



2017-2021

# PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN





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# PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

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# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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## Parks and Recreation Board

Clara Russell, Parks and Recreation Director

Kathy Bosheers, Washington Township

Richard Cory, Bruce Township



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Our Mission is to  
attract and encourage  
participation for all age  
groups and abilities  
through positive  
opportunity and quality  
service for the purpose  
of enriching our  
resident's lives.

## CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

**PARKS &  
ROMEO-WASHINGTON-BRUCE  
REC**

# REGIONAL SETTING

The Romeo-Washington-Bruce Recreation Commission is responsible for guiding existing and future conditions of parks and recreation facilities and programs in the communities. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan must be submitted to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) to be eligible for new grant funding. In November 2016, the Parks and Recreation Director authorized McKenna Associates, a planning consulting firm in Northville, to prepare a five-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

The preparation of a Recreation Plan provides the Romeo-Washington-Bruce Recreation Commission with an opportunity to consider the recreation needs of its residents. The preparation of a recreation master plan also qualifies the community for possible State funding for expanding and/or improving the existing recreational areas. Providing recreational facilities and programs has evolved into a widely accepted role for local governments. The decreasing amount of leisure time due to longer hours and longer work weeks places an even greater emphasis on recreation providers to offer a more diverse range of quality easily accessible facilities and programs to satisfy these magnified recreational needs. The availability and type of park and recreation programs provided makes the community more attractive by enhancing the community's overall quality of life.

The Romeo-Washington-Bruce Recreation Commission serves three separate communities with distinct physical characteristics and distinct recreation needs. For example, the Village of Romeo is an established urban area located in the geographic center of the study area. To the south, Washington Township has experienced a substantial amount of residential development over the last decade. North of the Village, Bruce Township features a more rural residential setting, with larger lots and a substantially lower overall population than Washington Township and is much more dispersed. Several factors explain this growth trend in this area of the County, the main factor being the Township's regional location in the path of one of Macomb County's principal growth corridors, the M-53 Growth Corridor.





## CHAPTER 2: COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

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REC**



The Romeo-Washington-Bruce Recreation Commission serves three communities, which collectively encompass approximately 74 square miles of land located in the northwest corner of Macomb County. The boundaries of this service area extend from 26 Mile Road on the south to the Lapeer County line on the north (Boardman Road), and from Hayes and Powell Roads on the east to the Oakland County line on the west (Dequindre Road). Two major State transportation corridors, M-53 and Van Dyke, bisect all three communities. These corridors run parallel to one another, approximately ¼ to ½ mile apart. The presence of these highway corridors had had an important influence on the growth and development of this portion of the County.

## DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

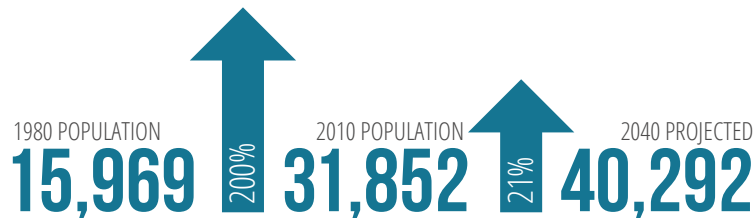


To analyze the types of recreation facilities and amenities that are needed in a community, it is important to have a thorough description of the area's demographic features. Differences in demographic characteristics may indicate issues or areas in recreation planning; may identify strengths or assets that can be further developed or emphasized; or may identify weaknesses or problems that need to be addressed.

Figure 1: Demographic Trends

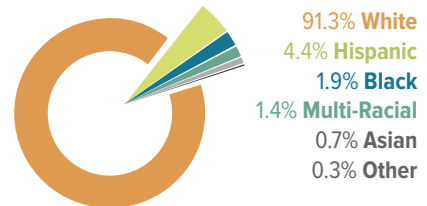
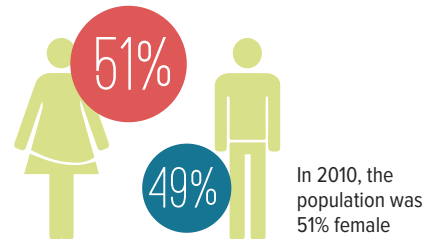
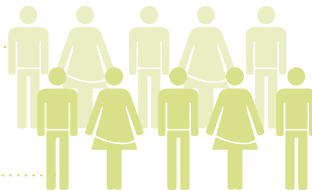
# DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

ROMEO VILLAGE + BRUCE TOWNSHIP + WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP

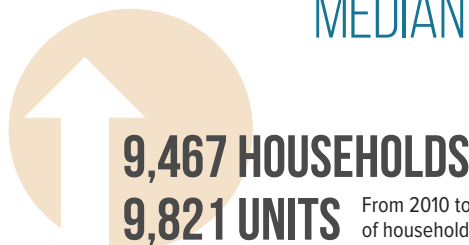


From 1980 to 2010, the population has increased by 200% and is projected to increase another 21% by the year 2040.

(Example summary) there is expected to be an increase in retirees, 30-somethings, and preschoolers by 2025.



MEDIAN AGE (2010) **41.7**

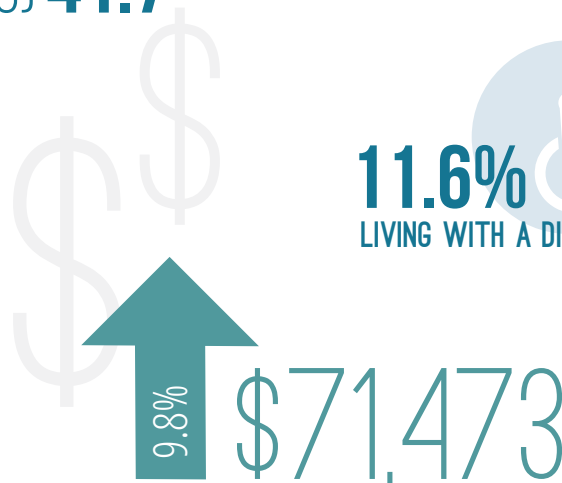


From 2010 to 2016, the number of households has increased by 10.3%, whereas the number of units has only increased by 8.1%



**38.3%** SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL

| Land Use                               | Acres           | Percent       |
|--|-----------------|---------------|
| Single-family Residential              | 18,166.8        | 38.3%         |
| Agricultural                           | 13,119.0        | 27.7%         |
| Industrial                             | 5,840.3         | 12.3%         |
| Park, recreation and open space        | 4,160.0         | 8.8%          |
| Transportation, utility, communication | 3,423.9         | 7.2%          |
| Water                                  | 1,118.4         | 2.4%          |
| Governmental/Institutional             | 801.7           | 1.7%          |
| Commercial                             | 631.9           | 1.3%          |
| Multiple-family Residential            | 123.5           | 0.3%          |
| Airport                                | 0.0             | 0.0%          |
| <b>Total</b>                           | <b>47,385.5</b> | <b>100.0%</b> |



The median income has increased by 9.8% since 2010

| Household Income 2010 | Population    | %           |
|-----------------------|---------------|-------------|
| Less than \$25,000    | <b>1,825</b>  | 15.26       |
| \$25,000 - \$34,999   | <b>943</b>    | 7.89        |
| \$35,000 - \$49,999   | <b>1,521</b>  | 12.72       |
| \$50,000 - \$74,999   | <b>1,993</b>  | 16.67       |
| \$75,000 - \$99,999   | <b>1,713</b>  | 14.33       |
| \$100,000 - \$149,999 | <b>2,328</b>  | 19.47       |
| \$150,000 +           | <b>1,633</b>  | 13.66       |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>11,956</b> | <b>100%</b> |



Giant waterslide at  
Morton Mountain

RHS Dance Team



## Population

Population trends for the Village of Romeo, Washington Township and Bruce Township have been increasing since the 1980's. SEMCOG projections indicate that the community populations will increase, however at different rates. The Village of Romeo's population will increase 1.9 percent from 2010 to 2040, while Bruce Township will increase 19.0 percent and Washington Township will increase 32.9 percent.

The rapid increase in population will impact the land usage for each community. New commercial and residential developments will occur as the population increases. In order to ensure that all residents have access to the parks and recreational facilities, it is necessary for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan to take into account the population increases throughout all three communities.

## Housing

A household is defined as a person or group of people occupying a housing unit. The rate of increase in households is not equal to the rate of increase of housing units.

From 2010 to 2016, the number of households increased in Romeo (2.1 percent) and Washington Township (11.5 percent), however, there was a slight decrease in Bruce Township (-4.5 percent). During that same time period, the number of housing units increased in Bruce Township (5.3 percent) and Washington Township (8.9), but experienced zero change in Romeo.

The increase of housing units is due to the increase in construction in Bruce and Washington Townships. There has been a steady increase in construction permits issued as the economy has recovered. The Townships have a large portion of vacant land, while Romeo is almost entirely built out with very little room for new housing units to be built.





## Age Distribution

Another important consideration in planning for future parks and recreation needs is the age distribution of residents. In each stage of life, people's activity requirements change, resulting in the need for a variety of recreational facilities and programs.

For each community, there is expected to be an increase in retirees, 30-something's and preschoolers by 2025.

The median age has increased to 41.7 from 2000 to 2010. The increase in median age has become more and more common, as people have been staying home with parents longer before moving into their own homes, and are also waiting longer to have children. The median age for Macomb County (39.9) and the State of Michigan (38.9) follow this trend.

## Income

Median income is defined as the income level above which half of all households earn more and below which half earn less. In Romeo-Washington-Bruce, the median income increased 9.8 percent between 2000 and 2010. In 2010, over 33 percent of households earned over \$100,000. The percentage of high income is linked with high quality of life and suggests that residents will continue to demand high-quality services and facilities from the Parks and Recreation Department.

## Persons with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) requires that all public services, including parks, recreation, and cultural facilities, comply with barrier-free access requirements. Further, public providers must eliminate any eligibility requirements for participation in programs, activities, and services.

As the population ages, the proportion of people who have one or more disabilities steadily increases. Throughout the three communities, 11.6 percent of the population have one or more disability.

Senior fitness

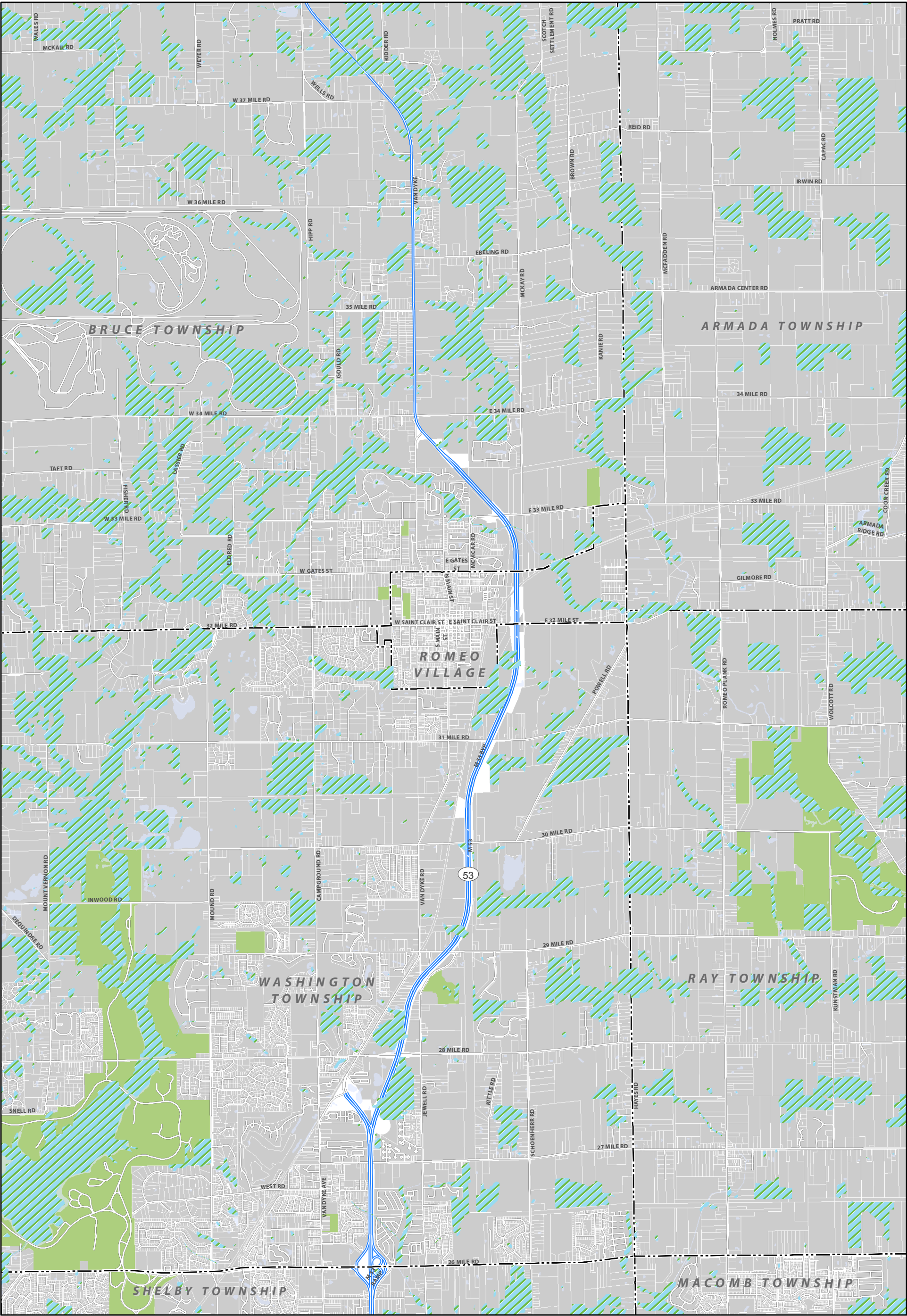
Easter in the Park

# PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS



The physical setting of a community may influence the availability of recreation opportunities. The presence of varied topography, woodlands, and other natural water features, including lakes and rivers, often provides unique opportunities for diverse recreation activities. A community's land use characteristics also need to be considered in evaluating recreation needs and opportunities. This is a particularly relevant consideration for the Romeo-Washington-Bruce area, which has an abundance of unspoiled natural features.





**DRAFT**

# Identified Natural Features Map

Romeo + Washington + Bruce  
Macomb County, Michigan  
January 3, 2017

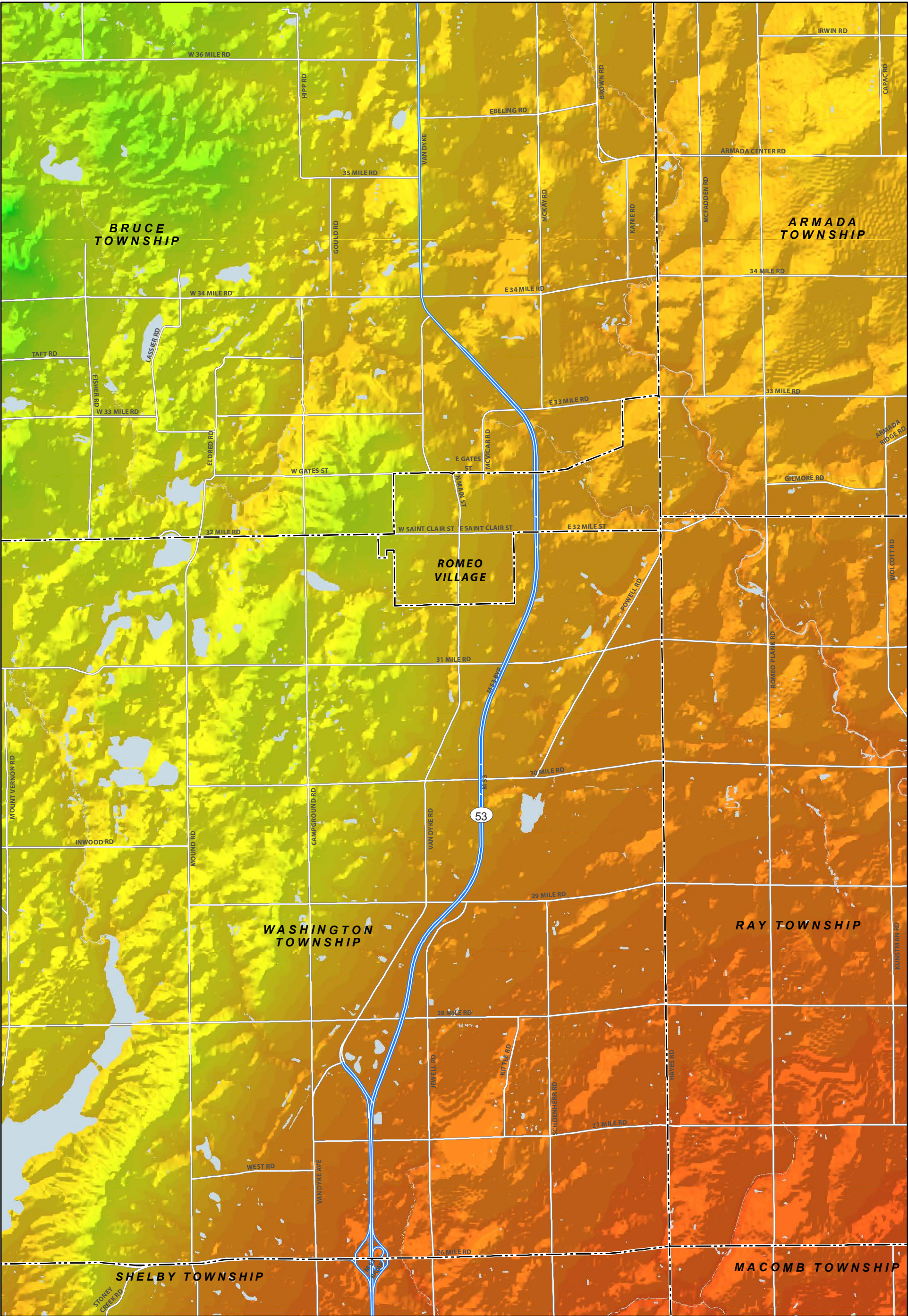
BACK OF MAP

## Topography

The topographic features of the Romeo-Washington-Bruce area are a direct consequence of the glacial action. The combined effects of glaciation and the elastic rebound of the land after continental ice caps vanished created the only area of Macomb County characterized by a rolling landscape. The eastern half of the area is relatively flat. The western half is characterized by a series of rolling hills.

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# Generalized Topography Map

Romeo + Washington + Bruce  
Macomb County, Michigan  
January 3, 2017



BACK OF MAP

## Water Features

Surface water exists in many forms, such as lakes, rivers, creeks, ponds, wetlands and open storm drains. Both Washington and Bruce Townships contain numerous such features that make a significant contribution to the visual character of the area. These water features offer attractive settings for residential development. They also have an important value for recreational purposes.

Several lakes and streams are located in Washington Township. For the most part, these features are located in the western portion of the Township. The largest of the Township's six lakes is Stony Creek Lake, located in the southwest corner of the community. Several smaller lakes are located to the north, along the Stony Creek Valley. Stony Creek also flows through this area, emptying into the lake of the same name south of 29 Mile Road. On the east half of the Township, the predominant water features are several smaller drains, including Healy Drain, Heide Drain, Yates Drain, Kim Drain and Price Brook.

Several watercourses cross Bruce Township, the most notable of which includes the north branch of the Clinton River and East Pond Creek. Both watercourses meander throughout the Township. The Township also contains several small lakes, which include Hidden Lake, Streeter Lake, Fisher Lake and East Lake, among others.

## Woodlands and Wetlands

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

Large wooded areas are distributed throughout Washington Township. Many of these woodlands are located in interior section acreage. These woodlands were measured in 1979. At that time, trees, excluding existing orchards and land within Stony Creek Park, covered approximately 2,000 acres of land (eight percent of the total Township area). Unfortunately, the large amount of development has removed a significant amount of woodlands from the Township.

Extensive portions of Bruce Township are likewise covered with trees. This is especially the case for the western two-thirds of the Township.

Most of the existing wetlands in Washington Township are confined to the western portion of the Township within the Stony Creek Valley, west of Mound Road. Stony Creek and numerous small lakes are located within this area, which explains the presence of these wetlands. The wetlands located in the eastern half of the Township generally coincide with the location of large wooded areas.

Bruce Township's wetlands are widely distributed throughout the community. Most of these wetlands are associated with the Township's numerous watercourses or wooded areas.

The lowest point in Washington Township, at 650 feet above sea level, occurs in the southeast corner of the Township, near the 26 Mile Road and Hayes Road intersection. Elevations between 900 and 950 feet occur in the northwest corner of the Township. The most noticeable changes in topography are found along the Birmingham Moraine and within the Stony Creek Valley.

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## CHAPTER 3: ADMINISTRATION STRUCTURE AND FUNDING

**PARKS &  
ROMEO-WASHINGTON-BRUCE  
REC**

# PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT



Safety (left)



Park clean-up (center)



Parade (right)

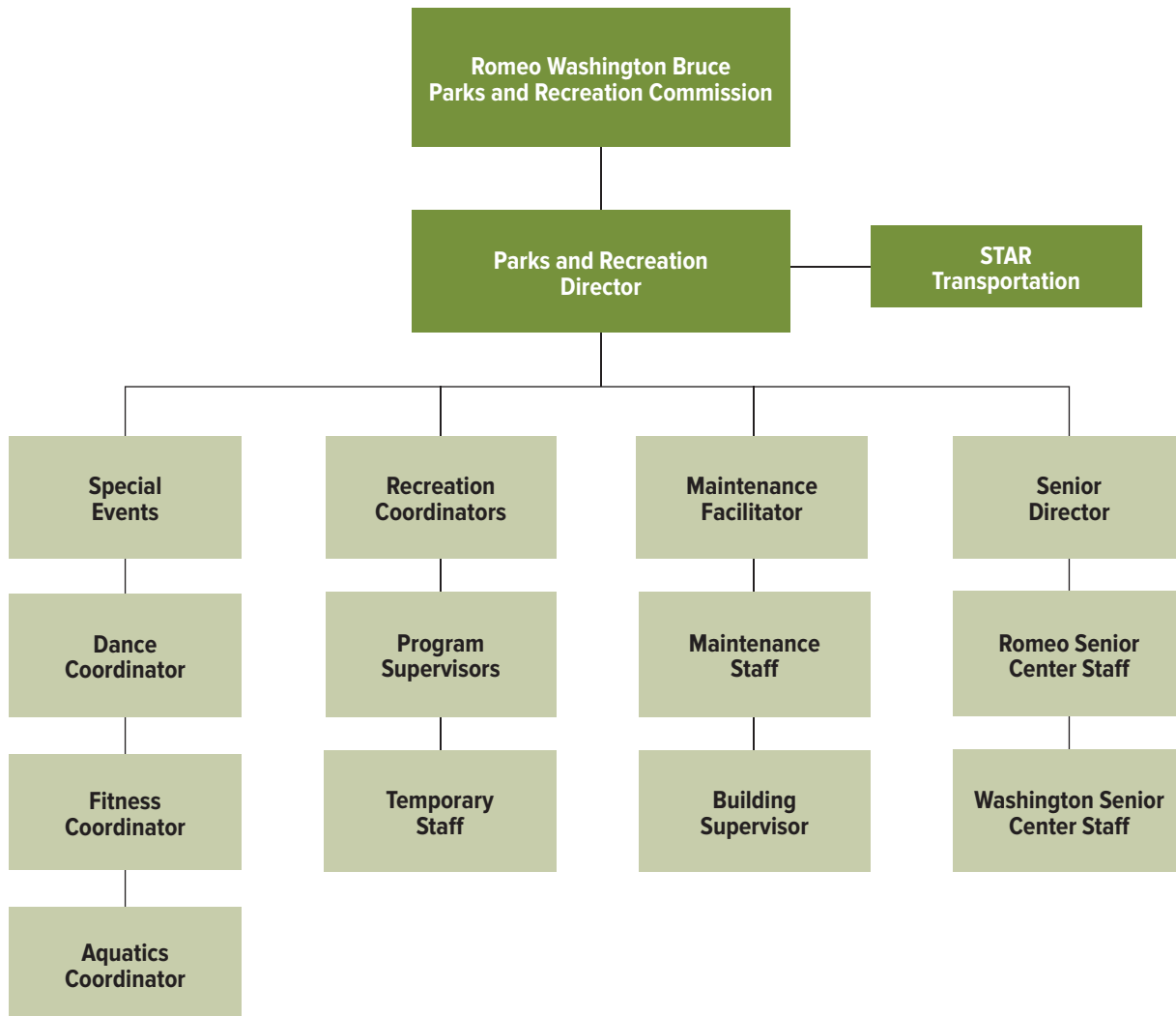
The Romeo-Washington-Bruce Recreation Commission is a public agency, formed by both Bruce and Washington Townships, which is responsible for providing recreation services to area residents. The purpose of the Commission is to promote, plan, coordinate and operate a system of indoor and outdoor public recreation programs and facilities for all residents of those areas encompassed by the boundaries of Bruce and Washington Townships along with the Village of Romeo. The Commission was organized pursuant to Public Act 156 of 1917. A copy of the Resolution creating the Recreation Plan is included in the Appendix.

The Commission consists of one Township Board representative from Bruce and Washington Townships as well as at large members of the community. The administrative duties of the Commission are the responsibility of the Director of Parks and Recreation, who is answerable directly to the Commission. A Recreation Coordinator, Program Supervisor, a Senior Program Supervisor, and a Senior Citizen Coordinator, all of which are full-time positions, assist the director. Other full-time staff include a bookkeeper and two secretaries. The STAR Transportation program also has a full-time coordinator, who is responsible to the Director. The Director is also assisted by a number of permanent part-time and temporary staff who direct many of the individual programs offered by Parks and Recreation. The organization structure of the Recreation Commission and the Department is reflected on the following page.

As indicated earlier, the duties and responsibilities of the Recreation Commission has evolved and expanded since its initial formation in 1968. Today, the Recreation Department is responsible for the coordination and delivery of recreation services and programs available to residents of all three communities. Its main responsibility lies in the area of recreational programming. The Department offers a diverse range of programs, which feature instructional classes, athletic competition and special events for all age groups. (A sample list of these programs in the form of a RWB Mailer is included in the Appendix.) These programs change from time-to-time to reflect both the needs and preferences of area residents.

The Department operates two Older Adult Centers, one at The Romeo Community Center and the other at the Washington Township Municipal Building. Both centers focus on the needs of senior citizens. Programs offered by these centers emphasize the recreational, nutritional and health needs of senior citizens. Transportation services for seniors are provided by the STAR transportation program, which offers door-to-door transportation for eligible seniors or handicapped residents. A separate millage supports this service.

**Figure 2: Administration Structure**



# VOLUNTEERS AND SPONSORSHIPS



Volunteers are used on an as-needed basis. Community residents are willing and able to lend a hand when the occasion calls for it. Local business owners can purchase sponsorships for special events. Advertising sponsorships are also available in the parks and recreation brochure.

## **Affiliated athletic organizations include:**

- AYSO Soccer
- Romeo Jr. Bulldogs
- Michigan Flag Football League
- Romeo Football Club
- North Macomb Community Soccer
- Washington Area Athletic Association
- Romeo Girls Softball
- Macomb Soccer

## **Sponsors include:**

- Henry Ford Macomb Hospital
- Century 21
- Cross of Glory Church
- First Friends Montessori
- Interactive Academics
- McLean
- Romeo Ford
- Kroger
- Northland Accounting
- Knights of Columbus
- Grace Preschool
- Summit Bowling
- Action Insurance Service, Inc.
- Pradko Gallagher & Slanec Dentistry
- Peter J. Lucido, State Representative
- Buffalo Wild Wings
- All the Worlds a Stage
- Don's Lil Johns
- Fresh Look Seal Coating
- Kumon
- Mijack & Clark
- TNT Martial Arts
- Meijer
- Capital Banquet Center
- Nightingales Auto Tech & Tire
- Romeo & Washington Lions Club
- The New Rink
- Kiwanis Club
- Dr. Kehoe Nakash Dental Froup
- Masonic Temple
- Chamber of Commerce
- Landscape Direct
- Home Instead
- Little Lambs
- Courtesy Driving School
- Rochester Stables
- Poljan Insurance
- St. Clements Catholic Church
- Sylvan Learning
- Washington Historical Society
- Romeo Auto Glass
- Four County Foundation
- Don Brown, Macomb County Commissioner

## FUNDING AND GRANT HISTORY



The funding for operating the Romeo-Washington-Bruce parks and recreation system comes from two primary sources: recreation millage and program fees. Occasional grants and money from other activities supplement these two sources.

RWB Winter  
& Spring Brochure

### Special Millages

Special millages may be used to finance specific recreation-related activities. The amount of money raised through a millage is based on the assessed value in the community. For example, one mil, which is equal to 1/10 of a cent, would raise one dollar for each 1,000 dollars of assessed value per parcel of taxable land in the community. Voter approval is required for the adoption of a special millage beyond that which a community can automatically levy.

The Recreation Commission has relied on revenue raised from a 0.75 millage since 1986. Votes renewed the millage in 1990, 1996, 2004, and 2008. Traditionally two-thirds of the millage has been earmarked for operational/administrative expenses; the remaining one-third is used for facility development.

In August 2016, Bruce and Washington Township votes approved a .75 millage renewal of the previous millage for Parks and Recreation, and will collect \$930,631. Votes also approved a .25 millage for STAR transportation, and will collect \$310,210. Both millages will run from 2016 – 2019.

### Program Fees

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



## RWB Budget

The Parks and Recreation budget for 2016 – 2017 is \$2,192,388. It is anticipated that \$1,247,088 will be available from the operating millage. This revenue experienced a decline when housing values decreased during the economic and housing market downturn. Revenue from millage has rebounded in the past couple of years, as the economy has recovered. As the housing values continue to rise, the amount of revenue for the recreation department will also rise.

**Table 1: Millage History**

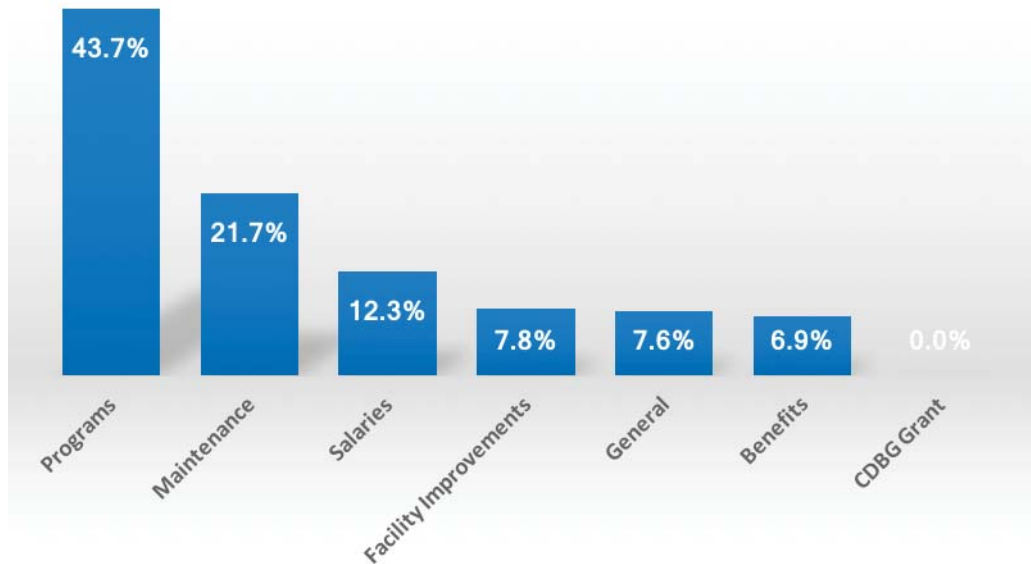
| Millage History |           |
|-----------------|-----------|
| 2016-2017       | 1,247,088 |
| 2015-2016       | 1,126,318 |
| 2014-2015       | 1,093,452 |
| 2013-2014       |           |
| 2012-2013       | 1,145,671 |
| 2011-2012       | 1,114,983 |
| 2010-2011       | 1,088,611 |

**Table 2: Revenue and Expenditures**

| Revenue               | 2016-2017        | 2015-2016        | 2014-2015        | 2013-2014 | 2012-2013        | 2011-2012        |
|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------|------------------|------------------|
| Washington Millage    | 902,841          | 900,205          | 807,863          |           | 834,312          | 814,680          |
| Bruce Millage         | 344,247          | 226,113          | 285,589          |           | 311,359          | 300,303          |
| CDGB Grant            | -                | -                | -                |           | 20,384           | 12,547           |
| Programs              | 945,300          | 892,400          | 872,472          |           | 905,368          | 868,532          |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>2,192,388</b> | <b>2,018,718</b> | <b>1,965,924</b> |           | <b>2,071,423</b> | <b>1,996,062</b> |
| Expenses              |                  |                  |                  |           |                  |                  |
| Salaries              | 269,227          | 261,385          | 253,772          |           | 245,153          | 238,769          |
| Benefits              | 152,100          | 151,562          | 156,481          |           | 144,335          | 139,280          |
| General               | 166,200          | 161,000          | 162,120          |           | 164,069          | 126,194          |
| Maintenance           | 475,750          | 483,750          | 458,870          |           | 439,035          | 411,967          |
| Facility Improvements | 171,811          | 81,221           | 62,479           |           | 116,641          | 77,139           |
| CDBG Grant            | -                | -                | -                |           | 24,700           | 4,802            |
| Programs              | 957,300          | 879,800          | 948,221          |           | 868,504          | 988,836          |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>2,192,388</b> | <b>2,018,718</b> | <b>2,041,943</b> |           | <b>2,002,437</b> | <b>1,986,987</b> |

The department's largest expenditure is for programming. Programming accounts for over 43 percent of the total expenditures for the department in 2016-2017, totaling \$988,836 (see Figure 3). The second largest expenditure for the department is facility maintenance. This line item has been steadily growing over the years as additional parkland and facilities have been added as the responsibility of the recreation department.

**Figure 3: 2016-2017 Expenditures**



## Grant History

Funding programs administered at either the Federal or State level represent a source of money for capital improvements in park land and/or improvements on a competitive and matching basis. Several years ago, Washington Township received a state grant for the Washington Village Park development project (see Table 3).

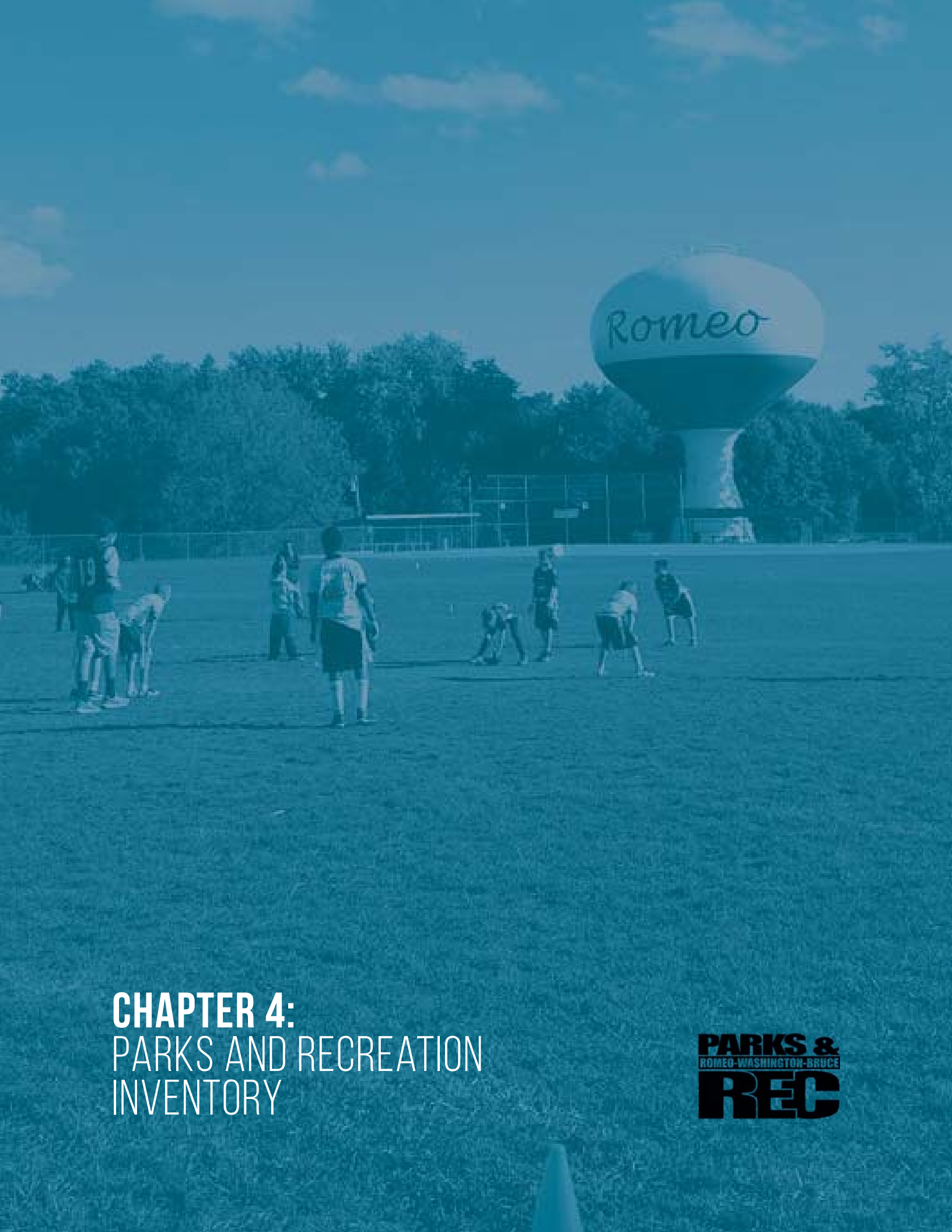
**Table 3: Michigan DNR Recreation Grant History**

| Funding Source                           | Project Name | Grant Amount | Project Title           | Project Description                              |
|--|--------------|--------------|-------------------------|--|
| Michigan Department of Natural Resources | BF89-219     | \$60,600     | Washington Village Park | Exercise trail, 2 tennis courts, 2 soccer fields |

Source: Michigan Department of Natural Resources







## CHAPTER 4: PARKS AND RECREATION INVENTORY

**PARKS &  
ROMEO-WASHINGTON-BRUCE  
REC**

Developing a complete inventory of the parks and recreation facilities and programs is an essential component of a five year Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Understanding what parks, facilities, and programs are available to Romeo, Washington, Bruce residents will assist in decision-making and is the basis upon which future improvements and plans will be built. It should be noted that not all facilities listed in this chapter are available to the public full time or charge a fee for use, but they provide additional recreation opportunities for community residents. This chapter covers the following components:

- Parks and recreation facilities
- Barrier free access
- Public school facilities
- Regional parks and facilities
- Pedestrian / bicycling trails
- Private recreation facilities
- Programs

## PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES



Parks are divided into four categories based on their size and function. These categories, mini-parks, neighborhood parks, community parks and natural resource areas, are suggested by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) and meant to aid in determining the primary purposes and uses of existing facilities in the Township. The description of each park or facility includes an assessment of its condition for barrier-free access (see following section).

### Mini-Parks

Mini-parks are small, specialized parks that are usually less than one acre in size and serve the needs of the residents in the immediate area, approximately less than one-quarter mile away. These parks usually serve a limited, isolated, or unique population. Residential open space areas often serve as mini-parks.

### Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks are typically multi-purpose facilities that serve as the recreational and social focus of a neighborhood. They provide areas for both passive and active recreation activities such as fields, playgrounds, picnicking, and trails. These parks are typically between five and ten acres in area and serve residents within one-half mile.

## Community Parks

Community parks contain a wide variety of recreation facilities to meet the diverse needs of community residents. Community parks may include areas for intense active recreation as well as passive recreation opportunities not commonly found in mini or neighborhood parks. The focus of these parks is to meet community-based recreation needs, as well as preserve unique landscapes and open spaces. Community parks are generally between 30 and 50 acres in area and serve residents within one-half to three miles. Community parks may also include smaller parks that are more specialized in nature and are meant to serve the entire community.

## Natural Resource Areas

Natural Resource Areas are generally lands set aside for the preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space, and visual aesthetics/buffering. The location of these areas is based on resource availability and opportunity, thus the size varies depending on the property.

# BARRIER-FREE ACCESS

The passage of the American Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) requires all areas of public service, including parks and other recreation facilities, to have barrier-free accessibility. To comply with MDNR standards for a parks and recreation master plan, all facilities were evaluated to determine if a person with any of the following conditions can safely and independently access and use the park or facility:

- Has limited sight or is blind
- Uses a wheelchair
- Has difficulty hearing or is deaf
- Uses a walking aid
- Has a mental disorder

A five-point evaluation system was used to rank each facility's accessibility. The system is described below. The applicable accessibility ranking can be found following the description of each park and facility under RWB Parks and Recreation control.

**Level 1.** The park is not accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. The site includes few paved areas and the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are not easily accessible.

**Level 2.** The park is somewhat accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Either the parking area or pathways are paved, but not both. Many of the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are not easily accessible.

**Level 3.** The park is mostly accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Most of the parking areas and pathways are paved, and some of the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are accessible but may be completely barrier-free.

**Level 4.** The park is completely accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Parking areas and pathways area paved, and most of the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas area easily accessible.

**Level 5.** The entire park was developed or renovated using the principles of universal design, a design approach which enables all environments to be usable by everyone, to the greatest extent possible, regardless of age, ability, or situation.

| Park or Recreational Facility              | Accessibility Assessment Rating |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Bruce Township Park                        | 3                               |
| Orchard Hills Park                         | 3                               |
| Crystal Diamonds                           | 2                               |
| Village Park                               | 3                               |
| Village of Romeo Community Center Building | 3                               |
| Gilcher-Crissman Park                      | 2                               |
| Washington Community Park & Senior Center  | 2                               |

# PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES



## Romeo High School

Although school facilities are designed and intended for school use and are not available to the public all the time, they do satisfy some community recreational needs. The public school facilities located in the three communities are:

1. **Memorial Field.** Memorial Field comprises a total of 10.8 acres. Memorial Field is an active sports complex, with one improved baseball field, bleachers, restrooms, concession building and parking lot. An asphalt-surface running track surrounds the soccer field. A practice football field is located at the southern end of the site.
2. **Croswell Elementary School.** The site includes five baseball fields, two football or soccer fields, a small playground with play structures, basketball courts, picnic areas, and an enclosed kindergarten playground area attached to the school.
3. **Washington Elementary School.** Washington Elementary School occupies a 12.8-acre site in the Washington Village area on Van Dyke Avenue, between 26 Mile Road and West Road. The school grounds contain a large assortment of outdoor play equipment behind the building, two baseball fields, a soccer field and a picnic shelter. The location of the school near the Washington Municipal Building Park offers opportunities for joint use.
4. **Indian Hills Elementary School.** The 10.1 acre site is located on the north side of 29 Mile Road, less than one-quarter mile east of Campground Road. The school contains an assortment of playground equipment commonly found at elementary school sites. It also includes two large wooden climbing structures and two baseball fields. The physical characteristics of this site are somewhat unique. The front half of the site, near 29 Mile Road, is relatively level. Behind the school building, however, the site slopes sharply to the north. Most of the playground equipment is located in the lower half of the site.





Hevel Elementary School

5. **Amanda-Moore Elementary School.** Amanda-Moore Elementary School occupies a 14.8-acre site in the northeast portion of Romeo, east of Van Dyke and north of 32 Mile Road. Similar to the School District's other elementary schools, this site contains play structures, climbers, swings, slides, a basketball court, baseball diamonds and a soccer field. Two tennis courts, minus the nets, are also available on site. A large, wooded area adjoins the school site and has been converted by the school to a nature study area. Several pedestrian paths connect the school to the surrounding neighborhood.
6. **Hamilton-Parsons Elementary School.** The 15-acre site is located on the west side of Dequindre Road in Addison Township, on the opposite side of the Bruce Township boundary. This site is somewhat remote and isolated from the more densely settled portions of the same area. The school grounds contain several climbing structures, swings, slides, two baseball diamonds, a soccer field, a basketball court, a sledding hill and a picnic shelter.
7. **Romeo High School.** Outdoor recreation facilities available at this site are limited to the skate park, a baseball field and a practice football field. These outdoor playing fields adjoin the baseball diamonds located on the Community Center site. Romeo High School also contains an indoor pool and gymnasium that are used for activities sponsored by the Recreation Department.
8. **RETC / Powell Junior High School / Barnabo Field.** The Romeo Engineering and Technical School and Powell Junior High School occupies a 79-acre site in Washington Township on Jewell Road, south of 29 Mile Road. In addition to Powell Junior High School, the site also contains an athletic complex consisting of a football stadium, a one-quarter mile track, six baseball fields, a full court basketball, a small soccer field, and two tennis courts.
9. **Hevel Elementary School.** Hevel Elementary School is the newest elementary school in the District. The school sits on a total of 23 acres. The site contains two ball fields and a soccer area.



### Stony Creek Metropark

## REGIONAL PARKS AND FACILITIES

Regional parks serve a multi-community area and often offer unique natural features that are particularly suited for outdoor recreation, such as viewing and studying nature, fishing, boating, hiking, and trail use. Many also include active play areas such as ball fields or courts.

### State Parks and Recreational areas

Eighteen (18) state parks and recreation areas are located in the seven-county southeast Michigan region. These parks have a combined area exceeding 75,000 acres that serve area residents. The only State facility in Macomb County is the undeveloped Wetzel State Park, located in Lenox Township. Eight recreation facilities operated by the State are located to the west in Oakland County and are reasonably accessible to Romeo-Washington-Bruce area residents.

### Regional Facilities

The Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA) operates more than one dozen regional recreation areas in southeast Michigan. These parks provide facilities for a wide range of recreational opportunities, which include picnicking, playgrounds, hiking, swimming, boating, fishing, golf, court games, cross-country skiing, ice-skating and sledding, among others.

Three HCMA parks are located in Macomb County: Stony Creek Metropark in Washington Township; Metro Beach Metropark in Harrison Township; and Wolcott Mill in Ray Township.

### Macomb County

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

## RWB AMENITIES

The parks and recreation facilities in each community have different types of amenities and opportunities for a wide variety of recreational experiences (see Map 3).







BACK OF MAP



The following tables list the amenities currently available at each park and recreation facility:

## BRUCE TOWNSHIP PARK

**Location** Gates  
(between Van Dyke and McVicar)

**Community** Bruce Township

**Size** 20 Acres

**Park Type** Neighborhood

**Existing Conditions**

- Paved parking
- Play structure
- Paved pathway
- Swings
- Disc golf
- Pavilion
- Soccer field
- Fitness trail



## CRYSTAL DIAMONDS

**Location** 33 Mile Rd  
(between M-53 and Powell Rd)

**Community** Bruce Township

**Size** 14 Acres

**Park Type** Community

**Existing Conditions**

- Gravel parking
- Soccer field
- Baseball diamond
- Concession area
- Storage shed



## GILCHER-CRISSMAN BALL FIELDS/PARK

**Location** 29 Mile Rd  
(between Mound and Campground)

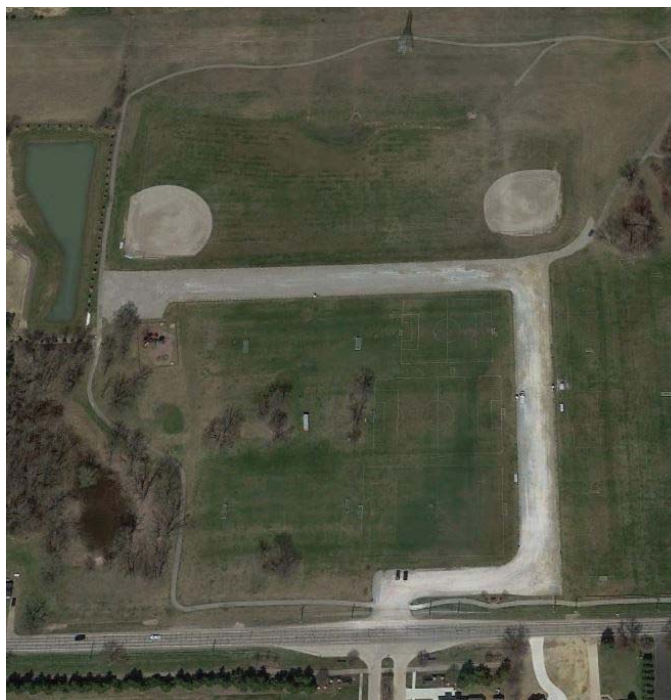
**Community** Washington Township

**Size** 40 Acres

**Park Type** Community

**Existing Conditions**

- Gravel parking
- Play structure
- Pathway
- Swings
- Soccer field
- Baseball diamond
- Temporary restrooms
- Park irrigation



## ORCHARD HILLS PARK

**Location** 33 Mile Rd  
(between Morency and Van Dyke)

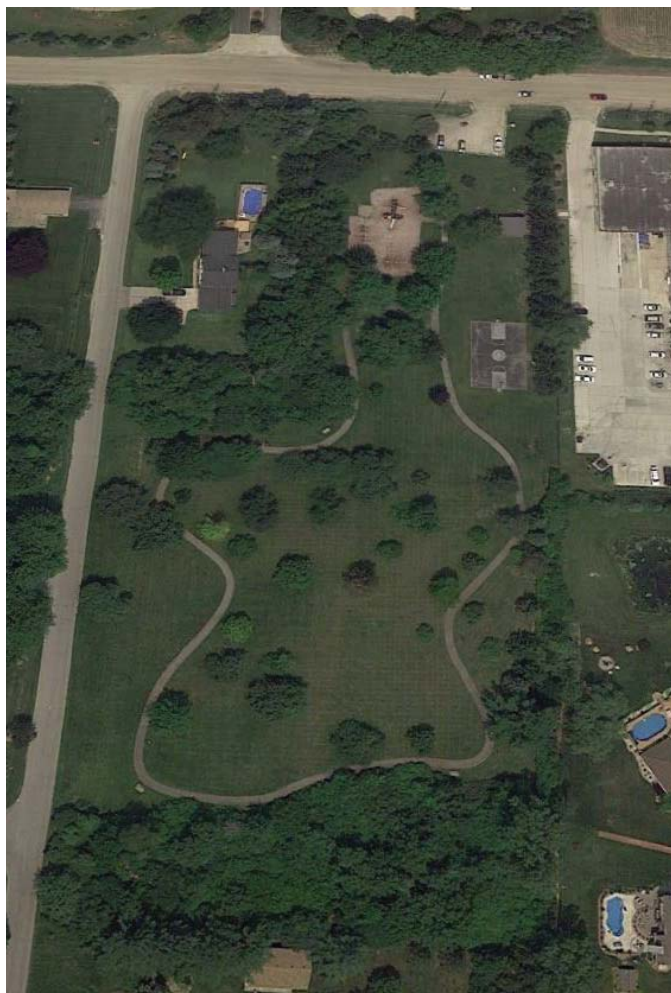
**Community** Bruce Township

**Size** 6 Acres

**Park Type** Neighborhood

**Existing Conditions**

- Gravel parking
- Play structure
- Swings
- Pavilion
- Basketball court





## VILLAGE OF ROMEO COMMUNITY CENTER BUILDING

**Location** Morton  
(between St. Clair and Gates St)

**Community** Romeo

**Size** 17 Acres

**Park Type** Community

- Existing Conditions**
- Paved parking
  - Play structure
  - Swings
  - Pavilion
  - Basketball court
  - Sand box
  - Sledding hill
  - SMART/STAR bus depot
  - Skate park



## VILLAGE PARK

**Location** N. Rawles St  
(north of St. Clair, west of Main St)

**Community** Romeo

**Size** .75 Acres

**Park Type** Mini/Neighborhood

- Existing Conditions**
- Pavilion/Gazebo
  - Sidewalk
  - Memorials



## WASHINGTON COMMUNITY PARK & SENIOR CENTER

**Location** Van Dyke (between 26 and 27 Mile Roads)

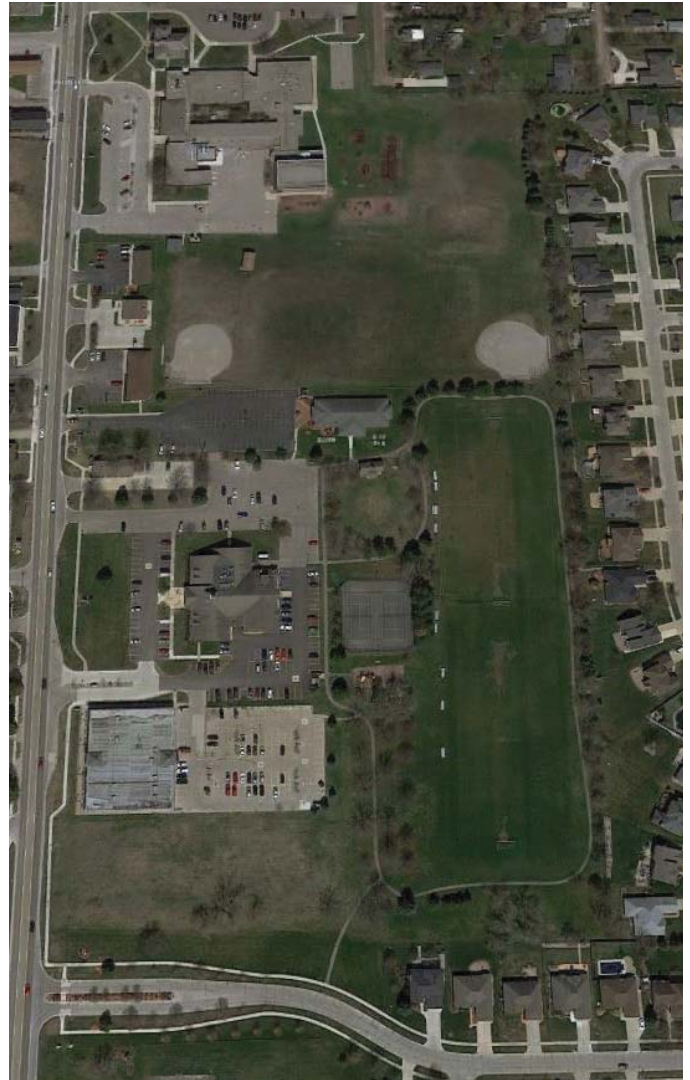
**Community** Washington Township

**Size** 8 Acres

**Park Type** Community

**Existing Conditions**

- Paved parking
- Play structure
- Pathway
- Swings
- Pavilion
- Soccer field
- Storage shed
- Permanent restrooms
- Tennis court
- Horseshoes
- Fitness center



Play structure at  
Washington Township Park



## BRUCE TOWNSHIP VACANT LIGON PROPERTY

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Location</b>            | Southeast corner of 36 Mile Rd and Hipp Rd                   |
| <b>Community</b>           | Bruce Township   |
| <b>Size</b>                | 148 Acres  |
| <b>Park Type</b>           | Passive Community (Planned)                                  |
| <b>Existing Conditions</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Farmland</li> </ul> |



## VILLAGE OF ROMEO VACANT ROAD COMMISSION SITE

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <b>Location</b>            | North of 32 Mile Rd, east of Clinton St   |
| <b>Community</b>           | Romeo   |
| <b>Size</b>                | 1 Acres   |
| <b>Park Type</b>           | Neighborhood (Planned)  |
| <b>Existing Conditions</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Road Commission of Macomb County buildings</li> <li>• Paved parking</li> <li>• Green space</li> <li>• Benches</li> <li>• Tree plantings</li> <li>• Connection to Macomb Orchard Trail</li> </ul> |



## VILLAGE OF ROMEO VACANT SISSON PROPERTY

**Location** Sisson  
(between 31 and 32 Mile Rds)

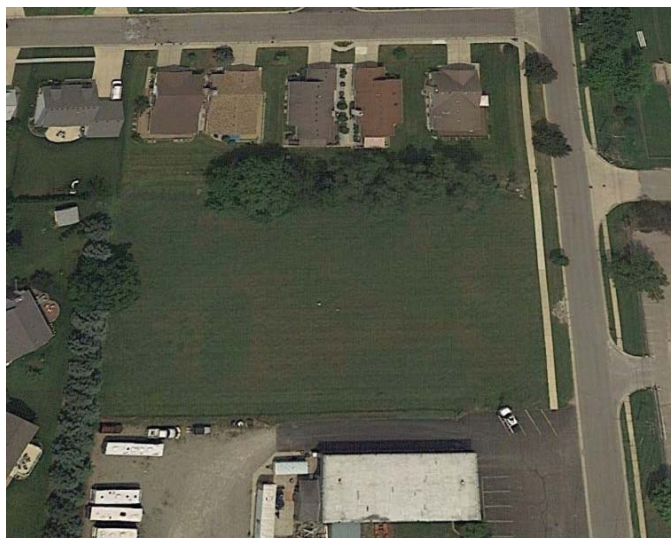
**Community** Romeo

**Size** 1.2 Acres

**Park Type** Neighborhood - Memorial  
(Proposed)

**Existing Conditions**

- Open green space



## 29 MILE ROAD TRAIL PARKING

**Location** 29 Mile Rd and Van Dyke

**Community** Washington Township

**Size** 5.4 Acres

**Park Type** Trailhead  
Neighborhood  
(Proposed)

**Existing Conditions**

- Paved parking
- Macomb Orchard Trail connection



## WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY CENTER

**Location** 30 Mile Rd and Van Dyke

**Community** Washington Township

**Size** 200 Acres (120 public)

**Park Type** Community Center  
(Proposed)

**Existing Conditions**

- Paved parking
- Macomb Orchard Trail connection



In addition to the current properties that RWB maintains and plans for future development, there has been discussions regarding community building's reuse in the communities.

1. **Washington Township Sewer and Water Department.** The building which housed the Washington Township Sewer and Water Department has been vacated and may become the new home for STAR Transportation. The new location would provide a logical location based on the size and use potential of the current building as well as the existing storage yard. The relocation of STAR to this facility would open up additional space at parking at the Romeo Community Center, as well as the existing property surrounding the Water and Sewer Department Building could be utilized for a small park and/or recreation field.
2. **Cable Building.** The WBRW Channel 6 building, which is adjacent to the Romeo Community Center will be vacated by the cable group and may allow for the facility to be retrofitted as a fitness center. It is also possible to relocate the police department to this facility, in which case the Village Police and RWB Recreation would share a common space. If this occurs, the fitness facility could be shared by RWB Recreation and the Police Department.
3. **Future Buildings.** As part of the overall Parks and Recreation Master Plan, any buildings which become available in terms of use should be evaluated in terms of their potential use for recreation or programming purposes. As the communities continue to grow, space for such activities will always be an issue.



# PEDESTRIAN / BICYCLE TRAILS



## Macomb Orchard Trail

Non-motorized transportation trails not only provide recreation, but also have a positive impact on economic and community development. Ultimately, they contribute to the quality of life as a whole in the following ways:

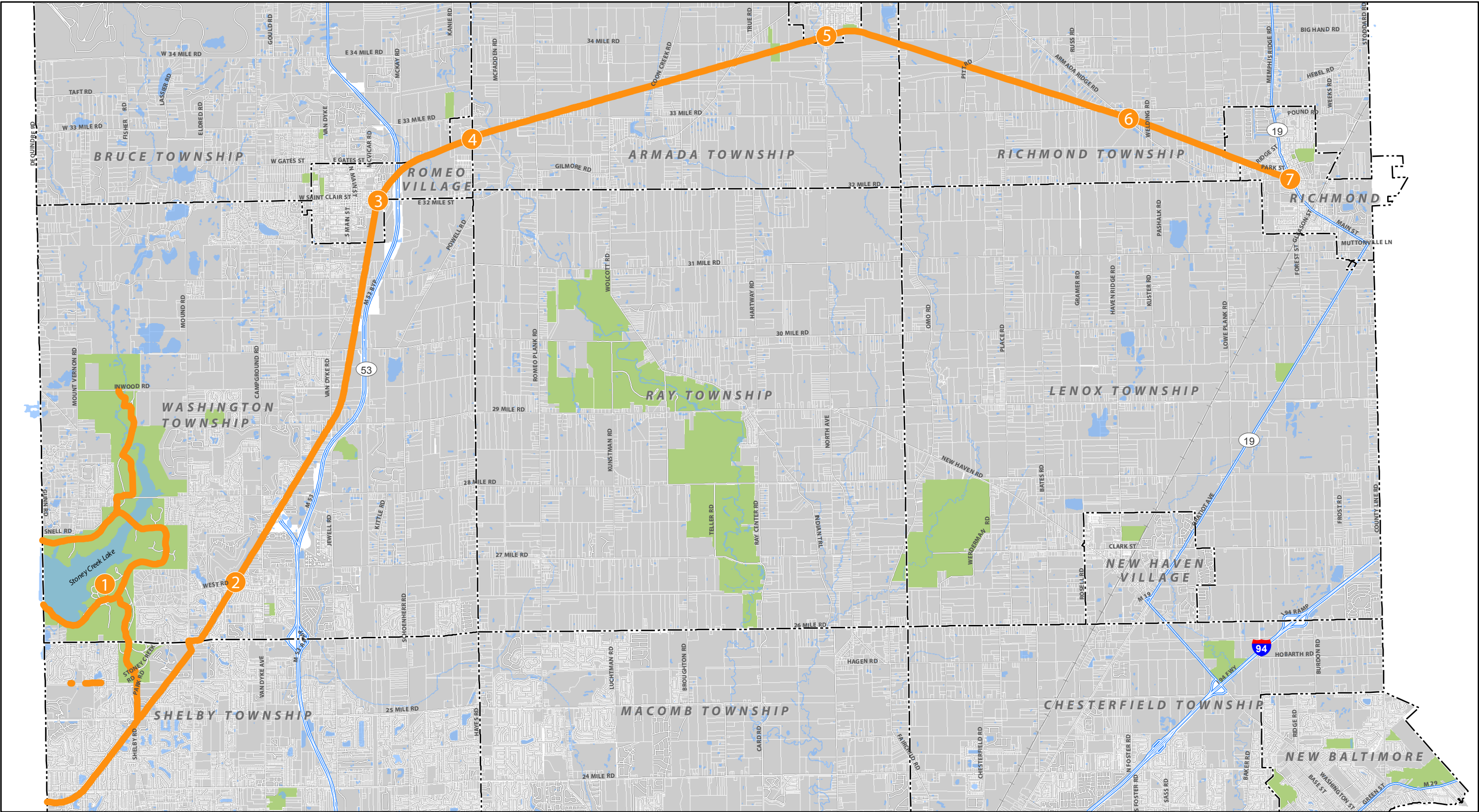
- Encourage exercise, physical fitness, and healthy lifestyles;
- Create new opportunities for outdoor and close-to-home recreation;
- Provide options for non-motorized transportation;
- Strengthen local economies through tourism, recreation expenditures, and increased property values;
- Protect the environment through habitat preservation, improving air and water quality, and preventing soil erosion;
- Offer education opportunities;
- Preserve cultural and historic areas by connecting us to our heritage and providing access to them; and
- Connect to regional and local parks.

## Macomb Orchard Trail

According to Michigan Trails (Mitrails.org), the Macomb Orchard Trail is approximately 23.5 miles of smooth pavement and beautiful scenery. Built on an abandoned railroad that was originally called the Michigan Air-Line Railway, the trail connects the communities of Shelby Township, Romeo, Armada and Richmond in Macomb County. The southern end of the trail connects with the Clinton River Trail at Dequindre Road.

As the trail heads north, there is a noticeable changing landscape from suburban neighborhoods through wide open spaces, long tunnels of trees, quaint country towns, and an orchard. Along the way there are several exceptional scenic spots to stop and take in the views, as well as visits to neighborhood shops and restaurants.





DRAFT

# Macomb Orchard Trail

Romeo + Washington + Bruce  
Macomb County, Michigan

January 3, 2017

| Macomb Orchard Trail Access |         |           |       |
|-----------------------------|---------|-----------|-------|
| Access Site                 | Parking | Restrooms | Water |
| 1 Stoney Creek Metropark    | Yes     | Yes       | Yes   |
| 2 Ross Memorial Park        | Yes     | Yes       | No    |
| 3 Romeo Trailside Park      | Yes     | No        | No    |
| 4 Powell Road Parking Area  | Yes     | Yes       | Yes   |
| 5 Armada Parking Area       | Yes     | Yes       | No    |
| 6 Armada Ridge Staging Area | Yes     | Yes       | No    |
| 7 Richmond Trailhead        | Yes     | Yes       | Yes   |

04,0008,000

FEET

Mckenna

ASSOCIATES

N

↑

Data Source: Macomb County, 2014

Michigan Geographic Framework, Michigan Center for

Geographic Information, Version 12a

Aerial Data: ESRI

BACK OF MAP



### Stony Creek Metropark Hike-Bike Trail

Connected to the Macomb Orchard Trail is the Stony Creek Metropark Hike-Bike Trail. The asphalt trail is a circular loop around Stony Creek Lake with access to several nature trails and mountain biking trails.

Stony Creek Metropark  
Hike-Bike Trail

### Bruce Township Pathways Plan

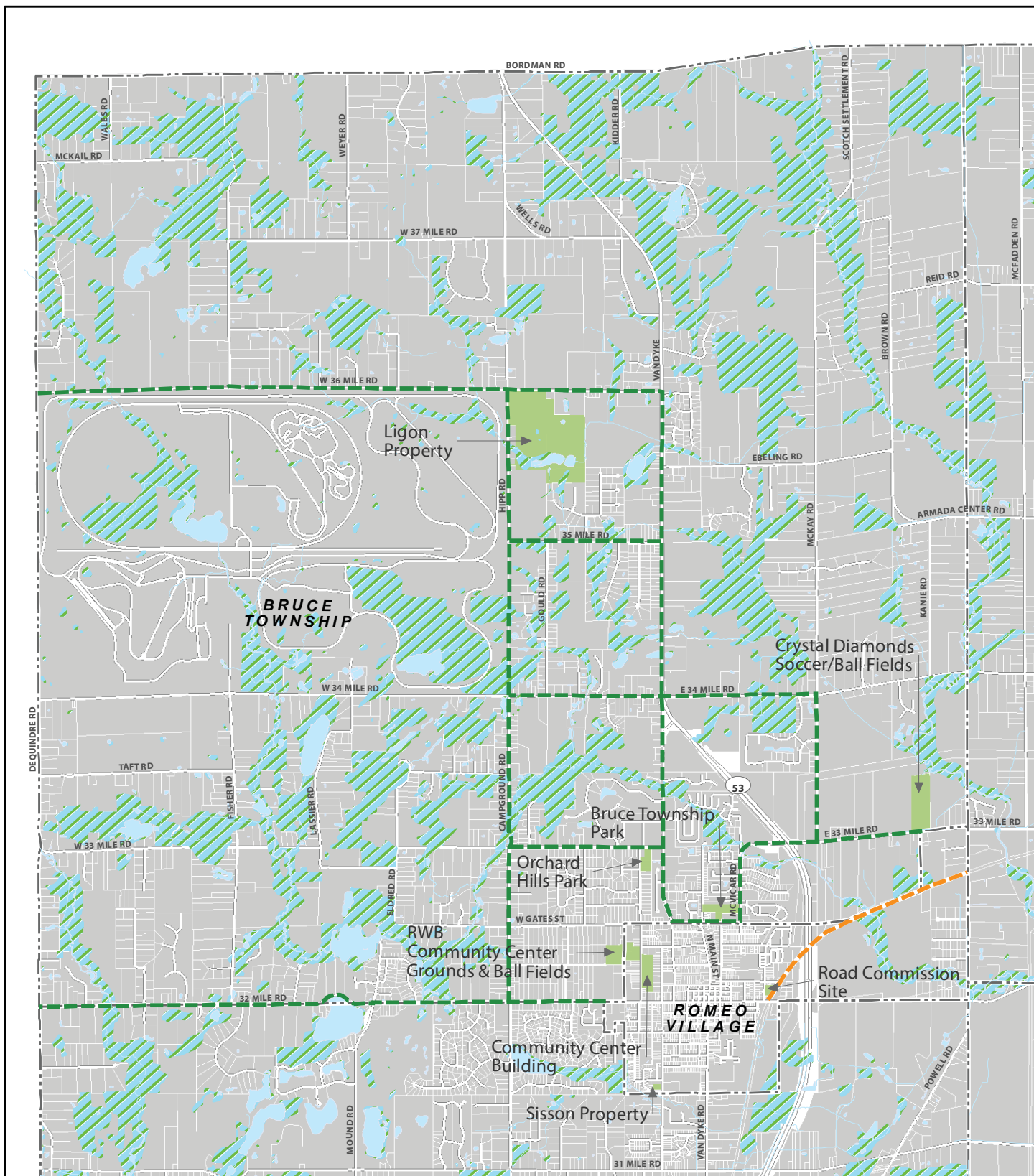
The 2016 Bruce Township Master Plan includes planned for a desired pathway system which would service a large portion of the Township and would connect the main public properties, as well as the majority of the Township to the Village of Romeo and the Macomb Orchard Trail. The planned pathways are designed to service walkers, joggers, bike riders, rollerbladers, amongst others in the more rural sections of the Township. This includes pathways in the rural agricultural districts.

The designated planned pathways include the following:

- 32 Mile Road from Dequindre to the Village boundary
- 33 Mile Road from Campground to Van Dyke
- 33 Mile Road from McVicar to Powell Road
- 34 Mile Road from Campground to McKay Road
- 35 Mile Road from Hipp to Van Dyke
- 36 Mile Road from Dequindre to Van Dyke
- Campground from 32 Mile Road to 34 Mile Road
- Van Dyke from the Village boundary to 36 Mile Road
- McVicar Road from the Village boundary to 33 Mile Road
- McKay Road from 33 Mile Road to 34 Mile Road

Within the Township, pathways along exterior roadways have not typically been required. The Township, however, has adopted a new planning philosophy where pathways are desirable between planned developments and Township or other public facilities and destinations.





DRAFT

## Bruce Township Pathways Plan

Romeo + Washington + Bruce  
Macomb County, Michigan

January 3, 2017

- Macomb Orchard Trail
- Planned Pathway
- ▨ Designated Greenways

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**Mckenna**  
ASSOCIATES

Data Source: Macomb County, 2014  
Michigan Geographic Framework, Michigan Center for  
Geographic Information, Version 12a  
Aerial Data: ESRI



## PRIVATE RECREATION FACILITIES



Private recreation providers also play a role in meeting the recreation needs of local residents. In many instances, private providers offer services and facilities of a more specialized nature that may not be provided by public sources. These facilities are generally available for a small fee. These facilities include: golf, bowling, roller skating rinks, racquet/health clubs, riding stables, movie theaters, and shooting ranges, among others.

The Romeo-Washington-Bruce area features six golf courses, with 126 golf holes, or the equivalent of seven 18-hole layouts; Bruce Hills, Heather Hills, Greystone, Pine Valley, The Orchards, and Glacier Club. Two golf courses are located in Bruce Township, and five located in Washington Township. Other available recreation facilities available in the area include several riding stables, archery and firearms shooting range, bowling alley and golf driving ranges. Many of the orchards located in the area offer outdoor activities and events.

One private park also offers limited opportunity for recreational facilities to the public. Simpson Park, which is located in Bruce Township at the intersection of Campground Road and Gates Street, is a private religious retreat camp. The park offers numerous soccer fields used by the North Macomb Soccer Club.

The Romeo and Washington Lions Clubs both own sites that are used for special community events. The Romeo Lions own a four-acre site in the southeast portion of the Village, which hosts carnival rides. The three-acre Washington Lions Club site is located between Washington Township Park and Washington Elementary School.

A number of subdivisions in both Townships have private parks or open space areas incorporated into the residential development. These open space areas are typically undeveloped and have some potential for satisfying neighborhood recreation needs as passive recreation sites.

Greystone Golf Club (left)  
Heather Hills Golf Club (right)



# PROGRAMMING

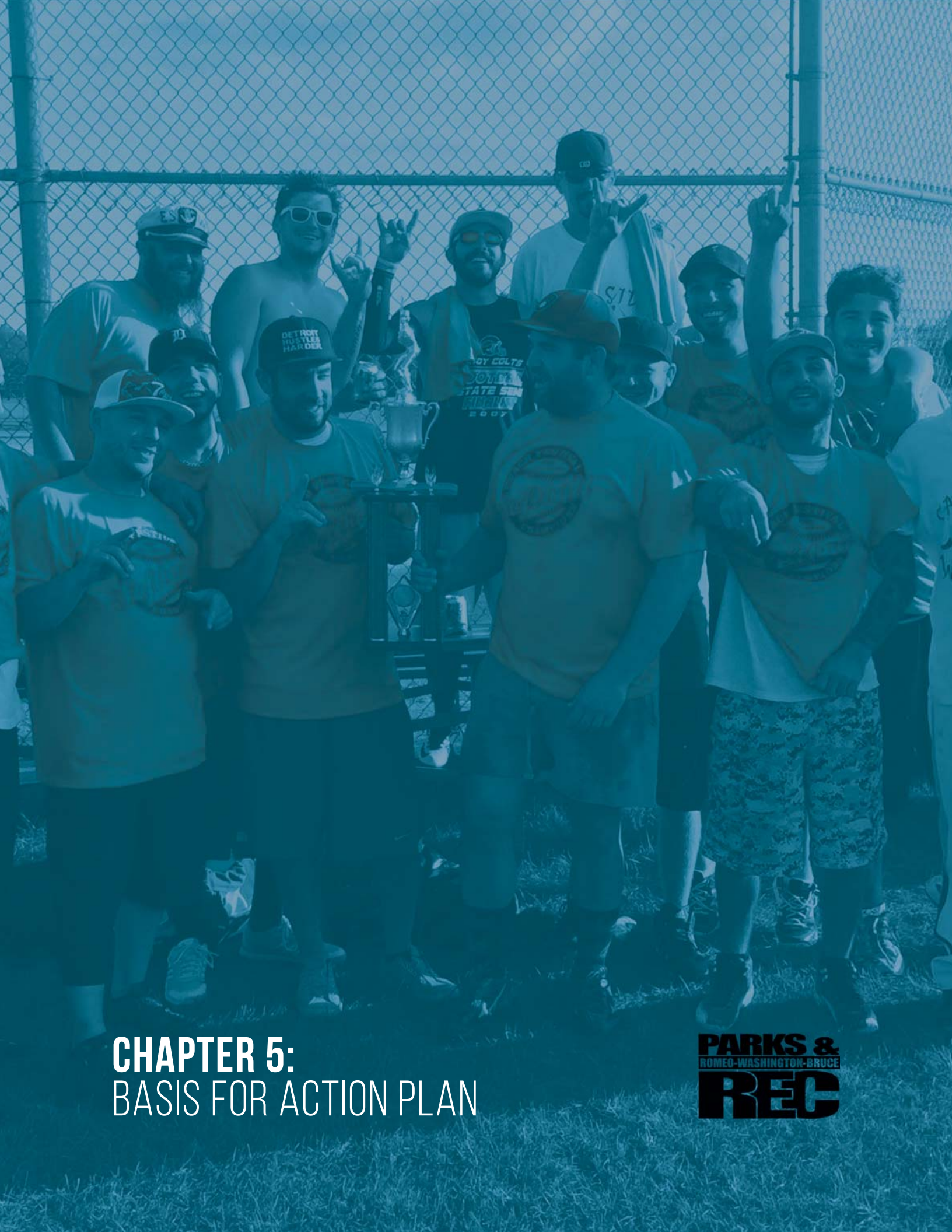


The Romeo-Washington-Bruce Parks and Recreation Department offers a large variety of programs and special events throughout the year. Among the programs and events offered are:

- Adult Fitness
- Babysitting training
- Basketball
- Boater's safety
- Bowling
- Coed softball
- Craft activities (knitting, quilting, woodcarving)
- Dance (ballroom, swing, line
- First Aid
- Golf lessons
- Gymnastics
- Horseback riding lessons
- Ice skating
- Legal aid
- Music lessons (guitar, ukulele, banjo)
- Roller skating
- Sign language
- Swimming
- Tennis
- Veterans aid
- Volleyball

## Special Events

- Community Clean-Up
- Euchre tournaments
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Holiday Arts and Crafts
- Michigan Peach Festival
- Princess-Superhero Dance



## CHAPTER 5: BASIS FOR ACTION PLAN

**PARKS &  
ROMEO-WASHINGTON-BRUCE  
REC**



# PLANNING AND PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

## Planning Process

The Romeo-Washington-Bruce Parks and Recreation Committee directed the update of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Citizen and community stakeholder input played a critical role in the development of the plan. As a result, recommendations described within the action plan reflect the needs and desires of those who use the community's parks and recreation facilities. The plan preparation process included seven tasks that are discussed below.

**Task One: Community Description.** The first task was to obtain a description of Romeo, Washington Township, and Bruce Township's physical and social features. These features include location, land use, environmental and natural features, as well as population characteristics including age distribution, people with physical disabilities, household types, employment, and income.

**Task Two: Administrative Structure and Funding.** The second task was to review the administrative structure of the communities, the Parks and Recreation Department, the Recreation Committee, and other recreation providers. This analysis also includes a review of the current and projected revenues and expenditures, as well as the grant history of funding received from the MDNR and other sources.

**Task Three: Parks and Recreation Inventory.** The parks and recreation inventory included written descriptions of facilities in each community including parks and facilities, schools, regional parks and facilities, greenways and trails, local parks and facilities, and quasi-public and private recreation facilities. The information includes the acreage, barrier-free accessibility, types of recreation facilities, and other descriptions of the physical attributes of the area's facilities. The Township's and other recreation providers' programming are discussed in that section as well.

**Task Four: Public Participation.** The following public participation methods and events were conducted during the process of preparing the plan:

- **Public Survey** – A public survey was posted online from December 12, 2016 to January 3, 2017, asking people for feedback on their experiences and opinions of the current parks and recreation offerings and any improvements they would like to see. The complete results of the survey can be found in Appendix A.
- **30-Day Review Period** – The draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan was available for the 30-day public review starting January 18, 2017 until February 18, 2017. A notice was published in the The Record in the December 21-27, 2016 edition.

**Task Five: Analysis.** The data collected in tasks one through four was analyzed in comparison to national and state guidelines, specific local needs, the experience of the Parks and Recreation Department and consultants, the desires of the residents, and potential funding sources.

**Task Six: Action Plan.** The analysis resulted in the creation of a five-year plan for prioritized projects and improvements. The Action Plan gives the Parks and Recreation Department a checklist of what action is to be taken, when and where it will occur, who will accomplish it, how much it is expected to cost, and potential funding sources.

**Task Seven: Plan Completion and Adoption.** Once consensus was reached among the Parks and Recreation Department and Parks and Recreation Committee, the Plan was recommended for approval at the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting on \_\_\_\_\_. The Township Planning Commission held a public hearing on \_\_\_\_\_, and the Commission recommended adoption of the Plan. Finally, on \_\_\_\_\_, the Township Board reviewed and formally adopted the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. See Appendices for meeting notices, and adoption documentation.

# FACILITIES ANALYSIS

The existing recreation facilities were compared against the guidelines set by the NRPA and MDNR to determine if the existing facilities are adequate to meet the needs of residents in comparison to national standards. The analysis takes into account a variety of factors including existing conditions, information obtained from public input, programming desires, and site conditions. Table 4 identifies the NRPA guideline for each facility type, the recommended number of facilities and the existing number of facilities, and the surplus or deficiency.

**Table 4: Park Land Acreage and Facility Analysis<sup>1</sup>**

| Park/Activity                | Standard                            | Population <sup>1</sup><br>(2010) | Population<br>(2040) | Recommended<br>Size / Population<br>2010 | Recommended<br>Size / Population<br>2040 | Existing<br><sup>2</sup> Acreage /<br>Facilities | Surplus<br>(Deficiency) |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|--|--|--|-------------------------|
| Regional Park                | 5-10 acres per<br>1,000 residents   | 31,852                            | 40,292               | 159 - 318 Acres                          | 202 - 403 Acres                          | -  |                         |
| Community Park               | 5-8 acres per<br>1,000 residents    | 31,852                            | 40,292               | 159 - 254 Acres                          | 201 - 322 Acres                          | 279 Acres  |                         |
| Neighborhood Park            | 1-2 acres per<br>1,000 residents    | 31,852                            | 40,292               | 31 - 63 Acres                            | 40 - 80 Acres                            | 34.35  |                         |
| Children's Playlot           | 1 lot per 3,000<br>residents        | 31,852                            | 40,292               | 11                                       | 13                                       | 5  | (6)                     |
| Basketball Court             | 1 court per<br>10,000<br>residents  | 31,852                            | 40,292               | 32                                       | 40                                       | 2  | (30)                    |
| Softball/Baseball<br>Diamond | 1 diamond per<br>5,000 residents    | 31,852                            | 40,292               | 6  | 8  | 9  | 3                       |
| Running Track                | 1 track per<br>20,000<br>residents  | 31,852                            | 40,292               | 2  | 2  | -  | -                       |
| Swimming Pool                | 1 pool per<br>20,000<br>residents   | 31,852                            | 40,292               | 2  | 2  | -  | -                       |
| Nature Trails                | 1 trail per<br>20,000<br>residents  | 31,852                            | 40,292               | 2  | 2  | 6  | 4                       |
| Golf Course                  | 1 course<br>per 25,000<br>residents | 31,852                            | 40,292               | 1  | 2  | 6  | 5                       |
| Tennis Court                 | 1 court per<br>2,000 residents      | 31,852                            | 40,292               | 16                                       | 20                                       | 2  | (14)                    |
| Soccer Field                 | 1 field per<br>10,000<br>residents  | 31,852                            | 40,292               | 3  | 4  | 12   | 9                       |
| Ice Rink                     | 1 per 100,000<br>residents          | 31,852                            | 40,292               | 0  | 0  | -  | -                       |
| Volleyball                   | 1 court per<br>5,000 residents      | 31,852                            | 40,292               | 6  | 8  | 1  | (5)                     |

<sup>1</sup> Source: Lancaster, R.A., Ed. Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines. Alexandria, VA: NRPA, 1983; Mertes, J.D. and J.R. Hall. Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines. Alexandria, CA: NRPA, 1995. Based on minimum acres/1,000 residents.



The RWB Parks and Recreation meets or exceeds the standards for many facility types. However, as funding allows and needs arise, based on the deficiencies above, the following facilities should be considered on a long-term basis:

- **Children's Playlots.** Several facilities already have play structures for young children, however, based on the population there should be development of more playlots, especially for the younger toddlers.
- **Basketball Courts.** Basketball courts can be fairly easy to install and require little maintenance. The need for additional courts will only increase as the population is expected to increase.
- **Tennis Courts.** The RWB Parks and Recreation should consider constructing some additional tennis courts at existing parks or include them in future park developments. Tennis courts can be adapted for use in pickleball, a sport that is growing in popularity.
- **Volleyball Courts.** Outdoor volleyball courts should be considered in future park developments.
- **Other Facilities.** Other facilities requested during the public input process include, but were not limited to, a splash pad, updated fitness and community center, swimming pool, and a dog park. These facilities should be evaluated for inclusion in future park developments as they are deemed appropriate.





## CHAPTER 6: ACTION PLAN

**PARKS &  
ROMEO-WASHINGTON-BRUCE  
REC**

By using the comprehensive planning process of trend identification and a public input survey, the Romeo- Washington-Bruce Parks and Recreation Master Plan has effectively established a framework for the Action Plan. The Action Plan describes recommendations for improvements and enhancement of the parks and recreation facilities and programming, as well as identifying the tools needed for implementation of the plan components.

A complementary component of the Action Plan is the Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Action strategies that require significant capital investment from the community have been organized into the five-year plan. The specific projects have been prioritized in the CIP in order to better manage the Parks and Recreation Department's budget and equally distribute the projects over a five-year cycle. The timing of these projects may be influenced, moved, or eliminated depending upon economic conditions, available funding, and/or grant awards. However, the spirit and intent of the project priorities are well-defined in the CIP.

The Action Plan is organized into two sections:

- Goals and Strategies
- Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan

# GOALS AND STRATEGIES

A Parks and Recreation Plan should offer the community a series of guidelines or recommendations for making consistent and rational public decisions regarding the delivery of recreation programs and facilities. Goals and objectives offer policy direction and the framework for recreation providers.

The following goals and strategies are intended to provide an operational framework for future decisions related to the provision of parks and recreation for Romeo, Washington, Bruce. These goals and strategies should be reviewed continually and modified as necessary.

## *GENERAL RECREATION GOALS*

1. Recognize the contribution that parks and recreation programs make to the quality of life for the community and its residents.
2. Provide recreation opportunities for all residents, without regard to age, race, religion, physical or mental well-being, gender, or economic circumstances.
3. Encourage continued cooperation with the Romeo School District in providing school facility usage for community recreation programs.
4. Consider the availability and access to private and commercial recreation opportunities available in the area or nearby communities in evaluating future recreation needs.
5. Utilize the areas existing natural features for open space and recreational purposes.
6. Avoid duplicating the development of public and commercial recreation opportunities that are available in nearby communities.
7. Encourage continued cooperation amongst communities regarding the joint use of existing and future recreation facilities.
8. Increase the number of recreation programs and facilities available to meet the pace of the continuous growth of the area and evaluate the equal distribution of recreational opportunities.
9. Increase the overall awareness, participation and usage of recreation programs and facilities to the communities.
10. For planning and administrative purposes, all municipal boundaries shall be nullified. Recreational facilities and programs will be based on needs and demands created by the population within the entire RWB planning area. The Parks and Recreation advisory board should contain residents from both communities.
11. Continue RWB as a collective, functioning recreation entity realizing that RWB can provide services better and more efficiently than if provided separately in each community.



## *RECREATION FACILITY GOALS*

1. Expand the range of recreation facilities available to area residents.
2. Encourage the development of community-wide parks offering a full array of both active and passive recreation facilities to be focal points for recreation activities.
3. Provide neighborhood level parks, both public and private, to meet the needs of identifiable neighborhoods.
4. Provide adequate park and recreation space as an integral part of each development including single-family subdivisions, multiple-family developments and manufactured housing communities.
5. Relate the location of future recreation facilities to existing and anticipated population growth areas, as well as to other community facilities and land availability.
6. Encourage the development of a pedestrian / bicycle path system linking residential neighborhoods to recreational facilities throughout the service area.
7. Support the continued development and utilization of the Macomb Orchard Trail as a corridor for a pedestrian / bicycle path linking the Washington area with downtown Romeo as well as the service area to the larger region.
8. Support the continued development of the planned regional bicycle path along 26 Mile Road.
9. Explore the reuse of abandoned mining sites for recreation purposes.
10. Acquire scenic easements reinforcing the open space preservation objectives and community appearance.
11. Utilize appropriate planning and zoning tools that encourage developers to incorporate more open space into new residential developments.
12. Continue to partnership with school facilities to meet both neighborhood and community-wide recreation needs and to limit overlapping recreational opportunities.
13. Continue the development of the sports complexes (Crystal Diamonds and Gilcher-Crissman Park) that serve all three communities as a whole.
14. Work directly with the Townships, the Village, and the Commission in obtaining funding options and recreational sites.
15. Provide adequate recreational facilities within each community that provide a full range of recreational opportunities.
16. Evaluate and meet the need of recreation sites in relationship to the specific growth of individual programs.

## ADMINISTRATIVE GOALS

1. Provide for a full range of recreation programs to meet perceived recreation needs.
2. Monitor and adjust program offerings to reflect changing recreation preferences.
3. Coordinate existing and anticipated recreation programs with those offered by other public and private recreation providers.
4. Maintain existing partnerships with the Romeo School District.
5. Relate recreational program offerings to population concentrations and to the availability of facilities.
6. Work with local communities to establish and renew cooperative agreements for the maintenance of future recreation sites.
7. Continue working with community groups to establish cooperative agreements for the protection, maintenance and use of recreation sites.
8. Provide necessary staffing and administrative infrastructure to support the expansion of recreation opportunities while respecting budget constraints.
9. Provide a consistent level of funding to support improvements to the area's recreation facilities and programs and continued maintenance of these parks.
10. Provide low-income community residents with assistance to provide for their recreational needs.
11. Encourage cooperation with service groups, organizations and individuals by providing service projects through recreation to promote volunteerism to meet the special needs of those in the Romeo, Washington, Bruce area.
12. Continue working relationships with parent-based programs by providing assistance, awareness, and sites for their specific activity.
13. Increase awareness of recreation programs, facilities, and future plans for development.
14. Encourage the revision and enforcement of open space and natural feature preservation ordinances within each Township and Village.

# FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

This section summarizes the overall system recommendations as well as specific improvements to individual parks. Some are multi-year efforts that will involve time and coordination, while others are park improvements that require largely monetary investment. Table 5 – Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan incorporates the top recommendations that require capital improvement in the next five years for planning purposes.

Priorities should be reviewed on an annual basis and adjusted to respond to updated findings and identification of funding opportunities. In particular, costs should be closely monitored, as the proposed plan estimates are in 2016 dollars and are strictly preliminary. Actual costs for each project will be more specifically determined as site surveys, programming elements, and engineering plans are developed if applicable, as well as further analysis of the proposed improvement. If funding levels are lower than required to implement the Plan based on the schedule provided, the implementation could be stretched over additional years.

It should be noted that the CIP is based on the existing financial resources of the Parks and Recreation Department. This helps to ensure that the projects are aligned with the operational and financial realities of the area's resources and are not simply a reflection of community desires. The Committee has taken a comprehensive approach of preparing the Master Plan to fully evaluate and prioritize projects based on the cost benefit, impact to the community, and operational costs.



**Table 5: Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan**

| Year                 | Project   | Priority | Estimated Cost      | Funding Source  |
|----------------------|---|----------|---------------------|---|
| <b>Year 1 - 2017</b> | <b>Bruce Township</b><br>Dog park/run; including fencing, benches, lighting, dog drinking area, poop scoop station  | High     | \$20,000 - \$30,000 | General Fund, User Fees, Private Donations                            |
|                      | <b>Orchard Hills Park</b><br>Install lighting   | High     | \$5,000             | General Fund, Private Donations                                       |
|                      | <b>Bruce Township Soil Conservation Site - (Phase 1)</b><br>Park infrastructure development, including walking path, parking, electricity, entry signage                      | High     | TBD                 | MDNR<br>MDOT<br>CDBG  |
|                      | <b>Village of Romeo Vacant Sisson Property</b><br>Development of future park  | High     | TBD                 | MDNR  |
|                      | <b>Crystal Diamonds</b><br>Additional tree plantings  | High     | \$5,000 - \$10,000  | General Fund<br>Private Donations                                     |
|                      | <b>Village of Romeo Community Center</b><br>Develop physical barrier between park and north property  | High     | \$10,000 - \$20,000 | General Fund<br>MDNR  |
| <b>Year 2 - 2018</b> | <b>Bruce Township Soil Conservation Site - (Phase 2)</b><br>Park development, including pavilion, play structure, benches, picnic table, landscaping, water fountains         | High     | \$100,000           | MDNR,<br>Private Donations,<br>CDBG                                   |
|                      | <b>Gilcher-Crissman Park</b><br>Add paved parking lot, irrigation on east side of park, lighting for fields, electricity extension  | High     | \$150,000           | MDNR,<br>CDBG,<br>General Fund  |
|                      | <b>29 Mile Road Trail Parking</b><br>Additional tree plantings, dog park, fence property lines, outdoor volleyball court, pavilion/gazebo, signage for dedicated parking area | High     | \$50,000            | General Fund,<br>Private Donations,<br>General Fund,<br>MDNR,<br>MDOT |
|                      | <b>Washington Township Community Center</b><br>Development of community center, including pool facilities, ice rink, splash park, football fields, tennis courts              | High     | \$200,000           | MDNR,   |
|                      | <b>Village of Romeo Vacant Road Commission Site - (Phase 2)</b><br>Construct permanent bathrooms and water station  | Medium   | \$10,000            | General Fund,<br>Private Donations,<br>MDNR                           |
|                      | <b>Ligon Property</b><br>Development of future park   | Medium   | TBD                 | MDNR  |

| Year                 | Project  | Priority | Estimated Cost | Funding Source                  |
|----------------------|--|----------|----------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Year 3 - 2019</b> | <b>Orchard Hills Park</b><br>Install toddler lot with water and electric service   | Medium   | \$3,000        | General Fund, MDNR              |
|                      | <b>Village Park</b><br>Install security cameras, P.A. system, additional lighting  | Medium   | \$7,000        | General Fund                    |
|                      | <b>Gilcher-Crissman Park</b><br>Install toddler park, permanent restrooms, extension of walk trail, floodable basketball court, ice rink   | Medium   | \$100,000      | Private Donations               |
|                      | <b>Washington Community Park and Senior Center</b><br>Install shuffle board  | Medium   | \$1,000        | General Fund, Private Donations |
|                      | <b>29 Mile Road Trail Parking</b><br>Install passive park amenities, including benches, picnic tables  | Medium   | \$5,000        | General Fund, Private Donations |
| <b>Year 4 - 2020</b> | <b>Village of Romeo Community Center Building</b><br>Install toddler lot, baseball field dugout enclosures and room, park maintenance  | Medium   | \$75,000       | MDNR, CDBG, General Fund        |
|                      | <b>Crystal Diamonds</b><br>Install play structure, toddler lot, new dugout structure, permanent restroom facilities, extension of irrigation to ball fields  | Medium   | \$100,000      | MDNR                            |
|                      | <b>29 Mile Road Trail Parking</b><br>Install play structure, develop walking path  | Low      | \$6,000        | General Fund, Private Donations |
|                      | <b>Orchard Hills Park</b><br>Connect to 33 Mile Rd sidewalk, additional parking, install roadway signage along Morency   | Low      | \$10,000       | MDNR, MDOT                      |
| <b>Year 5 - 2021</b> | <b>Crystal Diamonds</b><br>Develop pathway connections to community facilities (library, township hall, post office)   | Low      | \$10,000       | MDNR, MDOT                      |
|                      | <b>Village Park</b><br>Anti-vandalism improvements   | Low      | \$5,000        | General Fund                    |
|                      | <b>Village of Romeo Community Center Building</b><br>Walking trail and ADA connection to pavilion, electricity and irrigation to park and ball fields, storage barn, additional restrooms/shower facilities) | Low      | \$25,000       | General Fund, MDNR              |
|                      | Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update  | High     | \$10,000       | General Fund                    |

