Township of
RICHMOND MI



Public Review Draft

# Parks and Recreation Plan
# 2020-2024

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# 1

# Introduction

Richmond Township recognizes that an ongoing commitment to its parks and recreation facilities and programs is a vital investment in its future. These programs and facilities have a unique potential to increase an overall quality of life for both current and future generations of Township residents. Promoting personal health and education, fostering economic activity, creating intricate social networks, and protecting environmental landscapes, are some of the most compelling benefits gained through well-maintained parks and recreation facilities. Ultimately these benefits are contingent upon a well planned and executed system of parks, trails, open space, and recreational programming.

This Parks & Recreation Plan provides the Township with a five-year work plan and a long range vision to guide future recreational investments. Richmond Township intends to utilize this plan to: guide decisions on capital improvement projects, guide the acquisition of open space and available public buildings, explore the implementation of future recreational programming, and pursue both state and federal grant opportunities.

The Plan follows the guidelines set forth by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and includes the following:

- Community Description
- Administrative Structure
- Parks and Recreation Inventory
- Resource Inventory
- Recreational Needs & Opportunities Analysis
- Planning & Public Input Process
- Goals and Objectives
- Action Strategies

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# Community Description

The following provides a description of the various physical features of Richmond Township. This description is important to the recreation planning process because it establishes the physical context in which future decisions regarding recreation facility and program development will take place.

## Community Profile

Richmond Township is located on the eastern border of Macomb County, approximately 45 miles north of downtown Detroit, and 20 miles south of Port Huron. Access to both I-94 and M-19 connects the Township with the Detroit/Windsor area, and I-69, located approximately 5 miles north of the Township, connects the Township to the Port Huron/Sarnia area.




The City of Richmond is situated in the southeastern portion of Township. The City of Memphis abuts the northeastern portion of the Township.

Richmond Township is also bordered by Riley Township to the north, Columbus Township to the east, Lenox Township to the south, and Armada Township to the west.

## Population

The estimated 2019 population of Richmond Township was 3,536 persons, down from 3,665 in 2010. The Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) projects the Township's population to increase to 3,743 residents by 2030.



Population Trends for Richmond Township & Surrounding Communities

| | 2000 | 2010 | 2019 | 2030 | 2045 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Richmond Township** | **3,416** | **3,665** | **3,536** | **3,743** | **3,897** |
| Richmond | 4,896 | 5,733 | 6,015 | 6,379 | 6,540 |
| Lenox Township | 5,362 | 5,828 | 5,550 | 6,647 | 7,322 |
| Armada Township | 3,625 | 3,649 | 3,634 | 3,642 | 3,662 |
| Columbus Township | 3,525 | 4,070 | 3,619 | 3,682 | 3,734 |
| Riley Township | 3,046 | 3,353 | 3,279 | 3,309 | 3,255 |

Source: Southeast Michigan Council of Governments

## Households

Average household sizes have dropped across the country, from 2.62 in 2000, to 2.53 in 2019. Michigan experienced a larger drop (2.75 to 2.52) during the same time period. In Richmond Township, the average household size decreased from 3.14 to 2.80.

The number of households in the Township has remained steady over the past several years, from 1,209 in 2010, to an estimated 1,202 in 2019.

Richmond Township Population and Household Data

| | 2000 Census | 2010 Census | 2019 Estimate | 2045 Forecast |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Population | 3,416 | 3,665 | 3,536 | 3,897 |
| Households | 1,020 | 1,209 | 1,202 | 1,324 |
| Persons per Household | 3.14 | 2.94 | 2.8 | 2.81 |

## Age Characteristics

Information on age within a community can assist in matching recreational services to community characteristics, and in determining the special needs of certain age groups.

While the Township's population has remained stable, there has been an increase in certain population segments, particularly those aged 55-64. From 2010 to 2015, this segment of the population increased by 19.6%. SEMCOG also projects that the number of people age 65 and older in Richmond Township will increase 35% by year 2045.

Richmond Township Population by Age Brackets

| | 2010 | 2015 | 2010-2015 Percentage Change |
|---|---|---|---|
| Under 5 | 163 | 150 | -7.9 |
| 5-19 | 845 | 791 | -6.4 |
| 20-34 | 489 | 397 | -18.8 |
| 35-54 | 1,233 | 1,241 | +0.6 |
| 55-64 | 511 | 611 | +19.6 |
| 65-84 | 374 | 393 | +5.0 |
| 85+ | 50 | 70 | +40.0 |
| Median Age | 42.0 | 44.7 | +2.7 Years |

Source: Southeast Michigan Council of Governments

## Racial Composition



An important social characteristic of a community is its racial make-up. Understanding the racial composition of a community helps to identify the diverse needs of its population.

The following chart indicates the racial makeup of the Township in both 2010 and 2015.

Richmond Township Racial Composition

| | 2010 | Percentage of 2010 Population | 2015 | Percentage of 2015 Population |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| White | 3,506 | 95.7 | 3,534 | 96.7 |
| Black | 32 | 0.9 | 23 | 0.6 |
| Hispanic | 67 | 1.8 | 53 | 1.5 |
| Multi-racial | 37 | 1.0 | 43 | 1.2 |
| Other | 23 | 0.6 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 3,665 | 100.0 | 3,653 | 100.0 |

Source: Southeast Michigan Council of Governments

## Income and Poverty Levels

Studying income and poverty levels is a good way to measure the relative economic health of the community. Consistent with the state of Michigan and Macomb County, Richmond Township saw a drop in median household income (2010 to 2015) of $4,192. However, the percentage of Richmond Township households living in poverty was 4.6% in 2015, significantly less than Macomb County (11.9%) and Michigan (15.3%).

Income and Poverty Levels 2010 - 2015

| Community | 2010 Median Household Income | 2015 Median Household Income | Percentage of households living in poverty |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Richmond Township** | **75,642** | **71,490** | **4.6** |
| Macomb County | $58,691 | $54,582 | 11.9 |
| Michigan | $57,722 | $53,594 | 15.3 |

Source: Southeast Michigan Council of Governments

## Education Levels

A community's educational attainment metrics are a vital statistic to track. The correlation between education attainment and economic prosperity is very high. As residents continue to

gain degrees and credentials, there is more opportunity for job growth.

As of 2015, the percentage of residents with a Bachelor's or Graduate College Degree was 20.7%. In addition, the percentage of residents with a high school degree or higher was nearly 92%.

Highest Level of Education Completed – 2015
(Percentage of Residents)

| Highest level of education | Richmond Township | Macomb County | Michigan |
|---|---|---|---|
| Graduate/Professional | 8.0% | 8.1% | 12.6% |
| Bachelor's | 12.7 % | 15.2% | 18.0% |
| Associate | 9.3% | 10.3% | 8.5% |
| Some college, no degree | 25.4% | 24.7% | 23.4% |
| High school graduate | 36.3% | 30.6% | 26.8% |
| Did not graduate from high school | 8.3% | 11.1% | 10.8% |

Source: Southeast Michigan Council of Governments

## Housing & Building Trends

Housing is a vital characteristic of any community. Houses are highly visible and relatively permanent, and for these reasons serve as great indicators of the wellbeing of a community.

Consistent with nationwide trends, housing values in Richmond Township dropped 24.9% from 2010 to 2015. However, the median housing value in Richmond Township was $186,500 in 2015, which exceeded the county median by over $60,000.

Median Housing Value 2010 – 2015

| | 2010 | 2015 | Change |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Richmond Township** | **$248,456** | **$186,500** | **-24.9%** |
| Macomb County | $172,830 | $126,000 | -27.1% |

Source: Southeast Michigan Council of Governments

In 2010 there were 1,510 owner occupied units in Richmond Township, which represented 90%

of all occupied units. In 2015, the percentage of owner occupied units dipped slightly to 89%.

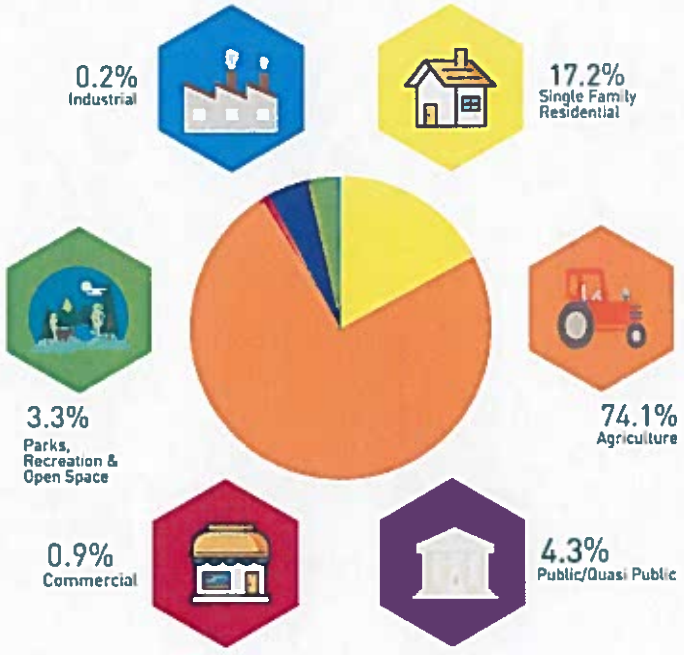
Richmond Township Housing Tenure 2010 - 2015

| | 2010 | 2015 |
|---|---|---|
| Owner-Occupied Units | 1,119 | 1,127 |
| Renter Occupied Units | 90 | 124 |
| Vacant Units | 60 | 20 |
| Total Units | 1,269 | 1,271 |

Source: Southeast Michigan Council of Governments

## Existing Land Use

Richmond Township primarily remains a rural community, with farms and open space interwoven with large lot homes. Agricultural land represents 74.1% of the land use within the Township, followed by Single Family (17.2%), and Parks, Public/Quasi Public (includes roads).




2019 Existing Land Use

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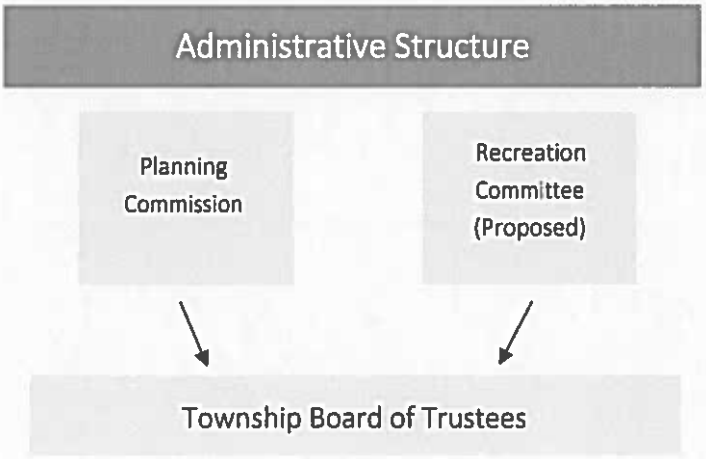
# Administrative Structure

## Organizational Structure

In terms of recreation planning within the Township, the Township Planning Commission provides an advisory role to the Township Board of Trustees, which in turn makes all decisions and expenditures on Parks and Recreation issues. The Township does not currently have a dedicated staff for parks and recreation activities.

The Township is furthering the recreation planning process through development of this Recreation Plan in order to develop a recreation program which meets the current and future needs of Township residents. This would include the creation a Recreation Committee, which along with the Planning Commission, would advise the Township Board.



## The Role of Volunteers

Due to the limited amount of recreation programming currently offered within the Township, a formal volunteer program has not yet been established. However, Richmond Township will consider utilizing volunteers in the future, if necessary.

## Budget and Possible Funding Sources

The Township currently does not have a dedicated budget for Parks and Recreation. However, if Richmond Township were to acquire additional property for a park, develop park infrastructure, or implement additional recreation programming, funding would need to come from the general budget or grants.

## Relationship to Other Recreation Providers

The City of Richmond opens all of its recreation programs to Richmond Township residents for the same cost charged to city residents.

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# Parks & Recreation Inventory

When a community seeks to develop a comprehensive parks and recreation master plan, it is imperative to catalog existing parks and recreation facilities. An extensive inventory of parks and recreation will allow a community to highlight its assets, develop linkages, build off of innovative trends, and determine any gaps in services.

Numerous recreation facilities, provided by several different agencies or organizations, are available to Richmond Township residents. Recreation providers include the State of Michigan, the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority, Macomb County, the Township, surrounding school districts, and surrounding communities. A description of these opportunities is provided below.

## Existing Facility Inventory

Various methods were employed to assess these recreational facilities, including a review of aerial photographs and existing maps, windshield surveys, site visits, and discussions with recreational providers. The inventory that follows provides a detailed look at the amenities available at private and regional recreational facilities/parks.

## State and Regional Parks

Richmond Township is part of a region that has a wealth of parks and recreation destinations. As a region, southeast Michigan has illustrated a longstanding commitment to parks and recreation. From major park systems to wildlife preservation areas, the State of Michigan and the Huron-

Clinton Metroparks Authority have established a network of facilities that provide users of all abilities and interests with plentiful parks and recreation destinations.

Sixteen (16) state parks and recreation areas are located in the five-county area surrounding Richmond Township. In total, these recreation facilities encompass over 50,000 acres of land, and offer a wide range of services including trails, swimming, fishing, boating picnicking, camping, nature preserves, cross-country skiing, and many others. The only state park located in Macomb County is the Wetzel State Recreation Area, located on 27 Mile Road in nearby Lenox Township. This park offers cross country skiing, hunting, snowmobiling, hiking, radio controlled flying, and wildlife watching.

The Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority operates 13 parks across southeast Michigan, including three (Stony Creek Metropark, Wolcott Mill Metropark, and Lake St. Clair Metropark) in Macomb County.

Stony Creek Metropark, Shelby Township

Established around Stony Creek Lake, this park includes a nature center, hiking and mountain biking trails, campgrounds, boat rental and launch, bike rental, golf course, and a disc golf course.

Lake St. Clair Metropark, Harrison Township

Located on the Lake St. Clair shoreline, the park has a splash pad, swimming pool, beach, tennis, golf, sledding, a nature center, trails, windsurfing launch, and boat launch, among other amenities.

Wolcott Mill Metropark, Ray Township

Wolcott Mill Metropark is mostly a natural park featuring trails, a farm center, campgrounds, a golf course, and a model airplane field.

## Macomb County Recreational Facilities

Macomb Orchard Trail

The Macomb Orchard Trail is a 27-mile long nonmotorized trail that extends from Shelby Township, through Richmond Township, and ends in the City of Richmond. It is the anchor of Macomb County's regional trail network.

Freedom Trail

The Freedom Trail is a non-motorized trail traversing Sterling Heights, Clinton Township, Harrison Township, and ending at Lake St. Clair Metropark.

Freedom Hill County Park

Freedom Hill County Park is a 100 acre county-owned park facility located in Sterling Heights. The facility includes festival grounds, memorials, picnic areas and pavilions, non-motorized trails, a major venue amphitheater and indoor recreation center.

## Neighboring Facilities

City of Richmond

The City of Richmond has three public parks which are Gierk Street Park, Bailey Park, and Beebe Street Memorial park. These parks offer picnicking areas, playgrounds, courts, ballfields, a bird sanctuary, an outdoor seasonal ice rink, a pool, and pathways. An indoor non-profit recreation facility is also located within the city.

## Richmond Township Facilities

Township Hall Park and Senior Center

The Richmond Township Hall is located on Memphis Ridge Road, south of School Section Road.

In addition to containing the Township Administrative Offices and a Lenox-Richmond EMS station, the property contains a small community park, which includes a youth soccer field, and a Senior/Community Center.



## Accessibility

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources in their publication "Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans" states that recreational areas, facilities, and programs play an important role in the life of the community; therefore it is essential that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy these areas and any programs provided. Federal and state laws prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability, and these laws apply to parks and other recreation lands and programs controlled and operated by local units of government. The DNR has a strong commitment to barrier free recreational opportunities in our Department-managed programs and facilities. This commitment extends to those communities that receive recreation grants.

The accessibility assessment for Richmond Township's parks and recreation facilities was done on the rating scale listed below:

Rank 1: None of the facilities / park areas meet accessibility guidelines.

Rank 2: Some of the facilities / park areas meet accessibility guidelines.

Rank 3: Most of the facilities / park areas meet accessibility guidelines.

Rank 4: The entire park meets accessibility guidelines.

Rank 5: The entire park was developed / renovated using the principals of universal design.

Accessibility Rating for the Township Hall Park

Rating 3 - The Township Hall Park contains a soccer field and a senior/community center. The soccer field is located on flat, grassy terrain, with good accessibility. The soccer field is served by a paved parking area, with barrier free parking spaces. The senior/community center, previously used as the Township Hall, is in need of some accessibility and architectural barrier free design improvements.

## Future Accessibility Design Standards

In all future park development and improvements, Richmond Township will utilize the following set of criteria in order to confirm its accessibility.

Parking

- ☐ Accessible parking spaces are provided and marked with International Symbol of Accessibility.
- ☐ Accessible parking is as near to the park entrance as possible.

Play Areas

- ☐ There is an accessible route (60 inches wide) to the entrance of the play area with a slope no steeper than 1:16.
- ☐ For playground equipment, at least one turning space is provided on the same level as play components.
- ☐ Play area surface is firm and stable (mulch/woodchips, sand and gravel are not accessible surfaces)
- ☐ Where multiple swings in a swing bay are provided, one swing is located on an accessible route.
- ☐ For court sports, at least one accessible route connects both sides of the court.

Park Amenities

- ☐ Picnic tables provide at least one wheelchair space for each 24 linear feet of usable table surface perimeter. The aisles between chairs and tables are 3 feet wide.
- ☐ Drinking fountain spout outlets are a maximum of 36 inches above the finish floor or ground.
- ☐ Safety is promoted by good street lighting.
- ☐ Ramps are non-slip.
- ☐ If public restroom facility present, there is at least one fully accessible restroom.

Trails and Sidewalks

- ☐ There is a path of travel that does not require the use of stairs.
- ☐ Bike paths are separate from pedestrian walkways.
- ☐ Sidewalks are free of obstruction, wide enough for wheelchairs, solid (not made of dirt), and have curb cuts.
- ☐ All stairways feature a railing and stair tips that are painted to distinguish each step.

- ☐ Handrails are provided on both sides of a ramp.
- ☐ Accessible routes connect all park amenities and coincide with general circulation paths.

## Status Report of all Grant Assisted Park and Recreation Facilities

The Township has not received any previous grants for park acquisition or development.

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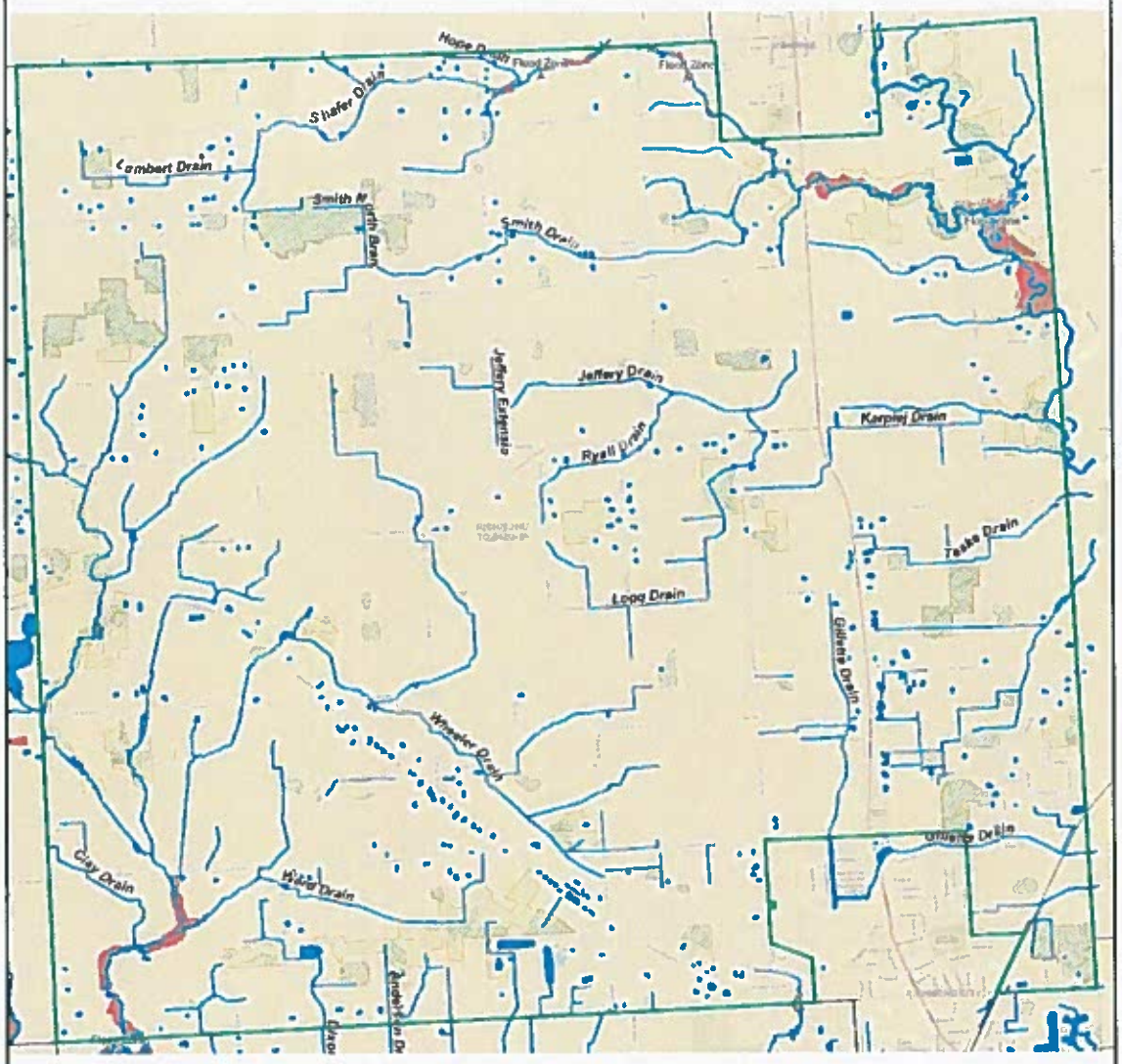
# Resource Inventory

In a community such as Richmond Township, where recreational opportunities are heavily intertwined with the natural environment, an inventory of natural resources is helpful in understanding where potential opportunities may be available. These maps can also complement planning decisions for open space preservation not related to recreation.

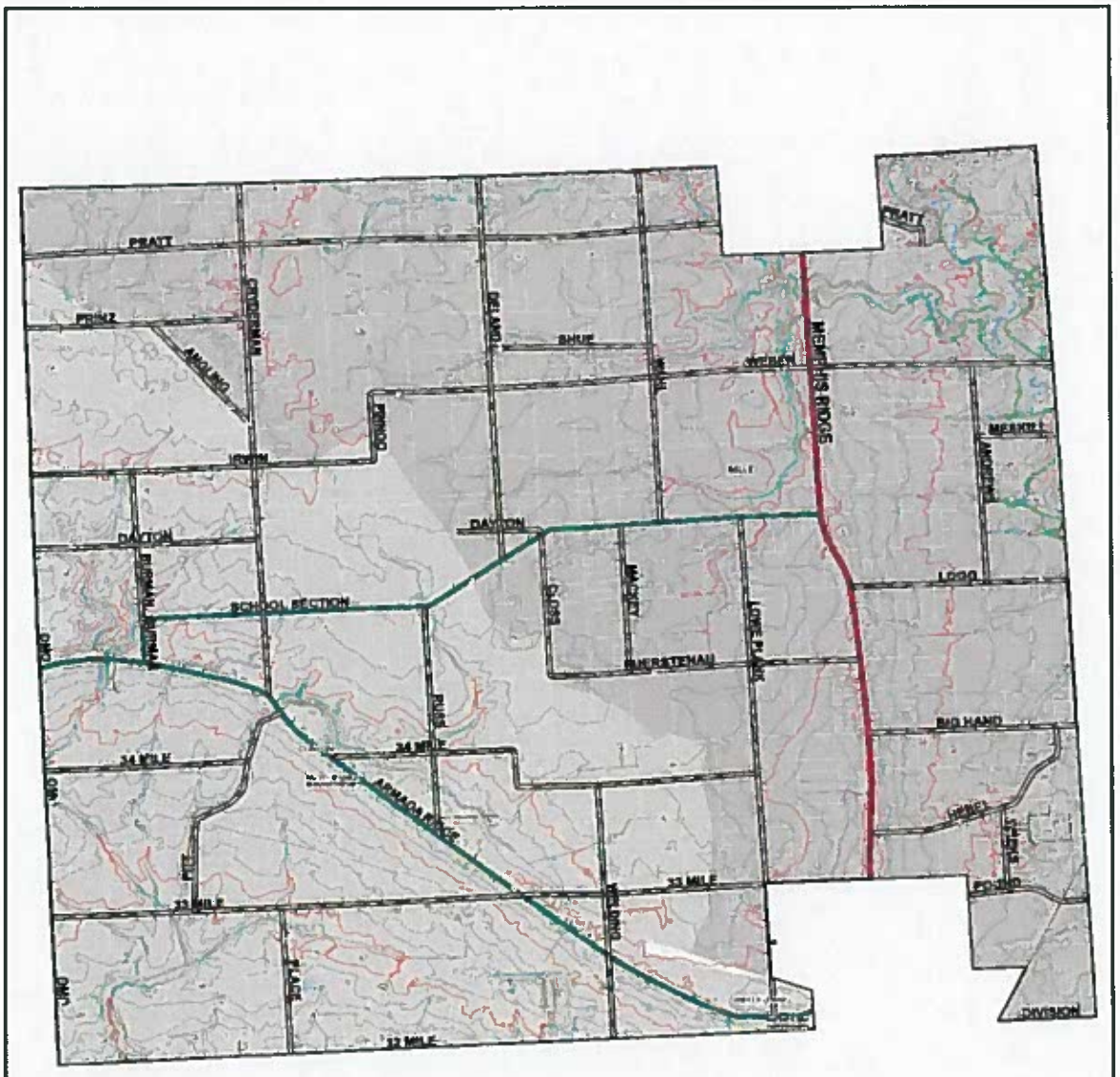
The following maps depict generalized elevations, sub-watersheds, soils, and natural features within Richmond Township.




# Richmond Township Natural Features

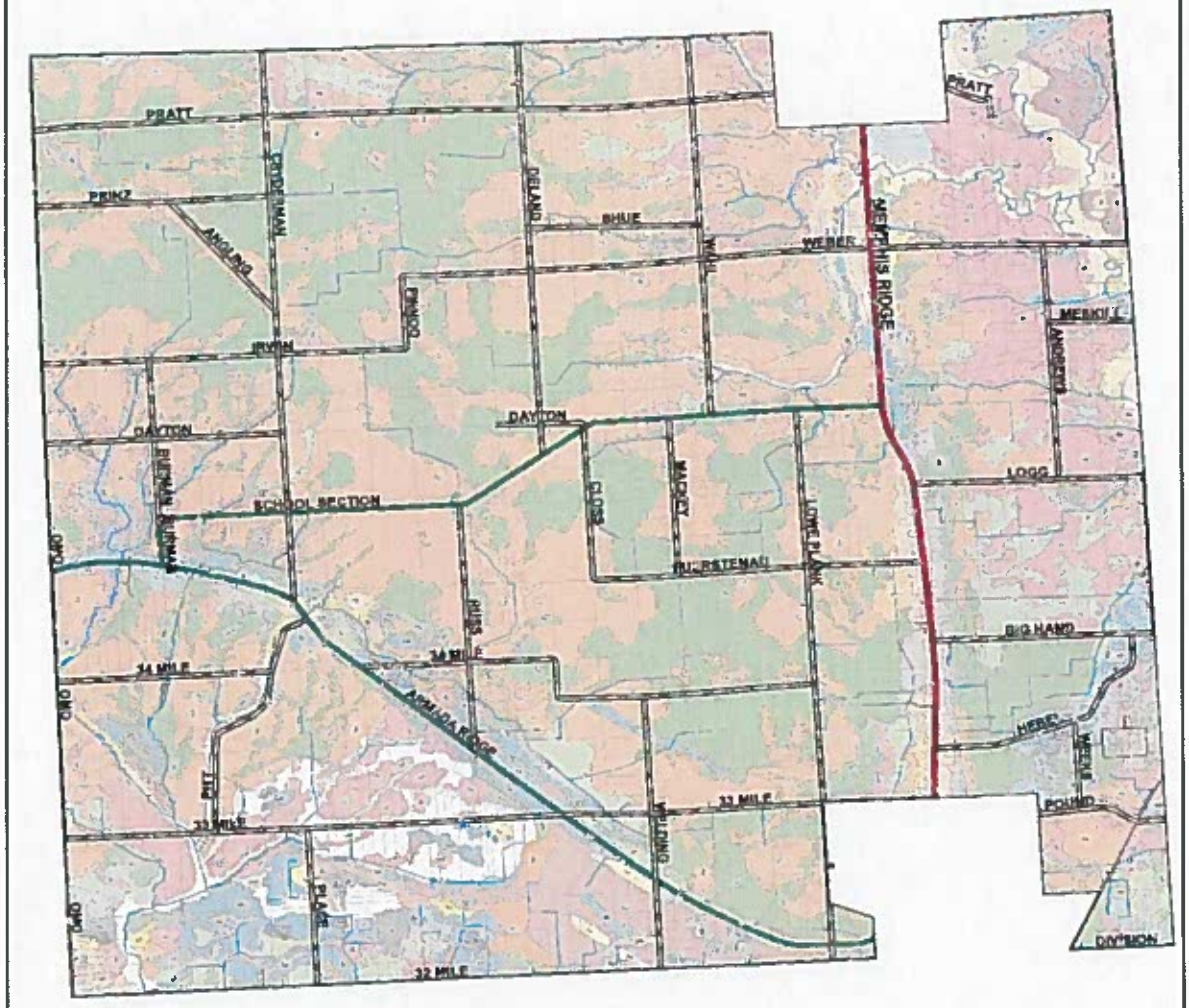
## Legend

- Override
- Community Borders
- Potential Wetlands
- Natural Areas
- A, AE
- Rivers Streams and Drains
- Lakes Ponds and Basins
- Clinton River




# Richmond Township Sub-Watershed Map

Cesan Planning Group, LLC

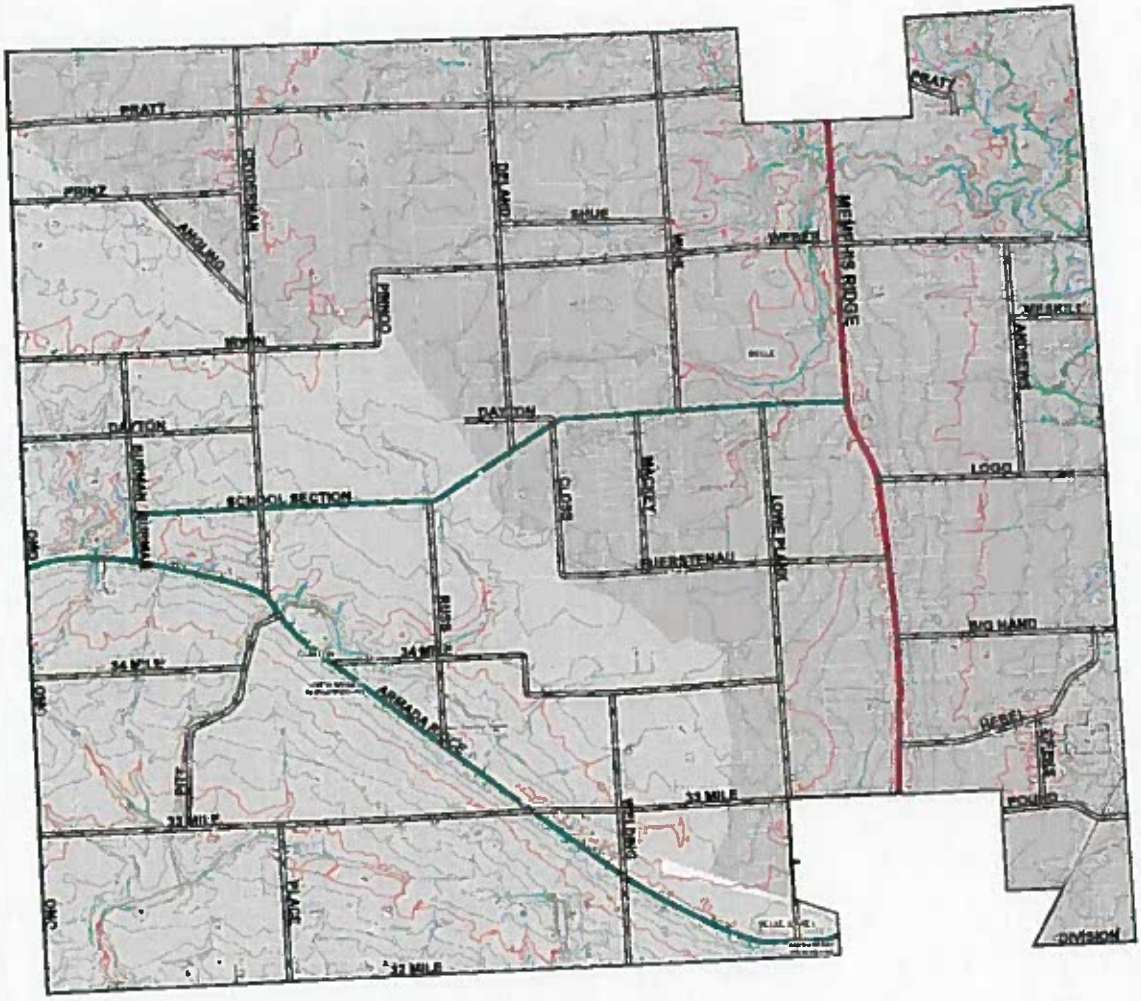



| Legend | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Parcels | Dl | Lk | Pa | Tb |
| As | Dm | Lm | Pc | Tl |
| Au | Dr | Lo | RO | Ur |
| Bl | Ed | Ls | SP | Ws |
| Br | Ep | Lu | Sa | Wt |
| Bs | Ft | Md | Sc | Wu |
| Bv | Fu | Me | Sd | Ww |
| Bx | GP | Mn | Se | Wx |
| CE | Gc | Mo | Sf | at |
| CP | Gf | Ms | Sh | In |
| Ce | Gm | Na | Sl | I |
| Cf | Hy | Nc | Sm | rs |
| Cm | La | OK | Sn | ui |
| Cv | Le | Oa | Sp | |
| Cw | Lh | Ob | Ta | |

# Richmond Township Soils

Cassie Planning Group, LLC

1 inch = 1,600 feet




# Richmond Township Elevation Map

Casan Planning Group, LLC

Source: Macomb County Planning & Economic Development

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# Recreation Needs & Opportunities Analysis

To analyze the recreational needs of Township residents, and to determine deficiencies within recreation programs, it is helpful to consider standards for recreation service areas, land needs based on future population, and the ultimate size and extent of recreation facilities and their location.

## Recreation Needs & Opportunities Analysis

It is important to determine adequacy and need for recreation facilities, both currently and in the future. Several techniques are commonly used to accomplish this. Perhaps the most common method of determining recreation needs and deficiencies is to compare existing park acreage and facilities with accepted recreation planning standards. The standards normally suggest optimum or ideal conditions that communities should strive to meet in the development of park facilities and provide a benchmark against which progress can be measured. The risk in using these standards, however, is that they may not be uniformly applicable to every community and as such, need to be evaluated in light of the unique physical, social and economic conditions that may characterize a specific community.

## Recreation Planning Standards

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) offers generalized standards to assist communities in recreation planning activities. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has also developed a set of standards based on NRPA guidelines entitled "Michigan Recreation Opportunity Standards," which will be utilized in this recreation needs and deficiency analysis. These standards specify the amount of developed recreation acreage, and the amount/number of recreation facilities that a community should have per 1,000 residents.

| Michigan Recreation Opportunity Standards | |
|---|---|
| Type of Recreation Opportunity | Plan Standard |
| Developed Local Park Land | 10 acres / 1,000 population |
| Archery Ranges (including private & commercial) | 1 / 50,000 population |
| Ballfields (not including school facilities) | 1 / 3,000 population |
| Outdoor Basketball Courts (not including school facilities) | 1 / 5,000 population |
| Bicycle Trails (miles) | 1 / 40,000 population |
| Golf Courses (including private & commercial) | 1 / 25,000 population |
| Indoor Ice Rinks | 1 / 50,000 population |
| Outdoor Ice Rinks | 1 / 20,000 population |
| Picnic Areas (tables) | 1 / 200 population |
| Playgrounds (not including school facilities) | 1 / 3,000 population |
| Rifle Ranges (including private & commercial) | 1 / 50,000 population |
| Shotgun Ranges (including private & commercial) | 1 / 50,000 population |
| Sledding Hills (not including school facilities) | 1 / 40,000 population |
| Soccer Fields (not including school facilities) | 1 / 20,000 population |
| Outdoor Swimming Pools | 1 / 40,000 population |
| Outdoor Tennis Courts (not including school facilities) | 1 / 4,000 population |
| Campground Sites (including commercial) | 1 / 150 population |
| Cross-Country Ski Trails (miles) | 1 / 10,000 population |
| Fishing Access (feet) | 1,000 / 1,000 population |
| Fishing Piers | 1 / 100,000 population |
| Hiking Trails (miles) | 1 / 5,000 population |
| Horseback Trails (miles) | 1 / 20,000 population |
| Nature Areas (each) | 1 / 50,000 population |
| Nature Trails (miles) | 1 / 20,000 population |
| ORV Areas | 1 acre / 7,500 population |
| ORV Trails (miles) | 1 / 10,000 population |
| Snowmobiling Land | 10 acres / 1,000 population |
| Snowmobiling Trails (miles) | 1 / 3,000 population |
| Swimming Beaches | 1 / 25,000 population |

For some of the standards listed above, the specific facilities require a larger service population than that of Richmond Township. However, these types of facilities could be established in the Township if locational advantages, natural resource features and monetary resources permit. The

location of such facilities within Richmond Township can make the Township a more attractive place to visit, thereby creating jobs and expanding the local economic base.

## Current Recreation Needs

Based on the Michigan Recreation Opportunity Standards and the 2019 population of Richmond Township of 3,516 persons, recreation standards suggest the Township's need for developed recreation acreage and for the various types of recreation activities. However, it should be noted that these standards are guidelines, and each community should consider other recreation opportunities within the area as well as the ability to maintain community facilities. The Table below lists some of the current recreation opportunities that may exist within the Township.

| Richmond Township's Current Recreation Needs (Based upon a population of 3,516 persons) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Recreation Facility | Existing Amount | Rec. Amount | Opportunity |
| Developed Park Land | 1.0 | 35.1 acres | 34.1 acres |
| Ballfields | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Playgrounds | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Picnic Areas (Tables) | 0 | 17 | 17 |
| Outdoor Tennis | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Soccer | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Outdoor Basketball | 0 | 1 | 1 |

As can be seen in the table above, there is a need for additional recreation facilities/equipment. Richmond Township should keep these needs in mind in determining priorities for recreation improvements.

Acquiring additional park land should be considered a top priority. Comparing the recreation standards with the existing parkland, indicates a deficit of over 34 acres of recreational land in the Township.

## Future Recreation Needs

Based on the Michigan Recreation Opportunity Standards and the 2030 and 2045 projected populations of Richmond Township of 3,743 and 3,897 (respectively), the Township's future needs

for developed recreation acreage and for the various types of recreation activities for those years were derived. The two tables below list the future recreation needs that may exist within the Township, assuming that none of the current recreation deficiencies noted previously are addressed between now and the years 2030 and 2045. It should be noted that the recommendations remain relatively similar for current recreation needs and the projected needs for both 2030 and 2045.

| Richmond Township's Projected 2030 Recreation Needs (Based on a projected population of 3,743 persons) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Recreation Facility | Existing Amount | Rec. Amount | Opportunity |
| Developed Park Land | 1.0 | 37.4 acres | 36.4 acres |
| Ballfields | -0- | 1 | 1 |
| Playgrounds | -0- | 1 | 1 |
| Picnic Areas (Tables) | -0- | 19 | 19 |
| Outdoor Tennis | -0- | 1 | 1 |
| Soccer | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Outdoor Basketball | -0- | 1 | 1 |

| Richmond Township's Projected 2045 Recreation Needs (Based on a projected population of 3,897 persons) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Recreation Facility | Existing Amount | Rec. Amount | Opportunity |
| Developed Park Land | 1 | 38.9 acres | 38.9 acres |
| Ballfields | -0- | 1 | 1 |
| Playgrounds | -0- | 1 | 1 |
| Picnic Areas (Tables) | -0- | 19 | 19 |
| Outdoor Tennis | -0- | 1 | 1 |
| Soccer | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Outdoor Basketball | -0- | 1 | 1 |

# 7

# The Planning & Public Input Process

Understanding the important role of public involvement in developing this plan, Richmond Township took great effort to engage the general public. The Township utilized the Planning Commission as the primary conduit for development of the plan. At the Planning Commission's public meetings, the Township promoted an open invitation to members of the general public to comment and participate in the development of the Plan.

In addition, the Township developed an online public survey (with hard copies available at the Township Hall), in order to collect public input on community priorities for future parks and recreation. The survey was available for ninety (90) days beginning July 22, 2019. It was advertised on the Township's website and promoted through Township documents/materials. Seventy-five people responded to the survey. The survey findings (provided in the Appendix) played an instrumental role in identifying the goals, opportunities, and action plan specified in this Plan.

On January _____, the final draft plan and 5-year action program of priority projects was reviewed by the Planning Commission. Following a recommendation of approval, the Commission, forwarded the plan to the Township Board.

The draft plan was made available for public review and comment for at least 30 days prior to formal adoption by the Township Board. Notice of the public review period was provided in the local newspaper. The plan was presented at a public hearing held by Township Board. Copies of the notices announcing the review period and public hearing are included in the Appendix.

# 8

# Goals & Objectives

Goals and Objectives formulated by Richmond Township are the basis of the recreation planning process. They form the framework for public and private decision-making regarding recreational facilities and programs in the Township. This Recreation Plan seeks to pursue long-range recreational goals and objectives through specific short-range actions on the part of the Township, County, and State as well as private entities.

The following goals and objectives were developed by the Township after review of the Township's natural features, population, housing, existing land uses, existing recreational facilities and programs, and the results of the community recreation survey.

The recreation goals and objectives are not prioritized. The Basis for Action and Action Program in the Recreation Plan chapter which follows will detail the specific program strategies to achieve the goals and objectives.

**GOAL 1**

Develop a community park within the township that provides a range of active and passive recreational opportunities for all residents.

Objectives

- Identify and purchase an appropriately located parcel of adequate size and configuration to accommodate development of a community park.

- Develop a concept plan for the parcel which includes active and passive recreational uses, including picnic areas with pavilions, playgrounds, ballfields, and walking/fitness trails.

- Design the park to ensure barrier free access to all active and passive recreational facilities.

**GOAL 2**

Enhance and increase the quality of life of Township residents by providing a full range of recreational programs and facilities to meet the demographic character of the population.

Objectives

- Support private non-profit organizations which provide recreational facilities or programs through financial, in-kind, or facility access agreements.

- Avoid duplicating recreational facilities and programs that are already being provided by other levels of government or by the private sector.

**GOAL 3**

Expand and enhance non-motorized trails

Objectives

- In coordination with the county, enhance the non-motorized path system, which link the community to areas of interest, schools, and other recreational facilities in the area.

- Coordinate with Macomb County and other regional agencies to provide trails which could, in the future, indirectly or directly link to other trails within the region such as the Macomb Orchard Trail.

- Design paths and trails to ensure barrier free access to all active and passive recreational facilities.

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# Action Strategies 2020 -2024

Action Strategies outline Richmond Township's approach to implementing the goals and objectives identified in the previous chapter. These strategies are intended to provide guidance for planning and budgeting purposes for the next five years. They suggest priorities generally, but are not intended to be set in stone or limit additional creative approaches. Generally, parks and recreation action strategies should consider the following when outlining a strategy to implement goals and objectives:

1. Are there immediate health and safety concerns that need to be addressed?
2. What opportunities exist to partner with other groups towards a common goal?
3. Is there a person or group who can champion specific goals/objectives?
4. Are there multiple goals that can be achieved by implementing a project?
5. What projects affect the greatest number of people in the community and/or address the greatest need?
6. How can projects be broken down into phases for a multi-year approach?
7. What funding opportunities exist for implementation of certain goals?

# Richmond Township Parks and Recreation 5 Year Action Plan

| Action | Year | Projected Estimated Cost | Funding Source |
|---|---|---|---|
| Acquire additional property for use as a Township Park | 2020 | $50,000-$100,000 | Local, MNRTF |
| Prepare a Master Development Plan for the acquired park property | 2021 | $2,000 - $4,000 | Local |
| Install park improvements per the Public Survey, and in accordance with the Park Master Development Plan.<br><br>Specific improvements may include:<br>• Playground Apparatus<br>• Picnic Pavilions<br>• Walking trails<br>• Exercise equipment<br>• Additional sport fields | 2021-24 | $200,000 - $400,000 | Local, MNRTF, LCF |
| Improve and enhance the Township's Senior/Community Center in order to provide additional recreation services and programming to Township residents. | 2023-24 | $50,000 - $100,000 | Local, MNRTF, LCF |
| Work with Macomb County and other regional trail agencies to secure funding and develop a trail along Memphis Ridge Road that will connect to the Macomb Orchard Trail. | 2020-24 | TBD | Local, County, MNRTF, LCF |

MNRTF – Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund

LCF – Local community foundations

Local – Local Funds/General Funds

County – Macomb County

TBD – To be determined

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# Appendix

Approving Resolutions

Public Notices

Required Letters

Public Survey Results