



Green Oak Charter Township

Livingston County, Michigan

Parks, Recreation & Trails Master Plan

2021 - 2025



Adopted January 6, 2021

Assisted by:



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- Michael Sedlak, Township Clerk
- Susan Daugherty, Township Treasurer
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Chapter 1: Executive Summary

Blessed with an abundance of open space and conveniently located between two major urban centers, Green Oak Charter Township, hereafter referred to as Green Oak or Township, offers its residents a wide variety of recreation options. The Trails and Recreation Committee has been presented an opportunity to create a world class recreation network, taking advantage of existing State and County facilities connected by a statewide network of trails. The Green Oak Parks, Recreation, & Trails Master Plan articulates this vision for parks and recreation in the Township.

The most recent Plan was adopted in 2016. It included both short and long-term goals, some of which were accomplished in the following years, including construction of 1.6 miles of the M-36/Leman Road trail from the Township border to Whitmore Lake Road.

The purpose of the 2021 - 2025 Parks and Recreation Master Plan is to guide recreation planning and development efforts of Green Oak Township over the next five-year period. Once adopted, the Plan is the official document to be used by the community to guide decisions regarding parks and recreation. The revised and updated Plan is intended to meet state standards for community recreation planning which are necessary to gain eligibility for grant programs.

Key Plan Findings

Green Oak residents have access to a wide variety of public and private recreation facilities. While neighborhood-level park development is limited, few communities can match the amount and variety of recreation facilities provided by the Huron Meadows Metropark, Island Lake State Recreation Area, Mike Levine Lakelands State Trail, the Huron River Water Trail, and Legacy Sports Complex, as well as programming options provided by SELCRA and SLARA. These facilities and programs, combined with Green Oak's Colman Park and local paths and trails, equate to outstanding recreation opportunities for Township residents.

It is not surprising, then to see Green Oak residents focused on developing connections to these existing facilities, rather than on developing new parks. Trail development was an overwhelming priority for most residents. For a summary of community input, see the Needs Assessment & Public Participation section beginning on page 16.

What The Plan Contains

The Green Oak Charter Township Parks & Recreation Master Plan follows the format suggested by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) in the Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans (2009, rev. 2018). While the order of the chapters in this plan are different than in previous years, the required elements are in place.

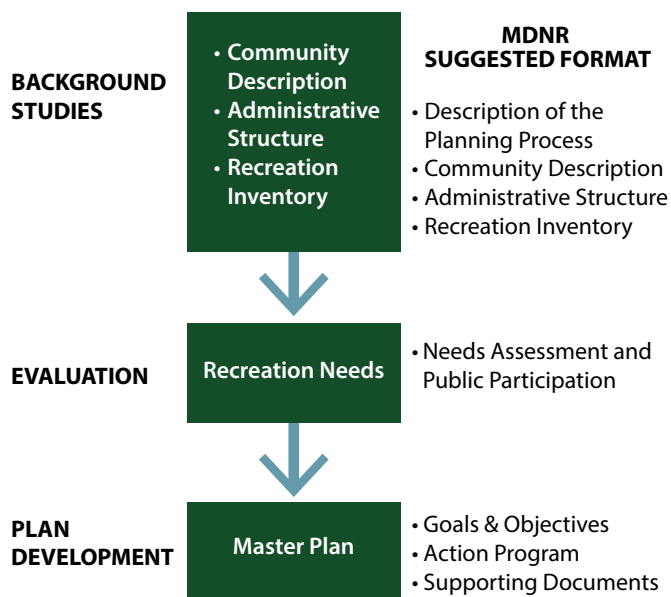
- This plan begins with Green Oak Township's **Goals and Objectives** which outline the overarching desires for Green Oak Charter Township parks, recreation facilities, and programs.
- The **Action Program** chapter outlines an action plan and strategies for implementation.
- The **Public Participation** portion of the plan presents the input received from local officials, staff, and residents. This information helped in formulating the Goals & Objectives and Action Plans.
- **Recreation Inventory** describes the existing parks and recreational facilities of the community as well as those of the state and the region located nearby.
- The **Administrative Structure** chapter includes a description of how parks and recreation services are administered in Green Oak Township, including budget and funding information.
- The **Community Description** chapter provides a summary of both the social and physical characteristics of the community.
- Finally, supporting documents including the resolutions and notices documenting the plan's adoption by Township Board, are included in the appendices to the plan.

Planning Process

The process used to draft the Plan consists of three phases: background studies, evaluation, and plan development. Each is described more fully below:

- Background Studies.** This phase involved gathering and updating data from the U.S. Census, existing documents and plans, and from field observations. The data is organized into three main categories: *community description*, *administrative structure*, and *recreation inventory*.
- Evaluation.** The second phase in the planning process evaluated and analyzed the data compiled to determine recreation facility deficiencies and needs. Public input to assess recreational needs was also sought at this level. A written survey and a public hearing were conducted to receive residents’ opinions and ideas for the park and recreation system. Input from Township officials and members of the Trails and Recreation Committee were also used.
- Plan Development.** The last phase in the process involves Plan development and adoption. Based on the deficiencies and needs, goals and objectives were formulated and a specific action plan developed. Strategies to implement the Plan were also discussed.

The following diagram illustrates the planning process and how it corresponds to the MDNR suggested format described earlier:



Green Oak Charter Township recognizes the importance of public participation in the recreation planning process. This Master plan was developed with input from Township officials, staff, community stakeholders, and residents. The Township conducted an online survey from November 4 to November 22, 2020. The Plan was approved by Green Oak Charter Township’s Trails and Recreation Committee on January 6, 2021. Finally, the Plan was subject to a public hearing following the 30-day public comment period, and prior to the Township Board adoption on January 6, 2021.

Table 1. Input Participation

Participants	Rec. Inventory, Resource Inventory, & Community Description	Public Input	Goal Formulation	Action Program	Public Hearing	Plan Adoption
Township Board		√			√	√
Trails & Parks Committee	√	√	√	√	√	
Community Stakeholders		√			√	
Township Residents		√	√		√	

Chapter 2: Goals & Objectives

The Green Oak Charter Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan identifies goals and objectives for the next five years. They are broad enough to encompass the needs expressed from the public, Township officials and staff, as well as to address the observed deficiencies in the recreation resources based on recognized standards. They also consider demographics, current and anticipated growth and development, the area's physical resources, and parks and recreation trends.

The overall goal for Green Oak Charter Township is to provide a variety of recreational opportunities for people of all ages and abilities that meet the needs and desires of the community.

While the parks and recreation goal of Green Oak Charter Township expresses intent and purpose, the objectives that follow are more specific and address the manner in which the goal may be achieved. Five principal objectives are identified for achieving this goal:

1. Non-motorized connection establishment
2. Park maintenance
3. Park development
4. Recreation programming
5. Administration and communication

Goal # 1: Support and participate in the expansion of the existing non-motorized connection system with an emphasis on connection to Township amenities and to regional trail systems in neighboring communities.

The implementation of shared-use pathways and bike lanes that connect the parks and form a continuous linear park system linking community facilities, schools, parks, and neighborhoods is recognized as a priority for the community. Green Oak Charter Township should continue to support the recommendations established in the 2015 Non-motorized Path Plan as amended in this recreation plan.

- Coordinate with Township Board, Planning Commission, and others to establish the linear park system; and
- Provide access sites and pedestrian/bicycle amenities such as parking, bike racks, benches, picnic facilities, and a wayfinding and interpretive sign system.

Goal # 2: GOAL: Prioritize park maintenance and necessary facility upgrades to ensure the highest possible recreation experience at Green Oak Charter Township parks.

OBJECTIVES:

- Ensure park facilities and equipment are safe, functional, and clean;
- Replace/upgrade park equipment and facilities as needed;
- Ensure safety surfaces under playground equipment meet regulated depth and fall zones;
- Remove barriers to accessibility;
- Refurbish parking and pathway pavement and surfaces;
- Refurbish athletic fields as needed;
- Provide electric power to park to allow introduction of lighting and water facilities;
- Establish a tree management program for the parks prescribing appropriate pruning, pest and disease control, and tree removal/replacement;
- Develop stewardship management plans for the parks including natural areas with the goal of protecting environmentally sensitive areas, restoring natural ecosystems, and providing recreational opportunities for wildlife observation and environmental education.

Goal # 3: Park Development - Continue to develop and expand park facilities to meet the recreation needs of Green Oak Charter Township residents.

There is a desire to continue developing and expanding park facilities that respond to the changing needs of community residents. The establishment of design guidelines for park features would streamline both the design and maintenance of the parks and can create a unique identity for the Township. This would pertain to the design of architectural structures such as picnic pavilions, portable restroom enclosures, as well as site furnishings such as benches, signs, and other.

OBJECTIVES:

- Develop land that has been donated to the Township with a focus on providing amenities desired by community residents;
- Acquire new properties which offer unique recreational opportunities or which provide park access to underserved portions of the community.
- Work with developers to incorporate park areas into new residential developments.

Goal # 4: GOAL: Community Center - Continue to investigate the feasibility and cost/benefits of erecting, operating, and maintaining a community center adjacent to the Township Hall facilities.

OBJECTIVES:

- Communicate with Township residents to determine the desire and need for a community center facility;
- Pursue alternate sources of funding including grants and donations

Goal # 5: GOAL: Recreation Programming - Continue to monitor existing regional authority recreation programs and services and evaluate implementation of the Township's own recreational programming system.

OBJECTIVES:

- Encourage health and wellness;
- Develop programs that build community;
- Encourage high recreation program participation;
- Continue to collaborate with the schools and other recreation providers to share facilities, avoid duplication, and provide recreation opportunities; and
- Expand and develop new programs to respond to residents' interests, such as senior and education programs.

Green Oak Charter Township must continually monitor and evaluate regional programming opportunities to ensure that community residents continue to have a variety of high quality programming options. If necessary, the Township may choose to offer their own programming options, especially in conjunction with the operation of a community center, or alternately may consider contracting those services out to another recreational authority.

Goal # 6: GOAL: Administration and Communication - Enhance communications and promote financial sustainability

Improving communications in Green Oak Charter Township can yield more effective recreation services that maximize the area's recreation potential. A means of generating revenues through grants, sponsorships, and donations where possible should continue to be a priority to provide park projects.

OBJECTIVES:

- Continue to utilize Constant Contact, Facebook, Twitter, and other social media resources to encourage interaction between the Township and residents;
- Create park brochures or pamphlets for promotional purposes;
- Seek grant funding and donations;
- Provide opportunities for volunteers and community stewardship projects;
- Closely monitor fees and charge policies for proposed programs and services and to evaluate program cost recovery;
- Continue to participate in state and regional recreation planning organizations;
- Hold periodic "recreation talks" to seek input on desired parks and trails improvements; and
- Communicate the goals, objectives, and action plan outlined in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Chapter 3: Action Program

The Action Plan details the manner in which the goals and objectives will be met. It includes a list of specific projects, as well as a schedule with suggested capital improvement projects along with a sequence and strategies for implementation.

The following section outlines a list of specific actions and projects which are recommended to be accomplished during the planning period. Plans showing the parks improvements are also included to illustrate the proposed projects.

Action # 1: Maintain and improve Colman Park

- Refurbish parking and pathway pavement surfaces;
- Ensure universal access to play structures to meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements;
- Ensure safety surfaces under play structures meet regulated depth and fall zones;
- Maintain/upgrade picnic shelter, play structures, and park furnishings/facilities;
- Install electrical service to allow lighting and water service at the park;
- Upgrade toilet facilities to include permanent toilets;
- Refurbish ball field and soccer field as needed;

Justification: These actions respond to park maintenance and facility needs and comments from the community input survey. They also respond to future parks and recreation trends.

Action # 2: Expand the existing Township-wide pathway system

- The Trails and Recreation Committee (TARC) must coordinate with Township Board, Planning Commission, regional trail representatives and others to expand existing facilities and further develop a linear park system;
- Provide access sites and pedestrian/bicycle amenities such as parking, bike racks, benches, picnic facilities, and a wayfinding and interpretive sign system and
- Provide access to the Huron River Water Trail system through establishment of canoe liveries, fishing piers, public access points, and other river related facilities.

Justification: This action was identified through resident's opinions expressed on the community input survey. It also responds to national, regional, and economic trends.

Action # 3: Future parkland acquisition

- Develop properties that have been provided to the Township by donations, keeping in mind the recreation wants and needs expressed by community residents;
- Acquire land that may be available which provide unique recreation opportunities, preserve and protect sensitive or environmentally important areas, or otherwise provide park access to underserved areas; and
- Work with TARC, Township Board, and Planning Commission to ensure parkland and open space needs are considered in the review of new developments and to encourage developers to set aside land appropriate for community outdoor space, parks, and trails.

Justification: This action responds to the community survey, to the physical characteristics of the area, and to land development patterns and trends.

Action # 4: Evaluate recreation programming options

- Continue to support and recognize programs offered by SELCRA, SLARA, and other programming entities to ensure that resident recreational requirements are being met;
- If it is determined that existing recreation programming opportunities provided by these entities are inadequate, communicate with Township residents to determine programming desires, and develop a recreational programming system which meets the immediate educational, physical, and emotional needs of the community;
- Strive to maintain core recreation programs including special events, youth and teen programs, teen and adult fitness, and aquatics.
- Strive to operate any recreation programming in a fiscally responsible manner to limit any additional financial burden on Green Oak Township residents.

Justification: This action was identified in the community survey and responds to national, regional, and economic trends.

Action # 5: Administration and communication

- Create park brochures and pamphlets;
- Continue to seek grant funding, sponsors, and donations;
- Continue to expand the use of web-based communication tools such as the Township's website, Facebook, Twitter, and other social media outlets;
- Provide opportunities for volunteers and community stewardship projects;
- Evaluate fees and charges for programs and services and work to ensure program cost recovery;
- Continue to participate in state and regional recreation planning organizations;
- Consider creation of a dedicated Parks and Recreation Department which will allow the Township to seek and manage additional sources of funding and propose mileages for park, trail, and community center development and operation; and
- Communicate the goals, objectives, and action plan outlined in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Justification: This action is recommended to implement the current Master Plan.

Project Schedule

Table 2 lists individual projects along with specific tasks to be accomplished, the objective the task refers to, a rough cost estimate, and potential funding sources. In addition, the projects are listed with a time frame for completion. Short-term (ST) projects are recommended for completion within one to two years while long-term (LT) projects may take longer to be completed, within five to six years. Mid term (MT) projects fall in between, from two to four years.

Table 2. Improvement Schedule

Description	Cost Estimate	Funding Source	Time Frame
Existing Park Maintenance			
Add access ramp Colman Park play structure to allow universal access to structure, provide universally accessible play and meet ADA requirements	\$5,000 - \$10,000	General fund, grants	ST
Provide electrical power and add lighting to Colman Park	\$35,000 - \$50,000	General fund	ST
Upgrade toilet facilities to include water and permanent toilets	\$50,000 - \$75,000	General fund, grants	MT
Resurface parking lot and trails as required	TBD	General fund	LT
Non-motorized Path Development			
Continue Fieldcrest Drive trail south to 9 Mile Road spur	\$750,000	General fund, grants, donations	ST
Develop parking lot and trailhead at M-36/Leman Road trail entrance on Whitmore Lake Road	\$ 75,000 - \$100,000	General fund, grants donations	MT
Develop trail to Colman park via Silver Lake Road and continuing to Island Lake Recreation Area	TBD	General fund, grants, donations	MT
Develop continuation of Lakelands Trail to connect to Huron Valley Trail	\$5 - 6 million (in phases)	General fund, grants, donations	LT
Develop connection to Lakelands Trail from Hamburg Township to US-23	TBD	General fund, grants, donations	ST
Work with MDOT to develop crossings under US-23 at M-36/Nine Mile Road and Silver Bell Road	TBD	General fund, grants, donations	ST
New Park & Recreation Facility Development			
Acquire HCMA property at Silver Lake and Whitmore Lake Road	TBD	General fund, grants, donations	LT
Develop HCMA property	TBD	General fund, grants, donations	LT
Develop Butt Park property near Marshall Road for use as a passive-use park, cemetery, and Veterans' Memorial.	TBD	General fund, grants, donations	LT
Continue to seek land acquisition opportunities along the Huron River which would allow development of a canoe/kayak livery with universally accessible launch	TBD	General fund, grants, donations	LT

GF = General Fund, G = Grant, D = Donation, V = Volunteer, DDA = Downtown Development Authority, CDBG = Community Development Block Grant

OG = Ongoing, ST = Short Term, MT = Medium Term, LT = Long Term

Implementation Strategies

In order to accomplish the recommended actions during the next five years, it will be necessary to secure adequate funding. The current budget provides only a limited amount of funds for park development and improvements. The amount is well short of the projected expenses involved in the project schedule. Therefore, the following strategies are recommended to proceed as planned.

Apply for Federal Funding

At the federal level, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) funds **Transportation Enhancements (TE)** activities for community-based projects that expand travel choices and enhance the transportation experience by improving the cultural, historic, aesthetic, and environmental aspects of the transportation infrastructure. To be eligible, a project must fall into one of the TE activities. Activities which may apply to Berkley include:

- Provision of facilities for pedestrians and bicycles such as walkways, curb ramps, bike parking, off-road trails, bike and pedestrian bridges and underpasses;
- Educational programs for pedestrians and bicyclists designed to encourage walking and bicycling by providing potential users with education and safety instruction through classes, pamphlets, and signage; and
- Preservation, conversion, and use of abandoned railway corridors for acquisition, development, planning, design, and construction of multi-use trails, as well as purchasing unused railroad property for reuse.

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

The **Safe Routes to School** 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 for a healthy lifestyle. In Michigan, the program is sponsored by the Michigan Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and has gained momentum over the past few years. With the passage of the federal transportation legislation in 2005, Michigan's Safe Routes to School program made 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;
- 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
- Facilitate the planning, development, and implementation of projects and activities that will improve safety and reduce traffic, fuel consumption, and air pollution in school areas.

The program provides mini grants for programming and major grants to help communities build sidewalks, crosswalks, and other infrastructure. Up to \$200,000 per school is available for infrastructure projects, and \$8,000 to build programming around the project. Communities must undergo an in-depth planning process prior to submitting an application. Deadlines are ongoing and awarded on a rolling basis. SR2S funding is 100 percent federal; no match is required.

Apply for State Funding

At the state level, the *Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)* and the *Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF)* continue to be the primary funding sources for parkland acquisition and development.

The MNRTF provides funding for the purchase and development of parkland for natural resource based preservation and recreation. Goals of the program are to:

- Protect natural resources and provide for their access, public use and enjoyment;
- Provide public access to Michigan's water bodies, particularly the Great Lakes and facilitate their recreation use;
- Meet regional, county and community needs for outdoor recreation opportunities;
- Improve the opportunities for outdoor recreation in urban areas; and
- Stimulate Michigan's economy through recreation related tourism and community revitalization.

Grant proposals must include a local match of at least 25 percent of the total project cost. There is no minimum or maximum for acquisition projects. For development projects, the minimum funding request is \$15,000 and the maximum is \$300,000. Applications are due in April and August for acquisition projects and April (only) for development projects.

The LWCF is a federal appropriation to the National Park Service, who distributes funds to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment for development of outdoor recreation facilities. The focus of the program has been on trailway systems and other community recreation needs such as playgrounds, picnic areas, skate parks, ball fields, soccer fields and walking paths. Minimum grant requests are \$30,000 and maximum grant requests are \$500,000. The match percentage must be 50 percent of the total project cost. Applications are accepted throughout the year, but must be in by April 1 to be considered for the following years grant funds.

The *Recreation Passport* grant program offers funding for the development of public recreation facilities for local units of government. Minimum grant requests are \$7,500 and maximum requests are \$150,000. The local match obligation is 25 percent of the total project cost. Application are typically due on April 1st.

Local units of government may use the Forest Stewardship program to develop a management plan for a municipal forest which would include a component targeting outreach to private landowners. A total of \$2,000 may be granted with a 50 percent local match. Applications are due in September. Non-game Wildlife Fund Grants have also been offered in the past to identify, protect, manage, and restore native plant and animal species, natural communities, and other natural features.

Apply for Other Grant Funding

The *Detroit Edison Tree Planting 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 the Detroit Edison's service area on a competitive basis for tree planting projects. A total of up to \$4,000 may be granted to eligible tree planting projects on public and school property with a 50 percent local match. Applications are typically due in February.

There are also a variety of smaller grant programs available for the establishment of greenways/pathways or greenway-related facilities such as *Bikes Belong Coalition*. 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 projects in three categories: Facility, Education and Capacity Building. Requests for funding can be up to \$10,000 for projects such as bike paths, trails, lanes, parking, and safe routes to school. Applications are reviewed on a quarterly basis.

Access to Recreation is a grant program available for universal access of people of all abilities to a wide variety of recreation opportunities, such as nature viewing and photography areas, hiking trails, scenic outlooks, waterfalls and water activities of all kinds, beaches, fishing and boating, playgrounds, picnic areas, campgrounds, and much more. There are two primary grant programs under this source of funding:

Recreation Access Matching Grant provides up to 50 percent matching funds (up to \$10,000) for the purchase of universally accessible recreation equipment and materials such as all terrain hiking wheelchairs, pool lifts, accessible playground surface, transfer systems, beach access mats, trail surface enhancements, and accessible picnic tables that enhance recreation participation by people with disabilities; and

Accessible by Design Awards is designed to stimulate the development of creative universally designed recreation experiences that invite, welcome, and support the inclusion of people of all abilities. Winning designs demonstrate how going above and beyond the minimum requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act can create greater access and usability for people of all abilities in the community. Winning designs are awarded cash prizes to build the projects up to \$250,000 with 25 percent minimum match.

Increase Support for Parks

Public support for parks and recreation will be crucial in determining the level of services the Township will be able to provide in the future. Creation of a dedicated Parks and Recreation Department will increase the visibility of the Township's recreation facilities and help with management of future park related activities. Establishment of a Parks and Recreation Department will also allow the Township to pursue funds via millages over a limited time period for either individual components of the recreation system (i.e. for the parks, trails, or community center), or for the recreation system as a whole.

Seek Other Sources of Funding

Green Oak Charter Township Board of Trustees and TARC should investigate additional sources of funding. Seeking donations, attracting sponsors, holding fund-raising events and seeking out other revenue sources are methods that should be pursued aggressively to raise funding for park acquisition and development.



Chapter 4: Needs Analysis & Public Participation

An essential task in the recreation planning process is to determine the needs of the community as a basis for an action plan to improve the parks system. Needs provide the rationale for the formulation of goals and objectives as well as identify areas for capital improvements. To assess needs, consideration was given to current recreation trends an on-line survey was made available to Green Oak Charter Township residents. The opinions focused on identifying priorities for park development in the future.

National Recreation Trends

Recreation trends on a national and regional level provide insights into activities that show the greatest growth in popularity and may affect the future direction of parks and recreation. The National Sporting Goods Association (NSGA) regularly conducts national surveys to measure participation in physical activities and track changes from previous years. Table 3 lists the top seven outdoor activities persons aged seven years and older participated in at least once in 2016.

The 2016 study shows a continued trend towards individual-based outdoor activities, with open water sports, outdoor activities, and snow sports all showing increases in participation. Team related sports, with the exception of soccer and lacrosse, have showed a steady decline in popularity in recent years, while trail related sports continue to grow in popularity. The top growing outdoor activities between 2006 and 2016 were exercise walking (87.5 to 106.3 million), running/jogging (28.8 to 44.5 million), hiking (31.0 to 42.2 million) and kayaking (5.9 to 9.2 million).

Table 3. Top Outdoor Activities - 2016

Activity	Participation (National)	Overall Rank	Participation (East North Central Region)	Overall Rank
Exercise walking	106.3 million	1	15.4 million	1
Swimming	46.3 million	3	6.3 million	7
Running / jogging	44.5 million	5	6.2 million	8
Hiking	42.0 million	6	5.3 million	12
Camping	40.1 million	7	6.4 million	5
Bicycle riding	36.0 million	9	5.8 million	9
Fishing	29.5 million	13	5.4 million	10

Source: NSGA Sports Participation in the United States 2016

These trends are consistent with trends observed in Michigan. According to a survey of Michigan residents conducted as part of the 2018-2022 Michigan Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, walking outdoors was identified as the most important outdoor activity by 26 percent of users statewide. A list of participation rates for the most popular activities is listed in Table 4 below. Participation rates for children under age 18 is provided in Table 5 on page 17.

Table 4. Top Outdoor Recreation Activities in Michigan

Activity	Participation Rate
Relaxing outdoors	75%
Walking outdoors, including dog walking	74%
Visit parks or playgrounds	67%
Sightseeing and/or driving for pleasure	64%
Visiting nature centers or historic sites	56%
Swimming outdoors	54%
Picnicking	53%
Fishing	41%
Biking of any kind (on or off road)	40%
Camping of any kind (modern, RV, tent, rustic)	39%
Team or individual sports outdoors	37%
Wildlife viewing and/or photography including birding	36%
Hiking/backpacking	34%
Jogging/running	34%
Canoeing, kayaking, stand-up paddle boarding, or wind surfing	32%
Road biking	31%
Motor boating	31%
Sledding/tubing	30%
Tent or rustic camping	30%
Shooting sports, including archery	30%
Modern or RV camping	25%
Hunting of any kind	20%

Source: Michigan Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

Table 5. Outdoor Recreation Activities - Children under 18

Activity	Participation Rate
Visit parks or playgrounds	85%
Swimming outdoors	76%
Sledding/tubing	54%
Fishing	52%
Non-league team or individual sports	46%
Team or individual sports in a league	44%
Road biking	41%

Source: Michigan Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

Some key findings from the Metro Detroit region include:

- Nearly 75 percent of residents feel that outdoor recreation is very important or moderately important to their household.
- Walking outdoors, including dog walking, was identified as the most important outdoor activity.
- 87 percent of participants went outside 52 or more days per year, with nearly 54 percent doing so for more than 100 days.

These national trends are consistent with trends in Michigan. According to a telephone survey of Michigan residents conducted as part of the 2013-2017 Michigan Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, the top 10 outdoor recreation activities are: biking (all types), camping, fishing, walking outdoors (including dog walking), hiking (all types), playing outdoor games/sports, hunting or trapping, swimming (all types), boating, and visiting playgrounds.

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration have published a list of future trends compiled from different sources that will influence the direction of recreation planning and programming. These trends include increases in:

- Environmentally sensitive lifestyles, natural area management, and water quality protection
- Concerns for personal and family security, in the importance for wellness activities, and a desire to preserve and maintain cultural heritage
- Public costs, in the provision of leisure services through the public and private sectors and partnerships, a greater recognition of the economic value of parks, open space, and green infrastructure
- Senior citizens and number of smaller households

Monitoring parks and recreation trends is important in determining how parks and recreation services should evolve. The implication of the trends noted above along with the demographic and physical characteristics of the area can be summarized as follows:

- While future recreation facility development should respond to the expected increase in seniors, developments should be designed to accommodate a variety of abilities and interests. Meeting or exceeding ADA standards for recreation uses will be critical.
- There is a need for more walk/bike ways to accommodate bicycle and pedestrian recreation use and to contribute to a healthy and walkable environment. The Township should make efforts to connect with existing regional hike/bike systems in surrounding communities and facilities.



Public Input

Public input was sought at multiple points and through a variety of methods during the planning process to ensure that resident opinions were considered. Outreach to residents included:

- During the period of November 4, 2020 to November 22, 2020, Green Oak residents were invited to participate in an on-line survey to provide ideas and suggestions related to the Township's Recreation Plan update. The survey was made available through the Township website, distributed in e-mail blasts by Constant Contact, and was advertised on cable television.

A complete set of all responses is provided in APPENDIX F.

A total of 109 unique responses were received over the course of the survey. Of the 109 participants, all but two resided in the Township. 32% of participants had children 18 or under living at home, while 39% had one or more seniors living in the household. These numbers compare fairly well to ACS 2018 estimates, which show 31% of households with children, and 29% with seniors. 83% of participants reside in a single-family home.

Residents are generally happy with the existing park and trail system. 58% of participants felt that the Township has the "right amount" of parks, and continued maintenance of existing parks was the top overall priority. Satisfaction levels for the Township's existing recreation amenities were very high; excluding "Don't know/haven't visited" responses, 95% of residents indicated they were "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with Colman Park, 87% for the Fieldcrest Trail, and 90% for the M-36/Leman Road Trail. There were no "very unsatisfied" responses for any of the facilities.

Visitation levels at the three facilities was mixed, however. A significant portion of respondents indicated that they do not visit Green Oak's recreation properties at all. 66% of residents had visited Colman Park at least once in the past year, 52% the Fieldcrest Trail, while only 35% had used the M-36/Leman Road Trail. Visitation levels at regional facilities was similarly mixed; at the low end, only 27% of individuals had visited the Mike Levine Lakelands Trail, while at the high end, 78% had used the Island Lake Recreation Area paved bike-hike trails. While lack of awareness could be an issue, especially in newer amenities such as the M-36/Leman Road Trail, the variability suggests that other factors contribute to lower use levels.

While residents were generally satisfied with Green Oak's facilities, there was a strong desire to see the Township's trail network expanded. As a priority, development and expansion of community-wide trails and sidewalks was rated second only to maintenance with only 1% of total responses separating the two categories. 73% of participants stated they would like to see more paved pathways, and 85% said they would like to see the Green Oak trail system expanded. In open-ended remarks, survey participants indicated a desire to see connections to existing trails, in particular the Huron Valley/South Lyon Trail. Crossing over/under US-23 was also frequently mentioned, as was a route along Silver Lake Road.

Only 28% of respondents participated in SELCRA or SLARA programs. Those who did participate were typically involved in active sports (soccer, baseball, etc.) or yoga.

As the Township moves forward with development of trails and parks in the future, it will be important to consider the needs of mobility challenged individuals and seniors. Participants mentioned accessibility issues at various points throughout the survey. While the comments were not always aimed at Green Oak facilities, they do highlight the value of designing facilities which meet the needs of all citizens.

Public Review and Public Hearing

After TARC considered the input received, reviewed the recreation trends, needs, and other background information, they established the master plan goals, objectives, and an action program for implementation.

A draft plan was then made available for public review for one month beginning on December 4, 2020. Copies were placed at Township Hall and online. The plan's availability for public review was posted in the local newspaper, on social media, on the Township's website, and through Constant Contact (Appendix A). Following the public review period, TARC considered the comments received, made adjustments to the Master Plan, and recommended adoption of the Plan by Township Board. The public input into the plan culminated in an advertised public hearing held at the Township Board meeting of January 6, 2021 (Appendix A). After the hearing, the Council adopted the plan (APPENDIX D).

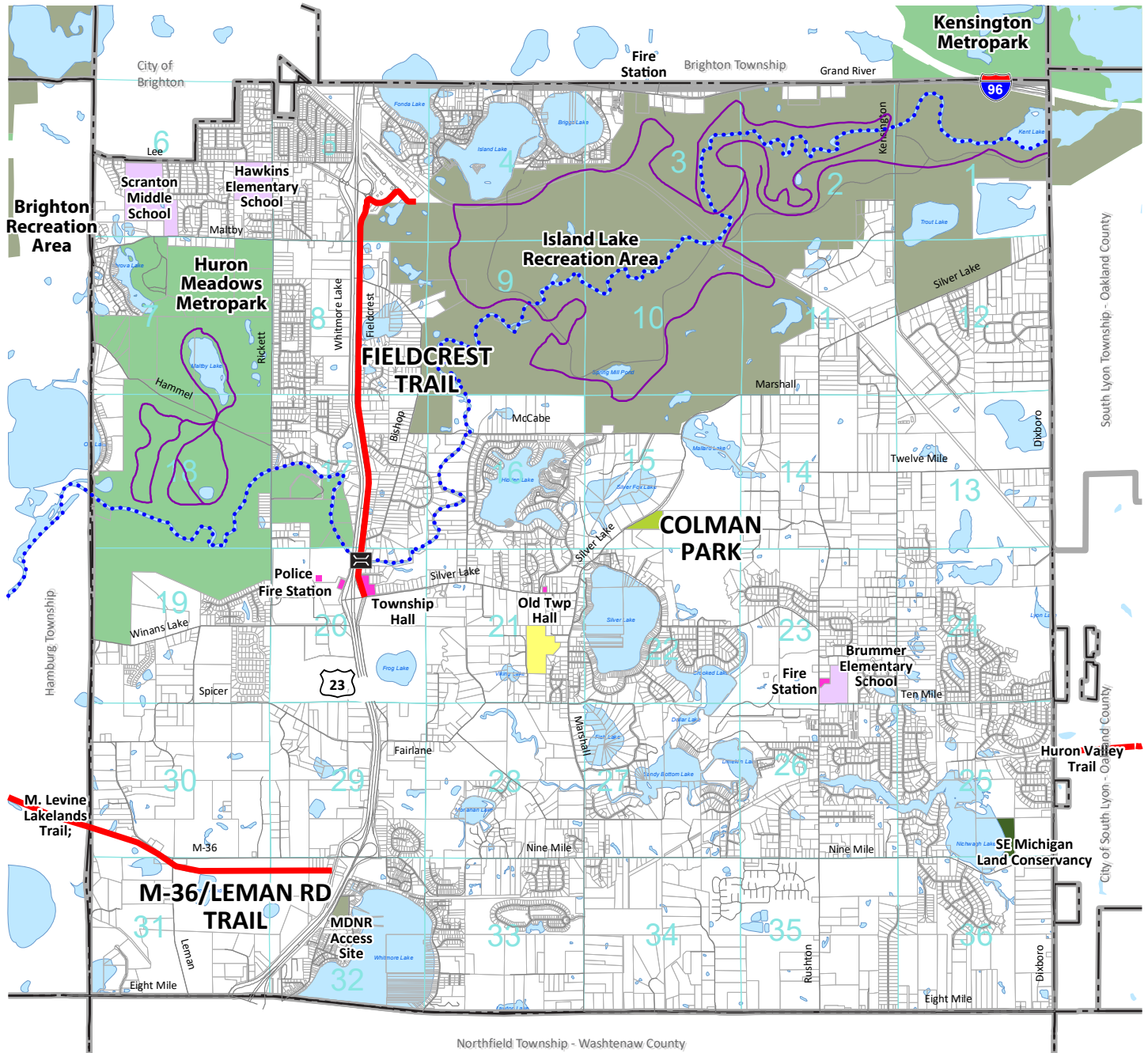
In addition to the topics described under Public Input, the overall parks and recreation issues considered by the Recreation Commission focused on

- Connectivity;
- Maintenance;
- Facilities; and
- Natural Resources

These issues served to formulate the goals and objectives of the Green Oak Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan.



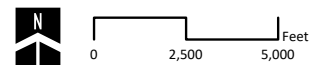
Map 1. Green Oak Charter Township Recreation Facilities



- Township Park
- Proposed Township Park
- Preserved Land
- Schools
- Township Facilities
- Huron Clinton Metropark
- State Park
- Existing Pathways
- Existing Trail
- Non-Motorized Bridge
- Huron River Water Trail

Green Oak Charter Township Recreation Facilities

Green Oak Township
Livingston County



Source: Livingston County Base Map Data
October 2020
Carlisle/Wortman Associates, Inc.
Ann Arbor, Michigan



Chapter 5: Recreation Inventory

The residents of Green Oak Township are able to take advantage of a variety of local recreational resources. While Green Oak currently operates only one park facility, Township residents have access to several outstanding recreational facilities within the Township and surrounding area. Island Lake State Recreational Area, a state run facility, and Huron Meadows Metropark, a regional park, are both located within the Township, and additional recreational areas and Metroparks are within a short drive of the Township's border. One of the largest private recreational facilities in the Midwest, the Legacy Center, also calls Green Oak home. Facilities from three community school districts also play a key role in providing access to both outdoor and indoor recreation.

This chapter details the recreation inventory of the Township, schools, private, and regional recreation facilities using information compiled from field surveys and Township staff.

Local Recreation Facilities

Township Parks and Recreation Facilities

Traditional NRPA guidelines categorize local parks as either neighborhood or community parks. Neighborhood parks are parks which range in size from 5 to 15 acres and which have a service area of 1/4 to 1/2 mile. Community parks are generally larger (25+ acres), service a larger area (up to 2 miles), and often offer facilities suited for more intense recreation (e.g. swimming pools or soccer fields). Neighborhood parks serve as a social and recreational focal points for neighborhoods and are considered the basic units of a park system.

Green Oak's only local park, Colman Park, offers a range of recreational amenities including a playground structure, picnic areas, athletic fields, a walking path, and natural areas. Colman Park's size and the recreation opportunities it provides indicates that the facility should be characterized as a neighborhood park.

Map 1 illustrates the location of Colman Park as well as regional facilities, school properties, and trails in the Township.





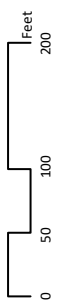
COLMAN PARK

Colman Park is located almost directly in the center of the Township. The 9-acre park offers a variety of recreation opportunities, including the following amenities:

- A. one baseball field
- B. one soccer field
- C. one playground structure
- D. approximately 3,500 feet of paved, accessible walking trails
- E. one picnic pavilion
- F. toilet facilities
- G. 23 parking spaces and 2 accessible parking spaces



Figure 1. Colman Park



Colman Park
Green Oak Township
Livingston County

- Table of Contents
- Executive Summary
- Goals & Objectives
- Action Plan
- Needs Assessment & Public Participation
- Recreation Inventory
- Administrative Structure
- Community Background



FIELDCREST TRAIL

Opened in 2015, the Fieldcrest Trail runs between the Township Offices and Green Oak Village Place along Fieldcrest Drive. The 2.5-mile long trail connects to a sidewalk and pathway network at the shopping center, and provides an access point to the Island Lake Trail system.

Parking is available at the Park & Ride lots across from Township Hall and near the Lee Road roundabout.



M-36/LEMAN ROAD TRAIL

Green Oak Township's newest recreation amenity, the 1.65-mile long M-36/Leman Road Trail connects directly to the Mike Levine Lakelands Trail in the southwest corner of the Township. Parking for the paved pathway is available at the Park & Ride near the US-23 interchange.

Green Oak's two trails form a section of the Great Lake to Lake Trail, a 275-mile trail network running from South Haven to Port Huron.

School Facilities

Three public school districts serve the residents of Green Oak Township; Brighton, South Lyon, and Whitmore Lake Public Schools. Brighton and South Lyon both have facilities within the Township, and several other facilities lie within 1.5 miles of the Township border. While the facilities are utilized by recreational groups like South Lyon Recreation Authority (SLARA), the grounds are primarily intended for educational use and therefore may not be always available for use by the general public.

Brighton Public Schools

Spanning the northern and western portions of Green Oak Charter Township, the Brighton school district educates nearly 6,000 students and maintains four elementary, two middle, and two high school facilities. Two of the properties, Hawkins Elementary and Scranton Middle School, lie within the Township borders.

Hawkins Elementary sits within the Township borders on Lee Road. The 37 campus offers a number of amenities including:

- 4 baseball and 2 softball fields
- 3 soccer fields
- Multipurpose courts
- 2 basketball courts
- Play/exercise structures

Scranton Middle School, located in the northwest corner of the Township, contains a large wooded lot in addition to the traditional playground features. Recreational amenities include:

- Football stadium / track
- 8 tennis courts
- Baseball field
- Softball field
- 2 soccer fields

Spencer Elementary, located approximately 1.5 miles north of Green Oak, includes a number of recreational features including:

- Baseball field
- Soccer field
- Basketball/multipurpose court
- Playground / exercise equipment

South Lyon Community Schools

The City of South Lyon sits on the western edge of Oakland County. The school district, which encompasses the eastern half and much of the southern portion of Green Oak, includes 7,135 students from Oakland, Livingston, and Washtenaw counties. The district maintains seven elementary, two middle, and two high schools, several of which sit very near the Township border.

Brummer Elementary School, located on the corner of Rushton and 10 Mile Road, is Green Oak Township's most geographically central school. The 16 acre facility includes the following amenities:

- Playground / exercise equipment
- Softball field
- Soccer field
- Basketball / multi-use court

Six other properties, including the city's two middle schools and South Lyon High School, are located within 1.5 miles of the border. The properties offer a wide variety of recreational amenities, including facilities for:

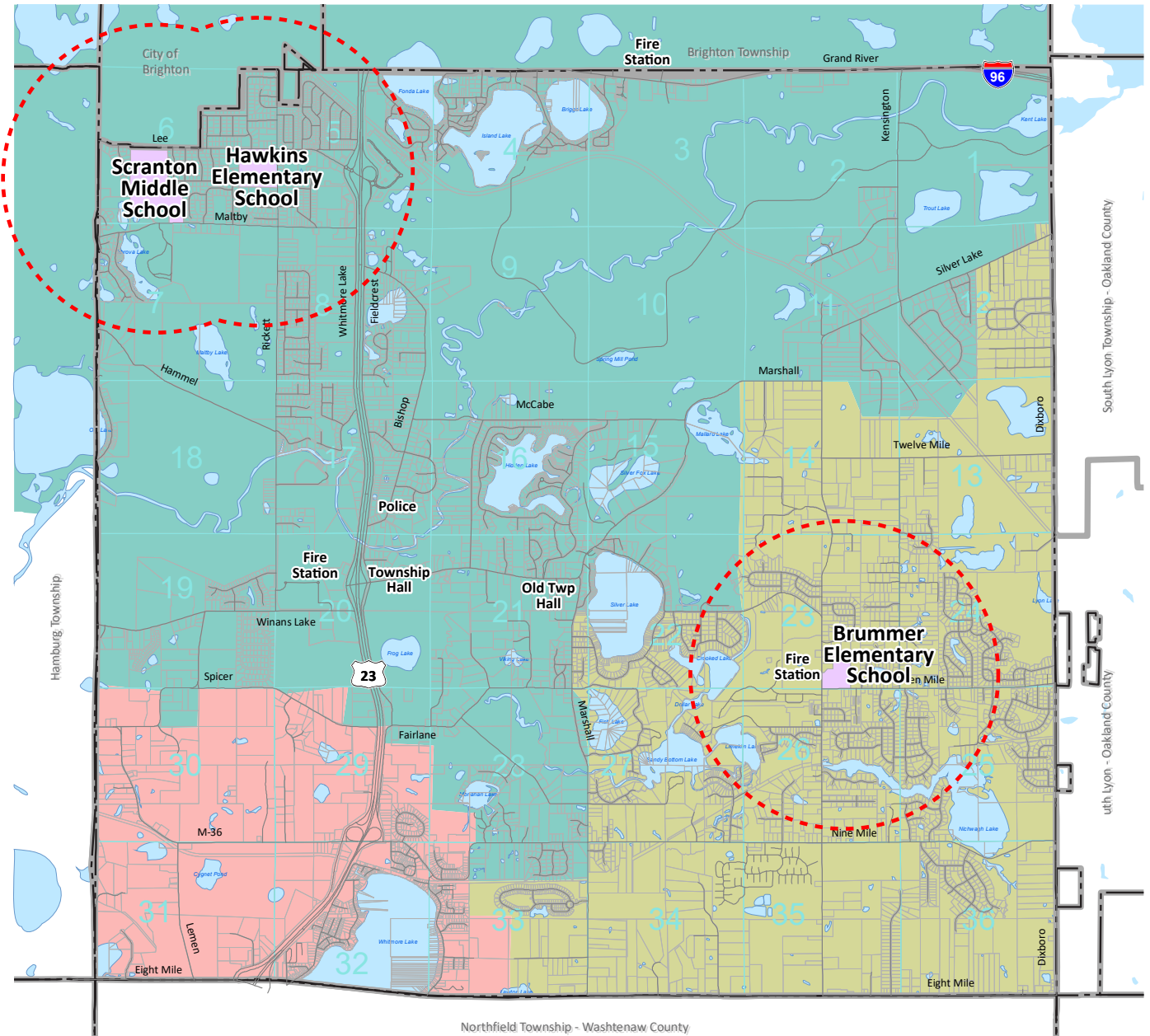
- Football
- Track
- Soccer
- Baseball
- Softball
- Swimming
- Lacrosse
- Field Hockey

Whitmore Lake Schools

Whitmore Lake covers portions of Green Oak's southern and western edges. The relatively small district, which enrolls less than 1,000 students, consists of one Early Childhood Center, one elementary (kindergarten through sixth grade), and one secondary/high school (grades 7 - 12). Whitmore Lake boasts a new high school with updated athletic facilities, including:

- 2 softball fields,
- 10 soccer fields,
- Football stadium with track and field,
- Football practice field,
- 8 tennis courts, and
- Indoor gymnasium.

Map 2. Green Oak School Facilities



- Schools
- Brighton Public Schools
- South Lyon Public Schools
- Whitmore Lake Public Schools
- Safe Route to School Eligible Zone

Green Oak Charter Township School Facilities

Green Oak Township
Livingston County

Source: Livingston County Base Map Data
October, 2020
Carlisle/Wortman Associates, Inc.
Ann Arbor, Michigan



0 2,500 5,000
Feet

Private Facilities

A number of private recreation facilities can also be found in the Green Oak area including a bowling alley, golf courses, movie theaters, a roller rink, a golf/driving range, and indoor fitness centers. The following outline summarizes the private facilities available in the Green Oak area, which include the following:

ARCHERY & SHOOTING RANGES

- Futureball (Paintball) (Whitmore Lake)
- Island Lake Shooting Range (Brighton)
- Whitmore Lake Rod and Gun Club

BOWLING

- Brighton Bowl (Brighton)
- Pinz Bowling Center (South Lyon)
- Whitmore Lanes & Lounge (Whitmore Lake)

DANCE

- Academy of Dance (Brighton)
- Fountain Ballet Academy (Brighton)
- Ginny's Danceworks (Brighton)
- Michelle's Academy of Dance (Brighton)
- Spotlight Dance Studio (Pinckney)
- Fine Arts Academy (Whitmore Lake)
- The Studio (South Lyon)
- American Dance Academy (South Lyon)

FITNESS CENTER

- Anytime Fitness (Brighton)
- MI Fitness (Brighton)
- Crossfit Brighton (Brighton)
- Planet Fitness (Brighton)
- Jazzercise (Brighton)
- My Stronger Self Fitness (Brighton)
- Motor City Health & Fitness (Brighton)
- EverFit Training Studio (Brighton)
- Pure Barre (Brighton)
- Legacy Center (Brighton)
- Boosters Fitness Adventures (South Lyon)

GOLF

- Huron Meadows Metropark
- Moose Ridge Golf Course (South Lyon)
- Cattails Golf Club (South Lyon)
- GYMNASTICS
- Infinity Gymnastics Academy (Brighton)

ICE SKATING / HOCKEY

- Kensington Valley Ice House (Brighton)

KARATE / MARTIAL ARTS

- PKSA Karate (Brighton)
- Karate Kids (Brighton)
- Synergy Martial Arts (Brighton)
- Darnell Choi Kwang Do (Brighton)
- Han's Tae Kwong Do Academy (South Lyon)

YOGA

- Brighton Yoga Center (Brighton)
- Yoga Center for Healthy Living (Brighton)
- Green Yoga (Brighton)
- Bikram Yoga of Brighton (Brighton)
- Hamburg Fitness Center & Camp (Hamburg)
- Divine Power Yoga (South Lyon)
- Zenergy Yoga Center (South Lyon)

Legacy Center

Green Oak Charter Township is home to one of the largest private sporting facilities in the Midwest. The Legacy Center, a large, multi-sport facility, offers training academies for baseball, football, lacrosse, rugby, skiing, snow boarding, softball, and soccer, sport-themed camps, performance and fitness training, regional league play for all of the aforementioned sports, and facilities for special events and tournaments. In addition to numerous outdoor playing fields, the complex boasts a 100,000 square foot field house, a 104,000 square foot dome, and the only FIFA one-star certified turf in the United States.



Recreation Programs & Services

Green Oak Township does not currently offer recreation programming. Township residents have access to a wide variety of youth and adult programming options through the Southeast Livingston County Recreation Authority (SELCRA) and SLARA, however, in facilities located throughout Brighton and South Lyon. SLARA also handles booking and scheduling for the South Lyon school properties for non-school hour use. While the Legacy Center offers high-level competitive sports opportunities, SELCRA is the primary provider of youth and adult sports programming for the Township.

Activities and programs offered by the two authorities include:

SELCRA PROGRAMS

YOUTH SPORTS & ACTIVITIES

- Basketball
- Volleyball
- Soccer
- Baseball/Softball
- Lacrosse
- Flag football
- Tennis
- Equestrian
- Karate
- Fencing
- Dodgeball
- Theater
- Dance

ADULT SPORTS & ACTIVITIES:

- Basketball
- Volleyball
- Softball
- Pickleball
- Equestrian
- Cardio drumming
- Yoga
- Senior exercise

TOT SPORTS & ACTIVITIES:

- Gymnastics
- Swimming
- Music



CAMPS

- Basketball
- Volleyball
- Soccer
- Baseball

SPECIAL EVENTS

- Family fun & fit series
- Walk Michigan
- Daddy Daughter Dance
- Family Campout
- Cedar Point Discount Tickets
- Halloween & Easter Special Events
- Turkey Trot

SLARA PROGRAMS

YOUTH SPORTS & ACTIVITIES

- Baseball/Softball
- Swimming
- Aqua fitness
- Dance
- Acting
- Gymnastics
- Soccer
- Volleyball
- Floor hockey
- Karate
- Cheering
- Cross country running
- Bowling
- Equestrian
- Hockey
- Ice skating
- Band/music
- Photography
- Watercolor
- Babysitting
- Drawing
- Language lessons - Russian, Spanish

TOT SPORTS & ACTIVITIES:

- Swimming
- Dance
- Bowling
- Gymnastics
- Soccer
- Basketball
- Band/music

ADULT SPORTS & ACTIVITIES:

- Basketball
- Sand Volleyball
- Volleyball
- Softball
- Essential oils
- Personal protection
- Hunter safety
- Emergency preparedness
- Ghost hunting
- Spirit photography
- Accounting
- Business planning
- Swimming
- Water aerobics
- Dance
- Yoga
- Karate
- Photography

CAMPS

- Island Lake Kids Kamp
- Baseball
- Basketball

SPECIAL EVENTS

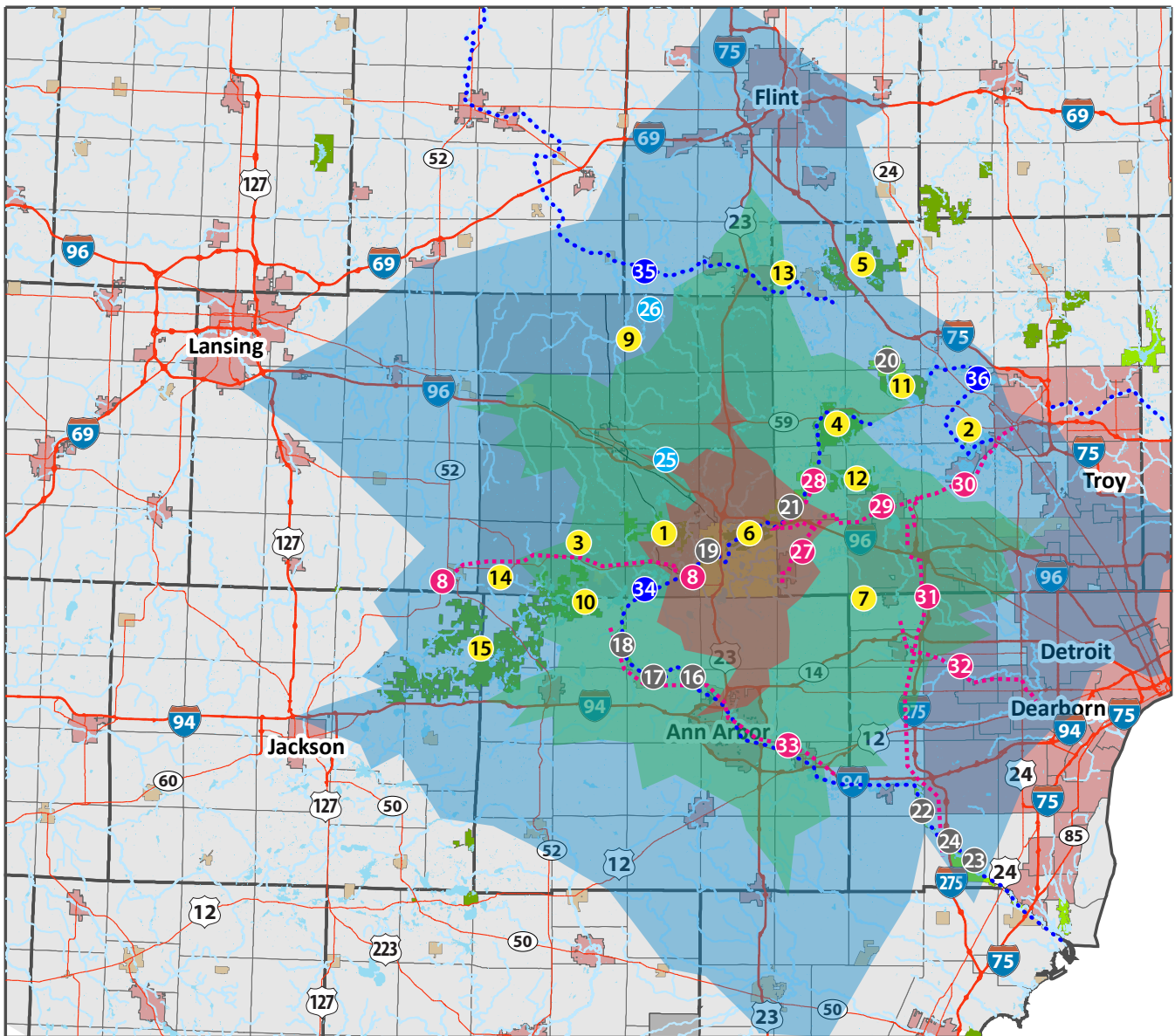
- Candy cane hunts
- Halloween cartooning workshop
- Ornament painting
- Father/Son sports night out
- Mother/Son bowling



Regional Recreation Facilities

In addition to the local recreation facilities, two major public open spaces are located within the Township borders and numerous county, state, and other recreational facilities lie within a short drive of the Township. With the 4,000 acres of the Island Lake State Recreation Area, the 1,540 acres of Huron Meadows Metropark, and thousands of acres of public parks in Livingston and nearby Washtenaw counties, residents have numerous recreational opportunities. These regional facilities incorporate large areas and provide activities such as swimming, boating, hiking, hunting, camping, and golfing, which are typically beyond the ability of a local municipality to provide. Map 3 below depicts the location of the regional parks and "" on page 32 lists the recreational activities they offer.

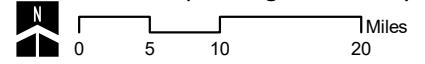
Map 3. Regional Recreation Facilities



■ ~15 minutes or less	1 Brighton Recreation Area	14 Unadilla Wildlife Area
■ ~30 minutes or less	2 Dodge #4 State Park	16 Delhi Metropark
■ ~45 minutes or less	3 Gregory State Game Area	17 Dexter-Huron Metropark
X State Parks	4 Highland State Rec. Area	18 Hudson Mills Metropark
X County Parks	5 Holly Recreation Area	19 Huron Meadows Metropark
X Metroparks	6 Island Lake Rec. Area	20 Indian Springs Metropark
X Major Trails	7 Maybury State Park	21 Kensington Metropark
X Water Trails	8 M. Levine Lakelands State Trail (part of Great Lake to Lake Trail)	22 Lower Huron Metropark
	9 Oak Grove State Game Area	23 Oakwoods Metropark
	10 Pinckney Recreation Area	24 Willow Metropark
	11 Pontiac Lake Recreation Area	25 Fillmore County Park
	12 Proud Lake Recreation Area	26 Lutz County Park
	13 Seven Lakes State Park	27 Huron Valley Trail
	15 Waterloo Recreation Area	28 Milford Trail
		29 Michigan Air Line Trail

REGIONAL RECREATION FACILITIES

Green Oak Charter Township, Livingston County



30 West Bloomfield Trail
31 I-275 Metro Trail
32 Hines Park Greenway
33 Border-to-Border Trail
34 Huron River Water Trail
35 Shiawassee Water Trail
36 Clinton River Water Trail

November 2020
Carlisle/Wortman Associates, Inc.



Huron Meadows Metropark

Situated along the Huron River, this scenic park offers a mix of active and passive recreation opportunities. The extensive trail system doubles as a hiking and biking path in the summer, and some of the best cross-country ski trails in the region in the winter.

- Picnic facilities
- Playground facilities
- Fishing
- Boating
- Golfing
- Softball
- Volleyball
- Soccer
- Hiking/biking trails
- Ice skating
- Cross country skiing

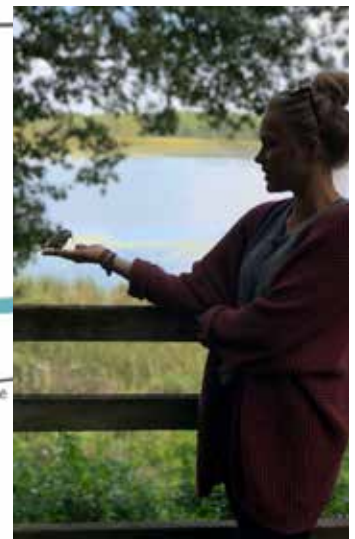
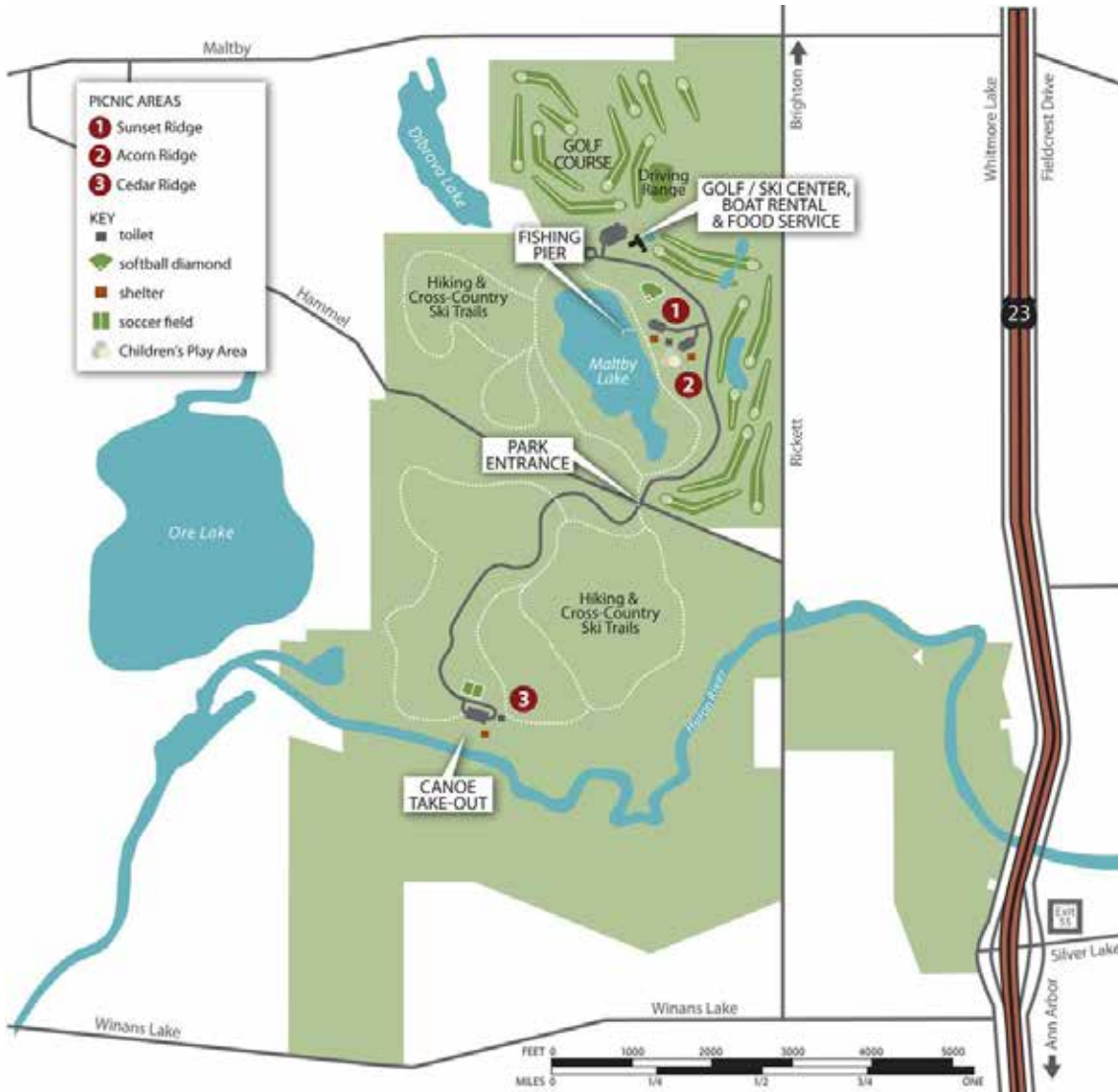


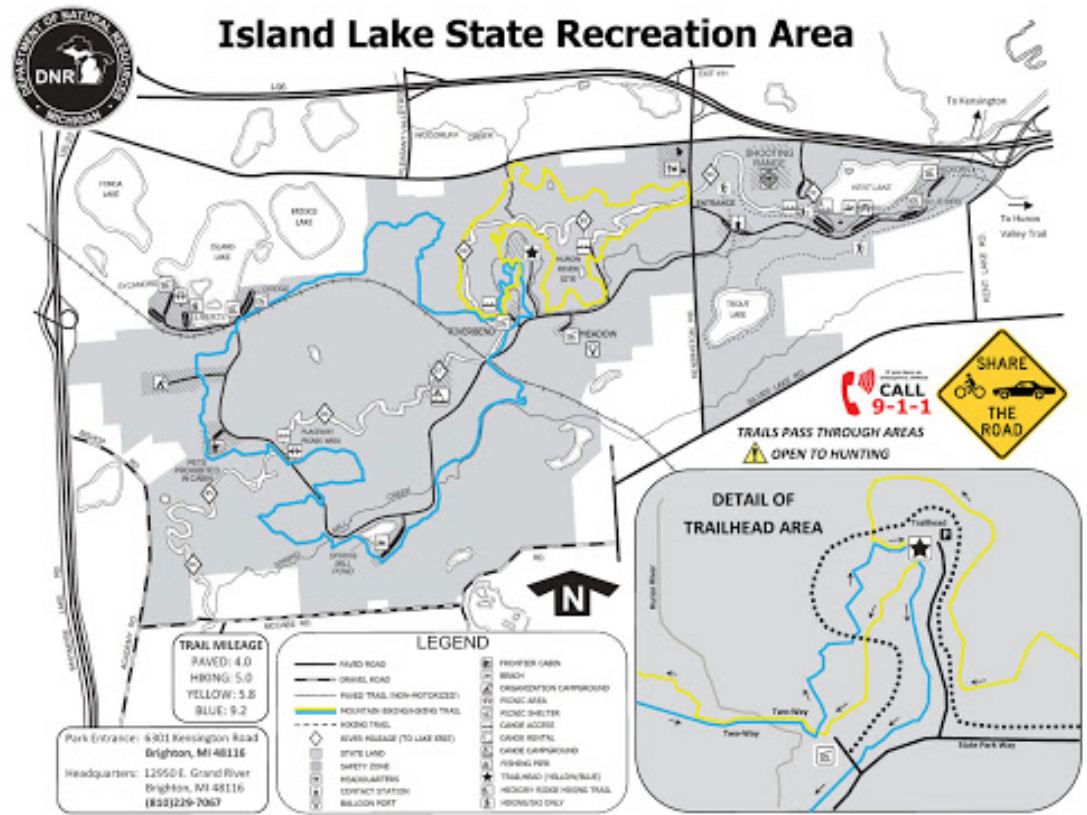
Table 6. Regional Recreation Facilities

Category	Name	Acres / miles	Approximate distance from Township Hall in miles	ACTIVE-USE ACTIVITIES										PASSIVE-USE ACTIVITIES														
				Baseball / Softball Fields	Basketball	Disc Golf	Golf	Horseshoes / Shuffleboard	Sand Volleyball	Skate Park	Soccer / multi-purpose field	Tennis & Pickleball	Zip Line	Banquet Facilities / Spec Events	Visitors Center	Community Center / Indoor Facility	Fitness Center / Equipment	Michigan State Park Explorer	Nature Programs	Geocaching	Metal Detecting	Dog Parks / Trial Course	Pet Friendly Area	Playground	Picnic Area	Picnic Shelter	Radio Control Flying	Watchable Wildlife / Birding
STATE PARKS	Brighton Recreation Area	4,947	25		•																							
	Dodge #4 State Park	139	48																									
	Gregory State Game Area	2,687	28																									
	Highland State Rec. Area	5,903											•															
	Holly Recreation Area	8,008				•																						
	Island Lake State Rec Area	4,000	47																									
	Maybury State Park	1,000	34																									
	M. Levine Lakelands St. Trail	22 mi																										
	Oak Grove State Game Area	2,048																										
	Pinckney Rec Area	11,000	54																									
	Pontiac Lake State Rec Area	3,745	47																									
	Proud Lake State Rec Area	4,700	43																									
	Seven Lakes State Park	1,434																										
	Unadilla Wildlife Area	1,106																										
Waterloo Rec Area	20,000	26			•								•															
METROPARKS	Delhi	81	44																									
	Dexter-Huron	122	54	•																								
	Hudson Mills	1,549		•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•		•	•													
	Huron Meadows	1,576	51																									
	Indian Springs	2,547		•																								
	Kensington	4,543	47			•	•	•	•		•																	
	Lower Huron	1,258	16																									
	Oakwoods	1,756	7																									
	Willow	1,700	9			•																						
COUNTY/SELGRA	Fillmore County Park (Livingston County)	198	21																								•	
	Lutz County Park (Livingston County)	300	31																							•		
	Meijer Park (SELGRA)				•	•																						
TRAILS	Border-to-Border Trail	40 mi	24																									
	Hines Park Greenway	20 ml	21																									
	Huron Valley Trail	9 m	45																									
	I-275 Metro Trail	40 mi	13																									
	Milford Trail	6 ml	21																									
	Michigan Air Line Trail	6 mi																										
	West Bloomfield Trail	7 mi	16																									
WATER TRAILS	Huron River Water Trail	104 mi	21																									
	Shiawassee Water Trail	85 mi	31																									
	Clinton River Water Trail	82 mi																										

Island Lake State Recreation Area

The large, state-run facility offers a mix of active use facilities with extensive passive use opportunities. Well known for having one of the top rated shooting facilities in the region, the park is also the only hot-air balloon port in the state park system.

- Hiking/biking trails
- Cross country skiing
- Playground facilities
- Fishing
- Boating
- Camping - cabins
- Picnic Facilities
- Swimming
- Hunting
- Shooting range
- Metal detecting
- Snowmobiling
- Ice skating
- Cross country skiing



Mike Levine Lakelands State Trail Park

Part of the Great Lake-to-Lake Trail that stretches from South Haven to Port Huron (see page 62), the Mike Levine Lakelands State Park Trail is one of five linear state parks constructed along abandoned rail corridors in the Michigan state park system. The trail includes five trailheads, the closest being the Hamburg Trailhead at 10699 Hamburg Road. The trail connects to the M-36/Leman Road trail in the southwest corner of Green Oak Township.

Portions of the trail are paved, while other sections are constructed of compacted limestone. Totalling 22-miles in length, the trail is popular with walkers, hikers, bicyclists, horseback riders and cross-country skiers.



Mike Levine Lakelands Trail State Park

Multi-use rail-trail
 Livingston, Ingham, Jackson Counties

Updated: 10/05/2020
 Michigan.gov/DNRTrails

Page 1 of 6

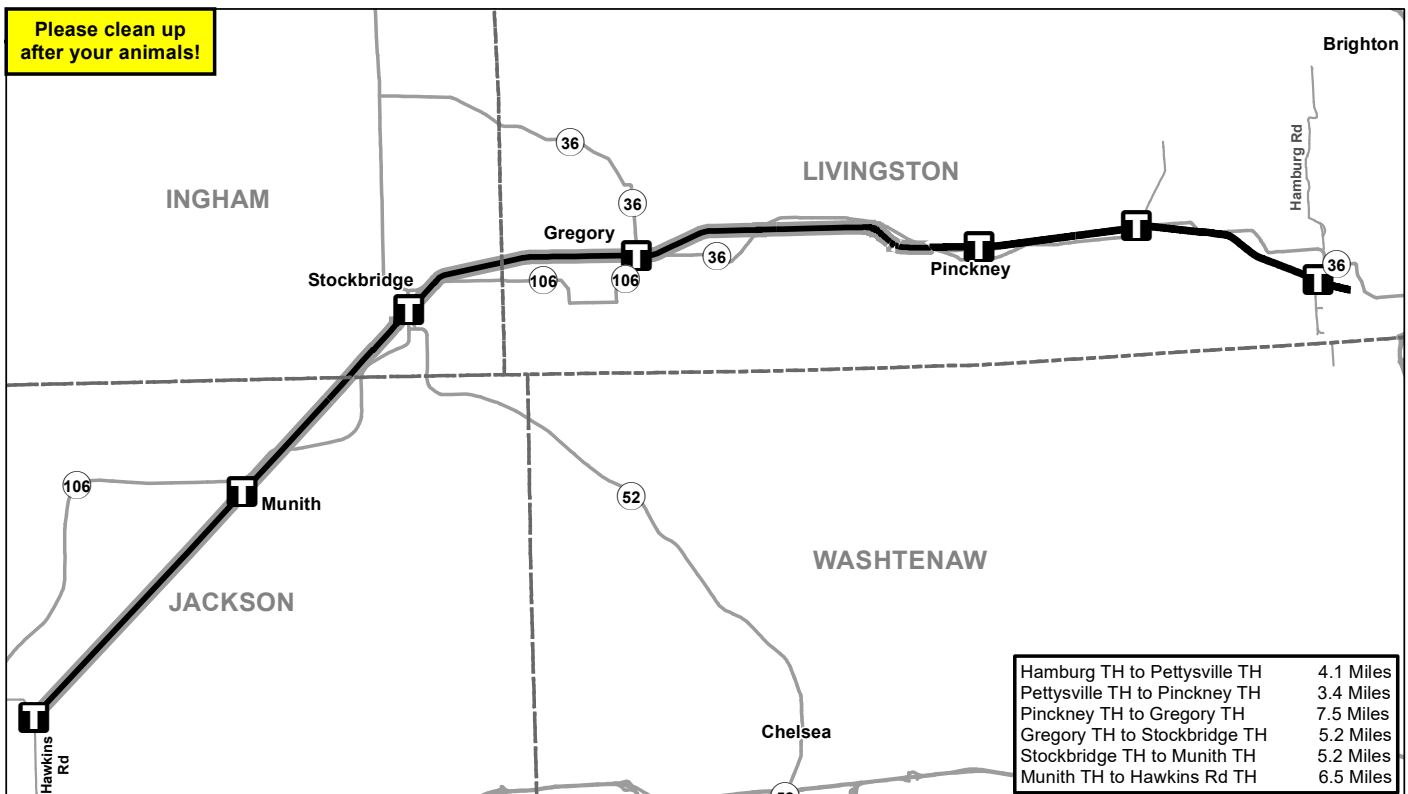
T Trailhead, nonmotorized

Multi-use rail-trail surface

- Asphalt
- Crushed limestone

Roads

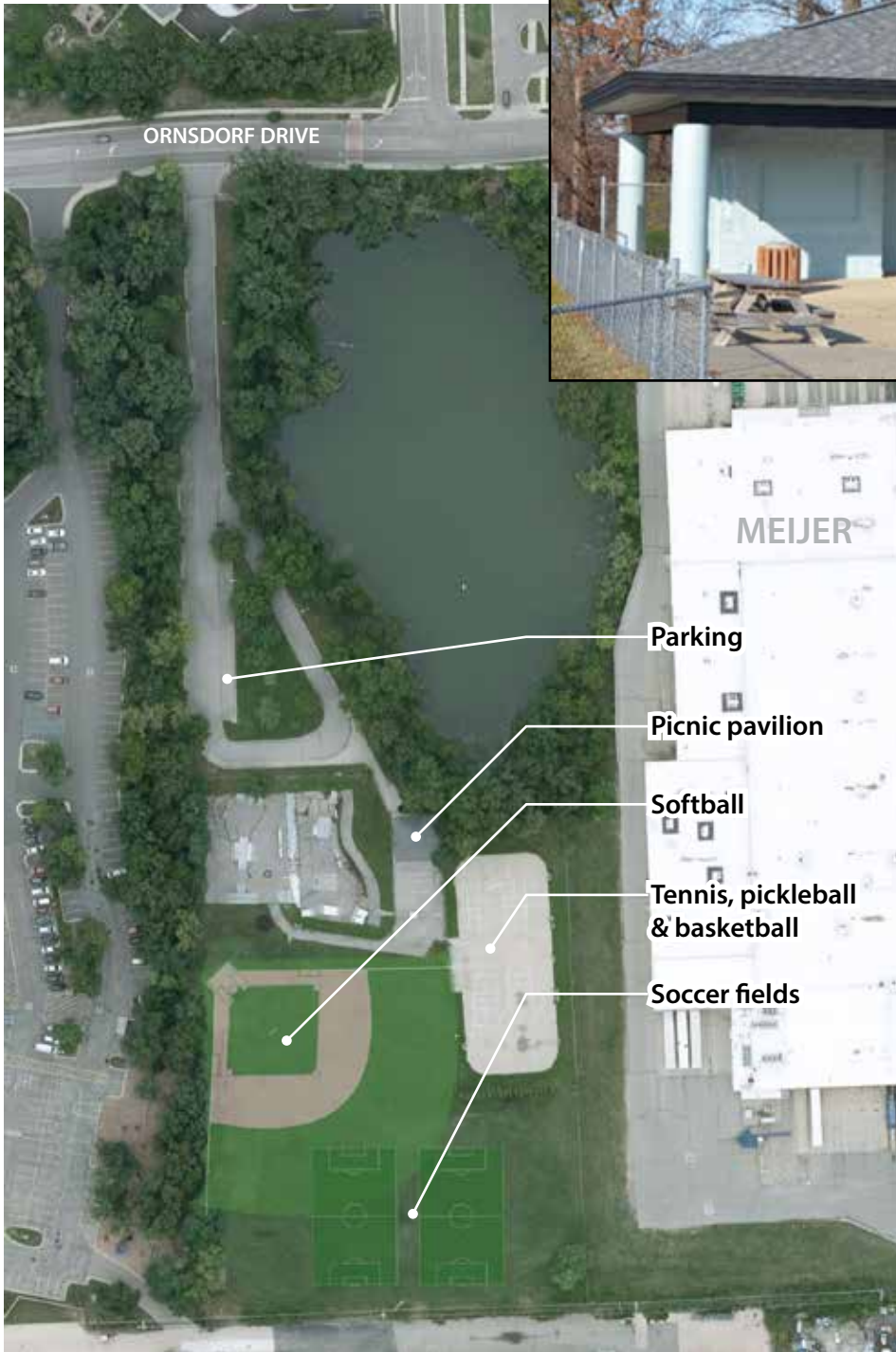
- Highway
- Paved
- County



Meijer Park

Located behind the Brighton Meijer on Ornsdorf Drive, Meijer Park is owned and managed by SELCRA, Brighton Township, and Green Oak Township. The park has seen significant upgrades in recent years. The park was redeveloped in 2020 to include two new soccer fields thanks to investments from Green Oak and Brighton Townships.

In addition to the soccer fields, the park includes a picnic pavilion, softball field, and a concrete pad used for tennis, pickleball, and basketball. Meijer Park is gated and is only used for SELCRA programs.



Huron River National Water Trail

In addition its ecological importance, the Huron River is a key recreational amenity for Green Oak Township and southeast Michigan. The Huron River was designated as the 18th trail in the National Water Trail System, a national network of water trails that are cooperatively supported and sustained. The river offers over 100 miles of kayaking with varying environments from rapids near Ann Arbor to slow, flat water paddling near Lake Erie.

Launches and placeways are available in the Huron Meadows Metropark and Island Lake State Recreation Area. The nearest canoe and kayak liveries are found on the far eastern edge of Island Lake, and at the Argo Launch in Ann Arbor. Further downstream, Gallup Park in Ann Arbor offers the only universally accessible canoe/kayak launch along the water trail.



Comparison to Recreation Standards

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has classified parks and recommended an appropriate amount of parkland for a given population size. Although these guidelines are useful in pointing out deficiencies, a community's recreation system should be tailored to meet the needs of the community and not based on national guidelines.

According to the NRPA, parks and open spaces are categorized as mini-parks, neighborhood parks, community parks, regional parks, and preserves. These parks are "close-to-home" parks, designed to satisfy the recreational needs of local communities within a service radius of up to two miles. Colman Park is considered a close-to-home park. According to NRPA standards, the amount of close-to-home parkland recommended is 6.25 to 10.5 acres for every 1,000 residents.

Regional parks are parks that serve a broader area than community parks and focus on meeting the recreation needs of the region as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces. For Green Oak residents, this would include the Livingston County Parks, the HCMA metroparks, and the state- and federally-owned parks and recreation areas described in the preceding pages. The NRPA standard for regional parks is 15 to 20 acres of parkland per 1,000 people.

The NRPA also recognizes other types of parks such as schoolyards and private recreation facilities, which can contribute to the local parks and recreation system. This would include the public schools and private recreation facilities discussed earlier. These facilities, however, offer some limitations to regular public access for Green Oak residents.

Table 7 compares the NRPA suggested standard with existing Township parks based on American Community Survey (ACS) 2020 population estimates and SEMCOG projected population for 2045. According to these suggested parkland acreage standards, Green Oak's parks fall significantly short of the total recommended acreage for close-to-home parkland. As the Township looks to grow their park system, it will be important to work with developers to set aside space for local recreation opportunities. Tot lots and micro-parks owned and operated by homeowner associations or other housing authorities can help to address the deficiency in this area.

Conversely, the residents of the area are exceptionally well-served by the regional park facilities provided by the state and HCMA facilities. These regional facilities, with their well blended mix of active and passive recreation opportunities, effectively act as the Township's community parks. Adjacent township parks, private, and school recreational facilities also act as important recreational opportunities for Township residents.

Table 7. Comparison to Suggested Parkland Acreage Standards

Type of Park	NRPA Standard per 1000 population	Required Acreage based on ACS 2020 population estimate of 15,618	Required Acreage based on SEMCOG 2045 estimate of 22,750	Existing Acreage
Close-to-Home Parks	6.25 - 10.5 acres	98 - 164	143 - 239	9 acres
Regional Parks	15 - 20	234 - 312	342 - 456	70,000 + acres
Schools (within Township)	not specified	not specified	not specified	Brighton - 270 acres South Lyon - 341 acres Whitmore Lake - 80 acres
Private Rec. Facilities	not specified	not specified	not specified	261+ acres

Accessibility Assessment

A critical component in planning for recreation facilities is providing barrier-free access to accommodate the needs of all people, including disabled individuals. The ranking system suggested by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Guidelines (2006) to determine accessibility was used to evaluate Township parks. The ranking system ranges from 1 to 5:

1. None of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines
2. Some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
3. Most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
4. The entire park meets accessibility guidelines
5. The entire park was developed/renovated using the principles of universal design

Colman Park and the Township's two trail alignments were evaluated using the MDNR ranking system (Table 8). The specific elements that were evaluated include parking, paths of travel from parking to activity areas, activity areas themselves, support facilities such as restrooms, and surfacing.

Future park projects will be designed to comply with or exceed accessibility guidelines of the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). It is the intent of the Township to develop all future projects to meet or exceed ADA requirements, and provide recreational amenities that meet the needs of all Green Oak Township residents.

Table 8. Accessibility Assessment

Facility	Rank	Description
Colman Park	3	Pathway and most amenities are accessible. The path leading to the playground equipment should be adjusted to eliminate the ledge between the walk and playground surfacing.
Fieldcrest Trail	4	Accessible parking spots are available at the Park & Rides and the pathway meets all ADA standards.
M-36/Leman Rd Trail	2	There are no accessible parking spots near the activity area. The trail itself meets all ADA standards.

Status Of Grant Assisted Projects

To date, Green Oak has not pursued or received any grant funding from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). Green Oak has received Federal grant monies distributed by the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) to be used to develop a trail in the southeastern quadrant of the Township. Green Oak plans to aggressively pursue funding from a variety of sources, including the MDNR, to further develop their parks and trails systems.

Table 9. MDNR Grant Assisted Projects

Grant Number	Application Year & Source	Description	Grant Amount	Current Condition
2015053	2015 TAP	Leman Road Pathway Project: 1.6 mile path from 8 Mile to 9 Mile Road via Leman Road. Includes signage, pavement markings, ADA ramps, and fencing.	\$559,000 + \$301,000 match	Completed in 2020. Trail is in excellent condition.

Chapter 6: Administrative Structure

The administration of parks and recreation services in Green Oak is the responsibility of the Trails and Recreation Committee (TARC). The committee is a direct response to the recreation needs of the growing community and the desire to connect Green Oak's parks and trails systems to regional and state networks.

TARC is an advisory body providing counsel to Township staff regarding park planning, pathway development, construction, and maintenance. TARC is responsible for recommending all Township park activities and development and management of any planned programs at the proposed community center. The committee is appointed by the Township Supervisor with the consent of the Township Board, and reports to the Township Board. Currently, one full-time staff member is responsible for ongoing maintenance for the Township's parks and trails systems.

Parks and recreation facilities and services are supported by the Township's general fund. The Township Board is responsible for any park improvements, maintenance, equipment, and staff.

The Township does not currently offer any recreation programming. Programming is handled primarily by the Southeastern Livingston County Recreation Authority (SELCRA) and the South Lyon Area Recreation Authority (SLARA).

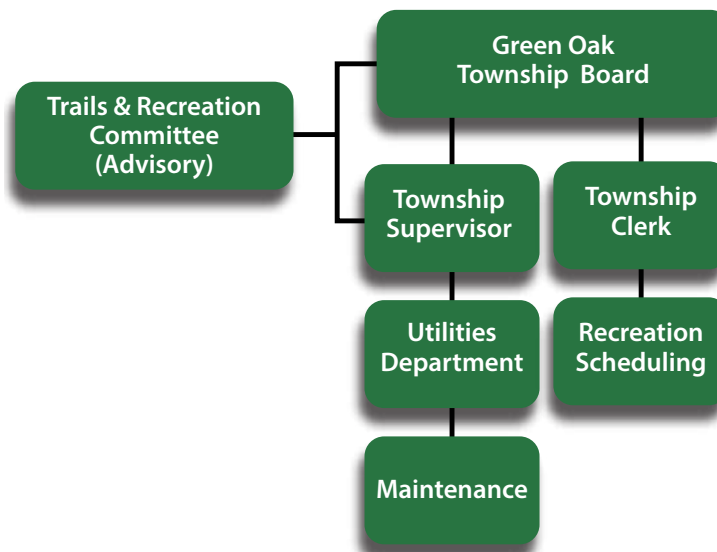
SELCRA was formed in 1992 in response to state budget cuts as an avenue for obtaining funding from alternative resources for adult education. SELCRA currently covers the Charter Township of Brighton and Green Oak Charter Township. Genoa Township and the City of Brighton withdrew from the authority in 2015. Amendments to the SELCRA articles in 2017 resulted in Green Oak contributing \$100,000 per year to the authority. This agreement will change to a per-participant model in 2021, in anticipation of another community joining the agreement. SELCRA operates Meijer Park in Brighton, and offers programming at various locations throughout the region.

SLARA contributing communities includes the City of South Lyon, Green Oak Charter Township and the Charter Township of Lyon. Residents of Green Oak are afforded a variety of programs at a discounted member rate.

TARC has pursued and secured grants to begin development of the Township's trail system, and is aggressively seeking additional grant monies to expand parks and trails facilities. Donations or contributions are also solicited.

The current budget related to Trails and Recreation is summarized in Table 10 on page 41.

Figure 2. Organizational Chart



Funding & Budget

As previously mentioned, the Township works cooperatively with participating SELCRA and SLARA member communities to provide recreation programming opportunities for Township residents. This arrangement allows the community to effectively outsource their programming needs, minimizing personnel and facility requirements and their associated expenses.

Expenses related to operation of the Colman Park and the community's trail system are paid through the Township's general fund. Maintenance is provided by existing Township maintenance staff on an as-needed basis. As the Township's parks and trails systems grow, a use-specific funding system, such as a park or trail millage, may be required to fund dedicated operation and maintenance staff.

Table 10. General Fund Budget Summary

EXPENSES	
PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS	
Non-motorized Trails	
Maintenance	\$ 30,000
Property Acquisition	\$ 250,000
Trail Construction	\$ 340,000
Fieldcrest Huron Bridge	\$ 210,000
Sidewalks	
Maintenance	\$ 15,000
New construction	\$ 125,000
Architecture/Design	
Butt Park Concept Design	\$ 35,000
Community Center Design	\$ 50,000
Total Public Improvements	\$ 1,055,000
RECREATION	
Programs (SELCRA / SLARA)	\$ 93,000
Total Expenditures	\$ 93,000
COLMAN PARK	
Contracted Services	\$ 3,500
Lawn / Snow Contract	\$ 3,750
General Liability Insurance	\$ 600
Department Operating Supplies	\$ 2,000
Building Maintenance Supplies	\$ 1,500
Landscaping Supplies	\$ 3,500
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$ 500
Capital Outlay	\$ 15,000
Total Colman Park	\$ 30,350
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 1,178,350



Volunteers & Partnerships

Service clubs and community groups have the potential to play an important role in providing volunteer labor and financial support for park facilities and programs. There are many service clubs and organizations in the area that are commonly used to help with local parks, and who could provide manpower to actively support Green Oak parks. Examples include:

LOCAL SERVICE CLUBS:

- Brighton Kiwanis Club
- Brighton Lions Club
- South Lyon Moose Lodge
- Brighton Rotary Club
- Brighton American Legion

SCOUTING GROUPS:

- Boy Scouts of America,
- Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan

RECREATION USE GROUPS:

- Southeast Livingston County Recreation Authority (SELCRA)
- South Lyon Area Recreation Authority (SLARA)

LAND CONSERVANCIES:

- Livingston Land Conservancy
- Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy
- Michigan Nature Association
- North American Land Trust
- Huron River Watershed Council

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:

- Friends of Island Lake Recreation Area
- Friends of Green Oak Trails
- Friends of Border to Border Trail
- Friends of Huron Clinton Metroparks
- Friends of the Lakelands Trail
- Great Lake-to-Lake Trails
- Green Oak Township Historical Society
- Huron River Water Trail
- Huron River Watershed Council
- Michigan Trails and Greenways Association
- Lowe's
- Home Depot



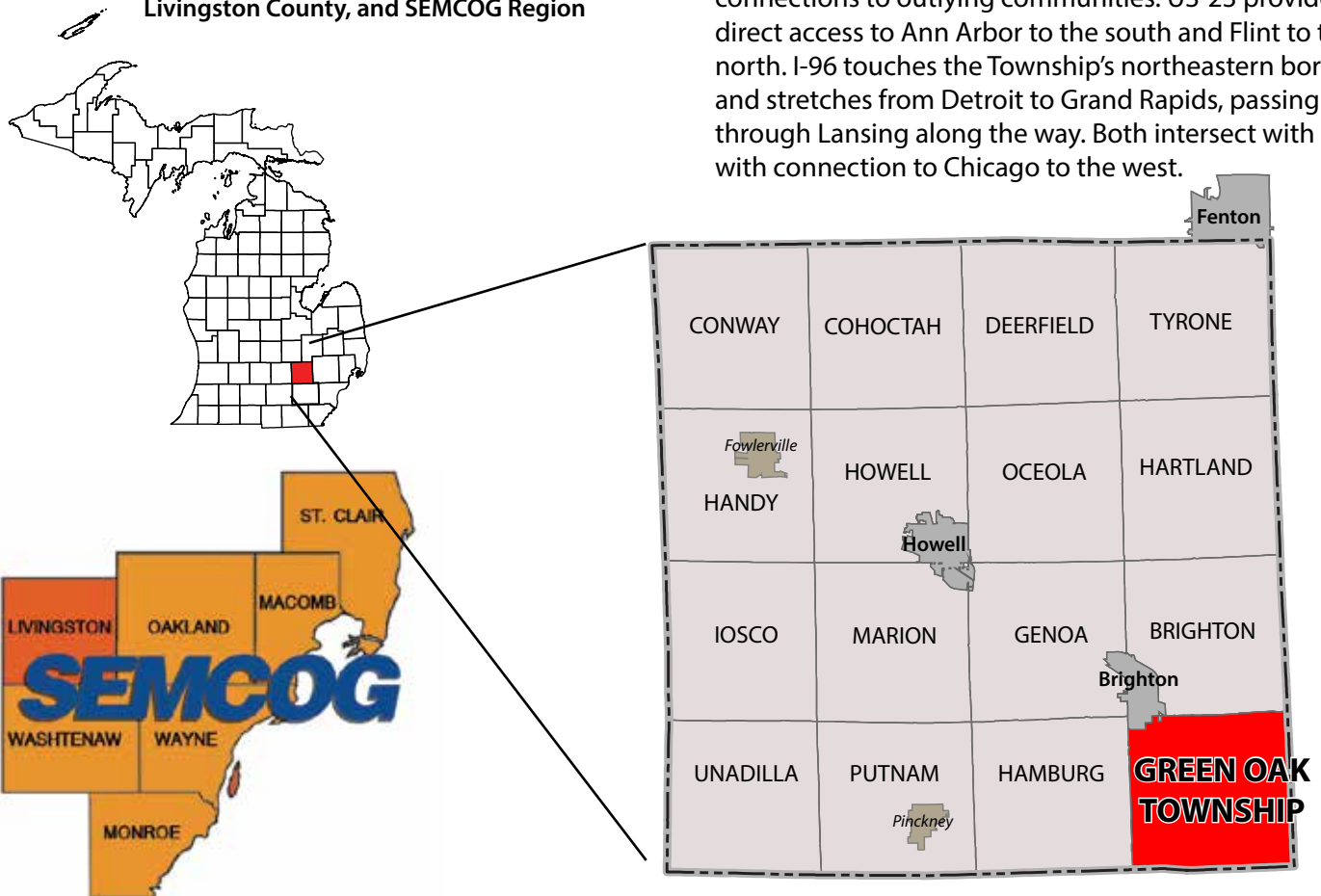
Chapter 7: Community Background

Regional Setting

Green Oak is located in the southeastern corner of Livingston County. It is centrally located between Ann Arbor, Lansing, and fast-growing Oakland County and the city of Novi. The city of Brighton forms the Township's northwest border, while South Lyon forms the Township's southeastern border. A number of small cities including Howell, Pinckney, and Fowlerville are located within a short drive of the Township. Green Oak is bordered to the north and west by Brighton, Genoa, and Hamburg Townships in Livingston County, to the south by Salem, Northfield, and Webster Townships in Washtenaw County, and to the east by Milford and Lyon Townships in Oakland County.

Livingston County is located in the northwestern corner of the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) region. SEMCOG is the regional planning agency that conducts planning studies and maintains a comprehensive database of information about each community it serves. It is a source for some of the data included in this report.

Figure 3. Context Maps - State of Michigan, Livingston County, and SEMCOG Region



Green Oak was one of the first townships organized in Livingston County, enacted on March 17, 1835. The first settler in the Township, Stephen Lee, moved his family to Michigan in September of 1830. Other settlers purchased land in the region but, dissuaded by the advent of the Black Hawk War between United States forces and Native Americans in 1832, did not actually set up homesteads. By 1834, an influx of new residents prompted establishment of the Township's first school. The Township became Livingston County's second charter township in September 2005.

Green Oak is notable for its varied landscape. 20% of the Township area is made up of parkland, primarily due to two large regional parks, Huron Meadows Metropark and Island Lake State Recreation Area, located in the northern portion of the Township. Large commercial developments including the Green Oak Village Place shopping center are located in the northwest, just south of Brighton. A portion of Whitmore Lake, a census-designated place, is also located within the Township's borders.

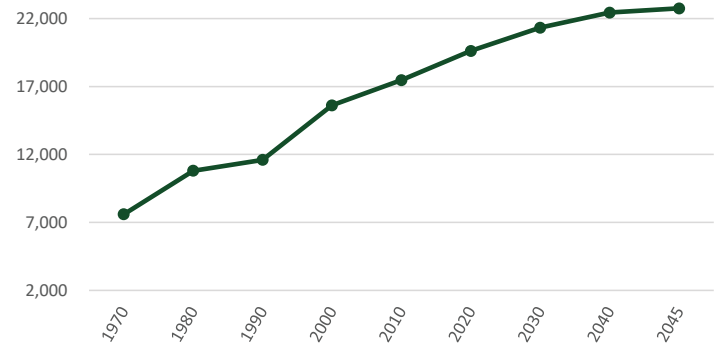
The Township's transportation network provides direct connections to outlying communities. US-23 provides direct access to Ann Arbor to the south and Flint to the north. I-96 touches the Township's northeastern border and stretches from Detroit to Grand Rapids, passing through Lansing along the way. Both intersect with I-94, with connection to Chicago to the west.

Population and Housing

From 2010 – 2020, Green Oak Township grew at a healthy rate of 13.7% percent, with the American Community Survey (ACS) 2020 population estimate of 19,620 persons. Regionally, Green Oak’s growth rate percentage was very similar to that of Livingston County (11.2%). Percentages varied considerably in neighboring communities, however, with rates as high at 61% in Lyon Township and as low as -6% in Webster Township. In Livingston County, Green Oak falls exactly in the middle. Southeast Michigan as a whole saw a modest 1.3% growth rate during that period.

SEMCOG projections indicate a similar pattern. Green Oak’s 16% projected growth rate is lower than some of her neighbors, but is still quite robust. Southeast Michigan as a whole is predicted to experience over 7% growth through 2045.

Figure 4. Green Oak Township Population Trends



Source: US Census, SEMCOG

Table 12. Population Projections, Green Oak Township Area

Community	2020	2045	% change 2020-2045
Green Oak Twp	19,620	22,750	16.0%
Brighton Twp	19,568	21,883	11.8%
City of Brighton	8,810	12,127	37.7%
Genoa Twp	24,405	32,907	34.8%
Hamburg Twp	21,626	23,325	7.9%
Lyon Twp	21,312	26,408	23.9%
South Lyon	11,726	12,074	3.0%
Milford Twp	10,430	11,034	5.8%
Northfield Twp	8,311	12,388	49.1%
Salem Twp	6,216	8,034	29.2%
Webster Twp	6,030	7,104	17.8%
Livingston Cty	198,525	241,566	21.7%
Southeast MI	4,768,427	5,104,922	7.1%

Source: US Census, SEMCOG

Table 11. Historical Population Data, Green Oak Township Area

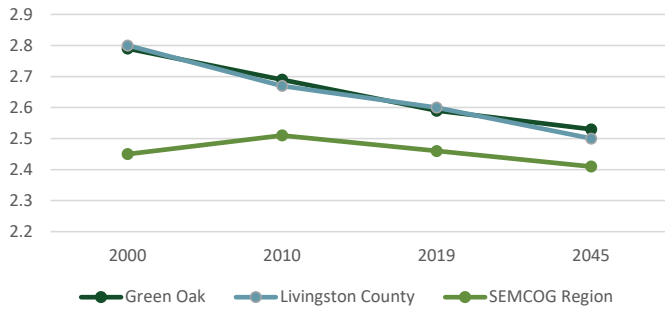
Community	1990	2000	2010	2020 (SEMCOG Estimate)	Percent change 2010 - 2020	
Livingston County	Green Oak Twp	11,604	15,618	17,476	19,620	13.7%
	Brighton Twp	14,815	17,673	17,791	19,568	10.1%
	City of Brighton	5,686	6,701	7,444	8,810	20.4%
	Genoa Twp	10,820	15,901	19,821	24,405	28.8%
	Hamburg Twp	13,083	20,627	21,165	21,626	2.2%
Oakland County	Lyon Twp	8,828	11,041	14,545	21,312	61.3%
	South Lyon	6,479	10,036	11,327	11,726	4.0%
	Milford Twp	6,624	8,999	9,561	10,430	9.7%
Washtenaw County	Northfield Twp	6,732	8,252	8,245	8,311	0.8%
	Salem Twp	3,734	5,562	5,627	6,216	10.6%
	Webster Twp	3,235	5,198	6,328	6,030	-5.7%
Livingston Cty	115,645	156,951	180,967	198,525	11.2%	
Southeast MI	4,590,468	4,833,368	4,704,809	4,768,427	1.3%	

Table 14. Household Size, Green Oak Township & Region

	2000	2010	2019	2045
Green Oak	2.79	2.69	2.59	2.53
Livingston Cty	2.8	2.67	2.6	2.5
SEMCOG Region	2.45	2.51	2.46	2.41

Source: US Census, SEMCOG

Figure 7. Household Size Trends



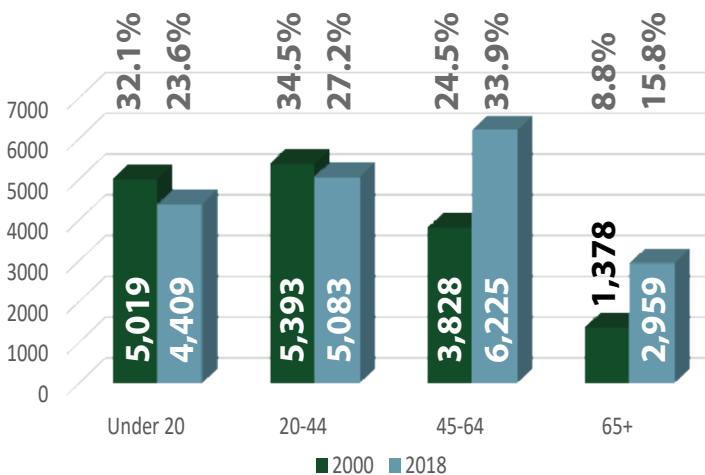
Source: US Census, SEMCOG

Table 13. Household Characteristics

Household Types	Census 2010	ACS 2018	% change	2045 SEMCOG
With seniors 65+	1467	2036	38.8%	3864
Without seniors	4983	4940	-0.9%	5000
Live alone 65+	453	627	38.4%	1046
Live alone, under 65	733	765	4.4%	933
2+ persons with children	2325	2196	-5.5%	2509
2+ persons without children	2939	3388	15.3%	4376

Source: US Census, ACS, SEMCOG

Figure 5. Age Distribution Comparison 2000 - 2018



Source: US Census, ACS, SEMCOG

According to SEMCOG, a general profile of Green Oak residents can be described as follows:

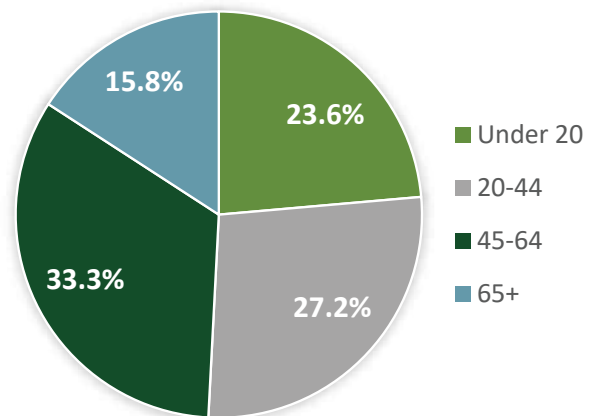
- Children (under the age of 20) make up 23.6% of the general population, a decrease from 25.1% reported in 2015, and
- People 65 years and over make up 15.8% of the population, an increase from 11.7% in 2015.

Projections by SEMCOG indicate that by 2045 the proportion of children and seniors within the Township will change as follows:

- The number of households with children will decrease from 2,325 to 2,196, a 5.5% drop; and
- The number of households with seniors 65 years and older will increase from 1,467 to 2,036, a 38.8% increase.

The median age of the Township, like the rest of Livingston County and the State of Michigan, has risen steadily since 2010. While the Township saw a decrease between 2017 and 2018, the overall trend has been upwards, with a 2.5 year increase between 2010 and 2018.

Figure 6. Green Oak Township Age Distribution 2018



Source: US Census, ACS

Table 15. Median Age, Green Oak Township & Region

Year	Green Oak Charter Township	Livingston County	State of Michigan
2010	41.8	39.9	38.1
2011	42.4	40.5	38.5
2012	41.9	40.9	38.8
2013	42.7	41.4	39.1
2014	43.6	41.8	39.3
2015	43.7	42.1	39.5
2016	44	42.5	39.6
2017	45.1	42.9	39.6
2018	44.3	43.2	39.7

Source: American Community Survey, 2010 - 2018

Table 16. Green Oak Township Age Ranges 2000 - 2018

Age group	Census 2000	Census 2010	ACS 2018	% change 2000 - 2018
Under 5	1117	890	859	-23.1%
5 - 9	1295	1161	1016	-21.5%
10 - 14	1273	1440	1105	-13.2%
15 - 19	1334	1323	1429	7.1%
20 - 24	575	805	1129	96.3%
25 - 29	571	744	983	72.2%
30 - 34	1059	714	808	-23.7%
35 - 39	1569	1051	927	-40.9%
40 - 44	1619	1372	1236	-23.7%
45 - 49	1343	1771	1359	1.2%
50 - 54	1101	1686	1724	56.6%
55 - 59	841	1420	1747	107.7%
60 - 64	543	1048	1395	156.9%
65 - 69	391	758	1181	202.0%
70 - 74	407	473	781	91.9%
75 - 79	300	328	385	28.3%
80 - 84	190	291	349	83.7%
85 and up	90	201	263	192.2%

Source: US Census, ACS



Land Use Patterns & Development Trends

According to ACS 2018 estimates, there are 7,386 housing units in the Township, an increase of 394 units since 2010. Green Oak's housing units consist primarily of single-family detached units (84%) with some multi-family residential units (9.6%). Attached units, duplex, and mobile homes account for the remaining residential units.

95% of Green Oak's housing units are occupied, with 85% owner-occupied and 10% renter-occupied. Vacancy rates dropped from 8.0% in 2010 to 5% in 2018. Residential property values also declined from 2010 to 2018. The median housing value fell from \$268,571 to \$253,200, a 5.7% drop from 2010 to 2018.

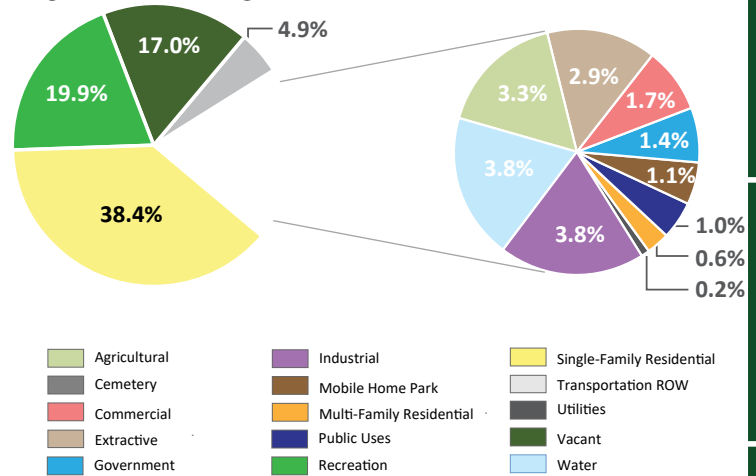
Building permits for the Township peaked in 2000; in 2009, only 8 building permits were issued. The housing market has recovered somewhat since that time, averaging 72 new permits a year since 2013. These declines mirror the housing construction trends in southeast Michigan.

Table 18. Residential Building Permits

	Single Family	Two Family	Attached Condos	Multi Family	Total Units	Total Demos	Net Total
2000	161	0	0	0	161	5	156
2001	120	0	0	0	120	7	113
2002	111	0	4	0	115	4	111
2003	141	0	12	0	153	15	138
2004	133	0	26	0	159	15	144
2005	86	0	30	0	116	4	112
2006	57	0	10	0	67	7	60
2007	28	0	0	0	28	2	26
2008	12	0	0	0	12	7	5
2009	8	0	0	0	8	6	2
2010	22	0	0	0	22	3	19
2011	30	0	0	0	30	6	24
2012	51	0	0	0	51	5	46
2013	105	0	0	0	105	6	99
2014	93	0	8	0	101	4	97
2015	68	0	0	0	68	2	66
2016	50	0	0	0	50	6	44
2017	60	0	0	0	60	1	59
2018	66	0	0	0	66	8	58
2019	55	0	0	0	55	3	52
2000 - 18 totals	1,457	0	90	0	1,547	116	1,431

38.4% of Green Oak's land area consists of single family residential properties. At 36.9%, park and vacant/open space makes up the bulk of the remaining land use. The vast majority of the park space is held in Huron Meadows Metropark and the Island Lake State Recreation Area. The southeastern portion of Island Lake is currently mined, but the area is slated to be restored to recreation use in future years. The only Township-owned park, Colman Park, makes up just 9 of the 4,712 acres of recreation space in the Township.

Figure 8. Existing Land Use 2019



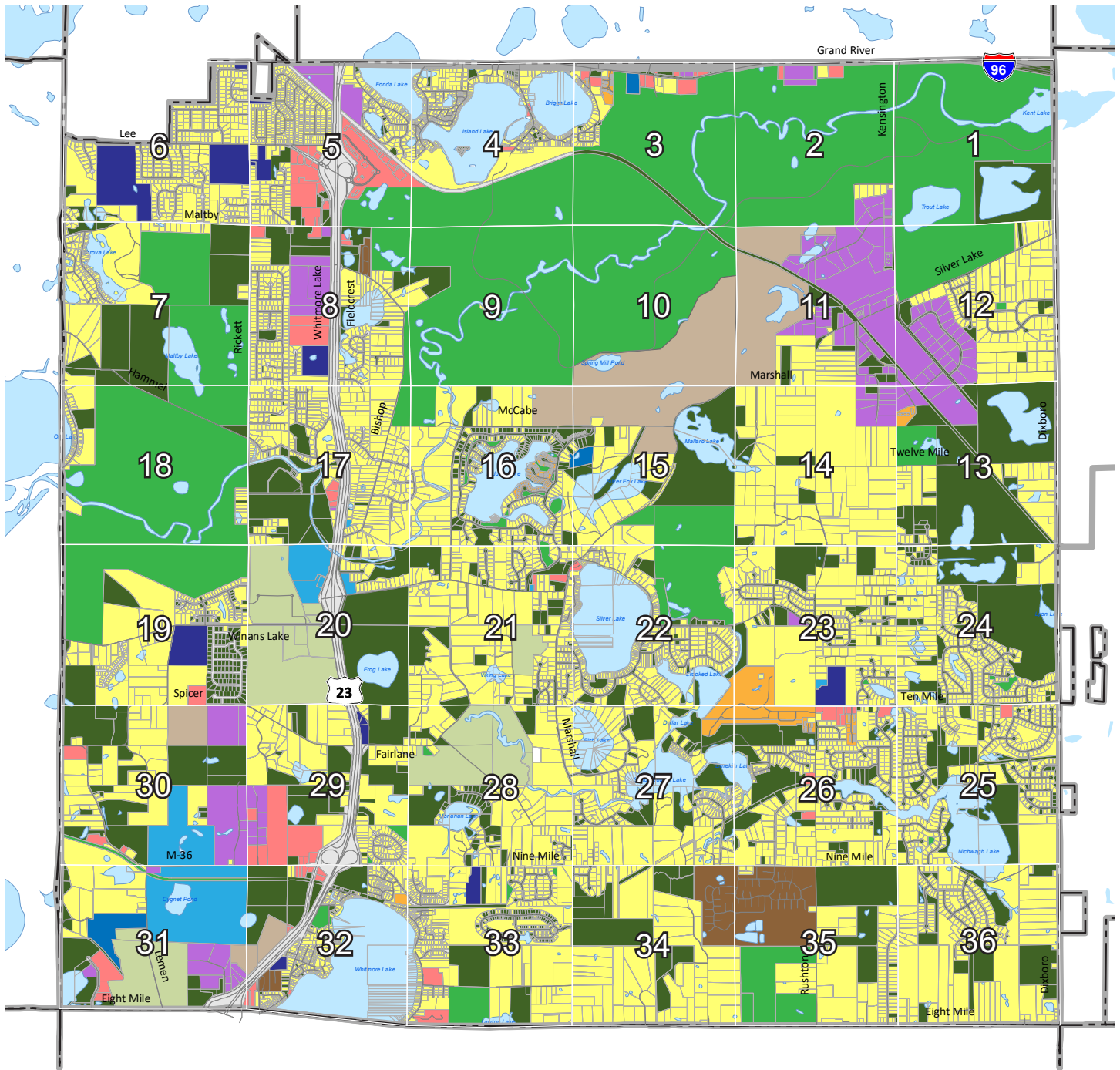
Source: Green Oak Township Master Plan
















Table 17. Existing Land Use 2019

Land Use	Acres	Percent
Single-Family Residential	9092.7	38.4%
Recreation	4712.8	19.9%
Vacant	4016.2	17.0%
Transportation ROW	1158.4	4.9%
Industrial	903.9	3.8%
Water	898.6	3.8%
Agricultural	792.3	3.3%
Extractive	681.6	2.9%
Commercial	412.2	1.7%
Government	333.8	1.4%
Mobile Home Park	254.0	1.1%
Public Uses	238.4	1.0%
Multi-Family Residential	140.3	0.6%
Utilities	53.4	0.2%
Cemetery	5.1	0.0%
Total Acres	23693.6	

Source: Green Oak Charter Township Master Plan

Map 4. Existing Land Use



- | | |
|--|---|
|  Agricultural |  Multi-Family Residential |
|  Cemetery |  Public Uses (Churches, Fraternal Organizations) |
|  Commercial |  Recreation |
|  Extractive |  Single-Family Residential |
|  Government |  Transportation ROW |
|  Industrial |  Utilities |
|  Mobile Home Park |  Vacant |
| |  Water |

Existing Land Use

Green Oak Township
Livingston County



Source: Livingston County Base Map Data
October 2020
Carlisle/Wortman Associates, Inc.
Ann Arbor, Michigan



Source: Green Oak Charter Township Master Plan

RESIDENTIAL

Until the 1970s, non-lakefront residential development was confined to scattered single-family dwellings along rural and semi-rural road frontages. With much of the lakefront property now fully developed, many new subdivisions and site condominiums have spread to other parts of the Township. Since the 1970s, numerous subdivisions have developed along the Nine Mile, Ten Mile, Rickett, Rushton, Peer, Bishop, and Silver Lake Road corridors. Hundreds of single-family residential units are in the planning process west of US-23. Additional residential growth has occurred as a result of lot splits and the development of single-family homes on large-lot parcels.

COMMERCIAL

Commercial land uses occupy less than 10 percent (8.6%) of the Township's land area. Historically, commercial land uses in Green Oak have consisted primarily of local convenience businesses, service stations, banks and restaurants. Retail outlets with a regional focus have developed at the Lee Road interchange of US-23. The Shoppes at Green Oak, located on the west side of US-23 south of Lee Road, includes large-format retailers, a membership warehouse, a bank, a fast food restaurant, and a multi-tenant strip plaza. On the opposite side of US-23, Green Oak Village Place houses over eighty (80) individual tenants in an integrated, pedestrian-oriented shopping center with elaborate and carefully coordinated architectural and landscape design. Both of these centers are expected to draw from a much wider market area than the older commercial uses in the Township.

RESEARCH OFFICE

Three (3) areas, classified as Research Office, are located within the Township. Lowry Computer Products is located along Maltby Road just west of US-23. Lowry is a national manufacturer and system integrator providing barcode and data collection solutions. Carl Zeiss Inc., located on Kensington Road north of Emerson, specializes in high precision industrial measuring machine production, sales and services. Promess Incorporated specializes in force and torque measuring systems.

INDUSTRIAL

Historically, several industrial sites were scattered in various locations throughout the Township, many of which were in proximity to residential areas. The locations of the Township's industrial areas were formally established with the adoption of the 1973 Zoning Ordinance. Concentrated industrial development has occurred primarily near Kensington and Silver Lake Roads (on both sides of the Chessie Railroad System), which represents the largest of the Township's industrial areas and contains some of the more recent industrial development within the Township. Another significant concentration of industrial development can be found near the former Maxey Boys Training School in Sections 29, 30, 31 and 32 (off of M-36, Whitmore Lake Road, Eight Mile Road and Lemman Road). A number of vacant industrial lots found in this area are likely to see future industrial growth. Smaller industrial areas in the Township can be found on Whitmore Lake Road south of Maltby; on Grand River Avenue east of Pleasant Valley; and on Ten Mile Road east of Rushton.

A number of the Township's industrial developments have located in industrial parks, which offer opportunities for orderly and efficient industrial expansion, while minimizing environmental impacts to adjacent areas.



PARK LAND

A large amount of land within Green Oak is designated for public recreation, as evidenced by the Existing Land Use map on page 48. The State-Owned Island Lake Recreation Area occupies much of the northern portion of the Township, which geographically separates the Island-Briggs-Fonda Lakes area from the remainder of the Township. The Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority's Huron Meadows Metropark also occupies a substantial amount of land in Sections 7, 18 and 19, west of US-23. Little change in the extent of the park land has occurred in the Township in recent years, with the exception of Colman Park and the development of the privately-run Legacy Park recreation complex.

PUBLIC & INSTITUTIONAL

The largest institutional uses in the Township are the former W.J. Maxey Training School and Woodland Center Correctional Facility on M-36 west of Whitmore Lake Road. Other public uses include Township buildings, public schools, and the Northfield Township Wastewater Treatment Plant. Several churches and cemeteries are also located in the Township. Little change has occurred to the Public/Institutional land use category in recent years within Township limits.

Anecdotal evidence suggests the possibility of the State of Michigan selling off some or all of their correctional facilities on M-36, thereby greatly reducing the proportion of this land use category in the Township, and paving the way for significant change along the M-36 corridor.

VACANT

The development of residential, commercial, and industrial areas within the Township has slowed in recent years. However, the Township's Planning and Zoning Department has recently been experiencing increased activity in the form of applications for land use and development, not only for expansion and redevelopment, but for vacant lots as well. This trend may indicate renewed interest in the conversion of vacant, agricultural, and former extractive sites to other uses in future years. Several large vacant properties still remain within Green Oak. The eastern and southern portions of the Township have maintained a rural feel, which is created by large lot, low-density residential patterns.

EXTRACTIVE

Despite the Township's historic extractive operations, very little extractive activities continue today. As such, extractive land is no longer distinguished by its own category on the Existing Land Use Map. A number of former extractive sites, particularly along the Dixboro Road corridor, await reclamation for future large-scale development.



Natural Features

GEOLOGY & TOPOGRAPHY

The terrain throughout the Township is gently rolling to hilly, with sandy uplands and ridges, sandy plains and numerous wet flat plains. The highest point in the Township, at about 1,035 feet above sea level, is located near the western portion of the Township on a moraine north of Winans Lake Road. The lowest area of the Township is approximately 860 feet above sea level and is found in the floodplain of the Huron River.

The entirety of Green Oak falls within the Huron River watershed. The Huron River watershed includes numerous smaller sub-watersheds throughout its course. In Green Oak, these include: Davis Creek, Nichwagh Lake, Woodruff Creek and Huron River sub-watersheds. Correspondingly, the Township is traversed by a number of tributaries including the main and south branches of the Huron River, Davis Creek, Greenock Creek and numerous other streams and tributaries.

Glacial lakes are also a predominant feature throughout the Township's landscape. The largest of the lakes, as well as their acreage and sporting designation, are displayed in Table 19.

In addition to the various naturally-occurring glacial lakes throughout the Township, a number of lakes have been created in the Township by extractive operations over the years. In some cases, particularly Hidden Lake in Section 16, these lakes have been utilized to develop premier waterfront residential developments. That opportunity remains on a number of sites throughout the Township.

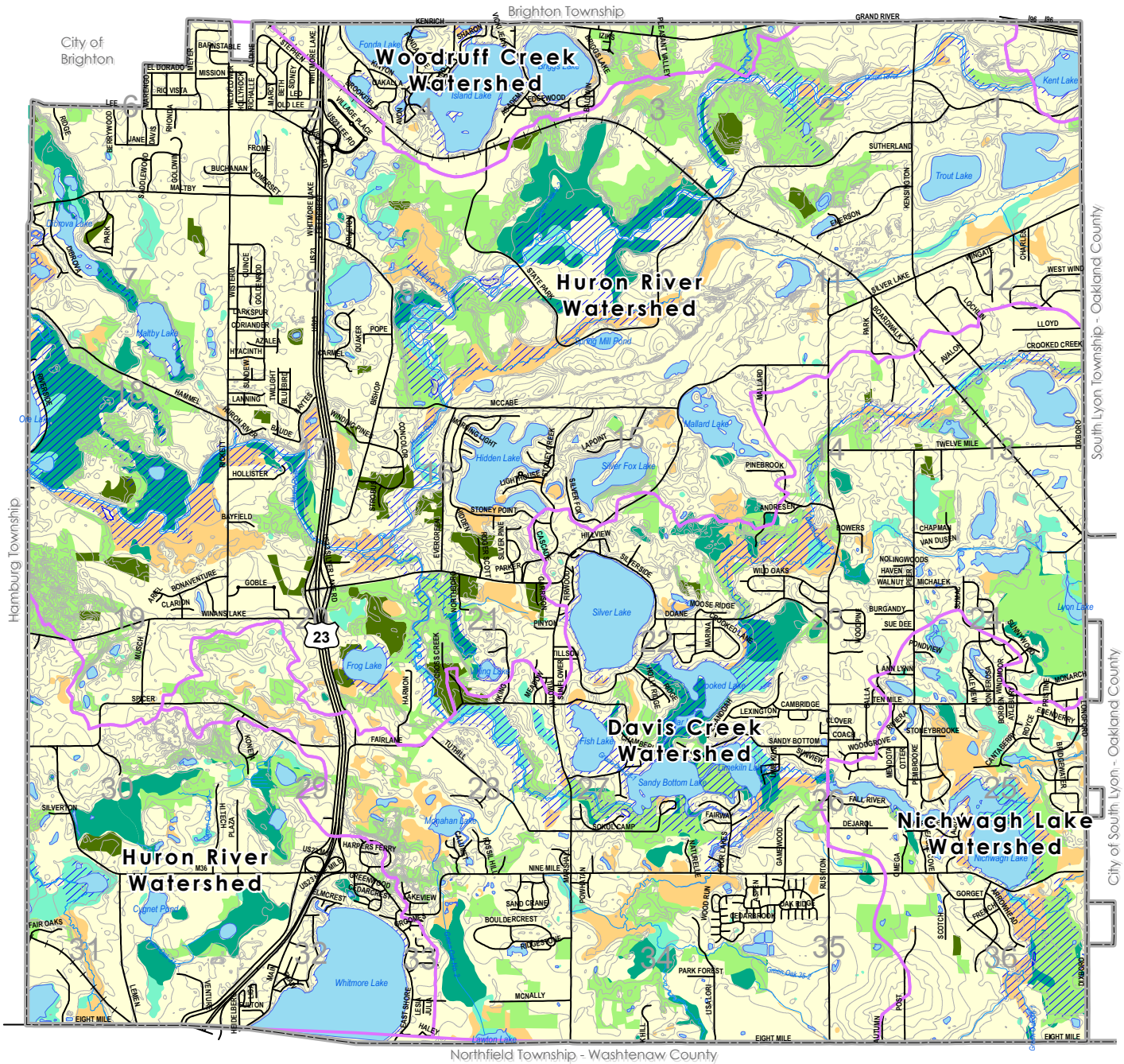


Table 19. Green Oak Township Lakes

Lake	Acreage	All Sports
Kent Lake*	1015 acres	No
Whitmore Lake*	677 acres	Yes
Ore Lake*	229 acres	No
Silver Lake	152 acres	Yes
Nichwagh Lake	144 acres	No
Island Lake	130 acres	Yes
Fonda Lake	84 acres	Yes
Briggs Lake	73 acres	No Motors
Mallard Lake	70 acres	No
Sandy Bottom Lake	60 acres	No
Crooked Lake	42 acres	No
Fish Lake	40 acres	No
Maltby Lake	36 acres	No
Limekiln Lake	30 acres	No
Frog Lake	27 acres	No
Monahan Lake	19 acres	No

* spans two or more communities

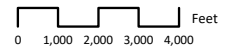
Map 5. Natural Features



- Central Hardwood Forest
- Pine Forest
- Forested Wetland
- Scrub-Shrub Wetland
- Emergent Wetland
- Contour Elevation
- Watershed Boundary
- Floodplain

Green Oak Charter Township Natural Features

Green Oak Township
Livingston County



Source: Livingston County Base Map Data
October 2020
Carlisle/Wortman Associates, Inc.
Ann Arbor, Michigan



SOILS

An understanding of soil characteristics is essential to a community's development process by allowing development to occur in a manner which minimizes construction costs, risks to public health, and environmental damage. This is especially critical in Green Oak because of the limitations present in many of the Township's soil types.

Soil types within the Township are identified in the Livingston County Soil Survey prepared by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service. For land use planning purposes, the two most important soil characteristics are the suitability for septic systems and the susceptibility to wetness and flooding.

VEGETATION

A look at vegetation patterns in 1800 makes it clear where Green Oak Township got its name. The area was overwhelmingly dominated by oak forests, savannas, and barrens, with a significant portion either oak-hickory or mixed oak forests. Wet prairies and emergent marshes were also present, especially along the Huron River and near the regions many streams and lakes.

Vegetation is influenced by topography, soils, and human impact. The representative vegetation communities include forests, streamside, meadows, abandoned fields, and roadside. As the region has developed, much of the native vegetation has been displaced by agricultural uses and suburban development patterns. The Township's streets include a large number of planted trees. Green Oak is fortunate to have two large natural areas on the northern edge of the community, Island Lake Recreation Area and Huron Meadows Metropark, which contain wooded areas left relatively undisturbed because they remain undeveloped.





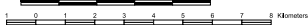
Vegetation circa 1800 of Livingston County, Michigan

An Interpretation of the General Land Office Surveys

By P. J. Comer and D. A. Albert
Michigan Natural Features Inventory
1997



Scale 1:80,000



Map Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic

SOURCE: Comer, P.J., D.A. Albert, H.A. Wells, B.L. Hart, J.B. Raab, D.L. Price, D.M. Kauffman, T.A. Comer, D.W. Schuen (Map Interpretation), M.B. Austin, T.R. Leibfried, K.M. Korroch, L. Prange-Gregory, J.G. Spitzley, C.J. DeLain, L.J. Schirmer, (Digital Map Production), 1996, Michigan's Preadmission Vegetation, as Interpreted from the General Land Office Surveys 1816-1856, Michigan Natural Features Inventory, Lansing, MI. Digital Map.



Legend

- ✓ ASPEN-BIRCH FOREST
- ✓ BEECH-SUGAR MAPLE FOREST
- ✓ BEECH-SUGAR MAPLE-HEMLOCK FOREST
- ✓ BLACK ASH SWAMP
- ✓ BLACK OAK BARREN
- ✓ CEDAR SWAMP
- ✓ GRASSLAND
- ✓ HEMLOCK-WHITE PINE FOREST
- ✓ HEMLOCK-YELLOW BIRCH FOREST
- ✓ JACK PINE-RED PINE FOREST
- ✓ LAKE/RIVER
- ✓ MIXED CONIFER SWAMP
- ✓ MIXED HARDWOOD SWAMP
- ✓ MIXED OAK FOREST
- ✓ MIXED OAK SAVANNA
- ✓ MIXED PINE-OAK FOREST
- ✓ MUSKEG/BOG
- ✓ OAK-HICKORY FOREST
- ✓ OAK-PINE BARREN
- ✓ PINE BARREN
- ✓ SAND DUNE
- ✓ SHRUB SWAMP/EMERGENT MARSH
- ✓ SPRUCE-FIR-CEDAR FOREST
- ✓ WET PRAIRIE
- ✓ WHITE PINE-MIXED HARDWOOD FOREST
- ✓ WHITE PINE-RED PINE FOREST
- ✓ WHITE PINE-WHITE OAK FOREST

--- GREEN OAK CHARTER TOWNSHIP BORDER

✓ = LAND COVER TYPE PRESENT ON THIS MAP

Source: Adapted from MDNR / Michigan State University Extension / Michigan Natural Features Inventory Historical Vegetation Map

WATER RESOURCES

The Huron River is one of the key natural features of Green Oak. The Township's thirty-six (36) square miles provides important watershed areas which are critical to the maintenance of surface and ground water quality. Green Oak is a participating member of the Huron River Watershed Council. The Township supports this agency's efforts in monitoring surface water in the Township, and for developing strategies for effective management of this important resource.

Green Oak includes rivers and creeks which are designated for protection under Part 305, Natural Rivers, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Policy Act (P.A. 451 of 1994) by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and under the Township's Natural Rivers Overlay Zone. The purpose of this designation is to preserve and enhance the scenic value and quality of rivers. Generally, the area 400 feet from the ordinary high water mark on each side of and parallel to the Huron River and its tributaries, Davis Creek and Spring Mill Creek, is designated as Natural Rivers District. Regulations include a building setback of 125 feet from the river or 50 feet from tributaries and a minimum lot width of 150 feet.

The presence of surface waters, poorly drained soils and low-lying areas gives rise to substantial floodplain and wetland areas in the Township. Once seen as waste lands, wetlands and floodplains are now recognized as vital natural resources. Wetlands are essential to the maintenance of water quality, providing nutrient retention and filtration, sediment removal and groundwater recharge and discharge. With these and other benefits, including the availability of habitat for wildlife and the storing function for flood waters, wetlands and floodplains are essential in maintaining balanced hydrological and ecological systems.

Lands along the Huron River, Davis Creek and portions of other select creeks and tributaries, are within the 100-year floodplain as established by the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA). The 100-year floodplain is the area adjoining a river, stream, or watercourse covered by water in the event of a 100-year flood.



Planning Initiatives

While change is inevitable and growth in population, household, and housing has occurred, Green Oak Charter Township is committed to managing that growth to enhance economic benefit, recreational activities, and overall quality of life for Township residents.

Various local and regional planning efforts have taken place in the Township that have relevance to the current plan. Key plans and developments include:

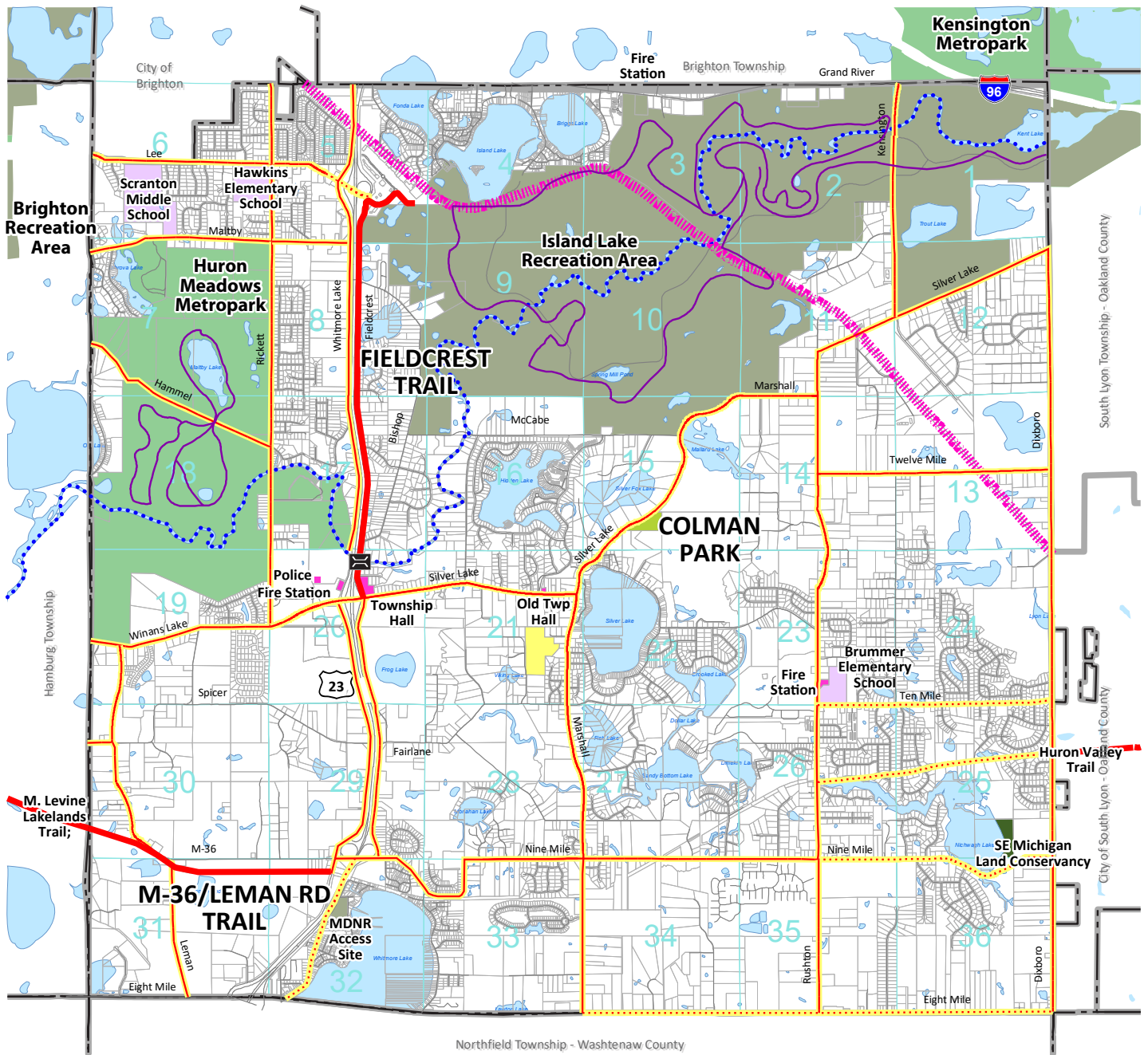
- The 2015 Green Oak Non-Motorized Plan
- The Livingston County Non-Motorized Plan
- Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) Flex Route Plan for US-23

Green Oak Non-Motorized Transportation Plan

Green Oak adopted a Pathway and Greenway Plan in 2005 which was updated in 2015. The 2015 plan was superseded by the Recreation Plans adopted in 2016, and again by this 2021 Parks, Recreation, & Trails Master Plan. While the original 2015 Plan is no longer the document of record for the Township, it remains a valuable resource which examines potential trail treatments, policies, and alignments. The non-motorized plan detailed in this Recreation Plan recognizes the need to remain flexible in trail planning and, while it demonstrates the general location of desired routes, it allows for alignment adjustments based on residential or business development opportunities, resident input, and other variables.

The 2005 Plan outlines the Township's Non-Motorized Pathway and complete streets policies:

- The Township acknowledges an increased demand from Township residents for non-motorized transportation facilities, and the Township's need to maintain and expand the Lakelands Trail pathway system for residents to safely walk or bicycle, linking local recreational and open spaces, such as the Island Lake State Recreation Area, with residential areas, schools, community facilities and shopping.
- In conjunction with the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan, the Township has implemented a \$500,000 expansion of their existing sidewalk system to improve connectivity and walkability within the community.
- Pathways shall be multi-use, separated from the road surface. If not possible, then pathways should share a portion of the road surface.
- Improve connections within and between parks and natural areas.
- Consider connections for Safe Routes to Schools, trail crossings, and areas or population groups with limited transportation options.
- Developments that are subject to site plan or subdivision approval should incorporate complete street elements.
- The Township will explore the creation of Zoning Ordinance regulations that require the installation of safety paths along roadways, inside the Township right-of-way, to provide connections between the development and other land uses.



- Township Park
- Proposed Township Park
- Preserved Land
- Schools
- Township Facilities
- Huron Clinton Metropark
- State Park
- Existing Pathways
- Existing Trail
- Non-Motorized Bridge
- Huron River Water Trail
- Proposed Pathways
- Potential Pathways - Further Study Required
- Potential Trail with Rail - Further Study Required

Green Oak Charter Township Non-Motorized Plan

Green Oak Township
Livingston County

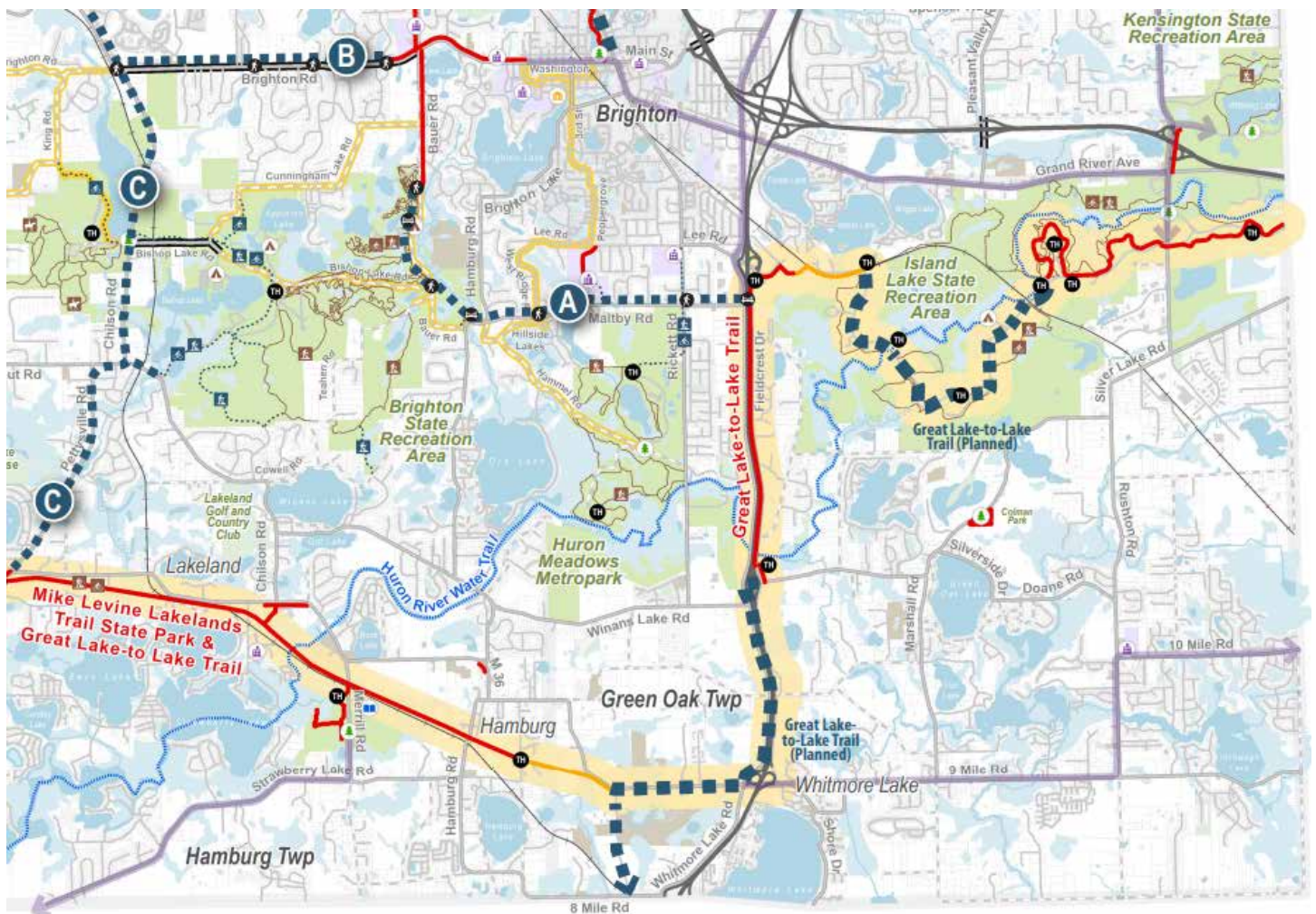


Source: Livingston County Base Map Data
November 2020
Carlisle/Wortman Associates, Inc.
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Livingston County Trails Plan

Adopted in 2020, the Livingston County Trails Plan gathered input from governmental representatives and community stakeholders to create an interconnected trail network. The plan identified three main priority routes, one of which directly relates to Green Oak Township. The plan calls for a Maltby-Hamburg-Bauer Road Trail, and proposes a new non-motorized bridge over US-23 near Green Oaks Crossing.

The plan also shows future routes continuing north along Whitmore Lake Road, east along Nine Mile Road with a connection to the Huron Valley Trail, and east-west along Grand River Avenue. These alignments would provide new connections to the City of Brighton to the northwest and to South Lyon to the east. If developed as planned, Green Oak residents would be provided easy trail access to four state parks, one Metropark, and three downtown areas (Brighton, Hamburg, and South Lyon).



MDOT US-23 Flex Route Planning

Running from Ann Arbor north to Whitmore Lake, the FlexRoute system along US-23 is designed to ease traffic delays during peak hours by creating traffic lanes along the interior highway shoulders. Using the shoulder as a traffic lane requires less intensive infrastructure development.

The first phase of the FlexRoute was developed in 2017. In 2020, MDOT announced plans for Phase II, which would extend the route further north to the I-96/US-23 interchange near Brighton. As part of this expansion, bridges and underpasses at M-36/Nine Mile Road and at Silver Bell Road will require reconfiguration. MDOT has expressed a willingness to include non-motorized facilities in their plans, representing an outstanding opportunity to resolve highway crossing issues.



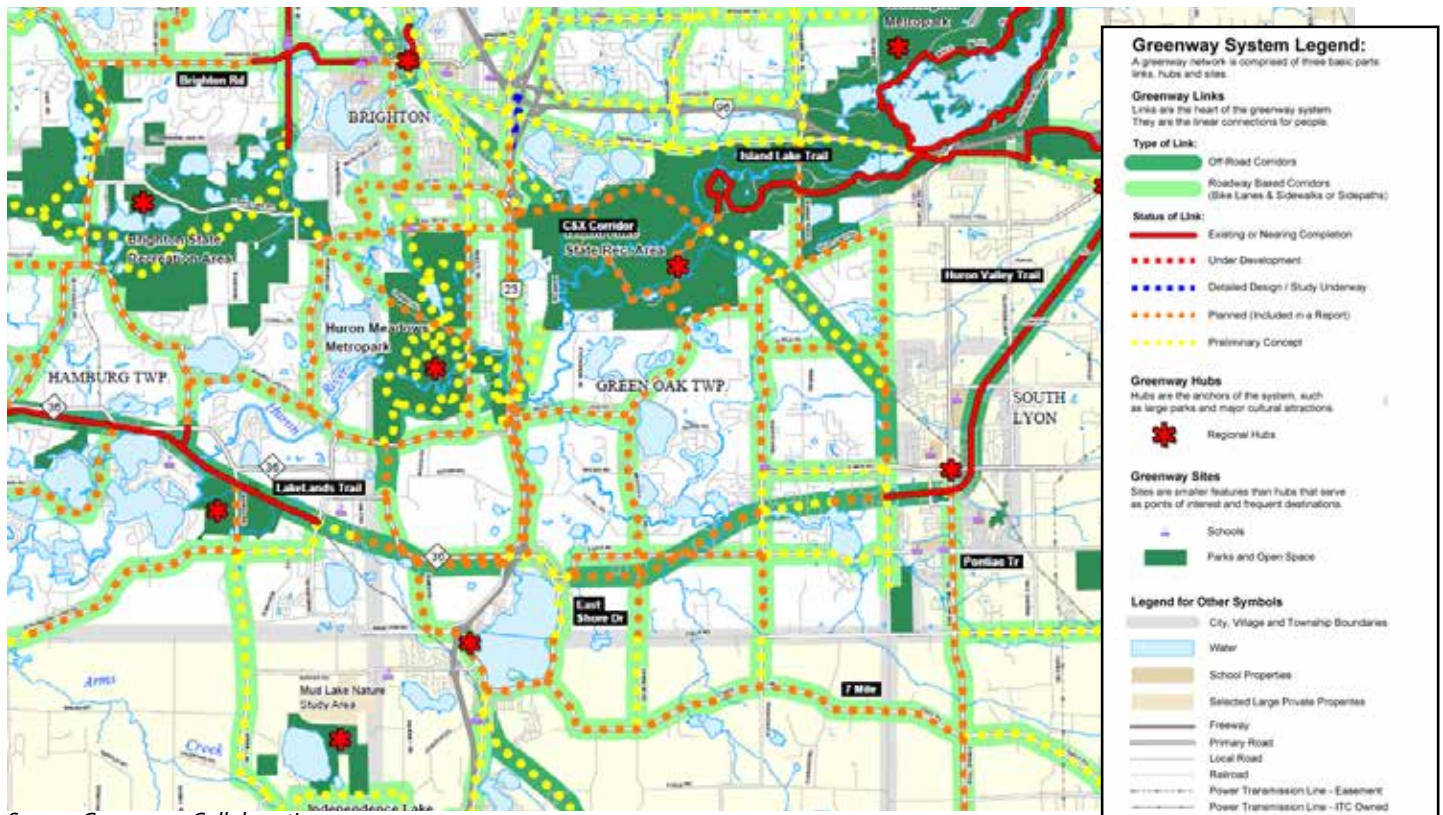
- Table of Contents
- Executive Summary
- Goals & Objectives
- Action Plan
- Needs Assessment & Public Participation
- Recreation Inventory
- Administrative Structure
- Community Background

Southeast Michigan Greenways Vision

In 2006, the seven-county region of southeast Michigan updated the Southeast Michigan Greenways Vision to reflect the desired non-motorized connections in the region. This initiative was facilitated by the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan. Counties worked together with local municipalities and community interest groups to develop a long-term vision for a connected system of greenways and trails.

Since the initial framework was developed, the initiative has expanded to include water trails as well as hiking and biking trails. Maps of existing and planned facilities show an ambitious trail network connecting facilities throughout the area. Among the proposed facilities, a trail utilizing the CSX Corridor is notable. Other proposed trails are consistent with the vision laid out in this and other plans.

Figure 9. Detail: Regional Trails & Greenways Vision for Livingston County



Source: Greenways Collaborative

SEMCOG Parks and Recreation Plan for Southeast Michigan

The SEMCOG plan, adopted in 2019, was developed to highlight available recreation resources and ensure that the region's recreation system meets the needs of residents and visitors. The Plan notes that with over 2,300 parks covering 214,000 acres, over 400 miles of trails and greenways, and 450 miles of designated water trails, the region is well served by local, state, regional, and federal recreation authorities.

The plan provides several regional policy recommendations to address recreation development. Among the recommendations, prioritization of investment in land acquisition is viewed as necessary to address gaps in access to outdoor recreation facilities. Fostering collaboration among outdoor recreation stakeholders speaks to the need for ongoing cooperation between local and regional recreation authorities. Utilization of universal design principles ensures that facilities are accessible to residents of all abilities. Supporting conservation and stewardship of natural resources recognizes the value of open space and the desire of the region's residents to have access to natural areas in reasonable proximity to their homes.

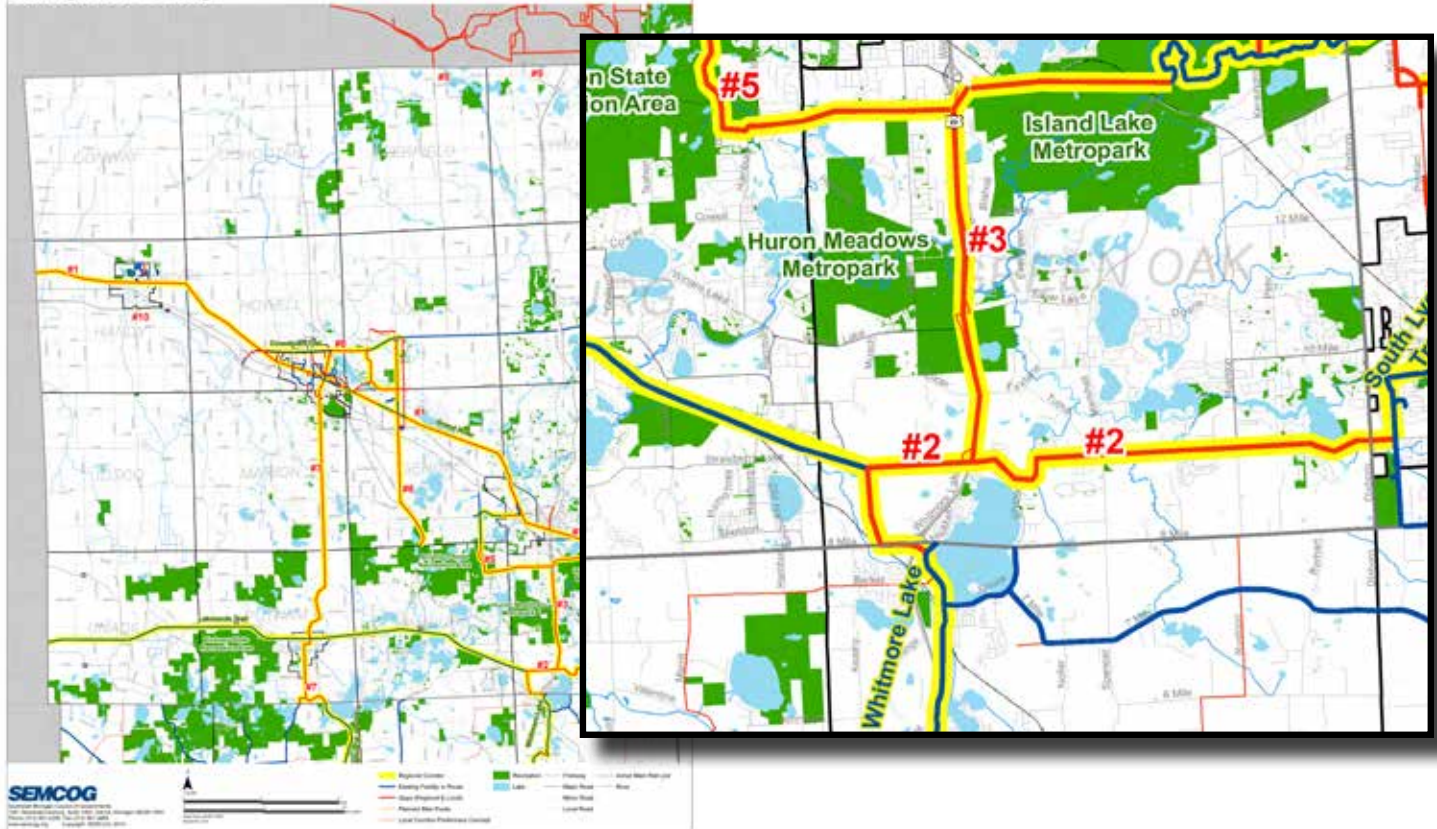
SEMCOG 2045 Regional Transportation Plan / 2014 Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan for SE Michigan

The 2045 Regional Transportation Plan provides broad transportation recommendations for projects across the seven-county region, with a budget of over \$5 billion proposed for transportation infrastructure improvements. While this plan focuses on motorized infrastructure, it does provide a chance to look at upcoming projects and plan accordingly for other related infrastructure improvements. Generally speaking, road infrastructure improvements represent opportunities for adding to bicycle networks and implementing complete street programs.

The 2014 SEMCOG plan is a joint effort between Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) and the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). The plan provides recommendations for bicycle and pedestrian facilities across 10 regions and incorporating 60 different action items. SEMCOG's larger regional focus places more emphasis on existing non-motorized transportation options.

For Green Oak, the plan highlights the 9-Mile/M-36 Corridor (#2), US-23 Corridor (#3), and Maltby Road Corridor (#5) as regional corridors of significance. While the data is somewhat outdated, the proposed routes correlate well with Green Oak's own development plans.

**Regional Nonmotorized Corridors & Gaps
Livingston County**



Major Trail Projects

The State of Michigan has seen a boom in non-motorized projects in recent years. The projects are often interconnected, and development of one segment can have a significant impact on existing and planned developments in other communities. Green Oak residents are in the middle of a number of key projects that provide access to thousands of miles of trail facilities.

The **Great Lake to Lake Trails** stretches from Port Huron to South Haven. This 275-mile route is comprised of a number of smaller trails including the Fieldcrest Trail, Island Lake facilities, and Mike Levine Lakelands Trail.

The Great Lake to Lake Trail connects to the **Iron Belle Trail (IBT)**, a 2,000+ mile network stretching from Belle Isle in Detroit to Iron Mountain in the far western Upper Peninsula. The IBT includes a 1,273 mile long hiking route which winds along the west side of the Lower Peninsula and borders Lake Superior in the Upper Peninsula, and a 791 mile long biking trail on the east side of the state and following US-2 in the Upper Peninsula. Since 2012, over \$68 million in grant and local funds and \$155 million in private donations have been collected to complete the trail.

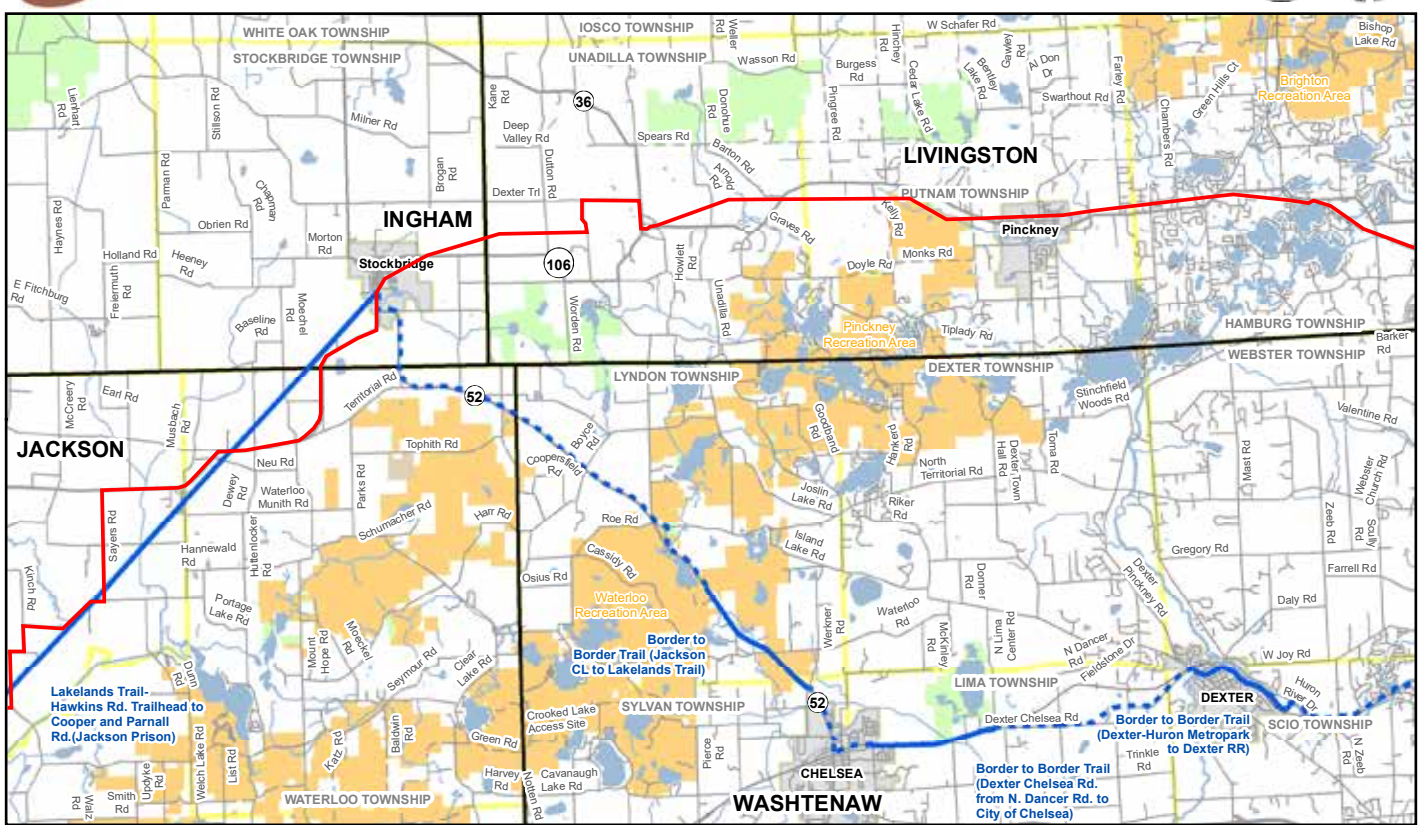
Finally, the IBT is, in turn, part of the larger **North Country National Scenic Trail** which travels from eastern New York to central North Dakota. The trail passes through seven states along the way, with the longest stretch found in Michigan. At approximately 4,600 miles, it is the longest of the eleven National Scenic Trails.





Michigan's Iron Belle Trail - Two Routes, One Great Trail

Lakeland Trail - Stockbridge - Pinckney - Border to Border Trail - Dexter



** The illustrated hike and bicycle trail connections will rely upon partnership opportunities. **

0 1.5 3 Miles

December 2019
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Forest Resources Division
Resource Assessment Section

- Iron Belle Trail**
- Hiking - Existing Trail
- - - Hiking - Proposed Trail
- Railroad
- Highway
- Paved Road
- Gravel or Dirt Road
- River
- Lake
- Land Ownership
- State Land
- Federal Land
- City or Village
- Township
- County
- Great Lake to Lake Trail Route



Source: Adapted to include Great Lake to Lake Trail information from MDNR map

Appendices





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DET-3007910

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COUNTY OF LIVINGSTON

LIVINGSTON DAILY PRESS & ARGUS a newspaper published in the English language for the dissemination of local or transmitted news, which is a duly qualified newspaper, and that annexed hereto is a copy of a certain order taken from said newspaper, in which the order was published on the date indicated below.

SIGNED BY: Melanie C. Altz

NOTARIZED BY: Gail Wilczewski

PRINT NAME: Gail Wilczewski

Subscribed and sworn to before me
on: 12/3/2020

PUBLISHED ON:
12/3/2020

TOTAL COST: \$50.00 _____

erations in several states, including Michigan. However, McBroom stressed Tuesday's hearing was already planned and had nothing to do with the campaign.

On Tuesday morning, House Oversight Committee Chairman Matt Hall, R-Emmett Township, announced Giuliani would testify at a hearing on Wednesday.

Former state Sen. Patrick Colbeck kicked off Tuesday's hearing. The ex-lawmaker served as a Republican poll challenger at TCF, and has repeatedly said there is evidence of fraud in Michigan. He did not present this evidence during the hearing, though. While Republicans asked Colbeck several questions and thanked him for his testimony, Democrats suggested he was spreading misinformation.

"The election is over. The voters have decided, and investigations have repeatedly revealed that we had a safe and secure voting process," Sen. Sylvia Santana,

absentee, given his long-running attack on the mail-in voting process.

The combination of this anticipated delay in compiling results and the erosion of Trump's lead in Michigan as absentee ballots were counted led supporters to flock to TCF or otherwise cry foul about operations in Detroit. That, combined with no standardized training requirements for poll watchers and previous election problems in the city, led to the spread of misinformation and doubt about Detroit's election results.

Trump supporters rallied outside TCF for days after the election. At times, Republican poll challengers chanted outside of the counting area, arguing they should be allowed in to view the vote-tabulating process. Cardboard was eventually placed over some of the windows inside the counting room; Trump supporters outside argued this was to hide misconduct, but election workers

However, nobody at the TCF Center was told about the judge's order, and social distancing requirements were used to improperly impede the work of challengers, de Angeli testified.

Trump earned about 5,000 more votes from Detroiters this year than he did in 2016. Biden earned about 6,000 more votes than Hillary Clinton did in Detroit four years ago, according to official results from the city.

The Trump campaign eventually withdrew its lawsuit before a judge could issue any ruling.

The election was not decided in Detroit or Wayne County, which hasn't chosen a Republican presidential candidate since 1928. While Biden earned an expectedly large share of the vote in the area, he outperformed Trump's 2016 showing in traditionally Republican strongholds such as Kent and Grand Traverse counties and maintained Democratic dominance in the heavily populated suburb of Oakland County.

Election officials say early counting will help prevent problems in future

Detroit and state elections officials say the process worked as smoothly as could be expected.

Also, "if you're predisposed to seeing fraud, you will see fraud in just simple mistakes," he said.

Clerks continue to say giving them more time to process and count absentee ballots ahead of Election Day is a good start. Others note more can be done to clean up the state's Qualified Voter File, the list of people registered to vote in the state.

When a voter moves out of Michigan, dies or simply stops voting for a long period of time, they are supposed to be removed from the list. But it can be difficult for the state or local clerks to access the information needed to update the list — most people don't let the local clerk know they're moving out of Michigan, for example.

Once McBroom and Hall complete their hearings, it is expected lawmakers may take up recommended changes to election law. This likely will not happen until some point in 2021.

On Dec. 14, the 16 people chosen by Democrats to participate in the Electoral College will cast their votes for Biden. Biden assumes the presidency in late January.

Contact Dave Boucher: dboucher@freepress.com or 313-938-4591. Follow him on Twitter @Dave_Boucher1.

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Receive a \$25 Darden card with FREE in-home estimate

All participants who attend an estimated 60-90 minute in-home product consultation will receive a \$25 gift card. Retail value is \$25. Offer sponsored by LeafGuard Holdings Inc. Limit one per household. Company procures, sells, and installs seamless gutter protection. This offer is valid for homeowners over 18 years of age. If married or involved with a life partner, both cohabitating persons must attend and complete presentation together. Participants must have a photo ID, be able to understand English, and be legally able to enter into a contract. The following persons are not eligible for this offer: employees of Company or affiliated companies or entities, their immediate family members, previous participants in a Company in-home consultation within the past 12 months and all current and former Company customers. Gift may not be extended, transferred, or substituted except that Company may substitute a gift of equal or greater value if it deems it necessary. Gift card will be mailed to the participant via first class United States Mail or e-mailed within 30 days of receipt of the promotion form. Not valid in conjunction with any other promotion or discount of any kind. Offer not sponsored or promoted by Darden and is subject to change without notice prior to reservation. Expires 12/31/20.

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HOWELL CITY COUNCIL MEETING PROCEEDINGS NOVEMBER 23, 2020

1. Approved the November 9, 2020 regular meeting minutes.
2. Approved the 2021 Budget of the Howell Area Parks & Recreation Authority.
3. Approved the 3-year agreement with the EDC of Livingston County.
4. Adopted the Interlocal Agreement for Livingston County approving the Designated Assessor for the period 2021 - 2025.
5. Authorized staff to finalize a purchase agreement with Howell Education Foundation for the sale of the newly created lots on the site of the former Barnard Center.
6. Approved the MERS Defined Benefit Plan & Defined Contribution Plan Adoption Agreement Addendums.
7. Awarded the 2020 Tree Maintenance Contract to Arbor Master Tree Service in the amount of \$39,200.
8. Approved payment of bills in the amount of \$643,371.34 and payroll to cover the period ending 11/21/2020.
9. Adjournment at 8:34 pm.






JANE CARTWRIGHT, MMC
HOWELL CITY CLERK
(12-03-2020 DAILY 357835)


HOWELL TOWNSHIP NOVEMBER 9, 2020 ZOOM - REGULAR MEETING SYNOPSIS

- The following actions were taken:
- 1) Approved the November 9, 2020 agenda as amended; add to agenda item Property Committee 8L, Allen Edwin.
 - 2) Approved the October 12, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented.
 - 3) Approved the Howell Area Parks and Recreation Authority 2021 Budget as presented, and to include the \$5,000.00 increase for membership.
 - 4) Approved Schumcks Brewery's Final Site Plan request for an extension to the end of November 2021.
 - 5) Approved Kenneth Frenger to the Zoning Board of Appeals, term ending December 31, 2020. Mr. Frenger is finishing the term of Alex Hensen.
 - 6) Approved the 2021 Calendars for meetings for the Township Board, Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals and the WWTP.
 - 7) Approved to pay for the cleaning of the basins at the WWTP.
 - 8) Approved the Regular Disbursements as of November 4, 2020 check register as presented, also any customary and normal payments for the month.
 - 9) Approved to adjourn: Meeting ended 9:04 p.m.

JEAN GRAHAM
HOWELL TOWNSHIP CLERK
(12-03-2020 DAILY 357833)

WEATHER

<p>Today</p>  <p>Periods of clouds and sun-shine</p> <p>High 41° Low 31°</p> <p>Friday</p>  <p>Increasing amounts of sun</p> <p>High 42° Low 27°</p> <p>Saturday</p>  <p>Mostly cloudy</p> <p>High 38° Low 25°</p>	<p>Sunday</p>  <p>Sun and areas of low clouds</p> <p>High 37° Low 24°</p> <p>Monday</p>  <p>Mostly cloudy with a couple of flurries</p> <p>High 37° Low 26°</p>
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December 1, 2020

NOTICE OF PLAN AVAILABILITY FOR REVIEW

Green Oak Charter Township is seeking public input regarding the Green Oak 2021 - 2025 Parks, Recreation, & Trails Master Plan. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources requires a minimum 30-day public review process as part of the master planning process. A formal public hearing for adoption of the Plan will be held upon completion of the 30-day review period. A copy of the draft master plan is available for review at the following locations:

- Green Oak Township Offices, 10001 Silver Lake Road, Brighton, MI.
- The draft plan is also available online on the Township's website at www.greenoaktwp.com, or can be directly accessed at <https://www.calameo.com/read/0051076730d207119df80>.
- For questions or comments, please call 810-231-1333. (12-03-2020 DAILY 357839)



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NOTARIZED BY: Gail Wilczewski

PRINT NAME: Gail Wilczewski

Subscribed and sworn to before me
on: 12/20/2020

PUBLISHED ON:
12/20/2020

TOTAL COST: \$70.00 _____

aren't turning to tobacco as often, even shunning the popular e-cigarettes, and that started even before the U.S. quarantines and lockdowns.

The number of middle- and high-school students who use tobacco products fell 28% in 2020

lower use of e-cigarettes, cigars and smokeless tobacco products.

Underage tobacco use is a central issue for cigarette makers as well as e-cigarette companies such as Juul Labs Inc., whose vape devices have faced scrutiny over whether

its IQOS 3 heated tobacco system led to increased youth uptake.

Still, not every type of product is falling out of favor. The CDC found no change in the use of cigarettes, heated tobacco products, hookah or pipe tobacco by students. And despite an overall decline, nearly one-quarter of high school students still use some type of tobacco product.

The surprising resilience of cigarettes echoes findings by Altria Group Inc. that cigarette sales had remained strong during the COVID-19 pandemic. The company, which markets the Marlboro brand in the U.S., has said that some older smokers who had adopted vaping switched back to cigarettes.

Groups that promote e-cigarettes as less harmful than cigarettes have voiced concerns that 2019's spate of deadly lung-illnesses may have scared some vapers back to cigarettes. Anti-tobacco groups have said there's no proof that e-cigarettes are less harmful overall.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and state lawmakers agreed to a \$465 million pandemic spending plan late Friday. MICHIGAN OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR VIA AP

Virus aid

Continued from Page 1A

had to close, \$15,000 if they partially closed. Certain concert and other live-entertainment sites could qualify for \$40,000 as part of a separate \$3.5 million grant program.

"If we lost all these small stages across the state, it would be a disaster for Michigan. They are economic drivers. They are a cultural experience," said Sen. Curtis Hertel Jr. of East Lansing, the top Democrat on the Senate budget panel.

He said the legislation is not perfect but reflects a compromise — one that the Democratic governor and members of both parties in the Republican-controlled Legislature "can all celebrate and, more importantly, the people of Michigan can celebrate."

The deal also has funding for the health response, including testing — \$51 million for vaccine distribution, a continuation of a \$2 hourly raise for direct care workers and aid to hospitals and nursing

homes.

"This bill does not mark the end of the fight against COVID-19, but it is another critical step in helping Michiganders battle the virus and survive the repeated shutdowns of our economy," said the sponsor, Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Jim Stamas, R-Midland.

The state budget office said tax revenues are much higher than expected. Federal funds would be used instead of state dollars if Congress later OKs relief to states.

The measure would spend up to \$3.4 million for rapid testing of teachers and other school employees, and \$2.5 million so additional teachers re-

ceive \$500 that many got earlier in the year in recognition of their work during the outbreak.

The Senate's 35-2 vote came just over two weeks after Whitmer requested \$400 million in supplemental spending, including \$100 million in direct relief to people and businesses hit hardest by the pandemic.

Her budget office had said much of the funding was needed to continue critical response activities that cannot be funded with previously authorized U.S. aid after Dec. 30 under federal law. Congress was negotiating an almost \$1 trillion COVID-19 economic relief package that could be finalized over the weekend.

Attention Hartland Township Residents

The Hartland Township Planning Commission will conduct a Public Hearing on **Thursday, January 14, 2021** at the Hartland Township Hall, 2655 Clark Road, Hartland, at or about 7:00 p.m.

The hearing is being held to review and hear comments on a preliminary site plan for a proposed Planned Development application (Site Plan Application #20-011, Villas of Hartland Planned Development), submitted by Joseph Rotondo. The applicant is proposing a 55-unit single family residential planned development. The subject property is located east of Hacker Road, north of Highland Road (M-59), and west of the single-family, residential development commonly known as Walnut Ridge Estates (Planned Development). The site is comprised of two parcels, with a combined total of approximately 24.51 acres (Parcel ID #4708-19-300-013 and #4708-19-300-014).

Based on Section 3.1.18 of the Hartland Township Zoning Ordinance, a public hearing must be held before the Planning Commission as part of the preliminary site plan review for a Planned Development.

A copy of the preliminary site plan for Villas of Hartland Planned Development (SP #20-011) may be viewed prior to the Public Hearing at the Hartland Township Hall. Written comments may be submitted to the Township Planning Department at 2655 Clark Road, Hartland, MI 48353 prior to 4:00 on Thursday, January 14, 2021. If you have questions, please call the Planning Department at 810-632-7498 between the hours of 8:30 am and 6:00 pm, Monday through Thursday (excluding holidays). If you wish to attend the meeting and require special accommodations, please contact the Planning Department before 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 13, 2021.

(12-20-2020 DAILY 357892)

WEATHER

Today

Low clouds

High **38°** Low **28°**

Monday

Mostly cloudy, afternoon snow showers

High **37°** Low **32°**

Tuesday

Sun and areas of low clouds

High **37°** Low **30°**

Wednesday

A little afternoon rain; ice at night

High **44°** Low **30°**

Thursday

Cloudy, snow showers possible; colder

High **30°** Low **16°**

AccuWeather

Plan your week | Get the NEW app

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2020

COHOCTAH TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING SYNOPSIS

The regular meeting of the Cohoctah Township Board was called to order December 10, 2020 at 3:02 pm at the township hall, 10518 Antcliff Rd. Members present: Bock, Charette, Fear, Fosdick, Torigian. 1) Motion to approve agenda as presented, carried. 2) Motion to approve Consent Agenda as presented, carried. 3) Motion to approve the 2021 Hardship Exemption Procedures and Guidelines, carried. 4) Motion to adopt Resolution for Poverty Exemption 2021, carried. 5) Motion to accept Fowlerville Schools Summer Tax Collection Agreement, Ayes 5, Nays, 0, carried. 6) Motion to approve the Interlocal Assessor Agreement, carried. 7) Motion to approve PA 116 conditional upon approval by Livingston County, carried. There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 3:28pm. Next regular meeting date January 14, 2021 at 8:00 p.m.

Barb Fear
Clerk

(12-18-2020 DAILY 357915)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Green Oak Charter Township is seeking public input regarding the Green Oak 2021 – 2025 Parks, Recreation, Trails Master Plan. The hearing will take place as part of the regularly scheduled Township Board meeting at 7:00 p.m. on January 6, 2021. Due to ongoing COVID-19 concerns, Township Board meetings are being held virtually and can be accessed via the Township website.

A draft copy of the plan has been available for review since December 6, 2020 and will remain available through the date of the hearing. The plan can be viewed at the following locations:

- Green Oak Township Offices, 10001 Silver Lake Road, Brighton, MI.
- The draft plan is also available online on the Township's website at www.greenoaktwp.com, or can be directly accessed at <https://www.calameo.com/read/0051076730d2071f9df80>
- For questions or comments, please call 810-231-1333.

(12-20-2020 DAILY 357914)

HAMBURG TOWNSHIP LIVINGSTON COUNTY, MICHIGAN NOTICE OF ADOPTION ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT 20-004 RIPARIAN WIDTH ORDINANCE

Notice is hereby given that the Township Board for Hamburg Township, Livingston County, Michigan adopted Zoning Text Amendment (ZTA) 20-004: an amendment to Article 2 and Article 9, Sections 9.5 and 9.7.

1) The zoning text amendment to **Article 2 Definitions** adds the Definitions of Riparian Frontage and Riparian Width.

Welcome Our Newest Provider

Matthew J. McKenna, MD
Family Medicine



We're pleased to introduce patients to Dr. McKenna

Matthew J. McKenna, MD, is board certified in family medicine. Dr. McKenna attended medical school at Michigan State University College of Human Medicine in East Lansing, Michigan. He completed his residency in family medicine at Michigan State University in Flint, Michigan.

Dr. McKenna specializes in family medicine services:

- Annual Checkups and Physical Exams
- Care for Chronic Conditions
- Geriatric Services for Age-Related Issues
- Immunizations and Preventative Care
- Laceration Repair and Minor Procedures
- Pediatric and Adolescent Services including Well Child/Newborn Exams
- Urgent Care for Sudden Illnesses
- Women's Health Services

In our office, we go above and beyond to help ensure your safety with processes in place to protect our patients and staff.



GREEN OAK CHARTER TOWNSHIP
10001 SILVER LAKE ROAD, BRIGHTON, MI 48116
PHONE: 810-231-1333 • FAX 810-231-5080

TO: Green Oak Charter Township Board Or trustees
FROM: Trails and Recreation Committee
DATE: January 6, 2020
RE: Recommendation to adopt the 2021 – 2025 Parks, Recreation, & Trails Master Plan

The Trails and Recreation Committee has reviewed the 2021 – 2025 Green Oak Charter Township Parks, Recreation, & Trails Master Plan for completeness and accuracy. The plan meets the guidelines set by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and accurately reflects current conditions and future plans for park and trail development in the Township. Most importantly, the plan takes into consideration the desires and needs of the community as communicated to us by the community survey and other forms of public input described in the appendices.

The Trails and Recreation Committee therefore recommends the Board of Trustees formally adopt the 2021 – 2025 Green Oak Charter Township Parks, Recreation, & Trails Master Plan following the Public Hearing on January 6, 2021.

1 Green Oak Charter Township
2 Board of Trustees
3 Electronic Regular Meeting Minutes
4 January 6, 2021

5
6 Per the Open Meetings Act, MCL 15.261. et seq., as amended by PA 228
7 of 2020, during roll call each Trustee attending the meeting remotely
8 identified their physical location as follows:

9
10 Roll Call: Susan Daugherty, Treasurer, at home;
11 Tracey Edry, Trustee, at home;
12 Richard Everett, Trustee, arrived 7:08 p.m. at home;
13 Daniel Rainko, Trustee, at home
14 Michael Sedlak, Clerk, Green Oak Township;
15 Mark St. Charles, Supervisor, at home in Green Oak Township;
16 James Tuthill, Trustee, at home;

17
18 **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

19 Supervisor St. Charles added the following to the agenda:

- 20
21 A. Appointment Corrections
22 B. Resolution to adopt 2021-2025 Parks, Recreation & Trails Master Plan

23
24 **Motion by Daugherty, second by Tuthill**
25 **To approve the agenda as amended.**

26
27 Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous
28 Nays: None

29
30 **MOTION APPROVED**

31
32
33 **PUBLIC COMMENT** - None

34
35
36 **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

- 37
38 1) Approval of the December 16, 2020 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
39 2) Approval of the submitted bills list in the amount of \$148,590.46

40
41 **Motion by Sedlak, second by Rainko**
42 **To approve the Consent Agenda as presented.**

44 **Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous**
45 **Nays: None**

46 **MOTION APPROVED**

47
48
49
50 **DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

51
52 **Treasurer** – None

53
54 **Clerk** – Clerk Sedlak reported they are doing some clean up paperwork on grants that
55 they received and how they spent the money. They have interviewed for new HR
56 services effective April 1, 2021 when the contract expires. From a cost standpoint the
57 change will be neutral. It was a better move to meet the employee needs to have a
58 local firm available.

59
60 **Supervisor** – Supervisor St. Charles explained he has been getting ready to submit the
61 hard copies of the budget to the Board members. He is waiting on a few things before
62 it's ready to go. He is looking at scheduling a couple of workshop Board meetings on
63 January 25 and January 28, 2021. The Board agreed to those dates.

64
65 **PUBLIC HEARING**

66
67 **A. 2021-2025 Parks, Recreation & Trails Master Plan**

68
69 Supervisor St. Charles explained there were interesting comments through the survey.
70 He noted he has received 12 letters of support for continuing the trails.

71
72 Supervisor St. Charles opened the public hearing at 7:14 p.m.

73
74 **Maggie Egan** – She thanked them for the opportunity. She has the impression that
75 there is already a fair amount of parkland in the area, and all that is needed is multi use
76 pathways, if her impression is correct she agrees with that. The Lakeland Trails, the
77 Huron Meadows Metro Park, Island Lake Recreation area, Kensington Metro Park and
78 Colman Park are huge assets and connecting them will only increase their recreational
79 and economic development value. The master plan also provides a summary, and she
80 was encouraged by the positive comments. She would like to see more public input.
81 Her area of interest is the southeast corner of the township. Currently, there is no
82 direct access to 9 Mile from her part of the township, she would like to see if there is a
83 way to engage her immediate neighbors to change that. She would like to offer her time
84 to help the Township in any way she can.

85
86 **Jim Fackert** – He thanked the Board for their hard work to keep things rolling. They are
87 excited about the new connection from Hall Road to US-23. The trail along Maxi
88 although littered with signage, it has an incredible amount of use, he sees people on it
89 all the time. He thanked the Board, especially Supervisor St. Charles for all the years
90 of work and effort. He noted connecting the mall trail and the Fieldcrest trail is one last
91 chunk and it's a very exciting thing. He also offered his assistance to the Township.

92

93 **Fred Hanert** – He congratulated the Board on their reelection and welcomed Mr. Tuthill.
94 He is very pleased with the effort to increase the trail opportunities in the Township.
95 There has been a tremendous use of the trails during the pandemic. The trails from
96 Hall Road east to US-23 is used greatly. It couldn't have come at a better time. He
97 questioned Lakeland Trail and asked what will happen with that, will there be a
98 connection. Supervisor St. Charles explained he will answer after the hearing. Mr.
99 Hanert noticed this winter there has been a number of places that need some upkeep at
100 Colman Park on the asphalt trail, and if they maintain that it would be appreciated also.

101
102 **Jack – Windmere Point, Hamburg Township.** He is excited for the area to see some
103 of the trail construction advance, it is something that is really desired by the residents.

104
105 Supervisor St. Charles explained it is planned that Northfield Township will bring their
106 trail system to tie into 8 Mile since that is the Township line. It will give Green Oak a
107 connection to Washtenaw County and Northfield Township. There is also a park and
108 ride that will tie into this. He noted that he is aware there is maintenance needed at
109 Colman Park and it is in the budget to do that. The park was left to be in a natural
110 nature state, so a lot of the wood growth is affecting the asphalt and it will be cut back
111 some.

112
113 Supervisor St. Charles closed the public hearing at 7:24 p.m.

114 **BUSINESS ITEMS**

115 **A. Appointment Corrections**

116
117
118 Supervisor St. Charles explained Amy Crotty informed him that she could no longer
119 serve on the Board of Review which is when Dave Valente was appointed. He would
120 like to correct his appointment and remove Amy Crotty as an appointment and clean up
121 David Valente's appointment which is a 2-year appointment not re-appointment.
122

123
124 **Motion by Rainko, second by Edry**
125 **To accept the recommendations of the Township Board regarding the two**
126 **corrections made on appointments.**

127
128 **Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous**
129 **Nays: None**

130
131 **MOTION APPROVED**

132 133 **B. Resolution to adopt 2021-2025 Parks, Recreation & Trails Master Plan**

134
135 **Motion by Sedlak, second by Edry**
136 **To adopt Resolution 01-2021 to adopt Green Oak Charter Township 2021-**
137 **2025 Parks, Recreation & Trails Master Plan.**

138
139 **Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous**
140 **Nays: None**

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MOTION APPROVED

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Supervisor St. Charles was notified by Livingston County Solid Waste, that it appears that Superior Sanitation site is going to satisfy the requirements with EGLE and be included in the Livingston County Solid Waste Management Plan so they will need a representative to sit on the committee. He explained it's a volunteer position, and if anyone is interested to please let him know.

Treasurer Daugherty noted that Superior Sanitation owes Green Oak Township and Brighton City quite a bit of money in personal property taxes, so if they are going to work with them, a requirement should be made that Superior Sanitation needs to pay that off.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – None

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

ADJOURNMENT

The Board of Trustees meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m. due to no further business.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kellie Angelosanto
Recording Secretary

Approved as submitted January 20, 2021

Michael H. Sedlak, CMC
Township Clerk

Mark St. Charles
Township Supervisor

A - Public Notices
B - Trails & Rec. Committee Recommendation
C - Minutes of Public Hearing
D - Township Board Resolution
E - Letters of Transmittal
F - Public Input Summary
G - Concept Plans

GREEN OAK CHARTER TOWNSHIP

At a regular meeting of the Township Board of the Green Oak Charter Township, Michigan, in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, Public Act 267 of 1976, as amended, MCL 15.261, the Township Board meeting held electronically; in order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, protect the public health, and provide essential protections to vulnerable citizens, limiting in-person contact and where critical mitigation measures included social distancing and limiting the number of people interacting at public gatherings, on the 6th day of January 2021, at 7:00 p.m., Eastern Time, at the Green Oak Township Hall in Brighton, Michigan there were:

PRESENT: Tracey Edry, Trustee, Richard Everett, Trustee, Daniel Rainko, Trustee, Jim Tuthill, Trustee, Susan Daugherty, Treasurer, Michael Sedlak, Clerk, Mark St. Charles, Supervisor.

ABSENT: None.

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Michael Sedlak and supported by Tracey Edry.

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 01-2021
RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE GREEN OAK CHARTER TOWNSHIP
2021-2025 PARKS, RECREATION & TRAILS MASTER PLAN**

WHEREAS, Green Oak Charter Township has undertaken the update of its five-year recreation plan which describes the community's physical and social characteristics, existing parks and recreation facilities, and the desired actions to be taken to improve the parks and recreation facilities during the period between 2021 and 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Green Oak Charter Township Trails and Recreation Committee reviewed the 2021-2025 Parks, Recreation, and Trails Master Plan for completeness and accuracy; and

WHEREAS, the 2021-2025 Parks, Recreation, and Trails Master Plan's goals and objectives were developed in response to needs and deficiencies identified via a Community Survey made available to the public from November 4 to November 22, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the 2021-2025 Parks, Recreation, and Trails Master Plan has been made available by Green Oak Charter Township for public review in the manner required by law and all comments from the public have been considered by the Green Oak Charter Township Trails and Recreation Committee; and

WHEREAS, the plan was developed for the benefit of the entire community; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Green Oak Charter Township Board recommends the adoption of the Green Oak Charter Township 2021-2025 Parks, Recreation, and Trails Master Plan.

A roll-call vote on the foregoing resolution was taken and was as follows:

YES: Tracey Edry, Richard Everett, Daniel Rainko, Jim Tuthill, Susan Daugherty, Michael Sedlak, Mark St. Charles.

NO: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

The Resolution was declared adopted.

BY ORDER OF THE TOWNSHIP BOARD,



Mark St. Charles, Supervisor


Michael H. Sedlak, CMC Clerk

CLERK'S CERTIFICATE

The undersigned, being the duly qualified and acting Clerk of the Green Oak Charter Township, Livingston County, Michigan, hereby certifies that (1) the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Township Board at a regular meeting held on January 6, 2021 at which meeting a quorum was present and remained throughout; (2) the original thereof is on file in the records of the proceedings of the Township Board in my office; (3) the meeting was conducted, and public notice thereof was given, pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meetings Act (Act No. 267), Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, as amended), and (4) minutes of such meeting were kept and will be or have been made available as thereby required.

DATED: January 6, 2021


Michael H. Sedlak, CMC
Green Oak Charter Township Clerk



Carlisle | Wortman
ASSOCIATES, INC.

117 NORTH FIRST STREET SUITE 70 ANN ARBOR, MI 48104 734.662.2200 734.662.1935 FAX

January 15, 2021

Kathleen Kline-Hudson
Planning Director
Livingston County
304 East Grand River
Suite 206
Howell, Michigan 48843

Dear Ms. Kline-Hudson:

The Green Oak Township Board of Trustees adopted the attached Parks, Recreation, & Trails Master Plan at a meeting held on January 6, 2021. The plan and Certification Checklist have been uploaded to the MDNR website for their review and approval. The plan will be subject to future review and updates as deemed necessary by the Green Oak Board of Trustees.

Please feel free to contact the Green Oak Township or myself if you have any comments regarding this plan.

Thank you for your consideration,

CARLISLE/WORTMAN ASSOC., INC.
Chris Nordstrom, PLA, ASLA
Landscape Architect

cc. Mark St. Charles, Township Supervisor

*Richard K. Carlisle, President Douglas J. Lewan, Executive Vice President John L. Enos, Principal
David Scurto, Principal Benjamin R. Carlisle, Principal Sally M. Elmiger, Principal Craig Strong, Principal R. Donald Wortman, Principal
Laura K. Kreps, Associate Paul Montagno, Associate*



Carlisle | Wortman
ASSOCIATES, INC.

117 NORTH FIRST STREET SUITE 70 ANN ARBOR, MI 48104 734.662.2200 734.662.1935 FAX

January 15, 2021

Tyler Klifman
Regional Review Office
Southeast Michigan Council of Governments
1001 Woodward Avenue, Suite 1400
Detroit, Michigan 48226

Dear Mr. Klifman:

The Green Oak Township Board of Trustees adopted the attached Parks, Recreation, & Trails Master Plan at a meeting held on January 6, 2021. The plan and Certification Checklist have been uploaded to the MDNR website for their review and approval. The plan will be subject to future review and updates as deemed necessary by the Green Oak Board of Trustees.

Please feel free to contact the Green Oak Township or myself if you have any comments regarding this plan.

Thank you for your consideration,

CARLISLE/WORTMAN ASSOC., INC.
Chris Nordstrom, PLA, ASLA
Landscape Architect

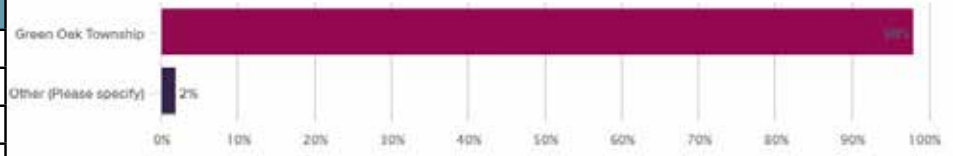
cc. Mark St. Charles, Township Supervisor



Green Oak residents were provided access to an online survey from November 2 through November 22, 2020. The survey was advertised via social media, Constant Contact, and flyers posted at Township Hall. The following data and responses are provided unedited; any participant typos, grammatical errors, or other issues are left unchanged.

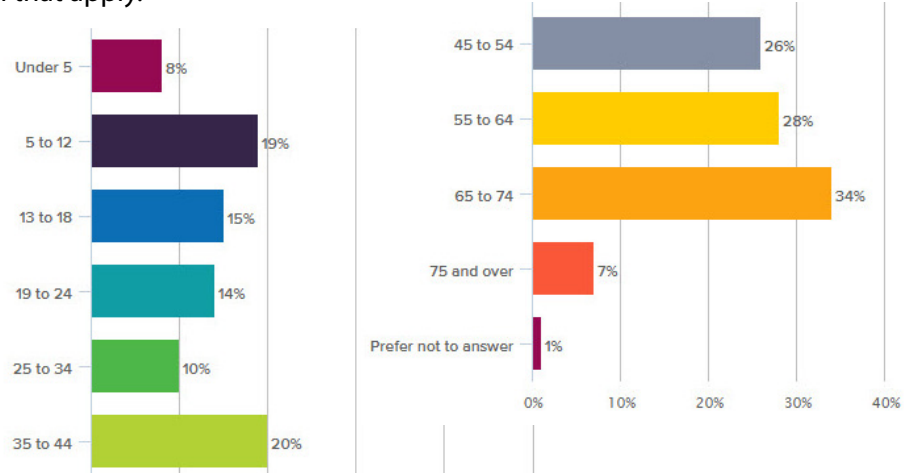
Question 1. Please tell us where you live.

Responses	Number	Percent
Green Oak Township	105	96.33%
Brighton Township	1	0.92%
Marion Township	1	0.92%
(Did not answer)	2	1.83%
Total Responses	109	



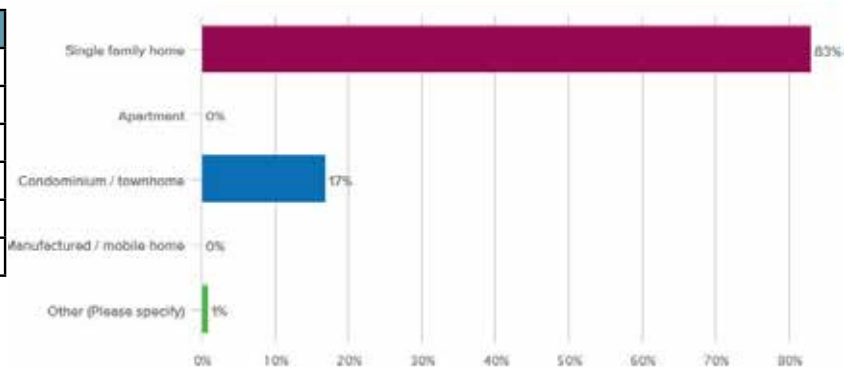
Question 2. Please tell us the ages of the members of your household. For households with multiple family members, please check all that apply.

Responses	Number	Percent
Under 5	9	8.26%
5 to 12	21	19.27%
13 to 18	16	14.68%
19 to 24	15	13.76%
25 to 34	11	10.09%
35 to 44	22	20.18%
45 to 54	28	25.69%
55 to 64	30	27.52%
65 to 74	37	33.94%
75 and over	8	7.34%
Prefer not to answer	1	0.92%
(Did not answer)	0	0%
Total Responses	198	



Question 3. Please describe your current living situation.

Responses	Number	Percent
Single family home	90	82.57%
Apartment	0	0%
Condominium / townhome	18	16.51%
Manufactured / mobile home	0	0%
Other: Cooperative	1	0.92%
(Did not answer)	0	0%

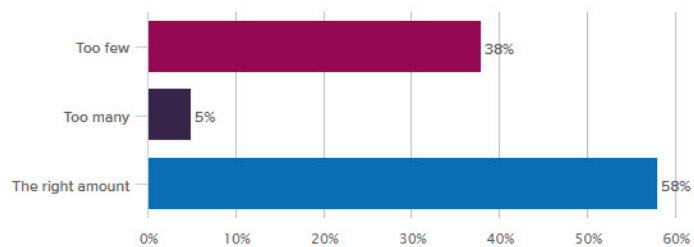


Question 4. How important are the following items to you and your family? Please rank them from 1 to 5, with 1 being the highest priority, and 5 being the lowest priority.

Responses	Rank 1	Rank 2	Rank 3	Rank 4	Rank 5	Weighted Rank
Maintain existing parks	32	41	18	12	5	1 (407)
Develop and/or expand community-wide trails and sidewalks	54	18	8	10	18	2 (404)
Improve or add amenities to existing parks	7	23	51	24	3	3 (331)
Develop new parks	10	16	21	31	30	4 (269)
Develop new programming/events	5	10	10	31	52	5 (209)
Did Not Answer		1			0	0%
Total Responses		109				

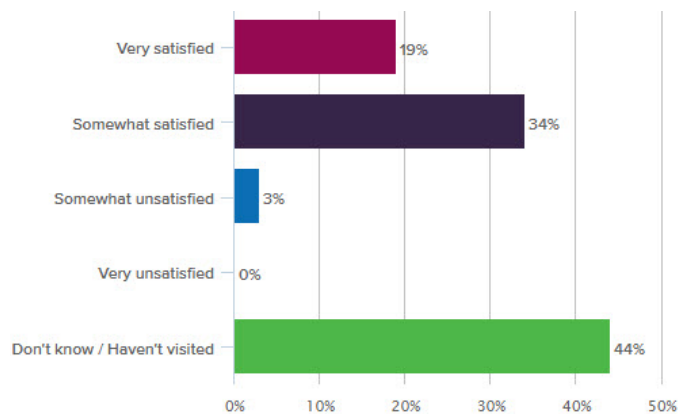
Question 5. Does Green Oak have too few, too many, or the right amount of parks?

Responses	Number	Percent
Too few	41	37.61%
Too many	5	4.59%
The right amount	63	57.80%
(Did not answer)	0	0%
Total Responses	109	



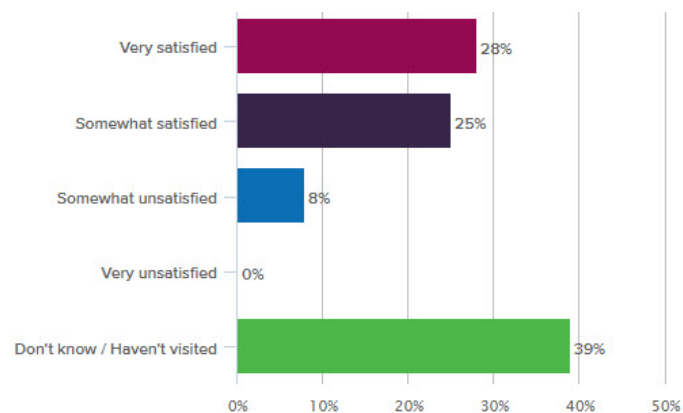
Question 6. How satisfied are you with the current condition of Colman Park?

Responses	Number	Percent
Very satisfied	21	19.27%
Somewhat satisfied	37	33.94%
Somewhat unsatisfied	3	2.75%
Very unsatisfied	0	0%
Don't know / Haven't visited	47	43.12%
(Did not answer)	1	0.92%
Total Responses	109	



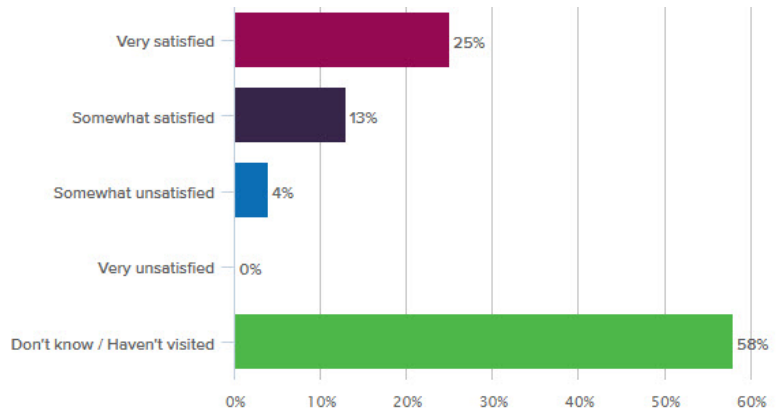
Question 7. How satisfied are you with Green Oak's Fieldcrest Trail?

Responses	Number	Percent
Very satisfied	30	27.52%
Somewhat satisfied	27	24.77%
Somewhat unsatisfied	9	8.26%
Very unsatisfied	0	0%
Don't know / Haven't visited	42	38.53%
(Did not answer)	1	0.92%
Total Responses	109	



Question 8. How satisfied are you with the M-36/Leman Road Trail?

Responses	Number	Percent
Very satisfied	26	23.85%
Somewhat satisfied	14	12.84%
Somewhat unsatisfied	4	3.67%
Very unsatisfied	0	0%
Don't know / Haven't visited	62	56.88%
(Did not answer)	3	2.75%
Total Responses	109	



Question 9. How frequently do you visit parks and trails in Green Oak Township?

Facility	Daily		At least once per week		At least once per month		Once or twice per year		I do not visit this facility		Did not answer	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Colman Park	2	1.8%	4	3.7%	15	13.8%	37	33.9%	46	42.2%	5	4.6%
Fieldcrest Trail	5	4.6%	6	5.5%	13	11.9%	30	27.5%	50	45.9%	5	4.6%
M-26/Leman Rd. Trail	2	1.8%	3	2.8%	12	11.0%	18	16.5%	65	59.6%	9	8.3%
Green Oak Village Mall Trail	4	3.7%	9	8.3%	25	22.9%	25	22.9%	39	35.8%	7	6.4%
M. Levine Lakelands Trail	3	2.8%	5	4.6%	13	11.9%	17	15.6%	64	58.7%	7	6.4%
Island Lake Bike Trails	1	0.9%	14	12.8%	18	16.5%	22	20.2%	47	43.1%	7	6.4%
Island Lake Paved Hike-Bike Trails	2	1.8%	12	11.0%	34	31.2%	32	29.4%	23	21.1%	6	5.5%
Island Lake Water Trail	0	0.0%	4	3.7%	18	16.5%	41	37.6%	40	36.7%	6	5.5%
Island Lake Rustic Hiking Trails	1	0.9%	8	7.3%	21	19.3%	39	35.8%	35	32.1%	5	4.6%
Huron Meadows Metropark	1	0.9%	8	7.3%	20	18.4%	43	39.5%	33	30.3%	4	3.7%
Huron River Water Trail	0	0.0%	1	0.9%	8	7.3%	30	27.5%	64	58.7%	6	5.5%

- Walking paths of greater distance and not next to US23
- Kensington Metropark. its close and they have a splash pad for the kids and a sledding hill.
- Kensington Metro Park
- Kensington--like the hiking trails
- ease of access to hike/bike trails. Would like to see easier access to fieldcrest and green oak village mall trail from west side of US23 at lee rd.
- Hudson Mills Metropark and Ann Arbor Parks
- City of South Lyon bike trail system. Paved and very extensive.
- Island Lake Recreation Area and Kensington Metropark and Manley Bennet Park
- Brighton Rec and DTE for biking. Great trails and up north feel.
- Kensington, paved trails, swimming areas, activities
- Kensington like bike trail
- Kensington variety of activity including nature center and lake side trails. Veteran Dog Park, McHattie Park kid activities. South Lon Bike Trail because of length, ease of access
- Kensington Metro Park too crowded
- lake access at Brighton park. Most area parks like swimming, SUP. Nice for walking or hiking.
- Waterloo Recreation Area. They have a great variety of trails.
- Kensington Metro Park and many other metro parks
- Kensington. Love the nature and easy parking and picnic area. Maybury State Park. Love the nature and walking trails.
- Kensington, Lake to Lake Trails. I would like to see more trails connected to improve the trails and safety of the users
- None of them are handicapped friendly. Too far for seniors to walk. We should be able to have lake viewing sites easily walkable with handicapped seniors
- Kensington
- Kensington Metro park
- Kensington Metropark. Fishing, Boat Launch,
- Brighton recreation area
- Variety
- Kensington metropark, paved trail around Kent Lake, and the nature trails.
- Kensington- good roads to bicycle
- Kensington
- Kensington Metro Park
- Kensington- nature trails and playground equipment and farm center
- Brighton State Park because it is close by and has trails as well as a lake. I wish it had a paved path. Also Kensington Metropark because of it's nice, long paved paths.
- May bury, petting farm, very pretty. Kensington, animals.
- Metroparks, primarily Kensington. Well maintained
- Kensington metro park I like everything about it
- Bike trails. I like the interconnectivity of the trail. This allows for effective exercise and recreation.
- Kensington is well kept
- Hudson mills and Kensington
- Visit Kensington Metropark once or twice a week as well as Maybury state park
- Kensington
- Brighton State Rec - I like their mtn bike trails and hiking trails. Also visit the beach. I love the hiking trails - lots of hiking options with few people on them means there is plenty to go around and everyone can enjoy the peace and quiet.
- Maybury Park - love the hiking trails; Kensington Metropark - love everything about it. Hiking the nature trails, wildlife viewing, walking and biking around the lakd
- Love the connectivity, trees/greenery
- .Metroparks. Brighton mill pond walk
- Kensington, Maybury
- Kensington Metro Park. We especially enjoy the farm and the nature center along with the nature trails.
- Kensington
- Island Lake - walk the trails and attend events
- Dexter, MI Border to Border Trail....well maintained, scenic, paved.
- Kensington Metro Park, like all the amenities and expanse of the park
- Kensington, Petoskey St park.
- Bishop Lake, longer path choice. Wish there were more paths around water
- Huron Valley Trail throughout South Lyon and Lyon Township - walking with friends or dogs. McHattie Park - LFL, just relaxing. They are well kept, easily accessible and offer a multitude of scenic diversion. VERY SAFE.

Question 12. What types of activities do you or your family members participate in? Note that this can include any facility, not just Green Oak's. Choose all that apply.

Responses	Number	Percent
Walking & trail sports (e.g. walking, jogging, cycling, rollerblading, etc.)	93	85.32%
Farmer's market	65	59.63%
Street or casual biking	65	59.63%
Canoeing / kayaking	59	54.13%
Nature activities (e.g. nature walks, bird watching, stargazing, etc.)	56	51.38%
Off-trail / rustic hiking	46	42.20%
Picnicking	43	39.45%
Outdoor park activities / playground	42	38.53%
Dog park / dog walking	41	37.61%
Mountain biking	41	37.61%
Movie nights or concerts in the park	35	32.11%
Aquatics (e.g. swimming, splash pad)	34	31.19%
Fishing	34	31.19%
Skiing (cross country or alpine)	34	31.19%
Golf	33	30.28%
Sledding	31	28.44%
Field sports (e.g. football, baseball, soccer, etc.)	22	20.18%

Responses	Number	Percent
Target shooting (archery or firearm)	22	20.18%
Court sports (e.g. tennis, basketball, pickleball, volleyball, etc.)	21	19.27%
Disc golf	17	15.60%
Kite flying	17	15.60%
Educational programming (e.g. skills workshops, nature ID, etc.)	16	14.68%
Hunting	16	14.68%
Painting / photography / sculpture	15	13.76%
Senior programs	15	13.76%
Figure skating / hockey	12	11.01%
Geocaching	11	10.09%
Horseback riding	8	7.34%
Community gardening	6	5.50%
Skateboarding	1	0.92%
Other (Please specify)	8	7.34%
(Did not answer)	2	1.83%
Total Responses	961	

Other Responses:

- Boating
- R/C Airplanes
- Camping
- Bird Watching
- bird watching
- Bicycle riding on the roads because of a lack of paved trails.
- Snowshoeing
- Parks on the Air (POTA) - Ham Radio

Question 13. Which of the following amenities would you like to see more of in Green Oak Township?
Choose all that apply.

Responses	Number	Percent
Multi-use walking/biking paths (i.e. 10'-wide paved pathways)	76	69.72%
Rustic walking paths (i.e. 6 to 8' crushed limestone or wood chip paths)	54	49.54%
Fitness / exercise trails	41	37.61%
Natural areas	36	33.03%
Bathrooms	34	31.19%
Dog parks	22	20.18%
Mountain biking trails	22	20.18%
Picnic areas and pavilions	22	20.18%
Sled hills	22	20.18%
Indoor gym & fitness facility	21	19.27%
Ice skating rink (outdoor)	19	17.43%
Community Center	18	16.51%
Splash pad	18	16.51%
Drinking fountains	16	14.68%

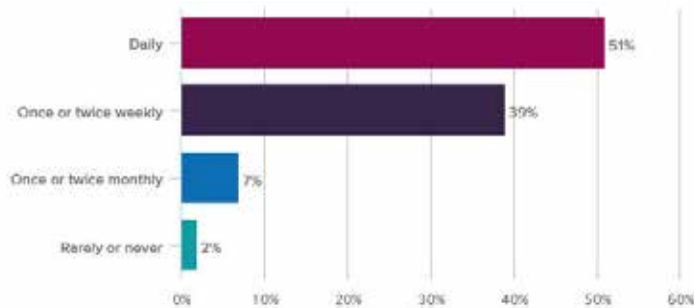
Responses	Number	Percent
Cross-country ski trails	15	13.76%
Pickleball courts	15	13.76%
Bike racks	13	11.93%
Disc golf	12	11.01%
Amphitheater / stage	11	10.09%
Playground structures	11	10.09%
Tennis courts	9	8.26%
Basketball courts	6	5.50%
Other (Please specify)	6	5.50%
Baseball fields	5	4.59%
Sand volleyball courts	4	3.67%
Skate park	4	3.67%
Soccer fields	3	2.75%
Other (Please specify)	6	5.50%
(Did not answer)	5	4.59%
Total Responses	540	

Other Responses:

- Bike path - perhaps along 9 Mile Road.
- Managed Archery Deer Hunts in Huron and Island Lakes Metro Parks. This could be a significant funding source for the township. People would pay for chance to hunt the metro-parks.
- None
- Indoor community swimming pool
- Senior/ handicapped assessable

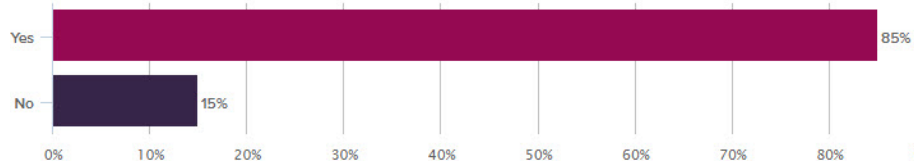
Question 14. How frequently do you walk, jog, or cycle for exercise or recreation?

Responses	Number	Percent
Daily	56	51.38%
Once or twice weekly	43	39.45%
Once or twice monthly	8	7.34%
Rarely or never	2	1.83%
(Did not answer)	0	0%
Total Responses	109	



Question 15. Would you like to see the Green Oak trail system expanded?

Responses	Number	Percent
Yes	93	85.32%
No	16	14.68%
(Did not answer)	0	0%
Total Responses	109	



Question 16. Please tell us about any routes you would like to see developed.



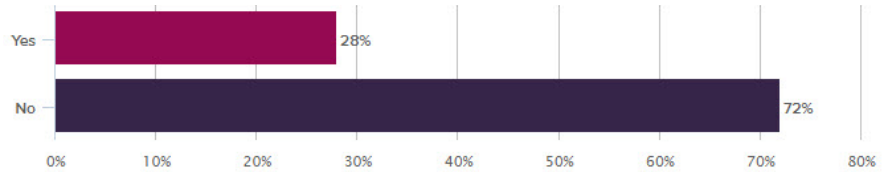
- Nine and ten mile, rutland
- We're at 10 Mile & Rushton - basically landlocked with no sidewalks or wide shoulders. Huron Valley trail system is less than a mile away at Dixboro, but we cannot safely get there.
- Rushton, from Wild Oaks to 10 mile to safely walk or ride bike to Bremmer Elementary.
- Walking/biking along 10 mile Rushton to Dixboro
- Please on connect Lakeland trail to south Lyon trail. Or a path along 10 mile to dixboro
- Near Rushton and 10 Mile
- We would be happy to see any routes expanded.

- I am mostly concerned about the South East corner of the US 23 and 9 Mile intersection. There must be about 200 homes that are part of Green Oak Township that may never have access to present and future trails in the township. There is no access between North Main St and 9 Mile Rd.
- I'd like to see Fieldcrest trail expanded, as well as a safe way to cross US 23 by bike/walking
- Rail Trail in Four Lakes Association to Rushton
- M-36 connected to South Lyon(rail trail)
- A linked biking system would be awesome. I use the existing trails frequently and connecting them would be a great asset to the community.
- 9 Mile Road west of Dixboro.
- connect west green oak to m36 trail
- from Winans Lake Rd to Lee Rd along Rickett Rd. Then connecting to the existing Fieldcrest Trail via Winans Lake Rd. This would give access to Island Lake Rec, Huron Meadows and downtown Brightonvia via bike/running. I'd like to see connectivity to Lakelands trial as well.
- Would like a path down 10 Mile Road
- Connecting the routes to residential areas, especially along higher-speed roads, like what was done along US-23

- pedestrian bridge over US 23. Fieldcrest connector to Leman road trail
- Grand River to Kensington Rd. and Kensington Rd. to Silver Lake Rd. and Silver Lake Rd. East to Dixboro.
- Would love to see a connection between the M36/Lakelands trail and the South Lyon rail trail.
- Silver Lake Road from 23 to Coleman Park
- Marshall rd and silver lake rd to access Fieldcrest trail
- connection to Mike Levine Lakelands Trail at McDonald's to the Fieldcrest trail. And something to connect To South Lyon from the Whitmore Lake area. Maybe along 9 mile rd
- The proposed expansion around M36, connecting the east/west will be a huge improvement for longer connected trail.
- McCabe road to Island Lake trail system, path from Old Township Hall to Coleman Park, completion of Huron Valley trail to Leman Trail, Major paved trail alongside Marshall from Huron Valley proposed to McCabe to Island Lake State. Basically a north south trail in the middle of the township.
- connection to lakeland trail, legacy center, schools, green oak mall via west side of US23 near lee rd
- Expansion of lakeland trail
- Connect South Lyon trail system into Green Oak township.
- Rickett road to Huron meadows and green oak mall
- Around Silverlake - slow traffic Speedcheck
- Rushton RD, 10 Mile, Silver Lake Rd to Rushton to Island Lake
- the rail trail
- Hamburg - Lakeland - South Lyon connector
- Bike Paths on kensington rd. too many road bikers on a daily. During the spring and summer months.
- #1 = connect the paved trail on M-36 in front of the prison to the Fieldcrest bike path. #2 - Connect the Fieldcrest bike path to the Huron Valley trail in South Lyon using either 9 mile road or 10 mile road. #3 Build a bike path from Silver Lake road to ILRA via Kensington rd.
- Beginning at 10 miles and Rushton Road. Rustic bike and walking path.
- Connecting as many bike trails as possible
- Connect to Kensington Metropark
- Something along silver lake road that connects to island lake
- Connection to other trails
- connect the M36 trail to the fieldcrest trail
- Silver lake road. It is very unsafe presently for bicycles to get to Fieldcrest trail.
- Add a path on Rushton from Wild Oaks to 10 mile on Rushton. This would allow families to walk to school and new sub across from Brummerr. Future expansion to Dixboro would be great to get to the rail trail that goes to Milford.
- Ruston to the new M-36/Leman Road Trail & Fieldcrest Trail to M36/Leman Road Trail
- I would like to see a relatively flat paved path on the west side of the township that is 5K to 10K round trip.
- Link the Mike Levine trail to Fieldcrest. Link Mike Levine trail to South Lyon trails.
- How about some sidewalks that go some place or connect to others nothing around us to use unless you walk on the roads
- would love to be able to get across US23 at/near Lee Rd
- Trail adjacent to 10-mile road, connected trails anywhere for road biking and walking!!!! and
- Rickett road and Winans, connect Island Lake, Huron Meadows, M36 trail and Fieldcrest trail
- Huron valley trail
- Connection between field crest and trail head at m36 & old 23. Specifically silver lake road under us23
- Near Silver Lake and Dixboro - too dangerous waking/ biking along either road
- A safe way to get across US 23
- along 10 mile, or connecting the rail trail
- Rushton Rd Connector Trail (Centennial Farms to Colman Park, and Fieldcrest Trail/Township Hall; to Island Lake Rec Area; to Huron Valley Trail either along 9, 10, or 12 mile/Dixboro/11 mile)

Question 17. Do you take advantage of programming offered by SELCRA and/or SLARA?

Responses	Number	Percent
Yes	29	26.61%
No	76	69.72%
(Did not answer)	4	3.67%
Total Responses	109	



Question 18. If yes, which programs?



- Safety Town, gymnastics so far, interested in much more
- Monthly and holiday oriented large events
- Youth sports
- Kids activities
- Athletics
- Basketball, Volleyball, Softball
- Many
- softball / baseball
- Baseball, soccer
- Volleyball
- Dancing sports
- Adult Programs
- Art class, bird class
- Zumba
- Soccer and baseball
- Trips and concerts
- Yoga
- Yoga
- basketball, baseball, soccer
- Baseball
- SLARA Labor Day Walk

Question 19. Are there any other programs you would like to see provided by SELCRA and/or SLARA?



- Sports programs for kids older than 12.
- After school sports
- More bird watching, outside yoga
- More day trips.
- tennis
- Adult men's or coed softball

- An outdoor ice skating rink would be WONDERFUL!!!!!!
- Huron meadows and Island lake offer lots of options, focus on options they do not provide or enhance ones they do.
- None. Bike trails are a priority to move walkers/ recreational bikers off road shoulders.
- i attend the South IYon center for active adults for yoga, fitness.
- Drone Zones
- Fix the McCabe bridge so cyclists can get across the Huron River without riding on busy Silver lake road
- Yes, think about lake vistas easily approached and visited by seniors or handicapped
- N/a
- No
- I would use the Huron Meadows trails more if they were longer or were paved. Your 5 ranking questions were having technical difficulties and kept deleting my answers. My response was 2, 1, 5, 5, 1.
- Dog park is desperately needed
- I'm on the county border so tend to visit parks in Oakland county
- Please please encourage wide shoulders for biking when there is road work.
- Bike paths added to all related roads
- If Hines Park can shutdown Saturday mornings to vehicular travel, we should be able to do the same until safe walk/bike trails are available. Many seniors go to fitness classes 2x at St. Joseph Church offered through the National Kidney Association. Having this available a third or fourth day would be a huge plus to our senior community.ph

From: [StCharles, Mark](#)
To: [McKenzie, Debra](#); [Paul Montagno](#); [Chris Nordstrom](#)
Subject: FW: Path/Sidewalk suggestion
Date: Tuesday, December 8, 2020 4:10:41 PM

From: Eli [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, December 8, 2020 2:51 PM
To: supervisor@greenoaktwp.com
Subject: Path/Sidewalk suggestion

Good afternoon Mark,

My name is Eli [REDACTED] we traded voicemails about development suggestions moving forward. I had an idea I'm sure you've heard, but would like to get your thoughts.

I think the pathway along Fieldcrest is fantastic. It's nice bikers/runners can get from Silver Lake Rd to Lee Rd. However that path is not as viable for residents on the west side of 23, and it doesn't connect over 23 to Brighton.

Has there been any thoughts of a similar path on Rickett Road connecting Hawkins Elementary, Huron Meadows Metropark and Legacy Center?

I think connecting attractions with neighborhoods is a great way to help the community, from local businesses to the health of the citizens. This would help adjoin the downtown Brighton area to the existing Lakelands trail, and the new housing developments that are going in around Winans Lake and M36. And with the Huron Meadows owning much of the property on the West side of Rickett road it may be an easy partnership.

The other suggestion I would make is making it easier for people on foot/bike to cross US23. When the flex route begins and bridge work is done, I hope it's been thought about to provide either wider bridges or underpasses with bike lanes.

Thanks for your time, I appreciate it.

Regards,

Eli [REDACTED]

From: [StCharles, Mark](#)
To: [Paul Montagno](#); [Chris Nordstrom](#)
Subject: FW: My Interest in All Things Trail Related
Date: Wednesday, December 9, 2020 8:22:44 AM

Comments from Margaret [REDACTED]

From: Margaret [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, December 9, 2020 7:52 AM
To: StCharles, Mark <mark.stcharles@greenoaktwp.com>
Subject: Re: My Interest in All Things Trail Related

Hi Mark. I am really trying to be a trail advocate and not "that crazy trail lady."

1. Thank you for the completion of the Lemen Rd & M36 section of trail! I used it all summer.
2. Green Oak Township is and will be a critical hub for the state's trail system. As such, I hope we can qualify for state and federal funds.
3. I encourage the township to adhere to the "Complete Streets" and "Bike to School" philosophies.
4. Since the residents of Whitmore Lake straddle the line between two townships and counties, I hope there is a close relationship between those entities when it comes to trail planning. I assume there is.
5. I am excited to see what alternatives will appear during the planning of Phase II of the Flex Lane. I see some space opening up on the West side of Fieldcrest, North of Nine Mile Rd.
6. Finally, as always, I hope the expressway blocked section of the township is not forgotten. East of US 23, West of the lake. Digging out a tunnel is even mentioned in the master plan.

Thank you for your time.

Margaret [REDACTED]

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From: StCharles, Mark <mark.stcharles@greenoaktwp.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 9, 2020 7:02:41 AM
To: Margaret [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: My Interest in All Things Trail Related

Margaret, I received your voice mail yesterday and I need your assistance. Instead of me trying to copy all of your comments off of the voicemail, can you please list them out so that I can properly relay to those who are compiling public comments for our updated recreation / pathways plan.

I thank you in advance for your comments.

From: Margaret [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, November 6, 2020 10:43 AM
To: supervisor@greenoaktwp.com
Subject: My Interest in All Things Trail Related

Good Morning Mister Saint Charles,

Here is my email to let you know of my interest in all things trail related in Green Oak Township and beyond. I have lived here on Dort Drive for 40 years.

As I mentioned the other evening, there are a small group of people that have organized to become the Hometown Bicycle Advocacy Group. All of us are broadly interested in all things bike and walking related.

We know that decisions are currently being had concerning bringing a trail across US 23, possibly during Phase 2 of the US 23 Flex Lane. If you could let me know how and when we can participate in those discussion, I can give that information to the rest of the group.

I live in that awkward corner of the township that does not have direct access to 9 Mile Road (near the W.L Public Access.) My guess is that there are about 200 homes that are affected by this awkwardness. My primary concern is leaving open the possibility of some kind of pedestrian pathway through the property that occupies the South East corner of the US 23 and M 36/9 Mile intersection.

There are two smaller issues that I would like to bring to someone's attention. Will the intersection of 8 Mile and Lemen road eventually have a safe pedestrian crossing? The new "spur" of the trail is conveniently across the street from the new MDOT parking lot but the crossing is not safe. Similarly, the end of the other new section is across the street from McDonalds. Crossing there is not very safe either. Can McDonalds be asked to help with that intersection. After all, hikers and bikers are potentially their customers.

Also, you mentioned a Green Oak Trails group. I am more than willing to be a member of that group.

Thank you so much for your time.

Margaret [REDACTED]

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



DANIEL EICHINGER
DIRECTOR

December 21, 2020

Mark St. Charles, Supervisor
Green Oak Charter Township
10001 Silver Lake Rd.
Brighton, MI 48116

Dear Mr. St. Charles,

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) supports your project to complete Green Oak Township's connection between the Mike Levine Lakelands Trail State Park and the existing Green Oak Township Trail under and along US-23. We appreciate your strong commitment to the development of the non-motorized pathway system within the Township. The system provides a nonmotorized connection within the Township as well as connections for larger regional trail systems such as the Great Lake to Lake Trail Route 1 and directly to Island Lake Recreation Area.

This is a challenging project as it is where the trail crosses US-23. Working with MDOT's current Flex Route project on the design for pedestrian facilities under the highway is a wise use of funds and resources. This melds cohesively with the Township's development of approximately 1 more mile of pathway to complete the connection between the Fieldcrest Pathway and the Lemman/M-36 Pathway.

Please let us know if you need any additional assistance.

Sincerely,

Paul Yauk
State Trail Coordinator

CC: Nikki Van Bloem, DNR
Andrew Haapala, DNR

From: Tammy [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 21, 2020 4:56 PM
To: supervisor@greenoaktwp.com
Subject: Trail Support

Hello Mark,
My name is Tammy [REDACTED] and I live in losco Township. I have heard that you are in need of support regarding completing the pathway across US-23. Although I am not a resident of Green Oak, I am a resident of Livingston County and I want to see more non-motorized pathways throughout and connecting our entire county, and into neighboring counties such as Washtenaw. I have always supported trails, and had suggested an endeavor of some sort at my Township Planning commission meetings, but other issues took precedence. Please note, I am a member of the losco Township Board. However, the Pathways issue came to much more personal level this summer as my son was critically injured on Bull Run Rd, in losco Township when he was struck by a motorized vehicle and the driver drove off. You can find the story on WHMI new archives July 27th. As a private citizen, I intend to make Livingston County safer for all our residents so other families do not have to live what mine has. I am of the opinion that people should have the right to travel safely either by walking, biking, wheelchair etc safely. It seems a fundamental right. Not everyone has the privilege or ability to drive a car, but everyone should have a safe way to get where they want to go with the means available to them.

All that said, how can I help?

Sincerely,
Tammy [REDACTED]



Putnam Township
3280 West M-36
Pinckney, MI 48169

Dennis M. Brennan
Supervisor

(734) 878-3131
Supervisor@putnamtwp.us

December 21, 2020

Subject: Green Oak Township Multi-Use Trail System

To whom it may concern.

The 275-mile Great Lake-to-Lake Trails Route #1 offers something for everyone as it winds its way through the townships, villages, and cities of Southern Michigan. Stretching from Port Huron on Lake Huron to South Haven on Lake Michigan, this spectacular trail system is composed of smaller trail systems and urban pathways providing a vital connection between all the communities along the way.

One such trail system in the Mike Levine Lakelands Trail which stretches 34 miles from Jackson County to Hamburg Township in Livingston County. Upon completion, the Green Oak Township trail would extend, and become part of, the Mike Levine Lakelands Trail State Park and provide a much-needed link between The Lakelands Trail and Oakland County trails beginning with the Island Lake recreation area.

Putnam Township completed its segment of the Mike Levine Lakelands Trail within the last 10 years and we have seen usage increase every year since. We see every kind of user from the long-distance bicyclist to a mom pushing a stroller, walkers, equestrians and even a bicycle built for two. Area residents are waiting for the day that they can hop on a bike and have a clear, safe path to the parks of western Oakland County. That link will be Green Oak Township.

It is my understanding that the biggest obstacle for Green Oak Township is U.S. 23 and how to get a multi-use path across that highway safely and efficiently. We strongly support all efforts to help Green Oak Township achieve this goal and complete their section of the Great Lake-to-Lake Trails Route #1.

Sincerely,

Dennis M. Brennan
Supervisor

Nicholas [REDACTED]
Whitmore Lake, MI 48189

December 22, 2020

Supervisor Mark St. Charles
Green Oak Charter Township
10001 Silver Lake Rd
Brighton, MI 48116

Dear Mr. St. Charles,

I am writing to express my support for the completion of paved trails connecting the eastern and western segments currently existing within Green Oak Charter Township.

A township resident since 2016, I was attracted to this area when purchasing a home for its numerous and readily-accessible recreation opportunities - particularly Whitmore Lake, Island Lake State Recreation Area, and the Mike Levine Lakelands Trail. I was ecstatic to learn of the township's plans to extend the Lakelands Trail to US-23 shortly after I moved in, and I was even more pleased when these plans came to fruition this past summer. Coupled with the Fieldcrest Pathway, it's now possible to be on dedicated non-motorized trails within a mile or two of almost anywhere in the township. However, a noticeably hazardous gap exists in which pedestrians and cyclists must cross US-23 at either the Silver Lake Road or M-36 underpasses. Having ridden both of these numerous times on a bike, I can attest to the fact that these roadways are neither designed nor safe for non-motorized traffic.

Trails improve our township both in terms of the residents' wellbeing, their mental and physical health, and economically. As a host with AirBnB, I have hosted guests riding long-distance across Michigan. These guests patronize our local establishments, and several have spoken highly of the trails within our township but lament the discontinuity that currently exists.

I urge you to pursue any and all means of acquiring funds to complete the link between the eastern and western sections of non-motorized pathways within the township. This is a great place to live, and I believe if 2020 has taught us anything, the value of safe outdoor recreation will never diminish.

Sincerely,

Nicholas [REDACTED]



CITY OF SOUTH LYON

December 23, 2020

Michigan Department of Transportation

Re: Lakeland Trail Grant Support Letter

Mayor

Daniel L. Pelchat

Council Members

Lisa Dilg

Glenn Kivell

Rose Walton

Margaret J. Kurtzweil

Stephen Kennedy

Carl Richards

City Manager

Paul Zelenak

Clerk/Treasurer

Lisa Deaton

On behalf of the City of South Lyon, I am writing this letter of support for Green Oak Charter Township and their desire to obtain a grant to complete the final section of the Lakeland Trail in Green Oak Township.

Green Oak Township and the City of South Lyon work closely on several community projects and plans. Our communities share common borders and oversee a Senior Center and the South Lyon Area Recreation Association, so it would naturally be important that we support each other's efforts to expand recreation that would be beneficial to both our communities.

The section of trail that they are requesting grant assistance for would connect residents to the existing trail as well as Island Lake Recreation Area and Kensington Metropark, which connect to additional trails that flow through Lyon Township and the City of South Lyon.

Please consider their grant application and contact me if you need clarification regarding my support for this project.

Thank you,



Paul C. Zelenak, Manager
City of South Lyon

335 S Warren
South Lyon, MI 48178
Phone: 248-437-1735
Fax: 248-486-0049
www.southlyonmi.org



December 28, 2020

**Green Oak Charter Township
c/o Mark St. Charles, Supervisor
10001 Silver Lake Rd
Brighton, MI 48116**

On behalf of SELCRA, The Southeastern Livingston County Recreation Authority, I would like to express our support for the development of approximately 1 more mile of pathway that will complete the connection between the Fieldcrest Pathway and the Leman/M-36 Pathway of the Lakelands Trail. This connection will complete the link in the Lakeland Trail section through the Township.

The Lakelands Trail is a key part of the Great Lake-to-Lake Trail initiative across Lower Michigan connecting 15 trail systems of over 250 miles. Green Oak Township has a strong commitment to the development of a non-motorized pathway system within the Township. This segment will be a valuable piece to connect the township residents to each other and to nearby communities in the State.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Royster

**Cheryl Royster
SELCRA, Interim Director**

**Southeastern Livingston County Recreation Authority
125 S Church St, Brighton, MI 48116
Ph: 810-299-4140**

12-21-2020

RECEIVED

DEC 26 2020

OFFICE OF SUPERVISOR
GREEN OAK CHARTER TOWNSHIP

Dear Mister Saint Charles,

Given the time that this letter will be mailed, you will probably be seeing this in the middle of the Holiday Season or just after the beginning of the New Year. I hope all is well with you and that you are having or had a relaxing Christmas.

I realize that you have heard plenty from me concerning the trail system in Green Oak Township. This specific letter "provides support for bringing the township's trail system across and along US-23."

In the end, the community will need at least two ways to cross the expressway.

1. I feel that a near-term solution is to bring the existing trail across the expressway at M36/Nine Mile, preferably through the property that fills the South-East corner of the intersection. The trail can then continue North along the East side of the expressway and connect to the existing trail near Silver Lake Road. Some of the MDOT drawings of the proposed intersection changes made it look like this might now be a possibility. This crossing will serve the population along the Southern edge of the township including the people in the South-East corner of the township which would include me.
2. Eventually, a larger project will be needed farther North. There has been much talk of a pedestrian bridge crossing US-23 near Maltby Road. I understand that such a bridge will be costly and it may take time to find funding. I suspect that you will find many people in the community that will help lobby for such funding.

There are a variety of reasons that an expanded trail system would be beneficial to the township. An expanded trail system would aid in getting people outside and becoming healthier. An expanded trail system would help get children to school safely without having to be driven by car. An expanded trail system would attract tourists to the area, filling up the new hotels that we have. Finally, an expanded trail system would expand employment opportunities for lower income residents that may not have a car.

I look forward to seeing how everyone's ideas, hopes and wishful thinking develop.

Thank you for your time!

Margaret [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
WL, MI 48189

Margaret [REDACTED]

12/21/2020



Green Oak Charter Township
care of Supervisor Mark St. Charles
10001 Silver Lake Rd.
Brighton, MI. 48116

Dear Mr. Charles,

The Huron River Watershed Council strongly supports the development of a non-motorized land pathway system within Green Oak Township. The trail connections proposed will provide a critical linkage between larger regional trail systems and recreation areas currently divided by the US-23 corridor.

The Huron River Watershed Council coordinates the Huron River Water Trail, a 104-mile National and State water trail that intersects the Lakelands Trail (Great Lake-to-Lake Trail), the Iron Belle Trail, and the I-275 corridor trail. Improving connection to land trails is one of a top priority of the Huron River Watershed Council and for the 125,000 unique trail users of the river corridor.

Currently, there is no safe, reliable, reasonably traversable connection for a cyclist or pedestrian between Ann Arbor or Brighton on US-23. Existing crossings are either unfavorably designed for pedestrian and bicycle traffic, or they are too far from population centers for convenient use.

The US-23 corridor also limits economic and tourism growth in the region. One of the most popular stretches on the Huron River for paddlers and cyclists is Island Lake State Recreation Area. Without a convenient east-west linkage to other river access sites in this area, we know many paddlers and cyclists choose to recreate elsewhere, taking their tourism and business to other communities or not at all.

Green Oak Township has made striking progress with the completion of miles of pathway on either side of US – 23 in recent years. We understand that the current Flex Route project being undertaken by MDOT provides an opportunity to cost-effectively connect segments of pathway on either side of US-23.

The proposed linkage (from Fieldcrest Pathway and the Leman/M-36 Pathway) would complete one of the most important land trail gaps in the entire Huron River watershed.

Green Oak has proven to be a local leader in trail planning and construction, and their proposal has my full support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Brown", is written over a light gray rectangular background.

Daniel A. Brown
Watershed Planner and Huron River Water Trail Coordinator, Huron River Watershed Council

December 29, 2020

*Received
1/4/21
WAT*

Dear Mark St. Charles, Supervisor;

My wife and I are totally supportive of the Green Oak Township completing the non-motorized trail between the Fieldcrest Pathway and the Lemay/M-36 Pathway. We, along with many of our neighbors, use these trails on a regular basis. Linking these two pathways would not only be a welcomed development for bike riders and pedestrian walkers, but it would also enhance the safety environment especially for the bike riders.

Please contact me if you would like to future discuss.

Sincerely,

David

[Redacted Signature]

Whitmore Lake, MI 48189

(cell) [Redacted Phone Number]



January 6, 2021

Green Oak Charter Township
c/o Supervisor Mark St. Charles
10001 Silver Lake Road
Brighton, MI 48116

RE: SLARA Support of Lakelands Trail Completion

Dear Mr. St. Charles,

South Lyon Area Recreation Authority (SLARA) supports the Green Oak Charter Township effort to apply for grant funding to complete the connection of the Lakelands Trail connection between the Fieldcrest Pathway and the Leman/M-36 Pathway.

SLARA is a proud partner with the Township in providing recreational programming to the surrounding communities. Access to resources such as this trail are vitally important to community members and maintaining and improving the overall mental and physical health of all those in our area. Green Oak has been a leading force in trails and pathways in Southeast Michigan and completing this trail would go a long way in maintaining that status.

We look forward to the recreation benefits this project will provide to visitors of the area and the region.

Please contact me directly if you have any other questions regarding this grant application at (248) 437-8105.

Sincerely

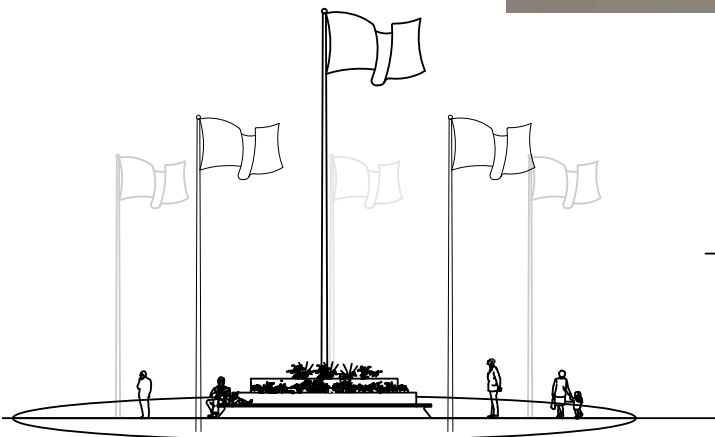
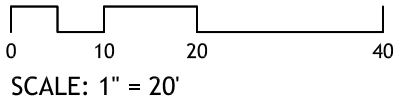
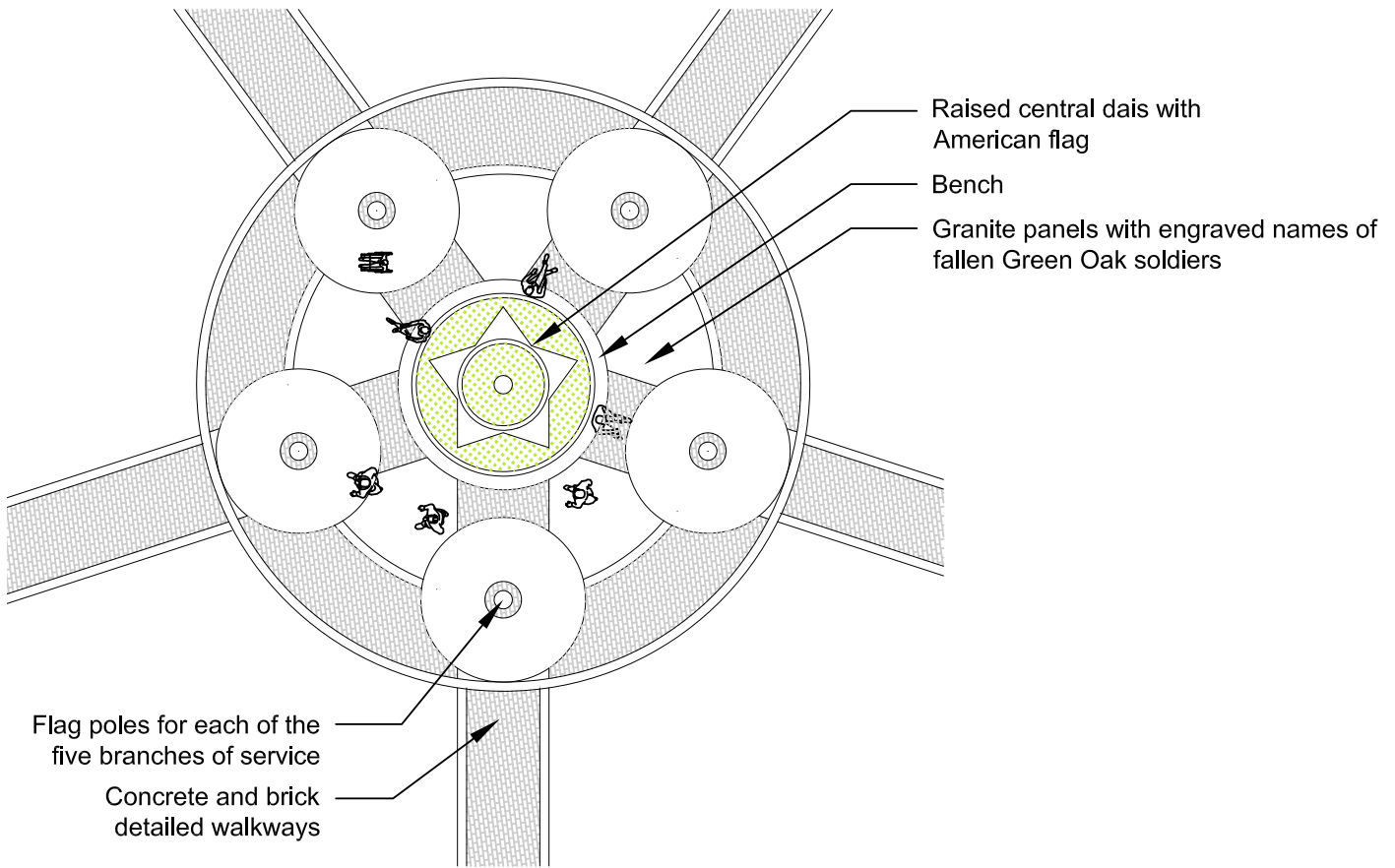
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Amy Allen".

Amy Allen
Recreation Director
South Lyon Area Recreation Authority
aallen@slrec.com

23333 Griswold, Ste. 100 - South Lyon, Michigan 48178
Office: 248/437-8105 - Fax: 248/437-4324
www.slrec.com

Creating Community through People, Parks and Programs

Serving the communities of Green Oak Township, Charter Township of Lyon and City of South Lyon since 1999.

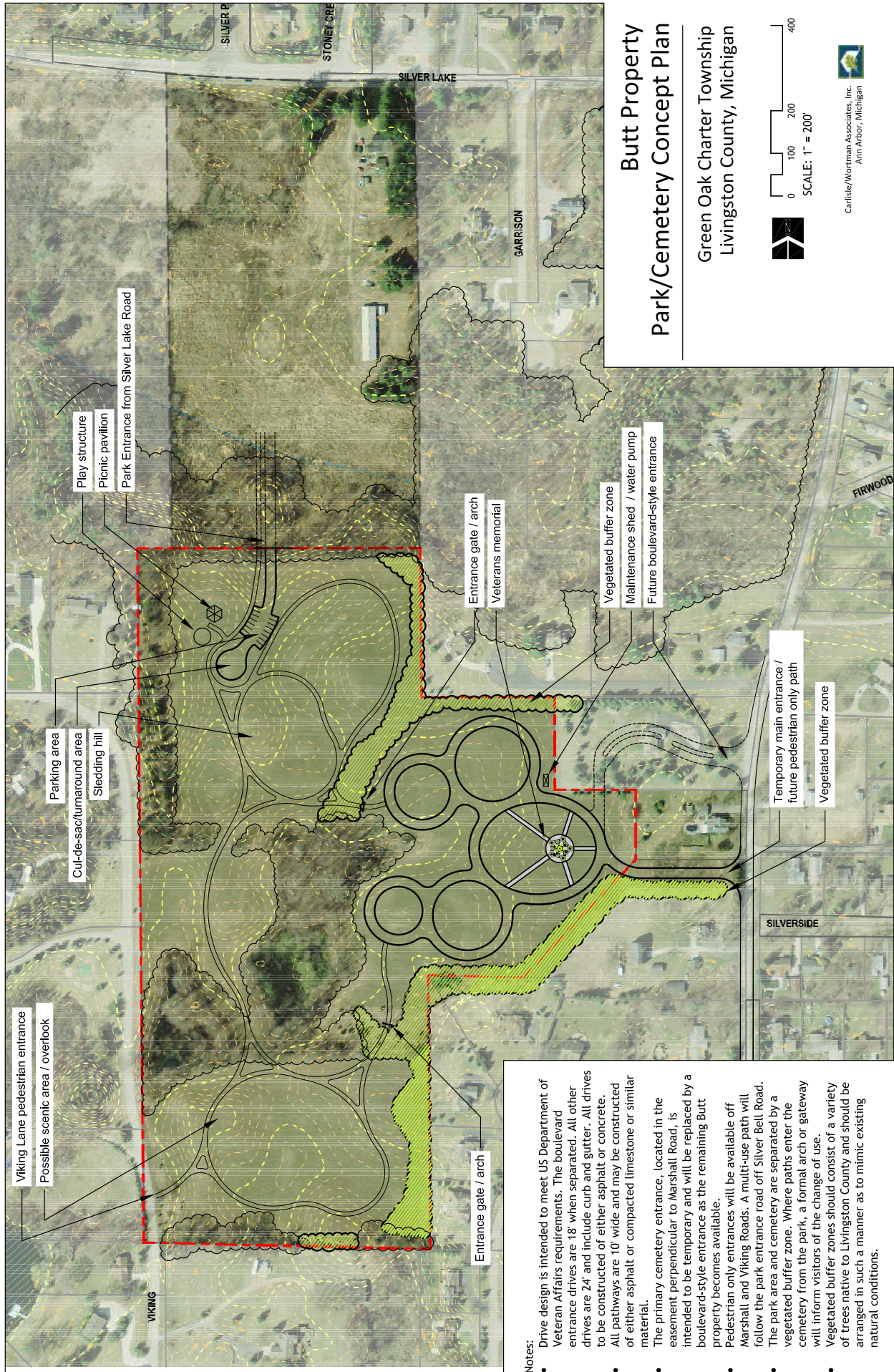


Butt Property Park/Cemetery Concept Plan

Green Oak Charter Township
Livingston County, Michigan

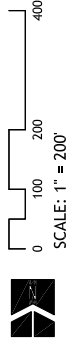
Carlisle/Wortman Associates, Inc.
Ann Arbor, Michigan





Butt Property Park/Cemetery Concept Plan

Green Oak Charter Township
Livingston County, Michigan



Carlisle/Wortman Associates, Inc.
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Notes:

- Drive design is intended to meet US Department of Veteran Affairs requirements. The boulevard entrance drives are 18' when separated. All other drives are 24' and include curb and gutter. All drives to be constructed of either asphalt or concrete.
- All pathways are 10' wide and may be constructed of either asphalt or compacted limestone or similar material.
- The primary cemetery entrance, located in the easement perpendicular to Marshall Road, is intended to be temporary and will be replaced by a boulevard-style entrance as the remaining Butt property becomes available.
- Pedestrian only entrances will be available off Marshall and Viking Roads. A multi-use path will follow the park entrance road off Silver Bell Road.
- The park area and cemetery are separated by a vegetated buffer zone. Where paths enter the cemetery from the park, a formal arch or gateway will inform visitors of the change of use.
- Vegetated buffer zones should consist of a variety of trees native to Livingston County and should be arranged in such a manner as to mimic existing natural conditions.