

**The Charter  
Township of York  
Parks & Recreation  
Master Plan  
2019-2023**

## **Acknowledgments**

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Pete Swope – Member

This plan is an update of the previous York Township Parks and Recreation Master Plans which covered the period of 2009-2013, 2014-2018 and 2019-2023. It presents a description of the Township including cultural, social, physical and economic features. It also contains the vision of the community concerning parks and recreation issues and how we plan to fulfill that vision.

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# **Chapter 1:**

## **Community Description**

## Introduction

This plan is the fourth Parks and Recreation Master Plan for York Township. Spanning from 2019-2024, it presents the current vision of the community concerning parks and recreation and how we plan to fulfill that vision. It includes a thorough description of the township including cultural, physical, economic, and political features, as well as natural systems and regional park descriptions

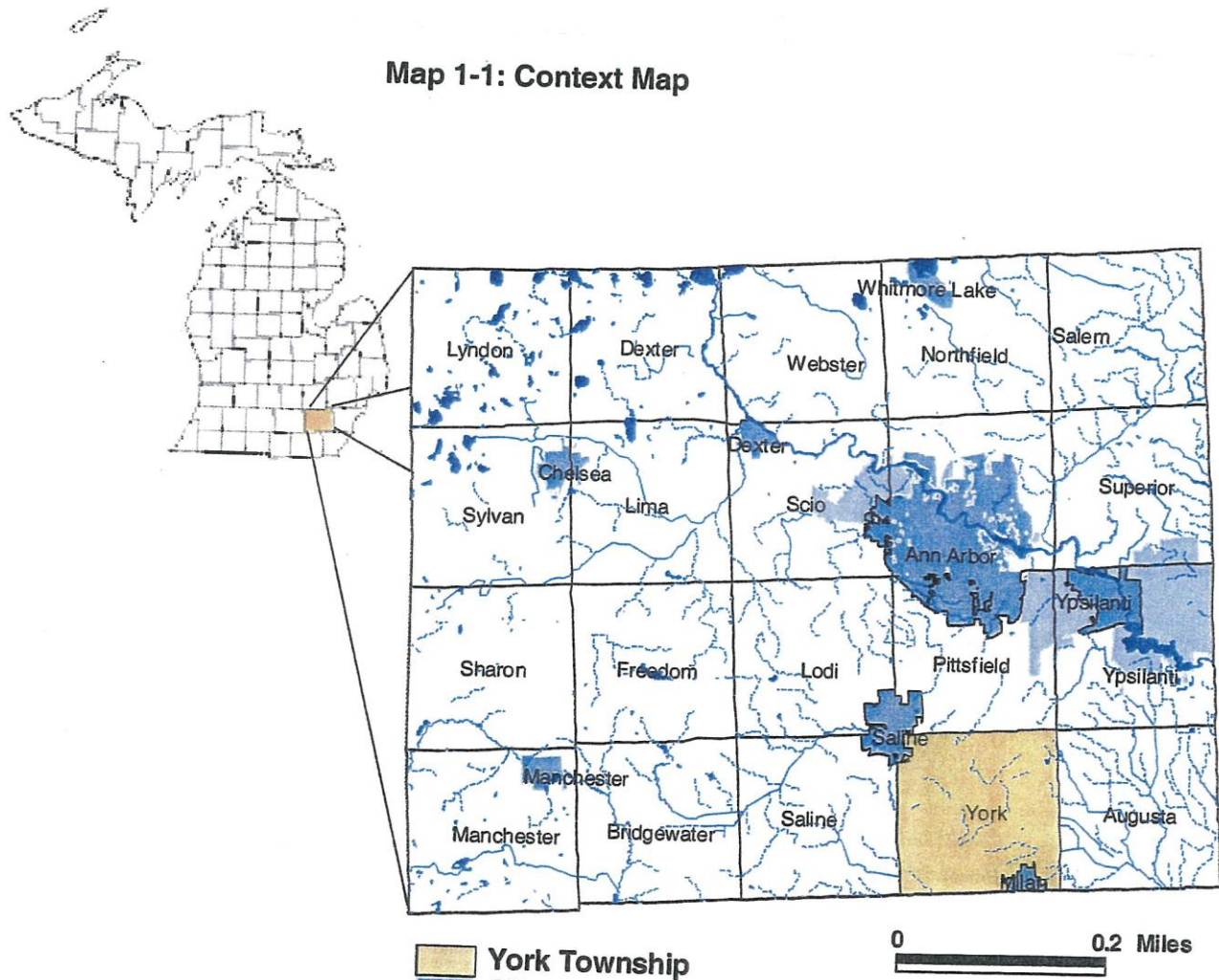
## Regional Context

York Charter Township, with a population of 8,708 (2010 census), is in southeastern Washtenaw County (Map 1-1). It is bordered by Saline Township to the west, Pittsfield Township to the North, Augusta Township to the east, and Monroe County to the south. The Township is at the southern edge of a development boom from the Ann Arbor metropolitan area. Much of Pittsfield Township has been converted from former agricultural lands to sprawling housing developments, some of which have begun to spring up in northern York Township.

### Map 1-1: Context Map

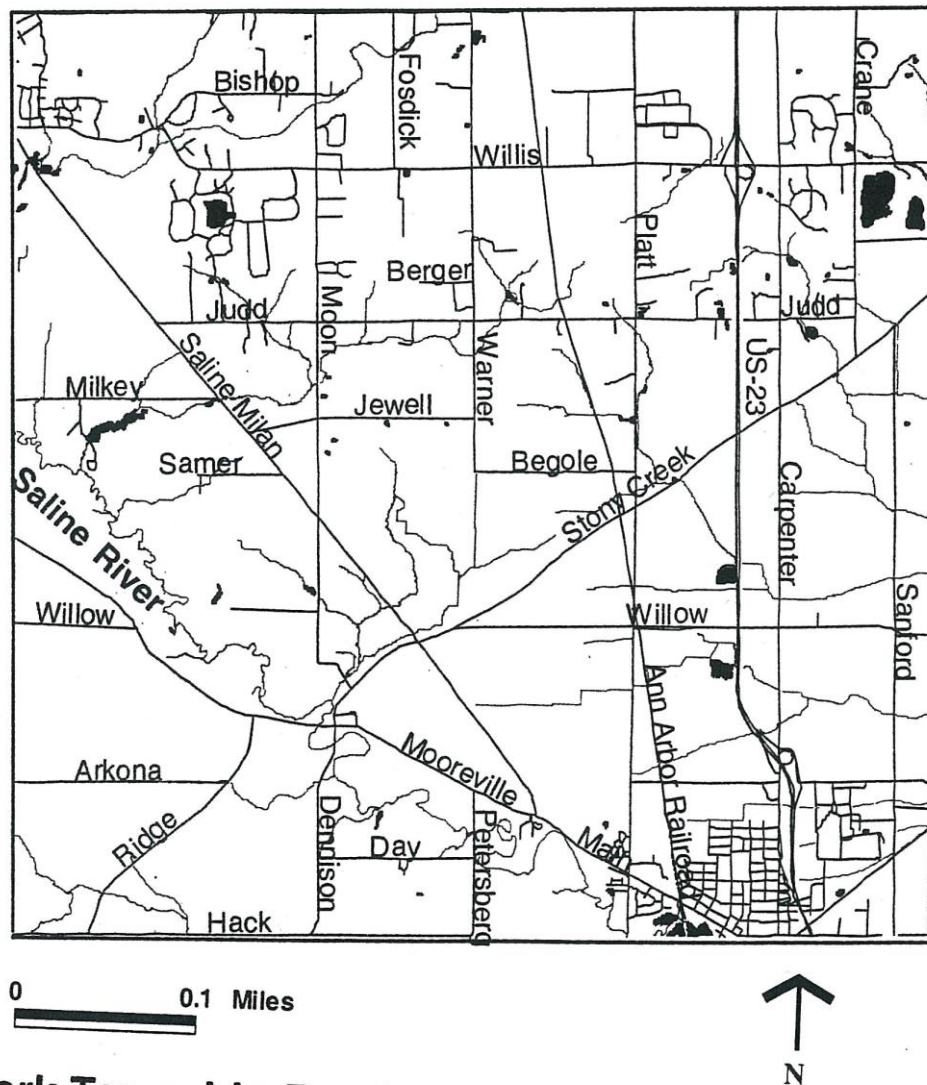
#### York Township

Map 1-1: Context Map



York Township is serviced by US Highway 23 (Map 1-2), which provides connections to Ann Arbor to the north and Toledo and Monroe to the south. US 23 access is located at Willis Road near the intersection of Platt Road, and at Carpenter Road near Milan. The main north-south thoroughfares through the Township include Saline-Milan Road, which connects the two cities, Platt Road and Moon Road, which both provide access to the Ann Arbor metropolitan area. The main east-west thoroughfares are Willis Road and Stony-Creek Road. The only major waterway through the Township is the Saline River, which flows south from the City of Saline to the City of Milan and beyond.

**Map 1-2: York Roads**



**York Township Roads**

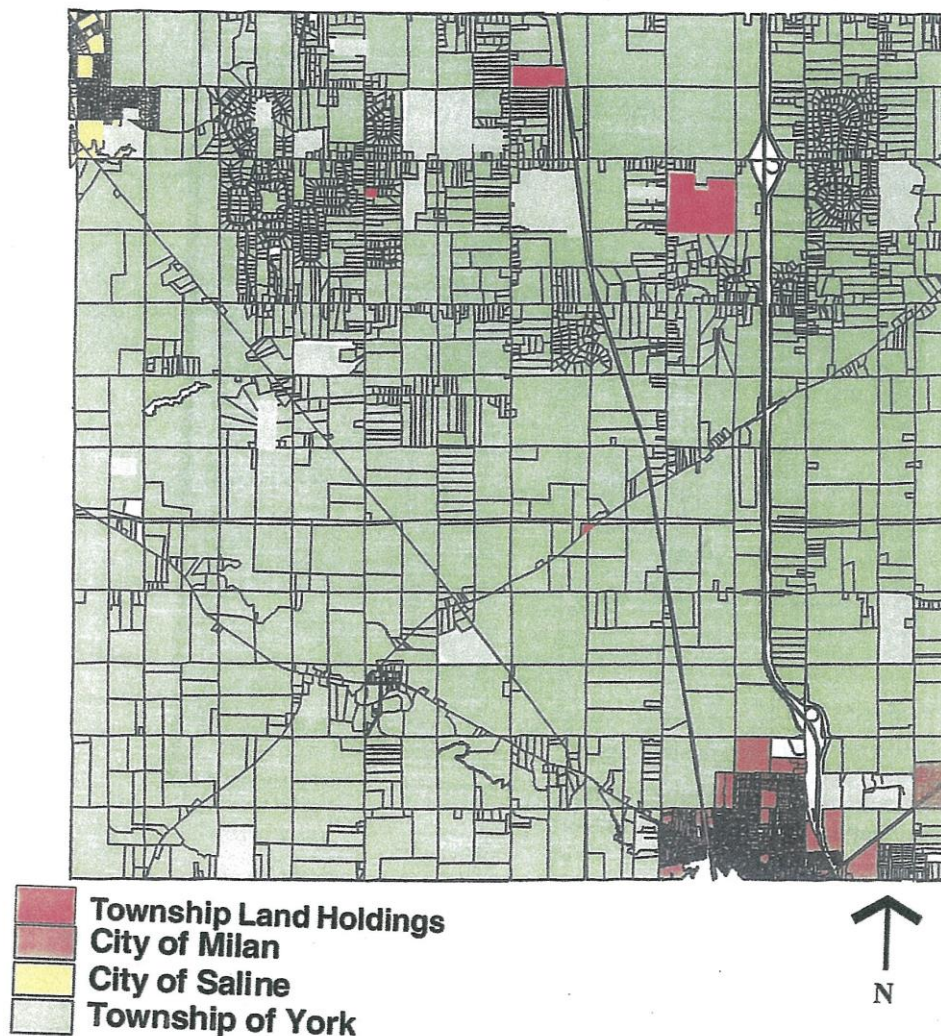


## Extent of the Township and Land Holdings

Like many townships in Southeastern Michigan, York has relinquished some of its jurisdiction to other governing bodies. As shown in map 1-3, the cities of Saline and Milan have jurisdiction over a small portion of what once was York Township. York Township's land holdings include two park properties, the Leslee Niethammer Saline River Preserve, a small preserve in the northeast of the township, a small parcel that houses the township hall located on Stony Creek Road, and a small parcel to the southeast of Saline.

## York Township Jurisdiction

Map 1-3: Jurisdiction



## York Township Jurisdiction

## Township History

The Township of York, Washtenaw County, was created by the Michigan Territorial Legislature in 1834 from lands that had previously been divided between the Townships of Saline and Ypsilanti. The area had begun to experience growth in settlers due to the completion of the Erie Canal in 1825. By the time of Michigan statehood in 1837, the Township's population had grown to 1,197. The principal settlements at that time consisted of the hamlets of Saline, Milan and Mooreville.



**Plat map of York Township, 1874.**

Courtesy of the Saline Area Historical Society



**Old York train depot**

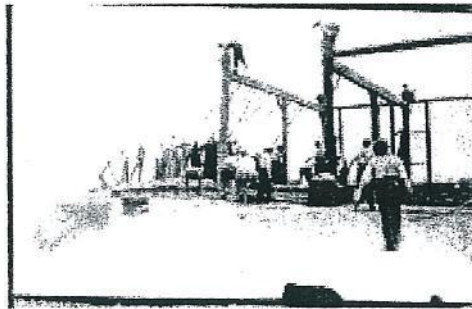
Courtesy of the Saline Area Historical Society

Soon a few stores and mills came to the three hamlets, primarily to serve the farms that began to occupy the Township. In the early years, Mooreville was the Township's major trading, civic and social center. Saline, in the northwestern corner of the township, continued to grow due to its location on the Detroit-Chicago Road. The hamlets of Mooreville and Milan began to vie for prominence in the southern portion of the Township. When the railroad chose to pass through Milan instead of Mooreville in 1878, Milan's prominence was assured. By 1906, Milan had grown to become the second largest village in Washtenaw County and had replaced Mooreville as the seat of the Township government. Throughout the early part of the twentieth century, agriculture continued to be dominant throughout the Township.

## Courtesy of the Saline Area Historical Society

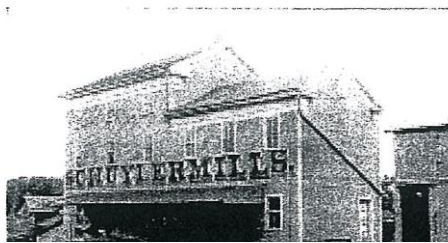
When the Federal Prison and State Hospitals opened, workers began to move to York Township. The Township's population surged from 1,104 in 1930, to 5,268 by 1940. (This number included the several thousand institutional residents of the two facilities.) By 1970, the cities of Saline and Milan had both incorporated, causing the Township's population to drop from 7,006 in 1960 to 6,217 by 1970.

Throughout the later part of the twentieth century, agriculture and rural residential continued to be the principal uses of the land in the Township. There was little commercial development, as those activities stayed within the cities of Milan and Saline, where municipal services were provided. During the 1990s and continuing today, rapid residential development has occurred in the northern part of the Township along the Willis Road corridor. The southern area of the Township, however, has continued to remain primarily agricultural.



**Barn raising in York Township**

Courtesy of the Saline Area Historical Society



**York Mill (Schuyler Mills).**  
**Schuyler Mill built in 1845 on West**  
**Michigan Avenue at the Saline River.**  
**Now restaurant by name of Wellers.**  
**Built by John Haywood.**

Courtesy of the Saline Area Historical Society

# **Chapter 2:**

## **Administrative Structure**

**Roles of Commission(s) or Advisory Board**



## **Township Government**

York Township, like other charter townships, is governed by a seven-member elected board, comprised of a supervisor, clerk, treasurer, and four trustees. The York Township Board has final oversight responsibility for all Township government activities. The Township Supervisor serves as chief operating officer for the Township.

Members of the York Township Board of Trustees are paid a small, per diem for their services while members of township committees, also appointed by the board, serve on a volunteer basis.

There are no public works or parks and recreation departments in York Township. Functions needed by the various committees are usually carried out often by volunteers or occasionally by contract. York Township has several volunteer committees which relies heavily on the volunteer efforts given by its citizens.

## **Department, Authority and Organizational Chart**

**Board of Trustees: Seven Members include Township Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer And Trustees (4 elected).**

Committees that report to the Board of Trustees

- 1) Parks and Recreation
- 2) Zoning Board
- 3) Board of Appeals
- 4) Planning
- 5) Personnel
- 6) Election
- 7) Environmental

The Board of Trustees has the authority to commit funds for Parks and Recreation, accept grants, and purchase land on behalf of the community.

## **Annual and Projected Budgets for Operations, Maintenance, Capital Improvements and Recreational Programming**

York Township levies the statutory 1 mill, which due to the Headlee Amendment rollbacks is collected at .85 mills. Another 1.47 mills is levied for Public Safety. Approximately two-thirds of the Township's revenue comes from property taxes. The balance comes from State revenue sharing and local fees. The total SEV as April 2017 was \$539,967,300.

The Township currently owns one vehicle. A Toyota Tundra, gifted by the Toyota Corporation, is currently used by Tom Toth, Building/Zoning Official. Additional equipment used by the Parks Committee includes a tractor, mowers, a sprayer and power/ hand tools kept in the maintenance building. The assets of the Township include the Township Hall and the park parcels. These properties are all owned free and clear. The annual township budget is approximately \$1,500,000.

The 2019-2020 Fiscal Year Parks budget is \$30,150 which covers operations, maintenance, development and recreational programming. Details of this budget are shown in Appendix I.

## **Current Funding Sources**

The primary source of parks funding is from the York Township general fund as summarized in Appendix I.

The township has a \$57,000 reserve fund set aside for a new park land purchase in the future. The source of this fund was a donation from a local developer. Another fund that is specifically used for park maintenance activities was donated by the Toyota North American Engineering and Manufacturing operation located in the Township. Toyota has also given funds that can be used for park development. These later funds could be used for potential match funding for a grant should one be sought by the Parks and Recreation Committee. In the past, special project funds have been generated through the sale of brick paver stones and other donations. The Saline Area Soccer Association also contributes one half of the cost of the annual portable restroom rental fees for Richardson Park.

## **Parks & Recreation Committee Operations**

### **Role of Volunteers**

The Parks and Recreation Committee is a nine member citizens' committee responsible for managing the two existing Township parks, developing new park amenities, and planning future recreational needs of the community. The Committee is chaired by a citizen member. A member of the Township Board serves on the Committee as liaison to the Board. The Chairperson often works closely with the Township Supervisor in seeking input and guidance regarding the day-to-day park's operations and for approval for routine expenditures. In addition to planning and administrative responsibilities, the Committee members all frequently engage in the actual work involved with the improvement and maintenance of the parks. Their labor is donated although they are occasionally paid for the use of their personal supplies and equipment.

The committee has also recruited a cadre of community members to assist in events requiring a larger work group. Our volunteers have assisted with controlled burns, semi-annual park clean ups, trail maintenance and evasive plant removal. We have also utilized the services of church groups, volunteer teams from the Toyota Technical center and work groups from the Washtenaw County Sheriff's department.

### **Relationships with School Districts, Other Public Agencies or Private Organizations**

The Parks and Recreation Committee has entered many cooperative arrangements since its inception. These include working with groups such as the Saline Area Soccer Association, the Stone and Thistle Garden Club, the Saline and Milan Area Schools, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the local Boy and Girl Scouts, Pheasants Forever, the Milan and Saline Area Fire Departments, the Wildflower Association of Michigan, the University of Michigan and Eastern Michigan University, the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission, the Raisin River Watershed Council, the Saline River Greenway Alliance, as well as local businesses- especially Schettenhelm Farms and the Toyota Technical Center.

# **Chapter 3:**

## **Recreation Inventory**

**Description of Methods used to conduct the Inventory**



The inventory of these parks and recreational areas was conducted as part of the previous surveys done as part of the last three Master plans. These methods included research into area recreational facilities and updating lists of school and public lands.

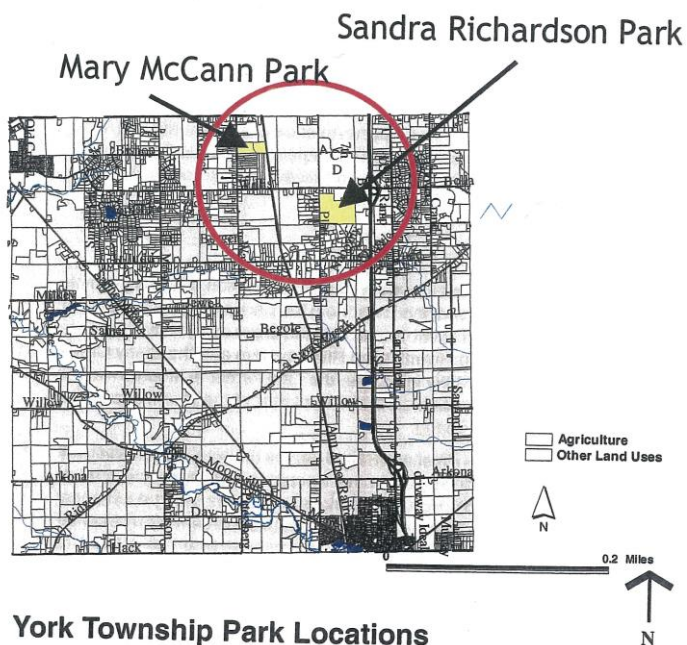
## Inventory of all Community Owned Parks and Recreation Facilities

Currently, York Township has ownership of two designated park sites. Both are in the continuing stages of development, which commenced in 2002. The larger of the two parks, Sandra Richardson Park, is a 125 Acre site located at the southeast corner of Willis Road and Platt Road. **(Map 4-1)**. It is partially wooded and partially open with about 12 Acres converted to soccer playing fields. The smaller site, named Mary McCann Park, is a 37 Acre site located on Warner Road between Willis Road and Bemis Road. It also is partially wooded. These sites were deeded to the Township by the State of Michigan as they were surplus State land. In 2002, the Township began actively undertaking the planning and execution of activities to develop the two sites into community park lands. The major theme throughout the planning is conservation and preservation of the natural features and, as far as possible, the protection of the wildlife and flora dwelling there. A third, two-acre site, located on Moon Road between Judd Road and Willis Road, was also deeded to the Township. As of late 2017, this site remains undeveloped until a feasible use is established. The Township also owns the Leslie Niethammer Saline River Preserve and a closed preserve in the northeast of the township.

## York Township Park Locations

### York Township Park Locations

Map 4-1: Township Park Locations

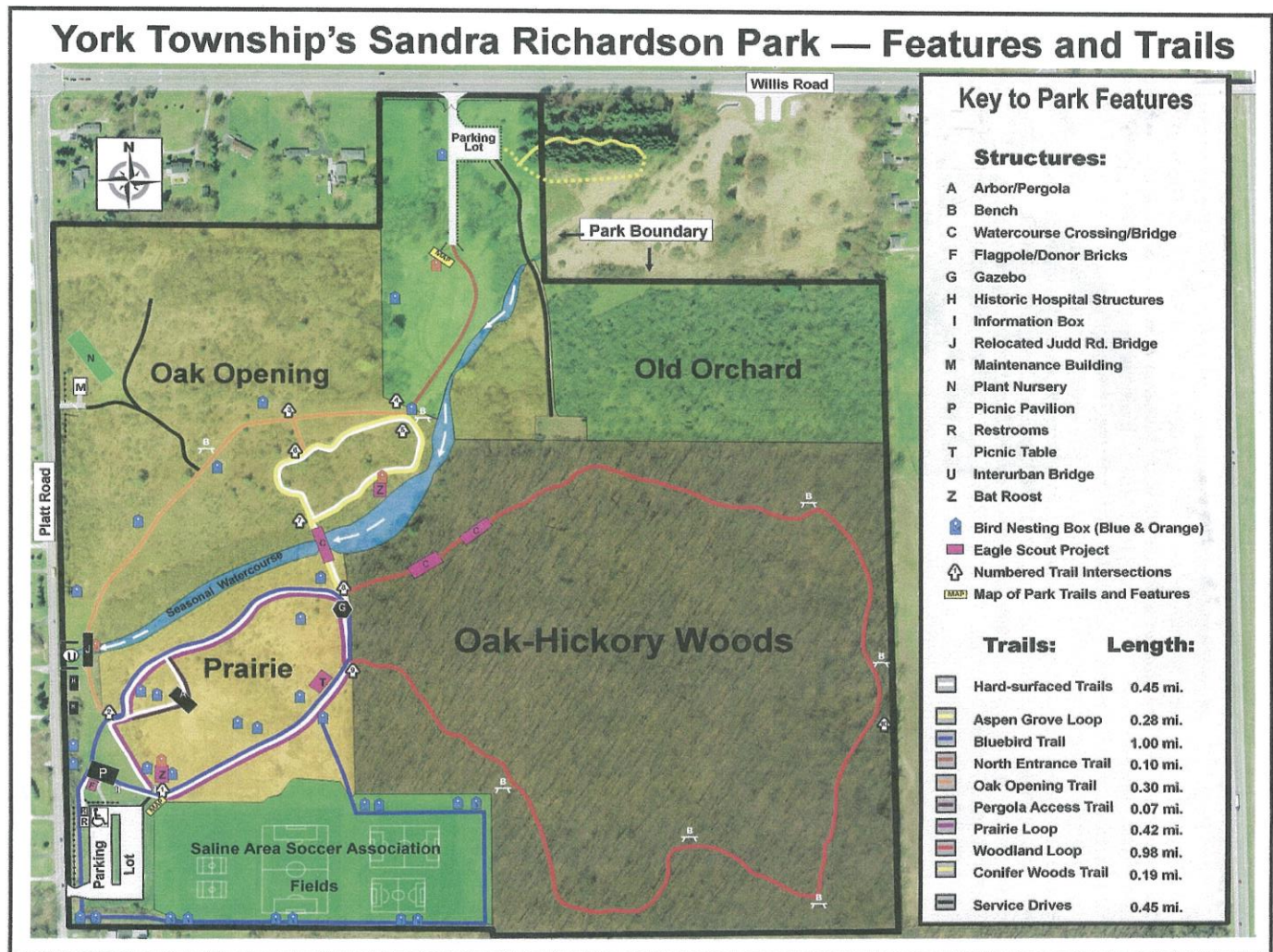


### York Township Park Locations

Created at the University of Michigan

Data supplied by Washtenaw County, Mich.

# York Township's Sandra Richardson Park Features and Trails



As of late spring, 2019, a small, four-hole, disc golf area, built by a Scout for an Eagle Project was added to the upper left corner of the map. Plans for an 18 hole course is in the works, built by volunteers and local Scouts. (North portion on the park map)

# **Sandra Richardson Park-**

## **Location and Area**

The Sandra Richardson Park comprises 125.03 acres of land that once was included within the grounds of the State of Michigan's Ypsilanti State Hospital, until its transfer to York Township in 1995. The Park is in the northwest quarter of York Township's Section 11. It is bounded by Platt Road on the west, private properties that front to Willis Road on the north, commercial and private properties that extend to US-23 on the east, and private properties that front to Lutz Drive on the south. An aerial map of the park is provided in **Figure 4-1**.

## **Public Access**

The main public access to the park is currently off Platt Road into the extreme southwest corner of the property. That entrance opens into an 80-space berm-enclosed parking lot surfaced with crushed limestone. That lot serves general park users as well as users of the soccer fields currently maintained by the Saline Area Soccer Association.

A second access to the park is located on Willis Rd. approximately 1/4 mile east of Platt Rd. There is a smaller parking lot there which allows access to the park's trails. Some of this area will be considered for more active venues in the future.

## **Accessibility Assessment**

Originally, none of the facilities at the park met the American with Disability Act (ADA) standards for barrier-free access. In 2006, as part of an MDNR Grant project, ADA compliant trails, parking, restroom and access was created to a portion of the park. There are still some barriers which include insufficient ground surface for wheelchair access and excessive slope conditions at some entrance points to some pathways and play fields. Improvements have been completed which provide ADA compliant access to parking, restroom facilities and to the picnic area, pavilion, and the trails.

## **Status Report for all Grant-Assisted Parks and Recreation Facilities**

York Township has previously been awarded one DNR grant in 2003. With this grant improvements included building of a pavilion, gazebo, pergola and paving of main trails for ADA compliance. A photo of the program recognition plaque is included in the appendix. (Appendix ?)

## **Waterway Inventory (Elevation, Drainage, and Landforms)**

Sandra Richardson Park spans nearly 35 feet in elevation. From high points roughly 825 feet above sea level near both the park's center and again at the parking lot in the southwest corner, the land drops away in two separate watersheds. The Saline River/Raisin River system and the Stony Creek watershed empty separately into Lake Erie - the former at Monroe Harbor in the heart of Monroe, Michigan, and the latter some four miles to the northeast at Woodland Beach. The Saline River/Raisin River watershed serves mainly the northwest half of the park, as well as the former Ypsilanti State Hospital grounds on both sides of Willis Road to the north. Runoff in that sector moves along a seasonal waterway that crosses diagonally from the park's north center to the center of its west boundary. That water drains southwestward to a point of confluence with the Saline River on the historic Saline Valley Farms property in section 18. It reaches its lowest point on park property at approximately 800 feet above sea level, where it crosses beneath Platt Road in a culvert located one-third mile south of Willis Road. Running generally parallel to this natural drain is a buried 30" sewer line that once served the state hospital.

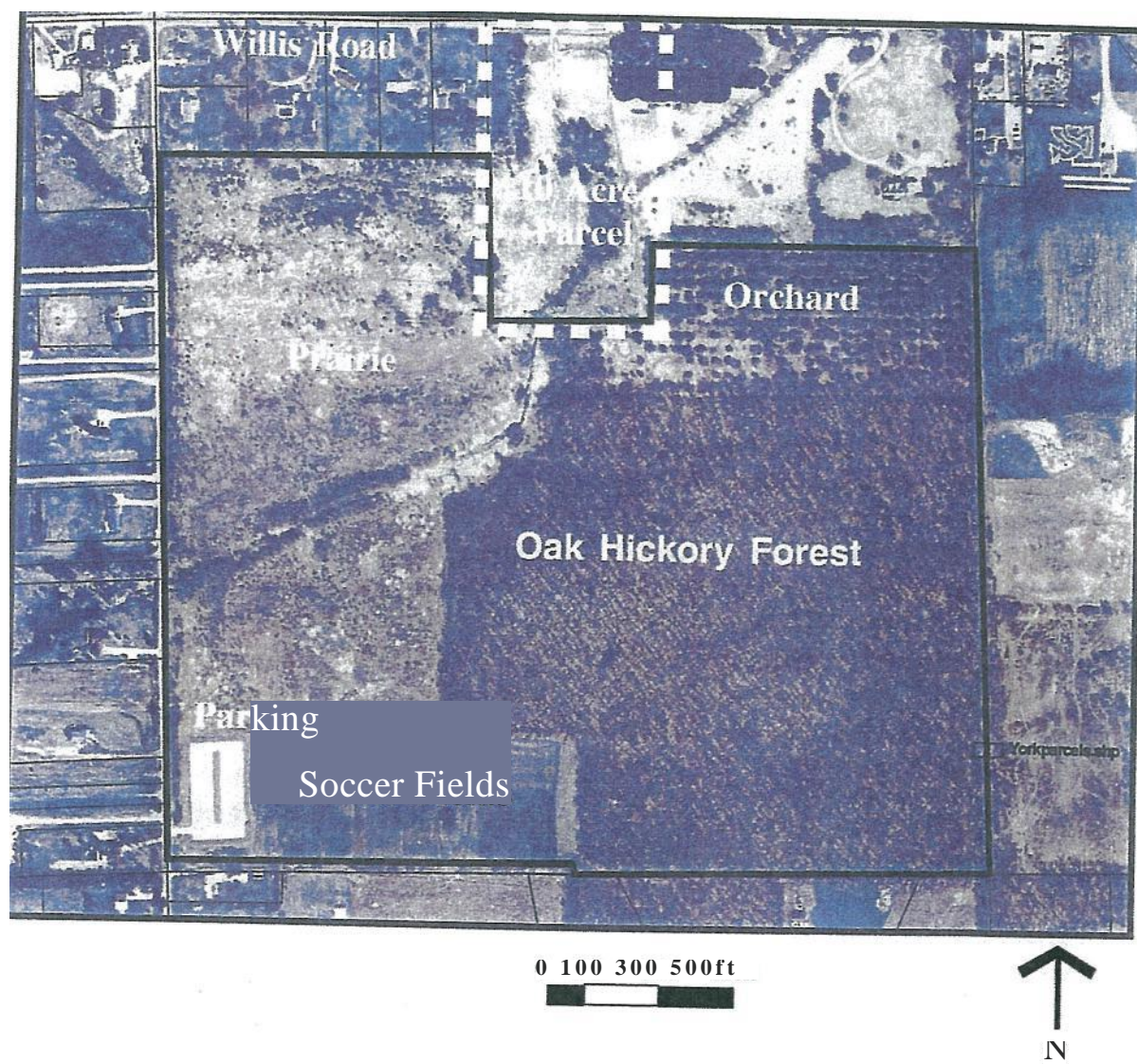


The remainder of rain falling on the park flows through a series of small, generally southeastward running cuts that drain to Buck Creek, one of several small tributaries of the Stony Creek watershed. Flow from the park in this direction is so light and the soils so absorbent that there are no clearly defined stream beds until the headwaters of Buck Creek are reached a quarter mile south and a half mile east of the park.

### **Vegetation and Land Use**

Nearly half of the park's area is forested. A 79-acre square parcel of mature woods covers the entire southeast quarter of the park and extends about two-thirds of the way to the north and west boundaries. The woods show little evidence of prior use for purposes other than hunting and the light removal of firewood.

**Figure 3-1: Aerial Photograph of Richardson Park**

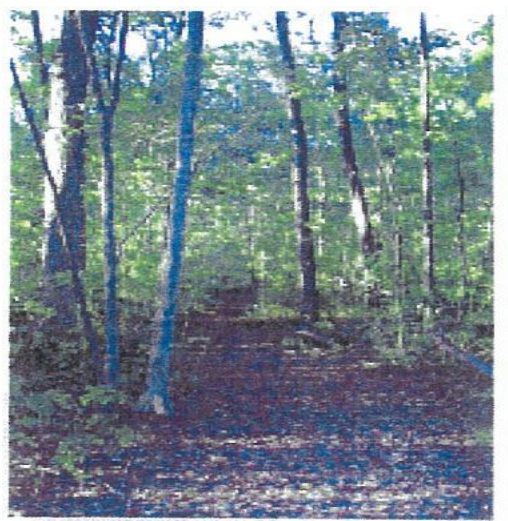


Prehistorically, up to the time of settlement in the early 1800's, the entire area now occupied by Sandra Richardson Park and the land for miles around was forested. The region's combination of soils and climate had covered the northern portion of the Township with an Oak-Hickory climax forest. The remaining woodland is of that type.

The dominant trees in the canopy of an Oak-Hickory forest are Oaks - White (*Quercus alba*), Black (*Quercus velutina*), Red (*Quercus rubra*), Pin (*Quercus palustris*), and Hickories mainly Shagbark (*Carya ovata*), Bitternut (*Carya cordiformis*), and Pignut (*Carya glabra*). In addition, the canopy includes Maples - Sugar (*Acer saccharum*), Silver (*Acer saccharinum*), and Red (*Acer rubrum*); Walnut (*Juglans spp.*); Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*); Ash (*Fraxinus spp.*); and an occasional Elm (*Ulmus spp.*), Cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*), and Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*).

The understory consists mainly of saplings and replacement trees of the species mentioned, but also includes such smaller trees and shrubs as ironwood (*Carpinus caroliniana*), Choke Cherry (*Prunus Serotina*), Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*), Gooseberry (*Ribes cynosbati*), and escaped domestics such as Cherry (*Prunus spp.*), Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*), and horticultural varieties of Honeysuckle (*Lonicera spp.*) and Barberry (*Berberis spp.*) Along the woods' borders, where direct sunlight is available for part of the day are found the expected thickets of native Blackberry (*Rubus spp.*), Sumac (*Rhus spp.*), Prickly Ash (*Zabthoxylum americanum*), and escaped Black Raspberry (*Rubus occidentalis*), Multiflora Rose (*Rosa spp.*), and Autumn Olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*). These plants provide cover and habitat for mammals and birds while serving to restrict human entry to a few open corridors.

Because of the heavy canopy, little light reaches the forest floor during the growing season. That scarcity of light has precluded an invasion by most open area plants such as grasses and weed species introduced onto the continent from Europe and Asia. However, there is sufficient light to support a variety of spring wildflowers that includes a sizeable area of the protected Large-flowered Trillium (*Trillium grandifolium*) in the southeastern part of the woods.



View of Woods Trail



## **Wetland**

Bisecting the Old Field area is the seasonal waterway, which leads to the Saline River. In its upper reaches, abutting the northwest corner of the woods, this waterway is a swampy wetland of about 1 1/2 acres. This swamp holds standing water in the spring and after heavy rains and contains small pools of open water during much of the year. The 2 1/2-acre lower portion of the waterway is more heavily covered with trees than are the drier parts of the fields. The density of this tree cover and the resulting bare ground beneath them makes this water course a natural corridor for wildlife movement to and from the Saline River Valley.

## **Old Orchard**

An old apple orchard occupies the twelve acres of land that reach from the park's east boundary to the marsh described above and from the north boundary to the woods. The trees were planted in the late 1930's. Now, some 70 years later, many of the trees have died, some have been removed, many more are broken down, and all that remain are in the throes of old age. Even so, these trees and their dwindling, gnarly fruit provide valuable habitat for wildlife. Since the orchard was allowed to fall into disuse sometime in the 1970's, it has been heavily invaded by Blackberry and Raspberry brambles, Multiflora Rose, and Autumn Olive. These plants have turned the one-time orchard into a thicket that is nearly impenetrable to the would-be human visitor.

## **Trails**

An eight-foot-wide long trail runs from the northwest corner of the parking lot diagonally to an entry into the woods near the middle of its western edge. It then describes a winding, counterclockwise loop that keeps it within 200-300 feet of the woods' edge and passes near several points of

biological and geological interest. Its course was chosen to provide the user with ever-changing vistas and frequent changes in elevation. Its

exit from the forest lies a short distance north of the entrance, and the loop closes to rejoin the parking lot access shortly beyond that point.

In the summer of 2002 three rustic resting benches were constructed along the wooded portion of the trail.

The trail head was marked by the erection of two lengths of cedar fence and a sign to highlight the trail's start

and its purpose. Additional signs were positioned at salient points along the trail to suggest traffic flow to the user. Recently, more signage has been added. The total length of the woods trail is 1.4 miles. During the past several years, other trails have been developed throughout other areas of the park, including ADA compliant trails. In 2005 a 60' raised boardwalk was constructed along the woodland trail where it crosses a chronically wet ravine. This improvement was made possible by a Boy Scout who did this as an Eagle Scout project. In 2009 another Eagle Scout candidate constructed a 25' ramped wood bridge over a small stream bed near the entrance to the woodlot. His bridge connected to a new graveled trail called the Aspen Tree Loop. In 2011 a third Eagle Scout project added a 50' ground-level boardwalk over another wet area on the trail.



**Forest Trail Entrance**

## **Main Parking Lot and Soccer Fields**

In 1995, The Saline Area Soccer Association (SASA) leased for 20 years a 20-acre parcel in the extreme southwestern corner of the park. The lease was renewed in 2015. The Township constructed a parking lot and SASA constructed three adjacent playing fields immediately east of that lot along the park's south boundary. By mutual agreement, the fields are maintained by SASA and the parking lot by the Township. Currently, approximately eight acres at the north end of the leased area remain undeveloped and available to the general park user as the southern portion of the old field area described above. In 2006, a picnic area and pavilion was built in part of this area (MDNR Grant).

## **Soils**

Five soil types are found within the park. Half of the park's area is underlain by Seward loamy fine sand with slopes of 2-6 percent. This soil type lies beneath the soccer fields, the parking lot, the southern two-thirds of the old field area, the northwestern third of the woods, and the western half of the old orchard. These

soils are generally considered poor for playground and picnic areas because of slow percolation and unacceptable for heavy trail use because of their sandiness. Morley loam with 2-6 percent slopes is the soil of the extreme northeastern, upland, portion of the old field area; the eastern half of the old orchard; and the northeastern corner of the woods. Morley loam with low slopes is moderately suitable for picnic areas and playgrounds and poorly suited for paths and trails because it erodes easily.

Spinks loamy sand with 2-6 percent slopes covers the valley-cut region in the southeastern corner of the woods and most of the northern one-third of the old field area, excluding the small patch of Morley barns described above. This soil type is moderately suited for picnicking, playgrounds, paths, and trails, although its sandiness argues against heavy uses of those types of recreation. Wauseon fine sandy loam lies in a wishbone-shaped area in the middle of the forested tract. That thick wishbone or lower case "u" is tilted along an axis angled about 45° toward the northeast. This soil is considered very poor for most recreational uses because of its tendency to hold water and produce seasonal ponding. Metamora sandy loam with 2-4 percent slopes is the underlying soil in the marshy area at the park's north center. This soil's best potential is as habitat for wetland wildlife.



**Soccer Fields**

## Mary McCann Park-

Mary McCann Park, being much smaller than Sandra Richardson Park, is less accommodating for diversified recreational development. The Park is approximately half wooded and half open field.

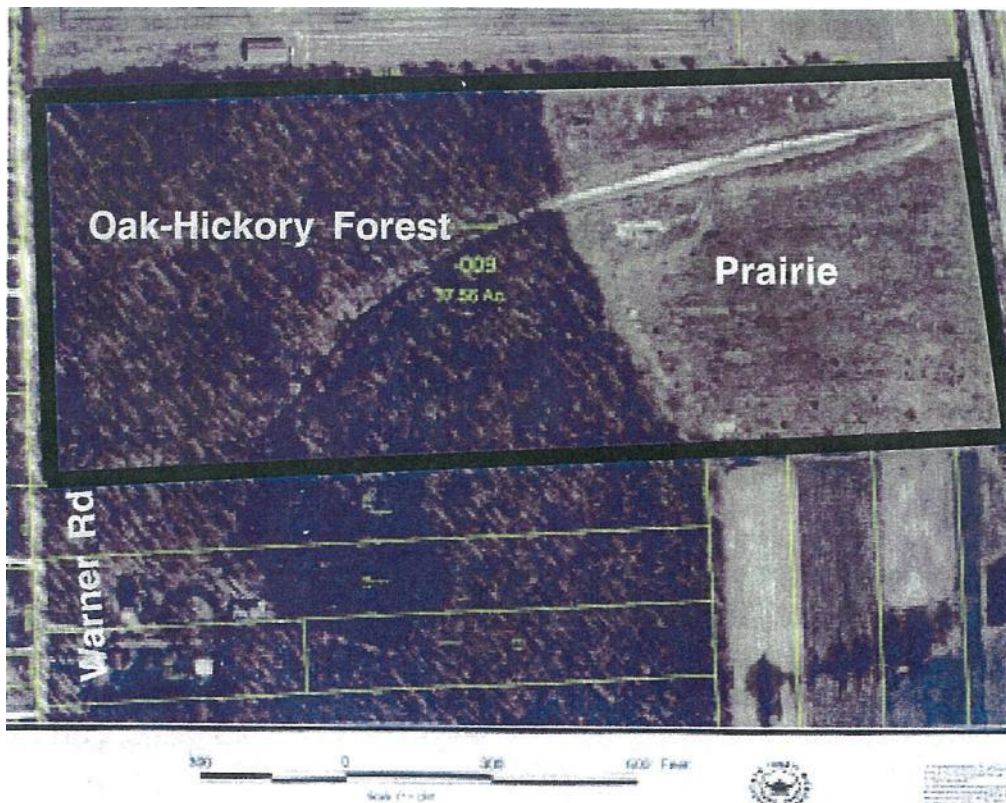
### Location and Area

Like Richardson Park, Mary McCann Park was also cut from State lands. This Park measures 37.56 acres. It occupies roughly the west three-fourths of the south one-third of Section 3. Its boundaries are Warner Road on the west, private properties on the north and south, and the Ann Arbor Railroad's right-of-way on the east. It is the eastern boundary's slight tilt to the northwest (approximately 5.5o) that deviates from the parcel's otherwise rectangular shape.

### Public Access

Due to help from a Saline Schools' Continuing Education Program CARES Grant, a dedicated parking area for users of McCann Park was created at the northern end of the Park's frontage on Warner Road. Walking trails have been created and maintained that provide pedestrian access to much of the park. A CARES Grant was awarded to allow for the creation of an environmental education and passive recreation area (EPPRA) in the eastern 2/5 of the park. This project allowed for a passive natural park in which residents can learn about native plants to the area. A teaching station was created on the high point of that section of the park that allows school and other groups a place to meet. Parks Committee member John Farmer, a retired biology teacher, coordinated this project. Several local Boy Scout Troops, through Eagle Scout Award candidates, have been instrumental in implementing various projects which give visitors the opportunity to view unique objects such as bat boxes, a Chimney Swift habitat tower, and Blue Bird nesting boxes. They have also planted a native nut tree grove and assisted with other upgrades.

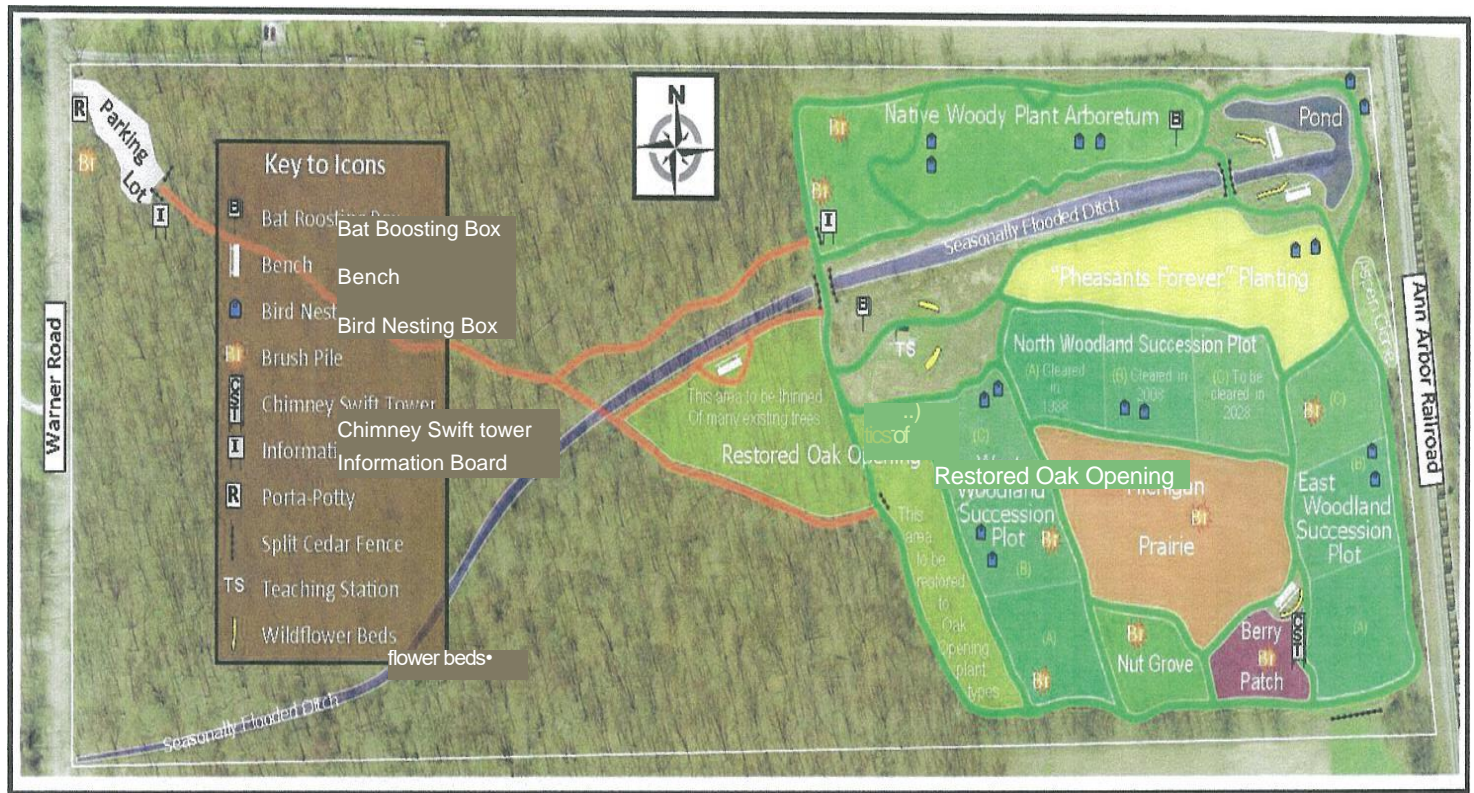
**Figure 4-2: Aerial Photograph of McCann Park**





## YORK TOWNSHIP'S MARY McCANN PARK

(Located between Bemis and Willis Roads off Warner Road)



The eastern portion of the park (to the right, above) is a facility developed as the Township's environmental education/passive recreation, or "EEPR." Its many demonstration plots and habitat enhancements are designed to illustrate ecological principles, simulate plant communities in York Township at the time of settlement, present objects of study for visiting school groups, and provide the casual visitor with pleasing vistas and chances to observe the site's flora and fauna in a relaxing setting.

### **Elevation, Drainage, and Landforms**

The Park is essentially flat. Most of its land lies only slightly higher or lower than the 830 feet above sea level of an elevation line that winds its way east to west across the park. The exception to this flat landform is a man-made ditch that follows a lazy "S"-shaped course from the park's southwest corner at Warner Road to the railroad right-of-way near the northeast corner. That ditch drops perhaps 10 feet along its length as it drains seasonal water toward sod-covered waterway east of the Ann Arbor Railroad. Once in that watercourse, surface drainage from the park is destined to join the shallow valley that crosses the Sandra Richardson Park and leads ultimately to the Saline River in section 18.

### **Forest**

The western three-fifths (approximately 21 acres) of the park are forested. Most of the trees are typical of the Oak-Hickory climax forest described in Sandra Richardson Park. However, a greater degree of soil moisture has encouraged a greater number of water tolerant trees such as Cottonwood, Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*), Soft (Red and Silver) Maple, and Elm than would be expected on more well-drained lands. With that slight difference, the remainder of the vegetation in the woodland is quite like that in Richardson Park, and the reader is referred to that section for details.

### **Old Field**

The eastern two-fifths (roughly 14.5 acres) of the park were farmed until the late 1980's. It is now undergoing ecological succession as a ground cover of largely European weeds is gradually giving way to an invasion like that occurring in the Old Field area of Richardson Park.

### **Wetlands**

A well-contoured ditch approximately 30 feet in width was constructed across the park to enhance drainage from the vicinity of Warner Road at the park's south and east boundaries. Since construction, the initially naked cut has been undergoing natural re-vegetation at a slow rate. Currently, the western portion, running through the woods, has become well-covered with a variety of wetland species that includes sedges and other wet prairie and marsh plants. This woodland ditch serves as habitat and a watering place for many types of wetland wildlife, as well. Currently, that part of the ditch that crosses the old field is dry and devoid of vegetation for much of the year, except in its lowest reaches as it approaches the east property line. At that point, another damp area had established itself as a seasonal wetland. This area has been turned into a small year-round pond. A bridge has also been constructed across the ditch near the teaching station. This bridge joins the northern and southern sections of the park.

## **Trails**

A walking trail joins the parking area at the northwest corner of the park at Warner Road. The trail branches off through the southern area of the woods and connects to the prairie area trails that extend from the main trail. Other branch trails have been constructed in the prairie area as a part of the EEPRA project. Boy Scout Eagle projects have been responsible for many of these improvements.

Some earth berms and fence barriers were installed to keep motorized vehicles out of the park. Those measures have proven effective for blocking intrusions by cars and trucks but have not completely kept ORVs out.



View of the Path

## **Soils**

Since soils in the Mary McCann Park are arranged largely as a series of north-south bands, those bands will be described west to east, as one would pass over them in a walk from Warner Road to the Ann Arbor Railroad. After leaving the roadside ditch, one would soon cross a narrow stretch – 60 to 80 feet wide - of Morley loam with 2-6 percent slopes. This is a slow percolating soil that is suited to woodland use. Next is a band of Hoytville silty clay loam that is the park's main soil type. Its width varies from around 400 feet in the north to nearly 1000 feet (or half the length of the south boundary) in the south. This soil drains extremely poorly and tends to collect water because of its flat contours. Blount loam with 2-6 percent slopes is found in the entire eastern third of the woods and varies in width from around 100 feet in the south to nearly 400 feet near the place where the ditch crosses it. It also holds water and experiences slow runoff. Nappanee silty clay loam with 2-6 percent is encountered next and is the soil of the western two-thirds of the field. It lies in a band of uniform width except for a 50-foot-wide toe of Blount loam extending eastward several hundred feet along the park's south boundary. Because of its small particles, this soil holds little water, but it gives up that small amount of moisture very slowly for the same reason. St. Clair clay loam with 2-6 percent slopes completes the series and brings the traveler to the Ann Arbor Railroad. Water runs off it only slightly better than off Napanee silty clay loam, and it also shows very slow permeability. The sole exception to the banded pattern of soils in this park is a blunt wedge of St. Clair clay loam with 2-6 percent slopes that lies between the Hoytville silty clay loam and the Blount loam bands in the northern part of the woods.

## Recreational Resource Inventory

York Township residents have access to multiple regional, county and local recreational facilities. Below is a description of many of regional and county recreational resources and resources within the cities of Saline and Milan, and the Townships of Saline, Lodi, Ypsilanti, and Augusta.

### Regional and County Resources

Washtenaw County has many large tracts of land, with multiple recreational uses that are available to residents. The Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA) provides six parks that are also accessible.

Park Name	Size-Acres	Facilities
Waterloo Rec. Area.....	20,000.....	Camping, picnic area, playground, boat launch, fishing, swimming, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, horseback riding, nature center, hunting, and rustic cabins.
Pinkney Rec. Area.....	11,000.....	Camping, picnic area, playground, boat launch, fishing, swimming, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, horseback riding, and hunting.
Chelsea St. Wildlife Area....	396 .....	Fishing, hiking, and hunting.
Sharonville St. Wildlife Area...	.29 .....	Fishing, hiking, hunting, and targeting.

**Total State Parks Acreage- 31,425**

### Selected Huron-Clinton Metro Parks

Park Name	Size-Acres	Facilities
Delhi .....	45 .....	Picnic areas and shelters, playgrounds, boat/canoe rental, fishing, hiking trails, and cross-country skiing.
Dexter-Huron.....	115.....	Picnic areas and shelters, playgrounds, canoeing, fishing, hiking trails, cross-country ski rental, and snack bar.
Hudson Mills .....	200 .....	Picnic areas and shelters, playgrounds, tot lot, bathhouse, food service, canoeing, group rental facility, fishing, golf, outdoor dance, court games, canoe camp, bike/hike trails, nature trails, interpretive program, and x-country skiing.
Kensington .....	4,300.....	Picnic areas and shelters, playgrounds, swimming beach, bathhouse, food service, boat launch, boat/canoe rental, boat docks, excursion boat, farm center, fishing, golf, canoe camp, bike/hike trails, fitness trails, nature trails, nature center, interpretive program, cross-country ski rentals, food service, ice skating, and sledding.



Lower Huron.....	1,000.....	Picnic areas and shelters, playgrounds, tot lot, swimming pool, bathhouse, food service, canoeing, fishing, golf (Par 3), court games, canoe camp, bike/hike trails, nature trails, x-country skiing, and ice skating.
Willow.....	1,500 .....	Picnic areas and shelters, playgrounds, tot lot, swimming pool, bathhouse, food service, boat canoe rental, fishing, golf course and driving range, court games, bike/hike trails, cross-country ski rentals, food service, ice skating, sledding, and outdoor dance.

**Total HCMP Acreage- 7,160**

### **Selected Washtenaw County Parks**

<b>Park Names</b>	<b>Size-Acres</b>	<b>Facilities</b>
Osborne Mill Preserv.....	39.....	Fishing and nature preserve.
County Farm Rec Center.....	127 .....	Picnic area and shelters, exercise and nature trails, cross-country skiing, community gardens, park commission offices and public recreation building with 1 swimming pool, 2 basketball courts, aerobics room, walking/running track, weight room, and parking.
Rolling Hills.....	151 .....	Picnic areas and playground, swimming, water slides, wave pool, nature trail, cross-country skiing, tobogganing, park office, and volleyball.
Parker Mill.....	27 .....	Historic Parker Mills (19th Century grist and cider mill), log cabin, observation deck, wood boardwalk, and nature trail.
Draper-Houston Meadows Preserve .....	80 .....	Natural area with various ecosystems, small parking lot, interpretative signage, walking trails

**Total Washtenaw Parks Acreage- 3,520**

### **City of Saline Parks and Facilities**

<b>Park</b>	<b>Size-Acres</b>	<b>Facilities</b>
Saline Recreation Complex.....	58 .....	Indoor Recreational facility, softball, soccer, and Teft Park tennis, picnic area, swimming, basketball, aerobics and fitness center.
Mill Pond.....	54 .....	Boat/canoe launch, fishing, water resources, shelter, picnic areas, soccer fields, sledding, x-country skiing trails, open and wooded areas, and ROMP play structure.

Curtiss .....	50 .....	Tennis courts, baseball fields, river-related activities, (fishing, wading, viewing), playground equipment, picnic areas, pavilion, natural interpretive areas, and cross-country skiing.
Wilderness .....	22 .....	Trail system, natural interpretive areas and cross-country skiing.
Saline Recreation Center .....		Indoor recreation center gymnasium, basket, softball.
Brecon .....	6 .....	Basketball court, baseball field, tennis courts, play equipment, shuffleboard and paved trail.

### **Total City of Saline Parks Acreage- 132**

### **City of Milan Parks**

<b>Parks</b>	<b>Size-Acres</b>	<b>Facilities</b>
Vern D. Campbell Park .....	139 .....	Facilities include: radio-controlled model airplane flying field, horse show arena, jogging trail.
Wilson .....	35 .....	Features a picnic area (shelter, tables & grills), playground & tot-lot area, basketball courts, sand volleyball court, walk/bike path and softball.
Nature .....	11 .....	Facilities include: softball diamond, picnic area with tables & grills, playground area & horseshoe pits.
Softball Park .....	9 .....	A 9 acre park with ball diamonds & walk/bike path.
Symons School Playfield .....	4 .....	Facilities include: tennis courts, softball diamond & baseball fields.

### **Total City of Milan Parks Acreage- 198**

### **Pittsfield Township Parks**

<b>Parks</b>	<b>Size-Acres</b>	<b>Facilities</b>
Montibeller .....	52 .....	1 baseball field, 1 softball field, 4 tennis courts, accessible path to 1 ball field and 2 tennis courts 2 bleachers, 1 pavilion, restrooms with storage building, accessible path to restrooms from parking, accessible play structure, swings, slides, large sandbox, playground center, whirl, jungle bars, 20 picnic tables, 4 outdoor grills, sledding area, 17-acre wood with 1-1 /4 mile nature trail, stream, scenic area, general open space, and 2 parking lots (180 cars). In Spring, 2000, an accessible trail will be installed from the parking to the play structure, and pavilion.

Twp. Community Center .....	71 .....	Pavilion and restroom served by an accessible path from the parking lot, 1 softball field, 3 T-ball fields, 3 bleachers, playground center, 4 swings, jungle bars, large sandbox, 18 picnic tables, 2 outdoor grills, and general open area. An ADA accessible path will be added from the pavilion to the play structure.
Lillie.....	102	2.5 miles of nature trails, fishing dock, picnicking, observation area, pavilion, parking lot, portable restrooms, benches, wildlife observation, 2 lakes, a bog, woodland areas, and exploration.
Firehall .....	10	Playground and picnic area.
P.G. Palmer .....	39	16 acres of woodland, swamp, currently undeveloped.
		Central Area Rural Preserve 535 A portion is now developed with trails & play area.

### **Total Pittsfield Township Parks Acreage- 809**

#### **Ypsilanti Township Parks- Parks Size-Acres Facilities**

Big Island.....	0.3	Small passive open space area, accessible only by boat; part of the Ford Lake Park System.
Ford Heritage .....	106 .....	Large site with a mixture of open space & woodlands. a non-motorized pathway, soccer fields and parking.
Ford Lake.....	98	Active Park on Ford Lake; includes a boat launch; offers ample picnic area; includes playground equip., and hosts a variety of athletic fields such as tennis courts, soccer fields, ball diamonds, basketball court, trails and sand volleyball; includes office for park staff.
Hewens Creek.....	190.64	Passive open space area that is currently used mostly for fishing; recent land acquisition by the township; offers a variety of natural features including woodlands, water and open fields.
Huron River .....	26 .....	Undeveloped land located across from the Civic Center complex; has Ford Lake frontage & woodlands, steep slopes limit development potential.
Lakeside .....	20.9 .....	Offers active play areas, picnic areas, shelter and on Ford Lake, portion of park is undeveloped.
Loonfeather Point.....	11.2	Includes two uniquely designed picnic pavilions, parking, restrooms, barbecues and sports field on the high ground; steep slope down to Ford Lake that includes playground, open space and spacious pier.
North Bay .....	139	Nestled into the north side of Ford Lake; offers extensive trail & boardwalk system, picnic areas, playground, and open space; access to Ford Lake is provided for sightseeing and fishing.
North Hydro .....	10	Undeveloped Park in an extremely natural setting with preserved riverbank and woodlands; set back from Bridge Road; prime fishing location; adjacent to Ford Lake hydro dam.

South Hydro .....	2.8 .....	Undeveloped Park with secluded and natural setting; prime fishing.
Community Center .....	25.....	Offers a playground, tennis courts, ball fields, parking, restrooms, and picnic areas; undeveloped woodland area; hosts many sporting events for community.
Wendell Holmes.....	4.6.....	Smaller facility than Community Center Park; offers a baseball field and soccer field.
Harris Road .....	4.....	Secluded Park with two ball fields, picnic areas and restrooms; limited parking; hosts sporting events.
Appleridge .....	42.1 .....	Active Park currently undergoing improvements of parking, picnic areas and play equipment.
Bud & Blossom .....	2.9.....	Extension of Appleridge Park, wooded area buffers the two parks, playground, ball field & picnic areas.
Clubview.....	10 .....	Large open space area with future development potential; has a playground, fitness trail, basketball tennis, volleyball and picnic areas; secluded setting with 3 access points.
Fairway Hills .....	6.6.....	Provides a trail adjacent to a multiple family neighborhood; undeveloped.
Lakeview .....	3.6.....	Includes playground, picnic areas, pathway, ball field and an open play fields.
Nancy .....	6.1 .....	Features play equipment, picnic area and open space; pathway connections to link abutting neighborhoods and school.
Sugarbrook.....	5.....	Features playground and picnic areas.

**Total Ypsilanti Township Parks Acreage 734.09**

**Total Acreage included in this survey (including York Twp. Parks) = 39,956.09 Acres**



## School Properties/Facilities near to York Township

There are three public school districts within York Township, Lincoln, Milan, and Saline (**Map1-6**). Students enrolled in Lincoln schools are offered athletic programs by the Lincoln Association for Youth Athletics (LAYA). The program offers basketball, soccer, football, baseball, softball, t-ball, cheerleading, volleyball and tennis. Milan schools offer girls' and boys' basketball, volleyball, track, and swimming; also, boy's football and wrestling. Both Milan and Lincoln are planning increased use of their recreational assets to accommodate increasing demand. The Saline district has a highly organized recreation system that is well used and coordinated with the City of Saline Parks and Recreation Department. Saline has few facilities available for use by non-profit groups. All three districts report that their facilities are fully subscribed.

### Lincoln Schools Facilities-

All facilities are located in a single complex: Elementary School, Middle School, and High School. Includes a swimming pool, 2 gymnasiums, weight room, football field, baseball field, soccer field, shared play areas, and auditorium.

### Milan School District Facilities-

Symons Elem. School.....	Play areas, fields.
Milan Middle School.....	Pool, auditorium, intramural athletic field.
Paddock Elementary .....	Tennis courts, softball field, baseball field & play areas.
Milan High School .....	Pool, auditorium, football field, baseball field, soccer field, tennis courts.

### Saline School District Facilities-

Harvest Elementary School.....	Gymnasium, T-Ball field and playground
Heritage Upper Elementary School.....	Baseball field, gymnasium and playground
Pleasant Ridge Elementary School.....	Gymnasium and playground
Woodland Meadows Elementary School...	Gymnasium and playground
Liberty School and Administration.....	Gymnasium
Saline Middle School.....	Gymnasium, football field, 4 baseball fields and 1 soccer field
Saline High School.....	two turf football fields, 6 baseball fields, multiple soccer fields, ropes climbing wall, 50 meter pool, indoor track, fitness center, two multipurpose fields

## **Chapter 4:**

# **Natural Resource Inventory**

## **Introduction**

Outdoor recreation, in general, relies heavily upon the natural features of an area. The characteristics of these features significantly affect the prevalent forms of recreation most likely to occur in any one area. Regions with extended winters will typically develop more winter-oriented recreational facilities than regions with warmer climates. To the extent that the Township's park system tends to be resource based, the Township of York offers a balanced climate with diverse natural resources giving the Parks and Recreation Committee a substantial recreation reserve with which to work.

## **Overview**

York Township is home to a variety of ecosystems and interesting landscape features. The southern portion of the Township is considered part of the Maumee Lake Plain that stretches northeast through Detroit and along Lake Erie. Formed by the Wisconsin glacier, this extensive lakebed region has the longest growing season in Michigan, ranging from approximately 150 to 180 days depending on how close the site is to Lake Erie.

Extreme minimum temperatures in this area reach -26°F. Total annual precipitation averages between 28 and 36 inches, and total snowfall averages 30 to 50 inches. The area consists mostly of clay soils. The northern reaches of the Township are marked with moraine topography left by the Wisconsin glacier event some 10,000 years ago. This portion of the Township has not been extensively farmed in the past due to the lack of high-quality agricultural soils. As a result, in the north there is a diverse set of ground cover and land uses. Although most if not all of the macro-climatic conditions are identical to the south, the micro-climatic conditions vary extensively in the north.

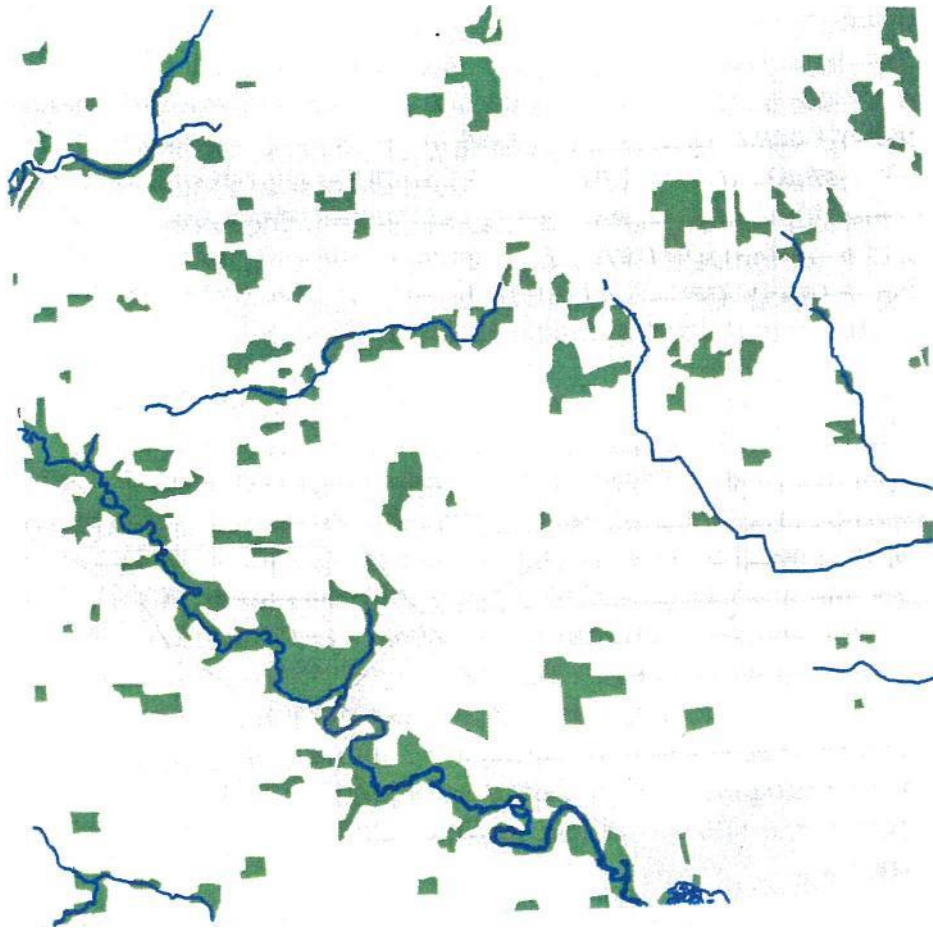
## **Pre-settlement Land Cover**

The pre-settlement land cover in the southern portion of the Township surrounding what is now the City of Milan, was primarily mixed hardwood swamp forest. A band of Beech-Sugar Maple Forest stretched across the middle portion of the Township along the northern boundaries of the Maumee Lake plain. The northern portion of the Township supported dryer plant communities due to the moraine topography and geology. The northeastern portion of the Township consisted of mainly mixed Oak Forest. The area surrounding what is now the City of Saline was Oak barrens and a small pocket of wet prairie.

## Forest

Much of the remaining forestland in York Township is reflective of pre-settlement conditions with dry condition trees in the northern portions of the Township and mesic forests in the south. There are, however, exceptions to the general pattern due to soil hydrology modifications as a result of farming practices and housing developments. Aside from the relatively contiguous forest canopy along the Saline River, there is extensive fragmentation of woodlands in the Township. Current forest cover in the township comprises less than 10% of the total Township area.

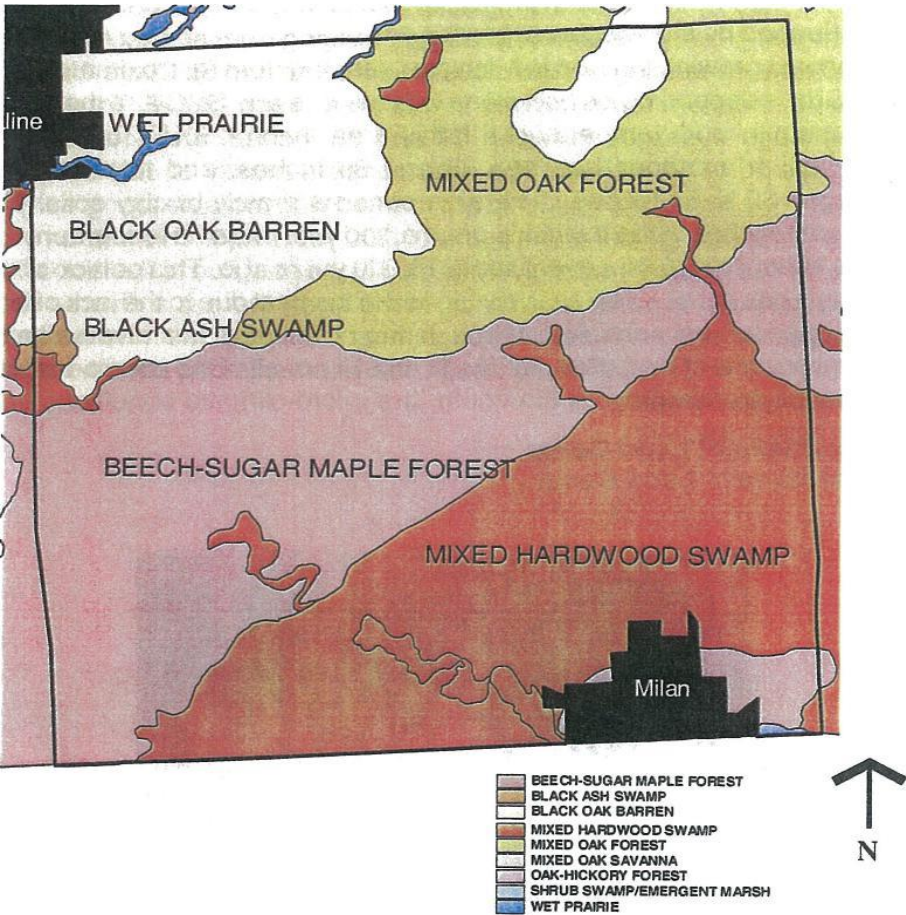
**Map 2-2: Forest Cover**



### **Existing Forest Cover**

Created at the University of Michigan Data supplied by Washtenaw County

Map 2-1: Pre-settlement Land Cover



## **Groundwater and Aquatic Resources:**

### **Groundwater Recharge Areas**

Areas of groundwater recharge are typically those areas that exhibit high soil permeability and groundwater elevations that are not at (or very near) the surface. It is critical that areas of high recharge probability be protected from development that includes the creation of large impervious areas. Urbanization and its associated decrease in infiltration can greatly diminish groundwater recharge and thus base flows in nearby streams. It is critical that existing and proposed land uses be contrasted with recharge areas to ensure the protection of the associated riparian ecosystems. Currently in York Township there are 11 designated groundwater recharge areas which are relatively evenly distributed throughout the Township (**Map 2-3**).

### **Flood Plains**

Floodplains form along the banks of mid-order streams and larger rivers. These are low-lying areas along the sides of a river channel that have regular times of heavy water flow to cause the river to spill over and flood the land. This usually occurs in early spring when the snow is melting or during times when there is an unusually large amount of rainfall concentrated in a matter of a few hours or days. The Saline River running northwest to southeast has a designated 100-year floodplain which varies in its extent depending on topography surrounding the river (**Map 2-3**).

### **Wetlands**

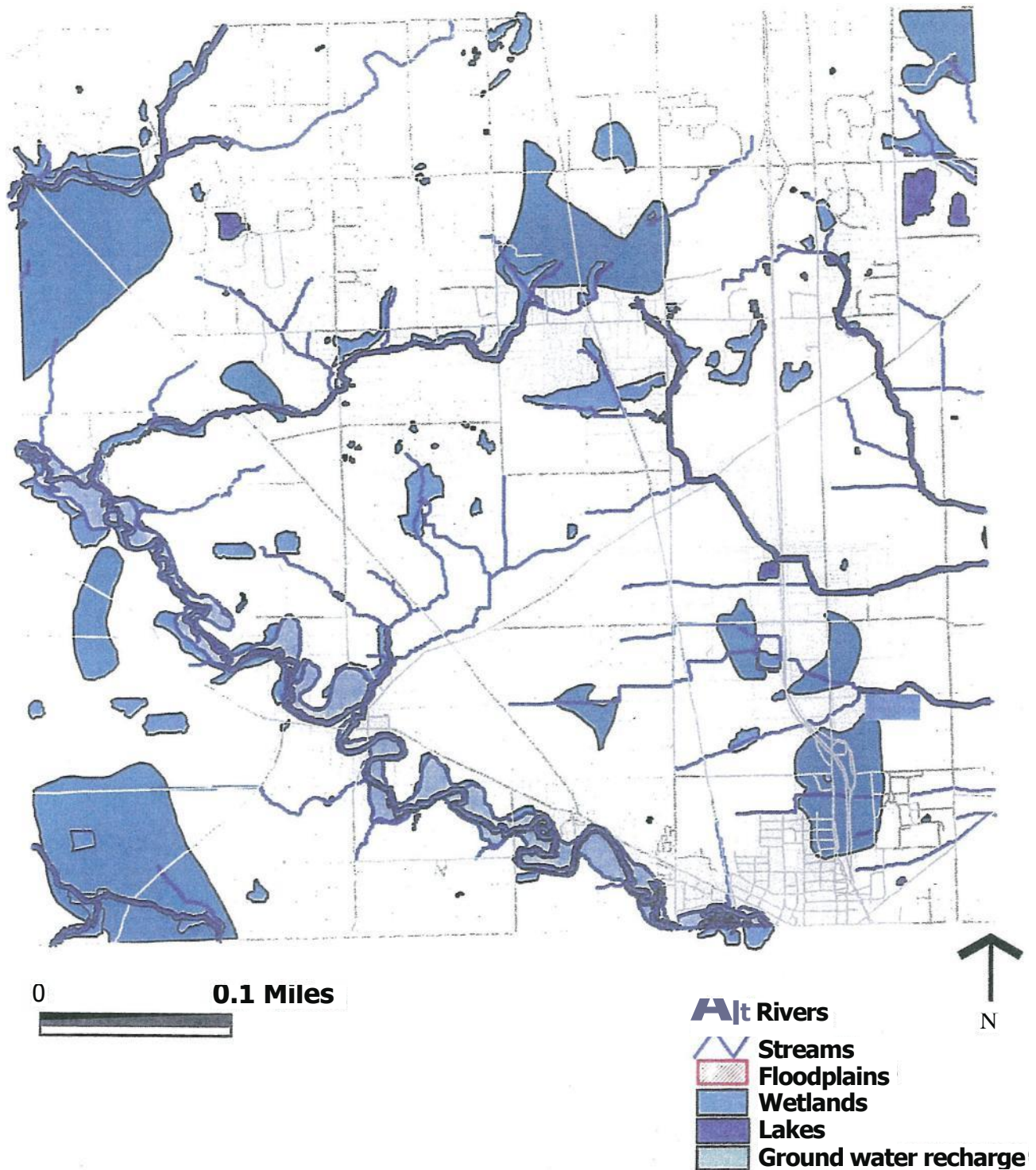
Wetlands are lands where saturation with water is the dominant factor determining the nature of soil development and the types of plant and animal communities living in the soil and on its surface. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs and similar areas. These areas provide several key environmental functions for the community including flood control, water banks, water filtration, nurseries for many types of fish and animals, habitat resources including food and shelter, and recreational opportunities. Many migrating birds' stopover in wetlands each spring and fall to rest and feed before continuing their trip, and some will spend the winter in the wetlands. Wetlands provide us with places to watch birds and animals, and to fish, boat, and hunt.

York Township's pre-settlement landscape analysis (**Map 2-1**) shows that the southern half of the Township was mixed oak swamp prior to 1830's. The settlers quickly converted these areas into farmland and much of the onetime swampland continues to yield some of the best crops in Michigan. Currently, most wetlands in the township are limited to small pockets surrounding watercourses and smaller man-made detention/retention areas. There are, however, several large wetland areas indicated on the aquatic systems map (**Map 2-3**).



# York Township Aquatic Systems

Map 2-3: Aquatic Systems



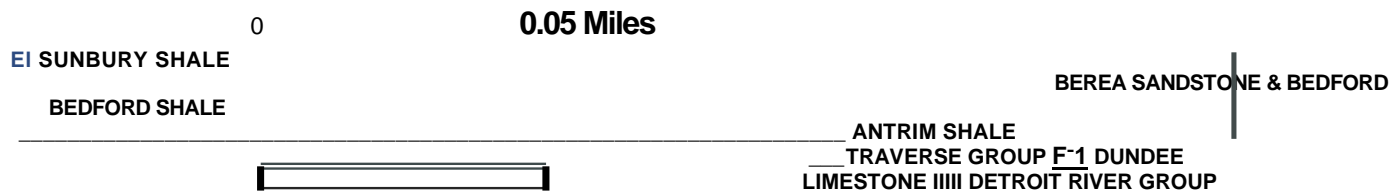
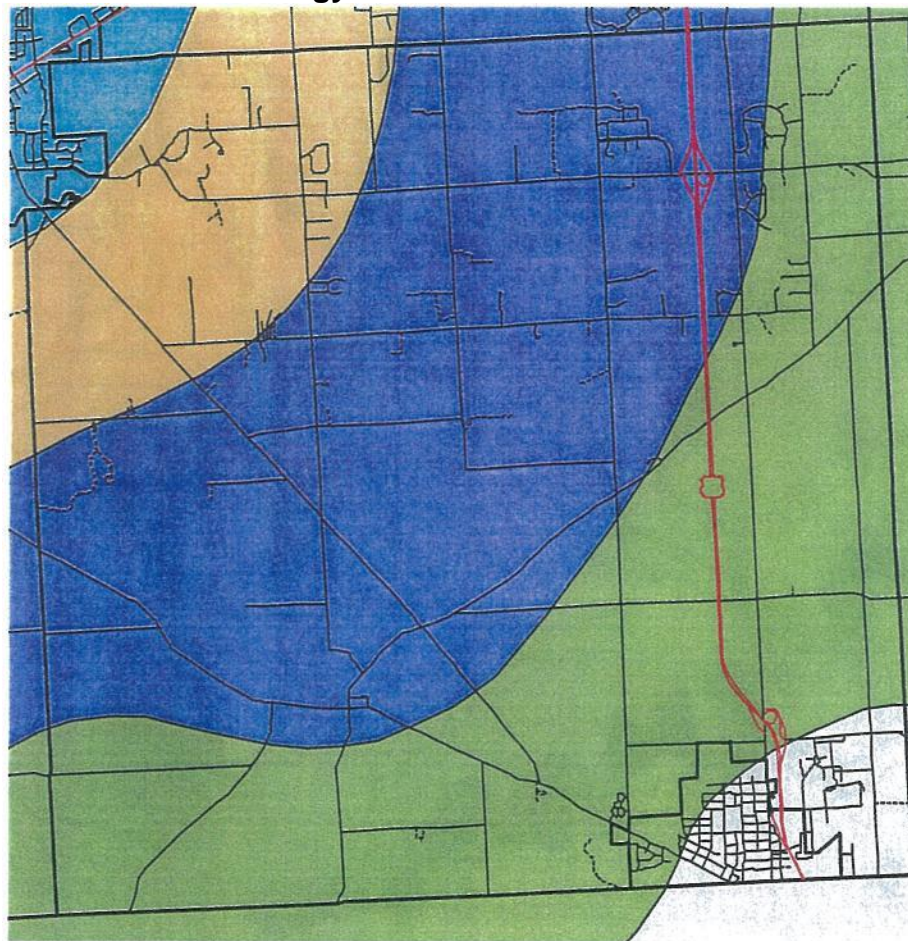
## York Township Aquatic Systems

Created at the University of Michigan  
Data supplied by Washtenaw County

# York Township Bedrock Geology

Most bedrock in Michigan is deeply buried beneath glacial material. Southeast Michigan is located on the southwestern flank of the geological feature called the Michigan Basin. A bedrock feature centered on Gratiot County; this structural depression resembles a gigantic set of nested bowls. Everywhere in southeast Michigan bedrock units slope gently to the center of the Basin. Stoney Creek Road, in the township, was the shoreline of Lake Whittlesey 10-12,000 years ago.

**Map 2-4: Bedrock Geology**



## York Township Bedrock Geology

Created at the U of Michigan



## **The Draper Houston-Meadows Preserve:**

Just west of the city of Milan, the preserve protects over one-half mile of Saline River shoreline. At the preserve, you will encounter high-quality floodplain forest habitat with oak, walnut, butternut, and sycamore trees. Of particular interest is a significant stand of pawpaw, a small, understory tree with a banana-like fruit, which is uncommon in Washtenaw County.

In the southern portion of the property, visitors will find a lovely mature woodlot and two creeks meandering through hedgerows on their way to the Saline River. The woods and hedgerows offer an attractive spring wildflower display.

- Acres: 113
- Established: 2008
- Trail Length: 2.25 miles

Draper-Houston Meadows Preserve is operated by the [Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission](#) and was purchased through the [Natural Areas Preservation Program](#).

### **Summary**

York Township's agricultural heritage has left many of its natural areas heavily impacted and degraded. The remaining forests, wetlands, prairies, and groundwater recharge areas are for the most part fragmented and in need of protection from further degradation. The most significant natural resource in the township is the Saline River corridor. The corridor is the largest contiguous habitat for many plant and animal species and the river itself is vital to the environmental health of the Township. In 2006, representatives of the City of Saline, Saline Township, York Township, the City of Milan and the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Department formed the Saline River Greenway Alliance (SRGA). This group along with another group, Friends of the Saline River, are concerned with promoting best practices for conservation and wise use of this environmentally sensitive corridor.

# **Chapter 5:**

## **Description of the Planning Process**

## **The Planning Process**

In 2002, the Township of York Parks and Recreation Committee initiated the first 5-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan in order to ensure that it would provide optimum service to the Township's residents and visitors. The Committee worked with a student from the Graduate Landscape Architecture Program at the University of Michigan as their intern for the preparation of the original Master Plan. The 2003-2008 Master Plan was developed using a planning team approach. The planning team included the Park and Recreation Committee and the intern. The planning process divided tasks into three main categories to help organize information into a proper sequence for problem solving. The categories include inventory, analysis, plan development & implementation.

In the inventory stage of the planning process, data relevant to recreation planning was collected and compiled. This information included but was not limited to natural and environmental features, demographic and economic data, cultural and man-made influences, existing park and recreation opportunities, and local attitudes concerning recreation. The latter was determined through questionnaires and public meetings that were designed by the University of Michigan intern. Once compiled, information was analyzed to determine influences on the public's demand for public recreation. The analysis, in conjunction with a review of the existing recreation supply within the Township, indicated York Township's future recreational needs. The final step in the planning process was the development of the plan and steps for its implementation. Goals for recreation development were set and recommendations on how to achieve these goals were made based on identified recreational needs and deficiencies. Needs and deficiencies were initially identified by comparison of current recreation facilities with state and national standards.

In preparing for the 2009-2013 and the 2014-2018 revisions and updates to the Master Plans, the same process was repeated without the support of the University of Michigan intern.

### **Method Used to Solicit Public Input**

In 2016, planning started for the 2019-2023 Master Plan. The Parks and Recreation Committee reviewed the accomplishments over the last 5 years. Public input was sought at two separate public meetings on March 24, 2021 & April 28, 2021, using a group technique to solicit ideas from the attendees. Input was also collected through a Township wide electronic survey that included questions specific to the recreational needs of the Township constituents. Based on a review of previous accomplishments and feedback from the public, the Parks and Recreation Committee determined the goals for the next 5 years.

## **Summary**

At the time of the creation of the first Master Plan, most York Township residents seemed to be unaware that the Township offered two parks for their use. In addition, many of the residents that were aware of the facilities felt that they did not fulfill their recreation needs and that they were lacking in any real recreational opportunity. The input from township residents reflected a general desire to preserve land, create opportunities to hike, ski, ride bikes, walk, gather with family and friends, view nature, and exercise.

Over the years, the Parks Committee has frequently received positive feedback and encouragement from residents that have used the parks. Many residents who have walked the trails in either Sandra Richardson Park or Mary McCann Park have expressed gratitude for the opportunity to experience nature and have encouraged more path development. In addition, those who have become involved in the planning process are in general very enthusiastic about the future of park development in the Township and are eager to help the committee in this endeavor. More public involvement is still needed to foster this growing support and awareness among the Township residents and the Parks Committee.

When new surveying and public meetings were held in preparation for the 2019-2023 Master Plan, substantially similar results were found. Most respondents again expressed a preference for passive recreational opportunities and supported the continuance of many of the goals of the original plan. (See Chapter 6 and the Appendix)

## **Chapter 6:**

# **Description of the Public Input Process**

## York Township Public Participation

On March 24, 2021 and on April 28, 2021, two public planning meetings were held at the York Township Hall to discuss what York Township residents would like to see in their township parks. Previous surveys had been done to determine resident's views on park initiatives.

Three public meetings were offered to residents with notices and Master Plan review in or at:

York Township Hall

Milan and Saline Libraries

Banners on all entry ways into both parks

Public meeting notices in local paper ( Appendix's A – 1 thru A-3 and D-1 thru D-3 )

- York Township website

The meeting agenda included the following:

- Welcome and introductions
- Covid 19 and our parks
- Overview of York Township Park's and what's new
- Future Development in our Parks
- Keeping York Township Parks Maintained
- Next Steps- Ideas/ Brainstorming from the audience

A total of 11 people join our public discussion with one young person and older gentlemen and Ladies.

The meetings primarily focused on the need of a bicycle pathway connecting our neighborhoods to our parks and local communities. The Disc Golf area is a positive addition to the park they expressed. A great idea was to install small grassy mounds and benches for reading in certain visual spots within the parks. Park patrons enjoy the diversity in our parks and would like to see more trailways. Overall, the residents' comments were very positive, acknowledging how well the parks look.

Volunteering in the parks was discussed and how to make contact for submitting contact information.

### Public Priorities and Comments from Previous Public Meetings

The following list of ideas were generated from the open discussion on what York Township meeting participants from previous public meetings would like to see within the parks. The ideas are grouped by themes and were incorporated into the online survey that went out to all York Township residents.

#### Activities:

- Connect Sandra Richardson and Mary McCann parks via a walking/bicycling pathway
- Increase soccer fields, playgrounds
- Establish a dog park

#### Educational Activities:

- Offer programs on:
  - Different uses of plants, those that are edible and non-edible
  - Plant species names, where they grow best, etc.

- Edible plants nutritional value
- Native plants and how to blend species of plants instead of lawns
- Different needs of plants & trees
- Mushrooms and their uses
- Establish a citizen science program
- Establish a science data base by children
- Have specialty groups meet and discuss information at the Park (example mushroom hunters)
- Plant mushroom bed or similar for people to observe and learn

#### Volunteer Development:

- Establish a subgroup focusing on getting volunteers and keeping them involved
- Throw a party, have a barbeque
- Get FFA, 4-H, Boy Scout groups involved

#### Communication/Marketing of Parks:

- Form a group to work on public communication
- Start a Facebook web site on the parks
- Provide a newsletter on the parks
- Offer tree donation, involve person in placement of tree
- Advertise the parks more actively
- Go door to door focusing on one street at a time, communicating about the parks
- Form groups to explore the park
- Promote a scenic park picture contest involving the youth guessing a location
- Promote a best picture of the park or nature contest
- Have young adult's take pictures and write articles for placement in the local newspaper
- Work with the Environmental Committee on shared values and projects.

Issues about the parks, such as water availability and security at McCann Park were also discussed.

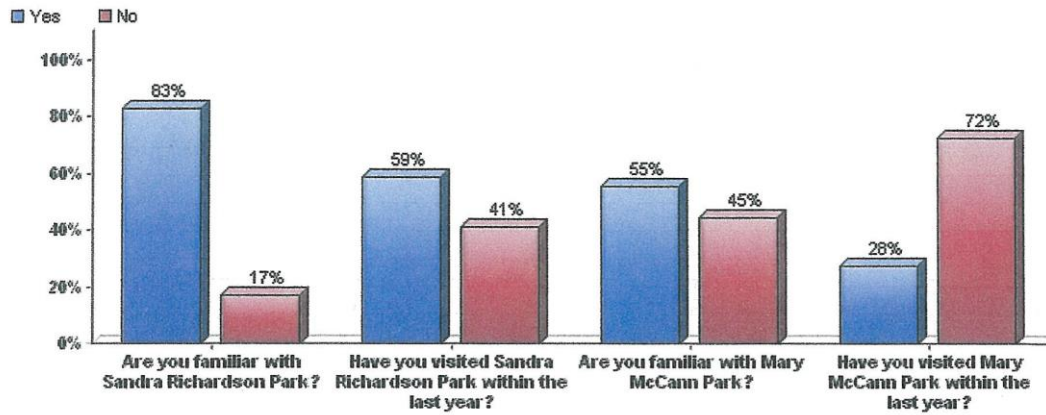
Information was also obtained from an online survey.

### **York Township Parks Online Survey**

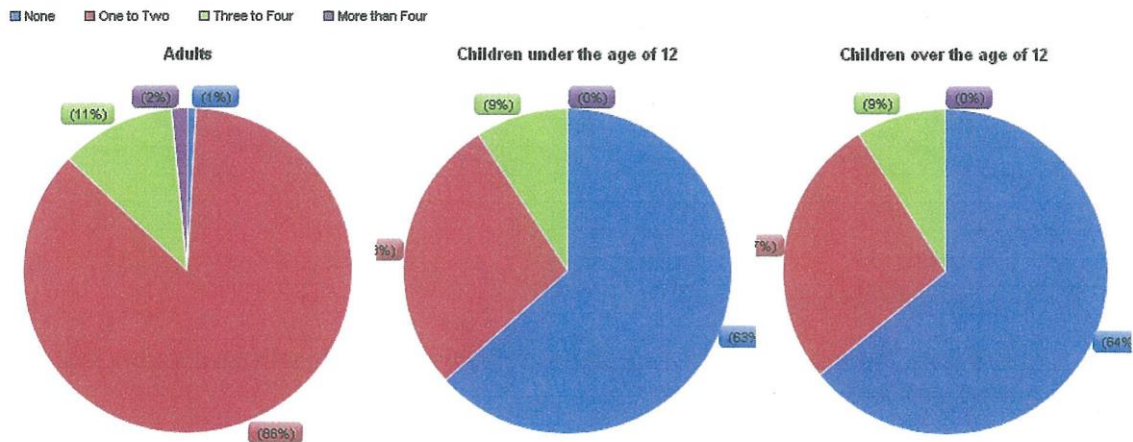
In 2017, an online survey was sent to York Township Residents. The primary communication about the survey was through the Summer Tax Bill (Appendix D). Other means of communicating the survey was on the York Township Website. If residents could not access the survey, they could receive a paper copy by contacting York Township or picking up a copy in the York Township Hall. 68 residents completed the survey.



The majority of respondents were familiar with Sandra Richardson Park (89%), however fewer had visited the park within the last year. Only 55% were familiar with Mary McCann Park and about half had visited the park during the last year.



The respondents included families with the majority having 2 adults. Most had one to two children either above or below 12.

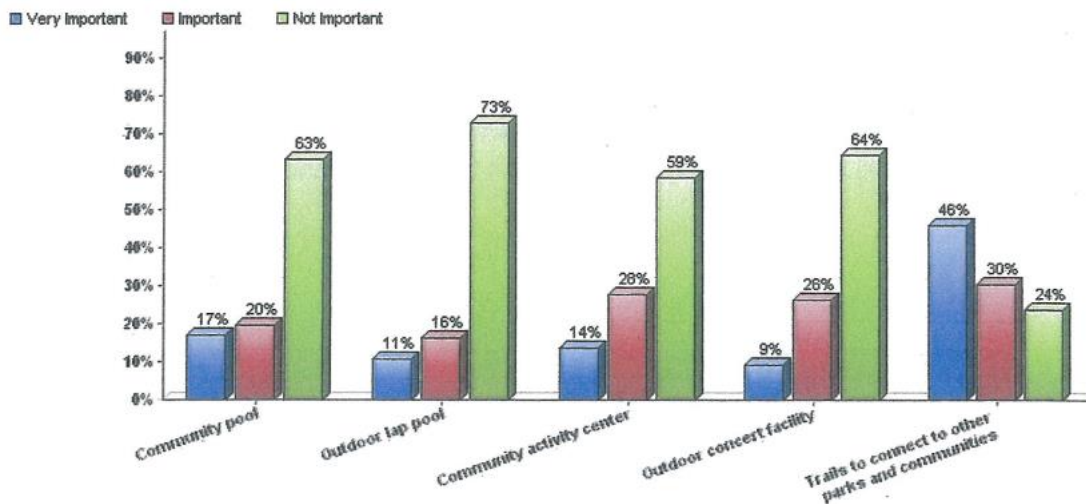


## Park Amenity Priorities

Respondents ranked a variety of amenities on the importance of the activity to themselves. The scale was Very Important, Important, Not Important.

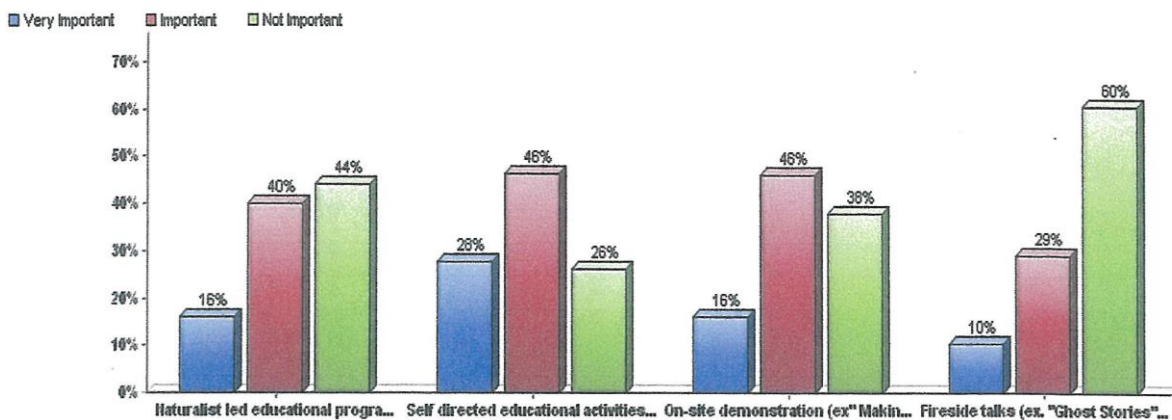
### A. Natural Areas

In this area the top three areas of importance were nature trails for walking, forest areas with trails and wildlife preservation areas.



### B. Educational Activities

In this area, the top area of interest was self-directed educational activities (ex. Self-guided wildflower or tree guide).

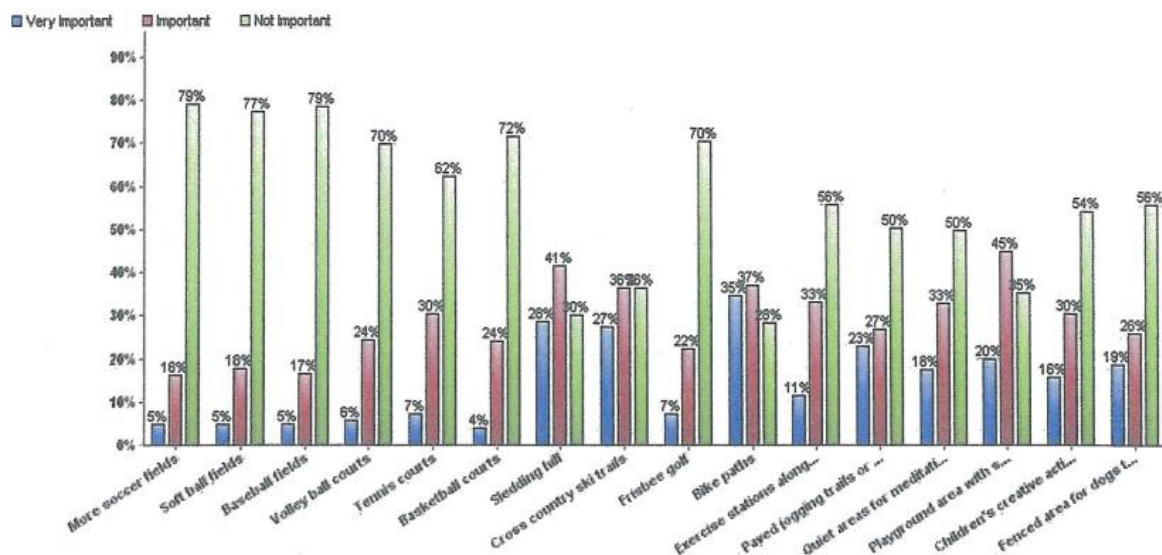


### Clarification of the groupings:

1. Naturalist led educational programs/walks (ex. The Spring Bird Migration", "You Mean You Can Eat That?")
2. Self-directed educational activities (ex. Self-guided wildflower or tree guide)
3. On-site demonstration (ex" Making Maple Sugar", "Bees, Flowers and Honey")
4. Fireside talks (ex. "Ghost Stories", "What is Nature, and What Good is IV")

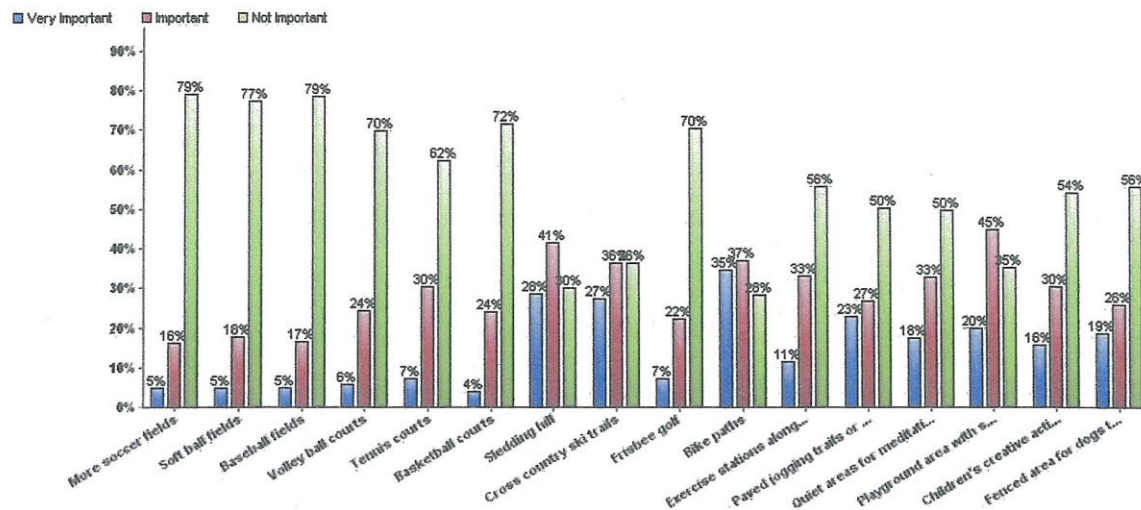
### C. Park Activities

The sport activities overall were rated much lower than any other category, especially compared to the natural area options. In this category, sledding hill, bike paths and cross-country ski trails were ranked higher than the others, although



## Major Facilities Priorities

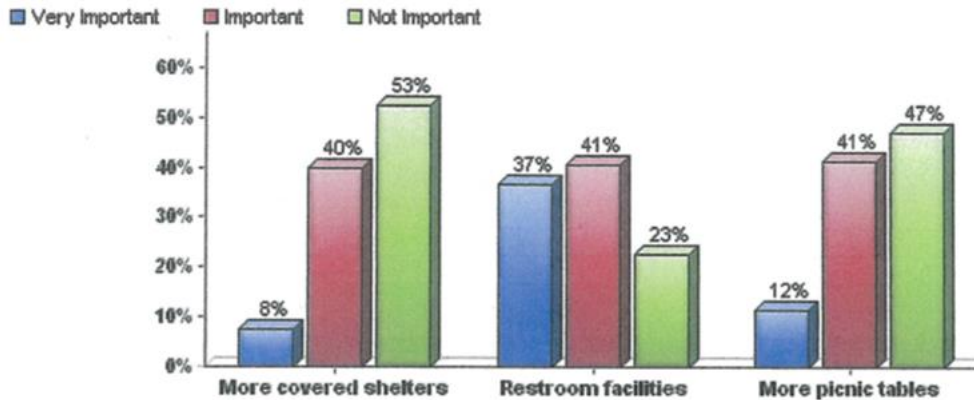
Although we understood that major initiatives might not be available soon, we asked the responders about the following activities. Overall there was very little interest in these activities except for trails to connect to other parks and communities.



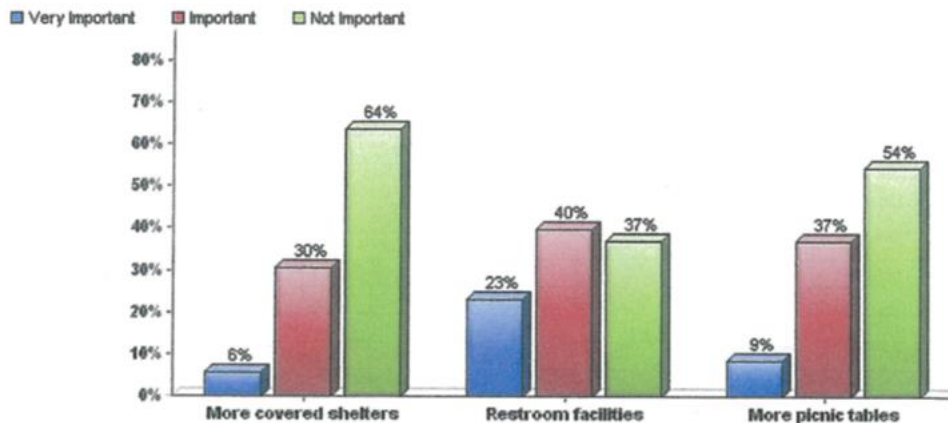
## Park Specific Amenities

More restrooms were requested in Sandra Richardson Park. This is of interest considering that Sandra Richardson Park has two restrooms. There was less interest in covered shelters and picnic tables. Although more restrooms were requested in Mary McCann Park, compared to the other amenities, overall there was less interest in any of these options in Mary McCann Park as compared to Sandra Richardson.

### Sandra Richardson Park Facilities



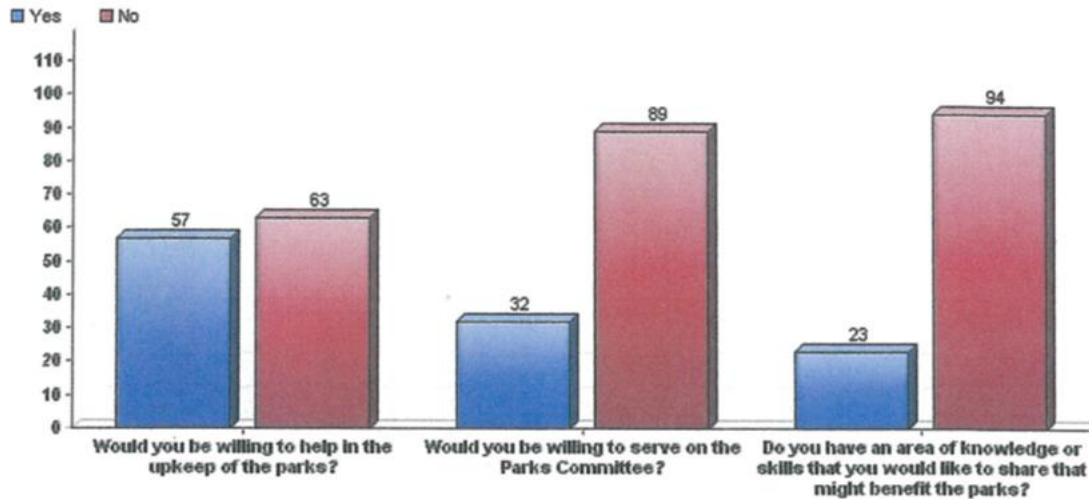
### Mary McCann Park



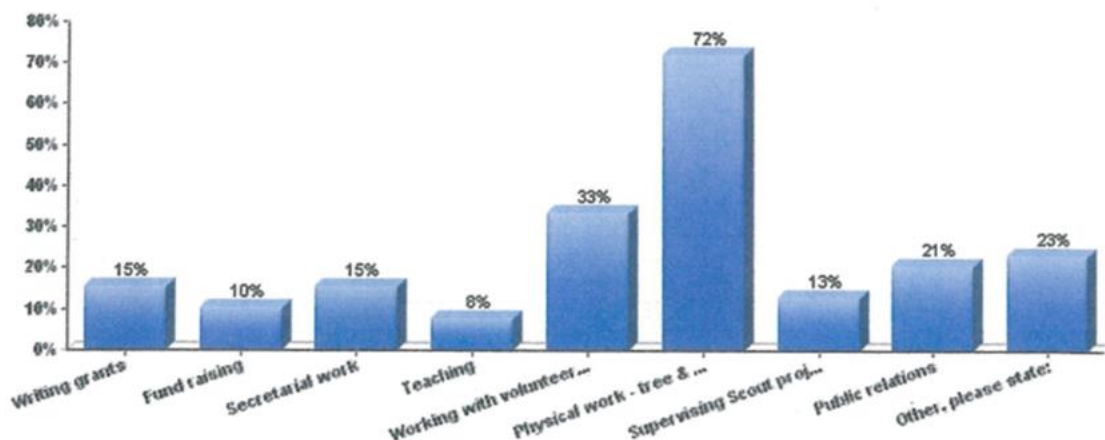
## Volunteers

We asked the responders if they were interested in volunteering. The graph below shows the number of respondents. About 47% of the respondents stated they would be willing to help work in the parks. Forty-four (44) people stated they would be willing to work in the parks gave us their names and contact information. Significantly fewer people wanted to participate on the committee or share their expertise.





The graph below shows the areas of interest of the people who volunteered.



The information obtained in the survey related to volunteers was the beginning of developing a Friends of York Township Parks program.

### Other Comments from Respondents

"Our family does strongly believe in the quality of parks in our area. We support positive changes to the York Township parks system. Having such things as promoted biking and walking trails, a community pool (I know this is a reach, but it was in the survey), athletic fields, and a playground would do so much for York Township. Thanks for your time. It's important for York Township to make an attempt to keep it's residents within York Township for recreational activities"



**"The prairie area in Sandra Richardson is TERRIFIC! Keep up the good work!"**

**"The parks are a lovely place to visit... we appreciate having them in our community. "**

### **Summary**

**Overall, we were very pleased with the York Township's Parks and Recreation first online survey. Data about resident's lack of knowledge about the Parks was clearly stated at both the meeting and through the survey. As articulated by the respondents at the meeting, more focus needs to be placed on marketing and communication about the many current activities and resources within the Parks. The list of volunteers generated by the survey has been a starting point to increase support and involvement of people outside of the committee on a variety of projects. As more people become involved in supporting the Parks, this will help with marketing the benefits of the Township's Parks.**

**Overall comments about the parks were very, very positive. The interest is strong in keeping the natural based activities as a high priority such as forest areas with trails, nature trails for walking and wildlife preservation. There is much less support for active sport activities. These are in alignment with the goals and directions of the York Township Parks and Recreation Committee.**

# **Chapter 7:**

## **Goals and Objectives**

## **Historical Introduction-**

The two main goals for parks and recreation improvement over the next five years are improvements to the existing two park properties and park acquisition. This chapter will present what may be developed in the two existing township park properties and will identify which areas the township is interested in acquiring. A phased schedule and budget for park development is presented, and possible funding sources are identified. Lastly, recommendations for planning purposes are given. This chapter will first present the Master Plans and park improvements for the two existing parks and outline possible funding sources for park development. Secondly, suitable land for acquisition is identified, basic criteria for the selection of property is outlined, and funding sources are identified.

## **Five Year Vision-**

Overall development plans for both parks continue to emphasize passive activities over active ones. The five-year mission is the preservation and enjoyment of the forests and wildlife habitats which is the prime importance to the community. However, a small local survey indicated a desire for some more recreational activities within Sandra Richardson Park other than the soccer fields. The activity of interest would have a low impact to the natural areas in the now undeveloped area of the park. In the coming years, a study will be done to see if an additional recreational activity is warranted in Sandra Richardson Park.

There is community interest in a bike/walking pathway connecting Sandra Richardson Park, Mary McCann Park with the City of Saline. In addition, further interest would allow for the connection of the City of Ann Arbor via the already established Pittsville Township bike pathway. A grant has been requested to the Washtenaw Parks & Recreation for a feasibility study along the Willis Road corridor. Over the next five years the hope is to realize a connecting pathway between our great parks and the City of Saline.

York Township is in the final stage of purchasing property in Mooreville, located along the Saline River between Milan and Saline. The potential third park would offer access to the Saline River for boating and other recreational usage. Upon finalizing the purchasing agreement, plans for limited development will be discussed and hopefully implemented over the course of the next five years.

The overall primary goal of the park committee is to maintain ecologically sensitive areas, limit trails through natural areas, to preserve land, and minimize improvements such as parking and picnic areas. The Park Committee is aware and willing to help residents who may have been under-represented in public outreach efforts including children and physically challenged citizens. The Park Committee maintains, our parks are open to all.

The following five-year plan is broken into three sections: Sandra Richardson Park Improvements, Mary McCann Park Improvements, Land Acquisition Goals, and Future Maintenance Plans.

## **Sandra Richardson Park-**

There has been some interest in offering some additional recreational activity within the park. The undeveloped area to be considered would be in the Northern part of the park. Further studies will be done to see if the activity would be of low impact to the natural beauty of the park and benefit to the community.

Over the next five years, it is expected that minor park development and improvements will be done. Examples would be brush clearing, new fences, etc.

In the previous 2013 – 2018 Master Plan, numerous projects completed that have enhance the experience of our park patrons. We have activated two wells, so that we now have access to on-site water, installed a spotlight to illuminate our American flag at night, provided electrical service to the pavilion, built two picnic pavilions at our Willis Road entrance, added a covered bench to our trail amenities (a Boy Scout Eagle project) and installed a Little Free Library in our Platt Road parking area. A second Little Free Library was installed at the Willis Road parking lot in the spring of 2018.

### **Mary McCann Park-**

Most of the work completed in the park during the past 5 years involved ongoing maintenance tasks. Notable exceptions were the planting of a large, multi-hued sunflower plot and the construction of a new trail. We also installed 16 new wildflower identification signs at our wildflower plots near the teaching station and will install 15 new tree identification signs in the spring of 2018. It is anticipated that future uses of McCann Park will continue to follow the low-impact, passive recreation model that has been followed so far.

### **Environmental Education and Passive Recreation Area in Mary McCann Park**

The original Environmental Education and Passive Recreation plan is currently on hold since we no longer have the services of a volunteer coordinator for the project. The Parks Committee will continue to maintain the current system of trails that separate the various plots envisioned in the original plan. We also plan to enhance the current plant identification signs with more detailed interpretive information regarding park resources, features and amenities to augment the learning opportunities for park patrons.

### **Proposed Mooreville Site for a York Township Preserve**

York Township is currently in negotiations with two landowners on a proposed third township park site in the village of Mooreville, Michigan. The proposed site sits along the Saline River, arguably the most important natural feature in York Township in terms of its value to both biodiversity and human interest. With access to the Saline River for picnicking, canoeing, kayaking and observing wildlife, the proposed park site would be healthful to the community as well as bring awareness to the natural world around the river. The benefit having access to these outdoor activities would pay dividends to the citizenry and visitors to our community from now forward.

The parcel of land is located at the southwest corner of Mooreville Road and Dennison Road in Washtenaw County, with the Saline River running approximately 1,600 feet along the south border. A rental residence occupies approximately 1.5 acres in the Northeastern corner of the property, which is not part of the proposed park property. Approximately 11.2 total acres make up the two parcels of land.

4.2-acres has old growth hardwoods that include sugar maples, basswood, hackberry, sycamore and pawpaw. The other parcel of 7 acres was an old farm field that was lasted farmed around the year 2000.

Upon the township purchasing the two parcels in Mooreville. A five-year plan will be initiated for limited development which will include an entryway and parking lot, a pathway to the river for walking and carrying light watercraft, along with a boat launch.

## **Future Maintenance Plans**

During the past 5 years we have focused on continual maintenance of our current park infrastructure to avoid degradation that would lead to the necessity of untimely replacement. Some of what has been undertaken includes the purchase of a tractor with a front-end loader, the power washing and staining/painting of 5 bridges/boardwalks, pergola, gazebo, and gates, repairing and re-roofing of 2 historic pump houses, the purchase and outfitting with a pump of a farm wagon to serve as a water wagon, and the power washing and painting of the historic Judd Road bridge. Our brick paver installation around the flagpole near the Sandra Richardson Park pavilion was, through the freeze-thaw cycles, being slowly pushed apart so we had the entire installation removed and re-installed. We have also undertaken a very long-range project in the simulation of a small-scale Oak Opening within the historic area so designated. Thus far, we have cleared several acres of brush, deadfall and invasive plants and have transplanted several +oaks into the area. We will continue to maintain that area with controlled burns and invasive removal as necessary.

Over the long term, our strategy is to stay ahead on maintenance issues so that serious situations requiring immediate, emergency attention are avoided. There will always be those circumstances, often the result of some level of vandalism, that require immediate attention to maintain safety for our patrons. We will strive, however, to minimize those situations by timely, proactive attention to our infrastructure. We utilize several levels of intervention to stay ahead on our maintenance issues.

First, we contract out many repetitive chores on a seasonal basis, so the chores are attended to on a regularly scheduled basis.

Second, the volunteer maintenance coordinator as well as other Parks and Recreation Committee members keep a vigilant eye on our parks to detect any issues requiring attention. As issues arise that are beyond the safe remediation of our corps of volunteers, we contract that work out to a licensed, bonded, contractor specializing in the area needed. The volunteer maintenance coordinator also maintains a regular maintenance schedule for such issues as periodic cleaning, painting, staining, machine maintenance, mower sharpening and general maintenance, and regular power tool care. Third, several park committee members will work “in the field” on minor maintenance and development tasks utilizing, as necessary, the township tractor, power and hand tools.

Fourth, for activities that are best tackled by a larger group of people such as invasive removal, trail maintenance, bluebird box cleaning, prescriptive burns, we will invite our dedicated team of volunteers to a workday to complete a specific task or a group of tasks. We are very fortunate that we have a group of volunteers that will come out for several hours at a time and work hard with other volunteers to keep our parks looking good. The Sheriff's work force is also a good source of manpower when needed.



## **GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND ACTION PLAN - 2019-2023 Master Plan:**

The following goals and objectives have been considered by the Parks and Recreation Committee, for inclusion in the 2019 — 2023 Parks and Recreation Master Plan. These objectives have been developed by the Parks and Recreation Committee and incorporate recommendations and feedback from the Township Board and from the citizens of York Township over the past seventeen years of the parks' existence.

Most of our goals and objectives are in response to citizen wants expressed in current and historical surveys and the open forum of citizen discussion with members of the parks committee. The goals deal with continued enhancements to the existing passive recreational pursuits appreciated by the public. We note and emphasize the word passive as it itself expresses, in general and specifics, the wants of the people. They have not historically expressed a significant desire for active playgrounds and playing fields in addition to the ones in place. It is important to note that the centers of population in the Township west of US 23 are near the two municipalities of Milan and Saline which provide more than adequate facilities for active recreation. We see no point in duplicating these venues until such time as expanded population disperses into areas which may be substantially remote to the two cities that abut the township. We further note that changing lifestyles of the children do not suggest more "play" facilities. We don't believe this fact will change over the next planning cycle. The passive variety of our recreation opportunities are such that they, in our belief, should satisfy the wants of all segments of the total population in not just our rural township but also for those residing in the cities and surrounding heavier populated demographic area.

There are no charges or fees for using our parks or facilities other than a refundable amount for pavilion reservations provided after event cleanup is performed by the renter.

Both parks, especially Mary McCann Park, offer environmental education opportunities, all supervised and sponsored by our Parks Committee. The Environmental/Educational Passive Recreation Area in McCann Park is the prime example. It is detailed in its scope elsewhere in this document. The proposed goal of restoration of an early Oak Openings area in Sandra Richardson Parks should be a dominant environmental feature not just within York Township but hopefully will be visited by interested persons who have a special appreciation for this unique environment. It is also interesting to note that Sandra Richardson Park lies at the top of a dominant glacial end-moraine. At its southerly base, the topography is essentially flat well into the state of Ohio.

Two miles south of Richardson Park is the historical remnant shoreline of glacial Lake Maumee, another glacier feature.

## **SPECIFIC GOALS AND ACTION PLAN:**

### **SANDRA RICHARDSON PARK**

#### **Preserve natural features and wildlife**

Continue the restoration of an original Oak-Opening area in Sandra Richardson Park.

Shown on the old maps of the area, is a long stretch of land mass identified as an Oak Opening. This band runs through both parks and consists of sandy soil deposited by erosion of glacial till. The area in Richardson Park is still for the most part free of large standing trees as it was under agriculture for decades. Our goal is to reestablish the semblance of an Oak Openings savanna ecosystem. Expertise is currently being sought to guide us in this pursuit. A preliminary request has been sent to the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources and Environment, presenting our proposed project and expressing

our intent to apply for a team of master's degree candidates to assist with the basic design and implementation of the area under consideration. Contact with park officials and on-site observation is planned through touring several Oak Openings restored in southern Michigan and the Toledo Ohio area. Land clearing of brush and unwanted trees should be the most difficult task awaiting us as the land area to be restored to this type of ecosystem.

The Oak Openings area may range from 2 to 4 plus acres. Grant money may be required. With the expertise found and the funds being available, this project, if deemed feasible, should be completed within the proposed next five-year plan.

#### Protect wildlife and their habitat environment.

This is an ongoing awareness and conscious effort to protect the wildlife in our parks. It is mostly cost neutral, and we have worked with Boy Scout Eagle Award candidates, build special features such as the Chimney Swift roosting and nesting tower now standing in Mary McCann Park.

#### Continue with an aggressive control of invasive plants especially in the prairie and Oak Opening areas.

Richardson Park is considerably populated by invasive plant species, especially in the open areas. Annual workdays are conducted to reduce the spread of these plants. Employees from Toyota Motors volunteer their time once or twice a year to assist in this effort. Increased efforts are needed to eradicate these species.

#### **WALKING AND TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS:**

##### Continue to explore and implement improved walking surfaces on SRP trails outside of the woodlots.

Most existing trails in Richardson Park are paved with coarse gravel coated with a finer, compactable topping. It makes for a long-lasting comfortable walking surface for people and dogs. The wood lot trail will remain covered with wood chips which are replaced every several years. Replacement gravel costs are an ongoing budgetary item and funded from the general fund. Most trails in Richardson Park are ADA compliant. There are no immediate plans to re-gravel the trails in McCann Park, but the need may arise in this cycle.

##### Replace existing trail markers with updated ones.

Most trails in Richardson Park are identified on kiosk maps and simple color-coded trail markings on wood posts throughout the trail system. These are becoming outdated, and a new design identification system is planned for the next five-year planning cycle. Estimated costs are around \$450. and can likely be funded through our year-to-year budgeting. The township Environmental Committee has offered to do the work.

##### Upgrade access road to the bulk stores area for truck passage.

There is a combination trail and access "road" in Richardson Park that leads to an area for bulk storage of chips and other materials. This entrance way needs a better base foundation material in several areas which are wet and will rut with truck traffic. The estimated costs are around \$2,000. Funding would likely come from the general fund when the project is undertaken.

## **PARK UTILITY IMPROVEMENTS**

Provide minimal security lighting for parking lots. Neither of the two-park, parking lots are lighted. There is an ongoing problem with nighttime loitering in the Mary McCann lot as it is secluded in the wood lot adjacent to the road. This lot should have a dusk to dawn light. Because the nearest electric service line is of some distance, it would be a significant expense to provide a light. We hope to eventually provide electrical power

Richardson Park has electrical service on site and there should be little problem in providing a nighttime light. Loitering issues here have been minimal. We need to note here that there has been some opposition to installing power to the McCann Park as the service lines would have to cross a neighbor's property.

## **PUBLIC RELATIONS.**

Continue to seek more public involvement in hands-on projects in the parks.

As development of the parks continues to expand, so do maintenance requirements. This has become more than the Parks Committee volunteer staff can handle themselves. Beginning in 2014, all grass cutting, and trim work was contracted. Efforts began in 2013 to form a volunteer support group from the public. Using the means of a public meeting and survey, forty-five persons signed up to assist us in various capacities. Thus far, when called upon, the actual turnout has been less than stellar. Nevertheless, we will continue to develop a process to involve more of our citizens. This is a must for us.

## **MARY MC CANN PARK**

### **ENVIRONMENTAL / EDUCATIONAL PASSIVE, RECREATION AREA, EEPRA**

Develop Arboretum with more native tree specimens, identified by posted markers

Located in the EEPRA, there is a parcel of land dedicated to the establishment of an arboretum of native trees. As time permits, we will request public donations to purchase and plant additional trees. Some may wish to place a remembrance plaque to deceased family members along with their tree donation. Small "meandering" trails will bisect the parcel giving access to individual trees. The Details of this approach to gathering additional trees needs to be worked out over the next two years or so.

Purchase permanent placards identifying natural features and special educational areas.

Within Mary McCann Park, we will be replacing or placing an unknown number of sign boards to identify and interpret the several demonstration plots in the EEPRA. Other signage will identify certain species or natural and man-made features within the open EEPRA area of the park which is about eighteen acres. These signs are expensive, and a grant source would likely be necessary. Overall cost has not been identified but a typical printed metal sign and post would likely cost upward to \$175. Each. The number of signs will be determined in stages as we proceed to complete the development of the park.

Potential and actual vandalism has been a deterrent to installation over the years. The goal is to place at least four such sign boards over the next several years to test their resistance to vandalism.

Provide interpretative signage for species identification throughout the park.

This goal is a continuation of a well-defined and established effort of placing small tree and bush plaques under various species to identify them in English and their Latin equivalent.

Offer environmental lectures and study lessons to our local school youth. Involve the public in assisting with this program.

Again, this is a carryover ongoing objective of providing a learning forum for youth to better understand nature and environmental happenings and issues. These programs may be informational talks or hands-on experiences such as planting native plants and flowers. Over the past three years, both Milan and Saline Elementary School students have visited the EEPRA on field trips a retired Biology teacher conducts these outdoor education sessions. New topics for teaching opportunities are always under consideration.

### **MAINTENANCE AND GENERAL IMPROVEMENTS**

Continue with monitoring and removal of invasive species.

Ongoing work will continue in the removal of invasive or unwanted species from the EEPRA. This is achieved by cutting and the use of fire in early spring. Volunteers are usually available to assist, and the local fire departments stand by during the controlled burn offs.

### **SECURITY CONCERNS**

Work with the County Sheriff and others authorities to prevent vandalism in McCann Park.

Periodic vandalism in Mary McCann Park has been a continuing problem for several years. These destructive acts are committed by youthful offenders who visit the park. Sheriff deputies have apprehended several youths in the park for violation of controlled substance laws. Efforts are going on and will continue to promote Sheriff Department vigilance of the parking lot. Identified offenders, are requested to perform public service in the park.

### **FUTURE TOWNSHIP PARK SITES**

Continue to seek and acquire an eleven-acre land site on the Saline River for use as a township park or preserve. It has been a long-term goal to acquire a piece of land bordering the Saline River to provide recreational canoeing on that waterway.

### **OTHER**

Continue to work with other government and private agencies and organizations in the quest for more land preservation and conservation easements in York Township. Consider "Partnering" if the opportunity arises.

There are various opportunities that come along worth pursuing that may lead to partnering with other government or private agencies in the quest for additional land preservation within the township. The existing Draper-Houston Meadows Preserve on Mooreville Road is a prime example of a successful venture with the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission.

### Support the Washtenaw County "Border to Border" and Parks Connectivity Trail Program.

As practical, the York Township Parks Committee supports both County programs. An opportunity has not yet presented itself to actively become engaged but there is a long-term goal of connecting Sandra Richardson Park via a walking path to Mary McCann Park and possibly to the Pittsfield Township walk and bike trail along Platt Road.

### Continue to offer Boy and Girl Scouts opportunities to earn Eagle Award or Golden Award by performing projects in our parks.

Since 2003, many Scouts have earned their Eagle Award by performing projects in York Township Parks. A Rain Garden was recently installed by a Scout and another Scout has plans to install a shelter along the woods trail in 2022, both Eagle Projects were done or to be done in Sandra Richardson Park.

Support the Friends of the Saline River in their development of the Leslie Neithammer Saline River Preserve on Maple Road in north York Township.

### Develop a self-sustaining maintenance program through annual budget appropriations for funding contractual help with grass cutting and other efforts in both parks.

As parks development continues so does the maintenance implications. The increased volume of assorted maintenance chores over the past several years is now beyond the ability of the aging Parks Committee to undertake alone. Thus, a plan has been developed for 2014 and beyond that lays out a detailed maintenance plan considering contract vs. volunteer assignments, budgetary funding and equipment needs all keeping within the limits of practicality.

## **Volunteer Work**

One of the resources of York Township is the will and know-how of Township residents. Their experience shaping and cultivating the land and their strong community spirit make them the most important resource to park development in the next five years. Volunteer workers will continue to be sought out for future improvement projects. Volunteers can range from Boy Scout troops to private landowners, business owners, organizations, trades, civic groups and citizens. The Toyota Corporation and Schettenhelm Farms are important partners in helping to improve the parks. Through their generous donations of both money and volunteer involvement, they have shown themselves to be very good neighbors.

## **Donations**

Donations have come to the parks from sources such as local land developers, businesses such as Toyota Corporation and citizens through the sale of brick pavers. These resources will continue to be encouraged and efforts will continue to expand the numbers of local citizens, developers, and companies participating in helping the parks.



## **Millage**

The past and current parks surveys have shown that in general, respondents are unfavorable toward using a millage to fund park development. However, opinions may change when the public can see the positive results of improvements and new development. It is recommended that this issue be reconsidered by the parks committee in the future.

## **Township Budget**

The Township government in their general Master Plan has recognized the importance of public open space. The board should be encouraged to allocate more financial resources behind this parks endeavor.

## **State, Federal, and Private Grant Opportunities**

There are many grant opportunities available to York Township for park development. The largest of these is the Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund administered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Park development project minimum/maximum grant amount are from \$15,000 to \$500,000. A grant overview is provided under the Land Acquisition Resources heading in this chapter.

## **Land Acquisition**

Historically, as more and more land were converted into housing development, the opportunities for the Township to acquire and protect natural lands dwindled. Factors affecting York Township's ability to acquire and protect park land include a lack of finances and rapid housing development. With the ensuing end of the housing boom, land became more available but the finances, reflecting lowered market values, continued to decline. Thus, no additional lands have been acquired by the Township. The renewal of housing starts in 2013 indicate beneficial growth for the Township and should have the effect of generating a larger population in the northern portion of the Township. This growth will help justify additional parkland and improvements, including creating playground amenities, which have been stalemated for the past seven years.

## **Areas of Interest**

The York Township Parks & Recreation Committee continues to identify properties that would be suitable to achieve the goals of increasing passive and active parklands. A site along the pristine Saline River is still being sought to allow visitors a chance to enjoy the natural environment along the stream and the unique features found there. The recently acquired parcel on the northern end of Richardson Park is being studied as a combination passive and active recreation area. A four "hole" disc golf playing field is being considered for this area. A development plan is being studied for construction during the term of the 2019-2023 Master Plan.

Aside from the proposed Mooreville site on the Saline River, there are no other parcels of land being considered for additional parks within the 2019-2023 planning cycle. However, should another land site appear that offers an opportunity for active or passive recreation pursuits, the following factors will be considered in the possible acquisition of the site.

### **Direct Purchase-**

Direct purchase by the township may be limited due to the lack of resources. However, this method should not be disregarded because there are several lands within the Township that would be relatively inexpensive due to environmental conditions which limit uses such as residential, commercial, or cultivation on the site. These sites are often very suitable for passive recreation and conversion to public space. Purchase can be used as a sole means of acquisition or in tandem with a partial donation, with various grant opportunities, or with the help of nonprofit organizations.

**Donation of Land-** The township should actively support voluntary donation of park lands from property owners, developers, and civic groups. The process of donation should be made relatively simple for the donating party. The Washtenaw Land Trust is one organization that helps in this process. It is possible to donate property during one's lifetime but reserve the right to live on the property. These arrangements are called "reserved life estates" in which a "remainder interest" is donated to a land trust. This type of donation may also be tax deductible at the time the gift is made.

### **Planning Measures-**

Planning measures are strongly recommended to ensure that new developments in York Township are required to provide support to the recreational opportunities of Township resident. Currently, developers in the township are encouraged to set aside land in the development for small open space, sometimes usable by residents of the development. Developers should be able to choose among several support options including donation to a general parks budget. There are many examples of communities using this technique in order to provide recreational resources. Some communities require the developer to provide park space within the development or allocate a certain amount of financial support to a general park found in lieu of using their property.

### **Legacy Land Conservancy-**

Organizations other than the Township that offer land preservation services include the Legacy Land Conservancy. This organization has established 125 acres of nature preserves in Washtenaw County that are open to the public for quiet recreational uses such as hiking, bird watching, cross-country skiing and nature study. These preserves were all donated to the land trust, but LLC also considers the purchase of land for nature preserves. LLC has assisted in acquiring a property desired by a public agency for parkland. LLC can also secure property until funds or approvals are obtained by the interested agency. This is critical if an agency does not have the funds at hand or needs to seek approval from its managing body and the property is for sale and could be lost.

### **Washtenaw County Natural Areas Preservation Program-**

The Washtenaw County Natural Areas Preservation Program (NAPP) was created with the purpose of protecting natural areas in the county. The county has approximately \$30 million available purchase land for preservation. The program is operated by the county Parks and Recreation Department and focuses on lands with one or more of the following features: public water resources, special plants animals and plant communities, recreational and scientific values, and proximity to protected land.

The ordinance enabling the NAPP provided for the formation of a group of citizens/experts to advise the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission. County residents with expertise in land conservation, wildlife management, environmental education, real estate, land use planning, botany/forestry and fisheries/aquatic ecology comprise the Natural Areas Technical Advisory Committee (NATAC). The goal of the NATAC is to identify parcels of land which, through long-term preservation, will contribute to:

- Preservation of the natural, ecological diversity/ heritage of Washtenaw County
- Complement the existing network of publicly and privately protected lands.
- Maximize the public benefit

The Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission, the Washtenaw County Department of Planning and Development and the Local Unit of Government review properties that are recommended by NATAC where the property is located. If the decision of the Parks and Recreation Commission is to proceed, the landowner will be made an offer to purchase the property at its fair market value, as established by a certified appraisal. The Parks and Recreation Commission may maintain any land purchased for passive recreation uses. As such, any land purchased will not be developed intensively but depending on its characteristics and location may have some ancillary improvements to facility.

## **The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund-**

The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) provides a substantial Amount, (up to 75% of the purchase cost,) of financial assistance to local governments for purchase of lands for outdoor recreation and/or the protection of natural resources and open space. It also assists in the appropriate development of land for public outdoor recreation. Other DNR Grant opportunities include the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Applications for grant money are evaluated on established criteria such as resource protection, water access, and project need. At least a twenty-five percent match on either acquisition or development projects is required from local government applicants. The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board (members are appointed by the Governor) makes recommendations to the State Legislature for final approval. There are eleven evaluation criteria:

1. Protection and use of significant natural resources.
2. Use of inland waters.
3. Population served.
4. Economic benefits.
5. Hunting, fishing and other wildlife-related values.
6. Need for proposal.
7. Applicant history.
8. Site and project quality.
9. Special Initiatives of the MNRTF Board.
10. Financial need of the applicant.
11. Local match contribution.

### Past Special Initiatives of the Board included:

1. Acquisition or development of trail ways that contribute to an overall State trail system.
2. Acquisitions of land open to hunting or development of hunting related facilities, such as shooting ranges.
3. Acquisition of lands that provide for deer habitat with thermal cover.
4. Local shooting ranges or State/local shooting range partnerships.
5. Acquisition projects that create, establish and protect wildlife/ecological corridors by connecting to and/or buffering existing protected and managed State or local natural areas, forests or game areas.

## **DNR Recreational Grant Inventory**

Project Number: TF04-005

Project Title: Sandra Richardson Park Development

In 2005, a grant was received from the DNR for improvements to Sandra Richardson Park.

The scope of the work was:

- |                    |                        |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Picnic Pavilion | 4. Picnic Tables       |
| 2. Walkways        | 5. Nonmotorized Trails |
| 3. Restrooms       | 6. Parking             |
| 4. Gazebo          | 7. Boardwalk           |
| 5. Arbor Structure | 8. Landscaping         |
|                    | 9. Signage             |

All work was completed by 2007 and all are in good condition and in use currently.

# Appendices



STATE OF MICHIGAN )  
County of Washtenaw

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*Lauren Suttory*

Being duly sworn deposes and say he/she is Principal Clerk of



## ANN ARBOR NEWS

### DAILY EDITION

a newspaper published and circulated in the County of Washtenaw and otherwise qualified according to Supreme Court Rule; and that the annexed notice, taken from said paper, has been duly published in said paper on the following day(day(s))

*March 4* A.D. 20 *21*

Sworn to and subscribed before me this

*4<sup>th</sup>*

day of

*March*

*20 21*

*Teasha R. Payne*

TEASHA R. PAYNE  
NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF MI  
COUNTY OF MECOSTA  
COMMISSION EXP FEB 24 2026  
ACTING IN COUNTY OF *Kien*

York Charter Township  
Parks & Recreation Master  
Plan  
Virtual Workshop Meeting  
For Public Review  
Wed., March 24, 2021  
The Charter Township of York  
Parks & Recreation Commit-  
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The Committee will receive  
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Meeting link:  
<https://chartertownshipofyork.my.webex.com/chartertownshipofyork.my/j.php?MTID=m6fc3800d15ffa4832f006cd75321b883>  
Meeting number: 182 161 7558  
Password: JJcV8P52JJS  
(55288752 from phones and video systems)  
More ways to join:  
By video system  
Dial 1821617558@webex.com  
Also can dial 173.243.2.68 and enter your meeting number.  
By phone: +1-415-655-0001  
US Toll  
Access code: 182 161 7558  
Global call-in numbers  
Copies will be available at the York Township Hall, 11560 Stony Creek Rd., Milan; Milan Area Library, 151 Wabash St.; Saline District Library, 555 N. Maple Rd. as well as a summary of the plan's goals & objectives. Address comments to York Twp. Parks & Recreation Committee Chairman, 11560 Stony Creek Rd., Milan MI 48160 or [yorkinfo@twp-york.org](mailto:yorkinfo@twp-york.org) not later than 12:00 noon on March 24, 2021.  
Paul Fairchild, Parks Committee Chairman  
Published: March 4, 11 & 18, 2021

STATE OF MICHIGAN )  
County of Washtenaw

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**ANN ARBOR NEWS**  
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MAR 15 2021  
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF YORK

a newspaper published and circulated in the County of Washtenaw and otherwise qualified according to Supreme Court Rule; and that the annexed notice, taken from said paper, has been duly published in said paper on the following day(day(s))

March 11 A.D. 20 21

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 11th day of March 20 21

Teasha R. Payne  
TEASHA R. PAYNE  
NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF MI  
COUNTY OF MECOSTA  
COMMISSION EXP FEB 24 2026  
ACTING IN COUNTY OF YORK

York Charter Township  
Parks & Recreation Master  
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March 18 A.D. 20 21

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 20 21

Teasha R. Payne

TEASHA R. PAYNE  
NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF MI  
COUNTY OF MECOSTA  
COMMISSION EXP FEB 24 2026  
ACTING IN COUNTY OF Washtenaw

York Charter Township  
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not later than 12:00 noon  
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Paul Fairchild, Parks Commit-  
tee Chairman  
Published: March 4, 11 & 18,  
2021

**Public Agenda March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**Welcome and introduction**

**Covid 19 and our parks**

Increased the number of people enjoying our parks  
Limited group projects and maintenance projects.

**Overview of York Township Parks and what's new.**

Disc golf area added to Sandra Richardson Park  
Purchase of new park in the Hamlet of Mooreville.

**Future Developments in our parks**

**Mooreville Riverbend Park**

**Keeping the townships parks maintained**

**Next steps-ideas/brainstorming from the audience**

**Appendix C**

**Charter Township of York Parks & Recreation Committee Minutes  
Public Virtual Meeting on the Parks Master Plan  
March 24, 2021 7:00pm**

Chairman Fairchild opened the Public Meeting at 7:00 pm

Guests: Nick Pattison, Cindi Larson, Peter Cruetz, John Pfeiffer, Juan Lauchu, Jeff Fordeck  
Committee members: Derek Stern, Adam Freeburn, Paul Fairchild

**Welcome and introduction**

Fairchild introduced committee members present and welcomed guests to the virtual meeting.

**Covid 19 and our parks**

Fairchild discussed the increased number of people enjoying and discovering the township's parks because of the Covid 19 pandemic; unable to have group workdays due to Covid restrictions but hope to continue soon.

**Overview of York Township Parks and what is new.**

Fairchild also suggested for those who were not familiar with the parks to please visit the township website for further information, [www.twp-york.org](http://www.twp-york.org)

Fairchild informed our guests of the new Disc Golf area located in the northern section of Sandra Richardson Park (SRP) and the purchase of land for a new park in the hamlet of Mooreville.

**Future Developments in our parks**

-Mooreville Riverbend Park was discussed for some future development work. A parking lot will soon be

installed; a half-mile trailway has been installed and in the future a boat launch is planned.

-Plans are in the works for expanding the Disc Golf area in SRP from nine holes to eighteen.

-Mary McCann Park (MMP) is planned to remain as is.

**Keeping the townships parks maintained**

-Discussed was a possible burn in SRP and our guests offered to help with park projects.

Fairchild reported the park committee is always looking for volunteers and if interested, please go to the township website to submit their contact information.

**Next steps-ideas/brainstorming from the audience**

-Our audience was very positive on our parks and how well they look. They also expressed the Disc Golf area is a positive addition to SRP.

-Enjoyment of the diversity of the parks was expressed and more trailways was encouraged.

-Our audience was highly supportive of a bike pathway connecting our parks to neighboring communities.

-A suggestion of small grassy mounds or benches to be placed in parks for reading areas.

-Educational signage was suggested for different plant species.

-Wood trail maintenance of adding woodchips in SRP was suggested.

-A park cleanup day was suggested. The date being advertised on the township's website and local papers.

-Overall, the guests really enjoy our parks as they are and made no major change suggestions.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35pm.

Minutes Respectfully submitted by Chairman Fairchild using notes From Vice-Chair Freeburn



STATE OF MICHIGAN )  
County of Washtenaw

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**ANN ARBOR NEWS**  
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APR 19 2021

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April 8 A.D. 20 21

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 13 day of April 20 21

Teasha R. Payne

TEASHA R. PAYNE  
NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF MI  
COUNTY OF MECOSTA  
COMMISSION EXP FEB 24 2026  
ACTING IN COUNTY OF Kent

York Charter Township  
Parks & Recreation  
Master Plan  
Virtual Workshop Meeting  
For Public Review  
Wed., April 28, 2021

The Charter Township of York Parks & Recreation Committee has prepared a 5-Year draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan intended to help develop future parks operations in the Township. The plan pertains in large part to the existing Sandra Richardson & Mary McCann Parks.

The Committee will receive comments by electronic remote access on April 28, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. The public may participate in the workshop through electronic remote access via Webex access by computer, smartphone/device or telephone using the following:

Meeting link:  
<https://chartertownshipofyork.my.webex.com/chartertownshipofyork.my/j.php?MTID=m41314950204c203f1442f72df66fd9a>

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182 542 7048

Password:  
Vd3VfpdgT36 (83383734 from phones and video systems)  
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Paul Fairchild, Parks Committee Chairman  
Published: April 8, 15 & 22, 2021



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STATE OF MICHIGAN )  
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*Shawn Sutton*

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Sworn to and subscribed before me this *22* day of *April* 20 *21*

*Teasha R. Payne*

TEASHA R. PAYNE  
NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF MI  
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Paul Fairchild, Parks Committee Chairman  
Published: April 8, 15 & 22, 2021

**Charter Township of York, Parks and Recreation  
Public Meeting Agenda April 28, 2021, 7:00 pm**

**Welcome and introduction**

**Covid 19 and our parks**

Increased the number of people enjoying our parks  
Limited group projects and maintenance projects.

**Overview of York Township Parks and what's new.**

Disc golf area added to Sandra Richardson Park  
Purchase of new park in the Hamlet of Mooreville.

**Review of Ideas Submitted at Our Public meeting on March 24, 2021**

**Future Developments in our parks**

**Mooreville Riverbend Park**

**Keeping the townships parks maintained**

**Next steps-ideas/brainstorming from the audience**

### **Minutes of the Public virtual Meeting on the Parks Master Plan April 28, 2021 7:00pm**

#### **Meeting started 7:00pm**

Guest: Janelle Schafer, Jolynn Schafer

Committee members: Derek Stern, Adam Freeburn, Paul Fairchild

#### **Welcome and introduction**

Fairchild introduced committee members present and welcomed guest to the virtual meeting.

#### **Covid 19 and our parks**

Fairchild discussed the increased number of people enjoying and discovering the township's parks because of the Covid 19 pandemic.

Also spoke of the inability to have group workdays due to Covid restrictions but hope to continue soon.

#### **Overview of York Township Parks and what is new.**

As our guest were familiar with our parks, an overview was briefly done.

#### **Future Developments in our parks**

Scout J. Schafer is interested in doing an Eagle Project in our parks. Ideas discussed were;

- 1) Wood trail widening in SRP
- 2) Tree identification
- 3) Trail improvement in MMP

#### **Keeping the townships parks maintained**

Our guest was familiar with volunteer work on projects in our parks.

#### **Next steps-ideas/brainstorming from the audience**

Fairchild reviewed comments and ideas from the previous public meeting on March 24, 2021. Our guests were very

supportive of all the comments and ideas from the previous meeting. Especially noted was their support of the

bicycle trail between the parks and the surrounding communities.

Our guest also commented on the need for the Disc Golf area to be added to the Park Website.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:36pm - Minutes Respectfully submitted by Chairman Fairchild using notes From Vice Chair Freeburn**

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**Charter Township of York  
Washtenaw County, Michigan**

Ordinance No. 94

[AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE  
FOR THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF YORK.]

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF YORK ORDAINS:

Section 1 INTENT

To establish a Parks and Recreation Committee to assist the Township Board in achieving the following goals:

- A. To develop a system of parklands, playgrounds and recreation.
- B. To acquire, develop, equip and maintain parkland, playgrounds, buildings and other recreational facilities within the township.
- C. To seek, vote and expend funds for development and operation of parks and a recreation system.

Section 2 PARKS and RECREATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- A. The Township Supervisor, subject to the approval and confirmation by a majority of the Township Board, shall appoint a Parks and Recreation Committee to carry out the intent of this ordinance. The Board will consist of nine [9] members and will hold office until their successors are appointed. Members initially appointed shall serve until January 1, 2004. At that time, by a draw of names, three members shall serve a 1- year term, three members a 2- year term and 3 members serve a 3- year term or until successors are appointed.
- B. One Township Board Member shall be appointed as a member of the Parks and Recreation Committee and serve as the official liaison to the Parks and Recreation Committee. At no time may more than one member of the Parks and Recreation Committee be a member of the Township Board.
- C. Parks and Recreation Committee members will receive no compensation for their services on the Committee.
- D. The Township Supervisor may, with the approval of the Township Board, and upon recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Committee, remove any member who fails to fulfill the duties of his or her office under the provisions of this ordinance. Any recommendation for removal of a member will be made in writing to the Township Supervisor and shall state the reason for the recommendation. The member recommended for removal shall be given ten days advance notice prior to a hearing with the Township Supervisor. Such notice shall include a copy of the charges made by the Parks and Recreation Committee.
- E. Vacancies created by resignation or other reasons shall be filled by appointment of the Supervisor with approval and confirmation by a majority vote of the Township Board in the same manner as the original appointment and shall be for the remainder of the unexpired term of the member being replaced.

### Section 3 COMMITTEE ORGANIZATION

- A. The Parks and Recreation Committee shall annually elect a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and a Recording Secretary. The Chairperson will be the presiding officer of the Parks and Recreation Committee. He/she may appoint sub-committees as are deemed necessary or advisable to carry out the spirit and intent of this ordinance and perform other duties as may be established by the Township Board.
- B. The Vice-Chairperson shall perform the duties of the Chairperson in his or her absence.
- C. The Secretary shall keep a true and complete record of all actions of the Parks and Recreation Committee and minutes of the meetings of the Committee and subcommittees as requested. Minutes of the meetings will be presented to the Township Board prior to the monthly regular meeting and a copy given to the Township Clerk after any corrections made by the Parks and Recreation Committee.
- D. Five members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of business. All business, prepared statements and recommendations shall have the support of not less than a simple majority of the members present.
- E. Regular meeting shall be held monthly. Special meeting may be called as deemed necessary by the Chairperson of the Committee at times agreeable to the membership.
- F. Sub-committees may include other citizens not on the nine-member Committee. At least one Parks and Recreation Committee member shall actively serve on any sub-committee established by the Parks and Recreation Committee and shall report to the Committee, the business and proceedings of the committee. Sub-committees shall not publish statements and recommendations without the Parks and Recreation Committee's express approval. Sub-committees shall advise the Committee of the affairs of business conducted in a timely manner.
- G. Only Committee members may vote on issues before it.
- H. The Parks and Recreation Committee is directly responsible to the Township Supervisor and the Township Board.

### Section 4 DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The duties of the Parks and Recreation Committee shall be:

- A. To advise the Township Supervisor and the Township Board in matters relating to a Parks and Recreation development program for the township.
- B. To develop and update, as needed, recommendations for a comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan.
- C. To recommend to the Township Board the acquisition of land for future park development.
- D. To plan and recommend improvements in existing parklands including but not limited to purchasing or otherwise providing play and recreations facilities, park and equipment maintenance and health and safety concerns within the parks.
- E. To solicit public opinion on parks and recreation through surveys and public forums.



- F. Prepare an annual budget in cooperation with the Township Supervisor to be approved by the Township Board.
- G. To oversee the supervision, care and custody of the parklands, playgrounds and recreational facilities.
- H. To keep a record of all proceedings of the Parks and Recreation Committee and sub-committees and file them in the township office.
- I. To periodically communicate and present to the public, newsworthy and topical information concerning township parks and recreation.
- J. To expend money as approved by the Township Supervisor and Township Board.
- K. To publish, set forth, and uphold the park rules and restrictions as ordained in Ordinance #64 of the Charter Township of York effective February 19, 1997.
- L. To report to the proper authorities violations of the above rules and restrictions.
- M. To carry out the spirit and intent of this ordinance.


#### Section 5 PUBLIC USE OF PARKS

- A. Use of the parkland, playgrounds and recreational facilities shall be free to all persons subject to the rules and regulations adopted by the Township.
- B. Except where prohibited by deed restriction or law, groups occupying township parklands, playgrounds or recreational facilities may be assessed a reasonable charge or fee in connection with special maintenance services, utilities, clean up or use of special equipment that they may require.
- C. The Parks and Recreation Committee may recommend to the Township Supervisor for exclusion from use of the parklands, playgrounds and related facilities, all persons or groups who willfully violate the rules and regulations as set forth in Ordinance #64 of the Township of York or subsequent changes or additions to that Ordinance.

#### Section 6 PUBLICATION AND EFFECTIVE DATE

The Township Clerk shall certify to the adoption of this ordinance and cause the same to be published as required by law; and this ordinance shall take full force and effect the day following publication.

This Ordinance was duly adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of York at its regular meeting called and held on the 13th day of May, 2003.

  
 Helen Neill, Clerk  
 Charter Township of York

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Bill Dean, Supervisor  
 Charter Township of York

First Reading:	April 8, 2003
First Publication:	May 1, 2003
Adoption:	May 13, 2003
Final Publication:	May 29, 2003
Effective Date:	May 30, 2003

CERTIFICATE

I, Helen Neill, hereby certify that the foregoing constitutes a true and complete copy of the Charter Township of York Ordinance No. 94, which was duly adopted by the Township Board of the Charter Township of York at a Regular meeting of said Board, held on May 13, 2003, after said Ordinance had previously been introduced at a Regular meeting of the Board held April 8, 2003, and published in the form it was introduced in accordance with P.A. 359 of 1947, as amended.

I further certify that Member John Bulmer moved for adoption of said Ordinance, and that Member Greg Stuk seconded said motion.

I further certify that the following members voted for adoption of said Ordinance: Bulmer, Stuk, Heikka, Kartje, Donahue, Neill and Dean and that the following members voted against adoption of said Ordinance: None. The following members were absent: None; and the following members abstained from voting on the adoption of said Ordinance: None.

I further certify that after its passage the Ordinance was published in *The Milan News Leader* and *The Saline Reporter* on May 29, 2003, in accordance with P.A. 359 of 1947, as amended.

I further certify that said Ordinance has been recorded in the Ordinance Book of the Township and that such recording has been authenticated by the signatures of the Supervisor and the Township Clerk.

Dated: May 29, 2003

Helen Neill  
Helen Neill, Clerk  
Charter Township of York

A STATEMENT OF MISSION AND OBJECTIVES  
FOR THE  
YORK TOWNSHIP PARKS COMMITTEE

**MISSION:** The mission of the York Township Parks Committee is to provide initial planning for the development of park lands and recreational facilities with the Township. To follow through with the development of same over a reasonable period of time, and to supervise the ongoing operation and maintenance of such facilities consistent with the Public Parks and Open Space Goals as stated in the York Township Growth Management Plan, Section 14-1 and 14-2.

**OBJECTIVES:**

1. To promote the expansion of environmental knowledge among the Township's residents by making the Township's Parks and other public properties and facilities available for the purpose of environmental education and environmentally compatible recreation.
2. To develop a comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan:
  - A. To create a York Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan document and make available to Township residents.
  - B. To promote the integration between public parks and open spaces throughout the Township.
  - C. To develop rules and guidelines for park usage and post the same.
  - D. To work with (separately or in unison) the York Township Environmental Advisory Committee, and where applicable, seek to identify environmentally sensitive items or issues which should be considered for action.
  - E. To work with other agencies, both public and private, when appropriate, to enhance recreational opportunities for Township residents.
3. To facilitate the use of the Township's public lands by residents and non-residents in manners that are consistent with the best principles of responsible resource management.

Approved by the York Township Board on May 14, 2002

**York Township Parks and Recreation Operating Budget ( dollars )**

	2020-21 Adopted budget	2021-22 Adopted Budget
PER DIEMS	1,800	1,800
FICA & MEDICARE	150	150
SUPPLIES	650	650
CONTRACTED SERVICES	11,000	11,000
CONTRACTED SRVS-WEBSITE MGMT	300	300
COMMUNITY EVENTS	1,000	1,000
MASTER PLAN PRINTING	100	100
UTILITIES	550	550
REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE	8,500	8,500
EQUIPMENT USAGE/FUEL	1,000	1,000
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSE	1,000	3,000
LAND ACQUISITION	0	0
PARKS IMPROVEMENT – GENERAL	8,000	15,000
PARKS IMPRVMENT-TOYOTA	0	0
PARKS IMPRVMENT-EAGLE SCOUT	0	0
EQUIPMENT PURCHASES	1,500	2,000
<b>TOTAL PARKS &amp; RECREATION</b>	<b>35,550</b>	<b>45,050</b>

**Programming Development & Maintenance Projects:****Appendix M**

The schedule below shows the listing of potential development and maintenance programs targeted for 2019. Some will carry over into subsequent years. The schedule is a planning tool and is reviewed each month by the Parks & Recreation Committee. Changes are made as warranted. Some are considered a prime and are presented in the five-year master plan. Lesser rated projects are performed as time and resources permit. The proposed 2019 budget is coordinated with the schedule below to cover the various costs.

**PARKS & RECREATION: 2019 Listing of Potential Development & Maint. Work Duties.**

<b>GENERAL SUMMARY OF MAINTENANCE &amp; Richardson Park &amp; Mc Cann Park</b>	<b>DEVELOPMENT TASKS. [ Excludes scheduled</b>		<b>grass cutting.]</b>	
	<b>Equipment</b>	<b>Performed by:</b>	<b>Frequency or time frame</b>	
Cut all grass not stated in CK contract	Contracted	Contract	Per contract	
Light duty weed cutting	Gas weeder	Contract	Per contract	
Heavy duty brush cut	Gas weeder	TBD by Job	As necessary	
Cut away fallen trees	Chain saw	Staff	As necessary	
Side clear trails of overhanging growth	Contracted	Contract	twice per summer	
Install purchased signage	Man. Tools	Staff	As necessary	
Fill pot holes in driveways/parking lots.		TBD by Job	Summer as necessary	
Minor carpentry tasks	Man. Tools	TBD by Job	As necessary	
Tend to flower beds.	Man. Tools	Volunteers	twice per summer	
Painting or staining.	Man. Tools	Scouts & Vol.	As necessary	
Development of specific demo. Sites.	Various	TBD		

**SPECIFIC 2019 FORECASTED MAINTENANCE TASKS**

<b><u>RICHARDSON PARK</u></b>	<b><u>Area or Zone</u></b>	<b><u>Performed by:</u></b>
Invasive Special Removal	Zone 1 East of prairie to woods line.	Volunteers
Invasive Special Removal	Zone 2 East of maint. Building.	Volunteers
Flower bed tending.	North end of parking lot.	Volunteers
Cut overhanging growth from trails	All trails needing trimming.	Contract. Twice per year.
Fill pot holes in parking lot.	Parking lot.	Staff [ us ]
Clear trails of fallen trees.	Wood lot.	TBD
Frontage ditch cutting	West of parking lot.	Staff
Controlled burns	Prairie land	Staff & Volunteers

**Richardson Park - Options**

Begin clearing of old orchard dead trees

Site improvement of Judd Rd. bridge.

Wood lot boardwalk extension.

Stain sign and map boards

Old tree removal

Cut back current brush line in Oak openings

Old Orchard

Bridge and around bridge.

Woods trail.

Various

Willis Road Site, west of drive way

Volunteers

Scout or Volunteers

Scout or Volunteers

TBD

Staff &amp; volunteers

Well buildings

Willis Rd. South of parking lot

Contract &amp; Staff

Scout Project

**DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS:**

Complete well reactivation.

Clear brush &amp; set picnic table

Where selected

Seeking planning expertise.

**OPTIONAL DEVELOPMENT:**

Clearing for Oak Opening site

**AREA OR ZONE****PERFORMED BY****SPECIFIC MAINT. TASKS FOR 2019****MARY MC CANN PARK**

Side trimming of trails

Controlled Burns

Chip placement

Fill wet areas along trails

Tend flower beds

Invasive removal

Reseeding Mesic Prairie

All main and cross trails

Selected areas

Main trail

Where required

Near teaching station &amp; CS tower

Where required

Mesic Prairie

Contract

Staff &amp; Volunteers

Staff &amp; Volunteers

TBD

Students or

Volunteers

Volunteers

Staff &amp; Volunteers

**OPTIONAL MAINT. TASKS:**

Clear high brush from nut grove

Reseed Pheasants Forever plot

Nut grove plot

Pheasants Forever plot

TBD

Staff

TBD

Staff

\$

**DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS: optional**

Enlarge parking lot

Define several land plots

In area selected

In areas selected





Michigan Department of Natural Resources - Grants Management

**PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT  
POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT**

*This information required under authority of Part 19, PA 451 of 1994, as amended;  
the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, 78 Stat. 897 (1964); and Part 715, of PA 451 of 1994, as amended.*

**GRANT TYPE:** ☒ MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND ☐ CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE  
(Please select one) ☐ LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND ☐ RECREATION PASSPORT ☐ BOND FUND

GRANTEE: Charter Township of YorkPROJECT NUMBER: TF04-005PROJECT TYPE: DevelopmentPROJECT TITLE: Sandra Richardson Park DevelopmentPROJECT SCOPE: Development of outdoor recreational area**TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)**

Name of Agency (Grantee)	Contact Person	Title
Charter Township of York	Chuck Tellas	Supervisor
Address	Telephone	
11560 Stoney Creek Road	(734) 439-8842	
City, State, ZIP	Email	
Milan, Michigan 48160	ctellas@twp-york.org	

**SITE DEVELOPMENT**

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided?  
If yes, please describe change(s). ☒ Yes ☐ No

Disc Golf course added

Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.) ☐ Yes ☒ No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. ☐ Yes ☒ No

**SITE QUALITY**

Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area?  
If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain. ☒ Yes ☐ No

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain. ☒ Yes ☐ No

Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism. ☐ Yes ☒ No

**POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D**

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain. ☒ Yes ☐ No

Basic maintenance ( grass mowing, parking lot maintenance ) is done by contractor.

Committee members and volunteers handle the rest of the maintenance.

**GENERAL**

Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants)

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities?  
(i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain.

☐ Yes ☒ No

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure.

☐ Yes ☒ No

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?

Open 24/7

**COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)**

## POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

## CERTIFICATION

*I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.*

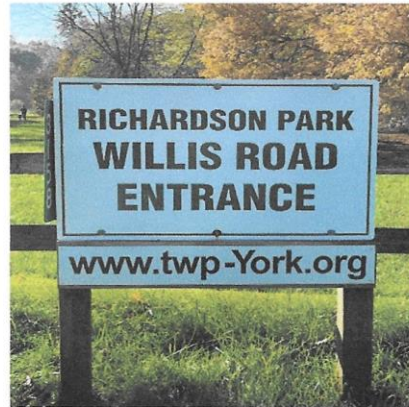
<u>Charles Teller</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>11/11/21</u>
Please print	Grantee Authorized Signature	Date
<u>Paul Fairchild</u>	<u>Paul Fairchild</u>	<u>11/11/21</u>
Please print	Witness Signature	Date

Send completed report to: POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS  
GRANTS MANAGEMENT  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
PO BOX 30425  
LANSING MI 48909-7925



**Public Recreation TF04-005 Grant  
Past – Completion Self- Certification Report**

**Site Quality - Park Entry Signs**



**General – Program Reconignition Plaque**

