Supervisor, Deputy Clerk, Deputy Treasurer, Assessor, Fire Chief, Planning/Zoning Administrator, and Building & Planning/Zoning Assistant. An organizational chart can be found on the next page.

Funding for Algoma's parks comes primarily through general funds from property taxes. Secondary funding comes through community and state grants and donations. The following is a summary of parks and recreation funding for the current fiscal year and the past three fiscal years:

Current Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Approved Budget

- \$175,903 was allocated for Recreation under the General Fund

Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Amended Budget

- \$144,834 was allocated for Recreation under the General Fund

Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Amended Budget

- \$90,460 was allocated for Recreation under the General Fund

Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Amended Budget

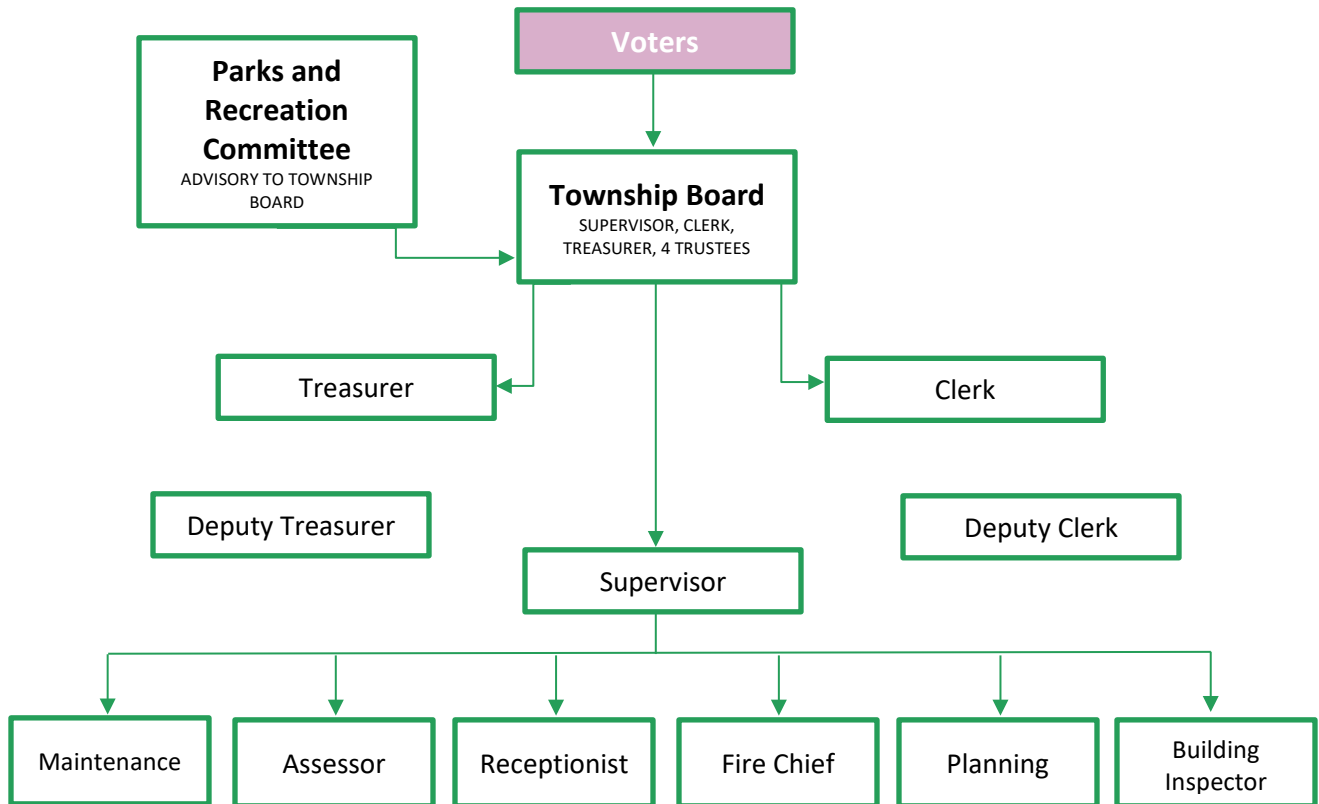
- \$107,447 was allocated for Recreation under the General Fund

Maintenance for park facilities is performed by a contracted service. Operation of the park facilities is the responsibility of the Parks & Recreation Committee overseen by the Supervisor. Security for the parks is provided by the Kent County Sheriff's Department.

The Township of Algoma does not presently employ a recreation director. However, the Township has recently discussed the need for such a position and has created a preliminary position description for a new Parks and Facilities Director. Recreational programming is provided by a variety of other sources such as school programs, little leagues, other area parks and recreation programs, etc. Algoma Township participates with neighboring communities to support the North Kent Community Enrichment (NKCE) (formerly Cedar Springs Area Parks and Recreation), a regional authority providing recreation and enrichment programs. One member of the Township Parks and Recreation Committee customarily serves as a liaison to NKCE. More information on NKCE and its programs can be found in Chapter 3: Inventory.

Within the Township of Algoma General and Zoning Ordinances, the Township Supervisor is given the general supervision of all the township parks. Subject to the approval of the Township Board, the Township Supervisor has the power to make and enforce rules and regulations for the maintenance of order, safety, sanitation, the protection of trees, and other property and the preservation of the natural beauty in all of the township parks.

Algoma Township Parks and Recreation Org Chart



Planning Process

The planning process followed the State guidelines and was highly participatory. It resulted in a plan that reflects the needs and ideas of those who make use of the area's parks and recreation facilities. The planning process began with an update to the administrative structure and park inventory chapters of the plan. Data was collected from various sources including Algoma Township, Kent County, the previous Township Parks and Recreation Plan, field observations and internet research.

Community engagement is a valuable part of the parks and recreation planning process. An online survey was made available to the public in July and August 2023. The survey generated a total of 475 responses. The Analysis chapter includes a summary of the public input received.

The next step in the planning process was to conduct an analysis of recreational programming and facility needs, based on national trends, parks and recreation planning standards, an analysis of demographic trends and public input received. The results of this analysis provided the rationale for the Action Program, which outlines goals, objectives and recommended capital improvements over the next five years.

A complete draft plan was made available for public review in December 2023, well in advance of the public hearing. The availability of the draft plan and the upcoming public hearing was officially noticed and published in the Grand Rapids Press on January 30, 2024. A public hearing on the draft Parks and Recreation Plan was held in front of the Township Board on February 13, 2024. After holding the public hearing, the Algoma Township Board adopted the Parks and Recreation Plan by resolution.

Chapter 2 Inventory

Developing a complete inventory of facilities, programs, and events is an essential component of a five-year Parks and Recreation Plan, as it provides the base of information for developing the Action Program. Understanding the facilities, programs, and events that are available to area residents will assist decision making in the future.

Maps 1 & 2 illustrate all parks located in Algoma Township, surrounding communities' facilities, and schools. This inventory also includes other parks open to township residents that are privately owned (both commercial and non-profit) but are available to the public.

Inventory Process

The following inventory and subsequent analysis were developed using the recommended park classifications and facility guidelines of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA). These guidelines are used to help identify needed recreational facilities in the community. While they provide a baseline for measuring whether existing parks meet community needs, the township should balance these guidelines with other needs evident in the community. Information was gathered based on existing spatial data, field visits, previous plans and public and committee input.

Park Classifications

Table 2-1 shows the suggested NRPA classification of local parks. The NRPA has established these generally recognized standards for classifying types of parkland a means for determining the primary purpose or use of existing facilities within a community.

Local, municipally-operated parks generally fall into one of three categories based on size and function: mini-park; neighborhood park; and, community park. Mini-parks are small parks within neighborhoods that serve residents within the immediate vicinity. Neighborhood parks are somewhat larger and provide amenities for residents generally within a one-half mile radius. Community parks are larger parks, with varying facilities and amenities, that meet the needs of residents generally within a 1 ½ mile radius. Beyond these three "standard" park types, the NRPA also recognizes specialized park types, such as sports complexes, natural resource areas, greenways/pathways, and trails. These are also listed in **Table 2-1**.

**Table 2-1
Park Classifications**

Park Type	Description	Service Area	Setting	Typical Size
Mini	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small specialized parks that serve the needs of residents in the surrounding neighborhood, often with playgrounds. • Provides daily places for those who cannot travel 	¼ mile	Residential	2,500 sq. ft. to one acre
Neighborhood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-purpose facilities that serve a local recreational and social focus. • Provides both active and passive recreation. 	¼ mile to ½ mile	Away from main roads	Five to ten acres
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meets larger community-wide needs. • Preserves unique landscapes and open spaces. 	½ mile to three miles	Varies	30 to 50 acres
School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilities located on public school property. • Generally used for school athletic programs but maybe open to the public. 	Determined by school location, age of student population, and site size		
Sports Complex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consolidates heavily programmed athletic fields and associated facilities to a larger site. 	Strategically located	Variable	40 to 80 acres
Natural Resource Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lands set aside for preservation due to significant natural resources, landscapes, or aesthetics. • May be used only for passive recreation. 	Determined by the resource, site location, and size		
Greenway/ Pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linear parks generally measured in feet/miles rather than acres • Can links parks together for a continuous park. • Predominately designed for non-motorized exercise (walking, running, bicycling) and safe travel. 	Depends on available resources and location		
Cross-Country Ski Trail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trails developed for traditional and skate-style cross-country skiing. • Loop trails often included in larger parks. 	Depends upon suitable available location		
Equestrian Trail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trails developed for horseback riding. • Maybe developed as multipurpose trails with hiking and mountain biking (where conflicts may be managed). 	Depends upon suitable available location		
"A Recommended Classification System for Local and Regional Recreation Open Space and Trails," National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). 1983 and updated in 1995.				

Barrier Free Accessibility

The passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) required all areas of public service to have barrier-free accessibility, including parks and recreation facilities. The evaluation of the parks and facilities in Algoma Township includes an assessment of their barrier-free access. In accordance with the MDNR standards, facilities were evaluated to determine if persons with limited sight, hearing, mobility and comprehension can safely and independently access and use the park or facility. The following evaluation system (**Table 2-2**) was used to rank each park's accessibility:

Table 2-2 Levels of Park Accessibility	
Level	Characteristics
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completely undeveloped and left in a natural state. • No paved surfaces.
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. • Few paved areas. • Facilities such as play equipment and picnic areas are not easily accessible.
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Somewhat accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities • Either the parking or pathways are paved, but not both. • Many of the facilities, such as play equipment or picnic areas, are not easily accessible.
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mostly accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. • Most of the parking and pathways are paved. • Some of the facilities, such as play equipment or picnic areas, are accessible but may not be completely barrier-free.
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completely accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. • Parking areas and pathways are paved. • Most of the facilities, such as play equipment or picnic areas, are easily accessible.
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completely accessible and designed using the principles of Universal Design. • Enables all environments to be usable by everyone, regardless of age, ability, or situation.

Based on the MDNR park accessibility rating system, **Table 2-3** outlines the accessibility status of Algoma Township’s parks.

Table 2-3 Algoma Township Parks Accessibility Rating			
Park	Park Type¹	Acres	Accessibility Rating²
Chalmers Park	N	5.3	1
Camp Lake Park	N	2.5	4
Algoma Sports Park	SC	20.0	3
Trestle Park	C	1.0	4
River’s Edge Park & Wynalda Dog Park	C	28.0	3
Gougeburg Landing	C	2.0	3

¹Park type key:

- M – Mini Park;
- N – Neighborhood Park;
- C – Community Park;
- SC – Sports Complex;

²See Table 2-2 for levels of accessibility

Algoma Township Parks and Recreation Facilities

Algoma Township is home to six unique parks located throughout the township. Each park serves a different purpose to meet the needs of Algoma residents. These parks are maintained by the municipality and available to all Algoma residents and visitors alike. These facilities include:

Algoma Sports Park (20.0 acres)

Located on the corner of Algoma Ave. and 13 Mile Rd. adjacent to the Algoma Township Hall, this facility is the most centrally-located in the township. As in the name, this park is primarily a sports activity-based park. This park includes a soccer field, five baseball/softball fields, a 0.64- mile walking path and a playground. This facility includes a full restroom/concession area, parking, a picnic pavilion and the Helsel Memorial Garden. In recent years, the township has constructed new and expanded parking areas to increase parking capacity. The Algoma Sports Park is home to the Algoma Little League, with more than 400 players each year, and youth soccer leagues. The park has also installed a small Little Free Library and free wi-fi for visitors.

Algoma Sports Park Photos



Chalmers Park (5.3 acres)

Chalmers Park is located on the corner of Pine Island Drive and Fonger Street. This is a neighborhood park with a picnic shelter, play area, gazebo and two ball fields. The park is accessible with parking facilities on site as well. Recently, the township developed a new master plan for park improvements and is currently undergoing a three phase capital improvement program at the park. Phase 1 (underway as of 2023) will include new restrooms and a new parking area. Phase 2 is anticipated in 2024 and will include the construction of four new pickleball courts. Phase 3 is also anticipated in 2024 and will include the construction of new ballfields at the park.

Chalmers Park Photos



Trestle Park (1.0 acres)

Trestle Park is located on Summit Avenue, north of 13 Mile Road. This park is a nice stop along the White Pine Trail, where the old historic stone trestle can be viewed (Trestle Park is a State and National Historic Landmark). Picnic tables are provided, as well as a vault toilet for trail users. A connector trail allows users of the White Pine to access the park without going along Summit Avenue.

Trestle Park Photos



Camp Lake Park (2.5 acres)

Camp Lake Park is a small, 2.39-acre, neighborhood park on the west side of Camp Lake. This park's amenities include play equipment, an ADA walking, benches, a basketball court, lighting and recycling receptacles. This park has a small pavilion and a sledding hill in the winter. The DNR has a public boat ramp on the south side of Camp Lake.

Camp Lake Park Photos



River's Edge Park & Wynalda Dog Park (28.0 acres)

Over the last several years, the township has worked toward purchasing land along the Rogue River. After receiving numerous grants, the township has continued the process of planning and developing River's Edge Park & Wynalda Dog Park. The park is located along Edgerton Avenue, between 12 Mile and 13 Mile Roads. As of 2023, the township has facilitated the construction of pathways and nature trails, wayfinding signage a fishing dock, restrooms, and parking lot. The township has worked in conjunction

with local schools, the Rogue River Watershed group, Michigan Water Trailways and many more entities to create an educational experience for everyone to learn about the Rogue River and adjoining wetlands.

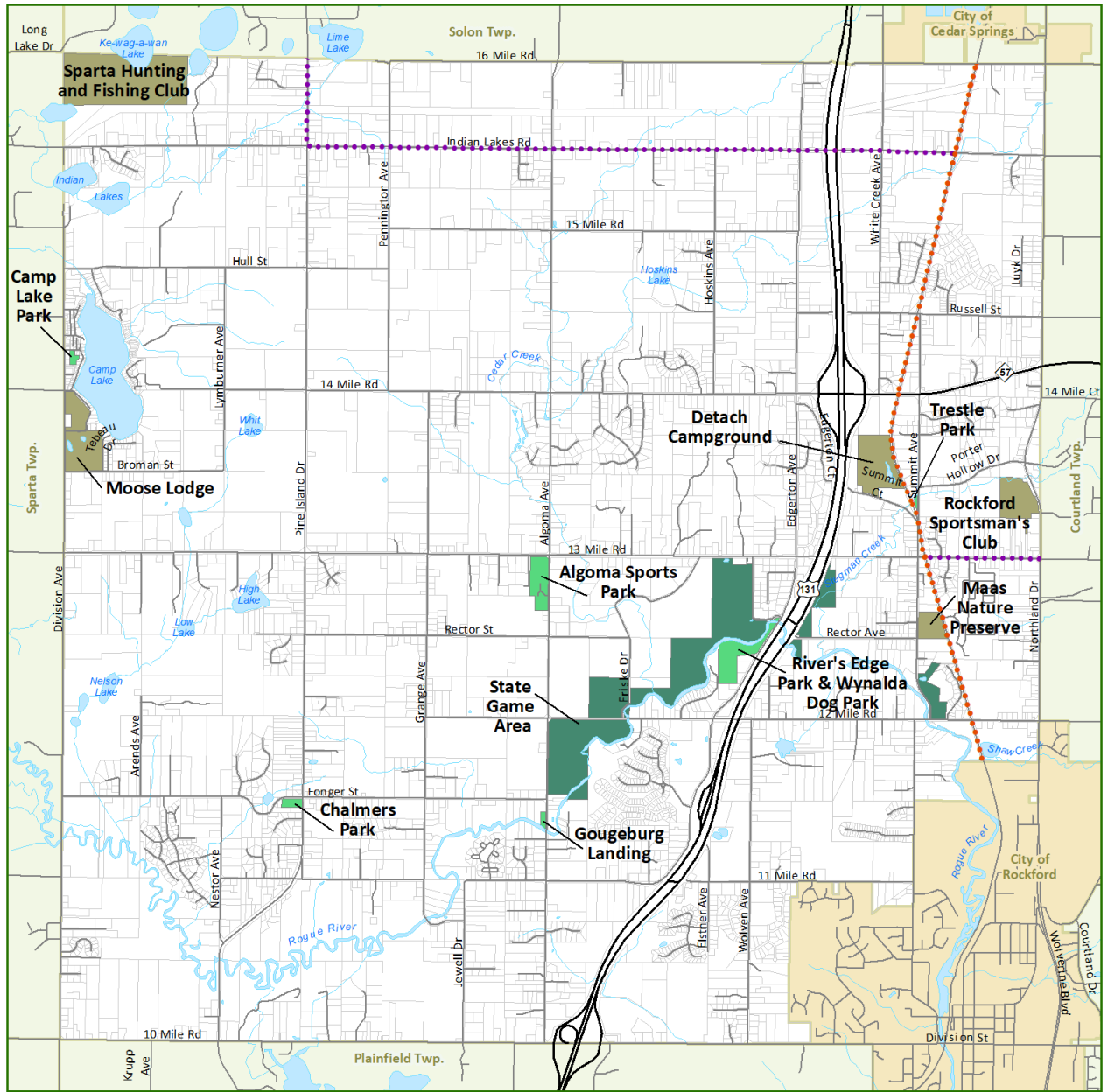


Gougeburg Landing (2.0 acres)

Gougeburg Landing is the newest Algoma Township park facility. It is located on the west side of Algoma Avenue, on the north bank of the Rogue River. The park property was purchased in 2020 with assistance from a DNR Trust Fund acquisition grant. The park features a parking lot and a new canoe/kayak landing, which was constructed in 2023. The new park has already become a popular destination for canoe and kayak enthusiasts.

Gougeburg Landing Photos






Map 1 Recreation Facilities

**Parks and Recreation Plan 2024 - 2028
Algoma Township
Kent County, MI**



Park Facility Types		Area Trails	
 Township Park	 White Pine Trail State Park	 North Country Trail	
 State of Michigan Land			
 Other Parks and Recreation Facilities			
Base Layers		 Water Bodies	
 State Highways	 Roads	 Algoma Township Parcels	
 Water Features		 Municipal Boundaries	

Base Layers Source: Michigan Geographic Data Library

Parcel Source/Notice: Reproduced with permission granted by the County of Kent, Michigan. Some information has been provided subject to a non-exclusive, limited, and revocable license granted by the County of Kent, Michigan.



Map Date: November 2023

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Table 2-4 provides a summary of Algoma Township’s parks and the facilities within each park.

Table 2-4 Existing Algoma Parks and Facilities													
Park	Park Type ¹	Acres	Accessibility Rating ²	Baseball/ Softball Fields	Soccer Fields	Pickleball Courts	Walking Trails	Playgrounds	Restroom Buildings	Kayak Launch	Dog Park	Picnic Shelters	Basketball Courts
Chalmers Park	N	5.3	2	2		4*		1				1	
Camp Lake Park	N	2.5	2					1				1	1
Algoma Sports Park	SC	20.0	3	5	1		1	1	1			1	
Trestle Park	C	1.0	5				1		1				
River’s Edge Park & Wynalda Dog Park & Wynalda Dog Park	C	28.0	3				1		1		1		
Gougeburg Landing	C	2.0	4							1			

**Pickleball courts are planned to be constructed at Chalmers Park in 2024*

¹ Park type key:

- M – Mini Park
- N – Neighborhood Park
- SC – Sports Complex
- C – Community Park

² See Table 2-2 for levels of accessibility

Location Recreation Programs

North Kent Community Enrichment (NKCE) Recreation Programs

North Kent Community Enrichment is a unique partnership between Cedar Springs Public Schools, the City of Cedar Springs and Nelson, Solon, Algoma and Courtland Townships. It was established for the purpose of planning and administering a system of public recreation and community enrichment for the citizens of its member municipal units. Part of this purpose is providing recreation programs for residents. According to the NKCE website, offered programs consist of:

- Tae Kwon Do
- Orchestra Strings Camp
- Zumba Classes
- Tennis Camp
- Broadway Boot Camp
- 7th & 8th Grade Softball
- 6th – 8th Grade Baseball
- Men’s Basketball
- Volleyball

Area Sports Programs/Associations

In addition to providing their own recreation programs, North Kent Community Enrichment provides a list of other programs available to residents:

- Algoma Little League Baseball and Softball
- AYSO Soccer
- Cedar Springs Area Select Soccer
- Cedar Springs Junior Ball League
- Cedar Springs Youth Football
- Cedar Springs Rockets Cheerleading
- Cedar Springs Wrestling

School Park Facilities

School-aged children in Algoma Township attend one of three school districts which serve the community: Sparta Area Schools, Cedar Springs Public Schools, and Rockford Public Schools. These three school districts maintain facilities which are open to the public through various community education and community activity programs.

Because they are not owned by the township and are subject to close at the discretion of the respective school boards, school facilities are not officially counted in the community parks and recreation land inventory. However, school open space, gymnasiums, meeting rooms, athletic fields, and playgrounds all contribute to the larger recreation system and warrant consideration. Local schools are listed below, and locations shown on **Maps 1 & 2**.

Sparta Area Schools

The Sparta Area School district covers approximately one-third of Algoma Township serving mostly residents who live in the western portions of the township. While this school district services a significant portion of the township, all the school’s facilities are located within the village limits of the Village of Sparta. Sparta Area Schools allow all outdoor facilities to be used by the public and all indoor facilities are available for a small rental fee.

Sparta High School contains most of the district’s facilities. The high school contains two soccer/football practice fields, two baseball diamonds, and a softball field. There is also a football field with a running track near the administration building. Gymnasiums with walking tracks containing basketball and volleyball facilities are provided by the high school as well. Lastly, the high school provides a stage in its auditorium and a performing arts facility which houses practice rooms and music rooms for the choir, orchestra, and concert bands.

Similar to the high school, the middle school also provides indoor and outdoor basketball courts. A weight room is included in close proximity to the middle school gym.

The two elementary schools, Ridgeview and Applevue, each contain smaller gymnasiums with stages and various types of ground equipment for younger children. Applevue Elementary provides eight tennis courts while Ridgeview provides a baseball diamond, outdoor basketball courts, and a soccer field. All playground equipment is ADA accessible.

Lastly, Sparta Area Schools host a number of community recreation programs and events. The high school provides facilities for local Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) basketball, little league baseball, and travel volleyball leagues.

Cedar Springs Public Schools

Cedar Springs Public Schools services are available for Algoma residents who live in the northeastern portion of the township. Like Sparta Area Schools, Cedar Springs Public Schools does not have any schools located within the boundary of Algoma Township; however, the schools are in close proximity and provide key services to the residents of Algoma.

Several schools in the district are located in a contiguous campus and share facilities. The high school (9th – 12th), Beach Elementary (2nd – 3rd), Cedar View Elementary (4th – 5th), Cedar Trails Elementary (Pre- Kindergarten - 1st), Red Hawk Intermediate (6th), and New Beginnings H.S. (alternative education, 9th – 12th) all are located near the southern edge of the city limits just south of 17 Mile/Muskegon St. and east of Northland Dr./Main St. The middle school is located at the northeast corner of Northland Dr. and 16 Mile, along the border of Algoma Township.

The elementary schools each have separate playground equipment for younger children. Just south of Cedar View Elementary, there are two baseball and two softball diamonds, and to the north of the school is a soccer field with bleachers. North of Red Hawk Intermediate there are four tennis courts which are open and available to the public. An additional eight tennis courts are located adjacent to the high school along with a football stadium including a running track, shot-put facility, and additional space for other track and field events.

The high school and middle school each maintain a gymnasium which includes indoor basketball and volleyball courts. Cedar Springs Middle School provides an additional softball field, four tennis courts, and outdoor basketball courts. The high school provides facilities for performing arts such as marching band and theatrical performances.

Cedar Springs Public Schools has worked hard to deliver widely-available recreational opportunities to area residents. Currently, sports camps as well as math and literacy camps are provided to area children.

Many programs are run in collaboration between the public schools and the North Kent Community Enrichment. More information can be obtained at their website: www.mynkce.com

Rockford Public Schools

Residents living in the southeastern area of the township are serviced by Rockford Public Schools. The vast majority of Algoma residents within the Rockford Public School district area send their children to Valley View Elementary school just south of 11 Mile Rd. on Summit Ave. adjacent to the City of Rockford-Algoma Township boundary. The elementary school provides a small gymnasium with stage, two sets of playground equipment, two outdoor basketball courts, and a soccer field. Rockford Public Schools is currently constructing a new elementary school building within Algoma Township. This new elementary school will be located along the west side of Edgerton Ave., south of 12 Mile Rd.

A very small portion of Algoma residents are included in Rockford's Parkside Elementary attendance area. Parkside Elementary, located just north of downtown Rockford along Lewis St., contains several outdoor facilities. A soccer field with grandstand bleachers and outdoor lighting, a baseball diamond, seven outdoor basketball courts, a short walking trail, and ground equipment are all provided by the school. There are also two indoor gyms at the school.

As one of the larger school districts in the area, Rockford Public Schools has two middle schools. The two aforementioned elementary schools funnel into North Rockford Middle School which is located just west of downtown Rockford at the corner of E. Division St. and Wolverine Blvd. North Rockford MS provides a soccer/football field complete with running track and additional facilities for track and field events. There is also a cross country trail nearby. A softball field and eight tennis courts are also available along with the school's two indoor gymnasiums and performing arts facilities for band, choir, and orchestra. Lastly, the middle school contains a swimming pool for athletic events and community use.

Rockford Public Schools provide an additional set of recreation facilities at its combined high school/freshmen campus located just west of Wolverine Blvd (M-44) on Northland Drive and Kroes Street. This complex contains three softball fields; three baseball diamonds; eight tennis courts; four soccer fields; four multipurpose fields for field hockey, lacrosse, and rugby; three long jump/high jump facilities for track and field events; three fields for discus, shot-put, javelin, and hammer throw; a cross country course; and a football stadium with running track which includes grandstand bleachers on both sides and stadium lighting. The high school also maintains a performing arts center and swimming pool.

Kent County Parks

There are no county-owned parks within the jurisdiction of Algoma Township; however, Long Lake Park is located near the township's northern border in Solon Township. The Park is located near the intersection of Division Ave. NE and 17 Mile Rd.

Long Lake Park offers a wide variety of recreational facilities available to the public. Park facilities include an enclosed shelter for picnics and small events, picnic tables, trails for walking and biking, swimming, a bathhouse, and restrooms. Lastly, the park provides a nonmotorized boat launch facility.

Luton Park, along 10 Mile Rd. between Wolverine Blvd. and Meyers Lake Ave. in Cannon Township is not far from Algoma residents. Currently, the park is undeveloped but contains a number of scenic paths. Wahlfield Park is another park which is in close proximity to Algoma Township located at the corner of 8 Mile Rd. and M-37/Alpine Ave. Wahlfield's activities and facilities include picnicking, cross country skiing, hiking/walking, playground equipment, and restrooms.

Michigan State Parks

White Pine Trail State Park

The township is also bisected by the White Pine Trail, a rail-trail owned by the Department of Natural Resources. The trail is Michigan's longest – 93 miles from Grand Rapids to Cadillac. The stretch in Algoma is widely lauded as one of the most scenic stretches of trail in the state. The trail is paved for its entire length through the township. Algoma Township's Trestle Park is a popular wayside stop, and there is a trailhead with space for 50 cars at Russell Road. Snowmobiles are allowed on the trail north of this trailhead. This trail is a major amenity for the community and brings several thousand trail users into the township each year.

While the DNR maintains ownership of the trail and provides emergency maintenance on the trail, it is largely up to volunteers for regular maintenance. The Friends of the White Pine Trail have worked hard to ensure the quality and usability of the trail since its inception in 1997 as a non-profit organization which raises necessary maintenance funds and advocates for development of the trail.

Rogue River State Game Area

The southern section of the Rogue River State Game Area lies in the southern half of the township along the Rogue River between Algoma Ave. and Edgerton Ave. on the northern banks of the river. The site is approximately 200 acres is mostly undeveloped and open to public hunting. A significant portion of the state game area is dedicated to sharecropping which allows food to be grown for the local wildlife. The state game area provides a small parking area and boat launch for canoes, kayaks, and nonmotorized boats located just off Friske Dr. There are also small portions of the State Game Area located just west of the man-made lake near Summit Ave. and 12 Mile Rd. and another site just east of US-131 north of Rector St.

Department of Natural Resources Lands

The State of Michigan owns 237 acres throughout Algoma Township. This includes undeveloped lands as well as public boat launch and lake access points. Public access and boat launch points can be found on Camp Lake near the Moose Lodge property and on Lime and Long Lakes in Solon Township.

Other Parks and Recreation Facilities

Several facilities are located in the township, which are generally open to the public, but may be owned and operated by private companies, either not-for-profit or commercial. These include:

Private Residential Development Facilities

Several residential developments throughout the township contain usable open space and recreational facilities which serve as "pocket parks" for residents living close by.

Sparta Hunting and Fishing Club

The Sparta Hunting and Fishing Club is located in the northwestern-most reaches of the township. The club has land in Algoma, but its facilities are located just outside the township accessible along Long Lake Drive. This facility is open to the public requiring a membership for admittance to use of the facilities. The club provides three shooting ranges, five archery ranges, a pavilion for events, and a pier for fishing on Squaw Lake.

Rockford Sportsman's Club

Located north of 13 Mile Rd. on Northland Dr., the Rockford Sportsman's Club features a clubhouse (with kitchen facilities), three skeet fields, two trap fields, pistol and rifle ranges (25-, 50-, 100- and 200-yards), one action range, and covered shooting stalls with lighting for evening use. The club is a non-profit, 501(c)3 charitable organization and membership is open to all persons. All club events are open to the public.

Moose Lodge

The Grand Rapids/Sparta Moose Family Center & Private Golf Course is located off Division Ave. NE southwest of Camp Lake. The lodge is open to Moose members and guests, and membership is available to the public through application. The organization maintains a 9-hole golf course and a lodge with kitchen. The lodge hosts events such as a classic car show and craft beer tasting events.

North Country Trail

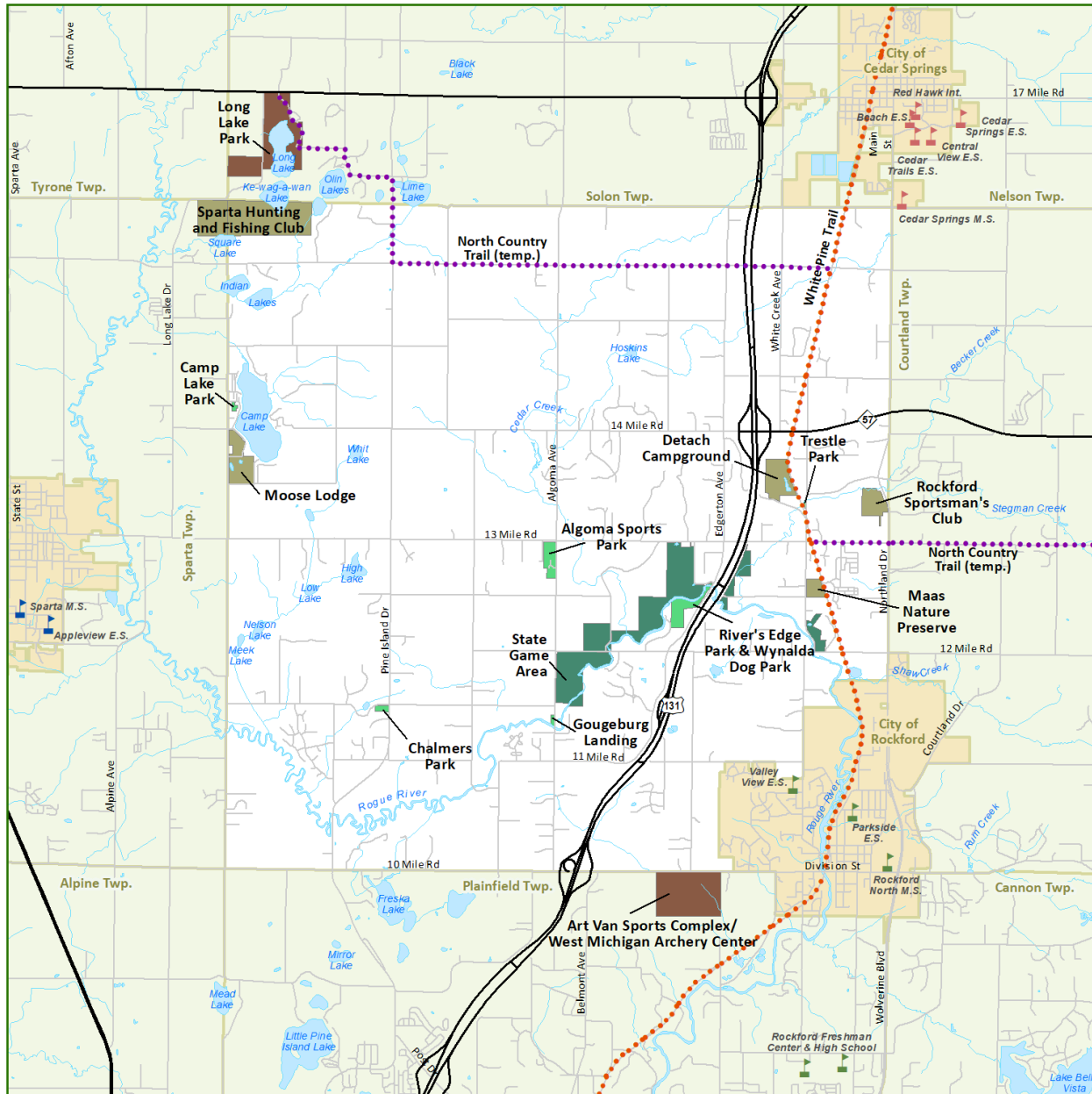
The 1980 Congressional authorization of the North Country National Scenic Trail prompted the founding of the North Country Trail Association in 1981 as the volunteer organization providing the major partnership with the National Park Service in building the trail and advocating for its use. Today, the trail runs over 4,600 miles from New York to North Dakota passing through Algoma Township along the White Pine Trail in Algoma Township, the North Country Trail in this section is located along existing roadways with no designation according to the North Country Trail Association.

Maas Family Nature Preserve

This undeveloped property lies on the west side of the White Pine Trail, just north of the Rogue River and the City of Rockford. The 17-acre property is owned and maintained by the nonprofit Land Conservancy of West Michigan and is open to the public. Beside some small woodland areas, the majority of the property is an open, prairie-like field which provides one of the few natural habitats available for the Karner blue butterfly, a federally-recognized endangered species. The preserve is a host for some of Michigan's most beautiful wildflowers as well.

Detach Campground

Detach is a campground in Algoma Township, located along the White Pine Trail between Summit Court and 14 Mile Road. According to their website, Detach is a four-season, off-grid retreat and educational center on 50 acres of land. There are 10 campsites available to rent, each with a primitive structure such as a custom painted 20-foot tipi, a large yurt with a deck, an underground hobbit home, and an A-frame with a porch. Each site has its own private picnic and fire pit area.



Map 2

Area Recreation Facilities

Parks and Recreation Plan 2024 - 2028 Algoma Township Kent County, MI

Park Facility Types

- Township Park
- State of Michigan Land
- Other Parks and Recreation Facilities
- Kent County

School Facilities

- Cedar Springs Public Schools
- Rockford Public Schools
- Sparta Area Schools

Base Layers

- State Highways
- Roads
- Water Features

Area Trails

- White Pine Trail State Park
- North Country Trail

Base Layers

- Water Bodies
- Algoma Township Parcels
- Municipal Boundaries

Base Layers Source: Michigan Geographic Data Library

Parcel Source/Notice: Reproduced with permission granted by the County of Kent, Michigan. Some information has been provided subject to a non-exclusive, limited, and revocable license granted by the County of Kent, Michigan.

Map Date: November 2023

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

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Regional Public and Commercial Facilities

City of Rockford Municipal Parks

- Rockford Memorial Park 14 acres
- Rotary Park 1.4 acres
- Pepler Memorial Park 0.5 acres
- Richardson-Sowerby Park 2.75 acres
- Cahill Park 4.6 acres
- Garden Club Park 0.6 acres
- Undeveloped Park 9 acres
- Rogue River Nature Trail 4.5 acres
- Glen Park 9 acres
- Heritage Parkland 9 acres
- Pickett Park 2 acres

Other Area Public Recreation Facilities

- West Michigan Archery Center (located in Plainfield Township). This facility is an example of people and communities coming together to create a world class facility. Algoma Township, in conjunction with the State of Michigan, West Michigan Archery, Easton and Plainfield Township developed an archery facility of which there is only one other in the State. It has 24 indoor competition shooting lanes and a 3D field. The facility is well used by Olympic athletes, schools, community church groups and the general public. The center is located in Plainfield Township on 10 Mile Road.
- Howard Christianson Nature Center (Tyrone Township) Nature trails, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing
- Gordon Park (Nelson Township) Playgrounds and picknicking
- Lamoreaux Park (Plainfield Township) Playgrounds, fishing, and boat launch
- Lydell Park (Alpine Township) Nature trails and cross-country skiing
- Myers Lake Park (Courtland Township) Playground, swimming, fishing, picnic area
- Fred Meijer Nature Preserve (Cannon Township) Fishing and nature trails
- Provin Trails Park (Grand Rapids Township) Nature trails, biking, cross-country skiing
- Wabasis Lake Park (Oakfield Township) Camping, fishing, boat launch, playground, and swimming
- Wahfield Park (Alpine Township) Playgrounds, picnic shelter, nature trails
- Cannonsburg Ski Area (Cannon Township)
- Pando Winter Sports Park (Cannon Township)

Camping Facilities

- Duke Creek (Solon Township)
- Lake Side Camp Park (Solon Township)
- Paradise Cove Travel Trailer Resort (Sand Lake)

Golf

- Cedar Chase (Nelson Township)
- Scott Lake (Plainfield Township)
- North Kent (Courtland Township)

- Braeside (Rockford)
- Rogue River (Sparta Township)
- Falls at Barber Creek (Tyrone Township)

Senior Facilities

- North Kent Community Services (Algoma Township)
- Senior Neighbors of Kent County
- Sparta Senior Neighbors (Sparta)

Commercial Entertainment and Exercise Facilities

- Cedar Rock Sports Plex (Algoma Township) Indoor soccer facility
- North Star Cinemas (Algoma Township) Movies
- MVP (Rockford) Athletic Club
- Riverview Racquet Club (Plainfield Township) Health club
- Sparta Lanes (Sparta) Bowling
- Rockford Lanes (Rockford) Bowling
- Equest Center (Algoma Township) Horseback riding facility for handicapped individuals

Past DNR Grant-Funds Received by the Township

Algoma Township has received the following grants for improvements within Algoma Township:

Camp Lake Park BF89-027

The township received a grant for \$63,236 to build a basketball court, construct a shelter, install playground equipment for young children (tot lot), landscaping, and fencing at Camp Lake Park. All work is complete, and the grant is closed out.



River's Edge Park & Wynalda Dog Park

TF95-185

The township received a grant of \$25,000 to assist with the acquisition of River's Edge Park & Wynalda Dog Park for fishing, picnicking, canoeing, and nature trails. This property has not been formally developed with facilities yet, but ongoing activities continue to make improvements to this site. All work is complete, and the grant is closed out.

Algoma Township Sport's Park

CM99-165

The township received a grant of \$225,149 to assist with the development of a new park. Improvements partially funded included restroom/concession building, playground, walking path, ballfield, signage, and picnic area. All work is complete, and the grant is closed out.



River's Edge Park & Wynalda Dog Park

TF06-002

The township received a grant of \$49,000 to assist with the acquisition of three additional acres of property for River's Edge Park & Wynalda Dog Park. The park once constructed will offer fishing, picnicking, canoeing, and nature trails. This property has not been formally developed with facilities yet, but ongoing activities continue to make improvements to this site. All work is complete, and the grant is closed out.

Algoma RSC Archery Center TF10-099

The township received a grant of \$500,000 to assist with the development of an Olympic-style archery center and air-gun shooting facility with indoor and outdoor ranges. All work is complete, and the grant is closed out.

River's Edge Park & Wynalda Dog Park

TF15-0029

The township received a grant of \$138,000 to assist with the acquisition of 1.7 acres of additional property for River's Edge Park & Wynalda Dog Park expansion with 208 feet of frontage on the Rogue River. The park once constructed will offer fishing, picnicking, canoeing, and nature trails. This property has not been formally developed with facilities yet, but ongoing activities continue to make improvements to this site. All work is complete, and the grant is closed out.

Camp Lake Park

RP16-0004

The township received a grant for \$45,000 to renovate the playground equipment and furniture that has deteriorated and in need of replacement. Project Agreement and site construction has been completed, but the Post-Completion Self-Certification Report has not be completed for this project.



River's Edge Park & Wynalda Dog Park

TF16-0015

The township received a grant of \$50,000 to assist with the development of trails and boardwalks through forested wetlands, construction of a fishing landing on the Rogue River, picnic areas, restroom, parking and interpretive signage. All elements are to be designed to Universal Accessible standards. Project is ongoing, and no Post-Completion Self-Certification report will be submitted as a part of this plan.

River's Edge Park & Wynalda Dog Park

TF17-0102

The township received a grant of \$127,900 to purchase an additional 3.1 acres of land and an additional 630 feet of frontage on the Rogue River, a state-designated Natural River. This purchase will expand the park to 15.8 acres and over 1,800 feet of contiguous river frontage. Project is ongoing and no Post-Completion Self-Certification report will be submitted as a part of this plan.

Gougeburg Landing

TF20-0067

The township received a grant of \$65,000 to purchase 2 acres of property with 200 feet of frontage on the Rogue River, a state designated wild and scenic natural river. This property is the new Gougeburg Landing park. The park serves as a stopping and access point trailhead on the Rogue River Water Trail.

Chapter 3 Analysis

An essential task in the recreation planning process is to determine the needs of the community. The needs serve as a basis for the development of the Action Program. This task is accomplished using a compilation of several methods, including comparing the township to established national recreation standards and input received from the public, township staff, community leaders and local officials.

Method of Analysis

A combination of sources were used in this section. All requirements and quartile ranges used to measure the township's park and trail inventory were from the NRPA's 2023 Agency Performance Review. The U.S. Census and American Community Survey Estimates were used to determine Algoma Township's demographic data. National statistics on youth program participation is from the National Sporting Goods Association (NSGA) and the Aspen Institute Project Play's The State of Play report from 2022. This information helps understand how Algoma Township is serving their residents' recreation needs at present and may be used to identify potential areas of focus or improvement.

Parkland and Park Facility Analysis

Number of Parks

The following guidelines are provided by the NRPA's 2023 Agency Performance Review. The Agency provides a range containing a lower quartile, median, and upper quartile values for residents per park within a jurisdiction. For jurisdictions with a population of less than 20,000, the range is 666 residents (lower quartile), 1,225 residents (median), and 2,042 residents (upper quartile). According to the 2020 U.S. Census, Algoma Township's population is 12,055. Presently, Algoma Township has six township parks: Chalmers Park, Camp Lake Park, Algoma Sports Park, Trestle Park, River's Edge Park & Wynalda Dog Park, and Gougeburg Landing. When the township's population is divided by 6 (the number of parks in the township), the sum is 2,009 residents per park. As a result, Algoma Township is slightly below the upper quartile range as stated by the NRPA.

Total Parkland

The following guidelines are provided by the NRPA's 2023 Agency Performance Review. The Agency provides a range containing a lower quartile, median, and upper quartile values for acres of parkland per 1,000 residents within a jurisdiction. For jurisdictions with a population of less than 20,000, the range is 6.0 acres (lower quartile), 13.0 acres (median), and 21.1 acres (upper quartile). According to the 2020 U.S. Census, Algoma Township's population is 12,055. Based on its population, Algoma Township should have a range of between 72.3 acres and 254.4 acres of total parkland. Presently, Algoma Township has only 58.8 total acres of parkland. Algoma Township's total parkland acreage is insufficient based on the NRPA standard.

Parkland by Park Type

Based on a standard previously suggested by the MDNR, Algoma Township's parkland and recreation inventory was compared to the guidelines set by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA, 1983 and updated in 1995). Although the NRPA's guidelines were set over thirty years ago, this helps to establish minimum community needs in terms of land area and number of facilities. The NRPA

guidelines are based on the population of the study area. In 2020, the U.S. Census reported the total population within the township to be 12,055 residents.

Table 3-1 shows the results of the parkland analysis for the township. It reveals a need for additional parkland in each of the mini-park, neighborhood park, community park and sports park categories. Based on population alone, Algoma Township needs additional acreage devoted to parkland. Chalmers Park and Camp Lake Park function as neighborhood parks, as they are located in primarily residential areas. Algoma Sports Park fulfills a community niche, as it draws users in from the entire township and elsewhere. River’s Edge & Wynalda Dog Park, Trestle Park, and Gougeburg Landing also qualify as community facilities despite their smaller size, as they are accessible by a large river (in the case of River’s Edge and Gougeburg) or a major trail (Trestle). Recently, River’s Edge Park expanded and became River’s Edge Park & Wynalda Dog Park. As it continues to develop, it will continue to grow into an educational-type facility, and will draw residents and visitors from the area.

It should be noted that the acreage standard analysis (except for the regional park analysis) is based only on township-owned parks. This analysis is important given that the jurisdiction of this recreation plan covers township-owned parks. However, several other recreation facilities, including school facilities, are located within or near the township and serve its residents. These recreation facilities should be taken into consideration in combination with the results of the acreage standard analysis for township-owned parks.

Table 3-1 Township Parkland Acreage Analysis				
Park Classification	NRPA Guideline (acres per 1,000 residents)	Recommended for Algoma Township (acres based on Twp population)	Existing Park Acreage	Surplus or Deficiency
Mini Parks	0.375	4.52	0	-4.52
Neighborhood Parks	1.75	21.10	7.8	-13.3
Community Parks	6.5	78.36	31.0	-47.36
Sports Parks	Variable – 40 to 80 acres is optimal	40	20	-20.00
Non-Motorized Trails	Variable	Network to connect destinations	N/A – White Pine Trail	N/A
Regional Parks	7.50	90.41	7,989 ¹	N/A
Source: A Recommended Classification System for Local and Regional Recreation Open Space and Trails, National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). 1983 and updated in 1995.				

¹Regional Parks include all DNR lands in the Township, Long Lake Park (Solon Twp.), Rogue River State Game Area (Tyrone and Solon Twp.), Cannonsburg State Game Area, Luton Park, Frederick Meijer Nature Preserve, Townsend Park (Cannon Twp.), and Rogue River Park (Plainfield Twp.)

Park Facilities

The following guidelines are provided by the NRPA’s 2023 Agency Performance Review. The Agency provides a range containing a lower quartile, median, and upper quartile values for residents per indoor/outdoor facility within a jurisdiction.

Algoma Township’s parkland and recreation inventory was compared to the guidelines set by the NRPA. The NRPA guidelines are based on the population of the study area. In 2020, the U.S. Census reported the total population within the township to be 12,055 residents. **Table 3-2** takes these guidelines and applies them to Algoma Township and the recreational facilities located within the township, adjacent to the township (predominately at adjacent school facilities), and a reasonable travel distance. The values found in the “NRPA Guidelines” column of the table are for jurisdictions with a population of less than 20,000.

Table 3-2 Analysis of Algoma Township Recreation Facilities					
Park Facility	NRPA Guidelines (pop. per Facility)	Recommended (based on Twp population)	Existing (within Algoma Twp)	Surplus or Deficiency	Existing (predominantly located at surrounding schools)
Playgrounds	2,014	6	3	-3	9
Basketball courts	3,729	3	1	-2	16
Diamond fields: baseball-youth	3,114	4	7	+3	9
Tennis courts (outdoor)	2,805	4	0	-4	40
Rectangular fields: multi-purpose	3,859	3	1	-2	3
Dog park	11,100	1	2	+1	0
Diamond fields: softball-adult	5,800	2	7	+5	8
Diamond fields: softball-youth	5,079	2	7	+5	8
Diamond fields: baseball-adult	7,627	2	7	+5	9
Community gardens	8,178	1	1	0	0
Swimming pools (outdoor)	9,745	1	0	-1	0
Rectangular fields: soccer-youth	3,600	3	1	-2	11

Multiuse courts: basketball, volleyball	5,093	2	0	-2	0
Totlots	5,816	2	0	-2	1
Rectangular fields: soccer-adult	6,955	2	1	-1	11
Skate park	10,726	1	0	-1	0
Rectangular fields: football	8,637	1	0	-1	6
Pickleball	3,252	4	0 ^a	-1	0
Regulation 18-hole courses	9,587	1	0	-1	Several
Driving range stations	4,555	3	0	-3	1
Multipurpose synthetic field	9,518	1	0	-1	1
Ice rink (outdoor)	8,045	1	0	-1	0
Rectangular fields: cricket	n/a	0	0	n/a	0
Rectangular fields: lacrosse	9,786	1	0	-1	4
Overlay field	8,707	1	0	-1	0
Rectangular fields: field hockey	1,800	7	0	-7	4
Rec centers	9,745	1	0	-1	
Community centers	8,829	1	0	-1	1
Senior centers	14,000	1	0	-1	1
Performance amphitheater	11,100	1	0	-1	0
Nature areas	10,633	1	0	-1	3
Aquatics centers	11,650	1	0	-1	0
Stadiums	9,250	1	0	-1	2
Teen centers	14,593	1	0	-1	0
Indoor ice rink	8,000	2	0	-2	4 ^b
Arena	5,531	2	0	-2	1

^a Four new pickleball courts will be constructed in 2024

^b Four ice rinks are located within one hour drive

Caution must be taken when interpreting recommendations based on these guidelines because they may not represent current popular activities and trends. Population-to-facility ratios tend to oversimplify the purpose of recreation planning, which is to address the specific needs of the community, based on its own particular resources and resident preferences/demands so that the plan best suits the community's desires for recreation.

Trail Facilities

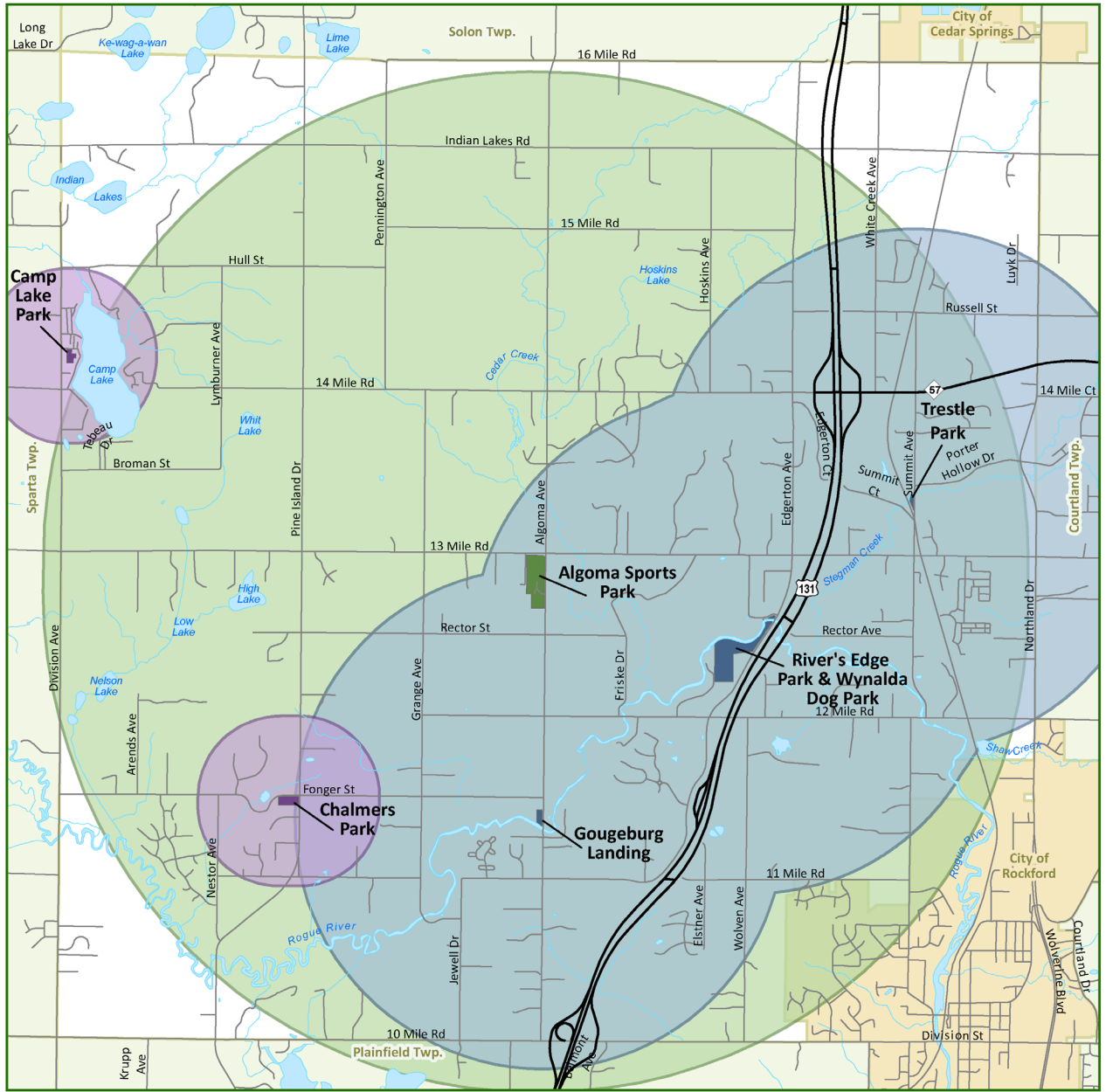
The following guidelines are provided by the NRPA's 2023 Agency Performance Review. The Agency provides a range containing a lower quartile, median, and upper quartile values for trail miles within a jurisdiction. For jurisdictions with a population of less than 20,000, the range is 2.0 miles (lower quartile), 4.0 miles (median), and 10.0 miles (upper quartile). According to the 2020 U.S. Census, Algoma Township's population is 12,055. Presently, Algoma Township has 9.6 miles of trails within the township limits, according to GIS information. Thus, Algoma Township is in line with the upper quartile value for a community of its size.

Service Area Analysis

It is important to consider the type of parks, their location, and their disbursement throughout the township. When evaluating parks and recreation service areas, it is important to specifically consider where the residents of the community live. The NRPA establishes a recommended service area for each park classification to determine which areas in Algoma Township are lacking easy access to parkland. By mapping these service areas, the township can see what areas are underserved. Regional parks are not included in this analysis because of their large (30 mile) service area. Generally based on the NRPA standards, the recommended service areas for local park types are as follows:

- Mini Parks ¼ mile
- Neighborhood Parks ½ mile
- Community Parks 1.5 miles
- Sports Complex 3 miles

Map 3 shows the service areas of township-owned parks based on their park classification. Although the overall amount of parkland in Algoma Township is insufficient based on national guidelines, the township is generally well served by the current park facilities. **Map 3** shows that the parks provided by Algoma Township provide valuable parkland within an acceptable distance from most township residents; however, pockets of underserved areas are found in the extreme northwestern, southwestern, and northeastern portions of the township. This distribution may be appropriate due to a greater concentration of residents in the center and eastern portions of the township.



Map 3 Recreation Service Areas

**Parks and Recreation Plan 2024 - 2028
Algoma Township
Kent County, MI**

Township Park Types

- Neighborhood Park
- Community Park
- Sports Complex

Park Service Areas

- Neighborhood Park Service Radius
(Lands within 0.5 miles of a Neighborhood Park.
Note: Also applicable to a Community Park, or Sports Complex)
- Community Park Service Radius
(Lands within 1.5 miles of a Community Park.
Note: Also applicable to a Sports Complex)
- Sports Complex Service Radius
(Lands within 3 miles of a Sports Complex)

Base Layers

- State Highways
- Water Bodies
- Roads
- Water Features
- Algoma Township Parcels
- Municipal Boundaries

Base Layers Source: Michigan Geographic Data Library

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Map Date: March 2023

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Demographic Analysis

The socioeconomic characteristics of a community play a role in the demand for certain types of recreation facilities. By examining socioeconomic characteristics such as population, density, age, and household size, municipalities can identify trends and opportunities that may influence future land use and recreation decisions and/or policy choices. For example, if the elementary school enrollment in a particular area is growing, there may be a need to plan for more playgrounds and children’s programs. Conversely, if the population of the community is aging, more recreational facilities may be needed for senior citizens. This section provides a brief summary of the socioeconomic characteristics of Algoma Township that may influence parks and recreation planning decisions.

Population Trends and Projections

Township population trends between 1980 and 2020 exhibit significant population growth in Algoma Township. The total growth rate over the 40-year span was 273%. Between 2020 and 2040, the population is forecasted to continue to grow, but at a much slower rate of 12.5%, reaching a total population of 13,783 by 2040. This forecasted growth indicates a general need for additional recreation facilities and programs to serve a growing population.

Year	Population
1980	4,411
1990	5,524
2000	7,683
2010	9,932
2020	12,055
2030 Forecast	12,960
2040 Forecast	13,783

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Reports and
GVMC 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan

Age Distribution

The following data was collected using the 2020 U.S. Census and 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. The median age in Algoma Township in 2020 was 38.4 years. When compared with the 2020 Kent County median age of 35.5 years, the township has a marginally older population, although the community is still relatively young. Algoma Township’s median age is slightly lower than the 2020 state average of 39.8.

In 2021, 38.6% of households in Algoma Township included one or more people age 18 or younger. This value is higher than the County (32.7%) and State (28.1%). In comparison, 32.2% of households in Algoma Township had households with at least one person age 65 or older. This value is also higher than the County (25.7%) and State (31.1%). These values suggest a larger-than-average age variation in Algoma Township when compared to other communities in Michigan. Due to its notable variation in age among residents, it is important for Algoma Township to provide adequate recreation amenities for all ages.

National Recreation Trends

Recreation trends occurring nationally may provide insight into activities that have shown the greatest growth in popularity. Organizations such as the National Sporting Goods Association (NSGA) and the Aspen Institute Project Play conduct national surveys that measure sports participation across the country.

According to the NSGA, based on a 2022 study, the following sports segments experienced growth rates over the past year (ranked by rate of growth):

1. Soccer (Outdoor) (18.6% growth)
2. Flag Football (15.8%)
3. Baseball (9.5%)
4. Cheerleading (9.5%)

5. Gymnastics (7.0%)

Conversely, the sports that saw the greatest decline in youth participation were:

1. Wrestling (-6.4% decline)
2. Track and Field (-6.0%)
3. Golf (-5.6%)
4. Lacrosse (-4.1%)
5. Swimming (Team) (-3.6%)

Much of the report centers around the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on youth sports. Low-contact outdoor team sports saw notable growth, while high-contact sports experienced some of the biggest declines (wrestling and lacrosse). According to the NSGA, fitness activities, open water sports, outdoor activities, and wheel sports segments have experienced increases over the last 5 years, while the individual sports and team sports segments have remained relatively flat.

The State of Play report from 2022, published by the Aspen Institute Project Play, provides insights into youth sports (ages 6-12) participation trends between 2008 and 2021 for the United States. According to the report, the most popular sports in 2021, in terms of total youth participation, were:

1. Bicycling (5.2 million participants)
2. Basketball (4.2 million)
3. Baseball (3.6 million)
4. Soccer (Outdoor) (2.1 million)
5. Tennis (1.7 million)

Public Engagement Results

Community engagement is a valuable part of the parks and recreation planning process. An online survey was made available to the public in July and August 2023. The survey was heavily advertised on the township’s website, community group websites/social media pages, community events, sporting events and word of mouth. Simultaneous with the development of this 2024-2028 Recreation Master Plan, the township was also preparing a new land use Master Plan. Therefore, two options were provided for interested persons to complete the survey. They could either take a survey which included only parks and recreation questions (i.e., the “recreation-only survey”), or they could take a survey which included both master plan related questions and parks and recreation questions (i.e., the “master and recreation plan survey”). The same parks and recreation questions were included on both surveys.



A total of 143 persons responded to the recreation-only survey and 332 persons responded to the master and recreation plan survey, for a combined total of 475 responses. The following is a summary of responses to the parks and recreation questions that were included within both surveys.

An online survey was also administered by Algoma Township as part of the previous recreational planning effort in November 2018. A total of 193 responses were received as part of the 2018 survey. The questions asked in the 2018 survey were generally identical to the questions asked for this August 2023 survey. In this way, the 2018 survey results provide a benchmark to gauge any changes in opinion regarding parks and recreation needs and opportunities. Where responses from the 2018 survey are substantially different than responses from the 2023 survey, such differences are noted in the survey summary.

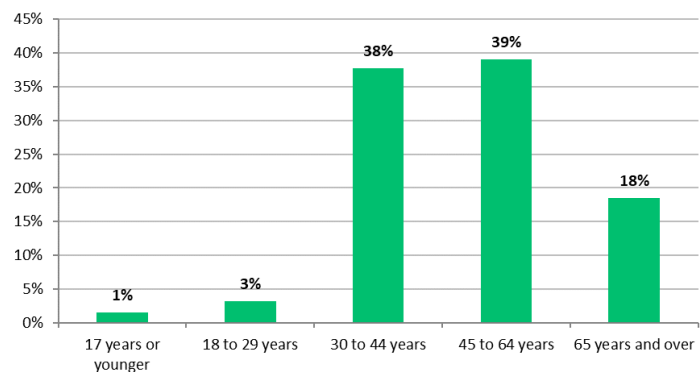
Respondent Demographics

The majority of respondents fell within the age ranges of 30 to 44 years old (38%) and 45 to 64 years old (39%). A fair number of respondents were 65 years or older (18%). A small number of respondents were between 18 and 29 years old (3%) and only 1% were less than 18 years old.

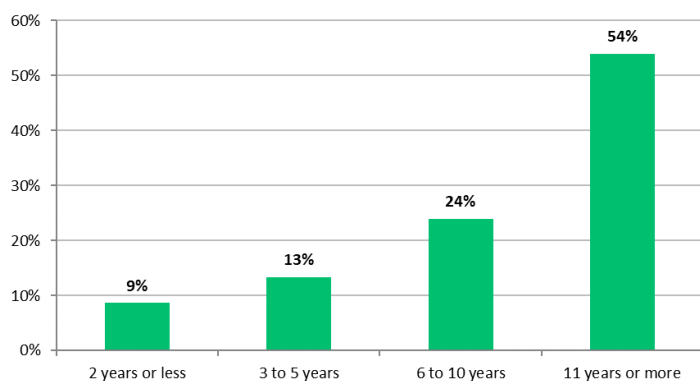
Most of the respondents to the survey were Algoma Township residents (405 or 86%), while only 66 or 14% were non-residents.

Of the 404 total residents who answered a question about length of residency, the largest percentage have lived in the township for 11 or more years (218 or 54%). The next largest percentage were residents who have lived in the township for 6 to 10 year (24%), followed by 3 to 5 years (13%). Only 9% of residents have lived in the township for 2 years or less.

Q1: Please indicate the range in which your age falls.



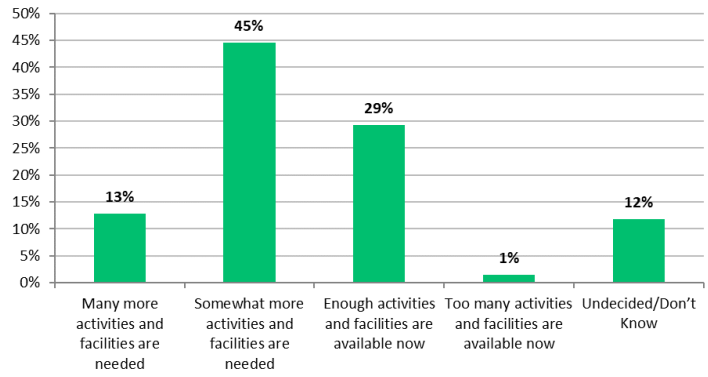
Q3: How many years have you lived in Algoma Township?



Number of Programs and Facilities

Respondents were asked to consider the current number of recreational activities and facilities provided within Algoma Township and to indicate whether more activities and facilities are needed. The largest number of respondents (184 or 45%) indicated that somewhat more activities and facilities are needed, followed by enough activities and facilities are available now (121 or 29%). 13% of respondents felt that many more are needed, while 12% were undecided. Only 1% of respondents felt that there are too many activities and facilities now. The responses to this question indicate general satisfaction related to the number of activities and programs, but with a desire for modest increases.

Q4: Thinking about the number of recreational activities and facilities provided in Algoma Township, do you believe that overall...



When asked this same question in 2018, only 20% of respondents felt that enough activities and facilities are available now, while 20% indicated that many more activities and facilities are needed. This may be an indication of progress having been made in this area over the past 5 years.

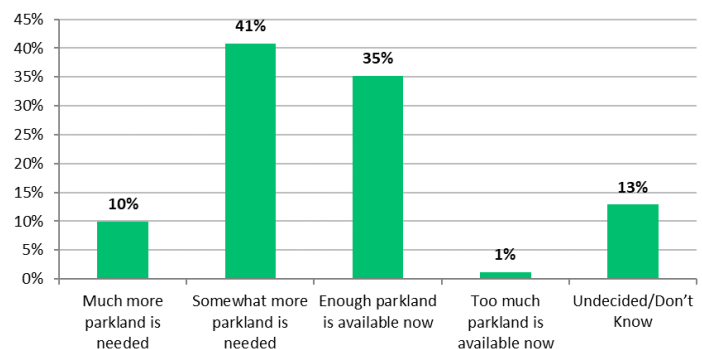
Following-up to this question, respondents were asked to indicate what programs, activities or facilities they think should be provided which are not currently offered. Common responses to this open-ended question included:

- Walking trails
- Additional sports facilities to include disk golf, soccer fields, pickleball courts, basketball courts, baseball/softball fields and volleyball courts
- Splash pad
- Support facilities, to include restrooms and parking
- Indoor multi-use facility
- Better communication on available programs and facilities is needed

Amount of Parkland

Respondents were asked to consider the amount of parkland within the township and to indicate whether more parkland is needed. The most common response was that somewhat more parkland is needed (168 or 41%). A notable number of respondents (145 or 35%) indicated that enough parkland is available now. 10% of respondents felt that much more parkland is needed, while only 1% of respondents felt that too much parkland is available now. 13% of respondents were undecided. Overall, the responses suggest that the amount of parkland available now is meeting basic resident needs, but that a modest increase in parkland may be warranted.

Q6: Thinking about the amount of parkland in Algoma Township, do you believe that overall...

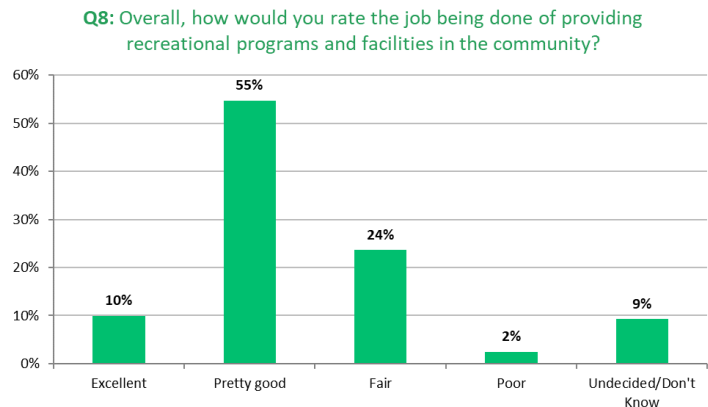


Generally similar responses were received to this question as part of the 2018 citizen survey.

As a follow-up to this question, respondents were asked to indicate whether there is a specific location in the township where more parkland should be set aside and developed. Many respondents did not have a particular location in mind. Many respondents indicated that the current parks facilities, specifically the Algoma Sports Park, should be expanded. Some respondents suggested that additional parkland could be developed along the White Pine Trail.

Recreation Administration

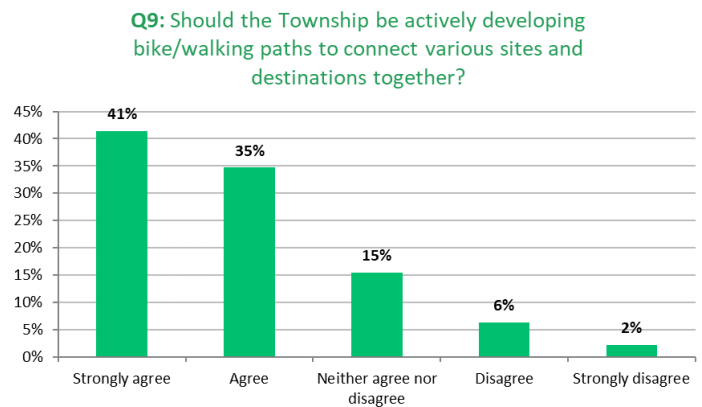
Respondents were asked to rate the job being done of providing recreational programs and facilities in the community. Responses were generally positive, with 225 or 55% indicating pretty good and 41 or 10% indicating excellent. 24% indicated fair, while only 2% of respondents felt that a poor job was being done. 9% of respondents were undecided.



Generally similar responses were received to this question as part of the 2018 citizen survey.

Bike/Walking Path Development

Survey participants were asked to indicate agreement to whether the township should be actively developing bike/walking paths to connect various sites and destinations together. A large majority of respondents (316 or 76%) either agreed or strongly agreed, with the largest number in strong agreement (41%). This response indicates clear support for bike/walking path development. Only 8% disagreed or strongly disagreed, while 15% neither agreed nor disagreed.



When asked this same question in 2018, a relatively smaller percentage (31%) agreed, while a relatively larger percentage (49%) strongly agreed.

Recreational Activities

Participants were given a listing of 25 recreational activities and were asked to indicate whether they currently participate, have a future interest in participating, or are not interested in participating. The top 5 activities with the highest level of current participation are:

1. Hiking/walking (73%)
2. Bicycling (52%)
3. Boating/kayaking (50%)
4. Picnicking (40%)

5. Fishing (39%)

The same top 5 responses were given during the 2018, survey, although the percentage of each varied somewhat.

The top 5 activities with the greatest future interest in participating are:

1. Pickleball (42%)
2. Cross country skiing (38%)
3. Ice skating (35%)
4. Boating/kayaking (34%)
5. Disc golf (34%)

In comparison, the 2018 survey results had differing responses with regard to future interest. The top 5 responses from 2018 survey included ice skating, disc golf and cross-country skiing, but did not include pickleball or boating/kayaking. In 2018, only 26% of respondents had a future interest in pickleball while only 23% had a future interest in boating. (It should be noted that the 2018 survey only listed “boating” and did not list “boating/kayaking.”) This is an indication of the growing popularity of both pickleball and boating/kayaking.

The activities which had the highest level of non-interest, included:

1. Field hockey (80%)
2. Skateboarding (79%)
3. Ice hockey (72%)
4. Football (71%)
5. Curling (69%)

Relating to activities respondents were not interested in, generally similar responses were received as part of the 2018 citizen survey.

Non-Sport Recreational Activities

Participants were given a listing of 7 non-sport recreational activities and were asked to indicate whether they currently participate, have a future interest in participating, or are not interested in participating. The top 3 non-sport activities with the highest level of current participation are:

1. Events (concerts, etc.) (32%)
2. Arts and crafts classes/activities (19%)
3. Fitness classes (19%)

The top 3 non-sport activities with the greatest future interest in participating are:

1. Events (concerts, etc.) (50%)
2. Fitness classes (47%)
3. Arts and crafts classes/activities (42%)

The activities which had the highest level of non-interest, included:

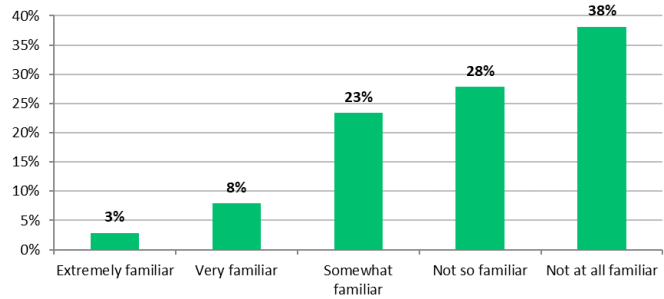
1. Computer and technology classes (48%)
2. Senior trips, activities, and events (47%)
3. Outdoor youth camps (43%)

Generally similar responses were received to this question as part of the 2018 citizen survey.

Familiarity with North Kent Community Enrichment Programs

One question asked participants about their familiarity with the recreational programming offered by the North Kent Community Enrichment (NKCE). The majority of respondents were either not so familiar or not at all familiar with NKCE's programs (66%), with the greatest percentage being not at all familiar (38%). Only 34% were familiar (either somewhat, very or extremely).

Q14: Are you familiar with the Recreational programming provided to Township residents through the North Kent Community Enrichment?



When asked this question in 2018 (at the time, NKCE was called Cedar Springs Area Parks and Recreation), a relatively larger percentage of respondents had familiarity with the offered programs than did today (43% were familiar in 2018 as opposed to 34% in 2023).

Recreational Facilities

Participants were given a listing of 24 recreational facilities and were asked to indicate their opinion about the number of such facilities that are needed. The answer choices were: many more should be developed; more should be developed; enough are available now; and, undecided/don't know. The recreational facilities which the largest percentage of respondents (top 5) indicated as having enough available now were:

1. Baseball fields (50%)
2. Dog runs and play areas (46%)
3. Softball fields (45%)
4. Football fields (44%)
5. Golf courses (44%)

Nearly the same top 5 responses were given during the 2018, survey; the exception was that dog runs and play areas was not in the top 5, with only 30% of respondents feeling that enough were available at that time.

The recreational facilities which received the greatest votes of more should be developed (either more or many more) were (top 5):

1. Bicycle paths (73% total / 28% many more)
2. Hiking/walking trails (73% / 25%)
3. Nature areas (64% / 22%)
4. Outdoor splash pads (54% / 12%)
5. Park pavilions (48% / 7%)

During the 2018 survey, respondents also listed bicycle paths, hiking/walking trails, nature areas and outdoor splash pads in their top 5 for more should be developed. However, park pavilions did not make the top 5 in the 2018 survey, with only 42% indicating that more or many more should be developed.

As a follow-up to this question, respondents were allowed to offer any other recreational facilities which were not listed and which respondents would be interested in now or in the future. The most commonly repeated response was the desire for an indoor, multi-purpose recreational facility.

Relevant Planning Efforts

The following is a summary of key planning efforts undertaken by regional and/or neighboring jurisdictions which may have an impact on recreation planning within Algoma Township.

Kent County Parks' Parks, Trails and Natural Areas Master Plan 2019-2023

The management and development of Kent County's system of parks and trails is driven by the Parks, Trails and Natural Areas Master Plan. Every five years, the Kent County Parks Department carefully reviews and updates this plan, guided by public input and needs as well as emerging opportunities and priorities. Part of the process also involves proposing future land acquisitions to expand existing parks, but readers should bear in mind that these are only suggestions. Land purchases are only pursued if the land meets certain criteria, sellers' express interest, the County Board of Commissioners approves, and sufficient funding is available.

While this plan has little to do with Algoma Township specifically, most of the goals and objectives outlined can be applied locally to the township. The plan's goals are as follows:

1. Continue to address the growing need for additional recreational space in Kent County through strategic acquisition of parklands, green spaces and trail corridors.
2. Continually maintain and improve facilities to provide diverse, high-quality recreational opportunities that meet public demand.
3. Strategically develop facilities to improve services and recreational opportunities, as funding allows.
4. Develop and support a broad network of trails within Kent County that maximizes connectivity between communities, parks and other trail systems.
5. Enhance the sustainability and habitat quality of natural areas and waterways.
6. Engage the community by providing rewarding volunteer opportunities through projects, events and programs supporting the recreational and environmental attributes of Kent County Parks.
7. Expand public outreach, brand recognition and support for Kent County Parks.
8. Ensure that staffing levels continue to meet the overall operations and management needs of Kent County's park and trail system.
9. Protect the quality and sustainability of the Kent County Parks system by continuing to develop and grow diverse funding sources.

City of Rockford Memorial Park & Garden Club Park Master Plan

Garden Club Park and Memorial Park are two of Rockford's most visible and well-used park facilities. Both offer amenities to people of all ages and experience high attendance throughout the year. In 2019, both parks were somewhat limited in their abilities to meet the needs of city residents and visitors. Through careful planning and the development of a clear community-based vision, plans have been made for each park to accommodate the future wants, needs, and demands of the city. Although very different in scale, use, and patronage, both parks are beloved by Rockford community residents. In an effort to guide future enhancement and implementation of improvements to these unique places, the city of Rockford created master plans for each park. Each master plan report includes conceptual site plans and illustrative imagery to locate future development and strategize park investment. Narrative

descriptions, probable costs, and funding opportunities accompany these plans to further detail concepts and feasibility.

City of Rockford Community Recreation Plan 2019-2022

This plan serves to provide an overall vision and direction for the improvement and development of parks and recreation facilities. It includes a brief description of the community, a description of the administrative structure that supports the public parks, a recreation inventory, and the documentation of the planning process. A key section in this plan is the Goals and Objectives Section which provides written goals for providing recreational opportunities to the residents. The Action Plan Section follows the Goals and Objectives with a listing of proposed projects and programs which will improve and expand recreational opportunities.

While many of the goals and objectives like *Provide recreational facilities and programs for persons of all mental and physical abilities* and *Seek opportunities for collaboration with surrounding governmental agencies to provide recreational facilities and programs which are most appropriate for serving the regional area* relate to intergovernmental partnerships between Rockford and Algoma Township, no specific action plan to achieve this is outlined.

West Michigan Trails Planning Efforts

West Michigan Trails (WMT) is committed to developing a non-motorized, connected trail system. They aim to create a system that links urban and rural communities, protects habitats and natural areas, and provides active and alternative transportation options linking people with services and attractions throughout West Michigan. WMT counsels trail groups looking to build or expand trails, works with public and private partners to develop plans for regional trail development and the funding to support it, and collaborates with community organizations to ensure trails best serve the people, habitats, and environments they travel through. There are more than 850 miles of West Michigan trails, and WMT has played a role in nearly half of those miles.

As part of their strategic plan, WMT is committed to elevating the West Michigan trail system to best serve the communities that utilize it every day and to attract trail enthusiasts from around the country. They do this by working to connect trails, promote the use and access for all, and ensure safe trails by building a unified signage system.

Chapter 4 Action Program

Five Year Action Program

The Action Program for Algoma Township provides a five-year implementation checklist for use by those involved in park and recreation planning.

The tables on the following pages list recommendations to help the township track projects and identify funding priorities. Tasks should be reviewed on an annual basis and priorities adjusted to respond to updated findings and identification of funding opportunities. The costs proposed in this plan are estimates based on general assumptions of construction costs. While the tables list items that should be completed in a specific order, the reality of implementation is that projects will be completed as time and funding resources permit. This requires some flexibility when implementing the Action Program, as time sensitive opportunities may demand that certain projects rise to the top of the priority list.

Actual costs for each project will be more specifically determined as site surveys, programming elements, and engineering plans are developed. If funding levels are lower than required to implement the plan based on the schedule provided, some projects may extend beyond the five-year scope of this plan or be broken into sub-projects to be completed incrementally over time. Costs related to grant investigation and application can be applied to matching funds if the grant is approved.

Goals and Objectives

- 1. Promote recreational opportunities within and outside of the township for all age groups, income levels and ability levels.**

Algoma Township provides residents with high-quality recreational opportunities; however, surrounding communities also have a number of quality programs and facilities.

Objectives

- Coordinate with surrounding communities' parks and recreation departments (City of Cedar Springs, Village of Sparta/Sparta Township, City of Rockford) and North Kent Community Enrichment (formerly Cedar Springs Area Parks and Recreation) to determine which services and programs may be appealing to Algoma residents.
- Coordinate with other recreation providers to prevent duplication of services and avoid unnecessary competition.
- Consider partnerships with outside organizations to provide programming to Algoma residents, including nature education/interpretive programming.
- Promote and provide recreation opportunities to encourage healthy and active lifestyles for citizens of all ages, abilities and income levels.

- 2. Maintain and improve existing parks.**

The Algoma Township Recreation Committee is committed to maintaining and improving the recreation facilities that are currently under its jurisdiction, including improving accessibility in all facilities. Additionally, property values and safety are enhanced by well-maintained systems.

Objectives

- Identify and maintain a revenue source for maintenance. Funding for the long-term operations and maintenance of the facility should be identified at the outset of the project.
- Determine who is responsible for maintenance of infrastructure, amenities, and routine activities (like snow removal, mowing, and trash removal) and coordinate more efficient and effective maintenance.
- Continue to coordinate a police presence and/or neighborhood watch group to deter vandalism or misuse of park facilities.
- Consider the long-term needs of existing park facilities through park concept plans and implementation plans.
- Implement improvements, expansion and/or development of new facilities at existing parks to support Algoma Township's growing population with diverse needs and interests.

3. Provide recreation opportunities for residents of all areas of the Township.

While Algoma Township is serviced primarily by the Sports Park (see **Map 3**), there are a few areas near the edges of the township and more populated areas in the south and eastern portion of the township which will be optimally served with additional facilities.

Objectives

- Encourage new residential projects to include parkland and/or open spaces to serve future residents.
- Consider population densities when identifying new park locations. While there may be underserved areas, some are very rural and may not demand significant park land or programs.
- Continue to monitor resident desires, local trends and preferences in recreation. Follow-up surveys and comment boxes could be used to solicit continued input.
- Host community-wide events that bring together residents from different neighborhoods, generations and backgrounds.

4. Support the acquisition of land and/or conservation easements for future active and passive recreation opportunities.

The rationale for providing additional township parkland stems from a deficiency of total acreage of parks in the township according to National Recreation and Park Association standards. Land could either be purchased by the township or a conservation easement could be placed on a private property. This easement encumbers property to preserve environmentally sensitive areas of the township while providing the property owner with tax benefits.

Objectives

- Continue to identify and evaluate potential properties which are most suitable for future park lands.

- Monitor and consider acquisition of properties which become available for potential expansion of existing parks to support additional recreation facilities and support facilities; notably the Algoma Sports Park.
- Explore opportunities for land acquisition adjacent or connecting to existing trail corridors (i.e., the White Pine Trail) and river corridors (the Rogue River).
- Consider geographic distribution of existing facilities when considering establishment of future parks.
- Where funds allow, purchase sensitive lands that are susceptible to development and would otherwise be developed if not protected.
- Work with local land conservancies to acquire sensitive land for protection.

5. Implement ecologically-friendly features in existing parks as a living, learning laboratory.

Algoma Township has expressed interest in capital improvements which will enhance the natural aesthetic and restore native ecosystems through the park system, specifically in River’s Edge Park & Wynalda Dog Park and any newly established park. These parks will be a public asset, as well as an environmental treasure available for public use and education. This area will be a key destination and a learning laboratory in its own right.

Objectives

- Adopt parks concept plans and guidelines for future improvements.
- Design and implement a program for informational/interpretive signs. The signs for the park(s) should be consistent throughout the site. Signs should include wayfinding and warnings in addition to interpretive signs drawing attention to unique, natural features.
- Promote these parks as a community asset. Ongoing marketing will be needed to ensure continue success.
- Incorporate a canoe/kayak landing at River’s Edge Park & Wynalda Dog Park and promote the public access sites along the Rogue River on township literature.

6. Encourage trail use and linkages with surrounding neighborhoods and communities.

Objectives

- Actively encourage that all new development in proximity to existing trails provide a link to promote increased usership of the facility.
- Maintain strong relationship with Friends of the White Pine Trail.
- Actively promote an Adopt-A-Trail program for existing and future trail facilities.
- Encourage walking and bicycling as alternative transportation options to help reduce emissions and improve the environment.
- Encourage canoe and kayak traffic on the Rogue River and provide literature on the township website showing public access locations in the area. Additionally, explore the designation of the Rogue River between Friske and Summit as a designated Water Trail, and explore a partnership with City of Rockford and Plainfield Township to designate the entire section of the Rogue River, from Friske to the Grand River, as a water trail.
- Explore opportunities for land acquisition adjacent or connecting to existing trail corridors (i.e., the White Pine Trail) and river corridors (the Rogue River).
- Explore the development of new trails within utility corridors and safety paths along strategic road segments to provide safe connections between neighborhoods, schools,

parks facilities and other key destinations. Potential future trail routes are highlighted on **Map 4**.

7. Implement the recommendations of this plan as cost-effectively and efficiently as possible.

Budget constraints are a reality of small communities in many places. Algoma Township in the past has had to put much needed projects on hold due to lack of funds. While the township has had a successful record in this regard, it is imperative to be mindful of deficiencies within the township's funding sources.

Objectives

- Coordinate the Action Plan with the township's capital improvement program.
- Explore methods to encourage or require parks and recreation needs to be considered during the development review process.
- Review the Parks and Recreation Plan annually to establish yearly priorities and responsibilities.
- Explore grant and alternative funding opportunities for improvement projects.
- Involve local residents, service groups and volunteer organizations in fundraising efforts to demonstrate strong community support and grassroots efforts.
- Evaluate the option of charging programming fees that balance operation costs with affordability.

Action Program Items

Included below is a capital improvements table (**Table 4-1**) highlighting specific improvement projects recommended, as well as their relative priority, costs, potential funding sources, and timeframe. A detailed listing of key potential funding sources is included as **Appendix A: Funding Sources**. A brief narrative summarizing the proposed improvements at each park follows the table. The geographic location of proposed capital improvement projects is highlighted in **Map 4**.

**Table 4-1
Capital Improvement Projects**

Potential Funding Sources Key:

GF = General Fund

MNRTF = Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund

LWCF = Land and Water Conservation Fund

RP = Recreation Passport

MDOT = MDOT’s Transportation Alternatives Program

SR2S = Safe Routes 2 School Program

LF = Local fundraising, foundations, donations, etc.

N/A = Not Applicable

Location	Project	Priority	Estimated Cost (if known)	Potential Funding Sources	Potential Timeframe
Algoma Sports Park	Continue improvements at Algoma Sports Park: pickleball courts, fountain/splash park, play equipment, and batting cages (Little League project)	Medium	\$250,000 - \$500,000	GF, MNRTF, LWCF, RP, LF	2025-2027
	Provide additional play structures for children and cross training equipment on running track	Medium	\$10,000 - \$25,000	GF, LWCF, RP, LF	2025-2027
	Purchase additional property for expansion; then prepare a Park Master Plan	Medium	--	GF, MNRTF, LF	2025-2027
Camp Lake Park	Continue miscellaneous improvements, including tree replacement/plantings, expansion of the disk golf course, and restrooms	Low	\$10,000 - \$25,000	GF, LWCF, RP, LF	2027-2028
Chalmers Park	Continue the capital improvement program at Chalmers Park: Phase 1 is a new parking lot and restrooms; Phase 2 is the construction of four pickleball courts; and Phase 3 is the construction of new ballfields	High	\$250,000 - \$500,000	GF, MNRTF, LWCF, RP, LF	2023-2025
River’s Edge Park & Wynalda Dog Park	Continue the development of the property primarily as an open space with education programming and passive recreational facilities: canoe/kayak landing, open air pavilion (with kitchen facility), educational/interpretive signage and other amenities	Medium	\$250,000	GF, MNRTF, LWCF, LF	2025-2027
	Identify partnerships with outside organizations for educational programming	High	--	N/A	2024-2025

**Table 4-1 (cont.)
Capital Improvement Projects**

Potential Funding Sources Key:

GF = General Fund

MNRTF = Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund

LWCF = Land and Water Conservation Fund

RP = Recreation Passport

MDOT = MDOT’s Transportation Alternatives Program

SR2S = Safe Routes 2 School Program

LF = Local fundraising, foundations, donations, etc.

N/A = Not Applicable

Location	Project	Priority	Estimated Cost (if known)	Potential Funding Sources	Potential Timeframe
Trestle Park	Reconstruct existing railings and support structures for more durability	Medium	\$25,000	GF, RP, LF	2025-2027
	Construct new restroom facility, as well as an expanded parking area and updated driveway	Medium	\$75,000 - \$150,000	GF, MNRTF, LWCF, RP, LF	2025-2027
	Install water bottle filling station	Low	\$2,500	GF, RP, LF	2027-2028
Township-Wide	Consider hiring a facilities, parks and activities director	High	--	N/A	2023-2025
	Continue and expand upon working with surrounding senior organizations to involve seniors in more programs/activities	Medium	--	N/A	Ongoing
	Support the development of safety paths, trails and trail connections consistent with the Goals and Objectives of this plan and the <i>2022 Algoma Township Non-Motorized Trails: Inventory & Planning for the Future</i> report. (See Appendix B and Map 4)	Medium	--	GF, MNRTF, MDOT, SR2S, LF	Ongoing
	Acquire property for open space conservation, greenways, trails and/or parkland consistent with the Goals and Objectives of this plan	Medium	--	GF, MNRTF, LF	Ongoing
	Support the acquisition of property and/or the development facilities providing access to the Rogue River, including boat launches, canoe/kayak landings and support facilities	Medium	--	GF, MNRTF, LF	Ongoing

Algoma Sports Park

Algoma Sports Park specializes in providing opportunities for organized youth sports, namely the Algoma Little League program which gives over 400 kids a year the chance to play organized baseball/softball. Despite the success of the park and the little league organization, the township seeks to increase sporting activities which are not currently offered at the park, such as pickleball courts.

Additionally, the township would like to provide outdoor exercise equipment along the 0.64-mile walking trail. Outdoor exercise equipment offers a great way to promote wellness in a way that is social and enjoyable to use by all park patrons. Equipment such as elliptical exercise machines, leg presses, chin up bars, and rowing machines, typically found in rec centers or gyms, can be available to all residents and enhance the sports theme of the park.

The township is also interested in the prospect of introducing a small splash park to the park's existing facilities. Unlike a swimming pool, these wet play areas have little to no depth to the water, ideal for those who cannot swim. The splash park would provide residents a great way to find relief from hot days in the warmer months of the year and be accessible for all ages and abilities in a manner that is safe for everyone.

The township would also like to explore the potential for purchasing additional property to accommodate new park facilities as well as necessary support facilities, such as parking areas and restrooms.

Camp Lake Park

Camp Lake Park was recently improved and renovated to include new play equipment, accessible pathways, benches, basketball poles, receptacles and lighting. Future improvements needed at the park include restrooms and an expansion of the disk golf course.

Chalmers Park

Since the fire station was repositioned across the street from the park, Chalmers Park has taken on a larger role and value to the surrounding neighborhood (the Algoma Township Historical Society now occupies the old fire station). Given this, the township prepared an updated park concept plan and is currently working on the implementation of a three-phase capital improvement project. Phase 1 is underway (as of 2023) and will include the construction of restrooms and a new parking area. Phase 2 is anticipated in 2024 and will consist of the construction of four new pickleball courts. Phase 3 will consist of the construction of new ballfields.

River's Edge Park & Wynalda Dog Park & Wynalda Dog Park

Over the last several years, the township has worked toward purchasing land along the Rogue River for a total of approximately 20 acres (supported by DNR Trust Fund acquisition dollars). The township will continue the process of planning and developing River's Edge Park & Wynalda Dog Park, coordinating with local school districts, the Rogue River Watershed group, Michigan Water Trailways and many more entities to create an educational experience for everyone to learn about the Rogue River and adjoining wetlands.

Future improvements will support the development of the park as a natural open space area and educational amenity with passive recreational facilities. Future facilities will include a canoe/kayak landing, open air pavilion (with kitchen facility), educational/interpretive signage and other amenities.

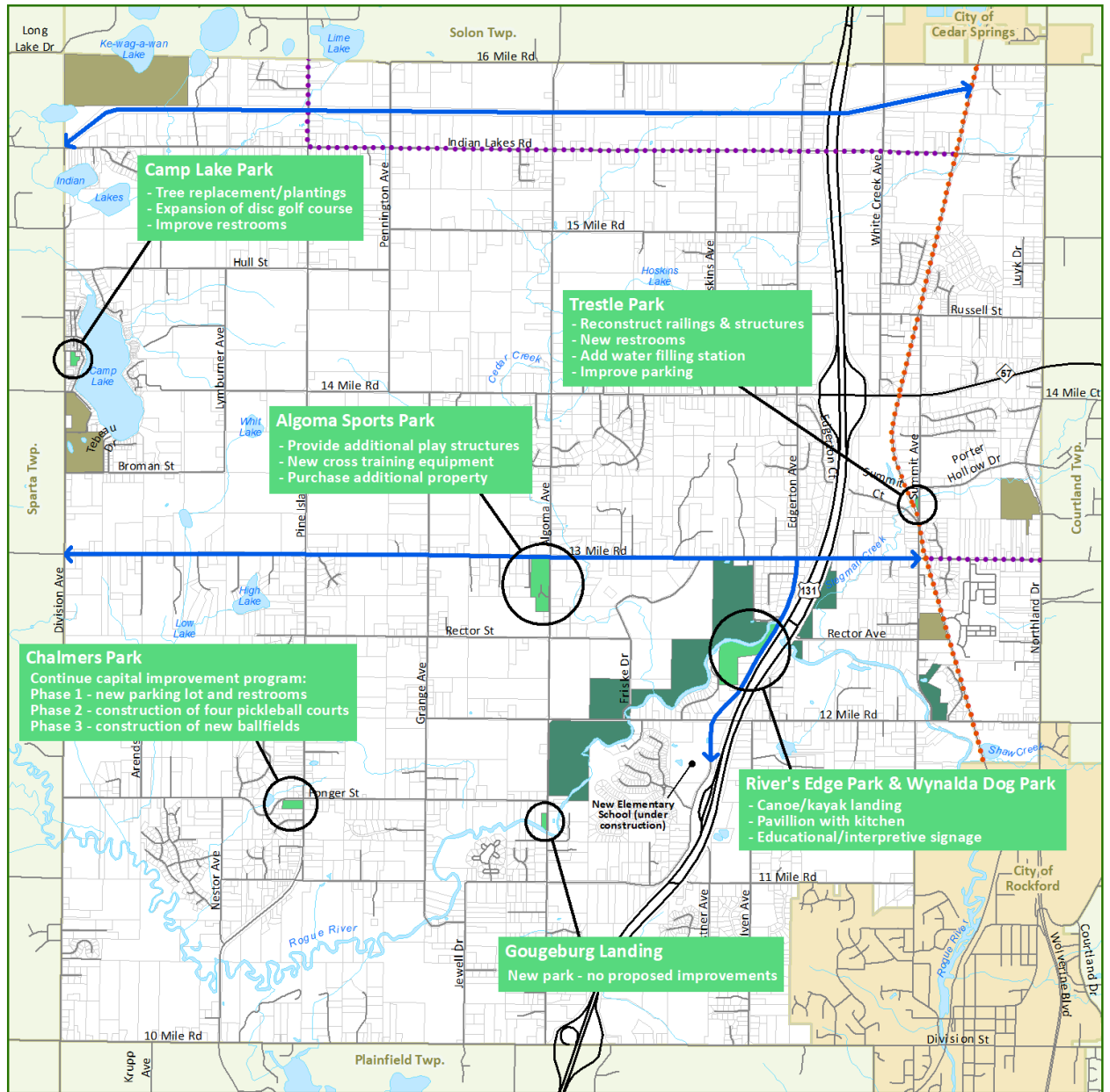
Trestle Park

Needed improvements at Trestle Park will include the reconstruction of existing railings and wooden overlook support structure for more durability and the installation of a water bottle filling station. Additionally, the township intends to construct a new restroom facility, as well as an expanded parking area and updated driveway.

Non-Motorized Trails

It is the expressed goal of this Parks and Recreation Plan to support the development of safety paths, trails and trail connections within Algoma Township. **Map 4** highlights potential trail routes within Algoma Township, which include a potential trail in the northern portion of the Township within an existing utility corridor, a safety path along 13 Mile Road, and a safety path along Edgerton Avenue, between 13 Mile Road and the new elementary school that is under construction.

In 2022, Algoma Township worked with South Peat Environmental LLC to prepare a more detailed study on existing and future non-motorized trails. This report, entitled *Algoma Township Non-Motorized Trails: Inventory & Planning for the Future* (**Appendix B**). This report, and the findings contained within it, is hereby incorporated by reference into this Parks and Recreation Plan.



Map 4

Action Program

Parks and Recreation Plan 2024 - 2028

Algoma Township

Kent County, MI

Park Facility Types

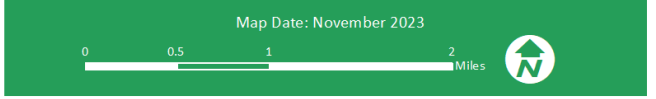
- Township Park
- State of Michigan Land
- Other Parks and Recreation Facilities
- Existing White Pine Trail State Park
- Existing North Country Trail
- Proposed Trails

Base Layers

- State Highways
- Roads
- Water Features
- Water Bodies
- Algoma Township Parcels
- Municipal Boundaries

Base Layers Source: Michigan Geographic Data Library

Parcel Source/Notice: Reproduced with permission granted by the County of Kent, Michigan. Some information has been provided subject to a non-exclusive, limited, and revocable license granted by the County of Kent, Michigan.



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Appendices

Appendix A: Funding Sources

Potential funding sources from outside entities for recreation, non-motorized, and environmental restoration projects change and evolve on a regular basis. Understanding available funding programs, their requirements and deadlines requires continuous monitoring. A few of the more common funding sources have been detailed here as a reference and resource. These are in addition to traditional funding methods such as the general fund, millages, community development block grants, bonds, DDA's, etc.

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund

The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, offered through the MDNR, provides funding for both the purchase of land (or interests in land) for recreation or protection of land because of its environmental importance or scenic beauty and the appropriate development of land for public outdoor recreation use.

Goals of the program are to: 1) protect Michigan's natural resources and provide for their access, public use and enjoyment; 2) provide public access to Michigan's water bodies, particularly the Great Lakes, and facilitate their recreation use; 3) meet regional, county and community needs for outdoor recreation opportunities; 4) improve the opportunities for outdoor recreation in Michigan's urban areas; and, 5) stimulate Michigan's economy through recreation-related tourism and community revitalization.

Any individual, group, organization, or unit of government may submit a land acquisition proposal. However, only state and local units of government can submit development proposals. All proposals for grants must include a local match of at least 25% of the total project cost. There is no minimum or maximum for acquisition projects. For development projects, the maximum grant request amount is \$300,000. Applications are due in April.

Land and Water Conservation Fund

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is a federal appropriation to the National Park Service who distributes funds to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for development of outdoor recreation facilities. In the past, this program has been used for a variety of recreational development purposes, including trailway systems, playgrounds, picnic areas, skate parks, ball fields, soccer fields and walking paths. The maximum grant request amount is \$300,000, with a minimum match of 50% of the total project cost. Applications are typically due in April of each year.

Recreation Passport

The Recreation Passport grant is a relatively new grant offered by the MDNR. The objective for the program is to provide funding to local units for the development of public recreation facilities. This includes the development of new facilities and the renovation of old facilities. The program emphasizes renovations to existing facilities and providing unmet recreation needs. The maximum grant request is \$150,000, with a minimum match of 25% of the total project cost. Applications are typically due in April of each year.

Transportation Alternatives Program (MDOT)

MDOT's Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) is a competitive grant program that uses federal transportation funds designated by Congress for specific activities that enhance the intermodal transportation system and provide safe alternative transportation options. TAP was created by the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21), signed into law in July 2012. TAP continued as a set-aside to the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program with the passage of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act), signed into law in December 2015. Approximately \$24 million is available annually. Of this, \$17 million is available through a competitive grant process administered by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) Office of Economic Development (OED). Another \$7 million is available through a competitive grant process administered by metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) in urban areas with populations greater than 200,000.

Eligible activities that relate to the implementation of this Parks and Recreation Plan include:

- Provision of facilities for pedestrians and bicycles. Includes new or reconstructed sidewalks, walkways, curb ramps, bike lane striping, wide paved shoulders, bike parking, bus racks, off-road trails, bike and pedestrian bridges and underpasses.
 - Paved shoulders four or more feet wide
 - Curb lane width greater than 12 feet
 - Bike lanes
 - Pedestrian crosswalks, sidewalks
 - Shared use paths 10 feet wide or greater
 - Path/trail user amenities
 - Grade separations
 - Bicycle parking facilities
 - Bicycle accommodations on public transportation
- Provision of safety and educational activities for pedestrians and bicyclists. Programs designed to encourage walking and bicycling by providing potential users with education and safety instruction through classes, pamphlets and signage.
- Preservation of abandoned railway corridors (including the conversion and use thereof for pedestrian and bicycle trails). Acquiring railroad rights-of-way; planning, designing and constructing multi-use trails; developing rail-with-trail projects; purchasing unused railroad property for reuse.

A minimum 20% local match is required for proposed projects and applications are accepted on an on-going basis.

Safe Routes 2 School Program

The Safe Routes 2 School (SR2S) Program is a national movement to make it safe, convenient and fun for children to bicycle and walk to school. When routes are safe, walking or biking to and from school is an easy way to get the regular physical activity children need to succeed. In Michigan, the program is sponsored by the Michigan Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and has gained momentum over the past few years. Michigan's SR2S program makes schools eligible for transportation enhancement funds, providing for infrastructure improvements and education campaigns. The purpose of the program as defined in the federal legislation is:

- To enable and encourage children, including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school;

- To make bicycling and walking to school a safer and more appealing transportation alternative, thereby encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle from an early age; and
- To facilitate the planning, development, and implementation of projects and activities that will improve safety and reduce traffic, fuel consumption, and air pollution in the vicinity of schools.

To be eligible, schools must be registered, attend a day long training session, and develop a Walking Audit in order to be eligible to apply. SR2S funding is 100 percent federal; no match is required. 70% of the funding must be used for infrastructure projects, 10% for non-infrastructure projects, and 20% for either. For more information, go to: www.saferoutesmichigan.org

Michigan Spark Grant

The Spark Grant is a \$65 million grant program to help local communities that want to create, renovate or redevelop public opportunities for residents and visitors—especially those whose economic opportunities and health were hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Administered by the DNR, Michigan Spark Grants support projects that provide safe, accessible, public recreation facilities and spaces to improve people’s health, introduce new recreation experiences, build on existing park infrastructure and make it easier for people to enjoy both indoor and outdoor recreation. This grant opportunity is possible because of the Building Michigan Together Plan, signed in March 2022, which included a historic infusion of federal funding in our state and local parks. The purpose of the program as defined in the state legislation is:

- Leverage federal, state, local and private resources toward a sustainable public recreation development program.
- Provide a clear, simple and equitable grants distribution process in support of public recreation.
- Align project partners and community organizations so resources are maximized, and roles and responsibilities are clearly outlined and balanced.

Great Lakes Fishery Trust

The Great Lakes Fishery Trust (GLFT) was created in 1996 as part of a court settlement for fish losses at the Ludington Pumped Storage Project hydroelectric facility jointly owned by Consumers Power Company (now Consumers Energy) and the Detroit Edison Company. The GLFT accepts proposals under different funding categories including fish habitat protection and restoration.

Bikes Belong

The Bikes Belong Coalition is sponsored by members of the American Bicycle Industry. Their mission is to put more people on bikes more often. The program funds bicycle infrastructure projects and some advocacy projects, such as:

- Bike paths, lanes, trails, and bridges
- Mountain bike facilities
- Bike parks and pump tracks
- BMX facilities
- End of trip facilities such as bike racks, bike parking, bike repair stations and bike storage
- Programs that transform city streets, such as Open
- Streets Days
- Campaigns to increase the investment in bicycle infrastructure

Requests for funding can be up to \$10,000 for projects, but Bikes Belong does not contribute to projects where their contribution would amount to 50% or more of the project budget. Applications are reviewed on a biannual basis, in the spring and the fall. More information can be found at www.bikesbelong.org.

Detroit Edison Tree Planting

The Detroit Edison Tree Planting program is conducted in partnership with the MDNR. The program began as DTE joined the US Department of Energy’s voluntary Climate Challenge Program to address greenhouse gas emissions. Cost-share funds are available to municipalities in Detroit Edison’s service area on a competitive basis for tree planting projects. Applications are typically due in the summer.

Appendix B:
2022 Algoma Township Non-Motorized Trails: Inventory & Planning for the Future

2022

Algoma Township Non-Motorized Trails: Inventory & Planning for the Future



Joshua Zuiderveen

South Peat Environmental LLC

10/18/2022

Non-Motorized Trails:
Research Project
For
Algoma Township
By
South Peat Environmental LLC

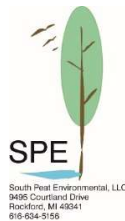
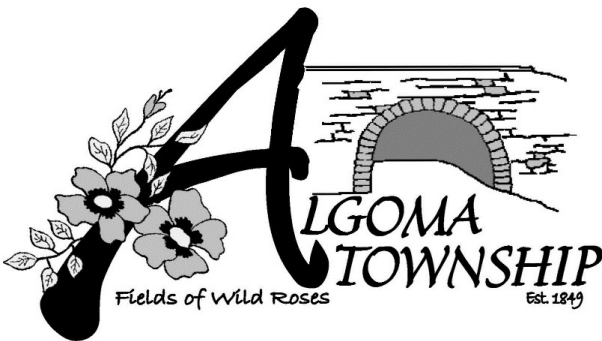


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1.0 Non-Motorized Trails in Algoma Township: Types

A Note on Types: This investigation will focus on non-motorized trails for foot and bicycle traffic. Algoma Township did designate the 12.6-mile stretch of the Rogue River within Algoma Township as a designated water trail. However, water trails are not detailed in this project.

Type 1: Regional Trail. Algoma Township is home to several different types of “non-motorized trails.” The first and maybe most well-known of these is the White Pine Trail, or WPT. This is what is termed a “regional” trail by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and it is strictly for non-motorized traffic south of the Russell Road access. This includes walking, running, bicycling, and rollerblades (north of Russell Road, snowmobiles are allowed to use the WPT). The trail is paved throughout its 4.5 miles in Algoma Township, and is typically 8’-10’ wide. While in Algoma Township, the WPT is a stand-alone non-motorized trail, meaning it is not along a road shoulder or otherwise shared with vehicle traffic.



The White Pine Trail runs through downtown Rockford’s commercial district, along the dam, and connects the City’s local parks and trails network. South of Rockford, it carries Grand Rapids and even Byron Center traffic up through Belmont and Comstock Park. North of Rockford it connects to Cedar Springs, where the trail goes along Cedar Springs’ commercial district, as well as right near the new library and music bandshell. It is paved up to Sand Lake. The White Pine Trail is also part of the North Country Trail network.

Type 2: Local Trail. A “local trail” is a trail typically within a park, or a trail within defined boundaries. Algoma Sports Park has approximately 9/10th of a mile of paved local trail, in the form of a loop within the park and a trail bisecting the park. Local trails can be 5’-8’ in width, as they do not experience the traffic, particularly bike traffic that regional trails such as the White Pine Trail, do. There is also a local trail within River’s Edge/Wynalda Dog Park, also nearly 1 mile long. The trail within this park is crushed limestone, 8’ wide, and not connected to any other larger trail network.



The limestone local trail at River’s Edge and the asphalt walking path at Algoma Sports Park are examples of local trails within parks. These provide connections within destinations as well as exercise routes.

Type 3: Full Paved Shoulder Bike Lane:

A fully-paved, 8'-wide shoulder is an effective way to add bicycle access to communities by using existing road infrastructure to double as bicycle thoroughfares. In Algoma Township, 13 Mile Road has extra-wide paved shoulders that can safely be used for bicycle traffic. From Wolverine Boulevard (Northland Drive) on the east to Algoma Avenue on the west, both sides of the road have large (6' or wider) paved shoulders. This is a distance of 3 miles.



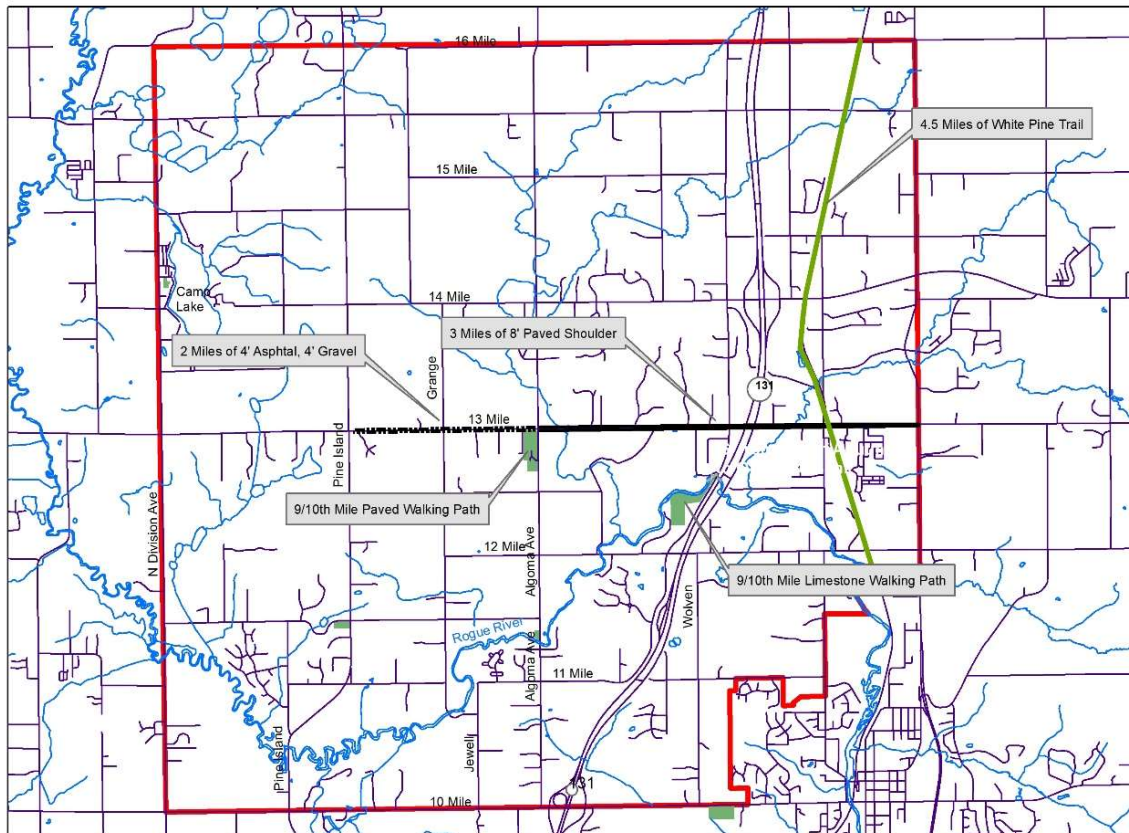
Type 4: 4' Paved; 4' Graded Asphalt:

This non-motorized trail type includes a 4'-wide paved asphalt shoulder, with another 4'-wide crushed asphalt shoulder, graded flat for additional space. While not as ideal for bike traffic as a fully-paved 8'-wide shoulder, this version does provide significant space for bicycle traffic – including a relatively safe space for a bicycle to exit the roadway (into the crushed asphalt) if needed. 1.5 Miles of 13 Mile Road are finished this way, from Algoma Avenue on the east to Pine Island on the West.



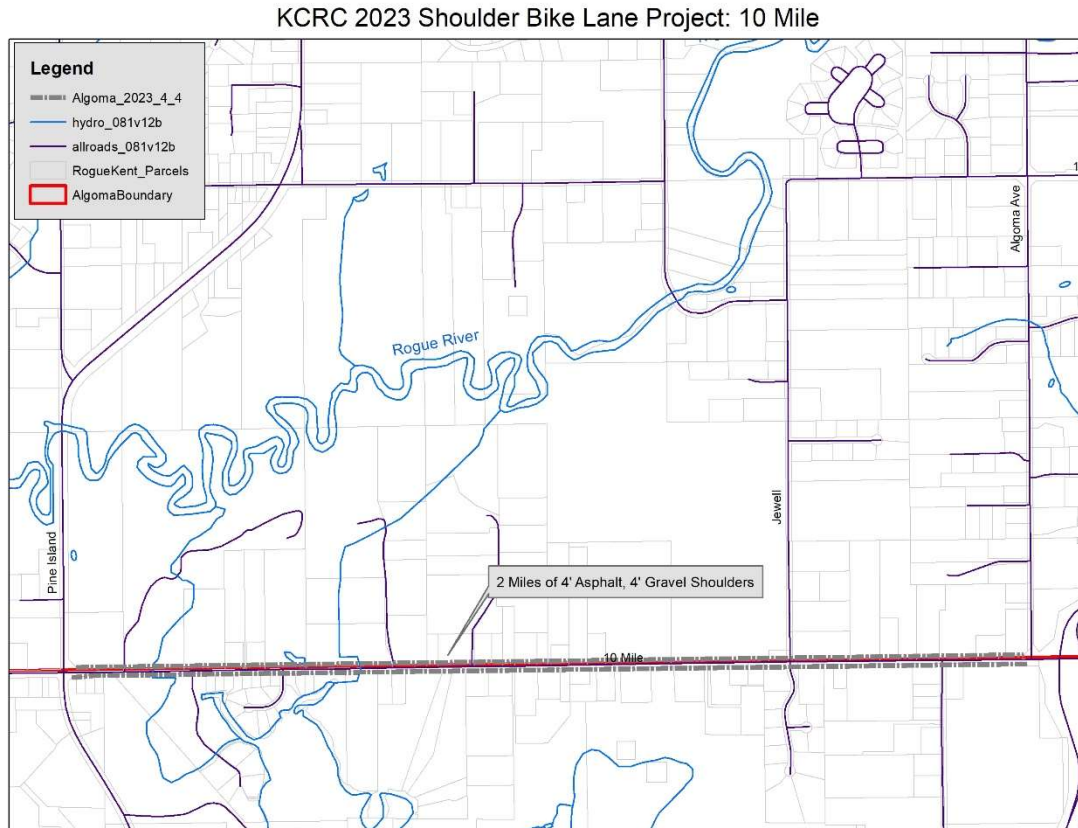
A summary of the Types of non-motorized trails is as follows. There is a regional NMT, the White Pine Trail. There are several local trails, such as the limestone path in River's Edge Park, and the paved exercise trail at Algoma Sports Park. And there are a couple of variations of bike lanes along road shoulders. Below is a map that details the current significant non-motorized trails in Algoma Township.

Algoma Township: Non-Motorized Trails, 2022



2.0 Planned Non-Motorized Trails Development in Algoma Township

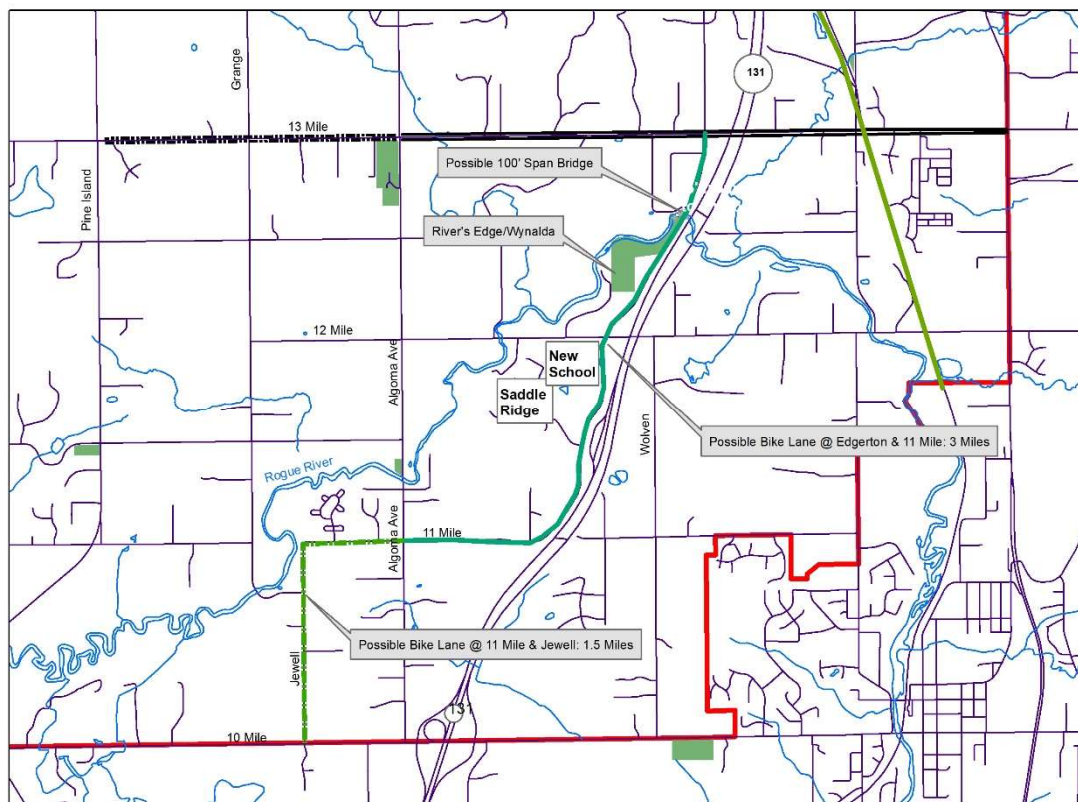
The Kent County Road Commission (KCRC) has plans to widen the lanes and shoulders along 10 Mile Road, from Algoma Avenue on the east to Pine Island on the west. This is a distance of 2 miles. According to Wayne Harrall, P.E. from KCRC, the shoulder widening will result in a similar bike lane to that on 13 Mile west of Algoma Ave – which is a 4' paved, 4' crushed asphalt.



3.0 Possible Future Non-Motorized Trails, Bike Lanes, & Bridges

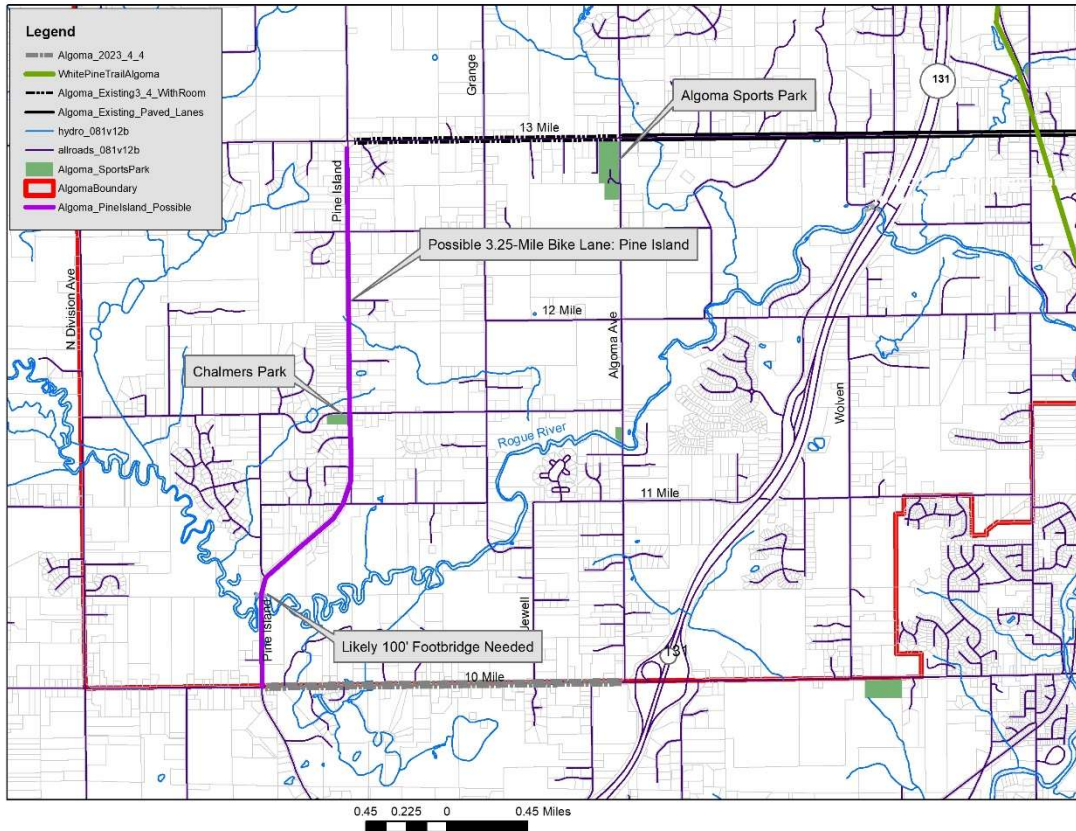
Edgerton/11Mile/Jewell: In the past 7 years, Algoma Township has developed River's Edge Park & now the Wynalda Dog Park. Nearly ½ mile of river frontage is owned by Algoma Township at this location, with over 28 acres of land. Within the park there is a limestone footpath nearly 1 mile in length, as well as a dog park and playground. Near River's Edge is the Valley View development with over 20 houses. South across 12 Mile off of Edgerton is the Saddle Ridge Development, with over 150 homes and a new school in development. Since there are already large paved lanes on 13 Mile, a bicycle route south on Edgerton would connect these developments, River's Edge Park, and the White Pine Trail. The bridge on Edgerton over the Rogue River is old and narrow, and a footbridge might be necessary near that location. In 2023, the Kent County Road Commission plans to add shoulder lanes on 10 Mile. If connection to these lanes were desirable, then continuing west along 11 Mile, and south on Jewell, would accomplish that. The map below shows these two potential routes:

Possible New Bike Lane Route, w/ Bridge: Edgerton, 11 Mile, Jewell



Pine Island: As mentioned above, the Kent County Road Commission plans to augment the road shoulders along 10 Mile between Algoma Avenue and Pine Island in the summer of 2023 with 4'-wide asphalt shoulders, with an additional 4'-wide gravel shoulders next to that. Since 13 Mile Road has bike lanes west all the way to Pine Island, a connecting trail along Pine Island might be another desired option for the community. The map below illustrates a 3.25-Mile possible trail addition. The bridge over the Rogue River on Pine Island is also narrow, and would likely need a minimum 100'-span footbridge, similar to Edgerton Avenue.

Possible New Bike Lane Route, w/ Bridge: Pine Island



4.0 Bridges

SPE researched pedestrian bridge costs for this project. Wayne Harrall, P.E. from Kent County Roads, referred SPE to a supplier that the county knows of called Contech Engineered Solutions. This company makes engineered foot bridges 10'-wide, and either 100' long or 150' long. Since two of the possible non-motorized trail routes proposed through Algoma Township would likely involve pedestrian bridges, pricing information for bridges was deemed relevant.

Ryan Loprich of Contech provided us with a couple of options. A 10'-wide, 100'-long pedestrian bridge, rated for 10,000 pounds of weight, delivered to Rockford area is \$145,000. That only includes the bridge – design, permitting, and installation would likely bring the complete cost close to double that.

A 10'-wide, 150'-long pedestrian bridge, with the same duty rating, would be \$265,000 delivered. Design, permitting, and installation would be additional atop that cost.

Depending on the width of the floodway at the Edgerton and Pine Island sites, a 100'-wide bridge may be sufficient at both locations. A photo of a similar pedestrian bridge, provided by Contech, is below:



5.0 Costs & Funding

5.1: TAP: SPE attended an online seminar provided by the Grand Valley Metro Council (GVMC) regarding non-motorized trails funding, and approved projects in West Michigan. SPE also had several tele-conferences and multiple emails with Laurel Joseph of GVMC. The following is a synopsis of the seminar and these conversations.

There are significant funds that have been allocated for non-motorized trails development in Michigan. Specifically, the Federal Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) is federal moneys earmarked for non-motorized trails. According to conversations with Joseph, this program requires a 30% match from the applicant – although in some instances this can be reduced to 20%.

The Transportations Alternatives Program projects are submitted for funding every three years, and the 2023-2026 projects have already been submitted and are under review. So the next time a municipality can submit a project for funding to this program would be at the end of 2024 and the beginning of 2025, for the 2026-2029 cycle. Within the Transportation Alternatives program is a Carbon Reduction program as well, which is on the same type of 3-year schedule.

Laurel Joseph mentioned that a municipality can submit a project, including an estimated budget, to Grand Valley Metro Council’s “unfunded needs” list anytime. There is also a State Transportation Alternatives Program, which has significantly more moneys available - however they typically require 50% match.

5.2: Kent County Road Commission: A more direct and possibly quicker way to add non-motorized bicycle lanes to roadsides is to cost-share with the KCRC on a NMT project. This would likely mean Algoma would contribute significant funding to a project which is likely planned for years in the future. These projects are often on roads that are in significant disrepair – roads the KCRC plans to resurface already. A project like this could develop with cooperation with Wayne Harrall, P.E. of Kent County Roads.

Algoma could provide direction insofar as where the Township would like future NMT’s, discuss with Wayne Harrall from KCRC, see if timelines and planned resurfacing schedules line up, and discuss matching costs. Algoma could also solicit matching fund assistance from several local non-profit trails groups, such as the Friends of the White Pine Trail and others.

5.3: As mentioned prior, KCRC plans to improve 10 Mile Road between Algoma Avenue and Pine Island in 2023. A 4’ paved, 4’ gravel shoulder will be added (similar to 13 Mile between Algoma Ave and Pine Island). If Algoma Township wished to have the entire shoulder paved (8’ wide paved shoulder, similar to 13 Mile between the White Pine Trail and Algoma Ave), then the Township could cost share with KCRC to cover the difference (Harrall estimates \$80,000 - \$100,000). Algoma would provide matching funds but would have no responsibility for maintenance. Harrall says that Algoma should decide whether or not to pay for this trail this winter, earlier the better, because bid packages for the project will go out over the winter.

6.0 Possibilities & Recommendations

- 6.1** As mentioned above, the easiest and quickest Non-Motorized Trail for Algoma to help develop in the short-term would be the 10-Mile project. Wayne Harrall from Kent County Road Commission says the KCRC plans to increase the shoulders on 10-Mile between Algoma and Pine Island to a 4' paved, 4' graded gravel shoulder in summer 2023. He estimates that an additional \$80,000-\$100,000 in funding could get the north side of the road (Algoma's side) paved to a full 8'. This would be similar to 13 Mile Road between Wolverine Boulevard and Algoma Avenue. This would involve payment from Algoma Township to Kent County Road Commission, and maintenance completed by the KCRC. Algoma only contributes financially.
- 6.2** Algoma could also explore partnering with the KCRC on paving a shoulder bike lane on Edgerton Avenue south from 13 Mile Road to River's Edge Park, south of 12 Mile to Saddle Ridge and the new elementary school and even further south. With a connector trail through River's Edge Park to Valley View, this could allow significant foot and bike traffic from residential neighborhoods, a school, to the new park and even to the White Pine Trail. Since the bridge on Edgerton over the Rogue River is narrow, a 100' span footbridge west of the bridge on the old abutment could connect this route nicely, while providing scenic views of the Rogue River for pedestrians. A TAP grant, a mixture of private foundation investment, and/or a partnership with Kent County Road Commission could make this happen.
- 6.3** Algoma could also explore Non-motorized trail development on Pine Island, which would make the western edge of the Township connected to the northern end (13 Mile) and the southern end (10 Mile), both of which will have NMT's by the end of 2023.

7.0 Contact List: Partners, Non Profits, Foundations, etc

Wayne Harrall, Kent County Road Commission:

Email: wharrall@kentcountyroads.net
Cell: 616-262-0668

Matt Acker, The Rise of Gravel Cycling (avid bike enthusiast)

John Morrison, West Michigan Trails & Greenways Coalition:

Website: <https://www.wmtrails.org/>
Email: info@wmtrails.org
Phone: 616-970-8731

Brian Dokter, West Michigan Mountain Biking Alliance:

Website: <https://www.wmmba.org/trails>
Email: (contact via website)

Dave Heyboer, Friends of the White Pine Trail:

Website: <http://www.whitepinetrail.com/welcome>
Email: davidjheyboer@gmail.com

Paul Griffiths, Friends of the White Pine Trail:

Phone: 231-250-1173

Laurel Joseph, Grand Valley Metro Council (GVMC):

Website: <https://www.gvmc.org/>
Email: laurel.joseph@gvmc.org
Phone: 616-776-7610

Frey Foundation:

Website: <https://freyfdn.org/>
Phone: 616-451-0303



Appendix C: Adoption and Transmittal Documentation

1. 30-Day Draft Review Notice
2. Public Hearing Notice as Published in the Grand Rapids Press
3. Minutes from the February 13, 2024 Public Hearing
4. Township Board Adoption Resolution
5. Copy of Letter Transmitting Adopted Plan to Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
6. Copy of Letter Transmitting Adopted Plan to West Michigan Regional Planning Commission
7. Community Park and Recreation Plan Certification Checklist

Note: Post-Completion Self-Certification Reports are not included in the recreation plan Appendix. These reports have been submitted, as required, to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Algoma Township Public Notice

Parks and Recreation Plan 2024-2028 Notice of Draft Plan Availability for Review

Notice is hereby given that a copy of the draft Algoma Township Parks and Recreation Plan 2024-2028 is available for public review at the Township Hall, located at 10531 Algoma Avenue, NE, Rockford, Michigan, 49341, as well as on the Township website at www.algotwp.org.

A Parks and Recreation Plan assists the Township in identifying recreation needs. The plan will serve as a guide to document priorities for improvements. When approved by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), the plan qualifies the Township for recreation grants, which are administered through the MDNR. The proposed plan includes a community description, an overview of the administrative structure of the Township, an inventory of existing facilities, a recreation needs analysis, goals and objectives, and an action program for the next five years.

A public hearing will be held by the Algoma Township Board of Trustees on Tuesday, January 23, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., at the Township Hall, located at the above noted address. All interested persons may attend the public hearing and comment on the draft Parks and Recreation Plan. Written comments concerning the draft Parks and Recreation Plan may be submitted to the Township, to the attention of the Township Clerk, up to the time of the public hearing.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, those with disabilities may notify the Township Clerk within 24 hours of said meeting if needing special accommodations to allow meaningful attendance.

Notice Posted: 12/21/2023 Time: 10:00 a.m.
This notice is posted in compliance with the State of Michigan's Open Meetings Act, Public Act 267 of 1976, as amended, and MCLA 41.72(2)(3).

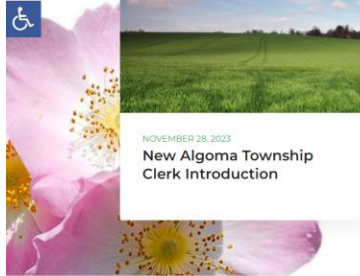


On December 21, 2023, I, Tim Spitler the
Algoma Township Clerk, posted the Public
Notice of Parks and Recreation Plan 2024-2028
Notice of Draft Plan Availability for Review

Tim Spitler
Algoma Twp. Clerk

NEWS & EVENTS

SEE ALL



NOVEMBER 28, 2023

New Algoma Township Clerk Introduction



DECEMBER 12, 2023

2024-2028 Park and Recreation Draft Master Plan



NOVEMBER 30, 2023

Master Plan Survey Results are IN!

SHARE

A4 TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2024 THE GRAND RAPIDS PRESS

**PUBLIC NOTICE
CITY OF WYOMING
NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST**

The Public Accuracy Test of the system to be used for the February 27, 2024 Presidential Primary Election in the City of Wyoming, Michigan will be held on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers at 1155 28th Street SW, Wyoming, Michigan. The public accuracy test is conducted to demonstrate that the program and equipment that will be used to tabulate the results of the election counts the votes in the manner prescribed by law.

Kelli A. Vanderberg, Wyoming City Clerk

**ALGOMA TOWNSHIP PUBLIC NOTICE
Parks & Recreation Master Plan**

Let it hereby be known that on **Tuesday, February 13th 2024 at 7:00pm**, the Algoma Township Board will hold Public Comments regarding the adoption of the draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

A Parks and Recreation Plan assists the Township in identifying recreation needs. The plan will serve as a guide to document priorities for improvements. When approved by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), the plan specifies the Township for recreation grants, which are administered through the MDNR. The proposed plan includes a community description, an overview of the administrative structure of the Township, an inventory of existing facilities, a recreation needs analysis, goals and objectives, and an action program for the next 5 years.

A copy of the draft Algoma Township Parks and Recreation Plan 2024-2028 is available for public review at the Township Hall, located at 10331 Algoma Ave NE, Rockford MI 49341, as well as on the Township website at www.algotwp.org. All interested persons may attend the public hearing and comment on the draft Parks and Recreation Plan. Written comments concerning the draft Parks and Recreation Plan may be submitted to the Township, to the attention of Township Clerk Spiller, up to the time of the public hearing.

Tim Spiller
Algoma Township Clerk

This notice is posted in compliance with the State of Michigan's Open Meetings Act, Public Act 247 of 1976, as amended and MCL 41.72(1)(3), POSTED ON: January 24th, 2024 @ 11:55am - Algoma Township Offices

**Introducing to
Passage
Meditation**
as taught by Eknath Eastwaran

**Sunday,
February 4th
12:30pm-1:30pm**

**Fountain Street Church
24 Fountain St. NE, Grand Rapids 49503**

**Interested adults welcome.
616-439-8765 | BMCM.ORG**

**GRAND RAPIDS
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GRAND RAPIDS, KENT COUNTY
NOTICE OF POSTING**

A proposed ordinance to amend the Grand Rapids Charter Township Zoning Ordinance has been posted in the office of the Township Clerk, 1836 East Berlin Avenue, N.E., for review by the public. The proposed ordinance would amend provisions of the zoning Ordinance pertaining to accessory buildings and shared driveways and private roads.

The proposed ordinance has also been posted on the Township's website, www.grandrapids.org. It will be considered on first reading by the Township Board at its meeting on February 6, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Dated: 01/30/2024

**TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GRAND RAPIDS**

**ALGOMA TOWNSHIP
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

In accordance with Act 110 of 2006, as amended, the Algoma Township Planning Commission held public hearing on January 15, 2023 and the Township Board conducted a Reading on January 15, 2024 on the following rezoning:

Property Owner: Denise Viger, Daniel May and Janice Beuschel
Applicant: Dan Sarril of Oak Valley Investments
Resoning Location: To rezone a 30-acre property addressed 7436 Yrton Ave NW 4109 12200030 from A-Agricultural to RA, Rural Agricultural

Motion by Carles, with support from Schweitzer, to approve the requested rezoning from A, Agricultural to RA, Rural Agricultural for the map changes. Motion carried 7-0 with one abstention as follows:

AYE: NAY: 0

Greg Madura, Supervisor Chisty Mitchell, Clerk

**ALGOMA TOWNSHIP
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

In accordance with Act 110 of 2006, as amended, the Algoma Township Planning Commission held public hearing on June 15, 2023 and the Township Board conducted a Reading on January 12, 2024 on the following rezoning:

Property Owner and Applicant: Phillip & Judy Schwallier
Resoning Location: To rezone an 8.23-acre portion of property addressed 956 9 Mile Road NW, 41-091 1236-001 from C2, Commercial to RA, Rural Agricultural

Motion by Schwallier with support from Ahl, to approve the requested rezoning from C2, Commercial to RA, Rural Agricultural for the map changes. Motion carried 7-0 with one abstention as follows:

AYE: NAY: 0

Greg Madura, Supervisor Chisty Mitchell, Clerk

**CITY OF WYOMING
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The Wyoming Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on February 19, 2024 in the Council Chamber at Wyoming City Hall, 1155 28th St. SW, to consider the following request:

APPLICATION NUMBER: PZY/2024-001
APPLICANT: Utility Supply & Construction
LOCATION: 2131 Beverly Ave SW, Parcel Number 41-17-10-203-004

The applicant is requesting a variance for Section 90328(2), which requires one interior landscape island for every 50 parking spaces or fraction thereof.

The applicant is requesting to eliminate this requirement for their proposed parking lot.

This hearing is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the business of the Board will permit and will be held in the Council Chamber located on the main floor of City Hall.

Communications received will be considered at the public hearing. Please forward written communications to City of Wyoming Zoning Board of Appeals, Attn: Building Inspection Department, P.O. 905, Wyoming, MI 49509. Emails can be sent to info@wyoming.gov.

Don Sarril
Secretary

**TOWNSHIP OF ALGOMA
COUNTY OF KENT, MICHIGAN
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS ON RESOLUTION TO REQUEST A
SPECIAL LOCAL ORDINANCE FOR A NO-WAKE ZONE ON CAMP LAKE**

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Township Board of the Township of Algoma will hold a public hearing on February 13, 2024 at 7:00 p.m., at the Algoma Township Hall, 10331 Algoma Avenue NE, Rockford, Michigan 49341, pursuant to Section 80112 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, on a proposed resolution that would request that the Michigan Department of Natural Resources hold a public hearing and conduct such investigations that it deems necessary to recommend a special local ordinance that would establish a no-wake zone on Camp Lake from one hour after sunset until 10 am on the following day.

The proposed resolution is on file and may be examined at the offices of the Algoma Township Clerk, 10331 Algoma Avenue NE, Rockford, Michigan 49341, during Township office hours. Payment of notices may be made at the Township office. A copy of the resolution may be obtained from the Township Office, at the above stated address, up to the time of the public hearing.

Dated: January 30, 2024

**TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF ALGOMA**

**CITY OF KENTWOOD
NOTICE OF PROGRAM TESTING
FOR THE FEBRUARY PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Public Accuracy Test for the February Presidential Primary Election has been scheduled for Tuesday, February 8, 2024 at 10:00 A.M. at Kentwood City Hall, 4900 Breen Avenue SE, Kentwood, Michigan.

The Public Accuracy Test is conducted to demonstrate that the computer programs used to record and count the votes cast at the election meet the requirements of the law.

**NOTICE REGARDING ABSENTEE VOTING
FOR THE FEBRUARY PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION**

The last day to take an absentee ballot out of the City Clerk's Office is **Saturday, February 24, 2024 from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.**

The last day to vote by absentee ballot is **Monday, February 26, 2024 up to 4:00 P.M.** (person must appear on the City Clerk's Office).

The City Clerk's Office is located at 4900 Breen Avenue SE, Kentwood.

Don Kasunic, Kentwood City Clerk

**ALPINE TOWNSHIP
KENT COUNTY, MICHIGAN
NOTICE OF ORDINANCE ADOPTION AND
SYNOPSIS OF ORDINANCE**

PUBLIC NOTICE IS GIVEN that at a regular meeting of the Township Board for Alpine Township held at Township Hall on January 15, 2024, the Township Board for Alpine Township adopted Ordinance No. 2401 entitled:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ALPINE TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE, ORDINANCE NO. 89-9, AS AMENDED, CHAPTER V, AGRICULTURAL ZONE SECTION 5.00 USE REGULATIONS AND CHAPTER VI, RURAL AGRICULTURAL ZONE, SECTION 6.02, USE REGULATIONS

Section 2 Amendment of Chapter V, Section 5.02. Amends replaced lot with farm and specified lot size requirement is now a minimum of two (2) acres

Section 3 Amendment of Chapter VI, Section 6.02. Amends replaced lot with farm and specified any building or structure constructed or converted and after January 1, 2024 for the use of zoning, packaging or processing farm produce shall be located on a lot in compliance with the provisions of Section 6.05, Area Regulations.

Section 5 Effective Date. Provides that this Ordinance will become effective upon the expiration of seven (7) days following the publication of lawful notice of its adoption in a newspaper of general circulation in the Township.

THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE EFFECTIVE THROUGHOUT ALPINE TOWNSHIP.

A TRUE AND COMPLETE COPY OF THIS ORDINANCE MAY BE OBTAINED, INSPECTED, COPIED, OR REVIEWED AT THE TOWNSHIP CLERK'S OFFICE.

Location: 5255 Alpine Ave NW, Comstock Park, MI 49321
Hours of operation: 8 AM - 5 PM Monday through Friday
Contact information: 616.784.1262 or c.mitchell@alpine-twp.org

Respectfully submitted,
Chisty Mitchell
Township Clerk

**ALPINE TOWNSHIP
KENT COUNTY, MICHIGAN
REZONING #24-02**

In accordance with Act 110 of 2006, as amended, the Alpine Township Planning Commission held public hearing on December 21, 2023 and the Township Board conducted a Reading on January 15, 2024 on the following rezoning:

Property Owner: Denise Viger, Daniel May and Janice Beuschel
Applicant: Dan Sarril of Oak Valley Investments
Resoning Location: To rezone a 30-acre property addressed 7436 Yrton Ave NW 4109 12200030 from A-Agricultural to RA, Rural Agricultural

Motion by Carles, with support from Schweitzer, to approve the requested rezoning from A, Agricultural to RA, Rural Agricultural for the map changes. Motion carried 7-0 with one abstention as follows:

AYE: NAY: 0

Greg Madura, Supervisor Chisty Mitchell, Clerk

**CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

Public hearings on the following code interpretation will be held by the Grand Rapids Board of Zoning Appeals in the Public Hearing Room, 2nd Floor, 1120 Monroe Avenue NW on Thursday, February 15, 2024, at the time shown, or soon thereafter:

1:00 pm - 2615 Plainfield Ave NE - Appeal - P-24-2024-0001
A code interpretation to determine whether the presence of an assembly or fundraising use on the property at 2615 Plainfield Ave NE is permitted up to four (4) days, four (4) times in twelve (12) months.

Interested parties are invited to examine the proposed appeal. Plans and applications may be viewed online at www.grandrapids.org. Written comments will be accepted by email until 9:00 AM on the day of the hearing.

Byron Rabault
Chairperson
Grand Rapids Board of Zoning Appeals

Note: if you are the manager or owner of a multi-tenant residential, commercial, or industrial building receiving this notice, please post the notice near the primary building entrance.

**Byron Township
Kent County, Michigan
Synopsis**

A regular meeting of the Byron Township Board was held on Monday, January 22, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. at the Byron Township Offices.

Members Present: Dan Lilema, Peggy Sarter, Becky Beld, Tom Hoeker, Jay DeKline, Mary Lina, Sam Ferguson

Members Absent:

Public Comment was received.

The following actions were taken:

- Approval of the Consent Agenda, including Resolution 44-23-24 (Brian Dierme Rose)
- Approval of MyCon, Inc to compile the pathway project from Burlington Ave. to Whittaker Park in the amount of \$192,970 USD.
- Approval of Corporate Technologies to accept the I.I. proposal for the township and Community Center.
- Approval of Resolution 47-23-24 to adopt policies and guidelines for Property Exemption from Property Taxes.
- Approval of Resolution 48-23-24 to authorize Board of Review letters and virtual appeals.

The meeting was adjourned.

Peggy Sarter, Byron Township Clerk

The next regular meeting of the Board is **Monday, February 12, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.** at 8083 Byron Center Ave. SW. A full copy of these minutes can be viewed at the Byron Township Clerk's Office or on the township website at www.byrontownship.org.

**CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS
ASSESSMENT ROLL
WILL BE COMPLETED
FEBRUARY 1, 2024**

The roll lists the tentative assessments on all real and personal property within the City of Grand Rapids for the year 2024. Assessments can be viewed online at www.grandrapids.org.

Anyone who disagrees with the assessment on his or her property may file objections by writing to: City Assessor, Room 340, City Hall, 300 Monroe Avenue NW, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503. Such objections must be specific and must be made in writing to the Assessor between February 5 and February 16, 2024. Property owners may appeal by email to assessor@grandrapids.org. All appeals must be received in the Assessor's Office by 5 pm on February 16th. There are no exceptions to this deadline.

After completion of the review and corrections to the assessment roll, the Assessor will sign and certify the roll and deliver said roll to the Board of Review.

Any person who has complained of an assessment in writing as described above will be notified of the Assessor's decision and be entitled to appeal to the Board of Review within 30 days, March 6, 2024.

Real Estate Factor
The estimated 2024 equalization factor for real property assessments in the City of Grand Rapids will be as follows:

Commercial Property	1.0000
Industrial Property	1.0000
Residential Property	1.0000

Personal Property Factor
The estimated 2024 equalization factor for personal property assessments in the City of Grand Rapids is 1.0000

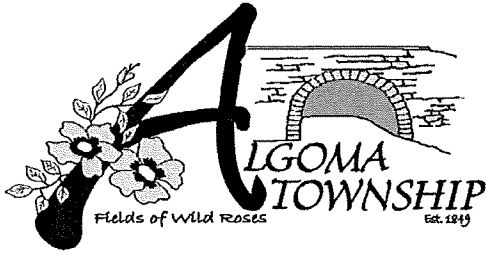
Paula Jaeger
City Assessor

**The forecast
you can
count on.**

For the weather
you can't.

Your weather at
mlive.com/weather

MLIVE



MINUTES
Township Board Meeting
Tuesday, February 13, 2024
Township Hall, 10531 Algoma Ave. NE,
Rockford, MI 49341
7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Kristina Abrigo, Tim Spittler, Kevin Green, Elizabeth Johnson, Gordon Pickerd, and James Powell

ABSENT: Steve Ridders

OTHERS PRESENT: Planning/Zoning Administrator Washburn, Fire Chief Guerra, Deputy Fire Chief Falk, Fire Fighter DeVries, Community Police Deputy Tilson, Deputy Clerk McCann, Historical Society President Sjogren, Planning Commission Vice Chair Newberger, CASSA Rep. Lee Cornelius, Kirk Scharphorn Jr & Eric Thompson from PCI and many other residents.

Supervisor Green called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the US Flag.

CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / ROLL CALL

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Gail Crapsey, 4100 Wrens Way Ct., stated she had met with KC Health Department regarding her PFAS issue. She still has no resolution and asked Supervisor Green if they can reappeal to the Township Board for the well exception. Supervisor Green said Deputy Supervisor Sheeran and himself would reach out to her later this week.

Historical Society President Sjogren stated this year is Algoma Townships 175th birthday and the Historical Society are planning a celebration at the Chalmer Building, March 15th at 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM. Currently, the Historical Society is working on a mural project for the outside of the building. They are proposing to install three panels for a wall mural on the east side of the building depicting the history of the township. They society would pay all costs associated with this project. The society does not own the building, the township does and they would need an approval to move forward. Supervisor Green asked what the timeline was and Sjogren stated they are hoping by the end of summer. It was decided to place this subject to the March Township Board meeting for consideration.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Clerk Spitler requested an agenda modification to place IT Solutions on the agenda. The motion was made by Trustee Pickerd and seconded by Trustee Powell.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

FISCAL YEAR 2024/24 BUDGET HEARING:

Supervisor Green opened the public hearing and asked if anyone wanted to make comments on the proposed budget. No comments were made so the public hearing was closed.

CAMP LAKE NO WAKE

Supervisor Green opened the public hearing and asked if anyone wanted to make comments on the proposed Camp Lake No Wake. No comments were made so the public hearing was closed

NEW BUSINESS

ROAD PROJECTS FY 2024/25

Supervisor Green stated we have two work orders and have reached out early as the township gets a better discount. The following are the requests: Division Avenue.: Fonger Street to 13 Mile Road which would be shared with Sparta Township. Algoma Township would pay 25%, Sparta Township 25% and KC Road Commission pay 50%. Algoma Townships cost \$60,000.00. Fonger Street: Nestor Avenue to Pine Island Drive and Grange Avenue: Fonger Street to Rector Street. Algoma Townships cost \$95,000.00.

Motion to approve the two KC Road Commission work orders for 2024.

Moved By James Powell, Seconded By Tim Spitler

FOR = 6 Kristina Abrigo, Tim Spitler, Kevin Green, Elizabeth Johnson, Gordon Pickerd, and James Powell

AGAINST = 0

ABSTAINED = 0

COI = 0

ABSENT = 1 Steve Rikkers

Motion carried.

BUDGET REVIEW - FY 2024/25

Supervisor Green stated the board was not acting on approving the budget tonight, but are giving residents a chance to look at the proposed budget and resolution. The board will approve the FY 2024/25 budget at the March meeting.

NEW BUILDING INSPECTION SERVICES-PROFESSIONAL CODE
INSPECTIONS INCLUDING RES #8-24 BUILDING INSPECTION FEES, RES.
#9-24 MECHANICAL INSPECTION FEES, RES. #10-24 PLUMBING

INSPECTION FEES AND RES. #11-24 ELECTRICAL INSPECTION FEES:

Supervisor Green stated they are looking into hiring a new building inspection services and have been for some time. Planning & Zoning Administrator Washburn stated she was asking the board for authorization to contract with PCI for next fiscal year. This would include building, electrical, mechanical and plumbing inspections. She and some of the Algoma Township staff have met with PCI's two managing partners Eric Thompson and Kirk Sharporn Jr several times. They are very impressive and have excellent references from other entities that use their services. Supervisor Green asked Eric and Kirk if they would introduce themselves. Eric stated the company had been started by his grandfather and Kirk's father in 1988. Kirk stated they pride themselves by being part of the community and providing great service. They will have office hours here at the Township 4 hours a week. Trustee Powell asked where the company was located and he was informed PCI has 3 offices - Dorr, Hastings and in Jenison and the Dorr office would be the ones servicing the Township. PCI hopes in the future to have an office in this area. Treasurer Abrigo commented she had met with them and thinks it's a good move to contract with PCI and they would bring the Township to the next level with their experience. Supervisor Green mentioned making a small change in the contract regarding planning fees which PCI agreed with as they have planners and zoning employees on staff.

*Motion to approve Professional Code Inspections contract with the Township.
Moved by Treasurer Abrigo, Seconded by Trustee Johnson
FOR = 6 Supervisor Green, Clerk Spitler, Treasurer Abrigo, Trustees Johnson,
Powell and Pickerd
AGAINST = 0
ABSTAINED = 0
ABSENT = 1 Trustee Rikkers
Motion carried.*

*Motion to approve Resolution #8-24 Building Inspection Fee Schedule
Moved by Trustee Pickerd, Seconded by Treasurer Abrigo
FOR = 6 Supervisor Green, Clerk Spitler, Treasurer Abrigo, Trustees Johnson,
Powell and Pickerd
AGAINST = 0
ABSTAINED = 0
ABSENT = 1 Trustee Rikkers
Motion carried. Resolution declared adopted.*

*Motion to approve Resolution #9-24 Mechanical Inspection Fee Schedule
Moved by Trustee Pickerd, Seconded by Trustee Powell
FOR = 6 Supervisor Green, Clerk Spitler, Treasurer Abrigo, Trustees Johnson,
Powell and Pickerd*

AGAINST = 0
ABSTAINED = 0
ABSENT = 1 Trustee Ridders
Motion carried. Resolution declared adopted.

*Motion to approve Resolution #10-24 Plumbing Inspection Fee Schedule
Moved by Trustee Pickerd, Seconded by Treasurer Abrigo
FOR = 6 Supervisor Green, Clerk Spitler, Treasurer Abrigo, Trustees Johnson,
Powell and Pickerd
AGAINST = 0
ABSTAINED = 0
ABSENT = 1 Trustee Ridders
Motion carried. Resolution declared adopted.*

*Motion to approve Resolution #11-24 Electrical Inspection Fee Schedule
Moved by Trustee Pickerd, Seconded by Clerk Spitler
FOR = 6 Supervisor Green, Clerk Spitler, Treasurer Abrigo, Trustees Johnson,
Powell and Pickerd
AGAINST = 0
ABSTAINED = 0
ABSENT = 1 Trustee Ridders
Motion carried. Resolution declared adopted.*

MCKENNA PROPOSAL TO ASSIST ZONING ORDINANCE UPDATE &
ONGOING COMMUNITY SERVICE

Planning & Zoning Administrator Washburn stated currently they are going over the Master Plan with the Planning Commission and have a draft coming out to be reviewed by the PC at their March meeting. Then next step of this process is to look at our current zoning ordinance. McKenna has already identified some areas that need to be reviewed and possibly amended. We also have a list compiled by the PC prior to going into master planning things they want to be reviewed. McKenna is best positioned to help us, having worked so closely with us through the master plan process and being familiar with this already. They put together this proposal to help us towards the end of master planning. She also pointed out that they are already looking at solar and wind ordinance. Supervisor Green stated he was really happy with this proposal. Treasurer Abrigo commented this was what we spoke about during the budget sessions. She thinks McKenna is doing a great job.

Motion to approve McKenna proposal to assist with Zoning Ordinance update and ongoing Community Service.

Moved By Kristina Abrigo, Seconded By James Powell
FOR = 6 Kristina Abrigo, Tim Spitler, Kevin Green, Elizabeth Johnson, Gordon Pickerd, and James Powell
AGAINST = 0

ABSTAINED = 0

COI = 0

ABSENT = 1 Steve Ridders

Motion carried.

CASSA SOCCER NEW GOALS & NETS

Supervisor Green stated CASSA has asked the Township to replace the goals and nets in the Sports Park. In our current contract, it states the Township would be responsible in replacing both. Lee from CASSA feels if we try and do something different than replacing the goals, he'd be worried about the safety. The new goals Lee selected are really nice and would last the Township a long time. Clerk Spitler commented the current goals in the park were purchased in 2000. Lee stated the current goals are off white and rusted inside. They are a safety issue and they are worried about them falling on the players heads and causing damage. Lee has had experience purchasing wheels for goals at about \$5,000.00 a set which broke within one season. Currently, if you try and move them the center of the goal comes apart which is a liability. CASSA has done their best caring for the goals and nets. There are cheaper goals, but they didn't last as long and were a waste of money. Clerk Spitler asked if CASSA was open to repairing the current goals. He had walked around the goals and sees what Lee is speaking about, but feels it could all be repaired and sandblasted. He thinks the goals we currently have are more heavy duty then the ones selected for purchase. Lee asked if he had spoken with a fabricator about such and Clerk Spitler stated yes. Lee's worried that if we put money into the current goals that it could decline in a year and it would be a waste of money. Trustee Powell agrees with Clerk Spitler regarding repair and thinks purchasing new goals are a lot of money. Trustee Pickerd asked if CASSA was willing to give the board a month to look into cost of repairs. Lee stated they would be willing to wait. Supervisor Green commented they would table this until March meeting.

Motion to table CASSA Soccer New Goals and Nets

Moved By Gordon Pickerd, Seconded By Tim Spitler

FOR = 6 Kristina Abrigo, Tim Spitler, Kevin Green, Elizabeth Johnson, Gordon Pickerd, and James Powell

AGAINST = 0

ABSTAINED = 0

COI = 0

ABSENT = 1 Steve Ridders

Motion carried.

CASSA SOCCER NEW ADDENDUM TO THE AGREEMENT

Supervisor Green stated the CASSA agreement was due for renewal and they decided simplify a few things. The fee's schedule which is now the highest average possible so we will not need to wait on payment and then restroom cleaning - totaling \$2,700.00 a year. There were a few more minor changes. Treasurer Abrigo questioned if the Township was going to be amending the

Little Leagues agreement as well and Supervisor Green stated yes. Lee stated they have a great time at Algoma Sports Park, it's beautiful and they like to call this home.

Motion to approve the CASSA Soccer New Addendum to the Agreement.

Moved By Elizabeth Johnson, Seconded By Tim Spittler

FOR = 6 Kristina Abrigo, Tim Spittler, Kevin Green, Elizabeth Johnson, Gordon Pickerd, and James Powell

AGAINST = 0

ABSTAINED = 0

COI = 0

ABSENT = 1 Steve Rikkers

Motion carried.

SADDLE RIDGE SEWER UPDATE-PLAINFIELD/ALGOMA AGREEMENTS

Supervisor Green briefly stated that Plainfield Township is trying to provide sewer lines to Saddle Ridge as well as the new school. He is hopeful to have more information on the March agenda.

ALGOMA TOWNSHIP PROPERTY MAINTENANCE BID SPECIFICATIONS/APPROVAL FOR LANDSCAPING BIDS

Supervisor Green stated the Parks & Rec Committee was helpful in parting this out. The Township used to hire a landscaping company, but the Fire Department approached us and said they could do the job for the same price or lower. In returned the Fire Department would get a full time fire fighter. The first 2 years the parks looked great, but then it become overwhelming for the Fire Department due to schedule changes. We decided to break down the the job into a maintenance person, what the Fire Department does and what a vendor will do. Currently, he is asking for us to bid out the trimming, weeding, mulching and watering trees (Property Maintenance Specifications). He has budgeted extra just to safe. Supervisor Green asked Parks & Rec Chairman Sjogren if she wanted to give a bit of feedback. She stated the mowing the Fire Department provides is beautiful, but residents are complaining about weeds. We are supposed to have spin trimming around trees, signs, fence lines and buildings. She understands that the Fire Department doesn't have time and we need someone to do the weeding, pruning, install new playground mulch and the new trees need rain sacks. Supervisor Green stated the current Township maintenance employee Matt would be doing the park maintenance; mowing and trash would be done by the Fire Department and then go out for bid for the property maintenance. Fire Chief Guerra apologized to the board about the issue and stated he didn't realize by changing his full time fire fighters schedules it would create an issue for getting work done at the parks. His plan (even last year) was to keep one fire fighter working full time on the parks. He would be dedicated to just the parks and work 40 hours per week. Supervisor Green stated when we decided to try this 4 years ago it was an experiment and now we are trying to tweak it. Trustee Pickerd thinks we should give the Fire Department another year to try. Fire Chief Guerra stated

we should consider going out for bids for all of the lawncare.
Treasurer Abrigo stated we should go over the specifications to make sure they are accurate. ~~before going out for bids.~~ Trustee Johnson stated she liked the idea of getting a quote on all of it so they can piece meal.

*Corrected at Twp Brd Mtg 3/12/2024

Motion to approve the Township getting full lawncare bids
Moved By Elizabeth Johnson, Seconded By James Powell
FOR = 5 Tim Spitler, Kevin Green, Elizabeth Johnson, Gordon Pickerd, and James Powell
AGAINST = 1 Kristina Abrigo
ABSTAINED = 0
COI = 0
ABSENT = 1 Steve Ridders
Motion carried.

CAMP LAKE "NO WAKE" RESOLUTION #04-24

Supervisor Green stated we had Public Hearing on the Camp Lake "No Wake" and asked the board members if they had any questions regarding the resolution. The "No Wake" time would be 1 hour after sunset until 10:00 AM.

Motion to approve Came Lake "No Wake" Resolution #04-24
Moved By James Powell, Seconded By Elizabeth Johnson
FOR = 6 Kristina Abrigo, Tim Spitler, Kevin Green, Elizabeth Johnson, Gordon Pickerd, and James Powell
AGAINST = 0
ABSTAINED = 0
COI = 0
ABSENT = 1 Steve Ridders
Motion carried. Resolution declared adopted.

FIRE DEPARTMENT MERS BENEFIT PLAN RESOLUTION #05-24 AND RESOLUTION #06-24

Supervisor Green stated this was a hybrid plan and they are getting ready for the new 24 hour fire fighters. He was hesitant 4 years ago when the Fire Chief Guerra approached him about it MRES. He informed Fire Chief Guerra that the plan would have to be funded 100%, the risk has to be with the employee, not the employer, the Townships fee would not increase the 10%, whatever is recommended for employees to be 1% more and this plan is all that plus, as an added benefit the employees could contribute to the market themselves. Fire Chief Guerra to inform the board having something like this in place will add to the our longevity to our fire fighters staying with Algoma Twp Fire Department.

Motion to approve Resolution #05-24 MERS Retirement System
Moved by Trustee Johnson, Seconded by Treasurer Abrigo

FOR = 6 Supervisor Green, Clerk Spitler, Treasurer Abrigo, Trustees Johnson, Powell and Pickerd

AGAINST = 0

ABSTAINED = 0

ABSENT = 1 Trustee Rikkers

Motion carried. Resolution declared adopted.

Motion to approve Resolution #06-24 MERS Retirement System Authorized Signatories

Moved by Trustee Johnson, Seconded by Trustee Powell

FOR = 6 Supervisor Green, Clerk Spitler, Treasurer Abrigo, Trustees Johnson, Powell and Pickerd

AGAINST = 0

ABSTAINED = 0

ABSENT = 1 Trustee Rikkers

Motion carried. Resolution declared adopted.

ALGOMA TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN
APPROVAL RESOLUTION #07-24

Supervisor Green stated this was just a formality to adopted the Algoma Township Parks & Recreation Master Plan. There was a small error in posting last month.

Motion to approve Algoma Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan Resolution #07-24

Moved By James Powell, Seconded By Gordon Pickerd

FOR = 6 Kristina Abrigo, Tim Spitler, Kevin Green, Elizabeth Johnson, Gordon Pickerd, and James Powell

AGAINST = 0

ABSTAINED = 0

COI = 0

ABSENT = 1 Steve Rikkers

Motion carried. Resolution declared adopted.

HIRING NEW 24 HOURS SHIFT FIRE FIGHTERS

Fire Chief stated they are ready to go out and hire their 24 hour shift fire fighters. The salary would be between \$54,000 and \$59,100 which will be broken down to a hourly pay, plus over time. The benefits would be the same as the Township employees except the fire fighters would have the MERS plan. Due to the time constraints he would like to push out the start date of the

new fire fighters to May 1st so they could do the hiring at the April Board meeting. Treasurer Abrigo stated this was a better plan by delaying a month instead of rushing the hiring process. Fire Chief asked for permission to start the hiring process.

Motion to start the Hiring New 24 Hours Shift Fire Fighters

Moved By Gordon Pickerd, Seconded By Kristina Abrigo

FOR = 6 Kristina Abrigo, Tim Spitler, Kevin Green, Elizabeth Johnson, Gordon Pickerd, and James Powell

AGAINST = 0

ABSTAINED = 0

COI = 0

ABSENT = 1 Steve Ridders

Motion carried.

REAL I.T. SOLUTIONS

Supervisor Green stated Clerk Spitler requested Real IT Solutions to be added to the agenda. Clerk Spitler handed out information to the board regarding Real IT Solutions. He has had many complaints from the staff regarding our current IT vendor the Township uses. He has witnessed the current IT vendor fixing one problem only to create another one. Clerk Spitler and Supervisor Green have met with Real IT Solutions and have had many conversations. VC3's contract is up for renewal March 1st and he would like to hire Real IT Solutions. They would also be helping the Township set up the live streaming for Township meetings. It's his recommendations that we move forward with Real IT Solutions. They are a little bit more expensive, but we get what we pay for.

Motion to approve Real IT Solutions as the Township's IT Provider

Moved By Elizabeth Johnson, Seconded By Gordon Pickerd

FOR = 6 Kristina Abrigo, Tim Spitler, Kevin Green, Elizabeth Johnson, Gordon Pickerd, and James Powell

AGAINST = 0

ABSTAINED = 0

COI = 0

ABSENT = 1 Steve Ridders

Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (Items tabled or postponed)

None

LEGAL ISSUES

None

CONSENT AGENDA (one motion to approve all or extract item before)

2024 Cemetery Sexton and Lawn Maintenance Contract Renewal-Venmans

2024 Memorial Park Lawn Care Service-Venmans Landscaping Contract
DARE Program Invoice
2024 Sports Park Irrigation Maintenance Constantine - Contract
Janitorial Services-Parks Restrooms FY 2024-Coverall

TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES

Township Board - 09 Jan 2024
Township Board - 23 Jan 2024 - Special Budget Mtg
Township Board - 29 Jan 2024 - Special Budget Mtg

MONTHLY INVOICES

End of Month Invoice Report-Jan 2023
Board Meeting Invoice Report-Feb 2024

TREASURY REPORT

Treasurers Report-Dec 2023
Treasurers Report-Jan 2024
Quarterly Investment Chart-Dec 2023
Striking Taxes-Jan 2024

MONTHLY MINUTES & REPORTS (review)

Planning Commission 10 Jan 2024 - Special Mtg
Building Permit Report-Jan 2024
Community Policing Report-Jan 2024
Fire Department Report-Jan 2024
NKCE Financial Information
Ordinance Enforcement Report-Jan 2024

REPORTS:

Community Police Officer Tilson reported he had FBI training regarding our nationwide spike in "swatting" and fake bomb threats, several investigations, responded to several crash sites, assisted the Algoma Twp Fire Dept. with medical incidents, assisted Gaines Twp with a CRASE presentation and did several Meet & Greets with companies within the Township.

Fire Chief Guerrea reported the new Community Police Officer Tilson had been responding to several of their calls and was very helpful. He is currently working on a grant for SCBA's. They had 14 calls during the last winter storm and most of them were downed powerlines. The Fire Department recently started working in First Due software - we are still working out the glitches. He is looking at renovating the Edgerton Station so the 24 hours fire fighters have

a sleeping quarters and would like feed back from the board.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Clerk Spitler stated the has most of the live stream equipment and should have it functioning by the Townships March meeting. He apologized about the incorrect posting of the Parks & Recreation Master Plan. He been working hard on the up coming February 27th Election. The new Early Voting will be located inside the Township meeting room. He had new signs installed by Matt regarding the Township meetings and Election parking only. He is hopeful this will resolve parking issues come spring throughout the fall.

Treasurer Abrigo stated the deadline to pay winter taxes without penalty is tomorrow so her department has been very busy.

Trustee Johnson commented she had a nice meeting with Deputy Tilson and plans to have another soon.

Supervisor Green stated there were 2 openings for the Wolverine CAG. It's a Federal formed committee to clean up PFAS and he served a few years as well as Trustee Powell.

Trustee Pickerd has been running numbers on how to finance the building project. If anyone has ideas, please talk to him or Supervisor Green.

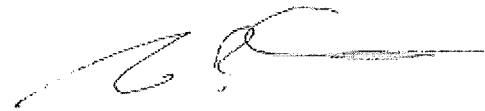
OTHER INFORMATION & CORRESPONDENCE

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 857 pm.

Moved By Gordon Pickerd, Seconded By James Powell

Motion carried.



Tim Splitler
Township Clerk

**ALGOMA TOWNSHIP
PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN 2024-2028
RESOLUTION #07-24**

*Algoma Township
Kent County, Michigan*

WHEREAS, Algoma Township has undertaken a planning process to determine the recreation and natural resource conservation needs and desires of its residents during a five-year period covering the years 2024 through 2028, and

WHEREAS, Algoma Township began the process of developing a recreation plan in accordance with the most recent guidelines developed by the Department of Natural Resources and made available to local communities, and

WHEREAS, residents of Algoma Township were provided with a well-advertised opportunity during the development of the draft plan to complete an opinion survey related to parks and recreation needs and opportunities, and

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

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on February 13, 2024 at the Algoma Township Hall to provide an opportunity for all residents of the planning area to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the recreation plan, and

WHEREAS, Algoma Township has developed the plan as a guideline for improving recreation and enhancing natural resource conservation for Algoma Township, and

WHEREAS, after the public hearing, the Algoma Township Board voted to adopt said parks and recreation plan.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Algoma Township Board hereby adopts the Algoma Township Parks and Recreation Plan, 2024-2028.

Ayes: Green, Abrigo, Spittle, Johnson,

Pickerd, Powell

Nays:

Absent: Ridders

I, Tim Spittle, Algoma Township Clerk, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and original copy of a resolution adopted by the Algoma Township Board at a regular meeting thereof held on the 13th day of February, 2024.



signature



Letter of Transmittal

WT189-02

500 Griswold Street, Suite 2500 • Detroit, MI 48226
313.961.3650 • 313.961.0898 fax • www.wadetrtrim.com

If transmitted items are not as noted, notify writer immediately.

To: Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
678 Front Avenue NW
Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Date: June 3, 2024

Transmitted By: [X] Regular Mail [] Overnight Delivery
[] Hand Delivered
[] Picked Up By:
[] Other:

Re: Algoma Township Parks and Recreation Plan 2024-2028

We are transmitting [] 1 copy of the following:

- [] Certificate for Payment No. [] Discs [] Prints [] Specs.
[] Contract Change Order No. [] Drawings [] Product Literature [] Tracings
[] Construction Change Req. No. [] Field Measure Plans [] Samples [] Work Orders No.
[] Copy of Letter [] Plans [] Shop Drawings
[X] Other: Algoma Township Parks and Recreation Plan 2024-2028

For your: [] Action [] As Requested [] Information [] Review/Comment [] Use
[] Approval [] Distribution [X] Records /Files [] Signature

Remarks: On behalf of Algoma Township, we are forwarding a copy of the recently adopted Algoma Township Parks and Recreation Plan 2024-2028 for your records. A copy of this plan has also been sent to the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission for their records. An electronic copy can be downloaded from the Algoma Township website at www.algomatwp.org. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Job No. AGM6010-01D

By: Adam Young, AICP, Senior Project Manager

cc:



Letter of Transmittal

WT189-02

500 Griswold Street, Suite 2500 • Detroit, MI 48226
313.961.3650 • 313.961.0898 fax • www.wadetrим.com

If transmitted items are not as noted, notify writer immediately.

To: West Michigan Regional Planning Commission
1345 Monroe Ave. NW
Suite 255
Grand Rapids, MI 49505

Date: June 3, 2024

Transmitted By: [X] Regular Mail [] Overnight Delivery
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Job No. AGM6010-01D

By: Adam Young, AICP, Senior Project Manager

cc:



COMMUNITY PARK AND RECREATION PLAN

CERTIFICATION CHECKLIST

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

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

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

PLAN INFORMATION

Name of Plan: Algoma Township Parks and Recreation Plan 2024-2028		
List the community names (including school districts) that are covered under the plan and have passed a resolution adopting the plan.	County	Month and year plan adopted by the community's governing body
Algoma Township	Kent	February 2024

PLAN CONTENT

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

1. COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

2. ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

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

Recreation Authorities or Trailway Commissions Only:

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

3. RECREATION INVENTORY

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

4. RESOURCE INVENTORY (OPTIONAL)

5. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS

6. DESCRIPTION OF THE PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

Description of the Method(s) Used to Solicit Public Input Before or During Preparation of the Plan, including a Copy of the Survey or Meeting Agenda and a Summary of the Responses Received

Copy of the Notice of the Availability of the Draft Plan for Public Review and Comment

Date of the Notice December 21, 2023

Type of Notice Twp Website and Twp Hall Posting

Plan Location Twp Website and at Twp Hall

Duration of Draft Plan Public Review Period (Must be at Least 30 Days) 35 days

Copy of the Notice for the Public Meeting Held after the One Month Public Review Period and Before the Plan's Adoption by the Governing Body(ies)

Date of Notice January 30, 2024

Name of Newspaper Grand Rapids Press

Date of Meeting February 13, 2024

Copy of the Minutes from the Public Meeting

7. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

8. ACTION PROGRAM

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

PLAN ADOPTION DOCUMENTATION

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

1. Official resolution of adoption by the governing body dated: February 13, 2024

2. Official resolution of the n/a Commission or Board, recommending adoption of the plan by the governing body, dated: n/a

3. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to County Planning Agency dated: June 3, 2024

4. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to Regional Planning Agency dated: June 3, 2024

OVERALL CERTIFICATION

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

I hereby certify that the recreation plan for

Algoma Township *includes the required content, as indicated*
(Local Unit of Government)

above and as set forth by the DNR.

Authorized Official for the Local Unit of Government Date

This completed checklist must be uploaded in MiRecGrants.