

BRANDON-ORTONVILLE PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN



February 24, 2015

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CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

What this Plan Contains	1
Planning Process	1
Description of the Planning Area	2

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Population Characteristics	3
Housing and Building Trends	5
Land Use and Development Patterns	6
Natural Features	9
Planning Initiatives.....	10

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

Administration	15
Funding and Budget	15
Volunteers and Partnerships	16

RECREATION INVENTORY

Local Parks and Recreation Facilities	17
School and Private Recreation Facilities	21
Regional Recreation Facilities	22
Recreation Programs.....	25
Accessibility Assessment and Grant-Assisted Projects	27

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Park Acreage Comparison	29
State and National Recreation Trends.....	30
Public Input	31
Public Review and Public Hearings	33

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES	35
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ACTION PROGRAM

Action Plan	37
Project Schedule	43
Implementation Strategies	45

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Notices of Draft Plan Availability for Public Review and Public Hearing	49
Minutes of Public Hearing – Brandon Township	50
Minutes of Public Hearing – Village of Ortonville.....	56
Village Council and Township Board Resolutions	60
Letters of Transmittal to Regional Agencies	62

LIST OF TABLES AND FIGURES

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1. Population, 1990-2040.....	3
Table 2. Household Types, 2010-2040.....	4
Table 3. Age Characteristics, 2010-2040.....	4
Table 4. Housing Types, 2000-2010	5
Table 5. 2008 Land Use Acreage	6
Table 6. Brandon Township Parks and Recreation Budget Summary.....	14
Table 7. Regional Recreation Facilities.....	23
Table 8. Comparison to Suggested Parkland Acreage Standards	29
Table 9. National Sports Participation	30
Table 10. Project Schedule.....	43

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1. Location Map.....	2
Figure 2. Population Trends, Brandon, Ortonville, and Neighboring Communities	3
Figure 3. Existing Land Use	7
Figure 4. General Topography, Oakland County.....	8
Figure 5. Watersheds, Oakland County.....	8
Figure 6. Brandon-Ortonville Area Natural Features	9
Figure 7. Priority Conservation Areas and Green Infrastructure Network	11
Figure 8. Regional Trails and Greenways Vision.....	12
Figure 9. Oak Routes	13
Figure 10. Iron Belle Trail	14
Figure 11. Parks and Community Facilities.....	19
Figure 12. Regional Recreation Facilities.....	22
Figure 13. Brandon Township Community Park Development Plan	38
Figure 14. Trail and Pathways	41

INTRODUCTION

Brandon Township and the Village of Ortonville joined hands to prepare a joint Parks and Recreation Master Plan and identify the parks and recreation needs of the community. This update builds on the ideas set forth in previous plans, makes recommendations for meeting the community's future recreation needs, and presents an implementation strategy for parks and recreation improvement.

The Brandon-Ortonville Parks and Recreation Master Plan articulates a vision for parks, pathways, and recreation in Brandon Township and the Village of Ortonville. The purpose of this Plan is to guide recreation planning and development efforts of the Village of Ortonville and Brandon Township over the next five-year period. Once adopted, this Plan is the official document to be used by the Village and the Township to guide decisions regarding parks and recreation. The Plan is intended to meet state standards for community recreation planning that are necessary to gain eligibility for grant programs.

WHAT THIS PLAN CONTAINS

The Brandon-Ortonville Parks and Recreation Master Plan follows the format suggested by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) in the *Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans* (2014). The first chapter provides a description of the community including a summary on both the social and physical characteristics of the area as well as a discussion of current planning initiatives affecting the community. The Administrative Structure chapter includes a description of how parks and recreation services are administered in the Village of Ortonville and Brandon Township including budget and funding information. The next chapter, Recreation Inventory, describes the existing Village and Township parks as well as those of the state and the region located nearby. It includes an accessibility assessment and a description of previous grant-assisted park projects. The Public Participation and Needs Assessment portion of the Plan presents the input received from local officials, staff, and residents, which helped in formulating the Goals and Objectives and Action Program chapters. The Action Program chapter outlines an action plan with strategies for implementation. The final chapter, Supporting Documents, includes the official resolutions and notices documenting the plan's adoption by Village Council and Township Board.

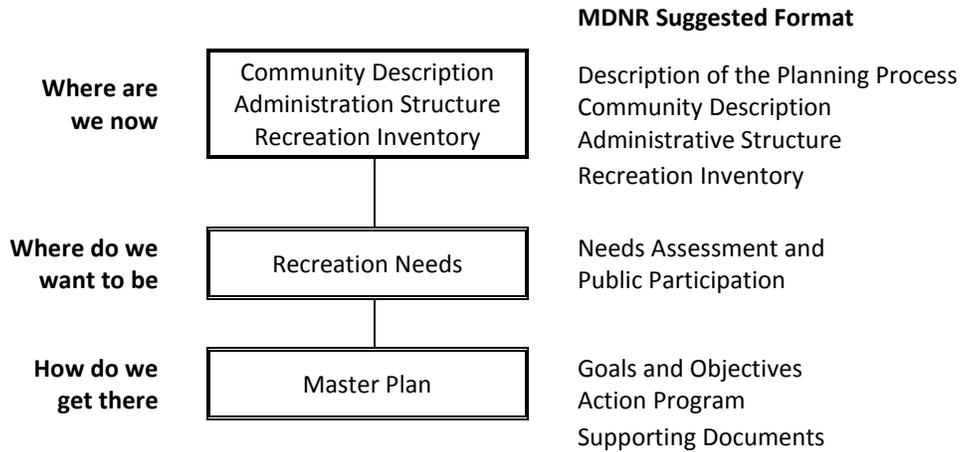
PLANNING PROCESS

The process used to generate the plan consisted of three major phases which are described below.

1. **Where are we now?** This phase involved a review of demographics and the planning context to provide a foundation for the planning process. In this phase, parks and facilities were inventoried and mapped to document existing resources and begin to assess their conditions. The information is organized into three main categories: community description, administrative structure, and recreation inventory.
2. **Where do we want to be?** The second phase in the planning process consisted of an analysis of the area's parks and recreation system to determine recreation deficiencies and needs. Public participation was sought through an online questionnaire to solicit ideas and suggestions from the community about their recreation preferences. Input was also solicited from public officials and staff at public meetings.

3. **How do we get there?** Once needs were identified, the final phase involved developing plan elements to support the community’s vision for parks and recreation and provide for park planning and development. Recommended projects were summarized in a project schedule, accompanied by strategies for implementation. This phase also included preparation of a full draft of the Plan, which was presented to Township and Village staff and officials as well as the public for review and comment prior to adoption.

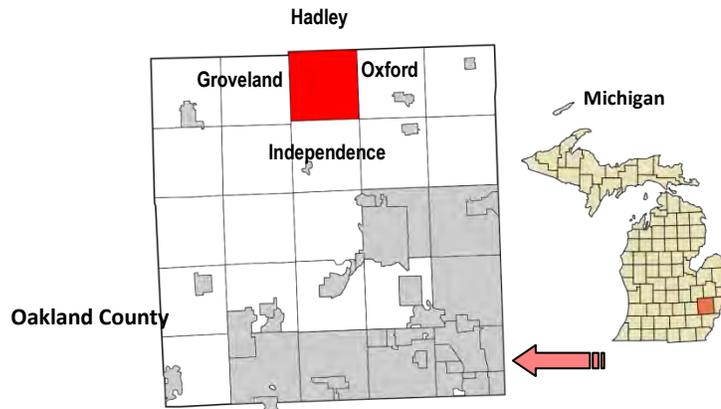
The following diagram illustrates the planning process and how it corresponds to the MDNR suggested format described earlier.



DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING AREA

Brandon Township and the Village of Ortonville are the jurisdictions of this Plan. Located in North central Oakland County, they are bordered by Oxford Township to the east, Independence Township to the south, Groveland Township to the west, and Hadley Township, Lapeer County, to the north. Ortonville Road, M-15, provides the major access road to the community.

Figure 1. Location Map



Source: Adapted from Wikipedia

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

To gain an understanding of the opportunities the community has to offer, the first three chapters of the Plan provide information on the social and physical characteristics of Brandon Township and the Village of Ortonville.

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the population of the Village of Ortonville and Brandon Township showed continued growth over the past thirty years, greater than the growth experienced by Oakland County as a whole. Projections provided by the Southeast Michigan Council of Government (SEMCOG) also indicate continued growth in the future for the Village, while the Township's population is expected to slightly decrease or stabilize, consistent with growth observed in Oakland County and in Southeast Michigan.

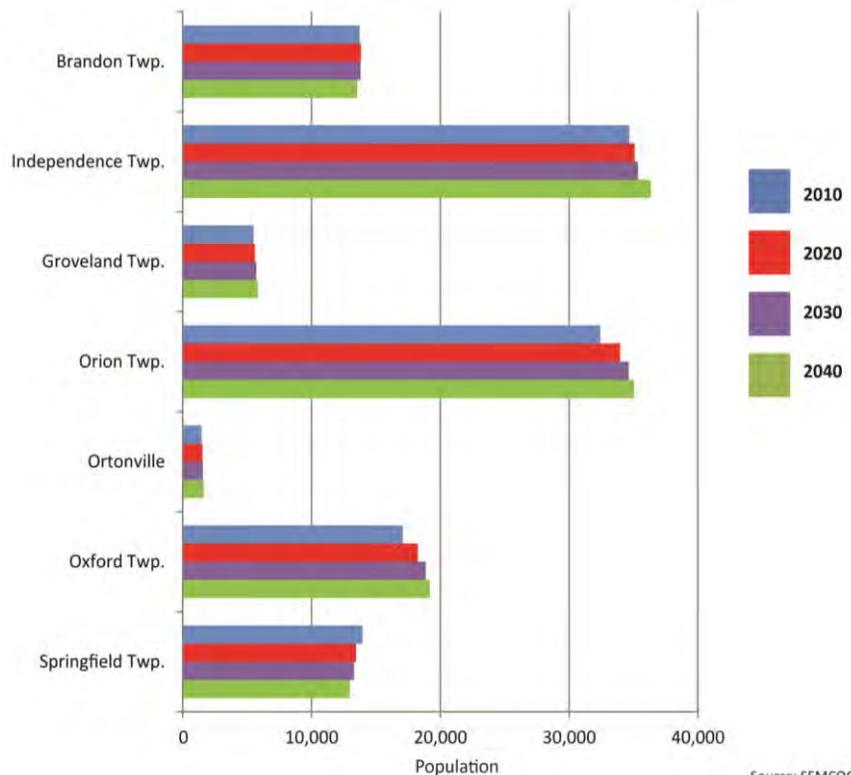
Table 1. Population, 1990-2040

	Census 1990	Census 2000	Census 2010	% Increase 1990-2010	SEMCOG 2040	% Increase 2010-2040
Village of Ortonville	1,252	1,535	1,442	15.2%	1,620	12.3%
Brandon Township	10,799	13,230	13,733	27.2%	13,548	-1.3%
Oakland County	1,083,592	1,194,156	1,202,362	11.0%	1,246,863	3.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 1990, 2000, and 2010 and SEMCOG Forecast

Population trends in adjacent communities also indicate a leveling of the population. Figure 2 indicates that the majority of Oakland County communities surrounding Brandon Township are expected to experience only slight population increases or decreases between 2010 and 2040. Recent trends have also indicated a leveling in the number of households in the Township and the Village between 2000 and 2010. Projections show that this trend will largely continue for both population and households. Household projections, shown in Table 2 on the next page, exhibit slight increases for both the Village and the Township between 2010 and 2040.

Figure 2. Population Trends, Brandon, Ortonville & Neighboring Communities



Source: SEMCOG

Table 2. Household Types, 2000-2040

	Village of Ortonville				Brandon Township			
	Census 2000	Census 2010	SEMCOG 2014	SEMCOG 2040	Census 2000	Census 2010	SEMCOG 2014	SEMCOG 2040
Total Households	537	511	534	599	4,475	4,799	4,891	5,129
Households with children	257	208	n/a	n/a	2,111	1,868	n/a	n/a
Households with seniors 65 +	86	81	n/a	n/a	525	848	n/a	n/a

n/a: not available

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010 and SEMCOG Forecast

As presented in Table 2, Brandon Township had 4,799 households in 2010, an increase of 324 households from 2000. SEMCOG estimates Brandon Township had 4,891 households in July 2014 and will have 5,129 in 2040. On the other hand, the Village of Ortonville had 511 households in 2010, a decrease of 26 households from 2000. SEMCOG estimates the Village had 534 households in July 2014 and will have 599 in 2040.

Household trends generally indicate a decrease in the number of household with children and an increase of the number of households with seniors. The number of households with children in Brandon Township decreased from 2,111 in 2000 to 1,868 in 2010, representing a 5.4 percent decrease while the number of households with seniors increased significantly from 525 in 2000 to 848 in 2010, representing a 7.2 percent increase. Similarly, the number of households with children in the Village of Ortonville decreased from 257 in 2000 to 208 in 2010, representing a 9.1 percent decrease, while the number of households with seniors decreased slightly from 86 in 2000 to 81 in 2010, representing a 0.9 percent decrease.

Table 3. Age Characteristics, 2010-2040

	Village of Ortonville				Brandon Township			
	2010		2040		2010		2040	
Under 5	77	5.3%	115	7.1%	721	5.3%	801	5.9%
5 - 17	319	22.1%	232	14.3%	2,880	21.0%	2,253	16.6%
18 - 24	138	9.6%	141	8.7%	1,086	7.9%	1,139	8.4%
25 - 34	156	10.8%	235	14.5%	1,244	9.1%	1,490	11.0%
35 - 59	594	41.2%	462	28.5%	5,791	42.2%	4,483	33.1%
60 - 64	56	3.9%	59	3.6%	823	6.0%	673	5.0%
65 - 74	58	4.0%	132	8.1%	787	5.7%	1,296	9.6%
75+	44	3.1%	244	15.1%	401	2.9%	1,413	10.4%
Total	1,442	100%	1,620	100%	13,733	100%	13,548	100%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010 and SEMCOG Forecast

Similarly, projections indicate a decreasing trend in the children population and an increasing trend in the senior population. As shown in Table 3, children below the age of 18 make up about 27 percent of the total population in the Village of Ortonville and 26 percent in Brandon Township in 2010. The number of children in the Village is projected to decrease by 49 in 2040, to represent a decrease from 27.4 to 21.4 percent in the proportion of children. Children in the Township are also projected to slightly decrease by 547 in 2040, to represent a decrease from 26.3 to 22.5 percent in the proportion of children. The fastest segment of the population will be seniors. Indeed, the number of people over 65 years of age is projected to increase by 274 in the Village in 2040, to represent an increase in the proportion of seniors from 7.1 to 23.2 percent. The Township will see an increase of 1,521 seniors in 2040, representing an increase from 8.6 to 20 percent.

Residents of both Brandon Township and the Village of Ortonville are predominantly white. Other races make up less than three percent of the population. The minority groups include African Americans, people of Asian descent, and people of other or mixed race origins.

HOUSING AND BUILDING TRENDS

Between 2000 and 2010, Brandon Township experienced steady housing growth, while the Village did not. The number of housing units increased by 534 in Brandon Township, while the Village of Ortonville saw a decrease of 41 new units during the same time period. Single-family homes are predominant in both municipalities, accounting for 78 percent of the housing stock in Brandon Township and 74 percent in Ortonville. The other units in Brandon Township include 21 percent manufactured housing and 1 percent apartments. The Village includes 14 percent apartments, 11 duplexes, and less than 1 percent townhouses/condominiums and manufactured housing. The median house value for the Village in 2010 was \$148,104, down from \$177,100 in 2000. Brandon Township’s median house value also decreased from \$204,300 in 2000 to \$175,455 in 2010.

Table 4. Housing Type, 2000-2010

	Brandon Township			Village of Ortonville		
	Census 2000	5-Yr ACS 2010	Change 2000-2010	Census 2000	5-Yr ACS 2010	Change 2000-2010
Single-Family Detached	3,659	4,105	446	398	393	-5
Duplex	0	0	0	38	59	21
Townhouse/Attached Condo	19	0	-19	33	6	-27
Multi-Unit Apartment	23	22	-1	104	72	-32
Mobile Home/Manufactured Housing	1,011	1,119	108	0	2	2
Total	4,712	5,246	534	573	532	-41

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010, American Community Survey, 2010, and SEMCOG

The general trend and growth in population, households, and housing units from 2000 and 2010 for the Brandon-Ortonville area is consistent with the downturn in the economy experienced in Oakland County and southeast Michigan. However, the number of new residential building permits issued since 2010 as well as other indicators seem to point to a renewed increasing trend in the future.

LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS

Since the Village was platted in 1866 around centrally located businesses, a school house, and a mill, the Brandon-Ortonville area has largely remained a rural community including low density residential development in the Township and higher density residential development with more commercial establishments in the Village and along Ortonville Road (M-15). This development pattern is principally due to a limited road network combined with numerous lakes, wetlands, and natural features. Residents of Brandon Township and the Village of Ortonville currently enjoy a good balance between a high quality of life associated with the small village atmosphere.

The predominant land use in Brandon and Ortonville is residential with single-family residential land uses encompassing over half of the Township's land area at over 50 percent and 46 percent of the Village land area. Park, recreation, and open space land uses amount to about 9 percent of the Village and 5 percent of the Township.

Table 5. 2008 Land Use Acreage

	Brandon Township		Village of Ortonville	
	Acres	Percent	Acres	Percent
Agricultural	1,773	7.9%	0	0.0%
Single-Family Residential	17,398	77.7%	373	58.5%
Multi-Family Residential	1	0.0%	13	2.1%
Commercial	188	0.8%	45	7.0%
Industrial	4	0.0%	7	1.1%
Government/Institutional	457	2.0%	79	12.4%
Park, Recreation & Open Space	1,155	5.2%	56	8.8%
Transportation, Communication & Utility	713	3.2%	60	9.4%
Water	700	3.1%	4	0.6%
Total	22,389	100.0%	637	100.0%

Source: SEMCOG Data

NATURAL FEATURES

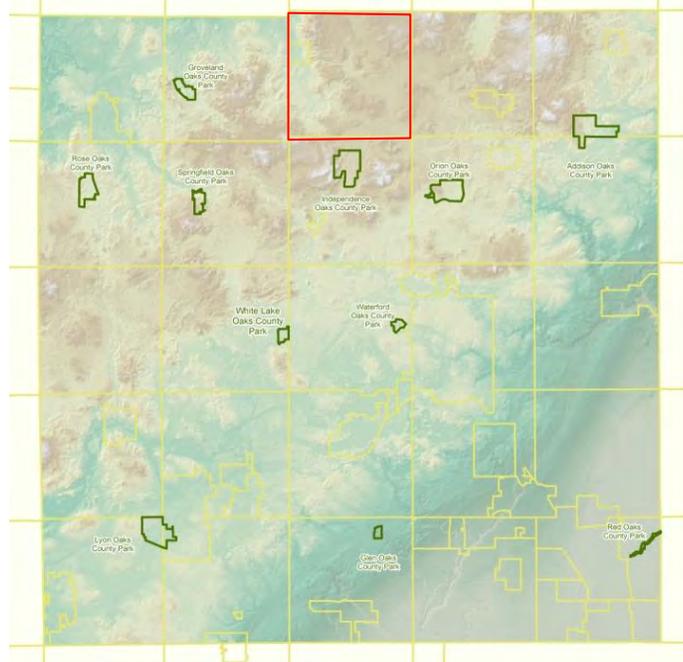
The natural features of Ortonville and Brandon have played a major role in influencing and attracting growth and development to the area. Like much of Michigan's southern lower peninsula, the area's landscape is characterized by gently rolling topography formed through glacial action. As the glaciers retreated, the outwash of sand, soil, and debris created an irregular pattern of hills and depressions that collected water, creating the region's many lakes and wetlands.

The area's topography is made up of gentle, rolling hills. Elevations range from about 850 feet to 1,200 feet above sea level. The northern part of the Township is generally hillier, comprising part of an area known as the Hadley Hills. Oakland County's topographic elevation ranges from 630 feet to 1,221 feet, which makes the Brandon-Ortonville area part of the most elevated portion of the County. Brandon Township is located along a ridge running southwest-northeast across the County with the northwest area sloping to the north and northwest, and the other, to the southeast.

Several waterways flow through the area and with their associated lakes and wetlands have made the Brandon-Ortonville area a very desirable location to live and recreate. Kearsley Creek, a tributary of the Flint River, is the primary area waterway flowing to the northwest through the center of the Village and the Township. Some of the major area lakes include Lake Louise, Bald Eagle, Perry, Huff, Long, Wilson, Grass, and Hummer Lakes.

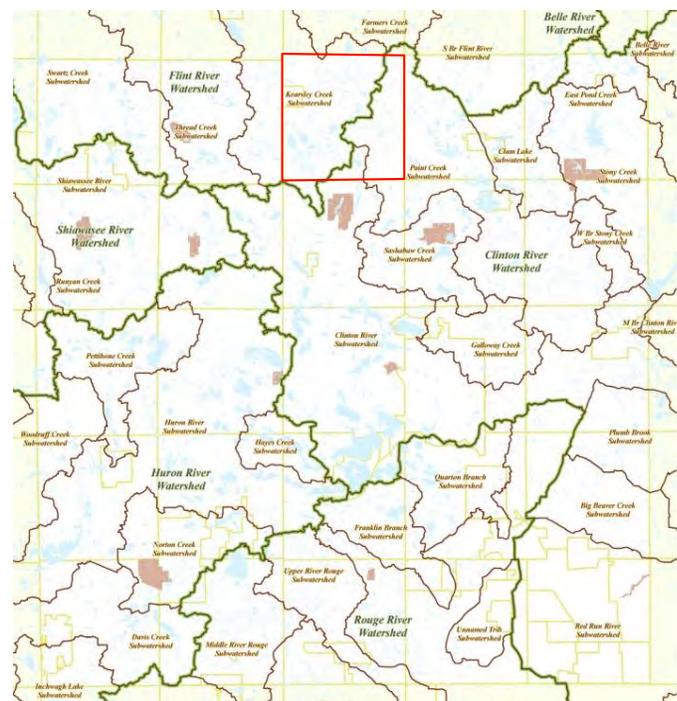
Brandon Township is located in the headwaters of two watersheds: the Clinton River flowing to the southeast, which includes the Upper Clinton and the Paint Creek sub-watersheds, and the Flint River to the northwest, which includes the Kearsley Creek sub-watershed. Kearsley Creek is a cold water, state-managed trout stream.

Figure 4. General Topography, Oakland County



Source: Oakland County Planning and Economic Development Services

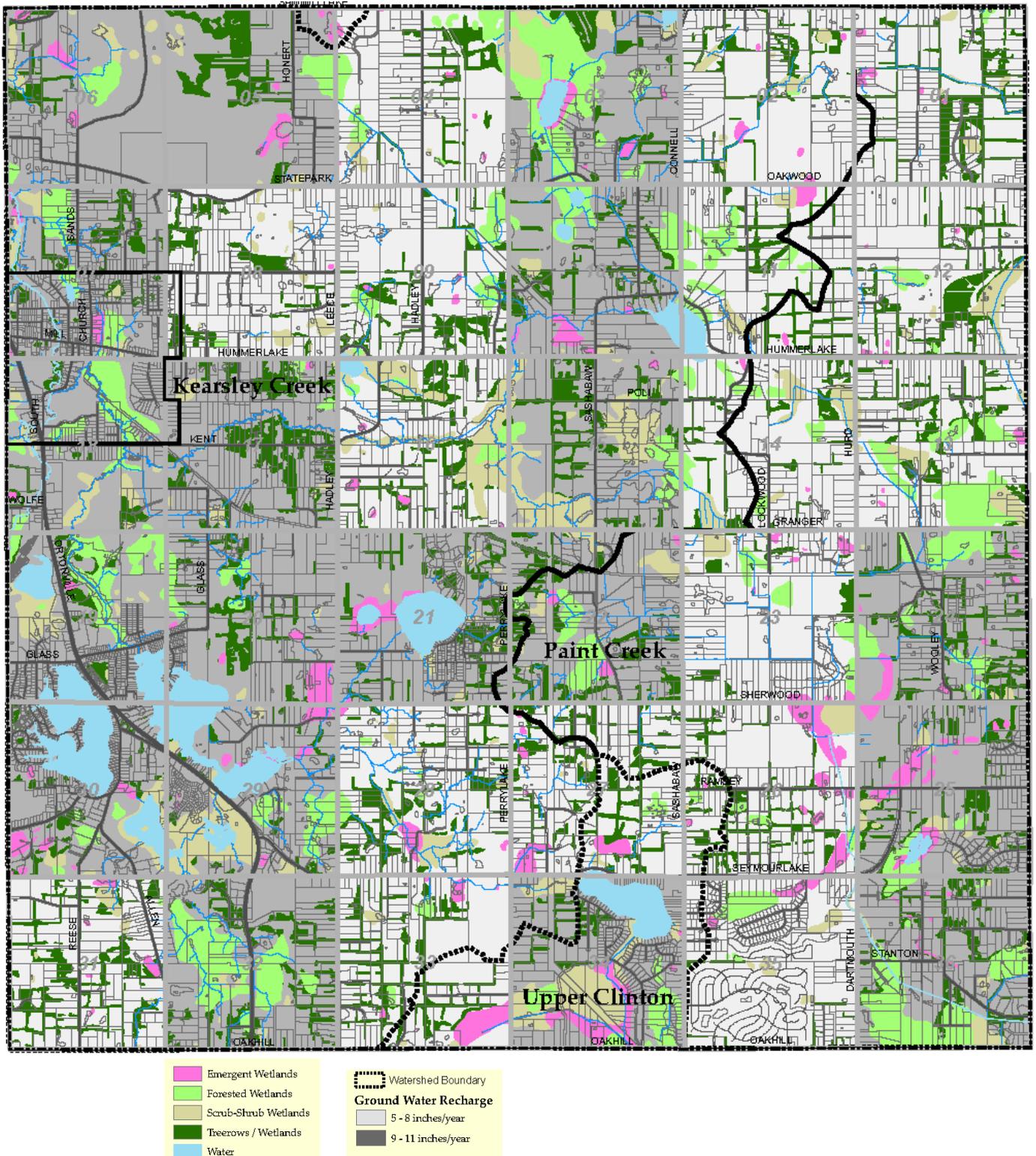
Figure 5. Watersheds, Oakland County



Source: Oakland County Planning and Economic Development Services

Existing woodlands in the area are located primarily within wetlands and along tree rows. They consists mostly of a mixture of hardwoods including oak, hickory, sugar maple, ash, cherry, beech, basswood, and elm. Vegetation on poorly-drained soils consists mainly of elm, red maple, aspen, white cedar, and tamarack. Approximately 17 percent of the area is covered by woodlands.

Figure 6. Brandon-Ortonville Area Natural Features



PLANNING INITIATIVES

While change is inevitable and growth in both population and housing will occur, Brandon Township and the Village of Ortonville are committed to managing that growth to enhance economic benefit, recreational activities, and overall quality of life for all their residents. A number of planning initiatives related to parks, the environment, as well as trail planning and development took place in the region and in the Brandon-Ortonville area.

2004 Oakland County Potential Conservation/Natural Areas

In 2004, staff from the Oakland County Planning and Economic Development Services worked with the Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI) staff to identify potential conservation areas within the County. MNFI maintains a continuously updated information base of Michigan's plants and animal species, natural communities and other natural features that are endangered, threatened, or of special concern. The study led to the identification of high, medium and low priority sites worthy of preservation (Figure 7).

Based upon this study, the Brandon-Ortonville area has five priority one or highest ranked, sites covering a 1,400-acre area, 26 priority two sites including 2,479 acres, and 25 priority three sites at 1,149 acres. The highest priority sites are located along the west and north side of the Township in association with the Ortonville State Recreation Area and the largest wetland areas. Priority two sites are located throughout the Township and within the Village of Ortonville. Priority three areas are scattered throughout the Township. Preservation of these priority areas and their associated links to other natural ecosystems may be desirable for protection and recreation through acquisition or other means.

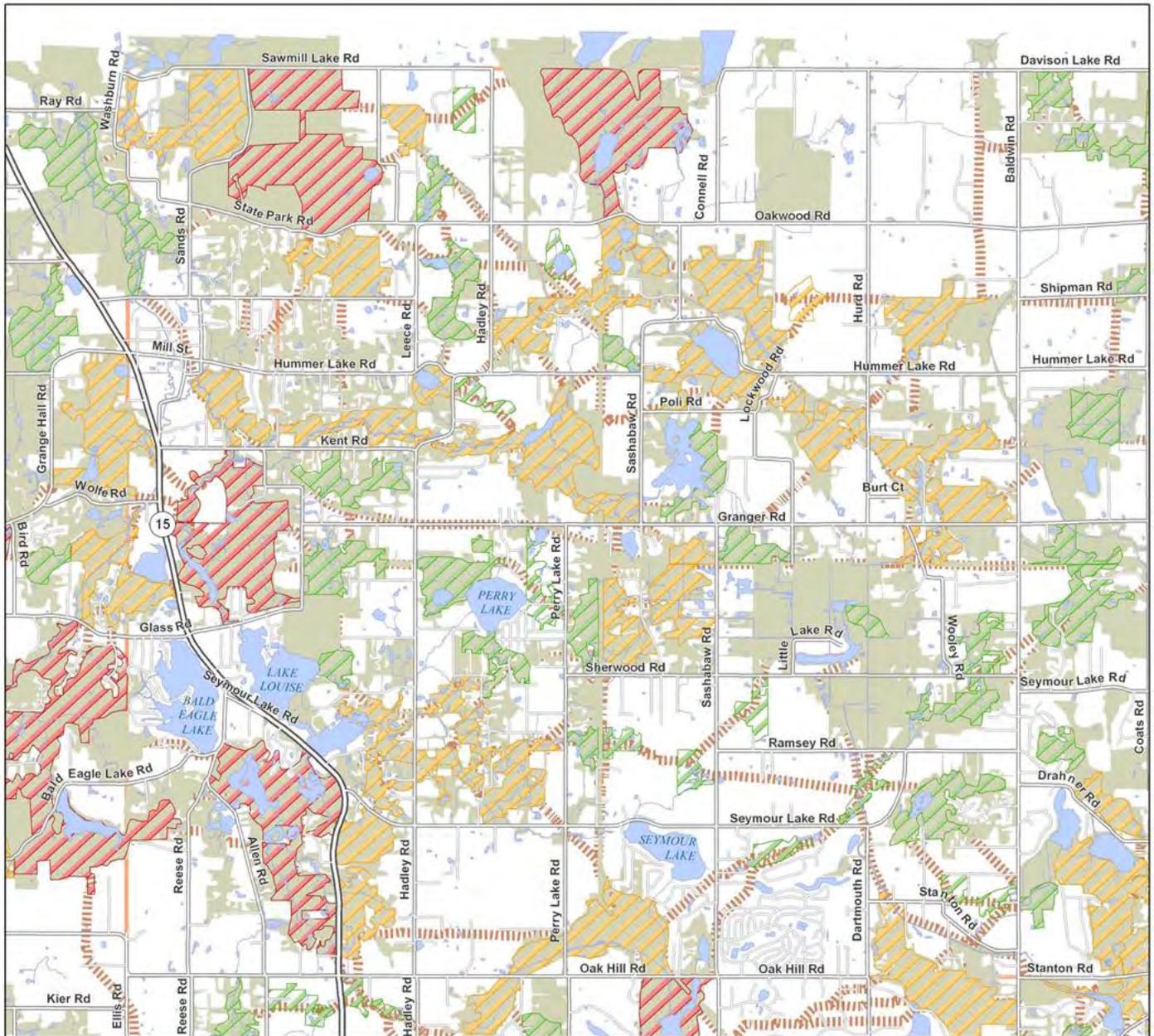


2007 Brandon-Ortonville Area Green Infrastructure Network

Oakland County Planning and Economic Development Services facilitated a workshop with Brandon Township officials in 2007 to identify a green infrastructure network for the Township. The object of the exercise was to pinpoint an interconnected network of wetlands, woodlands, greenways, parks, natural areas, and other open spaces that would support wildlife habitat, maintain natural ecological processes and contribute to the health and quality of life of Township residents.

As shown on Figure 7, the priority conservation areas are designated as anchors, or hubs, for this network. The remainder is comprised of various sites and links that connect the hubs with the smaller, yet environmentally significant, lands. Other green infrastructure elements are classified as recreation links. This would include trails which are planned to provide significant non-motorized trail connections east-west between Oxford, Ortonville, and Holly, and north-south between Clarkston and Davison in Genesee County.

Figure 7. Priority Conservation Areas and Green Infrastructure Network



- Highway
- Major Road
- Minor Road
- Municipal Boundaries
- Lakes & Ponds
- Rivers & Streams
- Green Infrastructure
- Green Infrastructure Link
- 2004 MNFI Potential Natural Area**
- Priority One
- Priority Two
- Priority Three

Map Created on March 26, 2009

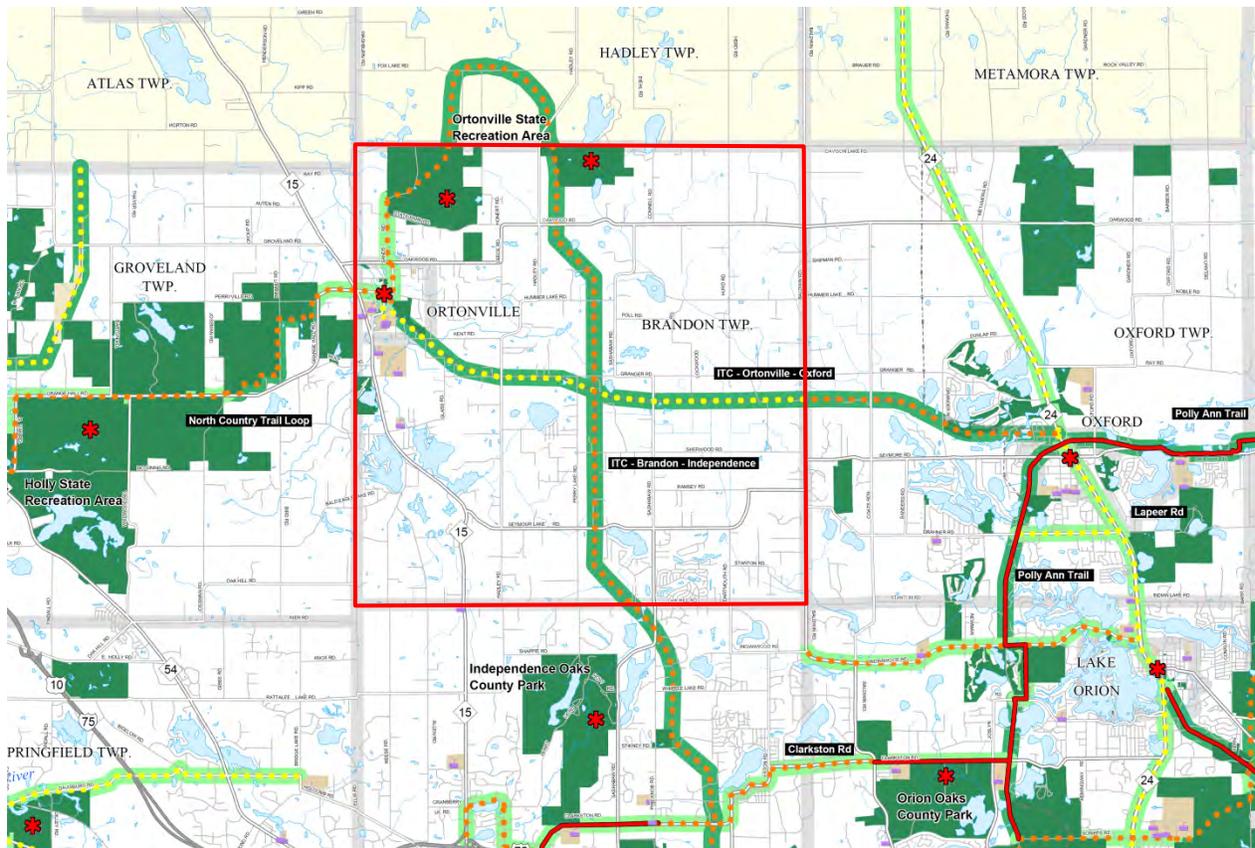
Source: Oakland County Planning and Economic Development Services

Trail and Pathway Planning

Brandon Township is part of a larger, regional non-motorized system for Oakland County and the larger Michigan Region. A number of governmental and non-governmental agencies including Oakland County, the Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan, SEMCOG, and the Michigan Trail and Greenway Alliance have conducted studies and developed visions for future non-motorized systems. The goal is interconnecting existing trails, paths, and greenways and expanding the regional system. The 2006 regional vision is illustrated in Figure 8 below.



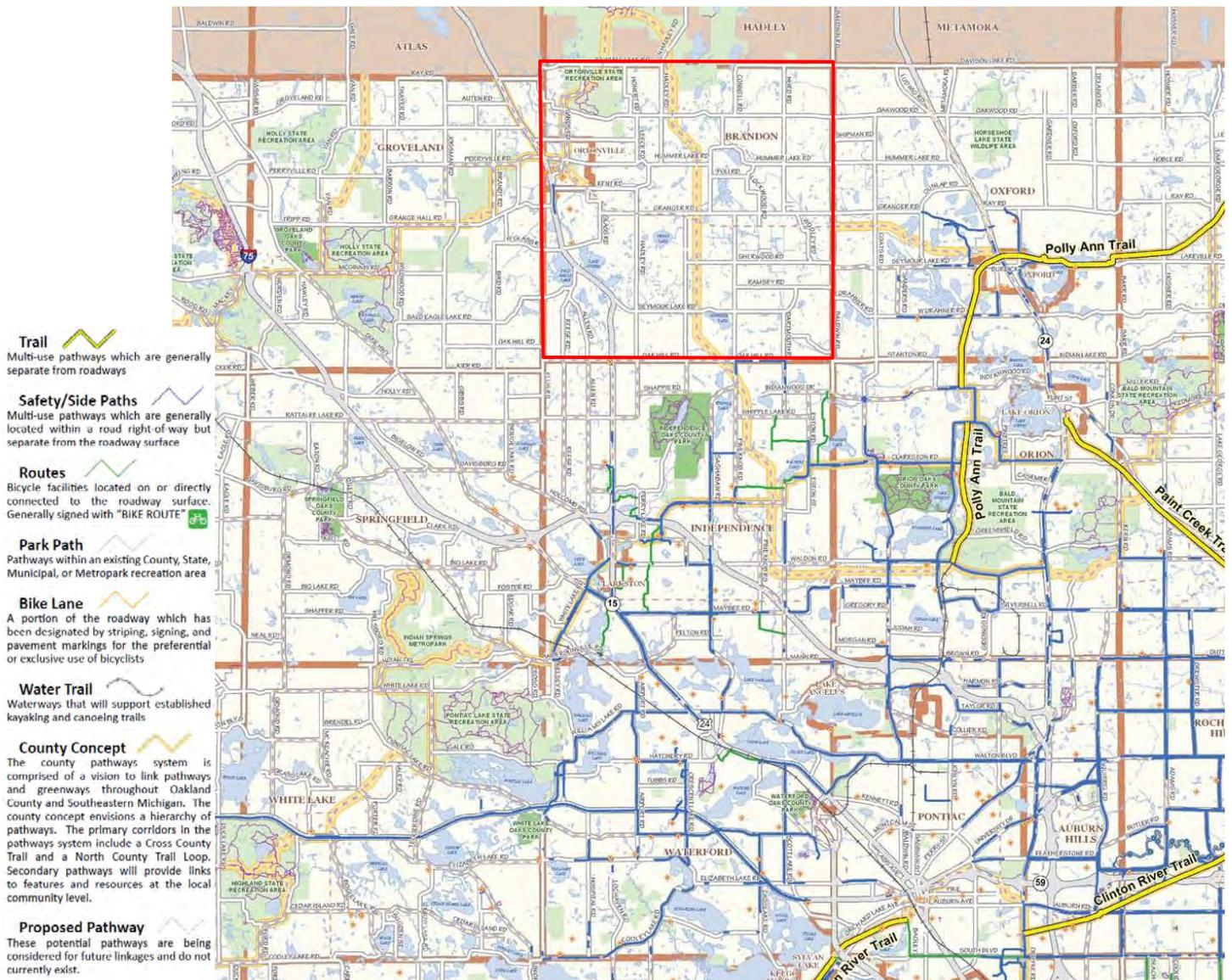
Figure 8. Regional Trails and Greenways Vision



Source: The Greenways Collaborative, 2006

Oakland County has developed and refined this vision in its 2008 Trails Master Plan, which has been updated regularly since that date. The Plan for the Brandon Township and the Village of Ortonville area focuses on two primary east-west and north-south connectors following utility corridors. The east-west connector would connect the Polly Ann Trail in Oxford Township to the Holly and Ortonville State Recreation Areas. This connector would go through the Village of Ortonville where three routes would direct either north to Ortonville State Recreation Area, northwest to Davison, or west to Holly State Recreation Area, Groveland Oaks County Park, and the existing Headwaters Trail network in and around the Holly area. The north-south connector would link Independence Township to Ortonville State Recreation Area. The latest Oak Route map is illustrated in Figure 9 below.

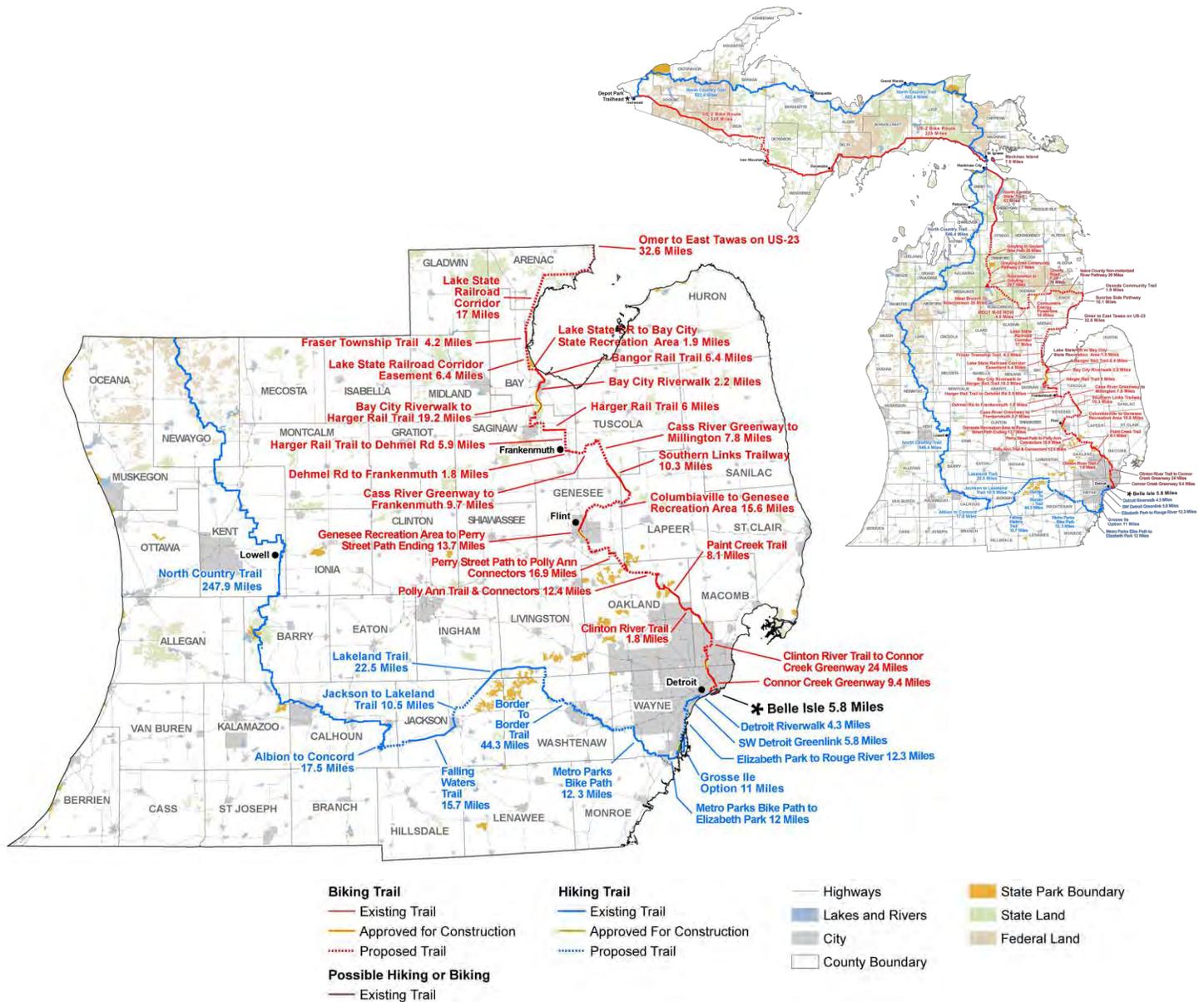
Figure 9. Oak Routes



Source: Oakland County Parks

More recently, in 2013, Governor Snyder proposed a “Showcase Trail” for Michigan to further the state’s key role in the national network of trails and provide an economic driver for the state’s tourism industry and rural regional economies. As envisioned, this trail, now known as the Iron Belle Trail, would connect Belle Isle to Ironwood through Michigan’s existing trail network and proposed trails segments along both a western route and an eastern route through the Michigan’s lower peninsula. While the routes are still evolving, the most recent version of the trail route dated August, 2014, shows an important segment of the trail planned to go through Brandon Township. This is illustrated below on Figure 10.

Figure 10. Iron Belle Trail



Source: Michigan Department of Natural Resources, 2014

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

The management and planning for parks and recreation services in the area is the responsibility of the Brandon Township Parks and Recreation Department.

ADMINISTRATION

The Brandon Township Parks and Recreation Department was formed in 2000 to replace the Brandon-Groveland-Ortonville Joint Recreation Commission (BGO). Today, Brandon Township is the "lead agency," and the Village of Ortonville and the Brandon School district make financial or in-kind contributions to the Department.

The Director of the Parks and Recreation Department is responsible to the Township Supervisor and the Township Board of Trustees. A Parks and Recreation Subcommittee advises on parks and recreation policies, projects, and programs. The Director oversees a variety of activities including the planning and development of park facilities and recreation programs, park policy, recreation and athletic programs and leagues, and other duties. The Director is aided by an administrative assistant.

The Village Manager oversees the maintenance of Village park grounds and equipment. A Village Park Committee advises on park policies, projects, and events.

FUNDING AND BUDGET

The Brandon Township Parks and Recreation Department is funded and operated through two separate funds: administration and programming (Table 6). The administrative budget allows for funding by the Township general fund and can be used for personnel salaries, office supplies, education, vehicle expenses, etc. The program budget is funded by program fees to cover equipment, wages for seasonal employees, rent, field preparation, etc. The Brandon Public Schools charge half the rate for use of playground, fields, gymnasium, and classrooms. The Village of Ortonville provides in-kind services for special events, Sherman Park, and maintenance of the Village-owned ball fields. Village funding for maintenance, projects, and events is through the Village park development fund (current budget \$9,000.00).

Table 6. Brandon Township Parks and Recreation Budget Summary

	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	Budget 2015
Recreation Fund - Programming			
Revenues	\$151,743.21	\$136,299.73	\$113,686.00
Expenses	\$162,246.90	\$111,744.41	\$113,686.00
General Fund - Administration			
Recreation	\$48,969.18	\$39,017.47	\$53,296.00
Park Operations	0	0	\$31,300.00

VOLUNTEERS AND PARTNERSHIPS

As mentioned previously, the Department maintains a relationship with Brandon Public Schools, which owns various indoor and outdoor recreational facilities such as gymnasiums, classrooms, sports fields, a pool, and more in the community. To avoid duplication of services, the Department coordinates recreation services with Brandon Community Education, which is run by the Schools and offers a variety of recreation programs. In general, Community Education offers enrichment classes along with aquatics and fitness, while the Township offers youth/adult athletic activities and special events.

Other organizations run various athletic recreation programs independently from the Township or Village. They are non-profit organizations and include:

- Brandon Hawks Travel Soccer
- Junior Blackhawk Travel Football

Brandon Township Parks and Recreation also partners with Independence Township for its youth softball/baseball programs U14 through U18. Ball fields at Clintonwood Park on Clarkston Road in Independence Township are used for this purpose.

Service clubs and community groups have also played a significant role in providing additional volunteer labor and financial support for park facilities and programs. These clubs and groups include:

Service clubs:

- Ortonville Rotary Club,
- Ortonville Lions Club,
- Oakland County 4-H,
- Boy Scouts of America, and
- Girl Scouts.

Other Organizations:

- Senior Center,
- Brandon Library,
- Ortonville DDA,
- Ortonville Historical Society, and
- Ortonville Chamber of Commerce.

RECREATION INVENTORY

The residents of Ortonville and Brandon have a variety of available regional recreational resources. The area also includes local park facilities: three Village parks and the Township Community Park. There are also public schools, and privately-owned recreational facilities in the area. This section describes these recreational resources. These properties are shown on Figure 11.

LOCAL PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Brandon Township Community Park

The Township owns and maintains a community park located north of the community on Hadley Road. The 47-acre park was established in 2007 and currently includes:

- 4 multi-purpose athletic fields,
- 2 picnic shelters,
- A sledding hill with lift station,
- A boundless playground,
- A rock quarry playground,
- Trails,
- An educational tree library, and
- Nature area with wetland fen, upland forest, and other plant communities.

Future plans for the Community Park includes development of ball fields, tennis courts, basketball courts, sand volleyball, a large gazebo, restroom, and other trails.



Eight acres of park land was recently acquired across Hadley Road for additional multi-purpose athletic fields.

Crossman Park

Located by the Brandon Township Office Building on Mill Street, Crossman Park is owned and maintained by the Village of Ortonville. The 0.75-acre park includes:

- A playground,
- A picnic shelter,
- Picnic areas with tables and grills,
- Walkways, mature trees, and open spaces.



Narrin Park

Located on Oakwood Road, Narrin Park is owned and maintained by the Village of Ortonville and provides access to Kearsley Creek. The 3-acre property includes:

- Fishing access to creek,
- Picnic areas with tables and grills, and
- Natural areas.

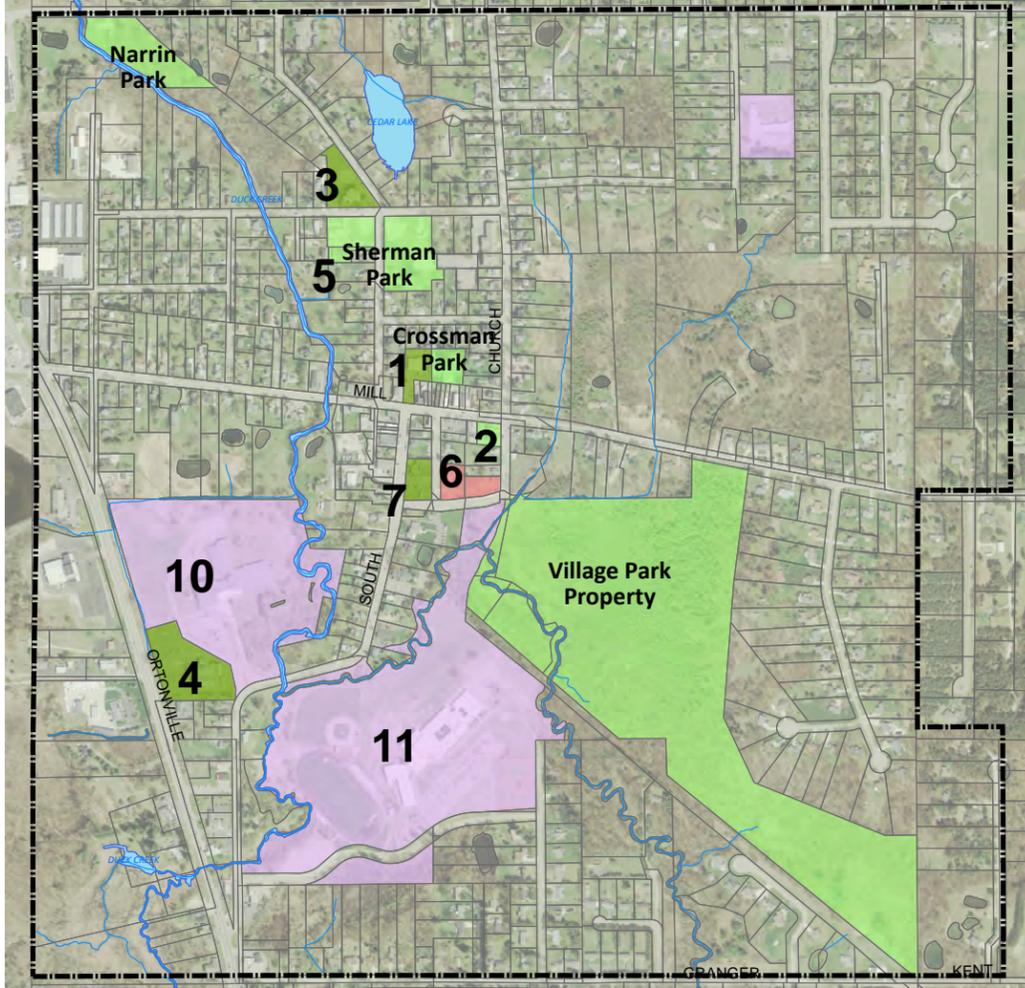
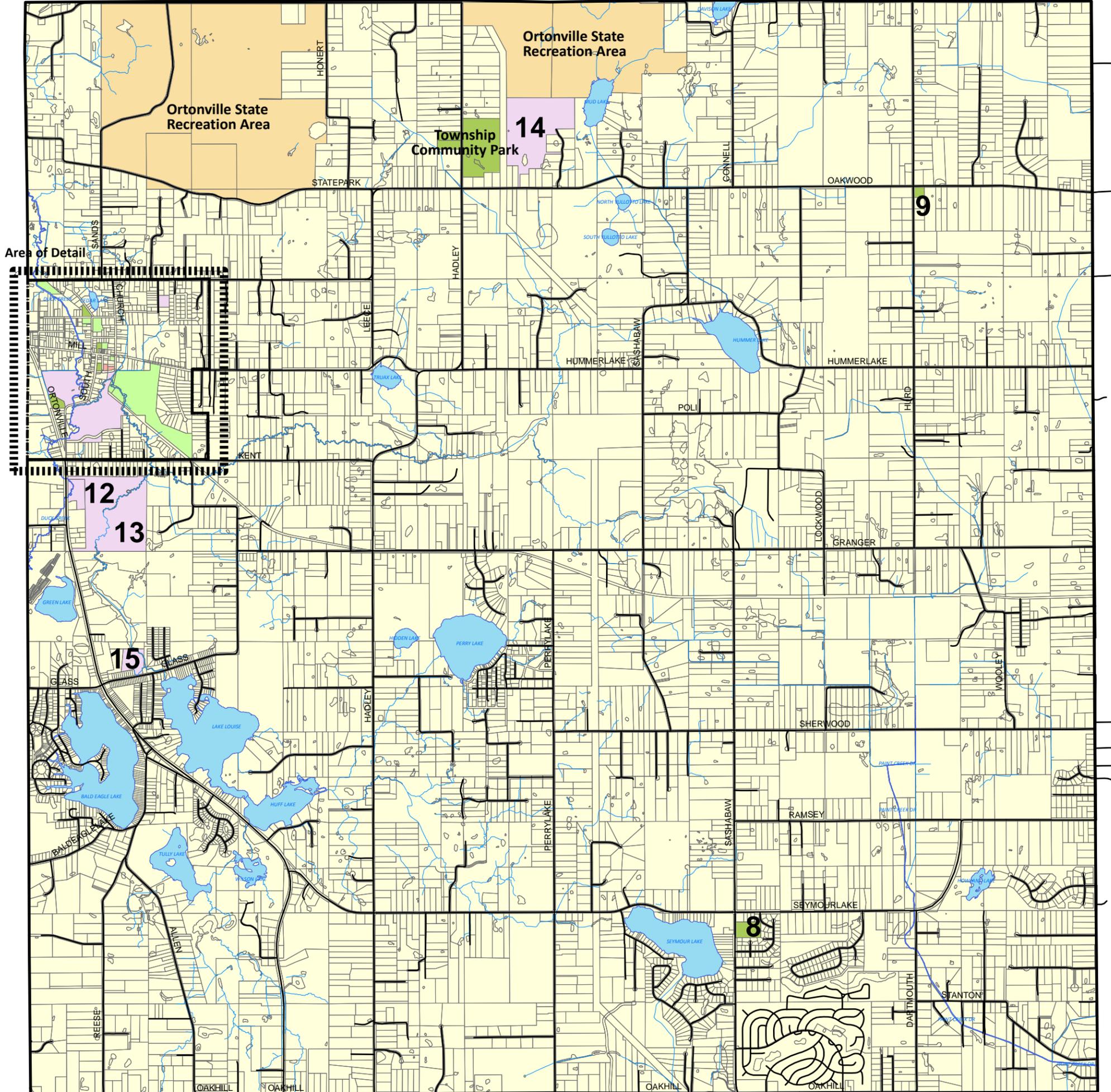
Sherman Memorial Park

Located in the center of the Village, at the intersection of Cedar and Mill Streets, Sherman Park is owned by the Village of Ortonville and maintained by both the Village of Ortonville and Brandon Township. While only 2.6 acres, some of the recreation facilities are located across Cedar Street on the Village DPW site as well as behind the Senior Center. The park includes:

- 2 lighted youth baseball/softball fields with dugouts and bleachers,
- 2 T-ball fields,
- A skate park,
- A playground,
- Restroom/concession building,
- Picnic areas with tables and grills, and
- Walkways.



An additional 43 acres of undeveloped park land are also located in the southern part of the Village adjacent to a public school property.

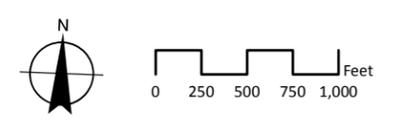


VILLAGE OF ORTONVILLE

- State Land
- Township Properties
- Village Properties
- School Properties

- 1 - Township Offices
- 2 - Village Offices
- 3 - Senior Center
- 4 - Township Library
- 5 - Village DPW
- 6 - Post Office
- 7 - Fire Station #1
- 8 - Fire Station #2
- 9 - Fire Station #3
- 10- Brandon Fletcher Intermediate School
- 11- Harvey Swanson/HT Burt Elementary School
- 12- Brandon Middle School
- 13- Brandon High School
- 14- Oakwood Elementary School
- 15- Belle Ann School

Figure 11
PARKS & COMMUNITY FACILITIES
 Brandon Township & Village of Ortonville



SCHOOLS AND PRIVATE RECREATION FACILITIES

Oakwood Elementary School

Located on Oakwood Road in the north portion of the Township, the school grounds contain about 30 acres of land with a softball field, playground, and gymnasium.

H.T. Burt Elementary School/Harvey-Swanson Elementary School

Located in the southwest portion of the Village, the property contains about 6 acres of land which has access to Kearsley Creek. It includes a varsity-size baseball field with dugouts and stands, 8 lighted tennis courts, a lighted football field, a quarter mile track with stands and benches, playgrounds/play equipment, gazebo, and an indoor gymnasium.

Brandon Fletcher Intermediate School

Located on the south side of the Village north of the Township Library, Brandon Fletcher contains about 23 acres of land which has access to Kearsley Creek. The school property includes playground and play equipment as well as an indoor gymnasium.

Brandon Middle School

The Middle School is located south of the Village limits in the Township on 17 acres of land which has access to Kearsley Creek. The property includes a soccer field, 2 practice football fields, a junior Varsity baseball field, and a gymnasium.

Brandon High School

The High School is also located south of the Village limits in the Township on 140 acres of land which has access to Kearsley Creek. The property contains varsity size athletic fields including baseball field, soccer field, softball field, 1/4 mile track, and football field. All fields are lighted with benches and stands. The property also includes 8 tennis courts and a large outdoor nature area. Indoor facilities include 3 gymnasiums, a pool, and a 750 seat auditorium.

Belle Ann School

Located on Glass Road south of the Village limits in the Township, the 10-acre property includes playground/play equipment. Indoor facilities include a gymnasium, cafeteria, and classrooms.

A number of private recreation facilities can also be found in the community. Some of these facilities include:

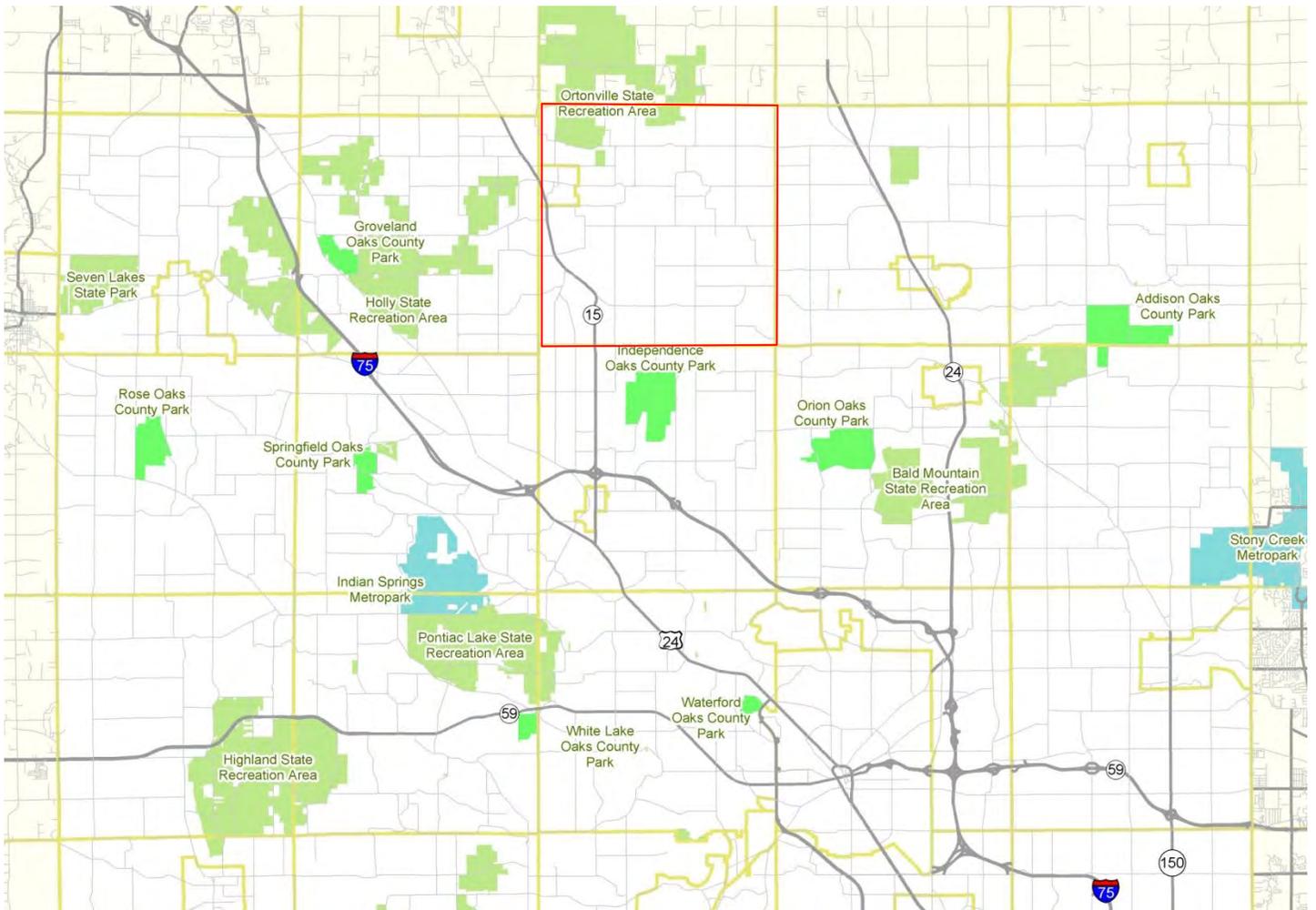
- Clear Water Campgrounds, a private 79-acre camping facility with lake fishing and swimming, an open air pavilion, horseshoes, volleyball, playground, and a recreation building for use by camp ground patrons.
- Other private commercial recreation facilities include: Lynn Holiday Dance Center, GOB Gymnastics and Dance, Hayme Serratos Martial Arts, and In Motion Fitness.
- Other nearby private commercial recreation facilities include Creative Dance Center and Anytime Fitness in Groveland Township.

REGIONAL RECREATION FACILITIES

There are about 30,000 acres of state-owned parks and recreation areas, 6,500 acres of Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA) metroparks, and over 5,000 acres of county-owned parks nearby.

These regional facilities incorporate large areas and provide recreation opportunities such as swimming, boating, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, camping and golfing, which are typically beyond the ability of a local municipality to provide. Figure 12 depicts the location of the regional parks around Brandon Township and Table 7 lists the recreational activities they offer. A detailed description of the state and county-owned parks located within Brandon Township follows.

Figure 12. Regional Recreation Facilities



Source: Oakland County Planning and Economic Development Services.

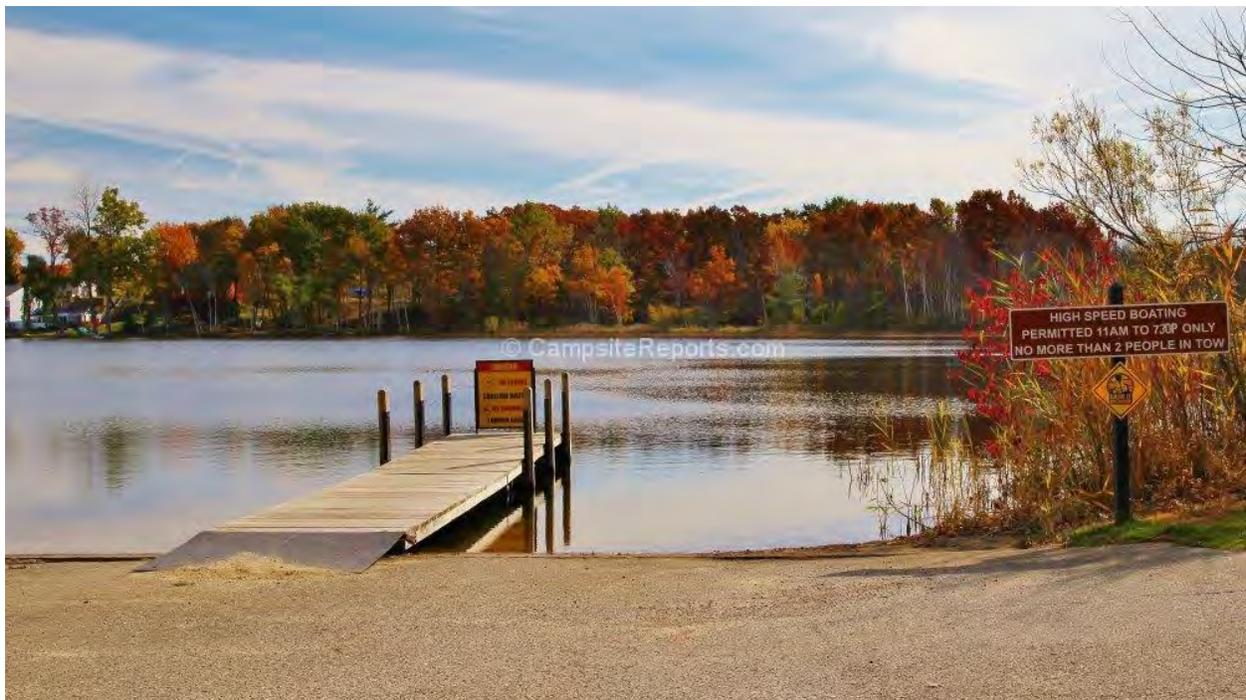
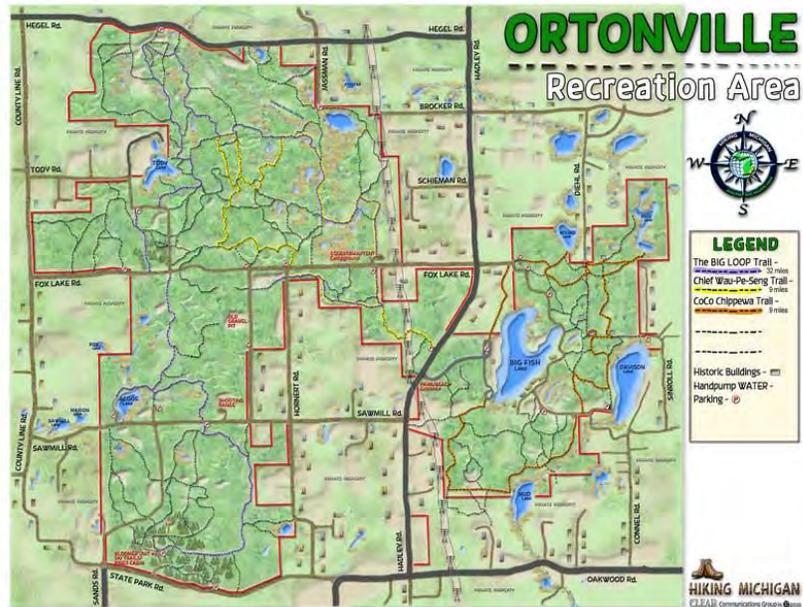
Table 7. Regional Recreation Facilities

		State Recreation Areas						HCMA		Oakland County Parks								
		Bald Mountain Rec Area - 4,637 Ac.	Highland Rec Area - 5,903 Acres	Holly Rec Area - 7,817 Acres	Ortonville Rec Area - 5,400 Acres	Pontiac Rec Area - 3,745 Acres	Proud Lake Rec Area - 4,700 Acres	Seven Lakes State Park - 1,434 Ac.	Indian Springs Metropark - 2,215 Ac	Stony Creek Metropark - 4,461 Ac.	Addison Oaks - 1,140 Acres	Groveland Oaks - 362 Acres	Independence Oaks - 1,276 Acres	Orion Oaks - 916 Acres	Rose Oaks - 640 Acres	Springfield Oaks - 332 Acres	White Lake Oaks - 197 Acres	Waterford Oaks - 185 Acres
Passive	Picnicking	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●						●
	Playground	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●						●
Trails	Nature/Hiking Trail	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●				●
	Paved Trail	●							●	●	●	●	●					●
	Mountain Biking Trail	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●				●	●			
	Equestrian Trail		●		●	●	●	●	●		●				●			
	Cross-country skiing	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●		●	●	●			
	Snowmobiling	●	●	●	●	●	●	●										
Water Activities	Swimming Beach	●	●	●	●	●		●	●		●	●	●					
	Swimming Pool																	●
	Water Park/Splash Pad/Slide							●			●							●
	Boat Launch	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●					
	Boat Rental			●			●	●		●	●	●	●					
	Canoeing/Kayaking	●	●	●	●		●	●		●	●	●	●		●			
	Shore/Boat Fishing	●	●	●	●	●	●			●		●	●	●				
	Dock Fishing	●	●	●		●							●	●				
Winter & Seasonal Activities	Ice Fishing	●	●	●		●				●		●	●					
	Ice Skating								●	●		●						
	Sledding							●	●									●
	Tobogganing								●									●
	Hunting	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●		●					
Interpretive Facilities	Nature Center							●	●			●						
	Farm/Learning Center															●		
	Garden															●		
Court & Turf Games	Ball Field									●		●						
	Sand Volleyball		●					●	●	●	●	●						●
	Horseshoe Pit		●		●			●		●	●	●						●
	Table Tennis																	●
	Disk Golf			●						●	●							
	Golf Course/Driving Range								●	●						●	●	
Misc.	Dog Park		●										●				●	
	Banquet/Event Facility								●	●						●		●
	Skate Park/Motorcross										●							●
	Radio Control Flying Field		●	●	●													
	Shooting Range	●			●													
	Horse Stable		●													●		
Camping	Rustic Campsite	●	●		●	●				●	●							
	Modern Campsite			●		●	●			●	●							
	Cabin/Lodge	●	●	●			●			●	●							
	Group Camping	●	●	●		●	●			●	●							

Ortonville State Recreation Area

This recreation area includes 5,400 acres of land spanning both Brandon and Hadley Townships, containing high wooded hills and a wide range of recreational activities. Features of the recreation area include an equestrian campground and a day-use area with a beach, beach house, picnic shelters and area, and games. The Recreation Area consists of the following activities and facilities:

- Swimming on Big Fish Lake including a beach and beach house;
- Boating with boat launches on several lakes;
- Canoeing and kayaking;
- Fishing for northern pike, largemouth bass, and perch;
- Rustic cabins, equestrian camping, and rustic camping;
- Picnic shelters and areas;
- Playground and horseshoe pits;
- Hiking, mountain biking, equestrian, and cross-country skiing trails;
- Hunting;
- Shooting range; and
- Snowmobile trails.



RECREATION PROGRAMS

A variety of recreation programs are available to the residents of Brandon Township and the Village of Ortonville. Many of these programs are offered by Brandon Township Parks and Recreation as well as other recreation providers including the Village of Ortonville, Brandon Senior Center, Brandon Community Education, Ortonville Chamber of Commerce, and other recreation groups.

The programs offered by Brandon Township Parks and Recreation focus on youth and adult sports activities, as well as community-wide special events. They include:

- Baseball - T-ball, Coach Pitch, Machine Pitch, Little League, Babe Ruth
- Baseball Travel - U12, U14, & U15
- Basketball - Girl's League
- Basketball - Boy's League
- Basketball - Coed Recreational
- Basketball - 30 years old and over
- Beginning Baseball - 1st through 3rd grade
- Beginning Basketball - Summer outdoors 4 to 6 years old
- Introduction to Basketball Fall program - 2nd grade
- Beginning Floor Hockey - Summer program
- Beginning Soccer - Spring & Fall ages 4 to 6 years old
- Christmas Parade
- Community Art and Rummage Sale
- Daddy-Daughter Dance
- Flag Football Fall program - Ages 6 to 9 and 10 to 14 years old
- Golf - Instructional for youth and adult
- Golf Outing
- Lady Mustangs Travel Basketball
- Cheerleading
- MRPA Hoop Shoot - Competition skills event
- MRPA Pitch Hit & Run - Competition skills event
- October Family Fun Fest and Zombie Run
- Pee Wee Sports Camp Fall and Winter - Ages 4 to 6 years old
- Septemberfest - Arts & Craft, Entertainment, Kids Area, Car Show, Food
- Ski Club
- Soccer Camp
- Soccer - Recreational U6, U8, U10, & U12
- Softball T-ball, Coach Pitch, Machine Pitch, Colts, & Pony's
- Special Theater Trips/Salute to America 4th of July Trip
- Tennis Instructional
- Volleyball - Coed Adult League
- Volleyball - Women's Open
- Volleyball - Youth 5th to 7th grade
- Wrestling

- Wrestling Camp
- Youth Sports Camp
- Warrior Warm-up - 2.5 K & 5 K runs.



In addition, the Village Downtown Development Authority sponsors community events including:

- Friday night Beats, Beets, and Eats summer program
- Christmas in the Village
- Halloween activities
- Creekfest
- Christmas Eve Luminaries.

ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT AND GRANT-ASSISTED PROJECTS

A critical component in planning for recreation facilities is providing access to accommodate the needs of all people, including those with disabilities. The ranking system suggested by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Guidelines (MDNR, 2014) was used to evaluate the accessibility of the area parks. The ranking system ranges from 1 to 5 as follows:

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

Each of the parks was evaluated using the MDNR ranking system noted. The specific elements that were evaluated include parking, paths of travel from parking to activity areas, activity areas themselves, support facilities such as restrooms and surfacing. All Village Parks are ranked as 4 because they meet accessibility guidelines and Brandon Township Community Park is ranked as 5, because of the universal design features of the park which were developed using the principles of universal design.

It is the intent of Ortonville and Brandon that future park projects comply with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations, in particular, the 2010 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Standards for Accessible Design.

The Village of Ortonville has not received any MDNR grant funds for parkland acquisition or development.

Brandon Township received a Land and Water Conservation Fund grant in 2008 (Project No. 26-01682, \$75,000) for development of the Township Community Park. The project included a pathway, motorized lift system for universal access to sledding hill, and an accessible boundless playground structure.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT

An essential task in the recreation planning process is to determine the needs of the community as a basis for an action plan to improve the parks and recreation system. Needs expressed by the public provide the rationale for the formulation of goals and objectives as well as identify areas for capital improvements. To assess the public’s desires, consideration was given to general recreation trends, two public meetings, and an online survey of residents. The input process focused on identifying priorities for park development in the future.

PARK ACREAGE COMPARISON

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) suggests a minimum amount of parkland and to adequately serve a given population size. The NRPA guidelines provide minimum park land standards that are applicable nationwide for recreation planning purposes. While the NRPA standards are useful benchmarks addressing minimum park acreage, a parks and recreation system should be tailored to meet the needs of the community.

According to the NRPA, parks are categorized as mini-parks, neighborhood parks, community parks, and regional parks. The mini, neighborhood, and community parks are the *close-to-home* parks, designed to satisfy the recreational needs of local communities. All the Village and Township parks are considered *close-to-home* parks. According to NRPA standards, the suggested amount of *close-to-home* parkland is 6.25 to 10.5 acres for every 1,000 residents.

Regional parks serve a broader area and focus on meeting the recreation needs of the region as well as preserving unique areas. For the Brandon-Ortonville area, regional parks include the state-, HCMA-, and county-owned recreation areas described in the preceding chapter. According to NRPA standards, the suggested amount of regional park land is 15 to 20 acres for every 1,000 residents

Table 8 presents a comparison of the NRPA suggested parkland standards with existing, developed parks based on a combined Village and Township population of 14,672 in 2010 and 15,168 in 2040. According to this, local parks do not meet the acreage for total *close to home* parkland. However, the future development of the 43-acre Village park property and the 8-acre Township park property will address this deficiency. At the same time, the residents of the Brandon-Ortonville area are well-served by the public school grounds located in the community and the regional park facilities provided by the state, HCMA, and the county that are located nearby.

Table 8. Comparison to Suggested Parkland Acreage Standards

Type of Park	NRPA standard Acres/ 1000 Population	Suggested Per 2010 pop – 14,672	Suggested Per 2040 pop. Estimate – 15,168	Existing
<i>Close to Home</i> Parkland	6.25 - 10.5 Acres	92 – 155 Acres	95 – 160 Acres	53.35 Acres*
Regional Parks	15 - 20 Acres	221 – 294 Acres	228 – 304 Acres	41,500 Acres+
Brandon Community Schools	-	-	-	226 Acres

*: This amount includes 47 acres for the Township Park and 6.35 acres for the Village-owned parks.

STATE AND NATIONAL RECREATION TRENDS

Recreation trends on a national level and in Michigan provide insight into activities that show the greatest growth in popularity and therefore may affect the future direction of parks and recreation. The Outdoor Foundation regularly conducts national surveys to measure participation in physical activities and track changes from previous years. According to the Outdoor Foundation, nearly 50 percent of Americans (141.9 million) ages six and older participated in outdoor recreation in 2012. Table 9 lists the top five outdoor activities.

Table 9. National Sports Participation, 2010

Activity	Participation
1. Running, Jogging & Trail Running	53.2 million
2. Freshwater, Saltwater & Fly Fishing	46.0 million
3. Road Biking, Mountain Biking & BMX	42.3 million
4. Car, Backyard & RV Camping	38.0 million
5. Hiking	34.5 million

Source: Outdoor Participation Report, 2013, the Outdoor Foundation

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

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

- Recreation facilities and programs should respond to the expected increase of seniors.
- There is a trend towards implementing community-wide non-motorized transportation systems to accommodate bicycle and pedestrian recreation use and to contribute to a healthy and walkable community.
- Kearsley and Duck Creeks are great natural assets for the area. Encouraging their use for recreation, while maintaining their ecological functions should be a priority for the community.

PUBLIC INPUT

To create a master plan that reflects the recreation preferences, needs, and values of Brandon Township and the Village of Ortonville, the planning process included multiple forums for community outreach. Public input was received through a public workshop, joint meeting, and an online survey.

Public Workshop

The public was invited to attend a workshop held at the Brandon Township Library on September 15, 2014 to discuss and gather input for the 2014 Brandon Township Master Plan update. The event was attended with approximately 24 people who participated and provided valuable comments and suggestions.

Following a presentation which provided background information about the Township as well as a review of the agenda and the goals for the meeting, attendees were asked to break into small groups around a “station.” The room included six stations situated in a convenient and logical manner for attendees to navigate. The small groups were asked to move from station to station every 10 to 15 minutes so that all attendees had a chance to comment on each topic. Members of the Township Planning Commission and Township staff were present at each station to provide information and receive comments. Each station included an informational display about each topic along with a pad of paper to take comments. Brief questionnaires to guide discussion were also available at each station.

The topic/stations included Residential Development, Parks, Open Space & Natural Features, Community Facilities, Transportation & Traffic, and Economic Development. The facilitators presented the comments received to the larger group. Participants were then asked to indicate their preferences for the ideas and suggestions garnered by using five sticky dots to indicate their preferred ideas.

The comments related to parks and recreation are listed below along with the votes they received.

- Develop railroad bed/Grange Hall Road + ITC corridor for walk/bike trail opportunities – including the Polly Ann Trail connection and the Governor’s Trail (10 votes)
- Prepare a Township-wide trail plan (5 votes)
- Hadley road park – would like a pavilion for events & reunion (1 vote)
- Incorporate the county’s trail plan into Master Plan (1 vote)
- Facilitate pedestrian access from town to the parks
- Preserve our wetlands & natural features
- Add more on-road pathways (separate from the road), not necessarily paved
- Give people an opportunity to be outside
- Connect the parks with pathways
- Dog park would be nice
- Park (passive) that you don’t have to pay to go to
- There is value in our open/natural spaces
- Preserve open space
- Purchase lakefront property
- Protect our watersheds/water quality.

Public Joint Meeting

The public was also invited to attend a joint meeting of the Brandon Township and Village of Ortonville Planning Commissions on October 30, 2014. While the discussion focused on the need for a community-wide trail system, several issues and comments were provided as summarized below.

- Provide pathways linking the community facilities and the Oakland County Oak Routes and the state Showcase Trail system
- Continue to provide and increase recreation programming for children
- Provide Wi-Fi at Crossman Park and other parks
- Provide a shed to store maintenance equipment
- Expand creekside parks with walking paths
- Capitalize on the creeks
- Add new programs such as “music in the park”
- Reinstate tournaments and programs no longer available
- Bring back the Lady Mustangs
- Raise more funds for the Parks and Recreation Department, maybe a millage should be considered
- Take Septemberfest to the next level
- Ball fields and a pool are important facilities to maintain in the community
- Work with Oakland County Parks and Recreation to add trails.

Online Survey

During the months of December through February, residents were invited to provide ideas and suggestions for parks, trails, and recreation system through an online survey from both the Township's and Village's websites.

The online questionnaire was designed to solicit feedback on a broad spectrum of issues for the community. More than 208 surveys and comments were received and tabulated. Key findings from the surveys are outlined below.

- The most popular types of recreation activities are walking/hiking and trail sports, and nature activities.
- The most popular area parks for respondents are in decreasing order: Independence Oaks, Brandon Township Community Park, Ortonville State Recreation Area, Holly State Recreation Area, and Crossman Park.
- Most respondents feel nearby parks and recreation facilities meet their needs adequately (47%).
- Future desired park facilities respondents feel are most important include:
 - Walking/bicycling paths
 - Nature Trails
 - Playground Structures
 - Spray Park
 - Picnic Areas/Pavilion.
- Youth sports and fitness, adult fitness and wellness, senior programs, and special events are the recreation programs respondents feel are most important.

-
- Most respondents live in Brandon Township (65%), the Village of Ortonville (29%), and Holly Township (6%). The respondents' household age groups are distributed as follows:
 - 0-17: 28.0%
 - 18-24: 10.5%
 - 25-34: 12.6%
 - 35-44: 15.3%
 - 45-54: 15.6%
 - 55-64: 13.6%
 - 65-74: 4.4%.

PUBLIC REVIEW AND PUBLIC HEARINGS

Once a draft Parks and Recreation Plan was completed, it was made available for a 30-day public review. The availability of the draft plan for public review was advertised in *The Citizen* (page 49) and copies were placed at various locations in the Village and Township including the Village and Township Offices, the Library, and Brandon Township's and the Village of Ortonville's websites.

A few minor comments were received. After considering the comments received, minor changes were made to the document and the plan was recommended for adoption by Village Council and Township Board.

The public input into the plan culminated in advertised public hearings held on February 2nd, 2015 for Brandon Township and February 23, 2015 for the Village of Ortonville (pages 50 and 56). After the hearings and at a subsequent meeting in the case of the Township, the Village Council and Township Board adopted the plan by resolutions (pages 60 and 61).

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Brandon Township and the Village of Ortonville have formulated goals and objectives for the next five years. They are broad enough to encompass the suggestions expressed from the public, Village and Township officials, staff, as well as to meet the observed deficiencies in the recreation resources of the area. They also consider demographic changes, current and anticipated growth and development, the area's physical resources, and recreation trends.

GOALS

The Village of Ortonville and Brandon Township should provide outdoor recreational opportunities for persons of all ages and all abilities that are clean and safe.

The Village of Ortonville and Brandon Township should consider the future needs of the community and take actions to dedicate parkland in order to meet future recreational needs and preserve and enhance the character of the community.

OBJECTIVES

1. Maintain and improve parks and recreation facilities

It is important to maintain and improve existing park facilities to ensure continued enjoyment and safety. This includes upgrading aging facilities/equipment and maintenance as well as developing new outdoor facilities in response to the changing needs of Township and Village residents.

2. Acquire new parkland

Park land acquisition should focus on preserving and protecting high quality natural areas and open space as well as providing non-motorized connection opportunities. Coordination with the Township and Village Planning Commissions, Township Board, and Village Council will be necessary to preserve open space and dedicate parkland in new developments.

3. Develop a continuous and interconnected community-wide walk/bike way system

Trail development is recognized as a priority for the community. In addition to the primary Iron Belle Trail route, the establishment of a continuous system of walk/bike ways connecting the primary trail with neighborhoods, schools, businesses, and community facilities is also needed for the community.

4. Establish a mechanism to promote and administer parks and recreation

Improved coordination with the state, Oakland County, and other area recreation providers would maximize the community's recreational resources. The Township and Village park committees can play a role in the coordination of services with other recreation providers by focusing on meeting community recreational needs and gathering support for park land and trail acquisition and development. A means of generating revenues through grants, sponsorships, and donations where possible continues to be a priority to provide for park projects.

ACTION PROGRAM

The action program details the manner in which the goals and objectives will be met. It includes a list of specific projects, as well as an improvement schedule with suggested projects, a sequence of tasks, and strategies for implementation.

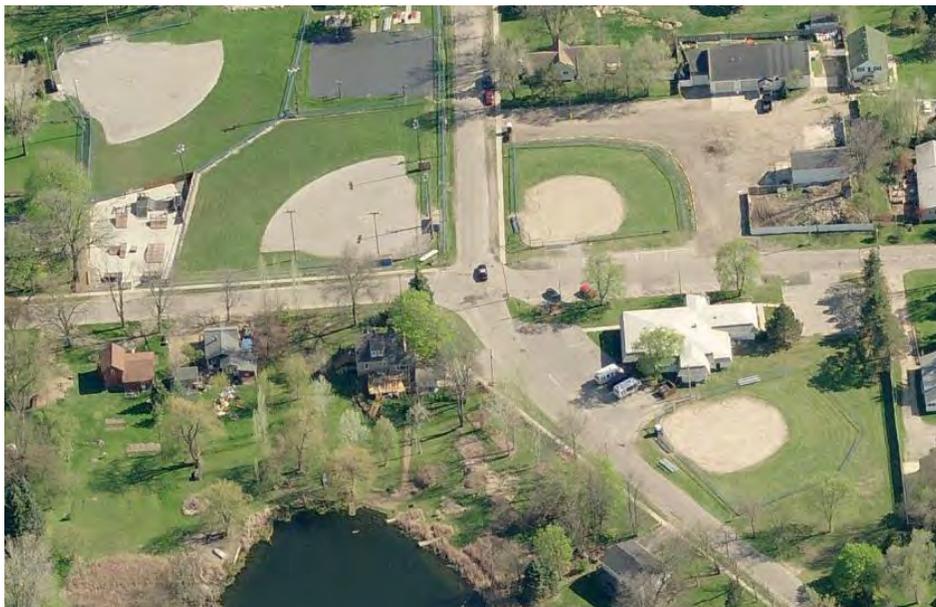
ACTION PLAN

The following describes the specific projects and actions which are recommended to be accomplished during the planning period. Illustrations and plans showing the proposed park improvements and actions are also included as needed to depict the proposed actions.

1. Maintain and upgrade the existing Village and Township Parks

This action includes replacing or repairing old equipment and facilities which are in a state of disrepair, are outdated, or are dangerous. It also includes improving the appearance of the parks and properties through appropriate landscaping and maintenance. All upgrades must meet safety and accessibility standards. Proposed activities include:

- Update the park maintenance schedule regularly including mowing, weed whipping, litter disposal, weeding, irrigation, and snow removal;
- Repair and improve park signs;
- Remove/replace outdated play equipment;
- Maintain safety surfaces under play structures to regulated depth and fall zone;
- Refurbish athletic field surfaces as needed;
- Refurbish parking areas, walkways, and skate park pavement surfaces as needed;
- Replace/add park furnishings such as benches, trash receptacles, and pet waste dispensers;
- Maintain and repair picnic shelters and structures in good condition with roof repair, exterior painting, and other renovations; and
- Continue general park upkeep and stewardship.

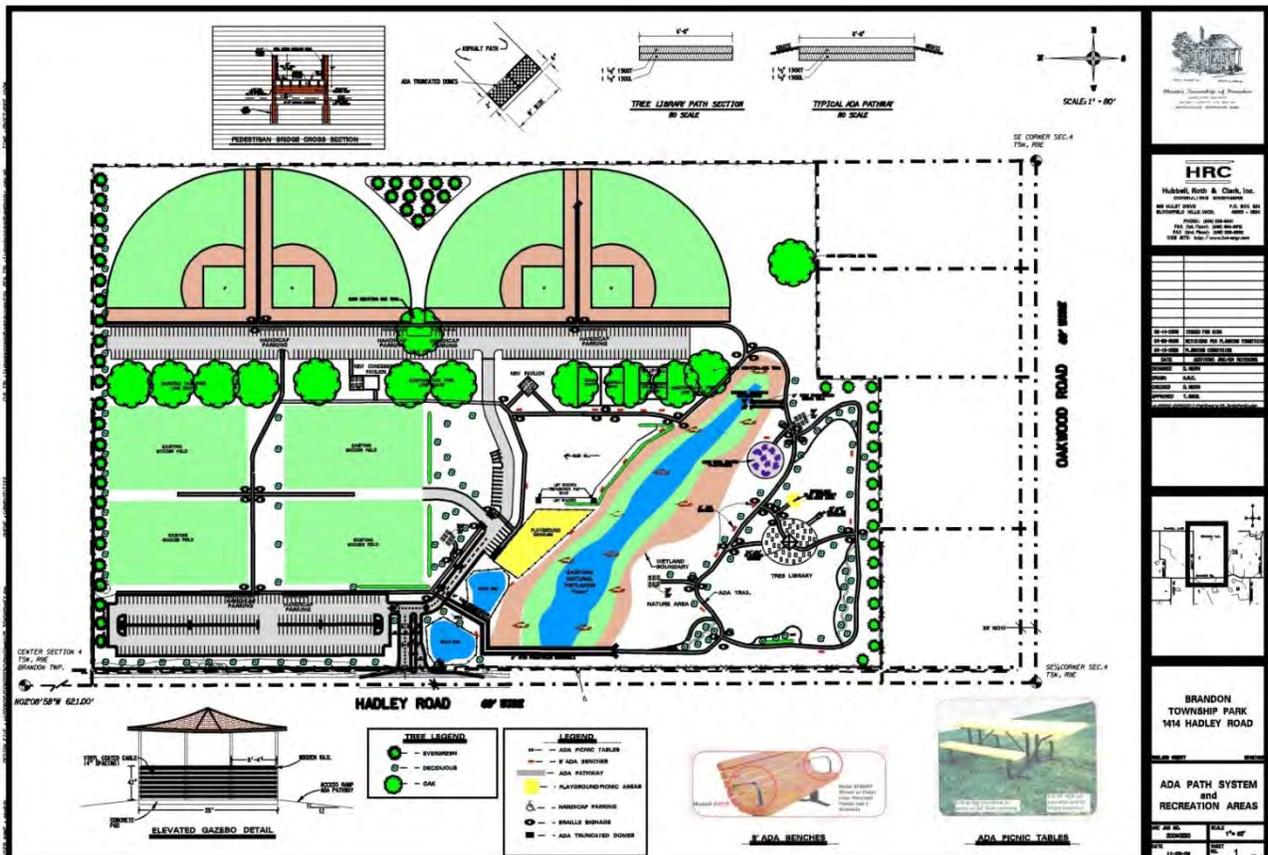


2. Develop recreation facilities on currently owned Township or Village properties

This action includes the continued development of park properties and the preparation of development plans with phasing and costs for properties that are undeveloped.

- Continue the development of Brandon Township Community Park with:
 - Phase 2: softball/baseball fields, parking, basketball courts, tennis courts, volleyball courts, and restroom/concession building (including storage and maintenance area);
 - Phase 3: interpretive signage, 2 picnic pavilions, gazebo, 8-foot wide pathways, observation deck, furnishings, and landscaping;
 - Prepare a development plan for the newly acquired 8 acres located across Hadley Road; and
 - Initiate engineering and implementation of 8-acre development plan.
- Develop the 43-acre Village park property:
 - Prepare a development plan for the undeveloped 43-acre Village property with vehicular and pedestrian access, picnic area/shelter, trails, and preservation of environmentally sensitive areas. Other improvements could include the development of a boardwalk and viewing platform over the creek and associated wetlands.
 - Initiate engineering and implementation of the 43-acre Village property plan.
- Other outdoor active recreation facilities to be considered for future development include a dog park, splash pad, and additional youth athletic fields.

Figure 13. Brandon Township Community Park Development Plan



3. *Acquire and develop future parkland and open space*

Work to acquire and dedicate new parkland and open space as follows:

- Preserve natural features which would provide a setting for walking paths, habitat preservation, wildlife, and natural resources-based activities;
- Acquire land providing opportunities for trail connections and land that is easily accessible from most residents;
- Acquire land to enhance access to Kearsley and Duck Creeks;
- Work with the Township Board, Village Council, and the municipalities' Planning Commissions to ensure parkland needs are considered in the review of new developments and to encourage and develop regulations for developers to set aside land for community park facilities, trails, and open space preservation.

4. *Establish a continuous community-wide walk/bike way system*

There is a strong need for more walk/bike connections in the community. Priority should be placed on developing the Iron Belle Trail as well as the M-15 Trail. Other walk/bike ways that interconnect with the Iron Belle and M-15 trails with neighborhoods, parks, community facilities, schools, and state land should be considered for development (See Figure 14 on next page). A group of residents are currently engaged in forming a trail group to promote the development of trails and pathways in the community. While this grassroots group is in its beginning, this support can be an asset to the development of a future community-wide walk/bike way system. This action includes:

- Work with the Township Board, Village Council, and the municipalities' Planning Commissions to develop a community-wide plan in cooperation with the Oakland County Parks, Road Commission for Oakland County, state agencies, and adjacent communities.
- Work with the Township Board, Village Council, and the municipalities' Planning Commissions to set priorities for the implementation of the community-wide walk/bike system.
- Implement a sidewalk program to construct missing gaps in the Village.
- Provide access points along the walk/bike system with parking and pedestrian amenities such as trail map, benches, trash receptacles, bike racks, mile markers, and interpretive/directional signs.
- Develop a marketing strategy for the system to attract support and sponsors, which could translate into a community walking map and walking club.



5. *Maintain and enhance high quality parks and recreation programming and services*

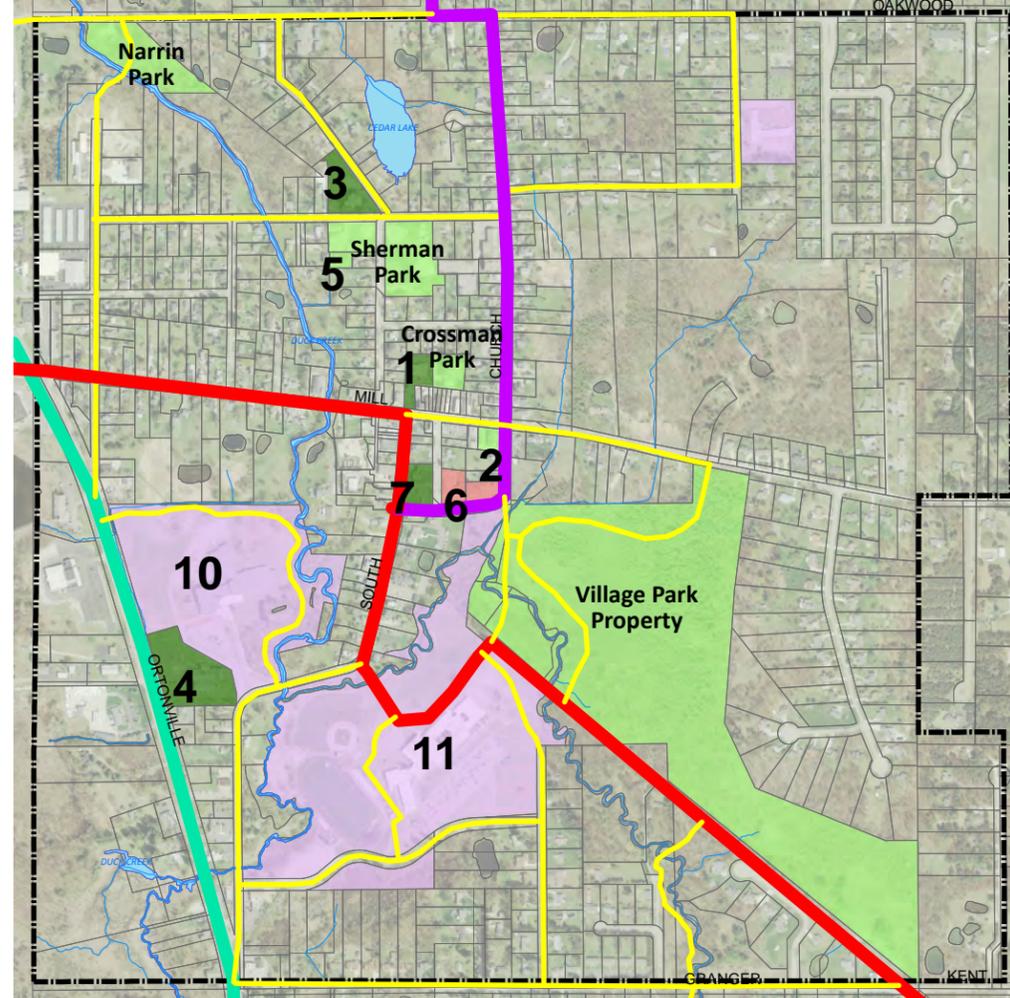
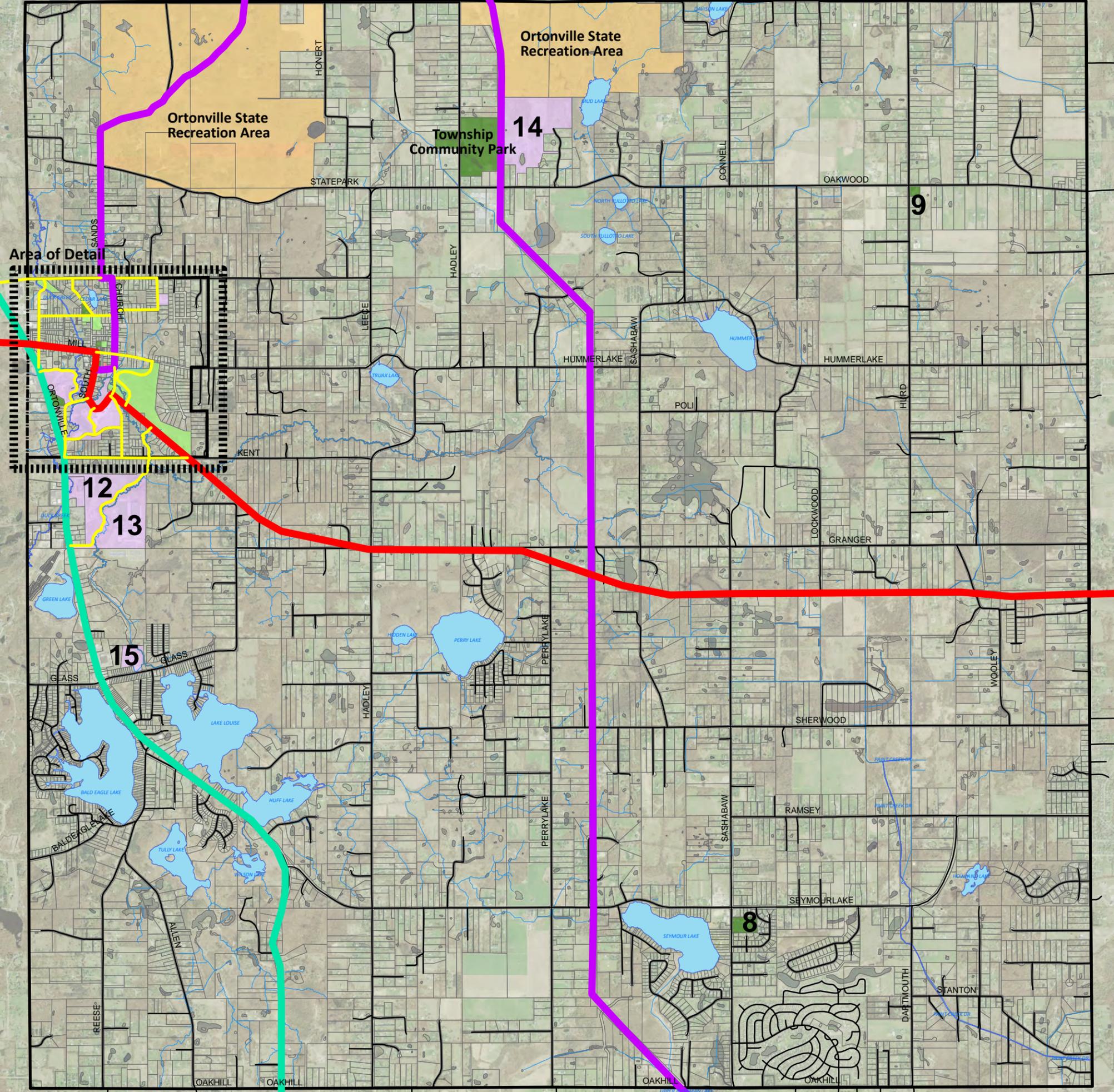
Facilitate and promote the use of parks and recreation facilities by community groups including seniors, youth groups, and public schools. Actions may include:

- Continue to broaden the variety of activities offered as the budget allows.
- Strive to maintain core recreation programs including special community events as well as youth and adult sport-related athletic opportunities.
- Continue to coordinate and promote the shared-use of the area's parks and recreation facilities and programs including the state, county, public schools, and other area recreation providers.
- Maintain existing and forge new partnerships with area businesses to benefit recreation opportunities for residents.
- Continue to publish a well-designed brochure to advertise recreation programs and special events.

6. *Administration and funding*

A means of increasing revenues where possible should be continually explored to support the desired improvement projects and to maintain the existing and future park facilities to a high quality standard. Actions may include:

- Increase staff and maintenance equipment as needed.
- Participate in state and regional recreation planning organizations.
- Keep park volunteers engaged.
- Continue to seek grants and sponsorships to support the capital improvement projects mentioned above. The Township and Village park committees can advocate and promote the value and benefits of parks and recreation by reaching out to the community. The feasibility of a future millage for parkland acquisition and park development can also be explored.



- Iron Belle Trail
- M-15 Heritage Trail
- County Trail Concept
- Potential Local Connections
- State Land
- Township Properties
- Village Properties
- School Properties

- 1 - Township Offices
- 2 - Village Offices
- 3 - Senior Center
- 4 - Township Library
- 5 - Village DPW
- 6 - Post Office
- 7 - Fire Station #1
- 8 - Fire Station #2
- 9 - Fire Station #3
- 10 - Brandon Fletcher Intermediate School
- 11 - Harvey Swanson/HT Burt Elementary School
- 12 - Brandon Middle School
- 13 - Brandon High School
- 14 - Oakwood Elementary School
- 15 - Belle Ann School

Figure 14
TRAILS & PATHWAYS
 Brandon Township &
 Village of Ortonville



PROJECT SCHEDULE

Table 10 lists the individual projects along with the specific tasks to be accomplished, the project objective reference, a cost estimate, and potential funding sources. In addition, the projects are listed in a sequential order and a time frame for completion has been assigned. Short-term (ST) projects are recommended for completion within one to two years while long-term (LT) projects may take longer to be completed, within five to six years. Mid-term is between the two (MT).

Table 10. Capital Improvement Schedule

Project/Tasks	Obj.	Cost Estimate	Funding Source	Time Frame
Existing Parks				
Update/implement park maintenance schedule	1	\$30,000 /year	Township General Fund	On-Going
New Park Development				
Initiate construction of Brandon Township Community Park – Phase 2: land balancing, softball/baseball fields, parking, basketball courts, tennis courts, volleyball courts	1	\$900,000	Township Park Fund, Grants & Donations	MT
Initiate engineering and construction of the restroom/concession building at Brandon Township Community Park including storage and maintenance area	1	\$150,000	Township Park Fund, Grants & Donations	ST-MT
Continue construction of Brandon Township Community Park – Phase 3: interpretive signage, picnic pavilions, gazebo, pathways, observation deck, furnishing, and landscaping	1	\$200,000	Township Park Fund, Grants & Donations	MT-LT
Prepare a site development plan for the 8-acre Township park property with phasing and costs	1	To be determined	Township Park Fund, Grants & Donations	ST
Initiate engineering and construction of the 8-acre development plan	1	To be determined	Township Park Fund, Grants & Donations	MT-LT
Prepare a site development plan for the 43-acre Village park property including vehicular and pedestrian access, picnic area/shelter, trails, boardwalks, viewing platforms, and preservation of the environmentally sensitive areas	1	To be determined	Village Fund, Grants & Donations	MT
Initiate engineering and construction of the 43-acre Village park property development plan	1	To be determined	Village Fund, Grants & Donations	LT
Parkland Acquisition				
Acquire land for the development of community parks and trails which offer a location, setting, and size appropriate for a variety of passive and active recreational uses	2	To be determined	Township and Village General Fund, Grants & Donations	On-Going

Project/Tasks	Obj.	Cost Estimate	Funding Source	Time Frame
Community-Wide Walk/Bike Way System				
Develop a community-wide walk/bike way master plan including the identification of priorities, phasing, and costs	3	\$15,000	Township and Village General Fund, Grants & Donations	ST
Initiate engineering and construction of the plan	3	To be Determined	Township and Village General Fund, Grants & Donations	MT-LT
Implement a sidewalk program to construct missing gaps	3	-	Village General Fund, Grants & Donations	ST
Install benches, trash receptacles, signs, and other pedestrian amenities	3	To be Determined	Township and Village General Fund, Grants & Donations	LT
Develop a walking club and a walking map	3	-	Township and Village General Fund, Grants & Donations	ST
Administration & Funding				
Meet and discuss opportunities for sharing park facilities and to coordinate recreation programs with the DNR, Brandon Schools, and local recreation groups	4	-	Township General Fund, Grants & Donations	On-Going
Investigate fund raising and grant opportunities	4	-	Township General Fund, Grants & Donations	On-Going
Develop recreation brochure twice yearly	4	-	Township General Fund, Grants & Donations	On-Going
Attend workshops, conferences, and educational events for professional development	4	-	Township General Fund, Grants & Donations	On-Going
Keep park volunteers engaged	4	-	Township General Fund, Grants & Donations	On-Going

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

In order to accomplish the recommended actions during the next five years, it will be necessary to secure adequate funding. The current budgets provide a limited amount of money for parks and recreation facilities. Therefore, the following strategies are recommended in order to proceed as planned.

- ***Apply for Federal Funding***

At the federal level, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), in conjunction with SEMCOG, funds Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). A minimum 20 percent local match is required for proposed projects and applications are accepted online on an on-going basis. Activities may include:

- Provision of facilities for pedestrians and bicycles including new or reconstructed sidewalks, walkways, curb ramps, bike lane striping, wide paved shoulders, bike parking, off-road trails, bike and pedestrian bridges, and underpasses;
- Provision of safety and educational programs for pedestrians and bicyclists designed to encourage walking and bicycling; and
- Acquisition, planning, designing and constructing abandoned railway corridors.

- ***Apply for State Funding***

At the state level, the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) and the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) continue to be the primary funding sources for parkland acquisition and development. The Recreation Passport grant also offers some state funding to local units of government.

The MNRTF provides funding for the purchase and development of parkland for natural resource-based preservation and recreation. Grant proposals must include a local match of at least 25 percent of the total project cost. There is no minimum or maximum for acquisition projects. For development projects, the minimum funding request is \$15,000 and the maximum is \$300,000 for 2015. Applications are due April 1st.

The LWCF is a federal appropriation to the National Park Service, which distributes funds to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for development of outdoor recreation facilities. The focus of the program has recently been on trail way systems and on meeting community recreation needs such as playgrounds, picnic areas, skate parks, ball fields, soccer fields, and walking paths. Minimum grant requests are \$30,000 and maximum grant requests are \$100,000 for 2015. The match percentage is 50 percent of the total project cost. Applications are due on April 1st.

The Recreation Passport grant program offers funding for the development of outdoor public recreation facilities for local units of government. Minimum grant requests are \$7,500 and maximum requests are \$45,000 in 2015. The local match obligation is 25 percent of the total project cost. Applications are due on April 1st as well.

Other funding conducted in partnership with the MDNR is available through other state government divisions, such as the Fisheries Division (Inland Fisheries Grants) and the Forest Resources Division (Community Forestry Grants).

The Inland Fisheries programs consider projects that enhance habitat and fisheries, riparian property for public fishing use, water quality, and ecology. While not currently offered, they may become available in the future.

Municipalities may use Community Forestry grants to develop a management plan for a municipal forest which would include a component targeting outreach to private landowners. Grant requests may be up to \$20,000 depending on the project type and applications are usually due in the middle of the summer. DTE Energy and Consumers Energy also offer tree planting grants for up to \$3,000 to local municipalities in their service areas.

- ***Apply for Other Grant Funding***

There are also a variety of smaller grant programs available for the establishment of greenways/pathways or greenway-related facilities such as Bikes Belong Coalition. The Bikes Belong Coalition is sponsored by members of the American Bicycle Industry. Their mission is to put more people on bikes more often. The program funds projects in three categories: facility, education, and capacity building. Requests for funding can be up to \$10,000 for projects such as bike paths, trails, lanes, parking, and safe routes to school. Applications are reviewed on a quarterly basis.

- ***Seek Other Sources of Funding***

Brandon Township and the Village of Ortonville should investigate additional sources of funding. Seeking donations, attracting sponsors, and seeking out other revenue sources are methods that should continue to be pursued aggressively to raise funding for park land acquisition and development.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

NOTICE OF DRAFT PLAN AVAILABILITY FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND PUBLIC HEARINGS

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

The Citizen

Ortonville, Michigan 48462

STATE OF MICHIGAN, } ss.
County of Oakland

Jim Sherman

Jim Sherman, Publisher

Being duly sworn, says that he is publisher of THE CITIZEN, a newspaper printed and published weekly in the County and State aforesaid, and that the notice annexed was printed and published

One weeks, successively and immediately preceding the 20th day of December 20 14 in said newspaper, and that the first publication of said notice in said newspaper, was on the 19th day of December 20 14.

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this _____ day of _____ 20____

Luan M. Offer

My commission expires _____

LUAN M. OFFER
Notary Public, Oakland Co. MI
My Comm, Expires June 11, 2018

PUBLIC NOTICE
Because the People Want to Know
BRANDON TWP.
NOTICE FOR DRAFT PLAN
AVAILABILITY FOR
PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT
&
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Brandon Township and the Village of Ortonville have prepared a 5-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan to guide the future development of parks and recreation in the Brandon-Ortonville area.

The public is welcome to view a copy of the draft plan for review and comments. Copies of the draft plan can be viewed during regular business hours at:

- Brandon Township Offices, 395 Mill Street, Ortonville, MI 48462
- Village Offices, 476 Mill Street, Ortonville, MI 48462
- Brandon Township Library, 304 South St, Ortonville, MI 48462
- on the Village website (www.ortonvillavillage.com) and
- on the Township website (www.brandontownship.us)

Your written comments will be accepted until January 31st, 2015 and can be sent to:

Fred Waybrant, 395 Mill Street, P.O. Box 929, Ortonville, MI 48462 or e-mail at fmwaybrant@brandontownship.us

In addition, anyone interested in providing further comments will be provided an opportunity to be heard at two public hearings:

1. The Township Board of Trustees will hold a public hearing on the proposed plan at 7:00 pm on February 2, 2015 at the Township Hall (395 Mill Street, Ortonville, MI 48462).
2. The Village of Ortonville Council will hold a public hearing on the proposed plan at 7:00 pm on February 23, 2015 at the Township Hall (395 Mill Street, Ortonville, MI 48462).

The meetings are open to all members of the public under the Michigan's Open Meeting Act. Persons with disabilities, who require assistance to participate or attend this public meeting, are requested to contact the Township Supervisor at 248-627-4918 or the Village Manager at 248-627-4976 at least 72 hours prior to the start of the meeting.

Publish in The Citizen 12-20-14

MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING (DRAFT) – BRANDON TOWNSHIP

Charter Township of Brandon
Regular Meeting
February 2, 2015



Charter Township of Brandon
Board of Trustees
395 Mill Street, Ortonville, MI 48462
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
February 2, 2015

CALL TO ORDER:

Supervisor Thurman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Allen, Darnall, DePalma, DeWitt, Lapp, Rumball, Thurman.

Also present: Parks & Recreation Director Waybrant, Planning & Building Department Director Dinnan.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Changes were made remove from New Business Item B. Parks & Recreation Pay Scale by Director Waybrant and correction of Consent Agenda Item D. Trustee Time Sheets total from \$776.00 to \$582.00.

Motion: "To approve the agenda as amended" by Lapp, supported by Darnall.

Voice vote: Aye-7. Nay-0. *Motion carried.*

AWARDS PRESENTATION: Supervisor Thurman presented a service award to George Buhler, retiring from the Planning Commission, recognizing his 26 years of service to the township.

PUBLIC HEARING: Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Motion: "To open the public hearing for the Parks & Recreation Master Plan," by Allen, supported by DePalma. Voice vote: Aye-7. Nay-0. *Motion carried 7/0.*

No citizen comments were received. Comments from board members included the public survey results were not yet available, there was a typo at the bottom of page 8, adjustments to funding and budget on page 15 needed to be made, 24 people was not well attended on page 31, 2 school names should be changed on page 41 and the time frame on the 8 acre park property was questioned on page 43. Also, the Parks & Recreation sub-committee should be recommending the Master Plan prior to submission to the board for final adoption.

Motion: "To close the public hearing for the Parks & Recreation Master Plan," by Lapp, supported by Darnall. Voice vote: Aye-7. Nay-0. *Motion carried 7/0.*

REPORTS: The following were placed on file.

- **Treasury Report**

- **Reconciliation Report**

- **General Ledger Report:**

The board discussed and requested inclusion of: 2013 actual, 2014 amended, 2014 actual, 2015 original, 2015 amended and 2015 actual budgets and to omit the 2012 actual and 2014 original budget columns in the General Ledger Reports.

- **Designated Report**

- **Building & Planning Department Report**

- **Parks & Recreation Department Report:**

- In addition to the reports filed, Director Waybrant introduced the department's intern, Holly Saunders, a CMU senior, earning her B.A. in Recreation, Parks & Leisure. He described her 30 week, unpaid internship with the township as a valuable asset to the

department; not only with office work, but organizing the Daddy-Daughter Dance as well as a dance for special needs individuals at the senior center this summer. She will also direct the summer youth sports camp this year.

- The budget is on track with all bills paid.
- There is a joint meeting scheduled for travel soccer and baseball; coaches, parents and anyone interested is invited.
- Travel soccer would like to run a tournament in the township, an item which will be discussed with the sub-committee at the next meeting on February 18, 2015.
- He is investigating and will consult with coaches on a new sports photography and awards source. The field is extremely competitive and the considered changes will provide savings in time and money.
- He has been working closely with the Brandon School's superintendant and the athletic director on sports programs to create cohesion.
- **Edna Burton Senior Center Report**
- **Community Development Block Grant Report (CDBG)**

Trustee's Reports:

DeWitt- No report.

DePalma – The Parks & Recreation Sub-committee met January 14, 2015 and the next meeting is February 18, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. at the township offices for anyone interested.

Rumball – No report.

Lapp-No report.

Treasurer's Report:

- Winter taxes are due February 17, 2015 without penalty. After that, a 3% penalty will be assessed on unpaid balances of both summer and winter taxes. After March 2, 2015 all payments must be made with Oakland County. They will accept partial payments as well.
- Attended Michigan Townships Association (MTA) conference with the Clerk and Supervisor where they obtained some great information; some new things will be implemented as a result.

Clerk's Report:

- Lisa LemMon, new Administrative Assistant, is now working in the Clerk's Office. She extended a thank-you to Kay Caryl who is helping Lisa learn everything while Kay herself is also learning her new duties at the Fire Department.
- Will attend the Brandon Groveland Youth Assistance executive board meeting tomorrow [February 3, 2015] at the library.
- Attended the MTA conference where much information was gained and many handouts were brought back to review and share with the Board.
- Next Monday [February 9, 2015] is the opening of bids for mowing, weeding and fertilizing the park fields. The deadline is on-line and packets are available in the Clerk's Office.
- A three-year cemetery maintenance contract is being formulated and will be brought to the Board's next meeting for approval.

Supervisor's Report:

- Interviews of human resource services bidders, to revise the township's Policies and Procedures and Employee Handbook, are scheduled for February 19, 2015 and February 26,

2015 at 6:15 p.m. Prior to the meetings, a list of questions will be sent to board members as well as fielding any additional queries for inclusion in the vetting process.

- January 22, 2015 attended the M-15 Heritage Route Meeting. A representative from the Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance announced the Governor's 'showcase trail' has been named the Iron Belle Trail which runs from Ironwood to Belle Isle. The planned route runs through Brandon Township; a meeting on February 19, 2015 will discuss possible routes from Ortonville to Goodrich...
- Attended the MTA conference January 28th - January 29th, 2015 with the Clerk and Treasurer. Sessions she attended included Creating Healthy Communities, Laws Regarding Wireless Facilities and The Future of Wireless Service, Trends in Zoning Law, Reaching a Consensus and Planning Based on Community Goals.
- Oakland County health officials have confirmed an adult case of the measles which are highly contagious and encourage everyone to get vaccinated.

CORRESPONDENCE - Received and filed:

A. Enbridge Grant Balance Payment:

We received the grant balance of \$2,500.00 for Parks & Recreation from the Enbridge Line 6B and line 79 Environmental Stewardship program. [Ref. New Business, Item G.]

B. M-DOT Speed Study Request:

The board discussed a request letter to Michigan Department of Transportation for a study limited to a section of M-15 between 1351 S. Ortonville Road and the South Street intersection.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: (Time limit: 3 Minutes per person, agenda items only.)

None.

DISCUSSION:

None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Regular meeting minutes of January 5, 2015
- Regular bills in the amount of \$8,864.55
- Pre-pays in the amount of \$437,964.44
- Trustee timesheets in the amount of \$582.00
- Retirement Oversight Committee appointment of Lisa LemMon to the committee.

Motion: "to approve the Consent Agenda as presented" by Lapp, supported by Allen.

Roll call vote: Aye- Allen, Darnall, DePalma, DeWitt, Lapp, Rumball, Thurman. Nay-None.

Motion carried 7/0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. A Resolution to Adopt the Brandon-Ortonville Parks and Recreation Master Plan:

Discussion included those made during the Public Hearing asking that the Parks & Recreation Subcommittee to review and recommend the Plan to the Board as well as the Village's desire to expedite adoption.

*Motion: "To postpone the adoption of the Parks & Recreation Master Plan to a future meeting" by Rumball, supported by DeWitt. Roll call vote: Aye-7. Nay-None.
Motion carried 7/0.*

B. Planning & Building Department 2015 Budget Amendments: Permit Revenues:

Director Dinnan explained that amending the 2015 budget by creating three (3) new line items specifically for electrical, plumbing and sign permits will improve tracking revenue sources. Disburse funds into the new line items from current revenue lines as presented:

1. 101-000-453.000 (existing), Mechanical Permits from \$32,000.00 to \$13,555.00.
2. Create 101-000-454.000, Electrical Permits, from \$0.00 to \$10,880.00.
3. Create 101-000-454.000, Plumbing Permits, from \$0.00 to \$7,040.00.
4. Create 101-000-479.000, Sign Permits, from \$0.00 to \$525.00

Motion: "To disburse the current revenues to the three new accounts and amend the 2015 budget as presented," by Lapp, supported by DePalma.

Roll call vote: Aye-DePalma, DeWitt, Lapp, Rumball, Allen, Darnall, Thurman. Nay-None.
Motion carried 7/0.

C. Planning & Building Department 2015 Budget Amendments-BS&A Software:

Director Dinnan presented a request to move funds that were not used in 2014 for payment on the software, adding that the funds have already been approved by the Board. He also reported that electrical, plumbing and mechanical permits are now available on-line at the Planning & Building Department page of the township's website.

Motion: "To amend line item:

1. 101-380-709.000, Fill-in Office Help, from \$2,000.00 to \$1,000.00
2. 101-380-710.000, Overtime Wages, from \$200.00 to \$1,200.00"

by Allen, supported by Darnall. Roll call vote: Aye-DeWitt, Lapp, Rumball, Allen, Darnall, DePalma, Thurman. Nay-None. *Motion carried 7/0.*

D. Cintas Contract at the Edna Burton Senior Center:

Clerk Allen reported that the previous three-year contract with Cintas will expire in November 2015. A revised five-year contract has been drafted which lowers service, delivery and rental fees; resulting in annual savings of \$1,119.72 from the previous contract that expires in November 2015.

Motion: "To approve the five-year Cintas contract effective immediately and have the Clerk sign"

by DePalma, supported by Rumball. Roll call vote: Aye-DeWitt, Lapp, Rumball, Allen, Darnall, DePalma, Thurman. Nay-None. *Motion carried 7/0.*

E. M-15 Speed Study Resolution to Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT):

Supervisor Thurman read the Resolution into the record. The template for the resolution was provided by MDOT as the recommended format asking MDOT, in cooperation with the Michigan State Police, to perform a speed study and gather engineering data. The resulting decision could raise, lower or maintain the current speed limit.

RECESS: 8:10 p.m. Superintendent Thurman called a five-minute recess to retrieve 2013-2014 speed-study results requested by board members. 8:15 p.m. the meeting was called back to order and the regular order of business resumed.

Discussion resulted in the following changes (in bold):

"Whereas, traffic on M-15 from the South Street intersection to the Glass Road intersection has increased over the past 23 years due to the development and growth of communities along the M-15 corridor, and,

"WHEREAS, this development has increased the number of access points to the state trunk line resulting in an increase in traffic congestion and the volume of turning traffic along the corridor, and,"

WHEREAS, it has become increasingly difficult for residents to negotiate left-hand turns, or move into and out of the flow of traffic safely due to increased volume of traffic,

"WHEREAS, this section of M-15 offers the only access point to Brandon Middle School and Brandon High School,

"NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Charter Township of Brandon is formally requesting the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) conduct a speed study on M-15 from the South Street Intersection to Glass Road. It is understood MDOT in cooperation with the Michigan State Police (MSP) will use engineering data gathered in the speed study to make a decision which could raise, lower or maintain the current speed limit. It is further understood Brandon Charter Township will abide by the decision made by MDOT and MSP as a result of this speed study."

Motion: "To adopt the Charter Township of Brandon Speed Study Resolution as amended" by Rumball, supported by Darnall. Roll call vote: Aye-Rumball, Allen, Darnall, DePalma, DeWitt, Lapp, Thurman. Nay-None. *Motion carried 7/0.*

F. Frontier Metro Act Telecommunications Right-of-Way permit as Revised:

Supervisor Thurman presented the permit renewal request, indicating that Frontier has purchased Verizon North which previously held the permit. The township attorney reviewed the document and provided revisions of certain portions, including increased and specific insurance requirements.

Motion: "To approve the Frontier Metro Act Telecommunications Right-of-Way permit as revised by the township attorney; with inclusion of an appropriate Certificate of Insurance and authorize the Supervisor to execute the document," by Lapp, supported by Rumball. Roll call vote: Aye-Allen, Darnall, DePalma, DeWitt, Lapp, Rumball, Thurman. Nay-None.

Motion carried 7/0.

G. Enbridge Stewardship Grant Funding, 2015 Budget Amendment:

Supervisor Thurman advised that an installment payment from Enbridge of \$22,500.00 was deposited into the general fund 101-000-695.900 on December 31, 2013, as was the balance of \$2,500.00 received January 9, 2015. The funds should now be transferred into committed Recreation Park Development.

Motion: "to use \$25,000.00 from carry forward and \$2,500.00 from 2015 Enbridge Park Grant revenue for Recreation Park Development Committed by subtracting \$22,500.00 from Carry Forward line #101-9440985.000, amending line #101-945-697.508 from \$0 to \$25,000.00; and amending Committed Recreation Development line #258-000-699-604 from \$8,141.95 to \$33,151.95" by Darnall, supported by Lapp. Roll call vote: Aye-Darnall, DePalma, DeWitt, Lapp, Rumball, Allen, Thurman. Nay-None.

Motion carried 7/0.

H. Resolution to Withdraw from John Hancock Contract:

Clerk Allen indicated that no employees are in the John Hancock Group Pension Plan and the company provided the resolution document per their procedure.

Motion: "To approve the resolution to withdraw from John Hancock as presented," by Lapp, supported by Rumball. Voice vote: Aye-7. Nay-0. *Motion carried 7/0.*

I. Enbridge Woodlands Settlement Agreement-Tree Purchase and Distribution:

Supervisor Thurman indicated that at the regular meeting of July 7, 2014 the board discussed \$10,000.00 paid to the township in accordance with the Enbridge Woodlands Settlement for woodland restoration purposes; implementation of the program would be in fall of 2015, with flowering trees and distribution to township residents. Discussion included consulting local resources for pricing as well as notification and suggested means to fairly distribute the available number of trees to township residents.

Motion: "To authorize the supervisor to organize a blind draw for tree distribution resulting from the Enbridge Woodlands Settlement Agreement and to bring local [township] vendor estimates back to the Board" by Darnall, supported by Rumball. Voice vote: Aye-7. Nay-0.
Motion carried 7/0.

J. Voter Request for Election Data Services Fees Increase:

Clerk Allen advised that these requests entail much time and expense. Current fees, approved in May, 2009, do not cover CDs, Emails, print lists and other data that is requested.

Motion: "To increase the cost of election materials from \$10.00 to \$25.00 per person, \$0.05 per name and \$0.10 per label, per each election," by Allen, supported by Lapp. Roll call vote: Aye-Lapp, Rumball, Allen, Darnall, DePalma, DeWitt, Thurman. Nay-None.
Motion carried 7/0.

K. Wage Increase Request for Election Workers:

Clerk Allen indicated that election workers were not included in the wage increases approved December 1, 2014 and presented proposed wage increases. The current wage scale for election workers was established in 2000.

Motion: "to approve a wage increase by \$2.00 per hour for election and maintenance workers, and increase of \$5.00 stipend for chairs, co-chairs and supervisor maintenance workers; effective immediately and as presented by the Township Clerk," by Lapp, supported by Rumball.
Roll call vote: Aye-Rumball, Allen, Darnall, DePalma, DeWitt, Lapp, Thurman. Nay-None.
Motion carried 7/0.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS: *(Time Limit: 3 minutes per person.)*

- A suggestion was made to the Board regarding purchase of trees indicating that when purchased, consideration should be made as to housing and care of the trees until picked up by the residents.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: "To adjourn the meeting" by DePalma, supported by Darnall, at 9:05 p.m.
Voice vote: Aye-7. Nay-0, *Motion carried.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Candee Allen
Brandon Township Clerk

Kathy Thurman
Brandon Township Supervisor

I, Candee Allen, Clerk of the Charter Township of Brandon, certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the minutes of the meeting and of the motions made at the Brandon Township Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees on February 2, 2015.

Candee Allen, Clerk
CA/jae

MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING (DRAFT) – VILLAGE OF ORTONVILLE

DRAFT

Village of Ortonville
Brandon Township Offices
395 Mill Street
Ortonville Village Regular Council Meeting
February 23, 2015

President Wills called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

Roll Call: Present: Skornicka, Baker, McClerren, Waters, Brice, Eschmann, Wills
Absent: None

Also Present: John Lyons – Village Manager; Julie Knight – Village Clerk; Susan Bromley – Reporter for *The Citizen*; Robert Renchik – DDA Board President; Leanne Panduren – President of ROWE Professional Services Company; Steven Korth – Manager for the Water Resources Commission; Kathy Thurman – Brandon Township Supervisor

Approval of Agenda:

President Wills suggested that item A. *Consideration of Resolution Approving Oakland County Ortonville Sewage Disposal System Contract with the County of Oakland* under New Business be moved to be last under New Business and the other items moved up.

- Motion by Trustee McClerren, seconded by Trustee Eschmann, to approve the agenda as amended. All in favor, the Motion carried.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

President Wills made note of a typo in the Public Comments section.

- Motion by Trustee Skornicka, seconded by Trustee Eschmann, to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2015 meeting as amended.
All in favor, the Motion carried.

Public Comments on Agenda:

A citizen who lives on Schoolhouse Street stated that he cannot wait for sewers. The cost to replace a septic system is horrendous.

Brandon Township Supervisor Kathy Thurman informed Council that Brandon Township approved the Ortonville-Brandon Parks & Recreation Master Plan on February 19th and also mentioned that she enjoyed working with Carlisle Wortman on the plan.

A resident of Village Court commented on the creek test readings and expressed concerns about the proposed wastewater treatment plant discharging into the creek. She also voiced concerns about the project and pricing.

A resident of Edward Street asked Council to slow down and consider helping the Brandon School District directly rather than through the proposed project.

A resident of Crescent Hill stated that he lived in the Village for a long time and that he imagined what the Council is trying to do is “noble” but not right to impose on residents behind their backs. He concluded that the only right thing to do is to put it on a ballot.

DRAFT

A resident stepped forward to correct the previous resident's calculations of cost for grinders, but expressed concerns about the onsite treatment plant.

A resident who lives on Arbor Pine said she had spoken to Manager John Lyons and some council members and expressed concerns about the loan. She said it is a disgrace and needs to be brought to a vote.

A resident of Church Street stated that he has lived in Ortonville all his life and has seen it die out. He wanted to remind residents that anything worth having costs money. He has a great septic system, but he still thinks sewers are a good idea. He doesn't want to see Ortonville die.

President Wills read a letter from a Village business owner who could not attend the meeting. The resident expressed concern over those who own several properties – both residential and commercial – and he wouldn't want to pay for them all. The resident also acknowledged the high ground water and that Oakland County has been monitoring wells in the Village. He mentioned that the Village Council looked at sewers in the '90s when government money was available but turned it down. He doesn't want the current low interest rate to be another "could have been."

Acceptance Items

- A. Treasurer's Report – January 2015
 - B. Brandon Township Fire Dept. Expenditures – January 2015
 - C. Brandon Township Board Meeting Minutes – January 5, 2015
- Council Reviewed. Items Accepted.**

Disbursements:

Clarification was sought for the following expenditure(s):

#5 – **Extremescapes – \$500.00:** Council inquired as to whether this was for a single instance of salting the roads while equipment was repaired. Manager Lyons asked DPW Supervisor Bob Hauxwell, who was present, and he said it was for a few instances.

- **Motion by Trustee Eschmann, seconded by Trustee Baker, to pay the bills in the amount of \$13,239.80.**

Roll Call:

Ayes: Skornicka, Baker, McClerren, Waters, Brice, Eschmann, Wills

Nays: None

Absent: None

All in favor, the Motion carried.

Public Hearing for the Brandon- Ortonville Parks and Recreation Master Plan

President Wayne Wills closed the regular Village Council meeting and opened the Public Hearing for the Brandon-Ortonville Parks and Recreation Master Plan at 7:27 p.m.

There were no public comments received, but Council was updated on the amount of surveys that were taken and received regarding the Master Plan, which was about 211.

- **Motion by Trustee Eschmann, seconded by Trustee Skornicka, to close the public hearing and readjoin the regular Village Council meeting. All in favor, the Motion carried.**

Public hearing closed and regular meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

DRAFT

- **Motion by Trustee Baker, seconded by Trustee McClerren, to approve the resolution of adoption of the Brandon-Ortonville Parks and Recreation Master Plan as presented. All in favor, the Motion carried.**

New Business

A. Review Website Design Proposals

Clerk Julie has been gathering quotes for a website redesign and host over the last few months. Trustee Skornicka, who is on the Website Committee, has been reviewing the proposals received as well as some demonstrations and it was narrowed down to two vendors—the current host, IGD Solutions, and Revize. CivicPlus was in third place. A sheet was given to Council presenting the different vendors, their offerings, and their prices. A final decision has not been made, but the suggested motion for Council was to accept a setup fee not to exceed \$2,500 and an annual hosting and maintenance fee not to exceed \$1,000. Trustee Skornicka stated that there is still some wiggle room with the prices. With the choices narrowed down, the vendors can be compared side-by-side and a decision can be made soon.

- **Motion by Trustee Waters, seconded by Trustee Skornicka, to approve the Website hosting and redesign agreement for future website services not to exceed \$2,500.00 for set-up and \$1,000.00 per year annual hosting fee and maintenance.**

Roll Call:

Ayes: Skornicka, Baker, McClerren, Waters, Brice, Eschmann, Wills

Nays: None

Absent: None

All in favor, the Motion carried.

B. Approval of Brandon Township Library 5K

The Brandon Township Public Library has submitted a request to hold a 5K race within the Village on Saturday May 9, 2015 at 8:30 a.m. The documents are in order and been approved by Police and Fire.

- **Motion by Trustee McClerren, seconded by Trustee Baker, to approve the permit submitted by the Brandon Library to hold a 5K run/walk on May 9, 2015 as presented. All in favor, the Motion carried.**

C. Consideration of Resolution Approving Oakland County Ortonville Sewage Disposal System Contract with the County of Oakland

Manager John Lyons introduced the topic and stated that the Village was asking for approval for the Intent to Sell Bonds up to \$20 million, as needed. He wanted to clarify that the publication of the notice in the paper, starting the 45-day referendum period, would not obligate the Village to do the project. If there is no referendum, it would move on to the design phase of the project. He stated his desire to potentially hold another public hearing before the end of the referendum period. President Wills read an overview of the process to start up this project.

Steve Korth, Manager for the Water Resources Commission, stated that the County is there to assist the Village. Trustee Eschmann asked if the when and if the Village would be forced into a sewer system because of the conditions of the septic systems and other natural issues. Mr. Korth said that would be best directed to the State and County Health Department. Leanne Panduren of ROWE Professional Services Company explained a bit about bids and loans and stated that there was a potential for grant dollars being available. She explained that the cost for hookup would depend on specifications. The homeowner would have to abandon the septic. The cost of a septic field varies greatly as well, engineered fields often being significantly more expensive. It was mentioned that the first bill for the system would be the next tax season.

DRAFT

Trustee Eschmann voiced concern over the language in the contract holding the County harmless. Steve Korth mentioned that the language is standard and there is insurance coverage involved. There would be additional project insurance available if needed. Eschmann said he was concerned about protection of the Village and would like to table the issue until more information is known. There was much conversation between interested residents and Council about the system. Council expressed interest in setting up another special meeting for education.

- **Motion by Trustee Eschmann, seconded by President Wills, to table the contract until further information is gathered.**

Roll Call:

Ayes: Skornicka, Baker, McClerren, Waters, Brice, Eschmann, Wills

Nays: None

Absent: None

All in favor, the Motion carried.

Public Comments:

The chairman of the Brandon-Groveland Youth Assistance explained how funds are used and how the program works. He noted that BGYA has put together an anti-bullying program for 4th through 6th grades at the schools. They are also looking into a drug prevention program. He announced the BGYA breakfast taking place on March 26th.

Items from the Manager: Manager Lyons thanked the Ortonville DPW for their work.

Items from Trustees:

Brice: Stated that there was not enough information to make a decision on the sewer project.

Waters: Agreed with Trustee Brice.

- **Motion by Trustee McClerren, seconded by Trustee Baker, to adjourn the regular Village Council meeting. All in favor, the Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Knight – Village Clerk

ORTONVILLE VILLAGE COUNCIL RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION

**Resolution of Adoption of the
Brandon-Ortonville Parks and Recreation Master Plan**

WHEREAS, the Village of Ortonville has undertaken the update of its five-year parks and recreation plan which describes the community's physical and social characteristics, existing parks and recreation facilities, and the desired actions to be taken to improve parks and recreation facilities during the period between 2015 and 2020; and

WHEREAS, the *Brandon-Ortonville Parks and Recreation Master Plan's* goals and objectives were developed in response to needs and deficiencies identified by a public workshop held on September 15, 2014, a joint public meeting of the Brandon Township and Village of Ortonville Planning Commissions on October 30, 2014, a survey of residents conducted from December 2014 through February 2015, and input from Village and Township officials, community stakeholders, and staff; and

WHEREAS, the *Brandon-Ortonville Parks and Recreation Master Plan* has been made available by the Village of Ortonville for public review in the manner required by law and all comments from the public have been considered; and

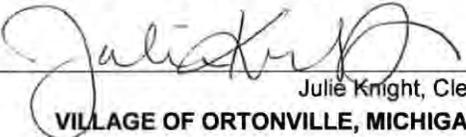
WHEREAS, the plan was developed for the benefit of the entire community and a public hearing was held on February 23rd, 2015 to provide another opportunity for citizens to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, after the public hearing, the Village Council voted to adopt said *Parks and Recreation Master Plan*;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Village of Ortonville Council hereby adopts the *Brandon-Ortonville Parks and Recreation Master Plan*.

Motion by: Baker
Supported by: McClarren
Votes in favor: 7
Votes opposed: None
Abstained: None
Absent: None

I hereby certify that the above is a true and complete copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Village of Ortonville Council at a regular meeting held on the 23rd day of February, 2015.


Julie Knight, Clerk
VILLAGE OF ORTONVILLE, MICHIGAN

BRANDON TOWNSHIP RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION



Charter Township of Brandon

395 Mill St. PO Box 929

Ortonville, Mi. 48462

www.brandontownship.us

Kathy Thurman, Supervisor
Candee Allen, Clerk
Terri Darnall, Treasurer
William DeWitt, Trustee
Dana DePalma, Trustee
Ronald Lapp, Trustee
Jayson Rumball, Trustee

**Resolution #248-15 to Adopt the
Brandon-Ortonville Parks and Recreation Master Plan**

WHEREAS, the Charter Township of Brandon has undertaken the update of its five-year parks and recreation plan which describes the community's physical and social characteristics, existing parks and recreation facilities, and the desired actions to be taken to improve parks and recreation facilities during the period between 2015 and 2020; and

WHEREAS, the *Brandon-Ortonville Parks and Recreation Master Plan's* goals and objectives were developed in response to needs and deficiencies identified by a public workshop held on September 15, 2014, a joint public meeting of the Brandon Township and Village of Ortonville Planning Commissions on October 30, 2014, a survey of residents conducted in December 2014 and January 2015, and input from Township and Village officials, community stakeholders, and staff; and

WHEREAS, the *Brandon-Ortonville Parks and Recreation Master Plan* has been made available by Brandon Township for public review in the manner required by law and all comments from the public have been considered; and

WHEREAS, the plan was developed for the benefit of the entire community and a public hearing was held on February 2nd, 2015 to provide another opportunity for citizens to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, after the public hearing, at a meeting held on February 19, 2015, the Charter Township of Brandon Board of Trustees voted to adopt said *Parks and Recreation Master Plan*;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Charter Township of Brandon Board of Trustees hereby adopts the *Brandon-Ortonville Parks and Recreation Master Plan*.

Motion by: Lapp
Supported by: Rumball
Votes in favor: 7
Votes opposed: 0
Abstained: None
Absent: None

I hereby certify that the above is a true and complete copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Charter Township of Brandon Board of Trustees at a regular meeting held on the 19th day of February, 2015.



Candee Allen, Clerk
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF BRANDON, MICHIGAN

LETTERS OF TRANSMITTAL TO REGIONAL AGENCIES



CARLISLE

WORTMAN
associates, inc.

605 S. Main Street, Ste. 1
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

(734) 662-2200
(734) 662-1935 Fax

February 25, 2015

William Parkus,
Regional Review Office
Southeast Michigan Council of Governments
1001 Woodward Ave, Suite 1400,
Detroit, MI 48226

Dear Mr. Parkus:

The attached Brandon-Ortonville Parks and Recreation Master Plan was adopted by the Charter Township of Brandon Board of Trustees on February 19, 2015 and the Village of Ortonville on February 23, 2015. The plan will be sent to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for their review and approval.

The plan will be subject to future review and updates as deemed necessary by the Charter Township of Brandon Board of Trustees and the Village of Ortonville Council.

Please feel free to contact Brandon Township, the Village of Ortonville, or myself if you have any comments regarding this plan. The Grants Section requests that you copy any comments directly to them at: Grants Management, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 30425, Lansing, MI 48909-7925.

Thank you for your consideration,

Lucie Fortin, LLA, AICP
Carlisle/Wortman Associates, Inc.

cc: Kathy Thurman, Supervisor, Brandon Township, 395 Mill Street, P.O. Box 929, Ortonville, MI 48462
John Lyons, Village Manager, Village of Ortonville, 476 Mill Street, P.O. Box 928, Ortonville, MI 48462

Richard K. Carlisle, *President* R. Donald Wortman, *Vice President* Douglas J. Lewan, *Principal* John L. Enos, *Principal* David Scurto, *Principal*
Benjamin R. Carlisle, *Senior Associate* Sally M. Elmiger, *Senior Associate* Brian Oppmann, *Associate* Laura K. Kreps, *Associate*



CARLISLE

WORTMAN
associates, inc.

605 S. Main Street, Ste. 1
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

(734) 662-2200
(734) 662-1935 Fax

February 25, 2015

Bret Rasegan
Supervisor
Oakland County Planning and Economic Development Services
Executive Office Building
2100 Pontiac Lake Road
Building 41W,
Waterford, MI 48328

Dear Bret,

The attached Brandon-Ortonville Parks and Recreation Master Plan was adopted by the Charter Township of Brandon Board of Trustees on February 19, 2015 and the Village of Ortonville on February 23, 2015. The plan is being sent to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for their review and approval.

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