



Parks, Recreation & Seniors Master Plan 2023-2027



Adopted January 10, 2023

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Acknowledgments

Community Members of Independence Township

Thank you for all of your energy, enthusiasm, and wonderful ideas. Without your participation this plan would not have worked to serve your needs. It is for your sake that this plan exists. Thank you for your involvement!

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1 - Executive Summary

Introduction

As a society, we are increasingly aware of the psychological and physical benefits provided by open space and recreation. It is Independence Township's and the Parks, Recreation & Seniors Department's (ITPRS) primary goal to actively promote these benefits for the public's well-being in the form of providing and developing recreational areas and activities. Doing this helps to increase Independence Township's livability. However, there are many issues to consider when planning for these recreational areas and opportunities. This plan intends to be the guiding document for these recreational opportunities throughout Independence Township.

As ongoing health studies show, our society is becoming more conscious of healthy living and the opportunities that recreation provides to further healthy lifestyles and improve our quality of life. Health studies also reflect the alarming need for increased physical activity for people of all ages in order to achieve these healthier lifestyles. Finally, improvement to a community's quality of life through recreation also has the potential to better the local economy by drawing new business opportunities to the area. Studies have shown that businesses are drawn to communities that provide quality lifestyles for prospective employees.

Therefore, it is important to project the future parks and recreation needs of Independence Township to ensure the availability of open space and recreational opportunities. To address these issues and opportunities, it is important for the Township to produce a plan to guide the decision-making process. When implemented, this plan will provide quality parks and recreation programs and facilities throughout the community.

Purpose

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) requires that community recreation plans be updated every five years as part of the criteria to receive funding from the State in the form of grants for park and open space acquisition, park development, and improvements to existing park facilities. The purpose of this procedure is to provide an opportunity to include changing needs and assets for the community. This Recreation Plan was developed by analyzing an inventory of issues and physical features for the area and tailoring development of recreation programs and facilities in a systematic manner, or plan, through the next five years; meeting the requirement (guidelines) of the MDNR.

Scope

Independence Township currently has five township-owned parks. The Parks, Recreation & Seniors Master Plan inventories the amenities at these parks as well as existing recreation facilities and programs in the area. With this information, the needs for parks, supporting facilities, trailway/greenway systems, and recreation programs are analyzed for the next five years. The recommendations in this plan are provided through analysis of demographic projections, land-use trends, natural features inventory, citizen input, past and future recreational trends, state and federal grant funding requirements and potential land acquisition opportunities.

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2 - Community Description

The 2023-2027 Independence Township Community Park and Recreation Plan has been developed to serve as a guide and decision making document for future recreation facilities and programs within Independence Township. This plan focuses on parks, trails and natural areas. The plan includes an assessment of current facilities and programs, as well as the acquisition and development of new facilities and programs based on the current and future anticipated demands. It also considers linkages throughout the township to other communities.

Plan Jurisdiction

This Community Recreation Plan covers the jurisdiction controlled by Independence Township.

Independence Township encompasses an area of 36.30 square miles. The township is part of the Metro Detroit area and is located 45 miles northwest of Detroit.

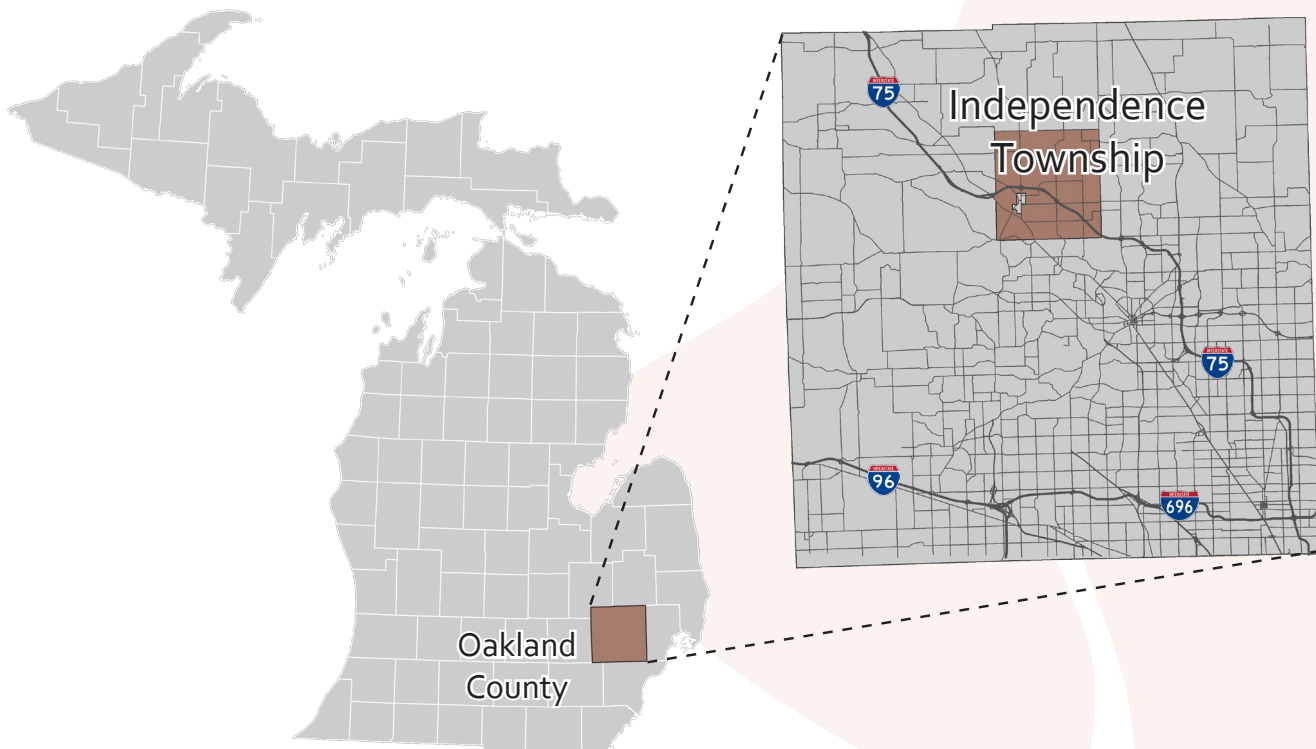


Figure 2.1: Township Location Map

Social Characteristics

Township Population

In 2020 the population of Independence Township was 36,686, which represents a 5.46 percent increase in the number of people living in the Township since 2010. Independence Township has a population density of 1,011 people/square mile.

Chart of Population Change 2010-2018

U.S. Census		
2010	2020	% Change
34,681	36,686	5.46%

Age Structure

Age characteristics are a useful demographic indicator for recreation planning purposes as a community's age composition helps determine the appropriate mix of needed recreation services and facilities, and their location. The following table breaks down the various age groups using data from the 2020 U.S. Census.

Chart of Age Demographics

Age Group	Percent of Total Population
Under 20	25.6%
20-24	6.7%
25-34	10.6%
35-44	11.3%
45-54	15.0%
55-59	8.3%
60-64	6.9%
65-74	8.4%
75-84	6.8%
85+	3.6%

Median Age = 41.5 years

The largest age category, representing over 25 percent of the population in the Township, contains those under the age of 20. The senior citizen population represents 18.8 percent. Independence Township largest proportion of people are those under the age of 20, according to this table. Combining age brackets for those 20-54 years of age we get a 43.6 percent proportion indicating that the township has a younger, more active demographic.

The age structure of Independence Township indicates that recreation facilities are the greatest immediate need to serve families and young adults. This would include parks with infrastructure for a wide range of youth-related activities and programs. Young children need diverse programming offering a wide range of activities and events. Children learn the fundamentals of sports through organized baseball, softball, basketball, and soccer leagues. Day camps bring children together to create arts and crafts, go swimming, or learn about nature. The 20-to-54 year old age group needs family-related programming that targets people their age. Organized softball leagues are popular in many communities. This group may also desire access to other forms of recreation like golf, hockey, and basketball. Bicycle and walking paths provide an excellent opportunity for an entire family to participate in a recreational activity. In the future, demand for recreation facilities for senior citizens may increase due to the retirement of the “baby boom” generation, creating a need for more passive park areas. Providing greater accessibility to park facilities for senior citizens may include providing parking or drop off areas closer to fields, large lettering on signage, and more seating and shaded areas.

Race Demographics

Independence Township strives to be an inclusive community, inviting to people of all race, ethnicity and background. The Township has seen an increase in the Multi-Racial and Hispanic populations since the 2010 Census.

Chart of Population by Race

Race/Ethnicity	2020 Census	Percent of Population
White	31,748	86.5%
Black	753	2%
Multi-Racial	1,513	4%
Asian	646	2%
Other	198	.5%
Hispanic	1,828	5%
Total	36,686	100%



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3 - Administrative Structure

Organization Chart

Parks, Recreation & Seniors Administration

Figure 3.1 below shows an organizational chart for Independence Township's Parks, Recreation & Seniors Department.

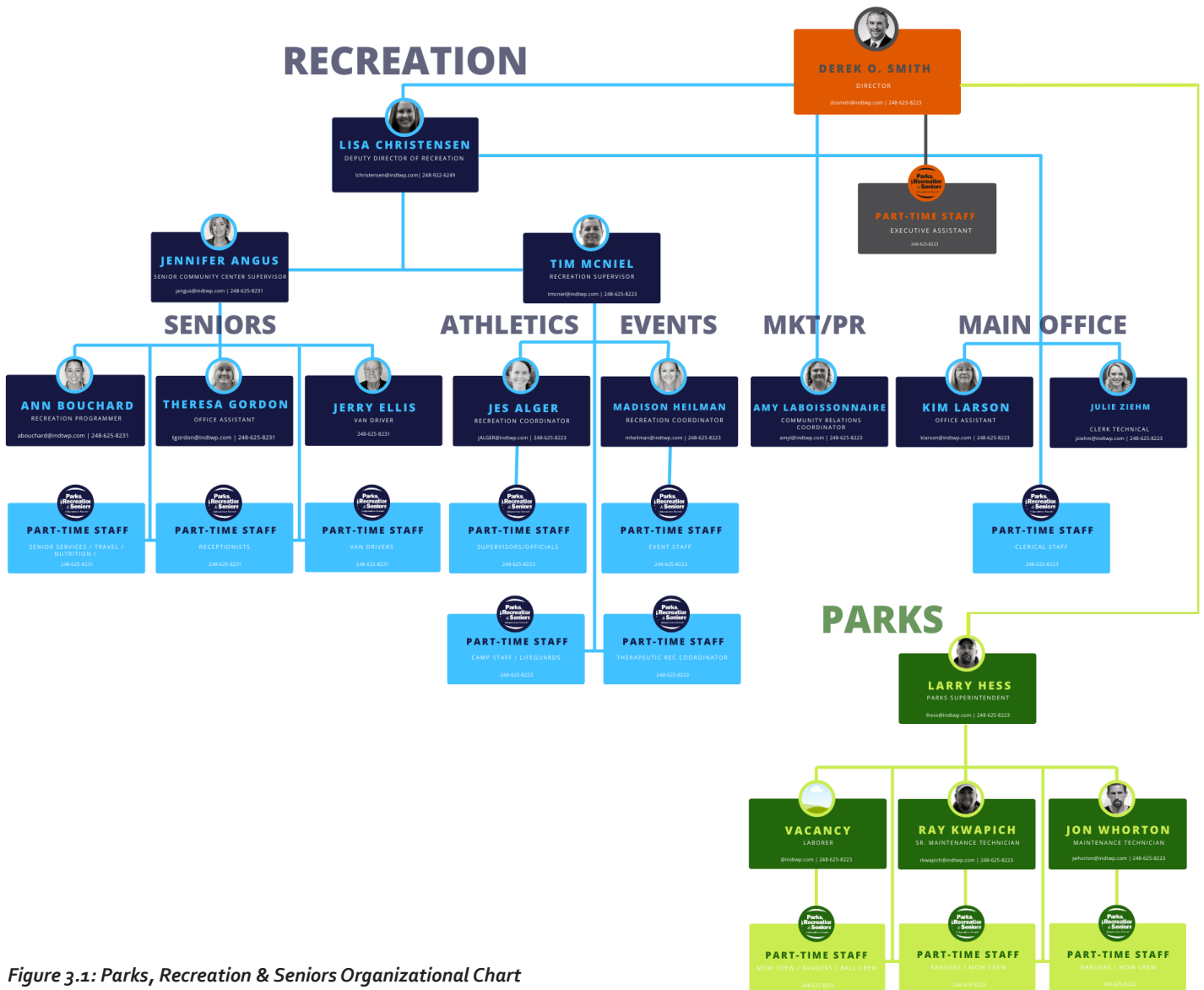


Figure 3.1: Parks, Recreation & Seniors Organizational Chart

Township Board of Trustees

The Township Board of Trustees includes the following officials:

Township Board Members

Township Supervisor - Jose Aliaga

Treasurer - Paul Brown

Clerk - Cari Neubeck

Trustee - Sam Moraco

Trustee - Theresa (Terri) A. Nallamothu

Trustee - Ronald A. Ritchie

Trustee - Matt Stoian

Parks, Recreation & Seniors Advisory Committee

The Parks, Recreation & Seniors Advisory Committee includes the following individuals:

Committee Members

Derek Smith, PRS Director

Jennifer Angus, Seniors Representative

Gregory Rhines

Aaron Stahly

Leaana Haun

Stephanie Addison

Damian Huffer

CAPRA Accreditation

The Independence Township Parks, Recreation & Seniors Department recently received the honor of Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) re-accreditation and was recognized by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) for their high standards and best practices at a September conference in Phoenix.

CAPRA provides quality assurance and improvement of accredited park and recreation agencies throughout the United States by providing agencies with a management system of best practices. CAPRA is the only national accreditation of park and recreation agencies and is a valuable measure of an agency's overall quality of operation, management, and service to the community. Achieving CAPRA accreditation is the best way to demonstrate that an agency and staff provide the community with the highest level of service.

The Independence Township team is one of only three in the state of Michigan and 192 in the country to be recognized with the accreditation.

The department was first accredited in 2016. Re-accreditation was deferred in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, so efforts resulted in the 2022 re-accreditation of the department and will happen again in 2027.



Parks, Recreation & Seniors Funding

The Parks, Recreation, & Seniors Department is supported by the Township General Fund, user fees and charges, donations, and grants.

Parks, Recreation & Seniors Budget

Income / Expense	2020	2021	Amended 2022	Requested Budget 2023
Revenues (from User Fees & Grants)				
Recreation	\$201,307.00	\$478,929.00	\$781,280.00	\$825,946.00
Parks	\$27,781.00	\$144,494.00	\$939,500.00	\$142,500.00
Seniors	\$222,173.00	\$346,054.00	\$510,525.00	\$467,433.00
Other	\$3,092.00	\$137,680.00	\$3,424.00	\$2,110.00
General Fund Contribution	\$1,501,649.00	\$1,489,221.00	\$1,775,916.00	\$1,849,048.00
CDBG Funding	\$50,500.00	\$50,500.00	\$50,500.00	\$50,500.00
SMART-Specialized Services	\$34,000.00	\$34,000.00	\$34,000.00	\$34,000.00
SMART - Municipal and Community Credits	\$34,000.00	\$34,000.00	\$34,000.00	\$34,000.00
Total Revenues	\$2,074,502.00	\$2,714,878.00	\$4,129,145.00	\$3,405,537.00
Expenditures				
Recreation	\$727,024.00	\$1,064,888.00	\$1,405,805.00	\$1,457,920.00
Parks	\$645,418.00	\$867,190.00	\$1,672,098.00	\$901,953.00
Seniors	\$583,800.00	\$664,070.00	\$932,742.00	\$927,164.00
Total Expenditures	\$1,956,242.00	\$2,596,148.00	\$4,010,645.00	\$3,287,037.00
Net Revenues Less Expenditures	\$118,260.00	\$118,730.00	\$118,500.00	\$118,500.00
% Net General Fund Support	72%	55%	43%	54%

Funding Sources (Existing and Potential)

General Fund

The General Fund is the basic operating fund for Independence Township. General Fund revenues are derived from property taxes, state-shared revenues, federal grants, license and permit fees, charges for services, interest on investments, and court fines or forfeitures. Recreation program user fees and charges, donations, and grants are also funding sources for Parks, Recreation & Seniors Department.

Millage

A property tax millage can be used to finance specific parks and recreation projects or to operate recreation facilities. Many communities have decided on a dedicated millage because voters are increasingly wary of approving millage increases for non-specified purposes. Voter approval is required before a millage is subject to periodic renewal by resident vote.

2023 Oakland County Transit Millage - The millage that Oakland County voters approved replaces the SMART millage in communities that have been part of that system with one that will provide funding to SMART and several other transportation agencies. The money also is intended to expand and improve transit options throughout the county including Independence Township.

SEMCOG Green Infrastructure Grants

The Green Infrastructure Vision for Southeast Michigan is a framework that guides preservation and future implementation of green infrastructure in Southeast Michigan. The vision benchmarks the amount of green infrastructure in the region, visions future green infrastructure opportunities, and recommends strategic implementation approaches. The vision details the various benefits of green infrastructure, including economic value, water quality, air quality, and recreation. The Green Infrastructure Vision for Southeast Michigan can be viewed online at www.semco.org.

Additional User Fees

The community can charge fees to the users of specific recreation facilities, or for enrollment in recreation programs. User fees can provide substantial support for park facilities. Other communities throughout Michigan have established user fees for swimming pools, tennis courts, the use of lighted athletic fields, and the use of indoor facilities. User fees are a promising source of funding in a municipality if used selectively for specific facilities and services.

Donations

Businesses, corporations, private clubs, Parent Teacher Organizations and Associations, and community organizations will often contribute to recreation and other improvement programs to benefit the communities in which they are located. Private sector contributions may be in the form of monetary contributions, the donation of land, the provision of volunteer services, or the contribution of equipment or facilities.

Bond Programs

A number of bond programs can be used to finance construction of parks and recreation facilities:

- **General Obligation Bonds:** General obligation bonds are issued for specific community projects and may not be used

for other purposes. These bonds are usually paid off with property tax revenues.

- **Revenue Bonds:** Revenue bonds are issued for construction of public projects that generate revenues. The bonds are then retired using income generated by the project. For example, revenue bonds may be issued for construction of a concession and restroom facility at a community park.
- **Special Assessment Bonds:** Special assessment bonds are issued to pay for projects that benefit a particular segment of the population. For example, recreation improvements that benefit a defined subdivision or neighborhood could be financed using special assessment bonds, in which case the residents who receive the benefit would be assessed.

Michigan Department of Natural Resources Grants

The following is a summary of the three viable recreation grant programs now available through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR):

Recreation Passport Grants: PA 32 of 2010 created the Local Public Recreation Facilities Fund to be used for the development of public recreation facilities for local units of government. Money for this fund is derived from the sale of the Recreation Passport which replaced the resident Motor Vehicle Permit (MVP) — or window sticker — for state park entrance. Development grants of \$7,500 to \$150,000 are available to local governments with a focus on renovating and improving existing parks, although new parks are also eligible. The grantee must provide at least a 25% match. Projects are evaluated based on project need, site quality, project quality, applicant history, and, if two projects receive the same evaluation score, a criterion based on the project cost per capita.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF): Eligible projects include community recreation and trailway improvements. These are grants of \$30,000 to \$500,000 to local governments for development of facilities such as athletic fields, tennis courts, playgrounds, trails and picnic areas, including support facilities, and the renovation and retro-fitting of existing facilities to make them accessible to persons with disabilities. Funds are provided through federal appropriations from the National Park Service. The grant match basis is fifty percent (50%) MDNR grant and fifty percent (50%) local match. Projects are evaluated based on project need, applicant history, site and project quality, and a fourth criterion based on the type of proposed project.

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF): Communities must have an approved recreation plan to apply for this grant. Eligible projects include acquisition of land or rights in land for recreational uses or for protection of the land because of its environmental importance or scenic beauty, including additions to existing parks, forest lands or wildlife areas. Development of public outdoor recreation facilities is also eligible (such as picnic areas, beaches, boating access, fishing and hunting facilities, winter sports areas, playgrounds, athletic fields, tennis courts, and trails). Funds are provided through the sale of oil and mineral leases on State land. Local contributions equal to at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the project cost are required.

There is no minimum or maximum amount for land acquisition projects. The minimum allowable grant for development projects is \$15,000 and the maximum is \$300,000. There are six special initiatives approved by the Trust Fund Board of Trustees for 2013. Proposals will receive special attention if they:

- Acquire land or develop trailways that contribute to an overall state trail system; or
- Provide urban recreation opportunities; or
- Acquire lands open to hunting or development of hunting-related facilities, such as shooting ranges; or

- Acquire lands that provide for deer habitat with thermal cover; or
- Local shooting ranges or state/local shooting range partnerships; or
- Acquire projects that create, establish, and protect wildlife/ecological corridors by connecting to and/or buffering existing protected and managed state or local natural areas, forests or game area.

Temporary MDNR Grant Funding Opportunity - Michigan Spark Grant: This funding source has an expiration, and is non-renewing like the Trust Fund or Land and Water Grants. Applications will only be accepted during three rounds of applications ending in 2023. During which, an applicant may only submit 3 total applications. All projects awarded funding MUST be complete by October 31, 2026. Spark Grants provide funding to local units of government or public authorities legally established to provide public recreation to help create, renovate or redevelop public indoor or outdoor opportunities for residents and visitors – especially those communities adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. This grant requires no matching funds, and has a minimum request of \$100,000 and a maximum of \$1 million.

In 1998, voters approved \$100 million in bonds for parks and recreation development and renovations. \$50 million in grants to local units and development and renovation of public recreation facilities were approved, with the other \$50 million approved for extensive state park renovations. The MDNR supplements the bonds with a matching \$50 million from other funding sources, including state park user fees, the Waterways fund, the Federal Coastal Zone Management, and Land and Water Conservation Fund grants.

Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) Clean Michigan Initiative (CMI)

The CMI is created under Section 6(1) of Part 196, Clean Michigan Initiative Implementation, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended. The CMI is a general obligation bond, and approximately \$1-\$2 million has been available most funding rounds. Most of this money is for programs administered by EGLE for various redevelopment and remediation activities, including brown-field redevelopment.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

Revenues obtained through the Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program can be used for a variety of community improvement projects, including development of recreation facilities or land acquisition for new parks or athletic fields in low and moderate income neighborhoods that qualify under the program.

Foundations

A foundation is a special non-profit legal entity that is established as a mechanism through which land, cash, and securities can be donated for the benefit of parks and recreation services. The foundation board of directors disburses assets according to a predetermined plan. Funding for recreation facilities through foundations is very limited.

Lease or Contractual Agreements

The Township could consider contracts with private entrepreneurs to provide services at township-owned park facilities, such as recreation programming, food service, or facility maintenance. Typically, the privatization of services can increase recreation opportunities available to residents, while maintaining the Township's administrative costs.

Public Use Conveyances

Administered by the MDNR, this program provides state and lands acquired through delinquent taxes for local government units for public use. Acceptable uses of land acquired under this program include development of local parks.

Public Spaces Community Places

Public Spaces Community Places is a collaborative effort of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), the Michigan Municipal League, and Patronicity where local residents can use crowd-funding to be part of the development of strategic projects in their communities and be backed with a matching grant from MEDC.

Volunteers and Partnerships

The Independence Township Parks, Recreation & Seniors Department is involved in a cooperative programming effort to provide a therapeutic recreation program. This program offers special events, athletics, and classes for people with disabilities.

The Department has also been working cooperatively with Springfield Township, Orion Township and Waterford Township Parks and Recreation Departments. In addition, the Township has developed a working agreement with the Clarkston Community Schools in which the schools can use Township facilities for a variety of activities and programs. ITPRS also provides administration services for school programs. ITPRS also has an agreement with Everest Academy for an even exchange of facility usage.

Relationships have also been forged with some of the area churches and private recreation providers. St. Daniels Church, St. Trinity Church, First Congregational Church, Mt. Zion Church, Clarkston United Methodist Church, Clarkston Medical Group, McLaren Physical Therapy and Fitness Center, and Clarkston Specialty Healthcare Center have enabled the shared use of facilities for pickle ball, fitness, and other classes.

Service clubs and community groups play a significant role in providing additional volunteer labor and financial support for park facilities and programs. There are many service clubs and organizations such as the Clarkston Area Optimists Club and the Clarkston Area Chamber of Commerce that actively support the Independence Township Parks, Recreation & Seniors Department.

ITPRS also has use agreements in place with several independently-run sports programs including; the Clarkston Riverdaws Youth Baseball Organization, Liverpool FC International Academy Michigan (Soccer) and National Flag Football - Michigan Youth Flag Football.

Friends of the Independence Township Senior Center is a non-profit organization created to raise funds for the construction of the Senior Center and provides continuous support for funding facility upgrades and improvements.

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4 - Recreation Inventory

Overview

Purpose

The recreation inventory is an essential item to any Park and Recreation Plan. It allows the Township to assess the quantity, type, and location of existing facilities. It also explains the variety of programs and events offered and where there may be opportunities for new programs and events. It serves to help identify where new facilities should be built and demonstrates where ADA upgrades are needed. The facilities inventory should be continually updated as renovations and additions occur so that the list is always up-to-date.

Park Classification

The National Recreation and Parks Association published guidelines for park classification based on size and service area. These classifications are as follows:

Classification	General Description	Location Criteria	Size Criteria
Mini-Park	Used to address limited, isolated or unique recreational needs.	Less than a 1/4 mile distance in residential setting.	Between 2500 sq. ft. and one acre in size.
Neighborhood Park	Neighborhood park remains the basic unit of the park system and serves as the recreation and social focus of the neighborhood. Focus is on informal active and passive recreation.	1/4 to 1/2-mile distance and uninterrupted by non-residential roads and other physical barriers.	5 acres is considered minimum size. 5 to 10 acres is optimal.
School-Park	Depending on circumstances, combining parks with school sites can fulfill the space requirements for other classes of parks, such as neighborhood, community, sports complex and special use.	Determined by location of school district property.	Variable – depends on function.
Community Park	Serves broader purpose than neighborhood park. Focus is on meeting community-based recreation needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.	Determined by the quality and suitability of the site. Usually serves two or more neighborhoods and 1/2 to 3 mile distance.	As needed to accommodate desired uses. Usually between 30 and 50 acres.
Regional Park	Land set aside for preservation of natural beauty or environmental significance, recreation use or historic or cultural interest use.	Located to serve several communities within 1 hour driving time.	Optimal size is 200+ acres, size varies based on use.

Figure 4.1: Table - NRPA Recommended Classification System for Local and Regional Recreation Open Space and Trails

Accessibility Assessment

Complying with accessibility standards and planning for universal design are two extremely important efforts that a municipality must undertake in its effort to protect the health, safety and welfare of its people. This is true not only for those disabled by birth or by accident, but also for the growing population of people entering old age who are finding normal tasks more and more challenging to do. Many able-bodied persons forget that disability is often an eventuality as one grows older. Therefore, Independence Township should seek to improve the accessibility of its environment not simply to comply with law, but to think more broadly and take steps towards developing a compassionate, inclusive, and accessible community, unencumbered by physical barriers.

This plan rates the accessibility of its existing park facilities, both the facilities themselves (as appropriate), as well as the access routes to them. This rating system is from the Michigan DNR’s guidelines for recreation plans. It is intended to establish a baseline so that accessibility needs can be assessed and incorporated into capital improvement projects. This evaluation is not comprehensive and does not identify specific deficiencies.

The following ranking system was applied to each park:

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

Figure 4.2: Accessibility Assessment Table

ADA Transition Plan

An ADA transition plan for Independence Township Facilities was created in 2015 which included a full and thorough audit of buildings, signage, parking, and exterior accessible routes. It did not however address outdoor elements such as parks, playgrounds, and fields.

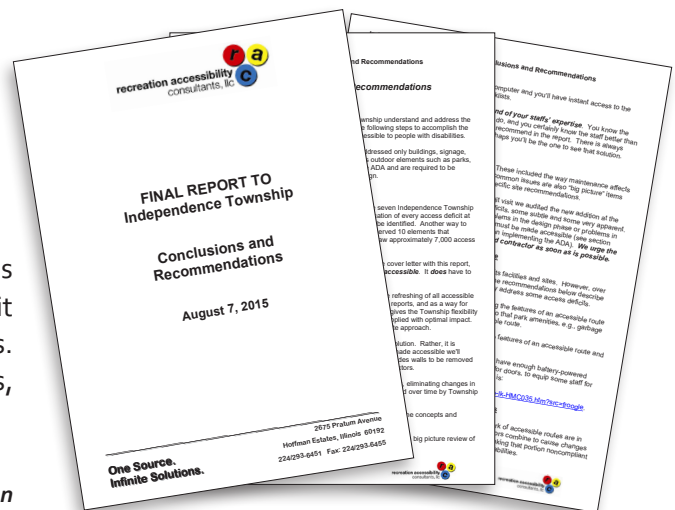


Figure 4.3: 2015 ADA Transition Plan

A step-by-step approach was outlined to help Independence Township understand and address the deficits in the individual sites and recommended steps were provided to accomplish the goal of making opportunities in Township sites more accessible to people with disabilities.

Several projects have already been completed throughout the township as a direct result of the ADA Transition Plan and the Township will continue to implement additional ADA renovation projects in the future. A list of completed ADA renovation projects is provided below:

Chart of ADA Related Renovations:

	Description	Date Completed
1.	Installed ADA-compliant automatic door openers at all building entrances	April 2017
2.	Renovated Lakeview Room restrooms at Bay Court Park, in accordance with ADA standards	May 2017
3.	Ryan Kennedy Playground at Clintonwood Park opened in 2017, including several accessible playground features	May 2017
4.	New parking lot installed at Brady Lodge and a new slab by the entrance put in place, to make the building more easily accessible	June 2017
5.	Installed appropriate signs for Handicap Parking spaces in parking lots at all parks	July 2017
6.	Installed ADA-compliant automatic door opener at the back entrance of Bartsch Hall	July 2017
7.	Completed renovation of Lakeview Room restrooms at Bay Court Park, in accordance with ADA standards	February 2018
8.	Completed renovation of softball restrooms at Clintonwood Park, in accordance with ADA standards	February 2019
9.	Installed restrooms at Brady Lodge in Bay Court Park, in accordance with ADA standards	May 2019
10.	Completed renovation of restrooms at the Clintonwood Park Day Camp Building – including the addition of a new family restroom and a new changing area, in accordance with ADA standards	April 2020

In an effort to ensure that all recreation programs and activities within the Township are accessible to users of all abilities, an ADA audit and transition plan for parks and playground facilities has been included in the Capital Improvements Schedule of this report.

Township Parks Inventory

The Parks, Recreation & Seniors Office is located at 6483 Waldon Center Drive in Clarkston in the lower level of the Township Offices. The Senior Community Center is located in Clintonwood Park, 6000 Clarkston Road.

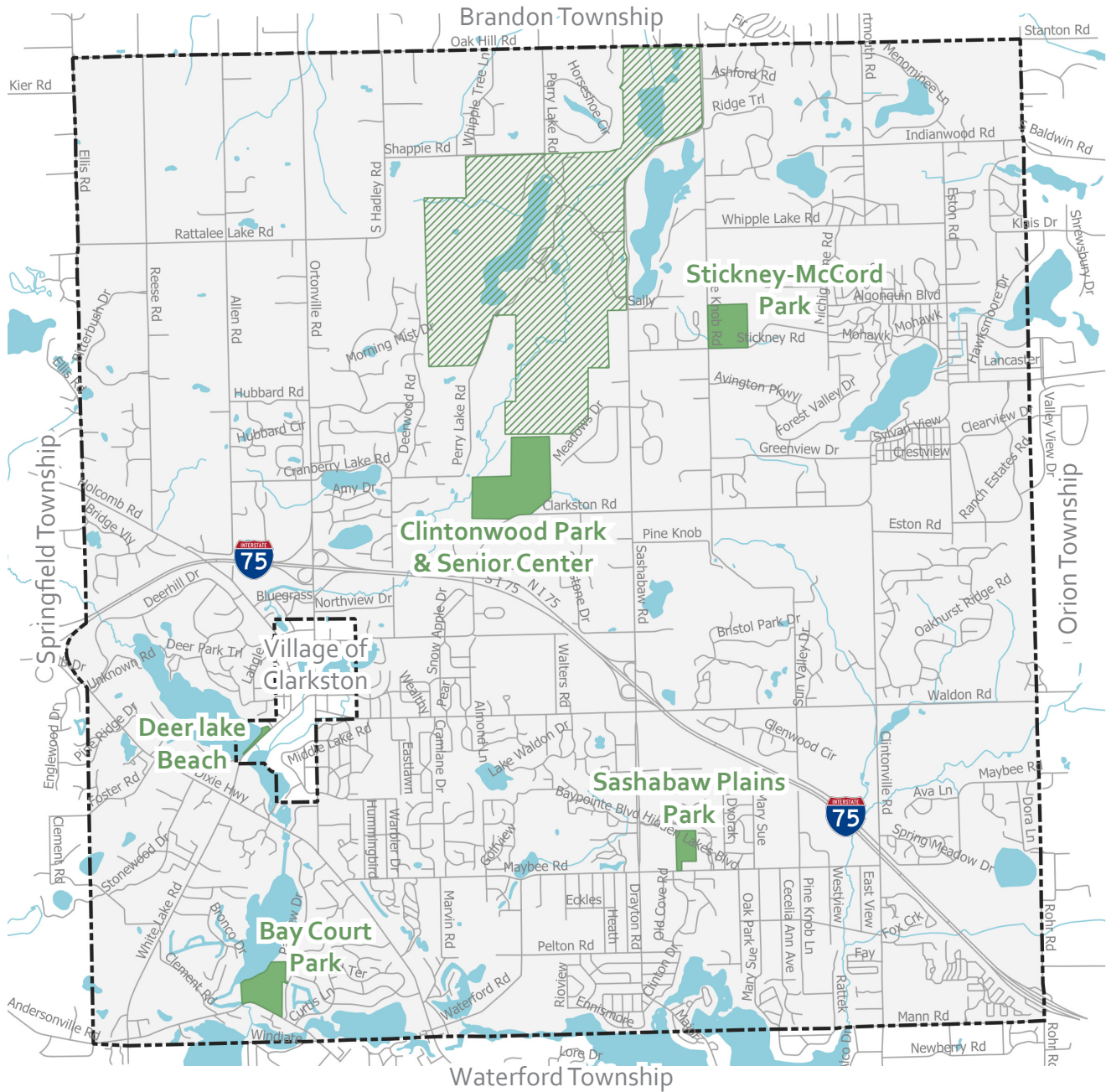
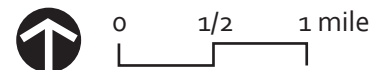


Figure 4.3: Independence Township Park Map



Sashabaw Plains Park

Statistics

Located in the southeast portion of Independence Township on Maybee Road. Established in 1984, Sashabaw Plains Park is a picturesque, relaxing community park, offering plenty of open space to gather or play. Features include; baseball fields, sand volleyball, basketball court, playground facilities and a picnic shelter. A DTE utility easement immediately north of the park has been discussed as a potential route for non-motorized facilities.

Size: 14 Acres
Classification: Community
Accessibility Assessment: 3



- Park Features**
- Community Built Playground
 - Baseball Fields
 - Practice Soccer Fields
 - Horseshoes
 - 4 Square Court
 - Basketball (Half) Court
 - Volleyball Court
 - Picnic Pavilion
 - Bathroom Facilities
 - 3 Grills

Bay Court Park

Located in the southwest quadrant of the Township on Andersonville Road, Bay Court Park is a Township landmark that once served as a Boy Scout Camp. The historic Brady Lodge has recently been renovated and offers the potential to host a variety of rental functions. New parking near the lodge helps to make the building ADA compliant. The park sits on the southeastern shore of Greens Lake and features a gazebo overlooking the lake, beach, the indoor Lakeview Room rental facility, a community-built wooden play structure, disc golf, picnic shelter, and walking trail.



Statistics

Size: 49 Acres
Classification: Community
Accessibility Assessment: 3



Park Features

- Gazebo
- Cedar Grove Pavilion - Seats 125
- Lakeside Pavilion - Seats 40
- Community built playground
- Beach on Greens Lake
- Lakeview Room - Holds up to 50 people
- Indoor restroom facilities
- Brady Lodge - Now available for rental!
- Burlison Nature Trail (1/4 mile)
- Ryan Schmidt Disc Golf



Clintonwood Park

Statistics

Independence Township’s largest and most heavily used park, Clintonwood consists of 120 acres on Clarkston Road along the Clinton River. The park is adjacent to Independence Oaks County Park. The park has seen a number of renovations and additions in recent years, including replacement of an in-line skating rink with pickleball courts, a new playground structure, revamped tennis courts with new youth-size courts, and extensive renovations to the softball fields. Clintonwood’s fields are used by a variety of recreation leagues including the Clarkston Riverdawks and Liverpool FC International Academy.

Size: 120 Acres
Classification: Regional
Accessibility Assessment: 3

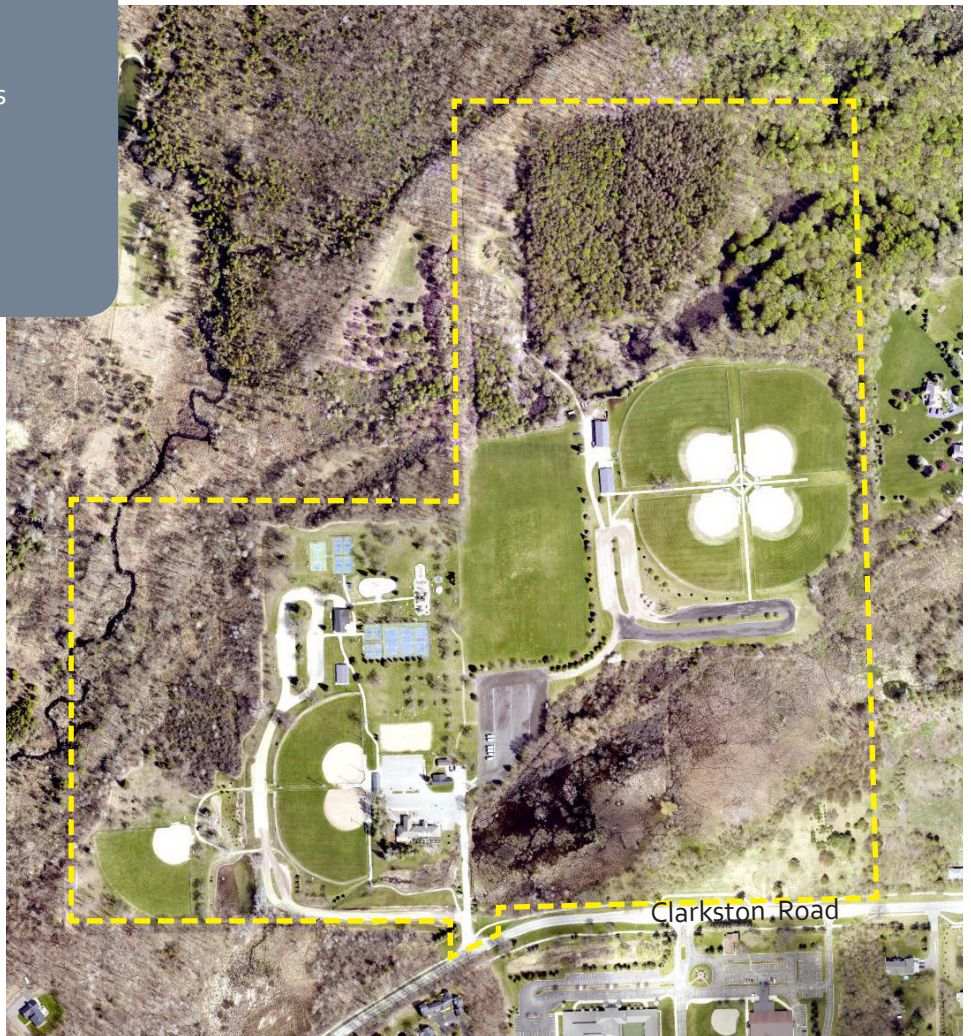
In addition to the active-use facilities, Clintonwood houses the Township’s Senior Center and the Carriage House, an indoor rental facility. The park contains over 60 acres of natural areas, consisting of wetlands and forested areas. Clintonwood is the host facility for a variety of events such as Tons of Trucks, Friendly Forest, Independence Fest, summer camps, and more.



Clintonwood Park (Continued)

Park Features

- Carriage House - Seats 70 people
- North Pavilion - Seats 50
- South Pavilion - Seats 125
- Senior Community Center
- Bartsch Hall - Seats 100
- Ryan Kennedy Memorial Playground
- GaGa ball pit
- Swing set
- Renee Przybylski Spraypark
- 4 baseball fields
- 3 softball fields
- 4 soccer fields
- 3 full-size & 4 youth tennis courts
- 4 pickleball courts
- 4 sand volleyball courts
- 1 full & 1 half basketball court
- Picnic areas
- Walking trail (9/10 mile)



Independence Township Senior Community Center

Located within Clintonwood Park, the Senior Community Center serves as the hub for senior activities within Independence Township. The center is home to many programs and events such as arts and crafts, fitness classes and various games. Bartsch Hall located within the center seats up to 100 people and is available to rent.



Stickney-McCord Park (Clarkston Community Garden)

35 acres of land located in the northeast portion of the Township, north of the Stickney and Pine Knob road intersection. The Stickney-McCord family donated the property to Independence Township in 1998. The only amenity currently located on the site is the Clarkston Community Garden which operates independently from the ITPRS. The Garden takes up approximately 3 of the 35 acres. There is an 8 ft tall deer fence surrounding the Garden, accessible through a wide swing gate. 100 share garden plots are rentable on an annual basis. The Garden also includes a storage shed, picnic tables, a water spigot, and porta-john available for use. This property is scheduled for future improvements which include a parking lot and walking trails.

Statistics

Size: 35 Acres
Classification: Community
Accessibility Assessment: 1



Park Features

- 1.6 acre fenced garden area
- Portable toilet
- Storage shed
- Apiary
- Water access
- Approximately 32 acres of natural areas and open space

Deer Lake Beach Park

Statistics

This 10-acre park is leased from the Village of Clarkston and operated by the Township. This small park provides a beach, small play structures, a volleyball court, parking, and a gated boat ramp on Deer Lake. Deer Lake Beach features two separate swimming areas, both patrolled by certified lifeguards. Swimming lessons are also offered through Independence Township Parks, Recreation & Seniors.

Size: 10 Acres
Classification: Regional
Accessibility Assessment: 1



- Park Features**
- Trained lifeguards
 - Boat Launch
 - Sand volleyball
 - Swimming lessons
 - Portable toilets

Park Inventory Table

Accessibility Assessment:

- 1 = none of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 2 = some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 3 = most of the facilities/park area meet accessibility guidelines
- 4 = the entire park meets accessibility guidelines
- 5 = the entire park was developed/renovated using the principals of universal design

Parks	Acres	Park Classification	Accessibility Assessment	Playground Equipment	Basketball	Volleyball	Tennis Court	Baseball Diamond	Soccer Field	Walking Path	Skating Rink	Splash Pad	Picnic Tables & Grills	Shelter	Restrooms	Sledding Hill	Horseshoes	Pickleball Court	Sand Beach	Parking	Boat Launch	Disc Golf	Undeveloped
Sashabaw Plains Park	14	C	3		•	•		2	•	•			•	•	•		•			•			
Stickney-McCord Park (Community Garden)	35	C	1																				•
Bay Court Park	49	C	3	•						•			•	3	•					•		•	
Clintonwood Park	120	R	3	•	1.5	4	3	7	8	•		•		3	•			8		•			
Deer Lake Beach	10	R	1																	•	•		
Depot Park (Village of Clarkston)				•						•			•	•	•					•			

Park Classifications: N = Neighborhood, C = Community, R = Regional

Park Acreage Evaluation

The following table evaluates current park acreage in the Township based on National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) recommendations. Although NRPA provides recommendations for parks and facilities they recognize that every community is unique and many factors should be considered when evaluating deficiencies and priorities. These additional factors can include age and income distribution, neighborhood structure, and recreation interests of your community, as well as the recreation opportunities available in nearby communities.

Independence Township Park Acreage/Population Table

Total Acres	Population	Acres/1000 People
228	36,818	6.19

The National Recreation and Park Association recommends between 5.5 and 15.9 Acres/1000 people. As shown in the previous table, Independence Township's park acreage falls within this range.

Independence Township Safety Path Plan

Independence Township formed a Safety Path Committee (SPC) in 1978 to study and make recommendations for a path system in the Community. The system has since grown to include more than 40 miles of pathways, providing important non-motorized connections for residents. Safety paths are funded through a special .4418 millage which was renewed by voters in 2018. Special millage funds have been used to construct priority paths when needed, and Township development regulations require safety paths on designated routes to be constructed when property is developed. All safety paths have been constructed in accordance with the Safety Path Plan.

An update to the Safety Path Plan is currently in process and is scheduled to be adopted in 2023. The Safety Path Plan consultants have been working in tandem with the development of this Parks, Recreation & Seniors Master Plan.



Figure 4.4 : Current Safety Path Map

Recreation Programs and Services

The Independence Township Parks, Recreation & Seniors Department offers outstanding youth and adult team individual sport opportunities and special events to Township residents and non-residents. In the last few years, the Department has forged relationships with adjacent communities including Springfield and Waterford Townships as well as with area churches and private recreation providers. These relationships have allowed sharing of facilities. The following is a representative list of the Department's programs offerings:

Adult Classes and Programs

Fusion: Barre/Pilates/Yoga
Pilates Reformer
Clarkston Groove
Zumba
Instructional Archery

Therapeutic Recreation

TR Karate
TR Buddy Theater Camp
TR Bingo Night
TR Pizza and a Movie
TR Basketball Club
TR Buddy Soccer
TR Buddy Basketball

Safety Classes

Certified Babysitter
Certified Pet Sitter
Adult and Pediatric First Aid
Self-Defense for Women
Self-Defense for Children
Crime Prevention and Response

Karate Classes

Sanchin-Ryu's Karate for Kids
Sanchin-Ryu's Karate for Families
Sanchin-Ryu's Karate for Adults

Day Camps

Various Day Camps are available at Bay Court and Clintonwood Parks throughout the summer months.

Preschool Classes and Programs

Tumbling Toddlers
Twinkle Toes
Paint & Play
Little Chefs
Beginning Ballet
Busy Bodies Winter Camps
Amazing Athletes
PKSA Tiny Tigers
PKSA Little Ninjas



Image: Independence Township Day Camp Program

Youth & Teen Classes and Programs

Mother/Daughter Hip-Hop
Creative Kids
E-Sports
Instructional Archery

Sports Programs

Soccer
Baseball

Senior Classes and Programs

Master of Balance - Managing Concerns about Falls
Club Bookworm
Chair Massage
My Legal and Financial Solutions
Ask the Attorney
Genealogical Research
Woodcarving
Welcome Wagon
Bingo
Knitting Group
Movies at Clarkston Independence District Library
Quilting Club

Creative & Enrichment Opportunities

Traditional Jazz band
Tech Tutors
Be Safe, Be Sane, Be Smart: Best Brain Strategies
Tech Tips for Your Vehicle
Cooking for One (Or Two)
Mountain Dulcimer Workshop for Novice Players
Exercising to Preserve Brain Health, Even from Home
Decorating Holiday Cookies with Dayle
Anyone can Paint
Various Arts and Crafts Workshops

Senior Sports, Exercise and Fitness Classes

Biking Club
Sole Steppers walking Group
Body Management
Tai Chi
Golf lessons for 50+
Pickleball
Get Out and Groove
Chair Yoga
LaBlast
Adaptive Yoga
Line Dancing

Travel

The Independence Township Senior Community Center offers various opportunities for group day trips to places such as Detroit Tigers games and the Ohio Wine Trail as well as extended trips to places such as Rails of West Virginia and Niagara Falls.



*Image: Independence Township Senior Center
Extended Travel Program*

DNR Recreation Grant Inventory

Grant History - Independence Township, Oakland County, MI

Project Number*	Project Title	Project Year	Grant Amount	Project Description	Grant Status
26-00453	Independence Township Park	1972	\$64,605.00	Develop 35.04 acres to include picnic area, 2 ball fields, playground equipment, 4 tennis courts, 2 multi-purpose courts, and Acquire 35.04 acres	Closed
26-01015	Clintonwood Park	1977	\$23,000.00	Develop: lighting for a softball field, playground equipment, and LWCF sign	Closed
26-01213	Clintonwood Park	1981	\$23,500.00	Develop: fitness trail, park shelter, and LWCF sign	Closed
TF86-312	Bay Court Camp	1986	\$375,000.00	Acquisition of 49 acres of land for a township park.	Closed
BF90-134	Clintonwood Park Baseball Field Development	1990	\$300,000.00	Construction of 4 baseball fields, a restroom/storage/concessions building and parking lot expansion at Clintonwood Park with appropriate landscaping.	Closed
BF91-280	Bay Court Park-Infrastructure	1991	\$314,250.00	Relocation of park entrance, development of roadways, parking lots, nature walk paths, picnic shelters and play structures.	Closed
TF92-101	Bay Court Park Beachfront	1992	\$308,400.00	Construction of a restroom/bathroom building, an outdoor deck and meeting area, and the complete renovation of the Greens Lake beach.	Closed
26-01824	Bay Court Park Playground Renovation	2019	\$200,000.00	Development project at Independence Township's 45-acre Bay Court Park to replace a large existing wooden playground which has deteriorated over the years with a new accessible playground. In addition to new play equipment and safety surfacing, the project includes new picnic tables and benches, resurfaced walkways, and accessible parking close to the playground. The new playground design will be inspired by the original, much loved playground, which was a community build effort.	PA Executed

**The first characters of the project number indicates funding sources as follows:*

26 = Land and Water Conservation Fund

BF = Recreation Bond Fund

TAP = Transportation Alternatives Program

TF = Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund

**In 2019 Independence Township was awarded an acquisition grant from the Natural Resources Trust Fund. An agreement could not be reached with the property owner on the sale price at that time and therefore the Township was forced to decline the grant. The property is however still available and the Township may re-explore a possible acquisition of it in the future.

Regional Recreation Opportunities

There are many additional recreation facilities and opportunities available in the area surrounding Independence Township and throughout Oakland County. Some of those facilities are listed here:

Oakland County Parks

Addison Oaks
Catalpa Oaks
Farmers Market
Groveland Oaks
Highland Oaks
Holly Oaks Orv Park
Independence Oaks*
Lyon Oaks
Orion Oaks
Red Oaks
Rose Oaks
Springfield Oaks
Waterford Oaks

Trails - The Oakland County Parks system offers nearly 80 miles of paved and natural trails for walking, jogging, skating, biking, and equestrian riding year-round.

**Located within Independence Township*



Image: Independence Oaks Park, Oakland County Parks

State Parks (within Oakland County)

Bald Mountain
Dodge #4
Highland
Holly
Island Lake
Pontiac Lake
Proud Lake
Seven Lakes

School Facilities

Bailey Lake Elementary School
Clarkston Elementary School and Clarkston Junior High
Independence Elementary School
North Sashabaw Elementary School and Sashabaw Middle School
Pine Knob Elementary School
Clarkston High School
Clarkston Community Education Center
Renaissance High School
Andersonville & Springfield Plains Elementary Schools

Nature Preserves

North Oakland Headwaters Land Conservancy (NOHLC) Preserves

Schmude Sanctuary
Nolta-Brennan Endowment
Nels Kimball Sanctuary
Keller Sanctuary
Cranberry Lake Shores
Heather Haven
Voorheis-Beardsley Farm
Whipple Lake Preserve

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5 - The Planning Process

Plan Development Process

The consultant reviewed Independence Township's current demographics, budgets and revenues, past planning efforts, and perceived initial priorities. The consultant also performed an initial orientation meeting with the Parks, Recreation & Seniors Director, Derek Smith, and the Parks, Recreation & Seniors Advisory Committee to establish some initial study parameters and planning direction. As part of the inventory gathering process, the consultant reviewed the previous master plan and performed a physical inventory by visiting the township's park properties.

Information gathered was then synthesized into the proposed goals and objectives of this plan. The goals and objectives were then further refined with the assignment of phasing and priority suggestions (actions), as well as estimates of probable cost (capital improvements schedule). Subsequent refinement of the plan was performed through various discussions with township officials, public comment, and investigation of funding strategies and sources to eventually produce the final five-year Parks, Recreation & Seniors Master Plan.

Public Participation

An effective means of obtaining public input is critical for the development of a five-year parks and recreation master plan. Public input is also required by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' "Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation Open Space and Greenway Plans." For Independence Township's plan, several means of gaining input were used, including:

- Online opinion survey
- Public input meetings - Wednesday, September 7, 2022, Tuesday, September 27, 2022 and Tuesday, December 20, 2022
- Public hearing - **January 10, 2023**
- Stakeholder Interviews
- One Month Review Period – Posted on the Township's website, hard copy at Township Hall - **November 14, 2022-December 16, 2022**

Summaries of the public input activities are given below. A full compilation of all survey results, input, and public comments is contained in the Appendix.

Public Input Meeting

Two public input meetings were held. The first was held at the Brady Lodge in Bay Court Park on Wednesday, September 7, 2022 from 6-8 PM. The second was held Tuesday, September 27, 2022 from 6-8 PM at the Township Hall.

These meetings were held to present materials and information relative to the 2023-2027 Parks, Recreation & Seniors

Master Plan and the 2023 Independence Township Safety Path Plan, and to provide an opportunity for the public to have input as to what recreational facility improvements, programs and safety paths, they would like considered for the Township's Park System and/or speak on issues relative to parks and recreation. Some of the input received in these meetings discussed various properties potentially available for acquisition and the need for more indoor recreation facilities such as a Community Center and safer pedestrian access to facilities such as Pine Knob and Sashabaw Plains Park. A full list of the comments received can be found in the appendix.

A third public meeting was held December 20, 2022, at the first regular Township Board or Trustees meeting after the 30-day review period in order to hear any last input from township residents.

Stakeholder Meetings

Meetings were held with different organizations from throughout the Township. An initial meeting was held with the township Park Division staff. Additional meetings were held which included representatives from various groups which included the Independence Township Senior Community Center, Clarkston Area Chamber of Commerce, Clarkston Independence District Library, Clarkston Area Optimists Club, Liverpool FC International Academy Michigan (Soccer), Clarkston Cultural Arts, Clinton River Watershed Council and Everest Academy.

Various parks and recreation topics were discussed in these meetings. A large focus was placed on the relationships between ITPRS and the various stakeholder groups, how these entities work together currently and what can be done to potentially improve or build upon those relationships. One recurring theme that was brought up from several of these stakeholder groups was the need for additional indoor recreation space for all ages, specifically in the form of a community center.

Public Hearing

A Public Hearing was held on January 10, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at the Township Hall when the plan was subsequently adopted by the Township Board.

Online Opinion Survey

At the initial stage of the planning process, an online survey was developed to gauge public opinion on the future of Independence Township's Parks, Recreation & Seniors facilities and programming, and the township's safety paths.

The online survey was conducted using the web-based "Survey Monkey" application. The survey was placed online 8/29/2022 and was closed 11/30/2022. It was publicized in the local newspaper, on the Township's website and through a series of email blasts to known groups and local organizations.

A total of 173 responses were received for the online survey. Details of responses are shown in the Appendix.

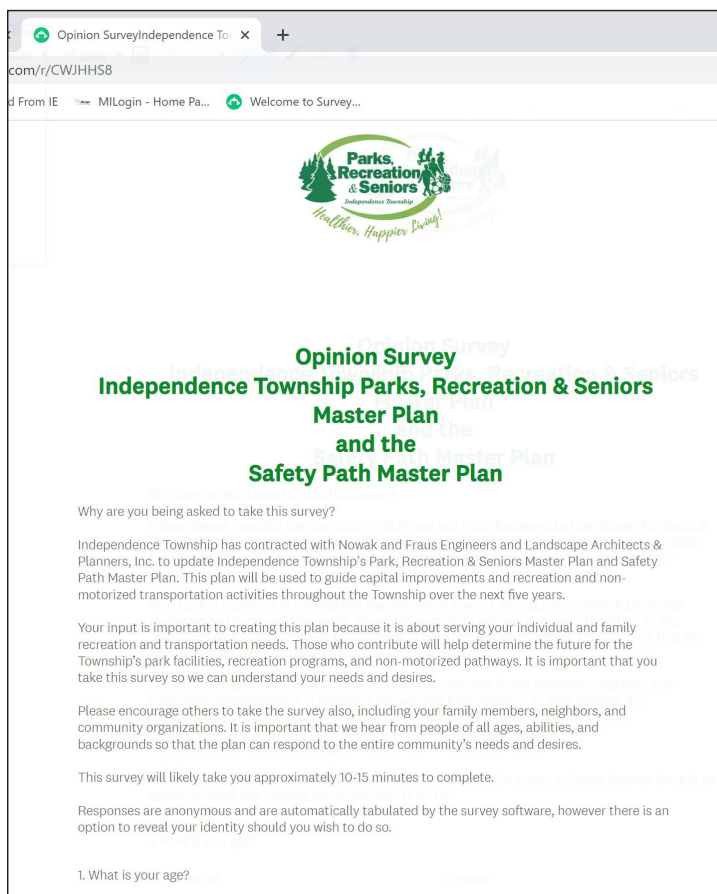


Figure 5.1: Screenshot of Online Survey



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6 - Goals and Objectives

Overview

In the broadest sense, a Parks and 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 and park planning, should be the guiding influence 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 and be ready for opportunities that may not be evident today such as new grant programs, benefactors, donations, etc. that present themselves. However, the goals must be tempered by the recognition of financial, social, physical, and political realities in order to be achievable. Successful policy should further recognize the evaluation of the community's recreation system, and the relationship of this system to relevant demographic characteristics.

Goals should be broad, address general needs, and establish the basis for setting specific programmed objectives. Objectives are measurable results that the Township can work toward accomplishing. Both offer policy direction and the framework for recreation providers. The following policy statements reflect the Township's short and long-term recreation needs identified in the previous chapters. Specific methods for achieving these goals are described in the Action Program and Capital Improvement Plan in the following section.

Parks, Recreation & Seniors Goals and Objectives

The following goals and objectives provide the foundation of the Township's Community Parks, Recreation & Seniors Plan, and are to be used as a framework for future implementation strategies.

Overall

- I. **Park Maintenance Goal: Maintain and upgrade existing park facilities to be clean, safe, attractive, and functional.**
 - A. Ensure park facilities and equipment are clean and safe;
 - B. Replace/upgrade aging park equipment as needed;
 - C. Ensure safety surfaces under playground equipment meet regulated depth and fall zones;
 - D. Remove barriers to universal access;
 - E. Refurbish parking and pavement surfaces;
 - F. Refurbish athletic field surfaces;
 - G. Provide appropriate directional signage;
 - H. Remove invasive plant species;
 - I. Plant trees and shrubs to maintain and supplement wooded areas;

6 - Goals and Objectives

- J. Expand green management practices to reduce the Parks, Recreation & Seniors Department's carbon footprint;
 - K. Keep park maintenance equipment and storage areas in good condition; and
 - L. Continue general park upkeep and stewardship.
- II. **Park Development Goal: Develop park facilities that respond to residents' recreational needs.**
- A. Develop support facilities such as restrooms, picnic pavilions, benches, signage, and playgrounds as needed to support recreation users and programs;
 - B. Improve recreation opportunities in the parks with additional athletic fields, game courts, boat access, and other activities as needed and sustainable;
 - C. Expand maintenance and storage facilities; and
 - D. Encourage the consideration of the following projects: Construction of a potential activity building (Community Center) at Clintonwood Park.
- III. **Recreation Programs and Services Maintenance Goal: Streamline the recreation program offerings to maintain high quality services.**
- A. Evaluate recreation programs to assess their value to the overall system including participation numbers, cost, resource required, etc.;
 - B. Monitor and evaluate recreation programs to assess gaps and/or duplication in the provision of services;
 - C. Strive to maintain core recreation programs for the youth and senior population in the Township; and
 - D. Develop and/or focus on recreation programs that build community, encourage healthy and active lifestyles, and are recognized as most successful.
- IV. **Recreation Programs and Services Development Goal: Continue to enhance the quality of recreation programming and services offered.**
- A. Promote and develop new recreation programs utilizing new and current facilities.
 - B. Increase awareness and participation rates of programs and special event offerings.
 - C. Create greater consistency in program delivery, look and feel through system-wide standards to help build a strong brand.
 - D. Continue to evaluate and monitor recreation programs to assess gaps and value to the overall system including participation numbers, cost, and resources.
 - E. Strive to maintain core recreation programs, restructure as necessary, and establish future recreation programs based on unmet needs in the community.
- V. **Partnership and Communication Goal: Coordinate partnerships with other area recreation providers and promote communications and awareness of Independence Township's park and recreation facilities.**
- A. Maintain existing and forge new partnerships with public and private recreation providers to support effective service and program delivery;
 - B. Increase public awareness of Independence Township parks and recreation through additional communication and education;

- C. Provide opportunities for volunteers and community stewardship projects;
 - D. Build a "Friends of the Parks" group which could be active in providing additional support for park project and funding;
 - E. Expand the use of web-based communication tools (email blasts, Facebook, etc.)
 - F. Continue to support the various organizations and associations that provide recreation opportunities in Independence Township.
- VI. **Administrative Goal: Provide for an efficient and fiscal administration of parks and recreation services.**
- A. Evaluate fees and charge policies for programs and services and create a cost recovery plan;
 - B. Participate in state and regional recreation planning organizations;
 - C. Encourage advocacy of parks and recreation ambassadors (Advisory Board, Senior Advisory Committee, and volunteers);
 - D. Continue to aggressively pursue grants for park land acquisition and development;
 - E. Work to increase revenues by implementation of new recreation and senior programming and increase in rental fees;
 - F. Maintain existing and forge new partnerships with public and private recreation providers to support efficient and effective service and program delivery;
 - G. Increase volunteer opportunities for recreation programs and parks;
 - H. Increase staffing and maintenance equipment as needed to support services;
 - I. Create a Foundation to allow for the Department to solicit donations for specific projects ;
 - J. Explore the possibility of a regional parks and recreation authority; and
 - K. Consider privatization of services where they can be provided at a quality service level for cost efficiency.
- VII. **Park Land Acquisition and Safety Path Development Goal: Encourage the continued development of the Township safety path system and preservation/dedication of open space and park land in the Township.**
- A. Encourage land preservation of open spaces and natural areas and work with the Township Board and Planning Commission in the review of new developments to encourage developers to set aside usable land for recreation and community uses;
 - B. Support the implementation of the Township's Safety Path Master Plan; and
 - C. Encourage the development of pathways that specifically connect Township parks to community facilities and schools.
- VIII. **Continue to communicate with the public whenever possible through various means. The following methods were the most recognized forms of communication stated by the public in priority ranking from the 2022 opinion survey:**
- A. Website
 - B. Social Media (Face Book, Twitter, others)
 - C. E-mail
 - D. Newsletter (hard copy or electronic)
 - E. Flyers (postings, etc.)
 - F. Direct US Mail

G. Newspaper

Administration and Organization

- I. **Investigate innovative ways to fund improvements and programming.**
 - A. Apply for state, federal and local grants for recreation, athletic, leisure, and cultural arts programs.
 - B. Seek donations from foundations, corporations, service clubs and local businesses, as well as individual sponsorships.
 - C. Maintain a fair and reasonable user fee system for programming.
- II. **Provide necessary staffing and an administrative infrastructure at levels commensurate to programming and maintenance needs to support the expansion of recreation opportunities.**
- III. **Continue to monitor and adjust program offerings to reflect changing recreation preferences and age characteristics.**
- IV. **Market recreation services to potential users:**
 - A. Upgrade and maintain the township website to provide up-to-date information to the public.
 - B. Maintain and build relations with senior citizens, schools, local businesses and community groups.
- V. **Continue and improve coordination with other organizations:**
 - A. Maintain and foster communication between the Park and Recreation Advisory Board and the maintenance team of other township organizations using park facilities.
 - B. Explore relationships with Clarkston Public Schools, Oakland County, and community groups to establish cooperative agreements for the protection, maintenance and use of recreation sites, and the delivery of recreation services.

Recreation Land

- I. **Acquire recreation land to create community and neighborhood parks, which are appropriate, convenient and accessible to all residents:**
 - A. Explore acquisition of properties that include natural features or recreational opportunities as they become available.
- II. **Develop and expand the Safety Path system throughout the Township.**
 - A. Explore the acquisition of land or easements that can be used to provide safety path connections to regional trails and other township assets.
 - B. Explore areas where on-road facilities or separated pathways can be added within existing public right-of-ways to improve safety path travel throughout the township.
 - C. Install wayfinding signs, interpretative kiosks, and respite stations throughout the existing and

future safety path system.

Facilities

- I. **Provide facilities that meet the community-wide recreation needs of Independence Township residents.**
 - A. Study the feasibility of developing a new Township Community Center
 - B. Ensure accessibility to recreation facilities and programs by creating barrier-free facilities and providing an opportunity for “inclusive and/or universal recreation.”

- II. **Maintain a balanced system of parks by having well-operated and maintained facilities:**
 - A. Continue the scheduling of operations, including regular inspections, to ensure all parks and facilities are neat in appearance and well-operated and maintained.
 - B. Coordinate and assist in planned events in public spaces, parks, and facilities.

7 - The Action Plan

Actions

The following action plan or “Capital Improvement Plan” (CIP) was developed based upon information gathered from public input, interviews, demographic data, land use trends and efforts of adjacent communities. The plan covers the next five years. These projects may be funded through grant sources such as those provided through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Land and Water Conservation Fund, Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, Recreation Passport Grants, the limited timed Spark Grant, Waterways Program Grants, Michigan Habitat Improvement Fund Program Grants, Invasive Species Grant Program, or Wildlife Habitat Grant Program. There may also be grants available through private corporations, non-profit organizations, and other state and federal agencies.

Please note: The capital improvements are listed in no particular order. The matrix provides a target year, the project location, a description, an estimated range of likely costs, revenue sources, and goals. It is intended to be used as a guideline for planning.

Capital Improvement Plan Schedule

Independence Township
Parks, Recreation and Seniors Master Plan (2023-2027)

Target Year	Project Location	Project Description	Estimated Costs	Revenue Source
TBD	TBD	Community Recreation Center	30 Million	Private Donations, General Fund, MDNR, MEDC Grants
2023	Bay Court Park	Complete playground, Brady Lodge renovation, and Maintenance Garage projects	\$700,000	General Fund, MDNR, MEDC Grants
2023	Bay Court Park	Beach Sand Replacement	\$10,000	General Fund, MDNR, MEDC Grants
2023	Bay Court Park	Lakeview Building Walkway Replacement	\$10,000	General Fund, MDNR, MEDC Grants
2024-2027	Bay Court Park	Cabin/Camp Office Renovation	\$100,000	General Fund, MDNR, MEDC Grants
2024-2027	Bay Court Park	Park Entrance Brick Pavers	\$50,000	General Fund, MDNR, MEDC Grants

7 - The Action Plan

Target Year	Project Location	Project Description	Estimated Costs	Revenue Source
2024-2027	Bay Court Park	Purchase of Zero Turn Riding Mower, Zero Turn Walk Behind Mower, and Gator/Toro	\$45,500	General Fund
2024-2027	Bay Court Park	Walking Trail Paving	\$150,000	General Fund, MDNR, MEDC Grants
2024-2027	Bay Court Park	Lakeview Building Structural Repairs	\$100,000	General Fund, MDNR, MEDC Grants
2024-2027	Bay Court Park	ADA Beach Ramp Staining	\$10,000	General Fund, MDNR, MEDC Grants
2023	Clintonwood Park	Baseball Field Clover Leaf Pavilion	\$270,000	General Fund, MDNR, MEDC Grants
2023	Clintonwood Park	Beach Volleyball Sand Replacement	\$10,000	General Fund, MDNR, MEDC Grants
2023	Clintonwood Park	Maintenance Garage Updates	\$50,000	General Fund, MDNR, MEDC Grants
2023	Clintonwood Park	Senior Center/Carriage House Repairs	\$40,000	General Fund, MDNR, MEDC Grants
2023	Clintonwood Park	Tennis and Basketball Court Resurfacing	\$40,000	General Fund, MDNR, MEDC Grants
2023	Clintonwood Park	Spraypark Apron Paving	\$30,000	General Fund, MDNR, MEDC Grants
2023	Clintonwood Park	Purchase Honda Field Pro Groomer, Gators/Toros Replacement	\$60,000	General Fund
2024-2027	Clintonwood Park	Baseball Field Backstop Replacement	\$200,000	General Fund, MDNR, MEDC Grants
2024-2027	Clintonwood Park	Wetland Drain Bridge	\$10,000	General Fund, MDNR, MEDC Grants
2024-2027	Clintonwood Park	Purchase Zero Turn Mower and Zero Turn Walk Behind Mower	\$24,500	General Fund
2024-2027	Clintonwood Park	Carriage House/Baseball Restroom Roof Replacement	\$30,000	General Fund, MDNR, MEDC Grants
2024-2027	Clintonwood Park	Walking Trail Paving	\$250,000	General Fund, MDNR, MEDC Grants
2024-2027	Clintonwood Park	Senior Center Roof Replacement	\$30,000	General Fund, MDNR, MEDC Grants
2023	Deer Lake Beach	Install Accessible Parkway	TBD	General Fund, MDNR, MEDC Grants

Target Year	Project Location	Project Description	Estimated Costs	Revenue Source
2023	Deer Lake Beach	Shoreline Restoration Project	\$140,000	General Fund, MDNR, MEDC Grants
2024-2027	Deer Lake Beach	Boat Ramp/Dock Replacement	\$70,000	General Fund, MDNR, MEDC Grants
2024-2027	Sashabaw Plains	Baseball Field Renovations	\$200,000	General Fund, MDNR, MEDC Grants
2024-2027	Sashabaw Plains	Playground Replacement	\$400,000	General Fund, MDNR, MEDC Grants
2024-2027	Sashabaw Plains	Pavilion Upgrade/Replacement	\$150,000	General Fund, MDNR, MEDC Grants
2024-2027	Sashabaw Plains	Restroom Renovation	\$20,000	General Fund, MDNR, MEDC Grants
2024-2027	Sashabaw Plains	Parking Lot Expansion	\$300,000	General Fund, MDNR, MEDC Grants
2024-2027	Sashabaw Plains	Purchase Gator/Toro	\$20,000	General Fund
2024-2027	McCord Park	Master Plan	TBD	General Fund, MDNR, MEDC Grants
2024-2027	McCord Park	Development Project(s)	TBD	General Fund, MDNR, MEDC Grants
2023-2027	Land Acquisition	Acquire Large Parcel in NW Portion of the Township	TBD	General Fund, MDNR Grants
2023-2027	Land Acquisition	Acquire Clarkston Road-Zoonan Property	TBD	General Fund, MDNR Grants
2023-2027	Land Acquisition	Acquire Ratalee/Reese Road Property	TBD	General Fund, MDNR Grants
2023-2027	Equipment Purchase	Acquire CAT Skid Steer Loader	TBD	General Fund
2023-2027	All Park Properties	ADA Audit and Transition Plan	TBD	General Fund

*** THIS DOCUMENT IS A LONG RANGE PLANNING DOCUMENT THAT WILL CONTINUE TO EVOLVE AND IS REVIEWED ON AN ANNUAL BASIS. ALL PROJECTS LISTED ARE SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDING THROUGH THE GRANT SOURCE, TOTAL OF PRIVATE DONATIONS AND THE GENERAL FUND AND THE APPROVAL OF THE TOWNSHIP BOARD.

*** THE TOWNSHIP WILL CONTINUE TO SEEK OUT OTHER SOURCES FOR GRANTS IN ADDITION TO THOSE LISTED ABOVE.

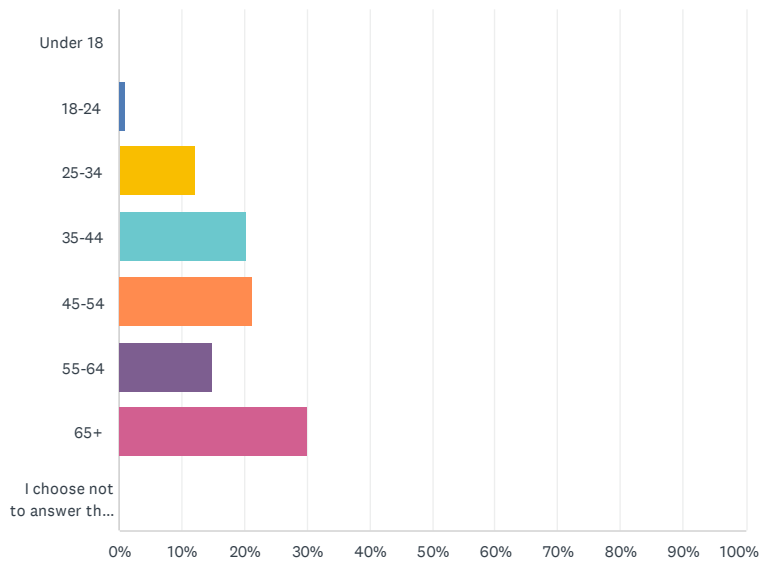
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Results of Online Opinion Survey

Appendix

Q1 What is your age?

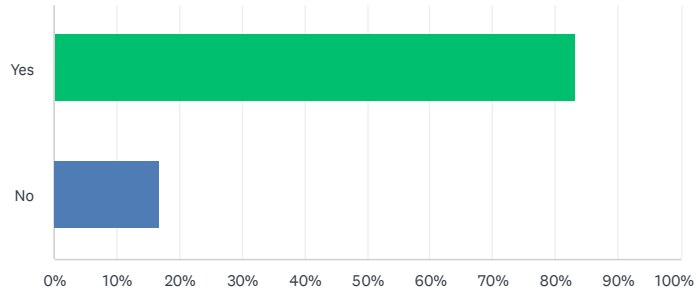
Answered: 173 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under 18	0.00%	0
18-24	1.16%	2
25-34	12.14%	21
35-44	20.23%	35
45-54	21.39%	37
55-64	15.03%	26
65+	30.06%	52
I choose not to answer this question.	0.00%	0
TOTAL		173

Q2 Are you a resident within Independence Township?

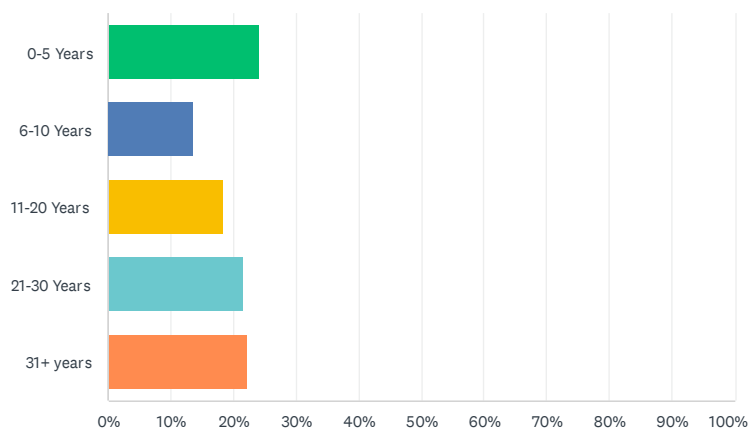
Answered: 173 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	83.24%	144
No	16.76%	29
TOTAL		173

Q3 If yes, how many years have you lived within the Township?

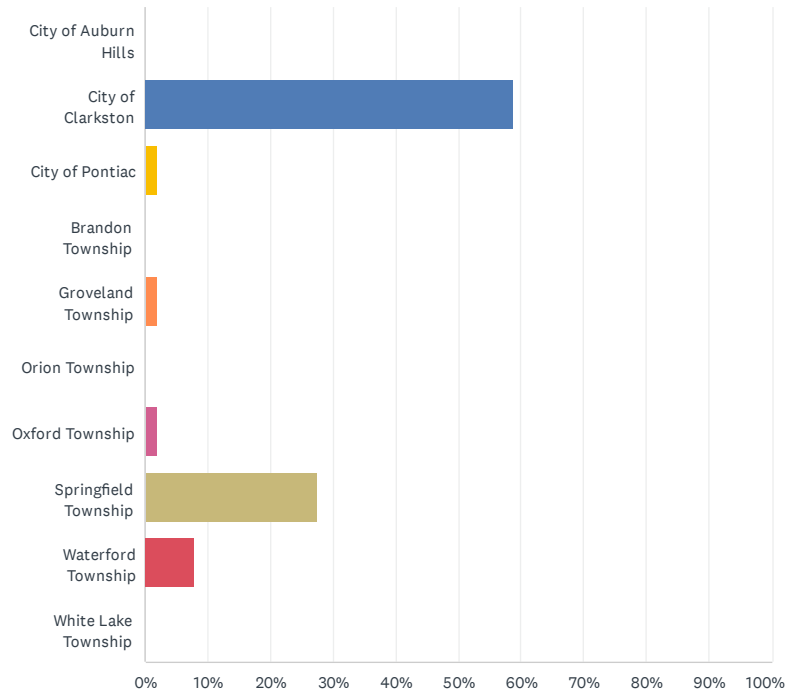
Answered: 153 Skipped: 20



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
0-5 Years	24.18%	37
6-10 Years	13.73%	21
11-20 Years	18.30%	28
21-30 Years	21.57%	33
31+ years	22.22%	34
TOTAL		153

Q4 If not, in which city or township do you reside?

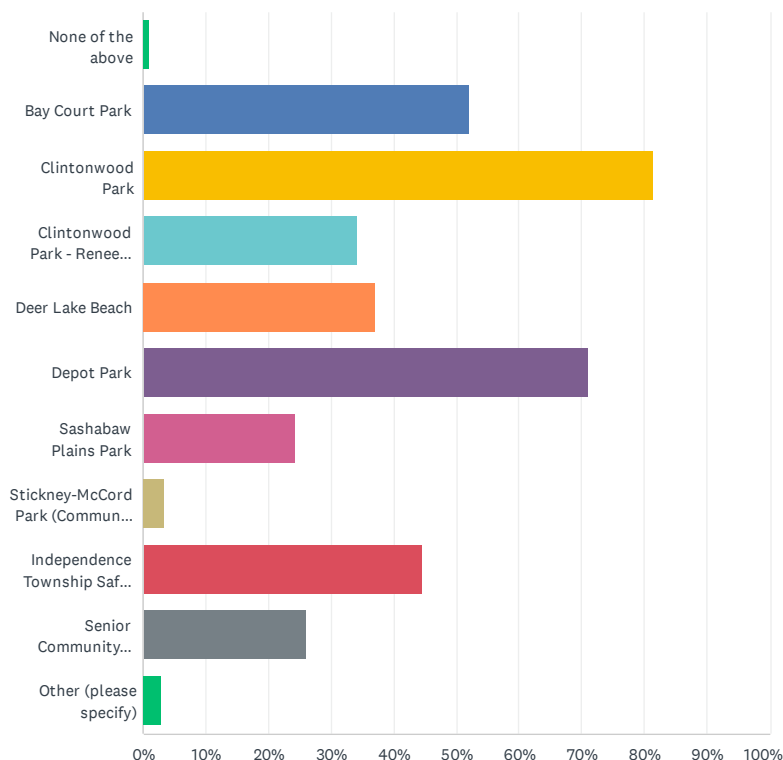
Answered: 51 Skipped: 122



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
City of Auburn Hills	0.00%	0
City of Clarkston	58.82%	30
City of Pontiac	1.96%	1
Brandon Township	0.00%	0
Groveland Township	1.96%	1
Orion Township	0.00%	0
Oxford Township	1.96%	1
Springfield Township	27.45%	14
Waterford Township	7.84%	4
White Lake Township	0.00%	0
TOTAL		51

Q5 Please indicate if you or any member of your household has used any of the following Independence Township parks/facilities during the past 12 months. Please note that Independence Oaks Park is an Oakland County facility and is operated through Oakland County Parks.

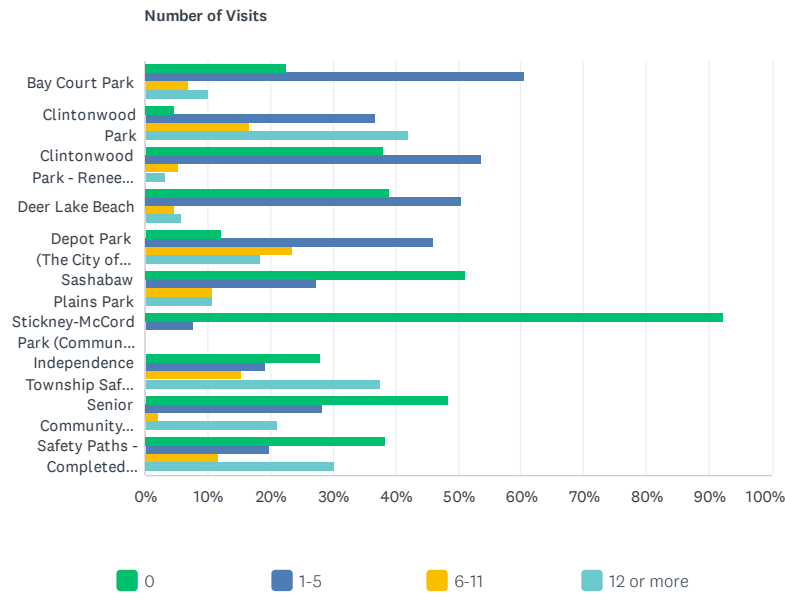
Answered: 173 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
None of the above	1.16% 2
Bay Court Park	52.02% 90
Clintonwood Park	81.50% 141
Clintonwood Park - Renee Przybylski Memorial Spray Park	34.10% 59
Deer Lake Beach	36.99% 64
Depot Park	71.10% 123
Sashabaw Plains Park	24.28% 42
Stickney-McCord Park (Community Gardens)	3.47% 6
Independence Township Safety Paths	44.51% 77
Senior Community Center	26.01% 45
Other (please specify)	2.89% 5
Total Respondents: 173	

Q6 Please indicate how many times you or any member of your household has visited any of the following Independence Township parks/facilities during the past 12 months.

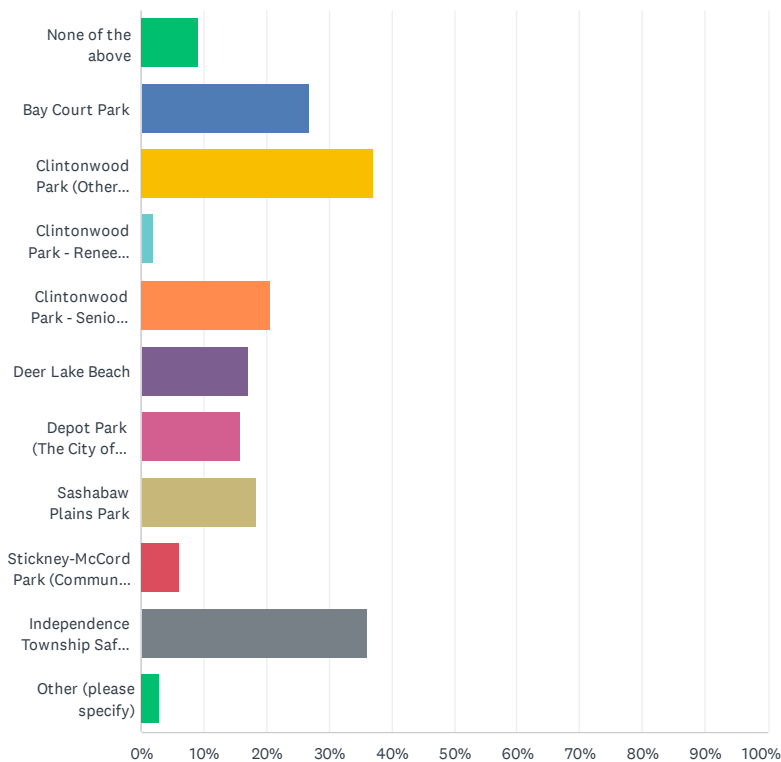
Answered: 171 Skipped: 2



Number of Visits					
	0	1-5	6-11	12 OR MORE	TOTAL
Bay Court Park	22.69% 27	60.50% 72	6.72% 8	10.08% 12	119
Clintonwood Park	4.67% 7	36.67% 55	16.67% 25	42.00% 63	150
Clintonwood Park - Renee Przybylski Memorial Spray Park	37.89% 36	53.68% 51	5.26% 5	3.16% 3	95
Deer Lake Beach	39.05% 41	50.48% 53	4.76% 5	5.71% 6	105
Depot Park (The City of The Village of Clarkston)	12.06% 17	46.10% 65	23.40% 33	18.44% 26	141
Sashabaw Plains Park	51.19% 43	27.38% 23	10.71% 9	10.71% 9	84
Stickney-McCord Park (Community Gardens)	92.31% 60	7.69% 5	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	65
Independence Township Safety Paths	27.88% 29	19.23% 20	15.38% 16	37.50% 39	104
Senior Community Center	48.42% 46	28.42% 27	2.11% 2	21.05% 20	95
Safety Paths - Completed sections	38.37% 33	19.77% 17	11.63% 10	30.23% 26	86

Q7 To which parks or recreation facilities would you like to see improvements made? (Select up to 3)

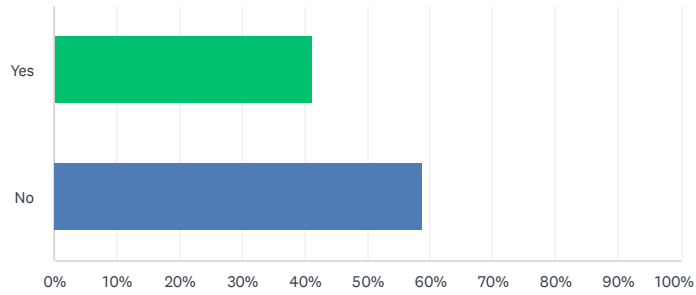
Answered: 164 Skipped: 9



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None of the above	9.15%	15
Bay Court Park	26.83%	44
Clintonwood Park (Other than Spray Park or Senior Center)	37.20%	61
Clintonwood Park - Renee Przybylski Memorial Spray Park	1.83%	3
Clintonwood Park - Senior Community Center	20.73%	34
Deer Lake Beach	17.07%	28
Depot Park (The City of the Village of Clarkston)	15.85%	26
Sashabaw Plains Park	18.29%	30
Stickney-McCord Park (Community Gardens)	6.10%	10
Independence Township Safety Paths (Trails)	35.98%	59
Other (please specify)	3.05%	5
Total Respondents: 164		

Q8 Do you feel like there are adequate parks and recreation facilities nearby you can get to without driving?

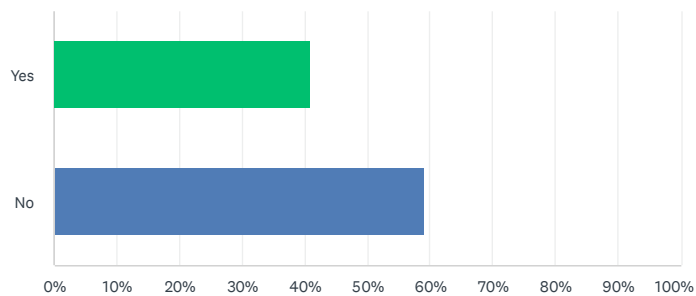
Answered: 170 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	41.18%	70
No	58.82%	100
TOTAL		170

Q9 Do you participate in any current Independence Township recreation programming?

Answered: 173 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	41.04%	71
No	58.96%	102
TOTAL		173

Q10 If you do participate in recreation programming, please indicate which ones.

Answered: 66 Skipped: 107

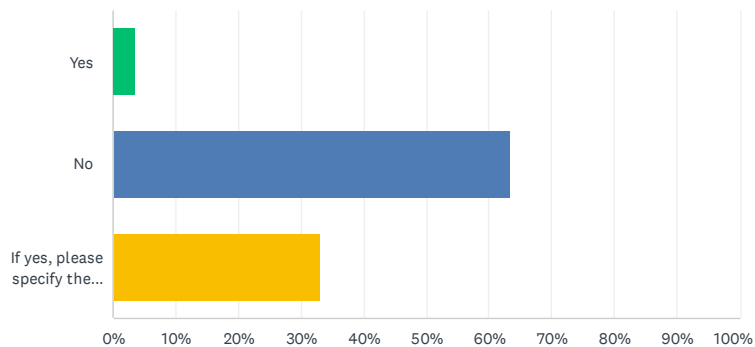
#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Exercise	1/5/2023 4:13 PM
2	Exercise	1/5/2023 4:08 PM
3	Line dancing	1/5/2023 4:02 PM
4	Boot camp in the park. Yoga on the beach	11/23/2022 11:30 AM
5	Cards at the Sr. Center	11/21/2022 3:03 PM
6	Bike club	11/18/2022 7:48 PM
7	want to join senior center- pickleball (courts look great!)	11/16/2022 1:59 PM
8	Master Plan Stakeholder Group	11/14/2022 9:52 AM
9	Friends of Depot Park	11/13/2022 6:16 AM
10	Youth sports,	11/10/2022 1:05 PM
11	Soccer	11/10/2022 9:18 AM
12	Parks & Rec youth sports	11/10/2022 8:13 AM
13	Exercise programs	10/28/2022 9:02 AM
14	Various camps	10/27/2022 9:40 PM
15	Kids softball and basketball	10/27/2022 7:54 AM
16	Pickleball	10/25/2022 10:02 PM
17	Kid's sports	10/11/2022 6:11 PM
18	Pickleball	10/10/2022 11:49 AM
19	Sports	10/8/2022 3:29 PM
20	Friendly Forest, Bay Court Winter forest	10/2/2022 10:52 AM
21	Kids sports, swim lessons at Deer Lake Beach, kids camps	10/1/2022 11:48 AM
22	Usually day camps and special events	9/28/2022 8:57 PM
23	Wife played bridge at Senior center	9/27/2022 8:10 PM
24	Senior Community Center	9/27/2022 6:41 PM
25	Pickleball	9/27/2022 5:24 PM
26	senior center classes and programs	9/27/2022 12:21 PM
27	Events, sports	9/23/2022 2:56 PM
28	Day trips thru the Senior Center, pole walking.	9/22/2022 7:23 AM
29	Senior Center Board	9/22/2022 6:36 AM
30	baseball, softball, Deer Lake swim lessons, soccer, tennis, and art classes	9/22/2022 2:00 AM
31	Senior center and grand kids	9/21/2022 7:25 PM

Appendix

32	Senior bowling on Mondays.	9/21/2022 4:53 PM
33	line dance at the senior center	9/21/2022 4:30 PM
34	Pickleball	9/21/2022 2:56 PM
35	Senior games	9/21/2022 2:10 PM
36	pickleball	9/21/2022 1:32 PM
37	Soccer Baseball	9/21/2022 12:12 PM
38	Soccer	9/18/2022 7:35 AM
39	Soccer, tball, summer camp	9/16/2022 5:04 AM
40	Goldfish	9/15/2022 9:23 AM
41	Soccer	9/14/2022 7:12 PM
42	my child plays soccer and baseball, and runs cross country	9/13/2022 6:39 PM
43	My so is in youth soccer	9/12/2022 8:58 PM
44	Park	9/11/2022 4:43 PM
45	Soccer, football and swimming	9/10/2022 10:06 PM
46	Youth soccer	9/10/2022 8:29 PM
47	Pickleball	9/9/2022 3:02 PM
48	Day Camp	9/9/2022 2:15 PM
49	Swim classes, soccer games	9/9/2022 1:05 PM
50	BASEBALL	9/9/2022 8:57 AM
51	N/A	9/8/2022 10:30 AM
52	Pickleball	9/8/2022 10:01 AM
53	kids sports	9/8/2022 7:10 AM
54	Special events like Friendly Forest, bucks for buses	9/7/2022 6:33 PM
55	Youth soccer Adult fitness Special events Flag football Swim lessons	9/7/2022 6:32 PM
56	Day Camp, Tennis, Soccer, kids day in the park	9/7/2022 4:35 PM
57	Youth baseball	9/7/2022 2:41 PM
58	Little Sluggers (Child plays & I coach) Kiddie Kickers 4 (Child plays) Junior Kickers 7 (Child plays)	9/7/2022 1:18 PM
59	Baseball, TR Basketball Buddy, Summer Day Camp, Cheer Clinic, Champion Force Cheer, Robotics, Holiday Activities (Trunk or Treats, Santa Visits, etc)	9/7/2022 12:47 PM
60	Kids baseball	9/7/2022 12:42 PM
61	Youth Soccer / baseball / basketball	9/7/2022 12:34 PM
62	Summer camps, lacrosse, robotics, volleyball	9/7/2022 9:46 AM
63	Lacrosse, many camps	9/7/2022 9:18 AM
64	Pickleball	9/6/2022 11:24 AM
65	Pickleball at Springfield Oaks	9/5/2022 3:59 PM
66	Soccer	9/4/2022 7:34 PM

Q11 Are there any additional programs you wish Independence Township offered?

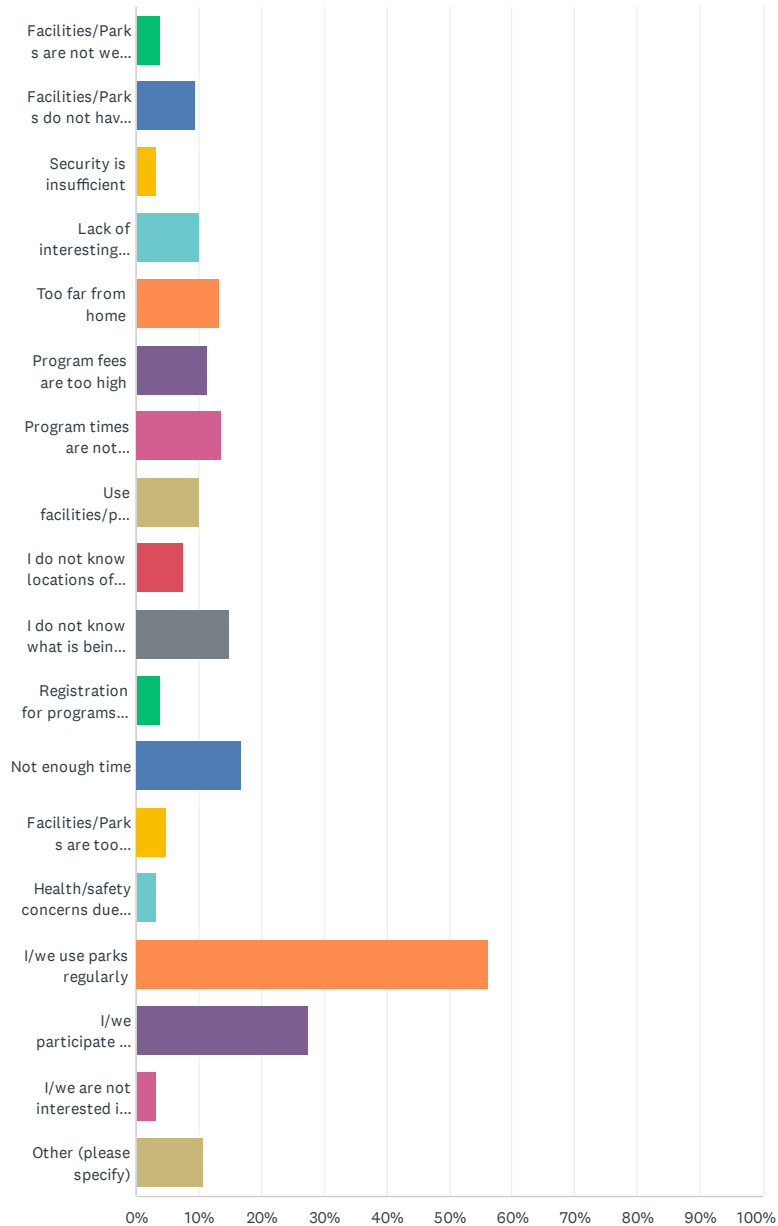
Answered: 142 Skipped: 31



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	3.52% 5
No	63.38% 90
If yes, please specify the program.	33.10% 47
TOTAL	142

Q12 Please CHECK ALL of the following reasons that prevent you or other members of your household from using parks, recreation facilities, and programs offered by Independence Township .

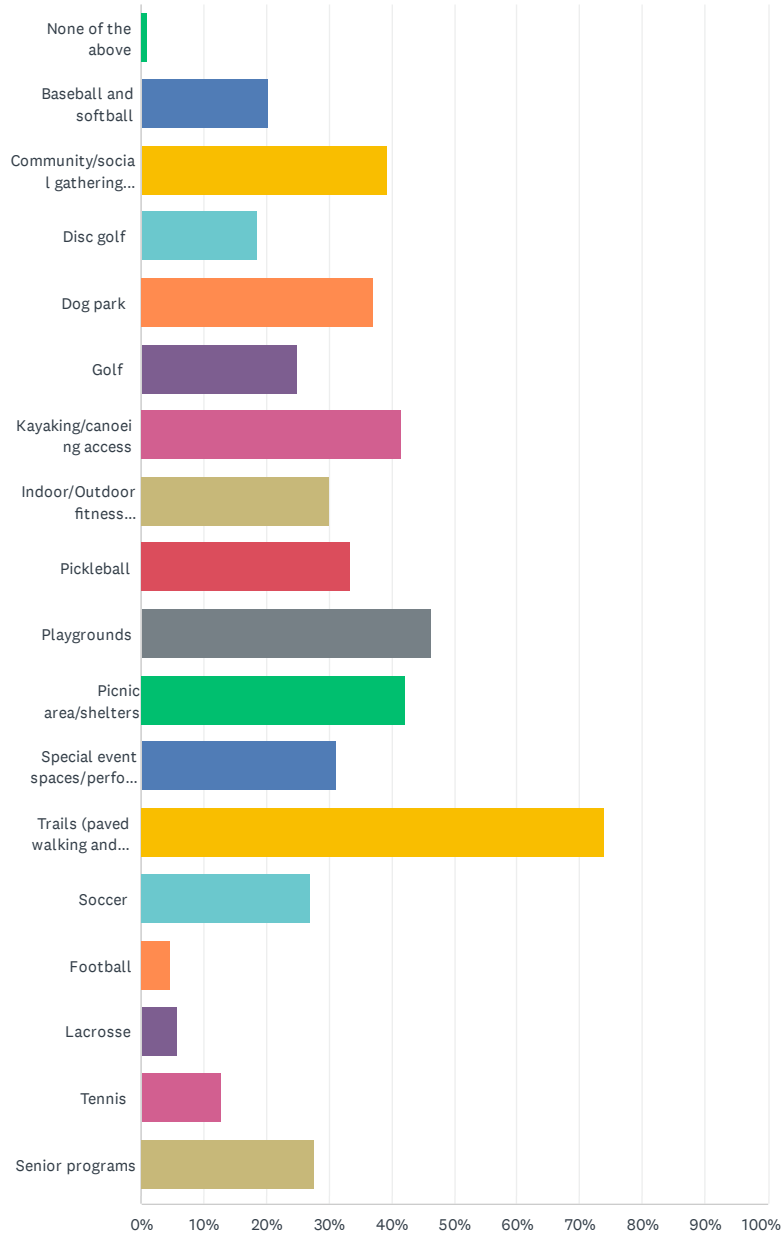
Answered: 160 Skipped: 13

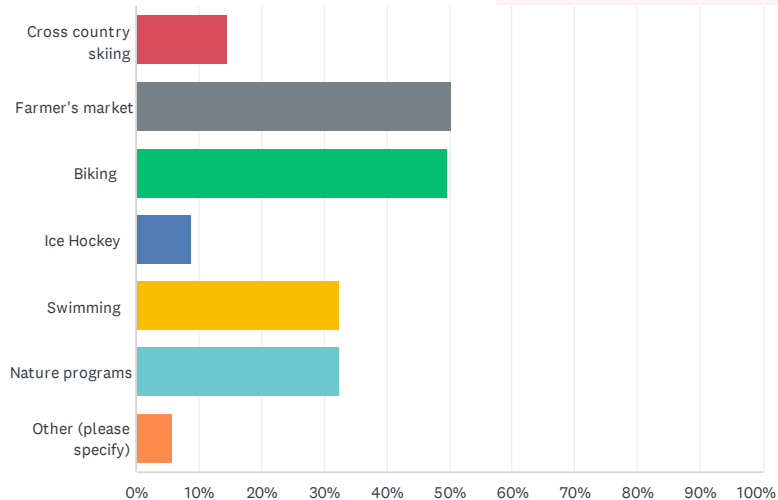


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Facilities/Parks are not well maintained	3.75%	6
Facilities/Parks do not have the right equipment	9.38%	15
Security is insufficient	3.13%	5
Lack of interesting programs	10.00%	16
Too far from home	13.13%	21
Program fees are too high	11.25%	18
Program times are not convenient	13.75%	22
Use facilities/parks in other communities	10.00%	16
I do not know locations of parks	7.50%	12
I do not know what is being offered	15.00%	24
Registration for programs is difficult	3.75%	6
Not enough time	16.88%	27
Facilities/Parks are too busy/crowded	5.00%	8
Health/safety concerns due to COVID-19 virus	3.13%	5
I/we use parks regularly	56.25%	90
I/we participate in programs regularly	27.50%	44
I/we are not interested in using parks/participating in programs	3.13%	5
Other (please specify)	10.63%	17
Total Respondents: 160		

Q13 Please select all of the activities, amenities, and facilities you, or your family participate, or are interested in.

Answered: 173 Skipped: 0

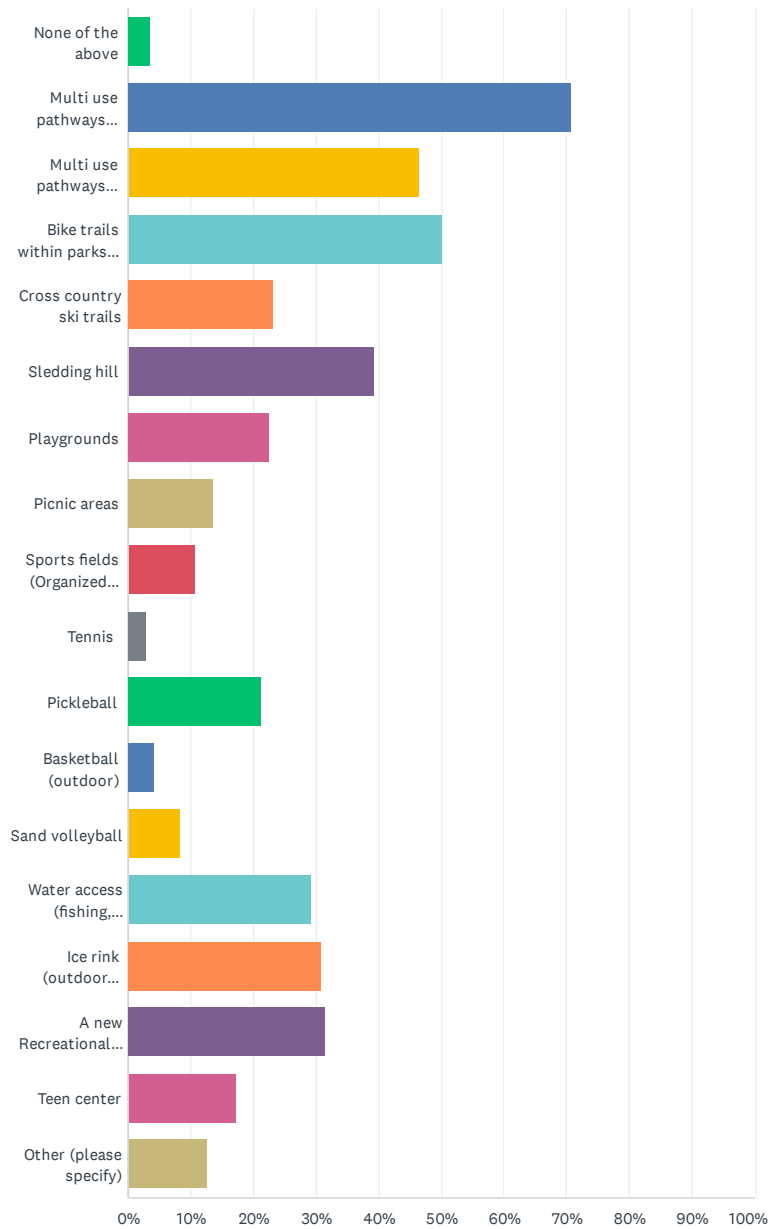




ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None of the above	1.16%	2
Baseball and softball	20.23%	35
Community/social gathering spaces	39.31%	68
Disc golf	18.50%	32
Dog park	36.99%	64
Golf	24.86%	43
Kayaking/canoeing access	41.62%	72
Indoor/Outdoor fitness equipment	30.06%	52
Pickleball	33.53%	58
Playgrounds	46.24%	80
Picnic area/shelters	42.20%	73
Special event spaces/performance spaces/stage	31.21%	54
Trails (paved walking and biking trails)	73.99%	128
Soccer	27.17%	47
Football	4.62%	8
Lacrosse	5.78%	10
Tennis	12.72%	22
Senior programs	27.75%	48
Cross country skiing	14.45%	25
Farmer's market	50.29%	87
Biking	49.71%	86
Ice Hockey	8.67%	15
Swimming	32.37%	56
Nature programs	32.37%	56
Other (please specify)	5.78%	10
Total Respondents: 173		

Q14 What type of park amenities would you, or your family, like to see more of?

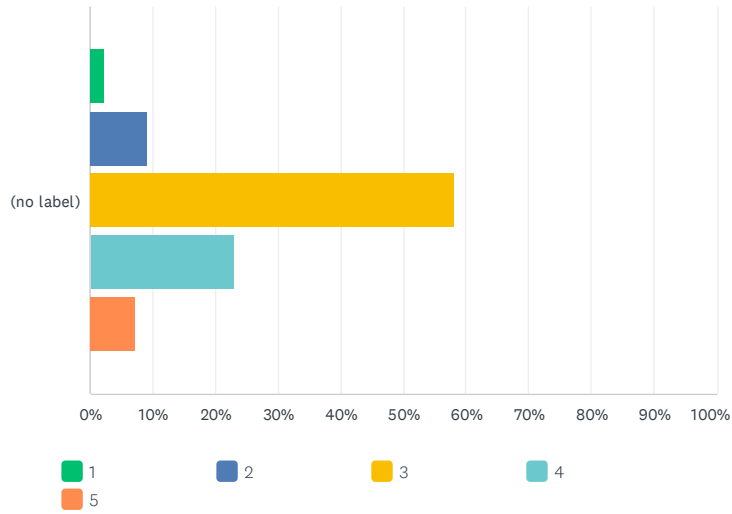
Answered: 168 Skipped: 5



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None of the above	3.57%	6
Multi use pathways (paved) connecting destinations	70.83%	119
Multi use pathways (paved) within existing parks	46.43%	78
Bike trails within parks or natural areas	50.00%	84
Cross country ski trails	23.21%	39
Sledding hill	39.29%	66
Playgrounds	22.62%	38
Picnic areas	13.69%	23
Sports fields (Organized baseball, softball, soccer etc.)	10.71%	18
Tennis	2.98%	5
Pickleball	21.43%	36
Basketball (outdoor)	4.17%	7
Sand volleyball	8.33%	14
Water access (fishing, boating, swimming)	29.17%	49
Ice rink (outdoor organized, hockey, figure skating, open skate)	30.95%	52
A new Recreational/Health Center building	31.55%	53
Teen center	17.26%	29
Other (please specify)	12.50%	21
Total Respondents: 168		

Q15 Please rate the existing pathway and trail system with 1 being the worst and 5 being the best.

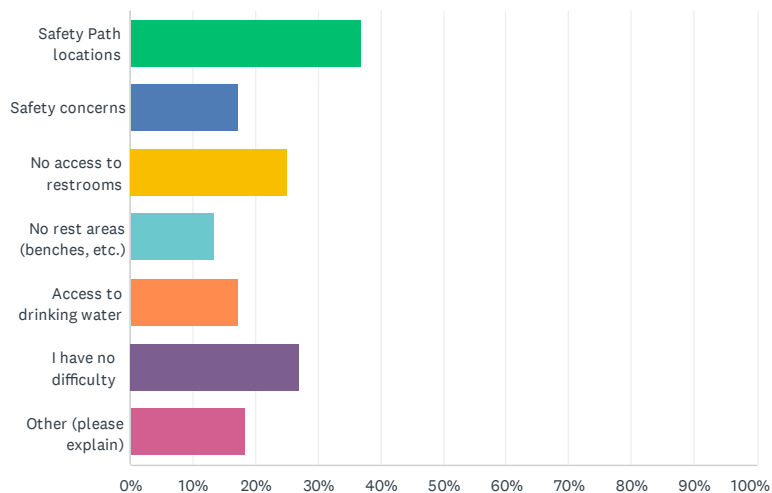
Answered: 165 Skipped: 8



	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	2.42%	9.09%	58.18%	23.03%	7.27%		
	4	15	96	38	12	165	3.24

Q16 What makes it difficult for you to use pathways throughout Independence Township? Choose all that apply.

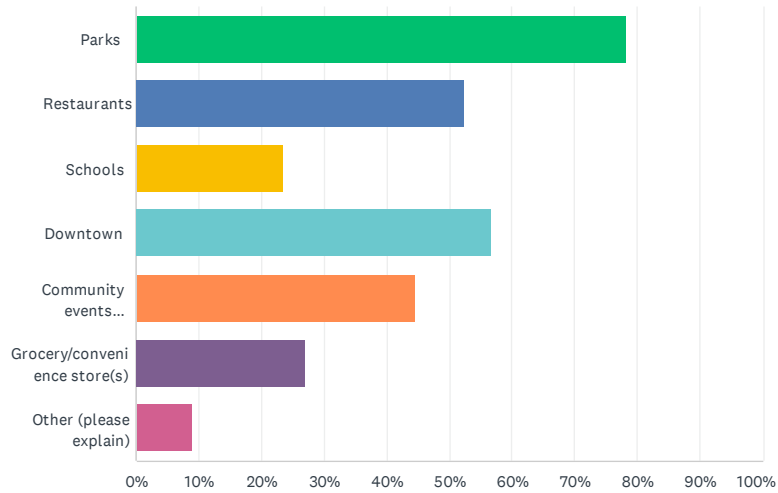
Answered: 163 Skipped: 10



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	COUNT
Safety Path locations	36.81%	60
Safety concerns	17.18%	28
No access to restrooms	25.15%	41
No rest areas (benches, etc.)	13.50%	22
Access to drinking water	17.18%	28
I have no difficulty	26.99%	44
Other (please explain)	18.40%	30
Total Respondents: 163		

Q17 List the most desired destinations you would like to be able to walk/bike to within the next 5 years. (3 selections maximum)

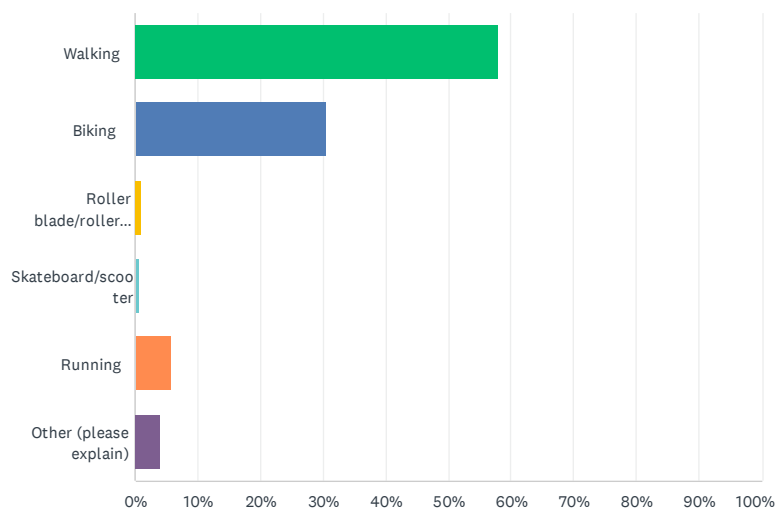
Answered: 166 Skipped: 7



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Parks	78.31%	130
Restaurants	52.41%	87
Schools	23.49%	39
Downtown	56.63%	94
Community events (parades, festivals, art in the park, etc.)	44.58%	74
Grocery/convenience store(s)	27.11%	45
Other (please explain)	9.04%	15
Total Respondents: 166		

Q18 What type of activity do you use pathways for most often?

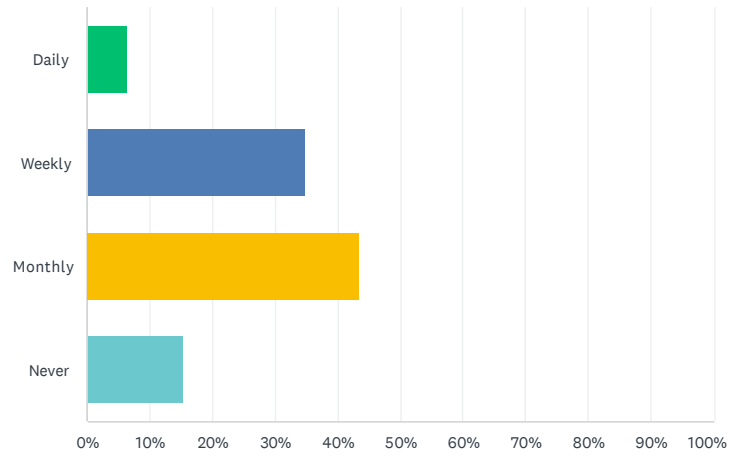
Answered: 171 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Walking	57.89%	99
Biking	30.41%	52
Roller blade/roller skate	1.17%	2
Skateboard/scooter	0.58%	1
Running	5.85%	10
Other (please explain)	4.09%	7
TOTAL		171

Q19 How often do you use the pathways in Independence Township?

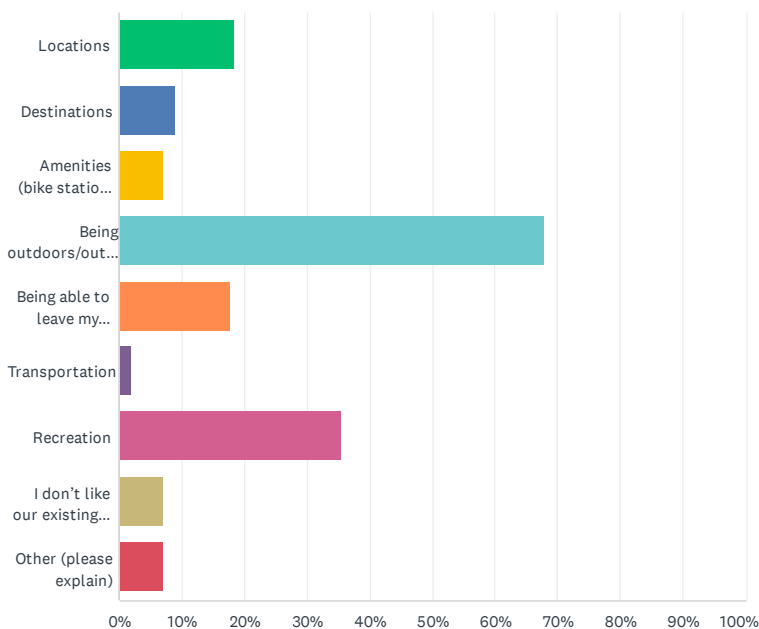
Answered: 170 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Daily	6.47%	11
Weekly	34.71%	59
Monthly	43.53%	74
Never	15.29%	26
TOTAL		170

Q20 What do you like about the existing Safety Paths in Independence Township?

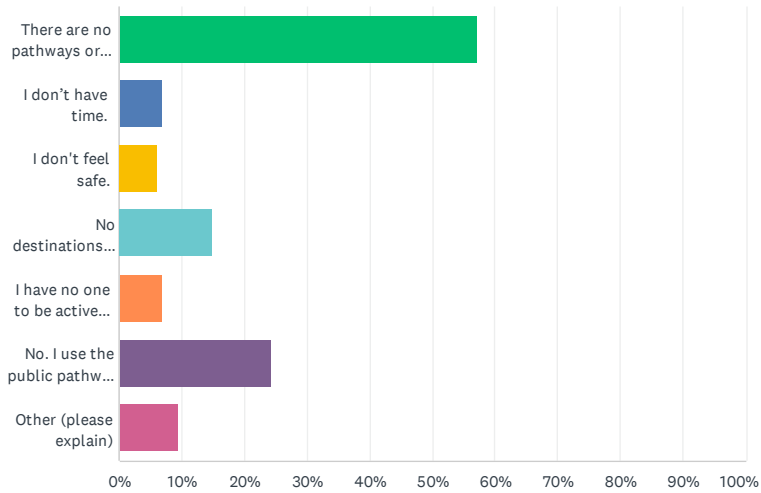
Answered: 158 Skipped: 15



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Locations	18.35%	29
Destinations	8.86%	14
Amenities (bike stations, benches, interpretive maps)	6.96%	11
Being outdoors/outdoor recreation	67.72%	107
Being able to leave my vehicle at home / Alternative Mode of transportation	17.72%	28
Transportation	1.90%	3
Recreation	35.44%	56
I don't like our existing pathways	6.96%	11
Other (please explain)	6.96%	11
Total Respondents: 158		

Q21 Do any of the following things stop you from using pathways or trails in your neighborhood? (Choose all that apply)

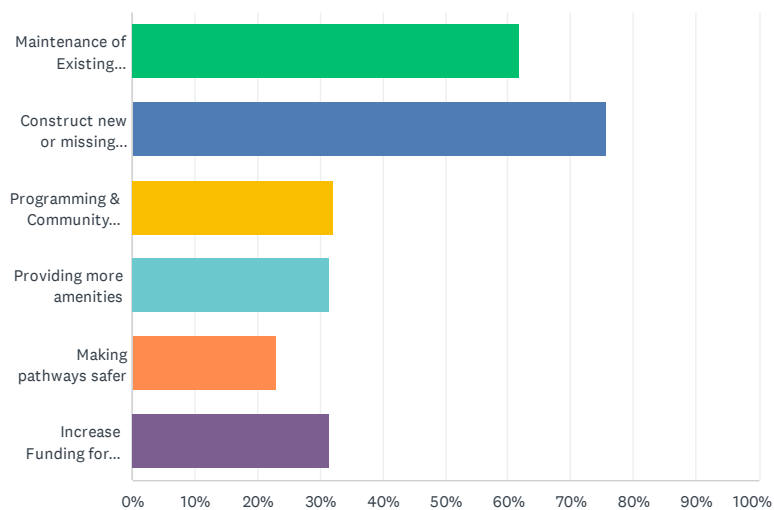
Answered: 161 Skipped: 12



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
There are no pathways or trails in my neighborhood.	57.14%	92
I don't have time.	6.83%	11
I don't feel safe.	6.21%	10
No destinations for me to go to.	14.91%	24
I have no one to be active with me.	6.83%	11
No. I use the public pathways or trails regularly.	24.22%	39
Other (please explain)	9.32%	15
Total Respondents: 161		

Q22 What should the top 3 priorities be over the next five years for the trails and pathway system?

Answered: 165 Skipped: 8



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Maintenance of Existing Pathways	61.82%	102
Construct new or missing segments of Pathways/Trails	75.76%	125
Programming & Community Events for walking and biking	32.12%	53
Providing more amenities	31.52%	52
Making pathways safer	23.03%	38
Increase Funding for Pathways & Programs	31.52%	52
Total Respondents: 165		

Q23 Please identify any locations where you feel there is a pathway gap or missing segment that should be added to the existing Pathways/Trails system.

Answered: 75 Skipped: 98

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Add to the trail at Clintonwood Park behind the soccer field	1/5/2023 4:13 PM
2	The area behind the soccer field should be cleared into a walking trail at Clintonwood Park	1/5/2023 4:08 PM
3	Andersonville Road from Bay Court to White Lake Road	11/27/2022 6:15 PM
4	Waldon Road into downtown. Safe way to get across I75 on Sashabaw. Q	11/23/2022 9:56 PM
5	Sashabaw between Clarkston Rd and Waldon especially in front of Monarch and Pine Knob. Access from Independence Valley to the path on Sashabaw is dangerous on the curve and could use little path instead of going over the curb and grass.	11/19/2022 9:05 PM
6	pathway leading to downtown Clarkston	11/15/2022 12:52 PM
7	Pedestrian/Bike Bridge over I-75 @ Perry Lk road would enable residents to access Library and Village without having to drive	11/13/2022 6:16 AM
8	northwest quadrant of the township	11/10/2022 3:56 PM
9	Sashabaw to Waldon EB Indianwood WB from Baldwin	11/10/2022 1:05 PM
10	My biggest concern is pathways in Springfield Township, but more pathways in Independence Township would be helpful, as I often run into Independence Township or from Depot Park.	11/10/2022 11:06 AM
11	Cranberry lake road west of M15	11/10/2022 11:03 AM
12	No gap but should have maps	11/2/2022 5:02 AM
13	Bridge over 75	10/28/2022 6:38 AM
14	M-15 North of I-75 to downtown Clarkston	10/27/2022 4:35 PM
15	I would like a path or sidewalk on Deerhill drive, between Dixie and Holcomb. Lots of walkers are in the road and it's dangerous	10/27/2022 2:38 PM
16	North side of Clarkston	10/27/2022 7:54 AM
17	Dixie Hwy - no access to schools for Springfield Twp children	10/26/2022 12:49 PM
18	Connect to Pollyann	10/14/2022 6:43 PM
19	Cross walk over major roads	10/11/2022 6:11 PM
20	Dixie hwy to main street and Waterford rd to Sashabaw	10/10/2022 11:49 AM
21	Waldon road overpass pedestrian connector	10/5/2022 7:19 PM
22	Lake Oakland Woods sub	10/2/2022 10:52 AM
23	There are no bike trails at any of the parks. It would be great to park our cars at Depot, Clintonwood or Bay Court with our bike trailer and start a trail, but as far as I know that doesn't exist. A publication of the trails would be really helpful. Lake Orion does an amazing job and you should look at what they are doing.	10/1/2022 11:48 AM
24	Along Waldon Rd. from Sashabaw to Pine Knob condos...major gap. The Waldon/Sashabaw intersection is a disaster. The existing paths east before the gap are on the north side. At Sashabaw, they are on the south side. Continuity issue.	9/30/2022 11:14 PM
25	Cranberry Lake/M-15 area	9/29/2022 4:44 PM

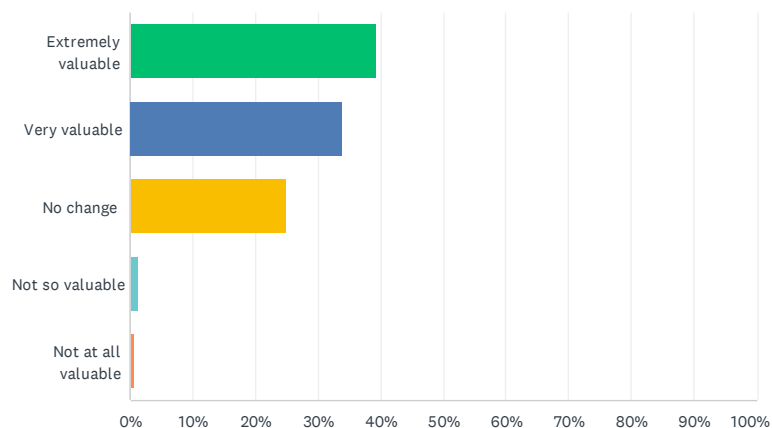
26	Crossing across Sashabaw to Independence Valley subdivision is extremely dangerous	9/28/2022 11:27 AM
27	Waldon Rd over I 75 between Pine Knob Golf Course and Sashabaw.	9/27/2022 8:10 PM
28	South Eston Rd.	9/27/2022 6:42 PM
29	Holcomb Rd to Davisburg Rd to Dixie Hwy.	9/27/2022 6:41 PM
30	On Waldon just south of Sashabaw.	9/27/2022 5:24 PM
31	Andersonville and the neighborhood the goes from Andersonville to Dixie. I would like to be able to go down Andersonville on a bike or rollerblades safely without having to be on the road.	9/27/2022 11:43 AM
32	Sashabaw Road in front of Culver's/Taco Bell	9/26/2022 10:49 PM
33	Thendara Park and Eston	9/22/2022 2:00 AM
34	From Deerwood to existing trails	9/21/2022 7:25 PM
35	Forest Valley Dr., Alpine way and Greenview Dr. THe traffic flow is so heavy and vehicle speeds often exceed 40 mph. Police have been asked to monitor more often (especially during student drop off and pick up times) This has not happened. Best solution is to block Thendara Park traffic form entering Hill Top and Pine Knob Country Estates subdivisions.	9/21/2022 2:15 PM
36	Connecting to Indianwood Rd	9/21/2022 1:56 PM
37	Cranberry lake road between m-15 and the path that connects off of perry lake road	9/21/2022 12:12 PM
38	Pine knob area to downtown or nearby lakes	9/20/2022 11:44 AM
39	Andersonville	9/18/2022 7:35 AM
40	Access from M15 to the rest of Clarkston is not ideal. Access North on Holcomb road also lacks safety paths. Also, more remote safety paths for recreational enjoyment that are not along roadways would be nice, though I acknowledge this is not necessarily feasible.	9/16/2022 8:52 AM
41	Pibe Knob Rd	9/15/2022 9:23 AM
42	Waldon road from Sashabaw to Pine Knob.	9/14/2022 7:12 PM
43	Anytime you can connect people to downtown businesses and communitny parks it is important.	9/13/2022 6:39 PM
44	Link between pine knob or Stickney to Sashabaw. Also on pine knob road to Clarkston Rd	9/10/2022 10:06 PM
45	Over I-75 at Waldon	9/9/2022 3:02 PM
46	Na	9/9/2022 1:05 PM
47	N/A	9/8/2022 10:30 AM
48	Between i75 and Clarkston Rd	9/8/2022 10:01 AM
49	all schools should have a safe way for students to walk or bike. some paths just stop because you hit springfield township - work together!!!	9/8/2022 7:10 AM
50	stickney road.	9/8/2022 12:51 AM
51	Cxx	9/7/2022 6:33 PM
52	Sashabaw getting over 75	9/7/2022 6:32 PM
53	Extend sidewalk on white lake road from Dixie Hwy to where it meets near Village Dr	9/7/2022 4:35 PM
54	Not sure where all these are	9/7/2022 2:41 PM
55	N/A	9/7/2022 1:18 PM
56	just anywhere around Clarkston, just overall link more tails together. No specific area	9/7/2022 1:13 PM
57	None - but would love to see mountain bike trails added if there is opportunity (unpaved, treed)	9/7/2022 12:47 PM
58	Greenview Drive by Bailey Lake Elementary	9/7/2022 12:42 PM

Appendix

59	None	9/7/2022 12:34 PM
60	idufwuqiegf	9/7/2022 10:31 AM
61	From independence oaks park North to Oakhill rd	9/7/2022 9:46 AM
62	On Sashabaw Rd at Pine Knob Rd/Ridge Trail. A path on the East side of the road heading north to meet the crosswalk near Ashford. That crosswalk meets the safety path at the North Independence Oaks Park entrance.	9/7/2022 9:18 AM
63	Don't know. Paths near me are all I need to use	9/6/2022 2:48 PM
64	Clintonwood	9/6/2022 11:24 AM
65	Paramus Road - Clarkston Estates I and II need to be connected.	9/6/2022 9:36 AM
66	I wish our neighborhoods connected to the path and park systems.	9/5/2022 8:39 PM
67	M15 is not safe to cross the street to continue on the safety path	9/5/2022 8:04 PM
68	Maybe to downtown Clarkston	9/5/2022 6:03 PM
69	cannot think of one.	9/5/2022 4:23 PM
70	I live in Davisburg, opi need to drive to a park to use any pathways	9/5/2022 3:59 PM
71	No comment	9/5/2022 3:40 PM
72	Pathway down Sashabaw towards Walton.	9/5/2022 3:35 PM
73	N/A	9/5/2022 3:29 PM
74	North Eston road is dangerous with no paths to get out to the paths along Clarkston road	9/5/2022 1:27 PM
75	N/A	9/4/2022 7:34 PM

Q24 Given the recent COVID-19 Pandemic, how has you and your perception of the value of parks, trails, and open spaces changed?

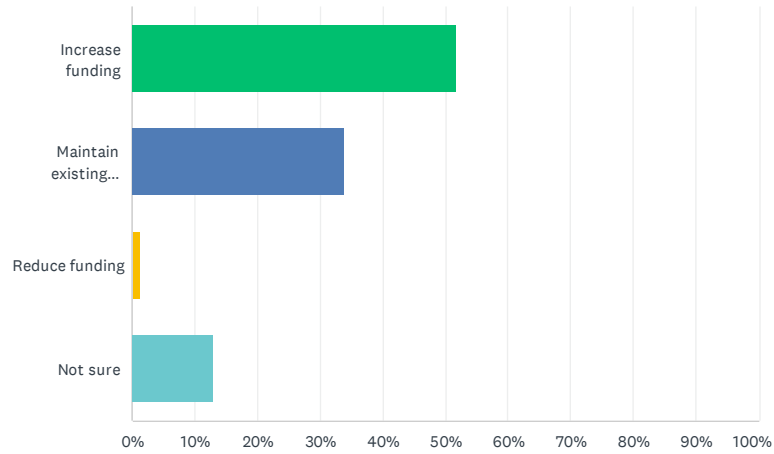
Answered: 168 Skipped: 5



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Extremely valuable	39.29%	66
Very valuable	33.93%	57
No change	25.00%	42
Not so valuable	1.19%	2
Not at all valuable	0.60%	1
TOTAL		168

Q25 How do you want Independence Township to fund future parks, recreation, trails and open space needs?

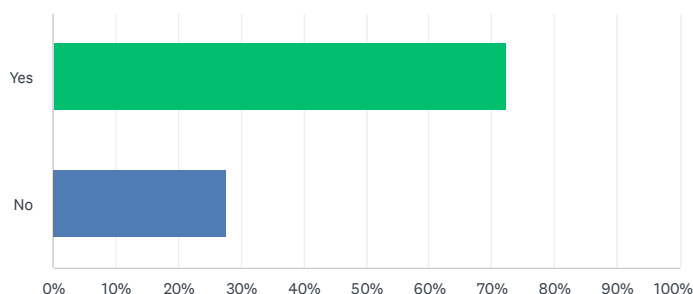
Answered: 168 Skipped: 5



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Increase funding	51.79%	87
Maintain existing funding	33.93%	57
Reduce funding	1.19%	2
Not sure	13.10%	22
TOTAL		168

Q26 Would you support a millage to build a new Health and Fitness Community Center? Amenities would include fitness areas, arts, theater, aquatics, and a gym.

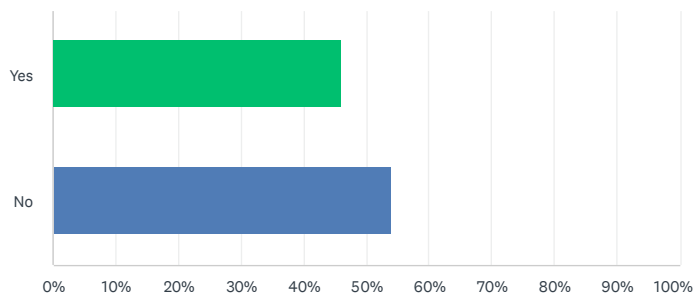
Answered: 169 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	72.19%	122
No	27.81%	47
TOTAL		169

Q27 Would you support building an ice arena featuring activities like hockey, figure skating, and other programs?

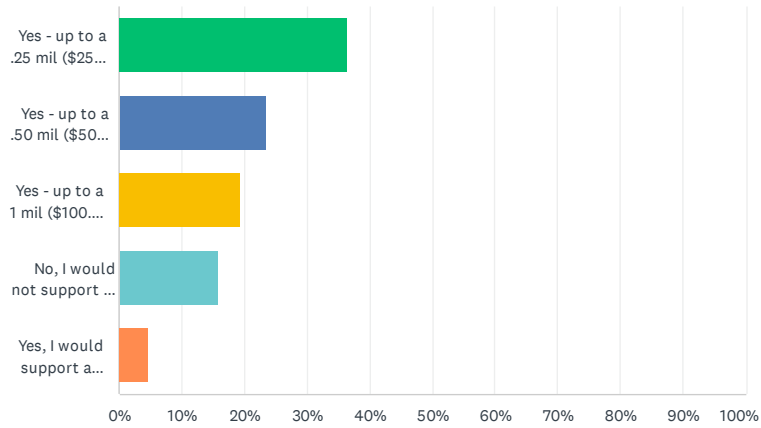
Answered: 169 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	46.15%	78
No	53.85%	91
TOTAL		169

Q28 Would you support a community wide millage to help develop, maintain, and improve Independence Township's recreation facilities?

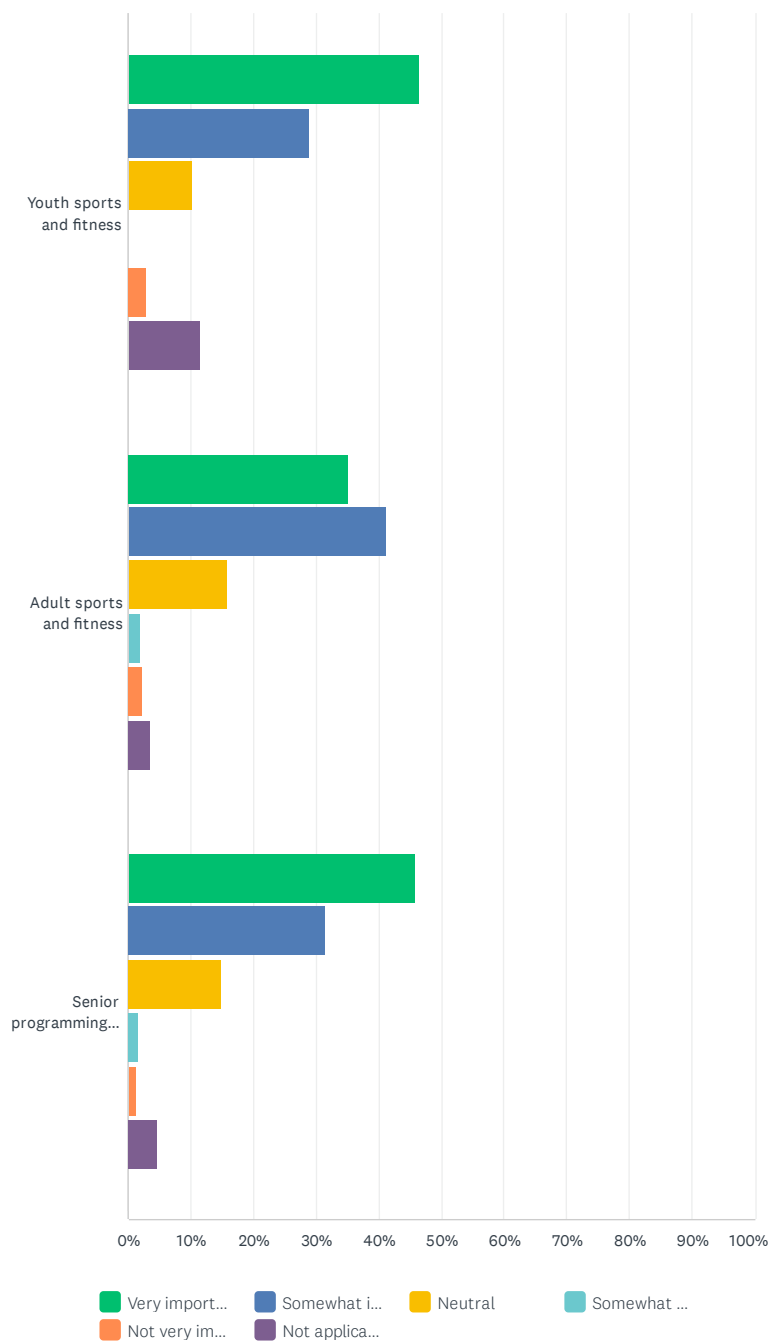
Answered: 170 Skipped: 3

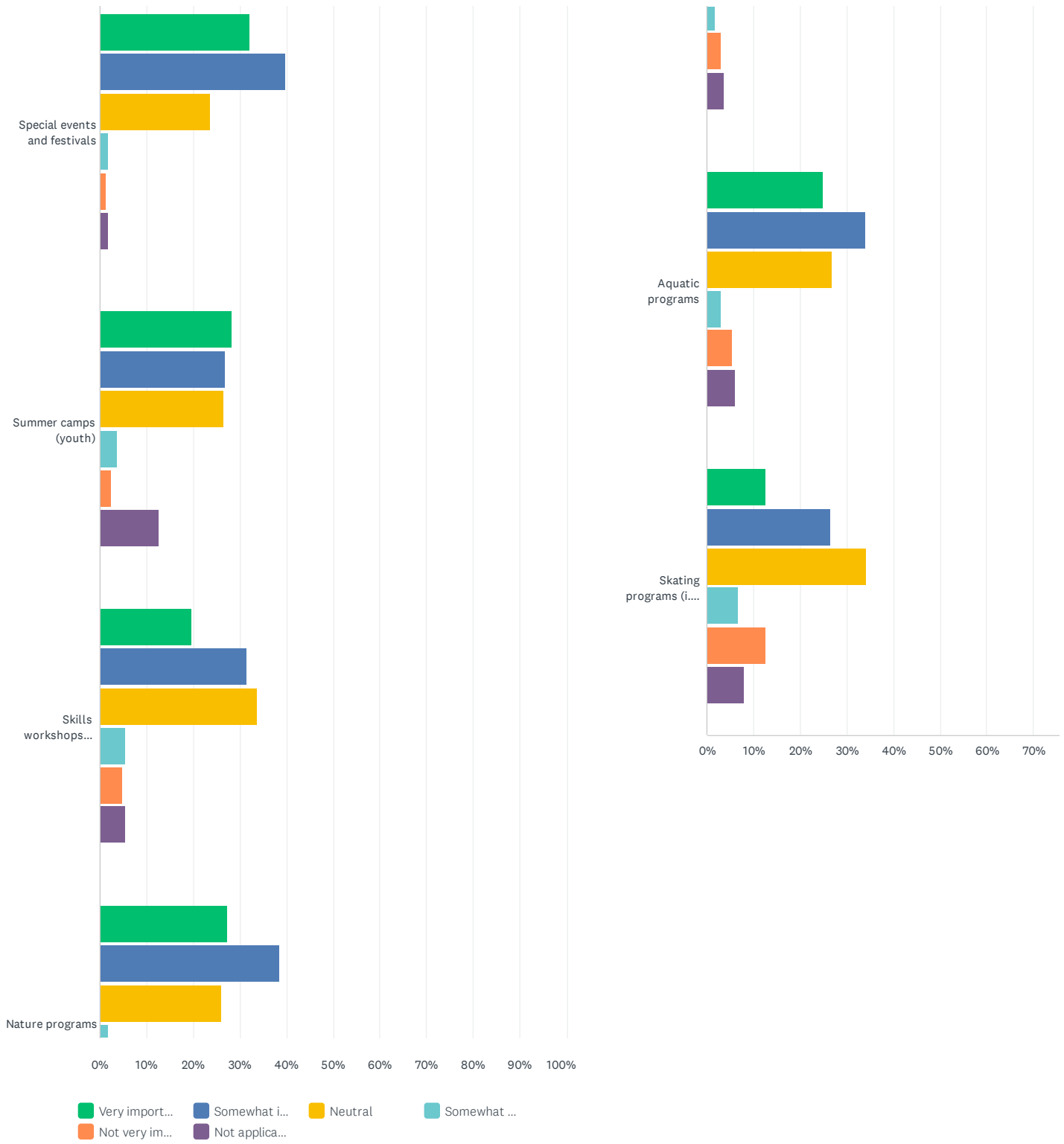


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes - up to a .25 mil (\$25.00 on a \$100,000 property value/year)	36.47%	62
Yes - up to a .50 mil (\$50.00 on a \$100,000 property value/year)	23.53%	40
Yes - up to a 1 mil (\$100.00 on a \$100,000 property value/year)	19.41%	33
No, I would not support a millage	15.88%	27
Yes, I would support a millage of (Indicate the amount of dollars/year below):	4.71%	8
TOTAL		170

Q29 How important are these recreation programming options to you?

Answered: 170 Skipped: 3

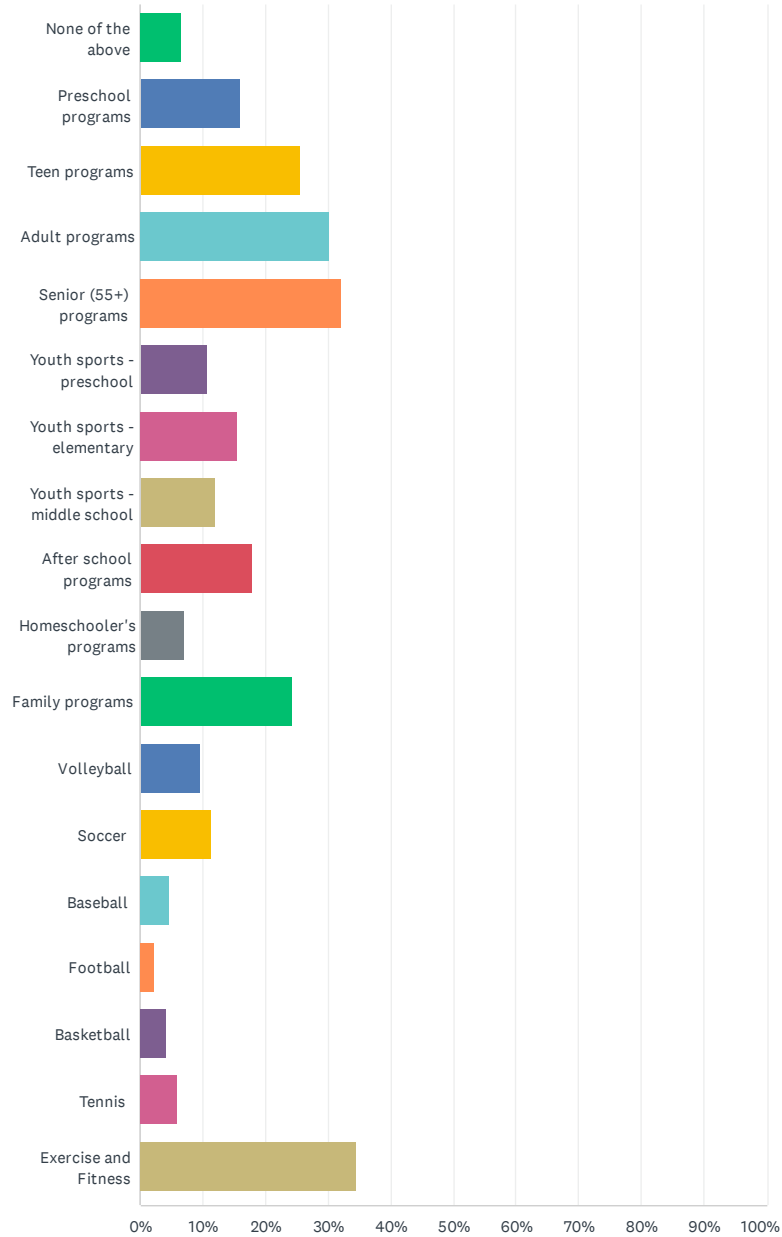


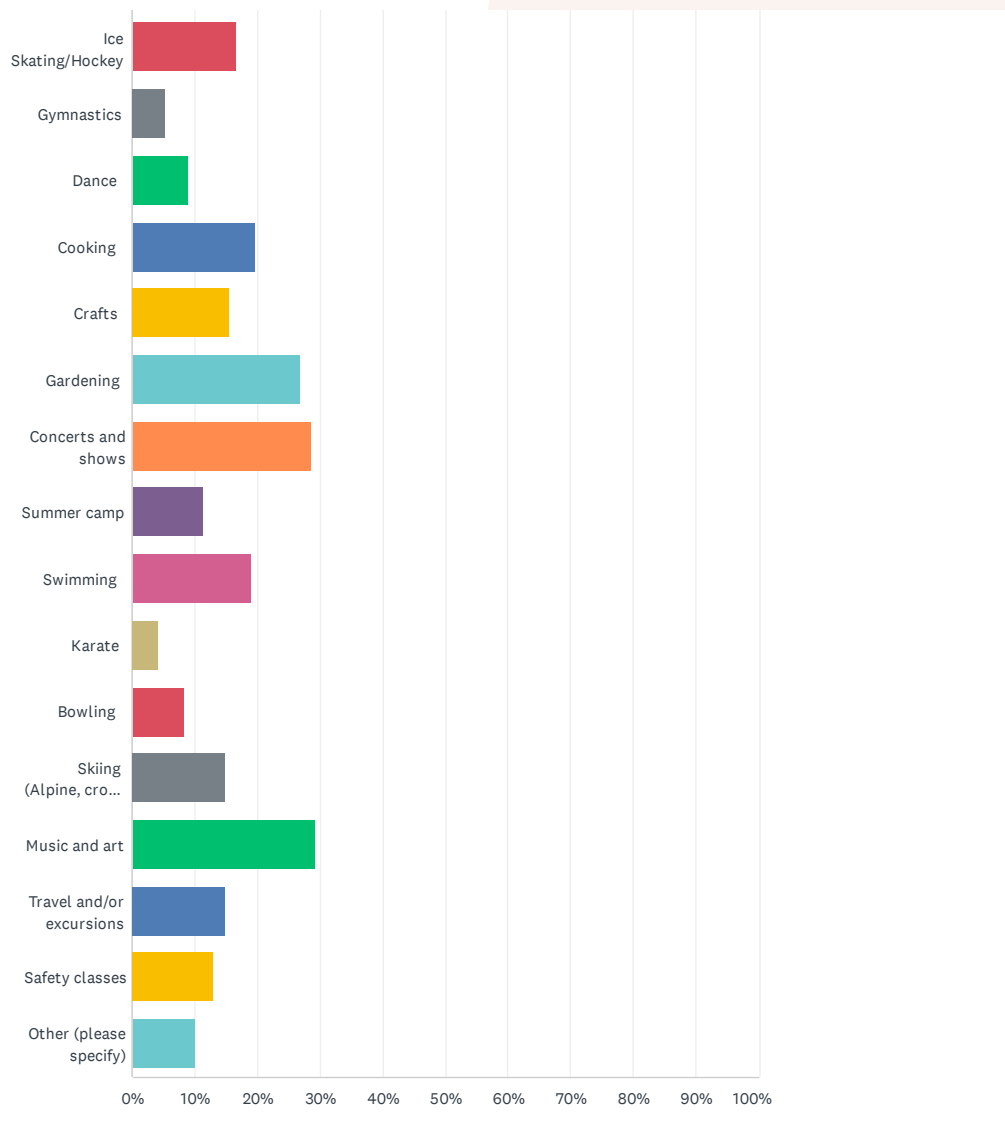


	VERY IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	NEUTRAL	SOMEWHAT NOT IMPORTANT	NOT VERY IMPORTANT	NOT APPLICABLE	TOTAL
Youth sports and fitness	46.39% 77	28.92% 48	10.24% 17	0.00% 0	3.01% 5	11.45% 19	166
Adult sports and fitness	35.15% 58	41.21% 68	15.76% 26	1.82% 3	2.42% 4	3.64% 6	165
Senior programming (50+)	45.83% 77	31.55% 53	14.88% 25	1.79% 3	1.19% 2	4.76% 8	168
Special events and festivals	31.95% 54	39.64% 67	23.67% 40	1.78% 3	1.18% 2	1.78% 3	169
Summer camps (youth)	28.14% 47	26.95% 45	26.35% 44	3.59% 6	2.40% 4	12.57% 21	167
Skills workshops (computer education, accounting, etc)	19.53% 33	31.36% 53	33.73% 57	5.33% 9	4.73% 8	5.33% 9	169
Nature programs	27.22% 46	38.46% 65	26.04% 44	1.78% 3	2.96% 5	3.55% 6	169
Aquatic programs	25.00% 42	33.93% 57	26.79% 45	2.98% 5	5.36% 9	5.95% 10	168
Skating programs (i.e. learn to skate)	12.57% 21	26.35% 44	34.13% 57	6.59% 11	12.57% 21	7.78% 13	167

Q30 Which of the following recreation programs would you like to see more of?

Answered: 168 Skipped: 5



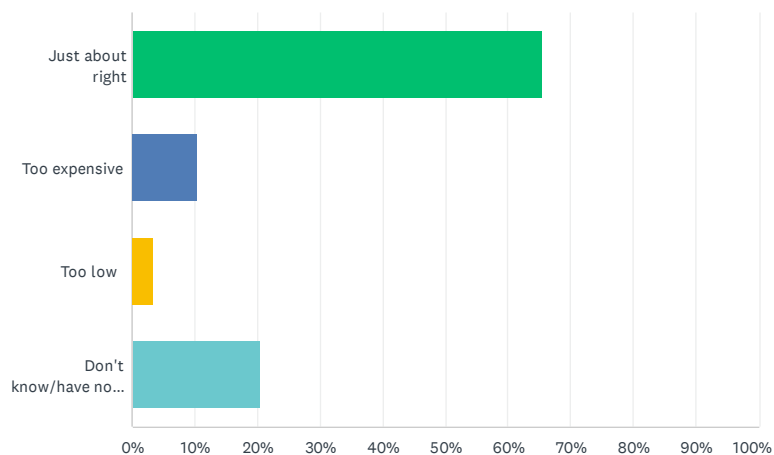


Appendix

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None of the above	6.55%	11
Preschool programs	16.07%	27
Teen programs	25.60%	43
Adult programs	30.36%	51
Senior (55+) programs	32.14%	54
Youth sports - preschool	10.71%	18
Youth sports - elementary	15.48%	26
Youth sports - middle school	11.90%	20
After school programs	17.86%	30
Homeschooler's programs	7.14%	12
Family programs	24.40%	41
Volleyball	9.52%	16
Soccer	11.31%	19
Baseball	4.76%	8
Football	2.38%	4
Basketball	4.17%	7
Tennis	5.95%	10
Exercise and Fitness	34.52%	58
Ice Skating/Hockey	16.67%	28
Gymnastics	5.36%	9
Dance	8.93%	15
Cooking	19.64%	33
Crafts	15.48%	26
Gardening	26.79%	45
Concerts and shows	28.57%	48
Summer camp	11.31%	19
Swimming	19.05%	32
Karate	4.17%	7
Bowling	8.33%	14
Skiing (Alpine, cross country)	14.88%	25
Music and art	29.17%	49
Travel and/or excursions	14.88%	25
Safety classes	13.10%	22
Other (please specify)	10.12%	17
Total Respondents: 168		

Q31 What is your opinion about the fees charged for the recreation programming?

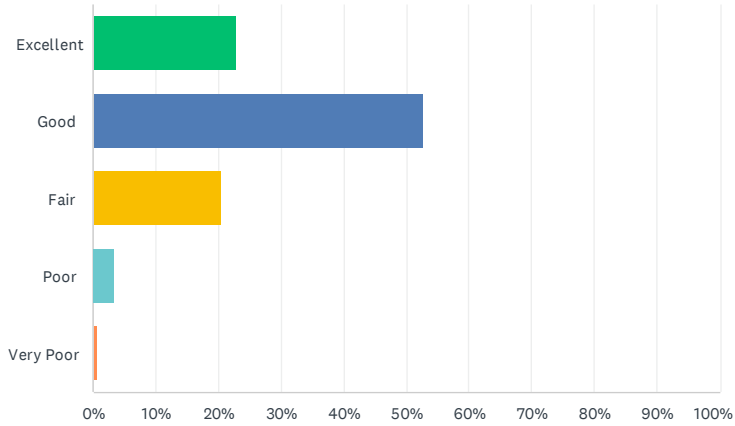
Answered: 171 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Just about right	65.50%	112
Too expensive	10.53%	18
Too low	3.51%	6
Don't know/have not used	20.47%	35
TOTAL		171

Q32 How well do you think Independence Township communicates with you regarding parks and recreation facilities and programming?

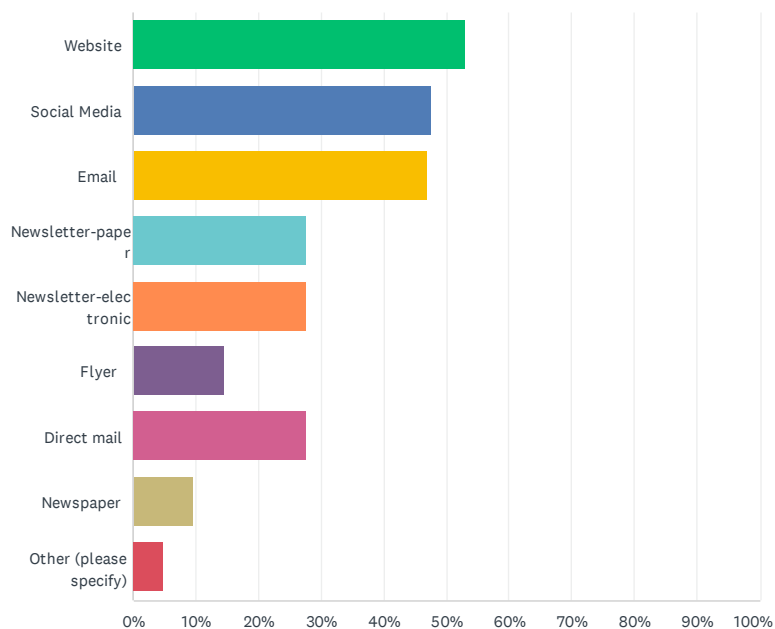
Answered: 171 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Excellent	22.81% 39
Good	52.63% 90
Fair	20.47% 35
Poor	3.51% 6
Very Poor	0.58% 1
TOTAL	171

Q33 What types of communication would help you stay informed about parks and recreation facilities and programming?

Answered: 166 Skipped: 7



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Website	53.01%	88
Social Media	47.59%	79
Email	46.99%	78
Newsletter-paper	27.71%	46
Newsletter-electronic	27.71%	46
Flyer	14.46%	24
Direct mail	27.71%	46
Newspaper	9.64%	16
Other (please specify)	4.82%	8
Total Respondents: 166		

**Q34 Please enter any other comments or suggestions you might have.
Thank you.**

Answered: 42 Skipped: 128

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Thank you for the opportunity to share! You're doing great work! Would love to see more opportunities to enjoy the great outdoors.	11/29/2022 8:53 AM
2	I live the Explore magazine! Always looking forward to it	11/23/2022 4:50 PM
3	Parks and Recreation is more important than ever these days, with both parents working and kids with extracurriculars, the days of backyard ball is gone. We need affordable programs for all. Central Michigan University promotes Parks, Recreation and event planning majors. These young people are coming out of college prepared to making our programs better for the community. I would like to see the energy and commitment these people have used in our communities. 1. Create a fitness facility for everyone ie. LIVONIA 2. Hire full time positions for college graduates 3. Focus on conservation (we came here for the beauty, not for a Meijer store.)	11/23/2022 11:30 AM
4	I'm not sure if there is space in any of the parks but to make walking paths and fountains in manicured gardens like over in Europe would be really nice. It's sort of destination place to go to relax and sit. Water features are always very attractive for both young and older people. I think making sure that people are aware of the pathways that are available and to improve them so that it is easy to get to the green spaces without having to drive would be nice in our Fair weather months.	11/13/2022 9:08 AM
5	I don't feel like all residents should be charged a millage for activities and fees for residents who use the programs. I was insulted to find out that the most recent millage funds were used to allow free park passes to some residents. As senior citizens my husband and I are capable of paying for our passes if we want them. A millage should not cover free passes. A millage is for needs or enhancements.	11/10/2022 12:01 PM
6	The pickleball courts are not adequate for the demand, and 4 of the 8 courts are not stripes properly. If more courts were built they would be used.	11/6/2022 7:43 AM
7	Add interactive maps for bike trail system	11/2/2022 5:02 AM
8	Would love to see art installations along the safety path	10/31/2022 10:17 AM
9	We love walking to and all around Clintonwood Park, and also visit Independence Oaks quite a lot and kayak there. Getting to them is easy. Also frequent Seven Lakes St Park and Holly Rec Area. Please keep in mind the programs offered at these other parks, duplication may not improve Ind Township Parks usage. Have not used township programs or been to many events at township parks, perhaps in the future. Ind Township is already doing a great job with their parks!	10/28/2022 8:05 PM
10	Pedestrian Bridge over I-75 @ Perry Lk Road!!!	10/28/2022 6:38 AM
11	None, but thanks for asking!	10/27/2022 4:35 PM
12	I would like a path or sidewalk on Deerhill drive, between Dixie and Holcomb. Lots of walkers are in the road and it's dangerous	10/27/2022 2:38 PM
13	More public Art / Cultural Art center / More Murals / More Humanities Programs	10/26/2022 12:49 PM
14	Clarkston does a great job planning for the future. Keep up the excellent work.	10/11/2022 6:11 PM
15	Summer camp program is great!	10/5/2022 9:39 AM
16	Stop spending money. We are in a recession. Taxpayers are inappropriately burdened for recreational facilities which very few used. Additional expenditures will not return their costs - not even close - nor will they make this a more "livable" community.	10/3/2022 7:04 AM

17	Sashabaw Plains would make a great area for Fitness/Athletic Center.	10/2/2022 10:52 AM
18	A senior indoor walking track would be wonderful! The Older Persons Commission in Rochester, MI is a wonderful example to be aspired to!	9/29/2022 4:44 PM
19	Derek and the gang do a great job. It is impossible to be all things to all people. Prioritize what you are good st and then excel in delivery.	9/27/2022 8:10 PM
20	I literally just moved from Independence Township to Detroit, but I grew up here and lived here for 23 years just off of North Eston near Walters Lake. If possible, please please work to gain the undeveloped deer hill/other open lot for ITPRS facilities. The park plan a few years ago was wonderful to hear about and would greatly benefit the community! If this space ever goes up for sale please work to purchase it (or if it's too expensive perhaps only part of it?). Thank you for listening to the feedback of the community. -Sean Martin	9/27/2022 6:42 PM
21	Great job. Keep it up.	9/27/2022 12:21 PM
22	Growing up in Orion about 15 years ago, I like how many and the quality of the Independence parks. I just know there's always room for improvement and expansion when it comes to community amenities such as parks and paths. I follow the Parks and Rec page and appreciate the updates and info on events there.	9/26/2022 10:40 AM
23	The large piece of property on both sides of Clarkston Rd that touches Walters Lake (used to have fenced deer) would be an amazing park addition for Independence Township. The township should pursue that property. There are not many large pieces of land left and especially on a lake. When people move to communities they consider how many parks there are the distance from their potential house. Independence Township would be even more attractive by adding parks and especially that plot of land.	9/22/2022 2:00 AM
24	We have enough room to rival Paint Creek/PollyAnna Trails and October's arts and apples	9/21/2022 4:30 PM
25	Please maintain the trails throughout the winter to make them safe	9/21/2022 2:10 PM
26	I would like there to be an emphasis on creating multi use pathways (asphalt) NOT concrete sidewalks. It is important for the community to feel connected. We lived in a place where you could bike anywhere, even to the downtown. It made things so accessible. People could use those types of pathways in the winter too for winter sports.	9/13/2022 6:39 PM
27	Would really like running water at Deer Lake Beach.	9/12/2022 8:58 PM
28	Porta potties/additional bathrooms closer to the soccer fields would be beneficial. Also, maps that provide subfield locations would be good. In addition, swim lessons with heated pools would be good.	9/10/2022 10:06 PM
29	Na	9/9/2022 1:05 PM
30	We have been frustrated by the odd rules at Baycourt regarding disc golf. We have been asked to not play after 8:00 (summer hours) when the park closes at 9:00. This is a activity that my disabled veteran son and I enjoy and sometimes he can't start playing until 8:00. This is the only park that does this. All other disc golf parks close at the parks closing time or at dusk. We would also like to see the park open later in the fall and winter months. Disc golf is often played year around and closing at 5:00 is too early for those that work. Thank you for considering changing this.	9/8/2022 2:58 PM
31	Have BayCourt Park open later to allow glow disc golf.	9/8/2022 2:57 PM
32	N/A	9/8/2022 10:30 AM
33	smuch better community connective could be achieved if Ind township, Springfield township and the village worked together to make paths that flowed between areas. The clarkaton school district serves all these areas and we need safe paths for families to go to schools and entertainment without driving! Depot park is looking much better but really only serves kids 5 and under. Would be great to see something for older kids to enjoy	9/8/2022 7:10 AM
34	Your marketing is exceptional!!	9/7/2022 6:33 PM
35	An ice hockey rink would be amazing! We travel all the way to Waterford so my young son can play hockey. Also, a recreation & aquatic center like Troy or Macomb would also be incredibly popular. We are members at the Great Lakes Athletic Club and we aren't very happy. They keep increasing our prices but the services aren't what they used to be. The outdoor pool broke	9/7/2022 1:18 PM

& we missed out on 6 weeks of swimming. The cafe is closed & the rock climbing wall is closed too. The only reason we continue our membership is because they offer 1.5 hours of childcare while you're at the gym. I'd be willing to pay monthly to use a recreation center with a gym & pool that also offers childcare while you're in the building. I know you would have many families in the community as members!

36	I travel the country(and world) for work. I see skateboard parks in almost every town besides Clarkston. These parks are packed with kids that may not be involved in traditional sports. And these are very talented, athletic kids.	9/7/2022 9:46 AM
37	Having a slower speed limit along the Independence Oaks stretch of Sashabaw Rd so kids, parents and grandparents can cross safely to the park. Having a trail through the woods from Independence Oaks to Clintonwood park would be so nice along the river.	9/7/2022 9:18 AM
38	Adding sidewalks would be nice. Thank you for asking.	9/6/2022 9:36 AM
39	We adore the parks and hope to someday be able to connect Deerwood and the Manors to the path system and the schools through the path system.	9/5/2022 8:39 PM
40	I realize most seniors like to be up at the break of dawn. Due to physical ailments I cannot. I would like to see more afternoon or early evening programs.	9/5/2022 4:23 PM
41	Would like to have some paths that are wheelchair accessible	9/5/2022 3:59 PM
42	Don't bury the registration link on the website. Click Parks and arec and then Resgistration in the left nav.	9/5/2022 3:29 PM

Q35 OPTIONAL - If you would like to be contacted, or volunteer for this project, or any future projects, please provide your name, address, and email below.

Answered: 27 Skipped: 146

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Name	92.59%	25
Company	0.00%	0
Address	100.00%	27
Address 2	7.41%	2
City/Town	96.30%	26
State/Province	96.30%	26
ZIP/Postal Code	96.30%	26
Country	0.00%	0
Email Address	96.30%	26
Phone Number	85.19%	23

Notice of the Draft Plan for 30 Days of Public Comment and Public Hearing

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF MICHIGAN } SS
COUNTY OF

Claire Vernatter, being first duly sworn, says that (s)he is the Admin. Assistant of The Clarkston News, a newspaper published in the English language for the dissemination of local or transmitted news and intelligence of a general character and legal news, which is a duly qualified paper, and that annexed hereto is a copy of a certain order taken from said newspaper, in which the order was published

11/9/22 Claire Vernatter

PUBLIC NOTICE
Because the People Want to Know
INDEPENDENCE TWP.

**30 DAY REVIEW PERIOD
FINAL INPUT MEETING
PUBLIC HEARING/PLAN ADOPTION
INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP
PARKS, RECREATION AND
SENIORS MASTER PLAN**

The Independence Township Parks, Recreation & Seniors Department is seeking public review for the 2023-2027 Community Recreation Master Plan. A 30-day review period will begin on November 14, 2022 and end on December 16, 2022. The plan will be available on the Township Parks, Recreation & Seniors website, and printed copies will be available at the Township Hall and the Senior Center at Clintonwood Park. A final public input/review meeting is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 20, 2022 at the Township Hall, 6483 Waldon Center Dr., Clarkston, MI 48346. A public hearing will be held Tuesday, January 3, 2023, also at the Township Hall at 6:00 p.m. The Recreation Master Plan consists of desired capital improvements for township parks and trail development over the next five years. For additional information please contact the Parks, Recreation & Seniors Department at 248-625-8223.

KASEY E TYSICK
Notary Public, State of Michigan
County of Lapeer
My Commission Expires 08-27-2027
Acting in the County of Lapeer

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 9th
day of November, 2022

Kasey E Tysick
Notary Public, _____ County, Michigan

My commission expires _____

Prepared by The Clarkston News
1521 Imlay City Rd
PO Box 220
Lapeer, MI 48446

Minutes from the Public Hearing

Regular Meeting
Charter Township of Independence
Township Board Minutes - **DRAFT**
January 10, 2023
Page 1 of 5

**REGULAR MEETING
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES
January 10, 2023**

A. CALL TO ORDER:

Supervisor Aliaga called the Board of Trustees regular meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

C. ROLL CALL:

Present: Jose Aliaga, Supervisor
 Cari J. Neubeck, Clerk
 Paul A. Brown, Treasurer
 Sam Moraco, Trustee
 Theresa A. Nallamothe, Trustee
 Ronald A. Ritchie, Trustee
 Matt Stoian, Trustee

Absent: None

Others Present: Brian Oppmann, Planning and Zoning Director
 Derek Smith, PR&S Director
 Rick Yaeger, Budget and Operations Analyst
 Brittney Ellis, Township Attorney
 Nancy Olind, Township Attorney
 Robert Ford, Landscape Architects & Planners

There was a quorum present.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

MOTION #2023-01-001: Motion by Clerk Neubeck seconded by Trustee Ritchie to approve the Agenda as amended by adding item M-01 – Closed Session: to Discuss a Confidential Legal Opinion Pursuant to the Michigan Open Meetings Act, MCL 15.268(h) and MCL 15.423(1)(g)

VOTE: Yes: All-7; No: None; Absent: None. CARRIED 7 to 0.

E. BOARD / PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Trustee Moraco announced Thursday, January 12th the Planning Commission will be meeting to discuss Open Space as it pertains to the Master Plan Update. He encouraged residents to participate at the meeting or online.

Supervisor Aliaga shared the idea of having a local pastor or priest participate in future Board of Trustees meetings.

F. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Vincent Bozzone - 7925 Foster Rd.
Cheryl Gianakos – 8990 Woodlawn Ave.

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Linda Bozzone – 7925 Foster Rd.

G. PUBLIC HEARING:

1. **Public Hearing: Parks, Recreation & Seniors 2023 – 2027 ITPRS Master Plan Update (Derek Smith, PR&S Director)**

The Public Hearing opened at 6:16 P.M.

Comments:
 Trustee Stoian

The Public Hearing closed at 6:36 P.M.

H. PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS:

1. **Presentation: Dealer Community Charging Program, Bowman Chevrolet (Derek Smith, PR&S Director)**

The Board heard a presentation from:
 Gina Garavaglia – Marketing Manager, Bowman Chevrolet
 Joe Jackson – General Sales Manager, Bowman Chevrolet

I. CARRYOVER / POSTPONED AGENDA ITEMS: None

J. CONSENT AGENDA:

1. **Request to Approve the Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes of December 20, 2022 (Cari J. Neubeck, Clerk)**
2. **Request to Approve the January 3, 2023 Check Run (\$641,376.08) and Ratify the December 23, 2022 Payroll (\$375,802.61) (Cari J. Neubeck, Clerk)**

MOTION #2023-01-002: Motion by Clerk Neubeck seconded by Trustee Ritchie to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

VOTE: Yes: All-7; No: None; Absent: None. CARRIED 7 to 0.

K. ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA: None

L. REGULAR BUSINESS:

1. **Request to Adopt Resolution No. 2023-001 for the 2023-2027 Independence Parks, Recreation and Seniors Master Plan (Derek Smith, ITPRS Director)**

MOTION #2023-01-003: Motion by Trustee Nallamotheu seconded by Clerk Neubeck to adopt Resolution No. 2023-001 for the 2023 – 2027 Independence Parks, Recreation and Seniors Master Plan as presented.

The Board heard comment from:
 Tasha Schurgin – 9393 Thornhill Drive
 Charles Baxter – 5233 Ridge Trail N.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Yes: Neubeck, Brown, Moraco, Nallamotheu, Ritchie, Aliaga; No: Stoian Absent: None
 MOTION CARRIED 6 to 1.

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2. Request to Approve the 2nd Reading and Adoption of an Amendment to the Eagle Ridge at Morgan Lake Planned Residential Development to Approve the Addition of 4.79 Acres to Phase 2 (Brian Oppmann, Planning and Zoning Director)

MOTION #2023-01-004: Motion by Trustee Ritchie seconded by Trustee Nallamothu to approve the 2nd Reading of the Amendment to Ordinance Granting the Morgan Lake Planned Residential Development and direct the Township Clerk to publish said Ordinance in accordance with state law, following a 30 day period set to further communications with residents.

The Board heard comment from:
 Linda Bozzone – 7925 Foster Rd.
 John Lich – Clearview Homes, Land Development Project Manager
 Vincent Bozzone - 7925 Foster Rd.
 Eric Konieczny – Clearview Homes, President

ROLL CALL VOTE: Yes: Brown, Nallamothu, Ritchie, Stoian, Aliaga, Neubeck; No: Moraco; Absent: None
 MOTION CARRIED 6 to 1.

The regular meeting recessed at 7:56 PM.
 The regular meeting reconvened at 8:02 PM.

3. Request to Approve 1st Reading – Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment: 5897 Dixie Highway – Dixie LLC (Brian Oppmann, Planning and Zoning Director)

Trustee Moraco stated he has a personal conflict with this item and requested to be recused.

MOTION #2023-01-005: Motion by Clerk Neubeck seconded by Treasurer Brown to recuse Trustee Moraco.

VOTE: Yes: All-6; No: None; Abstain: Moraco; Absent: None. CARRIED 6 TO 0.

MOTION #2023-01-006: Motion by Trustee Ritchie seconded by Clerk Neubeck to approve the 1st Reading of the Zoning Ordinance Map Amendment for 5897 Dixie Highway from O Office to C-1 Local Commercial, located on the west side of Dixie Highway, north of Waterford Road, located in Section 33 of the Township, schedule a 2nd Reading before the Township Board of Trustees following completion of the required legal documents and review by the Township’s general counsel, and direct the Clerk to publish notice in the manner prescribed by law.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Yes: Nallamothu, Ritchie, Stoian, Aliaga, Neubeck, Brown; No: None; Abstain: Moraco; Absent: None.
 MOTION CARRIED 6 to 0.

4. Request to Approve 2023 Budget Amendment #1: Add Money for Pine Knob Rd. Gravel Project (Rick Yaeger, Budget & Operations Analyst)

MOTION #2023-01-007: Motion by Treasurer Brown seconded by Clerk Neubeck to approve 2023 Budget Amendment #1 as follows:

GENERAL FUND	DESCRIPTION	INCREASE/(DECREASE)
Revenues		
- INCREASE	101-000-674.000-Pineknob (Donations/Contributions)	\$60,000.00
Expenditures		
Township Board Dept.		

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- INCREASE	101-101-801.003 (Cont Serv - Triparty)	\$60,000.00

VOTE: Yes: All-7; No: None; Absent: None. CARRIED 7 to 0.

5. Request Authorization to Request Planning Commission Review of a Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendment (Jose Aliaga, Supervisor)

MOTION #2023-01-008(a): Motion by Clerk Neubeck seconded by Trustee Moraco to approve submittal of a request that the Planning Commission make a recommendation to the Township Board of Trustees regarding a proposed amendment to Sec. 14.02 of the Independence Township Zoning Ordinance.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Yes: Ritchie, Stoian, Aliaga, Neubeck, Brown, Moraco, Nallamothu; No: None; Absent: None.

MOTION CARRIED 7 to 0.

MOTION #2023-01-008(b): Motion by Treasurer Brown seconded by Clerk Neubeck to approve submittal of a request that the Planning Commission make a recommendation to the Township Board of Trustees regarding a proposed amendment to Sec. 6.08(C)) of the Independence Township Zoning Ordinance.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Yes: Stoian, Aliaga, Neubeck, Brown, Moraco, Nallamothu, Ritchie; No: None. Absent: None.

MOTION CARRIED 7 to 0.

6. Request to Appoint Board and Committee Members – Trustees (Jose Aliaga, Supervisor)

MOTION #2023-01-009(a): Motion by Treasurer Brown seconded by Clerk Neubeck to Appoint Sam Moraco to Clarkston Mill Pond Improvement Board with a term to expire with his term on the Charter Township of Independence Board of Trustees.

VOTE: Yes: All-7; No: None; Absent: None. CARRIED 7 to 0.

MOTION #2023-01-009(b): Motion by Clerk Neubeck seconded by Treasurer Brown to Appoint Sam Moraco to the Non-Union Benefit Advisory Committee with a term to expire with his term on the Charter Township of Independence Board of Trustees.

VOTE: Yes: All-7; No: None; Absent: None. CARRIED 7 to 0.

MOTION #2023-01-009(c): Motion by Trustee Moraco seconded by Clerk Neubeck to Appoint Matt Stoian to the Parks, Recreation & Senior Advisory Committee with a term to expire with his term on the Charter Township of Independence Board of Trustees.

VOTE: Yes: All-7; No: None; Absent: None. CARRIED 7 to 0.

MOTION #2023-01-009(d): Motion by Clerk Neubeck seconded by Trustee Moraco to Appoint Matt Stoian to the Investment Advisory Committee with a term to expire with his term on the Charter Township of Independence Board of Trustees.

VOTE: Yes: All-7; No: None; Absent: None. CARRIED 7 to 0.

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MOTION #2023-01-009(e): Motion by Clerk Neubeck seconded by Trustee Moraco to Appoint Matt Stoian to the Wau-Me-Gah Lake Improvement Board with a term to expire with his term on the Charter Township of Independence Board of Trustees.

VOTE: Yes: All-7; No: None; Absent: None. CARRIED 7 to 0.

M. CLOSED SESSION / BUDGET SESSION / STUDY SESSION:

1. **Closed Session:** Request to Enter Closed Session to Discuss a Confidential Legal Opinion Pursuant to the Michigan Open Meetings Act, MCL 15.268 (h) and MCL 15.423(1)(g)

MOTION #2023-01-010: Motion by Clerk Neubeck seconded by Trustee Ritchie to enter Closed Session to Discuss a Confidential Legal Opinion Pursuant to the Michigan Open Meetings Act, MCL 15.268(h) and MCL 15.243(1)(g) at 8:51 P.M.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Yes: Aliaga, Neubeck, Brown, Moraco, Nallamotheu, Ritchie, Stoian; No: None. Absent: None.

MOTION CARRIED 7 to 0.

Entered Closed Session at 8:51 P.M.

MOTION #2023-01-011: Motion by Clerk Neubeck seconded by Trustee Ritchie to return from Closed Session and to resume the Regular meeting at 9:27 P.M.

VOTE: Yes: All-7; No: None; Absent: None. CARRIED 7 to 0.

N. COMMUNICATIONS / FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS / REPORTS:

1. **Report:** Building Department Monthly Report – December 2022

O. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Supervisor Aliaga commented he is working with Commissioner Joliat to see what benefits the Township can obtain from the Oakland County Public Transportation millage.

Treasurer Brown commented on how he enjoyed the meeting.

P. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION #2023-01-012: Motion by Trustee Nallamotheu seconded by Clerk Neubeck to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 P.M.

VOTE: Yes: All-7; No: None; Absent: None. CARRIED 7 to 0.

Cari J. Neubeck, Clerk

Jose Aliaga, Supervisor

Resolution of Adoption

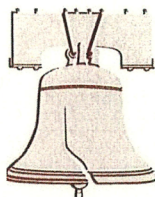
TOWNSHIP OFFICES
(248) 625-5111
FAX: (248) 625-2585

JOSE ALIAGA
Supervisor

CARI J. NEUBECK
Clerk

PAUL A. BROWN
Treasurer

TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES
SAM MORACO
THERESA A. NALLAMOTHU
RONALD A. RITCHIE
MATT STOIAN



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
6483 WALDON CENTER DRIVE CLARKSTON, MICHIGAN 48346
www.indtwp.com

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
COUNTY OF OAKLAND
STATE OF MICHIGAN

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE 2023-2027 INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP
PARKS, RECREATION AND SENIORS MASTER PLAN

RESOLUTION 2023-001

Motion #2023-01-003:

Motion by: Trustee Nallamothu

Seconded by: Clerk Neubeck

At a regular meeting of the Township Board of the Charter Township of Independence, Oakland County, Michigan (the "Township"), held on the 10th day of January 2023. The following Resolution was moved, supported, and adopted.

WHEREAS, Independence Township has undertaken a planning process to determine the recreation and natural resource conservation needs and desires of its residents during a five-year period covering the years 2023 through 2027.

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

WHEREAS, Residents of Independence Township were provided with a well-advertised opportunity during the development of the draft plan to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the recreation and natural resource conservation plan.

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

WHEREAS, A public hearing was held on January 10, 2023 at Township Hall to provide an opportunity for all residents of the planning area to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the 2023–2027 Independence Township Parks, Recreation, & Seniors Master Plan.

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

WHEREAS, After the public hearing, the Board of Trustees voted to adopt said 2023-2027 Independence Township Parks, Recreation, & Seniors Master Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The Independence Township Board of Trustees hereby ADOPTS the 2023-2027 Independence Township Parks, Recreation, & Seniors Master Plan.

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED THIS 10TH DAY OF JANUARY 2023.

CERTIFICATION

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
) ss.
COUNTY OF OAKLAND)

I, Cari Neubeck, the duly qualified Clerk of the Charter Township of Independence, Oakland County, Michigan, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of the Resolution adopted by the Charter Township of Independence Board of Trustees on the tenth day of January 2023, the original copy will be kept on file in the Charter Township of Independence Clerk's Office.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto affixed my official signature this 10th day of January 2023.



Cari J. Neubeck, Clerk
Charter Township of Independence



Transmittal Letters to the County and Regional Planning Agencies



LAP + CREATIVE
Landscape Architects and Planners.

809 Center St, Suite 1 | Lansing, MI 48906 | info@lapinc.net | (ph) 517-485-5500 | (fax) 517-485-5576

January 12, 2023

Bret Rasegan, RA, Planning Manager
Oakland County Community Development Department
2100 Pontiac Lake Road
Building 41 West
Waterford, MI 48328

Email: raseganb@oakgov.com

RE: Independence Township Parks, Recreation & Seniors Master Plan 2023-2027

Dear Mr. Rasegan,

The Independence Township Board of Trustees adopted the Township's Parks, Recreation & Seniors Master Plan at a meeting on January 10, 2023. Landscape Architects & Planners, Inc., (LAP) as a sub-consultant to Nowak and Fraus, the township's consultant, was retained to provide an update to this plan. All documents have been submitted to the MDNR for review and approval, and a PDF copy has been sent to you via email.

Please contact Independence Township or LAP if you have any questions or comments regarding the plan.

Sincerely,

Robert Ford, President
Landscape Architect



LAP + CREATIVE
Landscape Architects and Planners.

809 Center St, Suite 1 | Lansing, MI 48906 | info@lapinc.net | (ph) 517-485-5500 | (fax) 517-485-5576

January 12, 2023

Tyler Klifman
Southeast Michigan Council of Governments
1001 Woodward Avenue, Suite 1400
Detroit, MI 48226-1904

Email: klifman@semcog.org

RE: *Independence Township Parks, Recreation & Seniors Master Plan 2023-2027*

Dear Mr. Klifman,

The Independence Township Board of Trustees adopted the Township's Parks, Recreation & Seniors Master Plan at a meeting on January 10, 2023. Landscape Architects & Planners, Inc., (LAP) as a sub-consultant to Nowak and Fraus, the township's consultant, was retained to provide an update to this plan. All documents have been submitted to the MDNR for review and approval, and a PDF copy has been sent to you via email.

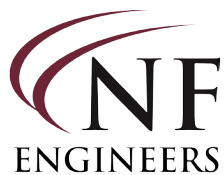
Please contact Independence Township or LAP if you have any questions or comments regarding the plan.

Sincerely,

Robert Ford, President
Landscape Architect

Independence Township
Parks, Recreation & Seniors Master Plan
2023-2027

Prepared By:



LAP + CREATIVE

Landscape Architects and Planners.

809 Center St, Suite 1 | Lansing, MI 48906 | info@lapinc.net | (ph) 517-485-5500 | (fax) 517-485-5576

Planning Consultants:

Robert Ford, LA, Project Manager, LAP Inc.

Nick Wallace, Recreation Planner, LAP Inc.



Parks, Recreation
& Seniors Master Plan
2023-2027



www.indtwp.com