



**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**LOCATION: TOWNSHIP ANNEX, 7527 HIGHLAND ROAD, WHITE LAKE, MICHIGAN 48383**  
**(FORMER WHITE LAKE LIBRARY)**  
**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 09, 2022 – 7:00 PM**

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*White Lake Township | 7525 Highland Rd | White Lake, MI 48383 | Phone: (248) 698-3300 | www.whitelaketwp.com*

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## **AGENDA**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**
- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- 3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
- 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**  
A. Minutes of October 5, 2022
- 5. CALL TO PUBLIC**
- 6. NEW/CONTINUING BUSINESS**  
A. Groya Consulting - Parks & Rec Master Plan - Update
- 7. OTHER BUSINESS**  
A. 2023 Meeting Schedule
- 8. STAFF REPORT**
- 9. COMMUNICATIONS**  
A. Member Communications
- 10. ADJOURNMENT**  
A. NEXT MEETING DATE: **Wednesday, December 14, 2022**

**Procedures for accommodations for persons with disabilities:** The Township will follow its normal procedures for individuals with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in this meeting. **Please contact the Township Clerk's office at (248) 698-3300 X-164 at least two days in advance of the meeting.** An attempt will be made to make reasonable accommodations.

**WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**  
Special Meeting

White Lake Township Hall, 7525 Highland, White Lake, MI 48383  
**October 5, 2022 @ 6:00 p.m.**

Chairperson Carlock called the special meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll was called.

ROLL CALL: Andrea Voorheis, Township Board Liaison  
Kathleen Aseltyne  
Merrie Carlock, Chairperson  
Deb Deren, Vice Chair  
Rhonda Grubb

Absent: None

Also Present: Justin Quagliata, Staff Planner  
Sherri Barber, Recording Secretary  
Leah Groya, Groya Consulting

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Member Aseltyne moved to approve the agenda as presented. Trustee Voorheis supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a voice vote, 5 yes votes.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Member Deren moved to approve the minutes of September 14, 2022 as presented. Member Aseltyne supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a voice vote, 5 yes votes.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

No public comments.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. Parks & Recreation Survey Results - Discussion**

Staff Planner Quagliata stated the survey results had been added to the packet which was available online. Leah Groya summarized the survey results. 443 survey responses were received, which was pretty good compared to other communities. A good cross-section of the Township was represented by the responses.

**B. Groya Consulting – Parks & Recreation Master Plan - Update**

Leah Groya presented a portion of the draft 5-Year Recreation Plan. The draft Plan should be available for public review in December. Staff Planner Quagliata stated the Plan would have its own capital improvement program. Leah Groya stated the Township was trying to balance being realistic and thinking big in terms of capital projects. She noted it was advantageous for the Plan to anticipate opportunities that could arise during the Plan period.

Leah Groya stated there were other agencies which perform planning work that could help with obtaining information and planning for regional projects. The Metroparks were looking at connecting its parks via trailways. There was a M-59 resurfacing project in 2025 or 2026 and maybe some side paths could be incorporated into the project.

Chairperson Carlock suggested looking at the current plan to see what had been accomplished.

Staff Planner Quagliata was pleased with where the draft Plan was at and excited to show the Committee a more comprehensive draft in November. He liked the way the Plan was presented; it was a user-friendly, readable document. Leah Groya said people were already looking for the inventory map. Chairperson Carlock stated the Township was lucky to have so much land for parks and recreation.

The Committee did a brainstorming exercise to gather additional input for the Master Plan. These comments would be incorporated into the Plan.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

No other business.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

a. Staff Report

Staff Planner Quagliata noted he was working with the Supervisor's Office, White Lake Historical Society, and Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce on the trunk-or-treat event. He asked Committee members to bring their car and give out candy if they were available. Staff anticipated approximately 200 kids. He added planning was underway for the tree lighting. He added staff planned to apply for a grant to construct the Triangle Trail from the Wilson Foundation.

b. Member Comments

Trustee Voorheis stated she had prior plans and may not be able to help with trunk-or-treat.

Member Aseltyne wanted to get Kris Olson from the Huron River Watershed Council to attend a meeting again. Staff Planner Quagliata suggested the February meeting, and asked the Committee to start thinking about what it would like Kris to talk about. Member Aseltyne would like to see a big map of the lakes, most of them are just dammed rivers. She reported she went to Suds on the River in Ann Arbor and it was a great event.

Member Grubb had a conflict and could not attend trunk-or-treat.

Member Deren had no comment.

Chairperson Carlock had a conflict and could not attend trunk-or-treat. She worked the Hess-Hathaway event last weekend.

**The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.**

The next meeting is Wednesday, November 9, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

DRAFT  
11-2-2022

Item A.

# WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN

2023-2027



Adopted By Township Board:

\_\_\_\_\_, 2023

Recommended for Adoption By Parks Committee:

\_\_\_\_\_, 2023

Rik Kowall, Supervisor  
Anthony L Noble, Clerk  
Mike Roman, Treasurer  
Scott Ruggles, Trustee  
Liz Fessler Smith, Trustee  
Andrea Voorheis, Trustee  
Mike Powell, Trustee

Parks and Recreation Committee:  
Merrie Carlock, Chair  
Deb Deren, Vice-Chair  
Andrea Voorheis, Township Board Liaison  
Rhonda Grubb  
Kathleen Aseltyne

White Lake Township Staff:  
Sean O'Neil, Community Development Director  
Justin Quagliata, Staff Planner

Assistance Provided By:  
Leah Groya, Consultant  
Jason MacDonald, Consultant



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Community Description	04
Planning Process	06
Administrative Structure	08
Inventory	12
Basis For Action	28
Action Plan	58
Appendix	74



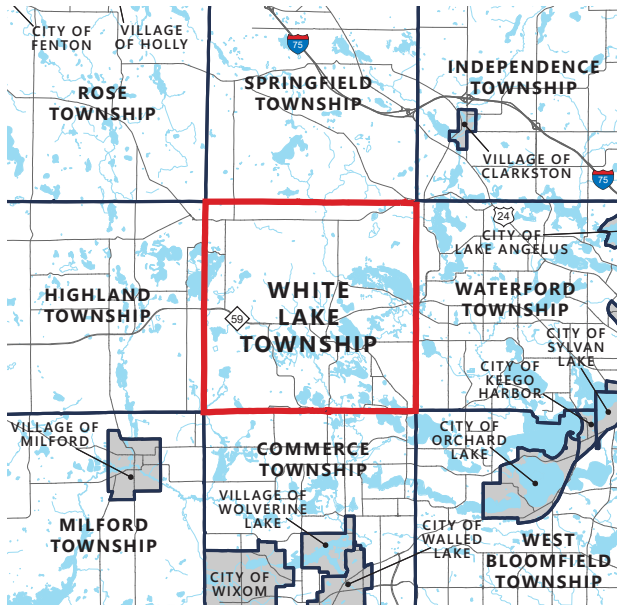
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## COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

The jurisdiction of this Parks & Recreation Master Plan includes all parks and recreation facilities and properties owned by White Lake Township. The 2023-2027 White Lake Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan was adopted by the Township Board to serve as a guide and decision making document for future park and recreation facilities. The Plan includes an inventory of existing facilities and programs within White Lake Township as well as an analysis of opportunities and needs. It also includes goals, objectives and a 5-year capital improvement plan. The Master Plan is intended to enable the Township to apply for funding assistance from various agencies and work toward implementing elements that make progress toward achieving the outlined goals. This Plan specifically provides for 5 years of grant eligibility with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.



White Lake Township is located in west/central Oakland County, along the M-59 corridor between Lansing and Pontiac. The Township is bordered by Springfield Township to the north, Waterford Township to the east, Commerce Township to the south, and Highland Township to the west. White Lake Township is approximately 30 miles northwest of Detroit, 40 miles east of Lansing, 30 miles south of Flint, and 30 miles north of Ann Arbor.



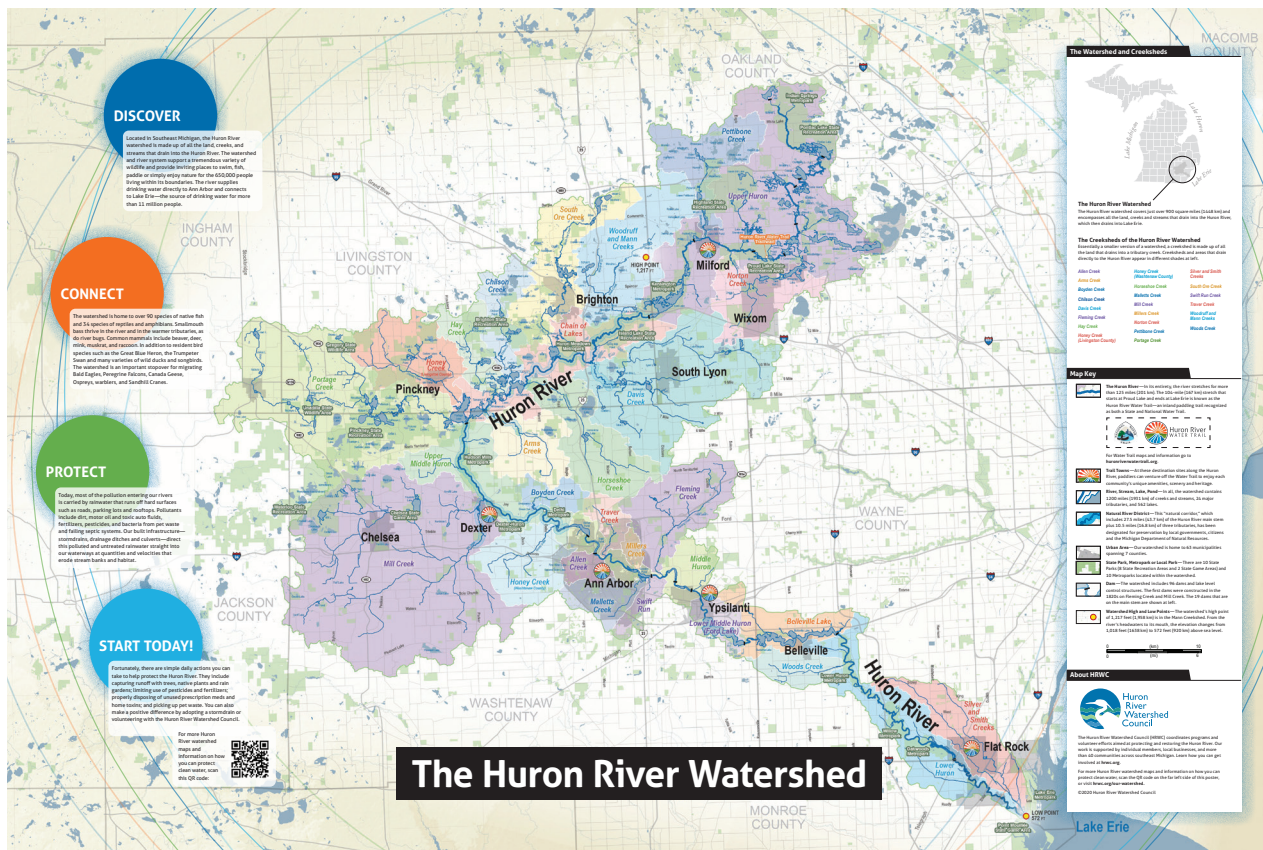
White Lake Township owns 6 park properties in the community including:

Bloomer Park	28.7 acres
Judy Hawley Park	7.6 acres
Vetter Park +	
Dublin Senior Center	5.9 acres
Hidden Pines Park	9.3 acres
Kelley Fisk Farm	5.0 acres
Stanley Park	57.4 acres

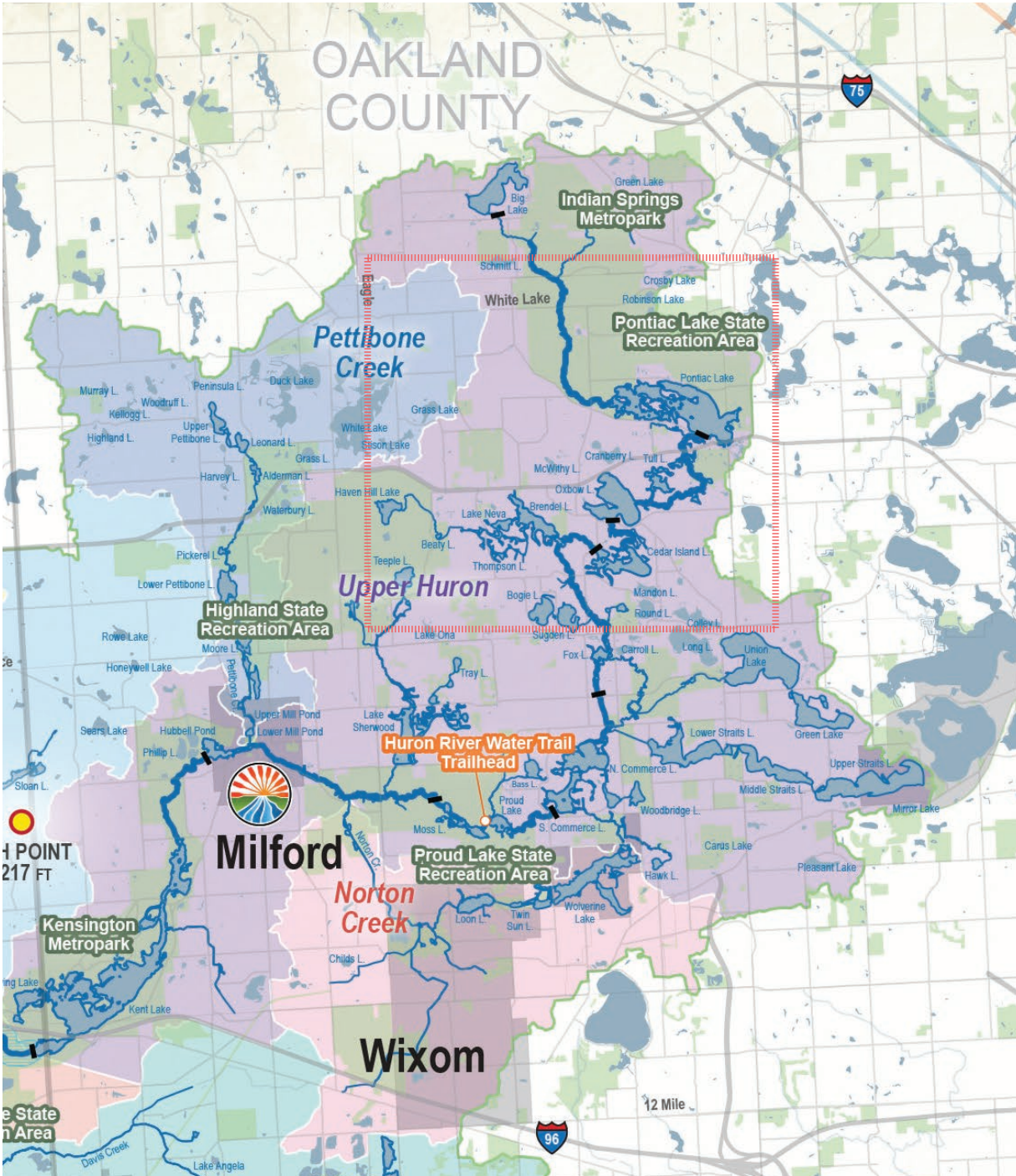
White Lake Township had a total population of 30,950 residents as of the 2020 United States Census, a 3.1% increase from 2010 (30,109). Township staff believes the population is several thousand more than reported by the Census due to large residential developments that have been built in recent years. These figures represent a stable population with modest growth over the past 10 years. The southeast Michigan region as a whole (the 7 County SEMCOG area), also rebounded in population to 4.83 million people, an increase of 2.7% from 2010.

White Lake Township was significantly impacted by the last Ice Age with much of the Township classified as glacial outwash sand and gravel. Moraines composed of sand and gravel were deposited as retreating glaciers melted in place (especially north of M-59). The Township is characterized by rolling terrain and varies by approximately 211 feet from the lowest point to the highest point. In general, the lowest elevations occur in the south central portion of the Township and rises to the north. Brendel Lake is the lowest elevation (933 feet) with the highest (1144 feet) being in the northwest portion of the Township.

The majority of White Lake Township is within the headwaters of the Huron River Watershed with small sections in the northeast and eastern edge in the Clinton River Watershed. The Huron River flows 125 miles from its headwaters at Big Lake just west of Indian Springs Metropark, to its mouth at Lake Erie in Monroe County. Within the Huron River Watershed, there are 3 subwatersheds. Runoff from the northwest section of White Lake Township flows into Pettibone Creek, then into the Huron River; water from the southeast section of the Township flows into Hayes Creek, then into the Huron River; and water from the central portion of the Township flows directly into the Huron River.



THE HURON RIVER WATERSHED + WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP





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# PLANNING PROCESS

This plan was developed utilizing the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plan Guidelines. Following the MDNR Guidelines and filing this adopted plan with the MDNR allows the Township to be eligible to apply for MDNR-administered parks and recreation related grant funds. The 5-Year Plan was prepared over an approximately six-month period. This section documents the process used to develop the Plan.

**BACKGROUND STUDIES**

The background studies for this master plan include data and information for the Community Description, Administrative Structure, Recreation Inventory, and Basis For Action sections. Data collection and field work for the background studies took place in the summer and fall of 2022. Various sources were used to gather the most up-to-date information, including the previous 5-year plan, Oakland County and SEMCOG Geographic Information System (GIS) data, Township staff, United States Census, and field observations.

**PLAN INPUT**

The White Lake Township Parks and Recreation Committee engages the community to ensure awareness and gather input on desired projects and priorities. The Committee and Township Board will continue to seek input from residents as they move forward with implementation of the plan over the next 5 years. Below is a summary of input methods used during the development of this plan. Additional details can be found in the Basis For Action section.

**Survey**

The Township developed a survey to gather input on parks and recreation related topics. The survey was completed by 443 people and the results (along with all of the other data collected during the process) were used by the Parks Committee to establish the Action Plan. Paper copies were available at the Dublin Senior Center as well as during the Fisk Farm Festival.

**Fisk Farm Festival**

Staff and consultants manned a tent set up at the annual Fisk Farm Festival in September 2022 in order to gather input regarding parks and recreation in White Lake Township. In addition to a map of parks in the Township, people were encouraged to complete hard copies of the survey.

**Committee Meetings**

All Committee meetings are open to the public. The Parks and Recreation Committee held a Special Meeting on October 5, 2022 to discuss the 5-Year Plan. The Plan was also discussed at the November 2022 meeting.

**ACTION PLAN**

The Action Plan section of the report outlines the direction the Committee and Township Board would like to take over the next 5 years in order to maintain and improve parks and recreation opportunities within the community. The Action Plan includes goals and guidelines as well as a capital improvement schedule, and was developed with input from the Committee, staff, and residents.

**PUBLIC HEARING + ADOPTION**

A draft Master Plan was reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Committee in November 2022. The draft Plan was made available for public review on \_\_\_\_\_, 2022 via the Township website and at Township Hall. A notice was published in the Spinal Column on \_\_\_\_\_, 2022, making people aware of the draft plan and public hearing. The Township also posted to social media.

A public hearing was held by the Parks and Recreation Committee on \_\_\_\_\_. A presentation of the Plan was provided after which the Committee discussed the plan and invited public comment.

**ADOPTION**

The White Lake Township Parks and Recreation Committee passed a resolution recommending the Township Board adopt the Parks and Recreation Master Plan on \_\_\_\_\_.

The White Lake Township Board adopted the Parks and Recreation Master Plan by Resolution on \_\_\_\_\_. The Plan was approved by the MDNR in \_\_\_\_\_ 2023.



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## ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

This section of the Plan describes how parks and recreation is administered in White Lake Township. Included is a description of the overall administration as well as expenditures and revenues for the past three years.

Public Act 156 of 1917 authorizes cities, villages, counties, townships, and school districts to operate local recreation facilities and recreation systems. The Act states a city, village, county or township may operate a system of public recreation and playgrounds, acquire, equip and maintain land, buildings or other recreation facilities, employ a superintendent of recreation and assistants, and vote and expend funds for the operation of systems.

### TOWNSHIP BOARD

The ultimate responsibility for the provision of recreation in the Township is held by the Township Board including the Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer, and Trustees. The Township Board approves the budget, appoints the Parks and Recreation Committee members, and oversees the staff. Additionally, the Township Board oversees the long-term vision for the Township through adoption of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

### PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

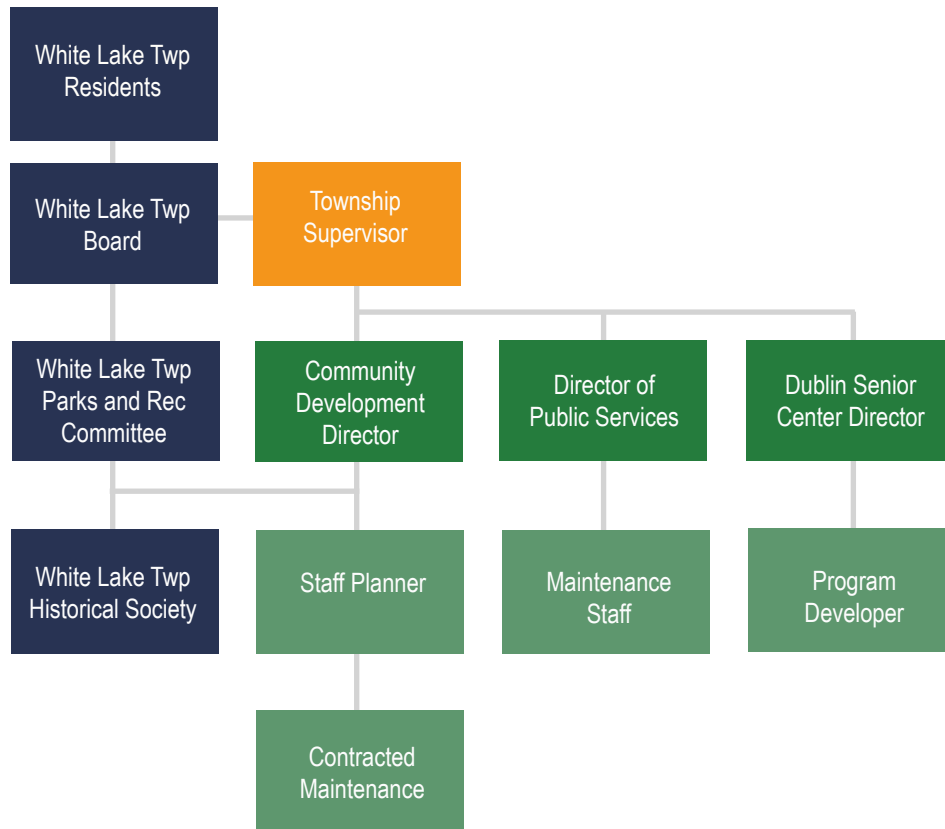
The Township Board created a Parks and Recreation Committee in 1997 which is charged with determining public need for recreational facilities and developing plans for their development and operation. The Committee oversees the development of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and provides recommendations for adoption to the Township Board. Members are appointed by the Supervisor and confirmed by vote

of the full Township Board. The 5-member Committee meets on the second Wednesday of each month.

### TOWNSHIP STAFF

Day-to-day parks and recreation activities are managed by the Staff Planner and Community Development Director. The Staff Planner submits requests for maintenance, oversees contracted maintenance items, manages field and pavilion rentals, and monitors and manages the Township's Parks and Recreation Fund. In addition, the Staff Planner serves as technical staff to the Parks and Recreation Committee.

The maintenance staff are managed by the Director of Public Services, and the Dublin Senior Center is managed by the Dublin Senior Center Director.



**RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER PROVIDERS**

White Lake Township has relationships with other local agencies including the White Lake Historical Society, the White Lake Library, the Township Police/Fire Departments, and Oakland County Parks to coordinate events and offerings. Additional agencies and providers White Lake partners with include the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority (Indian Springs Metropark) and the MDNR (State Recreation Areas).

**FISCAL ANALYSIS**

Parks and Recreation is primarily funded through a voter-approved millage. Park projects have also been supported by grants obtained by staff. In 2018, White Lake Township residents passed a 6-year, 0.3 mill parks and recreation millage (expiring in 2023). The millage collected approximately \$364,000 in 2021. The millage can be used for all park and recreational uses permitted by law, including but not limited to maintaining, improving, purchasing, constructing or acquiring property, property interests, trails, pathways and facilities for park and recreational purposes. The millage is also used for programming special events.

The Revenues and Expenditures table illustrates patterns over the past 3 years (2020-2022). For the 2020-2022 fiscal years, the millage resulted in revenues between \$352,000 and \$372,000 each year. Interest, field rentals, and other miscellaneous items have supplemented the total millage revenues, as has a \$50,000 grant awarded to design the remaining segment of the “Triangle Trail.” In 2020 and 2021, the Township expended \$155,000 and \$108,000, respectively, on Parks and Recreation with the largest expenses being Grounds Maintenance, Park Improvement Projects, and Professional Services. In 2022, expenditures were budgeted to increase significantly reflecting the planned Phase I improvements at Stanley Park as well as the construction of the Triangle Trail. In actuality, the majority of these funds will not be expended until 2023/2024.



WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION BUDGET (2020-2022)				
Revenues	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Budgeted	Percent Change
Property Taxes 0.3 Mil	\$ 352,095	\$ 364,263	\$ 372,611	5.8%
Grants	\$ -	\$ 50,000	\$ 20	
Field Rental	\$ 3,340	\$ 6,630	\$ 6,000	79.6%
Interest Income	\$ 6,867	\$ 2,769	\$ 3,500	-49.0%
Insurance Rebates	\$ 1,502	\$ -	\$ -	-100.0%
Misc. Revenue	\$ 1,444	\$ 2,720	\$ 500	-65.4%
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 365,248</b>	<b>\$ 426,382</b>	<b>\$ 382,631</b>	<b>4.8%</b>
Expenditures	2020	2021	2022	Percent Change
Fees & Per Diem	\$ 2,515	\$ 2,486	\$ 2,250	-10.5%
Soc Sec, Medicare, Unemployment	\$ 146	\$ 143	\$ 300	105.5%
Insurance	\$ 4,159	\$ 4,168	\$ 5,000	20.2%
Professional Services	\$ 11,970	\$ 15,010	\$ 35,000	192.4%
Dues, Publications, Misc	\$ 2,111	\$ 858	\$ 4,050	91.9%
Grounds Maintenance	\$ 39,978	\$ 44,035	\$ 60,000	50.1%
Utilities & Electricity	\$ 5,015	\$ 4,551	\$ 5,400	7.7%
Park Equipment	\$ 402	\$ 7,946	\$ 25,000	6118.9%
Events	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,000	
Park Improvements	\$ 89,347	\$ 10,314	\$ 550,000	515.6%
Pathway Projects	\$ -	\$ 19,109	\$ 600,000	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 155,643</b>	<b>\$ 108,620</b>	<b>\$ 1,290,000</b>	<b>728.8%</b>



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# INVENTORY

Developing an inventory of facilities and programs is an essential component of a Parks and Recreation Master Plan. A wide variety of facilities are provided by several different agencies and organizations in White Lake Township. This section of the Plan provides a foundation of information to use in developing the Action Plan.

## WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP PARKS

White Lake Township owns and manages six parks totaling approximately 114 acres of property including the 5-acre Historic Fisk Farm property. In the summer of 2022, an inventory of each of the properties was completed and is summarized on the Inventory Map and Table. Following the map and table are one page summaries of each park.

## MDNR GRANTS

White Lake Township has been the recipient of four grants from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. When preparing a 5-Year Master Plan, the MDNR requires information be provided regarding the status of all past grants received. The grant history report was obtained from the MDNR MiGrants website. It is important to understand which properties have received MDNR funding as they remain encumbered by the executed grant agreements in perpetuity. Since 1999, the Township has secured \$2,273,365 in grants from the MDNR.

### Vetter Park (CM99-049)

White Lake Township received \$50,965 in 1999 for the development of two ballfields, playground equipment, improved picnic area, and expansion of a walking trail. A ballfield, picnic area, walking trail, and playground continue to exist at Vetter Park. At 20+ years old, the playground equipment is showing its age.

### Bloomer Park (TF09-103)

In 2009, the Township received a \$350,000 grant for improvements at Bloomer Park including parking, observation deck overlooking Grass Lake, boardwalk, trails, picnic shelter, signage, furnishings, and landscaping. All of these elements continue to be publicly accessible and in relatively good condition.

### Stanley Park (TF18-0110 & 26-01868)

The Township received \$1,372,400 in 2018 toward the purchase of the 57-acre former Brendel Lake Campground in order to develop it as a public park. In 2021, the Township was awarded \$500,000 via the Land and Water Conservation Fund to make improvements at Stanley Park slated for construction in 2023 and include an entrance drive, crushed stone parking lot, fishing pier/dock, pathways, signage, exercise stations, benches, sled hill, and related amenities.

## BARRIER FREE STATUS (MDNR RATING)

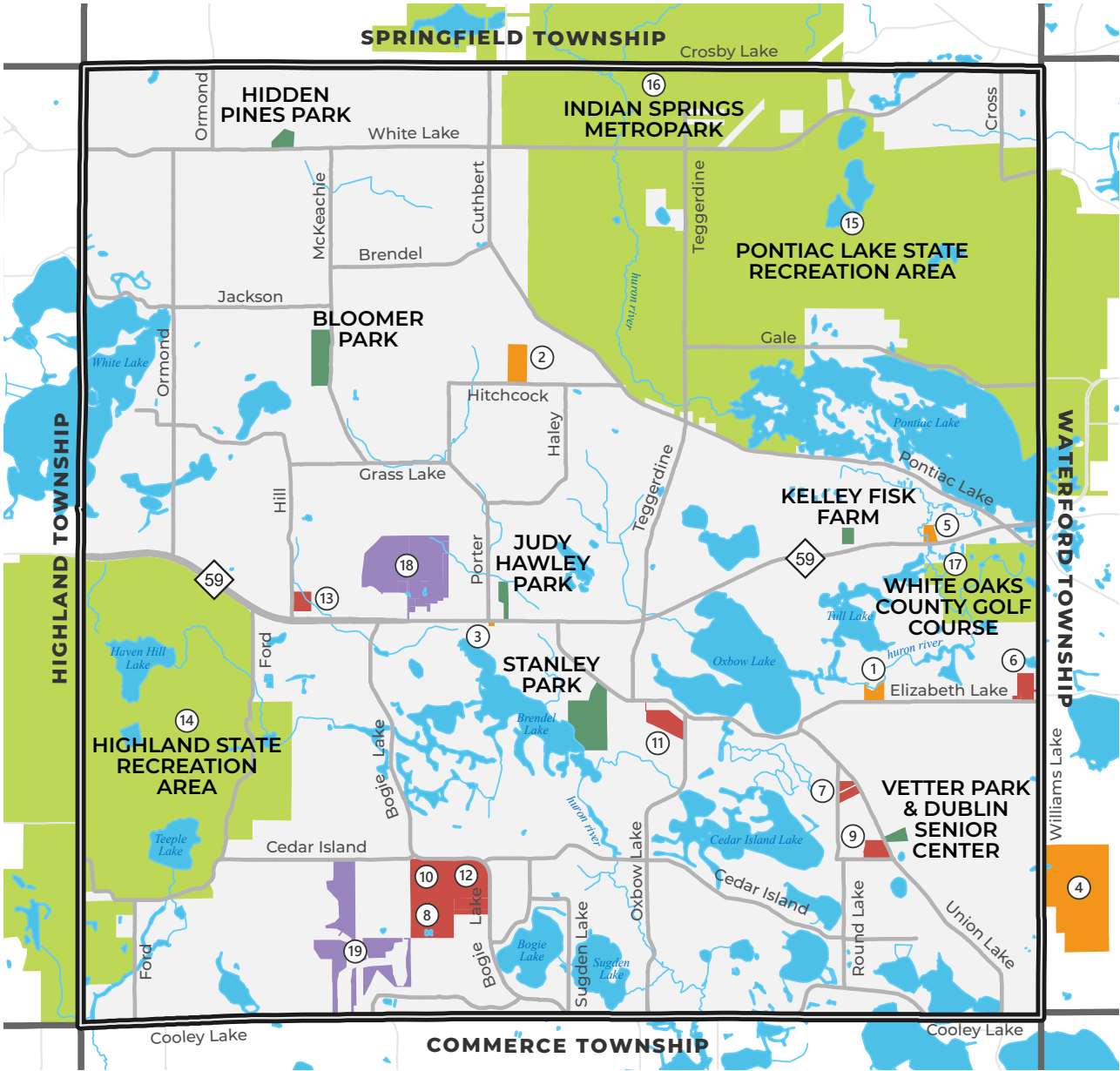
With the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), all areas of public service and accommodation became subject to barrier free requirements, including parks and recreation facilities. Each park summary sheet on the following pages notes a current accessibility rating as defined by the MDNR for planning purposes only. Each facility was given a rating of 1 through 5 (MDNR Rating System) with the following definitions:

1. None of the facilities/park areas meet guidelines
2. Some of the facilities/park areas meet guidelines
3. Most of the facilities/park areas meet guidelines
4. Entire park meets guidelines
5. Entire park was developed/renovated using principals of universal design.

ID	Name	Acres	Parking	Porta John	Restroom Building	Concession Building	Historic Buildings	Storage / Equipment Facility	Picnic Areas	Shelter/Pavilion	Ball Diamond	Tennis Court	Play Equipment Areas	Multi-Purpose Field	Soccer Field	Track	Basketball Hoop	Volleyball Court (Sand)	Walking/jogging/Bike Path	Nature Trail	Beach	Dog Waste Station	Bike Rack	Drinking Fountain	Meeting Space	
<b>WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP PARK PROPERTIES</b>																										
	Bloomer Park	28.70	X						X	1								1	X			1	X			
	Judy Hawley Park	7.62	X	X				X	X	1			1		3		4	1	X			1				
	Ferdinand C Vetter Park + Dublin Senior Center	5.90	X	X		X		X	X	1	1		1				1		X		2			X		
	Hidden Pines Park	9.29	X	X							1											1				
	Stanley Park	57.37	X						X	X										X	X	3				
	Historic Kelley Fisk Farm	5.02	X				X		X	X	2				3		5	1				8			X	
	<b>Total Acreage and Facilities</b>	<b>113.90</b>								<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>2</b>		<b>3</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>				<b>8</b>				
<b>OTHER PUBLIC PROPERTIES</b>																										
1	Elizabeth Lake Road Property (undeveloped)	8.68																								
2	Hitchcock Road Property (undeveloped)	19.46					X																		X	
3	Old Community Hall	0.46			X			X	X	3	1	1						2							X	
4	Hess Hathaway Park (in Waterford)	167.34	X	X	X																				X	
5	M59/Huron River Property (undeveloped)	6.00																								
	<b>Total Acreage and Facilities</b>	<b>201.94</b>								<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>5+</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>								
<b>SCHOOL PROPERTIES</b>																										
5	Houghton Elementary School (Waterford)	13.17	X							2	2		2				2									
6	Dublin Elementary School (Walled Lake)	7.91	X							1	1		2		1		4									
7	Lakewood Elementary School (Huron Valley)	46.29	X									3	3				4									
8	St. Patrick Catholic School	11.25	X										1				2									
9	White Lake Middle School (Huron Valley)	46.29	X							2	2		1		1		1									
10	Oxbow Elementary School (Huron Valley)	19.13	X							2	2		2				3									
11	Lakeland High School (Huron Valley)	46.29	X							5	8		1		1		1									
12	Huron Valley Schools Property (Harbor Alt)	9.95	X							12	8	13	1	3	1	3	1	18								
	<b>Total Acreage and Facilities</b>	<b>200.28</b>																								

Received State Grant in Past

**White Lake Township  
Park Inventory  
5 Year Master Plan  
2023-2027**



**WHITE LAKE TWP. PARKS**

**OTHER PUBLIC PROPERTIES**

- ① Elizabeth Lake Road Property
- ② Hitchcock Road Property
- ③ Old Community Hall
- ④ Hess Hathaway Park (in Waterford)
- ⑤ M-59/Huron River Property

**SCHOOL PROPERTIES**

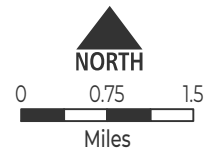
- ⑥ Houghton Elementary School
- ⑦ Dublin Elementary School
- ⑧ Lakewood Elementary School
- ⑨ St. Patrick Catholic School
- ⑩ White Lake Middle School
- ⑪ Oxbow Elementary School
- ⑫ Lakeland High School
- ⑬ Huron Valley Schools Property

**STATE | METROPARK | COUNTY PROPERTIES**

- ⑭ Highland State Recreation Area
- ⑮ Pontiac Lake State Recreation Area
- ⑯ Indian Springs Metropark
- ⑰ White Oaks County Golf Course

**PRIVATE PROPERTIES**

- ⑱ Alpine Valley Ski
- ⑲ Brentwood Golf Club and Banquet Center



**PARK INVENTORY MAP**

**WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP**  
 5-YEAR PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN  
 2023 - 2027

## BLOOMER PARK

3889 McKeachie Road

Size: 28.7 acres

ADA Rating: 3

MDNR Grant: TF09-103

Bloomer Park is a 28+ acre wooded park on the eastern shore of Grass Lake in the northwest portion of the Township. Originally donated to the State by Mr. and Mrs. Howard Bloomer in the 1920s, White Lake Township acquired the property in 2009 and began implementing public access improvements in 2012.

The park includes a parking area, nature trails, pavilion, overlook/boardwalk on Grass Lake, signs interpreting the history of the property and various environmental features, benches and bike racks. The approximately 1/3-mile trail loop takes visitors through a native second growth of Maples, Oaks, Hickories, Serviceberries and Dogwoods. Native woodland flowers such as Trillium, May Apple, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, Wild Geranium, and Skunk Cabbage can also be found.



# JUDY HAWLEY PARK

7525 Highland Road

Size: 7.6 acres

ADA Rating: 2

Judy Hawley Park is 7.6-acres of an approximately 13-acre property that also includes Township Hall and Police Station on the north side of Highland Road. The park is at the rear of the property and includes 2 half-sized basketball courts, a full-size irrigated soccer field, 2 irrigated half-sized soccer fields, a pavilion, play structure, swing set, a 'little library' box, sand volleyball court, 0.4-mile-long asphalt trail around the perimeter, a small maintenance building, and porta john. Hawley Park was the location of the first Family Fun Day event held in June 2022.

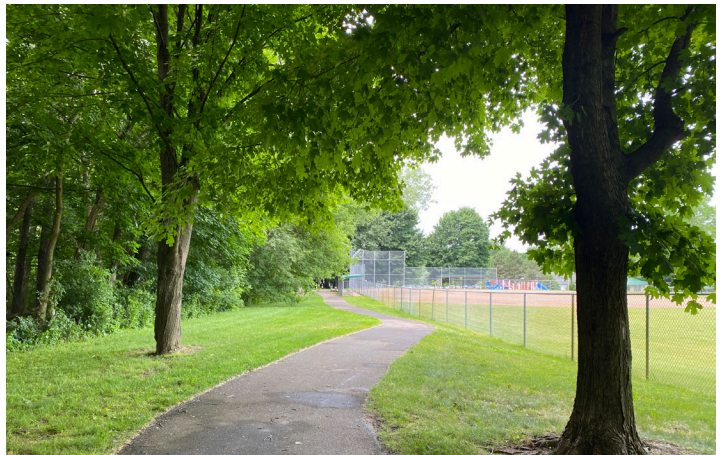


## FERDINAND C VETTER PARK + DUBLIN SENIOR CENTER

685 Union Lake Road  
Size: 5.9 acres  
ADA Rating: 3  
MDNR Grant: CM99-049

Ferdinand C Vetter Park is on a 5.9-acre property along with the Dublin Senior Center on the east side of Union Lake Road. The park includes a parking lot, baseball/softball field with covered dugouts, a play structure, shelter with picnic tables, concession/storage building, a basketball hoop, and 0.25-mile asphalt walking path around the park. The Dublin Senior Center offers programs and services for adults 50 years or older.

The Senior Center offers a variety of educational and health programs such as Balance and Core Strengthening, Guided Imagery, Yoga, Line Dancing, Painting, Crafts, Lectures, Book Club, Cards, Quilting, a Walking Club, Day Trips, etc. A Meals on Wheels program is hosted at the Center as is the West Oakland Transportation Authority - a collaboration between White Lake, Highland, Waterford, and Walled Lake that offers residents (55+) and disabled adults transportation to





# HIDDEN PINES PARK

5455 White Lake Road

Size: 9.29 acres

ADA Rating: 2

Hidden Pines Park was developed in 2012 and is located on the north side of White Lake Road. The 9+ acre park includes a baseball/softball field with covered dugouts, a gravel parking lot, open space, and a 'little library' box.



# STANLEY PARK

10785 Elizabeth Lake Road

Size: 57.37 acres

ADA Rating: 1

MDNR Grants: TF18-0110 & 26-01868

Stanley Park is the newest park in White Lake Township and is located on the southwest side of Elizabeth Lake Road with 500+ feet of frontage along Brendel Lake. The site is adjacent to undeveloped land planned to become the White Lake Township Civic Center including a new Township Hall. The 57+ acre Stanley Park parcel was a former private campground the Township purchased with assistance from a MDNR Trust Fund grant. The Township has developed a master plan for the property, cleaned up the site, and opened it for public use with a gravel parking lot along Elizabeth Lake Road and the ability to walk the property to the lakefront. The Township was awarded grant funds via the MDNR/LWCF program to make Phase I improvements slated for construction in 2023. Phase I improvements include an entrance drive, accessible pathway, fishing dock, rain garden, exercise stations, boardwalk, sled hill, landscaping, and signage.



## KELLEY FISK FARM

9180 Highland Road

Size: 5.02 acres

ADA Rating: 3

The Kelley Fisk Farm is a 5-acre property on the north side of Highland Road owned by White Lake Township and currently leased by the White Lake Historical Society. The property includes a number of historic buildings. The Historical Society operates Fisk Farm as a community educational experience including fields trips where students learn how life was on a farm in the 1800s. Several community events are also held at Fisk Farm each year including the Fisk Farm Festival and Craft Show (September), Community Yard Sale (August), Comedy Show, Tree Lighting, etc.



**OTHER PUBLIC PROPERTIES**

In addition to the actively managed park properties, the Township also owns four additional properties: the Old Community Hall building site, the Hitchcock Road Property, and the Elizabeth Lake Road Property. Also, Hess-Hathaway Park, located in Waterford just outside of White Lake Township, is available for White Lake resident use as further described below.

**Old Township Hall**

The Old Township Hall building is located on a 0.5-acre property on the south side of Highland Road, across from the current Township Hall. The building is primarily used for storage but is available for rent for small gatherings.

**Hitchcock Road Property**

The Township owns 19.46- acres of undeveloped property on the north side of Hitchcock Road.



**Elizabeth Lake Road Property**

This 9-acre parcel is located on the north side of Elizabeth Lake Road, with frontage along the Huron River, just east of Oxbow Lake. There has been some initial discussions about potentially creating a small parking area and canoe/kayak launch at this location in conjunction with Oakland County Parks.



**Highland Road (M-59) Property**

The Township accepted a donation of approximately 6 acres of property on the north side of M-59 along the Huron River. There has been some initial discussions about potentially creating a small parking area and canoe/kayak launch at this location.

**Hess-Hathaway Park (in Waterford Township)**

The 167+ acre Hess-Hathaway Park is located on the east side of Williams Lake Road, on the Waterford Township/White Lake Township border. The property and historic farm house was bequeathed to Waterford Township in 1985. While the park is owned and maintained by Waterford Township, it is operated by a 15-member park committee with 3 designated positions for White Lake Township residents (as required by the Hess-Hathaway families). White Lake Township residents have access to the park facilities for the same cost as Waterford residents. The park includes a historic farm house, barn, farm animals, pavilions, community building, playground, hiking trails, softball field, sand volleyball, etc.

**STATE/METROPARK/COUNTY PROPERTIES**

There are nearly 5,750 acres of recreation property located in White Lake Township that are owned and operated by the State of Michigan, the Huron-Clinton Metroparks Authority, or Oakland County.

**Highland State Recreation Area**

The 5,900-acre Highland Recreation Area (1,647 acres in White Lake) is owned and managed by the MDNR and is located in White Lake and Milford Townships. The recreation area includes forests, marshes, lakes and rolling hills with trails for equestrians, hikers, skiers, and mountain bikers. There are also three day-use areas with picnicking, swimming, horseshoes, and volleyball. Camping, fishing, and recreational boating are also offered.

The Recreation Area also includes the historic, 721-acre Haven Hill property which was formerly Edsel and Eleanor Ford's family estate until it was sold to the State in 1946. It a designated state Natural Area and a National Landmark.

**Pontiac Lake State Recreation Area**

Pontiac Lake State Recreation Area is a 3,745-acre park (3,257 acres in White Lake) owned and managed by the MDNR and located in White Lake and Waterford. The recreation area includes forests, marshes, ponds, old farm fields and lakes with activities such as hunting, birding, picnicking, a 1/2 mile long beach, swimming, fishing, mountain bike trails, hiking, cross country skiing, camping, recreational boating, equestrian trails, shooting/archery range, remote control airfield, and off-leash dog park.

**Indian Springs Metropark**

The 2,547-acre (641 acres in White Lake Township) Indian Springs Metropark is located in the northeast corner of White Lake Township, just north of Pontiac Lake State Recreation Area. The Metropark includes the Environmental Discovery Center, a golf course and driving range, sled hill, volleyball courts, shelters and picnic areas, splash pad, and playgrounds. Indian Springs Metropark also includes miles of paved hiking/biking trails, hiking and cross country ski trails, as well as equestrian trails.

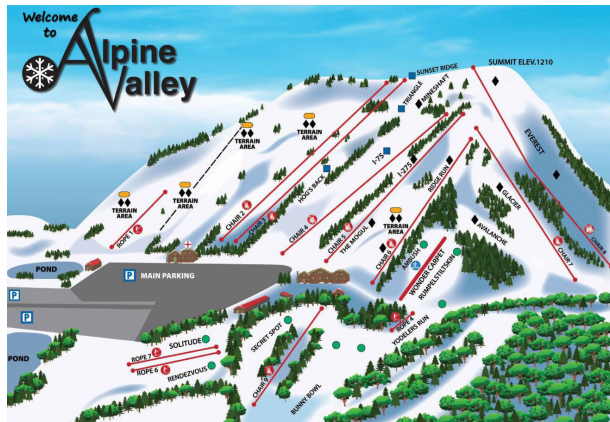
**White Lake Oaks Golf Course**

White Lake Oaks Golf Course is on 202 acres on the east side of the Township. It is owned and operated by Oakland County and includes a pro shop, club room, and garden patio.

**PRIVATE PROPERTIES**

**Alpine Valley Ski Area (private)**

Alpine Valley Ski area has an elevation of 1,210 feet with nine high capacity chairs, four beginner ropes and one magic carpet for beginners. The ski facility includes 25 runs and three terrain parks and is typically open from November-March depending on weather conditions.



**Brentwood Golf Club and Banquet Center**

This golf course and banquet center is privately owned and operated in south central White Lake Township. In addition to an 18-hole golf course, the banquet center can accommodate 200 guests with full kitchen.

**SCHOOLS**

There are five school districts within White Lake Township: Clarkston Community Schools, Holly Area Schools, Huron Valley Schools, Walled Lake Community School District, and Waterford Community Schools. Public school facilities can play an important role in providing recreation facilities and opportunities in a community. Local schools can often be used like a neighborhood park during evenings, weekends, and summers. However, school properties are not under the jurisdiction of the Township and the Township does not have control over maintenance or scheduling.

The five school districts have seven properties in White Lake Township, including:

- Houghton Elementary School

- Dublin Elementary School
- Lakewood Elementary School
- Oxbow Elementary School
- White Lake Middle School
- Lakeland High School
- Huron Valley Schools Property (on Hill Road)

In addition, St. Patrick's Catholic School (Preschool-8th grade) is located on Hutchins Road in White Lake Township and utilizes soccer fields at Hawley Park and the baseball field at Vetter Park.

**TOWNSHIP RECREATION PROGRAMS AND PARTNERS**

White Lake Township Parks and Recreation Committee and staff host several community events throughout the year including:

- Family Fun Day (Summer)
- Trunk-or-Treat (Fall)
- Tree Lighting (Winter)

The White Lake Township Dublin Senior Center offers a number of programs, services, and activities for adults 50 years and older. Examples of programs offered at



**Closed Monday for 4th of July**

**Coming soon..... Ladies only..... Self Defense class taught by Detective Jessica Snow and Officer Shpati. Please stay tune, date to be announced. Pre-registration required.**

**Basket Weaving with Kathy from the The Basket Sampler**  
Thursday July 14, 2022 12:30pm \$20.00 (includes all supplies) This makes a great wall basket for plants or other decoration. It is a slightly different technique than other baskets, but fun to do. Please register by Monday July 11, 2022

**There will not be any classes or programs held at Dublin Senior Center on Tuesday August 2, 2022 due to Elections** 😊

**Dublin's indoor Summer Picnic**  
Thursday July 7, 2022 11:30am \$8.00  
Join us for a delightful day away... Doesn't matter what the weather is outside... Inside Dublin it will be sunny and fun with friends! Enjoy fried chicken, baked beans, potato salad and a delicious dessert. After lunch...move those tables there could be dancing in the isles... Tom Zakarian is back to entertain us with his wonderful music and lyrics. Please register by Tuesday July 5, 2022

**Spring Card Creations With Phyllis**  
Tuesday July 12, 2022 12:30pm \$10.00 for 3 cards Phyllis is back to help us design our own greeting card creations. PLEASE REGISTER IN ADVANCE

**Coffee & Conversation With the Supervisor**  
Tuesday July 12, 2022 10:00am  
Join us for a cup of coffee and a bagel. Find out the latest scoop around town.

various times throughout the year include lunch and bingo, tax assistance, support groups, book club, line dancing, yoga, massage therapy, walking club, painting, and crafts. The Dublin Senior Center produces a newsletter every other month to advertise offerings.

The White Lake Historical Society manages and programs the 5 acre Fisk Farm property. The Historical Society operates Fisk Farm as a community educational experience including fields trips where students learn how life was on a farm in the 1800s. Several community events are also held at Fisk Farm each year including the Fisk Farm Festival and Craft Show (September), Community Yard Sale (August), Comedy Show, Tree Lighting, etc.

### **EXISTING NONMOTORIZED SYSTEM**

Over the past 10-20 years, there has been a concerted effort in the state, region, and county to identify opportunities to connect communities to one another via a network of nonmotorized facilities. The following text and maps describes the existing systems within White Lake Township as well as conditions that can directly influence connectivity and comfort for walking and bicycling. Awareness of these conditions will assist in the development of nonmotorized goals and recommendations.

### **Facility Types and Terminology**

The Michigan Department of Transportation utilizes terms and definitions that are used by the Federal Highway Administration as it relates to the various types of non-motorized facilities. The following page illustrates the most common “facility types” and are based on the AASHTO: Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities 2012. These are brief introductions to the common non-motorized facility types. Some of the facilities are for both pedestrians and cyclists such as Shared Use Paths and in some cases Wide Paved Shoulder and Side Paths. On-street bike lanes are facilities for cycling.

### **Ped/Bike Crash Locations**

Pedestrians and cyclists are the most vulnerable roadway users. Incorporating well-designed pedestrian and bicycle facilities encourages predictable behavior and alerts motorists to their presence, thus improving safety for all roadway users. Mapping data (2016-2021) of accident locations that involved a pedestrian or a bicyclist can assist in understanding where there may be higher rates of pedestrian and bike activity in the Township. The Ped/Bike Crash Map indicates that people are walking and biking along the major corridors, but encountering safety issues (regardless of fault) particularly along M-59, Elizabeth Lake Road, Williams Lake Road, and Union Lake Road.

### **Speed Limits and Traffic Volumes**

The perception of risk is strongly considered when people are making decisions about whether or not to walk or bike to a destination. Traffic speeds and volumes are one factor people may use to assess that risk and many times can be correlated to levels of walking and bicycling. It should be noted studies show traffic volumes appear to have greater impact on leisure cycling as opposed to commuter cycling. SEMCOG data was used to map existing posted speed limits and traffic volumes in White Lake Township. Generally speaking, the higher speed roads and sometimes the higher volume roads will result in a less encouraging environment, or lower level of comfort, for walking and biking.

# Facility Types and Terminology

Based on AASHTO: Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities 2012



## Shared Use Path/Trail

- ▶ For use by pedestrians, bicyclists and other nonmotorized users
- ▶ Physically separated from motor vehicle traffic
- ▶ Two-way travel
- ▶ Examples include rail trails and river trails



## Sidepath

- ▶ Specific type of Shared Use Path that run adjacent to a roadway
- ▶ Set back from edge of roadway or has physical barrier between path and roadway
- ▶ Depending on frequency of curb cuts, may not be safe for bicyclists due to intersection conflicts



## Bike Lane

- ▶ On-street
- ▶ Designated and marked for use by bicyclists
- ▶ Typically one-way travel in same direction as motor traffic
- ▶ Can be buffered, protected/separated



## Sidewalk

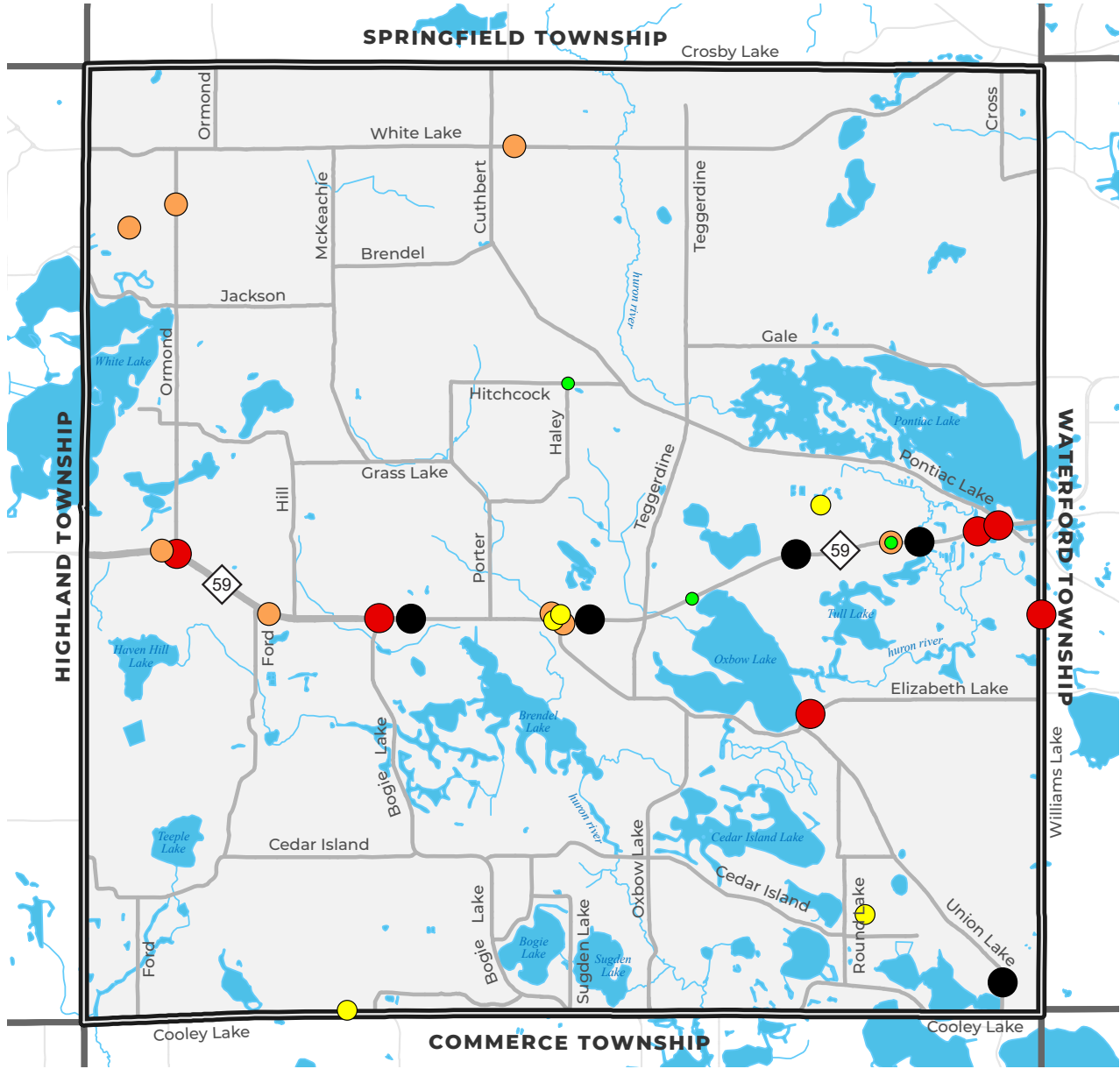
- ▶ Separated from roadway by a curb or unpaved buffer space
- ▶ Dedicated space intended for use by pedestrians



## Paved Shoulder

- ▶ 4+ feet wide
- ▶ Provides space for pedestrians/bicyclists but not marked as a bike lane
- ▶ Occasional use by disabled vehicles and mail delivery vehicles

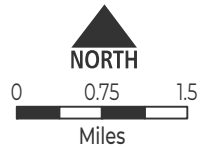




**BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN  
CRASHES 2016 - 2021  
(worst injury in crash)**

- Fatal (5)
- Serious Injury (6)
- Minor Injury (8)
- Possible Injury (5)
- No Injury (3)

Data Source: SEMCOG Transportation Data, 2022

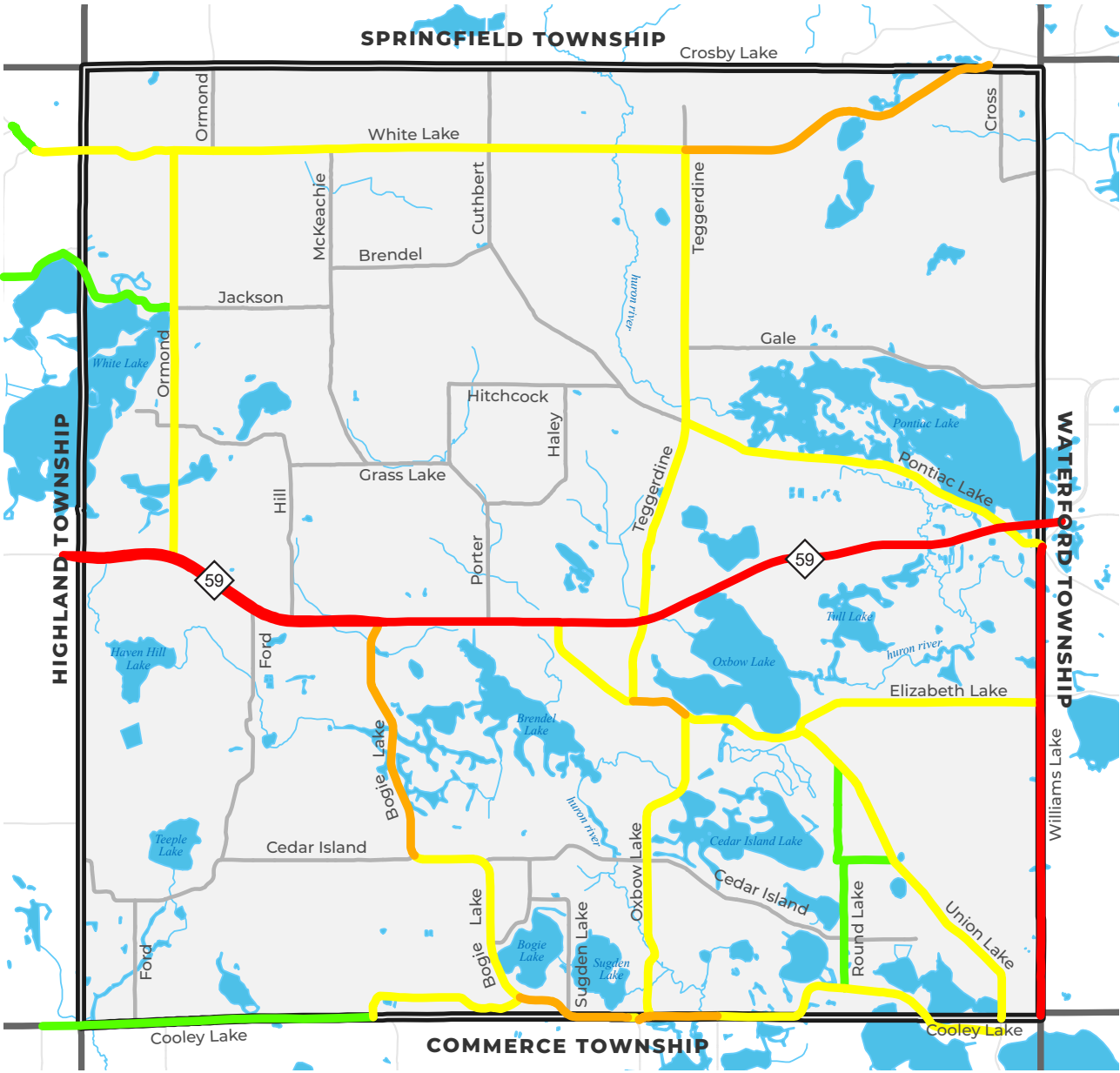


**BICYCLE AND  
PEDESTRIAN  
CRASH DATA MAP**

**WHITE LAKE  
TOWNSHIP**

**5-YEAR PARKS &  
RECREATION  
MASTER PLAN  
2023 - 2027**





**ESTIMATED TRAFFIC VOLUME - ANNUAL AVERAGE DAILY TRAFFIC (AADT)**

- Less than 5,000
- 5,000 - 9,999
- 10,000 - 14,999
- 15,000 or Higher

Data Source: SEMCOG Transportation Data, 2022



**ESTIMATED TRAFFIC VOLUME MAP**

**WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP**

5-YEAR PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2023 - 2027

### STRAVA HeatMap

While not specifically created for transportation planning, STRAVA is a mobile app used to track physical activity such as walking, running, and biking. While it captures a limited number of users, national studies have shown it to be generally representative of the overall population, and helpful to understand route preferences. The STRAVA heatmap for White Lake illustrates the popularity (brighter colors) of the trails in the Pontiac Lake State Recreation Area, Highland State Recreation Area, as well as Indian Springs Metropark. In addition, the STRAVA heatmap highlights various roads and sidewalks are frequently used for walking and biking including Teggerdine, Pontiac Lake, Gale, and Cedar Island Roads.

### Existing Facilities

The Existing Nonmotorized Facilities Map illustrates the location of major trails as well as sidewalks and safety paths along major road corridors. Sidewalks interior to neighborhoods/developments, dirt/woodchip, mountain bike, and equestrian trails and paths were not inventoried as part of this exercise.

#### Sidepath/Safety Path/Sidewalk System

There are approximately 8.05 miles of sidepaths/safety paths/sidewalks along the primary roads in White Lake Township as is illustrated on the Existing Nonmotorized Facilities Map. These facilities are located adjacent to and parallel to the major roads, generally within the road right-of-way. These facilities have been constructed over time in the Township and are built at varying widths - typically between 5 to 10 feet wide. The majority are asphalt construction, however, some are concrete. Many of these sections have been built by developers as required by the Township Zoning Ordinance. Development and redevelopment projects are required to include a 6-foot-wide concrete or asphalt sidewalk along the major street frontage of their property; or 8-foot-wide if along M-59.

A strip of aging asphalt can be found in numerous locations along M-59 directly adjacent to the curb. This was constructed 20+ years ago and in the majority of locations is deteriorating and unkempt. When immediately adjacent to the curb, this extra pavement was not inventoried as 'existing' side path.

Depending on land use patterns and frequency of curb cuts, side paths may not be safe for bicyclists, who are typically not safer on a sidewalk because they become almost invisible to a motorist. When a driver turns, either left or right, or into a driveway, they are not looking for, or expecting to encounter a bicyclist. If they do look and see a bicyclist they may still underestimate the speed a rider is traveling on the sidewalk - because it will likely be much faster than a pedestrian.

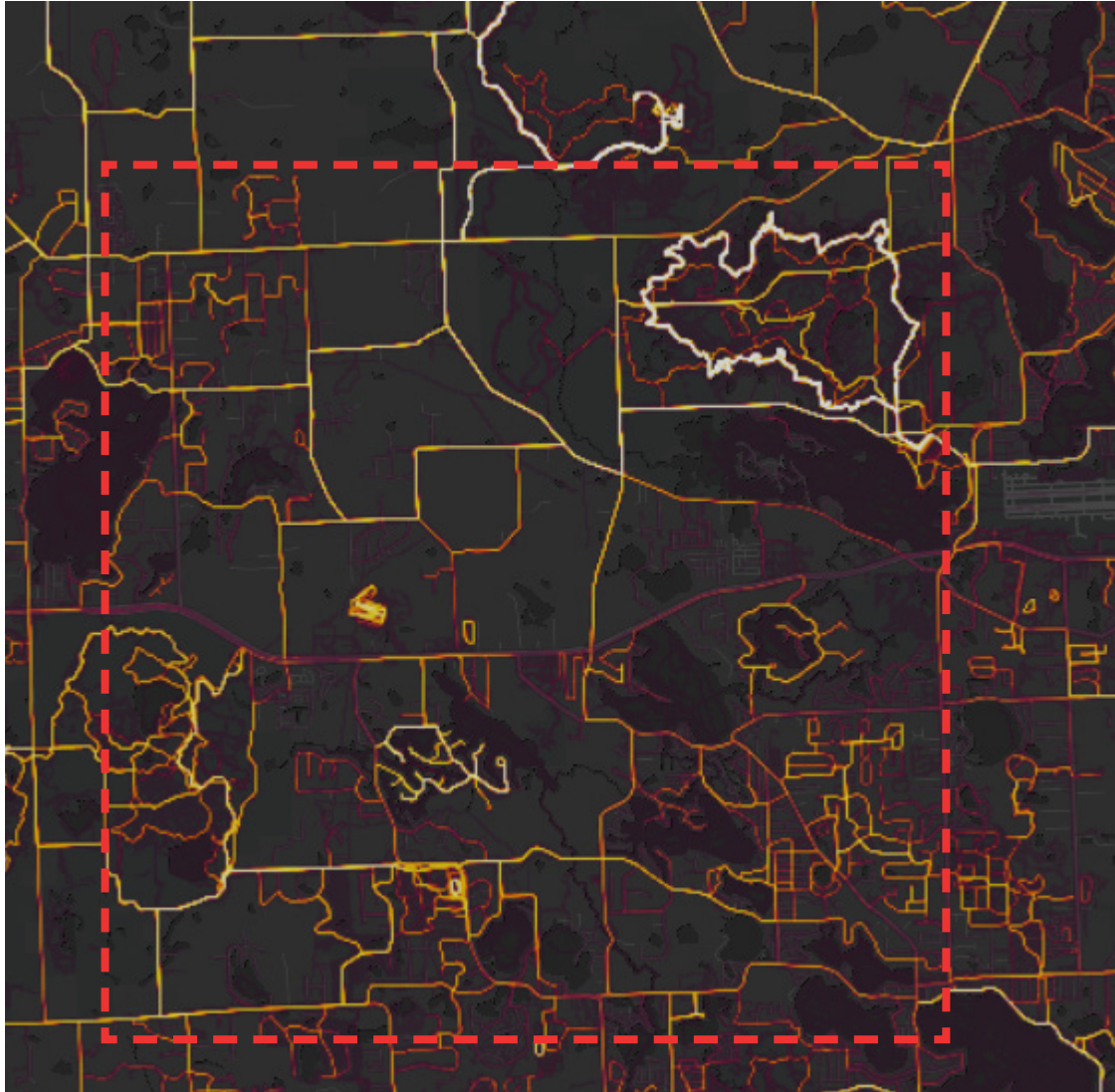
#### Planned/Under Design

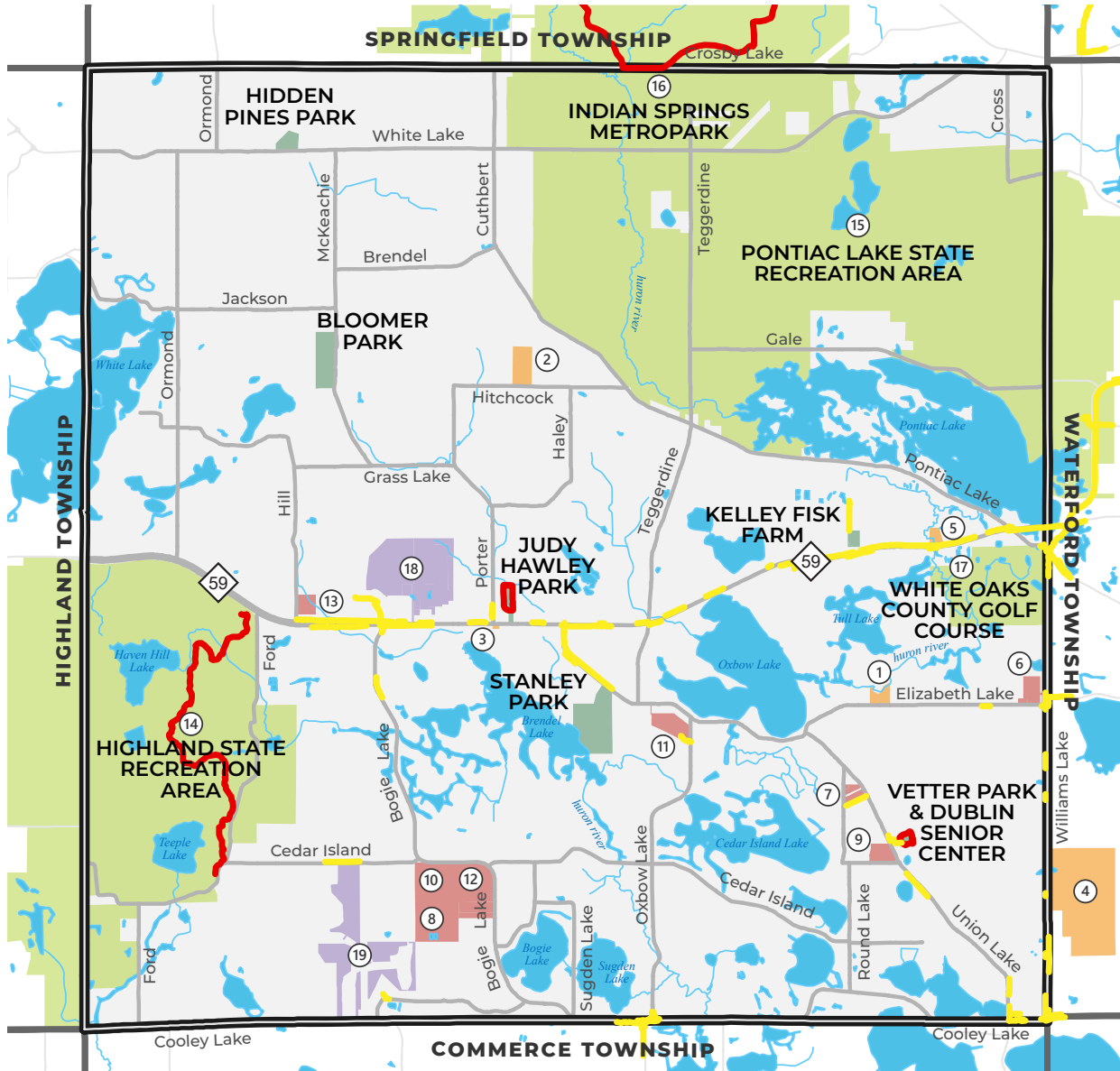
In 2021, White Lake Township received a \$50,000 grant from the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Legacy Funds via the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan toward design of the "Triangle Trail," an approximately 2-mile continuous path along Highland Road, Elizabeth Lake Road, and Teggerdine Road. Design of the final sections was completed in 2022, and in 2023 funding will be sought for construction.

In addition, White Lake Township has secured a \$1.6 million federal grant and has developed a concept plan for the reconstruction of Elizabeth Lake Road from Teggerdine Road through the northern extent of the White Lake Library. The conceptual cross-section includes 2 lanes of vehicular traffic, on-street parking, mid-block crossings, and sidewalks on both sides of Elizabeth Lake Road. This is further support for the development of an overall 'civic center' district via potential public-private partnerships in this area of the Township.

### WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP | STRAVA APP HEATMAP

The 'brighter' the color, the more biking/walking activity (i.e. Pontiac Lake Recreation Area and Indian Springs Metropark Trails)





**WHITE LAKE TWP. PARKS**

**OTHER PUBLIC PROPERTIES**

- ① Elizabeth Lake Road Property
- ② Hitchcock Road Property
- ③ Old Community Hall
- ④ Hess Hathaway Park (in Waterford)
- ⑤ M-59/Huron River Property

**SCHOOL PROPERTIES**

- ⑥ Houghton Elementary School
- ⑦ Dublin Elementary School
- ⑧ Lakewood Elementary School
- ⑨ St. Patrick Catholic School
- ⑩ White Lake Middle School
- ⑪ Oxbow Elementary School
- ⑫ Lakeland High School
- ⑬ Huron Valley Schools Property

**STATE | METROPARK | COUNTY PROPERTIES**

- ⑭ Highland State Recreation Area
- ⑮ Pontiac Lake State Recreation Area
- ⑯ Indian Springs Metropark
- ⑰ White Oaks County Golf Course

**PRIVATE PROPERTIES**

- ⑱ Alpine Valley Ski
- ⑲ Brentwood Golf Club and Banquet Center

- Existing Shared Use Trail (3.34 miles)
- Existing Sidepath/Sidewalk (8.05 miles)



**EXISTING  
NONMOTORIZED  
FACILITIES MAP**

**WHITE LAKE  
TOWNSHIP**  
5-YEAR PARKS &  
RECREATION  
MASTER PLAN  
2023 - 2027

### EXAMPLE EXISTING NONMOTORIZED CONDITIONS

Aging and unkempt asphalt along edges of M-59



Sidewalks/sidepaths are required for new developments





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## BASIS FOR ACTION

This section of the Plan is intended to further analyze a variety of factors within and outside of White Lake Township that may have an affect on recreation trends and/or planned improvements over the next five years. The Basis For Action provides the rationale for the goals, objectives, and desired capital improvements. This rationale is based on analysis and consideration of many elements, including: current national trends and benchmarks, demographics, existing Township and other agency plans, as well as the results of community, Committee, and staff input. It should be noted each piece of information and analysis contained within this section should be considered as one piece of the puzzle and as one piece of the bigger picture - each contributing to the development of the Action Plan.



### NATIONAL RECREATION TRENDS

Recreation trends occurring nationally can help provide insight into activities that can be expected to draw a large number of participants and activities that have shown the greatest growth in popularity. The Physical Activity Council published a 2022 Participation Report tracking sports, fitness, and recreation participation in the United States. The data was collected from 18,000 online interviews during 2021.

Sports and activities are grouped into 1 of 7 categories: Fitness Sports, Individual Sports, Outdoor Sports, Racquet Sports, Team Sports, Water Sports, and Winter Sports. Outdoor Sports (biking, camping, fishing, kayaking, walking, skiing) had the most gain, increasing 5.1% over the 5 -year period. Fitness sports/activities (such as dance, pilates, jogging, walking for fitness, aquatics, stair-climbing, weights) also saw a significant increase in participation. Individual sports (bowling, golf, martial arts, ice skating, roller skating) declined by approximately 5% over the 5 year period.

### NATIONAL BENCHMARKS

An additional planning tool available for parks and recreation agencies is the 2022 National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) Agency Performance Review. The review provides for valuable benchmarks and insights that help:

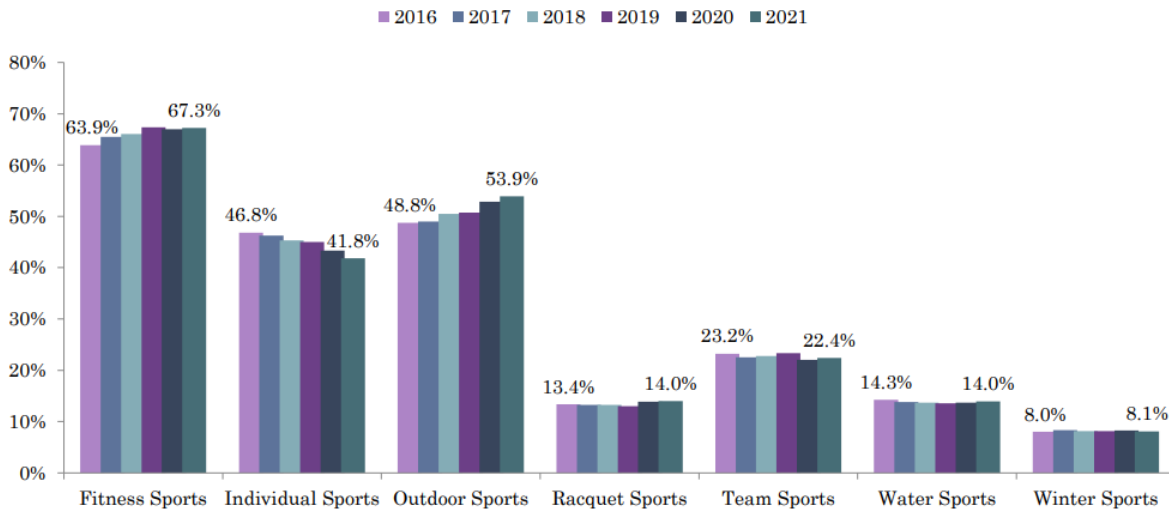
- guide professionals in the evaluation of performance of their agencies
- make informed decisions on the optimal set of service and facility offerings based on demographics while also providing comparative agency data from other communities/agencies
- show prevalence of expanded activities and offerings of agencies throughout the nation

Data is a valuable tool but not the final answer in terms of decision-making. This benchmarking data and metrics can be used as a piece of the overall conversation as White Lake moves forward. The 2022 NRPA report contains data from 1,000 park and recreation agencies across the United States as reported between 2016 and 2021.



## 2016 - 2021 Participation Trends

Total U.S. Participation Rates



The data on the following page highlights metrics for the typical park and recreation agency with a population of 20,000 to 49,000 (as is the case for White Lake Township). A comparison of White Lake Township (using 2020 census) data is provided based on the most recent inventory and latest expenditure and revenue data. The national median for communities with a population between 20,000-49,999 is 10.6 park acres per 1,000 people. The Southeast Michigan region median is 17.3 park acres per 1,000 people. White Lake has 188 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents (including the state recreation areas, metropark, and Hess-Hathaway Park).

This data and comparison is intended to continue to inform the Action Plan and discussions over the next 5 years. Every agency and community needs are different.

### 10-MINUTE WALK

A parks advocacy campaign was launched by The Trust for Public Land, National Recreation and Park Association, Urban Land Institute, and supported by the U.S. Conference of Mayors, establishing a goal that all Americans should live within a 10-minute walk (half-mile) of a high-quality park or green space. As noted in the campaign, studies show high-quality parks provide a wide range of benefits to residents and communities. These include:

- physical and mental health benefits, by providing opportunities to be physically active and to interact with nature
- economic benefits by boosting business and helping to revitalize neighborhoods
- community-building benefits by providing opportunities for neighbors to interact with each other and work together to improve their surroundings
- environmental benefits by cleaning and cooling the air and providing opportunities for environmental education

While the 10-minute walk initiative has a particular focus on areas that are more urban than White Lake, it can still be a helpful exercise to illustrate in more suburban communities. It can also assist in considering where to focus resources to improve walking and biking facilities. The Park Service Area Map on the following page illustrates those areas of the Township where residents live within a half-mile (a 10-minute walk if safe/comfortable facilities exist) to a Township Park, or a school property.

In addition, SEMCOG has developed interactive mapping to visualize access to parks via various modes of travel, including walking. Two SEMCOG maps have been included as another tool to support decisions related to goals and priorities in the Action Plan. One SEMCOG map illustrates how many minutes it takes to walk to parks in the Township. The second map illustrates how many minutes it takes to walk to playgrounds in the Township.





**The Typical  
Park + Recreation  
Agency**  
(population 20,000 - 49,999)

**White Lake  
Township**  
(population 30,950)

**Residents  
per Park**  
(median)

**1,941**

**3,095**

5,158 if excluding State Areas,  
Metropark, Hess-Hathaway

**Acres of Parkland  
per 1,000 Residents**  
(median)

**10.6**

**188**

3.68 if excluding State Areas,  
Metropark, Hess-Hathaway

**Annual Operating  
Expenditures**  
(median)

**\$3.5M**

**\$132k**

2020/2021 Median

**Operating  
Expenditures  
per Capita**  
(median)

**\$110**

**\$4.26**

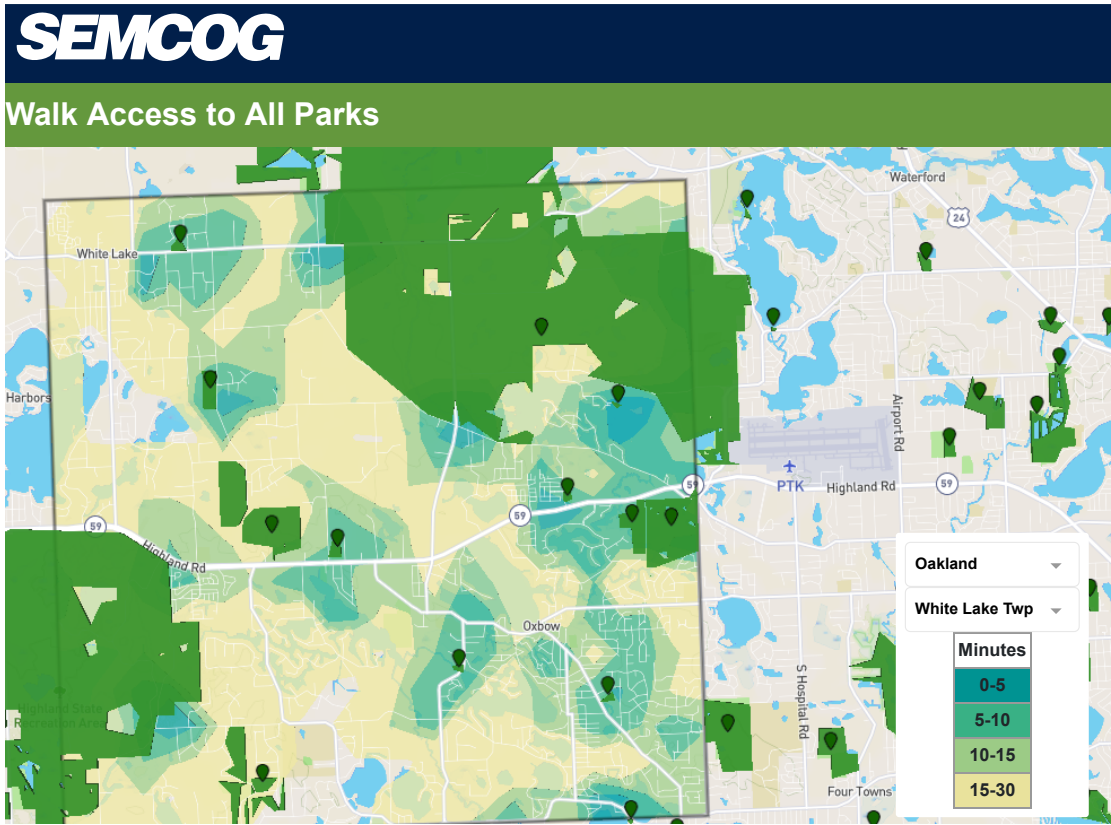
**5 Year Budget  
for Capital Projects**  
(median)

**\$3.7M**

**\$9.9M**

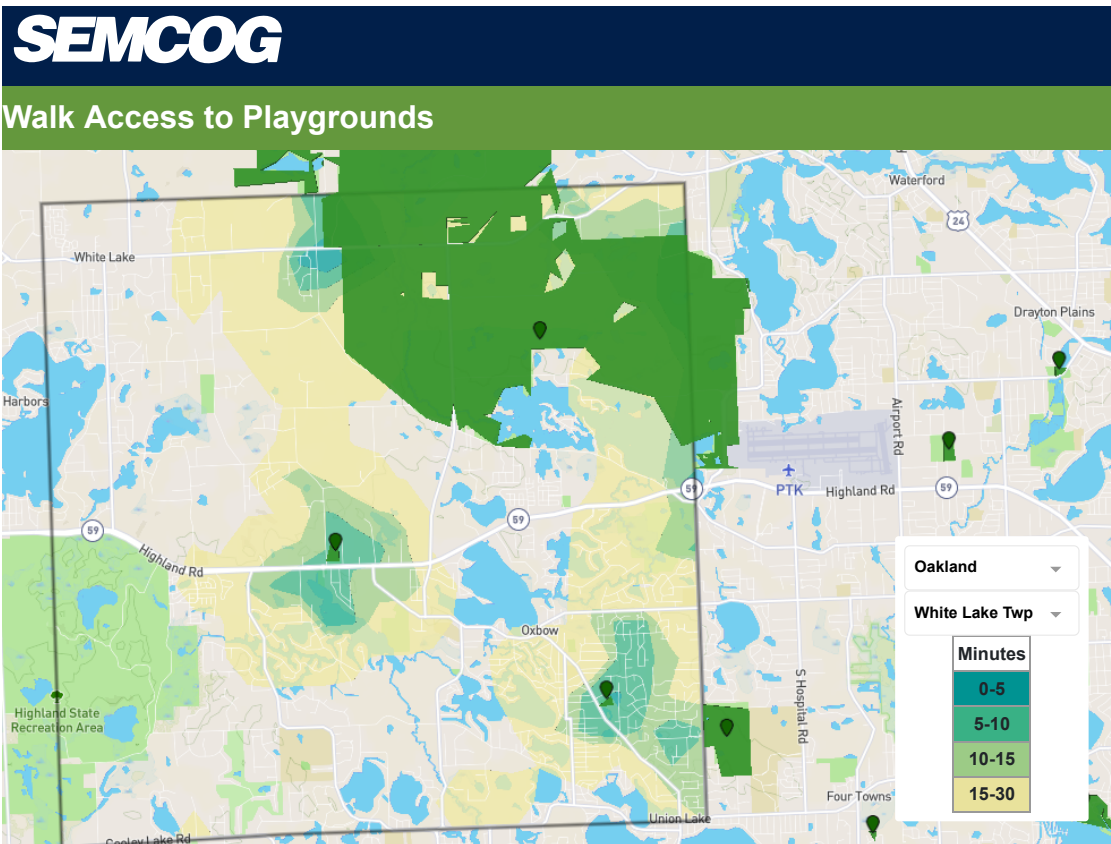
Based on 2023-2028 Township  
Capital Improvement Plan  
(Excluding 2028)

Source: 2022 NRPA Agency Performance Review



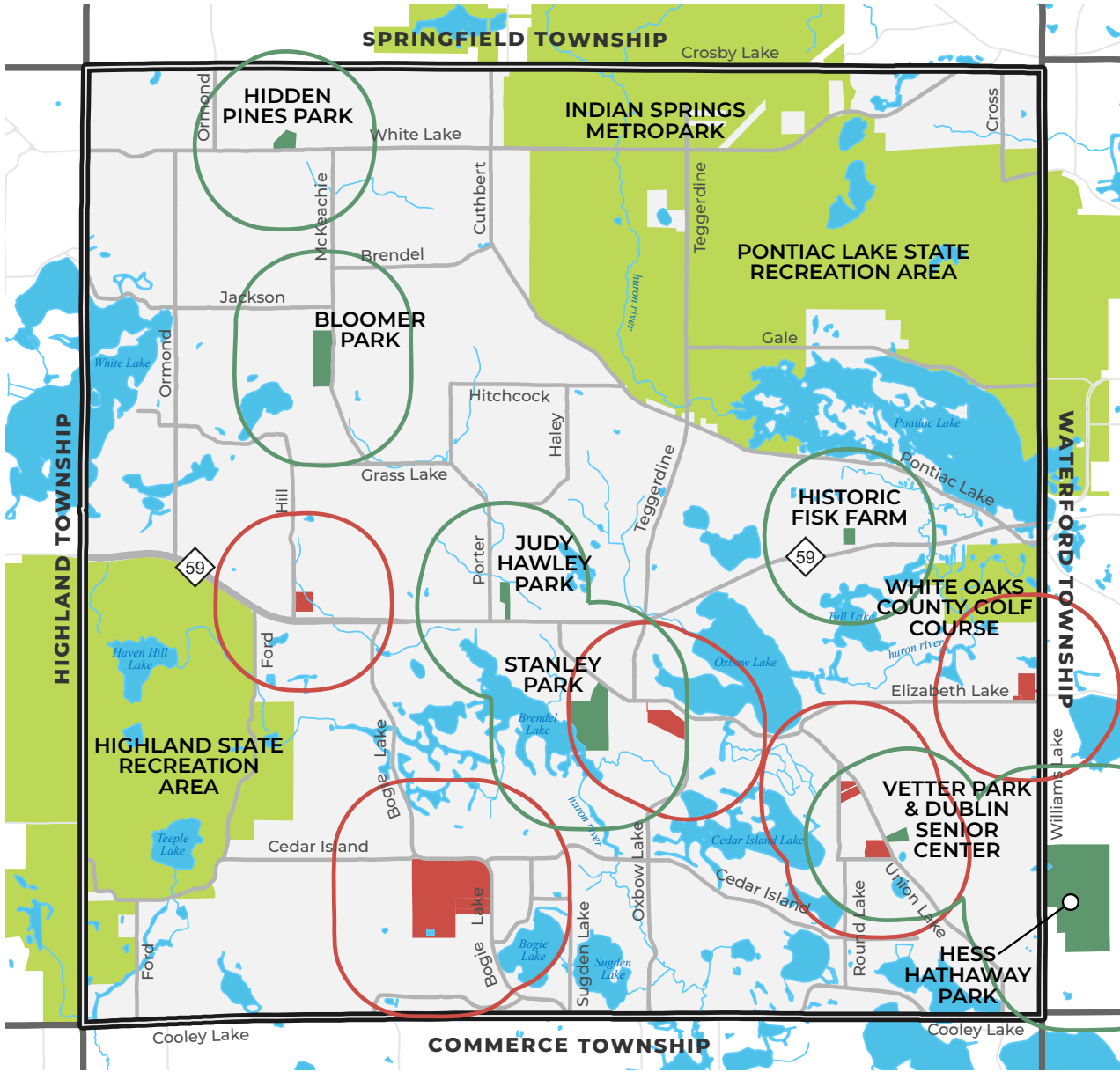
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SEMCOG Access to Parks



[https://maps.semco.org/accessparks/?amenity=Playgrounds&mode=walk\\_amenity\\_access&mcd=2290&print=true&county=125](https://maps.semco.org/accessparks/?amenity=Playgrounds&mode=walk_amenity_access&mcd=2290&print=true&county=125)

1/1



**SERVICE AREA**

- 1/2 Mile (10 minute walk) - Park
- 1/2 Mile (10 minute walk) - School
- Park Property
- School Property

This doesn't imply people can walk to these properties, rather, if safe facilities are available, they're more likely to walk to them



**SERVICE AREA MAP**

**WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP**  
5-YEAR PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN  
2023 - 2027

**COMMUNITY DEMOGRAPHICS**

The socioeconomic characteristics of a community can play a role in the demand for certain types of recreation facilities and programs. By examining socioeconomic characteristics such as population density, age, and household size, municipalities can identify trends and opportunities that may influence future land use and recreation decisions and/or policy choices. This section provides a brief summary of a handful of socioeconomic characteristics of White Lake Township that may (along with a number of other pieces of data and information) influence parks and recreation planning decisions.

The U.S. Census Bureau and SEMCOG served as the primary sources of data for this demographics section. Census statistics are presented for the Township in comparison to the County and State. In addition, a series of maps are included that illustrate relevant (and available) pieces of Census data by block group within the Township.

As of the 2020 Census, White Lake Township had 30,950 residents, an increase of 931 residents (+3.1%), from 2010. The southeast Michigan region as a whole grew by 2.7%, with Oakland County growing by 6% over the same 10-year period. Township staff believes the population is several thousand more than reported by the Census due to large residential developments that have been built in recent years. Average household size was greater in the Township at 2.55 in 2020, when compared to Oakland County, 2.4%, and the southeast Michigan region as a whole at 2.46. The average household size in White Lake decreased from 2010 down to 2.55.

**Population by Block Group**

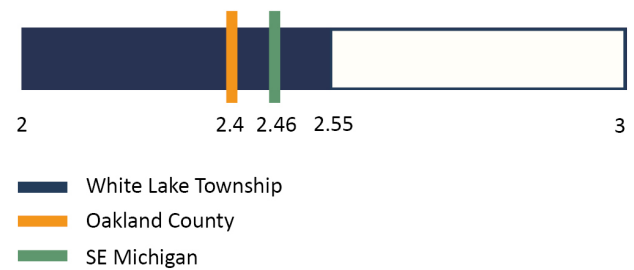
Population and population density characteristics can have a significant influence on parks and recreation planning. Where population is most dense, there is typically a greater need for park facilities. Conversely, it may not be as practical or economical to locate

park facilities within sparsely populated areas. The Population Density by Block Group Map illustrates the number of people living within the Township by block group (as defined by the U.S. Census).

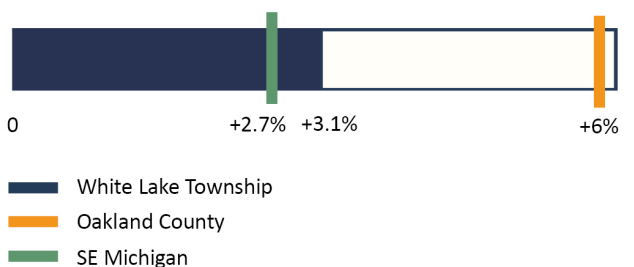
**Household Size**

A household, as defined by the U.S. Census, is all persons who occupy the same housing unit. A housing unit can be described as a house, apartment, mobile home, a group of rooms, or a single room used as a separate living quarters. A trend occurring nation-wide is the declining size of households. There are several factors that demographers have linked to the declining size. People are marrying later, postponing having children, and having fewer children. The number of single-parent households is increasing, thus contributing to the decline in average household size.

**Average Household Size 2020**



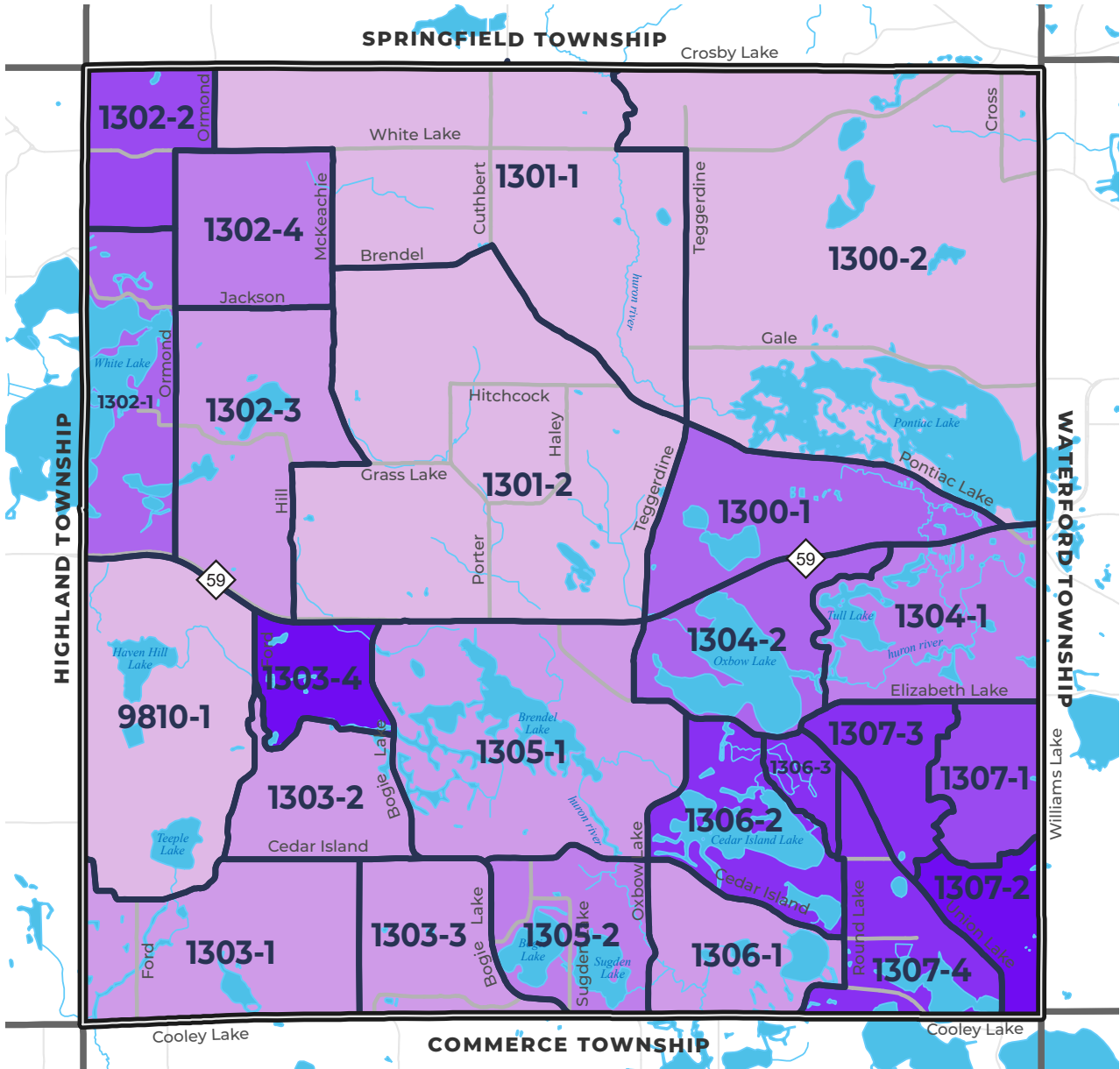
**Percent Population Change 2010-2020**



Household size is an important factor when making park facility and program decisions. A high person per household figure can be an indication an area is comprised of families with children or multi-generational households. Conversely, an area with a low person per household figure may require recreation facilities more favorable to singles, adults, or the elderly. The geographic distribution of household size in White Lake Township is illustrated on the Average Household Size by Block Group Map.

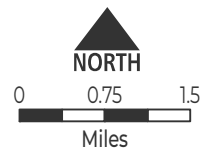
### **Race and Hispanic Origin**

In 2020, White Lake Township was comprised of 96.4% Non-Hispanic and 3.6% Hispanic residents. Of the Non-Hispanic residents, 88.5% were White (i.e. European, Middle East or North Africa), 1.6% Black, 1.2% Asian, 4.5% Multi-Racial, and 0.6% Other. The Township and the southeast Michigan region as a whole have become more diverse over the last 10-year period.



POPULATION DENSITY BY BLOCK GROUP (people / sq. mi)

- 0 - 500
- 501 - 1000
- 1001 - 1500
- 1501 - 2000
- 2001 - 2500
- 2501 - 3000
- 3001 - 3500



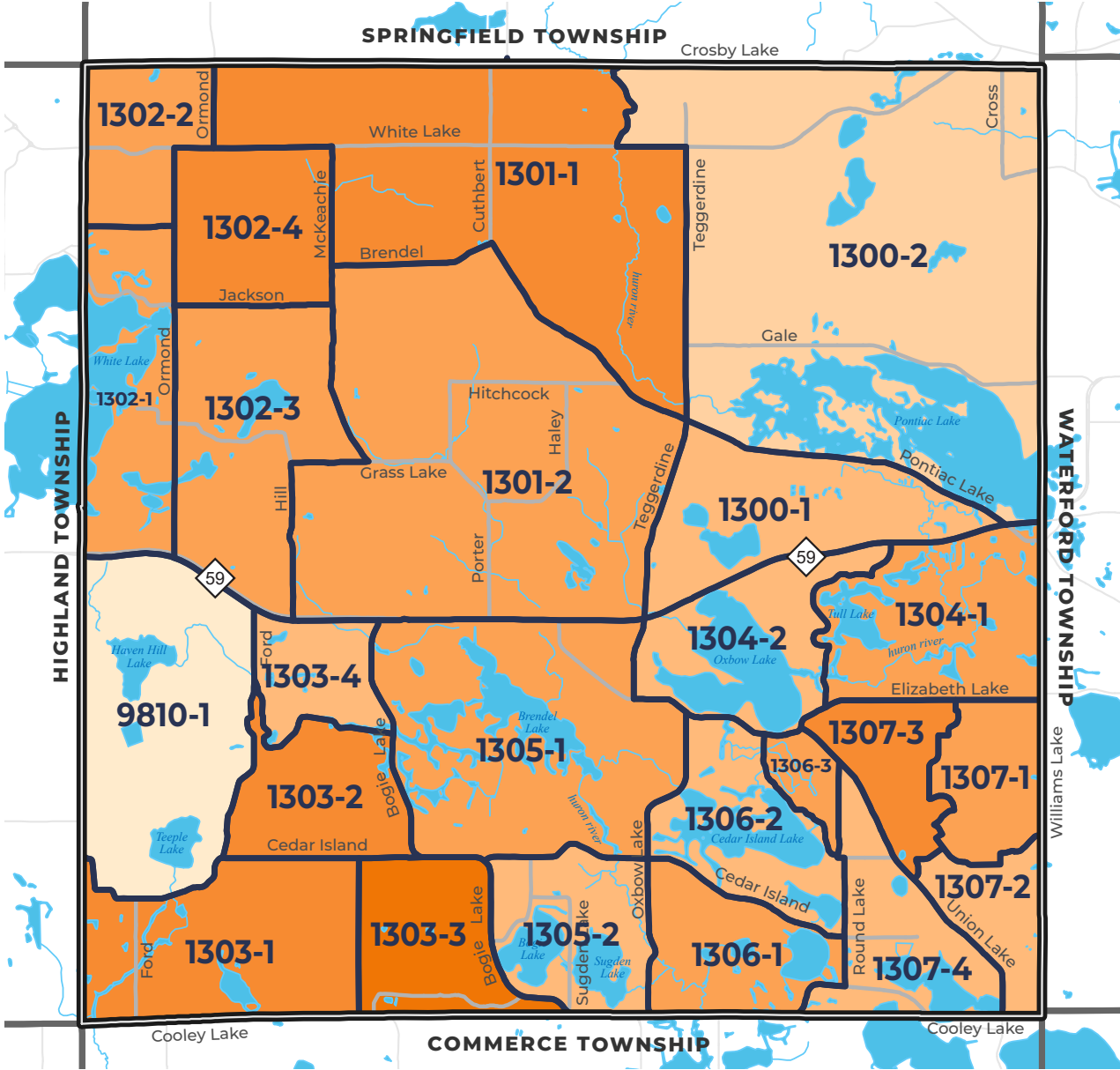
**POPULATION DENSITY MAP**

WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP

5-YEAR PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN  
2023 - 2027

A Block Group is a geographical unit used by the U.S. Census Bureau. It is the smallest geographical unit for which the bureau publishes sample data. Each Block Group has a unique Block Group number.





**AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE BY BLOCK GROUP**

- 0.00 - 2.00
- 2.01 - 2.25
- 2.26 - 2.50
- 2.51 - 2.75
- 2.76 - 3.00
- 3.01 - 3.25



**HOUSEHOLD SIZE MAP**

**WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP**  
5-YEAR PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN  
2023 - 2027

A Block Group is a geographical unit used by the U.S. Census Bureau. It is the smallest geographical unit for which the bureau publishes sample data. Each Block Group has a unique Block Group number.

**INFLUENCING PLANNING INITIATIVES**

There are several related planning initiatives that are significant in terms of their relevance to the provision of recreation within White Lake Township. Each initiative is described in greater detail on the following pages.

**SEMCOG Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2019)**

The SEMCOG Parks and Recreation Master Plan focuses on enhancing the region’s recreation system and builds on recommendations from other existing regional plans and policies. The Plan contains the following six regional policies:

- Integrate **community health and wellness** initiatives with outdoor recreation opportunities
- Ensure **equitable access** to recreation opportunities for people of all backgrounds, ages, and abilities in southeast Michigan
- Promote the **economic value** of parks and recreation
- Support **conservation and stewardship** in balance with recreation opportunities
- **Raise awareness** among residents and visitors
- Foster **collaboration** among stakeholders

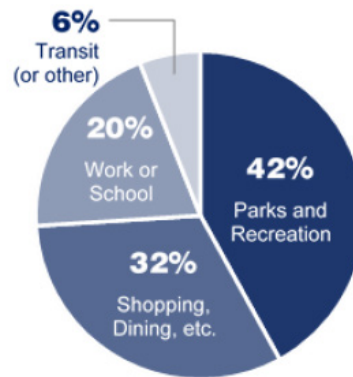
**Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan for Southeast Michigan (SEMCOG 2020)**

SEMCOG and MDOT worked together to develop a Bicycle and Pedestrian Mobility Plan for the southeast Michigan region to establish a common vision for bicycling and walking, and provide guidance on how to increase the connectivity, use, and safety of the system for all residents. To continue enhancing the system and meet the needs of the region, the plan recommends the following regional policies:

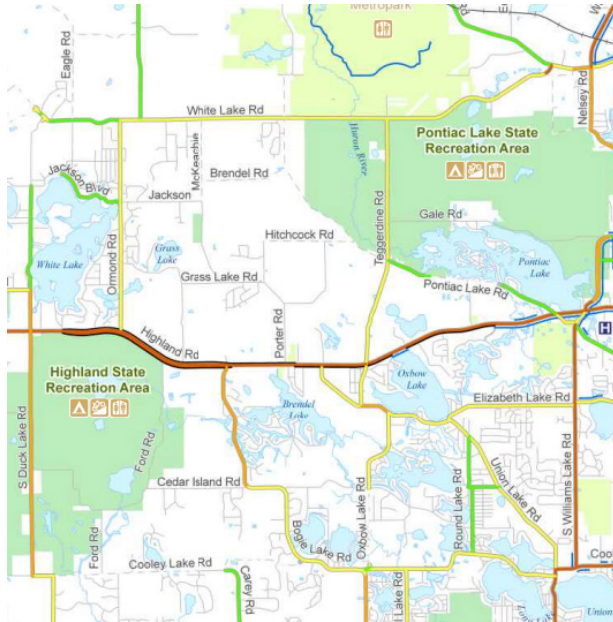
- Connect and expand the network
- Ensure equitable access
- Increase safety
- Promote healthy lifestyles and vibrant communities
- Provide education
- Ensure sustainability



**Walking and Biking Trip Purposes in Southeast Michigan (SEMCOG)**



**MDOT Metro Region North Bike Map (2018)**



**MDOT Metro Region North Bike Map (2018)**

The Michigan Department of Transportation publishes a road and trail bicycling guide map for each MDOT region. The Metro Region map was updated in 2018. In addition to existing trail networks, the maps illustrate roads with heavier (oranges and reds) and lighter (greens and yellows) traffic volumes to assist in route planning.

**Metroparks Trail Gap Feasibility Study (2023)**

In 2022, the Huron-Clinton Metroparks issued a Request for Proposals for consulting assistance in the development of Feasibility Studies focused on connecting its various properties via nonmotorized trails. One of the ‘gaps’ of particular interest to White Lake Township is a potential alignment to connect Kensington Metropark with Indian Springs Metropark. The Township met with the MDNR and Metroparks for an initial discussion and anticipates remaining involved as a key stakeholder. The Study is expected to be completed in 2023.

**MDOT M-59 Mill and Resurface Project (2026)**

The SEMCOG Transportation Improvement Project highlights a \$54M mill and resurface project along M-59 from Milford Road to Pontiac Lake Road. Township involvement/input in the design process and cross-section will be important to look for opportunities to improve conditions for pedestrians and bicyclists.

### Huron River Watershed Council

The Huron River Watershed is 908 square miles and home to more than 650,000 people, including the majority of White Lake Township. The watershed's forests, wetlands, and grasslands soak up rainwater and runoff, filter pollutants from runoff, and provide wildlife habitat and beautiful places for all to enjoy. In the section of watershed that includes White Lake, about 29% remains as intact natural areas. 60% of these areas are protected from development (in Proud Lake State Park, Highland Recreation Area, and Kensington and Indian Springs metroparks). A substantial percentage of land on the edge of the Huron River is in protected lands, which keeps the riparian land undeveloped. The Watershed Council develops a number of resources and support materials. The Council is also the lead agency for the Huron River Water Trail (a National Water Trail) which currently begins in Proud Lake, just south of White Lake Township and continues 104-miles to Lake Erie.



It will be important to continue to collaborate with the Watershed Council to educate the community, protect the riparian corridor, monitor water quality, offer paddling opportunities for residents, and incorporate sustainable design features within Township parks.

### Oakland County Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2023-2027)

The Oakland County Plan is a guide for staff and the Parks and Recreation Committee to use over the 5-year period. It outlines 6 major goals:

- Be fiscally sustainable
- Communicate effectively
- Enhance communities
- Improve access
- Manage assets and infrastructure
- Protect natural resources

The White Lake Oaks County Golf Course is an 18-hole course located on the eastern edge of the Township, just south of M-59. The Plan continues to document support for water trail development along the Huron River (in conjunction with the Township and Watershed Council) as it passes through County property.

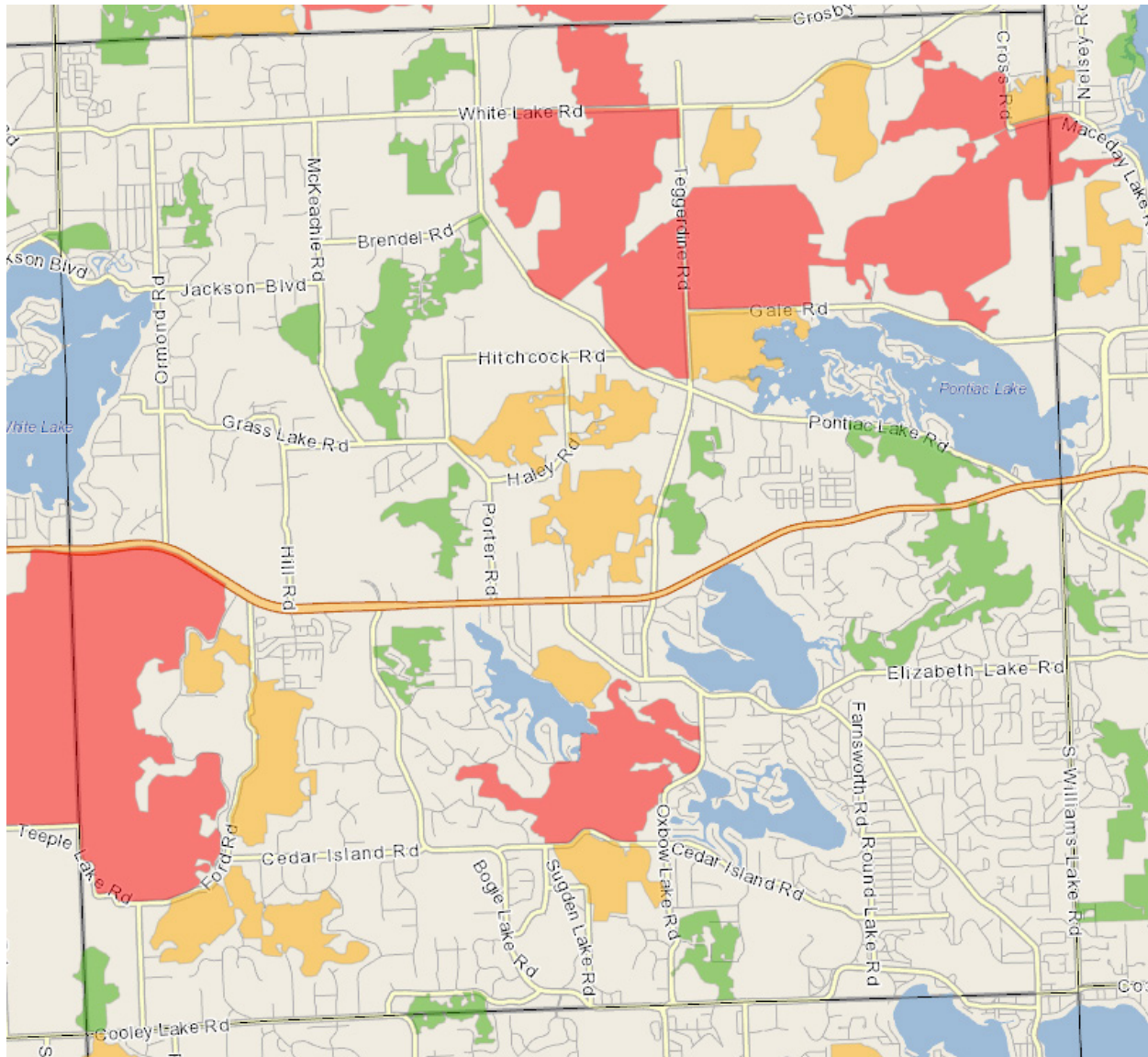
### Oakland County Potential Natural Areas

In 2017, Oakland County worked with the Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI) staff at MSU Extension to update the County’s Potential Natural Areas Map. Potential Natural Areas are defined as places dominated by vegetation that have various levels of potential for harboring high-quality natural areas and unique natural features. The map below highlights areas in White Lake that have the highest probability of having high ecological health and value.

2017 MNFI Potential Natural Areas

- Priority One
- Priority Two
- Priority Three

### Oakland County Potential Natural Areas Map (2017 MNFI)



**Township Capital Improvement Plan (2023-2028)**

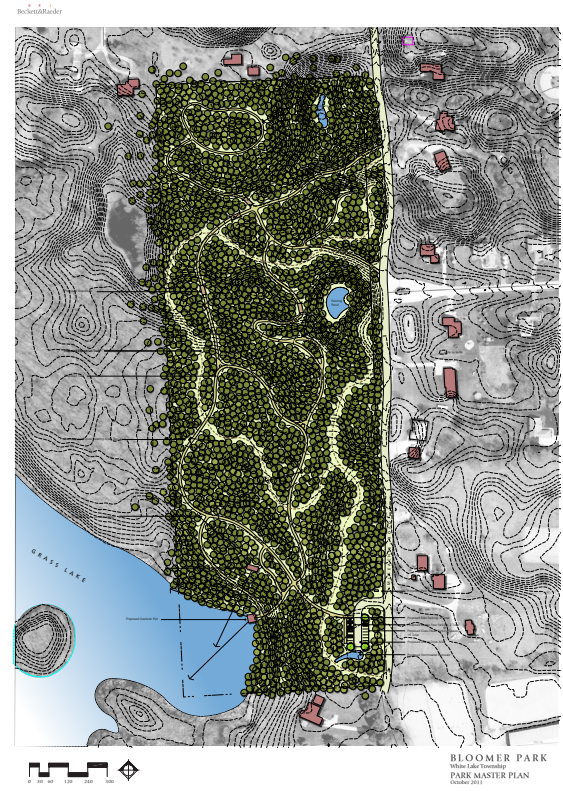
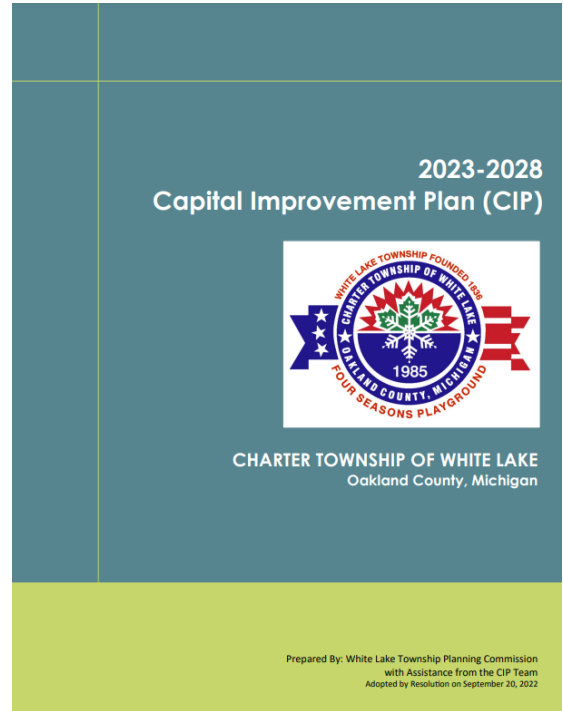
The White Lake Township Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for 2023-2028 was accepted by the Township Board via resolution on September 20, 2022. The 6-year Plan is a guide for the Supervisor and Board during decision making regarding improvement projects in the community that cover multiple departments and project types. Parks and Recreation facilities and nonmotorized pathways are included in the CIP. The CIP will be updated in 2023 to reflect the results of this 5-Year Parks and Recreation Plan. Currently, the CIP includes projects such as trail extensions along Union Lake Road, Bogie Lake Road, and M-59; construction of a trail to connect Highland State Recreation Area and Pontiac Lake State Recreation Area, as well as projects such as further development of Hidden Pines Park, Stanley Park, and Bloomer Park.

**Bloomer Park Concept Plan (2011)**

A concept plan was complete for Bloomer Park in 2011 that was the basis for the initial improvements that exist today and were partially funded via a 2009 MDNR Trust Fund grant. The overall concept/vision for Bloomer Park includes additional trails throughout the property.

**Hidden Pines Concept Plan (2012)**

A concept plan was developed for Hidden Pines Park in 2012. In addition to the ballfield and open space currently at the park, the concept included a walking trail, playground, picnic shelter/tables, rain gardens and revised parking.



White Lake Township  
**Hidden Pines Park Master Plan**  
April 2012

0 50 100 150 200  
Bentlin&Bachler

**Kelley Fisk Farm Concept Plan (2016)**

White Lake Township and the Historic Fisk Farm Park Steering Committee worked together to develop a set of goals and objectives as well as a concept plan for future improvements. The concept included potential locations for the old town hall, parking, walkways, shelter renovations, etc.

**Stanley Park Concept Plan (2021)**

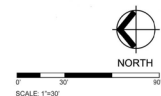
A concept plan for White Lake Township’s newest park property, Stanley Park, was developed in 2021 and was the basis for a grant application that will partially fund the first phase of improvements that are slated for construction in 2023. The concept plan includes a road and pathways leading to the future Civic Center development, trails through the park, picnic shelters, playground, pickleball courts, kayak launch, beach, etc.



White Lake Township  
**FISK FARM**  
Master Plan

The Johnson Hill Land Ethics Studio

March 2, 2016







### 5-YEAR PLAN INPUT

During the development of the White Lake Township 5-Year Parks + Recreation Master Plan, the Township gathered stakeholder input via several methods. Each of these resulted in input that was relied upon in order to develop the goals, objectives, and action plan for the next 5 years. A summary of the effort and results is summarized here with additional details in the Appendix.

### Public Online Survey

The White Lake Township Parks and Recreation Survey was an online survey conducted August 15, 2022 through September 15, 2022. The purpose of the survey was to gather input related to current use and future priorities of the park system in the Township. The survey was published on the Township website, distributed via email, and posted to the various Township Facebook pages. In addition, signs on easels with QR codes were placed at Township Hall and the Senior Center. Hard copies of the survey were also available at the Senior Center and at the Fisk Farm Festival Event in September 2022. In total, 443 people responded to the survey including a good cross-section of ages, and 57% living south of M-59. A summary of the results is presented here and a detailed summary is provided in the Appendix.

When asked **why respondents don't use White Lake Township parks and facilities more often**, the top 4 responses were:

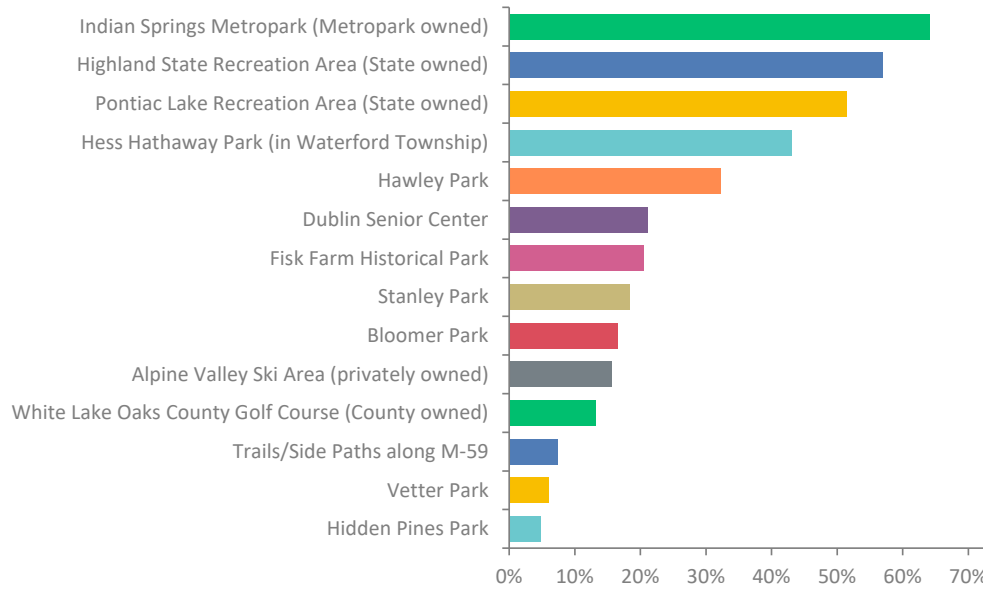
- Not enough time/too busy (38.8%)
- Use other communities' park, facilities, programs (33.4%)
- I do not know where the Township parks are (21.4%)
- Parks do not contain the facilities we need/enjoy (21.1%)

The **top 6 amenities** people indicated were most important to them or their household were:

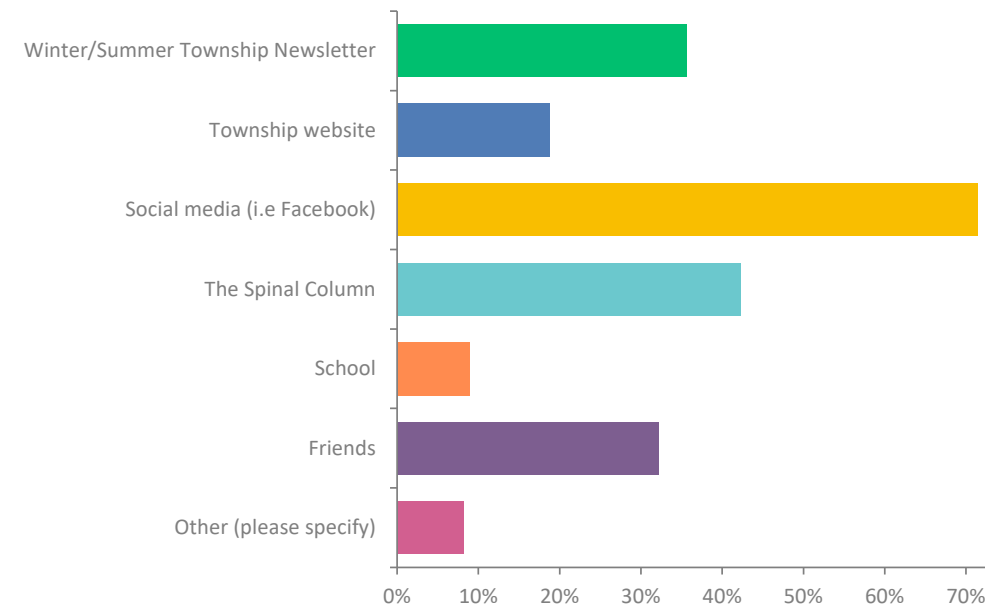
- Walking/running/biking trails (68.9%)
- Open space/natural areas (36.6%)
- Playgrounds (33.6%)
- Canoeing/kayaking (25.2%)
- Sledding hills (15.8%)
- Picnic shelters (15.6%)



Which park/facility has your household used over the past year?



Where does your household find out about things going on in the Township?



### Fisk Farm Festival Outreach

White Lake Township Parks and Recreation set up a tent/station at the Annual Fisk Farm Festival September 10, 2022 at the Historic Fisk Farm property. The annual event brings several hundred people to the Farm for music, food, arts and craft show, etc. The Parks and Recreation tent included a sign about the online survey, hard copies of the survey, a map of the parks, as well as a blank sheet of paper where people could write/draw ideas of things they'd like to do/have in White Lake Township parks. Some of the ideas mentioned included:

- Ziplines and Rock Wall
- Ice rink
- Stargazing night to watch sunsets. And food!
- Trees, wildlife, open spaces, passive rec, natural noise
- Water Day – sprinklers, squirt guns, water balloons,
- I love the walking paths!
- Signs along trails that tell about plant/animal species
- Fitness court/workout stations
- Porta jon at Bloomer Park – can't use pavilion if no restroom
- Kayaking and canoeing opportunities
- Love walking path at Hawley
- All inclusive playground like in Commerce Twp
- Sidewalks along Elizabeth Lake and Union Lake Roads
- Place to take out kayak where Huron River crosses Oxbow Lake Rd

### Committee Meeting Input

In addition to filling out the online survey, the Parks and Recreation Committee (at its October 5, 2022 Special Meeting) discussed what they love about White Lake Parks and Recreation and what they think are some of the challenges. Residents that attended the meeting also participated. This input, along with other pieces of information documented in the Inventory and Basis For Action sections, were used to develop the Action Plan.



### Things We Like/Love

- The parks offer a balance of activities between them including walking, basketball, baseball, soccer, hiking, playgrounds, and pavilions.
- Open Spaces
- Huron River flowing through Township
- Hawley Park is the best athletic field park
- Kelley Fisk Farm best event venue
- Dublin Center is the best Activity Center
- community sport areas with soccer and baseball
- hiking trails
- historic Township
- Fisk Farm Festival
- community activities
- good fresh air, walking paths, nature
- Stanley Park acquisition and planned development
- natural beauty within the parks including Stanley
- historic sites

- water access for swimming and kayaking
- tree lighting
- parks are available for picnicking and games
- special events at Fisk Farm

### Our Challenges or Things We'd Like To See

- need to make residents aware of where Township parks are located
- money is a challenge
- we are not a walkable community - we need pathways along major roads
- difficult to maintain current facilities
- not enough funding now - this will hold us back going forward
- vast area to try to connect with trails
- we are limited in funding and walkable/bikeable trails
- funding
- more funding needed
- benches are needed at more frequent intervals
- skating and snowshoeing
- mountain biking
- not enough connectivity or trails and paths to schools and neighborhoods
- would like more citizens to use our parks and be aware of what's available
- we need more concern for environmental challenges and issues such as herbicides and pesticides as well as impacts of climate changes
- I live rurally and don't need a park
- no higher taxes
- natural wooded areas with trails
- getting voter support for millages could be a challenge
- more horse trails

### MDNR/Metroparks Input

Township staff met virtually with representatives from Highland State Recreation Area, Pontiac Lake State Recreation Area, as well as Huron Clinton Metroparks staff on September 9, 2022. The purpose of the discussion was to raise awareness of the Township's schedule and process for updating its Parks and Recreation Master Plan and to hear from the various agencies their plans over the next several years to ensure coordination and avoid duplication of efforts.

### Public Hearing

A full draft of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan was presented to the Parks and Recreation Committee for review and discussion at its November 2022 meeting. The draft Plan was then made available for public review on \_\_\_\_\_, 2022. Hard copies of the draft Plan were available at the Township Hall. A digital copy was posted to the Township website. A notice was published in the Spinal Column on \_\_\_\_\_, and posted on the Township website and Facebook page.

A public hearing on the draft Plan was held by the Parks and Recreation Committee on \_\_\_\_\_ at the Township Annex. Minutes from the public hearing are included in the Appendix.

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## ACTION PLAN

The Action Plan details the direction the Township would like to take over the next five years in order to maintain, improve, and expand parks, recreation and nonmotorized connectivity opportunities within the community. The findings and results summarized in the Basis For Action section of this Plan were utilized to develop the goals, objectives, and capital improvement priorities detailed on the following pages. This section also includes planning recommendations related to expansion of a nonmotorized network and improvement of pedestrian/bicycle connectivity within the Township and to adjacent communities. The Plan is intended to serve as a guide for decision-making relative to future park facilities and programs. The Plan is not intended to solve all of the issues, concerns and desires related to parks and recreation, but rather to identify and document them so they can be addressed and focused on in the upcoming months and years. Goals are desired long-term ideals or end products. Objectives are more detailed statements that have been developed to outline more specific actions that will assist in meeting the goals. The Goals and Objectives are intended to be as important as the capital improvement priorities and are listed in no particular order of importance or priority.



# WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP PARKS + RECREATION GOALS 2023-2027



Improve walking and biking **connectivity** in the community



Be leaders in the **stewardship** of the Huron River Watershed



Secure additional **funding** for parks and recreation



**Raise awareness** of parks and recreation offerings in the Township



Develop and promote **canoe and kayak** opportunities in the Township



**Partner** with others to provide parks and recreation in the Township



As appropriate, seek strategic properties to **expand** the Township park system to support existing and future needs



**Update** aging park amenities, increase level of **maintenance**, and **construct/install** additional amenities at Township parks



Improve walking and biking **connectivity** in the community

#### OBJECTIVES

- Encourage and support the Township in developing a **'Complete Streets'** policy, ordinance, resolution, and/or plan in order to advocate for roads that are 'planned, designed, and constructed to provide appropriate access to all users...whether by car, truck, assistive device, foot or bicycle.'
- Coordinate with the **Road Commission for Oakland County** to improve non-motorized access and use along County roads (i.e. widen paved shoulders, improved pedestrian crossings, etc.)
- Prioritize **gaps and connections** to parks, schools, employment areas, and civic destinations.
- Utilize the Township **Sidewalk/Pathway Fund** (developers contribute to at approval of Township Board) to construct gaps in high priority areas and corridors.
- Coordinate with MDOT regarding design and construction of a consistent, 8-10-foot wide Side Path along the north and south side of **M-59** that is setback from the curb with green space between the curb and Side Path.
- Coordinate with the **Metroparks and MDNR** to connect Highland State Recreation Area, Pontiac Lake State Recreation Area, and Indian Springs Metropark through the Township via a regional trail system that considers accessibility for pedestrians, bicyclists, and equestrians.
- Coordinate with **SEMCOG** to get the White Lake Township planned/proposed nonmotorized network incorporated into the SEMCOG Regional Planned Corridors Maps and associated documentation.
- Continue to focus on improving barrier-free and **universal accessibility** at all Township facilities and parks including access to picnic tables, benches, paths, playing fields, parking areas, restrooms, play equipment, etc.
- Use materials from SEMCOG's **Walk Bike Drive Safe campaign** to encourage safe practices by all modes.
- Consider and investigate a **special millage** for design, construction and maintenance of nonmotorized connections per the Township Nonmotorized System Plan.



## GOAL

Be leaders in the **stewardship** of the Huron River Watershed

## OBJECTIVES

- Continue to raise awareness, promote, and educate the community about the Huron River Watershed and the role we all play in protecting and improving the environment for generations to come.
- Increase awareness and appreciation of our natural resources by increasing access to the river and waterbodies.
- Incorporate applicable sustainable design elements into all park projects such as green stormwater management practices, solar power, products made from recycled materials, native plantings, etc.
- Include signage at parks that helps to interpret the natural resources as well as showcase sustainable design elements.

## GOAL

Secure additional **funding** for parks and recreation

## OBJECTIVES

- Continue the commitment to fiscal responsibility by exploring and seeking avenues to generate alternative revenue sources through grants, donations, foundations, partnerships, etc. to fund park, recreation, and trail/sidepath projects.
- The existing 0.3 parks and recreation millage expires in 2023. Consider a renewal or increase in 2023 in order to implement the priorities outlined in this plan and make progress toward the goals and objectives.

## GOAL

## Raise awareness of parks and recreation offerings in the Township

## OBJECTIVES

- Coordinate with school district, library, lake boards, historical society, chamber of commerce, realtors, and other parks and recreation providers to distribute parks and recreation information and “cross advertise” offerings.
- Publish the new inventory map on the Township website, Facebook pages, display at Township Hall, etc.
- Print hard copies of the inventory map and have available at Senior Center, Township Hall, Library, Metropark, and State Recreation Areas.
- Post monthly on social media highlighting pictures, activities, and facilities available at Township parks.
- Include parks and recreation information in the Township Newsletter.

## GOAL

Develop and promote **canoe and kayak** opportunities in the Township

## OBJECTIVES

- Develop canoe/kayak launches with associated small parking lots on Huron River properties including at M-59, at Elizabeth Lake Road, at Stanley Park, and around/near Oxbow Lake Road.
- Coordinate with Huron River Watershed Council and Oakland County Parks to develop Water Trail marketing/mapping/signage.

## GOAL

**Partner** with others to provide parks and recreation in the Township

## OBJECTIVES

- In support of the Township being a '4 Seasons Playground', organize and hold one Special Event per season (i.e. Tree Lighting, Fall Festival, etc)
- Continue to partner with other parks and recreation providers within and around the community to improve connectivity, as well as strengthen and cross promote special events and offerings including:
  - Dublin Senior Center
  - Kelley Fisk Farm and the White Lake Historical Society
  - Oakland County Parks
  - Huron River Watershed Council
  - Huron-Clinton Metroparks
  - MDNR State Recreation Areas
  - Friends of Highland State Recreation Area
  - Waterford Township and Hess-Hathaway Park Committee
  - Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce
  - Public and private schools in the Township



**Update** aging park amenities, increase level of **maintenance**, and **construct/install** additional amenities at Township parks.

**OBJECTIVES**

- Make planned improvements to Stanley Park and support the development of the Civic Center area as a central gathering space and destination within the community.
- Continue to work to improve the ADA accessibility at all parks by providing elements such as accessible play equipment, pathways to and from facilities, bleachers, benches, playground surfacing, etc.
- Anticipate the need to increase staffing levels as additional parks, programs, and amenities are offered.
- Include long-term maintenance funding requirements when implementing new or expanded facilities and programs.
- When developing park and recreation facilities and connections, do so in a manner that protects and celebrates the natural look and feel of the White Lake community.



As appropriate, seek strategic properties to **expand** the Township park system to support existing and future needs.

**OBJECTIVE**

- Remain aware of potential properties to purchase for conservation and/or recreation purposes that:
  - adjoin an existing conservation/recreation property;
  - are adjacent to a water body, river, or creek;
  - improve walking/biking conditions;
  - and/or are environmentally sensitive.

**Nonmotorized Network Plan**

One of the top priorities in White Lake Township is to improve connectivity, mobility and safety within the Township in order to provide transportation choices, recreation, contribute to placemaking, economic development, and the health of residents. This Plan includes a long-term vision for nonmotorized connectivity as well as a number of initial priorities and recommendations related to nonmotorized improvements.

This section of the document also details general design considerations, resources, and characteristics related to the accommodation of bicycles and pedestrians within road rights-of-way and off-road corridors. This is not intended to replace the wealth of manuals and design guidance documents that exist. There are a number of design manuals and other guidance that should and/or must be used by agencies, designers, landscape architects, and engineers on how to best accommodate bicycles and pedestrians.

**Challenges**

Implementation of the Long-Term Nonmotorized System Plan and construction of sections of sidewalk, sidepath, shared use trail and/or enhanced shoulders will be a considerable financial investment with a number of design challenges and constraints in a variety of locations. Conditions that exist in White Lake Township that will add to cost and implementation challenges include (but are not limited to):

- open drainage swales along roads that may need to be enclosed
- removal and replacement of mature trees and vegetation
- removal and/or relocation of resident installed landscaping and neighborhood entrances
- wetlands, lakes, rivers and creeks that will require boardwalks and bridges in order to traverse
- the potential need for easements in some locations to ensure connectivity

The Nonmotorized System Plan Map illustrates the long-term vision for White Lake Township. The Plan proposes and identifies a number of new sidewalks/sidepaths, shared use trails, and enhanced paved shoulders. Lines on the map represent a general vision for connectivity for planning purposes only. As conditions are analyzed in more detail, some segments are anticipated to be modified due to existing conditions, development patterns, cost, permitting, etc. In some cases, the type of nonmotorized facility provided (i.e. sidewalk, wide paved shoulders, sidepath, etc.) will need to be determined during design.

**Road Commission for Oakland County**

With the exception of M-59, all of the major roads and associated rights-of-way are under the jurisdiction of the Road Commission for Oakland County. Therefore, a majority of the elements discussed and illustrated in the Nonmotorized System Plan will require coordination with the Road Commission. When road improvements are being considered in the Township, the intent is that consideration for Complete Streets be given during the design process including the provision of facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists.



## Shared Use Trails

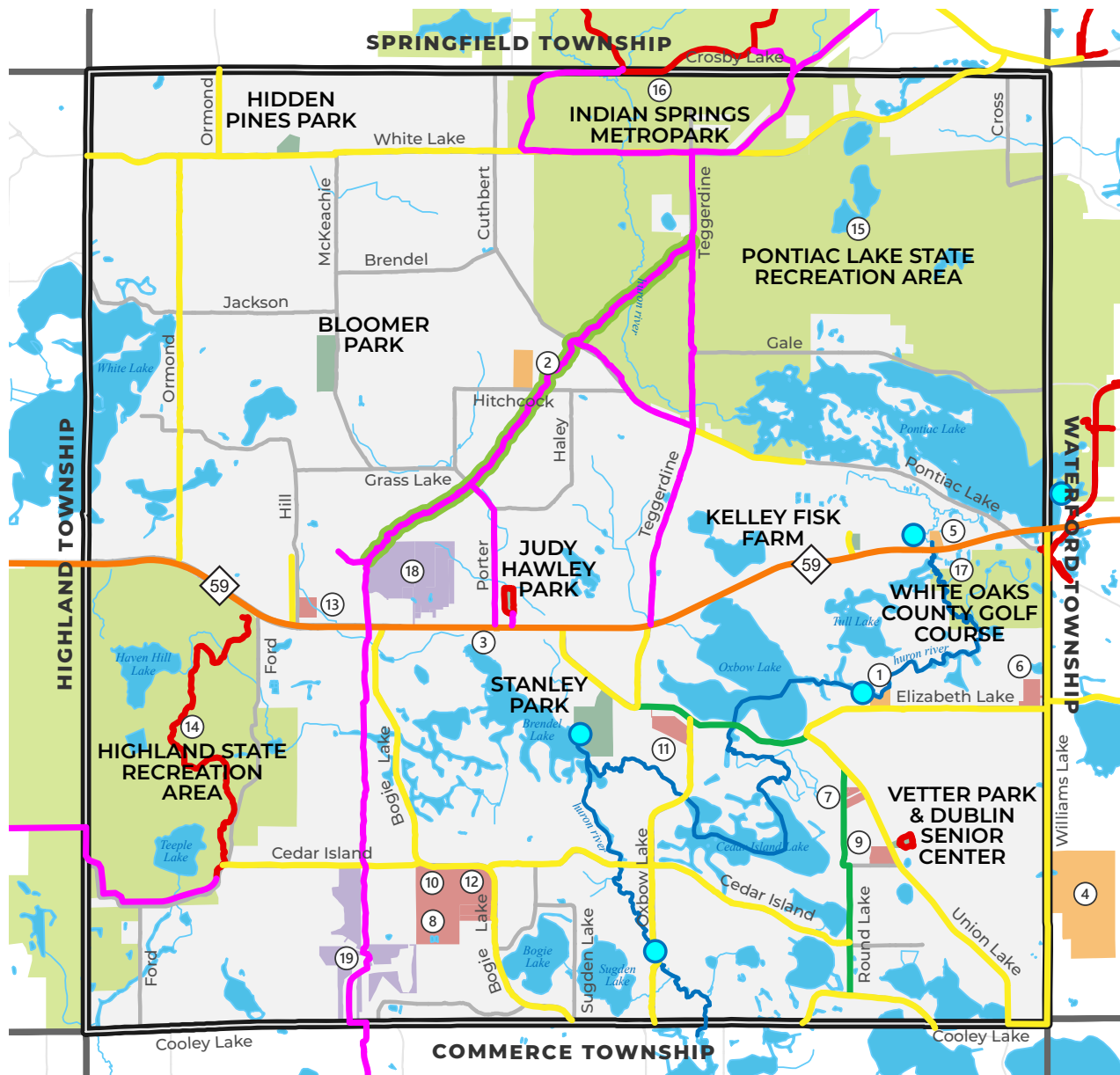
Shared Use Trails provide a travel area separate from motorized traffic for bicyclists, pedestrians, joggers, wheelchair users, etc. They are constructed outside of a road corridor and offer a low-stress experience away from motor vehicles. Examples in White Lake Township include the Cedar Creek Trail in Highland Recreation Area and the paved trail in Indian Springs Metropark. **Shared Use Trails are typically 10-12' wide** (per AASHTO depending on user volumes) with an additional 2' clearance on both sides. Where paths intersect roads, enhancements should prioritize the nonmotorized user. A number of locations and corridors are proposed for additional Shared Use Trails in White Lake Township to increase connectivity including:

- the proposed cross-town shared use trail to **connect Highland State Recreation Area, Pontiac Lake State Recreation Area, and Indian Springs Metropark** to one another and beyond. The connection (the majority within ITC utility corridor and/or on state property) is anticipated to be a focal point of a feasibility study being led by HCMA as they work toward their goal of connecting Kensington Metropark and Indian Springs Metropark to one another. Walking, biking, and equestrian users should be considered in the connection between Highland and Pontiac Lake State Recreation Areas. The potential exists to provide a 'trailhead' location at Township-owned property on the north side of Hitchcock Road.
- along the **Teggerdine Road corridor** between M-59 and White Lake Road, much of which has wooded State property on either side.
- further study and discussion to determine long-term feasibility of a **north/south shared use trail within the ITC utility** corridor to connect into Commerce Township to the south and the proposed cross-town trail between the State Recreation Areas.

## Complete Streets

There is no one design prescription for complete streets. Ingredients that may be found on a complete street include: sidewalks, bike lanes (or wide paved shoulders), special bus lanes, comfortable and accessible public transportation stops, frequent crossing opportunities, median islands, accessible pedestrian signals, curb extensions, and more. A complete street in a rural area will look quite different from a complete street in a highly urban area. But both are designed to balance safety and convenience for everyone using the road.

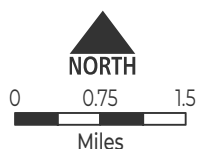
---National Complete Streets Coalition



- WHITE LAKE TWP. PARKS**
- OTHER PUBLIC PROPERTIES**
- ① Elizabeth Lake Road Property
- ② Hitchcock Road Property
- ③ Old Community Hall
- ④ Hess Hathaway Park (in Waterford)
- ⑤ M-59/Huron River Property
- SCHOOL PROPERTIES**
- ⑥ Houghton Elementary School
- ⑦ Dublin Elementary School
- ⑧ Lakewood Elementary School
- ⑨ St. Patrick Catholic School
- ⑩ White Lake Middle School
- ⑪ Oxbow Elementary School
- ⑫ Lakeland High School
- ⑬ Huron Valley Schools Property

- STATE | METROPARK | COUNTY PROPERTIES**
- ⑭ Highland State Recreation Area
- ⑮ Pontiac Lake State Recreation Area
- ⑯ Indian Springs Metropark
- ⑰ White Oaks County Golf Course
- PRIVATE PROPERTIES**
- ⑱ Alpine Valley Ski
- ⑲ Brentwood Golf Club

- Existing Trail/Sidepath Connections
- Proposed Shared Use Trail (10'-12' Wide)
- Proposed Sidepath/Sidewalk (10'-12' Wide)
- Proposed Sidepath/Sidewalk (6'-8' Wide)
- Proposed Paved Shoulder (4'-5' Wide)
- Proposed Shared Use Trail + Equestrian
- Proposed Huron River Water Trail
- Proposed Canoe/Kayak Launch



**LONG TERM  
NONMOTORIZED  
SYSTEM PLAN**

**WHITE LAKE  
TOWNSHIP**

5-YEAR PARKS &  
RECREATION  
MASTER PLAN  
2023 - 2027

## Sidewalks and Sidepaths

A high priority element for enhancing connectivity and walkability within the Township is to systematically complete gaps in the **sidewalk/sidepath** system along the major road corridors. A number of priority sidewalk/sidepath gaps are identified on the Nonmotorized System Priorities Map and focus on:

- the north and south sides of the **M-59 corridor** to provide safe and comfortable connectivity to adjacent communities and along the Township's most developed retail/commercial/employment corridor. The Township is proposing a 10'-12' wide (8' when necessary) network along the M-59 corridor due to regional, cross-county significance and number of destinations. A minimum 5' separation from the road is desired.
- gaps near Township parks, schools, and destinations such as the library, Dublin Senior Center, and future Civic Center development
- short segments that, when completed, will connect into a large network of completed sidewalks, sidepaths and/or trails
- gaps in high density areas of the Township
- segments that can be constructed by private entities as they develop or redevelop property in the Township

In terms of preferred design, corridor analysis and judgment will need to be made when design of various segments begins. In general, and where possible, the desire is to have 6-8' wide paved sidepaths installed within the Township (with the exception of 10'-12' along M-59). It is recognized that, in some areas of the community, it may make most sense to fill gaps with sidewalks or sidepaths that match width or material of existing infrastructure. It is also recognized that a variety of conditions exist in the Township, and, for short segments, a narrower sidewalk may need to be installed. A detailed analysis of the corridor will assist in determining the achievable sidepath/sidewalk width.

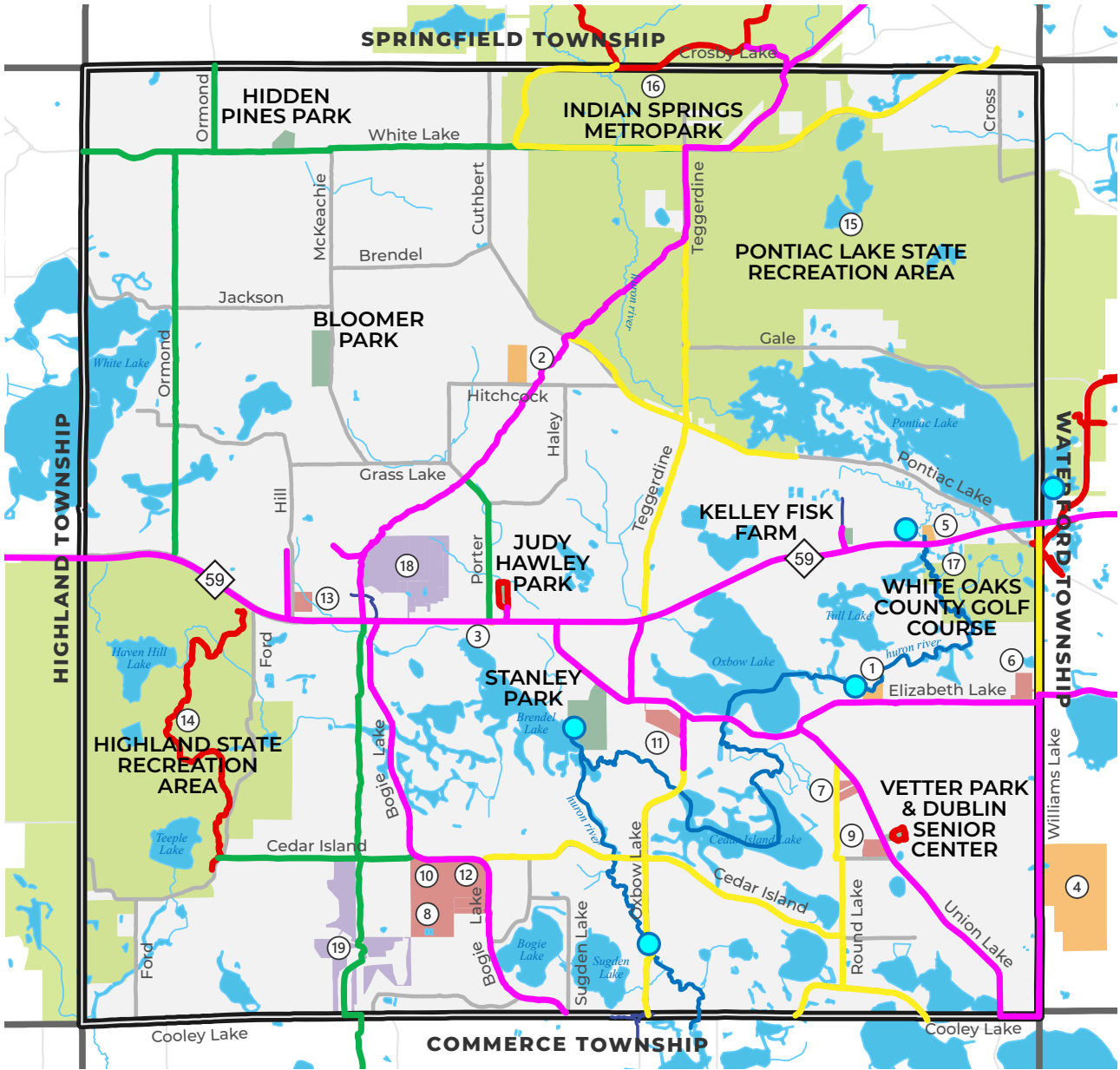
In general, sidepaths are preferred to accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists in the Township due to the landuse pattern, right-of-way widths, and because of the relatively low rate of curb cuts along many of the major corridors. Sidepaths and sidewalks are not typically a safe facility for bicyclists where numerous curb cuts exist with high volumes of vehicular turning movements as is the case along more developed corridors such as M-59. Sidepath Design guidance published by MDOT (2018) as well as the FHWA Small Town and Rural Multimodal Networks guidebook should be referenced to assist with signage, crossings, sidepath user visibility, speed reduction, etc.

## Pedestrian Bridges and Boardwalks

White Lake Township enjoys extensive natural resources including numerous lakes, rivers, creeks, streams and acres of wetlands. These natural features also dictate the location of many of the road corridors in the community. In order to implement the Nonmotorized System Plan, a number of pedestrian bridges and/or sections of elevated boardwalk will be needed. These elements add to the design, permitting and cost of the system. Where a boardwalk and/or pedestrian bridge is needed, the bridge/boardwalk should be 4' wider than the joining trail/sidepath to incorporate the 2' of desired clearance on either side.

## Enhanced/Paved Shoulders

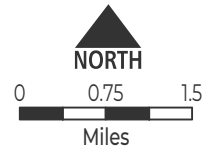
While separation of pedestrian/bicycle traffic from motor vehicles is desirable, there may be corridors and locations that prove the construction of sidepaths are not feasible due to width of right-of-way, significant natural features, proximity of homes/buildings, etc. Paved shoulders on the edge of roadways can be enhanced to serve as a functional space for bicyclists and pedestrians to travel in the absence of other facilities with more separation. Volumes and speeds on roads dictate the paved shoulder width needed



- WHITE LAKE TWP. PARKS**
- OTHER PUBLIC PROPERTIES**
- ① Elizabeth Lake Road Property
- ② Hitchcock Road Property
- ③ Old Community Hall
- ④ Hess Hathaway Park (in Waterford)
- ⑤ M-59/Huron River Property
- SCHOOL PROPERTIES**
- ⑥ Houghton Elementary School
- ⑦ Dublin Elementary School
- ⑧ Lakewood Elementary School
- ⑨ St. Patrick Catholic School
- ⑩ White Lake Middle School
- ⑪ Oxbow Elementary School
- ⑫ Lakeland High School
- ⑬ Huron Valley Schools Property

- STATE | METROPARK | COUNTY PROPERTIES**
- ⑭ Highland State Recreation Area
- ⑮ Pontiac Lake State Recreation Area
- ⑯ Indian Springs Metropark
- ⑰ White Oaks County Golf Course
- PRIVATE PROPERTIES**
- ⑱ Alpine Valley Ski
- ⑲ Brentwood Golf Club

- Priority #1
- Priority #2
- Priority #3
- Proposed Huron River Water Trail
- Proposed Canoe/Kayak Launch
- Existing Trail/Sidepath Connections



**LONG TERM  
NONMOTORIZED  
SYSTEM  
PRIORITIES MAP**

**WHITE LAKE  
TOWNSHIP  
5-YEAR PARKS &  
RECREATION  
MASTER PLAN**



to provide a safe space for pedestrians and bicyclists (typically 4'-8'). Paved shoulders provide a stable surface off of the roadway for pedestrians and bicyclists to use when sidepaths/sidewalks are not provided. They have shown to reduce pedestrian "walking along roadway" crashes as well as "bicyclist struck from behind" crashes (as noted in the FHWA Small Town/Rural Guide). Paved shoulders are advantageous for all roadway users and can also reduce shoulder maintenance requirements.

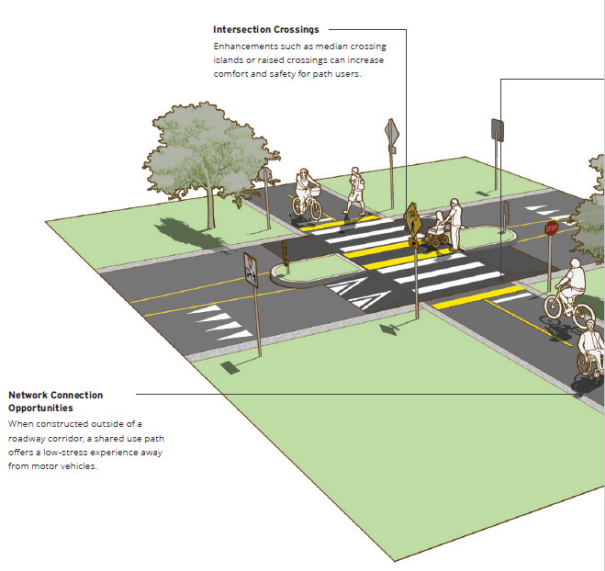
**Mid-Block Crossings**

Implementing a number of the segments of the proposed nonmotorized network will require the creation of safe mid-block crossings (as opposed to crossings at signalized intersections) in order to facilitate predictable crossings for pedestrians and bicyclists.

As detailed in the MDOT Sidepath Study (2018), the primary goals of crossings are to:

- reduce pedestrian/cyclist exposure to traffic and crossing distance
- increase mutual awareness and visibility
- manage traffic speed and flow

Treatment details will be unique to each location and will be determined during design but could include pavement markings, signage, pedestrian islands, curb extensions, stop and yield lines, lighting, rapid flash beacons, HAWK signals, ADA ramps, etc. Several of the



more significant crossings may need traffic studies to understand traffic patterns and ensure appropriate and safe treatments are designed and implemented.

**Wayfinding/Signage**

A coordinated wayfinding/signage system along the various trails is desired that would include confidence markers along the way, emergency markers and signage and maps that encourages exploration of nearby amenities and destinations. Signage packages should adhere to MUTCD standards.

**Bike Parking**

Secure and convenient bike parking at public parks, public buildings, schools, retail destinations, places of employment, and multi-family residential developments will assist in encouraging and supporting use. It is recommended to review options to include bike parking (covered and/or uncovered) provisions in areas of the Township including multi-unit residential, office, retail, restaurant, hotels, theaters, fitness centers, etc. Additional incentives can be put into place to allow the provision of bike parking to substitute for a car stall.

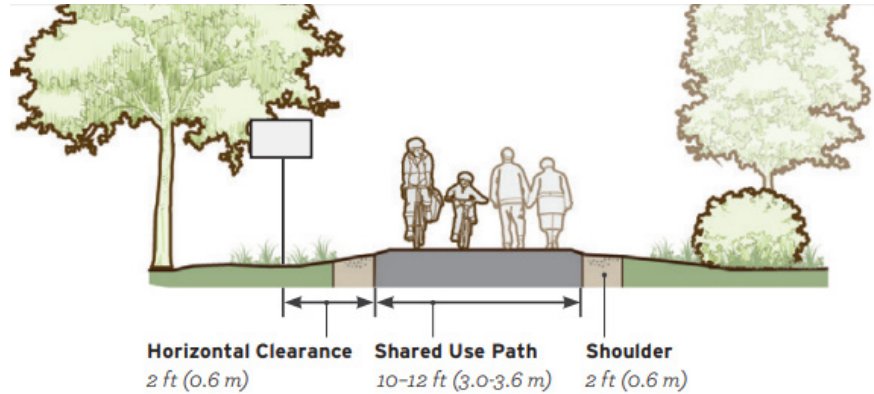
**Promote Education + Awareness**

There is a need for education of cyclists, pedestrians and motorists in the region and state using a consistent message and terminology. A number of resources exist that work to help people understand the "rules of the road" while fostering respect between motorists, pedestrians, and bicycles to make everyone safer. It is recommended that White Lake Township utilize existing materials to promote awareness and education within the community. These messages and materials can be shared within the Township via social media, newsletters, on the electronic sign, email, etc.

In addition, MDOT's Sidepath Safety research project (2018) resulted in educational materials with specific messages related to bicyclists and drivers and sidepaths that can be referenced and utilized as appropriate.

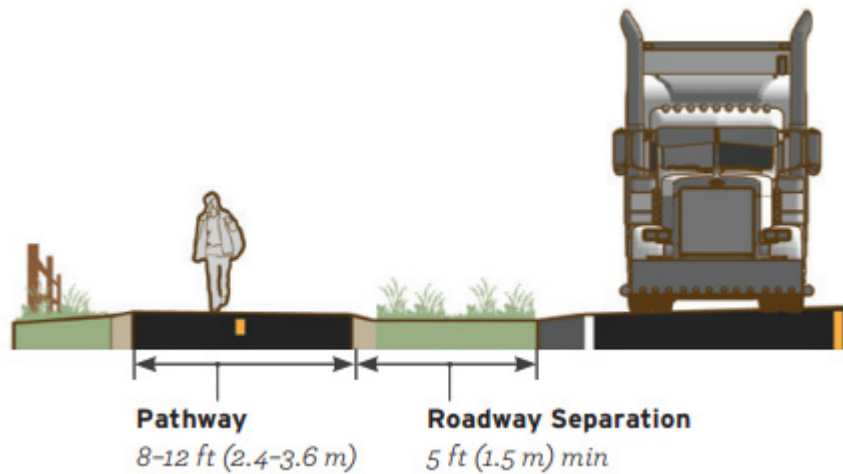
**Shared Use Trail (FHWA)**

Shared Use Trails offer network connectivity opportunities beyond that of the roadway network. These facilities are often located in parks along rivers, beaches, and in greenbelts or utility corridors where there are few conflicts with motorized vehicles.



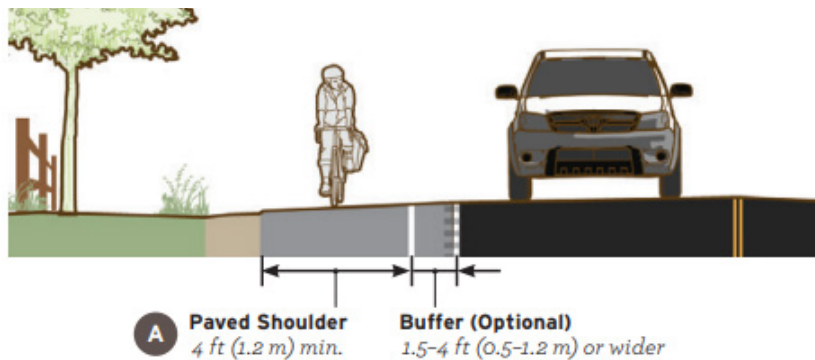
**Sidepath (FHWA)**

Sidepaths offer a low-stress experience for bicyclists and pedestrians on network routes otherwise inhospitable to walking and bicycling due to high-speed or high-volume traffic.

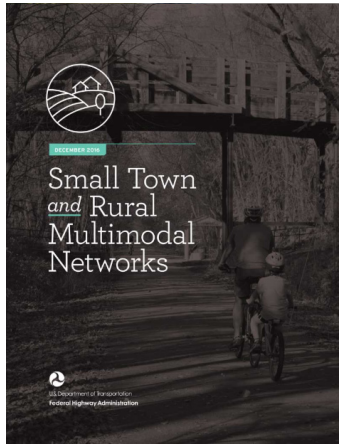


**Paved Shoulder (FHWA)**

Shoulders can improve bicyclist comfort and safety when traveling in higher speed and/or volume situations but only when adequate width is provided. If used, locate rumble strips on the edge line or within a buffer area that will not reduce usable space for bicyclists.



### Highlighted Design Resources



### FHWA Small Town and Rural Multimodal Networks (2016)

Resource and idea book intended to help small towns and rural communities support safe, accessible, comfortable and active travel for people of all ages and abilities. It provides a bridge between existing guidance on bicycle and pedestrian design and rural practice, encourages innovation in the development of safe and appealing networks for bicycling and walking in small towns and rural areas, and shows examples of peer communities and implementation.

A .pdf of the document can be accessed at the FHWA website [fhwa.dot.gov](http://fhwa.dot.gov).

### Sidepath Design Best Practices

**HIGHLIGHTS**

Designers may reduce crash risk for bicyclists by using the visibility of bicyclists going in both directions, establishing priority, and reducing speed. Following are some examples of how this can be achieved through treatments such as signs, truck aprons, and raised crossings.

**1 STANDARD SIGNS**  
Providing clear signs and pavement markings warns motorists of a single contraflow conflict. The guide shows applicable regulatory, sign, and warning signs related to sidepaths and provides suggestions on when they should be used.

**2 NON-STANDARD SIGNS**  
An option for warning motorists of contraflow bicycle conflict is the B15-13 sign, which is usually found at signalized intersections. Use of this sign at unsignalized intersections will require FHWA approval.

**3 RAISED CROSSINGS**  
Creating a raised crossing encourages drivers to slow down and pay more attention to the crossing, helping to achieve the desired vehicle speed and driver awareness.

**MDOT's Sidepath Intersection and Crossing Treatment Guide** contains information on the latest state-of-the-practice principles for designing sidepath crossings. This handout highlights just some of the guidance. Refer to the full guide for more information on these designs and their application. The process in the guide is designed to help practitioners evaluate the appropriateness of elements such as those shown here.

**EXAMPLE INTERSECTION**  
There are many designs for roads and sidepaths that improve safety for bicyclists. This example intersection graphic shows several treatments that designers may employ.

- In this example, the **stop sign** for drivers gives bicyclists the priority through the intersection. At signalized intersections, this can be achieved using a **dedicated bicycle signal phase or leading interval**, depending on vehicle volumes.
- A **sign** warns motorists to look for sidepath users ahead.
- The **curb radii** entering and exiting the intersection are reduced to slow vehicles and increase motorist yielding. The truck apron shows allows for truck movements. The **offset distance** between the sidepath and the motorist travel lane is increased to slow vehicles.
- The **raised crossing** is designed to slow motorists by requiring them to ramp up to the sidepath. This design also provides a level crossing for the sidepath users.
- White intersection **pavement markings** are provided to alert drivers of the potential for crossing bicyclists.

\* The use of the B15-13 as depicted in the Sign above is not consistent with some MUTCD research and needs FHWA approval.

See more information: [www.michigan.gov/mdot/SidepathResearch](http://www.michigan.gov/mdot/SidepathResearch)

### MDOT Sidepath Application Criteria Development for Bicycle Use (2018)

Explores Michigan residents' bicycle facility preferences and attitudes and behaviors toward bicycling, and research to understand bicycle crash characteristics along sidepaths in the service of better sidepath design guidance. Includes design guidance and considerations for Sidepaths in Michigan.

A .pdf of the document can be accessed at the MDOT website.

## Capital Improvement Priorities

The capital improvement priorities for this Parks and Recreation Plan have been established for two primary reasons:

- to function as a planning framework and guide for the Township Board, Parks Committee, staff; and,
- to enable the Township to apply for grant funding for proposed projects.

The capital improvement priorities table is not a fixed element and is neither all inclusive or exclusive. The table reflects the results of brainstorming, data gathering, analysis and input from a variety of sources gathered during the planning process. It is likely that the priorities and plan may change at some point during the next five years due to unanticipated circumstances such as private donations, changing recreation trends, funding alternatives, community opinion and/or available grants. Funding availability is a key factor in the Township's ability to implement the proposed capital improvement priorities.

The capital improvement priorities table details the desired improvements for the years 2023-2027. The priorities are listed by short-term (1-2 yrs), mid-term (3-5 yrs), long-term (greater than 5 yrs), as well as on-going priorities for those items that should be revisited/evaluated each year. It is difficult to predict desires, funding availability, etc., in the years to come. However, it is important to note that parks and recreation capital projects undertaken by the Township should address the goals set forth in this Plan.

Millage = White Lake Township Park Millage

MNRTF = Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund

LWCF = Land and Water Conservation Fund

RPGP = Recreation Passport Grant Program

SPARK = MDNR Spark Grant (2023)

RWJF = Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation

TAP = MDOT TAP Program

**Current funding and staffing levels at the Township are not sufficient for all of the ideas and desires documented in this Action Plan to be implemented – rather, this plan documents opportunities, desires and priorities to consider moving forward.**

**White Lake Township  
Parks + Recreation  
Capital Improvement Priorities 2023-2027**

General Items	Magnitude of Cost				Potential Funding Sources		
	Short-Term (1-2 yrs)	Mid-Term (3-5 yrs)	Long-Term (5+yrs)	On-Going			
<p>Be Aware of Opportunities to Lease, Utilize, and/or Acquire Land That:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protects Environmental Features</li> <li>• Conserves Open Space</li> <li>• Is Adjacent to or near Existing Parks</li> <li>• Provides Linkages Between Destinations</li> <li>• Could Provide Increased and Enhanced Recreation Opportunities</li> </ul>							
Pickleball Courts (location to be determined)		X		X			Private donations, millage, MNRTF
Park Entrance Signs			X				Millage, LWCF, RPGP
							Millage
<b>Stanley Park</b>							
Construct Phase I Improvements (Already Funded/Designed)	X						Millage, LWCF
Construct Additional Phases of Improvements Per Concept Plan		X					Millage, MNRTF, SPARK, RPGP
<b>Bloomer Park</b>							
Add Porta John at Park Entrance	X						Millage
Regrade and resurface pathways	X						Millage
Extend Trail network per Concept Plan				X			Millage, RPGP
<b>Judy Hawley Park</b>							
Install additional benches along path	X						Millage
Replace playground equipment and improve barrier free access	X						Millage, LWCF, MNRTF, RPGP
Basketball Courts - repair drain, concrete repairs, and restripe	X						Millage, LWCF, MNRTF, RPGP
Improve barrier free parking spaces including paths to pavilion	X						Millage, LWCF, MNRTF, RPGP
Build pathway connecting park to M-59 and along M-59 frontage		X					Millage, LWCF, MNRTF, RPGP
Resurface pathway loop as needed				X			Millage
<b>Ferdinand C Vetter Park</b>							
Install benches along path	X						Millage
Replace playground equipment		X					Millage, LWCF, MNRTF, RPGP
Resurface pathway loop as needed				X			Millage
<b>Canoe/Kayak/Water Trail Projects</b>							
Develop canoe/kayak launch with small parking lot on M-59 parcel		X					Millage, LWCF, MNRTF, RPGP
Develop canoe/kayak launch with small parking lot on Elizabeth Lake Road parcel		X					Millage, LWCF, MNRTF, RPGP
Partner with HRWC on water trail signs, maps, and promotions		X					Millage
Acquire property near Huron River/Oxbow Lake Road for a launch location			X				Millage, LWCF, MNRTF, RPGP
Develop canoe/kayak launch with small parking lot near Huron River/Oxbow Lake Road			X				Millage, MNRTF
<b>Hitcock Property</b>							
Consider for development as a trailhead for cross-Township regional trail			X				Millage, MNRTF
<b>Nonmotorized Projects</b>							
Construct Triangle Trail	X						Millage, TAP, RWJF
White Lake ITC Corridor Trail							Millage, TAP, RWJF, MNRTF, HCMA + STATE
See Nonmotorized Plan and Priorities							Millage, TAP, RWJF, MNRTF, HCMA + STATE, Developers



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# APPENDIX

Public Engagement Results

Survey Results

Public Hearing Meeting Minutes

Resolutions of Adoption