

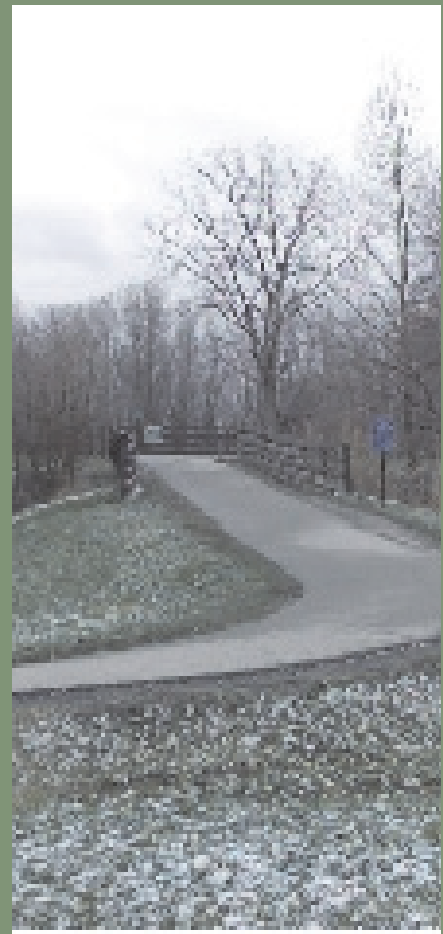
CHARTER TOWNSHIP of HARRISON

**COMMUNITY PARK,
RECREATION, OPEN SPACE &
GREENWAY PLAN**

2012-2017

Prepared By:
Harrison Township
Parks & Recreation Committee

Community Planning & Management, P.C.



HARRISON TOWNSHIP RECREATION PLAN 2012-2017

Prepared by:

HARRISON TOWNSHIP RECREATION
COMMITTEE

Assisted by:

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30464 23 Mile Road
Chesterfield Township, Michigan 48047

Adopted May 14, 2012

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INTRODUCTION

Purpose

The preparation of a Recreation Plan provides Harrison Township with an opportunity to consider the recreation needs of its residents. Providing recreation facilities and programs has evolved into a widely accepted role for local governments. Increasing amounts of leisure time available to people today places even greater emphasis on recreation providers to offer a more diverse range of programs to satisfy these needs. The availability and type of park and recreation programs provided makes the community more attractive by enhancing the community's overall quality of life.

Rated as one of the top places to live by Money Magazine in 2005, Harrison Township has a unique physical setting that offers many varied and interesting recreation opportunities. The Township occupies a peninsula of land that extends into Lake St. Clair. The Clinton River also crosses through Harrison Township before it enters the Lake at the eastern-most part of the Township. Many of southeast Michigan's major private marinas are located along the Township's shoreline. One Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA) park (Lake St. Clair Metropark) is also located in the Township and provides access to Lake St. Clair.

Aside from the HCMA park site, there is limited public access to either Lake St. Clair or the Clinton River. A major objective of the Recreation Plan, therefore, is to evaluate how the waterfront can be better utilized for public recreation and open space purposes. The Recreation Plan also considers the adequacy of recreation opportunities in the interior portions of the Township and how recreation sites throughout the community can be linked together as part of an integrated recreation system. Recreation improvements contribute to the quality of life for community residents. The Recreation Plan, therefore, explores ways in which the character of the Township may be enhanced through recreation and related improvements. More specifically, the Plan will accomplish the following objectives:

- Identify short and long-term recreation needs.
- Develop policies and programs designed to address the existing and future recreation needs through either conventional or alternative methods.
- Identify park improvements; establish acquisition priorities; and suggest facilities and programs to meet the recreation needs of all age groups.
- Provide a capital improvement program, identifying specific projects and intended funding sources to be implemented over a specified time frame.
- Qualify the community to participate in recreation programs available through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.
- Serve as a functional and reasonable guide in the development of recreation programs and facilities throughout the Township.

The Recreation Plan follows the planning guidelines established by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. It begins with an examination of relevant demographic and physical characteristics that influence the delivery of recreation programs and services. This portion of the Plan also includes an inventory of facilities available from State, regional and local recreation providers. The second portion of the Plan identifies short and long-range recreation needs based on accepted planning standards, as well as local desires. Based on these identified needs, a comprehensive strategy for addressing these needs is offered. The final section includes a time table for improvements with estimated costs and possible funding sources.

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Regional Location

Harrison Township occupies a 14.5 square mile portion of eastern Macomb County, approximately 20 miles from downtown Detroit. Interstate I-94 crosses the western portion of the community. Metropolitan Beach Parkway (16 Mile Road) is the principal east-west highway serving the Township. Both highways provide residents with convenient access to the rest of the southeast Michigan region. Conversely, this regional transportation system also makes the Township's many private marinas equally accessible to boaters from across the region.

Population Growth Trends

Population growth characteristics have an obvious and direct relationship to the demand for recreation services and facilities. The demand for these services generally increases as population expands.

During a 70-year period of time between 1940 and 2010, Harrison Township's population increased by 20,056 persons, from 4,531 in 1940 to 24,587 in 2010. Harrison Township experienced consistent population increases over the four decades between 1940 and 1980. During this period, the smallest increase of 3,521 persons occurred between 1940 and 1950. The largest period of population growth was during the 1960's, when the Township grew by 5,845. During the 1980's, however, the consistent growth previously experienced by the Township tapered off, and minimal to stagnant population growth has continued for the past thirty years.

	Harrison Township	Macomb County
1940	4,531	107,638
1950	8,052	184,961
1960	12,910	405,804
1970	18,755	625,309
1980	23,649	694,600
1990	24,685	717,400
2000	24,461	788,149
2010	24,578	840,978

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Harrison's population remained virtually unchanged since 2000, with an increase of only 117 residents. This equates to a population increase of only 0.5% since 2000. Population projections prepared by SEMCOG anticipate a modest yet increased amount of population growth for the Township through the next two decades. The SEMCOG projections expect an increase of 2,191 persons by 2035, with 2,089 of that increase coming by 2020. This population growth will further increase the demand for locally available recreation services within the Township.

Population Distribution

The geographic distribution of a community's population is an important recreation planning variable. The Recreation Plan tries to reach some balance between the location of park sites and where people live within the community. These locations are further influenced by the relationship of existing residential neighborhoods to the community's established road system.

Unlike most other townships in Macomb County, Harrison Township's road system is not arranged in a one-mile square grid. The Township's unique geography has resulted in a somewhat unconventional residential development pattern. This pattern is reflected in the geographic distribution of the Township's residents.

The Clinton River and Metropolitan Parkway cross the community in an east-west direction and divide the Township into three more-or-less equal slices. More than 21,000 residents, accounting for approximately 85 percent of all Township residents, live south of the Clinton River. The Township's remaining population is located on the grounds of the Selfridge Air National Guard Base and in the mobile home park located in the northwest corner of the community. See Illustration 2.

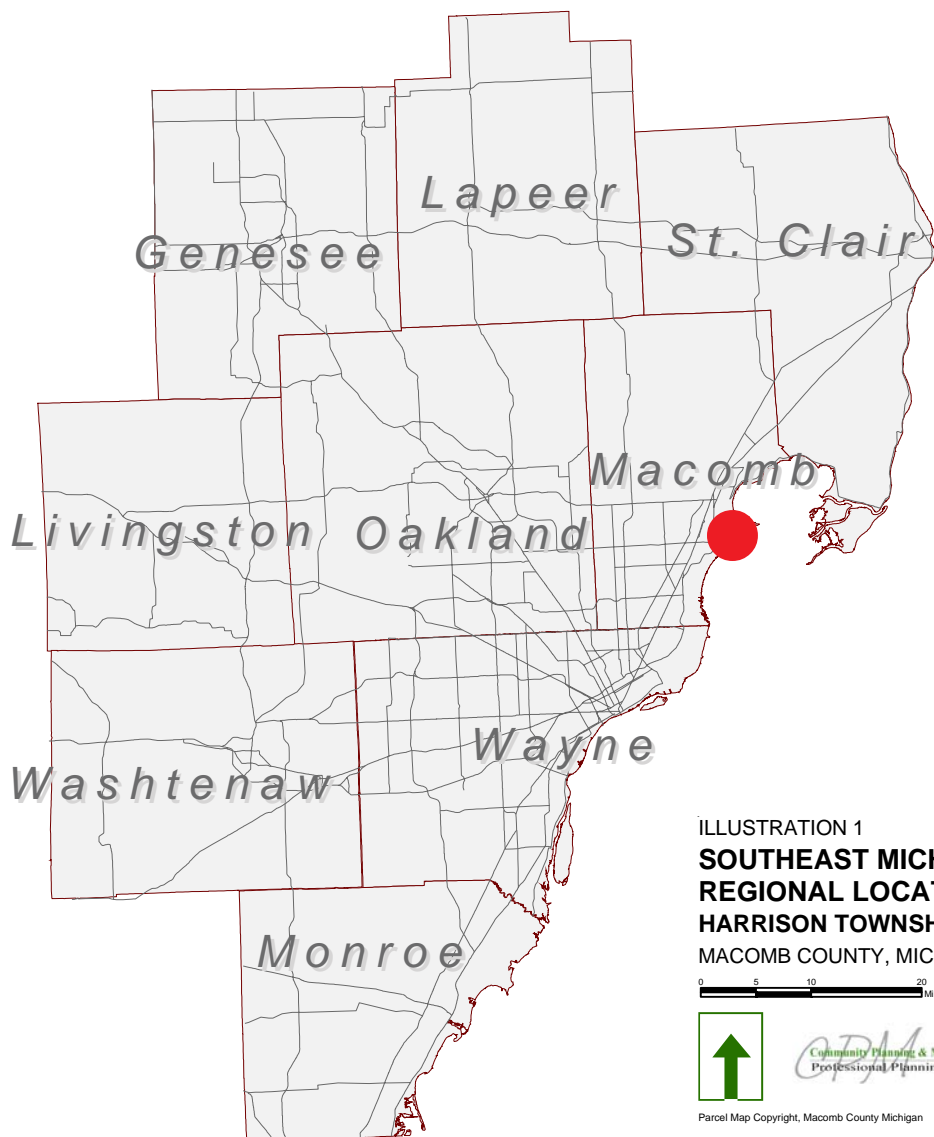


ILLUSTRATION 1
**SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN
REGIONAL LOCATION MAP
HARRISON TOWNSHIP
MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

0 5 10 20 Miles



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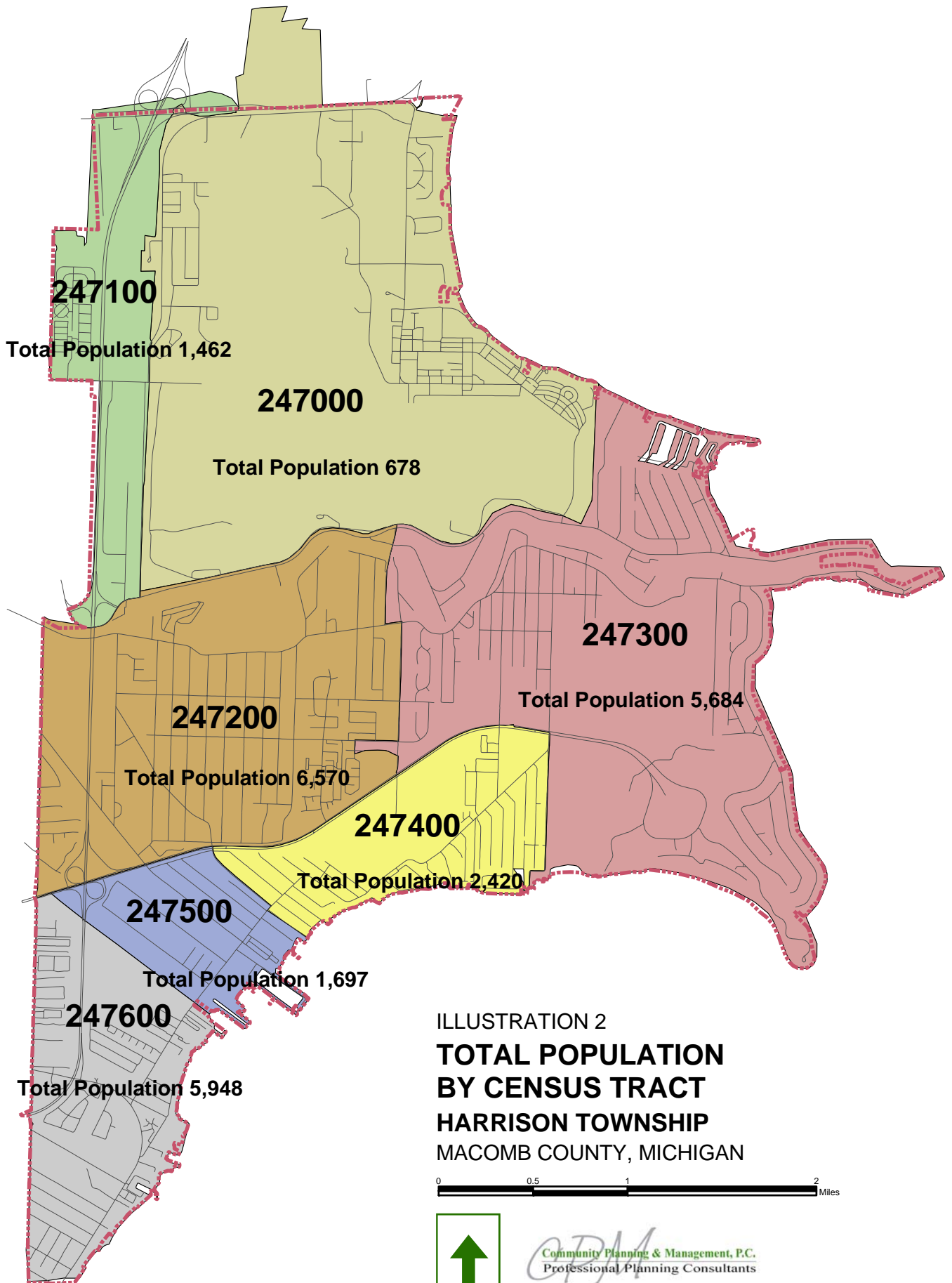
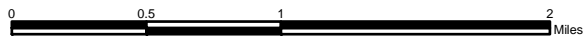


ILLUSTRATION 2
**TOTAL POPULATION
 BY CENSUS TRACT
 HARRISON TOWNSHIP
 MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN**



CPM
 Community Planning & Management, P.C.
 Professional Planning Consultants

Parcel Map Copyright, Macomb County Michigan

Age

Age characteristics are a useful demographic indicator for recreation planning purposes. For example, a community's age composition will help determine the appropriate mix of needed recreation services and facilities. A younger population suggests the need for more active recreation facilities and programs. Seniors, on the other hand, may have more specialized recreation needs.

Median Age

The steady aging of this Nation's population was among the more important trends dimensioned by the Census over the past 50 years. After reaching a high of 30.2 years in 1950, the median age for the Nation declined the following two decades to 29.5 years in 1960, and 28.3 years in 1970. These declines were largely a response to the high birth rates that occurred during the baby boom years following World War II. The aging of the baby boom children, during the 1960's and 1970's, partially explains the rise in median age revealed in the 1980, 1990, 2000 and 2010 U.S. Census. Lower fertility rates and increasingly longer life spans have also contributed to the increase.

The aging trend is clearly reflected in the median age figures noted in Table 2. Each of the different geographic areas included below experienced an increase in median age levels between 1980 and 2010. The Nation's population reached a level of 30.0 years in 1980, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Both Michigan and Macomb County reported median age levels approaching the National level in 1980. While Harrison Township also reported an increase in median age from 25.1 years in 1970 to 28.3 years in 1980, it remained below the levels reported by its larger parent geographic areas. Continued increases are reflected in 1990, 2000 and 2010 census data. Harrison Township's median age rose 5.6 years to 43.5 in 2010, which also exceeds the County figure of 39.9.

	1980	1990	2000	2010
Harrison Township	28.3	32.8	37.9	43.5
Macomb County	29.1	33.9	36.9	39.9
Michigan	28.8	32.6	35.5	38.9
United States	30.0	32.9	35.3	37.2

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Population Change by Age

By reviewing the various age categories that make up the Township's population, it is possible to determine how various segments of the population have changed over time. The distribution of the Township's population into specified age groups for 1980, 1990 and 2010 are shown in Table 3.

**TABLE 3
POPULATION BY AGE**

Age	1980		Change		1990		Change		2000		Change		2010		Change	
	Number	%			Number	%			Number	%			Number	%		
Under 5	1,713	7.2	- 122		1,773	7.2	+ 60		1,482	6.0	- 291		1,171	4.8	-311	
5-17	4,916	20.8	- 135		3,866	15.6	- 1,050		3,870	15.8	+ 4		3,560	14.5	-310	
18-20	1,169	4.9	+ 221		1,001	4.1	- 168		855	3.5	- 146		544	2.2	-311	
21-24	2,247	9.5	+ 718		1,735	7.0	- 512		1,280	5.2	- 455		918	3.7	-362	
25-44	7,647	32.4	+ 2,744		9,073	36.7	+ 1,426		7,949	32.5	-1,124		6,705	27.3	-1,244	
45-54	2,491	10.5	+ 418		2,927	11.8	+ 436		3,950	16.2	+1,023		4,472	18.2	+522	
55-59	1,162	4.9	+ 379		1,148	4.7	- 14		1,472	6.0	+ 324		2,116	8.6	+644	
60-64	793	3.4	+ 175		1,027	4.2	+ 234		942	3.9	- 85		1,727	7.0	+785	
65-74	1,002	4.2	+ 293		1,378	5.6	+ 376		1,579	6.5	+ 201		1,943	7.9	+364	
75+	509	2.2	+ 203		757	3.1	+ 248		1,082	4.4	+ 325		1,431	5.8	+349	
Totals	23,649	100.0	+4,894		24,685	100.0	+ 1,036		24,461	100.0	- 224		24,587	100.0	+117	

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Aside from the first two age categories which encompass children under the age of 18, each of the age groups shown in Table 3 experienced a population increase between 1980 and 1990. Residents between 25 and 44 experienced the greatest increase. Collectively, persons between 18 and 44 increased by 3,683 persons, accounting for 75 percent of the Township's net population gain. The changes shown in Table 3 indicate a gradual aging of the Township's population.

A somewhat different pattern of population change emerged as evidenced by current Census results. The 2010 Census also recorded a large decline of nearly 1,300 persons for residents between pre-school age and 24. The largest decrease during the past decade occurred in the 25 to 44 age group, which declined by 1,244 persons. Also, during the past decade, the middle-age category (45-64) combined with senior (65+) reported a net gain of 2,664 persons. This increase, coupled with the decline in the number of younger residents, accounts for the 5.6 year rise in the Township's median age.

Age by Life Cycle Category

A more meaningful picture of Harrison's population age distribution is possible when the individual age categories shown on the previous table are combined into a smaller number of groups, which more closely resemble identifiable stages of a normal human life cycle. Selected categories and the age intervals that they represent include: pre-school (0-4), school (5-17), family formation (18-44), middle-age (45-64), and seniors (65+). The percent of Township residents in each of these categories is reflected in Table 4.

**TABLE 4
AGE DISTRIBUTION BY LIFE CYCLE**

<u>Category</u>	Harrison Township				Macomb County	
	<u>1980</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2010</u>
Pre-School (0-4)	7.2	7.2	6.0	4.8	6.5	5.8
School (5-17)	20.8	15.6	15.8	14.5	17.4	17.2
Family Formation (18-44)	46.8	47.8	41.2	33.2	39.5	34.5
Middle-Age (45-64)	18.8	20.7	26.1	33.8	23.0	28.2
Seniors (65+)	6.4	8.7	10.9	13.7	13.6	14.3

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

The proportion of residents in the pre-school and school-age categories followed similar paths during the 1960's, 70's and 80's. For example, in 1970, children under age 5 accounted for nearly 9.8 percent of the Township's population. This declined to 7.2 percent in 1980, and remained consistent in 1990. Similarly, school-age children represent a smaller percentage of the Township's population today than they did in 1980. Collectively, the family formation and middle-age categories continue to comprise the foundation of the community. These two categories comprised more than half of the Township's total population in 1980, increasing to nearly 70 percent by 1990 through 2010. Similar to the County, where seniors increased their share of the total population, the proportion of seniors increased to 10.9 percent in 2000, and again to 13.7 percent in 2010.

Age Distribution

The senior citizen population is generally distributed evenly throughout the Township. There does appear to be a more highly concentrated area of senior citizens in the southern portion of the Township (Census Tract 2476), but this does not appear to have a negative affect on the availability of recreation facilities for senior citizens. In fact, Waterfront Park, which has the largest variety of recreation facilities and equipment in the Township, is located within this area of senior citizen concentration. There also appears to be a somewhat concentrated area of senior citizens in the northwest portion of the Township (Census Tract 2471). Access from this area to existing recreation facilities in the Township is limited.

Male/Female Ratio

Females outnumber male residents in Harrison Township by 361 persons. Males comprise 49.3 percent of the Township's population, compared to 50.7 percent for females (see Table 5).

**TABLE 5
MALE-FEMALE DISTRIBUTION - 2010**

	Number	Percent
Males	12,113	49.3
Females	12,474	50.7
Totals	24,587	100.0

Gender Distribution

Based on the 2010 Census, the population distribution of males and females is consistent throughout the seven (7) census tracts in the Township.

Race and Ethnic Characteristics

Based on the results of the 2010 Census, 89.0 percent of the Township's residents are white. African Americans are the next largest racial group, comprising 7.4 percent of the Township's population. The remaining racial groups shown in Table 6 account for less than 2 percent of the Township's population. Persons of Hispanic origin, who may be members of any racial group, represent 2.6 percent of the population.

TABLE 6 RACE AND HISPANIC ORIGIN		
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
White	21,123	89.0
Black	1,824	7.4
American Indian, Eskimo or Aleut	84	0.3
Asian or Pacific Islander	170	0.7
Other	178	0.7
Total	24,587	100.0
Hispanic Origin	627	2.6

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Race and Ethnic Distribution

The Township is composed of primarily White residents. The remaining racial and ethnic groups are distributed throughout the Township. There does appear to be a more highly concentrated population of racial and ethnic minorities in the area of the Township encompassed by Selfridge Air National Guard Base (Census Tract 2470).

Household Growth Trends

The U.S. Census Bureau has two categories to describe living arrangements: households and families. A household is one person or a group of persons occupying a housing unit. The number of households and occupied housing units are, therefore, identical. Families, on the other hand, consist of two or more persons, related to each other, living in a household.

Household characteristics, in general, and the rate of new household growth have become increasingly important indicators of demographic change within a community. Changes in the number of households and their composition are recognized as a more valid measure of community growth and vitality than absolute changes in the number of persons. Several reasons account for this view.

At the local level, households generate property tax revenues regardless of how many people are living within the household. Households also generate a demand for durable goods, including cars and appliances, as well as energy (electricity, gas and telephone services) which serve to stimulate local and regional economic growth. Local governmental services are impacted by household growth trends, especially the need for public utilities (water and sewage disposal), police and fire services, and solid waste disposal, among others. The number of households also influence traffic levels and the need for future transportation system improvements.

The rate of household growth in Harrison Township has declined in recent decades. Between 1970 and 1980, 3,174 new households were formed in the Township, for an increase of 57.5 percent. This was higher than the County-wide increase of 33.9 percent. However, between 1980 and 1990, 1,254 new households were created, for an increase of 14.4 percent. This was slightly lower than Macomb County's percentage increase. The 2000 Census indicates a continued decline in household growth over the past ten years, with the creation of 773 new households, for an increase of 7.8 percent. In 2010, the Township experienced a growth rate of only 3.8%. Once again, the household growth of Macomb County has exceeded that of Harrison Township.

TABLE 7 HOUSEHOLD GROWTH TRENDS (1980 - 2010)										
	1980	1990	Change 1980-90	% Change	2000	Change 1990-00	% Change	2010	Change 2000-10	% Change
Harrison Twp	8,693	9,947	1,254	14.4	10,720	773	7.8	11,128	408	3.8
Macomb County	229,805	264,991	35,186	15.3	309,203	44,212	16.7	331,667	22,464	7.3

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Household Size

Consistent with broader national and regional trends, average household size in Harrison Township declined over the past two decades. In 1970, the size of the average household was 3.29 persons. This declined to 2.72 persons in 1980, 2.47 persons in 1990, 2.28 in 2000 and 2.21 in 2010. Similar declines are observed for Macomb County and Michigan.

TABLE 8 HOUSEHOLD SIZE				
	<u>1980</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2010</u>
Harrison Township	2.72	2.47	2.28	2.21
Macomb County	3.00	2.68	2.52	2.51
Michigan	2.84	2.63	2.56	2.49

Household Characteristics

Accompanying these declines in household size, there were also changes in the composition of the American family. The data available for the most recent decade, 2000-2010, shows the continued decline in the “traditional” family.

In Harrison Township, family households, consisting of household members related to each other, comprise approximately 59.0 percent of all Township households. This is slightly lower than the County figure of 67.0 percent and the State-wide 66.0 percent. Married couple families, or the traditional family unit consisting of a husband and wife living together with their own children, represent 43.1 percent of Harrison Township households. This is lower than the equivalent figure for Macomb County and the State of Michigan.

TABLE 9 HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS		
	<u>Family Households</u>	<u>Married Couple Families</u>
Harrison Township	59.0	43.1
Macomb County	67.0	49.7
Michigan	66.0	48.0

Economic Characteristics

Economic characteristics, especially household income levels and the number of residents living in poverty, may influence the choice of recreation opportunities or leisure-time pursuits. For example, a household with higher income levels will have more opportunities to participate in a wider range of recreational activities, especially those offered by private providers. The opposite may be true for households with lower incomes.

In 2010, Harrison Township reported a median household income of \$63,313, slightly below the Macomb County figure of \$63,846. The distribution of household income among selected income categories is reflected in Table 10. These income characteristics indicate that Township residents have some disposal income available for recreation purposes. The income characteristics included in this analysis, however, are not high enough to suggest that all recreation needs are being adequately met by the private sector.

	Harrison Township	Macomb County	Michigan
Less than \$10,000	7.7	5.9	8.2
\$10,000 - \$14,999	3.0	5.2	6.0
\$15,000 - \$24,999	13.4	10.7	12.0
\$25,000 - \$34,999	11.0	10.9	11.4
\$35,000 - \$49,999	15.8	15.4	15.2
\$50,000 - \$74,999	17.9	19.4	15.9
\$75,000 +	31.1	32.4	28.2
Totals	100.0	100.0	100.0
Median Income (\$)	63,313	63,846	61,921

Poverty Status Distribution

The population living below the poverty level is generally distributed evenly throughout the Township. However, the northwest portion of the community (Census Tract 247100) does indicate a somewhat significant number of persons living below the poverty level when compared to the remainder of the Township. As mentioned previously in the Plan, access from this area to existing recreation facilities in the Township is limited.

Labor Force Participation

In previous decades, Harrison Township had shown a consistent increase in the civilian labor force. This could be explained by the increase in the number of persons living in the Township. Between 1980 and 1990 alone, the civilian labor force increased by 2,094 persons. Census figures showed the first decrease in 2010 figures, suggesting that the aging of Township residents is finally impacting the available workforce.

TABLE 11 LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION				
	1980	1990	2000	2010
Civilian Labor Force:	11,517	13,611	14,003	13,075
Employed	10,327	12,761	13,508	11,356
Unemployed	1,190	850	495	1,719
Not in Labor Force	5,588	5,492	5,457	7,511

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Disability Characteristics

Planned improvements to the Township's park and recreation system should consider the needs of any special population groups, particularly those with physical disabilities that limit their access to recreation facilities and services. Information on the disability status of the population was collected as part of the 2010 Census. The disability characteristics of Harrison Township's population, compared to Macomb County as a whole, are shown in Table 12.

TABLE 12 DISABILITY CHARACTERISTICS (Percentage of all Residents)					
	Ages 18-64			Ages 65+	
	Work Disability	Physical Limitation	Self-Care Limitation	Physical Limitation	Self-Care Limitation
Harrison Township	12.3	11.9	1.8	30.3	7.2
Macomb County	9.3	10.6	2.1	37.4	8.0

Persons with Disabilities Distribution

The distribution of disabled persons in Harrison is fairly even throughout the Township. There does appear to be a more highly concentrated area of disabled residents, but this coincides with the concentration of senior citizens in the northwest portion of the Township mentioned earlier in the Plan.

Physical Characteristics

The physical setting of a community may influence the availability of recreation opportunities. The presence of varied topography, woodlands, and other natural water features, including lakes and rivers, often provide unique opportunities for diverse recreation activities. A community's land use characteristics also need to be considered in evaluating recreation needs and opportunities.

Topography/Flood Hazard Areas

Harrison Township has a nearly level land area, with no more than ten (10) feet of topographic change across the entire Township. This level terrain, coupled with the Township's proximity to both the lake and the river, subjects large portions of the community to periodic flooding hazards.

A floodplain is an area of land along a lake, river, or other water feature that is susceptible to being inundated by water as a result of heavy rains, snow melt, or other factors. Floodplains are naturally occurring physical features that provide for the temporary holding of this excessive water until such time as the receiving channel is capable of accepting the water.

Extensive flood hazard areas are evident in Harrison Township. These areas are shown in Illustration 4. The map, which indicates a 50-year and a 100-year floodplain, was taken from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' 1964 floodplain report for the Clinton River. As the map indicates, the 50-year floodplain in Harrison is very narrow and follows the river quite closely. In most cases, the 50-year floodplain only affects a portion of the properties bordering directly on the river.

The 100-year floodplain is much more pronounced and covers a large portion of the Township. The source of this 100-year floodplain is the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Federal Insurance Administration Flood Hazard Boundary Maps. These maps were prepared in order to designate those areas that are eligible for Federal flood hazard insurance. As the map indicates, the 100-year floodplain encompasses almost everything south of the Clinton River, east of L'Anse Creuse and Town Hall Road, and northeast of the Spillway.

The extent of this 100-year floodplain has some very important implications for the future of Harrison Township. Most of the Township's remaining vacant land that is suitable for residential development lies within this 100-year floodplain. Careful planning of future drainage and utilities will be necessary if potential purchasers of homes in this area are to be able to obtain suitable financing. These flood-prone areas may have some value for recreation planning purposes.

Surface Water and Wildlife Resources

Surface water exists in many forms, such as lakes, rivers, creeks and open storm drains. Harrison Township contains a high proportion of these features. The most notable of these are Lake St. Clair, the Clinton River and the Spillway. The Township's Lake St. Clair shoreline is approximately 12.6 linear miles in total length. The Clinton River winds its way for a distance of 5.7 miles through the Township. This measurement does not include the Clinton River Spillway, which crosses the southeast corner of the Township. Numerous man-made canals are present in many of the single-family subdivisions located proximate to the Lake. These canals provide a waterway system of channels for the pleasure boats owned by the residents of these neighborhoods.

The presence of an abundant amount of natural water bodies in and near Harrison Township is of great potential value as it applies to recreation and future development. Lake St. Clair has, in the past, been a strong attraction for both its recreational and aesthetic value. Since marinas and water-borne pleasure craft are increasing in number and popularity throughout the nation, it is evident that the Lake's attraction will increase in years to come. The location of the Clinton River in the Township also has an important significance for planning purposes. The River is also a physical barrier to the continuity of development. It also divides the residentially developed southern half of the Township from the northern half, which is dominated by the presence of Selfridge Air National Guard Base.

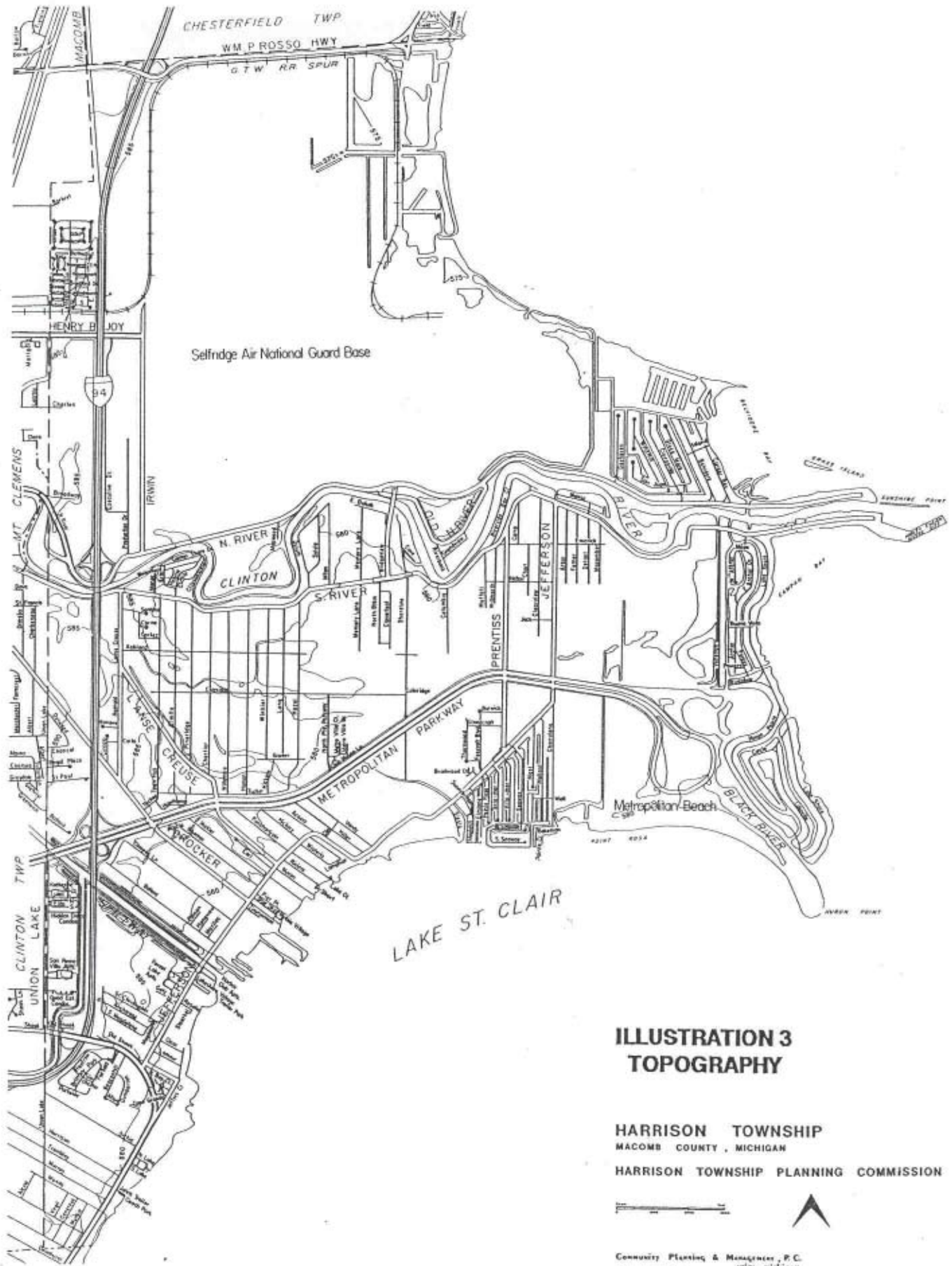
The existing wildlife corresponds with the location of Lake St. Clair, the Clinton River and the numerous wetland areas in the Township. The predominant wildlife consists of fish, frogs, ducks, geese and other waterfowl.

Woodlands/Wetlands and Environmental Issues

Undisturbed woodlands and wetlands offer numerous benefits for recreation purposes. For example, these natural features enhance the setting of parks by providing opportunities for picnicking, hiking and nature interpretation.

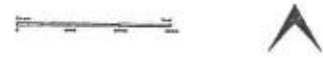
Large, undisturbed woodlands are no longer a dominant feature in the Harrison Township landscape. While there are many scattered locations of small wooded areas in Harrison, only two large stands of trees remain. One is found north and south of Metropolitan Parkway, between Hazel and Shoreline. The other is located south of the Spillway and east of I-94. Efforts should be made to respect and preserve the character of these natural areas for the future.

Two basic types of wetlands are found in Harrison Township, lowland hardwood wetlands and shrub, emergent or aquatic bed wetlands. The latter category occurs principally east of Jefferson, between South River Road and Lake St. Clair. Most of these identified wetlands are located on HCMA's Lake St. Clair Metropark site. The lowland hardwood wetlands are most prominent along Metropolitan Beach Parkway. Many of the wetlands in the Township have been overtaken by urban development. The preservation of these natural wetlands is a legitimate concern of local planning. This may be accomplished through cooperation with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) regulations that prevent development of these poorly drained geological areas.

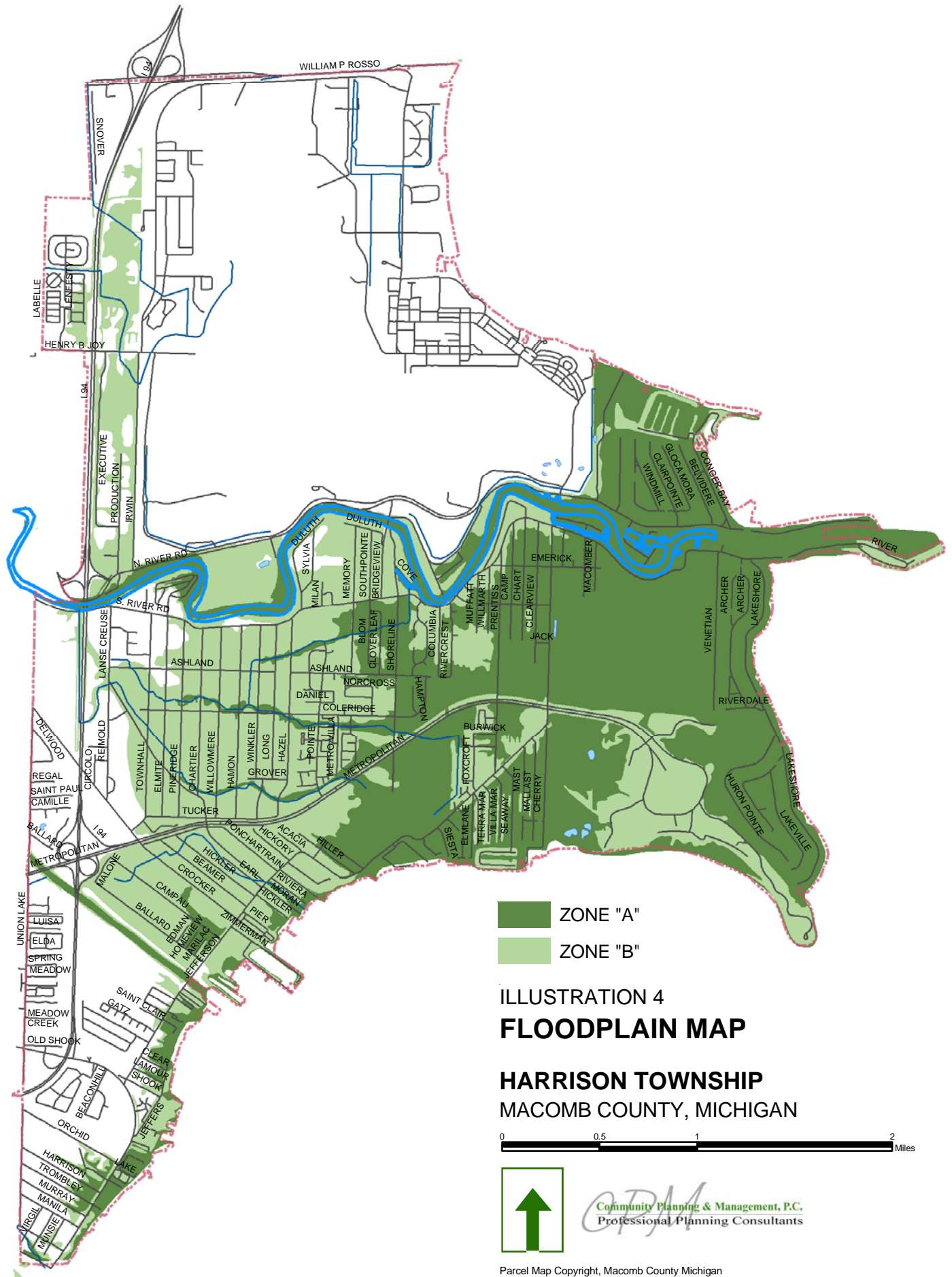


**ILLUSTRATION 3
TOPOGRAPHY**

HARRISON TOWNSHIP
MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN
HARRISON TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

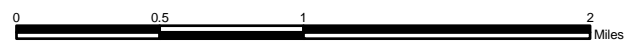


Community Planning & Management, P.C.
Ann Arbor, Michigan



- ZONE "A"
- ZONE "B"

ILLUSTRATION 4
FLOODPLAIN MAP
HARRISON TOWNSHIP
 MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN



Parcel Map Copyright, Macomb County Michigan

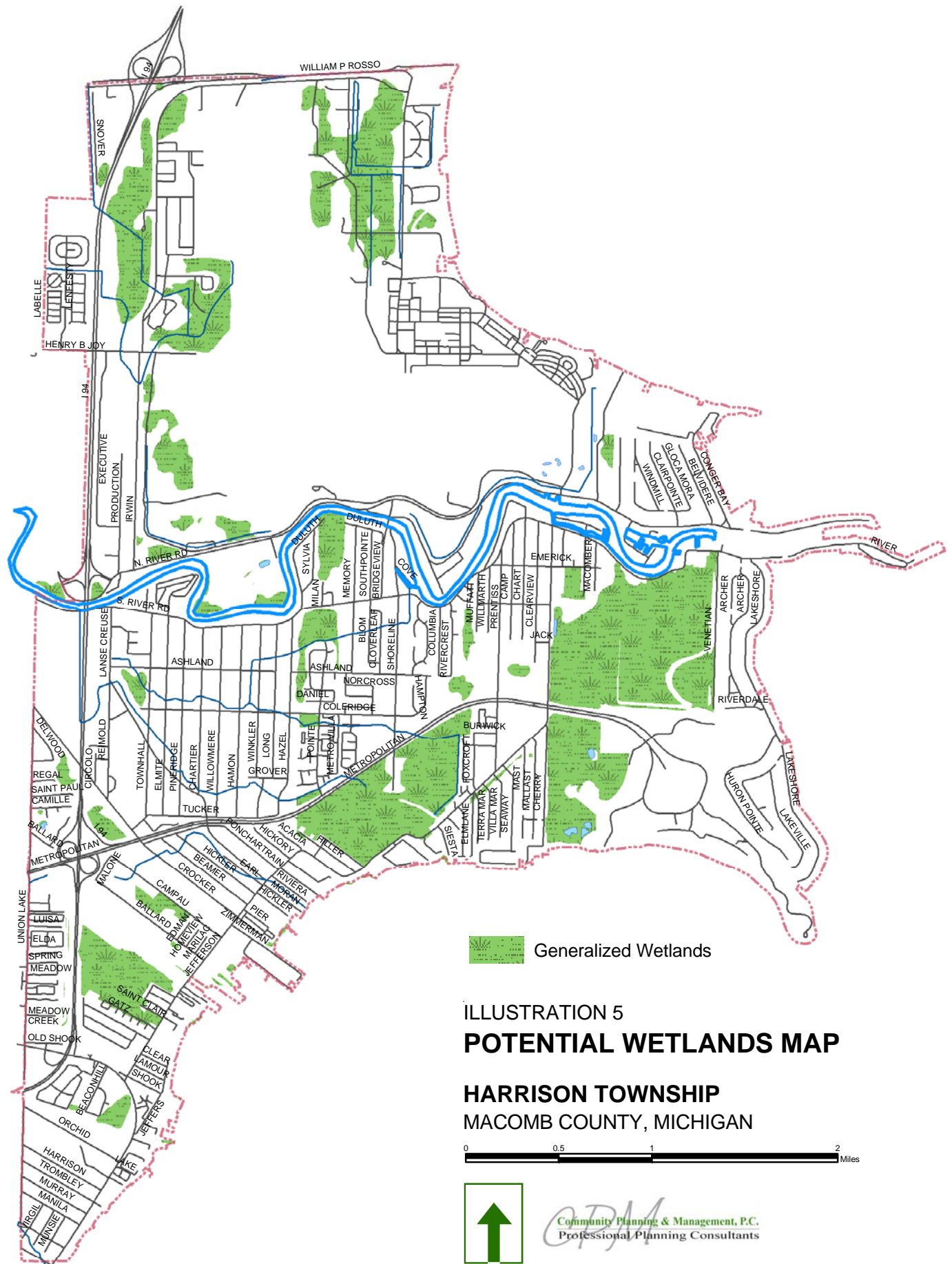
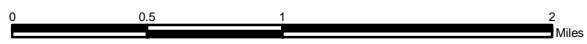


ILLUSTRATION 5
POTENTIAL WETLANDS MAP
HARRISON TOWNSHIP
 MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN



Parcel Map Copyright, Macomb County Michigan

Soils

Soil characteristics have an important influence on the ability of land to support various types of land uses, including roads, buildings, utilities and agriculture. Four specific soil characteristics influence their ability to be used for various purposes. These include the following:

- Bearing Capacity — the ability to support the weight of roads, buildings or vehicles.
- Erodibility/Stability – the susceptibility of the soils to erosion hazards and the ability to accept weight, without causing mass movements such as mud flows and slides.
- Drainage — the capacity of soils to transit and receive water. This characteristic is especially important for determining the ability of soils to accept on-site waste water treatment systems. Soil drainage characteristics are influenced by particle composition and water content.
- Resource Value — the economic worth of the soil for agricultural purposes, or as a fill or mined material.

Harrison Township's soil characteristics were identified as part of the larger Macomb County Soil Survey conducted in 1967 by the United States Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service. Categories of soils with different characteristics and physical properties were identified as part of the survey. This process resulted in a patchwork or jigsaw-like pieces that fit together to portray a larger overall picture of existing soil characteristics. A large number of individual soil types are present in the Township.

These individual categories are grouped together into several generalized classifications of soils that share similar characteristics. A total of nine of these grouped categories are located in Macomb County. Two of these cover Harrison Township. The characteristics of these categories are described as follows:

Lenawee-Corunna-Lamson

This is the most dominant category of soils found in Harrison Township. These soils extend from the mid-point of Selfridge on the north to Shook Road on the south. Poor drainage characteristics are the chief limitations of these soils for development. A high water table and inadequate surface drainage present problems for the construction of streets, utility lines and buildings. Water ponds in low areas and the lack of suitable outlets further compound the poor drainage characteristics.

Toledo-Paulding

These soils are found in the northern and southern-most portions of the Township. Soils in this association are comprised of poorly drained, nearly level soils that formed in lake_laid clay deposits. These soils have moderate limitations for farming due to the clay content which limits drainage. This characteristic also presents limitations for the construction of buildings and roads. Structures have a tendency to heave and crack because the soils swell when wet and shrink when dry.

Because sanitary sewers are available to much of the Township, the high water table and poor drainage characteristics of the Township soils do not pose as severe a limitation on development as would be true if on-site sewage disposal systems were more prevalent. These soil characteristics do, however, make the need for continued drainage improvements necessary for development purposes. The Township's drainage problems are compounded by the fact that Harrison lies at the end of the Clinton River drainage basin. Much of the storm run-off occurring within the boundaries of this drainage area eventually works its way through the Township.

Climate

Harrison Township is in the humid continental climate zone and therefore realizes four seasons - summer, fall, winter and spring. Storms from the Great Lakes region cross the area from the west and southwest. The climate of Harrison Township is characterized by frequent weather and temperature changes with an even distribution of precipitation.

The mean temperature for the area is about 48 degrees. The annual precipitation averages 30.28 inches of which 50 percent occurs during the six month period from April through September. This climate is suitable for a variety of outdoor recreation activities, including jogging and bicycling.

Street Inventory

Harrison Township contains approximately 96.7 linear road miles, as measured from the current Township base map. Of this total, there are about 5.9 miles of freeway, 0.4 miles of State Highway, 24.2 miles of County Primary roads, 5.1 miles of County Local roads, and 61.1 miles of other roads. There are three (3) roads within the Township which carry the majority of the traffic; Metropolitan Parkway, Jefferson Avenue and South River Road. There is little opportunity to move between neighborhoods, schools and recreation facilities within the Township without using one of these roads.

Freeway Interchanges

Interstate 94 is the only freeway that crosses Harrison Township. Four interchanges are located along I-94 in the Township. These occur at M-59 (Rosso Highway), North River Road, Metropolitan Beach Parkway, and a partial one at Shook Road. A second, limited access road serving the Township is Metropolitan Beach Parkway, which crosses the south-central portion of the community.

Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation (SMART)

SMART is the agency responsible for providing mass transportation services to the three-County Metropolitan Detroit area. The main component of SMART's service to the region consists of a network of bus routes. Other services provided by SMART include a connector or small bus service, which provides a more specialized type of service. This is particularly useful for meeting the transportation needs of senior citizens and the handicapped.

SMART also operates a Municipal Credit Program which provides funding to local communities to be used for meeting the transportation needs of its residents. Local communities are responsible for determining how this money will be spent. It can be used to subsidize the cost of providing SMART's connector service, providing vans for local service, or underwriting the cost of bus tickets for local residents.

Harrison Township is connected to the SMART bus system via the Jefferson-East Express route. Service along this route is offered Monday through Friday, during rush hours only. It provides transit service between Crocker/Metropolitan Beach Parkway and Grand Circus Park in Downtown Detroit. Selected trips are also available along Crocker to Mt. Clemens and to Selfridge Air National Guard Base.

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

Current Organizational Structure

The Organization Chart shown in Illustration 6 depicts the administrative structure for the implementation of the Township Recreation Program and Plan.

The Township Board is the governing body of the Township and has the ultimate authority over all recreation matters.

The Parks and Recreation Committee is comprised of residents and one (1) member of the Township Board serving in a volunteer capacity to provide the Township Board with information regarding the community's attitude and desires related to recreation programs and activities and advise accordingly. The Committee meets twice a month. However, the Committee has never been formally organized as a Recreation Commission and has no bylaws.

The Township Board is responsible for the Parks and Recreation Budget, including sponsors, grant funding and other sources of revenue. The Township also enlists the help of volunteers each year to perform a variety of duties such as team coaching and program administration.

Recreation Committee

The Harrison Township Recreation Committee consists of a group of Township residents who share a common interest in recreation. Since the Township has eliminated the Recreation Department, the role of this committee has changed. Rather than only serving a policy oversight and supervisory role, the Committee now also acts in an administrative capacity. The Township may wish to consider forming a Recreation Commission.

Recreation Commissions typically serve in an advisory capacity to the Township Board on issues relating to the delivery of recreation services. Other typical duties and responsibilities include the following:

- Establishes community-wide recreation goals.
- Establishes policies for delivering recreation services.
- Hires or recommends the hiring of full-time staff who will have the responsibility for the administration of recreation programs on a daily basis. This staff would then report back to the Recreation Commission on matters of policy and administration.
- Determines recreation facility and programming needs and the funding to implement recreation policies.
- Prepares a Recreation Plan, including a capital improvement program.
- Encourages broad community-wide support for Township recreation programs.

Recreation Commissions must be established consistent with applicable State laws. These laws provide the framework within which the Commission may operate. Local units of government can organize Recreation Commissions under the Home Rule Provisions of the Michigan Constitution or General State Enabling Laws. Several types of legislation permit Townships to establish Recreation Commissions. The three most common types of Recreation Commissions are elected, policy and advisory.

- **Elected** commissions often have the power to levy taxes and are governed by their own regulations and policies. This type of commission is relatively rare.
- **Policy** commissions are appointed by the community's governing body. They have the power to set policy and establish rules and regulations for the governing body.
- **Advisory** bodies are also appointed by the governing body, but in an advisory capacity only. They are not authorized to implement policy, but rather recommend to the governing body.

Several State Enabling Acts allow townships to form a Recreation Commission. The legislation also specifies the Commission's authority. A summary of State statutes commonly used to establish Township Recreation Commissions include those identified as follows:

Act 157 of Public Acts of 1905

The Act gives any Township or Townships the authority to:

- Acquire property by gift or bequeath real estate for recreational purposes.
- Form a Board of Commissioners who are authorized to establish rules and regulations for the operation and maintenance of the park(s).
- Specify to the Board of Commissioners of the Township(s) the sum needed to be raised by a limited tax on property to maintain and support such park(s).

Act 156 of Public Acts of 1917

This Act authorizes any city, village, county, township or school district to operate systems of public recreation and playgrounds. This act gives any city, village, county, township and school district the authority to form a Recreation Board created by any or all of them. School districts may only vote a tax to provide funds for operating the system.

Act 312 of Public Acts of 1929

This Act gives any two or more cities, villages or townships, or any combination or parts thereof, the authority to form a "metropolitan district" or districts comprising territory within their respective limits for the purposes of acquiring, owning, operating and maintaining parks. This Act also applies to public utilities, sewer disposal, drainage, water and/or transportation systems. Each metropolitan district formed under this authority will become an incorporated body.

Act 271 of Public Acts of 1931

This Act applies to the development of a township park commission. This Act authorizes a township board to:

- Acquire, maintain, manage and control property within the township for parks and recreation purposes.
- Create a township park commission.
- Delineate duties and authority of the park commission.
- Issuance of bonds and/or the levy of taxes for the operation and maintenance of the parks and recreation system.

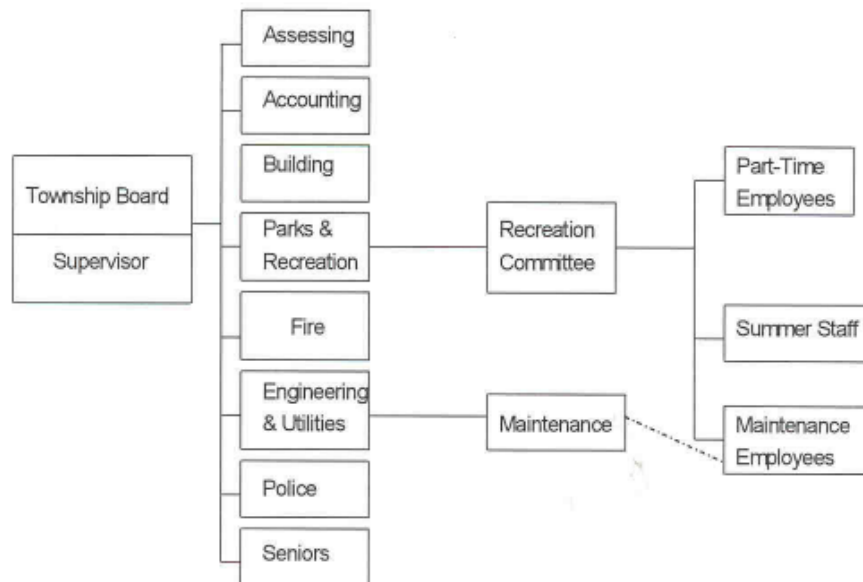
The major differences between this Act and Act 90 of 1913 is Act 271 authorizes the creation of a township parks commission that is empowered with the responsibility and control over property, staff and facility development.⁽¹⁾

Charter Township's may also form a Recreation Commission based on the authority granted under Act 359 of P.A. 1947.

Whichever model offered above is selected as the basis for establishing a Recreation Commission, the resolution or ordinance creating the Parks & Recreation Commission should contain the following provisions:

- Legal authority authorizing the Township to form a Recreation Commission.
- The powers and duties of the Commission.
- The composition of the Commission, method of appointment, qualifications and terms of office.
- Election of officers, meeting, records and quorum.

**ILLUSTRATION 6
ORGANIZATION CHART**



Budget Summary

Funding for general as well as specific recreation activities has been set forth in the Township budget. Since the Township no longer maintains a Recreation Department, the majority of expenses go towards general building and lawn maintenance.

**TABLE 13
TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION BUDGET**

Parks and Recreation Budget	FY 2006
Parks & Recreation Fund	\$15,500
Maintenance/Miscellaneous	\$9,050
Total	\$24,550

DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS

The Harrison Township Recreation Committee was responsible for the preparation of the Recreation Plan. The Township is responsible for all administrative activities associated with the delivery of recreation services, including short and long-term planning. Technical assistance in the planning process and document preparation was provided by Community Planning & Management, P.C., planning consultants for the Township.

The planning process began in the Spring of 2006, with the assembly of all required background information on the demographic and physical characteristics of the service area and field surveys of each park and school site in the area. A review of the document was undertaken in 2012 and updates were made as deemed necessary.

The Recreation Committee encouraged community participation in all aspects of the recreation planning and delivery process, particularly in the development of the goals and objectives of the Plan. The Township Board held a public workshop on March 26, 2012 in an effort to gain comments on the draft plan and refine the goals and objectives. The workshop was held in Rosso Hall to provide access for all members of the community. The public workshop was advertised using an announcement on the Township website. Notices were posted on all bulletin boards in the Township offices. Township Board and Recreation Committee members, as well as others from the public attended the public workshops. All persons attending were given an opportunity to comment. No comments were made.

A public hearing was held in front of the Township Board on May 14, 2012. The purpose of this meeting was to gain final input from the public.

Recreation Needs Assessment

During the planning process, a review of the Township's existing and anticipated recreation needs was conducted. Recreation needs were considered from several vantage points, including acquisition, development, building, administration, and financing. For the purposes of this study, the following factors were considered in evaluating future needs:

- Comparisons to national park and recreation planning standards.
- Detailed field surveys of each developed park and school site.
- Interviews with those individuals responsible for administering local recreation programs and the relationship with other recreation providers.

Collectively, these factors offer an overview of existing and anticipated recreation needs. They also provide a reasonable basis for developing strategies and programs to address these needs over the next five years and beyond.

The Recreation Plan needs to first consider whether or not there is enough developed or undeveloped park land to accommodate existing and future recreation needs. Additionally, the Plan should consider whether existing recreational sites are appropriately located to accommodate future recreation needs based on anticipated population levels and likely development patterns.

Recreation planning standards, published by the National Recreation and Park Association, recommend that local communities provide a core system of parks offering between 6.25 and 10.5 acres of developed open space per each 1,000 persons. Applying these standards to Harrison Township's 2000 population of 24,461 persons yields a current estimated demand of between 150 and 256 acres. Assuming a population increase to approximately 26,500 persons by the year 2020, as projected by SEMCOG, the Township's need for park acreage expands to between 169 and 285 acres. This need increases even further to between 175 and 294 acres in 2035, where the population is projected to increase to approximately 27,500 persons.

Between the Township's three recreation sites and the seven L'Anse Creuse school sites, the Township has a local recreation inventory totaling approximately 151 acres. This total does not include the land occupied by the Freedom Trail pedestrian/bicycle path since this path is located within the right-of-way of Metropolitan Parkway. Nor does the inventory include the land along the Clinton River Spillway, which is also partially developed with an extension of the pedestrian/bicycle path. Including these two additional areas increases the Township's recreation inventory by another 40+ acres to 191 acres. Adding the 770 acres of land occupied by Lake St. Clair Metropark further expands this inventory to 961 acres of land.

A comparison of estimated recreation acreage needs and land available for recreation purposes in the Township suggests that Harrison Township is well positioned to meet current and anticipated needs. This comparison is somewhat misleading, however, inasmuch as the recreation inventory totals referenced above include both HCMA Metropark and L'Anse Creuse schools sites. While Lake St. Clair Metropark is obviously used by Township residents, the park is a regional recreation facility serving a much wider service area.

Recreation standards and a general needs comparison has been provided on the following page. Of specific note are the absence of a need for additional children's playlots and the deficiency of land in the community park category.

**TABLE 14
NATIONAL RECREATION STANDARDS**

Park/Activity	Standard	Existing Number/Size	Recommended Number/Size 2000*	Recommended Number/Size 2010*	Recommended Number/Size 2020*
Regional Park	5-10 acres per 1,000 residents	770 acres	125-251 acres	136-271 acres	142-283 acres
Community Park	5-8 acres per 1,000 residents	4 acres	125-201 acres	136-217 acres	142-227 acres
Neighborhood Park	1-2 acres per 1,000 residents	32 acres	25-50 acres	27-54 acres	28-57 acres
Children's Playlot	1 lot per 3,000 residents	2 playlots	8 lots	9 lots	9 lots
Basketball Court	1 court per 10,000 residents	1 court	3 courts	3 courts	3 courts
Softball/ Baseball Diamond	1 diamond per 5,000 residents	2 diamonds	5 diamonds	5 diamonds	6 diamonds
Running Track	1 track per 20,000 residents	0 tracks	1 track	1 track	1 track
Swimming Pool	1 pool per 20,000 residents	0 pools	1 pool	1 pool	1 pool
Nature Trails	1 trail per 20,000 residents	1 trail	1 trail	1 trail	1 trail
Golf Courses	1 course per 25,000 residents	1 course	1 course	1 course	1 course
Tennis Courts	1 court per 2,000 residents	6 courts	13 courts	14 courts	14 courts
Soccer Fields	1 field per 10,000 residents	1 field	3 fields	3 fields	3 fields

*Based on populations as projected by SEMCOG

**TABLE 15
HARRISON TOWNSHIP RECREATION DEFICIENCIES**

Park/Activity	Standard	Existing Number/Size	Deficiencies Number/Size 2000*	Deficiencies Number/Size 2010*	Deficiencies Number/Size 2020*
Regional Park	5-10 acres per 1,000 residents	770 acres	NA	NA	NA
Community Park	5-8 acres per 1,000 residents	4 acres	121-197 acres	132-213 acres	138-223 acres
Neighborhood Park	1-2 acres per 1,000 residents	32 acres	NA	NA	NA
Children's Playlot	1 lot per 3,000 residents	2 playlots	6 playlots	7 playlots	7 playlots
Basketball Court	1 court per 10,000 residents	1 court	2 courts	2 courts	2 courts
Softball/ Baseball Diamond	1 diamond per 5,000 residents	2 diamonds	3 diamonds	3 diamonds	4 diamonds
Running Track	1 track per 20,000 residents	0 tracks	1 track	1 track	1 track
Swimming Pool	1 pool per 20,000 residents	0 pools	1 pool	1 pool	1 pool
Nature Trails	1 trail per 20,000 residents	1 trail	NA	NA	NA
Golf Courses	1 course per 25,000 residents	1 course	NA	NA	NA
Tennis Courts	1 court per 2,000 residents	6 courts	7 courts	8 courts	8 courts
Soccer Fields	1 field per 10,000 residents	1 field	2 fields	2 fields	2 fields

*Based on populations as projected by SEMCOG

RECREATION INVENTORY

Introduction

A wide variety of recreation facilities provided by several different organizations are available to Harrison Township residents. Recreation providers include the State of Michigan, Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority, Macomb County, Charter Township of Harrison, the L'Anse Creuse School District, and various private businesses. A description of these opportunities are provided as follows.

State Parks and Recreation Areas

Eighteen (18) State parks and recreation areas are located in the seven-county southeast Michigan region (see Table 15 and Illustration 9). These parks have a combined area exceeding 80,000 acres and provide a wide range of day use facilities. Common recreation opportunities available at these sites include hiking, swimming, fishing, boating, picnicking, camping, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling, among others. Algonac State Park, located approximately 20 miles from Harrison Township, provides many of these opportunities. The undeveloped W.C. Wetzel State Park, the only State park site in Macomb County, is also located in close proximity to Harrison Township. This area may be used for hunting, hiking, snowmobiling and cross-country skiing. Eight recreation facilities operated by the State are located to the west in Oakland County and are reasonably accessible to Township residents.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources also operates the Harley Ensign Boat Launch located on a peninsula of land extending into Lake St. Clair at the mouth of the Clinton River. This site includes 18 boat launch sites, a large paved parking lot, dock master building and restrooms. The Selfridge Access Site and the Jefferson Access Site are two (2) other boat launch site that are operated by the MDNR. The Metro Park boat launch site is a DNR site, but is operated by the HCMA. In addition, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) turned MDOT property at I-94 and N. River Road into an improved fishing hole. This conversion was completed with transportation enhancement grant funds.

Regional Facilities

The Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA) operates more than one dozen regional recreation areas in southeast Michigan, with three in Macomb County. These parks provide facilities for a wide range of recreational opportunities, which include picnicking, playgrounds, hiking, swimming, boating, fishing, golf, court games, cross-country skiing, ice-skating and sledding, among others. The scope of recreational facilities available at each of these parks is specified in Table 16. The location of each of the HCMA sites is shown in Illustration 9.

One of these HCMA park sites, Lake St. Clair Metropark, is located in the Charter Township of Harrison along the Lake St. Clair shoreline. This park occupies approximately 770 acres of land. An extensive range of both active and passive recreation facilities are available at this site. A description of the major activities at Lake St. Clair are offered as follows:

Swimming

Lake St. Clair Metropark has a 3,000-linear foot sand beach along Lake St. Clair. A bathhouse is also available, which includes dressing rooms, heated showers, and coin-operated lockers. Swimming is permitted from Memorial Day through Labor Day, but only when lifeguards are on duty. The park also includes an olympic-sized swimming pool with diving boards and a water slide. The swimming pool area include a play/spray station for children.

Marina/Boat Launching

Three marinas along Black Creek provide transient accommodations for 192 boats. Water, electricity, restrooms, showers and pump-out service is also available. Eight ramps located near the North Marina provide boaters with access to Lake St. Clair. A redesigned launching area for sailboats and sailboards is also available.

Nature Interpretation Area

The Marsh Nature Study Area provides visitors with a glimpse of the native wildlife, plants, and marshlands. This portion of the park includes a network of nature trails and an indoor activity center building. A naturalist is available to conduct guided walks on the three-quarter mile trail from April through October.

Picnic Areas

Several areas within the park have been designated for picnicking. These sites have tables, stoves, shelters, play equipment, drinking water and restrooms. Picnic areas are not reserved, and groups of fifty (50) or more are requested to register in advance at the park office.

Winter Sports

Weather permitting, numerous recreation activities are available at Lake St. Clair Metropark during the winter months. For example, the park operates a cross-country ski touring center with five miles of marked ski trails. Rental equipment is also available. An ice skating rink, located near the food bar, has a warming center and is lighted at night. Ice hockey and ice fishing sites are available at the West Playfield and at the North Marina respectively.

Tot-Lot

Several play structures and other playground equipment are available at a central location within the park.

Court Games

Tennis, shuffleboard, and basketball are available within the park.

Golf

The park includes one 18-hole, par 3 golf course with holes ranging in length from 43 to 101 yards, plus two 18-hole miniature golf courses.

Fitness Trail

A 20-station exercise trail is designed to provide a well-balanced routine and fun for all age groups. This fitness trail connects to the Freedom Trail.

Group Activity Center

Rental of this facility which includes tables, umbrellas and grills is available to groups by reservation only.

Outdoor Dance Pavilion

Local orchestras offer “Dancing Under the Stars” on Saturday evenings during summer months. An area reserved for senior citizens is located at this site.

Other activities/facilities located at Lake St. Clair Metropark include a Spring and Fall sail and power boat show, craft shows, concerts by the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, motorcycle shows, sailboard lessons, voyager canoe, trackless train, beach shop, and food service area.

**TABLE 16
STATE RECREATION FACILITIES INVENTORY**

STATE PARK	ACRES	LOCATION	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
Algonac	1,450	St. Clair Co.													
Bald Mountain	4,637	Oakland Co.													
Brighton	4,913	Livingston Co.													
Dodge #4	139	Oakland Co.													
Highland	5,903	Oakland Co.													
Holly	7,741	Oakland Co.													
Island Lake	3,466	Livingston Co.													
Lakeport	565	St. Clair Co.													
Maybury	944	Wayne Co.													
Metamora-Hadley	683	Lapeer Co.													
Ortonville	5,007	Oakland Co.													
Pinckney	10,201	Washtenaw Co.													
Pontiac Lake	3,709	Oakland Co.													
Proud Lake	4,700	Oakland Co.													
Seven Lakes	1,434	Oakland Co.													
Sterling	1,000	Monroe Co.													
Waterloo	20,367	Wayne Co.													
W.C. Wetzel	900	Macomb Co.													

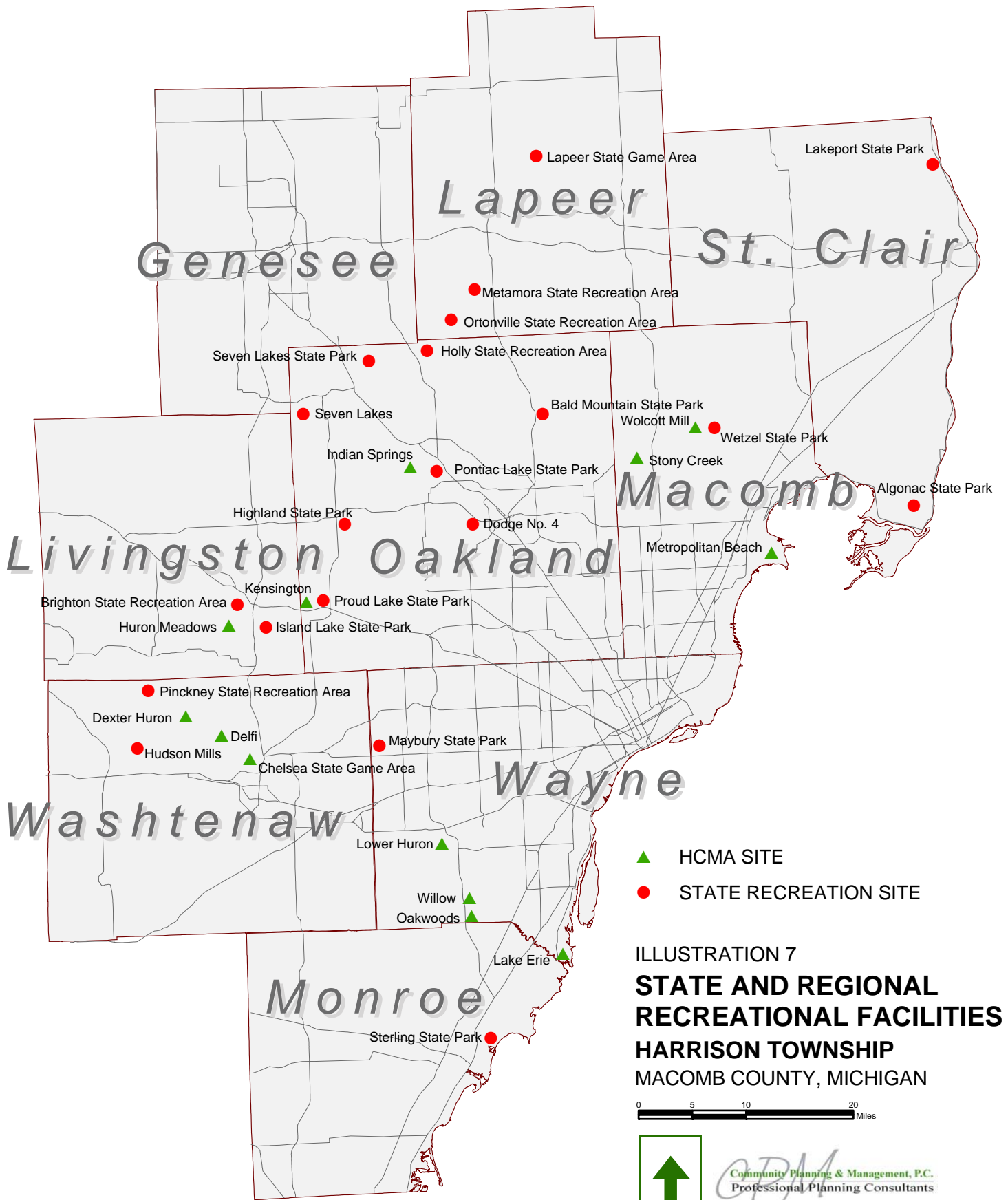
LEGEND

A) Camping	H) Hiking
B) Picnic	I) Horseback Riding
C) Playground	J) Biking
D) Boating	K) Snowmobiling
E) Swimming	L) X-Country Skiing
F) Hunting	M) Wildlife Watching
G) Fishing	

**TABLE 17
REGIONAL RECREATION FACILITIES INVENTORY**

METRO PARK	ACRES	LOCATION	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
Metro Beach	770	Macomb Co.													
Wolcott Mill	2,381	Macomb Co.													
Stony Creek	4,461	Macomb Co.													
Indian Springs	2,224	Oakland Co.													
Kensington	4,337	Wayne Co.													
Lower Huron	1,237	Wayne Co.													
Willow	1,531	Wayne Co.													
Oakwoods	1,719	Wayne Co.													
Lake Erie	1,590	Wayne Co.													
Hudson Mills	1,624	Washtenaw Co.													
Dexter-Huron	122	Washtenaw Co.													
Delphi	50	Washtenaw Co.													
Huron Meadows	1,540	Livingston Co.													

LEGEND	
A) Hiking	H) X-Country Skiing
B) Swimming	I) Horseback Riding
C) Fishing	J) Ice Skating
D) Boating	K) Play Ground
E) Picnic	L) Sledding
F) Golf	M) Interpretive Programs
G) Biking	



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**ILLUSTRATION 8
LAKE ST. CLAIR METROPARK**



Macomb County

Freedom Hill, located on the south side of Metropolitan Parkway in Sterling Heights, is the only park operated by the Macomb County Parks and Recreation Department. This 100± acre site has an events-orientation, featuring regularly scheduled festivals and a concert pavillion. A 10,000-square foot indoor recreation center is located on site. This building is available for group picnics, receptions and other public purposes. A limited amount of other recreation opportunities are also available at this site, including cross-country skiing, basketball and volleyball.

Local Recreation Facilities

Harrison Township owns and operates four (4) park sites in the community. A fifth recreation facility operated by the Township is the Freedom Trail bicycle/pedestrian path located along the south side of Metropolitan Parkway. Seven (7) school facilities in the Township also provide recreation opportunities for residents. The characteristics of each site are described in the following narrative. The scope of activities available at each of the Township's recreation facilities is specified in Table 16. The location of each facility is shown in Illustration 9. No parks have been designed using DNR Recreation Grant funds.

Township Recreation Facilities

Trombley Park - This neighborhood park contains 4 acres. The site is used primarily by the Harrison Township Little League and features two baseball diamonds with backstops and bleachers. There is an equipment storage facility at this site also. The park has road frontage on both South River Road and Elmitte Street. Single-family homes surround the site. ADA Assessment Number - 3 DNR Grant Funding - N/A

Parking Spaces Currently Available - Approximately twenty-six (26)

Waterfront Park - This neighborhood park contains 4 acres, with 250+ feet of shoreline along Lake St. Clair, with a seawall. The park includes a pavilion with picnic tables and BBQ grills, restroom facilities/storage area, two (2) horseshoe pits, sand volleyball courts, one (1) soccer field, one (1) ½-court basketball court, additional picnic area with tables and BBQ grills and a wooden boardwalk along Lake St. Clair. The site also contains a playground which includes a play structure, slide, sandbox, and climbers. Attached condominiums are located on both sides of the park. Waterfront Park is a multi-purpose recreation site with a strong emphasis on family or group picnics.

ADA Assessment Number - 3 DNR Grant Funding - N/A

Parking Spaces Currently Available - Approximately fifteen (15) + thirty (30) parallel spaces.

Tucker Park - Harrison Township purchased this community park site from Macomb County, which contains a total of 28 acres. The park has two (2) areas which are separated by Jefferson Avenue. One area is located along Lake St. Clair and includes a pavilion with picnic tables and BBQ grills, a boardwalk/fishing pier and a small storage building. The second area is accessible from Ballard Street and includes the Senior Citizens Recreation Center, restroom facilities, play structure and picnic tables/benches. This site also includes a baseball diamond and a pathway which connects to the Freedom Trail bicycle/pedestrian path.

ADA Assessment Number - 3 DNR Grant Funding - N/A

Parking Spaces Currently Available - Zero (0). Parking at the senior center is available for use.

Orville Aune Park - Approximately 1 acre in size, Aune Park is a small mini-park within the Huron Pointe Subdivision. A swing set is the only structure currently located at this site.

ADA Assessment Number - 4 DNR Grant Funding - N/A

Parking Spaces Currently Available - Zero (0).

Freedom Trail Bicycle/Pedestrian Path - This trail system could, for practical purposes, be considered a linear park. The three-mile long park extends from the Township's western boundary at Union Lake Road east to the entrance of Lake St. Clair Metropark at Jefferson Avenue. A branch of the park extends along the Clinton River spillway as far south as Jefferson, with a connection to Tucker Park.

The trail consists of a twelve-foot wide asphalt path that meanders through the wooded land located on the south side of Metropolitan Parkway. It is the first segment of a much longer system planned to connect several major regional and community parks throughout Macomb County. Another spur takes the path in a northerly direction along the Clinton River Spillway to Shady Side Park in Mount Clemens. The Township also owns an eight-acre site along the trail that has not been developed.

School Recreation Facilities

All of Harrison Township is located within the boundaries of the L'Anse Creuse School District. Portions of the School District also extend into the neighboring communities of Chesterfield, Macomb and Clinton Townships. Seven of the School District's 13 schools are located in Harrison Township. Collectively, these sites occupy approximately 110 acres of land. These include four elementary schools, two middle schools and one high school. The District's administrative offices are also located in the Township.

Graham Elementary - The facilities and equipment provided at this school include a gymnasium, and two (2) ½-court basketball courts. The site also contains a playground which includes equipment such as three (3) play structures, swingsets, climbers, riding spring horse, four-hole ball shoot, slide, sandbox and benches.

South River Elementary - This site was under construction during the 2006 year. Because of this construction several of the former recreation amenities have been temporarily removed. Prior to construction, the facilities and equipment provided at the school included a gymnasium, two (2) ½-court basketball courts and one (1) regulation basketball court and a soccer field. The site also contained a playground which includes equipment such as three (3) play structures, swingsets, climbers, balance beams, slide, benches and picnic tables.

Lobbestael Elementary - The facilities and equipment provided at this school include a gymnasium, three (3) ½-court basketball courts and one (1) regulation basketball court and a hopscotch area. The site also contains a playground which includes equipment such as three (3) play structures, swingsets, climbers, riding spring horses, slide and benches.

Yacks Elementary - The facilities and equipment provided at this school include a gymnasium, three (3) ½-court basketball courts and a baseball diamond. The site also contains a playground which includes equipment such as three (3) play structures, swingsets, climbers, slide and benches.

Middle School Central - The facilities and equipment provided at this school include a gymnasium, two (2) baseball diamonds, one (1) regulation and one (1) practice soccer field and eight (8) tennis courts.

Middle School South - The facilities and equipment provided at this school include a gymnasium, four (4) basketball courts, two (2) baseball diamonds, football field and track.

Central High School - The facilities provided at this school include a swimming pool that is open to the public, a baseball diamond, a lighted football field, a soccer field and track.

**TABLE 18
LOCAL RECREATION INVENTORY**

LOCAL FACILITY	ACRES	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
Trombley Park	4													
Waterfront Park	4													
Orville Aune	1													
Tucker Park	28													
Freedom Trail	NA													
South River Elementary	9													
Lobbestael Elementary	8													
Graham Elementary	60													
Middle School Central	60													
Central High School	60													
Yacks Elementary	38													
Middle School South	38													

LEGEND	
A) Play Structures	H) Football
B) Swings	I) Track
C) Slides	J) Tennis
D) Climbers	K) Path
E) Baseball	L) Picnic
F) Basketball	M) Volleyball
G) Soccer	



Park Locations





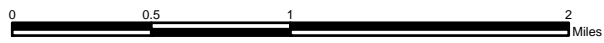
-  Township
-  School
-  Other
-  Generalized Wetlands

ILLUSTRATION 9
EXISTING PARK LOCATIONS
HARRISON TOWNSHIP
 MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN



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Recreation Programs

Harrison Township provides year-round volunteer recreation program which offers a wide range of activities. The Township provides a variety of recreation opportunities for individuals in all age groups. Family-oriented activities such as storytelling, movies at Rosso Hall, the summer concert series and organized special events such as the annual Christmas tree lighting are also available. These programs are held at various recreation and school sites in the community and are continuing to be developed and improved. In addition, the Township works in conjunction with various clubs and organizations in co-sponsorship to provide many recreational pursuits. Examples of these would be:

A.Y.S.O. Soccer
Babe Ruth
Boy Scouts
Girl Scouts
L'Anse Creuse Baseball

Private Recreation Facilities

Private recreation providers also play a role in meeting the recreation needs of local residents. In many instances, these providers offer services and facilities of a more specialized nature that are infrequently provided by public sources. These facilities are generally available in exchange for an established fee. Examples of facilities that fall into this category include golf, bowling, roller skating rinks, racquet/health clubs, riding stables, movie theaters and shooting ranges, among others.

Private marinas, boat clubs, dockage facilities, boat storage and launches are the most significant private recreation facilities available in Harrison Township. More than a dozen private marinas are located in the Township, primarily along the Clinton River and Belvidere Bay. These marinas attract pleasure boat owners from throughout southeast Michigan. The remaining private recreation facilities available within the Township consist of an indoor racquetball club with party/meeting facilities. The racquetball club site also includes bowling, wallyball, exercise equipment, adult softball diamonds and other indoor games.

In addition to the above, Harrison has approved several development that include private recreation facilities, either for its residents of the development, or for the general public. Many of these recreation/open space areas were approved through the planned unit development (PUD) process (e.g. Mac & Ray's and Harrison Cove).

POLICIES, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Before a specific program of recreation improvements can be prepared, general goals and objectives were established by the Township's Parks and Recreation Committee. These goals and objectives, along with the Township's Recreation Policies, are intended to guide the overall recreation program over the next five to ten years and beyond. The objectives are based on perceived deficiencies within the community and were developed from formal and informal meetings and discussions.

Recreation Policies

1. Parks and recreation programs shall provide for all persons; children, youth, adults and the elderly, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, sexual preference, national origin, age or disability.
2. Opportunities and programs for recreation shall be available twelve months of the year.
3. The programs of parks and recreation shall be planned to meet the interests and needs of families, groups and individuals.
4. Community planning for leisure and education requires cooperative action of public and voluntary agencies, including civic, patriotic, religious, social and other groups which have park and recreation interests and resources.
5. School facilities should serve, to the extent possible, the educational and recreational needs of pupils and be planned so that they will be efficient centers for community use.
6. Both public and private recreation services, actual and potential, shall be reviewed and evaluated periodically in terms of their contributions toward enriching each person's life and the community at large.
7. A parks and recreation plan for the community will result in the fullest use of its resources and be integrated with long-range planning for the benefit of the entire community.
8. Wherever possible, federal, state and local agencies should coordinate their plans and programs for the acquisition, development and use of recreation facilities.
9. Public park and recreation facilities shall be planned on the neighborhood and community park basis to provide the maximum opportunities and services for all age groups, while encouraging private facilities to integrate into the public plan.
10. The Township Board and Recreation Committee shall cooperate in long-range planning for the acquisition, development and use of park and recreation facilities.
11. All facilities shall be planned and constructed with respect to preserving the natural environment, including the placement of future on-site utilities underground.
12. Lake St. Clair and the Clinton River, the Township's two natural waterways, and ancillary canals, wetlands, floodways and flood plains shall be utilized to the maximum extent possible in providing recreational facilities and open space areas for the area residents. The Township should also explore the possibility of utilizing the many existing boat launches in the community for recreational purposes.
13. Metropolitan Beach and Selfridge Air National Guard Base encompass approximately one (1) square mile and five (5) square miles, respectively, of area within the Township of Harrison. The natural resources and opportunities within these two land masses should be explored for recreation use by the public.

Goals and Objectives

In the broadest sense, a Recreation Plan should offer the community a series of guidelines or recommendations for making consistent and rational public decisions regarding the delivery of recreation programs and facilities. Goals and objectives, in the context of recreation planning, should be the guiding influence in determining the nature and extent of future park acquisition, development, administrative and programming actions. They should be idealistic to the extent that they provide a desirable condition to strive towards. However, in order to be reasonably capable of being achieved, the goals must be tempered by the recognition of financial, social, physical and political realities. Successful policy should further recognize the evaluation of the community's recreation system and the relationship of this system to relevant demographic characteristics.

Goals and objectives offer policy direction and the framework for recreation providers. The following reflects Harrison Township's long and short-term recreation needs. Specific methods for achieving these goals are described in the following section.

Goal: Provide Recreational Experiences

Through programmed and self facilitated recreation, a variety of benefits to individuals and society are achieved. Recreational experiences also are important as an end in themselves for personal enjoyment.

- Review current park facilities to national standards to determine whether sufficient active and passive recreation facilities are being provided.
- Identify park sites where additional active recreation facilities can be accommodated.
- Monitor sites which become available for potential expansion of baseball, softball, and soccer fields.
- Enhance the aesthetic appearance of existing parks and facilities with landscaping and other design amenities.
- Examine the feasibility of a dog park or skateboard park.

Goal: Foster Human Development

Parks and recreation services foster social, intellectual, physical and emotional development of children, youth and adults.

- Continue to develop programs such as cooking, dance, culinary arts, life skills, business skills, home maintenance, youth craft activities, senior activities, etc.
- Develop a continuous survey to monitor interest in new programs.
- Continue to work with the school district in providing necessary recreational and educational opportunities for the community. Wherever possible, school play yards and playgrounds shall also function as important recreation facilities to their neighborhoods. Indoor facilities, such as gymnasiums, shall also be utilized for general recreation programs and activities.
- Develop gazebos on properties within the Township to be rented for weddings and other such occasions.
- Establish a youth mentoring program.

Goal: Strengthen Community Image and Sense of Place

Parks and Recreation facilities, programs and community events are key factors in strengthening community image and creating a sense of place.

- Explore the idea of developing a boating museum in conjunction with Marinas and Chamber of Commerce, etc.
- Develop a means of highlighting different park sites and programs within a Township newsletter.
- Continue cooperation between various agencies, public and private, in Harrison Township and neighboring communities regarding the provision of recreational facilities and programs.
- Continue to work with sports boosters in maintaining and expanding recreational opportunities in the community.
- Continue to work with surrounding communities in providing cooperative recreation programs, facilities and literature.
- Continue to maintain reduced rate passes for Township residents to utilize Metropolitan Beach. Also, explore the possibility of using Metropolitan Beach for Township activities and programs (tall ship event).
- Work with Selfridge Air National Guard (SANG) to examine the possibility of using SANG-owned land to provide additional recreational opportunities within the community.
- Examine the possibility of establishing cooperative programs with private recreation facilities.
- Develop a movies/concerts in the park program.
- Work with a private group to develop a marina bed and breakfast along Anchor Bay and/or the Clinton River.
- Develop a unifying theme for the park system that is unique to Harrison Township.
- Use the cable access channel for the promotion of recreation amenities and events.

Goal: Support/Explore Creative Economic Financing & Development

Recreation programs and facilities attract and retain businesses and residents, as well as attract tourists. Parks and recreation provides jobs and generates income for the community and for local businesses.

- Work with other organizations within the Harrison area to promote car shows, boat shows, festivals and the like. Provide advertising space within a newsletter, website, park locations, or at sports fields.
- Encourage the formation of a non-profit organization to raise money for Township recreation.
- Seek financing, sponsorship and resources through industry, businesses and individuals, as well as service organizations and others.
- Lobby at the state level for funding for recreational purposes.
- Establish fund-raising events such as a Euchre or Fishing Tournament, Carnival/Fair, Las Vegas Night or a Fifty-fifty Raffle to provide funding for programs and facilities.
- Establish and promote programs such as adopt-a-park, adopt-a-tree and adopt-a-bench.
- Utilize self-funding programs.

Goal: Strengthen Safety and Security

Park and recreation professionals provide safe environments for recreation and design programs and services specifically to reduce criminal activity.

- Ensure police monitoring of each park.
- Develop lighting plan for each park.
- Develop a parks patrol system of volunteers that can provide a community watch forum.
- Provide programs in conjunction with the Police to educate residents on safety issues.
- Work with the County to provide a unified trailway signage system which clearly denotes trail access points, parking, highlights, etc.
- Install locking gates on the parks for use when the parks are closed.

Goal: Promote Quality Township Governance of Parks and Recreation Facilities

The administration and maintenance of a parks and recreation system requires a firm commitment from the Township and its residents.

- Establish a cost effective method for recreation facility repairs.
- Develop adequate storage facilities for recreation equipment.
- Establish an advisory Recreation Commission.
- Establish procedures for late registration and non-resident fees for programs.
- Investigate the possibility of providing computer, internet and credit card registration opportunities.
- Establish volunteer programs to assist Township staff/Recreation Committee with the administration of activities and programs.
- Continue to encourage civic and other types of service groups to help develop, maintain, and/or renovate parks and recreational opportunities.
- Consider hiring a summertime employee to help administer programming.

Goal: Facilitate Community Problem Solving

Park and recreation professionals have skills in facilitation and leadership that can be applied to resolve community problems and issues.

- Develop an ongoing drop-box for recreation programming and facilities to monitor ongoing community preference. The existing CARE form can be utilized to gather public sentiment.
- Organize annual workshops to measure adequacy of current programming and facilities.
- Enhance communication to the public regarding the types of park and recreation programs and facilities which are available.
- Develop a Parks and Recreation brochure.
- Provide information regarding upcoming recreation programs and events on water bills, tax bills, etc.
- Run upcoming programs and events on the cable television station.

Goal: Protect and Enhance Environmental Resources

By acquiring, managing, and restoring valuable resources as open space, such as rivers, streams, greenways, view sheds, forests and other habitat areas, natural resources are protected and habitat required for the survival of diverse species is preserved.

- Work with the Planning Commission and Township Board to develop open space ordinances which will allow for, or mandate, integrated parks and open spaces. Amend the Planned Unit Development (PUD) ordinance to encourage/require better use of environmental amenities in the Township.
- Determine the desired amenities for each park area and the appropriate acreage associated with such amenities.
- Target areas/properties along the River and Lake for access purposes which are currently vacant or are currently underdeveloped.
- Enhance the landscaping within the parks and along trailways.
- Replace existing fencing with fencing that is considered decorative in nature.

Goal: Promote Health and Wellness

Participation in recreation improves physical and emotional health.

- Develop an accurate map of existing pathways within the community, develop a sidewalk program and apply for grants to construct segments of the pathway /sidewalk in areas where gaps exist.
- Extend asphalt pathways at all parks to create a continuous path for exercise and to ensure that all facilities are accessible to disabled residents.
- Connect the existing Freedom Trail Bicycle/Pedestrian Path to an extensive pathway system throughout the Township.
- Develop health and wellness programs which educate residents on healthy eating, exercise habits, stress management, etc.
- Provide incentives for users to participate in activities year round, such as awards or T-shirts.
- Sponsor an annual 5-k run.
- Provide health stations along pathways and trails.

RECREATION ACTION PLAN

Introduction

Historically, Harrison Township's investment in recreation services has been modest. With the elimination of a Recreation Department since the last Recreation Plan was completed, simply administering recreation programming and maintaining existing parks has become a major responsibility of the Township administration and the Recreation Committee. This Action Plan should comprehensively evaluate the Township's short and long-range recreation needs and offer specific actions that can be taken to address these needs in a realistic and fiscally responsible manner.

While Harrison will continue to experience additional population and housing growth during this planning period, the quantity of growth will be less than it was in earlier decades. One of the principal reasons for this expectation of more modest growth is declining quantity of vacant land in the Township. Not only is the quantity of vacant land declining, much of the remaining vacant sites zoned for residential purposes have physical limitations such as wetlands and floodplains that restrict development potential. In addition, the major land users, Selfridge Air National Guard Base and Metropolitan Park, occupy about 33 percent of the total Township land area.

These factors have important consequences for recreation planning purposes. While the demand for park and recreation facilities is expanding, the inventory of potential sites is shrinking. The next five-year planning period is pivotal for the Township. Actions taken during this period of time will influence the delivery of recreation services for years to come.

The recreation challenges facing the Township can be grouped into several broad categories which include the following:

- Acquisition of new park sites, particularly a community-level park.
- Renovations and improvements to existing Township parks.
- Expansion of the range of recreation programming activities available to Township residents and administering these programs.
- Financing recreation services, including; administration, maintenance and land acquisition consistent with recognized needs and demands.

Acquisition

The Recreation Plan needs to consider more than the mere quantity of land available for park purposes. Equally important is the accessibility of parks for intended users. These locational considerations depend on the intended function or purpose the park is intended to serve and the physical characteristics of the community, including land use patterns and the transportation network.

Many of the Township's park and school sites are located on the periphery of established neighborhoods rather than within the neighborhood. Because of this, there is sufficient justification to consider the acquisition of additional park sites at several locations within the Township. In some locations, L'Anse Creuse School sites offer the only neighborhood-level recreation opportunities. Investments by the School District in new playground equipment and the park-like appearance of three elementary schools in Harrison Township make an important contribution to the Township's recreation inventory. However, these sites are not large enough to provide the play fields or sports facilities needed to accommodate organized athletic activities, especially little league baseball and soccer. In addition, these sites are not under the control of the Township.

Acquisition of major land areas which possess significant natural resources are also a major priority. In addition to providing passive park areas and nature centers, the acquisition assures that woodland and wetlands will remain for all generations. These areas also assist in flood control, drainage and re-circulation of water resources. Urbanization and development obviously increases short and long-term costs.

In recognition of these needs, the Recreation Plan recommends the acquisition of new park sites as a major priority. While the quantity of land available for these purposes is limited by the Township's developed land use pattern, as well as physical limitations identified earlier, sites exist in the Township that are capable of serving this need. Suggested acquisition targets are identified as follows:

Ventre de Beuf Acquisition

The Township was able to acquire the Ventre de Beuf drain/wetland/woodlands area in 2005. This undeveloped 155+ acre area is located in the center of the Township with the Metropolitan Parkway and Freedom Trail as the north boundary and Jefferson Avenue as the south boundary. The Township also owns a 7.8 acre tract which is adjacent to the north central portion of the subject site. In addition, 15 acres of mitigated wetlands abut the southeast corner of this tract. (See the Park Acquisition Map - Illustration 10). Acquisition of property around this environmentally significant land is still proposed.

Lake St. Clair is located south of this parcel, and the Freedom Trail Bicycle Pedestrian Path, located along the Metropolitan Beach Parkway, borders portions of the northern boundary. This bicycle/pedestrian path links Freedom Hill Park, located in Sterling Heights, with Metropolitan Beach. Also, the bicycle/pedestrian path travels through Clinton Township, Sterling Heights, Utica and Shelby Township linking to Stony Creek Metro Park.

Neighborhood Park Acquisition

The neighborhoods located along Lake St. Clair near the mouth of the Clinton River are nearly completely developed but lack neighborhood parks. The Recreation Plan identifies the need for a public recreation site at the eastern end of the Township along the Lake St. Clair shoreline. Both neighborhoods are isolated from the existing or planned public recreation sites located elsewhere in the Township.

Development of neighborhood recreation opportunities serving these neighborhoods are limited by the lack of sufficient vacant land. The Plan recommends the acquisition of several vacant parcels for development as neighborhood playgrounds with equipment provided for children. Parcels in these two neighborhoods range between 50 and 80 feet wide. Several lots may, therefore, be needed to provide enough land for a neighborhood playground.

Tucker Park Expansion

During the years 1996-1999, Harrison Township, with a State grant for land acquisition, attempted to purchase acreage which fronted on Jefferson Avenue and Ballard Street to expand Tucker Park. To accommodate the development of this site as envisioned by the preliminary site plan for this park, acquisition of an additional parcel at the intersection of Jefferson and Ballard is necessary. The acquisition of this site would give the park more road visibility and provide for continuity with the Township lakefront park site located on the opposite side of Jefferson where the Spillway enters Lake St. Clair. If and when this property becomes available, it should be purchased and added to Tucker Park.

Other Acquisition Sites

In addition to the specific sites identified above, the Township should remain alert to other acquisition opportunities that may present themselves and which could help fulfill the objectives of the Recreation Plan. For example, the Macomb County Department of Roads and the State Highway Department own several parcels along the Clinton River which were originally planned for road right-of-way purposes. These sites may have some future value for recreation purposes. These sites may be especially valuable for providing access to the river for residents who shore fish or ice fish in winter months. Providing these public access sites at several locations would limit the need for residents to cross private property to reach the river. The Township should explore any opportunity to acquire land that would increase public access to the water, increase greenspace along the waterfront, or allow for paddling sports and launch/landing sites.

The Township should also consider the potential of Selfridge Air National Guard (SANG) Base selling or donating land. The SANG site occupies a large percentage of the Township's land area and maintains a significant amount of waterfront property and other environmentally sensitive sites. The Plan offers the following recommendations for future Township dealings with SANG:

- Consider acquiring, when made available, land currently occupied by SANG. Particularly waterfront areas.
- Work with SANG to allow Township residents use of the base's large number of recreational amenities, including the numerous athletic fields and the golf course.
- Explore the potential of developing fields (possibly soccer) at the Irwin Road site currently owned by SANG.

Finally, the former MDNR dredge site between Old N. River Road and N. River Road by Bridgeview the excess freeway parcels along the river and the beach behind the manufactured housing community on Crocker may have some future recreation potential that should be explored. Use of these sites would expand river access to recreation facilities for residents living in the north and west portion of the Township.

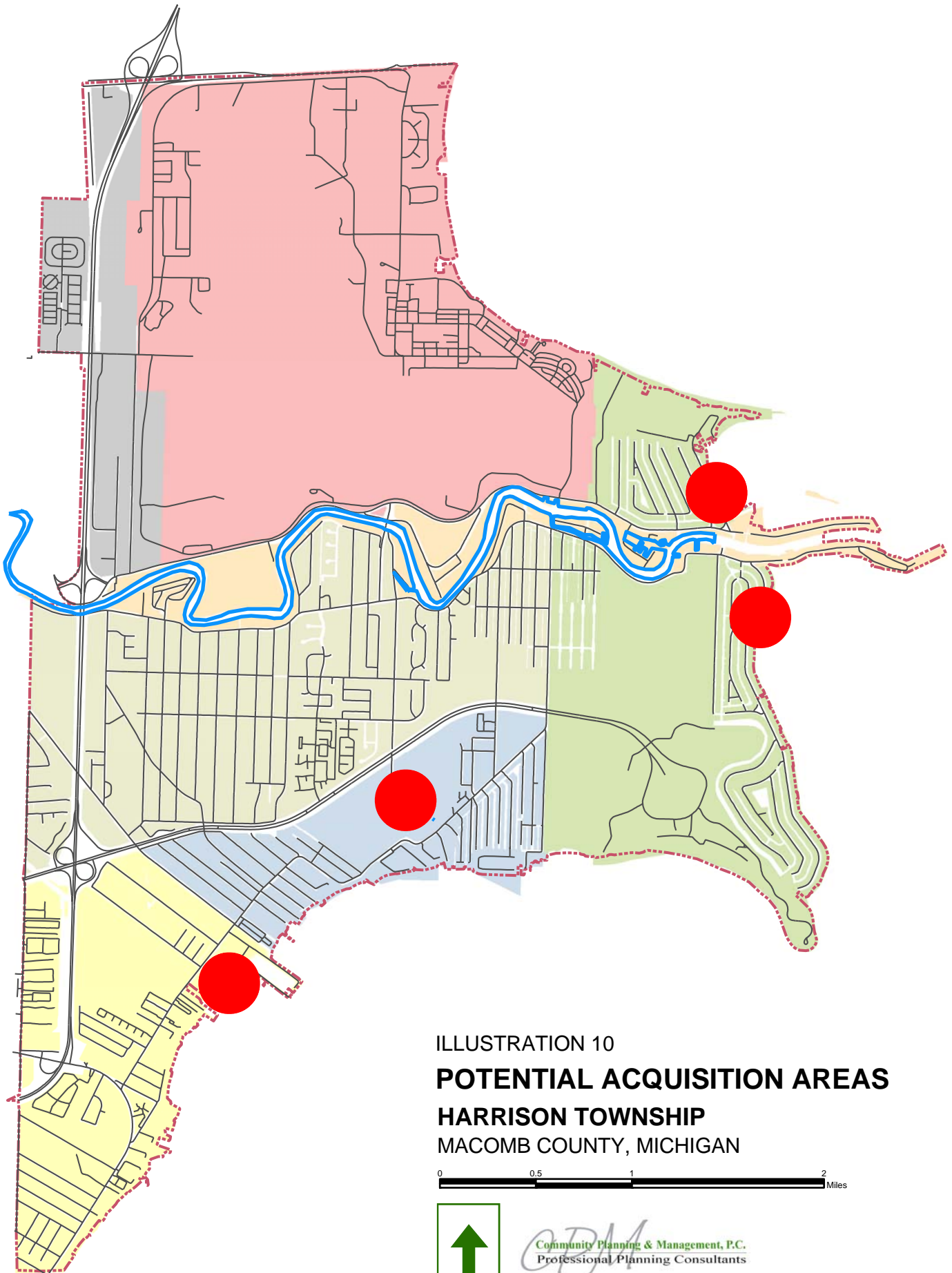
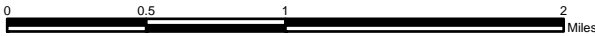


ILLUSTRATION 10
POTENTIAL ACQUISITION AREAS
HARRISON TOWNSHIP
 MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN



CPM
 Community Planning & Management, P.C.
 Professional Planning Consultants

Parcel Map Copyright, Macomb County Michigan

Park Development/Redevelopment

In addition to expanding the inventory of public land available for recreation purposes, the range of equipment and facilities at existing recreation sites also needs to be explored over the next five-year planning period encompassed by this Recreation Plan. Suggested improvements to each site are described in the following discussion.

Tucker Park/Spillway Park

The Recreation Plan offers a plan for the continued and integrated development of these two adjoining sites. The plan for Tucker Park includes several different recreation functions and activities and extends development to the adjoining parcel at the corner of Jefferson and Ballard. Improvements are as follows:

- Development a picnic area and a boardwalk with an overlook terrace along the Clinton River Spillway.
- Develop an additional ADA compliant parking lot and access drive to serve a proposed picnic area and fishing pier along the spillway.
- Expand and modernize playground areas/equipment.
- Provide a hard-surface game area which may include basketball courts, or a surface for roller blade hockey.
- Provide passive open space/nature interpretation areas.
- Provide electricity in the area fronting Lake St. Clair along with decorative lighting along the boardwalk.
- The open space area at the north end of the site may be large enough to accommodate playfields for organized sports, such as youth soccer or little league.
- Incorporate the existing building facing Ballard Street into the design of the park as a senior center.
- Develop an extension to the pedestrian trail that ties into the Freedom Trail. To minimize the potential for accidents, the trail should be extended underneath Jefferson Avenue, if this is feasible. If not, a pedestrian bridge at Jefferson is the only other alternative. A temporary alternative would include pavement striping, signage, or other suitable improvements to improve pedestrian safety. Provide handicapped accessible restroom facilities.
- The plan for the Spillway portion of the park could also include the development of overlook terraces at several locations along the pedestrian path. These terraces could include benches to permit pedestrians, joggers and bicyclists with an opportunity to stop and view the waterfront.
- Develop fitness/exercise stations along the linear portion of Spillway Park.
- Install sidewalks along the roadway that abuts the park.

Trombley Park

Two little league baseball diamonds currently occupy this site. The parcel is not large enough to accommodate any additional activities. Proposed future improvements involve paving the two small parking lots that serve the site, developing permanent restroom facilities and upgrading the existing fencing to a decorative, more aesthetically pleasing style. Acquisition of the vacant land on the east side to the river should also be explored.

ILLUSTRATION 11
TUCKER SPILLWAY PARK SITE PLAN

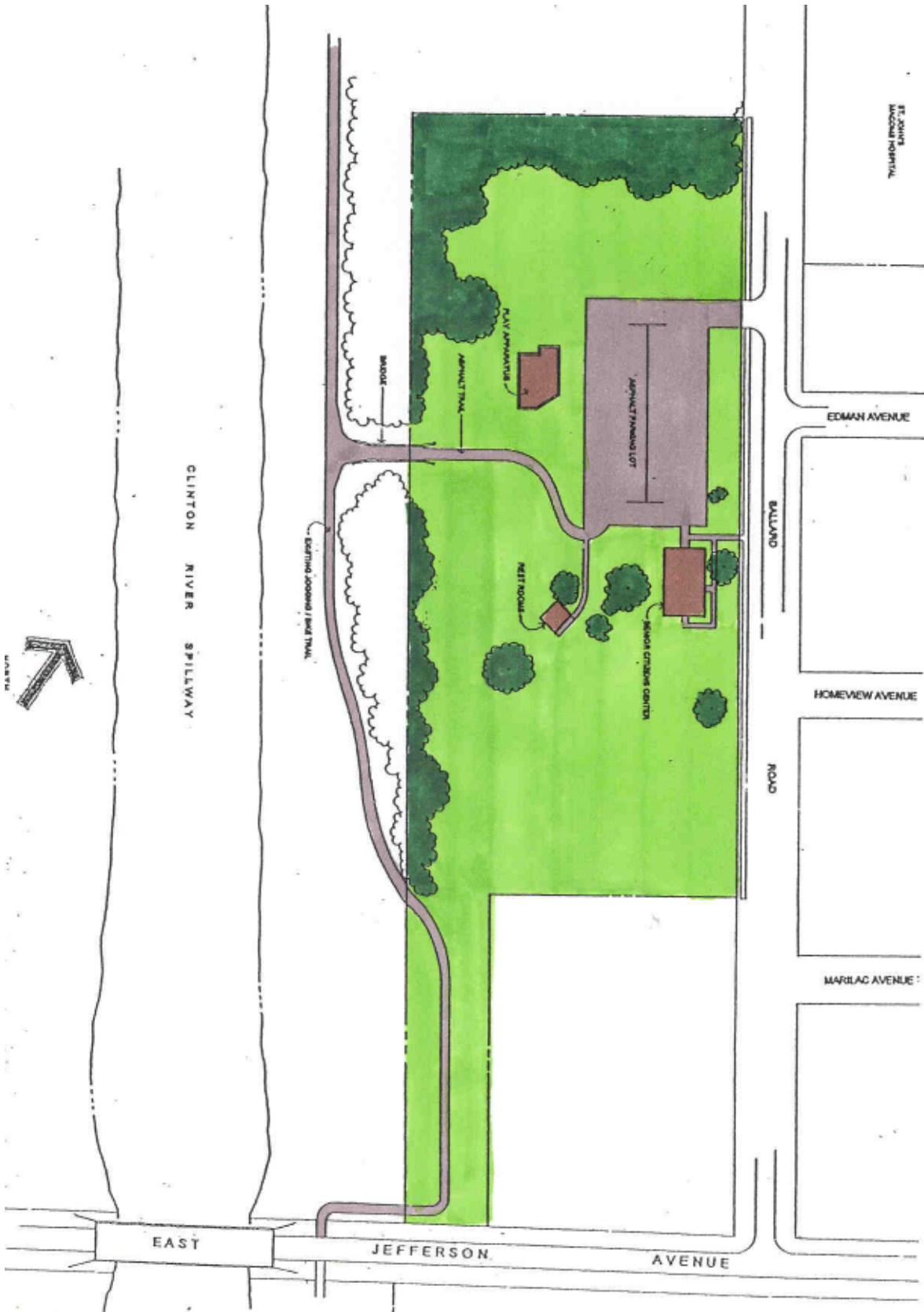


ILLUSTRATION 12
TROMBLY PARK SITE PLAN



Waterfront Park

Additional development at Waterfront Park is somewhat limited by the size of the site and its limited opportunities for expansion. The current design of the site, however, does not take full advantage of the park's waterfront orientation. To better accommodate the use of this site for family and group picnics, the following improvements are proposed:

- Provide a hard-surface game area which may include basketball courts, or a surface for roller blade hockey.
- Repair concrete at the northwest corner of the gazebo.
- Extend a walking path around the perimeter of the site. It may also be appropriate to move Relocate the sand volleyball courts to the center of the site to minimize conflicts with picnic area users and the neighboring condominiums.
- Provide additional landscaping/aesthetic improvements throughout the park.
- Extend a fishing pier into the lake.

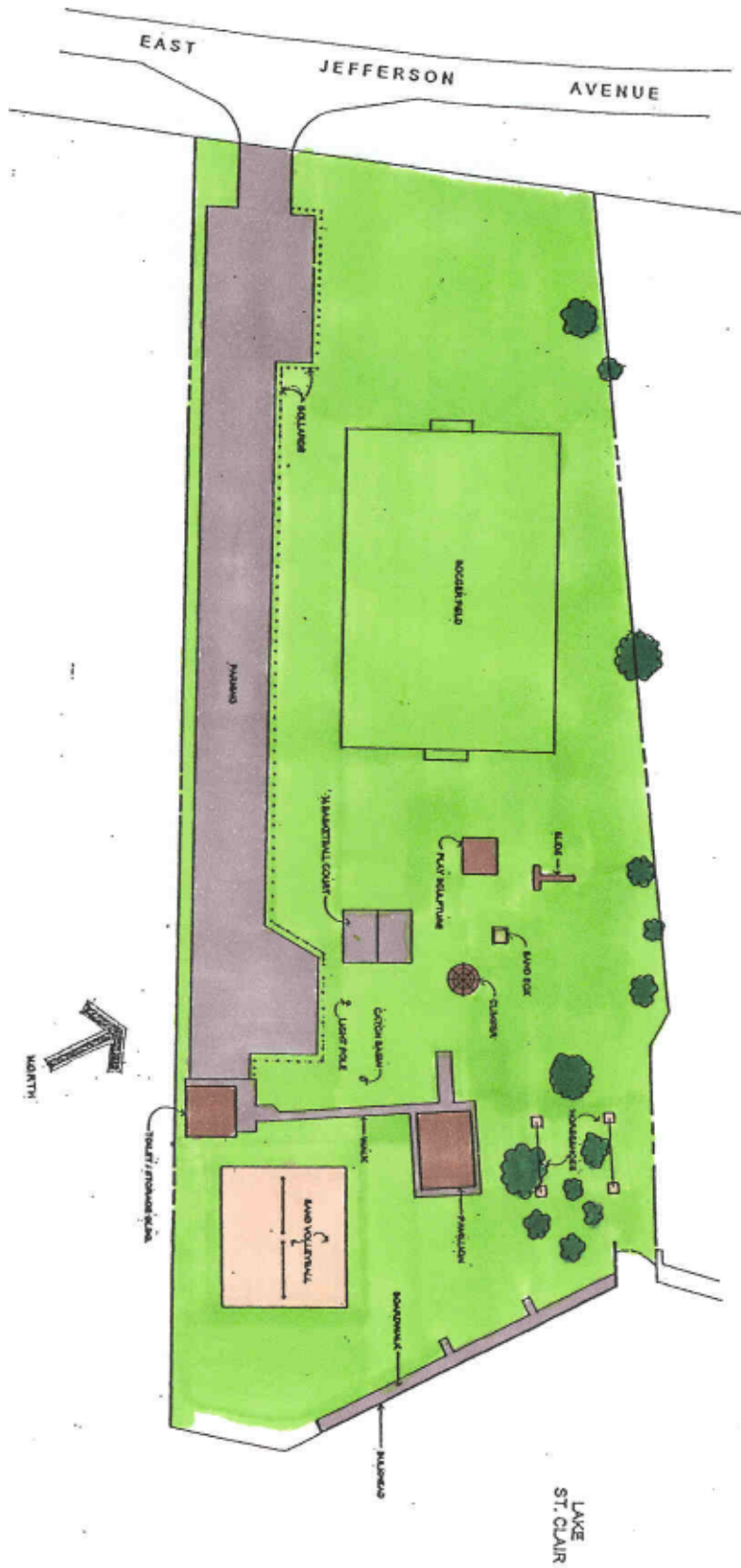
Orville Aune Park

This one (1) acre park within the Huron Pointe Subdivision neighborhood has limited improvements proposed. The upgrading of the existing swingset to meet modern standards and the future development of a small parking area are the extent of the proposed improvements.

Veterans Memorial at Township Hall

The Recreation Plan proposes the addition of a gazebo and the removal of the horseshoe shaped drive at the front of Township Hall where the Veterans Memorial is currently located. Park benches and other landscaping amenities could also be included within this passive area.

ILLUSTRATION 13 WATERFRONT PARK SITE PLAN



Pedestrian Connection

The Freedom Trail bicycle/pedestrian path was reconstructed to a 12 foot width through the entire length of Harrison Township during the 1990's. The first phase of this regional system was built by the Township in the late 1980's and extends from Harrison's western boundary east to the entrance of Lake St. Clair Metropark. Another leg of this system extends along the Clinton River Spillway as far as Jefferson Avenue.

Aside from these two routes, sidewalks and other pedestrian paths in the Township are limited and discontinuous. An important goal of the Recreation Plan is to provide a Township-wide series of pedestrian connections offering continuous circulation between existing and proposed park and school sites. Some of the most important pathway improvements/connections are identified below:

- Establish a pedestrian walkway over Jefferson Avenue in order to connect both portions of Tucker Park.
- Provide a pedestrian bridge over the Clinton River Spillway as a connection to the existing path at Tucker Park.
- Provide pedestrian walkways at Crocker Boulevard and Shore Line.

Proposed Pedestrian Path Route

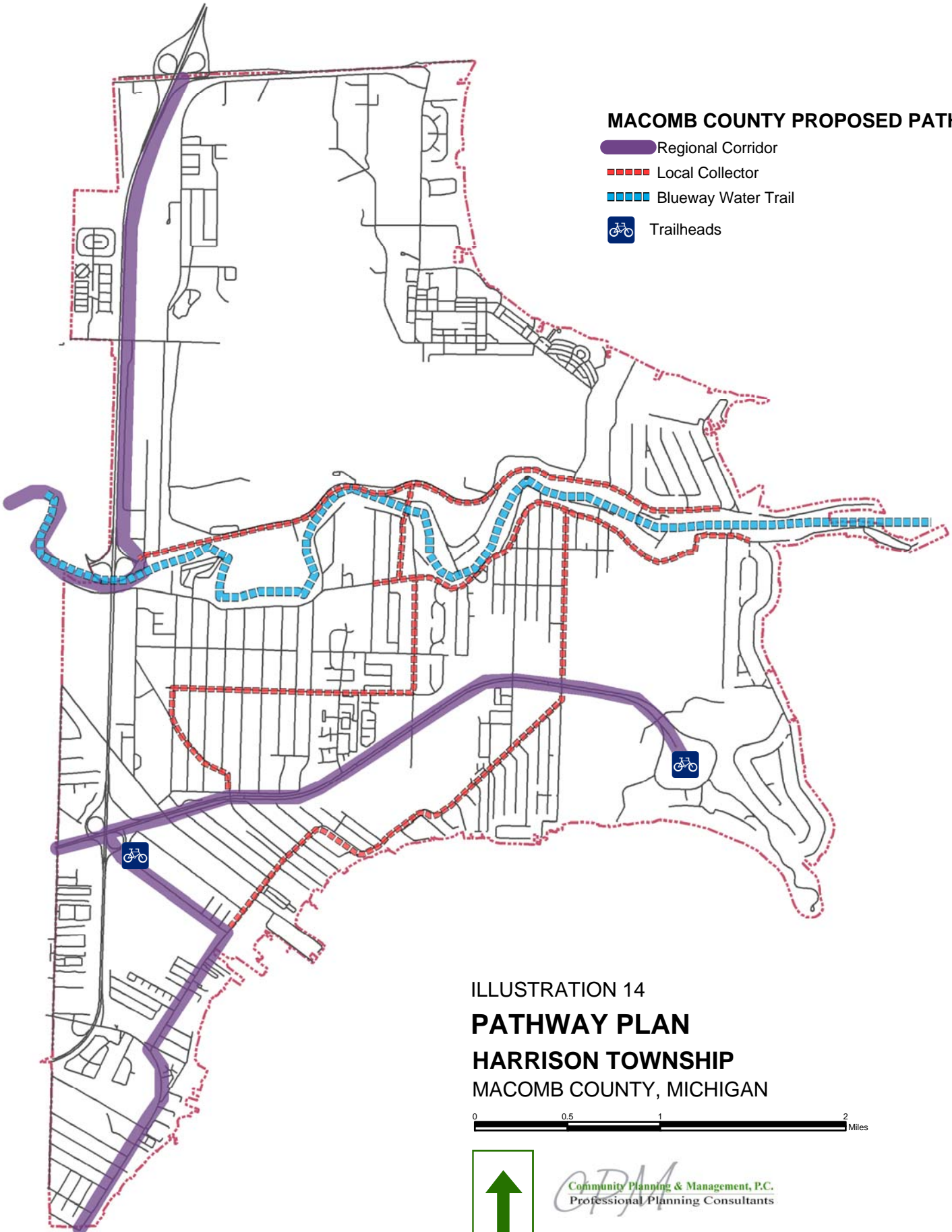
The proposed pedestrian path system takes advantage of the existing regional path located along Metropolitan Parkway and the extension along the Clinton River Spillway. The Plan envisions the eventual development of a network of paths feeding into the regional route which bisects the Township's developed residential neighborhoods. The Harrison Township Recreation Plan recognizes the The Macomb County Trailways Plan and promotes the completion of the trail system identified in this document. The County Plan indicates the following:

- In addition to the Freedom Trail, the County proposes the development of two (2) additional "regional corridor" routes along Jefferson and the I-94 Freeway.
- The design of the Clinton River as a "Blueway Water Trail" which would provide for small watercraft and highlight the natural resources and history of the area.
- Utilization of Lake St. Clair Metropark as a trail head and staging area within the County-wide system.
- Utilization of the Metro Parkway/Clinton River Spillway intersection as a trail head and staging area.

Local Connectors

Local routes are necessary throughout the Township to provide local access to the regional corridors. Local connectors are proposed along the following roads:

- Jefferson Avenue
- L'Anse Creuse
- Coleridge
- Shoreline
- South River Road
- North River Road (extension to connect to Mt. Clemens fishing pier).



MACOMB COUNTY PROPOSED PATHS


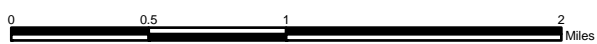
-  Regional Corridor
-  Local Collector
-  Blueway Water Trail
-  Trailheads

ILLUSTRATION 14
PATHWAY PLAN
HARRISON TOWNSHIP
 MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN



CPM
 Community Planning & Management, P.C.
 Professional Planning Consultants

Parcel Map Copyright, Macomb County Michigan

Recreation Programming and Administration

Recreation Facilities

Harrison Township lacks a central facility to accommodate indoor recreation activities. Currently, recreation programs offered through the Township and L'Anse Creuse School District are restricted to school buildings or Rosso Hall. Both locations present limitations on the expansion of recreation programs to Township residents.

School gymnasiums and classrooms are viable options provided that their use is not preempted by school functions. Scheduling the use of these facilities also presents practical problems since the use of each school building is generally controlled on an individual school basis. Rosso Hall also presents some built-in limitations, as it is not capable of accommodating several functions simultaneously.

There are steps that the Township can take to expand indoor recreation opportunities without the costs associated with the construction of a recreation center. One involves entering into an agreement with the L'Anse Creuse School District regarding the use of school buildings for indoor recreation programs offered by the Township. In spite of the scheduling limitations identified earlier, school buildings located in the Township represent a viable option for recreation programming. To accomplish this objective, it will be necessary to expand the cooperative partnership that already exists between the School District and the Township. It may also be possible to expand or rearrange the floor space at Rosso Hall to accommodate additional activities. This would require the preparation of an architectural feasibility study by a qualified architect or building construction professional.

Recreation Programming

Harrison Township offers several recreation programs either independently or in conjunction with the Adult and Community Education Department of L'Anse Creuse School. The senior citizen activities are examples of this cooperative effort. The Master Plan encourages more collaborative efforts on behalf of the Township and the School District.

School districts often participate in the delivery of recreation programs. This type of cooperation is especially appropriate in Harrison, which currently lacks either the buildings or developed park sites to operate an independent recreation program. Cooperation will also help avoid an unnecessary duplication of effort. By combining resources, a wider range of programs can be offered to Township residents. It may also be appropriate for the School District and Township to enter into a formal agreement regarding roles and responsibilities for each group. This type of cooperative agreement offers the best possible mechanism for expanding recreation programming in the Township.

The first step in expanding recreation programs and activities should include a thorough assessment of existing programs. The areas of greatest need include programs for seniors, children and family-oriented activities/special events. A list of possible program offerings should then be prepared along with the costs needed to provide these programs. The following list identifies programming recommendations of the Recreation Plan:

- Expand class offerings such as cooking, dance, business skills and home maintenance.
- Create of a survey to monitor public interest in new programs
- Work with the school district to expand programming opportunities
- Provide information on available programming on water bills, tax bills or a newsletter.

Recreation Administration

The absence of a Recreation Department places the duties of administering a recreation program on the Recreation Committee and Township Board. This can be a overwhelming task at times, depending on the depth and degree of programming and maintenance that the Township wishes to pursue. Because of this, the Recreation Plan highly encourages the use of volunteers to assist in operating a functional recreation program in the community. Through the help of volunteer residents, the Recreation Committee and the Township Board can achieve recreation goals that would not otherwise be possible simply because of the lack of personnel available to implement the program. The following administrative goals have been highlighted:

- Encourage the formation of volunteer groups to raise money or provide physical labor/ assistance for Harrison Township recreation.
- Lobby at the State level for funding for recreation purposes.
- Establish a Recreation Commission, rather than the existing Recreation Committee.
- Establish volunteer programs to assist the Township with administration.
- Ensure police monitoring of each park.

Recreation Financing

The extent of the previously described acquisition and development improvements will require increased levels of financial commitment by the Township if these improvements are to become a reality.

One such limitation is that recreation needs are frequently given a lower priority in relation to other municipal functions. When this occurs, capital investments are likely to be most vulnerable to budget cuts. To avoid this type of problem, other sources of financing should be considered. Preferably, several different sources of funding may be needed to accommodate both short and long-term needs. One alternative the Township may wish to investigate involves the creation of a non-profit recreation foundation to raise money for recreation improvements. Possible alternatives are identified and described as follows.

Special Millages - Special millages may be used to finance specific recreation-related activities. The amount of money raised through a millage is based on the assessed value in the community. For example, one mill, which is equal to 1/10 of a cent, would raise one dollar for each 1,000 dollars of assessed value per parcel of taxable land in the Township. Voter approval is required for the adoption of special millages beyond that which a community can automatically levy. A millage for senior citizen programs or for recreation capital improvements would provide an earmarked source of funds for recreation and reduce the pressure on the general fund as the principal source of revenue for recreation purposes.

User Fees - Municipalities often charge user fees to cover the cost of providing various recreation activities and programs. Fees are frequently charged for instructional classes or athletic events. These fees help defray the cost of providing specific programs or events or for related administrative expenses.

Donations - Donations of land, equipment and services are used occasionally to supplement existing recreation programs. Donations are often useful for meeting a specific or short-term need, but should not be relied on for long-term needs.

Grants - Funding programs administered at either the Federal or State level represent a source of money for capital investments in park land and/or improvements on a competitive and matching basis. The Grants Management Branch of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) offers several grant programs that provide recreation grants to local units of government. The most common grant programs include the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) and the Marine Safety grant programs. The LWCF and MNRTF programs provide assistance for development of public recreation facilities, such as tennis courts, ball diamonds, playgrounds and picnic areas. They also provide grants to communities for acquisition of property for public outdoor recreation or protection of natural features. Major grant programs are described as follows:

Land and Water Conservation Fund: The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), created by Congress in 1965, provides funds to buy land and develop facilities for outdoor recreation. The Recreation Division administers the Michigan LWCF program. Most of the money in the fund comes from Federal oil and gas leases on the outer continental shelf. The State share, administered by the Grants Management Branch through the National Park Service, can be used for both land acquisition and facility development. Federal use of the fund is limited to land acquisition for Natural Parks, National Forest recreation areas and other Federal recreation sites and areas. Michigan's LWCF allocations are available to the State and local units of government in the form of grants for specific projects. LWCF funds pay half the cost of State and local projects.

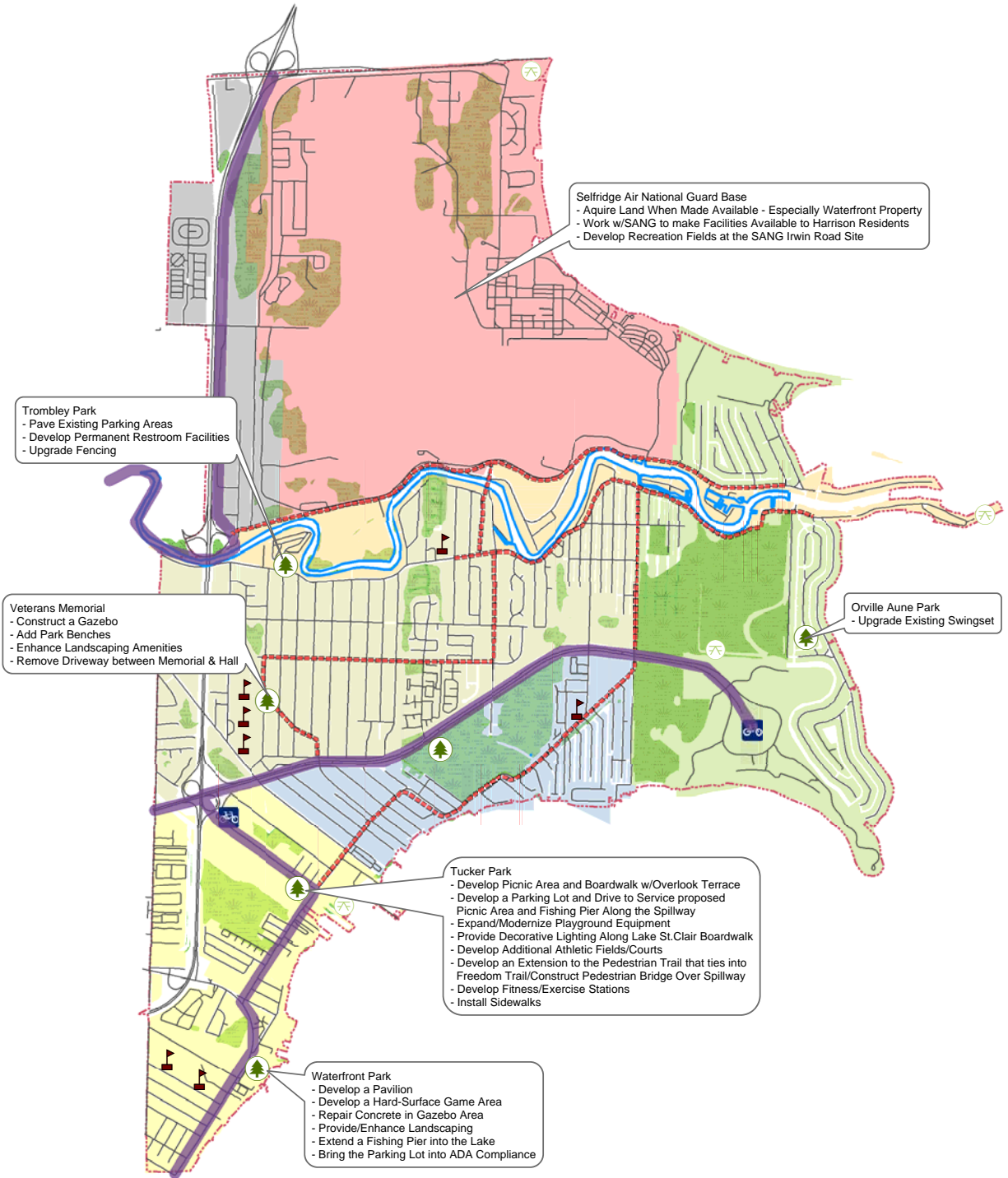
Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund: The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) is a grant program for the purpose of assisting the State and local units of government in acquiring land or rights in land for recreation uses or protecting land because of its environmental importance or scenic beauty, and in developing public recreation facilities. Both land acquisition and development proposals can be submitted for MNRTF funding. No more than 25 percent of the annual fund expenditure, however, can be for development.

The MNRTF receives revenue from oil, gas and other mineral development on State-owned lands. A five-member board, appointed by the Governor, administers the fund. Any unit of government, including school districts, may apply for grants to develop or acquire land(s) for public recreation or resource protection purposes. There is no minimum or maximum grant request for acquisition projects; for development projects, the minimum funding request is \$15,000, and the maximum is \$500,000. There is a required local match of 25 percent for all projects. Proposals must be for outdoor recreation or resource protection purposes. Outdoor recreation support buildings and other facilities are eligible for development funding, as is the renovation of existing recreation facilities.




Other programs that offer funding for recreation improvements include the following:

- Boating Facilities Grants — To provide for design and construction of recreational boating facilities in the State.
- Recreation Improvement Fund Grants — To fund the operation, planning and development of recreation trails.
- Coastal Zone Management — To protect sensitive coastal resources, such as wetlands and sand dunes; regulate new development in flood-prone and erosion hazard areas; streamline permit decisions; and improve public access, enhance waterfront revitalization and increase public awareness of coastal resources and issues.
- Non-Motorized Transportation Fund — The Michigan Department of Transportation funds non-motorized transportation facilities along State trunkline highways.
- SAFETEA-LU - Safe Routes to School Grant program. This is a federally funded program that is administered through the State of Michigan.




Community Development Block Grants (CDBG): CDBG funds, available through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, may also be used for some recreation purposes, namely the acquisition, development or rehabilitation of park facilities. The funds, however, must be targeted to those portions of a recipient community that have a higher percentage of households with low and moderate income levels.



Park Locations

-  Township
-  School
-  Other

Proposed Pathways

-  Regional Corridor
-  Local Collector
-  Trailheads

Generalized Wetlands


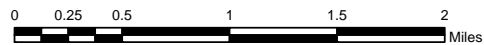
-  Generalized Wetlands

Illustration 15

RECREATION PLAN - 2012

Harrison Township
Macomb County, Michigan

Prepared By: Harrison Township Recreation Committee
Adopted By: Charter Township of Harrison Township Board



CP&M
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Professional Planning Consultants